

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND REFERRED  
BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

Copies of all communications are available at the  
Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation  
308 Nelson Avenue  
Oroville, CA 95965

1. \*California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, September 26, 2018
2. \*Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, October 1, 2018, Comment taken on groundwater management area boundaries
3. \*Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, October 1, 2018, Dry rainfall year ends, new one starts with showers
4. \*California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, October 3, 2018
5. \*Letter from Kathy Chance to Paul Gosselin, October 8, 2018, Resignation from the Water Commission
6. \*California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, October 10, 2018
7. \*Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, October 16, 2018, Letter: Proposition 3 good for Northern California
8. \*California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, October 17, 2018
9. \*Article from *AgAlert*, October 17, 2018, Groundwater: Local agencies await finalized basin priorities
10. \*Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, October 20, 2018, Trump wants to cut red tape, hasten water projects in West
11. \*Article from *NCWA*, October 22, 2018, New Presidential Memorandum on Western Water Policy
12. \*California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, October 24, 2018
13. \*Publication from *NCWA*, October 26, 2018, Water Briefings: State Legislation
14. \*California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, October 31, 2018

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**Wednesday Update****Sept. 26, 2018**

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

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### Updated agenda posted ahead of next month's Update 2018 plenary meeting

An updated [plenary meeting agenda](#) has been posted for [California Water Plan Update 2018](#). The new version has changes to the schedule of sessions on the first day, and more information on the panelists who will be participating on the second day. The [plenary meeting](#) will be Oct. 9 and 10, in West Sacramento. It will be an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide input on the development of Update 2018.



### Comment period extended for draft Flood-MAR framework document

The comment period is being extended for the draft [Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge \(Flood-MAR\) Research and Data Development Framework](#). The draft identifies key research and data themes for planning and implementing [Flood-MAR](#) projects. Instructions for submitting comments are in the document's front matter. The new deadline is Monday, Oct. 1.



### Groundwater program conducting online survey on water quality concerns

DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Program is conducting an [online survey](#) on water quality concerns. It focuses on how water quality relates to the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) and the regulations for [groundwater sustainability plans](#). The survey will be open through Wednesday, Oct. 10.

### 50 fact sheets show the contributions made by geoscience in each state

The [American Geosciences Institute](#) has put together a series of [50 fact sheets](#) that quantify the contributions of geoscience in each state. The information includes the contributions of geoscience to each state's economy, environment, and public health. There are also details about the role of geoscience and the government agencies that fund geoscience research.

### California WaterFix to be the focus of mountain counties symposium

The next Mountain Counties Water Resources Association [symposium](#) will look at aspects of the [California WaterFix](#). Featured guests will include Brenda Burman, commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The symposium will be Friday, Oct. 26, in Auburn.

### Annual riverwalk will assess habitat of the Santa Ana sucker

This year's [Santa Ana Riverwalk](#) will be Thursday, Oct. 18, in Riverside. The annual event was started in 2006 to assess the habitat beneficial to a native fish, the Santa Ana sucker. Data from [previous events](#) are available on the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority website.



Conservation Team

CORRESPONDENCE  
# 2

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

# Comment taken on groundwater management area boundaries

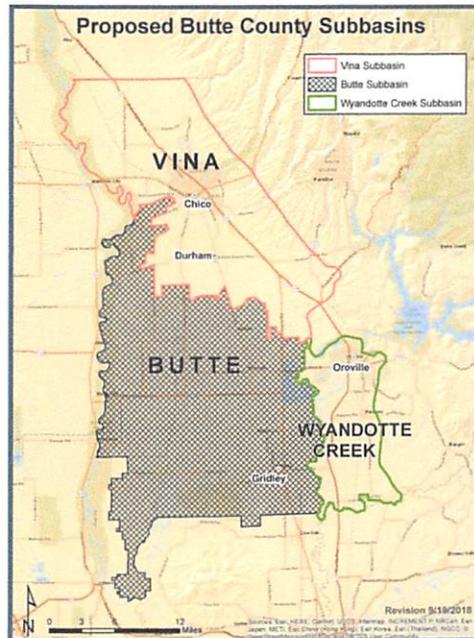
By **STAFF REPORTS** |

PUBLISHED: October 1, 2018 at 3:30 pm | UPDATED: October 1, 2018 at 3:31 pm

Comment is being taken on proposed boundary changes related to the managing of groundwater beneath Butte County.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires development of plans to manage groundwater beneath California to avoid undesirable results like land sinking or wells going dry.

The plans are required for defined subbasins of the larger aquifers underground. The Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation has applied to change the subbasin boundaries locally in response to requests by involved agencies, and that's what the public is being invited to comment upon.



Proposed Sustainable Groundwater Plan areas for Butte County.

The proposed shifts reduced the number of subbasins in the county from four to three, and put the cities of Chico and Oroville and the Western Canal District into a single subbasin rather than splitting them between two.

The three proposed subbasins are:

- Vina, which includes the valley floor from the Tehama County line down into Butte Valley, and encompassing Chico.
- Wyandotte Creek, which is Oroville, the Thermalito Water and Sewer District, and the lands south and east of the Feather River.

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- Butte, which groups the agricultural water providers in the southwest county

The California Department of Water Resources has deemed the proposal to change the boundaries complete but is taking comment through Oct. 15 before approving or denying the changes.

Comment can only be made online through DWR's SGMA Portal at <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/modrequest/preview/227>. More detailed information on the proposal is also available there.

Information on the process in Butte County is available at <http://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/SustainableGroundwaterManagemen>

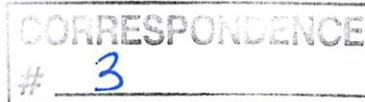
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Tags: [Local News](#), [Water](#)



## Staff Reports

2



NEWS

## Dry rainfall year ends, new one starts with showers

By **STEVE SCHOONOVER** | [sschoonover@chicoer.com](mailto:sschoonover@chicoer.com) | Chico Enterprise-Record

PUBLISHED: October 1, 2018 at 4:45 pm | UPDATED: October 1, 2018 at 4:46 pm

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The water year began Monday with a few showers locally, hopefully a start at washing away the dry year just ended.

The water year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept 30, and according to the Department of Water Resources, the one just ended was far below average.

DWR's monitoring stations in the Sacramento River watershed recorded 79 percent of the average precipitation for a year. The situation worsened the farther south in the state, with much of the South Coast only getting a third of the rain that normally falls.

In Chico, rainfall at the Enterprise-Record weather station totaled 16.83 inches, 63 percent of the 26.7 inches that is normal.

Oroville saw 17.83 inches, Paradise, 38.84 inches.

This comes after a year that was exceptionally wet. Oct. 1, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2017, was the second wettest on record, and followed several years of drought.

The snowpack reflects the whipsaw weather the state is experiencing. This April 1, the snowpack was just 58 percent of average, according to DWR. Snowpack on April 1, 2017 was 163 percent of normal, while on that date in 2015, there was a record low amount of snow, just 5 percent of average.

“Climate change models predict extreme variability in precipitation to be the new norm,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth in a press release, “which requires us to be ever more vigilant in our flood and drought preparedness.”

Though there were fewer of the atmospheric rivers that bring much of California’s precipitation, some of them had major but localized impacts. A January storm on a burned area in Santa Barbara County sent a mudslide into Montecito, killing more than 20 people. A storm in April flooded Yosemite Valley.

The water year ended with most of the reservoirs in the state more full than normal. The big northern reservoirs are not as full, but Shasta and Trinity lakes are still close to 90 percent of average.

The exception is Lake Oroville, which was drawn down due to the spillway reconstruction work. As of Sunday the lake was 39 percent full, which was 62 percent of average for the date.

However DWR reported little recovery for groundwater basins, many of which were drawn down considerably during the drought. Aquifers always take longer to recover than surface storage, the agency said.

DWR has no prediction for the upcoming water year. It said 2018 could have been an isolated dry year, or that 2017 could have been an usually wet one in the middle of a sustained dry period. It noted the Colorado River Basin has been unusually dry since 2000, but there had been an occasional wet or normal years in that period.

Forecasting models and conditions like El Niño or La Niña “cannot provide a reliable prediction,” according to [a report](#) on the year just passed.

Some agencies considered the water year to run July 1 to June 30, but the U.S. Geological Survey has always used the Oct. 1 starting date, and that calendar has become consistent.

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Tags: [News](#), [Newsletter](#), [Water](#)



## Steve Schoonover

Steve Schoonover is the city editor of the Enterprise-Record and Oroville Mercury-Register. A resident of Chico since 1963 and a 1975 graduate of Chico State University, he has been with the E-R since 1980.

[Follow Steve Schoonover @ER\\_sschoonover](#)

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## Wednesday Update



Oct. 3, 2018

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

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### Countdown is on for next week's Update 2018 plenary meeting, still time to register

There is still time to [register](#) to attend next week's [plenary meeting](#) for California Water Plan Update 2018. The [two-day meeting](#), on Oct. 9 and 10, in West Sacramento, will be a chance for stakeholders to provide input on the development of [Update 2018](#). The keynote speech will be delivered by California State Controller [Betty Yee](#) during the working lunch. Webcast details and parking information can be found on the [plenary webpage](#).



### Draft stormwater target report open for public comment throughout October

Comments are being accepted on DWR's draft report, [Stormwater Targets for Groundwater Recharge and Direct Use in Urban California](#). The targets will be used to guide resource management practices involving stormwater runoff capture. Instructions for submitting comments by the Oct. 31 deadline are on page iv of the report. A [webinar](#), that will include a question-and-answer session about the draft, is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 18.

### Workshops will provide information on grants to promote forest health

There are [three remaining workshops](#) this month for CAL FIRE's [Forest Health Grant Program](#). Each workshop will cover funding opportunities in several categories, including reforestation, research, and conservation. The workshops will be Oct. 4, in Fresno; Oct. 5, in Sacramento; and Oct. 17, in Redding.

### Up to \$49 million in funding for ecosystem project available under Propositions 1 and 68

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced [funding opportunities](#) under Propositions 1 and 68. A total of up to \$49 million in funding for ecosystem projects will be available under the two propositions. The [draft proposal solicitation notice](#) has been posted and will be available for public comment through Oct. 17.



### CNRA releases draft guidelines for cultural and community grants program

[Draft guidelines](#) are available for the California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA's) [Cultural, Community, and Natural Resources grant program](#). Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that enhance cultural and natural resources, especially in disadvantaged communities. The guidelines comment period runs through Monday, Nov. 12. It includes public comment meetings in Sacramento (Oct. 29), Glendale (Nov. 1), and Madera (Nov. 5).

### Contest offers cash prizes for new insights on Bay Area water quality data

Cash prizes are being offered as part of a [data visualization challenge](#) sponsored by the [Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay](#). The contest involves reviewing a publicly accessible [water-quality database](#), and coming up with new insights related to the data. Contestants must submit their entries by Nov. 19.



# Kathy Chance

CORRESPONDENCE  
# 5

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October 8, 2108

Paul Gosselin  
Butte County Dept. of Water and Resource Conservation  
308 Nelson Ave.  
Oroville, CA 95965

Dear Paul,

I am submitting my resignation as a Butte County Water Commissioner effective November 8th. Due to business and family commitments I can no longer dedicate the time needed to being an effective commissioner. I have enjoyed my time as a commissioner and have certainly learned a great deal.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy*  
Kathy Chance

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Wednesday Update



Oct. 10, 2018

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### Draft guidelines and PSP released for IRWM grant implementation program

The [draft proposal solicitation package](#) (PSP) and [guidelines](#) have been released for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) [Implementation Grant Program](#). DWR is proposing approximately \$194 million in funding be made available for IRWM implementation projects. [Public comments](#) on the draft PSP and guidelines will be accepted through Tuesday, Nov. 20.

### Specialty crop grants available from CDFA, proposals being accepted through Nov. 2

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is conducting its annual [process to award grants](#) to projects that enhance the competitiveness of the state's specialty crops. The grants range from \$50,000 to \$450,000.



The deadline for submitting [proposals](#) is Friday, Nov. 2. A series of [webinars and workshops](#) on the process will run through next week.

### Meadow restoration project shows promise for increasing water flows in the Sierra

A [research project in the Sierra](#) has tested a process that may increase mountain streamflow, even in drought conditions. The work involved meadow restoration in Alpine County's Indian Valley. The meadow floodplain was reconnected by filling an incised channel. The result was increased summer baseflow, even in 2015, during California's latest drought.

### Tribal perspectives on fire management to be part of one-hour webinar

The next California Landscape Conservation Cooperative Tribal Team [webinar](#) will be Monday, Oct. 15. It will focus on tribal perspectives on fire management. The one-hour presentation will include climate factors and land management lessons that have been learned.

### Water commission will receive Oroville spillway briefing during next meeting

A briefing on the progress of rebuilding the [spillways at Lake Oroville](#) is on the [agenda](#) of the next California Water Commission meeting. Work at the spillways has been underway since early 2017 when they were damaged by heavy outflows during a series of storms. The commission meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the California Energy Commission building in Sacramento.



### Affordable water on water association's agenda for annual conference

The California Water Association's annual conference is coming up at the end of the month. It will be Oct. 29-31, in Monterey. This year's conference will look at the question, "[Safe, Reliable Water: What Can We Afford?](#)" Discounted hotel rates are available through Oct. 17.

### Annual conference for resource conservation districts to be held in San Diego

Next month, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts will meet in San Diego for its [annual conference](#). The theme of "Celebrating Resilient Landscapes and Adaptive Communities" will be explored during the four-day event, Nov. 14-17. The [agenda](#) includes, panel discussions, [breakout sessions](#), and poolside chats.



OPINION > LETTERS

## Letter: Proposition 3 good for Northern California

By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) |

October 16, 2018 at 10:49 pm

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The Rural County Representatives of California, of which Butte County is a member, supports Proposition 3, the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, on the November ballot.

This citizens initiative provides us a unique opportunity to invest in projects that serve California rural communities, including Northern California. The Initiative provides funding for a variety of purposes, including forest and watershed improvements (\$300 million), Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation (\$640 million), flood plan implementation (\$150 million) and agricultural land protection.

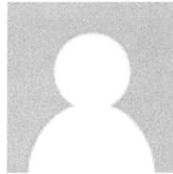
I believe Proposition 3 provides direct investments to our region, yielding benefits of an improved water supply, improved water quality and reducing the threat of wildfire in our communities.

In addition, Proposition 3 includes programs to address safe drinking water, fisheries and wildlife protection, and other grant funds that could be used to develop local resiliency and help our local water districts, resource conservation districts and other agencies with the projects they need to improve our water supply and working lands.

Proposition 3 is not a divisive partisan issue. In addition to Rural County Representatives of California, the Association of California Water Agencies, California State Association of Counties, California Chamber of Commerce, National Wildlife Federation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, GOP candidate for governor John Cox, and many regional groups and counties support Proposition 3.

Since 1960, bonds have been the means to fund water projects in California. I encourage you to vote yes on Proposition 3.

— *Doug Teeter, Paradise*



## Letters to the Editor

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## Wednesday Update



Oct. 17, 2018

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### \$17.1 million available for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The California Strategic Growth Council is [accepting applications](#) for the second round of its [Climate Change Research Program](#). A total of \$17.1 million is available to fund projects for developing and deploying technology that leads to reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 9.



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

### Three-day hearing set for appeals related to California WaterFix

The Delta Stewardship Council has scheduled a [three-day hearing](#) for appeals related to the [California WaterFix](#) project. Earlier this year, [DWR filed certification](#) stating the project is consistent with the [Delta Plan](#). Several appeals have been filed and they will be discussed during a hearing on Oct. 24-26, in West Sacramento. California WaterFix involves building two tunnels to take water from the Sacramento River near Clarksburg and deliver it to Clifton Court Forebay, south of the Delta.

### Water Boards hosting brown bag seminar to discuss water data

A [brown bag seminar](#), sponsored by the [California Water Boards](#), will provide an overview of new mandates related to water data. The presentation will include the commitment to open data, and strategies to improve data management. The seminar will be Tuesday, Oct. 25, at the Cal EPA building in Sacramento; it will also be available [online](#).



### Sacramento EWRI meeting will feature presentation on climate change assessment

The [fall meeting](#) for the Sacramento chapter of the [Environmental and Water Resources Institute](#) (EWRI) will be Wednesday, Nov. 7, in Sacramento. It will feature a presentation on [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#), including the strategy to take action based on the latest climate research.

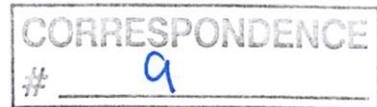
### Annual California Economic Summit to be held next month in Santa Rosa

This year's [California Economic Summit](#) will be Nov. 15 and 16, in Santa Rosa. The event is designed to promote the [2018 Roadmap to Shared Prosperity](#), which outlines an agenda that includes improving resiliency of California communities. The day before the summit begins, [several events](#) will be offered to experience various aspects of the Santa Rosa region.



### California Rangeland Conservation Coalition posts new edition of newsletter

The latest issue of the [California Rangeland Conservation Coalition newsletter](#) is available online. It has details on some of the latest science and studies on soils and rangelands. There is also a list of upcoming workshops and conferences related to rangeland issues.



## Groundwater: Local agencies await finalized basin priorities

Issue Date: [October 17, 2018](#)

By Christine Souza

As local agencies tackle the task of writing groundwater sustainability plans for basins around California, two ongoing processes will affect both the number and the scope of those plans.

Next month, the state Department of Water Resources plans to finalize its rankings of basins and sub-basins that will need to produce groundwater management plans by early 2022. Next spring, DWR plans to finalize boundaries for 43 basins where local agencies requested changes before writing their plans.

Meanwhile, agencies overseeing critically overdrafted basins must have their sustainability plans finished in about 15 months—by Jan. 31, 2020.

It's all part of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, which launched a multi-year process for bringing California groundwater basins into sustainability.

"Local communities are really making very good progress in implementing SGMA, but as they get further into the details, it is increasingly evident that some areas are grappling with significant challenges that will be difficult to resolve," California Farm Bureau Federation Senior Counsel Jack Rice said. "And for everyone, uncertainty about the cost of the plan and what exactly will be required remains an issue."

For some basins, the uncertainty involves potential changes in both basin priorities and boundaries.

One constant has been the focus on the 21 basins and sub-basins listed as critically overdrafted. Those face the earliest deadlines for completion and implementation of groundwater sustainability plans, or GSPs.

But DWR may reduce the number of high- and medium-priority basins, for which GSPs must be finished by Jan. 31, 2022. The state had earlier classified 127 basins as medium or high priority, and may reduce that number to 109 next month. But although the net number of basins declined, some basins that had been classified as low priority have been reclassified as medium or high—meaning they will require GSPs.

Agencies overseeing many of the basins reclassified as a higher priority raised concerns with the accuracy of the data used to determine the reprioritization.

Sonoma County, which initially had three medium- or high-priority basins, now may have six under the draft reprioritization.

Sonoma County farmer Tito Sasaki, who works on two of the county's three original groundwater sustainability agencies, said having to manage an additional three basins would be difficult and costly.

"We have sent in a letter asking for reconsideration (of the three new basins)," said Sasaki, who serves on the CFBF and Sonoma County Farm Bureau water committees. "We contend that some of the data they used in changing the classification were outdated or not quite right. We haven't really started acting on these three new proposals until it becomes final, because we don't know if it is going to stay as originally proposed, modified or withdrawn."

Development of a GSP for each of the three initial basins was estimated to cost \$1 million per year, Sasaki said, with some relief provided by a \$3 million grant from the state to help with the initial cost of plan development.

"Although we think we are going on schedule and doing our best, I can expect lots of stumbling blocks here and there along the way," he said.

Fresno County Supervisor Brian Pacheco, a dairy producer and farmer in Kerman, sits on two groundwater sustainability agencies, including the McMullin Area GSA, a basin identified as critically overdrafted.

"We're trying to work together to bring in stormwater to help the area out," Pacheco said, adding that the two agencies are working on individual plans, but using the same model for each.

"There's definitely been some challenges along the way and as these plans take shape, there will be more hurdles to overcome in the future, but everyone has the common goal to solve our own problem and keep local control," he said.

In developing plans, he said, each GSA will differ, depending on the amount of surface water available.

"In areas that have less surface water, floodwater has become a hot commodity. Whereas before people didn't want floodwater, now everybody wants floodwater. It is just the dynamics of how things have changed," Pacheco said.

In Butte County, Paul Gosselin, director of the county Department of Water and Resource Conservation, said the sub-basins in the county are classified as either medium or high priority.

"We currently have four sub-basins, which all extend to some extent into adjoining counties," Gosselin said. "Some of the agencies have basin boundary modifications proposed that will bring those sub-basins down to three. Most of the boundary modifications are really going to improve the planning aspect of SGMA. We are moving ahead with the presumption that basin boundary modifications are going to go through."

Mark Nordberg, senior engineering geologist in the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, said there have been two rounds of draft basin boundary modifications, with 38 requests finalized in the first round and 43 additional requests pending in the second round.

Regarding plan development in Butte County, Gosselin said the county received a state grant and has begun work related to hydrology, water budgets, water demands, and analyzing scenarios under different planning cycles. The information, he said, "will be the foundation for discussion of sustainable criteria."

"It really will address inter-basin coordination and provide a solid technical foundation for the management action," Gosselin said. "We expect to have that done by the end of 2019. You have a number of different people with different perspectives, and facilitation services provided by DWR were very valuable. It really helped to have a neutral third party to talk with us and work through agreements."

In addition to facilitation support, Nordberg said DWR offers technical support for the development of GSPs, which can be in the form of written technical documents, field support or through SGMA staff at four regional offices.

"Water management situations and the complexity of the hydrogeology are different in all areas throughout the state, so the level of complexity of these plans will vary tremendously," Nordberg said.

(Christine Souza is an assistant editor of Ag Alert. She may be contacted at [csouza@cfbf.com](mailto:csouza@cfbf.com).)

*Permission for use is granted, however, credit must be made to the California Farm Bureau Federation when reprinting this item.*

# Trump wants to cut red tape, hasten water projects in West

## ENVIRONMENT

By Dan Elliott and Jonathan J. Cooper

The Associated Press

**DENVER** » President Donald Trump on Friday ordered the government to speed up environmental reviews and streamline regulations that he says are hindering work on major water projects in the Western United States.

Trump signed a memorandum aimed at helping the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project in California, the Klamath Irrigation Project in Oregon and the Columbia River Basin system in the Pacific Northwest.

“We will resolve the issues blocking the completion of the Central Valley project,” Trump said in Arizona during a swing through Western states. “I hope you enjoy the water that you’re going to have.”

The announcement is a boost for endangered Republican lawmakers in California’s Central Valley facing tough challenges from Democrats looking to take control of the U.S. House.

Officials did not discuss specific work that the administration aims to speed up for any of the projects. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages most federal water projects in the West, referred questions to the Interior Department. That department did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The Central Valley Project is a federally managed water storage and delivery system that primarily benefits agricultural users in California’s rich farming country in the center of the state.

The State Water Project serves agricultural and urban water users, including Los Angeles and much of sprawling Southern California.

The Klamath Irrigation Project is in California and Oregon.

The Columbia River system includes the Columbia Basin Project, which serves about 1,050 square miles (2,700 square kilometers) of farmland in east central Washington. The project includes the Grand Coulee Dam and three power plants.

The president’s announcement is likely to inflame an ongoing battle in California over divvying up water



An irrigation canal stands dry on the Klamath Reclamation Project near Klamath Falls, Ore., in 2010.

JEFF BARNARD — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

between cities, farms and environmental needs like the protection of fish.

Farming interests have long pushed to raise Shasta Dam, which holds back California’s largest reservoir as part of the Central Valley Project,

by more than 18 feet (5.5 meters). The project is opposed by environmentalists who say it would harm threatened fish species and by the Winnemem Wintu tribe, which says it would flood sacred sites.

Several other dams are proposed including Sites

Reservoir near Sacramento and Temperance Flat Dam north of Fresno.



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## Norcal Water Insight



### New Presidential Memorandum on Western Water Policy

The President on Friday issued a Presidential Memorandum that focuses on three primary areas:

- Reducing regulatory burdens: Among other actions, streamline environmental reviews of water infrastructure projects, including establishing a timeline for completion of compliance requirements; convening water experts to develop an action plan for improving seasonal forecasts of water delivery; and expand use of technology to improve delivery of water and power.
- Improving Water Reliability: Directs the Administration to expedite completion of biological opinions for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project in California, the Klamath Irrigation Project in Oregon, and the federal Columbia River System in the Pacific Northwest.
- Protecting Endangered Species: Ensures timely review processes without compromising environmental protections under the Endangered Species Act, allowing the best information to guide conservation of endangered or threatened species. Agencies will make determinations regarding endangered and threatened species based on the best available scientific and commercial data.

The full memorandum is shown below. A press release from Secretary of Interior Zinke can be found [here](#) and one from Representatives McCarthy, Nunes, Denham, Calvert, McClintock, and LaMalfa can be found [here](#). If you want to watch the signing ceremony, here is the [video](#).

We anticipate that Secretary Zinke will soon issue a "Secretarial Order" outlining in greater detail how the Departments of Interior and Commerce will implement the memorandum.



PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDA

## Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West

— LAND &amp; AGRICULTURE Issued on: October 19, 2018

\* \* \*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Subject: Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. Policy. During the 20th Century, the Federal Government invested enormous resources in water infrastructure throughout the western United States to reduce flood risks to communities; to provide reliable water supplies for farms, families, businesses, and fish and wildlife; and to generate dependable hydropower. Decades of uncoordinated, piecemeal regulatory actions have diminished the ability of our Federal infrastructure, however, to deliver water and power in an efficient, cost-effective way.

Unless addressed, fragmented regulation of water infrastructure will continue to produce inefficiencies, unnecessary burdens, and conflict among the Federal Government, States, tribes, and local public agencies that deliver water to their citizenry. To meet these challenges, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce should, to the extent permitted by law, work together to minimize unnecessary regulatory burdens and foster more efficient decision-making so that water projects are better able to meet the demands of their authorized purposes.

**Sec. 2. Streamlining Western Water Infrastructure Regulatory Processes and Removing Unnecessary Burdens.** To address water infrastructure challenges in the western United States, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall undertake the following actions:

(a) Within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall:

(i) identify major water infrastructure projects in California for which the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce have joint responsibility under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (Public Law 93-205) or individual responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Public Law 91-190); and

(ii) for each such project, work together to facilitate the designation of one official to coordinate the agencies' ESA and NEPA compliance responsibilities. Within the 30-day time period provided by this subsection, the designated official shall also identify regulations and procedures that potentially burden the project and develop a proposed plan, for consideration by the Secretaries, to appropriately suspend, revise, or rescind any regulations or procedures that unduly burden the project beyond the degree necessary to protect the public interest or otherwise comply with the law. For purposes of this memorandum, "burden" means to unnecessarily obstruct, delay, curtail, impede, or otherwise impose significant costs on the permitting, utilization, transmission, delivery, or supply of water resources and infrastructure.

(b) Within 40 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall develop a timeline for completing applicable environmental compliance requirements for projects identified under section 2(a)(i) of this memorandum. Environmental compliance requirements shall be completed as expeditiously as possible, and in accordance with applicable law.

(c) To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with applicable law, including the authorities granted to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322):

(i) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that the ongoing review of the long-term coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project is completed and an updated Plan of Operations and Record of Decision is issued.

(ii) The Secretary of the Interior shall issue final biological assessments for the long-term coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project not later than January 31, 2019.

(iii) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure the issuance of their respective final biological opinions for the long-term coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and the

California State Water Project within 135 days of the deadline provided in section 2(c)(ii) of this memorandum. To the extent practicable and consistent with law, these shall be joint opinions.

(iv) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall complete the joint consultation presently underway for the Klamath Irrigation Project by August 2019.

(d) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall provide monthly updates to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and other components of the Executive Office of the President, as appropriate, regarding progress in meeting the established timelines.

**Sec. 3. Improve Forecasts of Water Availability.** To facilitate greater use of forecast-based management and use of authorities and capabilities provided by the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25) and other applicable laws, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall convene water experts and resource managers to develop an action plan to improve the information and modeling capabilities related to water availability and water infrastructure projects. The action plan shall be completed by January 2019 and submitted to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality.

**Sec. 4. Improving Use of Technology to Increase Water Reliability.** To the maximum extent practicable, and pursuant to the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI), the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-298), and other applicable laws, the Secretary of the Interior shall direct appropriate bureaus to promote the expanded use of technology for improving the accuracy and reliability of water and power deliveries. This promotion of expanded use should include:

(a) investment in technology and reduction of regulatory burdens to enable broader scale deployment of desalination technology;

(b) investment in technology and reduction of regulatory burdens to enable broader scale use of recycled water; and

(c) investment in programs that promote and encourage innovation, research, and development of technology that improve water management, using best available science through real-time monitoring of wildlife and water deliveries.

**Sec. 5. Consideration of Locally Developed Plans in Hydroelectric Projects Licensing.** To the extent the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce participate in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing activities for hydroelectric projects, and to the extent permitted by law, the Secretaries shall give appropriate consideration to any relevant information available to them in locally developed plans, where consistent with the best available information.

**Sec. 6. Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Removing Unnecessary Burdens on the Columbia River Basin Water Infrastructure.** In order to address water and hydropower operations challenges in the Columbia River

Basin, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works under the direction of the Secretary of the Army, shall develop a schedule to complete the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement and the associated Biological Opinion due by 2020. The schedule shall be submitted to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality within 60 days of the date of this memorandum.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

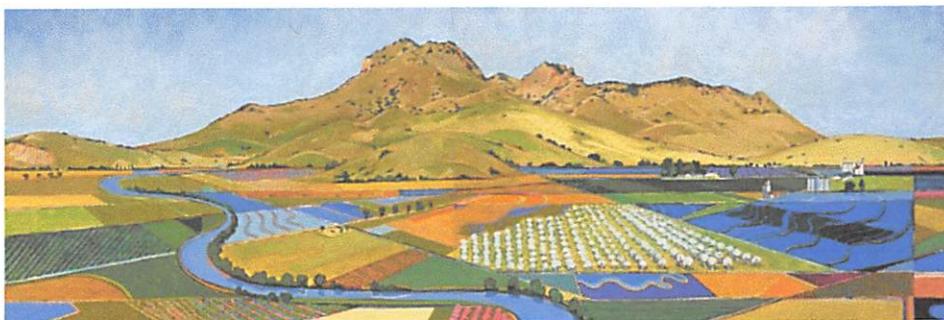
(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

DONALD J. TRUMP



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NCWA News and Events

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## Wednesday Update



Oct. 24, 2018

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

### Federal study looks at smart-irrigation products for home landscapes

A [landscape irrigation report](#) released by the U.S. Department of the Interior and [Bureau of Reclamation](#) looks at devices that adjust



home watering schedules. The technology has been productive in agricultural operations and is being adapted for home landscape irrigation systems. This sixth edition of the report includes details on smart-irrigation controller products produced by 24 companies.

### Energy commission to host webinar on funding for assessing wildfire risks

The California Energy Commission will be hosting a [webinar](#) on Monday, Nov. 5, to introduce a draft grant funding opportunity through the [Electric Program Investment Charge](#) program. The funding is for improving models to assess wildfires risk for electric grids. [Public comments](#) on the draft will be accepted through Thursday, Nov. 15.



### CARCD unveils new website ahead of next month's annual conference

After conducting a makeover, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) has taken the wraps off a [new website](#). The site is designed to reflect the work being done by resource conservation districts around the state. The [annual CARCD conference](#) will be Nov. 14-17, in San Diego.

### Delta Stewardship Council introduces new blog to discuss Delta issues

A [new blog](#) is being offered by the [Delta Stewardship Council](#). It will be used to generate discussion about the issues in the Delta. The initial post is about closing the gap between data and the way it is used by decision-makers. The blog will be updated monthly.

### Brown bag seminar series turns attention toward Interagency Ecological Program

A [new date](#) has been set for the next installment of the [Delta Science Program's Brown Bag Seminar Series](#). On Wednesday, Nov. 7, the discussion will cover the synthesis within the [Interagency Ecological Program](#), which has conducted ecological investigations for decades. The seminar will be held in Sacramento.

### National six-day coastal summit coming to Long Beach in December

The [9th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management](#) is set for Dec. 8-13, in Long Beach. In addition to presentations and field sessions, the [agenda](#) includes a community restoration event. The summit is hosted by [Restore America's Estuaries](#) and the [Coastal States Organization](#).

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# WATER BRIEFINGS

# STATE LEGISLATION

CORRESPONDENT

# 13

A publication from the Northern California Water Association

OCTOBER 2018

NCWA's legislative agenda for 2018 was focused on achieving real and positive outcomes through focused advocacy efforts that build on the Sacramento Valley's record of crafting and implementing collaborative, solutions-oriented policies and programs. The 2018 state legislative session concluded on August 31.

In its final year, the Brown Administration has endeavored to accomplish a broad set of water policy objectives that are intended to further the state's co-equal goals of providing reliable water supplies and protecting, restoring, and enhancing ecosystems. Many of these priorities are articulated in the [California Water Action Plan \("CWAP"\)](#). The deadline for the Governor to sign measures enrolled by the Legislature was September 30.

In 2018, NCWA worked to advance the interests of the Sacramento Valley by finding alignment and common ground whenever possible between Sacramento Valley water suppliers' priorities, the ongoing efforts and initiatives of the Brown Administration, and the interests of legislators from across the state.

Policy areas and specific measures where NCWA advanced our legislative agenda in 2018 include:

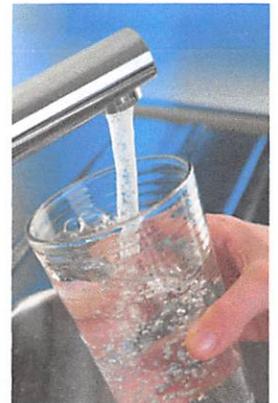
## [Drinking Water](#)

Over 500,000 Californians lack consistent access to drinking water that meets state and federal safety standards. In many cases, these Californians are customers of small water systems located in rural disadvantaged communities that face a

broad variety of technical, financial, and managerial challenges. There are approximately 300 of these chronically noncompliant local water systems.

In 2018, NCWA worked to advance policies that would take important steps toward addressing this critical problem by empowering responsible local agencies to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

- **NCWA supported AB 2050 (Caballero)**, the Small System Water Authority Act. AB 2050 would have created an innovative new option for small water system governance by enabling noncompliant drinking water systems to come together and consolidate within a larger "Small System Water Authority." Under a responsible water authority, these water systems would benefit from larger economies of scale, expanded ratepayer bases, operational efficiencies, and enhanced funding opportunities. Approved by the Legislature in August 2018, AB 2050 was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.
- **NCWA supported increased state General Fund allocations to advance safe drinking water statewide.** The 2018-19 State Budget included \$23.5 million in General Fund include for key safe drinking water actions over the next year, including \$3 million for a statewide needs' assessment and an additional \$6.8 million for the SWRCB's "Safe Drinking Water for Schools" grant program.



- NCWA supported alternatives to the proposed “Water Tax.” SB 623 (Monning) and a closely related budget trailer bill would have imposed a per connection tax on drinking water system customers that would range from 95 cents to \$10 per month based on connection size. The proceeds of the tax would be allocated to a “Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund” administered by the State Water Resources Control Board to provide financial assistance to failing water systems. The measures also include a 15-year period of relief from certain SWRCB and RWQCB enforcement activities for agricultural operations that comply with specified requirements.

NCWA had an “Oppose Unless Amended” position on these measures that was focused on the removal of the proposed tax. NCWA has consistently opposed state-mandated taxes or fees on water that would require local agencies to assess a tax on their ratepayers and then remit the funds to Sacramento.

## Moving Forward to Improve Access to Safe Drinking Water

Water managers and leaders in the Sacramento Valley are fully committed to advancing solutions to help ensure that all Californians have access to safe drinking water. A comprehensive approach that empowers effective local agencies, targets funding to address specific needs, and emphasizes collaborative locally-appropriate solutions, will enable continued progress toward ensuring that all Californians have access to safe drinking water.

## Fisheries/Wildlife

NCWA and Sacramento Valley water managers have been working to implement a number of innovative programs to address fish and wildlife issues, including the state’s Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy and the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy, as well as elements of the federal Salmon Recovery Plan and the Central Valley Joint Venture. Consistent with these ongoing efforts, in 2018 NCWA supported legislation that would enhance the ability of landowners and water managers in the Sacramento Valley to manage water for multiple benefits.

- NCWA supported AB 2348 (Aguiar-Curry), which will help offset the cost of winter-flooding of rice fields, a practice that provides critical habitat for millions of waterfowl that rely on flooded habitat in the Sacramento Valley. AB 2348 would authorize the Department of Fish and Wildlife (“DFW”) to enter into California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program contracts with owners of productive agricultural rice lands that are winter-flooded and are determined by DFW to be important for the conservation of waterfowl. AB 2348 was signed by the Governor in September 2018. The author’s office also successfully secured \$5 million in funding for the program in the 2018-19 State Budget.
- NCWA supported AB 2421 (Stone), which establishes the Monarch & Pollinator Rescue Program (“MRPP”). The MRPP will be administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purpose of recovering and sustaining populations of pollinators through grants to private landowners, nonprofit organizations, resource conservation districts, and public agencies for the restoration or enhancement of pollinator breeding and overwintering habitat on private and public lands. AB 2421 was signed by the Governor in September 2018.

- **NCWA supported AB 2697 (Gallagher)**, which will establish an incentive program to encourage landowners to voluntarily cultivate or retain cover crops or other upland vegetation on idled lands, including idled agricultural lands, to provide waterfowl, upland game bird, and other wildlife habitat cover. The program could include direct payments or other incentives for landowners and would authorize DFW to provide incentives pursuant to the program for the creation or enhancement of waterfowl brood habitat. AB 2697 was signed by the Governor in September 2018.



## Flood Protection

- **NCWA supported increased state funding for Sacramento Valley flood protection infrastructure.** The 2018-19 State Budget includes an additional \$295 million in General Fund that will be allocated for flood control purposes, including:
  - ◊ An increase of \$170 million General Fund on a one-time basis to support the state cost-share of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' urban flood control projects that will contribute to a 200-year level of flood protection in urban areas of the Central Valley.
  - ◊ An increase of \$100 million General Fund on a one-time basis to address deferred maintenance projects on levees. These funds will be prioritized to address identified critical and serious sites, including repair and rehabilitation of damaged levees and infrastructure as a result of the 2017 storms.

- ◊ An increase of \$25 million General Fund to support ongoing levee maintenance.
- **NCWA supported SB 955 (Nielsen)**, which will create a Citizens Advisory Commission for Oroville Dam. The Advisory Commission will give local communities a venue to discuss and address important issues of local concern with the Department of Water Resources, including the operations and maintenance of the dam and associated facilities. SB 955 was signed by the Governor in September 2018.
- **NCWA supported AB 1270 (Gallagher)**, which was signed by the Governor in February 2018. As enacted, AB 1270:
  - ◊ Requires DWR to inspect dams and dam facilities once per year with the exception of low hazard potential dams which are required to receive inspections at least every two years.
  - ◊ Requires the owner of a dam to operate critical outlet and spillway control features on an annual basis and to demonstrate their full operability in the presence of DWR every three years or as directed by the department.
  - ◊ Provides that the dam inspection reports are public records subject to the California Public Records Act and authorizes DWR to withhold from public release sensitive information if the department includes in the public release a statement of findings that the withheld information would pose a security threat.
  - ◊ Requires the Division of Safety of Dams, in consultation with independent, national dam safety and dam safety risk management organizations to periodically review and propose amendments to its dam safety inspection and reevaluation protocols, and to notify the Legislature and the public of any changes.

## Groundwater

NCWA is involved in a number of policy discussions related to groundwater and implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

- **NCWA actively engaged in the development of legislation related to SGMA implementation, including AB 2649 (Arambula).** As introduced, AB 2649 would have required the SWRCB to “prioritize” a temporary permit for a project that enhances the ability of a local or state agency to capture high precipitation events for local storage or recharge. AB 2649 was significantly amended over the course of 2018 before it was ultimately gutted-and-amended to address an unrelated policy issue. Moving forward, NCWA will continue to work to align state policy with sustainable water management approaches as well as enhance opportunities for local agencies and landowners to pursue [managed groundwater recharge in the Sacramento Valley](#).
- **NCWA is coordinating with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies through the NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force.** The entire Sacramento Valley floor is covered by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) that are pursuing [active and sustainable groundwater management](#). The Task Force coordinates with GSAs throughout the region to help them develop the SGMA-required groundwater sustainability plans for basins in the Sacramento Valley, including coordinating efforts across the Valley floor, providing education, and fostering mutual respect among different agencies.

## Mutual Water Companies

- **NCWA supported AB 3057 (Quirk-Silva),** which would have resolved a tax issue for mutual water companies by creating an exemption from state income taxes and franchise fees for not-for-profit mutual water, mutual ditch, and irrigation corporations beginning with the 2018 tax year.

By conforming state and federal law on this point, AB 3057 would have allowed mutual water companies to be eligible for certain state grants and loans. AB 3057 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in May 2018.



## Water Management

- **NCWA participated in successful negotiations to remove problematic components of AB 1668 (Friedman).** Signed by the Governor in May 2018, AB 1668 and SB 606 are a two-bill package based on the Brown Administration’s “Making Conservation a California Way of Life” framework. In relevant part, these bills enact a variety of new requirements for agricultural water management plans.

In 2017, NCWA participated in extensive negotiations related to the agricultural water management planning provisions of AB 1668 that resulted in the removal of all agricultural water supplier opposition to the bill. As enrolled, AB 1668 will:

- ◇ Require agricultural water suppliers’ annual aggregate farm-gate delivery data reports to comply with new submittal requirements
- ◇ Enact new submittal requirements and DWR review authorities for the agricultural water management plans developed by water suppliers every five years.

- ◊ Require agricultural water management plans to include an annual water budget based on a quantification of all inflow and outflow components of a suppliers' service area, as well as an identification of water management objectives based on the budget and a quantification of water use efficiency within the service area based on one of four approved methods.
- ◊ Require agricultural water management plans to include a drought plan that describes the actions of the water supplier related to drought preparedness and management of water supplies and allocations during drought conditions.

### ***NCWA Report: Reporting, Measuring, and Planning Requirements for Water Users***

In addition to the new requirements in AB 1668, individual water right holders and agricultural and urban water suppliers have a multitude of water monitoring, measuring, reporting, and planning requirements with which they must comply.

While compliance has become more time consuming and costly, the process has also become more important. As pressure on water supplies increases in a growing state, particularly during dry years, these processes—if completed in an accurate and diligent manner—will help ensure that water right holders have the ability to divert and store water for multiple benefits in accordance with their water rights and contracts.

An [August 2018 NCWA report prepared by MBK Engineers](#) will help guide water right and contract holders with various reporting, measurement and planning requirements. The report was developed in coordination with water resources managers throughout the Sacramento Valley who are working through these evolving requirements in different ways.

- NCWA engaged in ongoing legislative activity related to the SWRCB's water right adjudicatory processes, including AB 747 (Caballero). In 2017, Governor Brown vetoed AB 313 (Gray), which would have established a Water Rights Division within the Office of Administrative Hearings to discharge certain authorities and responsibilities related to water rights that are currently vested in the SWRCB. In his veto message, Gov. Brown directed CalEPA to provide a recommendation on improvements to the SWRCB's hearing processes.

Following the veto of AB 313, NCWA and other water supply interests engaged in extended negotiations with the Brown Administration and others regarding substantive reforms to the SWRCB's water rights hearing process. In August 2018, AB 747 (Caballero) was amended to include the negotiated language, which creates a new Administrative Hearings Office ("AHO") within the SWRCB.

NCWA's position of "Support if Amended" on AB 747 acknowledged that the language represented a substantial improvement over the existing water rights hearing processes utilized by the SWRCB, but requested additional language clarifying how the AHO would be funded through the General Fund to minimize impacts to water rights fee payers. AB 747 was signed by the Governor in September 2018.



As we prepare for a new Administration and legislative session in 2019, NCWA staff will continue to engage legislators, administrative agencies, staff, and stakeholders to advance the interests of the Sacramento Valley. We welcome your ideas and inquiries as part of that effort—please contact Adam W. Robin, NCWA Legislative Affairs Director, at [arobin@norcalwater.org](mailto:arobin@norcalwater.org) or (916) 442-8333.

CALIFORNIA

## WATER PLAN eNEWS

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Wednesday Update



Oct. 31, 2018

This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions, and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

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### Council approves California's first Ocean Acidification Action Plan

The state's first [Ocean Acidification Action Plan](#) has been approved by the [California Ocean Protection Council](#).

The 10-year plan addresses ocean acidification that is brought on by increased absorption of carbon dioxide emissions. The six key strategies identified in the plan include preparing for a range of risks and impacts, and reducing pollution that causes acidification. Details are available in this [news release](#).



### \$24.7 million in funding awarded to projects under Urban Greening program

The California Natural Resources Agency has awarded \$24.7 million in funding from the [Urban Greening program](#) to 20 projects throughout the state. The projects aim to reduce greenhouse gases. They also create green spaces that improve air and water quality. The list of projects is available in this [news release](#).

### Ag irrigation showcase will feature latest technology in water management

The latest agricultural irrigation and water management technology will be on display Friday, Nov. 16 during the [annual showcase](#) in Fresno. Hosted by the Fresno State Center for Irrigation Technology, the event will include exhibits and presentations on the campus' 1,000-acre farm and in its [Water, Energy, and Technology Center](#).

### Prizes and competitions to be part of Energy Department's Water Security Grand Challenge

The U.S. Department of Energy is putting together a series of prizes, competitions, and programs as part of the [Water Security Grand Challenge](#). The challenge is part of a framework to inspire innovation and advancements in technology that will help meet global water needs. The goals include launching desalination technologies, doubling resource recovery from municipal wastewater, and developing modular water systems.



### Webinar will help water leaders deliver messages to the public

A [webinar](#) to help water leaders learn how to tell their stories to a wider audience will be held Friday, Nov. 9. The presentation will explain the [power of storytelling](#) when it comes to delivering messages about water programs, projects, and policies. The webinar is being hosted by [Water Citizen](#).

### Strategic workshop will focus on integrated watershed solutions

The Localizing California Waters [strategic workshop](#) is set for Nov. 7-9, in Groveland, just outside Yosemite National Park. The [discussions and presentations](#) will center on integrated watershed solutions for healthy communities. The speakers come from a variety of backgrounds, including regulatory agencies, utility districts, and conservation professionals.

