CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

California Water Plan Update 2028

Water Commission Consultation: SB 72 Implementation

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Purpose of Today's Presentation

- ☑ Share DWR's early thinking on implementing SB 72 through the California Water Plan
- ☑ Discuss engagement architecture
  - Advisory Committees
  - Caucus-based approaches
- ☑ Seek Commission's input early, before approaches are finalized
- ☑ Outline preliminary timeline and proposed Commission updates

1. Where We Are Now

2. What We Are Exploring

3. How We Move Forward

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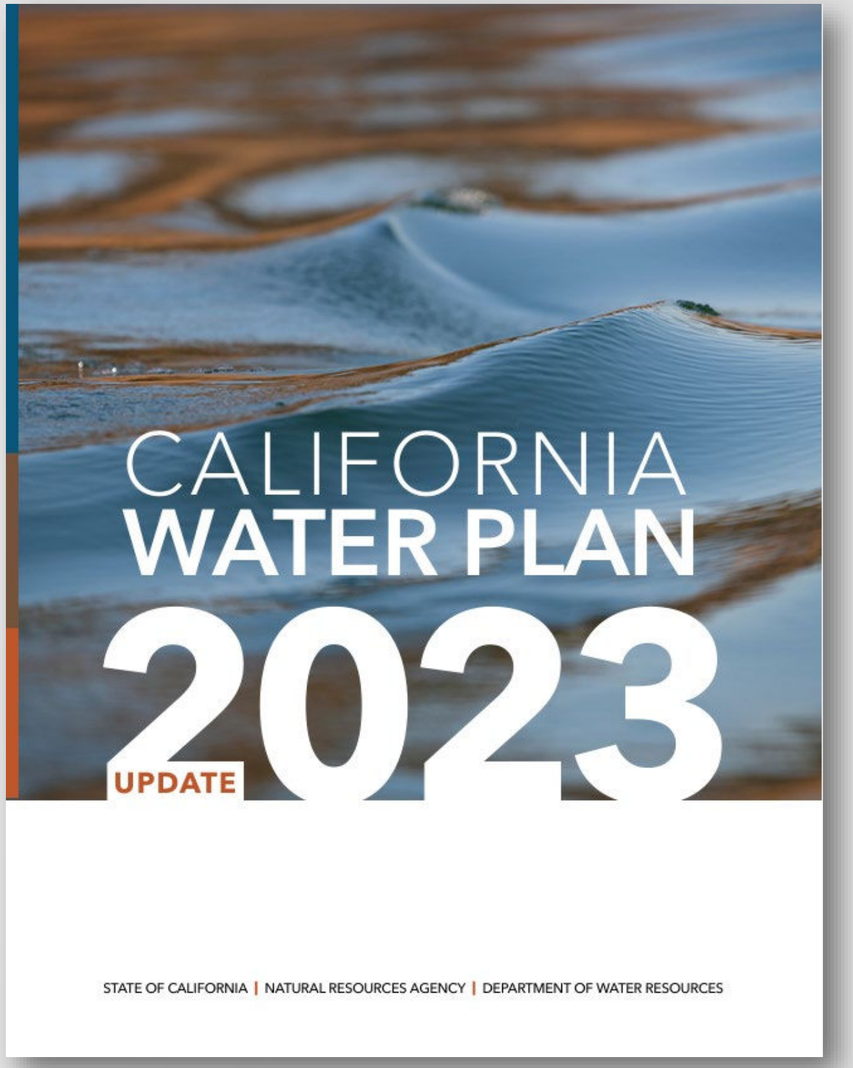
California Water Plan – As it is Today

State's Framework for Coordinated Water Planning

Statewide Strategy	Strategic plan for sustainable and equitable water management
Collaboration Platform	Brings together agencies, Tribes, local leaders, NGOs, academia, and the public
Trusted Data Foundation	Comprehensive, consistent source of statewide water data and analysis
Investment Guidance	Informs how, when, and where to invest statewide



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SB 72: From Passage to Implementation

- Signed by Governor on October 1, 2025; **now enacted and in effect**
- Focus shifts from legislation to **implementation planning**
- Phased implementation began in **2026**
- Integration with **California Water Plan** beginning with Update 2028

SB 72: A Modernized California Water Plan

- **Establishes first-ever statewide water supply target**

  → interim target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040

- **Provides actionable direction**

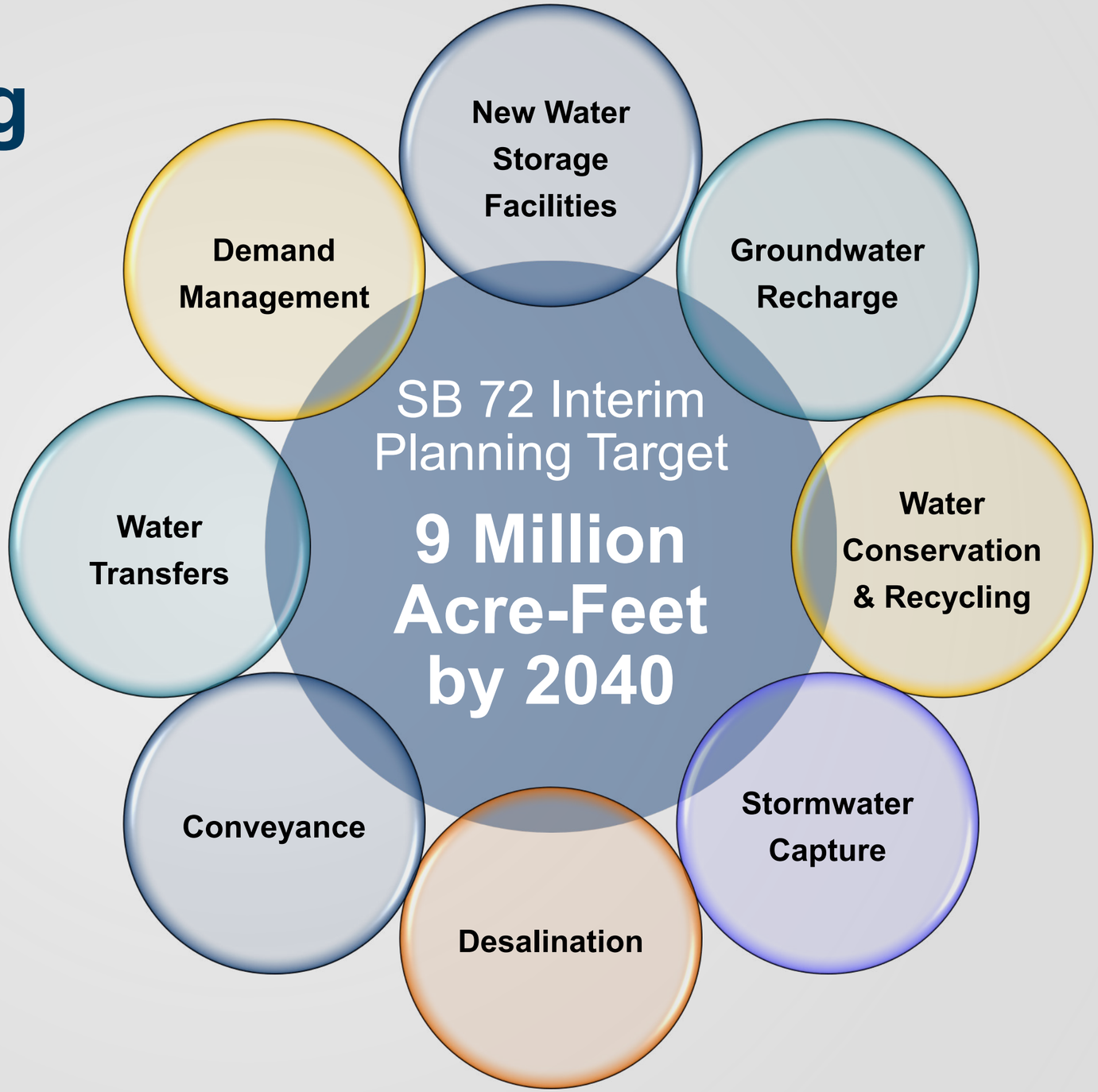
  → moves the Water Plan from advisory guidance to a clear implementation framework

- **Expands coordination and consultation**

  → planning reflects statewide priorities and regional realities

SB 72: Planning Levers to Achieve the Interim Target

Strategy categories under the California Water Plan



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Water Plan Project Team

- Lead by **DWR Division of Planning**
- Integrated effort across entire **Department**
- Supported by a **consulting team**

Engagement and Coordination Architecture

State Agency Partners

Implementation, Compliance, and Coordination

CA Water Commission

Advises & Consults

DWR
Water Plan
Project
Team

Regional Public Workshops

Open Public Input Forums

Advisory Committee

20–25 Member Advisory Body of Stakeholders & Thought Leaders with Public Meetings & Input

Regional/Issue-Based Caucuses

Geographic and Topic Coverage

Tribal Workgroup

Formal government-to-government & informal workshops

Technical Workgroups

Data, Modeling, and Methods

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SB 72: Advisory Committee Requirements

SB 72 requires DWR, in consultation with the Water Commission, to establish an advisory committee that includes representation from:

- Urban and agricultural water suppliers
- Local government, business, and agriculture
- Environmental interests and justice (*new*)
- Tribes (*new*)
- Labor (construction trades and public water infrastructure) (*new*)
- Other interested parties, as appropriate

Additional provisions:

- Meetings open to the public
- DWR consults with and considers recommendations
- Flexibility to add technical and scientific expertise

Conceptual Model for Caucuses

- Designed to supplement existing engagement channels
- Flexible and adaptive by design
- DWR participates and convenes; does not replace or duplicate existing groups

REGIONAL

- Organized by hydrologic region
- Builds on existing regional convenings where feasible
- Provides structured regional input to inform statewide strategies

ISSUE-BASED

- Organized by cross-cutting topics that span multiple regions
- Limited in scope and duration
- Convened where technical or policy issues warrant deeper discussion

Cross-Agency Coordination

INTEGRATION & ALIGNMENT

- Policy Direction
- Regulatory Alignment
- Funding & Financial Assistance
- Planning, Analysis & Modeling
- Water Plan Development

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop Water Plan regional reports
- Establish watershed-scale water supply targets
- Define environmental water demands
- Align state plans and programs

Partner Agencies with SB 72 Mandates or Nexus

Core State Agencies

Other State & Federal Agencies

- CalFire
- State conservancies
- Delta Stewardship Council
- USACE
- USBR
- NOAA
- USDA – Forest Service

… others under consideration

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SB 72's Three Linked Workstreams

Data → Targets → Actions

DATA

Water Use & Supply Balances

- Statewide, watershed-scale datasets
- Leverages new data and advanced technology
- Supports statewide planning models and activities

TARGETS

Long-Term Water Supply Targets

- Credible, local targets for urban, agriculture, Tribal, and environment
- Expanded coverage: 5 → 10 hydrologic regions
- Aligned with Governor's 2022 Water Supply Strategy and SGMA

ACTIONS

Adaptation & Implementation

- Place-specific strategies (including nature-based solutions) to close supply–demand gaps
- Cost-benefit analyses
- Progress tracking & integration across state, federal, and local planning

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Refined Analytical Resolution

10 Hydrologic Regions → 138 USGS HUC-8 Watersheds

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SB 72 Implementation Roadmap

2026: Public materials & advisory committees

2026–2027: Watershed & regional engagement

2026: Begin technical work (supply targets & strategies)

2028: Integration with California Water Plan Update

2029–2031: Refinement, reporting, statewide updates

2033: California Water Plan Update

NOTE: Preliminary timeline assuming fully-funded initial budget request.

Proposed Coordination with the Commission

- Regular meetings with Commission staff
- Consultation with Commission at public meetings at key milestones
- Continued alignment with the Commission's statutory role

Key Questions for the Commission

- Does the proposed engagement plan work for the Commission?
- Does the Commission have input on the proposed caucus design: regional vs. issue-based caucuses?

Planned Next Steps

- Incorporate Commission feedback from today's discussion
- **Early-February:** Informational Meeting with Tribal representatives
- **Feb 18:** Public Launch + announce Advisory Committee members
- **Late Feb/early March:** Advisory Committee to advise DWR on the formation of Caucuses
- Return to the Commission with updates at key milestones

Thank you!

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