

## The State's Water Strategic Plan



The California Water Plan (CWP) is the State's water strategic plan. First published in 1957, the plan is now updated every five years. The next plan Update is due in 2009.

The plan contains information on topics such as:

- water uses
- water supplies
- regional conditions
- options for managing water

As a strategic plan (and by law), the Water Plan does not provide recommendations about specific projects. Instead, decision makers use the document to consider how to meet water needs, where to make water investments, and for setting water policy.



### Why is this important?

In order to fully respect the public's resources, make wise choices, create sustainable

options and ensure the best outcomes for the state, it is critical to plan comprehensively.

While recent bond issues will help with infrastructure improvements, more planning is vital to ensure California has reliable water supplies and is able to accommodate the effects of climate change and other events and issues on water supply, water quality and flood management.

## Tribes and the California Water Plan

Objective 12 of Water Plan Update 2009 is to **Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources**. This objective is to: "Develop Tribal consultation, collaboration, and access to funding for water programs and projects to have more sustainable Tribal water and natural resources." Ten related actions, developed for the Tribal Communication Plan, support the objective.

The objective defines California Native American Tribes as federally recognized and non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

The State is in the process of completing the 2009 **California Water Plan** update and needs your input. To provide for more comprehensive planning, **the State is incorporating Tribal issues and considerations into Water Plan Update 2009.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Or

Visit the Water Plan website at:  
<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov>



## OVERVIEW of The California Water Plan Update 2009

Update 2009  
Tribal Water  
Plenary Sessions

# ≡ The California Water Plan Update 2009



## HISTORY

First published in 1957, early Water Plans focused on defining how much water the state's people, farms and industries might use. Water experts then outlined what was thought to be the best way to provide it. At the time, the future was seen as relatively predictable and many massive projects and engineering efforts were undertaken.

In 1999 the California Legislature and Governor enacted a law directing the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to modify the Water Plan approach. The new direction included, among other things, a requirement for broader stakeholder input and more reporting about planning assumptions.

Under this direction, DWR formed an advisory group of 65 individuals to work together with them and craft the 2005 Water Plan. Update 2005 evolved into a strategic plan with a vision, mission, goals, major initiatives, guiding principles, activities and statewide policy recommendations.

In Update 2005 more than one possible future was considered, and a variety of robust options for water management were offered. The update also acknowledged one approach or method may not fit all situations and the need for more regional planning.

One major recommendation of the Update was to increase Tribal participation and statewide access to funding. Another was to improve coordination among state agencies.

The 2005 plan represented a major shift in the planning approach, and more work remains. Update 2009 builds on the work started in the 2005 Plan.

## WHAT'S IN THE PLAN?

Water Plan Update 2009 is organized into five volumes.



### Volume 1–The Strategic Plan

The chapters in Volume 1 provide an overview of the strategic approach and current water management in the State, with information on:

- Strategic Plan elements
- Current statewide water conditions including:
  - the natural and social setting in California
  - current water use, supplies, and quality
  - ongoing concerns (such as communities without safe drinking water supplies, Tribal water issues, floods, groundwater overdraft, drought, and infrastructure)
  - local and regional challenges
- Planning responses or approaches, such as integrated regional water management, and coordination with land use planning and the plans and programs of other State agencies
- Legal framework and the related agencies that regulate water rights and water use (including Tribal water rights, surface water rights, area of origin, environmental use, groundwater, water contracts, water transfers, and Colorado River guidelines)
- Scenarios of possible future water needs (these currently include three “big-picture” possibilities regarding water use in 2030: one where the amount of water used in California would be about the same as is used today, one where the amount of water used would be a little less than current levels, and one where the amount of water used would be substantially more than current use)
- Potential future changes, such as climate, that could impact water supplies or uses
- Options for implementation of the strategic policy recommendations

### Volume 2–Resource Management Strategies

- Describes 27 different approaches to managing water or water-dependent resources) that relate to six main themes:
  - reducing water demand
  - improving operational efficiency and transfers
  - increasing water supply
  - improving flood management
  - improving water quality
  - improving resource stewardship

### Volume 3–Regional Reports

- Describes regional conditions related to water use, supply, quality and management:
  - types of water supplies
  - detailed information on agricultural and urban water uses – as well as water that remains in the environment for natural processes
  - Includes a statewide summary and information by ten hydrologic regions and two areas of special interest – the Delta and Mountain Counties

### Volume 4–Online Reference Guide

### Volume 5–Online Technical Guide

#### KEY ELEMENTS FOR UPDATE 2009

In addition to updating material contained in Update 2005, the 2009 Update will:

- Include information about climate change and potential responses
- improve analytical tools (such as modeling approaches to help describe and forecast local and Statewide water conditions)
- incorporate companion State strategic plans (other high-level documents for large State agency programs, that are related to water)
- incorporate Tribal issues and considerations