Deadline reminder: Volume 2 Water Plan comments must be in by Monday

Monday, Dec. 9, is the comment deadline for Volume 2 of the California Water Plan Update 2013 public review draft. Volume 2 is made up of 12 regional reports, including one for each of the state’s hydrologic regions. Instructions for submitting comments are available in an online reviewer’s guide. Public comments submitted for all volumes of the Water Plan are being posted here.

Getting ready for another year of potential drought conditions in California

In anticipation of a winter that may produce less precipitation than usual for California, DWR and the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State will be hosting a drought preparedness workshop this month. It will be Tuesday, Dec. 17, in Fresno. There will be information to help farmers prepare for another year when water may be in short supply. Online registration is available.

Coastal commission offers hearing, webinar on sea-level rise document

The California Coastal Commission has scheduled a public hearing and a webinar to provide an overview of the draft Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance. The hearing will be Thursday, Dec. 12, in San Francisco; the webinar is set for Tuesday, Dec. 17. Details are available on the commission’s website. The comment deadline for the draft is Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Environmental goals and policies up for discussion at next SGC meeting

Discussion of the draft Governor’s Environmental Goals and Policy Report is on next week’s agenda for the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The report keys in on the state’s sustainability efforts, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The council’s meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 11, in Sacramento.

Johnson Foundation report has ideas for getting water and energy utilities to team up

A look at the ways water utilities can achieve more sustainable, cost-effective freshwater systems is contained in a new report supported by the Johnson Foundation. It includes a look at how water and energy utilities can work together and mitigate the effects of a changing climate and other obstacles. The report is part of Charting New Waters, an effort to address concerns about U.S. water sustainability.

Two new models offer ways to help meet California’s future water needs

Researchers from DWR and UC Davis have developed two models to help California plan for landscape irrigation and future water demand by agriculture. The Simulation of Evapotranspiration of Applied Water (SIMETAW) application simulates daily weather data to help develop irrigation requirements and schedules. A second application, Cal-SIMETAW, uses soil and climate data to compute daily water balances for a variety of crop and land-use categories.