

## **Tribal Advisory Committee Charge for Preparing California Water Plan Update 2023**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is in the process of fulfilling its statutory mandate to lead and provide resources for the development of the 2023 update of the California Water Plan (Update 2023). The California Water Plan, required every five years by law, is the State's strategic plan for developing and managing California's water resources across all sectors for sustainability and resilience. DWR will be leading the work and ultimately developing the final plan, while actively promoting substantial coordination among California's diverse water resources interests.

The Water Plan is complementary to the Water Resilience Portfolio (Portfolio), the Newsom Administration's water policy blueprint. Update 2023 provides an opportunity to implement several Portfolio actions and jointly track progress. The Portfolio is jointly prepared by the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Food and Agriculture. It directs State agencies to implement actions that support regions in preparing for flood, drought, rising air and water temperatures, sea level rise, and other climate change impacts. Interagency collaboration, alignment, and partnerships are essential for implementing Portfolio actions with multi-sector, multi-benefit solutions, including broadening the impact of the California Water Plan.

### **Update 2023 Tribal Advisory Committee**

The Water Plan, building on the progress made during Update 2009, engaged California Native American Tribes<sup>1</sup> (Tribes) and organizations throughout the Update 2013 and Update 2018 process by the convening of the Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal AC). The Tribal AC created a forum where Tribes and organizations developed material for the Water Plan and ensured Tribal perspectives on land, water and cultural were included in those materials.

California Water Plan Update 2023 (Update 2023) continues DWR's commitment of tribal engagement and communication. The Tribal AC will ensure integration of tribal input into the Water Plan, begin addressing the complex water issues facing Tribes, and improve communication and collaboration between Tribes and the Water Plan.

In developing Update 2023, DWR will also engage other State Agencies and federal agencies. The Tribal AC is not a consultation body and shall not replace government-to-government consultation with individual Tribal governments.

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<sup>1</sup> "California Native American Tribe" signifies all Indigenous Communities of California, including those that are non-federally recognized and federally recognized, and those with allotment lands, regardless of whether they own those lands. Additionally, because some water bodies and Tribal boundaries cross State borders, this term includes Indigenous Communities in Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona that are impacted by water in California.

## Theme and Intended Outcomes of Update 2023

The theme of Update 2023 is regional water resilience for California's watersheds, with the Portfolio as its cornerstone. Its intended outcomes are threefold:

- Articulate a statewide **Vision for Climate Resilience** across sectors, programs, and agencies that results in a resilient and sustainable water system that equitably supports public health and safety, economic stability across sectors, ecosystem vitality, and enriching experiences.
- **Support California's Regions** as they undertake watershed-based, multi-sector resilience planning with technical guidance, data, tools and decision support, and funding mechanisms.
- Integrates **Water Equity** considerations into all work streams for Update 2023. DWR sees the Water Plan as a key tool for ensuring the **Human Right to Water** in California, which recognizes that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." (Water Code Section 106.3)

## Responsibilities

**Tribal AC** members agree to:

- Participate in a consensus seeking process to discuss, develop and refine policy proposals and recommendations, as well as other content for Update 2023.
- Develop recommendations and proposals that constitute statewide tribal concerns and perspectives, not the perspectives of the individual Tribes identifying members.
- Regularly brief their respective Tribes, organizations, and constituencies, relaying the Water Plan process and provide input to Tribes for Update 2023.
- The Tribal AC shall be considered a separate entity from the individual Tribes, communities and organizations represented on the committee. Recommendations and policy proposals developed by the Tribal AC shall not be considered recommendations or proposals of the individual Tribe represented on the Tribal AC, unless endorsed specifically by such Tribe.
- The Tribal AC recommendations and policy proposals shall be submitted to individual Tribes for approval and endorsement to provide greater state-wide consensus and support for Tribal AC recommendations.
- Advise the DWR Water Plan Team on Tribal AC efforts to implement recommendations from the 2013 and 2018 Tribal Water Summit.
- Review and comment on draft content.
- Participate in Tribal AC meetings and annual plenary meetings.

**DWR Executive Management and the Water Plan Team** agree to:

- Lead the update process in terms of courses of work to complete Update 2023 and in terms of communication and engagement.
- Collect and organize data and conduct and synthesize technical studies.
- Draft text for review.
- Arrange for meetings and provide logistical support.
- Provide requested information.

## **Decision Making**

The Water Plan Update is a consensus-seeking process. Specific items moved forward by the Tribal AC as a group product will be considered by DWR. An issue without a broad degree of support will not move forward as a group product. The level of support for various items will be recorded. If there is fundamental disagreement among the Tribal AC on an item, the committee will be asked to continue working on an area where more agreement is possible. It is understood that Tribal AC members may not always be able to commit their Tribe or organization to a particular conclusion. However, members will operate and represent their organizations in good faith and contribute the best available information. Members are not required to commit to a position on any item.

## **Time Commitment**

It is anticipated that the Tribal AC will convene two or three times per year through the end of 2023. Additional, occasional briefings and updates may be provided via conference call and webinar should the schedule demand.