CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

California Water Plan 2028

Implementing SB 72 through State Agency Coordination

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Bottom Line Up Front

- ❑ The **California Water Plan 2028** is evolving under SB 72 to become a more implementation-focused statewide water planning framework
- ❑ The **Delta Plan** is an essential statutory framework for Delta-related actions
- ❑ **Early coordination** between DWR and DSC can ensure alignment, clarity of roles, and stronger outcomes
- ❑ Today's discussion is meant to **build shared understanding and identify coordination opportunities**

1. Where We Are Now

2. Where We Are Going

3. How We Will Get There

System Under Strain

California's Water System Built for the Past — Not Today's Risks

CLIMATE EXTREMES

- Increasing temperature, and declining snowpack
- More severe droughts, floods
- Intense atmospheric rivers

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Stressed by drought and flood risks
- Disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities

SHIFTING DEMAND

- Competing for shrinking, less reliable water supplies
- Water uncertainty threatens jobs and competitiveness

ECOSYSTEM PRESSURES

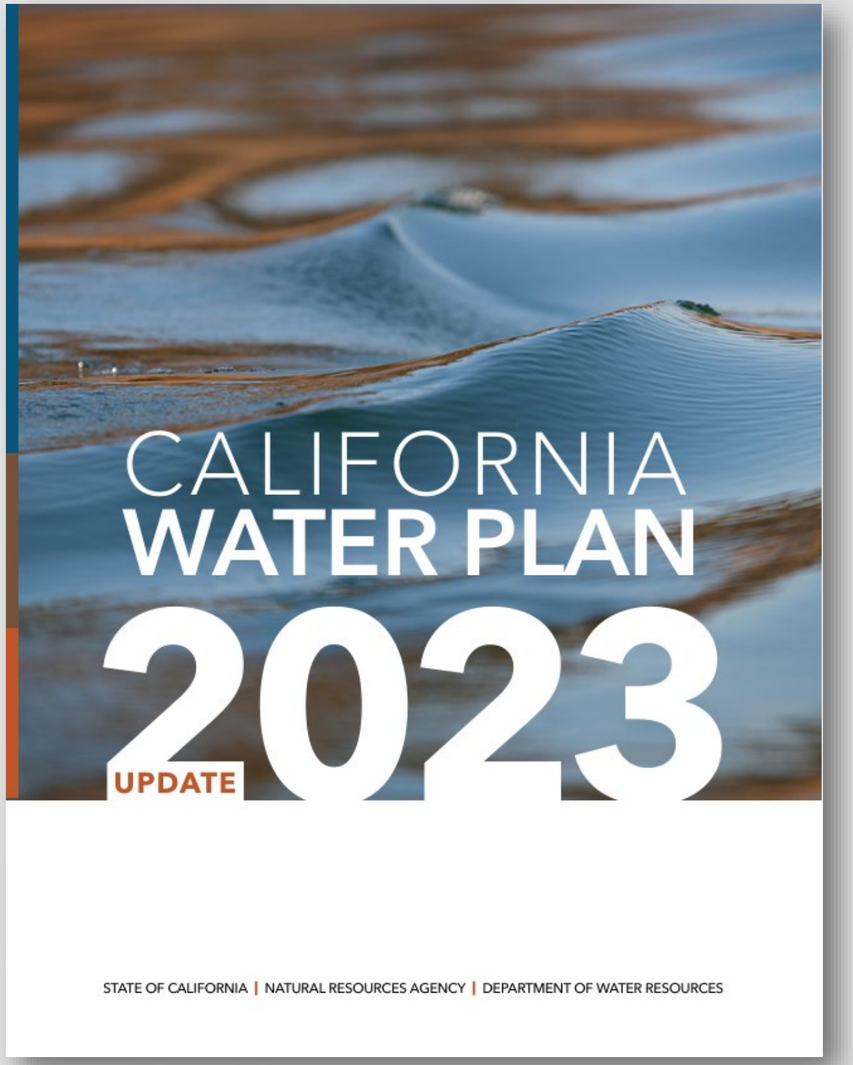
- Degraded rivers, wetlands, and fisheries
- Reduced biodiversity and climate resilience
- Post-wildfire impacts to water quality

***Statewide water planning** balances near-term modernization investments against the far greater long-term costs of inaction.*

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



The Delta's Role in Statewide Water Planning

- The Delta is central to California's water supply system and ecosystem health

- The Delta Plan provides:
  - Statutory policy framework
  - Science-based planning guidance
  - Adopted performance measures

- Coordination between the Water Plan and Delta Plan can help ensure:
  - Planning consistency
  - Shared understanding of priorities
  - Effective statewide implementation

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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
- Integration begins with **California Water Plan 2028**
- Coordination with State partners is crucial to success

SB 72: A Modernized California Water Plan

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

  → interim target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040

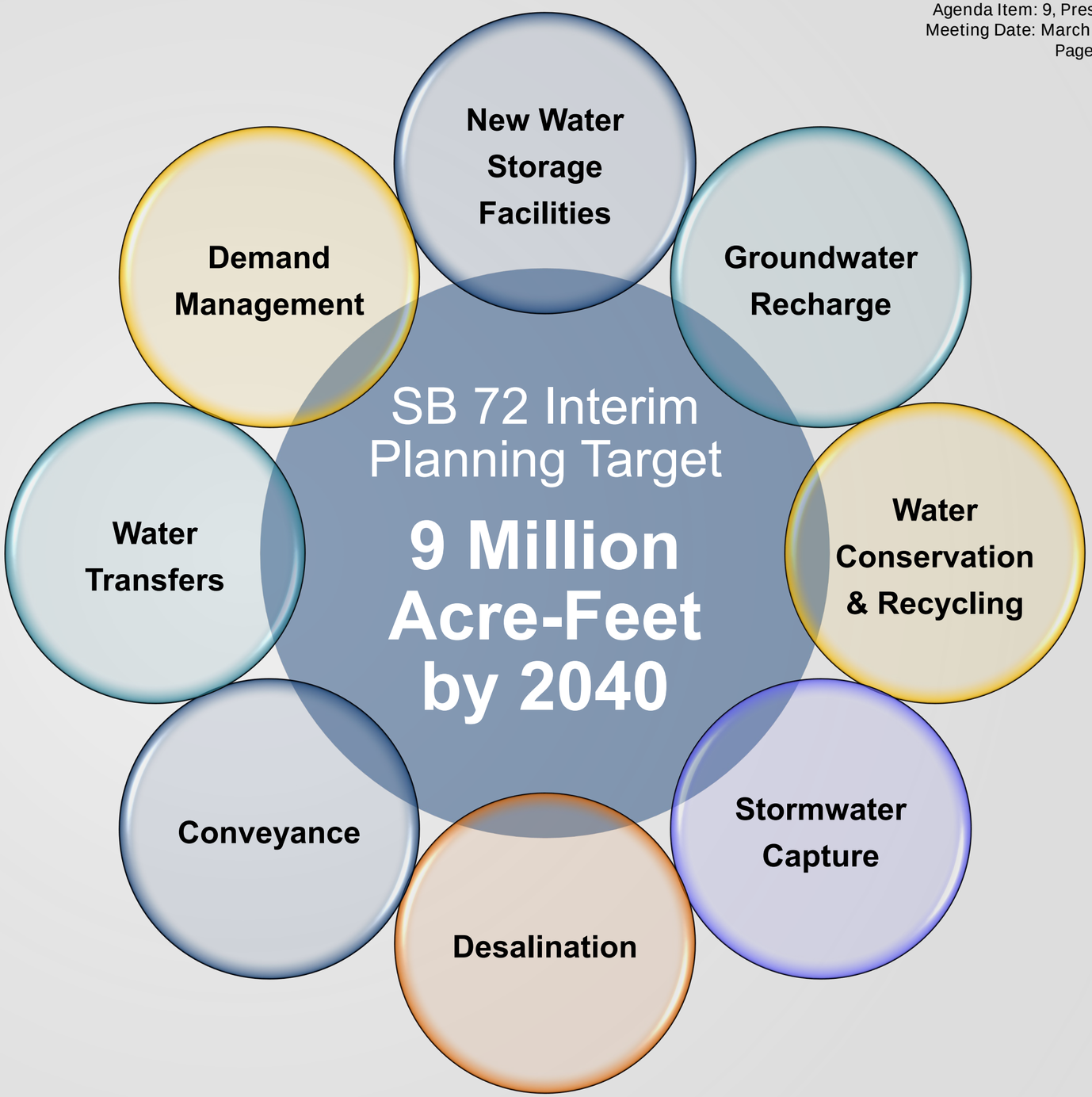
- **Provides actionable direction**

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

- **Expands coordination and consultation**

  → planning reflects statewide priorities and regional realities

Tools DWR Can Use to Plan for 9 MAF Additional Water Supply



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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

36 Member Advisory Body of Interested Parties & 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

SB 72 Interim Planning Target

9 Million Acre-Feet by 2040

Equivalent to:

- ≈ 2 × Shasta Reservoir, or
- ≈ 2.5 × Lake Oroville, or
- ≈ 3.5 × New Melones Reservoir

Enough water to serve:

- ~18 million households, or
- ~2.5 million acres of farmland for one year

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Key Mandates under SB 72

Directs DWR to:

- **Coordinate plan development** with California Water Commission (CWC), Waterboards, and local, state, and federal agencies.
- **Convene and utilize an Advisory Committee**, in consultation with the California Water Commission.
- **Report on regional and local project development** by watersheds beginning with California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2033.
- **Recommend programs, policies, and facilities** to meet water supply targets and CWP objectives.

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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
- Tribes
- Labor (construction trades and public water infrastructure)
- Environmental justice and environmental interests
- 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

Partner Agencies with SB 72 Mandates or Nexus

Core State Agencies

Other State & Federal Agencies

State:

- CalOES, CEC, SLC, CCC, Coastal Commission, CalTrans, and CVFPB, Conservancies

Federal:

- USACE, USBR, NOAA, USDA Forest Service

… others under consideration

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

Refined Analytical Resolution

10 Hydrologic Regions → 138 USGS HUC-8 Watersheds

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NEXT STEPS

Where the Delta Plan and Water Plan Align

Potential areas of alignment:

- Ecosystem restoration
- Water supply reliability
- Climate resilience
- Watershed health
- Multi-benefit projects
- Regional coordination

Delta-Related Targets and Measures

State law requires the Water Plan to incorporate:

- Adopted Delta performance measures

Potential approach for CWP 2028:

- Reference relevant Delta Plan targets
- Ensure consistency with Delta Plan policy framework
- Align statewide planning discussions with Delta priorities

What SB 72 means for DSC

- ❑ Opportunity to ensure Delta Plan priorities are understood in statewide water planning
- ❑ Alignment between Delta Plan performance measures and Water Plan discussions
- ❑ Early coordination on Delta-related planning topics and implementation pathways
- ❑ Potential to leverage existing coordination forums, such as the Delta Plan Interagency Coordination Committee
- ❑ Ongoing dialogue to ensure the Water Plan appropriately reflects the Delta's role in statewide water management

Potential Coordination Pathways

- Ongoing **DWR–DSC staff coordination**
- Leveraging the **Delta Plan Interagency Coordination Committee**
- Participation in:
  - Water Plan Advisory Committee discussions
  - State agency coordination meetings

Goal: **Improve coordination without duplicating existing structure**

How DSC Could Engage in Water Plan 2028

- Advisory Committee participation
- Technical coordination with DWR staff
- Input on Delta-related planning discussions
- Alignment on data, metrics, and performance measures

QUESTIONS?