Statewide Water Action Plan for California

ACWA’s Board of Directors unanimously approved a Statewide Water Action Plan for California on Sept. 27, 2013. Developed by a broad cross-section of water interests convened by ACWA over several months, the plan outlines 15 actions to improve water supply reliability, protect water rights, protect the integrity of the state's water system and promote better stewardship. It also includes guiding principles for implementation of the plan to help ensure actions benefit the entire state, respect water rights and contract terms, and reflect a new regulatory approach that can better meet the needs of California water users and ecosystems.

The Statewide Water Action Plan was submitted to Gov. Jerry Brown on Oct. 2, 2013, as the water community's recommendations for developing the Administration’s water plan for the state.

Key Elements of ACWA’s Statewide Water Action Plan

Actions to Improve Statewide Water Supply

- Expand water storage capacity (both surface and groundwater)
- Invest in water use efficiency / Integrated Regional Water Management Plans
- Facilitate water transfers
- Protect and improve water quality
- Pass a water bond

Actions to Protect Water Rights

- Respect area of origin commitments
- Ensure that reservoirs are not operated to “dead pool” as a result of state regulations or actions

Actions to Protect the Integrity of the System

- Complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, consistent with the Statewide Water Action Plan
- Invest in levee improvements / maintenance
- Prepare for emergencies to protect public safety
- Improve and expand groundwater management

Actions to Promote Better Stewardship

- Integrate headwaters management to sustain the environment and improve statewide water quality and supply
- Coordinate state and federal regulatory actions
- Implement flow regulations through a collaborative, science-based process to promote the co-equal goals