



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CAUCUS STRATEGIC PLAN

June 2013

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Environmental Water Caucus is to provide for the restoration of our natural landscapes and biological communities throughout the state, with special emphasis on the San Francisco-Bay Delta ecosystem, while providing for the sustainability and enjoyment of those ecosystems by current and future generations, and contributing to the economic values of the state of California.

MISSION STATEMENT

The MISSION of the Environmental Water Caucus (EWC) is to facilitate the involvement of environmental, environmental justice, civic, recreational and commercial fishing organizations, and Native American Tribes in the implementation of environmentally and economically sustainable and fair water policies throughout California, with special emphasis on the restoration of the Bay-Delta estuary and its fisheries. The mission will place emphasis on ensuring the ecological health of our watersheds and riverine systems, will ensure that public trust values are an integral part of the actions of federal, state, and local agencies, and will actively and jointly propose alternatives to actions that are harmful to the health of California's ecosystems.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. California must respect and adjust to meet the natural limits of its surface waters, groundwaters, and waterways, including the limits imposed by climate change.
2. Every Californian has a right to safe, sufficient, affordable, and accessible drinking water and the right to the maintenance and restoration of the scenic beauty and recreation afforded by our rivers, bays, and Delta.
3. California's ecosystems and the life they support have a right to clean water and to exist and thrive, for their own benefit and the benefit of future generations, and

- in accord with the Public Trust Doctrine, which is foundational to the state and the EWC water policies and planning.
4. California must overhaul its existing, piecemeal water rights policies, which already over-allocates existing water and distributes water rights without regard to equity or environmental needs.
 5. California must maximize environmentally sustainable local water self-reliance in all areas of the State, especially in the face of climate change.
 6. The quality and health of California's water must be protected and enhanced through full implementation and enforcement of existing water quality, environmental, and land use regulations, and other actions, and through new or more rigorous regulations and actions as needed.
 7. All Californians must be guaranteed immediate and ready access to information and the decision-making processes for water.
 8. California must prioritize sustainable and equitable funding to ensure cost-effective water reliability and water quality solutions for the state where "cost-effective" includes environmental and social costs.
 9. Groundwater and surface water use must be integrated, overseen, and coordinated by all users.
 10. The state must recognize that each aquifer and watershed is unique and usage must be based on local hydrology; however, if water supply is being imported to or exported from a region, the state has a responsibility to ensure that the state's reasonable use doctrine is appropriately applied and enforced.
 11. California's actions on water must respect the needs and interests of disadvantaged communities.
 12. California's actions on water must respect the needs and interests of California Tribes, especially those unrecognized Tribes in the State; California's actions must respect the constitutionally guaranteed fishing and gathering rights, both tribal and non-tribal.

GOALS

The long range goals for the Caucus are:

1. Caucus Campaigns. The Caucus will proactively undertake and facilitate campaigns in one or more of the following areas: sustainable solutions for the San Francisco-Bay Delta; responses to agency actions we oppose; opposition to the construction or enlargement of major surface storage facilities; development of efficient water usage measures; advocacy of water quality improvement actions; support for Environmental Justice and Native American efforts for fair water policies; awareness of climate change impacts.
2. Ecosystem Restoration Actions. Caucus organizations will join forces to implement actions or projects that provide for the restoration of desirable ecosystems and habitat.

3. Information Coordination and Dissemination. The Caucus will continue its traditional role as an information clearing house and coordinating agency for participating organizations.

MEMBERSHIP in the EWC requires recognition and agreement with the above Guiding Principles.

The following organizations are currently affiliated with the EWC:

AquAlliance	
The Bay Institute	Foothill Conservancy
Butte Environmental Council	Friends of the River
California Coastkeeper Alliance	The Karuk Tribe
California Save Our Streams Council	Klamath Riverkeeper
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance	Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers
California Striped Bass Association	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
California Water Impact Network (C-WIN)	Planning and Conservation League
California Water Research Associates	Restore the Delta
Citizens Water Watch	Sacramento River Preservation Trust
Clean Water Action	San Mateo County Democracy for America
Desal Response Group	Save the Bay
Earth Law Center	Sierra Club California
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Environmental Protection Information Center	Southern California Watershed Alliance
Food and Water Watch	Winnemen Wintu Tribe

A LIKELY SCENARIO FOR OUR WORK

The over-allocation of California's water has led to a myriad of significant statewide problems, as indicated above and characterized by: a Sacramento-San Joaquin San Francisco Bay Delta that is in trouble, including the many rivers that are connected to the Bay Delta; fish species that are endangered; and wasteful and unreasonable uses of water by many sectors of the economy. Additionally, water quality is dangerously unhealthy in many parts of the state, and significant inequities exist in the distribution of water to California citizens.

The scope of the EWC's work, and the work of EWC member organizations during this planning period, addresses all of these above issues, with a special emphasis on the Bay Delta because of its importance to the water supply and ecology for a large part of the state.

During 2011 and 2012, the EWC concentrated most of its efforts on the Delta Stewardship Council in trying to have the Council accept the California Water Solutions Now and the subsequent Responsible Exports Plan as one of the alternatives to be evaluated for the Delta Plan. The EWC was successful in having our conservation and efficiency oriented alternative included as a potential alternative in the Delta Plan, although not accepted as the preferred project. The objective for 2013 and 2014 is to

have our Responsible Exports Plan eventually selected as the preferred and proposed project for the Delta Plan. During this planning period the EWC will continue to refine its alternative for the Delta Plan and also attempt to have that same alternative evaluated as a part of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). We will also advocate for our directions on water rights, Delta flows, and water quality with the SWRCB.

It is our view that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan may not be permitted and will not, therefore, be certified as part of the Delta Plan. In that case, the EWC Responsible Exports Plan can become a prime alternative for consideration as the Delta Plan.

Our Responsible Exports Plan (RX Plan) has the following advantages over any other plan that has been produced for the Bay Delta. Its main features are:

1. The lowest level of exports and highest level of outflows in order to improve habitat, contribute to recovery of fisheries, and significantly improve water quality;
2. The least costly alternative since it does not require costly tunnels;
3. The only alternative that modernizes the Delta with improved fish screens at the South Delta and reinforced levees in the Delta (above the PL84-99 standard as recommended by the Delta Protection Commission) to protect from earthquake, sea level rise, and flood threats, and provide increased security for water supply reliability;
4. A significant reduction in the use of impaired farmlands south of the Delta;
5. Provides the highest degree of local and regional self-sufficiency with a plan that is more aggressive than the current 20/20 plan;
6. Places emphasis on increased groundwater storage south of the Delta and protections for Sacramento Valley groundwater basins.
7. Continues a robust food supply for California;
8. Provides the highest level of permanent job creation.

OPERATING PLAN 2013 - 2014

GOALS FOR THE 2013-2014 PLANNING PERIOD.

During this planning period, state and federal water agencies will primarily be focused on the following: The Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, the combined state and federal Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), and the water rights and water quality proceedings and decisions of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

In addition, the EWC efforts may be involved, in a support role, in new and ongoing major surface storage projects, legislation that affects California water policies and agency actions that can have major impacts on state water management, such as the Water Bond and CEQA modifications. Current examples are Trinity River, San Joaquin River, and Merced River issues, the State Water Bond and CEQA legislative modifications, and Human Right to Water type of legislation and policies.

The specific OBJECTIVES expected from our activities during this 2013 to 2014 period are:

1. To influence the directions of major projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin-San Francisco Bay Delta to assure that projects contribute to recovery of the estuary and at-risk fish species.
2. To have flows increased and exports from the Bay Delta reduced to a level that can recover fisheries and the ecosystems of the estuary.
3. To improve the conditions of Bay Delta levees in order to protect against damage from earthquakes, sea level rise, and flooding – the latter two the result of expected climate changes.
4. To improve the water quality of major water bodies and to have significant numbers of water bodies removed from state and federal “impaired” status.
5. To recover at-risk and endangered fish species through the implementation of recovery plans and the accomplishment of the salmon “doubling” goals of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).
6. To have the state implement increased water efficiency and recycling goals and programs for both urban and agricultural water districts, in order to contribute to regional self-sufficiency and compensate for the reduced exports of some of the above goals.
7. To have the state implement the features of the EWC's Responsible Exports Plan in order to assure the sustainable directions of California water management.
8. To assure that new or revised legislation affecting our goals, such as the state Water Bond, CEQA modifications, and similar actions are in concert with our goals.
9. To influence the funding of the above goals through reasonable state water bonds, user fees, and beneficiary pays principles.

10. To fund EWC facilitation services – primarily through Foundation grants – in order to continue the direction and coordination of this Plan.
11. To facilitate the implementation of the recently enacted state Human Right To Water Act.
12. To prevent the proposed federal project to raise the height of Shasta Dam.

The OUTCOMES expected from the above OBJECTIVES are:

TOP PRIORITIES:

1. Working with Caucus members and the Document Response Group, produce and coordinate an EWC written response to the Bay Delta Conservation Project EIS/EIR which will advocate for the EWC's Responsible Exports Plan as the preferred alternative (2013/2014).
2. Working with Caucus members and the Document Response Group, produce and coordinate EWC written responses to the SWRCB review of Delta flows (2013) and the SWRCB implementation plan (2014), which will increase Delta outflows and improve water quality. Our advocacy will be in line with the EWC Responsible Exports Plan.

SECONDARY PRIORITIES:

3. Advocate for state and federal approval of the Delta Protection Commission's plan for reinforcement of Delta levees in order to protect against damage from earthquakes, sea level rise, and flooding – the latter two the result of expected climate changes (2014).
4. Produce a joint EWC/EJCW response in support of the Winnemen Wintu Tribe's opposition to a potential federal EIS on the raise of Shasta Dam.
5. Assure satisfactory features are included and negative features are eliminated in any Water Bond legislation, CEQA modifications, or similar legislative actions (2013 & 2014).
6. In order to ensure the health of aquifers and fairness to all users, conjunctive use of water should only occur within adjudicated water basins or a statutory equivalent.
7. Create and submit editorials or letters to media in support of our objectives (2 to 3 each year).

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES:

8. Create brief summary reports for EWC organizations on significant agency public meetings attended (3 to 4 per year).
9. Conduct monthly EWC Conference Call meetings for information exchange and coordination of actions (Monthly)
10. Generate Grant Proposals to potential funders: 3 to 4 requests or letters of inquiry during 2013 and 3 to 4 during 2014.

WORK ASSIGNMENTS

The EWC is operated by two facilitators, David Nesmith and Nick Di Croce, who perform the facilitation and leadership tasks of the Caucus. During David's stroke recovery period, Julia McIver will be operating in his place.

Nick Di Croce Work Areas:

- Attendance at agency meetings, conferences
 - (BDCP, DSC, SWRCB, DPC)
- Coordination and production of comments letters
- Summary reports for EWC distribution
- Coordinate ad hoc task forces
- Grant writing and funder meetings
- Deliverables: Comment letters, summary reports, grant requests
- Annual Costs: \$24,000 to \$28,000 (480 to 560 hours)

Julia McIver Work Areas:

- Attendance and report on agency meetings, conferences
 - (BDCP, DSC, SWRCB)
- Assist in production of comments letters
- Track and report on Water Bond, CEQA, and similar legislation
- Summary reports for EWC distribution
- Deliverables: Comment letters, summary reports
- Annual Costs: \$18,000 to \$20,000 (360 to 400 hours)

The EWC facilitators depend on a Steering Committee to guide them through important policy and financial questions and decisions. The Steering Committee presently consists of Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Action; Jonas Minton, Planning & Conservation League; Mark Rockwell, Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers, and Pete Bell, Foothill Conservancy.

During this planning period, EWC will attempt to utilize student interns to assist in some of the analytical and advocacy workload.

During the second half of 2013, an ad hoc group will be formed to investigate and plan EWC communication strategies, including the uses of social media.

FINANCE

The EWC is financed primarily through foundation grants as well as voluntary donations from member organizations.

During calendar year 2012, the EWC received \$60,000 in grant funding from the Mary A. Crocker Trust, the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund, and the Rose Foundation.

Voluntary contributions by member organizations amounted to \$3,000. The EWC will continue to rely primarily on foundation grants and will attempt to increase the voluntary member contributions during this planning period.

As of April 2013, funds available in the EWC account totaled \$38,000. At the current rate of monthly expenditures, the EWC will exhaust its current funding during January 2014 and will need to supplement funding by further foundation funds for the second year of this two year plan.

The EWC’s fiscal sponsor is the California Water Impact Network, a registered 501c3 organization.

The Annual Operating Budget for the accomplishment of the above work assignments is estimated as follows:

- Co-Facilitators reimbursement (\$50/hour)..... \$48,000
- Operating expenses (travel and office)..... \$ 5,500
- Publications..... \$ 5,000
- Fiscal administrator fee (10%)..... \$ 6,500
 - Total Annual Expense Budget \$65,000