ACWA STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLAN

2018 PRIORITY GOALS

Advancing Comprehensive Solutions for California Water

The Association of California Water Agencies’ Board of Directors has adopted the following Strategic and Business Plan for the 2018-’19 term. This document serves to identify the association’s priorities in advancing policies that improve water supply reliability, protect local agency decision-making and promote an integrated, comprehensive approach to water policy and management.

ACWA remains firmly committed to providing top-notch service to its members and assisting them with challenges that affect their critical mission. ACWA staff will strive to provide tools, educational opportunities and information to help members respond to emerging issues.

The Board of Directors unanimously adopted seven policy-related goals and three organizational-related goals in March 2018.

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Policy-Related Goals
ACWA will take advantage of opportunities to advance comprehensive solutions, protect local agency decision-making and promote an integrated, comprehensive approach to water management that is key to California’s future.

Promote Safe Drinking Water Solutions for Disadvantaged Communities
ACWA member agencies are committed to providing their communities with safe drinking water and find it unacceptable that some disadvantaged communities in California do not have access to safe drinking water. ACWA will continue to develop and advance solutions in this area that are reasonable and effective without unjustly impacting ACWA’s members. ACWA will continue to oppose any proposed tax on drinking water and advance more appropriate funding solutions.

Promote Policy Advances on Headwaters & Forest Management
The catastrophic wildfires of 2017 underscored the fact that California’s forests are in a state of crisis. ACWA will continue to work with coalitions to educate audiences and promote policies at the federal and state levels to increase the pace and scale of forestry management, benefiting our headwaters and California water users.

Provide Leadership on Bay-Delta Flows & Conveyance Solutions
ACWA has made a strong policy statement supporting long-term Bay-Delta solutions as part of a comprehensive plan that works for the entire state and meets the coequal goals. ACWA will continue participating in the State Water Resources Control Board’s update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, encouraging support for collaborative processes and advocating against proposals that would unnecessarily restrict water availability for the public, agriculture and business.

Identify Strategies to Increase Groundwater Sustainability & Replenishment
ACWA will continue to advocate for ACWA members’ interests in state processes for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation. ACWA will also lead by identifying strategies to increase groundwater replenishment.

Promote Water Storage Investments
ACWA will continue its leadership in advocating for effective processes at the California Water Commission in order to help the state succeed in allocating $2.7 billion in Proposition 1 funding for the public benefits of storage.

Advance Sound Energy Policies
ACWA will advocate for actions in the area of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and renewable energy that are reasonable and effective, taking into account that some ACWA members generate energy from large and small hydroelectric facilities, solar power and other sources of energy.

Promote Long-Term Water-Use Efficiency Measures
As the Legislature and the Brown Administration work to implement the 2017 report Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life, ACWA will advocate for policies that protect local decision-making, recognize the role of water supply investments, and promote sound policy on conservation and water-use efficiency.

Organizational-Related Priority Goals
ACWA will pursue opportunities to meet the needs of member agencies and ensure the organizational success and financial sustainability of the association.

Improve Organizational Stability
ACWA will strive to create a work culture and environment designed to attract and retain the best and brightest, becoming an employer of choice. ACWA will explore opportunities to increase competitive benefits offered to staff and continue developing and implementing programs that provide professional growth for employees.

Promote Financial Stability
ACWA will develop and implement a plan to address both short- and long-term liability issues, including funding post-employment health benefits (OPEB) and reducing interest costs. Additionally, ACWA will continue to develop new non-dues revenue sources and pursue solutions for ACWA headquarters.

Enhance Value to Members
ACWA will continue serving as California’s premier member organization on water issues. ACWA will focus on growing and retaining membership by building the value of participation through leadership, advocacy, education and service. ACWA will also ensure membership continues to provide relevance, value and affordability.