ACWA is the largest statewide association of public water agencies in the nation, representing more than 450 public agency members. Since its inception in 1910, ACWA has served as a guiding force in California water policy, advancing comprehensive statewide strategies to meet the state’s future water needs.

ACWA’s member agencies are responsible for 90% of the water delivered to California communities, farms and businesses. Together, members play an active role in managing the state’s water resources and creating progress in groundwater management, safe drinking water, water use efficiency, water recycling and desalination.

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA

ACWA shapes strong policy positions to support comprehensive solutions to California’s water challenges. Throughout the years, the association has helped lead California into a new era in water management, where local, state and federal agencies work together toward a diversified, sustainable water system.

During 2019, ACWA collaborated on several landmark water policy developments, including:

• Engaged in public educational outreach in support of Voluntary Agreements on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta, while helping advocate against legislation that could have derailed them. Gov. Gavin Newsom ultimately vetoed the legislation.

• Supported funding solutions proposed by the Legislature and Gov. Newsom that will provide access to safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities in California that currently do not have access. ACWA led a broad coalition that successfully advocated for a funding alternative to a proposed statewide drinking water tax.

• Submitted a comprehensive set of recommendations for the Water Resilience Portfolio, answering Gov. Gavin Newsom’s call for input on his Administration’s roadmap on meeting water needs through the 21st Century.

• Updated policy principles on energy and water resources that support local control and envisions members’ diverse energy generation as part of California’s zero carbon energy future.

DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP, ACTIVE LEADERS

ACWA members are cities, counties and special districts that provide drinking water and irrigation water for homes, businesses and farms. The agencies support communities and protect public health by providing services ranging from water treatment and delivery to waste water treatment, flood control and groundwater management. Local agencies have spearheaded innovative water projects, adding 2.4 million acre-feet of water to the state’s water supply portfolio over the past two decades through solutions ranging from recycling and desalination to stormwater capture and groundwater banking.
VALUE FOR MEMBERS

ACWA gets results for members on the issues that matter most and provides specialized services to meet their needs.

- **Advocacy** - ACWA advocates on behalf of its members on an array of issues. ACWA’s Sacramento and Washington D.C. staff track and act on hundreds of bills each year while representing members before state and federal administrations and regulatory agencies, as well as legislative bodies and committees.

- **Communications** - ACWA’s communications team offers accurate, relevant and up-to-the-minute information on issues of critical importance to our members, the media and the public. The association engages on many fronts, such as providing industry information and training to help member agencies succeed. We also reach out to external audiences and supply communication toolkits to support members’ local communications efforts.

- **Events & Benefits** - ACWA organizes and hosts two major annual conferences along with a Washington D.C. Conference, Legislative Symposium and Regulatory Summit. Additionally, ACWA produces webinars, workshops and informational programs that meet member needs. ACWA members can also access insurance and related benefit programs through ACWA/JPIA.

- **Outreach & Engagement** - The association’s 10 geographic regions provide the foundation of ACWA’s grassroots efforts to impact legislation and facilitate communication between ACWA and its local members. Region events also allow member agency leaders to learn about issues affecting their colleagues in other parts of the state. Additionally, members can serve on 13 ACWA committees that provide key technical and policy input to ACWA’s Board of Directors.

DEALING WITH EXTREME CONDITIONS

Weather extremes are a reality in California. Planning for these extremes is another core mission of local water agencies. In communities throughout California, ACWA member agencies invest in projects to build local water sustainability and bolster emergency response. Agencies directly engage their customers on conservation, long-term efficiency, fire hazards and many other challenges by tailoring programs unique to their communities.

ACWA helps shape state and federal policy on drought, water quality, flood protection, climate change, headwaters health and many other issues to ensure our members have the tools they need.