2026-27 Groundwater Committee Work Plan

Adopted _____

"The Groundwater Committee shall serve as a forum for ACWA member agencies to advance coordinated advocacy and messaging: facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information as necessary convene focus groups develop positions on new and existing groundwater legislation and policies consistent with the ACWA 2026-2029 Strategic Plan and in protection of groundwater quality and quantity".

-ACWA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 17

CHARGE	INITIATIVES
1. Groundwater Committee Deliverables Provide a structure where Groundwater Committee member agencies can come together and discuss issues of mutual concern and interest and based on that interaction, provide representative input to the ACWA Board.	A. Hold quarterly Groundwater Committee Meetings. Encourage participation by Committee members and Region Committee Reporters

	B. Advance Groundwater policy priorities through focused subcommittee and working groups— both to respond to regulatory and legislative development and to develop proactive policy solutions.
	• Subcommittees:
	  ○ Groundwater Quality
	  ○ Water Banking
	• Working Groups:
	  ○ maintain and regularly update a list of active working groups to ACWA's website.

	C. Conduct conference programs and/or webinars as needed to advance Committee priorities.
2. Proactive Policy Initiative Process Consider input and priorities from ACWA's State Legislative Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, and regions.	A. Evaluate and provide recommendations if proposals should be advanced by ACWA's Groundwater Committee: • Review and List State Legislative Committee and Federal Affairs Committee recommendations relevant to this committee • Review and consider regional priorities in the development of the Committee Work Plan
3. Vision For Our Water Future Support implementation of Phase 2 of Vision for Our Water Future, which includes recommended actions to inform the next Governor's water agenda and guide ACWA's advocacy.	A. In partnership with the ACWA Water Management Committee, develop recommendations to "Modernize Permitting Performance," including to: • Improve permitting performance • Modernize water operations

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4. Groundwater Banking Advance a policy framework for facilitating groundwater banking.	A. Develop policy recommendations related to the establishment, regulation, and operation of groundwater banks.
5. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Support implementation of SGMA.	A. Continue to support implementation of SGMA and advocate for funding and other resources that empower ACWA members to successfully achieve sustainability. B. Engage with the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board in regulatory proceedings related to SGMA.

6. Engage on Other Groundwater Committee Advocacy Priorities	A. Advocate on behalf of ACWA members' interests for policies, including but not limited to:
	• Funding
	• Groundwater recharge
	• Integrated groundwater/surface water management
	• Interagency coordination
	• Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)
	• Resources for DACs
	• SGMA Implementation
	  ○ Support for small GSAs
	  ○ Streamlined SGMA compliance framework
	• Subsidence

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