

INVITATION TO ATTEND DROUGHT STRATEGIES WORKSHOP:

Preparing for Drought in a Non-Drought Year

California's changing hydrology has led to increased instances of drought in the state. Extreme weather patterns affect the amount of rain and snow we get, impacting how we can capture and distribute water. To ensure California's communities and environment have sufficient water during times of drought, the state will need to adapt to this new normal of ongoing weather extremes.

In support of Action 26.3 in California's [Water Resilience Portfolio](#), the [California Water Commission](#) is developing proposed strategies to protect communities and wildlife in the event of drought.

The Commission is seeking your input at three virtual public workshops.

WORKSHOP DATES

- Wednesday, July 19
Noon to 3 p.m. Register [here](#)
- Tuesday, July 25
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Register [here](#)
- Thursday, July 27
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register [here](#)

All workshops will be offered in English and Spanish

Following three years of severe drought, California experienced a winter of extreme wet weather this year. Being able to endure the next severe drought is dependent upon making smart, preemptive water management decisions during non-drought years.

Let your voice be heard!

In addition to attending a workshop, the Commission encourages you to share your opinion in our [Drought Strategies Survey](#) [here](#). The survey will be open through July 12, 2023.

CALIFORNIA IS A DROUGHT-PRONE STATE

We are experiencing hotter, drier weather, which leaves less water to meet our needs and leads to more intense droughts. These modern “hot droughts” are particularly notable for creating conditions that lead to large wildfires. Periods of drought will continue on top of shifts in California’s hydrologic baseline wrought by climate change.

Drought conditions are not experienced uniformly across the state. While the impacts of severe and/or prolonged drought will undoubtedly be felt across all sectors of California, small, rural communities and the environment are particularly vulnerable to drought. Small, rural communities often suffer from insecure water systems and wells that go dry or are at increased risk of contamination. For fish and wildlife species, lack of water during drought threatens to push them to the brink. Frequently, due to how water is managed, species do not have time to recover between droughts.

As part of its work on drought, the Commission talked to experts working in California, the Western United States, and other countries. The Commission’s interviews and reading illuminated the following overarching themes:

- Leverage drought crisis to take bold action.
- Plan, prepare, and manage for drought during non-drought years.
- Make systemic adaptations to climate change.
- Advance a portfolio approach.
- Collect and use data for drought management.
- Engage the public to shift cultural norms.
- Bring the environment into drought management.

For more on the effects of drought on California and internationally, review the Commission’s report: [Long-term Drought in California: Overview and Global Context](#).

For details on how to take part in the Commission’s drought work, visit cwc.ca.gov/Water-Resilience-Portfolio.

If you require translation of any materials, please call (916) 835-0278 or email cwc@water.ca.gov.

The Commission would like to thank the following organizations for their help convening workshops:

