

Process Guide

California Water Plan Update 2009

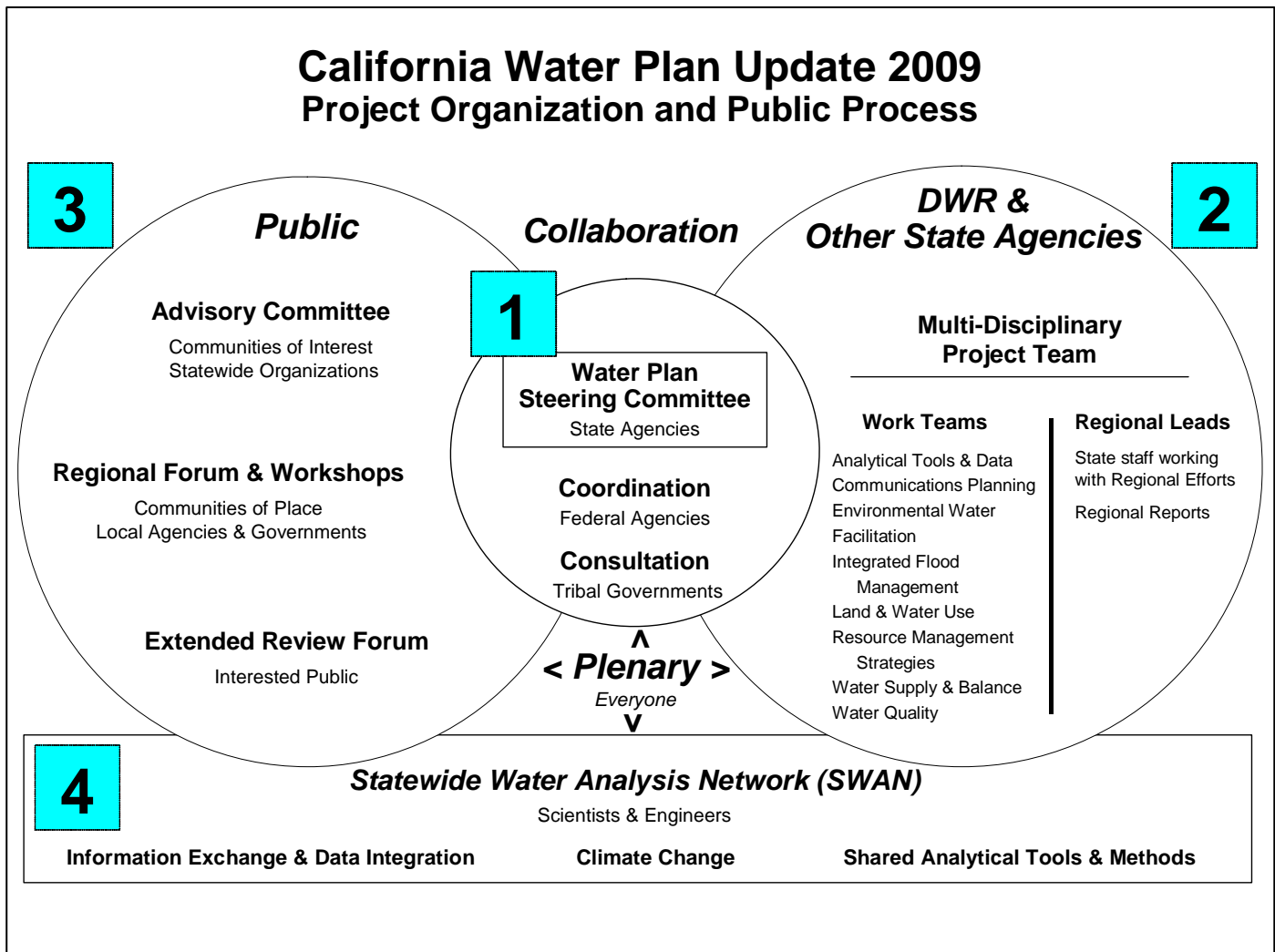
This guide explains the project organization and public process design for preparing the California Water Plan Update 2009. It builds on the planning framework, lessons, and accomplishments of *Water Plan Update 2005*. The diagram below illustrates the process components. Three overlapping circles depict the participants, relationships, and information exchange between and among the participants, namely government agencies, tribal governments, and statewide, regional, and local stakeholders. The box beneath the circles represents the technical experts, information, and science supporting the update. Plenary meetings tie them all together.

Circle (1) Collaboration

Circle (2) California Department of Water Resources and Other State Agencies

Circle (3) Public

Box (4) Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN)



Circle 1 – Collaboration

The **Collaboration Circle** shows that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will partner with other State agencies, coordinate with federal agencies, and consult with tribal governments, to update the California Water Plan. A newly formed State agency Steering Committee will guide the update process. Working closely with a public Advisory Committee, ongoing regional water planning collaboratives, and the Statewide Water Analysis Network, the Steering Committee will ensure that the Water Plan addresses State, federal, tribal, and regional issues and initiatives, and that the Water Plan is based on sound science and current information. Facilitated by public policy mediators, representatives of member groups will seek consensus through regular participation at meetings, continuous communication, and collaborative planning.

- The **Water Plan Steering Committee**, composed of the following State agencies, departments, boards and commissions, will provide policy input, oversight, and program management. Committee members have sufficient authority to represent their agencies and allocate staff and resources to Water Plan activities as appropriate. As the committee chair, DWR is responsible for providing administrative and logistical support and for completing Water Plan Updates as required by Water Code (§10004 -- §10013).

Boating & Waterways

Business, Transportation & Housing

Cal/Environmental Protection Agency

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

California Energy Commission

California Public Utilities Commission

Conservation

Fish & Game

Food & Agriculture

Forestry & Fire Protection

Native American Heritage Commission

Office of Emergency Services

Office of Planning & Research

Parks & Recreation

Public Health

Resources Agency

State Lands Commission

State Water Resources Control Board

Water Resources

- **Federal Coordination and Tribal Consultation** involves the Water Plan Steering Committee seeking policy input and information for the Water Plan Update from federal agencies and tribal governments and their representatives. The Steering Committee will convey their input to Water Plan participants.

California Rural Indian Health Board

Inter-Tribal Council of California

Regional Tribal Operations Committee

US Bureau of Indian Affairs

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Bureau of Reclamation

US Department of Agriculture

US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Forest Service

US Geological Survey

US National Marine Fisheries Service

US Natural Resource Conservation Service

Others (with role in California water)

Circle 2 - DWR and Other State Agencies

The **DWR & Other State Agencies Circle** represents the core staff responsible for developing the Water Plan Update. The Project Team consists of interdisciplinary staffs from DWR's Statewide Water Planning Branch and four District offices, other DWR divisions, and staffs from State agencies and their regional offices. The Project Team includes a Facilitation Team to manage the public process and help different groups interact.

- The **Project Team** comprises DWR and other State agency staffs working on the Water Plan Update. It is an interdisciplinary team that draws upon the wide range of scientific, technical, and administrative skills within DWR and partnering State agencies.
- **Work Teams** consist of topic-specific subject matter experts from DWR and other State agencies, including their district/regional offices, as well as facilitators. Work Team Leads will convene as a group on a regular basis to plan and manage work assignments.

- **Regional Leads** are liaisons from district/regional offices of DWR and other State agencies with regional water planning efforts. The Regional Leads will compile a directory of regional water planning initiatives and information for the Water Plan's 12 Regional Reports.

Circle 3 - Public

The **Public Circle** acknowledges DWR's commitment to an open and transparent process that seeks participation and deliberative input from stakeholders and other public members. An evolution from Water Plan Update 2005, the Advisory Committee for the next update will focus on statewide policy issues and initiatives, while regional coordination and in-depth technical discussions are delegated to other work groups.

- The **Advisory Committee** is composed of a cross-section of diverse stakeholders. It is a consensus-seeking group of statewide organizations to represent communities of interest, including: Business *, Citizen Organizations, Energy & Water Consumer Advocates, Environment * & Public Trust, Environmental Justice, Local Government * & Land Use Planning, Production Agriculture *, Recreation, Water Efficiency, Water Quality & Public Health, Water Suppliers * – Agricultural & Urban, and Watershed & Floodplain Management (interest categories followed by an asterisks (*) are specified in the Water Code).
- The **Regional Forum and Workshops** will encourage regionally-based water collaboratives to work closely with the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee on Integrated Regional Water Management initiatives. Numerous regional workshops will inform the Water Plan Update about communities of place and their regional water issues and management strategies. Annually, regional collaboratives will be invited to a Regional Forum to discuss regional issues having statewide impacts, "place-based" water issues such as data availability, lessons learned, and best management practices.
- The **Extended Review Forum** provides the opportunity for people to follow the Water Plan process without direct involvement in work activities. Extended Review Forum members will receive information updates and public meeting notices.
- **Public Outreach** will be achieved by using a variety of communication means and involving all those participating in the Water Plan process. Within the multidisciplinary Project Team, the Communications Planning Work Team will develop and implement a communications plan and outreach tools. Information will be available on the Water Plan Web Portal, at publicly noticed meetings and workshops, and through e-mail announcements.

Box 4 - Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN)

The **Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN) Box** shows SWAN as the technical advisory group for Update 2009. With this voluntary network, the Water Plan will leverage the technical skills, professional interests, and scientific knowledge of interdisciplinary scientists and engineers from public, private, and non-governmental sectors. SWAN will promote their collaboration to improve California's water analytical capabilities to help inform water management decisions and investments.

Technical information and recommendations from SWAN will be presented at Steering Committee, Advisory Committee, Regional, and Plenary meetings and workshops. SWAN will review and recommend methods to improve information exchange & data integration, data, and analytical tools that are needed to describe future scenarios, current & future water uses and supplies, environmental water concepts and needs, climate change impacts, and energy-water relationships; as well as to evaluate how response and adaptation strategies manage risk.

Plenary (All Participants)

Each year, participants from all Water Plan activities will gather at a Plenary Meeting to share information, discuss issues, review draft products & reports, and coordinate future work.

Activities and Content

The Water Plan Steering Committee will build on the strategic planning framework and content from *Water Plan Update 2005*, as informed by the public Advisory Committee, Regional Workshops & Forums, Statewide Water Analysis Network, federal agencies, and tribal governments. The content for Water Plan Update 2009 will come from these activities:

1. Review and revise as needed the vision, mission, and goals of the Water Plan, and update its initiatives, recommendations, and implementation plan. This includes
 - (a) reporting progress on actions associated with Update 2005's 14 recommendations, (b) addressing "Parking Lot" topics from the Update 2005 Advisory Committee, (c) incorporating issues and initiatives from Steering Committee members, (d) updating the Water Plan stakeholder/customer survey, and (e) including strategic planning for statewide flood management.
2. Develop multiple scenarios of future California water conditions, and use scenarios to evaluate different combinations of resource management strategies (called response packages) for a range of water demand and supply assumptions plus climate change.
3. Develop climate change scenarios to evaluate impacts on California's water resources and water systems, and to identify and recommend statewide and regional adaptation strategies.
4. Update the Regional Reports for the 10 Hydrologic Regions and for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Mountain Counties as areas of special concern. Use information gained from the Integrated Regional Water Management and local water and flooding efforts to describe critical issues, key initiatives, effectiveness of regional planning efforts, and region-specific response strategies.
5. Update the 25 Resource Management Strategies with current research and information. Expand strategy narratives to describe their suitability for integrated flood management, new challenges, and their current and future implementation in various regions.
6. Estimate and present actual water uses, supplies, and quality (Water Portfolios) for water years 1998 through 2005. Improve methods for representing consumptive and non-consumptive environmental water, and where reuse of water is occurring.
7. Improve information exchange and data integration, data, and analytical tools to inform all Water Plan activities and decisions and to assist California water planners and managers.
8. Incorporate findings and recommendations from companion State government plans.

Products and Schedule

The activities and interim products described in this Guide will be incorporated in Update 2009, such as Water Portfolios, Future Scenarios, Regional Reports, Resource Management Strategies, and Implementation Plan. The following reports are mandated by the Water Code:

- December 2007 – Release Draft Assumptions & Estimates Report for public review
- December 2008 – Release the Public Review Draft of Water Plan Update 2009 including Final Assumptions & Estimates Report
- December 2009 – Release Final Water Plan Update 2009 after holding public comment workshops and incorporating changes

The Water Code requires completing Final Water Plan Updates every five years in years ending in 3 and 8. However, because the last update was completed in 2005, the Public Review Draft (including draft policy recommendations) will be available to the Legislature and public by the end of 2008 (the mandated due date); and the Final Water Plan Update will be released by the end of 2009, four years after Update 2005. And by keeping the subsequent update cycle to four years, the ensuing Final Water Plan will be released in 2013 as required.