




CA WATER FOR ALL SB 366 is the solution



“Without clearly defined water supply targets and strategically planning the appropriate projects to achieve those targets, the state will continue to experience devastating water shortages in the future.”



Craig Miller

General Manager, Western Water

“SB 366 establishes critical and necessary statewide water supply targets while requiring the State, water community, and stakeholders to follow through on comprehensive, long-term water supply solutions that will transform water management in California. Through SB 366 we can create a reliable and sustainable infrastructure solutions critical to supporting economic vitality and the California way of life.”



Heather Dyer

General Manager, San Bernardino Valley

“Despite this year’s heavy rain, California continues to face long-term water supply challenges across the State that will threaten communities, businesses, our economy, jobs, and the California way of life. For our future, it’s critically important that policymakers address the inadequacies in the water system that are evident in times of drought and heavy rain by advancing SB 366.”



Paul Cook

General Manager, Irvine Ranch Water District

“California residents, businesses, agriculture, the environment, and future generations can no longer afford to live and operate under the status quo when it comes to our water supply. We must implement bold policy solutions that address the perpetual water supply threat growing worse every year. SB 366 is the solution.”



Michelle Reimers

General Manager, Turlock Irrigation District

“By establishing bold water supply targets to capture and produce enough water for all beneficial uses and modernizing the California Water Plan for the 21st Century, we can better plan for and implement programs to achieve much needed additional water supply.”



Paul Helliker

General Manager, San Juan Water District

SB 366 Supporters



SB 366 Supporters (cont.)



The following is a list of the logos displayed in the grid:

- Valley Center Municipal Water District
- Tejasca Valley Water District
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- Puente Basin Water Agency
- Industrial Environmental Association Promoting Industry and Protecting the Environment
- Southern California Rental Housing Association
- SCV Water
- 75th Anniversary East Water District (1941-2021)
- ACWA Association of California Water Agencies
- CONNECT Folsom Chamber
- McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
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- Olive Growers Council of California
- unitedag
- Murrieta/Wildomar Chapter of UCCE/UC
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- North Bay Leadership Council
- Friant Water Authority
- California Association of Winegrape Growers
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- California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
- South San Joaquin Irrigation District
- FARWEST Equipment Dealers Association
- Pacific Coast Renderers Association
- FB California Farm Bureau
- California Seed Association
- California Bean Shippers Association
- California Blueberry Association
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- California Apple Commission
- Bellflower-Somerset Water Reclamation Plant
- California Seed Association
- California Blueberry Association
- California Blueberry Commission
- Milk Producers Council
- WAPA Western Agricultural Processors Association
- wph Western Plant Health
- CalChamber California Chamber of Commerce
- Urban Counties of California
- California Blueberry Commission
- Milk Producers Council
- WAPA Western Agricultural Processors Association
- California Special Districts Association Districts Stronger Together

We ask that you support SB 366 next year as a primary means for California to chart the course necessary to secure enough water for future generations.



Another legislative year has ended, and California still faces an uncertain water supply future, with water supply threats still looming.

We appreciate that the Legislature has enacted policies that will carry California forward in the short-term, emphasizing conservation, improved water management, and additional infrastructure. But water managers throughout the state, whether they rely on the federal or state water project or local water sources, are very **concerned about the ability of the state to meet its future water supply needs** and address the decades that it will take to transform the state's aging water infrastructure to accommodate population increases, system inadequacies, and future needs.

Nothing tells the story more convincingly than the current situation. Despite the incredible amount of precipitation over the last 12 months and the near capacity level of our reservoirs, **most experts say that California could be back to drought conditions in a matter of a few years.** Additionally, even with the heavy rains this year, California was unable to capture and store significant amounts of much needed water supply, due to inadequate infrastructure.

“California is no stranger to drought; it is a recurring feature of our climate.”
- California Department of Water Resources

The central problem for water agencies is that the outdated California Water Plan does not establish a target that will effectively guide policymakers over the next 25 years. The Plan describes recent conditions, but does not account for long-term shifts that are expected from climate change and extreme heat. While conservation is a part of the solution, a water supply target remains critical to ensure the continued vitality of California communities and to implement policy appropriately. **A target will drive California's decisionmakers to evaluate the state's existing water infrastructure and determine the improvements necessary to provide the supplies needed to meet residential, commercial, agricultural, and environmental needs into the future.**

SB 366 (Caballero) establishes a process for defining a statewide water supply target for 2050 along with an interim statutory target of 10 million acre feet of water supply improvements by 2040. This legislation will hold State, water community, and other stakeholders accountable to follow through on comprehensive, long-term water supply solutions that will transform water management. **SB 366 would prioritize water supply in the same manner that California has prioritized actions to address climate change, education, housing, transportation, health care, and many other state services and resources, by setting a long-term goal to guide and implement policy.** Reliable water supplies are fundamental to California's strategy to adapt to climate change and thus must not be overlooked.

SB 366 will secure an adequate water supply to preserve the California way of life, support economic vitality, and achieve the following:



Provide **food security** by producing fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables for California residents and populations around the world that do not have our climate or soil and guard against national and international food shortages.



Ensure **reliable energy supplies** including hydropower that is critical to California meeting its climate goals.



Support housing needs by increasing the water supply that is required to build and sustain more than 2.5 million homes mandated by the state.



Replenish underground and surface water storage by filling aquifers and drought damaged land and addressing future challenges from extreme heat, wildfires, and depleted groundwater.



Ensure environmental uses by providing sufficient water for fish, wildlife, and state lands that can only be achieved by adapting the water system to provide a consistent supply of water to the environment.



Maintain recreational activities through an adequate amount of water in the system to sustain California's outdoor lifestyle, including support for academic research, community recreation, water sports, and many other activities.

California has a responsibility to address the ongoing water supply threats that impact our entire economy, local communities, jobs, critical sectors, residents, businesses, and the environment. Perpetuating the lack of progress on collaborative and creative solutions to invest in comprehensive, long-term, statewide water solutions will adversely affect our local communities, economy, and the future of California.

As a large and diverse group consisting of water agencies, agriculture, business, housing, local chambers of commerce, and others, we strongly urge the legislature to use the interim to consider the mounting risk that longer and deeper recurring droughts, exacerbated by inaction on implementing a new approach, poses to California and the nation.

Further, we ask that you support SB 366 next year as a primary means for California to chart the course necessary to secure enough water for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us or your district water agencies if you have any questions.

For more information on SB 366, please contact Danielle Blacet-Hyden, Deputy Executive Director at CMUA: dblacet@cmua.org.

California's Future Depends On a Long-term, Comprehensive Water Solution



A changing climate with more frequent dry periods and shorter bursts of heavy rain make water supply in California highly unpredictable. This uncertainty has propelled our state into ongoing water supply challenges that already are impacting our way of life. **These consequences are being felt across the State, in local communities, throughout the economy, harming residents and businesses alike.** Many Californians are left to deal with an unacceptable reality — not having enough clean drinking water, facing increased costs, and dealing with conservation mandates. Farmers face fallowed land which limits their ability to grow food for the State and the Nation, increasing food security risks, while businesses, the environment, and recreational activities all suffer.

California policymakers must address the perpetual water challenges that negatively affect our state. We have the opportunity to reverse the trend of overreliance on water cutbacks and rationing and rectify the water supply crisis that is impacting 40 million residents. Planning for the future today is the only way to ensure that we will have reliable and sustainable water for all Californians in the years to come.



Benefits of a Statewide, Long-term Solution

SB 366 (Caballero) can transform water management in California taking us from a perpetual state of supply vulnerability to a reliable and sufficient water supply that is adequate for all Californians.

SB 366 would:



PRESERVE THE CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE

Water supply is central to our homes and communities, habitat and environment, recreation and tourism, and business and economic success.



SUPPORT ECONOMIC VITALITY

The future of all business, from restaurants to technology companies, depends on a reliable water supply.



FULFILL GENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

This generation has the responsibility to develop a water system that will adapt to changes in the environment and allow the state to thrive now and for future generations.

Statewide Water Supply Targets Will Ensure All Californians Have Water Now and Into the Future

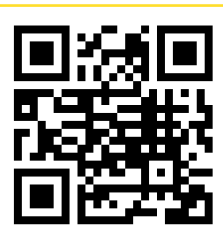
Establishing long-term water supply targets through SB 366 (Caballero) would complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy. This will ensure that we are planning for the future, beyond any single Administration. Setting targets for water supply, similar to the State's housing, climate, public safety and education targets will enable decision makers to measure progress and adjust state policies accordingly. This will ensure our State is capturing and producing enough water for all beneficial uses instead of relying on cutbacks and draconian measures to meet water supply needs.

The Time to Act is Now

While there have been significant recent investments by the State and federal governments to start on a path toward sustainability, more is needed to create a fully functioning water system that is sufficient in a 21st century climate. This requires collaboration and a commitment to devise and fund water supply targets that will meet our state's needs now and into the future. SB 366 does just this. **Policymakers must embrace this solution, the future of California depends on it.**



[CA Water for All](http://www.CaWaterForAll.com) is a statewide education effort seeking to educate policymakers on the urgent need for a legislative solution to immediately address California's ongoing water supply threat. The path forward requires bringing together the water community, policymakers, and stakeholders to collaborate on ensuring that we have enough water for all beneficial uses and to support all Californians and future generations.



To learn more, visit: www.CaWaterForAll.com

Establishing State Water Supply Targets to Make Generational Change



A reliable water supply is critical to every aspect of California's economy and the quality of life for all Californians. Despite decades of efforts to improve the water system, California's infrastructure remains inadequate to meet present needs and is woefully unprepared to meet future needs. To combat this impending collision course, water agencies across California are urging the State to establish targets to ensure our water supply for future generations.

While the State, water agencies, and the public have embraced water conservation, reuse, and recycling, more is needed. We must do more to improve our water supply so that it is reliable and adequate for a 21st century climate and a population of 40 million.



“So much of the water conversation in this State has been about conservation, a scarcity mindset,” Governor Gavin Newsom has said. ***“What we are focusing on is creating more supply. We are focusing on creating more water.”***

Benefits of Statewide Water Supply Targets

For California's highest priorities — housing, health care, climate change, and education — the State has established specific targets designed to improve the lives of the residents of California. SB 366 (Caballero) creates targets set in statute for the State's most pressing priority and critical resource, a long-term and reliable water supply.

TARGETS CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Targets set in SB 366 generate a commitment from the State, the water community, and stakeholders to follow through on comprehensive, long-term water supply solutions that will transform water management.

By creating accountability, the State, the water community, and stakeholders are well positioned to meet the established water supply targets.

TARGETS REQUIRE THE STATE DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Setting targets will require the State to develop a comprehensive plan with specific timelines, which will require a corresponding implementation plan and funding, holding policymakers, current and future administrations, and stakeholders accountable.

Targets Have Been Successful in Other Sectors — It's Time to Do the Same for Water

California has a long and successful track record of setting targets through legislation in several sectors to establish desired change benefitting the State, residents, and businesses, including:



CLIMATE

By 2045, achieve net-zero carbon pollution:

- Cut air pollution by 71%
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85%
- Drop gas consumption by 94%



ENERGY

By 2045, use 100% clean electricity:

- Triple our current electricity grid capacity
- Build 6 gigawatts of new renewable and storage resources annually



HOUSING

By 2030, build 2.5 million new housing units (1 million of which are affordable)



WORKFORCE

- By 2030, ensure there are enough jobs for all Californians who want to work
- By 2030, double the share of workers who have access to benefits



TRANSPORTATION

- By 2035, all new cars sold in CA will be zero-emission vehicles
- By 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 emissions levels



EDUCATION

By 2026, have 100% of students able to read by the third grade



The State needs additional water supply. Immediate action is required and it is incumbent upon policymakers to get California's water supply on the right track to preserve the California way of life, support economic vitality, and fulfill generational responsibility. **It's time for collaboration and solutions through SB 366. All Californians and future generations depend on it.**

[CA Water for All](#) is a statewide education effort seeking to educate policymakers on the urgent need for a legislative solution to immediately address California's ongoing water supply threat. The path forward requires bringing together the water community, policymakers, and stakeholders to collaborate on ensuring that we have enough water for all beneficial uses and to support all Californians and future generations.



To learn more, visit: www.CaWaterForAll.com



Other Views: Inadequate Water Supply Threatens the California Way of Life, Now's the Time for a Solution

March 27, 2023

By Senator Anna Caballero (D-Merced)

California has long been known for its sunny weather, beautiful beaches, and iconic cities. Beneath the surface, however, lies a perpetual threat that has worsened over years: a historic water supply challenge threatening every aspect of our way of life. Even with the recent storms, the state's chronic water supply shortage will continue to be exacerbated by climate change, drought, an expanding economy, and population growth; leaving millions of Californians, local communities, businesses, and our economy in a precarious position. An optimistic snowpack this year unfortunately does not bring our state out of the drought.

California's water supply threat is certainly not new. The state has been grappling with water scarcity for decades, with frequent droughts causing significant harm to agriculture, wildlife, tourism, and communities in all corners of the state.

In recent years, however, the situation has become much more dire. A combination of factors, including the driest three-year period in 1,200 years, aging infrastructure, antiquated state policies, and climate change, have conspired to create a challenge that threatens the very survival of some communities and sectors that the economy and jobs depend on.

A reliable and sustainable water supply is critical to every aspect of California's economy and the quality of life for all Californians. Despite decades of effort to improve the water system, our infrastructure remains inadequate to meet present needs and is woefully unprepared to meet future needs. To combat this impending collision course, I've authored Senate Bill 366, a measure that would transform California water management by modernizing the California Water Plan for a 21st century climate, setting water supply targets and ensuring accountability for state agencies on water management issues.

A critical part of this modernization, SB 366 would establish long-term water supply targets for the State to achieve, require development of a financing plan, and would update the requirement that state agencies develop a plan to achieve those goals, in consultation with local water agencies, wastewater service providers and other stakeholders.

The goals established in SB 366 would complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy, ensuring there are water supply goals that extend beyond any single Administration.

These goals create new accountability and effectively generate a commitment from the State, the water community, and stakeholders to follow through on comprehensive, long-term water supply solutions that will transform water management and ensure a water supply for 40 million Californians and future generations.

California has a long and successful track record of setting goals through legislation in several sectors to establish desired change benefiting the State, residents, and businesses, including housing, climate, workforce development, education, transportation and public safety. But when it comes to water, we cannot afford to wait.

Impacts are already being felt in low-income and rural areas. Farmers have fallowed more than 400,000 acres, and according to a recent report by Public Policy of California, "[The Future of Agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley](#)," the biggest challenge for agriculture is a projected 20% decline in water supplies in the future. That decline will have a devastating impact on agricultural communities along with a disproportionate impact on low income and communities of color in the Central Valley. If we don't act now, the consequences will get worse including 900,000 acres will be fallowed, 50,000 jobs lost, a GDP decline of \$4.5 billion, and a regional economic activity decline of 2.3%.

Absent bold action and clear water supply targets, the state will be faced with extreme consequences, job losses, both in rural and urban communities, as well as a decline in business confidence and reduced investment in California. Sorely needed housing developments will be stalled and food security jeopardized. And we'll certainly see increased water costs, stress on ecosystems and habitats and fewer people coming to our state for all the reasons that make it a desirable place to visit.

California policymakers, the water community, and all stakeholders need to work together to ensure that California's water supply is sustainable and can preserve the California way of life, support economic vitality, and fulfill generational responsibility. The time is now for collaboration and creating solutions through SB 366. All Californians and future generations depend on it.

Senator Anna Caballero represents the 14th Senate District, composed of majority portions of Merced, Fresno and Madera Counties. She also serves as the Interim Representative for the Salinas Valley and San Benito County until 2024 when a newly elected Senator will assume the district.

The Mercury News

Opinion: Clear California goals needed to develop future water supply

With warmer climate and longer droughts ahead, we must figure out how much more water we'll need and how to get it

By [JIM WUNDERMAN](#) |

PUBLISHED: July 11, 2023 at 5:15 a.m. | UPDATED: July 11, 2023 at 5:30 a.m.

Over the past decade, California has withered and swelled under huge swings in annual rain and snowfall. We've endured two of the most severe droughts in recorded state history, two of the wettest years on record, and even one of those rare occurrences — the average water year.

The trend, however, is clear. California is getting warmer, and the drought intervals between our wet years are getting longer. State officials estimate climate change could reduce water supplies by about 10% by 2040, resulting in an approximate 8 million acre-feet per year loss. Meanwhile, the Colorado River basin is in steady decline, and scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories estimate warming temperatures will eliminate the Sierra snowpack most years beginning in the 2040s.

California's prosperity depends on a safe and reliable water supply adequate for meeting the future needs of people and the environment. In other words, the future largely depends on how well we answer two questions: How much more water do we need? And what's the plan to get it?

Right now, we don't know the answers to those questions, but Senate Bill 366 by state Sen. Anna Caballero, D-Fresno, will move us in the direction of getting them.

SB 366 requires the California Department of Water Resources to incorporate ambitious water supply targets into the California Water Plan, the state's guiding water management document, and establishes an interim target of 10 million acre-feet of new water by 2040 achieved through increased storage, wastewater recycling and reuse, desalination and conservation.

It also requires the state to develop an implementation plan necessary for holding policymakers, current and future administrations, and stakeholders accountable for meeting the targets. Furthermore, the legislation would require the state to conduct an economic analysis of the costs and impacts of failing to develop adequate water supplies for people and the environment.

SB 366 also builds on recent actions by state leaders to bolster California's drought readiness. Last summer, Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a water-supply strategy that directed state agencies to facilitate the production of 7 million acre-feet of water by 2040 by expanding new storage, recycling, desalination and conservation projects. The strategy puts state agencies on the right

path, but SB 366 ensures state agencies will remain focused on developing these targets across future administrations.

Developing future water-supply targets is especially crucial for the Bay Area. Our region is highly dependent on water imported from the Sierra Nevada. Approximately half the water used in the Bay Area — and the majority of all water used by 4 million people living in San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties — originates in the Hetch Hetchy and Mokelumne watersheds high in the Sierra.

However, warming temperatures have reduced the Sierra snowpack by about 15% since 1950. As the Sierra continue to warm, yesterday's blizzard is becoming tomorrow's monsoon, and water that was once gradually released from melting snow is instead rushing out of the watershed in a deluge. The Bay Area and other regions must be prepared to store, recycle and desalinate more water to prevent a future catastrophic water-supply emergency.

California's topsy-turvy climate has produced a banner water year in 2023, but we can't let that distract us from the long-term trend of more and deeper droughts. The state needs to keep its eye on the ball and help regions develop specific water-supply production targets. For that, we need SB 366.

Jim Wunderman is the president and CEO of the Bay Area Council.

Opinion: California Must Modernize its Water System to Avoid Extremes of Drought to Flood

by [Gary Arant](#) June 23, 2023

Most of California exists under dueling states of emergency. Since February, storms have caused emergency-level flooding and damage in [47 of the state's 58 counties](#), yet most of California only recently exited a [drought emergency](#).

One rainy season can't supplant years of drought, but images of flooded cities and towns — and the injuries and deaths caused by these disasters — are made more painful when we hear that our state is running out of water nevertheless. The question that water managers and state policymakers must address is how to adapt our water system to eliminate the dual states of emergency.

The problems are well known. Years of low rainfall leave groundwater depleted and reservoirs at low levels. Historic storms provide relief from drought conditions, but only put a dent in the amount of water necessary to restore the environment.

Despite valiant efforts by Californians to conserve and local water agencies to recycle and reuse water, the system doesn't store or deliver enough water to satisfy the needs of communities, the economy, and the environment.

To change this reality, California must modernize its water system and invest in new capture, storage, and conveyance infrastructure while maintaining demand management, to meet the water needs of a larger population and an increasingly volatile climate.

Since December, at least 31 atmospheric rivers have hit California. These storms have brought the state [144%](#) of its average total precipitation — already 20% more than its average season-end total, and the season doesn't end for five more months. As a result, water levels at [12 of the state's 17 largest reservoirs](#) are higher than their historical averages, while still awaiting runoff from the snowpack, which sits at [226%](#) of its historical average.

But here lies part of the problem. To reserve space for spring snowmelt, reservoir managers must release water that should be stored, then used later as drinking water or for irrigating farmland, or even for recreation.

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We should bank that extra rainfall and snowmelt so that in future drought years we have savings to draw from. Instead, without the space to store that water, the means to transport it

to reservoirs that do have space or to improve environmental conditions — that surplus water ultimately ends up in the ocean.

We need new and innovative infrastructure to provide clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to meet the needs of our growing communities. Small rural communities and large urban areas all need better and more focused water planning at the state level. Now is the time to advance meaningful policy solutions to address these ongoing and perpetual issues that plague California year after year.

State Sen. Anna Caballero's [Senate Bill 366](#), which is on its way to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, provides that direction by changing our state's approach when it comes to managing water, setting water supply targets for communities, agriculture, and the environment, instead of just managing for scarcity.

The bill would establish long-term water supply targets for the state to achieve by specific deadlines and update the requirement that state agencies develop a plan to achieve those targets. All of this would be done in cooperation with local water agencies, wastewater service providers, and other stakeholders, and would go beyond any single administration.

In public service, targets create clarity, accountability, and follow-through; they are standards from which we can measure progress and adjust policies. This is why California sets goals in other vital sectors like climate, energy, housing, workforce development, education, and more.

We can continue to make modest improvements to the water system and hope that climate change and other challenges go away or prepare our state to thrive in the face of the challenges that science is predicting.

The choice is clear. If we want to address the dueling states of emergency, the time to act is now.

Gary Arant is general manager of [Valley Center Municipal Water District](#), serving customers in Valley Center and unincorporated areas north of Escondido. His district is a supporter of the [CA Water for All](#) effort.