



SACOG Board of Directors/ Regional Managers Joint Meeting

Item #14-3-3 Workshop

March 17, 2014

Regional Water Advocacy Principles

Issue: How can the SACOG region support the North State Water Alliance's regional advocacy activities?

Recommendation: None; this is a workshop item for discussion.

Discussion: The North State Water Alliance (NSWA) has provided multiple updates to the SACOG Board on water policy, water rights, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Action Plan. The region's city managers and county executives have also been working with the NSWA to bring greater specificity and actionable principles into the NSWA Guiding Principles, which were adopted by the SACOG Board in 2011, as the water policy challenges expanded to include recent drought declarations.

SACOG staff worked with the city managers, county executives, staff from multiple jurisdictions, and the regional partners of the NSWA to identify advocacy principles for discussion. The Regional Managers and the NSWA will present the draft revised advocacy principles to better inform the SACOG Board and local governments, encourage broader participation in the NSWA, and increase engagement in regional advocacy and education activities. This is part of the substance that will be brought to the larger Regional Water Forum being hosted by NSWA on Monday, March 31, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion among the Regional Managers and the SACOG Board members about future potential actions.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:RS:gg
Attachment

Key Staff: Kirk Trost, Chief Operations Officer/Legal Counsel (916) 340-6210
Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs, (916) 340-6224
Erik Johnson, Government Affairs Team Manager, (916) 340-6247
David Shabazian, Senior Planner, (916) 340-6231

UPDATED PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH STATE WATER ALLIANCE

Whereas, the Sacramento Valley, the adjacent Coast Ranges, and Sierra Nevada (the North State) are unique places linked by their water resources; and

Whereas, the North State is on the leading edge of balancing economic, environmental and social sustainability; and

Whereas, reliable supplies of water are critical to a vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and a high quality of life; and

Whereas, the North State believes that a comprehensive statewide solution for California's long-term water supply challenges that is good for all of California and its economy should be the focus of the state and federal government; and

Whereas, the North State benefits from regional coordination and collaboration in developing implementable solutions to address existing and future water resources challenges and opportunities; and

Whereas, changing hydrology and sea level rise caused by climate change, coupled with population growth, and increasingly stringent and rigid regulatory requirements, constrain water supplies to meet California's needs; and

Whereas, proposed solutions for the Delta pose serious risks for the water supply reliability of the North State; and

Whereas, the California drought of 2012-2014 underscores the water supply and water management challenges we face and the urgency for action to address these challenges; and

Whereas, in order to protect our region's interests, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), in partnership with other key regional partners, seeks to promote regional cooperation on water issues, and to be part of a collaborative and comprehensive plan to meet all of California's water needs.

Now, therefore be it resolved that in partnership with other key regional partners, SACOG supports actions based on the following principles:

Water rights priorities and area-of-origin protections must be recognized and protected through water supply assurances to ensure reliable supplies for all beneficial water uses and environmental needs in our region.

The North State will continue to invest in water efficiency, water supply development, water recycling and reuse, increased water storage capacity, and other water management projects and programs that are cost effective and improve our regional self-sufficiency.

The North State will continue to advocate for state and federal governments to develop a comprehensive operational plan for statewide water supply reliability, including investing in regional water supply reliability and self-reliance. Such a plan must support the diverse urban, agricultural, environmental, recreational, power generation, and flood protection needs of the North State. This operational plan must also demonstrate how the state's water system will meet future water demand while adapting to the effects of climate change.

Stakeholders in the North State must be fully included in and consulted on all aspects of development of a Delta solution and other state and federal water policies and operations that affect the region.

A Delta solution and other state and federal actions must honor, and not reduce or preempt, the authority and responsibilities of cities, counties, and other local agencies to take actions that further the interests of the jurisdiction and its citizens.

We will support a Delta solution that is:

- Based on sound science to ensure it is effective and implemented in an equitable manner, and
- Requires the beneficiaries of any actions associated with a Delta solution to fully fund the costs of such actions, and
- Avoids or fully mitigates negative economic, environmental, or societal impacts to areas in our region,
- Provides a meaningful role in governance for representatives of the North State, and
- Part of a comprehensive statewide solution to address California's long-term water supply challenges; a statewide solution that is good for all of California and its economy.