CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# California Water Plan Update 2028

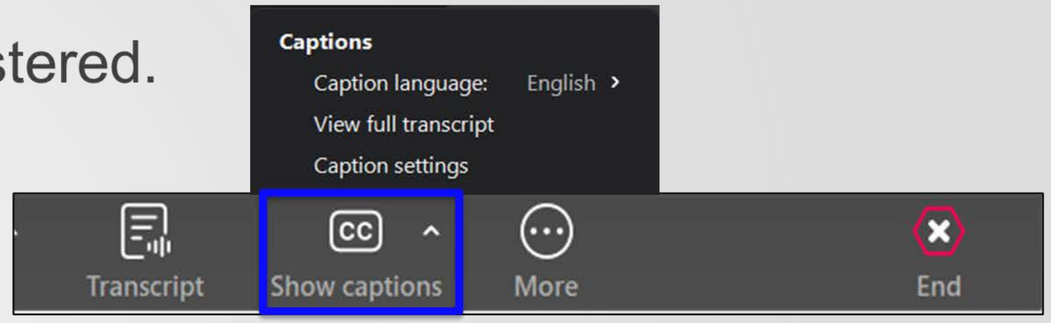
## Tribal Webinar February 9, 2026

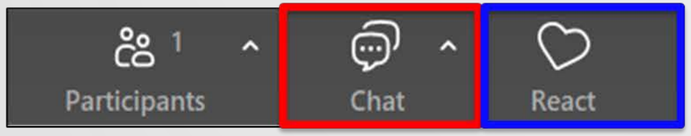
# Meeting Agenda

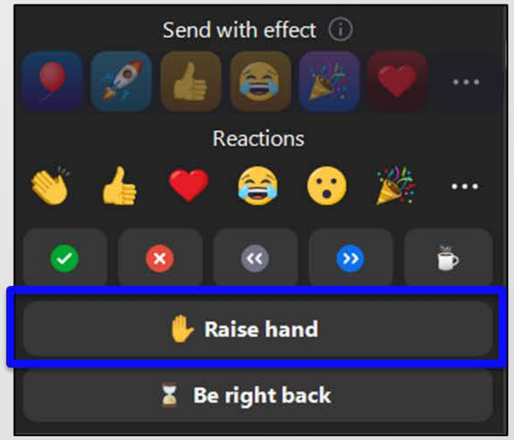
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. California Water Plan (CWP) 2028 Overview
   - CWP 2028 Advisory Committee
3. Tribal Advisory Committee
4. Tribal Water Summit Planning
5. Open Discussion
6. Closing Remarks

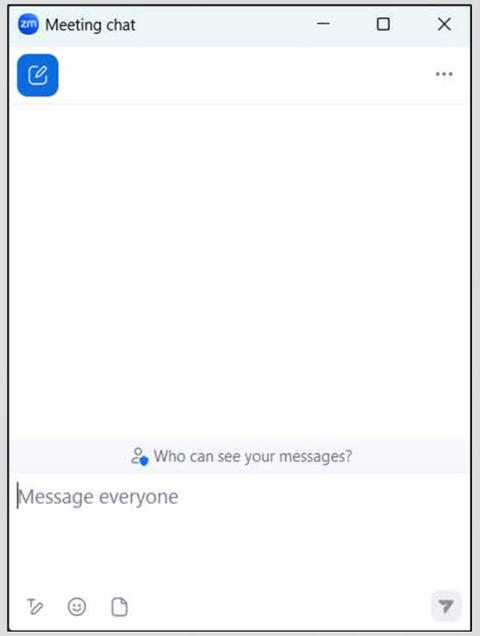
# Meeting Format and Webinar Guidance

- This meeting will not be recorded.
  - A copy of this presentation and a meeting summary will be provided to those who registered.
- Opportunities for discussion throughout.
- Live captioning is available.
- 2 ways to comment/ask questions
  - Can use chat function
  - Raise hand

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# California Water Plan Update 2028

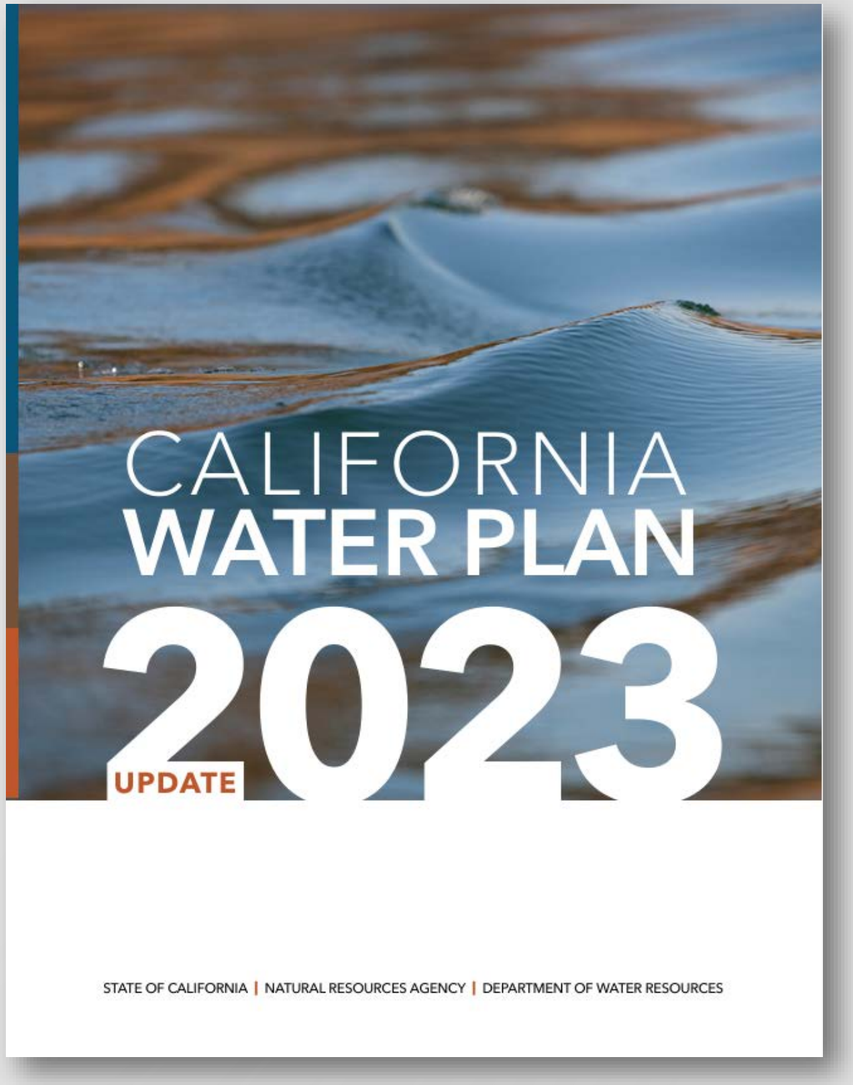
## Tribal Webinar | February 9, 2026

**Joel Metzger**
Department of Water Resources
Deputy Director, Statewide Water Resources Planning

# California Water Plan – As it is Today

*State's Framework for Coordinated Water Planning*

| | |
|---|---|
| Statewide Strategy | Strategic plan for sustainable and equitable water management |
| Collaboration Platform | Brings together agencies, Tribes, local leaders, NGOs, academia, and the public |
| Trusted Data Foundation | Comprehensive, consistent source of statewide water data and analysis |
| Investment Guidance | Informs how, when, and where to invest statewide |

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# SB 72: From Passage to Implementation

- Signed by Governor on October 1, 2025; **now enacted and in effect**
- Focus shifts from legislation to **implementation planning**
- Phased implementation began in **2026**
- Integration with **California Water Plan** beginning with Update 2028

# SB 72: A Modernized California Water Plan

- **Establishes first-ever statewide water supply target**

  → interim target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040

- **Provides actionable direction**

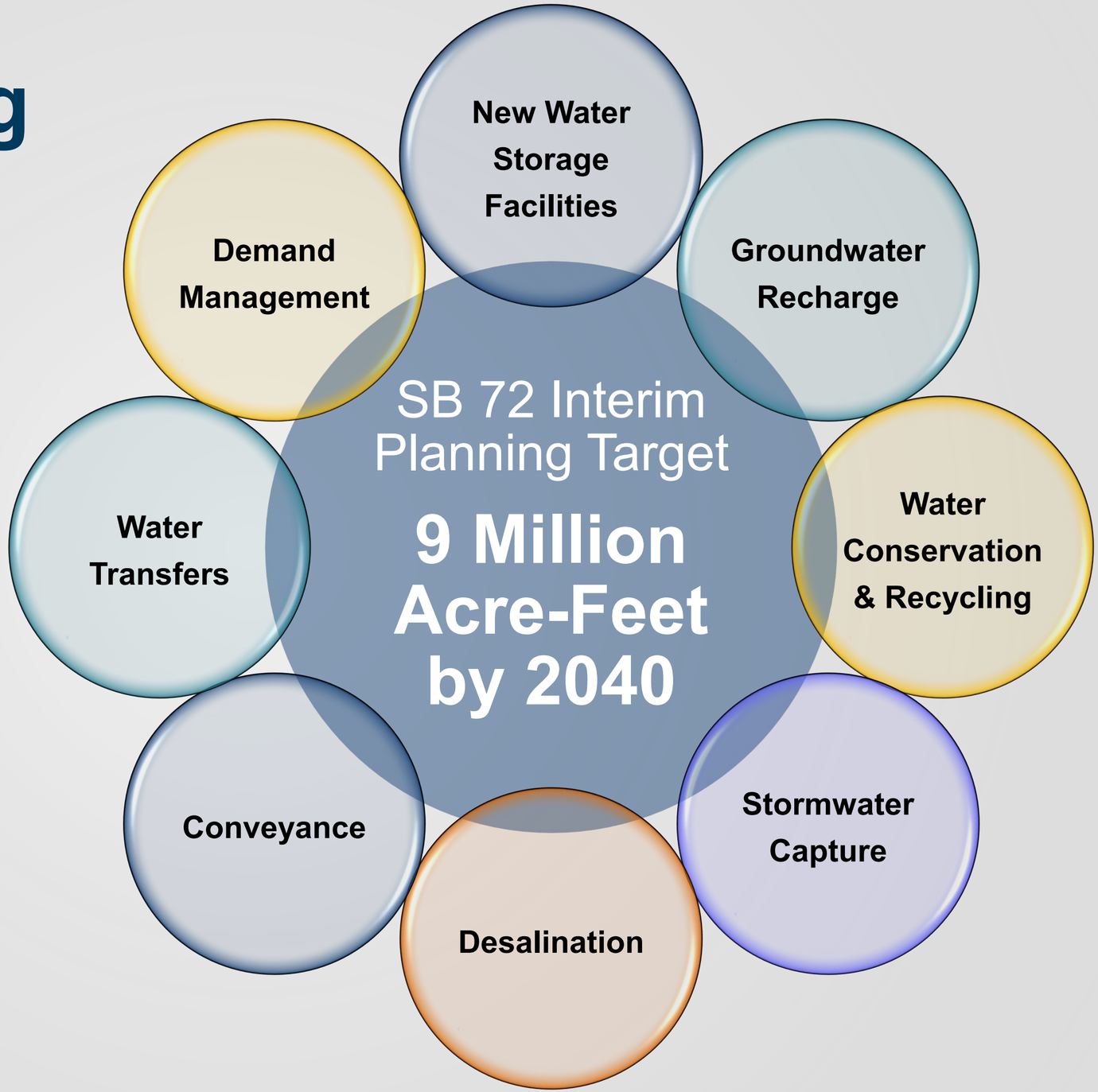
  → moves the Water Plan from advisory guidance to a clear implementation framework

- **Expands coordination and consultation**

  → planning reflects statewide priorities and regional realities

# SB 72: Planning Levers to Achieve the Interim Target

*Strategy categories under the California Water Plan*

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# CWP Updates 2028 and 2033 Expectations

"As part of the 2033 update to The California Water Plan, the department shall update the required planning target pursuant to subdivision (f) for 2050. **The target shall consider the identified and future water needs for all beneficial uses, including, but not limited to, urban uses, agricultural uses, recreational uses, tribal uses, and the environment, recognize the impacts of climate change on the state's water resources,** ensure safe drinking water for all Californians, and reflect statewide, regional, and local planning efforts. In establishing the long-term supply target, the department shall analyze current and future water needs trends, including identifying additional water necessary to sustain public trust resources."

# SB 72's Three Linked Workstreams

*Data → Targets → Actions*

## DATA

**Water Use & Supply Balances**

- Statewide, watershed-scale datasets
- Leverages new data and advanced technology
- Supports statewide planning models and activities

## TARGETS

**Long-Term Water Supply Targets**

- Credible, local targets for urban, agriculture, Tribal, and environment
- Expanded coverage: 5 → 10 hydrologic regions
- Aligned with Governor's 2022 Water Supply Strategy and SGMA

## ACTIONS

**Adaptation & Implementation**

- Place-specific strategies (including nature-based and landscape-scale approaches) to close supply–demand gaps
- Cost-benefit analyses
- Progress tracking & integration across state, federal, and local planning

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# Refined Analytical Resolution

*10 Hydrologic Regions → 140 USGS HUC-8 Watersheds*

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# SB 72 Implementation Roadmap

**2026:** Public materials & advisory committees / caucuses

**2026:** Begin technical work (supply targets & strategies)

**2026-2027:** Watershed & regional engagement

**2028:** Integration with California Water Plan Update

**2029–2031:** Refinement, reporting, statewide updates

**2033:** California Water Plan Update



**NOTE:** Preliminary timeline assuming fully-funded initial budget request.

# California Water Plan 2028

# Advisory Committee

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# Engagement Framework

**State Agency Coordination**

Implementation, Compliance, and State Agency Alignment/Coordination

**CA Water Commission**

Advises & Consults

**DWR**
Water Plan Project Team

**Regional Public Workshops**

Open Public Input Forums by Geography

**Advisory Committee**

20–25 Member Advisory Body of Thought Leaders with Public Meetings & Input

**Caucuses**
Geographic and Topic Coverage

**Tribal Advisory Committee**
Formal government-to-government & informal workshops

**Technical Work Group**
Data, Modeling, and Methods

**Tribal Involvement Across Efforts**

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# SB 72: Advisory Committee Requirements

**SB 72 requires DWR, in consultation with the Water Commission, to establish an advisory committee that includes representation from:**

- Urban and agricultural water suppliers
- Local government, business, and agriculture
- Environmental interests and justice (*new*)
- Tribes (*new*)
- Labor (construction trades and public water infrastructure) (*new*)
- Other interested parties, as appropriate

**Additional provisions:**

- Statutory body governed by the State's open meeting requirements under the Bagley-Keene Act
- DWR consults with and considers recommendations
- Flexibility to add technical and scientific expertise

# Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities

**ROLE:** Advisory body to assist and provide input and recommendations to the Department in the updating of the California Water Plan consistent with SB 72 and SB 659.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide **input on key issues**, and share data, perspectives, and lessons learned from your region
2. Identify **practical solutions**, and **opportunities for alignment** across planning efforts
3. Provide feedback on **draft materials** as they are developed
4. Serve as a **two-way connector,** bringing insights from your organization, community, and region into the CWP process, and communicating updates back out to your communities

# Relationship Between CWP Advisory Committee and Tribal AC

- Tribal AC will support and inform the Tribal seat on the CWP Advisory Committee
- The Tribal seat on the CWP Advisory Committee will bring the issues and discussions from the CWP Advisory Committee meetings to the Tribal AC for consideration

# CWP Advisory Committee - *Anticipated Timeline*

- We anticipate meeting **monthly from March/April through May/June 2026**, and **quarterly** thereafter through the end of calendar year 2028
- The first CWP Advisory Committee meeting will:
  - Review **draft CWP Advisory Committee charter**
    - Roles and responsibilities
    - Attendance expectations
    - Guidance on alternates
  - Gather input on the **CWP 2028 development and engagement framework**, including regional and topic-based caucuses

# Conceptual Model for Caucuses

- Designed to supplement existing engagement channels
- Flexible and adaptive by design
- DWR participates and convenes; does not replace or duplicate existing groups

## REGIONAL

- Organized by hydrologic region
- Builds on existing regional convenings where feasible
- Provides structured regional input to inform statewide strategies

## ISSUE-BASED

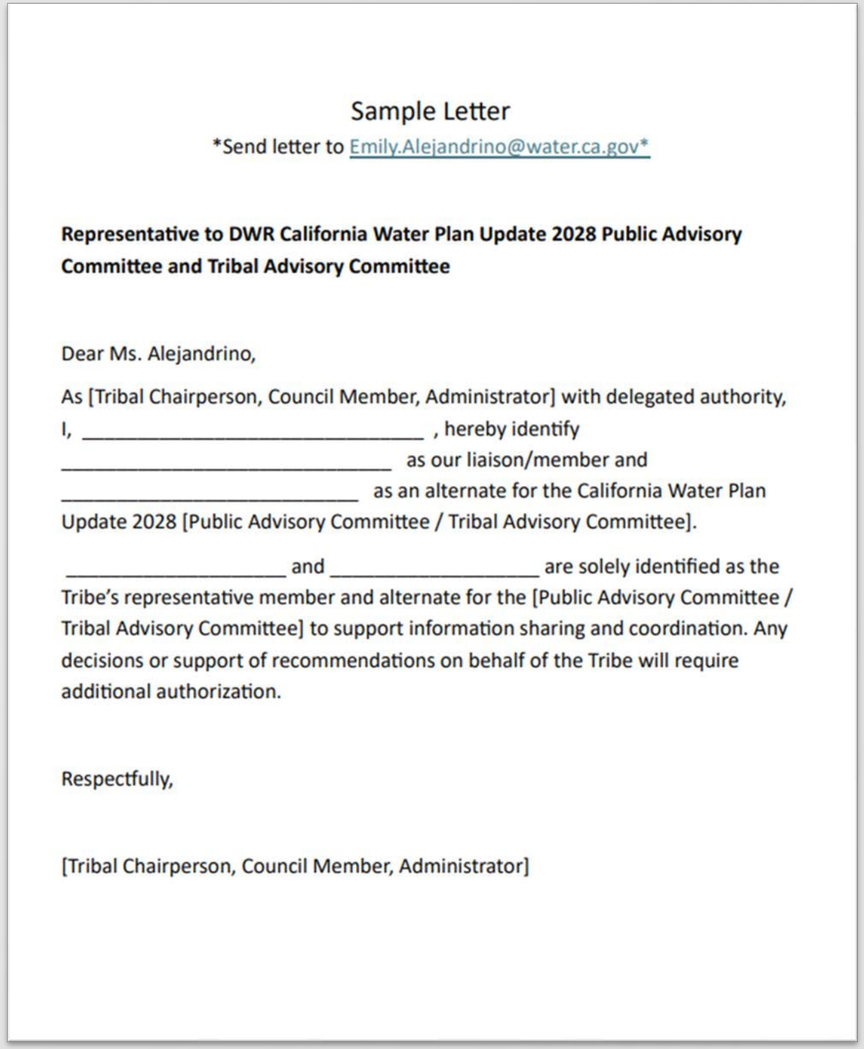
- Organized by cross-cutting topics that span multiple regions
- Limited in scope and duration
- Convened where technical or policy issues warrant deeper discussion

# To Submit Tribal Nominee for CWP Advisory Committee

DWR is seeking Tribal nominees to fill one Tribal seat to serve on the CWP Advisory Committee with 1-2 alternates who are also able to participate in the Tribal AC and represent statewide Tribal priorities, values, and interests

**To submit a Tribal nominee for consideration on the CWP Advisory Committee, please submit a letter via email with the individual and their contact information by <u>February 13, 2026</u>, to DWR's Point of Contact:**

Emily Alejandrino, CWP Tribal Liaison
Emily.Alejandrino@water.ca.gov
(279) 231-0754



Sample Letter

*Send letter to Emily.Alejandrino@water.ca.gov*

**Representative to DWR California Water Plan Update 2028 Public Advisory Committee and Tribal Advisory Committee**

Dear Ms. Alejandrino,

As [Tribal Chairperson, Council Member, Administrator] with delegated authority, I, _____ , hereby identify _____ as our liaison/member and _____ as an alternate for the California Water Plan Update 2028 [Public Advisory Committee / Tribal Advisory Committee].

_____ and _____ are solely identified as the Tribe's representative member and alternate for the [Public Advisory Committee / Tribal Advisory Committee] to support information sharing and coordination. Any decisions or support of recommendations on behalf of the Tribe will require additional authorization.

Respectfully,

[Tribal Chairperson, Council Member, Administrator]

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# Q&A on CWP 2028 Advisory Committee

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# California Water Plan Update 2028
# Tribal Advisory Committee

Emily Alejandrino, CA Water Plan Tribal Liaison

# Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal AC)

*The goal of the Tribal Advisory Committee is to create a forum where California Native American Tribes and organizations can help guide and develop the content for the Water Plan. This helps ensure tribal perspectives on land, water, and culture are included.*

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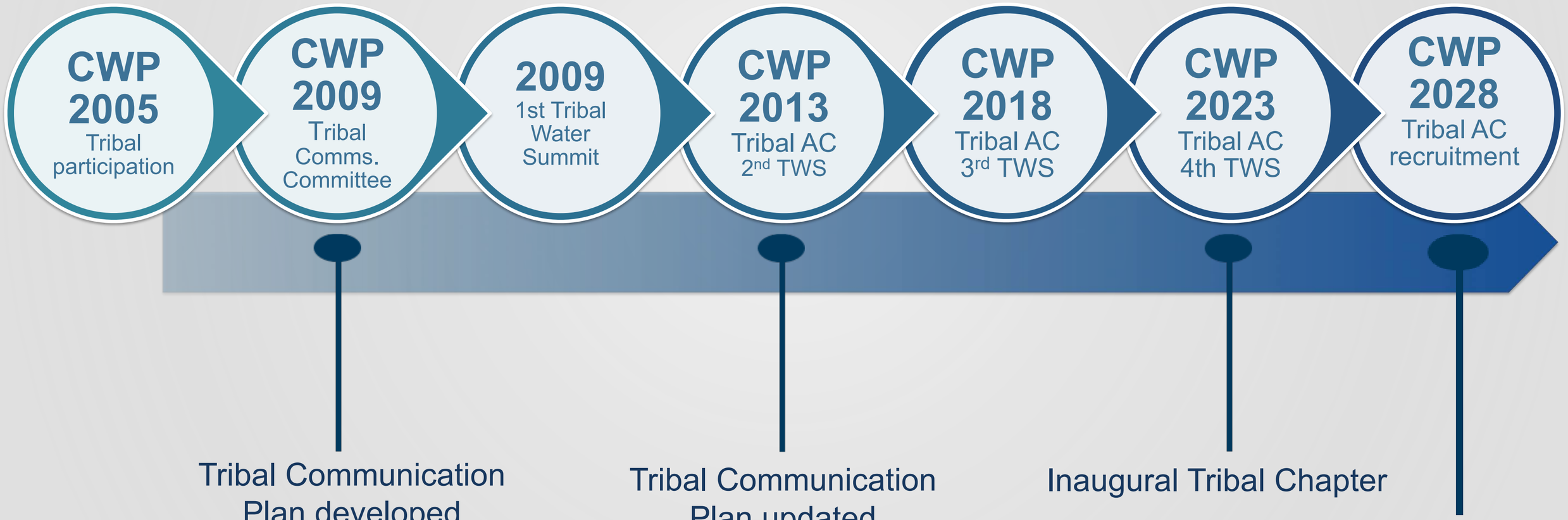
# Tribal Engagement Through the Years

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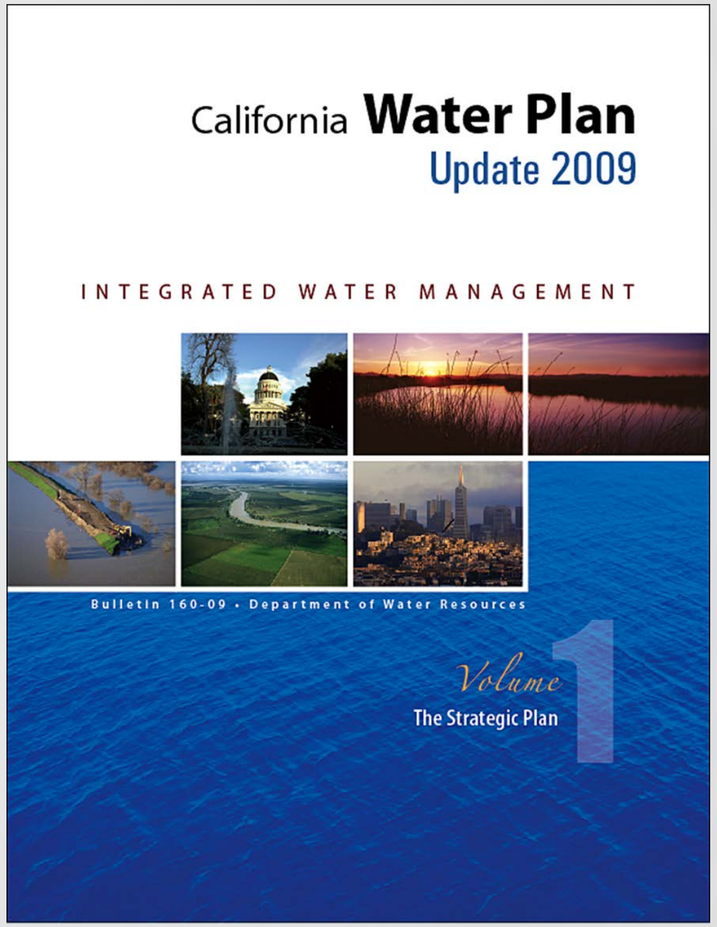
# California Water Plan Update 2009

- One of 13 Water Plan objectives
  - Improve Tribal Water & Resources
- Develop Tribal consultation, collaboration, and access to funding for water programs and projects to better sustain Tribal water and natural resources

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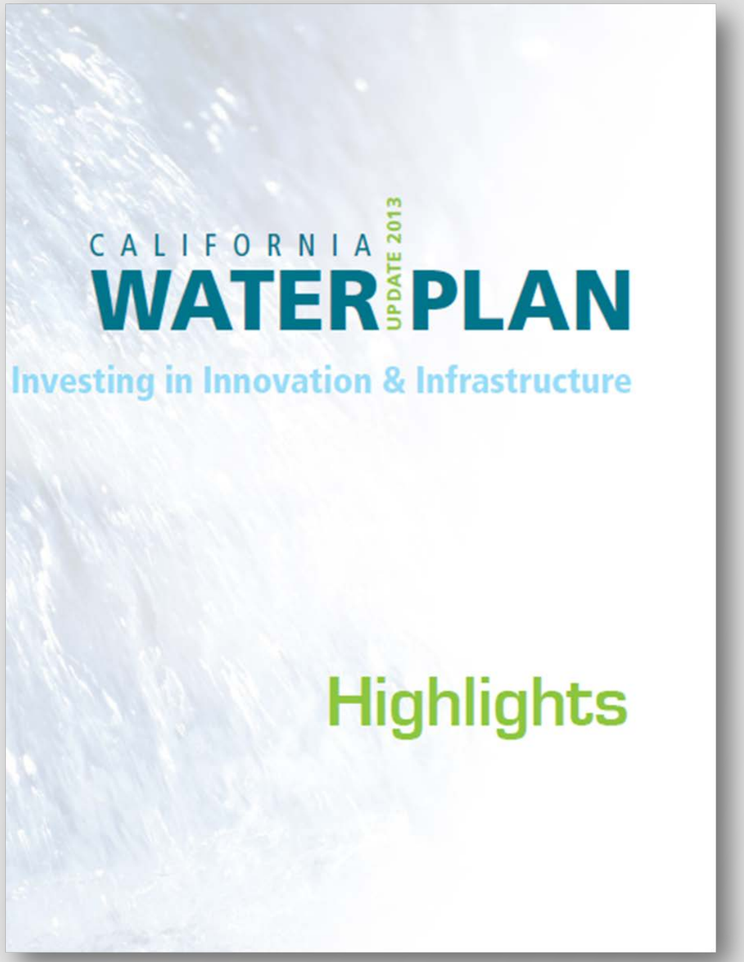
# California Water Plan Update 2013

- One of 17 Water Plan objectives
  - Improve Tribal/Relations & Natural Resource Management
- Acknowledge and respect CA Native American Tribes' inherent rights to exercise sovereign authority and ensure they are incorporated into planning and water resources decision-making
- 11 Related Actions Tribal AC sent to Legislature

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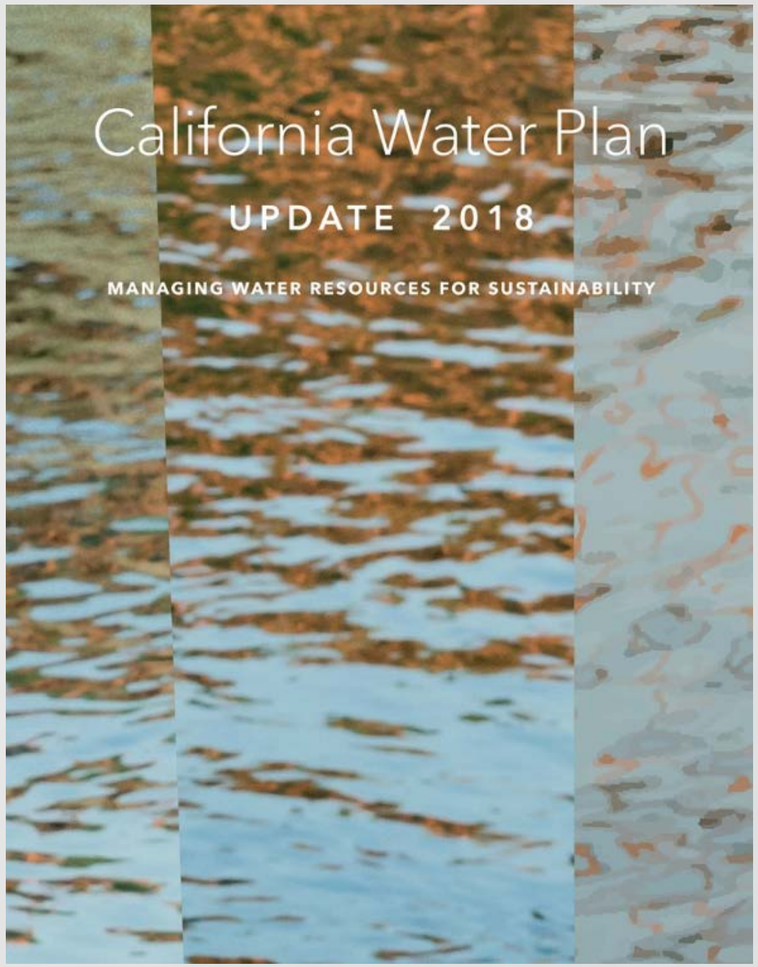
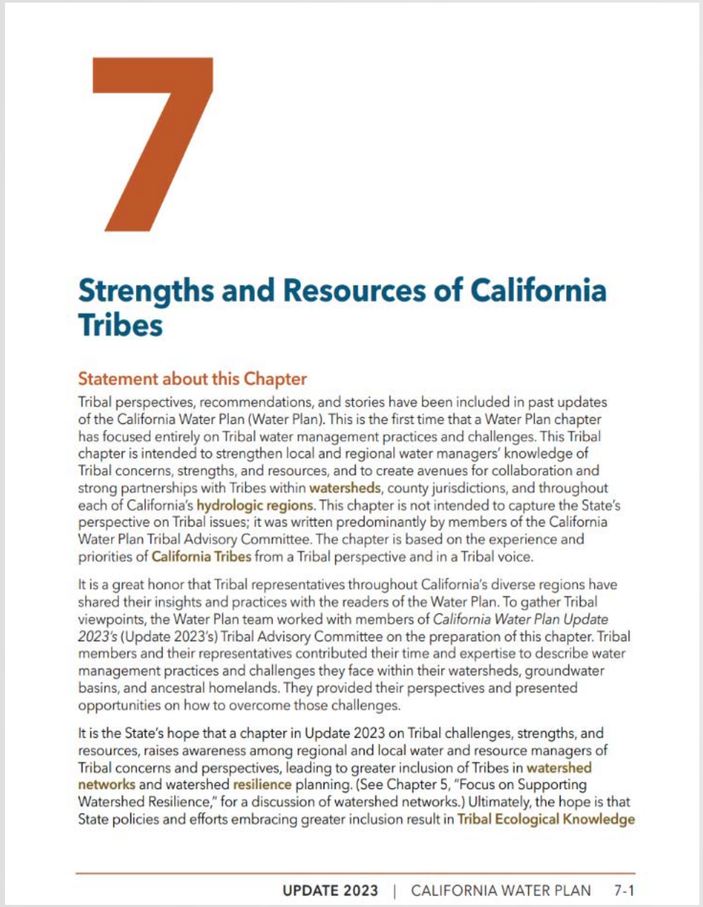
# California Water Plan Update 2018

- One of 10 Water Plan objectives
- California Native American Tribes are increasingly involved in planning and water resource decision-making processes while maintaining their sovereign authority.
- 3 Related Actions Achieved
  - Add Tribes to Lead Agency definition
  - Tribal Involvement in Regional Planning
  - Tribal-State Grant and Loan Contracting



# California Water Plan Update 2023



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## Strengths and Resources of California Tribes

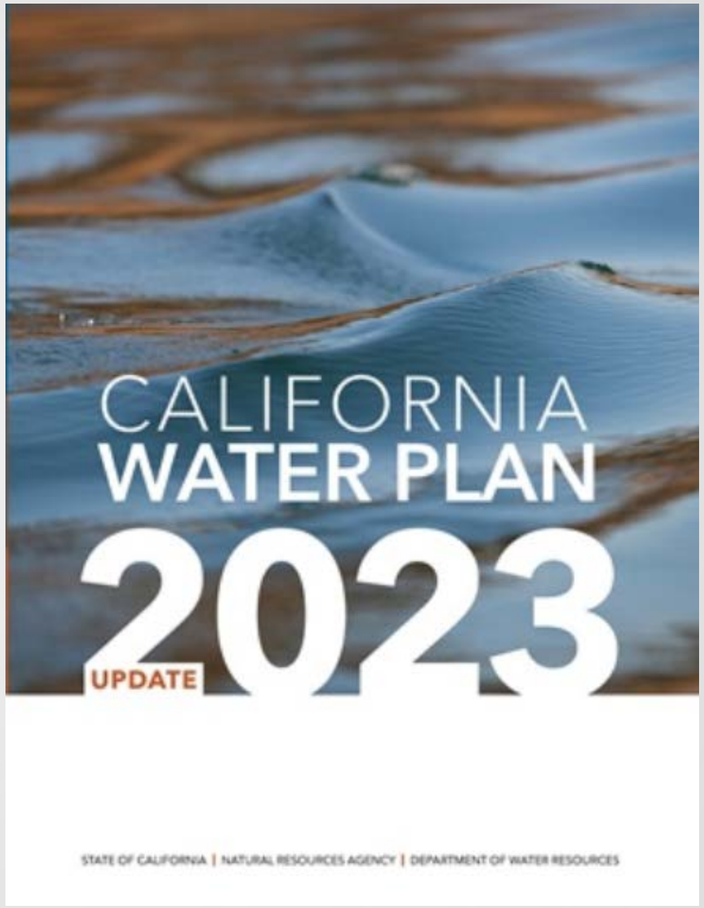
### Statement about this Chapter

Tribal perspectives, recommendations, and stories have been included in past updates of the California Water Plan (Water Plan). This is the first time that a Water Plan chapter has focused entirely on Tribal water management practices and challenges. This Tribal chapter is intended to strengthen local and regional water managers' knowledge of Tribal concerns, strengths, and resources, and to create avenues for collaboration and strong partnerships with Tribes within **watersheds**, county jurisdictions, and throughout each of California's **hydrologic regions**. This chapter is not intended to capture the State's perspective on Tribal issues; it was written predominantly by members of the California Water Plan Tribal Advisory Committee. The chapter is based on the experience and priorities of **California Tribes** from a Tribal perspective and in a Tribal voice.

It is a great honor that Tribal representatives throughout California's diverse regions have shared their insights and practices with the readers of the Water Plan. To gather Tribal viewpoints, the Water Plan team worked with members of *California Water Plan Update 2023's* (Update 2023's) Tribal Advisory Committee on the preparation of this chapter. Tribal members and their representatives contributed their time and expertise to describe water management practices and challenges they face within their watersheds, groundwater basins, and ancestral homelands. They provided their perspectives and presented opportunities on how to overcome those challenges.

It is the State's hope that a chapter in Update 2023 on Tribal challenges, strengths, and resources, raises awareness among regional and local water and resource managers of Tribal concerns and perspectives, leading to greater inclusion of Tribes in **watershed networks** and watershed **resilience** planning. (See Chapter 5, "Focus on Supporting Watershed Resilience," for a discussion of watershed networks.) Ultimately, the hope is that State policies and efforts embracing greater inclusion result in **Tribal Ecological Knowledge**



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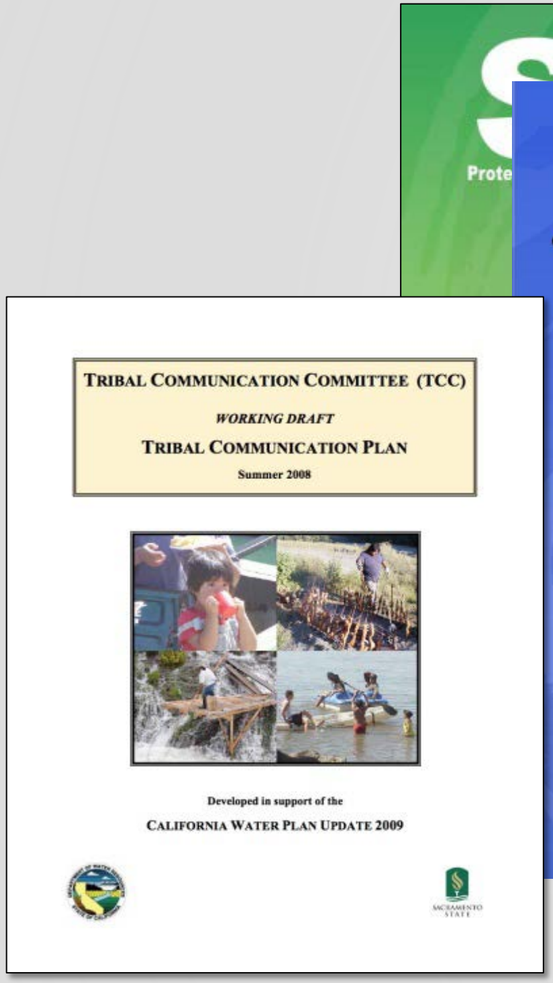
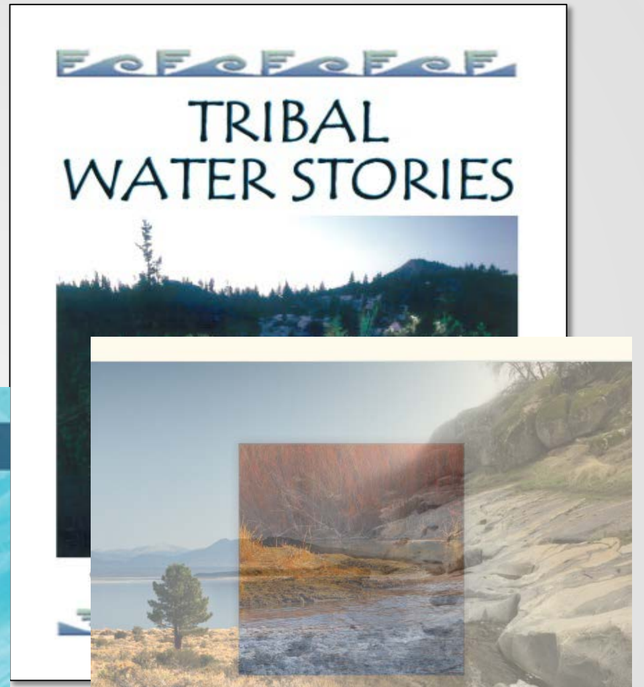
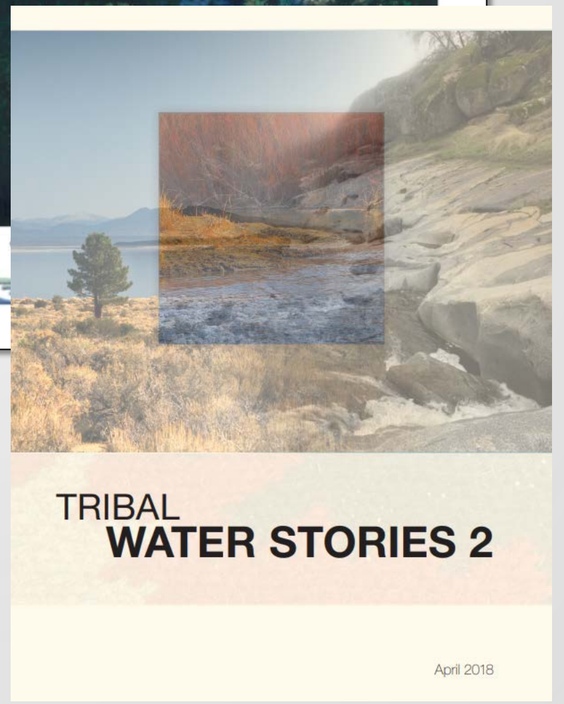
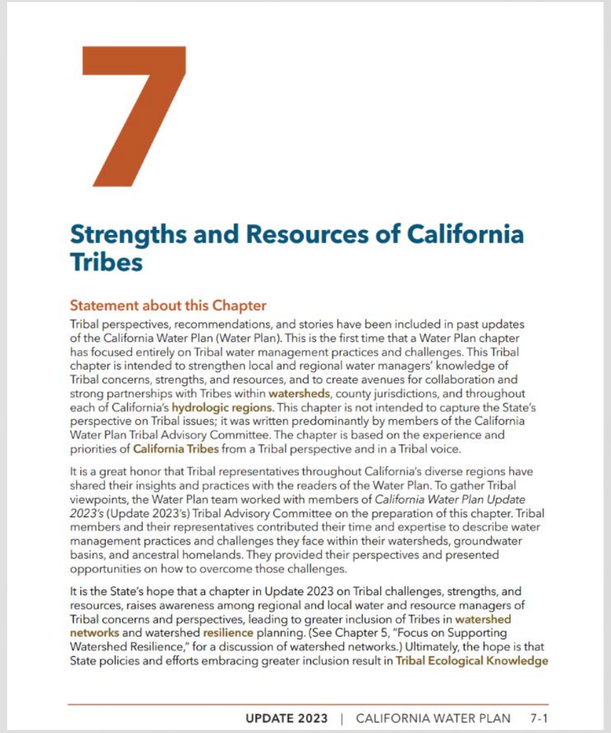
# Tribal Participation
# Water Plan Updates & Water Summits 2009 - 2023



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# Engagement

- Advance Tribal knowledge and perspectives into policy
- Supporting the Tribal seat on the CWP 2028 Advisory Committee
- Opportunities to receive updates and participate in additional CWP 2028 work groups
- Network and provide comment to CWP 2028 supporting materials

# Join the Tribal Advisory Committee

**The Tribal AC is open to:**

- Tribal Leadership and Tribally-delegated representatives to represent the Tribal government
- Tribal non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Tribal supported NGOs and their members

- To join, please submit a letter via email designating an individual and alternate with contact information Emily.Alejandrino@water.ca.gov

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# Q&A on Tribal Advisory Committee

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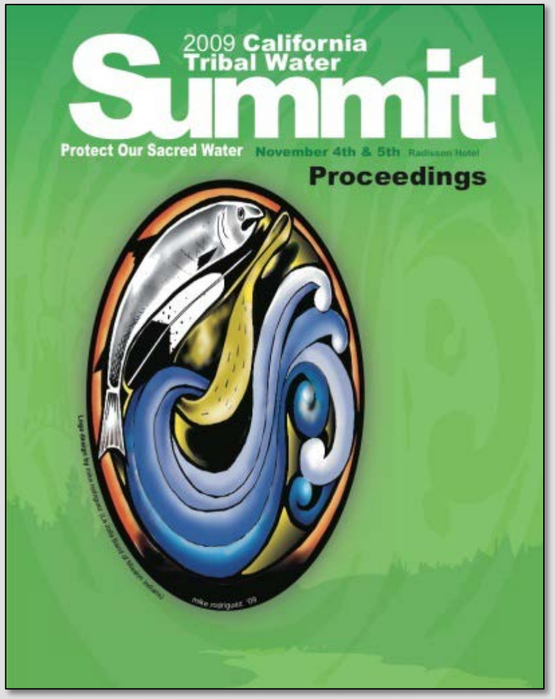
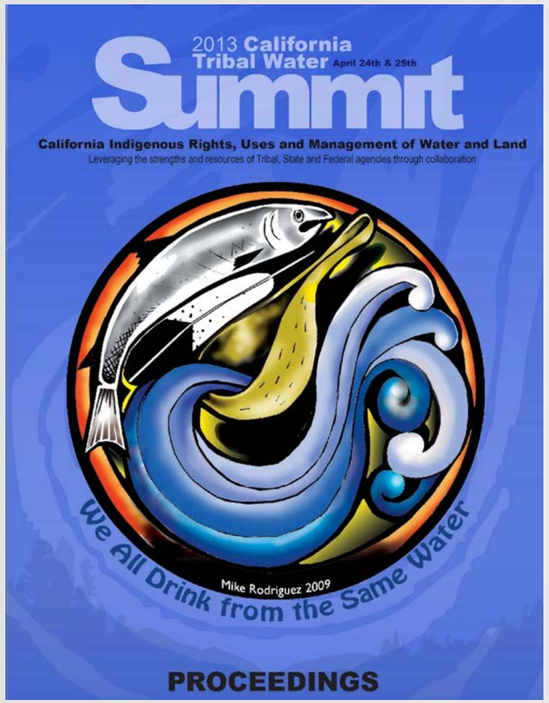
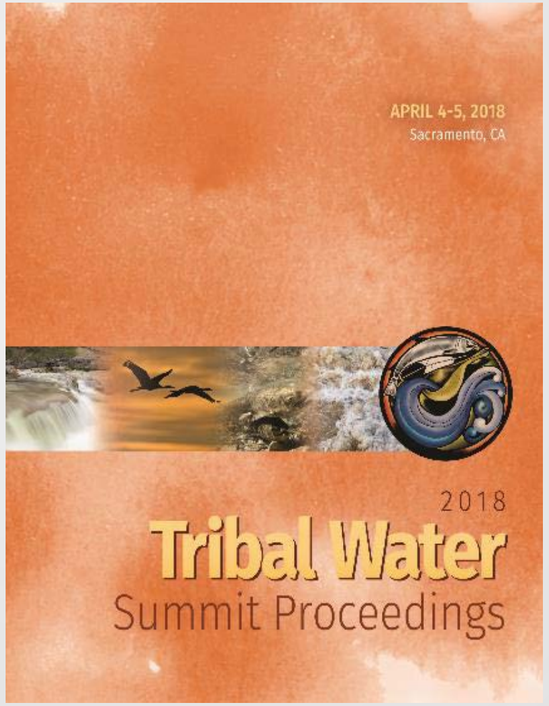
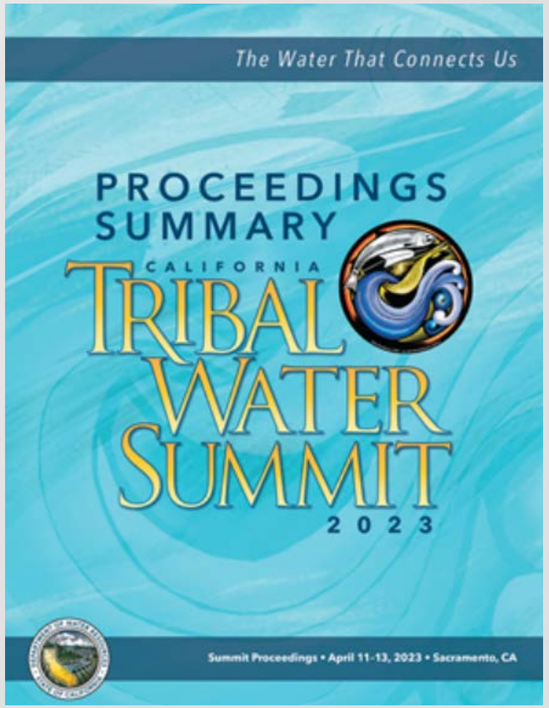
# Tribal Water Summit Planning



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# Open Discussion

# Planned Next Steps

- **Feb 18:** Public Launch + announce CWP Advisory Committee members
- **Spring 2026:**
  - Convene CWP Advisory Committee to meet and advise DWR on the formation of Caucuses
  - Convene Tribal AC and coordinate Tribal input to advise CWP Advisory Committee
- Ongoing consultation opportunities between DWR and Tribes through DWR Office of Tribal Affairs

# Contact Us

**To submit a Tribal nominee for the CWP 2028 Advisory Committee, join the Tribal AC and/or Tribal Water Summit Planning Committee, or if the Tribe has any questions, contact:**

Emily Alejandrino, CWP Tribal Liaison
Emily.Alejandrino@water.ca.gov
(279) 231-0754

**To request government-to-government consultation under DWR's Tribal Engagement Policy and the California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Consultation Policy, contact:**

Anecita Agustinez, Executive Manager
DWR Office of Tribal Affairs
TribalPolicyAdvisor@water.ca.gov
(916) 216-8637

**For general inquiries related to the California Water Plan Update 2028, contact:**

California Water Plan Team
CWPcom@water.ca.gov

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# Thank you!