

# California Water Action Collaborative

## Collective Action for a More Sustainable Water Future

**Vision:** Water resilience for all California water users.

**Mission (how is CWAC unique from yet, linked in with other groups):** The California Water Action Collaborative (CWAC) is a platform for collaboration with a focus on engaging the national and international food and beverage industry in improving water security in California for people, business, agriculture and nature.

**Current Objectives:** During 2015 the CWAC will work to establish its structure and explore areas of collaboration. Specific goals for the group during this year include:

- Establish consensus objectives and format for the group
- Increase knowledge of members about key water issues in California
- Map and identify geographic and topical areas of overlapping interests and needs
- Identify and recruit additional organizations based on criteria established by the group
- Host an in-person gathering of CWAC members and other guests
- Begin support and collaboration around one or more water stewardship projects
- Increase communication between CWAC and California Food & Beverage suppliers. Sharing of knowledge and resources through documentation and/or in-person gatherings.

**History:** The CWAC grew out of a Water Action Hub meeting that was hosted by the [CEO Water Mandate](#) in Los Angeles in May 2014. Several attendees from the meeting had a desire to continue the conversation and learn more about the water challenges in their areas of interest in California, find overlaps in geographies and topics of interest, and explore the potential to collaborate to make measureable positive impacts on water security in California. The first CWAC call was held in June 2014 and has continued approximately every month since. At the first CWAC in person meeting in March 2015 in Sacramento, the group developed initial priorities and established the steering committee and working groups.

**Membership:** CWAC is open to any organization with an interest in improving water security in California for people, business, agriculture and nature. The focus of the group is on identifying overlapping commercial, public and semi-private opportunities for companies that depend on California's fresh water resources and rich agricultural output to supply their businesses, while maintaining or enhancing fresh water resources. Progress to sustainable water supplies will not be achievable without the scientific, policy, and social expertise of organizations such as NGO's, water agencies, academia, and other businesses; hence, such organizations are welcome as critical members

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of the CWAC.<sup>1</sup> Organizations become a member by contacting the steering committee and requesting to be added to the membership roster. Participating members are expected to contribute through:

- Active participation on monthly phone calls,
- Commitment to action<sup>2</sup> within 6 months of joining the collaborative,
- Participation in respectful dialogue with an open mind to possible collaborations with other members

If a participant fails to meet these requirements, the steering committee will speak with them about their commitment. If after three additional months the participant still fails to meet these requirements, the steering committee may request that they not join any future meetings nor be able to communicate publically that they are members of the collaborative.

**Format:** The CWAC will operate through regular all-group calls, working group calls or meetings, and annual or biannual in person meetings. All-group calls provide a regular platform to learn, share and identify potential collaborations. Currently all-group CWAC calls are held once a month on the third Thursday of the month. Working groups may also hold calls at regular intervals and meet when needed to move specific common goals in a region forward. Currently these groups are formed around the following objectives:

- Groundwater management planning support
- Building social capital for improved local water management
- Returning water to the system

These subgroups will report back regularly to the whole group with updates and learnings. The CWAC will also host at least one in person meeting each year.

**Organization:** Organization leadership of CWAC will rotate among CWAC members every 1 to 2 years as appropriate. The host organization will be responsible for leading the monthly calls, recording and sending out call notes, moving initiatives forward and providing general support to the CWAC. The Nature Conservancy is currently the host organization for the CWAC.

The Steering Committee is comprised of representative CWAC members from the private sector and NGOs nominated by other CWAC members. The duties of the Steering Committee include:

- Developing and updating the structure and organization of CWAC

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<sup>1</sup> The CWAC is not a clearing-house for funding opportunities. All members are expected to provide positive contributions without expecting funding from other members, though funded engagements may naturally arise through the information sharing inherent to member participation.

<sup>2</sup> Action can include a full range of activities, including financial, technical or management support of on the ground water stewardship activities, hosting an in-person gathering of stakeholders, committing to take public action to support good water policy in California, working with the local community to share water efficiency best practices, leading a facet of the CWAC (facilitating calls or leading a working group, for example), or other tangible actions that help advance the goals of the CWAC.

- Discussing and making decisions about CWAC protocols on membership, operation, communications and other organizations issues
- Bringing strategic recommendations to the larger CWAC group
- Ensuring that members are meeting commitments
- Leading the planning and execution of the all-group and in-person meetings

**Communications:** By becoming a member of CWAC, an organization agrees that their name may be used in association with CWAC, not in support of any policies or specific projects but simply that they are part of the Collaborative and support the Collaborative’s mission and objectives. Members may publically communicate about their membership in the group. The Steering Committee will develop a communications plan that embraces transparency and promotes increasing awareness of water issues and how CWAC is working to address them, while respecting the legal requirements of each member.

**The CWAC:**

- Will not take a stand on particular issues or policies without unanimous agreement of current members.
- Will not sign legal contracts or engage in business on behalf of members.
- Will not speak on behalf of members.
- Will not support use of CWAC meetings to promote the business interests of any individual members; i.e. CWAC is not a buying/selling forum.

Furthermore:

***“The participants in the California Water Action Collaborative will not enter into any discussion that may infringe any applicable competition or antitrust law. By way of example, participants will not discuss, communicate or exchange any commercially sensitive information, including information relating to pricing, purchasing strategy, terms of supply, sourcing or supply chain constraints, trade programs or distribution strategies.”***

**Please sign below:**

***“I have read and agree with the principles laid out in this document”***

Name

Organization

Signature

Date