

Membership Overview

In order for your organization to become a CWAC member, please review this document, and then sign below.

NOTE: This member agreement was updated in May 2017. All pre-existing members of CWAC are bound by the founding member agreement, and remain committed to upholding CWAC's collaborative framework and commitment to action.

About CWAC

Mission | The California Water Action Collaborative (CWAC) is a platform for diverse stakeholders - including leading environmental organizations, companies across sectors, agricultural producers, and others - to come together and pursue collective action projects that will improve California's water security for people, business, agriculture and nature.

Vision | Water resilience for all California water users.

History | The CWAC grew out of a Water Action Hub meeting hosted by the [CEO Water Mandate](#) in Los Angeles in May 2014. Today, CWAC comprises over twenty organizations deeply committed to California's shared water future. To learn more, visit <http://cawateraction.org/what-is-cwac/>.

Member Guidelines

Membership | CWAC is open to any *company or not-for-profit organization* that is:

- Committed to actively improving water security in California for people, business, agriculture and nature, (see expectations below) and
- Has secured a written or verbal endorsement from a current CWAC member organization.

Organizations can request to become a CWAC member by filling out the interest form on the CWAC website - <http://cawateraction.org/join-us/>. The steering committee will review all submissions, and may contact a representative from interested organizations and/or their member sponsor before informing an applicant of a final decision on membership.

Organizations that do not meet the above criteria or are not able to commit to ongoing member expectations may be invited to become a CWAC Ally. This includes water agencies, policy experts, research institutions, small business owners, farmers, and other California stakeholders critical to improving the state's water security and water-dependent economies. Allies are acknowledged on the CWAC website as supporting the vision of CWAC, are subscribed to the CWAC newsletter, and their information is kept on file for potential future collaboration, consultation, and project development opportunities.

CWAC will not support the use of CWAC meetings to promote the business interests of any individual members; i.e. CWAC is not a buying/selling forum.

Expectations | CWAC members commit to:

- Participate in at least two thirds of monthly all-member CWAC phone calls, attend one annual meeting, and support one CWAC working group.
- Within 6 months of joining CWAC, support, via financial or in-kind contribution, at least one on-the-ground CWAC collective action project or CWAC's administrative capabilities.¹
- Participate in respectful dialogue with an open mind to possible collaborations with other members
- Provide an annual financial contribution to support CWAC's contracted facilitation services. Recommended contribution is \$500-\$2000/year for non-profit members and \$2500-\$5000/year for companies.

CWAC Structure

Format | CWAC operates through monthly all-group calls, regular working group calls or meetings, and biannual in-person meetings.

Leadership Structure | The Steering Committee is comprised of 4-6 staff from CWAC member organizations, aiming for a balance of corporate and nonprofit members. The Steering Committee is responsible for representing and regularly checking in with CWAC members, decision-making around membership, operations, and communications, and leading planning efforts.

Decision-making process | CWAC makes decisions through a practical consensus with all members; however, it has delegated much of its operational decision-making to the steering committee.

Communications | By becoming a member of CWAC, an organization agrees that its 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 overarching objectives. Members may publicly communicate about their membership in the group.

As part of the annual planning process, the Steering Committee will develop communications and learning goals that embrace transparency and promote increasing awareness of water issues and how CWAC is working to address them, while respecting the legal requirements of each member.

Accountability | The CWAC steering committee is charged with monitoring member participation and encouraging members to uphold their organizational commitments. Additionally, any CWAC member organization can inform the steering committee if they feel a fellow member is not adequately supporting the group's mission and shared vision. If a member organization is observed as not fulfilling its commitments, the steering committee will reach out to the organization to discuss concerns and provide a warning. If, after three additional months, an organization is still failing to meet CWAC expectations, the steering committee may ask the organization to not join future meetings nor be able to communicate publically that it is a member of the Collaborative.

Legal

CWAC is not a legal entity, and therefore:

¹ Support can include a full range of activities, including financial, technical or management support of on-the-ground water stewardship projects; jointly committing with other CWAC members to take public action that supports good water policy in California; CWAC steering committee membership; hosting an in-person gathering of CWAC stakeholders, or providing in-kind donations for such meetings; or providing staffing, facilitation or technical support for CWAC administration. Full details can be found in the CWAC Framework.

- will not take a public stance on particular issues or policies without unanimous agreement of current members.
- CWAC will not sign legal contracts or engage in business on behalf of members.
- CWAC will not speak on behalf of members without their explicit approval.

CWAC Disclaimer | 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.

CWAC Confidentiality & attribution | The group understands that attribution of specific member discussions outside of this group will only occur with the consent of the member in question.

Other policies | Members agree to support the development and implementation of CWAC’s collective action framework and work plans, and to abide by future policies and principles adopted by the group.

Please sign below:

“I have read and agree with the content, principles, and guidelines laid out in this document.”

Name(print)	Organization(print)	Signature	Date

Please identify the current CWAC member who is sponsoring you:

Name(print)	Organization(print)