

NORTH STATE WATER ALLIANCE

WATER POLICY STATEMENT

WHO WE ARE:

The North State Water Alliance (NSWA) is a growing coalition of cities, counties, water providers, business, agriculture and community groups in Northern California. Our common geography and interests have brought us together to work closely on water issues. **Our mission is to promote responsible statewide water solutions that protect the economy, environment and quality of life for the north state and for all Californians.**

WHAT'S AT STAKE:

The north state region spans an extraordinary mix of cities and rural communities, forests, mountains, farmlands, wildlife refuges and wetlands. **It also includes the capitol of the ninth largest economy in the world.**

The north state's water resources and water infrastructure (including Shasta, Oroville and Folsom reservoirs) meet north state water needs – for urban and agricultural uses, the environment, power generation and recreation - while also providing for water exports across the Sacramento -San Joaquin Delta to Southern California and Bay Area residents and San Joaquin Valley farmers. The health of north state watersheds is vital to California's long-term economic and environmental future.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

NSWA members invest in and implement water supply, conservation, water efficiency, recycling and re-use, storage, and other significant water management projects and programs that are cost effective and improve our regional self-sufficiency. We support comprehensive statewide water solutions in California that include:

- Increased investment in regional storage and infrastructure
- Water conservation as a way of life
- An operational plan for the state's water systems to fulfill obligations to the north state
- Water rights and supply assurances

OUR WATER POLICY PRIORITIES:

We're calling on the state's water officials to collaborate with the NSWA to develop a comprehensive, statewide water plan that includes:

- An **operational plan** that recognizes and reflects the inherent link between water supplies in Northern California and that of the rest of the state. The state can accomplish this through specific water supply assurances under existing water rights and contracts; a detailed operational plan for the statewide water system; and a governing structure that includes north state stakeholders.
- A commitment by state and federal governments to support **infrastructure improvements** and investments for water supply reliability. The region's water providers are identifying solutions at the local and regional levels to adapt to changing water supplies. As a part of a statewide plan, California and federal water officials must invest in local water infrastructure projects that improve north state water reliability and also provide statewide benefits.
- A **unified regulatory approach** that proactively plans for the effects of climate change on water uses. Climate change will increase the demand for water from Northern California's reservoirs to protect the Delta ecosystem. A comprehensive solution must plan for the effects of climate change on this region and throughout the state while minimizing water supply impacts upstream of the Delta.

