Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755)

California Water Quality Monitoring Council
February 28, 2017

Christina McCready, Chief – Integrated Data and Analysis Branch
California Department of Water Resources
California’s water resource-related datasets are challenging to identify, access, and use.

More centralized data will allow for better water planning, management, and decision-making.

AB 1755 was signed into law on September 23, 2016.
DWR must create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform
- Integrate existing water and ecological data from multiple databases
- Provide data on completed water transfers and exchanges

DWR must work in consultation with:
- California Water Quality Monitoring Council
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
DWR is required to develop protocols for:

- Data sharing
- Documentation
- Quality control
- Public access
- Promotion of open-source platforms
- Decision support tools related to water data

DWR must submit to the Legislature a report on these protocols
The platform will:

- Integrate existing water/ecological data from multiple databases managed by federal, state, and local agencies and academia using consistent and standardized formats
- Provide data on completed water transfers and exchanges including volume, price, delivery method, identity of buyers/sellers, and water right
- Receive both spatial and time-series data from various sources
The platform will integrate available datasets, namely:

- DWR State Water Project reservoir operations, groundwater levels, urban water use, and land use
- SWRCB data on water rights, water diversion, and water quality (CEDEN)
- CDFW information on fish abundance and distribution
- USGS streamflow conditions (NWIS)
- USBR Central Valley Project operations information
- USFWS, USFS, and NOAA Fisheries fish abundance information
AB 1755 is an opportunity to integrate and increase access to water data collected by state agencies, which will:

- Foster collaboration among state agencies
- Create opportunities to share and integrate datasets
- Minimize duplicate data gathering and reconciliation of diverse datasets
- Improve state agency operations through data-driven decision-making
- Improve transparency and accountability
Key Dates

- By January 1, 2018: DWR will make public the protocols developed and publish a strategic plan for data management to guide implementation of the Act
- By April 1, 2018: DWR shall release any request for proposal(s) necessary for platform development
- By September 1, 2019: DWR shall make available on the platform existing water and ecological data held by state agencies (and quarterly add data as it becomes available)
Key Dates (cont’d)

- By August 1, 2020: DWR shall make available on the platform data related to California water supply and management held by:
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - U.S. Forest Service
AB 1755 Implementation

- Make state-held data available on platform (Sept 1, 2019)
- Release RFP(s) (Apr 1, 2018)
- Publish Strategic Plan and Protocols (Jan 1, 2018)
- Make federal data available on platform (Aug 1, 2020)
AB 1755 Implementation – 2017

2017

Gather use cases*

Draft framework for strategic plan and protocols

2018

Publish Strategic Plan and Protocols

Develop strategic plan and protocols*
AB 1755 Implementation

- Develop draft products
  - use cases → functional requirements
  - use cases → data-sharing protocols
  - strategic plan framework/strategic plan
  - protocols framework/protocols

- Solicit feedback on draft products
  - partner agencies
  - stakeholders
  - advisory panel

- Consider and incorporate feedback

- Release final products
February 9, co-hosted by DWR, CCST, UC Water
Data-driven decisions? Consider decision-driven data!
  - WHO needs
  - WHAT data
  - In WHAT form
  - For WHAT decision(s)

May 8, follow-on workshop
Questions?

Christina McCready
(916) 651-9298
christina.mccready@water.ca.gov