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**State Water Contractors Respond to Governor Newsom's 2022-23 May Revise Proposal**

*Budget Builds on Historic Investments in California's Drought Resilience, Clean Energy Goals and Critical Water Delivery Infrastructure*

**Sacramento, CA** – Today, the Governor presented his May Revise Proposal for the 2022-23 State Budget, which includes an additional \$2 billion to improve California's drought resilience at a time when [60% of the state](#) is facing extreme drought conditions. This additional money builds on the \$5.2 billion approved last year to advance water resilience and drought response – bringing the State's total investment to combat current and future droughts to \$7.2 billion.

"Today's budget announcement is a direct reflection of the acute drought that is being felt by millions of Californians right now," said **Jennifer Pierre, General Manager of the State Water Contractors (SWC)**. "Whether we are talking about water infrastructure, regulatory flexibility, habitat restoration, energy reliability, sea level rise, or any other issue, our future depends on taking an 'all-of-the-above' approach to water management. The [Voluntary Agreements](#) help achieve this through a watershed-wide approach to addressing these challenges and more. It's time we come together to secure California's future."

As the Governor noted in his presentation today, "this is a megadrought, arguably the most significant in 1200 years of human history, it has impacted the entire west coast of the United States. We're finding bodies in Lake Mead, we lost hydroelectricity at Lake Oroville for the first time in history...You've seen what's happening on the Colorado River. We need more tools, we need more flexibility, and I have long supported that."

Consistent with the Administration's [Water Resilience Portfolio](#), the state's updated spending plan represents a healthy commitment to developing the [infrastructure that will improve California's ability to capture and store water when it's wet, to use when it's not](#). The additional \$1.3 billion announced today includes:

- \$553 million for drought relief projects
- \$530 million for water recycling, groundwater cleanup, and clean water projects
- \$280 million for habitat restoration and nature-based solutions
- \$187 million for agricultural and other water conservation projects



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“California just doesn’t work if we can’t capture and store water when it’s wet, to use when it’s not,” **continued Pierre.** “We need to build more storage, both above and below ground, we need to upgrade our aging SWP infrastructure that supplies 2/3 of all Californians with their water. While we were pleased to see the Governor up his commitment on infrastructure, notably missing was additional funding to repair [subsidence damage along the California Aqueduct](#) system that has resulted in up to a 60% reduction in design flow capacity and an additional \$15-30 million per year in higher operational and power costs.

We look forward to working with the Governor and State agency partners to secure the additional \$585 million needed to fully fund subsidence repair and to advocate this summer for the water resilience investments that we know will help to secure California’s water future.”

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