



Draft

Attachment 1

Preliminary 2009-2012 Work Plan: Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Water is one of the most Oregon's precious natural resources. With more than 100,000 miles of rivers and streams, 360 miles of coastline, and some of the cleanest lakes in the world, Oregon is renowned for its water. Our rivers and streams not only provide natural beauty, but they supply the water necessary for drinking, recreation, industry, agriculture, and fish and wildlife.

Today, however, water resource management in Oregon is facing a number of significant challenges. Surface water is nearly fully allocated during the summer months and groundwater is showing declines in many areas. More than 1,861 water bodies are impaired and not meeting water quality standards. Twenty-four fish species have been identified as Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, while another 31 are listed as state sensitive species.

A statewide, integrated water resources strategy can help build a better understanding of the needs of Oregonians and the needs of our environment, and then develop tools to help meet these needs. The success of such a strategy would hinge on how well it integrated water quantity, water quality and ecological issues. These three issues are closely linked, and Oregon must examine and address water resource issues in a holistic manner.

An integrated water resources strategy would provide a roadmap for the state to follow as it prepares to meet Oregon's water needs: instream and out-of-stream; above ground and below ground; now and in the future. Such a strategy could also provide a framework that local entities could use as they dedicate their own limited resources to water resource efforts.

A. Statutory Foundation and Legislative Direction

During 2009, the 75th Legislative Assembly passed HB 3369, a bill directing the Water Resources Department to develop a state-wide, integrated water resources strategy to help Oregon meet its future water needs in terms of water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem functions (see Appendix A). The project team will be managed by the Water Resources Department, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This work is built on a solid foundation of data and community partnerships. Appendix B notes many of the quantitative tools and funding resources already in place. As work under the integrated water resources strategy progresses, the need for additional data or resources may be identified.

B. Defining a Statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy

During January 2009, the Water Resources Commission's Planning Group and Water Resource Department staff met with 41 public and private organizations from throughout Oregon (see list of these key stakeholders in Appendix C). These groups provided feedback, offering suggestions as the Project Team outlined its definition of a state-wide, integrated water resources strategy. The results are below, and form the foundation of this preliminary workplan.

Working definition of "statewide": The focus during 2009-2012 will be on the development of tools that the state can make available to local communities for their use. The final recommendation document may identify studies, monies, or other resources that would be beneficial to specific regions of the state, but efforts during this first round will focus on building a state-wide set of tools.

Working definition of "integrated": This means taking into consideration water quantity, water quality, and ecological needs during the formation of water resource policy and scientific work.

A state-wide integrated water resources strategy should:

- Develop a Vision.
- Employ an Open, Transparent Process.
- Describe Where We Are Today, including how Oregon manages water resources, the status of Oregon's water quantity and quality, and the work that remains. Much of this information resides in the seven issue papers now available in draft form for public comment.
- Identify a Likely Range of Scenarios in Future Years.
- Develop the Framework, Data, Tools, and Resources necessary for the state to anticipate the above scenarios. The stakeholder process will help determine how to prioritize and develop tools (e.g., conduct statewide and/or local supply analyses? recommend statewide conservation incentives? continue climate change modeling at a more local scale? develop grant programs that communities can use?).
- Encourage Regional Partnerships that Implement Local Solutions.

Intention. As noted above, the intention here is to develop framework, data, tools, and resources that communities can use, to address their water resource needs, within Oregon's statutory framework. The intention is not to overhaul Oregon water law or water quality laws. Nor is the intention to lay out a plan that re-allocates water. As part of this process, if incremental, statutory modifications are identified as necessary to address specific needs, the Department will forward such recommendations to the Legislature as part of its 2012 report.

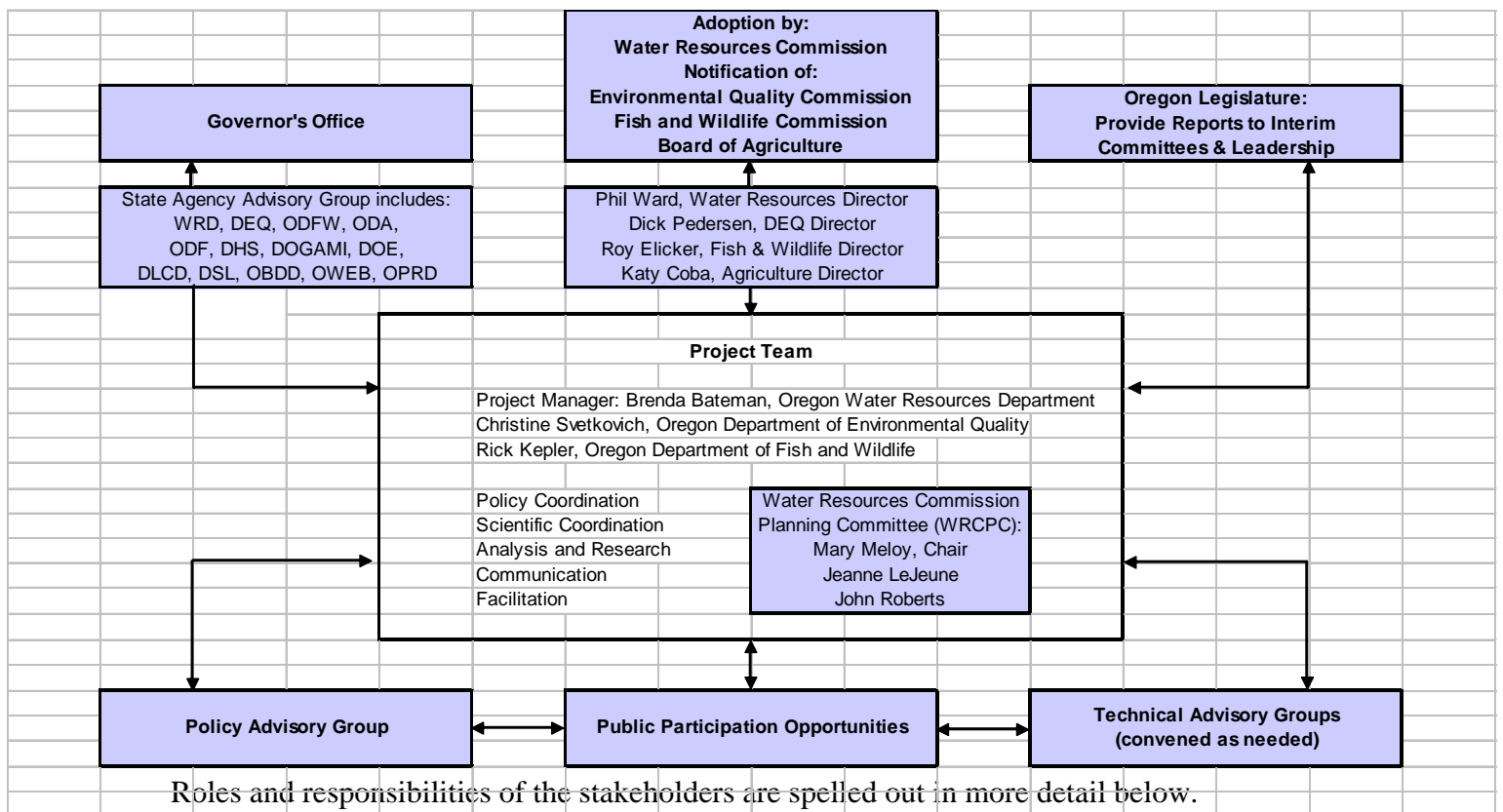
Vision Statement. In the June 2009 Water Resources Commission meeting, the Water Resources Commission's Water Planning Committee presented the first item in the above bulleted list for discussion. The Planning Committee offers the following vision statement:

A statewide integrated water resources strategy will bring various sectors and interests together to work toward the common purpose of maintaining healthy water resources to meet the needs of Oregonians and Oregon's environment for generations to come.

C. Information Flow Chart

Project Team. The following is a draft chart that demonstrates how information will flow and decisions will be made. The project team, led by the Water Resources Department Director’s Office, will manage the development of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy as directed in HB 3369. In addition to managing the website, listserve, and meetings, the project team will distill and process recommendations that come from three kinds of advisory groups—the Agency Advisory Group, Policy Advisory Group, and Technical Advisory Groups—and make recommendations to the Water Resources Commission for discussion and adoption.

Throughout the process, the project team will provide project updates to the Governor’s office, Oregon Legislature, stakeholders, and four Commissions: the Water Resources Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Board of Agriculture.



~ **Governor's Office and Oregon Legislature:** Regular reports to these entities provide formal opportunities to update policymakers and receive policy guidance on process, direction, and content of the strategy.

~ **Commissions:** HB 3369 (2009) notes that the strategy shall take effect upon adoption by the Water Resources Commission. In addition, HB 3369 requires the Water Resources Commission to notify the Environmental Quality Commission, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife/Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Dept. of Agriculture/Board of Agriculture before adoption of said strategy. It is the intent of the Water Resources Commission to engage these other Commissions early in the process.

~ **Agency Advisory Group:** This is an interdisciplinary group consisting of agency directors or their designees. The goal of this group is to ensure a balance of technical considerations at each stage of the process. The Agency Advisory Group shall convene as needed, with policy differences brought to the Governor's office for facilitation and mediation. Agency representatives have already assisted the Project Team and WRC Planning Committee with the development and initial review of issue papers.

~ **Policy Advisory Group (PAG).** The Directors of the Water Resources Department, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation the project team and Water Resources Commission Planning Committee, will jointly appoint these group members for their experience in the water arena and their commitment to leadership in this process. Responsibilities of this group include: receiving updates, providing feedback and recommendations, providing a range of options and opinions for the Project Team and Water Resources Commission to consider, and helping the Project Team identify areas of broad agreement. This group will be comprised of a diverse group of 10 to 12 individuals, chosen for their ability to represent a wide variety of Oregon interests.

~ **Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs):** The Directors of the Water Resources Department, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation the project team and Water Resources Commission Planning Committee, will jointly appoint these group members. Technical Advisory Group will be convened as needed to address specific scientific, funding, or other technical issues that arise during the course of the process. These groups will use formal techniques, such as holding workshops of white papers or conducting literature reviews, to ensure that relevant and up-to-date information is brought into each group for review and consideration.

D. Project Timeline: Phases I - V

Phase I: Setting the Stage. This Phase will extend through Fall 2009, and includes some fundamental activities that the Project Team will continue to build upon. These activities are described below, and listed in the same order in the Gant Chart found in Appendix D.

1.1 Write and Edit Issue Papers. During Phase I, the Project Team, with help from other commissions and stakeholders, is developing a set of issue papers to convey the urgency of planning for the future. These papers cover several topics from an Oregon perspective, describing the lost opportunities we may face if we do not act today, and the benefits we may see if we do act right away. They are, in essence, the "problem statement."

The first paper was presented during the Water Resources Commission's June 2009 meeting and is now available on-line: http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/2009_06_09_Issue_Statement.pdf. The remaining papers are under development and will be presented, in draft form, during the Water Resources Commission's September and November 2009 meetings. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to review and comment on these draft papers throughout 2009, either electronically, in hard copy, or during public comment period. These issue papers will also be

presented to members of the three Advisory Groups for their use in discussion. The topics of these papers grew out of the themes identified during the 2008 Water Roundtables hosted by Oregon State University and Oregon Sea Grant. They include:

- water quantity
- water quality
- ecological needs
- economic needs
- social needs, and
- implications of climate change.

1.2 Develop a Preliminary Workplan, Timeline, and Informational Flow Chart. This document contains a preliminary workplan, timeline, and informational flow chart. The Water Resources Commission will have an opportunity to review and comment during the September 10, 2009 meeting, and the project team will make this document available to the public and key stakeholders for review and comment at the same time.

1.3 Design a Public Participation Process. The Department will work with stakeholders during 2009 to design a public participation process that maximizes opportunities to disseminate information, receive public comment, and involve stakeholders in the shaping the strategy. Possible venues for public participation include:

- Maintaining a Department website with relevant documents and “submit a comment” pages.
- Using a listserv to broadcast regular updates.
- Holding Water Resources Commission quarterly meetings, providing an opportunity for informational sessions, Commission discussion, and public comment.
- Convening Policy Advisory Group Meetings, with more opportunity for information dissemination, member discussions and recommendations, and public comment.
- Technical Advisory Group Meetings, providing informational briefings, and technical discussions and recommendations.
- Water Workshops, designed as public “town hall” meetings.

In addition, the Project Team will solicit feedback from Oregon’s Federally Recognized Tribes, regarding their desired ways to engage in the development process.

1.4 Hire Scientific and Policy Coordinators. As part of HB 3369 (2009), the Oregon Legislature authorized funding for two positions to help develop this strategy, a scientific coordinator and a policy coordinator. The Department has filled these two positions internally, with two well-qualified staff members.

1.5 Develop a Meeting Calendar for 2009-2010. During January 2009 meetings and survey with key stakeholder groups, several organizations have invited the Department to meet with their board and members during regularly scheduled meetings, to provide informational updates and conduct workshops related to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The Department is developing a calendar of such meetings during 2009-2010, hoping to reach many areas of the state as efficiently and frequently as possible.

1.6 WRC Quarterly Meetings – Public Comment Period. The project team will provide updates about developing content and processes to the Water Resources Commission during each quarterly meeting, as it has during previous 18 months. These work sessions will allow the Commissioners to

ask questions and provide guidance. The Commission will also invite public comment on these topics. Precise dates and location have not been set for meetings after 2009, but generally, meetings are held in February, May, August, and November.

Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs. The Project Team will meet with stakeholders throughout 2009 and into 2010 to discuss the issue papers and project work plan. During these meetings, Water Workshops I, stakeholders will have an opportunity to share and discuss what the future of water resources in Oregon might look like. Brainstorming sessions will help identify external events (e.g., natural, economic, political, and other types of scenarios) that have the potential to shape Oregon's future water needs and resources.

Phase III: Developing a Toolbox. During 2010 - 2011, the Project Team will begin to develop the "toolbox" of policy, technical, funding, partnership and other options needed to anticipate and adapt to the above scenarios. This work will take place through a second round of stakeholder meetings, Water Workshops II. Advisory Groups will convene in order to provide policy and technical guidance. During this Phase, the Department will provide a progress report to the 76th Legislative Assembly.

Phase IV: Producing the First Edition of the Strategy and Recommendations. Oregon's first Integrated Resources Strategy will include a series of legislatively mandated updates, including recommendations for future policy, legislation, and funding. During Phase IV, the Commission and Department will focus on public review and comment, solicited in part during stakeholder meetings, Water Workshops III. In 2012, the Project Team will take the strategy to the Water Resources Commission for adoption, and will distribute the final strategy to other commissions and to the Legislature.

~Technical and Policy Content of the 2009-11 Integrated Water Resources Strategy:

Requirements as per HB 3369 (2009):

- in-stream and out-of-stream needs
- factors affecting these needs
- objectives of the integrated strategy
- actions designed to achieve the objectives of the strategy
- plans related to the challenges presented by climate change
- provisions to ensure communication and partnership with key stakeholders
- specific function and role of other agencies
- public policy options and recommendations

Optional:

- background piece (1969 and 2008 demand forecasts, etc.)
- assessment of basin yield (volume of surface water in each basin)
- assessment of impaired waterbodies
- assessment of WRC Policies (current and gaps)
- other technical and policy issues as identified by stakeholders and advisory groups
- examples of communities successfully using any water resource tools described above
- Legislative amendments & budget recommendations (as per HB 3369)

Phase V: Project Review. This is an iterative process, and successfully meeting Oregon’s water resource needs will mean constantly asking “what if” questions and preparing to adapt to changing circumstances and environments. Upon adoption of Oregon’s first integrated water resources strategy, the Project Team will embark on a process to identify lessons learned, and improvements for the next iteration.

Appendix A: Statutory Authority

In ORS 536.300 (1) the Oregon Legislative Assembly directs the Water Resources Commission to study “existing water resources of this state; means and methods of conserving and augmenting such water resources; existing and contemplated needs and uses of water for domestic, municipal, irrigation, power development, industrial, mining, recreation, wildlife, and fish life uses and for pollution abatement, all of which are declared to be beneficial uses...”

Further, in ORS 536.310, the Legislative Assembly directs the Water Resources Commission, as it formulates its water resources program, to take into consideration existing rights, and to incorporate the ideals of ORS 536.220 (b): “proper utilization and control of the water resources of the state can be achieved only through a coordinated, integrated state water resources policy, through plans and programs for the development of such water resources...”

Additionally, ORS 536.241.(2), notes that “it is the policy of the State of Oregon to ensure a water supply sufficient to meet the needs of existing and future beneficial uses of water to adequately manage the state’s water resources.”

In 2009, HB 3369 provided still more direction, amending ORS 536.220:

Section (3)(a) The Water Resources Department shall develop an integrated state water resources strategy to implement the state water resources policy specified in subsection (2) of this section. The department shall design the strategy to meet Oregon’s in-stream and out-of-stream water needs.

(b) The Water Resources Department shall work in close cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop the integrated state water resources strategy in consultation with other state, local and federal agencies, with other states, with Indian tribes, with stakeholders and with the public.

(c) The Water Resources Department, in close cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall develop data on an ongoing basis to forecast Oregon’s in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, including but not limited to in-stream, underground water, human consumption and water supply needs, for the purpose of developing and updating the integrated state water resources strategy.

(d) The integrated water resources strategy shall describe the following:

(A) Oregon’s in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, including but not limited to ecosystem services, water quality and water supply needs.

(B) Objectives of the strategy.

(C) Actions that are designed to achieve the objectives of the strategy.

(D) Plans related to the challenges presented by climate change.

(E) Provisions to ensure communication and partnership with key stakeholders.

(F) Specific functions and roles to be played by state agencies, including but not limited to the State Department of Agriculture, the State Forestry Department, the Department of Human Services, the Economic and Community Development Department, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the State Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of State Lands and other relevant state agencies.

(G) Public policy options and recommendations.

(H) Relevant strategy factors, including but not limited to population growth and land use change.

(I) Recommendations of the Water Resources Department regarding the continuous monitoring of climate change effects on Oregon's water supply and regarding water user actions that are necessary to address climate change.

(e)(A) The Water Resources Commission shall give the Environmental Quality Commission, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife notice of the integrated state water resources strategy prior to adoption of the strategy. The strategy shall take effect upon adoption by the Water Resources Commission.

(B) The Water Resources Commission shall review and update the integrated state water resources strategy every five years. The Water Resources Commission shall give notice to the Environmental Quality Commission, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to adopting any revisions of the strategy. Revisions of the strategy shall take effect upon the Water Resources Commission's adoption of the revised strategy by reference in rule.

(4) This section does not limit the authority granted the Environmental Quality Commission or the Department of Environmental Quality under ORS chapter 468B.

HB 3369 Section 45 also set forth the reporting requirements related to an integrated water resources strategy:

(1) The Water Resources Department shall, working in close cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, submit a report by February 1, 2011, to the Seventy Sixth Legislative Assembly, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, detailing benchmarks and progress toward the development of the integrated state water resources strategy. The report must include a discussion of whether the Water Resources Department expects to complete development of the strategy by December 31, 2012.

(2) As part of the report specified in subsection (1) of this section, the Water Resources Department, working in close cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies, may identify legislative amendments and submit budget recommendations, including but not limited to requests for a long-term, dedicated funding source to implement the integrated state water resources strategy.

Appendix B: Examples of Data Sets and Community Resources Already in Place

Data Sets

- Water Availability Analyses
- Water Rights Data
- Stream Gaging Data
- Ground Water Level Data
- Water Demand Forecast
- Inventory of Conservation Opportunities
- Inventory of Potential Storage Sites
- Preliminary Climate Change Data
- Impaired Waterways
- Water Quality Monitoring Data

Community Resources

- Community Planning Grants
- Feasibility Study Grants (for Water Conservation, Re-Use & Storage)
- 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Appendix C: Key Stakeholder List

The Organizations below met with the Project Team during January 2009 to provide suggestions about “public process,” or they participated in our on-line survey.

The Project Team invites groups who do not see their names below to visit the project website (http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/Integrated_Water_Supply_Strategy.shtml). There, you can take the “Strategy Survey,” sign up for future updates via listserve, and review and comment on project documents.

American Planning Association – Oregon Chapter	Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Association of Oregon Counties	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Beef Northwest	Oregon Association of Nurseries
Benton County	Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Brooks Tree Farm	Oregon Business Council
Cattlemen’s Association	Oregon Department of Energy
Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO)	Oregon Environmental Council
City of Bend	Oregon Farm Bureau
City of Corvallis	Oregon Solutions
City of Portland	Oregon State Univ – Inst for Water & Watersheds
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla	Oregon Trout (now The FreshWater Trust)
Dept. of Land Conservation & Development	Oregon Univ System – Inst for Natural Resources
Deschutes Water Alliance	Oregon Water Resources Congress
Lane County Realtors	Oregon Water Trust (now The FreshWater Trust)
League of Oregon Cities	Oregon Water Utility Council
League of Women Voters of Oregon	Regional Water Providers Consortium
Legislative Commission on Indian Services	Santiam Water Control District
Madison Farms	Special Districts Association of Oregon
Morrow County	State Grange
Network of Oregon Watershed Councils	The Nature Conservancy
North Santiam Watershed Council	Water for Life
Oak Lodge Water District	WaterWatch of Oregon

Appendix D: Project Timeline

Task	Who	2009					2010					2011					2012													
		A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Phase I: Setting the Stage																														
1.1 Write and edit issue papers	PT																													
1.2 Develop a preliminary workplan, timeline, organizational chart	PT																													
1.3 Design a public participation process	PT																													
1.4 Hire scientific & policy coordinators	WRD																													
1.5 Develop meeting calendar for 2009-2010	PT																													
* 1.6 WRC Quarterly Meetings - Public Comment Period	WRC																													
Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs																														
2.1 Convene Policy Advisory Group - Quarterly	PT																													
2.2 Convene Agency Advisory Groups - Quarterly	PT																													
2.3 Publish Issue Briefers - Monthly	PT																													
* 2.4 WRC Quarterly Meetings - Public Comment Period	WRC																													
2.5 Water Workshops I: Water Needs & How We'll Meet Them	PT																													
2.6 Post electronic survey for non-workshop participants	PT																													
2.7 Produce summary of water workshops & surveys	PT																													
Phase III: Developing a Water Resource Toolbox																														
3.1 Appoint & Convene Technical Advisory Groups - As needed	PT																													
3.2 Water Workshops II: The Water Resource Toolbox	PT																													
3.3 Post electronic survey for non-workshop participants	PT																													
* 3.4 Produce summary of water workshops II & surveys	PT																													
* 3.5 WRC Quarterly Meetings - Public Comment Period	WRC																													
3.6 Deliver benchmarks and progress report to Legislature	PT																													
3.7 76th Legislative Assembly in Session - provide briefings	PT																													
3.8 Reports and recommendations from Technical Advisory Groups	PT																													
3.9 Editing and formatting of draft strategy	PT																													
Phase IV: Producing the First Edition of Strategy and Recommendations																														
4.1 Present draft strategy to WRC for review and feedback	PT																													
4.2 Water Workshops III: Review & Respond to Draft Strategy	PT																													
4.3 Post electronic survey for non-workshop participants	PT																													
* 4.4 Produce summary of water workshops III and surveys	PT																													
* 4.5 WRC Quarterly Meetings - Public Comment Period	WRC																													
4.6 Draft strategy to other Commissions for review & feedback	PT																													
4.7 Review & incorporate feedback from other Commissions	PT																													
4.8 Provide notice to other Commissions of intent to adopt	PT																													
4.9 WRC Action Item #2: Adopt Strategy	WRC																													
4.10 Presentation of strategy to other Commissions	PT																													
4.11 Deliver 1st integrated water resources strategy to Legislature	PT																													
Phase V: Project Review																														
5.1 Survey participants for comments, suggestions	PT																													
5.2 Prepare a "lessons learned"	PT																													
5.3 Present to state agencies and commissions; post on project website	PT																													

Notes:

* = Water Resources Commission Meetings

WRC = Water Resources Commission

PT = Project Team, including staff and the Water Resources Commission's Planning Committee

WRD = Water Resources Department

