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Executive Director

Michael Wade

TO: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors

FROM: Mike Wade, Executive Director

DATE: July 2, 2025

RE: Program and Activities Update

Great Valley Farm Water Partnership

The CFWC Board of Directors voted to endorse the Great Valley Farm Water Partnership (GVFWP) and its effort to secure permits and funding for a sediment removal program in the Delta. The GVFWP is a coalition of 13 agricultural water leaders from across the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta regions. They are committed to fostering collaborative, science-based solutions that benefit both water users and the environment. By uniting around shared interests, the partnership exemplifies how California's water future can be shaped through cooperative leadership and informed action.

The accumulation of sediment in the South Delta has significantly impaired ecosystem function, degraded drinking water quality, and disrupted critical water supply operations. To address these pressing challenges, the GVFWP is advancing a comprehensive effort to obtain the necessary permits and funding to fully restore these channels. This initiative represents a vital step toward improving regional water management, enhancing aquatic habitat, and protecting the reliability of California's water infrastructure. It will benefit both San Joaquin Valley and Delta farming operations.

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

CFWC serves on the board and in the role of chair of the communications work group for the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint). The Blueprint is a collaborative initiative by community leaders, farmers, water agencies, and other stakeholders to address chronic water shortages in California's San Joaquin Valley. It aims to secure reliable water supplies by advocating for infrastructure improvements, such as new storage and conveyance systems, and policy changes to balance agricultural, environmental, and community needs.

In June, the Blueprint submitted letters to President Donald J. Trump and Governor Gavin Newsom, along with a comprehensive policy memorandum, urging increased cooperation and immediate implementation of complimentary state and federal executive orders to help address California's devastating water crisis. An email update was distributed on July 2 by the Blueprint to inform stakeholders and Valley representatives of the letters and the Blueprint's Stakeholder Priorities Memo that had been sent to the President and the Governor (attached).

CFWC Social Media Influencer Tour

The next social media influencer tour is scheduled for July 8-10 in Kern County. We have three terrific influencers who will be participating, visiting the Almond Girl Homestead, Murray Family Farms, the Kern Water Bank, the processing operation at The Wonderful Company's

Halos facility in Delano, and more! Follow our influencers and the tour on Instagram at:

Madison Rogenski: <https://www.instagram.com/peachyyymaddii/>

🌱home//lifestyle//beauty🌱 1.5 million peaches 🍑

Collaborations: peachyyymaddi@gmail.com

Danielle Kartes: <https://www.instagram.com/rusticjoyfulfood/>

Author, Jesus, laughs & good food! YOUTUBE | rusticjoyfulfood

Jerry James Stone: <https://www.instagram.com/jerryjamesstone/>

YouTube chef with over 50M views. Follow me for vegetarian and vegan food that doesn't suck, and kitchen hacks.

Subject: Valley Water Leaders Urge State-Federal Coordination
Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 8:00:19 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Water Blueprint
To: Mike Wade

[View this email in your browser](#)

Water Blueprint

for the San Joaquin Valley

Valley Water Leaders Urge State-Federal Coordination

In June, the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley submitted [letters](#) to President Donald J. Trump and Governor Gavin Newsom, along with a comprehensive policy memorandum, urging increased cooperation and immediate implementation of complimentary state and federal executive orders to help address California's devastating water crisis.

President Trump's Executive Order, issued January 24, 2025, lays a powerful foundation for restoring water reliability across Central and Southern California. The Blueprint commended this bold action and urged the Administration to adopt a clear, results-driven benchmark: increase water supply availability by 9 million acre-feet per year (MAF/yr) by 2040, with measurable progress in the next two years.

The Blueprint's [memo](#) outlines critical steps for achieving this goal:

- Modernize CVP/SWP operational rules to unlock at least 1 MAF/yr in new supply;
- Remove nonessential regulatory constraints to regain 300,000 acre-feet/year in

flexibility;

- Accelerate permitting for storage, recharge, and conveyance infrastructure;
- Ensure interagency coordination and qualified federal leadership to deliver results.

The Water Blueprint also called on Governor Newsom to coordinate state policy with this federal initiative. With the Governor's Executive Order N-16-25 aimed at capturing excess flows for recharge, the foundation is in place for a historic state-federal partnership. But success demands urgent, unified action.

We respectfully urge the Governor to:

- Publicly adopt the 9 MAF/year goal;
- Streamline state-level permitting;
- Partner proactively with federal agencies;
- Support strong federal-state liaison leadership.

This is a pivotal moment. With strong leadership and shared commitment, California can finally resolve decades of water insecurity. The Water Blueprint stands ready to support state and federal leaders in translating this vision into tangible, lasting improvements for our farms, rural communities and the environment.



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The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley
735 W Alluvial Ave Ste 103
Fresno, California 93711

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June 18, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Urgent Federal Action to Implement Executive Order 14181 and Address California's Water Crisis

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Burgum:

On behalf of the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, a broad coalition of farmers, water agencies, businesses, and community leaders, we write to express our strong support for Executive Order 14181 and to urge its immediate, aggressive implementation.

The **California water crisis is worse than ever**, with devastating impacts on agriculture, rural communities, and water reliability across Central and Southern California. Your Executive Order offers exactly the right high-level vision to turn this situation around and end this crisis for good. To fully realize the Executive Order's promise, we believe it is critical to define success in measurable terms and to ensure the challenge is matched with decisive follow-through.

With that in mind, our coalition has adopted the enclosed memorandum, which outlines a practical roadmap for action. Chief among our goals is to achieve a 9 million acre-feet per year (MAF/yr) increase in available supply by 2040, with measurable near-term gains.

We respectfully urge the Administration to:

- **Set this 9 MAF/year goal as the federal benchmark**, beginning with urgent regulatory and operational reforms, and formally communicate this to all agencies involved in the implementation of the Executive Order;
- **Accelerate infrastructure permitting** using the EO's NEPA streamlining authority;
- **Appoint and empower high-level federal policy leaders** with the experience and authority to coordinate interagency action and work cooperatively with the State. We are concerned that without increasing the presence of strong federal leadership, implementation of the Executive Order risks being delayed, diluted, or derailed.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to realign California's water management with its economic and environmental realities, and it will not succeed without sustained, high-level engagement from your Administration.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the strategic importance of water supply reliability to California and the nation. We are prepared to work with your team immediately and welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss next steps.

Respectfully,



Austin Ewell, Executive Director
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley



Eddie Ocampo, Chair
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

Enclosure: *"Implementing Executive Order 14181 – Establishing Stakeholder Priorities for Federal Action and Leadership"*

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Urgent Need for State-Federal Coordination to Solve California's Water Crisis

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, a broad coalition of farmers, water agencies, businesses, and community leaders, we respectfully urge your Administration to engage with urgency and resolve in a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address California's deepening water crisis.

President Trump's Executive Order 14181 offers a high-level federal vision to restore water supply reliability to California. Earlier this year, your Executive Order N-16-25 took an important step to help maximize the capture of excess flows for recharge and storage. These complementary actions demonstrate how the state and federal governments can work together to meet the real needs of California.

To succeed, that federal direction must be met with equal commitment and collaboration from the State of California. Only through a strong partnership between our state and federal governments can we overcome the regulatory, legal, and policy barriers that have long stifled progress.

To that end, the Blueprint has adopted the enclosed memorandum, which outlines a realistic, results-focused plan to close the widening water supply gap. Our central goal is clear: achieve a 9 million acre-feet per year (MAF/yr) increase in available water supply by 2040, with measurable progress in the near term. This goal is not aspirational, it reflects the scale of what is actually needed for California to thrive.

We respectfully urge your Administration to:

- Publicly adopt the 9 MAF/year objective as the state's long-term water supply target, aligning state actions with this benchmark;
- Streamline state permitting processes and remove unnecessary delays in critical infrastructure development;
- Engage directly with the federal Administration to coordinate implementation of Executive Order 14181 and reduce policy conflicts;
- Support the appointment of federal-state liaison leadership that can help unify efforts and ensure accountability.

This is a moment that demands courageous and coordinated action. The consequences of inaction will be felt by generations of Californians. We believe your leadership, combined with support from the federal Administration, can change the trajectory of our state for the better.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We stand ready to work with you to turn shared goals into enduring progress.

Respectfully,



Austin Ewell, Executive Director
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley



Eddie Ocampo, Chair
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

Enclosure: *“Implementing Executive Order 14181 – Establishing Stakeholder Priorities for Federal Action and Leadership”*

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Memorandum

Date: June 18, 2025

Subject: Implementing Executive Order 14181 – Establishing Stakeholder Priorities for Federal Action and Leadership

Overview

President Trump's January 24, 2025, Executive Order 14181 on California Water marks a historic opportunity to restore reliability to the San Joaquin Valley's water supply. The directive instructs federal agencies to take immediate and comprehensive steps to increase water deliveries, modernize regulations, and accelerate infrastructure investment.

As stakeholders, it is important that we define the benchmarks for success. Based on current supply shortfalls, system capacity, and regulatory opportunities, we believe the federal response should target an increase of 9 million acre-feet per year (MAF/yr) in available water supply to Central and Southern California by 2040—with measurable progress beginning now. (See planning target in SB72 Caballero - Water Code SEC 5. Section 10004.6 (f))

Implementation Priorities

To translate the Executive Order into results, federal agencies must move swiftly on the following priorities:

1. Update CVP and SWP Operational Rules (Target: +1 MAF/yr)

Federal agencies must modernize the operational criteria governing the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP). Existing biological opinions, flow constraints, and outdated operational rules limit the ability to capture and deliver water even during wet years.

Specific steps should include:

- Real-time operational adjustments under revised biological opinions
- Rebalancing inflow/outflow and environmental flow objectives
- Coordinated export scheduling and flexible reservoir management

These changes alone have the potential to yield at least 1 MAF/yr in additional deliveries.

2. Eliminate Nonessential Regulatory Barriers (Target: +300,000 AF/yr)

Federal agencies should immediately review and revise flow or ratio-based constraints that exceed legal obligations under the Endangered Species Act. Many of these conditions were layered on through policy discretion and are not required to avoid species jeopardy. Removing these unnecessary constraints could restore 300,000 acre-feet per year in system flexibility and deliveries.

3. Accelerate Permitting for Storage and Conveyance Projects

The Order provides authority for agencies to fast-track infrastructure through coordinated reviews and NEPA streamlining. Priority projects should include:

- Surface and groundwater storage
- Aquifer recharge capacity
- Delta and regional conveyance upgrades

A federal implementation schedule with milestones and financing strategy should be established by mid-2026.

4. Ensure Adequate Resources and Interagency Coordination

Effective implementation will require:

- Dedicated staff within BOR, USFWS, and USGS
- Clear coordination across Interior, Commerce, EPA, and CEQ
- Regular progress reporting and accountability to stakeholders

The Role of Federal Leadership

While policy direction is vital, implementation will depend on the personnel chosen to lead it. The Trump administration must appoint individuals with a deep understanding of California's water systems—people who know how to navigate the legal, operational, and political terrain.

Key federal positions should be filled by leaders who:

- Have real-world experience managing CVP/SWP coordination
- Understand state and federal regulatory conflicts
- Can drive interagency reform while protecting supply reliability

Without this level of leadership in place, even a well-crafted Executive Order risks delay, misapplication, or failure.

Conclusion

This is a once-in-a-generation moment to realign federal water policy with the needs of California's most productive agricultural region as well as support a flourishing economy

and population. The Executive Order provides the opening—but stakeholders must now define the target, demand implementation, and insist on competent leadership.

We urge all agencies and allied organizations to align behind a shared goal: 9 MAF/year of additional water supply by 2040, starting with urgent regulatory and infrastructure actions that can yield gains in the next two years.