



# Meeting Agenda

Date & Time: 4/6/2026 | 10:00 AM

Location: SLDMWA Boardroom

## Notice of Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting / Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting-Special Board Workshop

842 6th Street, Los Banos  
(List of Member/Alternate Telephonic Locations Attached)

### Public Participation Information

#### Join Zoom Webinar -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89344834920?pwd=5yKwWn9ia4Gzd0rXyhfnJn2G3wnmqY.1>

NOTE: Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

Because the notice provides for a regular meeting of the Water Resources Committee (“WRC”) and a joint regular WRC Meeting/Special Board workshop, Board Directors/Alternates may discuss items listed on the agenda; however, only WRC Members/Alternates may correct or add to the agenda or vote on action items.

NOTE FURTHER: Meeting materials have been made available to the public on the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority’s website, <https://www.sldmwa.org>, and at the Los Banos Administrative Office, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635.

### Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
1.	Call to Order/Roll Call	
2.	Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda for the Water Resources Committee Meeting only, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 <i>et seq.</i>	
3.	Opportunity for Public Comment – Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any matter not on the agenda, but within the Committee or Board’s jurisdiction. Public comment is limited to no more than three minutes per person. For good cause, the Chair of the Water Resources Committee may waive this limitation.	

### **ACTION ITEMS**

4. **Approval of March 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

5. **Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation** Petersen
- A. **A.B. 1754 (Pacheco), State general obligation bonds: requirements**
  - B. **A.B. 1772 (Papan), Fish and wildlife: aquatic invasive species: golden mussels**
  - C. **A.B. 2013 (Bennett), Fire risk areas: water suppliers: emergency preparedness plan**
  - D. **A.B. 2026 (Aguiar-Curry), Water diversion: groundwater recharge: permit**
  - E. **A.B. 2032 (Ransom), Fish and wildlife: restricted species permits**
  - F. **A.B. 2218 (Kalra), Water policy: California Native American tribes**
  - G. **A.B. 2630 (Bennett), Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations**
  - H. **A.B. 2728 (Soria), Open and Transparent Water Data Act**
  - I. **A.C.A. 11 (Macedo), California Water Resiliency Act**
  - J. **S.B. 872 (McNerney), Climate Change: funding priorities**

6. **Recommendation to Board of Directors to Authorize Execution of Agreement with MM Water Resources for Technical Support Services** Petersen

**REPORT ITEMS**

7. Status Update Regarding the DMC Subsidence Correction Project Barajas, Arroyave
8. Update on Status of Golden Mussels Arroyave, Petersen, Meyer
9. Executive Director's Report Barajas  
 (May include reports on activities within the Water Resources Committee's jurisdiction re: 1) CVP/SWP water operations; 2) California infrastructure projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities)
10. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities Petersen  
 (May include reports on federal, state, and local agency regulatory, legislative, and administrative water policy/resources activities)
11. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts Arroyave
12. Committee Member Reports
13. Closed Session Akroyd

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
 Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code Section 54956.9

- A. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), et al. v. Nickels, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:11-cv-02980; 9th Cir. Case No. 23-15599; U.S. Supreme Court Case No. 25-989 (GBP Citizen Suit)
- B. CSPA, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003761 (2021 TUCP Order)
- C. CSPA, et al. v. SWRCB, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003763 (2021 Temp. Mgmt. Plan)
- D. SWRCB, Administrative Hearings Office, Petitions for Change of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Water Right Permits, Delta Conveyance Project (DWR Change Petition)
- E. Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, et al. v. DWR, et al., Sacramento Co. Superior Court, Case No. 24WM000183 (SWP 2024 EIR Challenge)
- F. San Francisco Baykeeper, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, et al. U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:26-cv-00671 (2025 CVP Operations)

- 14. Return to Open Session
- 15. Report from Closed Session, if any, Required by Government Code Section 54957.1
- 16. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
- 17. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Sandi Ginda at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office, 842 6<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, California, via telephone at (209) 826-9696, or via email at [cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org](mailto:cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org). Requests should be made as far in advance as possible before the meeting date, preferably 3 days in advance of regular meetings or 1 day in advance of special meetings/workshops.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 54950 et seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the Authority's bonds, notes, or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the Authority on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/>.

SLDMWA WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TELEPHONIC LOCATIONS

April 6, 2026

15671 W. Oakland Ave  
Five Points, CA 93624



# Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 3/2/2026 | 10:00 AM  
Location: SLDMWA Boardroom  
842 6th Street, Los

## San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting – Special Board Workshop Minutes

### Attendance

#### Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio: William Bourdeau  
Division 1: Anthea Hansen, Member  
Division 2: Lon Martin, Alternate  
Division 3: Absent  
Division 4: Vince Gin, Member (ZOOM)  
Division 5: Manny Amorelli, Alternate

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager, (ZOOM)  
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

#### Board of Directors Present

Division 1: Anthea Hansen, Director  
Division 2: William Bourdeau, Director  
Lon Martin, Alternate  
Division 3: Jarrett Martin, Director (item 5)  
Division 4: Brett Miller, Alternate  
Division 5: Manny Amorelli  
FWA Representative: Wilson Orvis, Alternate

#### Others Present

Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District  
Ron Milligan, Milligan Consulting (ZOOM)  
Erik Balling, Greenleaf Ag  
John Bison, Greenleaf Ag  
Lea Emmons, City of Tracy (ZOOM)

#### Authority Representatives Present

### Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
1.	<b>Call to Order/Roll Call</b> – The meeting was called to order by Chair William Bourdeau at approximately 10:00 a.m. and roll was called. During roll call, Committee Member Vince Gin was identified as participating remotely via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(b), consistent with traditional teleconference rules.	
2.	<b>Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.</b> - No additions or corrections.	
3.	<b>Opportunity for Public Comment</b> - No public comment.	
4.	<b>Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the February 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes</b> – Chair William Bourdeau deemed the February 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes approved as submitted.	

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5. **Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation** Petersen

- a. S. 3738 (Padilla), Making Our communities Resilient through Enhancing Water for Agriculture, Technology, the Environment, and Residences (MORE WATER) Act (Support & Amend)

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendation for position adoption on one piece of legislation: S. 3738. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation. Executive Director Federico Barajas provided additional information regarding prior expressions of support for introduction of this legislation to establish new programs.

M/S - Motion by Member Anthea Hansen, seconded by Member Vince Gin, the Committee recommended adoption of the staff recommendation for position on S. 3738 (Padilla). Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Bourdeau, Hansen, Lon Martin, Gin, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

6. **Update on Status of Golden Mussels – Special Programs Manger Cindy Meyer** Arroyave/McNeil

Meyer provided a brief update. Meyer reported that the consultants from RNT Consulting completed facility site visits the first week of February and provided recommendations on monitoring and mitigation. Meyer reported that there was a kickoff Water Agency Coordination meeting on February 24, 2026 with very solid attendance. Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave and Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided additional information including information on bio boxes, and federal and state legislative responses. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.

Public Comment: Green Leaf Ag representatives provided information about their programs and product for treatment.

7. **Executive Director’s Report** Barajas

- a. **ACWA DC Trip** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff had a very active and productive trip to DC.
- b. **Initial CVP Allocation** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation’s initial CVP allocation for South of Delta Ag water service / repayment contractors is 15%.. Barajas reported that Reclamation is expecting an allocation update around the third week of March.
- c. **South of Delta (SOD) Drought Plan** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Pilot Program for 2026 is a proposal that provides operational flexibility with the use of SOD Drought Plan water.
- d. **ACWA GM Group** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the ACWA GM Group continues to meet and discuss a strategy for elevating water priorities during the transition to the new state administration.
- e. **Yuba Water** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that based on recent facility challenges the groundwater substitution component of the Yuba Transfer Program will not be in play for 2026.

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Arroyave reported that they are still waiting to hear on the surface water supplies.

8. **Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities** – Water Policy Director Petersen  
Scott Petersen provided an update regarding 2024 LTO Implementation, including adaptive management, State Water Resources Control Board, and Bay-Delta Plan Update discussions. Executive Director Federico Barajas provided additional information on the Bay-Delta Plan Update discussions. Petersen continued his update regarding the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley and the San Joaquin Valley Collaborative Action Program. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.
9. **Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Arroyave reported that storage remains above average. Arroyave introduced consultant Ron Milligan, who provided information regarding CVP supply, reservoir storage, allocations, snowpack, and operations. Milligan and Arroyave answered questions throughout the presentation.
10. **Committee Member Reports** – No reports.
11. **Agenda Items 11-13: Closed Session** – Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:12 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:26 a.m., Chair William Bourdeau reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.
12. **Agenda Item 14: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.
13. **Agenda Item 15: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:27 a.m.



# Official Memorandum

PO Box 2157  
Los Banos, CA 93635  
[sldmwa.org](http://sldmwa.org)

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To: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates  
From: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Date: April 6, 2026  
RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

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## Background

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Implementation of Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; (2) State Water Resources Control Board action; (3) Central Valley Regional Water Board Action, (4) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; (5) Delta conveyance; (6) Reclamation action; (7) Delta Stewardship Council action; (8) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint, and (9) San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan.

## Policy Items

### Implementation of Executive Order 14181

On January 2024, President Trump issued Executive Order 14181<sup>1</sup>, directing analysis of potential changes to the operations in the 2024 Record of Decision (“ROD”) for consideration by the Administration. On December 4, 2025, Reclamation executed a Record of Decision on the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, as a first step towards implementing EO 14181.

### Implementation of 2024 Record of Decision on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

On December 4, 2025, Reclamation executed a Record of Decision<sup>2</sup> on the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, as a first step towards implementing EO 14181, updating operations associated with the Record of Decision executed by Reclamation and the Biological Opinions issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries in December 2024. This new operation is described as “Action 5”.

Specifically, the Action 5 ROD updates the operations of the Projects by:

- (1) **Removing the Delta Smelt Summer and Fall Habitat Action (Fall X2)**, in response to findings by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the action is not anticipated to have observable effects on delta smelt survival,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-31/pdf/2025-02174.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_details.php?Project\\_ID=54661](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=54661)



- (2) **Removing the early implementation measure of the Delta export reduction of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (“HRL”) program**, in response to uncertainties associated with the timing of potential adoption and implementation of the HRL Program by California’s State Water Resources Control Board,
- (3) **Updating the Delta operating criteria** to expand the opportunities for Old and Middle River (“OMR”) management at no more negative than -5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), and a stormflex action of -6,500 cfs, including the use of predictive tools for real-time assessment of environmental conditions.

Modeling of these proposed operational changes has estimated between 250 – 400 TAF improvement in combined CVP and SWP export capacity under Action 5 operations, with the SWP benefits being uncertain based on how the SWP operates under the Incidental Take Permit required for compliance with the California Endangered Species Act.

There is additional analysis being performed to assess the efficacy of additional potential operational changes that could improve water supply and maintain species protections, as well as alternative methods to address environmental effects on species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) and advance species recovery efforts.

**Note:** There are also Endangered Species Act consultations on the Trinity River and Klamath River that may have overlap/interactions with the operations of the CVP/SWP.

## State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

### Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

#### *Background*

The State Water Board is currently considering updates to its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (“Bay Delta Plan”) in two phases (Plan amendments). The first Plan amendment is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity (“Phase I” or “San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Plan Amendment”). The second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (“Phase II” or “Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment”).

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed “Voluntary Settlement Agreements” (“VSAs”) on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.<sup>3</sup> The State Water Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

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<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.



### *Phase 1 Status – San Joaquin River and its Tributaries*

The State Water Board adopted a resolution<sup>4</sup> to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

On July 18, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP)<sup>5</sup> and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Regulation to Implement Lower San Joaquin River Flows (LSJR) and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan).

In response to the release of the NOP, the Water Authority and member agencies provided scoping comments<sup>6</sup> and the State Water Board is working through a long-term process to address Phase 1 elements of the Water Quality Control Plan Update.

A long delay in Phase 1 action occurred as legal activity was undertaken.

Recently, on September 19, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) released a [Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Workshop on the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement for the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement](#) Proposal (Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report), to which the Water Authority provided comments<sup>7</sup>.

### **Next Steps**

- Final draft Staff Report for Tuolumne River VA
- Board workshop and consideration of Tuolumne River VA
- Final draft EIR and regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity
- Board consideration of regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity

### *Phase 2 Status – Sacramento River and its Tributaries and Bay-Delta*

In the State Water Board's resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed.

### **Revised Draft Sacramento/Delta Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan**

#### *Background*

In July, the Board released a draft Bay Delta Plan (July 2025 revised draft), which included proposed changes to the draft Bay Delta Plan released in October 2024 (2024 draft), based on public input and comments

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<sup>4</sup> Available at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018\\_0059.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Available at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Request from Authority staff

<sup>7</sup> Request from Authority staff



received throughout the planning process, including comments on several options for possible changes to the plan identified in the 2024 draft. Specifically, the 2024 draft identified the possible inclusion of flow, cold water habitat and related provisions that were based on the proposed Plan amendments and alternatives identified in the 2023 draft Staff Report in support of updates to the Bay Delta Plan, as well as options for these provisions. The 2024 draft also identified the possible inclusion of Voluntary Agreements (VAs) to provide flows and non-flow habitat proposed by state and federal agencies and water users referred to as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes proposal, as well as options associated with inclusions of VAs. The regulatory provisions would apply to all water right holders if the Board did not move forward with VAs, or in the event the Board moved forward with VAs would apply to water rights not participating in approved VAs. The 2025 revised draft proposes to move forward with the inclusion of VAs in the Bay Delta Plan for water rights included in approved VAs (VA pathway) and the regulatory provisions for water rights not included as part of approved VAs (regulatory pathway). The 2025 revised draft also includes proposals for addressing other options identified in the 2024 draft. The 2025 revised draft also proposes the designation of Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL) beneficial use as part of the current Bay Delta Plan update.

### Current Activity

On September 16, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) rescinded the August 22, 2025 Second Revised Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Hearing on Revised Draft Sacramento/Delta Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan or Plan). The Rescinded Notice is available on the [Board's website](#). Accordingly, the hearing previously scheduled for September 24-25, 2025, and the associated public comment period are cancelled and will be rescheduled to a future date.

Instead, the Board has released a revised Bay-Delta Plan, with workshops that occurred on January 28-30, and written comments due on February 2. Water Authority staff coordinated written comments<sup>8</sup> with member agencies and other interested parties.

Additionally, the State Water Board has received term sheets for additional voluntary agreements from Nevada Irrigation District (NID) and South Sutter Water District (SSWD) specific to the Bear River, Yuba River, and Auburn Ravine that are available to the public.

## Water Rights

### *Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System (CalWATRS) Launch*

The State Water Resources Control Board has launched the California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System (CalWATRS). A link to the new system and additional information is posted on the [CalWATRS webpage](#).

If you have questions or would like the CalWATRS team to attend an event in your area, please email [CalWATRS-help@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CalWATRS-help@waterboards.ca.gov).

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<sup>8</sup> Request from Water Authority staff.



## San Joaquin River Restoration Program

### Restoration Allocation

On March 16, Reclamations issued an update to the 2026 Restoration Allocation and Default Flow Schedule (attached). Consistent with the Restoration Flows Guidelines and based upon the best available forecast information, the Restoration Allocation covering the period March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027 **is set at 276,220 acre-feet at Gravelly Ford and is a Normal-Dry year type.**

The Restoration Administrator recommended a flow schedule, which Reclamation is reviewing at the time this memo was drafted. This Restoration Allocation will be posted on the Program website in the coming days: <http://RestoreSJR.net>.

For Information about Restoration Flows, please visit <https://restoresjr.net/flows/>.

For the Restoration Administrator recommendations, please visit <https://restoresjr.net/flows/flow-scheduling/>.

## U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

### Reclamation Manual

*Documents out for Comment*

#### Draft Policy

- [PEC 05-03 Funding and Extended Repayment of Extraordinary Maintenance Cost](#) (comments due 03/25/26). Supplementary documents below:
  - [Memo on Interest Rate Calculation](#)
  - [Supplemental Discussion](#)

#### Draft Directives and Standards

- There are currently no draft Directives and Standards out for review.

#### Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)

- There are currently no draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques out for review.

#### Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

- There are currently no Safety and Health Standards out for review.

#### Draft Reclamation Design Standards

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

## San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint

The Water Blueprint represents water users, districts, farmers, and municipalities across the Central Valley. Their problem statement is crystal-clear; California faces a major water supply shortfall that could affect one million acres, costing \$7.2 billion in farm revenue and 85,000 jobs statewide. Engaging various stakeholders inside and outside the Central Valley, the team advocates for a combination of infrastructure investments and policy changes to capture excess flows during wet years and replenish aquifers.



**Blueprint's strategic priorities for 2022-2025:** Advocacy, Groundwater Quality and Disadvantaged Communities, Land Use Changes & Environmental Planning, Outreach & Communications, SGMA Implementation, Water Supply Goals, Governance, Operations & Finance.

**Mission Statement:** "Unifying the San Joaquin Valley's voice to advance an accessible, reliable solution for a balanced water future for all."

## Board Expansion and Executive Committee Formation

The leadership group discussed potential updates to board structure, including filling an open director seat, exploring board expansion, and evaluating whether to formalize an executive committee. The group discussed proposed candidates for the vacant director position. The group proposed forming a small ad hoc committee to develop draft bylaw language addressing both board expansion and executive committee formation. These materials will be brought back to leadership and ultimately to the full board for review.

## Strategic Planning

The leadership group discussed the need to launch a strategic planning process following completion of the United Water Plan, noting that the current plan runs through 2025 or early 2026. The conversation highlighted the importance of defining the scope of future organizational activities—including legislative advocacy, policy, and communications—and engaging the board early to help shape direction for the latter half of 2026.

## CSU Water Webinar Series – CA Legislature and Water Policy

The Executive Director of CSU-WATER, a CSU system affinity group that serves to foster future leaders in California through water education, research engagement and networking for the nearly 500,000 students in the CSU system as well as inclusion of those in the CC & UC systems. The Blueprint was invited to contribute to the CSU-WATER Webinar Series on the CA Legislature and Water Policy, topics covered in the webinar series: Making Waves, Water Policies & Workforce Needs, Current water policy issues & workforce needs and Future Water Management and Policies; Leadership Needs, Future water management and climate resilience.

## SB72 Implementation

Senate Bill 72 (Caballero) directs DWR to consult with the Water Commission on the establishment of an advisory committee to inform the development of the 2028 update to the Water Plan. The 2028 update will usher in a new emphasis on setting and meeting quantifiable water supply goals. This builds on California's Water Supply Strategy (2022), which outlined necessary actions for the state to adapt to a hotter, drier future where the changing climate leaves less water to meet California's needs. Blueprint as an interested party in the State's water supply strategy, has been provided with the opportunity to present and provide public comment.

## Unified Water Plan

The Water Blueprint's unified water plan is moving forward with chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 for review. The plan quantifies the San Joaquin Valley's massive water supply gap at 2.5-3 million acre-feet by 2040, incorporating SGMA compliance needs, climate change impacts, and environmental flow requirements. The full administrative draft expected by this summer.



### *Unified Water Plan Chapters 5 Released for Review*

Stantec presented detailed progress on potential water supply projects (Chapter 5). Chapter 5 catalogs over 800 projects from GSPs across 16 sub-basins, with groundwater recharge projects comprising nearly half of all proposed projects. Unit costs range from \$50-\$300 per acre-foot for various recharge methods.

- Major Supply-Demand Gap Identified Requiring Immediate Action: Technical analysis reveals the valley faces a future water shortage of 2.5-3 million acre-feet by 2040, driven by SGMA compliance requirements (1.4-2 million acre-feet), environmental restoration needs, climate change impacts, and groundwater replenishment requirements. This massive gap demonstrates the critical need for comprehensive water infrastructure investments and management changes.
- Recharge Projects Dominate Solutions: The latest research points out that nearly 50% of all GSP projects are groundwater recharge projects, including on-farm recharge, injection wells, in-lieu recharge, and constructed basins, with injection wells being the most cost-effective option.

### *Water Blueprint SJV & CWI – Unified Water Plan*

The purpose of the Unified Valley Plan for the San Joaquin Valley is to identify and present possible solutions for long-term water needs in the San Joaquin Valley by bringing together existing water plans, strategies, and knowledge from across the San Joaquin Valley into one coordinated, valley-wide planning framework.

Bureau of Reclamation Report to Congress:

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Overview of the water resource needs and opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Chapter 3 Overview of flood risks and management in the San Joaquin Valley and opportunities for improving flood management.
- Chapter 4 Illustration of an environmental vision for the San Joaquin Valley and estimates of the water supplies needed to implement that vision.
- Chapter 5 Evaluation of a range of potential solutions.
- Chapter 6 Recommendations for a path forward and a roadmap for implementation. Includes policy recommendations.

## San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJV CAP)

### Background

The CAP Plenary Group adopted work groups to implement the CAP Term Sheet<sup>9</sup>, adopted on November 22, 2022. During Phase II, Work Groups are continuing to meet and discuss priorities and drafting various documents for their respective areas: Safe Drinking Water; Sustainable Water Supplies; Ecosystem Health; Land Use, Demand Reduction and Land Repurposing; Implementation.

The Bureau of Reclamation is currently funding the CAP. This funding supports its management and facilitation of the overall CAP process and the development of a prioritization tool. The tool is envisioned to be used by CAP participants, federal and state agencies, other stakeholders, and the public to evaluate

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<sup>9</sup> Request from Authority staff



policy recommendations, programmatic changes, and projects to achieve sustainable water management in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Steering Committee created a subgroup and will review several prioritization tools developed by other organizations and use those examples to craft a work plan and initial set of criteria for consideration.

## CAP Workgroups for 6-Month CAP Priority Actions

### *ILRP and CV-Salts*

1. Review changes to the ILRP and CV-SALTS updates and recommend improvements to the SWRCB and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
2. Better coordination between GSAs and the Nitrate Program to maximize water quality testing for multiple purposes.
3. Consider a pilot area to evaluate the potential for information sharing and integration.
4. The regulations should consider identifying targets for nitrates and other COCs so progress can be evaluated.
5. CAP could look to privately solicit information on fees across different programs to look at the potential for fee harmonization.

### *Land Transition*

1. Support CDFW implementation of Regional Conservation Investment Strategies to support mitigation projects.
2. Use the experience and results of MLRP Round 1 and 2 to provide feedback on MLRP Round 3 guidelines to the Department of Conservation to ensure effective implementation of the program, including the provision of meaningful community benefits.
3. Develop guidelines to address workforce challenges associated with land transition, especially related to rural communities.
4. Advocate for infrastructure funding and regulatory changes to accelerate large-scale solar projects, as one avenue to help support the transition of agricultural land and reduce water demand in a manner that protects communities over the long term.
5. In collaboration with the S2J2 Catalyst Project, for ecosystem restoration, create a near-term and long-term vision and set of objectives for ecosystem restoration, and advocate for funding by the state and federal governments
6. Develop best practices for data centers and water use, which could inform the approval of data centers by state and local governments

### *SGMA Implementation*

1. Complete Kaweah economic analysis and recommend improvements for SGMA implementation to the Governor, Legislature, and Department of Water Resources



2. Complete assessment of some other subbasins in the S2J2 geographic area and revise investment recommendations to S2J2 and advocate high-impact investments for funding through Prop 4.
3. Define key attributes for the successful implementation of GSPs for DWR to support in their guidelines for Prop 4 funding.
4. Track DWR subsidence best management practices and recommend improvements for implementation to DWR.

#### *Water Supply*

1. Support funding of projects and operational changes during high flow events that meet environmental regulations in the Delta and improve Delta deliveries south of the Delta to provide benefits to the San Joaquin Valley
2. Advocate for regulatory improvements to the Legislature and state agencies (i.e., DWR, SWRCB) to accelerate groundwater recharge permitting that provides flood control and protects water quality and downstream users.
3. Support actions by DWR and other agencies to implement DWR Watershed studies to advance the CAP outcomes.

#### **Other Six-Month Priorities**

1. Prioritization Tool
2. Long-term Habitat Plan
3. Water for Wildlife Refuges
4. San Joaquin River Restoration Program
5. “Cutting Green Tape”



# ATTACHMENTS



# **Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley**

## **Water Blueprint Board Meeting 3/18/2026**

**FRESNO**  
**STATE**

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California Water  
Institute

**Water  
Blueprint**  
  
for the San Joaquin Valley

# Agenda

1. Report Preparation Status and Schedule
2. Chapter 6 – Overview
3. Next Steps

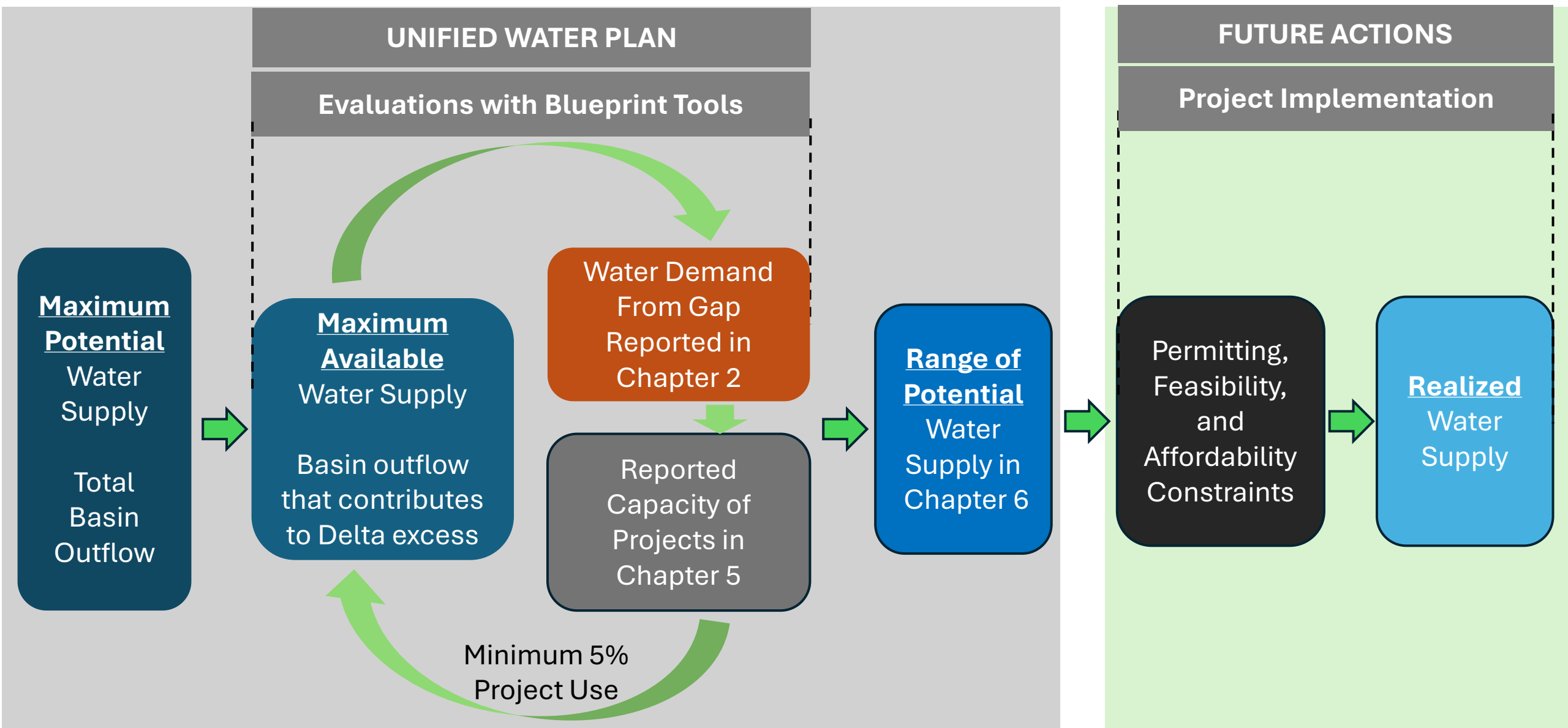
# Report Development Status and Schedule

Chapter Number	Chapter Title	Status
1	<b>Introduction</b>	Received comments, revising.
2	<b>Water Supply Problems, Needs, and Opportunities</b>	Received comments, revising. Expanding description of historical water use and project development throughout the San Joaquin Valley.
3	<b>Flood Management Problems, Needs, and Opportunities</b>	Received minor comments, revising.
4	<b>Environmental Enhancement</b>	Received minor comments, revising.
5	<b>Potential Projects and Actions</b>	Received comments, revising.
6	<b>Implementation Strategies</b>	In Progress – draft will be provided in early April for review.
7	<b>References</b>	In Progress – included with each chapter for review.

# Project Categories and Evaluation Scenarios

Project Category	Included in Scenario 1	Included in Scenario 2	Included in Scenario 3
<b>RESTORE AUTHORIZED FACILITY CAPABILITY</b>			
Restore authorized design capacity of existing facilities	X	X	X
<b>IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF IN-VALLEY SUPPLIES</b>			
Upper watershed actions that improve timing and volume of reservoir inflow		X	X
Re-operate in-valley reservoirs (FIRO/I-FIRM)		X	X
Non-structural actions in the Delta to increase diversions with existing facilities		X	X
Local conveyance, recharge, storage, and other water supply projects		X	X
Increase east-west conveyance for recapture of SJRRP flows and transfers		X	X
<b>INCREASE ACCESS TO DELTA WATER SUPPLIES</b>			
Modify diversion facilities in the Delta			X
Increase north-of-Delta storage capacity			X
Increase south-of-Delta storage capacity			X
Enlarge and/or expand existing south-of-Delta conveyance capacity			X

# Estimating Project Benefits for the UWP and Beyond



# Preliminary Results from Blueprint Modeling Evaluations

	<b>Scenario 1</b>	<b>Scenario 2</b>	<b>Scenario 3</b>
	<b>Restore Authorized Facility Capability</b>	<b>Scenario 1 + Local Structural Projects and Non-Structural Actions</b>	<b>Scenario 2 + Increased Access to Delta Supplies</b>
Potential Water Supply Generated (MAF/yr)	Restore Baseline Capability	1.1 – 1.7	1.9 – 2.4
Water Supply (MAF/yr) from Identified Local Projects	–	0.7 – 1.2	0.8 – 1.2
Water Supply (MAF/yr) from Unspecified Additional Local Projects	–	0.4 – 0.5	1.1 – 1.2
Capital Cost (\$ Billion)	\$7	\$9 – \$12	\$13 – \$20
Unmet Demand Remaining (MAF)	2.5 – 3	0.5 – 2	0 – 1
Land Repurposing Needed (Thousand Acres)	800 – 1,100	300 – 700	0 – 500

# Key Assumptions and Uncertainties

## Assumptions that influence preliminary results

- Flood flows for diversion can be identified and diverted in real time.
- Projects can always operate as designed.
- GSA's implement additional unidentified projects to fully use water supplies.
- Many cost estimates based on concept-level information.

## Approach to bracket uncertainties - ongoing evaluations

- Limit assumed available water supply.
- Limit assumed project performance capability.
- Cap the extent of assumed additional projects.

# Preliminary Findings and Conclusions

**~\$7B to restore existing project capacity**

**Lost capacity of existing projects limits opportunity.** Restoring design capacity of existing facilities preserves baseline deliveries and enables local projects

**> 4 MAF/YR capacity of identified local projects**

**Identified local project capability exceeds the gap.** Project selection will be driven by supply, permitting, economic, and affordability constraints.

**0.5 - 2.0 MAF supply-demand gap after local projects**

**Local projects will not be sufficient.** Additional water supplies from the Delta are needed to support local projects and reduce the supply-demand gap.

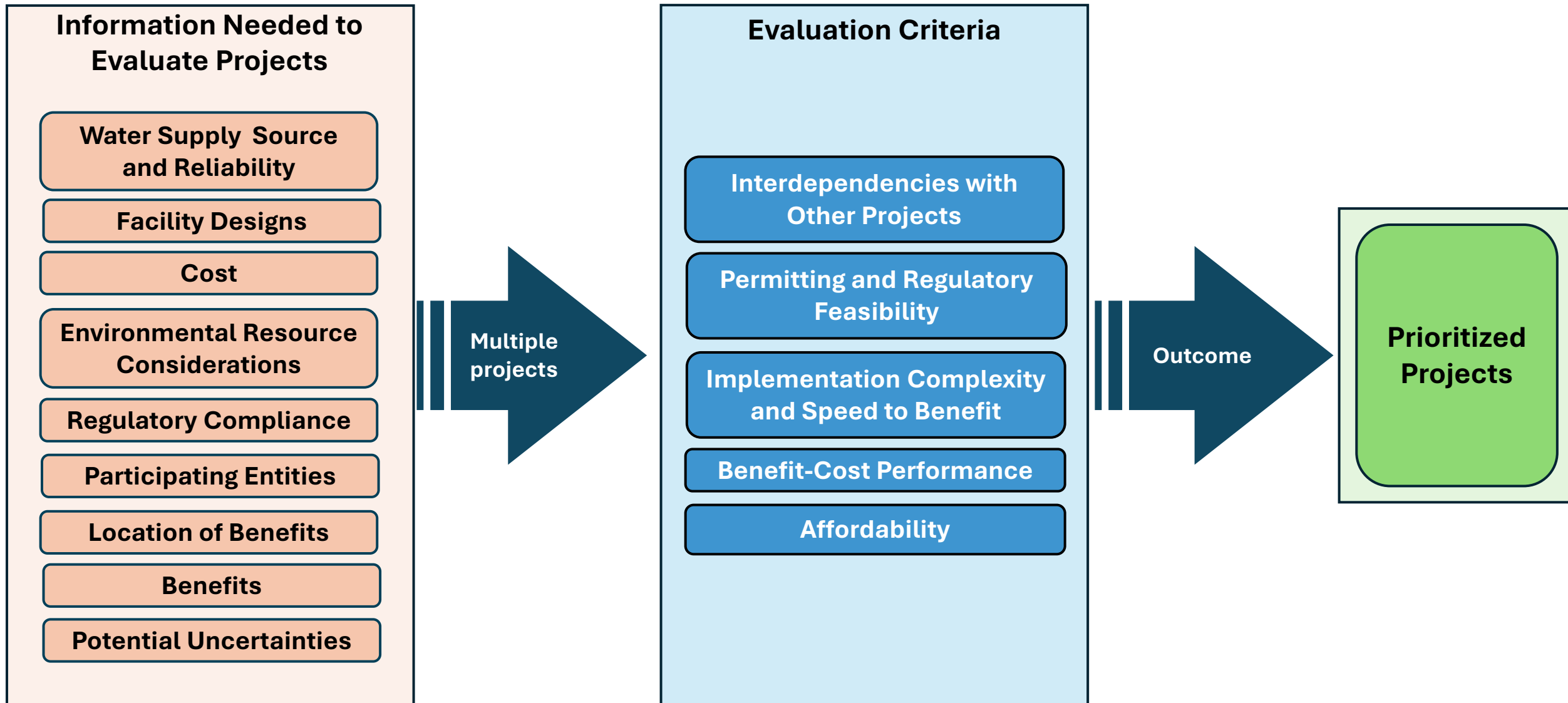
**Total investments of \$13 - 20B needed**

**Affordability will constrain implementation.** State and Federal funding, and partnerships with urban entities are needed.

**With \$13 - 20B invested, up to 500 thousand acres still repurposed**

**Farmland conversion will be necessary.** It should be strategically planned to improve environmental, community and economic conditions.

# How Projects Get Selected for Implementation



# Preliminary Recommendations

Local and Regional Agencies	State and Federal Agencies	Next Steps for the UWP
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Restore authorized project capacities.</li><li>2. Implement non-structural actions to improve operations.</li><li>3. Implement local projects identified in GSPs / accelerate shovel-readiness.</li><li>4. Increase water use efficiency.</li><li>5. Invest in regional / statewide projects.</li><li>6. Leverage regional partnerships.</li><li>7. Develop strategic farmland conversion plan.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Restore authorized project capacities.</li><li>2. Establish non-traditional funding mechanisms to support project implementation.</li><li>3. Establish method to determine flood water available for diversion.</li><li>4. Streamline permitting and approvals.</li><li>5. Fund actions that enhance surface water deliveries and groundwater recharge.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Maintain project information.</li><li>2. Assist with evaluation of projects.</li><li>3. Coordinate regional partnerships and advocacy.</li><li>4. Prepare regular UWP updates.</li></ol>

# Next Steps

- Draft Chapter 6 for review April 8 - Stantec/CWI
- Comments on Chapter 6 (send to CWI) - Board
- Full draft of the UWP in May for review – Stantec/CWI



**Thank you**