



Meeting Agenda

Date & Time: 2/2/2026 | 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/87452088678?pwd=vE4rRlladnQb9KTyTmEVE1KX3uQkKj.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

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 December 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
5. **Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Petersen Recommendation for Positions on Legislation**

- A. H.R. 6639 (Gray), Water Agency and Transparency Enhancement Review (WATER) Act
- B. H.R. 6640 (Gray), Build Now Act
- C. H.R. 6641 (Gray), Central Valley Water Solution Act
- D. A.B. 35 (Alvarez), Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedures Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.

- 6. Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Resolution Adopting Mitigated Negative Declaration/CEQA Findings of Fact and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project** Arroyave, McNeil

REPORT ITEMS

- 7.** 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 storage projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities)
- 8.** Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities Petersen
 (May include reports on federal, state, and local agency regulatory, legislative, and administrative water policy/resources activities)
- 9.** Update on Water Operations and Forecasts Arroyave
- 10.** Committee Member Reports
- 11.** 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 – 3 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 – 1 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
 Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code Section 54956.9

- A. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations (PCFFA), 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 (GBP Citizen Suit)
- B. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (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)

- 12.** Return to Open Session
- 13.** Report from Closed Session, if any, Required by Government Code Section 54957.1
- 14.** Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
- 15.** 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 6th Street, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, California, via telephone at (209) 826-9696, or via email at 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

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

15671 W. Oakland Ave
Five Points, CA 93624



Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 12/8/2025 | 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: Cannon Michael
Division 1: Anthea Hansen, Member
Division 2: Bill Diedrich, Member
Division 3: Absent
Division 4: Dana Jacobson, Alternate
Division 5: Manny Amorelli, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1: Anthea Hansen, Director
Division 2: Justin Diener, Director (ZOOM)
Bill Diedrich, Member
Division 3: Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Director
Division 4: Dana Jacobson, Member
Brett Miller, Alternate

Division 5: Manny Amorelli, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District
Ric Ortega, Grassland Water District (ZOOM)
Vince Gin, Valley Water (ZOOM)
Ron Milligan, Milligan Consulting (ZOOM)

Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
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1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Anthea Hansen at approximately 10:00 a.m. and roll was called.
2. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.** - No additions or corrections.
3. **Opportunity for Public Comment** - No public comment.
4. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the November 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes** – M/S - On a motion made by Ex-Officio Member Cannon Michael, seconded by Alternate Manny Amorelli, the Committee approved the November 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Vote: Ayes – Michael, Hansen, Diedrich, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

5. **Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation** Barajas
- H.R. 6229 (Schrier), the Water Infrastructure finance and Innovation Act Amendments (Support)
 - S. 2753 (Risch), Urban Canal Modernization Act (Support)
 - H.R. 3171 (Harder), Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025 (Support & Amend)
- Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on three legislative bills: HR 6229, S 2753 and HR 3171. Barajas answered questions from Committee members throughout the presentation.
- M/S - Motion by Member Bill Diedrich, seconded by Alternate Manny Amorelli, the Committee recommended adoption of the staff recommendations for positions on H.R. 6229 (Schrier), S. 2753 (Risch), and H.R. 3171 (Harder). Vote: Ayes - Michael, Hansen, Diedrich, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
6. **Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2027** Barajas
- Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the documents included in the packet. Barajas reviewed the scope of the Policy Framework and reported that staff will implement the Policy Action Plan as part of the Water Authority Policy Framework for FY2027. Barajas explained the rationale behind development of the Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan in connection to the Water Authority's Strategic Plan.
- M/S - Motion by Alternate Manny Amorelli, seconded by Ex-Officio Member Cannon Michael, the Committee recommended adoption of the Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2027. Vote: Ayes - Michael, Hansen, Diedrich, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
7. **Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Fiscal Year 2027 Activity Budget** Barajas
- Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the proposed FY27 Activity Budget material included in the packet. Barajas reviewed the FY26 to FY27 Comparison, FY27 Budget Expenditure Summary, FY26 Projected Actual Summary, and the Proposed FY27 Activity Agreements Budget. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd added additional information regarding the proposed legal budget. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.
- M/S - Motion by Alternate Manny Amorelli, seconded by Ex-Officio Member Cannon Michael, the Committee recommended adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 Activity Budget. Vote: Ayes - Michael, Hansen, Diedrich, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
8. **Executive Director's Report** Barajas
- Fall ACWA Conference** – Executive Director Federico Barajas expressed his appreciation for those that attended the social luncheon at ACWA.
 - O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant Repayment Negotiation** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that formal repayment

contract negotiation with Reclamation will take place this week. Barajas reported that \$11.6 million has already been awarded for the O'Neill Pumping Plant Rehabilitation Project, and an application has been submitted for the balance of funding required to complete the Rehabilitation Project.

- c. **Budget Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there is a Budget Workshop scheduled for next week.
- d. **Operations Update** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the DCI outage is expected to be completed by the end of the week. Arroyave also reported that Hitachi will be coming out to the O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant this week to test the spare transformer to check if foreign material is present.

- 9. **Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities** – Executive Director Federico Barajas provided an update regarding the Action 5 Record of Decision, the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley Collaborative Action Program. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed various comment opportunities for ESA regulations, WOTUS, and the HRL Phase 2 document. Barajas answered questions throughout the presentation. Barajas
- 10. **Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced consultant Ron Milligan, who provided information regarding CVP supply, reservoir storage, allocations, snowpack, and operations. Milligan and Arroyave answered member questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave, Milligan
- 11. **Committee Member Reports** – Member Bill Diedrich reported that Mike Wade received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as the Executive Director of the California Farm Water Coalition (CFWC) since 1998 from ACWA. Diedrich also reported that Wade is retiring in February, and the CFWC hired Michelle Paul as their new Executive Director.
- 12. **Agenda Items 12-14: Closed Session** – Acting Chair Anthea Hansen adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:19 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:44 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session. Akroyd
- 13. **Agenda Item 15: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.
- 14. **Agenda Item 16: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.



Official Memorandum

PO Box 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635
sldmwa.org

To: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates
From: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Date: February 2, 2026
RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

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 14181¹, 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 Decision² 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,

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

² 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.³ 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.

³ 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 resolution⁴ 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)⁵ 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 comments⁶ 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 comments⁷.

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 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

⁴ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

⁵ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf

⁶ Request from Authority staff

⁷ Request from Authority staff



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 comments⁸ 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.

Delta Conveyance Project

Petition for Change of Point of Diversion and Rediversion for the Delta Conveyance Project

The State Water Resources Control Board Administrative Hearings Office is holding a Public Hearing on the pending Petitions for Change of Water Right Permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, and 17512, respectively) of the Department of Water Resources.

⁸ Request from Water Authority staff.



The evidentiary hearings before the AHO continue and staff will update on issues associated with the DCP as they develop.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

Draft Policy

- There are currently no draft Policies out for review.

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 for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint) is a non-profit group of stakeholders, working to better understand our shared goals for water solutions that support environmental stewardship with the needs of communities and industries throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

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."*

Water Blueprint Board Meeting

The January meeting covered the latest on the unified water plan, which quantifies these challenges and catalogs potential solutions - establishing the baseline understanding that will guide federal and state funding decisions for our region. The monthly board meeting is open to the public, and interested parties can register through the website.

Top 3 Key Takeaways:

- **Unified Water Plan Making Significant Progress with Tight Timeline:** The Water Blueprint's unified water plan is moving forward rapidly with chapters 1-5 already reviewed and/or distributed 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.
- **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.

Additional Takeaways:

- **GSA Project Lists Need Updating:** Analysis of Groundwater Sustainability Plans revealed that less than half of the 800+ identified projects have both cost and yield information, necessitating outreach to GSA points of contact for more accurate data.
- **Multiple Funding Sources Needed:** Projects will require diverse funding streams including flood control, environmental restoration, and water supply funding to address the multi-benefit nature of proposed solutions.
- **Water District Partnership Expanding:** Blueprint is deepening its relationship with water districts outside the Central Valley. These growing partnerships can create significant opportunities for Valley water interests to tackle water banking and supply management.

Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley

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.

Authority staff continues to recommend that Authority member agencies increase their engagement with the Blueprint Technical Committee to ensure accuracy and support of the work product being developed for the westside of the San Joaquin Valley.

Chapter 5 of the Plan is now out for review and comment.



San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJV CAP)

Background

The CAP Plenary Group adopted work groups to implement the CAP Term Sheet⁹, 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 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.

On a parallel track, the subgroup recommends that each caucus develop up to three top-priority actions that will advance the outcomes of the Term Sheet.

⁹ Request from Authority staff