



Official Memorandum

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To: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

From: Scott Petersen, Chief Strategic and Administrative Officer

Date: August 3, 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 (ROD) on Long-Term Operations (LTO) of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP)

Green Sturgeon Incidental Take and Reinitiation of Consultation

As of June 13, 2 Green Sturgeon were salvaged at the CVP and 4 were salvaged at the SWP facilities. This results in a WY2026 cumulative expanded salvage of 15 fish (annual expanded salvage threshold = 14 fish), which exceeds the incidental take statement in the 2024 NMFS Biological Opinion of 14 fish per water year. Juvenile Green Sturgeon are typically in the Delta year-round and salvaged at low levels. The cumulative salvage ITL threshold resets on September 30, 2026.

A green sturgeon assessment² was prepared by Reclamation and presented to the Fish and Water Operations Group.

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

² Request from Authority staff



Juvenile production appears to be higher than other recent years. The zone of influence from export pumping is currently small. Juvenile Green Sturgeon are likely to move volitionally; therefore, exports are unlikely to affect migratory behaviors. Salvage effects are non-lethal and fish are released. Detections of Green Sturgeon in salvage are potentially due to higher juvenile production and hypothesized environmental conditions affecting migration behavior. No information suggests salvage poses additional risks to the population than considered in the 2025 Record of Decision.

Reclamation has reinitiated consultation and is currently working with National Marine Fisheries Service on a path forward.

LTO Record of Decision

On December 4, 2025, Reclamation executed a Record of Decision³ 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,
- (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.

Trinity River Endangered Species Act Consultation

On June 5, Reclamation transmitted a Cooperating Agency draft Supplemental EIS for the 2021 Reinitiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project – Trinity River Division (TRD). The Water Authority submitted comments in coordination with member agencies.

³ https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=54661



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.⁴ 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.

Phase 1 Status – San Joaquin River and its Tributaries

The State Water Board adopted a resolution⁵ 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)⁶ 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 comments⁷ 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](#)

⁴ Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

⁵ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

⁶ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf

⁷ Request from Authority staff



[Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement](#) Proposal (Draft TVA Scientific Basis Report), to which the Water Authority provided comments⁸.

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 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](#).

⁸ Request from Authority staff



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 comments⁹ 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.

Tribal Beneficial Use Guidance

On June 17, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued a notice inviting participation in the review of the [Draft Guidance on Designating Tribal Beneficial Uses \(TBUs\)](#).

The newly released *Draft Guidance on Designating Tribal Beneficial Uses* explains the history of Tribal Beneficial Uses, what TBUs are, how TBUs are designated into water quality control plans, and how to engage in the process.

The State Water Board is currently seeking feedback on the Draft Guidance. Here are ways to engage:

- Review the Draft Guidance
- Submit Written Comments
- Participate in the State Water Board Workshop

Submit Written Comments

All written comments must be submitted by **12:00pm (noon) on August 31, 2026**. Comments received after this time and date may not be considered.

Please email your written comments to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov and include “**Comment Letter: TBU Guidance Document**” in the subject line.

San Joaquin River Restoration Program

Restoration Allocation

On May 15, Reclamation issued an update to the 2026 Restoration Allocation and Default Flow Schedule¹⁰. 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 281,739 acre-feet at Gravelly Ford and is a Normal-Dry year type**.

⁹ Request from Water Authority staff.

¹⁰ Request from Water Authority staff.



The Restoration Administrator recommended a flow schedule¹¹ on May 4, 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/>.

Delta Conveyance Project

Army Corps Record of Decision for Delta Conveyance Project

On July 8, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, announced that it finalized its [Record of Decision \(ROD\)](#) for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project, completing the agency's programmatic environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. The decision concludes one phase of the federal review process and allows USACE to begin evaluating future permit applications for project components within its jurisdiction.

Since 2020, the California Department of Water Resources has sought approval from USACE to construct elements for the Delta Conveyance Project, a component of the State Water Project. The Record of Decision documents USACE's evaluation of the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and informs future permit decisions under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

For more information regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District's regulatory program and its role in the Delta Conveyance Project review, please visit <https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/>

Delta Plan Certification of Consistency

In response to the Delta Stewardship Council's determination on April 23, 2026, which dismissed or denied the vast majority of appeals and directed a limited remand to DWR on two policy areas, DWR submitted the [Delta Conveyance Project Revised Certification of Consistency](#) with the Delta Plan on Remanded Items on July 24, 2026. Remands are a standard part of the Delta Reform Act's Certification of Consistency and appeals process and provide an opportunity to supplement or clarify portions of the record to address the findings in the remand.

The revised certification demonstrates for Delta Plan Policy ER P5, DWR describes its attempts to fully consider and avoid or mitigate the potential for DCP facilities to improve habitat conditions for the nonnative invasive golden mussel; and how, for Delta Plan Policy DP P2, DWR considered and avoided or reduced conflicts between the siting of the Delta Conveyance Project's Twin Cities Complex and Sac Sewer's Harvest Water when feasible. With respect to the remanded items, DWR has determined that the covered action is consistent with ER P5 and DP P2.

¹¹ Attached



According to Delta Stewardship Council regulations, materials relevant to this certification will be posted on their website (<https://coveredactions.deltacouncil.ca.gov>), if the Certification is appealed, an appeal hearing will be held by the Council followed by the issuance of a determination on the appeal.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

- No Documents out for Comment

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."

Strategic Planning

September 16, 2026, is the date for board strategic planning following completion of the United Water Plan, noting that the current plan runs through 2026. The planning session will focus on the importance of defining the scope of future organizational activities—including legislative advocacy, policy, communications—and engaging the board early to help shape direction for 2026 and beyond.

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.

The Blueprint has been invited to participate in the California Water Plan (CWP) Adaptation Strategies Test of Concept (ToC), working alongside the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff. Senate Bill (SB) 72 directs DWR to identify and evaluate effective water management climate adaptation strategies to help meet water supply targets, and to include those adaptation strategies in the CWP. Regional adaptation strategies will be formulated and evaluated throughout California for CWP 2033. This will require an integrated planning, technical evaluation, and engagement approach that will be repeated throughout the state. DWR intends to test the process for developing and evaluating adaptation strategies and engaging with regional partners in single study area. This "Test of Concept" (or ToC) will include planning, technical evaluations, and engagement activities. Regional engagement is needed to groundtruth technical results, collaborate in the planning process, assist in the interpretation of data and preliminary findings, and increase

regional awareness and buy-in. Lessons learned from the ToC will help refine the process to then be applied statewide.

Groundwater Banking Study with Metropolitan Water District – Status and Next Steps

The groundwater banking study with Metropolitan Water District (Met) is progressing toward implementation, with a targeted kickoff in mid-July that aligns well with the anticipated completion of the UWP work. Met has previously reviewed and approved the scope of work and budget submitted last summer. The goal is to finalize the updated task order and complete execution by the end of the month to maintain schedule alignment. Next steps include confirming the Blueprint participants who should attend the kickoff meeting, coordinating availability with Met, and completing the final contract/task order updates. Once executed, the team can proceed with the mid-July kickoff and initiate the groundwater banking study effort.

California Gubernatorial Priorities Letter

A draft letter¹² from the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley presents a proposed two-term water agenda for a new California administration focused on improving water reliability, quality, ecosystem health, and flood resilience. It identifies a structural water supply shortfall in the San Joaquin Valley of approximately 2.5 million acre-feet annually, threatening rural communities, agriculture, jobs, and the environment. The letter advocates a coordinated Unified Water Plan that integrates local groundwater sustainability efforts with regional infrastructure, conveyance improvements, recharge, conservation, and environmental restoration.

The recommendations include improving drinking water reliability for disadvantaged communities, restoring capacity in major conveyance systems such as the California Aqueduct, Delta-Mendota Canal, and Friant-Kern Canal, supporting local groundwater recharge and demand reduction projects, and developing large-scale infrastructure to increase water supplies and storage. The plan also proposes flood reduction measures, habitat restoration, farmland repurposing strategies, and economic transition support for communities impacted by water shortages.

The letter concludes by urging stronger state leadership, coordinated agency action, sustainable water funding, streamlined permitting, science-based decision-making, and accountability measures. It argues that investments in Valley water infrastructure and management would not only benefit the San Joaquin Valley but also improve statewide water resilience, including drought protection and supply reliability for Southern California.

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. The San Joaquin Valley has a massive water supply gap at 2.5-3 million acre-feet by 2040, incorporating SGMA compliance needs, climate change impacts, and environmental flow requirements. A full administrative draft is now available.

The Unified Valley Water Plan Shows a Massive Water Supply Gap —Even under the most optimistic scenario — combining restored canal capacity, local recharge projects, and increased Delta access — the gap cannot

¹² Request from Authority staff



be fully closed. Best-case projections still leave ~0.5–0.9 million acre-feet unmet and 200,000– 400,000 acres needing to be repurposed, at a total infrastructure cost of \$13–20 billion.

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 Sheet¹³, 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.

Updates

On Friday, May 29, the CAP released its “Vision for the San Joaquin Valley”¹⁴, detailing desired outcomes, investment strategies, and policy reforms needed to transition the region toward sustainable water management for people, agriculture, and the environment.

¹³ Request from Authority staff

¹⁴ Request from Authority staff



ATTACHMENTS



Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley



California Water
Institute



Blueprint Board Meeting

July 15, 2026

Unified Water Plan was Authorized in PL 111-11 (2009)

- Reclamation provided funding to the California Water Institute (CWI) to prepare a Unified Water Plan.
- Study the coordination and integration of sub-regional integrated regional water management plans into a unified Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.
- Address water supply, water conveyance, water reliability, water quality, conservation and efficiency, flood control, environmental enhancement, and population growth.



A lot has changed in the San Joaquin Valley since 2009

UWP Engagement 2024 - 2026

➤ **Blueprint Meetings**

- Dozens of Technical Work Group meetings
- 10+ Board Meetings

➤ **Coordination with Other Entities**

- SJV Collaborative Action Program Plenary Group
- Numerous Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
- South Valley Water Resources Authority
- Great Valley Farm Water Partnership
- Department of Water Resources
- 2025 ACWA Fall Conference - Region 6/7
- 2026 Dairy Sustainability Summit
- 2026 SJV Water Resilience Summit

The UWP Was Developed In Stages

Document	Title	Status
Chapter 1	Introduction	Draft chapters released for review September 2025 through May 2026.
Chapter 2	Water Supply Problems, Needs, and Opportunities	
Chapter 3	Flood Management	
Chapter 4	Ecosystem Enhancement	
Chapter 5	Potential Projects and Actions	
Chapter 6	Advancing Potential Solutions	
Chapter 7	References	
Draft Report	Draft Unified Water Plan for The San Joaquin Valley	Released for review in June 2026. Comments received through July 12, 2026.
Final Report	Unified Water Plan for The San Joaquin Valley	Making final edits. Release before end of July 2026.

Document Review Statistics

30+ **Unique Commentors**

- Blueprint Member Agencies
- DWR; Counties; CAP; NGOs
- Individual contributors; Consultants

350+ **Comments on Chapter Content**

- Revised chapter content
- Updated technical analyses
- Revisions reflected in other chapters as applicable

75+ **Comments on Draft UWP**

- Revised document content
- Back-checked revisions with CWI and Blueprint staff

How Large is the Water Supply-Demand Gap?

Changes in Supply by 2040

- Overdraft as reported in GSPs
- Full SJRRP implementation
- Climate change effects on water supply availability
- Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Changes in Demand by 2040

- Groundwater replenishment
- Incremental Level 4 Refuge demand
- Climate change effects on evapotranspiration

Estimated supply - demand gap about 2.4 million acre-feet / yr

The UWP Identified Over 800 Projects

Sub-basin Specific (Local) Projects, and Supply / Demand Projections:

Over 80 GSAs

- Estimated water needs
- Collaborated on projects and actions



42 GSPs

- Quantify supply and demand
- Identify about 800 projects and actions



16 Sub-basins

- Supply and demand gaps
- Basin-specific projects and actions

Regional Projects that Benefit Multiple Sub-basins:

GSPs

+

Other Sources

+

**Blueprint
Concepts**

The UWP Considers A Wide Range of Solutions

Scenario 1



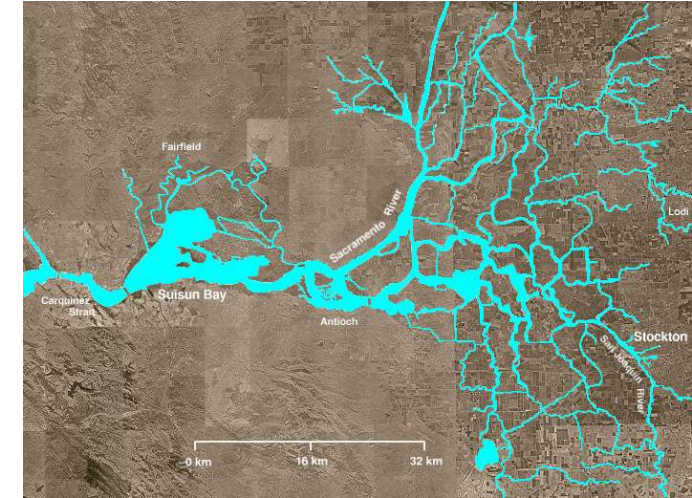
**Restore Existing
Infrastructure**

Scenario 2



**Improve
Management of
In-Valley Supplies**

Scenario 3

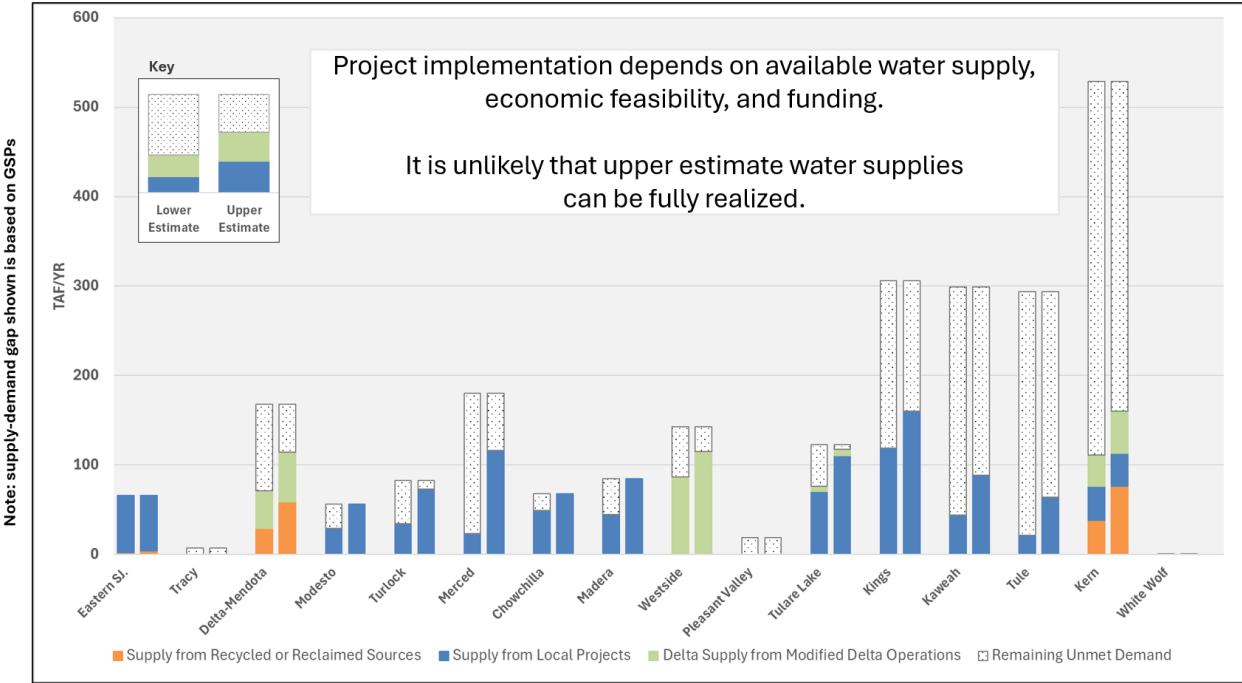


**Increase Access
to Delta Water
Supplies**

Scenario Performance and Costs Evaluated using Blueprint Tools

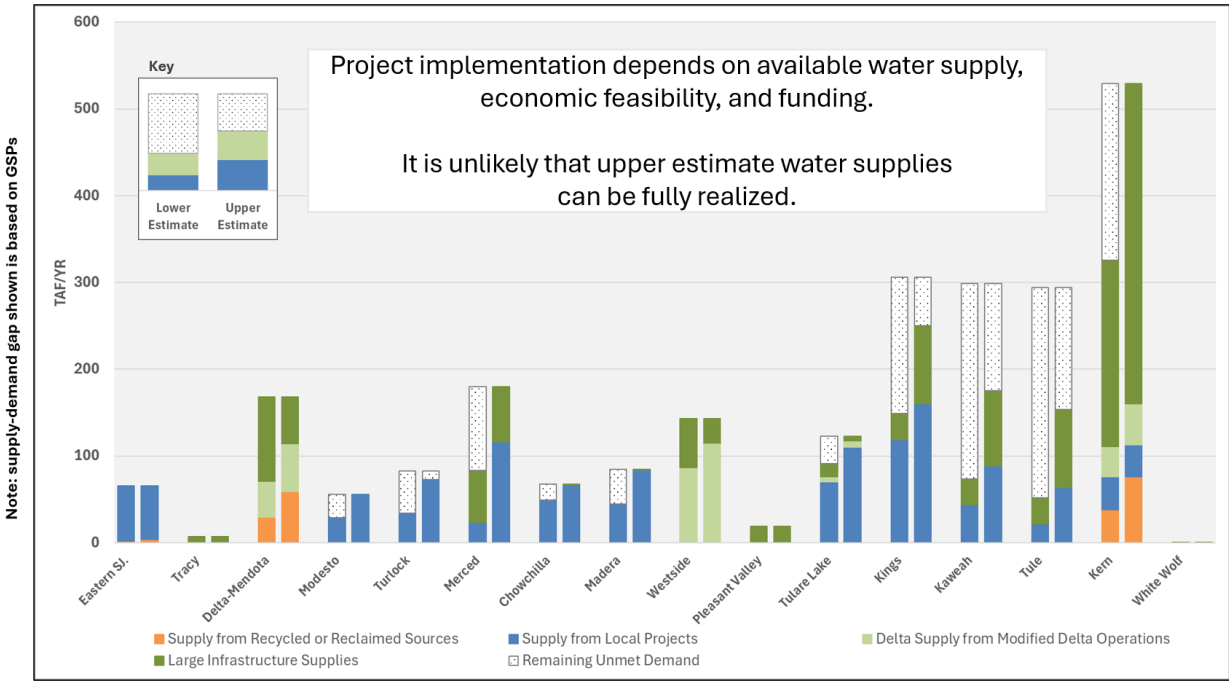
The UWP Presents Potential Water Supply Benefits

Scenario 2



**Improve Management of
In-Valley Supplies**

Scenario 3



**Increase Access to Delta
Supplies**

Results of Scenario Evaluations

Project Types	Average Annual Potential Water Supply (TAF/YR)	Water Supply Project Capital Cost (\$ billion)	Remaining Water Supply-Demand Gap (TAF/YR)	Agricultural Acreage Subject to Repurposing (1,000 acres)	Land Repurposing Capital Cost (\$ billion)	Total Capital Cost (\$ billion)
Projects in Scenario 1	Baseline Restoration	\$7.2	2,400	Up to 1,000	\$38	\$45
Projects in Scenario 1 + 2	800 – 1,300	\$10 - \$13	1,100 – 1,700	400 - 590	\$15 - \$22	\$25 - \$35
Projects in Scenario 1 + 2 + 3	1,400 – 2,100	\$13 – \$18	300 – 1,100	120 - 400	\$5 – \$15	\$18 - \$33

Key Findings

~\$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.

1.1 – 1.7 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. Delta supplies delivered to existing rights and contract holders first.

Infrastructure investments up to ~\$18B are needed

Affordability will constrain project implementation. State and Federal funding, and partnerships with urban entities are needed. These investments do not include those necessary for land repurposing.

With maximum implementation, up to 400,000 ac at risk

Farmland conversion will be necessary. It should be strategically planned to provide environmental, community and economic outcomes.

Key Recommendations

- Restore conveyance project capacities to avoid losses.
- Implement non-structural actions in the SJV and Delta.
- Accelerate shovel-readiness of projects.
- Modify flood diversion regulations.
- Modify Delta export regulations.
- Develop non-traditional and annual funding mechanisms.
- Invest in regional / statewide projects and leverage regional partnerships.
- Develop watershed strategy for water supply, rights, and land conversion.
- Prepare regular UWP updates
- Tell the San Joaquin Valley “story”



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Thank You

*Provide inquiries and comments to:
cwi@mail.fresnostate.edu*



Technical Committee Meeting

Agenda

1:30 pm July 31, 2026

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Attendees
3. Minutes of 6/26/26
4. Technical Committee Charter
5. Review Framework for Advancing Projects (see attachment)
 - a. Motion to approve
 - b. Review elements of the Blueprint Water Plan (Appendix A)
6. Portfolio of In-Valley Projects (see attachment)
 - a. Review draft - Project Identification
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

Water Blueprint

for the San Joaquin Valley

Water Blueprint Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2026

The meeting began at 1:30 pm with self introductions.

Participants: Scott Hamilton, Jase Trovao, Matt Hurley, Gene Kilgore, Rick Iger, Brandon Tomlinson, Jorene Downs, Steve Chedester, Priscilla Rodriguez, Larry Rodriguez, Johnny Gailey, Aaron Fukuda, Michael Cooke, Deanna Jackson, Steve Blumenshine

Review of the Draft Charter: Scott Hamilton reviewed the charter - the governance document - for The Technical Committee with the attendees. The mission and objectives of the Committee are intended to align with the Water Blueprint's mission, vision, and strategic plan to advance organizational goals. The Committee's proposed primary role is to provide accurate, unbiased technical information and recommendations to the Water Blueprint Board.

Membership would consist of voting and advisory roles, with a quorum of 50% of voting members required to advance actions and recommendations. Voting rights will be suspended for members missing three consecutive meetings, to allow for a smaller quorum and quicker approvals for next steps. Members would be expected to attend meetings, review materials, assist in developing technical products, and provide input. Subbasins are invited to appoint a voting member to the committee. Other voting members can be nominated by a Blueprint board member, the chair, a GSA, water district, or academic institution, with final appointments made by the board.

Recommendations to the Board from the committee would be made by unanimous consent, when possible. If unanimous consent cannot be reached, it is proposed that Committee action be based on a majority of voting members present, with minority perspectives preserved and reported to the Board.

A motion was made to formally approve the draft charter for the Technical Committee and to transmit the charter to the Blueprint Board for their consideration. Motion by Johnny Gailey. Seconded by Rick Iger. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. **MOTION PASSED**

Meeting Notes

Review Framework for Advancing Projects: Scott Hamilton presented a draft framework for advancing Blueprint projects to the Committee for discussion. The intent of the framework is to provide a structure for initiating and developing projects in an effective and efficient manner that aligns with the priorities of the Blueprint Board and to assure Board approval of project development. The proposed framework consists of six stages: project initiation, identification & assessment of alternatives, alternative selection, project planning, project development, and project operation. At the end of each stage it is proposed that the Blueprint Board and/or stakeholders would review and approve the work presented before work would commence on the next stage.

Likely, the Technical Committee will focus on the first 3 stages of the framework. More complex and expensive projects may then be transferred to a stakeholder process where a joint powers authority or other management entity will take over funding, management, construction, and operation. The framework is intended to be flexible and adaptable based on the needs of the project.

A discussion followed concerning the Water Blueprint's bandwidth and the need for coordination with other organizations that are developing project information.

Portfolio of In-Valley Projects:

Scott Hamilton suggested that the immediate work for the Technical Committee might be to advance the Unified Water Plan, specifically to support GSA's in implementing projects identified in their GSPs, but pending confirmation by the Water Blueprint Board, who are planning a strategy session in September 2026.

The meeting was adjourned around 3:05 pm

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

Charter for the Technical Committee

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

Blueprint Vision Statement: The Water Blueprint serves as the united voice to champion water resource policies and projects to maximize accessible, affordable, and reliable supplies for sustainable and productive farms and ranches, healthy communities, and thriving ecosystems in the San Joaquin Valley.

Blueprint Education Fund: The Water Blueprint Education Fund exists to advance education and scientific understanding of water resources in the San Joaquin Valley to promote informed decision making by legislative bodies, state and federal agencies, public water agencies and landowners on matters related to water supply.

Technical Committee Overview and Purpose

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint) Education Fund Technical Work Committee (Technical Committee) is appointed and charged with providing recommendations to the Blueprint Board regarding technical matters relevant to advancing the Blueprint's mission, vision and strategic plan, and responding to requests from the Board. The scope of such technical matters may include but is not limited to analysis, planning and report preparation for: water supply and demands, water conveyance, regulations related to water supplies including SGMA, water quality, environmental planning, water needs for disadvantaged communities, water storage and groundwater recharge.

The Technical Committee shall endeavor to provide accurate, unbiased technical information and reports to the Blueprint Board based on the best available information. It is understood that political considerations will be addressed by the Blueprint Board and not filtered by the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee's actions will be consistent with the Blueprint mission and strategic plan.

Technical Committee Membership

The Technical Committee shall consist of two membership types: voting members and advisory members. There shall be at least five voting members in addition to the Chair and Vice-chair. Each subbasin that has a financial contributor to the Blueprint is entitled to, but is not required to have a voting member on the Technical Committee. Additional Technical Committee voting members may be nominated by a Blueprint Board member, Technical Committee Chairman, GSA, water district or academic institution and appointed by a vote of the Blueprint Board with consideration given to area of expertise and relevant experience.

A quorum for a meeting shall be 50% of the voting members. For the sake of maintaining a quorum, if a voting member misses three consecutive meetings, that committee member shall not be considered a “voting member” until he/she attends a Technical Committee Meeting.

Advisory membership is open to all Blueprint contributors. The Technical Committee Chair may also accept advisory members. All meetings will be open to the public.

The Technical Committee Chair and Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Blueprint Board President for a two-year term and shall be voting members. Committee voting members shall be appointed for a one-year term or until the Blueprint Board appoints a new Committee.

Member Roles and Responsibilities

Technical Committee members are expected to regularly attend Technical Committee meetings in order for the Technical Committee to function effectively. If a voting member of the Technical Committee fails to regularly attend Technical Committee meetings, the Technical Committee chairperson may recommend to the Blueprint Board President the replacement of that member.

Members are expected to actively engage in the Technical Committee’s activities, including, but not limited to:

- attend meetings and providing input,
- review meeting materials prior to meetings to ensure efficient meeting processes,
- assist in developing Technical Committee products such as white papers, reports, and other documents, and
- act as a liaison between the Technical Committee’s and their represented communities and organizations they represent, if appropriate.

Meetings

- Regular Technical Committee meetings shall be held monthly, as necessary.
- The Technical Committee shall maintain the minutes of the meeting and report regularly to the Board of Directors.

Time Commitment

- The Technical Committee members should plan on attending a minimum of one, one-hour meeting on a monthly basis. Technical Committee meetings shall be held more frequently, as needed.

General Principles of Collaboration

The following general operating principles are established to guide the Technical Committee’s deliberations:

- The Technical Committee’s purpose will be best achieved by relationships among the members characterized by mutual trust, respect, responsiveness, flexibility, and open communication.
- It is the responsibility of all members to work toward the Blueprint’s vision.

- To that end, members will:
 - commit to carrying out the Technical Committee's Work plan,
 - be prepared to listen intently to the concerns of others and identify the interests represented,
 - ask questions and seek clarification to ensure they fully understand other's interests, concerns and comments,
 - regard disagreements as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won, and
 - be prepared to develop creative solutions to address the many interests that will be raised throughout the Technical Committee's deliberations.

Technical Committee members are expected to work to find common ground on issues and strive to seek consensus on all key issues while seeking to understand opposing views.

Options for level of agreement:

- Unanimous consent – no opposition
- Split vote - If a voting member opposes an action recommendation, the Technical Committee will continue to discuss the issues to see if the action can be modified in a manner that the opposition can support moving forward.
- In situations where there are strongly divergent views, and agreement cannot be achieved, the Technical Committee, by majority vote of the voting members present, may determine to move forward with a recommendation to the Blueprint Board that includes a description of the issue and the different perspectives. Minority views of voting members will be included in the meeting notes.



Framework for Advancing Projects

Recommendation

The Water Blueprint Board adopt and adapt the framework, outlined below, for advancing projects for the Water and Environmental Plan for the San Joaquin Valley

Background

Stantec's work on the Unified water plan provided a great foundation for developing a path forward for addressing the Valley's water issues. However, the candidate projects are in various states of development with some being highly developed and others still being conceptual. Consequently, many projects are missing critical information preventing a rigorous evaluation. Additionally, the combined set of projects does not close the projected water supply-demand gap in the Valley, even under the best-case scenario.

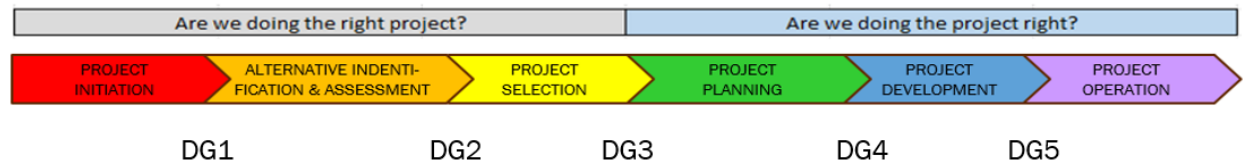
Presented here is a framework for moving projects from their current state through to construction and operation, subject to approval of the necessary decision-making authorities along the way, in six stages, labelled here: 1) identify, 2) assess, 3) select, 4) define, 5) execute, and 6) operate. The first three stages are intended to make sure we are doing the right project. The second three stages are intended to ensure we are doing the project right. While this framework is based on proven project management techniques, it is not intended to be rigid. Rather, it is suggested that the Blueprint adopt the framework and adapt it as necessary, depending on the project under consideration.

For the bigger construction projects, it is possible, maybe likely, that the project may pass at the end of stage 3 from the Blueprint to a group of stakeholders with a vested interest in seeing the project completed. That group may well form their own independent, legal entity to define, build and operate the project (see Figure 1).

At the end of each stage, a decision-making authority will evaluate the work performed. For the first three stages it is proposed that the Blueprint Board be that authority. At the end of each stage, the authority can determine that a) the work presented is acceptable and the

project can proceed to the next stage, b) elements of the work are unacceptable and need to be revised, or c) the project itself no longer seems feasible and should be terminated.

Framework for Advancing Projects from Concept to Operations



Project Initiation – Envision/specify Success

Initiate Project. Tasks: Specify SMART (specific, measurable, aligned, realistic, time bound) objectives (what does success look like, how will it be measured?). Identify jurisdictional decision makers, stakeholders, possible leaders, partners & Blueprint role. Develop collective agreement on what is to be achieved with each project. Make the business case for the project – why is the project worth doing. [Who is the client – Blueprint Board or stakeholders? How are stakeholders represented?]

Board Decision: Do we have a provocative business case for why this project is worth doing? Do we have a clear understanding of what success looks like? Do we know how success will be measured? Do we know the Blueprint’s role in the project?

Identification and Assessment of Alternatives

Demonstrate high-level feasibility of the Project. Tasks: Identify and understand a comprehensive range of alternatives along with their risks and uncertainties: technical, economic, environmental, legal, organizational, political. Develop and document estimates of key metrics for each alternative. Identify the biggest challenges/risks to success and opportunities for addressing them.

Board Decision: Have a comprehensive range of alternatives been identified? Have the benefits, costs and risks of the alternatives been adequately quantified and identified to the Board’s satisfaction?

Project Selection

Select the best concept solution. Tasks: Given the alternatives and the advantages and disadvantages of each, what appears to be the best option for achieving project objectives. Explain why.

Board Decision: Given the alternatives and the advantages and disadvantages of each, what appears to be the best option for achieving project objectives?

Project Planning

Specify the solution. Tasks: Conduct feasibility-level investigation for technical, environmental, political, legal/regulatory, funding and organizational components. Assign leadership responsibility. Design the project. Define scope, cost, schedule and risks. Identify all the resources needed. Is the selected alternative still feasible and is it still the best alternative? Develop PR/outreach program if appropriate.

Board/Authority Decision: Has the solution been adequately specified? Are preliminary designs appropriate to achieve project objectives? Have the scope, cost, other resources, schedule and risks been identified and are those acceptable to the Board/stakeholders? Does this project still seem the best, or is there a need to go back to stage 3?

Project Development

Deliver the promise. Tasks: Establish organizational/governance structure. Assign responsibilities. Obtain permits/agreements. Obtain financing. Implement (build) and monitor (quality assurance) the work program and adjust as necessary.

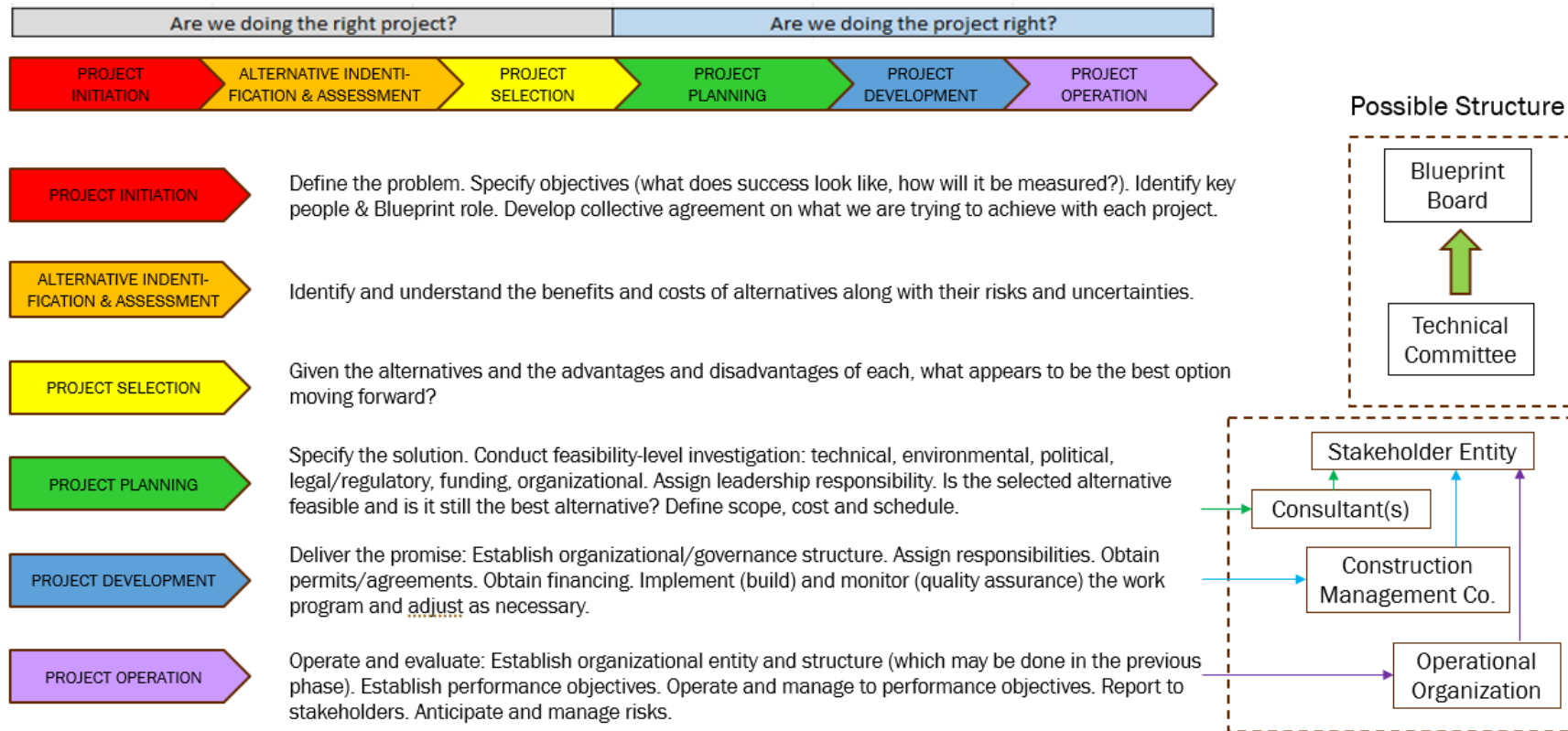
Board/Authority Decision: Has the project been built to a standard that should meet or exceed project objectives? If not, are project modifications feasible?

Project Operation

Operate and perform. Tasks: Establish organizational entity and structure (which may be done in the previous stage). Establish performance objectives and monitoring program. Operate and manage to achieve performance objectives. Report to stakeholders. Anticipate and manage risks.

Board/Authority Decision: Is the project operating to specified performance metrics. Are stakeholders being informed of project performance? Are options available for increasing project performance?

Figure 1. Framework for advancing projects together with key contributors to each phase identified.



APPENDIX A

Water and Environmental Plan Projects

Color codes: Technical Committee Lead Other Blueprint Committee Lead Other Entity Leading	
1	Drinking Water Portfolio: Water Reliability for Rural Communities 1a <i>[Coordinate with SHE to develop candidate projects]</i>
2	Conveyance Portfolio: Restoration of conveyance capacity in the major canals in the Valley (Scenario 1) 2a Arrest subsidence on the California Aqueduct/San Luis Canal 2b Correct subsidence on the California Aqueduct/San Luis Canal 2c Arrest subsidence on the Friant-Kern Canal 2d Correct subsidence on the Friant-Kern Canal 2e Arrest subsidence on the DMC 2f Correct subsidence on the DMC 2g Establish a channel maintenance program in the south Delta
3	In-Valley Projects Portfolio: Implementation of local water projects (Scenario 2) to provide the Valley with 1.2 maf/year Blueprint could: 3a Coordinate with subbasins to understand local projects and needs 3b Coordinate with Friant to advance recirculation of SJRRP water 3c Identify and share templates of successful projects 3d Identify and advance proven practices for recharging high flow water without restructuring water rights* 3e Identify ineffective Delta regulations limiting water supply and propose more effective alternatives* 3f Develop funding and other programs to meet needs to advance local projects*
4	Water Infrastructure Portfolio: Development of water infrastructure (Scenario 3) to provide the Valley with 1.3 maf/year 4a Delta Infiltration Galleries 4b Reduction of salinity intrusion into the Delta* 4c Cross-Channel Infiltration Gallery 4d Trans Valley Canal*

	4e	Mendota Pool distribution system*
	4f	SLR Raise
5	Drought Contingency Portfolio:	
	5a	Sites Reservoir
	5b	Shasta Enlargement
	5c	Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project
	5d	California Aqueduct Pump back
	5e	DMC Pump back
	5f	Groundwater Banking Projects*
6	Flood Contingency Portfolio: Reduction in flood flows	
	6a	Enlargement of Paradise Cut*
	6b	Transitional Storage*
	6c	Increase groundwater storage capacity
	6d	Expand floodplains
7	Environmental Restoration Portfolio: Environmental Restoration and Protection	
	7a	Restore and protect 60,000 acres of floodplain habitat
	7b	Restore and protect 80,000 acres of grassland habitat
	7c	Restore and protect 18,000 acres of riparian habitat
	7c	Restore and protect 120,000 acres of scrub and saltbush habitat
	7d	Restore and protect 50,000 acres of seasonal wetland habitat
	7e	Restore and protect 8,000 acres of aquatic and permanent wetland habitat.
	7f	Healthy Rivers and Landscapes
	7g	Relax take provisions when sufficient habitat has been secured to ensure protection of the listed species
	7h	Streamline permitting to advance restoration and protection of historic ecosystems.
8	Government Effectiveness Portfolio: Responsible Governance & Performance Accountability	
	8a	Sustainable funding for water projects and environmental restoration
	8b	Effective and efficient governance, including: Unified, cooperative government agencies committed to achieving state and federal policies Streamlined permitting and regulatory accountability Regular, transparent reporting of progress towards water management and environmental objectives Pathways for impediments to progress be identified and resolved.

* A task force may be a good option for advancing this project

Suggested Technical Committee Prioritization:

1. In-Valley Projects Portfolio
2. Water Infrastructure Portfolio
3. Drought Contingency Portfolio
4. Flood Contingency Portfolio
5. Environmental Restoration Portfolio

Leaving others to take the lead on

- Drinking Water Portfolio
- Conveyance Portfolio
- Government Effectiveness Portfolio:

PORTFOLIO OF IN-VALLEY PROJECTS

OVERVIEW

Problem definition

The California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted in 2014. Achievement of sustainable groundwater management in the San Joaquin Valley will require significant reductions in groundwater use. Severe social and economic hardship is likely to result unless additional water supplies can be developed. Preliminary modeling suggests that in-Valley water supplies might be increased by 1.2 maf through the development of projects identified in groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs).

A. COORDINATE WITH SUBBASINS TO UNDERSTAND LOCAL PROJECTS AND NEEDS

PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION

Problem definition

Methods used to develop yield and cost estimates in GSPs varied by subbasin and project. A review of yields and costs is needed to provide improved estimates of a) the possible increase in supply from implementing the Critical GSP Projects and b) the amount of money needed to implement those projects.

Objectives

1. To work with local entities to help identify, develop and implement projects included in GSPs to provide the Valley with 1.2 maf/year (the “Critical GSP Projects”)
2. To estimate the amount of money needed to implement the Critical GSP Projects and develop a funding plan to facilitate implementation.

Metrics

Water supply improvements: average annual increase in water supply by subbasin in thousands of acre feet per year (taf/yr).

Investment: Amount of money needed to implement the Critical GSP Projects in millions of dollars (\$ mill).

Leaders

- Subbasin Points of Contact (POC)
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Partners

- DWR

Blueprint Role

The Blueprint defers to the local entities regarding prioritization of local project development. The role of the Blueprint is to act as a catalyst and provide support services to help develop local projects and increase water supplies from In-Valley Projects as quickly as possible.

Support services could include Delta flow modeling and Valley rivers flow modeling.

B. COORDINATE WITH FRIANT TO ADVANCE RECIRCULATION OF SJRRP WATER

PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION

Problem definition:

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) allows the Friant Division to recapture releases from Friant Dam for the SJRRP once the flows have passed the confluence with the Merced River. The required releases from Friant Dam vary by month and water year type. Patterson Irrigation District is finalizing the construction of an East-West Conveyance facility that could, among other things, recirculate some of the required releases. The recaptured water is referred to here as “Recirculation Water”. Other potential options exist for conveying recirculation water from the San Joaquin River to the Delta-Mendota Canal. Unused capacity in the Delta Mendota Canal that might be available to convey recirculation water varies by month and year. If capacity in the Delta-Mendota Canal is limiting, there may be capacity available in the California Aqueduct. An estimate of the quantity of water that may be recirculated was developed in the UWP but only at a high level

Objectives

- a) To develop a better estimate of the quantity of SJRRP water that may be recirculated.
- b) To determine the capacity and associated facilities needed to maximize deliveries of Recirculation Water.

Metrics

Potential Quantity of Recirculation Water by month and water-year type (af/month)

Potential Leaders:

USBR

Friant Water Authority

Potential Partners

Patterson Irrigation District – Vince Lucchesi

Banta-Carbona Irrigation District

West Stanislaus Irrigation District

Blueprint Role

Assistance with modelling and analysis as needed – Scott Hamilton

C. IDENTIFY AND SHARE TEMPLATES OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION

Problem definition

The cost and effectiveness of projects can vary due to many factors. Some entities have been very successful at implementing high-performing projects in a cost-effective manner. To help maximize the effectiveness of new projects and reduce costs, it may be beneficial to share information on projects that have worked well. Project types of importance might include:

- a) multi-benefit recharge basins
- b) projects to arrest subsidence
- c) ground water banking projects
- d) groundwater accounting and recharge incentives

Objectives

Identify examples of successful projects, highlight attributes and measures that helped make them successful and distribute that information to entities working on similar projects in the Valley.

Metrics

Number of successful projects identified and disseminated.

Leaders

To be determined

Partners

Technical Committee

Blueprint Role

Identify examples of successful projects, highlight attributes and measures that helped make them successful and distribute that information to entities working on similar projects in the Valley.

D. IDENTIFY AND ADVANCE PROVEN PRACTICES FOR RECHARGING HIGH FLOW WATER WITHOUT RESTRUCTURING WATER RIGHTS

PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION

Problem definition

While substantial quantities of flood water exist periodically in the Valley, the ability to divert and subsequently use diverted flood water has been challenging in many parts of the Valley. Because the major rivers in the San Joaquin Valley are fully appropriated, the ability to obtain new rights to divert flood water requires the State Water Resources Control Board to make a finding that other water rights have been forfeited. That process is time consuming and contentious. A more expeditious means of diverting high flow water is required.

Objectives

- a) To develop and implement an option for water rights holders to work with potential diverters to capture and store high flow water for the benefits of both parties without requiring new water rights and in a manner that enhances Valley-wide management of flood water.
- b) To build additional recharge to capture and additional 15,000 cfs of water that would otherwise have added to flooding in the San Joaquin Valley. (The assumption here is that an investment of this scale will not occur unless the ability to capture floodwater is assured).

Metrics

Rate (in cfs) and/or volume (in taf) managed under new agreements to capture high flow water surplus to downstream and instream flow needs.

Leaders

- River Water Masters
- Kings River Water Authority
- USBR

Partners

- DWR
- SWRCB

Blueprint Role

- Identify leaders on each river system willing to consider achieving the objective.
- Disseminate information on how flood water has been successfully managed without the need to modify water rights.

- Ask river managers to match high flow right holders with potential diverters.
- Develop a template agreement for cooperatively diverting high flow water.
- Work with DWR, CVFPB and river managers to develop a Valley wide coordination system.

E. IDENTIFY INEFFECTIVE DELTA REGULATIONS LIMITING WATER SUPPLY AND PROPOSE MORE EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES

PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION

Problem definition

A number of regulations have been implemented in the Delta to protect endangered species and to meet water quality standards. The effectiveness of these regulations often has either not been assessed, or if assessed, remain uncertain. Modifying or eliminating ineffective regulations can increase water deliveries from the Delta.

Reclamation approved a record of decision titled Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project on December 4, 2025 (2025 LTO ROD). It was implemented in response to Executive Order (EO) 14181 issued by President Trump titled “Emergency Measures To Provide Water Resources In California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas”. The 2025 LTO ROD implements the “Action 5” Operations Plan for the LTO, which modifies previous operations by increasing delivery of water supplies from the Delta to areas in need by increasing storage and conveyance (Reclamation 2025c). It specifically modifies Alternative 2 in the 2024 LTO ROD to be consistent with EO 14181 and ensures that restrictions to water supplies “provide a material benefit to listed species through the use of predictive tools for real-time assessment of environmental conditions.” It is estimated that Action 5 could increase CVP and SWP deliveries by 180 TAF and 220 TAF, respectively (Reclamation 2025c).¹ USBR has proposed an Initiative 6 to improve water exports from the Delta.

Objectives

To restore water exports by 400,000 af per year that were reduced under the 2019 Biological Opinions by eliminating or modifying ineffective regulations in the Delta. Progress to be assessed from modeling analyses. Of the 400 taf/year increase, the Valley’s share is anticipated to be 225 taf/year with roughly one quarter going to SWP contractors and three quarters going to CVP contractors.

Metrics

Projected increases in exports from the Delta in thousands of acre feet per year (taf/year)

Leaders

- Reclamation
- SLDMWA
- SWC

¹ UWP Ch 6.

Partners

To be determined

Blueprint Role

- Assist with modelling and analysis as needed
- Support efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of Delta regulations

F. DEVELOP FUNDING AND OTHER PROGRAMS TO MEET NEEDS TO ADVANCE LOCAL PROJECTS

PHASE 1: IDENTIFICATION

Problem definition

The Valley urgently needs additional water supplies to reduce the severe social and economic impacts that might be experienced from fallowing irrigated farmland. Many beneficial projects were identified in GSPs. Among those, a set of Critical GSP Projects have been identified that could increase water supplies in the Valley by 1.2 maf/year. However, development of these projects has been constrained by a lack of funding.

Objectives

Identify and obtain \$1.5 billion in public funding to advance critical GSP Projects that would combine with \$1.0 billion in local funding to develop the Critical GSP Projects.

Work with other entities to develop a stable long-term mechanism to fund water infrastructure projects

Metrics

Amount of public funds distributed to Critical GSP Projects

Leaders

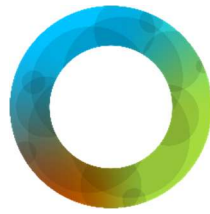
- **Blueprint**
- **DWR**

Partners

- CAP
- ACWA

Blueprint Role

Provide political support and outreach to help obtain \$1.5 billion in public funding to advance Critical GSP Projects.



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER

Collaborative Action Program

Plenary Group Meeting Draft Agenda

July 27, 2026 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Meeting Link:

<https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/81494822999?pwd=YyXaeNw5WhvqgmzZ9XvUAl5lCMzkRXO.1&jst=2>

Meeting ID: 814 9482 2999 **Passcode:** 191312

Tuesday, June 27

Time	Item	Description
3:00	1	Review the Agenda and Additional Items
3:10	2	Review of the CAP 10-15 Year Vision (Attachment A)
3:40	3	Review CAP Workplan for 2026 (Attachment B)
4:00	4	Presentation on the CDFA Regulatory Alignment Study by CDFA
5:00		Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A

Draft Updated CAP 15-Year Vision

- Develop a dedicated water infrastructure fund for California to fund at least \$1B in additional grants for projects per year
 - Similar to the water infrastructure funding program developed in Texas
- Ensure safe drinking water for all Valley communities
 - Support expanding drinking water technical assistance to get more projects to shovel ready
 - Develop metrics to guide community performance to meet a ten-year timeline
 - Develop policy and implement water system regionalization or regional administrative consolidation
 - Modernize State Water Resources Control Board funding processes to support underserved communities
- Ensure drinking water sources are protected from new nitrate contamination through implementation of CV-SALTS and ILRP
 - Ensure that mitigation resources or treatment are available for all homes that cannot be feasibly consolidated into a new or existing system
- Streamline permitting for ecosystem restoration at all state agencies to allow for permits to be approved as quickly as possible while still protecting communities and the environment
 - Identify where we can increase efficiencies and impacts within existing programs
- Modernize and reform State Water Resources Control Board permitting
 -
- Support a land transition with minimal impacts to communities
 - Implement MLRP at scale, of at least 200,000 acres (100,000 habitat, 100,000 solar)
 - Develop workforce transition pathways and policies to preserve the San Joaquin Valley's communities and economy
- Meet obligations to restore habitat in the SJV
 - Fulfil obligations under CVPIA
 - Fully Implement San Joaquin River Restoration
- Maximize groundwater recharge
 - Implement FIRO on major reservoirs to allow for science-based decision making to capture all available water
 - Develop sufficient storage capacity and infrastructure to allow 200,000 acre-feet are recharged on an annual basis, hydrology permitting
 - Modernize and reform State Water Resources Control Board permitting for projects
- Restore and expand conveyance capacity
 - Repair canals impacted by subsidence and limit future subsidence
 - Expand canal infrastructure, as necessary, to support groundwater recharge
 - Modernize and reform State Water Resources Control Board permitting for projects

ATTACHMENT B

SJVWCAP-Wide Work Q3+Q4			
Action	Goal by End of Period	Steps to Achieve this Goal	Leads
Submit project prioritization tool, projects, and report to Bureau of Reclamation	All required information is submitted to the Bureau per the terms of the grant	- Finalize Tool - Finalize Report to BoR - RLF to submit report to BoR with financial information	RLF
Solicit CAP support for an initial suite of projects	CAP supports a suite of projects that can be added to the website that includes projects that meet the need of all caucuses	- Develop a process for CAP to support projects - Inform caucuses of project - Solicit projects through July - Develop recommendations for a list of projects - Publish supported projects by August	Kyle, with project lead support
Finalize a CAP Vision Document for the public	CAP Vision is online and incorporates a 10-15 year vision. CAP Vision is being discussed in philanthropic and transition conversations for the next Administration	- Finalize the 10-15 year goals - Update the CAP Vision document - Get the document designed - Put document online - Advance the CAP vision in	Kyle Sam for design support

		- philanthropic circles - Identify Becerra point and present the CAP vision to Becerra team, consider doing so with Soria and Caballero	
Safe Drinking Water			
Action	Goal by End of Period	Steps to Achieve this Goal	Leads
Advance a Desktop Study on Data Integration for Nitrate Regulatory Program	Report or set of recommendations are developed to integrate data between CV-SALTS and ILRP		Sarah/Jarrett/Josette/Jennifer C.
Protect SAFER Funding	SAFER Funding is protected for 26/27 and funding for future years is secured	Support efforts, led by SDW advocates, to protect SAFER in the GGRF conversations in August	Kyle (CAP in a supporting role here)
Domestic Well Strategy Development	CAP is integrated into existing conversations to develop a domestic well strategy to protect domestic wells and rural schools		Kyle
Advance the Consolidation Recommendations	CAP has commented on the 26/27 IUP and FEP and met with Board staff and members to effectuate improvements to the program	- CAP comments on the IUP - CAP comments on the FEP - Connect with Drinking water advocates on comments - Present testimony at adoption hearings	Kyle

		• Provide feedback to DFA staff • Meet with SWB members, as appropriate with CAP member • Write an oped or other public doc that could be circulated	
Land Repurposing			
Action	Goal by End of Period	Steps to Achieve this Goal	Leads
Provide feedback on MLRP Round 3 Guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the program, including meaningful benefits to communities	CAP feedback is provided to MLRP, resulting in positive changes to the program	• Review Round 3 Guidelines • Develop CAP Comment Letter • Present letter and meet with DoC Staff	EDF?
Develop policy to address workforce challenges with land transition	CAP has developed guidelines and policy recommendations to protect against workforce loss accompanied	•	CCEJN?
Develop best practices on data centers and water use	Develop a document with best practices that has been approved by the CAP caucuses	•	EDF
SGMA Implementation			
Utilize the Kaweah Economic Study to	Kaweah Economic Study has been presented to decision makers and	• Prepare a presentation • Host a webinar	Kyle

urge support for investment in Prop 4	the Becerra team	- Identify gaps in engagement post webinar to decide further outreach - Becerra team - DWR - Schiff - Padilla - Huffman	
Advocate for recharge funding from Prop 4 to support the San Joaquin Valley	Prop 4 recharge funding has been allocated with budget bill language to support the SJV	- Secure a legislative champion - Submit a sign on letter - Meet with leadership - Meet with the administration - Resubmit letter in August - Develop budget bill language with champion office, if funding is moving	Kyle
Water Supply			
Support funding and implementation of Delta improvements, that were developed by Delta parties	Letter is developed, approved by caucuses, and submitted	- Letter drafted - Caucus review - Submittal	Randy
Advocate for regulatory improvements to the Legislature and state agencies to accelerate	Issues are scoped and ideas developed to accelerate approval of local diversion criteria. Pilot projects is developed.	- Hold a follow up meeting to scope out the issues that should be resolved - Meet with the State Water Board staff to understand timelines and	Sarah and Kyle

groundwater recharge permitting that provides flood control and protects water quality and downstream users		concerns - Develop a list of suggested reforms - Develop pilot projects that could implement watershed studies	
Ecosystem Restoration			
Advocate for wildlife refuges required via the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program	Budget requests developed and placed for 27/28	- Work with Environmental Caucus to scope out the need for next year - Develop budget request letter that includes environmental priorities	Kyle
Build on Cutting the Green Tape Initiative	CAP has developed ideas for how to engage here	- Schedule a plenary session that includes CNRA staff to discuss this initiative - Determine how CAP can weigh in here or develop ideas	Kyle
Emergency Response			
Develop a report on existing regulatory impediments to flood safety			?
Develop a set of recommendations on	Recommendations developed	Work with the Local Government Caucus and	

how to implement and fund SB 552 drought response and planning	and advanced to DWR	Safe Drinking Water Caucus to develop a set of recommendations for SB 552 implementation • Develop a letter to DWR and potential budget request	
Federal Funding			
Develop and advance a federal funding proposal for the Valley	CAP has developed federal funding needs for the next ten years and advances those to federal partners	•	Kyle