



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: July 11, 2022

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) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; (2) State Water Resources Control Board action; (3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; (4) Delta conveyance; (5) Reclamation action; (6) Delta Stewardship Council action; (7) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint and San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan.

POLICY ITEMS

[Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project](#)

In August 2016, the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) requested reinitiation of consultation with NOAA Fisheries, also known as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to multiple years of drought, low populations of listed species, and new information developed as a result of ongoing collaborative science efforts over the last 10 years.

On Jan. 31, 2019, Reclamation transmitted its Biological Assessment to the Services. The purpose of this action is to continue the coordinated long-term operation of the CVP and SWP to optimize water supply delivery and power generation consistent with applicable laws, contractual obligations, and agreements; and to increase operational flexibility by focusing on nonoperational measures to avoid significant adverse effects to species.

The biological opinions carefully evaluated the impact of the proposed CVP and SWP water operations on imperiled species such as salmon, steelhead and Delta smelt. FWS and NMFS documented impacts and worked closely with Reclamation to modify its proposed operations to minimize and offset those impacts, with the goals of providing water supply for project users and protecting the environment.

Both FWS and NMFS concluded that Reclamation's proposed operations will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. These conclusions were reached for several reasons – most notably because of significant investments by many partners in science, habitat restoration, conservation facilities including hatcheries, as well as protective measures built into Reclamation's and DWR's proposed operations.

On Oct. 21, 2019, FWS and NMFS released their biological opinions on Reclamation's and DWR's new proposed coordinated operations of the CVP and SWP.

On Dec. 19, 2019, Reclamation released the final Environmental Impact Statement analyzing potential effects associated with long-term water operations for the CVP and SWP.

On Feb. 18, 2020, Reclamation approved a Record of Decision that completes its environmental review for the long-term water operations for the CVP and SWP, which incorporates new science to optimize water deliveries and power production while protecting endangered species and their critical habitats.

On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order: “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis”, with a fact sheet¹ attached that included a non-exclusive list of agency actions that heads of the relevant agencies will review in accordance with the Executive Order. Importantly, the NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project were both included in the list of agency actions for review. It’s unclear what this agency review will analyze, but staff will be engaged.

On September 30, 2021, Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant sent a letter to U.S. FWS Regional Director Paul Souza and NMFS Regional Administrator Barry Thom requesting reinitiation of consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP. Pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.16, Reclamation indicated that reinitiation is warranted based on anticipated modifications to the Proposed Action that may cause effects to listed species or designated critical habitats not analyzed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions, dated October 21, 2019. To address the review of agency actions required by Executive Order 13990 and to voluntarily reconcile CVP operating criteria with operational requirements of the SWP under the California Endangered Species Act, Reclamation and DWR indicated that they anticipate a modified Proposed Action and associated biological effects analysis that would result in new Biological Opinions for the CVP and SWP.

Following this action, on October 20, 2021, the SLDMWA sent a letter to Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant requesting participation in the reinitiation of consultation pursuant to Section 4004 of the WIIN Act and in the NEPA process as either a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/fact-sheet-list-of-agency-actions-for-review/>

On February 26, 2022, the Department of the Interior released a Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the 2021 Endangered Species Act Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project². In response to this, on March 30, 2022, the SLDMWA submitted a comment letter highlighting actions for Reclamation to consider during preparation of the EIS.

Last month, Reclamation issued draft copies of the Knowledge Base Papers for the following management topics:

1. Spring-run Juvenile Production Estimate- Spring-run Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
2. Steelhead Juvenile Production Estimate-Steelhead Survival Knowledge Base Document, April 2022
3. Old and Middle River Reverse Flow Management – Smelt, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead Migration and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
4. Central Valley Tributary Habitat Restoration Effects on Salmonid Growth and Survival Knowledge Based Paper, March 2022
5. Delta Spring Outflow Management Smelt Growth and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
6. Pulse Flow Effects on Salmonid Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
7. Summer and Fall Habitat Management Actions – Smelt Growth and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
8. Shasta Cold Water Pool Management – End of September Storage Knowledge Base Document, May 2022

The Authority provided supplementary material and scientific citations³ for Reclamation’s consideration during finalization of the Knowledge Base Papers.

Current Milestones

- Virtual Scoping and a Scoping Report (2022)
- Initial Alternatives and Knowledge Base Papers (2022)
- Final Alternatives and Proposed Action (2022)
- Biological Assessment and Public Draft EIS (2023)
- Final EIS (2024)
- Record of Decision (2024)

Exploratory Modeling

Concurrent with the development of the EIS and BA, Reclamation is conducting Exploratory Modeling to assist in the development of initial alternatives for the Biological Assessment. Recent

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-28/pdf/2022-04160.pdf>

³ See Appendix

discussions have involved updates to the 2021 LTO Climate Change Methodology, the Delta Zone of Influence Analysis and the Shasta Operations Analysis.

Climate Change Analysis

The exploratory modeling efforts for the LTO Climate Change proposes future climate conditions centered on 2040, with analyses mainly based on the median climate change scenario, and sensitivity scenarios to review the range of modeling uncertainty, including:

- Hot and dry
- Warm and wet
- Extreme heat and dryness
- Warm and dry, and
- Hot and wet

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

Draft Policy

- [SLE P08 Emergency Management \(comments by 7/24/2022\)](#)

Draft Directives and Standards

- [ADM 04-01 Planning, Approval, and Reporting Conference Related Activities for Spending \(comments by 7/15/2022\)](#)

Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)

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

Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

- [RSHS 20 Mobile and Stationary Mechanized Equipment \(comments by 7/15/2022\)](#)

Draft Reclamation Design Standards

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

Curtailment Update

On June 28, the State Water Board issued an update about the curtailment status of water rights and claims of right within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed pursuant to Initial Orders Imposing Water Right Curtailment and Reporting Requirements in the Delta Watershed ([Order for water rights/claims under 5,000 acre-feet](#) and [Order for water rights/claims over 5,000 acre-feet](#)).

The following water rights are curtailed, effective June 29, 2022, unless and until the State Water Board advises that this determination has been updated:

1. Water rights on the following Sacramento River tributaries:
 - a. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Bear River subwatershed with a priority date of 1942 or later; and

- b. Post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Putah Creek subwatershed outside of the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1945 or later.
2. Water rights and claims on the following San Joaquin River tributaries:
 - a. All post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Calaveras River subwatershed outside of the Legal Delta;
 - b. All post-1914 appropriative water rights, pre-1914 appropriative water right claims, and riparian water right claims in the Chowchilla River subwatershed; and
 - c. Post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the Merced River subwatershed with a priority date of 1859 or later.
 3. Post-1914 appropriative water rights and pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the San Joaquin River watershed outside of the Legal Delta with a priority date of 1914 or later.

Curtailments are expected to continue through the summer and early fall until significant precipitation occurs. Water supply forecasts will continue to be evaluated regularly to determine if, when, and to what extent the further re-imposition or suspension of curtailments may be appropriate. The next curtailment status update will be provided by email and web posting no later than July 6, 2022. Please check the [Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List](#) for the current curtailment status of each water right and claim in the Delta watershed.

The above curtailments consider the following technical and policy inputs to the Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed (methodology):

1. **Curtailments based on the subwatershed-scale analyses.** Curtailments account for both local water unavailability in headwater subwatersheds and watershed-wide conditions.
2. **Modification of demands for water rights and claims associated with contractual agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources.** Sacramento River Settlement Contractor and Feather River Contractor demands were reduced compared to 2018 data, consistent with contractual agreements applicable this year. San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor (SJREC) demands for June were adjusted to account for demands for San Joaquin River water due to reduced deliveries of water from the Delta provided by Reclamation.
3. **Legal Delta.** Current analyses do not support curtailments in the Legal Delta. [Term 91](#) curtailments will continue to apply to rights within and outside the Legal Delta containing Term 91.

The above curtailments factor in estimated agricultural and municipal return flows based on CalSim 3 results for 1976 and reduced demands associated with Central Valley Project and State Water Project exports from the Delta under the State Water Board's April 4, 2022 [Order](#)

[Approving Temporary Urgency Changes to Water Right License and Permit Terms Relating to Delta Water Quality.](#)

This curtailment status update is based on the output of the methodology for the calendar month of June. As such, today's update considers observed water supply data and forecasts from the California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) that were updated on June 28, 2022. The 50% exceedance water supply forecast was selected to determine curtailments at this time. Other than modifications identified above, demand data informing curtailments continue to be based on reported diversions from 2018.

The determination of water unavailability used to inform curtailments is based on the [Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed](#).

[Water Unavailability Methodology and Revised Draft Emergency Curtailment Regulation](#)
Background

On August 3, 2021, the State Water Board adopted an [emergency regulation](#) authorizing the curtailment of diversions when water is determined to be unavailable at a water right holder's or claimant's priority of right. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 876– 879.2.) The regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and went into effect upon filing with the Secretary of State on August 19, 2021. The emergency regulation remains in effect for up to one year. The State Water Board plans to consider revision and re-adoption of this emergency regulation on July 20, 2022, in advance of the expiration date of the current regulation.

On April 19, 2022, the State Water Board released draft proposed revisions to the emergency regulation and methodology revisions and solicited public input on both in writing by May 19, 2022, and orally at a public workshop on May 12, 2022. Based on those comments, updates to the methodology and draft emergency regulation were developed. The current version of the [Draft Emergency Curtailment and Reporting Regulation](#) has been released for further public review and comment in advance of the July 20, 2022 Board Meeting, at which the Board will consider re-adoption of the emergency regulation, as revised. The latest proposed emergency regulation includes sections applicable to multiple watersheds in the state, including the Delta, that were revised by the Board in May during the re-adoption of the emergency regulation for the Russian River watershed. The latest proposed regulation would continue to require water right holders in the Delta watershed to curtail their diversions when the State Water Board determines, based on the methodology and the best information available to the Board, that water is not available to serve their priority of right. The emergency regulation would also continue to allow limited exceptions to curtailment for specified uses such as meeting minimum human health and safety needs and to allow the Board to require that water right holders provide additional information related to their water diversion and use.

In addition to the emergency regulation noted above, a June 27, 2022 updated [Water Unavailability Methodology](#) has also been posted. The April 19, 2022 version of the methodology did not include updates to Technical Appendix D. The June 27, 2022 version of the methodology includes updates to Appendix D. The State Water Board is not soliciting comments on other

aspects of the methodology that have already been considered during the prior public comment process.

The deadline for written comments concerning this matter is 12:00 noon on Friday, July 8, 2022. Comments submitted are for the July 20, 2022, Board Meeting, during which the Board will consider revision and re-adoption of the emergency regulation.

If re-adopted by the State Water Board, the emergency regulation will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a public comment period, review, and requested approval. If approved, the re-adopted emergency regulation would become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State, anticipated by mid-August of 2022 and in advance of expiration of the current emergency regulation. If re-adopted and approved, the emergency regulation would remain in effect for up to one year but could be repealed if hydrologic conditions improve, or re-adopted again if drought conditions persist.

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

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: 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.

Phase 2 Status: 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

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.

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, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019. As the State Water Board further refines this update, there will be opportunity for public comment.

The effort has made progress since an initial framework was presented to the State Water Board on December 12, 2018.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents⁶ to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

Since the March 1 submittal, work has taken place to develop the package into a form that is able to be analyzed by State Water Board staff for legal and technical adequacy. On June 30, 2019, a status update with additional details was submitted to the Board for review. Additionally, on February 4, 2020, the State team released a framework for the Voluntary Agreements to reach “adequacy”, as defined by the State team.

Further work and analysis is needed to determine whether the agreements can meet environmental objectives required by law and identified in the State Water Board’s update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

On December 8, the State Water Resources Control Board heard an information item on upcoming actions to update and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Sacramento San Joaquin Delta.

Schedule

Biological Goals

Past Activities

- January 2019 – Independent Science Advisory Panel: Concepts and Ideas for Developing Biological Goals for the Bay-Delta Plan
- September 2019 – Draft Initial Biological Goals for the LSJR for public comment

Current Activities

- Completion of revisions based on public comment to produce a draft Final Biological Goals Report

Future Activities

- Winter/Spring 2022 – Release draft Final Biological Goals Report
- Winter/Spring 2022 – Public Workshop & comment

⁶ Available at http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf

- Summer 2022 – Board consideration of adoption

LSJR Flow/SD Salinity Implementation Next Steps Assuming Regulation Path (Phase 1)

Spring 2022 – Spring 2023

- Initiate CEQA process
- Draft environmental document and public comment
- Notice of draft regulation
- Final environmental document

Summer 2023

- State Water Board consideration of approval
- Notice of final regulation
- Submission to Office of Administrative Law

Sac/Delta Update: Key Milestones

- Early 2022: expected submittal of proposed voluntary agreement
- Winter – Summer 2022: development of Scientific Basis Report for any voluntary agreement, including public review and comment
- Fall 2022: Draft Staff Report public review and comment
- Winter 2023: Public workshop on Draft Staff Report
- Early Fall 2023: Response to comments and development of proposed final changes to the Bay-Delta Plan
- Late Fall 2023: Board consideration of adoption

Draft Biological Goals for Lower San Joaquin River Flow Objectives

On June 24, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), released a notice that it is seeking written public comments on [revised draft initial biological goals⁷](#) for fall-run Chinook salmon in the lower San Joaquin River and its three salmon-bearing tributaries, the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers (collectively “LSJR”) developed pursuant to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan or Plan), as amended on December 12, 2018.

State Water Board staff also plan to hold a technical workshop to receive input and recommendations on possible revisions and improvements to the revised draft initial biological goals from members, or potential members, of the STM Working Group and the public. The remote [workshop](#) is scheduled to be held on July 18, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Workshop Topics

The workshop is offered to seek recommendations and comments from members, or potential members, of the STM Working Group and public on revisions to the revised draft initial biological goals for the LSJR. Staff specifically request input on biological goals that will contribute to meeting the overall goals for salmon populations, including the salmon doubling objective, and

⁷https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/docs/biological_goals/draft-biological-goals-06242022-hard-tracks.pdf

inform management of flow conditions to maintain viable native San Joaquin River fish populations migrating through the Delta for the following topics:

1. Definition – The Bay-Delta Plan requires biological goals to be specific, measurable, achievable, result-focused, and time-bound (SMART).
2. Achievability – Sources of additional evidence that inform whether the quantitative values, time-frame, and averaging periods of the revised draft initial biological goals are achievable.
3. Role – The Bay-Delta Plan states that the biological goals will be used to evaluate effectiveness of the program of implementation and inform adaptive methods, the San Joaquin Monitoring and Evaluation Program (not yet initiated), and future changes to the Bay-Delta Plan.
4. Abundance – The use of escapement as the metric for defining the abundance goal, identifying a specific numeric value for abundance and a time-frame for achieving the escapement value, and feasibility of the abundance goal.
5. Salmon Protection Objective – The role of biological goals with respect to the salmon protection objective and the relationship between the salmon protection objective¹ and biological goals.
6. Hatchery Issues – The inclusion of adult hatchery fish as contributing to the abundance goal, feasibility of improving hatchery marking practices for fall-run Chinook salmon, and feasibility of and means for completing and implementing hatchery management plans for fall-run Chinook salmon in San Joaquin River tributary hatcheries.
7. Process – The process for adoption of revised draft initial biological goals and future review and updates to any adopted biological goals.

Written comments on the Revised Draft Initial Biological Goals report must be received by **noon on Monday, August 1, 2022.**

Voluntary Agreements

On March 29, 2022, members of the Newsom Administration joined federal and local water leaders in announcing the signing of a memorandum of understanding⁸ that advances integrated efforts to improve ecosystem and fisheries health within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. State and federal agencies also announced an agreement⁹ specifically with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors on an approach for 2022 water operations on the Sacramento River.

Both announcements represent a potential revival of progress toward what has been known as “Voluntary Agreements,” an approach the Authority believes is superior to a regulatory approach to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

⁸ Available at <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/NewsRoom/Voluntary-Agreement-Package-March-29-2022.pdf>

⁹ Available at <https://calepa.ca.gov/2022/03/29/informational-statement-state-federal-agencies-and-sacramento-river-settlement-contractors-agree-on-approach-for-2022-water-operations-on-the-sacramento-river/>

The broader MOU outlines terms for an eight-year program that would provide substantial new flows for the environment to help recover salmon and other native fish. The terms also support the creation of new and restored habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide significant funding for environmental improvements and water purchases, according to a joint news release from the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Local water agency managers signing the MOU have committed to bringing the terms of the MOU to their boards of directors for their endorsement and to work to settle litigation over engaged species protections in the Delta.

On June 16, the SLDMWA, Friant Water Authority and Tehama Colusa Canal Authority signed onto the VA MOU.

Racial Equity Plan

In May, community partners and State Water Board management and staff came together for Visioning and Strategy retreats, as well as a series of Action Planning workshops. The draft Racial Equity Action Plan will set goals for the State Water Board to address racial inequities and identify metrics to measure progress.

The Water Board is inviting you to provide input on the Racial Equity Action Plan through a series of public engagement workshops across the state. During each session, Board staff will inform communities about the Water Boards' progress since the [Racial Equity Resolution](#) was adopted.

Here are the ways that you and your community can provide feedback:

Statewide Virtual Workshop ([Notice](#))

- July 20, 2022. 5:30-7:30 PM. Zoom.

Regional In Person and Virtual Workshops

- Northern California (Redding, CA): July 21, 2022. 4 – 6:30 PM.
- Southern California (Mecca, CA): July 25, 2022. 4 – 6:30 PM.
- Central California (Visalia, CA): July 27, 2022. 4 – 6:30 PM.

To Register, and for agendas and background materials, click [here](#).

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Activity

Background

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.

Strategic Planning

The Blueprint's new board of 20 directors and other participants conducted extensive strategic planning, facilitated by Amy Wolfe. It produced a focused Mission and Vision statement as shown below, and crafted the Blueprint's strategic priorities for 2022-2025, deliverables, actions, and timelines. The priorities focus on the following: Advocacy, Groundwater Quality and Disadvantaged Communities, Land Use Changes & Environmental Planning, Outreach &

Communications, SGMA Implementation, Water Supply Goals, Governance, Operations & Finance.

The Blueprint Board has also identified quantifiable objectives, timelines for action and systems of accountability. The Large group met on June 22nd to review the 3-year plan and to collect input and support for the plan.

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

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.”*

Committees

The Board established the following official standing committees:

- Technical
- Executive/Budget/Personnel
- Advocacy
- Community/Outreach

Chairs and committee members are being nominated and filled in the next two months.

Advocacy

The Blueprint prepared and is transmitting a letter with a SJV funding flyer to highlight and identify needs for state elected and policy makers. It consists of:

- Interregional Water Planning: \$10 million (fish friendly diversions pilot)
- Conveyance: \$835 million
- Regional Resilience and Sustainability: \$1.5 billion
- Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing: \$1 billion

Drinking Water Feasibility

A draft drinking water feasibility study proposal has been prepared by Fresno State/California Water Institute covers 5 counties within the San Joaquin Valley to identify 20 spots that are technically and financially feasible for groundwater recharge that have multiple benefits and specifically DACs with no other options but groundwater. Fresno State, FWA, Self Help, Sustainable Conservation and Leadership Council have been working on this over the past year and are discussing funding opportunities with Senator Feinstein’s office and DWR. Friant Contractors/managers are sharing projects they are pursuing and exploring the ability to identify tangible and/or direct benefits to drinking water supplies.

Authority staff is working to expand the scope of this potential study to include communities and projects adjacent to the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Canals.

San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJVW CAP)

The CAP plenary group continues to meet, most recently it received a presentation from PPIC related to water supplies and the delta. CAP produced a Phase I Framework with solution set elements that all 5 caucuses have yet to endorse. A small work group of the caucuses are meeting to draft a term sheet for agreement, sticking points remain around evaluating Delta water supplies and land fallowing.

By September 2022, the CAP intends to complete the following:

- An initial list of projects that are consistent with the CAP criteria that can improve water supplies. These projects will be supported by the CAP participants.
- Review and analysis of updated Delta study by the PPIC.
- Workplan for activities necessary to finish the 2023 comprehensive plan to reach sustainability by 2040.

By September 2023:

- The in-Valley and Delta opportunities assessments.
- Regional action plan for strategic land repurposing
- List of actions and projects that will achieve a water balance by 2040.

APPENDIX