



NCWA

Northern California Water Association



Natomas Mutual Water Company

February 6, 2025



NCWA
Northern California Water Association

**Cultivate a shared vision in the Sacramento
Valley for a vibrant way of life**



Vitalizing Healthy Rivers, Landscapes & Communities in the Sacramento Valley



Healthy Soils
& Farms



Healthy
Forests



Vital Rivers
& Streams



Reactivating
Floodplains



Safe Drinking
Water

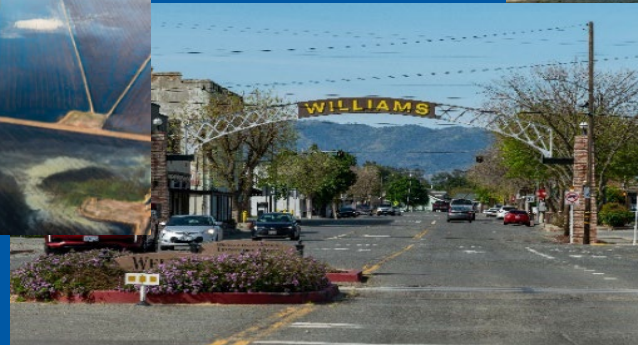


Sustainable Groundwater
Management

Overall Objectives for 2025



- 💧 Ensure the human right to water for local communities
- 💧 Implement holistic, nature-based solutions that restore ecological functions and support multi-benefit water management
- 💧 Prepare for and adapt to extreme weather, which requires saving excess water whenever possible
- 💧 Stability to the water arena



How do we align the regulatory framework in California with modern water management?



Functional Rivers, Landscapes and Communities Depends upon a Modern Regulatory Framework

For a functional Sacramento River Basin, these regulatory structures need to be realigned with the values being advanced as part of vitalizing healthy rivers, landscapes and our communities, including:

- 💧 Effectively Administer the Water Rights Priority System
- 💧 Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program
- 💧 Stabilize Biological Opinions - Drought Protection Program (Sacramento River)
- 💧 A Pathway for Sustainable Groundwater Management
- 💧 Complete New Backbone Infrastructure in a Timely Manner
- 💧 Improving Regional Water Quality - the Irrigated Lands Program and CV-Salts
- 💧 Accelerating Restoration
- 💧 Conservation as a Way of Life
- 💧 FERC Relicensing
- 💧 Streamline Water Transfers



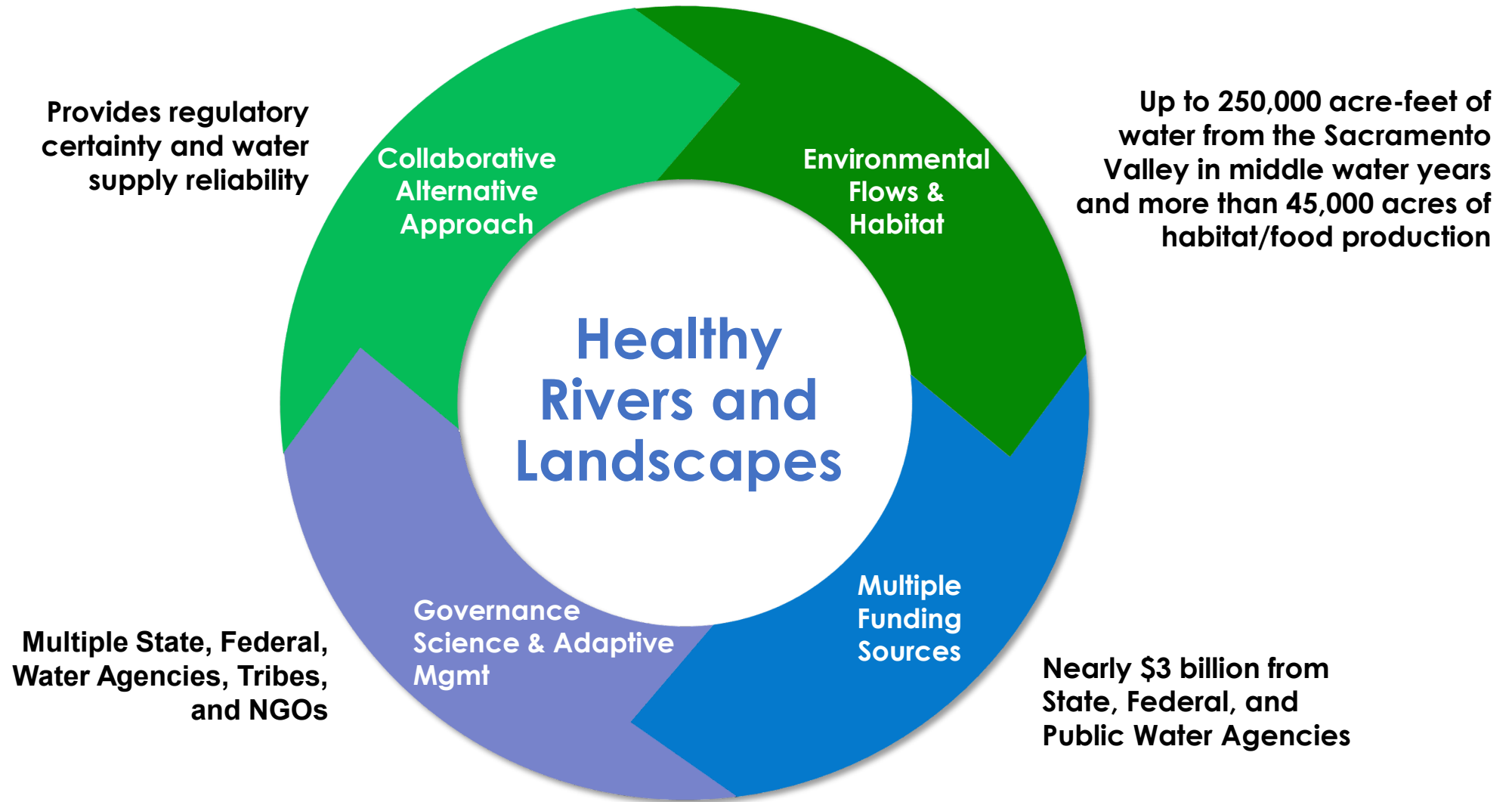
A Modernizing Water Management System in California

By David Guy and Darren Cordova | October 1, 2024

There have been significant efforts over the past several years to update and modernize California's water rights system to adapt to an uncertain climate and address many of the challenges we have seen as the water rights priority system has been tested over the past

[Resilience Portfolio](#), [California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#) and the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change](#), which we encourage further reading. We also recommend the forward thinking





A Modern Watershed Approach for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes: Adapting to our Climate Reality by Strengthening California's Rivers, Landscapes, Communities and Farms





Drought Protection Program (DPP)

The Updated Biological Opinions and
Long Term Operations of the Central Valley Project



Goals of the Drought Protection Program (DPP):

A series of investments that will lead to improved surface water reliability in future years to benefit our farms, communities, economy and environment.



Avoid Devastating Impacts of 2022

- 💧 18% supply to farms, wildlife refuges, cities
- 💧 370,000 acres fallowed
- 💧 \$1.3 billion hit to regional economy
- 💧 Bird and snake habitat impacted
- 💧 Lowest salmon survival rates in decades

Drought Protection Program

- 💧 SRSC contract supply reduced by up to 500,000 acre-feet total during years DPP water supply action is triggered. 50% contract supply to be furnished on pattern needed by SRSC historical frequency of occurrence: 7 years in 100-year record
- 💧 Existing contract remains in place
- 💧 SRSC receive **at least 50% of contract supply**
- 💧 SRSC to receive infrastructure funding to replace/mitigate for reductions related to DPP actions
- 💧 SRSC will coordinate diversions to maximize efficiency



PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PROVIDE WATER RESOURCES IN CALIFORNIA AND IMPROVE DISASTER RESPONSE IN CERTAIN AREAS

EXECUTIVE ORDER

January 24, 2025

Changing the Dynamic for the Next Decade





North State Drinking Water Solutions Network

Connecting the state's policy tools and financial resources with local communities and water managers' knowledge and expertise with the goal of ensuring access to safe drinking water for all communities.

A Holistic Approach to Healthy Rivers and Landscapes



● Upper River ● Middle River ● Lower River

Source Water Protection

Spawning Gravels and Refugia

Modernizing Hatcheries

Temperature Management

Pulse Flows

Fish Rest Stops

Fish Passage

Floodplain Reactivation

Putah Creek Enhancements

McCloud River

McCloud River Reintroduction

Thiamine Treatment

Battle Creek

Battle Creek Enhancements

Sacramento River

Butte Creek Enhancements

Butte Creek

Yuba River

Yuba River Enhancements

Feather River

Feather River Enhancements

American River

American River Enhancements

Putah Creek

Mokelumne River Enhancements

Mokelumne River

Floodplain Forward MOU

FLOODPLAIN FORWARD 2024

California Floodplains at Heart of Landmark Agreement

Working Together to the Benefit of the entire Sacramento River Basin

Federal and State of California government agencies, overseeing water, agriculture, fish and wildlife, public lands and flood control have agreed to work together to enhance landscape-scale, multi-beneficial floodplain water projects in the Sacramento River Basin.

The agreement represents a growing effort by public and private stakeholders in creating long-term, sustainable solutions to protect and benefit people, fish, birds and wildlife. Through straightforward permitting processes and an increase in funding, we can work toward our floodplain activation goals.

"This state-federal partnership with support from wide-ranging stakeholders demonstrates the kind of collaborative solutions that can safeguard our communities, wildlife, businesses and water supplies in the face of climate impacts."

- Gavin Newsom, Governor of California

[Read the Press Release](#)

[See Congressional Support](#)

[View the FFC Support Statement](#)



Floodplains in Film

[Watch Award Winning Floodplain Films](#)

Floodplain Forward Packet

[Floodplain Forward Packet](#)

"Expanding floodplains is a cost effective, smart, proven, multi-beneficial investment in our future."

Wade Crowfoot,
California's Natural Resources Secretary

"In this time of climate change, which is fueling extended droughts and catastrophic fire, action is urgently needed to protect fish and wildlife resources and communities. Restoring floodplains through collaboration is a wonderful example of how we accomplish this task."

Paul Souza,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Regional Director

Floodplain Forward Coalition Partners



**11 Agencies
signed the MOU**



FLOODPLAIN FORWARD



The Nigiri Project
CAL MARSH & FARM VENTURES



Conaway
PRESERVATION GROUP



LUNDBERG
FAMILY FARMS



MONTNA
FARMS



DAVIS RANCHES
SYCAMORE - CALIFORNIA
est. 1911



River Garden Farms



EST. 1861
Llano Seco
CHICO, CA



SUTTER MUTUAL
WATER COMPANY
ROBINS, CA. EST. FEB. 5, 1919



108
RECLAMATION DISTRICT



DUCKS
UNLIMITED



Ecosystem
Investment
Partners



AMERICAN
RIVERS



UC DAVIS
CENTER FOR
WATERSHED SCIENCES



Sacramento River Forum



CALIFORNIA TROUT
FISH · WATER · PEOPLE



The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.



GCID
GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Point Blue
Conservation
Science



RIVER
PARTNERS



SSC
SACRAMENTO RIVER
SETTLEMENT CONTRACTORS



Sacramento River
SETTLEMENT CONTRACTORS



Sustainable Conservation



TROUT
UNLIMITED



Environmental
Defense
Fund



NCWA
Northern California Water Association



RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1500
AUGUST 10, 1912
SUTTER COUNTY, CA



RCRC
RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA



Audubon
CALIFORNIA



California Rice
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CROP



CALIFORNIA
WATERFOWL

PATHWAY FOR THE FUTURE:

Sustainable Groundwater Management in the Sacramento Valley



Sustainable Groundwater Management: Looking to the Future

- 💧 Ensure safe drinking water for communities
- 💧 Advance groundwater recharge opportunities
- 💧 Protect our water and community infrastructure: taking action to prevent subsidence
- 💧 Better understand and manage surface water and groundwater interaction
- 💧 Coordinate well permitting across region
- 💧 Align state and federal priorities with local and regional needs



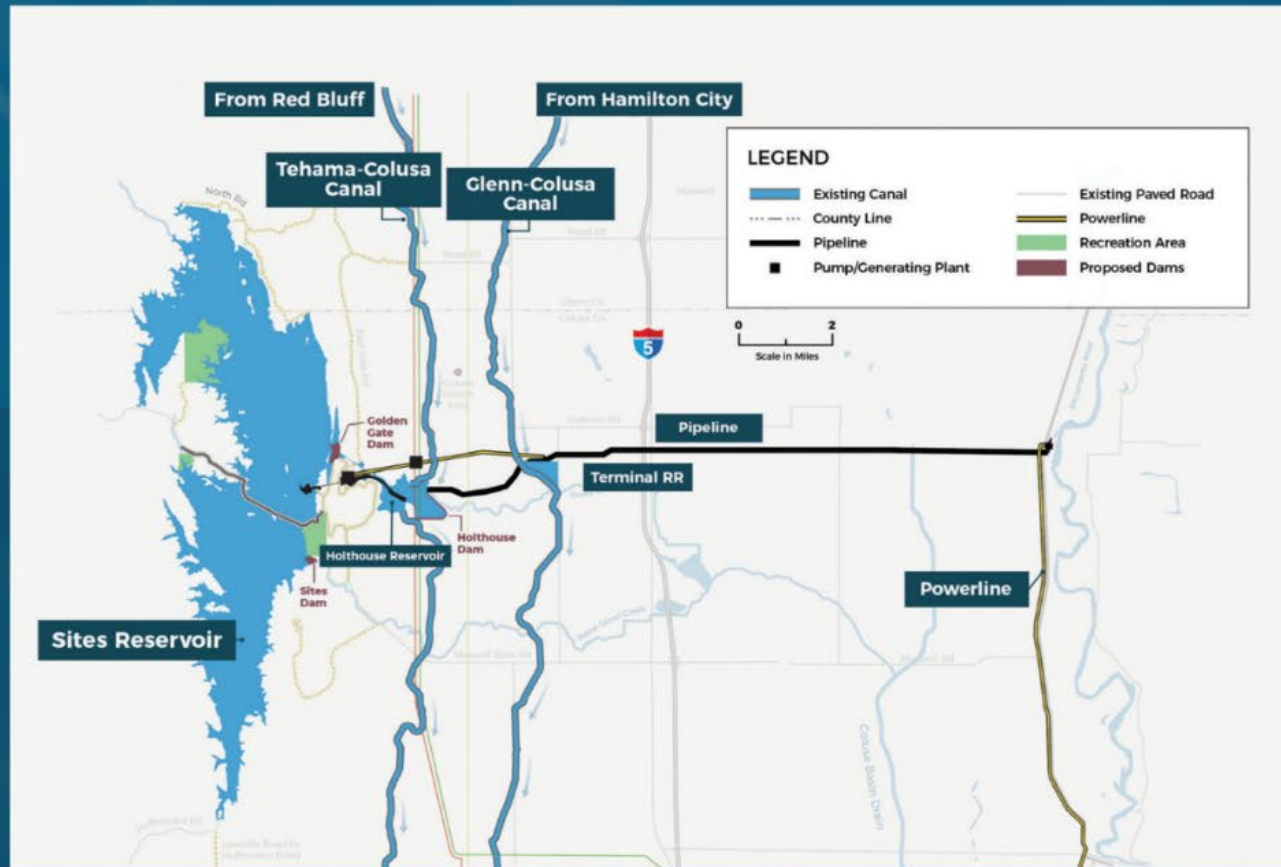


SITES RESERVOIR

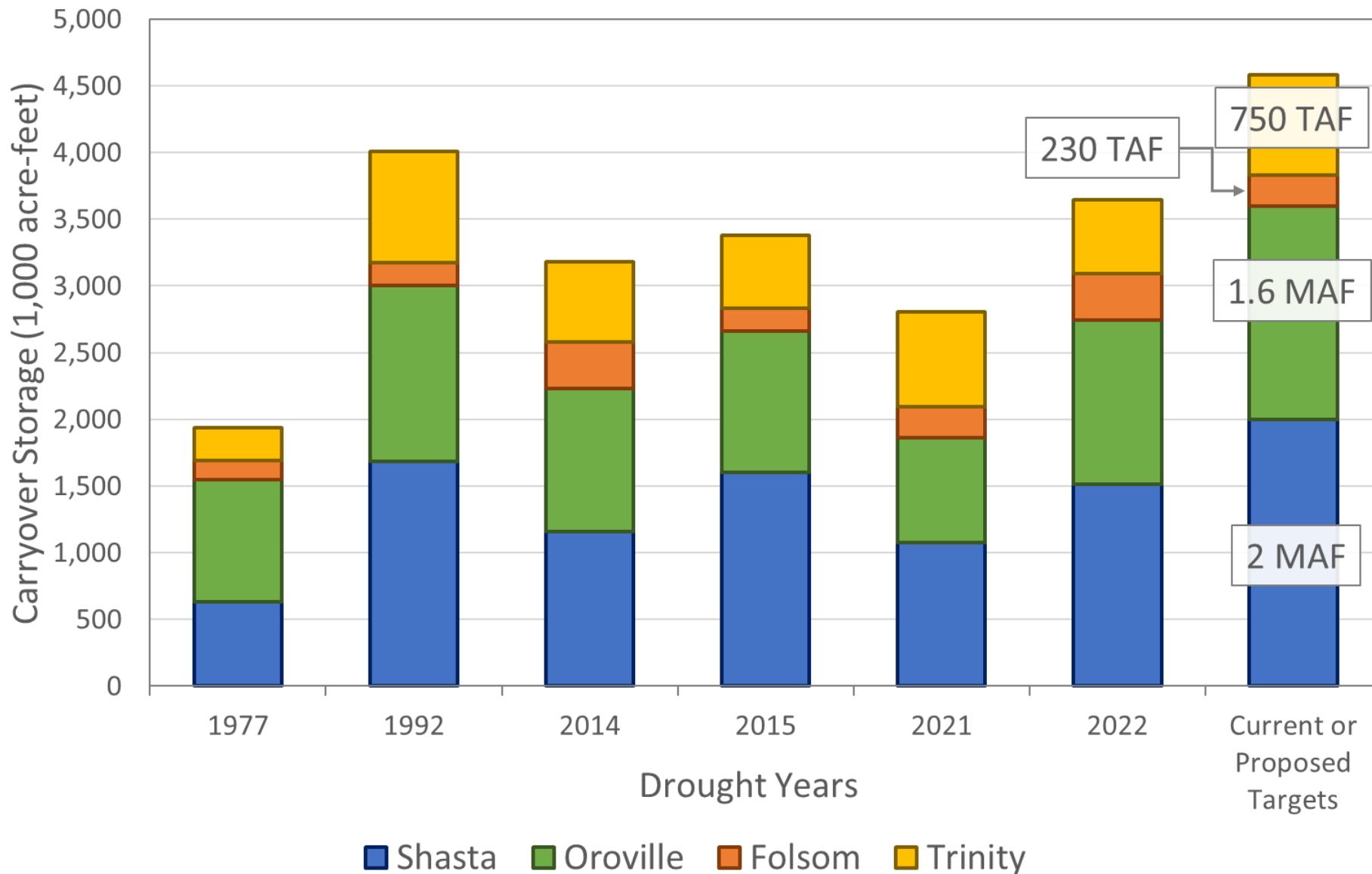
Increasing Dry Year Supplies

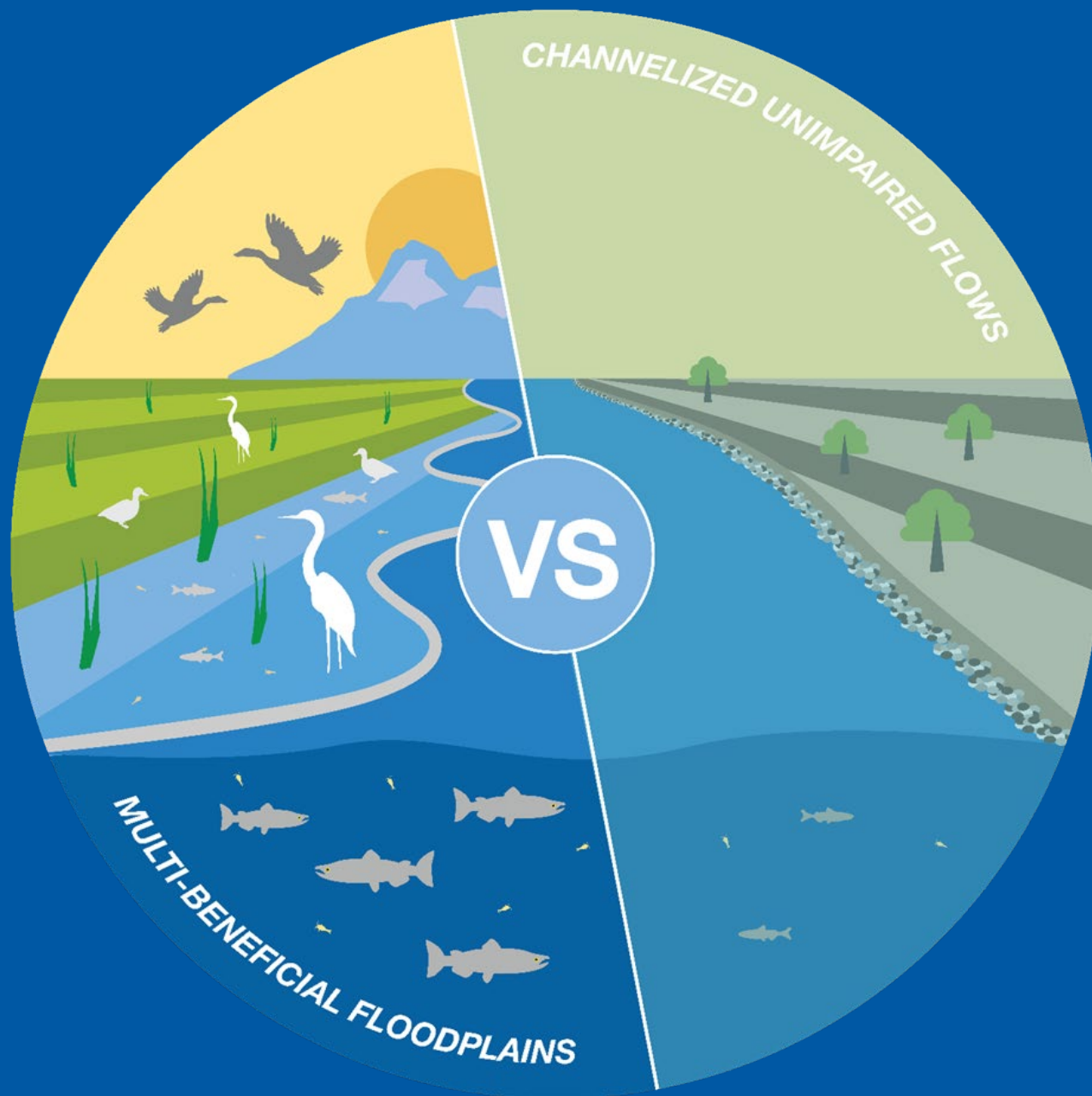
21st Century Water Infrastructure

Sites Reservoir is unique in many ways, carefully balancing the needs of both people and the environment



Revisit Carryover Storage in California





Partnerships





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Among

California Rice Commission
California Trout
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Northern California Water Association

To Promote Functioning Ecosystems and Sustainable Water Supplies in California's Sacramento Valley



This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by: the California Rice Commission (CRC), California Trout (CT), Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) and the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Participating Parties" (Parties).

I. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to develop and expand a framework of cooperation among the Parties to preserve, sustain, and promote working agricultural landscapes in the Sacramento Valley that support ecosystem function and provide landscape-scale habitat benefits for fish, bird, and wildlife populations. Our collective goal is to bring our natural and working landscapes in this region to life through the careful interaction of water, sun, and land.

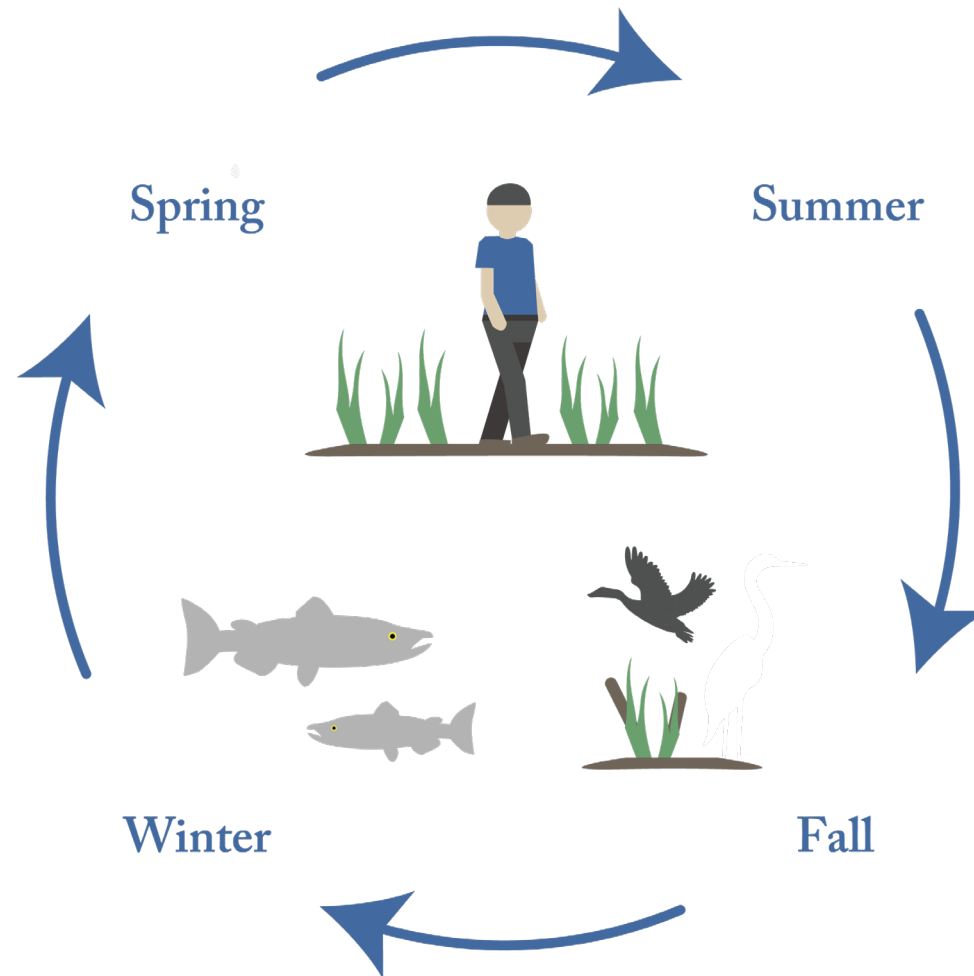
II. The Organizations

The *California Rice Commission (CRC)* exists to support the 2,500 growers and handlers of rice in California. CRC helps the industry in areas of conservation, legislation, public education and regulation. The CRC is fully funded by industry and operates through oversight by the State Department of Food & Agriculture.

California Trout (CT) works to ensure resilient wild fish thrive in healthy waters for a better California. CT builds partnerships in key geographies where wild fish influence California communities and work to implement science-based solutions that work for the diverse interests of fish, farms, commerce, and communities. It's our belief that abundant wild fish indicate healthy waters and that healthy waters benefit all Californians.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. The vision of DU is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. Ducks

A Valley In Harmony



Stories of the Sacramento Valley





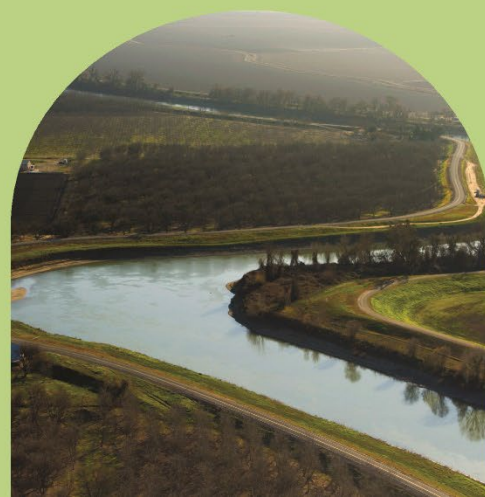
Water and Flavor: Telling the Stories Behind Sacramento Valley's Farm-to-Fork Movement

The Sacramento Valley isn't just a place—it's a thriving ecosystem where farms, chefs, and communities collaborate to produce some of the most flavorful and sustainable meals in the world. At the heart of this movement is water, the essential ingredient that nourishes the land, cultivates the crops, and sustains the culinary creations that define our region.

This document explores how water connects the farm-to-fork story, bringing together chefs, farmers, and the resources that make Sacramento Valley's food culture exceptional.

THE INGREDIENT THAT CONNECTS US ALL

Water plays a pivotal role in cultivating the quality ingredients that inspire Sacramento Valley's culinary scene. From lush rice fields to verdant orchards and row crops, water ensures that local farmers can grow food not only for sustenance but for flavor. As chef Alice Waters reminds us, "**The restaurant's whole reputation is dependent upon the goodness of the ingredients,**" a goodness made possible by the region's unique relationship with water.



Farm-to-Fork Capital

Sacramento's title as the Farm-to-Fork Capital of the World is more than a slogan—it's a recognition of the region's unparalleled agricultural bounty, innovative culinary scene, and strong community connections. Nestled in the Sacramento Valley, this area benefits from a Mediterranean climate, fertile soils, an abundance of water, and year-round sunshine, making it one of the most productive agricultural regions on Earth. With over 1.5 million acres of farmland, the Valley grows more than 160 crops, ranging from rice and almonds to seasonal fruits and vegetables that grace plates across the globe.

This designation also celebrates the people: the farmers who dedicate their lives to cultivating the land, the chefs who transform these ingredients into artful dishes, and the communities that embrace and support this local food culture. Together, they create an ecosystem that prioritizes sustainability, flavor, and a deep appreciation for the connection between land and table.

BREAKING BREAD

Experience the Sacramento's farm-to-fork movement with Breaking Bread, a documentary that celebrates the vibrant partnership between local chefs and farmers. From fields to kitchens, it's a feast for the eyes and a tribute to the Valley's dedication to fresh, flavorful, and sustainable food.

[Learn More & Watch the Series](#)



THE CHEFS

Taro Arai • Mikuni
sushi, japanese

Christopher Barnum-Dann • Localis
global cuisine, big flavor

Q Bennett • Q 1227 Restaurant
modern comfort

Dane Blom • Grange Restaurant and Bar
seasonal, local

Tyler Bond • Chu Mai
contemporary, asian

Brad Cecchi • Cannon
shareable, seasonal, artisan

Santana Diaz • UC Davis Health
healthy food, health care

Suzette Gresham • Acquerello
italian, fine dining

N'Gina Guyton • Jim Denny's
diner, californian, modern

Ginger Elizabeth Hahn • Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates
handcrafted confections, local

Molly Hawks & Mike Fagnoni • Hawks
soulful, seasonal, american

Byron Hughes • Last Supper Society
food stories, cultural, experience

Elizabeth-Rose Mandalou & Deneb Williams • Allora
modern, italian

Patrick Mulvaney • Mulvaney's B&L
eclectic, seasonal

Billy Ngo • Kru
contemporary, japanese

Oliver Ridgeway • Camden Spit & Larder
modern, london-inspired

Alice Waters • Chez Panisse
local, sustainable, mediterranean-inspired

THE FARMERS

Thaddeus Barsatti: Capay Organic
Michael Bosworth: True Origin Foods:
Rue & Forsman Ranch

Jim Durst: Durst Organic Growers

Mike Madison: Yolo Press

Craig McNamara: Sierra Orchards

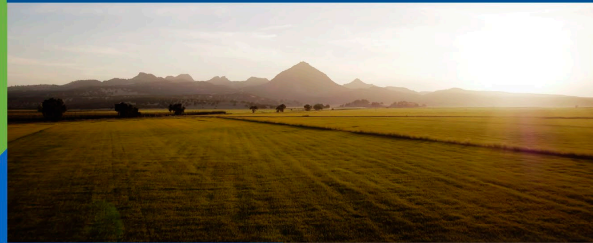
Floodplain Reconnected Videos

Award-winning films explore how reconnecting our landscape with our vital rivers can have a profound impact on recovery of endangered fish and wildlife.

Soaring over the Floodplains



Ricelands



No Going Back



The New Way Forward



Sharing Butte Creek



Central Valley Joint Venture





NCWA
Northern California Water Association

*Please join us for the
Northern California Water Association's Annual Meeting*

March 7, 2025





NCWA
Northern California Water Association

#SourcingOurSustainableFuture:

The Sacramento Valley is sourcing our sustainable future through responsible management of the essential resource that millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of fish, thousands of farms and millions of people all rely on--water.

