



NCWA
Northern California Water Association



Natomas Mutual Water Company
February 10, 2026



NCWA
Northern California Water Association

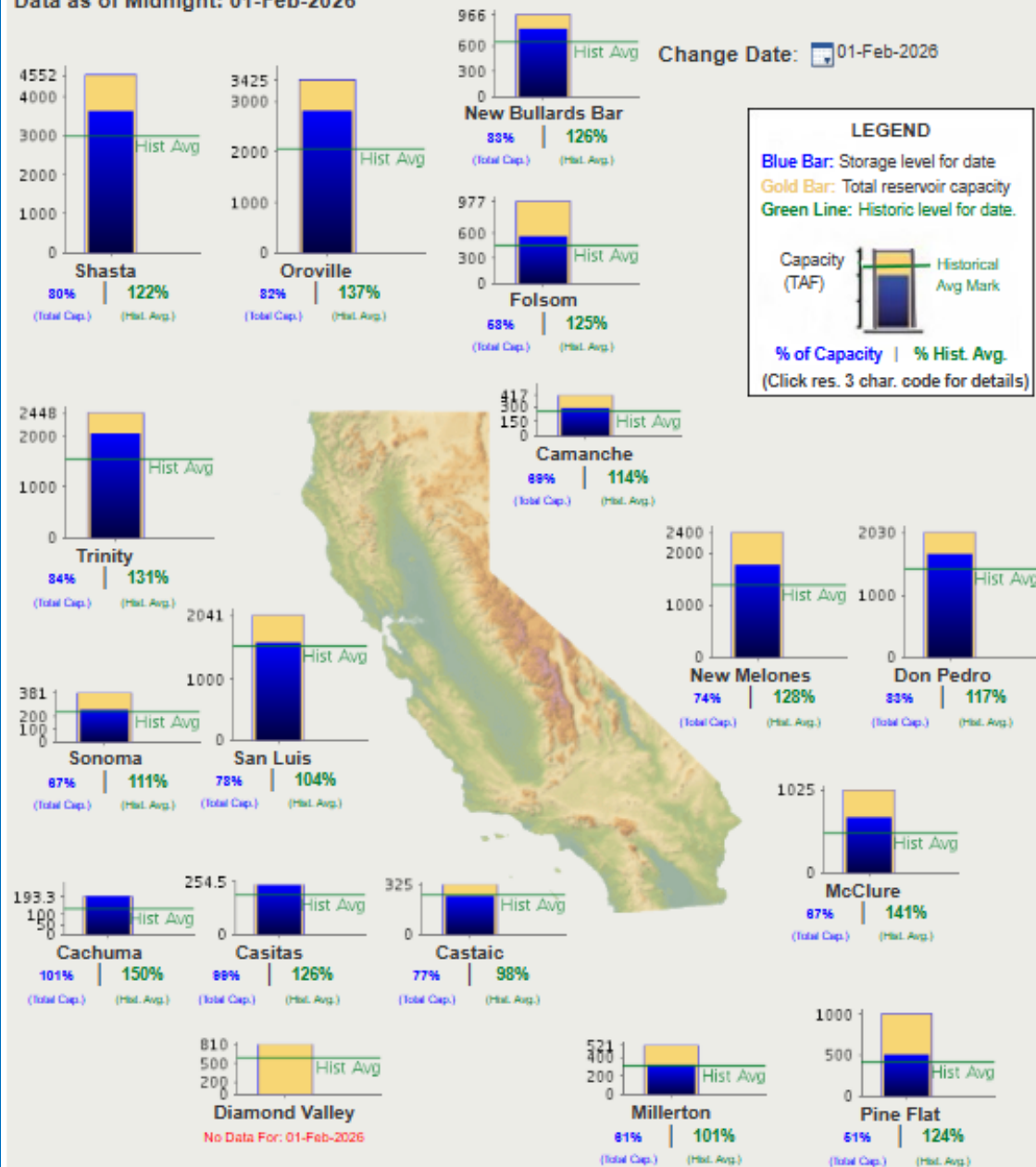
Cultivate a shared vision in the Sacramento Valley for a vibrant way of life



Water Supply Outlook for 2026



Data as of Midnight: 01-Feb-2026

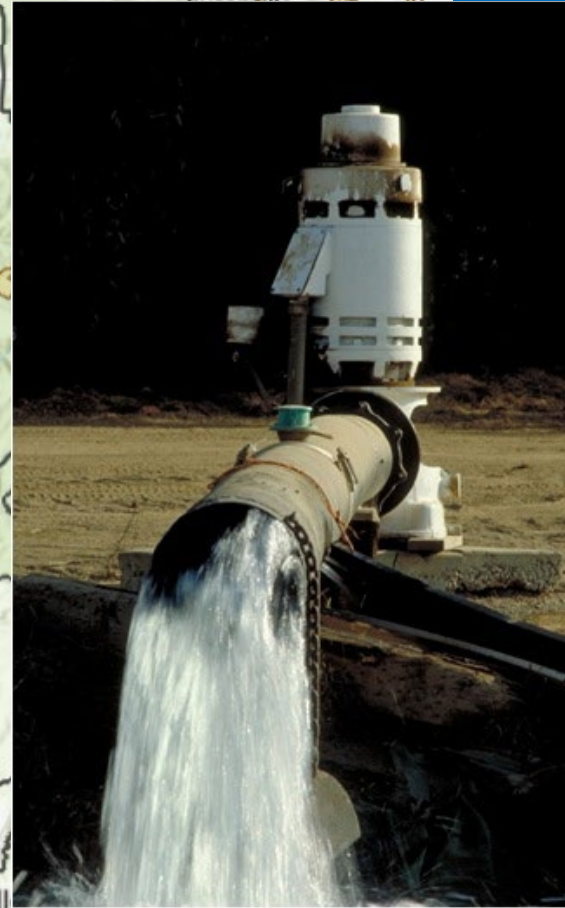
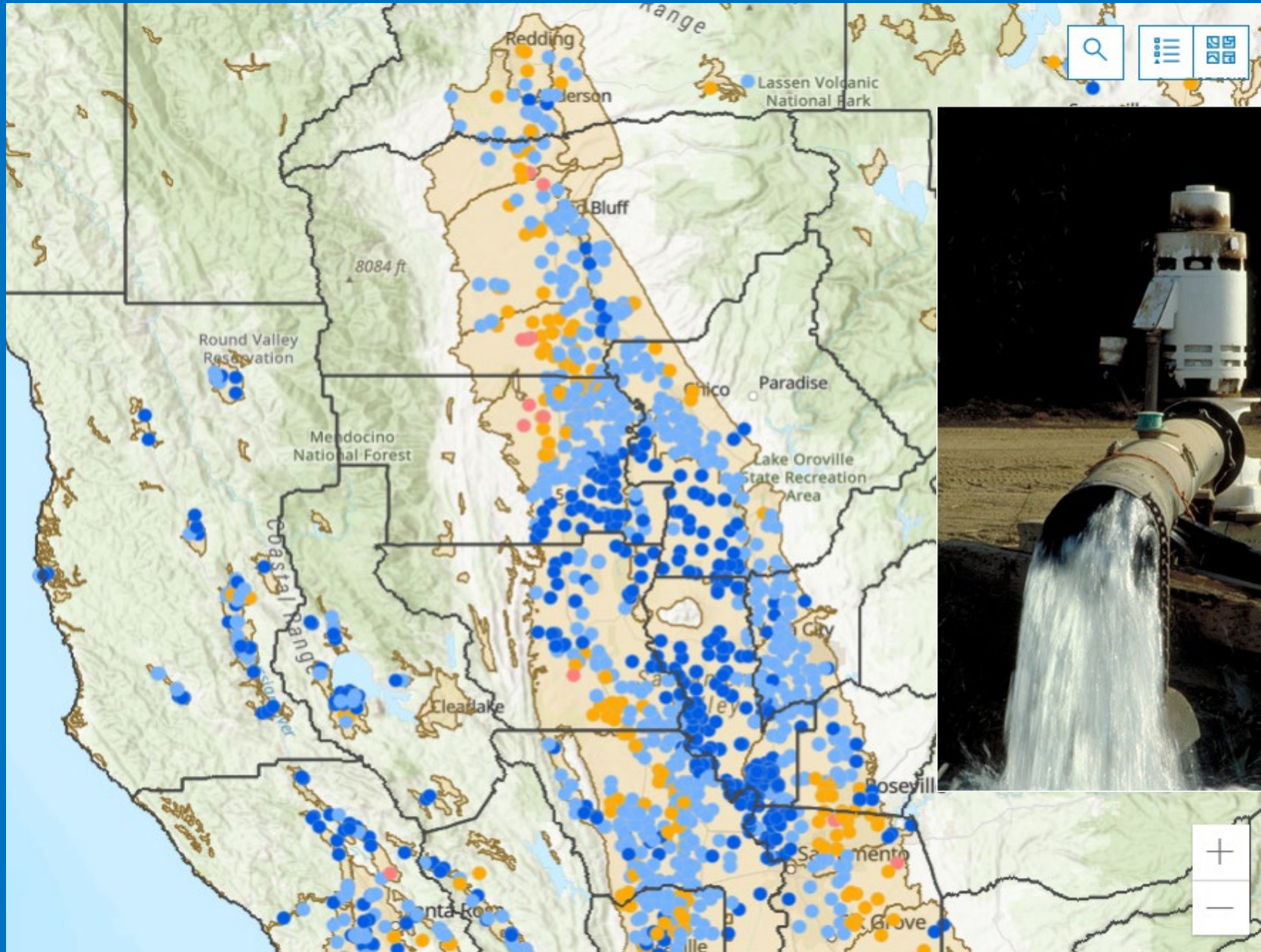


[Click to download printable version of current data.](#)

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The CSI link has been disabled to zoom in, for the lack of historical data.

Groundwater Levels



Regional Vision

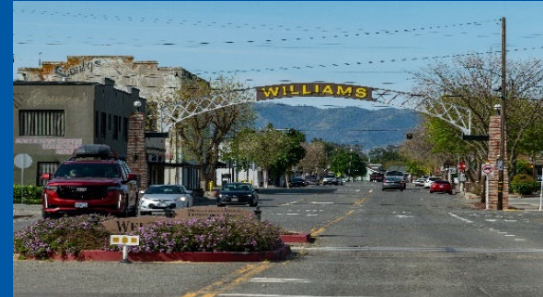
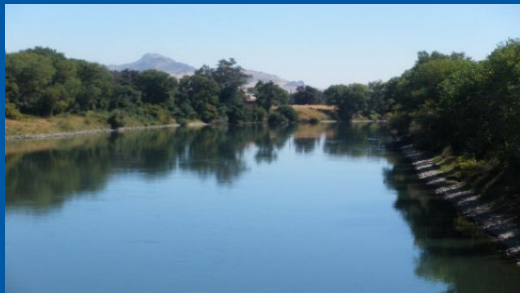
- 💧 Safe drinking water for 3 million people
- 💧 2 million acres of farmland
- 💧 7 National Wildlife Refuges and 50 State Wildlife Areas
- 💧 Improve conditions for 4 runs of salmon
- 💧 Hydropower
- 💧 Recreation



Priorities for 2026



- 💧 **Water Supply Outlook - Operations**
- 💧 **Approved Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program**
- 💧 **Complete Sites Reservoir Permitting**
- 💧 **Prepare for Future Dry Years**
 - Re-managed Flow Foundation
 - Bay Delta, TUCP
 - Work with State Water Board on Water Rights Administration
- 💧 **Unify the CVP Water Suppliers**
- 💧 **Advance Floodplain Forward**
- 💧 **Improve Groundwater Recharge**



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



HEALTHY RIVERS & LANDSCAPES

January 28, 2026

WATER

WORKING

for California

State Water Resources Control Board Public Hearing
Phase 2 of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

Two Options.
One Choice that Benefits People and Wildlife.

HEALTHY RIVERS & LANDSCAPES vs. UNIMPAIRED FLOWS

HRL PROGRAM WORKS IN SACRAMENTO BASIN:

HEALTHY RIVERS & LANDSCAPES

- Directs up to 250,000 acre-feet of dedicated flows in certain years
- Creates 85 habitat enhancement projects with expedited permitting
- Salmon rearing and spawning habitat
 - Ecosystem function
 - Flows with function
- Science and monitoring to inform designs and future adjustments
- 8 year time span, possibly 15 years



Sacramento River BASIN & DELTA

HEALTHY RIVERS & LANDSCAPES



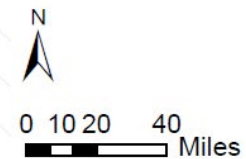
58

Early Implementation Projects

35
Complete

7
Underway

11
Start this year



UNIFIED SUPPORT FROM REDDING TO SAN DIEGO

Regional water agencies representing 32-million Californians

HEALTHY
RIVERS &
LANDSCAPES



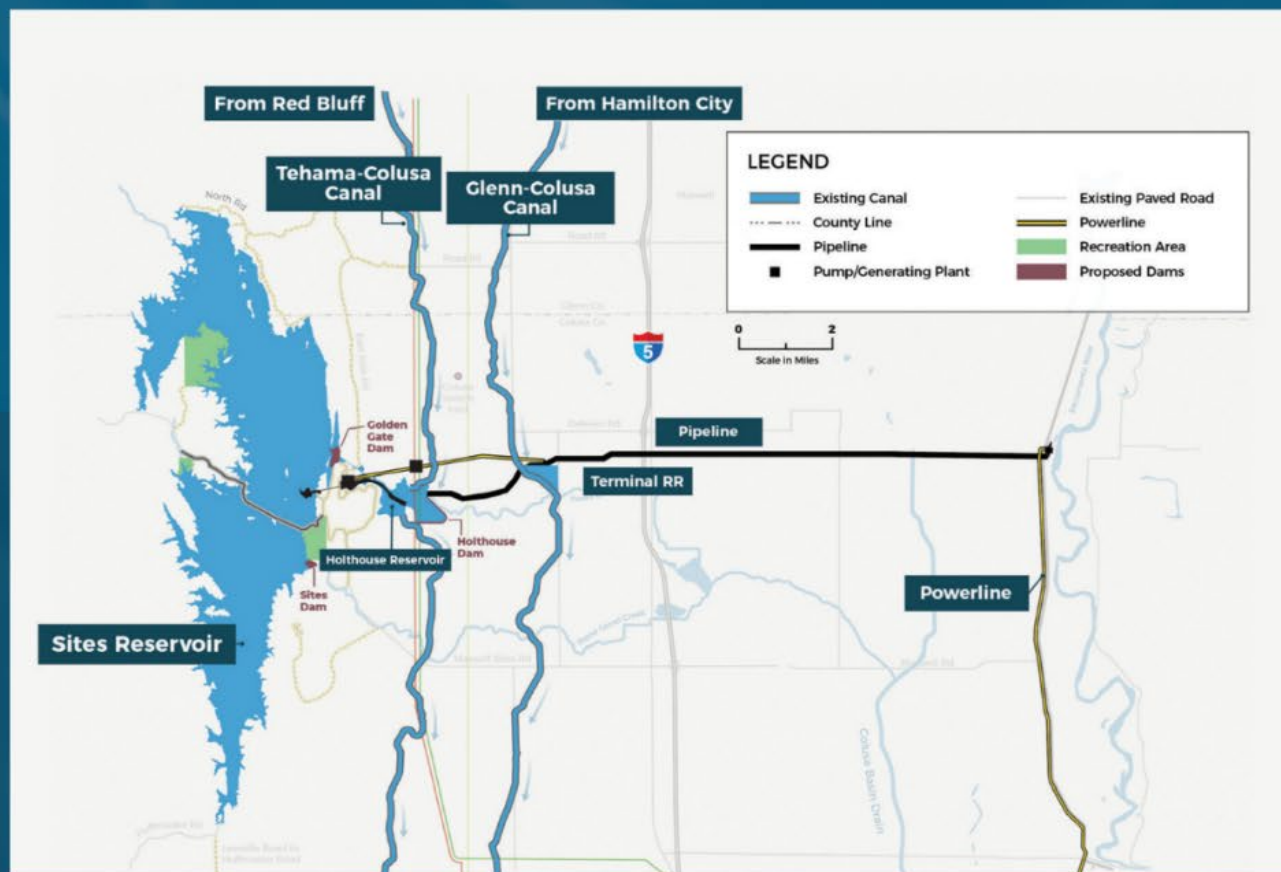


SITES RESERVOIR

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



Prepare for Future Dry Years

- 💧 **\$1.3 billion in lost economic value added**
- 💧 **14,300 lost jobs**
- 💧 **\$732 million in lost labor income**
- 💧 **Supply chains are devastated**

Daniel A. Sumner and William A. Matthews,
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics,
University of California, Davis, July 2022

Re-managing the Flow

The major rivers and streams of the Sacramento River Basin provide essential pathways for spawning salmon and steelhead. Flow agreements to benefit these fish are on every major watercourse in the Sacramento River Basin.



Trinity and Shasta Lakes are important sources of cold water storage. Timing the release of this cold water into the rivers is vital if spawning fish are to thrive.

Clear Creek
In May and June, water is pulsed into Clear Creek to attract Spring-run salmon from the Sacramento River. From June through October, water released from Whiskeytown Reservoir keeps water temperatures cool.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam
In 1960, flow objectives were established for the protection of fish and wildlife. In 1990 and 1991 this policy was modified requiring more cold water when warmer temperatures would be harmful to fish.

Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough
The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935 mandated a specific flow rate at Wilkins Slough be maintained. The primary goals at that time were navigation and flood control. In 1992, Congress made protection of fish and wildlife a secondary goal and this requirement was updated in 2009.

Sacramento River Tributaries
Various flow agreements benefit spring run salmon.

Feather River
A water quality certification adopted in 2010 provides for specific flow and temperature requirements to accommodate spawning salmon and steelhead.

Yuba River
In 2008, the Yuba River Accord increased the streamflow requirements over previous levels, which benefits fish while insuring sufficient water supplies for irrigation and municipal uses.

American River below Nimbus Dam
In 2000, the Flow Management Standard was developed, which established minimum flow standards to improve the conditions for fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. Additionally, releases are adjusted to maintain sufficiently low water temperatures for steelhead rearing in summer and Chinook spawning in the fall.



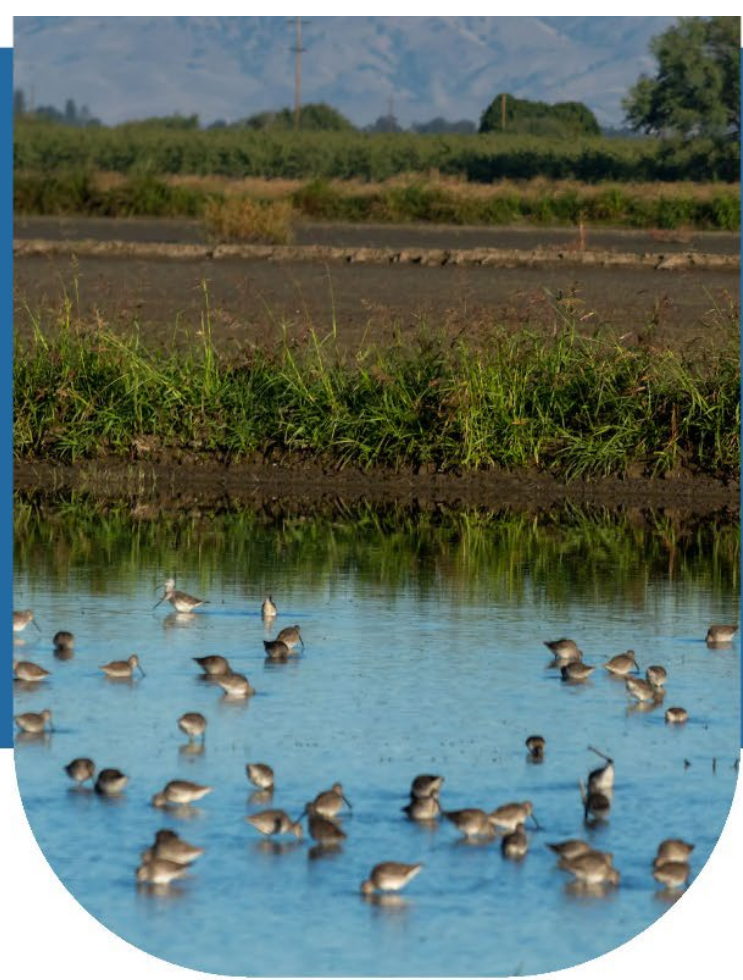
For more details visit www.norcalwater.org/efficient-water-management/instream-flows/

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





PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

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

EXECUTIVE ORDER

January 24, 2025

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



PATHWAY FOR THE FUTURE

Sustainable Groundwater Management in the Sacramento Valley



Looking to the Future: Implementation

- 💧 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



Political Dynamic

- 💧 **New State Administration in 2027**
- 💧 **Proposition 50 Realignment for Congress**



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

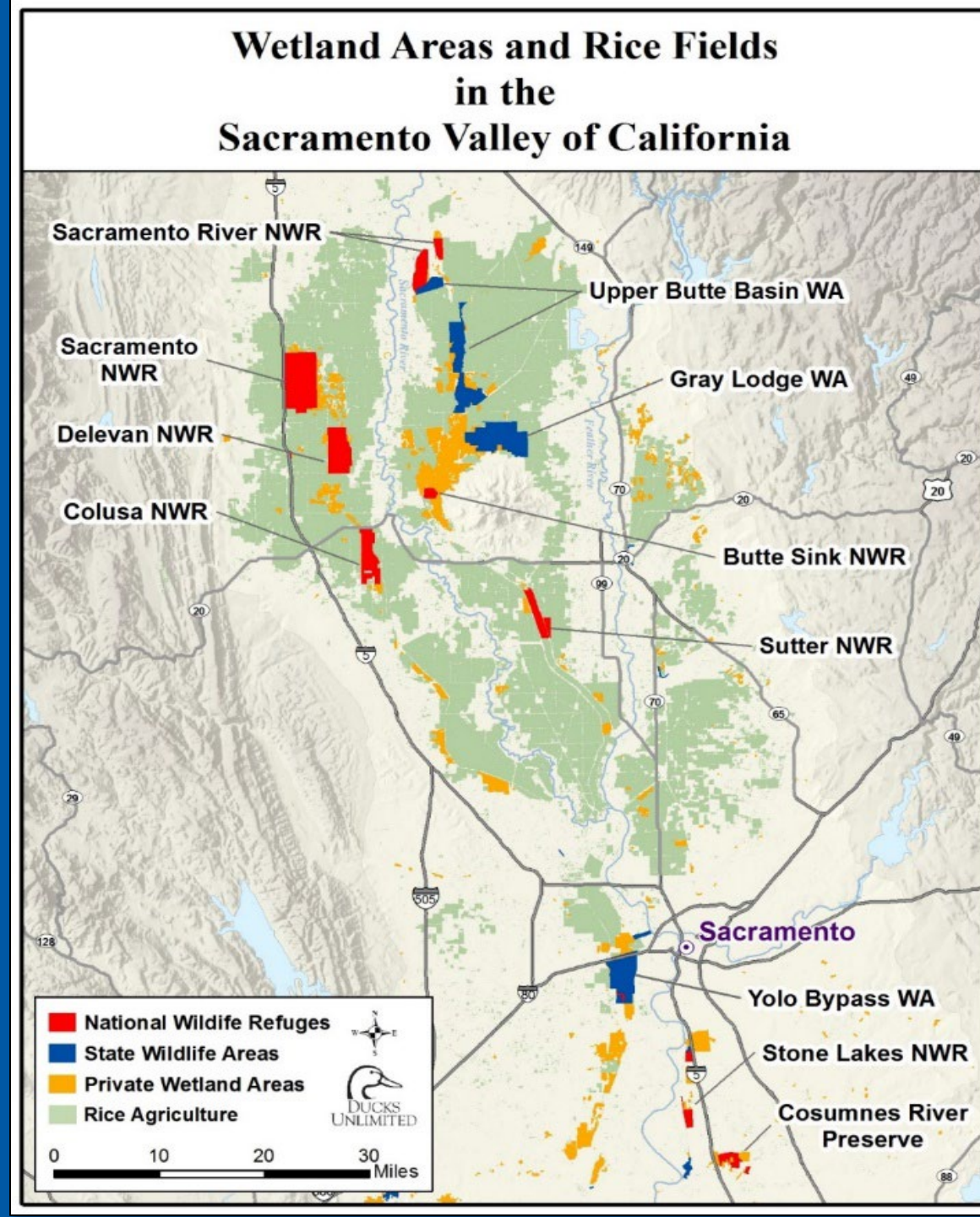
The *California Rice Commission (CRC)* exists to support the 2,500 growers and handlers of rice in California. CRC helps the industry in areas of conservation, legislation, public education and regulation. The CRC is fully funded by industry and operates through oversight by the State Department of Food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

Rice Footprint

A comprehensive effort to answer how many acres of rice and where, to continue to provide all the needed habitat for the Pacific Flyway, rearing and food resources for juvenile salmon and support our rural communities.



Stories of the Sacramento Valley

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



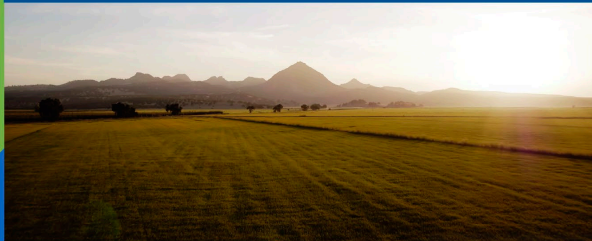
Floodplain Reconnected Videos

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 6, 2026***





NCWA
Northern California Water Association

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

