



XIV.

Citizens Ballot Initiative filed to Fulfill Funding of Long-Overdue California Water Projects

californiaglobe.com/articles/citizens-ballot-initiative-filed-to-fulfill-funding-of-long-overdue-california-water-projects/

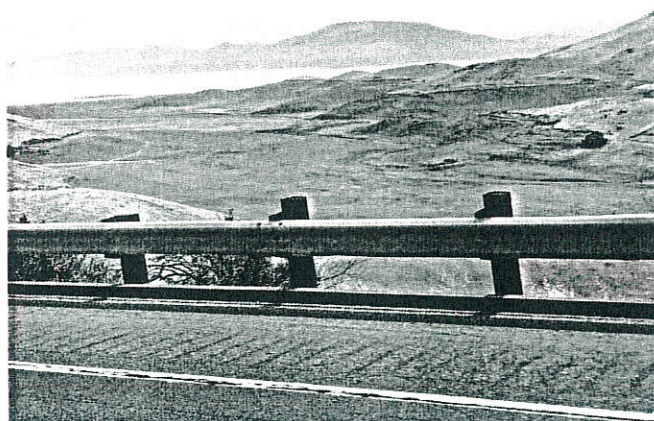
Katy Grimes

October 11, 2021

A citizens water group has filed for ballot title and summary with the California Secretary of State on a water abundance ballot initiative for the November 2022 ballot.

The Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022, and the More Water Now initiative specifically calls for two percent of the state's general fund – about \$3.5 billion per year – to be allocated to projects that increase California's water supply, according to the group's website. "The initiative also permits up to half of those funds to be used to finance large water supply projects immediately. Tens of billions of dollars will become available. This two percent funding solution will continue until new completed projects add another five million acre feet per year of water supply to California's farms and cities."

On a very recent road trip I drove through the San Luis Reservoir, and was stunned at how much lower the water is than when I saw it in May 2021.



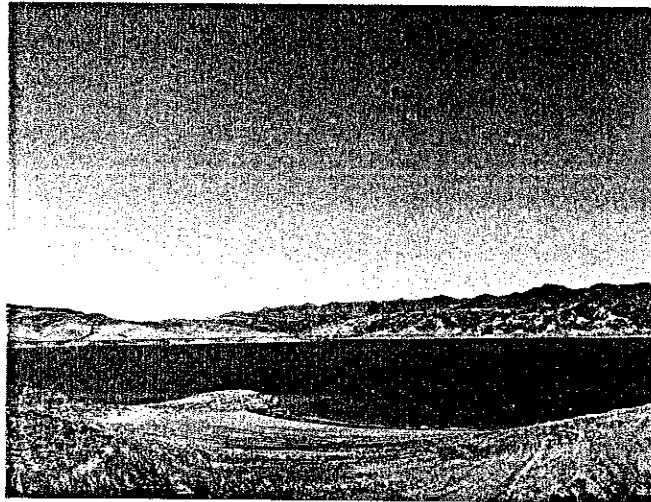
San Luis Reservoir Oct. 6, 2021. (Photo: Katy Grimes for the California Globe)

In recent abundant water years, the water in the San Luis Reservoir has lapped at the road.

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San Luis Reservoir Oct. 6, 2021. (Photo: Katy Grimes for the California Globe)



San Luis Reservoir May 2021. (Photo: Katy Grimes for California Globe)

As for the ballot initiative, founder of the California For Water and People Movement Kristi Diener stresses that this is not a bond and does not raise taxes. The ballot initiative tells the legislature to use existing tax dollars we already pay (paid), and budget that money for the water projects we want. It annually slices off 2% of the general fund and takes that roughly \$4 billion a year to finance the projects in this initiative. We already do this for education, where 38% of the budget is dedicated for that purpose annually. "If we can do this for our kids at 38%, we can surely dedicate 2% to ensure they don't have a water-less future."

PRIORITY PROJECTS: This initiative gives priority to underfunded projects already approved by the California Water Commission, who administered 2014's Prop 1 Water Bond.

- Projects like Sites Reservoir and Temperance Flat Reservoir will receive the money they need to put shovels in the ground immediately.

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- It funds repairs on our major water conveyances like the California Aqueduct, the Friant-Kern Canal, and the Delta-Mendota Canal, so when we have more water in storage, we can maximize our conveyance capacity along with our ability to move that water around.
- It will upgrade and maintain our dams to the standards one would expect in the world's fifth largest economy. It will pay for desalination, underground water storage, and water recycling to potable use standards.
- It will ensure this state is able to supply every household and business with clean and safe water at last.
- It will safeguard the irrigation water farmers need to put our agricultural lands back into full production.
- And it will protect the environment by giving the earth back the water it needs to arrest subsidence, maintain healthy aquifers, and curb the blowing away of rich and vital top soils.

Record Setting Drought or Not?

Kristi Diener, who runs the California For Water and People Movement, along with a statewide coalition of more than 200 water agency administrators, trade association representatives, leaders of advocacy groups, and industry executives, created the More Water Now initiative. Diener explains the hyperbolic drought news:

For months we've been flooded with fake news explaining why our reservoirs are critically low, and how we've had the driest year on record. But you can't just stop measuring precipitation until the actual water year has happened, nor can you compare those figures with figures recorded from a full water year and get true results. They did it all summer long anyway.

Now the actual data has been released from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The water year runs from October 1 to September 30. The first numbers in the chart represent the year, and the second numbers represent the month.

Water year 2021 was the 3rd driest. Water year 2020 was the 14th driest.

Also remember when you hear the phrase "driest on record," realize that record is only 125 years old. The earth is 4.5 billion years old. There have been 36 million time spans of 125 years. The record is just a dot in time, and really, pretty insignificant.

Lastly, the More Water Now initiative will amend the state constitution protecting it from lawsuits if it is passed by the voters. The only way a constitutional amendment can be undone is by a majority of the voters voting to change it with another ballot initiative. The

state legislature can propose a constitutional amendment, and 2/3 of each house can approve the change, but the change cannot happen unless it is put on the ballot and approved by a majority of voters.

And, this initiative does not sunset until the state reaches five million acre feet of new water that can be delivered annually.

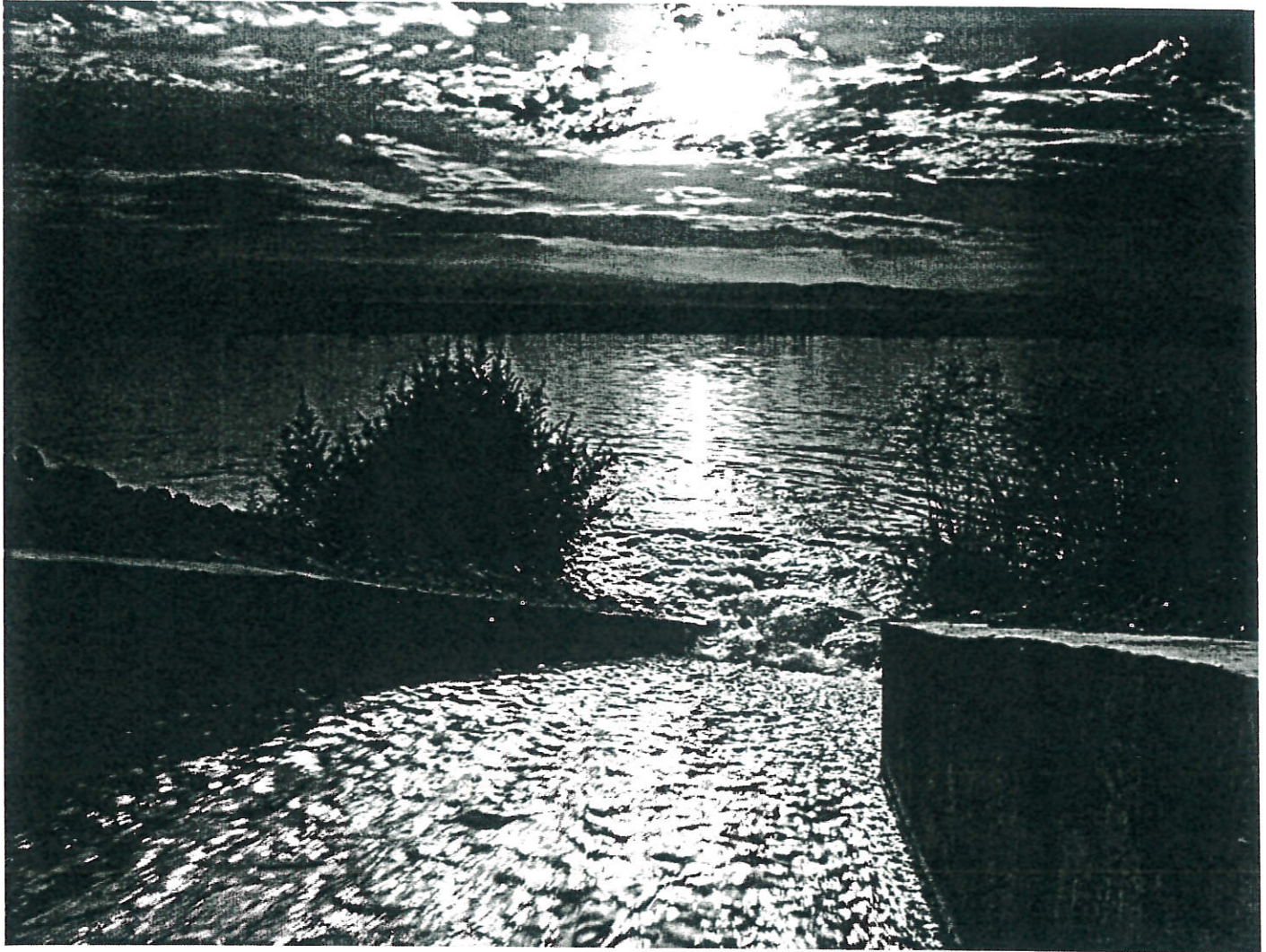
The initiative needs one million registered voters in California to sign the petition to place this initiative on the November 2022 ballot.

This is the FINAL version of the "Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022" filed with the California Attorney General [HERE](#) and below.

21-0014A1 (Water Infrastructure)

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www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16545-california-returns-to-pre-european-era-for-21st-century-water-storage



A groundwater recharge pond in the Coachella Valley. (photo: DWR)

California returns to pre-European era for 21st century water storage

Brad Hooker (/authors/213-brad-hooker)

September 29, 2021

As California handles a record drought and a record budget surplus, the state is adding no new money to proposals for surface water storage projects. The latest budget deal instead targets nearly \$1 billion for nature-based solutions included in a water and drought resilience package.

Within this allocation, a pot of cash will be available for strategic flooding to recharge groundwater aquifers — a cheaper, slightly quicker alternative to surface water storage. California's water leaders are touting it as a way to create climate resiliency while returning the system to a time before Europeans arrived and honoring the state's tribal heritage.

"We have 20th-century infrastructure for 21st-century problems," said Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, borrowing a catchphrase from State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel. "That reservoir system did really well for us when there were a lot less people in the state and before the impacts of climate change. With the challenges we have — this more variable hydrology, longer droughts, worse flooding — we can't rely on these reservoirs."



Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot at Lake Mendocino in May.
(photo: DWR)

Crowfoot.

Esquivel praised California Native Americans for the land management they had conducted for millennia.

"We really didn't understand fully what it was that we came in here and inherited," he said. "And we made a number of decisions that we're having to reconcile now in the face of climate change."

Paving over the majority of the state's wetlands altered the landscape in ways that now require the state to go back and rebuild those natural services, explained Esquivel.

"We're going to have to think differently about storage," he said, citing examples of water recycling projects and efforts to improve data gathering for water runoff and atmospheric river forecasting.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California (<https://www.ppic.org/publication/groundwater-recharge/>), the state's aquifers have much more storage capacity than the existing surface reservoirs, and groundwater banking can help farmers adapt to less water stored as snowpack and water managers to plan for more extreme flood events. Yet the researchers have also found the current infrastructure for conveyance and surface water storage "is not primed to take advantage of water available for recharge, especially during wet years." The researchers noted in a separate paper in 2019 that expanding local and regional conveyance infrastructure may be necessary (<https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/water-and-the-future-of-the-san-joaquin-valley-february-2019.pdf>), while also addressing capacity constraints due to damage from subsidence.

Boosting groundwater banking and strengthening the state's water trading markets (<https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-water-market/>) can also help agriculture adapt to new 20-year plans for implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The \$15

Speaking last week at a town hall meeting hosted by State Sen. Bill Dodd of Napa, Crowfoot then referenced UC Davis engineering Professor Jay Lund, who often points out that the best locations for reservoirs have already been taken and the remaining options would be more expensive for storing water (<https://magazine.ucdavis.edu/who-is-to-blame-for-californias-drought/>), leading to steep prices for farmers to shoulder.

"We know a lot more today about the impact of reservoirs on fish, including our salmon that supports a fishing industry and is part of our natural heritage," added

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billion climate package Gov. Gavin Newsom signed (<http://ebudget.ca.gov/BudgetAddendum.pdf>) into law last week sets aside \$300 million to assist local agencies in implementing those plans.

According to Nancy Vogel, the new deputy secretary for water under Crowfoot, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the state water board are "working hard on making sure that local agencies can capture those winter flood flows and use them to recharge groundwater." The department is streamlining permit applications for this through an effort Crowfoot calls "cutting the green tape."

In a budget briefing Friday, Vogel pointed out that the SGMA funding could support some of the infrastructure local agencies need for recharge projects. The budget package allocates another \$638 million over the next three years for flood management projects, with DWR likely putting some of that money into multi-benefit recharge efforts. Another \$200 million over the next two years will go to repairs for conveyance canals, which is slightly less than the amount dedicated to streamflow enhancement for wildlife conservation and much smaller than the \$800 million Senate Bill 559 (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16433-hurtado-pulls-sb-559-as-farm-groups-point-finger-at-assembly>) had proposed for immediate spending on repairs.

On the federal side, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are offering irrigation districts grants (<https://www.grants.gov/>) of up to \$1.5 million for efforts to improve efficiency for agricultural water use in the state. This could support lining canals, improved metering and building weirs.

In signing the budget package on Thursday, Newsom said the state is "investing, yes, in storage. But we define storage broadly — not just the old hydrology of storage above ground, but also below ground." According to a CalEPA spokesperson, Newsom was likely referring to dollars from the 2014 Proposition 1 water bond. The administration has been encouraging the California Water Commission to speed up the process for distributing that funding for projects like the Sites Reservoir proposal. The commission has faced steady criticism since its 2018 decision to reduce funding for storage projects after finding ecosystem benefits would be minimal. Farm groups have also blasted the commission for delaying that funding.

While Newsom has the power to appoint new commissioners, the body is designed to be a science-based advisory group operating separately from the administration. Prop. 1 granted it new powers to control the purse for that water bond, adding to its role as gatekeeper of federal infrastructure funding.

Nevertheless, Commissioner Matthew Swanson expects seven projects will move forward on construction (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16130-water-commissioner-full-of-hope-for-new-storage-and-for-dairys-future>) after reaching a critical funding milestone in January. Altogether, the projects would add about 2.7 million acre-feet of new storage.

In an interview with
Agri-Pulse

on Friday, CDFA Secretary Karen Ross turned attention to a \$550 billion federal infrastructure bill that could be up for a House vote this week (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16535-washington-week-ahead-infrastructure-bill-government-shutdown-at-stake>). The bill includes \$8.3 billion for Western water needs (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16299-senate-clears-bipartisan-infrastructure-bill-moves-ahead-on-budget-resolution>), with \$3.2 billion allocated for aging infrastructure and \$1.2 billion for water storage, groundwater storage and conveyance projects.

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Ross cautioned that this type of spending, however, would not help with the current drought.

"There's no short-term dollars that can fix that immediately," she said. "We just have to be realistic."

Even smaller water use efficiency projects (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>) to improve wells take time to complete, she explained. For those grants, the budget includes \$100 million spread over two years.

New large-scale groundwater banking projects have been underway but are still several years from completion. Existing efforts have shown this approach can pay off significantly

([https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-](https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2021/04_April/April2021_Item_9_Attach_3_PowerPoint_Recharge.pdf)

[Website/Files/Documents/2021/04_April/April2021_Item_9_Attach_3_PowerPoint_Recharge.pdf](https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2021/04_April/April2021_Item_9_Attach_3_PowerPoint_Recharge.pdf)).

However, it requires tedious coordination among agencies and local governments and has less potential for the southern Central Valley without investing in conveyance improvements and moving more water south of the Delta.

Water rights related to groundwater recharging have been the biggest concern for growers as well.

"Groundwater recharge is great," John Duarte, president of Duarte Nursery near Modesto, told the Water Commission in a mid-September hearing on San Joaquin Valley water issues. "But if we don't have the water rights secured and there's not some flexibility added ... that's going to be a challenge."

Duarte added that the state has to improve the conveyance system and weather forecasting to be able to channel high winter flows to recharge sites. He also called it poor resources management for the state to allow excess water to flow to the Delta in "attempted single species management" under the Endangered Species Act.

The state's immediate response to the drought, however, has been to issue curtailment orders (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16336-farmers-water-boards-hammer-approach-disrupts-voluntary-efforts>) to diverters in several watersheds and to use the main reservoirs to prop up fish populations (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16521-state-drought-plan-disappoints-environmental-groups>), while also supplying water for basic human needs and keeping salinity at bay in the Sacramento — San Joaquin Delta. This will likely continue into 2022 as another dry year begins to unfold, meaning no water allocations (<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/16514-as-water-conservation-falls-short-california-plans-for-the-worst>) for south-of-Delta contractors.

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DWR Director Karla Nemeth described to the Water Commission how three reservoirs in Northern California — Shasta, Oroville and Folsom — have played a vital role in managing water across the state but are no longer a reliable source for farmers.

“We’re not meeting water supply needs south of the Delta with water stored in those reservoirs,” said Nemeth. “Those big reservoirs are really becoming regulating reservoirs heading into this new year.”

For more news, go to Agri-Pulse.com (<http://agri-pulse.com/>).



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Associate Editor, Agri-Pulse West

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLUMN
DAVE EGGERTON

Where Unity of Purpose Finds a Voice



During the past two months, I have enjoyed the privilege of personally meeting staff and leadership at several ACWA member agencies, including visits to the Central Valley and San Diego County. It's great to be back in the field to see first-hand your challenges and successes during these incredibly difficult times.

Our irrigation district membership serves an agricultural community at a crossroads, with drought impacting the production of our nation's food supply and the economy that supports it, all the while enduring stubborn public misperceptions about the significant contributions they make to water efficiency and environmental health. California is the largest field laboratory on the planet for water saving irrigation technology.

Between 1980 and 2015, California farms reduced their water use by 14% while increasing production by 38%. According to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), California produces more fresh food per gallon of water on 15 different crops – ranging from strawberries and tomatoes to walnuts – than what is used by our major trade competitors. At the same time, many of these growers are working with our member agencies and others to pioneer the development of multi-beneficial approaches to farming that create critical habitat for fish and wildlife such as migratory waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway.

On the urban side, ACWA member agencies deserve credit for stunning advances in water recycling, reuse and efficiency that were almost impossible to imagine just a couple decades ago. Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System is the largest of its kind in the world, while agencies throughout California, such as San Diego's East County Advanced Water Purification Program, continue to collectively invest billions in

steadily diversifying water supplies and building local resiliency. That foresight is paying off during this severe drought.

Whether they serve farms, factories or families, ACWA member agencies share a strong ethic of responsibility and stewardship. And yes, I share your growing frustration over the lack of awareness of local water management demonstrated by the public and news media. Climate change may well be the leading challenge of our generation of water leaders, but the lack of understanding of what it takes to provide for the essential water-related needs of the people we serve, whether directly at home or indirectly through the grocery store, seems to run a close second. What we all need to appreciate within our association is that overcoming both depends on resisting any impulse to take each other for granted.

It is the responsibility of all ACWA members to understand each other and, in doing so, become each other's advocate. The best opportunity we have to ensure the dissemination of accurate information is when urban water leaders become outspoken supporters of agriculture, and irrigation leaders add their voice to supporting their urban colleagues.

ACWA serves as a toolbox and town square for building that understanding while transforming it into shared support behind a unified voice. We are fortunate to be able to interact at conferences, committee meetings, region events and other venues to gain mutual understanding of each other's different approaches to answering the same basic challenge – caring for a resource that is as vital as it is vulnerable. The hardest job in California isn't getting any easier, which is all the more reason to appreciate that we're all in this together, no matter who we serve or where we work. ♦

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Biden Admin Takes 1st Step to Undo Trump's Delta Destruction

October 15, 2021 Doug Obegi

On October 1, the Bureau of Reclamation formally began the multi-year process to replace the Trump Administration's blatantly unlawful biological opinions for the operation of the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project in California's Bay-Delta watershed by requesting what is known as "reinitiation of consultation." This is an important first step – after all, recognizing and admitting you have a problem is the first step on the road to recovery. But reinitiation of consultation does not immediately change how these unsustainable water projects operate, and while the Biden Administration has recognized they need to change these operations they still have not yet admitted that these biological opinions are unlawful.

The Trump Administration's biological opinions were the result of scientific misconduct, political interference, and bias (which was documented by federal agency staff, including in this memo). The end result is nothing short of a plan for extinction that is playing out before our eyes. This year the National Marine Fisheries Service estimates that the Central Valley Project will kill more than 80% of the endangered winter-run Chinook salmon below Shasta Dam as a result of lethal water temperatures: this outrageous result is authorized by these biological opinions, which actually allow 100% mortality over 3 consecutive years before they are violated (even though salmon generally live for 3 years). As a result of temperature dependent mortality, low flows, and other natural and human-cause mortality, it is likely that of the thousands of winter-run Chinook salmon that returned to spawn this fall, laying between 20 and 30 million eggs, only 2 percent will survive the short distance to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, and far fewer will survive their migration through the Delta to the ocean.

What's more, this year the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources have repeatedly violated the wholly inadequate environmental protections in these biological opinions. The projects violated water temperature requirements on the American River (harming steelhead and fall-run Chinook salmon), violated Delta outflow standards in April (harming Delta Smelt and Longfin Smelt), and violated Delta water quality standards and installed a physical barrier in the Delta this summer that was not permitted under the biological opinions (harming not just Delta Smelt, but also worsening water quality for some communities in the Delta).

Our native fish populations are plummeting towards extinction because the CVP and SWP continue to prioritize allocating millions of acre feet of water to their contractors (particularly so called Settlement and Exchange Contractors) during the drought over actually protecting fish and wildlife. It is not true that this simply a result of the drought: as the State Water Board wrote earlier this spring, "Although the current violations are exacerbated by the extreme dry conditions, they are in part the result of the overallocation of Project water during dry conditions."

And if next year is dry, it will be even worse for salmon and other native fish species -- and for the thousands of fishing jobs that depend on healthy salmon runs, the communities in the Delta that depend on meeting water quality standards, and native American Tribes for whom salmon and other native fish are a sacred part of the world. Having drained the reservoirs to record or near record low levels in order to deliver millions of acre feet of water this year, slaughtering native fish and wildlife in the process, California is woefully unprepared for another dry year. DWR is already planning to petition the State Water Board to waive even more water quality standards that protect the environment next year, so that they can continue to deliver unsustainable amounts of water to their contractors. The State and Feds must curtail water deliveries to their contractors next year – including their Settlement and Exchange

Contractors – in order to provide cold water to salmon and before considering waiving water quality standards, except for water deliveries for human health and safety or to wildlife refuges.

Nearly 10 months after President Biden issued an executive order which directed the agencies to review these biological opinions on his first day in office, the agencies have finally started the process of undoing the damage caused by Trump and his minions (some of whom are still working for the Department of the Interior!). Yet our native fish and wildlife can't wait three years for the SWP and CVP to be operated pursuant to scientifically credible biological opinions, particularly during a drought when the CVP and SWP are already violating the terms of those woefully inadequate biological opinions.

Last year, NRDC and our partners filed motions for preliminary injunctions to prevent the continued implementation of the Trump Administration's biological opinions, trying to prevent the harm that has occurred these past two years. That motion was granted in part by the Court, and denied in part, even as the Biden Administration continued to defend these indefensible biological opinions as complying with the ESA. Now that they've formally reinitiated consultation, the Biden Administration should stop defending the lawfulness of the Trump Administration's biological opinions.

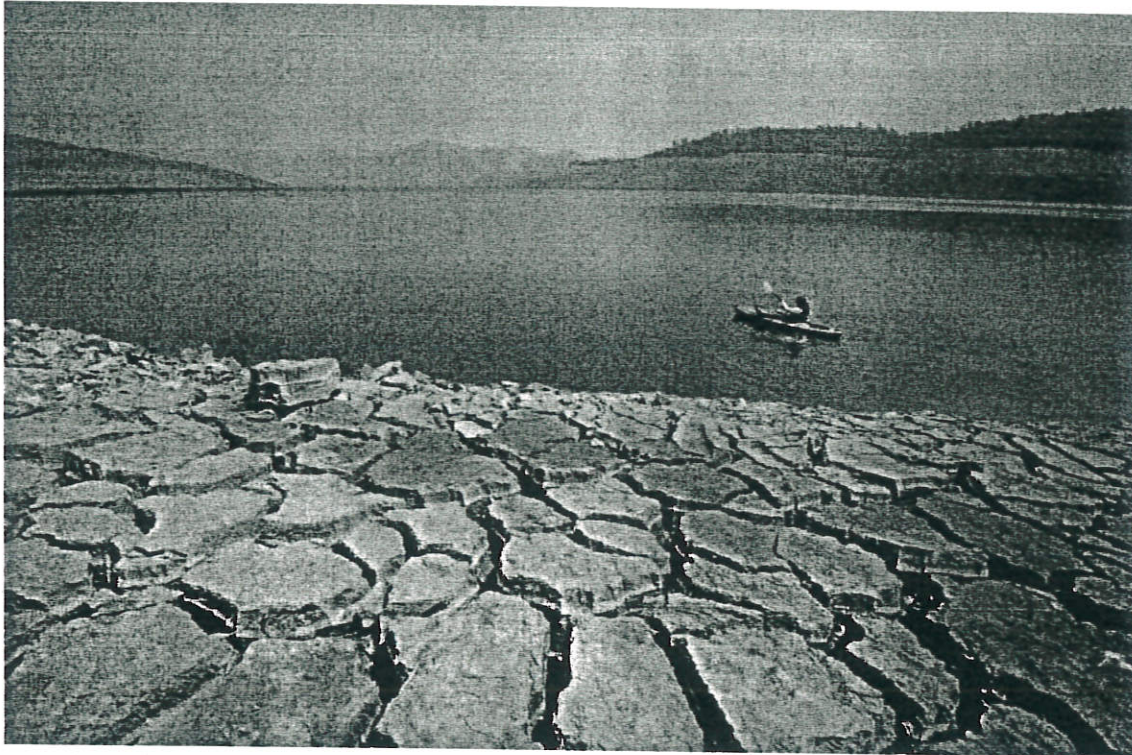
Continuing to operate under this plan for extinction for another year would be outrageous and unlawful. We're in court to make sure that doesn't happen.

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OPINION > COMMENTARY

Opinion: How California can solve its growing water crisis

With temperatures rising and snowpacks melting, the state needs to act quickly to stave off climate change threat



In this Aug. 22 photo a kayaker fishes in Lake Oroville as water levels remain low due to continuing drought conditions in California. California's reservoirs are so low from a historic drought. (AP Photo/Ethan Swope)

By STEVE WESTLY and GARY KREMEN |
October 5, 2021 at 5:15 a.m.

With snowpack and storage at historic lows, California and 95% of the West are suffering the worst drought in modern history. Marin and Santa Clara counties have imposed mandatory cutbacks, and other counties are considering the same. However painful, it is time for California to move quickly. Here are the steps — starting with the least intrusive and least expensive — that state and local government need to take now to avoid the dystopia that Cape Town, South Africa, endured in 2018 when the faucets ran dry.

First, we should make conservation a way of life. Utilities must increase tried-and-true mandatory 20% conservation and water recycling from 2019 usage. That means ordinances requiring separate potable and non-potable plumbing and greywater systems to recycle wastewater for irrigation and cooling towers. It means restricting corporate ornamental lawns and increasing non-compliance penalties too. The good news is that the world's two largest water companies, Paris-based newly-merged Veolia/Suez and New York-based Xylem, is already leading the way by providing new leak-detection software that can dramatically reduce waste.

We also need to shift water retailer's own incentives. While they will never say it publicly, water utilities do not like conservation, because

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California needs to increase its lead-inefficient crop management and escalate enforcement of 2014's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as well. The state could take even more aggressive action by buying out water-inefficient farmland and converting it into wildlife conservation or renewable energy land. This would be especially valuable due to Article X in California's Constitution, which gives the ag industry many of the most senior water rights.

Third, we need to increase California's water storage capacity. California's system was built over the last hundred years for 10 million people. Today, we have nearly 40 million people and yet less organic snowpack storage with rising temperatures. Smart implementation of the SGMA can use already-built natural cisterns: aquifers. Artificial structures can complement, such as Los Angeles's new Headworks complex on the banks of the Los Angeles River — the largest underground water storage facility in the West. This was an important step forward for a part of the state with a fraction of our storage capacity — and we need more.

We need to also take a look at surface storage. The last surface storage bond — the \$7.5 billion Proposition 1 — was a nearly unanimous, bipartisan vote by the Legislature and passed by the voters. However, no new surface storage has been built since the New Melones Dam in 1979 — mostly due to environmental litigation. One easy tit-for-tat would be to simplify CEQA for surface storage projects that use unionized contractors. Storage is not cheap, but it will be the next best solution after conservation.

Finally, as a last resort, desalination should not be off the table. Turning saltwater into freshwater sounds like magic — and it is — but it requires a vast amount of energy (off-peak renewable could help), produces salt byproduct and disrupts ocean inflows/outflows. It may be our best alternative for certain regions of the state, such as Santa Barbara.

With temperatures rising and snowpacks melting, Californians need to act quickly to ensure we're poised for the same level of growth in the 21st century that we enjoyed in the last. By using smart public policy, investments and new technologies, California can show we still have the entrepreneurial mindset that has made it the world's innovation center. But that's going to require the financial and political commitment to start building water-efficient buildings, water recycling, all-of-the-above storage, and in select cases desalination. There is no time to waste and even less water.

Steve Westly is a former California State Controller and founder of The Westly Group. Gary Kremen represents District 7 on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors.

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Steve Westly



Gary Kremen



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By Bayer



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Anthea Hansen

From: Elizabeth Ossowski - NOAA Affiliate <elizabeth.ossowski@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Anthea Hansen
Cc: Looper, Sheryl A; Raff, David; Lynne Carbone; Veva Deheza - NOAA Federal; David Bidwell - NOAA Affiliate
Subject: Speaker Invite: Southwest Drought Virtual Forum (9/28)

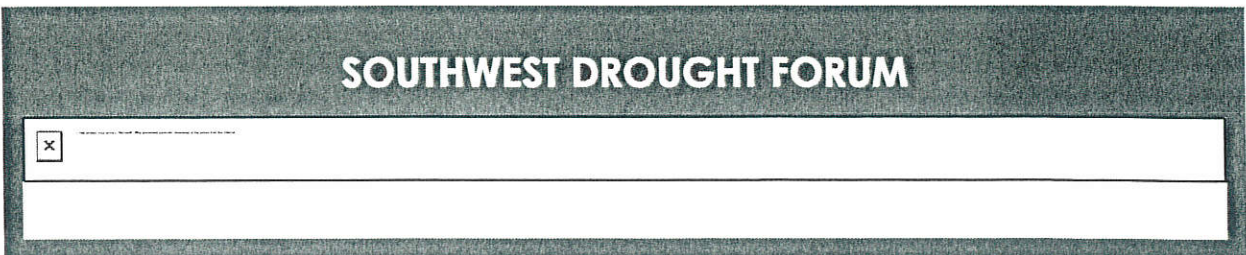
Anthea: I hope this email finds you well. I am a Program Coordinator with NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). Sheri Looper, cc'd here, suggested we reach out to you. NIDIS, along with partners across sectors and levels of government, are in the thick of planning for a (4-day) Southwest Drought Virtual Forum in September. The focus of the Forum will be on long-term drought in the Southwest region (including California), and the topic of infrastructure for managing drought risk will be a prominent topic of conversation. We would love to feature the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program partnership with the Cities of Turlock and Modesto, Del Puerto, and the Bureau of Reclamation. We wanted to see if you would be available on **Tuesday 9/28 from 11:30am-1:10pm EST** to serve on a panel dedicated to this topic (panel description below). You would be joined by representatives from the Walton Family Foundation, Blue Forest Conservation, Coca-Cola, and a water markets expert, to help Forum participants consider the many ways of harnessing infrastructure to better serve our people and our environment as we manage for a drier future in the Southwest. I've also included the invitation below so that you can see a bit more about the event. Many, many thanks in advance for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Elizabeth Ossowski

11:35am - 1:10pm EDT Infrastructure for Managing Drought Risk

Panelists highlight critical needs for infrastructure improvements to address long-term drought in the Southwest, including the development of nature-based solutions and innovative practices utilizing infrastructure across sectors that realize co-benefits in water conservation as water scarcity increases in the Southwest. Panelists offer perspectives and needs for:

- Nature-Based Infrastructure
- Built Infrastructure
- Water Markets
- Environmental Impacts
- Tribal, Rural, and Underserved Communities



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Southwest Drought Virtual Forum September 21-22 and 28-29, 2021

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), you are cordially invited to attend the Southwest Drought Virtual Forum. The virtual forum will be held:

- Tuesday, September 21, 11am-3:30pm EDT
- Wednesday, September 22, 11am-3pm EDT
- Tuesday, September 28, 11am-2:30pm EDT
- Wednesday, September 29, 11am-2:30pm EDT

The forum will assemble stakeholders, decision makers, and drought experts for a cross cutting dialogue on worsening drought conditions in the Southwestern United States, and response and relief efforts across levels of government and sectors, with the goal of supporting communities impacted by ongoing water scarcity and building long-term drought resilience in the region. Forum objectives include:

Explore the questions:

- How did we get here? How bad is the drought and when will it end?
- What has been accomplished to mitigate drought impacts?
- What innovations are needed to achieve drought resilience?
- How do we work together to realize new opportunities?

Realize an exchange of information:

- State-to-state and local best practices
- Innovative ideas to build drought resilience in the region, including for the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems
- Timely, relevant Federal resources to support long-term drought resilience strategies
- Recommendations for collaborative actions that bring additional resources and solutions to bear to address drought across the Southwest

Please visit the [NIDIS Southwest Drought Forum website](#) to register today. On the site you will also find the current agenda, confirmed speakers, and relevant background information, as well as a brief 5-minute [Pre-Forum Survey](#) to help inform forum discussion.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Elizabeth Ossowski, NIDIS Program Coordinator, at Elizabeth.Ossowski@noaa.gov, or David Bidwell, Forum Coordinator, at David.Bidwell@noaa.gov.

Thank you, and we hope to see you in September.

[View in browser](#)

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XIV.



Southwest Drought Virtual Forum

Infrastructure For Managing Drought Risk Panel

North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program
"It Wasn't Just a Pipeline"

Anthea G. Hansen, Del Puerto Water District

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XIV

2/21

Separate and Distinct Challenges

Del Puerto Water District – 45,000 ac

- Primary Supply Source is USBR contract for Agricultural Water from California's Central Valley Project (CVP)
- CVP Allocations largely restricted due to drought, regulation, and environmental concerns
- Highly unreliable deliveries to small family farmers

Cities of Modesto & Turlock – Combined population 488,000

- Tertiary treated supply with minimal reuse opportunity
- Costly future treatment requirements under discharge permits to San Joaquin River
- Maximizing use of underutilized resource



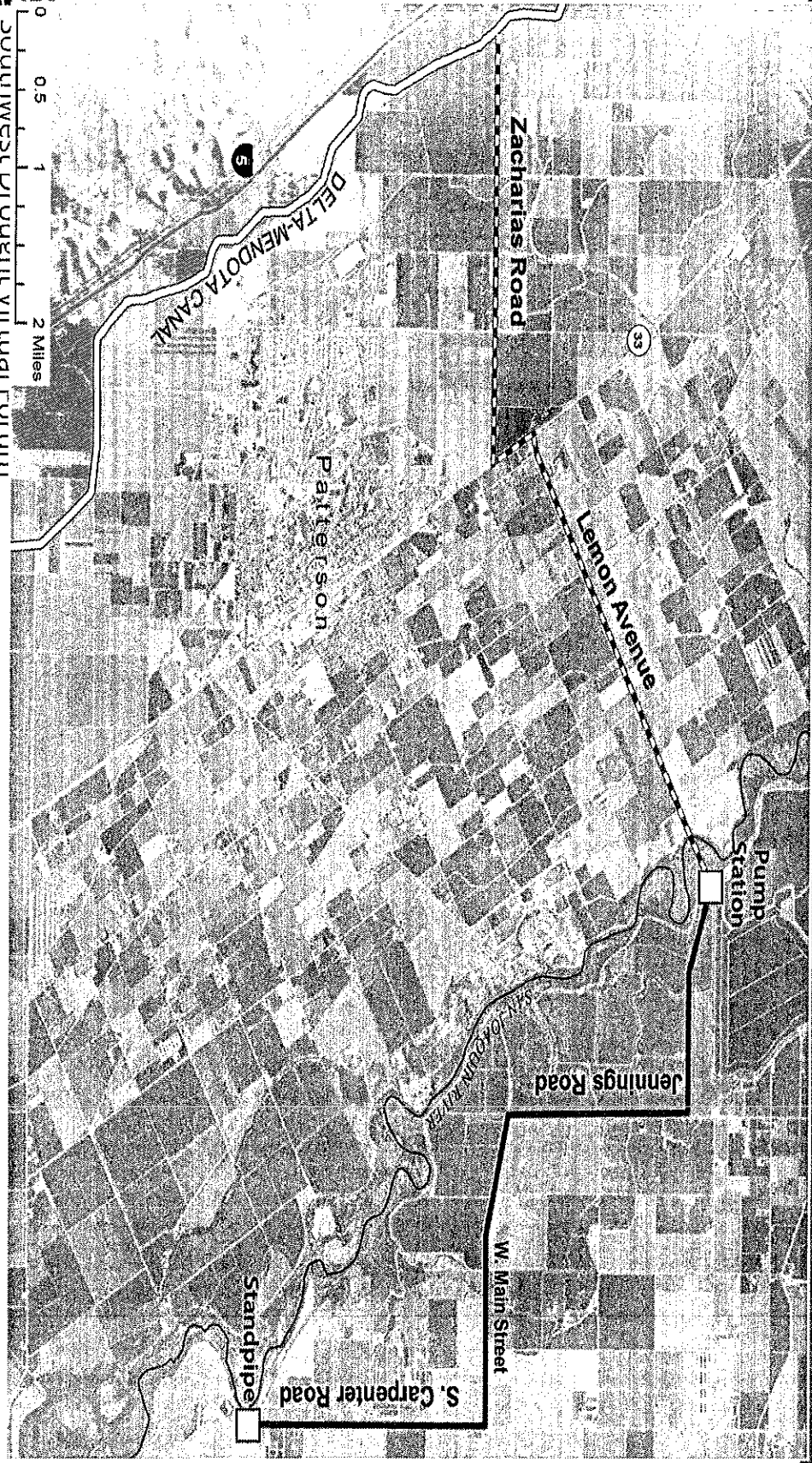
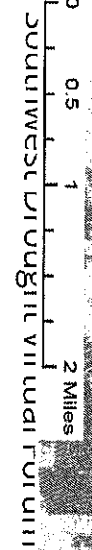
Regional Partnership Goals & Objectives

NVRRWP GOALS

- Develop a Regional Solution for a Local Water Supply Crisis
- Expand Agricultural and Environmental Beneficial Reuse of Recycled Water
- Establish a long-term, reliable base supply for DPWD Growers
- Reduce reliance on imperiled Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and groundwater pumping
- Avoid increasing costs of regulatory compliance for Cities Ratepayers

NVRRWP OBJECTIVES

- Eliminate discharge to the river and route Recycled Water to the Federally-owned DMC
- Perfect year-round use and/or storage of Recycled Water
- Deliver RW supplies at cost that supports regional economic sustainability
- Develop an Incremental Level of reliable supply for CVPIA-designated wildlife refuges



A simple concept on a grand scale.

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But It Wasn't Just a Pipeline.....

- Regional Coordination between Very Different Agencies
 - Agreements During Program Development Phase
 - Long-term Agreements to Implement Program Specifics
 - Negotiations Resulting in Win-Wins and Protection of Local Control
- Federal, State and Regional Government/Agency Approvals
 - Revised Discharge Permitting
 - USBR Policy Change to Allow RW in a Federal Facility
 - CEQA/NEPA Compliance and MMRP's
 - CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement and Permit
 - CDFW Incidental Take Permit
 - USFWS and NMFS Consultations
 - National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation

Res

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But It Wasn't Just a Pipeline.....

Continued...

- County and City Encroachment Permits
- Temporary and Permanent Easements
- Institutional Issues – Grower Education
- Local, State and Federal Legislative Support
- Proposition 218 Election
- Funding Agreements
- Grant Procurement and Qualification
- Construction and Construction Management

...And once in awhile lunch for the crew or a public event to celebrate progress!



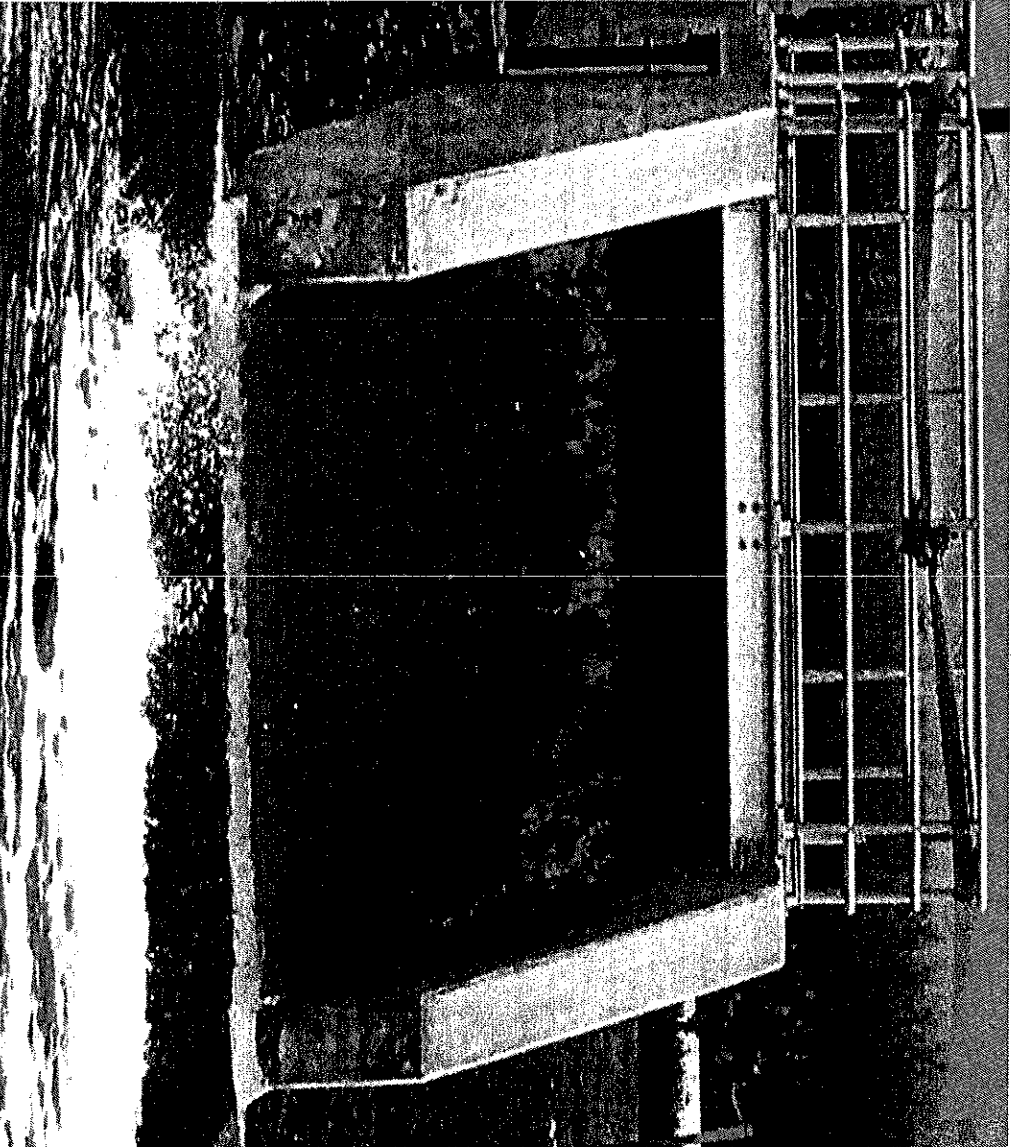
It Was and Is a Model for Regional Cooperation & Success

Current Facts & Figures:

- Initiated in May 2010, the NVRWRP began delivering Modesto's RW to the DMC on December 28, 2018, and Turlock's on March 8, 2020.
- 40-Year Agreements are in place between the District and the USBR Refuge Water Supply Program.
- To date, the NVRWRP has produced 67,747 AF, providing 6 inches per acre per year of RW to DPWD lands and 18,292 AF of additional supply to CVPIA-designated Wildlife Refuges.
- The District is fully repaying the up-front costs plus the costs of the Project to the Cities via a per-AF Water Rate. The Refuge supply has been prepaid for 15 years with grants.
- The Pipeline is sized for a maximum build-out of 59,000 AFY, to be achieved as populations of the Cities grow, or new sources of supply are added.

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North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program



NIPDS

Southwest Drought Virtual Forum

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**ACWA Regions 6 & 7
San Joaquin Valley Water Forum**

October 8th 2021

Harris Ranch Inn, 24505 W. Dorris Avenue, Coalinga, CA 93210

PROGRAM AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome**
David Cehrs, Chair, ACWA Region 6 & Steven LaMar, President, ACWA
- 10:15 a.m. **Perspectives from the Capitol**
Moderator: Justin Mendes, Chair, ACWA Region 7

Senator Melissa Hurtado

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula

Assemblymember Jim Patterson
- 11:00 a.m. **San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program**
Jason Phillips, Chief Executive Officer, Friant Water Authority

Timothy Quinn, Fellow, Stanford University
- 11:50 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. **ACWA Update**
Dave Eggerton, Executive Director, ACWA

Bill Diedrich, Chair, Agricultural Committee

Aubrey Bettencourt, Director of Sustainability, Western United Dairies

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Sheridan Nicholas, Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water Storage District

ACWA Regions 6 & 7 San Joaquin Valley Water Forum

- 1:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion: SGMA Litigation/Legal Review**
- Moderator: Sebastian Silveira, Attorney, Griswold LaSalle Cobb Dowd & Gin LLP
- Valerie C. Kincaid, Partner, O’Laughlin & Paris LLP
- Aubrey A. Mauritsen, Attorney, Ruddell Stanton Bixler Mauritsen & Evans, LLP
- 2:00 p.m. **Concluding Remarks**
- Justin Mendes, Chair, ACWA Region 7 & Pamela Tobin, Vice President, ACWA

This event is sponsored by:

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