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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Drought Response

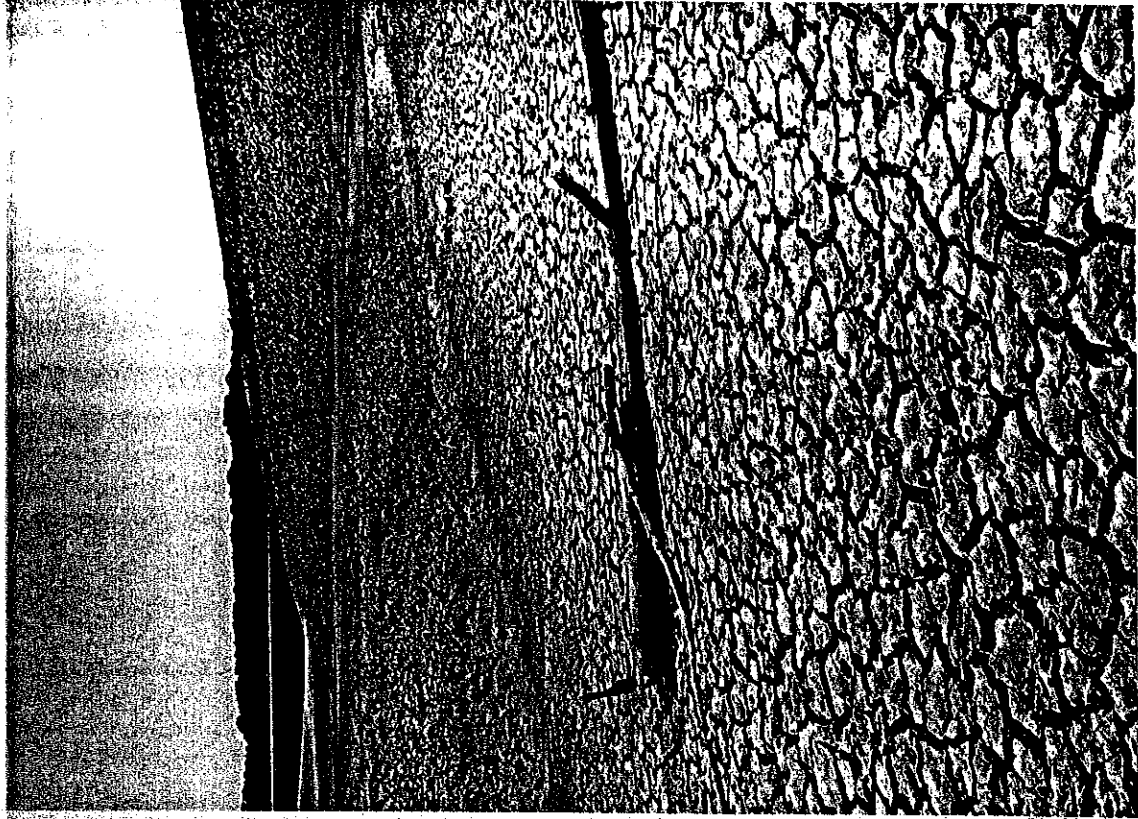
Planning for the 2022 Water Year



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Situation:

- 2021 = lowest precipitation since 1924
- 2020/2021 = officially drier than 1976/1977
- Soils are dry, runoff is low, storage is low
- Lowest Shasta inflow ever
- Even with the recent record-setting storm, conservative planning is still needed



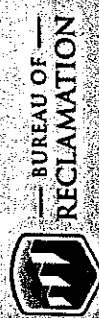
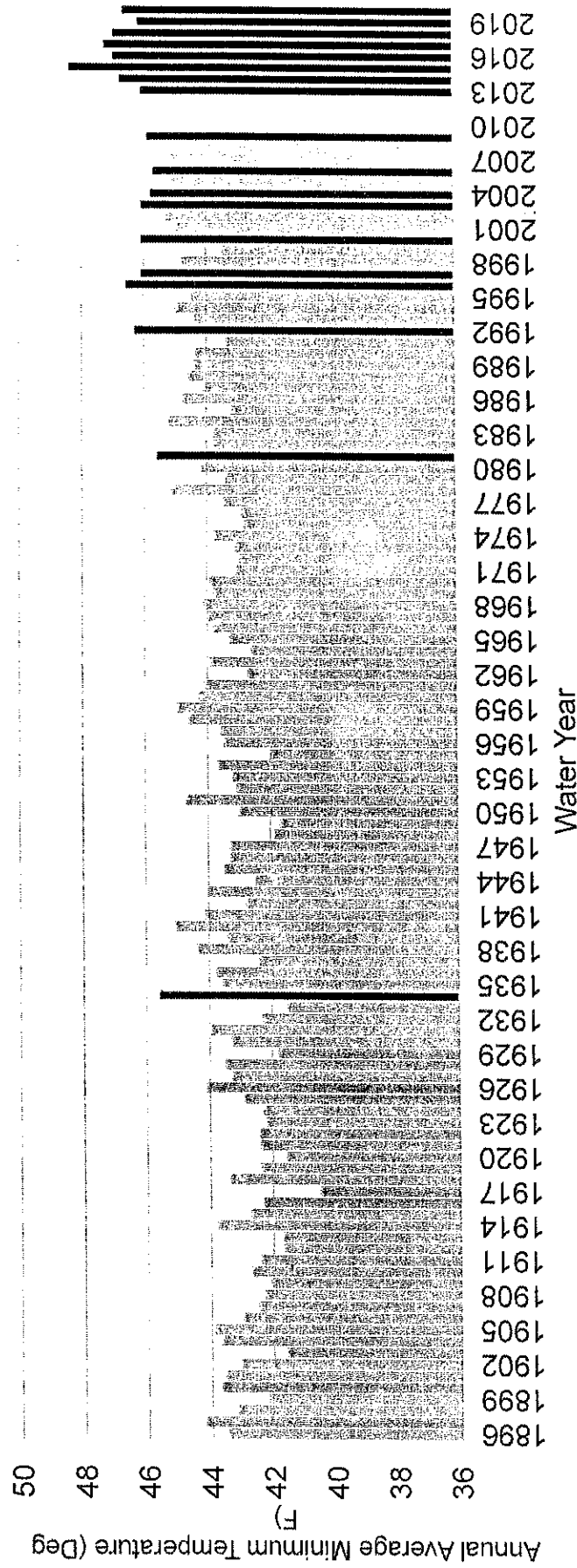
STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



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Key Takeaway: Rising Average Temperatures

Statewide Water Year Minimum Temperature



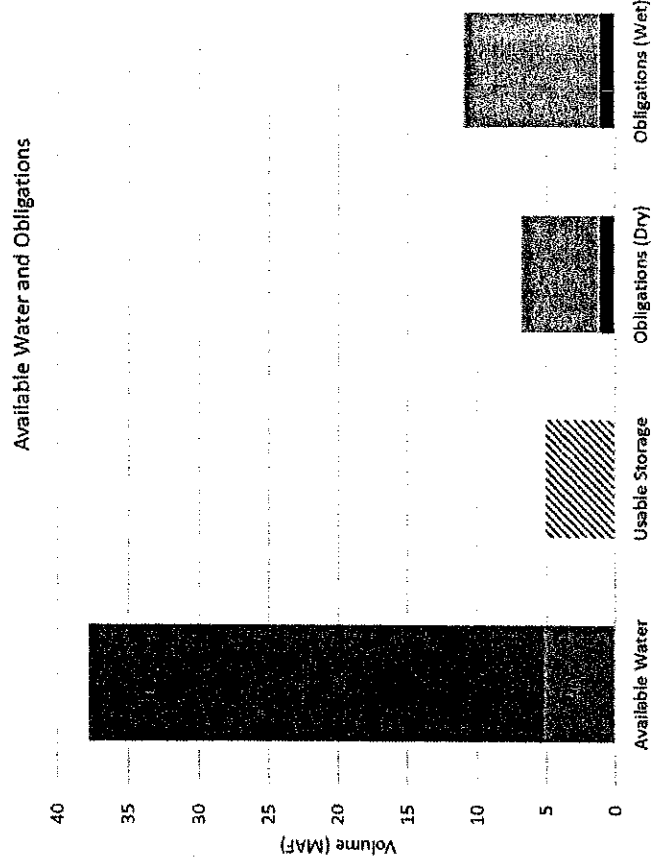
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

8/1

Sacramento Valley Water Availability and Project Obligations

Key Takeaways:

- Historical Sac Valley runoff in Northern CA is extremely variable (~5 MAF to ~38 MAF)
- Water rights obligations vary between wet and dry conditions
- Runoff in wet conditions fully meet Project obligations
- Dry year obligations need to be supplemented by Project storage, and in very dry years like 2021 may not be sufficient



* Settlement Contractors include: SRSC, FRSA, and Exchange



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Lessons Learned: Managing Uncertainty

- **Limitations of Hydrologic Data**
Climate change results in long-datasets being less representative of future conditions
- **Antecedent Conditions**
Cumulative affects of warmer than average temperatures on soils and the resultant reduction in runoff
- **Ambient Temperatures**
Effects of unseasonably warm and dry conditions- driven by climate change- in late spring contributed to unprecedented loss of snowpack runoff
- **Reduced flexibility**
Dry conditions with minimal exports produced limitations to operational buffer and reduced ability to respond to tidal variations and depletion changes



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End of WY Storage Forecasts

Forecast Month	Probability of Exceeding 2022 Initial Storages (End of September) 2.0 MAF	Probability of Exceeding 2021 Initial Storages (End of September) 4.2 MAF
February Forecast	34%	1%
April Forecast	72%	18%
"Actual"	90%	54%

Assumptions:

- Includes recent October 2021 storm
- Minimal precipitation from now through December 2021
- Assumes 82-year historical range of hydrology starting in January
- Settlement contractor cuts triggered per contract criteria
- Model forecasts adjusted to account for dry antecedent conditions



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*Shasta, Oroville, and Folsom

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2022 Outlook: Takeaways

1. Must begin the year conservatively, assuming possibility for ongoing dry conditions
2. The extreme drought deficit going into next year will necessitate drought actions be in place through early spring even with a wet winter
3. Current low storage increases the probability of low storage at the end of the water year, even with drought actions



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Planning for a Dry 2022: Goals

- **Priorities:**
 - health and safety
 - Minimum M&I deliveries
 - Salinity management
 - endangered species
 - storage conservation
 - water deliveries in priority
- **Early communication for better planning**
- **Take advantage of having more tools earlier in the water year**
- **Reducing forecast uncertainty**



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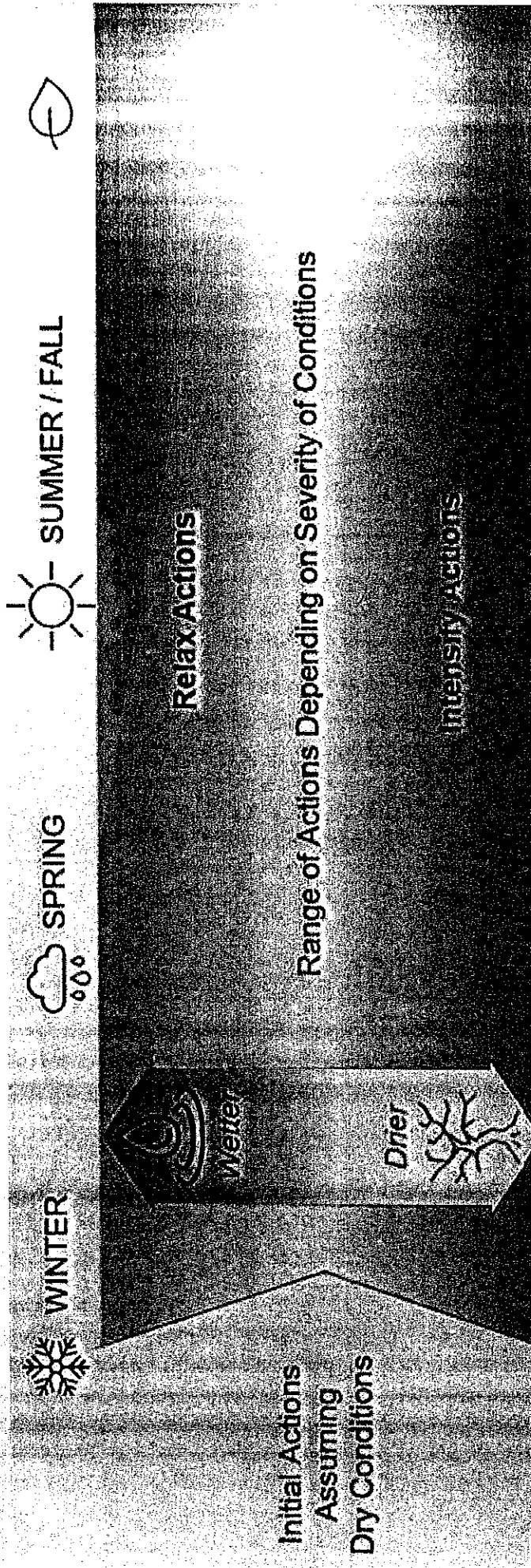


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Decision Process

for Water Supply, Conservation and Environmental Drought Actions



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What Can Local Agencies Do to Support Proactive Decision Making?

- Input on critical municipal needs
- Input around timing for planting decisions
- Information about the points of no return
- Communication with constituencies to share outlook and plans for 2022



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Next Steps

- Submit TUCP: December 1
- SWP Initial Allocation: December 1
- CVP Determination and Allocation: mid-February
- Identify collaborative approach based on timeline



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Discussion

Thank You

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Gavin Newsom
Governor

V.I.

October 20, 2021

Michael Carlin, Acting General Manager and Chief Operating Officer
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
525 Golden Gate Avenue (at Polk St.)
San Francisco, CA 94102

Steve Knell, General Manager
Oakdale Irrigation District
1205 East F Street
Oakdale, CA 95361

Michelle Reimers, General Manager
Turlock Irrigation District
333 East Canal Drive
P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381

Peter Reitkerk, General Manager
South San Joaquin Irrigation District
P.O. Box 747
Ripon, CA 95366

Bill Schwandt, General Manager
Modesto Irrigation District
1231 11th Street
Modesto, CA 95352

John Sweigard, General Manager
Merced Irrigation District
744 W. 20th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Dear water district leaders,

Thank you for your engagement over the last several years to develop a Voluntary Agreement (VA) to improve conditions for fish and wildlife in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its major rivers, through a commitment to create habitat and increase flows while providing regulatory certainty to water users. Your collaboration and hard work have been truly appreciated.

We all recognize that a successful VA among water users and state and federal agencies must withstand legal and scientific scrutiny. This VA will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) as a proposed pathway to implement its update to the San

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Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan). In that process, the VA will be subject to third-party scientific peer review and environmental analysis pursuant to the Water Code and the California Environmental Quality Act. The public will also have the opportunity to participate through the State Water Board's public proceedings.


Given the need for a strong, durable VA, our state team has worked together with waters users to secure certain thresholds of increased water flows and habitat improvements necessary to make a VA scientifically defensible. Meeting these thresholds is essential to enable a VA that can be approved by the State Water Board as a pathway to implement the Bay-Delta Plan.

These thresholds of needed flow and habitat have been clearly communicated over the last two years by our state team, and we have worked together with you to explore how these thresholds can be met. In fact, we paused discussions among all parties during this summer and early fall to allow for more time for the proposals by the San Joaquin River tributaries to develop. However, at this point it is clear that despite considerable efforts, proposed voluntary actions by water agencies on the San Joaquin River tributaries have fallen short of needed flow and habitat improvements, and viable proposals are not being offered at this time.


Accordingly, at this point, we will focus our efforts on advancing a VA with the Sacramento River basin water users and water agencies who contract with the State and Federal water projects. On a dual track, we will ask the State Water Board to resume all activities necessary to implement the flow objectives established by the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan for the Lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries, the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers.

We continue to believe that collaboration, adaptive management, and voluntary agreements are the best way to ensure water resilience for California's communities, economy, and environment. Accordingly, we maintain hope that water agencies that utilize the San Joaquin River and its tributaries can become part of the VA. Specifically, we are including a provision in the VA to enable additional water agencies to join the agreement at a later date if they propose necessary levels of additional water flows and habitat. We stand ready and eager to collaborate with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumentfeld
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency



Wade Crowfoot
Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

V1.

October 26, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1303 10th St, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Biden and Governor Newsom:

We urgently request federal and state emergency declarations related to the drought and recent storms in California to maximize pumping of stormwater and unregulated flows in the Delta.

The recent Category 5 Atmospheric River event drenched northern California, with rainfall totals exceeding ten inches in some areas of the state and setting single-day records in most. Moreover, atmospheric models indicate that California faces an elevated likelihood of additional atmospheric river activity in the coming weeks. The ground is now saturated from the last storm, meaning additional rain will manifest almost entirely as runoff through the Delta.

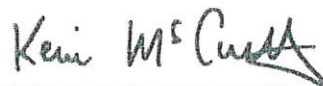
This year's catastrophic man-made drought has crushed California families and farms, and with supply chain disruptions further hamstringing our agricultural producers, we have a moral obligation to provide Californians any relief that is within our control. Government regulations should not and must not deny our constituents critical water from these storms. While we cannot make it rain, we must take advantage of opportunities to store water when it does.

We urge your administrations to issue emergency declarations and direct relevant federal and state agencies to temporarily waive all impediments that limit operations of the Delta pumps to ensure none of these storm flows go to waste. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

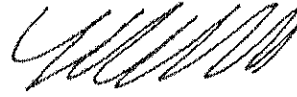


Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader

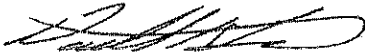
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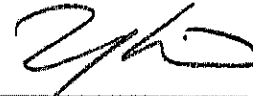
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



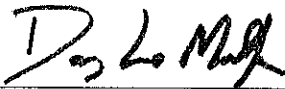
Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



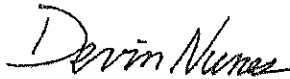
Young Kim
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Haaland and Secretary Raimondo:

We are writing to express our grave concerns with the proposed interim operations plan for the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) submitted on October 14, 2021, by Federal and State agencies to the United States District Court in the consolidated litigation challenging the 2019 biological opinions for long-term operations of the CVP and SWP (2019 BiOps) and the 2020 Record of Decision on Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Modified Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (2020 ROD).

The proposed interim operations plan represents a huge step backward in California's effort to protect, restore and enhance the Delta ecosystem and provide reliable water supplies. We are at a complete loss as to why the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) would agree to the proposed changes in operations, which deviate significantly from operations described in the 2019 BiOps and the 2020 ROD.

The 2019 BiOps and the 2020 ROD: (1) were the product of a consultation that was initiated in 2016 by the Obama administration; (2) reviewed operations of the CVP and SWP proposed by Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources, which operates the SWP; (3) were prepared by career staff in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the leadership of the Regional Director of the FWS, an appointee of the Obama administration; (4) were peer-reviewed in the course of their development; and (5) were based on the best scientific and commercial data available, including

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what had been learned about the impact of CVP and SWP operations on species in the decade after adoption of the biological opinions they replaced. Furthermore, at the time of their release, these career staff extolled that the 2019 biological opinions would provide greater protection of the listed species, while restoring operational flexibility for the CVP and SWP. Indeed, as explained by career staff in declarations filed in the consolidated litigation, operations under the 2019 BiOps and the 2020 ROD have shown demonstrative benefits to the species resulting from the adaptive, real-time management approach prescribed by the 2019 biological opinions.

Now, less than two years after the 2019 BiOps were issued and accepted through the 2020 ROD, the Reclamation and State agencies have proposed, without any explanation, an interim operations plan that seemingly reverts to a calendar-based approach using historical averages, which accounts for neither changing hydrological conditions nor real-time biological needs or environmental information concerning listed fish species, such as their distribution. At a minimum, any changes in operations adopted through an interim operations plan that further restrict water supply must be based on an analysis that employs the best available science and provides a clear explanation of why the changes are required to avoid jeopardy or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. (It must be noted that for some species, which have a three-to-four-year life cycle, it would be difficult to reach that conclusion because the 2019 biological opinions have not been given time to work.) In addition, prior to the adoption of changes in operations through an interim operations plan, Reclamation must prepare an adequate analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, as it did in 2019 prior to the adoption of an interim operations plan for Klamath Project.

Accordingly, we request that you defer implementation of the proposed interim operations plan until the agencies in your respective departments: (1) evaluate whether the proposed changes are required to avoid jeopardy to federally listed species or adverse modification of designated critical habitat; and, (2) analyze potential impacts of the proposed operational changes on the environment, species, and water supply. During that process, it is our expectation that, consistent with Section 4004 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, you will involve public water agencies that contract for the delivery of water from the CVP and SWP.

We understand fully that California is experiencing extraordinary drought conditions. However, those extraordinary drought conditions make it all the more important that decisions regarding the management of water be carefully evaluated and explained. Those decisions will affect millions of people, in nearly every region of the State, millions of acres of farmland, and the environment. Care must be taken to ensure that additional, avoidable hardships are not imposed on people already experiencing hardships because of the pandemic and ongoing drought.

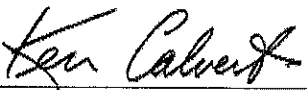
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and request we receive your response no later than November 4, 2021.

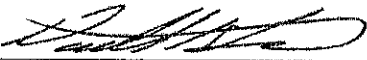
Sincerely,



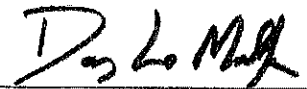
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



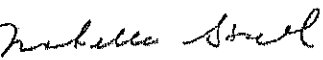
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



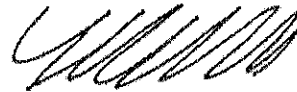
Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

V1.

October 28, 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
Ranking Member
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Westerman, Chairman Huffman, and Ranking Member Bentz:

We write to bring your attention to a troubling development in the litigation surrounding the long-term operations of California's water system and request an oversight hearing as soon as possible.

As you are likely aware, the Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce recently filed a proposed interim operations plan for the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) in the consolidated litigation challenging the 2019 biological opinions for long-term operations of the CVP and SWP and the 2020 Record of Decision on Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Modified Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

We are concerned that there have not been adequate, or any, analyses completed throughout the drafting of the interim operations plan. It is also our understanding there has not been a sufficient amount of consultation with public water agencies and affected stakeholders during this process. As noted in several congressional letters sent to the administration on the subject, both the environmental plaintiffs and the water agency defendant-intervenors expressed serious concerns with the effects of such a plan and its compliance with relevant federal laws.

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Although we are pleased that the judge presiding over the case expressed similar skepticism that this plan would be sufficient to resolve the litigation, it seems that the federal agencies rushed this plan without conducting an environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act or a robust assessment of impacts on threatened and endangered species. These actions affect millions of people and more than two-million acres of farmland and wildlife in California. While we recognize that navigating the drought is extremely challenging, decisions with such broad impacts should be informed by the best available science, comply with the relevant federal statutes, and be subject to a collaborative and robust public process. We believe that congressional oversight is warranted in this situation to ensure that how the federal agencies approached the interim operations plan does not set a precedent for resolving this litigation or managing California's water supply.

We respectfully request an oversight hearing on the decision making that informed the proposed interim operations plan and the departments' plans for collaboration with all stakeholders in future plans that would impact project operations.

Sincerely,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

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Devin Nunes

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

Jay Oberholte

Jay Oberholte
Member of Congress

Michelle Steel

Michelle Steel
Member of Congress

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Water Blueprint

for the San Joaquin Valley

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter! [The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley](#) is a coalition of San Joaquin Valley community leaders, businesses, water agencies, local governments, and agricultural representatives working together to advance common sense water solutions for our region.



Why was the Blueprint formed?

In 2014, Governor Jerry Brown and the California Legislature approved the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This legislation called for the creation of new government entities called [Groundwater Sustainability Agencies \(GSAs\)](#). These agencies are controlled locally but have the directive to meet goals of sustainably managing their respective

groundwater within their jurisdiction and throughout the state.

It is no secret that in California, and particularly in the Valley, water is a precious commodity. Given the drought, we need not look further than today to understand the value of every drop of water. Because of this variable supply year over year, we know we currently do not import enough surface water (rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs) to meet the region's needs, and we feel the negative impacts of this through increased unemployment, community drinking wells going dry, reduced agricultural production and the resulting harm to the region's economy, increased stress to our public health system, and impaired ecosystems.

The GSAs are working diligently to achieve sustainability, but are limited to addressing impacts within their respective geographic boundaries. As Groundwater Sustainability Plans were prepared and submitted to DWR for approval, it became apparent that there were differing challenges in different regions of the Valley, and only through a collective and collaborative regional effort could we develop and implement the comprehensive solutions needed to help minimize the impacts of SGMA.

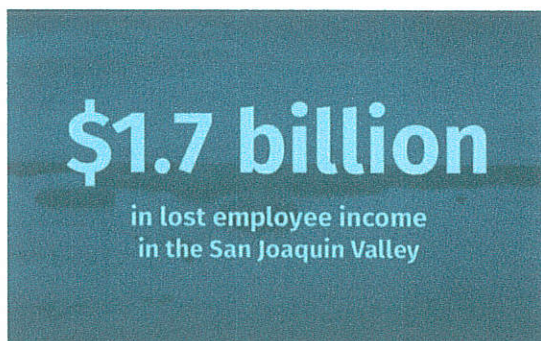
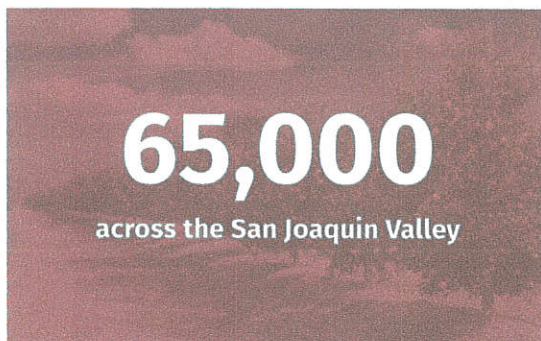
In 2017, as a result of this recognition, the [Water Blueprint](#) was formed. The group began identifying projects and policies to help gain and retain water for the San Joaquin Valley.



How big is the problem?

In addition to the general impacts of having insufficient water, the group also inherently knew there would be far-reaching disastrous economic impacts to the farmlands in our region. An almost two-year process began to study those devastating impacts with the help of Economics Professor Dr. David Sunding of the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Sunding determined approximately 1 million acres of farmland is likely to be fallowed because of groundwater pumping restrictions and the limitations of surface water deliveries. The resulting economic impact would reduce farm revenues in the Valley by \$7.2 billion. In addition, 85,000 jobs will be lost, generally in the communities least able to afford job loss if we don't take steps now to optimize our surface and groundwater use.



What are the solutions?

We'll be sharing with you in upcoming newsletters some of the solutions that have been identified to help the Valley adjust to its coming reality. Feel free to share this information with your colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family. They can sign up for our updates on our website at www.waterblueprintca.com.

Make plans to join us for our monthly Large Group meeting, which provides more in-depth updates on projects and group activities.

Our next Large Group meeting is Thursday, September 23rd. Click below to add this meeting to your calendar.



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER COLLABORATIVE ACTION PROGRAM



**Overview of CAP
Phase 1 Action Plan**
Blueprint Large Group Meeting
October 27, 2021

What is the Right Governance Model?

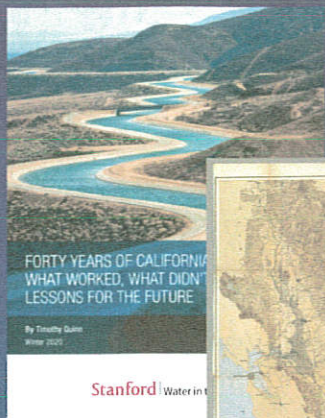


Question: How do you connect Atmospheric Rivers to Groundwater Basins?

Answer: By using a collaborative governance model



Presented by the Water Association of Kern County



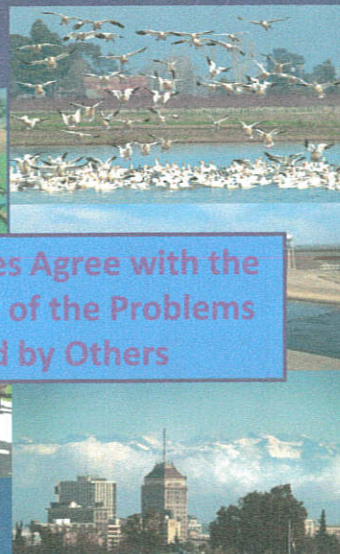
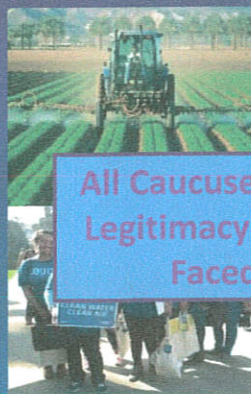
CAP FOCUS: COMPLETE THE PHASE 1 ACTION PLAN

- **COMMON PROBLEM STATEMENT**
- **COMMON SOLUTION SET**

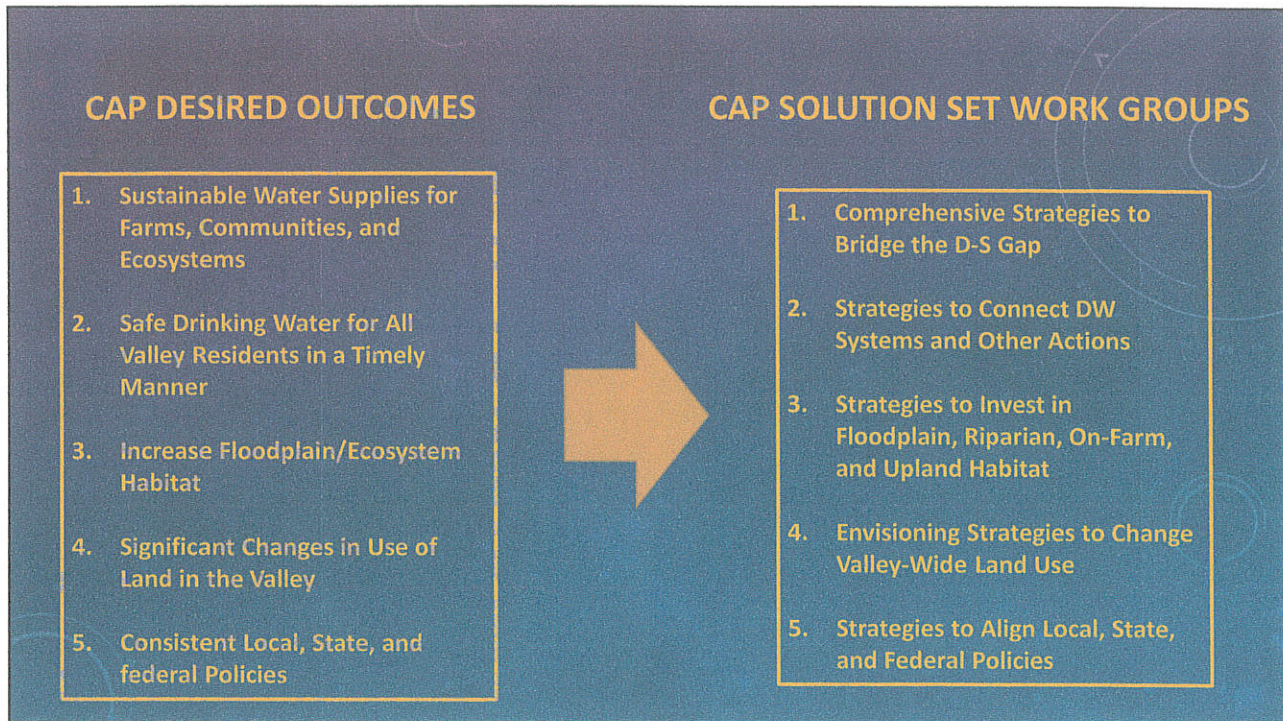

We are requesting support for implementation of the solutions.

CAP COMMON PROBLEM STATEMENT San Joaquin Valley Water Challenges

- 1) The Demand-Supply Gap is Daunting
- 2) Lack of Access to Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water
- 3) 95% Loss of Historical Ecosystem Habitat
- 4) Inadequate Physical and Natural Infrastructure
- 5) Inconsistent Local, State, and Federal Policies



All Caucuses Agree with the Legitimacy of the Problems Faced by Others

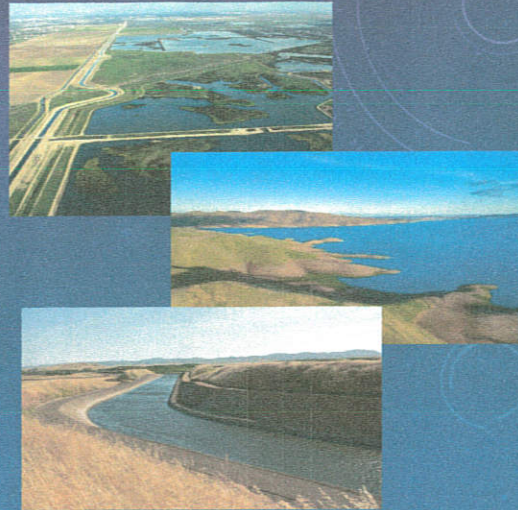
ELIMINATING THE DEMAND-SUPPLY GAP

- Overall Strategy:
 - Closing the Gap is a Prerequisite for Sustainability
 - Reduce Demand Primarily Through Voluntary, Compensated Land Repurposing From Agriculture to High Value Uses That Are Less Consumptive of Water
 - Increase Supply Primarily Through Managing Flood Flows for Replenishment

Eliminating The Demand-Supply Gap

Key Actions

- Capture and recharge Valley floodwaters (250-600 KAF/Year)
- Phased Reduction in Demand to Sustainable Levels through voluntary incentives.
- Additional recharge water could be made available by managing flood flows in the Bay-Delta watershed. While controversial, a CAP cross-caucus subgroup is working together to identify conditions necessary to accomplish this and a timeline for making the decision. Additional imported water is "on the table" in the CAP process.
- Coordinated Management of Surface Storage
- Repair Old and Invest in New Infrastructure
- In Phase 2, evaluate ways to improve Water Trading While Protecting Communities and the Environment



Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water for All

Overall Strategy:

- Unanimous Agreement on Universal Access to Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water
- Consolidation and New Infrastructure to Accomplish Goal in 10-15 years, Not 40



Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water for All Key Actions

Near-Term Actions:

- Emergency Bottled Water and Well-Deepening
- Rural Well Owner Education
- Well Testing for Improved Data
- Stakeholder Engagement in Emergency Response
- Emergency Connections Where Necessary



Long-Term Actions:

- Uniform Approach to Consolidation (7 Action Items)
- No New Systems in Overdrafted Basins (8 Action Items)
- Data and Monitoring Improvements (7 Action Items)
- Funding (4 Action Items)
- Improve SWRCB Funding Process (6 Action Items)
- Other Institutional Change (8 Action Items)



INVESTING IN FLOODPLAIN AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Overall Strategy:

- We Know Where Habitat Potential Is Greatest
- Regulatory Institutions of Yester-Year Impede Progress
- Institutional Change to Facilitate Restoration Project Implementation
- Build On the Success of Initial Funding for Repurposing Farmland

Investing in Floodplain and Ecosystem Restoration Key Actions

- Connect River Corridors and Upland Habitat
- Support Reservoir Reoperation
- Improve Water Supplies for the Environment
- Safe Harbor/Other Legal Assurances for Participating Landowners
- Emphasize On-Farm Habitat
- Resolve Water Rights Issues Collaboratively
- Institutional Change to Promote Timely Project Implementation
- Identify Reusable Environmental Flows and Assure Reuse Capability



Altogether CAP Recommends Environmental Restoration Totaling 218,000 Acres



ENVISIONING VALLEY LAND USE CHANGES

- Overall Strategy
 - Provide Multiple Benefits
 - Emphasize Voluntary, Compensated Land Repurposing
- Other High Value Uses
 - Multiple Benefit Recharge Areas
 - Restore Ecosystem Habitats
 - Improving drinking water quality
 - Low Water Use Agriculture
 - Parks and Recreation Areas
 - Low Impact Renewable Energy

ENVISIONING VALLEY LAND USE CHANGES

Near-Term Actions

- Create Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program in the CA Dept of Conservation
- Build on the Success of AB 252
- Provide Flexibility and Protection for Landowners
- Support New and Existing Projects (Kaweah, Tule, Madera, Merced)
- Pilot Projects to Demonstrate Benefits

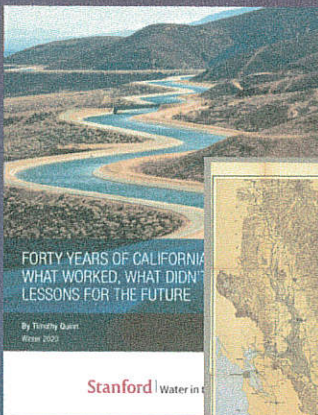
Long-Term Actions

- Secure Sustainable Funding
- Create Flexible protections for Land-Owners – e.g., Safe Harbor
- Reduce Time & Cost of Permitting
- Minimize Impacts to Local Tax Base
- Ensure flexibility in the Williamson Act



WHERE DOES CAP GO FROM HERE?

- ✓ November 2021: Resolve “Red Flag” Issues and finalize Phase 1 Action Plan.
- ✓ November 2021 – February 2022: “Bridge” Period to Phase 2, CAP Leaders seeking feedback and support for implementing solutions. Solutions will be refined. Agree on Plan for Phase 2.
- ✓ March 2022: Launch CAP Phase 2. Develop a detailed action plan and initiate implementation
- ✓ August 2023: Complete CAP Phase 2???



Questions and Comments