



**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Monday, July 8, 2024 10:00 a.m.**

**Notice of Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources  
Committee Regular Meeting-Special Board Workshop**

**SLDMWA Boardroom  
842 6th Street, Los Banos**

**Public Participation Information**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89727187560?pwd=ZGN3U1hLdDZzU3I5ejRINEV4WE5DQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 897 2718 7560  
Passcode: 458545**

**One tap mobile**

**+16694449171,,89727187560#,,,,\*458545# US  
+16699006833,,89727187560#,,,,\*458545# US (San Jose)**

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**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89727187560?pwd=ZGN3U1hLdDZzU3I5ejRINEV4WE5DQT09>**

NOTE: Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

Because the notice provides for a regular meeting of the Water Resources Committee ("WRC") and a joint regular WRC Meeting/Special Board workshop, Board Directors/Alternates may discuss items listed on the agenda; however, only WRC Members/Alternates may correct or add to the agenda or vote on action items.

NOTE FURTHER: Meeting materials have been made available to the public on the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's website, <https://www.sldmwa.org>, and at the Los Banos Administrative Office, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635.

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions and Corrections to the Agenda for the Water Resources Committee Meeting only, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 *et seq.*
3. Opportunity for Public Comment – Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any matter not on the agenda, but within the Committee or Board's jurisdiction. Public comment is limited to no more than three minutes per person. For good cause, the Chair of the Water Resources Committee may waive this limitation.

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. **Approval of June 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

5. **Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation**, Petersen
  - A. H.R. 4247 (Harder), Flood Prevention and Snowpack Management Act
  - B. H.R. 4385 (Neguse), Drought Preparedness Act
  - C. AB 2735 (Rubio): Joint powers agreements: water corporations.

### **REPORT ITEMS**

6. Executive Director's Report, Barajas  
(May include reports on activities within the Water Resources Committee's jurisdiction related to 1) CVP/SWP water operations; 2) California storage projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities)
7. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities, Petersen  
(May include reports on federal, state, and local agency regulatory, legislative, and administrative water policy/resources activities)
8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts, Boardman
9. Committee Member Reports
10. Closed Session

#### CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

#### CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

#### CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

- A. Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Haaland, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:05-cv-01207; 9th Cir., Case No. 21-15163 (2005 DMC Contract Renewals)
- B. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Stock, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:11-cv-02980; 9th Cir. Case No. 23-15599 (PCFFA v. Glaser or GBP Citizen Suit)
- C. City of Fresno, et al. v. United States, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Cir., Case No. 22-1994; U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-cv-01276 (2014 Friant Div. Operations)
- D. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Raimondo, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00431 (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- E. California Natural Resources Agency, et al. v. Raimondo, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00426 (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- F. CDWR Water Operation Cases, Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 5117 (formerly Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, et al. v. California Department of Water Resources, et al., Fresno Co. Superior Court, Case No. 20CECG01303) (SWP EIR Challenge)
- G. AquAlliance, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00878 (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR)
- H. AquAlliance et al. v. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Merced Co. Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-03487 (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR Addendum)
- I. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003761 (2021 TUCP Order)
- J. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003763 (2021 Temp. Mgmt. Plan)
- K. Walsh v. Martin, et al., E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:23-CV-01774 (employment action)

11. Return to Open Session

12. Report from Closed Session, if any, Required by Government Code Section 54957.1

13. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

14. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Sandi Ginda at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office, 842 6<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, California, via telephone at (209) 826-9696, or via email at [cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org](mailto:cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org). Requests should be made as far in advance as possible before the meeting date, preferably 3 days in advance of regular meetings or 1 day in advance of special meetings/workshops.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 54950 et seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the Authority on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/>.

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AND JOINT  
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING - SPECIAL  
BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**JUNE 3, 2024**

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Special Board Workshop convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair William Bourdeau presiding.

**Water Resources Committee Members Present**

**Ex-Officio**

Cannon Michael  
William Bourdeau

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

**Division 2**

Bill Diedrich, Member (arrived item 5)

**Division 3**

Chris White, Member

**Division 4**

Vince Gin, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate (arrived item 5)

**Division 5**

Manny Amorelli, Alternate

**Board of Directors Present**

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Director

**Division 2**

Justin Diener, Alternate  
William Bourdeau, Director  
Bill Diedrich, Director (arrived item 5)

**Division 3**

Chris White, Alternate  
Jarrett Martin, Director  
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director

**Division 4**

Jeff Cattaneo, Director (arrived item 5)



**Division 5**

Manny Amorelli, Director

**Authority Representatives Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager  
Jacob Bejarano, Senior Civil Engineer  
Chauncey Lee, O&M Manager  
Brandon Soares, Civil Maintenance Superintendent  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others Present**

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water  
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Committee Chair William Bourdeau called the meeting to order and roll was called.

**2. The Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**

No additions or corrections.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

**4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the May 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes.**

Chair William Bourdeau deemed the May 13, 2024 meeting minutes approved as submitted.

**5. Update on DMC Emergency Repairs**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item and explained that emergency work was recently completed at Check 18, and Salado Creek, along the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). Arroyave then introduced Senior Civil Engineer Jacob Bejarano and Engineering Manager Jaime McNeill, to provide additional detail about the emergency repairs. Bejarano reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, and Authority staff answered questions throughout the presentation.

6. **Executive Director’s Report.**

- a. **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Expansion Project Funding Announcement** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation has awarded the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project \$75 million in funding in addition to the \$95 million already awarded.
- b. **South of Delta Drought Plan Pilot Project** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff is continuing to work with Reclamation to add more definition to the governance and implementation of the 2024 Pilot Project.
- c. **JPA Amendments** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reminded Committee Members to provide updated information regarding when member agency home boards will take action to approve the JPA amendments.
- d. **Planning Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas asked Board members to start considering representatives for this new Planning Committee.
- e. **SLC Subsidence Correction Project** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation reached out to the Authority to initiate discussions and conversations regarding the San Luis Canal Subsidence Correction Project. Barajas reported that Reclamation has had initial conversations with DWR relative to the San Luis Canal fix. Barajas reported that Reclamation held an initial meeting with the Authority and affected members to discuss ongoing conversations with DWR.

7. **Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of the report included in the packet. Petersen provided updates regarding the Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP and the Trinity Division consultation, the Water Quality Control Plan update, and updates on the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, and San Joaquin Valley Collaborative Action Program. Petersen answered Committee questions throughout the presentation.

8. **Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.**

Westlands Water District’s Tom Boardman reported that Shasta storage was 100 TAF higher than Reclamation’s forecast supporting the current Ag allocation. Trinity storage was noted to be higher than expected and will be used this summer to help meet upper Sacramento River temperature objectives to protect salmon. Folsom storage is continuing to increase, but with only

a portion of the snowmelt season remaining, Folsom is not expected to totally fill this year.

Boardman also discussed Delta conditions, including current export pumping rates and recent factors that constrained pumping during May. Expected summertime Jones pumping rates were also briefly mentioned.

Boardman explained a chart showing a comparison between Reclamation's expected near-term CVP San Luis storage trend and a projection made by Westlands Water District.

**9. Committee Member Reports.**

No reports.

**5. Closed Session**

Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:28 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:44 a.m., Chair William Bourdeau reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.

**10. Agenda Item 13: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2**

No reports.

**11. Agenda Item 14: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Committee and Alternates, Board of Directors and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: July 8, 2024

RE: Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendations on Legislation /  
Board of Directors to Consider Same

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### Recommendation

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Recommend to the Board of Directors to adopt the following positions on legislation:

#### Support and Amend

- Adopt a position of "Support" on H.R. 4247 (Harder), Flood Prevention and Snowpack Management Act
- Adopt a position of "Support" on H.R. 4385 (Neguse), Drought Preparedness Act

#### Oppose

- Adopt a position of "Oppose" on A.B. 2735 (Rubio), Joint power agreements: water corporations.

### Federal Legislation

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H.R. 4247 (Harder), Flood Prevention and Snowpack Management Act.

RECOMMENDATION: Support

OBJECTIVE: Improve Outreach and Education

#### Summary

Requires the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to establish the Task Force on the California Snowpack and Flood Mitigation to: (1) meet on the day after any day on which the California Department of Resources determines that any portion of the snowpack in California is 150 percent above the average snowpack; and (2) develop a plan of action for snowpack melt, flood mitigation and recovery, and expediting water storage projects to capture water from snowpack and alleviate future drought conditions. Directs the Secretary to establish a task force to develop and submit to four members from local community organizations that are impacted by, or provide resources or relief to, flooding in California.



#### Status

H.R. 4247 was introduced on June 21, 2023, and has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

#### Importance to the Authority

This legislation would establish a 17-member task force, consisting of California federal legislators, federal and state agencies involved in water management, flood and emergency response, and members of local community organizations impacted by flooding to develop a plan of action for snowpack melt and expediting water storage projects to capture water from snowpack to alleviate future drought conditions in 90 days or less from the time of first meeting. The plan of action developed would be submitted to state and federal agencies, as well as the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Both drought and flooding impact water management and emergency conditions for the water authority and its members. Coordinated response is often disconnected with water storage and future drought mitigation. This legislation would specifically require a plan of action to be developed in times where the snowpack is greater than 150% of normal that would connect flood management to drought mitigation in a coordinated fashion across state and federal agencies.

#### [H.R. 4385 \(Neguse\), Drought Preparedness Act.](#)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Support

**OBJECTIVE:** Restore Central Valley Project Water Supply for Member Agencies, Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

#### Summary

This bill reauthorizes through FY2028 the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, which allows the Bureau of Reclamation to provide drought assistance to Hawaii or certain western states.

#### Status

H.R. 4385 passed the House of Representatives on February 5, 2024 by voice vote and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### Importance to the Authority

Reclamation's Drought Response Program aids drought planning and mitigation. One of the authorities Reclamation relies on for this program is the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (Act). The Act gives Reclamation temporary emergency authorities to take certain measures to mitigate the impacts of drought in the 17 Reclamation states as well as the territories.

These measures include: the construction of temporary water infrastructure, the purchase of water from willing sellers, participation in state water banks, and the ability to make loans to water users to build drought mitigation infrastructure. The bill also gives Reclamation the authority to make available water from certain projects for use outside the authorized project service area to mitigate drought conditions. Reclamation is also authorized to make water available for the purposes of protecting or restoring fish and wildlife resources that are at risk due to drought conditions.



Reclamation is currently authorized to spend no more than \$130 million over the lifetime of the program. H.R. 4385 extends these authorities and the current authorized appropriations through fiscal year 2028.

## State Legislation

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[A.B. 2735 \(Rubio\), Joint powers agreements: water corporations.](#)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Ratify Oppose Position

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve Outreach and Education

### Existing Law

Existing law, the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, authorizes 2 or more public agencies, if authorized by their governing bodies, by agreement to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties. Existing law authorizes a mutual water company, as defined, to enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency for these purposes. Existing law authorizes 2 or more local public entities, or a mutual water company, as defined, and a public agency, to provide insurance, as specified, by a joint powers agreement. Existing law authorizes local public entities or a mutual water company and a public agency to enter into a joint powers agreement for the purposes of risk-pooling, as specified.

### Summary

This bill would authorize a water corporation, as defined, to enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency for the purpose of jointly exercising any power common to the contracting parties. The bill would also authorize a water corporation and one or more public agencies to provide insurance, as specified, by a joint powers agreement.

The bill would also authorize a water corporation and one or more public agencies to enter into a joint powers agreement for the purposes of risk-pooling, as specified.

### Status

A.B. 2735 was last amended on April 29, 2024, and was heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on July 3.

### Importance to the Authority

Industry sources have estimated that there is 20 percent less availability for insurance options than there was just a year ago. AB 2375 has been introduced to authorize water corporations to join a JPA, which provides pooled insurance, so long as there's at least one public agency member in the JPA. If covered under a JPA, water corporations would likely encounter lower premiums and be offered broader coverage than would be available through the private marketplace.

However, ACWA JPIA has raised significant concerns regarding AB 2735 and the potential negative impacts to the pooled insurance community.

Despite recent amendments to narrow the bill to just water corporations, ACWA JPIA remains concerned that with the inclusion of water corporations into pooled insurance programs government agencies may move to regulate the entire community of pooled insurance programs and limit ACWA JPIA's ability to deliver benefits effectively.



AB 2735 would help water corporations obtain insurance by allowing them to join a JPA. The recent amendments narrow the bill to now focus solely on water corporations regulated by the CPUC. According to the sponsors, many of the water corporations that would benefit from a pooled insurance program are small rural water companies that cannot obtain cost effective insurance. However, ACWA JPIA has raised significant concern regarding the potential downstream impacts of expanding the types of entities that can join pooled insurance programs. This expansion could lead to pooled insurance programs that cannot pay claims or that do not provide adequate benefits, which could lead to state intervention and regulation. The sponsors, CWA and Cal Mutuals, maintain that the bill would help small water corporations to obtain cost effective insurance which benefits the community and neighboring water systems.

## Guidelines for Taking Positions on Legislation

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A number of controversial bills are introduced each year in the Congress and in the California Legislature. It is important to understand how the Authority takes positions on legislation.

### Policy

By Agenda Item 7, dated December 7, 2023, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2025 Objectives.

### Water Authority's Positions on Legislation

The Water Authority takes positions on legislation that, if enacted, would impact Water Authority members, consistent with Water Authority Board adopted Goals and Objectives. The Water Authority may take the following positions on legislation: Oppose, Support, Oppose Unless Amended, Support if Amended, Not Favor, Favor, Not Favor Unless Amended, Favor if Amended, and Watch (neutral). The Water Authority's staff and consultants testify and advocate with legislators and staff through meetings and member agency contacts on all positions except Watch, Favor and Not Favor. For Favor and Not Favor positions, written communication of the Water Authority's position is provided to the legislator. Nothing in this section should be read to preclude the Executive Director or his or her designee from taking an informal support or informal oppose position on behalf of the Water Authority that is consistent with adopted legislative or policy objectives, or to preclude the Executive Director from communicating a position on emergency legislation after obtaining the concurrence of the Chair, or the Chair's designee, provided that the Executive Director informs the Board regarding such positions on emergency legislation no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

### Amendment Development Process

If the Water Authority takes an Oppose Unless Amended or Support if Amended position, the Water Authority will typically discuss the concepts for the amendments at the meeting. Then Water Authority staff, in consultation with Committee and/or Board Members as needed, will develop the amendments after the meeting.

### Information Sharing

To provide adequate information to the entire Water Authority membership, the Water Authority provides legislative updates, posts positions and other information on our website, and sends out advisories and alerts on key legislation.



## Memo to SLDMWA Water Resources Committee and Board Members

July 8, 2024

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The Water Authority's legislative department is available to provide specific information on bills on request and Board Members are encouraged to communicate Water Authority positions on priority legislation in meetings with legislative staff, consistent with Water Authority policy. The Water Authority's Water Policy Director appreciates being informed by Water Authority members of positions taken by Water Authority members on legislation.



# **BILL TEXT**

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4247

To direct the Secretary of the Army to establish a task force on the California snowpack and flood mitigation, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. HARDER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Army to establish a task force on the California snowpack and flood mitigation, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Flood Prevention and  
5 Snowpack Management Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE ON CALIFORNIA SNOWPACK AND**  
7 **FLOOD MITIGATION.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Army,  
9 acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall establish a  
10 task force to be known as the “Task Force on the Cali-

1 fornia Snowpack and Flood Mitigation” (in this section  
2 referred to as the “Task Force”).

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall con-  
5 sist of 17 members, to be appointed by the Chief of  
6 Engineers, as follows:

7 (A) 1 member of the Senate representing  
8 the State of California.

9 (B) 5 members of the House of Represent-  
10 atives, including—

11 (i) 1 member who represents North-  
12 ern California;

13 (ii) 1 member who represents North-  
14 ern San Joaquin Valley;

15 (iii) 1 member who represents Central  
16 San Joaquin Valley;

17 (iv) 1 member who represents South-  
18 ern San Joaquin Valley; and

19 (v) 1 member who represents South-  
20 ern California.

21 (C) A representative of the Corps of Engi-  
22 neers.

23 (D) A representative of the Federal Emer-  
24 gency Management Agency.

1 (E) A representative of the Bureau of Rec-  
2 lamation.

3 (F) A representative of the National Oce-  
4 anic and Atmospheric Administration.

5 (G) A representative of the California Of-  
6 fice of Emergency Services.

7 (H) A representative of the California De-  
8 partment of Water Resources.

9 (I) 4 members from local community orga-  
10 nizations that are impacted by, or provide re-  
11 sources or relief to individuals impacted by,  
12 flooding in California.

13 (J) A representative of Tribal communities  
14 in California.

15 (2) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
16 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Task Force  
17 shall be elected by the members of the Task Force.

18 (c) MEETINGS.—

19 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The Task Force shall  
20 meet on the day after any day on which the Cali-  
21 fornia Department of Resources determines that any  
22 portion of the snowpack in California is 150 percent  
23 above the average snowpack in California.

24 (2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After conducting  
25 the initial meeting described under paragraph (1),

1 the Task Force shall meet on a periodic basis until  
2 the plan of action required under subsection (d) is  
3 complete.

4 (d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall be  
5 to—

6 (1) examine and assess the risks posed by the  
7 snowpack in California;

8 (2) assess what local, State, and Federal ac-  
9 tions may be taken to mitigate such risks; and

10 (3) not later than 90 days after conducting an  
11 initial meeting under subsection (c)(1), develop a  
12 plan of action for snowpack melt, flood mitigation  
13 and recovery, and expediting water storage projects  
14 to capture water from the snowpack and alleviate fu-  
15 ture drought conditions.

16 (e) REPORT.—Upon completion of a plan of action  
17 under subsection (d), the Task Force shall submit each  
18 such plan of action to—

19 (1) the Governor of California;

20 (2) the California Office of Emergency Services;

21 (3) the California Department of Water Re-  
22 sources;

23 (4) the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
24 gency Management Agency;

25 (5) the Chief of Engineers;

1           (6) the Committee on Natural Resources of the  
2           House of Representatives; and

3           (7) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
4           sources of the Senate.

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118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4385

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources

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## AN ACT

To extend authorization of the Reclamation States  
Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*





AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2024

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2735**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Blanca Rubio**

February 15, 2024

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An act to amend Sections 990.8 and 6525 of the Government Code, relating to water corporations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2735, as amended, Blanca Rubio. Joint powers agreements: water corporations.

Existing law, the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, authorizes 2 or more public agencies, if authorized by their governing bodies, by agreement to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties. ~~Existing law authorizes a mutual water company, as defined, to enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency for these purposes.~~ Existing law authorizes 2 or more local public entities, or a mutual water ~~company~~ *company, as defined*, and a public agency, to provide insurance, as specified, by a joint powers agreement. Existing law authorizes local public entities or a mutual water company and a public agency to enter into a joint powers agreement for the purposes of risk-pooling, as specified.

This bill would authorize a water corporation, as defined, ~~to enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency for the purpose of jointly exercising any power common to the contracting parties.~~ The ~~bill would also authorize a water corporation~~ and one or more public agencies to provide insurance, as specified, by a joint powers agreement.

The bill would also authorize a water corporation and one or more public agencies to enter into a joint powers agreement for the purposes of risk-pooling, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 990.8 of the Government Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 990.8. (a) Two or more local public entities, a mutual water  
4 company and a public agency, or a water corporation and one or  
5 more public agencies, as authorized under subdivision (b) of  
6 Section 6525, by a joint powers agreement made pursuant to Article  
7 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7,  
8 may provide insurance authorized by this part or for any other  
9 purpose by any one or more of the methods specified in Section  
10 990.4. Where two or more hospital districts have joined together  
11 to pool their self-insurance claims or losses, any nonprofit  
12 corporation created pursuant to subdivision (p) of Section 32121  
13 of the Health and Safety Code, and affiliated with a hospital district  
14 which is a party to the pool may participate in the pool.

15 (b) Two or more local public entities having the same governing  
16 board, a mutual water company and a public agency, or a water  
17 corporation and one or more public agencies, as authorized under  
18 subdivision (b) of Section 6525, may be coinsured under a master  
19 policy and the total premium may be prorated among those entities.

20 (c) The pooling of self-insured claims or losses among entities  
21 as authorized in subdivision (a) of Section 990.4 shall not be  
22 considered insurance nor be subject to regulation under the  
23 Insurance Code.

24 (d) Any liability or loss under a joint powers agreement for the  
25 pooling of self-insured claims or losses authorized by this part and  
26 provided pursuant to this section may, notwithstanding Section  
27 620 of the Insurance Code or any other provision of law, be  
28 reinsured to the same extent and the same manner as insurance  
29 provided by an insurer.

30 (e) Where a joint powers agreement authorized by this part or  
31 authorized pursuant to Section 6516 provides for the pooling of  
32 self-insured claims or losses among entities, if any peril insured

1 or covered under contract has existed, and the joint powers  
2 authority or other parties to the pool have been liable for any  
3 period, however short, the agreement may provide that the party  
4 insured or covered under contract is not entitled to the return of  
5 premiums, contributions, payments, or advances so far as that  
6 particular risk is concerned.

7 (f) For purposes of this section:

8 (1) “Mutual water company” has the same meaning as defined  
9 in Section 14300 of the Corporations Code.

10 (2) “Water corporation” has the same meaning as defined in  
11 Section 241 of the Public Utilities Code.

12 SEC. 2. Section 6525 of the Government Code is amended to  
13 read:

14 6525. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,  
15 a mutual water company ~~or a water corporation~~ may enter into a  
16 joint powers agreement with any public agency for the purpose of  
17 jointly exercising any power common to the contracting parties.

18 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, a  
19 mutual water company and a public agency, or a water corporation  
20 and one or more public agencies, may enter into a joint powers  
21 agreement for the purpose of risk-pooling in accordance with  
22 Section 990.8, provided that the agreement shall ensure that no  
23 participating public agency becomes responsible for the underlying  
24 debts or liabilities of the joint powers agency, and shall indemnify  
25 any participating public agency against those debts and liabilities.

26 (2) A joint powers agency established pursuant to this  
27 subdivision shall solely utilize any revenues it generates through  
28 the insurance provided to its members under this section for its  
29 necessary operating expenses, and to provide technical support,  
30 continuing education, safety engineering, operational and  
31 managerial advisory assistance to its members for the purpose of  
32 reducing risk liabilities and furthering the technical managerial  
33 and financial capacity of those members.

34 (c) For purposes of this section:

35 (1) “Mutual water company” has the same meaning as defined  
36 in Section 14300 of the Corporations Code.

37 (2) “Water corporation” has the same meaning as defined in  
38 Section 241 of the Public Utilities Code.

O

## San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority



P.O. Box 2157  
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Phone: (209) 826-9696  
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July 1, 2024

### ***VIA EMAIL***

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
Chair  
Senate Local Government Committee  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto  
Vice Chair  
Senate Local Government Committee  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE - Assembly Bill 2735 (Rubio)

The San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (“Water Authority”) writes in respectful opposition to Assembly Bill 2735 (A.B. 2735), which would allow a water corporation to enter into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with a public agency for purposes of insurance risk pooling. At the heart of our concern is the potential downstream and unanticipated impact to the risk pooling industry in California by allowing investor-owned private water corporations to join or form a risk pool.

The Water Authority is a public agency with its principal office located in Los Banos, California. It was formed in 1992 as a joint powers authority, and has twenty-seven member agencies who provide water to approximately 1.2 million acres of agricultural lands within areas of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Kings, San Benito, and Santa Clara Counties, a portion of the water supply for nearly 2 million people, including in urban areas within Santa Clara County referred to as the “Silicon Valley,” and millions of waterfowl that depend upon nearly 200,000 acres of managed wetlands and other critical habitat within the largest contiguous wetland in the western United States. Water management, including conjunctive use, is of vital interest and importance to the Water Authority, its member agencies, and the people, farms, businesses, communities, and wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts they serve. We serve two main purposes for our membership: (1) to operate and maintain the infrastructure upon which their water supply is reliant, and (2) to represent them on issues of common concern. AB 2735 is an issue of common concern for our membership, as many of our members participate in a risk pool through the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

Up until the passing of A.B. 656 in 2015, the ability to form an insurance risk pool was reserved exclusively for public entities. This has now expanded to include private mutual water companies. Prior to this, the only avenue for a non-public entity to self-insure risks with other similar entities was by forming a Self-Insurance Group (SIG). Provisions within A.B. 2735 would go further and

expand the definition of who can join or form a risk pool to allow investor-owned private water corporations to also form a risk pool and/or join an existing risk pool.

Should a new risk pool of largely non-public entities be allowed to form, or a current risk pool absorb a significant number of non-public entity members, and should it fail financially, it jeopardizes the ability to exist for every other risk pool in the State. Investor-owned private water corporations are fundamentally different from public entities and – specifically – public water agencies, thereby posing substantially increased risk.

Some key structural and operational elements exclusive to public water agencies that make them a highly desirable risk as compared to investor-owned private water companies are that public water agencies: 1) have a singular mission and focus; 2) have autonomous operations overseen by publicly elected Boards; 3) do not rely on State and Federal funding for operational costs; 4) have control over customer rates and commit to charging rates necessary for proactive and effective operations, maintenance, and capital improvement projects; 5) have requirements to maintain the highest possible standards as stewards of public access to clean, safe drinking or irrigation water; and 6) invest significant budgetary dollars in ongoing capital improvement projects.

By contrast, investor-owned private water corporations are not public entities; therefore, 1) critical immunities that public water agencies have access to as defenses against tort liabilities are not available to them, and 2) in the event of a catastrophic loss, there is no FEMA backstop or CDAA, putting significantly added pressure on the risk pool and the insurers to cover more of the cost of a 1<sup>st</sup> party property loss. Both of these issues can substantially increase the ultimate cost of liability coverage and litigated claims and the cost of property coverage and the companies' abilities to fully recover from loss, potentially leading to compromising decisions relative to the recovery and rebuilding process.

For these reasons, we believe that public agencies are better suited for the JPA membership. Therefore, we are respectfully opposed to AB 2735, and request your “no” vote. If you have any questions, please reach out to Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director, at [scott.petersen@sldmwa.org](mailto:scott.petersen@sldmwa.org).

Sincerely,



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Federico Barajas  
Executive Director

Cc: Assembly Member Blanca Rubio



## MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: July 8, 2024

RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

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### Background

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; (2) State Water Resources Control Board action; (3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; (4) Delta conveyance; (5) Reclamation action; (6) Delta Stewardship Council action; (7) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint and San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan.

### Policy Items

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

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

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

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

Both FWS and NMFS concluded that Reclamation's proposed operations will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. These conclusions were reached for

several reasons – most notably because of significant investments by many partners in science, habitat restoration, conservation facilities including hatcheries, as well as protective measures built into Reclamation's and DWR's proposed operations.

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

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

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

On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order: “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis”, with a fact sheet<sup>1</sup> attached that included a non-exclusive list of agency actions that heads of the relevant agencies will review in accordance with the Executive Order. Importantly, the NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project were both included in the list of agency actions for review.

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

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

On February 26, 2022, the Department of the Interior released a Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the 2021 Endangered Species Act Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project<sup>2</sup>. In response to this, on March 30, 2022, the SLDMWA submitted a comment letter highlighting actions for Reclamation to consider during preparation of the EIS.

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

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

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During May 2022, Reclamation issued draft copies of the Knowledge Base Papers for the following management topics and requested supplementary material review and comments, to which the Authority submitted comment letters in June:

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

Subsequent to the Knowledge Base Paper review, a Scoping Meeting was held, to which Water Authority staff provided comments, resulting in the release of a Scoping Report<sup>3</sup> by Reclamation in June 2022.

On October 14, 2022, Reclamation released an Initial Alternatives Report (IAR).

On May 16, 2023, Reclamation provided an administrative draft copy of the Proposed Action, titled “State and Federal Cooperating Agency Draft LTO Alternative” to agencies that have executed an MOU with Reclamation on engagement. Authority staff is reviewing the document and provided feedback to Reclamation, in coordination with member agencies and other CVP contractors.

On June 30, 2023, Reclamation released a draft Qualitative Biological Assessment for review by agencies that have executed an MOU with Reclamation on engagement, though Reclamation is not accepting formal comments. Note that this release does not initiate formal ESA consultation and is being provided to assist the fishery agencies in setting up their documents and resources for the formal consultation, which we expect to begin in late September/early October.

On July 21, 2023, Reclamation released an Administrative Draft Terrestrial Biological Assessment for review by agencies that have an MOU with Reclamation on engagement, though Reclamation is not accepting formal comments. Note that this release does not initiate formal ESA consultation and is being provided to assist the fishery agencies in setting up their documents and resources for the formal consultation, which we expect to begin in late September/early October.

On September 15, Reclamation released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 30-day NEPA Cooperating Agency review. The SLDMWA coordinated review of the document with member agencies

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/docs/lto-scoping-report-2022.pdf>



and technical consultants and submitted both high-level and technical comments on the document<sup>4</sup> on October 16.

On October 10, 2023, Reclamation transmitted an Aquatic species Quantitative Biological Assessment, and on October 18, 2023, Reclamation transmitted a Terrestrial Species Quantitative Biological Assessment to the Services and to consulting agencies pursuant to the WIIN Act.

On April 5, 2024, Reclamation released the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperating Agency Draft EIS for a two-week comment period. After review and coordination with member agencies, Authority staff provided a comment letter<sup>5</sup> to Reclamation on the document.

Most recently, in June, Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held WIIN Act Interested Parties meetings, with the information for the meetings being included in Appendix A to this memo.

Finally, on June 28, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released their Draft Biological Opinion for public review and comment, with comments due on July 15. Staff will work to coordinate review with interested member agencies.

### Current Milestones

- Jun 28: Draft LTO FWS Biological Opinion (BiOp) (2-week review)
- Jul 5: Draft LTO Public EIS (45-day review)
- Jul 15: Draft LTO FWS BiOp Comments Due
- Jul 26: Draft LTO NMFS BiOp (2-week review)
- Jul 29: Draft LTO FWS BiOp Peer Review complete
- Aug 12: Draft LTO NMFS BiOp Comments Due
- Aug 20: Draft LTO Public EIS Comments Due
- Aug 30: Draft LTO NMFS BiOp Peer Review Complete
- Sep: Trinity Modeling
- Oct 15: Final LTO FWS BiOp
- Nov 13: Final LTO EIS
- Dec 6: Final LTO NMFS BiOp
- Dec 13: Final LTO Record of Decision
- Early 2025: Trinity Cooperating Agency Draft EIS/Draft Biological Assessment
- Spring 2025: Trinity Public Draft EIS
- Late 2025: Trinity Biological Opinion, Final NEPA and ROD

**Note:** There are also Endangered Species Act consultations on the Trinity River and Klamath River that may have overlap/interactions with the consultation for the CVP/SWP.

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<sup>4</sup> Request from Authority staff.

<sup>5</sup> Request from Authority staff.

## State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

### Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

#### *Background*

The State Water Board is currently considering updates to its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (“Bay Delta Plan”) in two phases (Plan amendments). The first Plan amendment is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity (“Phase I” or “San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Plan Amendment”). The second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (“Phase II” or “Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment”).

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed “Voluntary Settlement Agreements” (“VSAs”) on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.<sup>6</sup> The State Water Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

**Phase 1 Status:** The State Water Board adopted a resolution<sup>7</sup> to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

Most recently, on July 18, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP)<sup>8</sup> and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Regulation to Implement Lower San Joaquin River Flows (LSJR) and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan).

The purpose of the NOP is: (1) to advise responsible and trustee agencies, Tribes, and interested organizations and persons, that the State Water Board or Board will be the lead agency and will prepare a draft EIR for a proposed regulation implementing the LSJR flow and southern Delta salinity components of the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan, and (2) to seek input on significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be addressed in the EIR. For responsible and trustee agencies, the State Water Board requests the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be include in the draft EIR.

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<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018\\_0059.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Available at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf)

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In response to the release of the NOP, the Water Authority and member agencies provided scoping comments<sup>9</sup>.

**Phase 2 Status:** In the State Water Board’s resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents<sup>10</sup> to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

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

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

On September 28, The State Water Resources Control Board released a draft Staff Report in support of possible updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) that are focused on the Sacramento River watershed, Delta, and Delta eastside tributaries (Sacramento/Delta).

The draft Staff Report includes scientific information and environmental and economic evaluations to support possible Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. The report assesses a range of alternatives for updating the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Bay-Delta Plan, including: an alternative based on a 2018 Framework document identifying a 55% of unimpaired flow level (within an adaptive range from 45-65%) from Sacramento/Delta tributaries and associated Delta outflows; and a proposed voluntary agreements alternative that includes voluntary water contributions and physical habitat restoration on major tributaries to the Delta and in the Delta. In addition, based on input from California

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<sup>9</sup> Request from Authority staff

<sup>10</sup> Available at [http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete\\_March\\_1\\_VA\\_Submission\\_to\\_SWRCB.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf)

Native American tribes, the draft Staff Report identifies the proposed addition of tribal and subsistence fishing beneficial uses to the Bay-Delta Plan.

The draft Staff Report is available for review on the [Board's website](#). The Authority coordinated and submitted comments with member agencies<sup>11</sup>.

### *Schedule*

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

- Winter 2024/Spring 2025
  - Final draft Staff Report for Tuolumne River VA
  - Board workshop and consideration of Tuolumne River VA
  - Final draft EIR and regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity
  - Board consideration of regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity

#### *Sac/Delta Update: Key Milestones*

- Summer 2024: Development of Draft Program of Implementation
- Winter 2024: Response to comments and development of proposed final changes to the Bay-Delta Plan
- Spring 2025: Board consideration of adoption

### *Voluntary Agreements*

On March 29, 2022, members of the Newsom Administration joined federal and local water leaders in announcing the signing of a memorandum of understanding<sup>12</sup> that advances integrated efforts to improve ecosystem and fisheries health within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. State and federal agencies also announced an agreement<sup>13</sup> specifically with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors on an approach for 2022 water operations on the Sacramento River.

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

The broader MOU outlines terms for an eight-year program that would provide substantial new flows for the environment to help recover salmon and other native fish. The terms also support the creation of new and restored habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide significant funding for environmental improvements and water purchases, according to a joint news release from the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Local water agency managers signing the MOU

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<sup>11</sup> Request from Authority staff.

<sup>12</sup> Available at <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/NewsRoom/Voluntary-Agreement-Package-March-29-2022.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Available at <https://calepa.ca.gov/2022/03/29/informational-statement-state-federal-agencies-and-sacramento-river-settlement-contractors-agree-on-approach-for-2022-water-operations-on-the-sacramento-river/>

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have committed to bringing the terms of the MOU to their boards of directors for their endorsement and to work to settle litigation over engaged species protections in the Delta.

On June 16, the SLDMWA, Friant Water Authority and Tehama Colusa Canal Authority signed onto the VA MOU. Additionally, since that time, in September and November, four more agencies – Contra Costa Water District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID) – have signed onto the VA MOU.

Work continues to develop the working documents associated with execution and implementation of the VA's and workgroups for participating agencies have been formed. A number of documents continue to be developed, including a global agreement, implementing agreements for each tributary, enforcement agreements, an updated Science Plan, and governance plan.

On April 24-26, the State Water Resources Control Board held a three-day workshop on the Agreements, with sessions focused on many of the more developed plans and details of the program.

### Delta Conveyance Project

#### Petition for Change of Point of Diversion and Rediversion for the Delta Conveyance Project

On February 22, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) received a Petition for Change from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to add two new points of diversion (POD) and rediversion (PORD) to the water right permits associated with the State Water Project. Specifically, the petition seeks to change Water Right Permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, and 17512, respectively). The proposed new PODs/PORDs would consist of screened intakes 2.3 miles apart located on the lower Sacramento River between Freeport and Sutter Slough. The proposed new intakes are part of the Delta Conveyance Project, which would allow DWR to divert water from the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta) and convey the water through a tunnel to existing water distribution facilities in the southern Delta.

This petition is available on the DWR website at: [https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Information/Revised\\_DCP\\_CPOD\\_Petition\\_Package\\_2024.pdf](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Information/Revised_DCP_CPOD_Petition_Package_2024.pdf)

Protests against the change petition must have been filed by May 13, 2024, with a copy provided to the petitioner. SLDMWA entered into a Settlement Agreement<sup>14</sup> with DWR on the project.

On June 20, the State Board noticed a pre-hearing conference for **August 13** at 9 a.m. The notice indicates that additional info re the process for interested persons to participate in the hearing will be included in the notice of hearing to be issued by the Administrative Hearing Office (AHO) in late July 2024. In the deadlines section of the document, it looks like pre-hearing conference NOIs will be due **August 6**, but the NOI to participate in the pre-hearing conference is not required to participate in the hearing itself – the notice states that the deadline for submitting the NOI to participate in the hearing will be included in a later notice of public hearing.

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<sup>14</sup> Request from Authority staff.

## U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

### Reclamation Manual

#### *Documents out for Comment*

##### *Draft Policy*

- [IRM P03 Reclamation Information Management and Technology \(IMT\) Portfolio Management](#) (comments due 07/08/24)

##### *Draft Directives and Standards*

- [ACM 01-01 Requirements for Award and Administration of Financial Assistance Agreements \(Grants and Cooperative Agreements\)](#) (comments due 08/09/24)
- [IRM 03-01 Reclamation Information Management and Technology \(IMT\) Investment Management Framework](#) (comments due 07/14/24)
- [SLE 04-03 Protection Services](#) (comments due 07/27/24)

##### *Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)*

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

##### *Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)*

- There are currently no Safety and Health Standards out for review.

##### *Draft Reclamation Design Standards*

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

## San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint) is a non-profit group of stakeholders, working to better understand our shared goals for water solutions that support environmental stewardship with the needs of communities and industries throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

**Blueprint's strategic priorities for 2022-2025:** Advocacy, Groundwater Quality and Disadvantaged Communities, Land Use Changes & Environmental Planning, Outreach & Communications, SGMA Implementation, Water Supply Goals, Governance, Operations & Finance.

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

### Committees

#### *Executive/Budget/Personnel*

Blueprint contribution requests have been circulated and Board members will be following up with participants.

### Activities

#### *Farmer to Farmer Summit – Third Session*

The farmer-to-farmer delegates have been reengaged to further regional communication and will be participating in additional water solution facilitation, with a focus on Levee Maintenance & Enhancement projects and the South Delta Gates Project (permanent operable gates). Summit delegates and organizers are interested in an independent and sustainable funding effort moving forward.

### *Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley*

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Education Fund and the California Water Institute - Research and Education Division are working together to develop a Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley. This two-year project will culminate in the publication of a report to be submitted to Congress.

### *CVP and SWP Water Supply Restrictions Strategic Plan<sup>15</sup>*

The Hallmark Group was tasked by the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley to develop and implement a strategic plan for the primary objective of protecting the operational flexibility restored by 2019 Biological Opinions and 2020 Record of Decision for Coordinated Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, which restored approximately 300,000 acre-feet to the average south-of-Delta delivery capability of the Projects, and to expand operational flexibility for the CVP and SWP. As part of its work plan, Hallmark developed an outline of a strategic plan related to engagement with agencies that impact operations of the CVP/SWP and associated water supply. The outline is organized into four principal topics: (1) objectives; (2) obstacles to achieving objectives; (3) means of overcoming obstacles; and (4) time frame.

The Blueprint Board considered the Strategic Plan and adopted it, with one Director abstaining.

## San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJVW CAP)

### Background

The CAP Plenary Group adopted work groups to implement the CAP Term Sheet<sup>16</sup>, adopted on November 22, 2022. During Phase II, Work Groups are continuing to meet and discuss priorities and drafting various documents for their respective areas: Safe Drinking Water; Sustainable Water Supplies; Ecosystem Health; Land Use, Demand Reduction and Land Repurposing; Implementation.

The Plenary group met on June 25 to continue discussion about the development the “One Water” component of the Central Valley Community Foundation’s Jobs First Initiative<sup>17</sup>, which has been renamed to Sierra San Joaquin Jobs (S2J2).

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<sup>15</sup> Request from Authority staff

<sup>16</sup> Request from Authority staff

<sup>17</sup> Request from Authority staff

## **APPENDIX A**





— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# LTO WIIN Act Quarterly Update Meeting

June 11, 2024

# Agenda

- Summary of Current NEPA/ESA Progress
- Public Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Coordination/Remaining Schedule



# 2021 NEPA and ESA Process (1 of 2)

- NEPA

- Notice of Intent, Scoping, No Action review, resource analyses
- Initial Alternative Report
- Cooperating Agency Draft EIS, Summary, Purpose and Need, Proposed Alternatives, Resource Areas
- Public Draft EIS, Action Alternatives, Preferred/Proposed Action, Analysis
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision



# 2021 NEPA and ESA Process (2 of 2)

- ESA
  - Draft Biological Assessment
  - Final Biological Assessment
  - Biological Opinions



# Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meetings (1 of 2)

- March 2022 – Scoping Meetings
- June 2022 – Initial Alternatives
- September 2022 – Seasonal Operation Deconstruction and Initial Alternatives
- December 2022 – Lines of Evidence
- March 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Affected Environment)
- June 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Alternative Components)



# Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meetings (2 of 2)

- September 2023 – Modeling Updates, EIS, BA comment themes
- December 2023 – Biological Modeling and Biological Assessment
- March 2024 – EIS Cooperating Agency Comment Themes



# Proposed Alternatives

- No Action Alternative
- Alternative 1 Water Quality Control Plan
- Alternative 2 Multi-Agency Consensus
  - Alternative 2b
- Alternative 3 Modified Natural Hydrograph
- Alternative 4 Risk-Informed Operation
  - Alternative 4b



# Major Themes of Comments Received

- Over the past 6 months Reclamation has processed 846 comments received from the Cooperating Agency draft EIS(s) and have worked to address them in this Public Draft EIS.
- Multiple comments received related to:
  - Trinity River Division
  - Alternative 3
  - Relationship of CVP and SWP (California Endangered Species Act)





# Release of the Public Draft EIS

- Notice of Availability (NOA): July 2024
- 45-day Public Comment Period: End of July - Aug. 2024
- 3 In-person public meetings (Los Banos, Redding, & Sacramento)
- 3 Virtual public meetings



# NEPA Project Milestones

- **Public Draft EIS Notice of Availability Published in Federal Register**
  - July 2024
- **Virtual and in-person public meetings (6)**
  - Late July – August 2024
- **45-day Public Comment Period Closes**
  - August 2024
- **Final EIS Notice of Availability Published in Federal Register**
  - November 2024
- **Record of Decision Executed**
  - December 2024





For Reconsultation questions, email  
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— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION



**WIIN Act**  
**Coordination**



# **Key Points**

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- Our intention today is to describe where we are at in the BiOp development process, what will be provided in and with the draft BiOp this Friday, and the process for submitting any comments you may have.



# USFWS LTO Biological Opinion Schedule

**\*Subject to change\***

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>FWS Completion Date</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>WIIN Act Coordination Meeting #1</b>	<b>April 29, 2024</b>	Describe BiOp schedule and status update
<b>WIIN Act Coordination Meeting #2</b>	<b>June 25, 2024</b>	Overview of draft BiOp structure for WIIN review
<b>Draft BiOp</b>	<b>June 28, 2024</b>	First draft for Peer/WIIN/Stakeholder Review
<b>WIIN Act Review</b>	<b>July 15, 2024</b>	2 week WIIN act review
<b>Peer Review</b>	<b>July 29, 2024</b>	1 month Independent Peer Review
<b>WIIN Act Coordination Meeting #3</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Week of August</b>	Post Review Meeting with PWAs
<b>Final Biological Opinion</b>	<b>October 15, 2024</b>	Finalize and Rollout. Assumes No J/Adverse Mod

# **BiOp Structure**

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- Species Affected
- Proposed Action
- Consultation Approach
- Status and Baseline
- Effects Analyses



# ***Consultation Approach***

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- Mixed Programmatic Approach
- Changes from the 2019 Proposed Action
- Modeling





# ***Status and Baseline***

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- These sections describe the current status of delta smelt, delta smelt critical habitat, and longfin smelt.
- The environmental baseline describes the status within the LTO Action Area (area of effects), which overlaps with the species range, so these sections are combined.



# ***Effects of the Action***

- Parsed by proposed action elements
- BA incorporation by reference
- Consultation Type
  - Standard consultation
  - Programmatic consultation



# ***Draft BiOp Review Process***

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- The draft BiOp and supporting information will be posted on Reclamation's sharepoint site
- Comment matrix will be emailed
- Comments due July 15





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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER

# Collaborative Action Program

## Plenary Group Meeting Summary

June 25, 2024 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

### Participation

On June 25, 2024, the Plenary Group had 24 members participate in the discussion, and all five caucuses were represented.

### #1 Review Agenda & Updates

The agenda was reviewed, and no additions were made.

Jose Rodriguez gave an update on a demand management workshop that was held the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> hosted by UC Davis. The objective of the workshop was to develop a common understanding of demand management. There were discussions about guidance and considerations related to planning demand management, and 50% of the attendees stated that they are working directly with GSA's. There was also discussion about developing a demand management network, which may give CAP an opportunity to be involved.

Sarah Woolf gave an update about a meeting with Secretary Ross and her key staff. Key issues that Secretary Ross would like CAP to consider were discussed, including small farmer engagement and big box distribution centers that are taking land and impacting the Valley.

A Letters of Opposition relating to AB107 and SB108 that would drastically cut the budget for the Emergency Tanks & Hauled Water Program. There was a recommendation that CAP send a letter as well to join Self-Help's opposition, after it is modified slightly to better reflect the term sheet. All CAP members were sent an email to offer the opportunity to sign the letter before it is finalized.

### #2 Draft Sierra San Joaquin Water Investments

#### Criteria

The progress of the S2J2 draft was shared with the group, and a schedule was shared showing the final recommendations will be submitted on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Preamble and

Criteria for the investment recommendations were shared with the group leading into each caucus' recommendation.

### **Safe Drinking Water**

The Safe Drinking Water Investment recommendations were shared, which included several categories of investment including infrastructure for public water systems, public system operation and maintenance, organizational capacity, system operator training, domestic well mitigation, and nitrate management zones. There was also discussion in the document about barriers such as funding and contracting, incentives for consolidation, and education engagement.

### **Ecosystem Restoration**

The Ecosystem Investment recommendations were shared. A table was created that showed the types of habitat to be restored in the San Joaquin Basin and the Tulare Basin. The estimates come from the Central Valley joint venture effort. When adding the two areas together, it comes out to about 800,000 acres. The cost range is significant, from \$4 billion to \$28 billion. The reason for the variation comes from the Central Valley joint venture report. In addition to the cost for the acreage, the S2J2 four-counties cost is estimated between \$2 billion and \$14 billion. This includes all project costs, stewardship, and capacity for agencies, tribes, and communities.

### **Water Supply**

The Water Supply investment recommendations were shared, and a brief overview of each category was given. These categories include: Water Conveyance improvements, Water Storage, Diversified Supply Development, and Water Conservation and System Efficiencies. These investments have an estimated total of \$15 billion.

There are also Water Supply Recharge investments that were recommended, which included Expanding Flood MAR studies, technical assistance to implement Flood MAR studies, Flood-MAR recharge project implementation, Recharge basins for Disadvantaged Communities, and Groundwater Monitoring. Although there is no estimate for groundwater monitoring, the other 4 investments have an estimated total cost of \$355 million.

### **Land Repurposing and Demand Reduction**

There was a discussion about the Multibenefit land repurposing, however there were no details about what lands will be repurposed or how much it will cost. For solar investment, there will be coordination with the other S2J2 work group to confirm understanding of the recommendations that were made by CAP in the letter to the Governor and his staff about improvements needed to accelerate and advance utility solar investments in the Valley.

There are three categories related to demand reduction, including Allocation Programs, GSA Support, and Expand Landflex. Estimates are still being developed for these categories.

## **Next Steps**

There was a request for feedback on these recommendations by 12:00 PM on Friday, 06/28/2024 in order to finalize these recommendations. The main questions posed to the caucuses are “Do you support the different categories of investment? Or do you have a concern that needs to be addressed in order to support a specific category of investment?”. After receiving feedback, these recommendations will be finalized at the July 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting at UC Merced. Following that meeting, the recommendations will be submitted to S2J2. The next steps following the submission of the recommendations will be discussing how to synthesize across the investments to create a comprehensive package that works together. Evaluation of projects that CAP can support will follow.

There was a short discussion about the possible issues of seeing the investments as one-time costs, instead of ongoing investments.

### **#4 July 8-9 In-Person Meeting – Sarah**

The Plenary Group is encouraged to attend the in-person meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at UC Merced. The meeting will be held in the UC Merced Conference Center, the same room as the previous in-person meeting. An email was sent to the Plenary group with further details about hotel booking information. A draft agenda was created and shared with the group. This agenda can also be found in the [CAP Library](#).



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER

# Collaborative Action Program

## Plenary Group Meeting Draft Agenda

July 8-9, 2024

University of California at Merced

### Monday, July 8th

Time	Item	Title
9:30 AM	0)	Coffee & Light Breakfast
10:00 AM	1)	Call to Order
10:05 AM	2)	Overview of the Agenda and Meeting Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Reach agreement on remaining issues to finalize Sierra San Joaquin Jobs (S2J2) recommendations</li><li>b. Chart next work for the CAP</li><li>c. Continue to build trust and deepen relationships among CAP members</li></ul>
10:15 AM	3)	Overview of Draft S2J2 Recommendations and remaining issues
10:45 AM	4)	Breakout Groups Discussion Question: What strategies will address the remaining issues?
11:15 AM	5)	Strategies to address the remaining issues
12:30 PM		Lunch
1:30 PM	6)	Strategies to address the remaining issues (continued)
3:00 PM		Break
3:15 PM	7)	Breakout Groups: Discussion Question – What should be the priorities for the next phase of the CAP?
4:45 PM	8)	Meeting Recap and Adjournment

5:30 PM Happy Hour Social at El Capitan Hotel



## Tuesday, July 9th

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>
8:00 AM	0)	Coffee & Light Breakfast
8:30 AM	1)	Next Phase of the CAP (continued)
10:00 AM		Break
10:15 AM	2)	Breakout Groups Discussion Question: What factors should the CAP use to synthesize across investments in creating a holistic water management strategy?
11:00 AM	3)	Full Group Sharing from Breakout Groups and Discussion
12:00 PM	4)	Meeting Recap and Adjournment
12:15 PM		Lunch



# Sierra San Joaquin Jobs SPRING SPRINT

## WEEK 5



## S2J2 SPRINT TO THE FINISH LINE

Thursday, July 18  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Fresno Convention Center  
2233 Ventura St, Fresno, CA 93721

I SURVIVED  
THE SPRING  
SPRINT

Join us as we thank you for your hard work and  
celebrate an incredible accomplishment.

Enjoy food, music, and dancing. Don't miss out on the fun!

[Register Here](#)

We've made it through Week 5, and the progress has been remarkable! Each workgroup is making impressive strides, tackling investment areas, identifying barriers, and crafting strategies to address these issues at a **regional level**.

We can't thank you enough for being a part of this complex but essential work. By the end of the Sprint, we'll have a bold, comprehensive, and actionable draft regional investment plan that **centers on equity, good jobs, and environmental stewardship**.

To celebrate our collective commitment and incredible achievement, join us on **Thursday, July 18th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** for food, music, and dancing! Click on the link to register!

This week, workgroups will focus on developing stakeholder maps. Each workgroup will identify organizational partners, resources, gaps, and plans to address these gaps. As well as outline key insights from prior community engagement.



## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



### Clean Energy

The Clean Energy, Electricity, Fuels, and Transmission workgroup **finalized its investment strategy section and shifted focus to barriers, solutions, and funding sources**. In a larger working group session, they introduced the barriers and solutions part of the report. The workgroup split into smaller groups to provide input on a "**Barriers and Solutions Matrix**" organized by investment strategy. After discussing additional barriers, solutions, and stakeholders, a subgroup delved distributed generation's role and will report back to the group later this month.

### Nature-Based Solutions

This week, the Nature-based Solutions (NBS) workgroup **finalized investment strategies and discussed funding models**, emphasizing inclusive discussions and quantitative analyses. Participants highlighted the **need for detailed project narratives and the adaptation of investment strategies to various funding languages**. Example projects, from **local composting to biomass utilization**, informed broader strategies. The workgroup also explored how different land types can support economic diversification and resilience, and how **strategies could align with state initiatives focused on workforce development, equity, and community benefits**. For Week 6, they will address stakeholder needs, identify gaps, and outline insights from previous community engagements to inform future efforts.

### Fleet Transition

This week, in the Fleet Transition workgroup, HR&A presented **additional targeted community benefit case studies** for consideration in the report. The workgroup **shifted from discussing investment strategies to identifying barriers and solutions**, splitting into smaller focus groups to address these issues. They agreed to continue discussions before next week's meeting. The group also provisionally finalized the investment strategy section of the report.



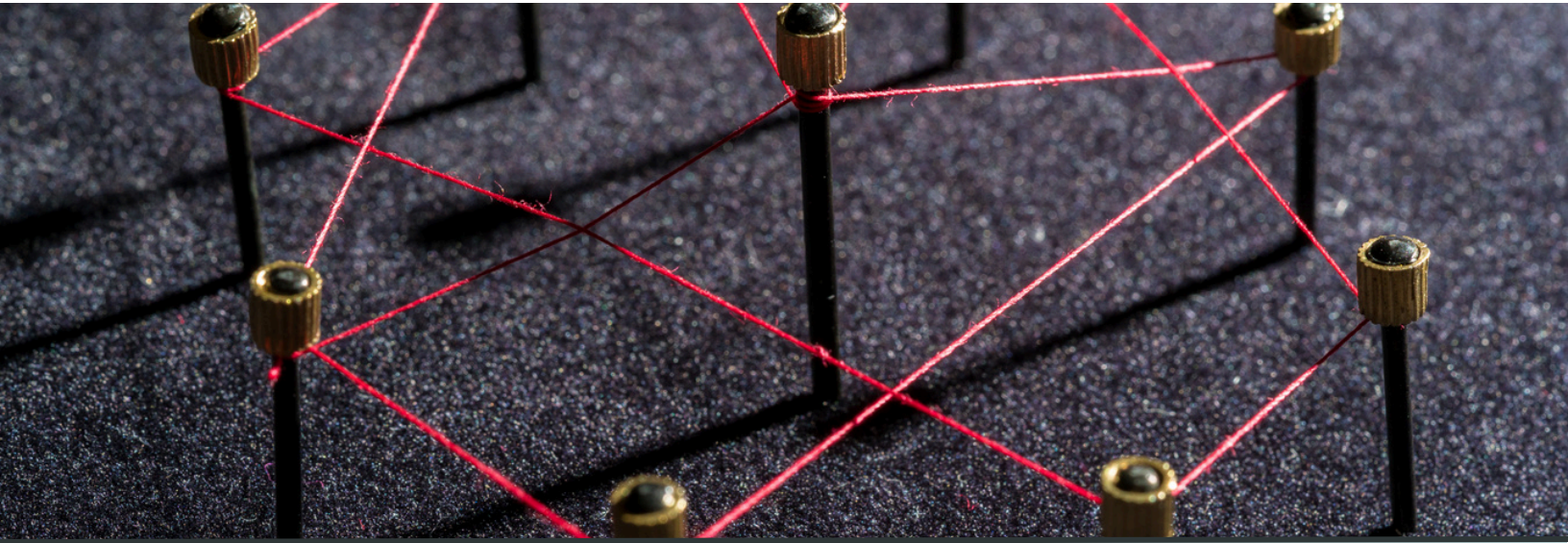
### Community Benefits

The Community Benefits workgroup presented examples of how **community benefits have been used to advance fleet electrification** to the Fleet Transition workgroup. They collaborated with HR&A Advisors to refine the framework based on group feedback, including a new **problem statement and revised vision statement**. The team also worked with advisors to enhance regional governance and requirements, making significant progress on their chapter outline.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR MEETING INFORMATION](#)







## RESPONSIBLE FOOD & AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS



This week, the Responsible Food & Agriculture Systems workgroup **categorized and assessed the initial project catalog into infrastructure, enablement, and policy areas**. They discussed using a **framework to evaluate projects comprehensively**, which will guide the scoring criteria for prioritizing projects and conducting cost/benefit analyses. The workgroup then split into smaller groups to further develop project outlines.

*Note: Next week's RFS workgroup call will be rescheduled due to the Juneteenth holiday.*



## CIRCULAR MANUFACTURING



This week, the Circular Manufacturing workgroup **finalized funding models and sources and discussed potential stakeholders** crucial for implementing the proposed investment strategies. Funding sources included government (federal, state, and local), private sector, philanthropic, and public-private partnerships. The workgroup **reviewed specific grant programs that could enable investment strategies**, including relevant funding streams from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021) and the Inflation Reduction Act (2022). In the second half of the session, the workgroup **identified key stakeholder groups to engage**, including government, industry (manufacturers and trade organizations), utilities, non-profits, educational institutions, and community voices (community-based organizations).

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR MEETING INFORMATION](#)





# ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



## WATER



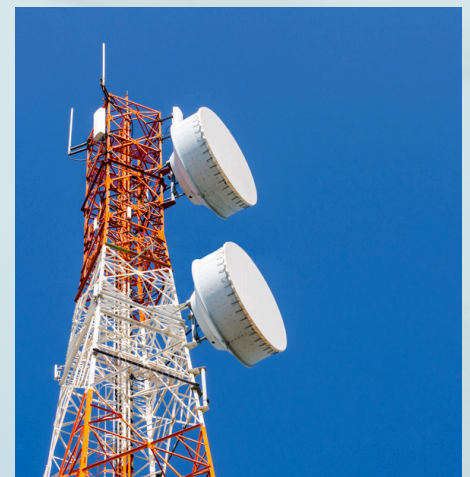
The CAP has **identified a crucial method for estimating operation and maintenance needs for public and state small water systems serving disadvantaged communities.** Recognizing that these costs are as challenging to fund as new infrastructure, the CAP has begun discussions on funding models and sources, highlighting the need for innovative solutions to address water investment needs and rectify current funding inequities. Additionally, the CAP identified investment strategies for **sustainable water management, barriers, and mitigation pathways,** and is refining investment estimates for **ecosystem restoration, safe drinking water, and water supply.**



## BROADBAND



This week, the Broadband Workgroup examined **state broadband initiatives to understand current and future funding opportunities.** They assessed investment costs for various activities and strategies to estimate necessary investments. Additionally, they reviewed investment strategies, emphasizing the need for a **mix of technologies (mesh Wi-Fi, LTE, satellites)** to ensure continuous broadband **access across homes, community centers, buses, and other locations for students and families.**



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR MEETING INFORMATION](#)







## SMALL BUSINESS & MICROENTERPRISE

The Small Business & Microenterprise Workgroup strategized on **supporting small businesses in the green economy** by leveraging trusted messengers, expanding rural and underrepresented community capacity, and creating connection tools. They reviewed a draft document, planning to gather feedback after the meeting. Additionally, they discussed **strengthening community-based organizations** in rural areas, focusing on collaboration, capacity building, and data-driven decisions. They emphasized **reaching entrepreneurs with language or cultural barriers** and identified potential partnerships. Lastly, they explored **investment strategies, connecting entrepreneurs to resources, regional economic development, and stakeholder mapping for streamlined capacity building.**

## EDUCATION & SKILL BUILDING

The workgroup facilitators have been conducting interviews and engagements with workgroup conveners and participants, refining the problem statement to focus on **four main barriers:** limited resources and educational disparities, a skills mismatch between workers and available jobs, inefficient and slow-to-adapt training systems, and the lack of regional cross-sector platforms for alignment and policy change. Addressing these barriers **aims to create an accessible, high-quality, collaborative, and adaptable education and workforce system** that meets the needs of the region's most disinvested communities. This week, they will continue validating these ideas and begin identifying initial investment strategies.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

This week, the Community-Based Health Workforce leadership refined projects to better align with funding models. Using an interactive document, participants outlined various sustainable funding models for the healthcare workforce, including **scaling up local funding, institutional research funding, government investments, philanthropic contributions, and more, specifically to support CHWs, Promotores, and Doulas.** They noted the **challenges of reliance on unsustainable grants and inadequate healthcare reimbursement models.** The next step is to develop the Stakeholder Map of the Regional Plan and identify stakeholders for each strategy.



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR MEETING INFORMATION](#)

# 2023-24 San Luis Storage Projection

## 90% Exceedance Hydrology

