



California Water Commission **Regional Conveyance** Stakeholder Interviews

Lisa Beutler, Executive Facilitator
Megan Murray, Assistant Facilitator

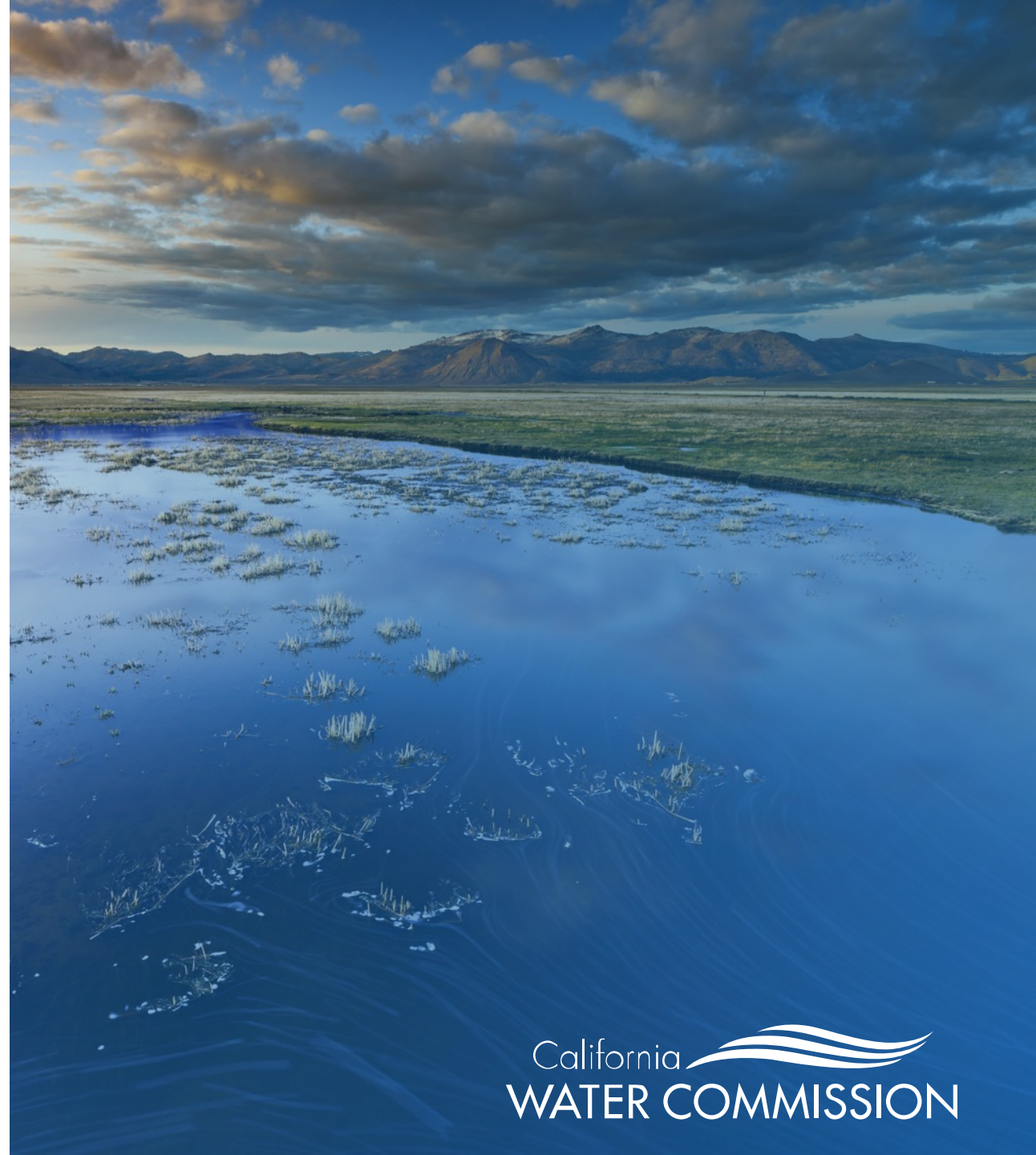


Stantec

California 
WATER COMMISSION

Overview

1. Purpose
2. Approach
3. One Size Doesn't Fit All
4. Common Themes
5. Next Steps



Purpose

Gather information from knowledgeable stakeholders on:

- Needs for investment in conveyance infrastructure to improve water resiliency
- The characteristics of resilience as it relates to conveyance
- The role of the State and the criteria to be used in making investments
- Financing options and challenges
- Outreach and engagement



Approach

Background Research

- Literature Review
- Consultation with Research Community, and Financing and Conveyance Experts

Concept Testing

- Preparation of Background Materials and Discussion Topics
- Testing of Interview Questions with Knowledgeable Stakeholders and the Academic Community

Representative Stakeholder Interviews

- Mixed Groups
- Geography – North, Central, South & South Eastern
- Nine Basic Questions
- 30-90 Minutes

Interview Quick Facts

Timeframe: April 13-October 14, 2020

Contacted: 134

- Participated: 103
- Not available: 11
- Did not respond: 20



Participants: Outreach Groups

- Disadvantaged Communities
- Tribal Nations
- Environmental NGOs
- Water Associations
- Growers
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Academia
- Legislative staff
- Economists
- Local Utilities
- Water Banks
- Wholesalers





Definitions

- Gray
- Green
- Governance

One Size Doesn't Fit All

Northern Considerations

- Mountain counties still utilize mining era ditches and flume systems
- Limited rate payer base and disadvantaged communities
- Connection of upper and lower watershed
- Environmental uses considered
- Interconnection of systems (interties)
- Bay Area resilience requires full systems approaches
- Seismic Concerns



Central Considerations

- Subsidence related issues on SWP and CVP infrastructure
 - Special issues related to disadvantaged communities and the Human Right to Water
 - Connection to SGMA; groundwater banking
- Flood management and Flood MAR
- Central Coast not connected to large State infrastructure, focused on local reliance



Southern Considerations

Resilience

- Seismic related disruptions
- Goals to reduce reliance on imported supply
- Regulatory

Dependence on Full System Functionality

- Delta
- Central Valley Project
- State Water Project



Southeastern

- Environmental concerns with Owens Valley, Salton Sea
- Water quality
- Cross-boundary issues (Colorado River and Mexico)
- Rural and Ag to urban transfers; agriculture improvements benefit urban areas





Underrepresented and Disadvantaged Communities

Interview Themes

What We Learned

Resilience

- Adaptive to all hydrologic conditions
- Flexible
- Redundant
- Past performance/reporting mechanism
- Balanced
- Science-based



Conveyance Criteria



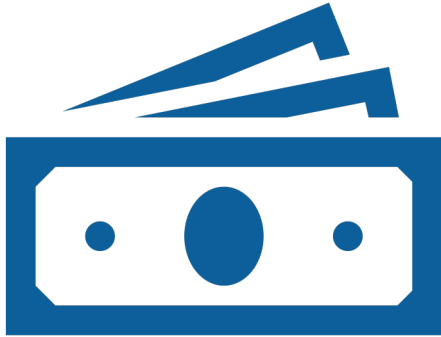
- Multi-benefit, multi-use
- Watershed approach
- Considers all users
- Local vs. regional infrastructure
- Existing vs. new infrastructure
- Part of a broader set of solutions
- *More than supply
 - Operational Flexibility
 - Flood Management

Financing

- Barriers and Challenges:
 - Grant process
 - CEQA/permitting
 - Prop 218
 - Matching requirement
 - Beneficiary pays



Financing



- Options:
 - Public-Private Partnerships
 - Low interest loans
- Low interest loans
 - Ex. WIFIA (Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) and SWIFT (State Water Investment Fund for Texas)
 - Interest rate at US Treasury rate
 - Flexible repayment
 - Low issuance cost

Priorities

- Multi-benefit/purpose projects
- Human Right to Water
- Projects that support SGMA
- Enhance and preserve ecosystem



Other Themes

- Draw from energy and transportation sector
 - Moving water like electrical grid moves electricity
 - Fast 41; Federal level transportation initiative to streamline permitting process
- Full system Storage is an important component to conveyance





Next Steps