

California Water Plan 2028

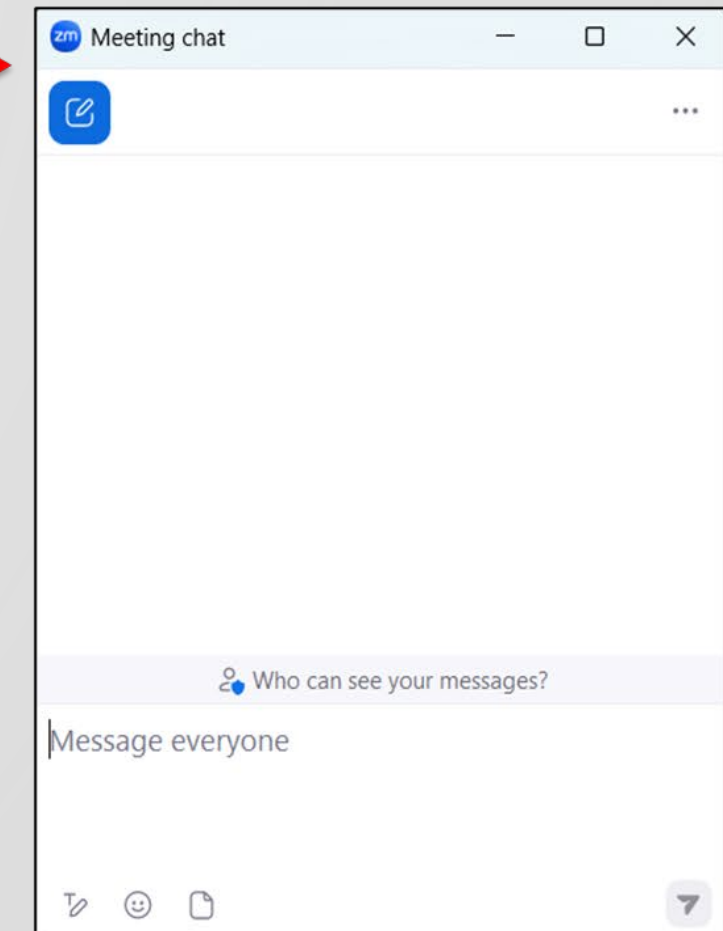
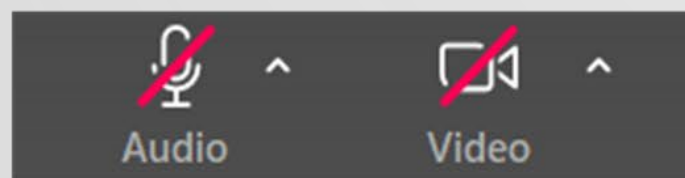
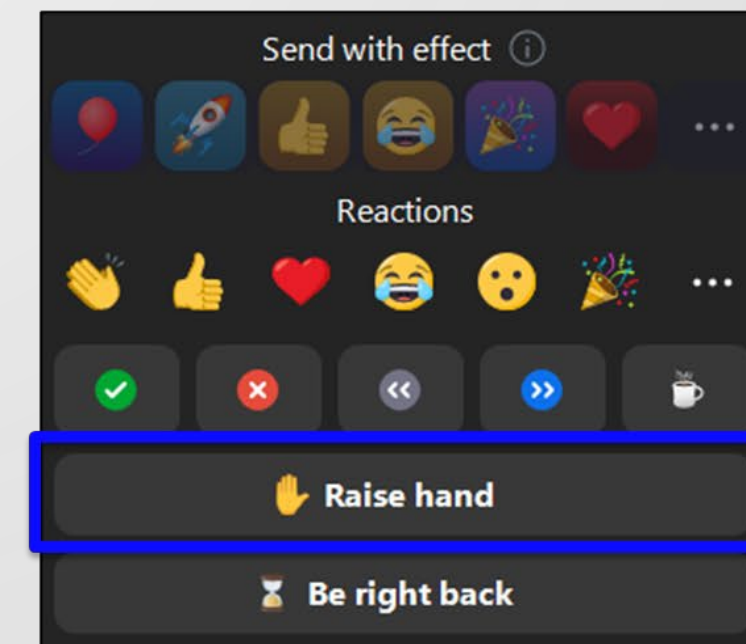
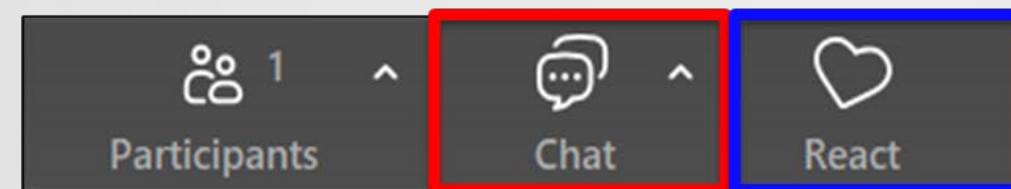
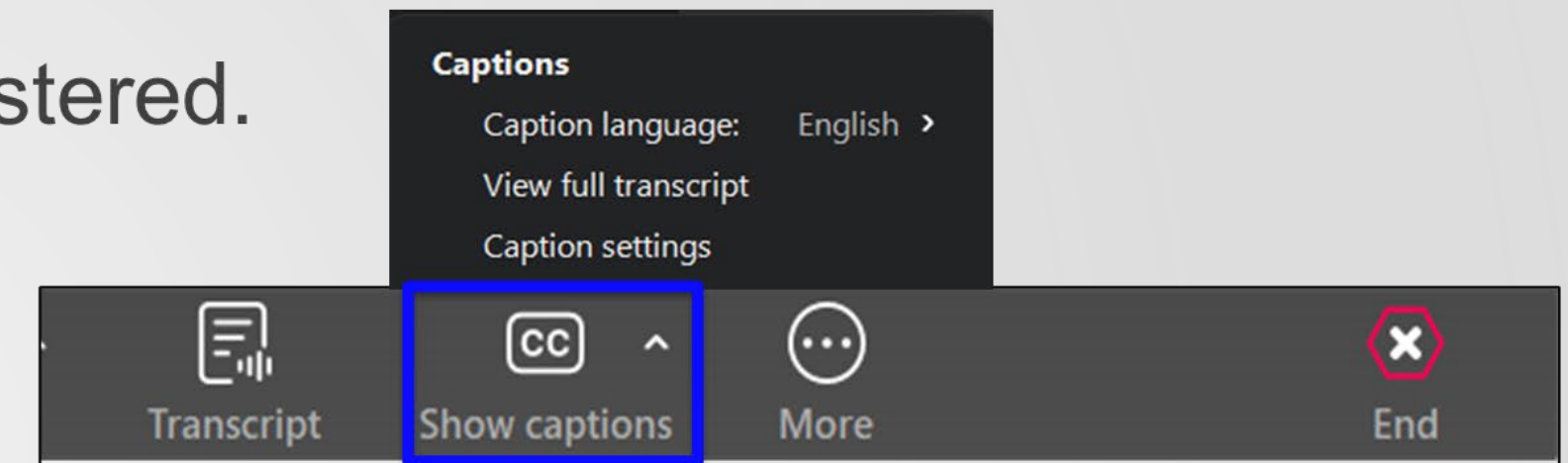
Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting 2



August 5, 2026

Meeting Format and Webinar Guidance

- This meeting will not be recorded.
 - A copy of this presentation and a meeting summary will be provided to those who registered.
- Opportunities for discussion throughout.
- Live captioning is available. →
- 2 ways to comment/ask questions
 - Can use chat function →
 - Raise hand





A New Era in **California Water Planning**



Introducing Alternate for Tribal Representative on CWP Advisory Committee



Matthew Hatcher
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mooretown Rancheria



Agenda

Start Time	Item
1:00 PM	Director Welcome and Introductions
1:10 PM	Assessing California's Future Water Supply Needs
2:00 PM	Senate Bill (SB) 659 Work Plan and the California Water Plan (CWP) 2028 Groundwater Recharge Working Group
2:20 PM	CWP 2028 Recommendations Process
2:35 PM	CWP 2028 Upcoming Engagement Opportunities
3:00 PM	Adjourn



Assessing California's Future Water Supply Needs



Eric Tsai, Supervising Engineer, DWR

California's Precipitation Swings Widely from Dry to Wet Years

Last 30 years of statewide annual precipitation volume; million acre-feet (MAF).

103 MAF



Dry year

204 MAF



Average

338 MAF



Wet year

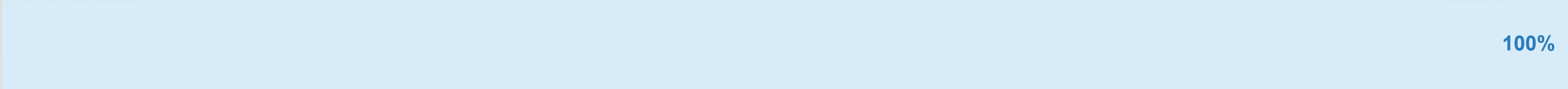


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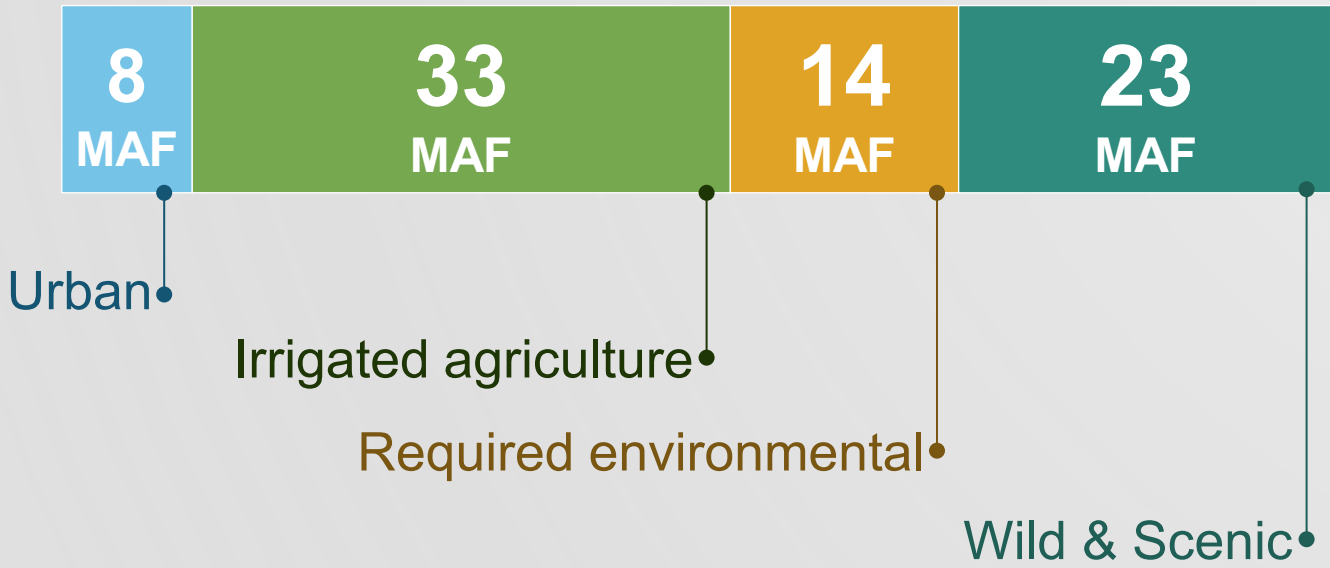
Source: California Climate Tracker at Western Region Climate Center; computed using Water Year 1994 – 2023 annual precipitation data.

DWR Actively Manages Less than 40% of Statewide Precipitation

Average statewide precipitation
204 MAF



Average statewide applied water use by sector
78 MAF $\approx 38\%$ of average precipitation



Sierra Snowpack is California's Seasonal Reservoir

Snowpack is not just “weather.” It is temporary storage that releases water over spring and summer.

Snowpack Supply

3 MAF

Dry Water Year

15 MAF

Average Water Year

40 MAF

Wet Water Year

Groundwater Use

23 MAF

17 MAF

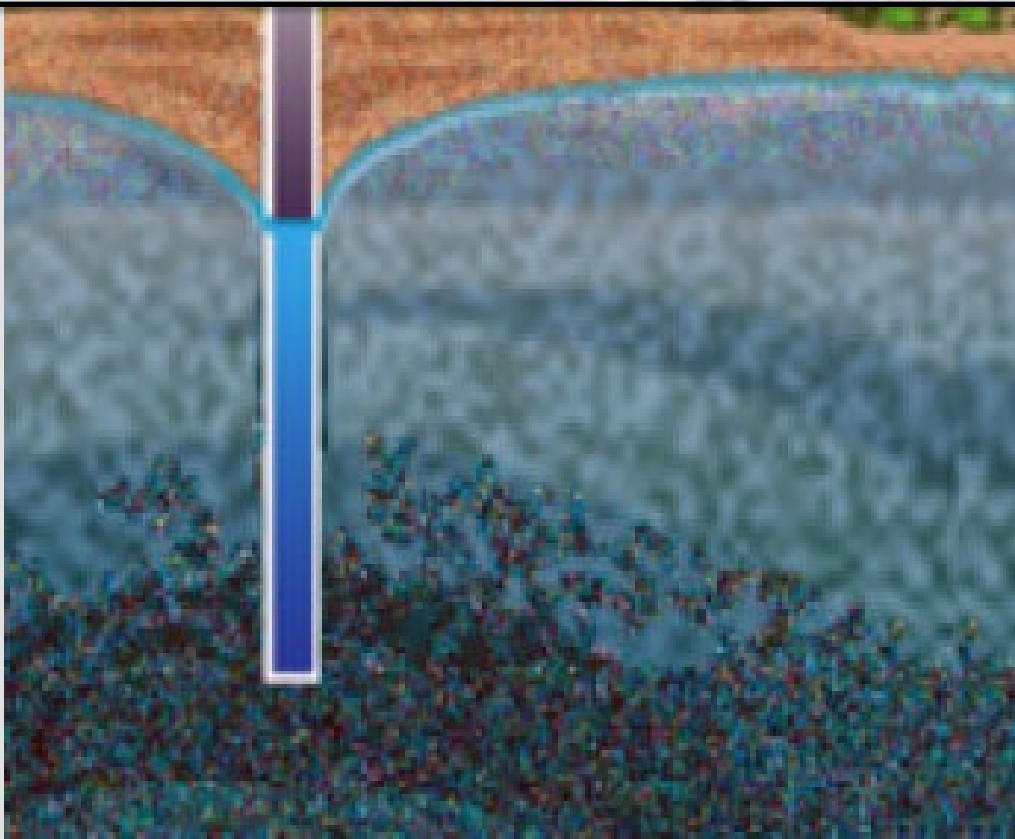
12 MAF

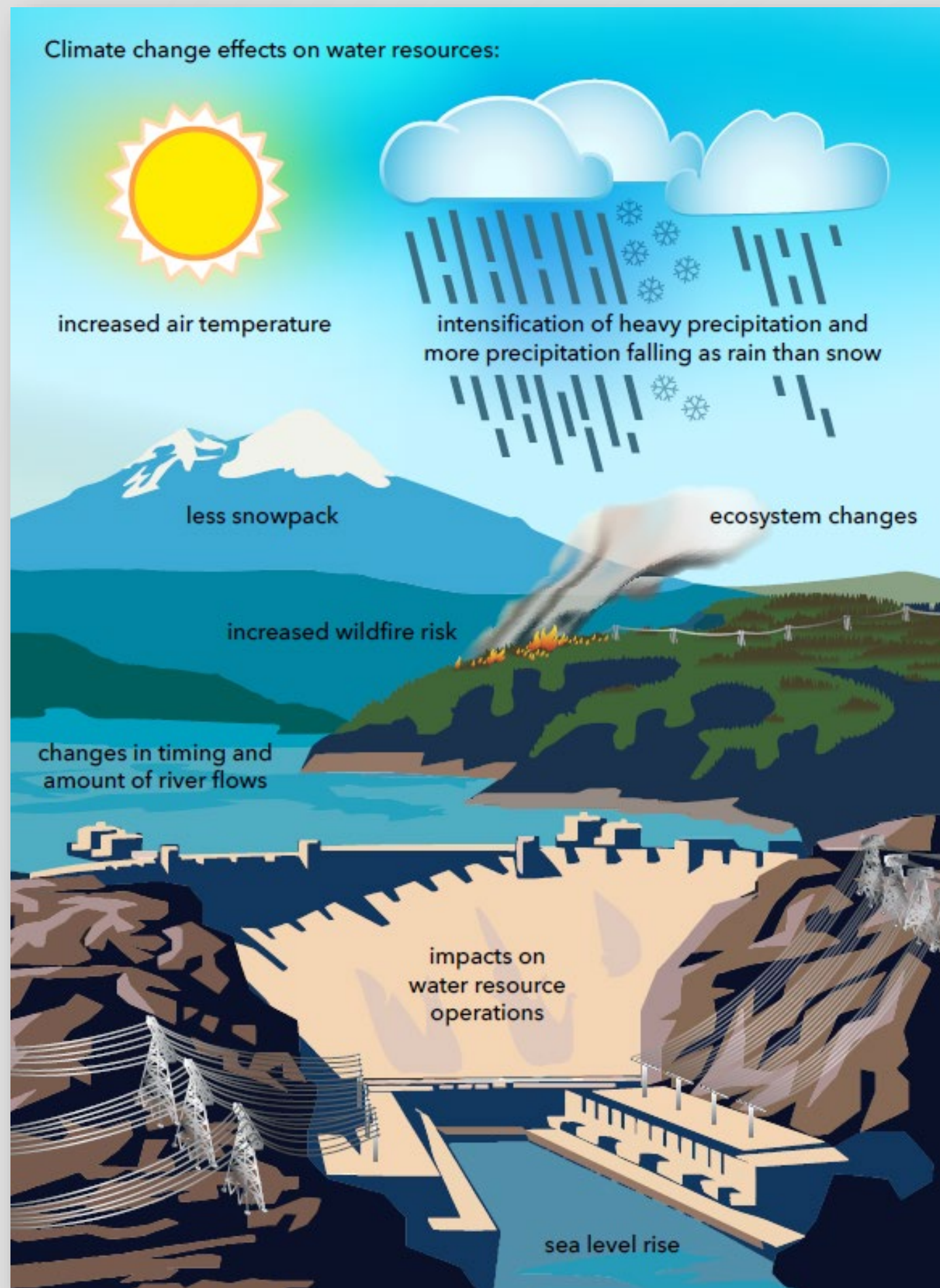
Groundwater is California's year-round supply and drought reserve



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Source: 2022 Report: Indicators of Climate Change in California by CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, DWR CA's Groundwater: Bulletin 118





Losing snowpack compresses California's water management window

The challenge is not only how much water California gets; it is when water arrives and whether the system can capture it.

SB 72 Requirements

Water Plan Update Year	SB 72 Requirement in California Water Code (CWC)
CWP 2028	Section 10004.6(f): As part of the 2028 update to the plan, the department shall include an interim planning target of 9,000,000 acre-feet of additional water, water conservation, or water storage capacity to be achieved by 2040...
CWP 2033	Section 10004.6(a)(2): As part of the 2033 update to The California Water Plan, DWR shall update the required planning target for 2050. The target shall consider the identified and future water needs for all beneficial uses , including, but not limited to, urban uses, agricultural uses, recreational uses, tribal uses, and the environment...

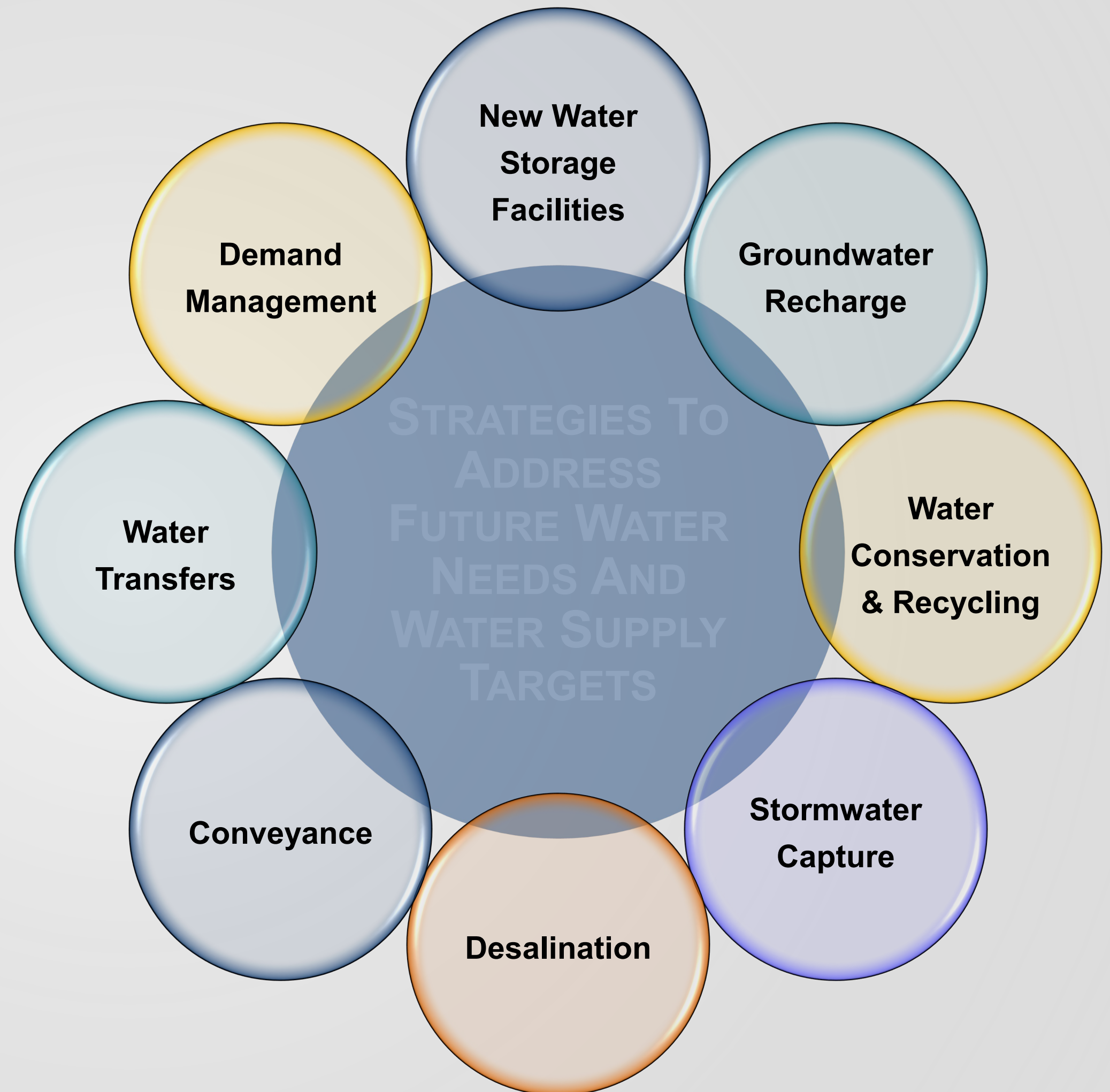
DWR Approach to Achieving Interim Water Supply Target

- Defines scale of the challenge State is facing
- Focus on inventory of projects and actions in 2028 CWP
- Establish analytical runway for 2033 CWP

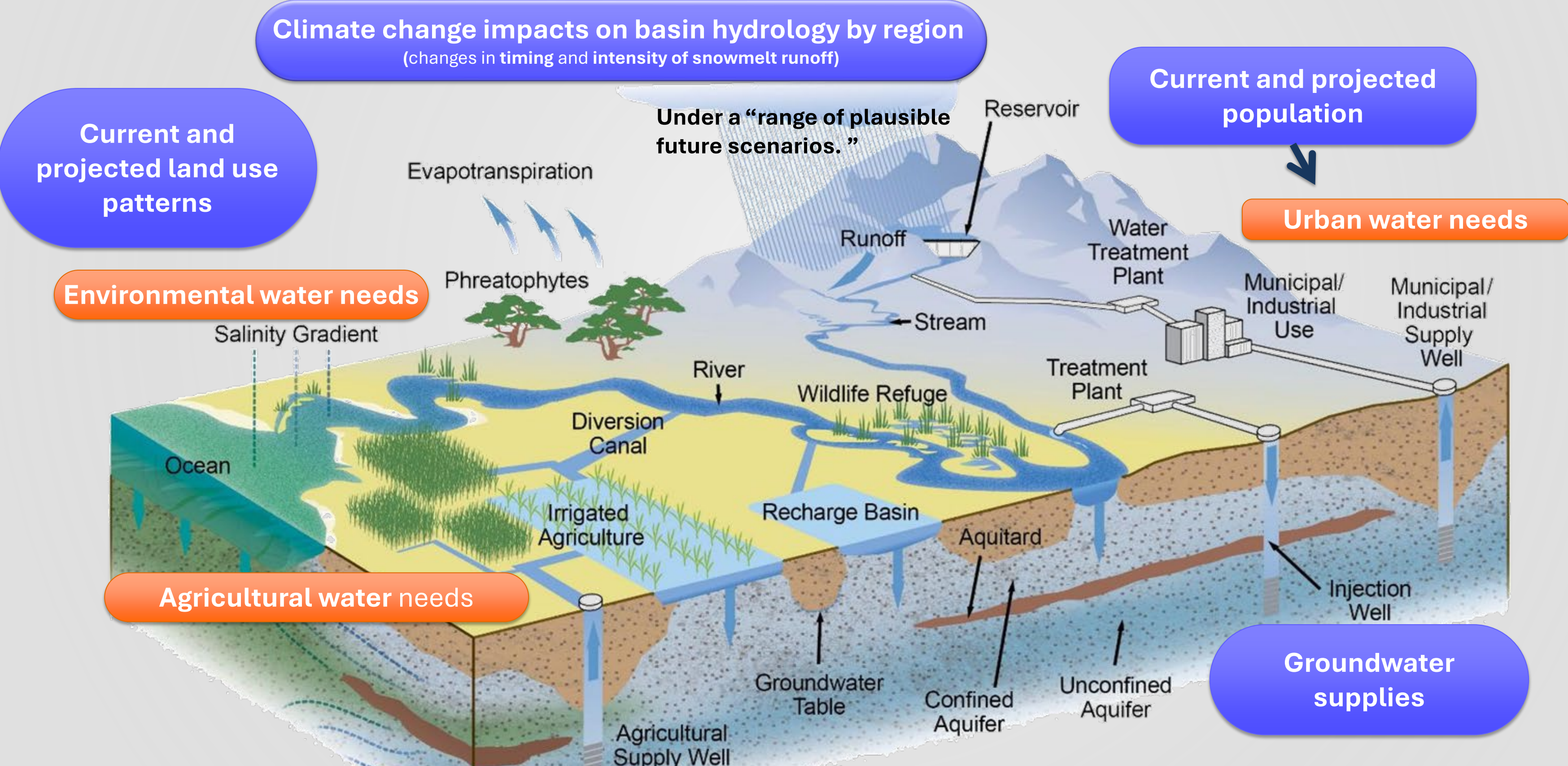


CWP 2028

- Inventory relevant projects by strategy
- Using existing published sources and planning efforts
- Characterized in terms of capacity or operational capability



Statewide Model Needed for Developing Watershed-Scale Targets



Building the Statewide Model

CWP 2028



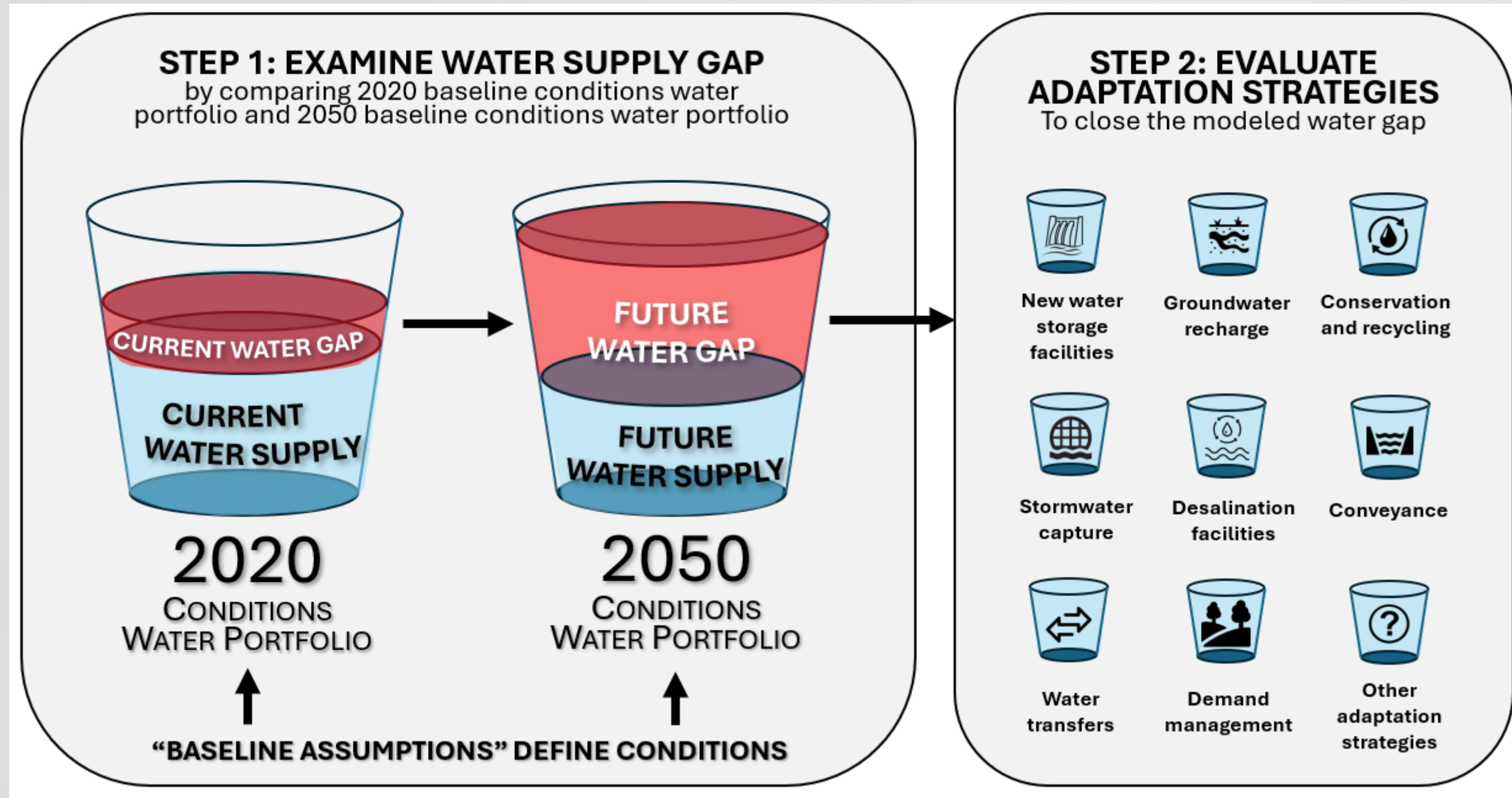
CWP 2033



*Regional forums to be held in all regions throughout the state

**Recommendations will be developed for all regions throughout the state

Developing and Addressing Water Supply Gaps



Water Supply Gaps =

Unmet agricultural demand +

Unmet urban demand +

Unmet environmental demand





Baseline Assumptions

- If no actions are taken, what is our best assumption about what the future will look like?
- Define current and future conditions in the model.
- Baseline assumptions cover a broad range of conditions that influence water supply:
 - Environmental regulations
 - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and groundwater use limits
 - Subsidence
 - Agricultural demands
 - Urban demands
 - Natural land demands
 - Colorado River imports
 - Climate change and sea-level rise
 - Existing system infrastructure and reservoir operations



Environmental Regulations

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• 2018 State Water Project (SWP)-Central Valley Project (CVP) Coordinated Operations Agreement. • 1995 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Decision 1641. • 2024 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion. • 2024 National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion. • 2024 California Department of Fish and Wildlife Incidental Take Permit (ITP). • Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL); based on 2024 HRL Strategic Plan, consistent with flows included in 2024 Long-Term Operations/ITP. • In-stream flow requirements (available as an attachment). • Reclamation Action 5 and amendments to the 2024 ITPs will be reflected in CWP 2033.
2050 Condition	

SGMA and Groundwater Use Limits

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	Pre-SGMA Implementation Groundwater pumping is restricted only by historical maximum pumping limits (used as a proxy for groundwater pumping capacity).
2050 Condition	SGMA Compliance - Minimum Thresholds (MTs) = 2015 groundwater levels. - Measurable Objectives (MOs) = 2020 groundwater levels (or by 2011 groundwater levels if the 2020 groundwater level is below the MT = 2015 groundwater level). - If the groundwater level > MO, groundwater pumping is allowed until the MO level is reached. - If MO > groundwater level > MT, then allowable pumping is decreased proportionally. - If groundwater level < MT, groundwater pumping is allowed only for urban indoor demands (i.e., health and safety). - Does not include implementation of locally proposed SGMA management actions.



Subsidence

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct • Historical and current subsidence based on simulations of 2023 subsidence conditions within the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct based on information provided by California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP). • CASP provided hydraulic conveyance capacity for each of the 27 pools of the San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct from Dos Amigos Pumping Plant to the Edmonston Pumping Plant. • Assumes implementation of currently planned CASP Interim Action projects within San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct (i.e., removal of Check 17 Trunnion Desk Special Condition and liner raises in Pools 17–18, 20–21, 24, and 31). • Represents hydraulic operations based on existing facility operating criteria as described in the 2020 Standing Operating Order, including the Special Condition for diversion to the Coalinga Canal. CVP (Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal) • Friant-Kern Canal 2020 subsidence condition based on modeling from Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. • Delta-Mendota Canal 2020 subsidence condition to be determined.

Subsidence

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2050 Condition	San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct • Represents future reductions in aqueduct conveyance capacities because of subsidence based on the 50th non-exceedance subsidence percentile for 2050 from the CASP Subsidence Forecast Model. • Assumes implementation of currently planned CASP Interim Action projects within San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct (i.e., removal of Check 17 Trunnion Desk Special Condition and liner raises in Pools 17–18, 20–21, 24, and 31). • Represent hydraulic operations based on the continued application of the 2020 Standing Operating Order, including the Special Condition for diversion to the Coalinga Canal. CVP (Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal) • Friant-Kern Canal 2050 subsidence condition based on modeling from Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. • Assumes implementation of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. • Delta-Mendota Canal 2050 subsidence condition to be determined.



Agricultural Demands

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• Represents agricultural demands based on Water Year 2020 water use and supply balances data. • Incorporates intermittent fallowing based on hydrological conditions. • Includes post-processing reduction in unmet demand to account for HRL-based fallowing.
2050 Condition	• Represents 2050 agricultural crop mix based on projected changes in crop water demand (climate change effects on evapotranspiration), changes in crop demand (marketplace driven), and production costs. • Future temperature effects will increase evapotranspiration on agricultural lands. • Incorporates intermittent fallowing based on hydrological conditions and HRL-based fallowing.



Urban Demands

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• Represent urban demands based on 2020 census data and SWRCB electronical annual-reports data.
2050 Condition	• Represent future population based on California Department of Finance 2050 population projections. • Incorporate reduced urban indoor and outdoor demands based on adopted SWRCB regulations.



Natural Land Demands

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• Represent natural-lands demands based on the 2019 National Land Cover Database.
2050 Condition	• Starts with 2019 National Land Cover Database and adjust natural-land area to reflect projected decrease when urban footprint expands, and projected increase when urban footprint contracts.

Existing System Infrastructure

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	Based on historical calibrated WEAP-FS model (infrastructure in operation as of 2020).
2050 Condition	- Based on historical calibrated WEAP-FS model (infrastructure in operation as of 2020). - Infrastructure modifications will be examined through the adaptation strategies.

Colorado River Allocations

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	- Assumes California annual allocation under the Colorado River compact (at 4.4 million acre-feet per year), without shortage, with California share split among California water districts similar to sharing circa 2020. - User-defined mean-annual imports representing 2020 level of development.
2050 Condition	To be determined.

Climate/Hydrology

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• Uses a 1,000-year climate sequence from Weather Generator, with no change in precipitation and temperature from the 2020 reference climate.
2050 Condition	• Uses localized constructed analog (LOCA)2 downscaling from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP)6 global climate models (GCMs). • Represents the future climate conditions using 2050 GCM projections. • Apply temperature changes from 0 to +4 degrees Celsius (°C) and precipitation changes of $\pm 12.5\%$ to generate future climate scenarios from Weather Generator.



Sea-Level Rise

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	Represents 2020 sea-level rise simulated via the California Simulation Model (CalSim) Artificial Neural Network, consistent with CalSim 3.
2050 Condition	Represents 2050 sea-level rise simulated via CalSim Artificial Neural Network, consistent with CalSim 3.

Reservoir Operations

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• Represents 2020 reservoir operations using 2021–2024 operations data. • Includes post-processing reduction in unmet demand to account for HRL-based reoperation.
2050 Condition	• Represents 2050 reservoir operations also using 2021–2024 operations data. Assumes no changes in how reservoirs operate in the future. • Includes post-processing reduction in unmet demand to account for HRL-based reoperation.



Tribal Demands

Condition	Baseline Assumptions
2020 Condition	• Not represented as a separate demand category in the CWP 2028 baseline analysis.
2050 Condition	• For CWP 2033, develop assumptions through consultation and engagement with the Tribal Advisory Committee.

Follow-up Before August 25–26 AC Meeting

- Schedule follow-up meeting(s) with AC Member Carrie Monohan (and alternate Matthew Hatcher)
- Contact Emily Alejandrino :
Emily.Alejandrino@water.ca.gov



SB 659 Work Plan and CWP Groundwater Recharge Working Group



Jose Alarcon, Supervising Engineer, DWR
Mark Nordberg, Senior Engineering Geologist, DWR

SB 659: Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023

- Integrated into CWP 2028 and future updates.
- Directs DWR to identify **immediate opportunities** and **long-term solutions** to expand and utilize groundwater recharge facilities statewide.
- Requires **actionable** recharge recommendations and a statewide recharge knowledge base:
 - Recharge potential and water availability variability.
 - Legal, regulatory, and financial opportunities and barriers.
 - Recharge locations, best practices, and implementation strategies.
 - Economic, water supply, and multi-benefit considerations.



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SB 659 Defines Recharge Broadly

Section 10004.7 (c)(1). *“**Groundwater recharge**” means a process where water moves down from the ground surface or the bottom of a waterway and infiltrates an underlying aquifer.*

*Groundwater recharge actions include increasing the amount of **raw, treated, or recycled water** in the groundwater basins through human-controlled means, including, but not limited to, use of **aquifer storage and recovery wells, injection wells, surface spreading basins, field flooding, stormwater capture, flood managed basins, and in-lieu recharge.***



SB 659 Includes Limitations

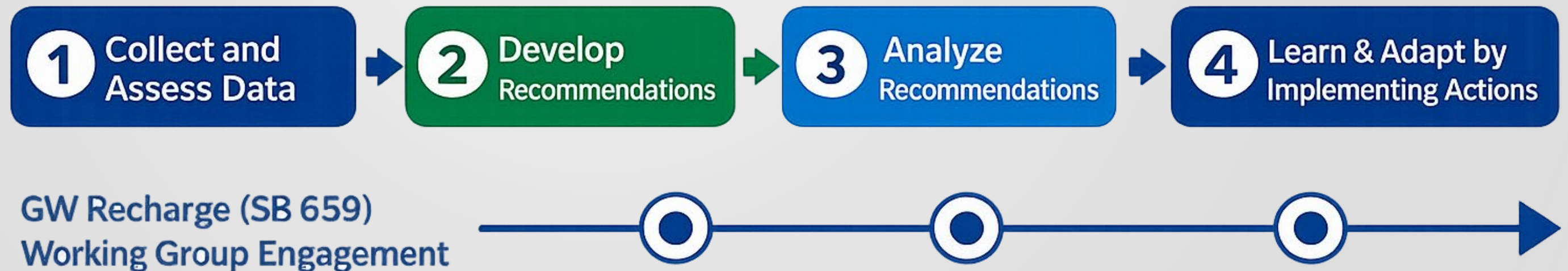
Section 10004.7 (b). *Nothing in this section shall do any of the following:*

- (1) Limit or reduce the existing **surface storage** of water.*
- (2) Affect or change any **water right**.*
- (3) Prioritize any one use of water over another use, define what is to be considered a **beneficial use** of water, or in any way influence how the increased supply of groundwater under this part shall be used.*



How SB 659 Will Be Incorporated in the CWP

- **Form**
 - Groundwater recharge (SB 659) appendix in CWP 2028
- **Function**
 - Policy: SB 659 recommendations inform CWP 2028 recommendations
 - Planning and Technical: Compiled recharge data and analysis informs formulation and evaluation of regional project portfolios
- **Workflow**



SB 659 Work Plan Tasks

Task 1: Develop actionable recommendations to advance groundwater recharge opportunities

Task 2: Discuss the potential of groundwater recharge and water available for recharge

Task 3: Identify legal and regulatory requirements for recharge projects

Task 4: Discuss financial and regulatory incentives to support recharge projects

Task 5: Identify and discuss groundwater recharge infrastructure (natural, built, and needed)

Task 6: Identify best practices to advance groundwater recharge

Task 7: Evaluate potential economic and noneconomic costs and benefits

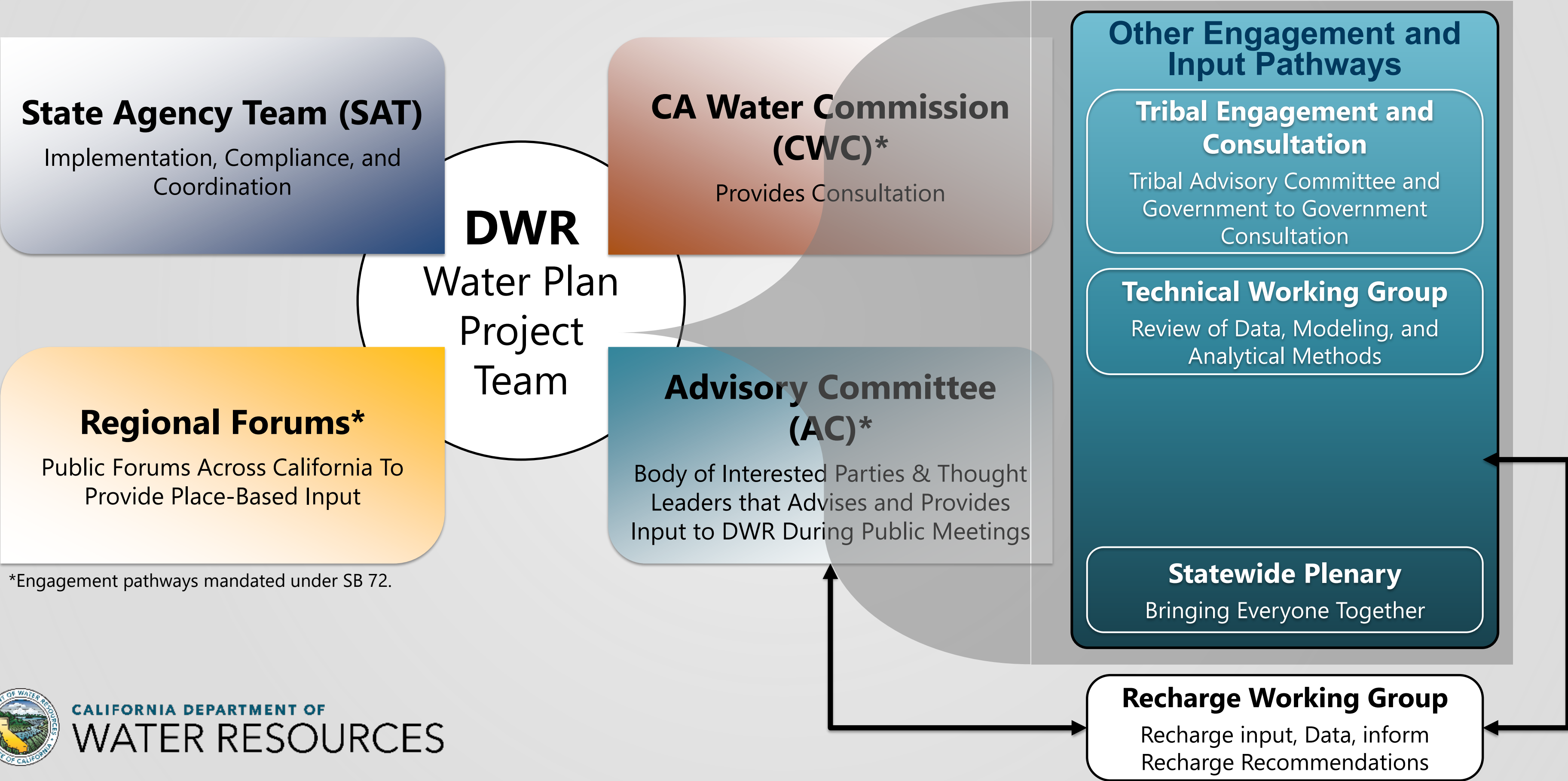
Task 8: Discuss urban stormwater capture considerations

Task 9: Discuss in-lieu recharge considerations

**All this information will be compiled into a
SB 659 Groundwater Recharge Report**



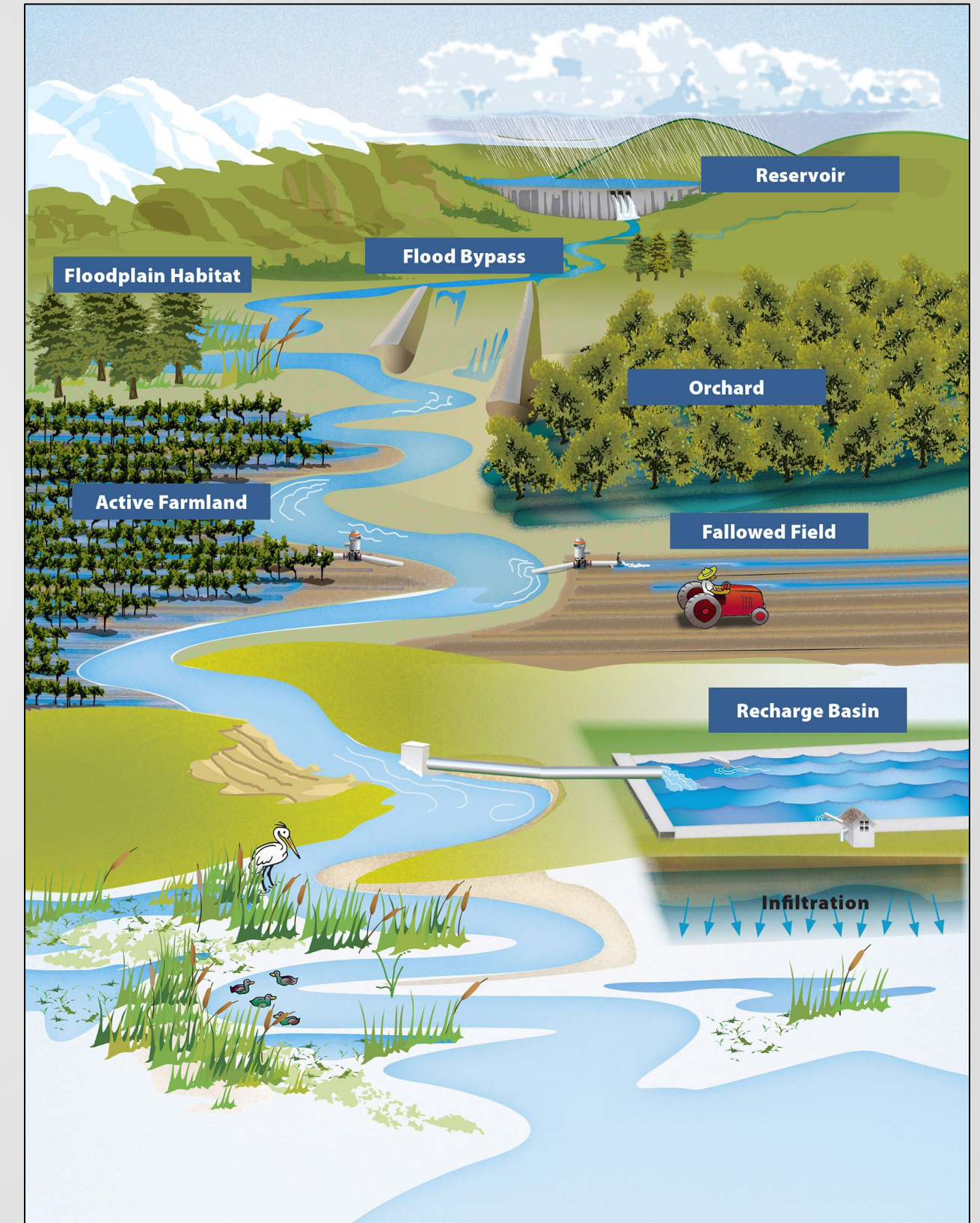
California Water Plan Engagement



Groundwater Recharge (SB 659) Working Group

Purpose and Role

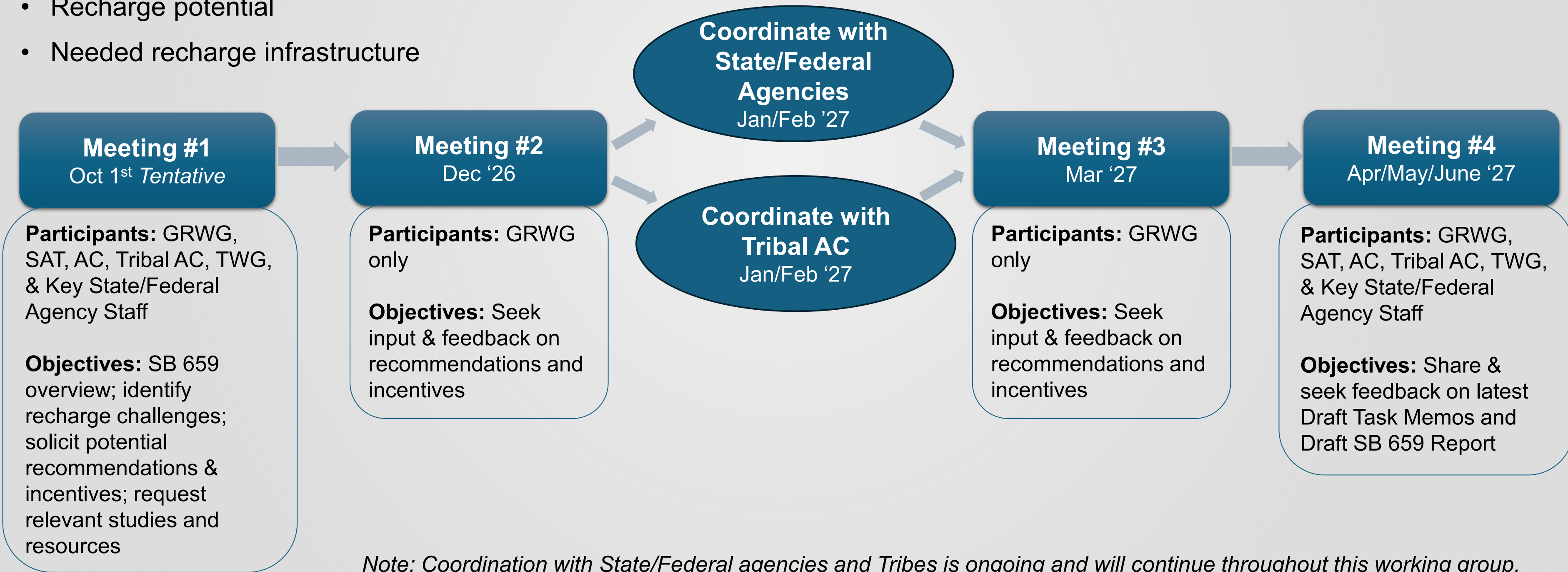
- Support development of **actionable recharge recommendations** for CWP 2028.
- Integrate **science, policy, and implementation pathways**.
- Align with **SB 72 targets and SGMA outcomes**.
- Identify **opportunities and barriers** to recharge.
- Inform **statewide strategy** grounded in local action.
- Will help to **set expectations** for 2033 CWP.



CWP Groundwater Recharge Working Group

Working group will identify and provide feedback on potential recommendations and incentives to address recharge challenges. Topics to include:

- Legal and regulatory requirements
- Water quality, multiple benefits, water accounting
- Recharge potential
- Needed recharge infrastructure



Note: Coordination with State/Federal agencies and Tribes is ongoing and will continue throughout this working group.

How to Get Involved in Groundwater Recharge

- Participate in Groundwater Recharge Working Group Meeting 1
 - Tentatively Scheduled for October 1
- Connections to other recharge-related activities
 - 2026–2027 Recharge Readiness Webinar Series
 - Flood-MAR Network: <https://floodmar.org/>
 - September 17 Virtual Workshop
 - [Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement \(FDRE\) Initiative](#)
- Contacts
 - Steven.Springhorn@water.ca.gov
 - Jose.Alarcon@water.ca.gov
 - Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov



CWP 2028

Recommendations Process



Henry DeBey, Division of Planning Manager, DWR

TODAY'S GOAL:

Share initial thinking for developing
recommendations in California Water Plan 2028



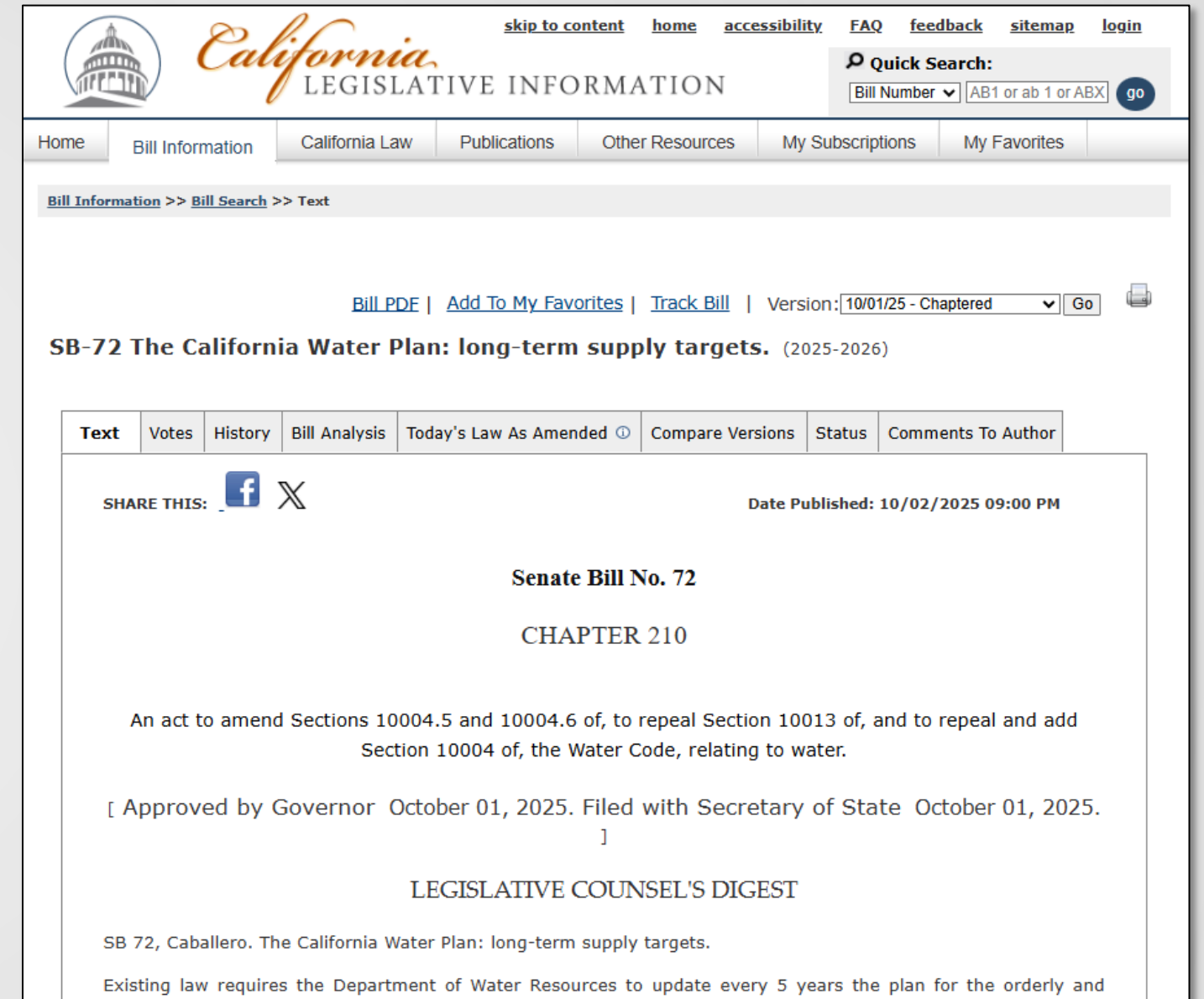
SB 72 Requires that DWR Develop Recommendations

What SB 72 says:

- *“The department shall conduct a study to determine the amount of additional water needed to meet the state’s future water needs and to **recommend programs, policies, and facilities** to meet those needs.”*

Note:

- We’re limited in terms of being able to rely on the technical analysis for developing recommendations.



The screenshot shows the California Legislative Information website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for skip to content, home, accessibility, FAQ, feedback, sitemap, and login. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for Bill Information, with links for Home, Bill Information, California Law, Publications, Other Resources, My Subscriptions, and My Favorites. The main content area displays the title of the bill: SB-72 The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets. (2025-2026). Below the title, there is a table with tabs for Text, Votes, History, Bill Analysis, Today's Law As Amended, Compare Versions, Status, and Comments To Author. The 'Text' tab is selected, showing the full text of the bill. The text includes the chapter number (CHAPTER 210) and the description of the act: 'An act to amend Sections 10004.5 and 10004.6 of, to repeal Section 10013 of, and to repeal and add Section 10004 of, the Water Code, relating to water.' It also includes the date of approval by the Governor (October 01, 2025) and the date of filing with the Secretary of State (October 01, 2025). The text is attributed to the LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST. At the bottom, there is a note about the bill's history: 'SB 72, Caballero. The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets. Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to update every 5 years the plan for the orderly and'.

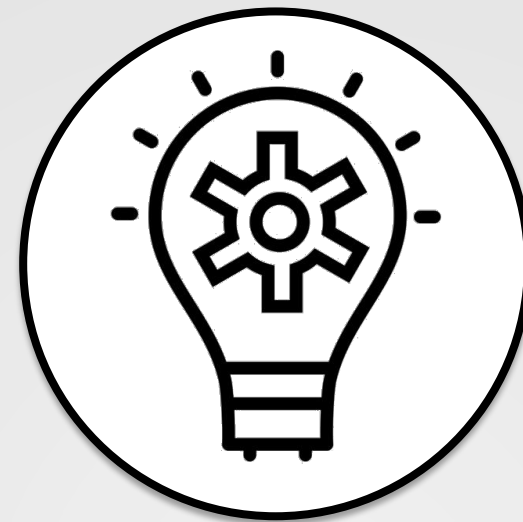


What we've heard from the Advisory Committee



Credible quantification
of regional water needs
through:

- Better data
- Consistent baselines
- Clear assumptions and methodologies



Feasible + fundable
projects and strategies

- Resources to assess the effectiveness of projects
- Projects and actions consider affordability for ratepayers



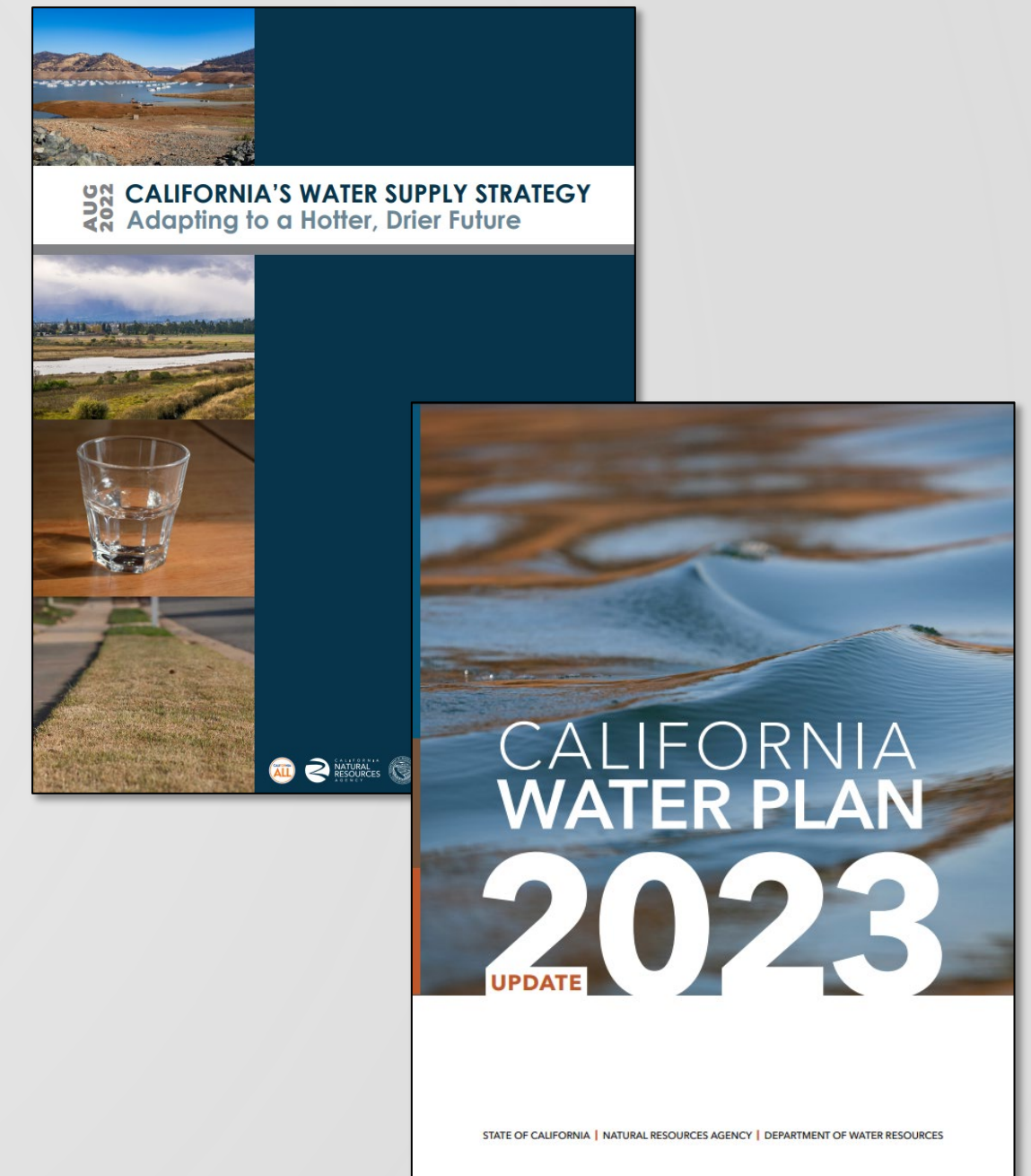
State as a leader/convenor

- Responsible for setting ambitious goals
- Enabling implementation
- Aligning systems
- Helping locals turn plans into built projects

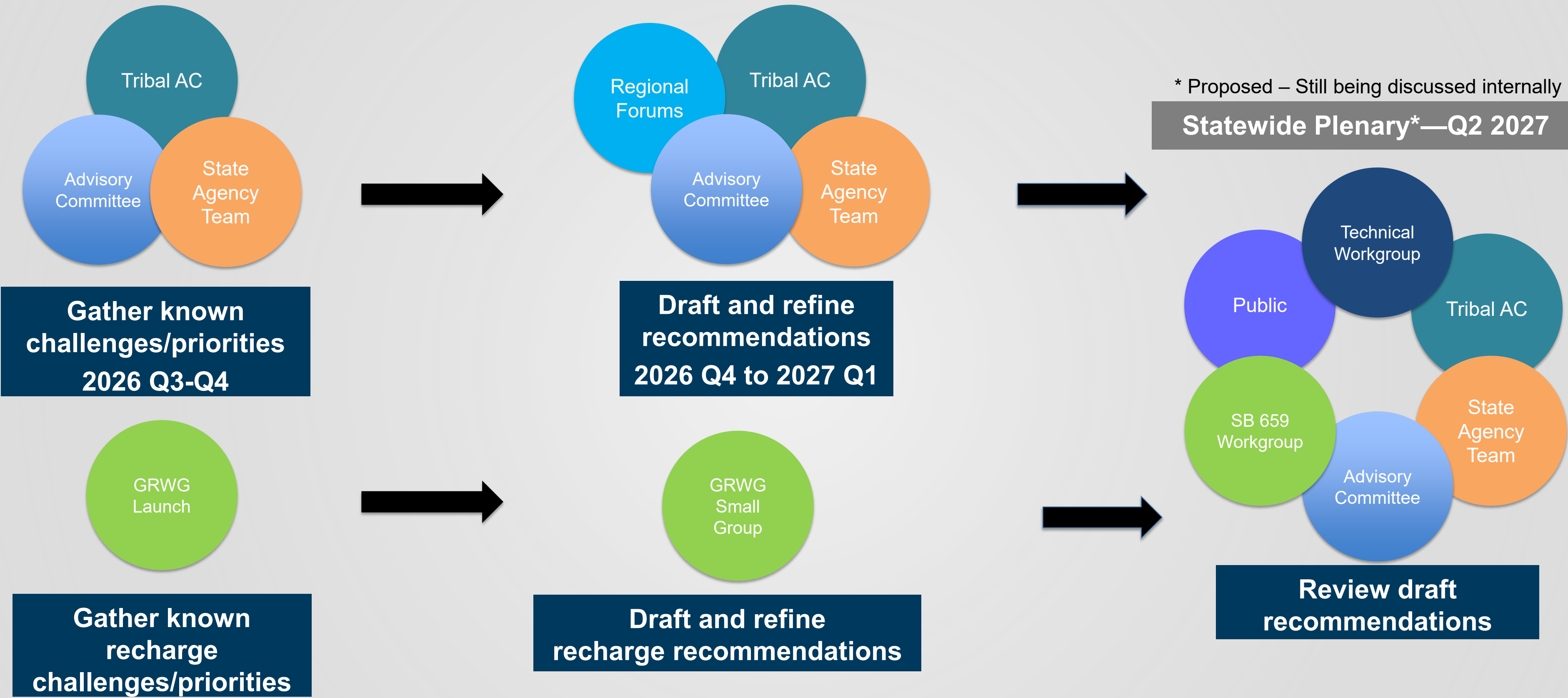


Recommendations: What *Could* Success Look Like?

- **Responsive to SB 72**
- **Builds on existing work**
- **Shaped by broad engagement and outreach to reflect shared priorities across California**
- **Informs Executive Branch water policy**
- **Identifies near- and long-term actions**
- **Addresses funding, regulatory, and infrastructure needs**
- **Empowers local water management**



Pathway for Developing Recommendations



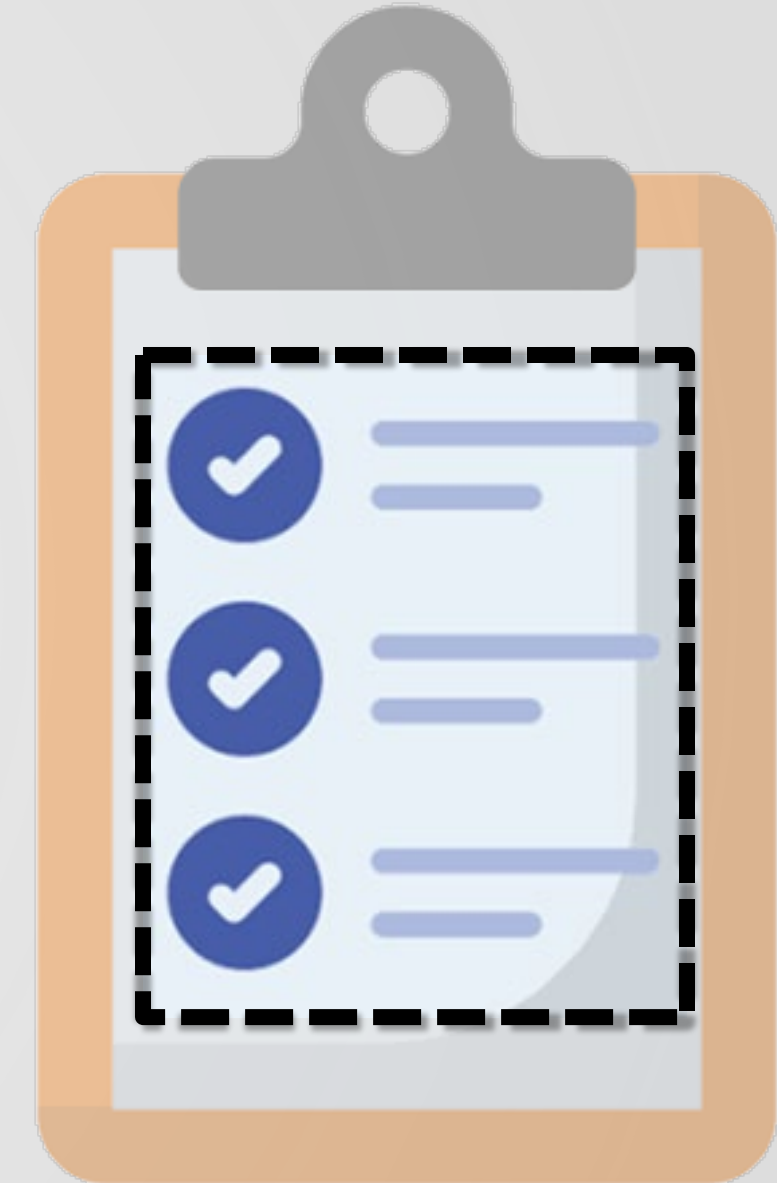
What should the QUALITIES of each recommendation be?

- **RELEVANT**
 - What is most important, now
- **ACCESSIBLE**
 - Anyone can understand it
- **ACTIONABLE**
 - Pathway to carry out the recommendation
- **EFFECTIVE**
 - Will help accomplish objectives
- **OWNED**
 - Clarify unilateral or shared responsibilities



What should the PARAMETERS of recommendations be?

- **SCALE**
 - Most critical, actionable
- **PURPOSE**
 - Tied to key mandates (SB 72, SB 659)
- **TIME HORIZON**
 - Initiated within five years of CWP 2028 completion
- **SCOPE**
 - Emphasis on water supply including surface water, groundwater as well benefits to ecosystem, flood, wildfire, equity, and more
- **IMPLEMENTATION-SPECIFIC**
 - Includes implementation considerations (cost, implementors, funding mechanisms, etc.)



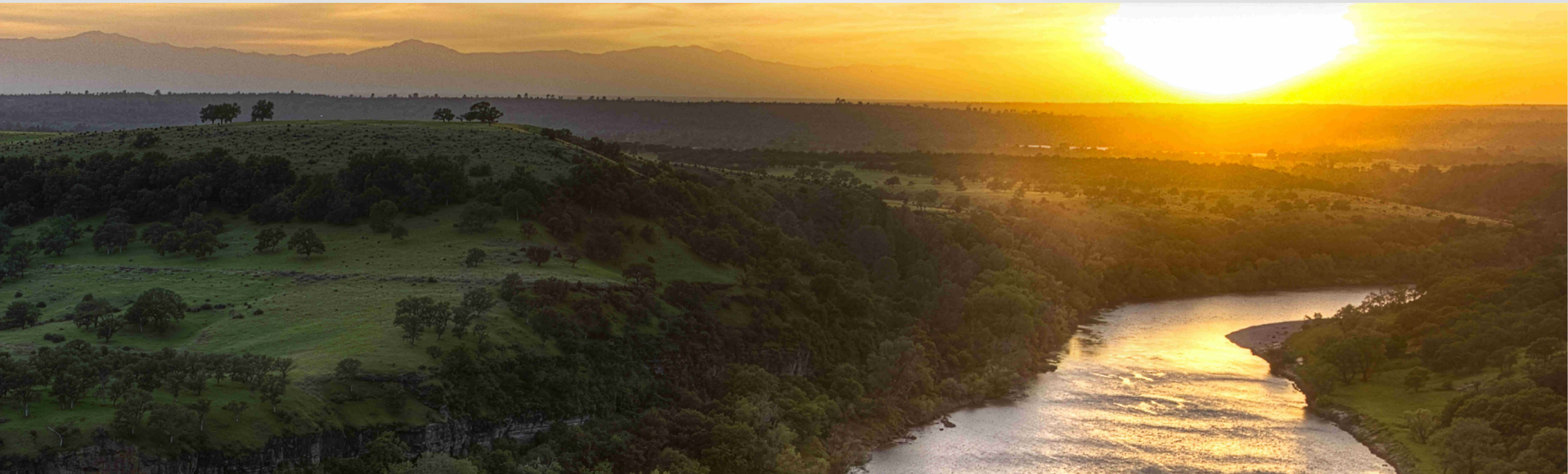
Discussion

1. What feedback do you have on this **initial approach**?
2. What **other considerations** should we take into account to make recommendations relevant for you and the communities and region that you represent?



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

CWP 2028 Upcoming Engagement Opportunities



Eric Tsai, Supervising Water Resources Engineer, DWR

Early engagement is helping us shape Water Plan direction



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CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN 2028



Spring 2026 Outreach and Engagement Summary

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched outreach and engagement for California Water Plan (CWP) 2028 this spring, including initial meetings of the CWP Advisory Committee (AC), State Agency Team (SAT), Tribal AC, and Technical Working Group (TWG). To learn more about these engagement activities, view materials from the public meetings, and stay up-to-date on future meetings, please visit CaliforniaWaterPlan.com. This summary shares key takeaways from CWP meetings held in April and May.

California Water Plan 2028 Advisory Committee Meeting: May 13–14, 2026

The first CWP AC meeting was held over two half-days in Sacramento, with the option to attend virtually on May 13 and 14, 2026. The CWP AC is a 38-member appointed body that assists and provides input to DWR, and helps inform CWP 2028 development. Day 1 of the CWP AC meeting focused on developing a shared understanding of key CWP topics such as Senate Bill (SB) 72, SB 659, the CWP Roadmap for 2028 and 2033, and the 9 million acre-foot (MAF) interim water supply target. Day 2 focused on SB 72 strategies for implementation and gathering CWP AC input on upcoming engagement activities, including the Regional Forums and Groundwater Recharge Working Group. The CWP AC meeting was open to the public and included a period for public comment at the end of Day 2. Please visit the [CWP 28 Public Involvement webpage](#) for meeting recordings and materials.

Advisory Committee Meeting Memorable Quotes

"One thing many of us could agree on is that we're really, really good at finding money for new projects, and we're really, really bad at finding money for maintenance."

— Ann Willis, California Regional Director, American Rivers

"Our barriers are our opportunities."

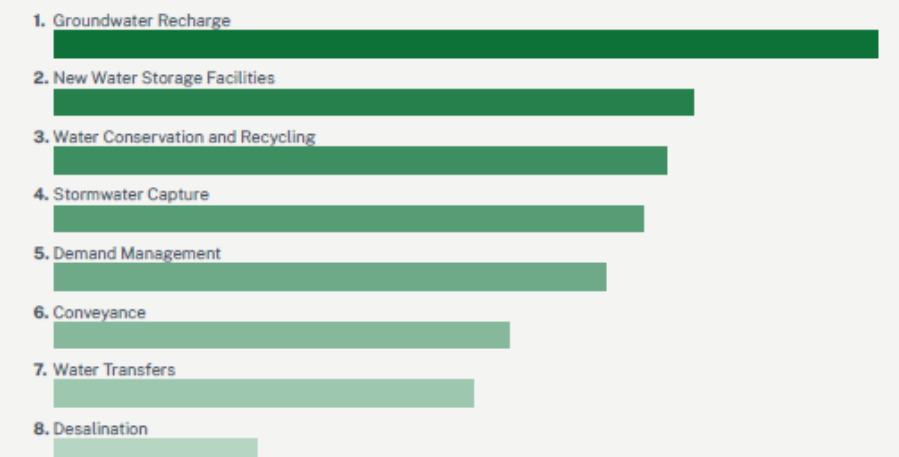
— Karen Cowan, Executive Director, California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)



California Water Plan 2028 Advisory Committee Members After Meeting Day 1

Most Promising Water Supply Strategies as Reported by California Water Plan 2028 Advisory Committee Members

Which strategies are most promising for the communities you represent? Please rank in order of priority (1=Most Promising, 8=Least Promising)



CWP AC members met in small breakout groups to provide feedback on the approach to setting up and running Regional Forums and suggested having a mix of in-person and online meetings, hosting more than one forum in most hydrologic regions, articulating a clear purpose to focus the conversation, and working with trusted organizations to understand the local audience and regional differences among users.

Upcoming CWP Engagement

Upcoming Public Engagement

- **August 25–26: Advisory Committee**
 - *In-person in Alhambra, CA*

Tribal AC Opportunities

- **August 13–14: Technical Working Group**
 - *Hybrid meeting held at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento*
- **October 1: Groundwater Recharge Working Group**
 - *Held via Teams*



Regional Forums Overview

- **Purpose:** Engage the public in the development of future water planning in alignment with SB 72.
- **Goals:**
 - **Create broader awareness** among the regions of the CWP purpose and goals and how information is being gathered and used to inform the CWP.
 - **Listen and learn** from local networks and groups about priorities, challenges, and regional plans and strategies that can inform the CWP's development.
- **Where:** Multiple meetings across the 10 hydrologic regions.



Proposed Regional Forums Roll Out

* Proposed – Still being discussed internally



Virtual Kickoff
Fall 2026



Regional
Roadshows
Oct–April 2027



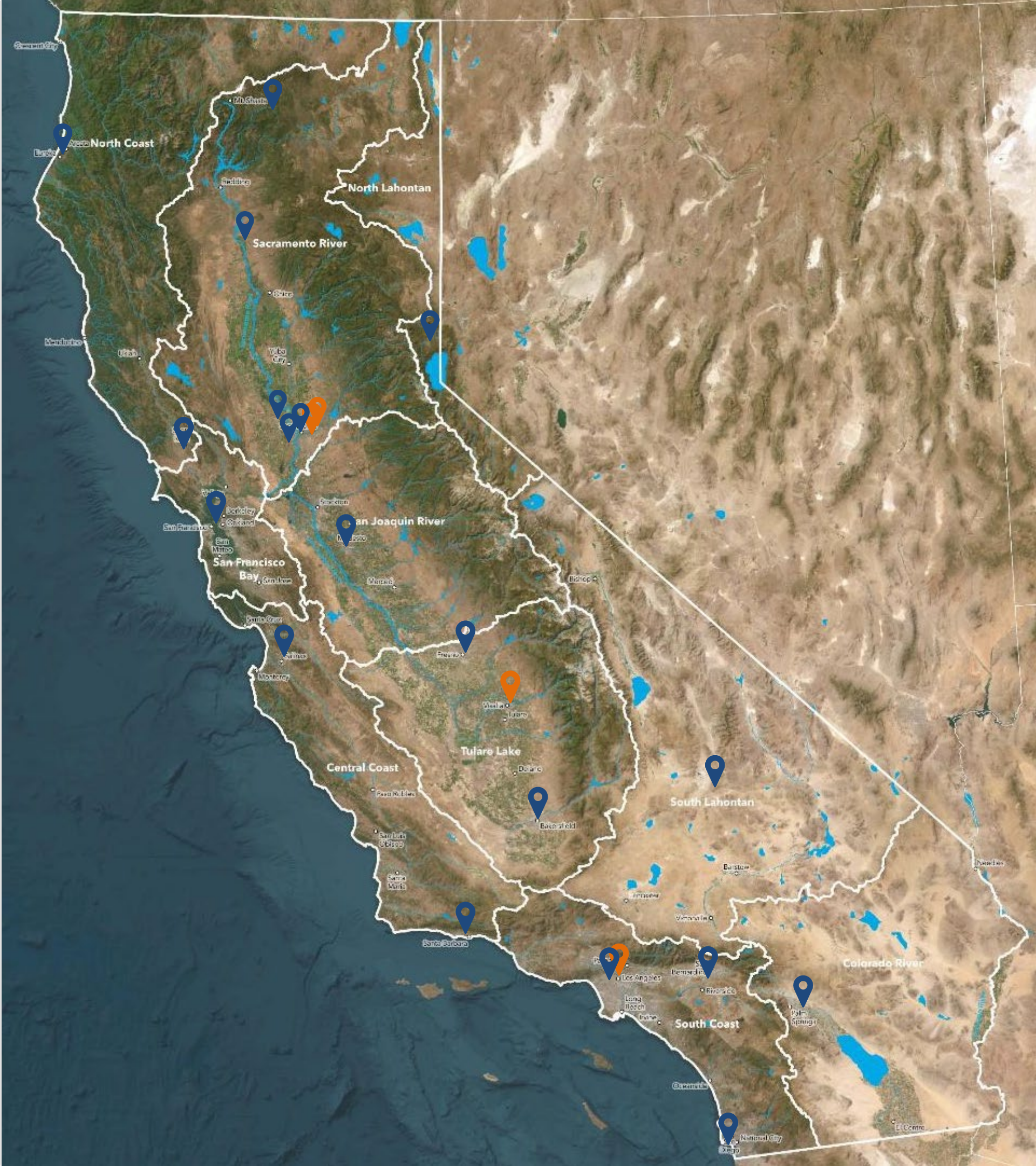
Statewide Plenary*
Late Spring 2027

- Share about CWP, SB 72, and Roadmap for 2028 and 2033
- Set expectations for Regional Forums and how input will be used

- Learn about regional priorities and challenges
- Gather regional strategies and plans and discuss how they will be evaluated in CWP

- Bring regions together to discuss draft recommendations, what we're learning from regional analyses, and build engagement for CWP release

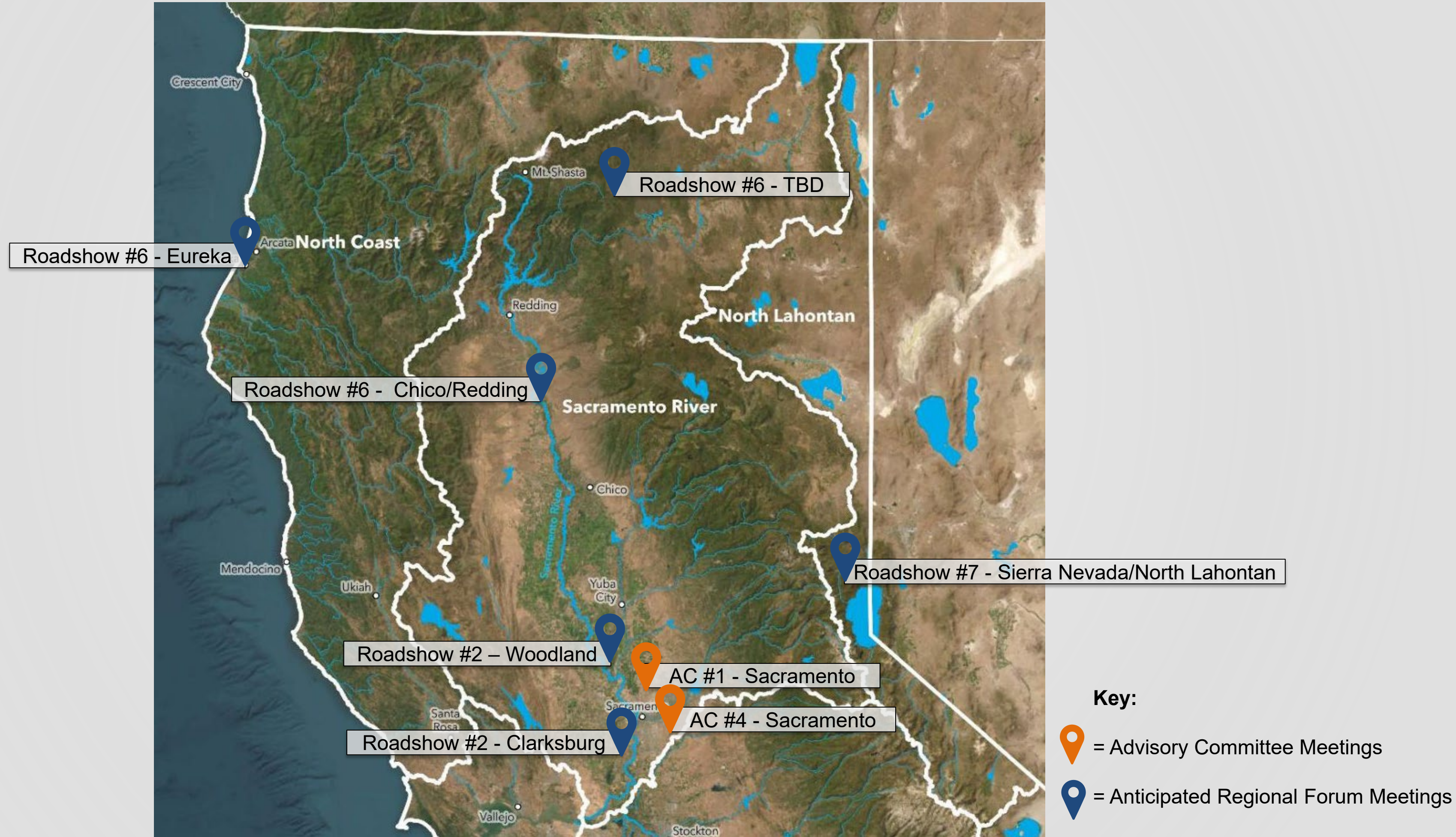


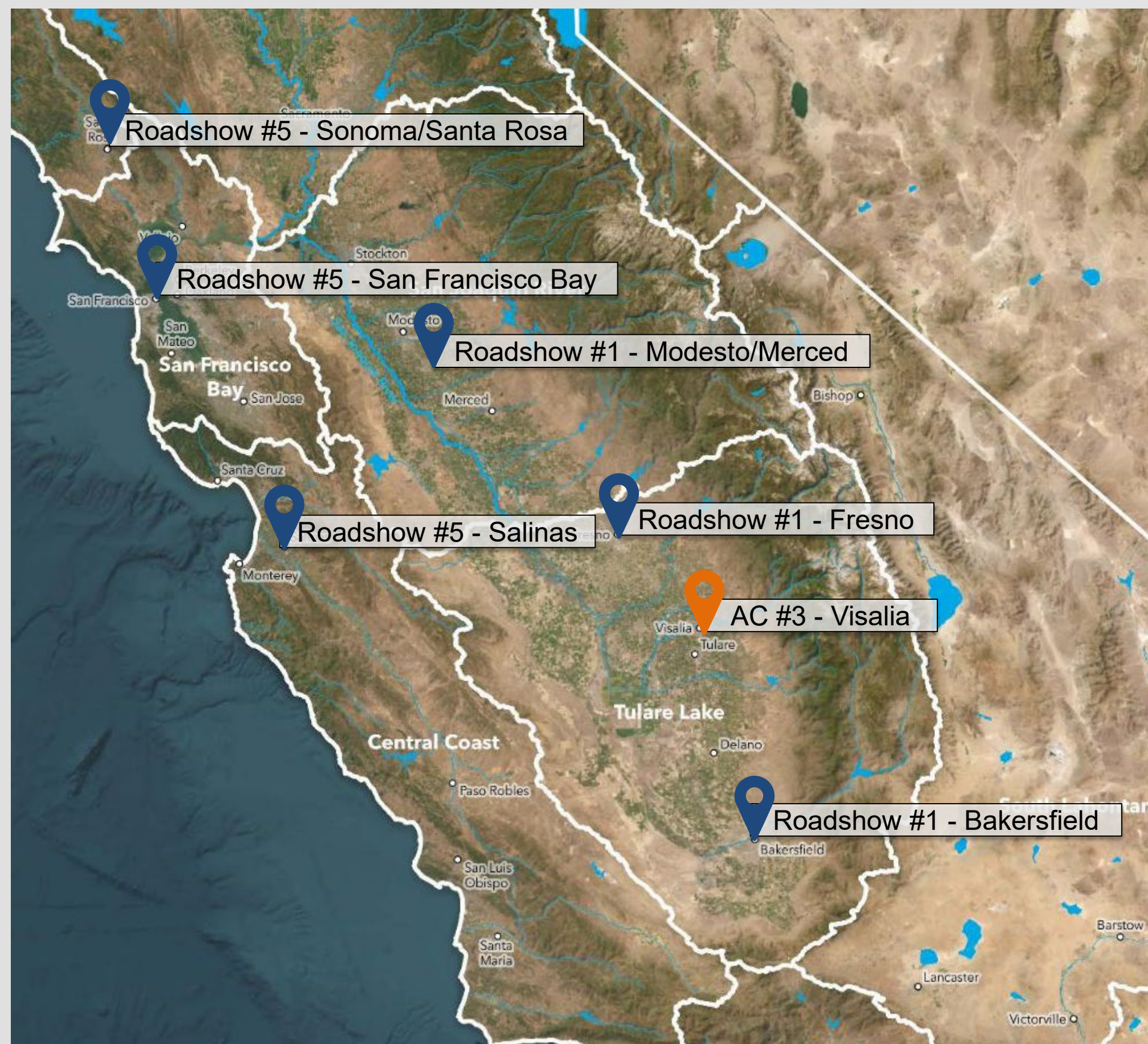


CWP 2028 Statewide Engagement

- Key:
-  = Advisory Committee Meetings
 -  = Anticipated Regional Forum Meetings

Northern California Engagement

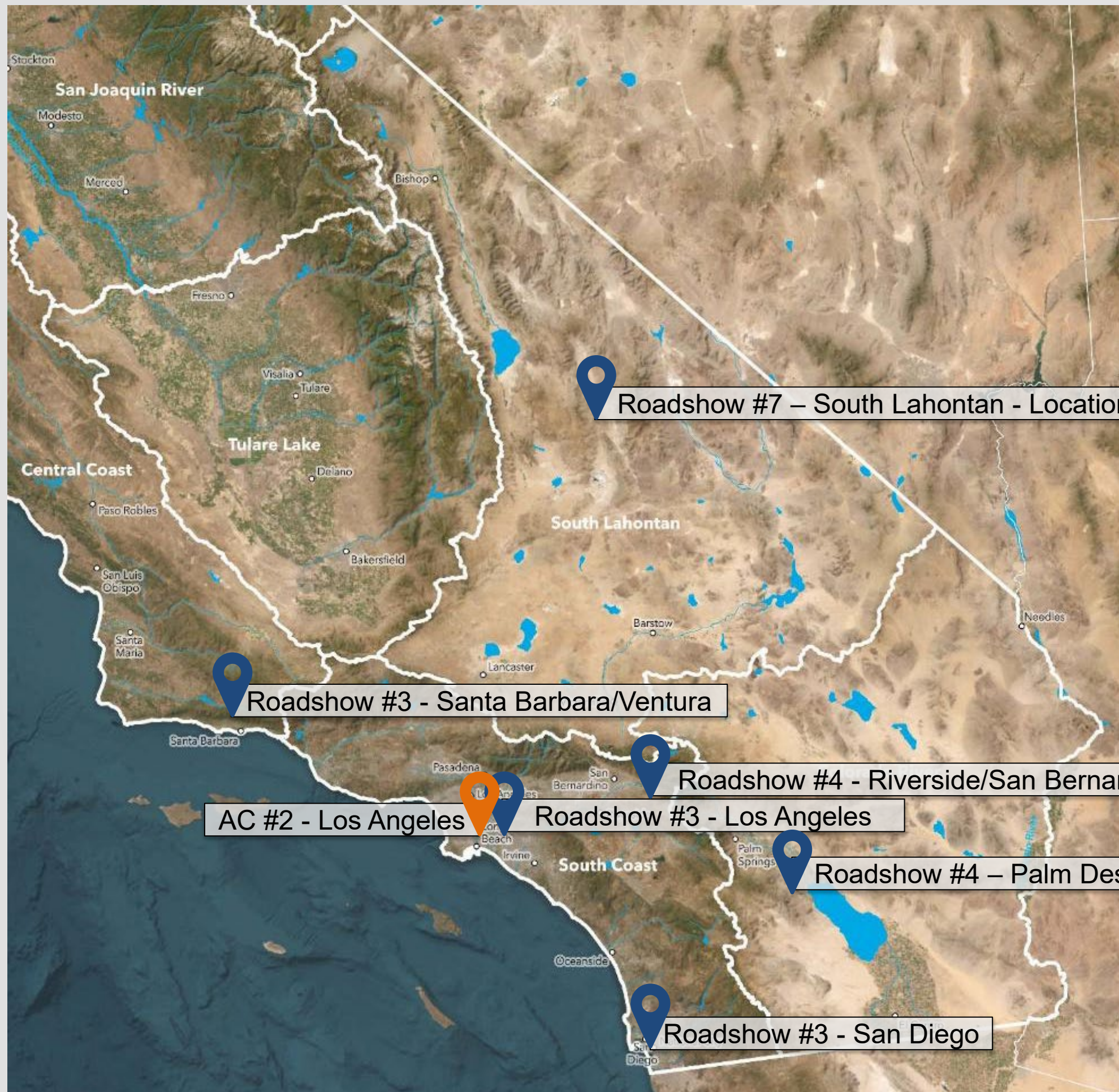




Central California Engagement

Key:

-  = Advisory Committee Meetings
-  = Anticipated Regional Forum Meetings



Roadshow #7 – South Lahontan - Location TBD

Roadshow #3 - Santa Barbara/Ventura

Roadshow #4 - Riverside/San Bernardino

AC #2 - Los Angeles

Roadshow #3 - Los Angeles

Roadshow #4 – Palm Desert/Indio

Roadshow #3 - San Diego

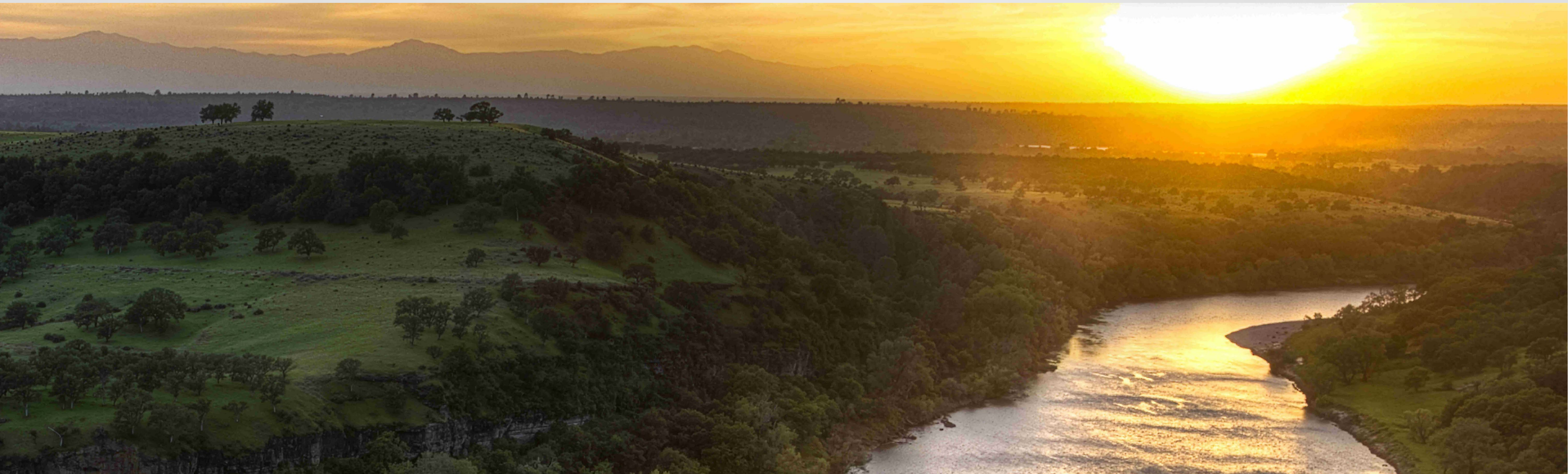
Southern California Engagement

Key:

 = Advisory Committee Meetings

 = Anticipated Regional Forum Meetings

Final Comments and Next Steps



Poll: Planning for Future Tribal AC Meetings

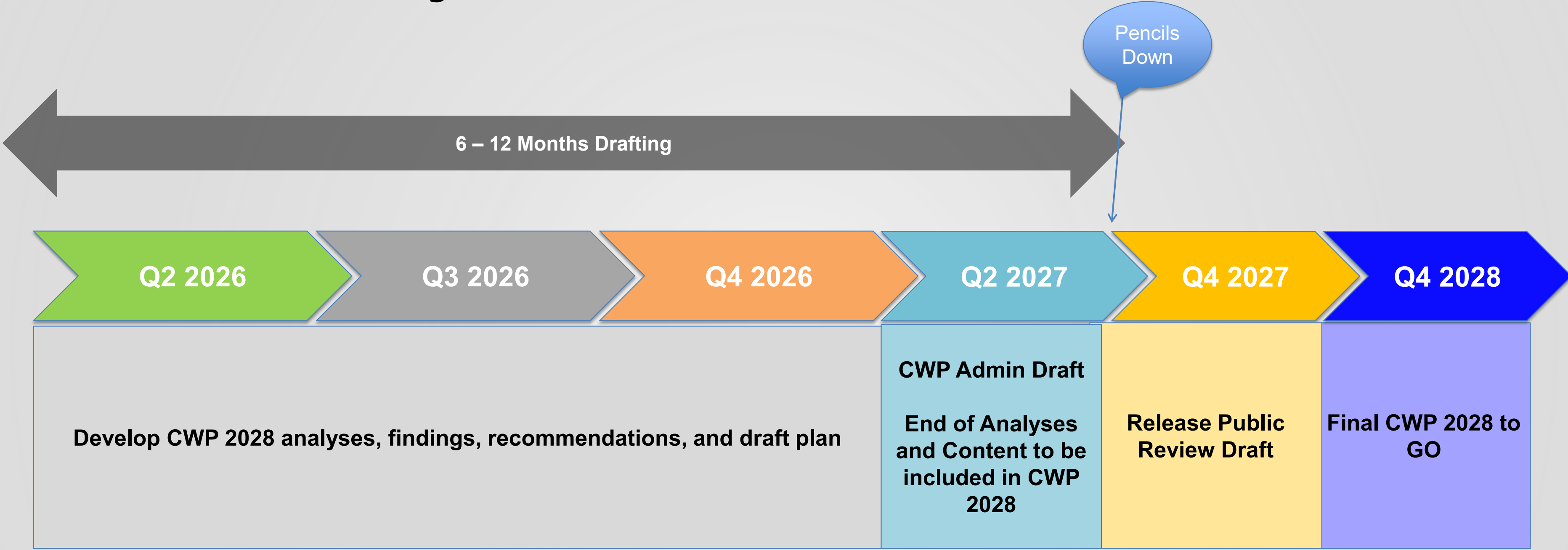
- Meeting cadence
- Topic-focused discussions
- Tribal AC report outs

Contact Emily.Alejandrino@water.ca.gov for questions on statewide engagement opportunities



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Major CWP 2028 Milestones



California & the Colorado River

Jessica Neuwerth
Executive Director

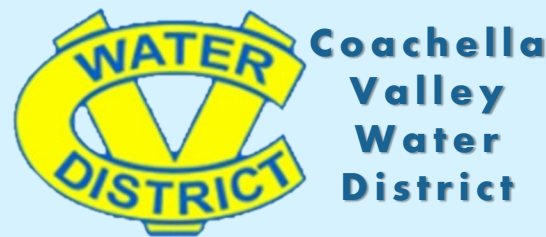
Colorado River Board of California



Colorado River Board of California

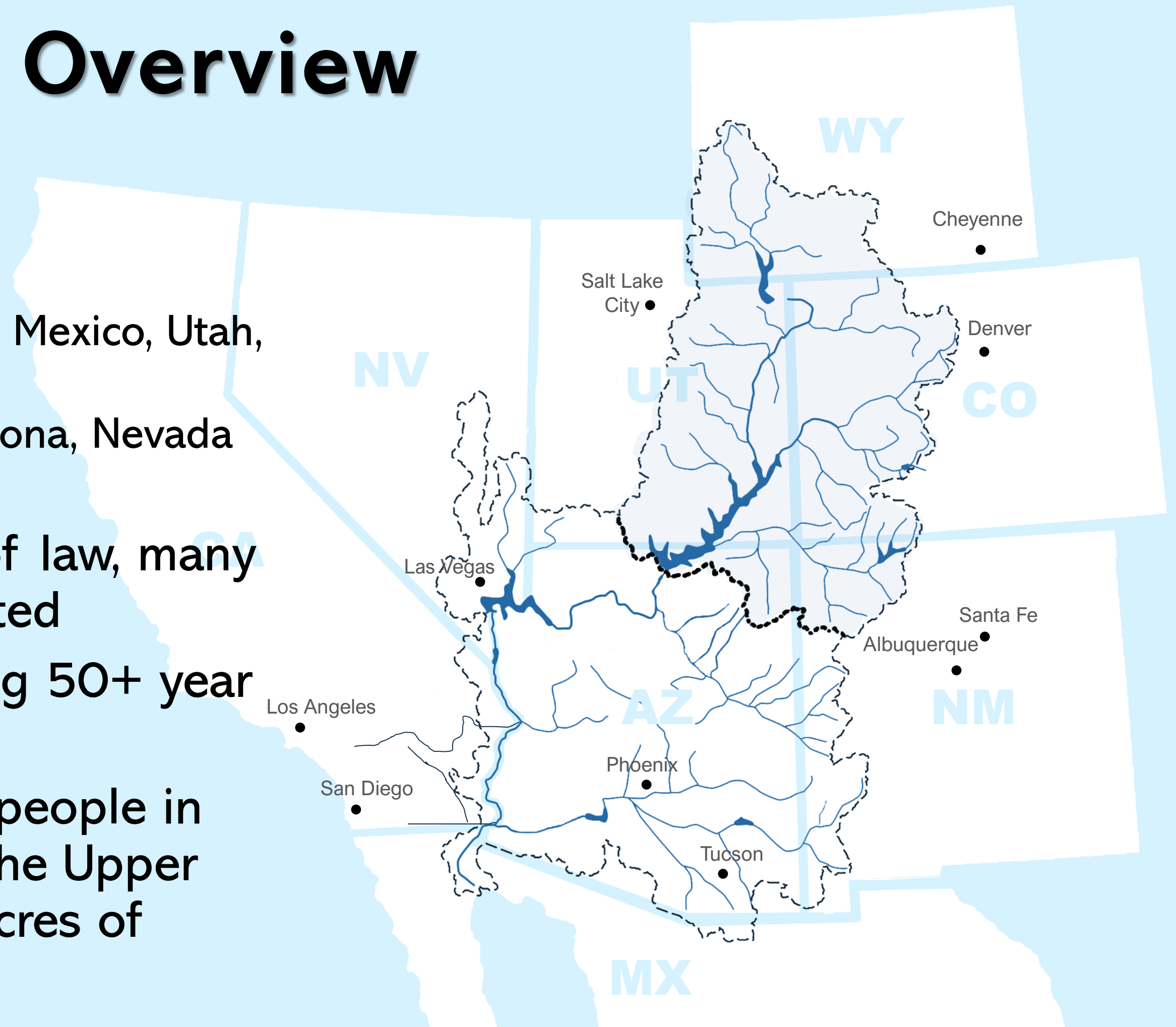


- Established in 1937
- State agency charged with protecting California's rights and interests in the resources of the Colorado River
- Members include six major Colorado River water and power users in California, state agencies, and two public members:



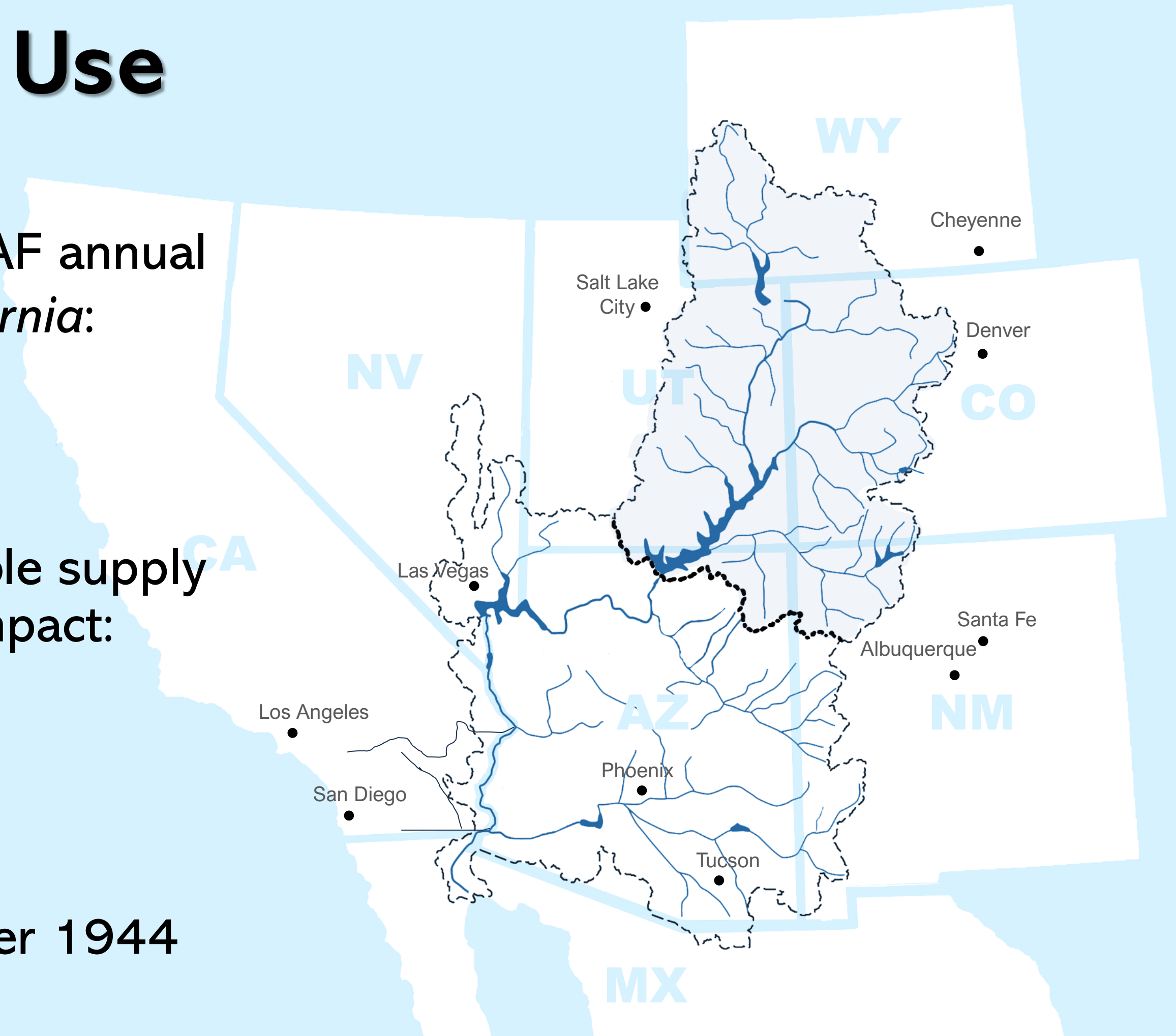
Colorado River Overview

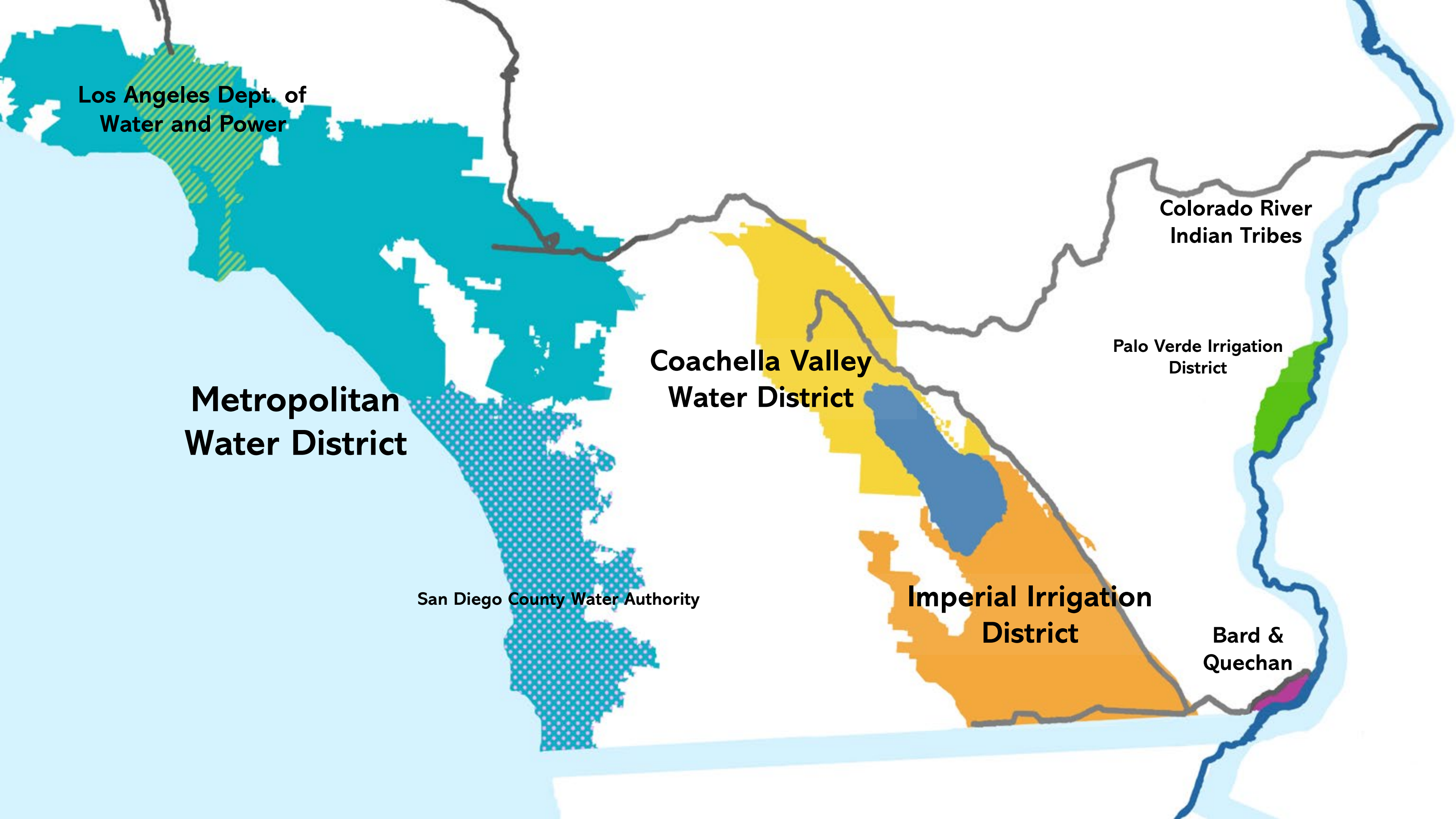
- Colorado River shared by:
 - Upper Basin: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
 - Lower Basin: California, Arizona, Nevada
 - Mexico
- Governed by 100+ years of law, many of which are highly contested
- History of conflict, including 50+ year SCOTUS case
- The river supports ~30 M people in the Lower Basin, 10 M in the Upper Basin, and over 5 million acres of irrigated farmland



Colorado River Use

- Lower Basin divides 7.5 MAF annual supply per *Arizona v. California*:
 - California: 4.4 MAF
 - Arizona: 2.8 MAF
 - Nevada: 0.3 MAF
- Upper Basin divides available supply per 1948 Upper Basin Compact:
 - Colorado: 51.75%
 - New Mexico: 11.25%
 - Utah: 23%
 - Wyoming: 14%
- Mexico receives 1.5 MAF per 1944 Treaty





**Los Angeles Dept. of
Water and Power**

**Metropolitan
Water District**

San Diego County Water Authority

**Coachella Valley
Water District**

**Imperial Irrigation
District**

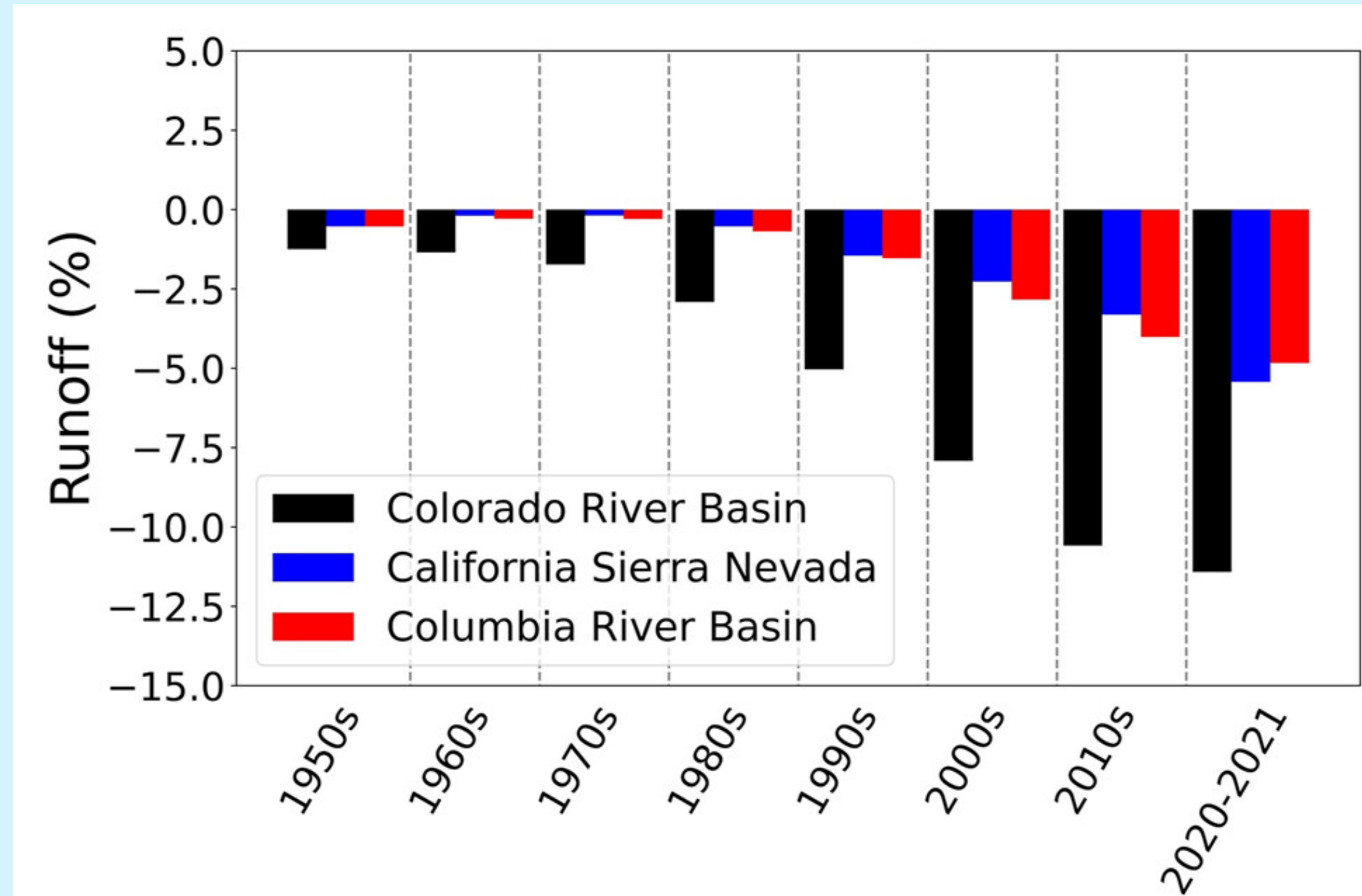
**Colorado River
Indian Tribes**

**Palo Verde Irrigation
District**

**Bard &
Quechan**

Rising Temperature, Decreasing Runoff

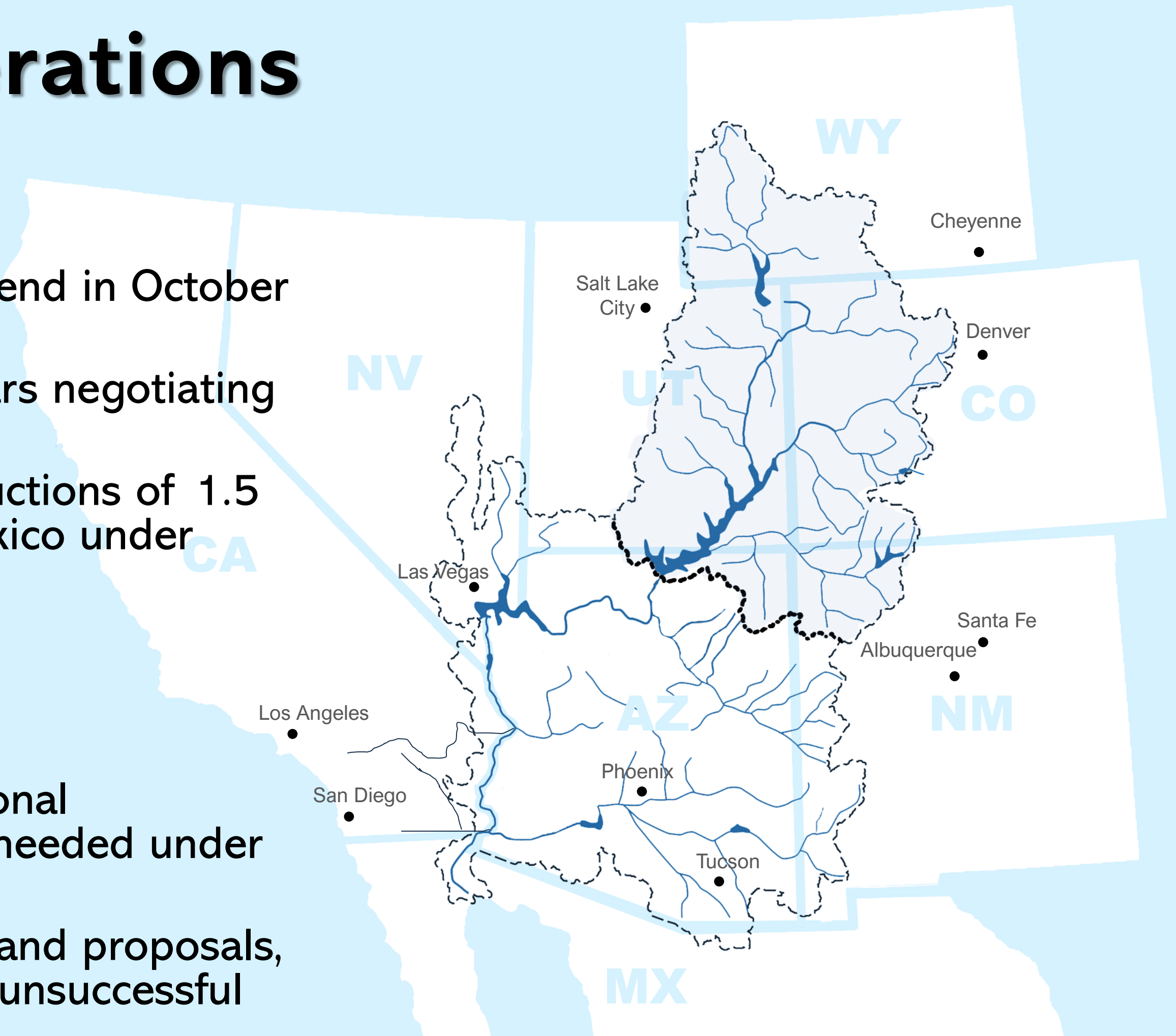
- Colorado River Basin is experiencing rapid decrease in runoff
- Flows down ~20% since 2000 and ~35% over the last seven years
- 1922 Compact allocates 17.5 MAF/yr
- 2020-2026 natural flow: ~10.5 MAF/yr
- Total system storage up to ~60 MAF, but currently at record-low levels



[“Aridification of Colorado River Basin’s Snowpack Regions Has Driven Water Losses Despite Ameliorating Effects of Vegetation”](#)

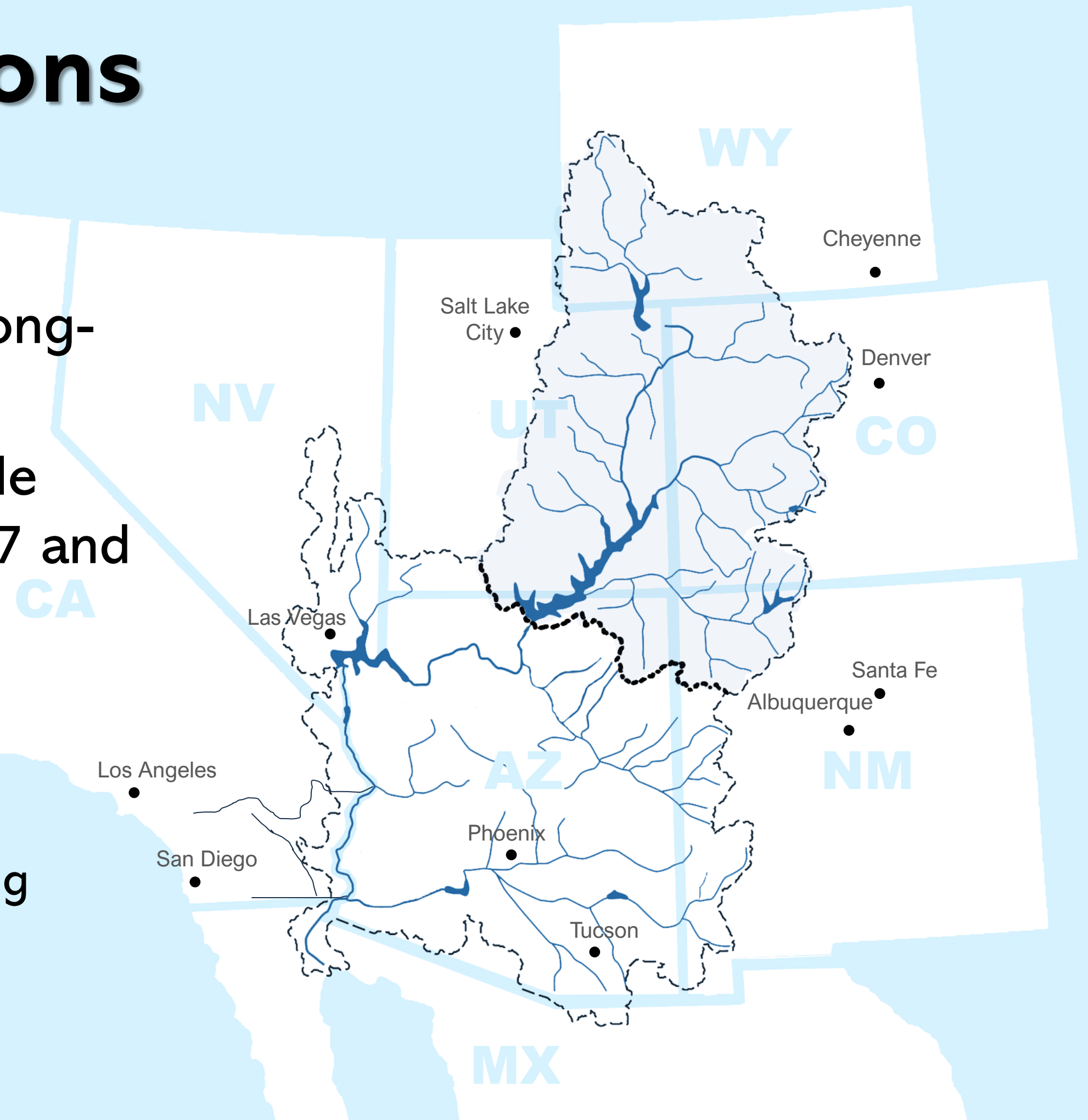
Post 2026 Operations

- Basin's current operating rules end in October 2026
- Basin States have spent 3+ years negotiating successor guidelines
- Lower Basin has proposed reductions of 1.5 MAF/yr in Lower Basin and Mexico under most reservoir conditions:
 - AZ: 760 KAF/yr
 - CA: 440 KAF/yr
 - NV: 50 KAF/yr
 - MX: 250 KAF/yr
- Negotiations focused on additional reductions, which will likely be needed under dry conditions
- Despite numerous frameworks and proposals, negotiations have been largely unsuccessful



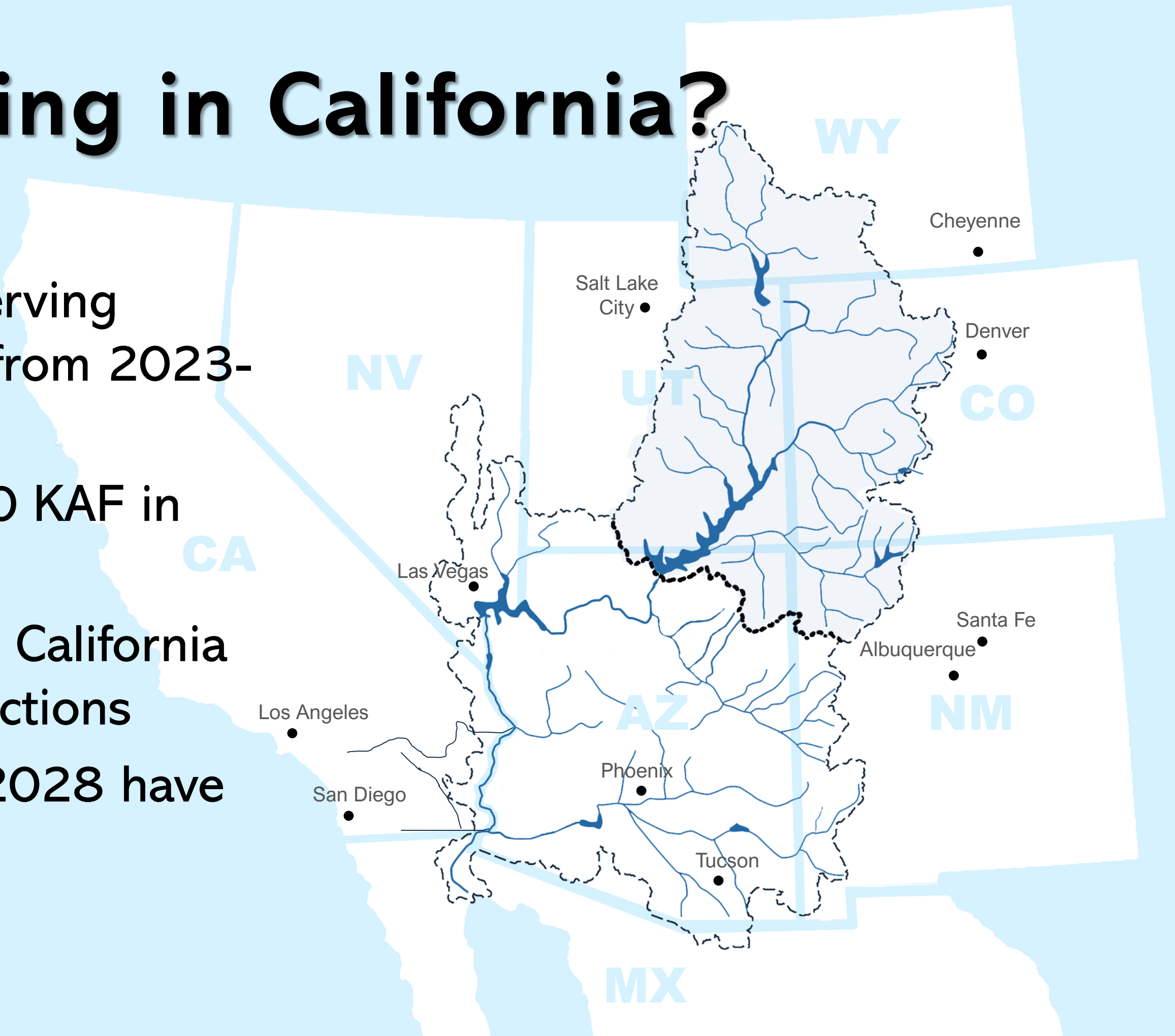
Post 2026 Operations

- Basin States reached impasse on long-term solution for new operations
- Working with federal team to cobble together operational rules for 2027 and 2028
 - Likely to be finalized by mid-August
 - 1.5 MAF of LB/MX reductions
 - Increased flexibility for water banking
 - Lake Powell operations acknowledging infrastructure and legal constraints
- Operations post-2028 remain unresolved



What's Happening in California?

- California is currently conserving approx. 400 KAF annually from 2023-2026
- Committed to conserve 440 KAF in most years post-2026
- Ongoing discussions within California on sharing post-2026 reductions
- California reductions post-2028 have not yet been negotiated



What Next?

- Environmental compliance (covering 10 years) and specific 2027-2028 operational rules to be finalized by mid-August
- New rules must be in place by:
 - October 1 for Upper Basin operations
 - January 1 for Lower Basin operations
- Intra-California and interstate agreements to be executed by no later than end-of-year
- Will begin negotiating post-2028 operations soon, with potential for mediated discussions with Upper Basin



Thank you!

jneuwerth@crb.ca.gov

