



**California**  
**DRIP Collaborative**

# **2025 Workgroup: Water Infrastructure and Planning**

**Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative**

**Thursday, August 28, 2025**

**1:30-3:00PM PT**

**Remote Participation (via Zoom)**

**Facilitated by Workgroup Point of Contact: Anthony Navasero, PE ([Anthony.Navasero@water.ca.gov](mailto:Anthony.Navasero@water.ca.gov))**

**California Department of Water Resources - Drought Coordinator, Executive Division**

# Meeting Information

1. This meeting is being recorded.
2. This meeting must adhere to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act rules. The workgroup quorum is required (5 out of the 9 on the workgroup). If we don't meet quorum, we will offer this time and this space for an informal discussion about water infrastructure and planning related to drought resilience.
3. DRIP Collaborative workgroup members must keep their cameras on during the meeting. You must notify the group if you turn off your camera and state why.
4. Members of the public and other DRIP Collaborative members are welcome to listen. A public comment session is included later in the meeting.
5. Please practice electronics courtesy and mute when not speaking.

# Meeting Purpose and Agenda

**Objectives:** Continue vetting and developing three ideas proposed at the July 18, 2025 DRIP Collaborative meeting related to Water Infrastructure and Planning by hearing from subject matter experts about their experiences and knowledge including past and current efforts and lessons learned.

## Meeting Agenda

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1:30pm | Welcome, Roll Call   |
| 1:35pm | Review of DRIP Collaborative July In-person Meeting Feedback   |
| 1:45pm | Subject Matter Expert Presentations to Inform Proposed Ideas Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lance Eckhart, PG, CHG, General Manager/Chief Hydrogeologist for San Geronio Pass Water Agency and formerly of the Mojave Water Agency</li><li>• Tim Godwin, PG, Technical and Policy Advisor to Deputy Director, Executive Division</li><li>• <del>Andrew Schwarz, PE, SWP Climate Action Manager, State Water Project Adaptation Strategy</del></li></ul> |
| 2:50pm | Next Steps for DRIP Collaborative Meeting in October   |
| 2:55pm | Public Comment   |
| 3:00pm | Adjourn  |

## Roll Call

# WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS

(Quorum = 5 DRIP members)

1. **Emily Rooney**, Agricultural Council of California
2. **Jason Colombini**, Jay Colombini Ranch, Inc.
3. **Tim Worley**, California Association of Mutual Water Companies
4. **Lorena Munoz**, Community Water Center
5. **Alvar Escriva-Bou**, University of California Davis
6. **Laura Ramos**, California Water Institute at Fresno State
7. **Suzanne Pecci**, Public Member
8. **Katie Ruby**, California Urban Water Agencies
9. **Carolina Hernandez**, Los Angeles County Public Works

# REVIEW OF DRIP COLLABORATIVE JULY IN- PERSON MEETING FEEDBACK

(5 MINUTES)

# Review of DRIP Collaborative July In-person Meeting: Pathway

Three preliminary ideas pursued with the co-leads:

- 1. Supporting Vulnerable and Small Water System Infrastructure** – propose creating regional forums and guidance to enhance coordination among regional and local water entities to develop solutions for small and vulnerable water systems and take advantage of the economy of scale, identify critical vulnerabilities, and improve access to technical and financial assistance (Carolina Hernandez/ Tim Worley)
- 2. Improve systems and regulatory flexibility for Water Infrastructure Resilience** – recommend reducing permitting hurdles and increasing implementation of water infrastructure projects like interties and recharge to improve system flexibility to react to changing conditions and opportunities, including advancing the use of new CEQA exemptions for water infrastructure that support DAC communities and streamlining support for shovel-ready projects (Laura Ramos / Katie Ruby)
- 3. Groundwater recharge Infrastructure Program** – encourages the development of a program to support local and regional groundwater recharge efforts through outreach, education, and collaboration by sharing technical tools like Bulletin 118 and the Basin Characterization Program and reports like the San Joaquin Flood-MAR Watershed Studies as well as seek alignment of available water for groundwater recharge with infrastructure needs (Emily Rooney)



# Idea Infra 1: Supporting Vulnerable and Small Water Systems Infrastructure

Recommendation Lead: Carolina Hernandez/ Tim Worley



Previous thoughts on preliminary ideas

- Disconnect how small water systems are supported
- Challenges
  - Small water systems need different levels of assistance
  - Small water systems vary widely and can be remote, challenge to consolidation
  - Physical or geographic barriers
- Examples of approaches
  - Prioritize those motivated to consolidate
  - Addressing thru regional coordination examples: LA County Water Plan, Mojave, Coachella Valley Water District



Presentation related to inform Infra Idea 1: *Supporting Vulnerable and Small Water System Infrastructure*

Lance Eckhart, PG, CHG, General Manager/Chief Hydrogeologist for San Geronio Pass Water Agency

# **REGIONAL AGENCY LEADERSHIP, A CATALYST TO IMPROVE COMMON WATERSHED USERS**

(20 MINUTES)



# Regional Support for Underserved Water Systems

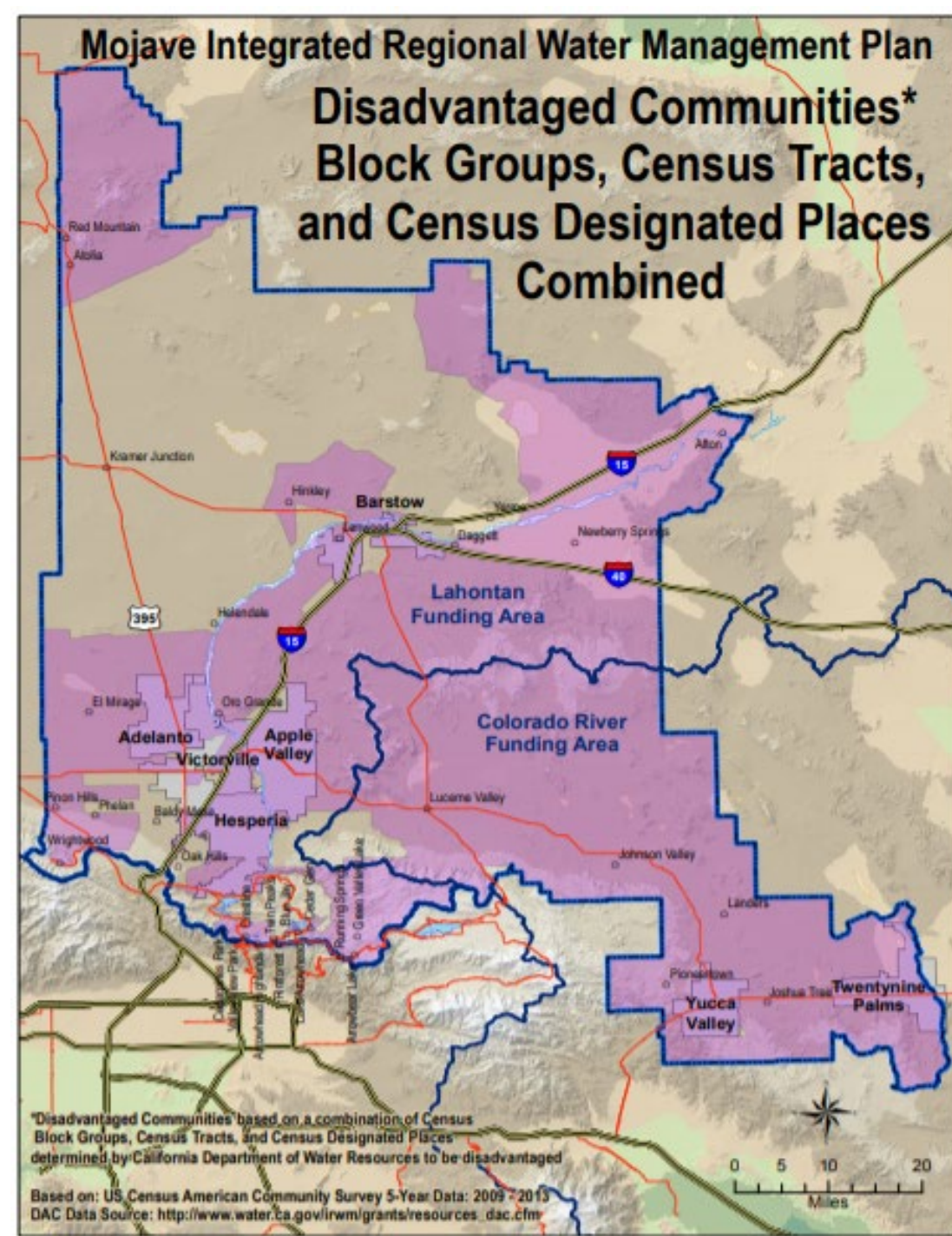
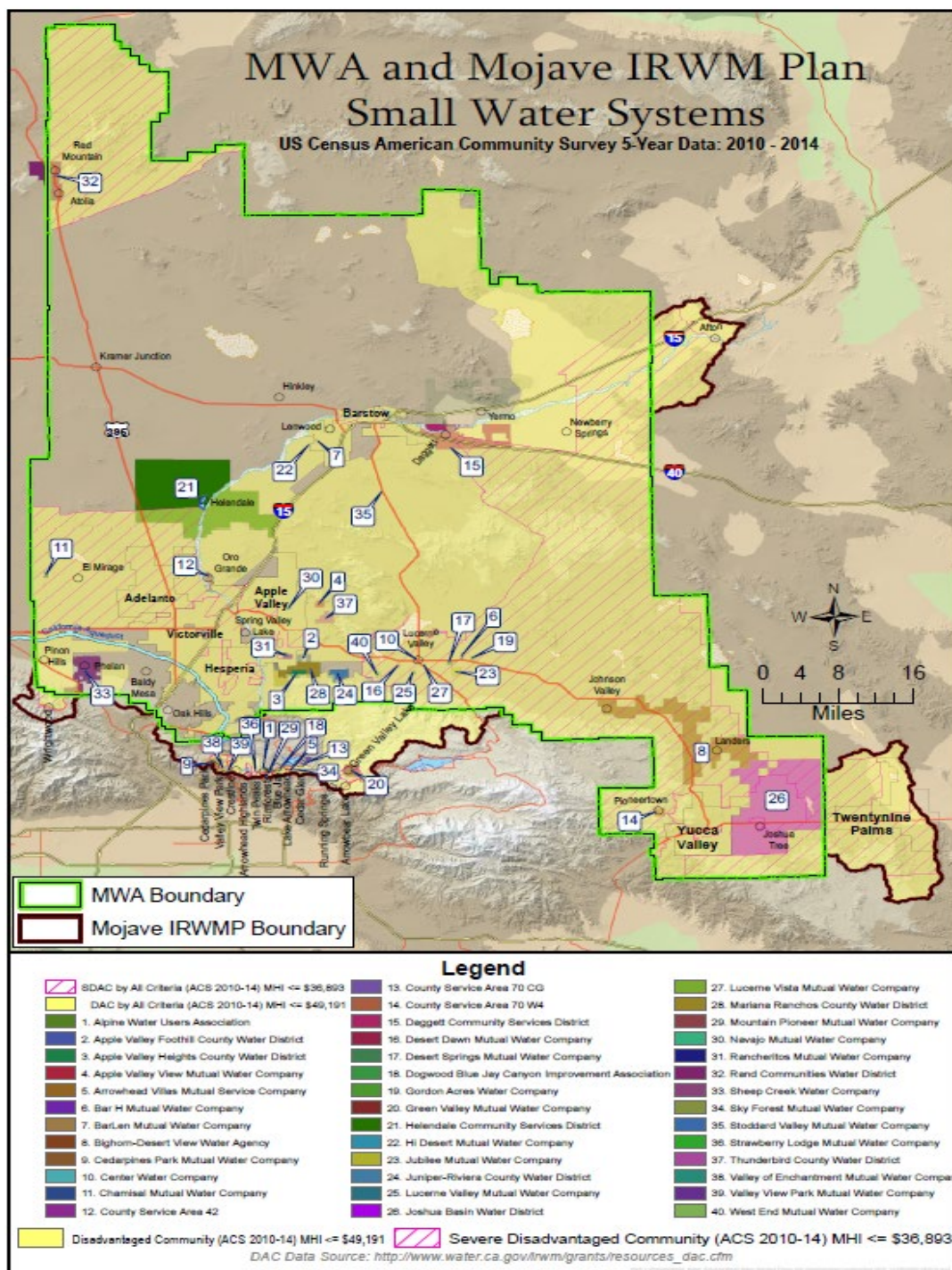
Lance Eckhart PG, CHg – SGPWA General Manager

**DRIP Collaborative**

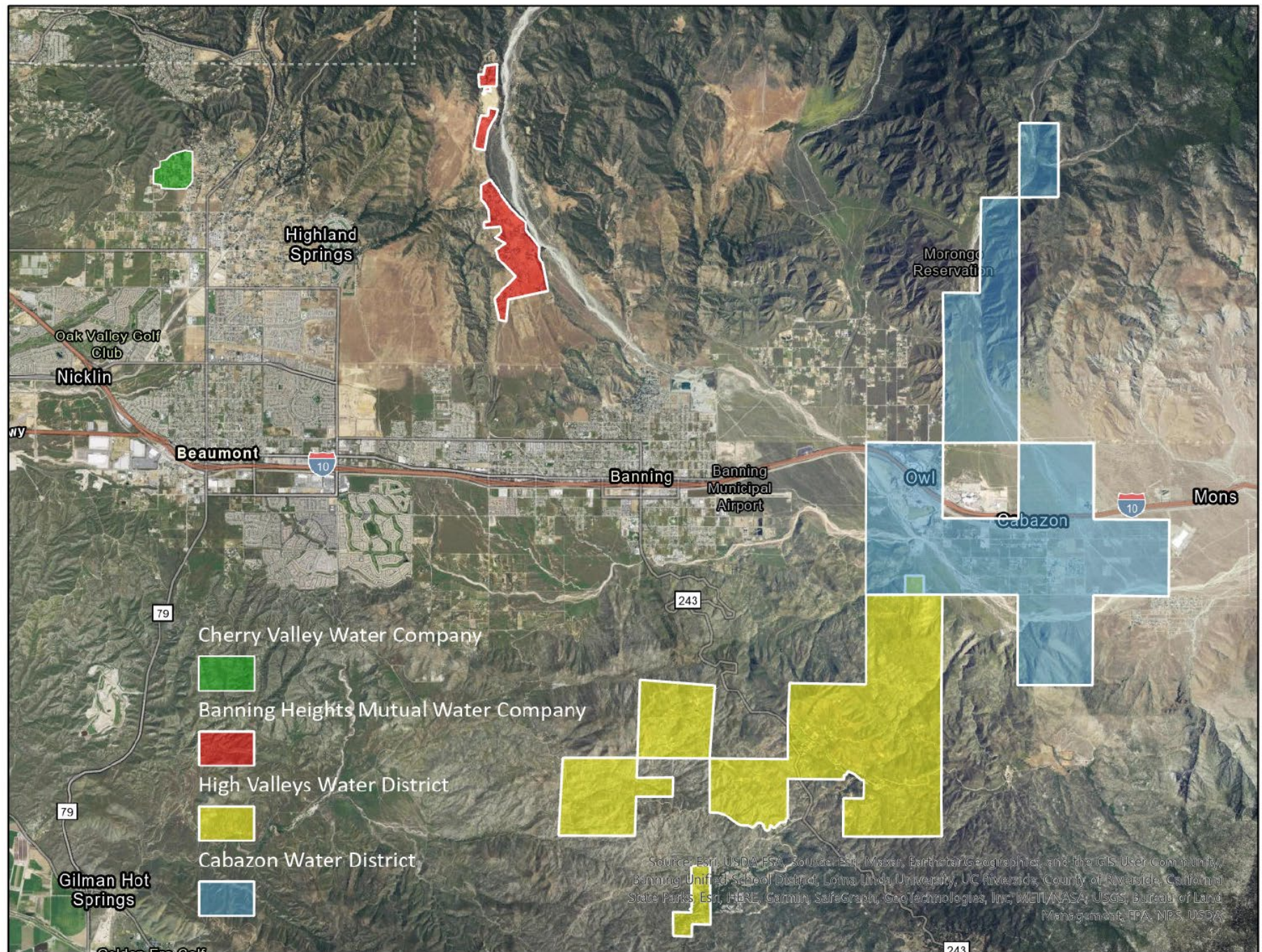
**Water Infrastructure and Planning Workgroup Meeting #3**

Thursday, August 28, 2025

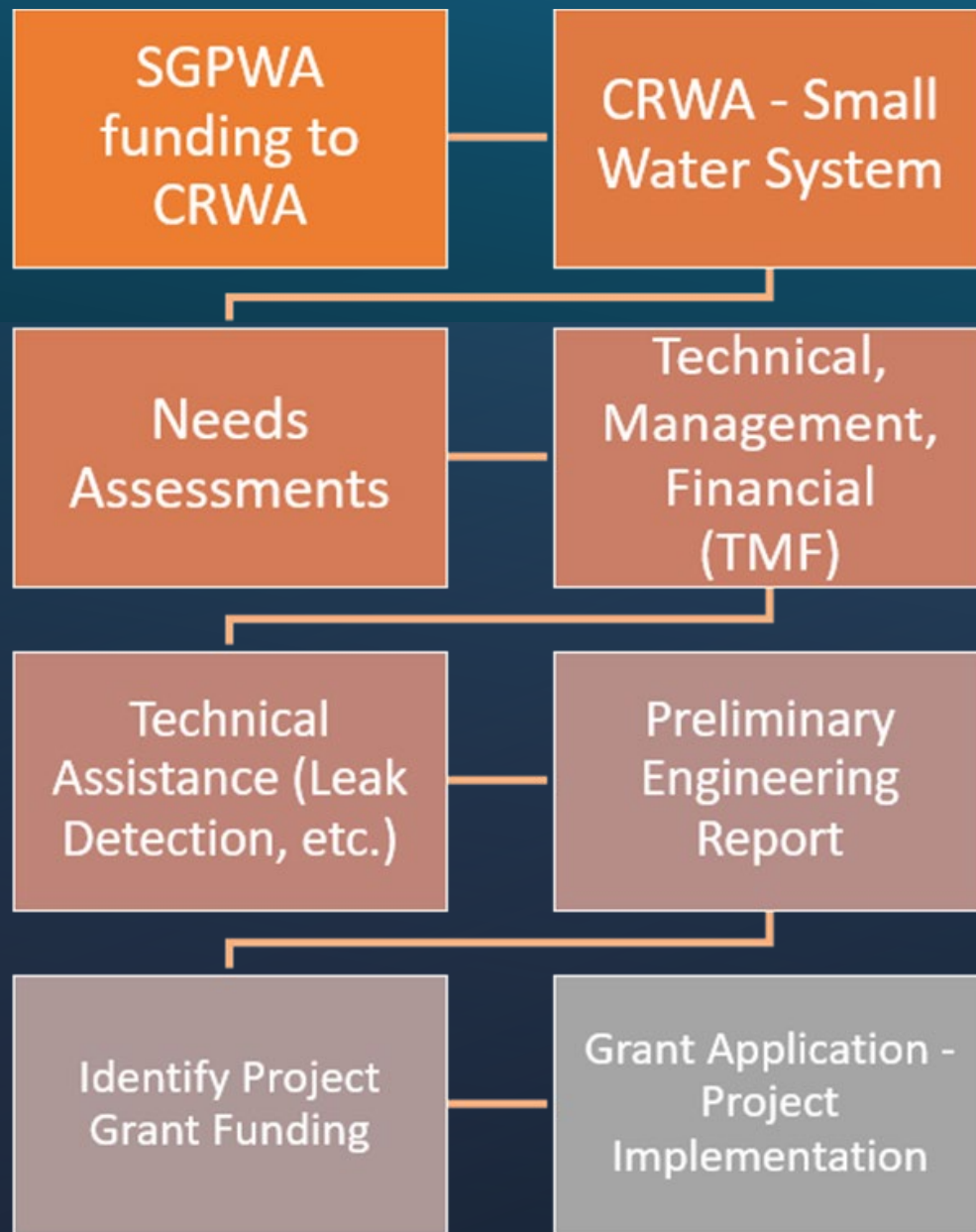












# Small Systems Program Design

Public/Non-profit partnership to deliver services the Agency can't – We needed help (ability, longevity, perception)



CRWA will first do a Needs Assessment covering all bases of TMF: Technical, Managerial, Financial



From the Needs Assessment CRWA may recommend a variety of tasks. Examples (Rate study, energy analysis, conservation plan, leak detection, corporate compliance review, master plan)



These things are all intended to position the system for a pre-application for funding from a variety of sources



Gap funding (bridge loan) may be necessary

# Lessons Learned

Challenging to bridge the gap between funding sources and needs of smaller DACs (“including bridge” loans and “gap funding”)

Local non-regulatory leadership is important – we are not cops, we know you have problems. (*no offense to cops/regulators*)

Partnerships (Multi-Agency Public, Regulatory, and Private) and trust are needed (as well as a sage, cheerleader, helicopter parent, Dutch Uncle & therapist)

Local successes validate the program to other DACs and yes... “You CAN survive the grant process!” and funding is beginning to come consistently (& that is only part of the process)...

# Idea Infra 1: Supporting Vulnerable and Small Water Systems Infrastructure

Recommendation Lead: Carolina Hernandez/ Tim Worley



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- Disconnect how small water systems are supported
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  - Addressing thru regional coordination examples: LA County Water Plan, Mojave, Coachella Valley Water District

**What can larger water agencies do to assist other entities in the watershed?**

What motivations could/should larger water agencies to take leadership roles and bring others to the table?

**What are the assets or tools water agencies would need to provide support and collaboration for vulnerable and small water systems infrastructure needs?**

Understanding funding is a key to implementing anything, what should any potential funding target to address challenges for vulnerable and small water systems to implement solutions?



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# Idea Infra 3: Establish Groundwater Recharge Infrastructure Program for Local Drought Resilience

Recommendation Lead: Emily Rooney



Previous thoughts on preliminary ideas

- Co-benefits when developing outreach materials and sharing information about groundwater recharge
  - Ecosystem; habitat restoration, green spaces for communities
  - Communities; drinking water improvements
- Address concerns of potential unintended consequences such as degraded water quality – robust water quality monitoring, Tribal communities to be considered
- Dependent on local government and institutions
- A lot of activity, increased awareness is needed



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WATER RESOURCES



Presentation related to inform Idea Infra3: *Establish Groundwater Recharge Infrastructure Program for Local Drought Resilience*

Tim Godwin, PG, Technical and Policy Advisor to Deputy Director, Executive Division

# GROUNDWATER RECHARGE ACTIVITIES – CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT

(20 MINUTES)

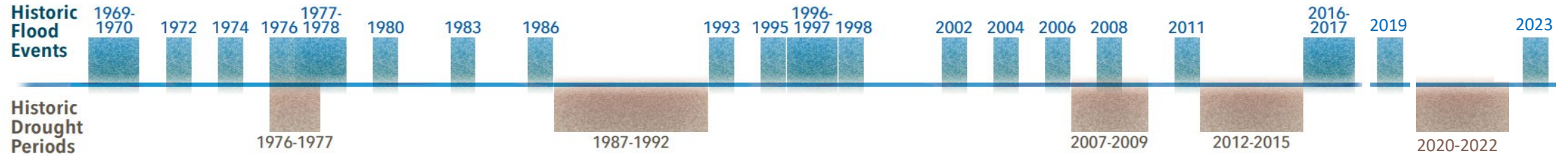


# Expanding Storage through Recharge and Groundwater Management

DRIP Collaborative - Workgroup  
August 2025



# California's Water Extremes



TOO DRY



TOO WET



TOO UNDERUTILIZED



# Expediting Flood Diversion and Recharge: Actions

## ➤ Water Year 2023

- EO N-4-23 and N-7-23
- Over 400 TAF of Flood Water Diverted on 90,000 Acres
- Over 4 MAF of Managed Recharge Reported in SGMA Annual Reports, not including Adjudicated Areas
- Significant Surplus water moved through SWP/CVP facilities to local entities
- Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Initiative

## ➤ Water Year 2024

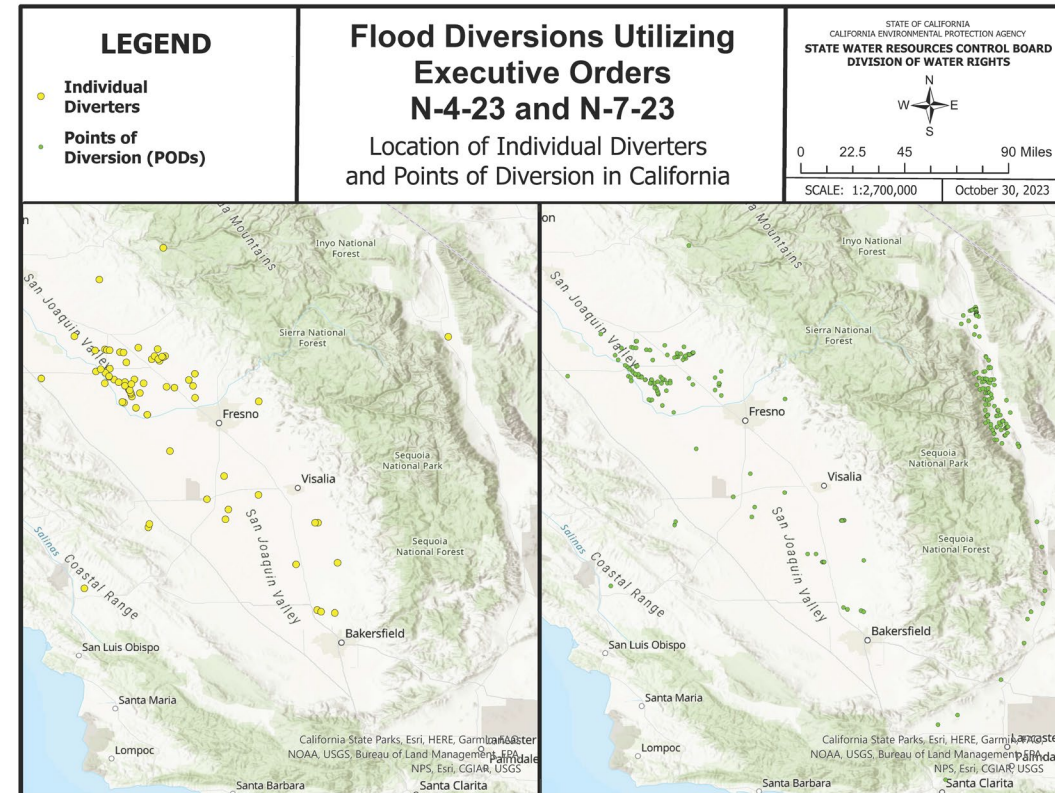
- 1242.1 Enacted: 0 AF Diverted

## ➤ Water Year 2025

- 1242.1 + EO N-16-25: 499 AF Diverted
- SWP Storm Flex = additional 16 TAF Captured
- Delta Conveyance Project could have captured 700 TAF
- WY 24 SGMA Annual Reports due 4/1

## ➤ Future Water Years

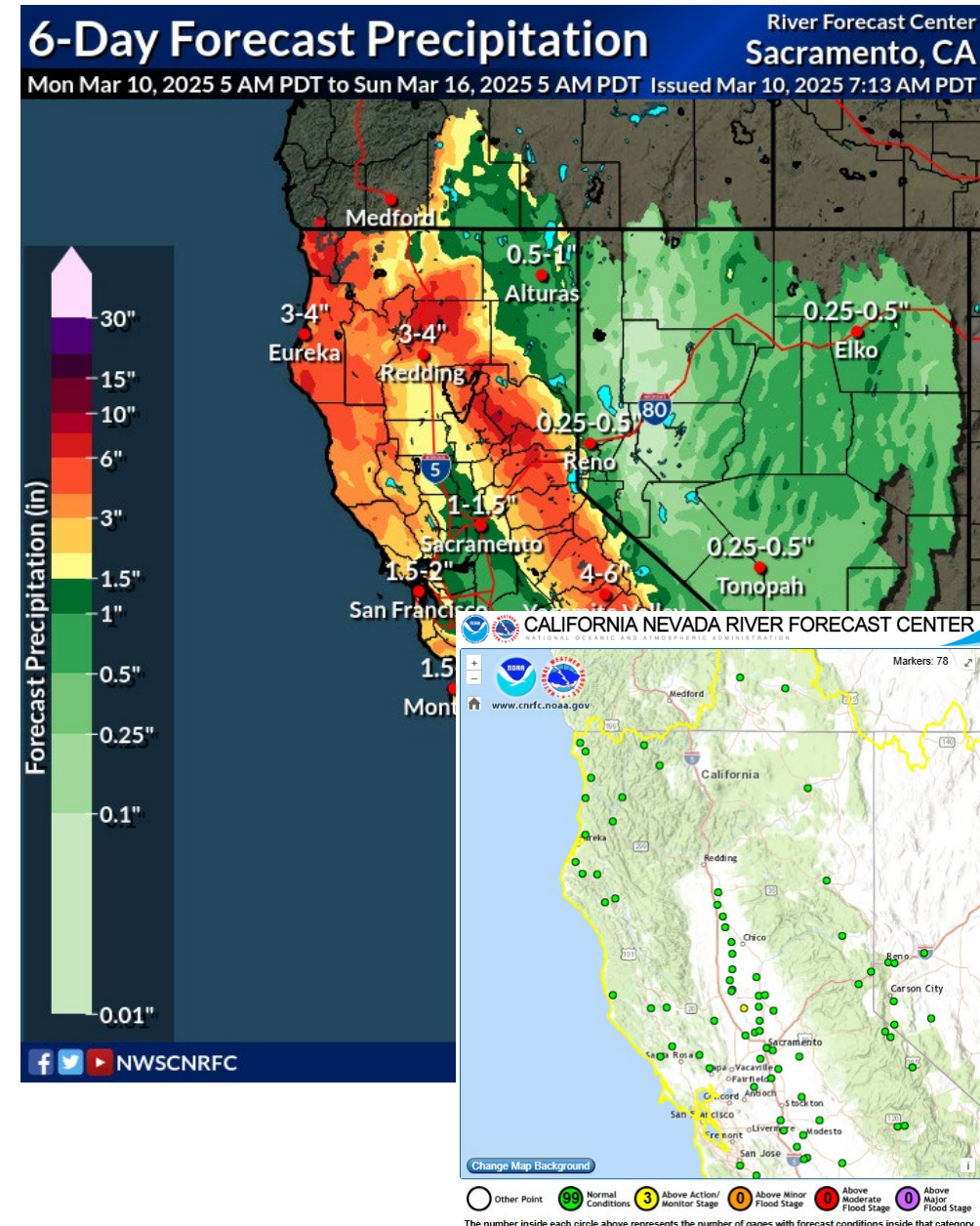
- DCP, SGMA, and other water resilience projects



# 2025 Water Year Flood Diversion & Recharge Actions

## Flood/Drought Actions Occurring in 2025 and Beyond

- Continue flood diversion/recharge coordination with Sac Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and Coastal Areas
  - Prepare: Early communication to flood/reservoir/groundwater managers
    - Track run-off and diversion conditions and opportunities
    - Connect Flood and Groundwater Managers
    - SB-122 (1242.1) and EO N-16-25 Flood Diversions
      - DWR Flood Ops technical assistance for local flood thresholds development
  - Act: Utilize excess and flood flows and recharge
    - **First 1242.1 + EO N-16-25 Diversions!**
      - **Feb 10, 2025 - Dunnigan WD**
      - **Feb 13, 2025 - Rancho Murieta CSD (Sac County)**
    - Any Opportunities with upcoming of future storms?
- Continue Addressing Groundwater Drought Conditions
  - Dry Well Reporting – Board/DWR Dry Well Response “Be Well Prepared” and other assistance
  - SB 552 Water Shortage Vulnerability, Drought Resilience & SGMA Mgmt.
- **Launching Sac Valley Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Workgroup**



# Challenges

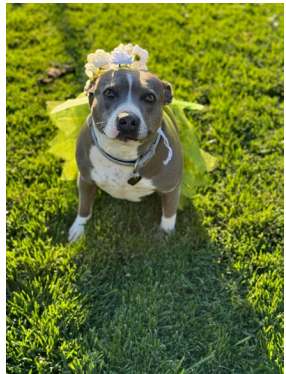
- **Increasing Demand** – Ag and Urban, Food production, Industrial use
- **Changing hydrology** – Less persistent snowpack (early melt), flashier more intense storms and droughts
- **Limited Surface water storage** – system designed around persisting snowpack and flood control
- **Flood control** – primary focus on purging dangerous flows, disrupting natural recharge processes
- **Expanding groundwater storage** – water quality, infrastructure (conveyance and infiltration), right to use, equity needs
- **Groundwater Management** – groundwater overdraft, subsidence impacts to infrastructure, dewatering of wells, water quality impacts





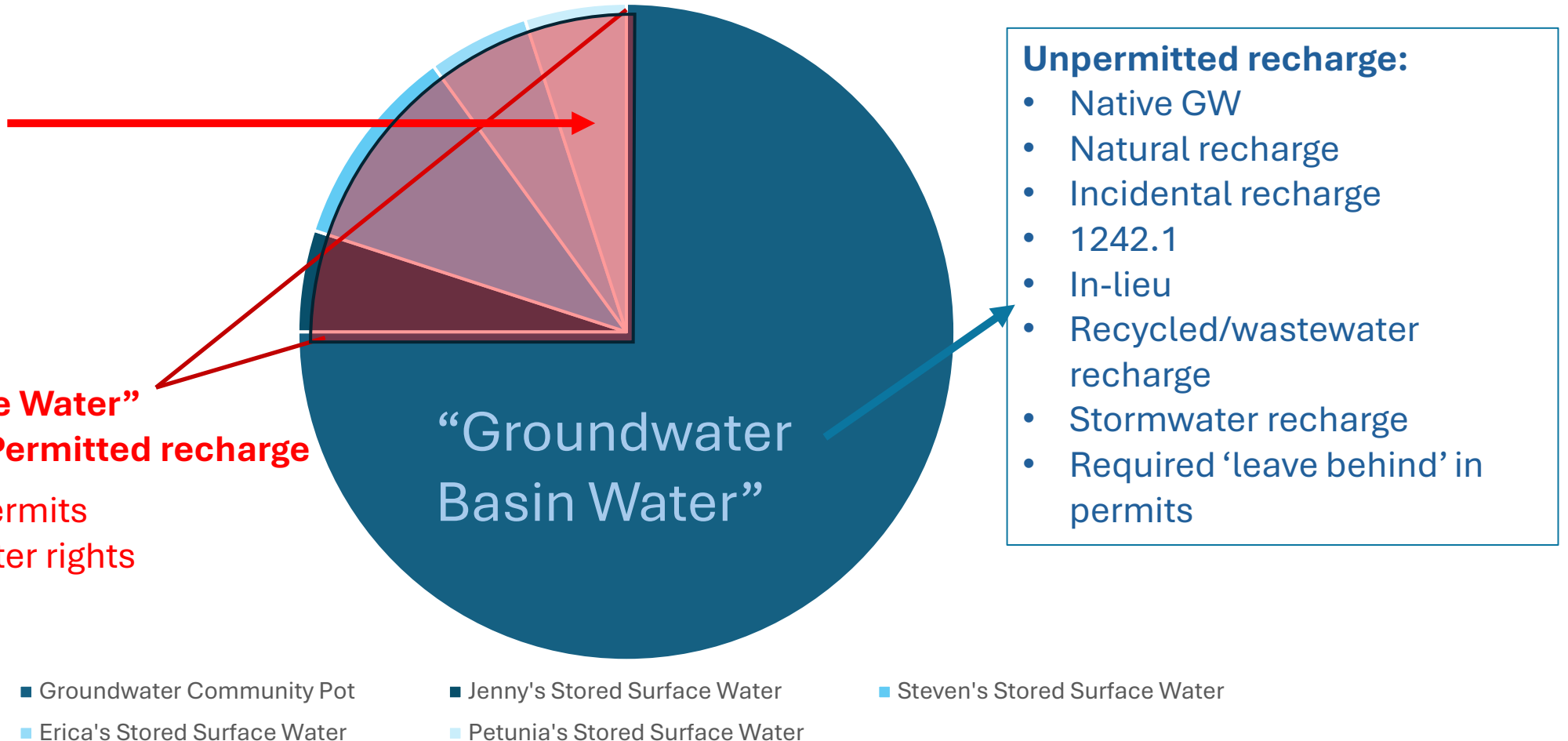
# Slicing the Groundwater Pie – Simplified Example

Stored Surface Water (Waterboard) vs Groundwater Community Pot (GSA)



**“Stored Surface Water”  
Water Rights - Permitted recharge**

- Temporary permits
- Standard Water rights



# Diversions – What Water To Use

- **No Permit Needed**

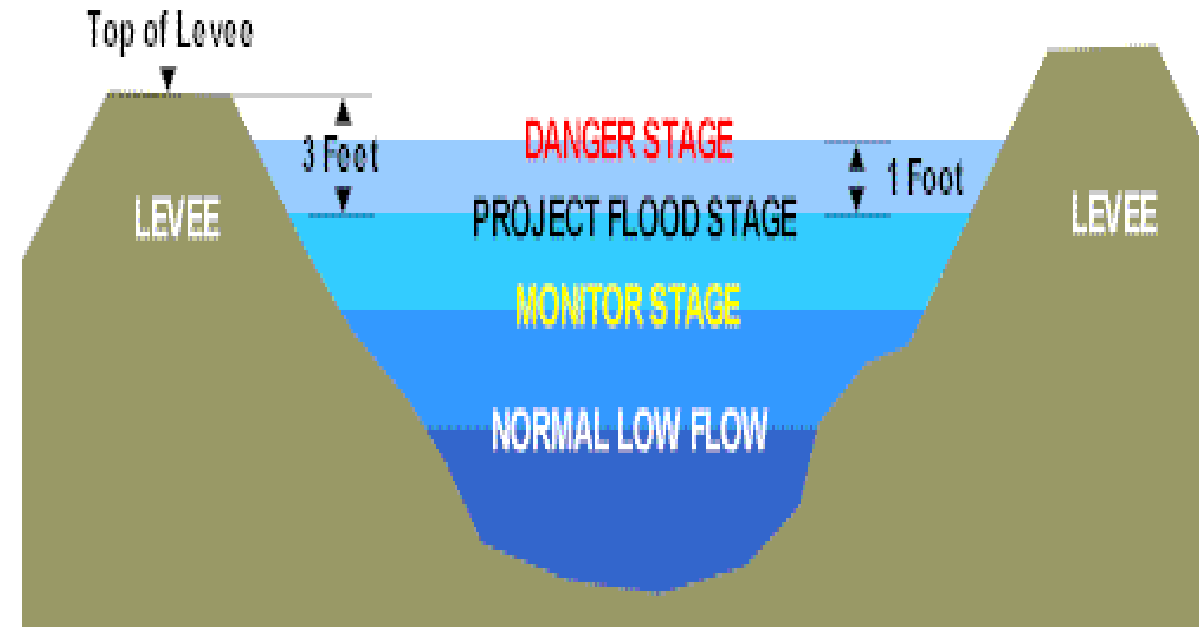
- **CWC 1242.1** (diversion of flood flows for recharge)
- Flood management only (water diverted to avoid a hazard, not to achieve a beneficial use)

- **New Water Rights**

- Temporary
  - 180-day
  - 5-year
- Standard (i.e., permanent)
  - Streamlined (GW recharge, WAA = 90/20 or flood)
  - Non-streamlined

- **Existing Water Rights**

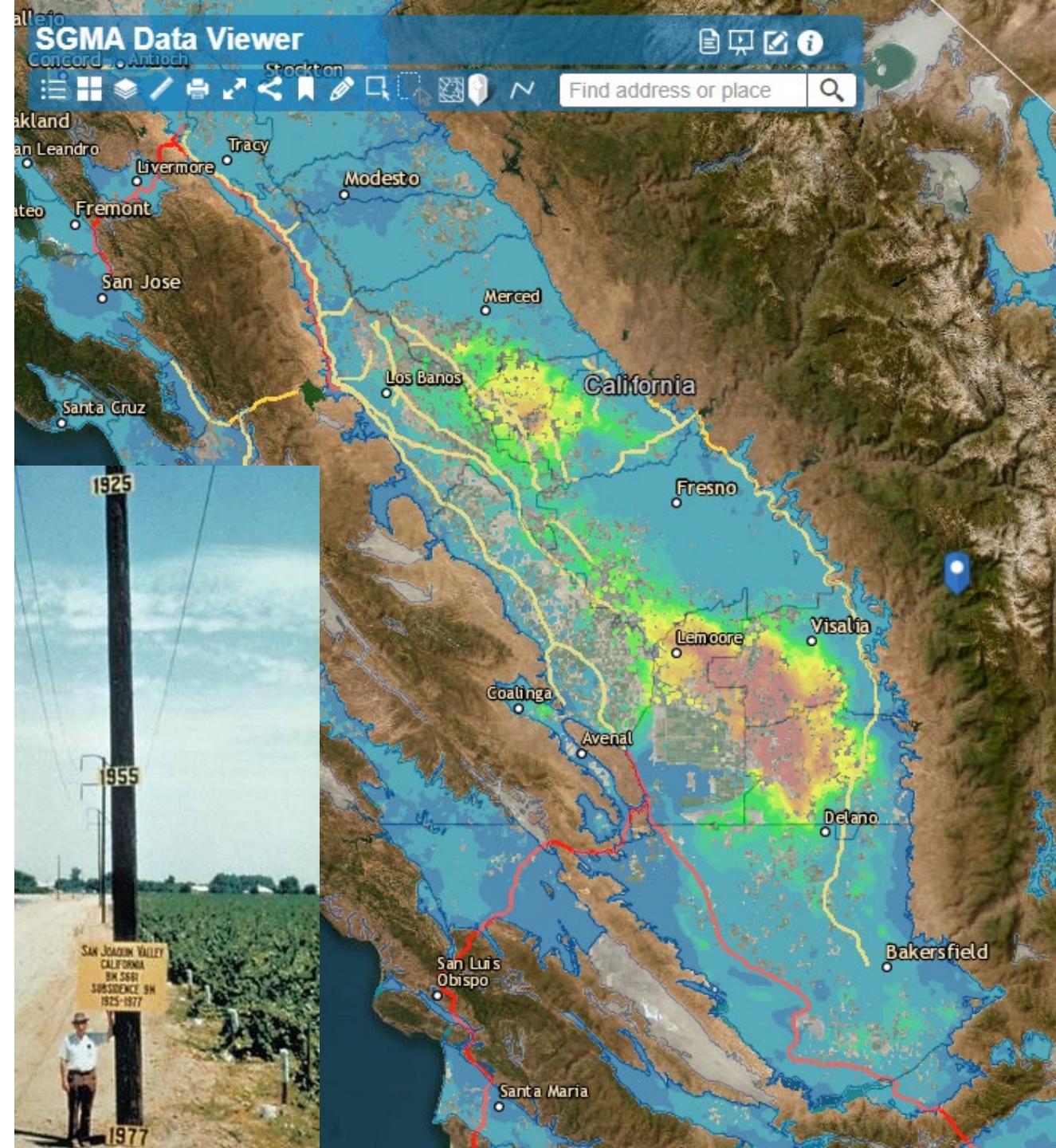
- Pre 1914
- Post 1914 (Permit or License)
- Under Contractor Water Right
- Surplus/Excess Water
  - Article 21 (SWP)
  - Article 215 (CVP)





# Subsidence Impacts to Conveyance

- Subsidence has a long history in California
- SGMA intent is to avoid or minimize subsidence
- DWR developing Subsidence Best Management Practices
- Notable Impacts – Upwards of 46% capacity loss in some canals:
  - Friant-Kern Canal (\$326M initial)
  - Red Top/Sack Dam SJ River (~\$90M+)
  - Eastside Bypass (~\$250M)
  - California Aqueduct (\$Multi-Billion)
- Immediate action is necessary



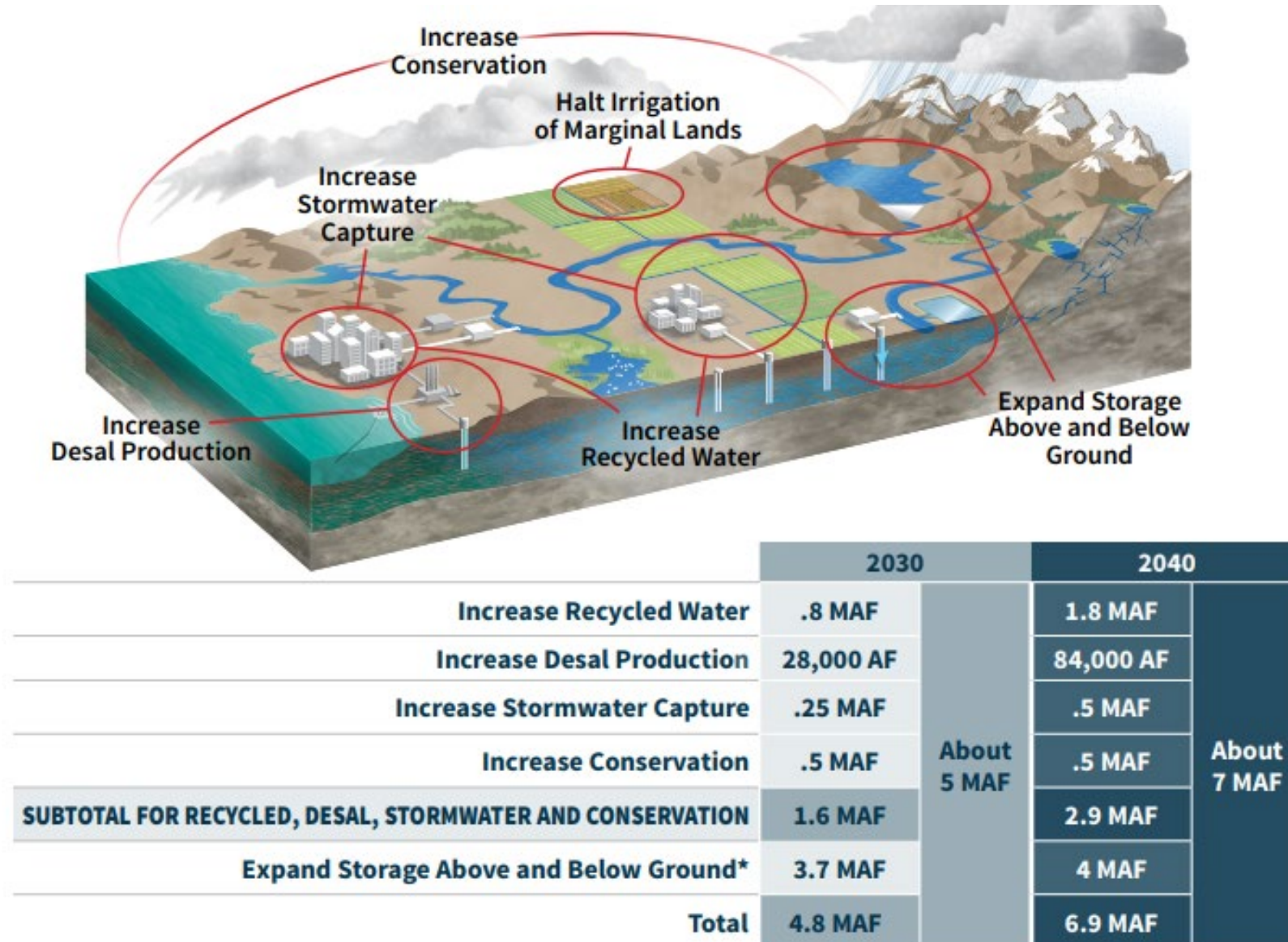
# Expediting Flood Diversion & Recharge: *Drivers For State Action*

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Water Resilience Portfolio & Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Governor's Water Supply Strategy:
  - Recharge targets (500 TAF/yr)
  - Streamlined water rights permits for groundwater storage
  - Regulatory assistance on 180-day & 5 yr temporary permits
- **Flood/Drought Executive Orders:** CEQA suspension for local groundwater recharge projects, and other streamlining actions
- **Flood Water Recharge EO & Statute (WC 1242.1) & N-16-25**
- **2023 CA Water Plans, 2022 CV Flood Protection Plan, 2025 CA Groundwater (Bulletin 118)**





# California's Water Supply Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future



\*Additional storage capacity does not equate to a similar volume of new water supply. MAF – million acre-feet.

# Expediting Flood Diversion & Recharge: *Assistance*

- **DWR Technical Assistance**

- San Joaquin Watershed Studies
- Multi-Benefit Floodplain Restoration Opportunities
- Working with partners on on-farm demonstration sites
- Groundwater Basin Characterization and Recharge Suitability
- Connecting flood managers with water districts

- **DWR Planning and Regulatory Assistance**

- On-the-ground support for maximizing recharge during flood events
- Supporting local flood plan criteria for diversions
- Supporting temporary water rights applications
- Watershed Resilience Program
- Flood-MAR Network

- **DWR Financial Assistance**

- State Grants supporting planning and implementation projects
- Prop 4 Funding





# Top needs to expand storage through recharge



- Detailed accounting of groundwater and surface water resources
- Land repurposing support
- Partnerships and flexible agreements
- Protect and improve conveyance – Halt subsidence
- Expansion of Water Bank concepts
- Delta Conveyance Project
- Surface storage improvements (San Luis & Sites)
- Reform of Water Rights to improve flexibility
- Greater coordination – Feds, State, and Local agencies



# Thank you!

## **DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management**

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management>

## **DWR Groundwater Recharge**

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Recharge>

## **DWR Flood-MAR**

<https://water.ca.gov/programs/all-programs/flood-mar>

**Email:** Timothy.Godwin@water.ca.gov



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Recommendation Lead: Emily Rooney



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- Address concerns of potential unintended consequences such as degraded water quality – robust water quality monitoring, Tribal communities to be considered
- Dependent on local government and institutions
- A lot of activity, increased awareness is needed

**What issues appear to be some of the initial barriers to implementation of groundwater recharge on local levels?**

How should a potential recommendation consider to address these barriers?

**What roles can the state and locals take to implement groundwater recharge?**

Are there tools available that should be known and highlighted to support regional and local efforts? Tools that should be developed?



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# PUBLIC COMMENT



# NEXT STEPS

# What's Next

**September:** Workgroup virtual meetings to learn more and continue advancing through recommendation ideas.

- **Other DRIP Collaborative Workgroups:**

- **September 9<sup>th</sup> (AM)** – Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Drought Workgroup Meeting
- **September 9<sup>th</sup> (PM)** – Drought Definition and Narrative Workgroup Meeting, Communication Program recommendation
- **September 12<sup>th</sup> (PM)** – Land Use Planning Workgroup Meeting
- Other DRIP Collaborative members, as well as members of the public, may join these workgroup meetings

**October 17:** DRIP Collaborative meeting (in-person)

- Continue process to develop new recommendations, potential draft recommendations introduced



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**Adjourn**

Recording will be posted to <https://water.ca.gov/DRIP>

**Thank you!**