California

DRIP Collaborative

2025 Workgroup: Cross-Cutting Themes

Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative

Friday, March 28, 2025
1-2:30PM PT
Remote Participation (via Zoom)

Facilitated by Workgroup Point of Contact: Zoe Kanavas (zoe.kanavas@water.ca.gov)

California Department of Water Resources – Water Justice Office

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 (4 out of the 6 on the workgroup). If we don't meet quorum, we will offer this time and this space for an informal discussion about cross-cutting themes.
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

Objective: Define what cross-cutting themes mean for this group and discuss the current set of cross-cutting themes (1) further refine their purpose statements and (2) consider whether they should continue to be labeled as a cross-cutting theme.

Meeting Agenda

1:00pm	Welcome, Roll Call, and Vision Setting
1:10pm	Process Review
1:15pm	Determine Purpose of Cross-Cutting Themes
1:45pm	Review Purpose Statements
2:25pm	Public Comment
2:30pm	Next Steps & Adjourn

WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS

(Quorum= 4 DRIP members)

1. **Kyle Jones,** Community Water Center
2. **Natalie Kuffel/Elea Becker Lowe,** CA Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
3. **Catherine Freeman,** California State Association of Counties
4. **Suzanne Pecci,** South American Sub-Basin GSA (Public Member)
5. **Virginia Jameson**, CA Department of Food & Agriculture
6. **Tami McVay,** Self Help Enterprise

VISION SETTING

What do cross-cutting themes mean to you?

Other Workgroup Members: Please share your thoughts in the chat.

PROCESS OVERVIEW (5 MINUTES)

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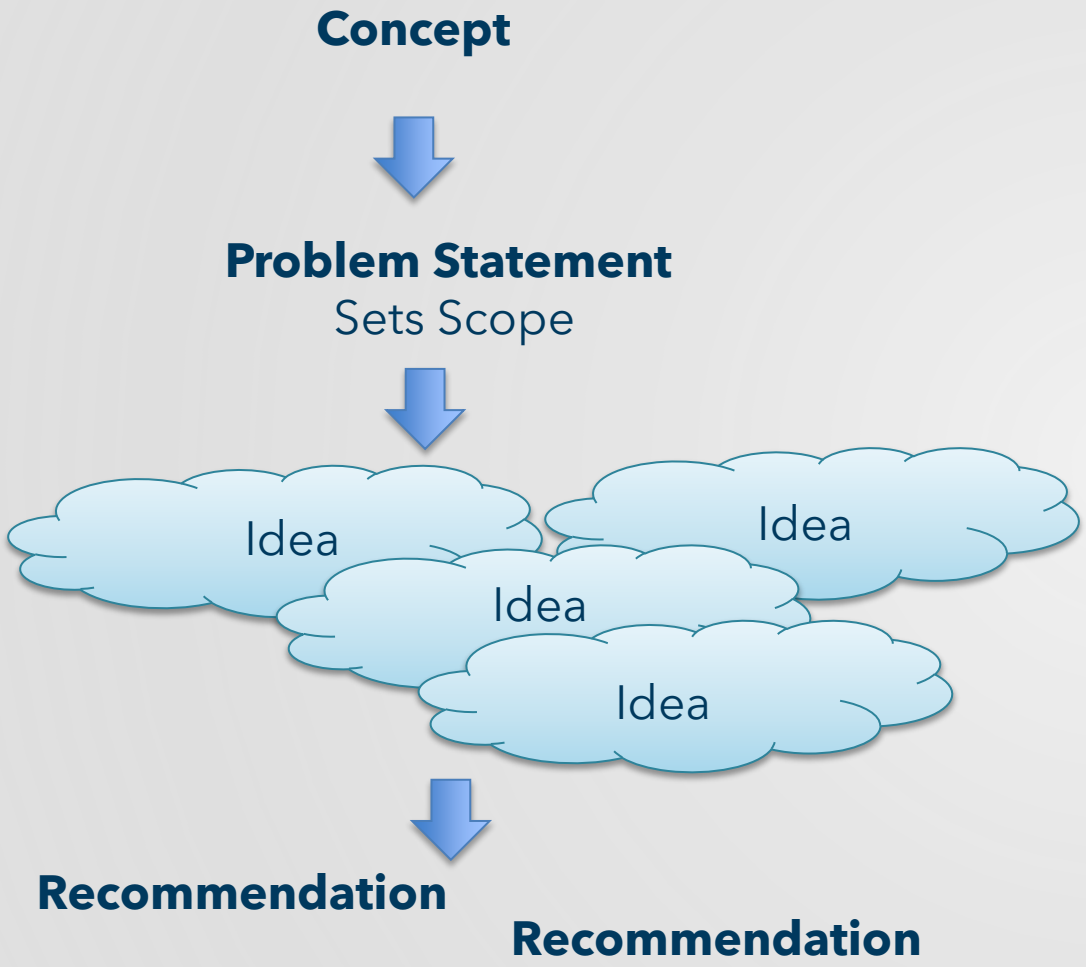
Focus Areas, Problem Statements, Recommendations

Focus Area	Problem Statement	Recommendation
Focus Areas are ideas, opportunities, and aspirations that DRIP Members have identified as important to improved California drought resiliency. These were captured on the Reference List and are sequenced and prioritized based on feedback during in-person and virtual meetings.	A Problem Statement is a concise description of the issue or challenge faced by a Focus Area. Developed by DRIP Members, Problem Statements seek to capture the essential problems within each Focus Area, including identification of key sub-topics within each focus area.	A DRIP Recommendation is a thoughtful, formal suggestion that addresses the issue or challenge described in a Problem Statement, providing solutions that are specific and actionable related to the preparation of, responding to, and recovering from periods of extreme water shortages and drought.

Recommendation Process



Mar – Apr Virtual Meetings: Refine 2025 Focus Area problem statement

Meeting #1 (May): Ideate on potential 2025 recommendations

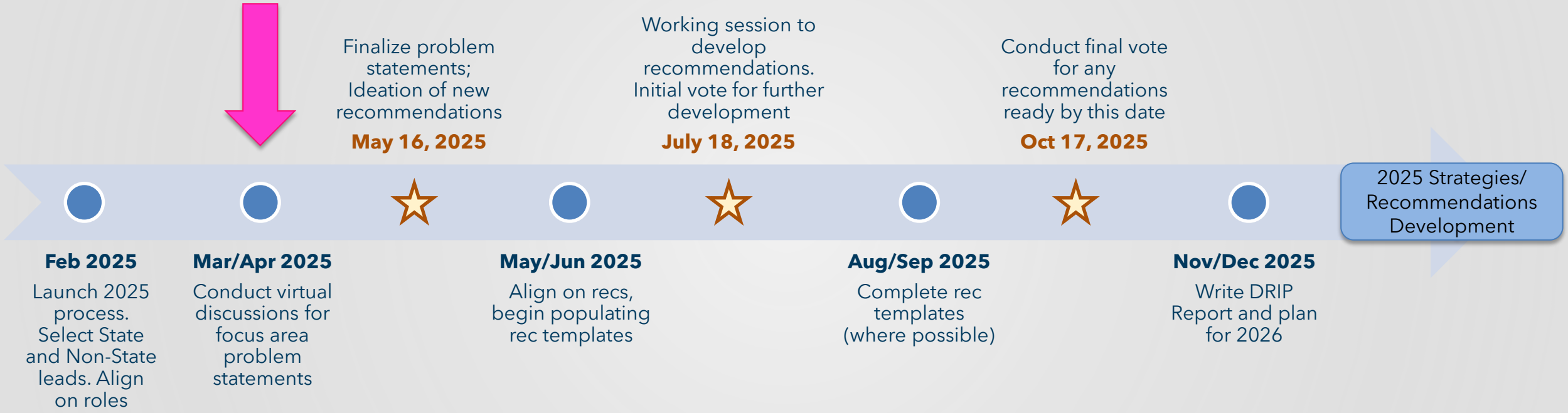
May - Jun Virtual Meetings: Develop recommendations

Meeting #2 (July): Working session to refine recommendations. Initial votes

Aug - Sep Virtual Meetings: Complete recommendations templates; Prepare for Oct vote

Meeting #3 (Oct): Final vote on recs that may be ready. Decide on which recs may need until April 2026

2025 Proposed DRIP Collaborative Timeline



**Note: The timeline for each focus area/workgroup will vary and may extend beyond the proposed 2025 timeline.*

In-Person Meeting

Virtual Meeting

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Cross-Cutting Themes, Purpose Statements

Cross-Cutting Theme	Purpose Statement
Cross-Cutting Themes are identified areas of importance to members and serve as guiding principles, influencing the overall approach of proposed recommendations.	Purpose Statements articulate the key concepts behind a cross-cutting theme, demonstrate the need for incorporation in recommendations, and highlight related ongoing State strategies & actions. They may or may not inspire possible DRIP Collaborative recommendations.

For Group Discussion:

1. What should cross-cutting themes mean?
2. How can they be incorporated into our work?

PURPOSE OF CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

30 minutes

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Working Scope

For Group Discussion:
1. What should cross-cutting themes mean?
2. How can they be incorporated into our work?

Definition

Cross-cutting themes serve as guiding principles, providing a consistent lens for the DRIP Collaborative's work to ensure that key principles are thoughtfully considered and incorporated throughout the development process.

Integration into work

- Reference the themes when scoping problem statements
- Explicitly address in the recommendation template
- Informational opportunities
- Work evaluation

For Group Discussion:

1. Does this capture the key concepts?
2. How should it be incorporated into our work?
3. Should these remain as cross-cutting themes?

REVIEW EXISTING CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

30-45 MINUTES

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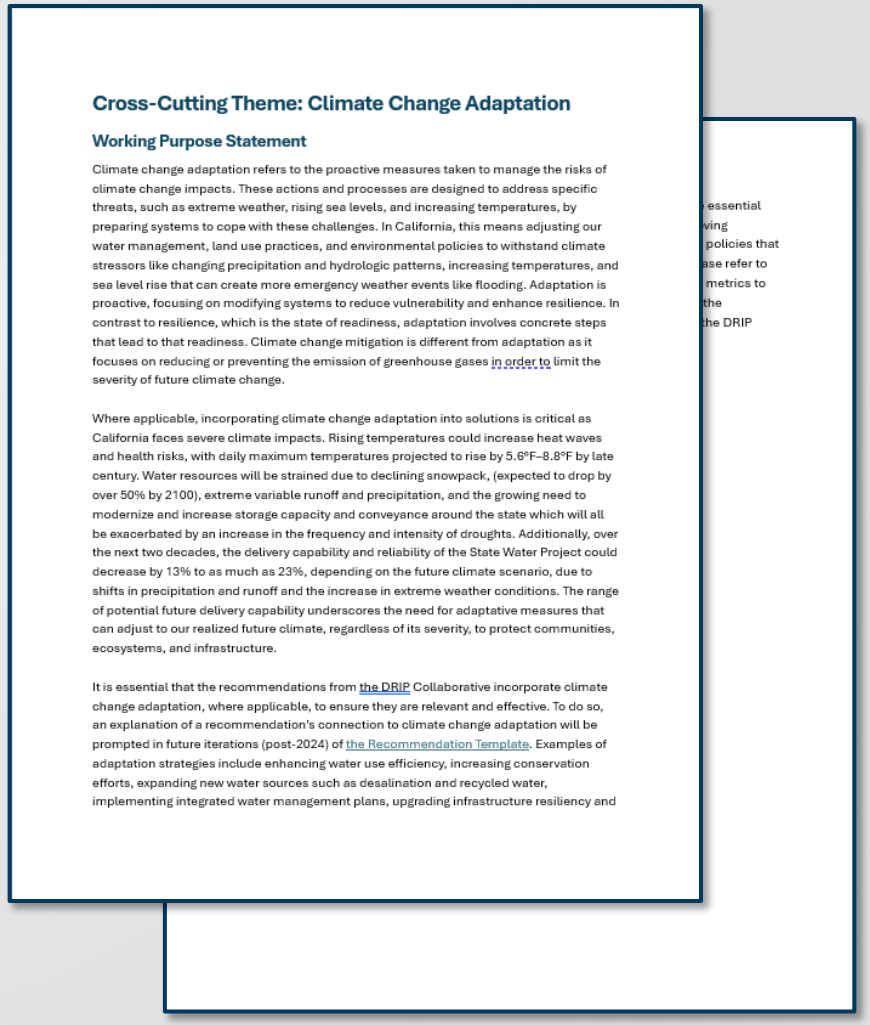
Climate Change Adaptation

For Group Discussion:
1. Does this capture the key concepts?
2. How should it be incorporated into our work?
3. Should these remain as cross-cutting themes?

Climate change adaptation refers to the proactive measures taken to manage the risks of climate change impacts. Future recommendations, where applicable, will explain a recommendation's connection to climate change adaptation.

- Adaptation strategies
  - Expanding new water sources
  - Upgrading infrastructure resiliency and flexibility
  - Restoring ecosystems
  - Community capacity building
- California Climate Adaptation Strategy
  - Identified 25 actions (many with supporting success metrics) of potential interest to the DRIP Collaborative



Cross-Cutting Theme: Climate Change Adaptation

Working Purpose Statement

Climate change adaptation refers to the proactive measures taken to manage the risks of climate change impacts. These actions and processes are designed to address specific threats, such as extreme weather, rising sea levels, and increasing temperatures, by preparing systems to cope with these challenges. In California, this means adjusting our water management, land use practices, and environmental policies to withstand climate stressors like changing precipitation and hydrologic patterns, increasing temperatures, and sea level rise that can create more emergency weather events like flooding. Adaptation is proactive, focusing on modifying systems to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. In contrast to resilience, which is the state of readiness, adaptation involves concrete steps that lead to that readiness. Climate change mitigation is different from adaptation as it focuses on reducing or preventing the emission of greenhouse gases in order to limit the severity of future climate change.

Where applicable, incorporating climate change adaptation into solutions is critical as California faces severe climate impacts. Rising temperatures could increase heat waves and health risks, with daily maximum temperatures projected to rise by 5.6°F–8.8°F by late century. Water resources will be strained due to declining snowpack, (expected to drop by over 50% by 2100), extreme variable runoff and precipitation, and the growing need to modernize and increase storage capacity and conveyance around the state which will all be exacerbated by an increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts. Additionally, over the next two decades, the delivery capability and reliability of the State Water Project could decrease by 13% to as much as 23%, depending on the future climate scenario, due to shifts in precipitation and runoff and the increase in extreme weather conditions. The range of potential future delivery capability underscores the need for adaptative measures that can adjust to our realized future climate, regardless of its severity, to protect communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

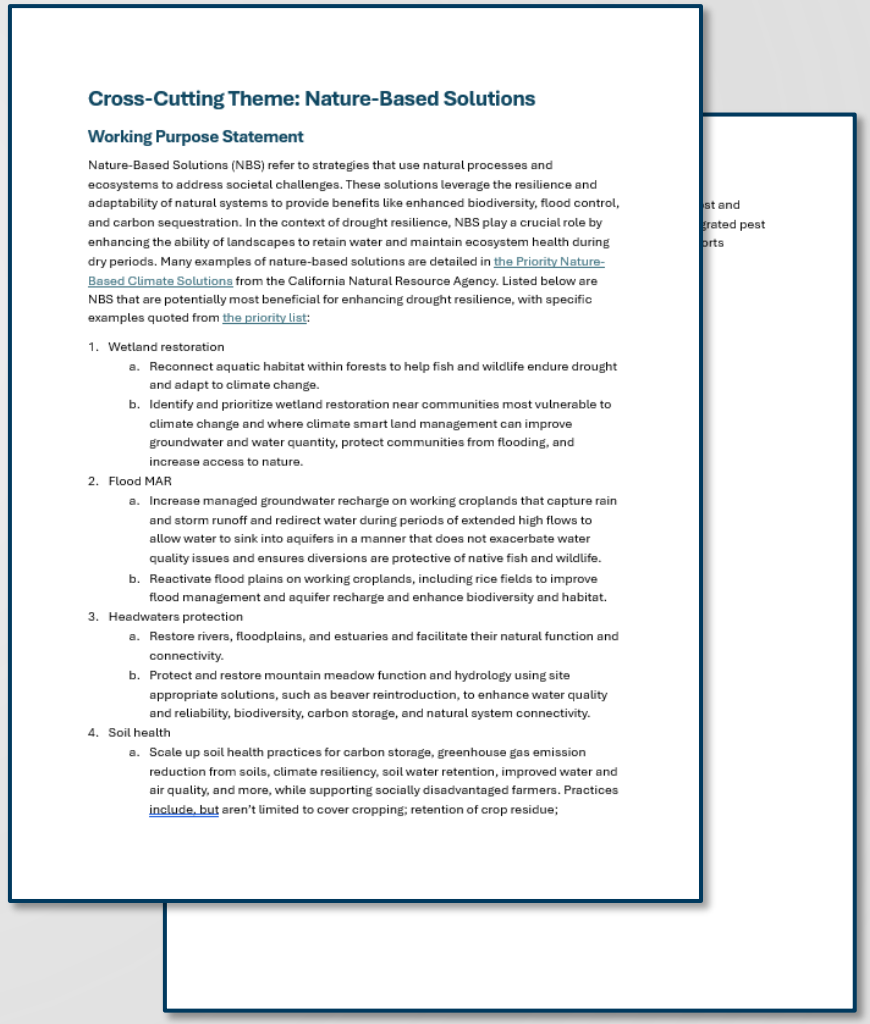
It is essential that the recommendations from the DRIP Collaborative incorporate climate change adaptation, where applicable, to ensure they are relevant and effective. To do so, an explanation of a recommendation's connection to climate change adaptation will be prompted in future iterations (post-2024) of the Recommendation Template. Examples of adaptation strategies include enhancing water use efficiency, increasing conservation efforts, expanding new water sources such as desalination and recycled water, implementing integrated water management plans, upgrading infrastructure resiliency and

Nature-Based Solutions

For Group Discussion:
1. Does this capture the key concepts?
2. How should it be incorporated into our work?
3. Should these remain as cross-cutting themes?

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) refer to strategies that use natural processes and ecosystems to address societal challenges. These solutions leverage the resilience and adaptability of natural systems to provide benefits like enhanced biodiversity, flood control, and carbon sequestration.

- NBS potentially most beneficial for enhancing drought resilience
  - Wetland restoration
  - Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood MAR)
  - Headwaters protection
  - Soil health
- Priority Nature-Based Climate Solutions
  - Identified 7 priorities of potential interest to the DRIP Collaborative



Cross-Cutting Theme: Nature-Based Solutions

Working Purpose Statement

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) refer to strategies that use natural processes and ecosystems to address societal challenges. These solutions leverage the resilience and adaptability of natural systems to provide benefits like enhanced biodiversity, flood control, and carbon sequestration. In the context of drought resilience, NBS play a crucial role by enhancing the ability of landscapes to retain water and maintain ecosystem health during dry periods. Many examples of nature-based solutions are detailed in the Priority Nature-Based Climate Solutions from the California Natural Resource Agency. Listed below are NBS that are potentially most beneficial for enhancing drought resilience, with specific examples quoted from the priority list:

1. Wetland restoration
   a. Reconnect aquatic habitat within forests to help fish and wildlife endure drought and adapt to climate change.
   b. Identify and prioritize wetland restoration near communities most vulnerable to climate change and where climate smart land management can improve groundwater and water quantity, protect communities from flooding, and increase access to nature.
2. Flood MAR
   a. Increase managed groundwater recharge on working croplands that capture rain and storm runoff and redirect water during periods of extended high flows to allow water to sink into aquifers in a manner that does not exacerbate water quality issues and ensures diversions are protective of native fish and wildlife.
   b. Reactivate flood plains on working croplands, including rice fields to improve flood management and aquifer recharge and enhance biodiversity and habitat.
3. Headwaters protection
   a. Restore rivers, floodplains, and estuaries and facilitate their natural function and connectivity.
   b. Protect and restore mountain meadow function and hydrology using site appropriate solutions, such as beaver reintroduction, to enhance water quality and reliability, biodiversity, carbon storage, and natural system connectivity.
4. Soil health
   a. Scale up soil health practices for carbon storage, greenhouse gas emission reduction from soils, climate resiliency, soil water retention, improved water and air quality, and more, while supporting socially disadvantaged farmers. Practices include, but aren't limited to cover cropping; retention of crop residue;

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEXT STEPS – GETTING READY FOR THE DRIP COLLABORATIVE MAY MEETING

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What's Next

MARCH-APRIL: Workgroup virtual meetings to refine the problem statements and early recommendation ideas.

- **April 3rd** – Water Infrastructure & Planning Workgroup Meeting
- April TBD – Drought Communications Workgroup Meeting
- Other DRIP Collaborative members, as well as members of the public, may join these workgroup meetings

APRIL: Co-leads will assist DWR Development Team Contacts to inform breakout discussions during the May meeting

MAY 16: DRIP Collaborative meeting (in-person)

- Finalize problem statements and begin ideation process for new recommendations

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Adjourn

Thank you!