



California Water Commission

WHAT'S ON TAP FOR CALIFORNIA?

North Bay Watershed Association
March 2020

Topics

- **Where does California's water come from?**
- **The California Water Commission**
- **Water Storage Investment Program**
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**
- **The Water Resiliency Portfolio**

Armando Quintero, *Chair, California Water Commission*

California Water Basics

Where California's Water Comes From

Most of California's water comes from rain and snow that falls in the northern and eastern parts of the State

Only Some Water is Available to Meet Demands

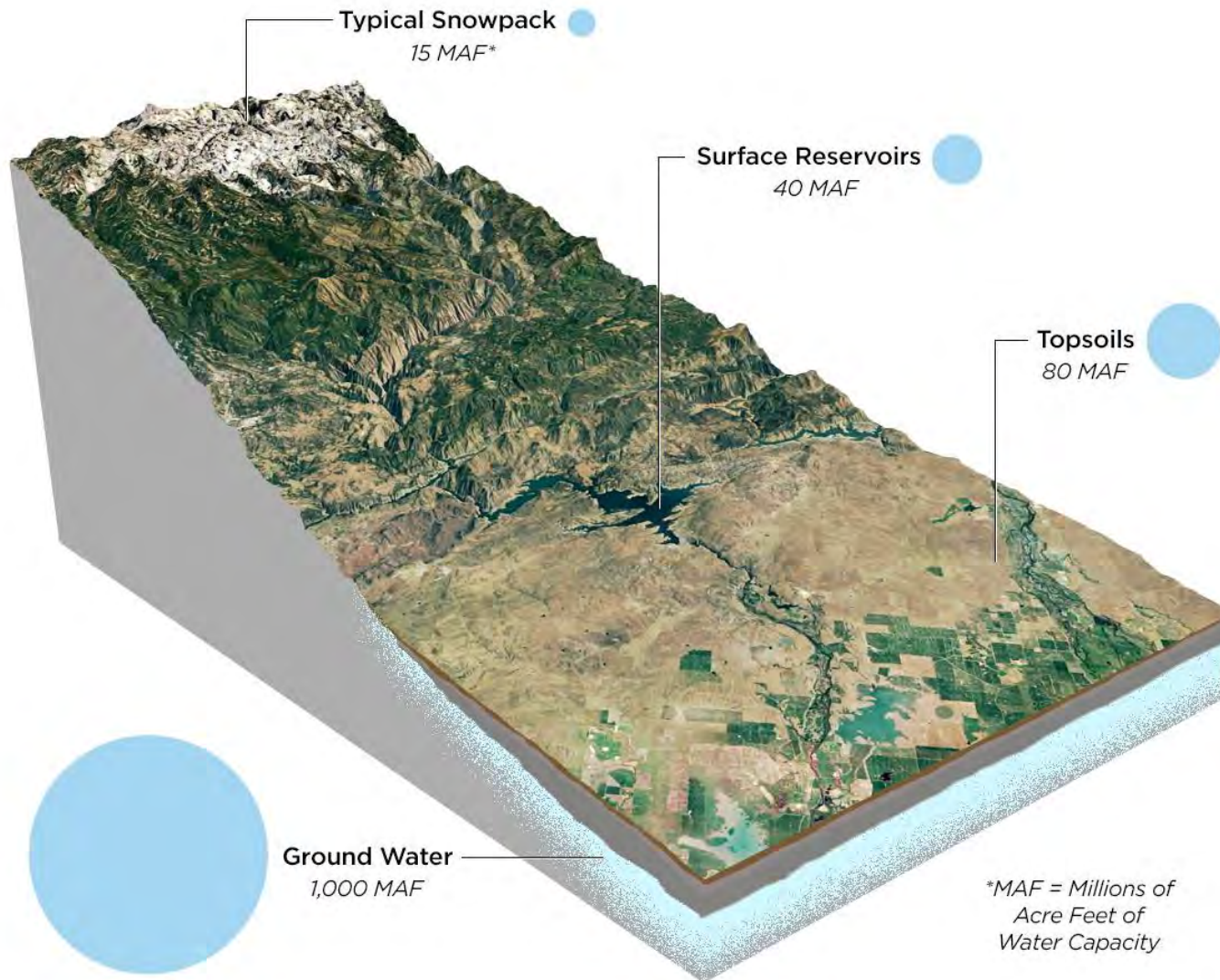
About half of the 200 million acre-feet (MAF) of water that California receives is used by vegetation or goes to evaporation. Another 20 MAF stays in North and Central Coast streams

Where California's Water Goes

About 65 MAF is available to meet agricultural, urban, and Central Valley environmental needs.



California's Largest Water Reserves



Groundwater is by far the State's largest water reserve, dwarfing the total capacity of all surface reservoirs, soils, and the Sierra snowpack. But how much can be used for drinking and crops isn't precisely known.

SOURCE: Thomas Harter, UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, Google Earth

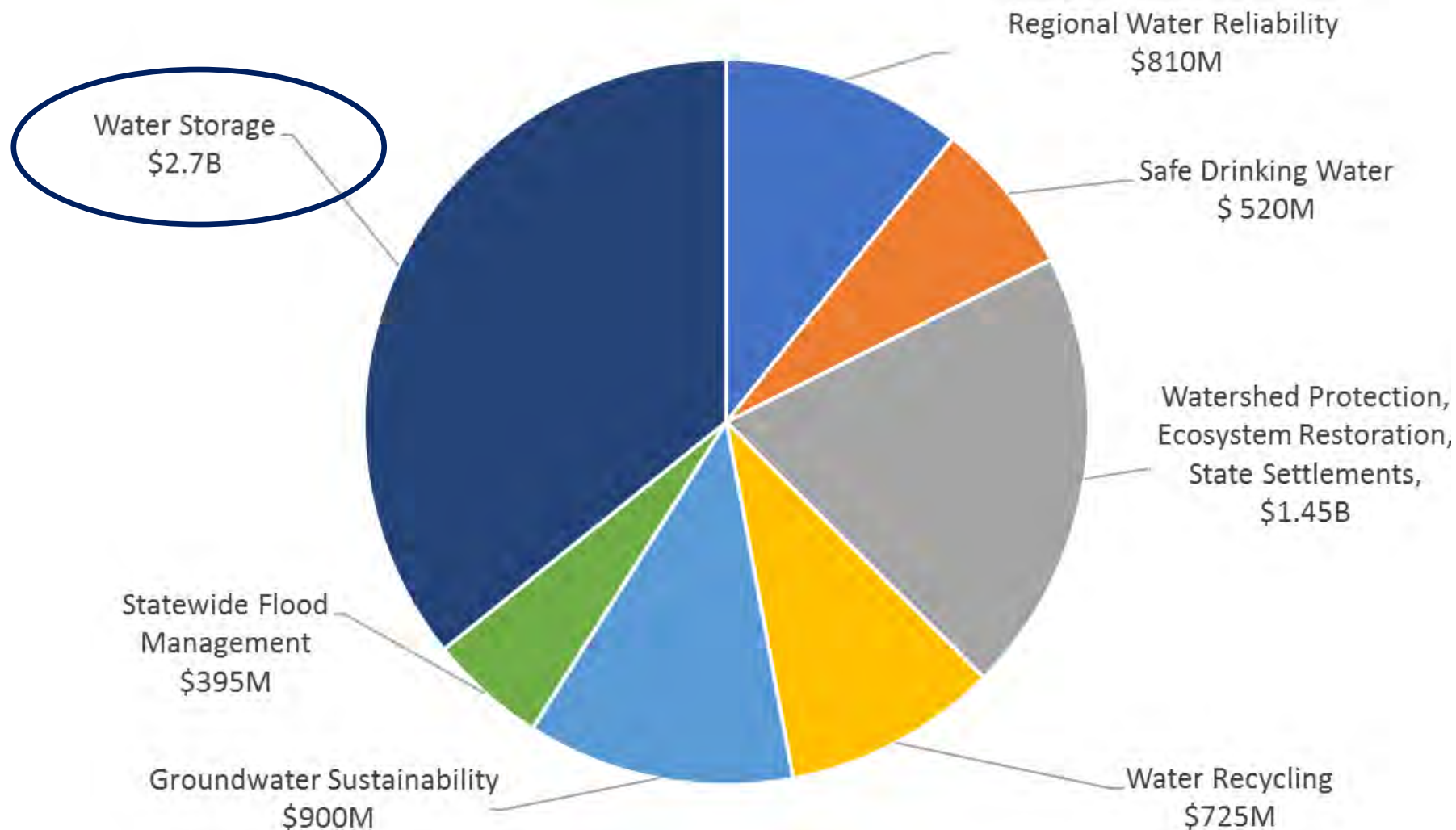
KQED

The California Water Commission Serves a Central Role in California Water Management

- Nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.
- Provides a public forum for discussing water issues.
- Advises the Department of Water Resources.
- Approves DWR rules and regulations.
- Monitors the State Water Project and names new facilities.
- Adopts resolutions of necessity for DWR eminent domain proceedings.
- Tasked with allocating \$2.7 billion from Proposition 1 for the public benefits associated with new water storage projects.

Proposition 1

Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 – \$7.545 B



Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)

Paradigm Shift in How Storage Projects Are Funded

- Funding directed to specific public benefits of new storage projects:
 - Ecosystem improvement
 - Water quality improvement
 - Flood control
 - Emergency response
 - Recreation



Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)

- 12 applicants sought a total of \$5.8 billion in WSIP funding
- Maximum Conditional Eligibility Decisions (MCED) made for eight projects
- Diverse set of projects moving ahead to prepare the state for climate change and future droughts.
- Potential to add 4.3 million acre-feet of new storage capacity both above and below ground to strengthen water resiliency.
- Will be state's largest investment in water storage in a generation.

Project	MCED	Early Funding
Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Program	\$206,900,000	
Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project	\$67,537,315	
Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project	\$459,000,000	\$13,650,309
Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project	\$484,550,000	\$24,200,000
Sites Project	\$816,377,686	\$40,818,884
South County Agriculture Program	\$280,500,000	
Temperance Flat Reservoir Project	\$171,330,000	
Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use	\$95,405,999	
Total MCED	\$2,581,601,000	
Statewide Bond Costs (Treasurer's Office)	\$54,000,000	
Program Delivery (State Operations)	\$64,399,000	
Total Proposition 1, Chapter 8	\$2,700,000,000	

Sites Reservoir

- 1.81 MAF offstream surface storage reservoir located in the Sacramento Valley west of the town of Maxwell.
- Reservoir's conveyance facilities would include the use of existing Tehama Colusa Canal and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Canal diversion and conveyance facilities, plus a proposed new diversion and discharge pipeline.
- Operation of the proposed reservoir would be in cooperation with the operations of existing Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) system facilities.



Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)

WSIP regulations require the following in order to schedule a final award hearing:

- Contracts for the administration of public benefits
- Contracts for non-public benefit cost share
- Environmental documentation complete
- Required permits obtained
- Completed feasibility study



Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)

Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits

- **Department of Water Resources:**
Recreation, Flood Control, Emergency Response
- **State Water Board:**
Water Quality Improvements
- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife:**
Ecosystem Improvements

Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)

- **January 1, 2022, Statutory Progress Deadline:**
 - Completed feasibility studies
 - Draft of environmental documents for public review
 - Commitment for at least 75 percent of non-program funding
- Commission will determine project feasibility.
- Review drafts of contracts for administration of public benefits.
- Final award hearings take place when requirements are completed.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

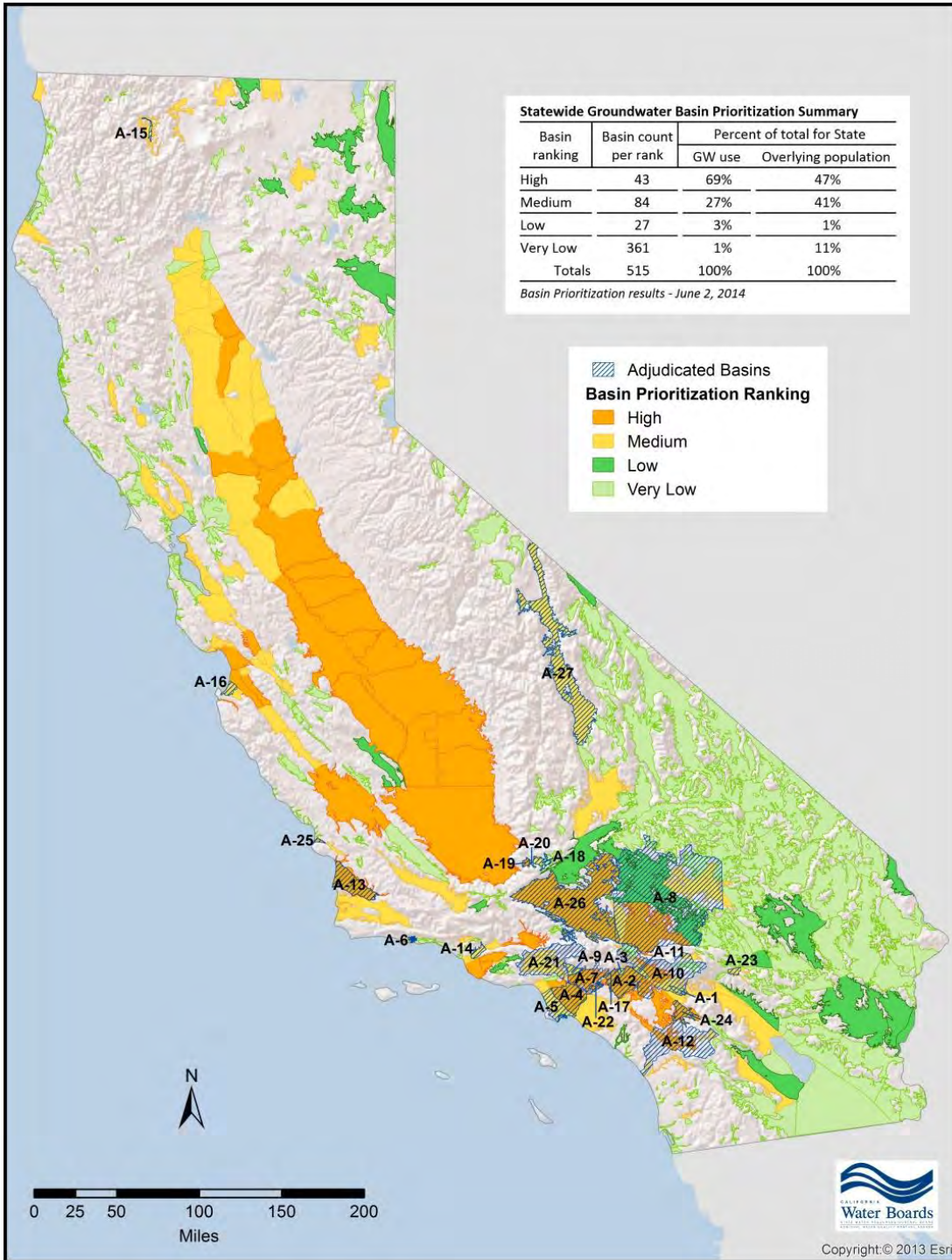
Requires groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) in high- and medium-priority basins must be adopted and submitted by:

- January 31, 2020 for critically over-drafted basins
- January 31, 2022 for all other medium- and high-priority basins
- Does not include adjudicated basins

Statewide Groundwater Basin Prioritization Summary

Basin ranking	Basin count per rank	Percent of total for State	
		GW use	Overlying population
High	43	69%	47%
Medium	84	27%	41%
Low	27	3%	1%
Very Low	361	1%	11%
Totals	515	100%	100%

Basin Prioritization results - June 2, 2014



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Increase in Outreach and Engagement Efforts:

- Educational Workshops
- GSA Forums
- Groundwater Summit

Ensure awareness of DWR and other state programs that support SGMA implementation

Create a venue for SGMA practitioners to exchange ideas

Discuss nexus to Water Resilience Portfolio and other statewide groundwater policies

2020 Water Resiliency Portfolio

In executive order N-10-19 (April 2019), Governor Newsom called for state agencies to create a water resilience portfolio

“ . . . Shall together prepare a water resilience portfolio that meets the needs of California’s communities, economy, and environment . . . ”

State Agencies shaped the draft portfolio with public input and an inventory and assessment of various aspects of California water systems.

2020 Water Resiliency Portfolio

The Governor asked that the portfolio encourage:

- Projects that offer multiple benefits
- Use of natural infrastructure such as forests and floodplains
- Innovation and new technologies
- Regional approaches among water users
- Examination of successful models from outside California
- Integration of investments, policies, and programs across state government
- Partnerships with local, federal and tribal governments, water agencies and irrigation districts, and other stakeholders

2020 Water Resiliency Portfolio

The draft portfolio, released January 3, 2020, includes 133 actions toward these goals:

- Maintain and diversify water supplies
- Protect and enhance natural systems
- Build connections
- Be prepared



2020 Water Resiliency Portfolio

California Water Commission assigned primary role in 2 actions:

- Assess State role in financing regional conveyance
- Examine flood insurance beyond national program

California Natural resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot appeared at February Commission meeting

Commission is making plans to work on State role in financing regional conveyance this year.

- Final Water Resiliency Portfolio due out in March
- Commission will want to move around the State to hear from locals

AB-2480 SOURCE WATERSHEDS: FINANCING 2016



Source watersheds are recognized as “green infrastructure”



Maintenance and repair of source watersheds are eligible for the same forms of financing as other water collection and treatment infrastructure



Projects with a demonstrated likelihood of increasing conditions for water and snow attraction, retention, and release under changing climate conditions



Nothing in this section is intended to constrain financing for source watersheds supplying local, state, or federal water systems.

An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, showing a complex network of waterways and land. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the bottom right corner, there are three decorative, overlapping wavy lines in shades of blue and dark blue. The word "Questions?" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Questions?