



Overview of CA Water Plan Update 2023

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CA Department of Water
Resources

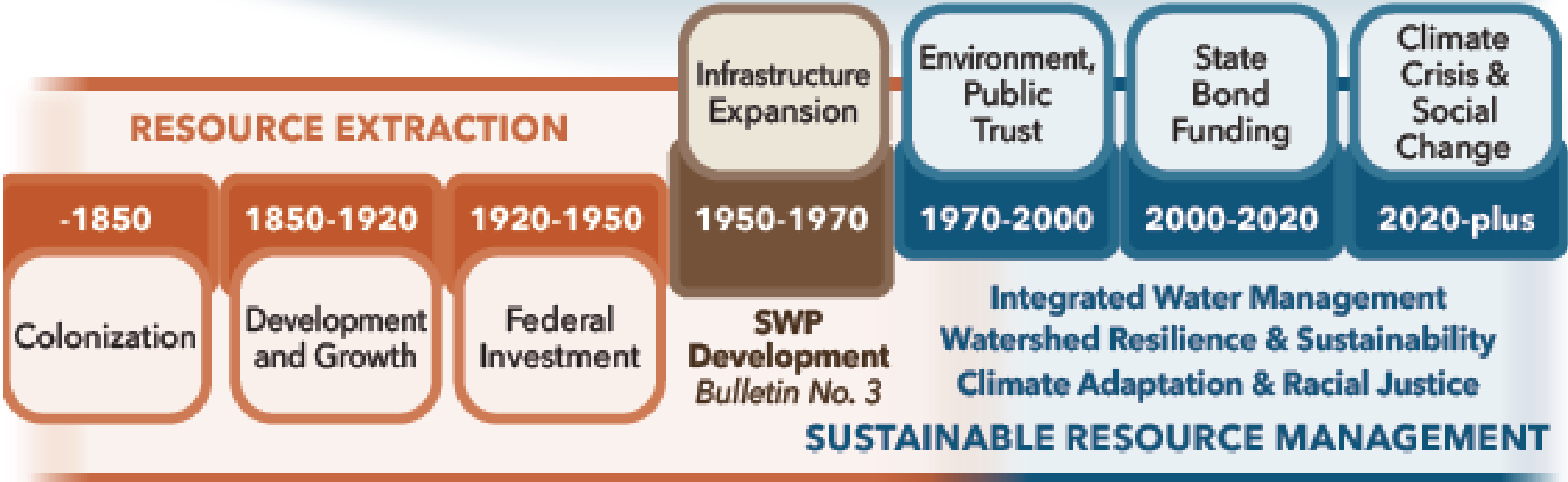
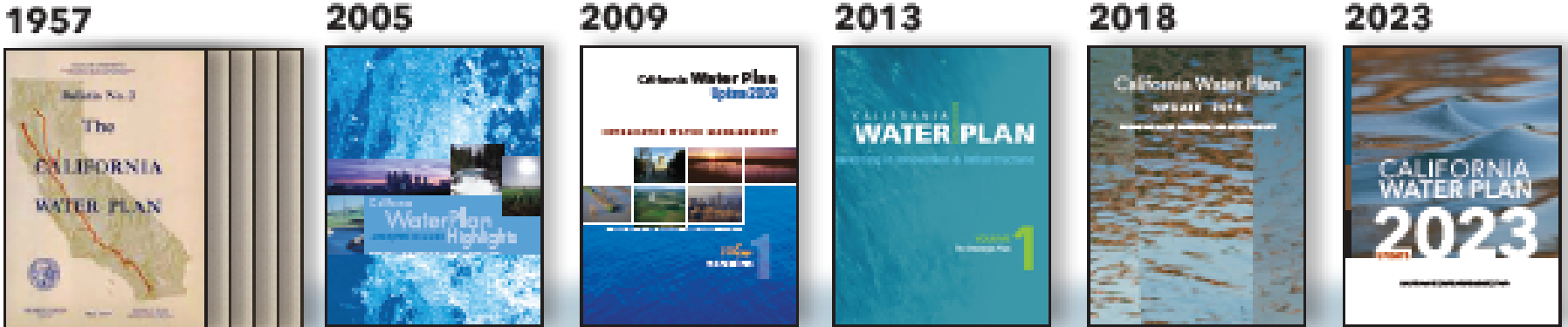
Update 2023 Builds on Administration and Legislative Water Initiatives

Key Messages

- Priorities of the Newsom Administration as well as key legislation together form the cornerstone for this Water Plan.
- Update 2023 builds on existing water policies, laws and regulations, and initiatives and investments of the Newsom administration's Water Resilience Portfolio (WRP), Water Supply Strategy, as well as recent legislation.

CA Water Plan Evolved to Meet State's Changing Needs

Bulletin No. 3 becomes Bulletin 160, titled the *California Water Plan*



California Water Plan Foundations

- Mandated in CA Water Code
- Updated every 5 years
- Quantifying statewide status and trends
- Ideation and strategic planning
- Administration priorities
- Recommendations

Context For Update 2023

California Water Plan Update 2023

Informal Stakeholder Outreach

1 | 1

January 5, 2021

Department of Water Resources

State
Water
Code



WRP +
Water
Supply
Strategy



Interested
Parties'
Input and
State Needs



Governor's
Priority
on Climate
Action

Actionable
CWP 2023
Update

WATER CODE - WAT
DIVISION 6. CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND UTIL
PART 1.5. THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN [10004 - 10013]

CHAPTER 1. The California Water Plan [10004 - 10013] (Chapter 1)

10004.6. (a) As part of updating The California Water Plan, the Department shall recommend programs and facilities to meet the following needs:

The department shall consult with interested parties through public hearings and other means when adopting documents relating to all of the following:

- (1) Basin hydrology, including annual rainfall, estimated runoff, and groundwater supplies;
- (2) Groundwater supplies, including estimates of sustainable yield and recharge;
- (3) Current and projected land use patterns, including the amount of irrigated and non-irrigated land;
- (4) Environmental water needs, including regulatory inst...

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-82-20

WHEREAS the well-being of our communities and California's economic sustainability are interconnected with our natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS the State's long-term vitality is threatened by the loss of biodiversity - the variety and variability of plant and animal life in our State - and the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS California's natural and working lands - our forests, rangelands, farms, wetlands, coast, deserts, and urban greenspaces - sustain our economy, support our unique biodiversity, contribute to the global food supply, support our climate resilience, and provide clean water and air; and

WHEREAS California's rich biodiversity is increasingly threatened by climate change, habitat loss, spread of invasive species, decreasing water supplies, and frequent and severe climate impacts; and

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WHEREAS the climate change crisis is happening now, impacting California in unprecedented ways including intensifying wildfires, mud slides, floods and drought, sea level rise and extreme heat, that threaten our economy, communities, public safety, and cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS as we work to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, we must also accelerate actions to enable the State to adapt and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including expanding nature-based solutions - the use of sustainable land management practices to tackle environmental, social and economic challenges; and

WHEREAS national, subnational and indigenous leaders across the globe are coming together to accelerate implementation of nature-based solutions to address and adapt to climate change, including the United Nations High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) report on Nature-based Solutions to Resilient and Sustainable Development in a Changing World;

WATER RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO

Governor's Executive Order N-10-19

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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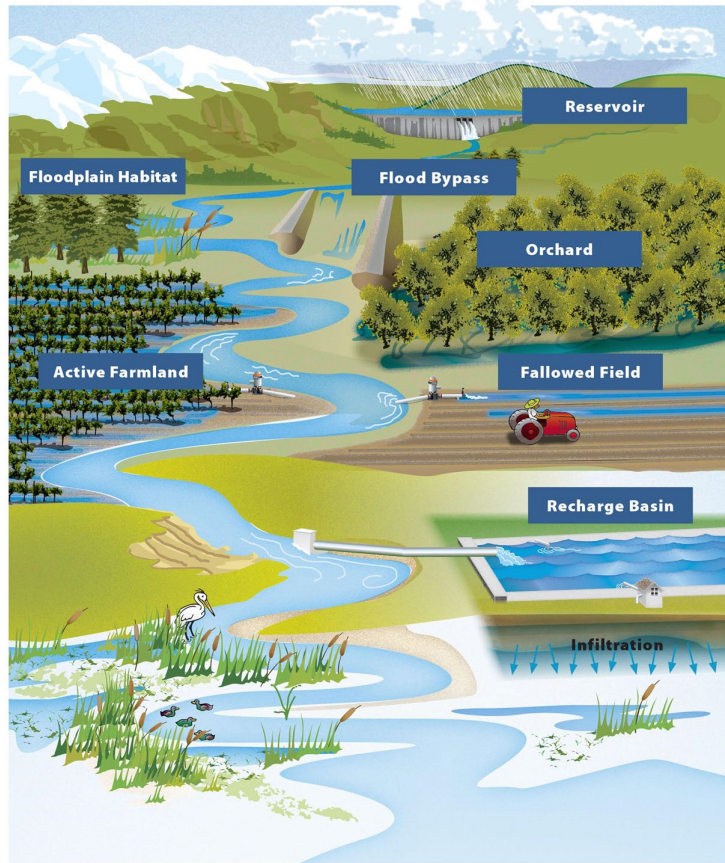
NBWA 2024

Advancing Administration Themes With State Agency Alignment & Watershed Networks

Climate Urgency



Watershed Resilience



Equity in Water Management



Regional Summaries

The challenges and opportunities are unique and variable throughout the State.



Regional Perspective on Conditions

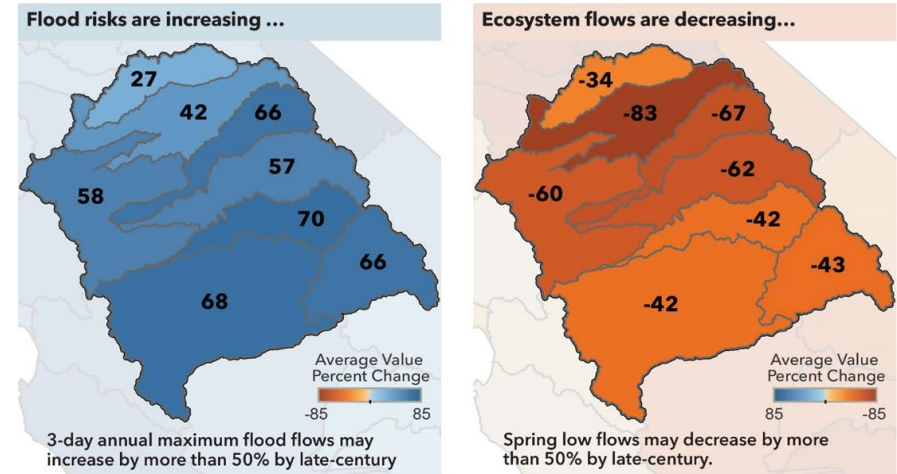
Content from Chapter 3

For all 10 hydrologic Regions and 2 Overlay areas:

- Hydrologic Region Description
- Water Use and Supply for the Region
- Critical Water Resource Challenges and Considerations
 - Water Management
 - Equity
 - Tribal
- Future Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities
- Key findings from Watershed Resilience Assessment
- Highlights of Major Actions

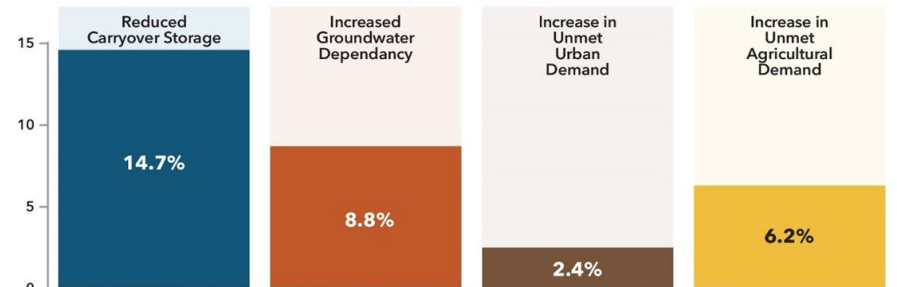
(Example is from the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region)

KEY FINDINGS FROM WATERSHED RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT



FUTURE SCENARIOS VULNERABILITIES

Future vulnerabilities in water aspects in terms of percentage change from current conditions.



More details can be found in Chapter 2 of the Water Plan Update 2023 and the supporting documentation

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR ACTIONS

Being Taken by State and Partners to Address Challenges

- **San Joaquin River Restoration Program** flows restoration from Friant Dam to the Merced River, ensures irrigation supplies to Friant water users, while restoring a self-sustaining fishery
- **Central Valley Flood Protection Plan**
- **San Joaquin Valley Watershed Studies**
- **Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study** (Stockton urban flood improvements)
- **CVRWQCB programs** reduced salt, boron, selenium, diazinon, and chlorpyrifos loading in the San Joaquin River and Delta
- **Three Amigos and Dos Rios Habitat Restoration**
- **Central Valley Joint Venture collaborative work** to restore wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, water birds, and riparian songbirds.
- **Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS)** and **Central Valley Salinity Management Plan**

Natural and Built Backbone Infrastructure Some Key Points to Remember

- California's backbone water infrastructure **includes major built and natural systems** within and among watersheds
- California's water management system is **inherently integrated**
- **All Californians** depend on the natural and built backbone infrastructures provided by watersheds to support and connect them
- The resilience of built water-infrastructure **systems are intrinsically** linked to the resilience of the natural systems

Tribal Chapter

- Inaugural tribal chapter developed with the Tribal AC
- Tribal AC members volunteered their time to develop and provide content
- Overview of Tribal history and a Tribal vision
- Discusses tribal sovereignty, water rights, watershed health, climate resilience, equity and funding
- Acknowledges strategies from past Tribal Water Summits

Amplifying Efforts for Equity in Water Management

Update 2023 advances a roadmap with recommendations to accelerate and strengthen equitable water management, climate adaptation, and overall community resilience.

Recommendations center on:

- Improving community outreach and engagement
- Supporting existing (or emerging) local adaptive capacity
- Eliminating barriers and expanding access to State assistance programs

Core activities of the California Water Plan

- Resource Management Strategies
- Water Supply and Balance
- Water Budget and Accounting
- Future Scenarios

Resource Management Strategy

- Resource Management Strategies are diverse tools to wisely protect, develop and manage water and environmental resources in California.
- The Water Plan Updates are often the only place to find a current overview of the use of that RMS in California, along with a discussion of the benefits, challenges and policy recommendations for the RMS. The RMSs are used to inform policy for the upcoming several years of implementation.
- For the 2028 Update, the Water Plan team will update another group of RMSs, review the existing list of RMSs for completeness and determine whether the RMS outline should be modified to reflect current priorities.

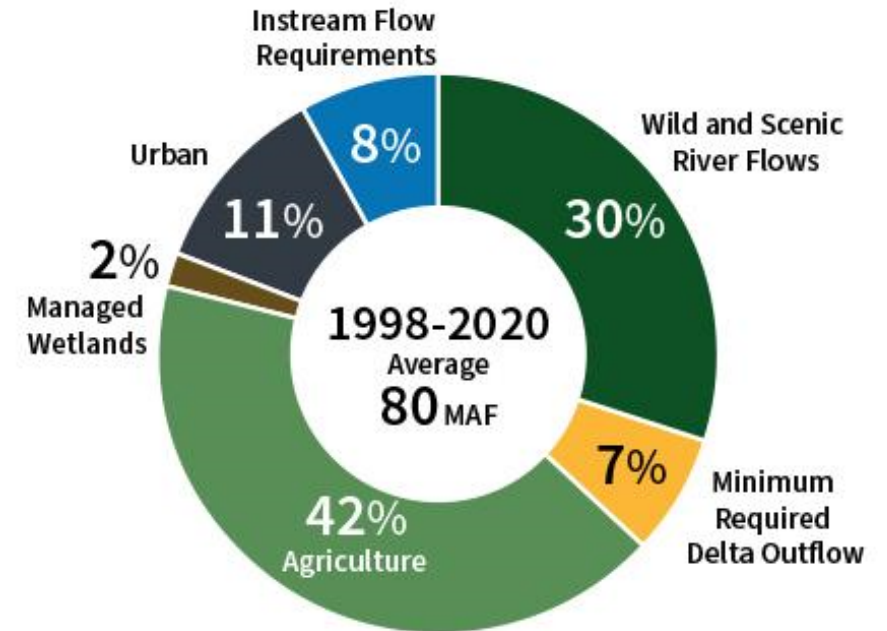
Water Use and Supply Balances

Why is this important? Who uses it?

- Water balances are the only statewide water use and supply data set for California.
- State, federal, and local agencies, counties and cities, modelers, educators, water managers, decision-makers...
- Climate change impacts, watershed resilience, groundwater sustainability...

What's Next in Water Balances?

- Annual interoperable data on CNRA Open Data Platform
- Dynamic summary tables and visualizations
- Boundary transition studies
- Local data exchange and collaboration

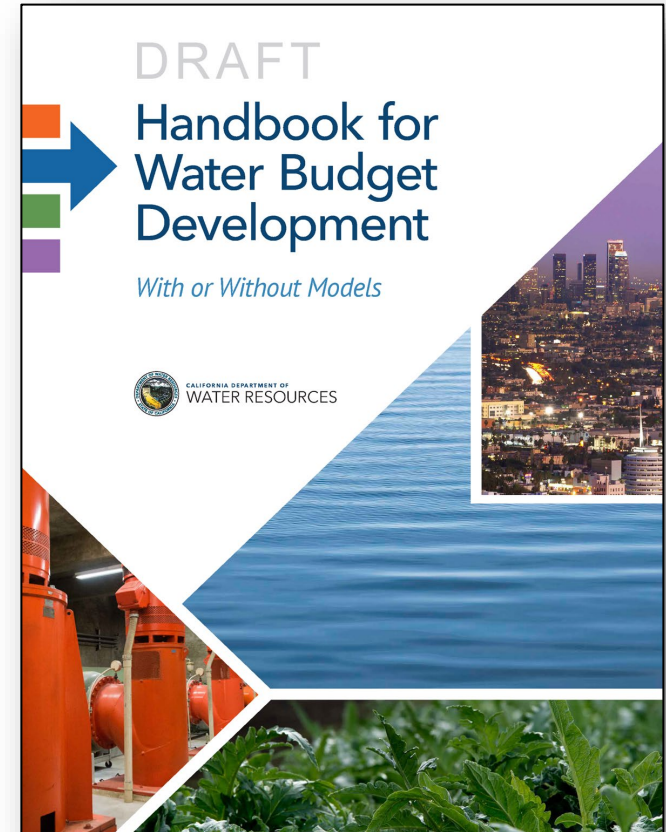


- [Water Plan Data and Tools \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)



Water Budget and Accounting

- **What it is a water budget?**
 - A water budget is an accounting of the total groundwater and surface water entering and leaving a basin including the changes in the amount of water stored.
- **Who uses water budgets?**
 - Water agencies use water budgets for many purposes, such as water supply planning, preparing feasibility studies, quantifying water resources, identifying data gaps, and forecasting optimum water management actions.
- **What is coming soon in water budget accounting?**
 - DWR has developed an interactive tool with instantaneous visualization of water budget results to improve communication and understanding of water related issues.



Roadmap to Resilience Objectives

- Obj 1 - Support Watershed Resilience Planning and Implementation.
- Obj 2 - Improve Resiliency of “Backbone” State, Federal, and Regional **Built** Water Infrastructure.
- Obj 3 - Improve Resiliency of **Natural** “Backbone” Infrastructure.
- Obj 4 - Advance Equitable Outcomes in Water Management.
- Obj 5 - Support and Learn from Tribal Water & Resource Management Practices.
- Obj 6 - Support and Increase Flexibility of Regulatory Systems.
- Obj 7 - Provide Stable Funding for Implementing Actions toward Water Resilience.

Recommendations and Actions

Objectives	No. of Recommendations	No. of Actions
(1) Watershed Resilience	4	7
(2) Built Water Infrastructure	6	14
(3) Natural Infrastructure	3	12
(4) Equity	3	16
(5) Tribes	3	12
(6) Regulatory	3	6
(7) Investment & Funding	1	6
Totals	23	73

Example of Recommendations and Actions

- **Objective 3: Improve Resiliency of Natural “Backbone” Infrastructure.**
- **Recommendation 3.1. Expand and Accelerate Ecosystem Restoration.**
 - *Action 3.1.1. Expand and Accelerate Ecosystem Restoration.*
 - *Action 3.1.2. Manage Aquifers as Natural Infrastructure Having Multi-Benefit Ecosystem Services to Accelerate Replenishment and Remediation Actions.*
 - *Action 3.1.3. Improve Wildfire Resilience in California’s Watersheds.*
- **Recommendation 3.2. Improve Resilience of Major Natural Systems.**
 - *Action 3.2.1. Restore Ecological Function and Climate Resilience in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.*
 - *Action 3.2.2. Incentivize Land Use Changes on Subsided Lands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.*
 - *Action 3.2.3. Continue Implementation of Restoration at the Salton Sea.*
 - *Action 3.2.4. Evaluate Opportunities to Reduce Pressures on Owens and Mono Lakes through Support for Southern California Reuse Programs.*
- **Recommendation 3.3. Improve Aquifer Management, Replenishment, and Resilience.**
 - *Action 3.3.1. Increase Opportunities for Managed Aquifer Recharge.*
 - *Action 3.3.2. Advance Strategies that Halt or Minimize Land Subsidence.*
 - *Action 3.3.3. Increase Coordination with Land Use Planning.*
 - *Action 3.3.4. Advance Data-driven Decision-making in Groundwater Management.*
 - *Action 3.3.5. Maintain Momentum for Sustainable Groundwater Management.*

