

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

October 22, 2024



Sacramento and San Joaquin Bay -Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update



State Water Board Update to the Water Quality Control Plan

The State Water Board is required to periodically update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP)

- Last update was 2006
- Required to balance beneficial uses

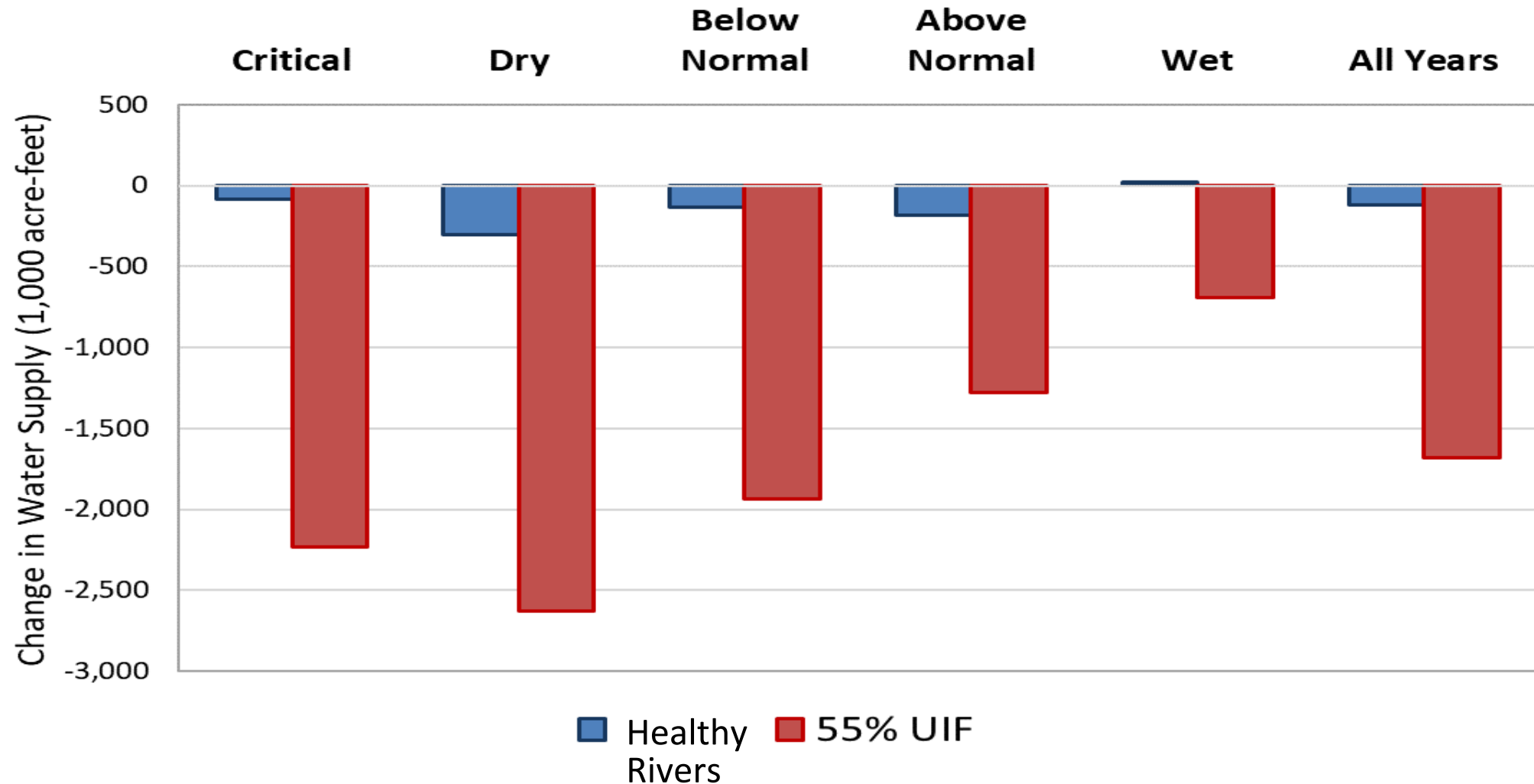
State Water Board staff have proposed 3 phases for updates

- Phase 1: San Joaquin River (complete Dec. 2018)
- Phase 2: Sacramento River & Delta
- Phase 3: Assignment of responsibilities for Phases 1 & 2

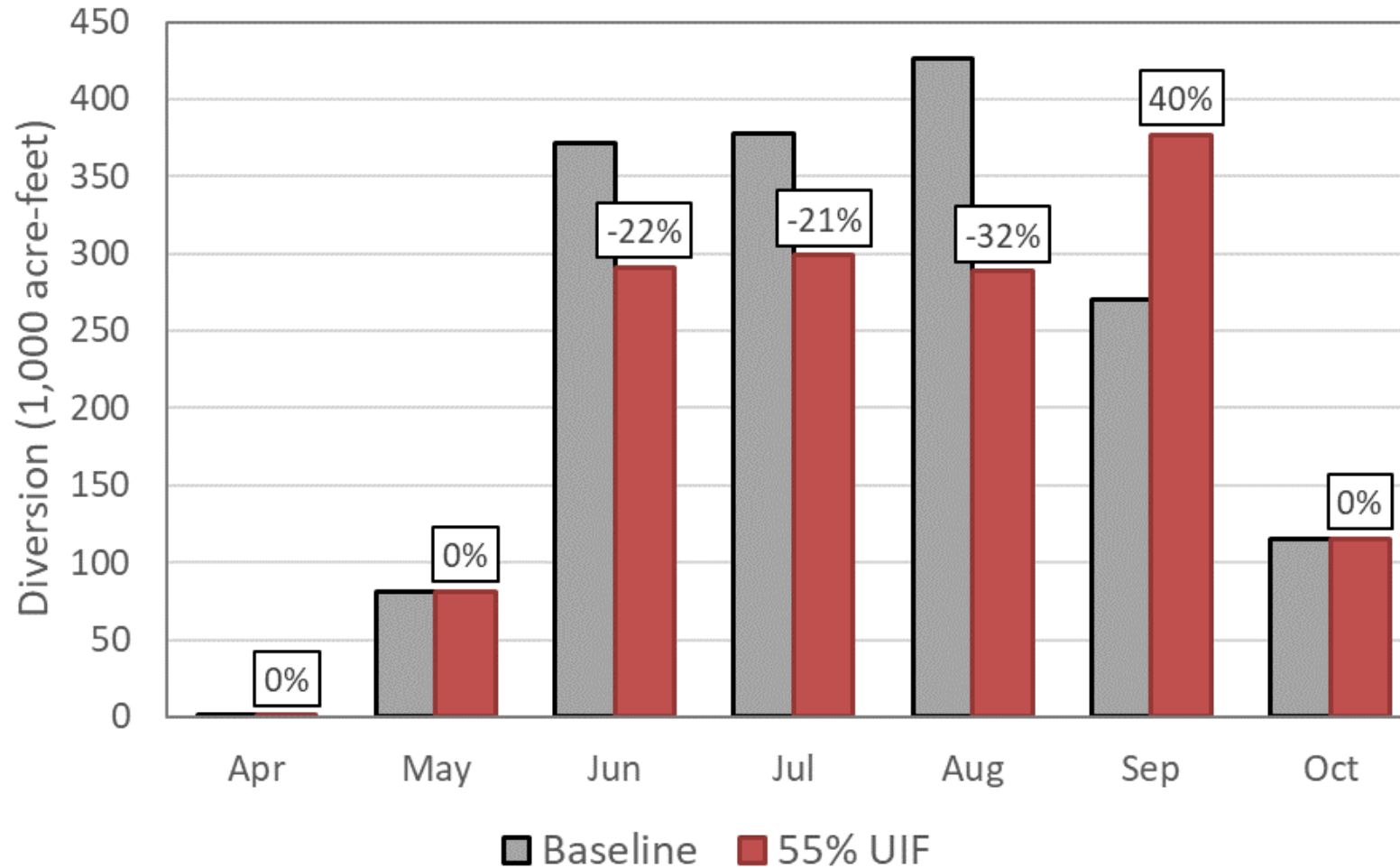
State Water Board staff have proposed a plan with an 'unimpaired flow approach'

- Flow only; no habitat or adaptive management
- Estimated 2M acre-feet of water cost to cities and farms
- Adjudication of the entire basin; could take 10-20 years to resolve

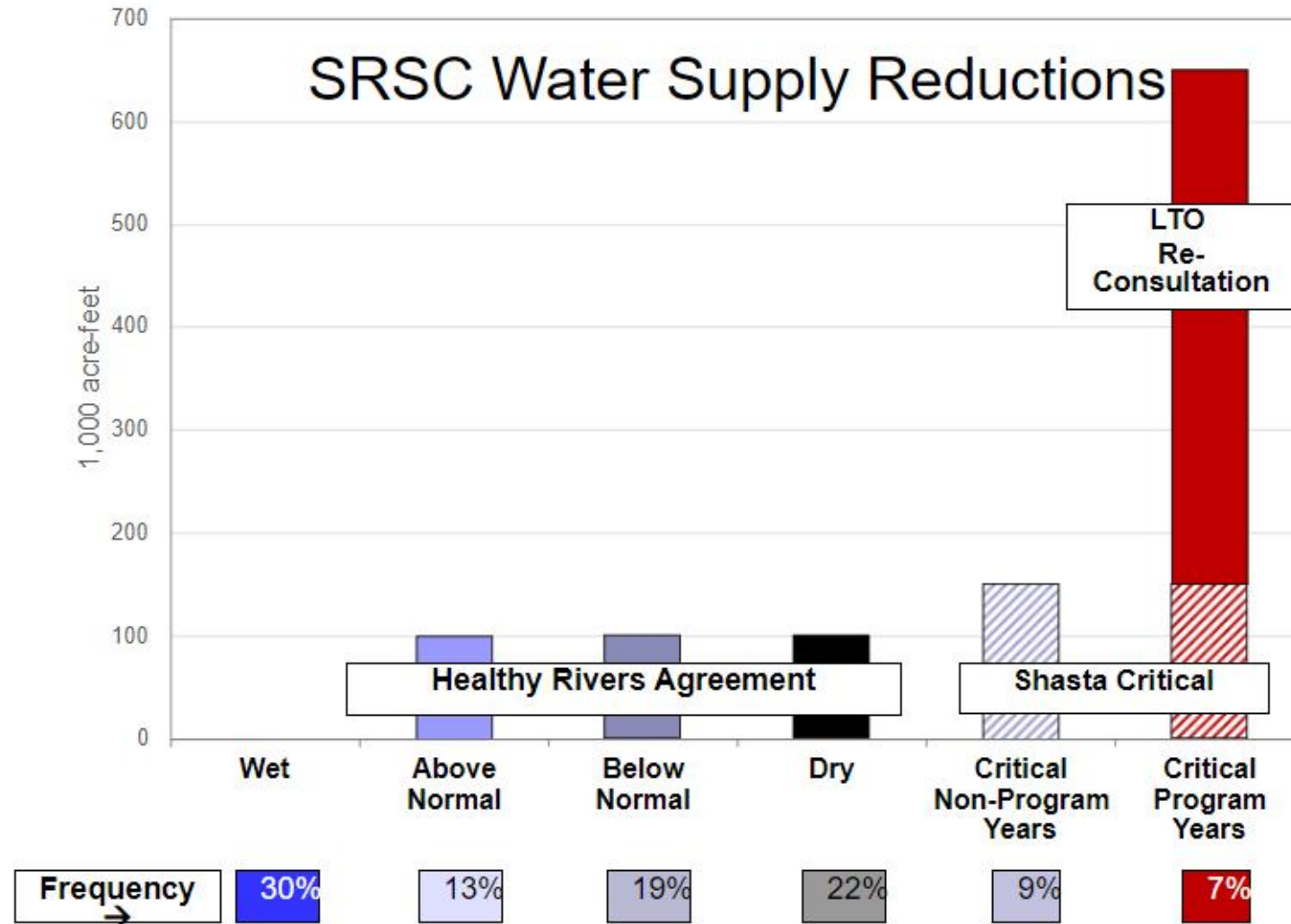
Water Supply Impacts by Water Year Type



SRSC Reductions by Month



USBR / SRSC Draft Agreement





WOODLAND-DAVIS
Clean Water Agency

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WDCWA Water Rights

- **45,000 AF SWRCB Water Right**
 - **Subject to Term 91 Curtailment**
 - Extended durations in drought years
- **10,000 AF CVP Water Right**
 - **Restricted to use April 1 – October 31**
 - **Shasta Critical Year (25% cut)**
 - 2022 – 82% cut
- **Water quality issues with native groundwater**
- **Both Cities have destroyed groundwater wells**
 - **Hexavalent chromium and nitrate**
 - **High hardness, TDS, and salinity**



Regional Water Supply



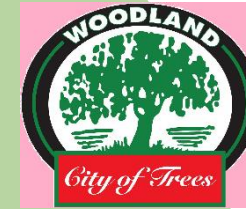
DAVIS

- Continued use of deep wells
- Aquifer Storage & Recovery Well Evaluations
- Recycled Water Utility
- Conservation



WDCWA

- Supplemental water purchases
- Supply fluctuates with water rights



WOODLAND

- Aquifer Storage & Recovery Wells
- Recycled Water Utility
- Conservation
- Maintain native groundwater wells as backup



WDCWA Water Rights

- Annual water transfers for winter months
 - Up to **2,000 AF**
- Summer water transfers, especially in Shasta Critical Years.
- 2022 water transfer agreements for **7,300 AF** at a cost of over \$5M

55% Unimpaired Flow Impact to WDCWA Water Rights

Risks to WDCWA, Woodland, Davis, and UC Davis if no agreement

- **Likely extending Term 91 curtailment affecting primary water right**
- **Likely a complete loss of CVP (summer water right) in dry years**
- **Likely a significant loss of CVP water right in wet years**
- **Will water transfers be available? At what cost?**
- **Significant water use restrictions and cost increases to ratepayers**



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City of West Sacramento Water Rights

- Transitioned to surface water in 1988 (in-lieu groundwater recharge)

- **18,350 AF SWRCB Surface Water Right (Permit 18150)**

- Water may not be diverted in July or August
- Subject to Term 91 Curtailment (active in 6-7 months/year)

- **9,680 AF CVP Water Right**

- M&I Water Shortage Policy
- 2022 reduced to Health and Safety minimums

Combined total
cannot exceed
23,600 AF/year

- **Additional water supply derived from the North Delta Water Agency**

- Only reliable drought water supply (specific water service area that excludes part of the City)

- **Plan to rehabilitate Well 22 for drought protection**

City of West Sacramento Water Rights

Impacts of 55% unimpaired flow alternative

- Potential loss of 20-50% of SWRCB Surface Water Right (**reduction of 3,670-9,175 AF**)
 - Extended Term 91 curtailments
- Potential reductions in CVP allocation (i.e., 100% to 75% -- **reduction of 2,420 AF**)
 - M&I Water Shortage Policy -- Greatest impact in dry years (reduction to commercial and industrial water supplies)
- Will water transfers be available? At what cost?
- Significant water use restrictions and cost increases to ratepayers
- City prefers SWRCB adopt *Agreements for Healthy Rivers and Landscapes*



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RD 108's Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Project

- One of the *2022 Voluntary Agreement MOU* Parties
- Significant impacts to surface water rights from SWB's 55% Unimpaired Flow Alternative and CVP Long-Term Operations (LTO) Re-Consultation
- Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Proposal (*Floodplains Reimagined*)
 - 100,000+ acres of wetland benefits and restored flood infrastructure in Butte Sink, Sutter Bypass, and Colusa Basin
 - 20,000-acre “obligation” in the floodplain system: move water on the landscapes for fish food and flood easements (likely in Sutter Bypass)
 - Respect existing land use in production ag: non-farm season floodplain function
 - Add environmental benefits to the land use
 - Generate revenue for landowners
 - Small tributary rearing, spawning, and side channel acres

An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing intricate patterns of water channels and land. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer, which serves as a background for the white text. The colors in the photograph range from light tan and beige to deep blues and greens, representing different water depths and vegetation.

Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Summary of Impact of State Water Board
Bay-Delta Draft Staff Report
&
Proposed Benefits of
Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program

Draft Bay-Delta Staff Report

- District historically not recognized in Bay-Delta Plan
 - Ephemeral/intermittent stream: not significant contributions in the spring when fishery flows are most critical
- Bay-Delta Plan is intended to restore fisheries, and salmon
- 2023 Draft expands watersheds and considers 55% unimpaired flow and “Voluntary Agreement” alternatives
- Unimpaired flow alternative will greatly impact District’s ability to
 - Provide critical surface water resources for M&I and irrigation purposes
 - Recharge the groundwater resources

55% Unimpaired Flow Adverse Impacts

- Reduced diversions **60%** of the time
 - Reduction by more than 50% in 15% of the years
- Worst case scenario: **0 AF** surface water available for up to 3 years
 - Additional groundwater pumping (non-compliance with SGMA)
 - Fallowing of productive farmland (**90,000 acres at risk**)
- Impacts to IVR *hydropower generation* (Valley Clean Energy)
- Risk/economic impact to Clear Lake communities (DACs/SDACs)
- Risk to sustainable *geothermal power generation* at the Geysers

Healthy Rivers & Landscapes (HRL) Program

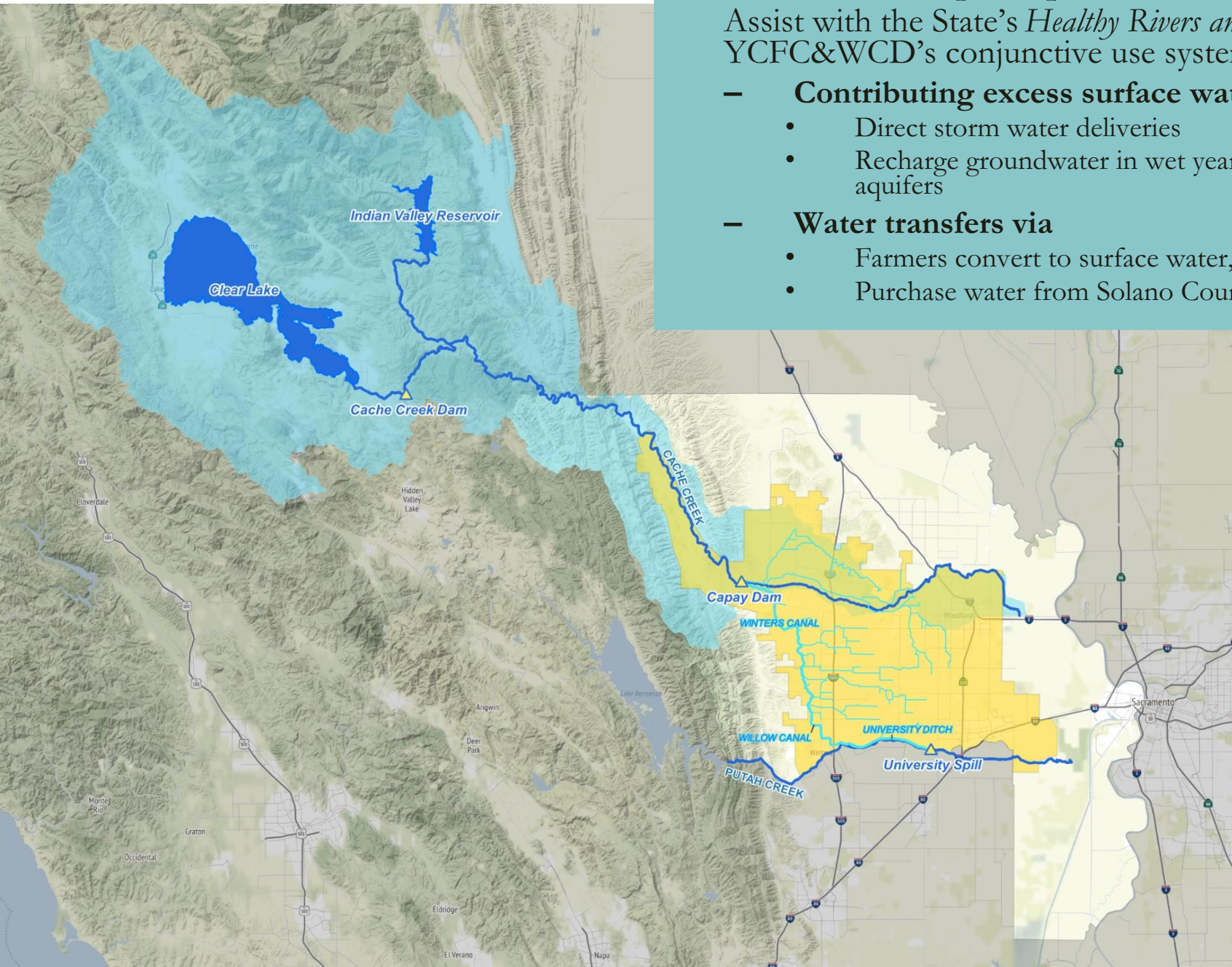
HRL Program (Voluntary Agreements): YCFC&WCD Proposal

- Enhancement of Solano County Water Agency's Proposal
- Up to 5,000 AF of additional water to Putah Creek for Salmon Restoration
- Monitoring assistance from UC Davis
- Seeking Tribal Ecological Knowledge from Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Multi-Benefit Concept Proposal

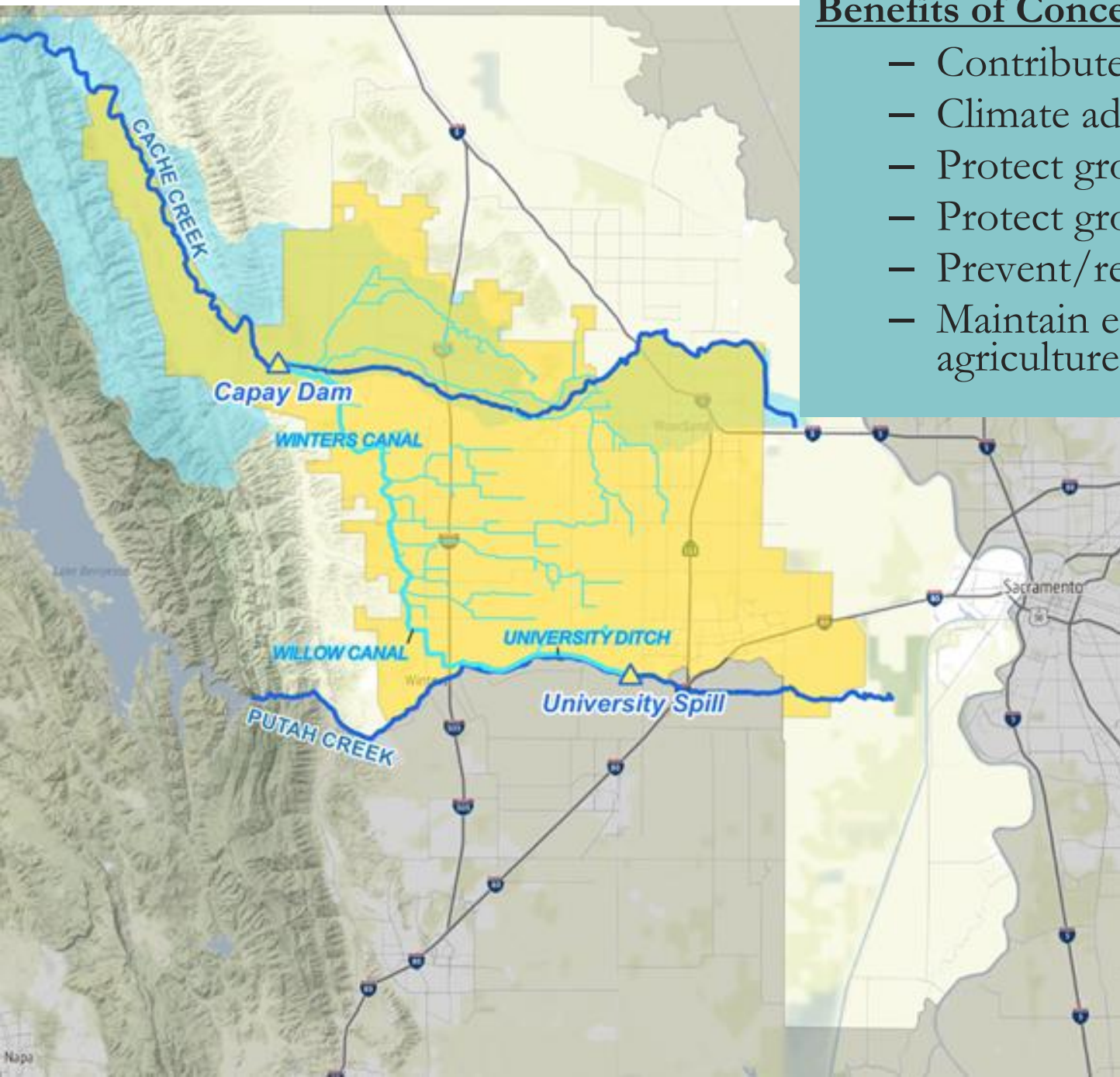
Assist with the State's *Healthy Rivers and Landscapes* objectives and optimize the YCFC&WCD's conjunctive use system by:

- **Contributing excess surface water from Cache Creek to Putah Creek via**
 - Direct storm water deliveries
 - Recharge groundwater in wet years, and pump recharged groundwater from sustainable aquifers
- **Water transfers via**
 - Farmers convert to surface water, and pump in-lieu recharge water
 - Purchase water from Solano County Water Agency



Benefits of Concept Proposal

- Contribute to the recovery of anadromous fishery
- Climate adaptation for all beneficial users
- Protect groundwater supplies of rural communities
- Protect groundwater dependent ecosystems
- Prevent/reduce subsidence
- Maintain economic and environmental benefits of agriculture and working lands



Thank You

