Telling Our Story: The Sacramento Valley

NCWA
Northern California Water Association

In the pages that follow you will get a glimpse into the Sacramento Valley, how its leaders are cultivating a shared vision in the Sacramento Valley for a vibrant way of life, and the central role water serves—from ridgetop to river mouth—in bringing this special region to life.

California's Sacramento Valley is truly unique. On the leading edge of ecological and economical sustainability, it's also an *exceptional* place to live, work and raise a family. The Sacramento Valley joins together a world-renowned mosaic of natural abundance: productive farmlands, healthy forests, wildlife refuges and managed wetlands, cities and rural communities, and vital rivers that support and feed fisheries and natural habitats. Through *efficient* management of the region's water resources, the Sacramento Valley will continue to provide what's *essential* to California's future success and prosperity. Nourishment and sustenance from the fields, habitats for fish and wildlife, hydro-energy, recreation and a special quality of life—the Sacramento Valley is home to all of this, and more.

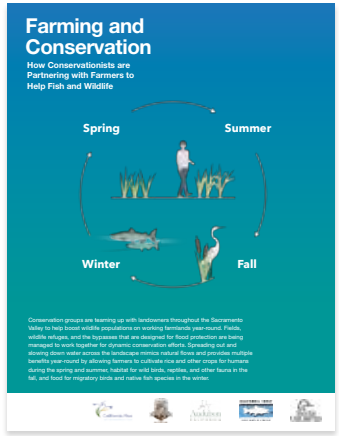
We encourage you to learn about these documents and use them in any way helpful. Please click on the picture or text below to see the full document. You can also visit the NCWA website at www.norcalwater.org/infographics, or contact dochoa@norcalwater.org.

#SourcingOur SustainableFuture

The Sacramento Valley is sourcing our sustainable future through responsible management of the essential resource that millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of fish, thousands of farms and millions of people all rely on—water!

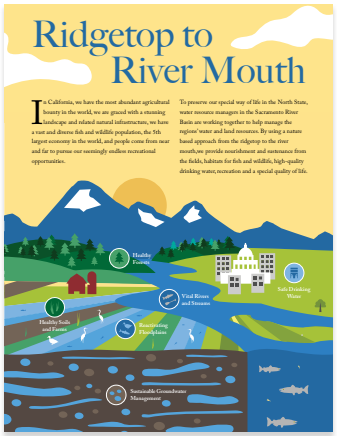
Personal Stories: Landowner Conservation and Stewardship

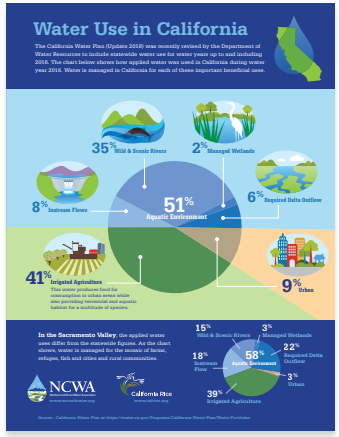
- Personal Stories - Series
- Farming and Conservation (Landowners)
- Farming and Conservation (Partners)

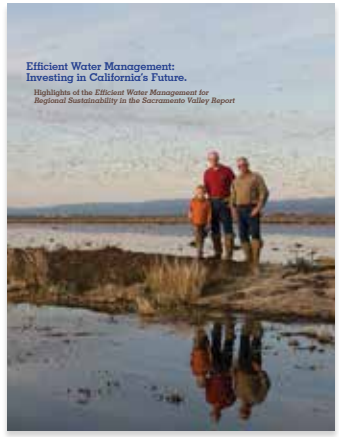


Ridgetop to River Mouth Water Management for Multiple Benefits

- Ridgetop to River Mouth
- Water Management Investments
- Managing Water in the Sacramento Valley for Multiple Purposes
- Water Management in the Sacramento Valley (English and Spanish)
- Modern Functional Flows for the Sacramento Valley
- Water Use in California
- Efficient Water Management: Investing in California's Future

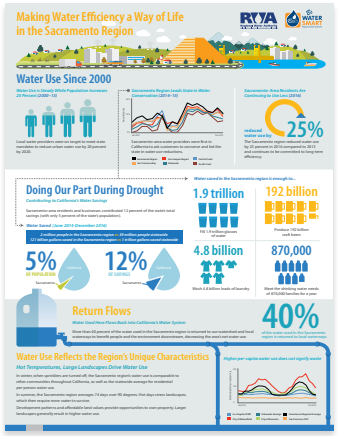


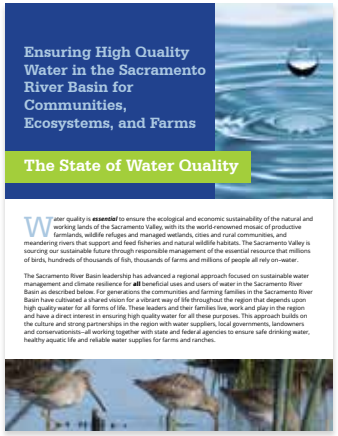


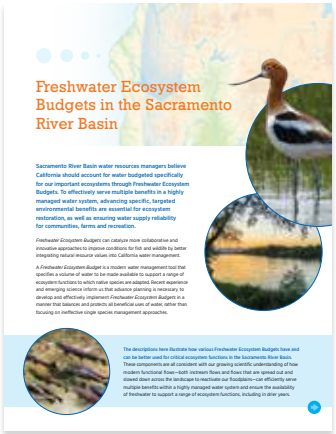


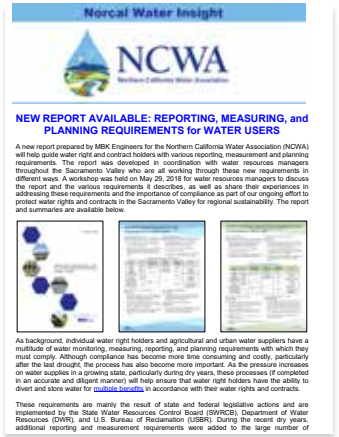
Ridgetop to River Mouth Water Management for Multiple Benefits (Continued)

- Efficient Water Management for Regional Sustainability in the Sacramento Valley
- Making Water Efficiency a Way of Life in the Sacramento Region - RWA
- Nature-Based Solutions: Enlisting Natural and Working Lands in the Sacramento River Basin in the Fight Against Climate Change
- Ensuring High Quality Water in the Sacramento River Basin for Communities, Ecosystems, and Farms
- Freshwater Ecosystem Budgets in the Sacramento River Basin
- Reporting, Measuring, and Planning Requirements for Water Users
- Video: Managing Water for Multiple Benefits



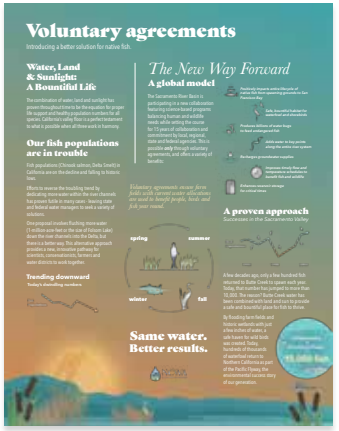


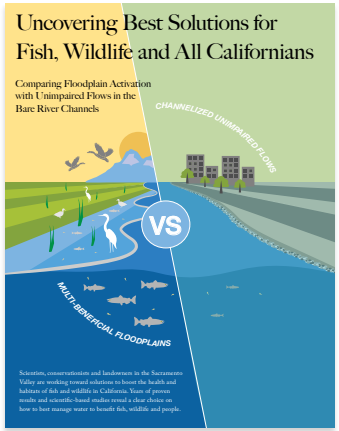


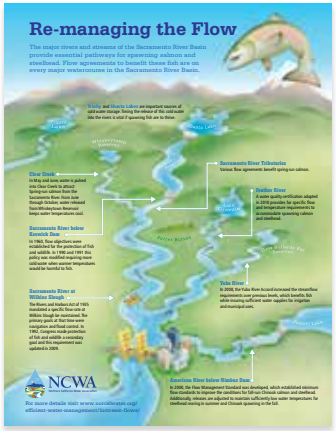


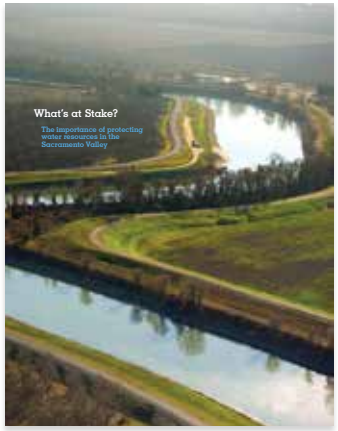
Bay-Delta/ Voluntary Agreements

- Voluntary Agreements - Assets
- Voluntary Agreements - Early Implementation
- Voluntary Agreement - New Way Forward
- Versus: Uncovering Best Solutions for Fish, Wildlife and All Californians
- Improving the Bay-Delta Watershed: Providing Reliable Water
- Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update: How It Affects Californians
- Bay-Delta Plan Update Taking Points
- Collaboration Can Better Protect Our Rivers and Strengthen Water Resiliency
- Re-managing the Flow
- What's at Stake? The Importance of Protecting Water Resources in the Sacramento Valley



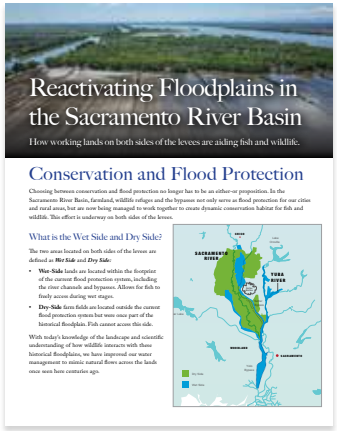


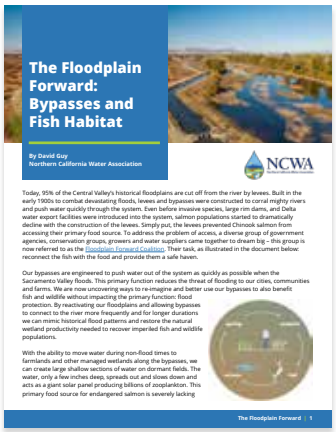


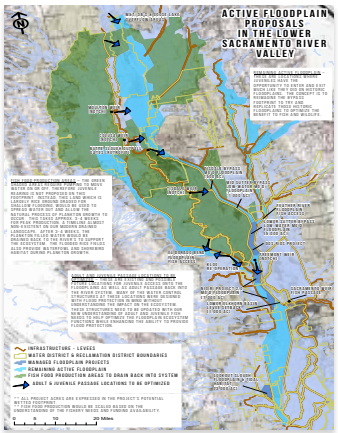


Reactivating the Floodplains

- Reactivating Our Floodplains: A New Way Forward for California
- Advancing Floodplain Reactivation in the Sacramento River Basin
- Too Big to Dream? A Landscape Scale Approach to Re-envision our Floodplains in the Sacramento Valley for Multiple Benefits
- Reactivating Our Floodplains inthe Sacramento River Basin
- The Floodplain Forward: Bypasses and Fish Habitat
- Bypasses and Fish Habitat
- Proof in the Projects
- Fish Food Grown on Winter Rice Fields Could be Key to Recovering Imperiled Central Valley Salmon
- Fish Food on Floodplain Farm Fields
- Encouraging Results from Pilot Project Raising Salmon in Sacramento Valley Rice Fields
- Helping Salmon in the Sacramento Valley
- Active Floodplain Proposals in the Lower Sacramento River Valley

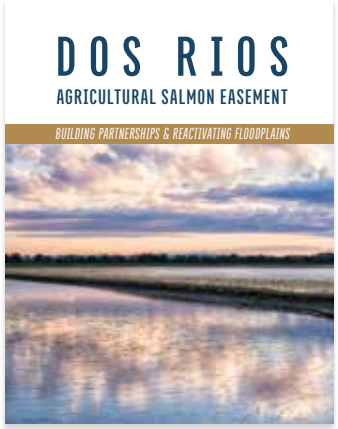


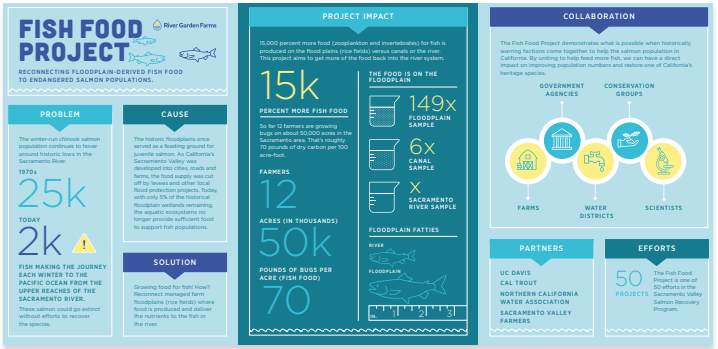




Reactivating the Floodplains (Continued)

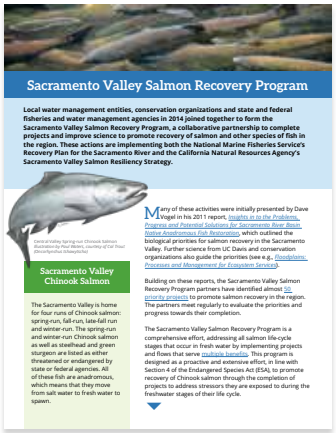
- The Sacramento Valley and Waterfowl
- Dos Rios Agricultural Salmon Easement
- RGF: Fish Food Project

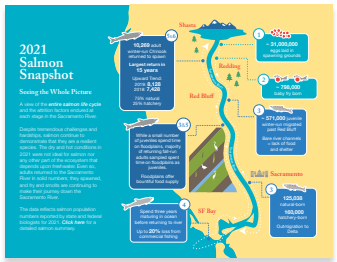


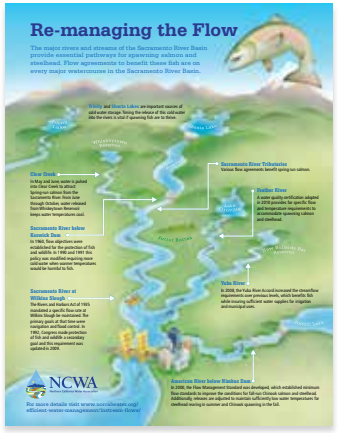


Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program

- Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program
- Salmon Snapshot
- Salmon Life Cycle
- Butte Creek Salmon Recovery
- Aiding Salmon in the Upper Sacramento River
- Improving Conditions for Salmon
- Helping Salmon in the Sacramento Valley
- Re-managing the Flow

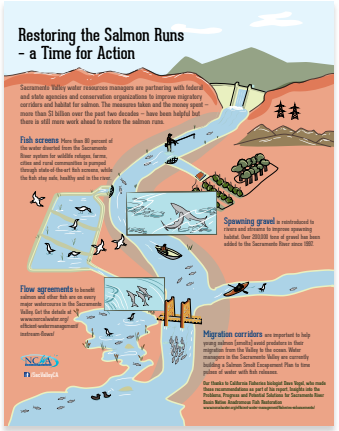


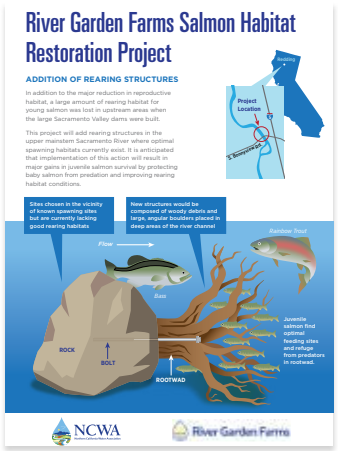


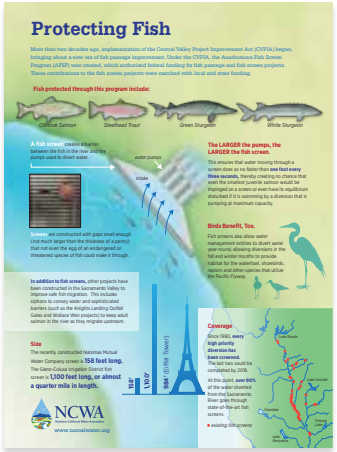


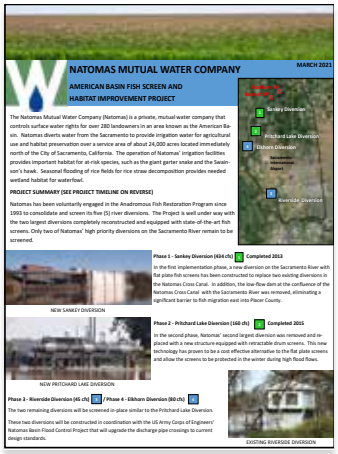
Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program (Continued)

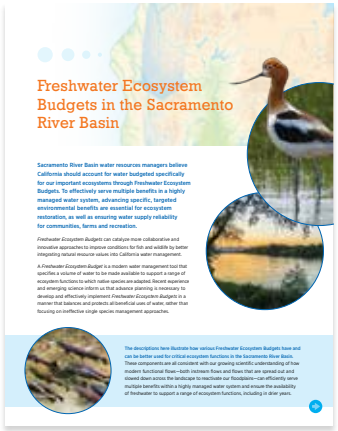
- Restoring the Salmon Runs: A time for Action
- River Garden Farms Salmon Habitat Restoration Project
- Protecting Fish
- Meridian Farms Water Company
- Natomas Mutual Water Company
- Freshwater Ecosystem Budgets in the Sacramento River Basin
- Bypasses and Fish Habitat
- Fish Food on Floodplain Farm Fields

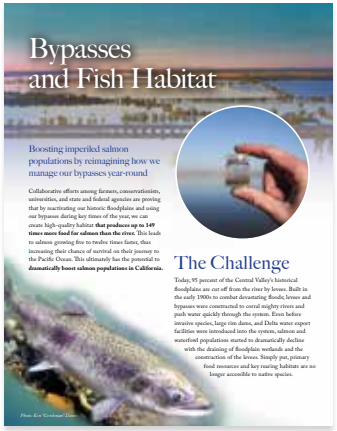






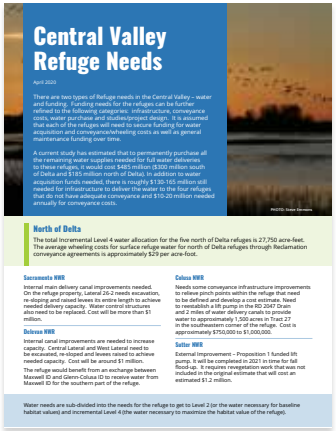


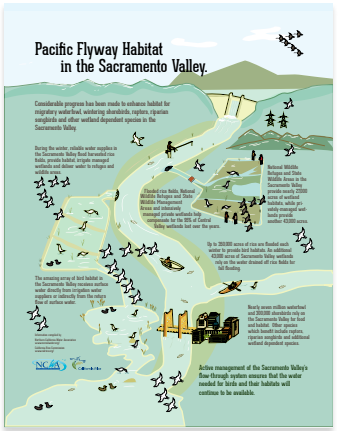


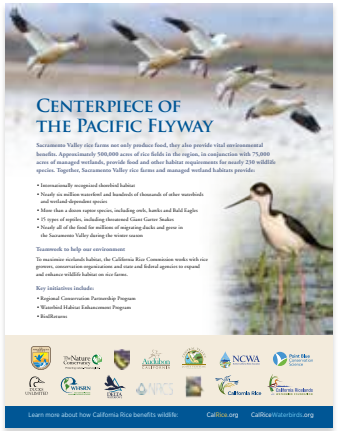


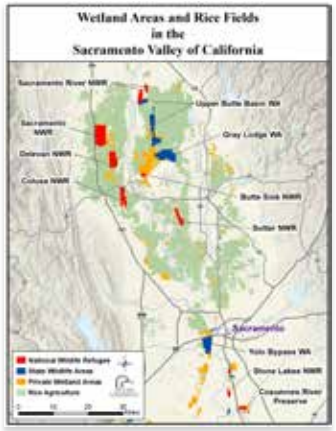
Pacific Flyway

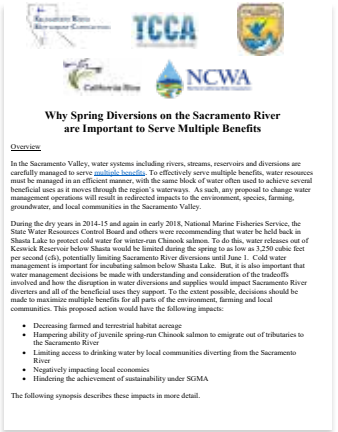
- Central Valley Refuge Needs
- A Freshwater Ecosystem Budget for Birds and the Pacific Flyway
- Pacific Flyway Habitat in the Sacramento Valley
- Centerpiece of the Pacific Flyway
- Wetland Areas and Rice Fields in the Sacramento Valley of California
- The Sacramento Valley and Waterfowl
- Why Spring Diversions on the Sacramento River Are Important to Serve Multiple Benefits





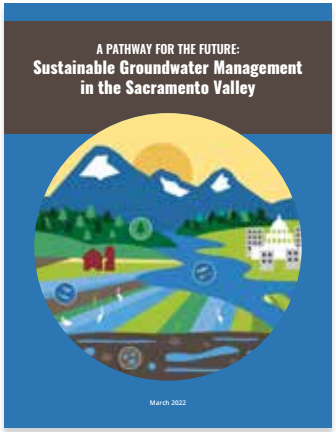


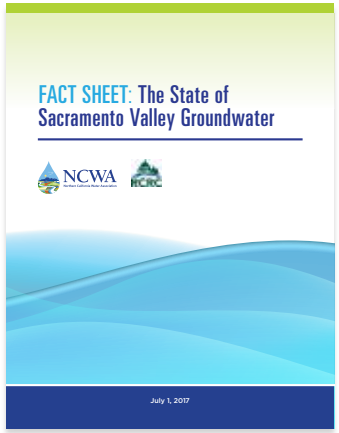


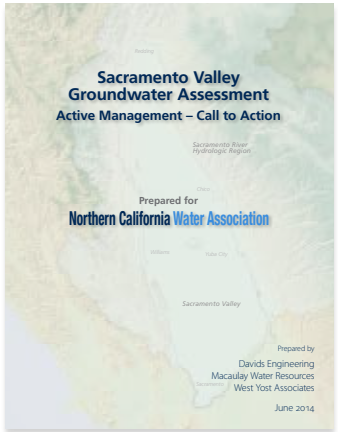


Sustainable Groundwater

- Sustainable Groundwater Management
- The State of Sacramento Valley Groundwater
- Looking at Groundwater Sustainability through a Local Lens
- Sacramento Valley Groundwater Assessment





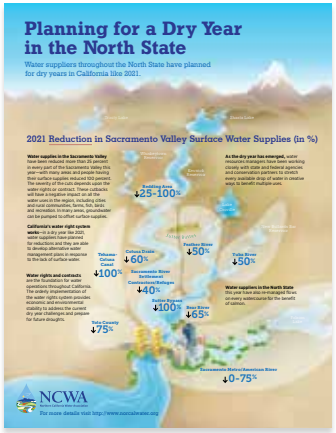


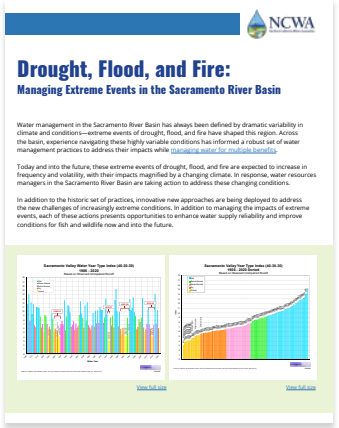
Sites Reservoir

- Sites Reservoir Provides Significant Public Benefits and Has Strong Statewide Support
- Sites Reservoir: Increasing Drier Year Supplies
- Sites Reservoir: Water for the Environment
- Building the Sites Reservoir
- Sites Reservoir: Good for California
- Sites Reservoir Project: Offstream Water Storage

Dry Year Planning

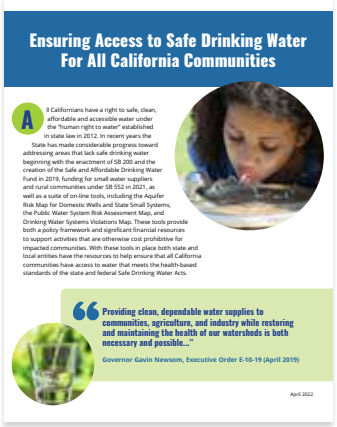
- Planning for a Dry Year in the North State
- Drought, Flood and Fire: Managing Extreme Events in the Sacramento River Basin





Drinking Water / Water Quality

- Ensuring Access to Safe Drinking Water for All California Communities
- Ensuring High Quality Water in the Sacramento River Basin for Communities, Ecosystems, and Farms
- An Accelerated Regional Salinity Management Approach to Protect Beneficial Uses in the Sacramento River Basin

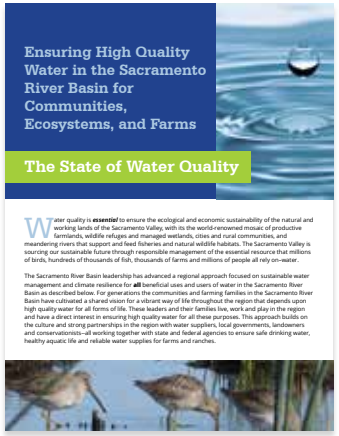

Ensuring Access to Safe Drinking Water For All California Communities

All Californians have a right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water under the "human right to water" established in state law in 2012. In recent years the State has made considerable progress toward addressing areas that lack safe drinking water beginning with the enactment of SB 200 and the creation of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in 2019, funding for small water suppliers and rural communities under SB 552 in 2021, as well as a suite of on-line tools, including the Aquifer Risk Map for Domestic Wells and State Small Systems, the Public Water System Risk Assessment Map, and Drinking Water Systems Violations Map. These tools provide both a policy framework and significant financial resources to support activities that are otherwise cost prohibitive for impacted communities. With these tools in place both state and local entities have the resources to help ensure that all California communities have access to water that meets the health-based standards of the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts.

"Providing clean, dependable water supplies to communities, agriculture, and industry while restoring and maintaining the health of our watersheds is both necessary and possible..."

Governor Gavin Newsom, Executive Order E-10-19 (April 2019)

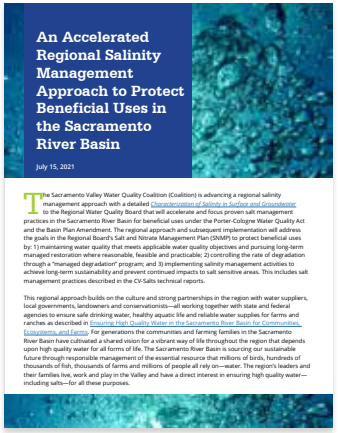
April 2022


Ensuring High Quality Water in the Sacramento River Basin for Communities, Ecosystems, and Farms

The State of Water Quality

Water quality is **essential** to ensure the ecological and economic sustainability of the natural and working lands of the Sacramento Valley, with its the world-renowned mosaic of productive farmlands, wildlife refuges and managed wetlands, cities and rural communities, and meandering rivers that support and feed fisheries and natural wildlife habitats. The Sacramento Valley is sourcing our sustainable future through responsible management of the essential resource that millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of fish, thousands of farms and millions of people all rely on–water.

The Sacramento River Basin leadership has advanced a regional approach focused on sustainable water management and climate resilience for **all** beneficial uses and users of water in the Sacramento River Basin as described below. For generations the communities and farming families in the Sacramento River Basin have cultivated a shared vision for a vibrant way of life throughout the region that depends upon high quality water for all forms of life. These leaders and their families live, work and play in the region and have a direct interest in ensuring high quality water for all these purposes. This approach builds on the culture and strong partnerships in the region with water suppliers, local governments, landowners and conservationists–all working together with state and federal agencies to ensure safe drinking water, healthy aquatic life and reliable water supplies for farms and ranches.


An Accelerated Regional Salinity Management Approach to Protect Beneficial Uses in the Sacramento River Basin

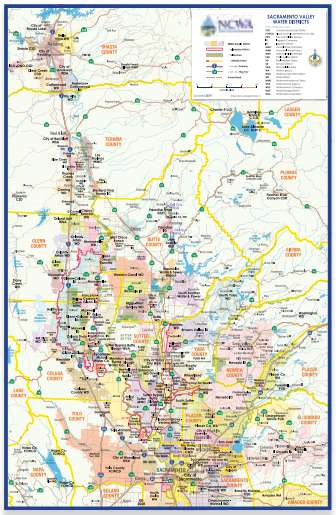
July 15, 2021

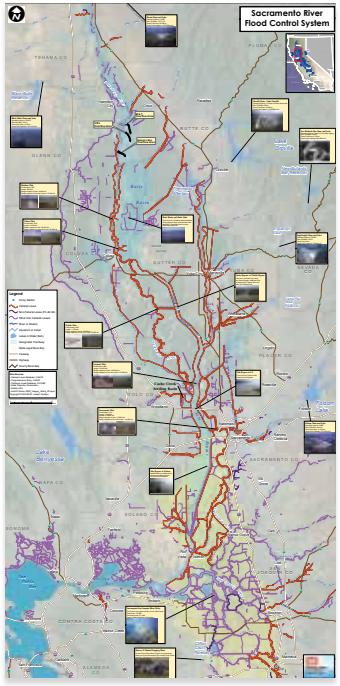
The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) is advancing a regional salinity management approach with a detailed Characterization of Salinity in Surface and Groundwater to the Regional Water Quality Board that will accelerate and focus proven salt management practices in the Sacramento River Basin for beneficial uses under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and the Basin Plan Amendment. The regional approach and subsequent implementation will address the goals in the Regional Board's Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) to protect beneficial uses by: 1) maintaining water quality that meets applicable water quality objectives and pursuing long-term managed restoration where reasonable, feasible and practicable; 2) controlling the rate of degradation through a "managed degradation" program; and 3) implementing salinity management activities to achieve long-term sustainability and prevent continued impacts to salt sensitive areas. This includes salt management practices described in the CV-Salts technical reports.

This regional approach builds on the culture and strong partnerships in the region with water suppliers, local governments, landowners and conservationists—all working together with state and federal agencies to ensure safe drinking water, healthy aquatic life and reliable water supplies for farms and ranches as described in Ensuring High Quality Water in the Sacramento River Basin for Communities, Ecosystems, and Farms. For generations the communities and farming families in the Sacramento River Basin have cultivated a shared vision for a vibrant way of life throughout the region that depends upon high quality water for all forms of life. The Sacramento River Basin is sourcing our sustainable future through responsible management of the essential resource that millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of fish, thousands of farms and millions of people all rely on—water. The region's leaders and their families live, work and play in the Valley and have a direct interest in ensuring high quality water—including salts—for all these purposes.

Maps

- Water District Map
- Flood System Map





NCWA

- Mission Factsheet
- Who We Are Factsheet
- Strategic Planning and 2021 Priorities
- Video: Inspiration for NCWA
- Video: NCWA Generations