



# Lower American River Modified Flow Management Standard

**The American River is the second largest tributary to the Sacramento River, which serves as a critical piece of the Bay Delta.**

The lower American River is a spectacular regional and statewide resource. It is the second-largest tributary to the Sacramento River, which is a critical component of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta.

Folsom Reservoir, located at the confluence of the North Fork and South Fork American rivers, provide flood control and drinking water to nearly one million Sacramento region residents. The river is home to 43 fish species, including federally threatened Central Valley steelhead and struggling fall-run Chinook salmon.

The most recent drought in California has demonstrated in real-world terms the limits of current flow requirements that apply to the lower American River.



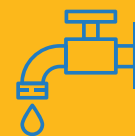
To create a buffer against future drought impacts and preserve local water supplies, the Sacramento Water Forum has developed a Modified Flow Management Standard for the lower American River as a way to:



Improve temperature and flow conditions of the lower American River to support anadromous fish



Preserve recreational and aesthetic values



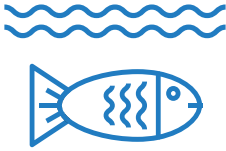
Secure reliable water supplies for the region



Contribute to the Delta's ecological health downstream

# Why a re-imagined flow for the Lower American River is necessary

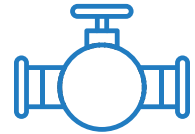
Regional water managers are advocating for minimum instream flows, improved water temperature management, and water storage provisions that protect water supplies and the environment.



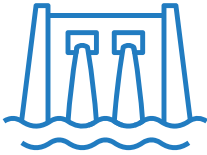
**Provides dual protection by safeguarding fishery and recreational resources while providing increased water storage.**



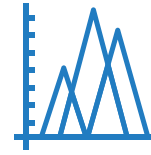
**Represents the best flow standard based on real-time data and realistic constraints.**



**Helps the Bay Delta by releasing a higher percentage of flow when it's needed.**



**Protects Folsom Reservoir storage.**



**Helps the Central Valley Project maintain operational flexibility.**

## LOCALLY PRODUCED FLOW ALTERNATIVE

After 20 years of study and refinement, the Sacramento Water Forum strongly believes that this standard represents the best path forward for protecting these local resources without re-directing negative impacts to other regions.

This effort is an integral element of the 2000 Water Forum Agreement.

However, to implement changes to protect the Lower American River will require federal legislation and/or executive actions that direct the Bureau of Reclamation to implement this locally produced and broadly supported alternative.

**The Water Forum Agreement has two coequal objectives:**

to provide a reliable safe water supply for the region and to preserve fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River.