

WaterFuture Initiative



WaterFuture is an ambitious, long-term suite of actions for water resource sustainability in the greater Sacramento region, including the counties of El Dorado, Placer and Sacramento, through infrastructure and operational improvements, policy changes and improved water efficiency.

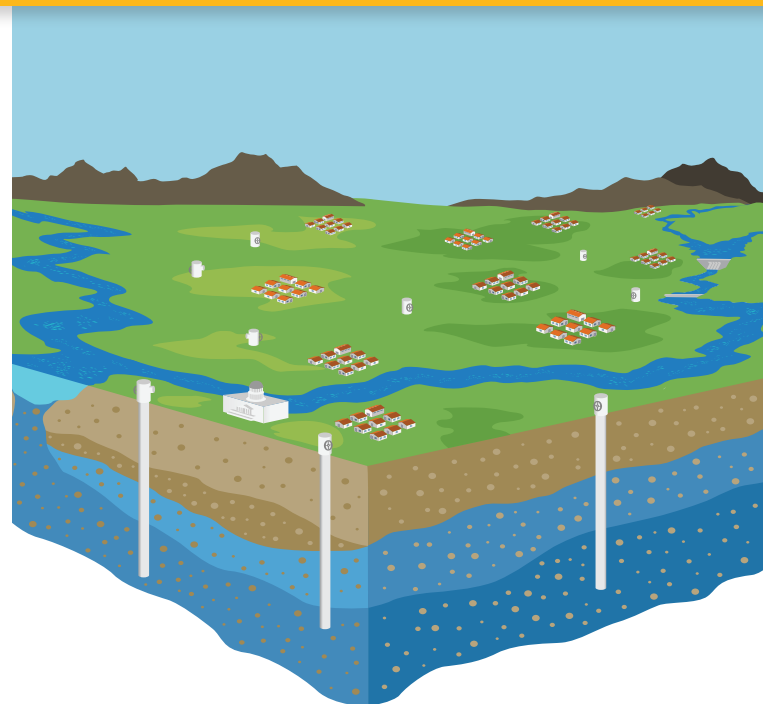
Recent statewide drought conditions and regulatory actions have exposed significant threats to the region's water resources. Sacramento area water managers for years have been working on long-term plans to manage water resources to meet demands for urban, rural, agricultural and environmental purposes. Those plans are now accelerated.

Our region is poised to significantly improve its regional water reliability projects over the next two decades. As we complete the components of WaterFuture over time, we will provide for the lasting health of our community's economy, environment and quality of life.

Our waterways are more than a source of water for people and wildlife—they are intertwined with our community's identity and quality of life. This initiative is envisioned to protect those resources—while also protecting the region's economy. And this plan is locally sourced and unique to the region's needs and resources.

WaterFuture positions the region for water sustainability by:

- Storing water in our groundwater basin to buffer against impacts of future droughts
- Diversifying locations of where our supply is drawn
- Improving flows in the Lower American River to protect our water supplies and environmental resources
- Increasing water use efficiency



Key initiatives of WaterFuture

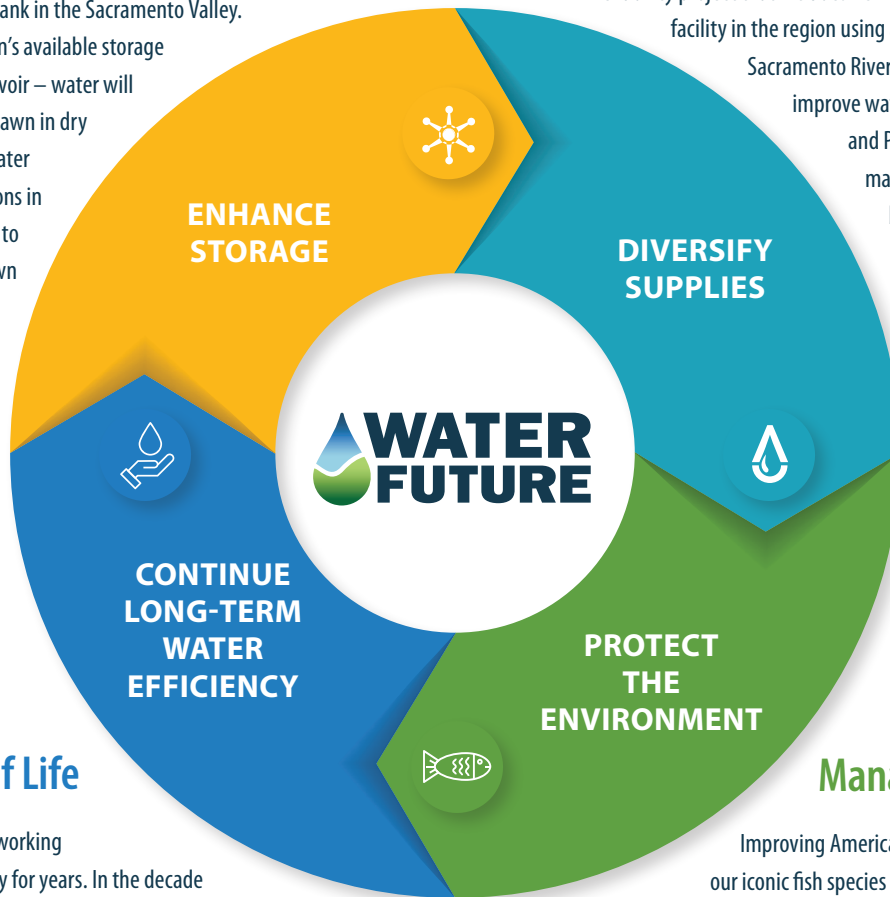
WaterFuture builds upon years of prudent water policy and management practices by envisioning several key projects and strategies designed to create new storage, diversify supplies, protect the environment and continue long-term water efficiency.



American Basin Water Bank

The proposed groundwater bank will expand upon the Sacramento region's longstanding practice of conjunctive use. This bank will be the first federally-recognized water bank in the Sacramento Valley. The water bank will use the region's available storage capacity as an underground reservoir – water will be stored in wet years and withdrawn in dry years to help meet the region's water supply needs. To improve conditions in the basin, policies will be in place to ensure that less water is withdrawn than was originally deposited in the water bank.

Most Sacramento-area water agencies rely solely on the American River as their single surface water source. The proposed RiverArc is a transformative water reliability project that includes new conveyance and a water treatment facility in the region using an existing diversion facility on the Sacramento River. Once constructed, the project will improve water supply reliability in Sacramento and Placer counties – and will help with maintaining sustainable groundwater by allowing for expand conjunctive use operations in the area.



Make Water Efficiency a Way of Life

Local water providers have been working toward long-term water efficiency for years. In the decade leading up to the drought emergency, the Sacramento region's water use (per household per day) steadily declined despite a 25 percent increase in the population. In addition, local water providers were on target to meet state mandates to reduce urban water use by 20 percent by 2020. Water supply managers are dedicated to continuing water efficiency efforts.

Modified Flow Management Standard

Improving American River flows is critical to restoring our iconic fish species and protecting local water supplies during drought. The Modified Flow Management Standard is based on 22 years of study, refinement and cooperative planning between a diverse group of stakeholders, led by the Sacramento Water Forum.

OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES



Sites Reservoir

Although not a project proposed specifically for the greater Sacramento area, local water managers see both statewide and local benefits in the proposed Sites Reservoir. Sites is a new off-stream surface water storage facility located in the Sacramento Valley that will integrate with California's water infrastructure and help reduce reliance on other storage facilities within the northern state.