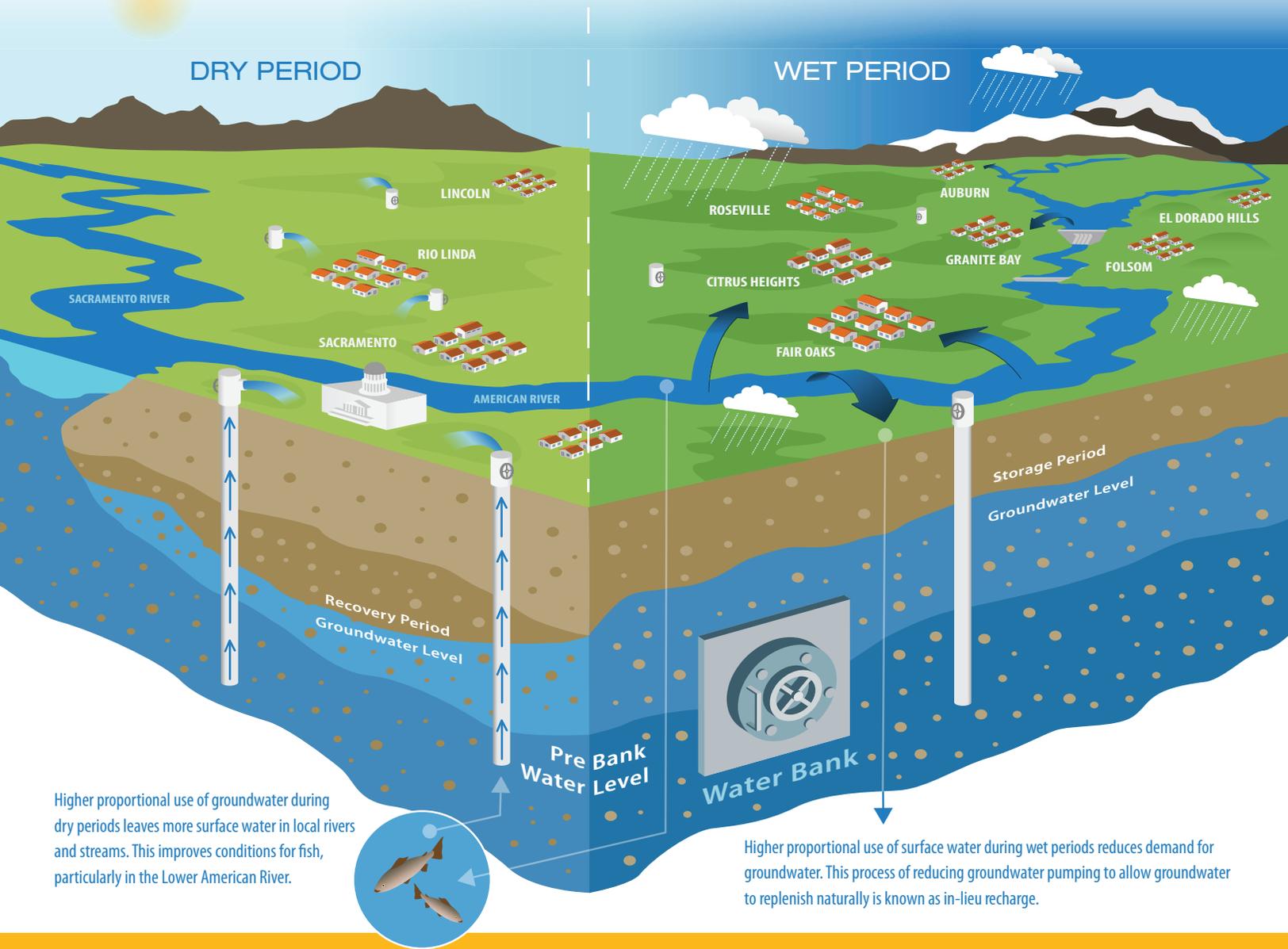




# American Basin Water Bank

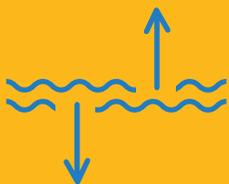
The American Basin Water Bank will help the Sacramento region maintain reliable water supplies by making better use of storage space for water that already exists underneath us. The Water Bank will operate much like a surface water reservoir, except that it will store water in the pore spaces between the sediments underground. Initial estimates indicate the basin has a potential storage capacity of about twice the volume of Folsom Reservoir. In dry periods, the region will rely more heavily on previously banked groundwater to meet its water supply needs. This will increase the amount of surface water available during those dry periods creating a net benefit to the local environment and providing broader benefits beyond the region as more surface water remains in the system.



Higher proportional use of groundwater during dry periods leaves more surface water in local rivers and streams. This improves conditions for fish, particularly in the Lower American River.

Higher proportional use of surface water during wet periods reduces demand for groundwater. This process of reducing groundwater pumping to allow groundwater to replenish naturally is known as in-lieu recharge.

## How the Water Bank Works



Local water providers will manage the Water Bank using conjunctive use principles, alternating the use of surface water and groundwater supplies to maximize both water sources. When surface water supplies are plentiful, the region will draw water from Folsom Lake or local rivers. During dry years, water supplies will come from groundwater that has been stored in the Water Bank.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## Who will participate in the Water Bank?

Participation will be voluntary, but it is currently expected that more than a dozen water agencies will participate in the operations of the Water Bank. These agencies provide water for public uses in the greater Sacramento region. This would not preclude independent groundwater pumpers, such as agricultural users, from participating in the Water Bank program.



## Who will manage the Bank?

The Water Bank is envisioned to be managed cooperatively by a group of local water suppliers participating in the program. The Water Bank will also be managed in coordination with several groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) already charged with protecting and managing groundwater resources in the region. These include the Sacramento Groundwater Authority, the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, and the West Placer GSA. Ultimately, these agencies will work cooperatively to ensure the groundwater basin remains healthy, following the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.



## When will the Water Bank be operational?

We estimate that the Water Bank could be operational around 2020. While conjunctive use operations are already a practice today, there are key technical studies, environmental analyses and institutional issues that must be addressed prior to allowing for expanded use of the groundwater basin for long-term storage and recovery of water supplies as envisioned with the Water Bank.



## How do you ensure that other users of the groundwater basin will be protected during operation of the Water Bank?

Provisions to protect other groundwater users in the basin include a requirement that groundwater must be previously stored and available in the bank before it can be recovered, and permanently retaining a portion of the stored water in the bank. These provisions help ensure that groundwater elevations remain above their original levels had the Water Bank not been operating and will actually benefit other groundwater users. Additional protections include a comprehensive monitoring program and established protocol for responding to potential issues from bank operations.



## Will facilities be constructed as part of the Water Bank?

Little to no new facilities will be needed to get the Water Bank underway—water providers have already made infrastructure investments and have been banking and conjunctively using groundwater for decades. However, fully developing the Water Bank's potential requires expanding existing facilities to more easily move water around the region such as new surface water diversions, water system interties between agencies, booster pumps and pipelines. Additional groundwater wells would also be needed for recovering stored groundwater. One notable project that could provide additional surface water for banking is the proposed RiverArc project on the Sacramento River. The RiverArc project will allow for diversion of surface water from the Sacramento River, reducing reliance on the American River. This will directly benefit the Water Bank by increasing the number of years that surface water, as opposed to groundwater, could be used in the region.



## What is the cost to develop the Water Bank?

Local water managers are currently undertaking a comprehensive study to determine infrastructure needs and operational changes to fully implement the Water Bank. This study ultimately will include a cost analysis and will identify potential funding strategies.