

# Strategic Plan Prioritization Process



March 14, 2024

# Strategic Plan Prioritization Process

## Presentation:

- How did we do on the strategic plan priorities for FY 23/24?
- Strategic Plan Survey Results
- Strategic Plan Priorities for FY 24/25



## Communication and Outreach

**AMERICAN RIVER BASIN STUDY**

### Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies for our Watershed

The American River Basin Study is a comprehensive watershed-level look at projected climate change impacts and strategies for addressing future water demands, flood risks and environmental impacts.

**Key study**

# WORKING TOGETHER TO LEAD THE CHARGE ON GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

By JIM PEIFER

IS THE DROUGHT OVER IN CALIFORNIA? That was the question on a million minds after nature delivered nine soaking-wet atmospheric river storms to the Golden State for three weeks after Christmas.

The short answer is no. Those storms didn't end the drought and a real end could be decades away. The reason is groundwater depletion. When we get the kind of deluge it does help recharge groundwater, but only incrementally. In fact, decades of over-pumping groundwater exacerbated by the dry climate hydrology has left many of the state's groundwater basins in a condition of overdraft that will take years to overcome.

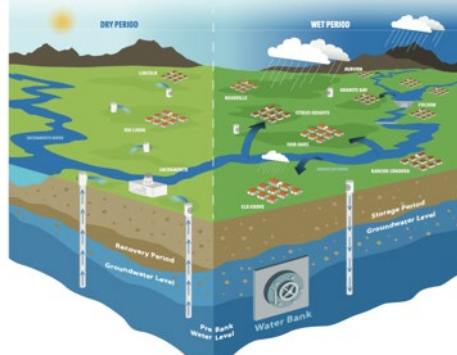
To end the drought, we need to start treating our groundwater aquifers as the water infrastructure of the climate change era. To do this, we must transform how we manage storm runoff to recharge groundwater on a much bigger scale.

Cities and agricultural irrigation districts are starting to figure it out, and the state is taking steps to help. So, while stormwater capture is happening, we have relied on surface reservoirs to meet our water needs too long. Surface reservoirs remain essential but adding to the natural recharge of our groundwater basins and thereby increasing the amount of underground water storage will be needed to meet the demands of today's fickle water storms.

It's been estimated that the State Water Project and Federal Central Valley Project will lose 30 percent of their capacity by 2050 due to shrinking Sierra Nevada snowpack

### How the Water Bank Works

The Water Bank will operate by coordinating the use of surface water and groundwater. When surface water supplies are plentiful, water providers in the region will draw more water from Folsom Reservoir or local rivers and use it to offset existing demand for groundwater. This effectively increases groundwater in storage, resulting in a deposit in the Water Bank. During dry years, recovery of stored groundwater will occur through additional pumping, resulting in a withdrawal from the Water Bank. The Water Bank will be managed consistent with local groundwater sustainability plans.



### Storage and Recovery Potential

The groundwater basin of the American River Basin acts as an underground reservoir with available space to store an estimated 1.8 million acre-feet of water, which is almost twice the volume of Folsom Reservoir. During a wet year, local water providers could store up to about 60,000 acre-feet of water in the Water Bank using existing facilities. That's enough water to serve 120,000 average homes for a year. During a dry year, much of that stored groundwater could be recovered. Potential facility improvements over the next decade could increase the region's storage and recovery capacities by more than 50 percent. As an additional benefit, facility improvements can be accomplished stepwise based on available funding.

Operation of the Water Bank will help relieve flood control pressure on Folsom Reservoir, preserve cold water for the benefit of the environment, and increase supplies available for the environment and downstream communities beyond the region during dry conditions.

5620 Birdcage St., Suite 180 | Citrus Heights, CA 95610 | (916) 967-7992  
For more information on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank visit: [rwa2a.org](http://rwa2a.org)

## A water conservation proposal could kill tree canopies

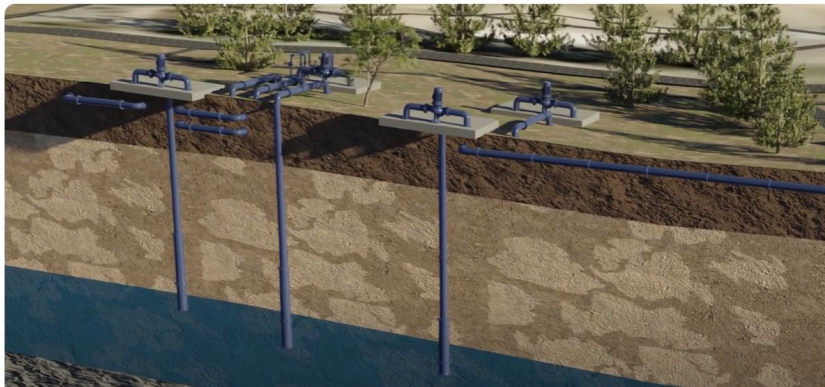
BY JIM PEIFER AND VICTORIA VASQUEZ  
Special to The Sacramento Bee

et statewide. We are particularly concerned about the potential impact California's mature urban tree canopies serve as our first line of defense against climate change. Trees play a special role in cleaning, sequestering carbon emissions and providing natural cooling in our urban heat islands. The California Air Resources Board identified support among the most important urban adaptations to address climate change. Ironically, the Water Board is proposing

reductions would essentially mimic 2012-2016 drought conditions that killed or sickened one in 10 communities, which research shows often have fewer trees than wealthier communities, could bear a



## Sacramento Regional Water Bank



### THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK

#### The reservoir under our feet

Deep below the Sacramento region's urban core, covering hundreds of square miles, lies the reservoir you cannot see.

Like a sponge, our groundwater aquifer holds water in the open space or crevices between grains of soil that extend to depths up to 2,000 feet below the surface.

This is the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.



# Strategic Plan Prioritization Process

## Water Use Efficiency

### Regional Water Authority Toilet Saturation Study

October 2023



### ARE YOU SUMMER STRONG?

Linda is. She checks the soil moisture with a moisture meter before turning on sprinklers.

CA 92024

(MEA)

(C)



Be like Linda. Learn to be Summer Strong at [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info).



### ARE YOU SUMMER STRONG?

Maurice is. He knows that native plants grow strong and deep roots that muscle through hot summers.



Be like Maurice. Learn to be Summer Strong at [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info).

## Regulatory and Policy



Central Valley Project and California State Water Project



### State Water Resources Control Board

#### NOTICE OF BOARD WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SACRAMENTO/DELTA UPDATE TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/ SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) will hold a multiday public workshop to discuss voluntary agreements (VAs) proposed by water users and state and federal agencies currently being considered in the process to update the Sacramento River and Delta components of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan).<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the workshop is for the VA parties to provide a detailed overview of the VA proposal, receive input and answer questions from Board members, and receive input from the public.



### Making Conservation a California Way of Life

#### What is **Making Conservation a California Way of Life**?

*Making Conservation a California Way of Life* is a new regulatory framework proposed by State Water Board staff that establishes individualized efficiency goals for each Urban Retail Water Supplier. These goals are based on the unique characteristics of the supplier's service area and give suppliers the flexibility to implement locally appropriate solutions. Once implemented, these goals are expected to reduce urban water use by more than 400-thousand-acre feet by 2030, helping California adapt to the water supply impacts brought on by climate change.

#### Why is the framework needed?

California has always experienced large swings between dry and wet weather, and due to climate change, these swings are becoming more severe. The recent storms and flooding seen statewide--following years of back-to-back extreme drought--make clear



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## Legislative



### Senate Bill No. 659

#### CHAPTER 624

An act to amend Section 10004 of, and to add Section 10004.7 to, the Water Code, relating to groundwater.

[Approved by Governor October 8, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 8, 2023.]

SB 659, Ashby. Existing law requires that within 5 years the plan for groundwater conservation, development, and protection, which is known as the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, to establish a groundwater sustainability plan and agricultural

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### Assessing Early Implementation of Urban Water Use Efficiency Requirements



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## Sacramento Groundwater Authority

### Attachment 1 – SGM Grant Program's SGMA Implementation – Round 2 Award List

Disclaimer: The Recommended Award are conditional until final terms and conditions are agreed upon and an agreement has been executed. The awarded grant amount listed in the executed agreement can be less than the Recommended Award and DWR staff may determine certain tasks are not eligible or do not meet the requirements outlined in the 2021 SGM Grant Program Guidelines and 2021 SGM Grant Program Implementation PSP, revised 2022, and are subject to change provided in the application would be better suited combined into one for ease of quarterly reporting and closeout reporting.

Application Number	Basin No./ Basin Name	Legislative Districts (Assembly, Senate, US Congressional)	Organization Name	Proposal Title	Component
2022SIR2006	3-015 Santa Ynez River Valley	35th Assembly District, 19th Senate District, District 24 (CA)	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	SGMA Implementation in the Santa Ynez River Basin	Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects and Basin Reporting Program
					Santa Ynez River Basin WMA, CMA, and EA Rate Study
					Basin GSPs 5-Year Update
					Monitoring Improvement and Expansion
					Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project
					Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan
					Recycled Water Feasibility Study
					Grant Administration
			Modoc County GSA	BVGB GSP Implementation Project	





# Strategic Plan Prioritization Process



## RWA Administrative Services



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Sacramento, California 95825

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FAX: (916) 564-8728

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Regional Water Authority  
Sacramento, California

#### Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Regional Water Authority (RWA) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise RWA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of RWA as of June 30, 2023 and the changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as well as accounting systems prescribed by the State Controller's Office and state regulations governing special districts.



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## Valuable Partnerships

YouTube Search



The RWA has established a process to identify strategic plan priorities. That process was established by the Board of Directors can be found in [RWA Policy 400.4](#)

The process is as follows: The Executive Director shall lead the following procedure to set priorities for the coming calendar year:

1. The Executive Director shall solicit input on the strategic plan and/or other priorities from the members.
2. The input from members shall be reviewed by the Executive Director, staff and the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Director shall propose strategic plan and/or other priorities to the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee should propose the priorities to the Board for adoption.

- 12 member agencies responded to the survey (18 responded last year)
- Request to members sent Nov 21, 2023 with a due date of Jan 5, 2024
- 9 agencies responded
- Second request sent Jan 18 with a closing date of Jan 24
- 3 more agencies responded



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## Planning Objectives (13 respondents):

- Planning Objective A: Complete development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to improve water supply reliability and resilience.

**77% ranked as 1 or 2 (81% last year)**

- Planning Objective B: Evaluate and respond to impacts on the region's water suppliers and operations.

**85% ranked as 1 or 2 (63% last year)**

- Planning Objective C Lead and support planning efforts that benefit water agencies.

**23% ranked as 1 or 2 (38% last year)**

- Planning Objective D Plan for the sustainability of RWA and its members.

**15% ranked as 1 or 2 (19% last year)**

# Strategic Plan Prioritization Process

## Implementation Objectives (7 respondents):

- Implementation Objective A: Support the securing of funding and assist in resourcing projects and programs that are regional priorities.

**86% ranked as 1 or 2 (95% last year)**

- Implementation Objective B: Support members' efforts to improve water reliability and resilience.

**85% as 1 or 2 (60% last year)**

- Implementation Objective C: Support members' water use efficiency efforts to comply with applicable state and local requirements.

**29% ranked as 1 or 2 (45% last year)**

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## Communication Objectives (11 respondents):

- Communication Objective A: Provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach on water issues affecting the region.

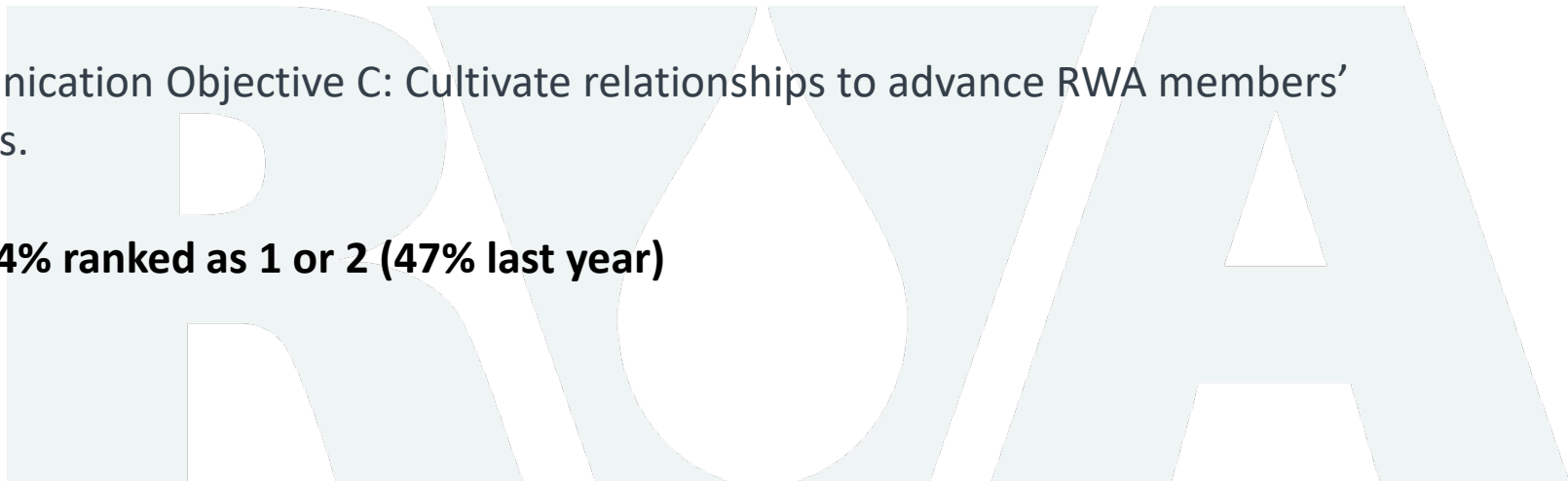
**81% ranked as 1 or 2 (59% last year)**

- Communication Objective B: With one voice, raise RWA's profile and credibility through outreach efforts to targeted audiences.

**64% ranked as 1 or 2 (94% last year)**

- Communication Objective C: Cultivate relationships to advance RWA members' interests.

**54% ranked as 1 or 2 (47% last year)**



## Advocacy Objectives (8 respondents):

- Advocacy Objective A: Engage relevant local, state, and federal representatives to seek support for RWA's legislative agenda to further the region's collective goals and objectives.

**100% ranked as 1 or 2 (65% last year)**

- Advocacy Objective B: Evaluate, comment and advocate on state and federal water regulatory issues that may impact the region and its water reliability and resilience (e.g. WQCP, PFAS, Chrome VI).

**38% ranked as 1 or 2 (82% last year)**

- Advocacy Objective C: Assist in the preservation of water rights and entitlements of RWA members, maintain area of origin protections, and protect and ensure water reliability and resilience.

**63% ranked as 1 or 2 (53% last year)**



## Priorities for 2024/2025

- Communication and Outreach
- Sacramento Region Water Bank (SRWB) Development
- Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program
- Regulatory and Policy
- Legislative
- SGA
- RWA Administrative Services
- Funding Member Projects



# *DISCUSSION*

