



**TEAM: WATER RESOURCES**

**Issue Experts:**

Gary Bardini, Sacramento Area Flood Control, bardinig@saccounty.gov  
Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency, afecko@pcwa.net  
Laura Rodarte, Placer County Water Agency, lrodarte@pcwa.net

---

**SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY**

**APPENDIX:**

**SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK**

<https://sacwaterbank.com/>

**Requested Action**

- Federal recognition of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (A Bureau of Reclamation action)
- Funding support to complete associated federal recognition and environmental documentation, including Reclamation being the NEPA lead agency
- Reclamation to allocate 2020 WIIN Act funding to RWA

**Overview: A Reservoir Under Our Feet**

The Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank) allows the region to store water in the underground aquifer in wet years and sustainably pump and use groundwater during drought periods which reduces the reliance on surface water. This helps with water supply reliability, flexibly manage surface storage in federal reservoirs, and benefits the ecosystems which need certain river flows and temperatures.

- Key features of the Water Bank:
  - o Sits on top of a regional aquifer that has tremendous storage capacity
  - o Uses existing and new infrastructure



*For more information, please contact  
Caleigh Olgeirson, Senior Policy Analyst  
[colgeirson@metrochamber.org](mailto:colgeirson@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)*



- o Can be operational by 2027
- o Greatly enhances the ability to recharge groundwater
- o Gives flexibility to operating Folsom Reservoir and entire CVP system
- o Is a proven concept, even prior to SGMA passage in 2014
- o Has been authorized to receive federal WIIN Act funding

### **THE RIVERARC PROJECT**

<https://www.riverarcproject.com/>

#### **Requested Action**

- Bureau of Reclamation support as the NEPA lead agency
- Bureau of Reclamation support for CVP water rights transfer to Sacramento River
- Legislative offices: letters of project support to Reclamation

#### **Overview: Regional Resilience**

The RiverArc Project will shift a portion of our region's water reliance from the American River to the much larger Sacramento River. Currently, 80% of the region relies on the American River for its water supply which is a federally designated Wild & Scenic River. In 2021 Folsom Reservoir was near dead pool, a dire situation to be in, we need to modernize our water management for the future with the RiverArc project.

- Key features of the RiverArc project:
  - o Uses an existing point of delivery on the Sacramento River and will incorporate a new water treatment plant and interties
  - o Supports the Water Bank and groundwater recharge
  - o Was born out of the Water Forum Agreement



- o Provides environmental benefits for flow and temperature on the American River
- o Will give Reclamation more flexibility operating Folsom Reservoir
- o Can be operational by 2030+

## HEALTHY RIVERS & LANDSCAPES

<https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Voluntary-Agreements-Page>

### Requested Action

- Federal support for the Healthy Rivers & Landscapes (HR&L) program will be critical to its success
- Keep operational baseline stable in order to have reasonable assurances about the starting point for HR&L implementation
- Support for early implementation projects to accelerate improvements for fish and wildlife, including direct funding and streamline permitting processes

### Overview: A Better Way to Manage California Water

HR&L represents a collaborative and holistic approach to improve the California Bay-Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability. HR&L can provide a substantial “budget” of water for the environment, significant new habitat, an integrated science program, and adaptive management, as opposed to a flows-only approach. This program is recognized as “the promise to adaptively manage enhanced flows and habitat.”

- Key features of the Healthy Rivers & Landscape program:
  - o Substantial “budget” of water for the environment
  - o Significant new habitat



For more information, please contact  
Caleigh Olgeirson, Senior Policy Analyst  
[colgeirson@metrochamber.org](mailto:colgeirson@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)



- o Integrated Science Program and peer review
- o Adaptive Management
- o Expedited and early implementation projects
- o Funding from public water agencies projected at \$1 billion

## **FORECAST INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS**

### **Requested Action**

- Support for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) from Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers,
- Continued funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service to improve timing and accuracy forecasting skill in for flood and water supply,

### **Overview: A Better Way to Manage Reservoirs**

Robust, cutting-edge weather forecasting enables optimizing reservoir operations to improve water supplies and flood management. A FIRO program that integrates Folsom Reservoir operations with upstream reservoir improvements and management will allow further adaptation to extreme weather and enhance the operation of Folsom Reservoir by the Bureau of Reclamation. FIRO is well recognized as the future of flood operation during weather extremes. Ongoing and recently completed FIRO studies for Lake Mendocino and the Yuba-Feather system by Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers in collaboration with other non-federal partners, show unequivocal success in improving flood management while accruing additional benefits for water supply and environmental protection. These benefits allow more flexibility for the reservoir operators to achieve quantitative goals.

## **PFAS CHEMICALS IN SACRAMENTO REGION**



*For more information, please contact  
Caleigh Olgeirson, Senior Policy Analyst  
[colgeirson@metrochamber.org](mailto:colgeirson@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)*



PFAS contamination is a national issue impacting communities around the state and around the nation. There are multiple legislative proposals to reduce the use of PFAS, provide exemptions for “passive receivers” like water utilities, and fund clean-up efforts. Drinking water providers in the Sacramento region support Federal efforts to eliminate PFAS chemicals in manufacturing, place the burden for cleanup on polluters, and are supportive of actions for reasonable new MCL’s to protect public health and confidence in the safety of our drinking water.

### **Requested Action**

- Support for HR 1267 - Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act
- Funding for clean-up of PFAS chemicals caused by federal government and private industry

### **Overview: Polluter Pays Principle**

The Federal government should provide funding for abatement and treatment of these chemicals to protect public health and ensure that local ratepayers are not responsible for funding the clean-up of contamination caused by the US Air Force or other parties. Also needed is a liability exemption for water systems under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), known as Superfund, water agencies who treat their water and have byproducts containing PFAS contamination should not be responsible for paying to dispose of these chemicals.

## **WATERSHEDS RESILIENCE PLAN**

Watersheds in the Sacramento region face increasing pressure from droughts, reduces snowpack, wildfires, floods, and more intense storms. The Watershed Resilience Pilot Program was recently completed to develop a science-based plan for long-term resilience. In partnering with local agencies, Tribal governments, State and Federal Partners and community members, the resulting plan, called the RWA Watersheds Resilience Plan assesses risks and vulnerabilities and also identifies key adaptation strategies and a roadmap for implementation and investment.

### **Requested Action**



*For more information, please contact  
Caleigh Olgeirson, Senior Policy Analyst  
[colgeirson@metrochamber.org](mailto:colgeirson@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)*



- Congressional engagement on report findings
  - The Regional Water Authority will be holding virtual briefings on the findings in May 2026. A virtual link will be provided during or after Capitol-to-Capitol.

### **Overview: Identifying Risks and Finding Solutions**

Congressional staff are encouraged to attend virtual briefings to better understand the risks to the region. In addition, future federal support and funding is needed in order to implement the adaption actions identified in the plan that support improvements in water supply, groundwater, flood management, ecosystems, water quality, recreation, hydropower, agriculture, and urban water assets.