



# 2050 Water Forum Agreement

March 10, 2026

City Council



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

- Water Forum Agreement History
- Water Forum Agreement Impacts
- Water Forum Agreement Goals
- Original Water Forum elements
- Updated Water Forum Agreement – **Water Forum 2050**
- WF 2050 Program Areas
- American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP)
- WFA Video

- 1993 – City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento establish the Water Forum
- 1995 – Regional negotiations begins on the contents of the agreement to mitigate legal challenges
- 2000 – Water Forum Agreement signed
  - 40 signatories, including Folsom
  - Water Caucus
  - Environmental Caucus
  - Business Caucus
  - Public Caucus

# WFA Co-Equal Goals

- Provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development through the year 2030; and
- Preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River

# Impact of WFA

- Advanced critical infrastructure projects
- Led significant habitat enhancements and a science-based flow standard for the LAR
- Provided foundation for regional groundwater management and enhanced conjunctive use
- Fostered rapid, unified responses to drought
- Gained reputation as leading scientific voice on the LAR
- Created a strong regional culture of trust, collaboration, and transparency

# Original WFA 7 Elements

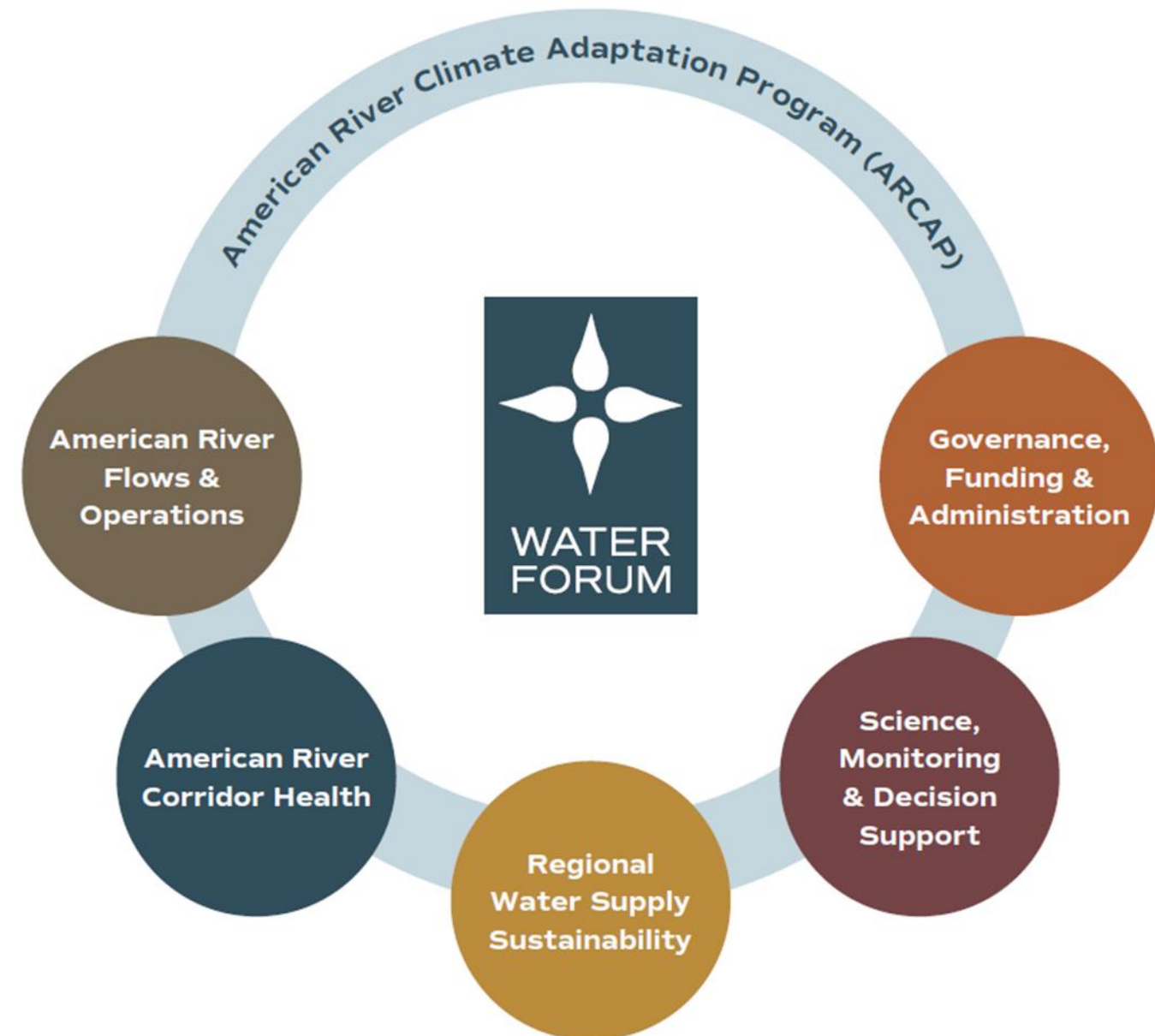
1. Increased surface water supplies
2. Action during dry years
3. New flow standard
4. Habitat Management
5. Water Conservation
6. Groundwater Management
7. Water Forum Successor Effort

# Updated WFA – WF 2050

- Efforts began to update the WFA in 2020
- Main drivers
  - Different regulatory environment
    - Water Use Efficiency
    - Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan
    - Groundwater Management
  - Changing precipitation and snow patterns
  - Updated science and monitoring data
  - Folsom Reservoir Operational challenges

# WF 2050 Program Areas

- Addresses critical water management issues
- *Continues and modernizes* the work of the Water Forum
- A framework for:
  - Collaboration
  - Action
  - Adaptive Management
  - Regional Planning



- Improved way to manage water as climate conditions become more extreme
- Enhances Program Areas by voluntarily linking agencies, infrastructure, and policies
  - Creating a truly regional water system
- Aims to make water available when and where it's needed
- Cold water is preserved in the American River for fish and future supply

# ARCAP Moving Forward

Multiple opportunities envisioned:

- Banking groundwater in wet years for use in dry ones
- Adding connections between water suppliers
- Changing points of diversion from the American River to the Sacramento River
- Increasing local water supply options, including expanding conjunctive use and conservation efforts
- Engaging external partners and refining operations over time

# 2050 Water Forum Participants



## **Business Caucus**

AKT Development\*  
Association General Contractors\*  
North State Building Industry  
Association\*  
Sacramento Association of Realtors\*  
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of  
Commerce\*  
Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange  
(SRBX)  
Green Acres Nursery & Supply

## **Environmental Caucus**

Environmental Council of Sacramento\*  
Friends of the River\*  
Save the American River Association\*  
Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter\*

## **Public Caucus**

American River Flood Control District

American River Parkway Foundation  
City of Rancho Cordova  
City of Sacramento\*  
League of Women Voters, Sacramento  
County \*  
Placer County  
Sacramento Area Council of  
Governments  
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency  
(SAFCA)  
Sacramento County\*  
Sacramento Regional Parks  
Sacramento Valley Conservancy  
SMUD\*

## **Water Caucus**

California American Water\*  
Carmichael Water District\*  
Citrus Heights Water District\*  
City of Folsom\*

City of Roseville\*  
City of Sacramento\*  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
El Dorado Irrigation District\*  
El Dorado Water Agency\*  
Elk Grove Water District\*  
Fair Oaks Water District\*  
Golden State Water Company / Arden-  
Cordova Water District\*  
Orange Vale Water Company\*  
Placer County Water Agency\*  
Regional Water Authority\*  
Sacramento Suburban Water District\*  
Sacramento County Water Agency\*  
San Juan Water District\*

*\*Denotes an organization that was a  
signatory to the 2000 agreement*

# Water Forum Video

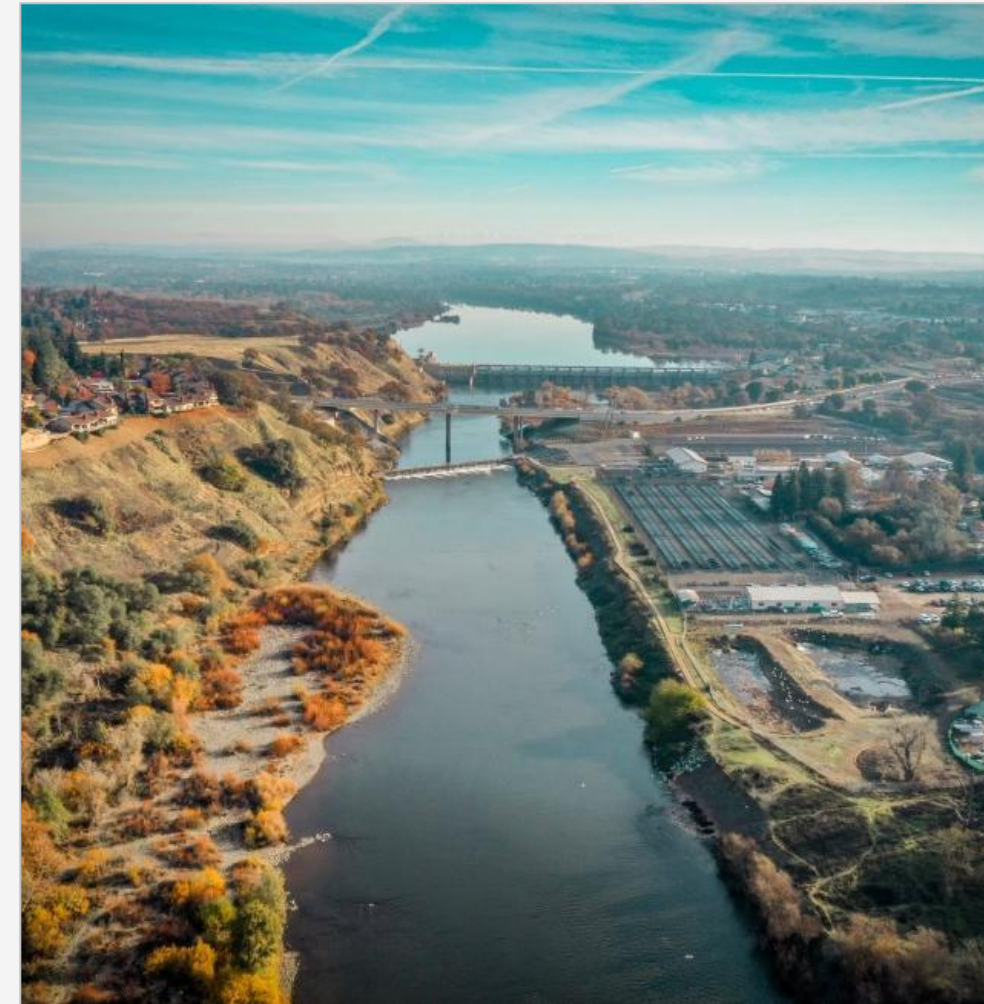


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# American River Flows and Operations

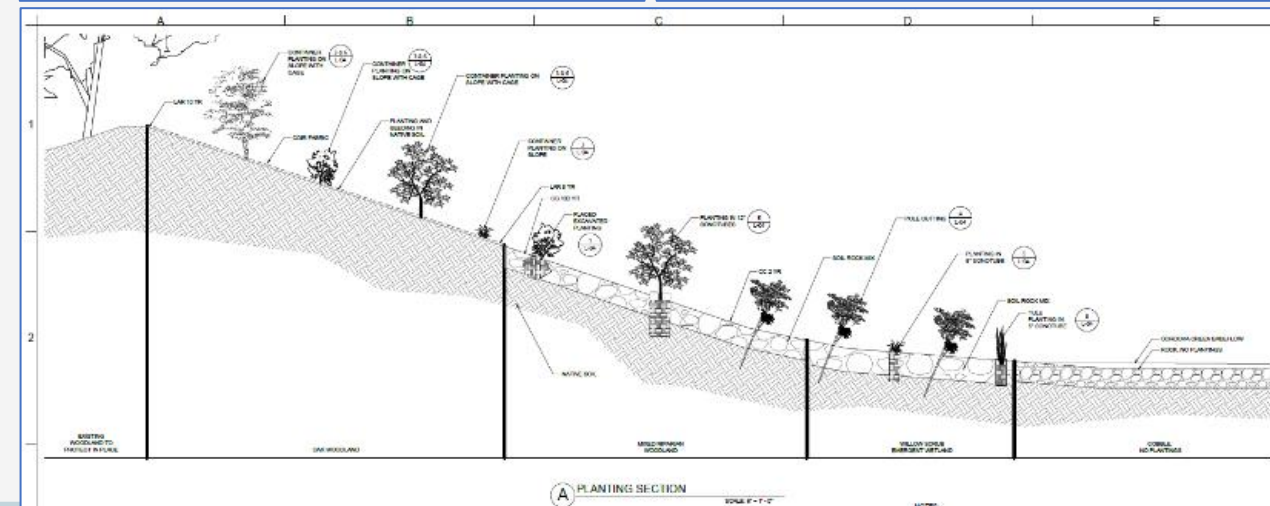
- Maintain and implement the Water Forum's Flow Standard—sets *targets for minimum river flows and cold-water storage*
- Advocate for flexible, multi-benefit flood operations
- Support investments in infrastructure to manage water temperatures and quality
- Strengthen coordination with Reclamation and federal partners



# American River Corridor Health

- Lead landscape-scale salmonid habitat improvements
- Advance multi-benefit Parkway projects
- Adaptive management = success despite variable hydrology and system constraints
- Partnerships = coordination results in mutual gains

***Example: WF Salmon projects support 30-60% of all in-river spawning annually.***



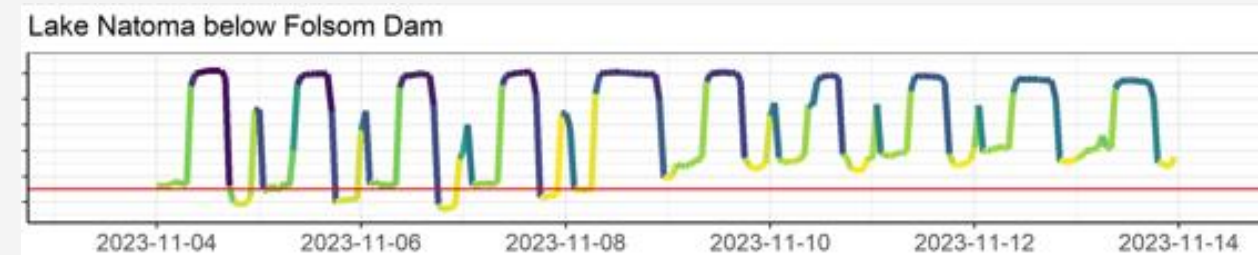
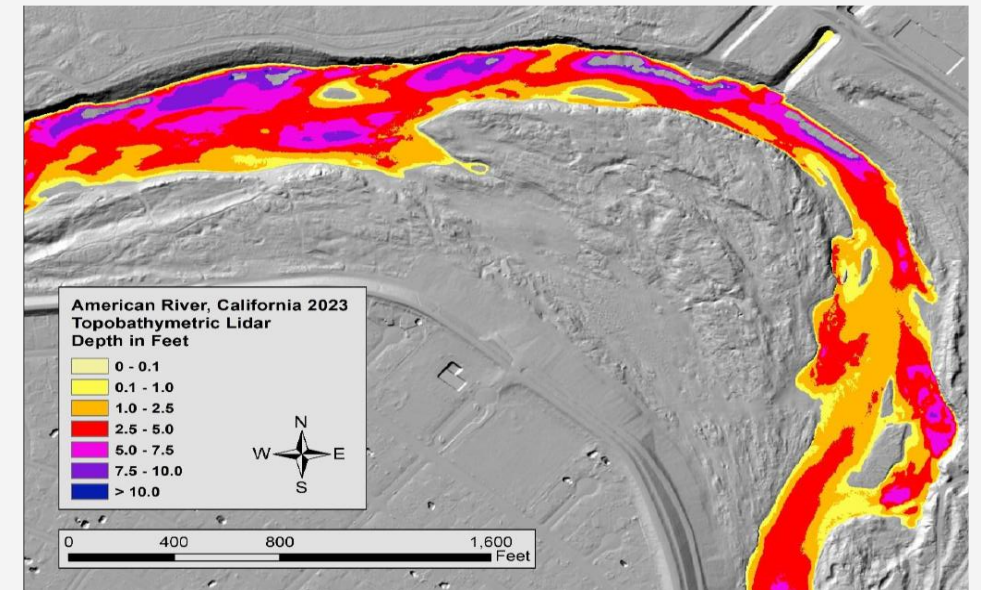
# Regional Water Supply Sustainability

- Advance integrated management of surface and groundwater
- Promote water supply planning and demand management
- Strengthen regional conjunctive use
- Implement "Dry Time Actions" to balance river health and supply reliability, and facilitate coordination in critical times
- Support coordination of water resource planning with regional land use decisions



# Science, Monitoring, and Decision Support

- Actionable data contributes to effective regional decision-making and builds trust with partners
- Cutting-edge river science initiatives and special studies advance resource knowledge
- Data sharing promotes transparency, collaboration and public awareness
- Focus on peer-review and adaptive management



# Governance, Finance, and Administration

- Promote the “Water Forum Way”
- Maintain a strong, representative governance structure
- Ensure sustainable funding, shared costs, and clear accountability
- Support public engagement, transparency, and long-term commitment

