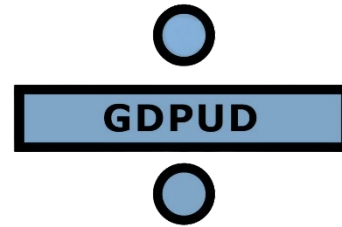


REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Meeting of April 6, 2026

Agenda Item No. 12



AGENDA SECTION: ACTION ITEMS

SUBJECT: Discuss the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program

PREPARED BY: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

Approved By: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

BACKGROUND

The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program is a public water agency-proposed alternative for the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) Draft Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan Update). The State Board's other alternative, referred to as the regulatory pathway, provides a program of unimpaired flow on tributaries to the Sacramento River.

The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program and Unimpaired Flow approaches represent two fundamentally different frameworks for improving river ecosystems in California. HRL is a voluntary program that provides flow contributions, a systemwide governance structure, habitat projects, and funding for water and science. In contrast, the regulatory pathway only focuses on a 35 to 75 percent unimpaired flow (UIF) being provided by each tributary for Delta contributions.

A key distinction lies in implementation philosophy. HRL emphasizes collaboration and local flexibility, allowing water agencies, landowners, and regional partners to design projects that achieve ecological benefits while maintaining water supply reliability. Projects include non-flow measures (e.g., habitat restoration, monitoring, reconnection of floodplains) alongside targeted flow actions. Conversely, unimpaired flow frameworks are prescriptive, typically setting fixed flow requirements, which can reduce operational flexibility for reservoirs and water systems and create significant water supply impacts.

Typical water year types in California are:

Wet, Above Normal (AN), Below Normal (BN), Dry (D) and Critically Dry (C).

DISCUSSION

Within the American River region, reservoir operators will provide the water in three AN and BN water years out of the eight-year term of the HRL. The four reservoir operators in the American River include El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Georgetown Divide PUD (GDPUD), and Foresthill PUD (FPUD). Non-reservoir operators, mostly below Folsom Lake, are responsible for participating in this regulatory effort through groundwater contributions. In return, agencies that participate have their water rights protected under the HRL.

This program is based upon water year type and is in contrast to the proposed UIF proposed by the State Board. Under UIFs GDPUD would be required to give up a set amount of water that is decided by the SWRCB and there would be no funding to GDPUD for this water that is released.

Under the HRL program, the four reservoir operating agencies are responsible for providing 10,000 acre-feet of water in the AN and BN years. The non-reservoir operators are responsible for providing 30,000-acre feet of water in D and C years. Much of this is done by redirected uses and not diverting from rivers and surface conveyance. All of these operators have been meeting for approximately five years to develop a methodology for who will provide that water and when. Currently, GDPUD will be required to provide between 2,000 and 3,000-acre feet of water in the AN/BN call years. This is based on a few different hydrologic scenarios.

Additionally, in D years an additional 10,000-acre feet of water is required to be provided by both non-reservoir and reservoir water purveyors. This is still being discussed but the current metric is that this requirement would be shared 50/50 by both reservoir and non-reservoir users.

Currently the reservoir operators have come up with a few different scenarios:

<u>Scenario 1 AN/BN</u>		<u>Scenario 2 AN/BN</u>		<u>Proposed Dry Year Scenario</u>	
PCWA	4,000 AF	EID	5,000 AF	PCWA	2,000 AF
EID	3,000 AF	GDPUD	3,000 AF	EID	1,500 AF
GDPUD	2,000 AF	FPUD	2,000 AF	GDPUD	1,000 AF
FPUD	1,000 AF	PCWA	Acting as backstop	FPUD	500 AF

This program is funded through a statewide subscription program based upon how much water purveyors either divert or utilize in their service area. The water provided will be compensated to the agencies at \$290 per acre-foot. This program could benefit the District to an approximate net of \$1.3M of revenue for eight years of the program.

FISCAL IMPACT

This program is funded through a statewide subscription program based upon how much water purveyors either actually divert or utilize in their service area. The water being provided will be compensated to the agencies at \$290 per acre-foot of water. This program could benefit the District to an approximate net of \$1.3M of revenue for eight years of the program. Ultimate, GDPUD will pay \$23,711 per year which constitutes \$3 per acre feet for a statewide water fund and \$2 per acre feet for a structural science and habitat fund. This total amount per year is an estimate based on projected diversions and may vary on an annual basis.

CEQA ASSESSMENT

This is a CEQA project, but the environmental analysis is being handled on the global scale by the State Board through its existing Bay-Delta Plan Update process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) provide direction to the staff to continue to pursue an agreement to participate in the HRL Program.

Before any agreements are agreed to formally, this will be brought back to the Board of Directors for final approval.

ALTERNATIVES

Detail alternative actions available to the Board, i.e. (a) Advise staff to stop working toward a water transfer.

ATTACHMENTS

1. HRL Costs Spreadsheet
2. Article: *How to best protect the Delta? California water agencies advocate for flexibility*. The Sacramento Bee, February 2, 2026
3. ACWA Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program Fact Sheet, 2026.
<https://www.acwa.com/our-work/watermanagement/healthy-rivers-and-landscapes-programs/>
4. HRL Presentation by Michelle Banonis



POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

How to best protect the Delta? California water agencies advocate for flexibility

By **Chaewon Chung**

Updated February 3, 2026 1:05 PM

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife helps release 6,400 endangered Delta smelt, raised in captivity, into the Sacramento River near Rio Vista on Jan. 30, 2024, in a multi-agency effort. By Hector Amezcua

 **Listen to this article**

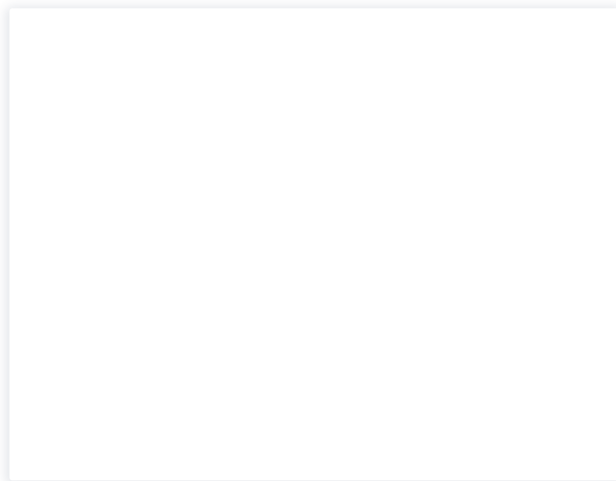
Regional water agencies on Monday urged the State Water Resources Control Board to advance a voluntary agreement option in the [updated Bay-Delta plan](#) that would give agencies more flexibility in how they meet state water rules. Under Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, the regional agencies would not be mandated to strict river flow targets.

In a letter reviewed by The Sacramento Bee, the Sacramento Regional Water Authority wrote to state water regulators on behalf of anticipated American River Healthy Rivers and Landscapes participants, asserting that relying only on the regulatory pathway would create severe “trade-offs” for regional water supplies and river ecosystems.

The regulatory pathway, meanwhile, is the board’s framework that would impose an “unimpaired-flow requirement,” which would require about half of river flows to keep moving downstream instead of being stored in winter and spring. The flow rules would apply to water users outside the voluntary program, which local water agencies say could undermine the state’s water supply stability and the Delta ecosystem.

Under the current proposal, the regulatory pathway could also be imposed on Healthy Rivers and Landscapes participants if the State Water Board concludes the voluntary approach is falling short. For now, the draft does not clearly define the specific conditions or decision-making process that would trigger that shift.

“We would like to note at the outset that we believe the Bay-Delta Plan Updates are ready for adoption, with the ability to collaboratively refine specific points at a future date,” the letter read.



“The comments in this letter are intended to (...) create an awareness of these trade-offs as the State Board prepares for Plan adoption.”

Regional agencies press for a balanced path forward

Monday’s letter recognizes that the regulatory pathway exists as a fallback, but it mainly warns the state water board not to set up the plan in a way that would push the voluntary agreement pathway to fail and trigger the regulatory option’s flow rules.

In a 19-page letter, the agencies echoed concerns raised by Andy Fecko of the Placer County Water Agency and Jim Peifer of the Sacramento Regional Water Authority on Thursday, warning that the flow rule spelled out in the regulatory approach could

destabilize groundwater storage in the American River basin and raise river temperatures for salmon.

Citing the proposed plan's projection that groundwater storage in the American River basin could decline by more than 1 million acre-feet, the regional water officials said the "decline to groundwater storage within the American River region would be devastating and completely infeasible."

"It would thoroughly deplete the American River region's efforts to address climate change and force a return to unsustainable pumping, reversing the very progress the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) seeks to achieve," the letter added, referring to the state law aimed at restoring "critically overdrafted" groundwater basins to sustainability by 2040.

By pushing more water downstream in winter and spring, the proposal would leave less water stored in reservoirs and less cold water available to cool rivers later in the year. Modeling of the regulatory plan suggests river temperatures below Folsom dam and near Hazel and Watt avenues could rise by as much as three degrees from April through November.

Lower American River temperatures are "already high when compared to other Sacramento River tributaries," the regional water officials noted, arguing any temperature increases could negatively impact fall-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead populations. The regulatory pathway's monthly modeling could also be masking more severe daily temperature spikes, their letter noted.

"We encourage the State Board to adopt the Healthy River and Landscapes (HRL) program to alleviate the impacts of strictly and solely adopting the regulatory pathway," the letter continued.

Tribal nations challenge voluntary framework

Meanwhile, tribal and conservation groups strongly opposed the voluntary agreement framework. Healthy Rivers and Landscapes' flexibility represents potentially weakened enforceable safeguards for environmental and tribal groups, as the program relies on voluntary commitments instead of mandatory flow standards.

They have pointed to recent federal changes [allowing increased water pumping](#) from the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta under Action 5, urging the state board members to consider that added exports put more stress on water and ecosystems.

During last week's three-day hearing, tribal leaders said they had been excluded from the voluntary agreement process.

Morning Star Gali, a Pit River tribal member, warned the voluntary agreement framework would result in “privatizing water, prioritizing corporate profit over people” and forcing tribal people “to carry the burden of protecting our waterways.”

“For Wilton Rancheria, Delta conditions directly affect cultural practices, subsistence activities, and stewardship responsibilities,” Vince LaPena from the Wilton Rancheria said on Thursday.

“Salmon and other aquatic species are not merely ecological indicators — they are integral to the Tribe’s cultural identity, traditional knowledge systems, food sovereignty, and responsibilities to future generations,” LaPena added.

This story was originally published February 3, 2026 at 12:33 PM.

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Chaewon Chung *The Sacramento Bee* 

Chaewon Chung covers climate and environmental issues for The Sacramento Bee. Before joining The Bee, she worked as a climate and environment reporter for the Winston-Salem Journal in North Carolina.

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HEALTHY RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

MAR 23, 2026

The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program, previously referred to as Voluntary Agreements and Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, represent an unprecedented opportunity to improve the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta) ecosystem by creating a comprehensive program of habitat enhancement projects coupled with more water for fish and wildlife, managed in a collaborative, science-based manner. ACWA strongly supports the HRL Program as the best approach to protecting, restoring, and enhancing California's Bay-Delta.



To learn more about some of the successful HRL projects, visit our [Case Studies](#) page. If you have a project you would like to see featured, please email ACWA Communications Specialist, Ellen Martin.

Timeline

2/2/26: Written comments due to State water Board on updated Bay-Delta Plan documents.
1/28-1/30: State Water Board hearing to receive comments on updated Bay-Delta Plan documents.
12/12/25: State Water Board releases revised Bay-Delta Plan and draft Staff Report.
11/7/25: Written comments due to State Water Board.
11/6/25: ACWA coalition letter submitted to State Water Board on Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement (Draft SBR) for Tuolumne River HRL Program proposal.
11/5/25: State Water Board public workshop on Draft SBR for Tuolumne River HRL Program proposal.
9/19/25: State Water Board releases Draft SBR for the Tuolumne River HRL Program proposal.

9/16/25: State Water Board rescinds revised draft of potential updates for Sacramento/Delta Update and cancels public hearing and comment period.
7/24/25: Gov. Newsom releases press release on Bay-Delta Plan Update
7/24/25: State Water Board releases revised draft of potential updates for the Sacramento/Delta Update for the Bay-Delta Plan.
7/1/25: Gov. Newsom on June 27 signed a budget bill that restores more than \$351 million in funding for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program.
1/30/25: ACWA Comment letter submitted to State Water Board on draft Sacramento/Bay-Delta Updates.
1/23/25: State Water Board public workshop on modular Alternatives 5a and 6a.
1/1/25: Coalition letter submitted to State Water Board on draft Sacramento/Bay-Delta Updates.
12/12/24: State Water Board public workshop on tribal focused topics and general comments about the Sacramento/Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan.
12/3/24: State Water Board public workshop on the HRL Program's flow and habitat accounting.
11/22/24: State Water Board public workshop on the HRL Program provisions for the Sacramento/Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan.
11/20/24: State Water Board public workshop on the draft Sacramento/Delta regulatory provisions in the Bay-Delta Plan.
12/19/24: Written comments on the draft update are due to the State Water Board.
10/25/24: State Water Board released a draft of potential updates for the Sacramento/Delta changes to the Bay-Delta Plan, including options for incorporating a regulatory pathway.
8/15/2024: The Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and parties to the HRL Program release a Common Responses document.
6/6/2024: ACWA-led coalition letter is submitted, opposing funding reductions for the HRL Program.
4/24-4/26/2024: State Water Board public workshop on the HRL Program, including public testimony by ACWA staff and member agency representatives.

3/29/2024: HRL Program parties release additional documents which include Flow Accounting Procedures, Non-flow Measure Accounting Protocols, Implementing Agreements, and Enforcement Agreements.
1/19/2024: Written comments on the draft Staff Report are due to the State Water Board.
12/11/2023: State Water Board public hearing on draft Staff Report.
12/1/2023: State Water Board public hearing on draft Staff Report.
11/17/2023: State Water Board public hearing on draft Staff Report and opportunity for oral comments.
11/14/2023: State Water Board extends public comment period from 11/15/2023 to 1/19/2024.
11/2/2023: State Water Board workshop on modeling used in draft Staff Report.
10/19/2023: State Water Board workshop on overview of draft Staff Report.
9/28/2023: State Water Board releases draft Staff Report in support of Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan and the Final Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements.
5/18/2023: State Water Board scoping meeting to solicit input regarding the proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement.
4/11/2023: State Water Board releases Notice of Preparation of Environmental Documentation for Possible Amendment of the Bay-Delta Plan to Incorporate Voluntary Agreement for the Tuolumne River.
1/19/2023: State Water Board public workshop on the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements.
1/5/2023: State Water Board releases the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements.
3/29/2022: State Water Board receives a Memorandum of Understanding Advancing a Term Sheet for Voluntary Agreements.
12/12/2018: State Water Board adopts Bay-Delta Plan amendments and a Final SED establishing updated flow objectives on the Lower San Joaquin River.

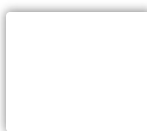
7/6/2018: State Water Board releases a Framework for the Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan.

10/2/2017: State Water Board finalizes the Scientific Basis Report in Support of New and Modified Requirements for Inflows from the Sacramento River and its Tributaries and Eastside Tributaries to the Delta, Delta Outflows, Cold Water Habitat, and Interior Delta Flows.

1/24/2012: State Water Board initiates process to update the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Bay-Delta Plan.

FAQ

Background





HEALTHY RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

MAR 23, 2026

The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program, previously referred to as Voluntary Agreements and Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, represent an unprecedented opportunity to improve the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta) ecosystem by creating a comprehensive program of habitat enhancement projects coupled with more water for fish and wildlife, managed in a collaborative, science-based manner. ACWA strongly supports the HRL Program as the best approach to protecting, restoring, and enhancing California's Bay-Delta.



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Timeline

FAQ

What is the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program?

Hundreds of organizations either depend on or have a say in the management of the Bay-Delta. And all those organizations agree that the Bay-Delta is in trouble as native aquatic species of fish, such as salmon and Delta smelt, and the ecosystem that they depend on continue to decline. A large coalition of those organizations – federal, state and local agencies such as water and irrigation districts, along with farmers – have united behind comprehensive plans for protecting the Bay-Delta from further environmental harm, while providing adequate water supplies for farms and cities.

These plans are the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program, previously called Voluntary Agreements. They propose a historic suite of integrated actions that are far broader than the flow-only approach proposed by the State Water Resources Control Board staff. This new approach will also allow water managers to adapt operations based on real-time conditions and enable broad

coordination across watersheds to manage flows for maximal benefits. This more flexible, adaptive management is critical as climate change increases uncertainty and drives extreme conditions.

When and how can the HRL Program work to improve the Bay-Delta?

The HRL Program, if approved by the State Water Board as an implementation pathway for an updated Bay-Delta Plan, could help state agencies meet requirements to protect beneficial uses in the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds. Through this approach, California would dedicate a large quantity of water to the environment and restore 45,000 acres of aquatic habitat for fish and other animals. The HRL Program provide a promising pathway to protect and restore our environment, enable California's economy to thrive, and provide a foundation for a more resilient future. When it comes to water in California, now is the time to bridge our differences in pursuit of sustainable solutions that meet our state's needs.

What is ACWA doing to advocate for the HRL Program?

ACWA continues to advocate in support of the proposed program as the superior approach to updating the Bay-Delta Plan and achieving the coequal goals of protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta. Following the release of the draft Staff Report in September 2023, ACWA convened its Bay-Delta Working Group and engaged with member agencies, partners, and interested parties to inform its advocacy. ACWA staff intend to provide oral and written comments on the draft Staff Report to the State Water Board.

State Water Contractors' California's Voluntary Agreements Fact Sheet

California Natural Resources Agency's FAQ webpage

Background



Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program: Statewide and American River Aspects



Michelle Banonis, RWA

What Is the HRL?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLOpS9yz3h8&t=4s>

- State Water Resources Control Board (Board)
 - Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan)
 - Protection of designated beneficial uses
 - Plan of implementation for achieving objectives
- The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program (HRL):
 - Is a multi-tributary arrangement that would allow an alternative mechanism for achieving protection of beneficial uses.
 - Includes funding, flow, governance, and non-flow (e.g., habitat)
 - Must be assessed for scientific and legal adequacy by the Board

HRL for the American River

- **8-year agreement** (*provides protection of water rights*)
- **FLOW**
 - 40 TAF flow contribution (a combination of groundwater supply and upstream surface storage)
 - 10 TAF from upstream storage made in 3 AN and BN years
 - 30 TAF of groundwater in up to 3 D and C years
 - 10 TAF from any of the available sources in D years
- **GOVERNANCE**
 - Statewide governance
 - Tributary-specific governance

HRL for the American River (Cont'd)

- **HABITAT**

- 25 acres of spawning and 75 acres of rearing in the Lower American River at beneficial locations as coordinated with the Water Forum

- **FUNDING**

- Contributions from all tributaries for
 - Water Revolving Fund (WRF) – compensation to offset costs for flow releases
 - Structural Science and Habitat Fund (SSHF) – Per AF charge on deliveries with a portion coming back to our region for tributary-specific governance
 - Both a portion of WRF and SSHF funds stay in the region (more in ITA discussion)
- Public funding:
 - \$55 million ARTESIAN grant to groundwater agencies from DWR
 - \$290 per AF for surface contributions and additional D years (WRF)

Key Documents:

- **State Water Resources Control Board**

- Program of Implementation
- Staff Report (EIR equivalent)
- Enforcement Agreement
- Implementing Agreement

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

- **American River-specific**

- Intratributary Agreement
- Operations Agreement with Reclamation
- ARTESIAN
- Water Forum (TBD)
- Common Interest Agreement (TBD)

Intratributary Agreement (ITA)

“This Intratributary Agreement (Agreement) is intended to identify tributary-specific obligations in relation to the implementation of the HRL for the American River, and work among the American River Parties (Parties) to alleviate, mitigate, or eliminate risk through tributary-specific, enforceable terms among Parties. Addressing risk and anticipating uncertainty in [HRL] implementation will allow the Parties to fulfill their obligations and ensure continued regulatory coverage through the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan).”

Funding:

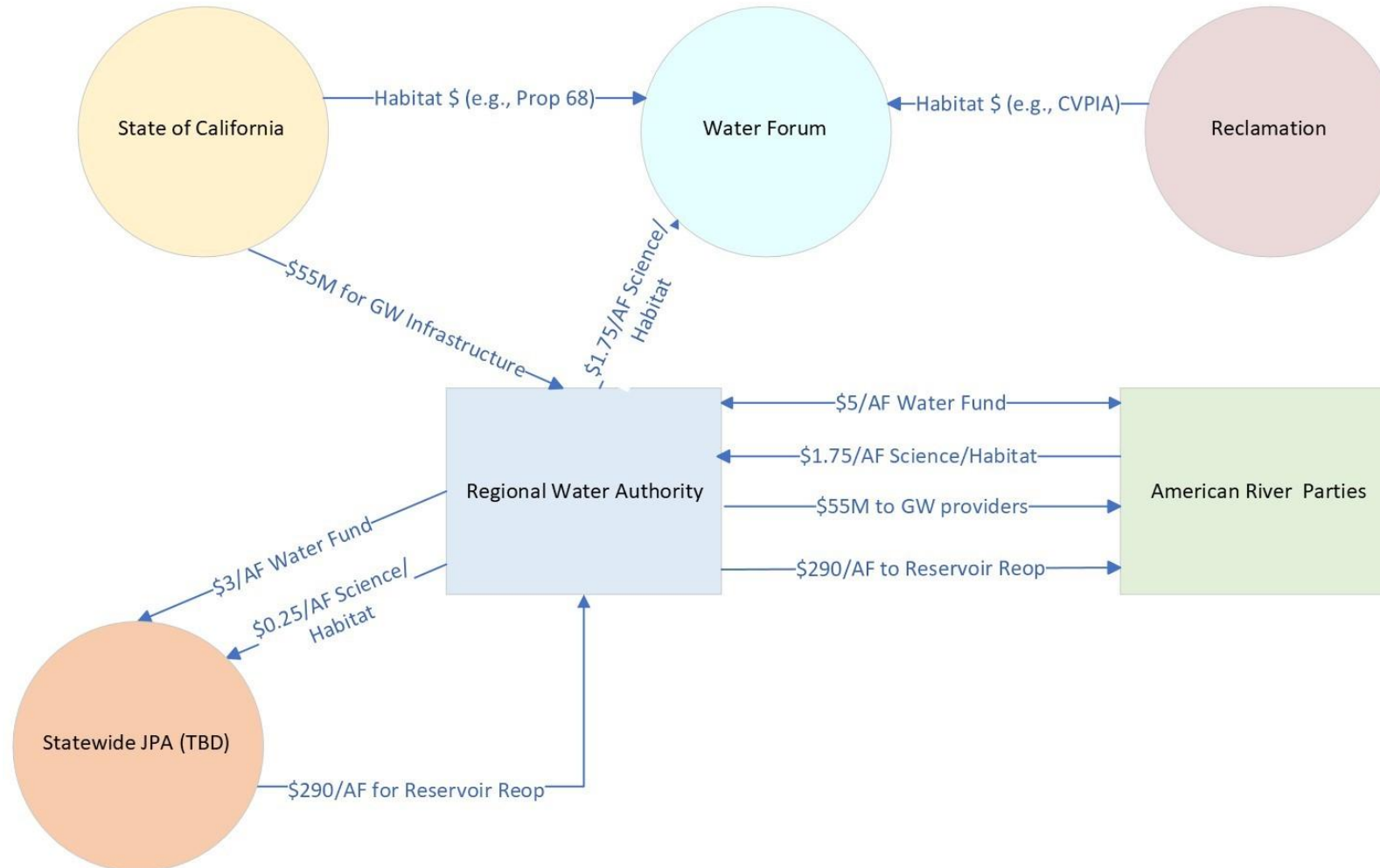
- RWA to collect, distribute, track, and report fees and diversions
- **Water Fund (\$3/AF):** Shared obligation
- **Water Fund (\$5/AF, Self-Reliance Fund):** CVP contracts
- **Science and Habitat Fund (\$2/AF):** Shared obligation. \$1.75 to Water Forum, \$0.25 to statewide JPA
- **Upstream reservoir ops (10 TAF in three AN/BN years) and groundwater or surface contributions in D years (10 TAF) - \$290/AF from JPA (through RWA)**
- **Groundwater agencies (30 TAF in three D/C years) - \$55 million from DWR (through RWA)**

Projected Annual Average Diversions and Fees*

Agency	DIVERSIONS			FEES				
	Post-1914 CVP/Warren Act Diversions	Pre-1914 & Non-Project Diversions	Total Diversions (AF/yr)	\$2 Fee (All Diversions)	\$5 Fee (Post-1914 CVP/Warren Act)	\$3 Fee Shared (CVP Warren Act)	Combined Fees	Combined \$/AF
Roseville	30,000	-	30,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 14,878	\$ 224,878	\$ 7.50
Folsom	3,000	15,000	18,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 8,927	\$ 59,927	\$ 3.33
SCWA	7,000	7,000	14,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 6,943	\$ 69,943	\$ 5.00
EID	3,000	32,000	35,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,357	\$ 102,357	\$ 2.92
SJWD Consortium	7,800	31,000	38,800	\$ 77,600	\$ 39,000	\$ 19,242	\$ 135,842	\$ 3.50
PCWA	-	110,000	110,000	\$ 220,000	\$ -	\$ 54,552	\$ 274,552	\$ 2.50
Cal American	-	2,700	2,700	\$ 5,400	\$ -	\$ 1,339	\$ 6,739	\$ 2.50
Golden State WC	-	5,000	5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 2,480	\$ 12,480	\$ 2.50
Carmichael WD	-	5,800	5,800	\$ 11,600	\$ -	\$ 2,876	\$ 14,476	\$ 2.50
City of Sacramento	-	77,400	77,400	\$ 154,800	\$ -	\$ 38,384	\$ 193,184	\$ 2.50
SSWD	8,000	-	8,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 3,967	\$ 59,967	\$ 7.50
FPUD	-	1,500	1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 744	\$ 3,744	\$ 2.50
GDPUD	-	9,500	9,500	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ 4,711	\$ 23,711	\$ 2.50
TOTAL	58,800	296,900	355,700	\$ 711,400	\$ 294,000	\$ 176,400	\$ 1,181,800	\$ 3.32

* Does not include additional projected Water Forum needs/cost increases or future RWA staffing needs (discussed later)

American River Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program - Circulation of Funding

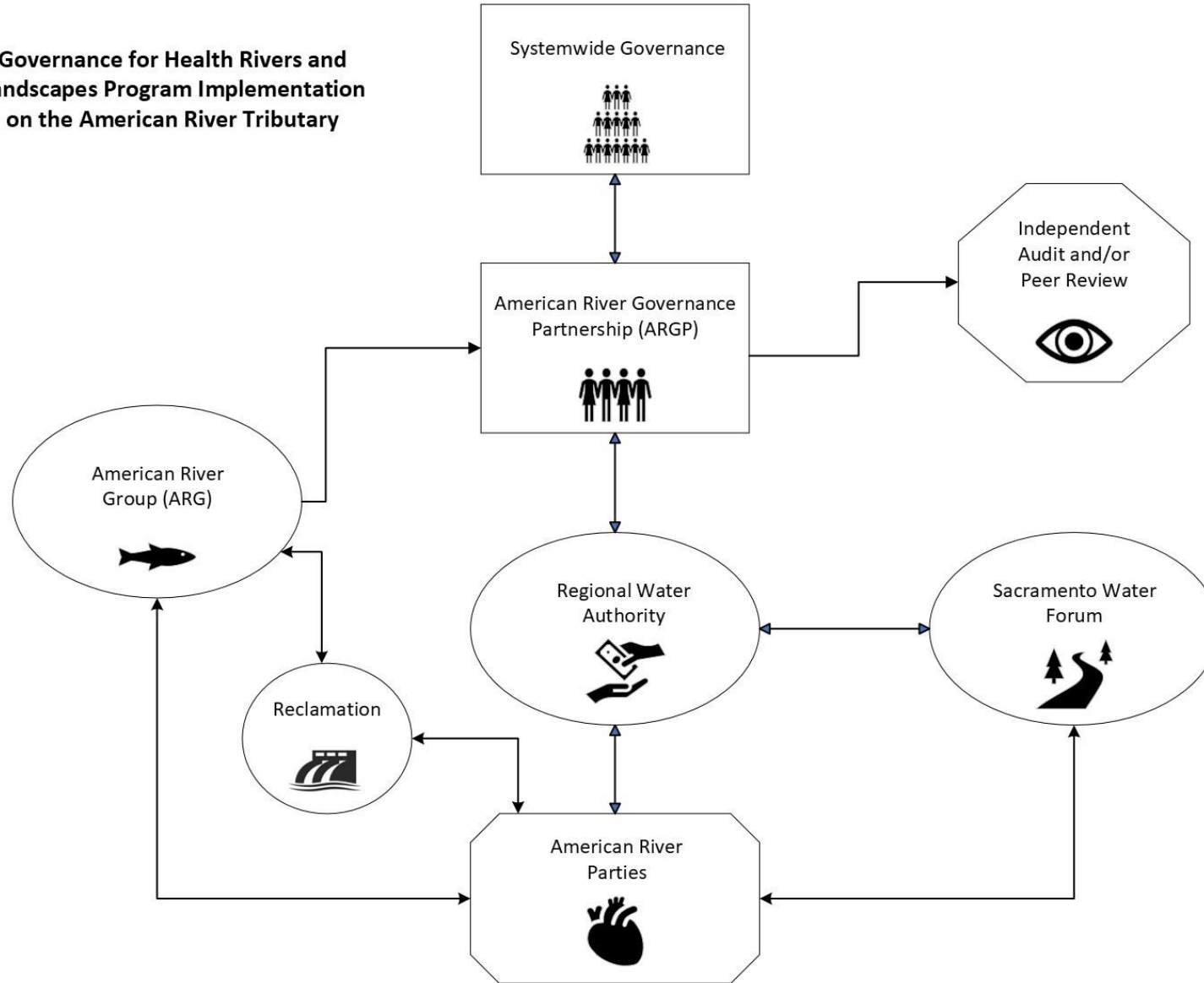


- **Flow contributions** (as stated previously)
- ITA adds in **process for planning and implementation**, including:
 - Establishing baseline
 - Monitoring and reporting
 - Readiness review
 - Coordination internally and externally before, during, and after flow replenishment
 - Includes ARG, NMFS, CDFW, Reclamation

- **American River Governance Partnership**
 - Tributary-specific governance
 - Representative from each American River HRL party
 - Monthly meetings (modifiable)
 - Decision-making by majority vote
 - Decisions elevated to state systemwide governance
 - Recommendations for independent audits as desired

ITA, cont'd

Governance for Health Rivers and Landscapes Program Implementation on the American River Tributary



- **Risk mitigation**

- Requires risk disclosure to all Parties within 24 hours
 - Examples: contamination, operations, funding shortages, etc.
- Planning for redundancy
- Review commitments annually during Readiness Review
 - Capability determinations (at RR)
- Recharge during wet years
- Case-by-case risk mitigation (maximum flexibility)
- Compensation for aid (identified for each situation/party)
- Potential open market water purchases
- Off-ramps for curtailments, spill, change in regulations

Reclamation Operations Agreement

- Between American River HRL Parties and Reclamation
- Reclamation fronts water March – May, Parties pay it back either:
 - From March – February for groundwater, or
 - From March – September for reservoirs
- Calls for coordination similar to ITA with Reclamation (RR, coordination before, during, and after flows)
- Flow measurement and verification
- Reporting
- Risk management for spill, change in water year type, curtailments, M&I Policy implementation
- Breach, termination, withdrawal

Schedule and Status

State-level:

- Until April 10th: Meetings in GO to resolve outstanding big ticket issues
- Next two weeks: Individual meetings with State Board staff to discuss technical issues
Summer/early fall: State Board release of updated Staff Report, responses to comments
- Fall 2026: Potential adoption of Plan Update

American River-specific:

- June: “Finalize” ITA
- July: Templates for agency obligations, memorandum for individual boards to use for briefings and/or approvals
- October: RWA and Reclamation to sign Operations Agreement (uncertain)
- December 31: ARTESIAN projects complete
- After January 1, 2027: Begin implementation

Questions and Discussion

Thank you!