



# The Water Forum Agreement

## Ten Years of Implementation – 2000 to 2010

The **Water Forum** is a diverse group of Sacramento region stakeholders representing business, agriculture, water, local government, environmental and citizen interests in Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties. These interests joined together to fulfill two co-equal objectives:

- ◆ Provide a water supply for the region's economic growth to the year 2030 that is both safe and reliable, and
- ◆ Preserve the fishery, recreation and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

Signed in 2000, the Water Forum Agreement (WFA) takes a balanced approach to these two objectives by linking seven different elements and charting the progress made in each.

The Water Forum Agreement, which is voluntary, calls for a new approach to water management and water-based ecosystem protection in the Sacramento region. This new approach relies on interest-based collaboration and best available scientific information.

What follows is a summary of the progress that has been made in each element during the decade since the Water Forum was signed. The agreement also called for several specific actions, organized into seven elements. This report provides a snapshot of the progress to date on these actions. It also serves as a testimonial to the success of our collaborative approach.

### The 7 Elements

1. Increased Surface Water Diversions
2. Actions to Meet Customers' Needs While Reducing Diversion Impacts in Drier Years
3. Improved Pattern of Fishery Flow Releases from Folsom Reservoir
4. Lower American River Habitat Management
5. Water Conservation
6. Groundwater Management
7. Water Forum Successor Effort (WFSE)

1993

City and County officials establish the Water Forum

Stakeholder group convenes

Education phase begins

1994

Water Forum stakeholders go to Washington D.C. Approval of Sacramento River diversion point for City of Sacramento's American River water follows

Work on fish-friendly flow plan for lower American River begins

City and county agree on surface water wheeling arrangements

1995

Water Forum negotiation phase begins

1998

North Sacramento Groundwater Authority forms

Northridge Water District and Placer County Water Agency forge place of use agreement

## 1. Increased Surface Water Diversions

The Water Forum Agreement recognized that even with active conservation programs, increased diversions will be needed in the region. The agreement outlined diversions for each supplier and the facilities needed to divert, treat and distribute this water. Key to this element is the agreement among signatories that they would publicly support these projects. It also described several water supply projects that would be supported by all Water Forum signatories. The following list of completed projects speaks to the power of regional endorsement.

### City of Folsom

- ◆ Completed expansion of water treatment plant to 25 million gallons per day (mgd)
- ◆ Completed expansion of diversion facility at Folsom Reservoir
- ◆ Completed relocation and enlargement of raw water conveyance pipeline
- ◆ Approved Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for Public Law (PL) 101-514 (Fazio water) delivery of Central Valley Project (CVP) contract water
- ◆ Completed water transfer of 5,000 acre-feet (AF) from Arden Cordova Water Service (now Golden State Water Company)

### City of Roseville

- ◆ Completed expansion of water treatment to 60 mgd
- ◆ Completed major pipeline infrastructure
- ◆ Completed raw water conveyance pipeline
- ◆ Completed expansion of diversion facility at Folsom Reservoir
- ◆ Completed reclaimed water treatment plant construction

### City of Sacramento

- ◆ Obtained approval of diversion point for American River water at the Sacramento River diversion facility
- ◆ Entered into water wheeling agreement with Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA)
- ◆ Entered into surface water contract with Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) for the SSWD Arcade Service Area
- ◆ Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant upgrade completed
- ◆ Completed new diversion structure and fish screens for Sacramento River water
- ◆ Expanded both the E.A. Fairbairn intake facility on the American River and the Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant
- ◆ Joined with SCWA and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to form the Freeport Regional Water Authority and provide a Sacramento River water supply
- ◆ Entered into a wholesale water agreement with the California American Water Company

### San Juan Water District Consortium

- ◆ Completed raw water conveyance pipeline
- ◆ Completed expansion of diversion facility at Folsom Reservoir
- ◆ Approved EIS/EIR for Fazio water delivery of CVP contract water
- ◆ Approved change of Place of Use with State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for using Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) water

### Golden State Water Company

*(Rancho Cordova Customer Service Area formerly Arden Cordova Water Service)*

- ◆ Entered into interim replacement water supply agreement with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- ◆ Completed water transfer of 5,000 AF to City of Folsom



### Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)

- ◆ Approved change in Place of Use with State Board for using PCWA water
- ◆ Entered into surface water contract with City of Sacramento for the Arcade Service Area
- ◆ Completed new Purveyor Specific Agreement

### Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

- ◆ Completed first phase of Cosumnes Power Plant
- ◆ Completed environmental documentation and received approval for assignment of 30,000 AF of CVP contract water to SCWA
- ◆ Entered into interim replacement water supply agreement with Southern California Water Company (now Golden State Water Company) for its Arden Cordova Water Service area

### Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)

- ◆ Completed SSWD water contract
- ◆ Approved change of Place of Use with State Board for use of PCWA water within Sacramento County
- ◆ American River Pump Station at Auburn Canyon completed

### Freeport and Vineyard Projects

The Freeport Regional Water Project is a cooperative effort between Sacramento County and East Bay Municipal Utility District. Construction began in 2007 and is substantially completed. Eventually this project will provide surface water to Sacramento County's Zone 40 in the central Sacramento County area and it will supply water to EBMUD customers in dry years.

By diverting their American River water supply from the Sacramento River, both agencies avoid diversion impacts to the lower American River. Sacramento County's diversions at Freeport will be



### California-American Water Company

- ◆ Approval of change in Place of Use with State Board for using PCWA water in the Lincoln Oaks/Royal Oaks Service Areas within Sacramento County
- ◆ Entered into a wholesale agreement with the City of Sacramento for wholesale water

### Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA)

- ◆ Entered into water wheeling agreement with City of Sacramento
- ◆ Partnered with East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) and City of Sacramento to form the Freeport Regional Water Authority to provide Sacramento River water supply.
- ◆ Received approval for transfer of 30,000 AF of CVP contract water from SMUD
- ◆ Developed a Water Supply Master Plan for Agency's Zone 40 in 1987. The plan was updated in 1995 and 2005

### Carmichael Water District

- ◆ Completed expansion of Bajamont Water Treatment Plant in 2008 with a current production capacity of 22 mgd, allowing the District to use only two groundwater sources during high demand summer months
- ◆ Worked with partners, Aerojet and Sacramento County to complete a new groundwater treatment facility resulting in groundwater clean-up, protected drinking water, and beneficial use of the remediated water

pumped to the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant currently under construction in south Sacramento County. At the Vineyard Plant the water will be treated and delivered to customers. Upon project completion, which is expected to be in late 2011, the plant will treat up to 100 million gallons per day to meet growing demands.

Historically, most of the water delivered to SCWA customers has been water from underground aquifers. The additional surface water supply from the Sacramento River will reduce demand on groundwater and allow aquifers to naturally replenish.

1998

Three local agencies contract with Bureau of Reclamation for "Fazio Water"

Folsom water treatment plant approved

70,000 acre-feet of groundwater banked; health of the basin increases

1999

Water Forum negotiation phase ends

City of Roseville Water Treatment plant approved

Water Forum Environmental Impact Report adopted; becomes a template for projects that follow

Water Forum receives 1999 Achievement Award from California Water Policy Conference

2000

Water Forum agreement signed

Building begins on Fairbairn Water Treatment Plant



2000

Funding for HME provided

Water Forum Successor Effort created

Water Forum receives Association of California Water Agencies Clair A. Hill Water Agency Award

Water Forum receives U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award

## 2. Actions to Meet Customers' Needs While Reducing Diversion Impacts in Drier Years

To avoid impacts to the American River during dry water years, purveyors have agreed to reduce their surface water diversion and use alternative supplies, such as groundwater, or increase conservation to meet their customers' needs.

As called for in the Water Forum Agreement, Technical Memorandum Number 1 (Water Forum, May 2007) describes how and when Water Forum staff will compute and publish an important annual water supply index known as "UIFR."

UIFR stands for Unimpaired Inflow into Folsom Reservoir. From March through November Water Forum staff collects relevant information, computes the UIFR and publishes the information in monthly runoff reports during springtime. These reports inform Water Forum purveyors as to whether or not they will need to employ their dry year actions.

In addition to prescribed dry-year diversion cutbacks. The Water Forum Agreement also defines a "conference year"

as any year when the UIFR falls below 400,000 AF. In a conference year, all Water Forum purveyors agree to conference with other signatories to determine how limited water supplies will be shared. This approach employs a "share the pain" philosophy that requires the collaborative skills of all Water Forum members.

2001

Water Forum receives grant to complete River Corridor Management Plan

River Corridor Management Plan adopted

Regional water conservation program begins

Regional Water Authority created.

Water Forum receives League of California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Excellence

### Roseville Aquifer Storage and Recovery

The City of Roseville is developing an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program to better manage groundwater levels ensuring access to a sustainable resource in the future; improve the City's water supply reliability; and, meet regional conjunctive use goals called for in the Water Forum Agreement.

During the ASR process, surface water supply is injected by specially designed groundwater wells into the groundwater aquifer for storage, and then later recovered for municipal use.

In 2004, Roseville conducted a pilot project to test ASR at the well site located in Leonard Duke Davis Park to demonstrate injection/extraction capability. In August 2006 state regulators approved a waiver for a two-year operational program. Roseville's ASR program is finalizing the Environmental Impact Report for the program and will be submitting a request for an operations permit from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Program permitting is expected in the Spring of 2011.

### Regional Water Authority (RWA)

In 1998, water purveyors in southern Placer County and northern Sacramento County formed the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies (ARBCA). The ARBCA completed the Regional Water Master Plan (RWMP) in late 2003.

• The objective of the RWMP is to develop equitable, cost-effective strategies for enhancing water supply reliability and operational flexibility for water users who rely on Folsom Lake, the lower American River, and the connected groundwater basin.

- RWA was formed in 2001 to provide a formal structure for ongoing regional collaboration. It received a \$22 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources in 2002 to help implement 12 projects as part of the American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program.
- The Sacramento Groundwater Authority was formed in August 1998 to ensure sustainable yield and protect the Sacramento north area groundwater basin.

2002

Regional water authority obtains \$22 million for groundwater infrastructure



### 3. Improved Pattern of Fishery Flow Releases from Folsom Reservoir

To achieve the Water Forum's coequal objective of preserving the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River, flow releases and water temperatures from Folsom Reservoir must match more closely the needs of anadromous fish, especially fall run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Accordingly, the Water Forum Agreement called for development and implementation of an improved pattern of fishery flows on the lower American River. The completion of this project, referred to as the Flow Management Standard (FMS), is considered to be one of the most important elements of the Water Forum Agreement.

From 2001 through 2003, Water Forum stakeholders, staff, and consultants worked with the United States Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a rigorous, science-based FMS. This work culminated in the 2006 release of a technical memorandum that included detailed hydrologic-based minimum releases for Folsom Dam and a new approach to managing water temperatures.

Unlike flow standards developed for other California streams, the American River FMS has a sliding scale for minimum flows and temperature targets. Consistent with the Water Forum's co-equal objectives, this adaptive approach balances the available supplies in the American River basin with the achievable biological objectives. Because American River water conditions vary from year to year, the FMS flows and temperature targets must be recomputed every season.

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Since this approach relies on accurate data and complex computations, the FMS also calls for ongoing monitoring and open governance to guide its implementation. The governance process is provided through the American River Group (ARG). The ARG is convened by Reclamation at least once a month, and more often if water or biological conditions become critical.

This approach was communicated internally to Water Forum members and externally to other interested stakeholders through a series of public workshops

during 2004. The approach was memorialized in a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Interior and the Water Forum. The MOU describes a process and schedule for completing development of the FMS. The technical details of the FMS were published in a Technical Memorandum in 2006.

Reclamation began voluntarily implementing several aspects of the FMS in 2006, including strict adherence to prescribed minimum flows. In 2008, Reclamation included the FMS as part of a Biological Assessment that was issued describing widespread water operations in California. Subsequently, NMFS directed Reclamation to continue implementing the FMS through its 2009 Biological Opinion.

Since 2006, the Water Forum has been working to complete an EIR for the FMS and move toward a durable form of implementation. A draft EIR is expected to be released in mid-2011. Water Forum caucuses are expected to deliberate through a series of facilitated, interest-based discussions during 2011, to determine the most appropriate implementation approach.

2002

Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum formed

Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority formed; groundwater management plan follows

Freeport Regional Water Authority created

American River Parkway Plan Update begins

Sacramento Suburban Water District created

Year 1 Water Conservation Report released

2003

Water Forum receives 2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award

Sacramento Suburban Water District signs Water Forum Agreement

Placer County Water Agency begins \$31 million American River Pump Station Project, including funding for recreation purposes.



Arden Cordova Water Service and Sacramento Municipal Utility District agree on interim water supplies for Arden Cordova.

Sacramento Suburban Water District and City of Sacramento agree on diversion and treatment of water supply for SSWD

**Water Forum** sponsors American River Science Conference

SMUD/Cosumnes River Power plant cooling water

Legislation allows City of Folsom to comply with its conservation plan

**Water Forum** receives State of California Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award

**Water Forum Successor Effort** finds many agencies falling short of water conservation objectives

Temperature control device for the Folsom Dam intake begins operating

**Water Forum** receives grant to reduce water temperature in Lake Natoma

## 4. Lower American River Habitat Management Element (HME)

The HME, combined with the FMS and reducing diversions in drier years, is intended to provide a counterbalance to the impacts of the increased diversions on the lower American River. It is intended as a means for preserving the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the LAR. It is primarily funded by the city and county of Sacramento. The County's initial base contribution was \$250,000 and the City's was \$125,000. These amounts are adjusted annually for inflation. The County's portion comes from Zone 13 funds.

In December 2001 the Water Forum collaborated with over 30 government, public interest and environmental organizations to produce the River Corridor Management Plan (RCMP). In 2002, the Water Forum Successor Effort accepted the FISH and Recreation components of the RCMP as implementation agents for the HME. HME accomplishments include:

- ◆ In April 2005, released the first "State of the River" report, which reviews the health of the lower American River ecosystem
- ◆ Continued funding to develop a flow standard for the lower American River
- ◆ Financial support of the update process for the American River Parkway Plan

- ◆ Sponsorship of the 2003 American River Science Conference and the 2005 American River Watershed Science and Management Conference
- ◆ Sponsorship of American River Parkway Foundation efforts to improve the LAR Parkway
- ◆ Sponsorship and participation in LAR flow fluctuation workshop
- ◆ Development of a model to assess actions that would result in water temperature reductions at Lake Nimbus. Funding provided through a \$466,000 grant from the California Bay-Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program
- ◆ Continued implementation of the River Corridor Management Plan and the accompanying Fisheries and Instream Habitat Plan via coordination with Lower American River Task Force and FISH Working Group

### American River Parkway Plan Update

- ◆ 2008 – Participated as member of project management team that guided the update process. Provided \$75,000 in HME funds over three years for this process

## Restoration and Enhancement Projects

The Water Forum has leveraged its HME funding to accomplish several habitat projects including:

### Sunrise Side Channel

The purpose of the Sunrise Side Channel Project was to enhance spawning habitat for anadromous fish in the LAR by making an existing side channel deeper. The project was funded by the Proposition 50 River Parkways Grant program. Partners included County Parks, SAFCA and DFG. Construction was completed in 2008 and the interpretive component was completed in 2010. Physical and biological monitoring is ongoing.

### Carmichael Creek

Conducted baseline soil mapping, topographic inventory, hydrologic studies and hydraulic modeling of urban storm drain tributary to LAR. Funding provided by Rose Foundation. Project is a long-term goal of County Parks to naturalize this creek and provide habitat and water quality benefits.

### Cordova Creek

Initial studies completed to collect hydrologic, topographic and surface soil information of concrete storm drain tributary to LAR in 2006 in partnership with County Parks. Subsequent funding provided by Water Forum in 2008, 2009 and 2010 for grant proposals to fund restoration project to naturalize this creek and provide habitat and water quality benefits. Project partners include County Parks, California Native Plant Society and Soil Born Farms.

### Lower American River Gravel Augmentation Project

Gravel placement program in LAR to promote wild spawning of salmon and steelhead. Project partners include US Bureau of Reclamation, County Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service and DFG. Over 30,000 tons of gravel have been placed since 2008.



### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Conducted temperature and stage monitoring of LAR lower reach in partnership with Hydrologic Engineering Center at Davis.
- Conducted reconnaissance assessment in 2008 for Folsom Shutters Leakage Investigation and Folsom Shutters Re-Configuration Investigation in partnership with SAFCA.
- Provided funding in 2008 for purchase of GPS equipment and personnel to assist County Parks with mapping of vegetation in the American River Parkway.
- Studies in 2009 as part of the FMS process that included conversion of the Coldwater Pool Management Model and incorporation of the Automated Temperature Selection Procedure, temperature simulations related to the FMS, ongoing Folsom shutters leakage assessment and temperature monitoring.

- Convert and upgrade iCPMM model in 2010 along with the completion of HEC-RAS 1 Dimensional Temperature Model for LAR and water level and temperature monitoring in LAR.
- Funding for annual LAR Chinook salmon escapement surveys
- Funding for monitoring LAR Chinook salmon spawning gravel restoration sites
- Funding for a study to assess over-summering steelhead in the LAR
- Ongoing monitoring and assessment of isolation pools and other LAR limiting factors

2003

Work on flow management standard results in inclusion of temperature management as an objective

2004

Water Forum and U.S. Dept. of the Interior sign agreement on Lower American River Flow Management Standard

Water Forum receives grant to develop Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum communications strategy

Use of remediated water in the basin begins

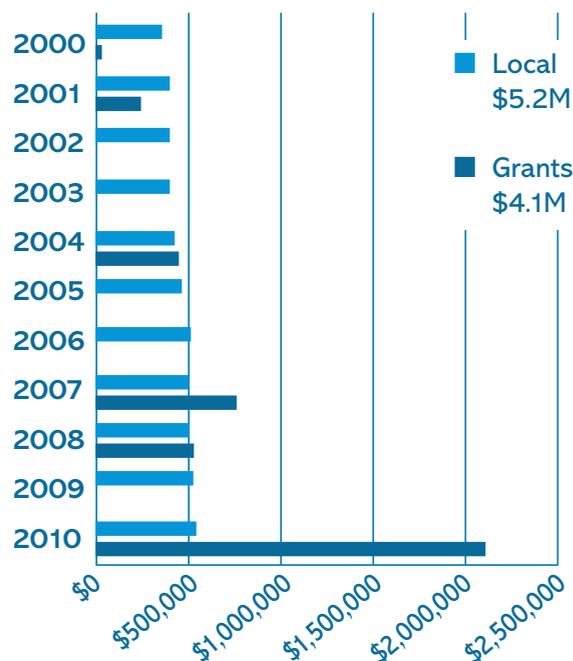
Central Valley board requires Aerojet/Boeing cumulative impacts and analysis

Water Forum awarded federal grant for temperature control monitoring in Lake Natoma

Periodic accounting for regional water use begins

Freeport Water Project approved by Sacramento County

### Leveraging Local Funds and Grants



This graph depicts funding for the HME. Since its inception in 2000, the Water Forum has secured 80¢ in grant funding for every \$1 contributed by local cost share partners.



2004

State passes legislation mandating urban water meters

City of Sacramento completes new water intake facility on Sacramento River

Harvard University Kennedy School of Government recognizes **Water Forum** as a "Top 50" program in the Innovations in American Government competition

Florin Resource Conservation District signs agreement with **Water Forum**

Landscape Task Force convened

**Water Forum** stakeholders discuss update to Agreement's water conservation element

Flow Management Standard Policy document released; **Water Forum** and Reclamation pledge cooperation

2005

**Water Forum**, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reach agreement on portion of FMS

## 5. Water Conservation

The Water Conservation Element helps meet the region's water supply needs by minimizing the need for increased groundwater pumping and increased use of surface water, including diversions from the American River. Each water supplier in the region committed to implementing a comprehensive water conservation plan.

In 2004 efforts began to update Water Conservation Element. Negotiations culminated in a new Water Conservation Element agreed to by Water Forum signatories in 2009. Grant funding from Reclamation of \$10,000 assisted the negotiation process.

The new Water Conservation Element is based on implementing the actions called for in the California Urban Water Conservation Council's (Council) MOU with one critical addition. While the Council's purveyor signatories are allowed to exempt themselves from Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are not locally affordable, Water Forum purveyors have committed to a more aggressive "deferral process." Water Forum signatories have agreed that if a BMP is not locally affordable, the water purveyor will apply the program costs that were reported in the BMP deferral analysis toward the implementation of another BMP with the intent of achieving as much if not more water savings.

### Water Conservation-Technical Support

The Water Forum Successor Effort has successfully teamed with the RWA in providing ongoing technical support to its purveyor members. This has included help on reporting BMP implementation and meter retrofits (see Annual Reporting). As the State has increased its regulatory focus on water conservation the Successor Effort has increased its technical support.

To comply with Assembly Bill 1420 (2007), purveyors must document their path to implementation of BMPs – both records of implementation and plans for future implementation. Water Forum staff and consultants have been actively assisting purveyors with this documentation. Failure to provide this documentation to the State may result in loss of eligibility for State funding sources.

Similarly, in 2009 the Legislature mandated 20 percent reduction of per capita water use in California through Senate Bill 7x7. The Water Forum continues to assist purveyors in interpreting this statute and in determining which of four available compliance methods will work best for their particular circumstances.

This support has encompassed review and preparation of documentation, one-on-one agency meetings, and agency program and data analysis. The Water Forum/RWA team has ongoing meetings with water conservation coordinators at the individual agency level and at regional-wide meetings.

### Regional Water Authority Water Efficiency Program

The RWA's Water Efficiency Program is a large-scale effort designed to help participating agencies fulfill commitments to implement their Water Forum water conservation plans. The program provides services with oversight via an advisory committee. Through this regional effort, purveyors are better able to manage BMP implementation projects through coordination and training of staff, regional marketing services and leveraged resources. Program components include regional public outreach and school education programs, large landscape irrigation efficiency and leak detection programs, and partnerships with other agencies for toilet replacement rebates and distribution of water efficiency products targeting the restaurant and food service industry. Funding provided to RWA in various amounts for publications of collateral material and program support for water conservation.

## Reporting

Purveyors report on the implementation of their water conservation plans to the Water Forum Successor Effort. These reports can be reviewed on the Water Forum website, [www.waterforum.org](http://www.waterforum.org)

## Landscape Water Conservation

In 2004, the Water Forum convened a regional landscape taskforce to review water efficient landscaping ordinances for conformance with State law and their implementation throughout the region.

In 2010, the Water Forum joined with the California Urban Water Conservation Council and UC Davis Extension to conduct a series of workshops aimed at helping local governments, the building and landscape industries, and others understand and implement the California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (AB 1881).

## Public Outreach

The Water Forum has supported a variety of water conservation events and courses including:

- ◆ Summer Fun Days camp programs on water education at Effie Yeaw Nature Center
- ◆ Watershed Explorer program at Placer Nature Center
- ◆ Get W.E.T. Festival in Folsom
- ◆ AWWA conservation certification classes

## 2005

Water Forum receives grant to update water conservation element

Water Forum releases "State of the River Report"

Sacramento County Water Agency, The Nature Conservancy and the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority agree on Cosumnes River project

American River Watershed Science and Management Conference held

## 2006

American River Parkway Plan updated

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority created groundwater management plan for central basin

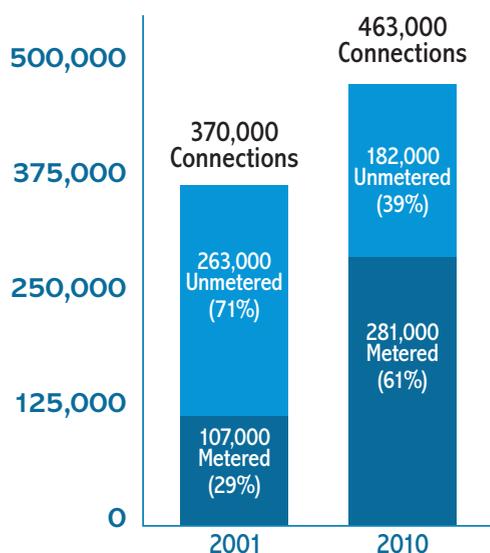
Water Forum received federal grant for gravel augmentation in lower American River

FMS Draft Technical Report issued

## Metered and Unmetered Connections

Water Meters were a big topic of interest during the negotiation of the Water Forum Agreement. Since the agreement was signed, the State mandated water meter retrofits.

The graph to the right shows that Water Forum purveyors are moving forward with meter installations.



2007

Water Forum awarded grant; mapping and modeling of Carmichael Creek begins

Water Forum released information on unimpaired inflow into Folsom Reservoir

## 6. Groundwater Management Element

More than half the region's water supplies come from groundwater. The Agreement established a comprehensive program to manage these supplies to control groundwater contamination and increase conjunctive use between groundwater and surface water supplies. This element also established an agreed-upon annual sustainable yield for the three sub-basins as follows:

North Area: 131,000 acre-feet

Central Area: 273,000 acre-feet

South Area: 115,000 acre-feet

2008

Sunrise Side Channel Project construction completed

Gravel augmentation begins in lower American River

Water Forum publishes runoff reports

OCAP Biological Assessment released with FMS flows but not temperature objectives

### North Area -

Recommendations spelled out in the Water Forum Agreement to some detail were subsequently implemented by a Joint Powers Authority made up of Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom and Sacramento and led to the creation of the Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority – now known as the Sacramento Groundwater Authority. The SGA has developed a Groundwater Management Plan that incorporates a safe yield of 131,000 AF/year as described in the Water Forum Agreement.

A number of specific activities for meeting the groundwater management objectives have been identified. These activities include:

- ◆ Development of a groundwater monitoring and data collection collation system referred to as the Data Management System (DMS)
- ◆ Development of a regional conjunctive use program
- ◆ Coordination of quality groundwater protection programs
- ◆ Development of a comprehensive outreach and education program to keep the public and regional stakeholders informed

2009

Water Forum Successor Effort approves updated Water Conservation Element with modified CUWCC process

Second year of gravel augmentation in river

Water Forum completes interpretive component of Sunrise Side Channel Project



### Central Area -

Stakeholders in the central sub-basin began a groundwater management planning process in 2002 which led to the development of the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan in February 2006 and creation of the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) in August 2006. The GMP recognized the Central Basin's long-term average sustainable groundwater yield of 273,000 AF/year as delineated in the Water Forum Agreement.

A goal of the SCGA is to ensure a viable groundwater resource for beneficial uses including water for adjacent purveyors, agricultural, agricultural-residential, industrial, and municipal supplies that support the Water Forum Agreement's co-equal objectives. An additional objective is enhancement of ecological flows in

the Cosumnes River. The SCGA has introduced two unprecedented negotiated programs as part of its GMP: the Well Protection Program and the Groundwater Contamination Monitoring and Collaboration Program.

The SCGA's current budget was developed based on meeting the GMP's administrative program requirements but has very limited funding for the Well Head Protection program. It is anticipated that once the economic conditions of the County improve there will be additional funding for the Wellhead Protection Program. The Monitoring Program did receive a grant award in 2008 however, due to State budget issues those funds have not been released for program implementation.

### South Area -

Efforts to create a governance structure in the South Basin are currently underway with the creation of the South Area Water Council for negotiation of a governance structure and completion of a groundwater management plan. The South Area Water Council is comprised of stakeholders in the south sub-basin. The council is exploring a process by which groundwater management and governance can be achieved.

The Water Forum Agreement's long-term average sustainable yield determination for the South Basin is 115,000 AF/year. Another important element of the Water Forum Agreement relating

to the South Basin is a commitment that a 15,000 AF portion of the CVP contract supply of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District would be assigned for agricultural use in the south area once a governance structure is formed. Upon completion of the negotiation process and the formalization of a governance structure and adopted groundwater management plan, the south area will likely move forward with programs similar to those in the north and central sub-basins with more of a focus on the Cosumnes River corridor.

### 2009

NMFS releases OCAP Biological Opinion which calls for **Water Forum FMS** with some key differences

### 2010

Third year of gravel augmentation in river

**Water Forum, Sacramento County and SAFCA** securing grant to restore Clifton's Drain



## 7. Water Forum Successor Effort (WFSE)

Because the Water Forum Agreement calls for ongoing collaboration, its signatories chose to create a standing forum known as the Water Forum Successor Effort. The Successor Effort is governed by all Water Forum signatories. This provides for balanced implementation of the specific projects called for in the Water Forum Agreement.

In addition to these ongoing project-oriented activities, the WFSE helps diffuse conflicts over water supply and water-based environmental planning and activities in the region.

The WFSE continues to be committed to community outreach as a means for maintaining awareness about our regional water issues through sponsorship and participation in such activities:

- ◆ Creek Week
- ◆ Salmon Festival
- ◆ Cap to Cap
- ◆ American River Parkway Foundation activities.

### Looking Forward

Many challenges confront the Sacramento region as it looks toward continued stewardship of its water and environmental resources. Several of these challenges were anticipated in the Water Forum Agreement, such as the need for increased surface water use and aggressive water conservation. But if one thing has proved true over the past decade, it is that many of those anticipated challenges end up being more complicated than initially imagined.

For instance, when Water Forum members crafted their water conservation approach in the mid-1990s, they could hardly have guessed that the State would mandate a 20 percent reduction in per capita water use.

There are many other challenges facing the Water Forum Successor Effort now that were not anticipated ten years ago. These include declining anadromous fish populations, unprecedented regulatory scrutiny of Central Valley water rights, and climate change.

The Water Forum, as its name implies, promises to continue to serve as a forum wherein the region can work out many of these challenges with the best overall outcome. Water Forum members are assured that when water resource conflicts arise, they already have a solid basis for seeking mutually beneficial resolution.

This document was produced by the Water Forum Successor Effort to provide information on progress to date on implementing the Water Forum Agreement. This progress report satisfies the five-year reporting requirement called for in the Agreement.



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