

American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP)

Securing a Resilient Future for our Water Supply and Environment

The Greatest Threat to Our Water Supply is Climate Change

In the Sacramento region, climate change is already having a profound impact on our water supply and the lower American River's environment

The Water Forum's analysis highlights key challenges: more frequent and severe droughts and floods, reduced snowpack and reservoir storage, decreased river flows, and rising river temperatures. These changes threaten the fish populations, particularly salmon and steelhead, by creating unhealthy habitat conditions. Additionally, "dead pool" conditions at Folsom Reservoir—when water levels drop too low to meet supply needs—are projected to occur more frequently.

ARCAP: A Proactive, Multi-Benefit Solution to Climate Change

In the face of these challenges, the American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP) offers a better way for the region to manage water as climate conditions become more extreme. It enhances the five Program

Areas by voluntarily linking agencies, infrastructure, and policies—creating a truly regional water system where water is managed by agencies to be available when and where it's needed, and cold water is preserved in the American River for fish and future supply is protected.

The program centers on identifying, enhancing, and directing additional volumes of regionally developed water—called ARCAP water—through conservation,

groundwater recharge, upstream reservoir operations, and shifts in supply sources. The goal of ARCAP will be for the water to be stored and managed for use during critically dry periods, providing benefits when they're needed most: reducing river temperatures, supporting fish and wildlife, and helping avoid shortages for communities across the region.

To help illustrate ARCAP's potential scale, consider that increasing Folsom Reservoir's storage by 70,000 acre-feet (equivalent to about 20% of the region's water supply) in low storage conditions has the potential to lower river temperatures by one degree Fahrenheit, which is beneficial for fish and wildlife. This storage increase would also reduce the risk of "dead pool" conditions at Folsom Reservoir.



Invested in Our Future

The following are involved in negotiating Water Forum 2050

Business Caucus

AKT Development
Associated 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
Sacramento Municipal Utility District*

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*
Fair Oaks Water District*
Golden State Water Company*
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.

How ARCAP Will Work

ARCAP will explore multiple water sources to identify and create ARCAP water:

- **Groundwater Recharge:** Storing water in groundwater aquifers for use during dry periods, potentially through the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.
- **Shifting Sources:** Shifting water supplies from the American River to the Sacramento River through operations like the River Arc Project.
- **Expanding Water Sources:** Exploring options like expanding water treatment plants.
- **Water Conservation:** Reducing demand to increase the available water supply.



Key Benefits for the Region



- ✓ **Reliable water supplies** for communities facing shortages during droughts and dry periods.
- ✓ **Cooler water in Folsom Reservoir and enhanced flows and temperatures in the lower American River** to support fish and wildlife.
- ✓ **Increased operational flexibility at Folsom Reservoir** to benefit the statewide water system.
- ✓ **Better management of floodwater** through enhanced capture and storage.
- ✓ **Expanded groundwater storage** to support regional water resilience.
- ✓ **A focus on collaborative problem-solving** for the members of the Water Forum and the communities they serve.

Turning ARCAP into Reality

ARCAP is an ambitious program that requires addressing critical issues, including technical analysis, modeling, and coordination with federal and state stakeholders such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources. While important work remains, much of the foundational infrastructure needed to make ARCAP a reality is already in place. Continued investment will support the buildout of groundwater wells, transmission pipelines, and infrastructure to manage and distribute water across the region based on priorities and availability.

The Water Forum: A Legacy of Collaboration

ARCAP is a key component of the Water Forum 2050 Agreement, currently under negotiation and nearing completion. This renewed agreement, which will guide the region for the next 25 years, builds on the foundation established by the original Water Forum Agreement signed in 2000. For over 25 years, the Water Forum has brought together business leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments to resolve conflicts and implement a shared vision for protecting the region's water supply and economic health, while enhancing the Lower American River.

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