



# Water Forum 2050

*A Regional Commitment to Water Reliability and a Healthy River*

## **A New Agreement for Addressing Threats from Climate Change**

**The lower American River** is a crown jewel of the Sacramento region. It provides drinking water to nearly 2 million people, supports 43 fish species, protects communities from flooding, and offers recreation for thousands of residents. But climate change is putting all of this at risk:

- Hotter temperatures and more frequent droughts reduce river flows and water quality
- Changes in snowpack and runoff threaten surface water supplies
- Increased demand strains local sources
- External claims on American River water are likely to grow
- Regulations are evolving, requiring new tools and strategies

To meet these challenges, Water Forum members are finalizing a new, forward-looking agreement—Water Forum 2050—to guide regional action for the next 25 years.

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### **The Water Forum**

- *A collaborative venue for diverse interests to address complex water issues.*
- *A regional voice in state and federal water policy.*
- *Crucial for navigating climate change impacts on the region's water supplies and lower American River environment.*
- *Unmatched contributions to enhancing and investing in the lower American River environment.*
- *An essential foundation for sustainable water management.*

**For more than 25 years**, the Water Forum has brought together business leaders, environmental advocates, water providers, community groups, and local governments to protect the Sacramento region's water supply and the lower American River. This unique partnership helps resolve conflicts, invest in sustainable water solutions, and protect one of the region's most valuable natural assets—the lower American River.

**As a result of the original Water Forum Agreement, signed in 2000, the region has advanced major infrastructure projects with broad regional support.** The Water Forum has also improved the health of the lower American River through its habitat program, enhanced scientific understanding gained through monitoring activities, and developed and implemented a Flow Management Standard. This alignment of regional priorities has fostered a culture of trust and transparency among diverse interests, enabling the region to respond more quickly to crises—such as extended drought—without high levels of conflict.

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**Water Forum Coequal Objectives:** *Provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development through to the year 2050; and Preserve the lower American River's fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values.*

# Water Forum 2050

## A Roadmap for Resilience: Five Program Areas

Water Forum 2050 is organized into five key program areas. Each supports the coequal objectives and provides a framework for action, collaboration, adaptation, and accountability over the next 25 years.

### American River Flows and Operations

Focuses on protecting flows and water temperatures in the lower American River to support fish and ecosystem health while maintaining regional water supply reliability.

- Implements a Flow Management Standard for dam operations and river health
- Advocates for flexible flood operations that also support water storage and temperature management
- Promotes partnerships with federal agencies to support the coequal objectives in managing Folsom Reservoir

### American River Corridor Health

Builds on past success to enhance habitat, restore natural resources, and balance human and environmental needs in the lower American River corridor.

- Coordinates habitat enhancement, monitoring, and adaptive management
- Leverages local, state, and federal funding
- Navigates the unique challenges of managing an urban Wild and Scenic River

### Regional Water Supply Sustainability

Supports regional water providers in managing surface and groundwater supplies to improve long-term water security and reduce pressure on the river.

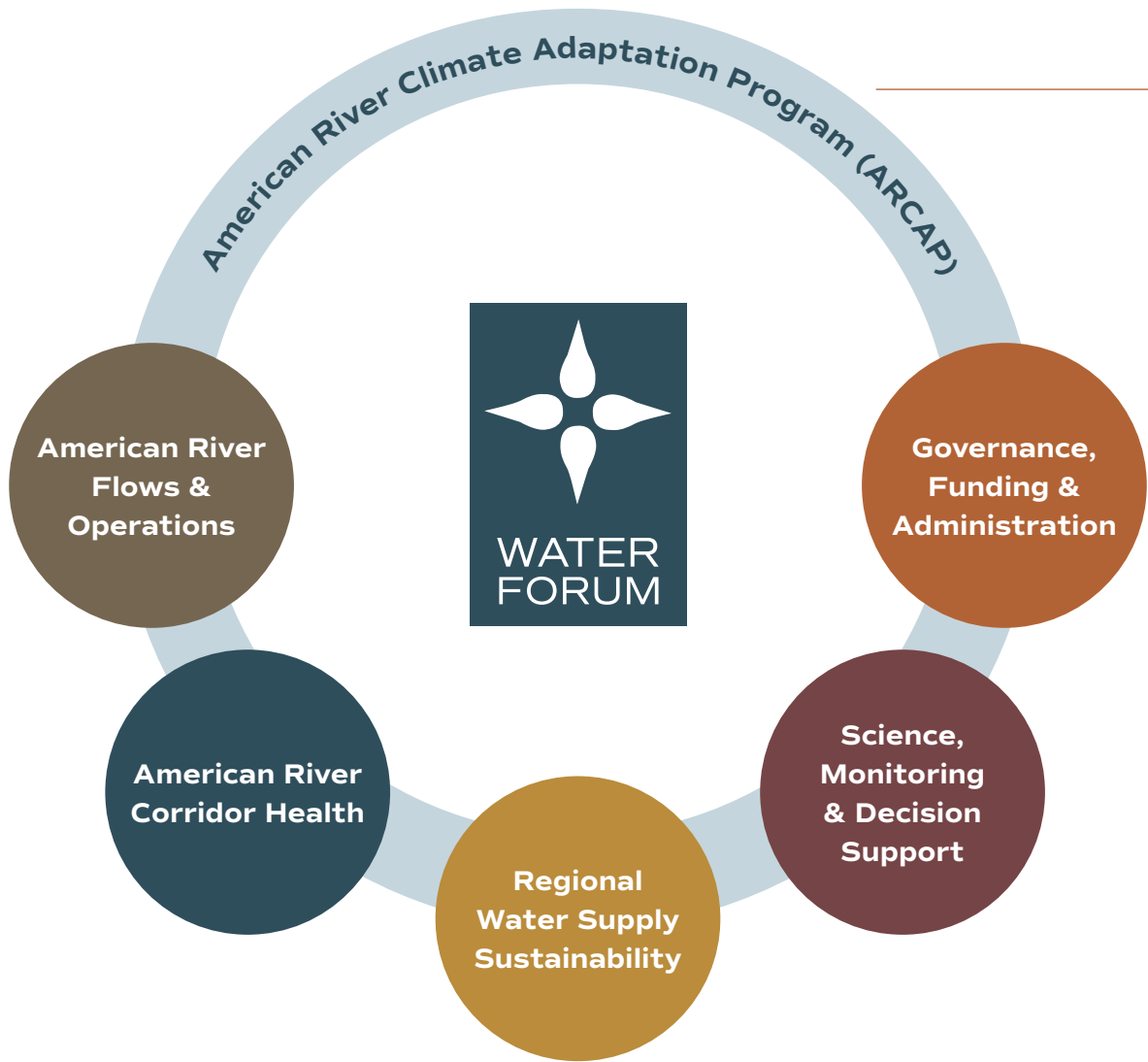
- Provides tools and principles for surface water, groundwater, and demand management
- Coordinates “Dry Time Actions” to safeguard supply and river health during drought
- Promotes demand management and water efficiency

## American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP)

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, evaluating, 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.

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### Science, Monitoring, & Decision Support

Provides the scientific foundation for Water Forum programs and supports adaptive management of the lower American River and regional water resources.

- Tracks progress toward the coequal objectives through measurable indicators
- Collects and analyzes data to guide habitat enhancement, flow, and water management decisions
- Shares findings through public reports, symposia, and partnerships

### Governance, Funding, & Administration

Provides a path for the Water Forum to remain an effective, well-resourced, and transparent organization.

- Defines roles, responsibilities, and representation of members
- Establishes cost-sharing, budgeting, and progress tracking
- Maintains a structure that supports public engagement and accountability





# Support the Water Forum 2050 Agreement

Help carry forward more than 25 years of collaboration, problem-solving, and progress. By approving the Water Forum 2050 Agreement, your organization can play a vital role in protecting the Sacramento region's water future—setting the course for reliable water supplies, a healthy lower American River, and a resilient response to climate change for decades to come.



## 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.*

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