



One Water & Stewardship Committee

Update of the Water Quality Control Plan Including:

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Item 6a

November 13, 2023

Item 6a

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Subject

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Purpose

The State Water Resources Control Board recently released its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance document for update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Multiple alternatives including the “Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes” (also known as Voluntary Agreements) are analyzed for environmental and related effects.

Next Steps

Additional follow-up updates on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Policy Considerations

The inclusion of the "Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes" as an alternative analyzed in the Draft State Water Board staff report is an important milestone in the effort by the State Water Board to consider updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan:

- Given the best available science and the risks associated with climate change, what is the best way to promote a sustainable Bay-Delta within Metropolitan's One Water approach?
- How will an updated Bay-Delta Plan affect the development of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W)?

Agenda

- Water Quality Control Plan Background
- Overview of Alternatives
- Public review and comment periods
- Next Steps



Photo Credit: CalMatters

Background Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP)

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Shasta Reservoir
Temperature Management

Export/Inflow Ratio

Cross Channel Gates

Winter/Spring X2

Agriculture/Urban Salinity

Fish and Wildlife Flows

San Joaquin River
Inflow/Export
Ratio

State
Water Quality Control Plan
(Water Code - SWRCB)

Background Bay-Delta WQCP



Why

- Required under the Porter-Cologne and Clean Water Acts

What

- Identifies beneficial uses of water including municipal, agricultural and environmental uses
- Adopts water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses
- Standards impact SWP and CVP operations
 - Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641)

When

- Periodic review required under Clean Water Act and Porter Cologne

State Board update to the

Water Quality Control Plan



Metropolitan Board

Recent Action and Info Items

Phase 2:
Sacramento
River &
Delta
In-Progress





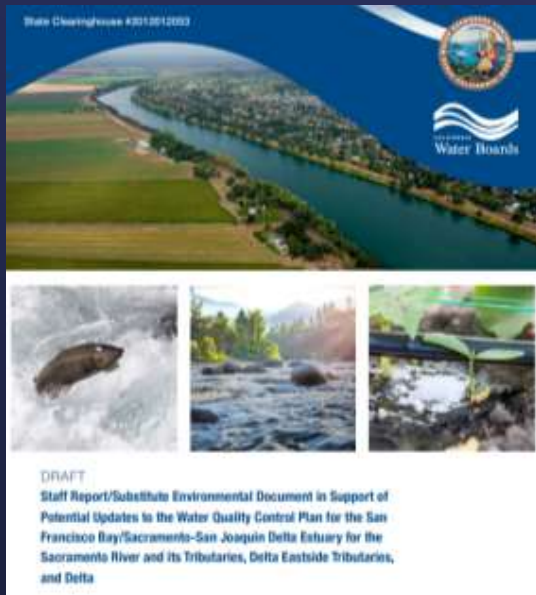
State Water Board Staff Report



DRAFT

Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary for the Sacramento River and its Tributaries, Delta Eastside Tributaries, and Delta

State Water Board Staff Report Overview



Purpose

Evaluate potential benefits and impacts of possible alternatives to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Contents

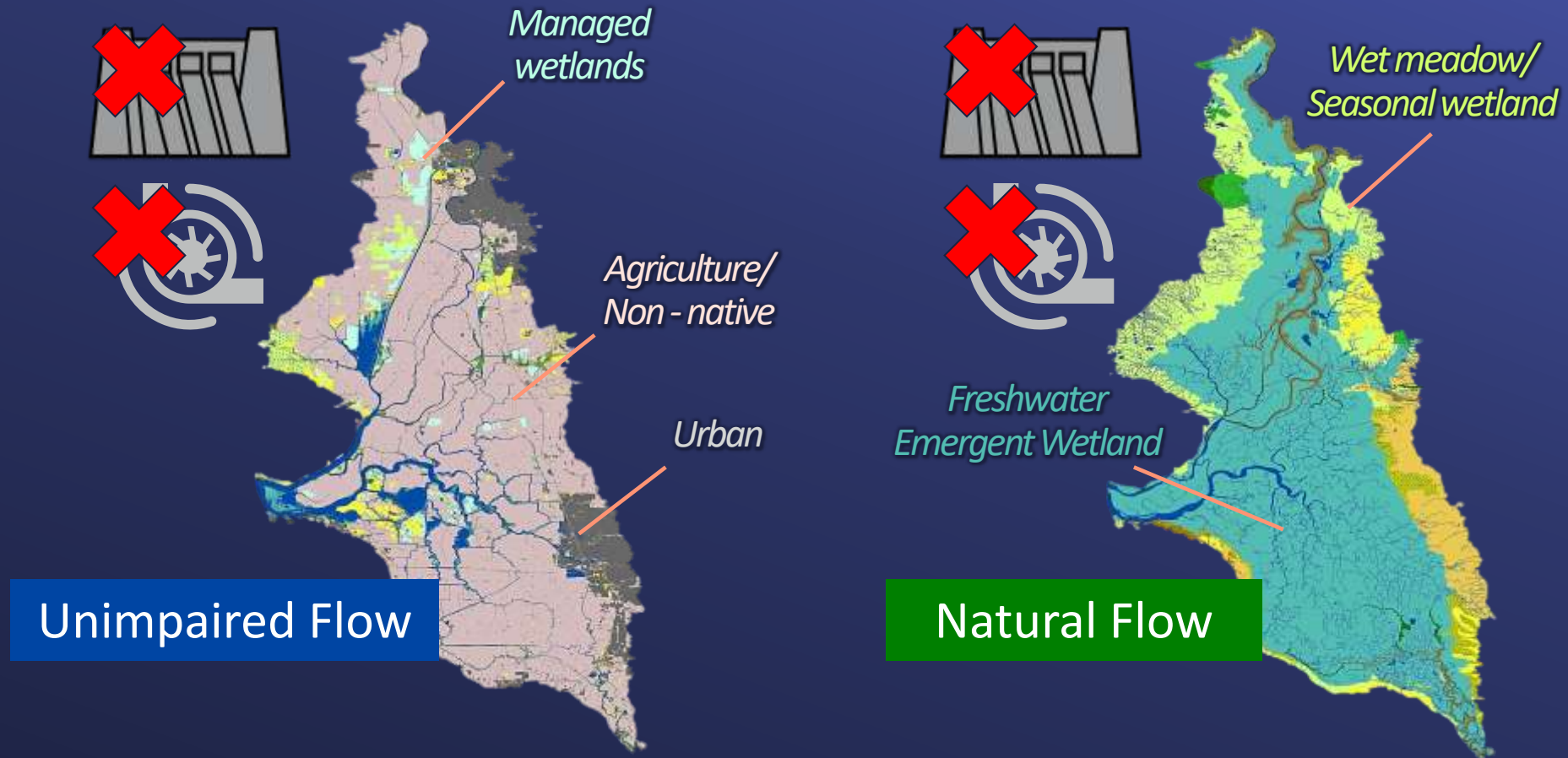
Range of alternatives

- Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes
- Modular Components
- Unimpaired Flow

What is Unimpaired Flow?

Unimpaired flow represents the flow that would be present in a river or stream under current land use patterns in the absence of diversions, storage, releases from storage, water transfers, or other hydrologic modifications

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Unimpaired flow represents the flow that would be present in a river or stream under current land use patterns in the absence of diversions, storage, releases from storage, water transfers, or other hydrologic modifications

Note: Definition from Staff Report section 2.1.1. Delta Diagram Source: San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center

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One Water & Stewardship Committee

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State Water Board Staff Report

Seven+ Alternatives

No
Action

Alternative 1
No Project

Unimpaired
Flow

Preferred
Alternative
55%

Alternative 2
Low Flow
35%-45%

Alternative 3
High Flow
65%-75%

Modular

Alternative 4
SWP/CVP
Operations

Alternative 5
Drought
Actions

Healthy Rivers
& Landscapes

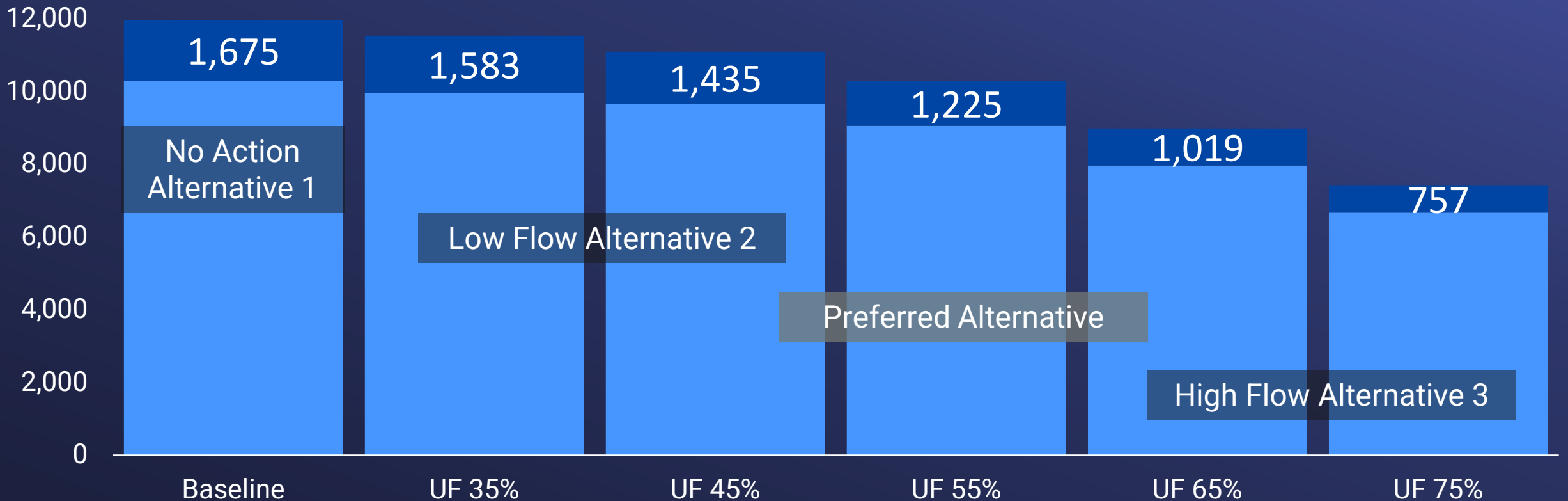
Alternative 6

Unimpaired Flow Approach

Preferred and Alternatives 1, 2, 3



Average Statewide Bay-Delta Supplies (Thousand Acre-Feet)



Note: values from Staff Report, Table 6.4.1.

Remainder of State includes: Sacramento River Watershed, Delta Eastside Tributaries, Delta, San Francisco Bay Area, Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley

Modular Components

Alternatives 4, 5, 6

Interior Delta Flows/Outflow

- Alternative 4a – Interior Delta Flow and Fall Delta Outflow
- Alternative 4b – Head of Old River Barrier
- Alternative 4c – San Joaquin River Export Constraint

Modular Drought Alternatives

- Alternative 5a – Instream Flow Protection Provision
- Alternative 5b – Shared Water Shortage Provision

VA Specific Modular Alternative

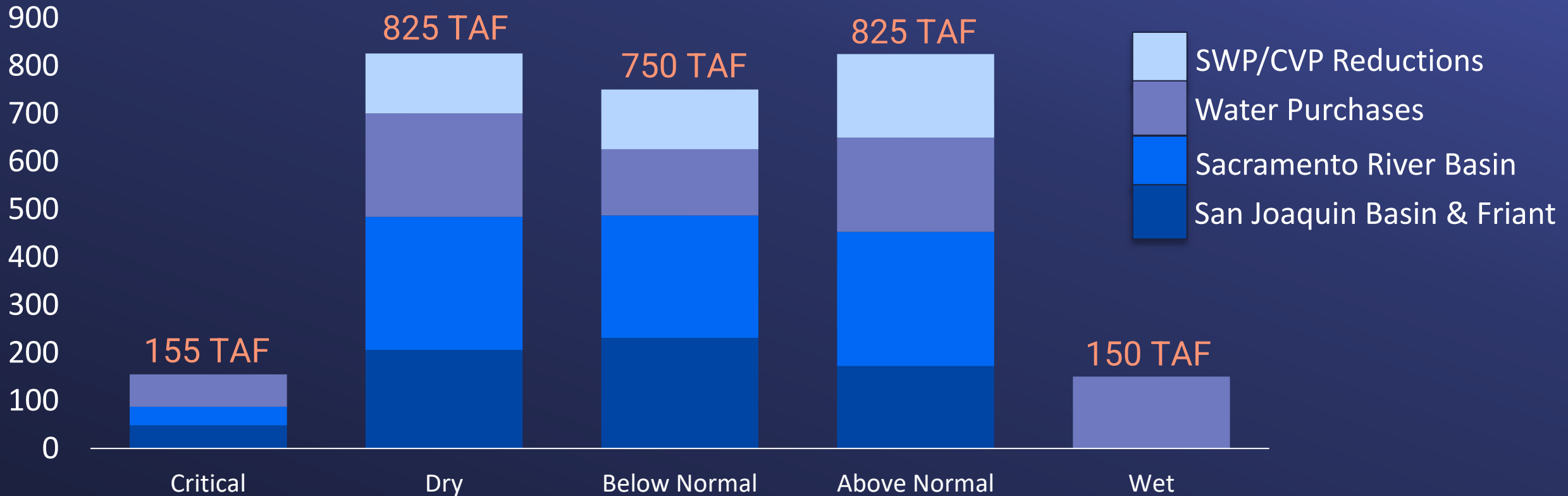
- Alternative 6a – Protection of Baseline Flows¹



¹Alternative 6a is titled “Protection of Voluntary Agreement Flows” in staff report.

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Alternative 6

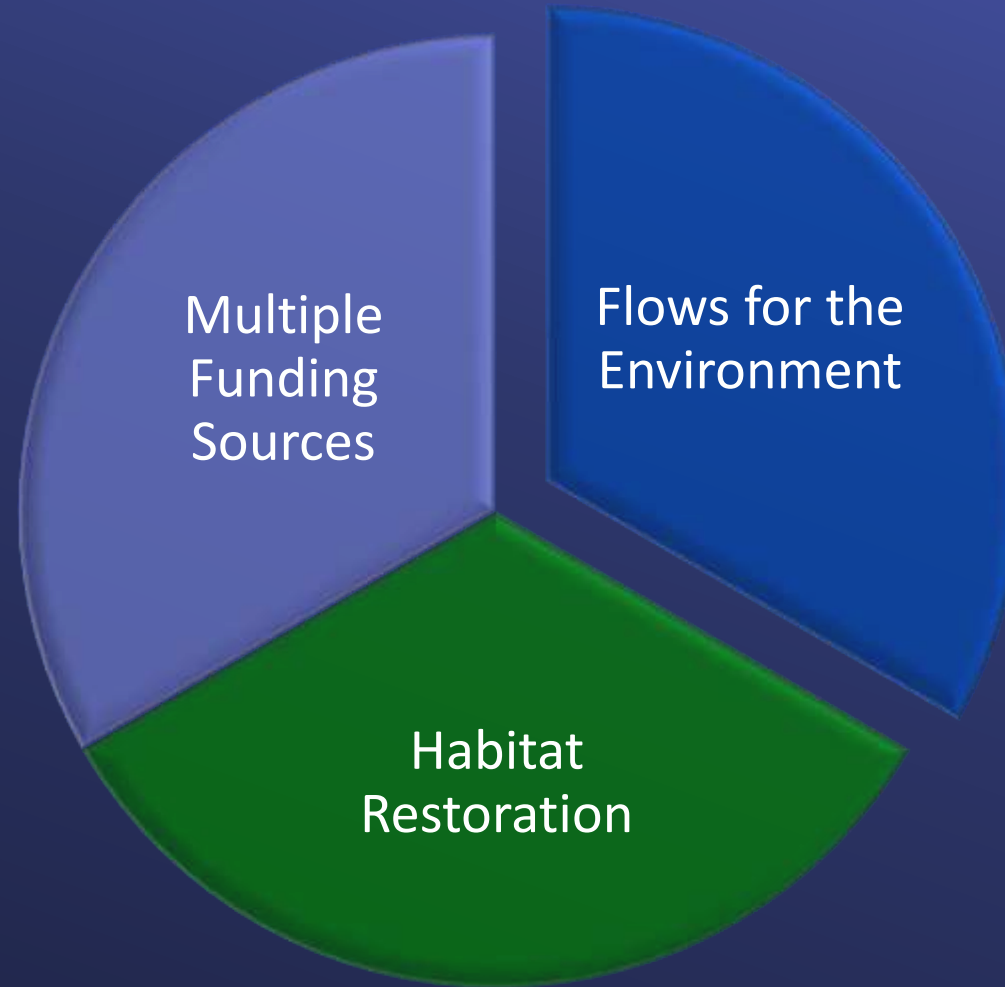
Flow Contributions by Water Year Type (Thousand Acre-Feet)



Note: values consolidated from Appendix G1, Voluntary Agreement Proposal, Table 1

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Alternative 6



Aligns with:

Water Resilience Portfolio

State's priorities in Executive Orders (Drought and Biodiversity)

State's desire to fund multiple benefit programs

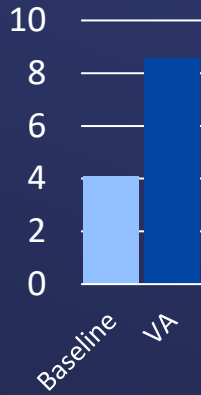
Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Salmon Habitat

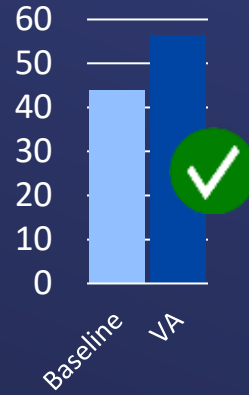
 Checkmark indicates watershed meeting habitat required to support 25% of salmon doubling goal¹

Spawning
Habitat
(acres)

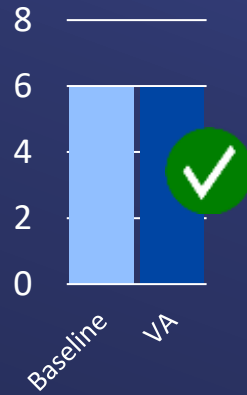
American River



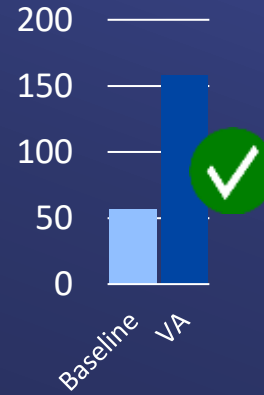
Feather



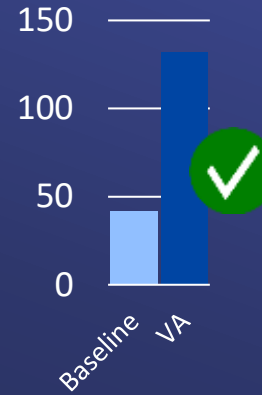
Mokelumne



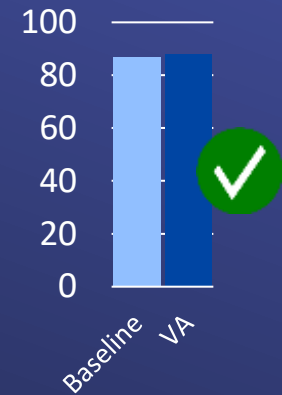
Sac River - FR



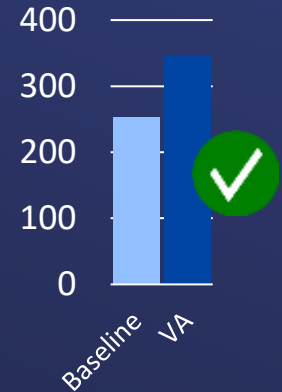
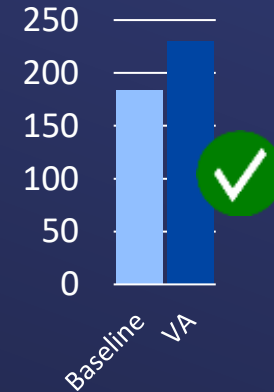
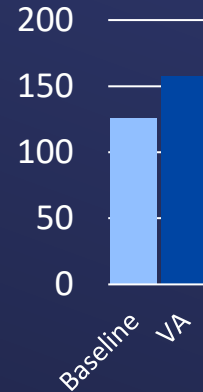
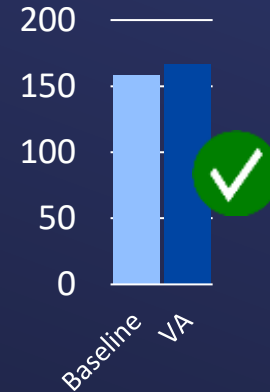
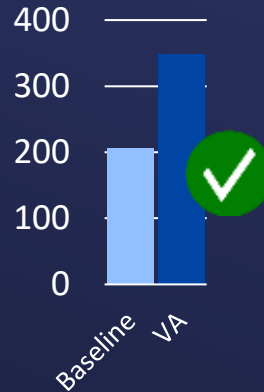
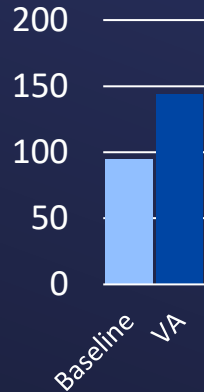
Sac River - SR



Yuba



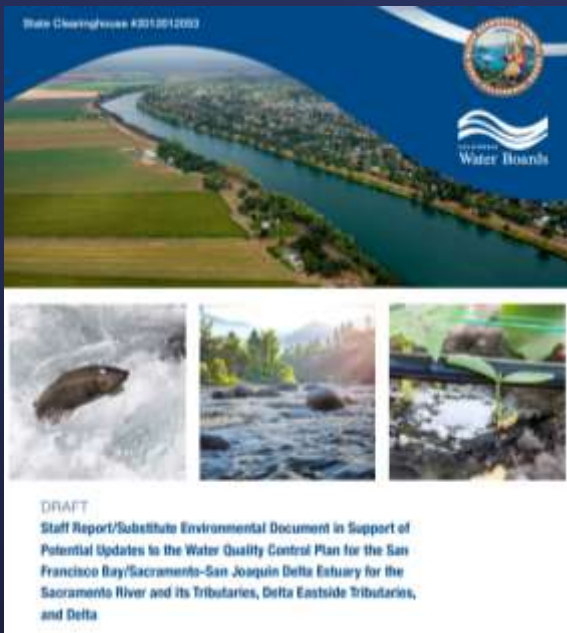
Rearing
Habitat
(acres)



Note: values consolidated from Tables 9.6-1 and 9.6-2. The Sacramento and Feather River results do not include the 20,000 acres of floodplain restoration on the Sutter Bypass.

¹Achieve a doubling of natural production of chinook salmon from the average production of 1967-1991, consistent with provisions of State and federal law. See Appendix G2-5.1.2

Staff Report



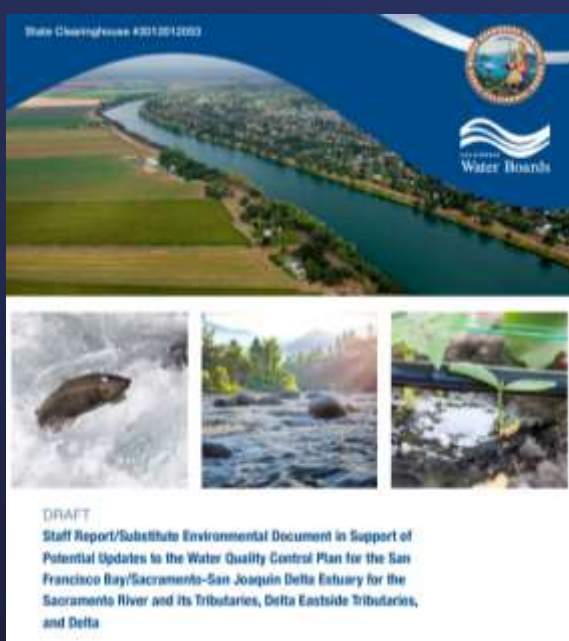
Preliminary Concerns, Potential Focus of Comments

- Detail regarding alternative actions and narrative objectives
- Show detailed modeling results and assumptions
- Address feasibility, effectiveness and cost of mitigation
- Explain basis for assignment of responsibility and implementation process for each alternative
- Regulatory alignment with in-progress and existing permits, e.g. management of reservoir cold water pools



Public Review and Next Steps

Staff Report



Public Review Schedule

- Environmental document released – Sept. 28
- Water Board Staff Workshop – Oct. 19
- Water Board Staff Workshop, Modeling – Nov. 2
- Public Hearing #1 – Nov. 17
- Public Hearing #2 – Dec. 1
- Public Hearing #3 – Dec. 11
- End of Public Comment Period – Dec. 15

Metropolitan Written Comments

Next Steps



- **December 15th**
Metropolitan will submit a written comment letter consistent with the Board's support of the Voluntary Agreements
- **December 1st**
Metropolitan comments will be shared with Member Agencies at the Member Agency Manager's Meeting

State Water Board Timeline

Bay-Delta WQCP Update

Next Steps 2024



- **Early to mid 2024:** Draft WQCP changes for public review and comment, including program of implementation
- **Late 2024:** Develop responses to comments and propose edits to the WQCP for Water Board consideration
- **Late 2024:** Water Board to consider approval

