



Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

# Emergency Conservation Program for the SWP Dependent Areas

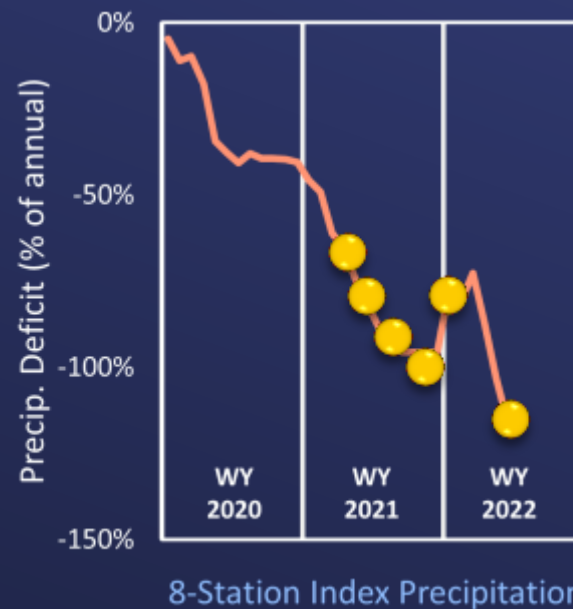
Item 9-2

April 12, 2022

# How did we get here?

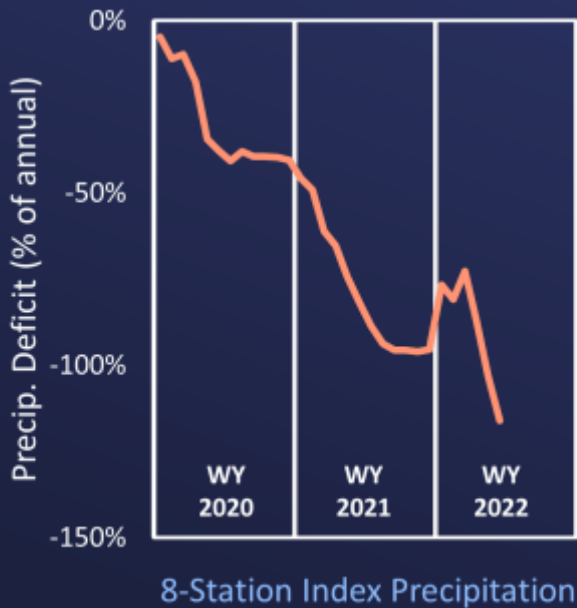
## Third Year of Drought

- Driest 3 years
- Driest 3 months (Jan. – Mar.)



● Declarations and Executive Orders by Governor Newsom

# How did we get here?



## Third Year of Drought

- Driest 3 years
- Driest 3 months (Jan. – Mar.)
- Lowest 3-year total deliveries from State Water Project

**Average Expectation for SWP**

**3.2 million AF**

**DWR's Lowest Forecast**

**1.0 million AF**

**Today**

**0.6 million AF**

# What did we do as the drought intensified?



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## Proportionate Response Since Mar. 2020

Mar. 2020

Minimized SWP flow to areas that can receive both SWP and CRW



Mar. 2021

Started pump-in from Semitropic and Kern Delta storage programs

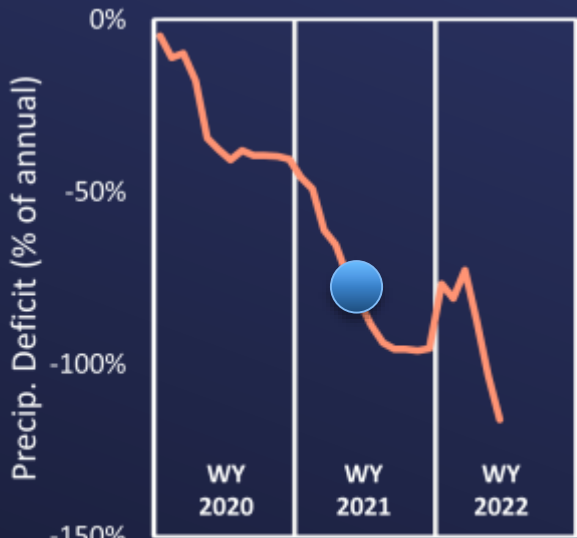
Apr. 2021

Operated Colorado River Aqueduct at full capacity



Board approved North-of-Delta water transfers up to \$44 million

# What did we do as the drought intensified?



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## Proportionate Response Since Mar. 2020

● May 2021

Board approved new Operational Shift Cost-Offset Program

Fed Mills Plant from DVL for the first time



Jun. 2021

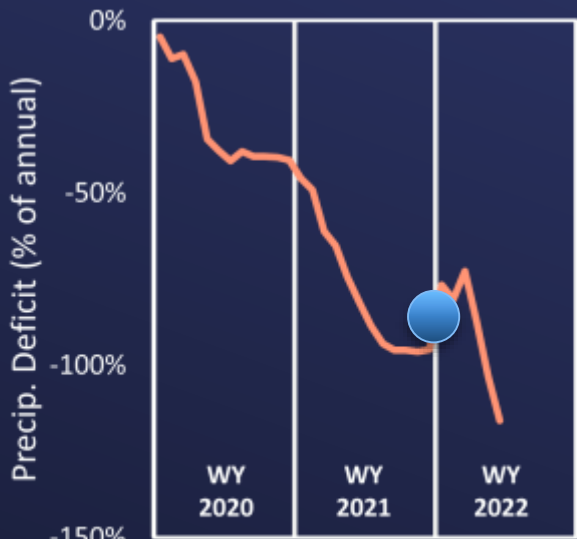
Rehabilitated Greg Avenue pumps began operation



Aug. 2021

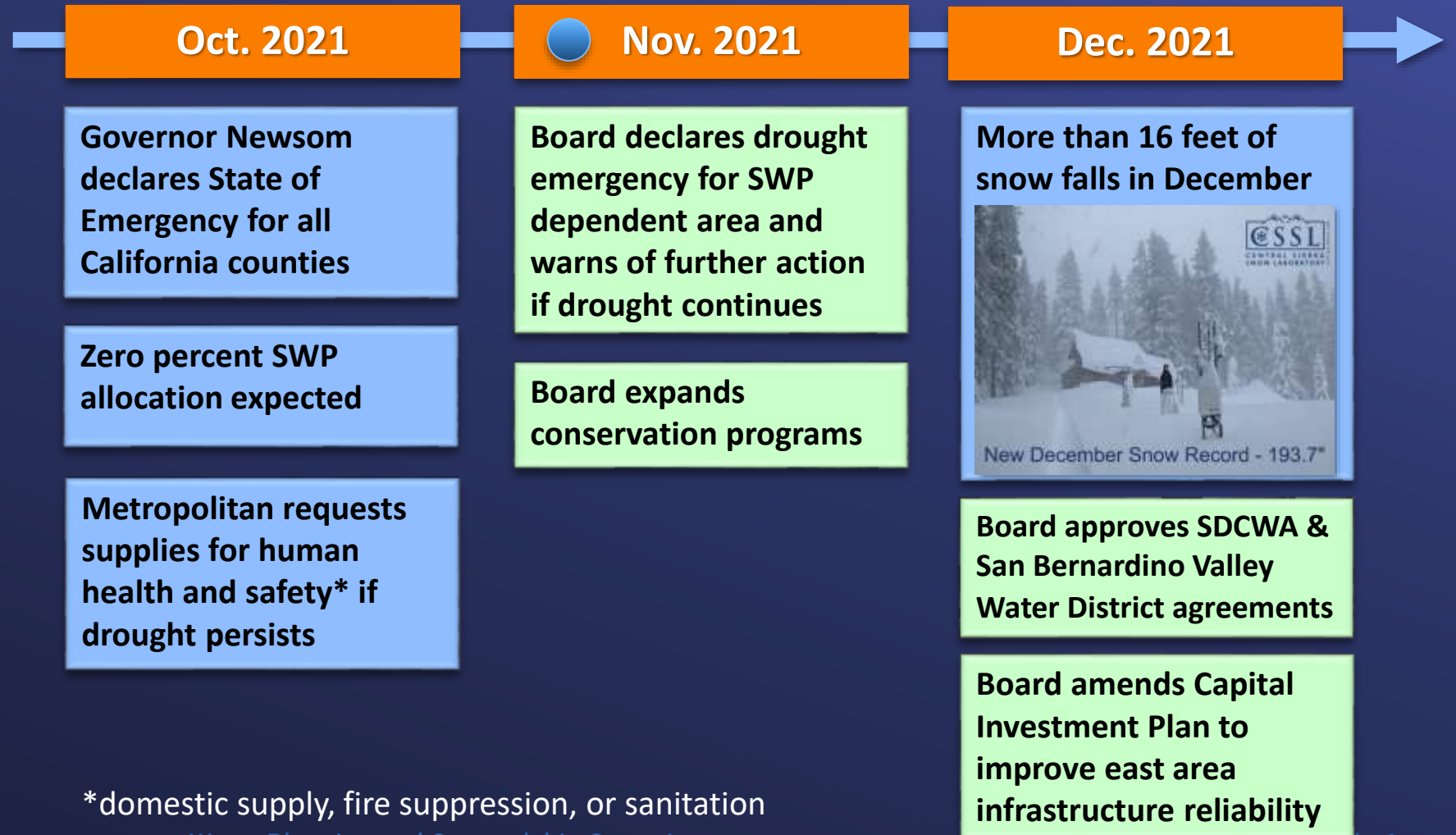
Board declared Water Supply Alert, calling for consumers & businesses to voluntarily reduce water use

# What did we do as the drought intensified?



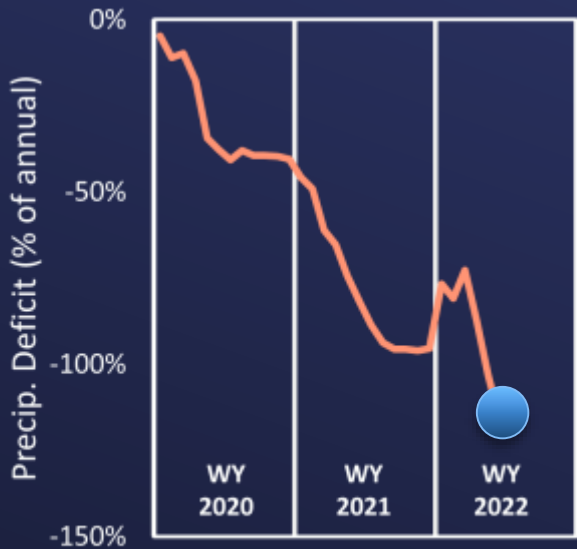
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## Proportionate Response Since Mar. 2020



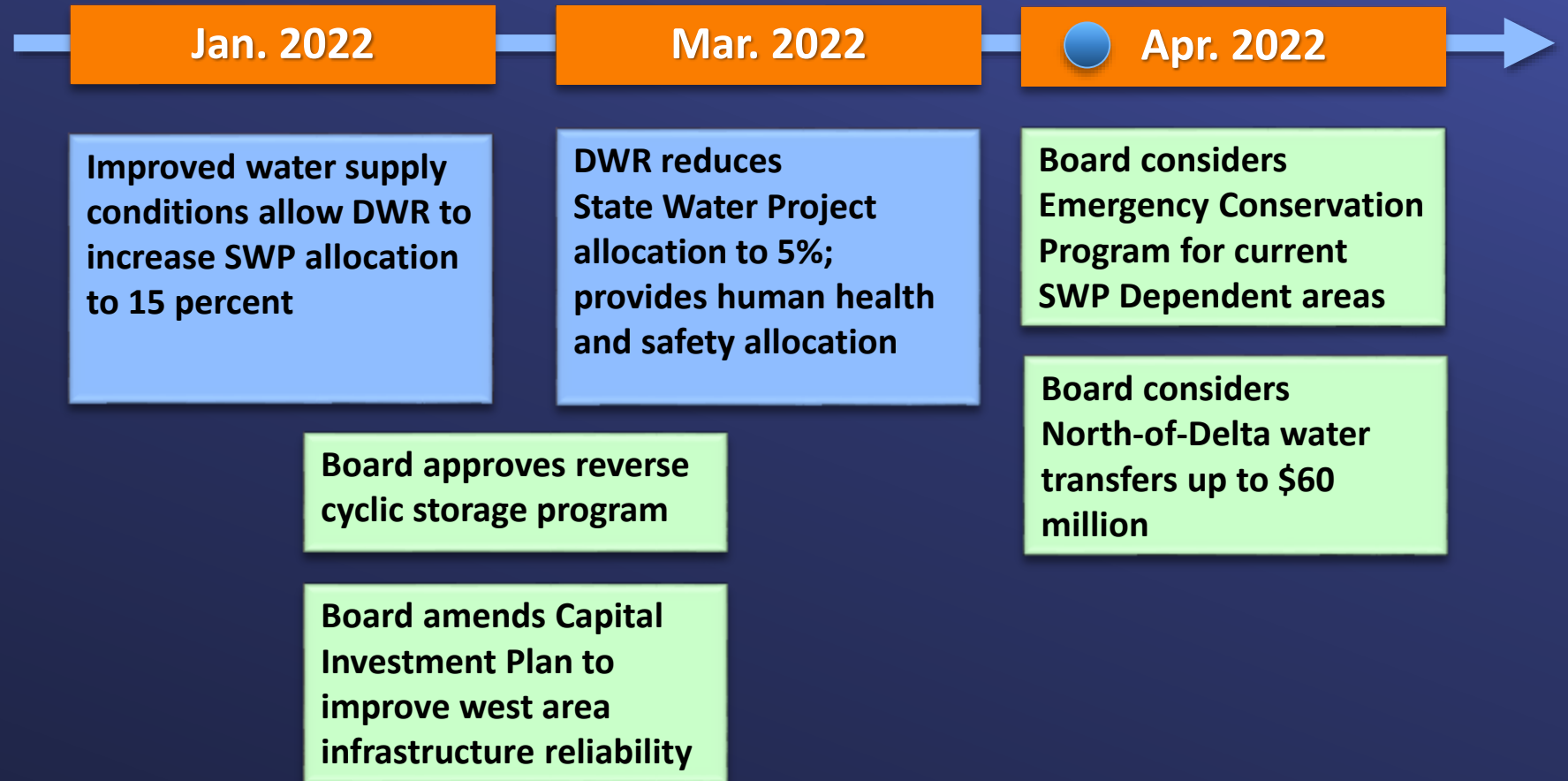
\*domestic supply, fire suppression, or sanitation

# What did we do as the drought intensified?



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## Proportionate Response Since Mar. 2020



# What is Human Health & Safety supply?

## Water needed for domestic supply, fire protection, or sanitation

- SWP contract provision allocating water on a basis other than Table A
- Implemented consistent with State Water Board curtailment regulations
- Primary basis is 55 gal/person/day
- Does not include outdoor uses (except hand watering for fire protection)



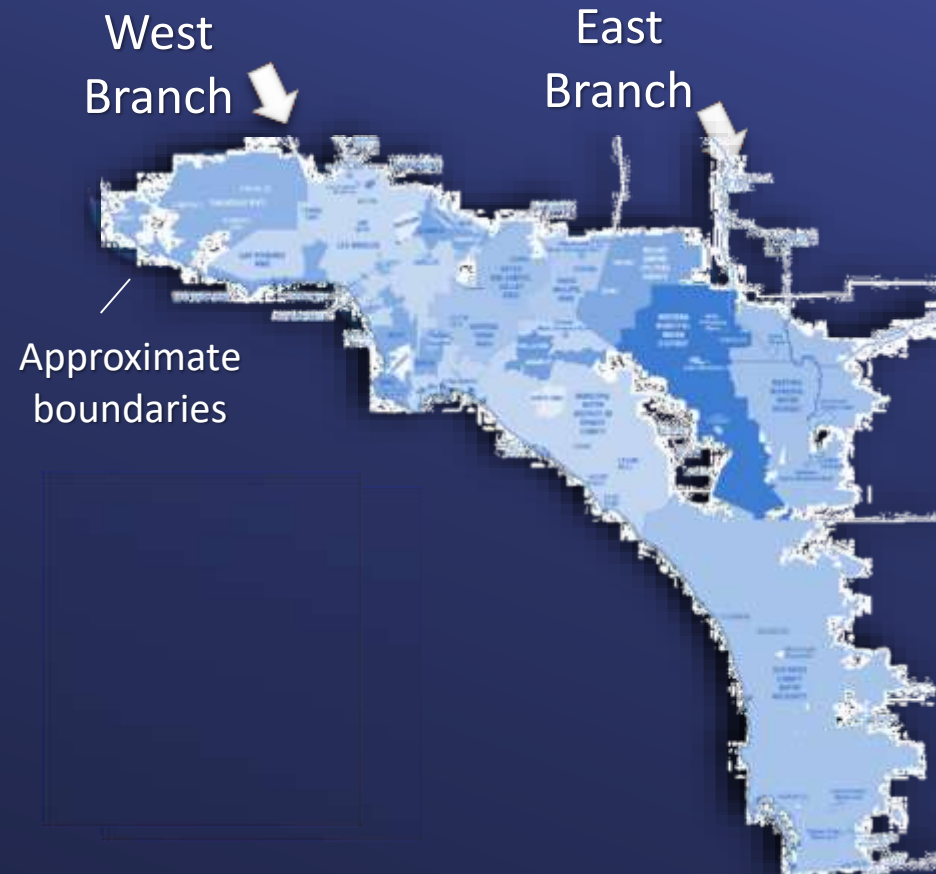
# What are the conditions for receiving Human Health & Safety supplies?

## DWR conditions to accessing human health & safety supplies

- “Robust conservation efforts with mandatory requirements”
- Pay back water within five years
- Make investments to reduce reliance on SWP for human health & safety needs
- Certain other supplies may supplement human health & safety deliveries

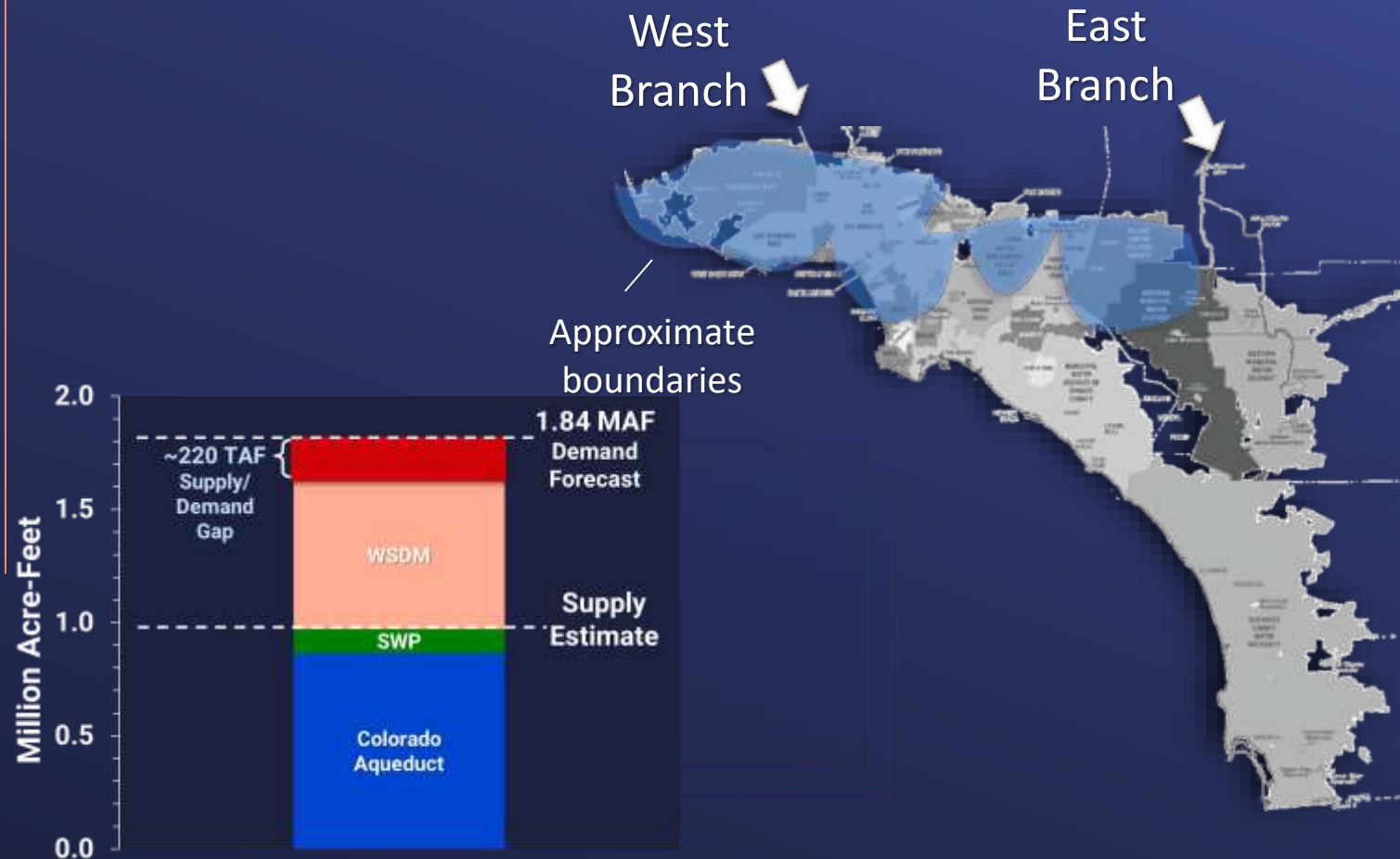
# What is the SWP dependent area?

## Areas currently served by Metropolitan primarily through the State Water Project



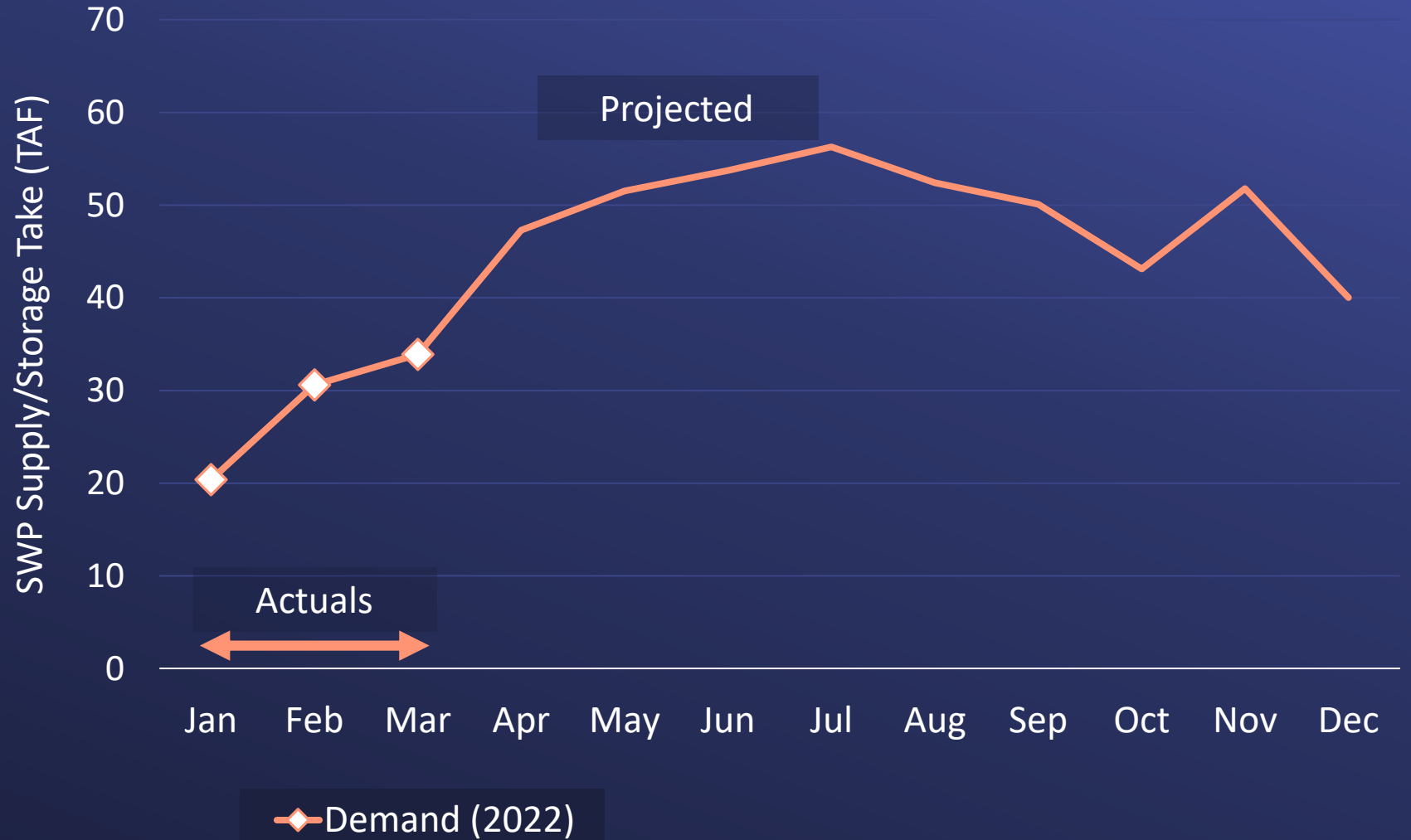
Can we meet normal demands in the SWP dependent area?

# Normal water demands cannot be met in the SWP dependent area



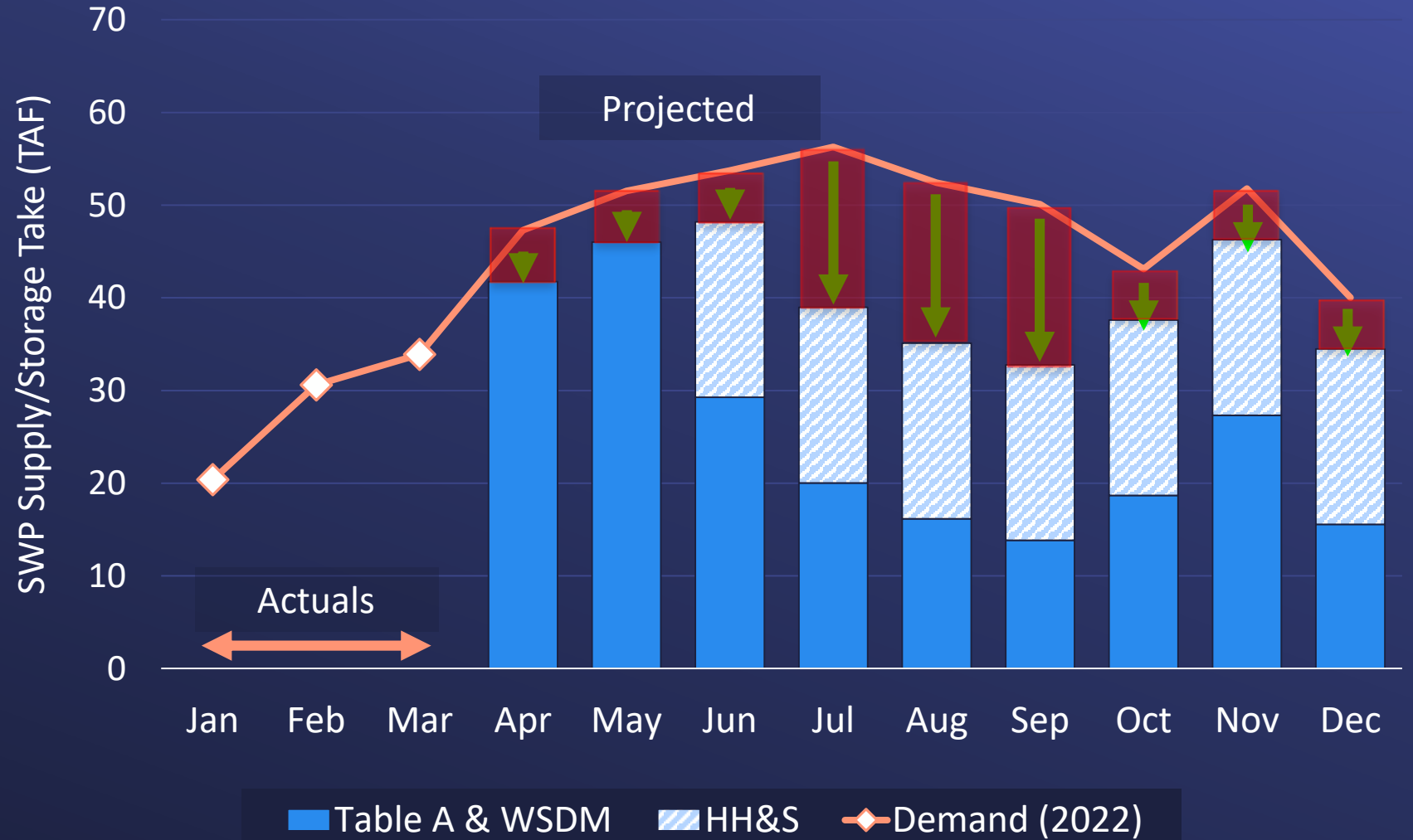
# When should we accelerate actions?

## Additional conservation needed now



When should we accelerate actions?

# Additional conservation needed now



What are the  
goals of this  
proposed  
action?

## Seeking three objectives

- Preserve scarce supplies this year
- Minimize take of human health and safety water and show clear line-of-sight to conditions for its use
- Prepare for a potential fourth year of drought

## Were others involved?

### Metropolitan staff advocated with DWR and sought Member Agency input

- DWR coordination to maximize use of stored supplies and transfers
- 15 meetings with directly affected Member Agency managers (since Aug. 2021)
- Monthly reporting to all Member Agency Managers and WP&S Committee of Board (through WSDM reports and presentations)

# What tools were considered?

## Three alternatives considered:

- Water Supply Allocation Plan (2014)
- Population-Based Allocation
  - Human health and safety (55 gal/person/day)
  - Water supply balance (~130 gal/person/day)
  - Minimum additional conservation (5% reduction)
- Mandatory Conservation Actions
  - Single day per week outdoor watering
  - No outdoor watering (if warranted)



# What is the framework?

## Three main elements of the Emergency Conservation Program

- Mandate and enforce conservation actions
  - Single day per week outdoor watering
  - No outdoor watering (if warranted)
- Volumetric penalty of \$2,000 per acre-ft
  - Assessed on all SWP delivered to non-compliant water provider (e.g., only part wholesale Member Agency delivery)
- Ability to opt out
  - Outdoor watering restrictions and penalties do not apply if agency eliminates need for delivery of water from SWP
  - This incentivizes local production and conservation

# How does an agency comply?

## Agencies must adopt certain elements (codes, ordinances, resolutions)

- Outdoor watering restrictions
  - Phase 1: Single day per week outdoor watering
  - Phase 2: No outdoor watering
- Enforcement plan
  - Real consequences to the customer for inaction
  - Approach will vary by agency
  - Ability to audit the enforcement plan
- Adopt by May 31, 2022, to avoid volumetric penalty in June

# What would success look like?

## Measures of Success

- Preserve sufficient supply for human health & safety if drought continues
- Provide supply for indoor commercial, industrial, and institutional use
- Allow time for additional emergency supply actions to come on-line

# How will you monitor success?

## Monitoring Mechanisms in SWP Dependent Areas

- Compliance status of water providers
- Metropolitan deliveries to affected service connections
- Local supply production
- Residential water use (existing SWRCB reporting)
- Disaggregated data from flow monitoring devices
- Remote sensing imagery analysis

# What assistance is available?

- Assistance available for enforcement activities
  - Access to remaining Member Agency Administered Program (MAAP) funds in the current biennium
  - Access to the proposed \$4.2 million in the upcoming biennium will be made available on July 1, 2022
  - Any collected penalties add to these available funds
- Partnering with drought awareness and public water conservation messaging
- Regional conservation programs
  - Increased flexibility for turf removal applicants
  - Seeking additional conservation funding from state (\$4.5 million awarded last month)

# What actions are proposed on April 26?

1. Support Governor's Executive Order N-7-22
  - Implement Water Shortage Contingency Plan Level 2 response actions to reduce water use
2. Declare a Water Shortage Emergency Condition
  - Targeted to the SWP Dependent Area
3. Adopt two-phase Emergency Water Conservation Program framework
  - Limit outdoor watering to one-day-per-week immediately
  - Require effective enforcement
  - Impose volumetric penalties of \$2,000 per acre-foot for non-compliance
  - Include second phase of complete ban on outdoor watering, if needed

# What actions are proposed on April 26? (cont.)

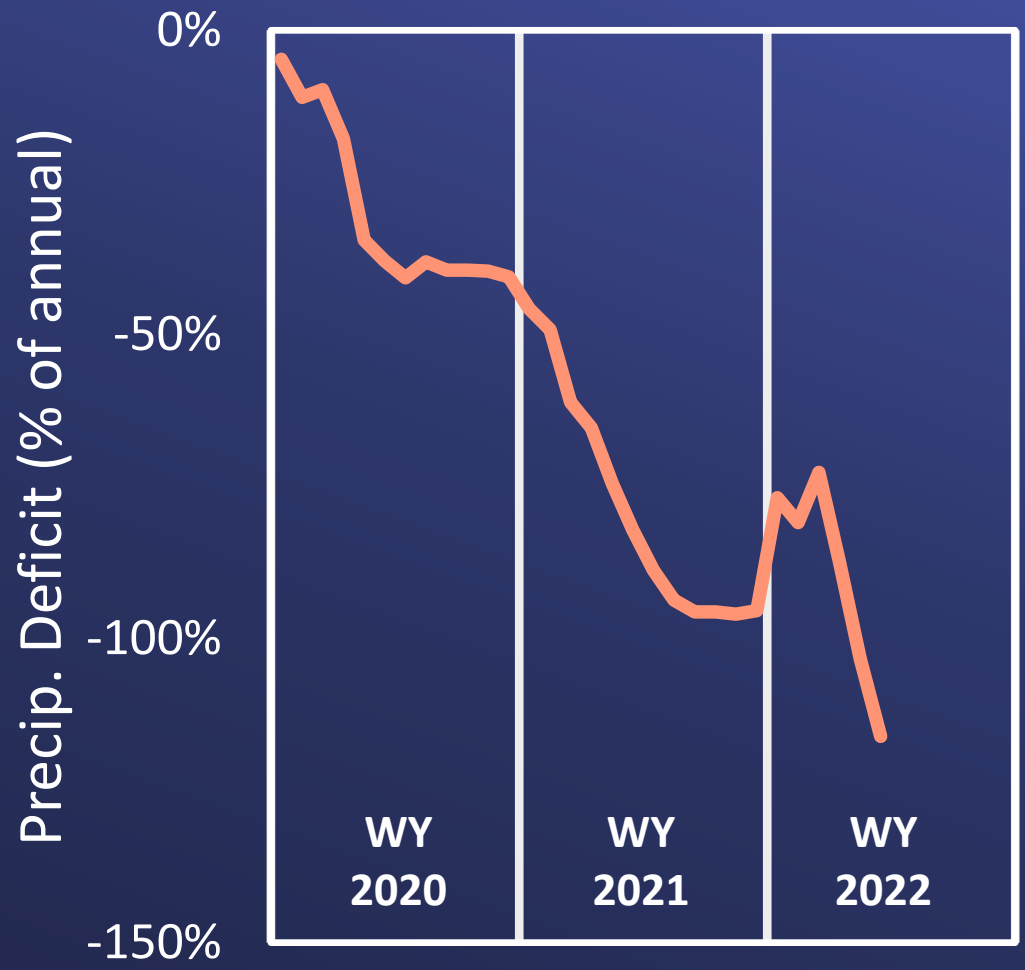
4. Authorize GM to finalize Emergency Conservation Program
  - Ensure conformance with DWR human health and safety requirements
5. Require regular reporting
  - Effectiveness of 1-day watering restriction
  - Need for outdoor watering ban
6. Develop modifications to program if needed
  - Monitoring and feedback will determine if existing plan is effective, workable, and proportionate
  - Potential use of population-based approach to set limits on per capita water use
  - Board action required

# How do we coordinate and accelerate actions?

- Continue coordination to finalize and implement the plan
  - Develop suite of acceptable enforcement provisions
  - Finalize and execute an amplified and unified public message for consumer actions
  - Bring information-sharing on-line with affected agencies
- Advocate before State and Federal government for maximum action and assistance during drought







8-Station Index Precipitation