

WaterBlueprintCa.com

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# The San Joaquin Valley – A Unique Resource

- unique soils, climate and water resources
- a dazzling range of crops and livestock products that feed America
- valuable watersheds, wetlands, wildlife refuges and endangered species habitats that should be preserved & enhanced



#### **Challenges we face:**

- An unprecedented water crisis
- Great risks to the economy, social welfare and the environment
- Impacts of <u>SGMA</u> without water projects:
  - $\circ$  retirement of over 1 million acres of productive farmland
  - $\circ~$  lost jobs: 42,000 in ag, 65,000 in the Valley
  - $\circ~$  loss of \$7 billion/year in revenues
  - $\circ$  lost property tax revenue
- Lack of safe, reliable water for people in <u>disadvantaged communities</u>
- Increased <u>flood risk</u> due to climate change & subsidence
- Loss of historical wetlands & riparian <u>habitat</u>
   The Blueprint is a grassroots, community initiative
   to address these challenges





### An Environmental Vision

Existing Protected Places



#### New Wildlife Areas 5,000 ac





Riparian Habitat (not shown on map) 1,500 ac - 4,000 ac







Wildlife Corridors 30,000 ac

# **Flood Risks**

People, property, and

Merced

assets at high risk in

urban areas.

Climate change will fundamentally alter hydrologic patterns Upstream reservoirs don't have enough flood storage capacity to attenuate large floods.

Eastman

Lake

Subsidence in the Upper San Joaquin Basin, primarily due to groundwater pumping for irrigation, is irreversibly reducing capacity of the bypass system every year.

Source: DWR (2017) Central Valley Flood Protection Plan



Chowchilla River

Mitigating Flood Risks -Blueprint approach

- 8,000 cfs more recharge capacity
- Expanded floodplains
- Inter-regional conveyance
- The first two of these are resilient easily expandable as climate change increases

## Steps to Groundwater Sustainability

- Understand the problem
   2040 shortages by GSA without fallowing
- 2. Excess Water
- 3. New Conveyance
- Expanded Beneficial Use Groundwater recharge
   Wetland & riparian habitats



# Step 1. Understanding the Problem

Estimated need\*:

- agriculture & communities: 1.5 to 1.8 maf
- environmental: >200,000 af

Disparities within subbasins can be substantial

\* Draft Blueprint numbers for planning purposes – subject to change



## Step 2. New Sources of Water

- Local high flows
- Reclamation & recycling
- Increased efficiency in specific areas
- Delta flood/excess flows



## **Delta Water Uses**



## A Regulated Delta



#### Salmon



#### Delta Smelt



## Fish Friendly Diversions – the concept

Fish friendly diversions work because of natural buoyancy and slow velocities



## Fish Friendly Diversions - Implementation



#### Source: Carollo Engineers

## Potential to export high flow Delta Water

 Study 2 through Study 13 assume 2019 BiOp, no DWR Incidental Take Permit (ITP)

 No FalIX2 (NFX): assume no Fall X2 Delta outflow requirement

 INFDEM: infinite (or very large) demands

 B10300: Banks allowable pumping is 10,300 cfs

 SDIP: South Delta Improvement Program

 FFD: Fish Friendly Diversion

 DMC2000: DMC expanded by 2000 cfs

 MV: Mid-Valley Canal with demand

 J: Expanded Jones PP and DMC



Delta Export - Change from Existing Conditions ('08 BiOps)

Source: MBK Engineers 2020

Delta Export - Change from '08 BiOps (1,000 AF)



Use of 10,000 cfs*	cfs
Westside	200
Delta Mendota	320
Madera/Chowchilla	2,200
Trans-Valley	3,600
Kern	2,800
Contingency	880
Total	10,000

## Step 4. Beneficial Use

Expanded Recharge

- recharge ponds
- Wetlands
- Habitat Corridors
- riparian habitat
- flood MAR
- deep well injection
- subsurface recharge











# What are priority conveyance projects in SJV and why?

What:

- A. Restore F-K Capacity
- B. Expand F-K Canal & Madera Canal
- C. Connect D-M Canal to Chowchilla Bypass
- D. Fish friendly diversions
- E. Mid-valley system

Why - to obtain:

- Sustainability of the economy, DACs, wetlands SGMA -> surplus water -> strategic conveyance,
   -> portfolio of recharge facilities
- Flexibility many bi-directional elements, a delta with operational flexibility
- Resilience in the face of climate change
  - better management of high flows
  - interconnected recharge
  - enhanced flood plains



# Public benefits & funding

#### Public benefits:

- flood protection
- human right to water
- taxation revenues
- human health & welfare (jobs & income)
- infrastructure protection
- food quality and safety
- environmental restoration and protection
- public open spaces & recreation
- reserves for endangered species
- food enhancement for native fish (floodplains)
- air quality



#### Private benefits:

• water for agriculture

### Comparative funding policies:

- roads
- high speed rail

#### Funding Challenges:

Currently funded through voluntary contributions DWR resources stretched – more input from consultants Is there money to continue planning? Is 50/50 project funding possible?

## What future for the Valley?

Inaction or investment?



#### Inaction



Hard: uncertainty, politics, regulations, expense, commitment