Drought Strategies Workshop: Preparing for Drought in a Non-Drought Year

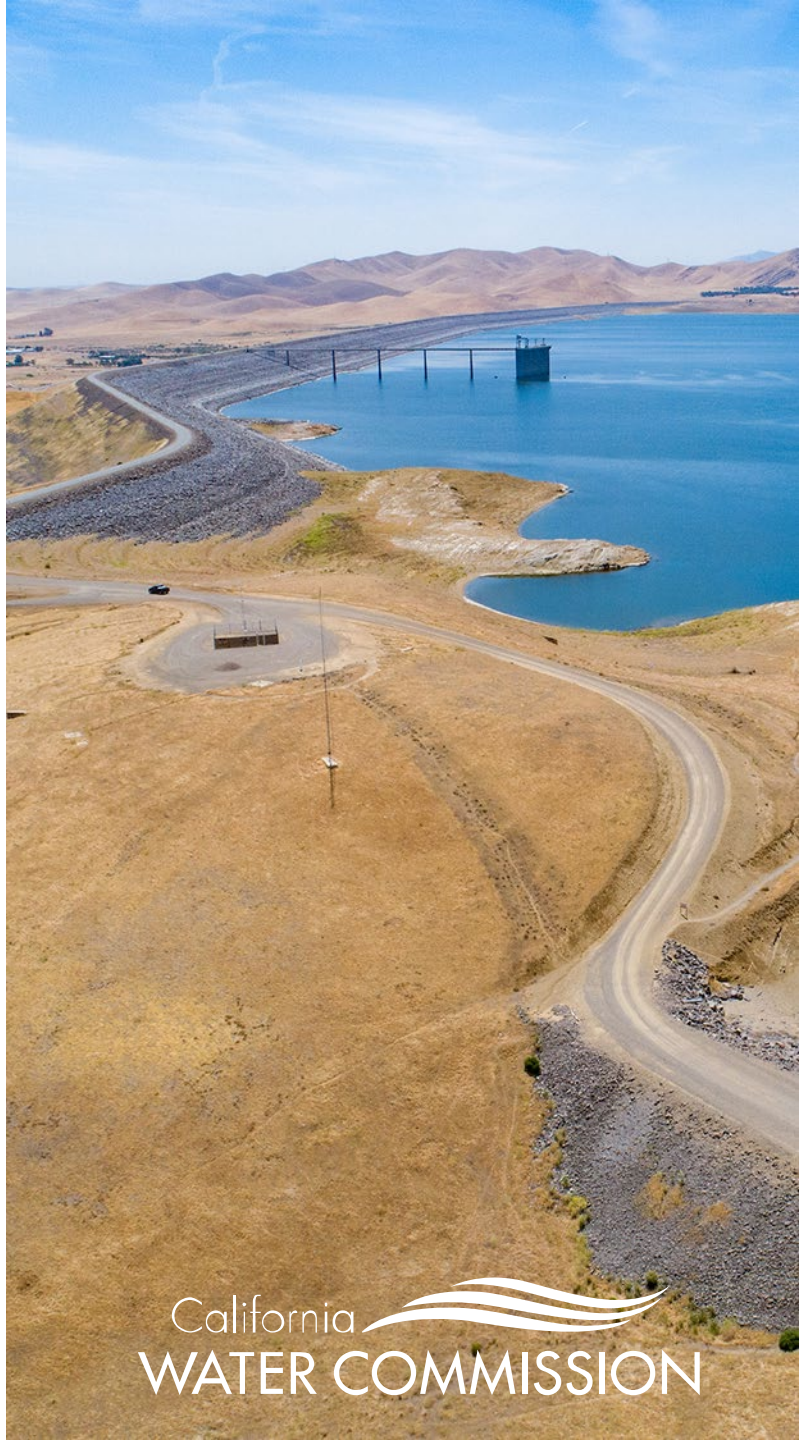
California
WATER COMMISSION

Ground Rules

- On-line and Conversational Courtesy
- Idea sharing
- Curiosity

Agenda

- Drought Overview
- Introduction to Drought Strategies Effort
- **Breakouts:** Regional Drought Impacts and Approaches
- **Presentation & Group Discussion:** Preliminary Drought Strategies
- **Breakouts:** Additional Considerations
- Next Steps and Adjourn




Welcome
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Why It's Important to Talk About Drought Now

- Changing hydrology – wetter wets, drier dries
- Hotter, drier climate = increased water scarcity during all water years
  - Makes drought years more intense
- California is a drought-prone state – drought will return!
  - Need to manage for scarcity in times of abundance
- Drought conditions not experienced uniformly across the state
  - Some communities, species still dealing with drought impacts

Water Resilience Portfolio
Action 26.3

Develop strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years

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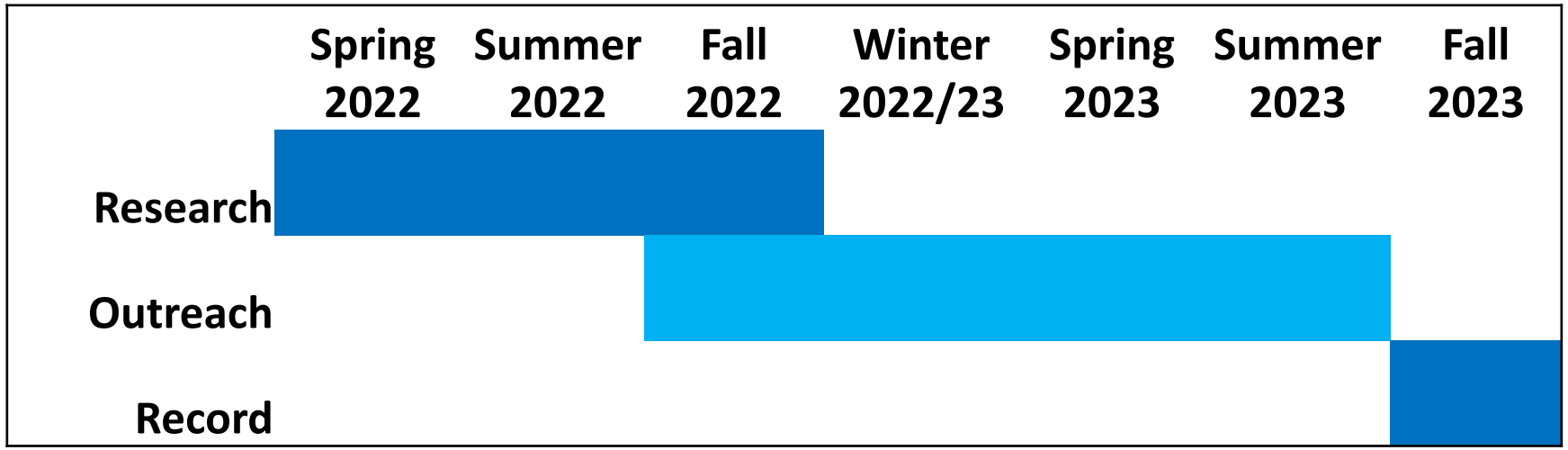
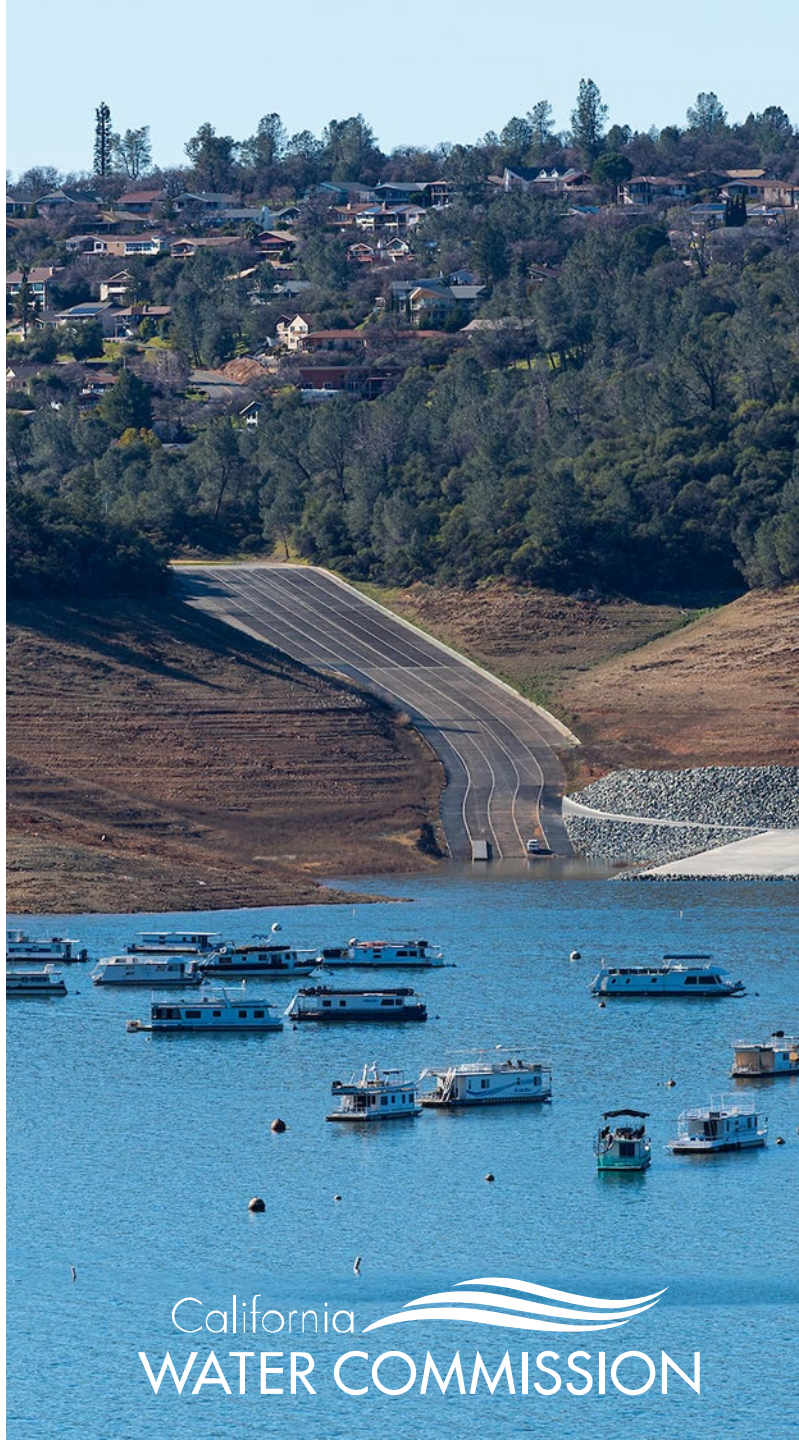
Goal & Overview of Commission Process

- Engage experts, interested parties, public
- Develop potential strategies
- Produce guidance document





Regional Break-outs

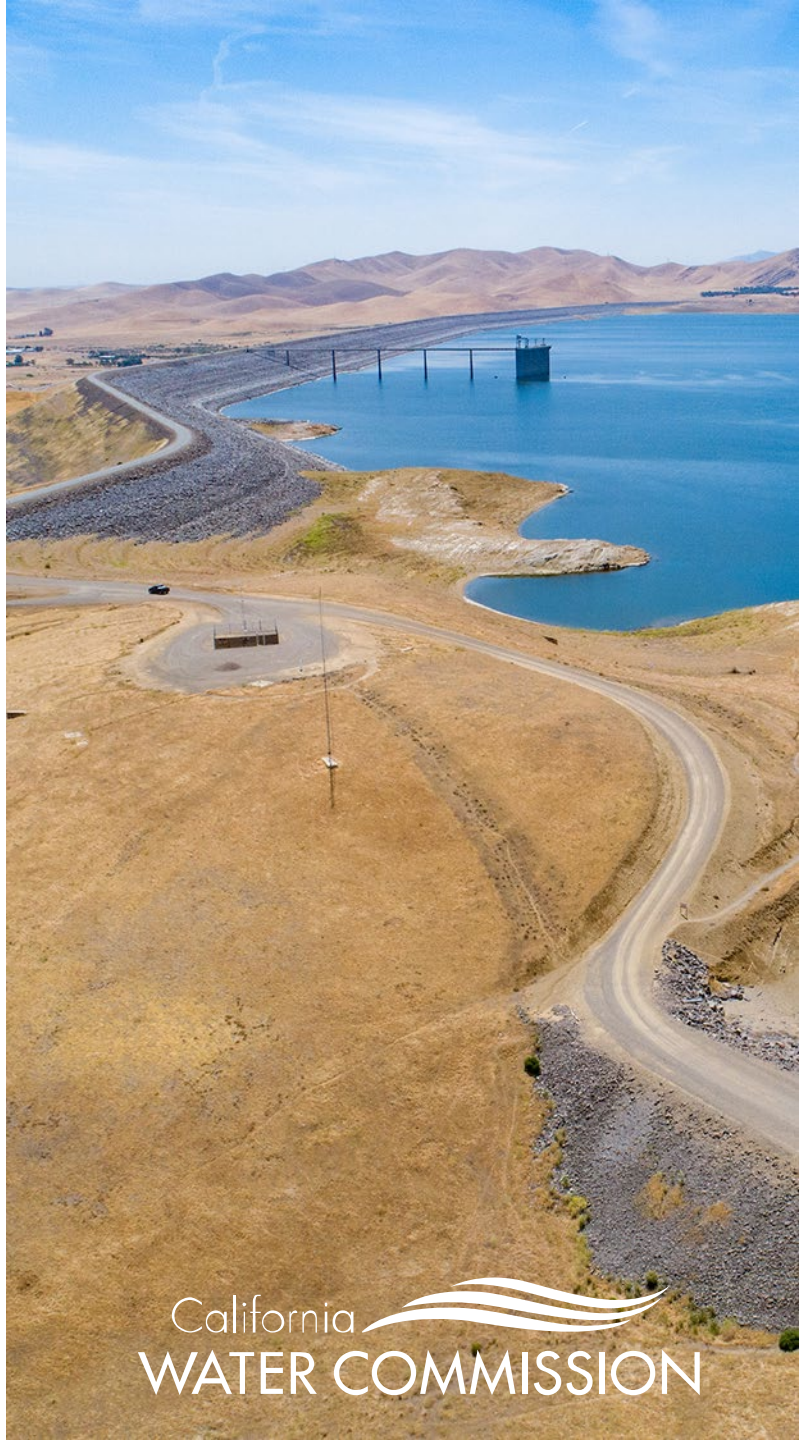
Questions:

1. How is your region impacted by drought?
2. What is already happening to protect communities & species?

****Introductions, 15-minute discussion, prepare short report to share out****

Preliminary Strategies

1. Scale Up Groundwater Recharge
2. Conduct Watershed-level Planning to Reduce Ecosystem Impacts of Drought
3. Better Position Communities to Respond to Drought Emergencies
4. Increase Capacity & Information Needed to Manage Drought



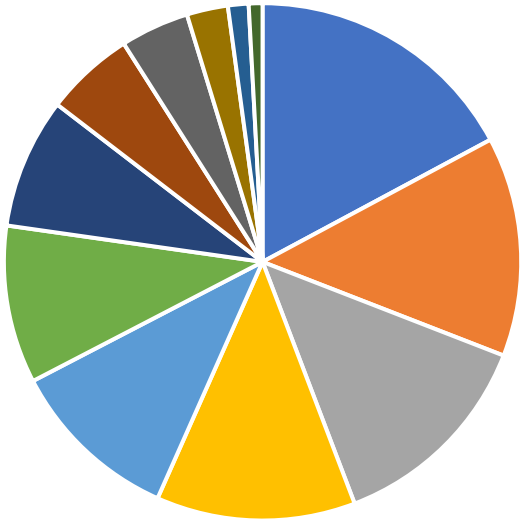
1: Scale Up Groundwater Recharge

1. Prepare for recharge by identifying where recharge provides the greatest benefit and where it is possible.
2. Promote recharge efforts through on-going education, outreach, and incentives.
3. Support efficient permitting to maximize groundwater recharge by clarifying flood triggers, considering impacts to drinking water, and completing timely, comprehensive environmental review.
4. Support infrastructure connected to groundwater recharge, including fish screens, conveyance, and surface storage projects that can store water for recharge.
5. Review recent actions to clarify lessons learned and identify on-going improvements and efficiencies.

Survey Says

- June 19 – July 12, 2023
- 233 Respondents
- Broad distribution

Survey Respondents (233)



Sacramento Valley	17%
South Coast	14%
San Joaquin Valley	13%
North Coast	12%
Central Coast	11%
Northern California - Inland	10%
Southern California - Inland	8%
Mountain Region	6%
Statewide	4%
San Francisco Bay	3%
Out of State / International	1%
Multiple Regions	1%

Survey Respondents

Just interested in subject	27.0%
Environmental NGO	23.6%
County/Regional Agency	16.0%
Other (mixed)	15.2%
State Agency	14.4%
Community Based Organization	14.4%
Water Association	13.5%
Groundwater Sustainability Agency	12.7%
Well water user	11.4%
Academia	10.6%

Utility	10.6%
Small farm or midsize farm	9.3%
Federal Agency	8.9%
Consultant	8.9%
Habitat / Species manager	7.6%
Tribal	6.8%
IRWM	5.0%
Other Community Representative	5.0%
Large farm	3.0%
Elected official	2.5%
Legal Counsel	2.1%
Collaborative Specialist	2.1%

1. Groundwater Recharge	High priority	Nice but not critical	No opinion	Not a state role
Promote recharge efforts through education, outreach, and incentives.	68.3%	23.2%	5.5%	3.0%
Support efficient permitting to maximize groundwater recharge by 1) clarifying flood triggers, 2) considering impacts to drinking water, and 3) completing timely, comprehensive environmental review.	83.5%	8.5%	3.5%	4.9%
Support infrastructure investment connected to groundwater recharge, including fish screens, conveyance, and surface storage projects that can store water for recharge.	80.7%	9.3%	4.3%	5.6%
Review recent actions to clarify lessons learned and identify on-going improvements and efficiencies.	63.5%	26.4%	4.4%	5.7%

Do survey responses resonate?
What do you like about the strategies?
What needs to be changed?

What’s missing?

Scale Up Groundwater Recharge

- Prepare for recharge by identifying where recharge provides the greatest benefit and where it is possible.
- Promote recharge efforts through on-going education, outreach, and incentives.
- Support efficient permitting to maximize groundwater recharge by clarifying flood triggers, considering impacts to drinking water, and completing timely, comprehensive environmental review.
- Support infrastructure connected to groundwater recharge, including fish screens, conveyance, and surface storage projects that can store water for recharge.
- Review recent actions to clarify lessons learned and identify on-going improvements and efficiencies.

Poll: What is your level of support for this strategy?

2: Conduct Watershed-level Planning to Reduce Ecosystem Impacts of Drought

1. Develop environmental watering plans for California by working at the watershed-scale to identify and plan for ecosystem water needs.
2. Conduct watershed-scale habitat planning that inventories, prioritizes, and identifies funding mechanisms for habitat restoration and conservation projects.
3. Integrate fire/forest management into drought planning.

2. Ecosystem	High priority	Nice but not critical	No opinion	Not a state role
Integrate fire/forest management into drought planning.	74.2%	17%	5.7%	3.1%
Develop environmental watering plans for California by working at the watershed-scale to identify and plan for ecosystem water needs.	70.2%	17.4%	5.6%	6.8%
Conduct watershed-scale habitat planning that inventories, prioritizes, and identifies funding gaps for habitat restoration and preservation projects.	67.8%	22.2.%	5.1%	5.1%

Do survey responses resonate?
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What’s missing?

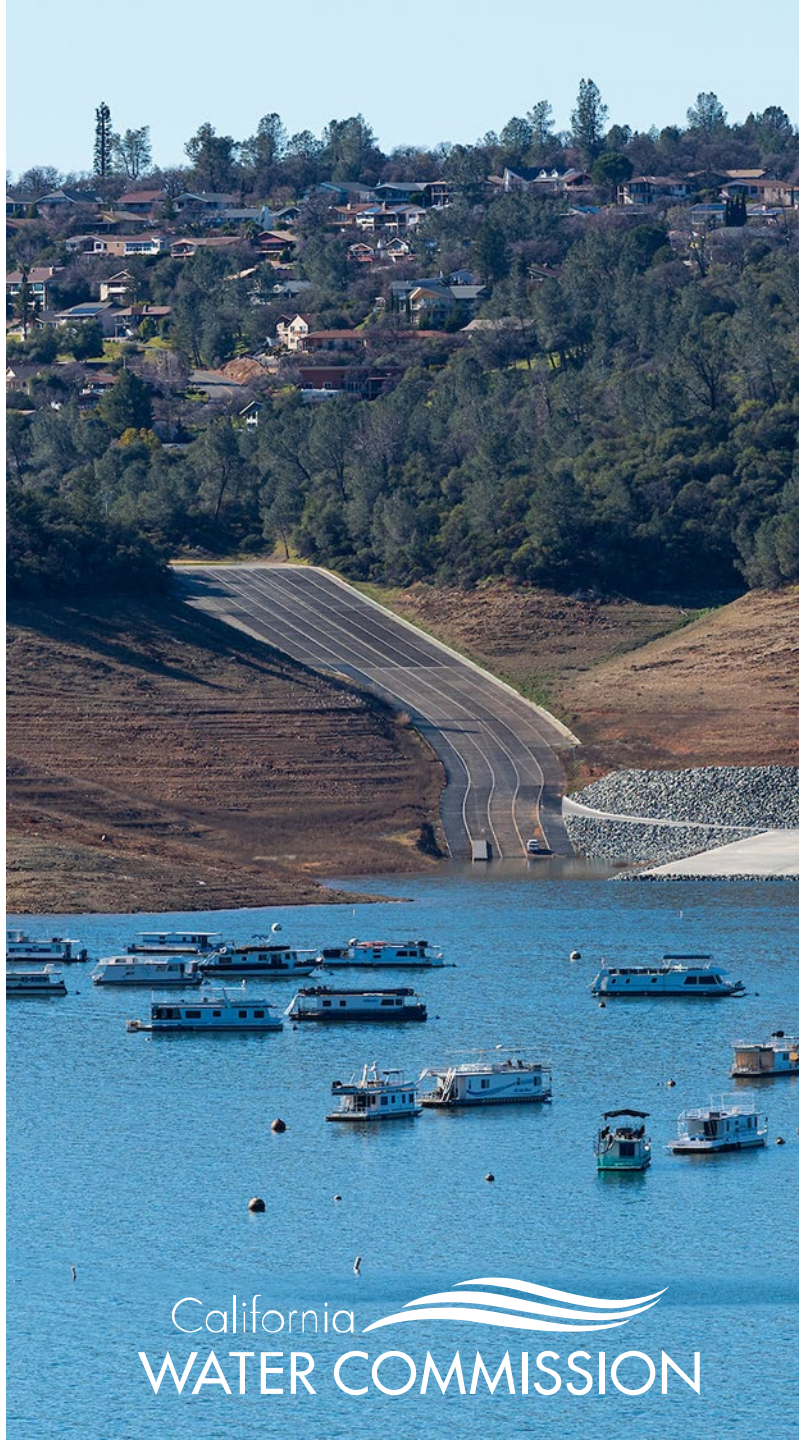
Conduct Watershed-level Planning to Reduce Ecosystem Impacts of Drought

- Develop environmental watering plans for California by working at the watershed-scale to identify and plan for ecosystem water needs.
- Conduct watershed-scale habitat planning that inventories, prioritizes, and identifies funding mechanisms for habitat restoration and conservation projects.
- Integrate fire/forest management into drought planning.

Poll: What is your level of support for this strategy?

3: Better Position Communities to Respond to Drought Emergencies

1. For small and/or rural, disadvantaged communities, allow delegation of funding management to local assistance providers with expedited State sign-off for pre-approved categories of activities and dollar thresholds to nimbly address system needs.
2. Ramp up efforts to improve water system resiliency and actions to increase supply reliability for communities, and encourage regional approaches to water resource management.
3. Support integrated land and water planning, such as multi-benefit land repurposing.



3. Communities

- Overall, general agreement
- Multiple suggestions on approaches to use in implementing the strategy
  - Reducing Demand/ Increasing Supply
  - Long Term/ Short Term Approaches
  - Ensuring Accountability/ Transparency
  - Interacting WITH the community instead of doing to/for
  - Establishing priorities for action (schools, food, water quality)
- Concerns
  - Viability
  - Governance/Capacity
  - Costs/ Accountability

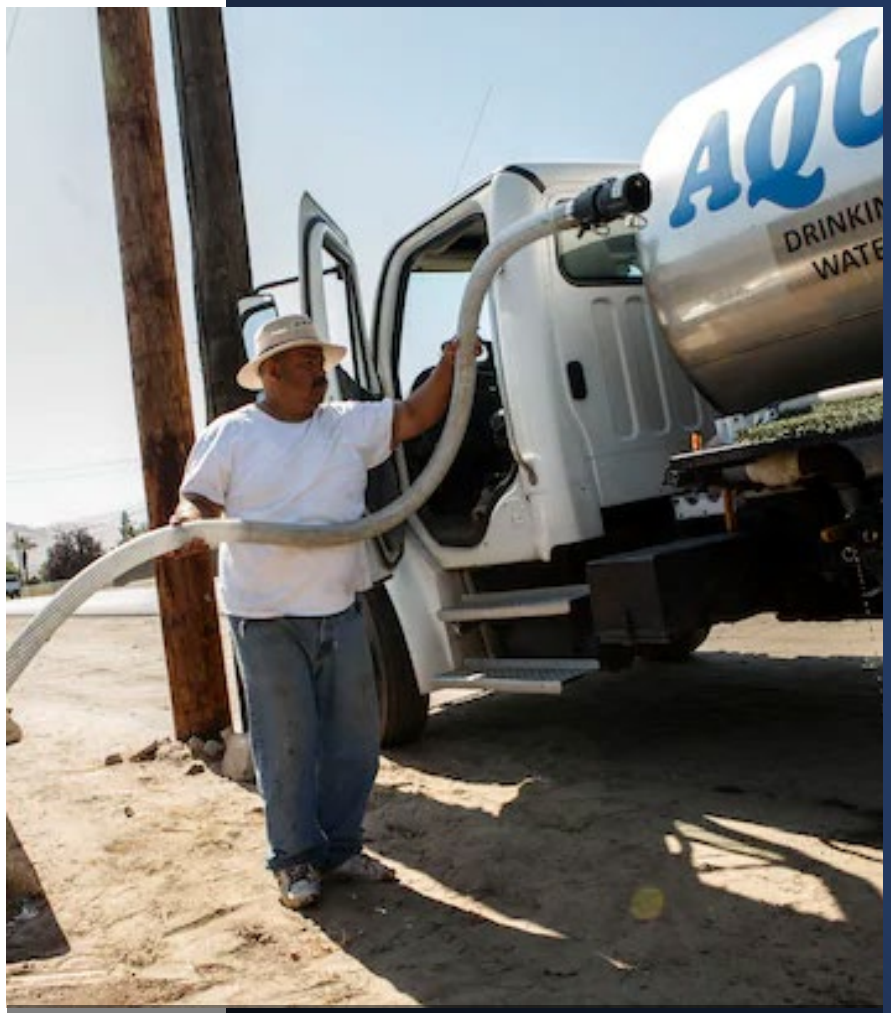


Photo - July 4, 2015, Porterville, CA courtesy Washington Post

Do survey responses resonate?
What do you like about the strategies?
What needs to be changed?

What’s missing?

Better Position Communities to Respond to Drought Emergencies

- For small and/or rural, disadvantaged communities, allow delegation of funding management to local assistance providers with expedited State sign-off for pre-approved categories of activities and dollar thresholds to nimbly address system needs.
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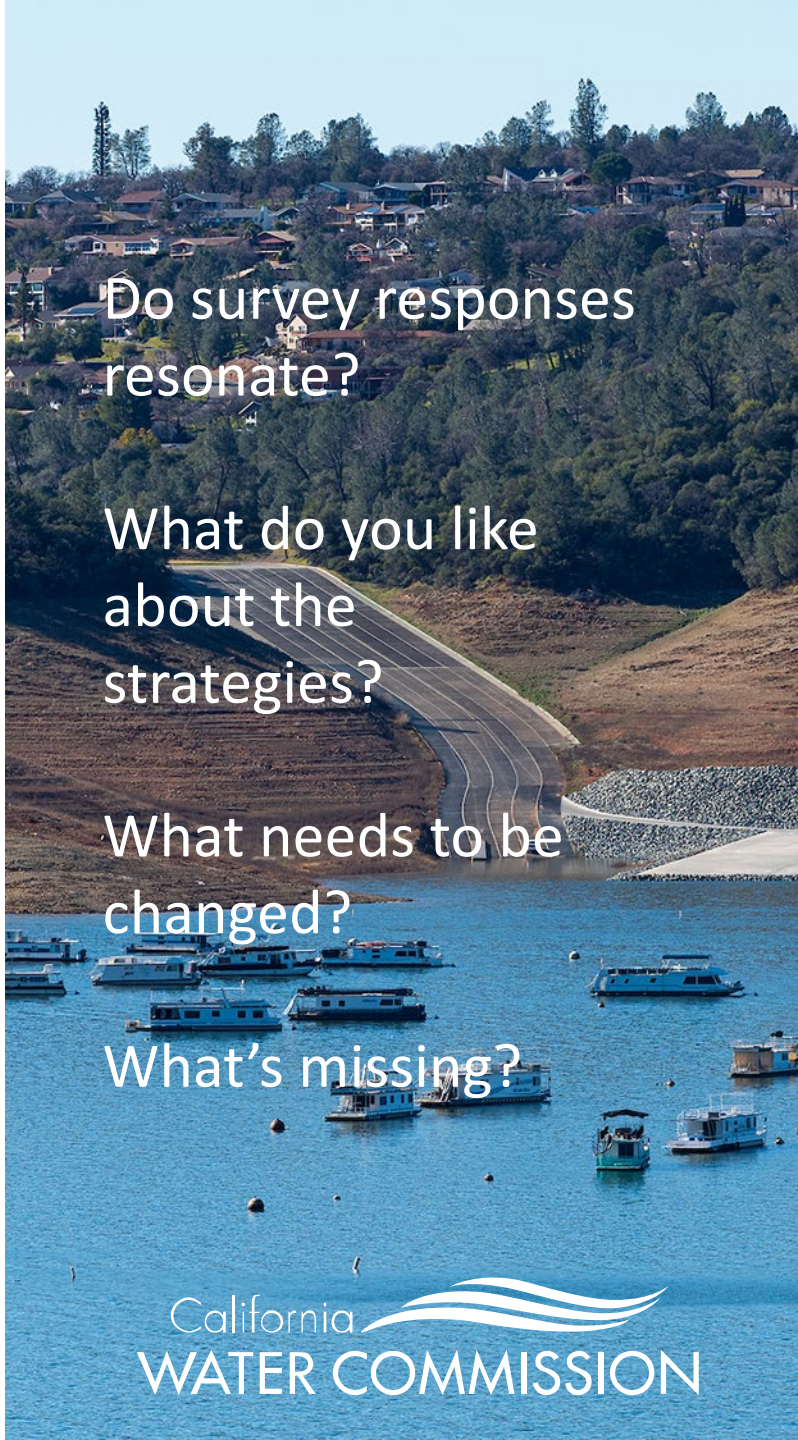

Poll: What is your level of support for this strategy?

4: Increase Staff Capacity & Information Needed to Manage Drought

1. Develop dedicated drought capacity at State agencies to coordinate between agencies, across sectors, ID lessons learned and generate plan, collect/share consistent info on communities & species in crisis.
2. Support seasonal forecasting to anticipate drought.
3. Support Tribes, local government, NGOs to increase drought response capacity.
4. Develop consistent public information campaign by building on work already being done, creating indicators to signal drought status, engaging experts to change water behaviors in California.

4: Increase Capacity & Information	High priority	Nice but not critical	No opinion	Not a state role
Develop dedicated drought capacity at State agencies to coordinate between agencies and across sectors.	66.3%	17.2%	10.1%	6.5%
Identify lessons learned from recent droughts and generate plans for future droughts.	80.6%	13.5%	1.8%	4.1%
Collect and share consistent information on communities & species in crisis.	58.9%	28.6%	7.7%	4.7%
Support Tribes, local government, NGOs to increase drought response capacity.	67.1%	17.4%	8.4%	7.2%
Develop a consistent public information campaign that builds on work already being done.	49.4%	35.7%	10.1%	4.7%
Support seasonal forecasting to anticipate drought.	55.9%	29.8%	6.6%	7.7%

Do survey responses resonate?
What do you like about the strategies?
What needs to be changed?

What’s missing?

Increase Staff Capacity & Information Needed to Manage Drought

- Develop dedicated drought capacity at State agencies to coordinate between agencies, across sectors, ID lessons learned and generate plan, collect/share consistent info on communities & species in crisis.
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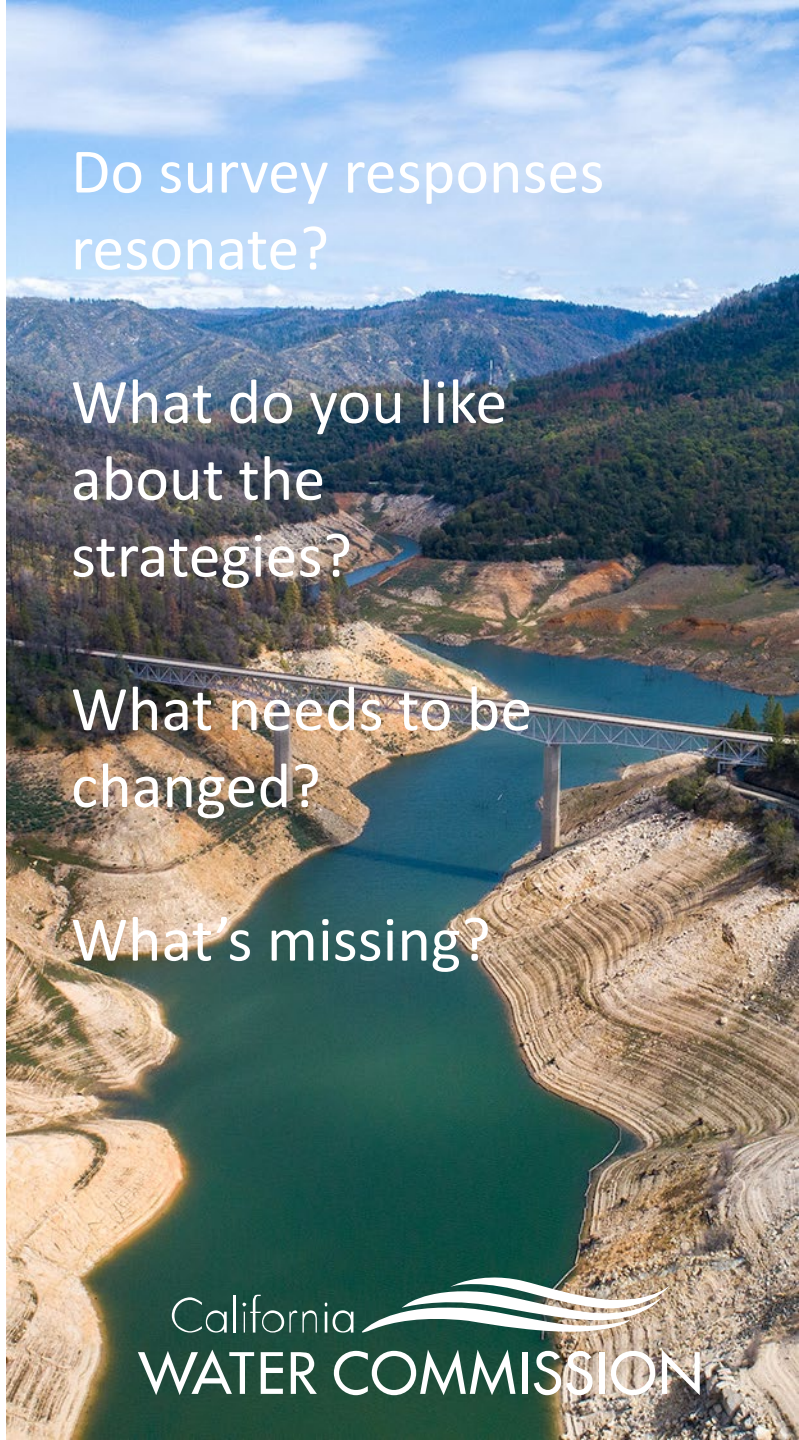


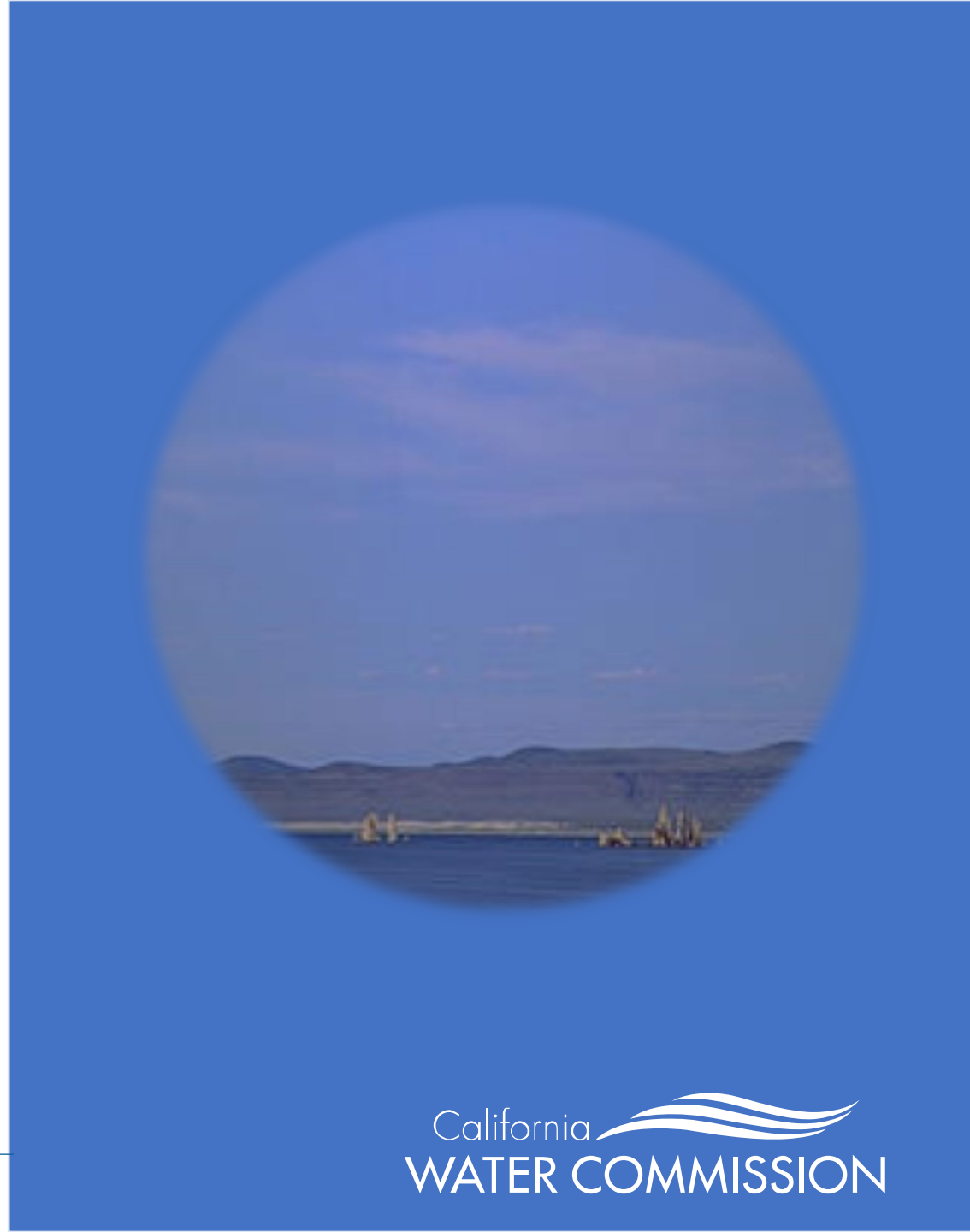
Poll: What is your level of support for this strategy?

Additional Considerations

Additional Considerations

Wide range of responses including:

- Multiple ideas for increasing storage
- Conservation (on and off-farm)
- Governance structures (including Water Rights)
- Full System management (forests, reservoirs, etc.)
- Many things NOT to do
- Series of critical editorial comments on current approaches including some that the State should not be involved.



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Breakout Groups

- What addition approaches do you think the Commission should consider?

- Introductions – Use Chat
- 14-minute discussion
- Prepare short report to share out**

Timeline

Public workshops

Wednesday, July 19 – Noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 25 – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 27 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m

White paper

Draft/final anticipated this fall

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Closing
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