

Sacramento River
SETTLEMENT CONTRACTORS

A Pivotal Moment

Sacramento River Watershed



Thaddeus Bettner / General Manager

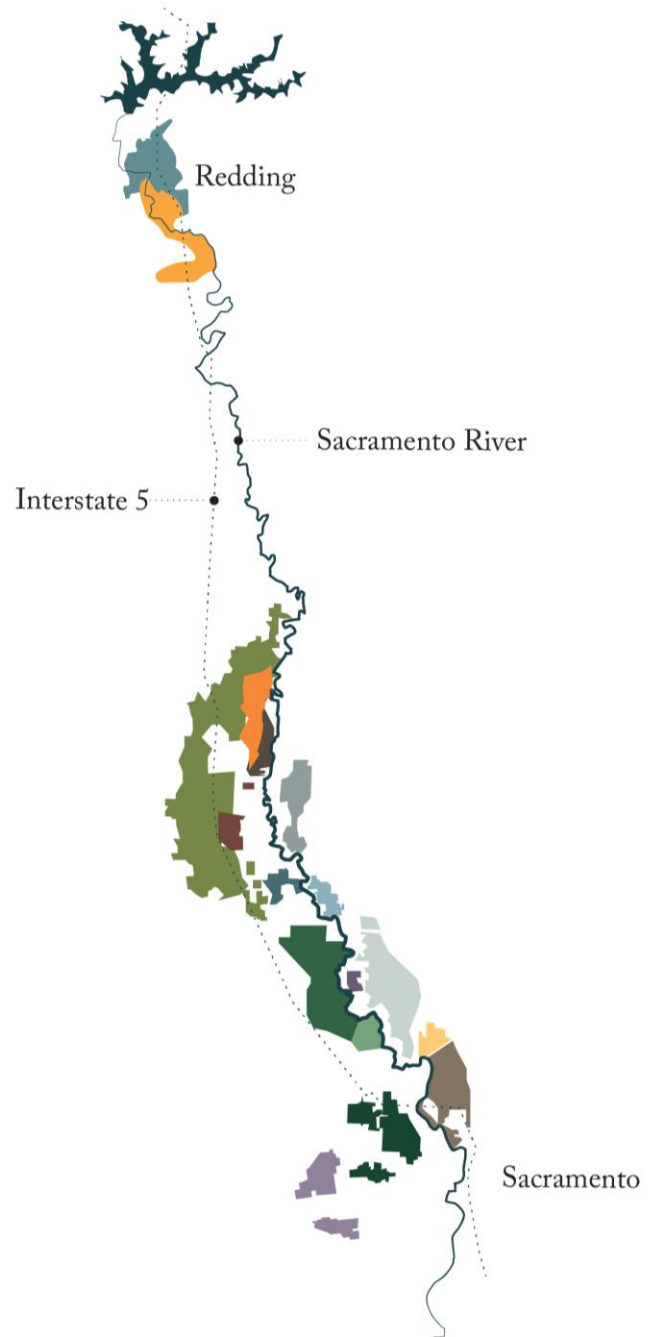
About the
Sacramento River
Settlement Contractors

Who We Are

135+ Settlement Contractors

Non-Profit Organization
formed in 2016

- Irrigation Districts
- Reclamation Districts
- Mutual Water Companies
- Private Landowners



Where We Are

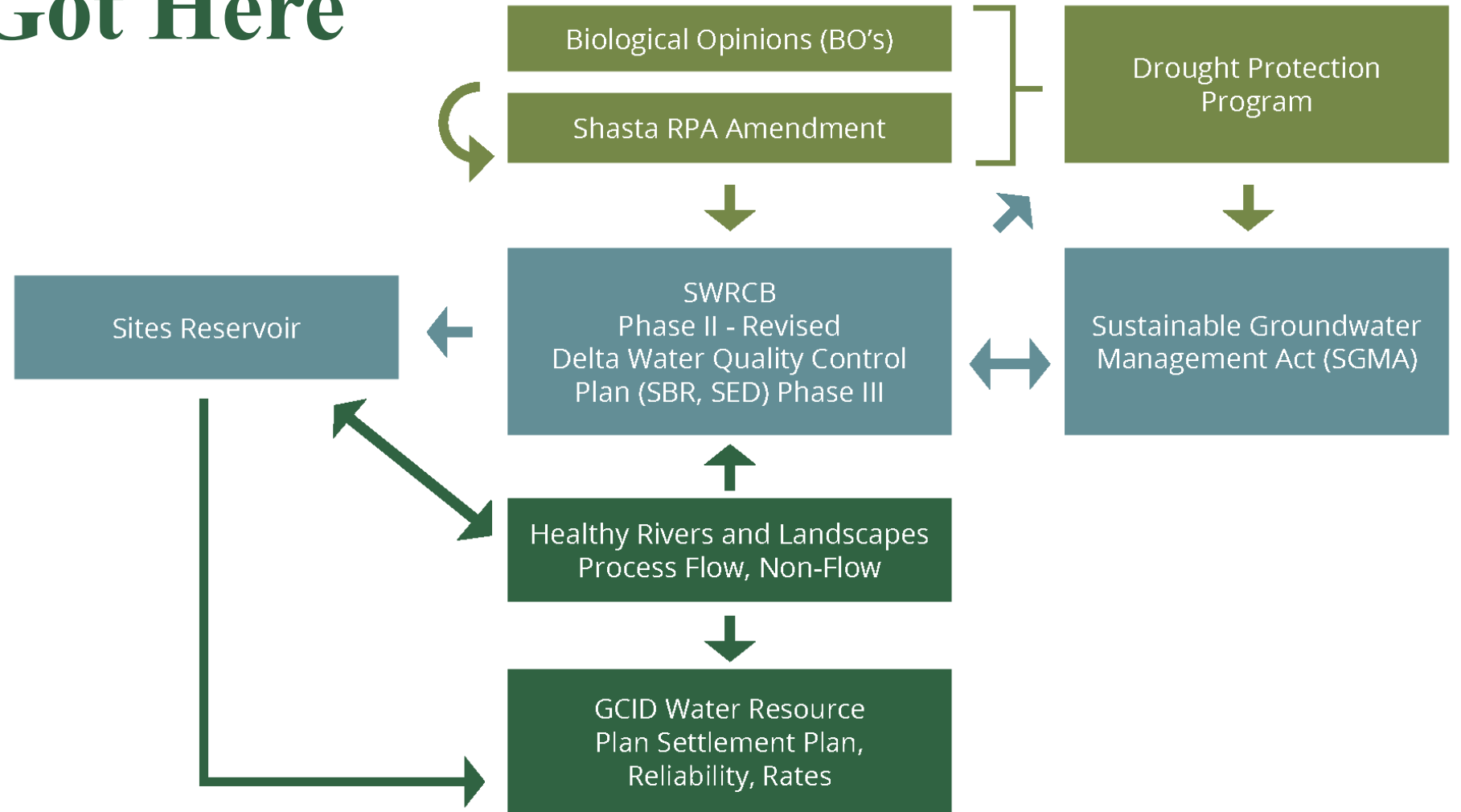
What We Do

- 2.1 Million+ Acre-Feet Under Contract
- Service 450,000+ Acres of Farmland
- Protect and Preserve Member's Water Rights
- Support Four National Wildlife Refuges
- Supply Water to Cities and Communities



We will expand a framework of collaboration to vitalize our rivers, landscapes, and communities through **functional ecology**, the **working agricultural landscapes**, and **safe drinking water** for our communities.

How We Got Here





Waiting for Jenga!



Action Plan for Modern Stewardship

Managing the available water supplies in all year types to ensure an **appropriate balance** of water in the reservoirs, rivers and creeks, across the landscape, groundwater supplies and for communities.

Action Plan for Modern Stewardship

1. Protect and Preserve Member's Water Rights
2. Improve Functional Ecology
3. Drought Protection Plan
4. Healthy Rivers and Landscapes
5. Groundwater Recharge
6. Sites Reservoir

Addressing Unpredictability

State and Federal - water and fish and wildlife - agencies are required to take steps to ensure survival of endangered species.

Unpredictable water years can lead to unpredictable decisions.

Our Objective

Maximize our water supplies for multiple benefits and **provide certainty** in surface water deliveries to members



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Drought Protection Program Agreement

Part of the Updated Biological Opinions and
Long Term Operations of the Central Valley Project

GOAL of the DPPA

To implement a drought mitigation, voluntary water conservation, and water purchase program.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Avoid Devastating Impacts of 2022

- 18% to farms, wildlife refuges
- 370,000 acres fallowed
- \$1.3 billion hit to regional economy
- Bird and snake habitat impoverished
- Lowest salmon survival rates in decades



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Reclamation Proposing More Conservative Shasta Operations

- Recommended by the five agencies
- Higher carry over storage
- Results in reductions in water supply



Phase One

2025-2035

Contract supply reduced by up to 500,000 total acre-feet in during years Drought Protection Program is triggered.

- Historical frequency of occurrence: 7 years in 100 year record
- Contract performance flexibilities
- ~50% contract supply to be furnished on pattern needed by SRSC
- Winter-run Action Plan implemented in first 10 year period

Phase Two

2035-2045

Contract supply reduced by up to 100,000 total acre-feet in during years Drought Protection Program is triggered.

- Historical frequency of occurrence: 8 years in 100 year record
- Contract performance flexibilities
- ~70% contract supply to be furnished on pattern needed by SRSC

Drought Protection Program Agreement

- SRSC will never go below 50% of total contract supply
- SRSC will coordinate diversions to maximize efficiency
- Program water contingent upon completing milestones in Winter-run Action Plan
- SRSC members to be compensated for reductions
- Temporary program until Winter-run Action Plan implemented



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Drought Protection Program Agreement

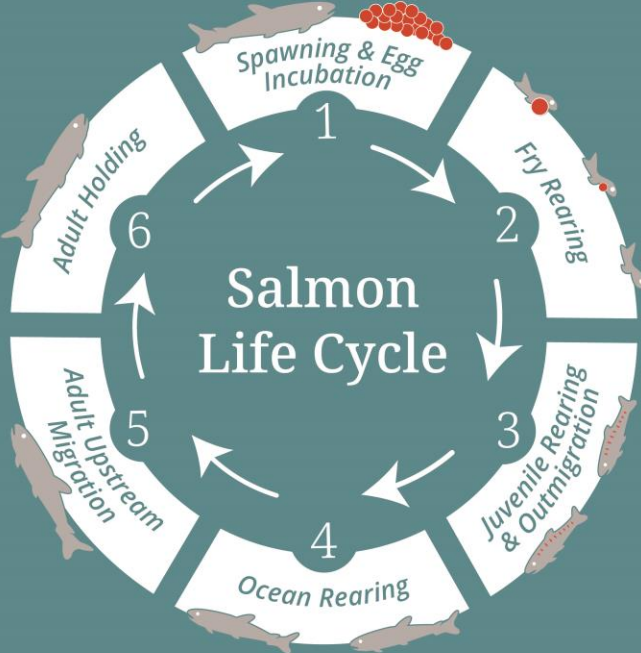
Reclamation to make \$110-million investment through Inflation Reduction Act for:

- Improving and expanding conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater
- Piping or lining open canals
- Expanding recirculation systems
- Upgrading irrigation systems
- Water delivery infrastructure improvements
- Automation of gates and canals



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Winter-Run Action Plan (WRAP)



Source Water Protection

Spawning Gravels and Refugia

Modernizing Hatcheries

Temperature Management

Pulse Flows

Fish Passage

Floodplain Reactivation

McCloud River

McCloud River Reintroduction

Thiamine Treatment

Redding

Battle Creek Enhancements

Battle Creek

Sacramento River

Butte Creek

Yuba River

Fish Rest Stops

Feather River

American River

Sacramento

Putah Creek

Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Bay Delta Plan Update

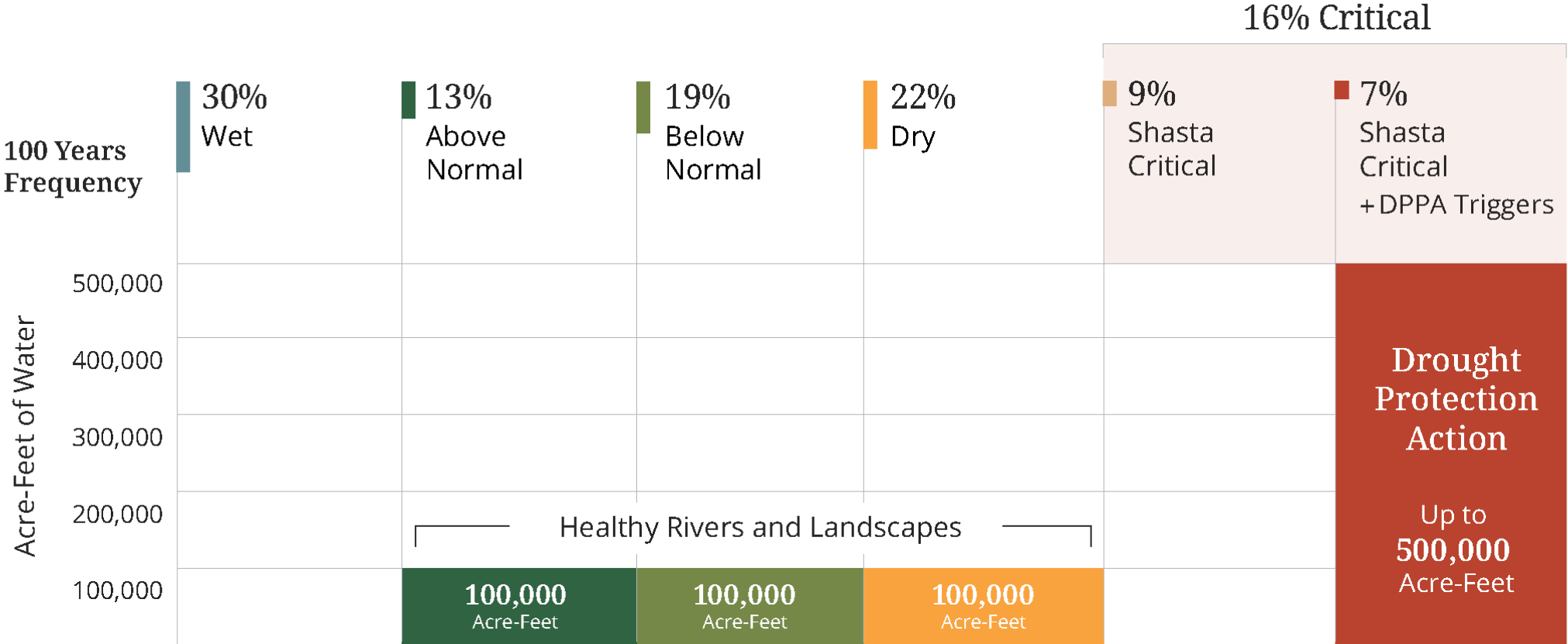
HRL

Starting 2025

100,000 total acre-feet of surface water in
Above Normal, Below Normal and Dry years

- Water made available through land idling/shifting
- Up to 20% made available by groundwater substitution in alignment with local Groundwater Sustainability Plans

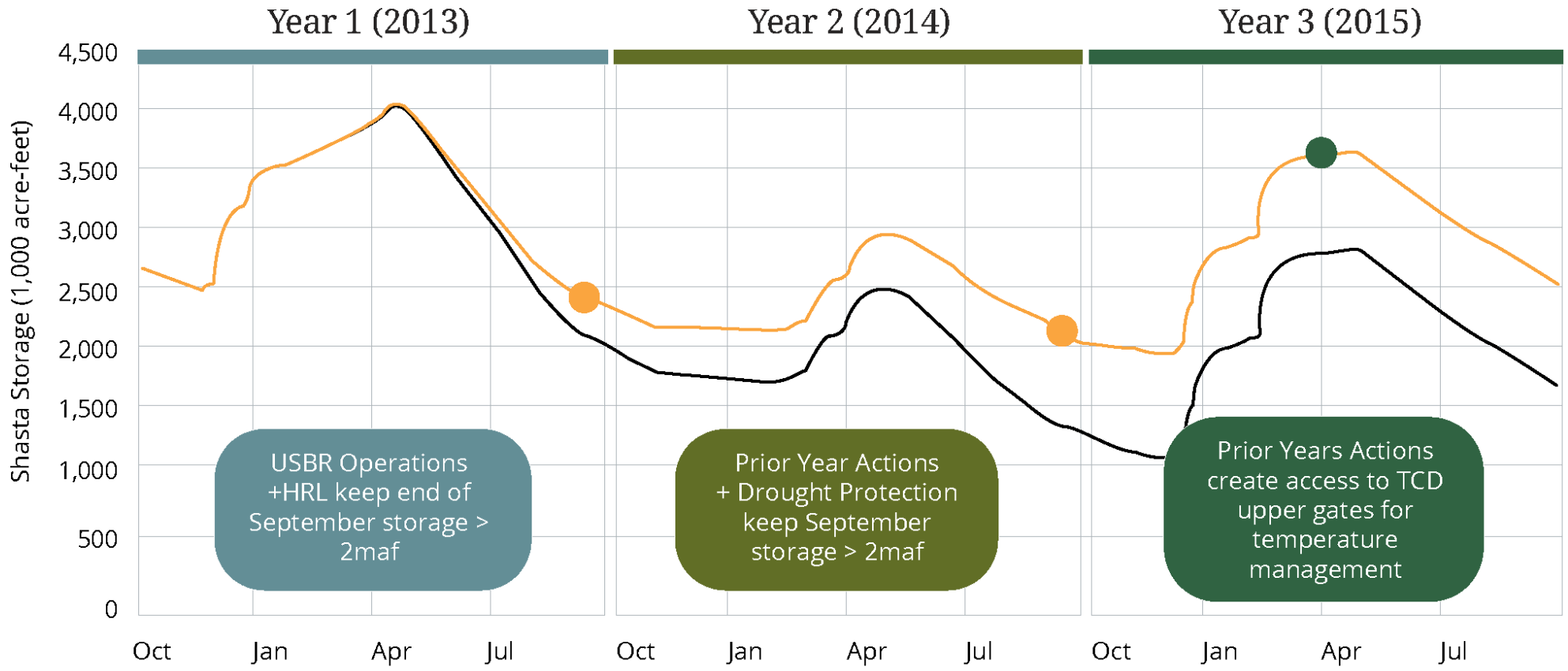
Water Held for the Environment By-Year Type



Note: Existing Shasta Critical Year reductions from 100% to 75% are not shown here.

Higher Shasta Carryover Storage for Temperature Management

- Historical
- Modern Water Stewardship
- Saving Water Periods
- Creates Greater Surplus



Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

- Reclamation will operate Shasta to facilitate HRL
- SRSC continue to deliveries to National Wildlife Refuges, 200,000 acres of ricelands, and other wildlife dependent wetlands
- SRSC to continue measures and projects to improve wildlife conditions
- Payment to SRSC Members for water made available
- SRSC to pay into Water and Science Fund

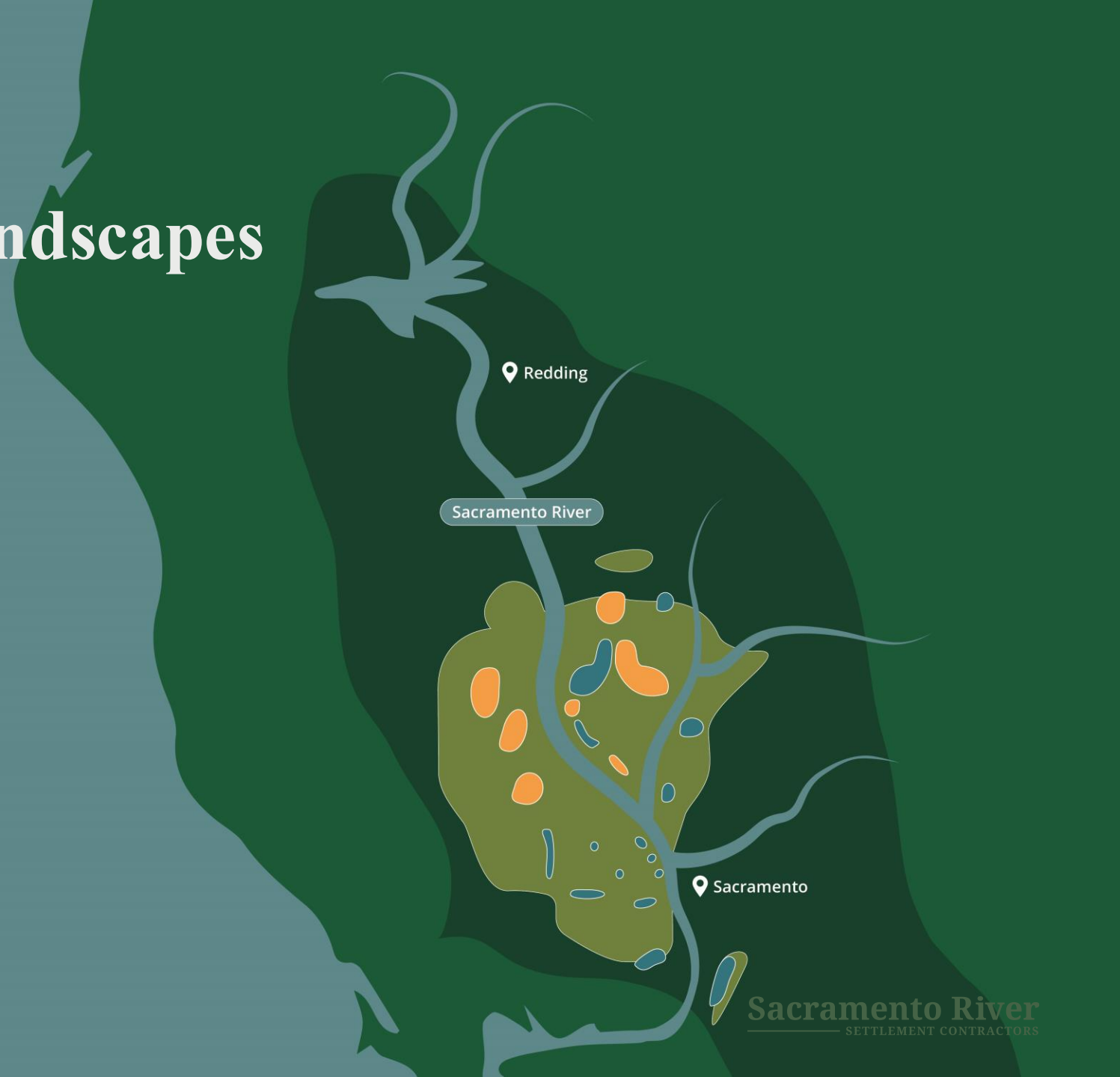
A Holistic Approach to Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Critical Wintering Bird Habitat Along the Pacific Flyway



Approximately one billion birds annually migrate through the Sacramento Valley

-  Ricelands
-  Private Wetland Areas
-  National and State Wildlife Refuges



Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

- Participating in the following workgroups:
 - Governance
 - Science
 - Flow Accounting
 - Habitat
 - Funding
 - Response to Comments to SWRCB
 - Temperature Workgroup
- Awaiting SWRCB Program of Implementation (Fall 2024)

Impact to Contractors

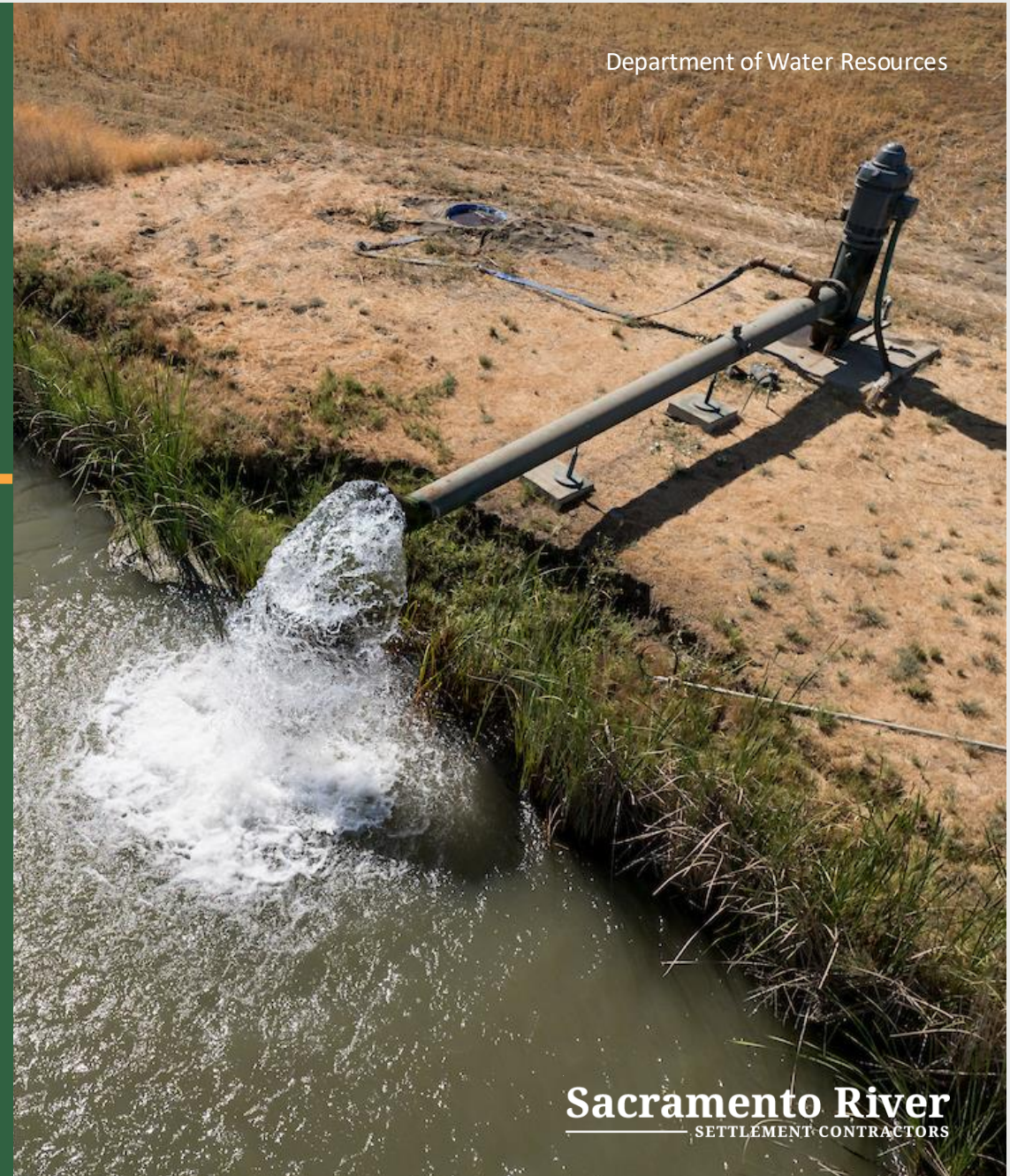
Each water district and company will take different actions to meet the water supply reduction measures.

- Reducing deliveries to landowners
- Cropland idling
- Shifting from historically planted higher-water-intensive crops to lower-water-using crops
- Implementing conservation measures
- Relying on groundwater substitution

Groundwater Recharge

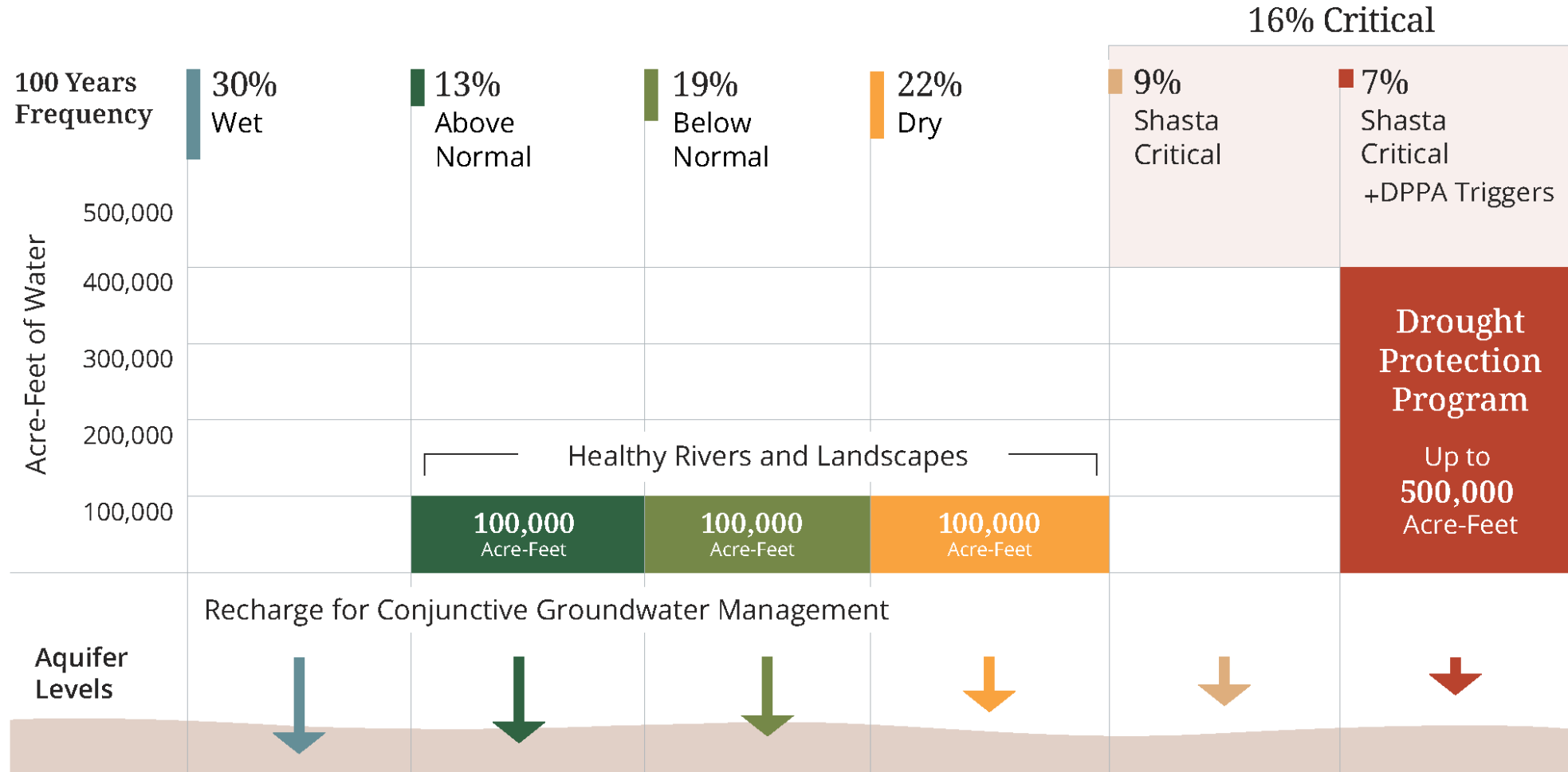
Settlement Contractors, districts along Tehama-Colusa Canal, and local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are working together to better understand and **actively manage groundwater resources** for long-term sustainability under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Department of Water Resources



Sacramento River
SETTLEMENT CONTRACTORS

Water for the Environment (HRL & DPPA)



Note: Existing Shasta Critical Year reductions from 100% to 75% are not shown here.

Sites Reservoir

Continue to be advanced as an integral part of the long-term operations for the Sacramento River to store water during high flow periods to ensure water is available in drier times when needed for multiple benefits throughout the state.



What's Next?

- CEQA Draft EIR
- Continued outreach to Settlement Contractors
- Interest in having all Contractors participate in agreement
- Sign Agreement in early 2025
- Funding Distributed

Questions?



www.sacvalleywater.com

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Sacramento River

SETTLEMENT CONTRACTORS

Thank you.

