

# Water Policy, Issues and Future in California

Food Systems Leadership Institute  
California Seminar – Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



*State Water Resources Control Board - Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo*



CALIFORNIA  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
AGENCY



California  
Department of  
Conservation



CALIFORNIA  
**Water Boards**  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS



# Regional Water Boards

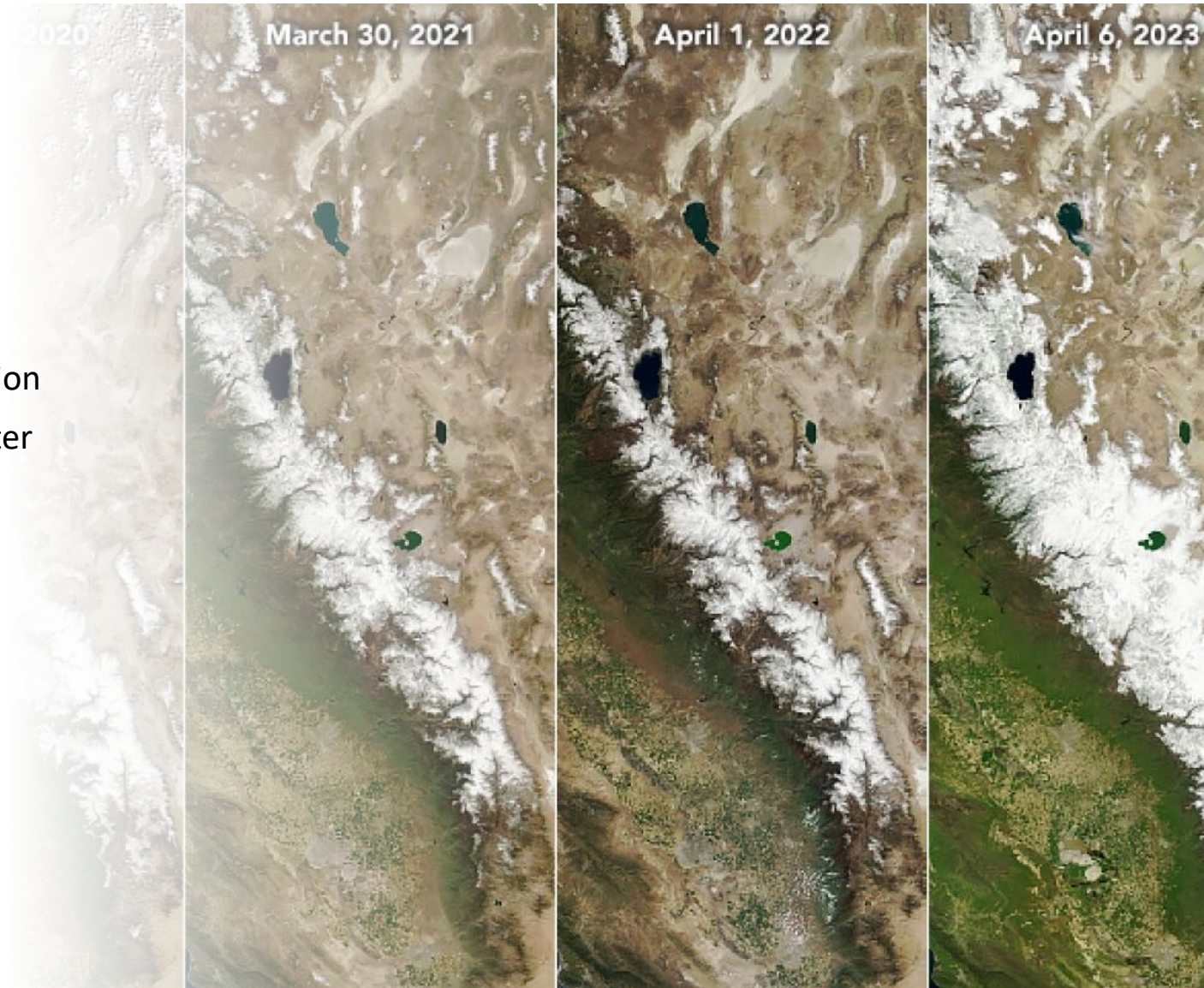
- North Coast
- San Francisco Bay
- Central Coast
- Los Angeles
- Central Valley
- Lahontan
- Colorado River Basin
- Santa Ana
- San Diego



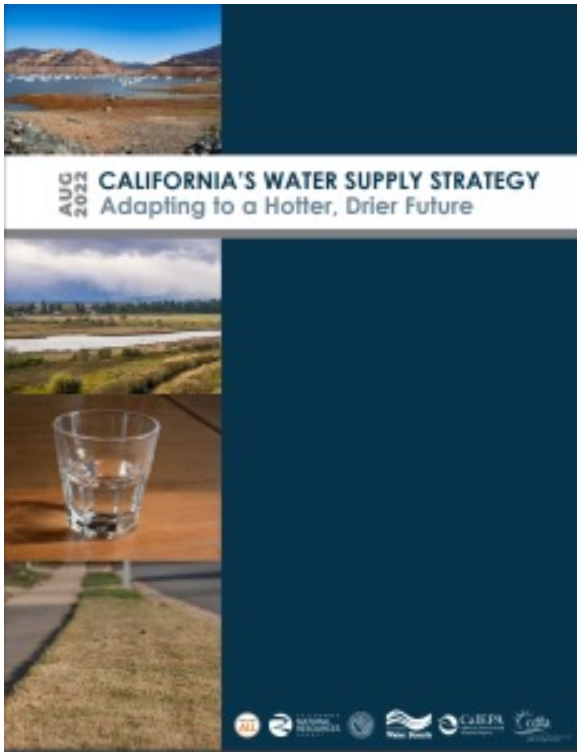


# Water Supply Challenge

- Climate change/aridification
- Unsustainable groundwater practices
- Growing population
- Regulation
- Cost/permitting



# Water Supply Strategy



Governor Newsom announces Water Supply Strategy, August 11, 2022



# Increase Storage

- Surface
  - Expanded storage
  - Dam safety
  - Conveyance improvements
- Groundwater
  - Banking
  - Recharge





## Expand Use of Recycled Water

800 TAF by 2030  
1.8 MAF by 2040

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# Expand Desalination

Streamline Process

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Expand Stormwater Capture Opportunities  
250 TAF by 2030, 500 TAF by 2040





Make Conservation A Way of Life

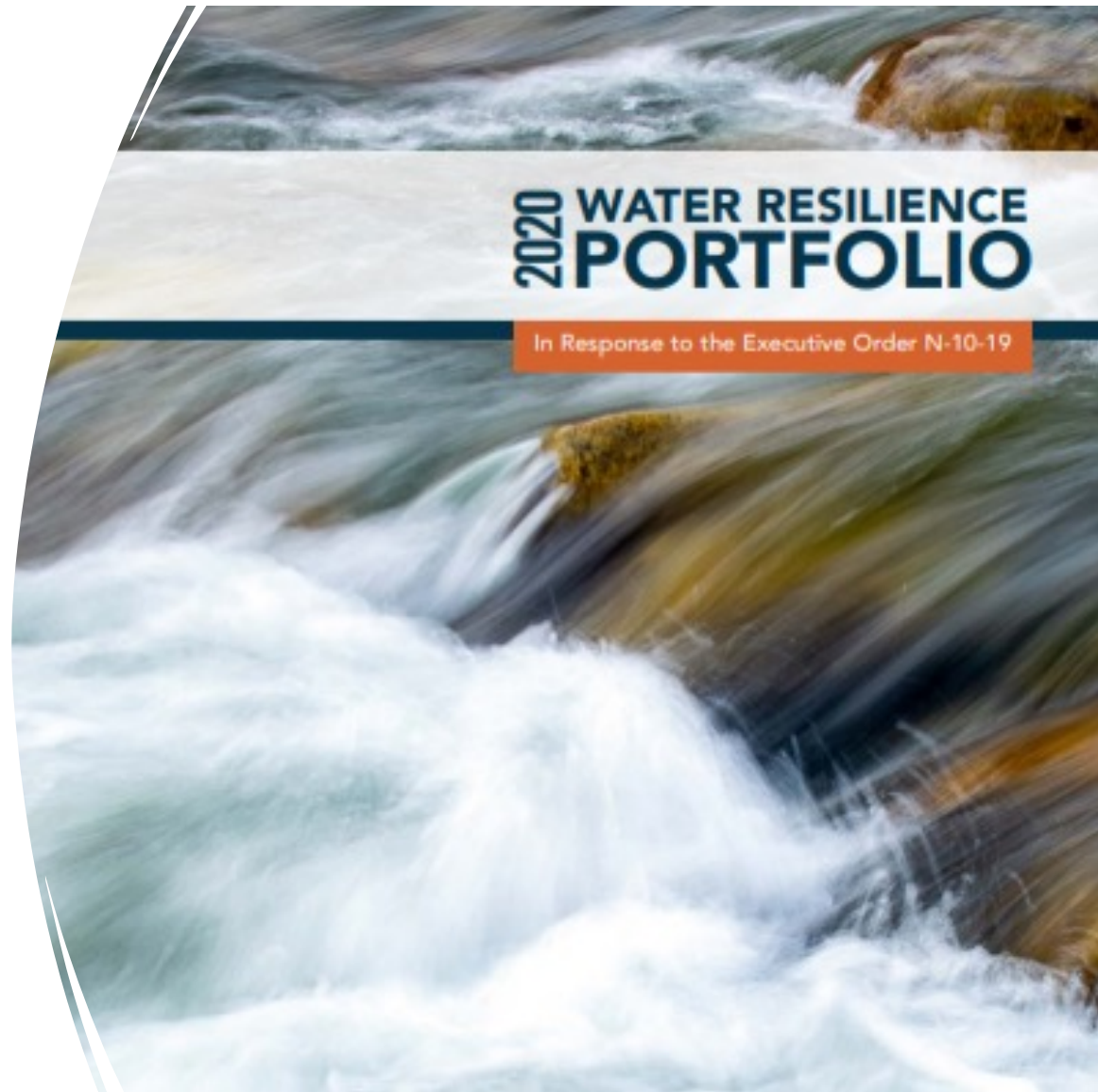
Water Use Efficiency



## Water Resilience Portfolio (2020)

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- Diversify Water Supplies
- Safe & Affordable Drinking Water
- Sustainable Groundwater Management
- Protect & Enhance Natural Systems



# Human Right to Water – Safe & Affordable Drinking Water

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- Almost 1 mil. Californians lack access to safe drinking water
  - Water quality
  - Lack of technical, managerial, financial capacity
  - Accessibility
  - Affordability
- Safe & Affordable Drinking Water Fund-2019






# Agriculture's Role in Safe Drinking Water

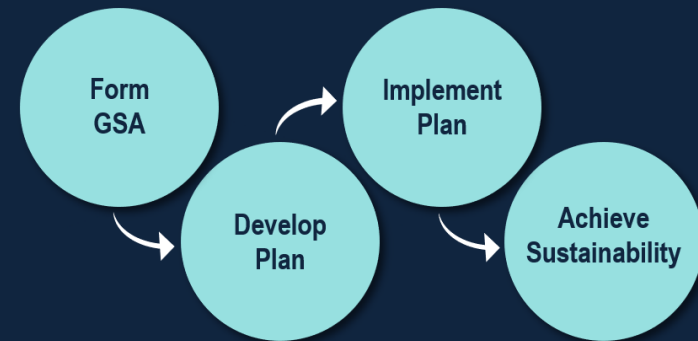
- Irrigated Lands, Dairies, Food Processing, Wineries
  - Evolution of Programs: Example: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
    - Coalitions
    - CV SALTS
- Enforcement
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan
  - Consideration of communities/drinking water
  - Mitigation of Impacts





## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014)

### SGMA Process





# SGMA: Triggering the Backstop

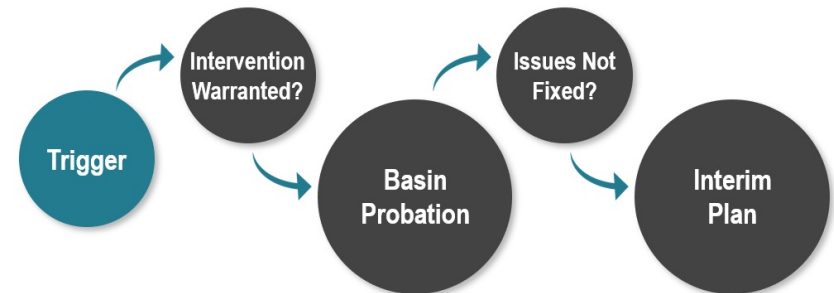
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## Board Backstop Basics

- 1 Board only steps in when local efforts are inadequate
- 2 Backstop is triggered by deadlines and deficiencies
- 3 Board role is intended to be temporary



## State Intervention



# Protect & Enhance Natural Ecosystems

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# Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan

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- Clean Water Act requirements
- Lower San Joaquin River & tributaries - 2018
- Sacramento River & tributaries
- Voluntary Agreements





# Questions?

- <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>
- <https://saveourwater.com/>