

Work Group: Water Quality, Supply, Reliability and Environmental Restoration (WWG)
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Description of Activity by Goal and Objective

Goal 1: Develop and implement a comprehensive San Joaquin Valley Regional Water Plan.

Goal 2: Strengthen levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Joaquin Valley to safeguard regional water quality and quantity and provide flood control.

Goal 3: Augment surface, groundwater banking programs and recycled water projects in the San Joaquin Valley.

Goal 4: Develop and implement water quality and salinity management infrastructure.

Goal 5: Expand environmental restoration and habitat conservation strategies.

Goal 6: Expand agricultural and urban water-energy use efficiency programs.

Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)

Goal 1: Develop and implement a comprehensive San Joaquin Valley Regional Water Plan

CWI continues to successfully move the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan forward. The San Joaquin Valley is seeing a greatly increased level of collaboration at all city, county and water district levels to partner and develop Integrated Regional Water Management Plans. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) maps are attached for reference: 1) "Before" the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership); and 2) "After" San Joaquin Valley IRWMP. The Partnership cannot claim direct parentage of all the new IRWMPs but has had a favorable impact in advancing the adoption of the cutting-edge planning concept.

We have a diverse 11-person Valleywide advisory group which is moving forward to develop a Water Plan Framework outline by August 2008. Download a copy of the Water Plan Framework located on the [Water Work Group Web page](#) on the Partnership Web site.

The first draft of the Water Plan Framework is scheduled to be released for public comment Sept. 1, 2008. The second draft will be released by mid-October. Adoption by the Partnership board of directors is scheduled for the January 2009 board meeting. Plan development is on target to meet this aggressive schedule. For more information, contact Sarge Green, 559.298.6072 ext. 209 or sgreen@csufresno.edu.

Goal 2: Strengthen levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Joaquin Valley to safeguard regional water quality and quantity and provide flood control.

The Delta Vision Strategic Plan was released in draft form on June 18, 2008. Included in the strategic plan are major elements of significant importance to the San Joaquin Valley that will impact flood control, water quality, supply and reliability in the eight-county region. California Water Institute (CWI) staff will review and comment on the Delta Vision Strategic Plan and make arrangements for a comprehensive executive level presentation to the Partnership board at the September meeting. Download the [Delta Vision Draft Strategic Plan](#) is located on the State of California Delta Vision Web site. Download the Partnership's [letter of support sent to Delta Vision Chair Phil Isenberg](#) located on the Water Work Group Web page on the Partnership Web site.

Goal 3: Augment surface, groundwater banking programs and recycled water projects in the San Joaquin Valley.

Development of the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework will incorporate augmenting surface, groundwater banking and recycled water projects in the region as initiatives in each of these areas favorably impact the overall macro-goals of the Partnership. Additionally, CWI staff will seek to use the recently released California State University, Fresno, Integrated Water Management Plan for water reuse at the Campus Pointe project as a Best Practices template for the central San Joaquin Valley and seek out other innovative projects in both the southern and northern Valley as well.

Goal 4: Develop and implement water quality and salinity management infrastructure.

CWI is working proactively with the water community to develop a San Joaquin Valley Water Management Structure that would have salinity management as one of the major program areas.

Goal 5: Expand environmental restoration and habitat conservation strategies.

CWI continues connecting with local, state and federal agencies for environmental restoration as a key strategy in integrated water planning. Award of a Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinators grant expected in May 2008 should favorably impact and advance attaining this goal. The partial restoration of the San Joaquin River flows continues to be stalled as local, state and federal officials recalibrate their respective support for the settlement in light of 37% export water delivery reductions through the Delta by recent judicial action as a strategy to address declining delta smelt numbers. CWI will stay up-to-date of overall direction of the action.

Goal 6: Expand agricultural and urban water-energy use efficiency programs.

The Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT), a sister entity of the California Water Institute, continues to be at the forefront of developing and implementing comprehensive water/energy conservation and management programs throughout California for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), PG&E and Southern California Edison (SCE). Work is expected to continue through the 2009-2012 period.

Unplanned Activities in Support of California Partnership Goals

CWI provides support to the Partnership Water Policy Working Group (WPWG), engaging with the water community and public interests in the region to develop an equitable and sustainable water policy that meets the needs of all counties. WPWG convened October 2007 and has since met 10 occasions in various San Joaquin Valley and Southern California locations. Board members actively involved from outset are Fritz Grupe, Ray Watson, Gene Voiland, Leroy Ornellas, Gary Podesto, Alan Autry, DeeDee D'Adamo and Sunne McPeak. The importance of this initiative cannot be understated if a unified San Joaquin Valley Water Plan is to be adopted by the Board prior to June 30, 2009.

A substantive resolution was developed by the group and approved by the Partnership board at its June meeting. Download a copy of the [Resolution: Comprehensive Water Plan](#) located on the Water Work Group Web page of the Partnership Web site. For more information on the efforts of this group, contact Gene Voiland, Gary Podesto or Jim Tischer, 559.260.6148, jtischer@csufresno.edu.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

The development and implementation of an equitable and sustainable water policy in California is an effort of immeasurable complexity. Water is so vital to the sustenance of all segments of California society that no action of any significance is taken without competing interests fully engaging at all levels and in all arenas. This will continue for the foreseeable future. What is heartening however to this observer is how the San Joaquin Valley water community and elected leadership is prepared to be proactive and fully engage and resolve the really hard issues with the vision that regional people should solve regional issues and not default to state, federal or judicial authorities that may or may not have their best interests of the region at heart.

The challenges will continue but many leaders are trying to get ahead of and avert the coming "Perfect Storm" in California's stewardship of its precious water resources. Stay tuned.

If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.

CWI maintains regular connections with allied work groups to include Energy, Air and, particularly, Land Use, Agriculture and Housing through the Blueprint process. Regular liaison with these work groups has proven to be quite effective and beneficial to all.