



San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program

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Background

In January 2022, in the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP) participants completed negotiations on a collaborative, comprehensive action plan containing more than 90 specific actions designed to accomplish five desired outcomes that can transform the Valley from unsustainable to sustainable water resources management. The CAP Action Plan will also give Valley water managers the tools to confront the growing challenge of climate change.

This collaborative effort, now called the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP) is unprecedented. More interest groups engaged in Valley water issues are “at the table” than ever before. The CAP participants are organized into five interest groups or caucuses.



Vision Statement

Ensuring a sustainable and resilient water supply for the San Joaquin Valley for multiple benefits by securing safe, reliable, and affordable access to water for drinking; sustainable and productive farms and ranches; healthy communities; and thriving terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

To implement this vision for the Valley, interests from all perspectives must build trust through greater shared understanding of the problems and opportunities we face. Establishing trust gives us an opportunity to collaborate on creative solutions to multiple integrated challenges of water and land management in the San Joaquin Valley. A broad partnership supporting creative solutions makes feasible what is otherwise infeasible.



Inclusiveness

CAP is unique in establishing a “big tent” for making joint strategic and policy decisions. A key objective is to include previously marginalized groups, such as safe drinking water and DAC advocates and environmental NGOs and make them full partners in decision-making. In fact, CAP leadership has made it a priority to raise funds to provide these interests adequate resources and capacity to be equal participants in the process.

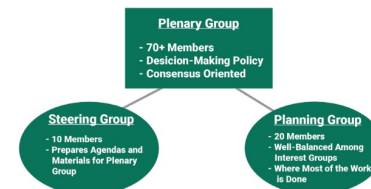
Stakeholders

1. Safe drinking water and disadvantaged community (DAC) advocates
2. Local city and county governments
3. Environmental NGOs
4. Farmers and the agricultural industry
5. Water agencies from throughout the Valley.

Table 1: CAP Problem Areas and Desired Outcomes

Problem Areas	Desired Outcomes
1. Lack of Safe Drinking Water	1. Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water for All Valley Residents
2. Water Scarcity and Demand	2. Sustainable Water Supplies for Farms, Communities, and Ecosystems
3. Loss of Functional Habitat	3. Substantial Increases in Floodplain and Other Ecosystem Habitats
4. Physical and Natural Infrastructure	4. Significant Changes in Land Use in the Valley
5. Inconsistent Local, State, and Federal Policies	5. Consistent Local, State, and Federal Policies

San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Initial Governance Structure



Conclusion

These recommendations will redirect water policy, funding, and program implementation in the San Joaquin Valley from an unsustainable to a sustainable path that assures safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water for all as soon as practical, preserves the vitality of the Valley agricultural economy and strengthens its social fabric, and creates vibrant floodplains and ecosystems.

Moreover, this new sustainable approach will have “political legs” because it arose from a process in which previous adversaries have become allies to promote implementation through an unprecedented broad-based political coalition.