

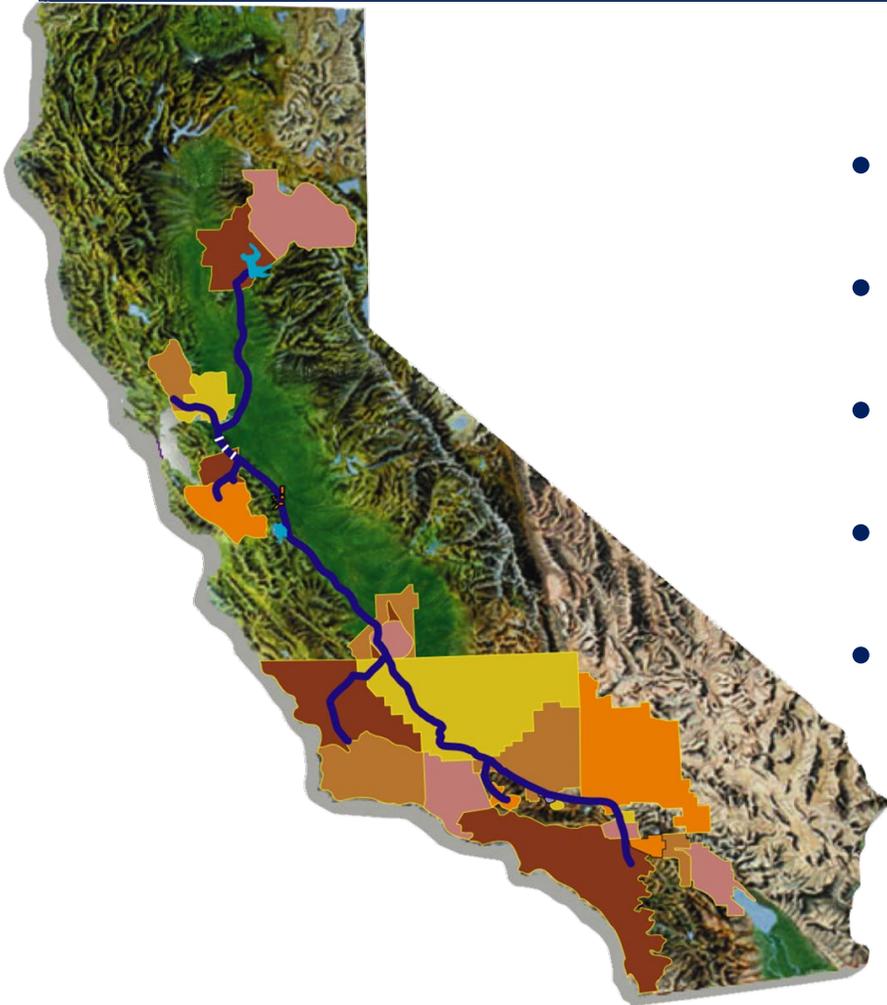
# UPDATE ON STATE WATER CONTRACTOR ACTIVITIES

JENNIFER PIERRE

MAY 1, 2024



## THE “STATE WATER CONTRACTORS”



- Distinct from individual SWP contractors
- Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation
- Membership open to all Contractors
- 27 of 29 Contractors represented
- Board of Directors (Zone 7 shares 1 seat with Alameda County WD and Valley Water)

# STATE WATER CONTRACTORS APPROACH

- Limited Staff (9)
- “Translate” to/from DWR
- Emphasis on leveraging staff efforts through working with DWR
- Eyes, ears, mouth of the SWP contractors
- Work with DWR staff and executives



## 6 PROPOSED OBJECTIVES FOR 2024/25

- Business Practices
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Outreach
- Science
- Water Supply



# BUSINESS PRACTICES



- Financial Roadmap development
  - ✓ Cost-debt reconciliation
  - ✓ Project interest rate
  - ✓ Surcharge resolution
- Contract Extension Implementation
- Process of Affordability

# ENERGY

- SB49 report
- Energy Roadmap
- SB1020 Implementation
  - Strategic plan/updates to Energy Roadmap?
- FERC Relicensing- Oroville and SoCal facilities
- Tracking Rate Cases



# INFRASTRUCTURE

- DWR's Strategic Asset Management Plan
- SWP/SWC Storage Investigations
- Aqueduct Subsidence
- SWP Dam Safety
  - Sisk Dam
  - Oroville Comprehensive Needs Assessment



# OUTREACH



- SWP education and awareness
- Highlighting research programs and results
- Responding to legislative and regulatory threats
- Advocacy in the Capitol and in DC
- Legislative tours, lunches, meetings
- Regular speaking and conference participation

# LEGISLATIVE/BUDGET FOCUS



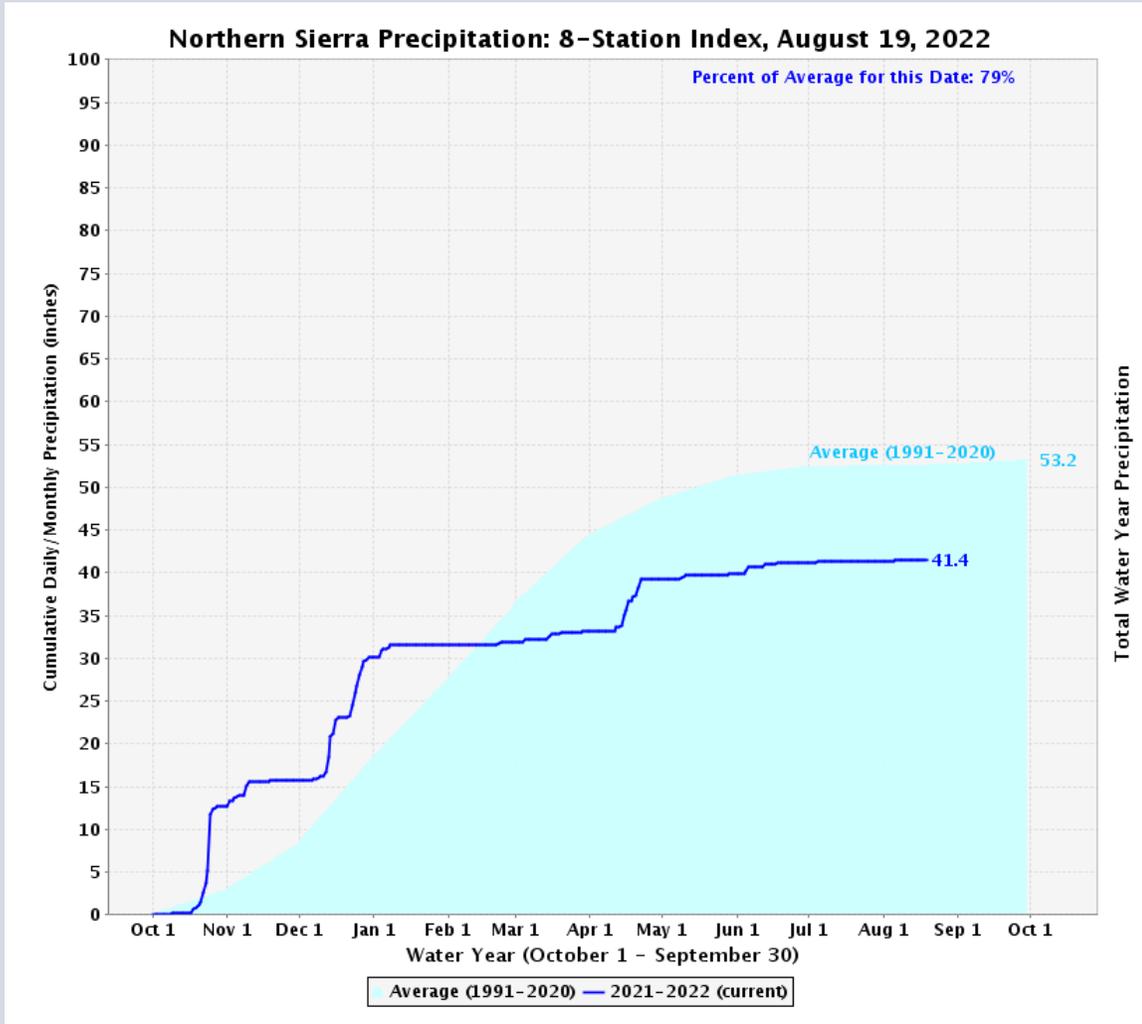
- Budget
- Policy Bills
  - Water Rights Reform
  - Delta Conveyance
  - Groundwater Recharge clean up
  - Central procurement clean up
  - Climate bond?

# SCIENCE

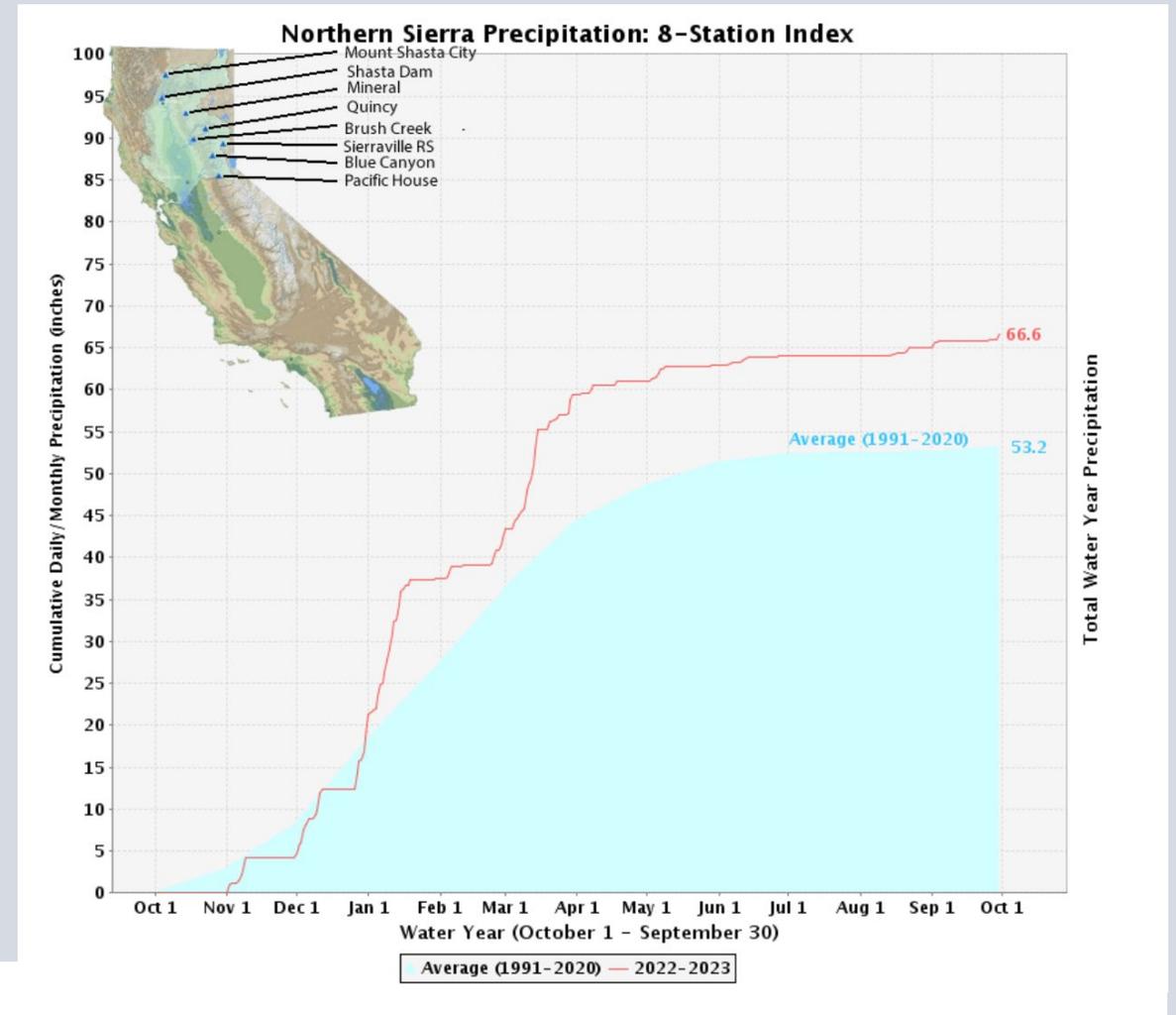
- Administering approx. 35 contracts
- Science Program Solicitation and administration
- Coordinating PWA efforts
- CSAMP and CAMT participation
- Research results symposiums
  - 2023: Longfin smelt & San Joaquin River i:e ratio
- Salmon recovery



# 2021-22 Drought Year



# 2022-23 Wet Year



Prominent stair step patterns - need to take water when available for storage when it's not.

# WATER SUPPLY



- Federal ESA Biological Opinion Litigation and Reconsultation
- State ESA incidental take permit
- Voluntary Agreement Framework
  - Could resolve litigation issues
- Delta Conveyance
- Increased emphasis on San Joaquin River conditions
- Increased monitoring/science for south Delta operations

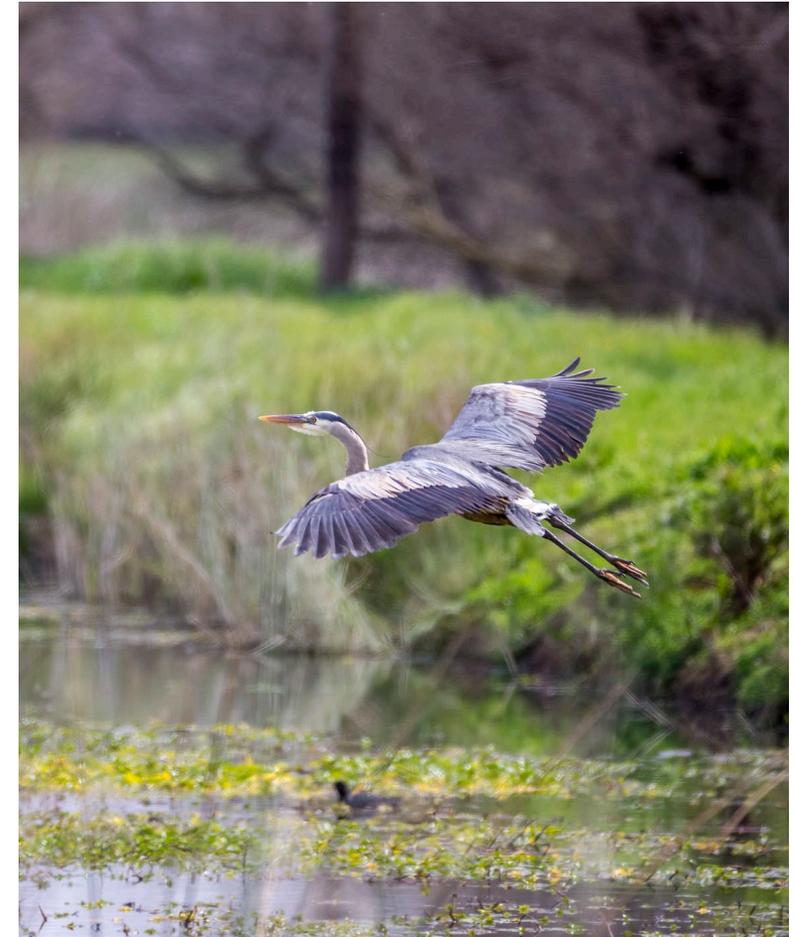
# NEW ESA AND CESA PERMITS (RECONSULTATION)



- CVP/SWP proposed operations include the reduced Delta diversions proposed under the Voluntary Agreement
- Criteria for:
  - Cold water pool
  - Entrainment risk reduction
  - Monitoring and adaptive management
  - Mitigation actions
- Operations consistent between DWR and Reclamation proposals (Biological Assessment and ITP Application)
- Cost sharing consistent between CVP and SWP
- Total costs of ITP reduced by more than \$75M over 10-year permit

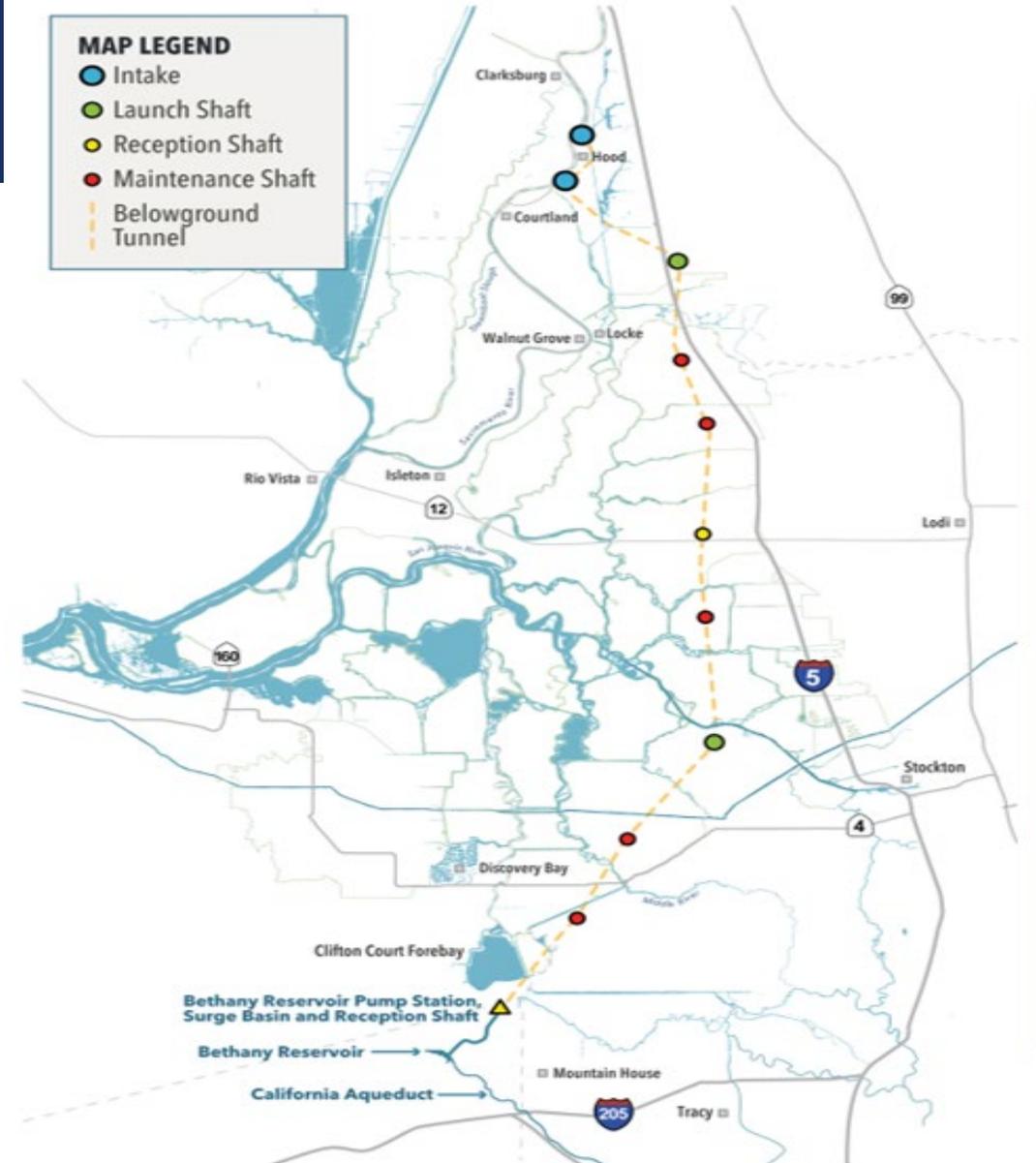
# HEALTHY RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES

- SWB is Updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan
- Governor and Water Agency have proposed Healthy Rivers and Landscapes
- SWB is currently in CEQA process
- Information development by VA parties
  - Science program
  - Legal agreements
  - Accounting mechanism
  - Governance document
- Integration with Phase I VA parties
- Tribal and NGO engagement



# DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT

- CEQA litigation
- Water rights change in point of diversion
- Settlement agreements
- ESA/CESA permits
- Delta Stewardship Council consistency determination
- Continued project design



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Worked with DWR for the first time to apply for a Department of Energy Grant
- Implemented a science solicitation
- Hosted two science symposia on Tidal Wetlands Restoration and Floodplain
- Annual Financial Management Conference
- SWC had training on financial issues and put together the SharePoint to have materials available to the Contractors
- Advanced rate management credit and surplus revenue calculations
- Updated 10-year Energy Forecast Model
- Resolved over \$500M of cost share issues from the Sisk Dam
- Addressed threats from 3 water rights bills
- Contract Extension implementation is well underway and ready to go
- Voluntary Agreement CEQA document was released in September
- The permit applications for our Long-term Operations and Voluntary Agreement were submitted in November
- Secured the Voluntary Agreement funding
- Had successful legislative briefings, lunches, and tours that were well attended
- SWC planned two Board meeting field trips, one to San Luis Reservoir and the other to Oroville
- The final EIR for DCP was released
- The 10th Tolling Agreement was signed, and 72 protest items were resolved this year
- Adaptively managed Delta operations during 2023 storms
- 31 atmospheric rivers in 2023!!

# OVERALL 2024/25 PRIORITIES

Improved financial tracking and understanding;  
**AFFORDABILITY**

Resolution of environmental litigation/proceeding with Agreements to Support Health Rivers

Updated Energy Roadmap and SB49 implementation

Continued science and research engagement

Delta Conveyance planning

SWP Storage

Continue public outreach on SWP priorities



QUESTIONS?