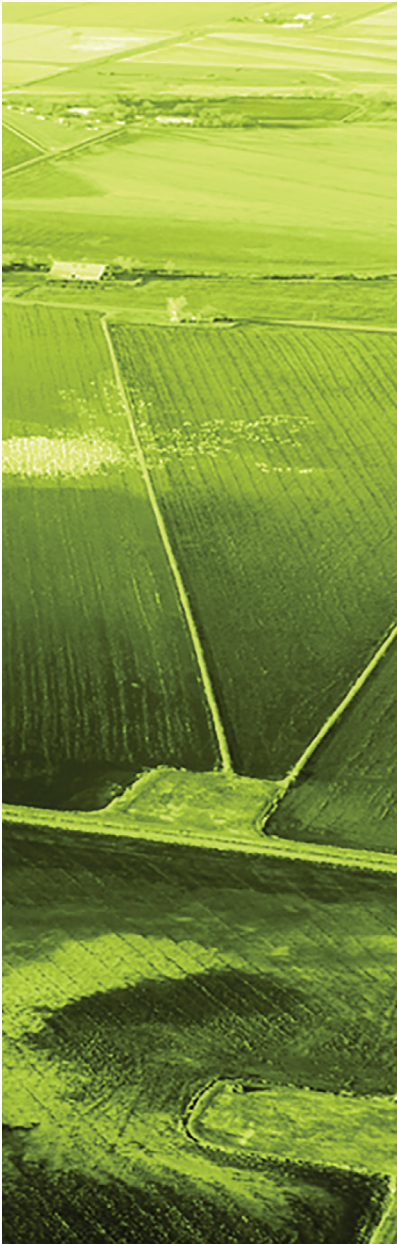
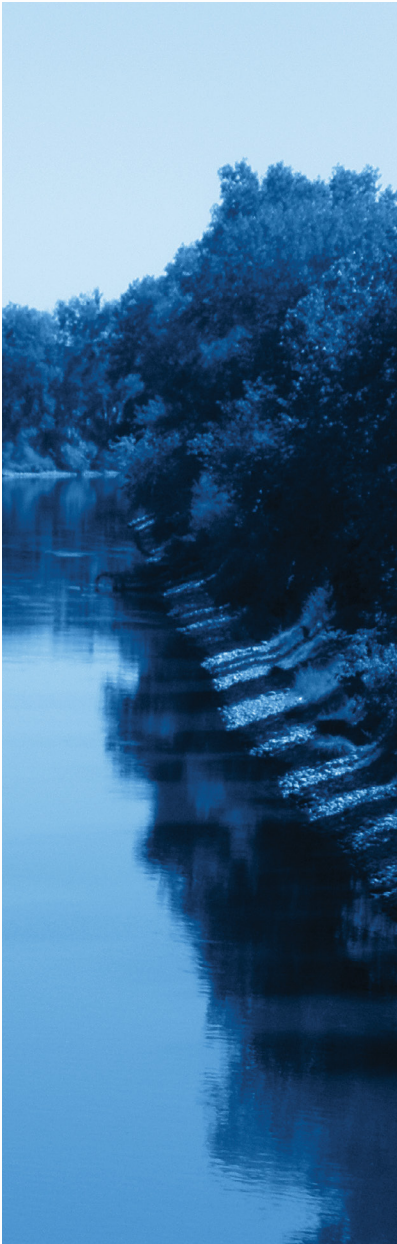


AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT
**HEALTHY
RIVERS AND
LANDSCAPES**

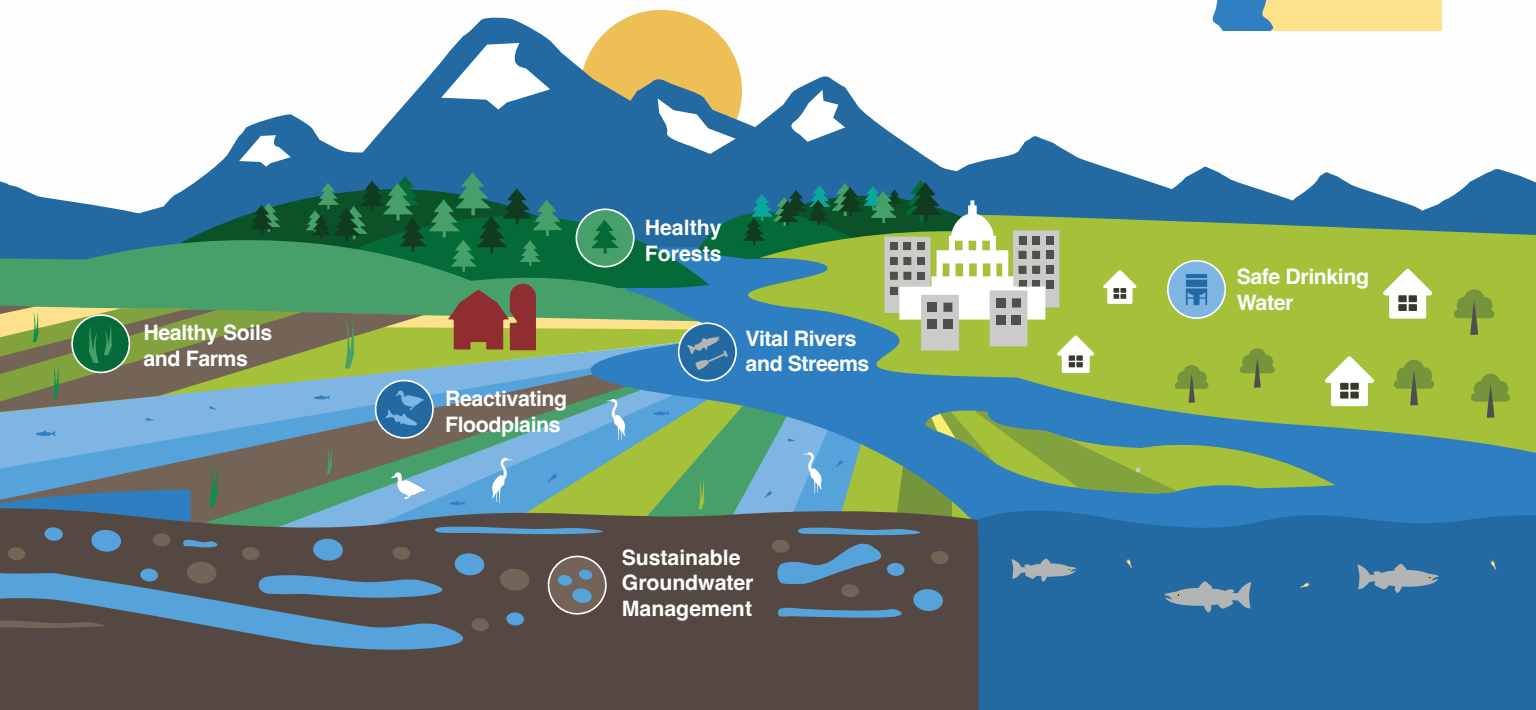


Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Adapting to our climate reality by strengthening California's rivers, landscapes, communities and farms – through the Voluntary Agreement Process.

By taking a nature-based approach from the ridgetops in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range to the river mouth of the San Francisco Bay, we can help create a vibrant and healthy ecosystem in our rivers and the Delta that is functional for people and fish and wildlife throughout the region. This means investing in healthy rivers and the landscapes that support them for fish and wildlife habitat, nourishment and sustenance for our farm fields, high-quality drinking water for all communities, recreation opportunities, hydropower, and healthy forests.

In this new approach, we are looking beyond the thin blue river on the map to incorporate the entire basin as an ecosystem that relies upon a vibrant landscape, where the interaction of the sun, land and water brings the river and the entire region to life.



KEY ELEMENTS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS



Habitat Enhancements

85 science-driven habitat enhancement projects with expedited permitting to help nurture endangered salmon and other species throughout their lifecycles.



Floodplain Reactivation

~180,000 acres of enhanced floodplain habitat identified in the Sacramento River Basin for salmon rearing, spawning and food production.



Adaptively Managed Flows

Water suppliers on the American, Feather, Sacramento and Yuba rivers will deliver up to 250,000 acre-feet of water for flows in the rivers and the Delta.

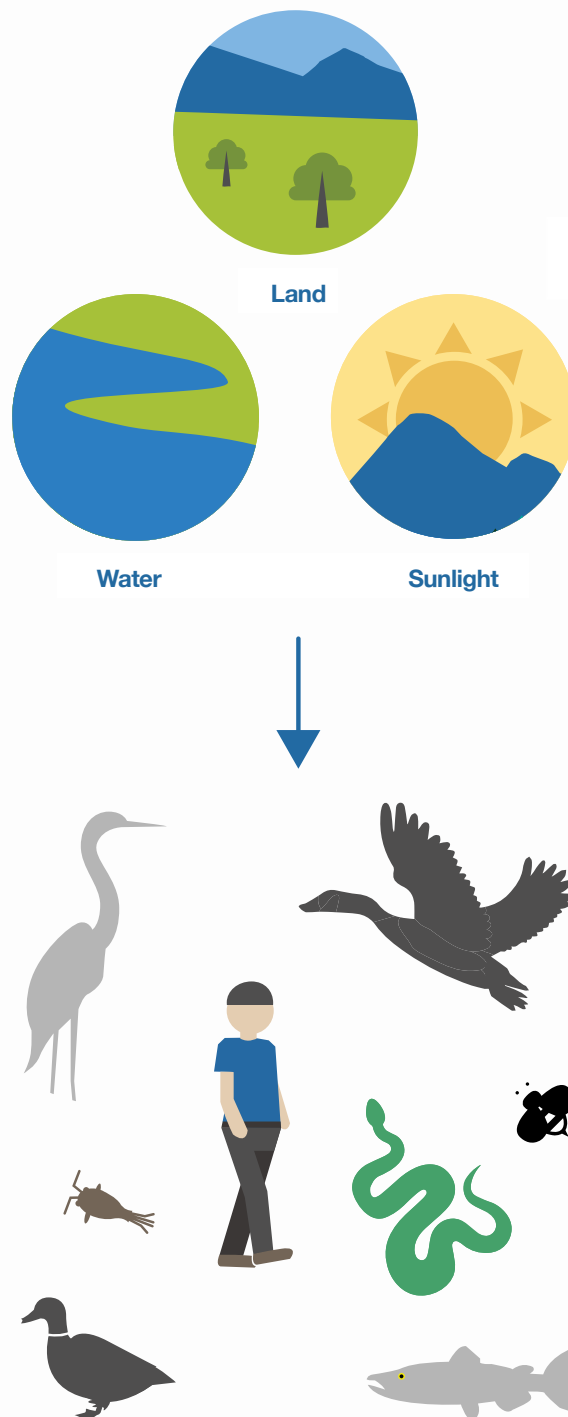
What is Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Generally known as the process for [“Voluntary Agreements” \(VAs\)](#), The Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes are a watershed-wide approach to flows and the activation of the landscape for ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability in the state. This transformational process represents a collaborative integration of the latest science, dedicated funding, and actions to integrate flow and physical habitat to improve and protect the Delta and its rivers while preserving adequate water supplies for 27 million Californians.

After decades of disagreements, California is changing course and pursuing a modern, holistic plan that applies the best science to meet real-time ecosystem needs while also providing adequate water supplies for people. The initial eight-year program will provide substantial new flows for the environment to help recover salmon and other native fish, create new and restored habitat and food for fish and wildlife, and provide significant funding for environmental improvements and water purchases for the environment. The Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes also outline a governance and habitat monitoring framework with clear metrics and goals to allow state, federal and local partners to analyze progress, manage adaptively and inform policy makers whether the program should be continued, modified or ended.

How a Modern Holistic Approach Best Serves the Needs of People and Wildlife

The Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes protects and restores our biodiversity while increasing water supply reliability for cities, farms, fish, wildlife, hydropower production, and recreation. Through six focus areas from ridgetop to river mouth: healthy forest management, reactivation of our floodplains, healthy soil management, sustainable groundwater management, ensuring safe drinking water and the support of vital streams and rivers we can activate our landscape to support our rivers and build up our climate resilience and promote species recovery. We do this by connecting the land, river and sun – the three key elements to a bountiful life.



Healthy Soils and Farms



Reactivating Floodplains



Groundwater Management



Healthy Forests



Safe Drinking Water



Vital Rivers and Streams

A Model for Collaboration

The Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes provides the opportunity to take a collaborative approach with diverse parties from Red Bluff to San Diego. This approach can further extend water security and the benefits of this program by serving as a model to help resolve litigation and regulatory challenges surrounding the operations of California's water supplies--the Biological Opinions (BiOps), Incidental Take Permit (ITP), the Phase 1 Bay-Delta Plan Update, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing.

The Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes are a mechanism to help resolve these disputes in a coordinated way, ensuring scientifically-supported measures for fish and wildlife, while providing a stable regulatory framework necessary to advance water management for all these beneficial purposes. Successful implementation requires continued collaboration among landowners, conservation organizations, water managers, local governments, and support from state and federal water and resource management entities.

For more information and details on ridgetop to river mouth water management, [please see here](#).

Local Governments

Landowners



Water Managers

Conservation Groups



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