



**NCWA**  
Northern California Water Association

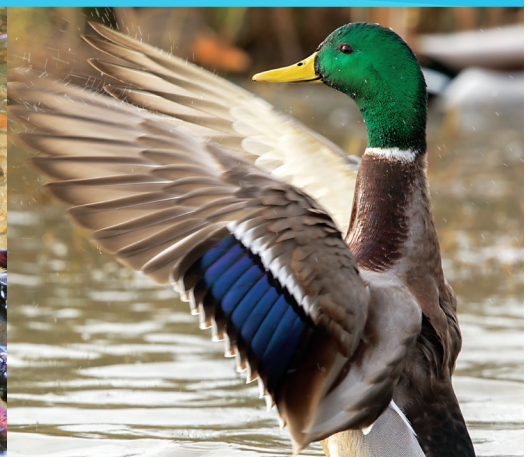
# Managing Water in the Sacramento Valley for Multiple Benefits

**Water resources managers in the Sacramento Valley are actively implementing various multi-benefit programs and projects** for the 21st century that restore natural ecosystem functions and wetlands habitat for birds and aquatic species, protect and promote the restoration of endangered and threatened species, enhance the reliability of water supplies on a regional and inter-regional basis, and provide significant regional and statewide economic benefits.

The Sacramento Valley is a unique place. Bounded on the east by the Sierra Nevada and the west by the Coast Range, the Valley sweeps 150 miles from Redding to Sacramento.

A mosaic of picturesque farmland, world-class wildlife reserves and thriving communities—interwoven with dynamic rivers and streams—the Sacramento Valley has a special combination of water, land and sunlight. Nowhere are natural and human resources more closely integrated and cared for than the Sacramento Valley.

The Sacramento Valley is a funnel that focuses water from the Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coastal Range into a highly managed system that protects people from floods and makes water supplies available at the right time, with the same water serving multiple beneficial purposes for the natural and working landscape as it flows through the Valley.



Families have built farms and communities based on the Sacramento Valley's unique blessings of water, soil and sun. Today, **nearly two million acres of pastoral family farms**—world renowned ricelands, nuts, fruit, tomatoes, fresh produce and irrigated pasture—propel the Valley's economic engine. The Valley's farmland is unique in the way it provides habitat and food for salmon and birds along the Pacific Flyway.

The home for California's capital and more than 3 million people. Half of these people live in the Sacramento metropolitan area, with the other half sprinkled in rural communities throughout the Valley. The Sacramento Valley has a deep connection between the urban and rural areas that is reflected in **Sacramento's designation as America's Farm to Fork Capital**.

Four runs of **salmon migrate and spawn in different parts of the Sacramento Valley**, with the winter-run and spring run considered endangered. Every part of the water system has been re-managed in the past several decades to improve conditions for salmon through active collaboration as part of the [Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program](#).

The Pacific Flyway is a resource of international significance. The Sacramento Valley has **seven National Wildlife Refuges, more than 50 state wildlife areas and ricelands that serve as habitat for nearly 250 species**. Water diversions for ricelands and refuges provide much-needed food and habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other species. The Flyway is heaven on earth for wildlife enthusiasts, naturalists and birdwatchers.

The forests and meadows in the numerous watersheds of the Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coast Range that **provide recreation and serve as the vital headwaters** for the region.



## Like a human fingerprint, California's Sacramento Valley is truly unique.

On the leading edge of ecological and economical sustainability, it's also an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family. The Sacramento Valley joins together a world-renowned mosaic of natural abundance: productive farmlands, wildlife refuges and managed wetlands, cities and rural communities, and meandering rivers that support and feed fisheries and natural habitats. Through efficient management of the region's water resources, the Sacramento Valley will continue to provide what's essential to California's future success and prosperity. Nourishment and sustenance from the fields, habitats for fish and wildlife, recreation and a special quality of life — the Sacramento Valley is home to all of this, and more.



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