



WATER FORUM 2.0 PUBLIC CAUCUS STATEMENT OF INTERESTS

Negotiating Steering
Committee

August 19, 2021

PUBLIC CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP

First Name	Organization
Ansel Lundberg & Alex Harold	SMUD
Bob Erlenbusch	Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness
Dave Defanti	Placer County
David Harlow	SacACT
Dianna Poggetto	American River Parkway Foundation
Gary Bardini	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
Greg Sandlund	City of Sacramento
Inga Olson	League of Women Voters, Sacramento County
Joseph Smith	Loaves and Fishes
Kacey Lizon	Sacramento Area Council of Governments
Kelly Hopkins	Sacramento Valley Conservancy
Kent Anderson	Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Liz Bellas	Sacramento County Parks
Tamika L'ecluse	American River Flood Control District
Todd Smith	Sacramento County

Coequal objectives

The Public Caucus supports the two coequal objectives of the 2000 Water Forum Agreement:

- to provide a reliable and safe water supply for the Sacramento region's long-term growth and economic health; and
- to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

Note: As part of the WF 2.0 process the PC would like to engage with diverse communities in the region to assess if the co-equal objectives meet community needs and priorities or if they would benefit from being further clarified in the future.

1. Foster long-term, integrative water and land-use planning to promote water supply reliability and quality of life across the region.

Facilitate information-sharing among agencies, so that land-use decisions account for the region's long-term cumulative water supply availability (groundwater and surface water), acknowledge and address community needs, promote equity, and minimize environmental costs. Serve as a venue to share information about ongoing public planning processes.

Assess whether or not individual jurisdictional decisions add up towards promoting a sustainable and equitable future for the region.

Leverage and enhance public programs and other funding sources to maximize the community and economic benefits of water programs and infrastructure investments.

2. Foster water use efficiency and conservation to increase drought resilience.

Promote and advocate for strategies and approaches to maximize water conservation. Encourage water reuse and recycling.

Encourage water conservation and use-efficiency programs that effectively reach and do not negatively impact low-income communities.

Develop drought messaging at a regional level, describing collective impacts, and communicating urgency and interdependencies.

**3. Promote
integrated and
sustainable
groundwater and
surface water
management.**

Promote better understanding of the connection between groundwater and surface water and regional conjunctive use.

Support and promote creative solutions and actions that lead to sustainable groundwater use.

Advocate for greater coordination and investment in infrastructure to enhance groundwater recharge.

4. Ensure the Water Forum promotes inclusive and equitable participation and representation from diverse communities in the region that have a stake in the WF's work.

Equity

- Engage with other caucuses to meaningfully and intentionally incorporate equity at the forefront of the Water Forum's work.

Representation

- Ensure that a WF 2.0 Agreement and process represent all communities within the region.
- Vulnerable groups tend to be disproportionately impacted by decisions and yet their voices are often missing in conversations about water. Underrepresented groups include but are not limited to black, indigenous, people of color, low-income, and unsheltered communities.

4. Ensure the Water Forum promotes inclusive and equitable participation and representation from diverse communities in the region that have a stake in the WF's work.

Engagement

- Provide various pathways and opportunities for engagement to share information, raise awareness, and gather input. Acknowledge that providing a space for diverse perspectives fosters stronger community support for a renewed Water Forum Agreement and for the Water Forum's ongoing work.

Relationships

- Build strong relationships with California Native American tribes and other historically underrepresented groups, recognize traditional knowledge, and develop engagement protocols and co-management practices.

Dialogue

- Advance dialogue on issues such as water affordability, river access, water quality, and participation through an equity and environmental justice lens. Integrate available social equity data into technical studies and analyses.

5. Serve as a model and catalyst of community water stewardship in the region. Reach, connect, educate, and empower current and future water stewards.

- Foster a broader understanding of water issues in the region. Educate community members about the Water Forum's work (current and proposed water projects), and educate other Water Forum Caucuses about community concerns, values, and priorities.
- Play an active role as a steward of the lower American River Parkway, maintaining and adaptively managing projects. Be an excellent partner to other organizations with stewardship roles.
- Collaborate with partners to host and support a variety of community events to educate and engage the larger community in the Water Forum's work. Research, support, and add value to projects and programs that engage with schools and local residents to help identify and design solutions.
- Actively and strategically reach out to historically underrepresented communities and school districts that lack access or exposure to the American River Parkway.

6. Promote environmental justice, universal access to clean and affordable water, and public health in the region.

Seek greater understanding of environmental justice issues and solutions related to water in the Sacramento region. Definitions of environmental justice generally encompass both equitable protection from environmental hazards and meaningful participation of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and identities.

Facilitate cross-caucus dialogue to identify and address existing gaps (e.g., lack of clean water, unaffordable water, limited access to the recreational and aesthetics of the river).

Recognize clean water as a key part of public health for the region and educate the community about water quality concerns, past and current river and water contamination sites, and efforts underway to address them.

*Note: The California Government Code (Section 65040.12) defines environmental justice as “The fair treatment and meaningful participation of people of all races, culture and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

6. Promote environmental justice, universal access to clean and affordable water, and public health in the region.

Engage in cross-caucus discussion to explore if the Water Forum has a role in advancing projects and policies that contribute towards:

- Helping to ensure all residents have access to safe and affordable water
- Considering equitable ways to set water rates and promote landscaping that foster water conservation and affordability
- Helping secure access to clean water and sanitation for unsheltered populations on the American River Parkway and explore strategies with partners to benefit regional water quality and river health
- Understanding the factors that have led to an increase in populations experiencing homelessness on the Parkway and work with partners to address them, where appropriate
- Promoting public safety for all people, including sheltered and unsheltered communities on the Parkway

7. Promote equitable access, public awareness, and engagement in the restoration and protection of habitat and ecosystem health of the Lower American River Parkway.

Collaborate with partners to promote equitable access and connection to the Parkway and help identify and address barriers of entry for recreation.

Promote the community's knowledge, appreciation, and love of the American River and its habitat.

Provide information and tours of the Lower American River watershed and identify community concerns, aspirations, and desired changes.

Recognize the ecological, medicinal, religious, and cultural values tied to native habitat, and work with partners to restore native plants and species of long-time significance to local communities, particularly indigenous communities.

8. Bolster climate resilience to ensure that people in our community can continue to live in our region as the pace and scale of climate change intensifies.

Encourage broad foresight and realistic expectations about climate risk and its effects on water supply, flooding, fire, drought, and habitat management, basing this understanding on the best available data and science.

Foster alignment among Water Forum members and advocate for a portfolio of projects to build resilience and bring benefits to the region. Build capacity for the Sacramento region to be a leader in climate resilience and adaptation and demonstrate the value and multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits of these projects.

Act with urgency together as a region to implement climate resiliency projects; educate the community on the scale and magnitude of expected changes; and further solutions/policies to address climate risks.

*Note: Carry out these efforts while maintaining the values and principles outlined in Section #4

Summary of Key Interests

1. Foster long-term, integrative water and land-use planning to promote water supply reliability and quality of life across the region.
2. Foster water use efficiency and conservation to increase drought resilience.
3. Promote integrated and sustainable groundwater and surface water management.
4. Ensure the Water Forum promotes inclusive and equitable participation and representation from diverse communities in the region that have a stake in the Water Forum's work.
5. Serve as a model and catalyst of community water stewardship in the region. Reach, connect, educate, and empower current and future water stewards.
6. Promote environmental justice, universal access to clean and affordable water, and public health in the region.
7. Promote equitable access, public awareness, and engagement in the restoration and protection of habitat and ecosystem health of the Lower American River Parkway.
8. Bolster climate resilience to ensure that people in our community can continue to live in our region as the pace and scale of climate change intensifies.

CLARIFYING QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION