

# SAWPA TASK FORCES REGULATORY SUPPORT

SAWPA COMMISSION  
JUNE 6, 2023

Presented By:

Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager

# Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission authorize the General Manager to execute the following:

- Agreement for Services with Kahn Soares & Conway and SAWPA;
- Task Order KSC374-03 with Kahn Soares & Conway in the amount not to exceed \$133,000 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25, to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force; and
- Task Order KSC384-03 with Kahn Soares & Conway in the amount not to exceed \$148,500 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25, to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force; and
- Task Order KSC392-03 with Kahn Soares & Conway in the amount not to exceed \$48,000 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25 to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force.

# Basin Monitoring Task Force

## Major Monitoring Deliverables:

1. Analysis of salt\* and nutrients\*\* in Santa Ana River Watershed's 35 groundwater basins (over 4,000 wells) every five years.
2. Writing of Santa Ana River surface water quality report.
3. Development of a wasteload (a.k.a. surface discharge) allocation to confirm compliance of surface water discharges with ground water quality regulatory requirements.

\*Salt is more specifically regulated as the broader pollutant category of total dissolved solids (TDS).

\*\*Nutrients are regulated as Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN).





# Detailed Deliverables List (Upcoming Items)

- 35 groundwater basin monitoring **pilot study** seeking to understand new calculation methods for final reporting numbers to the local regulatory agency\*.
- **Database** to collect groundwater quality data annually from Task Force parties.
- Annual Santa Ana River Water Quality Report with **new modified monitoring approach**.
- Study to **identify causes of salt exceedances** during Santa Ana River baseflow conditions at Prado Dam (e.g., rising groundwater).



\*Santa Ana Regional Water Board.

# Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District*                                       | Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  |
| Chino Basin Watermaster  | Inland Empire Utilities Agency  |
| City of Banning*   | Irvine Ranch Water District   |
| City of Beaumont   | Jurupa Community Services District  |
| City of Corona   | Orange County Water District  |
| City of Redlands   | San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District*                                     |
| City of Rialto   | San Geronimo Pass Water Agency*   |
| City of Riverside  | Temescal Valley Water District  |
| Colton/San Bernardino Regional Tertiary Treatment and Wastewater Reclamation | Western Riverside Co Regional Wastewater Authority/Western Municipal Water District |
| Eastern Municipal Water District   | Yucaipa Valley Water District   |

- Four new agencies added in 2015 (noted with \*)
- Santa Ana Regional Board also a non-funding task force agency

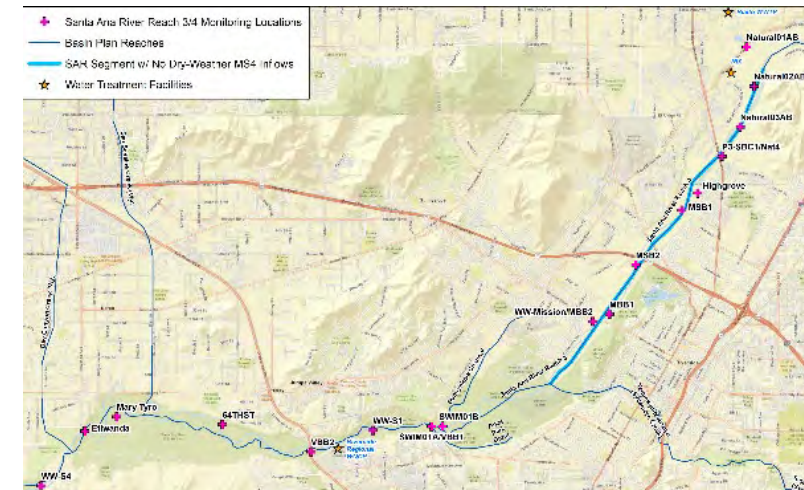
# Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Task Force

February 2005, Basin Plan amended to include Bacterial Indicator Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Middle Santa Ana River Waterbodies:

- Santa Ana River, Reach 3
- Chino Creek, Reaches 1 and 2
- Cucamonga Creek, Reach 1
- Mill Creek (Prado Area)
- Prado Park Lake

## *Current Activities:*

- Middle Santa Ana River 2023 TMDLs Triennial Report (completed February 2023)
  - Conducted 2022 Dry Season Wild Pig PIG2BAC DNA Marker Monitoring
- Proposed Limited Basin Plan Amendment extending the wet weather implementation due date, currently set as December 31, 2025 out to December 31, 2035





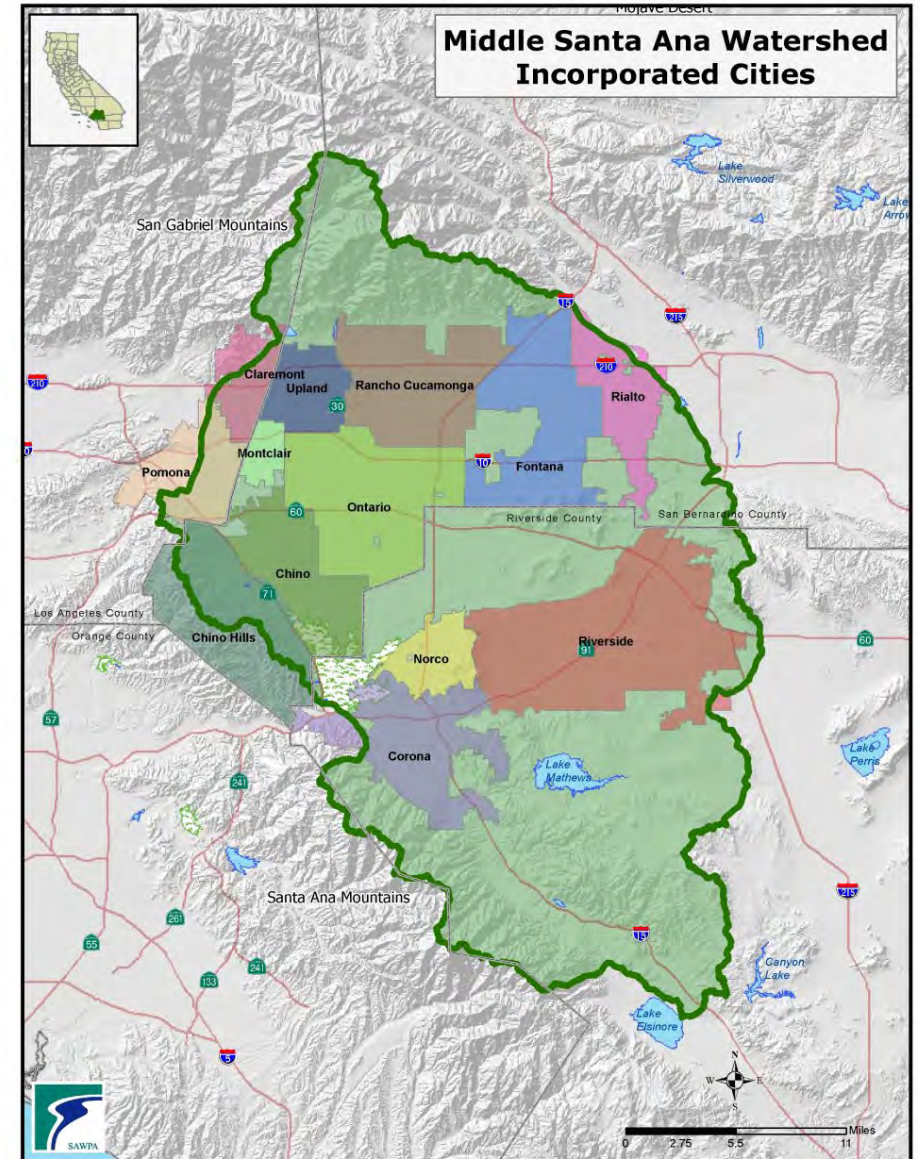
# Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Task Force

- City of Chino Hills
- City of Claremont
- City of Corona
- City of Eastvale
- City of Fontana
- City of Jurupa Valley
- City of Montclair
- City of Norco
- City of Ontario
- City of Pomona
- City of Rancho Cucamonga
- City of Rialto
- City of Riverside

County of Riverside

San Bernardino County Flood Control

- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board



# Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

- “Emerging Constituents” are an array of pharmaceuticals, pesticides, food additives, and other common household chemicals for which water quality standards have not yet been established.
- Formed in 2008 and complies with Regional Board Resolution for Imported Water Recharge
  - Oversee and investigate Emerging Constituents
  - Data collection, data management, and reporting
  - Communication outreach on the safety of tap water
- Track State Water Board priorities and monitor for these changes.



Photo credit: Water Education Foundation



# Emerging Constituents Program Task Force

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Chino Basin Watermaster  | Irvine Ranch Water District                            |
| City of Beaumont   | Jurupa Community Services District                     |
| City of Corona   | Metropolitan Water District of Southern California     |
| City of Redlands   | Orange County Water District                           |
| City of Rialto   | San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District         |
| City of Riverside  | San Geronio Pass Water Agency                          |
| Colton/San Bernardino Regional Tertiary Treatment and Wastewater Reclamation Authority | Temescal Valley Water District                         |
| Eastern Municipal Water District   | Western Municipal Water District                       |
| Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District   | Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority |
| Inland Empire Utilities Agency   | Yucaipa Valley Water District                          |

# Benefits of Task Orders with KSC to SAWPA

- Task Forces are unanimous in support of Theresa (Tess) Dunham of Kahn Soares & Conway (KSC) to undertake regulatory strategist/facilitator for the three task forces.
- There are efficiencies with utilizing the same consultant with multiple task forces as they gain a deeper understanding of the individual priorities of the various task force member agencies.
- Tess Dunham is well connected with water quality regulatory staff and board members at the State and Regional water boards.



# Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission authorize the General Manager to execute the following:

- Agreement for Services with Kahn Soares & Conway (KSC) and SAWPA;
- Task Order KSC374-03 with KSC in the amount not to exceed \$133,000 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25, to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force; and
- Task Order KSC384-03 with KSC in the amount not to exceed \$148,500 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25, to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force; and
- Task Order KSC392-03 with KSC in the amount not to exceed \$48,000 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25 to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force.



# Questions

Ian Achimore

Senior Watershed Manager

Direct: (951) 354-4233

Email: [iachimore@sawpa.org](mailto:iachimore@sawpa.org)

Rick Whetsel

Senior Watershed Manager

Direct: (951) 354-4222

Email: [rwhetsel@sawpa.org](mailto:rwhetsel@sawpa.org)

# Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)

## Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP)

### Watershed Resilience Strategy



**SANTA ANA WATERSHED  
PROJECT AUTHORITY**

Rachel Gray

Water Resources and Planning Department Manager

Item No. 6.C

# Overview of Informational Item

1. SAWPA Strategy for State Funding
2. ICARP Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP)
3. Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP)
  - Conceptual Roadmap
  - Conceptual Approaches
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Conception Development Process
4. Recommendation and Next Steps
5. Schedule

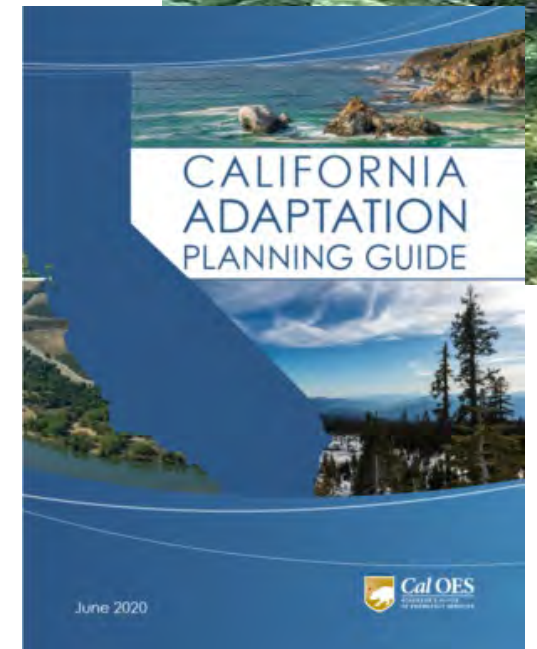


# 1. SAWPA Strategy: IRWM Funding Success

| Water Bond - Proposition   | Grant Amount Received by Local Projects/Plans in Santa Ana Watershed     |
|--|--|
| Prop 50 (Passed 2002)  | \$25,000,000   |
| Prop 84 (Passed 2006)  | \$105,913,000  |
| Prop 1 (Passed 2014)<br>Prop 1, Round 1<br>Prop 1 Round 2<br>Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program<br>Planning | \$55,360,763<br>\$21,091,428<br>\$27,705,642<br>\$6,300,000<br>\$263,693 |

# SAWPA Strategy for State Funding

- **Funding for IRWM** may be diminished in future state funding efforts. Approach:
  - Continue to track IRWM with DWR staff
  - Monitor “integrated regional water projects to address climate resiliency” in current “Climate/Natural Resources Bond” discussions
- **Align** with changing state priorities detailed in:
  - California Water Resilience Portfolio (2021)
  - California Water Plan Update 2023
  - California Adaptation Planning Guide (2020)
- **Track** state priorities:
  - Climate change risks
  - Climate adaptation
  - Watershed resilience
  - Equity in water resources



# SAWPA Strategy for Future Funding

- **SAWPA efforts** are focused on:
  - Building on past efforts to perform **integrated watershed management**
  - Building on **SAWPA's OWOW efforts**
  - **Engage** with member agencies
  - **Positioning region** for future funding opportunities
  - Building on state priorities related to **climate change risks, watershed resilience, and equity in water resources**
- **Approach** aligns with:
  - DWR's IRWM Program
  - Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Integrated Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Program (ICARP)



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM



# Summary of Engagement with Member Agencies

## Member Agencies' Planning Managers

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Quarterly Planning Managers' Meeting    | Q1 2023: February 9, 2023<br>Q2 2023: May 24, 2023  |
| Listening Sessions                      | EMWD: March 30, 2023<br>SBV: March 30, 2023<br>OCWD: April 10, 2023<br>IEUA: April 10, 2023<br>WW: April 10, 2023 |
| Recurring Project Coordination Meetings | SBV, WW, IEUA   |



Inland Empire  
UTILITIES AGENCY

## Member Agencies' General Managers

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Monthly GM Meetings                 | April 2023 |
| SAWPA GM/MAs GM Individual Meetings | May 2023   |

# Informed by Member Agency Input

Establish pathway for robust funding opportunities that are competitive, and support expanded set of projects with regional benefits.

Develop a portfolio of climate adaptation projects to demonstrate the funding gap and integrate regional benefits into both individual and regional projects.

Daylight affordability risks and DAC climate vulnerabilities. Establish clear messaging about links between resilience initiatives and supported equity outcomes to support funding applications.

Daylight key constraints (environmental, regulatory, infrastructure, and stakeholder connectivity and interests) to increase resilience.

Expand outreach to entities outside of the water industry, amplify interconnectivity of adaptation strategies that focus on water resilience but provide co-benefits to non-water entities

# SAWPA Strategy for Regional CARP

## Vision:

Advance the implementation of **watershed resilience** in the Santa Ana River watershed through the development of a **Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan**



Define watershed-scale climate risks and vulnerabilities impacting water supply and water resources



Develop climate adaptation strategies



Articulate the regional benefits of resiliency projects



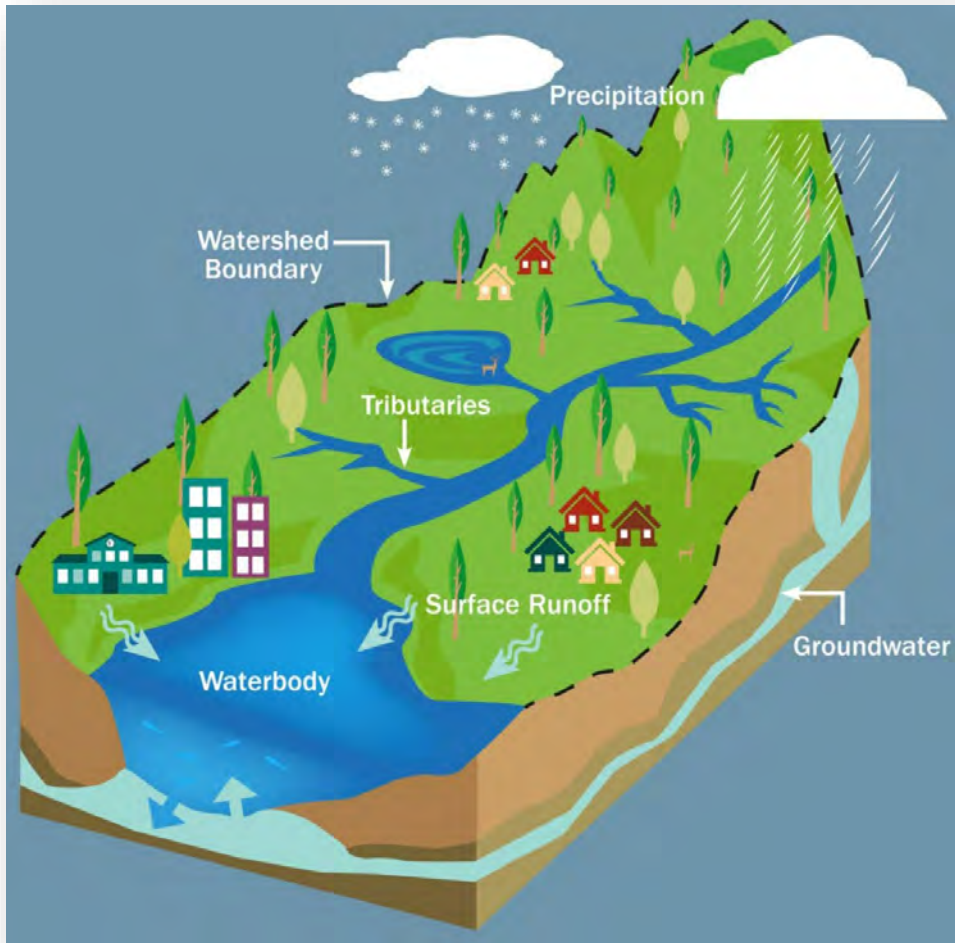
Connect equity outcomes for underrepresented communities with the resiliency projects



Strengthen broad-based partnerships that advance shared interests across the region



# Watershed Resiliency Concept



**Resilient Watersheds** are better able to respond to and recover from the impacts of climate risks through implementation of adaptation strategies, which are designed to mitigate the impacts and take advantage of beneficial opportunities in response to future climate extremes

## Climate Risks:



Drought



Extreme Heat



Flooding



Sea Level Rise



Wildfire

## Key Concept:

Show how projects across all agencies and the watershed contribute to climate adaptation and resiliency for the watershed

## 2. ICARP Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP)

- Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) **Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)**
- **Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP)**
- **RRGP** funds effort to:
  - ✓ Review climate risks
  - ✓ Identify climate resilience priorities
  - ✓ Build capacity
  - ✓ Implement projects that respond to a region's greatest climate risks



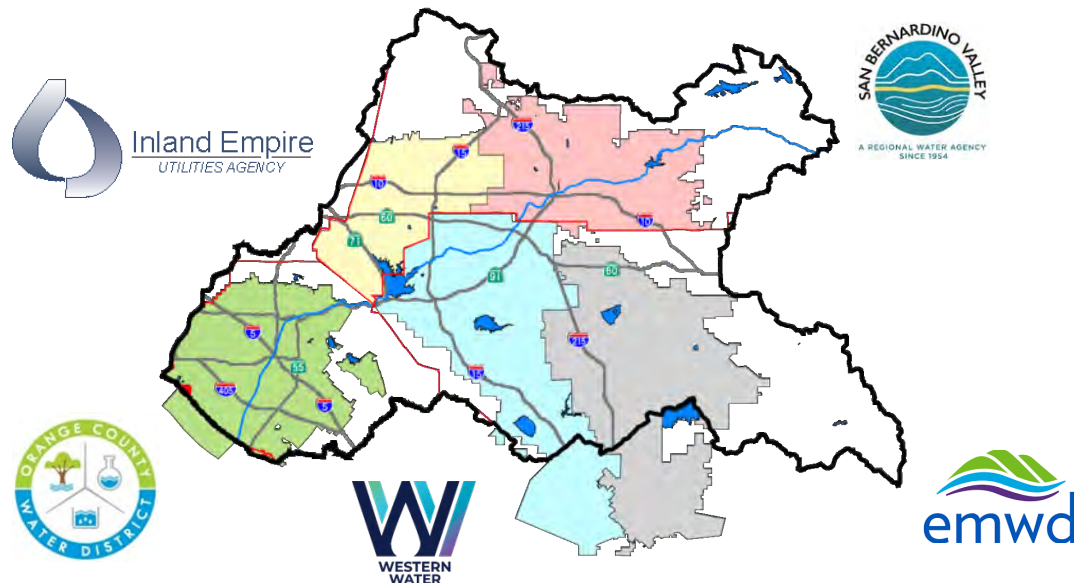
# ICARP Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP)

| Administers RRGF   | Governor's Office of Planning and Research  |
|--|---|
| <b>Total Funding Available*</b>  | Round 1: \$21.3M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning grants \$150,000 – \$650,000</li> <li>• Implementation grants \$800,000 –\$3M</li> </ul> |
| <b>Project Length</b>  | 12 – 30 months  |
| <b>Grant Availability Type</b>   | Competitive   |
| <b>Match Funding Required</b>  | <b>No</b>   |
| <b>Disadvantaged Communities</b>   | Allocate 25% of grant funds overall to DAC  |
| <b>California Native American Tribes</b>   | Allocate 10% funds  |
| <b>Goal:</b> Address local, regional, and tribal climate resilience needs and build a pipeline of climate resilient planning and implementation projects at the regional scale |   |
| <b>*Anticipated total funding: \$125M</b>  |   |

# 3. Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP)

## Regional CARP benefits:

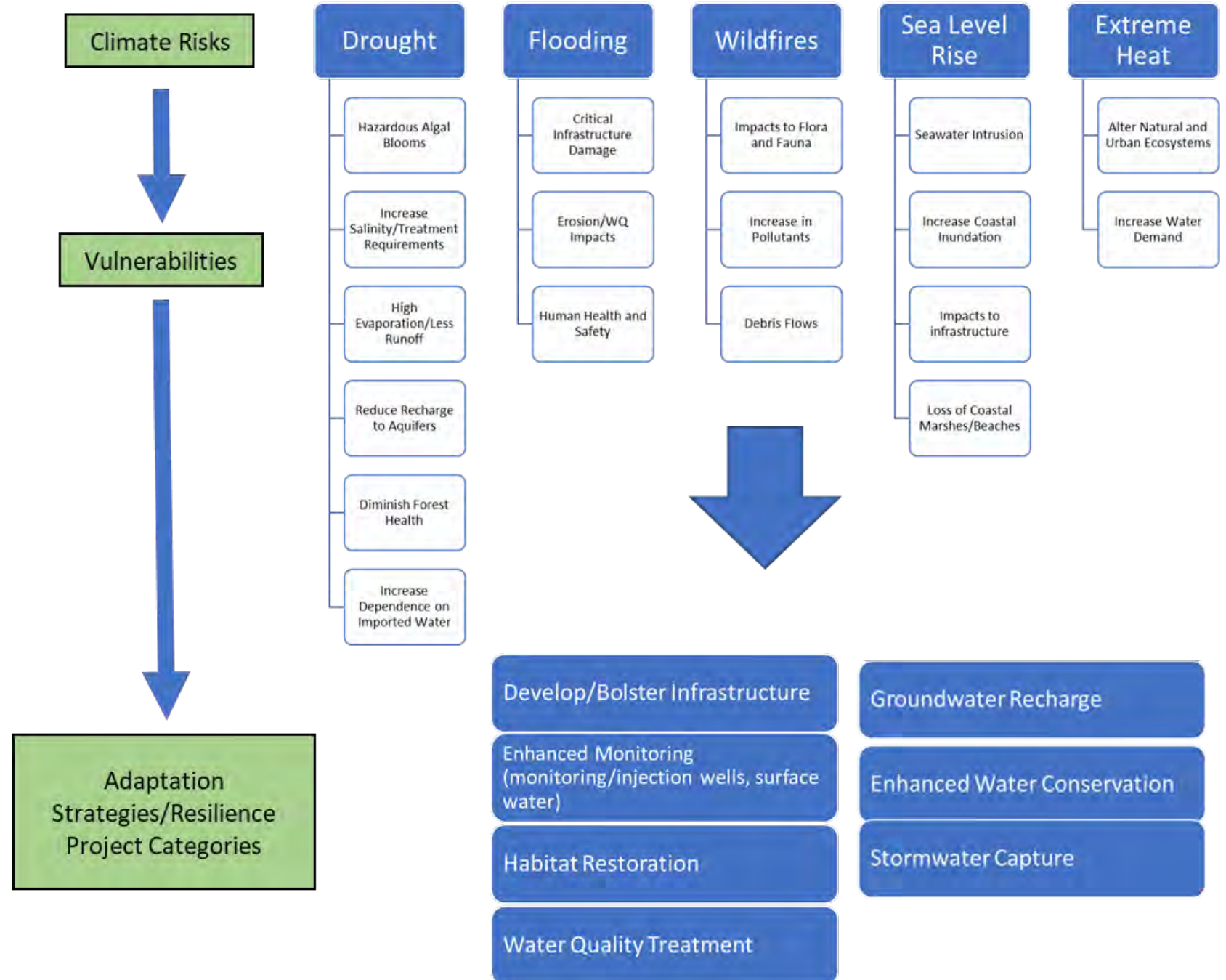
- Advance watershed resiliency
- Provide a mechanism for future funding
- Implement member agency projects
- Implement potential regional projects



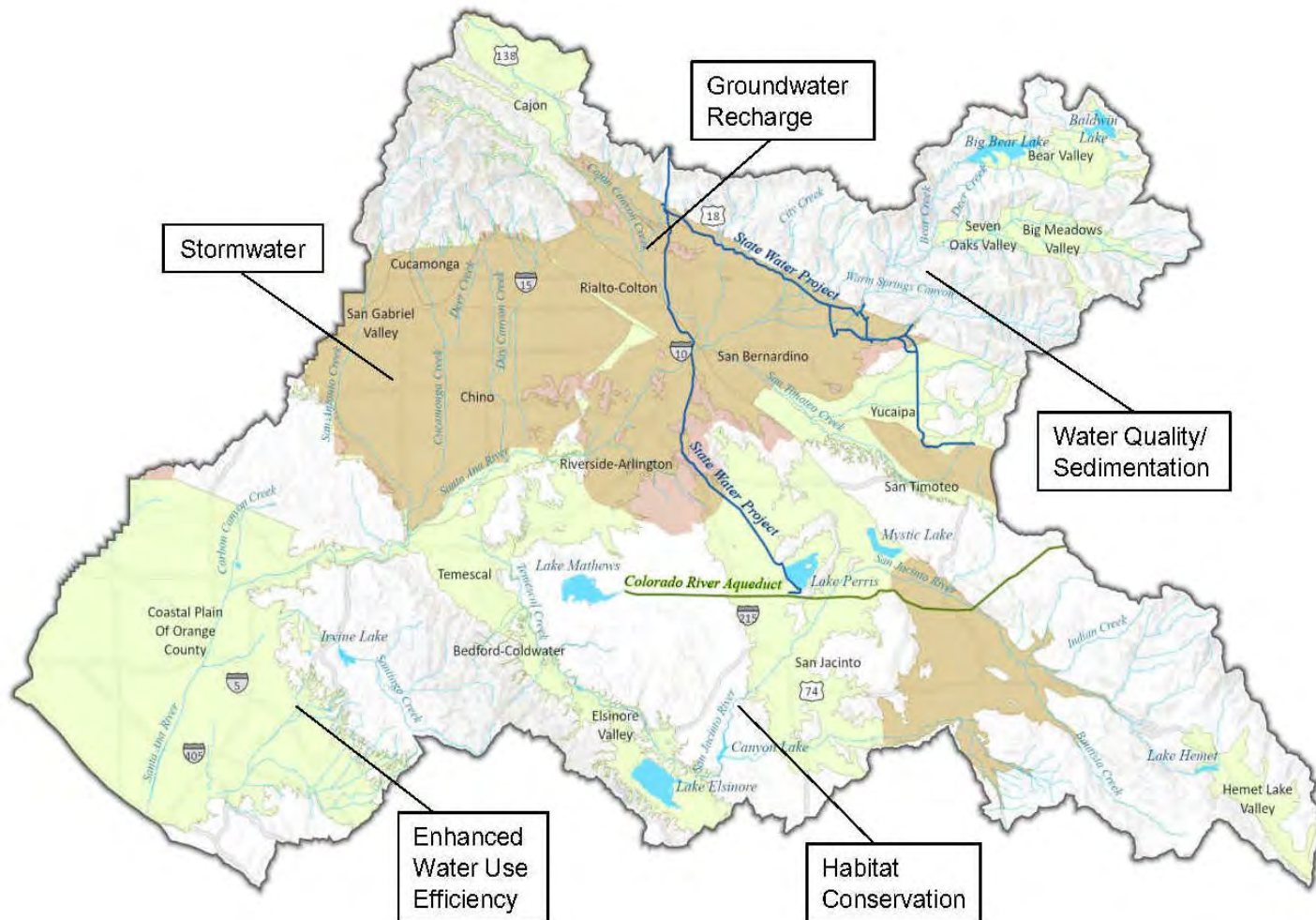
- ✓ **Describe** and **establish** the need for adaptation strategies to enhance watershed resilience
- ✓ **Demonstrate** the funding gap for resilience projects
- ✓ **Improve** funding competitiveness through regional collaboration
- ✓ **Leverage** benefits from investments made through expanded partnerships
- ✓ **Exhibit** watershed-scale nexus of the benefits from resilience investments to underrepresented communities and equity outcomes
- ✓ **Daylight** regulatory impediments and conflicts associated with resilience investments and develop solutions that fast-track permitting processes.
- ✓ **Compile** consistent information on the potential impacts of climate change for future planning and funding purposes.



# Conceptual Roadmap



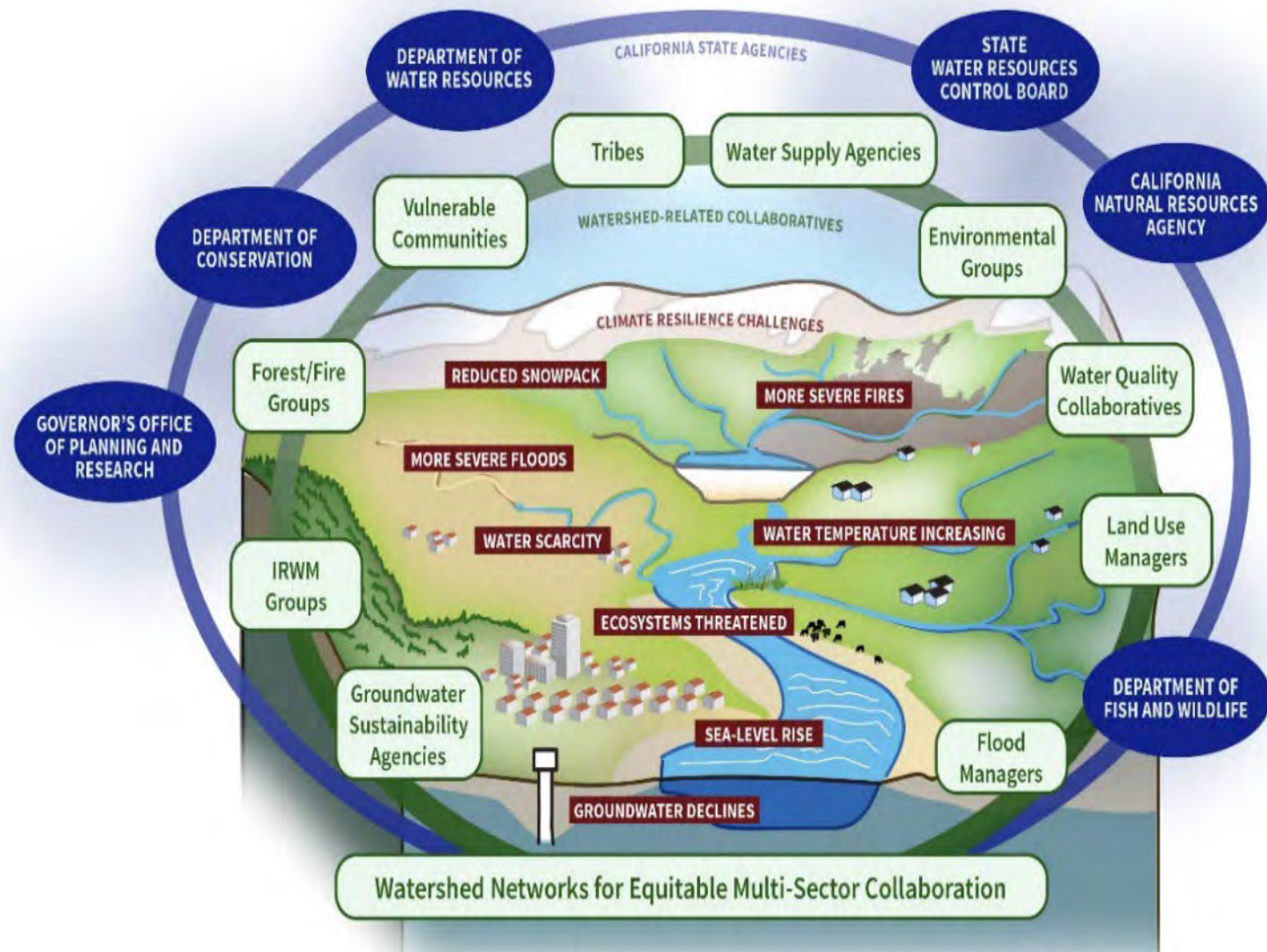
# Conceptual Approach 1: Supershed Approach



A “supershed” approach for regional planning would demonstrate the upstream/ downstream resilience benefits of individual and regional projects across the watershed



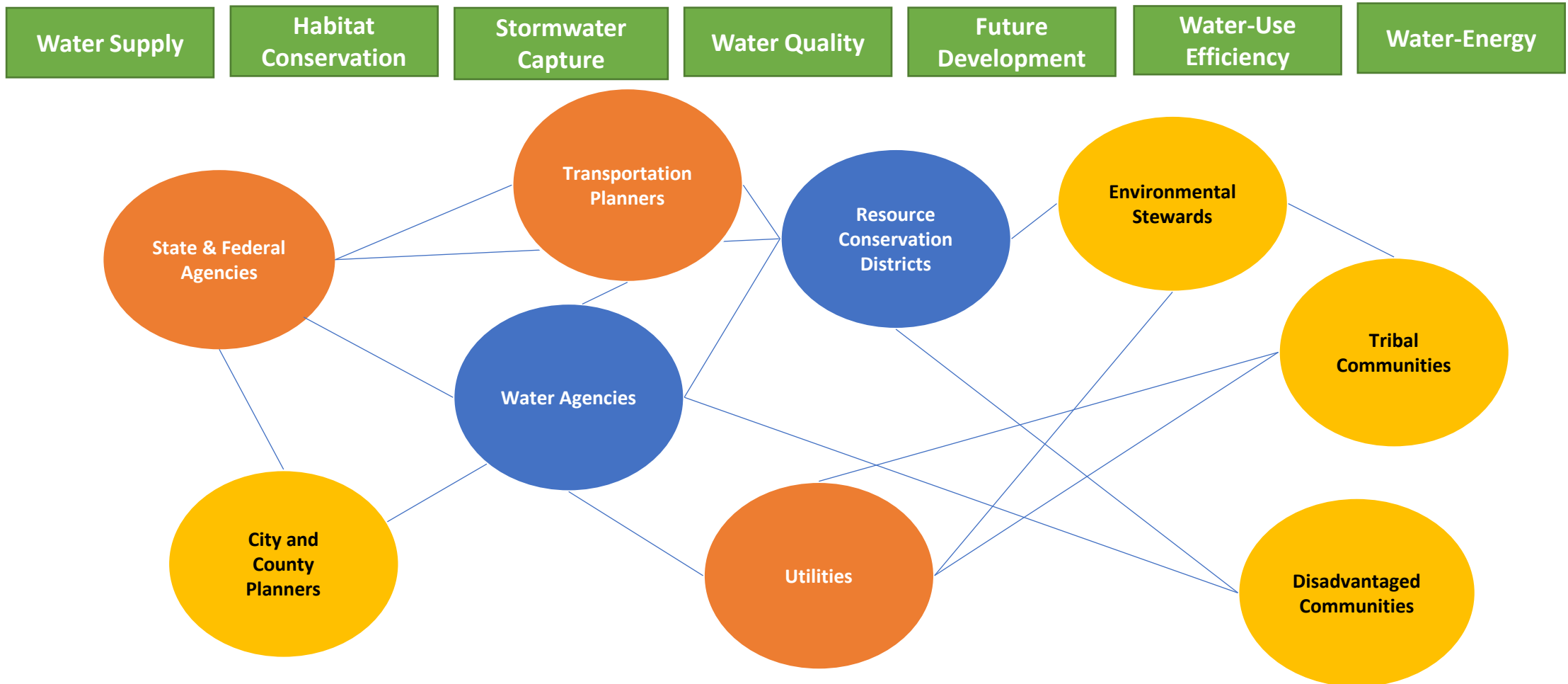
# Conceptual Approach 2: DWR Approach



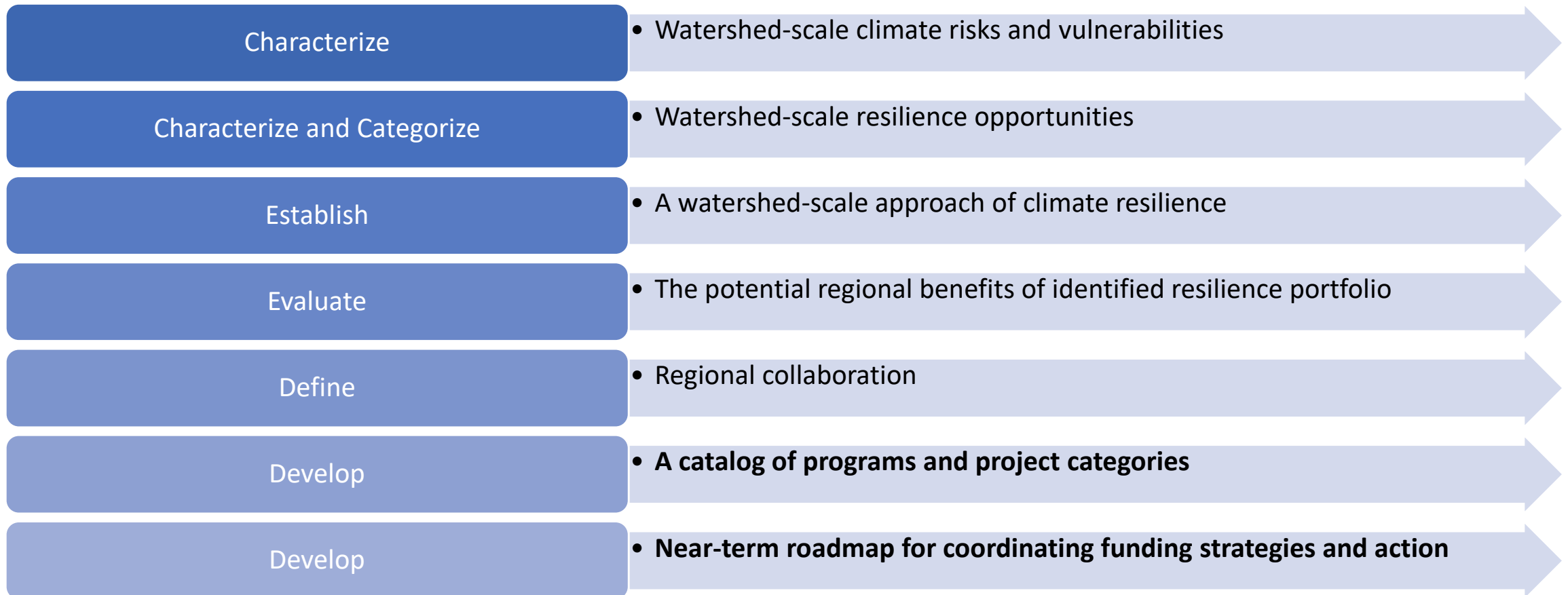
A “watershed resilience” approach would entail the development of cross-sector, cross-jurisdictional watershed networks for climate resilience planning and project implementation

# Stakeholder Engagement

Develop relationships through a planning process around key regional resilience topics



# Conceptual Regional CARP Development Process





# 4. Recommendation and Next Steps

- SAWPA Staff Recommendation:
  - Submit proposal under RRPB to develop CARP
    - Request ~\$650,000 (no match required)
  - Regional CARP approach:
    - Build on OWOW
    - Use existing Member Agency planning documents
    - Engage Member Agencies and other stakeholders
  - Regional CARP outcome:
    - Catalog of projects across all agencies and the watershed contribute to climate adaptation and resiliency for the watershed
- RRPB Solicitation Release: Expected June 13



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM



# 5. Schedule and Next Steps

| FEB  | MAR  | APR | MAY | JUN                                       | JUL   | AUG | SEP                 |
|--|--|-----|-----|---|---|-----|---------------------|
| Review RRGP Guidelines & Submit Comments                           |  |     |     |   |   |     |                     |
| Collaborate with Member Agencies on development of a Regional CARP |  |     |     |   |   |     |                     |
|  | Confer with Member Agency General Managers |     |     |   |   |     |                     |
|  |  |     |     | Informational Item to Commission (June 6) |   |     |                     |
|  |  |     |     | RRGP Final Guidelines Released (June 13)  |   |     |                     |
|  |  |     |     |   | Action Item to Commission: Request Submittal of Grant Application (July 21) |     |                     |
|  |  |     |     |   | Develop grant application with Member Agencies and Stakeholder input        |     |                     |
|  |  |     |     |   |   |     | Proposal Due to OPR |