



SANTA ANA WATERSHED
PROJECT AUTHORITY

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program

DWR DACI Program Set-Aside Funding, 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program

OWOW Steering Committee Meeting
Rick Whetsel
Senior Watershed Manager
May 28, 2026

Recommendation

- **Receive and file**

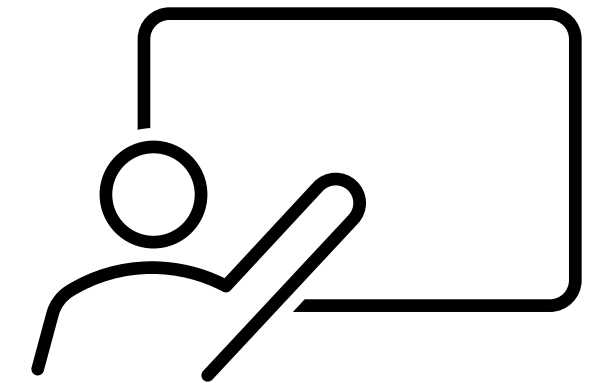
2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program - \$5 million Set-Aside for SAWPA

SAWPA:

- Grantee of the DACI Program for our IRWM region
- Eligible for up to \$5 million (use of existing DACI grant agreement)

Program details:

- Fund eligible drought relief projects
- Benefits to Underrepresented Communities or Tribes
- No local cost share match required for grant
- Grant Completion date March 31, 2026



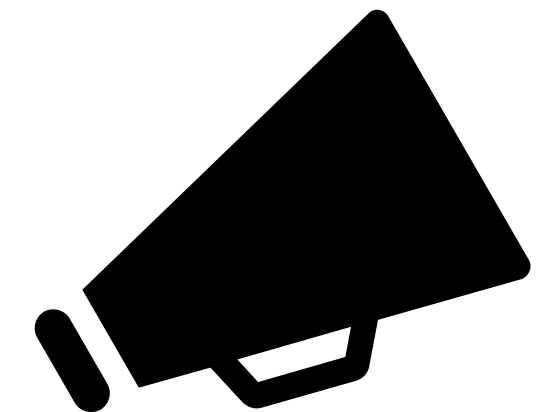
SAWPA: Application to DWR

January 2022 - on-line “Call For Project Applications”

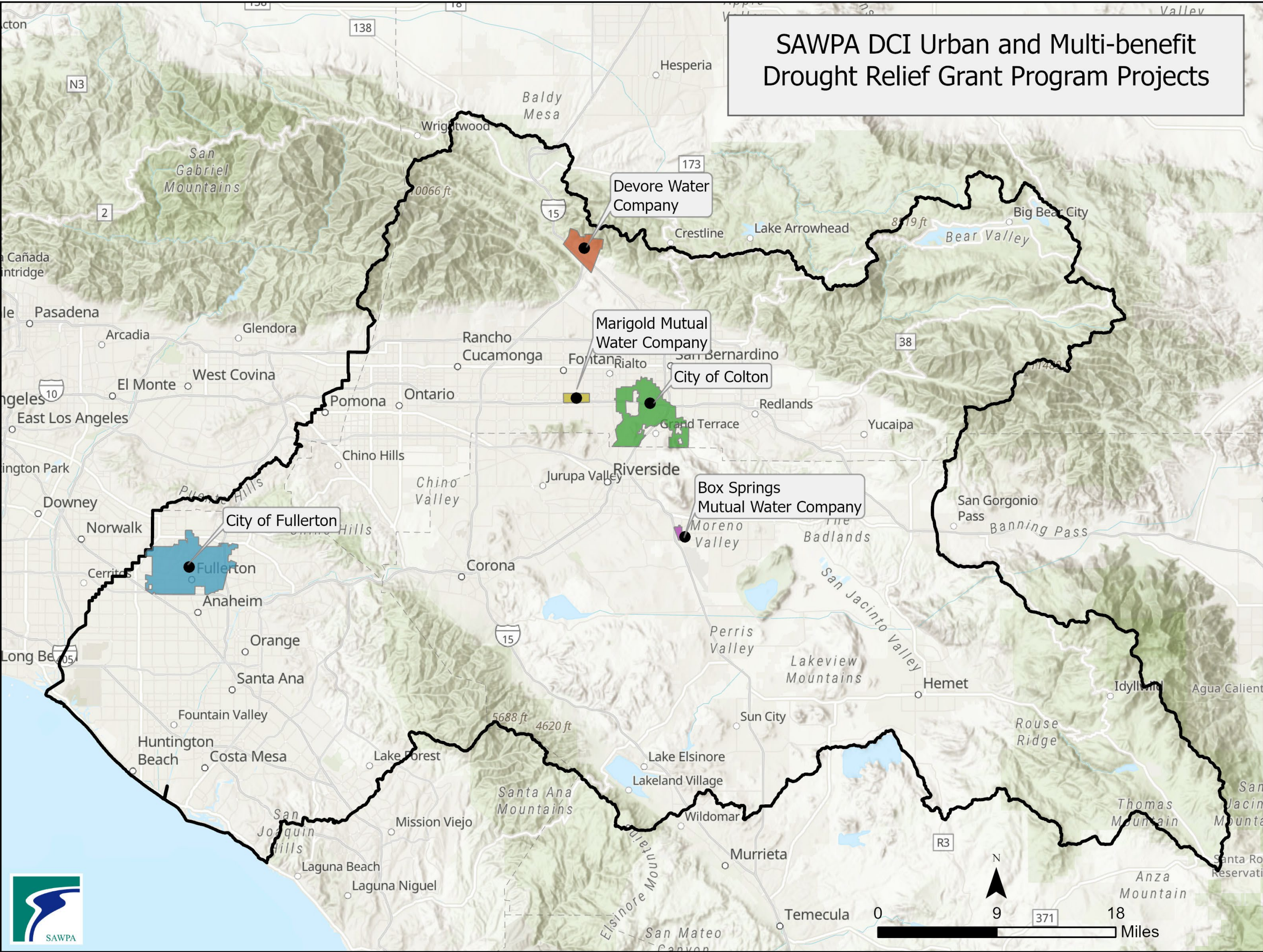
- Project proposals were scored based upon:
 - DWR Grant Requirements
 - Respond to drought emergency
 - Two quantifiable benefits
 - SAWPA DCI Program Goals
 - Technical Assistance Criteria for rating and ranking projects
- Target projects previously awarded “Technical Assistance Funding” under SAWPA DCI program

February 2022 – SAWPA Commission authorized staff to submit a portfolio of projects for funding consideration under this DACI Grant Set-Aside

June 2022 – DWR awards \$5 Million to SAWPA portfolio of projects



SAWPA DCI Urban and Multi-benefit
Drought Relief Grant Program Projects



Funding Allocation (Grant Approved)

Project Proponent:	Project Title:	Total Prj Cost	Grant Award
City of Colton	Production Well 32	\$ 4,973,000	\$ 885,000
Box Springs Mutual Water Company	Reservoir Improvement	\$ 1,590,000	\$ 1,590,000
Marygold Mutual Water Company	Well 7 Rehabilitation and Systems Upgrade	\$ 1,448,000	\$ 1,448,000
City of Fullerton	Well 6 Rehabilitation	\$ 505,000	\$ 505,000
Devore Water Company	Booster Pump Station and Valve Vault	\$ 472,000	\$ 472,000
SAWPA	Program Administration		\$ 100,000
	Total Request:	\$ 8,988,000	\$ 5,000,000

Box Springs Mutual Water Company – Reservoir Improvement (Proposed Project)

Water Related Issue:

- Existing onsite water storage tanks are functionally obsolete and no longer meet current safety and operational standards.
- Aging infrastructure limits system reliability and operational efficiency.

Proposed Project:

- Construct a new 1.5-million-gallon welded steel reservoir to replace the two existing tanks.
- New storage facility will modernize system infrastructure and improve operational performance.

Anticipated Benefits:

- Increased water storage capacity and improved supply reliability (1.5 MG).Enhanced operational efficiency and system resiliency.
- Improved safety compliance and long-term infrastructure sustainability.
- Water Supply Reliability (1.5 MG)
- Operational Efficiency Improvement



Box Springs Mutual Water Company – Reservoir Improvement (Completed Project)

Project Modifications

- Project design was refined during implementation to address increased construction costs and available funding constraints while maintaining core project objectives.

Completed Improvements

- Constructed a new 1.3-million-gallon welded steel reservoir replacing two aging storage tanks.
- Modernized critical water storage infrastructure to improve long-term system reliability.

Actual Benefits

- Provides approximately 411 acre-feet per year of improved water supply reliability.
- Enhances operational efficiency and system resiliency.
- Supports safe, reliable water service for the community.



City of Colton – Production Well 32 Construction (Proposed Project)

Water Related Issue:

- Existing groundwater sources provide insufficient capacity to meet current system demands due to declining groundwater levels and water quality concerns, including elevated iron, manganese, and perchlorate concentrations.

Proposed Project:

- Construct and equip a new municipal groundwater well to address a critical source capacity deficiency for the City of Colton.
- Project components include well construction, pumping equipment, well house, control systems, and chlorination facilities.

Anticipated Benefits:

- Improved water supply reliability through additional groundwater production (approximately 2,500 AFY).
- Enhanced water quality and operational flexibility within the City's water supply portfolio.
- Increased system resiliency to meet current and future demand.



City of Colton – Production Well 22 Rehabilitation (Completed Project)

Project Re-evaluation:

- Subsequent evaluation and pilot testing identified significant clay deposits within the lower production horizons of the Well 32 core.
- Based on testing results, the City determined that Well 32 would not achieve adequate groundwater production yields.
- Construction activities were discontinued, and the project scope was revised.

Replacement Project

- The original project was replaced with the City of Colton Well 22 Rehabilitation Project, providing a more cost-effective and reliable alternative to meet system needs.

Completed Improvements

- Rehabilitation of existing Well 22, including mechanical rehabilitation and electrical system upgrades.
- Restored operational performance and extended the useful life of existing groundwater infrastructure.

Actual Benefits

- Approximately 1,350 acre-feet per year of improved water supply reliability.
- Increased potable groundwater production capacity.
- Enhanced operational resiliency of the City's water system.



Devore Water Company – Booster Pump Station and Valve Vault (Discontinued)

Water Related Issue

- Prolonged drought conditions have reduced groundwater production from the horizontal wells that serve as Devore’s primary water supply.
- Inconsistent well performance has resulted in low system pressure and periodic water supply shortages.

Project Description

- The proposed booster pump station and valve vault were intended to:
 - Replenish spring-fed water stored above Pressure Zone 6 within the new storage tank.
 - Improve operational control of water flow into the pressure zone.
 - Increase system efficiency while enhancing fire protection reliability.

Anticipated Benefits

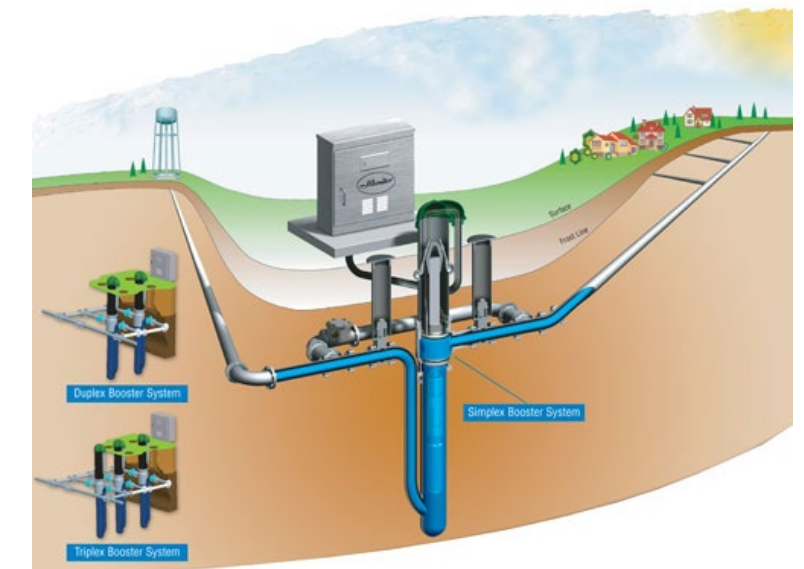
- Improved water supply reliability through supplemental groundwater production (approximately 194 AFY).
- Enhanced operational efficiency and system performance.
- Increased system resiliency and fire flow capacity.

Project Status

- Construction bids exceeded available project funding.
- Efforts to secure additional funding were unsuccessful.
- As a result, the project was determined to be financially infeasible and has been discontinued.

Reallocation of Remaining Grant Funds

- Remaining grant funds have been reassigned to Box Springs Mutual Water Company – Reservoir Improvements Project to maximize regional water supply benefits.



Marygold Mutual Water Company – Well 7 Rehabilitation and Systems Upgrade (Proposed Project)

Water Related Issue

- Groundwater production capacity and operational efficiency have declined due to lowering groundwater levels, limiting the well's ability to reliably meet system demand.

Proposed Project

- Rehabilitate the existing well and replace pumping equipment to restore production capacity and maintain reliable operations under continued groundwater level decline.
- Project components include installation of a new pump, control systems, SCADA integration, instrumentation upgrades, and a backup power generator.

Anticipated Benefits

- Improved water supply reliability through enhanced groundwater production (approximately 1,151 AFY).
- Increased operational efficiency and system resiliency.
- Improved reliability of critical water supply infrastructure during normal and emergency operations.



Marygold Mutual Water Company – Well 7 Rehabilitation and Systems Upgrade (Completed Project)

Project Modifications

- Escalating construction costs and funding limitations required refinement of the project scope.
- Electrical control system design was simplified and nonessential components were removed while preserving core operational objectives.

Completed Improvements

- Successfully rehabilitated the well, restoring production capacity to approximately 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm).
- Well 7 can now reliably support system water supply demands during periods when the primary well is offline.

Actual Benefits

- Provides approximately 1,150 acre-feet per year of groundwater supply, improving overall water supply reliability and fire flow capability.
- Enhances operational efficiency and system resiliency.
- Strengthens reliability of critical water infrastructure under both normal and emergency operating conditions.



City of Fullerton – Well 6 Rehabilitation (Proposed Project)

Water Related Issue

- The detection of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in other City wells has reduced available groundwater supply sources.
- As a result, the City has relied more heavily on Well 6, an older and less efficient facility, to meet system demand.

Proposed Project

- Rehabilitate Well 6 and replace pumping equipment to improve production capacity and operational efficiency.
- Project improvements will enable the well to reliably meet system supply requirements under current operating conditions.

Anticipated Benefits

- Improved water supply reliability through additional groundwater production (approximately 320 AFY).
- Increased operational efficiency and reduced strain on remaining groundwater sources.
- Enhanced system resiliency in response to PFAS-related supply constraints.



City of Fullerton – Well 6 Rehabilitation (Completed Project)

Project Modifications

- Early budget adjustments were implemented to address higher-than-anticipated design costs.
- The project schedule was subsequently extended to evaluate compliance with emerging federal PFAS regulations, including assessment of potential treatment system installation and compatibility with upgraded well pumping equipment.

Completed Improvements

- Rehabilitation of Well 6 restored groundwater production capacity and improved operational efficiency.
- Project work included removal of the existing pump; comprehensive well cleaning and redevelopment; chemical treatment and mechanical development; downhole video inspection; pump testing and disinfection; and installation of a new high-efficiency pump.

Actual Benefits

- Provides approximately 320 acre-feet per year of groundwater supply, strengthening local water supply reliability and reducing reliance on imported water from the State Water Project and Colorado River supplies.
- Increased overall plant efficiency to approximately 72%, resulting in estimated annual energy savings of 167,231 kWh and reduced long-term operational costs.
- Enhances system resiliency and sustainability of critical water supply infrastructure.



Funding Allocation (Final)

Project	Original Budget Cost (\$)	Final Project Cost (\$)	Local Match Provided to DWR (\$)	Grant Funds Invoiced to DWR (\$)
Grant Administration	\$ 100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$100,000.00
1. Box Springs Mutual Water Company: Reservoir Improvement Project	\$ 1,590,000	\$ 1,906,930.51	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,906,930.51
2. City of Colton: Production Well 32 Project	\$ 885,000	\$72,929.12	\$ 0.00	\$72,929.12
3. Devore Mutual Water Company: Booster Pump Station Project	\$ 472,000	\$ 155,069.49	\$ 0.00	\$ 155,069.49
4. Marygold Mutual Water Company: Well 7 Rehabilitation and System Upgrade	\$ 1,448,000	\$ 1,188,531.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,188,531.61
5. City of Fullerton: Well 6 Rehabilitation	\$ 505,000	\$ 505,000	\$ 0.00	\$ 505,000
6: City of Colton: Production Well 22 Rehabilitation Project	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,547,389.00	\$ 735,318.12	\$812,057.95
Total	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,735,318.12	\$ 735,318.12	\$ 5,000,000.00

Program Benefits

Benefit	Proposed	Actual
Improved Drinking Water supply	411 AFY	411 AFY
Increased Groundwater Production Capacity	3,943 AFY	2,280 AFY
Improved Infrastructure Resiliency and enhanced Ability to meet Peak Demand and Fire Flow Requirements	4,354 AFY	3,231 AFY



Status: Grantee shall prepare and submit to the State annual Post-Performance Reports for three years.

Questions?

Thank You

Rick Whetsel

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rwhetsel@sawpa.gov





Summary of DWR April 30 Watershed Resilience and SGMA Funding Workshop

Haley Gohari

May 28, 2026

Recommendation

- **Receive and file.**

SB 867 - Proposition 4

\$10 Billion Climate Resilience Bond

For DWR, Competitive Grant Programs:

- Watershed Resilience
- Sustainable Groundwater Management

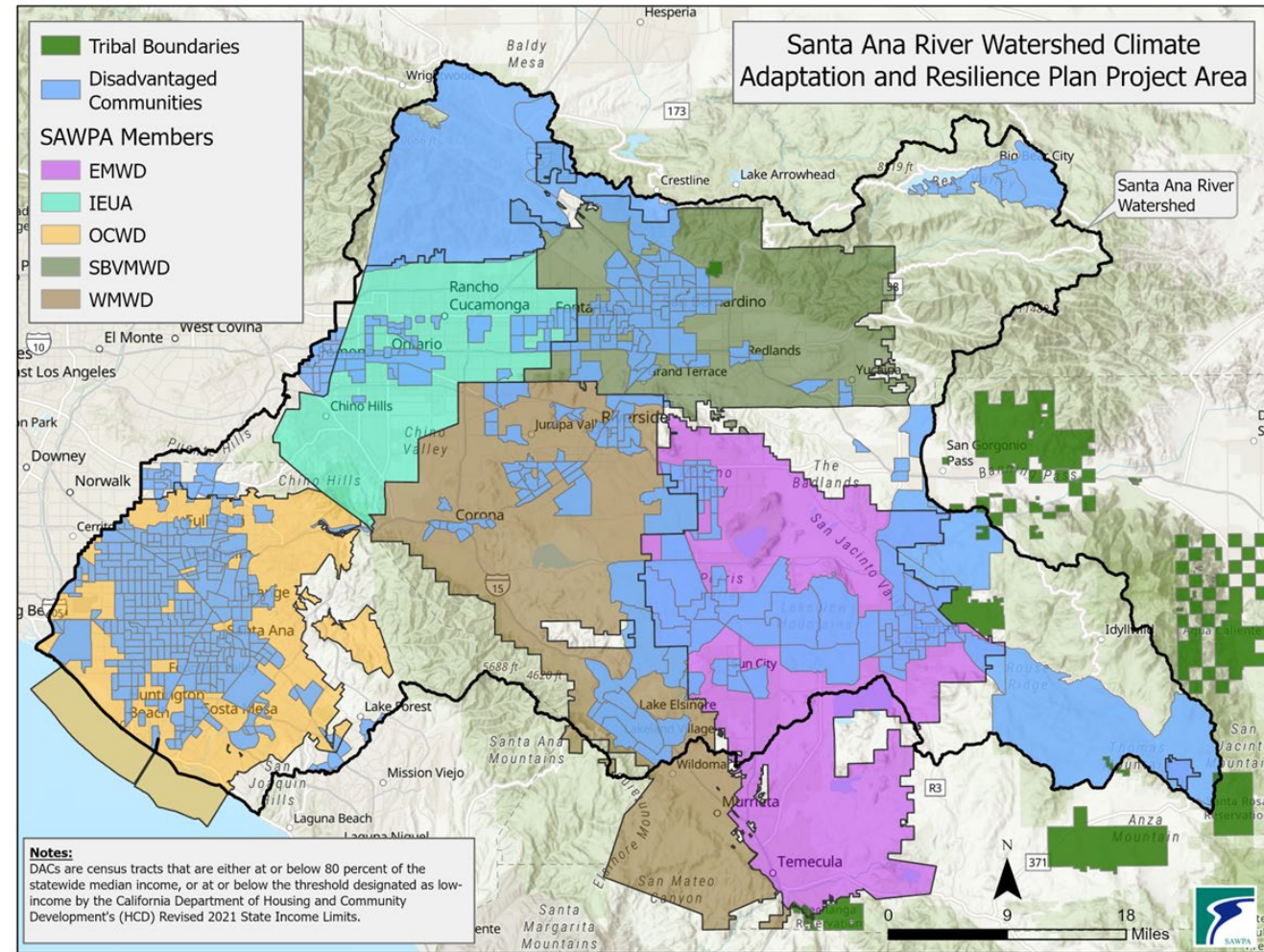
Two Step Application Process:

- Concept Proposal Submittal
- If selected, then complete full Grant Application
- If not selected, possible referral to other programs



SB 867 - Proposition 4

- 40% of the funds must directly benefit disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations (CRNA definitions)
 - Disadvantaged Communities: community with a median household income of less than 80% of the area or statewide median
 - Vulnerable Populations: a subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened climate risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts (Tribes are considered vulnerable populations)



Anticipated DWR Program Timeline & Details

- Draft Guidelines available: Fall 2026
- Concept Proposals Due: Early 2027
- Awards: Late 2027/2028
- No cost sharing required
- Programs will be able to offer a 25% advanced payment at beginning of the project
- Indirect Costs are an eligible expense



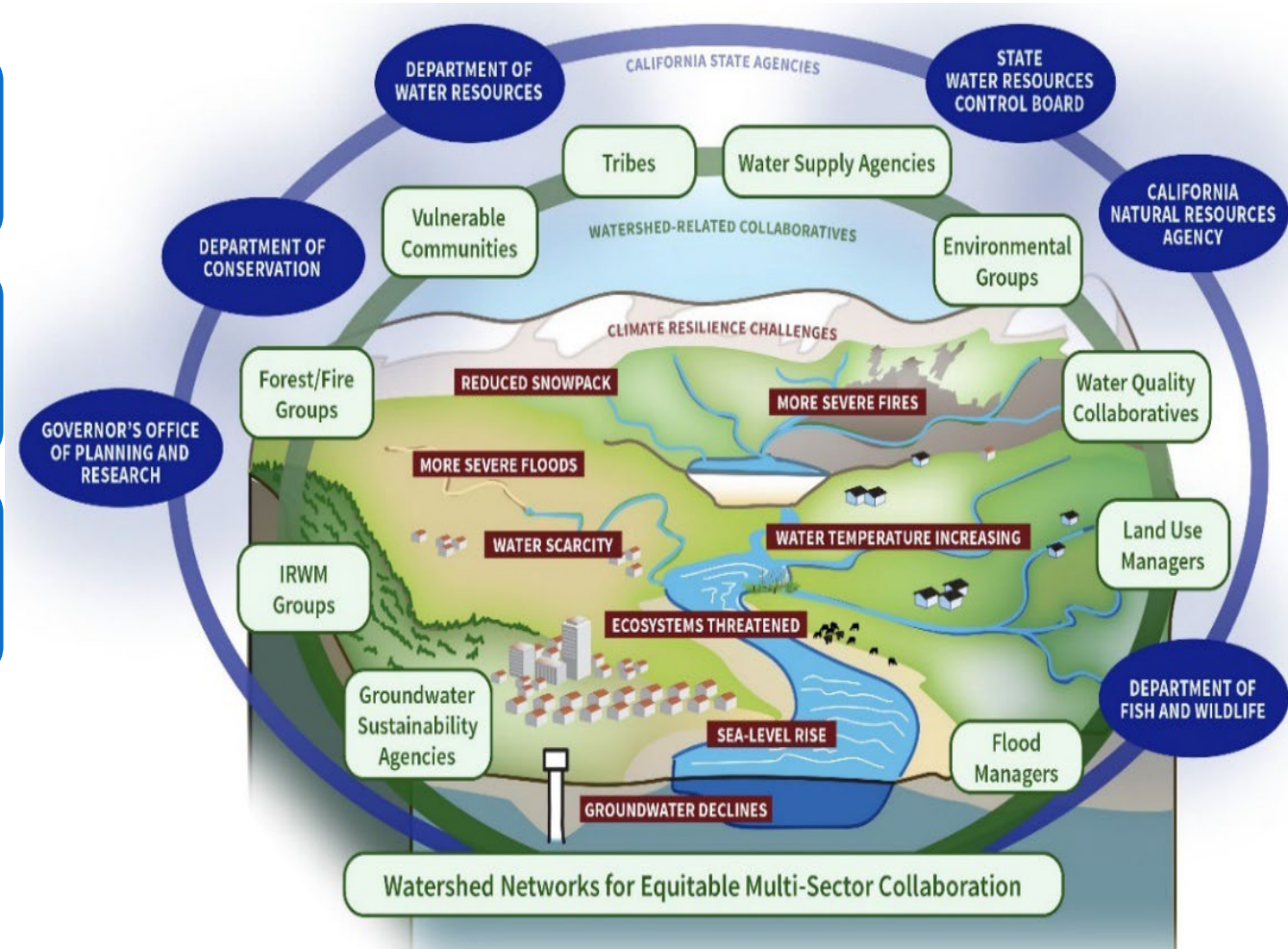
Watershed Resilience Program

An evolution of IRWM

Funding Available: ~ \$152 Million

Funding will support two solicitations:

- Early Action Implementation
- Planning +
- Amounts for each solicitation to be determined.



Watershed Resilience Program – Early Action Implementation

Eligible Applications: Applicants must apply on behalf of a collaborative group that has vetted projects

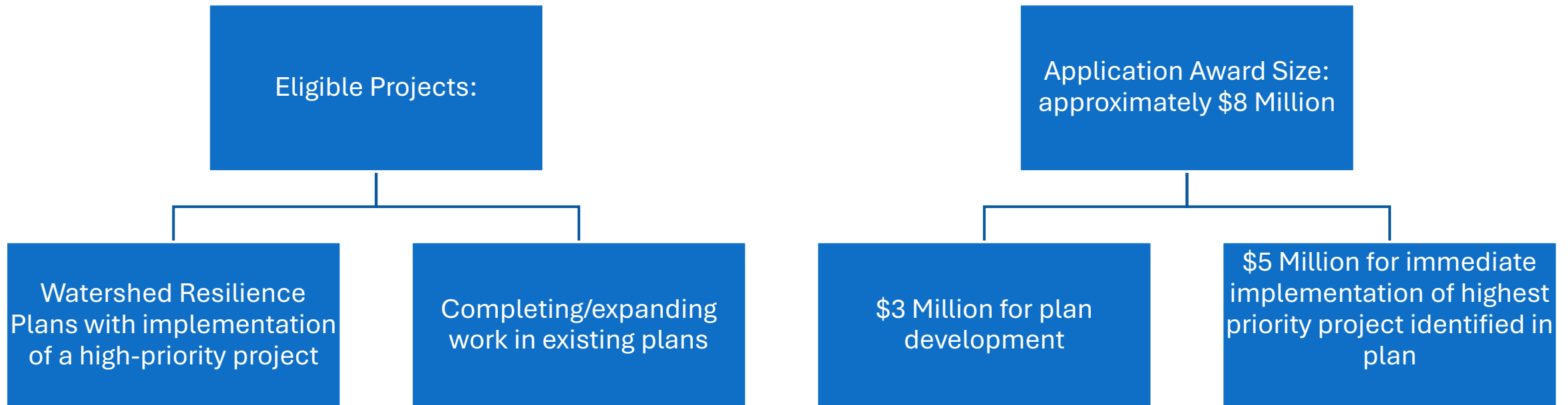
Eligible Projects:

- Conservation: Projects with a primary benefit of water savings
- Watershed Resilience: Projects related to IRWM which improve climate resilience on a watershed basis

Program Priorities:

- Projects with leverage funds
- Projects that consult/use California Conservation Corps
- Climate Change
- Equity

Watershed Resilience Program – Planning +



SGMA Funding Program

- **Funding Available for all: ~ \$386.25 Million**
 - **SGMA Implementation Grant Program - \$320 Million**
 - Funding efforts that advance Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation
 - **Conveyance Assistance Program - \$5 Million**

Based upon results that came out of listening sessions conducted November 2023 – March 2025:

- SGMA Compliance Support
- Filling Data Gaps
- Application Efficiency
- Inter-Agency Coordination

Potential Program Priorities include:

- Recharge/conjunctive use projects
- Subsidence BMP implementation Actions
- Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
- Agricultural land adaptation projects
- Conveyance projects
- Other implementation projects

SGMA Technical Assistance Programs

Technical Assistance Programs MUST benefit disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities or vulnerable populations.

- Programs may provide technical assistance in a variety of ways to assist lesser-capacity organizations with accessing and managing state funding.

Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Assistance Program - \$20 Million

Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program - \$20 Million

San Joaquin River Restoration Program - \$15.5 Million

Workshop Feedback

DWR will finalize schedule based on April 30 workshop feedback

Feedback was requested on:

- Release of Watershed Resilience and SGMA solicitation deadline timing
- Anticipated timeline to complete a Watershed Resilience implementation project from date of award to closeout
- How funding should be allocated Early Action Implementation vs. Planning+

Expect at least two more workshops

Other Prop 4 Opportunities Coming Up

Dam Safety Program:

- \$228 Million to support repairs, rehabilitation and enhancements at state-jurisdictional dams
- [Draft Guidelines](#) in Public comment period – closes June 11, 2026

Riverine Stewardship Program

- [Draft Guidelines](#) – Public comment period just closed

Invasive Species Funding Opportunity

- \$16.45 Million available
- [Draft Guidelines](#) – Public comment period closes May 29, 2026

Resources

- Workshop Recording will be made available in late May 2026
 - [Workshop Slides](#)
- [Disadvantaged/Severely Disadvantaged Community Map](#)
 - [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#)
 - Email Address for Questions: financialassistance@water.ca.gov

Recommendation

- Receive and file.

Questions?

Haley Gohari

Watershed Manager

hgohari@sawpa.gov



SARWCARP Community Engagement Updates

Haley Gohari

May 28, 2026

OWOW Steering Committee Meeting

Recommendation

- **Receive and file.**

Community Engagement Partners

SAWPA	The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians	ISC3/UCR
The Sierra Club	TreePeople	California Rural Water Association
Rivers & Lands Conservancy	Orange County Coastkeeper	Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Grid Alternatives	Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice	

- Community-Based Organization Partners
 - 8 Funded Organizations, 3 Passive Partners
- Outreach & Engagement Methods:
 - Survey
 - Interviews & Testimonials
 - Listening Sessions
 - Presentations



Community Engagement Updates

Current Data:

~1,220 Surveys completed so far

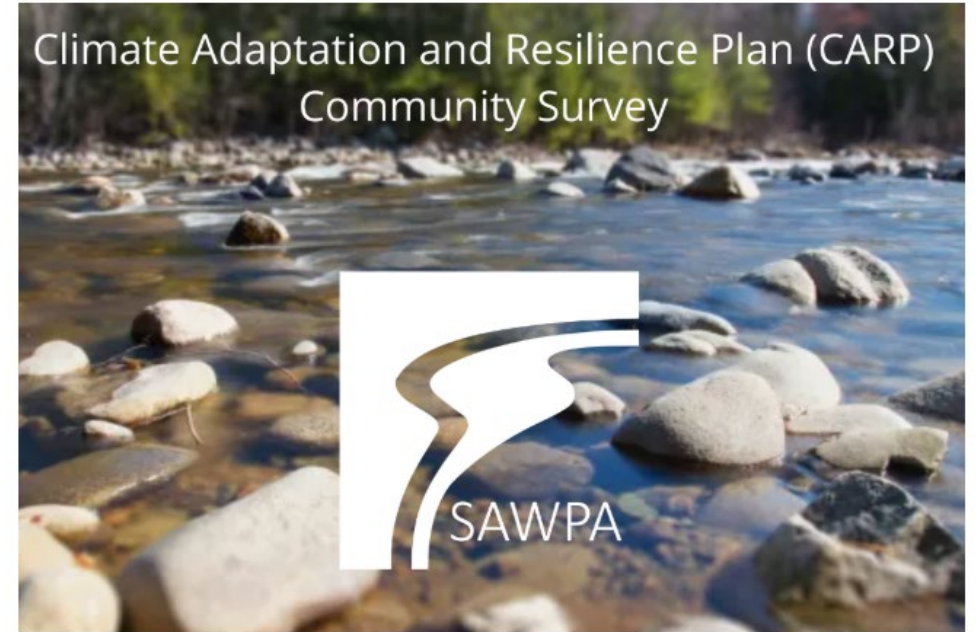
Response Rate: 100%

Avg. Completion Time: Under 3 minutes

177 Unique Zip Codes represented in responses

- Almost 900 Usable responses
- Approximately 65 responses from outside the watershed
- Approximately 330 responses removed from analysis due to invalid responses

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) Community Survey



We want to hear from you! This quick, 5-minute survey will help shape local programs and funding to protect our community from climate change impacts like extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire. Your responses are anonymous.

CARP focuses on understanding and preparing for climate risks within the Santa Ana Watershed — an area that spans from the mountains in San Bernardino, all the way to the coast in Orange County.

Lessons Learned

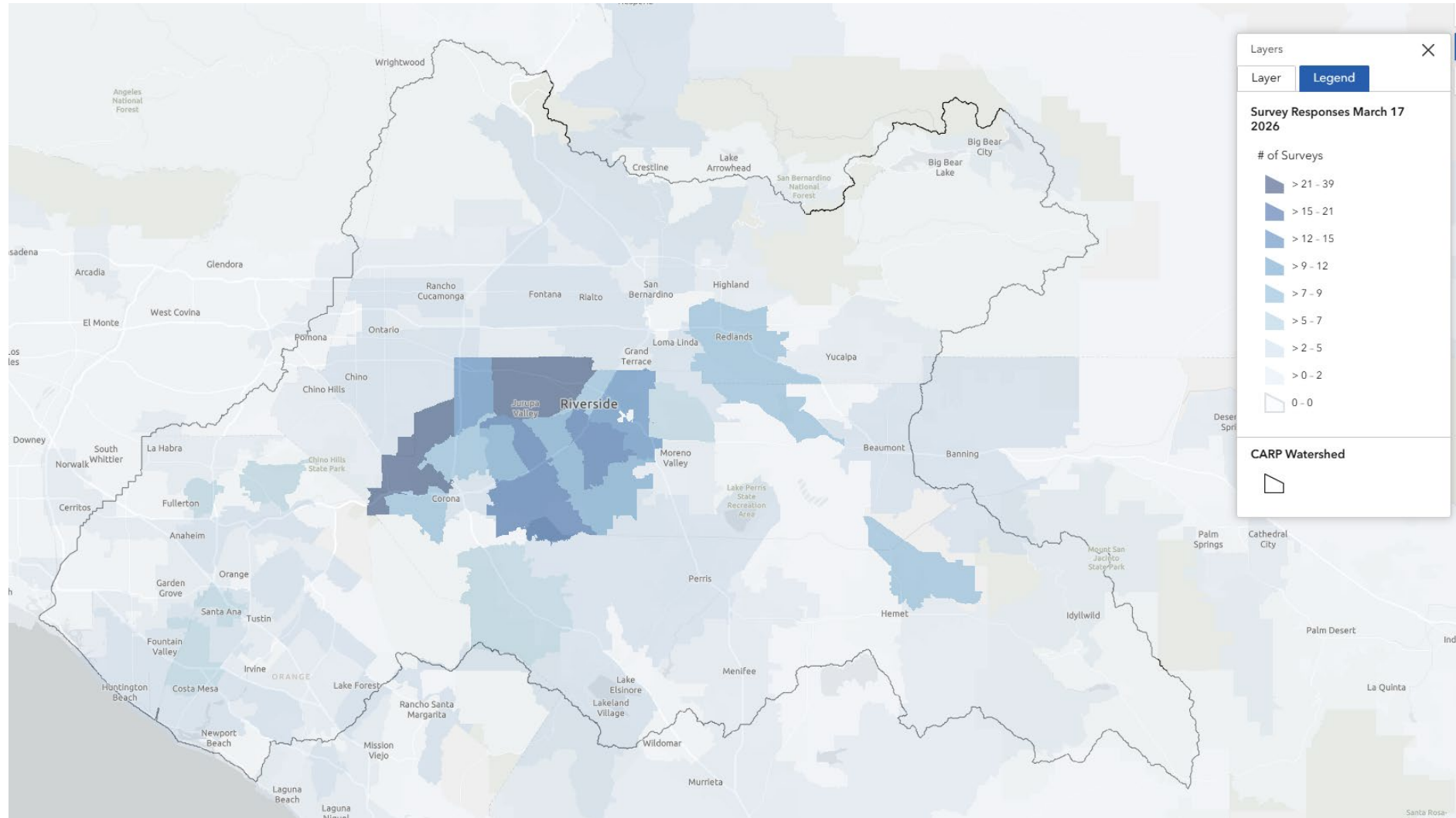
Weekly Data
Exports

Issues with
Social Media
Platforms

Data- Informed
Engagement
Adaptation

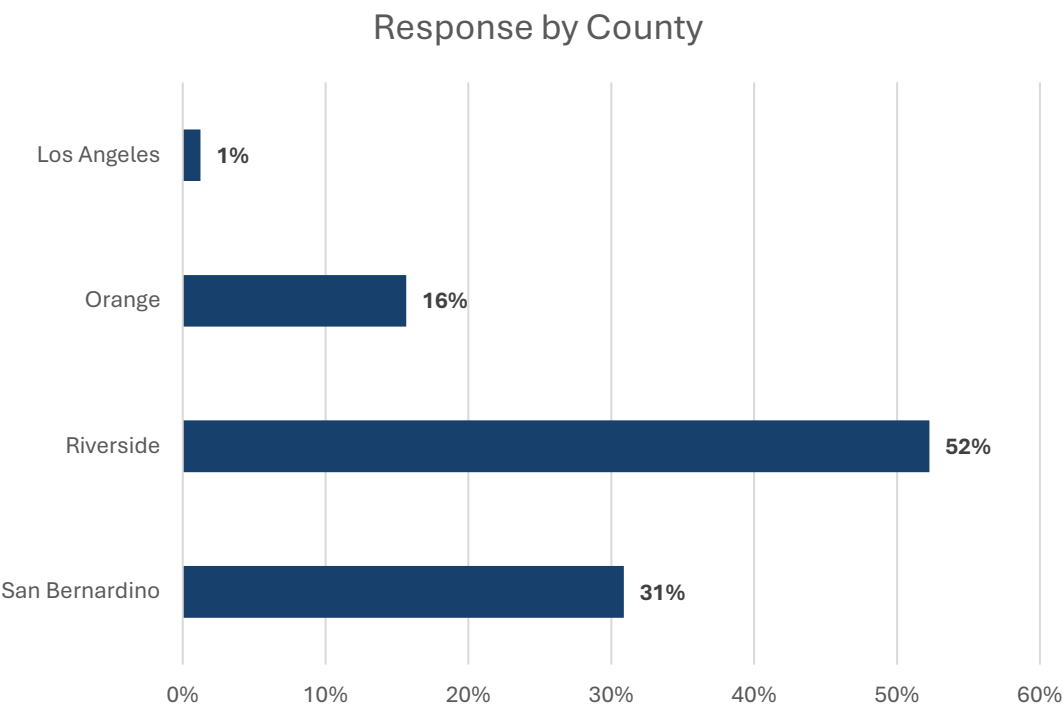
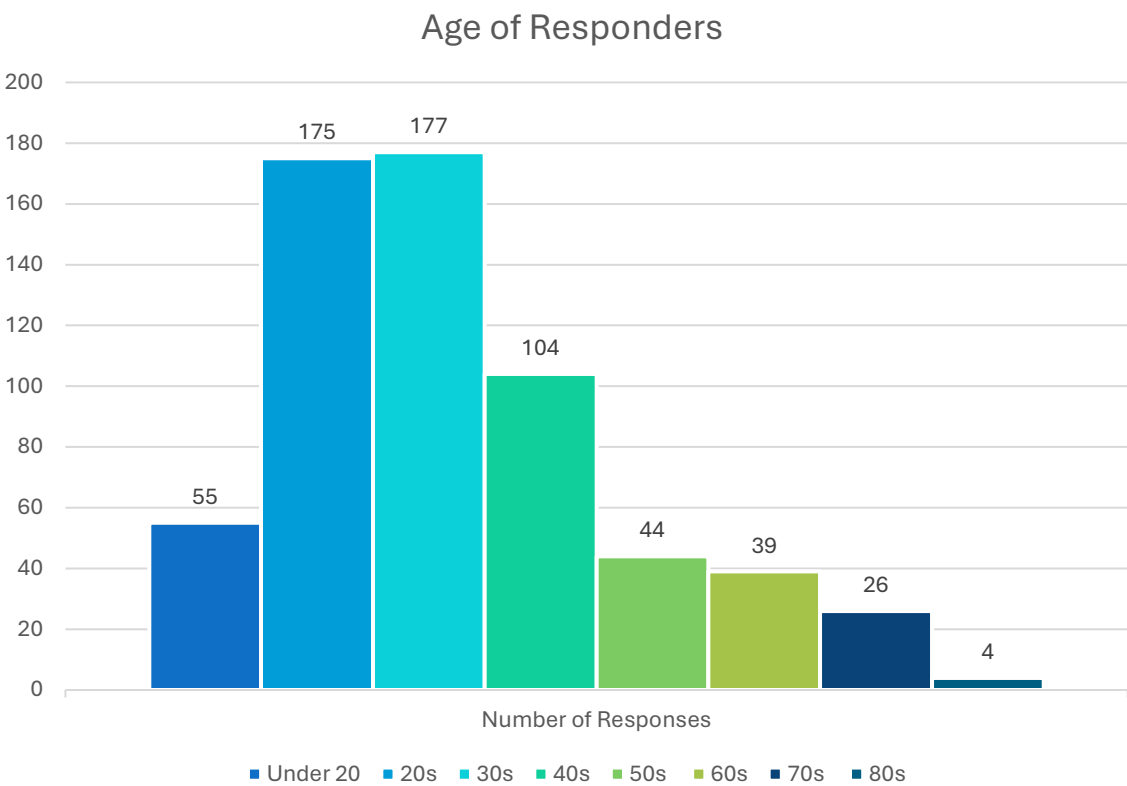
Community Survey Responses

***As of March 2026**



Community Survey Demographics

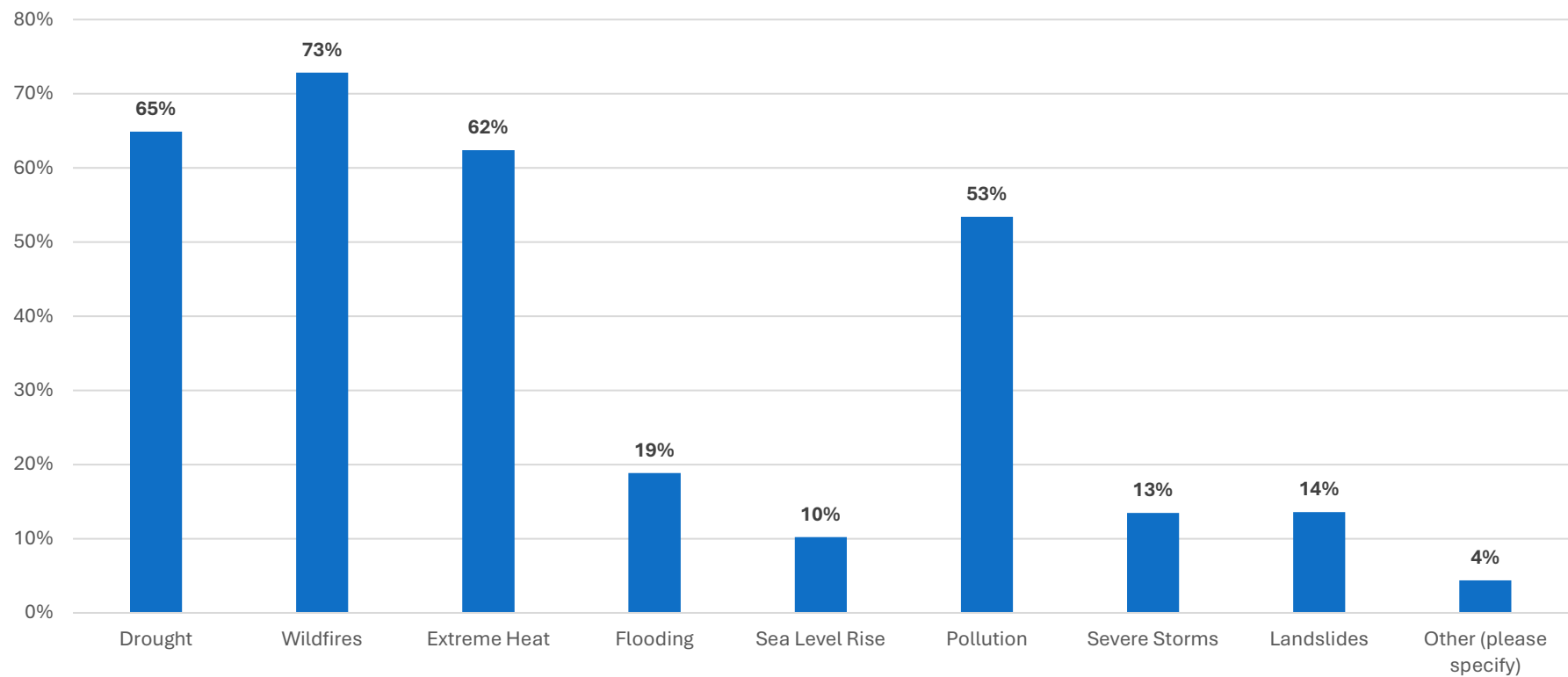
*As of April 27, 2026



Community Survey Responses

*As of April 27, 2026

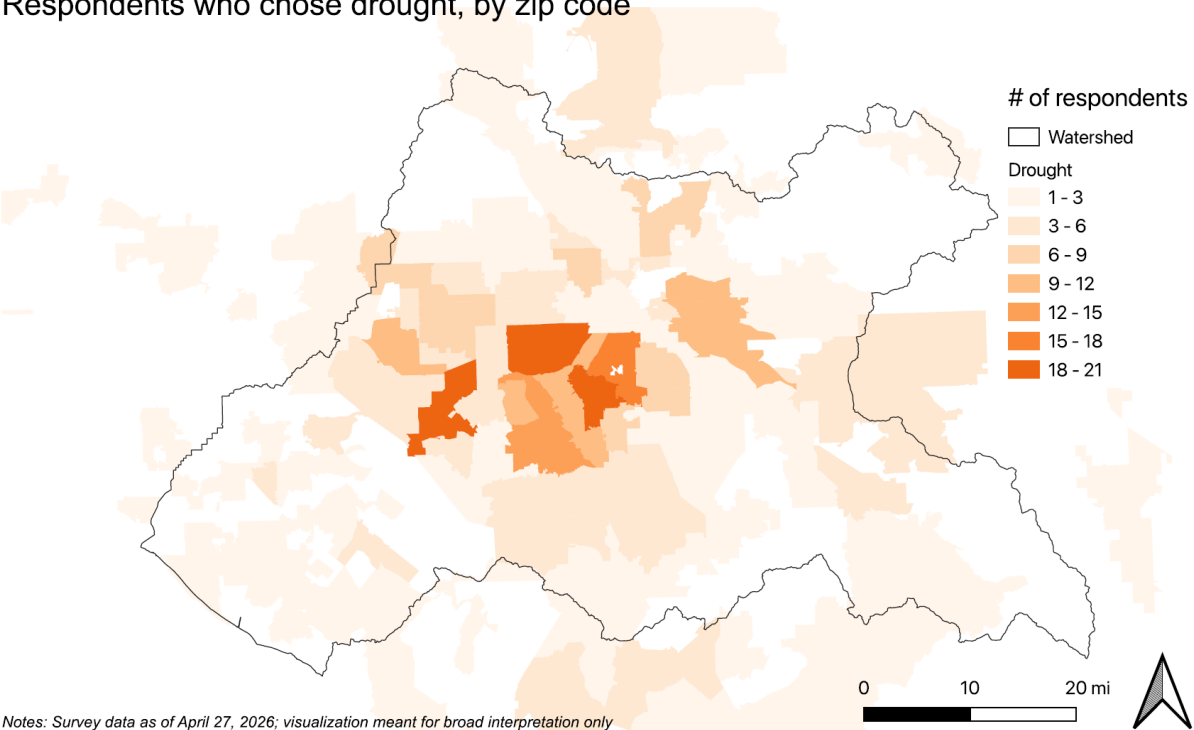
What climate hazards are most concerning to you in your community? (Select all that apply)



Community Survey Responses

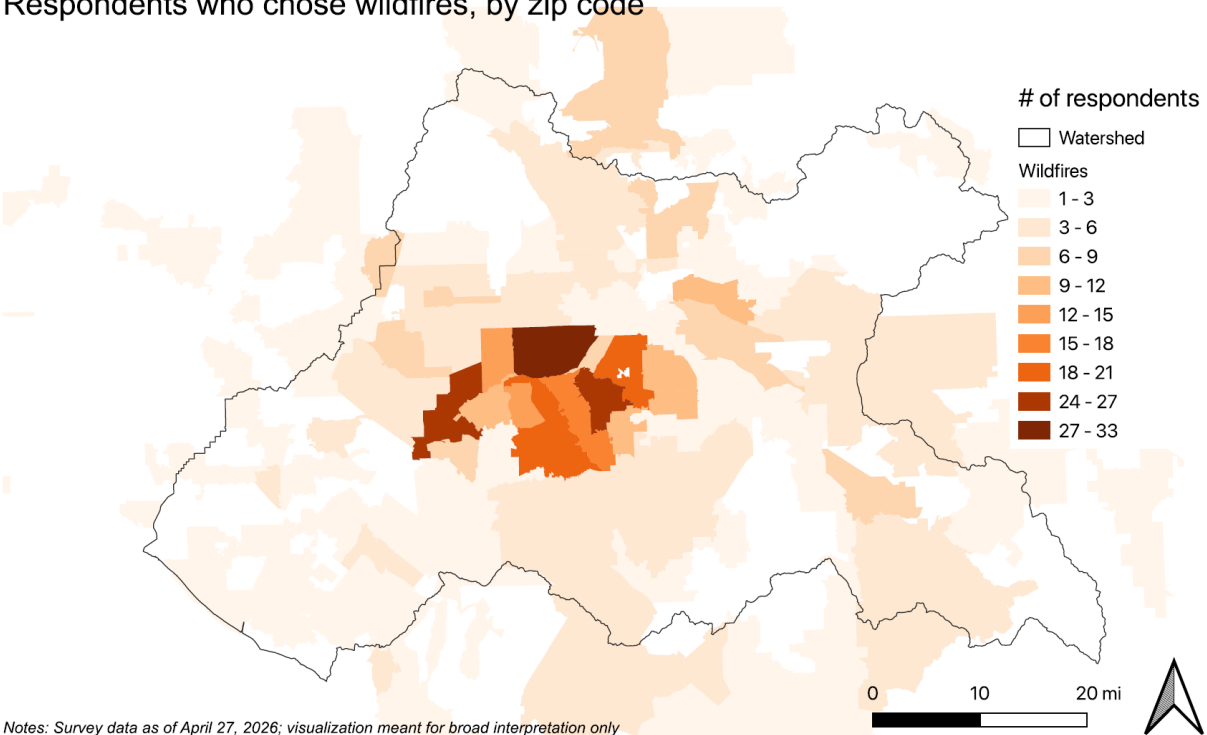
ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose drought, by zip code



ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose wildfires, by zip code

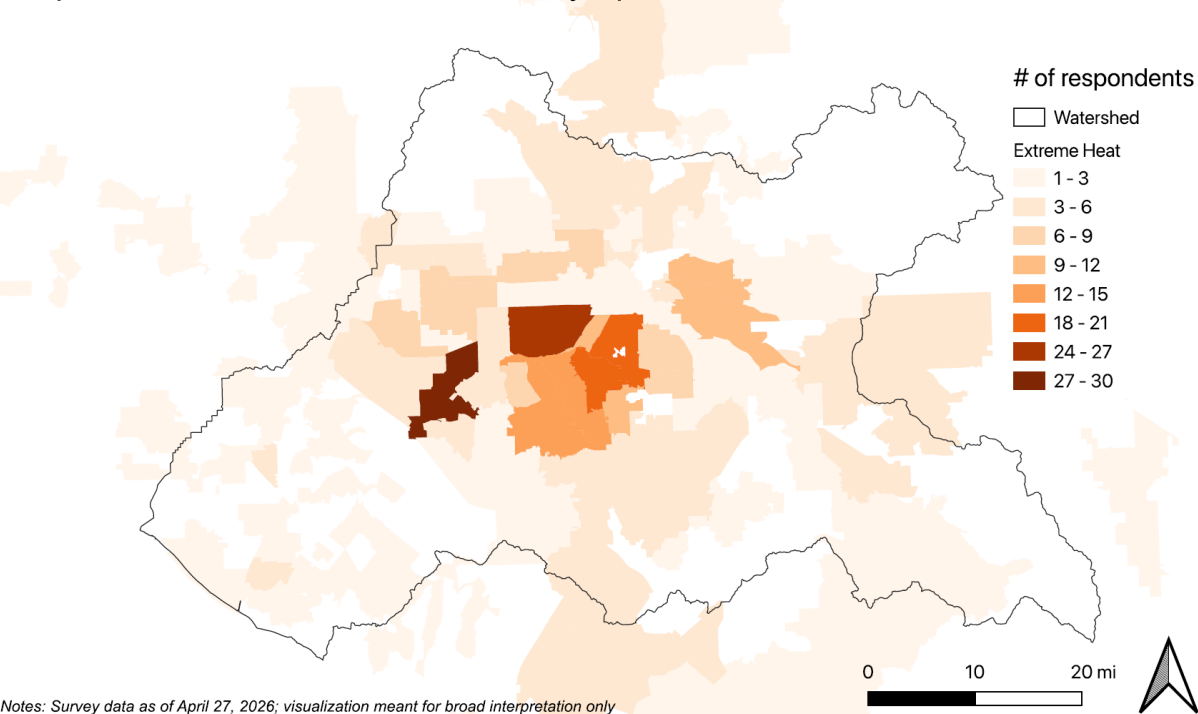


***As of April 27, 2026**

Community Survey Responses

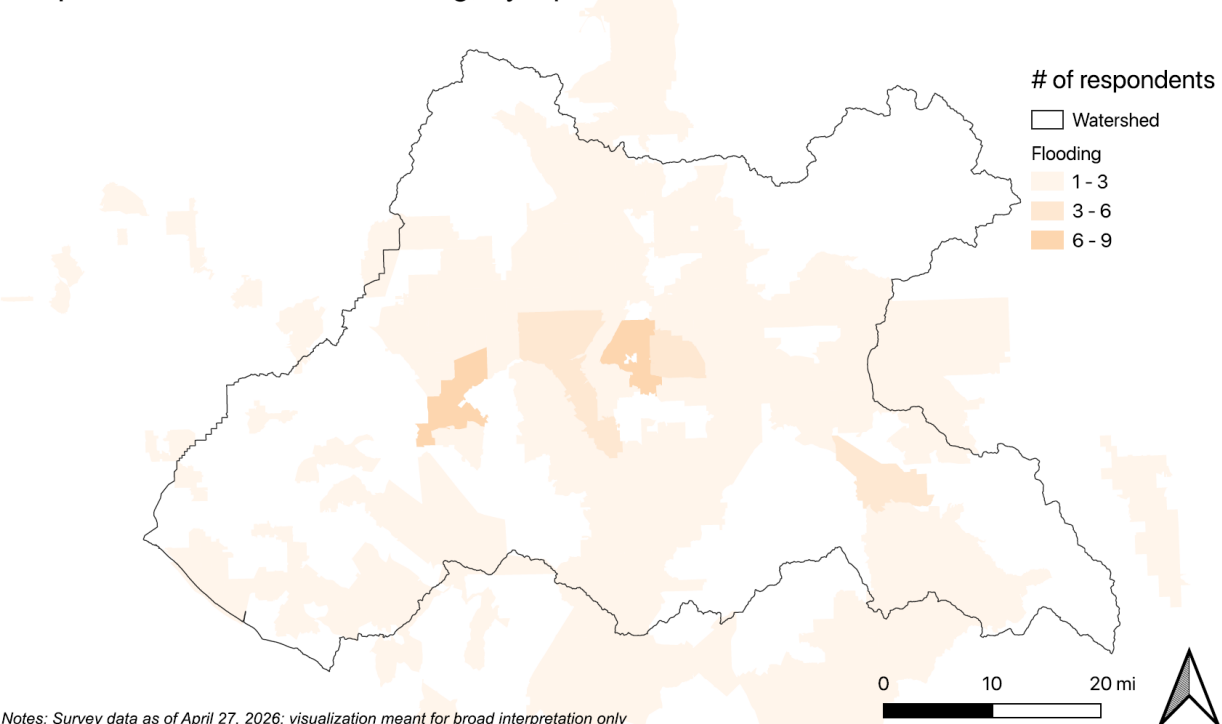
ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose extreme heat, by zip code



ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose flooding, by zip code

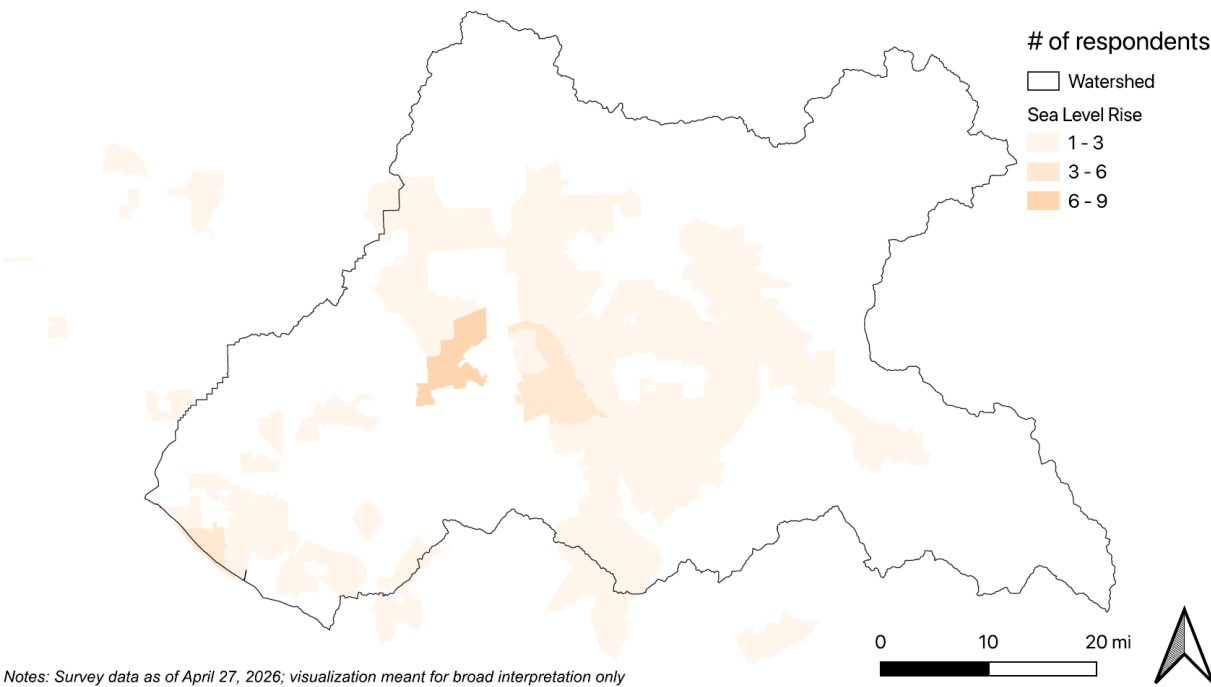


***As of April 27, 2026**

Community Survey Responses

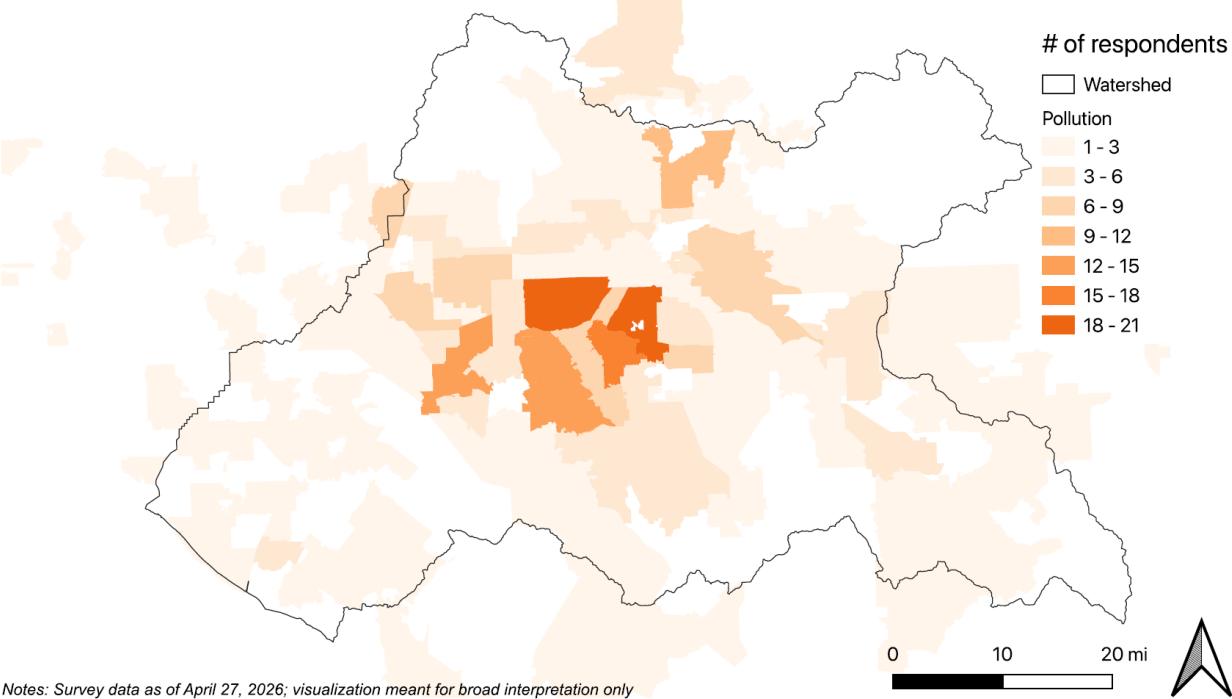
ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose sea level rise, by zip code



ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose pollution, by zip code

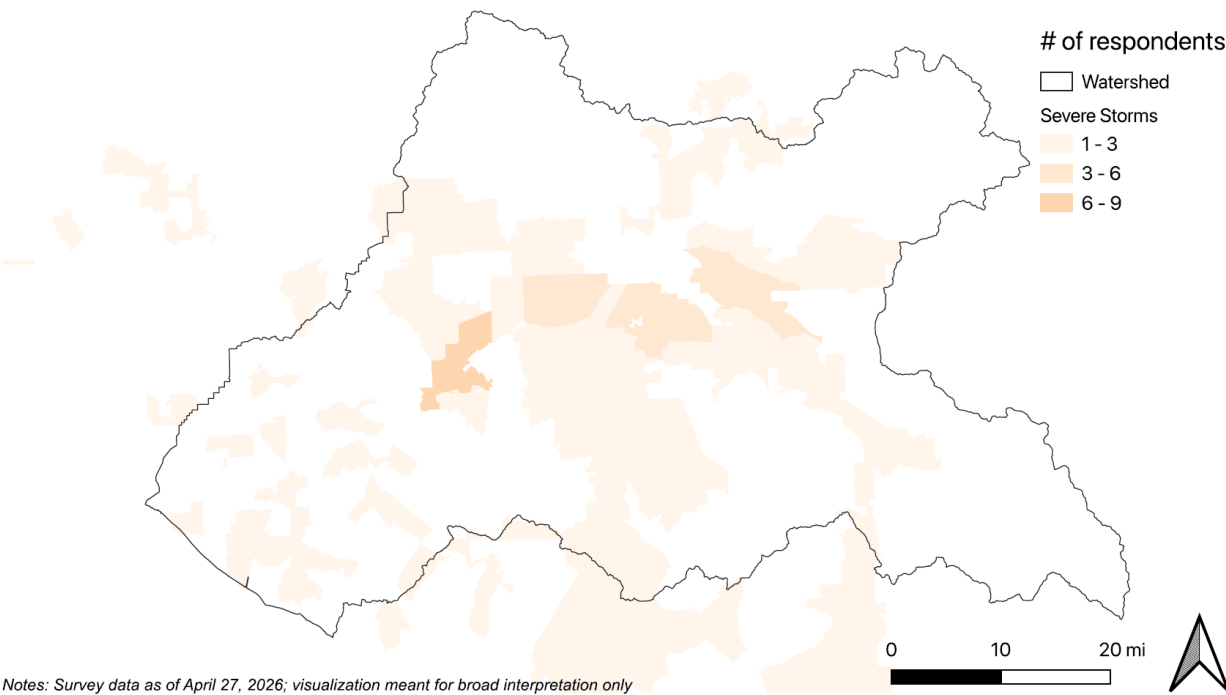


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Community Survey Responses

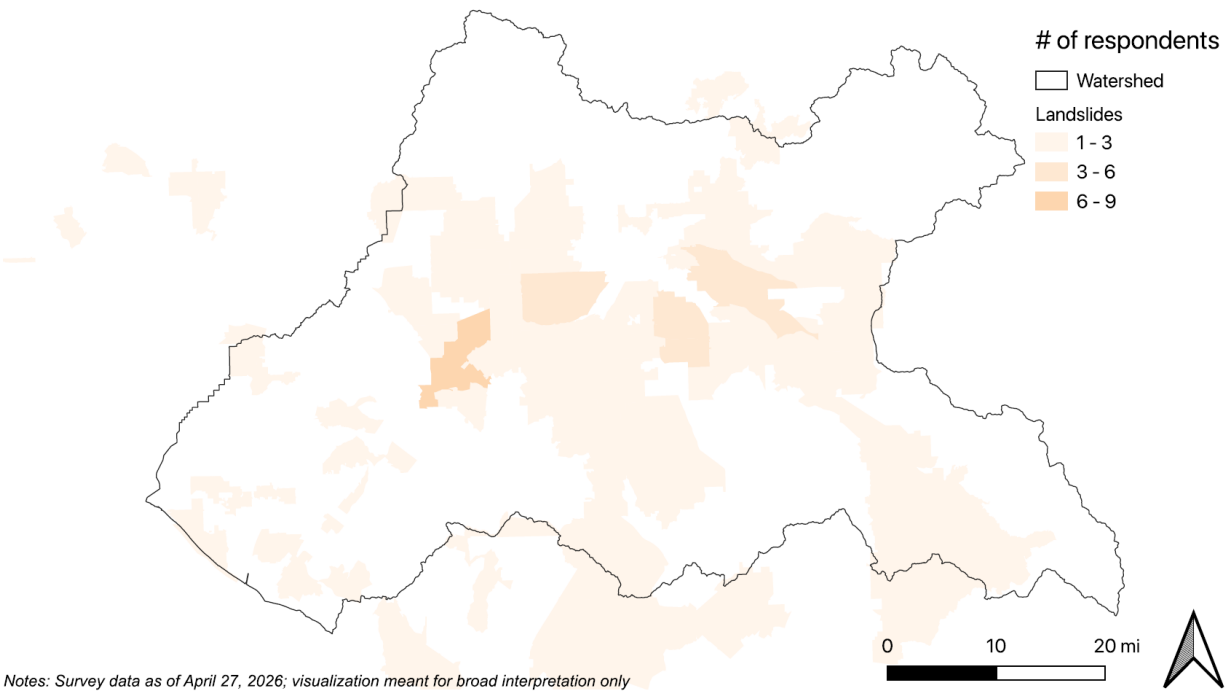
ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose severe storms, by zip code



ICARP Survey Question 1: What climate-related hazards are most concerning in your community?

Respondents who chose landslides, by zip code

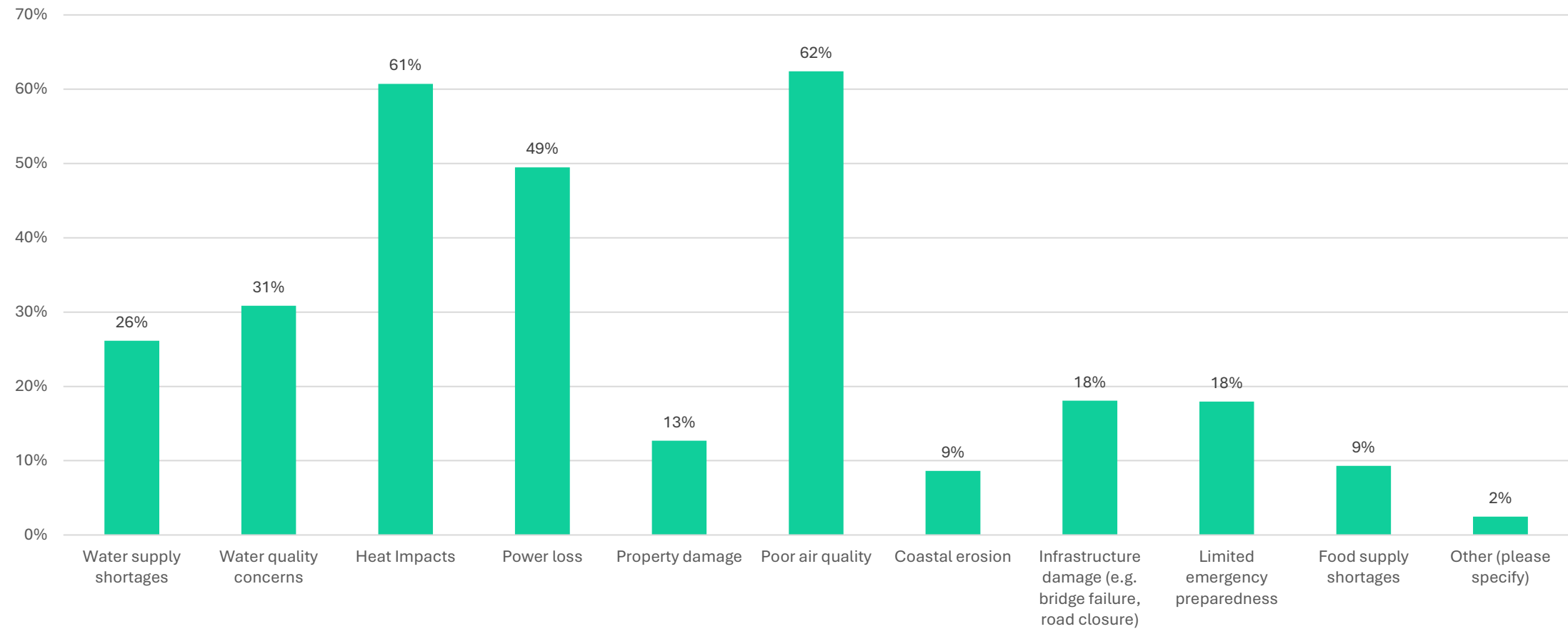


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Community Survey Responses

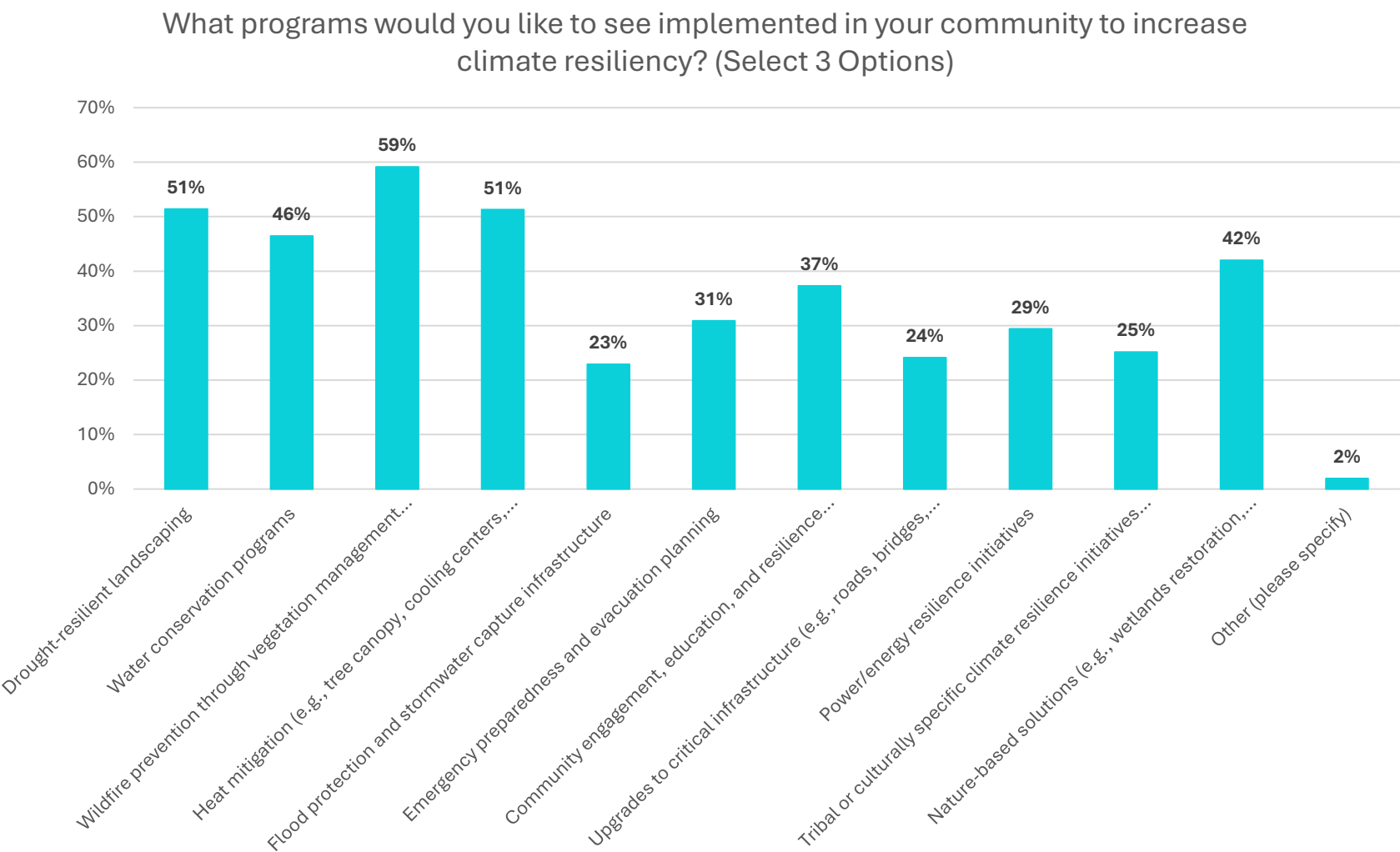
*As of April 27, 2026

What climate-related vulnerabilities have you personally experienced in your community?
(Select all that apply)



Community Survey Responses

*As of April 27, 2026



Coming Up

**Continued Community
Engagement through Fall 2026**

CAP Meeting in June 2026

**Next OWOW SC Meeting
Content:**

- Overview of Climate Hazards Analysis
- Overview of Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Questions?

Haley Gohari

Watershed Manager

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