



Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Sacramento Update

September 15, 2026

Michael Boccadoro &
Beth Olhasso

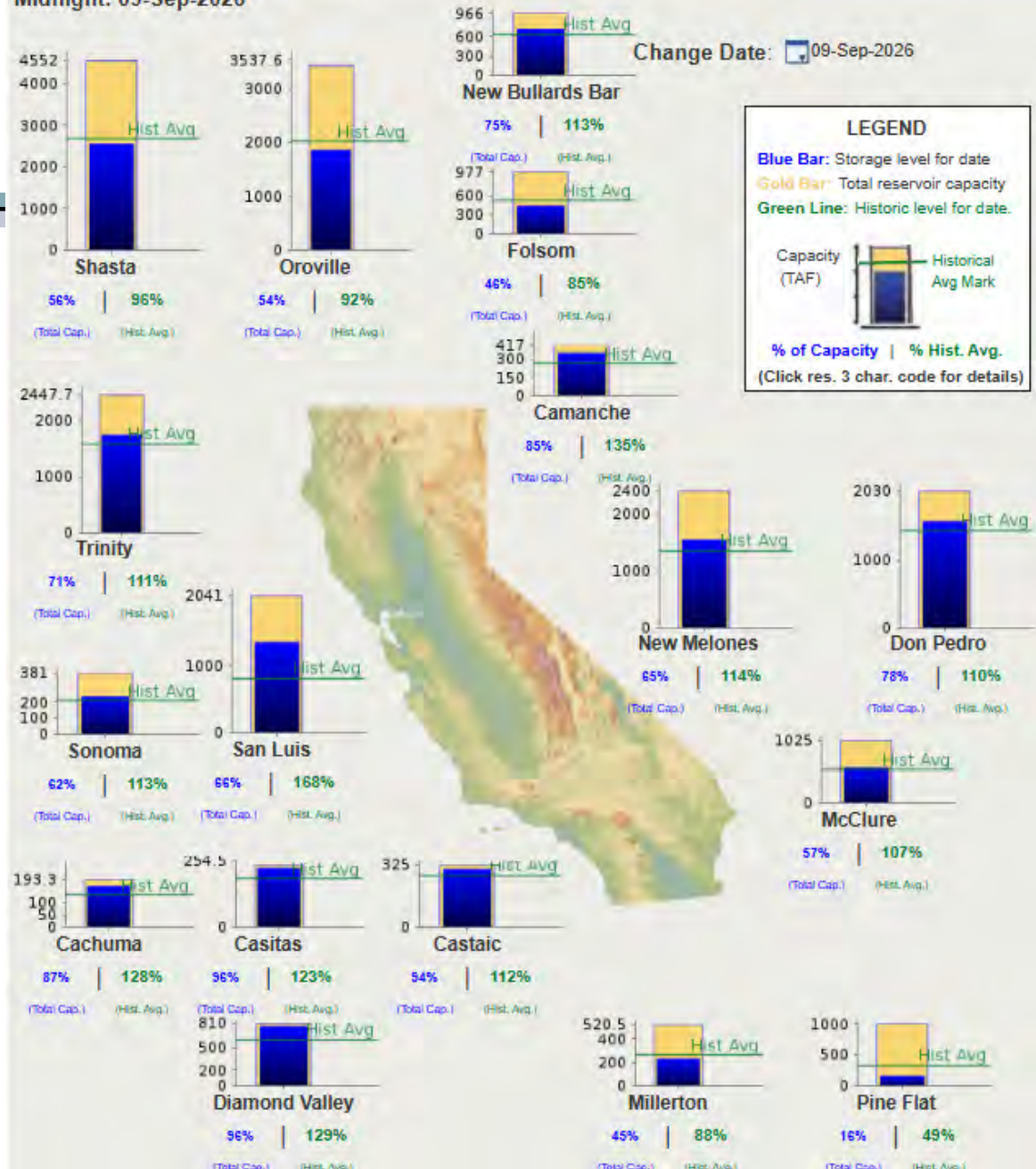


West Coast Advisors
Strategic Public Affairs

Drought/ Water Supply Update

CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS:09-SEP-2026

Midnight: 09-Sep-2026



End-of-Session September 1-- Highlights

- 
- AI & Affordability Top Issues
 - Wildfire Liability Package Failed
 - Proposition 4
 - ➔ \$30M for State Water Project Canals
 - ➔ \$30M for SWP Delta Levees; \$75M for Sac-San Joaquin Levees
 - ➔ \$263M for water quality and safe drinking water
 - ➔ \$100M for water recycling
 - ➔ \$50M for regional watershed and drought resilience
 - ➔ \$47.7M for multiple benefit urban stormwater
 - Other Budget: \$25 million for Healthy Rivers & Landscapes
 - 900 bills on the Governor's Desk- has until 9/30 to act on all bills.

Legislative Update- Hot Bills

- State Water Contractors:

- SB 872 (McNerney): Funding for subsidence and Delta levees
- AB 2215 (Calderon): SWP water rights extension
- SB 952 (Laird): SWP zero-carbon targets

- Golden Mussels:

- AB 1894 (Rubio): SWP water recharge
- SB 2032 (Ransom): BMPs for GM control
- AB 1772 (Papan): Inspection protocol

- Advanced Clean Fleets:

- AB 1436 (Avila Farias): ACF regulations

Legislative Update- More Hot Bills

- 
- AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry): Groundwater Recharge
 - SB 1001 (Archuletta): IDs for emergency response
 - AB 2777 (Comm. on Env Safety & Toxic Materials): SRF interest rates
 - SB 1085 (Durazo) Water Supply Planning
 - Rate Assistance:
 - ➔ SB 1125 (Menjivar): LIRA
 - ➔ AB 2739 (Soria): Stabilization Fund

Regulatory Update

■ Bay Delta Plan Update

■ Advanced Clean Fleets

■ SWRCB Plans and Policies Update

Table 1: State Plans and Policies Work Plan Summary

Plan or Policy	Current Project	Future Project	No Projects Identified
Antidegradation Policy		✓	
Bay-Delta Plan	✓		
Cannabis Cultivation Policy		✓	
Compliance Schedule Policy		✓	
Consolidated Cleanup Plan		✓	
Dredge or Fill Procedures		✓	
Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan		✓	
Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy			✓
Guidance for Toxic Hot Spot Policy		✓	
Impaired Waters Policy		✓	
Investigation and Cleanup and Abatement of Dischargers under Water Code 13304		✓	
ISWEBE Plan	✓	✓	
Listing Policy		✓	
Municipal Solid Waste Policy			✓
NPS Implementation and Enforcement Policy		✓	
North Coast Instream Flow Policy			✓
Ocean Plan	✓	✓	
OTC Policy for Coastal and Estuarine Waters		✓	
OTC Policy for Inland Waters		✓	
Policy to Support Development of Objectives for Copper and Zinc	✓		
Pollutant Policy Document for the Bay-Delta		✓	
Recycled Water Policy	✓		
Shredder Waste Policy		✓	
Sources of Drinking Water Policy			✓
State Implementation Policy		✓	
State Policy for Water Quality Control		✓	
State Policy for Water Quality Control: Toxicity Provisions		✓	
Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy		✓	
Thermal Plan			✓
Tribal Beneficial Use Designations and Supporting Efforts	✓		
Urban and Industrial Stormwater Infiltration Policy	✓		
UST Low-Threat Closure Policy		✓	
UST Pilot Program Policy		✓	
Water Reclamation Policy		✓	

Coming Up: Administration in Transition

- 
- Leadership/Appointees
 - ➔ Two SWRCB Members
 - ➔ Cabinet
 - Key Issues for new Governor:
 - ➔ Affordability
 - ➔ Health Care
 - ➔ Budget/Spending
 - ➔ Wildfire Liability

Thank You



Questions?

Water-Energy Community Action Network (WE CAN) Phase 3: Project Close Out Report

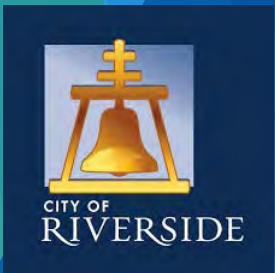
Commission Meeting
September 15, 2026 | Item No. 7.A
Haley Gohari
Watershed Manager



California
**Department of
Conservation**



CALIFORNIA
**STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL**

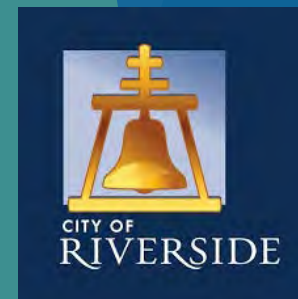


Staff Recommendation

- ▶ Authorize the General Manager to transfer \$68,369.60 from General Fund (100) to WECAN Fund (392) to cover unreimbursable SAWPA indirect costs and complete financial closeout of the WECAN Phase 3 project.



Transformative Climate Communities Program: Eastside Climate Collaborative



Urban Greening



Solar



Water Conservation



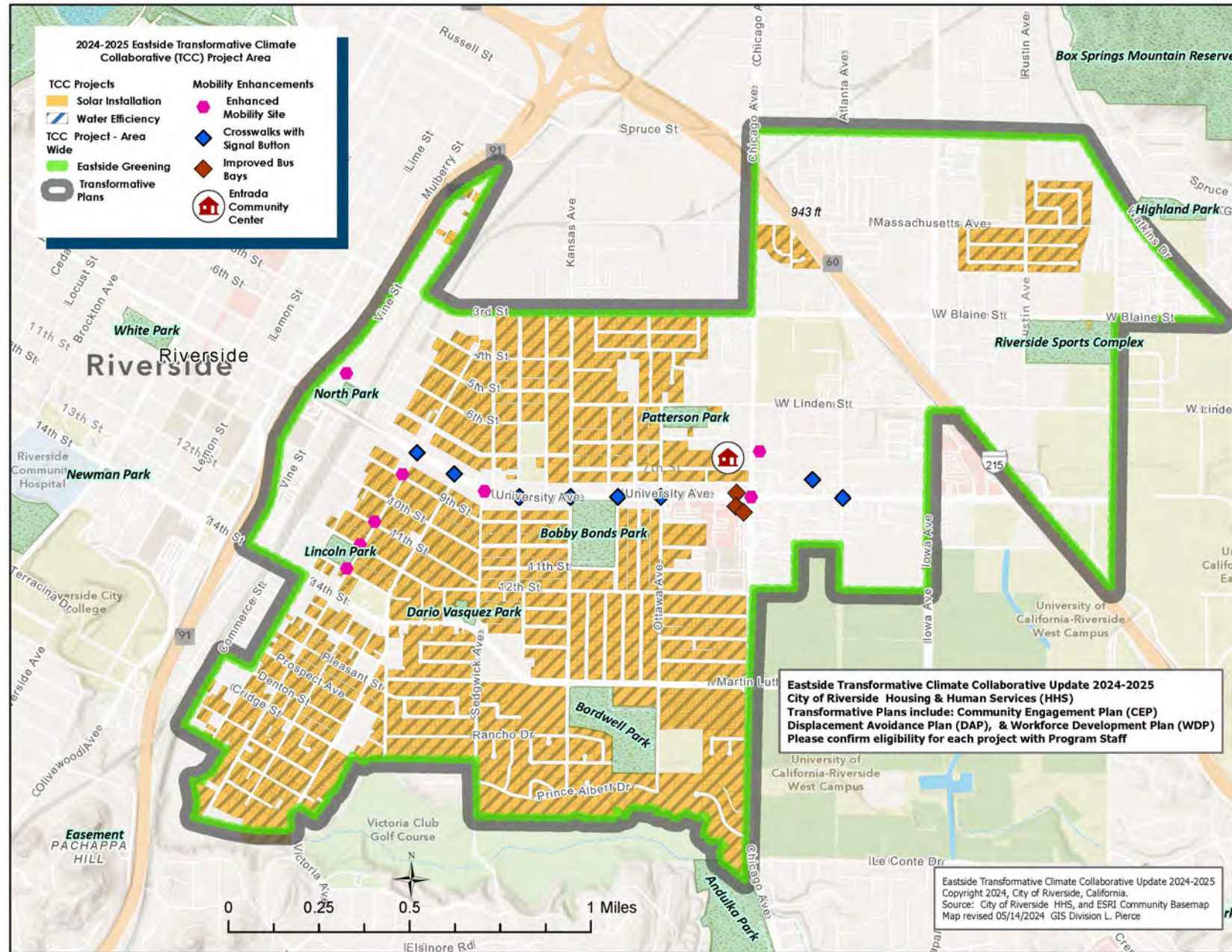
Transit Options



Housing: 7th and Chicago Entrada Project



Project Area – Riverside (Eastside)



Program Eligibility Requirements for Residents



Project Area



Income Requirement



Proof of Home Ownership or
Landlord Written Approval



Submit Application

Three Easy Steps!

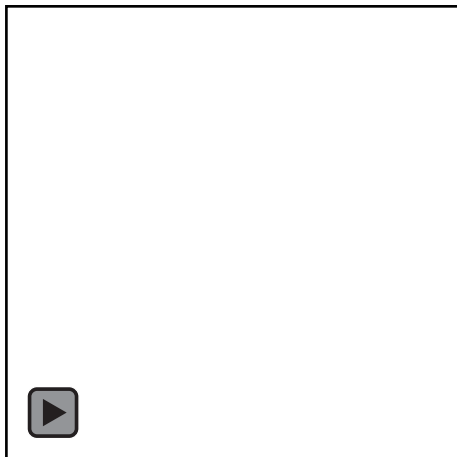
Step 1: Site Assessment



Step 2: Removal and Installation



Step 3: Follow-up to Ensure Plant Growth



Project Data

Fiscal Year	Number of Projects	Total Number of Sq Ft Replaced
2022-23	2	3,945
2023-24	6	10,276
2024-25	5	6,402
2025-26	3	2,835
Total	16	23,458



- ▶ SAWPA completed the removal and replacement of **23,458 square feet** of lawn turf in this program.

Goals of the Program



- ▶ Water Savings Per Sq. Ft. of Lawn Replaced:
44 gallons of water per YEAR!
- ▶ One project (up to 2500 square feet) could save up to:
110,000 GALLONS per YEAR!
- ▶ 23,458 sq. ft. removed from the Eastside neighborhood
results in a total water savings of:
1,032,152 gallons per year

Challenges that Impacted Budget

- ▶ Public Health Emergency, COVID-19 Pandemic (delays, implementation challenges, and large increases in costs due to inflation)
- ▶ Three Amendments Executed, Deadline for Construction extended from 2024 through 2026 to accomplish project goals.
 - ▶ Budget Adjustments for Project Management (for extensions), Implementation based on Contractor Cost Changes
 - ▶ Original Project Boundary Map: Updated and increased from 1,800 to 2,800 eligible single-family homes
 - ▶ Strict Requirements for Eligibility to Participate: Added Renter Eligibility in March 2023
- ▶ Indirect Costs Capped

Project Closeout Funding

- ▶ TCC grant reimbursement for indirect costs was limited by the grant's 8% cap and proportional reimbursement requirements.
- ▶ **SAWPA indirect costs incurred: \$107,439.07**
- ▶ **Grant reimbursement available: \$39,069.47**
- ▶ **Unreimbursable balance: \$68,369.60**
- ▶ General Fund transfer is required to complete financial closeout.

Staff Recommendation

- ▶ Authorize the General Manager to transfer \$68,369.60 from General Fund (100) to WECAN Fund (392) to cover unreimbursable SAWPA indirect costs and complete financial closeout of the WECAN Phase 3 project.



Any Questions?





Thank You!

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SAWPA

Proposition 4: Invasive Species Grant Opportunity and Regional Arundo Coordination Initiative

Erika Beyer

September 15, 2026

Commission Meeting

Introduction

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

The situation

- Arundo donax is established throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed
- Agencies are treating it, but largely project by project
- Proposition 4 could fund regional coordination

TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- Inform the Commission of an emerging funding opportunity
- Share regional stakeholder and General Manager feedback
- Discuss whether regional coordination is an appropriate role for SAWPA
- Obtain Commission direction before continuing development

No commitments or new Task Force are being proposed today.

Why Are We Discussing This?

CONDITIONS ACROSS THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED

Significant Arundo work is already occurring

Information is fragmented across agencies

Funding is episodic and project-driven

Long-term maintenance is difficult to sustain

Reinfestation crosses jurisdictional boundaries

Clear opportunities exist for regional coordination

WHY THE PROBLEM PERSISTS

Treatment occurs reach by reach



Untreated stands remain upstream



Seed and fragments move downstream



Treated areas become reinfested

Partners include water agencies, counties, cities, NGOs, conservation districts, and habitat and flood programs.

Regional Stakeholder Engagement

JULY 21, 2026 COORDINATION MEETING

≈27

unique participants

IDENTIFIABLE FROM THE ATTENDANCE RECORD

- SAWPA
- Riverside County Parks
- Riverside County Flood Control
- Orange County Public Works
- City of Eastvale
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
- Inland Empire Community Foundation
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- *Additional public agencies, conservation organizations, technical specialists, and regional partners*

PARTICIPANTS BROUGHT EXPERIENCE IN

- Arundo removal and retreatment
- Habitat restoration and mitigation
- Flood and channel management
- Land and open-space management
- Regulatory compliance and permitting
- GIS, monitoring, and data management
- Grant-funded implementation
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination

Key takeaway The meeting brought together a broad cross-section of organizations already involved in invasive-species management and related watershed activities, with sustained interest in continued regional coordination.

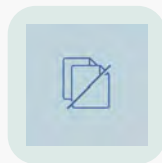
Stakeholder Themes



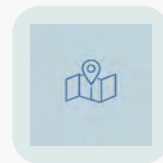
Build on existing work



Strong interest in collaboration



Avoid duplication of effort



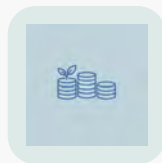
Shared GIS and monitoring



Regional prioritization



Long-term maintenance



Sustainable funding



Coordination across ownership boundaries

The discussion focused on improving regional coordination rather than creating another implementation program.

We Are Not Starting From Scratch

EXISTING CAPACITY AND A COMPLEMENTARY ROLE

Existing Regional Resources

- Existing Arundo removal projects
- GIS datasets and mapping
- Monitoring programs
- Permitting experience
- Habitat restoration projects
- NGO implementation capacity
- Team Arundo — Orange County

Potential SAWPA Role

- Coordinate across jurisdictions
- Compile existing information
- Support regional prioritization
- Facilitate partnerships
- Develop shared regional tools
- Support future funding pursuit

Regional Coordination Framework

WHAT COULD PROPOSITION 4 FUND?

Watershed GIS
inventory

Treatment history

Existing project
inventory

Monitoring
framework

Prioritization
methodology

Gap analysis

Regional funding
strategy

Governance
recommendations

Implementation
roadmap

Shared data
repository

These are planning, data, and coordination products — not removal work, new regulatory obligations, or a new implementation program.

Why SAWPA?

EXISTING WATERSHED CAPABILITIES

Regional Leadership

- Watershed-wide perspective
- Neutral convener
- Existing agency partnerships

Technical Support

- GIS and mapping
- Monitoring and data management
- Regional planning capacity

Funding Coordination

- Grant development
- Multi-agency project coordination
- Regional funding strategy

The intent is to coordinate rather than replace existing member agency programs.

What We Are NOT Proposing

SCOPE BOUNDARIES

NOT PROPOSED

- SAWPA performing Arundo removal
- Replacing member agency programs
- Assuming maintenance obligations
- Creating another regulatory program
- Duplicating existing efforts

BEING EXPLORED

- Improving regional coordination
- Improving data sharing
- Identifying regional gaps
- Developing shared regional tools
- Positioning the watershed for funding

General Manager Input

FEEDBACK RECEIVED PRIOR TO COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

What we asked

- Is regional coordination an appropriate SAWPA role?
- Does it complement existing agency programs?
- Should staff continue developing the concept?

WHAT WE HEARD

- General Managers were in agreeance that this effort would be beneficial to the watershed
- General concerns: LOE for SAWPA and potentially expanding it to other invasives
- Direction-continue development

Stakeholder Engagement Process

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AND WHAT COMES NEXT

1

Previous Arundo Workgroup

Earlier regional coordination effort

2

Regional stakeholder meeting

Convened July 21, 2026

3

Planning Managers notified

No comments received to date

4

Stakeholder survey

Currently being finalized

5

Refine the concept

Informed by survey results

6

Evaluate grant eligibility

Once guidelines are released

8

General Manager Input

Received and summarized

7

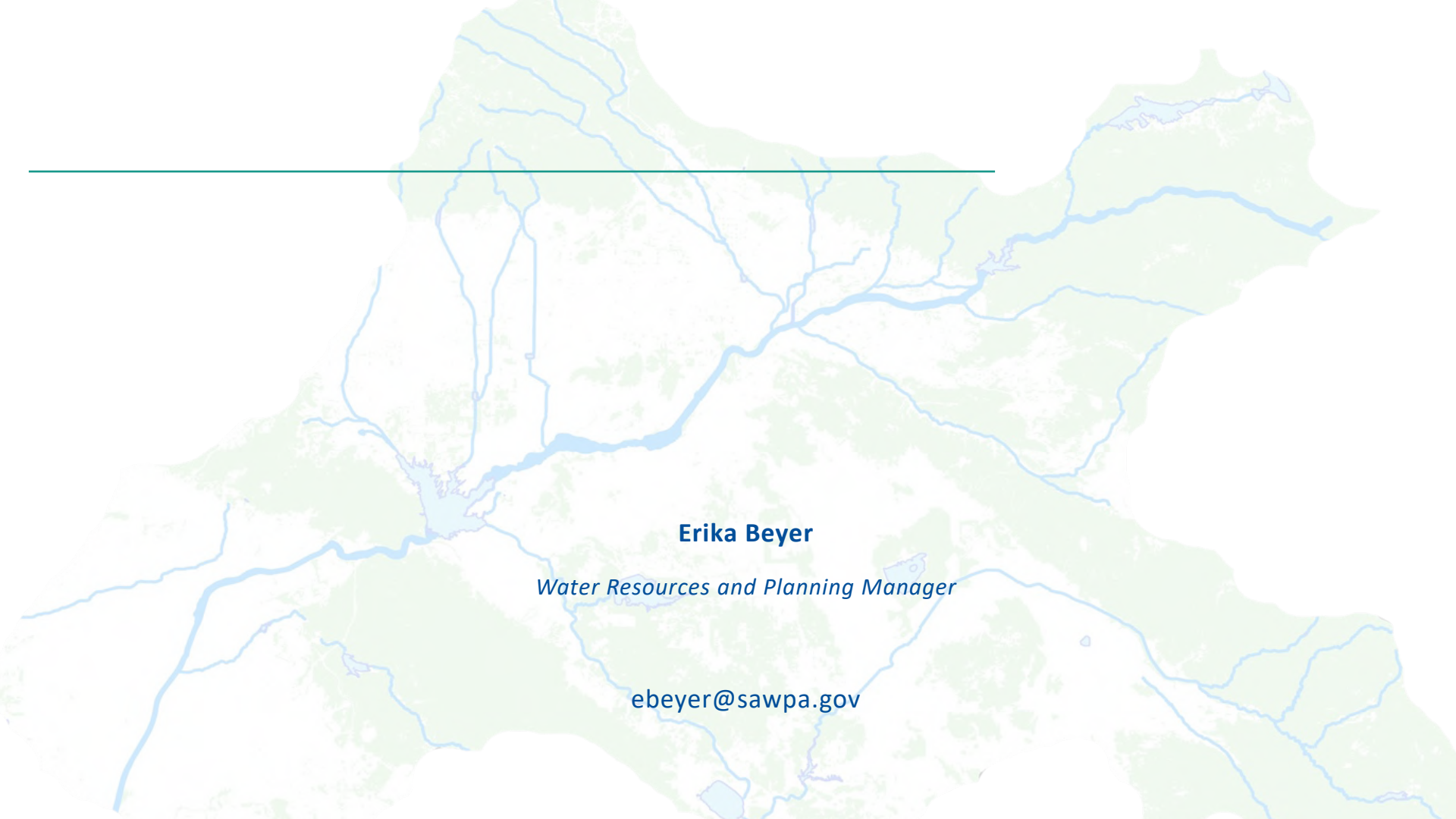
Commission Direction

Today

Recommendation

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION

- 1 Affirm that regional invasive species coordination is an appropriate role for SAWPA.
- 2 Direct staff to continue refining the concept, informed by General Manager input and the stakeholder survey.
- 3 Direct staff to evaluate Proposition 4 eligibility once grant guidelines are released.
- 4 Return to the Commission with a refined concept before any funding application is submitted.



Erika Beyer

Water Resources and Planning Manager

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SARCCUP Ribbon Cutting Event

Emily Fuentes

September 15, 2026

Commission Meeting

SARCCUP Ribbon Cutting Event

As the SARCCUP project has reached completion, a ribbon-cutting event has been set for **November 9th**. The event aims to celebrate this first-of-its-kind, watershed-scale collaboration to enhance water supply resilience and reliability.



Event at a Glance

This event has been presented to the General Managers of each member agency and has been developed in close collaboration with member agency Communications staff. Some key details about the event:

- **Venue:** Riverside Art Museum
- **Food:** Catered light breakfast
- **Time:** November 9th, 2026 from 10am-12pm (Ceremony to start at 11am)



Coordination with Member Agencies

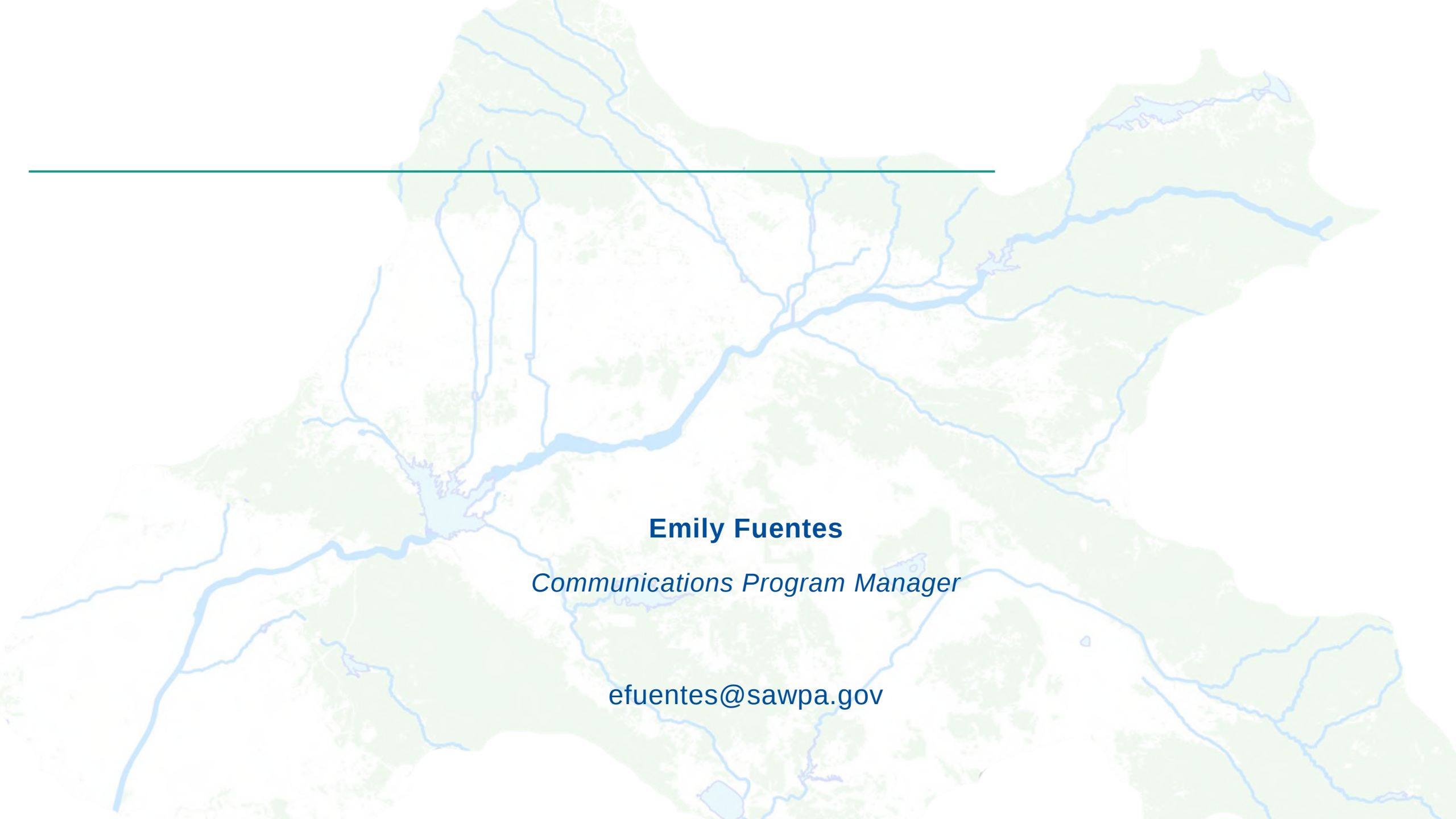
- Western providing video content and coordination
- OCWD providing GWRS water cans
- Presentations to General Managers
- Ongoing logistics meetings with member agency communicators



Next Steps

- Invitation coming this week
- Multimedia transfers and video coordination
- Planning for group press release, media outreach, and joint social media post





Emily Fuentes

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