

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# California Water Plan Update 2028

Wildfire Mitigation Meeting

April 28, 2026



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**Department of Water Resources  
Supervising Engineer**

# California Water Plan – As it is Today

State's Framework for Coordinated Water Planning

## Statewide Strategy

Strategic plan for sustainable and equitable water management

## Collaboration Platform

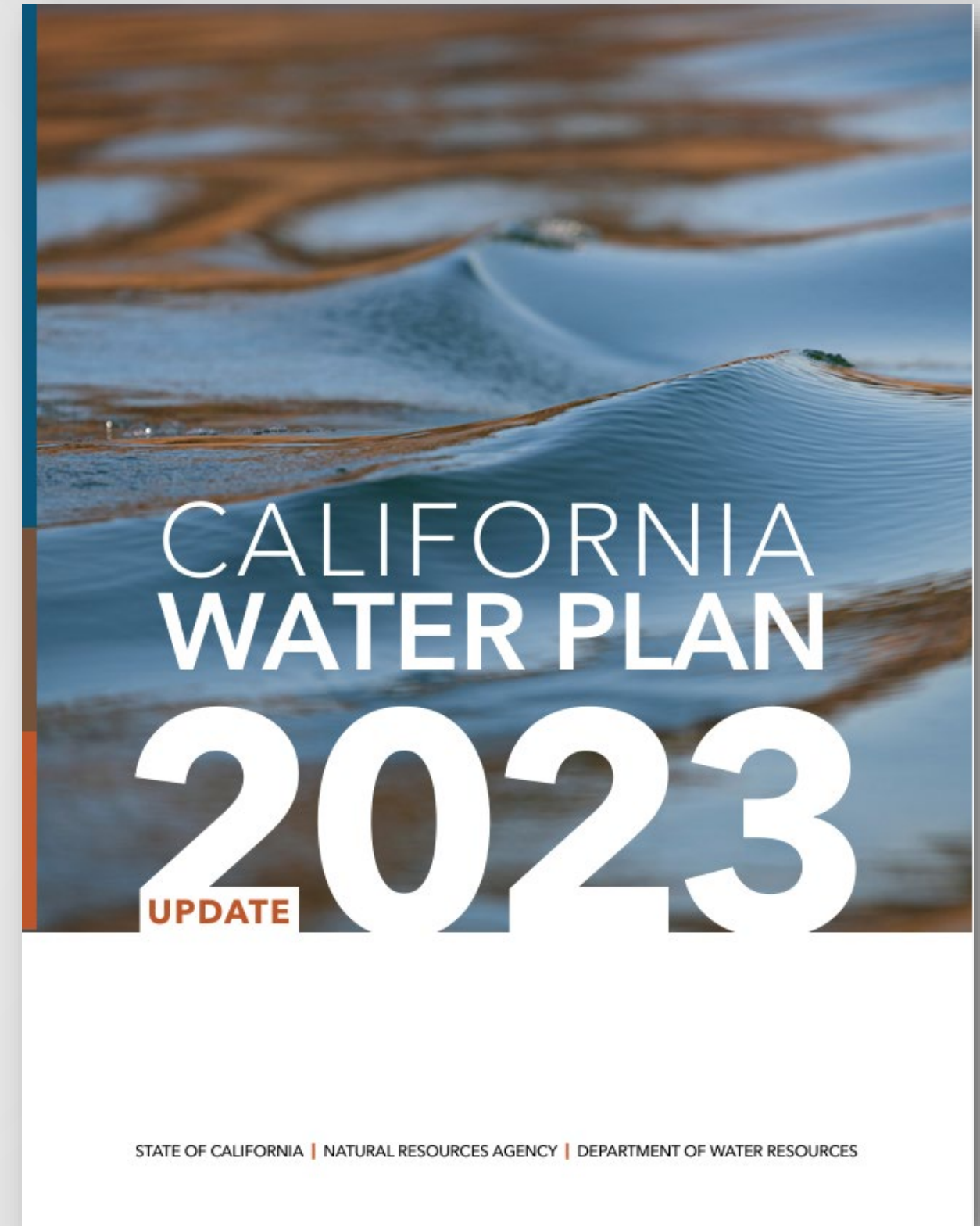
Brings together agencies, Tribes, local leaders, NGOs, academia, and the public

## Trusted Data Foundation

Comprehensive, consistent source of statewide water data and analysis

## Investment Guidance

Informs how, when, and where to invest statewide



# System Under Strain

California's Water System Built for the Past — Not Today's Risks

## CLIMATE EXTREMES

- Increasing temperature, and declining snowpack
- More severe droughts, floods
- Intense atmospheric rivers

## AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Stressed by drought and flood risks
- Disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities

## SHIFTING DEMAND

- Competing for shrinking, less reliable water supplies
- Water uncertainty threatens jobs and competitiveness

## ECOSYSTEM PRESSURES

- Degraded rivers, wetlands, and fisheries
- Reduced biodiversity and climate resilience
- Post-wildfire impacts to water quality

Statewide water planning balances near-term modernization investments against the far greater long-term costs of inaction.



# SB 72: From Passage to Implementation

- Signed by Governor on October 1, 2025; **now enacted and in effect**
- Focus shifts from legislation to **implementation planning**
- Phased implementation began in **2026**
- Integration with **California Water Plan** beginning with Update 2028



# SB 72: Broad, Statewide Support

- 200+ supporting organizations
- Unanimously passed Assembly, Senate
- Three Co-sponsors
  - California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA)
  - California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
  - California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB)
- Support from:
  - Agriculture & environmental groups
  - Business & labor organizations
  - Counties, cities & regional chambers
  - Tribes & tribal organizations
  - Water agencies (municipal & agricultural)



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# Partner Agencies with SB 72 Mandates or Nexus

## Core State Agencies



## Other State & Federal Agencies

- CalFire
  - State conservancies
  - Delta Stewardship Council
  - USACE
  - USBR
  - NOAA
  - USDA – Forest Service
- ... others under consideration*



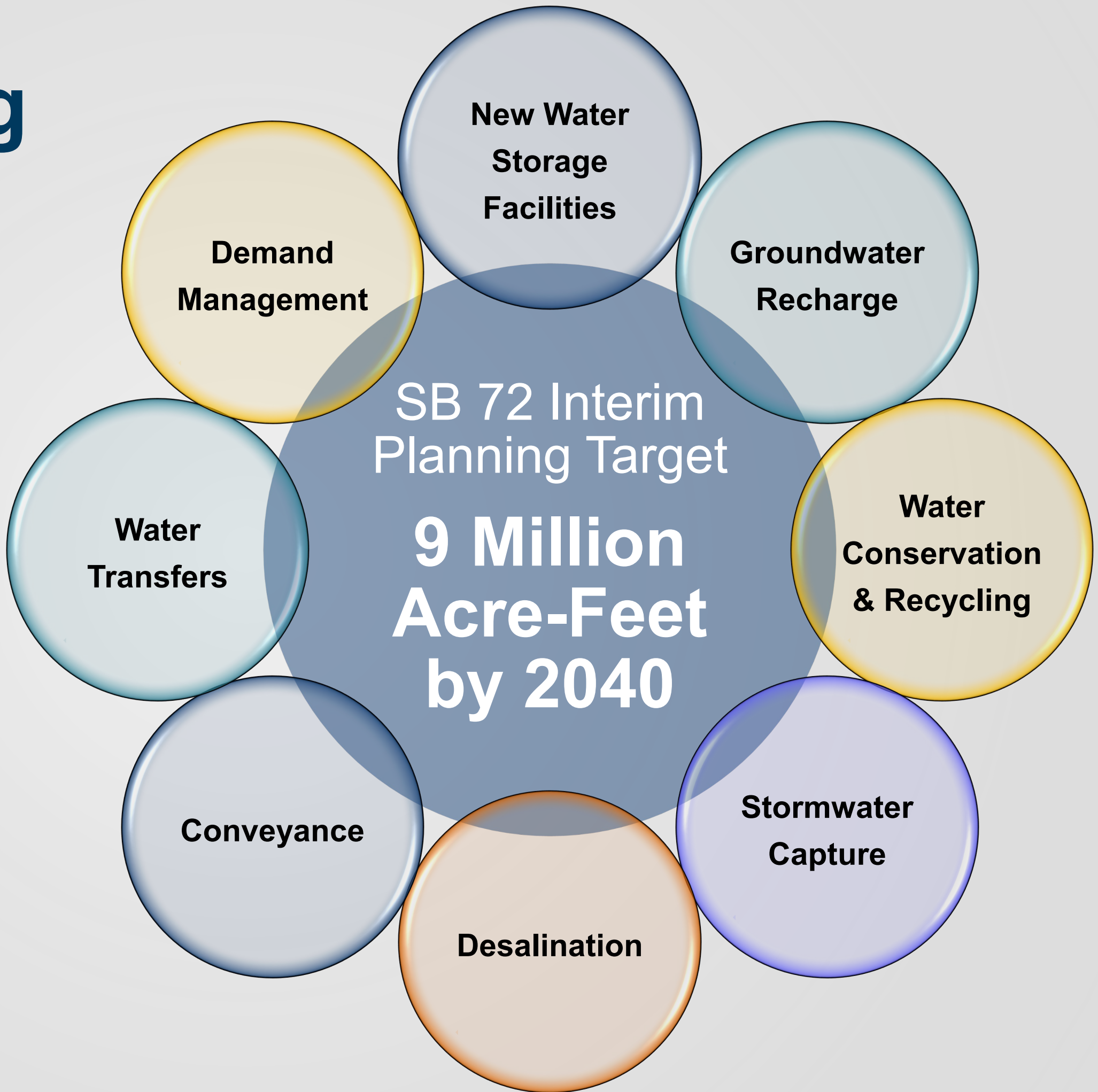
# SB 72: A Modernized California Water Plan

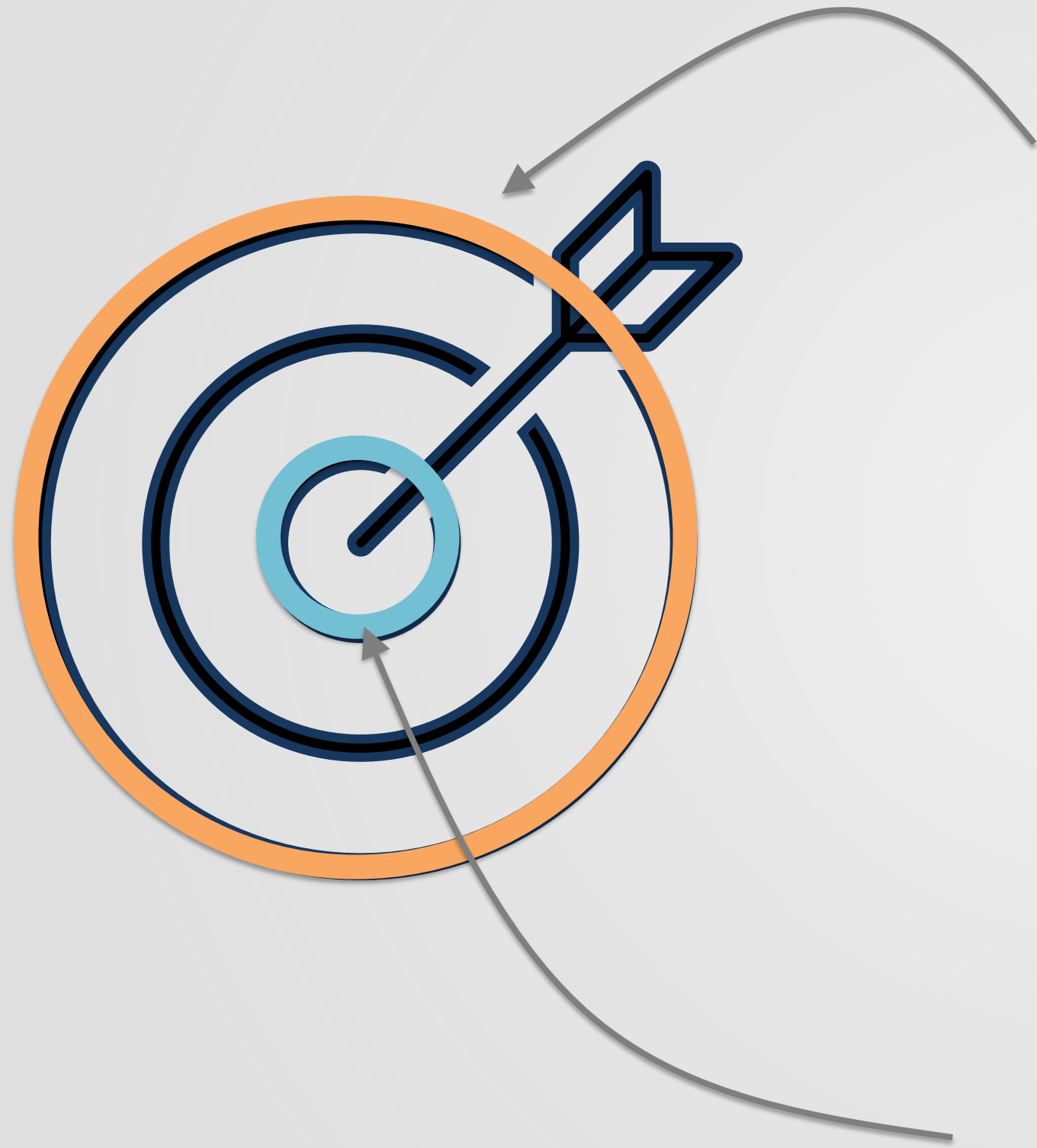
- **Establishes first-ever statewide water supply targets**
  - Water Plan 2028: Interim target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040
  - Water Plan 2033: New, watershed-based targets for 2050
- **Provides actionable direction**
  - moves the Water Plan from advisory guidance to a clear implementation framework
- **Expands coordination and consultation**
  - planning reflects statewide priorities and regional realities



# SB 72: Planning Tools to Achieve the Interim Target

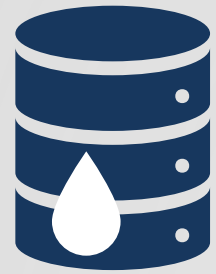
Strategy categories under the California Water Plan





Derived from simplified statewide assumptions, the **9 MAF target** serves as a useful planning approximation as we develop specific, regionally informed **long-term water supply targets.**

# SB 72 Long-term Water Supply Targets (Update 2033)



## DATA

### Water Use & Supply Balances

- Statewide, watershed-scale datasets
- Leverages new data and advanced technology
- Supports statewide planning models and activities

## TARGETS

### Long-Term Water Supply Targets

- Credible, local targets for urban, agriculture, Tribal, recreation, and environment
- Developed at HUC-8 watershed-scale resolution for a range of hydroclimate conditions

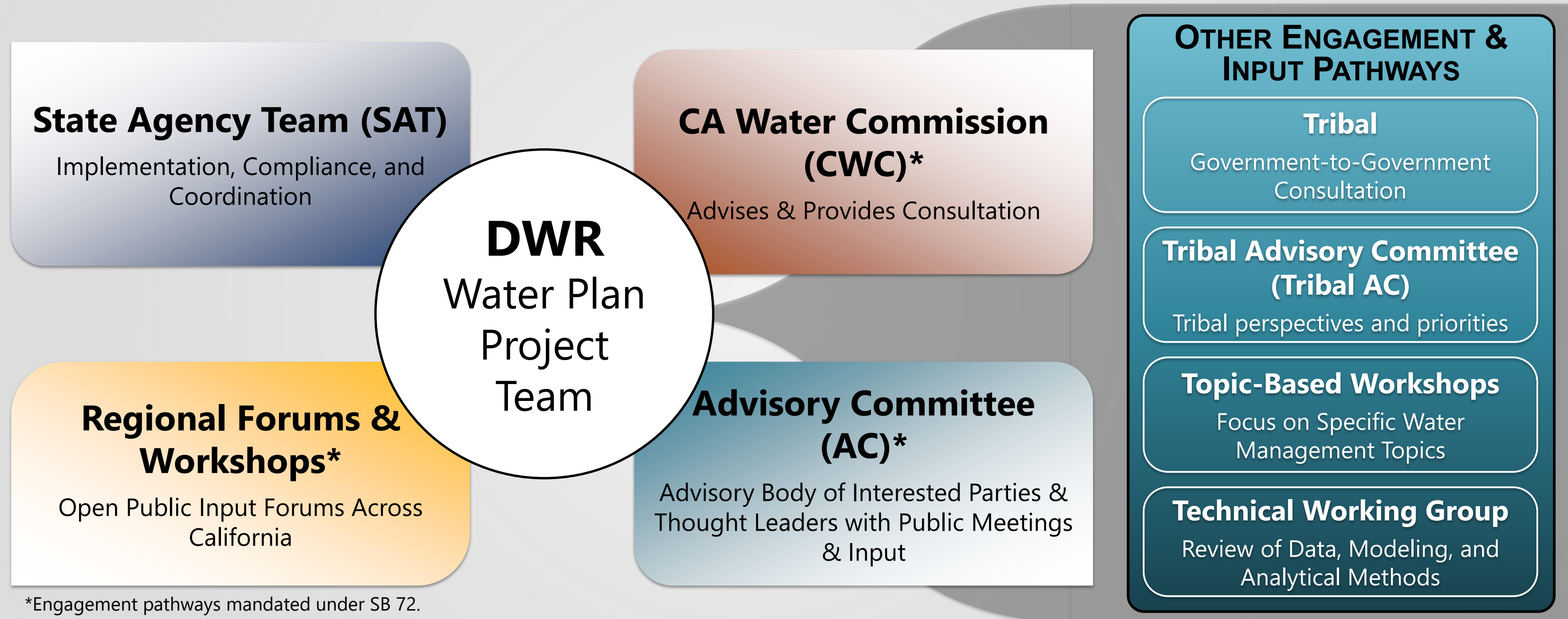
## ACTIONS

### Adaptation & Implementation

- Place-specific strategies (including nature-based solutions) to close supply–demand gaps
- Cost-benefit analyses
- Assessed using integrated toolset



# CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN ENGAGEMENT



# SB 72: Advisory Committee Requirements

SB 72 requires DWR, in consultation with the Water Commission, to establish an advisory committee that includes representation from:

- Urban and agricultural water suppliers
- Local government, business, and agriculture
- Environmental interests and *justice (new)*
- *Tribes (new)*
- *Labor (construction trades and public water infrastructure) (new)*
- Other interested parties, as appropriate

## Additional provisions:

- Statutory body governed by the State's open meeting requirements under the Bagley-Keene Act
- DWR consults with and considers recommendations
- Flexibility to add technical and scientific expertise



# Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities

**ROLE:** Advisory body to assist and provide input and recommendations to the Department in the updating of the California Water Plan consistent with SB 72 and SB 659.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide **input on key issues**, and share data, perspectives, and lessons learned from your region
2. Identify **practical solutions**, and **opportunities for alignment** across planning efforts
3. Provide feedback on **draft materials** as they are developed
4. Serve as a **two-way connector**, bringing insights from your organization, community, and region into the CWP process, and communicating updates back out to your communities



# Potential Touchpoints

- Water supply effects of upper watershed management actions
- Regional Forum Coordination
- California Water Plan Policy Recommendations
- Others?



# Q&A



# Contact Us

**For general inquiries related to the California Water Plan Update 2028, contact:**

California Water Plan Team

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**Thank you!**

