

Staff Workshop on Proposed Refined Watershed Analysis and Friant Priority Date Adjustments in the Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed

NOVEMBER 9, 2022



Division of Water Rights

Workshop Logistics and Housekeeping

- Workshop is being recorded and will be posted on the Delta Drought webpage: waterboards.ca.gov/drought/delta/
- Webcast available: video.calepa.ca.gov/
- How to participate:
 - Fill out virtual speaker card (link to online form provided in 10/11/2022 workshop notice)
 - Raise hand on Zoom
 - Type comment or question in Zoom chat
 - Email Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov
- Written comments due by 5PM on Wednesday November 16, 2022, send to Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov

PROPOSED REFINED WATERSHED ANALYSIS

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Division of Water Rights, Bay Delta & Hearings Branch

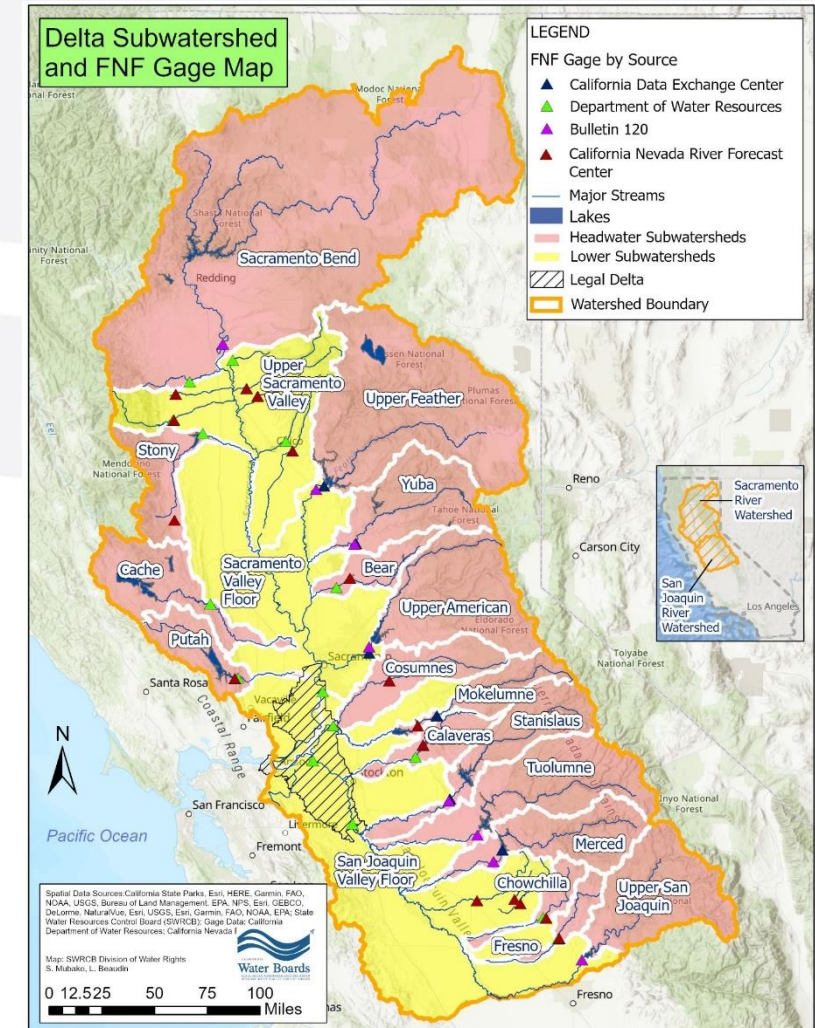


Agenda

- Background and Purpose
- Refined Watershed Analysis
- Analysis Comparison
- Methodology Next Steps
- Friant Priority Date Adjustments
- Agency and public comments

Water Unavailability Methodology and Current Watershed Analysis

- Supplies and demands aggregated by subwatershed
- Evaluates water unavailability at 2 scales:
 - Headwater subwatersheds x17
 - Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds
- Includes Legal Delta demand proration between watersheds, return flows, and abandoned instream flow releases in excess of natural supply
- Comments received have suggested the current watershed analysis may oversimplify the locations of supplies and demands



Refined Watershed Analysis

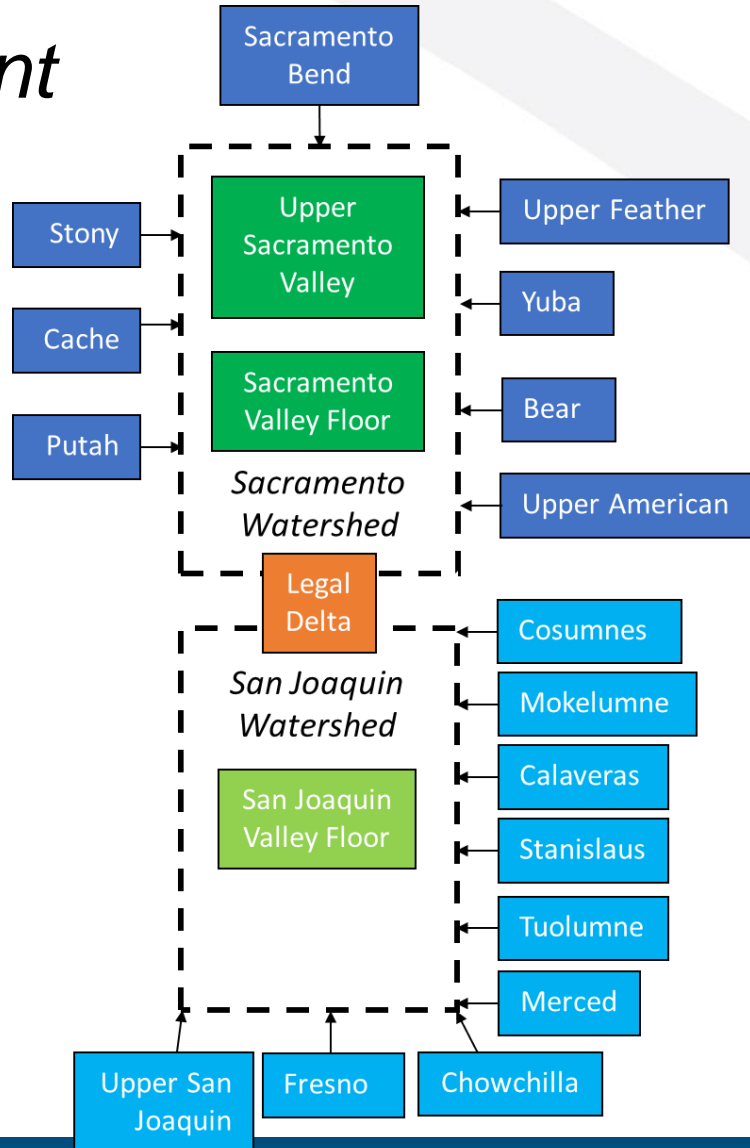
- Improves spatial resolution, acknowledges tributary connectivity, and tracks individual tributary supplies
- Each demand is only distributed to specific subwatersheds:
 - Subwatershed where it is located and those upstream of it
 - Some tributaries flow directly into the Legal Delta and aren't available on the valley floor
 - Distribution is based on magnitude of supply available from each source
- Ensures demands in a subwatershed don't affect curtailments in a second if curtailments in one won't make water physically available in the other
- No change to headwater subwatershed analysis or other aspects of the Methodology

Watershed Analysis Comparison

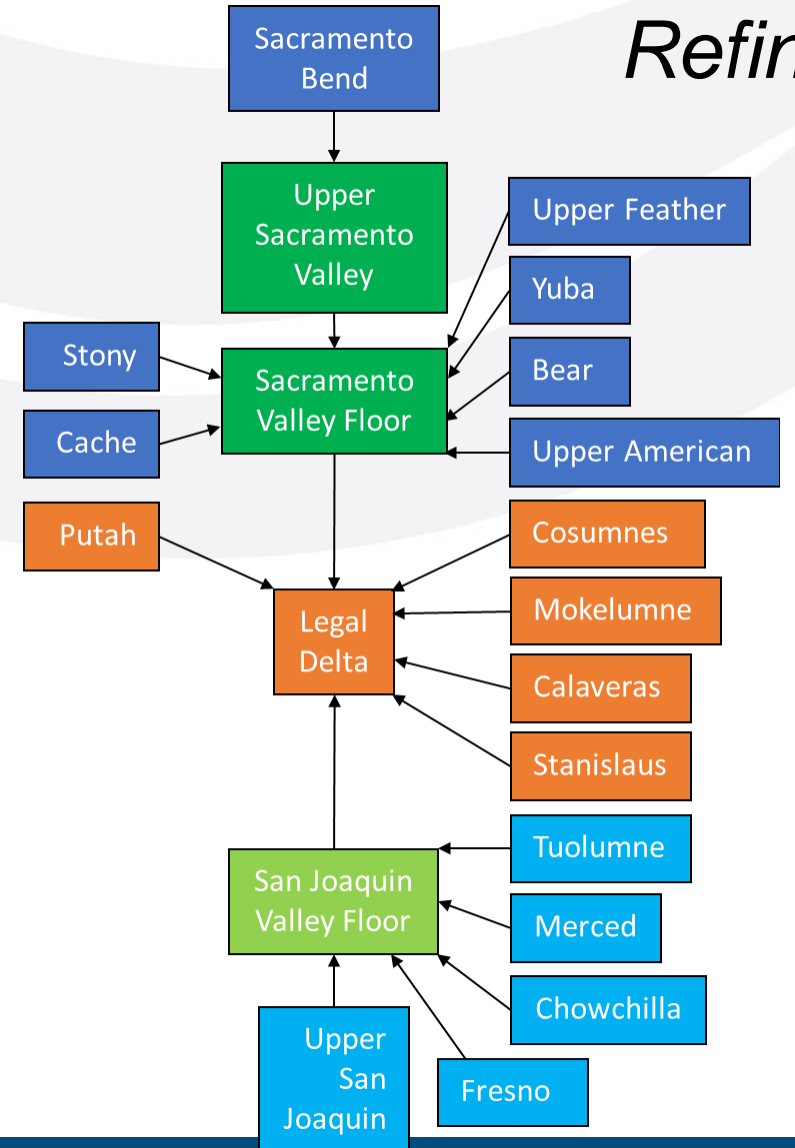
- Most Sacramento tributaries not available in upper valley
- Putah, Cosumnes, Mokelumne, Calaveras, and Stanislaus only available in the Legal Delta
- Potential changes to curtailments in some subwatersheds:
 - Less curtailments in Sacramento and Legal Delta tributaries
 - More curtailments in valley floor and San Joaquin tributaries
- Prorates appropriative Legal Delta demands based on the supply available to each, rather than the entire supply of the watershed
- Will not produce watershed-wide curtailment priority dates, they will be specific to each location (subwatershed and Legal Delta)

Watershed Analysis Comparison

Current

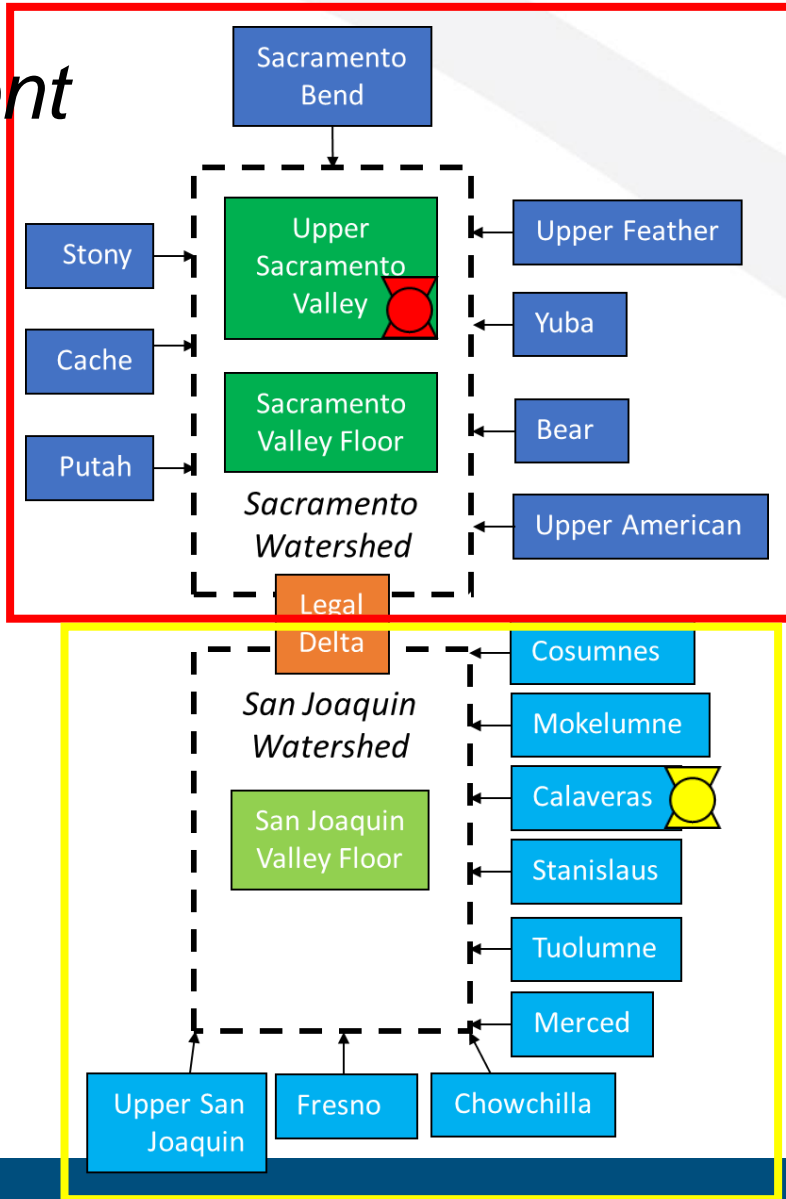


Refined



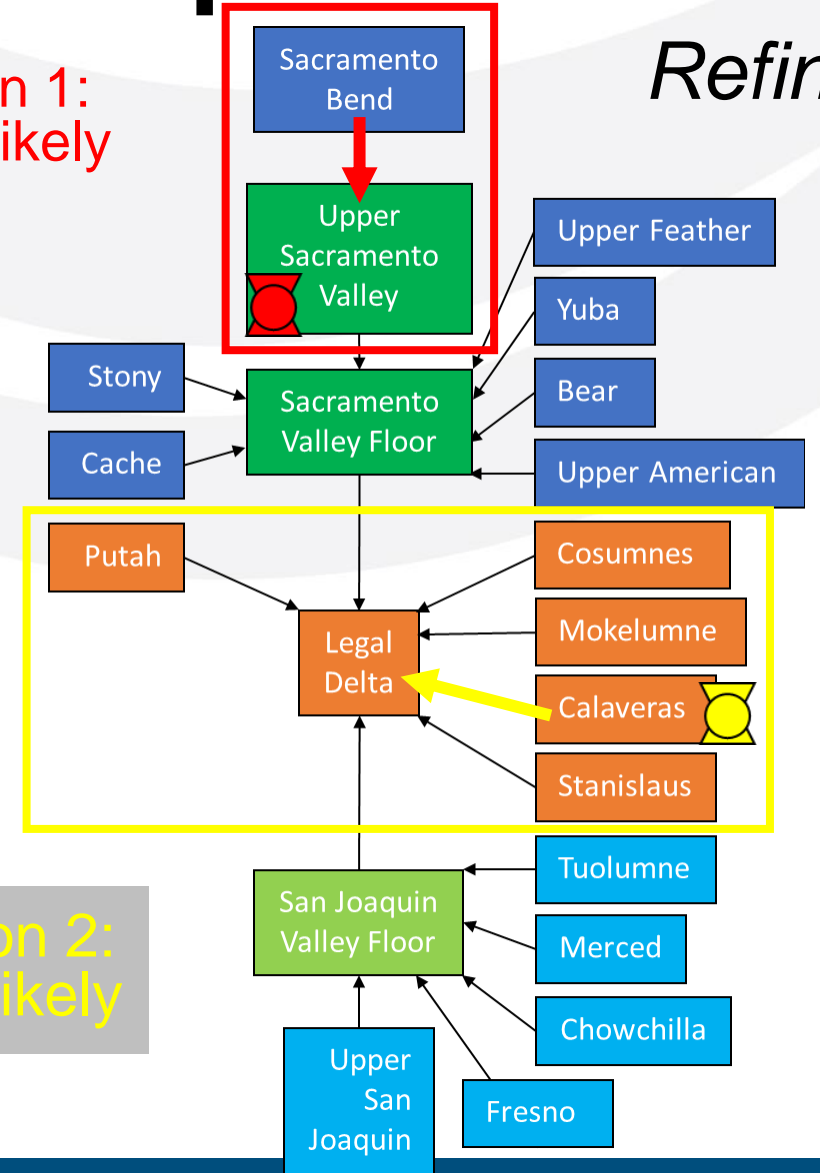
Watershed Analysis Comparison

Current



Example Diversion 1:
Curtailment more likely

Refined



Example Diversion 2:
Curtailment less likely

Methodology Spreadsheet Updates Since 10/11/2022

- Abandoned instream flow releases not available to Riparians
- Combined Headwater and Watershed analyses into single tab and made other data consolidations to streamline computations
- Ability to use Enhanced Reporting of Projected Demand data
- Complex Priority Date Change Requests granted for Oakdale/South San Joaquin IDs and City of San Francisco
- Shift to WY 2023: Past data only back to 10/1/22, additional water supply forecast trace available from CNRFC

Methodology Next Steps

- Consideration of verbal and written comments received
- Release 8th edition of the Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed report (expected December 2022)
 - Refined watershed analysis
 - Use of Enhanced Reporting of Projected Demands data
 - Additional Demand QA/QC measures
- Tentative staff workshop on additional issues (expected as early as early 2023)
 - Legal Delta water supply
 - Return flows
- Release 9th edition of the Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed report (mid-2023)

Friant Project Priority Date Adjustments

Dana Heinrich
Attorney V

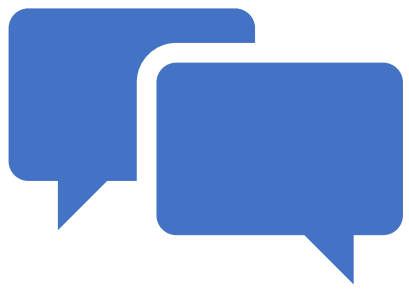


Office of Chief Counsel

Friant Priority Date Adjustments

- Existing Methodology
 - Treats most State Water Project and Central Valley Project (CVP) rights as junior to other rights in Delta watershed in recognition of area of origin protections (Wat. Code, §§ 11128, 11460-11465)
 - Exception for New Melones Project rights
- Proposed Change
 - Exception for Friant Division of the CVP based on *City of Fresno v. California* (1963) 372 U.S. 627, 630
 - Four Friant rights will be assigned their underlying priorities (1915-1927)

Public Comments and Questions



Resources – Contact the State Water Board

Email: Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov

Delta Drought Phone Line:

Call (916) 319-0960 and leave a message and staff will return your call as soon as possible

Webpages:

Delta Drought Webpage:
waterboards.ca.gov/drought/delta/

Water Unavailability Methodology Webpage:
waterboards.ca.gov/drought/drought_tools_methods/delta_method.html

Delta Drought Email Subscription List:
waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/

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