

CV-SALTS: A Nitrate Control Program Compliance Roadmap

September 2026



Nitrate Control Program (NCP) Compliance Pathways

Pathway A Individual Compliance

Individual Reporting to
RWQCB

Individual responsibility for
local drinking water impact
evaluation and
improvements

Pathway B Regional Compliance/ Management Zone

Group Reporting to RWQCB

Individual Reporting to
Management Zone

Management Zone
Implementation Plan (MZIP)
with RWQCB Approval

Basin-wide drinking water quality
impact evaluation and
improvements

Three Questions to Answer



Do I have the potential to cause or contribute to a nitrate WQO exceedance?

Do I have enough data and information to demonstrate my contributions and impacts?

Can I readily address my contribution to impacts?

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Pathway A Initial Assessment

RB advises that Pathway A compliance could be difficult and expensive if:

- Discharge is high in nitrates,
- Drinking water wells near facility are high in nitrates,
- Shallow groundwater > 75% of drinking water standard, or
- Demonstrated cause or contribution to exceedance.

Modesto's Starting Position



Jennings Campus



- Long-established monitoring well network
- No nitrate/nitrogen impacts due to reducing conditions

Sutter Campus

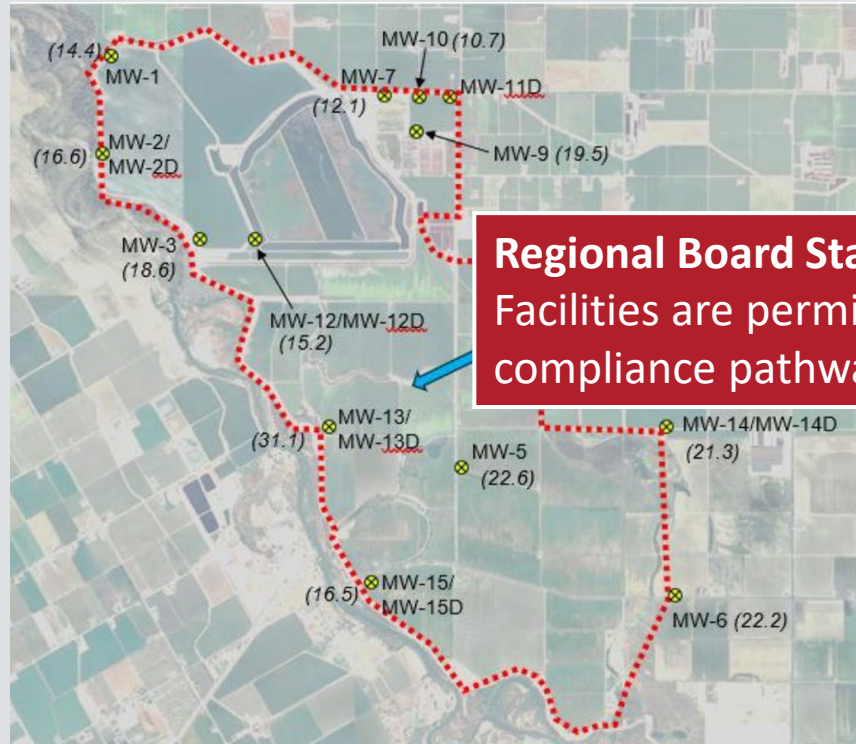


- No drying bed-specific monitoring well network
- Nitrate/nitrogen impacts undefined
- ***Plan to eliminate the drying bed!***

Modesto's Starting Position



Jennings Campus



Regional Board Staff Assessment:
Facilities are permitted together and
compliance pathways cannot be separated

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Pathway A: Discharge Categories

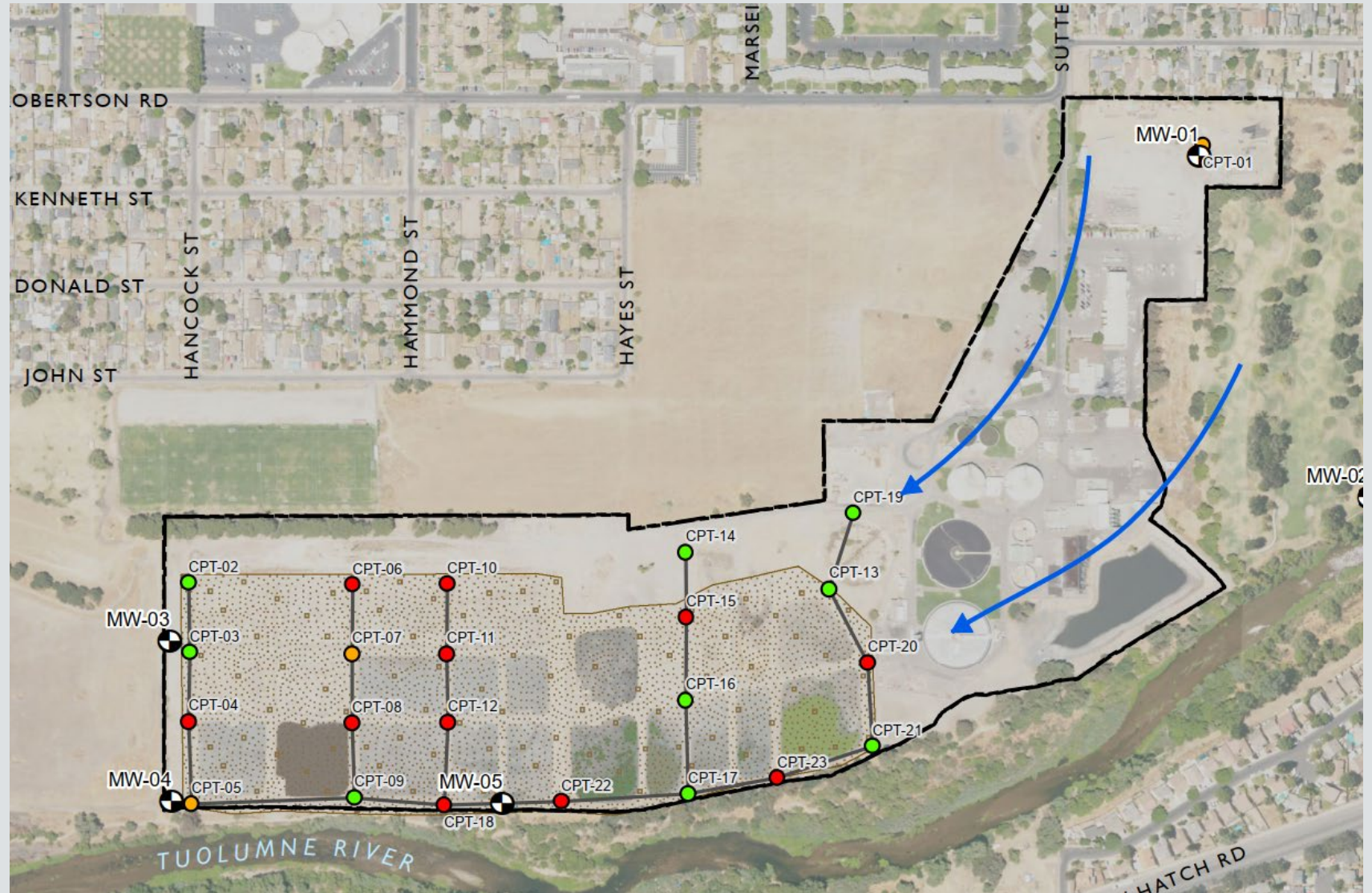
Category	Shallow Zone Nitrate Concentrations	Your Own Source Contribution Determination	Water Quality Protection Requirements
1	≤ 10 mg/L as N	Not causing or contributing	Nothing specific required
2	Slightly > 10 mg/L as N	Not causing or contributing	
3	> 10 mg/L as N	Not causing or contributing	
4	> 10 mg/L as N	Will cause exceedance of 75% trigger within 20 years, but will not cause exceedance of WQO	Early Action Plan to address immediate drinking water impacts
5	> 10 mg/L as N	Causing or contributing to an exceedance of the WQO	Alternative Compliance Project to address drinking water impacts, reduce loading, and restore groundwater quality

Pathway A: Discharge Categories

Category	Shallow Zone Nitrate Concentrations	Your Own Source Contribution Determination	Water Quality Protection Requirements
1	≤ 10 mg/L as N	Not causing or contributing	Specific required
2	Slightly > 10 mg/L as N	If you have adequate <i>data and information</i> to demonstrate you are currently in Category 1, 2 or 3, Pathway A can be readily implemented	
3	> 10 mg/L as N		
4	> 10 mg/L as N	Will cause exceedance of 75% trigger within 20 years, but will not cause exceedance of WQO	Early Action Plan to address immediate drinking water impacts
5	> 10 mg/L as N	Causing or contributing to an exceedance of the WQO	Alternative Compliance Project to address drinking water impacts, reduce loading, and restore groundwater quality

Sutter Campus Data Collection and Analysis Plan

- Initial study to define underlying conditions: Potential for impacts could not be eliminated
- Install groundwater monitoring wells
- Complete investigation



Three Questions to Answer

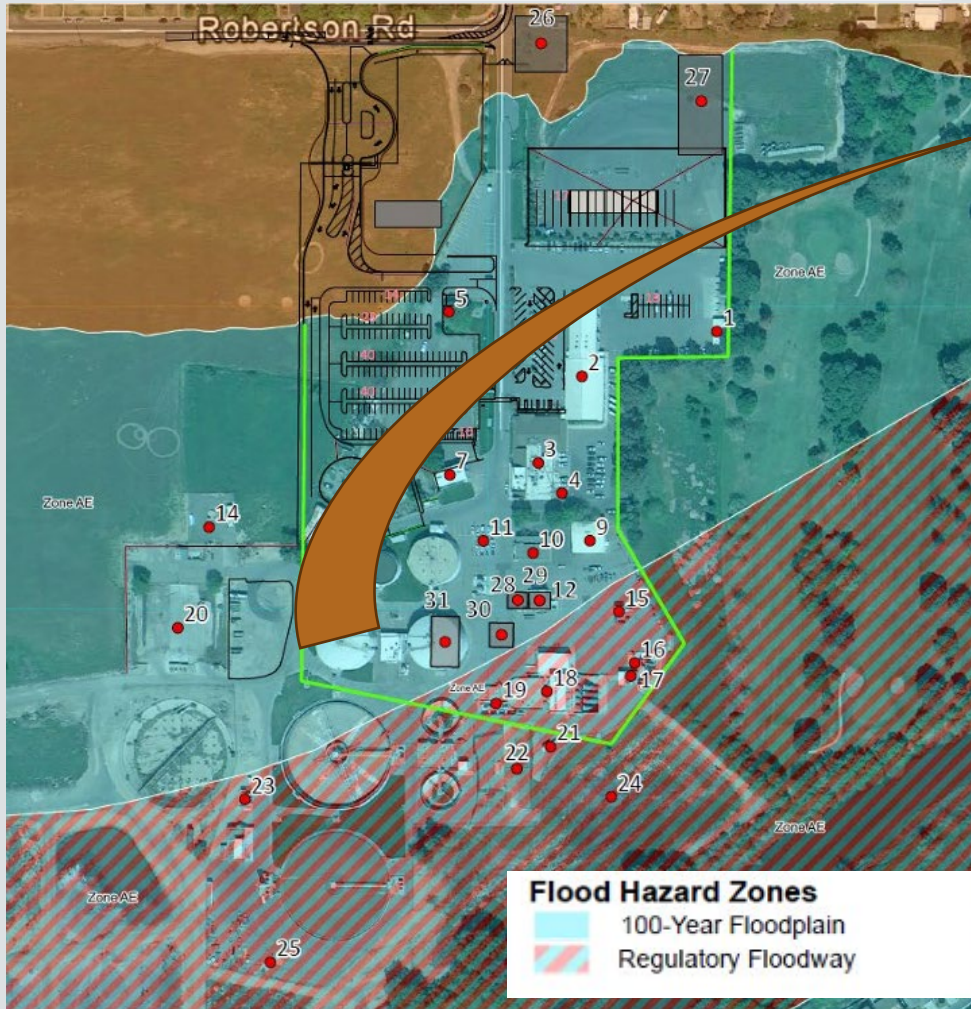
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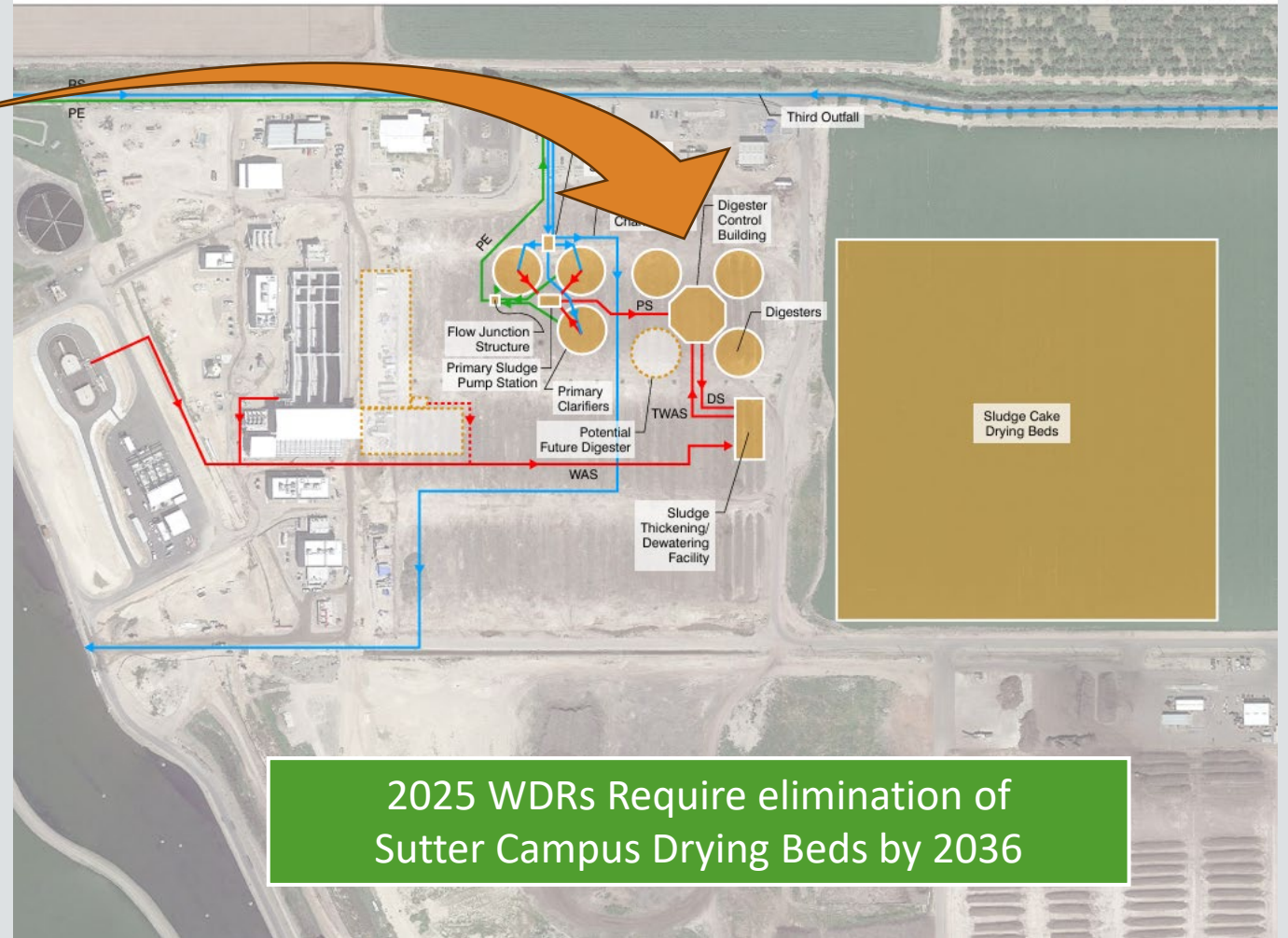
Can I readily address my contribution to impacts?

Modesto's Relocation Strategy

Sutter Campus

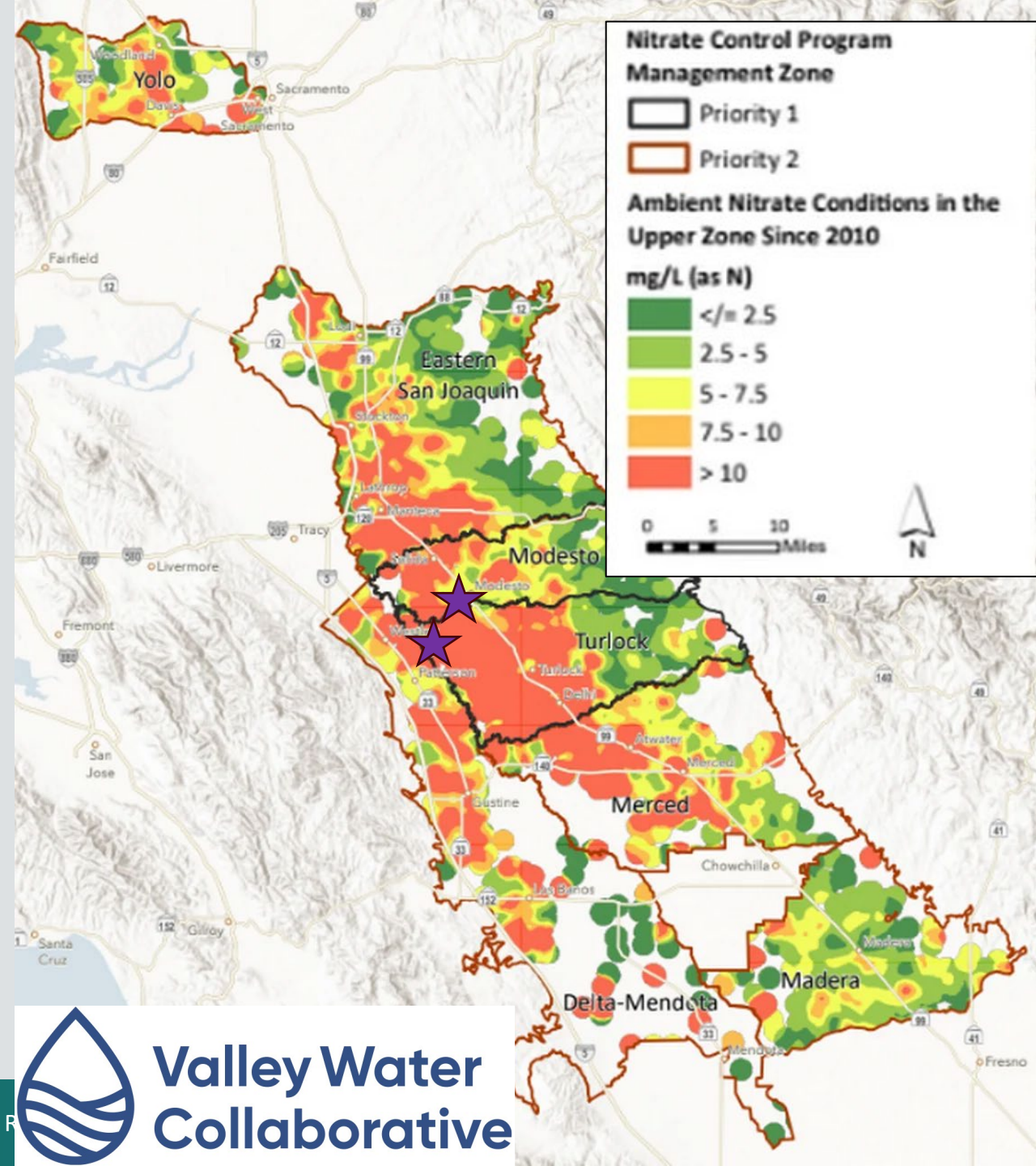


Jennings Campus



In the Meantime...

- Modesto took a seat on the VWC Board in 2021
- Our facilities span two sub-basins:
 - Sutter Campus: Modesto Subbasin
 - Jennings Campus: Turlock Subbasin



**Valley Water
Collaborative**

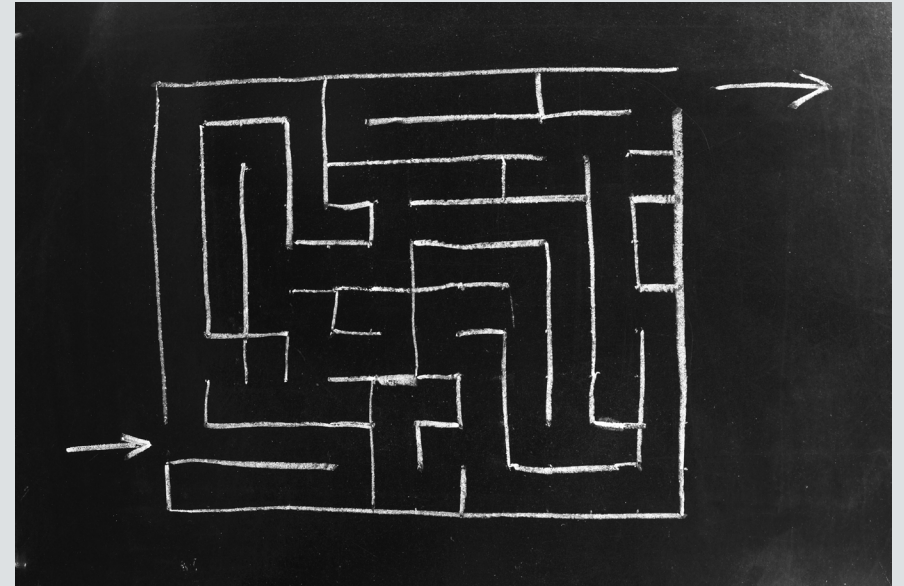
What is Being in the Collaborative Like?

- A board seat gives an agency a voice in how that commitment is carried out
- Municipal participation helps keep the program accountable to public agencies, ratepayers, and affected communities.
- Pay close attention to your numbers and data summaries
 - Early data assessments will likely influence regulatory pathways down the road
- Make sure your whole team is involved and engaged
 - This information is complicated and covers several areas of expertise
 - Drinking water is a big part of this
 - It takes a village!



Can you Move From Pathway B to Pathway A?

- Eliminating current contributions alone will not immediately eliminate requirements to support drinking water solutions
- Legacy impacts within the Area of Contribution (AOC) must be considered
- AOC defines where “the discharge will commingle with receiving water, and the presence of the discharge could be detected”
- Must identify all domestic and public-supply wells within the AOC and determine if they could reasonably be intercepting groundwater affected by the facility



You may need to establish a Board-approved, VWC coordination agreement assigning your agency the responsibilities for drinking-water testing and mitigation within the accepted AOC

THANK YOU!

