



California's Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Overview & Status Update

Ann Hayden
June 28th, 2023

Environmental Defense Fund



Scientific evidence

Using evidence to identify the most effective solutions



Powerful partnerships

Building alliances across a wide range of allies



Economic sustainability

Using economic forces to protect our environment



Climate justice

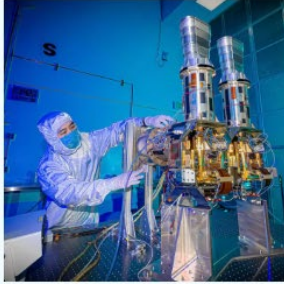
Building a more equitable home on this planet we share



Strong advocacy

Shaping public policy and taking legal action

Environmental Defense Fund



**Energy
Transition**



**Resilient Water
Systems**



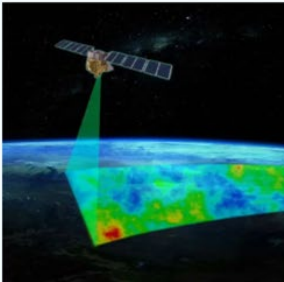
**Sustainable
Fishing**



Hydrogen



Clean Air



Methane



Agriculture



**Safer
Chemicals**

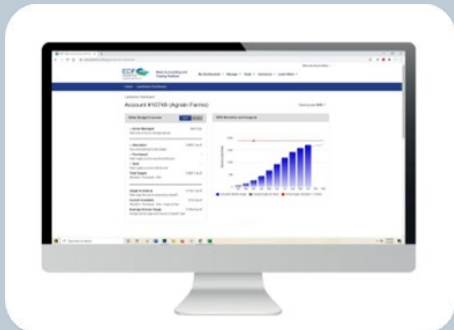
EDF's Climate Resilient Water Systems Program



Our Team's Approach



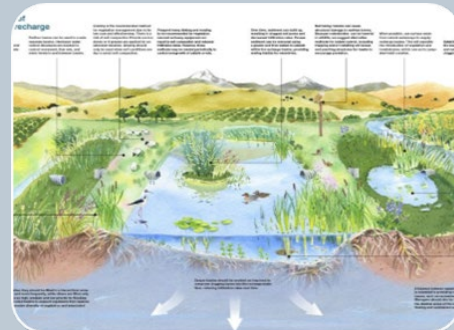
Multibenefit Solutions



Reliable Data

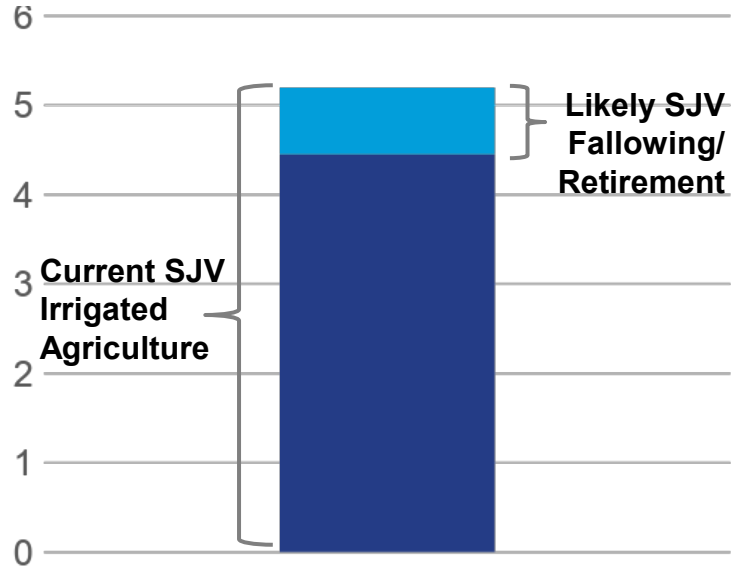


Engagement

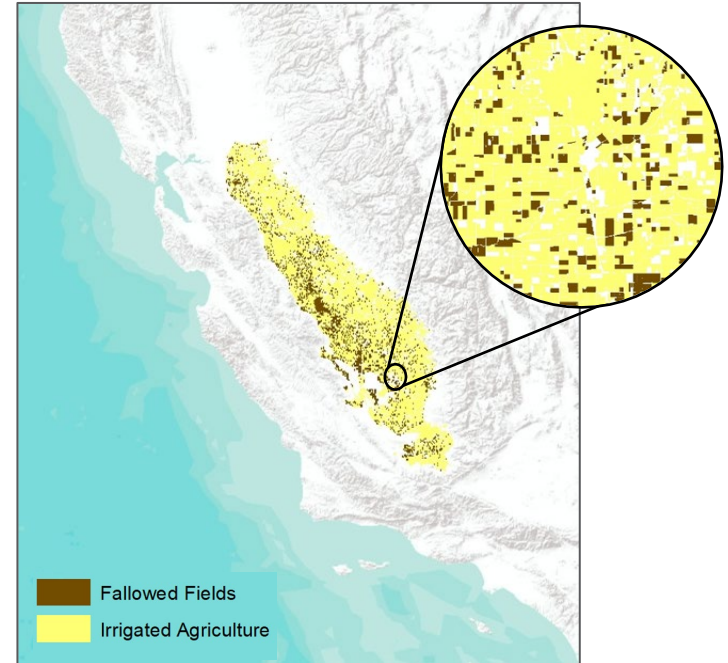


Guidance

By 2040 there will be a significant reduction in irrigated acreage to balance water supplies and adapt to a changing climate



*Data Source: PPIC

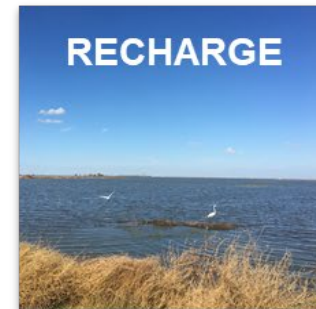


Illustrative example of potential following patterns. EDF.

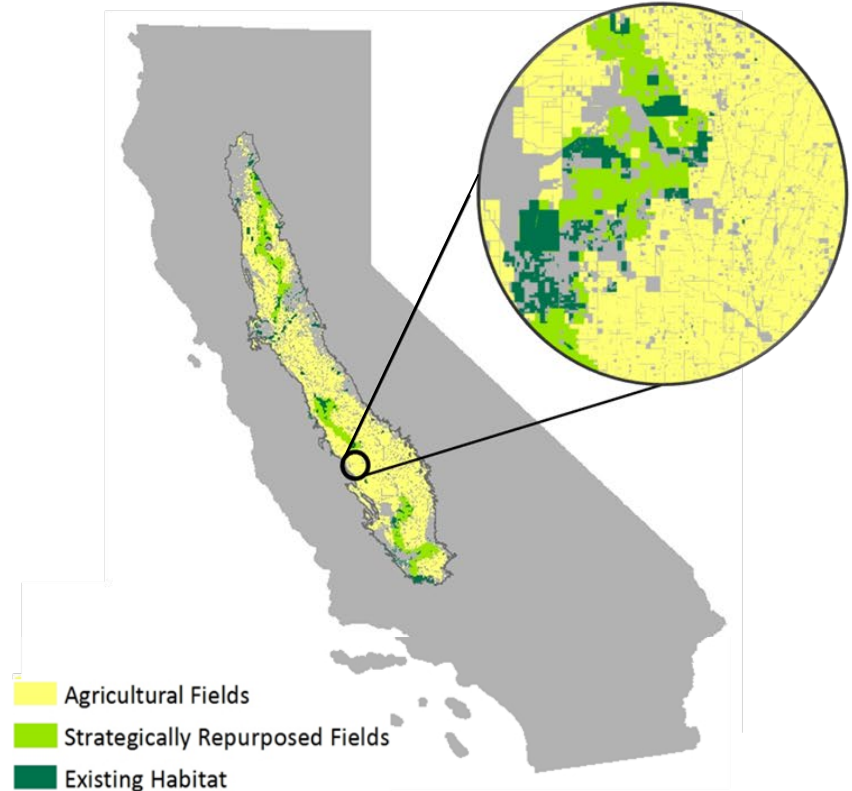
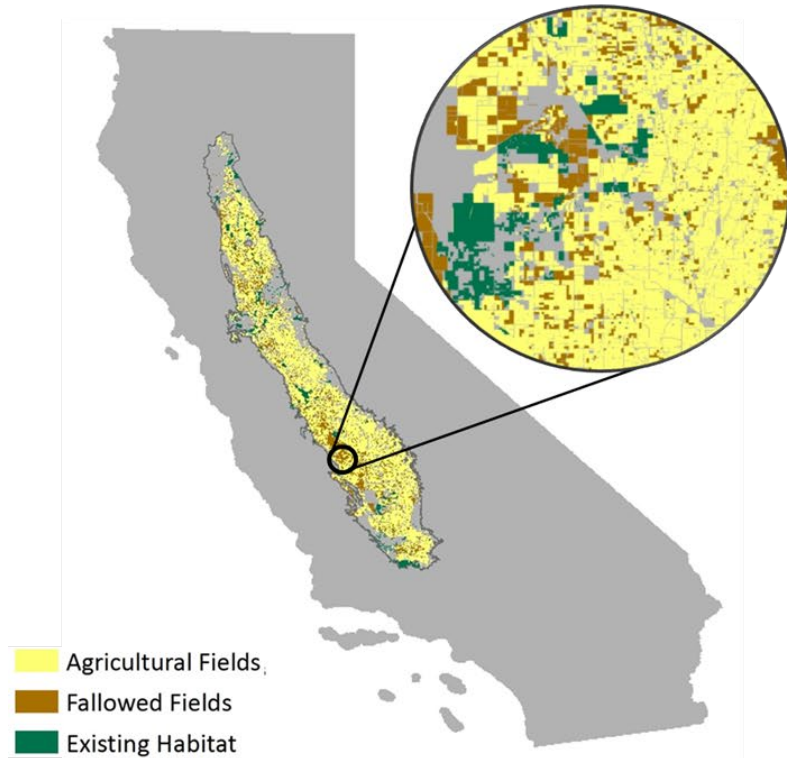
Uncoordinated land use changes could have detrimental impacts across the Valley



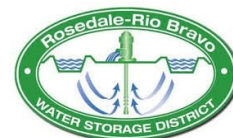
Alternative path: multibenefit land repurposing



Planning and coordination can improve outcomes



Collaboration to establish an effective funding program to support multibenefit land repurposing



Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Goals

- Support **coordinated, regional and basin-scale efforts** to achieve groundwater sustainability
- Support **long-term repurposing of lands** and multibenefit opportunities that **convert land to less intensive water uses** while maintaining natural and working lands
- Create or **restore wildlife habitat** and wildlife connectivity
- Support nature-based solutions to **reduce the impacts** of hazards **on lives, property, and the economy** from overdrafted groundwater basins
- Prioritize the achievement of **disadvantaged community benefits**



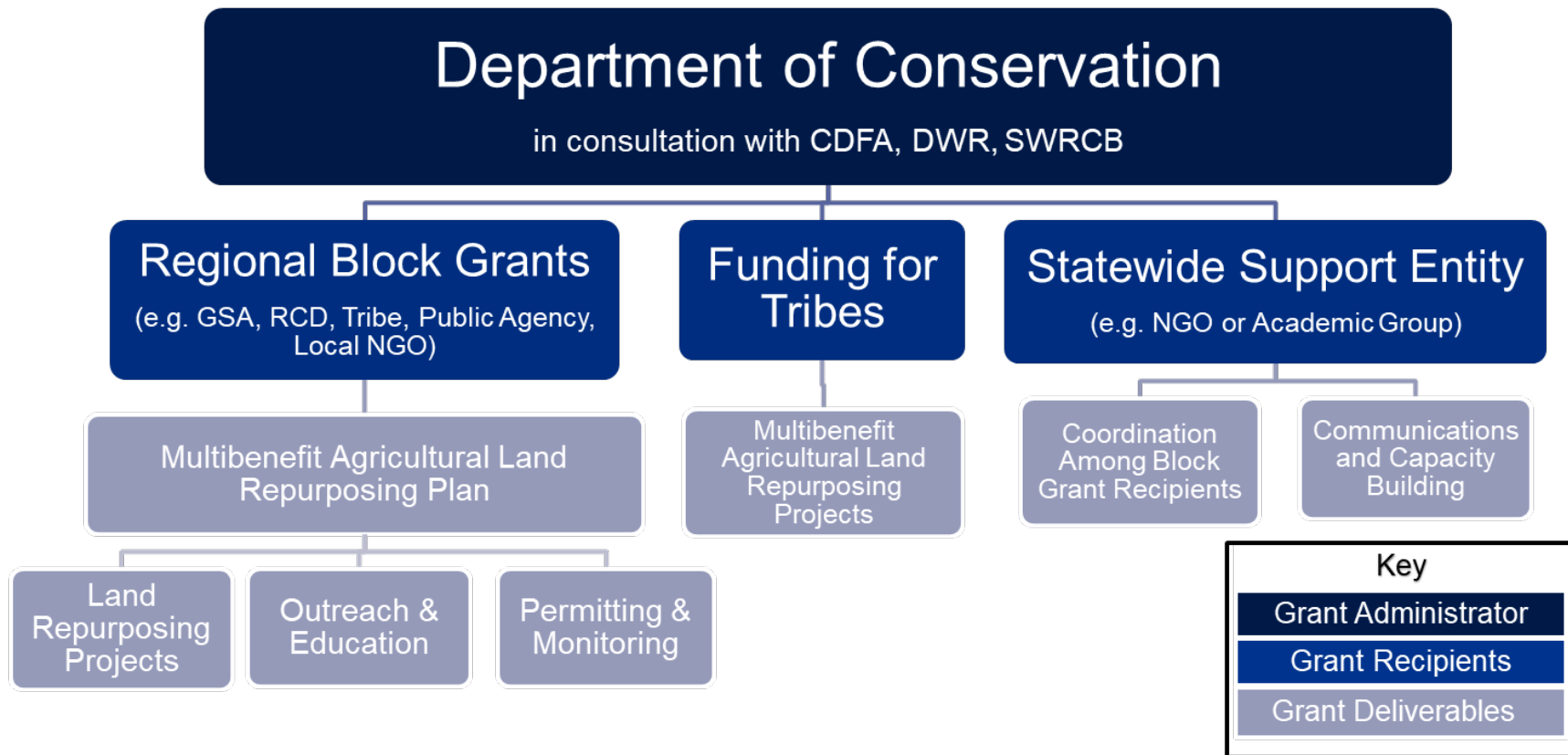
Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Key Features:

- Block grants up to \$10M
- Requires partnerships
- Funding for tribes
- Statewide Support Entity
- Requires inclusive planning
- Eligible costs include education, engagement, planning, project development & implementation
- Allows for permanent and term projects (>10 years)



River Partners, Dos Rios Ranch

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Structure



Statewide Support Entity Role



Block Grantee Support

Provide training and technical assistance to block grant recipients; connect block grant recipients to resources and Implementation Partners



Community Engagement Support

Engage Disadvantaged Communities, Tribes, and Social Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers; support survey development; and support monitoring of engagement success



Peer-Learning Facilitation

Facilitate community of practice, develop learning agendas



Monitoring & Reporting

Support development of reporting metrics and theories of change, reporting tools, and coordinate with DOC



Communications

Coordinate external communication about program work and help build awareness of the Program

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Timeline

Fall 2021	Winter 2022	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Winter 2022	Spring 2023
California establishes the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) and allocates \$50 M to the program in its first year	Department of Conservation releases program guidelines based on stakeholder input and opens 1st application period	12 regions apply for MLRP funding 4 regions are awarded \$10M block grants SHE and EDF selected as Statewide Support Entity	California allocates an additional \$40 M to Department of Conservation for MLRP	Department of Conservation releases second set of guidelines for public comment period, opens 2nd application period in January	Program receives 10 more applications for over \$84 M . DOC awards \$35 M to four new block grant recipients

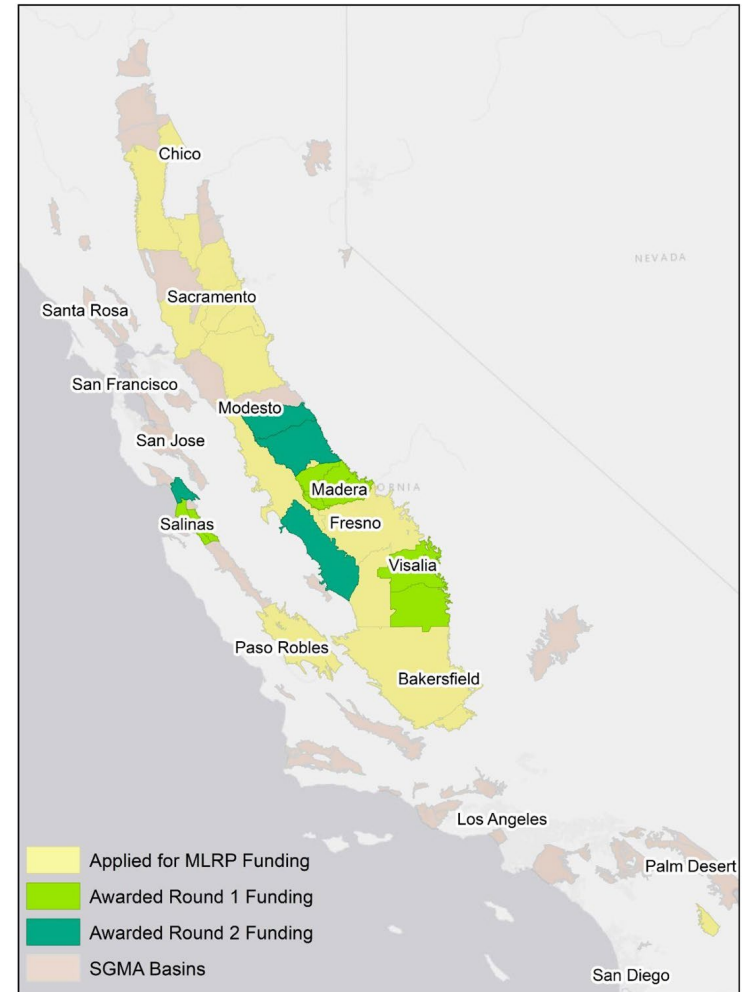
Awarded Block Grants

Round 1

- Lower Salinas Valley
- Tule Subbasin
- Kaweah Subbasin
- Madera County

Round 2

- Pajaro Valley
- Westlands Water District
- Merced Subbasin
- East Turlock



Round 1 - Block Grant Partners

Tule Subbasin

- Pixley Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Grantee)
- Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Tri-County Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- The Nature Conservancy
- Audubon California
- The Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust
- Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- Self-Help Enterprises
- UC Merced
- The Tulare Basin Watershed Partnership Network

Madera County

- County of Madera (Grantee)
- Madera/Chowchilla RCD
- Madera County Farm Bureau
- Madera Ag Water Association
- CA Farmland Trust

Lower Salinas Valley

- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Grantee)
- Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Central Coast Wetlands Group
- City of Salinas
- Ag Land Trust
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Castroville Community Services District

Kaweah Subbasin

- Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (Grantee)
- East Kaweah GSA
- Greater Kaweah GSA
- Mid-Kaweah GSA
- Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Round 1 Block Grant - Customized Approaches

Lower Salinas Valley

Goals: Restore Floodplain, Reduce Flood Risk, Create Habitat and Recreation Benefit

Kaweah Subbasin

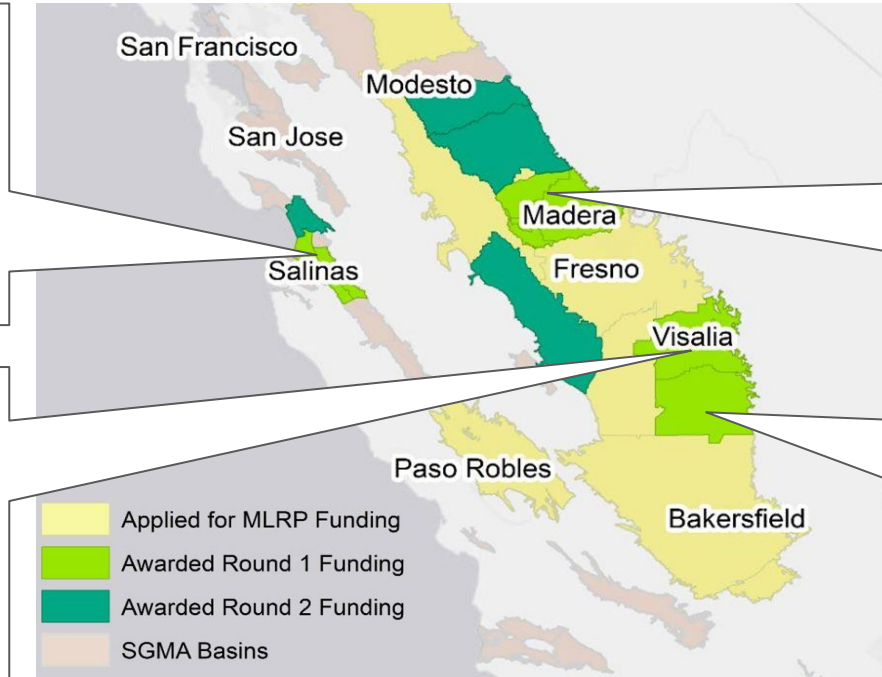
Goals: Collaboratively identify land repurposing projects and approaches that support sustainable groundwater management; focus on multibenefit recharge and potential for solar

Madera County

Goals: Improve community well reliability, create buffer zones between communities and farmland

Tule Subbasin

Goals: Restore upland scrub habitat, create multibenefit recharge basins



Principles of Multibenefit Land Repurposing



1. Collaboratively developed programs



2. Multibenefit outcomes



3. Regionally-coordinated to maximize benefits



4. Payments linked to benefits

Principles of Multibenefit Land Repurposing



5. Permanent or reasonably durable projects



6. Guaranteed demand reduction



7. Monitoring and adaptive management

Focus Going Forward

- Secure stable and sustainable funding (climate bond, federal funding)
- Get good demonstrations on the ground and elevate success stories
- Replicate approach outside of the Valley
- Continue to build broad support



Thank you! Questions?

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