

Salinas River

Long-Term Management Plan



February 2019

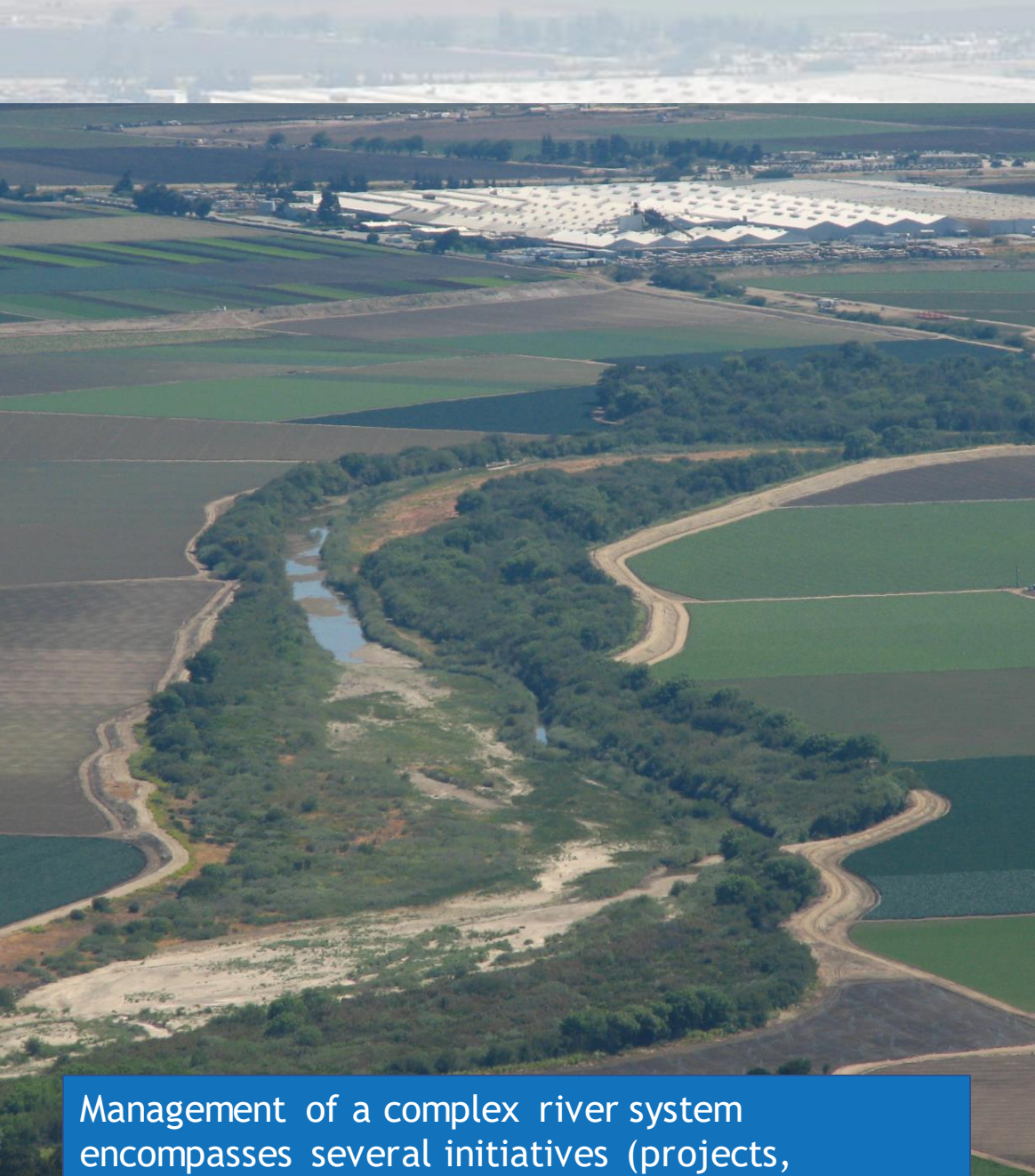
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Salinas River Background
- Salinas River Management
 - MCWRA's Role
- LTMP Purpose
- LTMP Development
- LTMP Content
- Next Steps

SALINAS RIVER BACKGROUND

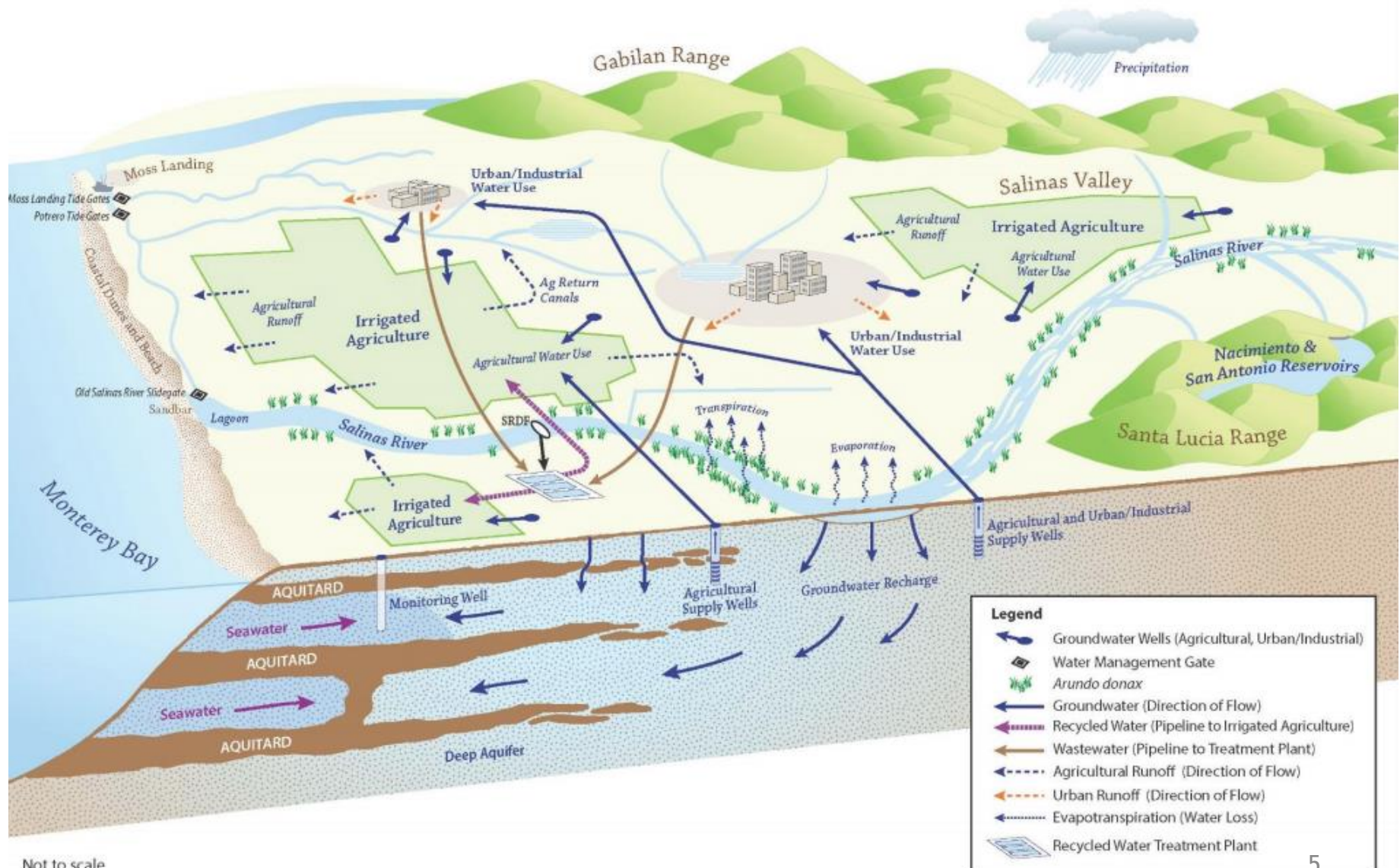
- Longest river system on the central coast
- Supports booming agriculture and other critical ecosystem benefits
- Substantial management challenges exist, such as:
 - Flooding
 - Streamflow
 - Invasive species
 - Poor water quality
 - Riparian vegetation loss
 - Stream channel encroachment
 - Ad-hoc bank stabilization

SALINAS RIVER MANAGEMENT



Management of a complex river system encompasses several initiatives (projects, programs, and plans) with a variety of partners.

Salinas Valley Water Management System





MCWRA's Role in Salinas River Management

- Prime local agency managing water and minimizing flood risk along the Salinas River
- Mission and approach is to balance water supply, flood protection, and environmental sensitivity
- Owns and operates a range of flood control, water supply, groundwater augmentation, and hydroelectric facilities
 - Ex: San Antonio and Nacimiento Dams

Salinas River

Long-Term Management Plan

LTMP PURPOSE AND INTENT






Why a long-term management plan?



- Provides a multi-benefit, comprehensive management program
- Presenting context of Salinas River in one place helps explore opportunities as part of the whole
- Addresses related issues (flood, water supply, water quality, habitat, listed species, etc.)
- Addresses the needs of MCWRA facilities and operations, including future development of a **habitat conservation plan (HCP)** for MCWRA
- Offers guidance and reference to inform future management activities

Major Planning Efforts*

* Not all related planning efforts listed

 Planning
 Overlap
 Implementation

IRWM

Stream
Maintenance
Program

Arundo Control

Storm Water
Resources Plan

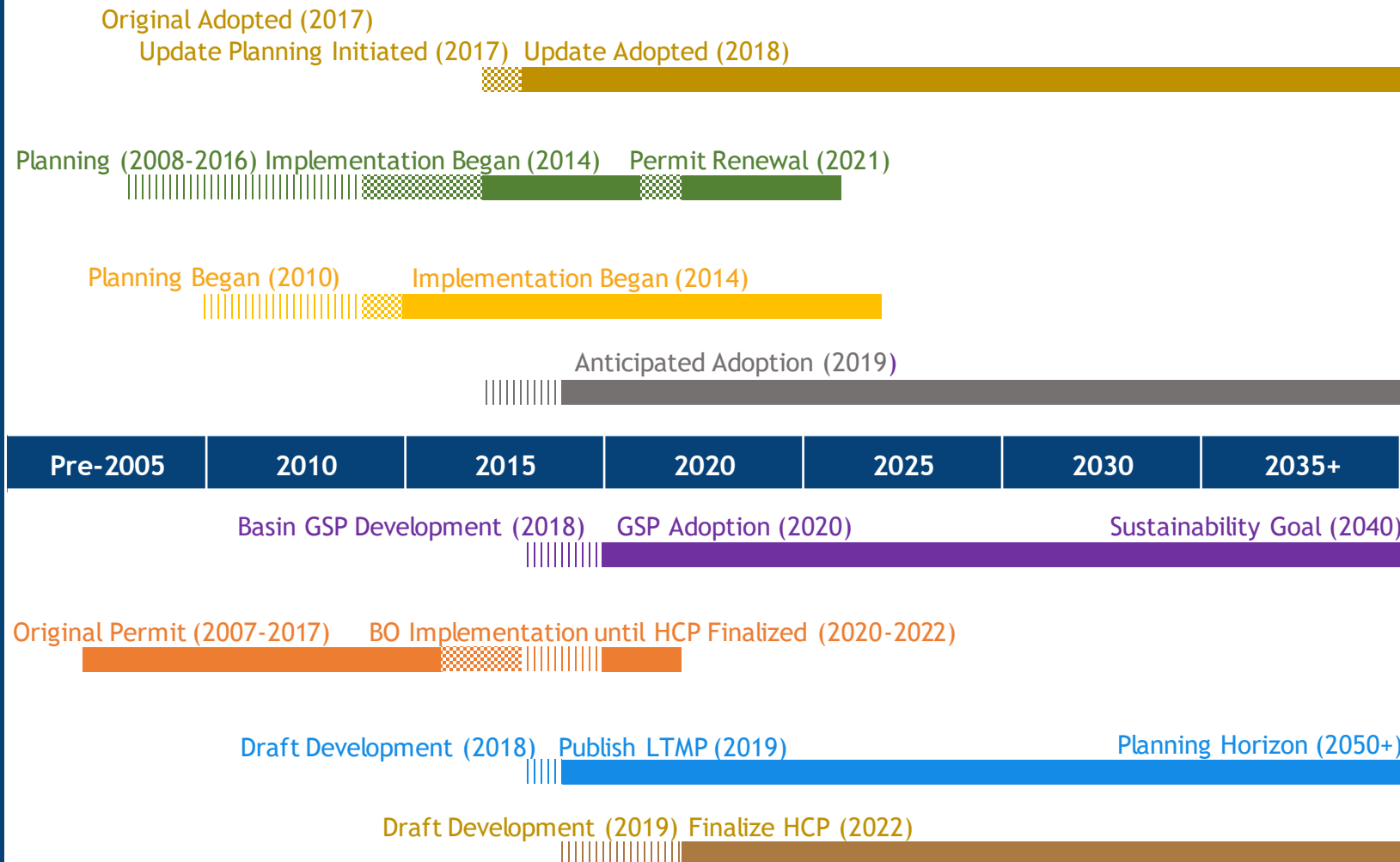
Groundwater
Sustainability Plan

Fish Biological
Opinion

LTMP

HCP

Takeaway: LTMP compiles multiple initiatives to help support effective coordination and management



LTMP DEVELOPMENT



LTMP Development Process



Process Preparation

Pre-June 2018

Major Activities

- State grant funding
- Consultant team
- Issues assessment

LTMP Development

June 2018-Feb 2019

Major Activities

- Data gathering
- Stakeholder engagement
- Developing recommendations
- Public outreach



Process Outputs

- LTMP (End of Feb 2019)
- Stakeholders' statement
- Outreach materials

LTMP Development Meetings

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Public Workshop | 5 Working Group Meetings |
| 4 Planning Group Meetings | • 2 Lagoon Management |
| 1 Lagoon Field Tour | • 1 Groundwater |
| | • 1 Stream Maintenance |
| | • 1 LTMP Implementation |

Salinas River

Long-Term Management Plan

LTMP

CONTENT



LTMP Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Background
Chapter 3	Historical and Existing Conditions
Chapter 4	Management Plan
Chapter 5	Implementation Recommendations
Chapter 6	References
Appendices	e.g., stakeholder assessment, natural community and land cover mapping, data source summary and data gaps, regulatory context, etc.

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Long-Term Management Plan

Drivers & Considerations

Protect species and habitat while supporting a strong economy *River changes over time*
Planning effort alignment *Landowner participation*
Regulatory compliance **Funding** *Ripe for collaboration*
Flood flows and reservoir releases *Flow management* *Shared costs and benefits*

Management Objectives & Actions

LTMP GOALS

Long-term solutions for SR management

Build upon public/private partnerships

Reduce flooding and improve habitat

Document historical conditions

Improve steelhead migration

Describe existing conditions

Multi-benefit management goals

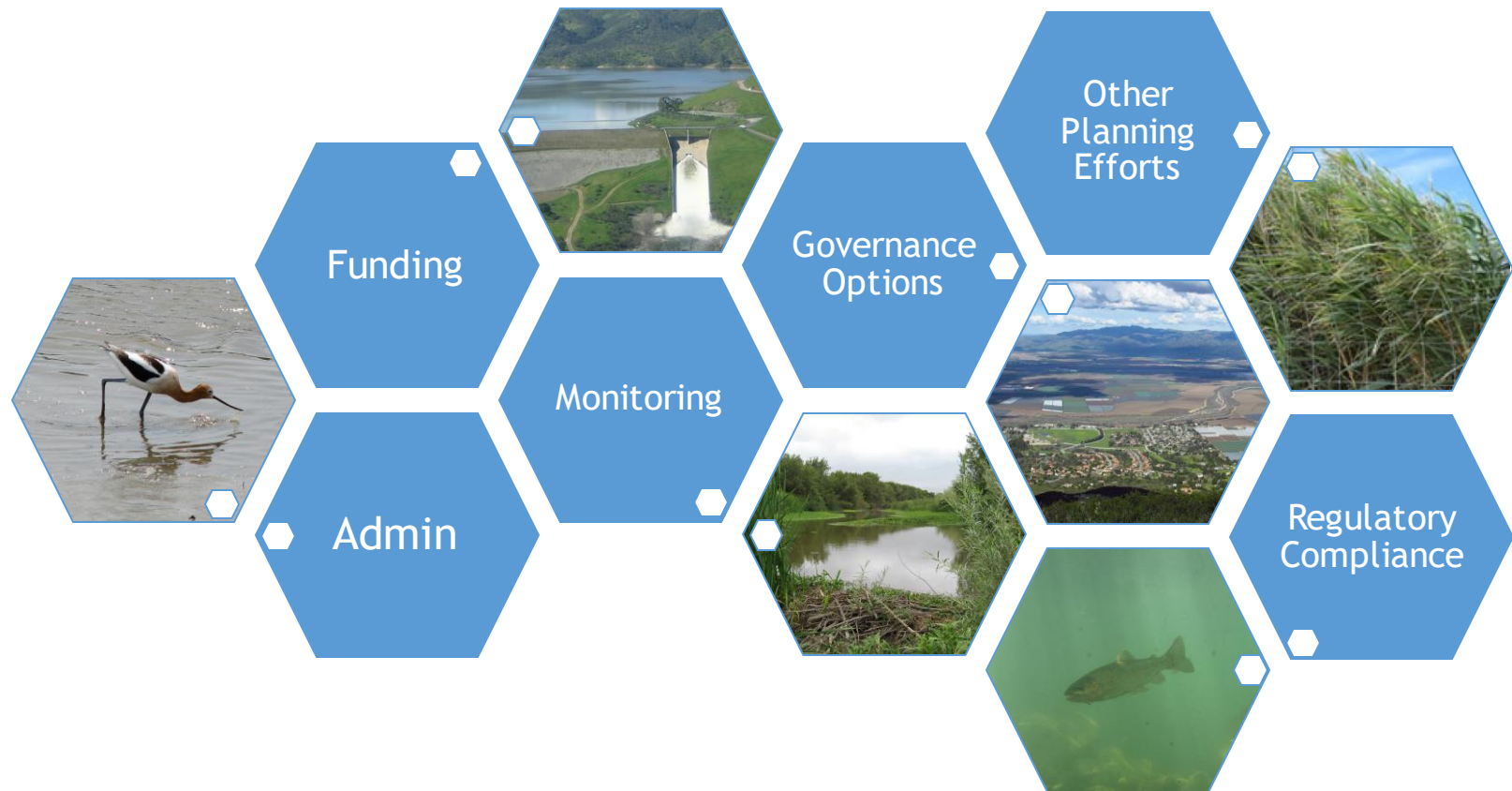
Inform HCP development

- Key: Implement suite of multi-benefit actions
- Some actions require permits

Examples:

Category	Objective	Action	Responsible Party(ies)
Lagoon Management	Develop floodwater program for the lagoon	Develop sandbar management approach with guidelines and triggers for breaches	MCWRA; US FWS; State Parks; NMFS; others
Water Resource Management	Achieve sustainable groundwater management	GSP projects should use LTMP to inform/guide project goals and parameters	GSAs
Stream Maintenance	Establish equitable funding mechanism for stream maintenance	Collaborate with programs with funding mechanisms	TBD
Ecosystem Health	Research various ecosystem health issues	Evaluate potential to reintroduce native freshwater species	TBD
Steelhead	Research to evaluate existing or potential habitat connectivity for all life stages	Evaluate alternative migration corridors, including through the OSR, when the sandbar is closed	MCWRA; others

LTMP Implementation Recommendations



Salinas River

Long-Term Management Plan

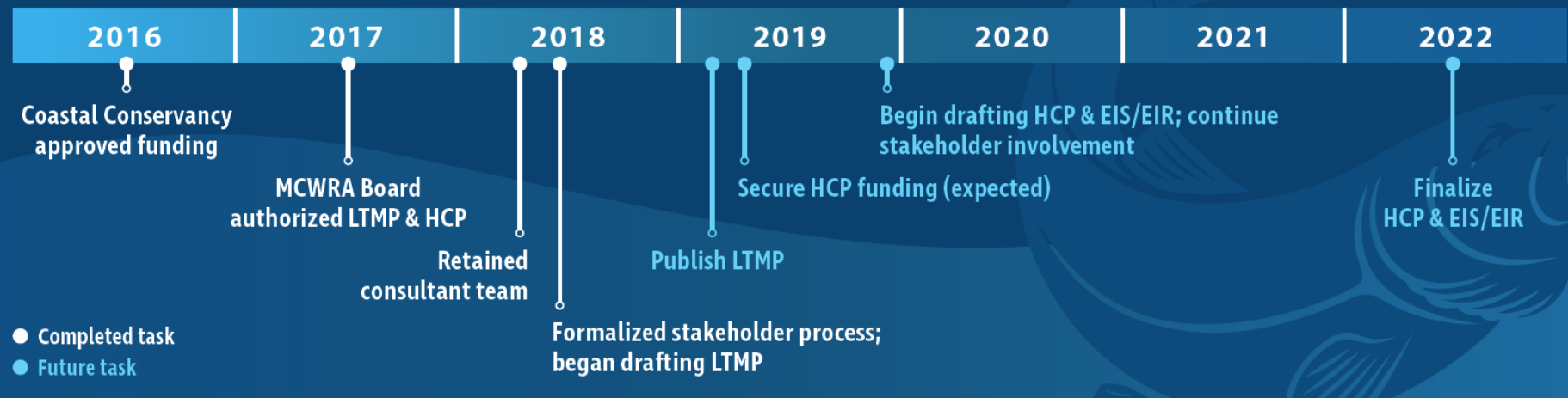
NEXT STEPS



	LTMP	Habitat Conservation Plan
Regulatory document?	No	Yes
Who will implement?	Various entities	MCWRA
Implementation mandatory?	No	Yes
Subject to CEQA/NEPA?	No	Yes
Who “owns”?	Community	MCWRA
Secure funding required?	No	Yes
Who “approves”?	No “approval” necessary	Agency BOS/BOD; Regulatory agencies
Expiration date?	None	TBD, estimate 15-30 years

Next Steps

TIMELINE of the SALINAS RIVER LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



How you can help? How do you want to be involved going forward?

- Partnerships
- Project collaboration
- Funding and resources
- Community support and awareness
- Several TBDs for implementing LTMP actions
- Stay informed via LTMP website

LTMP Major Takeaways

- Multi-benefit, comprehensive management program that will help guide both short- and long-term management needs, including MCWRA's development of a HCP
- Engaging technical experts, agencies, landowners, and other stakeholders was essential during LTMP development
- Continued engagement and collaboration are crucial for effective Salinas River management - no one entity can do it alone
 - Coordinating planning efforts, building community and landowner support, garnering funding and resources, designing and implementing management projects, etc.

Resources

LTMP Website

<http://www.salinasrivermanagementprogram.org/>

LTMP PowerPoint Presentation - Slides will be on the website

Questions about the LTMP or HCP?

Contact Elizabeth Krafft, MCWRA Senior Water Resources Hydrologist
(831) 755-4860, krafftea@co.monterey.ca.us

Other related resources

- Greater Monterey County IRWM: <http://www.greatermontereyirwmp.org/>
- Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program:
<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/programs/salinas-river-stream-maintenance-program#wra>
- Arundo Control: <https://www.rcdmonterey.org/salinas-river-arundo-and-tamarisk-control>
- Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Planning: <https://svbgsa.org/>