



SCV
WATER

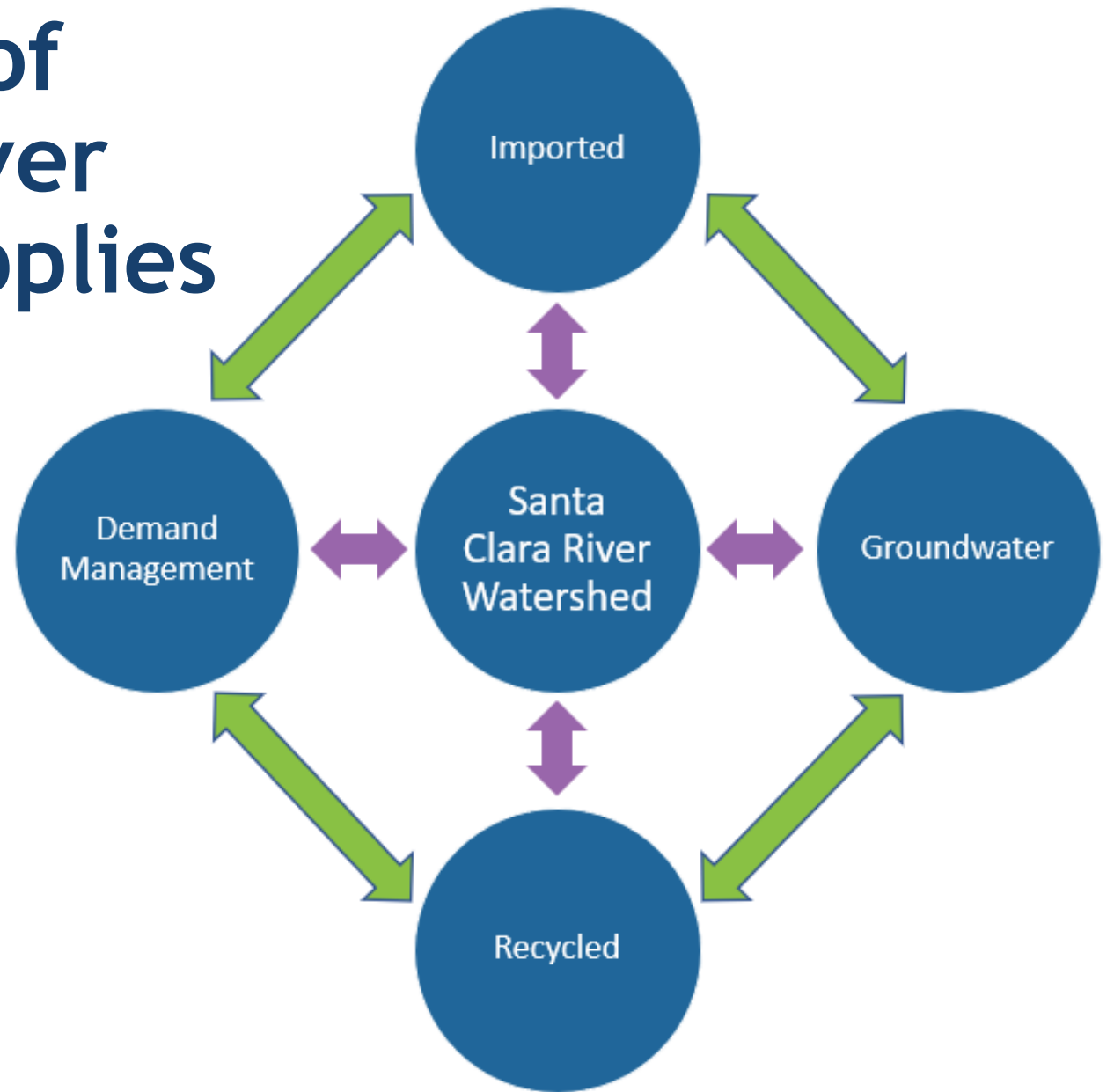
Enter a Contract with ESA Consultants to Prepare California Environmental Flows Framework Study

Item 4

April 13, 2022

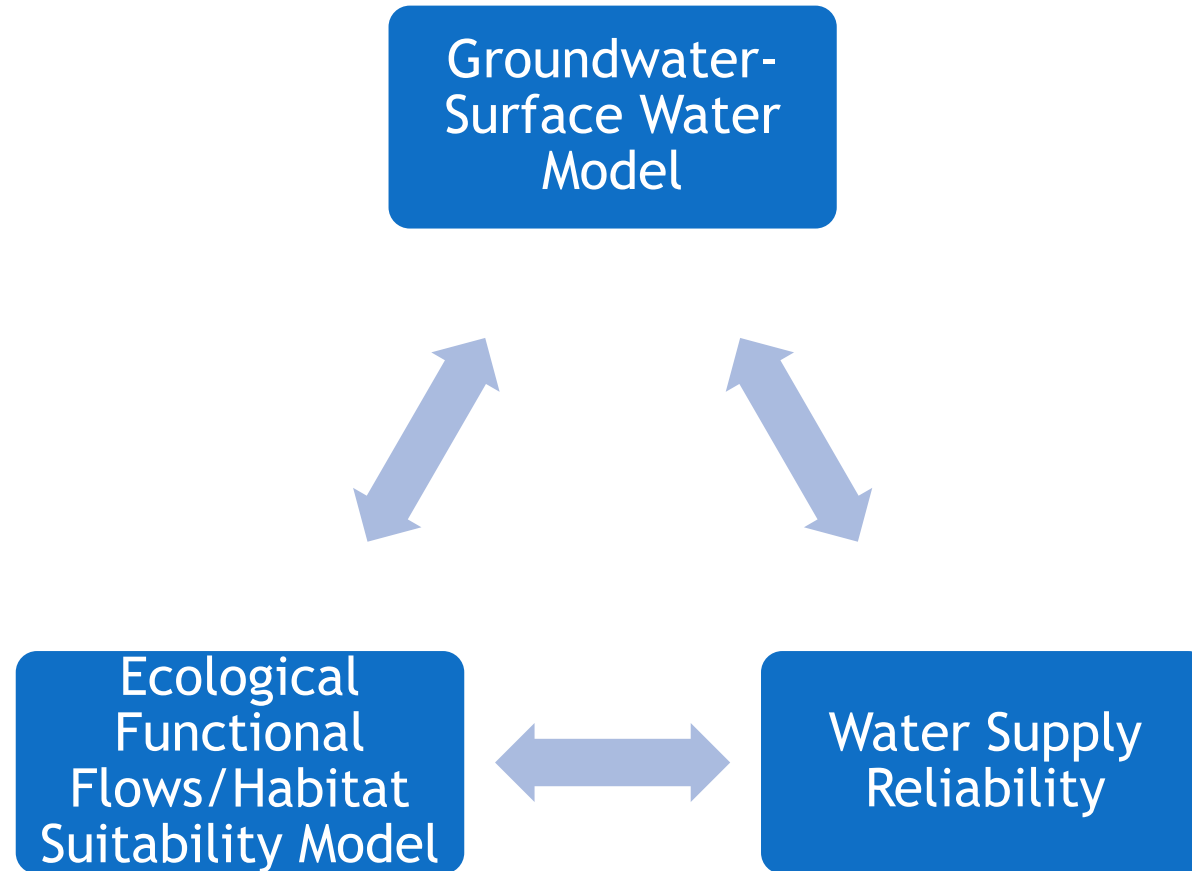
Water Resources and Watershed Committee

Interconnectivity of the Santa Clara River and SCV Water Supplies



Watershed Resilience Initiative

Analytical Tools



Watershed Resilience Initiative

Analytical Tools

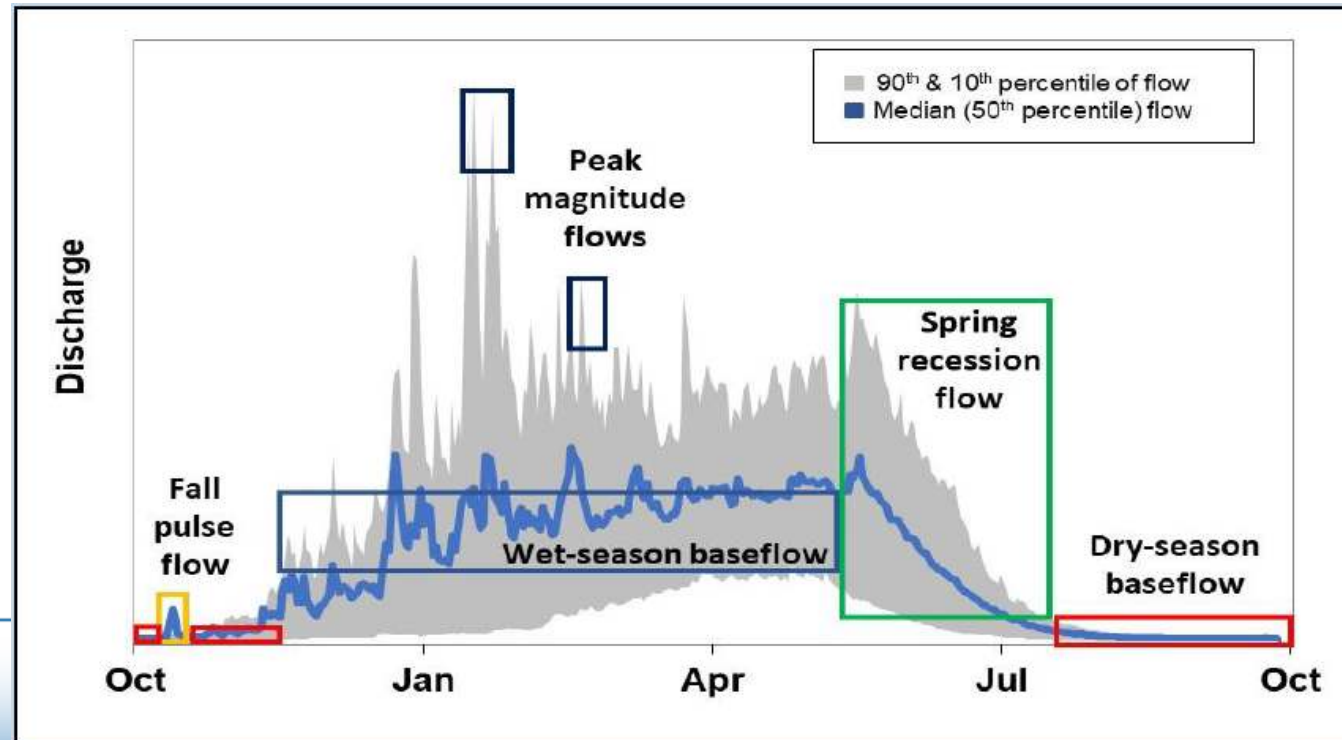


- Preliminary work has been done to identify flow-ecology linkages and estimate natural flow patterns for the watershed.
- Further advancing the ecological flow analysis is critical to advancing the groundwater and surface water analysis and the water supply reliability modeling because of their interconnectedness.



California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF)

- Managing for the five functional flow components preserves essential patterns of flow variability within and among seasons, but it does not mandate either the restoration of full natural flows or maintenance of historical ecosystem conditions



California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF)

- A full set of management objectives (ecological and non-ecological) is considered in determining environmental flow recommendations, expressed as a “rule set” of flow requirements
- Finally, an implementation plan that includes an adaptive management and monitoring strategy is developed



California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF)

- The CEFF is a management approach that provides technical guidance to help managers efficiently develop scientifically defensible environmental flow recommendations that balance human and ecosystem needs for water
- The key objectives of the framework are to:
 1. Standardize, streamline, and improve transparency of environmental flow assessments
 2. Provide flexibility to accommodate diverse management goals and priorities
 3. Improve coordination and data sharing among management agencies and other stakeholders

ESA Sole Source Justification

- Qualified under Sept 2021 Request for Qualification
- Extensive Knowledge of Upper Reaches of Santa Clara River
 - Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District Flow Analysis
 - Groundwater Sustainability



Recommendation

- The Water Resources and Watershed committee recommend the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with ESA for preparation of an Environmental Flow Framework study for portions of the Santa Clara River

Questions/Discussion