

Our Story:

We seek a new narrative on water and promote increased scientific inquiry, public oversight, democratic engagement, and investments toward community well being.

Who: Local residents, policy advocates, seasoned activists, and community organizers who have worked in California water for decades, motivated by social justice and love for our valley landscapes.

How: On May 19th, 2018, progressives from across the Valley met, brainstormed ideas, and drafted a set of positions and policies on water in the region.

Why: Throughout the Valley, people want a new story about water, one that acknowledges that everyone has a right to water to live and thrive.

Everyone in the valley has the right to water, for our bodies and souls. Everyone should be able to bathe in and drink clean water; tend to our mountains, foothills, and rivers; and be able to swim, cool off, and experience water in nature.

What can you do: Get engaged, join a campaign, become water advocates.

Get involved!

Contact progressivewaterSJV@gmail.com



PROGRESSIVE WATER PLATFORM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



A Human Right to Water

- Everyone in the San Joaquin Valley shall have clean, safe and affordable drinking and sanitation water.
- People are able to play and swim in every river in the Valley, from the Kern River through Bakersfield, to the Mokelumne in Lodi. Riverfronts are created in cities and towns, to bring people and rivers together.
- As the summers in the Valley get hotter and hotter, every town will have a swimming pool and every child will be able to swim. People in every town will have a place to cool off, with water and trees.

Everyone Has a Say

- As Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) develop the rules for using groundwater, disadvantaged communities and tribal representatives have legally required representation on GSA boards to protect the interests of small disenfranchised communities.
- Water districts must be democratically governed and transparently administered. Many small water districts should consider consolidation as they do not have the capacity to handle current water challenges. Some districts have been captured by large landowners, are perennially corrupt, and must be reorganized or dissolved by the State.

Data and Technology

- Valley residents need a real-time dashboard of their household water quality metrics, and accessible up-to-date public data on all agricultural and urban water uses.
- State or federal governments should expand groundwater, stream, river, lake and snowpack gauging, as well as free public access to frequent remote sensing of mountain and agricultural lands.
- More government-funded research and technology is needed on many topics such as crop adaptation to climate change, aquifer recharge and remediation, soil tilth, drinking water treatment, salt remediation, forest management, meadow restoration, and agroecology practices.

Healthy Mountains, Rivers, and Aquifers

- The people of the Valley are connected to and care for the Sierras. Students learn the science of their own watersheds at every school. During the summer, urban youth can get jobs in the mountains, restoring meadows, maintaining trails and managing forest ecology.
- The Valley's groundwater basins are recharged through many small efforts throughout the Valley, using municipal water recycling, on-farm fields, unlined canals, river restoration, and habitat conservation.
- The costs of subsidence (damage to structures and infrastructure) are paid by the people responsible for overdrafting aquifers, in proportion to the water they pumped.
- Water is legally and physically restored to every river; public parks give everyone access to each river.

Water is Not for Sale

Our water is a resource, not a commodity. Anyone that receives water cannot sell that water to anyone. They can use it or return it unpolluted to the natural watershed, but they cannot transfer it to anyone else for a profit.

