

# Integrated One Water Framework for the Water Master Plan

## Unincorporated Solano County

### Integrated One Water Framework

Solano County is preparing an integrated water resource implementation framework (One Water Framework) for the unincorporated County for holistic planning and implementation of water supply, wastewater, and drainage improvements, flood protection, and ecosystem enhancements that include nature-based solutions. The One Water Framework builds upon previous approaches to water resource management by carefully evaluating water systems to maximize benefits, such as integrating drainage systems to recharge groundwater supplies and/or enhance ecosystems. The Framework employs a collaborative multi-benefit approach and moves away from single resource management practices.



The One Water Framework will provide the foundation for development of a future Solano County Water Utilities Master Plan. The Framework will identify regional challenges and solutions and multi-benefit project concepts to better address the impacts of climate change and increasing challenges associated with water management. Additionally, the One Water Framework will guide policy planning, and resource management decision throughout the County.

### One Water Framework Approach

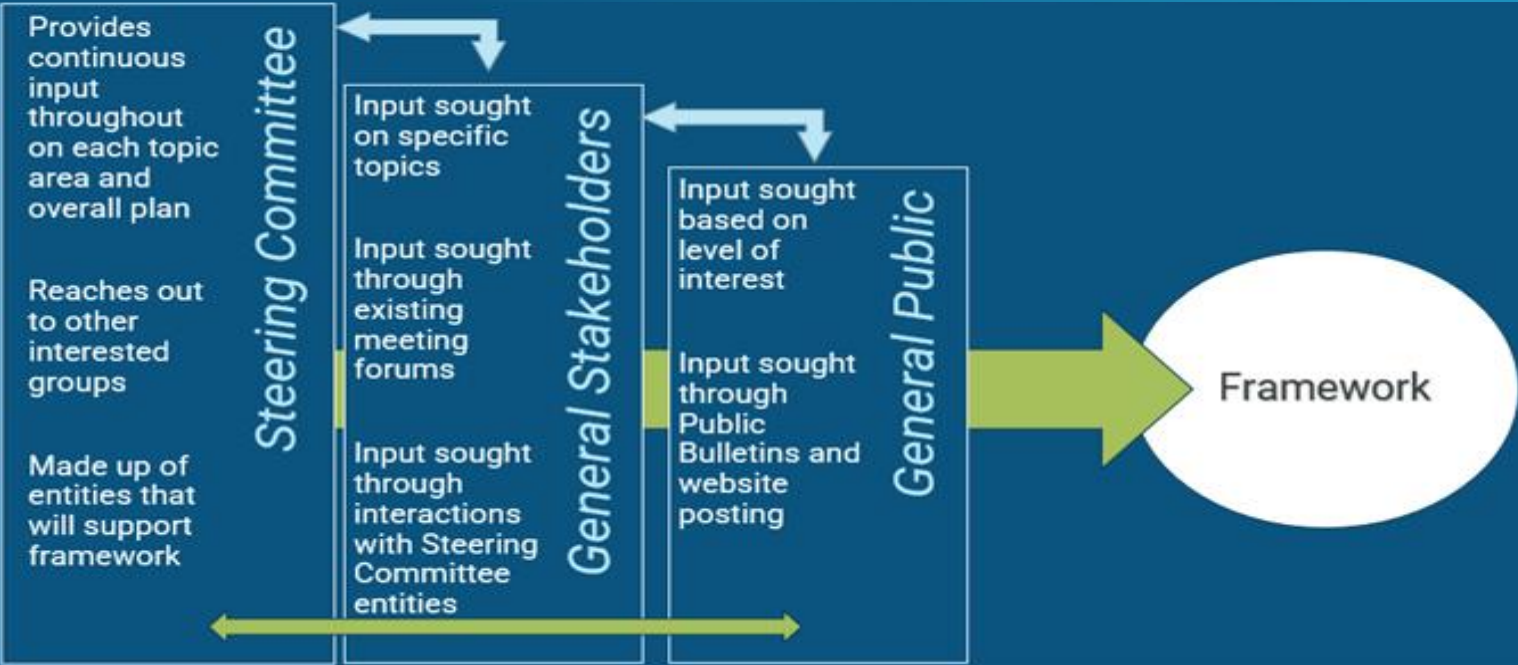
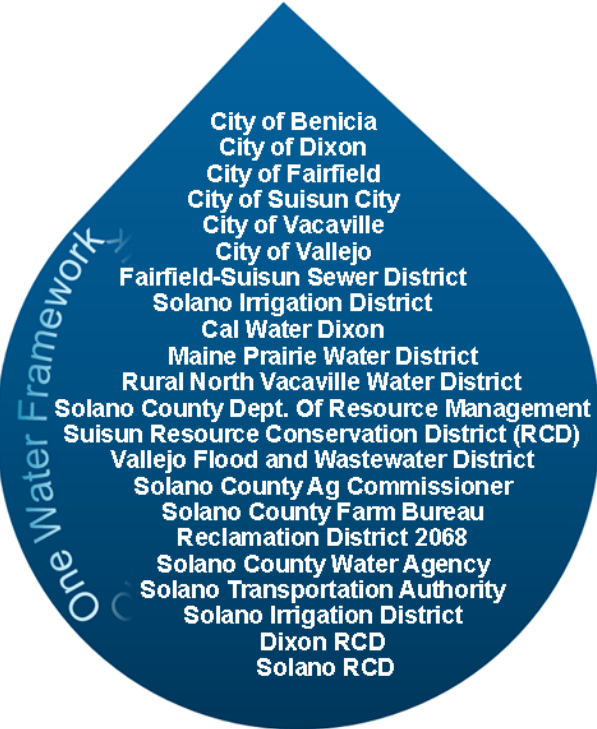
Through stakeholder collaboration, develop holistic vision, goals, objectives, and actions incorporating all available water resources to act as a roadmap for the future Solano County Utilities Master Plan.

### Solano County One Water Strategies

- ✓ **Focus** on Solano County Water Resources
- ✓ **Support and align** with the Solano County General Plan
- ✓ **Involve stakeholders** in identifying challenges and opportunities related to water resources
- ✓ **Establish a process** to develop regional multi-benefit projects

## Stakeholder Engagement

The County has and will continue to maintain robust and collaborative stakeholder engagement throughout development of the One Water Framework. The One Water Framework Steering Committee is an essential component of the stakeholder engagement process. The Steering Committee guides outreach efforts and provide continuous input to the process to understand issues and develop conceptual integrated water resource projects. The Steering Committee consists of agency representatives of water supply, drainage, and wastewater, and land use sectors including representatives from the unincorporated County, and local agricultural and drainage programs. In addition to Steering Committee meetings, Solano County staff engages the public through various forums as part of the development and input on the One Water Framework, including representatives of business groups, tribes, nonprofit, and other nongovernmental organizations, private citizens, agricultural interests, others interested in, or those who could be affected by the development and implementation of the One Water Framework. County of Solano staff held six meetings with interested parties in the region between March 2023 to December 2023. Interested parties involved in the process to date are shown in the side graphic.



## Stakeholder Meeting Outcomes

The Steering Committee worked with regional agencies and groups to:

- Identify stakeholders and roles.
- Review the One Water approach.
- Discuss water, wastewater, and drainage resources of Solano County.
- Discuss Solano County water-related policies and the regulatory environment.
- Identify challenges and opportunities related to Solano County water related resources.

## One Water Challenges

To date, participants have identified challenges in the following targeted areas:

### ➤ Pleasants/Vaca Valley Area

- Water supply reliability limited by groundwater quality & access to surface water infrastructure.
- Financial challenges to maintaining water/wastewater infrastructure over small customer base.
- Lack of septic system maintenance.
- Little demand for recycled water.
- Limited locations to discharge drainage/flood flows during wet periods.
- Multiple entities with responsibilities to maintain drainages.

### ➤ Dixon/Elmira Maine Prairie Areas

- Declining water supply reliability due to groundwater quality impacts from human activities, naturally occurring contaminants, and groundwater level decline.
- Lack of septic system maintenance.
- Limited demand for recycled water.
- Outdated infrastructure/studies.
- Limited locations to discharge drainage/flood flows during wet periods.
- Multiple entities with responsibilities to maintain drainages.
- Urbanization leading to increased runoff and flood risks.

### ➤ Suisun/Green Valley Areas

- Water supply reliability limited by groundwater quality & access to surface water infrastructure.
- Financial challenges to maintaining water/wastewater infrastructure over small customer base.
- Physical challenges to providing adequate wastewater infrastructure, e.g., soil suitability, elevation differences.
- Institutional barriers to extending/creating wastewater services.
- Lack of septic system maintenance.
- Limited demand for recycled water.
- Outdated infrastructure/studies.
- Limited locations to discharge drainage/flood flows during wet periods.
- Multiple entities with responsibilities to maintain drainages.

## Next Steps

Over the next several months, Steering Committee members and interested parties will meet to:

1. Finalize and/or update the One Water Framework goals, objectives, and actions.
2. Identify and develop integrated project concepts to address issues and challenges in the targeted areas: Pleasants/Vaca Valley, Dixon/Elmira Main Prairie, Suisun/Green Valley.

Stay up to date on meeting times, meeting materials, contacts, and other documents here:

[www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/delta\\_and\\_water\\_programs/one\\_water\\_framework/](http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/rm/delta_and_water_programs/one_water_framework/)