

POLICY PRIORITIES

The San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) is building a regional approach to strengthening California's water future. Working together through SJTA, our members utilize sound science and centuries of local expertise to ensure reliable water supplies for Bay Area and Central Valley communities, economies and environments.

Sound Science

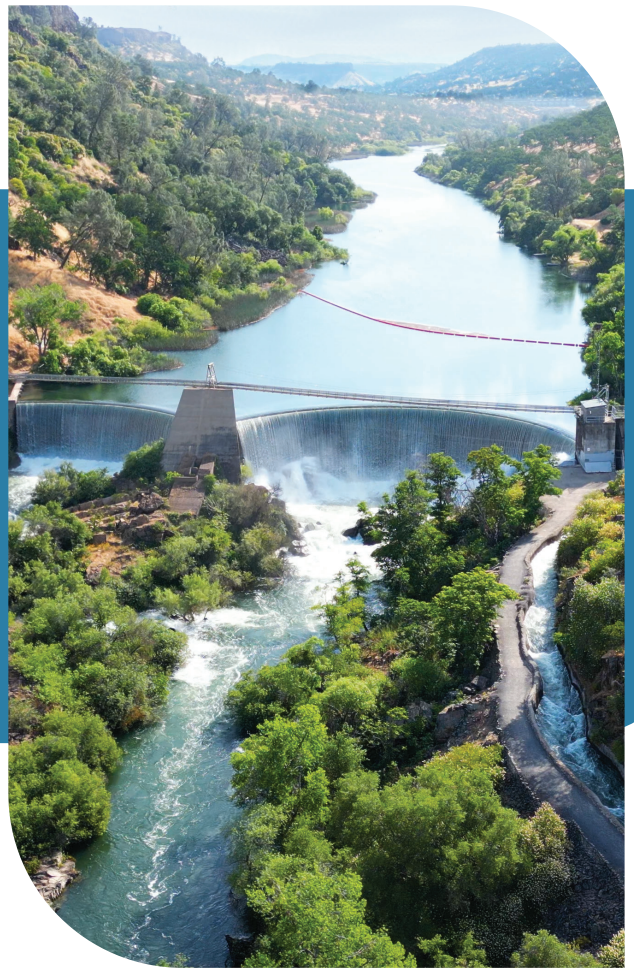
SJTA advocates for policy approaches that prioritize sound science and local expertise to enhance watershed resilience. Our members utilize centuries of research and operational experience to guide decisions, evaluate outcomes and adapt water systems over time. This science-based approach protects water reliability while supporting healthy rivers and resilient communities.

Local Control

Water management decisions are most effective when they reflect the conditions, infrastructure, and needs of the communities they affect. SJTA supports legislation and policies that preserve local decision-making, allowing experienced water managers to develop practical solutions that best fit their region.

Water Rights

Maintaining the current water rights systems that have been upheld continuously since the early 1900s is essential for our local communities. California's longstanding water rights system provides the legal certainty SJTA members need to plan and invest in infrastructure that supports 3.2 million people and over 260,000 acres of farmland that feeds the country.



Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

SJTA supports the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program as the best approach to solving the state's water supply challenges. The HRL is a locally-focused approach that combines sustainable river flows with habitat improvement projects supporting native fish and wildlife.

In comparison to the Bay-Delta Plan (BDP), the HRL reflects the kind of practical, science-based water policy California needs. While the BDP relies on a fixed-flow requirement that does not adjust to local conditions, the HRL combines actual river flows with habitat improvement projects that enhance fish populations. This local, science-based approach protects water reliability for communities, agriculture and the environment.



Local Gets Things Done

SJTA brings together local agencies and stakeholders to address increasing regulatory complexity, drought pressures, infrastructure challenges, groundwater sustainability requirements, and climate variability.

Our local expertise effectively positions us to make decisions that protect water and energy resiliency for 3.2 million people in the Bay Area and Central Valley.

MANAGE



We manage our water resources and systems to sustain our communities, economy, and environment now and into the future.

PROTECT



We protect natural resources using science-based evidence in our decision making and actions for effective water management.

STRENGTHEN



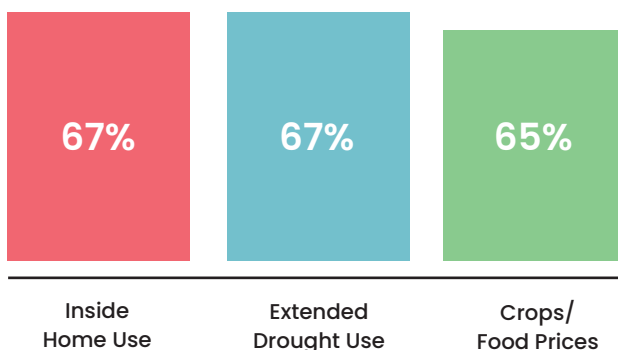
We strengthen the resilience and reliability of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers through strategic regional collaboration.

Top Voter Concerns

Residents throughout the Bay Area and Central Valley care deeply about their water resources. SJTA's recent Harris Research poll of 1,500 registered voters revealed a remarkable similarity in voter concerns in both geographic areas.

For Bay Area/Central Valley voters, 2 in 3 are very or extremely concerned about having sufficient water needed for use inside their home (67%) and for use during extended drought periods (67%).

For Bay Area/Central Valley voters, 2 in 3 are also very or extremely concerned about having sufficient water needed for California crop production to keep food prices low (65%).



Regional collaboration strengthens communities, promotes affordability, and provides economic stability.

Organizational Overview

The San Joaquin Tributaries Authority was established in 2012 as a Joint Powers Authority. Today, we are governed by four appointed commissioners—one from each member agency: Modesto Irrigation District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and Turlock Irrigation District. Together, we are working to build collaboration, understanding, and sustainable stewardship for the tributaries of the San Joaquin River.

