

# Merced Workshop

- About the State Water Board
- Water Rights 101
- Measurement and Reporting
- Merced Case Studies
- Questions & Answers



November 2024



# Water Rights 101

# What is a Water Right?

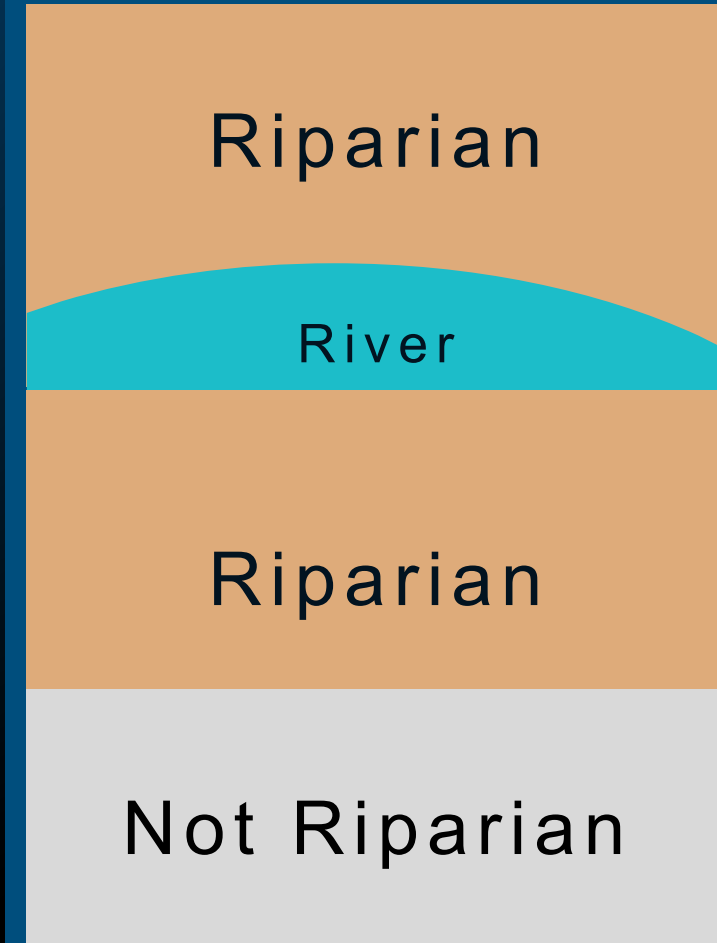
- Legal permission to use water for a beneficial purpose (Household, Irrigation, Fish & Wildlife, Mining, Municipal, Industrial, Power, Recreation)
- Different types of water rights have different rules.
- All water right holders or claimants must report their water use to the State Water Board annually.



# Riparian Rights

Landowners can use some water from a water body bordering their property:

- Can only divert **natural flow** - not stored water.
- Amount depends on natural flow (more in wet years).
- All riparians share mutually (same priority).
- Must use water on riparian land within the watershed.
- Cannot store water for later use.
- Generally senior to appropriative.



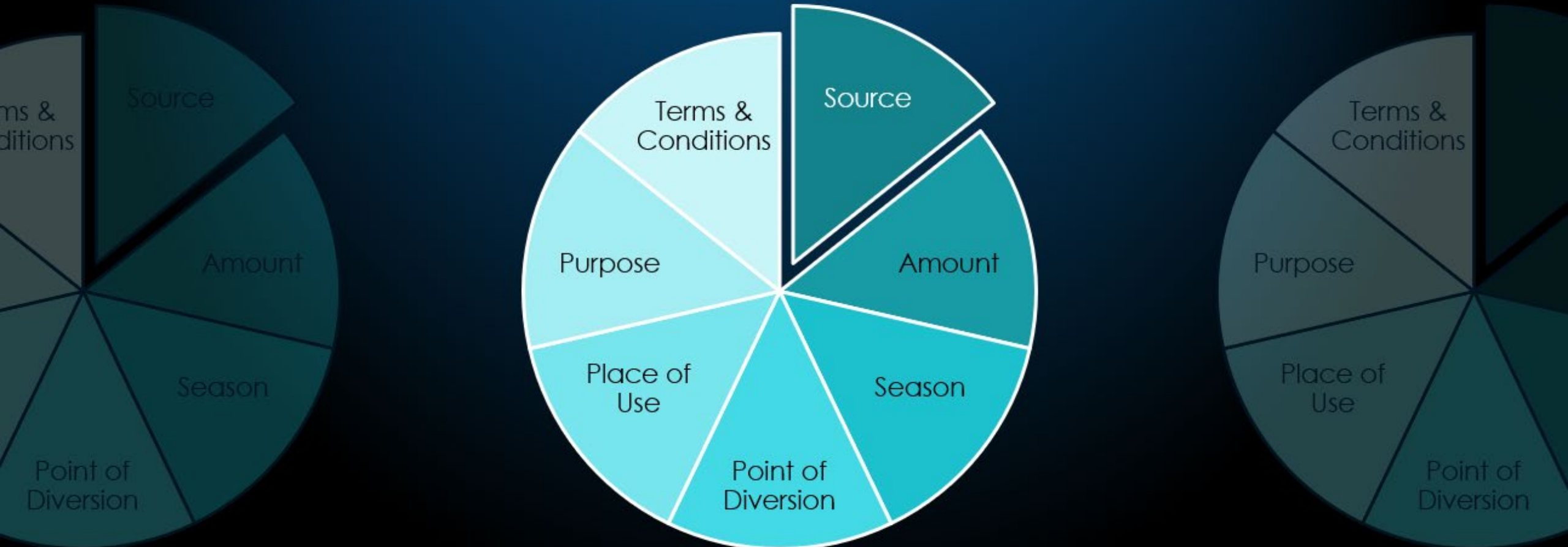
# Appropriative Rights

Based on “First in Time First in Right”

- Prioritized by date of right.
- Land does not need to border a water body.
- Water can be exported and stored.
- Divided into pre-1914 and post-1914.
- Post-1914 requires a permit or registration.



# Parts of a Water Right



Older

Priority

Newer



# 7 Diverter Responsibilities

All right holders must...

- ✓ Comply with water right terms and conditions.
- ✓ Pay fees if required.
- ✓ Request approval to change information.
- ✓ Submit annual reports each year.
- ✓ Measure diversions more frequently if diverting > 10 acre-feet (SB 88).
- ✓ Comply with State Water Board orders.

# What Happens During Drought?

- State Water Board may restrict diversions based on priority.
- Process is called curtailment.
- Junior right holders curtailed before senior (typically).
- Accurate reporting is critical for drought management.





9

# Annual Diversion and Use Reporting

-and-

# Monitoring and Measurement Requirements (SB88)

# Basics of Annual Reporting

*Who is required to submit?*

**EVERYONE!** All water right holders and claimants (riparian, pre-14, post-14, etc.)  
Even if you did not divert any water the previous year

*How do I know if I have a water right?*

Look it up [online](#)

*What information is required?*

Monthly volumes of water diverted for each water right or claim

Note: diverters that use more than 10 acre-feet per year must also measure their diversions, and report on that *in addition* to the annual report (more in subsequent slides)



Regulatory Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 23, §§ 920, 925, and 929

# Annual Diversion and Use Report

## SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE FOR REPORTING PERIOD

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

Primary Owner:   
 Statement Number:   
 Date Submitted: 02/17/2024

Water is used under	Riparian Claim
Year diversion commenced	1930

Purpose of Use	
Irrigation	

Irrigated Crops			
	Multiple Crops	Area Irrigated (Acres)	Primary Irrigation Method
Corn	Yes	399	Surface (example: flood)
Grains (wheat, oat)	Yes	399	Surface (example: flood)

Special Use Categories	
Are you using any water diverted under this right for the cultivation of cannabis?	No

Amount of Water Diverted and Used			
Month	Amount directly diverted (Acre-Feet)	Amount diverted or collected to storage (Acre-Feet)	Amount beneficially used (Acre-Feet)
<b>2022</b>			
October	60	0	60
November	82	0	82
December	6	0	6
<b>2023</b>			
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
April	25	0	25
May	0	0	0
June	60	0	60
July	114	0	114
August	158	0	158
September	165	0	165
Total	670	0	670
Type of Diversion	Direct Diversion Only		

Maximum Rate of Diversion	
Month	Rate of Diversion (Cubic Feet Per Second)
<b>2022</b>	
October	8
November	8
December	4
<b>2023</b>	
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	8
May	0
June	8
July	8
August	8
September	8

Water Transfers	
Water transferred	No
Quantity transferred (Acre-Feet)	
Dates which transfer occurred	/ to /
Transfer approved by	

Water Supply Contracts	
Water supply contract	No
Contract with	
Contract number	
Source from which contract water was diverted	
Point of diversion same as identified water right	
Amount (Acre-Feet) authorized to divert under this contract	
Amount (Acre-Feet) authorized to be diverted in 2023	
Amount (Acre-Feet) projected for 2024	
Exchange or settlement of prior rights	
All monthly reported diversion claimed under the prior rights	
Amount (Acre-Feet) of reported diversion solely under contract	

# Reports are Due February 1

## Late Reporting Fees

(post-1914 appropriative water rights)

Summary of Late Reporting Fees				
Size of Water Right (acre-feet)	1-30 days late	31-60 days late	61-90 days late	>90 days late
Up to 100	No late fee	25% of annual fee	40% of annual fee	50% of annual fee
>100-1,000	No late fee	30% of annual fee	45% of annual fee	55% of annual fee
>1,000-5,000	No late fee	40% of annual fee	50% of annual fee	60% of annual fee
>5,000-25,000	No late fee	50% of annual fee	60% of annual fee	75% of annual fee
>25,000	No late fee	60% of annual fee	75% of annual fee	85% of annual fee

# Annual Diversion and Use Reporting

## *Why is it Important?*

This data helps us better understand water availability  
It helps us plan for future years and each diverters needs,  
especially in dry years

## Resources:

Email: [RMS@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RMS@waterboards.ca.gov)

Call: (916) 341-5431

Visit the [Water Use Reporting website](#)

[File online](#)



Water use reporting website



File online here

A close-up, long-exposure photograph of a waterfall, showing the water in motion as a series of blurred, cascading lines. The water is a deep blue color, and the overall scene is dynamic and energetic.

# Monitoring and Measurement Requirements (SB88)

# Background

California Code of Regulations, Title 23, §§ 931-938

Approved in 2016

Requires applicable water right holders and claimants to measure and report their diversions

Specifies frequency and accuracy requirements depending on the authorized diversion size

Data supplements and supports Annual Water Diversion and Use Reports

# Who is subject?

Type of Right	Water Right ID First Letter	Applicability Threshold
Statement (Riparian or Pre-1914 Claim)	S (Ex: <u>S</u> 001234)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum historical diversion &gt; 10 acre-feet per year</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• Maximum future diversion &gt; 10 acre-feet per year</li> </ul>
Permit or License	A, T (Ex: <u>A</u> 012345)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face value &gt; 10 acre-feet per year</li> </ul>
Registration (Domestic, Livestock, Small Irrigation, Cannabis)	D, L, H (Ex: <u>H</u> 004567)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face value &gt; 10 acre-feet per year</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• Capacity of storage facility &gt; 10 acre-feet</li> </ul>
Multiple water rights or claims with the <i>same point of diversion</i> OR <i>same place of use</i>	A, D, H, L, S, T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sum of face values (or maximum historical or future diversion) &gt; 10 acre-feet per year</li> </ul>



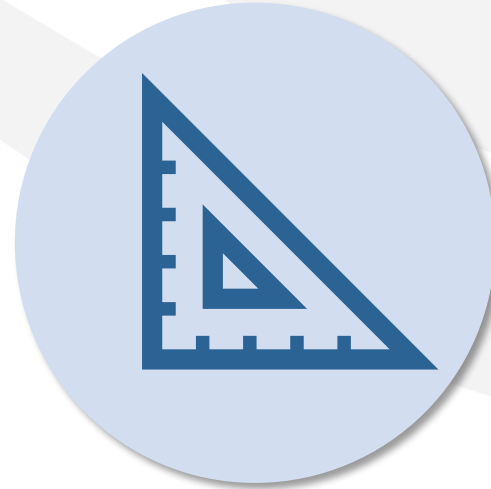
# How to measure?



## MEASUREMENT DEVICE

Any device that measures:

- Water volume
- Water flow rate
- Water velocity
- Water elevation



## MEASUREMENT METHOD

Any other way of determining the volume of water diverted per water right (usually involves extra math)



## ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE

Provides flexibility if strict compliance is not possible, but must still meet as many requirements as possible

# Measurement Frequency

Diversion Type	Volume Threshold	Required Frequency
<b>Direct Diversion</b>	More than 10,000 acre-feet	Hourly, plus <a href="#">telemetry requirements</a>
<b>Direct Diversion</b>	1,000 to 10,000 acre-feet	Hourly
<b>Direct Diversion</b>	100 to 999 acre-feet	Daily
<b>Direct Diversion</b>	10 to 99 acre-feet	Weekly
<b>Diversion to Storage</b>	10,000 acre-feet or more	Hourly, plus <a href="#">telemetry requirements</a>
<b>Diversion to Storage</b>	1,000 to 9,999 acre-feet	Hourly
<b>Diversion to Storage</b>	200 to 999 acre-feet	Daily
<b>Diversion to Storage</b>	50 to 199 acre-feet	Weekly
<b>Diversion to Storage</b>	10 to 49 acre-feet	Monthly

\*Direct Diversion: Based on the face value or maximum annual historical use (whichever is greater)

\*Diversion to Storage: Based on the capacity of the storage facility

# What do I need to Submit?

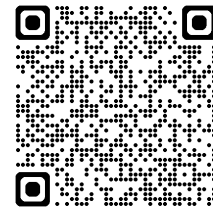
Register your measurement device online

Upload Datafiles from your device

The diagram shows a data table with the following columns and their corresponding labels:

- Date/Time**: Points to the 'Date (MM/DD/YYYY)' and 'Time (HH:MM 24hr)' columns.
- Units**: Points to the 'Raw Unit of Measurement' and 'QA/QC Unit of Measurement' columns.
- Volume**: Points to the 'Volume Diverted' and 'Volume Diverted Units' columns.
- Column Headings**: Points to the 'Data flags (optional; 200 char. max)' column.

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Time (HH:MM 24hr)	Raw Measurement Value	Raw Unit of Measurement	QA/QC Measurement Value	QA/QC Unit of Measurement	Volume Diverted	Volume Diverted Units	Data flags (optional; 200 char. max)
10/01/2022	15:28	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
10/02/2022	14:02	2.01	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	Device reporting diversion when none occurred. Volume field shows
10/03/2022	15:23	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
10/04/2022	13:58	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
10/05/2022	12:22	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
10/06/2022	13:54	174.57	Gallons per minute	174.57	Gallons per minute	0.8207	Acre-feet	
10/07/2022	12:46	210.67	Gallons per minute	210.67	Gallons per minute	0.8870	Acre-feet	



## Water Measurement and Reporting: Submissions and Deficiencies (WY 2023)

(Last Updated 4.23.2024)

Water Right ID	Owner Name	Submitted Annual Report	Compliance Pathway	Submitted Datafile
A000032	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY	Yes	Device or Method	Yes
A000065	RUSS C HAWKINS	Yes	Not reported	No
A000077A	Northern California Power Agency	Yes	Device or Method	Yes
A000084	MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS	Yes	Device or Method	Yes
A000088	PHARRIS SYCAMORE FLATS LLC	Yes	Not reported	No
A000098	ANANDA ASHRAMA INC	Yes	Not reported	No
A000102	LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER	Yes	Not reported	No
A000135	RICHARD L JENNINGS	Yes	Not reported	No
A000138	CARMICHAEL WATER DISTRICT	Yes	Device or Method	No
A000180	COVINA IRRIGATING COMPANY	Yes	Not reported	No
A000186	CACHIL DEHE BAND OF WINTUN INDIANS OF	Yes	Device or Method	Yes
A000192	CITYWEDO INVESTMENT, LLC	Yes	Not reported	No
A000194	U S MODOC NATL FOREST	No	Not reported	No
A000202	JEFF WHITAKER	Yes	Not reported	No

Search by Water Right ID

All

Search by Owner Name

All

Filter by County

All

Filter by Watershed

All

Filter by Face Value (AF)

0.00 11,463,752.50

Key:

**Submitted Annual Report** = Whether the diverter filed their 2023 Annual Water Use Report


**Compliance Pathway** = How the diverter is complying with device requirements, based on 2023 Annual Report

**Submitted Datafile** = Whether the diverter uploaded a measurement data file with their 2023 Annual Report

# Tools

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Time (HH:MM 24hr)	Raw Measurement Value	Raw Unit of Measurement	QA/QC Measurement Value	QA/QC Unit of Measurement	Volume Diverted	Volume Diverted Units	Data flags (optional; 200 char. max)
2	10/01/2022	15:28	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
3	10/02/2022	14:02	2.01	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	Device reporting diversion when none occurred. Volume field shows corrected data
4	10/03/2022	15:23	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
5	10/04/2022	13:58	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
6	10/05/2022	12:22	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.00	Gallons per minute	0.0000	Acre-feet	
7	10/06/2022	13:54	174.57	Gallons per minute	174.57	Gallons per minute	0.8207	Acre-feet	
8	10/07/2022	12:46	210.67	Gallons per minute	210.67	Gallons per minute	0.8870	Acre-feet	
9	10/08/2022	13:23	192.83	Gallons per minute	192.83	Gallons per minute	0.8740	Acre-feet	
10	10/09/2022	12:53	295.17	Gallons per minute	295.17	Gallons per minute	1.2772	Acre-feet	
11	10/10/2022	15:43	189.23	Gallons per minute	189.23	Gallons per minute	0.9350	Acre-feet	

Datafile Templates  
 Measurement and  
 Reporting Manual  
 FAQs

 <b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>	
<b>Water Measurement and Reporting Regulation</b>	
<b>GENERAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1. What should I do first?.....	2
2. Which water diverters are required to comply with the Water Measurement and Reporting Regulation? Who must measure and report?.....	2
3. I am required to measure and report my diversion volumes. What do I have to do?.....	3
4. THE face value of my water right is greater than 10 acre-feet per year, but my actual diversions are less than 10 acre-feet per year. Sometimes I do not divert any water at all. Do I still need to measure and submit a datafile?.....	3
5. Do I need to measure the entire year or just during my diversion season?.....	4
6. I recently bought a property with a Statement of Diversion and Use/Riparian Claim/Pre-1914 Appropriative Claim. Am I subject to the Regulation based on the previous owner's use?.....	4
7. Do I need to have a physical Measuring Device to comply with the Regulation?.....	4
8. How long is my Measurement Method and/or Alternative Compliance Plan valid?.....	5
<b>DATAFILE FORMAT AND SUBMISSION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
9. If I comply with the Regulation through a Measurement Method or Alternative Compliance Plan, do I still need to submit a datafile?.....	5
10. Is the format for the datafiles specified in the Regulation?.....	6
11. Should I submit raw data from my Measuring Device or QA/QC'd data? What if there was a period during my diversion season when my Measuring Device was not functioning properly (e.g., due to vegetation, animals, weather, etc.)?.....	6
12. How long am I required to keep records of my data?.....	6
13. The measurement frequency requirements apply to how often we need to collect data. How	



**MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING MANUAL**

State Water Resources Control Board  
 Division of Water Rights  
 December 2023

# Measurement and Monitoring Resources

**Email:**

[DWR-Measurement@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWR-Measurement@Waterboards.ca.gov)

**Water Measurement Website:**



**Regulation Text:**



# Reporting Accurately and On Time Matters!

We use the data to evaluate water supply and demand

We use the data to improve our administration of the water right priority system

For the Merced River, we've used the data in several studies

# Case Studies:



Photograph courtesy of CDFW 09/22/2022

## River Flow and Diversion Analysis, 2022 Dry River Conditions

**Interactive Map of Lower Merced River**

Water diverted under a Riparian Right can only be beneficially used on land which is riparian to that water course. The interactive map is intended to help users identify which parcels along the lower Merced River are riparian to the river. Additional research beyond this map is required to verify the validity of a claimed Riparian Right. Information provided by this map does not confirm a claim or right.

The map tool includes examples of riparian rights for reference. If you have further questions about Riparian or other Water Rights, please refer to the Water Rights FAQ webpage.

**Search for Claims of Right (Statement ID)**

Search for or click on a statement number below to zoom to and highlight the associated point of diversion(s) and parcel(s). Then click on the number in the list to **unselect** it. (Only one Statement ID can be selected at a time.)

**NOTE:** The selected parcel likely contains the place of use based on the State Water Board's records. However, the place of use may not be the extent of the entire parcel. Some points of diversion do not have parcels associated with them in the map. The map depicts only the information provided by Diverters. If you see any discrepancies with the information in this map, please

**Statement ID**

Search...

**Launch the Interactive Map**

## Interactive Map of Riparian and Pre-1914 Claims on the Lower Merced River



# Merced River Analysis of Summer 2022

## Preliminary Results

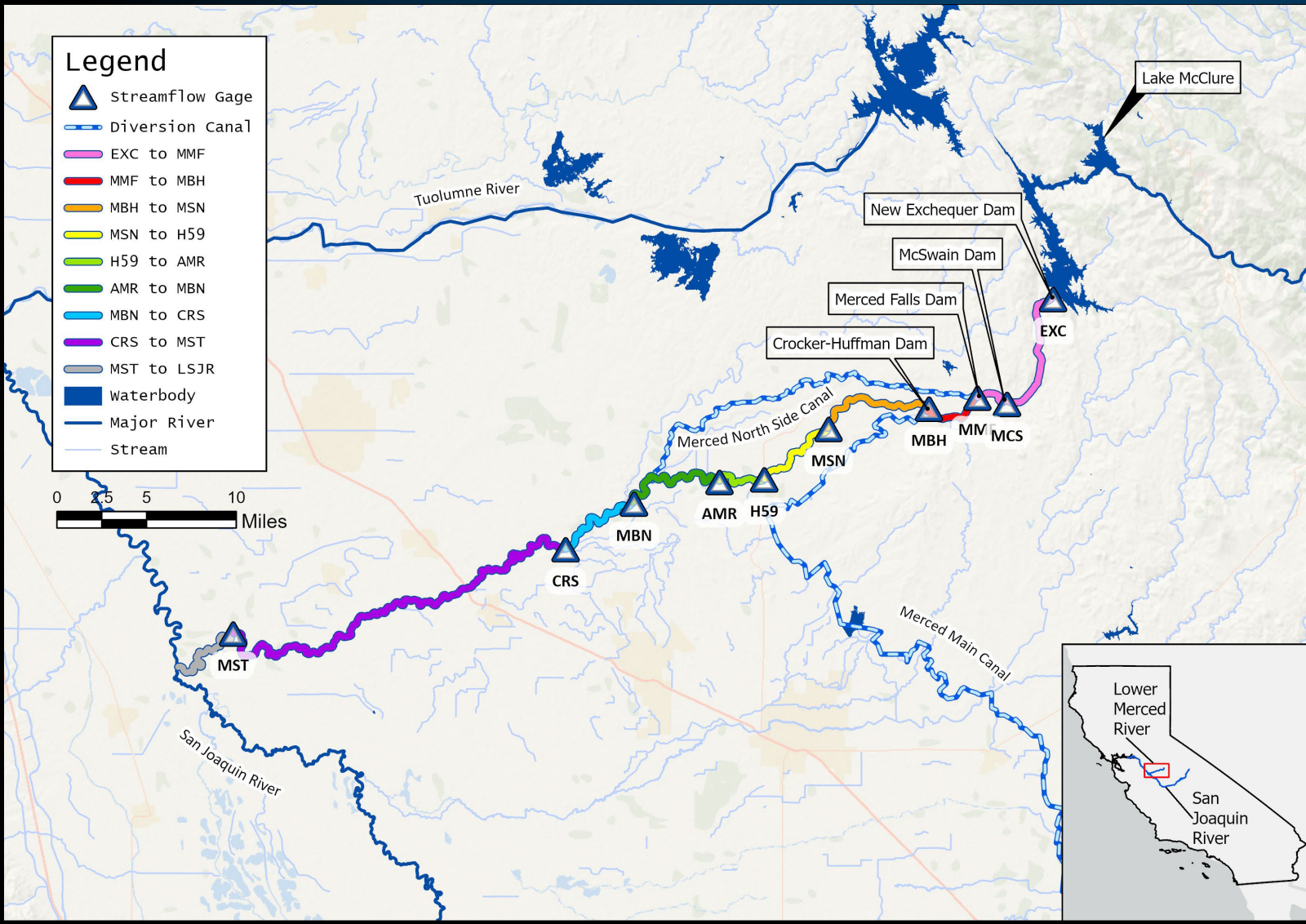
### Comparison of River Flow and Diversion July – September 2022

Were flow losses larger than diversions?

Were water diversions larger than flow losses?

How do flow losses and diversions vary by river reach?

# Merced River Analysis Study Area



### Water Rights

Licenses	22
Inactive	6
Claimed	75
Above McClure	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>

Preliminary results do not cite

River Reach Name	River Mile Range	Length river miles	PODs (count)
Above EXC	N/A	N/A	14
EXCI to EXCO	63 to 63	0	7
EXC to MCS	63 to 56	6	3
MCS to MMF	56 to 55	1	6
MMF to MBH	55 to 52	4	3
MBH to MSN	52 to 46	5	12
MSN to H59	46 to 42	4	5
H59 to AMR	42 to 39	3	4
AMR to MBN	39 to 32	7	8
MBN to CRS	32 to 28	5	10
CRS to MST	28 to 5	23	45
MST to LSJR	5 to 0	5	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	N/A	63	125

# Merced River Reported Information

Best Available Data - retrospective water balance

Limited real-time information

Multiple sources of information

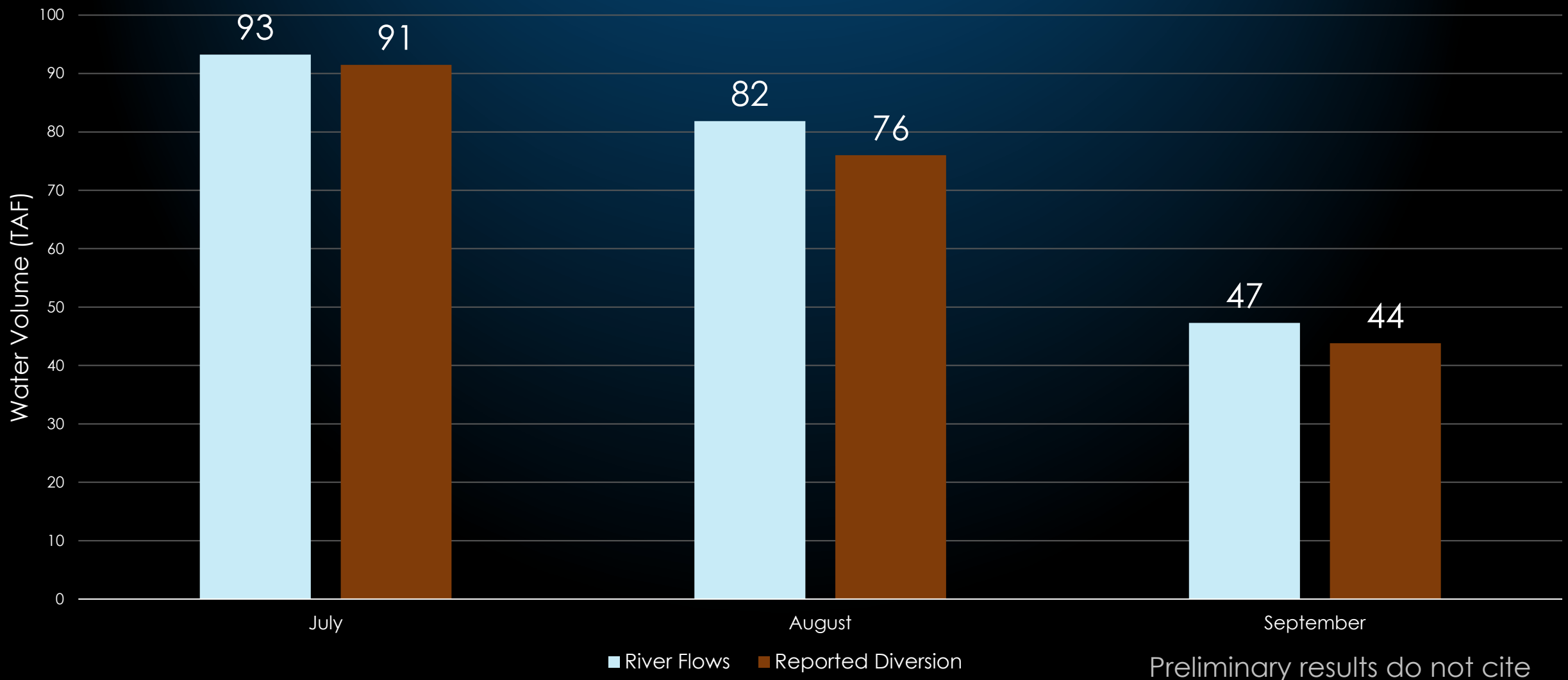
Inconsistencies in reported data

96% submitted Annual Reports

55% submitted Measurement Devices (16 WR with multiple PODs)

# Merced River Analysis Summary

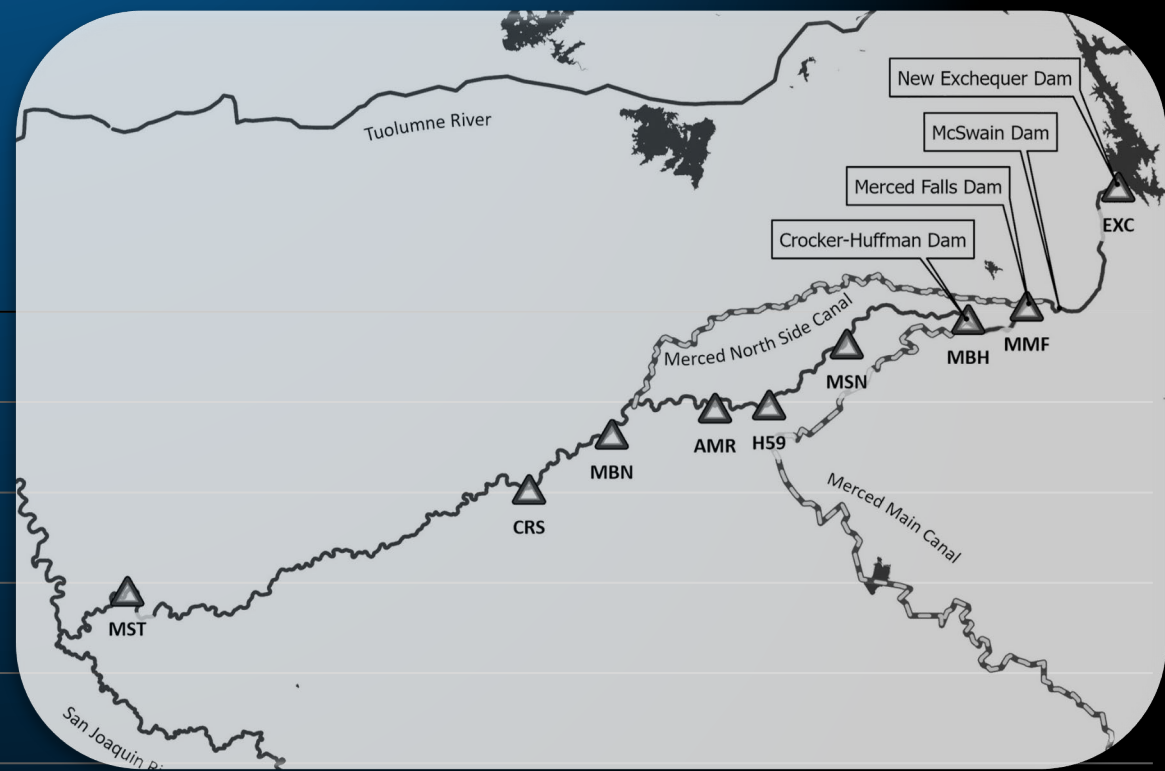
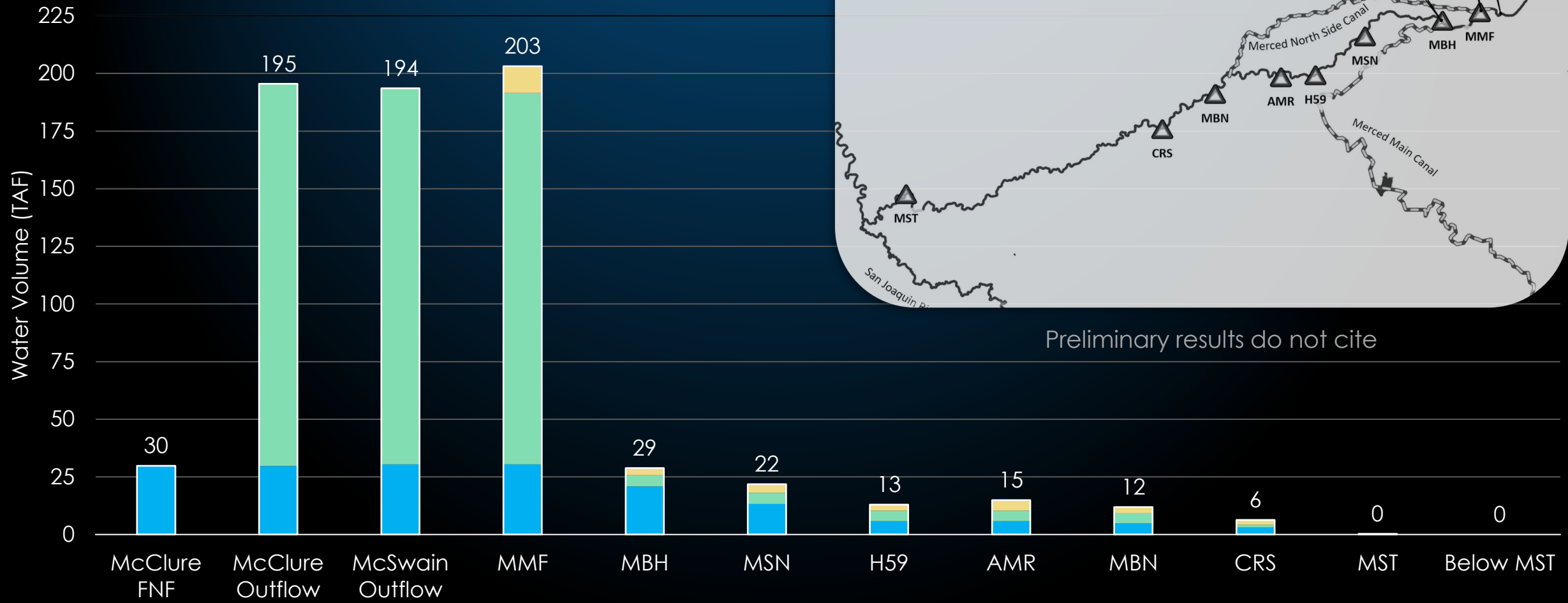
Merced River Reported Diversion and River Supply July - September 2022



Preliminary results do not cite

# Merced River Flows

July – September 2022 Stream Flows



Preliminary results do not cite

Upstream

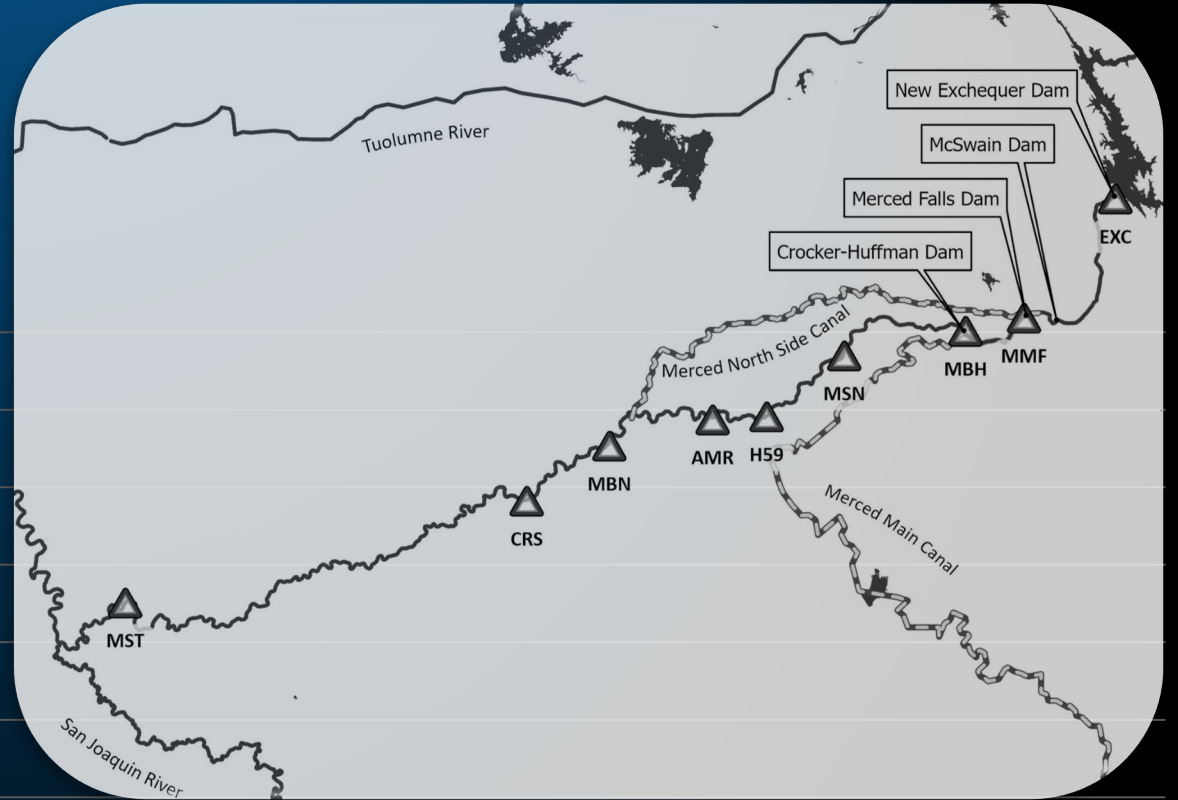
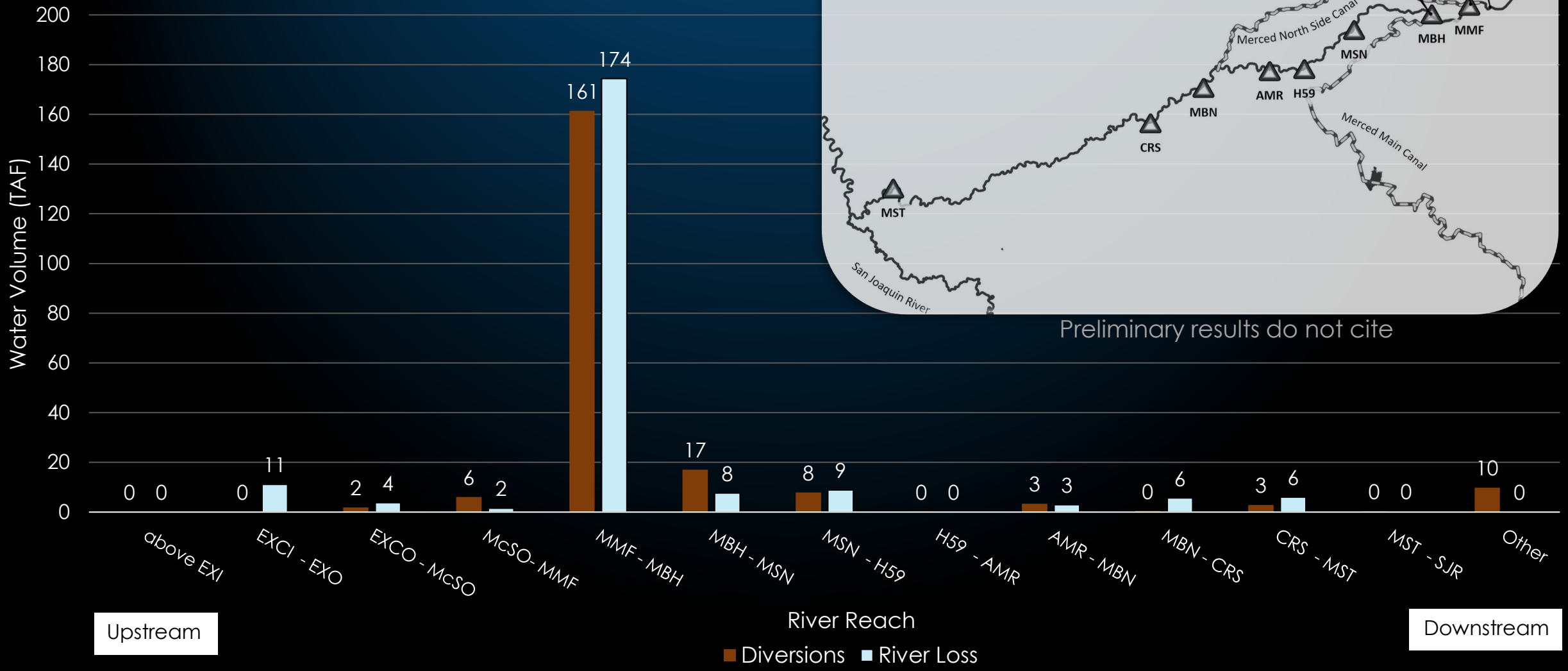
Merced River Flow Gage Locations

Downstream

■ FNF 
 ■ Storage Withdrawals 
 ■ Accretions 
  Total

# Reported Diversions and River Flow Losses

Volumes by River Reach July - September 2022



Preliminary results do not cite

Upstream

River Reach

Downstream

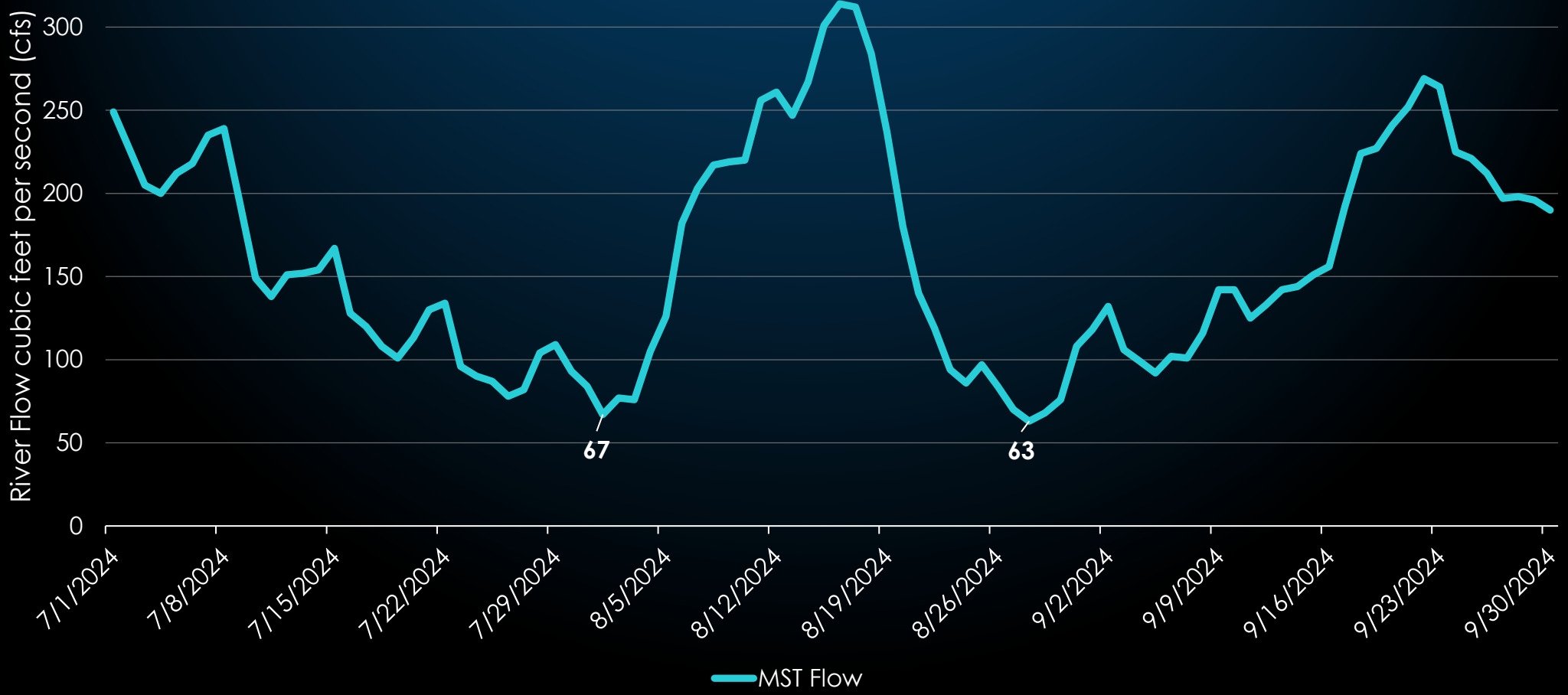
■ Diversions ■ River Loss

# Take-aways

- Reported diversions ~ Reported river losses
  - Majority losses match reported diversion
- Reach by reach variability
  - 3 increasing reaches, 9 depleting reaches
- Consistent summer patterns
  - 17% potential unaccounted flow losses
  - 12% potential reporting error and/or river gains
- Accurate reporting is important

# Merced River Flow Conditions Summer 2024

Merced River Flow near Stevinson July 1 - September 30, 2024





# Merced River ~ River Mile 1

George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area



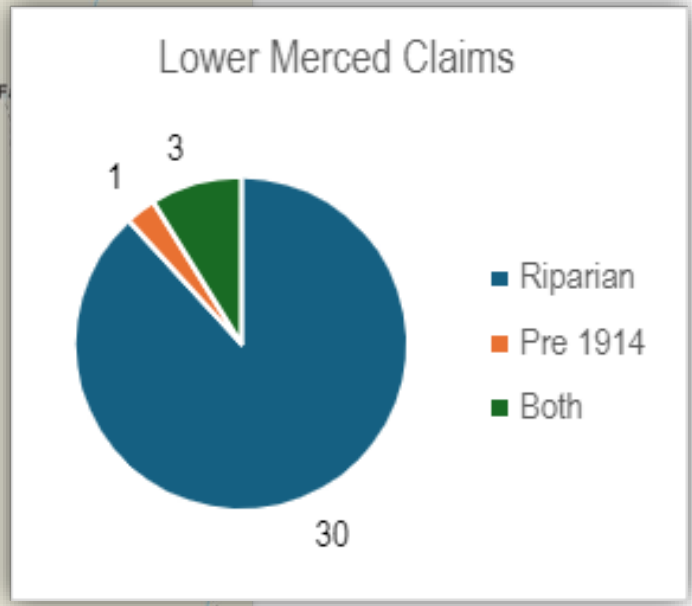
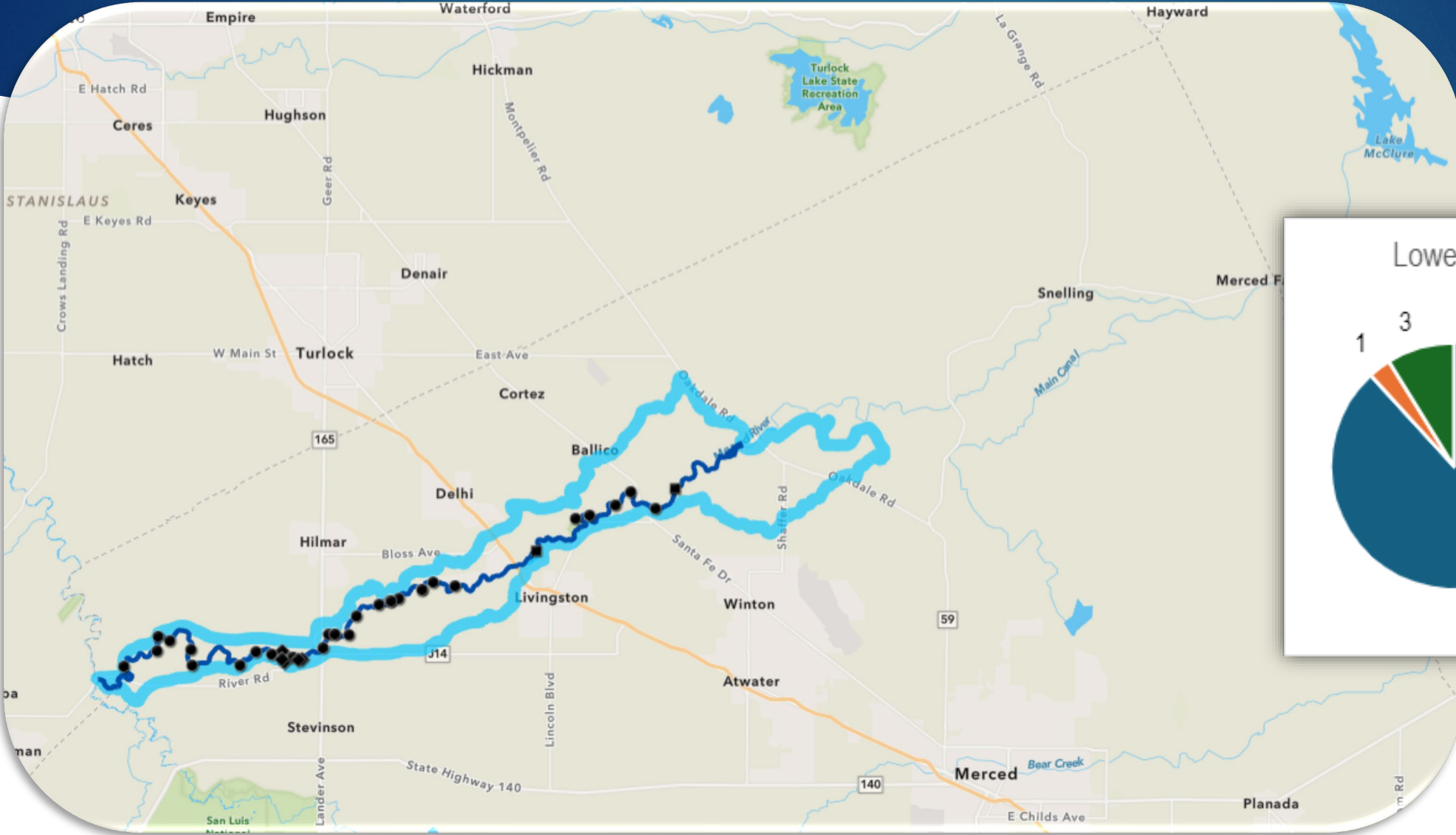
239 cfs



49 cfs

Photographs courtesy of CDFW 10/19/2022 and 5/19/2022 respectively

# Riparian and Pre-1914 Claims Oakdale road to the San Joaquin River



# Watershed Review

We found:

- ▶ outdated records
- ▶ diversions may not have a statement or water right on file
- ▶ riparian claims may be diverting on non-riparian land
- ▶ Inconsistencies in reported claim type

What we've done:

- ▶ contacted diverters via phone, email, and letters for more information
- ▶ conducted site visits

# Using the Map



It is the diverter's responsibility to ensure records are correct and current

Identify where riparian rights apply based on original boundaries

Verify that our records are current for your diversion

Correct location of POD

Current map showing POU



Review what rights or claims are on file



Understand your water rights

## Search for Claims of Right (Statement ID)

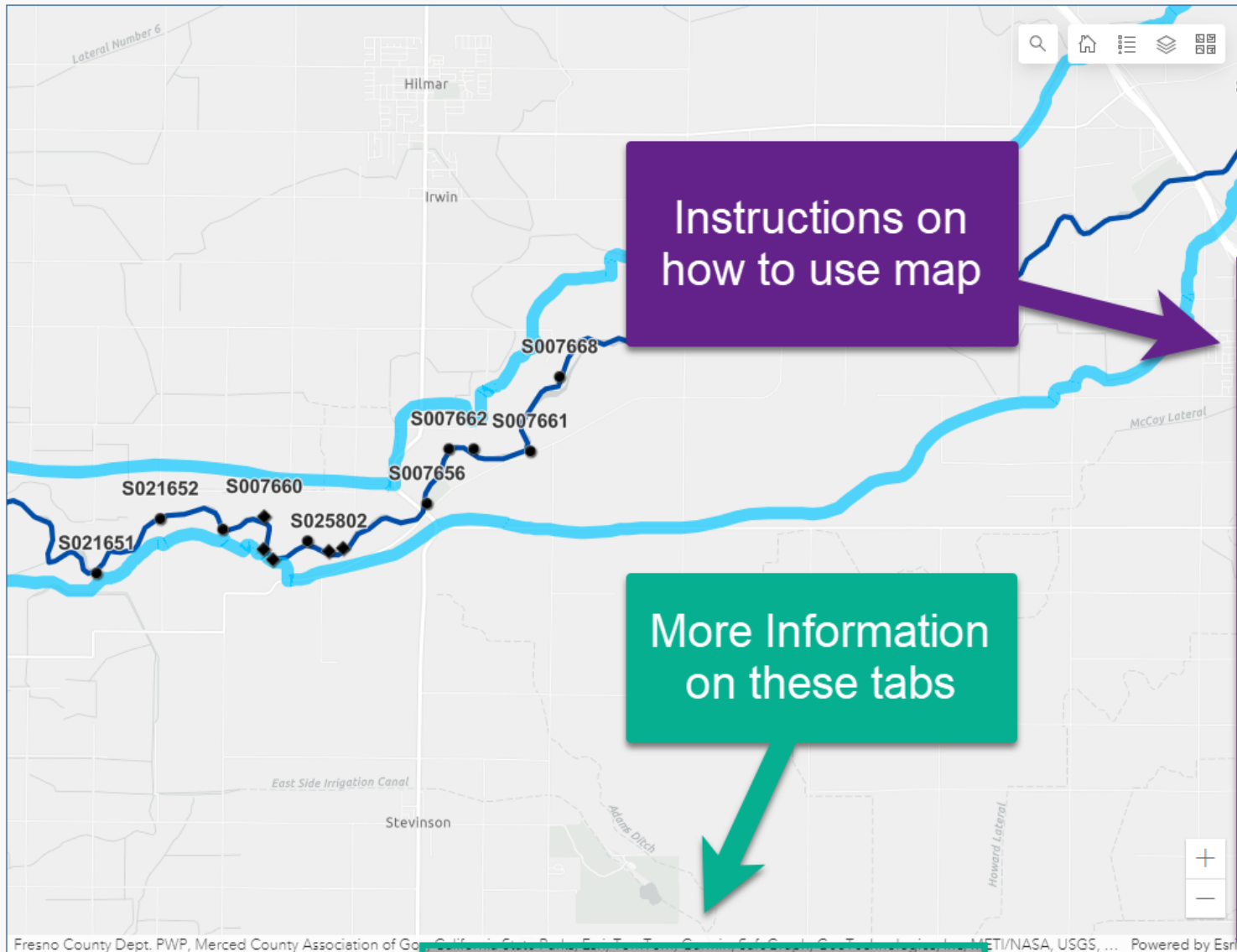
Search for or click on a statement number below to zoom to and highlight the associated point of diversion(s) and parcel(s). Then click on the number in the list to **unselect** it. (Only one Statement ID can be selected at a time.)

NOTE: The selected parcel likely contains the place of use based on the State Water Board's records. However, the place of use may not be the extent of the entire parcel. Some points of diversion do not have parcels associated with them in the map. The map depicts only the information provided by Diverters. If you see any discrepancies with the information in this map, please contact State Water Board staff.

Phone: (916) 341-5300  
Email: [dwr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwr@waterboards.ca.gov)

### Statement ID

Statement ID
<input type="text" value="Search..."/>
S007654
S007656
S007660
S007661
S007662
S007664
S007665
S007667
S007668
S007674
S013376



## Claims on the Lower Merced River

- Riparian
- ◆ Riparian, Pre-1914
- Pre-1914

### How to Use This Map

- Click on a Statement ID in the list or enter a Statement ID in the Search box to zoom to that location and highlight the associated parcel(s).
- When clicking on a map feature, multiple layers may get selected at the same time. This will be indicated in the pop-up information window, where you can view data for each layer by clicking on the arrows. ◀ 1 of 4 ▶
- Click on a point of diversion (Statement ID) to view the latitude, longitude, claim type, and Point of Diversion (POD) number.
- Click anywhere in a parcel to view the parcel number and a list of associated statement(s).
- Review the Place of Use (POU) associated with the POD for the statement of interest and identify whether the POU falls within the original riparian patent boundary lines.
- Click anywhere in a PLSS boundary to view the township/range/section numbers. The PLSS information can be used to search for the original patent.

### Map Navigation

Click on the **Legend** icon to view the map

DISCLAIMER

ACCEPT (Interactive Map)

About This Map

Examples of Riparian Rights in California

# Lower Merced River Riparian and Pre-1914 Claims

Confluence to Cressey

## Search for Claims of Right (Statement ID)

Search for or click on a statement number below to zoom to and highlight the associated point of diversion(s) and parcel(s). Then click on the number in the list to **unselect** it. (Only one Statement ID can be selected at a time.)

NOTE: The selected parcel likely contains the place of use based on the State Water Board's records. However, the place of use may not be the extent of the entire parcel. Some points of diversion do not have parcels associated with them in the map. The map depicts only the information provided by Diversifiers. If you see any discrepancies with the information in this map, please contact State Water Board staff.

Phone: (916) 341-5300  
Email: [dwr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwr@waterboards.ca.gov)

### Statement ID

Search...

S007654

S007656

S007660

S007661

S007662

S007664

S007665

S007667

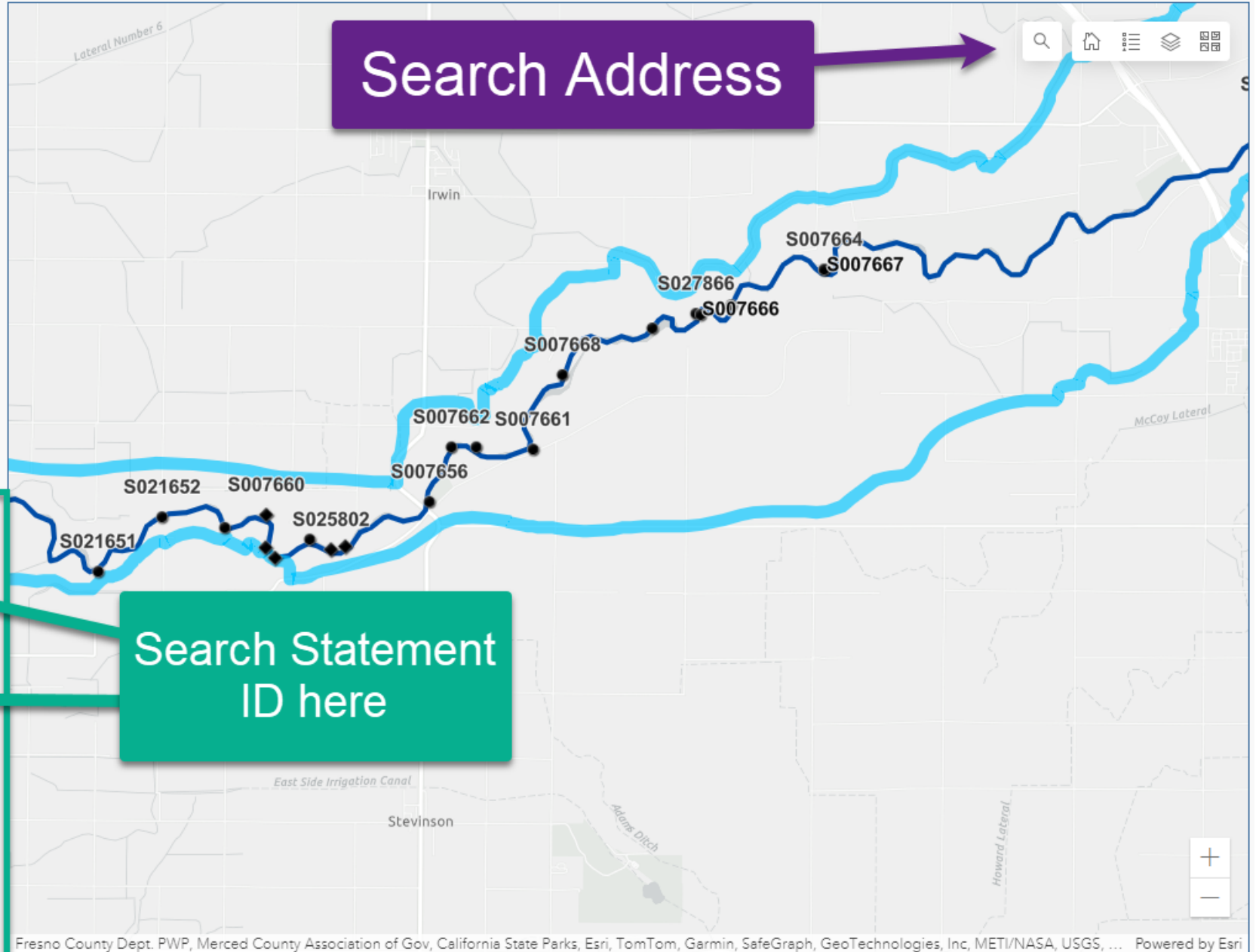
S007668

S007674

S019376

Search Address

Search Statement ID here



Fresno County Dept. PWP, Merced County Association of Gov, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, ... Powered by Esri

DISCLAIMER

ACCEPT (Interactive Map)

About This Map

Examples of Riparian Rights in California

## Search for Claims of Right (Statement ID)

Search for or click on a statement number below to zoom to and highlight the associated point of diversion(s) and parcel(s). Then click on the number in the list to **unselect** it. (Only one Statement ID can be selected at a time.)

NOTE: The selected parcel likely contains the place of use based on the State Water Board's records. However, the place of use may not be the extent of the entire parcel. Some points of diversion do not have parcels associated with them in the map. The map depicts only the information provided by Diversifiers. If you see any discrepancies with the information in this map, please contact State Water Board staff.

Phone: (916) 341-5300

Email: [dwr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwr@waterboards.ca.gov)

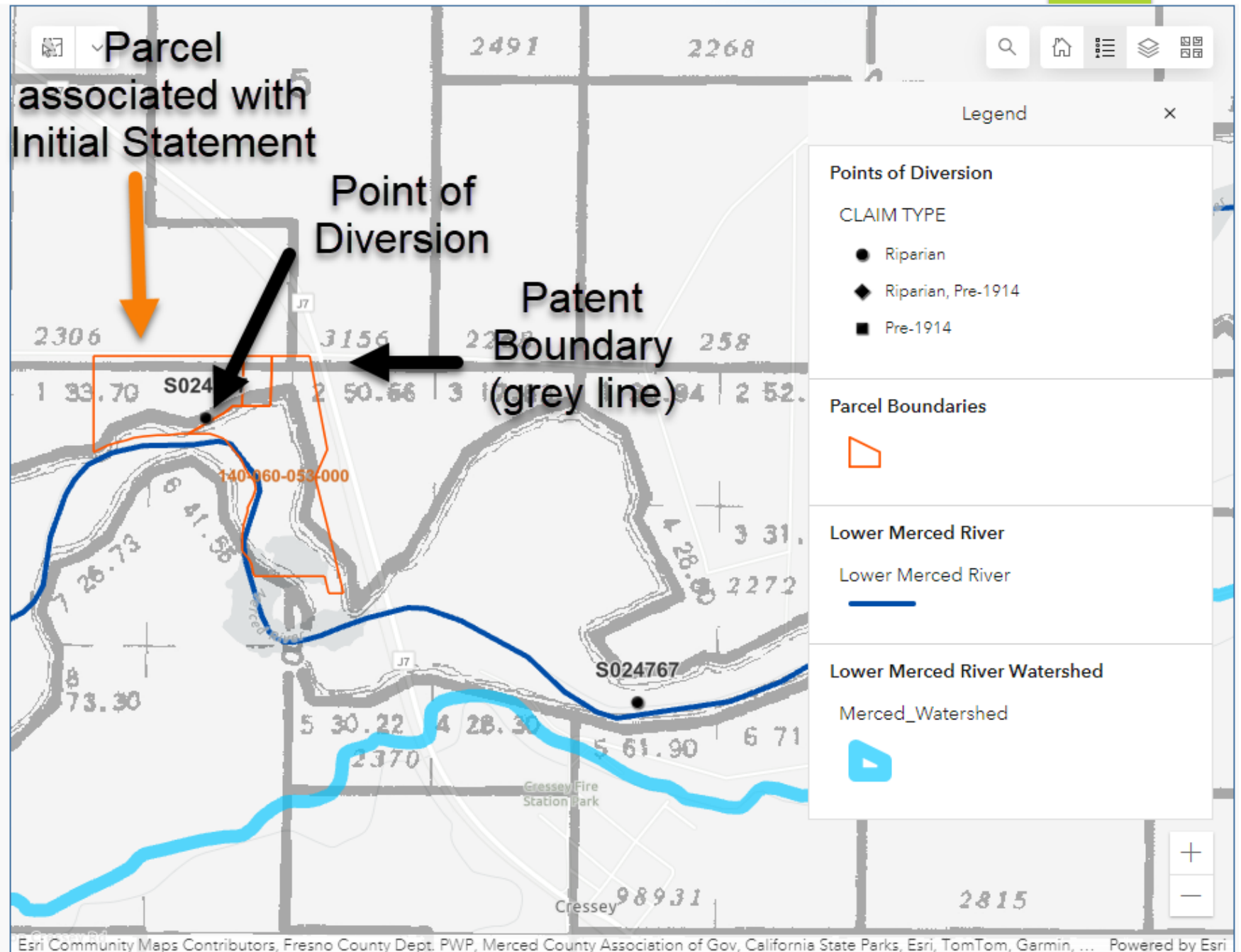
### Statement ID

Search...

S021652  
S021823  
S021826  
S021827  
S021828  
S022061

### Statement ID List

S024697



DISCLAIMER

ACCEPT (Interactive Map)

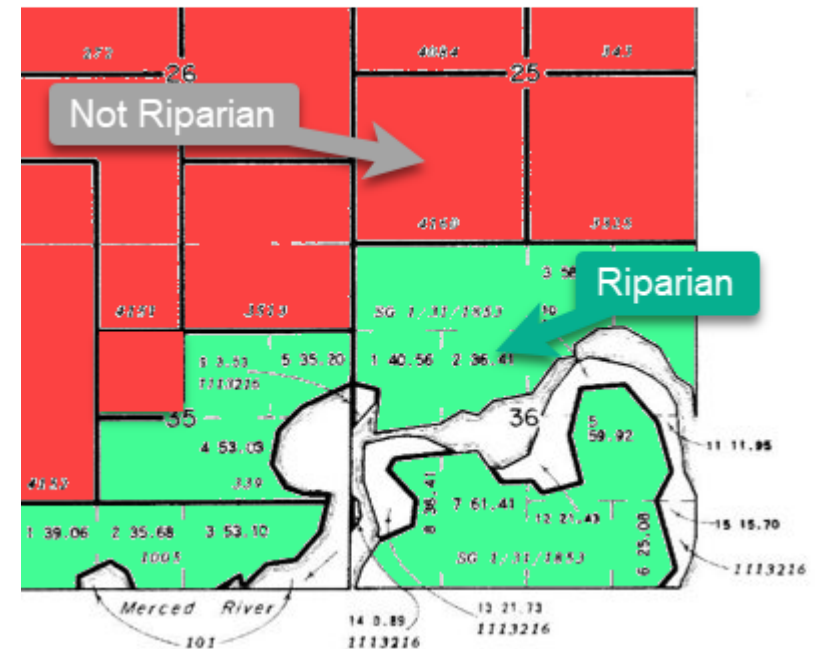
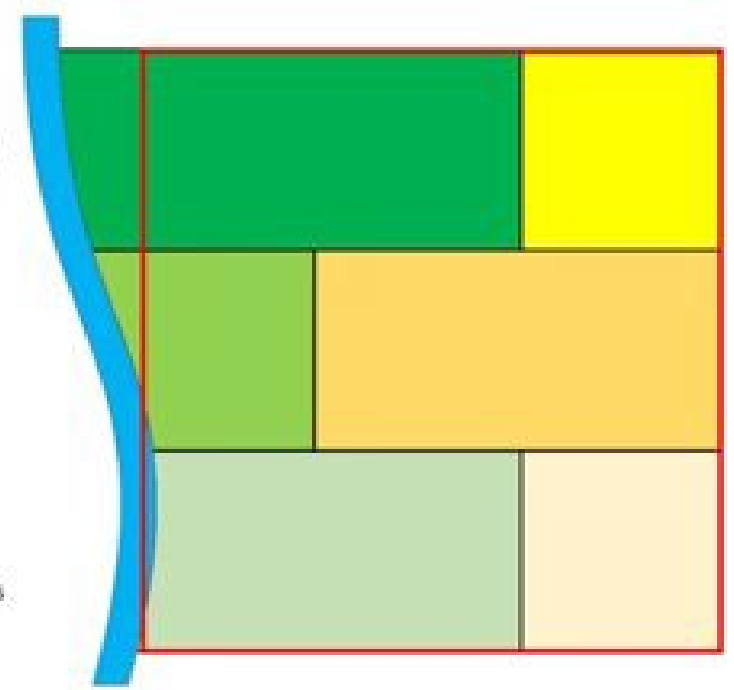
About This Map

Examples of Riparian Rights in California

# Understanding Riparian Land

- ▶ Riparian rights are tied to land originally issued as riparian through land patents.
- ▶ Some parcels may have lost or retained rights over time.
- ▶ The map shows original patent boundaries, helping you verify if your parcel may riparian rights.
- ▶ **The map does not confirm riparian rights**

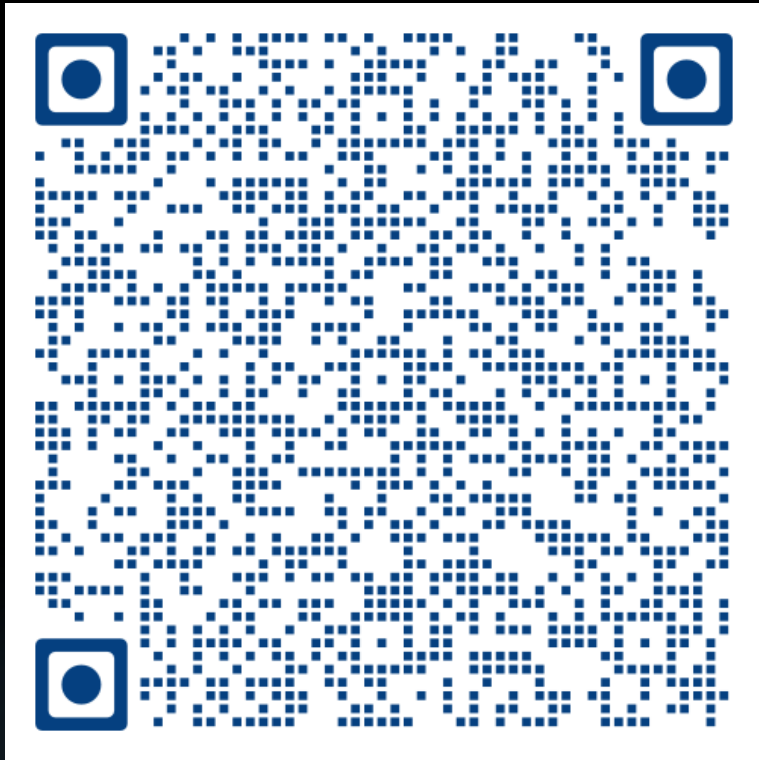
- The yellow and orange patents are not contiguous to the watercourse and cannot have riparian rights
- Riparian rights may exist in the green patents





# Next Steps

- ▶ Based on your findings from your review of the map, you may need to:
  - ▶ contact us to update our records (e.g., inactivate a statement no longer in use, place of use or point of diversion location in our records)
  - ▶ file an Initial Statement for your diversion
  - ▶ modify where you are diverting water to based on what is allowed under your right
  - ▶ apply for an appropriative right



# Resources

Contact: 916-341-5300 or  
[DWR@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWR@waterboards.ca.gov) for assistance

A screenshot of the Bay-Delta Watershed website. The header features a landscape photo of a river and wetlands with the text "BAY-DELTA WATERSHED" in large blue letters. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Waterrights, Water Issues, Programs, Bay Delta, Merced, and Riparian And Pre 1914 Claims. The main content area is titled "Lower Merced River Riparian and Pre-1914 Claims" and contains introductory text about the river and a link to an interactive map. The map interface shows a search box for "Claims of Right (Statement ID)", a list of numbers (3422, 79.85, 84.92, 73.82, 1.45.7), and a "Launch the Interactive Map" button overlaid on a map of the river area.

## BAY-DELTA WATERSHED

Home | Waterrights | Water Issues | Programs | Bay Delta | Merced | Riparian And Pre 1914 Claims

### Lower Merced River Riparian and Pre-1914 Claims

This web page contains resources to help you identify if your property has a riparian right and where water diverted under a riparian right can be beneficially used.

#### The Merced River

The Merced River is a tributary of the San Joaquin River and is an important source of water for many Californians living in the San Joaquin Valley. Although reaches of the Merced are designated as National Wild and Scenic River, there are several dams and irrigation diversions which control the flow through the reaches of the lower Merced. This flow provides important habitat for many protected species including great blue heron, great horned owl, bald eagles, and Chinook salmon, but also provides water to residents for domestic use and for agricultural purposes.

The water users on the Merced River claim a mix of water rights including Appropriative Rights permitted by the California State Water Resources Control Board, pre-1914 Appropriative Rights, and Riparian Rights. The majority of water users on the Merced River are riparian users.

#### Interactive Map of Lower Merced River

**Water diverted under a Riparian Right can only be used beneficially on land which is riparian to that water course.** The interactive map is intended to help users identify which parcels along the lower Merced River are riparian to the river. Additional research beyond this map is required to verify the validity of a claimed Riparian Right. Information provided by this map does not confirm a claim or right.

The map tool includes examples of riparian rights for reference. If you have further questions about Riparian or other Water Rights, please refer to the Water Rights FAQ webpage.

#### Search for Claims of Right (Statement ID)

Search for or click on a statement number below to zoom to and highlight the associated point of diversion(s) and parcel(s). Then click on the number in the list to **unselect** it. (Only one Statement ID can be selected at a time.)

- 3422
- 79.85
- 84.92
- 73.82
- 1.45.7

**Launch the Interactive Map**

A scenic view of a river with sunlight reflecting on the water, surrounded by trees and a clear blue sky. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text.

Questions?