

Russian River Watershed Resilience Program

Watershed Network Phase 2 Meeting #1
August 24, 2026

News from around the Watershed

- While we wait for folks to join, please post any news from around the watershed in the chat
- News could include:
 - Achieving project milestone.
 - Sighting of an interesting bird, mammal or amphibian.
 - Funding news
 - Celebration of a community member.
 - Anything else you'd like to share.



Meeting Guidelines

1. We welcome all questions and perspectives. Please use the raise hand function and we will call on you to ensure we have one voice at a time or use the chat function.
2. Engage with curiosity.
3. Speak from your or your organization's perspective.
4. Please remain on mute when not speaking. We appreciate your patience in allowing space for others to share.



Today's Agenda

- **Opening**
- **Introductions**
- **Final Russian River Watershed Resilience Plan Review**
- **Work Plan & Network Calendar for 2026/27**
- **Funding Update**
- **Tribal Comments or Reflections (optional)**
- **Related Program Updates**
- **Closing and Next Steps**



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forested landscape. In the background, there are rolling hills with some exposed brown earth. The river is dark blue and reflects the surrounding greenery. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Building Resilience Together: The Future of the Russian River Watershed

Welcome to the Russian River Watershed Resilience site — your hub for collaboration, innovation, and action. Here, we're working together to address climate challenges, protect vital water resources, and create a sustainable future for our communities and ecosystems.

A scenic landscape photograph of a forest valley. In the foreground, a river flows through a lush green forest. The middle ground shows dense foliage and trees. In the background, misty mountains are visible, with sunlight filtering through the clouds, creating a dramatic effect. The word "Introductions" is overlaid in white text on the left side of the image.

Introductions

Project Team



Don Seymour
PROGRAM MANAGER



Stephen Maples
PROJECT MANAGER



Chris Delaney
PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE



Jessica Martini-Lamb
TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT



Armin Munévar
WATERSHED RESILIENCE STRATEGY



Ann DuBay
NETWORK PROGRAM MANAGER



Karen Askeland
PROJECT EVALUATION



Karis Johnston
FACILITATION SUPPORT





Plan Review

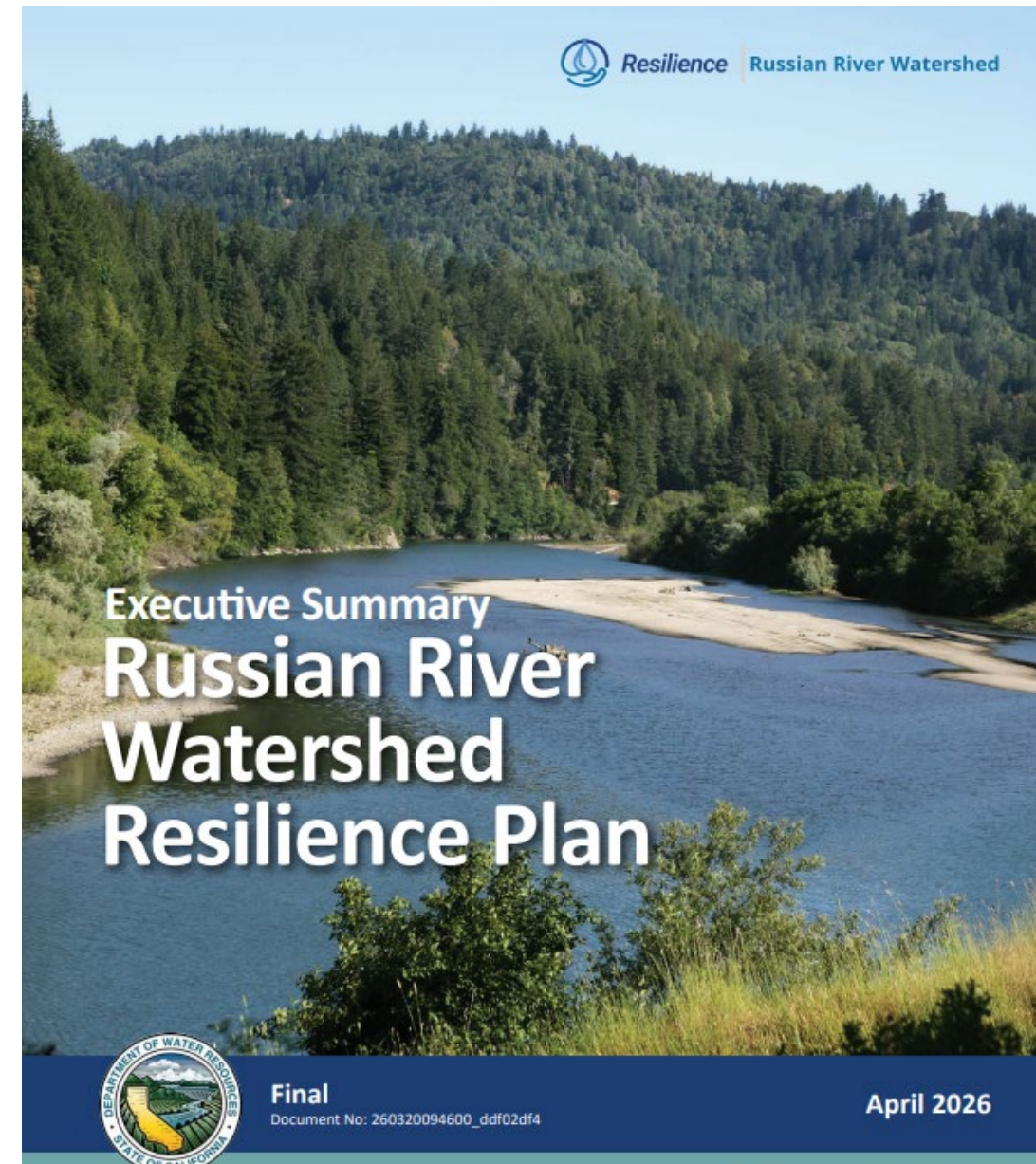
Final Russian River Watershed Resilience Plan

- Final Plan Released in July
- Concludes the DWR-funded Watershed Resilience Pilot
- Describes watershed, climate change, water resource vulnerabilities, and strategies to increase resilience
- Provides a roadmap for implementation



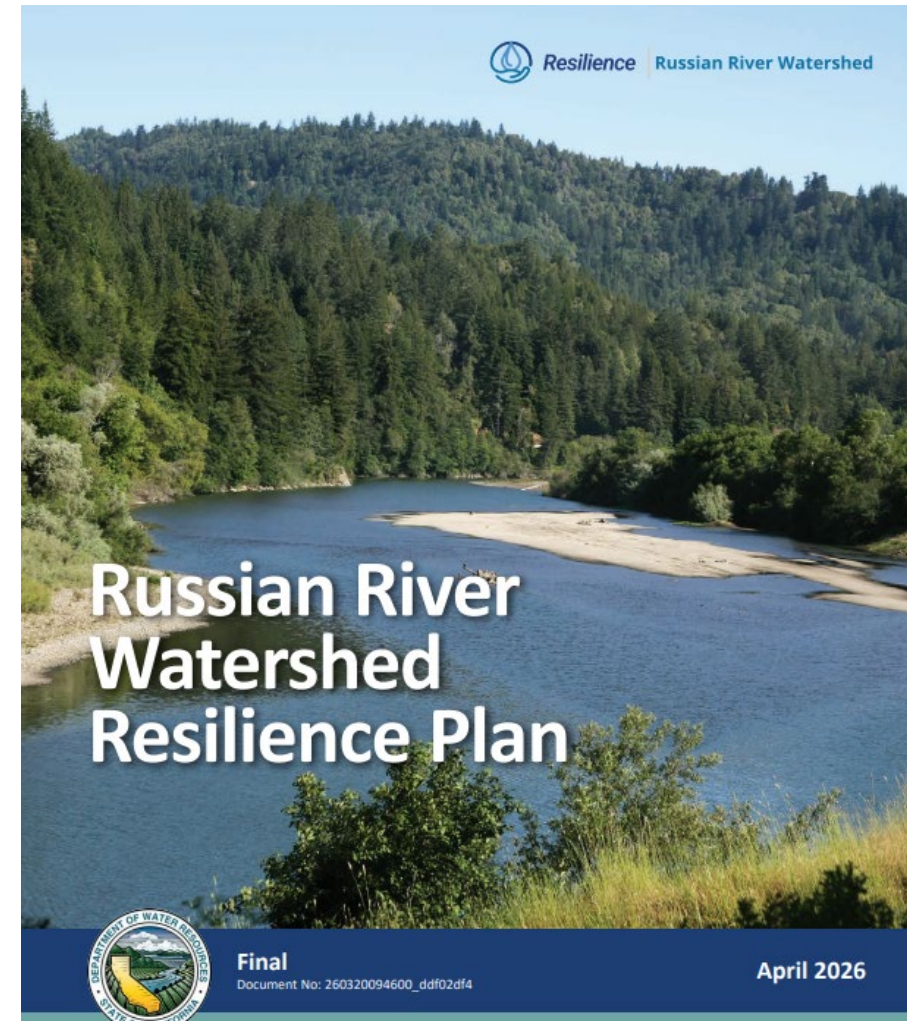
Executive Summary

- 16-page Summary of Plan
- ~1-2 pages for each Plan Chapter
- All documents can be accessed at:
 - <https://russianriverwatershedresilience.org/plan/>



Final Watershed Resilience Plan

- Ch 1 – Watershed Resilience Program and Pilot Overview
- Ch 2 – Russian River Watershed and Study Area
- Ch 3 – Building Resilience with a Watershed Network
- Ch 4 – Climate Change in the Watershed
- Ch 5 – Water Resource Vulnerabilities
- Ch 6 – Adaptation Strategies to Increase Resilience
- Ch 7 – Implementation Strategies
- Ch 8 – Performance Tracking
- Ch 9 – Recommendations
- Ch 10 - References



Appendices

Document	Name
Appendix A	Watershed Network Participants and Charter
Appendix B	Russian River Watershed Climate and Hydrology
Appendix C	Russian River Watershed Resilience Pilot Study Vulnerability Assessment
Appendix D	Adaptation Strategies and Actions
Appendix E	Russian River Watershed Historical Water Budget
Appendix F	Russian River Watershed Resilience Pilot Study Area Delineation
Appendix G	Russian River Watershed Historical Weather-Related Hazards
Appendix H	FIRO Resilience Strategy





Work Plan & Network Calendar

Work Planning for Next Phase

- Build from Russian River Watershed Resilience Plan to focus on:
 - Continue Watershed Network and Tribal Engagement
 - Refine Resilience Strategies, Project Development, and Prioritization
 - Support Implementation of Funding Strategy
- Goal is to move from Plan to Implementation
- Ensure the region is prepared and highly competitive for upcoming funding availability



Work Plan Overview

Work Elements	Schedule
1. Watershed Network and Tribal Engagement	
1.1 Planning and facilitation of quarterly watershed network meetings	July 2026 - June 2027
1.2 Tribal outreach	On-going
1.3 Strategy for integrating related programs	On-going
2. Refine Strategies, Project Development and Prioritization	
2.1 Review and refine strategies and projects	September 2026
2.2. Develop interactive and updated database of projects	November 2026
2.3 Develop project prioritization based on funding sources, project readiness, and resilience criteria	February 2027
2.4 Maintain updated database through project website	On-going
3. Support Implementation of Funding Strategy	
3.1 Track and summarize available funding sources	December 2026
3.2 Link potential funding sources with projects	February 2027



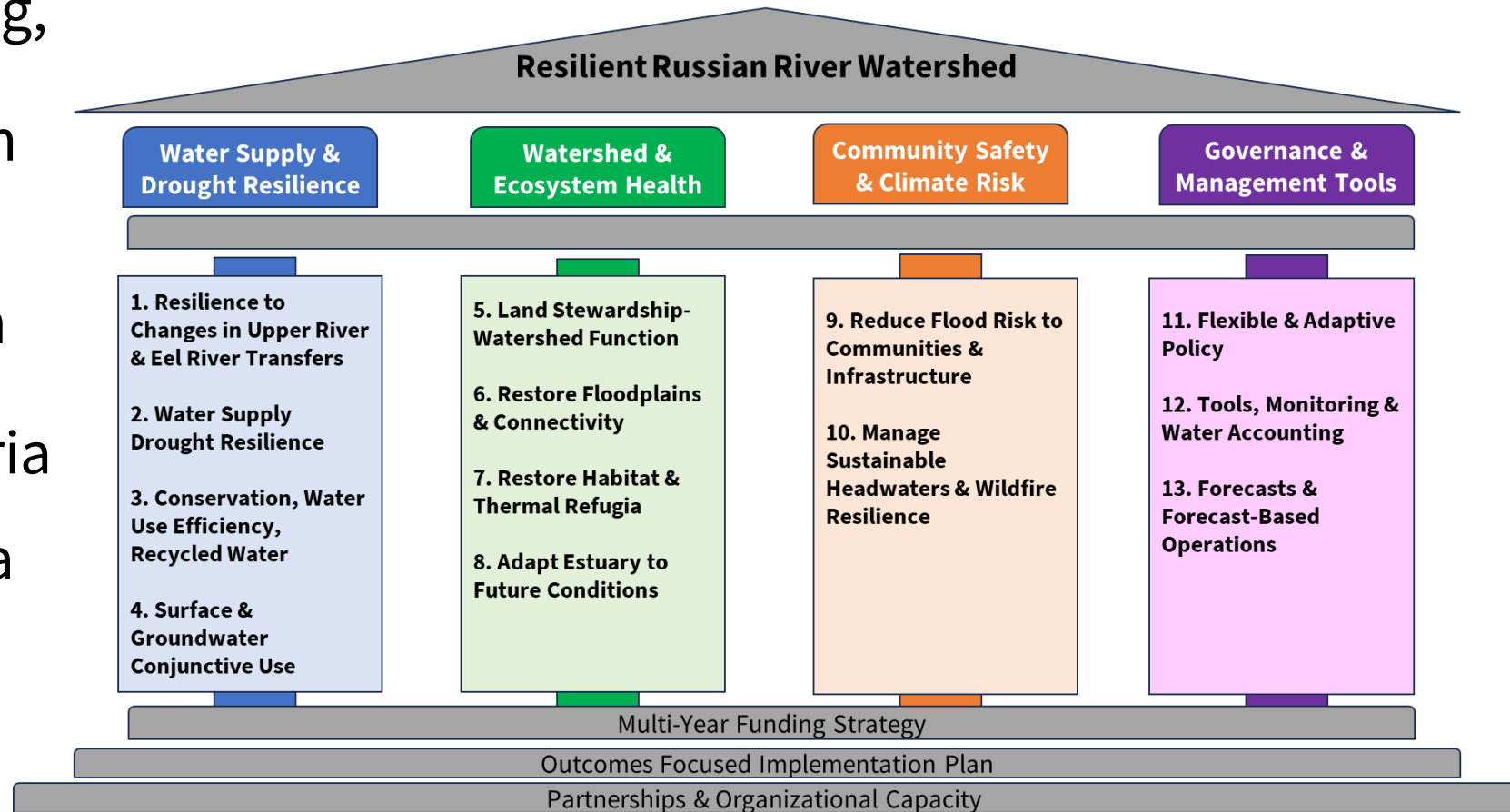
Watershed Network and Tribal Engagement

- Work with Watershed Network on Plan implementation
- Convene and manage quarterly meetings with the Network
- Continue WRP website as hub for living Plan and implementation



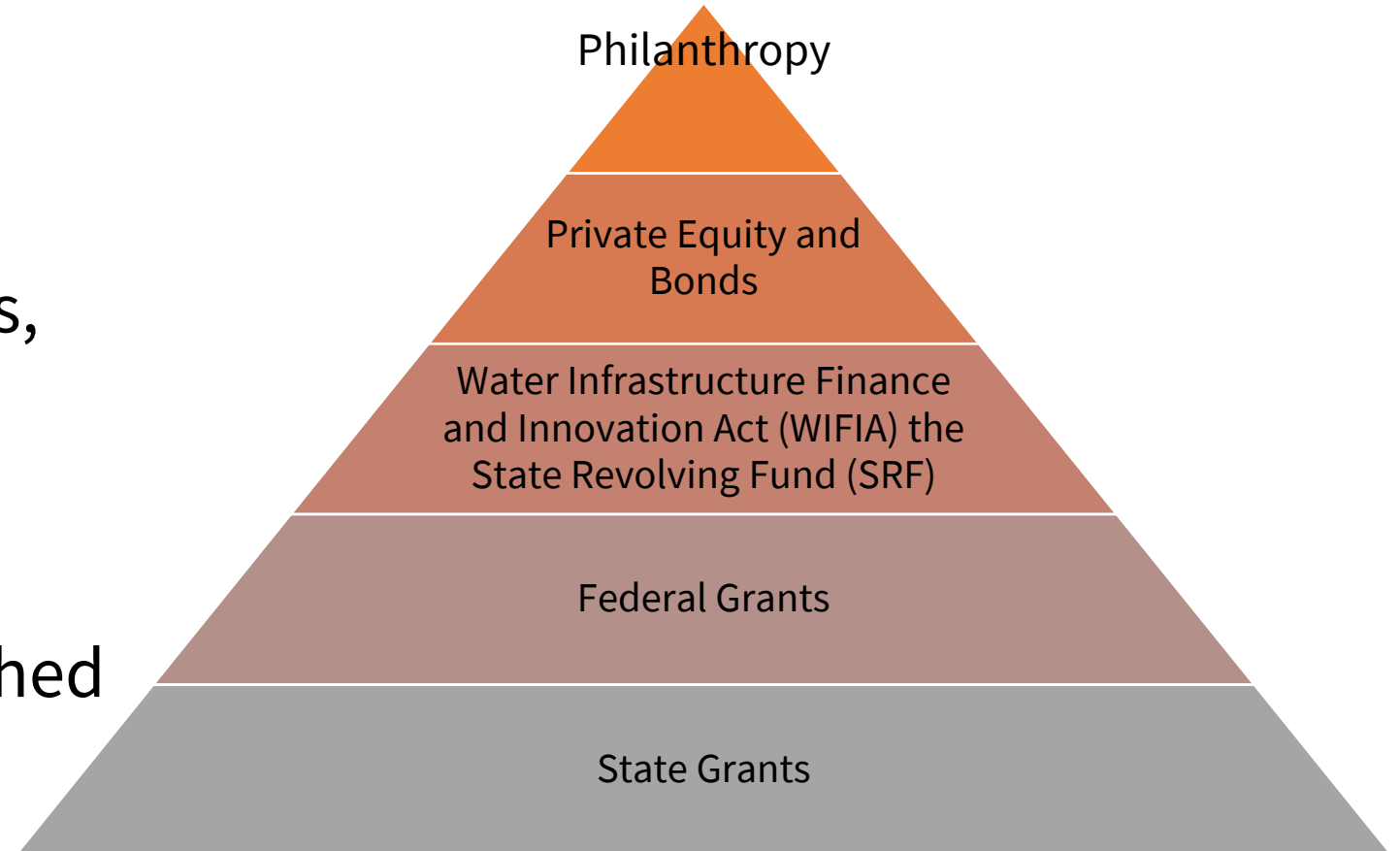
Project Development and Prioritization

- Develop a comprehensive project database, tracking, and evaluation tool
- Identify lead organization for each project in database
- Further project definition and development
- Develop evaluation criteria aligned with resilience goals and funding criteria
- Develop prioritization process and lead application



Funding Strategy, Tracking, and Mapping

- Continue to advance funding strategy
- Develop summary of funding sources and track solicitations, criteria, and timelines
- Link project database to potential funding sources
- Coordinate with other watershed initiatives



Watershed Network Meeting Schedule

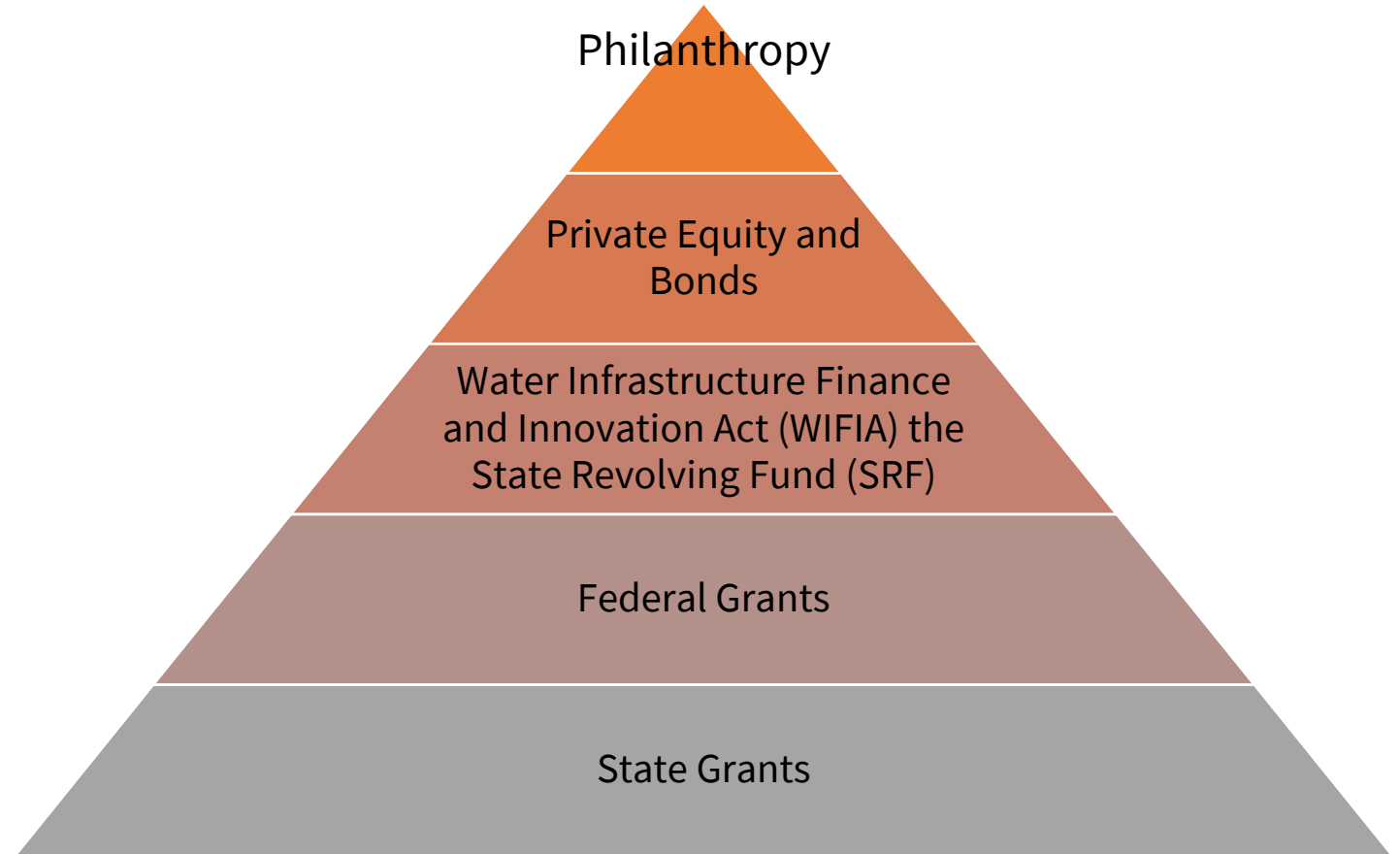
Watershed Network Meeting	Topics
Meeting #1 – August 2026	Reconvene Watershed Network, review Final Plan, share Work Plan and schedule
Meeting #2 – Early Nov 2026	Review projects and project database, identify project champions for projects, share initial approach toward project evaluation, receive input on priority projects, Funding updates
Meeting #3 – March 2027	Funding updates, review project evaluation, process to move priority or early projects for funding, project-specific funding strategies
Meeting #4 – June 2027	Funding updates, review project evaluation, process to move priority or early projects for funding, project specific funding strategy



Funding Updates

Building a Broad Funding Stack

- State Funding Sources
 - Proposition 4 – Climate Bond
 - State Revolving Funds
- Federal Funding Sources
 - Water Smart
 - FEMA BRIC
- Private Equity and Bonds
- Philanthropy
- Other Funding Mechanisms
 - Local funding measures
 - Public Private Partnerships



Federal Funding Update

Bureau of Reclamation - WaterSMART Programs

- Cooperative Watershed Management Program
 - Funding to support watershed group development, restoration planning, and design /studies
 - Four funding rounds
 - Maximum Award: \$300k
- Applied Science Grants
 - Funding to improve access to and use of hydrologic data, develop and improve water management tools, and improve hydrologic modeling and forecasting capabilities
 - Next Funding Round Closes 4/13/27
 - Maximum Award: \$400k
- Drought Response Program
 - Funding to improve drought resilience by developing effective water management strategies and drought contingency plans
 - TBD on Next Funding Round
 - Potential Award Amount: \$500k to \$1.5M



Proposition 4 Funding Update (Ann Marie Ore, DWR)



Tribal Comments or Reflections

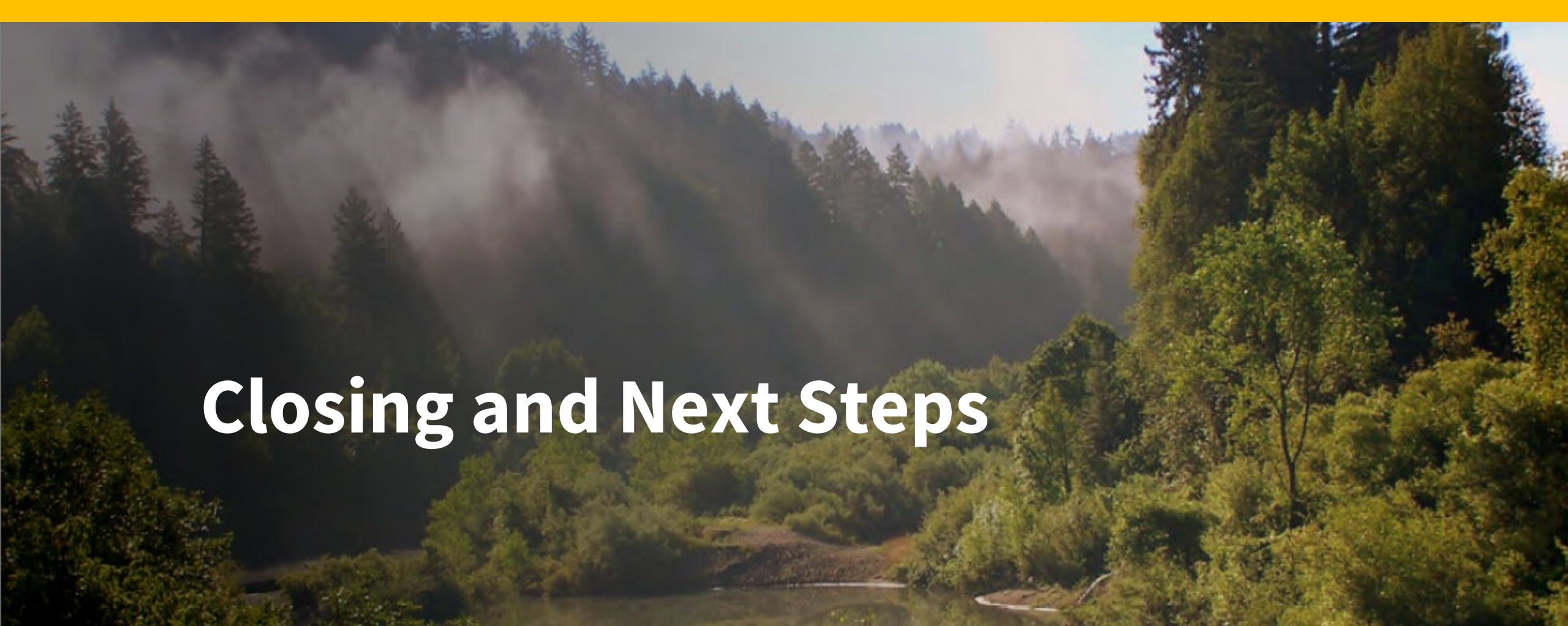


Related Program Updates

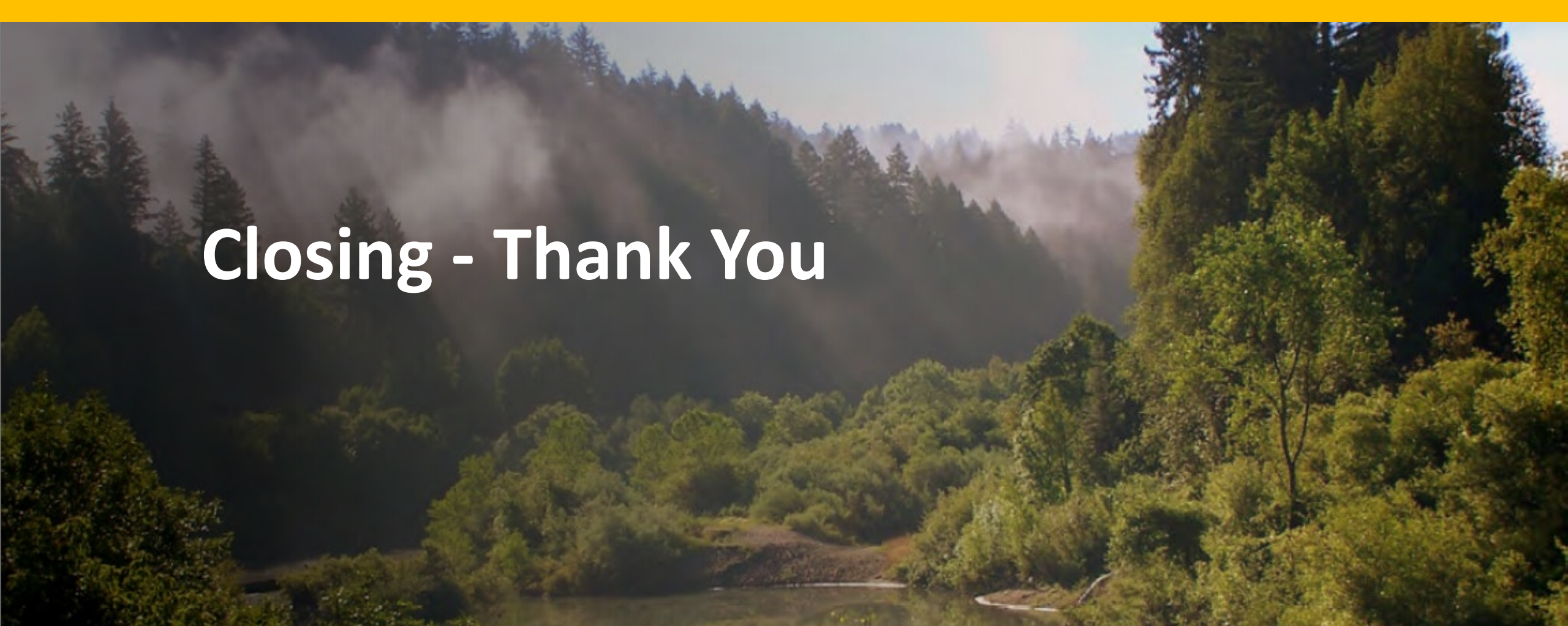
North Coast Regional Partnership Update

- NCRP is moving forward with multiple initiatives, including the following:
 - Regional Climate Resilience Plan: with funding from the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, NCRP and its partners are developing a regional climate resilience plan.
 - Updating the Vision for North Coast Resilience: NCRP is updating this adaptive shared regional vision plan.
 - Regional Capacity Grants: NCRP recently awarded over \$2 million in capacity grants.
 - Technical Assistance: The NCRP has an ongoing focus on providing modest technical assistance awards to organizations needing support.
 - CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot: NCRP is partnering with CAL FIRE to test innovations in forest health with partners leading large scale, multi-benefit projects.
 - California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting on October 1-2 in Fortuna CA.
 - NCRP Meeting October 15-16 in Ukiah Area





Closing and Next Steps



Closing - Thank You

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