



California
**Department of
Conservation**

Public Workshop: California Climate Bond (Proposition 4)

California Department of Conservation
Date: July 20, 2026

Welcome & Webinar Overview



Agenda



- **Welcome & Webinar Overview**
- **California's Climate Commitment & Proposition 4**
- **Tribal Consultation & Engagement**
- **Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC)**
- **Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)**
- **California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP) & Land Access**
- **Working Lands and Riparian Program (WLRP)**
- **Questions & Answers**

California's Climate Commitment & Proposition 4

Director Lucchesi

Proposition 4 – Climate Bond



- **\$10 billion for projects that:**
 - protect drinking water
 - reduce wildfire and flood risks
 - restore natural places
 - support healthy working lands
 - expand access to parks and outdoor spaces
- **\$630 million to DOC programs**

Multibenefit Land Repurposing

- Supporting land transition for groundwater sustainability



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity

- Strengthening wildfire resilience partnerships across CA



California Farmland Conservancy

- Protecting agricultural land at risk of conservation

Working Lands and Riparian Corridors

- Enhancing and restoring farmland and rangeland



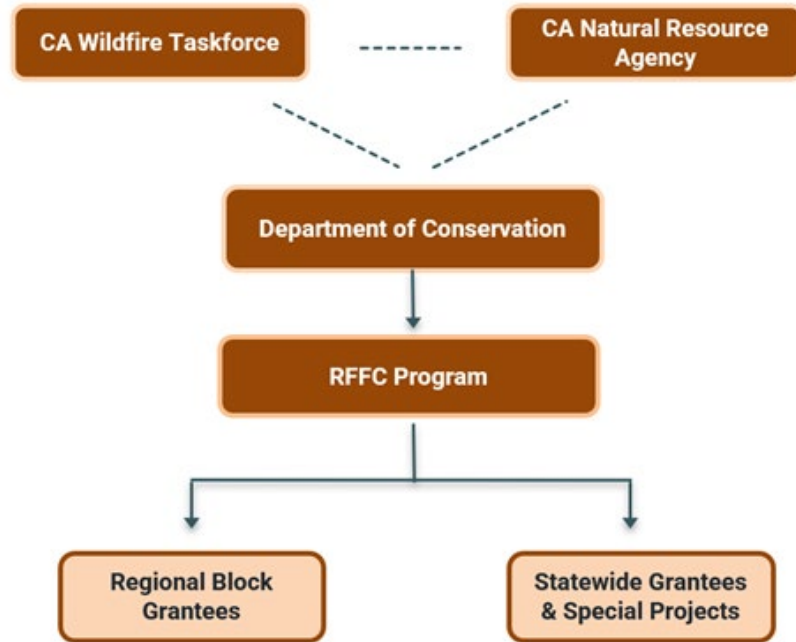
Tribal Consultation & Engagement

Crystal Blue

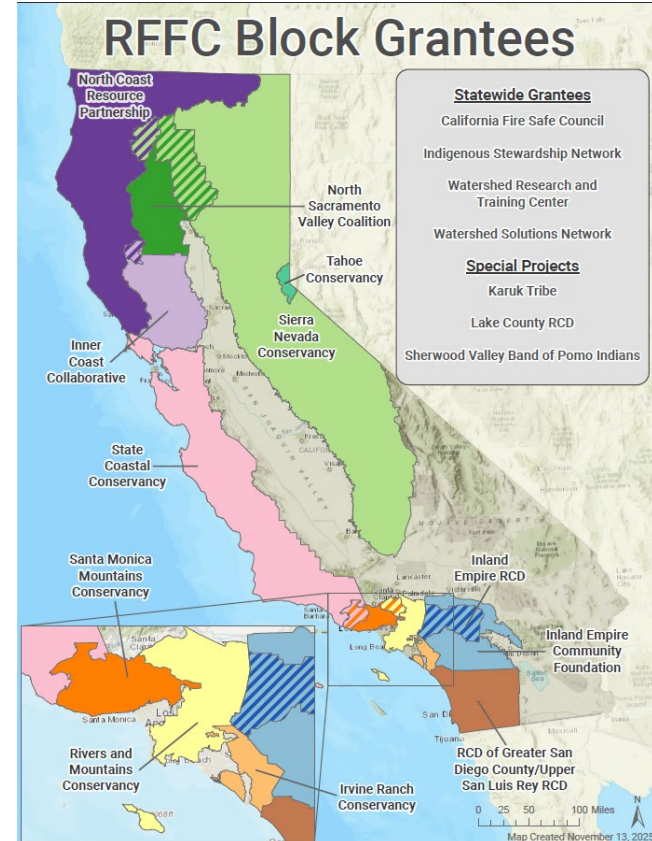
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program

Shanna Atherton-Bauer

Funding Structure - How & Where We Fund



\$142 Million Invested To Date!



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity

Provides funding to regional and statewide organizations to help reduce wildfire risk in communities and landscapes.

- Designed to support the development and implementation of regional priority plans to improve landscape health and fire resilience consistent with the recommendations of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.
- Four Task Force geographic regions provide direction for strategic planning, coordination, and collaborative jurisdictions.
- \$142 million invested to date across California, reaching over 330 organizations including tribes, special districts, non-profits, and other local, state, and federal agencies.



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity – Goals & Objective

The RFFC program is a directed block grant program that provides capacity building funding to improve community and landscape resilience to wildfire.

- Invest in place-based practitioners and partnerships.
- Support the development and implementation of efficient local and regional project pipelines.
- Strengthen resilient networks between collaborators.



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity – Climate Bond

- **The California Climate Bond allocates \$185 million to the RFFC Program.**
- Directs the program to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that:
 - improve forest health and fire resilience,
 - implement community fire preparedness demonstration projects,
 - facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and
 - increase carbon sequestration in forests and other landscapes across regions and throughout the state.
- Funding allocated based, to the extent feasible, on the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan
- Continue to build both community and landscape resilience to fire.



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity – 45-Day Public Comment Period



45-Day Public Comment Period – Engagement & Outreach

- **2 Tribal Roundtables**
 - **26 attendees, 17 tribes, 3 tribal non-profits**
- **3 Virtual Workshops – 1 Grantee and 2 Public**
 - **Grantee – 36 attendees**
 - **Public – 56 registrants**
- **Other Regional Engagement Efforts:**
 - **Prescribed Burn Associations (PBA)**
 - **Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)**
 - **Fire Safe Councils**
 - **Weekly Office Hours**



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity: Tribal Engagement

Tribal Engagement Themes

- Make funding accessible to tribes
- Continue to support capacity building funding
- Considerations for funding implementation
- Foster strong, ongoing relationships
- Early, often, and meaningful Engagement
- Cultural humility

Other Feedback

- Appreciation for maintaining aspects of the program that work well
- Seeing improved clarity on expectations, eligible and ineligible costs, and grant administration.
- 20% cap on indirect costs will be burdensome.
- Match requirement for RPP Implementation projects may have unintended negative impacts.
- Support increased access for partners and subgrantees in engaging with the program.



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity – Program Status

Current Program Status:

- Draft guidelines released June 5, 2026.
- Public comment period for the RFFC Program's Draft Climate Bond Guidelines ends tomorrow (July 21, 2026).
- Final Guidelines to be released August/September 2026.

Written Comments Accepted via:

- Email and Microsoft Form

Resources:

- Visit the RFFC Program Homepage and Resources Page for draft guidelines, supplementary resources, and announcements.

Program Contact:

- RFFC@conservation.ca.gov



Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)

Megan Powers

Background – the Land Fallowing Problem

Increasingly frequent and intense droughts, over pumping of groundwater, and climate change are all contributing to a long-term imbalance between water supply and demand in many of California's agricultural regions.

Experts estimate that up to 1,000,000 acres of farmland in the San Joaquin Valley alone may need to be fallowed by 2040 to balance groundwater supply and demand.

If done poorly, this would be catastrophic for the communities, environment, and economy.

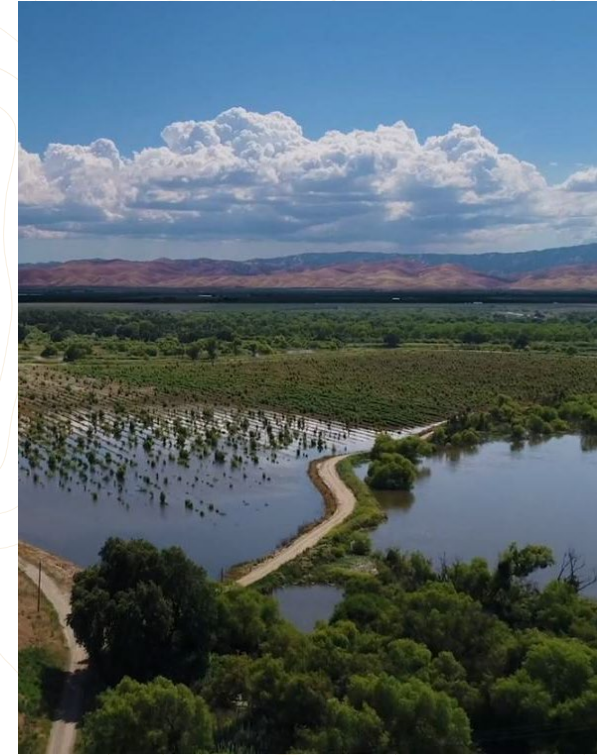
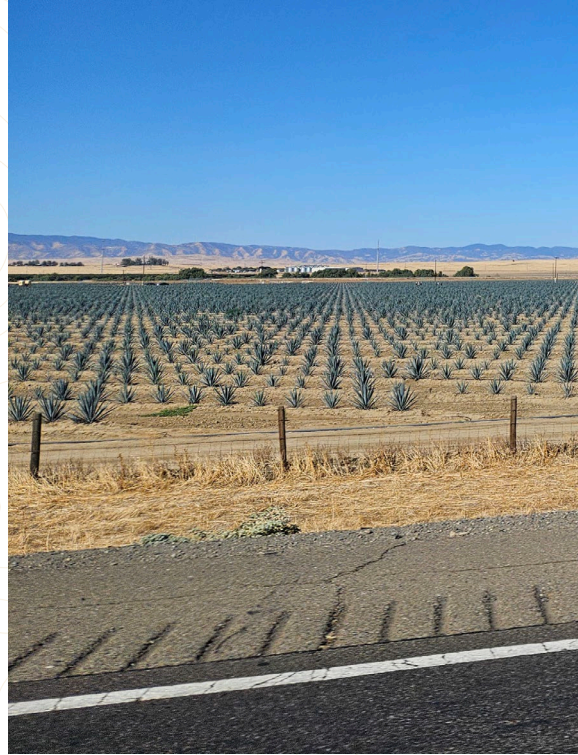
Sustainable Groundwater
Management Act 2024

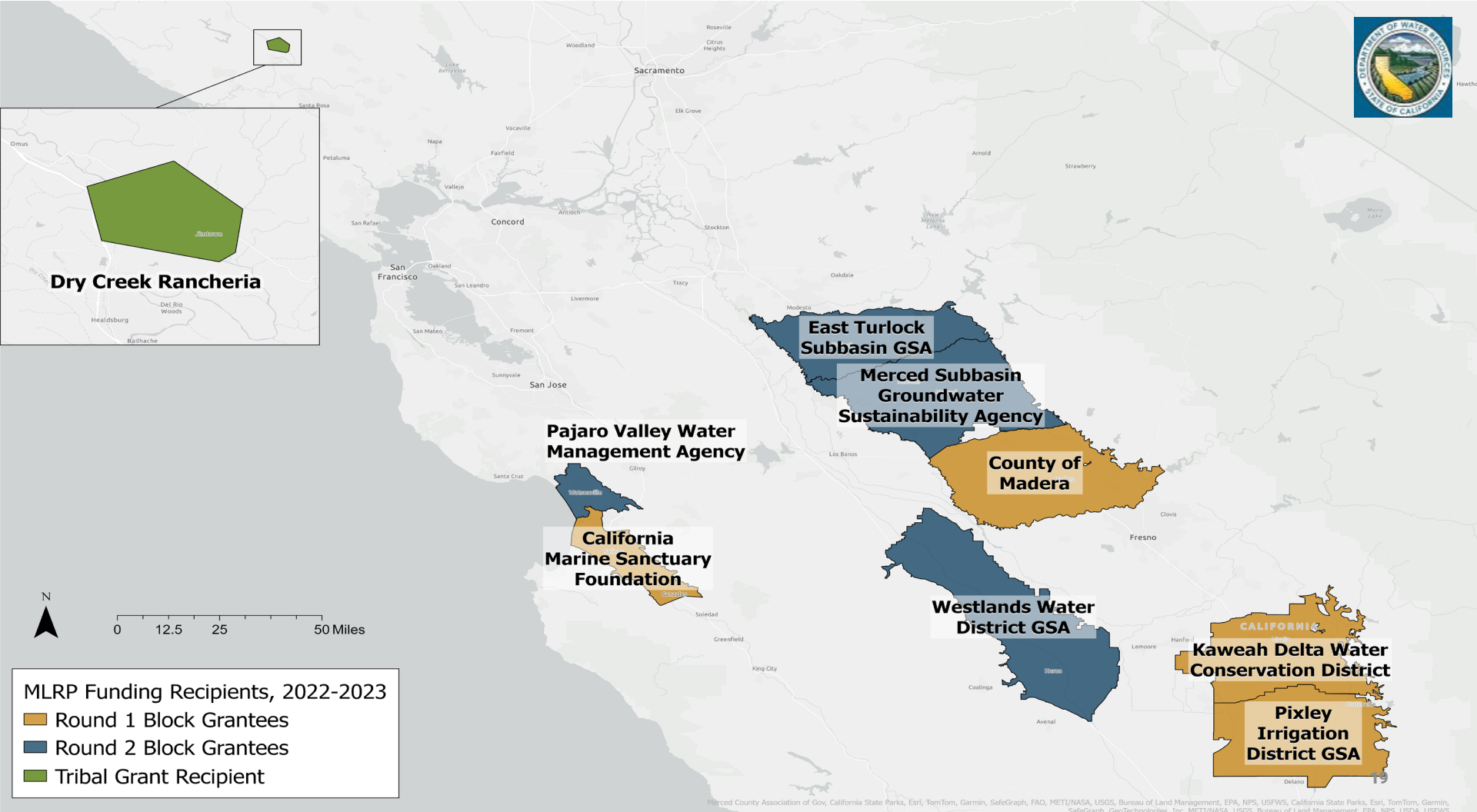
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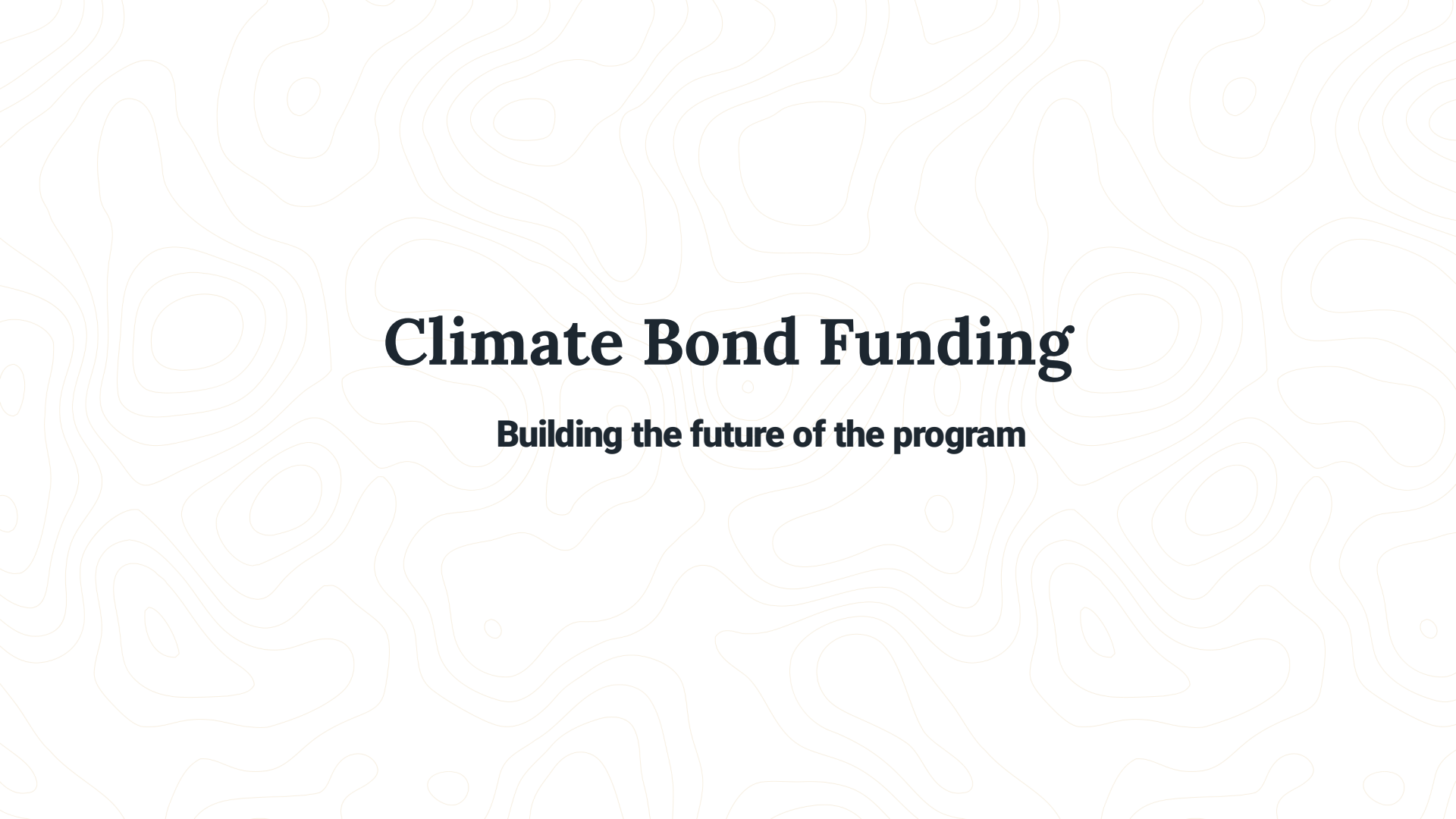


Program Overview

The what and why of the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)





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Climate Bond Funding

Building the future of the program

High-Level Funding Priorities

\$200 Million Available in Climate Bond:

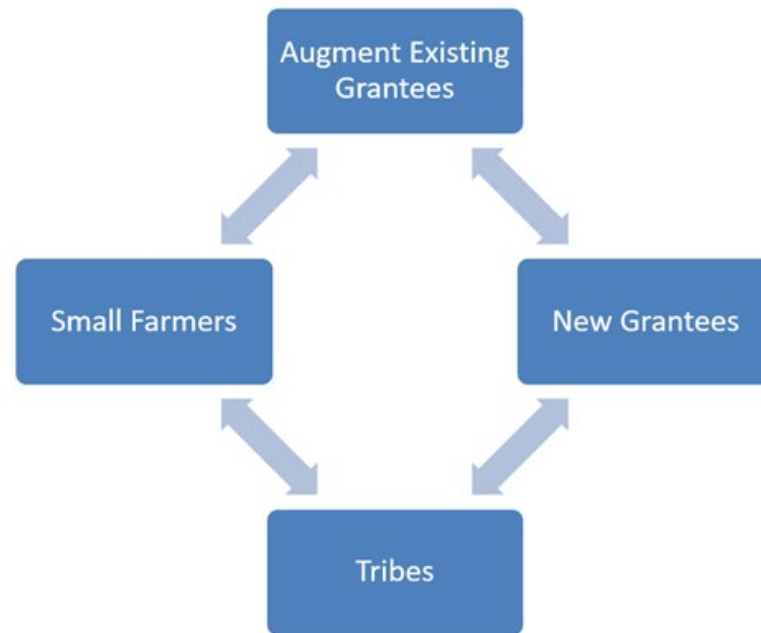
The legislature has appropriated \$32 million for 2025 – 2026, \$64 million anticipated in 2026-2027.

Diverse Demand for Funding:

Existing grantees don't have the same needs as new grantees, small farmers, or tribal organizations

Balancing Priorities:

DOC Staff are integrating lessons learned from existing grants and identifying areas of persistent challenge. Public review process will provide input on whether proposed changes will respond to existing challenges and efficiently focus the program.



Climate Bond Funding Guidelines Updates



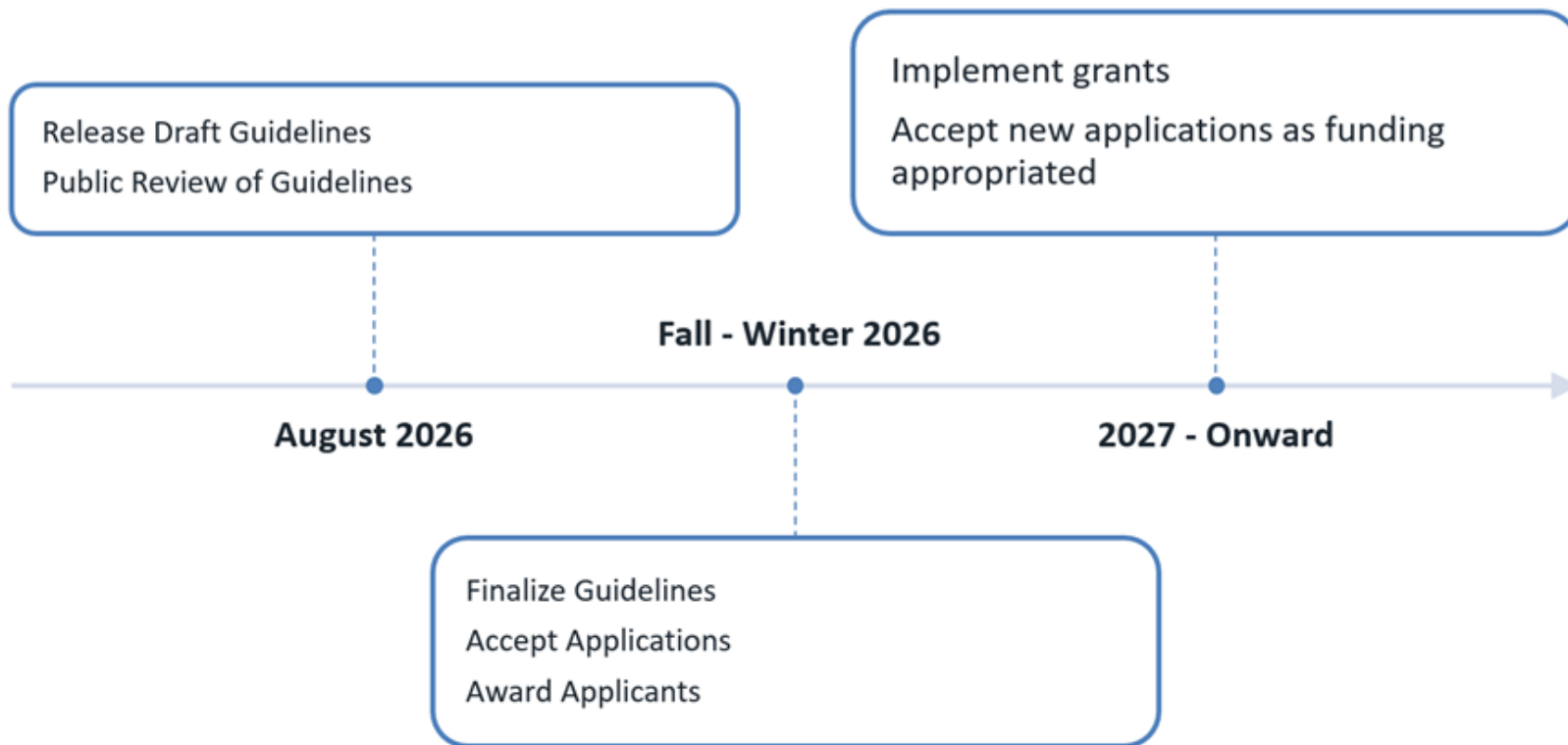
Key Areas of Continuity

- **Focus on block grants**
- **Fund a Statewide Support Entity**
- **Support cross-grantee learning & collaboration**
- **Funded activities and project types**

Key Areas of Change

- **Separate funding pathways for areas with Multibenefit Land Repurposing Agricultural Plans (MALRPs) and areas without MALRPs**
- **Refining Tribal grant award type**
- **40% of funding dedicated to Disadvantaged Communities**
- **Updates to supporting documents and clarified requirements**

Tentative Funding Timeline*





CA Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP)

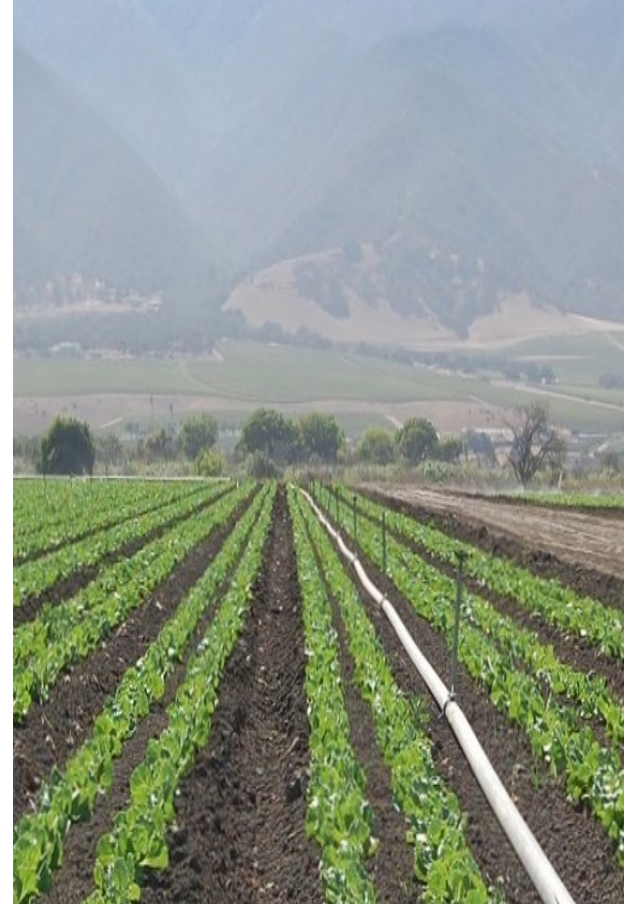
Tim Bryant

California Farmland Conservancy Program



Project Types:

- **Agricultural Conservation Easements: Grants to protect agricultural lands under threat of conversion to non-agricultural uses through the acquisition of voluntary, permanent agricultural conservation easements.**
- **Land Improvements: Grants for the improvement of lands protected by a conservation easement or a similar long-term conservation agreement.**
- **Fee Title Acquisition of Agricultural Lands: Tentative implementation through the proposed Ag Land Access Program.**



California Farmland Conservancy Program – Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants:

- Tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- State, county, district, or other state or local governments entities
- California Native American Tribes

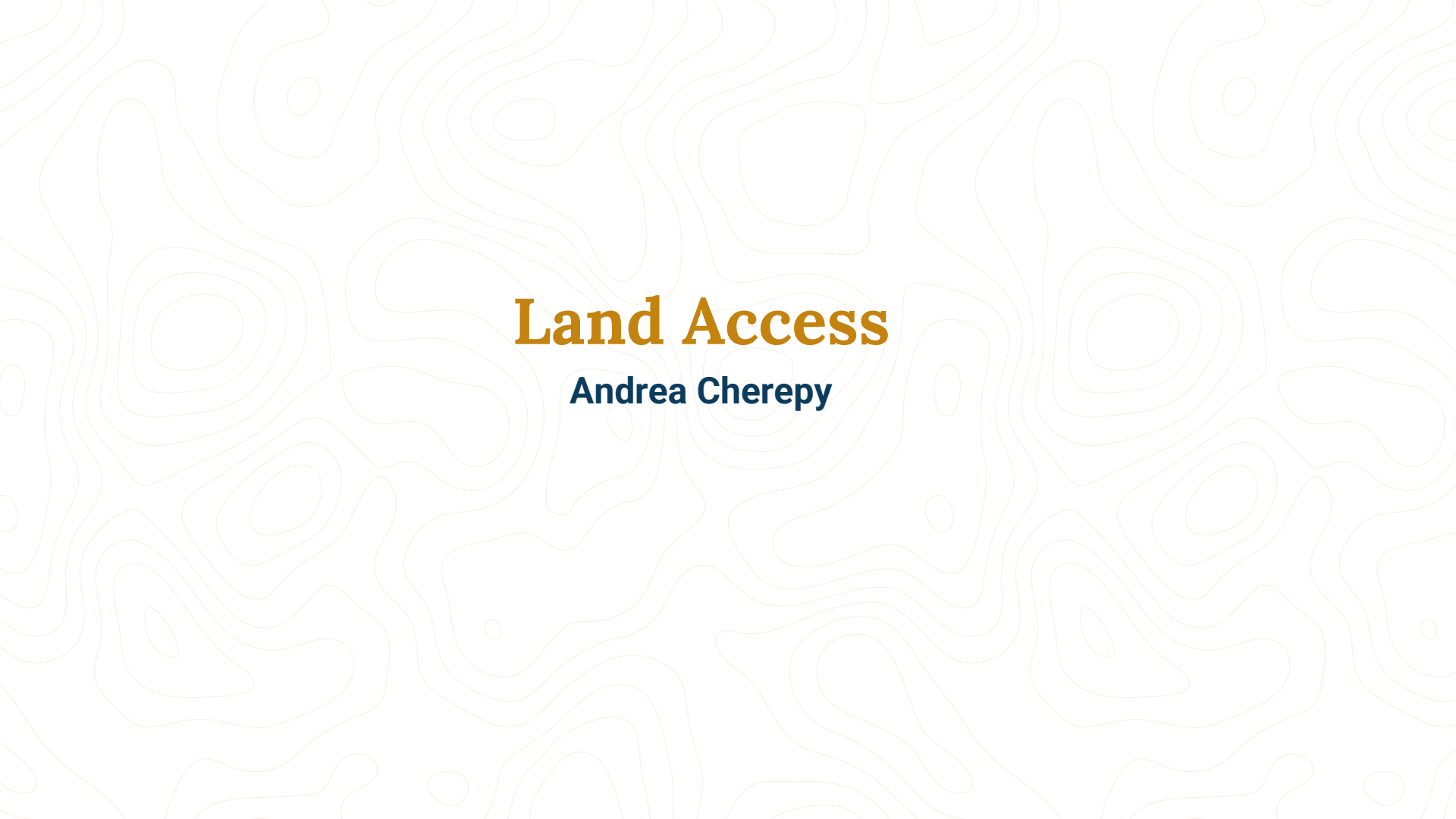
Current Program Status:

- Draft guidelines expected October 2026

For Additional Information:

- [Conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/cfcp](https://conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/cfcp)



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Land Access

Andrea Cherepy

Land Access – Equitable Access

Equitable Access to Agricultural Lands

- **California Farmland Conservancy Program established within Department in 1995 to fund long-term conservation of productive agricultural lands.**
- **Over past several years, interest from State policymakers and others to build on this effort and improve land access for beginning and historically underserved farmers and ranchers.**
- **We expect land access and tenure issues to remain an area of considerable legislative interest.**



Land Access – Proposition 4 Funds

Current Status/Future Implementation

- **Awaiting allocation of Proposition 4 funds.**
- **Looking to the recommendations from the CA Agricultural Land Equity Task Force and our existing California Farmland Conservation Program to inform what implementation could look like.**
- **Committed to equity-focused public engagement with communities.**
- **Financial assistance to protect farmland and improve land access and tenure for new and historically underserved farmers.**



Working Lands and Riparian Program (WLRP)

Karin Roux

Funds restoration activities on agricultural lands. "Agricultural lands" mean farmland and rangeland actively planted or grazed in the three of the last five years. There is no requirement on protection status of the subject lands.

Project Types:

- **Planning Grants: Grants to fund activities that lead to a specific funding-ready restoration and enhancement implementation project.**
- **Implementation Grants: Grants to fund shovel-ready restoration and enhancement projects that have advanced to a stage where planning, land tenure, and design plans have been substantially completed.**

Riparian Restoration – Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants:

- Public agency, local agency, nonprofit organization, special district, joint powers authority, public utility, local publicly owned utility, mutual water company.
- Federally recognized or non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes

Current Program Status:

- Draft and final Guidelines anticipated late Fall/Winter 2026
- Applications opening in Spring, 2027

For Additional Information:

- [Conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Pages/Working-Lands-and-Riparian-Corridors-Program.aspx](https://conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Pages/Working-Lands-and-Riparian-Corridors-Program.aspx)



Riparian Restoration – Eligibility Criteria

Project Eligibility Criteria:

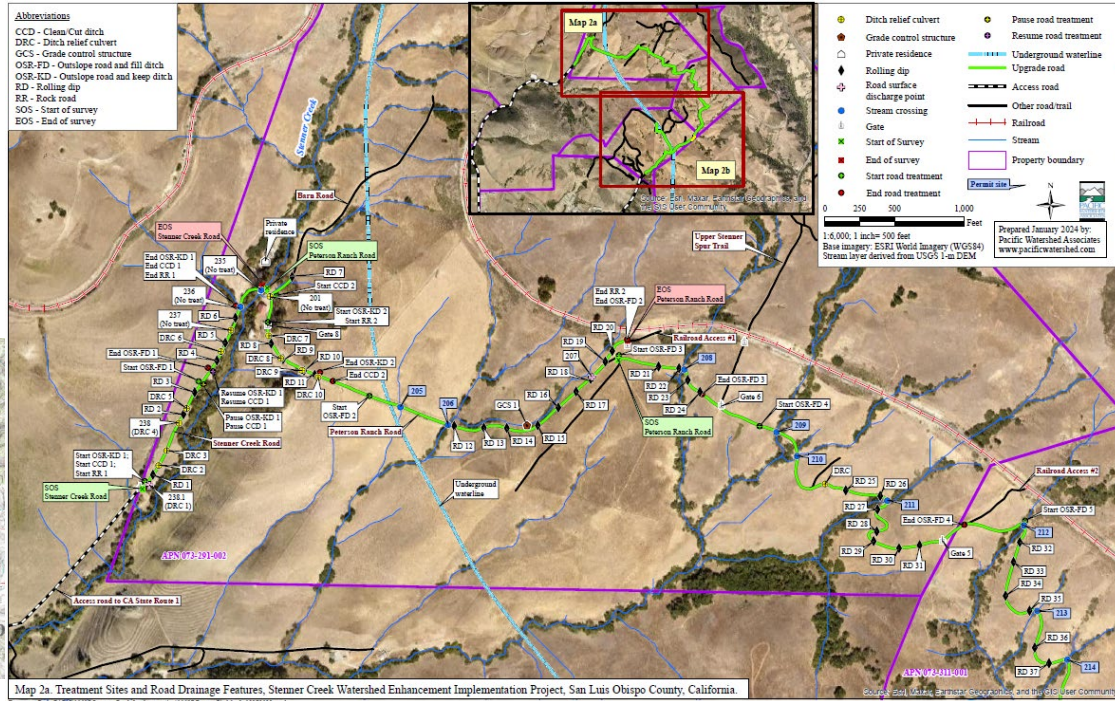
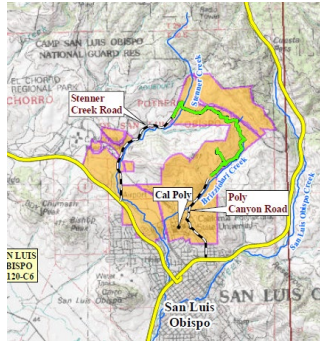
- Improves climate adaptation and resilience by improving soil health, carbon sequestration and/or habitat
- Results in public benefits that address the most critical statewide needs and priorities for public funding
- The proposal does at least one of the following:
 - Improves a community's ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change;
 - Improves and protects coastal and rural economies, agricultural viability, wildlife corridors or habitat;
 - Develops future recreational opportunities; or
 - Enhances drought tolerance, landscape resilience and water retention.
- For Implementation Projects Only
 - CEQA compliance for the project been completed;
 - The requested funding is not for a project designed to fulfill mitigation requirements

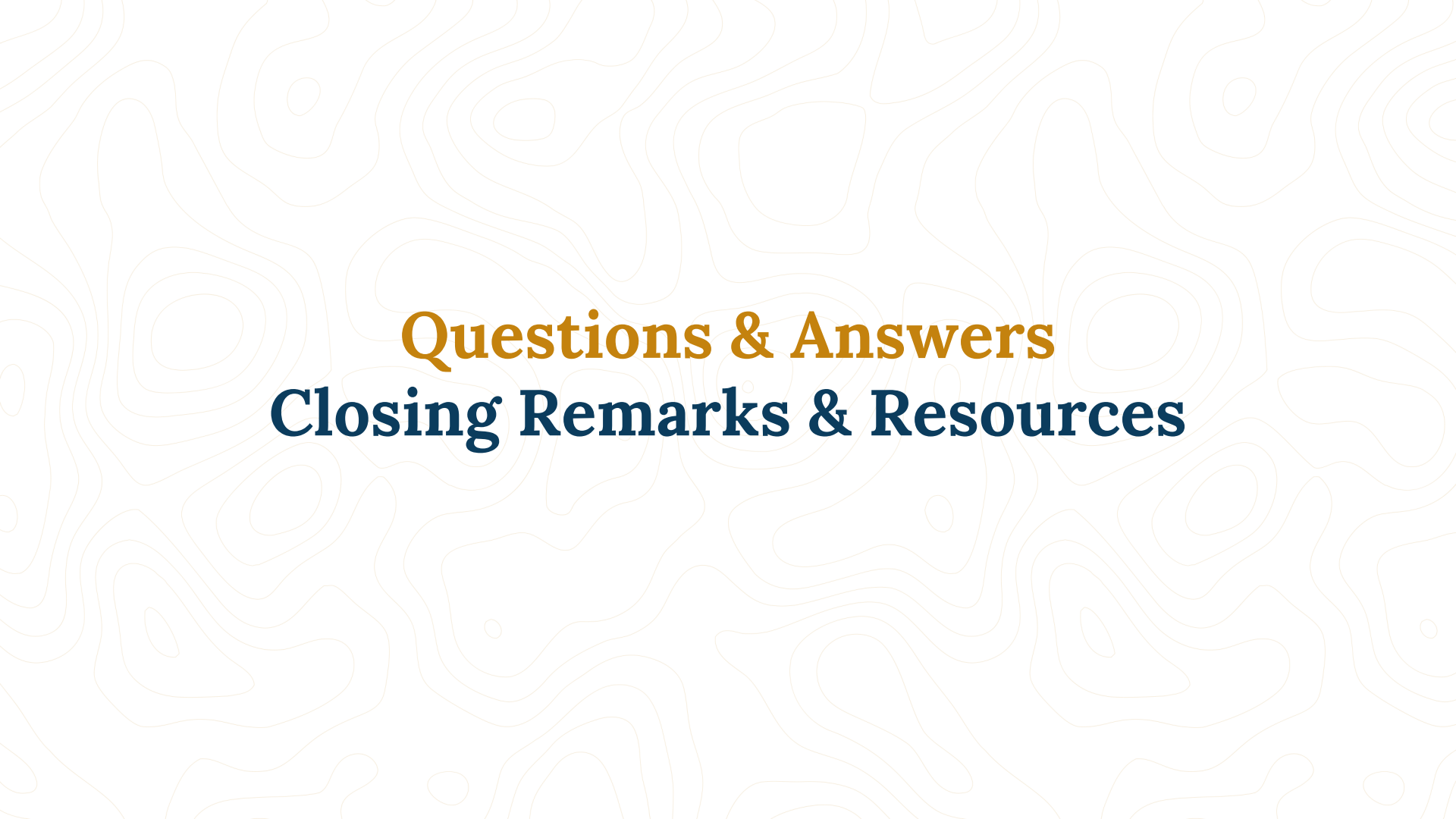


Legacy ranch roads and cattle grazing
= erosion, sedimentation of Stenner Creek
= degradation of Steelhead refugia and
migratory habitat degradation, reduced
resilience.

**Improvements to 3.49 miles of
hydrologically
connected ranch
roads @ 30 sites.**

**Removes migratory
barriers;
Reduces fuel loads;
Increases native tree
canopy;
Improves flood capacity.**





Questions & Answers

Closing Remarks & Resources

Contact Us

- **RFFC@conservation.ca.gov**
- **MLRP@conservation.ca.gov**
- **CFCP@conservation.ca.gov**
- **WLRC@conservation.ca.gov**
- **Public Affairs Office at pao@conservation.ca.gov**



