Yuba Water Agency was established in 1959 to reduce the risk of flooding and improve water supplies for the economic benefit of Yuba County.

In 1961, 92 percent of Yuba County voters approved $185 million in revenue bonds to fund Yuba Water Agency’s Yuba River Development Project (11 to 1 vote).

Yuba Water Agency owns and operates facilities with a capacity of storing 170,000 acre-feet of dedicated flood storage in the rainy season, more than 966,000 acre-feet of water the rest of the year, and generating enough hydropower to supply more than 300,000 homes.

Each year, Yuba Water Agency supplies approximately 260,000 acre-feet of water to eight irrigation districts that convey that water to 60,000 acres of productive farmland.

Yuba Water Agency has leveraged many millions in local funding to get federal and state investment in our flood risk reduction system, totaling more than $600 million and more than 50 miles of levee improvements for the people of Yuba County.

New Bullards Bar Dam, completed in 1970, stands 645 feet tall, making it the 2nd tallest dam in California and the 5th tallest in the United States.

Each year, approximately 112,000 people recreate at New Bullards Bar Reservoir.

Yuba Water Agency has funded more than $5 million in fishery studies to improve salmon and steelhead habitat on the Yuba River.
Since 1959, Yuba Water Agency has been very successfully working quietly in the background, fervently serving the people of Yuba County in the areas of:

- Reducing Flood Risk
- Ensuring Water Supply Reliability
- Hydropower Generation
- Groundwater Management
- Fish Habitat Enhancement
- Recreation

Yuba Water Agency owns and operates the Yuba River Development Project, which – in addition to reducing flood risk and ensuring a sustainable water supply in Yuba County – provides one of the most beautiful recreation spots in Northern California: New Bullards Bar Reservoir.

Water released from New Bullards Bar Dam travels to the New Colgate, Narrows II and Narrows I powerhouses, where it is used to generate renewable, carbon-free electricity.

Thanks to the foresight of our founders all those years ago, today, the hydropower revenue is being reinvested in our community through flood risk reduction and water supply projects, and other ways that can spark economic development, and help improve our quality of life.

*Powering a brighter future for Yuba County*