



Yuba Water Agency Strategic Plan, 2023-2027

Yuba Water Agency's Vision

A prosperous and thriving Yuba County and elevated quality of life for residents achieved through strategic water resource management and community investment.

Yuba Water Agency was created in 1959 (as the Yuba County Water Agency) to reduce flood risk and ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for the benefit and prosperity of the people of Yuba County. For more than 60 years, Yuba Water has operated in a professional, progressive and responsible manner to tackle the complex challenges of water resource management. Using sound science and information to support good decision-making, Yuba Water is recognized as an industry leader. Looking to the future, Yuba Water is focused on ensuring its projects, programs and community investments have a direct impact on improving the quality of life for Yuba County residents.

Yuba Water Agency's Mission

We are committed to the sustainable management of our water resources for flood risk reduction and reliable water supply, enabled through power generation, in support of the environment and quality of life for our communities.

Yuba Water's core missions of flood risk management and water supply reliability are as relevant and important today as they were when the Agency was formed. Much has been accomplished, but much more must be done to reduce the risk of flooding for the people of Yuba County and ensure a reliable water supply. Yuba Water operates the Yuba River Development Project to reduce flood risk, provide water supply reliability, ensure regulatory compliance and generate hydroelectricity.

Additionally, Yuba Water provides recreation at New Bullards Bar Reservoir and works to protect and enhance the environment, consistent with the agency's enabling legislation and the terms of the agency's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. The revenue from power sales not only funds the ongoing operation of the project and provides the means to meet all other missions, but it also serves as the lifeblood for the programs, grants and community investments that are critical to the Agency's vision of a thriving and prosperous Yuba County.

Yuba Water Agency's Core Values

- **Safety:** Our highest priority is always safety for the public and for employees.
- **Collaboration:** We believe that the greatest successes result from working constructively with others, both internally and externally, and effective results are more important than who gets credit.
- **Excellence and accountability:** We strive to find long-term, common-sense solutions that are science-based, operationally feasible, environmentally sustainable, financially responsible and have beneficial impacts in multiple areas.
- **Innovation:** We value proactively seeking out new approaches to solving problems by being forward-thinking, agile and results oriented.
- **Stewardship:** We value preserving and protecting resources, not only for our communities, but also for future generations, through proactive compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- **Public responsibility:** We all – Yuba Water employees, Board members and affiliates – work on behalf of the people of Yuba County and take seriously the commitment to responsible and transparent use of public resources for the short-term and long-term.

Yuba Water Agency's Financial Situation

The key revenue sources for Yuba Water are:

- Hydropower product sales from New Colgate and Narrows 1 & 2 powerhouses.
- Water sales as part of the Lower Yuba River Accord, an agreement that releases more water for the benefit of fish on the Lower Yuba River, a portion of which can then be sold for downstream environmental, agricultural and municipal uses.

Yuba Water has experienced significant financial and organizational changes since 2016 due to the expiration of its 50-year Power Purchase Agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). For 50 years, PG&E retained the power revenue from the project while paying for all the expenses of the project, including bond payments. Yuba Water now receives all the net hydropower revenue and is responsible for all project expenses. The bonds have been paid in full.

While Yuba Water's annual revenues are highly variable due to the dependence on the amount of rainfall, since 2016 revenues have exceeded regular expenses and are expected to continue to do so. However, significant funding needs to be set aside in reserves (savings) to ensure that the Agency maintains the cash on hand to cover critical expenses in case of unexpected disruptions to revenues and necessary major capital and maintenance projects.

Yuba Water must be prepared for conditions such as an extended drought, natural disaster or plant failure, which could substantially reduce revenues and unexpectedly require significant financial resources to bring generation capability back online. Also, financial resources are needed for capital improvements to meet regulatory requirements, and to construct major projects to ensure plant safety, security, reliability and efficiency.

Revenue Variability

Power generation revenues will vary greatly depending primarily upon the amount of precipitation and by the market price of electricity. Yuba Water has developed models to forecast energy revenue based on historical precipitation and energy prices. Since the 2016-17 fiscal year, power revenues have averaged approximately \$72.0 million annually, ranging from \$60.0 million to \$84.7 million. In addition, water transfer revenues have averaged about \$6.1 million annually.

While the Agency's long-term average annual revenue is projected to be about \$75 million, the actual revenues in any year could range anywhere from \$55 million to \$95 million. Average annual projected expenses currently are estimated to be about \$83 million over the next five years.

Funding Future Obligations

The FERC license for the Yuba River Development Project expired in 2016 and the FERC license for the Narrows 1 power plant, which Yuba Water purchased from PG&E in 2020, expires in early 2026. Obtaining a new FERC license is an expensive and time-consuming process which Yuba Water has been working on since 2010. Yuba Water expects FERC to issue “annual licenses” (i.e., interim licenses until a new license is issued) for a 5 to 10-year period. When a new license is issued, Yuba Water must have the financial resources to implement the terms and conditions of the new license on a specified schedule to maintain the right under the new license to generate power and receive power revenues. The final cost and schedule of the terms and conditions will not be known until the new license is issued.

The preliminary cost estimate to implement the new license terms and conditions over the life of the new license exceeds \$400 million, with most of that amount required in the first ten years. Those costs include more than \$240 million to build the Atmospheric River Control (ARC) spillway to reduce flood risk and enhance dam safety at New Bullards Bar Dam, which Yuba Water expects to be included in the new license. Yuba Water is accelerating the project and, if funding is allotted, could implement the ARC spillway project even before the new license is issued because of its public safety benefits. Yuba Water must have the financial resources to implement all the new license requirements or be subject to fines, or even loss of the license and the ability to generate electric revenue.

In addition to the more than \$400 million of new-license projects noted above, the multi-year capital improvement plans for the power plant and dam total more than \$90 million. Identified local flood risk reduction projects will require almost \$400 million, in addition to the \$240 million already noted for the ARC Spillway.

To be financially viable and carry out its mission, Yuba Water must continue to be fiscally conservative and responsible; must build financial reserves to be prepared for low revenue years, for significant and catastrophic events threatening the people of Yuba County and Yuba Water; and must save or be prepared to borrow in order to fund the major projects within Yuba Water’s missions.

The total estimated reserves necessary to meet these requirements is well in excess of \$200 million.

Budgeting Priorities

Guiding Principles: The strategic priorities outlined in this plan require far more financial resources to complete than reasonably expected as revenue in the coming five years. Yuba Water will follow these guiding principles in allocating resources:

1. Yuba Water will self-finance operations and projects and use outside financing strategically to keep costs low and maximize the impact of resource deployment.
2. Yuba Water will conservatively and accurately budget and spend to maximize the availability of funds and build reserves to fund future obligations, projects and long-term operations.
3. Yuba Water will leverage local funds by actively seeking federal and state grant funding for all eligible projects.
4. Yuba Water will partner with other local government and community agencies by contributing resources to projects within the Agency's mission, as appropriate within these guidelines.

Resource Allocation Priorities: Each year, the Yuba Water Board of Directors approves a two-year budget that allocates resources according to Yuba Water's mission and the strategic priorities contained herein. The following list outlines the priorities that will be followed, in order, in allocating resources.

1. Fund ongoing and future agency operations, including maintaining Yuba Water's existing FERC licenses, and obtaining and implementing new FERC licenses.
2. Fund ongoing obligations including levee bond payments and settlements.
3. Fund necessary capital projects for the power system and for water supply.
4. Fund flood risk reduction and water supply projects.
5. Fund discretionary community projects within Yuba Water's mission and within the strategic priorities, as revenues allow.
6. Fund reserves, as outlined in the [Reserves Policy](#).

Strategic Priority #1: Provide planning, funding and other support for responsible flood risk management to continue decreasing flood risk in Yuba County to as low as reasonably achievable.

Objective 1: Support the reclamation districts' (RD) efforts to improve Yuba County levees to achieve or exceed the state's Urban Level of Flood Protection (ULOP) requirements.

Strategies:

1. Continue to support Yuba County, the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Agency (TRLIA), and reclamation districts to meet or exceed the ULOP requirement for South Yuba County.
2. Continue to Support the Marysville Levee Commission as the local sponsor in the Marysville Ring Levee Project by providing financial and policy support as well as taking the lead in seeking federal funding for the project.
3. Continue to support Yuba County, the City of Marysville, the City of Wheatland, and the reclamation districts in Yuba County to improve overall flood protection, including drainage posing a major risk to life safety, levees, maintenance and emergency response.
4. Work with Yuba County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other communities to make changes to the National Flood Insurance Program to reduce the cost of flood insurance.
5. Provide, where reasonable, funding to support accomplishing this objective to supplement local, state and federal funds.

Objective 2: Reduce flood risk in rural/agricultural areas through a combination of structural and nonstructural actions.

Strategies:

1. Provide financial assistance to rural levee districts to conduct problem-identification studies and alternatives analysis so they can develop and implement plans to reduce risk of a levee failure for their basins.
2. Work with the reclamation districts throughout Yuba County to reduce flood risk, including drainage posing a major risk to life safety, levees, maintenance and emergency response.
3. Work with Yuba County, FEMA and other communities to make changes to the National Flood Insurance Program that will promote the economic viability of

- agriculture in the floodplain and reducing the cost of flood insurance while also limiting restrictions on construction of agriculture-related structures in the floodplain.
4. Support the reclamation districts and local government in the pursuit of state and federal funding programs that address flood risk in the rural basins.
 5. Provide, where reasonable, funding to the reclamation districts and local government to support accomplishing this objective to supplement local, state and federal funds.

Objective 3: Develop and implement a plan to maintain and improve the flood risk-reduction capability of New Bullards Bar Reservoir.

Strategies:

1. Invest in foundational flood risk reduction infrastructure, including final design and permitting of the New Bullards Bar ARC Spillway.
2. Continue to use, promote and improve the Forecast-Coordinated Operations (F-CO) Program in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the National Weather Service.
3. Work with the USACE to revise the Water Control Manual to maximize the benefit of the ARC Spillway, including Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO).
4. Investigate and pursue projects identified in the 2022 Comprehensive Flood Plan that have been identified as most impactful toward reducing the risk of flooding for the people of Yuba County.
5. Seek opportunities for state and federal funding for projects to achieve the objective, including partnerships for the ARC Spillway and other foundational flood risk reduction infrastructure.
6. Capitalize on efficiencies created in overlapping mission areas between Yuba Water's Resource Planning Division and the Flood Risk Reduction and Water Supply Division and continue to strengthen that interface.

Objective 4: Work with local emergency service organizations to better prepare for emergency response and evacuation.

Strategies:

1. Work with Yuba County Office of Emergency Services, Yuba County Sheriff's Office, the cities of Marysville and Wheatland, reclamation districts and other special districts to develop plans for handling high water events or catastrophic failures at high-risk dams in Yuba County.
2. Empower Yuba Water staff to assist the emergency management functions of the county, cities and special districts during times of crisis, including service within the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and assisting with levee patrols and flood fighting efforts.

Strategic Priority #2: Maintain and enhance the delivery of a reliable water supply for the people of Yuba County.

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance a reliable surface water supply for Yuba Water's eight-Member Unit irrigation districts and others throughout Yuba County.

Strategies:

1. Further develop and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with the Member Units and other purveyors of agricultural and municipal surface water supplies throughout Yuba County.
2. Work with south Member Units to plan, permit and implement long-term improvements to the South Canal Diversion fish screen and to develop long-term maintenance agreements for the diversion.
3. Maximize the reliability and value of surface water supplies for Yuba County.
 - a. Prioritize reliability of Yuba Water's surface water supplies for use in Yuba County as a primary objective.
 - b. Maximize water-supply reliability of Yuba Water's water supplies by seeking to ensure that instream flow and water quality requirements from FERC relicensing and Bay Delta proceedings (including the Voluntary Agreements) are as close as possible to Yuba Water's Amended Final License Application streamflow terms.
 - c. After maximizing water supply reliability of Yuba Water's water supplies for Yuba County, run the hydropower project flexibly to maximize power generation revenues in support of Yuba Water's mission.
 - d. Defend and protect Yuba Water Agency's water rights.
 - e. Provide support toward defending and protecting the water rights of other Yuba County water rights holders and assist with improvements to delivery infrastructure to deliver surface water supplies to additional landowners in Yuba County.
4. Defend water interests of Yuba Water by addressing regional and statewide concerns.
5. Ensure long-term water-supply planning and water-use efficiency.
 - a. Implement and maintain the Yuba Water Agricultural Water Management Plan.
 - b. Implement and maintain the Yuba County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).
6. Support the development and implementation of multi-benefit water supply reliability projects that encourage improved wildlife habitat and potential fish returns.
7. Provide, where reasonable, funding to the Member Units and special districts in support of accomplishing this objective to supplement local, state and federal funds.

Objective 2: Maintain and enhance a reliable groundwater supply for users within the North Yuba and South Yuba subbasins.

Strategies:

1. Further develop and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with the Member Units and other purveyors of agricultural and municipal groundwater supplies throughout Yuba County.
2. Serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for most of the north and all of the south sub-basins.
3. Proactively implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to maximize benefit to north and south sub-basin users, including agricultural and municipal water users.
 - a. Carry out the responsibilities of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency in the north and south sub-basins.
 - b. Implement and maintain the Groundwater Sustainability Plan to ensure that groundwater in the Yuba subbasins remains stable and supportive of all existing groundwater uses.
4. Actively manage effective conjunctive water use.
 - a. Conduct sound annual groundwater management planning.
 - b. Consider expansion of the surface water delivery system within the county to enhance groundwater reliability.
 - c. Ensure that groundwater substitution transfers from within Yuba County are sustainable and consistent with the annual groundwater planning process and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
5. Maintain and expand Yuba Water's groundwater modeling and monitoring program.
6. Provide, where reasonable, funding to the Member Units and special districts in support of accomplishing this objective to supplement local, state and federal funds.

Objective 3: Maintain and enhance benefits for Yuba County from the Lower Yuba River Accord including water transfers.

Strategies:

1. Work with Yuba Water's Resource Planning Division and the State of California in extending the Yuba Accord and Water Purchase Agreement beyond 2025.
2. Work with Yuba Water's Resource Planning Division to expand the market for Yuba Accord transfer water.
3. Maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with existing Yuba Accord transfer buyers.

Strategic Priority #3: Operate the Yuba River Development Project and its power system for safety, regulatory compliance, water supply and power reliability in an environmentally responsible manner.

Objective 1: Support strategic priorities 1 (flood risk management), 2 (reliable water supply) and 4 (environmental regulation and stewardship).

Strategies:

1. Take actions and supporting actions that prioritize flood risk management, reliable water supply, and environmental protection as a priority ahead of power revenues.
2. Provide resource support and input to develop the New Bullards Bar ARC Spillway Project identified under Strategic Priority 1 (flood risk management).

Objective 2: Continue to responsibly manage Yuba Water's dams and proactively identify and address issues.

Strategies:

1. Be an industry leader in regard to our Dam Safety Program.
2. Continue focusing and anticipating changing regulatory requirements.

Objective 3: Continue to maintain and improve the employee and public safety programs to ensure that safety is not a separate function but is integral to every aspect of Yuba Water's work.

Strategies:

1. Ensure employees receive continuous safety training as it relates to the hazards they are exposed to while completing their assigned tasks.
2. Reduce the risk of potential serious injuries to personnel by prioritizing the use of engineering controls to eliminate identified hazards that personnel are exposed to while completing their assigned tasks.
3. Educate the public on the risks and benefits associated with the Agency.

Objective 4: Maintain a proactive approach in attaining an extremely high level of compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Strategies:

1. Continue to develop strong working relationships with stakeholders, such as electrical reliability, environmental, and health and safety regulators.
2. Proactively engage in regulatory rulemaking and legislative efforts by increasing collaboration with relevant decision makers on various issues that will affect our assets. Demonstrate through practice and policy our commitment to exemplary environmental stewardship.
3. Review atypical water flow situations, not specifically defined in the FERC license or Accord, to minimize environmental impact.
4. Manage storm flows to the extent controllable to minimize impact to fisheries.

Objective 5: Position the Yuba River Development Project (YRDP) and Narrows 1 assets and organization for long-term reliability and viability, not just short-term results.

Strategies:

1. Prioritize capital projects by further refining the "Asset and Risk Management" program which identifies various asset risks and assists in the decision-making process.
2. Implement work management systems to improve business efficiencies.
3. Expand the five-year capital improvement budget processes into a 10-year process to improve financial performance, efficiency, and forecasting capability.
4. Periodically review and revise, as appropriate, energy marketing and scheduling practices to ensure the greatest value from the generation assets, accounting for changes in market conditions, energy products and internal resources.
5. Ensure our drawings, owners' manuals, operating instructions, and all other prevalent documents are organized, cataloged, and easily accessible by applicable employees.

Strategic Priority #4: Obtain a new FERC license for the Yuba River Development Project and Narrows 1 at a reasonable cost, under favorable terms that are protective of the environment.

Objective 1: Substantially retain the Accord-based flow schedules to maintain a reliable water supply and protect Yuba River fisheries.

Strategies:

1. Continue to support integration of Accord-based flows as contained within the Amended Final License Application (AFLA) into new license.

2. Coordinate relicensing efforts of Narrows 1 Project to ensure alignment and consistency with Accord flows in new YRDP license.
3. Advance Yuba Voluntary Agreement flow proposals that are complementary to Accord- based flow schedules in new YRDP license.

Objective 2: Minimize loss of power generation resulting from new license terms so that power sales can financially support Power Systems and other Agency functions for the people of Yuba County.

Strategies:

1. Advance Yuba Water's AFLA flow proposals and collaborative agreements to support environmental benefits and operational flexibility of the YRDP and Narrows 1 to support the Agency's critical mission areas.
2. Continue to work with FERC towards issuance of a long-term license for the YRDP in coordination with the parallel licensing effort for the Narrows 1 Project.

Objective 3: Where reasonable, negotiate additional collaborative agreements to reduce costs and maintain operational flexibility.

Strategies:

1. Work collaboratively with the relicensing parties to provide for operational certainty, recreation opportunities and environmental benefits.
2. As required by FERC, work collaboratively with other licensees in the Yuba Watershed to provide FERC with information that supports Yuba Water's YRDP and Narrows 1 relicensing objectives.

Objective 4: Under the Resource Planning Division, advance the Agency's habitat enhancement, watershed and climate resilience programs.

Strategies:

1. Create a habitat enhancement program in the Lower Yuba River.
 - a. Develop robust habitat enhancement program focused on the Lower Yuba River.
 - b. Align habitat enhancement work with other programs including the Voluntary Agreements, Yuba Accord and other Agency and partner programs with habitat elements.

2. Programmatically advance watershed resilience through continuation of healthy forest initiatives to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve watershed health.
 - a. Advance the North Yuba Forest Partnership and associated phases.
 - b. Support the development and implementation of a master plan with partners to increase wildfire protection levels and promote watershed health.
 - c. Continue to collaborate with forest and fire entities to develop and implement innovative ways to promote improved watershed resilience.
3. Actively develop coordinated watershed and climate adaptation strategies to ensure the Agency can provide for its mission areas now and into the future.
 - a. Advance a comprehensive climate and watershed resilience program.
 - b. Continue to support climate adaptation strategy elements within existing and future projects and programs.
 - c. Support forecast improvement and verification programs to support optimization of Agency operations.
 - d. Maintain situational awareness of opportunities to leverage resilience program for funding opportunities.

Objective 5: Develop an integrated strategic water and energy operations and project group that develops forward looking initiatives to support the Agency's position in future conditions.

Strategies:

1. Move forward operational and project enhancements to support operational flexibility in the water and energy markets.
2. Advance the ARC Spillway project and associated FIRO operations under an updated New Bullards Bar Water Control Manual to its completion.
3. Align Accord extension, voluntary agreements and other water operations to remain consistent with FERC relicensing.
4. Continue to support optimization of the Agency's energy and capacity revenue.
5. Support forecast improvement and verification programs to support optimization of Agency operations.
6. Maintain situational awareness of opportunities and partnerships to leverage funding opportunities for associated projects.

Strategic Priority #5: Further develop Yuba Water's organizational capabilities to efficiently support operations.

Objective 1: Prioritize, support and ensure that safety and compliance programs are proactively implemented and updated throughout the organization.

Strategies:

1. Develop and implement a structure to support agency-wide safety programs to ensure that safety of our employees and the public are our highest priority.
2. Develop and implement collaborative programs throughout the agency to enhance all safety program efforts within the agency and for the public.
3. Audit and improve compliance programs throughout all functions of the agency to ensure proactive compliance with all requirements.

Objective 2: Support continued long-term financial sustainability through the establishment of cautious and responsible revenue and expenditure forecasting; prudent reserves; and reasonable risk management to accommodate uncontrollable risk factors, such as precipitation, energy prices and catastrophic incidents.

Strategies:

1. Further develop annual budget process and 10-year planning process to align with strategic priorities and guiding budget principles including improvements in revenue forecasting.
2. Continue to manage Reserves Policy and fund reserves according to guiding budget principles.
3. Develop risk management capabilities to complement safety, compliance and reliability priorities throughout the organization and to best manage the risk associated with energy sales.
4. Continue to pursue strategies to maximize revenues by taking advantage of new market opportunities.

Objective 3: Strive to be the premier employer in the region and within water and flood risk reduction agencies throughout the state.

Strategies:

1. Develop compensation structures, systems and policies that ensure Yuba Water’s ability to attract and retain the best employees in a competitive market for long-term return on investment.
2. Continue Yuba Water’s uncompromising and focused commitment to a comprehensive selection and assessment process to maintain a healthy, positive and productive work culture.
3. Develop and implement ongoing technical and leadership professional development opportunities, plan for adequate staffing levels, and prepare for smooth succession throughout the agency.
4. Nurture Yuba Water’s collaborative culture to encourage individual engagement and development, responsibility, accomplishment and loyalty to Yuba Water, its mission and the people of Yuba County.
5. Ensure an informed, committed workforce with an active internal communications strategy, transparency in decision-making at all levels and personalized development tools.
6. Ensure the health and well-being of our workforce by encouraging a healthy work-life balance and by actively participating in the Blue Zone Challenge.

Objective 4: Further develop the structure and support tools to provide operational effectiveness and efficiency to power systems, water resources and all Yuba Water operations.

Strategies:

1. Continue to identify, utilize, evaluate and leverage top consultants to supplement staff expertise and most effectively and efficiently support Yuba Water’s mission.
2. Fully implement and utilize organization-wide support systems, including the enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, systems in human resources and maintenance, and all operational support systems to enhance internal and external efficiency, effectiveness and transparency.
3. Develop and update administrative policies and procedures to encourage efficiency and consistency without compromising flexibility and results-orientation.
4. Proactively build and operate a united, efficient organization to serve the people of Yuba County.

Objective 5: Apply proven technology to efficiently advance our progress and performance.

Strategies:

1. Maintain and enhance cyber and physical security at all Yuba Water locations and operations.
2. Support all Yuba Water operations with updating and maintaining technology in an effective, sustainable manner.
3. Develop and implement a business continuity plan.
4. Develop and implement a long-term technology plan.

Objective 6: Continue to engage in a robust communications function to educate constituents and make information readily available and easily accessible.

Strategies:

1. Commit to a proactive, results-oriented communications function within the organization to enhance constituent knowledge and to ensure transparency, understanding and support of agency operations.
2. Engage with communities of interest through focused outreach, social media, information programs and a managed facilities tour program, within required security and safety protocols.
3. Utilize tools to determine the effectiveness of communications programs and adjust as needed.

Objective 7: Continue to actively participate in industry associations.

Strategies:

1. Encourage and financially support directors and managers in participation and taking leadership roles in industry associations.
2. Encourage employees to participate in educational and networking opportunities offered by industry associations as part of ongoing professional development.

Objective 8: Promote and defend Yuba Water's interests and strategic priorities with state and federal legislative bodies and administrative agencies.

Strategies:

1. Actively monitor legislative and regulatory activities as well as other policy development efforts to assess potential impacts on Yuba Water's mission areas.

2. Engage in legislative, administrative and regulatory processes to promote and defend Yuba Water’s interests and strategic priorities.
3. Cultivate relationships with legislators, appointed officials and staff of regulatory and resource agencies, and key stakeholders.

Strategic Priority #6: Proactively engage in developing a robust, diverse Yuba County economy and improve the overall well-being of Yuba County residents by investing in projects that offer strategic benefit and regulatory security.

Objective 1: Assist in infrastructure projects, including flood management and water supply management, to ensure safety and security, and improve emergency response for the residents and businesses of Yuba County, consistent with Yuba Water’s mission.

Strategies:

1. Pursue objectives and strategies outlined in Strategic Priority #1: Provide, planning, funding and other support for responsible flood risk management.
2. Pursue objectives and strategies outlined in Strategic Priority #2: Maintain and enhance the delivery of a reliable water supply for the people of Yuba County and support and protect the agricultural community and its essential role in the Yuba County economy.
3. Continue to support and administer county-wide planning and implementation initiatives, including Groundwater Sustainability Plans; Integrated Regional Water Management Plan; Agricultural Water Management Plan; Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and others.
4. Provide expertise, resources, and support to local agencies within Yuba County to improve flood management efforts on roads and other infrastructure and to improve emergency response preparedness functions.

Objective 2: Collaborate with Yuba County, other local government agencies and community-based groups in assessing opportunities to assist the county in supporting a local economy and community that is strong and diversified and in furtherance of Yuba Water’s missions.

Strategies:

1. Provide expertise, support and resources to Yuba County community-based organizations and local agencies within Yuba Water's missions and continue to provide a robust local grant program, as fiscally allowable and advisable, primarily to leverage as a local cost share to capture state and federal grants.
2. Proactively engage to develop and implement a long-term plan to attract jobs, increase livability in our disadvantaged communities, encourage water conservation, and improve vitality and support the overall well-being of the citizens of Yuba County.
3. Continue to catalyze economic development in Yuba County by bringing local government agencies, not-for-profits organizations and business leaders together to work toward common goals to enhance the lives of people of Yuba County; by supporting local government agencies in their specific projects; and by utilizing collaboration and resources to deliver impactful, audacious projects.

Objective 3: Develop and execute an effective, sustainable water education program in the schools and community.

Strategies:

1. Collaborate with the schools in Yuba County to find opportunities to provide curriculum, speakers, workshops, demonstrations, field trips, etc., to students to enhance science education related to the Yuba River watershed.
2. Continue to offer a robust internship program to provide direct experience in fields directly related to our mission areas.
3. Investigate water education possibilities for the community, including the establishment of a Water Experience Center.

Objective 4: Continue to develop and leverage our expertise to maximize the benefit of our hydropower for the people of Yuba County.