



Clean. Reliable. Essential. Every Day.

# Countywide Flood Risk Management Assessment Update

7 December 2023

Sasha Ponomareva, Climate Resiliency Program Manager

Zone 3A Advisory Committee Meeting



[sonomawater.org](https://sonomawater.org)



# Presentation Outline

- Motivation, Funding, Expected Outcomes
- Timeline and Participants
- Flood Risk Management Pillars and Actions
- Findings to Date
- Next Steps



# Motivation and Funding

1. **Sonoma County incurs the most recurrent flood damages** of any county in the 11 western states.
2. Climate forecasts agree that **flooding will become more extreme in Sonoma County** in the future with increased atmospheric river activity, including more frequent, and longer duration, and higher intensity storms.
3. **Flood risk management (FRM) is highly disaggregated in the County**, spread across multiple agencies and levels of government, meaning there is little coordination or comprehensive planning for countywide flood-risk management among these organizations.

Funded by the **County of Sonoma's Climate Resiliency Fund (PG&E Settlement \$\$)** and leveraged by Sonoma Water and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) labor hours funded by the **Water Security Fund**. Project goals are aligned with the County's Strategic Plan and the Sonoma Water Climate Adaptation Plan.



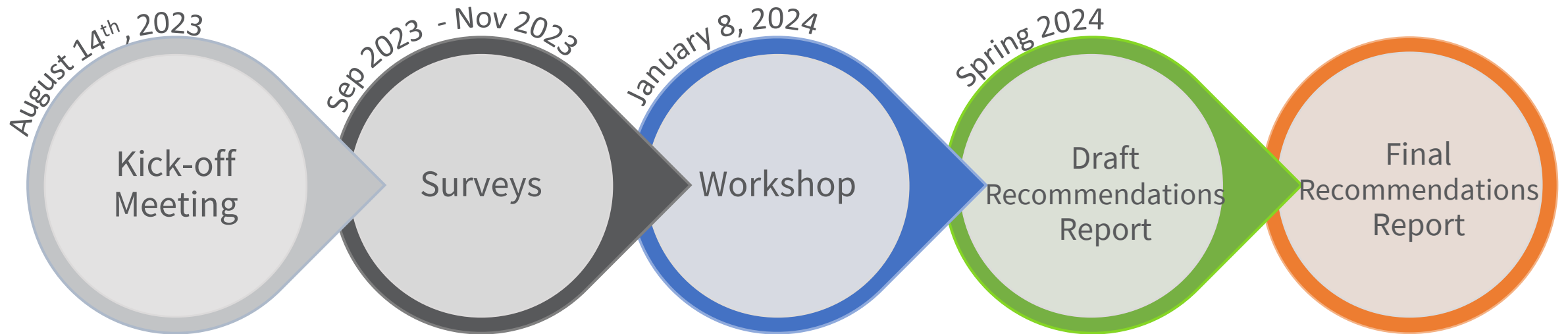
# Expected Outcomes

**"Identify gaps in flood risk management services across Sonoma County in order pursue a more comprehensive and integrated countywide flood management and adaptation strategy"**

- Clarify flood management responsibilities and opportunities,
- Improve interagency and inter-jurisdiction coordination,
- Improve positioning for state and federal funding,
- Reduce risk to life safety and property via enhanced organizational effectiveness,
- Enhance environmental protection.



# Project Overview and Timeline



August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Kick-off Meeting

- Introduction to partners
- Initial discussion on flood risk management priorities

Sep 2023 - Nov 2023

Surveys

- Confirm and supplement Desktop Analysis findings
- Collect GIS data
- Give input on challenges and opportunities for improving flood risk management services

January 8, 2024

Workshop

- Review GIS data
- Identify gaps and redundancies in flood risk management services
- Discuss potential strategies to improve flood risk management services

Spring 2024

Draft Recommendations Report

- Review and provide comments on draft recommendations

Final Recommendations Report

- Share report with organizational leadership



# Participants

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Permit Sonoma
- Sonoma County Public Infrastructure
- Sonoma County Climate Action and Resiliency Division (CARD)
- Cloverdale
- Cotati
- Healdsburg
- Petaluma
- Rohnert Park
- Santa Rosa
- Sonoma
- Sebastopol
- Windsor
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Sonoma RCD
- Gold Ridge RCD
- Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
- West County Community Services
- Russian River Alliance
- Cafecitos
- Catholic Charities
- Nuestra Comunidad
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

**LED BY:**

Sonoma Water

Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management



# Pillars and Flood Risk Management Actions



# Pillars and Flood Risk Management Actions

	Prevention	Preparedness	Response	Recovery
Coordination				
Information Development				
Land Management				
Capital Projects				
O&M				
Training & Awareness				
Funding				





# Pillars and Flood Risk Management Actions

## Example: Sonoma Water

	Prevention	Preparedness	Response	Recovery
<b>Information Development</b>	Conducts surveys, H&H modeling, and studies	Participates in the Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) system		
<b>Land Management</b>	Provides drainage design review for County projects and projects referred by local agencies			
<b>Capital Projects</b>	e.g., Is the local sponsor of Lake Sonoma, Lake Mendocino			
<b>O&amp;M</b>	Maintains over 80 miles of stream channels		Provides emergency response for its facilities	
<b>Training &amp; Awareness</b>		Participates in annual flood fight training		



# Flood Control Zones and Watersheds

Image source: Russian River SWRP 2018

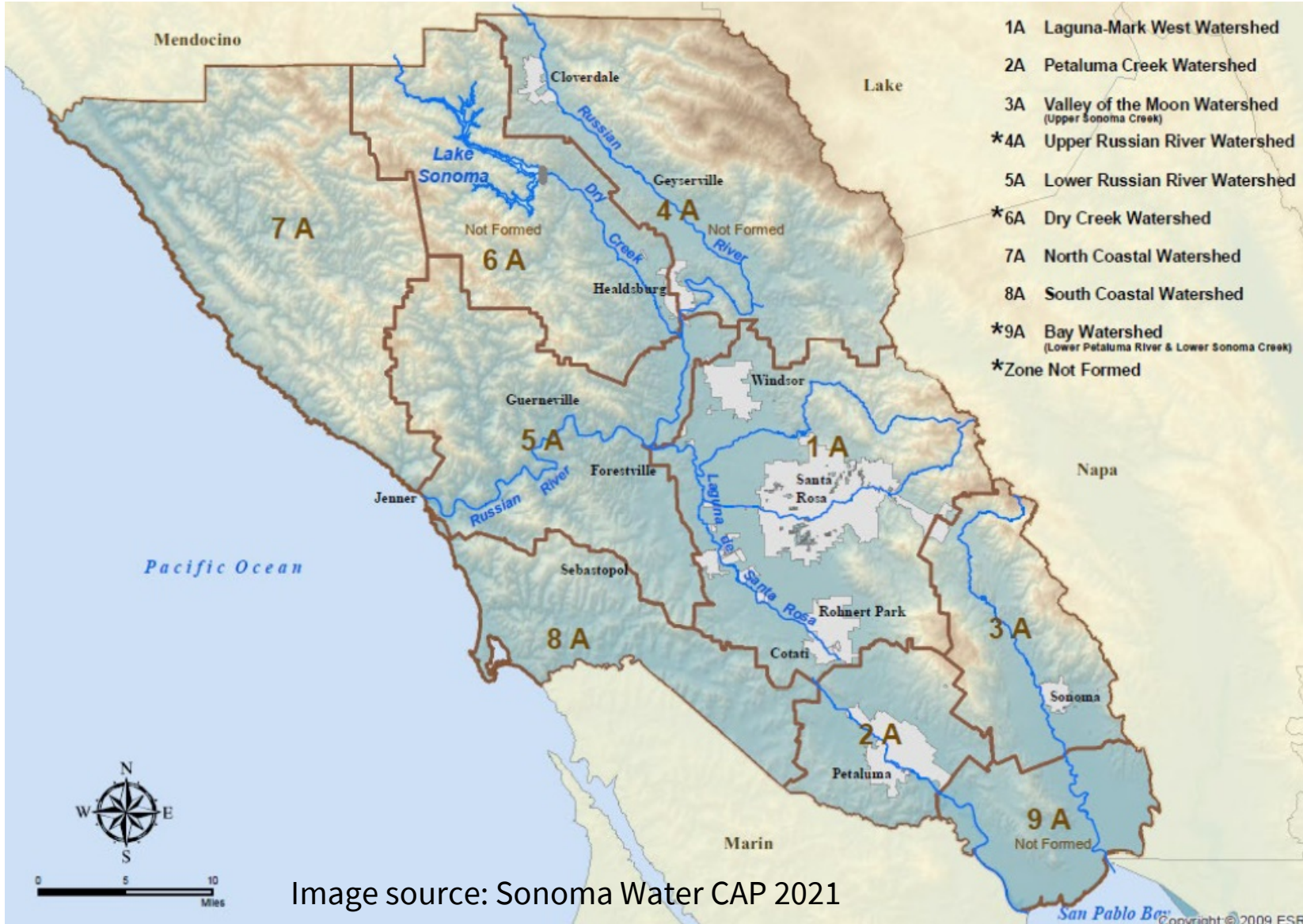


Image source: Sonoma Water CAP 2021



# Findings to Date: Opportunities for Regional Collaboration

- Floodplain Management Standards
- Upstream Sediment and Water Management
- Channel Maintenance
- Forecasting and Real-Time Event Modeling
- Accessible and Consistent Communication (Between Agencies and with Public)
- Evacuation Routes and EOCs
- Local Disaster Recovery Assistance
- Climate Data



# Sonoma Creek

## Key FRM Facilities

- Kenwood Creek Bypass Conduit
- Engineered channels along Fryer Creek, Nathanson Creek, Rodgers Creek
- Privately-owned levees

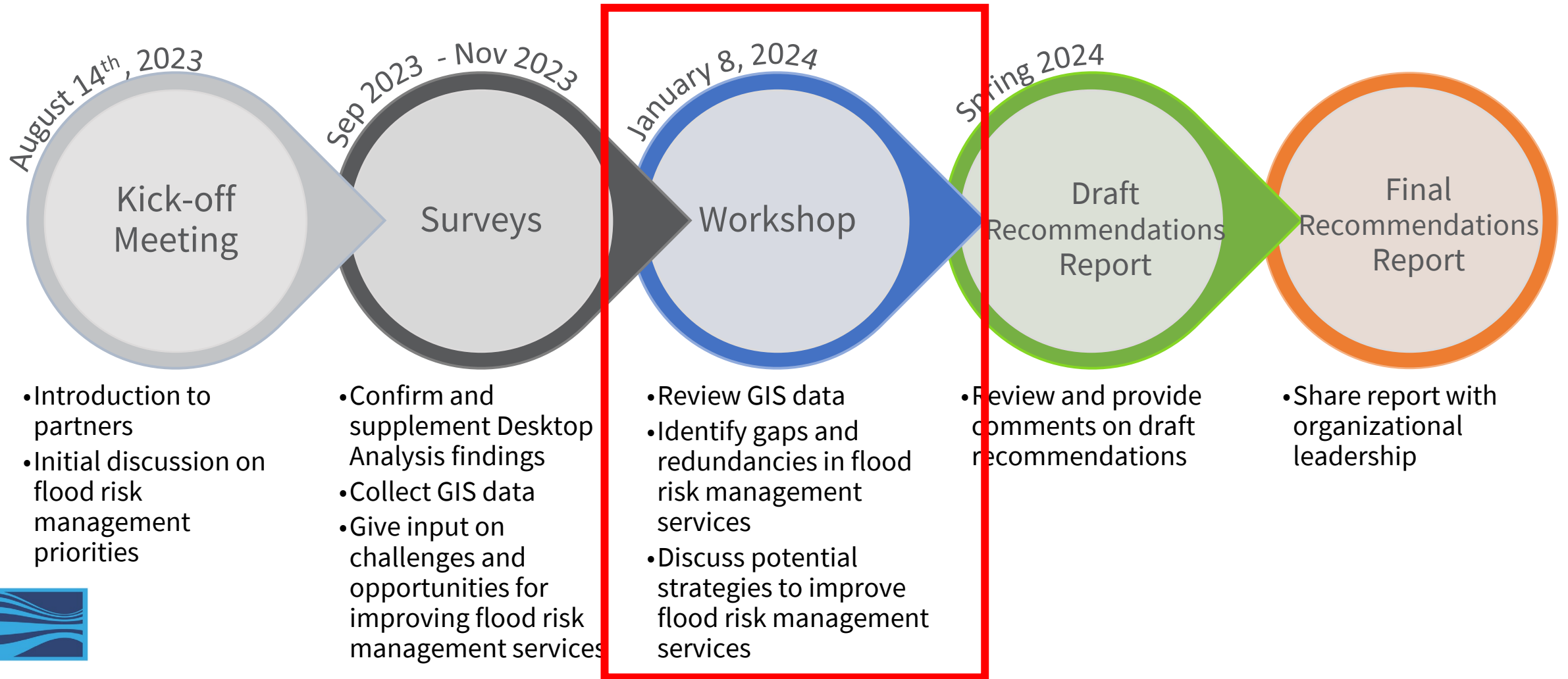
## Agencies that Provide FRM Services

- City of Sonoma ★
- Army Corps ★
- Sonoma County (within unincorporated areas) ★
- Sonoma RCD ★
- Ag + Open Space
- Sonoma Water ★
- Private Landowners / LMAs



INTERVIEWED/SURVEYED

# Next Steps



# Potential Future Phases



# THANK YOU



QUESTIONS



FEEDBACK



WHAT'S MISSING?

