

CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

# Participant Water Management Needs Survey

*Survey results: data summary*

Operating Committee | October 2026 | n = 8



# Response matrix

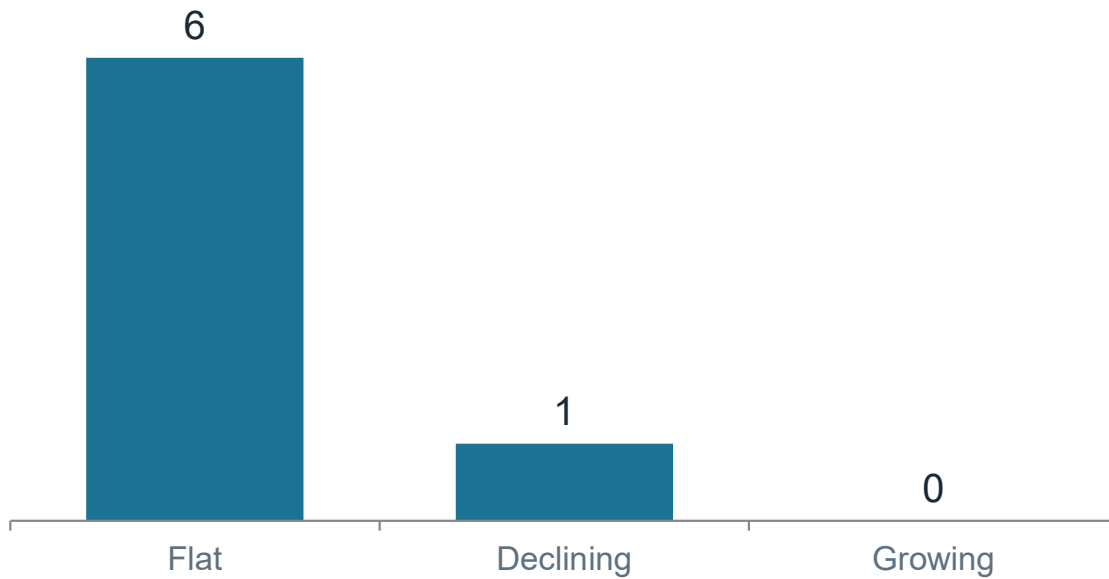
Participants anonymized. Dash = not stated. P8 responded by email.

|    | Posture  | Normal need (AF) | Dry-year reliance | 10-yr demand | Bank  | Firm recovery | Spill sens. | Transfer | Surplus threshold |
|----|----------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|---------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| P1 | Drought  | 0                | 1,500-4,000 AF    | Flat         | Yes   | Essential     | Somewhat    | Yes      | > ~3,000 AF       |
| P2 | Baseload | 750              | baseload          | Flat         | Yes   | Essential     | High        | Maybe    | 80%               |
| P3 | Drought  | 0                | ~60% peak         | Shrink       | Yes   | Essential     | High        | Yes      | existing          |
| P4 | Baseload | 4,500            | up to 10,000 AF   | Flat         | Maybe | Important     | Somewhat    | Maybe    | 60%               |
| P5 | Drought  | 0                | 3,000-5,000 AF    | Flat         | No    | Important     | High        | Maybe    | 80%               |
| P6 | Drought  | 0                | full backfill     | Flat         | Maybe | Essential     | High        | Yes      | > 1,000 AF        |
| P7 | Baseload | 700*             | 2,651 AF exch.    | Flat         | Maybe | Important     | High        | Maybe    | -                 |
| P8 | Drought  | -                | dry-year          | -            | Yes   | -             | -           | buyer    | -                 |

Postures: 5 Drought-insurance, 3 Baseload. Banking: 4 Yes / 3 Maybe / 1 No. Firm recovery: every stated view Essential or Important. Spill: 7 of 8 sensitive (5 high, 2 somewhat). \*P7 Table A is 700 AF; its 2,651 AF is a Cachuma share subject to South Coast exchange.

## 10-year demand

Count of 8 participants.



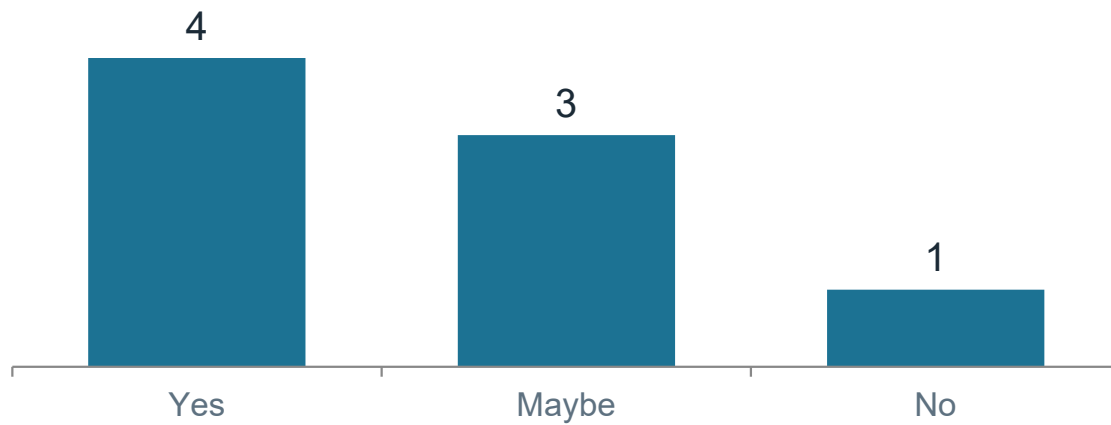
0

of 8 project growth

Six flat, one shrinking. Aggregate SWP reliance is flat to declining, which favors flexible, right-sized arrangements over fixed-cost infrastructure.

## Banking interest

*Count of 8 participants.*



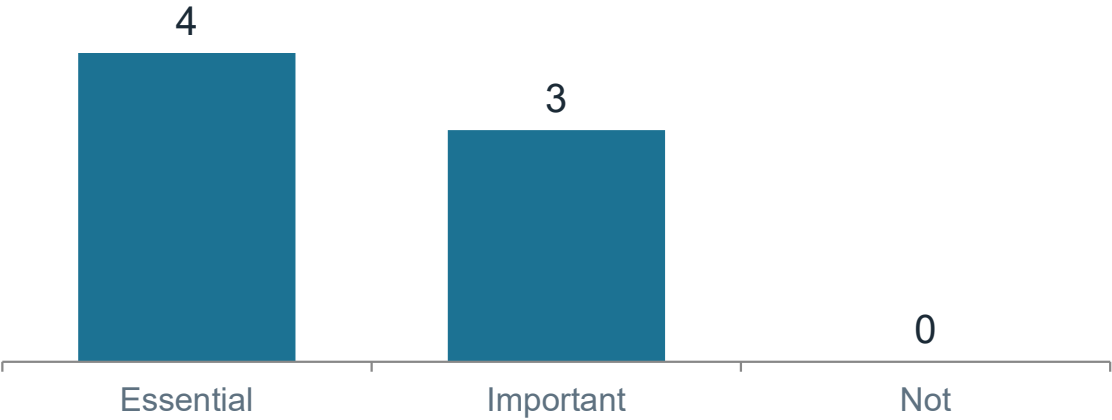
**7 of 8**

interested (Yes or Maybe)

Only one declined, and that agency already banks in its own basin. Appetite for a storage program is broad.

# Firm dry-year recovery

*Of participants expressing a view.*



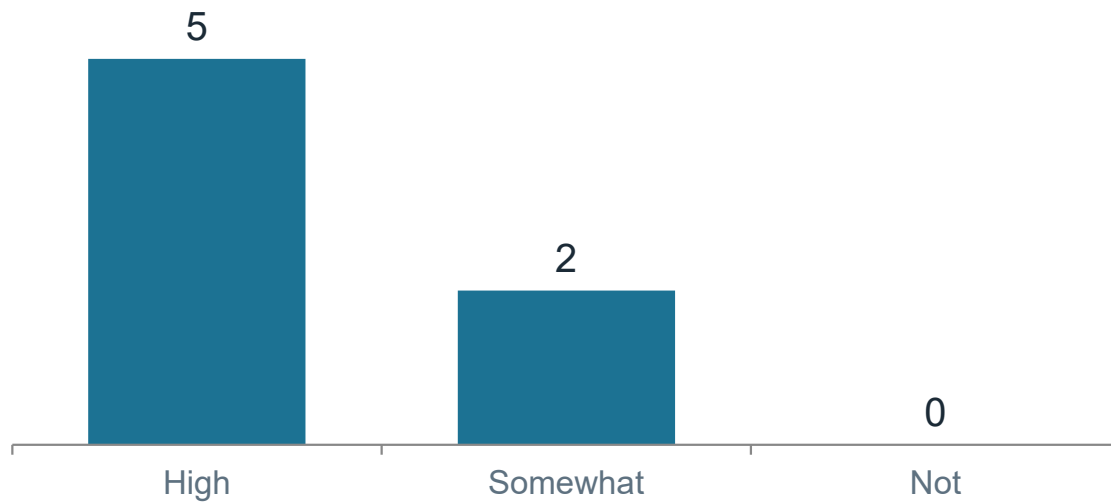
100%

Essential or Important

No participant treats dry-year recovery as optional. This is why the bank must be local and firm.

## Spill sensitivity

*Of participants answering; P8 not stated.*



**7 of 8**

sensitive to spill losses

Five highly sensitive, two somewhat. Spill exposure is widespread and drives both base programs.

# Base need 1: long-term local storage

Stated requests and design totals, in acre-feet.

|             | Storage (AF) | Recovery (AF/yr) |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| Anchor (P1) | 9,000        | 3,000-4,000      |
| P2          | 500          | 250              |
| P3, P6      | unsized      | unsized          |
| Interested  | 4 of 8       | firm + local     |

## Design totals

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total storage target       | 15,000 - 20,000 AF  |
| Phase 1 (firm commitments) | 12,000 - 14,000 AF  |
| Coincident recovery        | 5,000 - 8,000 AF/yr |
| Design drought             | 3+ years            |

## Sizing basis

**Size to:** cumulative dry-year draw over the design drought

**Not to:** wet-year surplus

**Recovery:** coincident across all members (correlated droughts); no timing diversification

**Gross up for:** leave-behind loss + conveyance ceiling

**Host:** open; one adjudicated South Coast basin, closed to others

# Base need 2: transfer and exchange parameters

*Sized by terms, not capital. Clearing volume varies by allocation year.*

| Parameter               | Value (from responses)                                  |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Trigger (surplus floor) | 60 to 80% allocation                                    |
| Stated thresholds       | 60% (1), 80% (2), buffer-based (2), none/existing (2)   |
| Price floor             | at or above recent market; \$240/AF offer did not clear |
| Carryover buffer        | 1,000 to 3,000 AF held before surplus                   |
| Transfer interest       | 3 Yes / 4 Maybe / 0 No                                  |

## Timing

### Surplus

high-allocation years

### Need

dry years

### Overlap

rare; counter-cyclical

### Overflow

external sale above internal match

### In-year match

when local hydrology diverges from allocation

# Specialized needs beyond the two base programs

*Raised by individual participants; outside storage and transfer/exchange.*

| Need                        | Description                                                            | Type               |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Post-spill delivery bridge  | After a local reservoir spills, deliveries pause weeks to months       | Near-term exchange |
| Shared-conduit capacity     | Cannot raise scheduled delivery when the conduit is at capacity        | Conveyance         |
| Wheeling to adjacent system | Move water to a neighboring non-SWP system through a member's capacity | Agreement          |
| Continued SWP cost advocacy | SWP costs, particularly subsidence and billing adjustments             | Advocacy           |

## Recommended direction

**1** Develop long-term local storage. Target 15,000-20,000 AF, phase 1 at 12,000-14,000 AF, confirm volumes and a host

**2** Set transfer/exchange terms: 60-80% trigger, price floor at or above market, 1,000-3,000 AF buffers, recall right

**3** Address the 4 specialized needs separately; several are near-term, low-cost fixes

**4** Follow up with participants to firm volumes, thresholds, and timing