



kišunuškuy: Planning for Resilience

TIME	DURATION	SESSION
11:00 – 11:30	30 min	Welcome & Grounding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks and grounding led by Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians Tribal Chairman Matthew Vestuto
11:30 – 11:45	15 min	Tribal Engagement Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal engagement approach within the Watershed Resilience Project and VC RCD Agenda overview for the day
11:45 – 12:30	45 min	Lunch (provided)
12:30 – 1:20	50 min	Tribal Knowledge Systems & Case Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing Tribal knowledge, perspectives, and examples relevant to climate resilience and adaptation
1:20 – 1:30	10 min	Break
1:30 – 3:30	2 hrs	Implementation Strategies Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative working session focused on prioritizing adaptation strategies and outlining implementation pathways
3:30 – 3:40	10 min	Wrap-Up & Next Steps
3:40 – 4:00	20 min	Closing Reflections
4:00 PM		Adjourn



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*Ventura River Watershed
Resilience Plan: Forum #3*

February 3, 2026



Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part from the Budget Acts of 2022 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources.



Prayer for a Good Meeting

xutaš, kaqunupmawa yəla'a kakiy'ał'aliwə'a.

mother earth, father sky and all our relatives

kəpə kiyišmotš katšiwəšətš he'sikišpoš

Today we come together and we have good heart-minds

'oyoniyuw

help us!

kahukiyooyotšəš kakiyəla'a hukiyooyonuswu

We will help each other and we will help all.

tšaqwin tšaqwin tšaqwi'in

that is all, that is all, that is all

kišunuškuy

to plan, to set a date, to promise

'O

water









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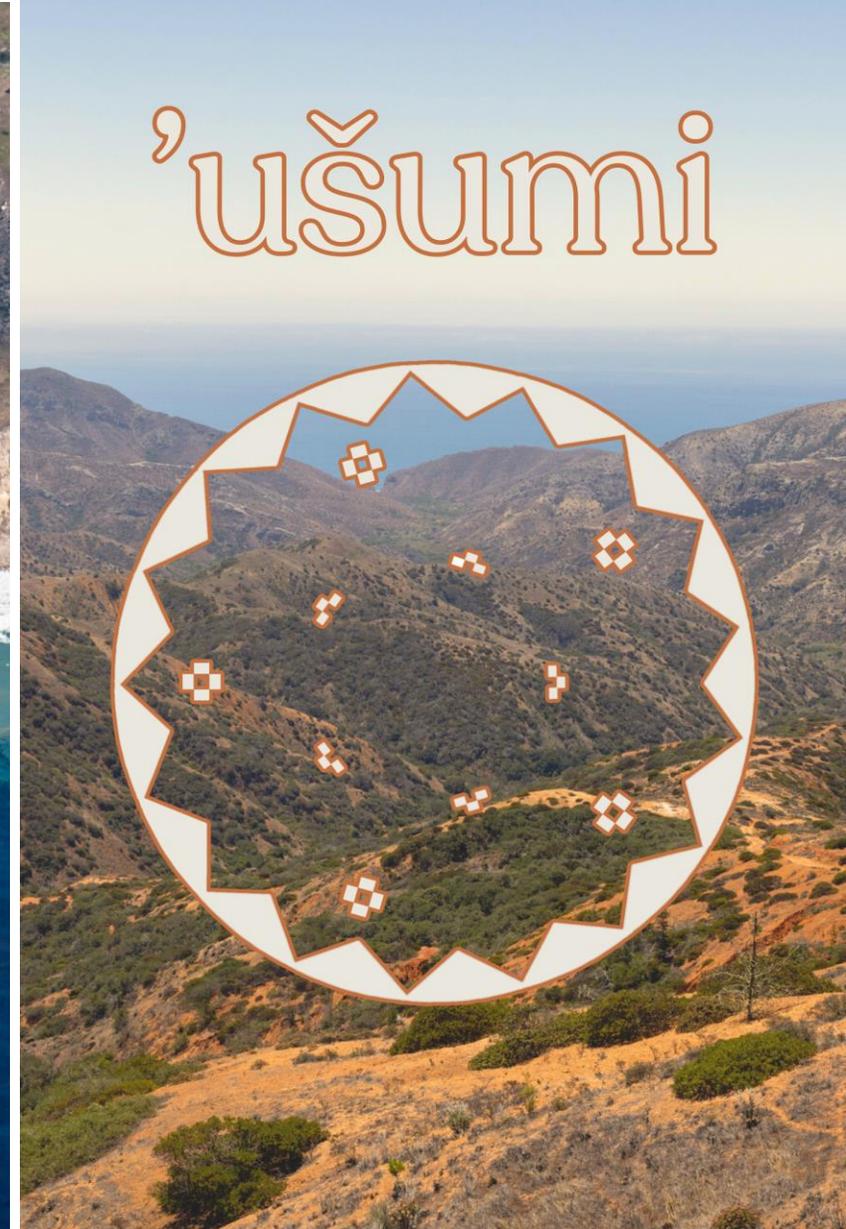
'ap^hok

Be Kind



'oyo

Be Helpful



'ušumi

Be Sharing

wəyə wəyə

thank you very much!

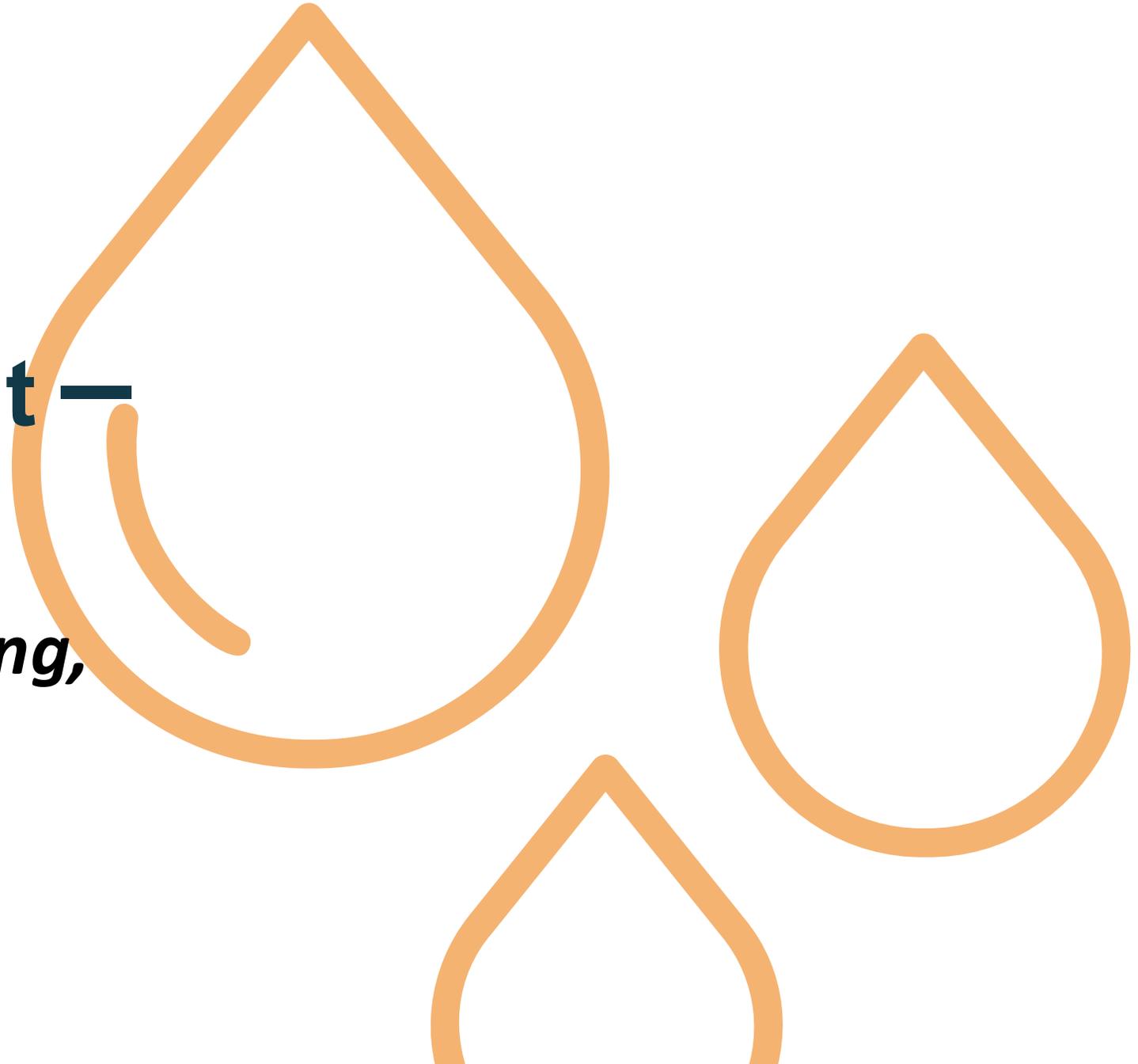


Tribal Engagement —

VCRC

summary, ongoing learning,

reflections





Land Acknowledgment

We are gathering at the village site somas on the unceded
lands of the Ventureño Chumash



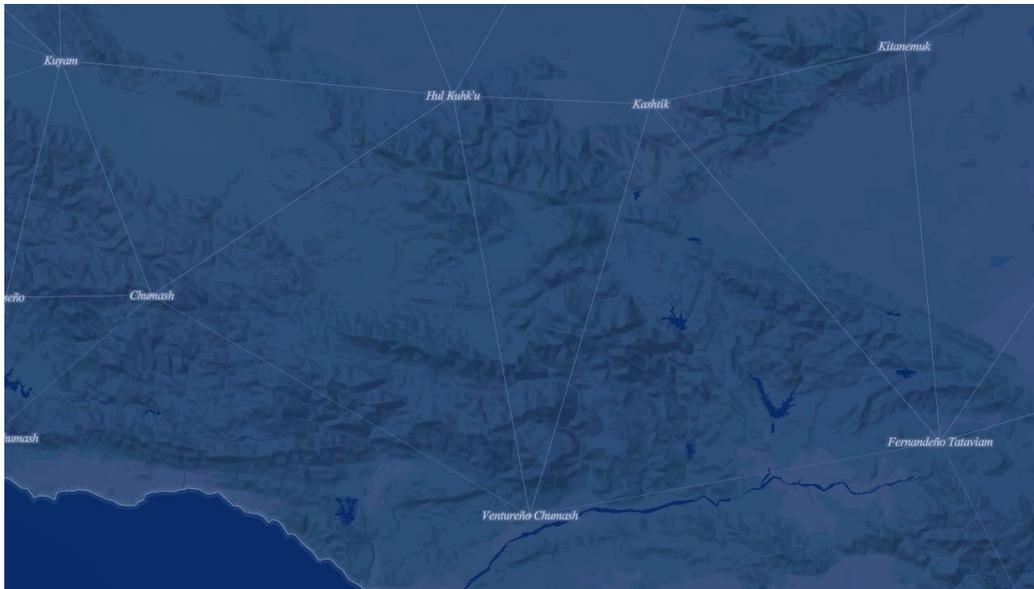
DWR Tribal Protocols for Outreach and Engagement

NAHC - AB 52 CEQA Tribal Consultation

Tribal Consultation List Request & Sacred Lands File Search Form

- 18 contacts that range across multiple counties: current day Ventura, Santa Barbara, Orange, Kern, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, San Bernardino
- Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians





Native-Lands.Ca

- does not reflect definitive legal boundaries of any Indigenous nations and is a work in progress
- errs on the side of more expansive
- highlights relationships, connections, and presence rather than strict borders.
- glowing points linked together in a constellation
- invites users to have an interconnected lens
- Just a starting point

Tribal Government,
The Barbareño/Ventureño
Band of Mission Indians

Chumash Elder, Julie
Tumamait-Stenslie

Indigenous Non-Profit,
Native Coast Action
Network



WRP Involvement

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Asset Manager Interviews (Cultural Resources)
- Community Engagement Forums
- Invitation to review draft WRP chapters
- Assistance in developing adaptation strategies
- Involvement in planning Final Community Forum



Cultural & Ecological
Preservation & Education

How did they do it??

1

phone calls, meetings, text messages, lost emails

2

found emails, contracts, stipends,

3

a ton of allyship videos and educational resources,
and

4

a lot of learning curves and patience.

5

ongoing and evolving everyday



Key Takeaways

- Being in community and working with indigenous non-profits and private contractors doesn't replace consultation and the importance of building a relationship with your local tribal government.
- As much as the state or environmental agencies are highlighting the importance of “tribal involvement” or “traditional ecological knowledge” our frameworks we use for project planning are still inherently very western and therefore the shoe doesn't always fit (we could dive into this a lot).

Key Takeaways

- Tribal community members are experts on their own communities and their expertise must be recognized and COMPENSATED, so grant managers write those resources in!
- Stray from the tokenization of Chumash community members. Seek input from designated representatives or give meaningful space for people to decide to share.
- Learn about the history of California Native American tribes especially in respect to water and forced removal in Ventura County

Key Takeaways

- Continue to listen and engage with respect, intent, understanding, and compassion
- Give ample time. This pilot project in its totality is barely over a year and it has felt like a huge limiting factor.
- Focus on meaningful capacity building through resource sharing or by seeking how you can uplift Chumash community goals/priorities.
- Practice early, often, and meaningful engagement and relationship building.

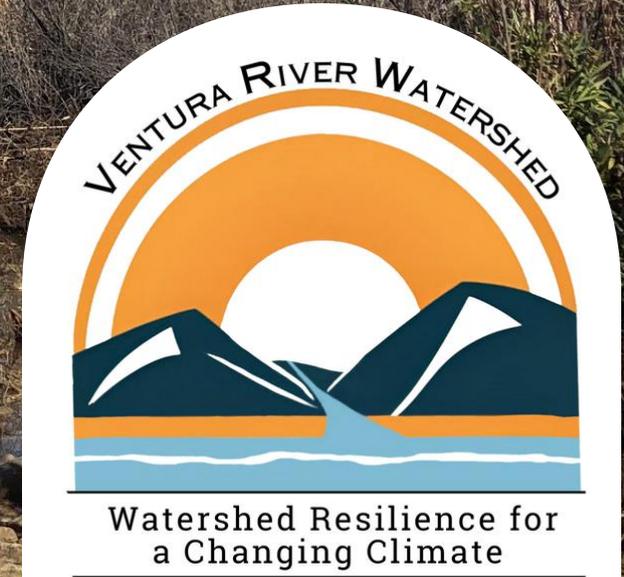




Existing Resources

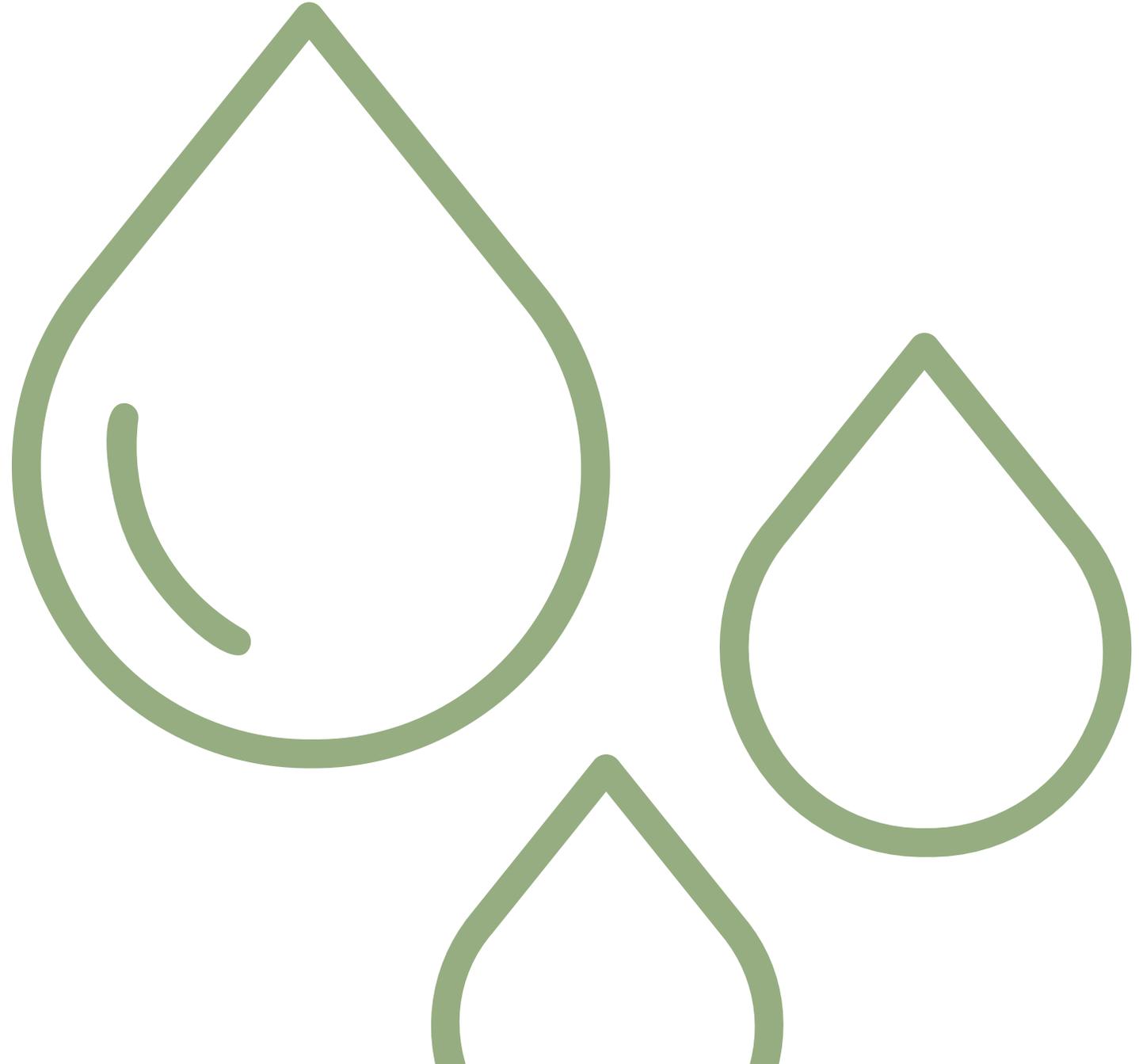
- [DACTI - Water Talks Tribal Allyship Webinar Series](#)
- [DACTI - Tribal Water Needs Assessment Ventura County, 2023](#)
- [DWR Tribal Protocols for Outreach and Engagement](#)
- [American Indian and Alaska Native Culture Card](#)

Thank you





Lunch!



Tribal and Indigenous Climate Stewardship

2/4/2026

kišunuškuy

Planning for Resilience

VRWR Forum

Teresa Romero

Carlie Domingues M.A.

Native Coast Action Network



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Survey - Planning for Watershed Resilience with local Tribes and
Indigenous Communities

Uplifting Indigenous Science Chumash Science Chumash knowledge systems

- Words and knowledge from Ventureño Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians
- Presence and contributions of all Native people present today
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Climate Change reports
- Chumash knowledge in tribal needs assessment report for Ventura County



Indigenous Science: Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals - Status of Tribes and Climate Change Reports 1 & 2 (ITEP STACC 1 & 2)

Indigenous Knowledge Systems

*“Traditional practices such as subsistence farming, hunting and gathering, ceremonial life, and languages have been and continue to be taught through intergenerational sharing. In contexts of intercultural communication, these practices are often referred to as **Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Traditional and Indigenous Knowledges, or Indigenous Knowledge Systems**. IK Systems are considered to be the lifelines of communities due to the deep seeded connection to the earth that has been with the people since time immemorial and has fostered crucial knowledge ranging from how to maintain food systems to how to support positive mental health. The collective information sharing is intertwined with multiple aspects of society, such as ceremonies, songs, prayers, dances, clothing, food gathering and preparation, and so on.”*

Tribal Water Needs Assessment Report for Ventura County prepared by Sacred Places Institute and submitted 2/17/23

- “The ocean, rivers and stream ways were often used as a means of travel... Chumash and neighboring Nations used tule reed and plank canoes to paddle up and down freshwater and saltwater ways.
- Ceremonies of significance were also held in both salt and freshwater. Gathering of fish, clams, shells and other life, including basket weaving materials, was done by the water.
- Daily cleansing practices were also held near or in the water.
- Baskets were and are made near water by the material gathered near the water, and play many roles including water jugs.
- The lifeforce of water and the value of human relationship to water was taught at the stage of infancy and became a lifelong practice for Chumash peoples and neighboring Nations.”

Results of surveys:

- “ Water brings community together which is healing to the spirit and community, of still having knowledge and connection to the spirit of the land and water, being water and ocean protectors, resilience of culture and tradition, and developing relationships with government agencies, organizations, universities and colleges to access land and water for cultural use.

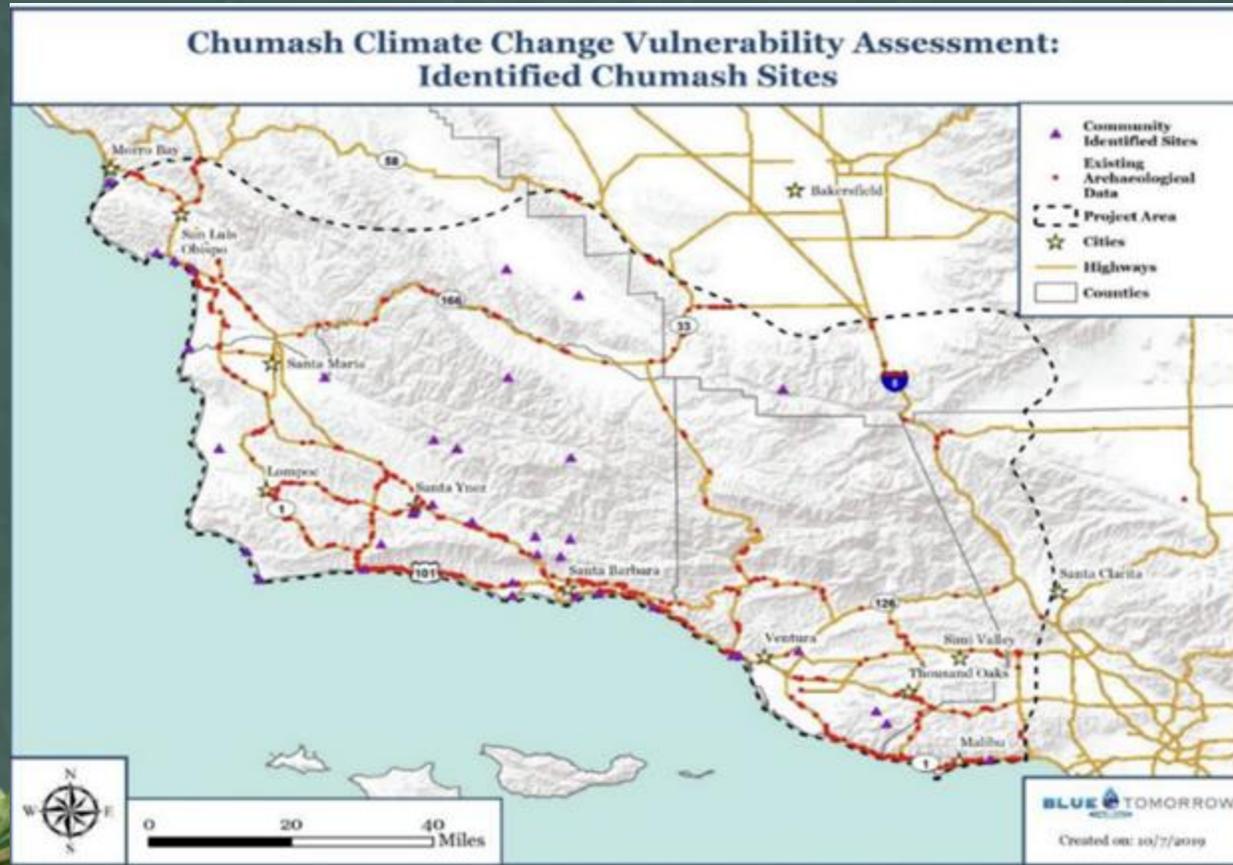
Tribal Water Needs Assessment Report for Ventura County prepared by Sacred Places Institute and submitted 2/17/23.

- “Overwhelmingly Tribal community members prioritized their cultural and spiritual relationship to water as both a significant strength and need in terms of something needing to be protected, expanded, and even re-established in some instances.
- Some community members noted that their relationship to water consists of gathering aquatic plants, gathering aquatic animals, holding ceremony with water, making sure to leave offerings to the water, participating in Tribal community gatherings around water, participating in the launching of the traditional tomols and tule boats,
- recognizing the water as a living relative that has stories tied to the Chumash, Tataviam and Tongva people,
- understanding that we are connected to the water and that it has become scarce so we must do our best to protect water,
- acknowledging that people have become disconnected from water and are reclaiming their connection,
- having daily practices to conserve water, and recognizing the need for education around water and taking it out of ownership of major manufactures and companies.”

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Native Lead Climate Case Studies

Case Study: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians



Cycles of Renewal: Collaborative Project

- California Indian Science - relationship of water and fire
- Collaboration and funding resources from Climate funds
- Native Science + Climate Change Adaptation funders

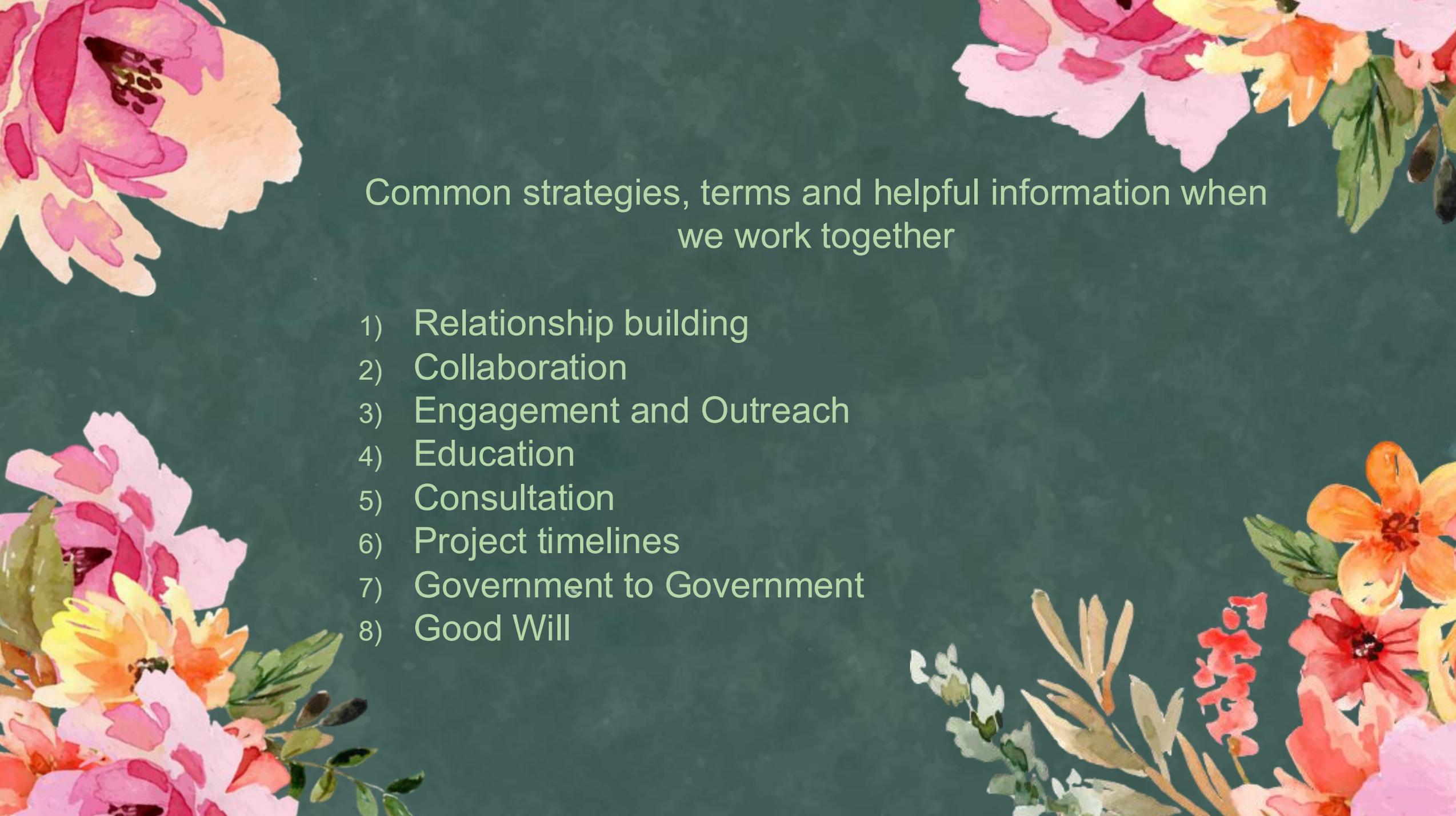


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Case Study : [Karuk Climate Adaptation Plan](#)

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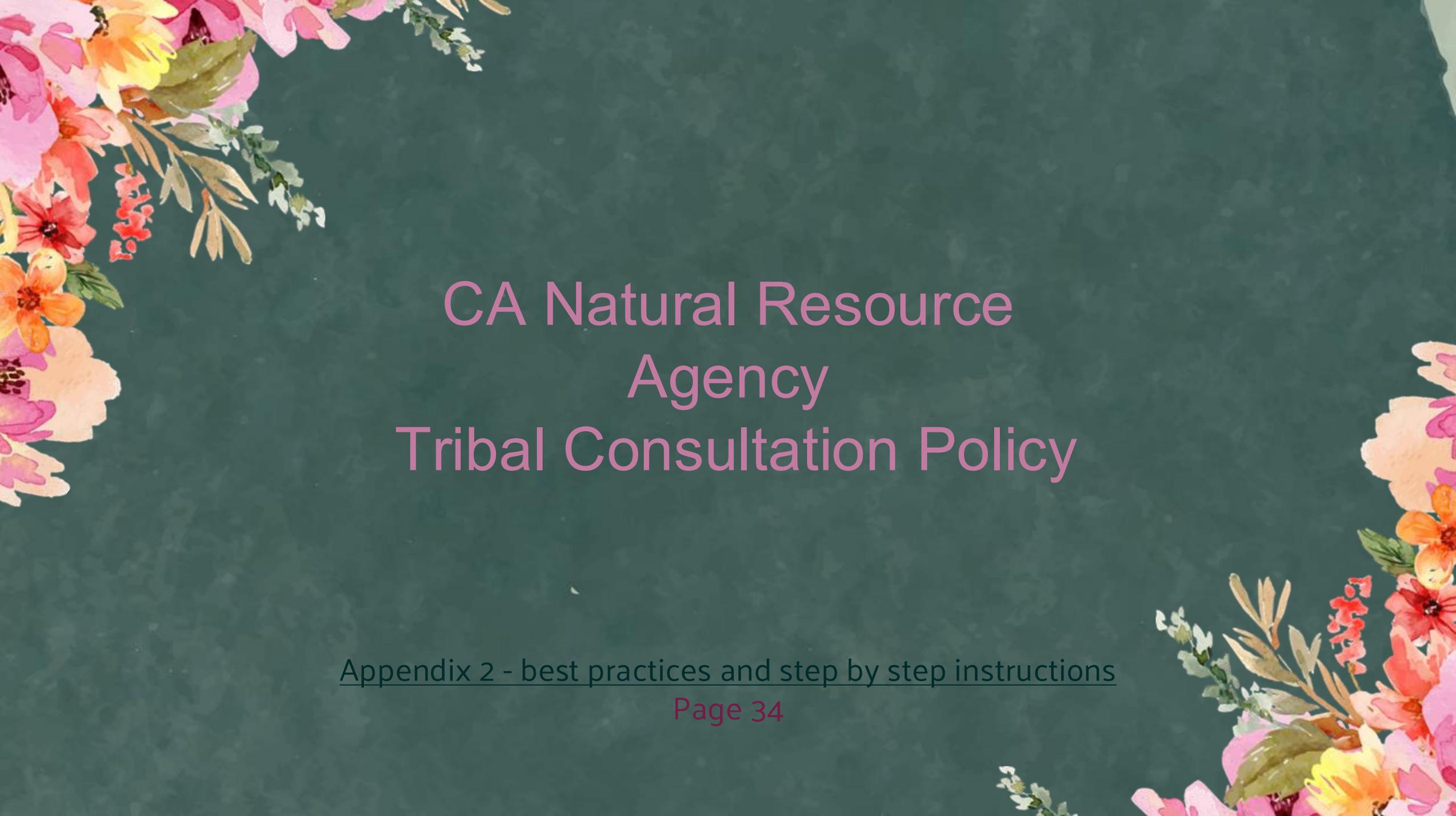
Case Study: Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

The slide features a dark teal background with watercolor-style floral illustrations in the corners. The top-left corner shows a large pink and orange flower. The top-right corner has a cluster of pink, orange, and yellow flowers. The bottom-left corner features a mix of pink, orange, and yellow flowers. The bottom-right corner shows a cluster of orange, pink, and red flowers with green foliage.

Common strategies, terms and helpful information when we work together

- 1) Relationship building
- 2) Collaboration
- 3) Engagement and Outreach
- 4) Education
- 5) Consultation
- 6) Project timelines
- 7) Government to Government
- 8) Good Will

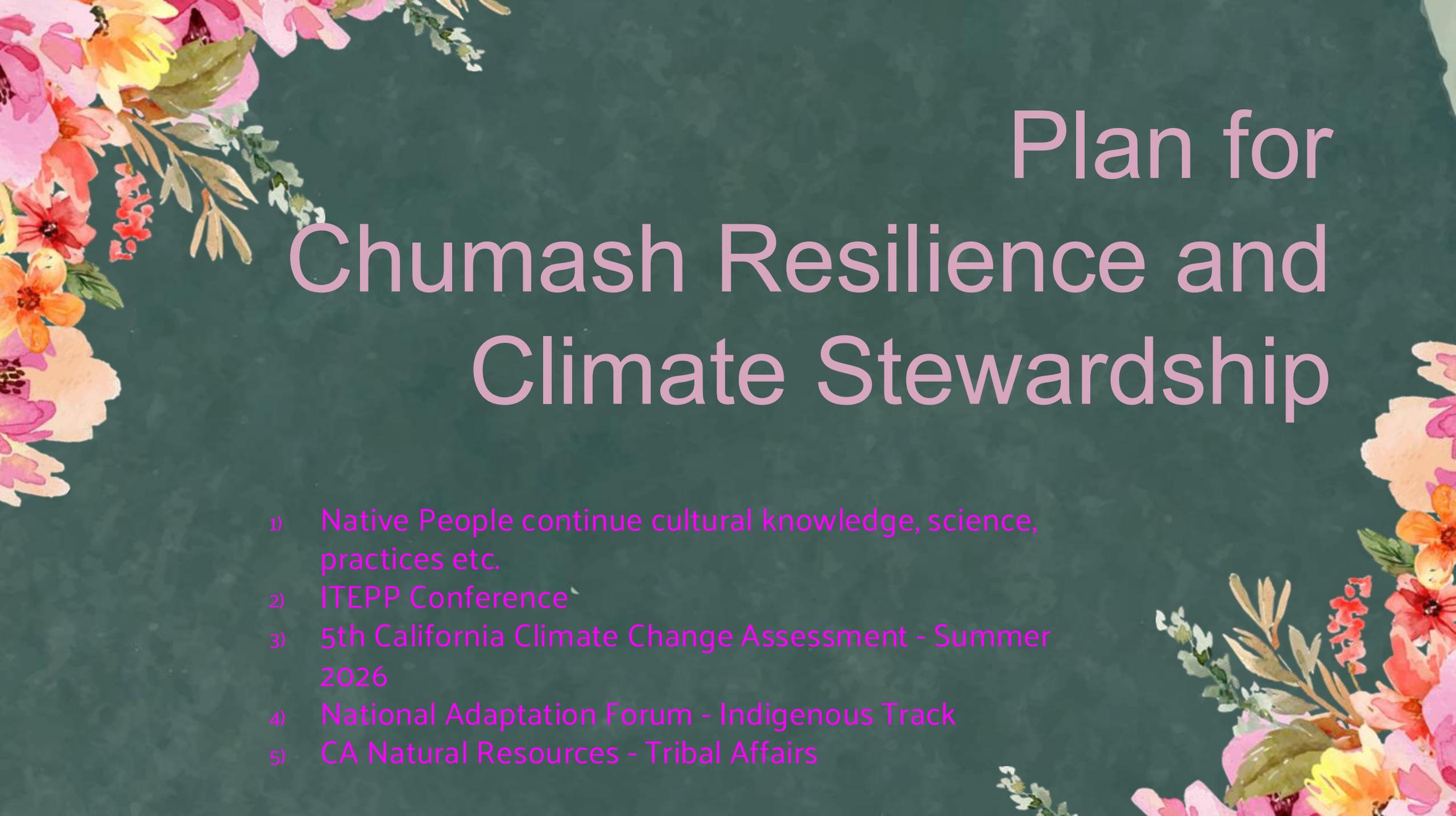
- 
- A watercolor-style floral border in the top-left corner, featuring pink, orange, and yellow flowers with green leaves and small white blossoms.
- 
- A watercolor-style floral border in the bottom-right corner, featuring pink, orange, and yellow flowers with green leaves and small white blossoms.
- 1) Relevance of California History
 - 2) We're on a journey to know what it means to work together



CA Natural Resource Agency Tribal Consultation Policy

Appendix 2 - best practices and step by step instructions

Page 34



Plan for Chumash Resilience and Climate Stewardship

- 1) Native People continue cultural knowledge, science, practices etc.
- 2) ITEPP Conference
- 3) 5th California Climate Change Assessment - Summer 2026
- 4) National Adaptation Forum - Indigenous Track
- 5) CA Natural Resources - Tribal Affairs

Activity Goals

- 1. Reach a shared understanding** about goal, strategy, and action framework
- 2. Review and vote** for the actions that would benefit most from an Implementation Roadmap
- 3. Gather input** that will directly inform the Implementation Roadmaps





Goal, Strategy, and Action Framework

Goals: Clear statements of the desired long-term outcomes we want to achieve.

Example: “Recreational Access for Community Enjoyment is Protected and Enhanced Across the Watershed.”

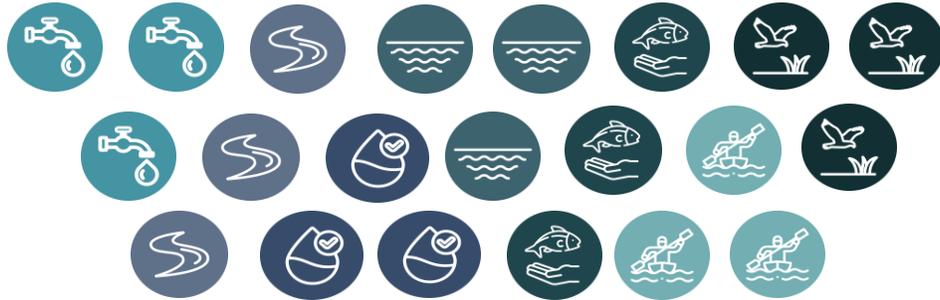
Strategies: The approach or pathway for achieving long-term resilience goals.

Example: “Build Climate-Adaptive, Multi-Functional Public Spaces.”

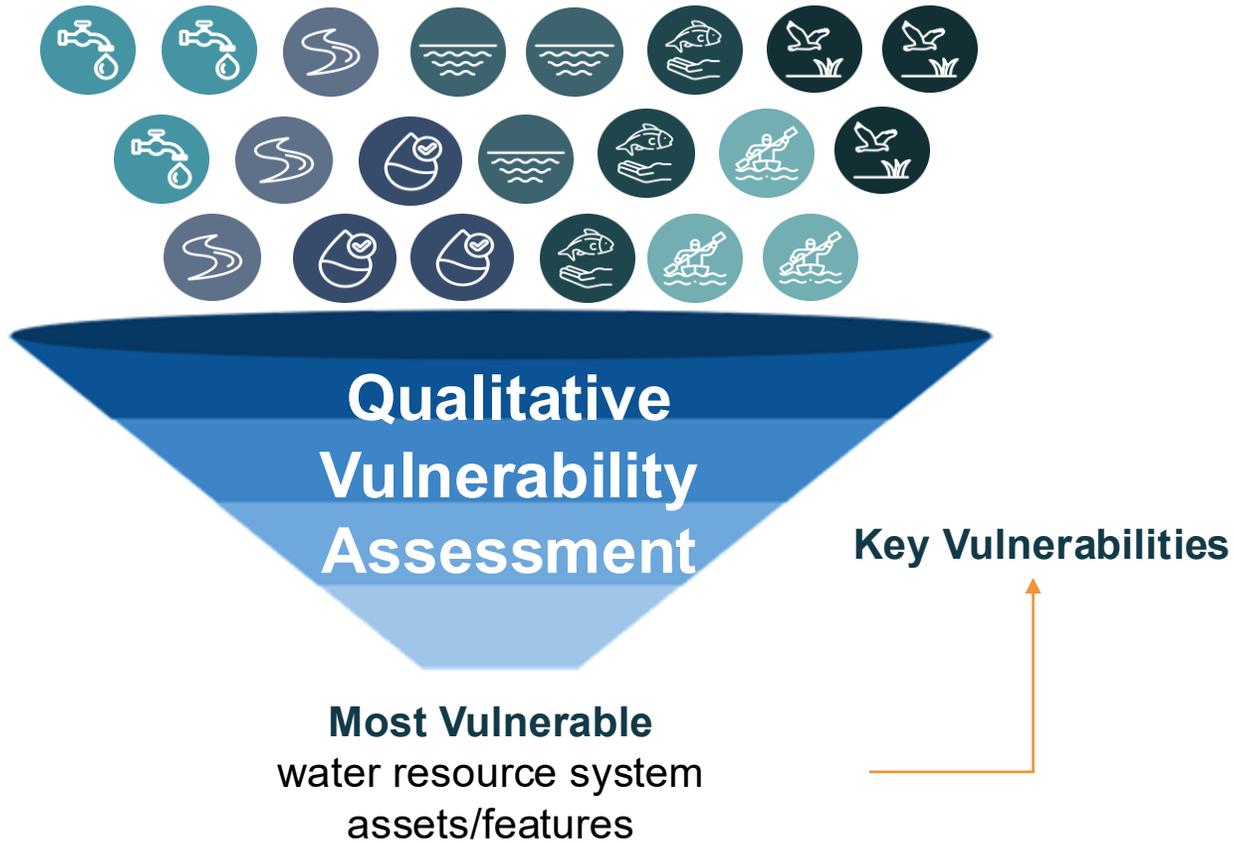
Actions: Specific, measurable steps taken to implement a strategy.

Example: “Develop and implement Flood Operations & Public Safety Plans for floodplain parks, river access points, and trails.”

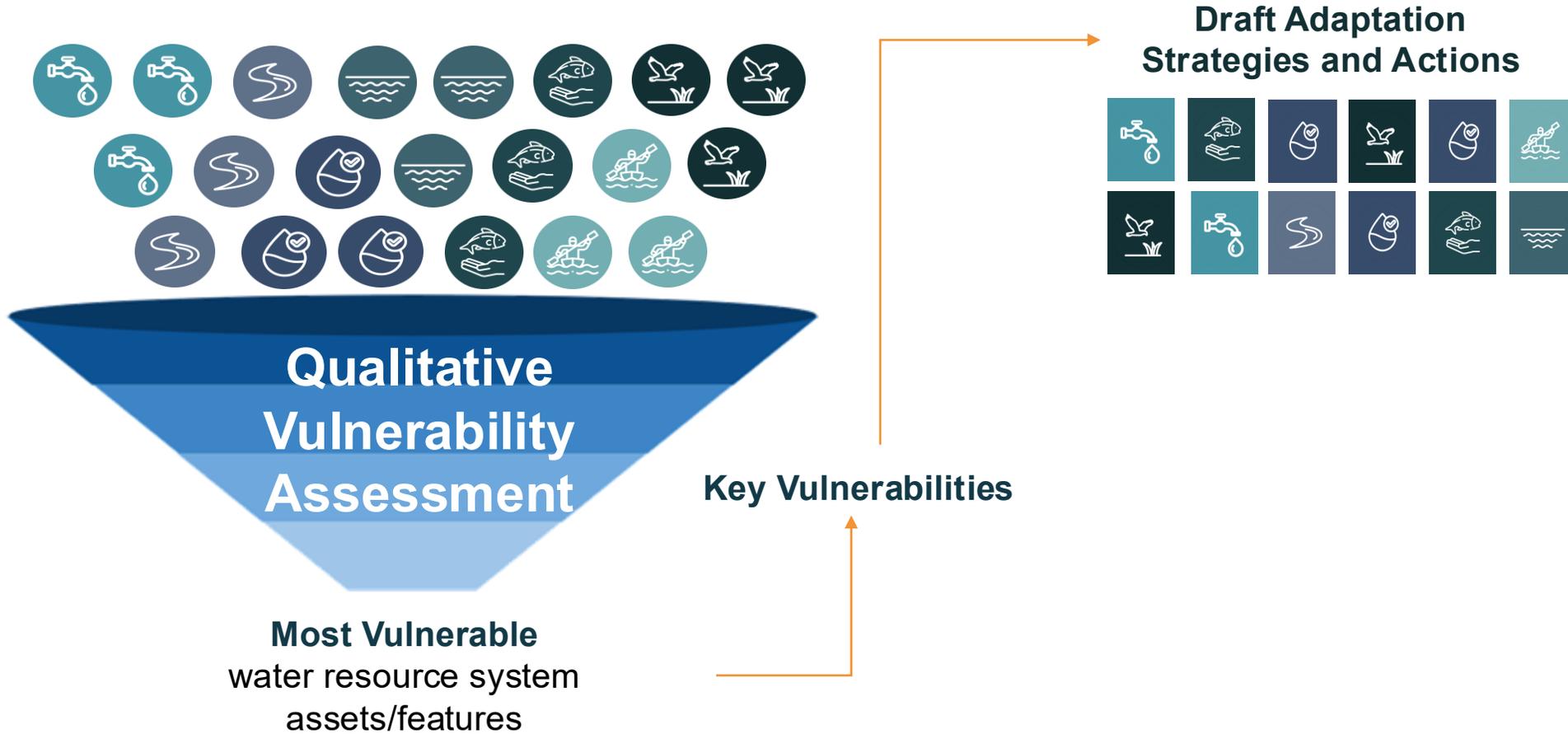
Vulnerabilities → Strategies → Implementation



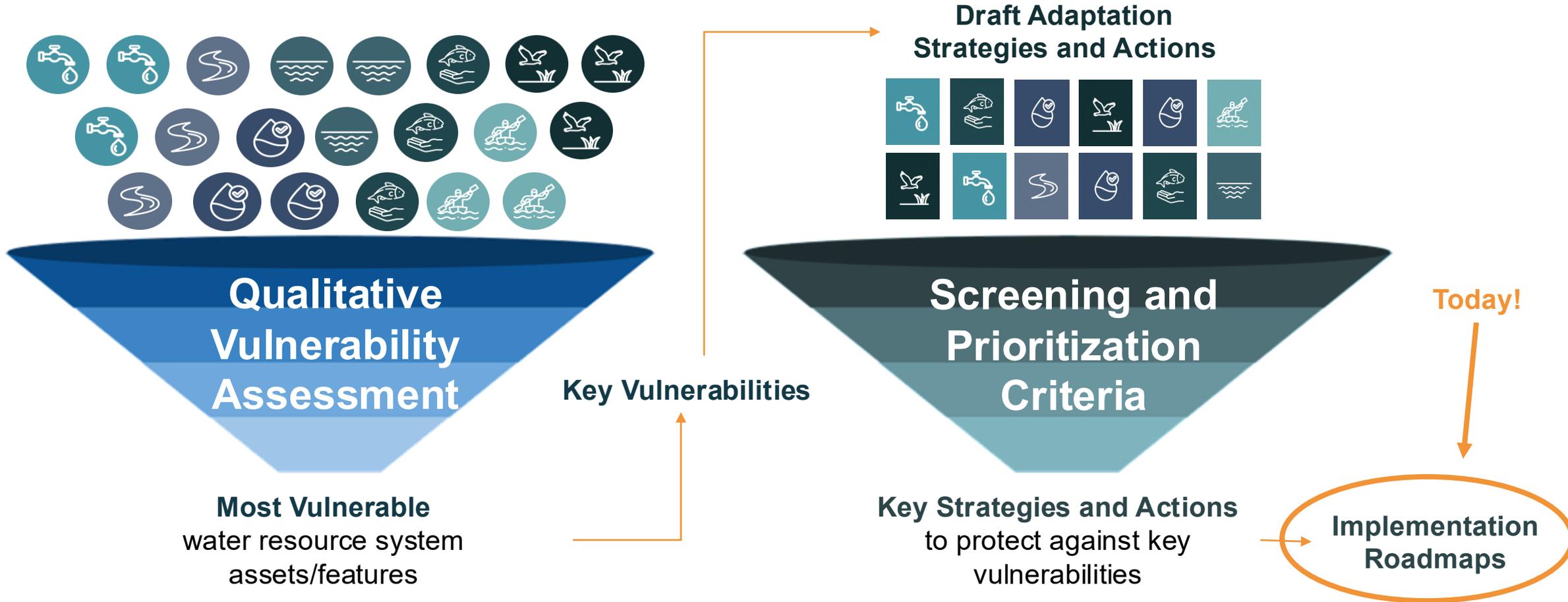
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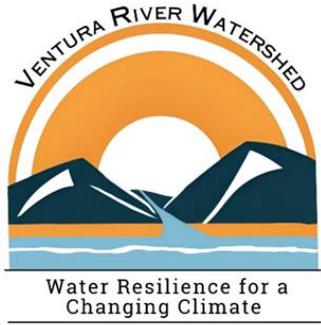


Vulnerabilities → Strategies → Implementation

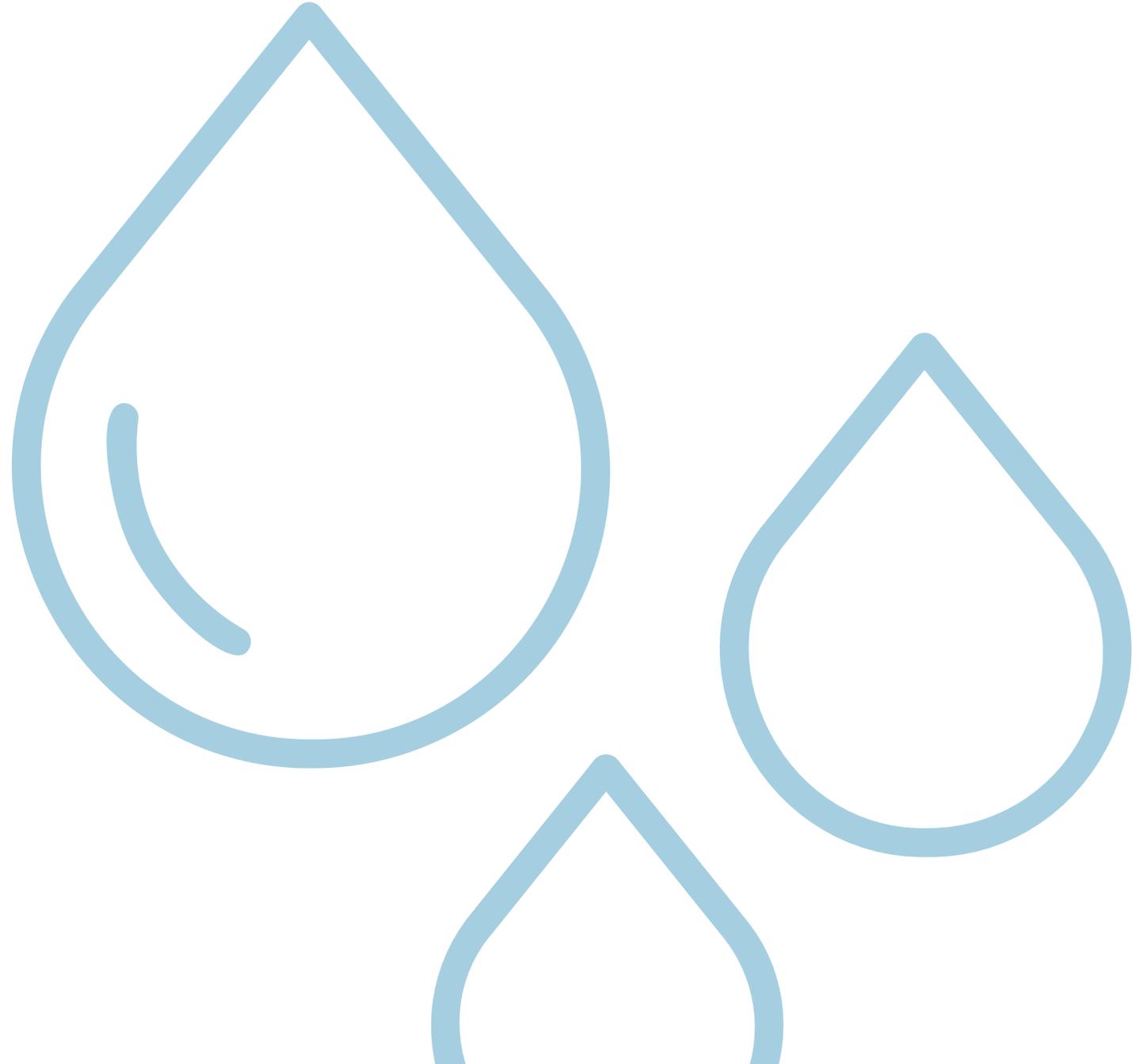


Vulnerabilities → Strategies → Implementation





Interactive Activity #1



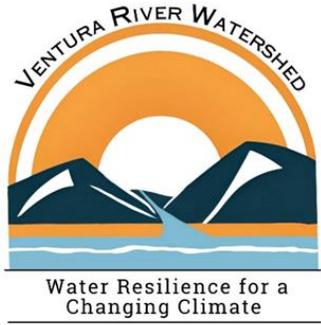


Activity 1: Voting on Actions

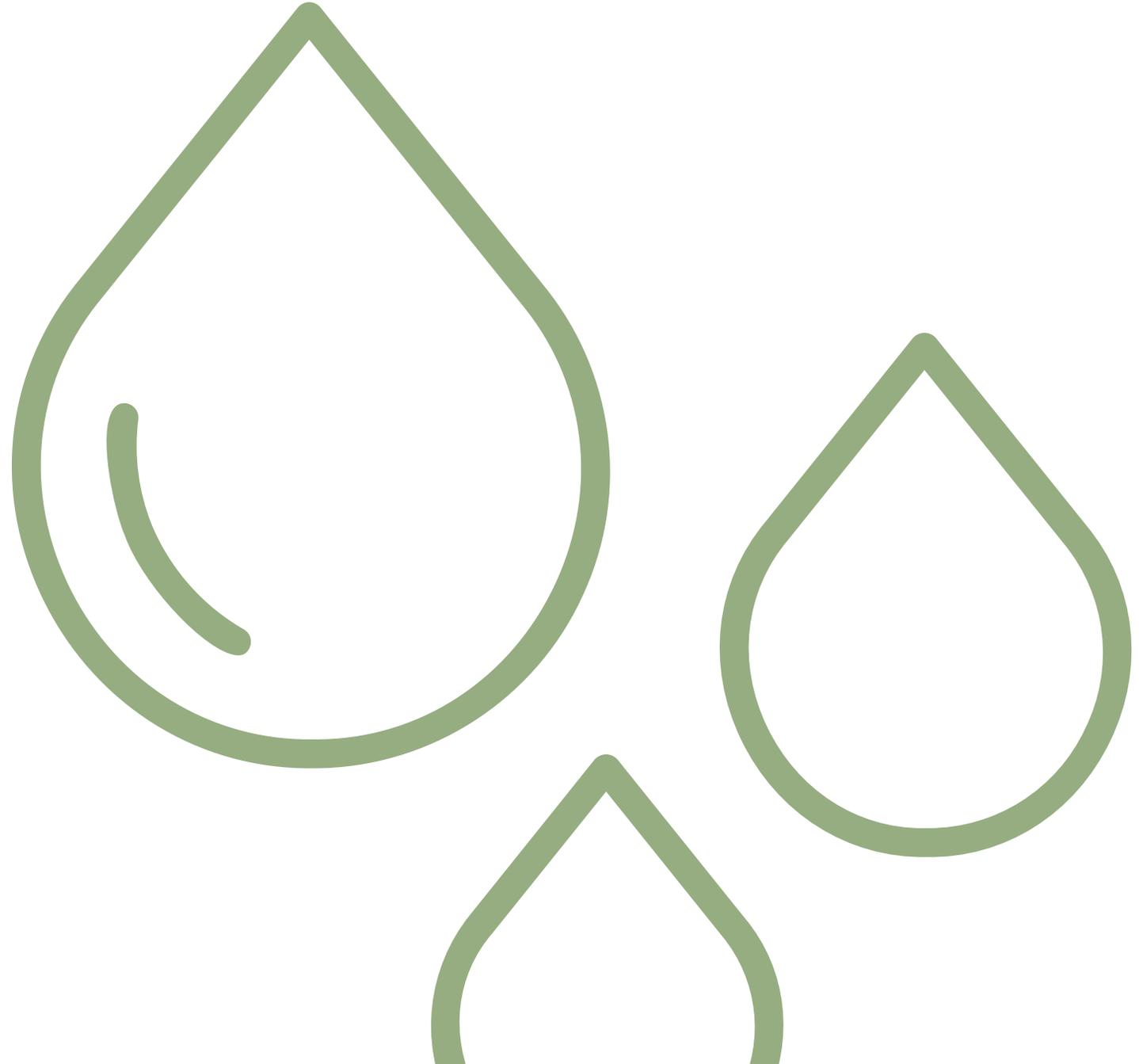
Activity Goal: Review and vote for the actions that would benefit most from an Implementation Roadmap.

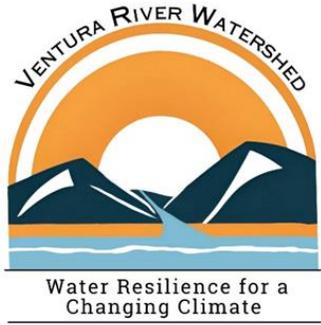
- Walk around room to cast votes on different posters.
- Write a few words that describe your vote on each sticky.
- Everyone is limited to 5 stickies, with one *super* vote!

You have 20 minutes!

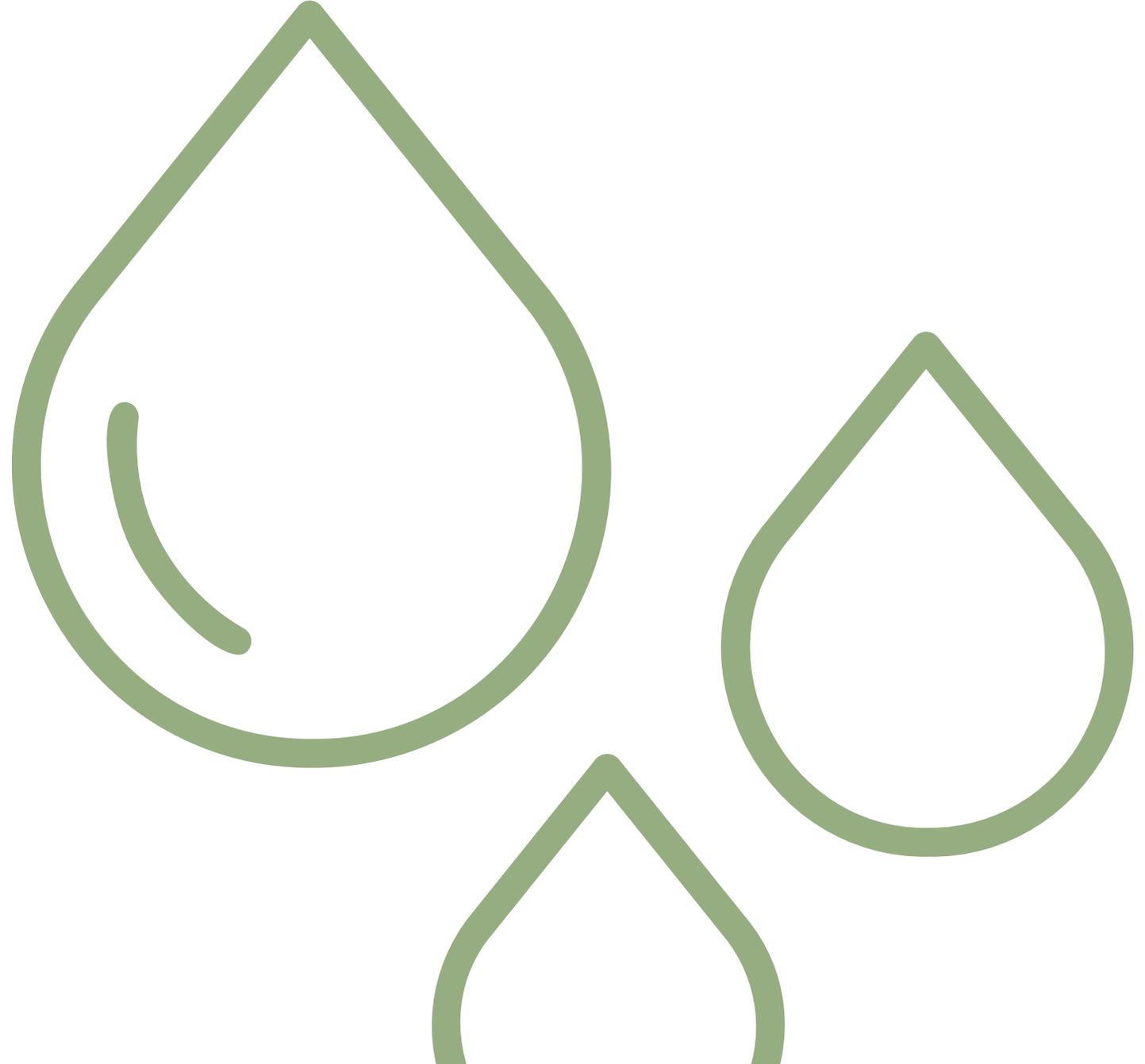


Activity Report Out





BREAK



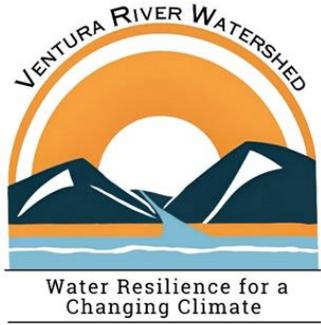


Activity 2: Implementation Roadmaps

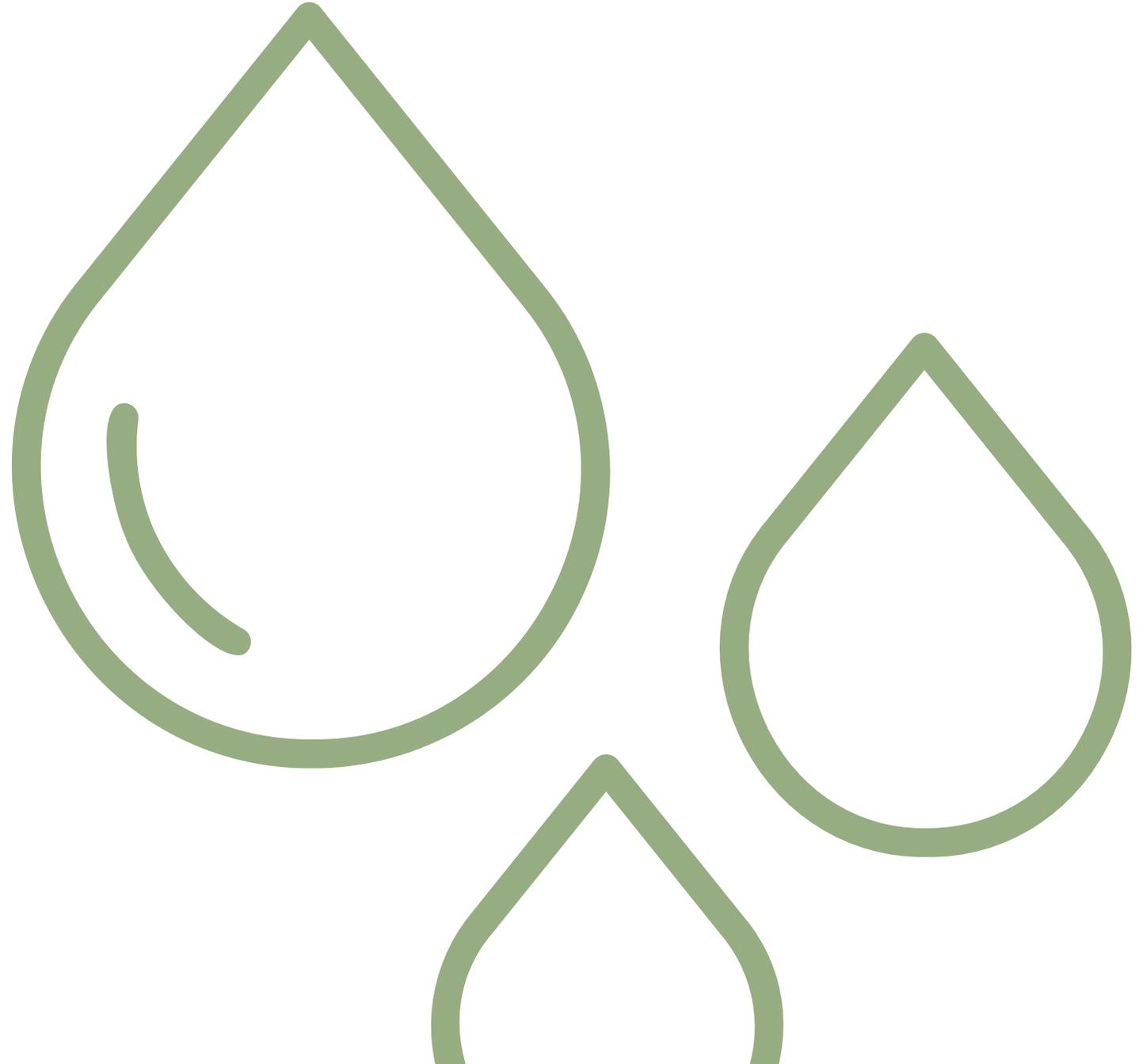
Activity Goal: Gather input that will directly inform the Implementation Roadmaps

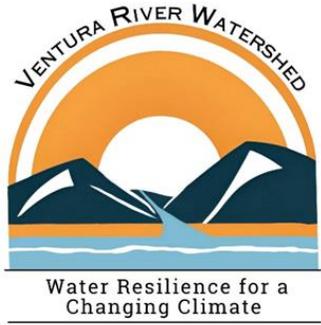
- Select which action you would like to focus on for this activity.
 - *Please help us keep group sizes relatively even!*
- Discuss key implementation considerations for your activity.

You have 35 minutes!

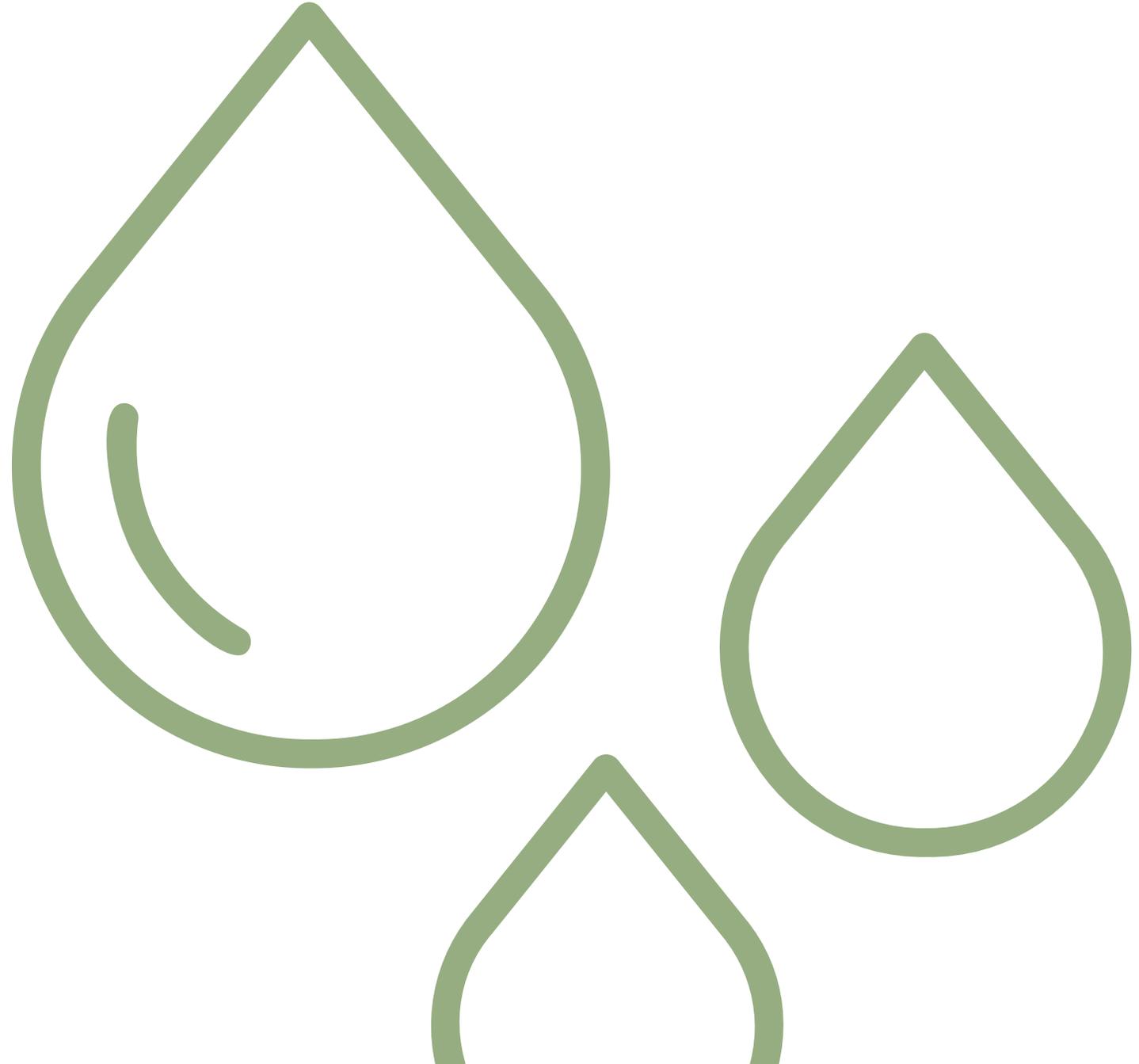


Activity Report Out





Wrap Up and Next Steps





Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Finalize adaptation strategies and actions
- Develop implementation strategies
- Continue review of draft chapters - networks assessment and engagement, climate vulnerability and risk assessment, water budget
- Review entire WRP compiled

Final Meetings

- Advisory Group – March 2nd
- Watershed Council – March 19th

Reflections

