



Lower Peninsula and West Valley Watershed Master Plans

Presented by: **Elizabeth Mercado**, Water Resources Planning and Policy Unit
Board Policy and Monitoring Committee - May 19th, 2026

Agenda

Purpose: Provide update on the West Valley and Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plans

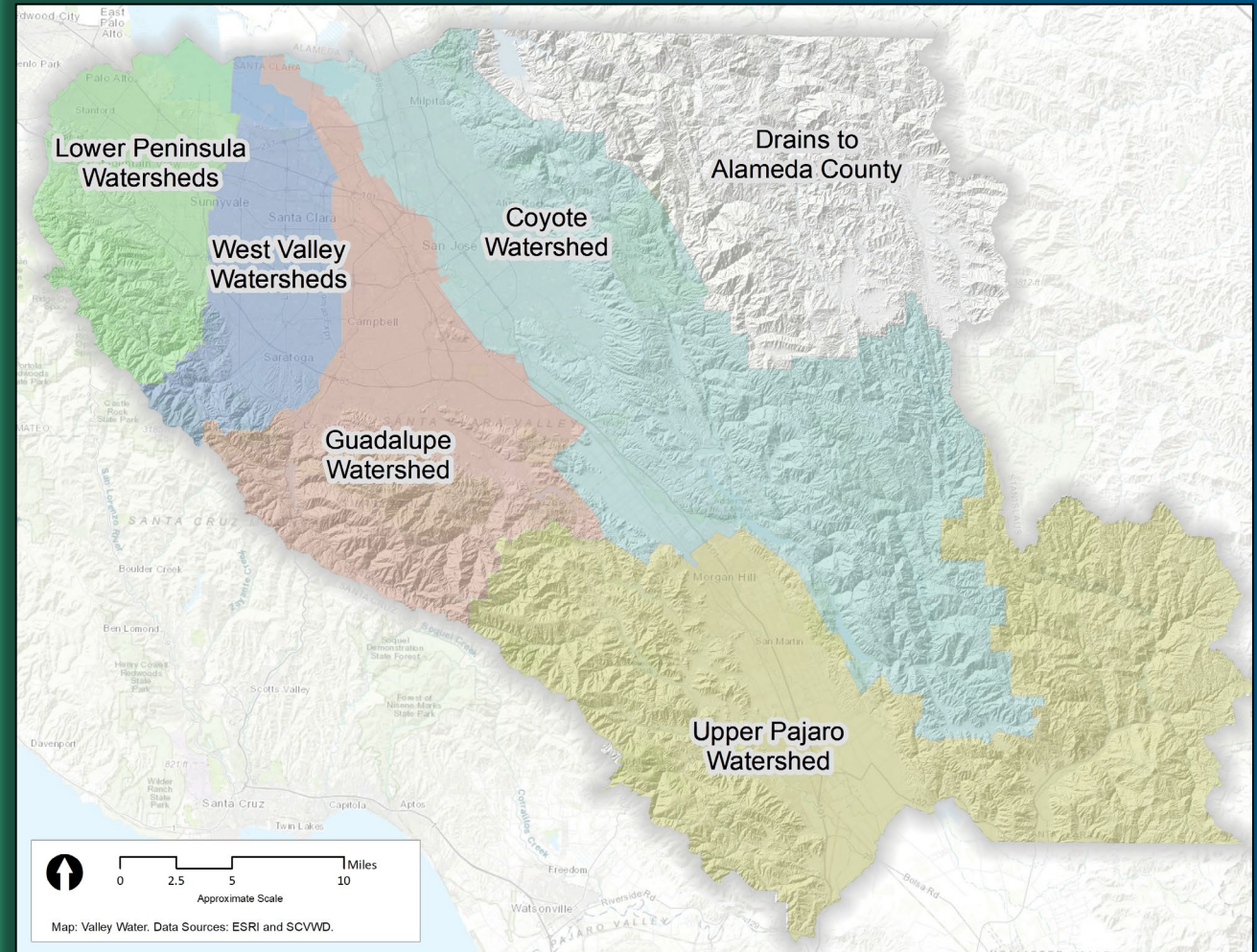
- Settings Overview
- Metrics Overview
- Priority Actions Development
- Public Engagement
- Next Steps

Watershed Master Plans - Progress

**West Valley
Lower Peninsula**
IN PROGRESS

**Upper Pajaro
Guadalupe**
2024

**Countywide Framework
Coyote**
2022



Watershed Master Plan - Objectives



**Natural
Ecosystems**



**Flood Risk
Reduction**



**Water
Quality**



**Water
Supply**



**Climate
Change**

Watershed Master Plan – Elements

Setting

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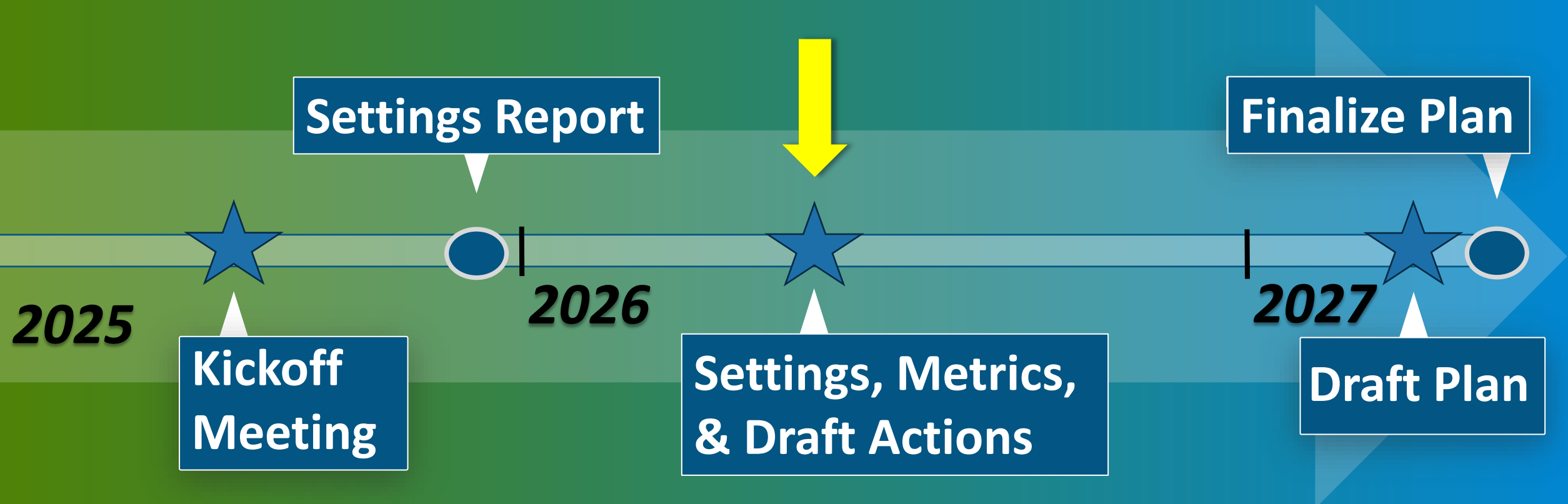
Metrics

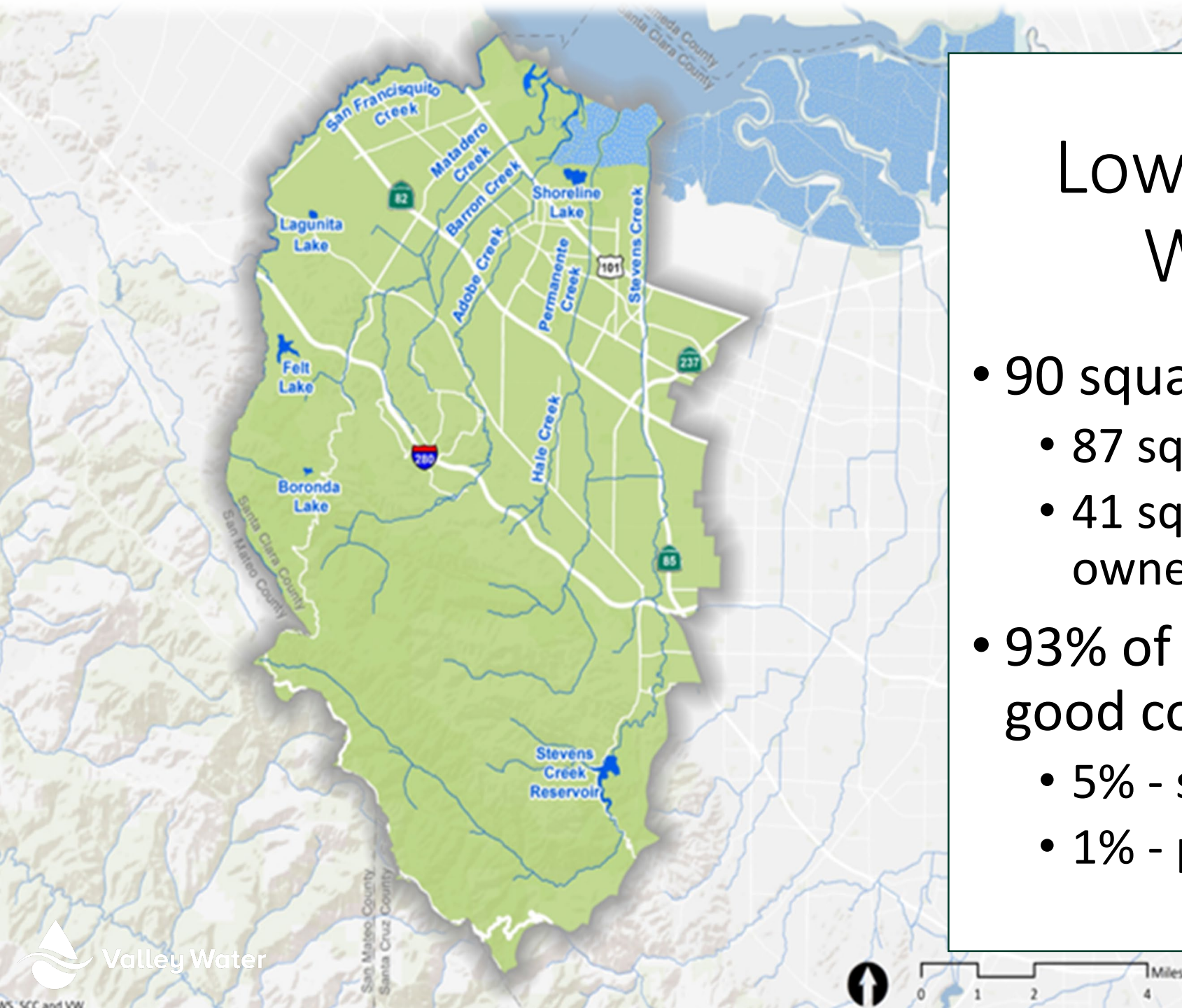
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Priority Actions



West Valley & Lower Peninsula Watershed Plan Timeline



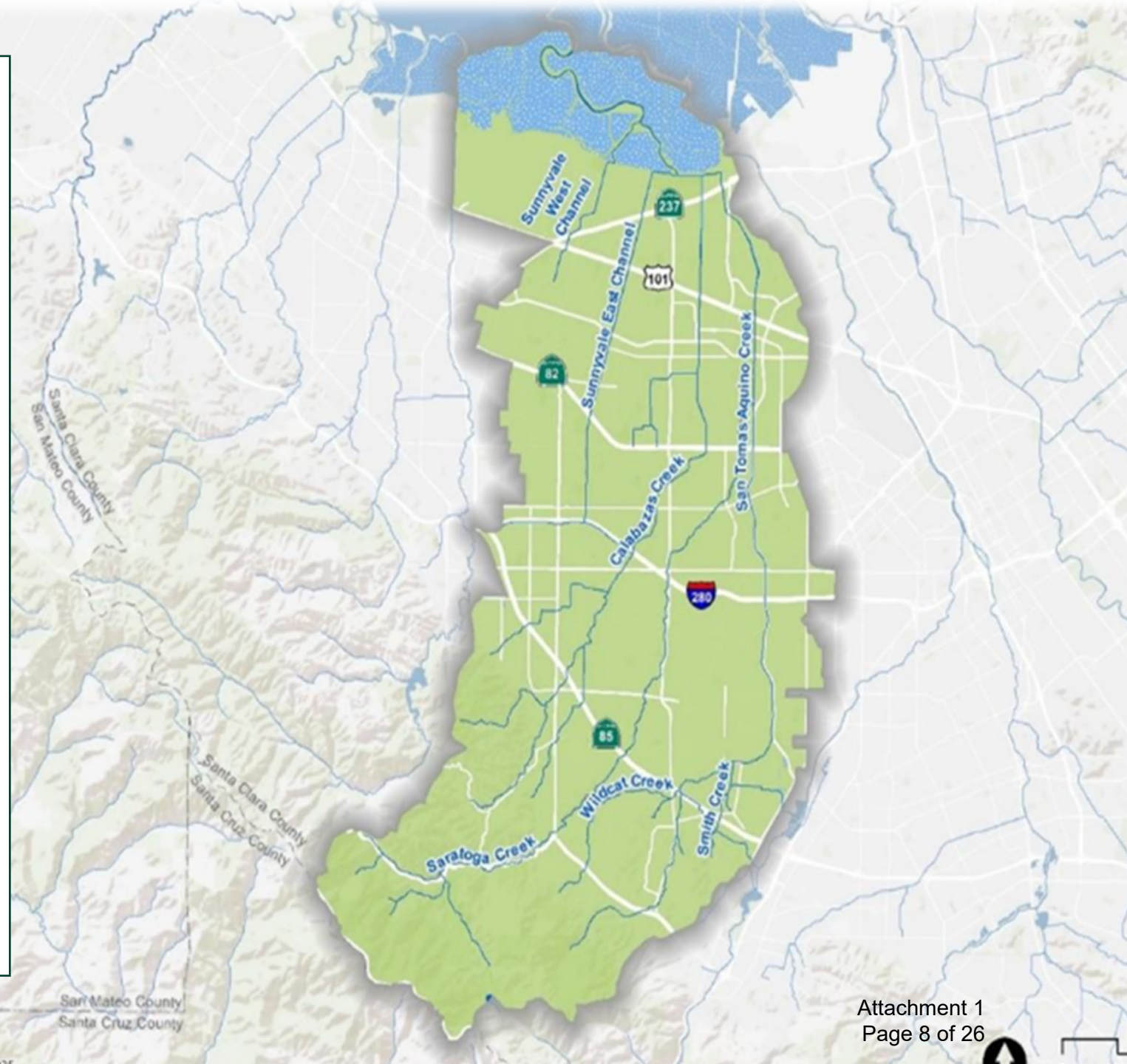


Lower Peninsula Watershed

- 90 square-mile area
 - 87 sq miles of creek
 - 41 sq miles of District-owned creek
- 93% of the creek is in good condition
 - 5% - shows signs of wear
 - 1% - poor condition

West Valley Watershed

- 85 square-mile area
 - 68 sq miles of creek
 - 55 sq miles of District-owned creek
 - Smallest watershed
- 88% of the creek is in good condition
 - 10% - shows signs of wear
 - 2% - poor condition



Community Network

List of Groups for Engagement

Agriculture/Ranching

Economic Vitality & Sustainability

Educational Institutions

Tribes/Environmental Justice

Environmental Org./Stewardship

Governing Bodies - Regulatory Agencies

Municipalities/Land Use Agencies

Open Space Conservation/Recreation

Residents/Community-Based Orgs

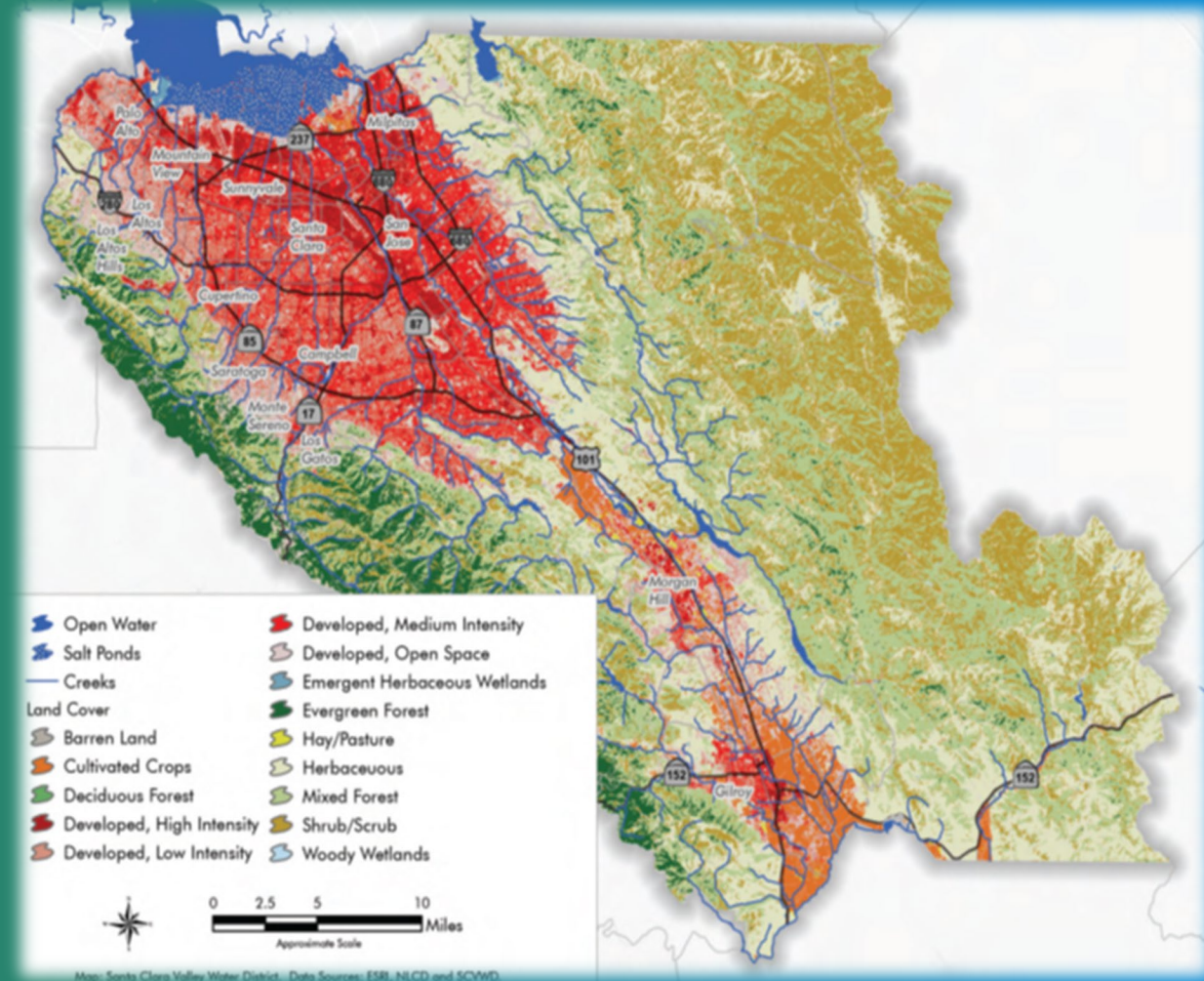
Special Joint Organizations/Coalitions

Subject Matter Experts/Research & Data

Water Resource Agencies / Special Districts

Watershed Setting Reports

- Describes existing conditions
- Detailed assessment for each objective
- Identifies challenges and opportunities



Challenges

Highly constrained, urban creeks

Aging flood protection infrastructure

Degraded habitat and limited connectivity

Water quality impairments from urban runoff

Climate change impacts

Opportunities

Multi-benefit projects

Nature-based solutions

Regional partnerships

Strategic asset renewal

Urban and Bayland restoration

Existing Flood Protection Conditions

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San Tomas Aquino

Existing Concrete Conditions



Existing Ecological Conditions



Moffett Fish Ladder

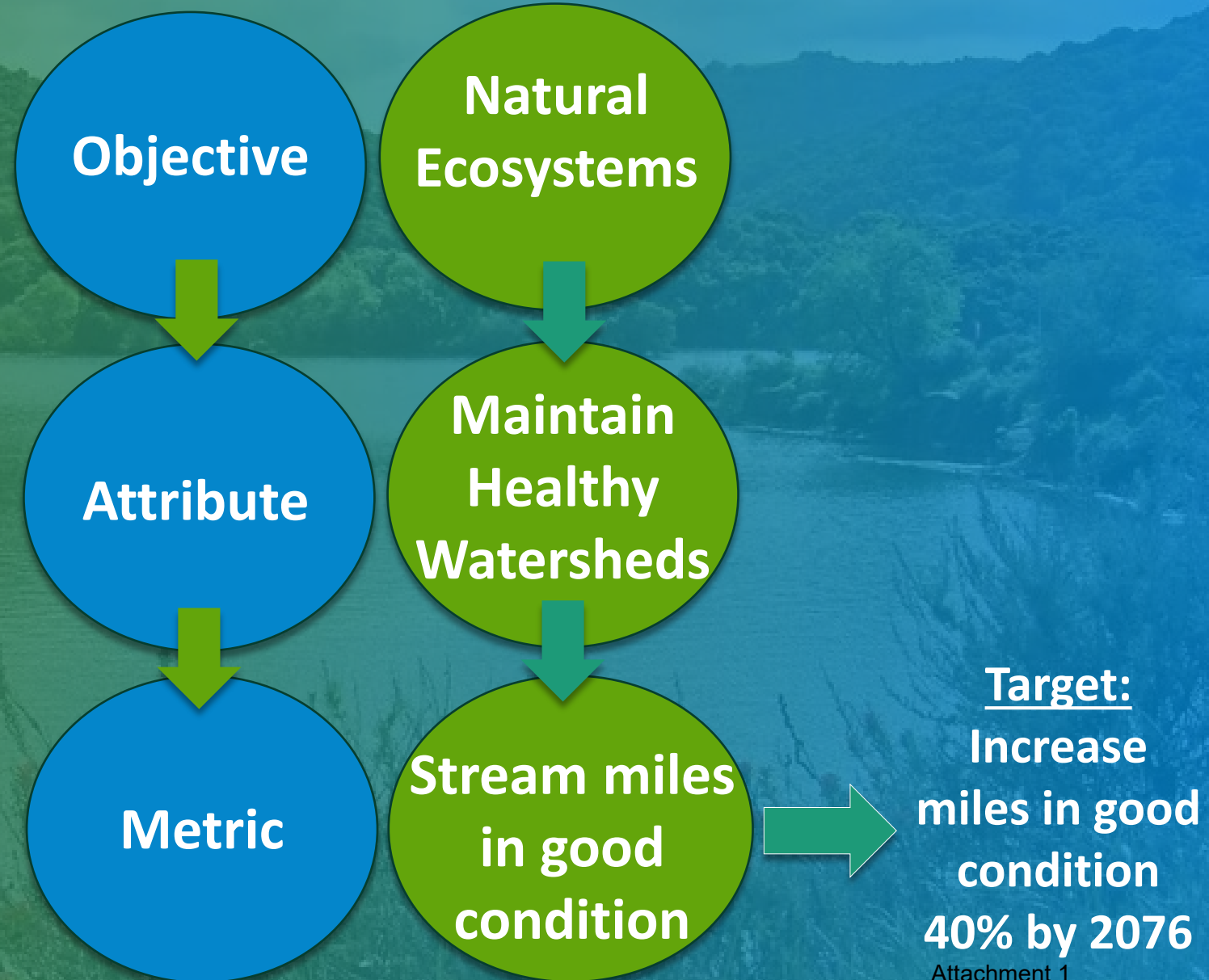
Existing Urbanization Conditions



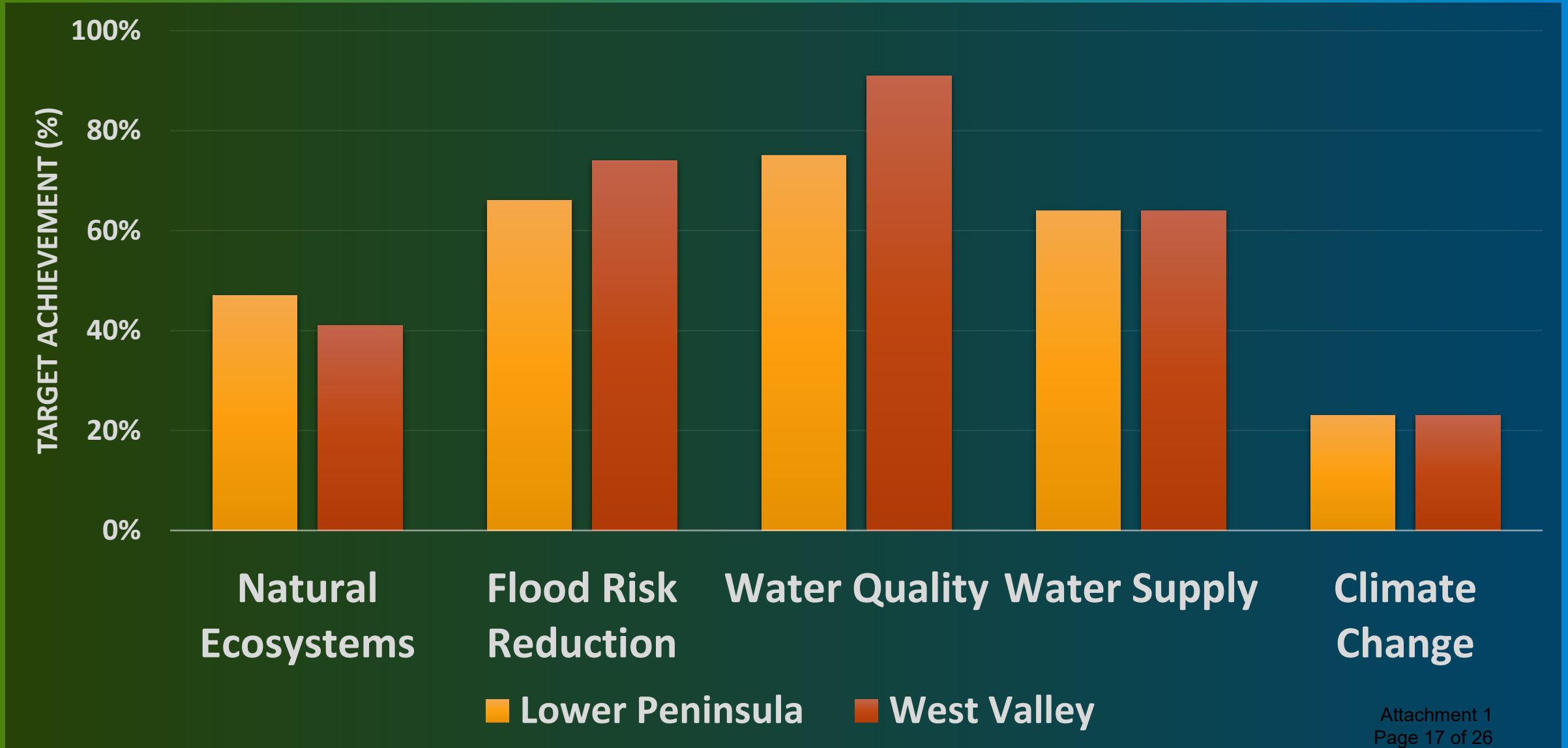
Regnart Creek

Metrics

- Metrics are measurable components to show status and movement toward a target

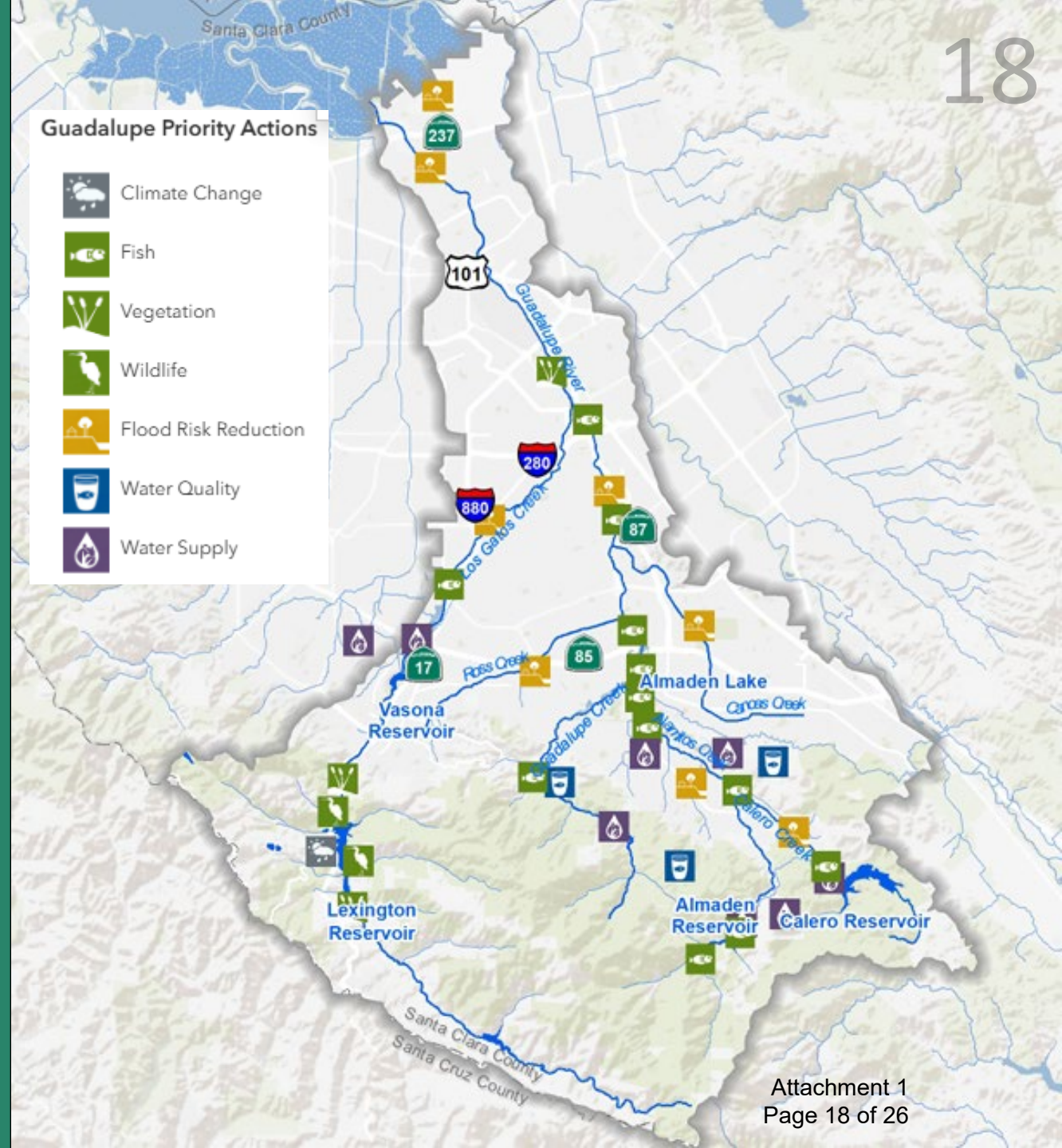


Current Results



Priority Actions

- Existing and potential future projects within the watershed
- Actions address priorities set by metrics and community input



Example from Guadalupe Watershed Master Plan

Draft Priority Actions in the Lower Peninsula & West Valley

- Aquatic Habitat Improvements
- Baylands Restoration
- Rehabilitation of Existing Infrastructure
- Hydrology Studies
- Groundwater Management
- Water Quality Improvement

Natural Ecosystems

Fish Passage Improvements

Implementation of identified priority sites for fish passage improvements.



Aquatic Habitat Augmentation

Enhancing aquatic habitat with placement of gravel and large woody debris.



Flood Risk Reduction

Hydrology Studies

Estimating frequency, duration, and intensity of flood flows.



Flood Conveyance Improvements

Enhancing the capacity of floodplains to manage floodwaters effectively.



Water Quality

Rehabilitation of Existing Infrastructure

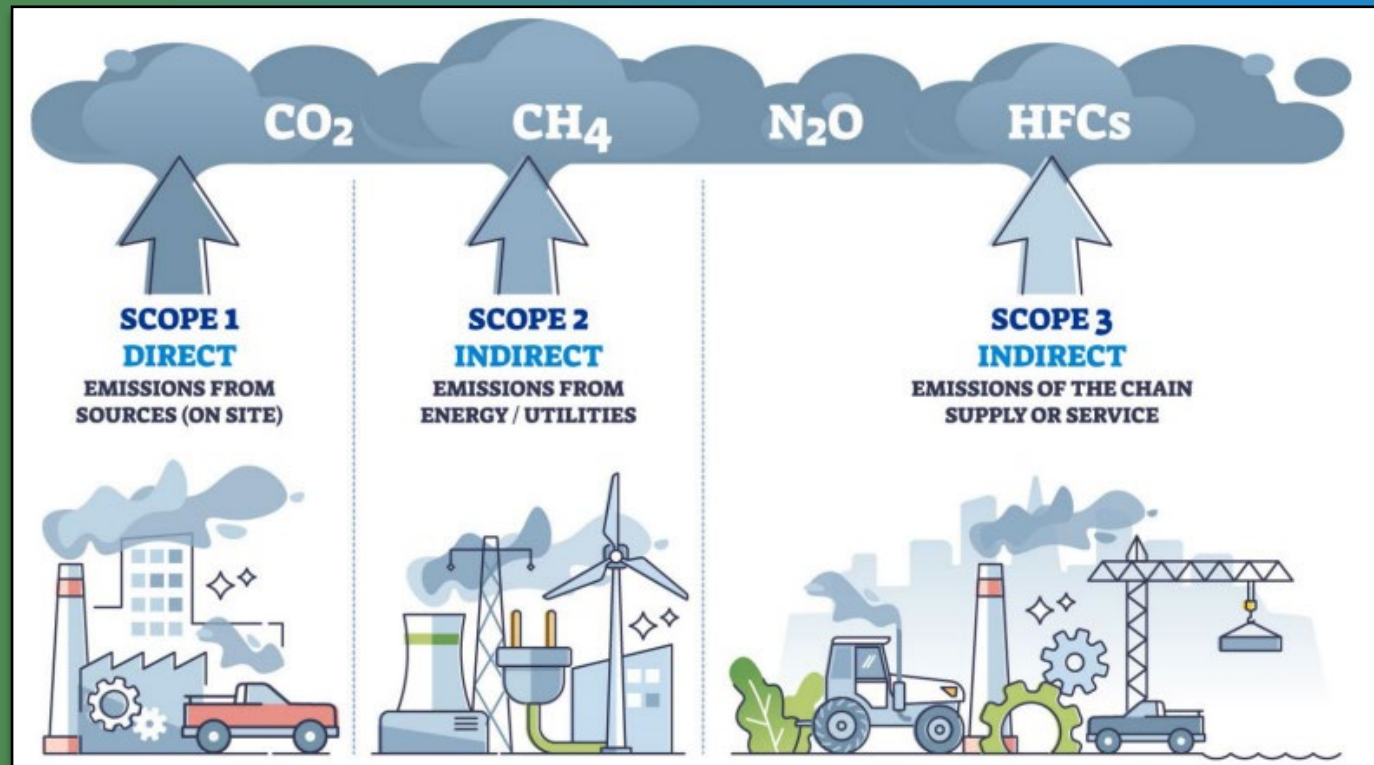
Alleviation of turbidity issues, improvement of sediment transport, and addressing erosion concerns. Presents an opportunity future for multi-benefit projects.



Climate Change

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures

Identifying and implementing GHG reduction measures to achieve Valley Water's carbon neutrality objectives.



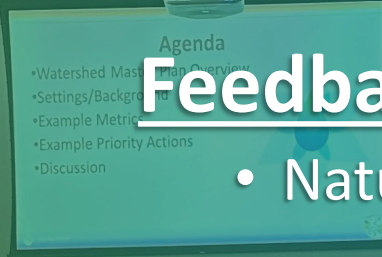
Outreach and Engagement

Community Meetings:

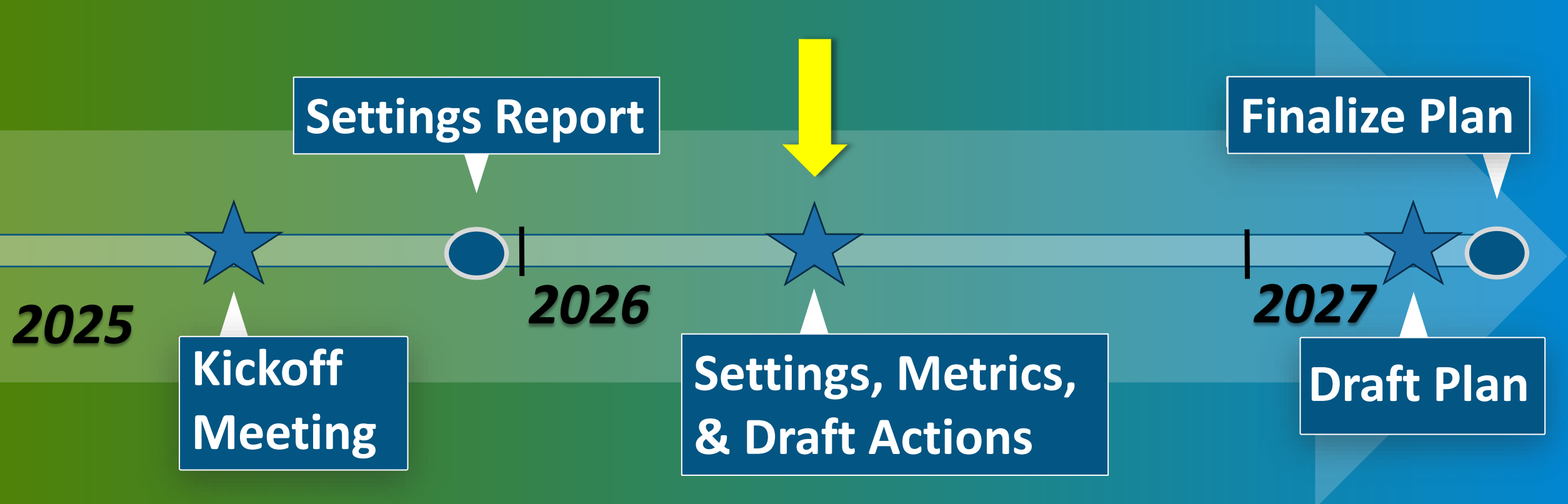
- March 2025 – Kickoff
- Sept. 2025 - Los Altos
- March 2026 - Stevens Creek Summit

Feedback:

- Nature-based creek restoration
- Removal of fish passage barriers (i.e. Stevens Creek near Hwy 101)
- Expand trails and creek trail connectivity
- Increase riparian setbacks for future urban development
- Improve bird and pollinator habitat



West Valley & Lower Peninsula Watershed Plan Timeline



QUESTIONS?