

# Public Workshop on the Scope of a Scientific Basis Report for Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks

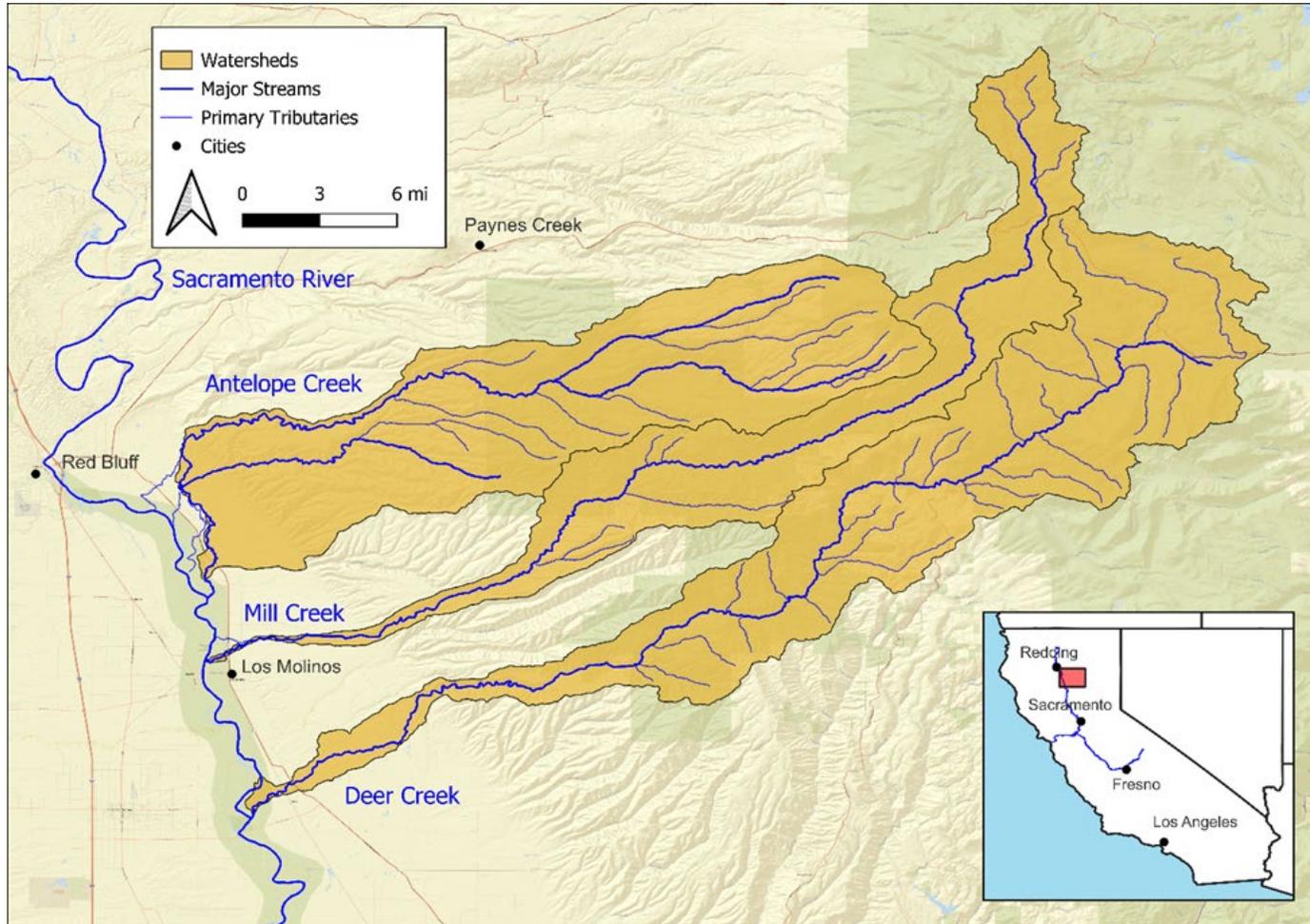
December 9, 2024



Division of Water Rights

# Workshop Logistics

- Meeting is being recorded and will be made available
- Oral public comments and presentations
- Questions or Zoom help –
  - Email: [MillDeerAnt-Flows@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MillDeerAnt-Flows@waterboards.ca.gov)
- Written comments should be submitted by email and are **due by noon on January 15, 2025**



# Map of Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creek Watersheds

# Background on Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks

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- Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks provide critical habitat for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead
- Extinction risk of spring-run populations on Mill and Deer Creeks has increased from low or moderate to high in recent years



# Past Water Board Actions

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- Emergency curtailment regulations were implemented in all three creeks during the drought in 2014/2015 and in Mill and Deer Creeks in 2021/2022
- Emergency regulations were not implemented in Antelope Creek during this most recent drought because of the adoption of a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement in 2020



# Direction to Conduct Scientific Basis Investigation

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- The Governor issued his *California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future*, which instructed the Water Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to begin reviewing and analyzing instream flow recommendations for Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks
- The Board received a letter from DFW expressing concern over the survival of salmonids in these creeks along with comprehensive instream flow recommendations to support their survival



# Purpose of the Workshop

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- To seek input on the best available science regarding instream flows for protections of salmonids to inform drafting of a scientific basis report
- To solicit input on possible flow scenarios and other strategies that should be evaluated to support salmonid survival in Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks



# Next Steps

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- Board will prepare a draft Scientific Basis Report informed by DFW's recommendation and the feedback received at this workshop
- Release of draft Scientific Basis Report and additional opportunity for public comment before finalizing report



# Related Resources

- State Water Board Mill, Deer, and Antelope Website: [waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/mill-deer-antelope-creeks.html](https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/mill-deer-antelope-creeks.html)
- Governor's California Salmon Strategy: [gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Salmon-Strategy-for-a-Hotter-Drier-Future.pdf](https://gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Salmon-Strategy-for-a-Hotter-Drier-Future.pdf)
- State Water Board Mill, Deer, and Antelope Contact: [MillDeerAnt-Flows@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MillDeerAnt-Flows@waterboards.ca.gov)

# Oral Comments

- Please keep comments focused on the scientific basis for instream flows and related measures to protect salmonids in these creeks and scenarios staff should evaluate in the draft Scientific Basis Report
- The Board has made no decision and staff are here to listen and receive comments to inform the development of the draft Scientific Basis Report
- If you would like to make a comment please fill out at Virtual Speaker Card at [forms.office.com/g/78FBVa8DUT](https://forms.office.com/g/78FBVa8DUT)
- Please be respectful to all meeting participants and staff

# Presentations and Comments

# Thank you for your participation!

Written comments should be submitted by email to [MillDeerAnt-Flows@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MillDeerAnt-Flows@waterboards.ca.gov) and are due by **noon on January 15, 2025**