



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Helgeson, Brown, Carlson, Mital and Simpson

FROM: Mel Damewood, Chief Water Engineering & Operations Officer and
Karl Morgenstern, Water Quality & Source Protection Supervisor

DATE: December 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Strategic Plan for Protecting the McKenzie Watershed (2018-2028)

OBJECTIVE: Discussion and Guidance

Issue

A draft 10-year Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Strategic Plan has been prepared for protecting the McKenzie Watershed using a planning timeframe of 2018-2028 and provided to the Board on December 4, 2018 for review. The draft strategic plan shows how the Drinking Water Source Protection program is focusing on and aligning with EWEB's new strategic direction. Staff will be providing an overview presentation of the strategic plan and requesting Board feedback on the 10-year strategic plan for the source protection program at the January 9, 2018 Board meeting.

Background

EWEB relies on the McKenzie River watershed for power generation from its hydroelectric facilities at Carmen-Smith, Leaburg, and Walterville and as a sole source of drinking water for the City of Eugene. EWEB has been a responsible steward of the river, including for social/recreational purposes, for over a century. EWEB's water customers place a high value on the importance of the McKenzie River as an excellent source of drinking water, as indicated by consistently high rankings in past EWEB customer surveys. This places EWEB in a unique position to effectively safeguard this key community resource as a core customer value.

In 2001, the Board approved the initial source protection goals, objectives, and strategic direction outlined in the program implementation plan, which has guided program development until now. Since 2001, EWEB's DWSP program has been building the programmatic infrastructure for a risk-based watershed protection approach that: a) is collaborative and builds lasting relationships with partners, stakeholders, landowners and communities; b) leverages partner and outside funding/resources; c) is based on best available science; d) addresses multiple economic, social and environmental issues that align with partner efforts for shared investments; and e) is evaluated over time for effectiveness. As the DWSP program was launched based on this approach, it became apparent that this was an effective formula for attracting grant funding. EWEB used grant funds to help build and test collaborative watershed protection programs such as the McKenzie Watershed Emergency Response System, Healthy Farms Clean Water, Septic System Assistance, Pure Water Partners, and others (Reference: Board Memo's dated 11/22/17, 8/15/2015, 10/25/2013, and 9/5/2013, as well as Table 1).

Over the last year, staff have been developing a 10-year strategic plan that shifts the DWSP program focus to align with EWEB's new strategic plan. The Board was provided the [draft plan](#) for review as part of the December 4, 2017 Board meeting packet.

Discussion

The strategic planning period is from 2018-2028, which captures the transition from developing and building (2001-2017) to running programs, monitoring and adjusting (2018+). The 2017/2018 transition phase will involve establishing long-term interagency agreements that align and share resources, funding, and responsibilities for watershed protection. Staff has also directly integrated source protection with Hayden Bridge operations and electric Generation. The DWSP Strategic Plan proposes spending levels that match the priorities outlined in the plan, which total approximately \$6 million over the next five (5) years, including \$5 million in programs and \$1 million in capital.

Based on Board feedback, two areas need further clarification:

1. Illegal Camping mitigation is part of the 10-year strategic plan, but is captured under "other" and was not highlighted as one of the main components. Details about EWEB's approach to illegal camping is contained in the detailed technical report. EWEB's actions will be focused on the lower watershed immediately above the Hayden Bridge intake. These actions include: closer coordination with Willamalane Parks and City of Springfield around weekly patrols and scheduled cleanups; maintaining the LCOG illegal camp mapping web application; and, focusing resources on land acquisitions, conservation easements, and long-term Pure Water Partner agreements in the area between Hendricks Bridge and Hayden Bridge intake as opportunities present themselves (see attached map).
2. Pure Water Partners (PWP) program is designed to accomplish two main goals: 1) achieve closer coordination among watershed partners through a common programmatic approach to prioritize landowner engagement; and 2) increase investment in watershed restoration and protection by others (see attached 2016 and 2020 Sankey diagrams showing watershed investment). As indicated in that attached Sankey diagrams, watershed investment in restoration and protection of riparian and floodplain forests is projected to increase from approximately \$2.7 million to \$4.4 million in four years with the launch of the PWP program. The PWP program as envisioned in the strategic plan has EWEB funding protection of healthy riparian forests, coordinating the landowner outreach process, and holding PWP long-term landowner agreements. The latter is a temporary role until the Pure Water Partners legal entity is established as part of current efforts to develop a McKenzie Watershed Conservation Fund. It is anticipated that in 3-4 years landowner agreements will be held under the new legal entity created for Fund governance.

Staff also completed a comprehensive [Strategic Planning Technical Report](#) that supported this planning process and development of the strategic plan. The technical report provides extensive and detailed information about every aspect of the source protection program and the threats to Eugene's drinking water.

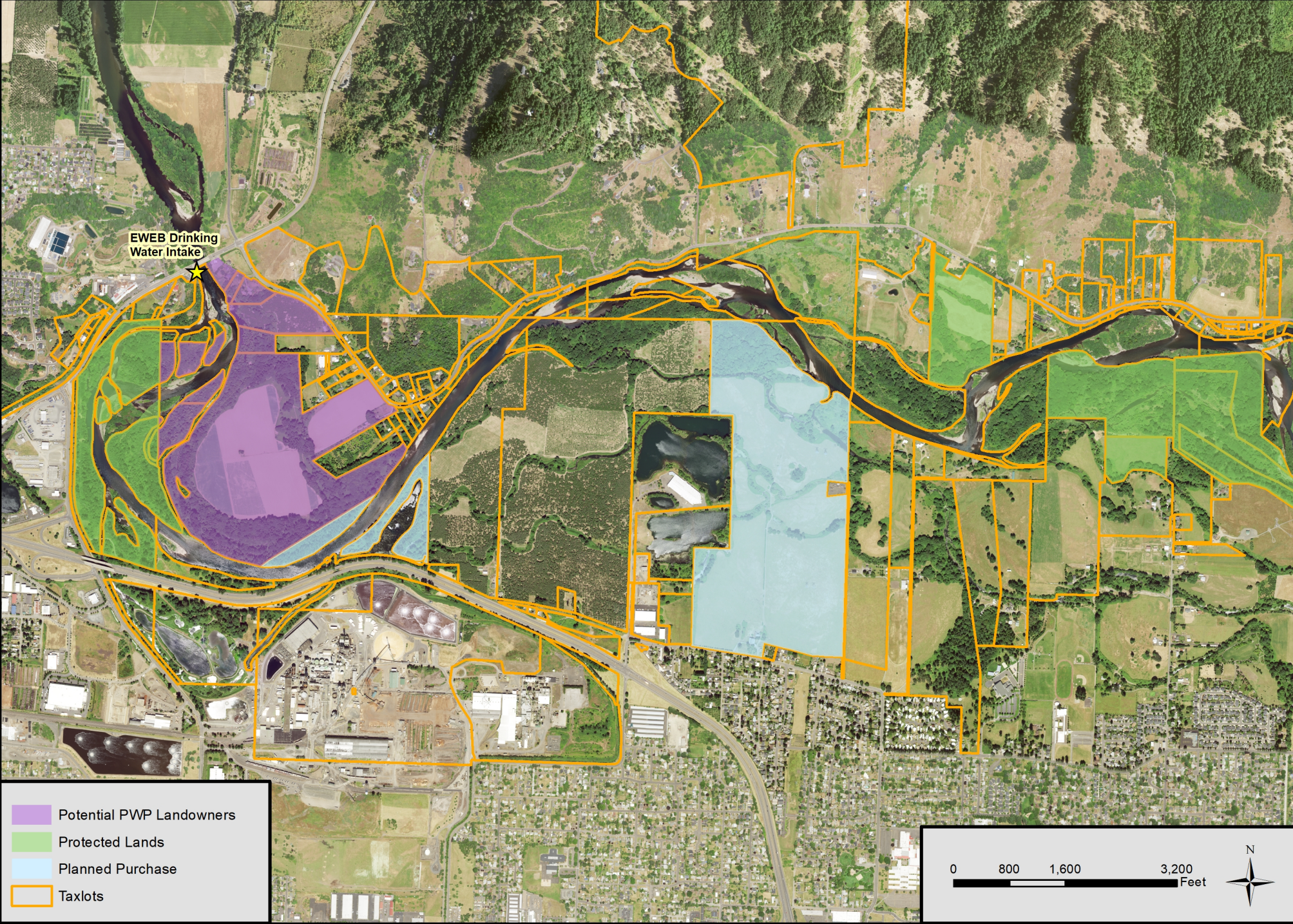
Recommendation

Management requests Board feedback and direction on the Drinking Water Source Protection program 10-Year Strategic Plan.

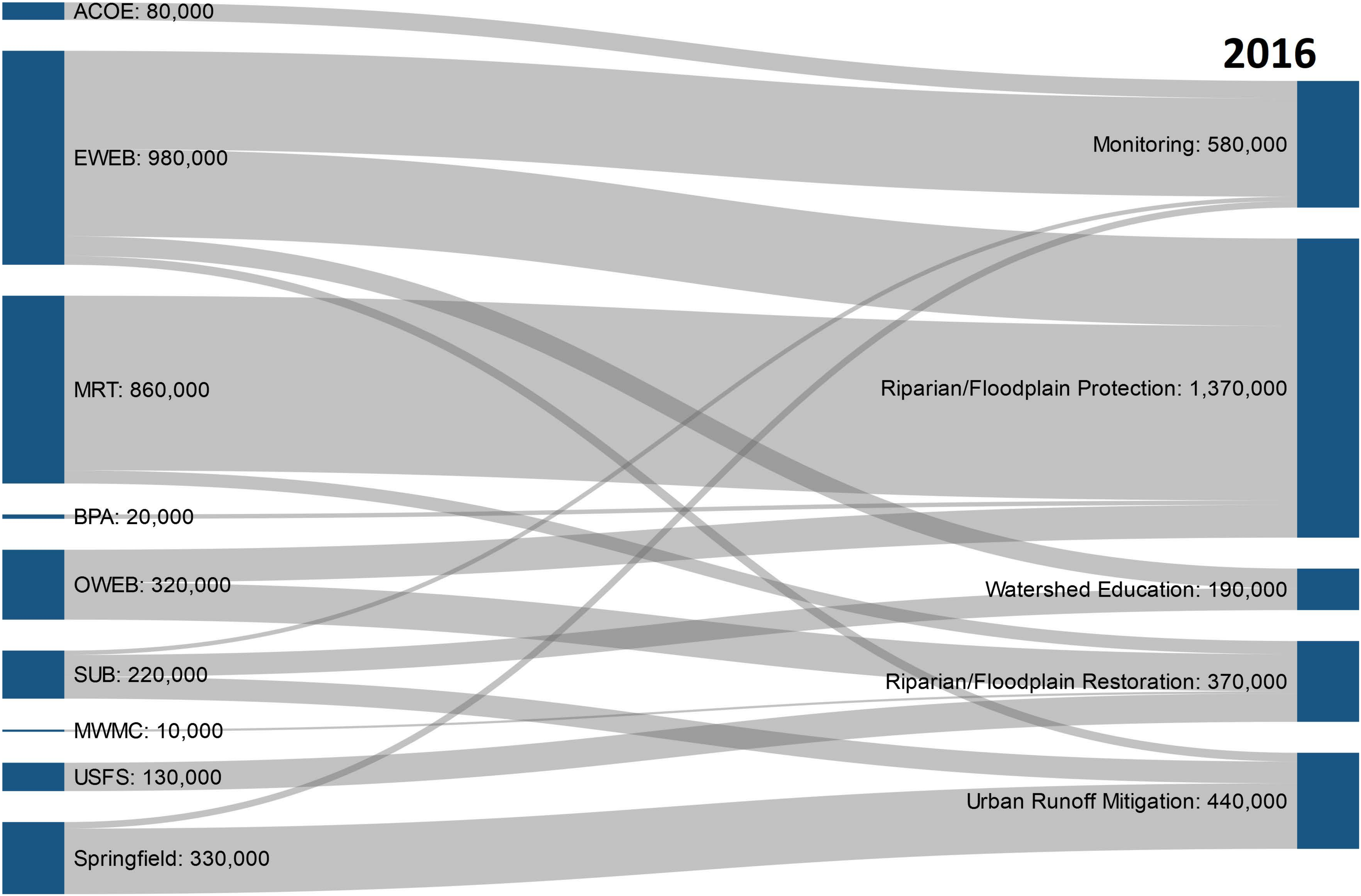
Requested Board Action

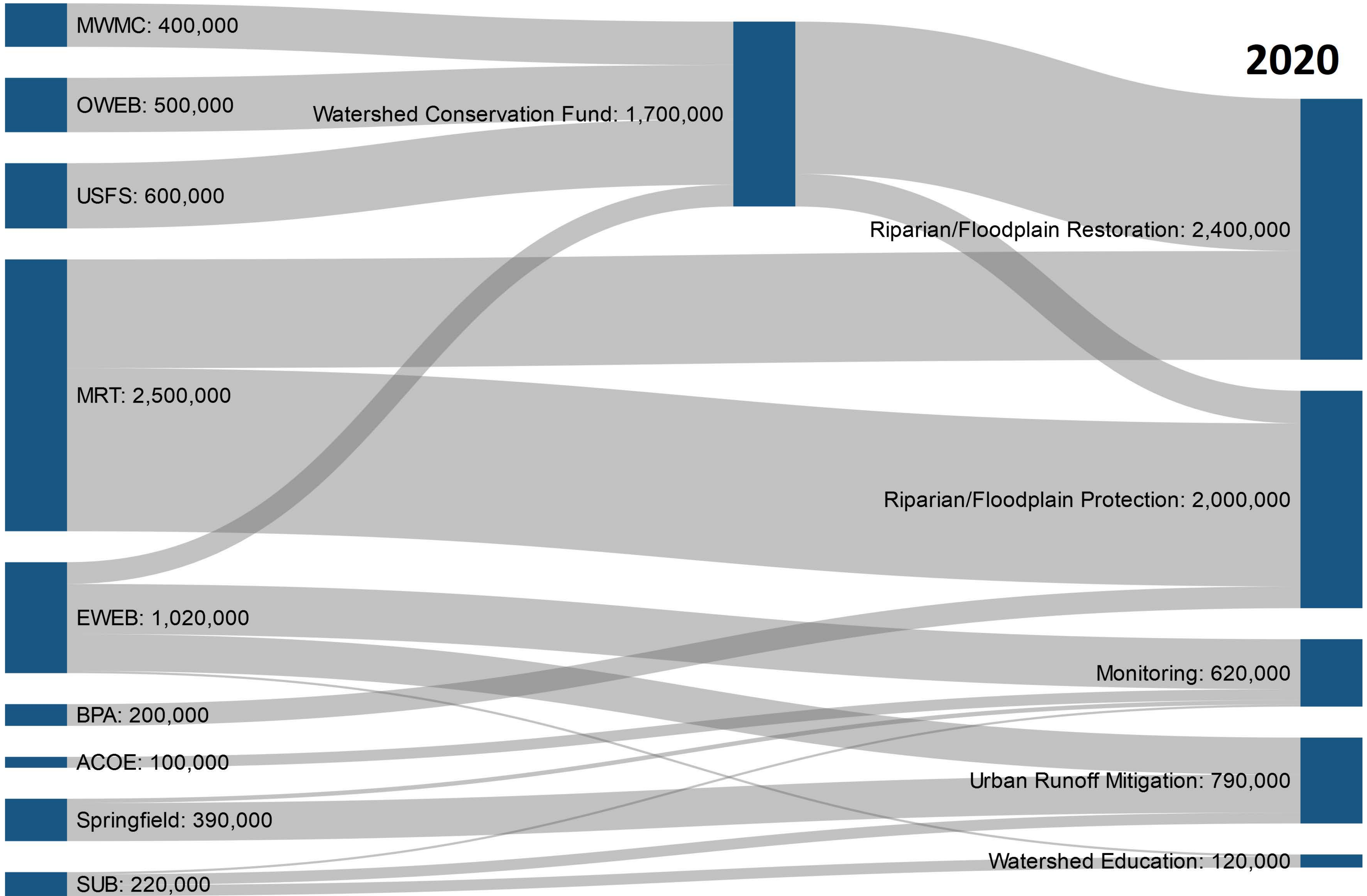
Feedback and direction that will inform implementation of the 10-Year DWSP Strategic Plan and acceptance that this plan will guide future EWEB investments. The DWSP Strategic Plan will drive spending levels within the annual approved budgets (operational and capital).

Ownership Upstream of Hayden Bridge Intake



2016





2020