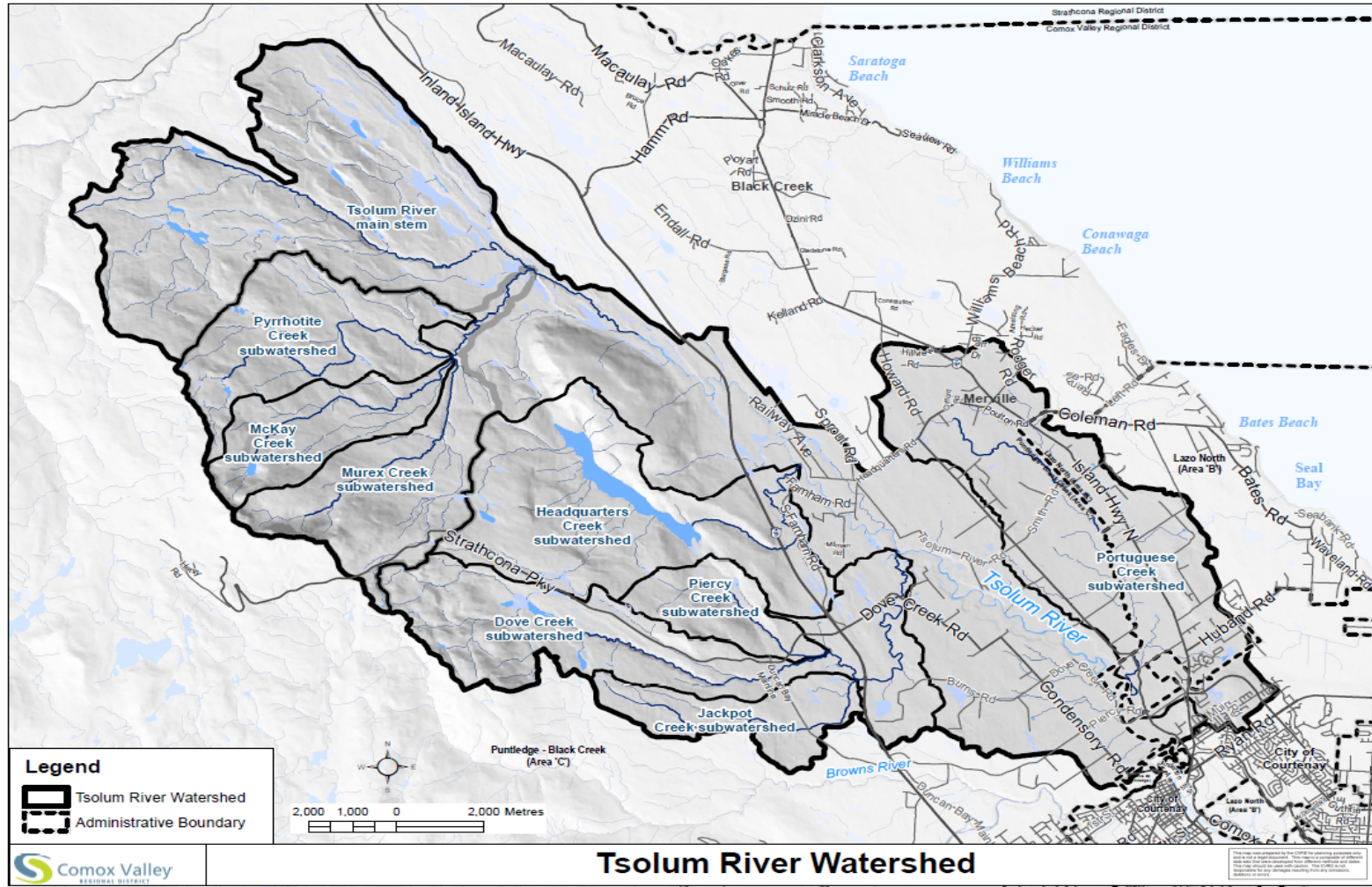


Tsolum River Agricultural Watershed Plan – Phase 2

CVRD Board
June 29, 2021

Project Background



Vision for Collaborative Water Management



- CVRD committed to reconciliation, building relationship with KFN
- Understand there is nothing more sacred to life and as important to the K'ómoks people as water
- Recognize and respect exercise of traditional rights, KFN four pillars, cultural and spiritual laws, Indigenous worldview
- Vision for collaboration in water governance, co-management, and co-development of policy

Tsolum River Agricultural Watershed Plan Activities

Phase One
2018-2019
Data analysis and
engagement

Phase Two
2020-2021
Watershed assessment
and management options

KFN Feedback: What We Heard

Concerns:

- Insufficient understanding of watershed, everything is connected
- No increased water use without understanding of watershed
- Concern project could support additional water use, infringement of rights
- Concern about water quality

Support for:

- Collaboration in watershed management, roundtable approach
- Actions that promote watershed health
- Harmonization of Western and Indigenous knowledge

Community Feedback: What We Heard

- Water supply a current limiting factor, becoming an increasing concern
- More support for producers in water storage and stewardship
- Agricultural water should be a priority on ALR land
- Concerns regarding climate change, forest management impacts
- Support for monitoring
- Need to restore hydrologic function and health of watershed
- Support for collaborative roundtable approach, watershed stewardship service
- Request Province - Water Sustainability Plan

Recommendations

1 Collaborative watershed management

> Develop resources and capacity, work in partnership with KFN, use a roundtable approach

2 Enhance land use planning by considering information on water resources and agriculture

> Utilize planning tools to strengthen watershed stewardship and support agriculture, consider KFN groundwater vulnerability mapping, prioritize agricultural use on ALR land

3 Advocate for use of provincial water management tools to protect watershed health and agricultural water supplies

> Tools available under Water Sustainability Act, KFN/CVRD approach Province together

Recommendations

4 Support producers and the community in water management and watershed stewardship

> Communications and outreach, on-farm water storage and beneficial management practices, restoration of hydrologic function, everything is connected

5 & 6 Improve understanding of the watershed and the impacts of climate change

> Monitor water levels/water quality, incorporate Indigenous knowledge, understand impact of forest management/climate change, consider how land use/water use should be modified

7 Take conservative approach to future water use

> Recommendations for regulators considering additional water use

Next steps

- ➔ Actions, key players, timeframes identified for each recommendation (1 through 7)
- ➔ Present to EASC for decision on next steps

We are connected by water and the CVRD is grateful for the knowledge shared with us by the K'ómoks First Nation, members of the AWPAC and the community. This input has played an integral role in the development of this report and will guide our work moving forward as partners in managing this precious resource.