# History of Managing Extremes of Flood & Drought

Catastrophic flooding was the catalyst for the 1959 Agency Act and Yuba County voters' 1961 approval to construct the Yuba River Development Project for flood control and water supply.





# **Climate Change Will Amplify These Climate Extremes**



#### Less Snow + More Rain = **More Severe Events**



# **Research for a New Climate Reality**







### **Atmospheric Rivers – Historical and Future**



Climate change impacts to extreme atmospheric river events indicate a likely increase in precipitation and runoff from future events in the Yuba-Feather region.



### Recent Indications: October 23-25, 2021 Atmospheric River





5

### Recent Indications: October 23-25, 2021 Atmospheric River





6

# **Climate Resilience – What it Means for Infrastructure**

- Atmospheric River Control (ARC) Spillway at New Bullards Bar to create additional storage to capture peak flows and reduce peak releases during storm events.
  - 90% design expected in early 2022.
- Enables management of an additional 117,000 acre-feet of reservoir space.
- Improves the management, integrity and performance of the downstream flood protection system, including state/federal levees.





## **Climate Resilience – What it Means for Operations**

#### Yuba-Feather Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and Water Control Manual Update Timeline





#### Yuba-Feather Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)

- Improves forecasts used in flood and water supply operations decision making processes
- Directly informs updates to reservoir operational rules under the USACE Water Control Manuals to use forecasts, improve operational flexibility and implement adaptive water management strategies
- Benefits include reduced flood risk, potential water availability improvements, and climate resilience
- Enhances benefits of infrastructure improvements such as **New Bullards Bar ARC Spillway**
- Promotes **continued collaboration and trust** between federal, state and local reservoir operators



# Yuba Water's Watershed Resilience Program

- Established to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, protect local communities and safeguard water supply
- Advances and funds collaborative projects within Yuba County and Yuba River watershed that support these goals
- Develop a body of knowledge around water supply benefits of forest restoration



