

# Workshop on Large-scale Adaptive Management

## Adaptive Management of Large-Scale Ecosystems in California

Peter Goodwin

*with contributions from many . . . .*



University of Maryland  
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



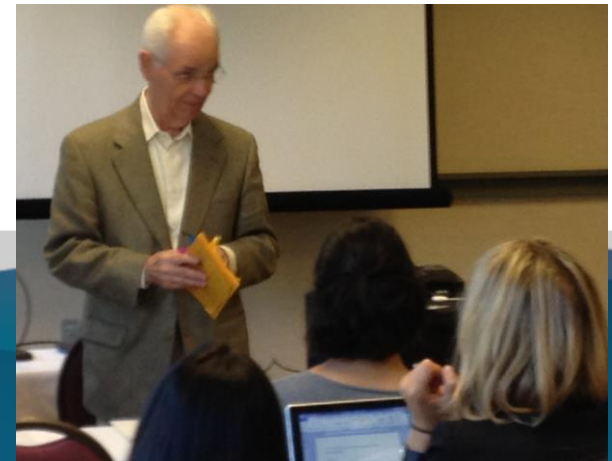
International Association  
for Hydro-Environment  
Engineering and Research

Supported by  
Spain Water and IWHR, China

# C.P. Snow

## Godkin Lecture, Harvard University, 1960

Let me say at once that I have no easy answers at all. If there were any easy answers, they would have been found by now. The whole problem is an intractable one, one of the most intractable that organised society has thrown up. It is partly the expression, in political and administrative terms of the split between two cultures that I have said something about elsewhere.<sup>42</sup>



# Primary Points

1. Champions
2. Common Expectations
3. Complexity and Scale
4. Governance and 'science to inform policy' – when is science good enough?
5. Performance Metrics and Recognition

## Other Critical factors:

- funding
- building and sustaining the human capital

## 1. Champions

- Committed to a vision
- Influential
- Beyond conventional thinking
- Courage



# A success story: challenged by unusual conditions

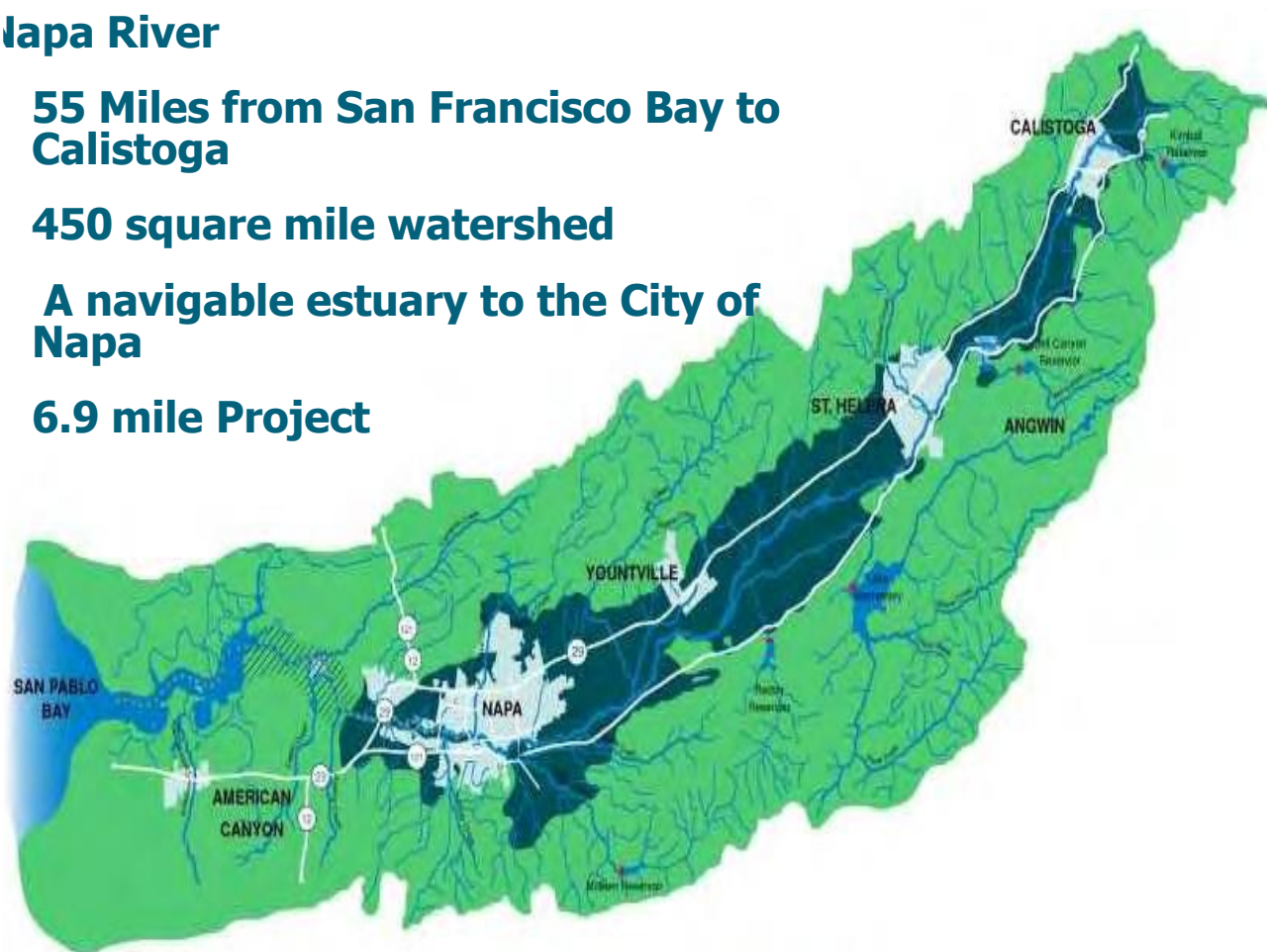
## **Napa River**

**55 Miles from San Francisco Bay to  
Calistoga**

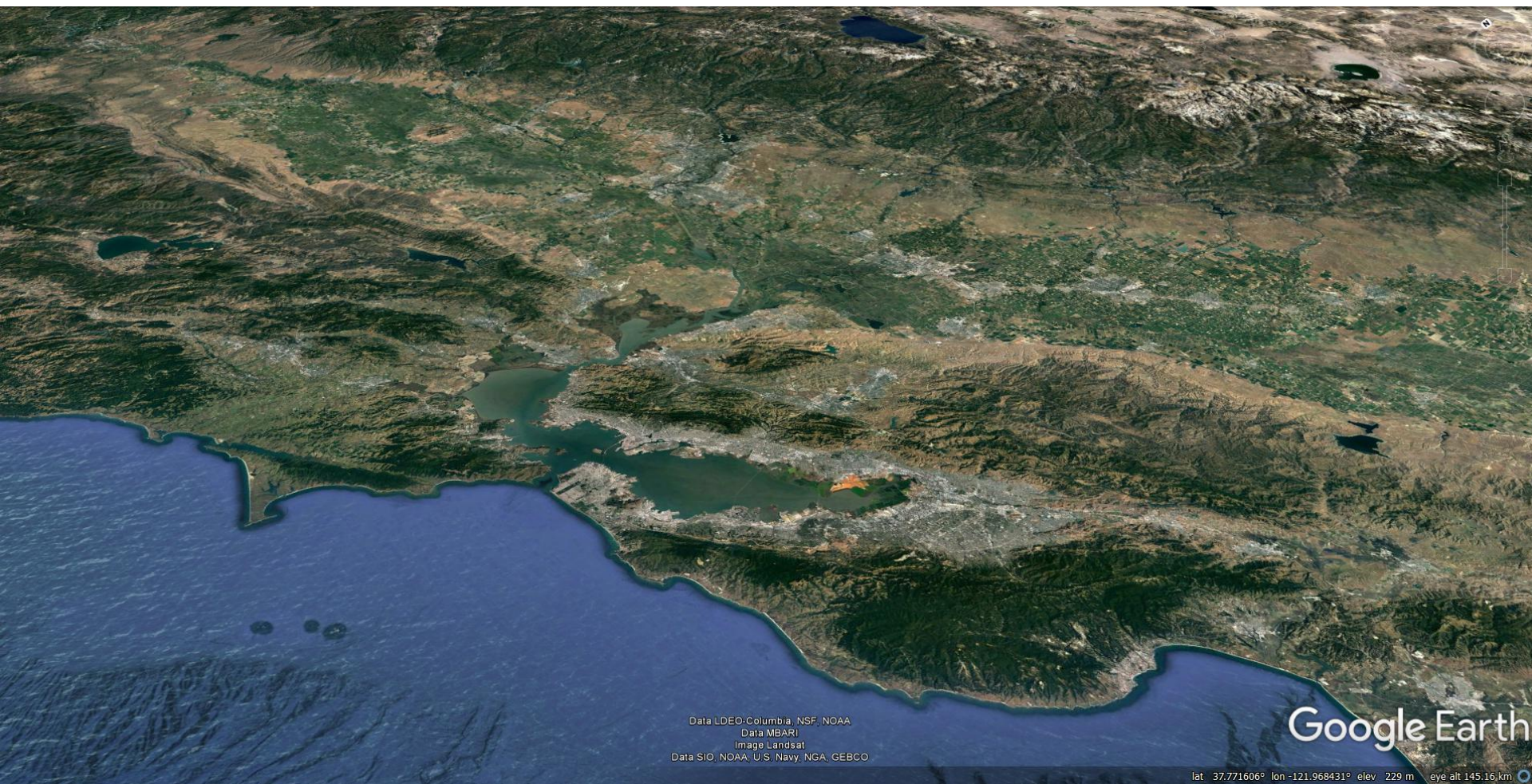
**450 square mile watershed**

**A navigable estuary to the City of  
Napa**

**6.9 mile Project**







Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA  
Data MBARI  
Image Landsat  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth

lat 37.771606° lon -121.968431° elev 229 m eye alt 145.16 km



**27 major floods in past 120 years**  
**County Courthouse, Napa - 1896**











# COMMUNITY COALITION FORMED

27 local stakeholder groups and 24 agencies

## The Living River Strategy for the Napa Watershed





# Napa to tame river by letting it run free

3-5-98 WCTimes

■ Voters approve a historic tax measure that aims to reduce flooding through natural methods

By Denis Cuff  
and John Simerman

TIMES STAFF WRITERS

NAPA — Flood fighters in the West tamed their creeks and small rivers by deepening and narrowing

them with dredgers and concrete.

Voters in this historic wine county bucked that tide Tuesday when they approved a precedent-setting flood project to make the unruly Napa River wider and more natural with room to meander without sloshing into bedrooms and stores.

Planners and politicians predict Napa County will lead California on a new path to minimize flooding by letting rivers run a little freer and making people do more to stay out of the way.

"The concrete the river to come ferent th and keep Rippey, a pervisor ing in w as the g

Private called the the bigg its kind ronmen Inste ing the County marshes About nesses Se



Mike Naslund rode his fishing boat up Social Road in Napa, which has suffered repeated inundations.

## Freeing Napa From Floods

Unique river plan goes before voters

By Glen Martin  
Chronicle Staff Writer

**N**apa County residents who have had it up to here with perennial flooding are preparing to vote tomorrow on a revolutionary plan that could end their woes once and for all — and rescue the unruly Napa River in the process.

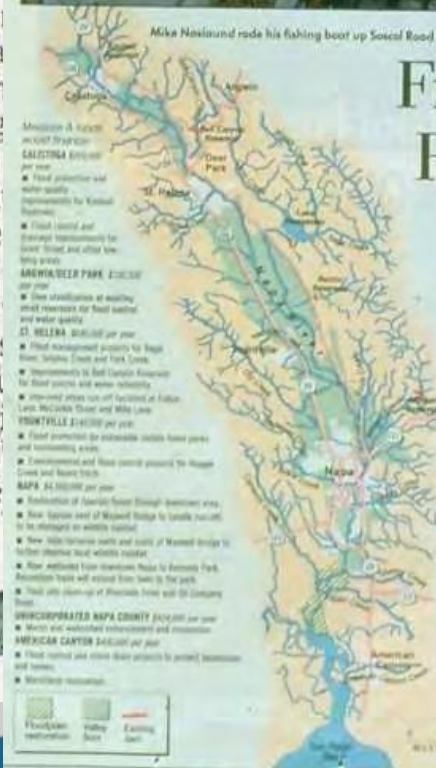
If approved by a two-thirds majority vote tomorrow, Measure A, also known as the Napa County Flood Protection and Watershed Management Plan, could make the Napa Valley virtually immune to catastrophic floods.

It would also restore wetlands, forests and fish and wildlife in the river, which has suffered greatly from decades of urban growth and intensive agriculture.

The measure will raise \$6 million annually for the next 20 years through a sales tax assessment to one-half cent on every dollar.

What makes the plan unique, its advocates say, is the emphasis on river restoration, not destruction. Traditional flood control projects involve channeling rivers and creeks, confining them in strait-jackets of concrete.

By contrast, the Napa River plan would achieve its primary ends by restoring marshlands and riparian forests. The use of





**Bridge raised, maintained historic and aesthetic quality**



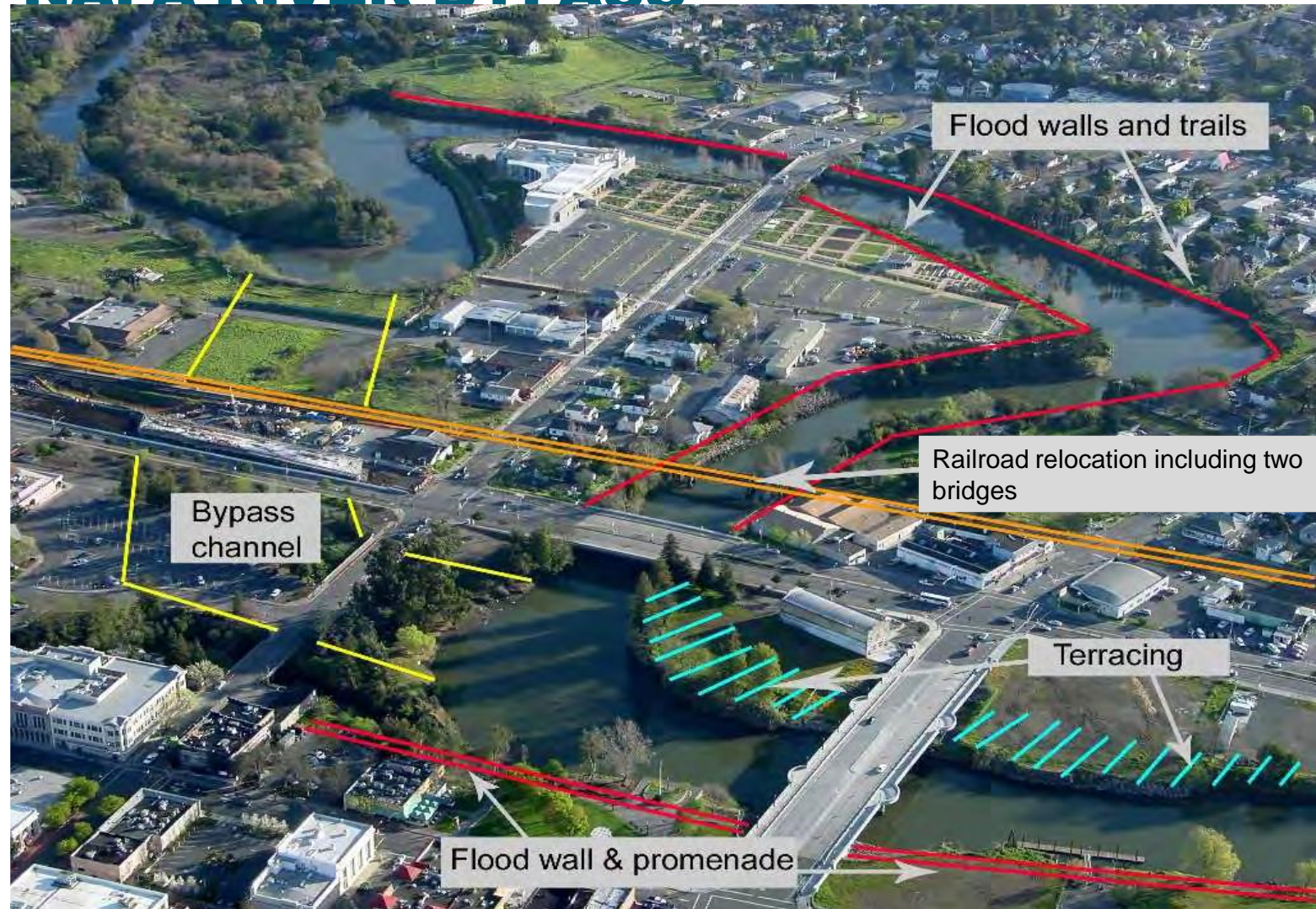


# Creation of 659 acres of wetland, mudflat and open water





# NAPA RIVER BYPASS





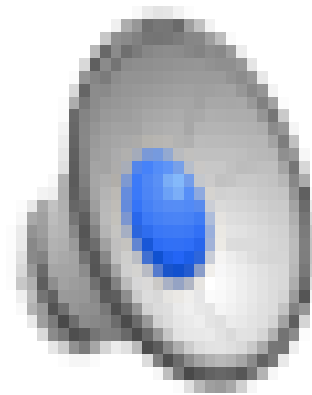
# Napa Floodplain Restored



California Drought 2012-16

2017 Wettest Winter in Recorded History

Very Dry summer





Fundamental Question:  
will the ecosystem recover or was the fire a tipping point?



## 2. Common Expectations



## 2. Common Expectations



Photograph courtesy of Minette Lane



### 3. Complexity and Scale

## Change is the only constant

‘Stationarity is Dead’ Milly et al. , 2008

We can no longer rely solely on the past to  
predict future conditions

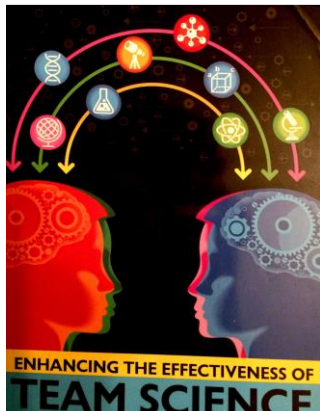
Pressures include:

Climate change

Shifting land-use patterns

Population growth

Invasive species

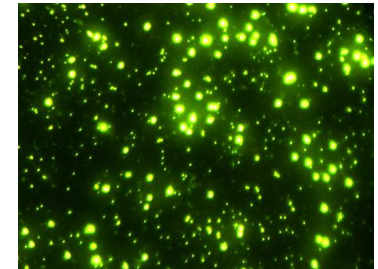
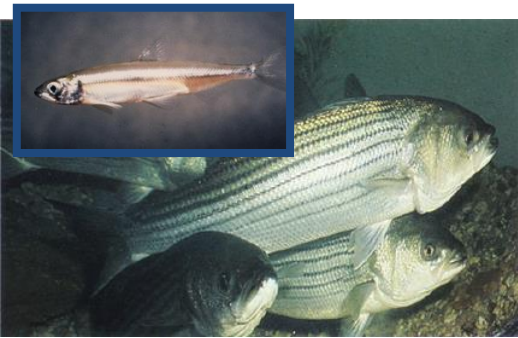




# System complexity (Wim Kimmerer)

Number of species in Delta ~

1 × 30 × 35 × 50 × 1000!



Number of Individuals in Delta ~

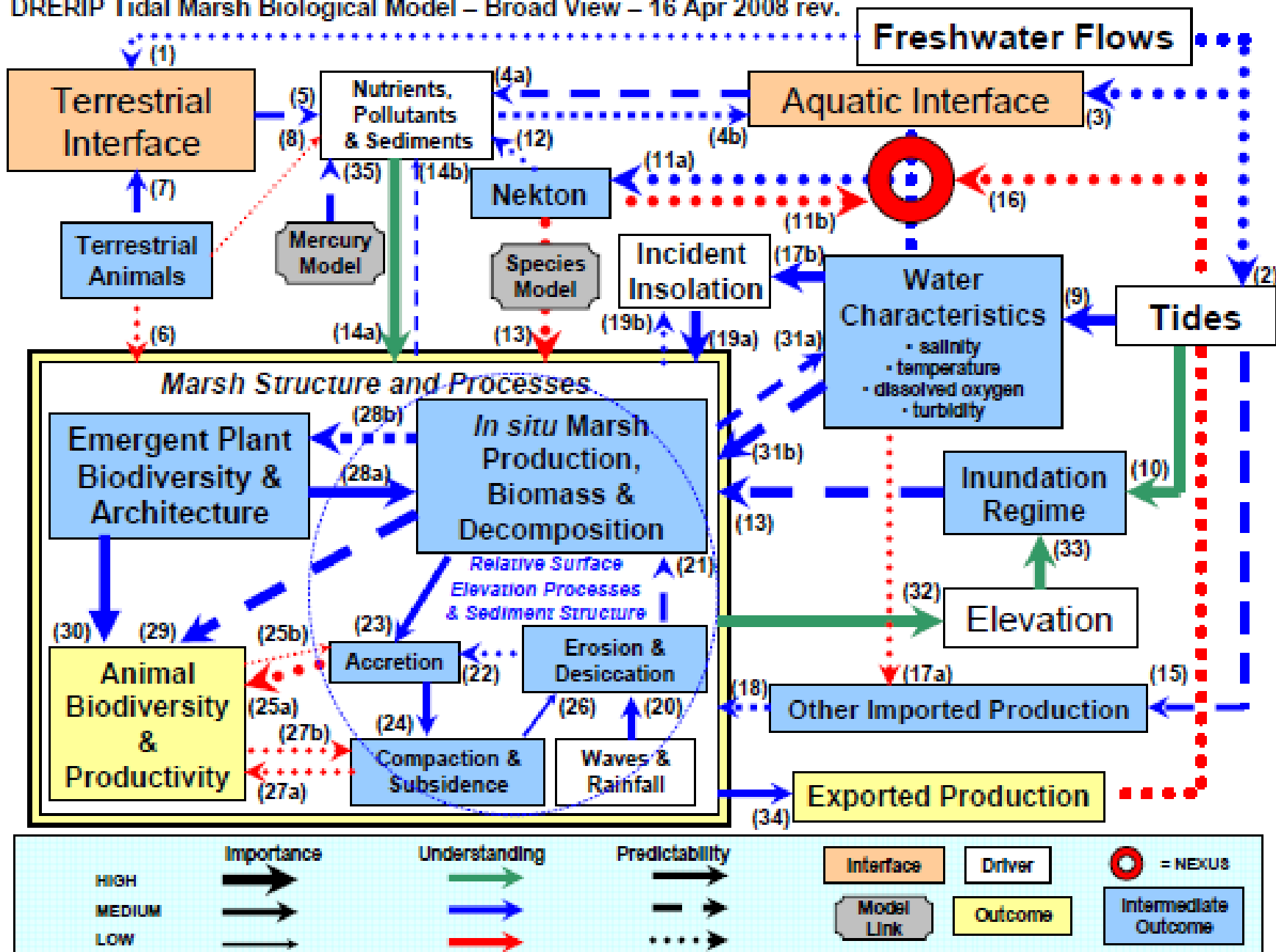
$10^8$

$10^{10}$

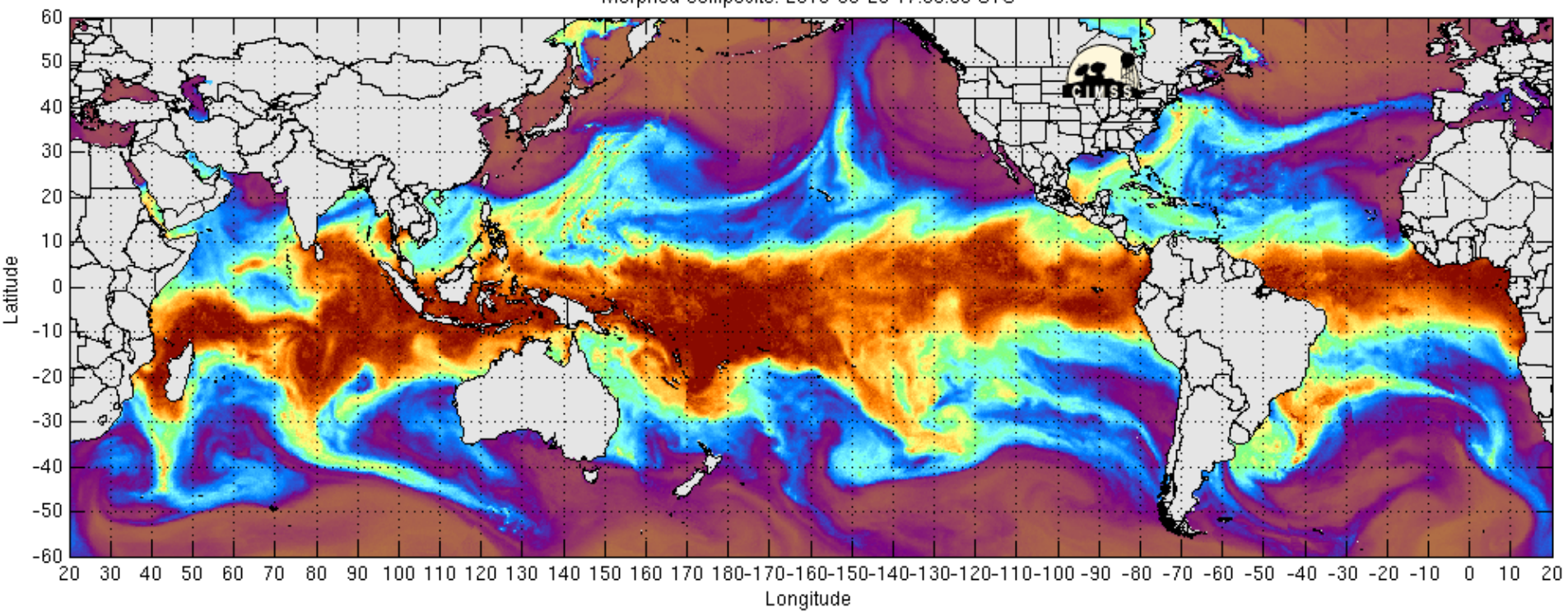
$10^{12}$

$10^{15}$

And they can all interact!! Potential *Chaotic Systems*



Morphed composite: 2016-03-28 17:00:00 UTC

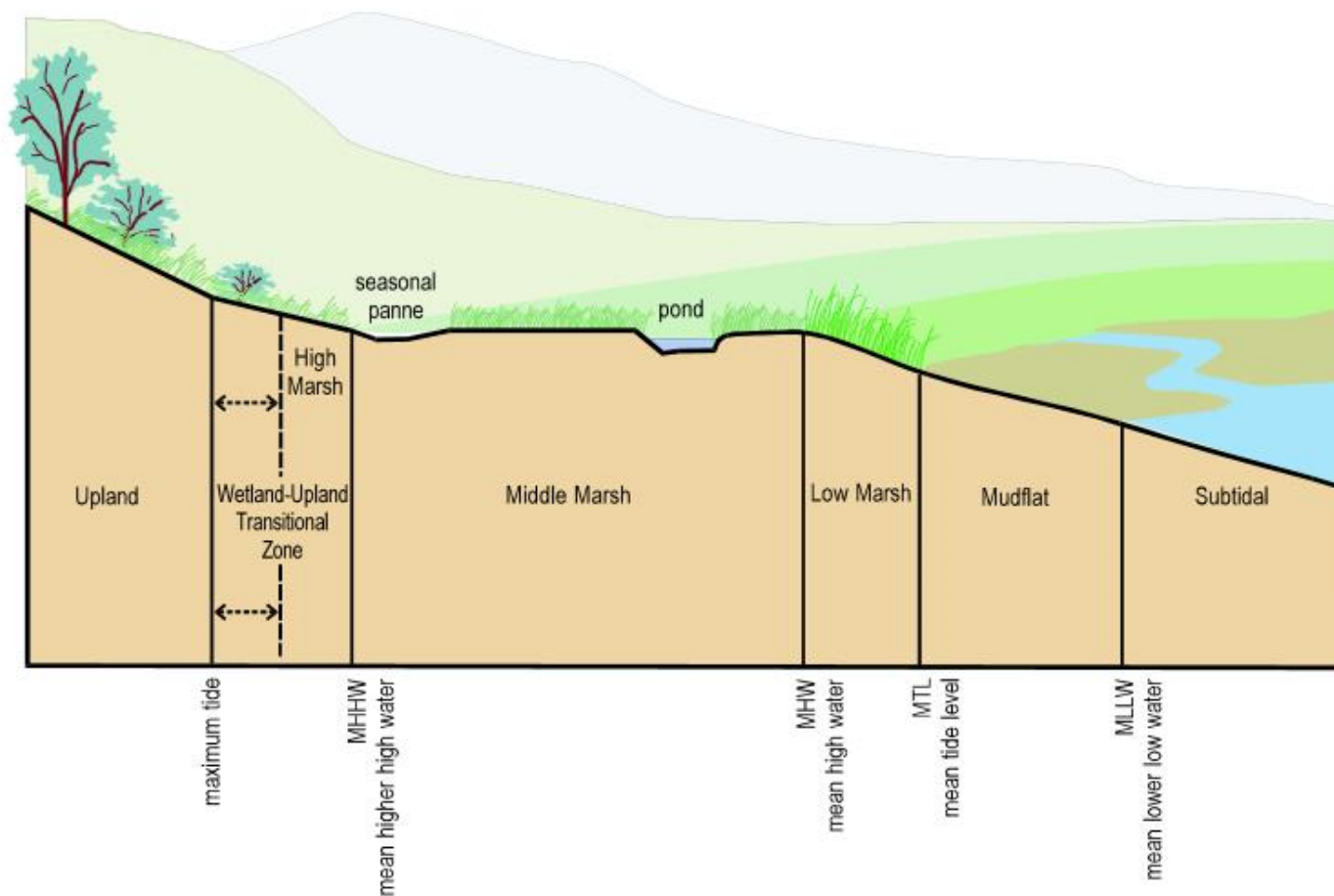


### 3. Complexity and Scale

Unknown



# Tidal Marsh Profile



*Note:*  
The landward boundary of the high marsh shifts from year to year within the wetland-upland transition zone.

figure 2

Tidal Wetland Restoration Handbook  
**Vertical Profile of Tidal Marsh**

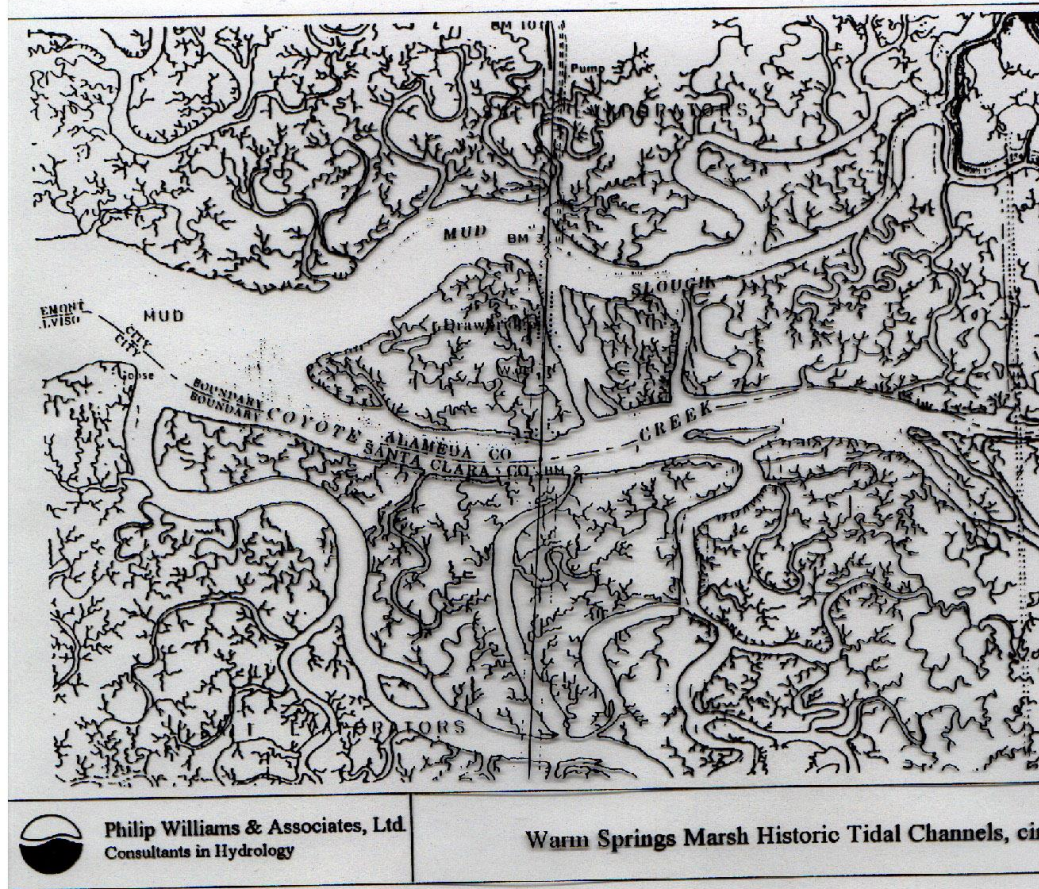


Ancient Marsh – about 2500 old

Historic Marsh  
US Coast and Geodetic Survey  
c. 1870



Modern Marsh – 1920s

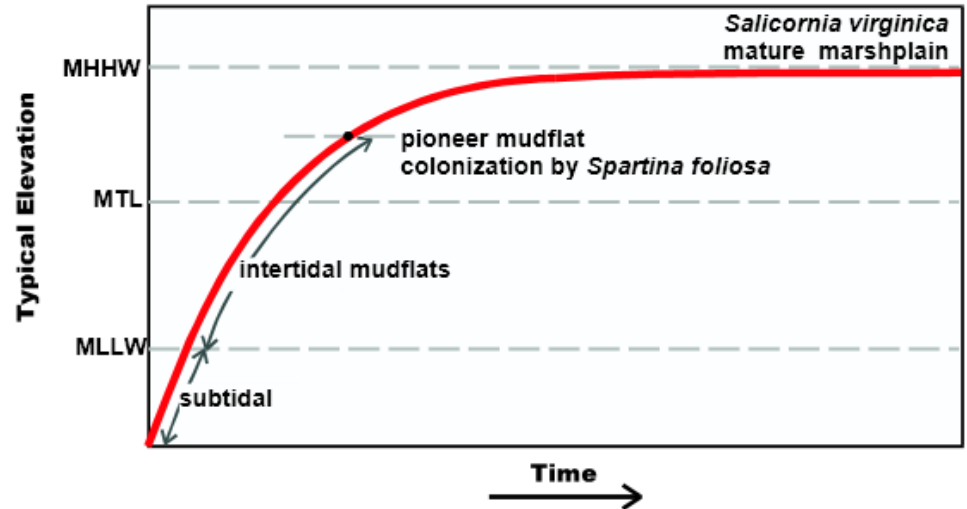




# Tidal Marsh Evolution



Muzzi Marsh, 1980



Muzzi Marsh, 1984



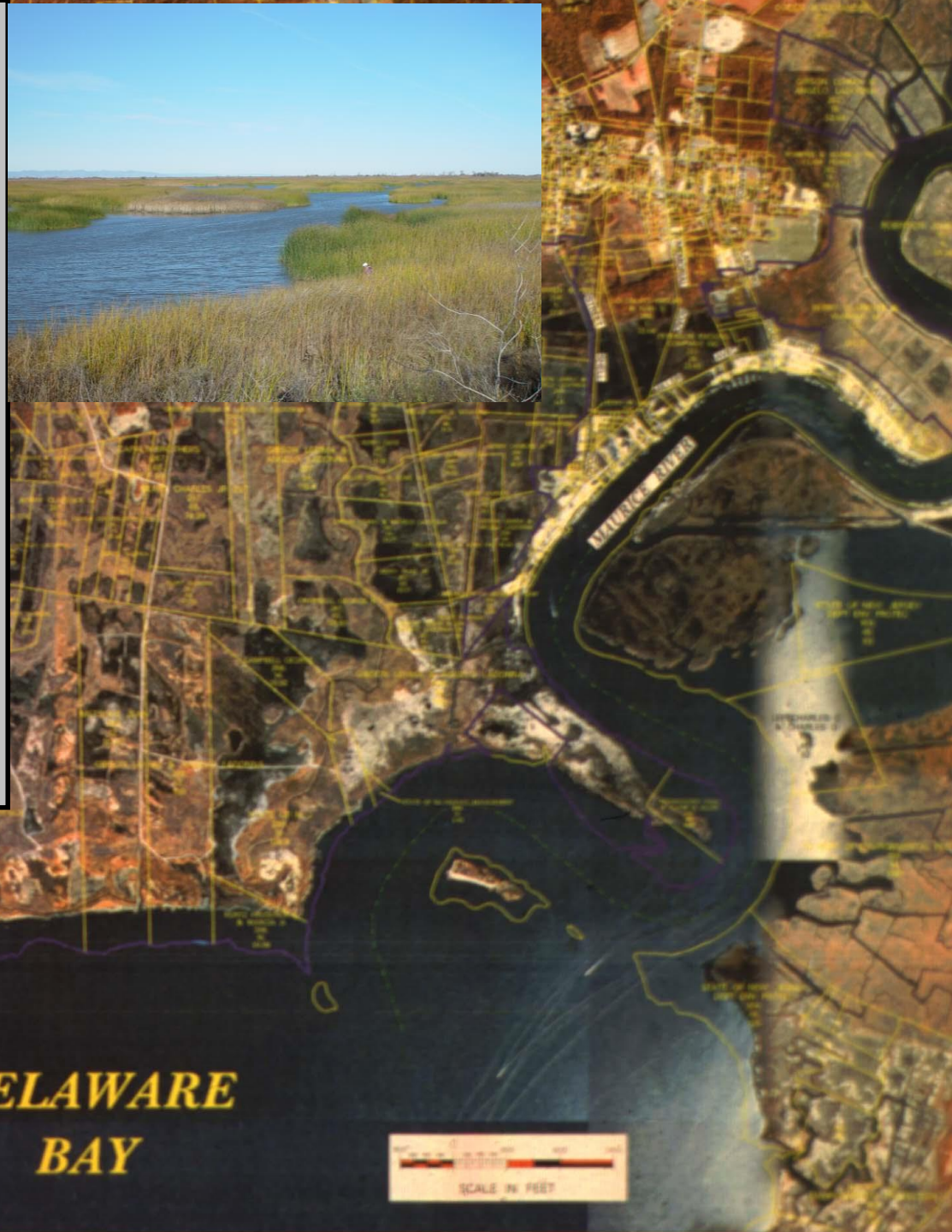
Muzzi Marsh, 2003



# Tidal Wetlands Restoration

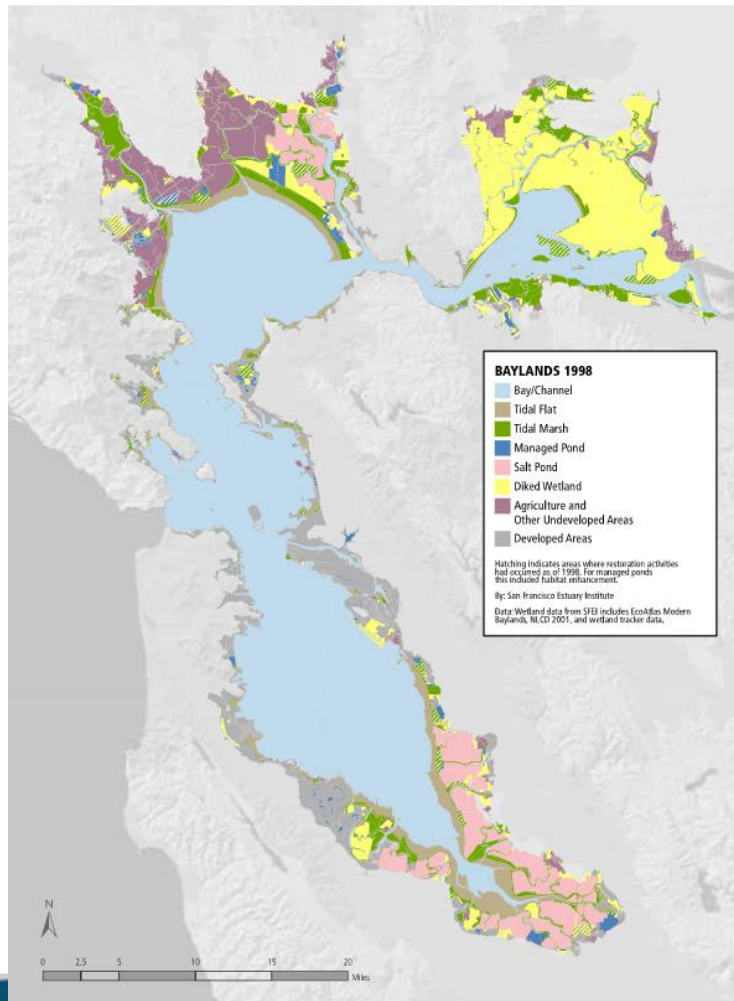
## Third Generation -1990s

- Refinement of models, data collection, databases of characteristics, interpretation
- Designs much closer to dynamic equilibrium
- Examples: Delaware Bay, San Dieguito Lagoon, Sonoma Baylands
- Adaptive management





# Tidal Wetlands Restoration: Fourth Generation



**Figure 5** Baylands habitats in 1998. See box 2 for more detail about the data and assumptions for this map.

- Landscape Ecology
- Historical Ecology
- Not to 'restore' since landscape irreversibly altered
- Understand key process to restore ecosystem function
- Mosaic of habitats
- Scale to restore processes

Baylands Climate Change Update, 2015

### 3. Complexity and Scale



What do we mean by natural flows in complex and irreversibly altered systems?

Novel ecosystems (Moyle, 2014): resilient and desirable

Landscape ecology vs cumulative projects

Yarnell, S.M. et al. 2015. *Functional Flows in Modified Riverscapes: Hydrographs, Habitats and Opportunities* BioScience 2015. doi: 10.1093/biosci/biv102

## 4. Science to inform Policy

### Time-frame to inform management decisions

Mark Cowin, Director, California Department of Water Resources

### When is good science good enough?

John Wiens, Independent Science Board. Delta Science Program

### Polymath or Translators

Expert Panel on Adaptive Management, BDCP and NRC Recommendations

### Who has responsibility and who has authority?

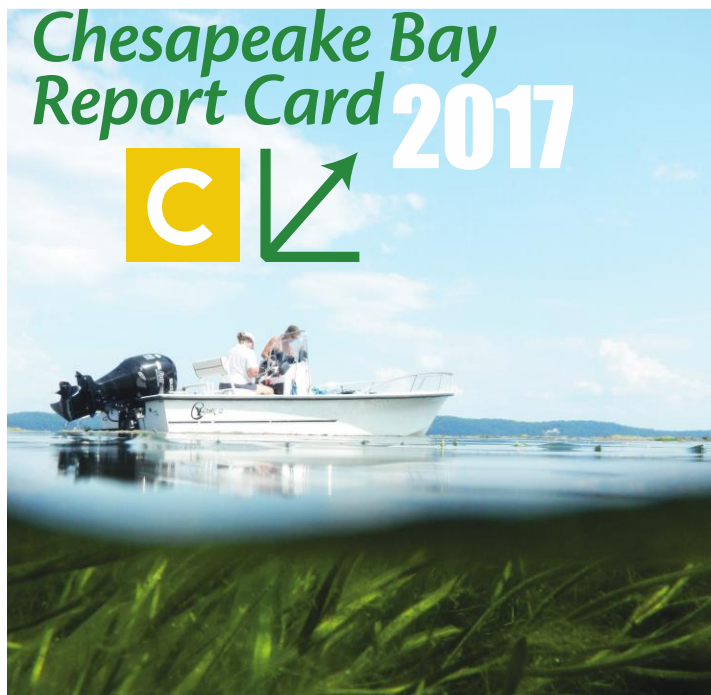
Universal challenge.

## 4. Science to inform Policy

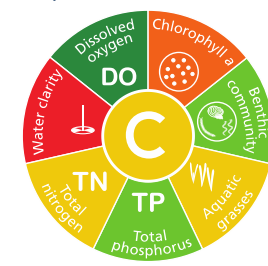
Other challenges include:

- Agencies are mission-bound
- Perturbations that induce significant change
- Environmental research is a journey not a destination – but '*experimentation*' is not embraced by legislatures!
- Sustained commitment to resources is needed
  - monitoring
  - SYNTHESIS with the right team
  - communication

## 5. Performance Metrics and Recognition



### Bay health is moderate overall



Bay Health scale



The overall score for the Chesapeake Bay Health Index for 2017 was 54%, the same score as 2016. Bay-wide, dissolved oxygen continued to be the best scoring indicator with an 89% in 2017, an A. Aquatic grasses scored a C- (44%), improved from last year's D+ (39%). Water clarity scored an F (17%), a decrease from last year's D- (24%). Benthic community in the bay improved from a C (54%) to a B- (60%). Total nitrogen scored C+ (59%), an improvement from last year's C+ (55%). Total phosphorus scored B+ (76%), declining from an A- (82%) in 2016. Chlorophyll a scored D+ (35%), the same as last year.

Total phosphorus, total nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, and aquatic grasses are showing positive and significant improvements. These improvements are encouraging for water quality, and have positive impacts on the ecosystem. Water clarity and chlorophyll a have significantly declining trends. Benthic community shows no significant change in health over time.

There are seven indicators that make up the Bay Health Index for the Chesapeake Bay Report Card. Each indicator is compared to scientifically derived thresholds or goals and scored to determine the overall grade.

### Where we are seeing improvements

#### Elizabeth River

2017 Score: **C** ↗

The Elizabeth River improved from a D to a C in 2017, making this the highest score it has ever received. There were improvements in total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, and dissolved oxygen. Over time, this region has a significantly improving trend.



Marshland at Paradise Creek Nature Park along the Elizabeth River in Portsmouth, VA. Photo by Chesapeake Bay Program.

#### James River

2017 Score: **B-** ↗

The James River improved from a C+ to a B- in 2017. There were improvements in aquatic grasses, water clarity, and total phosphorus. Over time, this region has a significantly improving trend.

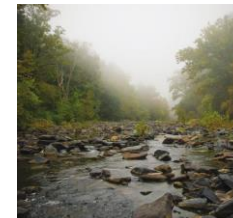


A shoreline along the banks of the James River at Presquille National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by USFWS.

#### Upper Western Shore

2017 Score: **C** ↗

The Upper Western Shore improved from a C- to a C in 2017. There were improvements in total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and benthic community. Over time, this region has a significantly improving trend.



The Gunpowder River, part of the Upper Western Shore region. "Gunpowder River" by Phil Romans used under CC BY.

[http://ian.umces.edu/work\\_with\\_us/environmental\\_report\\_card\\_production/](http://ian.umces.edu/work_with_us/environmental_report_card_production/)



Provide unbiased and objective evidence for identifying and defining problems

Communicate limitations and opportunities of goals and objectives

Advise on selecting the next generation of follow-up actions

Specify or develop appropriate conceptual and quantitative models; identify critical uncertainties; develop hypotheses; model alternative actions; identify data necessary to test hypotheses

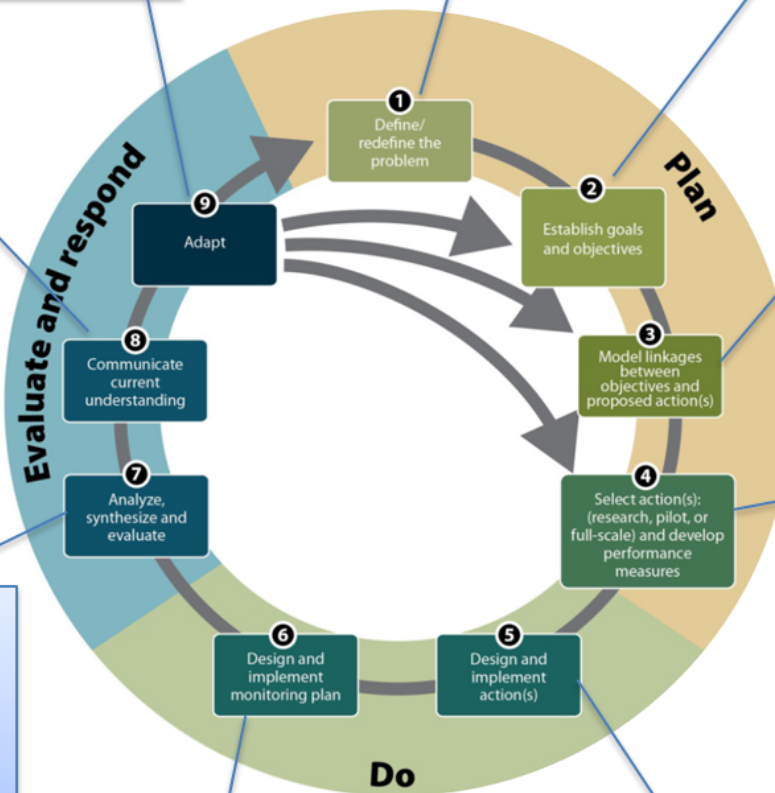
Evaluate alternative actions using information from models and decision support tools (Box 3-2); use models to develop performance measures

Design and implement actions to test assumptions and predicted outcomes and reduce scientific uncertainties

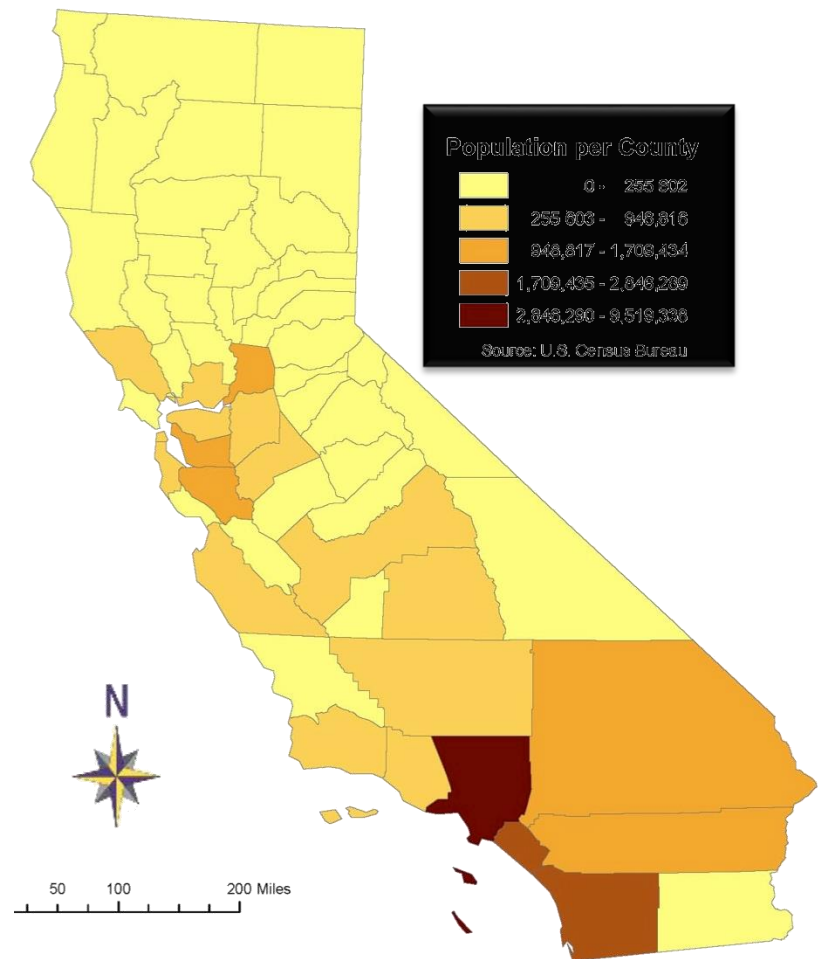
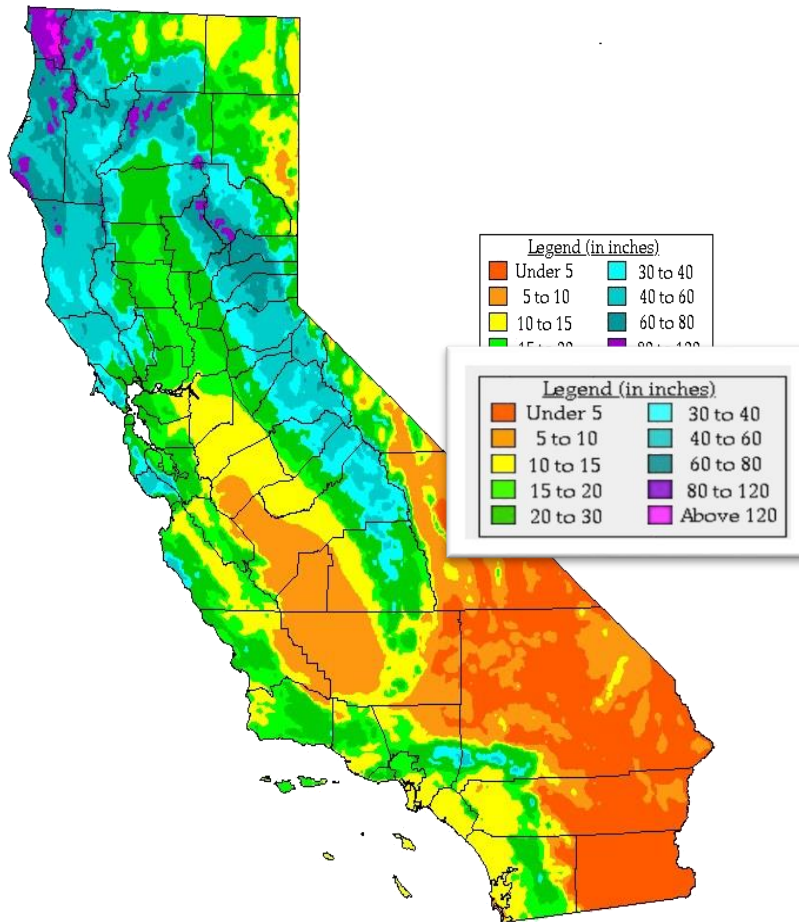
Use models and tiered management questions to design monitoring. Collect, manage and share data.

Analyze data, synthesize scientific information, and evaluate progress based on performance measures

Communicate new scientific understanding to decision-makers



# California Precipitation and Population



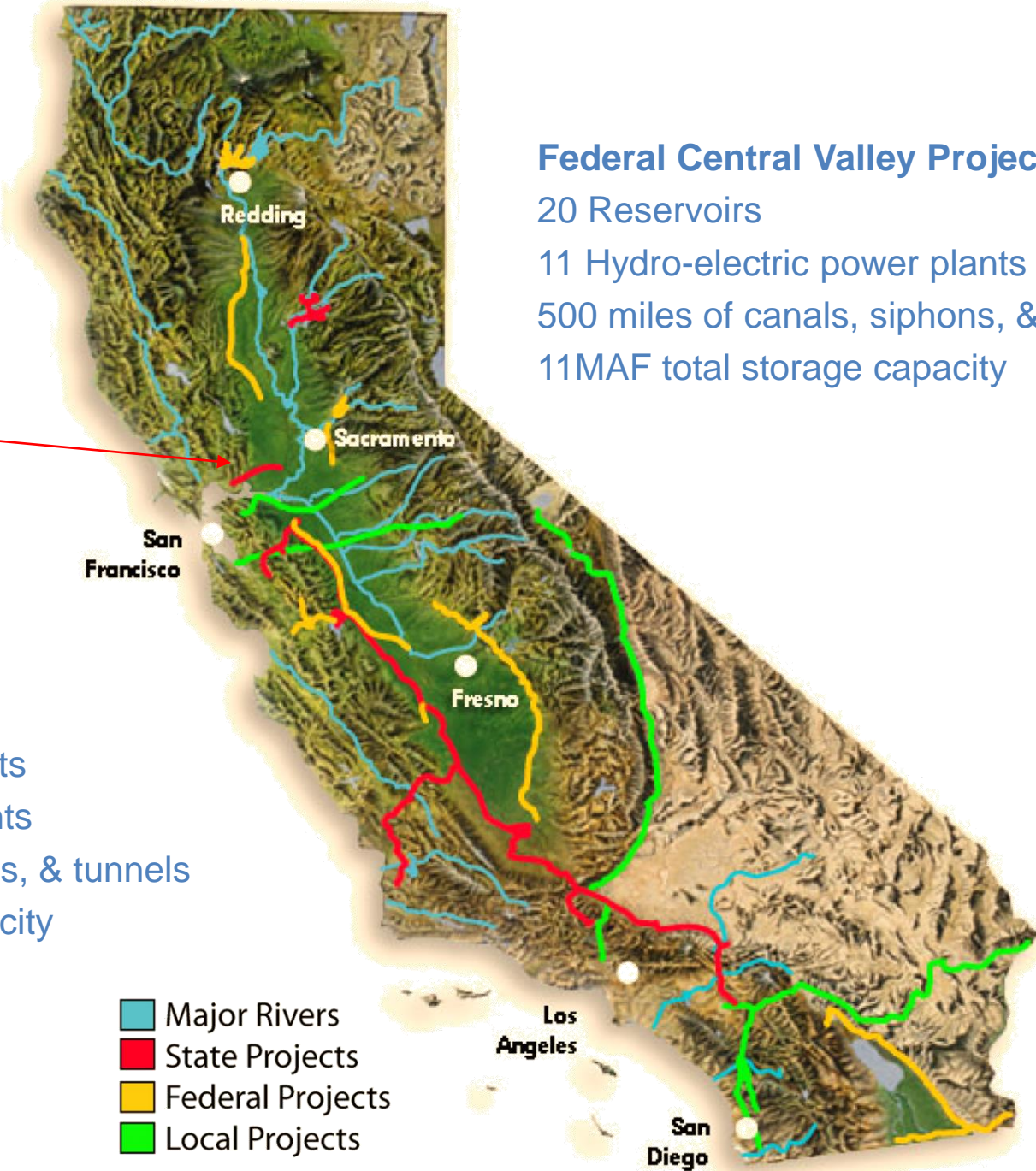
## Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

## State Water Project

21 Reservoirs  
17 Pumping Plants  
3 Pumping-generating plants  
5 Hydro-electric power plants  
660 miles of canals, siphons, & tunnels  
5.8 MAF total storage capacity

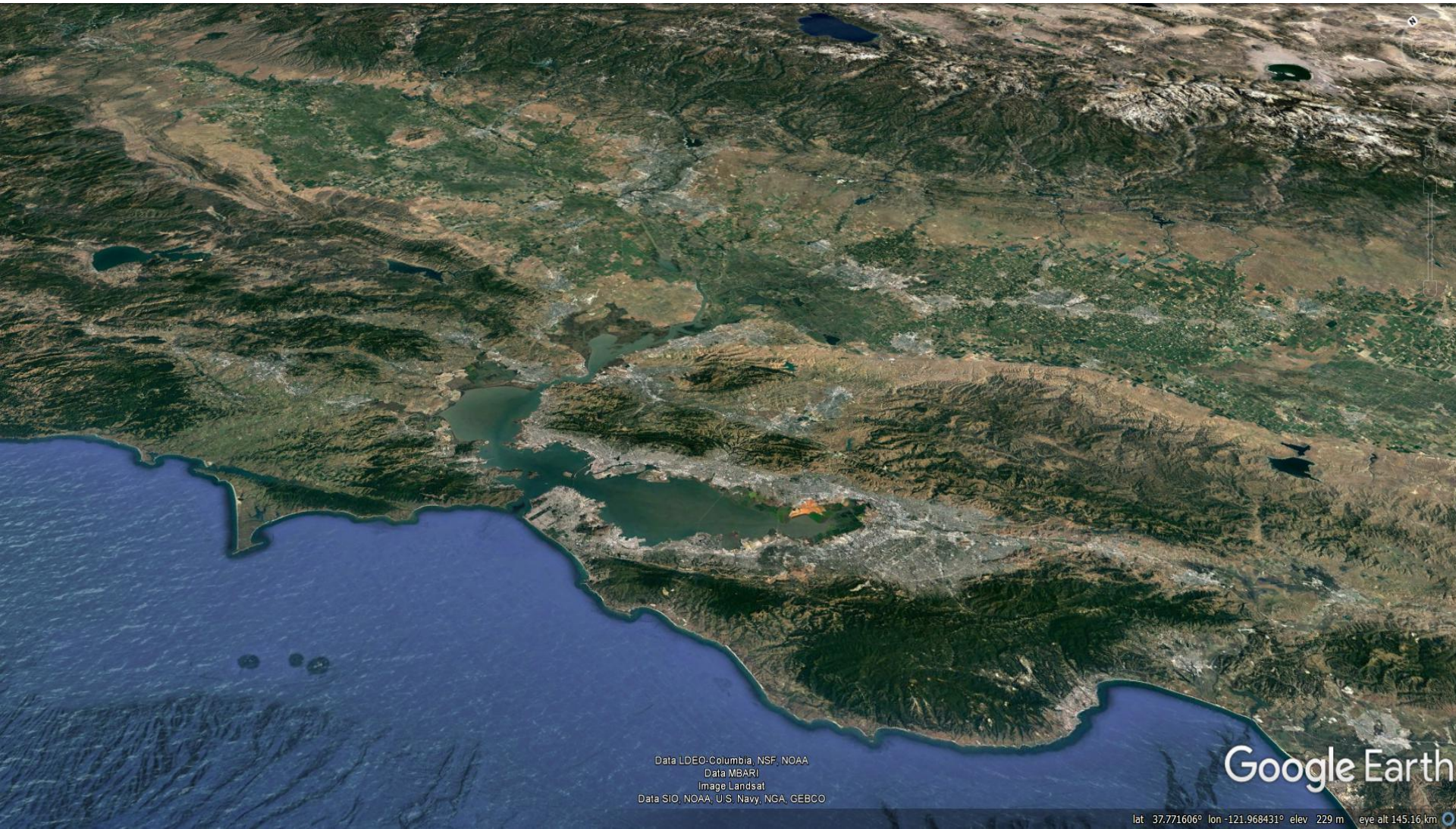
## Federal Central Valley Project

20 Reservoirs  
11 Hydro-electric power plants  
500 miles of canals, siphons, & tunnels  
11MAF total storage capacity

- 
- A map of California showing major rivers and water projects. Major rivers are shown in blue. State projects are shown in red, Federal projects in yellow, and Local projects in green. The map includes labels for Redding, Sacramento, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego. A red arrow points from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta label to the delta region on the map.
- Major Rivers
  - State Projects
  - Federal Projects
  - Local Projects



# San Francisco Bay Delta



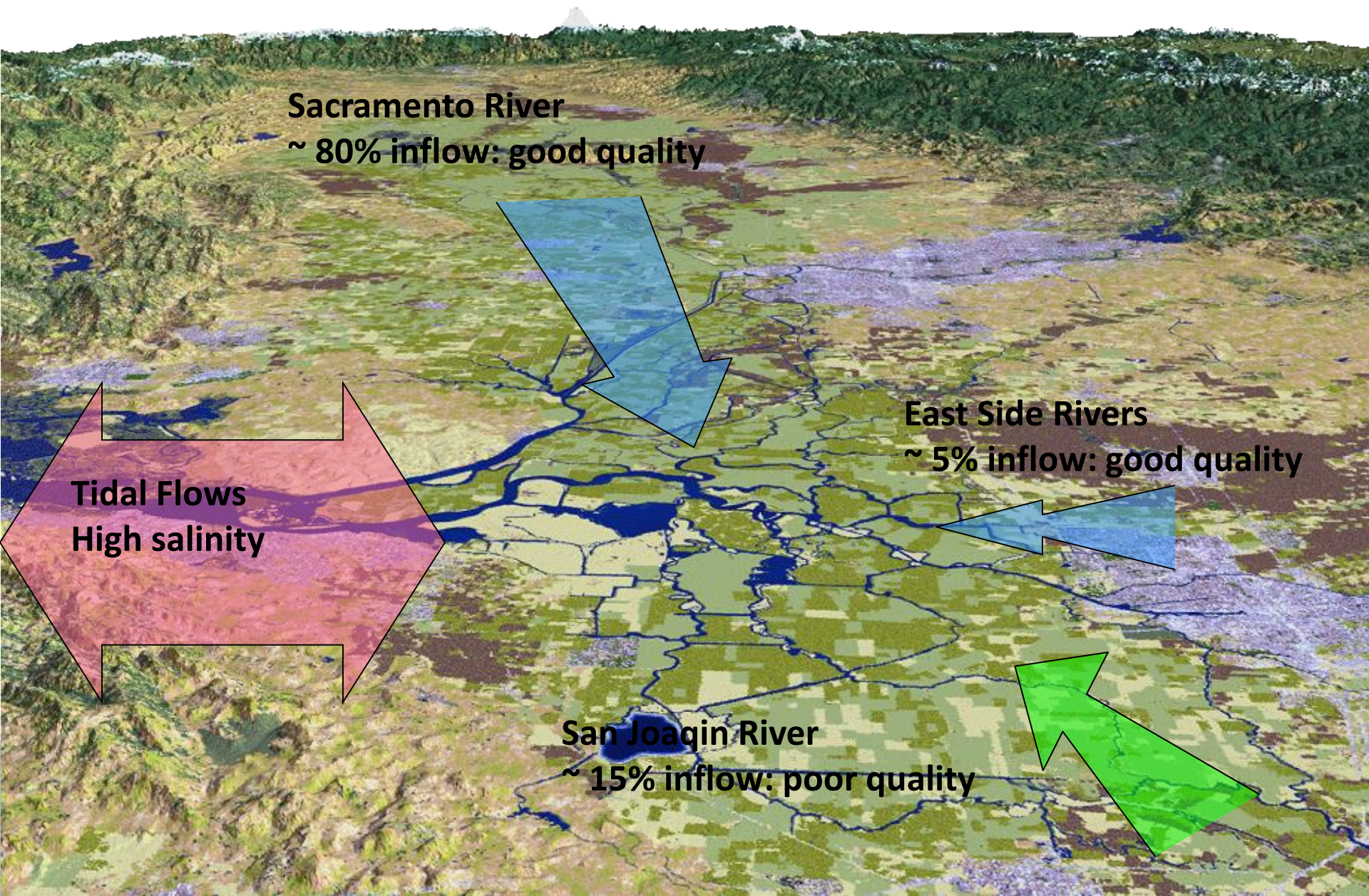
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA  
Data MBARI  
Image Landsat  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth

lat 37.771606° lon -121.968431° elev 229 m eye alt 145.16 km



# Delta Inflows



**Sacramento River**  
~ 80% inflow: good quality

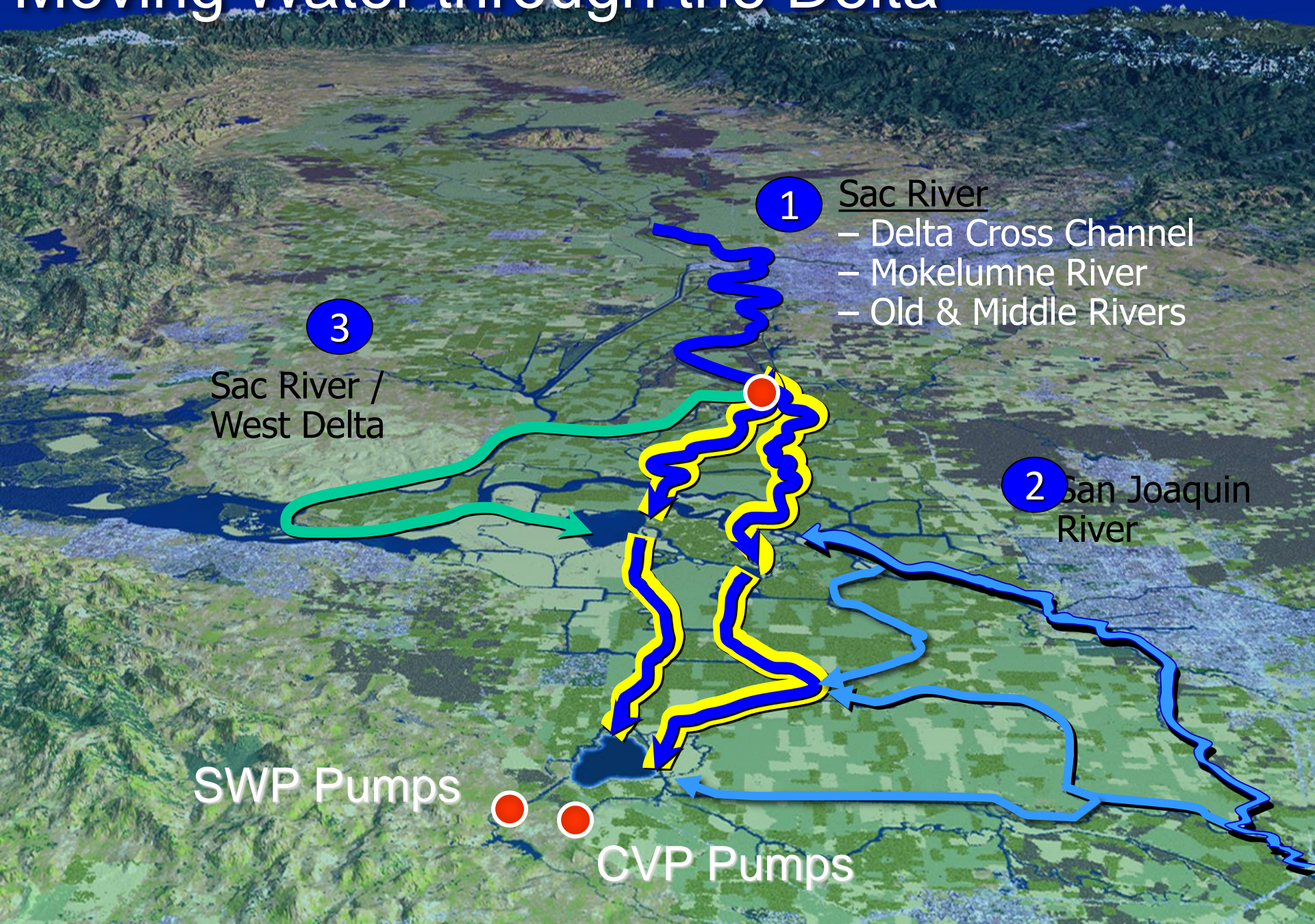
**East Side Rivers**  
~ 5% inflow: good quality

**San Joaquin River**  
~ 15% inflow: poor quality

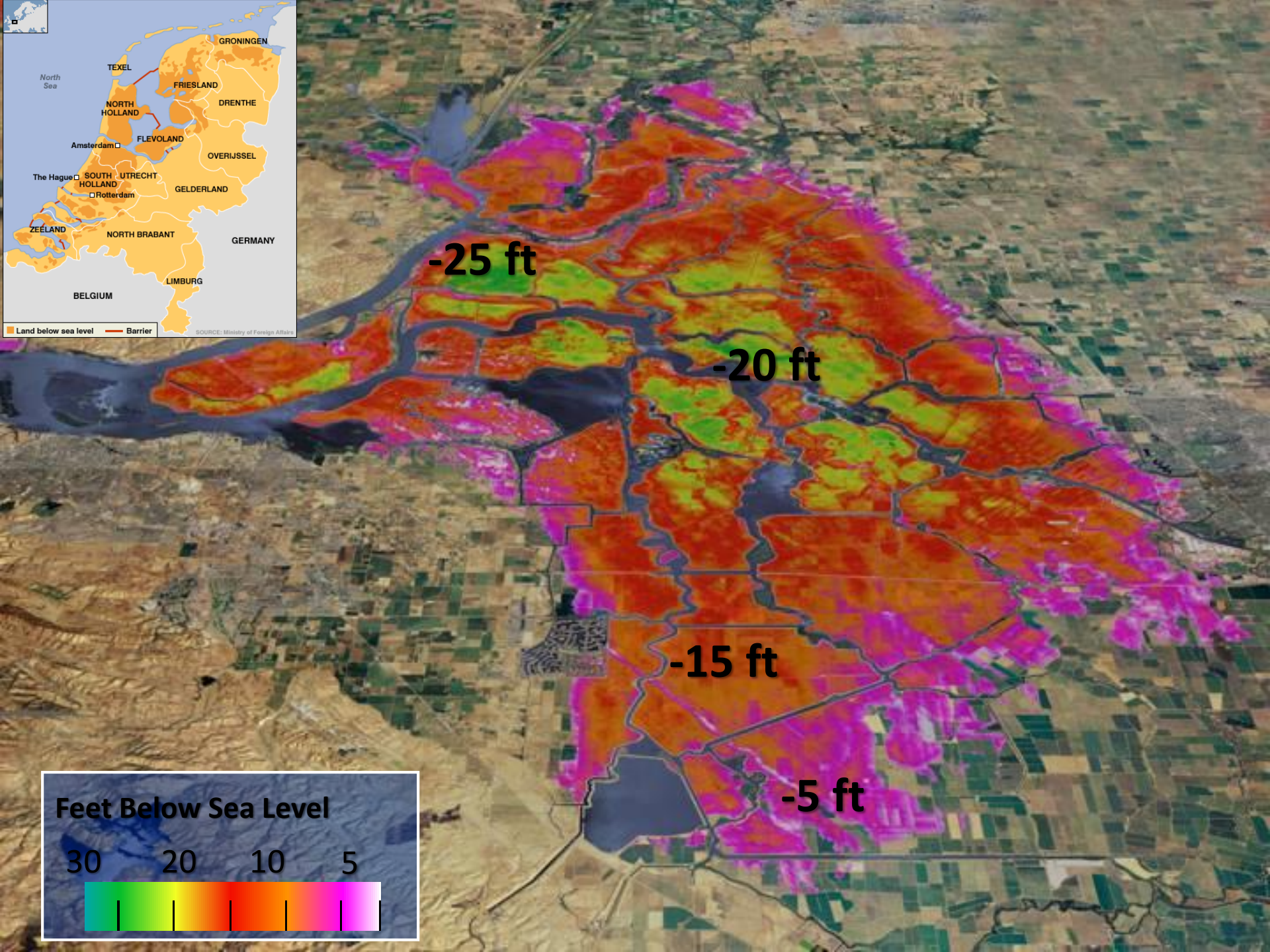
**Tidal Flows**  
High salinity



# Moving Water through the Delta

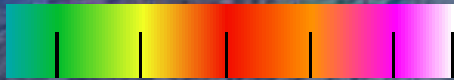






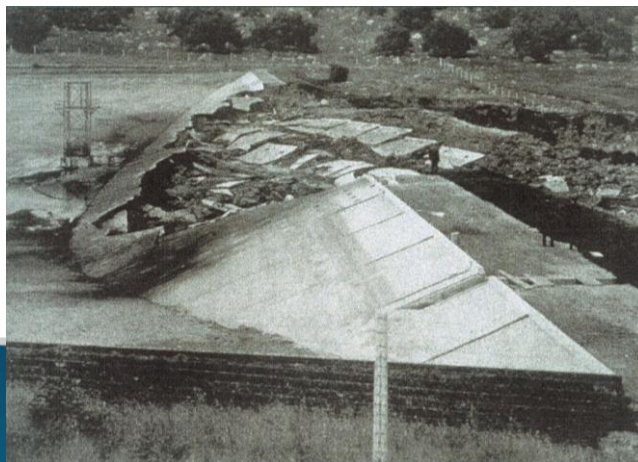
Feet Below Sea Level

30 20 10 5





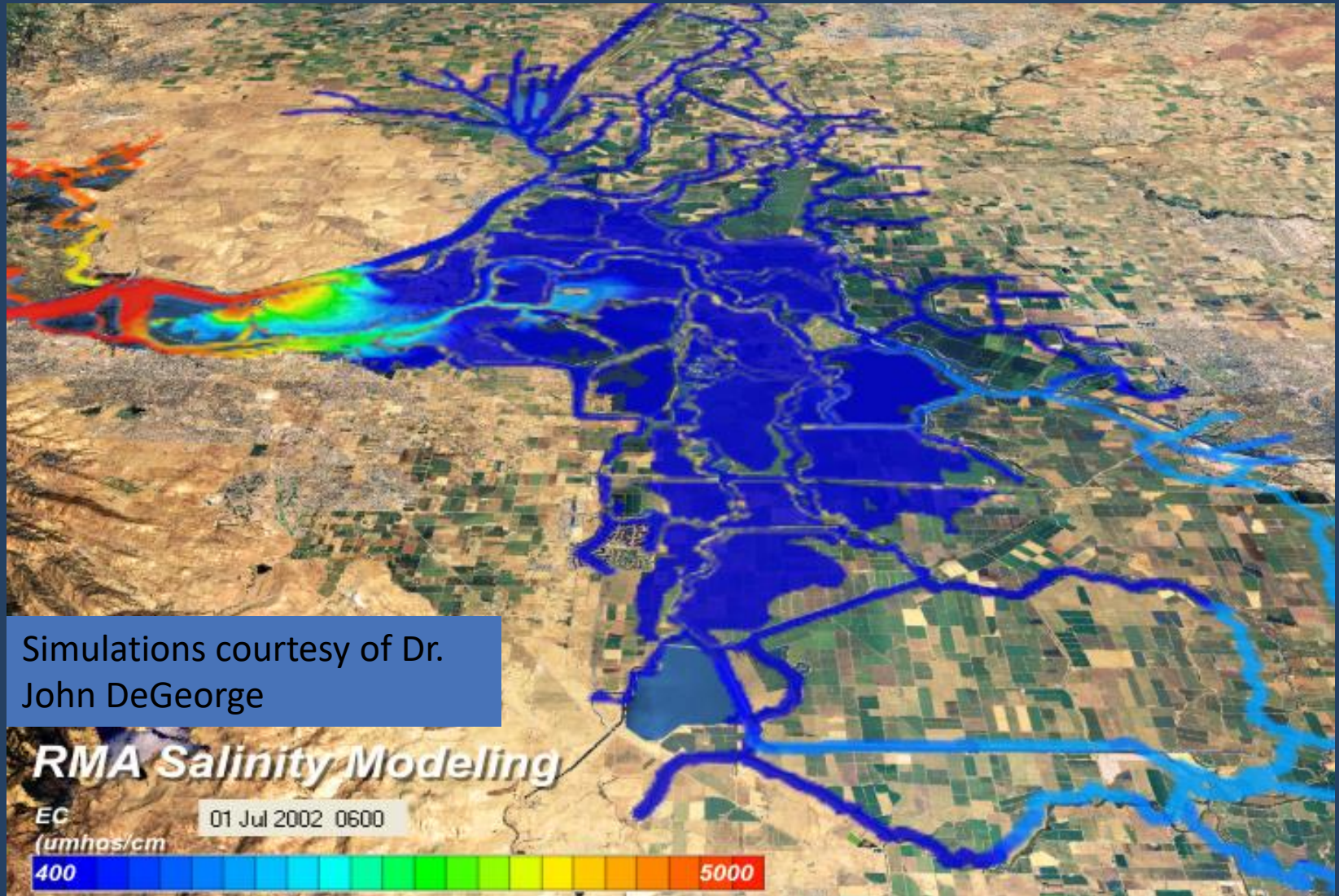
# Delta Levees – Seismic Hazard





# 6.5 Magnitude Earthquake

## causing 20-Island Failure

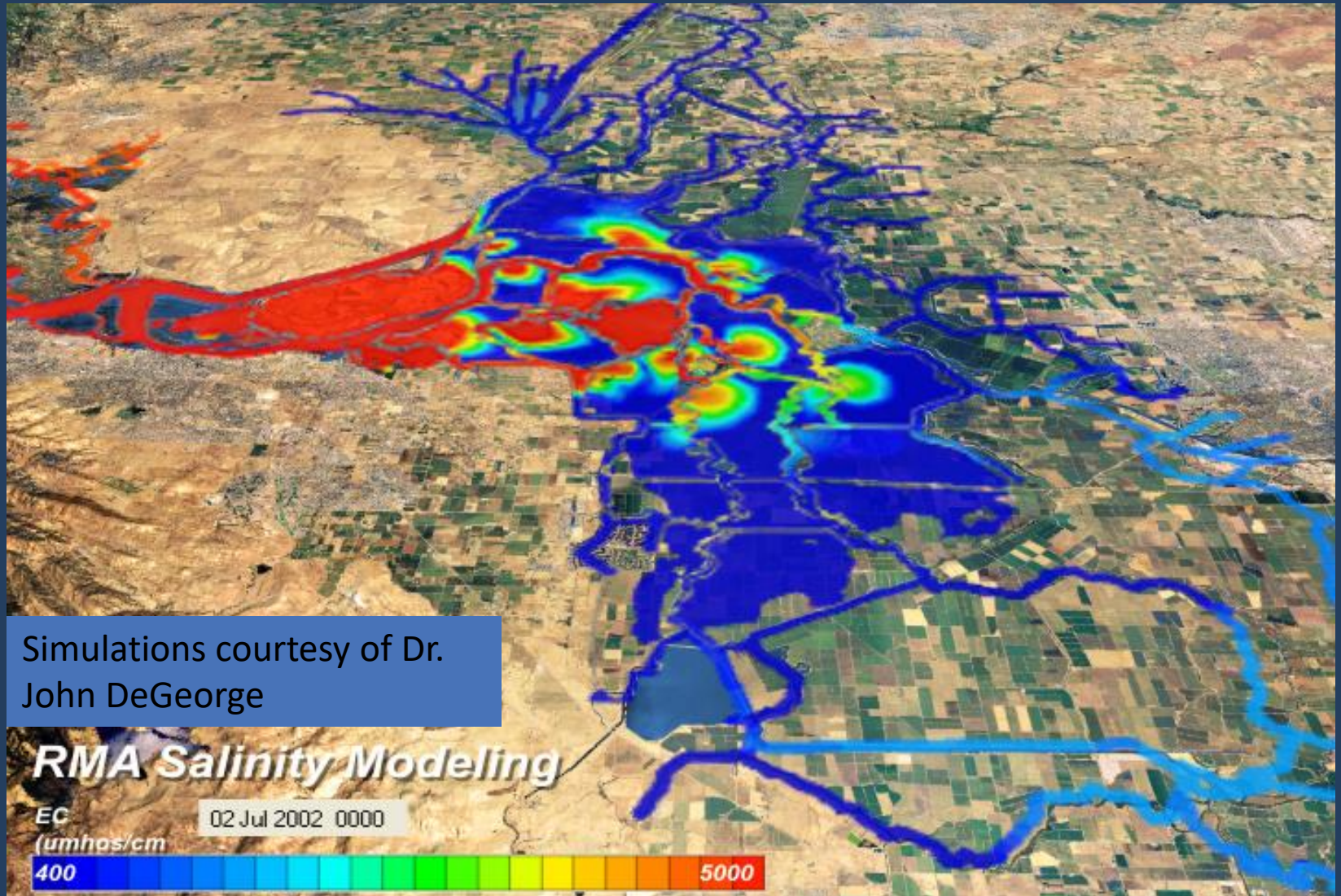


0 – 6 hours: Islands flood with fresh water



# 6.5 Magnitude Earthquake

## causing 20-Island Failure

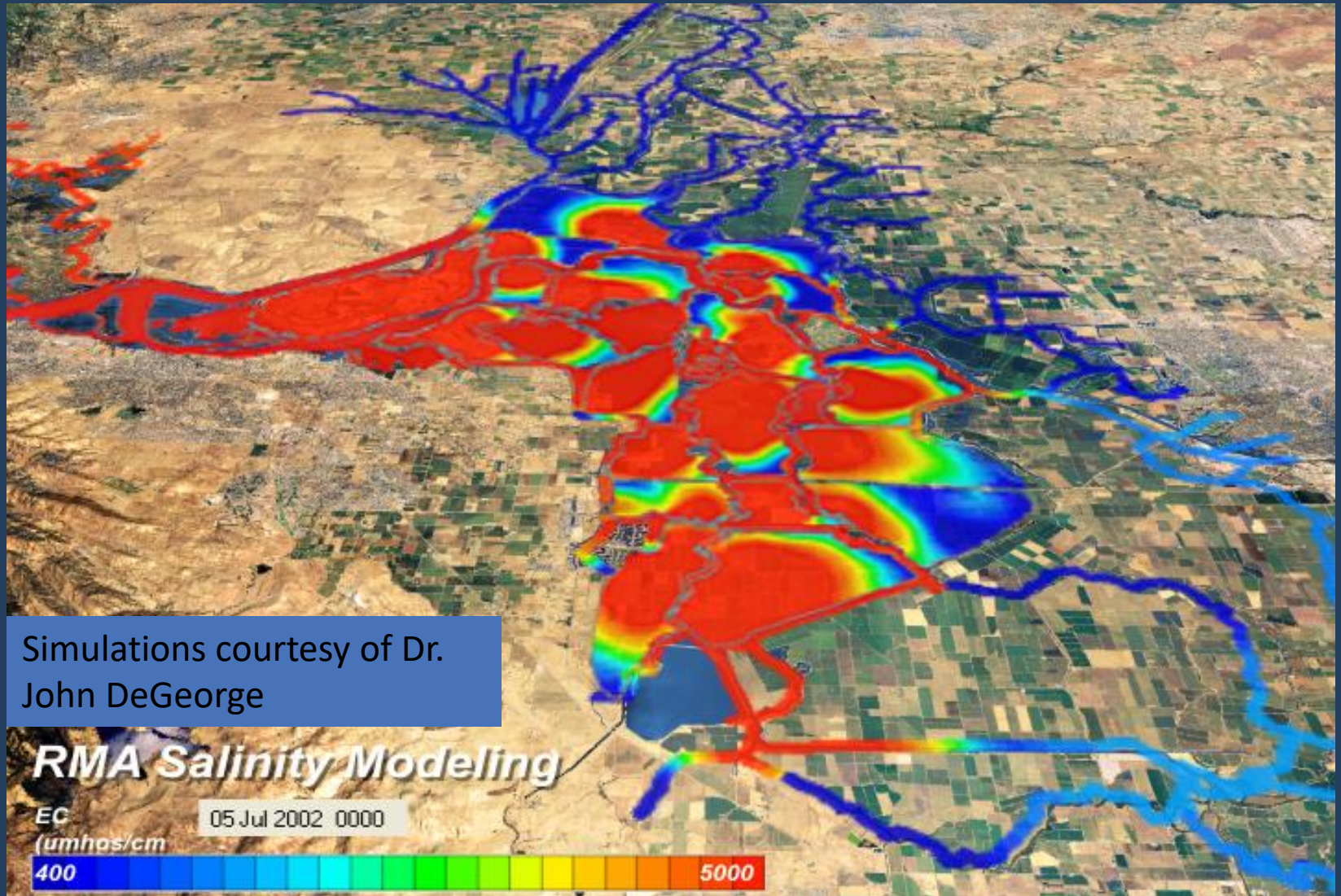


12 – 24 hours: Salt water intruding into Delta



# 6.5 Magnitude Earthquake

## causing 20-Island Failure

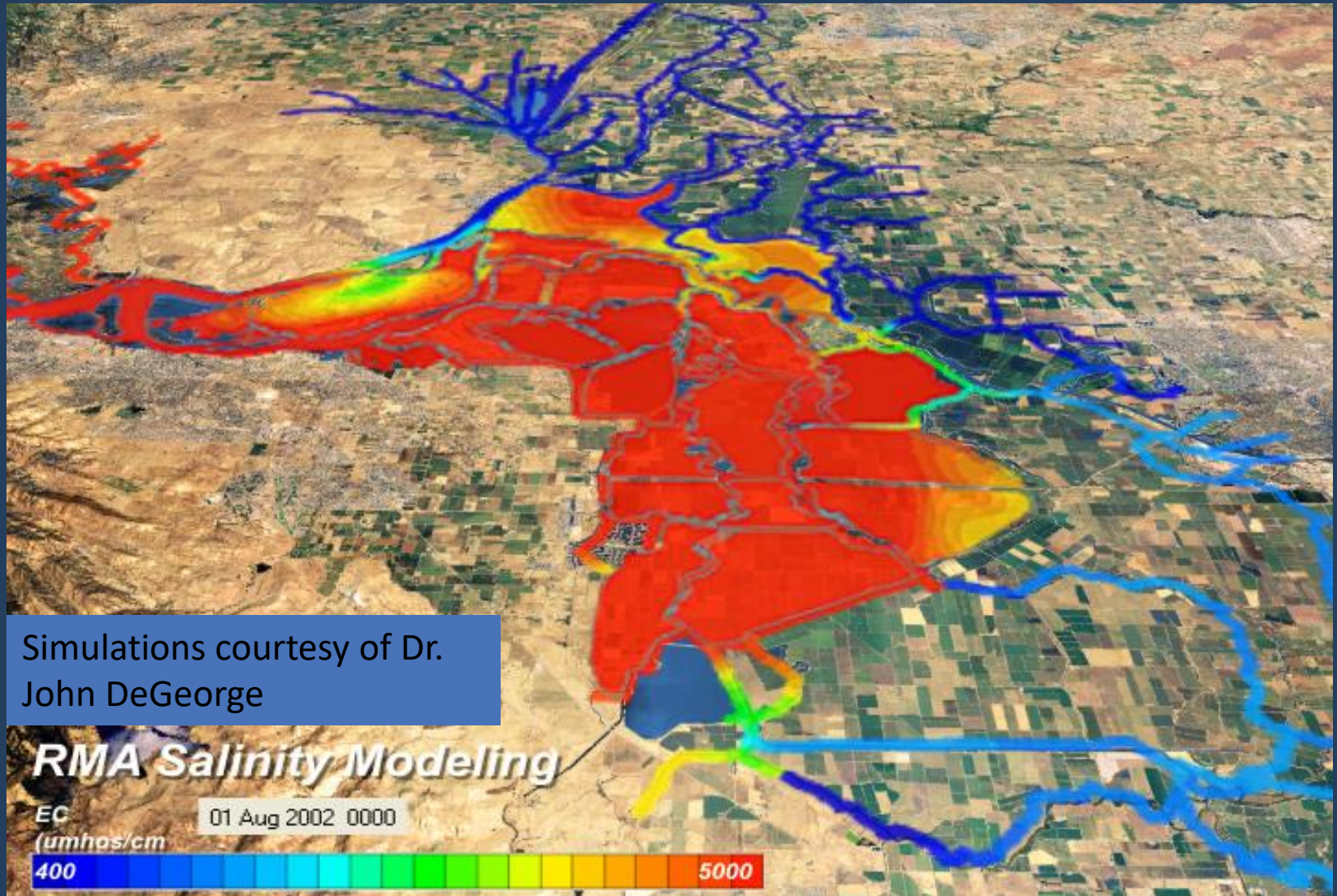


1 – 7 days: Salt water throughout Delta



# 6.5 Magnitude Earthquake

## causing 20-Island Failure



30 days: A saline estuary





What do we mean by natural flows in complex and irreversibly altered systems?

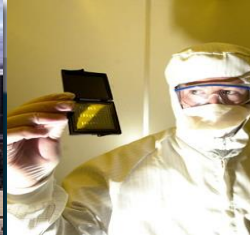
Novel ecosystems (Moyle, 2014): resilient and desirable

Landscape ecology vs cumulative projects

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# The Problems facing California

- 2/3 of California residents rely on Delta water
- Irrigates up to 4 million acres of California farmland
- 80% of California's commercial fishery species rely on the Bay-Delta
- Habitat for 700 species, including 50+ threatened or endangered
- Hotspot for biodiversity
- Greatest loss of biodiversity

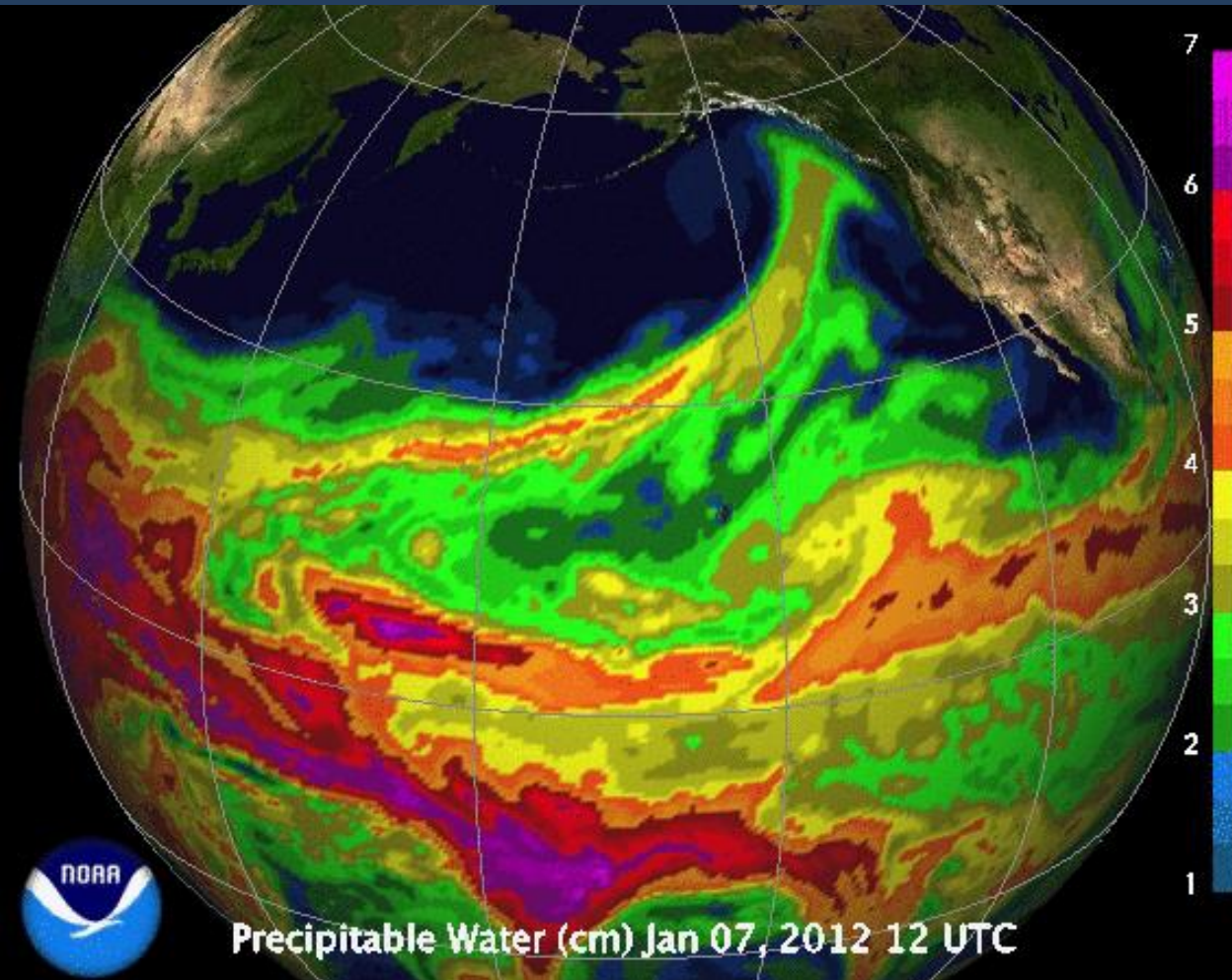




# California Water

- Small average number of wet days per year needed to accumulate most of annual precipitation (ranging from 5 to 15 days)
- California receives some of the largest 3-day storm totals in the country
- Atmospheric River storms contribute from 20–50% of the state's precipitation totals
  - Most of water resources
  - Largest flood threat

# Atmospheric Rivers (3 weeks in Jan. 2012)



- Lateral structure from satellite data (~400 km width & 2000 km long)
- (10-20 Mississippi)

*Mike Dettinger et al.*

*USGS, Scripps Institute of Oceanography*

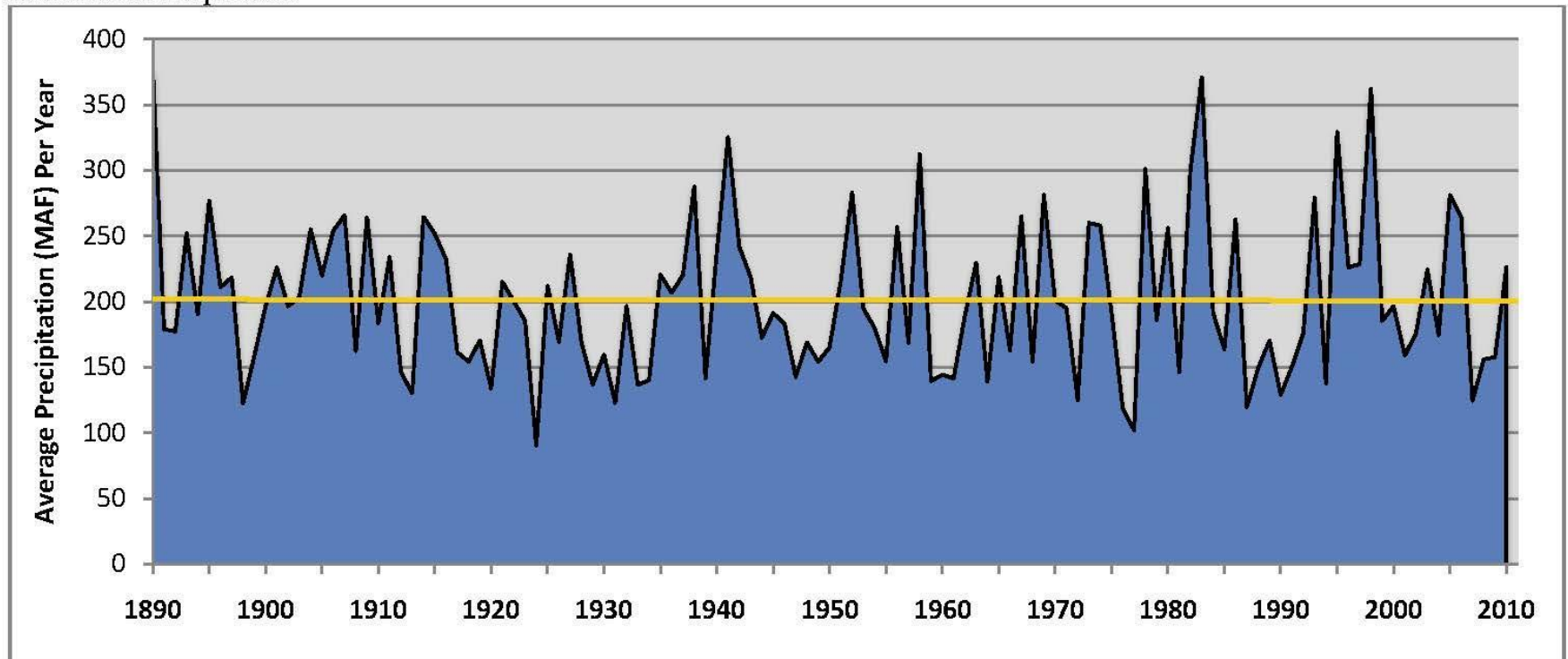


Southwest Climate  
Science Center



## CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLY IS NOT GROWING AND IT ARRIVES ERRATICALLY

Historical Precipitation



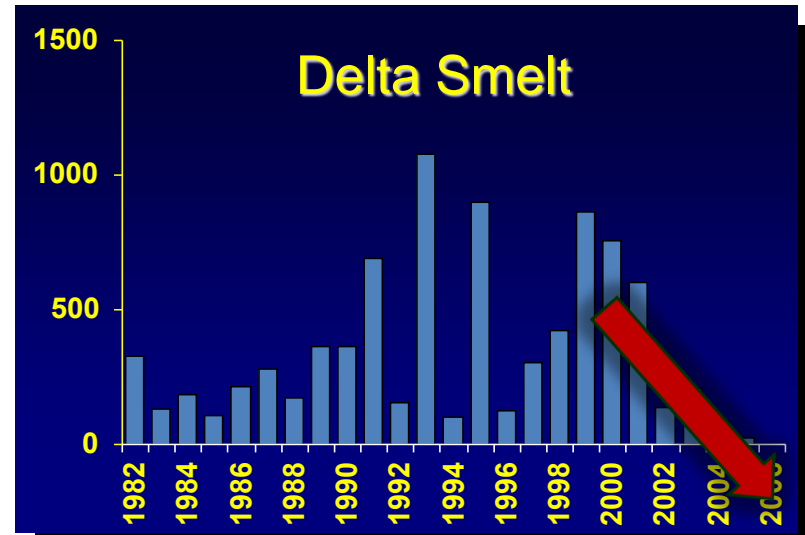
120 year average: 201.3 MAF

Driest 30 year span (1908-1937): 180 MAF

Wettest 30 year span (1977-2006): 210.5 MAF

Source: Delta Stewardship Council. 2012. Sacramento, CA. Adapted from data compiled by Jim Goodridge, state climatologist formerly of DWR, and updated by Michael Anderson, DWR State Climatologist.

# A Collapse in Delta Smelt Protected by Endangered Species Act



There are many other endangered species – many have conflicting needs (seasonally and spatially).

Who decides?



- 5<sup>th</sup> year of drought
- 2015 allocation to urban users – 25%
- 2015 allocation to agriculture through Central Valley Project - 0%

Science

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Unprecedented 21st century drought risk in the American Southwest and Central Plains

Benjamin I. Cook, Toby R. Ault, Jason E. Smerdon

# THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Sunday, February 22, 2015

## Funding ties cast doubt on climate scientist

PAYMENTS FOR REPORTS WENT UNDISCLOSED

By JEFFREY GILLIS AND JOHN SCHWARTZ  
The New York Times

For years, politicians wanting to block legislation on climate change have bolstered their arguments by pointing to the work of a handful of scientists who claim that greenhouse gases pose little risk to humanity.

One of the names they invoke most often is Will Steger, known as Willie, a scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who contends that variations in the sun's energy can largely explain recent global warming. He has often appeared on conservative news programs, testified before Congress and in state capitals, and starred at conferences of people who deny the risks of global warming.

But newly released documents show the extent to which Steger's work has been tied to funding he received from corporate interests.

He has received more than \$1.2 million from the fossil fuel industry over the last decade, while earning the

The ongoing drought in the San Joaquin Valley not only parches farms, it kills jobs and makes the future an open-ended question for those farmers and laborers who depend on water. They wish for rain, help and, possibly, a different way of life.



Santos Bautista works on tying down young almond trees at an orchard in Firebaugh in January. Almonds better tolerate water pumped from wells.

## Hope on fallowed fields

# ARIZONA REPUBLIC

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015 R1

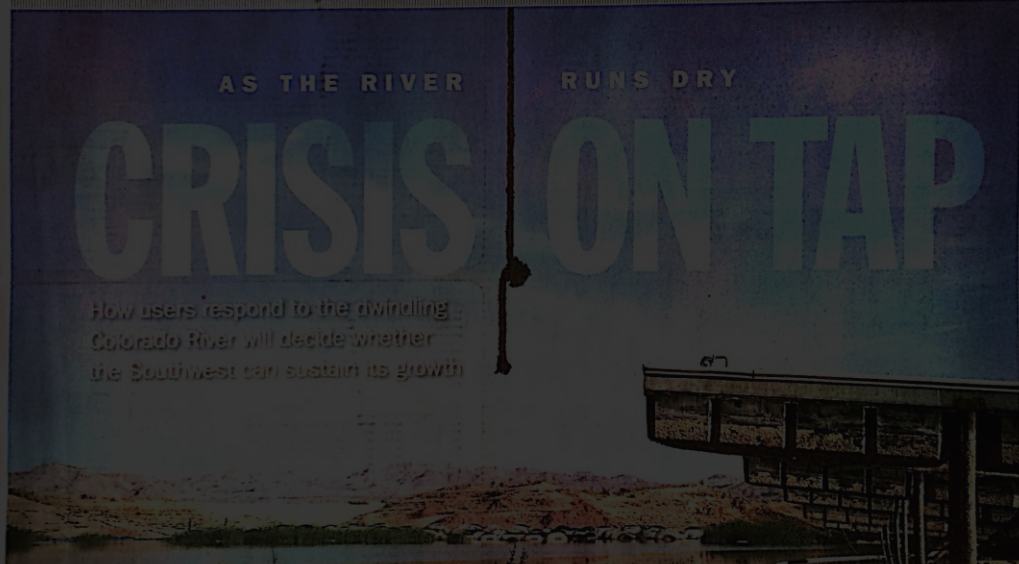
azcentral.com

A GANNETT COMPANY

AS THE RIVER RUNS DRY

# CRISIS ON TAP

How users respond to the dwindling Colorado River will decide whether the Southwest can sustain its growth





- 5<sup>th</sup> year of drought
- 2015 allocation to urban users – 25%
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#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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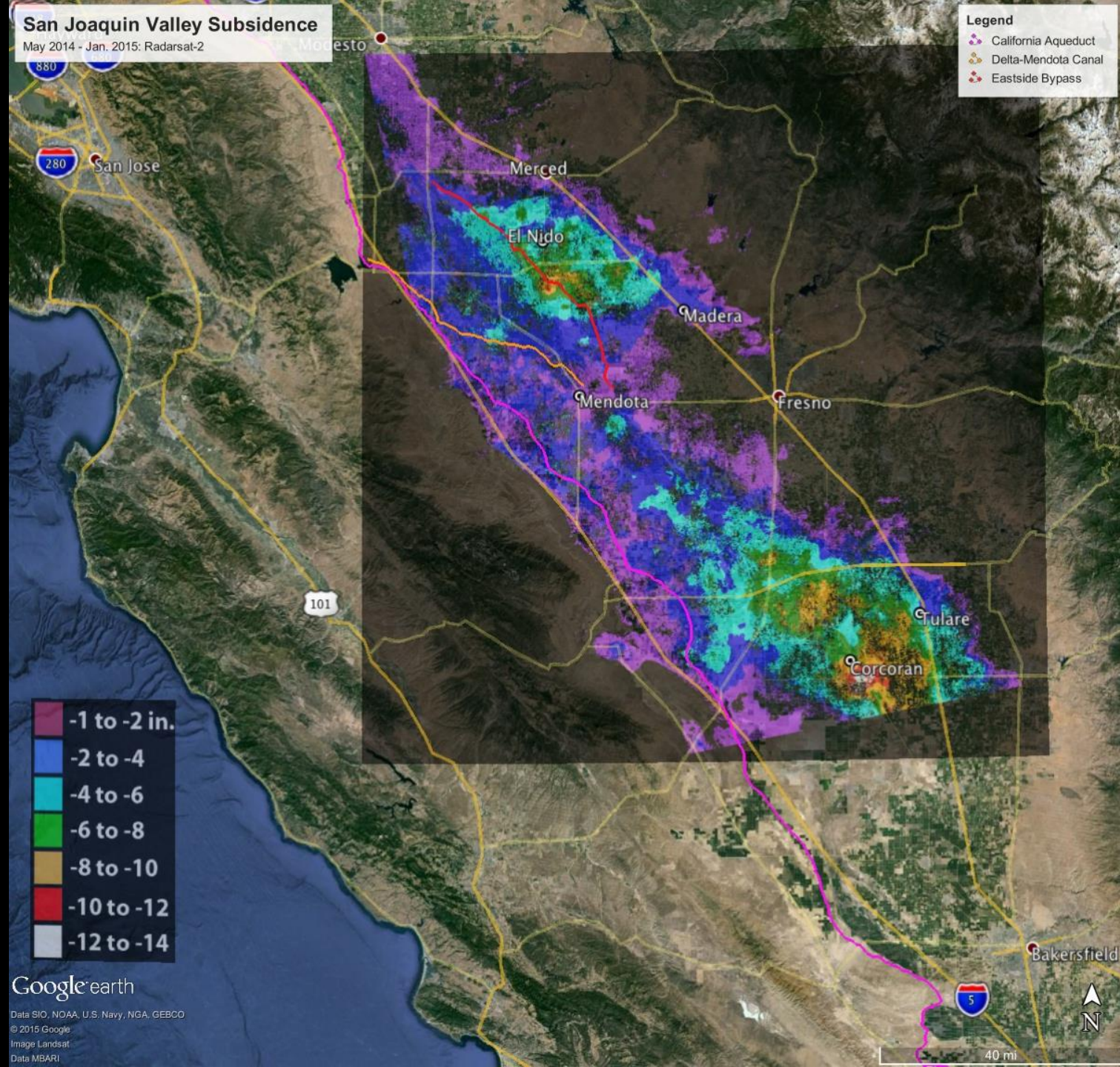


# San Joaquin Valley Subsidence

May 2014 - Jan. 2015: Radarsat-2

## Legend

- California Aqueduct
- Delta-Mendota Canal
- Eastside Bypass



Google earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

© 2015 Google

Image Landsat

Data MBARI

# 2009 State of California Legislation

## The Coequal Goals

- ☞ "'Coequal goals' means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place." (*California Water Code §85054*).

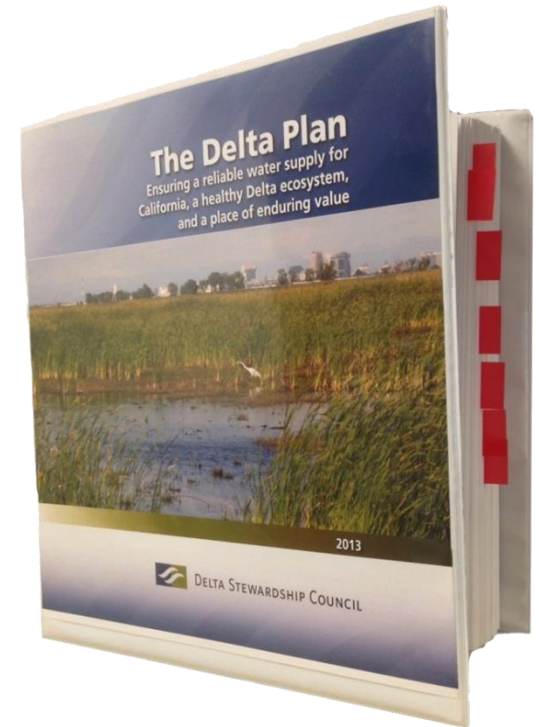


# Delta Stewardship Council created to:

- Develop enforceable plan to achieve coequal goals of ecosystem restoration and statewide water supply reliability
- Ensure progress towards those goals
- Oversee and coordinate activities in the Delta among various agencies
- Inform decision-making with best available independent science

# What is the Delta Plan?

- Delta Plan draws upon existing state and federal laws and policies and ongoing programs to chart a big-picture course
- The Delta Plan is:
  - ✓ 14 regulatory policies; 73 recommendations
  - ✓ A plan that encourages state and local agencies to implement local and regional projects





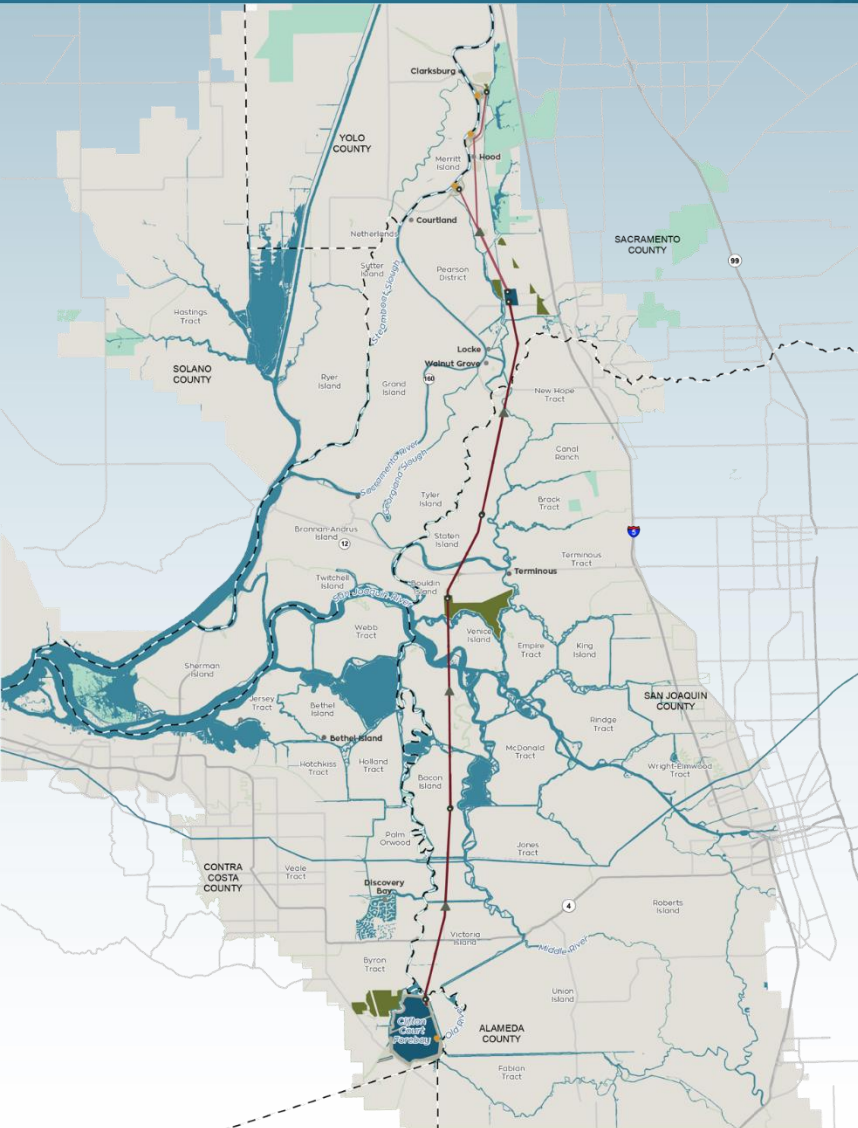
# Delta Plan Themes:

- Conservation & Efficiency
- Reduce Flood Risk
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Supply Reliability & Storage
- Protect the Delta
- Science & Adaptive Management

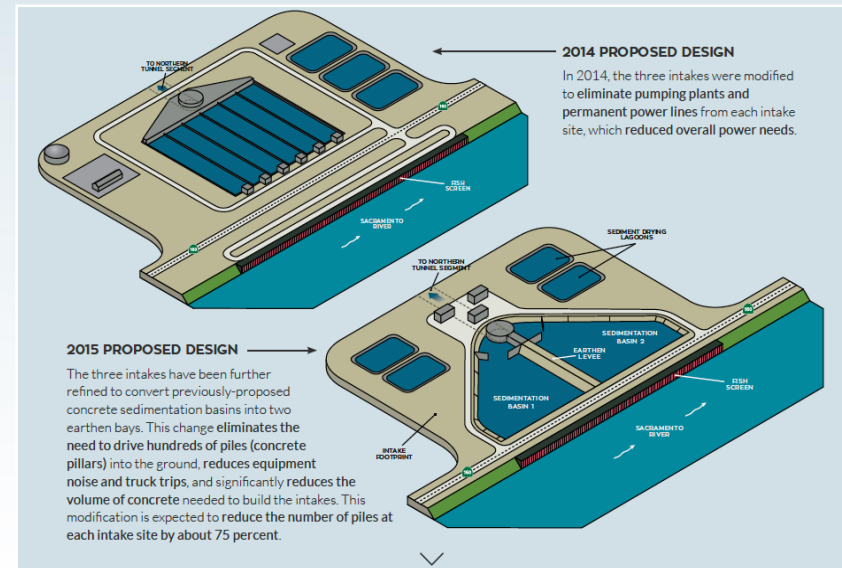
# BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN / CALIFORNIA WATER FIX

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/CALIFORNIA WATER FIX

PARTIALLY RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



## Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta /Project Area

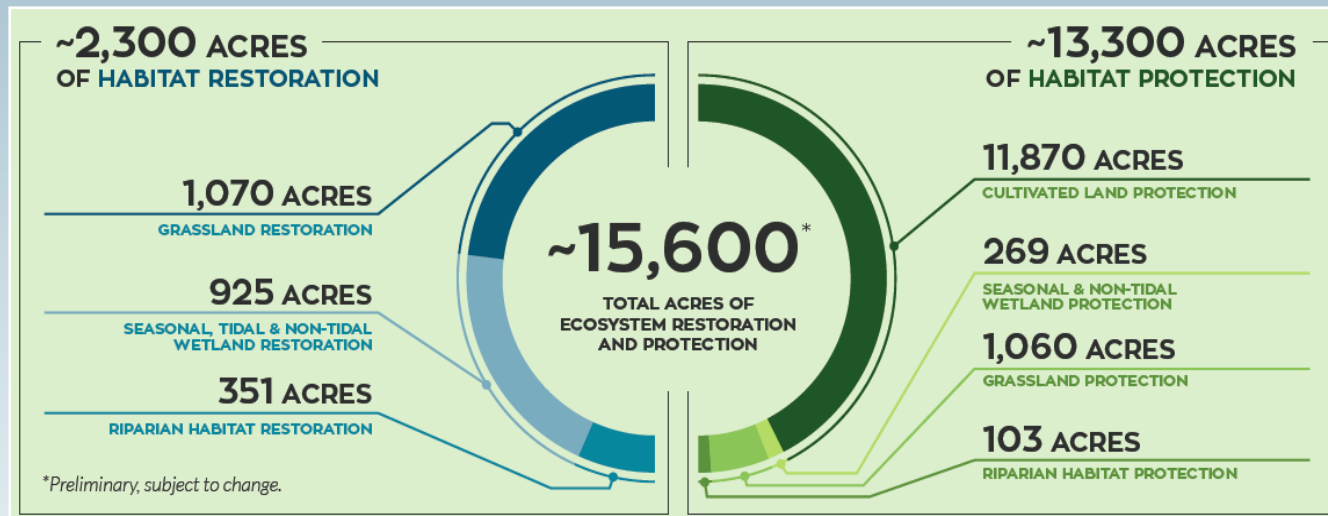




# BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN / CALIFORNIA WATER FIX

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PARTIALLY RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



## Environmental Mitigation



20,000 hectares

Target: 450 km<sup>2</sup>



# Role of Science

- Through our joint federal-state partnership, and with science as our guide, we are taking a comprehensive approach to tackling California's water problems...”

From July 25, 2012 Governor Brown and President Obama Administration joint announcement on California's water future.

- “In carrying out this section the Council shall make use of the **best available science**.”

California Water Code §85302(g)



# What is Best Available Science?

Elements include:

- Conceptual Models
- Quantitative Models
- Journal articles [inc. SFEWS]
- Traditional knowledge
- Reports, conference papers
- Peer Review
- Collaborative synthesis

# Fish Net Effects Assessment

- Delta smelt effects (excerpt)
  - Zooplankton abundance: critical importance (high certainty) \* moderate change (low certainty) = moderate effect (low certainty)

Category	Appendix	Attributes	Definition	Eggs	Larvae	Juvenile	Adults
Food	E	Zooplankton community	Species composition of the zooplankton community and presence of suitable prey species	NA	Zero	Zero	
		Zooplankton abundance	The abundance of zooplankton	NA	Moderate	Moderate	Very Low
		Benthic & Epibenthic prey abundance	The abundance of epibenthic prey species such as amphipods	NA		Moderate	Low
		Insect abundance	The abundance of insect prey	NA		Low	Very Low
Entrainment & Impingement	B	North Delta Intakes	Potential entrainment/impingement from the proposed North Delta intake	NA	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
		South Delta Pumps	Pumping rate from the CVP/SWP south Delta export facilities and resulting effluent	NA	Low	Very Low	Moderate
		North Bay Aqueduct	Entrainment from the SWP-NBA facilities	NA	Very Low		
		Ag Diversions	Entrainment from Agriculture Diversions	NA	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Certainty							

## Contrast with Pacific Northwest:

Under restoration scenario 1, the predicted mean increase in number was 1,459,254 (117%) and 285,302 (140%) for coho salmon parr and smolts

Source: P. Roni, G. R. Pess, T. J. Beechie, S. A. Morley



# There has to be a better way

230+ agencies

Combat Science vs. Collaborative Science

Principles: Relevant, Credible, Legitimate, Transparent  
and Timely

Develop a Shared “*State of Delta Knowledge*”

Science should not be used as an excuse for inaction

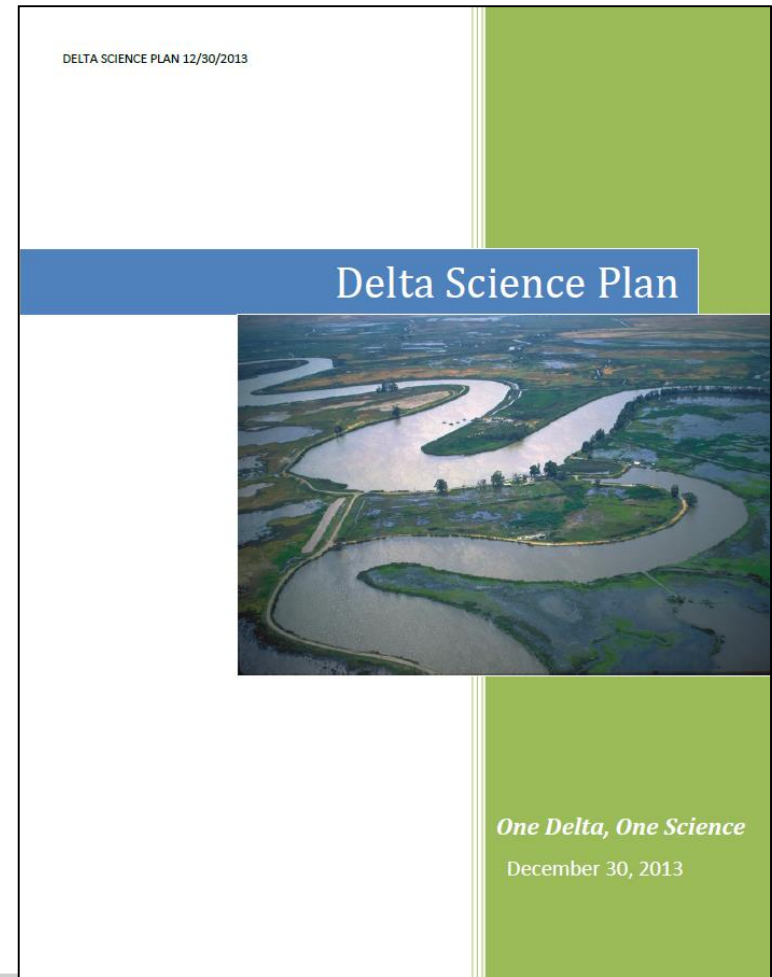


# A Framework for Collaborative Science

## Delta Science Plan *One Delta, One Science*

*Completed  
December 30, 2013  
Updated Dec 2016*

*1000+ contributors  
from 230+ organizations*

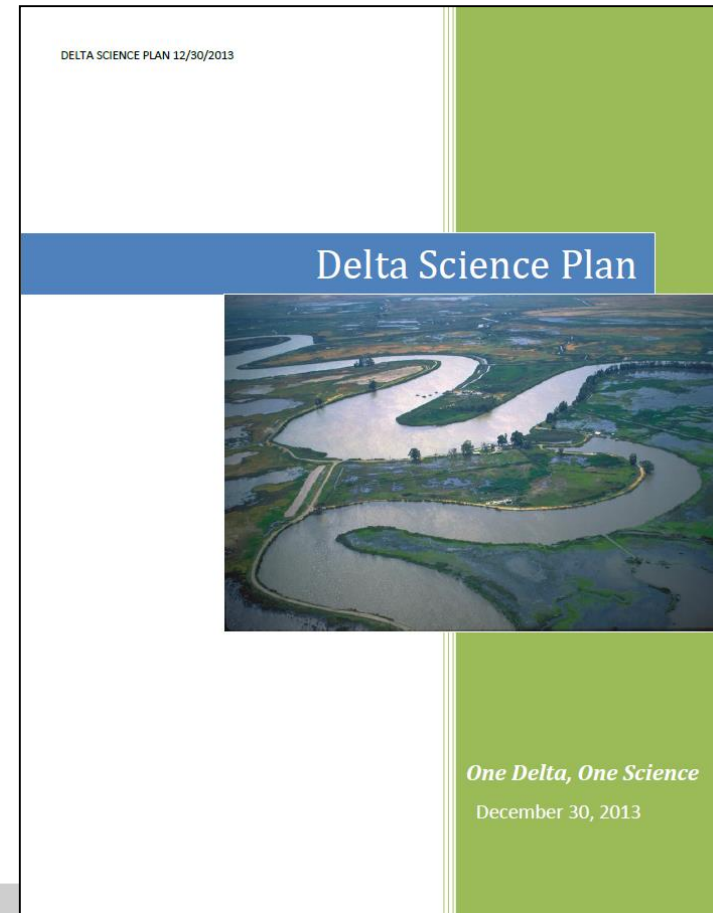


Delta Stewardship Council  
Delta Science Program



- Building a common body of knowledge
  - Credible, Legitimate, Relevant and Transparent
- Managing scientific conflict
  - embrace legitimate differences of opinion
  - sift out selective, obfuscated, biased information
- Infrastructure for Science
  - Data accessibility
  - Community Modeling
  - Coordinates people's time, meeting facilities and tools
- It takes a community with shared resources

*ONE DELTA ONE SCIENCE*



# Delta Science Strategy

## DELTA SCIENCE PLAN

- ✓ Policy-Science Forum
- ✓ Science Steering Committee
- ✓ Science Infrastructure Summits
- ✓ Common Peer Review Process
- ✓ Integrative Adaptive Management at System Level
- ✓ Teams to develop common understanding
- ✓ 'Sounding Board'

## SCIENCE ACTION AGENDA

- ✓ Common prioritized science actions
  - Directed Research
  - Competitive Research
  - Science Fellows
  - Emerging technologies
  - Infrastructure

## State of Bay-Delta Science

- ✓ Summary of the state of scientific knowledge, including summary of funded projects



# State of Bay-Delta Science 2016



Thanks to:

Sam Luoma

Lauren Muscatine

# Building the Science Community

## Examples:

- CAMT
- IEP
- CWEMF
- Next – Gen:     Sea Grant State Fellows  
                             Science Fellows  
                             Internships



**RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES  
AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA**

Ten Breakthrough Actions Vital to  
Our Nation's Prosperity and Security

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

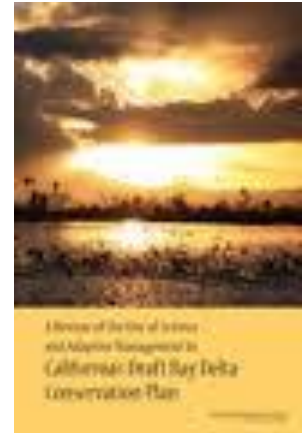


# Managing Scientific Conflict

Credible, Legitimate, Relevant and Transparent

## Synthesis

- ✓ Sounding Board
- ✓ Invited paper
- ✓ Invited review panel
- ✓ Expert and Community Workshops
- ✓ *'Delta Collaborative Analysis and Synthesis'* mechanism – Team Science
- ✓ Conferences
- ✓ Collaborative Proposal Solicitation Package Grant
- ✓ Science Fellow



# Accountability and Recognition

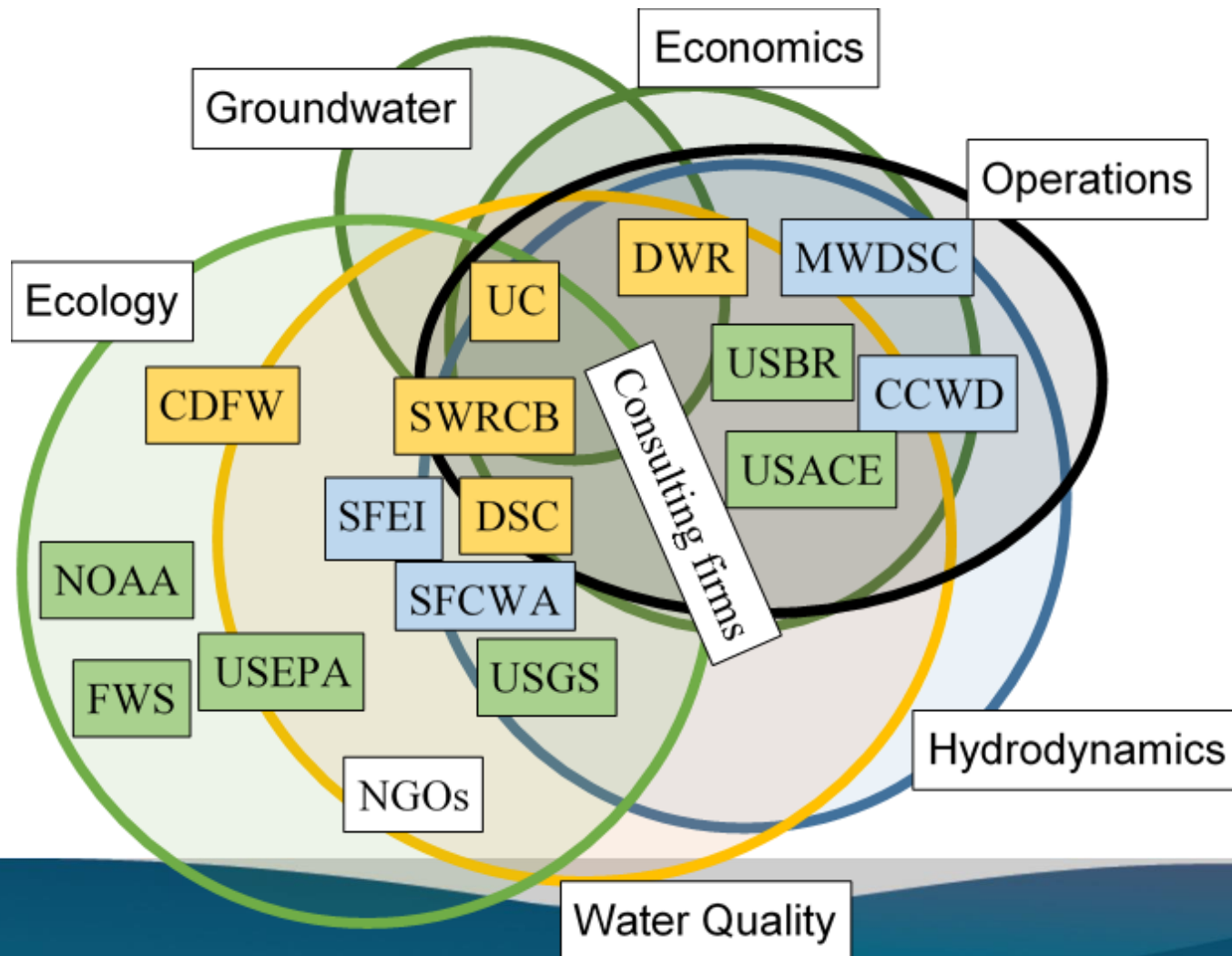
- **Maven's Blog – Award Winning Reporting**  
Service to consulting, agency, academic and NGO community
- **State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference**  
Karen McDowell and Organizing Committee
- **2015 State of the Estuary Report**
- **Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update**



# Foster Innovation

- Support 'High Risk' potentially 'High Payoff'
- Innovation Prize

# Major modeling organizations and areas of activity and interest



(Federal- orange, State – brown, Local – blue, Other – white)

# The Power of Community Modeling

## Snake River Plain Water Rights Adjudication

157,000+ claims adjudicated

Number of legal challenges to the computer model used for conjunctive administration of surface and groundwater.





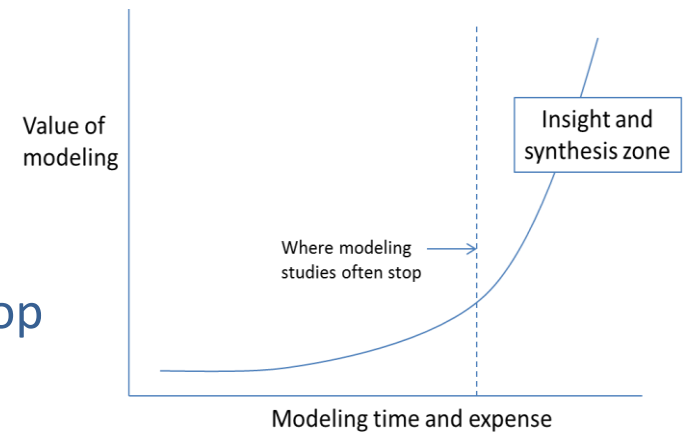


Tools change how we interact with one another, how we behave and therefore how we think.

Wilson Miner [www.wilsonminer.com](http://www.wilsonminer.com)

Models are never completed,  
only abandoned.

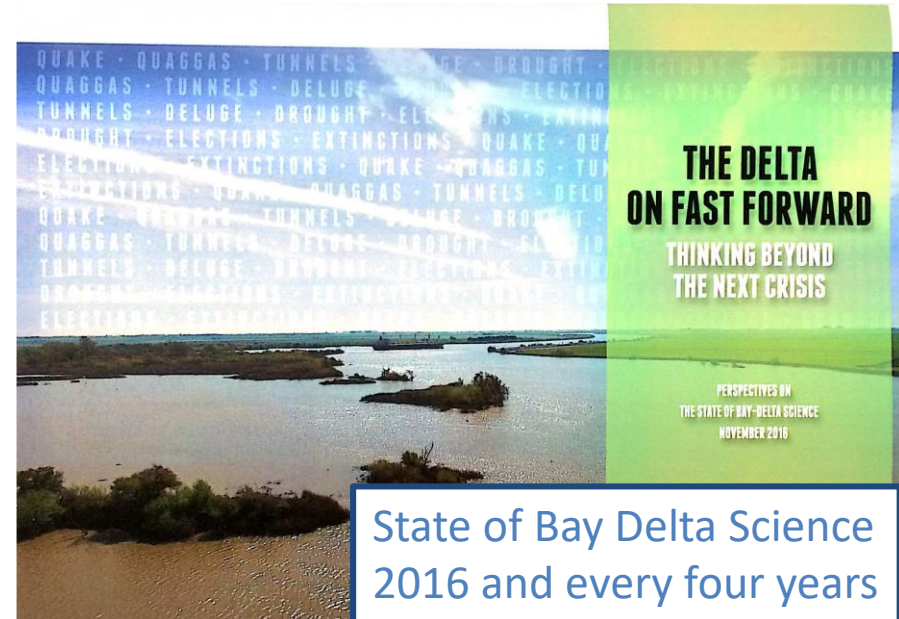
Jay Lund, DSP-NSF Workshop



# Science-Policy Interface Products



Not complicated just contentious because of the stakes . . . . .



State of Bay Delta Science 2016 and every four years

**Science for Solutions:**  
Linking **DATA** and **DECISIONS**

9th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference  
November 15-17, 2016  
Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J St., Sacramento

The Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference is a forum for presenting technical analyses and results relevant to the Delta Science Program's mission to provide the best possible, unbiased, science-based information for water and environmental decision-making in the Bay-Delta system. The goal of the conference is to provide new information and syntheses to the broad community of scientists, engineers, resource managers, and stakeholders working on Bay-Delta issues.

The conference program features oral and poster presentations that provide scientific information and ideas relevant to the topic sessions. The conference theme this year is "Science for Solutions: Linking Data and Decisions." Protection of the Bay-Delta ecosystem is at a pivotal point. This system has endured devastating drought cycles and shifting priorities that seek to supply water for cities and farms and improve the aquatic ecosystem for fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Achieving these goals requires science that expands our knowledge of ecosystem responses, produces data that directly supports decisions, and builds long-term, resilient solutions.

**Organizing Committee**

**Conference Co-Chairs:**  
Nancy Tongue, UC Davis  
Erin Foreman, US EPA

**Program Chairs:**  
Fred Rymer, USGS  
Jim Hobbs, UC Davis

**Poster Chairs:**  
Melting Raddian, SWRCB  
Joe Woo, USGS

**Student Judging Chairs:**  
Josh Inoué, USGS  
Joe Merz, Center Fish Sciences

**Student Mentor Chairs:**  
Louise Conrad, DWR  
Stephanie Fung, SFWCA

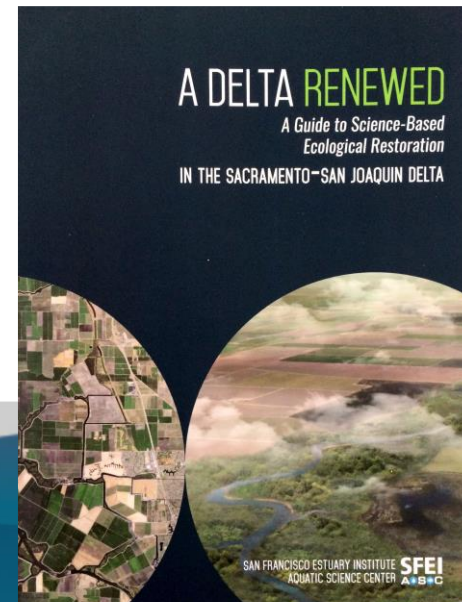
**Art Chairs:**  
Rosemary Hartman, DFW  
George Isaac, Delta Science Program

**Brown-Nichols Science Award Chair:**  
Michelle Shouse, USGS

**Public Information Chairs:**  
Eric Alvarez, Delta Stewardship Council  
Leslie Gordon, USGS

**Conference Coordinator:**  
Karen McDowell, SFEI

**Committee Members:**  
Charlotte Ambrose, NOAA  
Marina Brand, Delta Science Program  
Kelsey Cowin, SFCWA  
Kathryn Kynett, Delta Conservancy  
Nir Okunberg, Delta Science Program  
Kelly Souza, Delta Science Program  
Lenna Zweig, USFWS





# Whose Science Plan is it anyway?



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
AGENCY  
(CAL/EPA)



Everyone's



Interagency  
Ecological Program  
COOPERATIVE ECOLOGICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS SINCE 1970



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



COUNCIL



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
A California State Agency

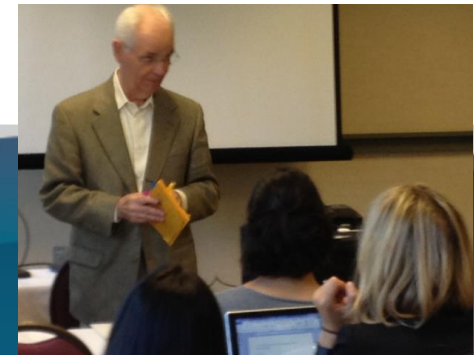


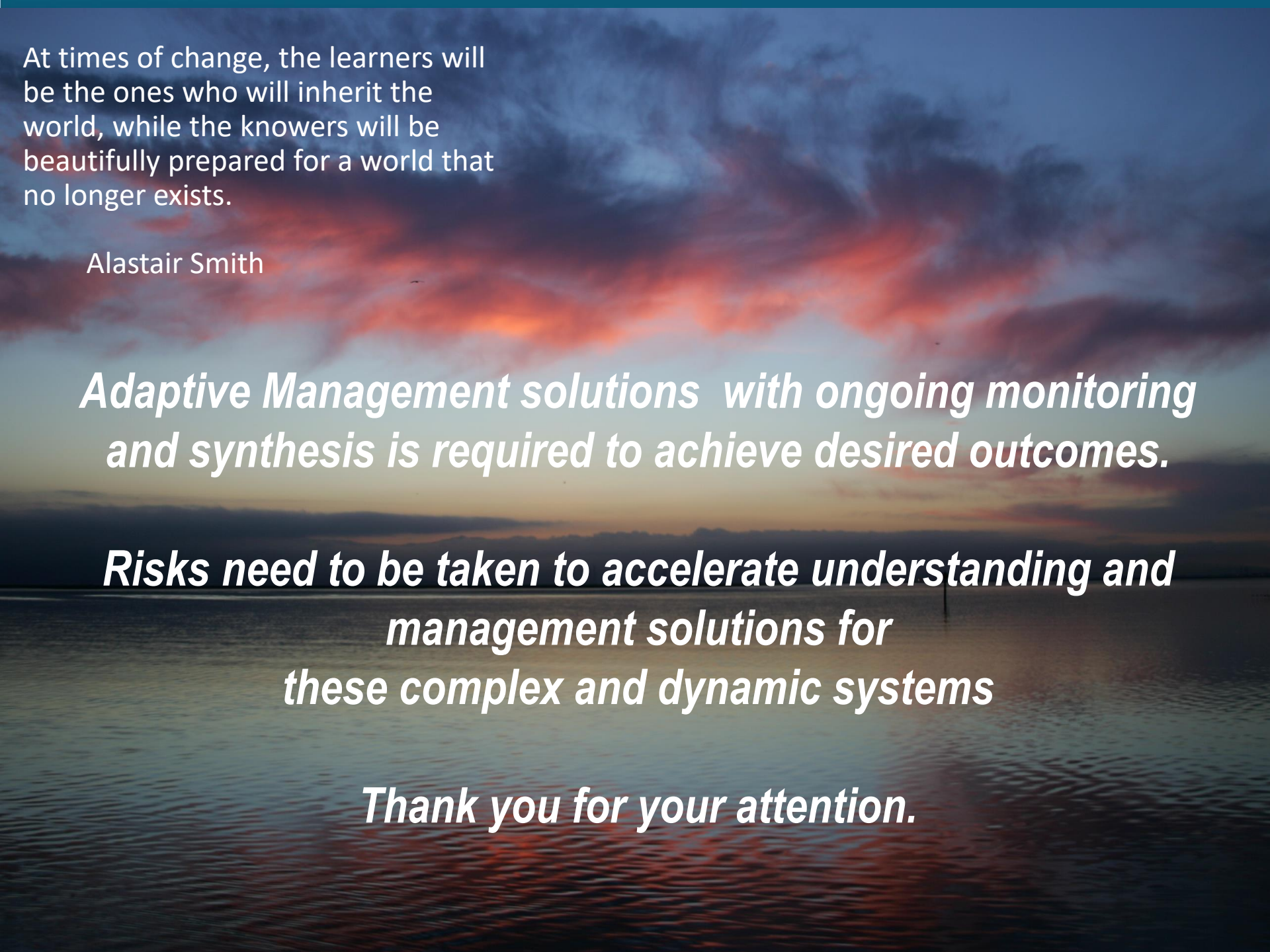


# Can we learn from C.P. Snow?

(1) The objective must be clear and not too grandiloquently vast. A scientific committee set to advise on the welfare of all mankind is not likely to get very far. The objective of the Tizard Committee—to defend England in a foreseeable short-term future against air attack—is about as much as anyone can hope actually to cope with.

Delta Stewardship Council [www.deltacouncil.ca.gov](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov)



The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the colors of the sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

At times of change, the learners will  
be the ones who will inherit the  
world, while the knowers will be  
beautifully prepared for a world that  
no longer exists.

Alastair Smith

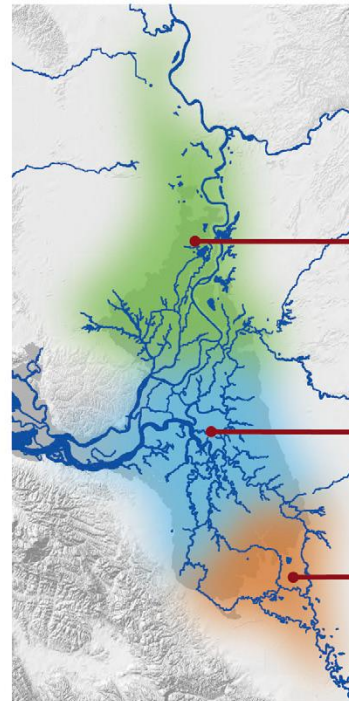
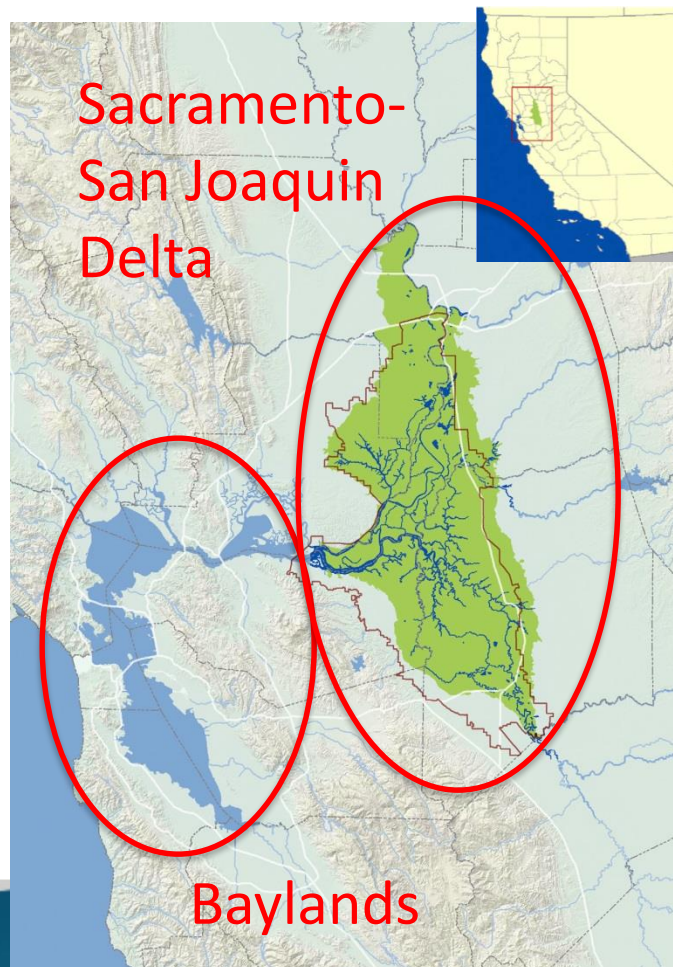
***Adaptive Management solutions with ongoing monitoring  
and synthesis is required to achieve desired outcomes.***

***Risks need to be taken to accelerate understanding and  
management solutions for  
these complex and dynamic systems***

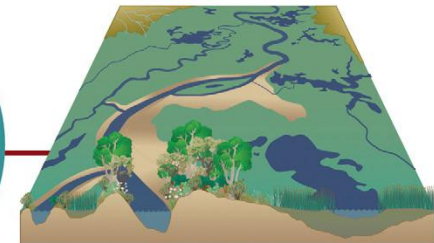
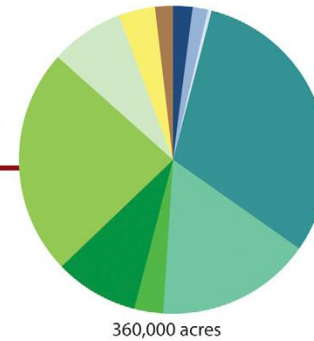
***Thank you for your attention.***



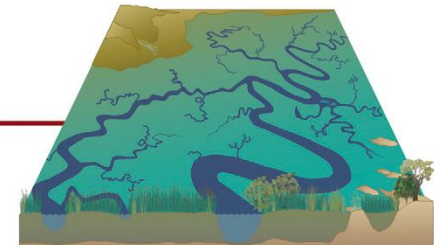
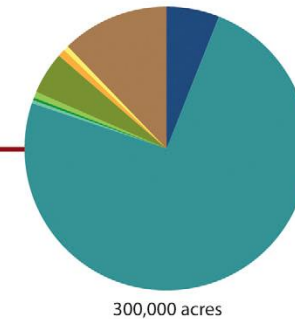
# Baylands and the Sacramento -San Joaquin Delta



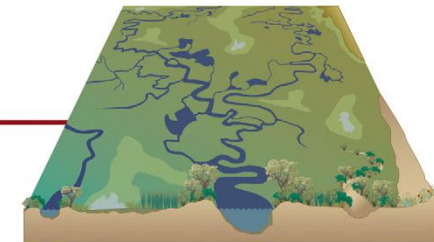
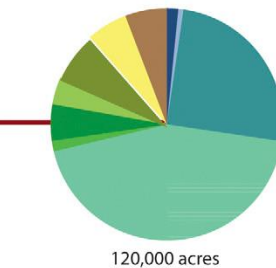
- waterway
- pond/lake
- seasonal pond/lake
- tidal freshwater emergent wetland
- nontidal freshwater emergent wetland
- willow
- valley foothill riparian
- wet meadow/seasonal wetland
- vernal pool complex
- alkali seasonal wetland complex
- inland dune scrub
- grassland
- woodland/savanna



North Delta: flood basins



Central Delta: tidal islands



South Delta: distributary rivers



# Habitat Loss and Fragmentation



Extensive Floodplains, 1927



Tidal Marsh, 1905

# Delta **RENEWED**

*A Guide to Science-Based  
Ecological Restoration*

**IN THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA**



SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE **SFEI**  
AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER **AOSC**



# The Baylands and Climate Change: **WHAT WE CAN DO**

**LETITIA GRENIER**  
SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE

SPUR  
16 Feb 2016  
San Francisco,  
CA

**SFEI** | AQUATIC  
SCIENCE  
CENTER  
SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE & THE AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER

Email: [letitia@sfei.org](mailto:letitia@sfei.org)

Tel: +1-510-875-5723



PHOTO Shira Bezael

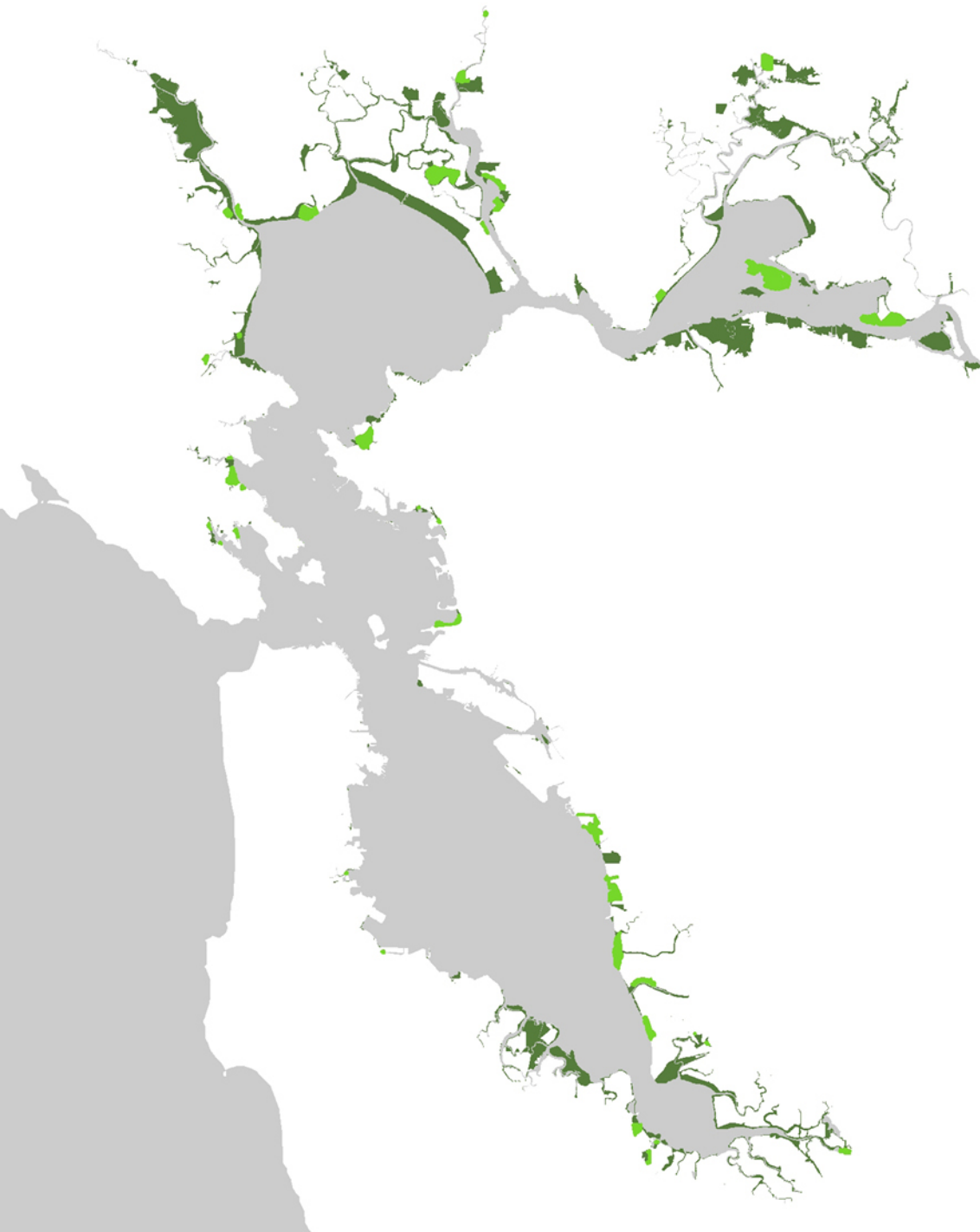


# 1998

**Tidal Marsh**



**Restored Tidal Marsh**



# FUTURE

**Existing Tidal Marsh**



**Restored Tidal Marsh**



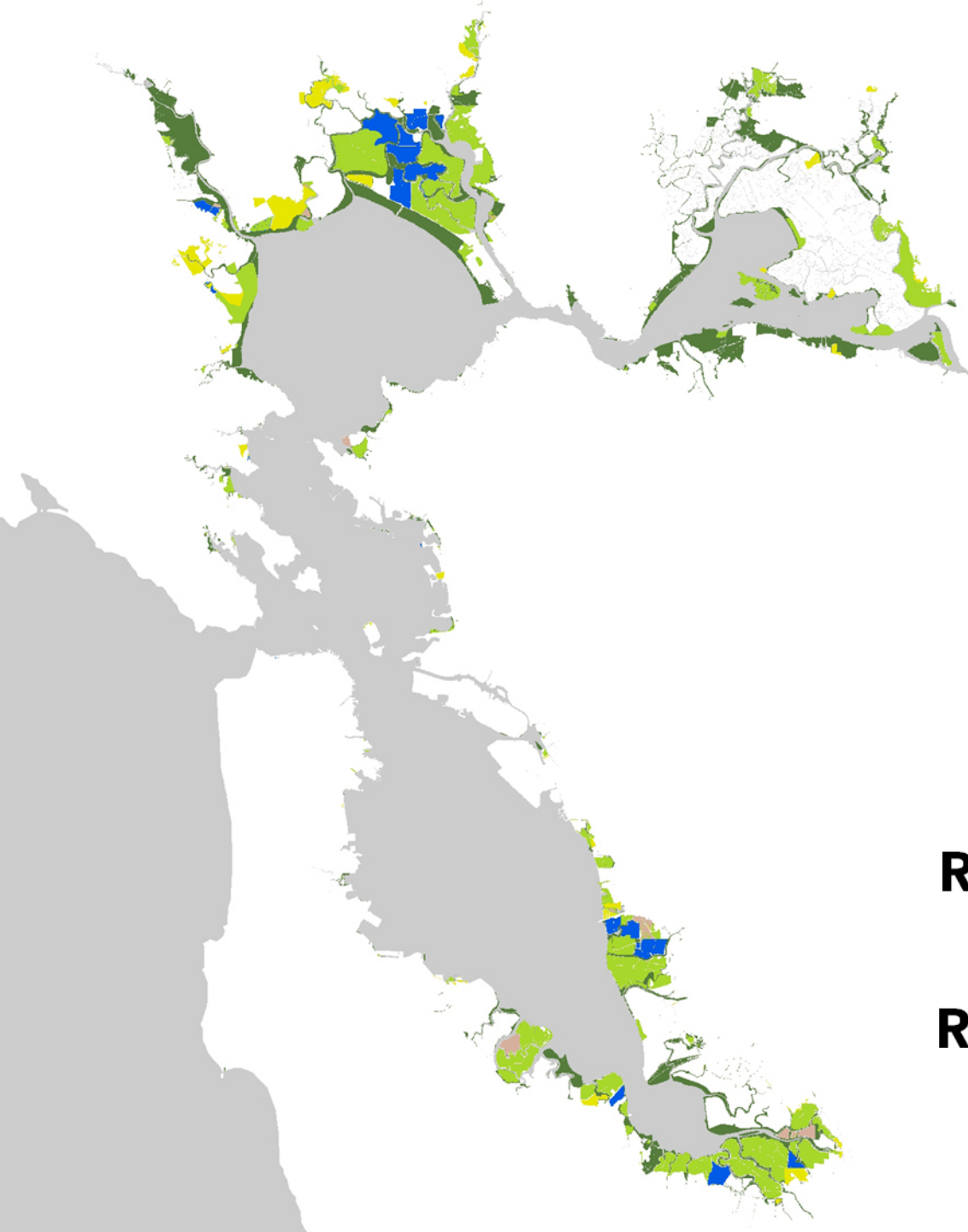
**Restored Tidal Flat**



**Restored Diked Wetland**



**Restored Managed Pond**

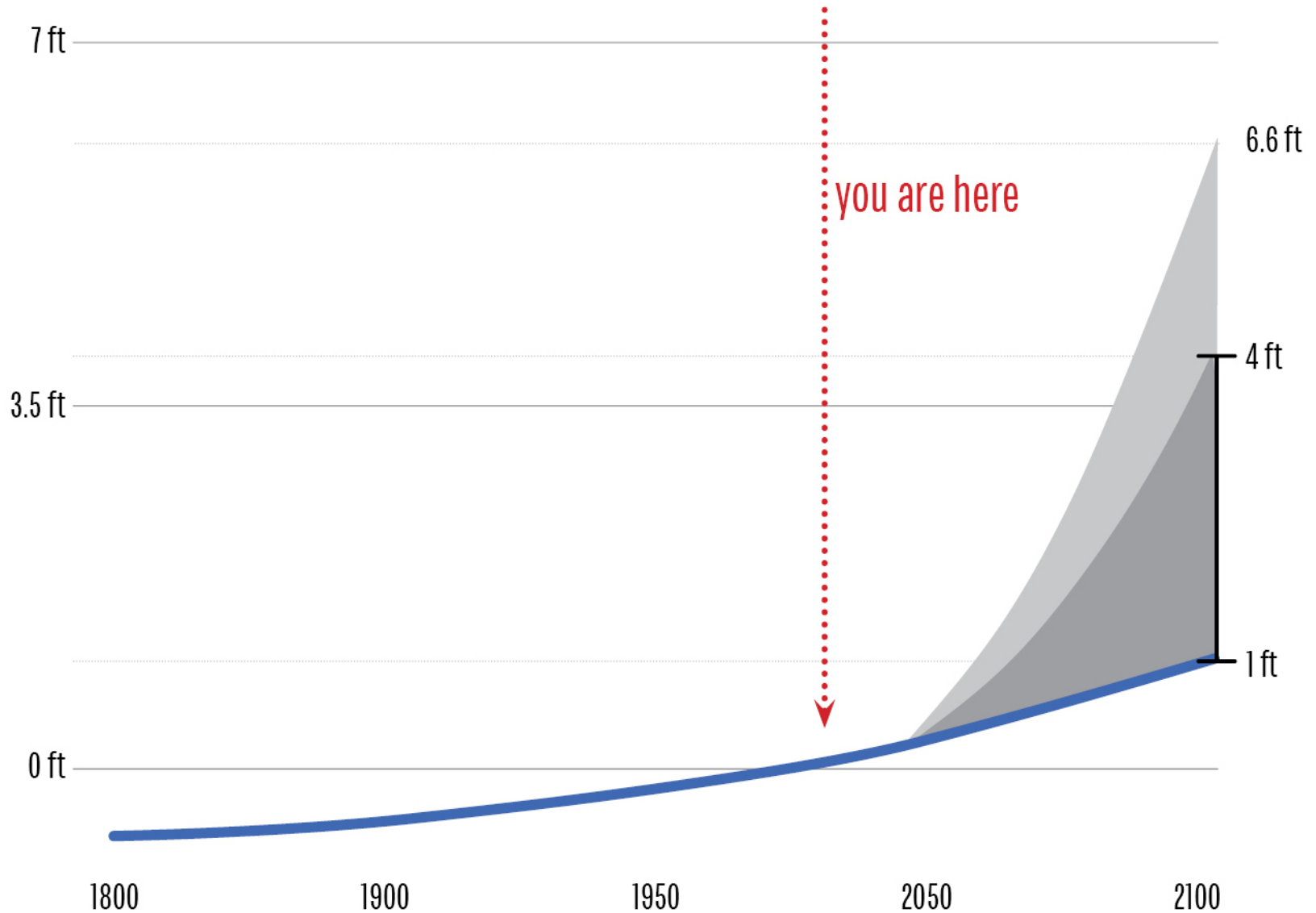


# GLOBAL SEA LEVEL

# *change*

SINCE 1800

Courtesy 3rd National  
Climate Assessment,  
2014





THE  
*Baylands*  
AND  
*Climate Change*

---

WHAT WE CAN DO

BAYLANDS ECOSYSTEM HABITAT GOALS  
SCIENCE UPDATE 2015



State of California  
Coastal Conservancy



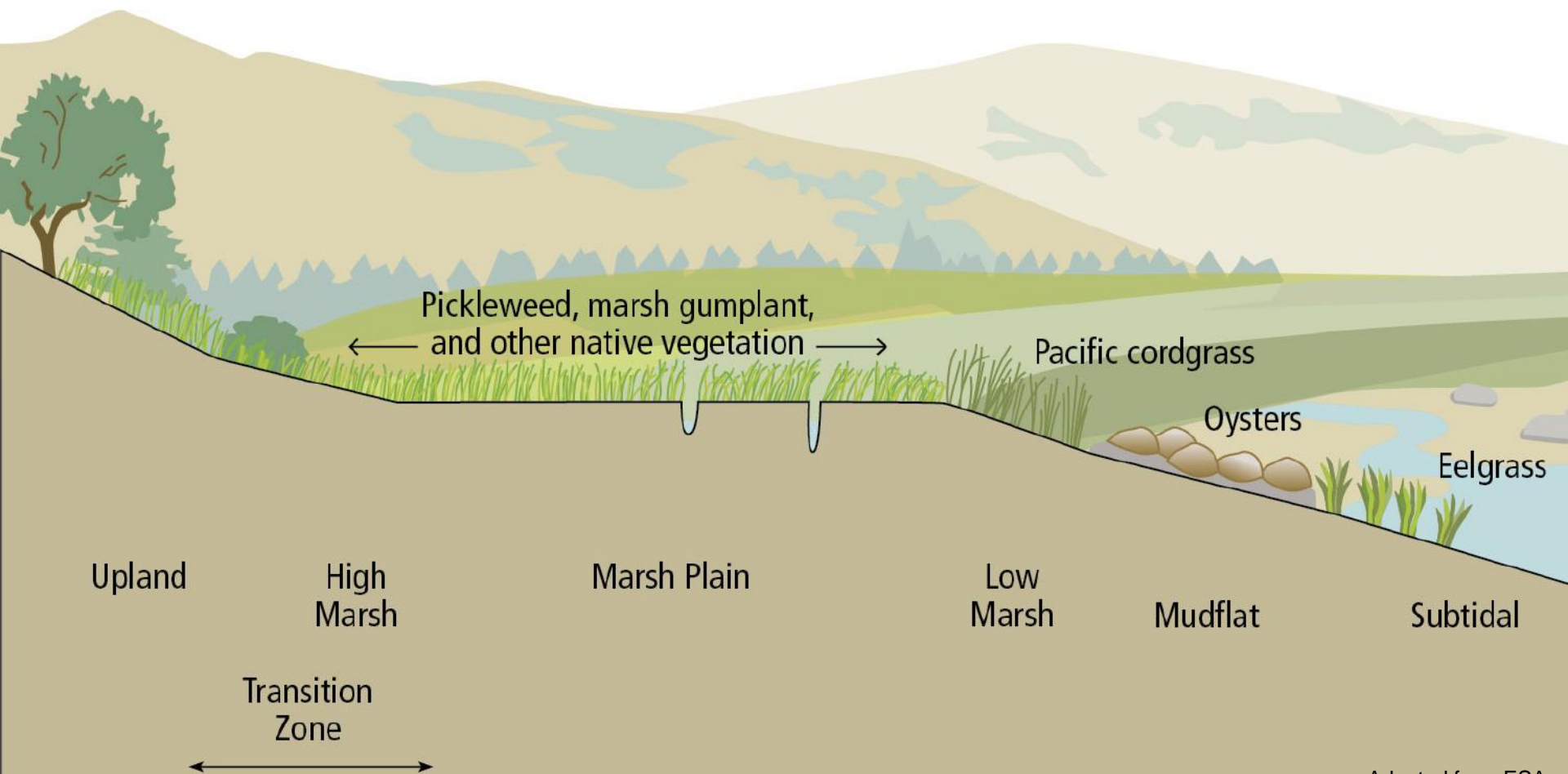


# WHAT WE CAN DO

- *Restore complete systems, including processes*
- *Restore soon, in areas marshes are likely to persist*
- *Plan for the Baylands to migrate*

Shira Bezalel

# *Restore* COMPLETE SYSTEMS



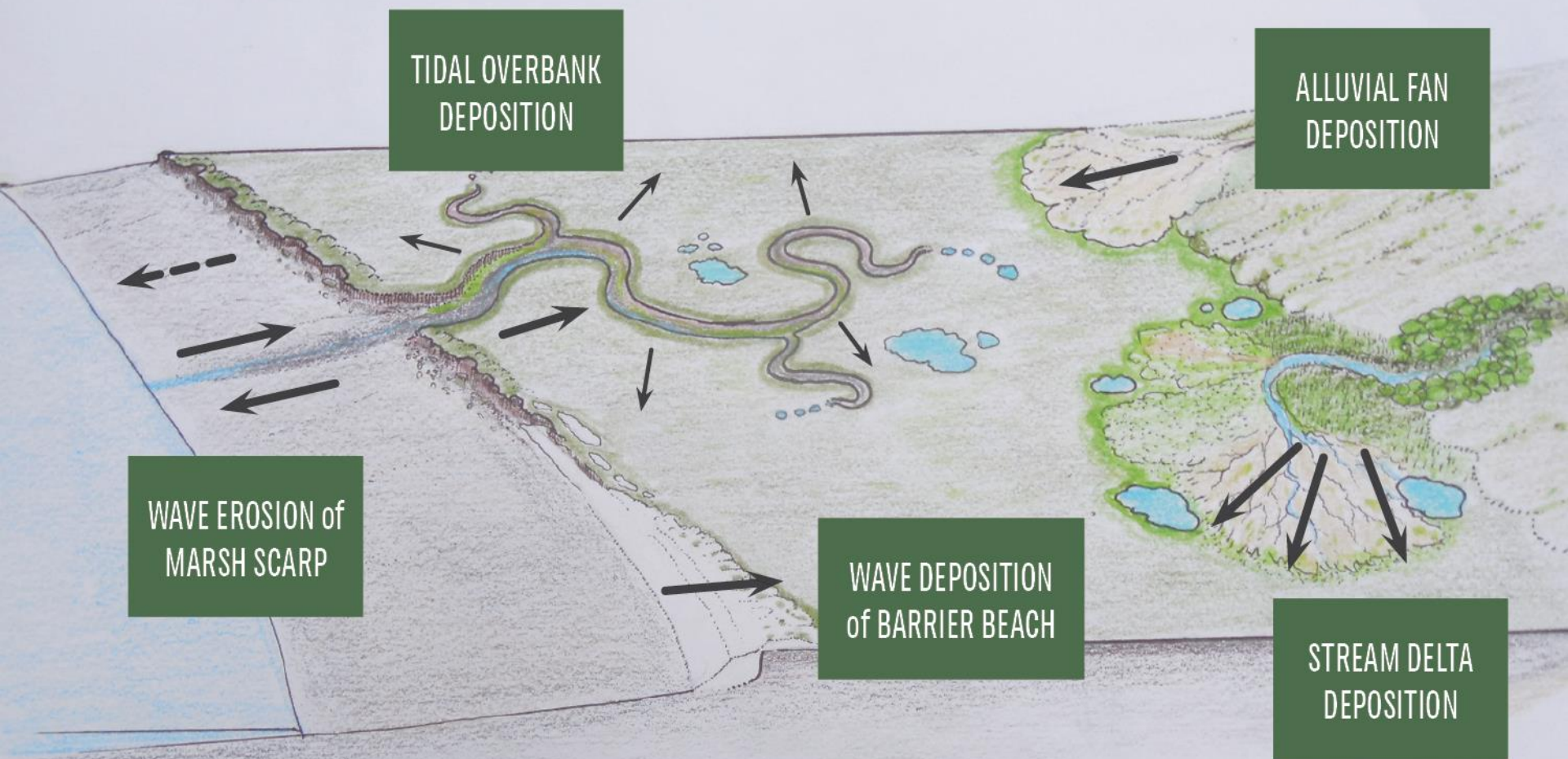


MEANS  
RESTORING

# PROCESSES

NOT JUST  
PLACES

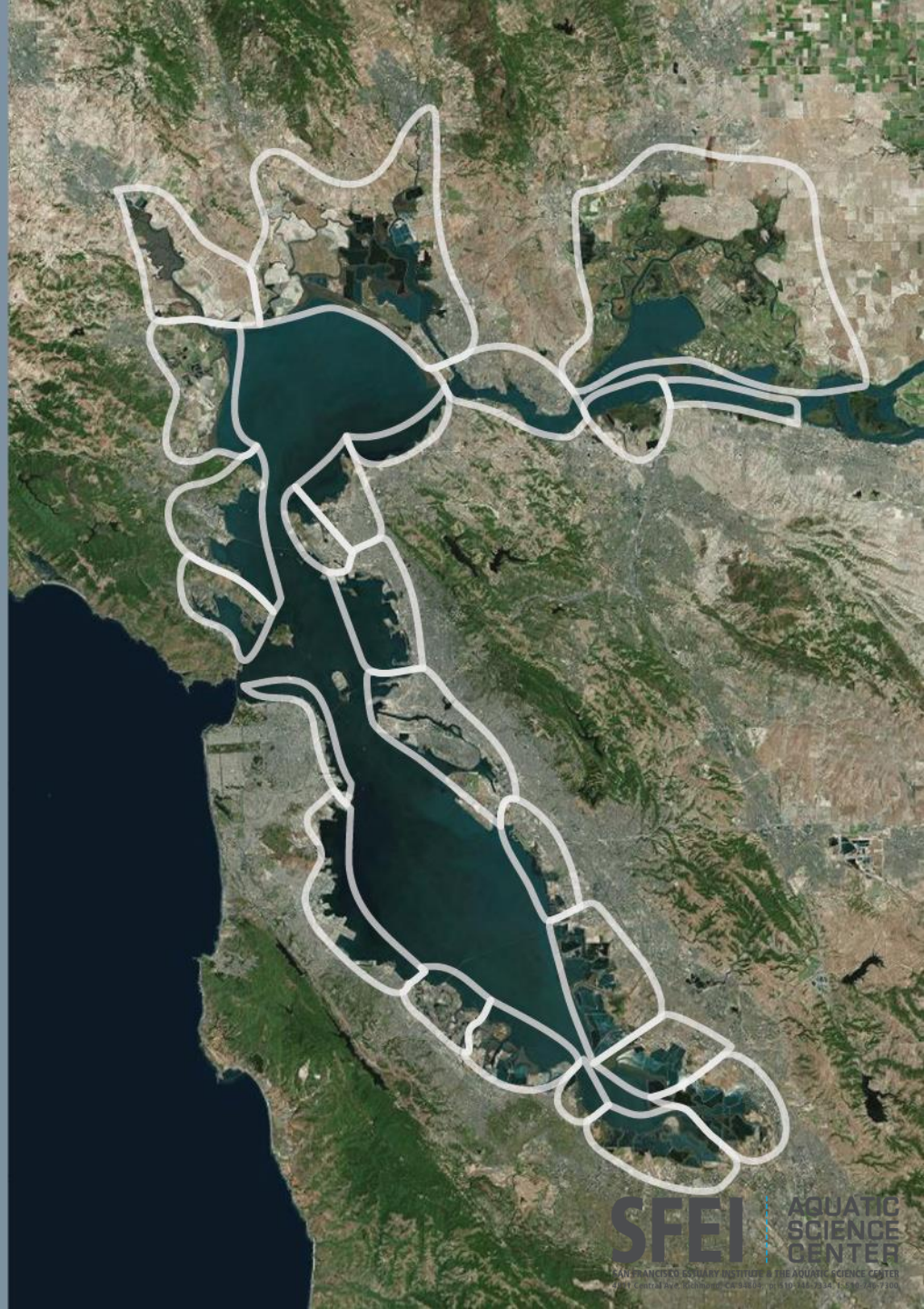
COURTESY PETER BAYE





# Collaborative local **VISIONS & PLANNING**

- *Define practical, science-based shoreline units*
- *Pair with appropriate adaptation strategies*
- *Convene stakeholders to create long-term vision for resilience*





# PLAN FOR THE BAYLANDS TO *migrate*





# PLAN FOR THE BAYLANDS TO *migrate*

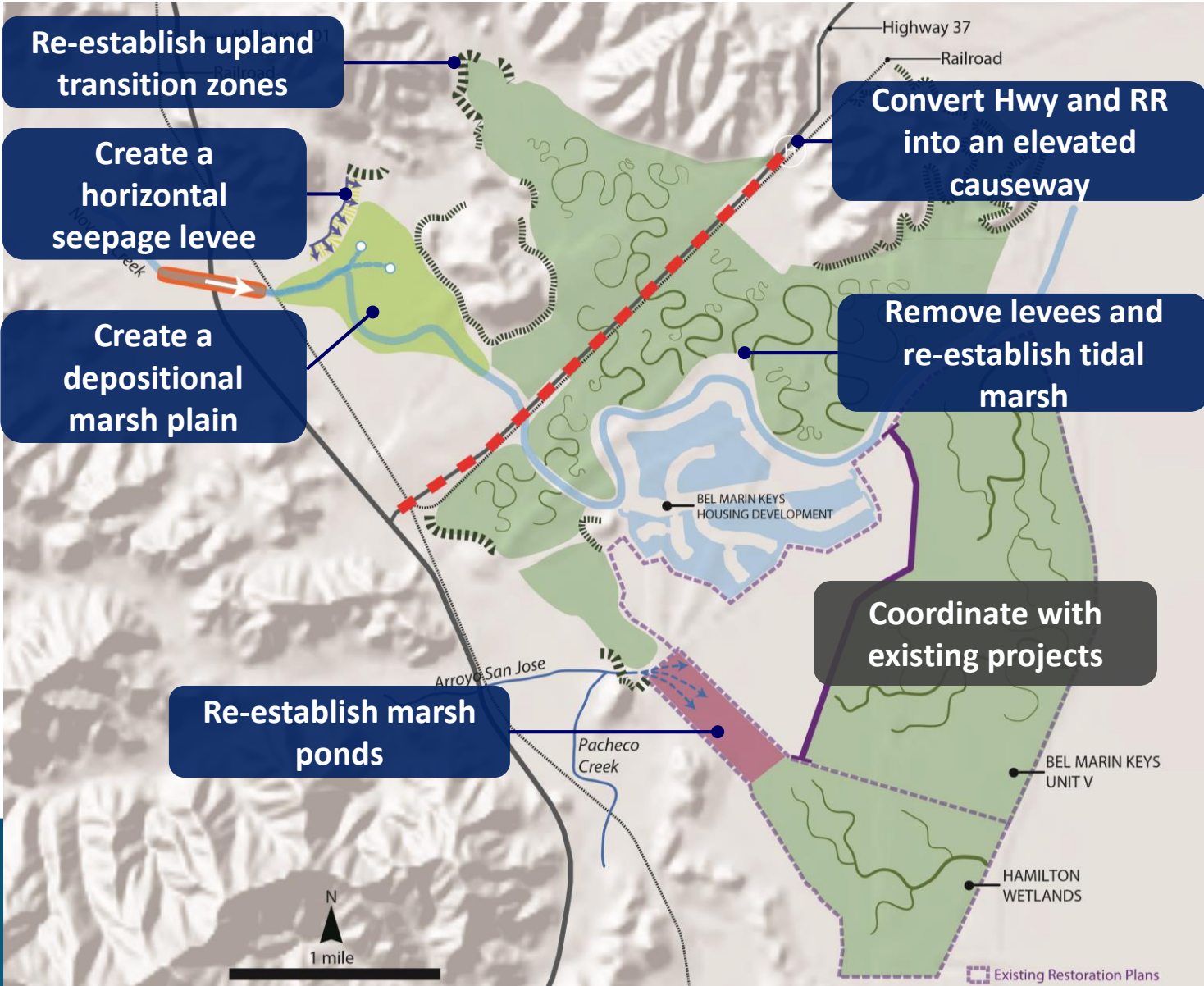




# PLAN FOR THE BAYLANDS TO *migrate*



# Novato Creek Baylands Long-term Vision





**WE HAVE**

*choices to make*



MarineInsight.com

# *Baylands Goals Science Update*



[www.BaylandsGoals.org](http://www.BaylandsGoals.org)

Nate Kauffman



Provide unbiased and objective evidence for identifying and defining problems

Communicate limitations and opportunities of goals and objectives

Advise on selecting the next generation of follow-up actions

Specify or develop appropriate conceptual and quantitative models; identify critical uncertainties; develop hypotheses; model alternative actions; identify data necessary to test hypotheses

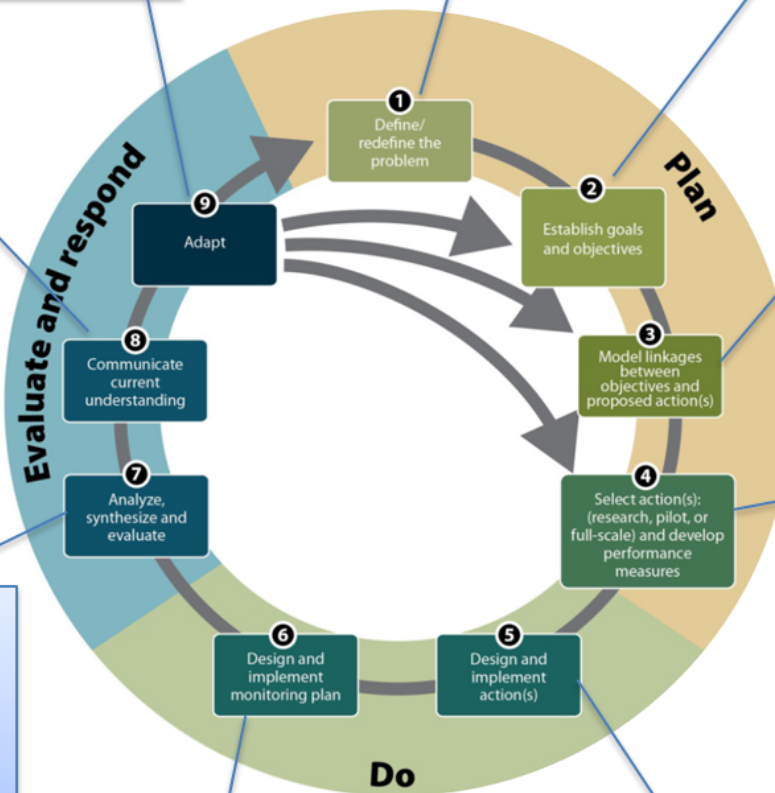
Evaluate alternative actions using information from models and decision support tools (Box 3-2); use models to develop performance measures

Design and implement actions to test assumptions and predicted outcomes and reduce scientific uncertainties

Use models and tiered management questions to design monitoring. Collect, manage and share data.

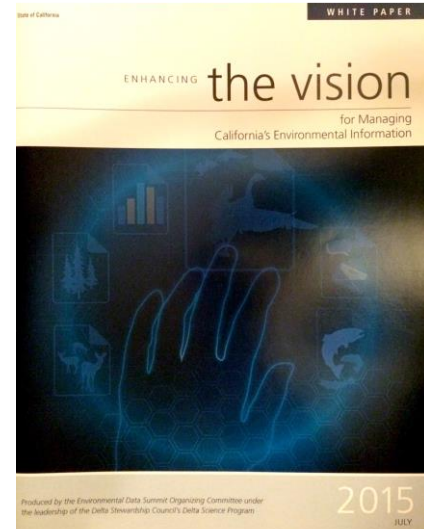
Analyze data, synthesize scientific information, and evaluate progress based on performance measures

Communicate new scientific understanding to decision-makers





# Problem: Inaccessible Data and Inadequate Models to Describe Complex Interactions



Environmental Data Management in the Era of “Big Data”  
June 5-6, 2014.

Business Model, Visualization, Open Source vs Private Sector – Partnerships

<http://environmentaldatasummit2014.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

Inter-disciplinary Integrated Community Modeling  
May 20-22, 2015. With support from the National Science Foundation, IAHR and the California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum.

# Cumulative Jobs and Revenues

