

# Managing for Water Sustainability in an Uncertain Future

Fraser Shilling

Department of Environmental Science and Policy  
UC Davis

Presentation to the California Water Quality Monitoring Council,  
February 19, 2014

Iara Lacher, Susana Cardenas, & David Waetjen (UC Davis)

with

Abdul Khan, Rich Juricich, & Kamyar Guivetchi (DWR)

Vance Fong & Don Hodge (USEPA)

Council for Watershed Health & SAWPA

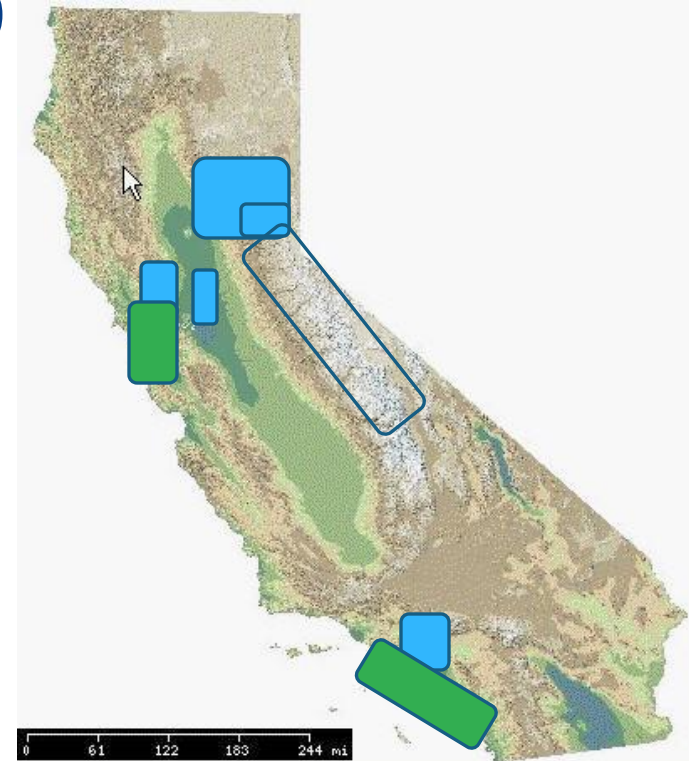
Pacific Institute, Sacramento River Watershed Program, Napa County, and

South Yuba River Citizens League



# Previous Work with Indicators

- \* SF Bay Score Card ([bay.org](http://bay.org))
- \* Beach Report Card ([brc.healthebay.org](http://brc.healthebay.org))
- \* Ski Resort Report Card (SNA et al.)
- \* SGC Regional Reports ([SGC.ca.gov](http://SGC.ca.gov))
  
- \* Caltrans (CTP), CA Dept Education (SARC), CDPH (HCI)
- \* CalFire (FRA), CDFW (CWAP)



# Agencies

Finance –  
Performance-Based  
Budgeting

Natural  
Resources

Transportation

Health & Human  
Services

Environmental  
Protection

Food &  
Agriculture

Education

Report  
Cards

DFG –  
Habitat,  
Ecosys  
Services

OPC –  
Coastal  
Areas

State Water  
Plan Sust.  
Indicators

CT – Trans  
Performance

DPH – Healthy  
Communities

SGC-Reg.  
Reports

SWRCB –  
MyWater

CARB –  
GHG  
targets

CDFA – Ag  
Innovations

DoEd –  
Education  
Progress

Terrestrial  
Habitat

Aquatic  
Habitat

Water  
Supply

Transportation

Health

Land Use

Education

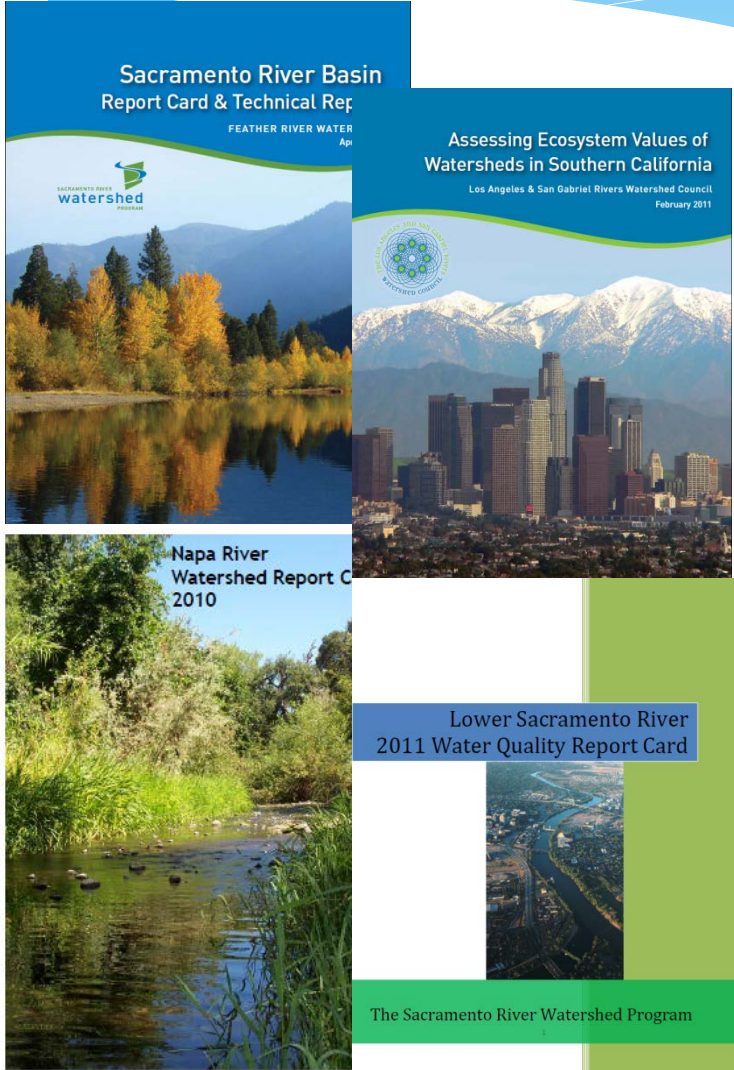
# Domains of Concern

# My Previous Work with Sustainability Indicators

- \* Measuring whole system condition and performance
- \* Consistent with global literature, while breaking new ground
- \* Test cases in Yuba River, Lower Sacramento River, Feather River, Napa River, and Los Angeles River



# Report Cards



Goals	Icon	Objectives
<b>A.</b> Maintain and improve water quality and supply to sustainably meet the needs of natural and human communities		1) Protect receiving waters from pollution to comply with current and future water quality regulations
		2) Maintain water quality for healthy aquatic systems*
		3) Protect the quality of drinking water supplies
		4) Maintain and restore natural stream flows for aquatic and riparian communities*
		5) Maintain water supplies to meet human needs within the watershed
<b>B.</b> Protect and enhance native aquatic and terrestrial species, especially sensitive and at-risk species and natural communities		1) Protect and enhance native fish populations, including anadromous fish*
		2) Protect and enhance bird populations
		3) Protect and enhance amphibian populations
		4) Protect and enhance mammal populations*
		5) Protect and enhance native invertebrate communities*
		6) Discourage and reduce invasive, non-native species
<b>C.</b> Protect and enhance landscape and habitats structure and processes to benefit ecosystem and watershed functions		1) Protect and enhance riparian habitat quality
		2) Protect and enhance wetland habitat quality
		3) Protect and enhance aquatic habitat connectivity*
		4) Protect and enhance terrestrial habitat connectivity*
		5) Maintain and restore stream geomorphic processes
		6) Optimize primary production and nutrient cycling to support aquatic and terrestrial communities* (for N)
		7) Manage land-uses to reduce impacts on aquatic and terrestrial habitats
<b>D.</b> Maintain and restore natural disturbance processes that balance benefits for natural and human communities		1) Reduce high severity fire frequency; encourage natural fire regimes that support native communities*
		2) Reduce flood risk to human communities; encourage natural flood processes that support native communities*
		3) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage activities to adapt to climate change
<b>E.</b> Maintain and improve the social and economic conditions, including benefits from healthy watersheds		1) Protect and enhance wildlife friendly agricultural practices*
		2) Improve grazing management
		3) Encourage sustainable land use practices
		4) Improve community economic status in balance with watershed condition*
		5) Improve community relationship with watershed processes
		6) The watershed supports sustainable social practices
		7) Support and improve human uses associated with watershed condition*
		8) To have widespread community awareness and deep civic engagement in the protection and improvement of watersheds*

Sub-Watershed Condition Score (0 – 100)

Goals	Measurable Objective	Indicators	Sub-Watershed Condition Score (0 – 100)											Trend	Confidence
			ENFF	NFF	MFF	LF	NY	MY	SY	DC	LY	UB	LB		
Water quality and supply for natural and human communities	Water quality for aquatic health	Water temperature, algae, mercury in fish	73	75	38	50	53	47	39	35	13	40	61		medium-high
	Maintain natural stream flows	Current flow vs. historical flow	69	n/a	n/a	54	n/a	n/a	n/a	63	40	60	41	n/a	medium
Protect and restore native animals and plants	Native birds	Bird species richness	100	n/a	100	100	100	100	100	n/a	100	100	100		medium
	Protect native aquatic communities	Land disturbance, aquatic insects, fish	69	64	69	61	66	69	62	47	55	61	82		high
Protect and enhance habitats, ecosystems, and watersheds	Protect aquatic connections	Barriers to aquatic organism movement	77	82	76	82	82	76	79	69	77	67	79	n/a	medium-high
	Protect landscape connections	Barriers to wildlife movement	23	81	44	5	54	27	100	5	11	14	2	n/a	high
	Maintain natural production and nutrient cycles	Carbon storage and sequestration, nitrogen loads	88	93	63	94	93	89	93	48	96	91	96		medium
Maintain and restore natural disturbance	Restore natural fire regimes	Fire frequencies compared to expected frequency	2	9	14	39	2	3	4	12	15	0	4		medium
	Encourage natural flooding, while protecting people	Floodplain access	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	n/a	38	n/a	low
Improve social and economic conditions & benefits from healthy watersheds	Enhance wildlife-friendly agriculture	Pesticide use and organic agriculture	100	99	100	51	n/a	98	100	100	17	100	62		medium-high
	Improve community economic status	Poverty measure	49	52	54	34	64	32	40	73	35	70	61		high

Table E.1 – How well are we meeting goals and objectives for the Feather River watershed?

Goals	Measurable Objective	Condition	Trend	Confidence
Water quality and supply for natural and human communities	Water quality for aquatic health	51	↔	Medium-high
	Maintain natural stream flows	55	n/a	Medium
Protect and restore native animals and plants	Native birds	100	↔	Medium
	Native invertebrates	46	↔	High
	Native fish	49	↔	High
	Agricultural/urban development	90	n/a	Medium
Protect and enhance habitats, ecosystems, and watersheds	Protect aquatic connections	77	n/a	Medium-high
	Protect landscape connections	33	n/a	High
	Maintain natural production and nutrient cycles	82	↓	Medium
	Restore natural fire regimes	9	↔	Medium
Maintain and restore natural disturbance	Encourage natural flooding, while protecting people	50	n/a	Low
	Enhance wildlife-friendly agriculture	83	↑	Medium-high
Improve social and economic conditions & benefits from healthy watersheds	Improve community economic status	51	↓	High

Table 4 – The Arroyo Seco Report Card

Goal	Indicators	Condition	Trend	Confidence
To sustainably manage local water supplies for human and natural communities.	Per capita water use	94	Not Assessed	High
	Healthy Surface Waters	60	Not Assessed	Moderate
	Rain reaching groundwater	59	Not Assessed	Moderate
To have widespread community awareness and deep civic engagement in the protection and improvement of watersheds.	Local Government Action	44	Not Assessed	Moderate
To conserve and restore a diversity of native habitats to support fish and wildlife.	Presence of Native Wildlife	59	Not Assessed	Moderate
	Protected Native Habitats	60	Not Assessed	High
	Habitat Intactness	57	Not Assessed	High
To restore or simulate natural disturbance processes that balance benefits for human and natural communities.	Storm Flow Pattern	55	Not Assessed	Moderate/High
	Wildfire Pattern & Intensity	75	↔	High
To meet human needs and enhance the quality of life by improving the conditions of watersheds and their ecosystems.	Aquatic Recreation	82	Not Assessed	Moderate
	Vegetated Residential Area	83	Not Assessed	Moderate
	Equitable Park Access	55	Not Assessed	Moderate
<b>Overall Score:</b>		<b>65.25</b>		

# Analytical details

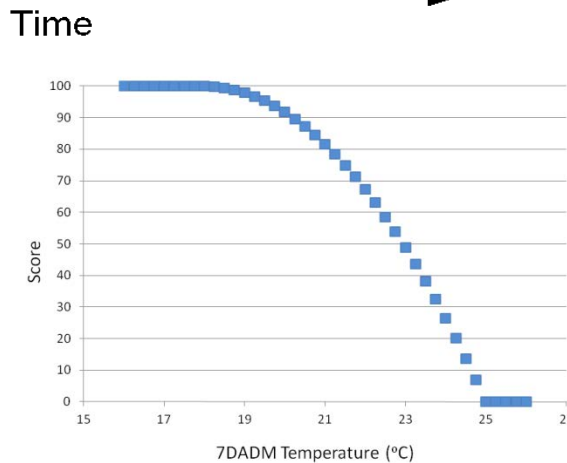
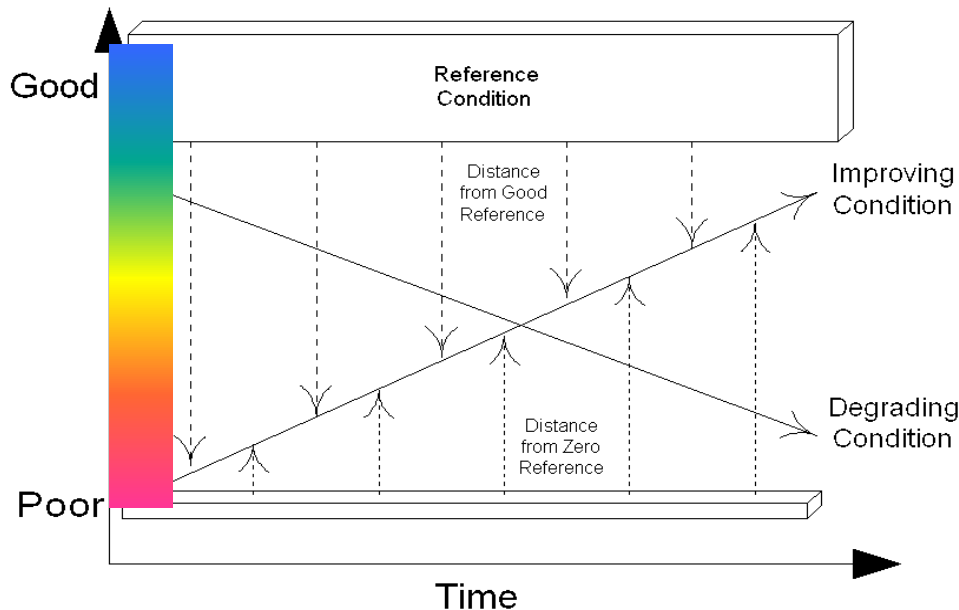
Quantitative targets must be defined, existing distance to target is then measured for each metric or indicator on a 0-100 scale.

Spatially co-located sites are compared and potentially lumped. Typically, scores are derived from raw data at the resolution of the raw data, then lumped to a sub-watershed reporting scale

Trends analysis primarily using Mann-Kendall, Seasonal Kendall, Regional Kendal. Sen slope estimation

Confidence is based upon quantitative estimates (e.g., standard deviation of the mean) and qualitative determinations of certainty about the indicators themselves, the data quality and relevance to the indicator

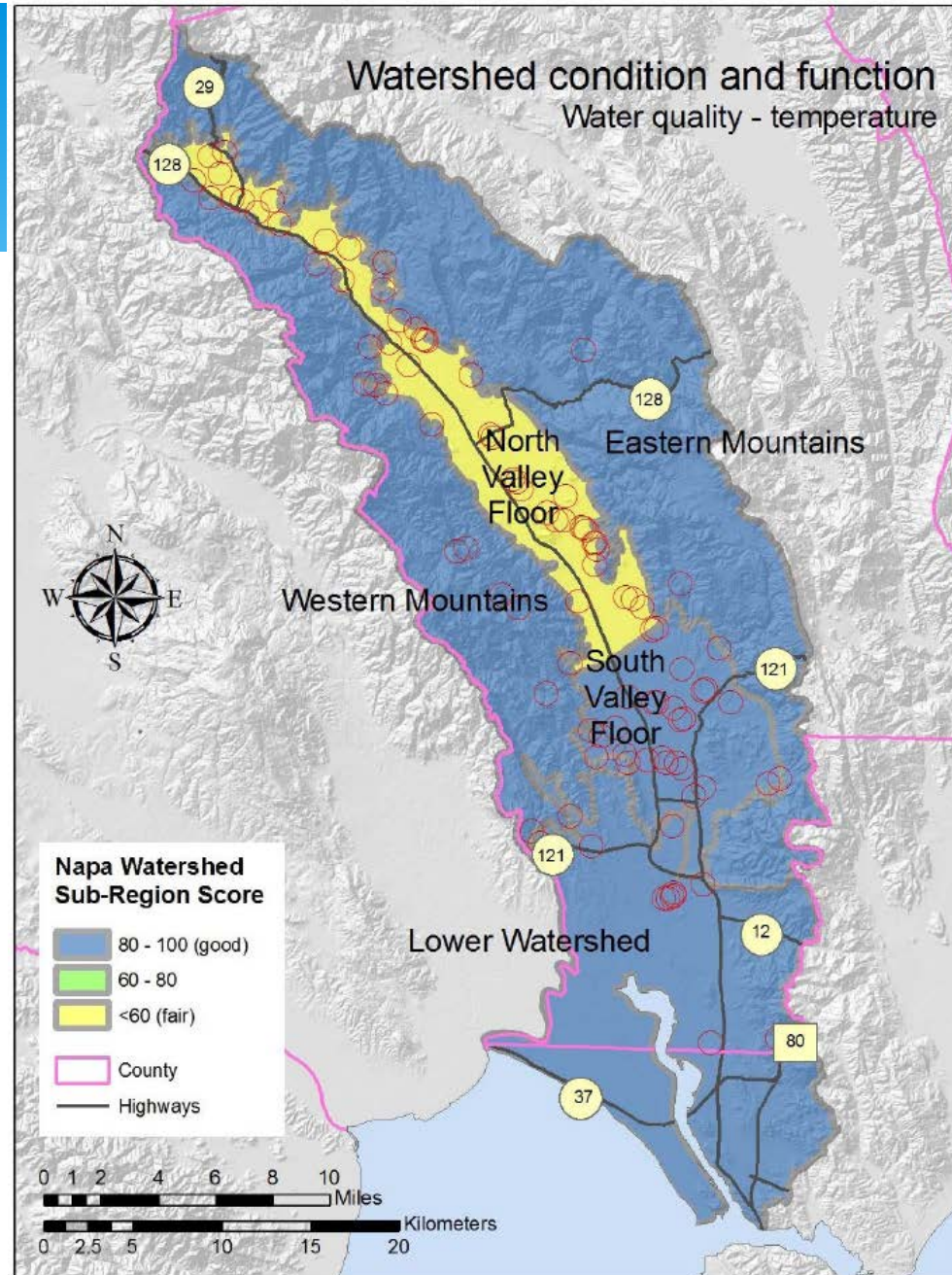
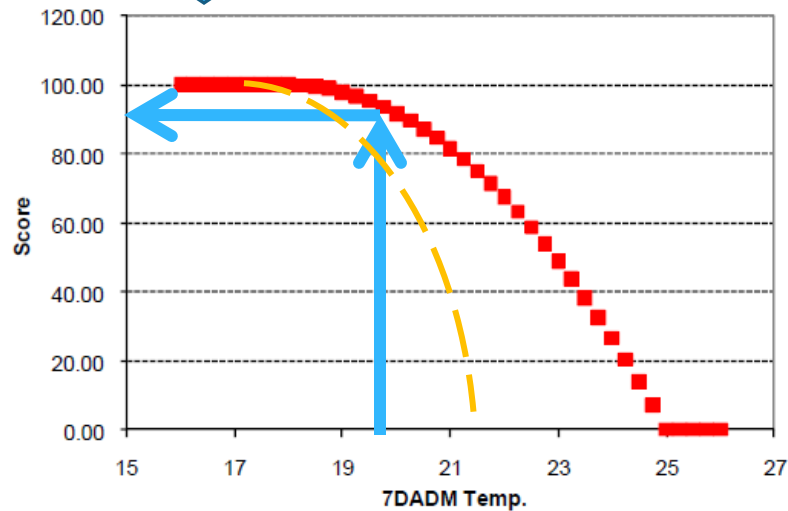
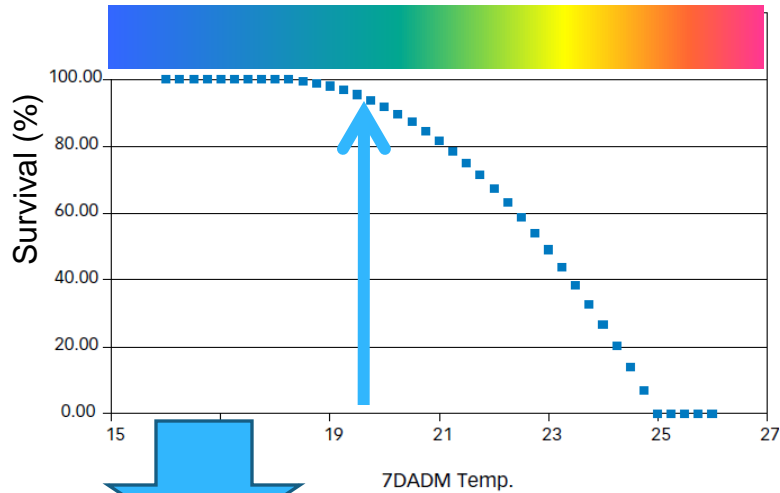
# Scoring: “Distance to target” or axiological normalization\*

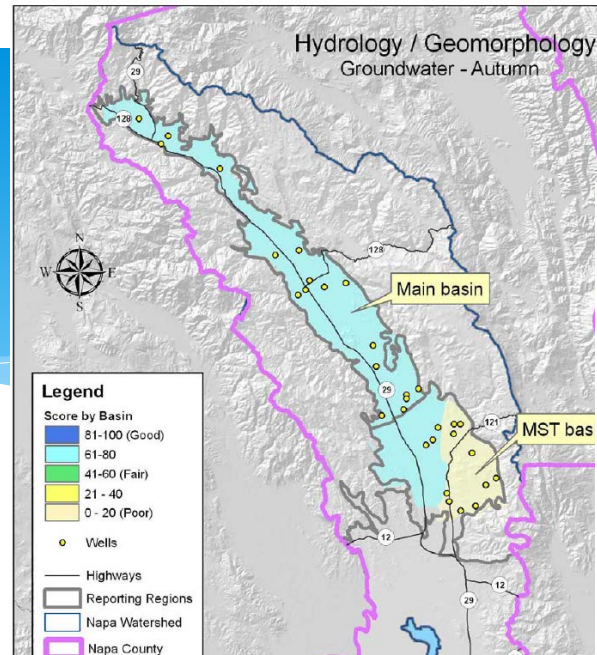
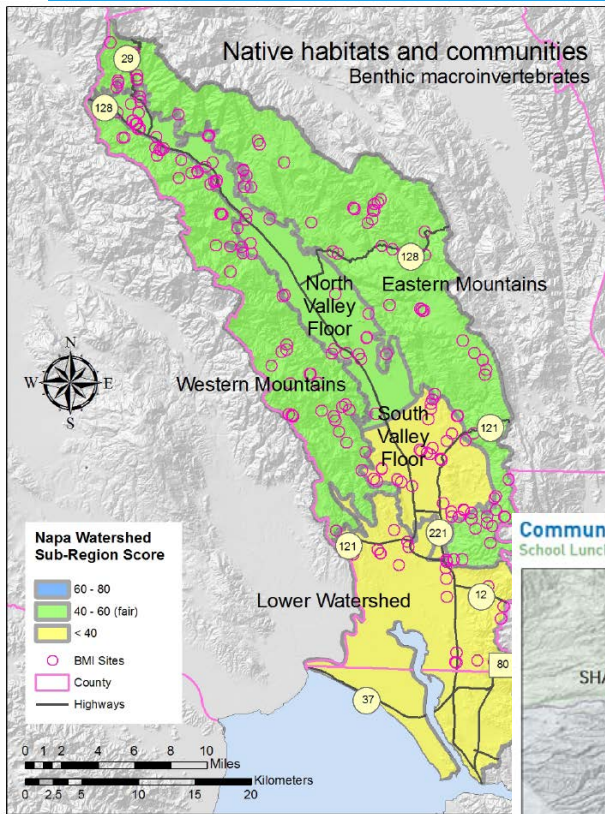


- \* Compare with (1) empirical normalization where min and max value in study area are used to set range (HWI), or (2) statistical normalization where values are standard deviations from mean, or (3) comparison to one reference (typical), or (4) no normalization (typical)



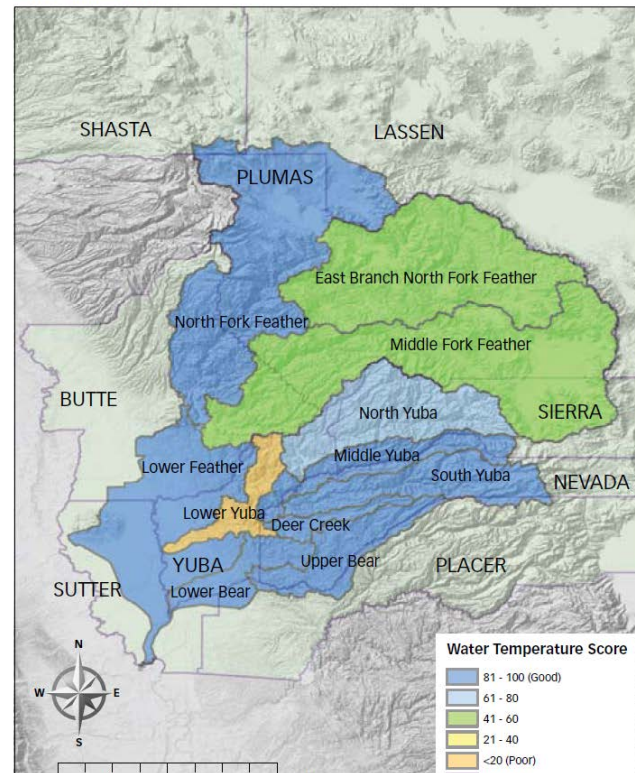
Water Temperature Scaling Curve





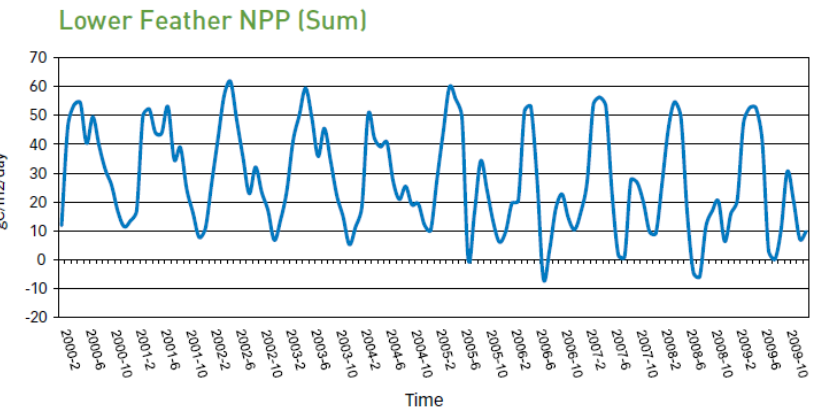
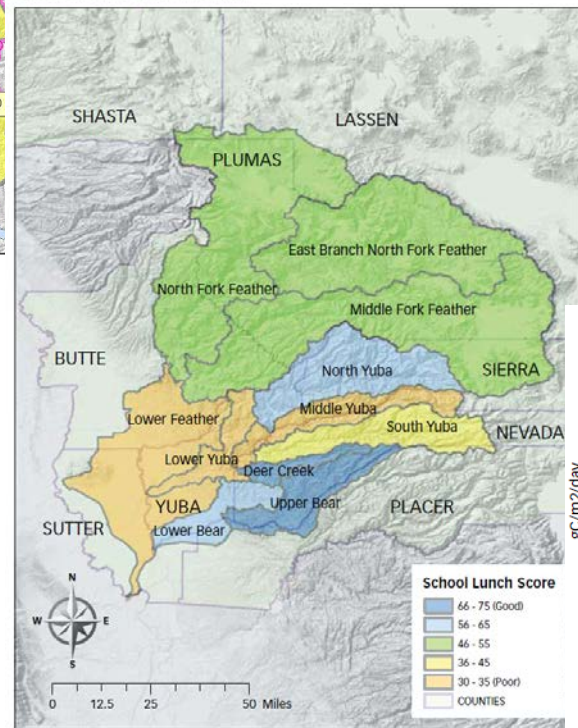
### Water Quality and Supply

Water Temperature



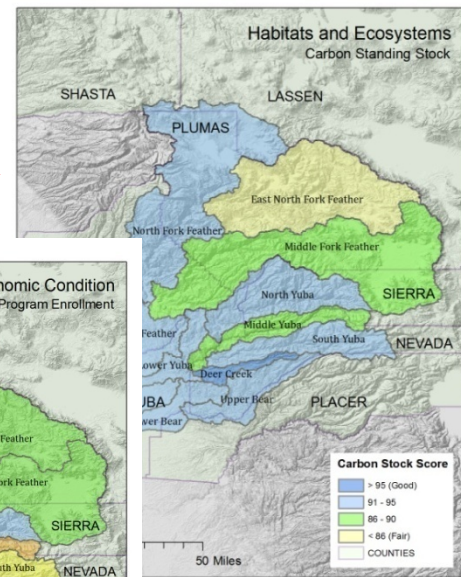
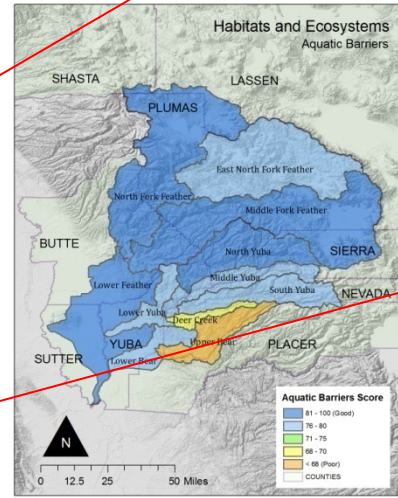
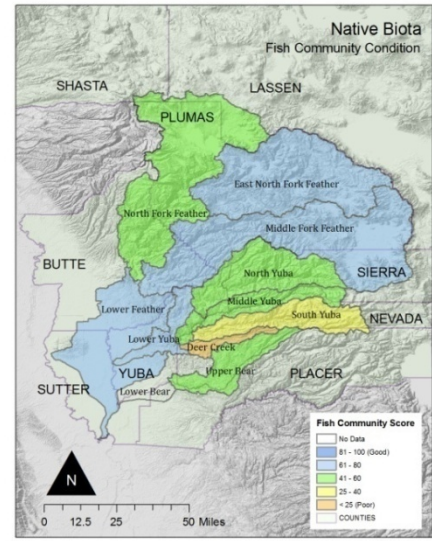
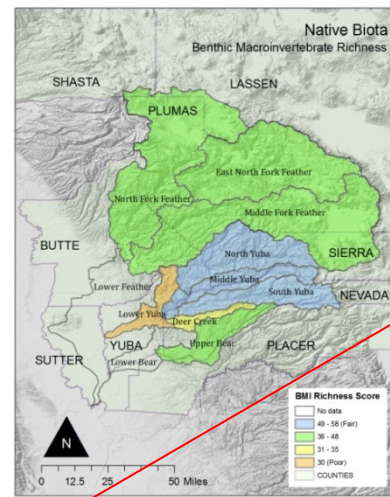
### Community Economic Condition

School Lunch Program Enrollment



\* Examples

# Whole system reporting

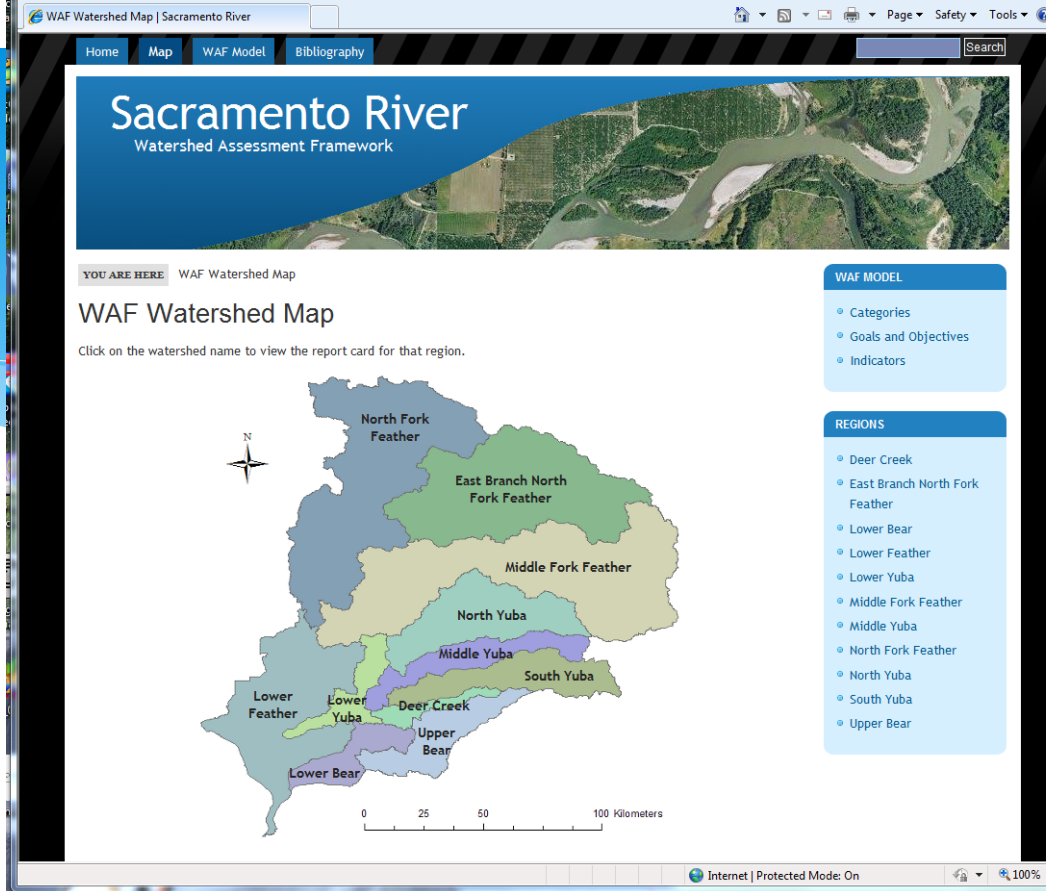


Goals	Measurable Objective	Condition	Trend	Confidence
Water quality and supply for natural and human communities	Water quality for aquatic health	51	↔	Medium-high
	Maintain natural stream flows	55	n/a	Medium
Protect and restore native animals and plants	Native birds	100	↔	Medium
	Native invertebrates	46	↔	High
	Native fish	49	↔	High
	Agricultural/urban development	90	n/a	Medium
Protect and enhance habitats, ecosystems, and watersheds	Protect aquatic connections	77	n/a	Medium-high
	Protect landscape connections	33	n/a	High
	Maintain natural production and nutrient cycles	82	↓	Medium
Maintain and restore natural disturbance	Restore natural fire regimes	9	↔	Medium
	Encourage natural flooding, while protecting people	50	n/a	Low
Improve social and economic conditions & benefits from healthy watersheds	Enhance wildlife-friendly agriculture	83	↑	Medium-high
	Improve community economic status	51	↓	High

# Web reporting

Table E.1 — How well are we meeting goals and objectives for the Feather River watershed?

Goals	Measurable Objective	Condition	Trend	Confidence
Water quality and supply for natural and human communities	Water quality for aquatic health	51	↔	Medium-high
	Maintain natural stream flows	55	n/a	Medium
Protect and restore native animals and plants	Native birds	100	↔	Medium
	Native invertebrates	46	↔	High
	Native fish	49	↔	High
	Agricultural/urban development	90	n/a	Medium
Protect and enhance habitats, ecosystems, and watersheds	Protect aquatic connections	77	n/a	Medium-high
	Protect landscape connections	33	n/a	High
	Maintain natural production and nutrient cycles	82	↓	Medium
Maintain and restore natural disturbance	Restore natural fire regimes	9	↔	Medium
	Encourage natural flooding, while protecting people	50	n/a	Low
Improve social and economic conditions & benefits from healthy watersheds	Enhance wildlife-friendly agriculture	83	↑	Medium-high
	Improve community economic status	51	↓	High

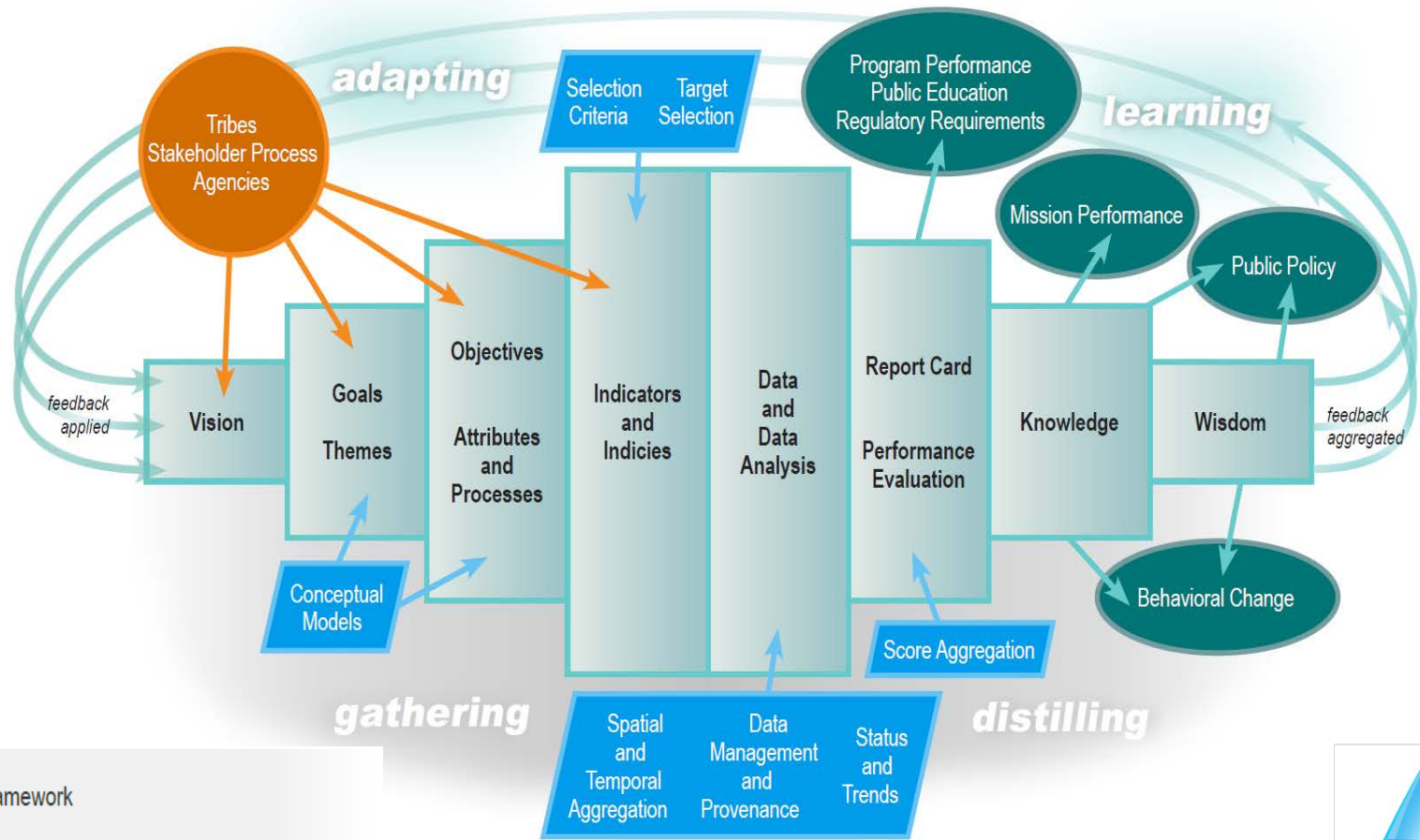






<http://ice.ucdavis.edu/waf/>

## Trend Analysis

There was a statistically significant upward trend in school lunch program enrollment over the 22-year period ( $p < 0.001$ ), with a 1.0% increase per year. This significant increase in enrollment was true of both Napa County and Solano County schools. In Napa, the increase in enrollment was 0.6% per year and in Solano, 1.6% per year. **Forty-two of the watershed's 87 schools individually increased in enrollment ( $p < 0.05$ ), with 41 showing no statistically-significant change, and 4 Napa County schools showing a decrease in enrollment.**

# Next Stage: California Water Plan Update 2013 Water Sustainability Indicator Framework



-  Elements in the Framework
-  Agency interaction, input, and feedback
-  Analytical inputs to the Framework (modeling, data, analysis)
-  End use of assessments from the Framework



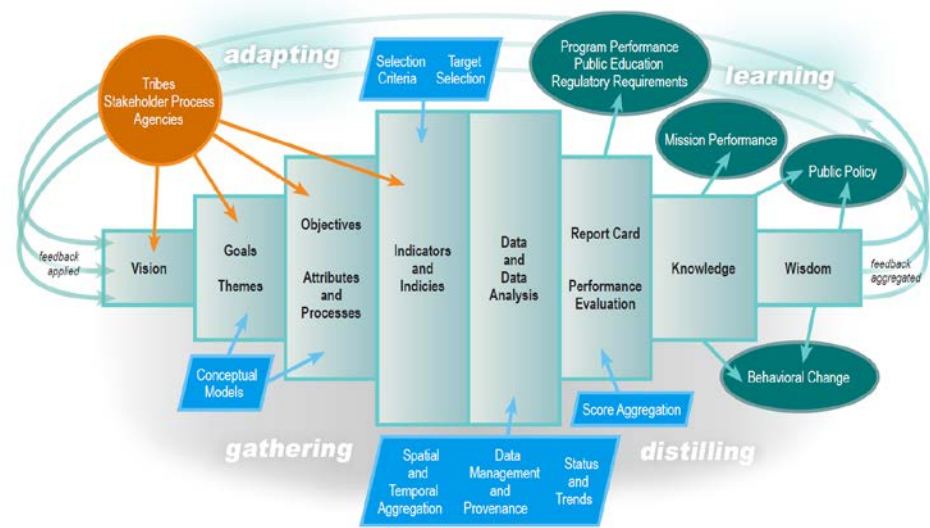
# State and Region Pilots

- \* State project was advised by Water Plan staff, members of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, the Public Advisory Committee, and the Tribal Advisory Committee
- \* Pilot was a result of partnership with Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and Council for Watershed Health
- \* Associated with the “One Water One Watershed 2.0” process



# Themes/categories/domains

- \* Water Supply Reliability
- \* Water Quality
- \* Ecosystem Health
- \* Social Benefits and Equity
- \* Adaptive and Sustainable Management



# CA Water Sustainability Goals

California Water Plan Update 2013

Goal 1. Manage and make decisions about water in a way that integrates water availability, environmental conditions, and community well-being for future generations.

Goal 2. Improve water supply reliability to meet human needs, reduce energy demand, and restore and maintain aquatic ecosystems and processes.

Goal 3. Improve beneficial uses and reduce impacts associated with water management.

Goal 4. Improve quality of drinking water, irrigation water, and in-stream flows to protect human and environmental health.

Goal 5. Protect and enhance environmental conditions by improving watershed, floodplain, and aquatic condition and processes.

Goal 6. Integrate flood risk management with other water and land management and restoration activities.

Goal 7. Employ adaptive decision-making, especially in light of uncertainties, that support integrated regional water management and flood management systems.





# Sustainability Indicators: California

Indicator Name	Sustainability Goals
Aquatic Fragmentation	5
Baseline Water Stress	1,2
California Stream Condition Index	5
CalEnviroScreen-Groundwater Threats	4
Geomorphic Condition	5,6
Groundwater Quality-Nitrate	4
Groundwater Stress	2
Historical Drought Severity	2,5
Historical Flooding	6
Interannual variability	2,5,7
Native Fish Species	5
Public Perceptions of Water	7
Return Flows	2,3
Threats to Amphibians	5
Upstream Protected Lands	2,4
Upstream Storage	2,3
Water Footprint	1,2,7
Water Quality Index	4
Water Use and Availability	2

State pilot indicators and indices and corresponding Sustainability Goals. 19 of 120 indicators in the Water Plan Sustainability Indicators Framework



# SAWPA Water Sustainability Goals

SAWPA One Water One Watershed 2.0

Goal 1: Maintain reliable and resilient water supplies and reduce dependency on imported water

Goal 2: Manage at the watershed scale for preservation and enhancement of the natural hydrology to benefit human and natural communities

Goal 3: Preserve and enhance the ecosystem services provided by open space and habitat within the watershed

Goal 4: Protect beneficial uses to ensure high quality water for human and natural communities

Goal 5: Accomplish effective, equitable and collaborative integrated watershed management in a cost-effective manner



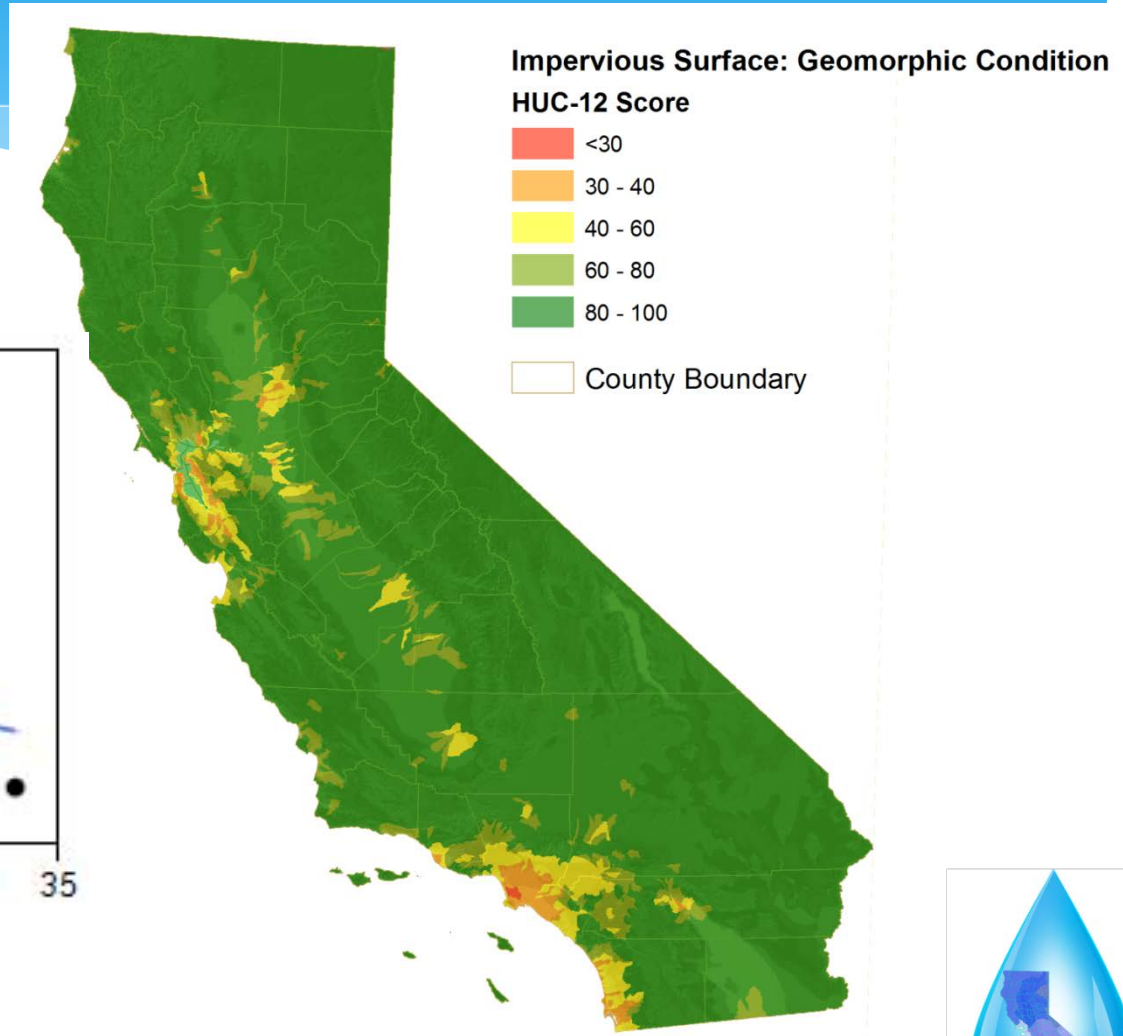
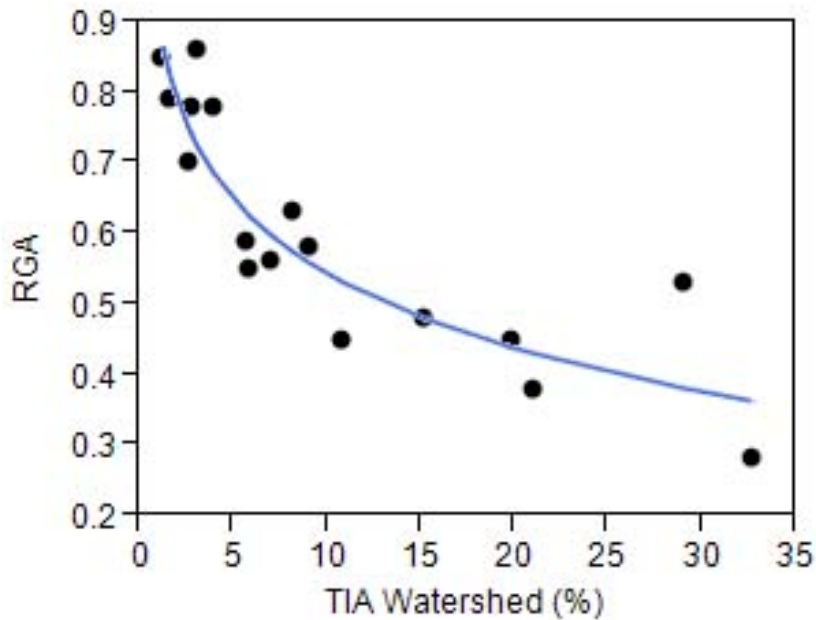
# Sustainability Indicators: SAWPA

Indicator Name	SAWPA OWOW 2.0 Sustainability Goal
Proportion of Water Use from Imported and Recycled Sources	1
Water Use (per capita)	1
Local Water Supply Reserves	1
Adoption of Sustainable Water Rates	1
Water Availability and Stress (WRI Aqueduct 2.0)	1
Annual Water Resource Energy Use Relative to Rolling Average	1
Stream Network with Natural Substrate Benthos	2
Impervious Surface: Water Quality Index and Geomorphic Condition	2,4
Coastal Impacts from Sea Level Rise	3,5
Aquatic Habitat Fragmentation	2
Open Space for Recreation	3
Invasive Species and Native Landscapes	3
Area with Restoration Projects and Conservation Agreements	3
Exceedance of Water Quality Objectives in Watershed	4
Exceedance of Groundwater Salinity Standards	4
Exceedance of Water Quality Objectives at Discharge	4
Exceedance of Water Quality Objectives at Recreation Sites	4
Biological Condition Index	3,5
OWOW (Stakeholder-Community) Participation	5



# Scoring: Example impervious surfaces and geomorphic/flooding processes

National Land Cover Database 2006

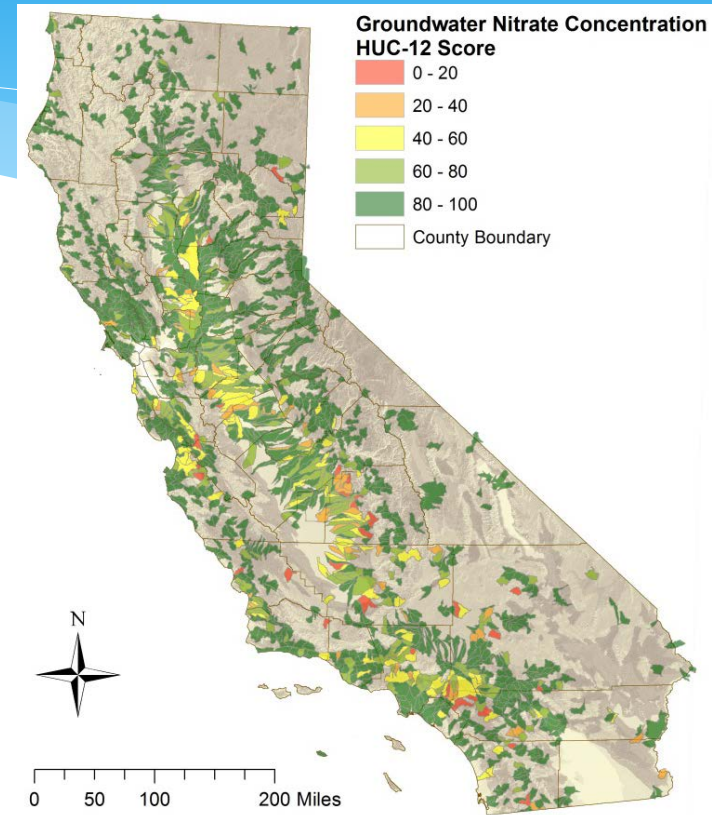
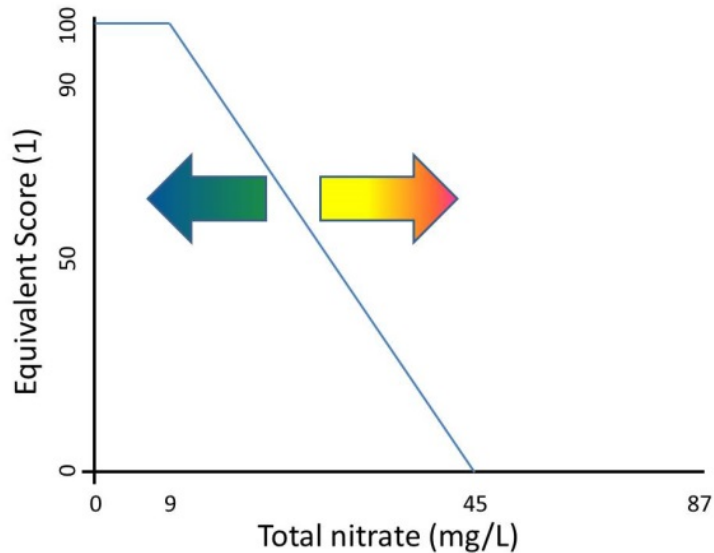


Adapted from Fitzgerald et al (2012).



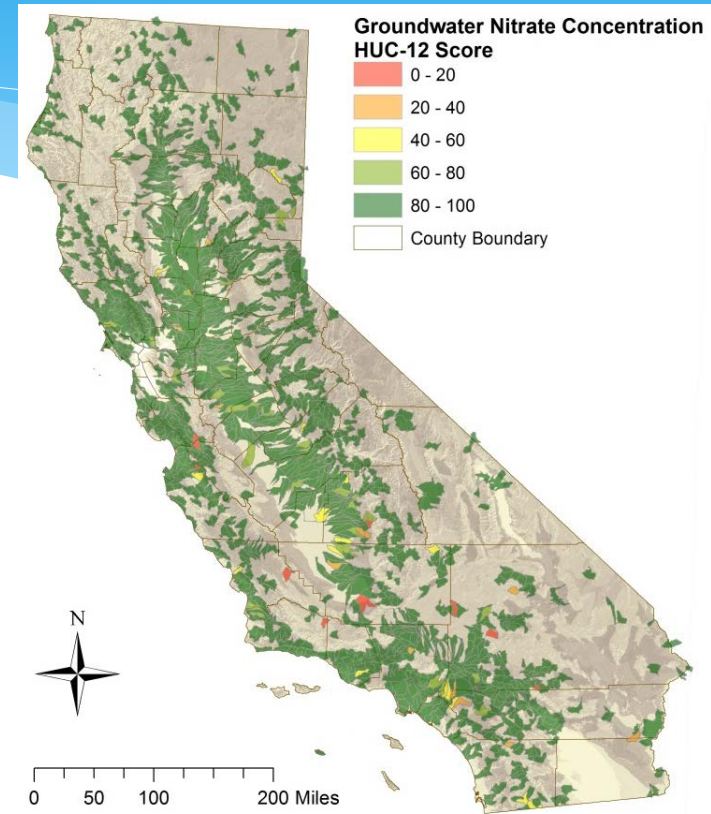
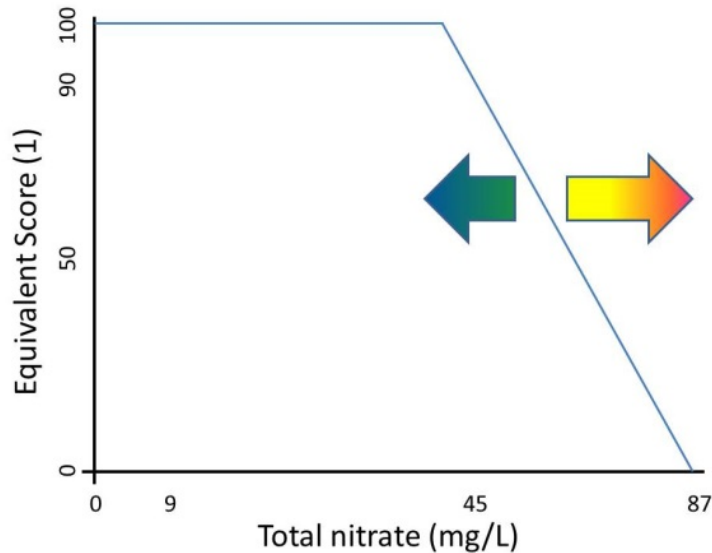
# Scoring: Changing the scoring model

Nitrate concentration less than or equal to the background nitrate concentration in groundwater in the Central Valley (9 mg/L; Harter et al., 2012) receive a score of 100. Nitrate concentrations greater than 45 mg/L (MCL) receive a score of 0.



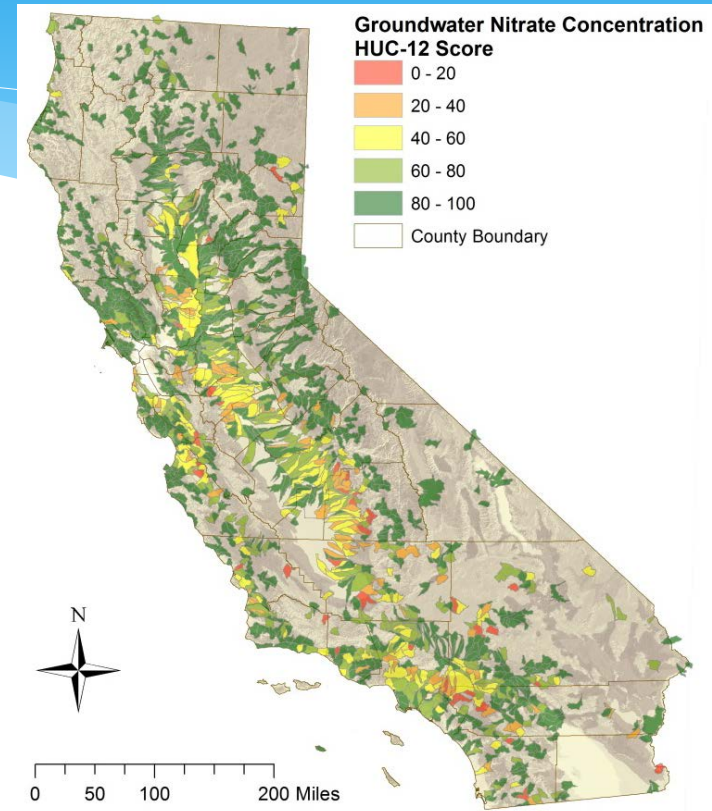
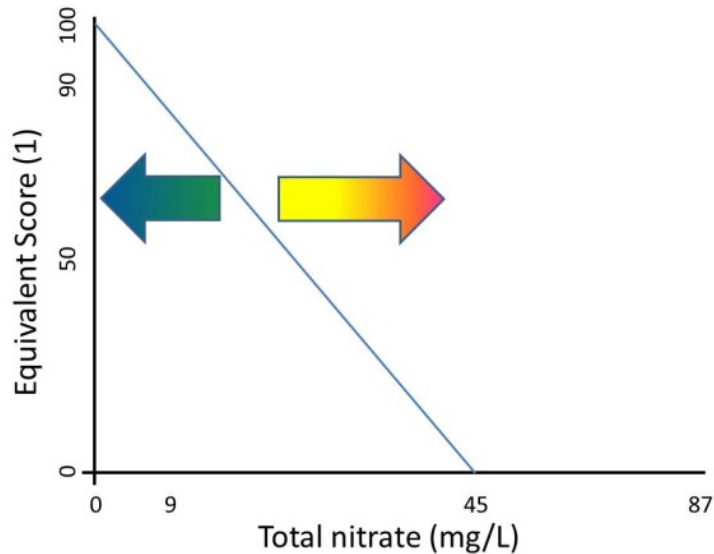
# Scoring: Changing the scoring model

Nitrate concentrations less than the MCL receive a score of 100 and concentrations >45 mg/L up to the mean of all groundwater samples in California's water supply wells in 2012 (87 mg/L; score = 0) receive scores proportional to concentration.

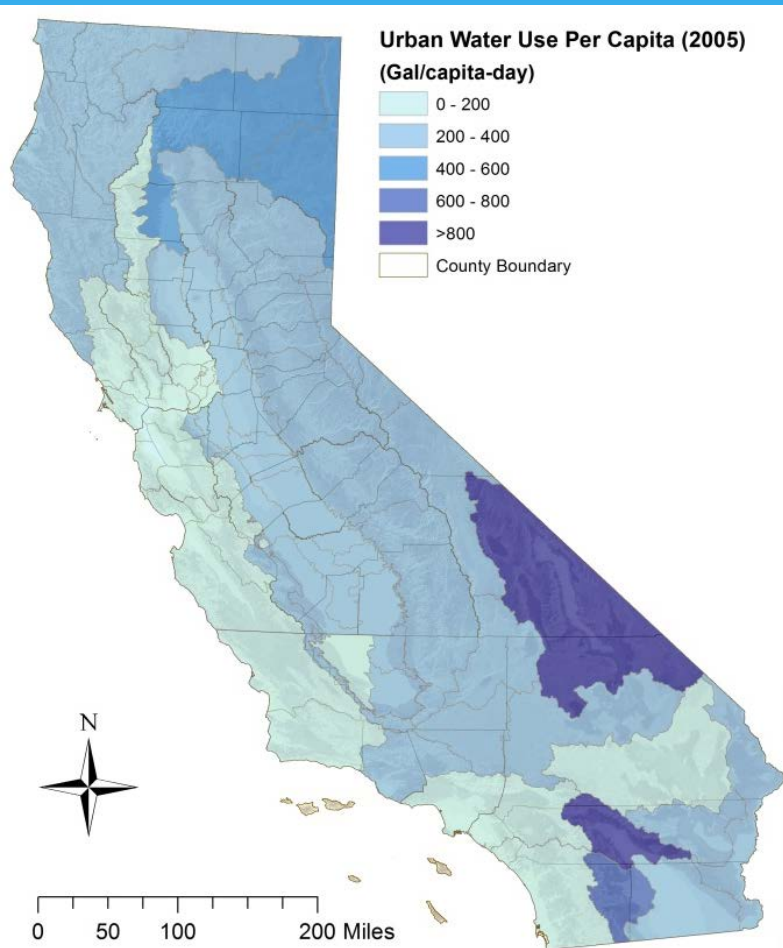


# Scoring: Changing the scoring model

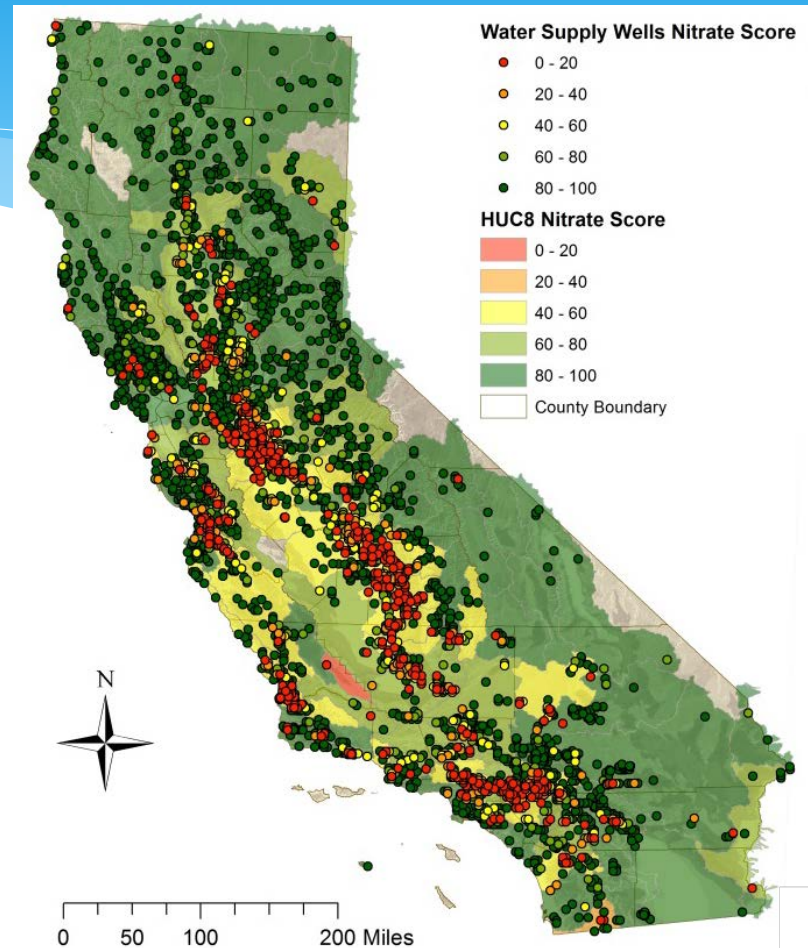
Nitrate concentration of 0 mg/L gets a score of 100, concentrations above the MCL receive a score of 0, and intermediate concentrations receive proportionally intermediate scores.



# Sample Findings: California



Water use by DWR planning area

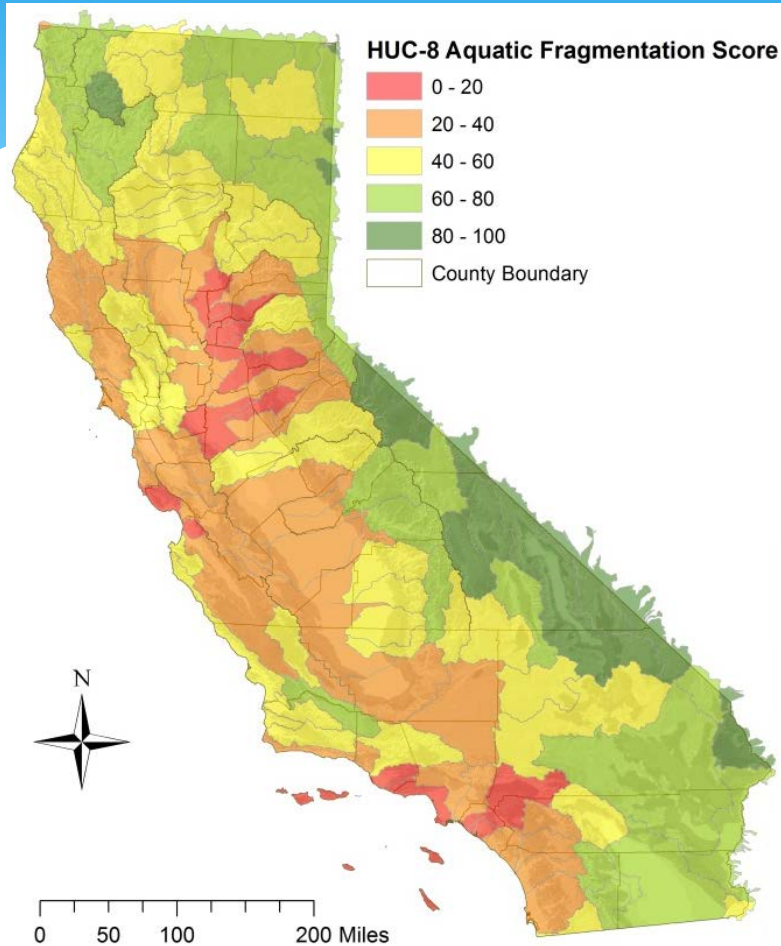


Water supply wells affected by contamination

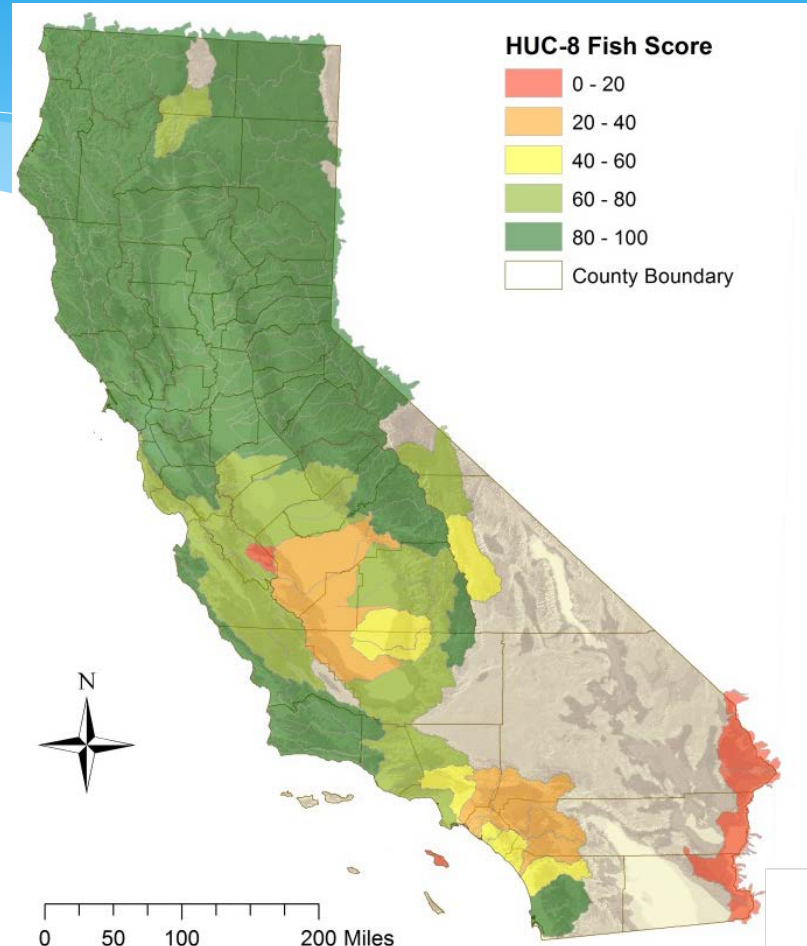




# Sample Findings: California



Aquatic fragmentation from road-stream crossings

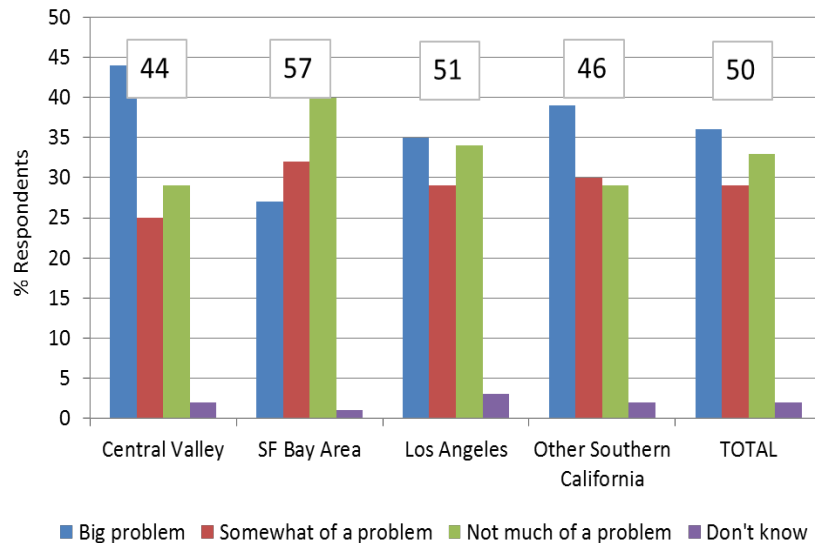


Current presence of native fish species relative to historic presence.

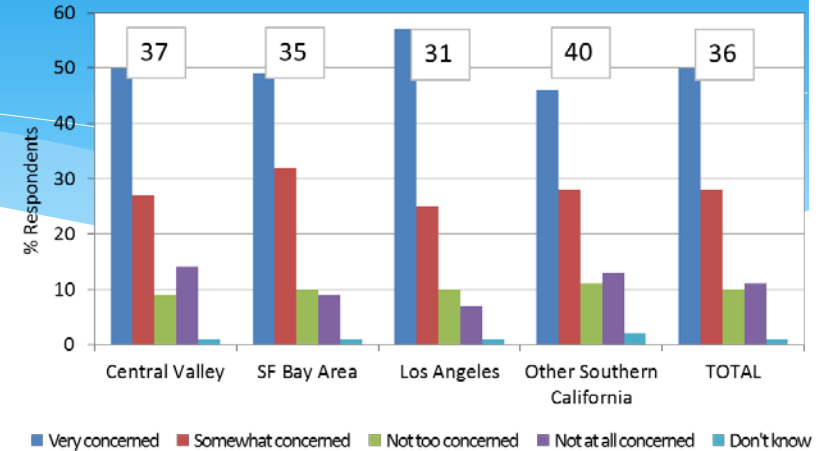


# Findings: Public views on water systems and investments

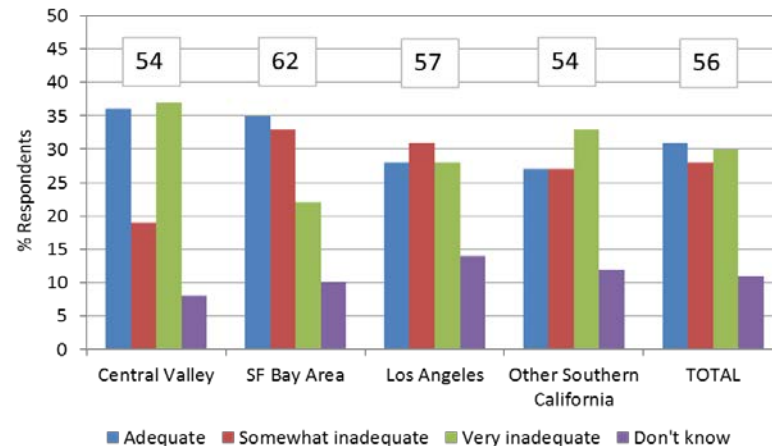
Public Perception by Region of Seriousness of Threats to the Public Water Supply (December 2012, sample = 7,315)



Public Perception of Effects of Climate Change on Future Water Supplies (July 2011, sample = 4,580)



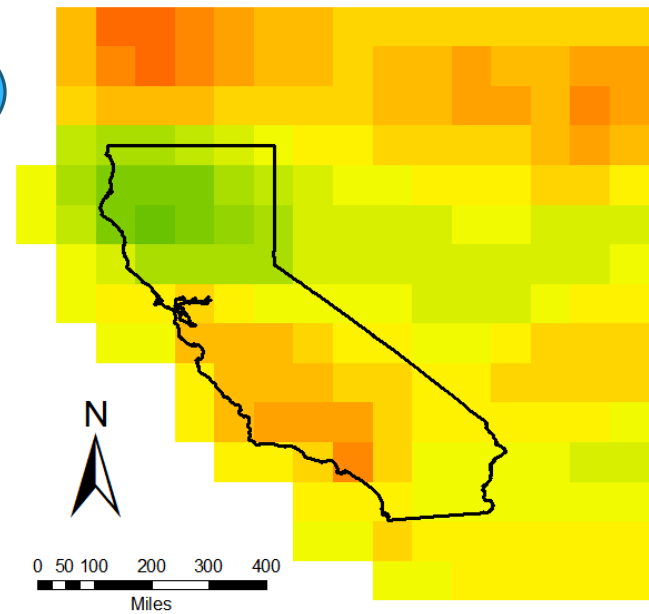
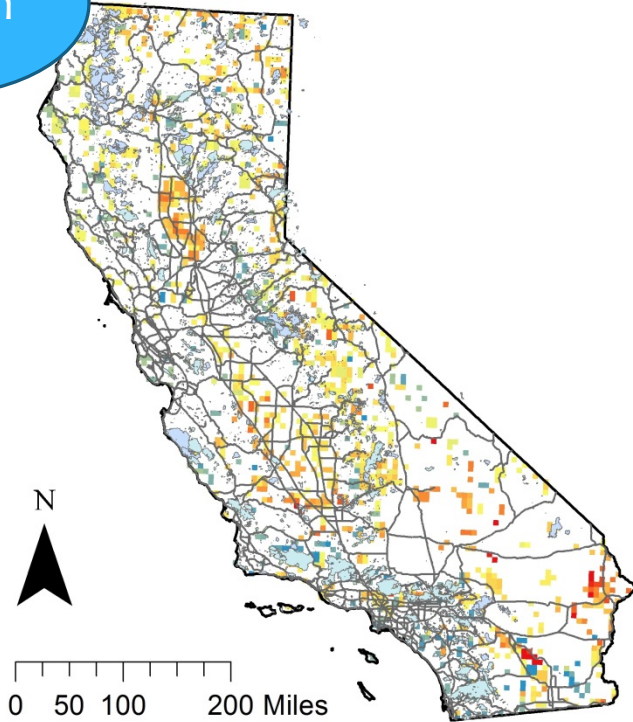
Public Perception of Security of Future Water Supplies (December 2009, sample = 1,825)



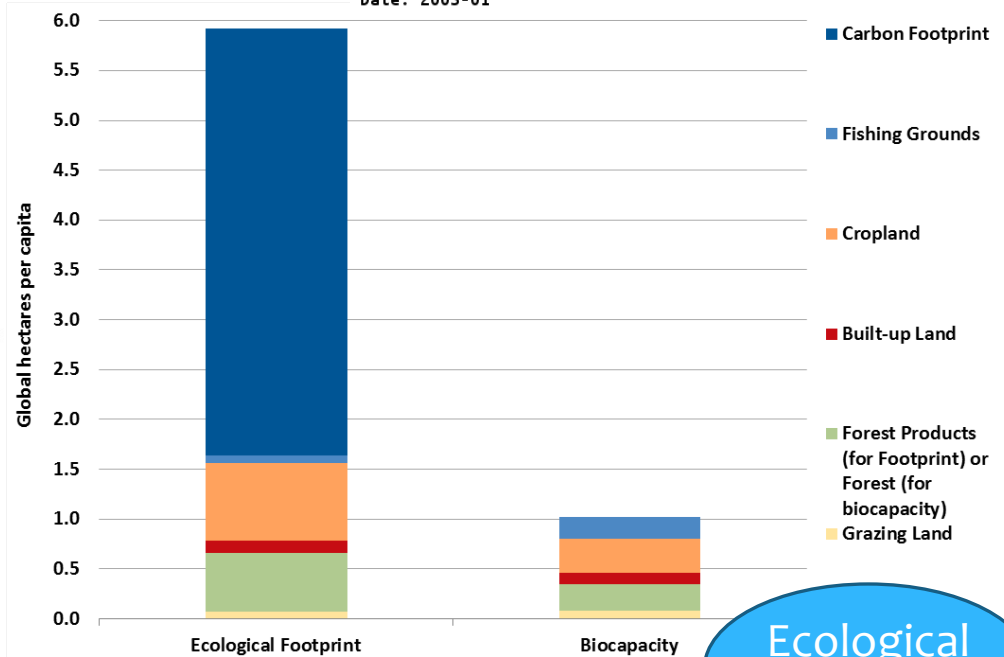
Data Source: Public Policy Institute of California

Groundwater-GRACE

Plant Growth Index

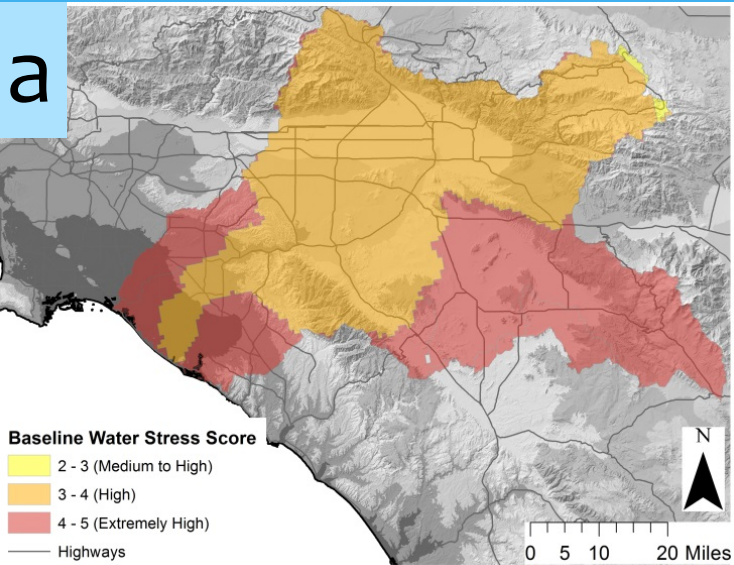


Date: 2003-01

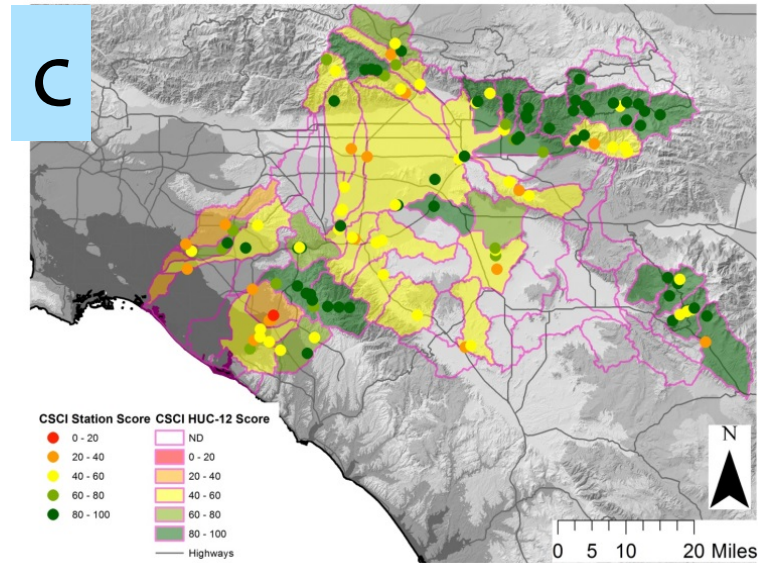
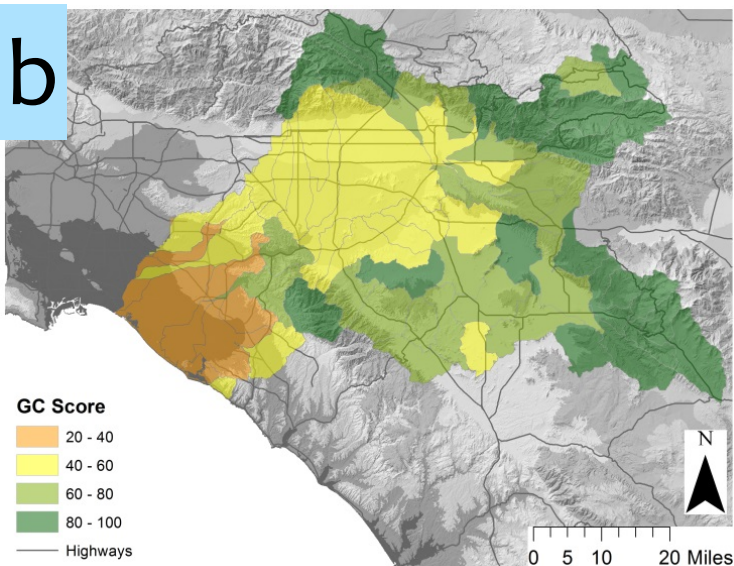


Ecological Footprint

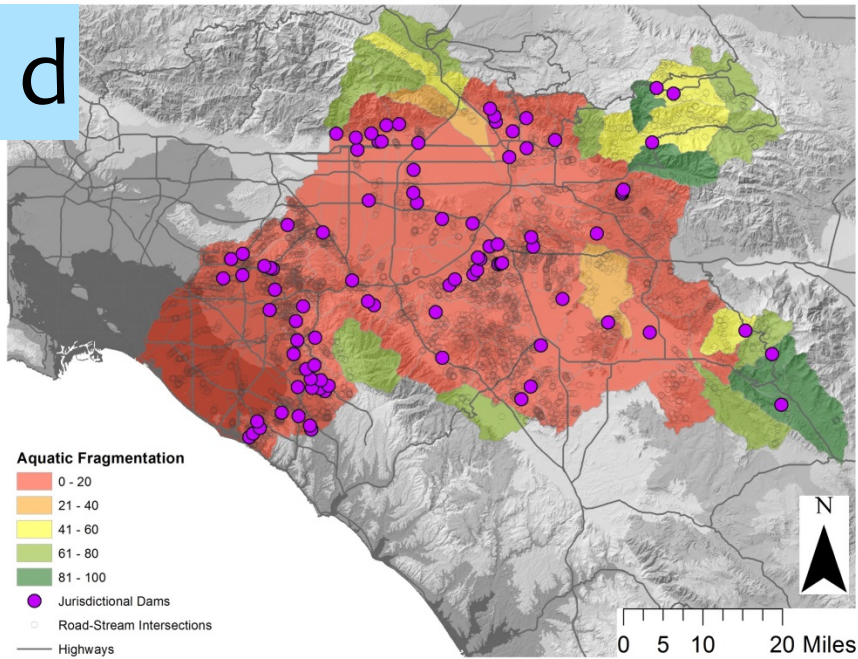
# Sample Findings: SAWPA



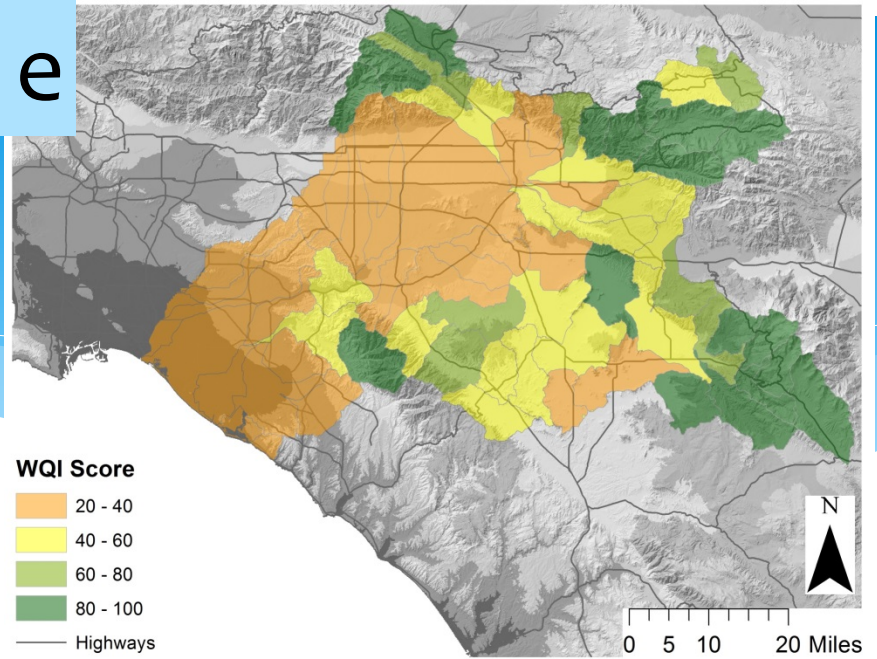
Evaluation of (a) “baseline water stress”, (b) geomorphic condition (GC), and (c) California Stream Condition Index indicators at the SAWPA scale.



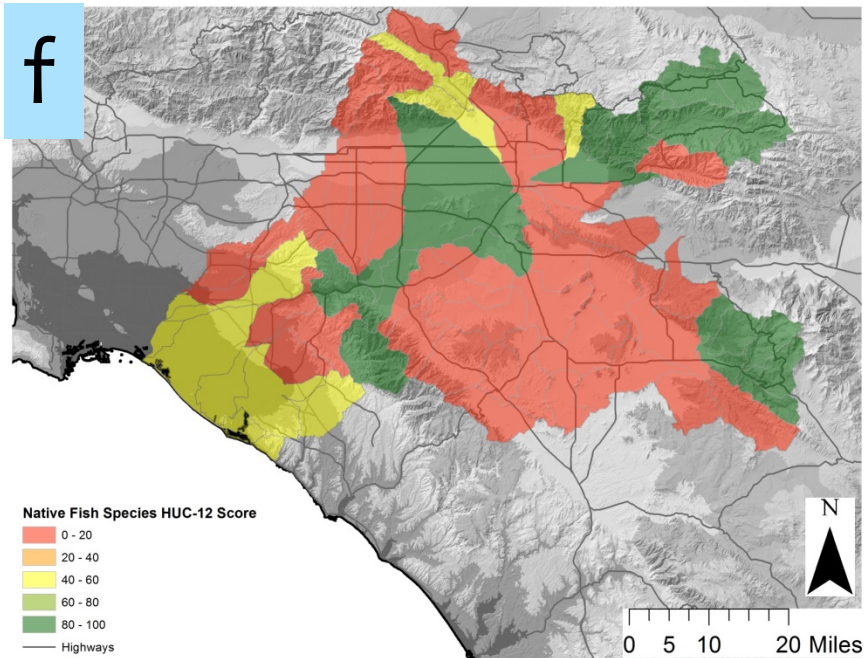
d



e



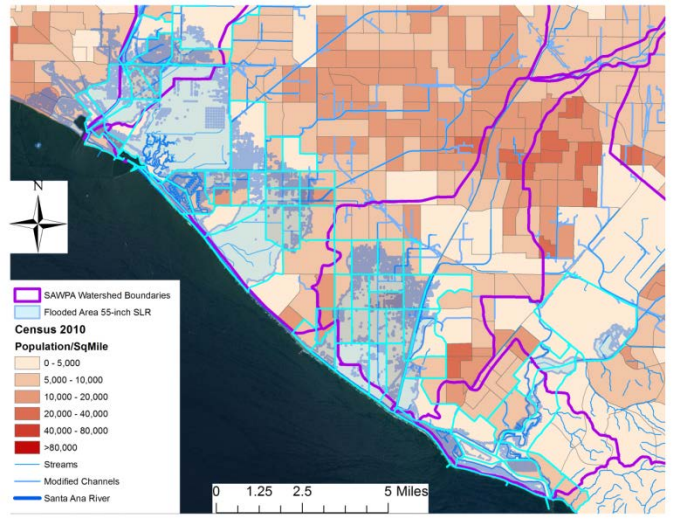
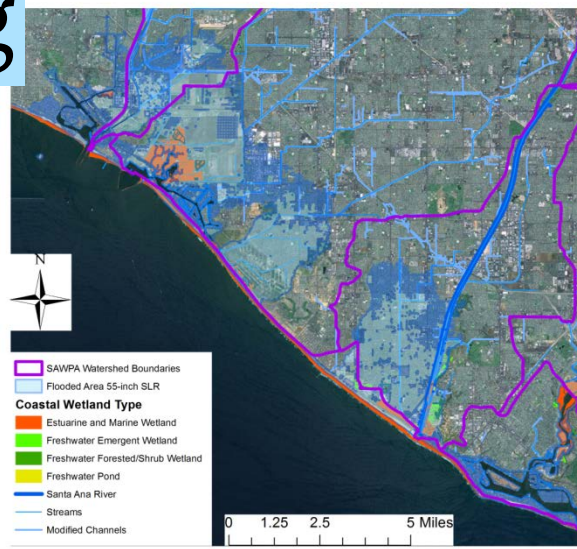
f



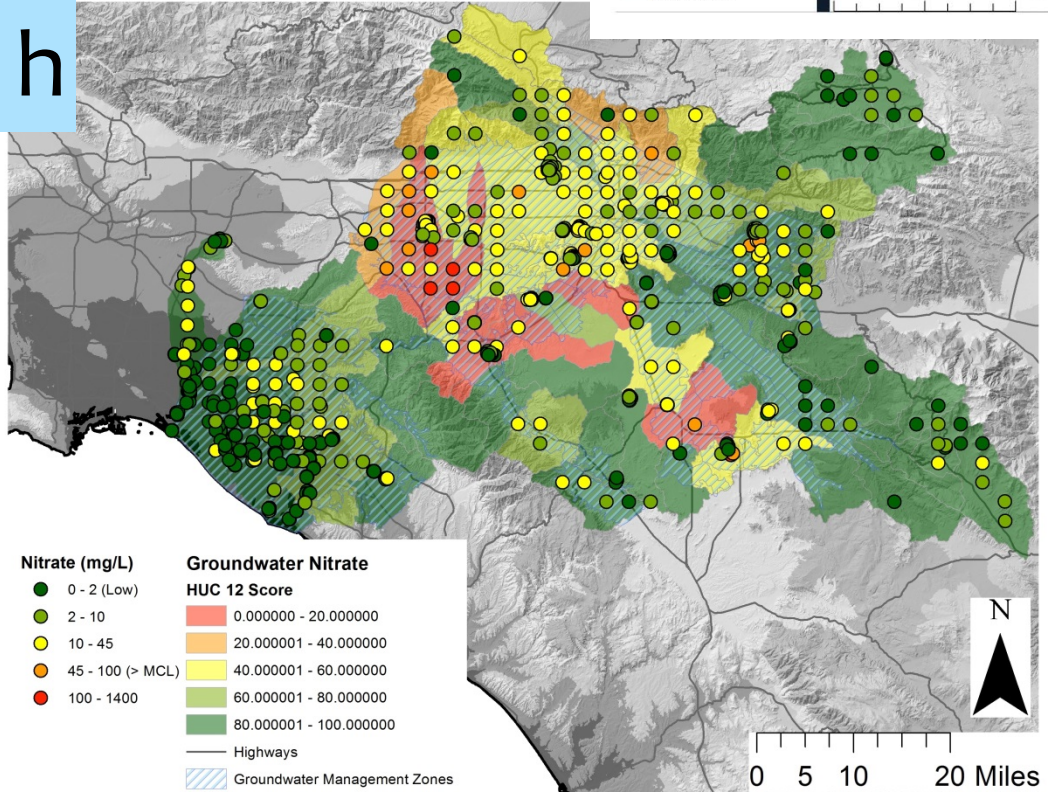
Evaluation of (d) aquatic fragmentation from roads and dams, (e) water quality index, and (f) native fish community indicators at the SAWPA scale.



g



h

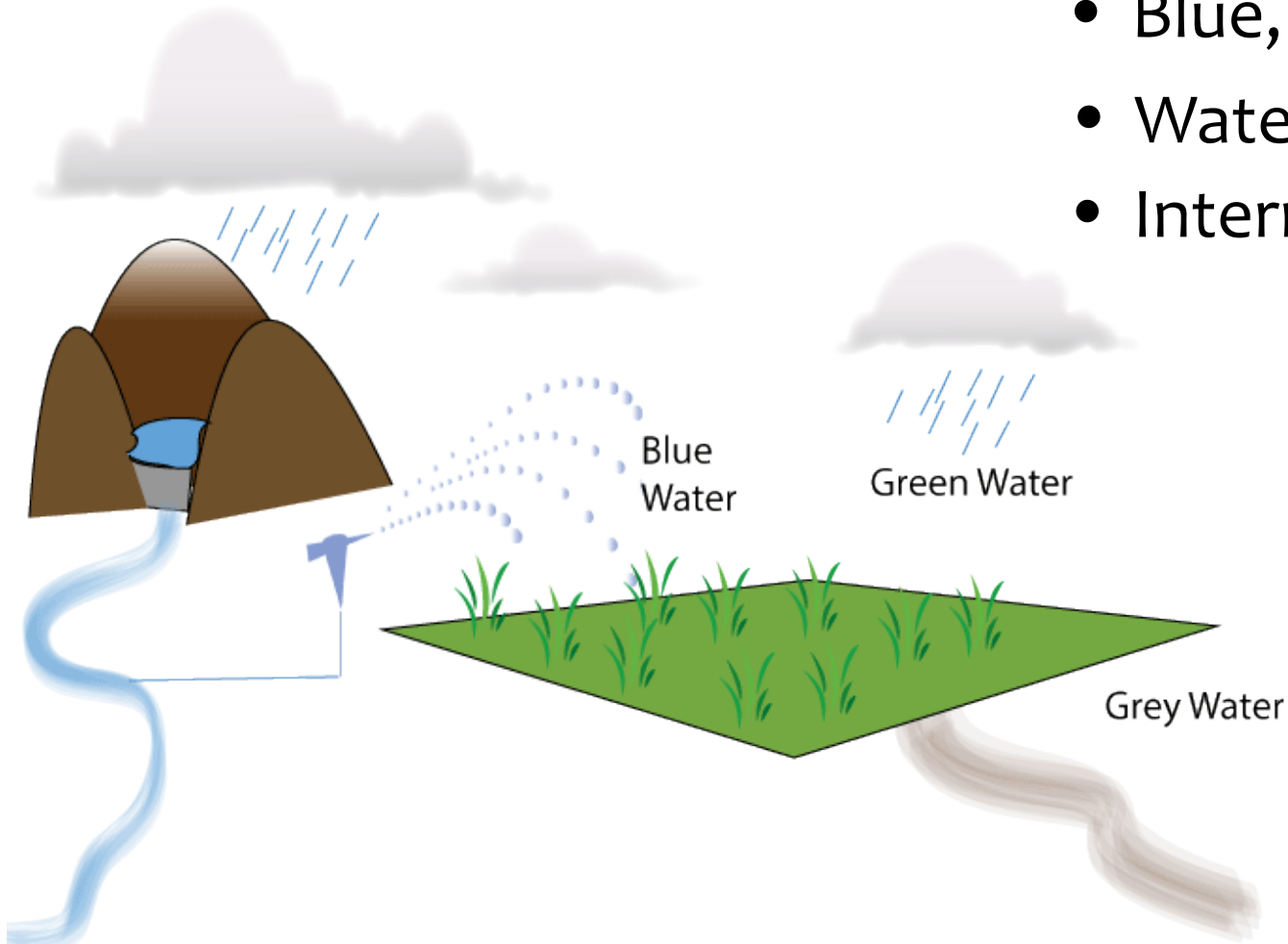


Evaluation of (g) sea level rise threats to infrastructure, wetlands, and population and (h) nitrate in groundwater indicators at the SAWPA scale.

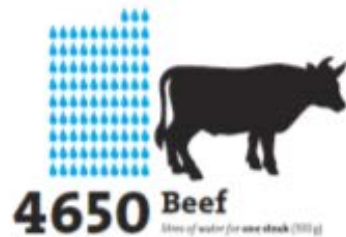


# Water Footprint

- Blue, green, and grey
- Water consumption
- Internal and external



# Examples

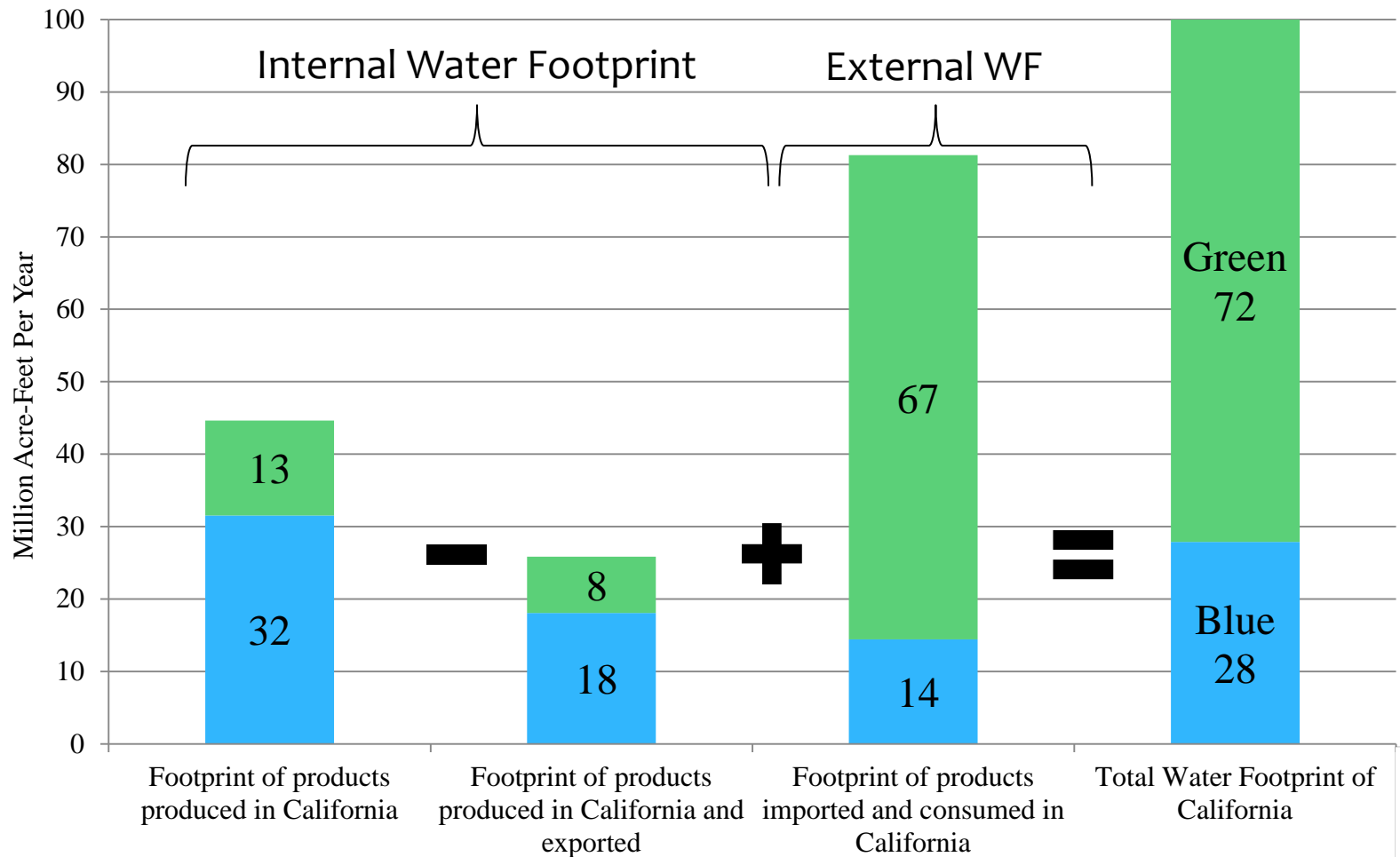


Units = liters/pound/serving  
Source: <http://virtualwater.eu/>

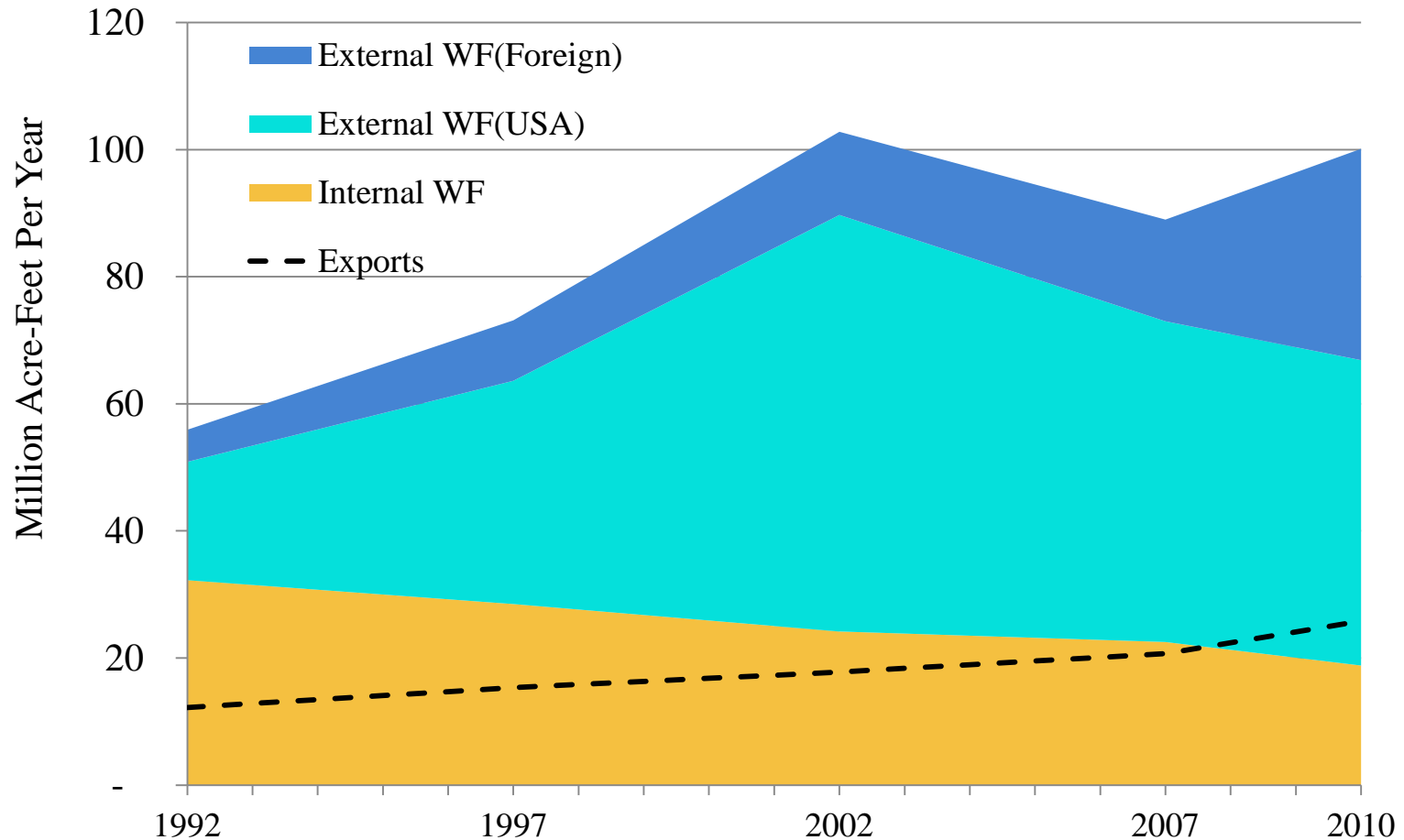


# California's Water Footprint in 2010

(\*gray water footprint not calculated)



# California's Water Footprint, 1992- 2010



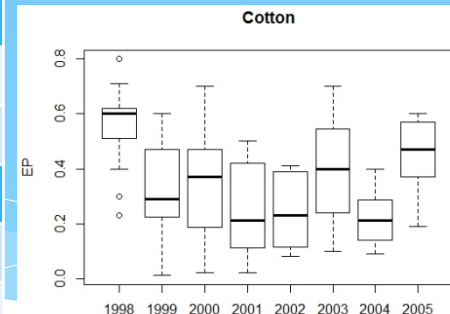
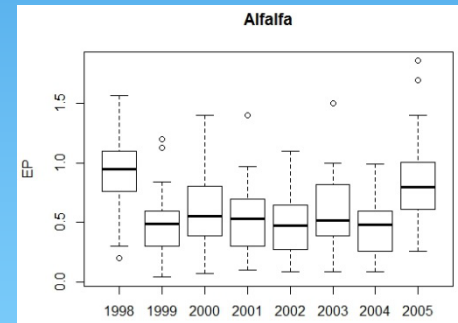
# Sources of Variation

- Like all measurements, the water footprint has several types and sources of variation. An individual's WF can vary with income, diet, and consumption patterns. California's WF for agricultural production varied due to variations in crop-specific irrigation and evapotranspiration rates, which affects the WF.

**Table 1. % Change in CA Water Footprint and its components due to variability of water footprints of the nine main crops statewide**

	1992	1997	2002	2007
<b>% Change in CA Water Footprint of Agricultural Production</b>				
Lower bound*	-27%	-27%	-27%	-26%
Upper bound*	+33%	+33%	+34%	+33%
<b>% Change in CA Blue Water Footprint</b>				
Lower bound*	-24%	-24%	-20%	-23%
Upper bound*	+29%	+29%	+25%	+29%
<b>% Change in CA Water Footprint</b>				
Lower bound*	-12%	-10%	-7%	-8%
Upper bound*	+14%	+12%	+9%	+10%

Note: \* Lower and upper bounds of the 95% confidence interval.

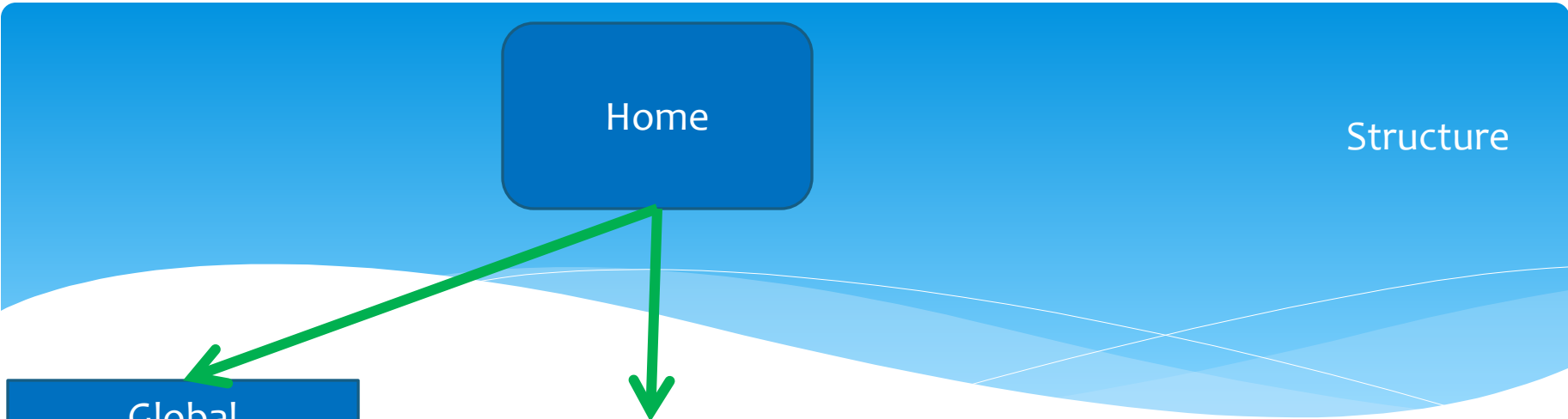


# Web-Based Decision Support Tool

- \* Global indicators catalog
- \* Water Plan indicators
- \* Evaluated indicators at state and region scales
- \* Geo-portal
- \* What-if scenarios

<http://indicators.ucdavis.edu>





Home

Structure

Global Sustainability Indicators Catalog

CA Sustainability Indicators

Recommended WP Indicators

Evaluated WP Indicators

Data Store

Open Layers Map Tool

Results

Narrative

Data



http://indicators.ucdavis.edu/maps

Indicator Maps | California ...

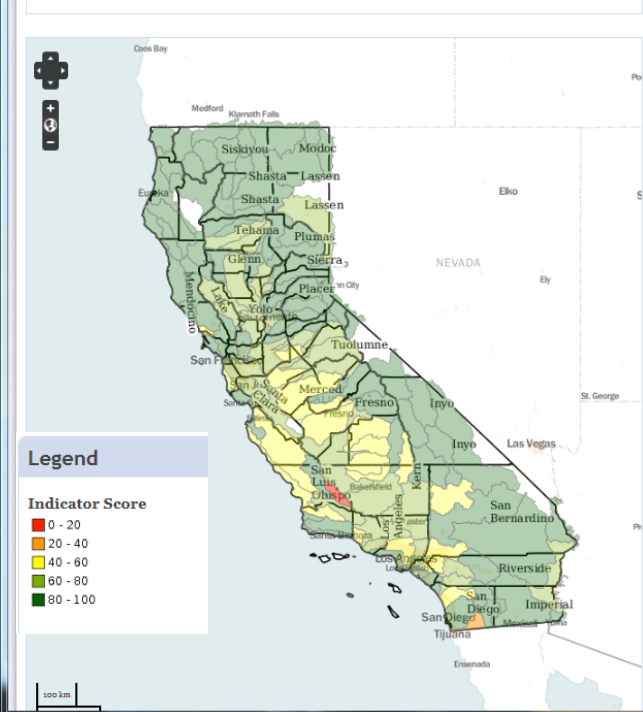
Search

TRB 93rd Annual Meeting Suggested Sites Get more Add-ons

## Indicator Maps

**Map Overview and Help**

This tool allows you to see the mapped results for 16 Water Sustainability Indicators. You can select a basemap from "Base Layers" drop-down menu. The default is the "MapBox World Bright" map, which has very little detail. To get more local detail when you zoom in, select the "Google Maps Normal" layer. Maps can be displayed by checking the box next to the indicator in the menu to the right of the map view. We suggest selecting one at a time. HR = hydrologic region, HUC8 = river watershed, HUC10 = river sub-watershed, HUC12 = creek watershed.



- ### Map layers
- Base layers
- MapBox World Bright
- Overlays
- California County Boundaries
  - California Jurisdictional Dams
  - California USGS Stream Gages
  - Aquatic Fragmentation -- HUC8
  - Aquatic Fragmentation -- HUC12
  - Aquatic Fragmentation -- HUC10
  - California Stream Condition Index -- HUC8
  - California Stream Condition Index -- HUC10
  - California Stream Condition Index -- HUC12
  - CalEnviroScreen -- HUC8
  - CalEnviroScreen -- ZIP
  - Geomorphic Conditions -- HUC12
  - Geomorphic Conditions -- HUC10
  - Geomorphic Conditions -- HUC8
  - Groundwater Nitrate -- HR
  - Groundwater Nitrate -- HUC8
  - Native Fish -- HUC8
  - Native Fish -- HUC12
  - Native Fish -- HR
  - Water Quality Index -- HUC8
  - Water Quality Index -- HUC10
  - Water Quality Index -- HUC12
  - WRI: Historical Flooding
  - WRI: Threats to Amphibians
  - WRI: Upstream Storage
  - WRI: Inter-annual Variability
  - WRI: Baseline Water Stress
  - WRI: Historical Drought
  - WRI: Upstream Protected Lands
  - WRI: Return Flows

http://indicators.ucdavis.edu/catalog/search/mode/water%20quality/pages2

Global Sustainability Indicator Catalog

Sustainability indicators from frameworks around the world

Home Overview Assessments Indicators Maps Regions Catalog About Us

Search » Content

## Search

Enter your keywords

### Search results

Coastal water quality: Trace element and organic compound (antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, total DDT, total PAHs, zinc) levels in sediments in a harbor ... Environmental Indicators and Report Card **Water Quality** ... (indicator)

State: Water quality at the downstream point ... Sustainable Development in Catchment Systems **Water Quality** ... (indicator)

Water Quality: Mid-channel clarity ... Chesapeake Bay Program -- Bay Barometer **Water Quality** ... (indicator)

Water quality: faecal coliforms ... performance of watersheds in Alberta **Water Quality** ... (indicator)

Water quality downstream of rice paddies ... gauging the flow of progress 2000 - 2010 **Water Quality Agriculture** ... (indicator)

Water quality: Toxic contaminants ... Long Island Sound Study **Water Quality** ... (indicator)

Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services: Water quality of freshwater ecosystems ... Target (UNEP-CDD) Ecosystem Health **Water Quality** ... (indicator)

### Catalog Menu

- Catalog Home
- Frameworks and Assessments
- Indicators
- Organizations

### Keyword Search

### Indicator Categories

- Adaptive and Sustainable Management
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Economics
- Ecosystem Health
- Land Use
- Social Benefits and Equity
- Transportation
- Water Quality
- Water Supply Reliability

http://indicators.ucdavis.edu/indicators/goals

Beta -- California Water Sustainability

Decision Support Tool and Sustainability Indicator Frameworks

Home Projects Maps Goals Indicators Catalog

## Indicators by Goal

Goals Categories Tree 1 Tree 2 Tree 3 Tree 4

This page lists the set of system-wide indicators, organized under each of the 8 sustainability goals & objectives and are examples of indicators appropriate for each objective. The indicators and their component metrics were drawn from existing indicator frameworks that deal with water management, water quality, watersheds, regional sustainability, and ecosystem health. It is a list of indicators so far, not all possible or even best indicators.

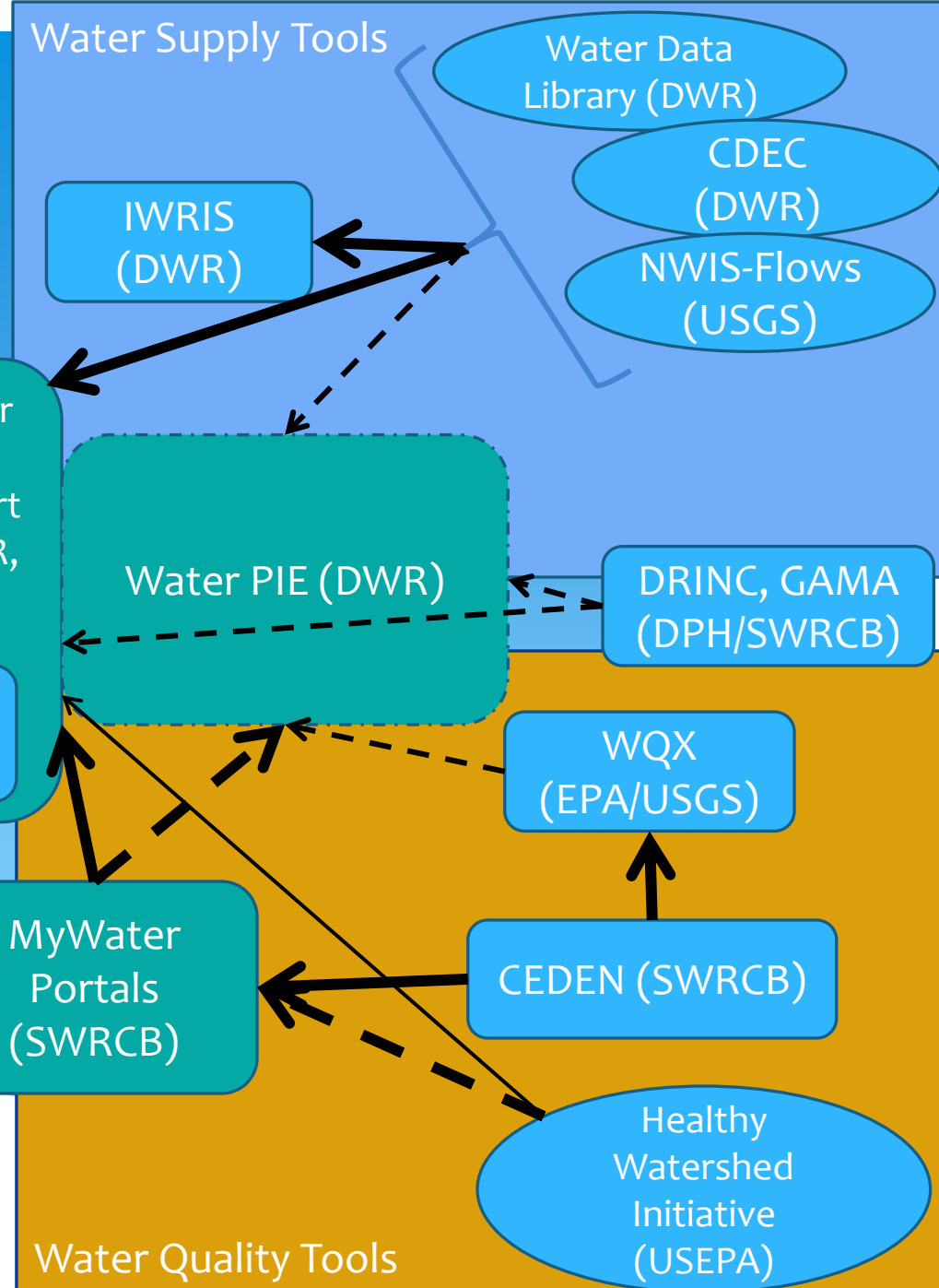
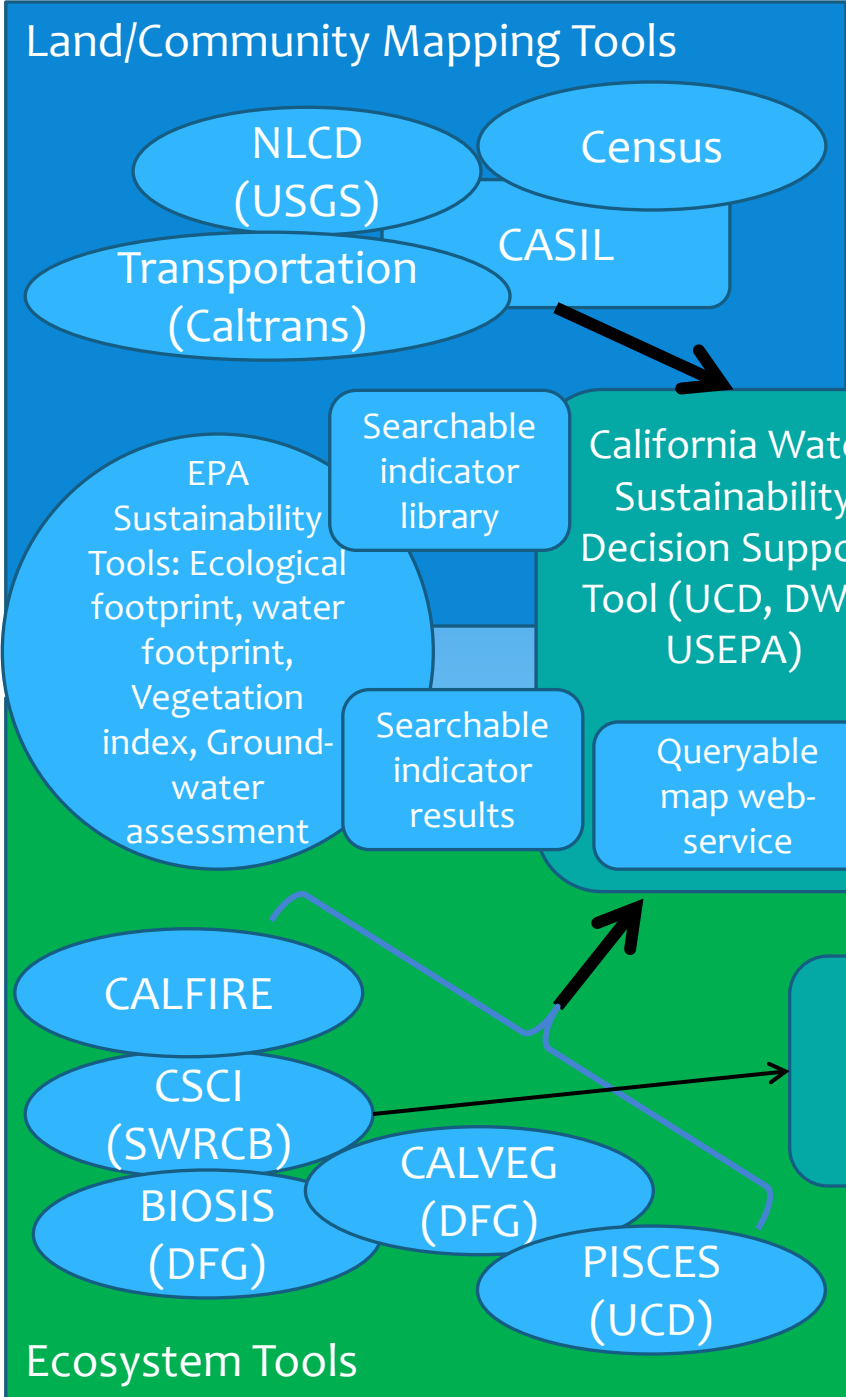
**Goal 1: Sustainable Water Management**

- Aquifer Declines**  
Number and estimated capacity of basins with years-long aquifer declines (known as overdraft) or projected future declines.
- Benefits from Water Management**  
Equitable distribution of economic and health benefits from water management.
- Completion of Stewardship Actions**  
The completion of restoration recommendations and key actions during the implementation phase of the process.
- Drought Resilience**  
The maximum severity of drought during which core water demands can still be met, including social and environmental minimum requirements.
- Energy Requirements for Water Delivery**  
Energy required per unit of clean drinking water delivered.
- Equitable Decision-Making Process**  
Equitable decision-making process for water management, diversity of participating organizations.
- Flood Resilience**  
The maximum flood that can be experienced without exceeding some amount (e.g., \$10 million) in damages.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**Indicators**

- Abundance of Key Native Species
- Abundance of Key Non-Native Species
- Abundance of Native Aquatic Species
- Adaptive Management under Changing Conditions
- Affordable Water Prices
- Amount of Industrial Pollutants Released
- Aquatic Fragmentation
- Aquifer Declines
- Benefits from Water Management
- California Stream Condition Index
- Channel Alteration
- Collaboration between Scientists and Policy Makers
- Communication of Uncertainty
- Completion of Stewardship Actions
- Conservation and Restoration Projects
- Data Sharing and Distribution
- Delta: Agricultural Improvements
- Delta: Dependent Industrial Production
- Delta: Fishing
- Delta: Percent Water Supplied
- Delta: Recreational Use
- Delta: Recycled Water Usage
- Delta: Water Quality and Irrigated Lands
- Delta: Water Usage
- Drought Resilience
- Earthquake Resilience
- Energy Requirements for Water Delivery
- Equitable Access to Clean Water
- Equitable Decision-Making Process





# CWQMC Opportunities

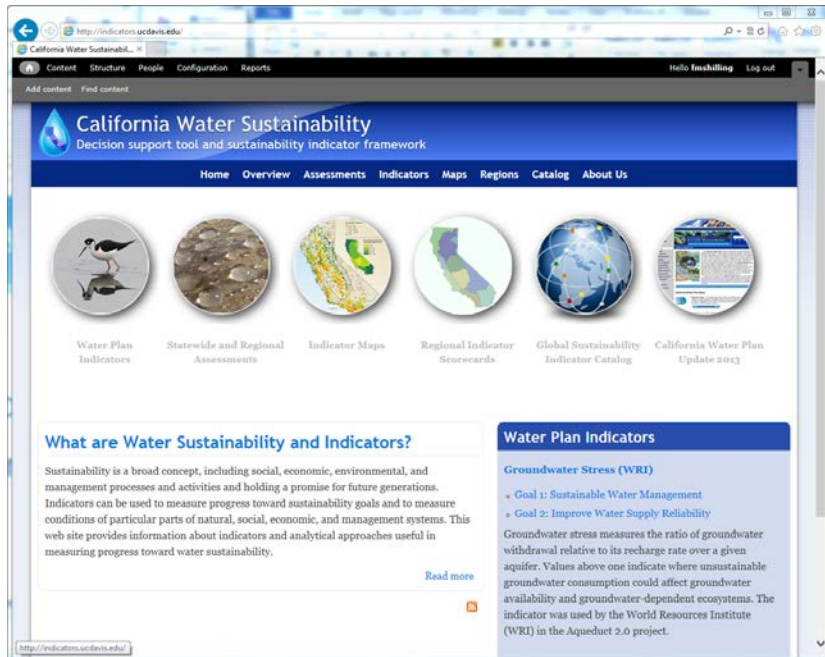
- \* Support integrated, federated water information system for CA (potentially useful in times of drought), for example My Water Quality + Water PIE + DRINC
- \* Support development of real-time/automated indicators, integrated with information systems (saves \$)
- \* Support annual water sustainability report cards for water flows, supplies, replenishment, quality, biota, cycling, use, etc.
- \* Support agency/academy collaboration to report on sustainability in general



# Contact & More Information

\* [Indicators.ucdavis.edu](http://Indicators.ucdavis.edu)

\* [fmshilling@ucdavis.edu](mailto:fmshilling@ucdavis.edu)



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'California Water Sustainability' website. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, Overview, Assessments, Indicators, Maps, Regions, Catalog, and About Us. Below the navigation is a row of six circular icons representing different aspects of water sustainability: Water Plan Indicators, Statewide and Regional Assessments, Indicator Maps, Regional Indicator Scorecards, Global Sustainability Indicator Catalog, and California Water Plan Update 2013. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'What are Water Sustainability and Indicators?' and 'Water Plan Indicators'. The 'Water Plan Indicators' section includes a sub-section for 'Groundwater Stress (WRI)' with two goals: 'Goal 1: Sustainable Water Management' and 'Goal 2: Improve Water Supply Reliability'. A paragraph explains that Groundwater stress measures the ratio of groundwater withdrawal relative to its recharge rate over a given aquifer. Values above one indicate where unsustainable groundwater consumption could affect groundwater availability and groundwater-dependent ecosystems. The indicator was used by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in the Aqeduct 2.0 project.

