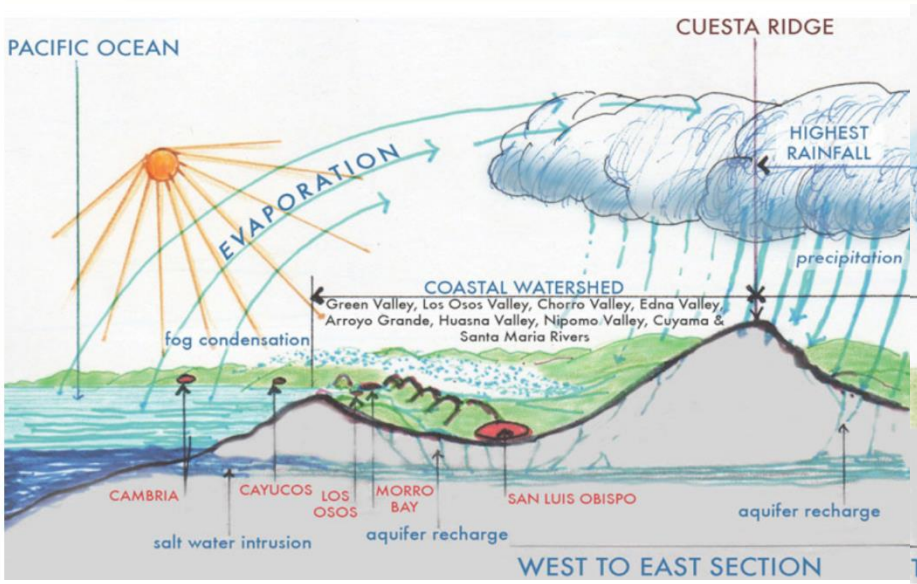
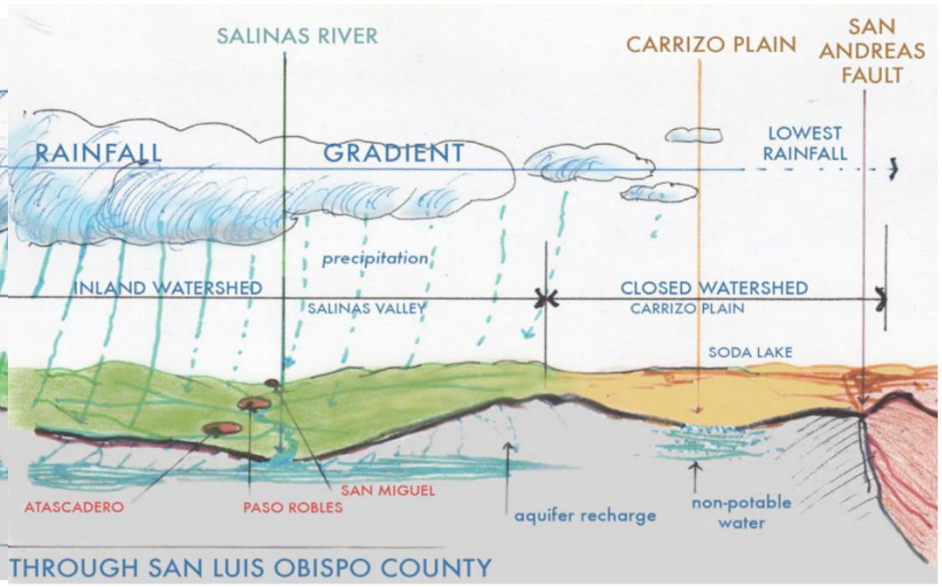
Changing the Upside Down River

- The Salinas River

Devin Best
Executive Director
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

WATERSHEDS & THEIR FUNCTION





- Groundwater infiltration & storage
- Groundwater release to springs and streams
- Nutrient cycling in productive soils
- Food, fiber, fuel
- Flood control
- Recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Aesthetics of open space

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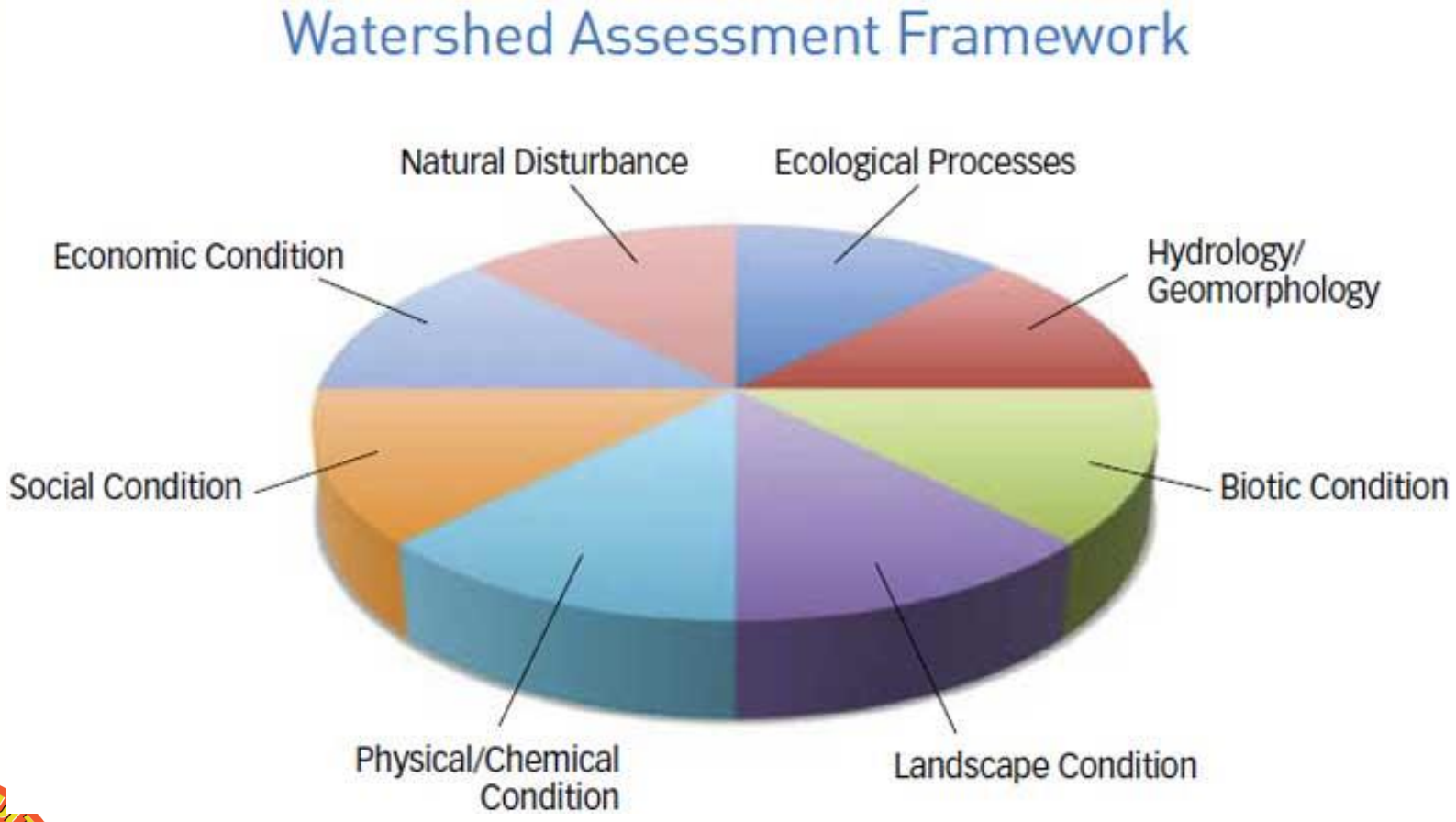
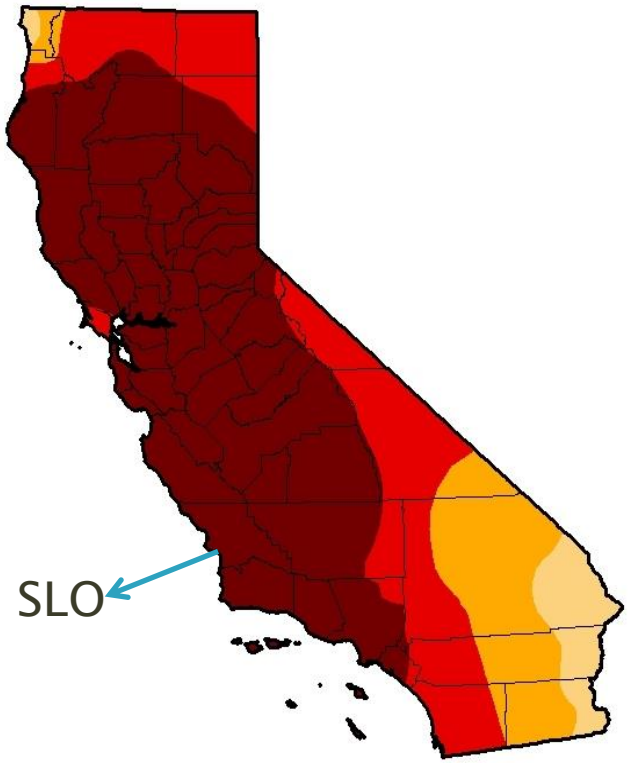
STATE OF OUR WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT



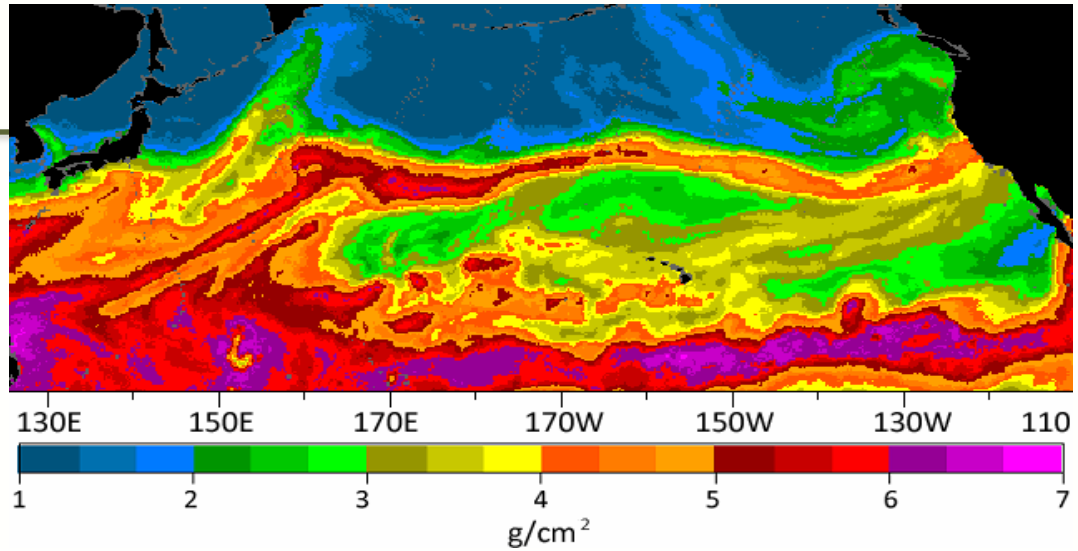
FACTORS AFFECTING WATER SUPPLY

- Climate
  - Scarcity – prolonged drought
  - Atmospheric Rivers – severe flooding
- Land Use
  - conversion to impervious vs. pervious surfaces
  - Habitat simplification – straightening of streams, loss of wetlands
- Waste and Misuse
  - Leakage, evaporation, urban landscaping, etc.

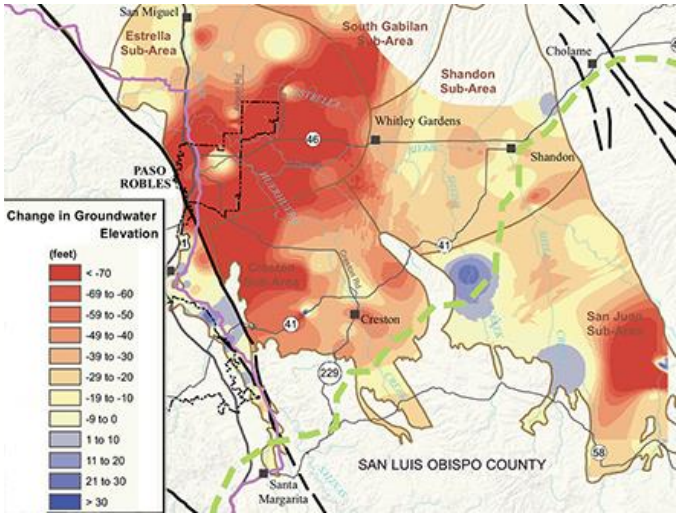
Changing the Upside Down River



Drought



Flooding



Groundwater Management

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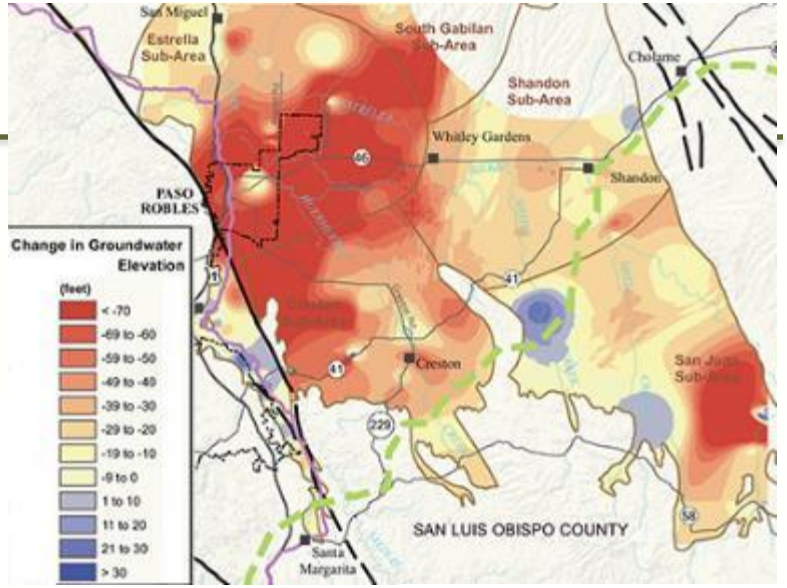
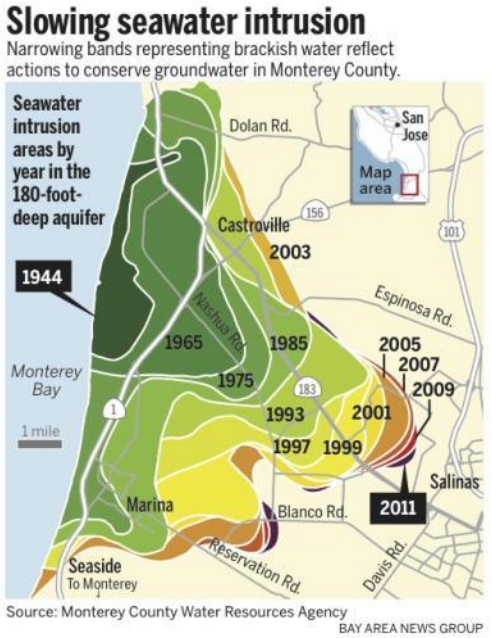
WATER SUPPLY

- Paso Robles Groundwater Basin At Level Of Severity III
- Seawater Intrusion In North Monterey County
- Low-level In Reservoirs





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WATERSHED RESTORATION

- Habitat Restoration
  - Habitat complexity
  - Storm water management
  - Erosion/Sediment Control Practices
- Open Space protection
- Groundwater/Surface water interactions
  - Recharge
  - Percolation Area protection

WATERSHED MONITORING

- Long-term monitoring to evaluate trend analysis
- Indicators of watershed health
- Water Quality
- Community Action/Stewardship

SOCIAL RESILIENCY

- Communities rely on natural resources
- Socioeconomics
  - Tourism
  - Productive lands
  - Management
- Climate/Natural Disturbance Resiliency

- Greater watershed awareness and knowledge
- Increased recreational/aesthetics
- Economic vitality
- Reduced loss/waste of resources

- **Issues**
- **Outcomes**

PLANS IN PLACE

- S-CCC Recovery Plan finalized in December, 2013
  - Identifies threats and stresses to species viability
  - Recommends recovery actions to curtail the extirpation of populations
- Strategy Planning
  - SLO County Watersheds Management Plan: Phase 1
    - www.slowatershedsproject.org
  - SLO Master Water Report
  - General Plan, Conservation & Open Space Element
  - Long Range Land Use Planning
  - Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan
  - NMFS Strategy Plan for Salinas River (draft)
  - Percolation Zone Study of Pilot-Study Groundwater Basins in San Luis Obispo County, California

HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE INTO CONSERVATION?

- Plans identify what needs to be done on a large scale
- Designs focus on goals and objectives to achieve on watershed, reach, or individual landowner scale
- Monitor outputs (number and type of actions) and outcomes (e.g. improved stormwater management, increased recharge, reduced sedimentation, etc.)

QUESTIONS?

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