

California Water Story 101: Where are we and where are we going?



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Israel-California Agriculture Convening

Sacramento, CA

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

Overview

- Introduction
- CA *Water Context*
- Selected policies



LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO

Water Rights Law

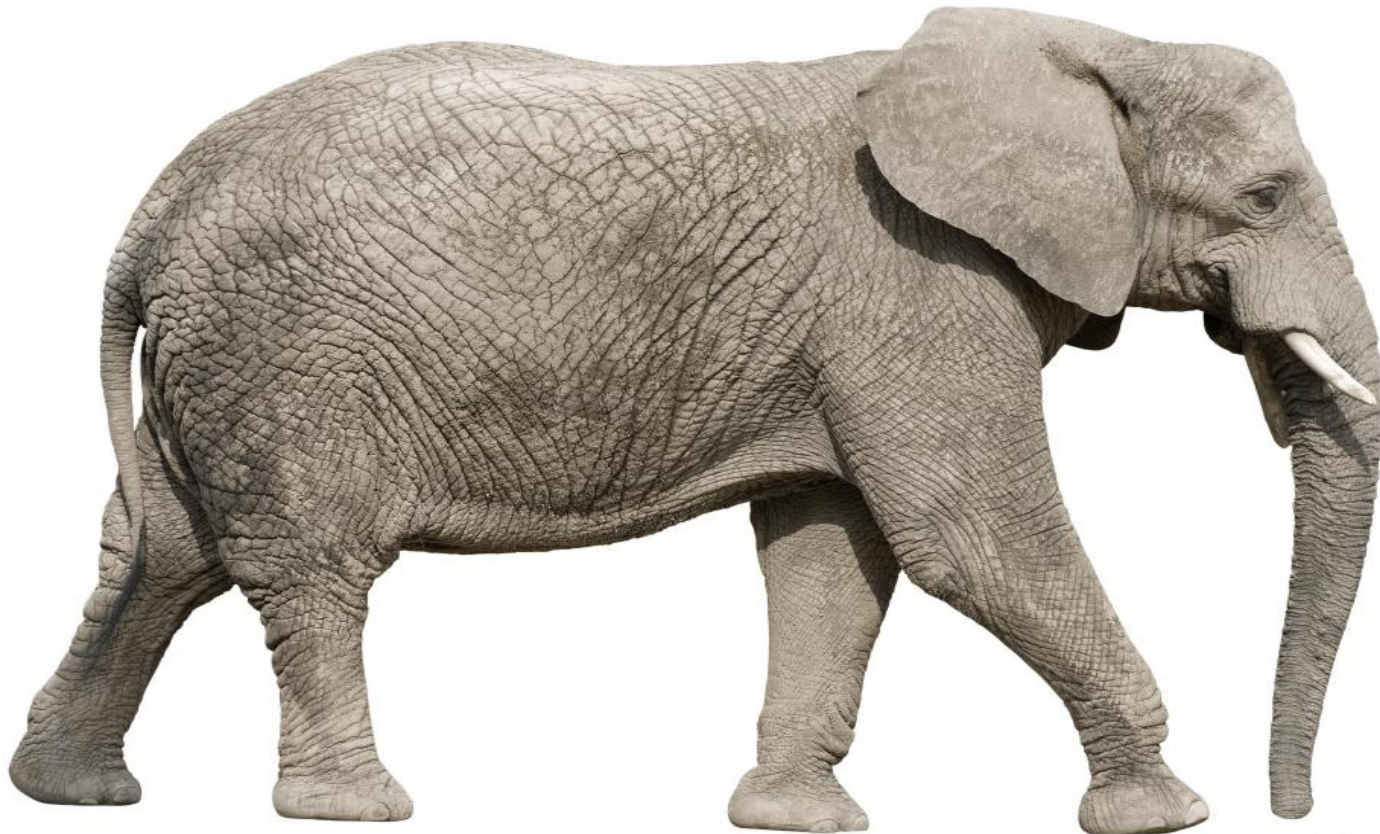
Prepared by the Water Education Foundation



It's everyone's turn.



All you need to know about CA water policy



wiseGEEK

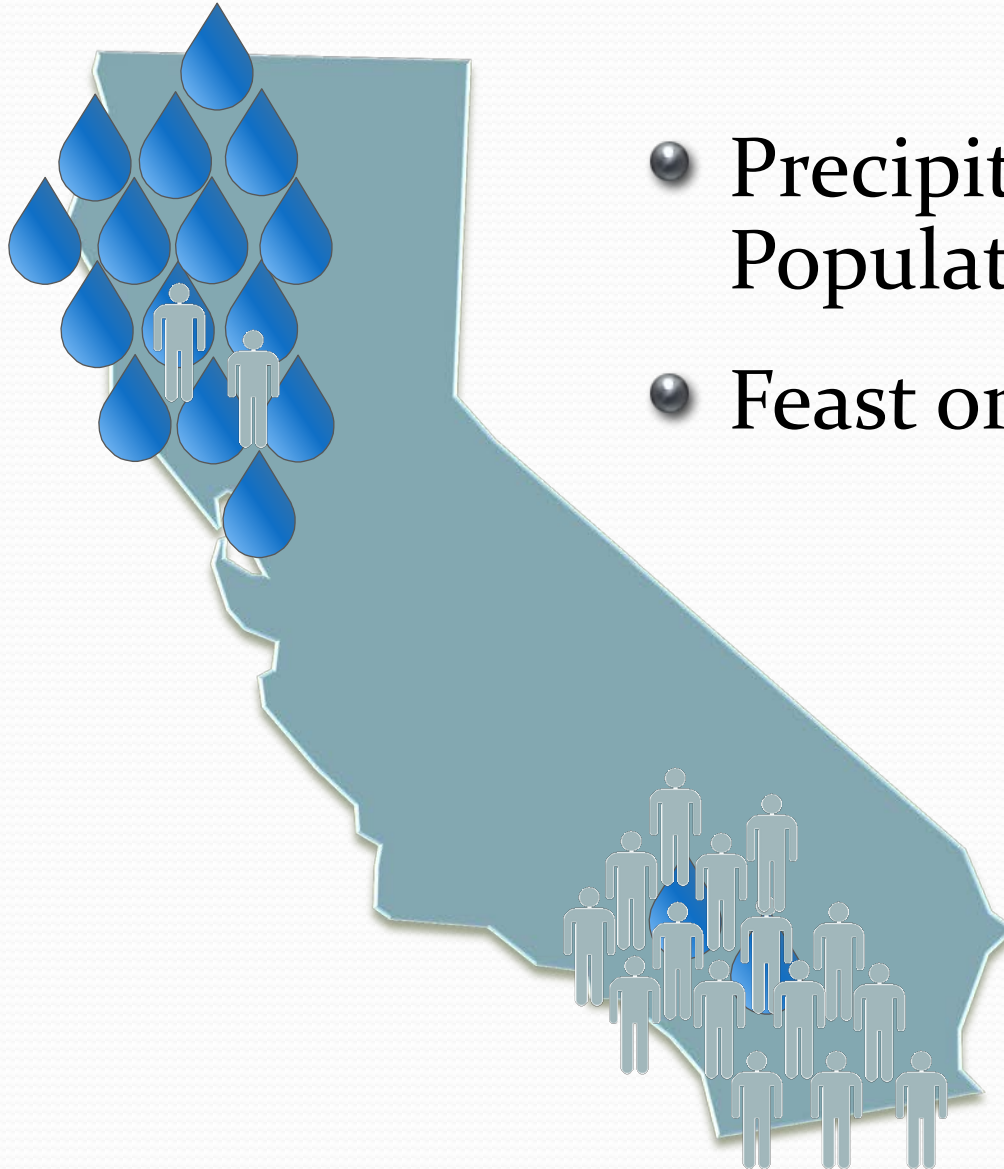
Setting—the whole elephant

- **Most Variable hydrology**
 - Year to year
 - Location to Location
 - Time of year
- **Mix of sources**
 - Surface Water local or imported (storage/conveyance)
 - Groundwater (intensely local)
 - Every locale different mix
 - Mix of water rights varies greatly
 - Impact of drought varies greatly
- **Mix of solutions**
 - Conservation/Recycling/Stormwater/Desal
 - Integrated Water Management in regions and statewide
 - **Storage, storage, storage, storage** and other infrastructure improvements
- **Basics**
 - 38 million people→50 million
 - Majority of population lives in large cities 100s of miles from water source
 - One of 5 Mediterranean large scale agricultural opportunities in world
 - Most biodiversity; losing biodiversity most rapidly
 - Institutional setting: local control; 2600 water agencies (411 “large”)



Climate change and other drivers as gamechangers

It's complicated



- Precipitation vs. Population
- Feast or Famine



Major Water Projects

- 💧 Federal – Central Valley Project (CVP)
- 💧 State – State Water Project (SWP)
- 💧 Local – Many other projects throughout state, including Colorado River system, Hetch Hetchy, EBMUD, Owens Valley

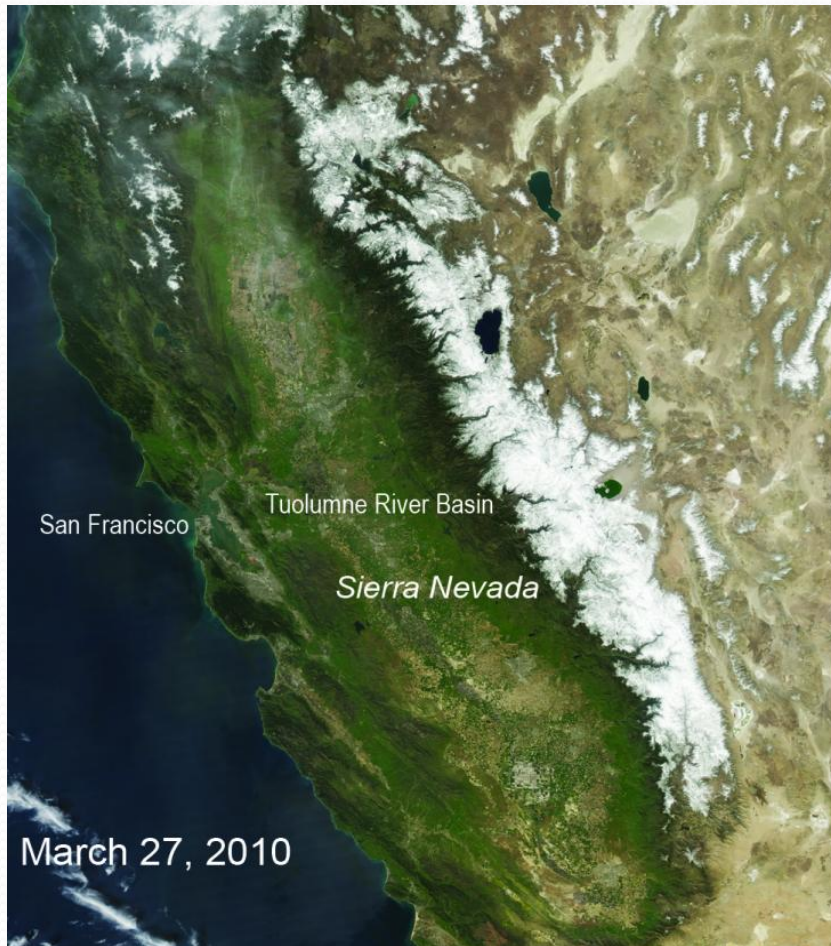
Source: Water Environment Foundation



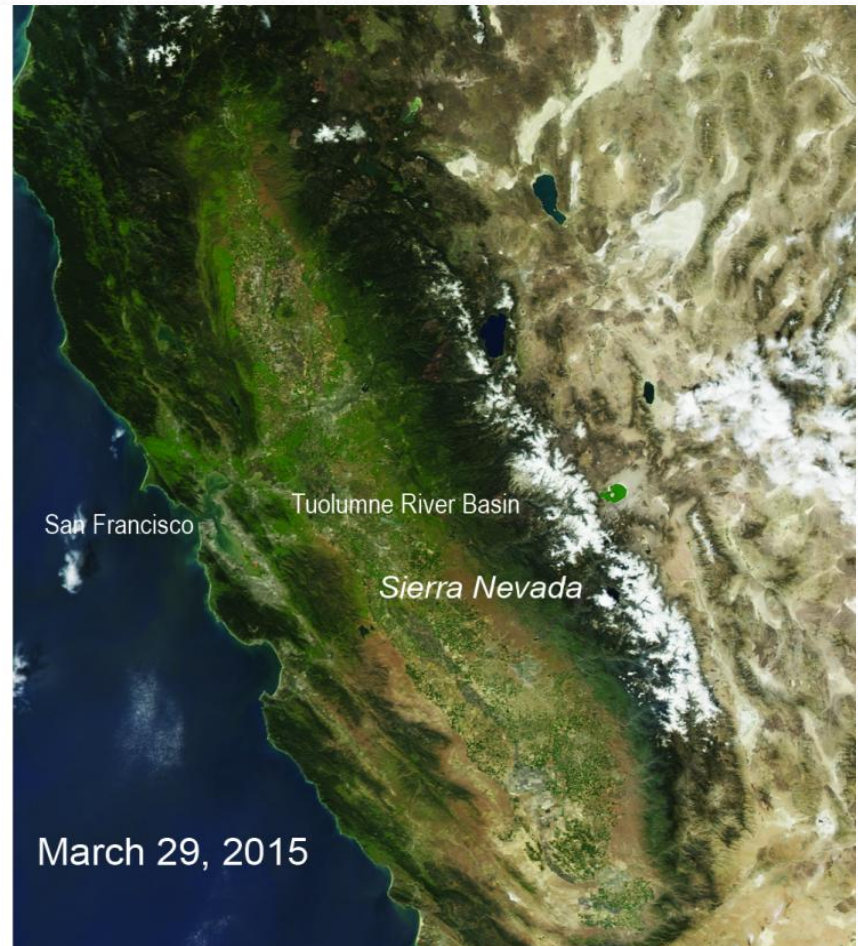
Delta is key hub for co-equal goals



This is California on Climate Change



March 27, 2010



March 29, 2015

Source: NASA

California Water Action Plan

California Water Action Plan



- Make Conservation a California Way of Life
- Increase Regional Self-Reliance and Integrated Water Management Across All Levels of Government
- Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta
- Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems
- Manage and Prepare for Dry Periods
- Expand Water Storage Capacity and Improve Groundwater Management
- Provide Safe Water for All Communities
- Increase Flood Protection
- Increase Operational and Regulatory Efficiency
- Identify Sustainable and Integrated Financing Opportunities

Recent crisis: Worst drought in modern times



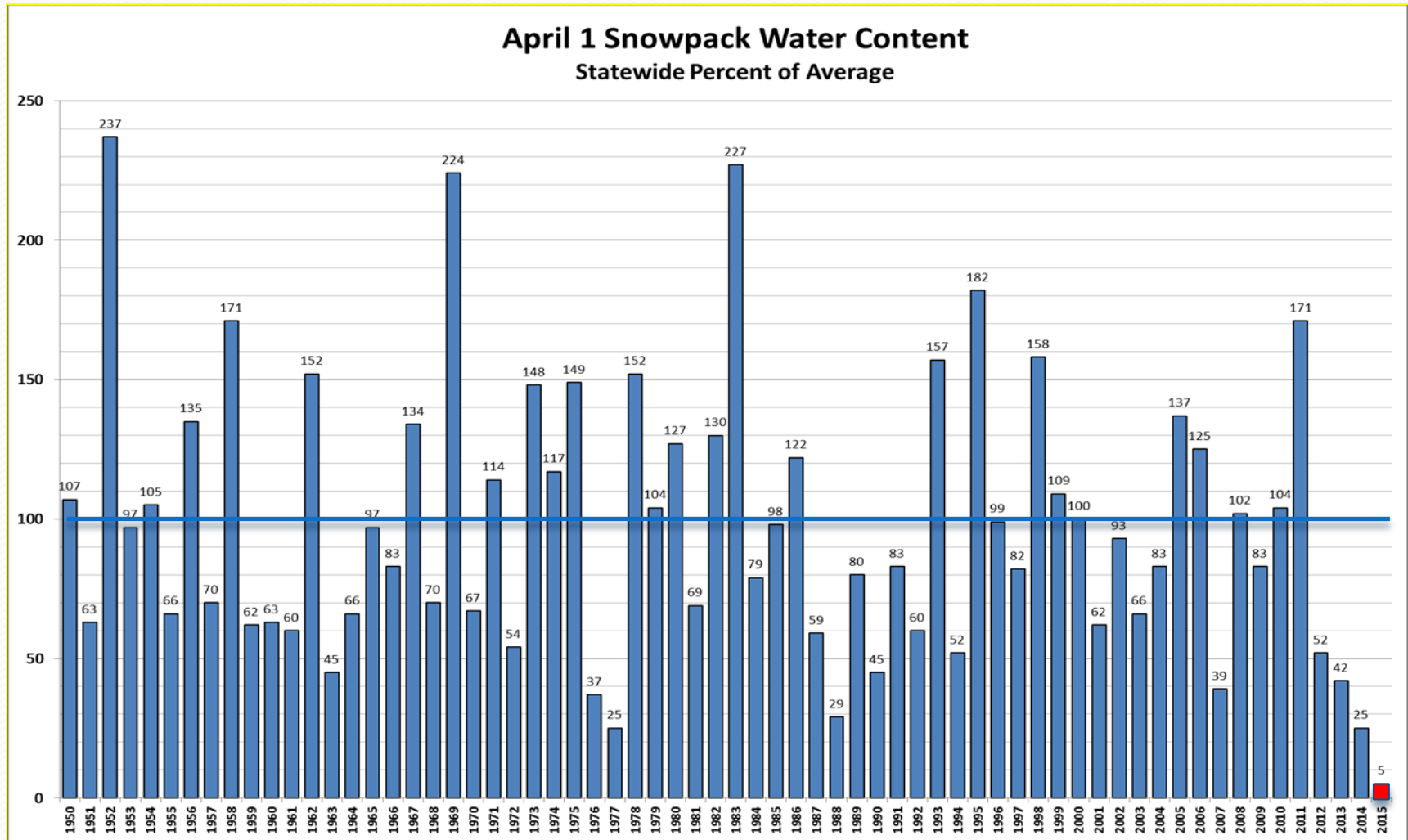
January, 2013



January, 2014

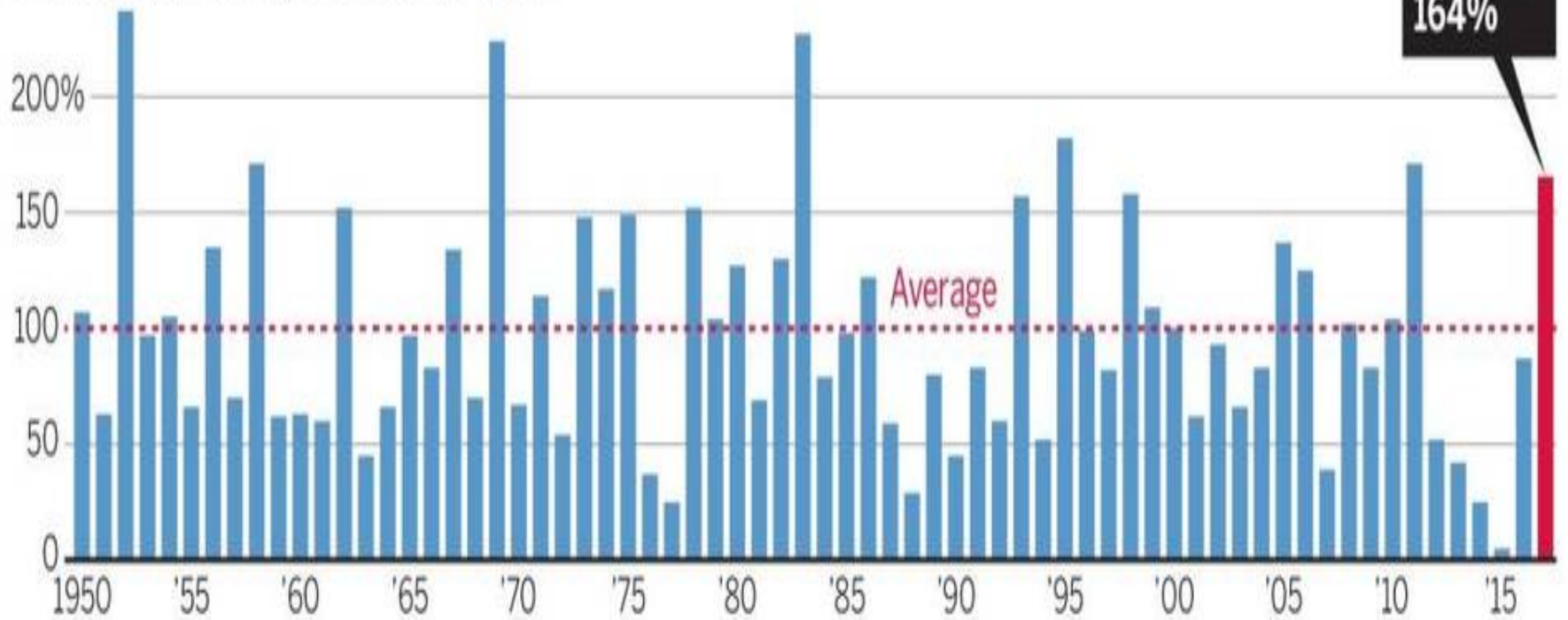
Harbinger of things to come—think Australia and Climate Change

2015 Statewide Snow Water Content



SIERRA SNOWPACK WELL ABOVE AVERAGE

Percent of April 1 average statewide snowpack



Source: California Department of Water Resources

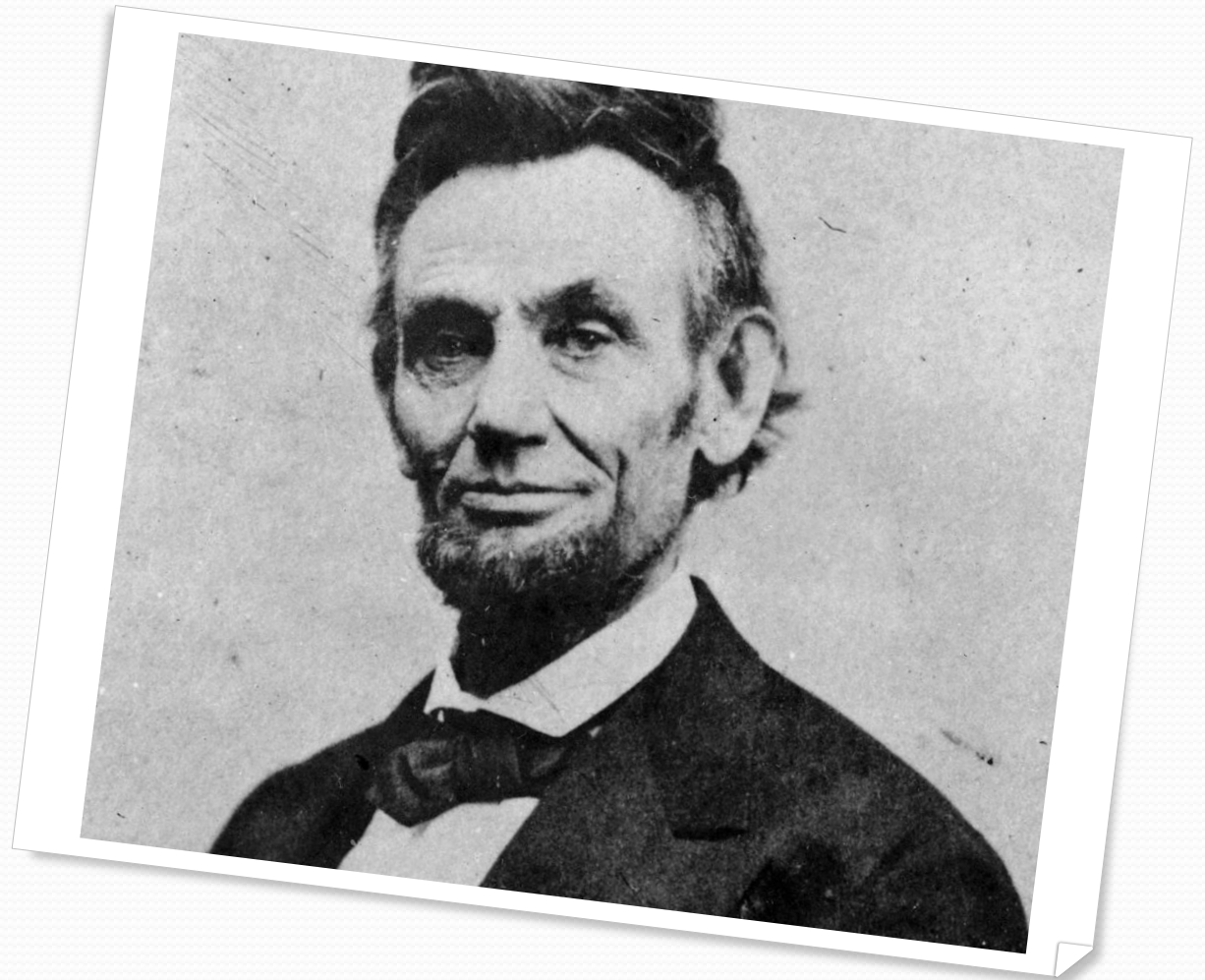
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Wake up call: The guy on the right



Dealing with reality

“I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer.”

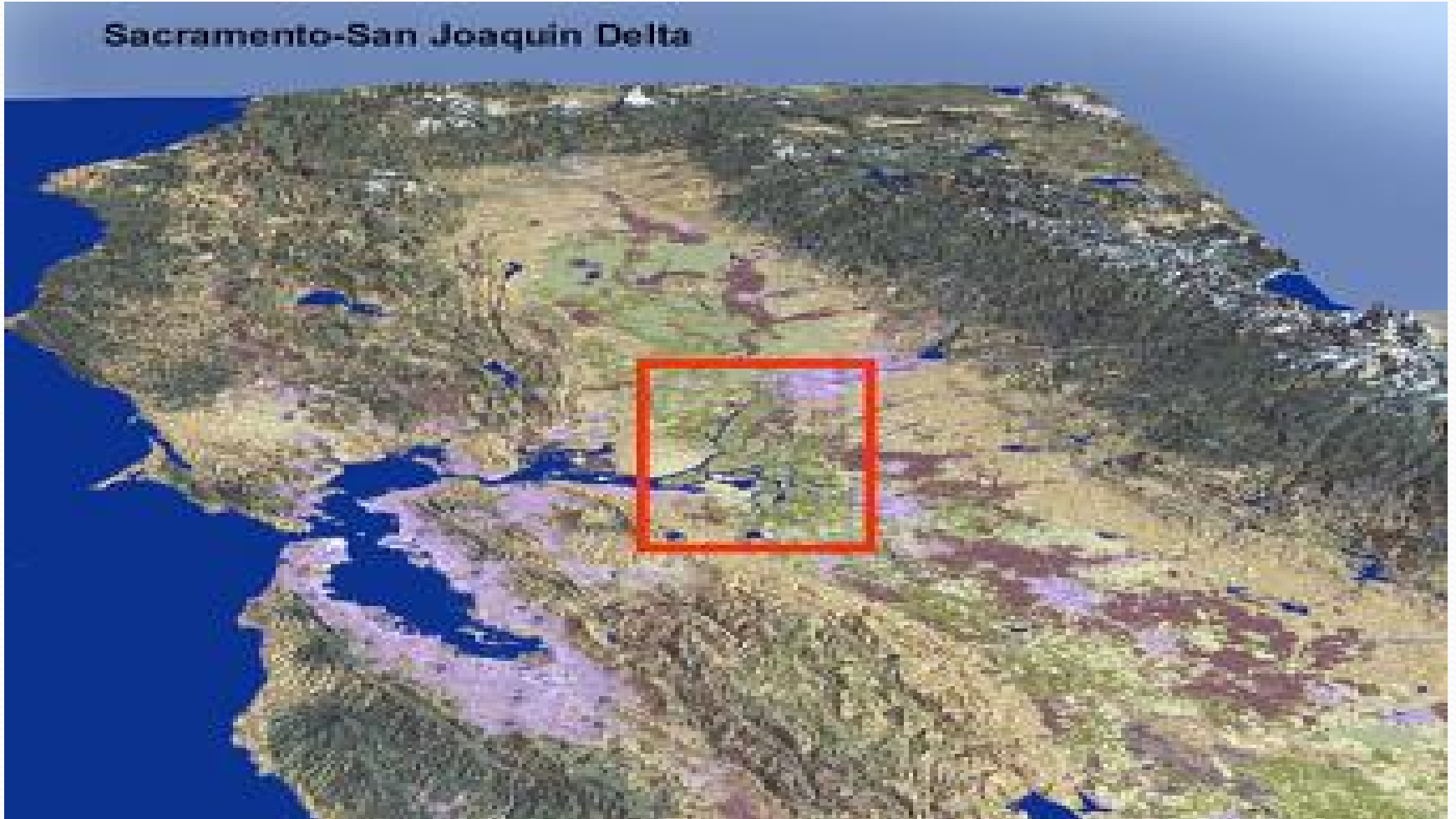


Reality: Loss of snowpack

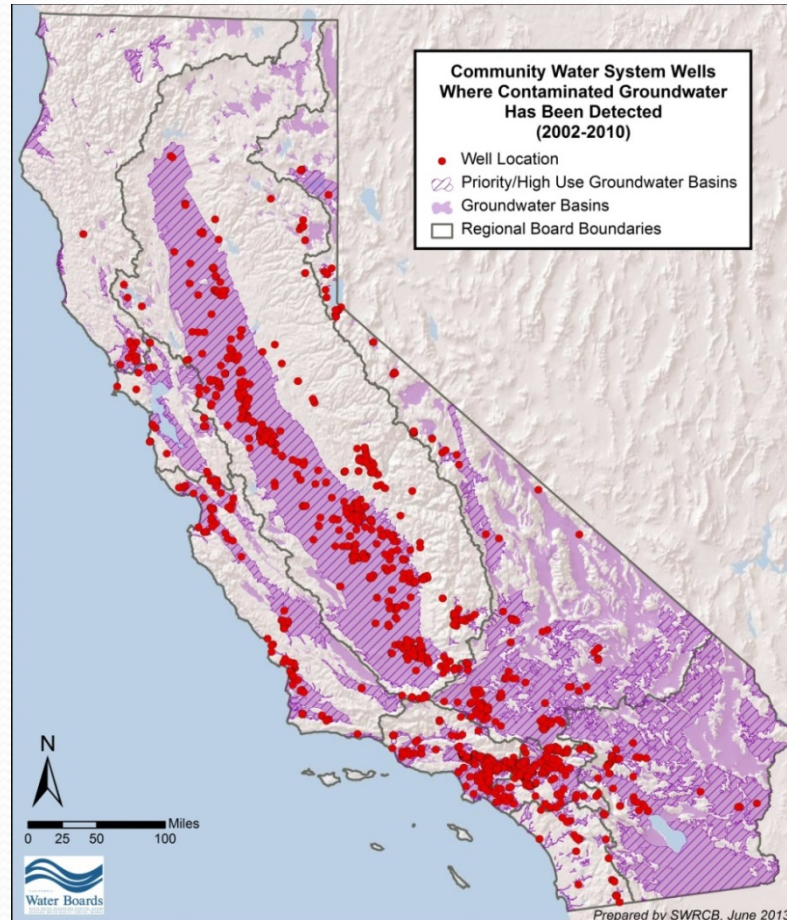


Reality: The Delta is the confluence of more than rivers and needs attention

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta



Reality: Community Well Systems Where Contamination has been Detected



Reality: Our infrastructure is aging and inadequate to the times



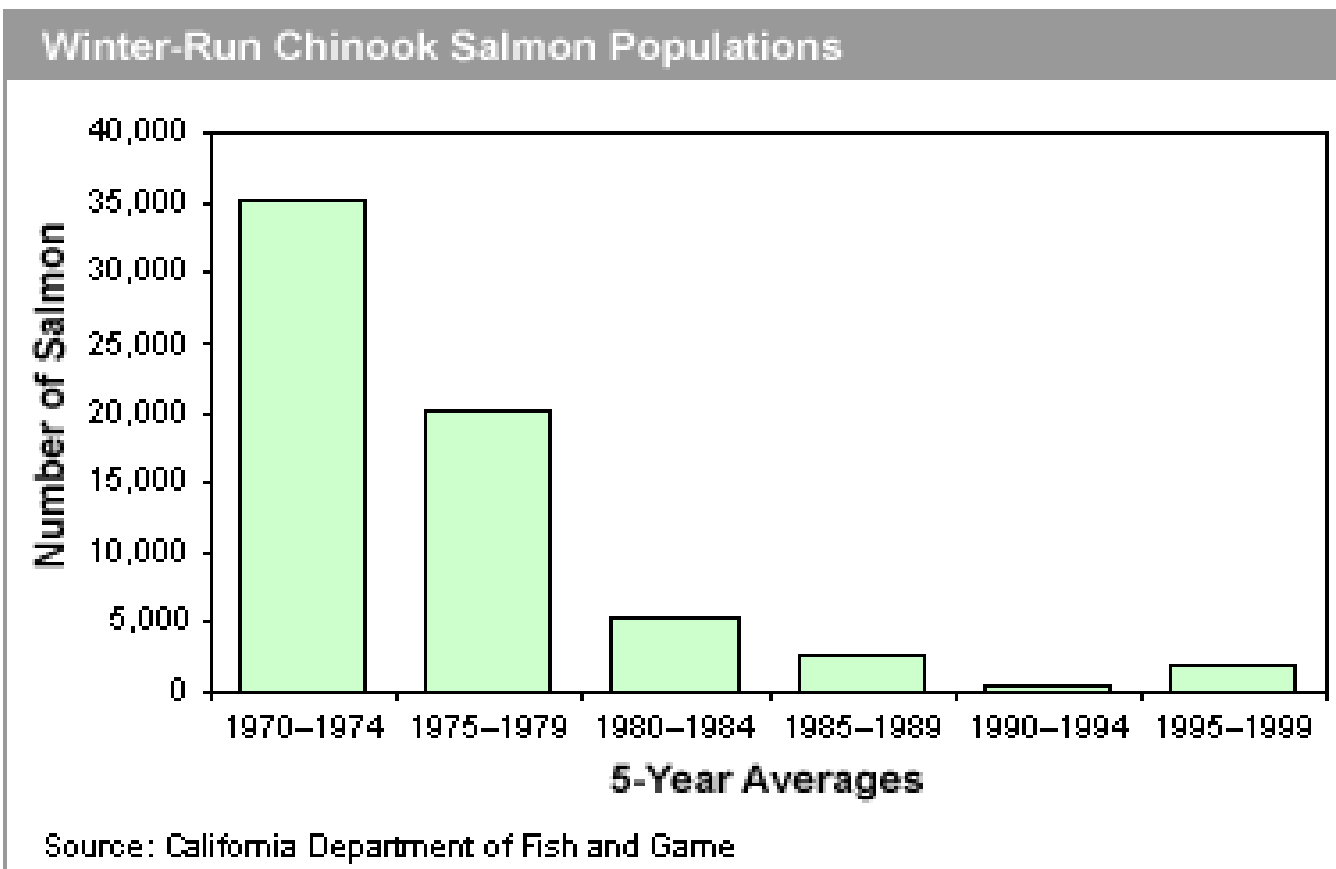
Reality: We could be a lot more efficient



**Reality: California
agriculture is
precious resource
for all of us**



Reality: Fish and wildlife are imperiled and precious too



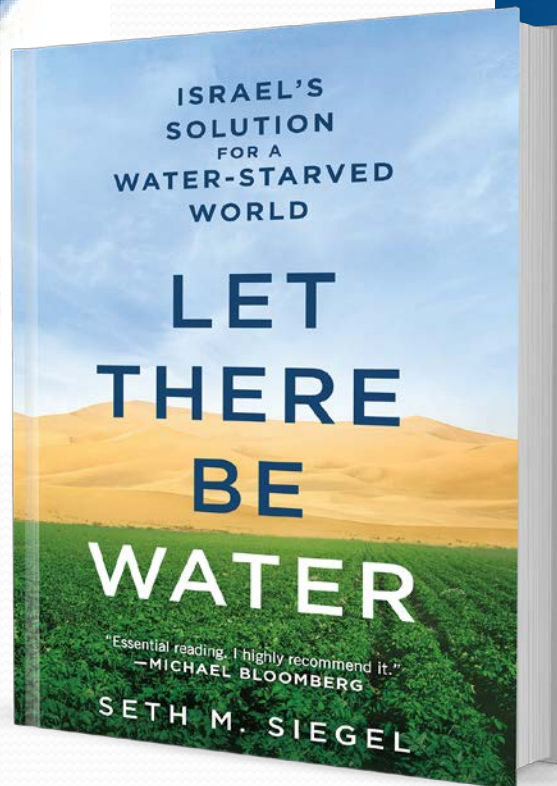
Reality: We can do something about it



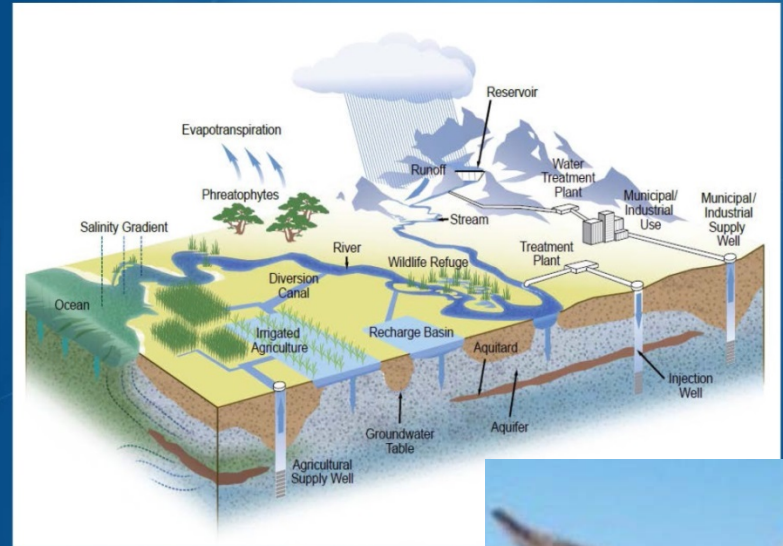
Water 4.0

The Past, Present, and Future of the World's Most Vital Resource

David Szalko



A Call to Integrate Interconnected Systems Require Integrated Solutions



Reality: We are doing something about it

- Myriad Individual acts of transcending traditional silos
 - Integrated Regional Water Management
 - Drought “angels”
 - Fish/farmer win/wins—e.g., rice
- Legislative agreements, e.g.,
 - “Human right to water”
 - 2009 legislation/“coalition of the willing“
 - Groundwater legislation
 - Water Bond--\$7.57 billion
 - Water Rights improvements, including measurement
- Water Action Plan and other examples, e.g.,
 - Conservation, recycling, stormwater acceleration
 - Public support for conservation, for fish/wildlife, for agriculture
 - 25% savings examples
 - Groundwater management movement
 - Elevation of floodplain restoration in public discourse, upper watersheds
 - Delta actions, regulatory and Cal Eco-Restore

Selected Regulations/Priorities

Overall: *Implement Water Action Plan*

Water Supply

- Bay-Delta Water Quality Plans
- Delta Water Fix: Water Rights Permit change
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Urban Conservation Regs: bridge and pivot to long term efficiency

Water Quality

- Safe Drinking Water: top of charts
- Recycling, Stormwater, Desalination incentives and regulation
- Irrigated lands regulatory program
- CV Salts+

Both: *Improved Data and Racing Cannabis*



THE REGULATORY DROUGHT





Wendell Berry

- *“To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival.”*
- *“Eating is an agricultural act.”*
- *“You cannot save the land apart from the people, or the people apart from the land.”*

Thank you

