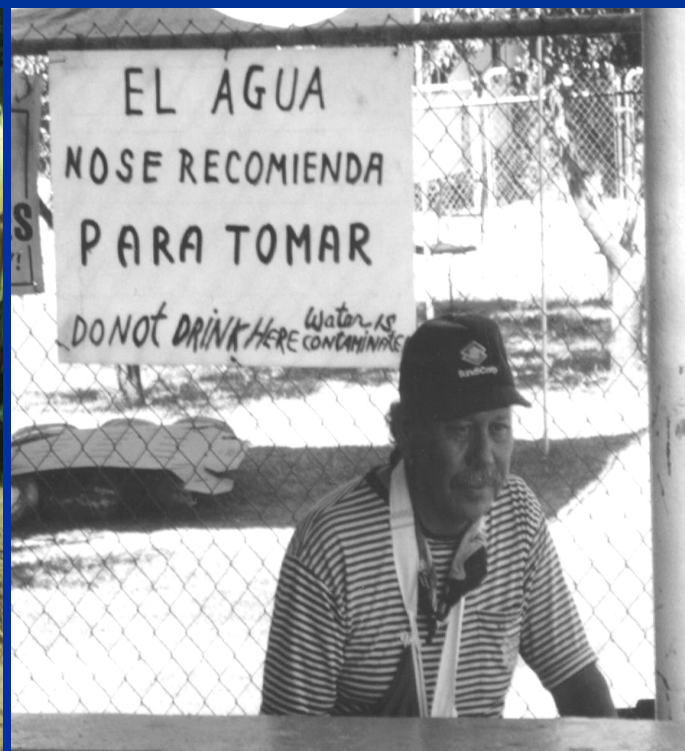




PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER
Central Coast Water Board
July 8, 2010 Workshop







AGRICULTURAL ORDER OBJECTIVES

- Reduce pollutant loading to surface water and groundwater
- Not cause or contribute to pollution



CONTEXT FOR RENEWING AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Water Quality

- Regulatory responsibility to protect water quality
- Severe and widespread pollution in agricultural areas
- Impacts to drinking water and other beneficial uses

CONTEXT FOR RENEWING AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Water Quality Conditions

- Documented nitrate contamination in drinking water
- Potential additional nitrate contamination
- Toxicity in surface waters
- Waterbodies with multiple impairments

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

- Characterize pollutant sources and loading
- Define time schedules to achieve compliance
- Require on-farm data to verify compliance
- Implement a tiered approach based on risk to water quality
- Protect safe drinking water

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

“One size does not fit all...”

Tiered approach based on risk to water quality

Surface Water

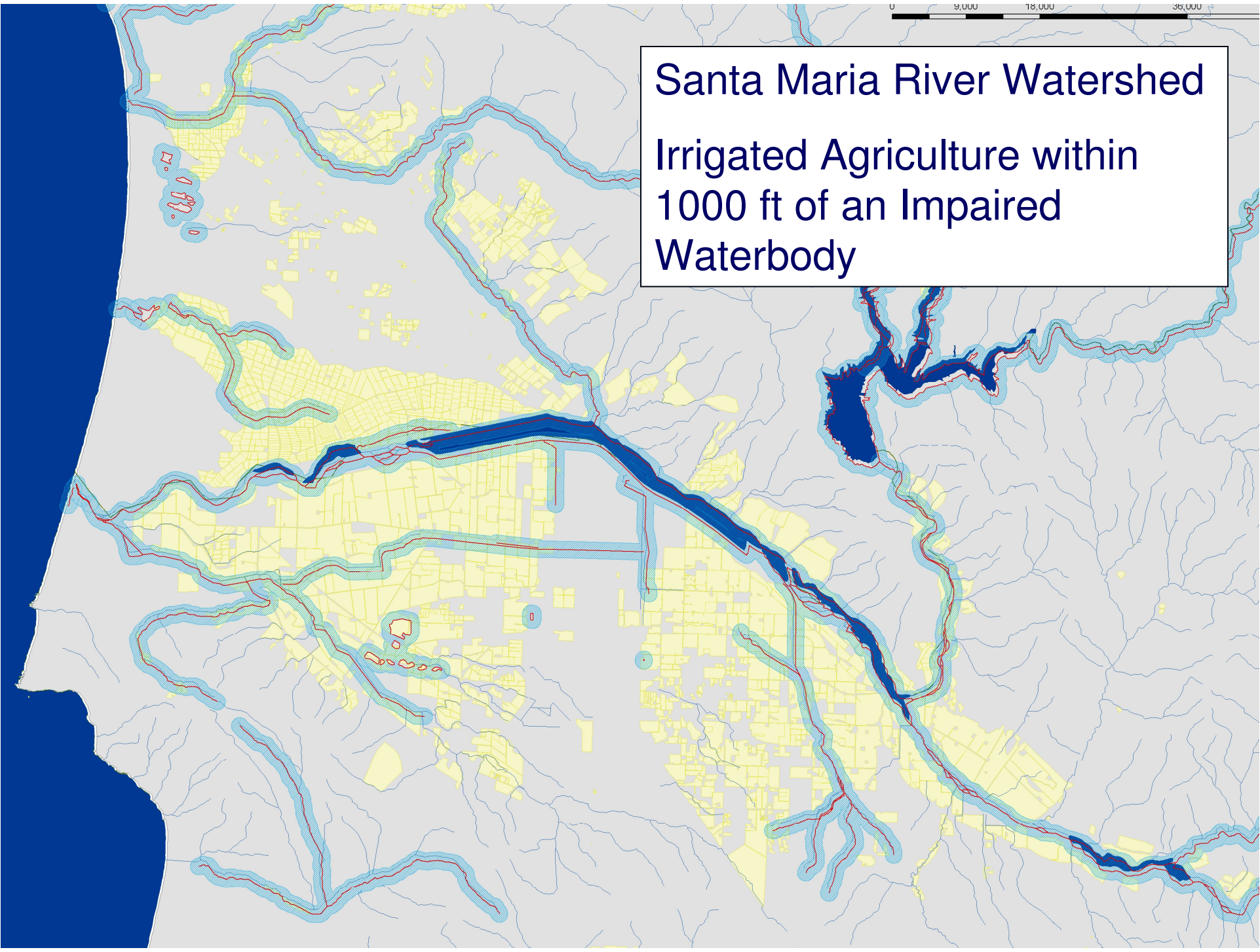
- Impaired vs. unimpaired areas
- High risk vs. low-risk discharges
- Different requirements or Orders
- Scaled timeframes for resolving pollution

Groundwater

- Basic requirements for all growers

0 9,000 18,000 36,000

Santa Maria River Watershed
Irrigated Agriculture within
1000 ft of an Impaired
Waterbody



PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

“One size does not fit all...”

Tiered approach based on risk to water quality

Surface Water

- Impaired vs. unimpaired areas
- High risk vs. low-risk discharges
- Different requirements or Orders
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Groundwater

- Basic requirements for all growers

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Tiered approach based on risk to water quality

Basic Groundwater Protection Requirements

- Prohibit excess fertilizer
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Well backflow prevention devices
- Proper well abandonment
- Safe drinking water
- Groundwater well monitoring

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Does the alternative...

- ✓ Resolve pollution of surface water and groundwater, and impacts to aquatic habitat?
- ✓ Include time schedule and milestones?
- ✓ Include monitoring and reporting?
- ✓ Meet minimum statutory requirements?

Summary of Issues with Alternatives

- Measure pollution reductions
- Establish and report milestones to ensure progress
- Establish timeframes to address water quality issues
- Establish timeframes to resolve pollution
- Protect beneficial uses

Summary Of New Ideas

- Multiple orders (for prioritization)
- Tiered monitoring and reporting
- Compliance reports
- Timeframes

Additional Written Comments

- Similar to those received for May workshop
- Request for another workshop in Santa Barbara

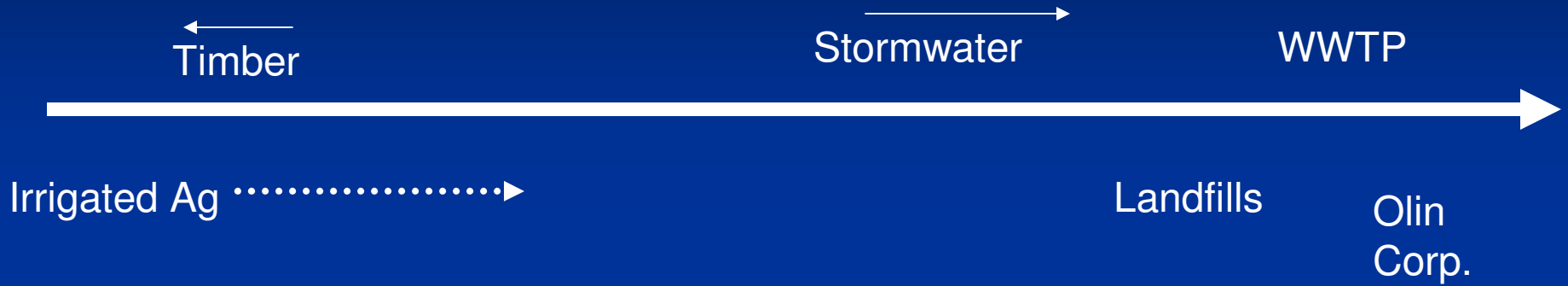
CONCLUSIONS

CONTEXT FOR RENEWING AGRICULTURAL ORDER

Water Quality

- Regulatory responsibility to protect water quality
- Severe and widespread pollution in agricultural areas
- Impacts to drinking water and other beneficial uses

Degree of Regulation



Degree of Water Quality Impacts



CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Does the alternative...

- ✓ Resolve pollution of surface water and groundwater, and impacts to aquatic habitat?
- ✓ Include time schedule and milestones?
- ✓ Include monitoring and reporting?
- ✓ Meet minimum statutory requirements?

Summary Of New Ideas

- Multiple orders (for prioritization)
- Tiered monitoring and reporting
- Compliance reports
- Modified Timeframes

Next Steps

- ✓ July-August 2010- meet with stakeholders
- ✓ Sept-Oct 2010- revise Order
- ✓ November 2010 - release Draft Order for Public Review and Comment
 - Measure pollution reductions
 - Establish milestones (that can be reported)
 - Establish timeframes to address water quality issues
- ✓ February 2011- Propose revised order (responsive to comments) to Board

Other Staff Responses