

Agenda Item 6 (Public Workshop)

Public Workshop on DRAFT General Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds and DRAFT Environmental Impact Report

Eli Scott and Chris Watt

Photo Credit: CJ Watt

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
October 1, 2026

Today's Public Workshop

Workshop on draft for discussion

Staff expect to make revisions based on Board and public input today and written comments

HOW WE GET FROM HERE TO A FINAL ORDER

STEP 1

Draft released 9/17

Draft Order and DEIR available for written comment

TODAY

Workshop today

Public comment on the draft and Board direction to staff

STEP 3

Revisions

Staff continue engagement + ranch tours and develop revisions

Presentation Outline

- Introduction / Setting
- Review Draft Scott and Shasta Order
- Review Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- Public Comments
- Board Discussion

Agenda Packet Contents

- Staff Summary Report
- DRAFT Order No. R1-2027-XXXX

  Attachments A - H
- Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

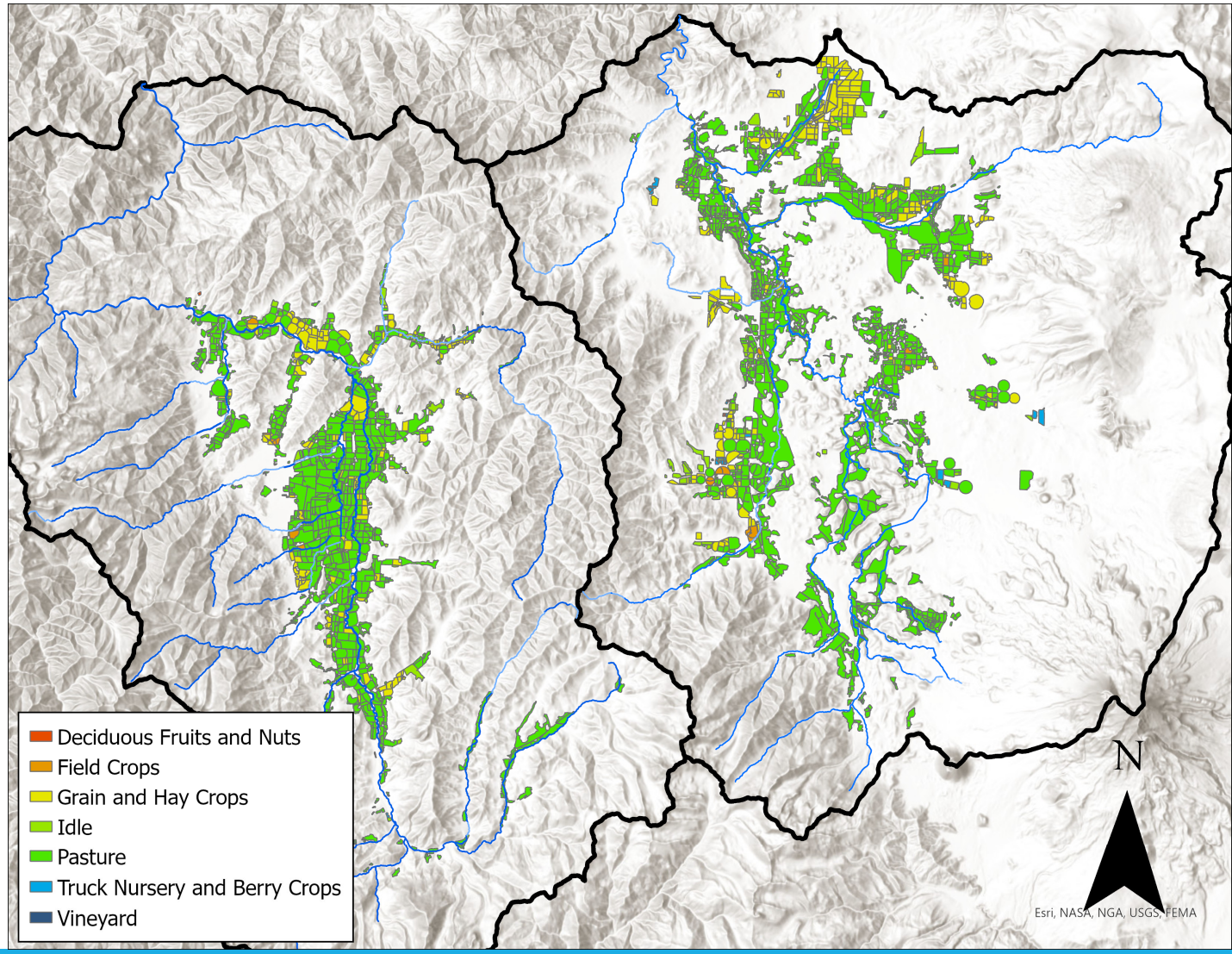
  Attachments A - E
- Legal Notices

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/



Introduction / Setting

Project Area



Regulatory Background 1992 - 1998

1992

Sediment listing established in the Scott

Dissolved Oxygen listing established in the Shasta

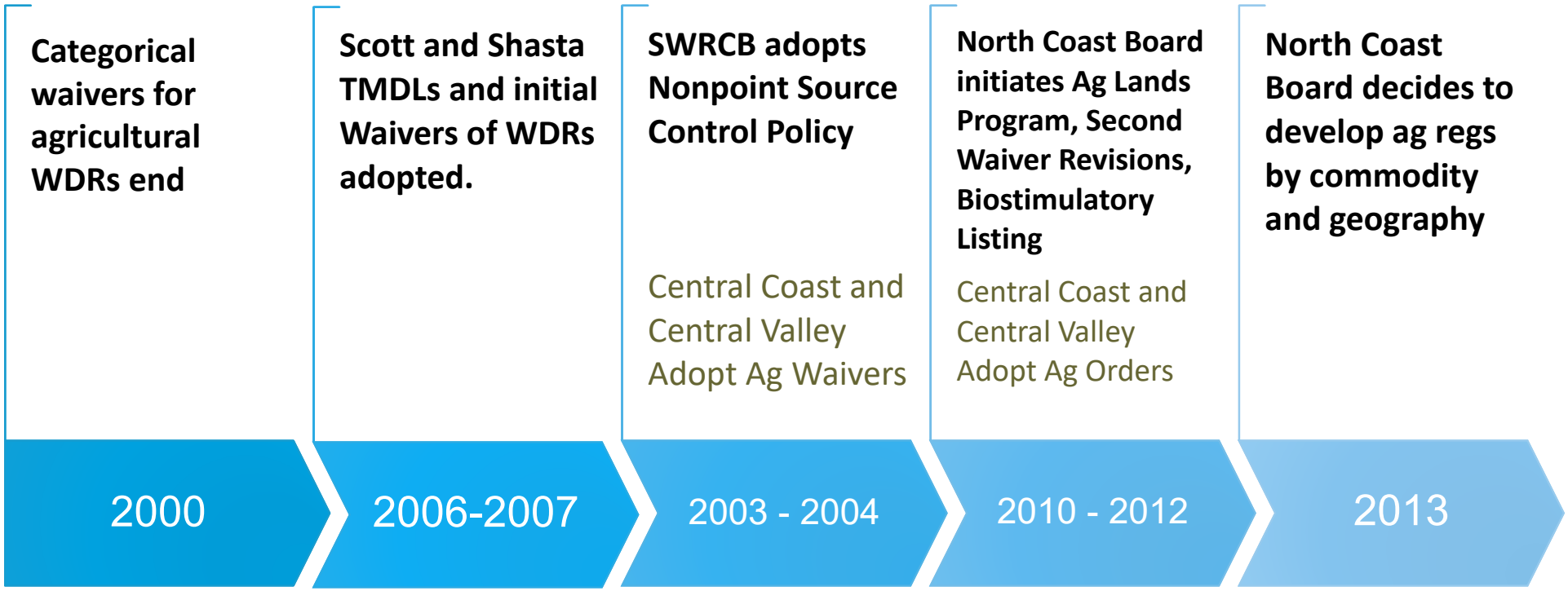
1994

Temperature listing established in the Shasta

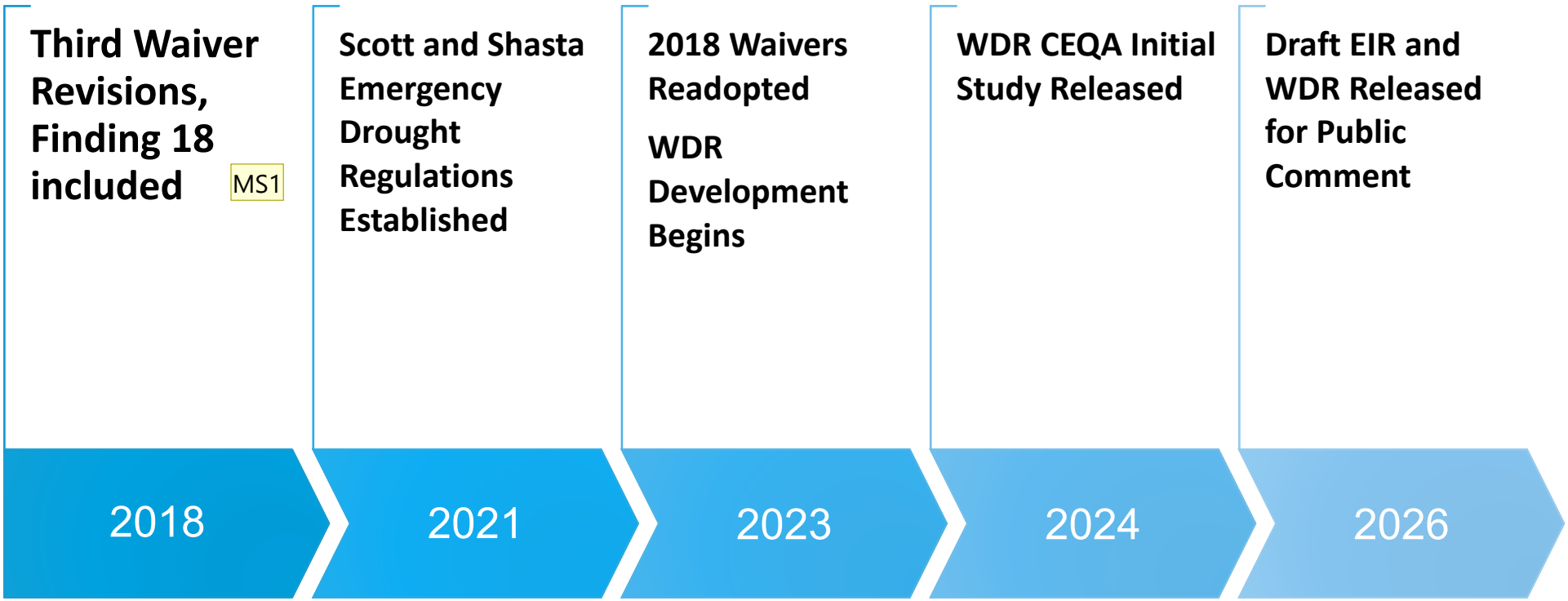
1998

Temperature listing established in the Scott

Regulatory Background 2000 - 2013



Regulatory Background 2013 - 2025



Slide 9

MS1 I may have missed it, but I didn't hear you mention Finding 18 in your talking points. If you don't speak to it, then I suggest removing this from the slide.
St.John, Matt@Waterboards, 2026-09-22T23:45:54.855

Public Engagement Summary

MS1

6 public meetings	• Staff workshops, townhalls, CEQA Scoping, presentation to Siskiyou County Supervisors
Tribal Outreach	• Formal consultation initiated December 2024 • Direct outreach to Quartz Valley Indian Reservation and Karuk • Planning listening sessions with tribal communities
TAG meetings	• 34 Members • 6 Meetings • Producers, Farm Bureau, NGOs, Tribes, Siskiyou County Staff, RCDs, Watershed Groups
Engagement with Agencies	• Ongoing coordination with State Water Board and CDFW
Farm Tours	• Multiple in the Scott and Shasta • Focused tour of SRWA, a tailwater discharger with complex ownership

Slide 10

MS1 Just flagging that you've done a lot of engagement; be sure to take the time to really highlight all that you've done.

St.John, Matt@Waterboards, 2026-09-22T23:46:47.047


Photo Credit: CJ Watt

Draft Order

Regulatory Structure

Nonpoint Source Policy

- Clear goals, description of management practices, time schedule, feedback mechanisms, and clear consequences

Irrigated Lands Program

- Practice implementation and adaptive management to attain water quality goals
- Use of Coalition for fee collection and representative monitoring
- Statewide groundwater requirements



Water Quality Priorities



Eliminate Excess Heat and Nutrients from Tailwater Discharges



Increase Shade And Riparian Function



Control Sediment Discharges from Roads and Agricultural Activities



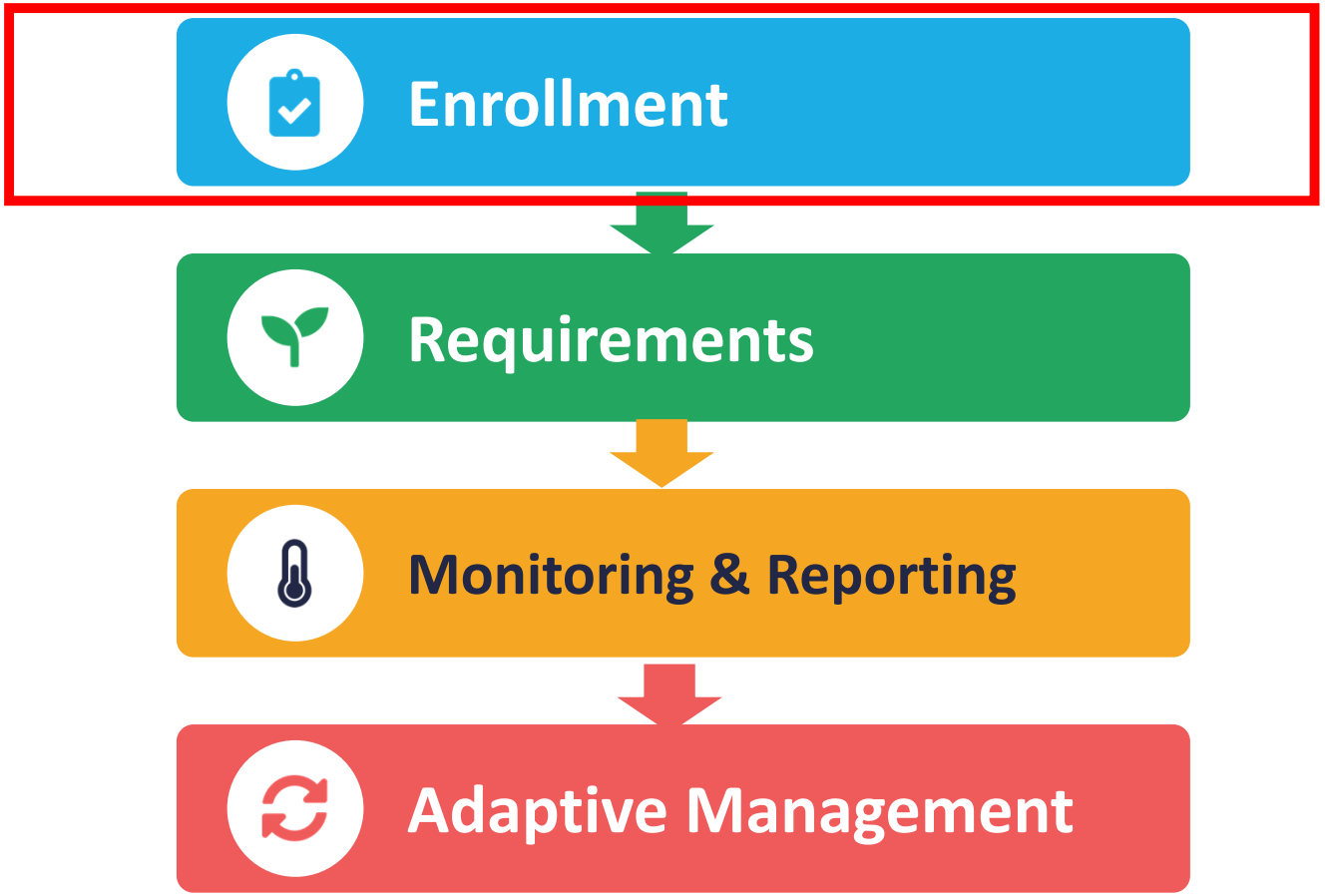
Address TMDL Load Allocations Identified for Agriculture



Ensure Permitted Discharges Meet Water Quality Objectives

ORIENTATION

Draft Order at a Glance



Who Enrolls in Order

MUST ENROLL

25+ irrigated acres

Enroll all irrigated parcels

NOT SUBJECT TO THIS ORDER

- Dairy GWDR
- Individual WDRs

ENROLLMENT EO DISCRETION

- Dryland grazing
- Under 25 acres

3 WAYS TO OBTAIN COVERAGE

Coalition

Representative monitoring and aggregated reporting

Individual

Monitor and Report individually

Stewardship Category

Already meets high standard, excluded

Stewardship Category

RECOGNITION OF

- Compliance
- Irrigation Efficiency, no tailwater discharge
- Stream Restoration
- Soil health practices
- Roads Disconnected

WHAT IS PROCESS

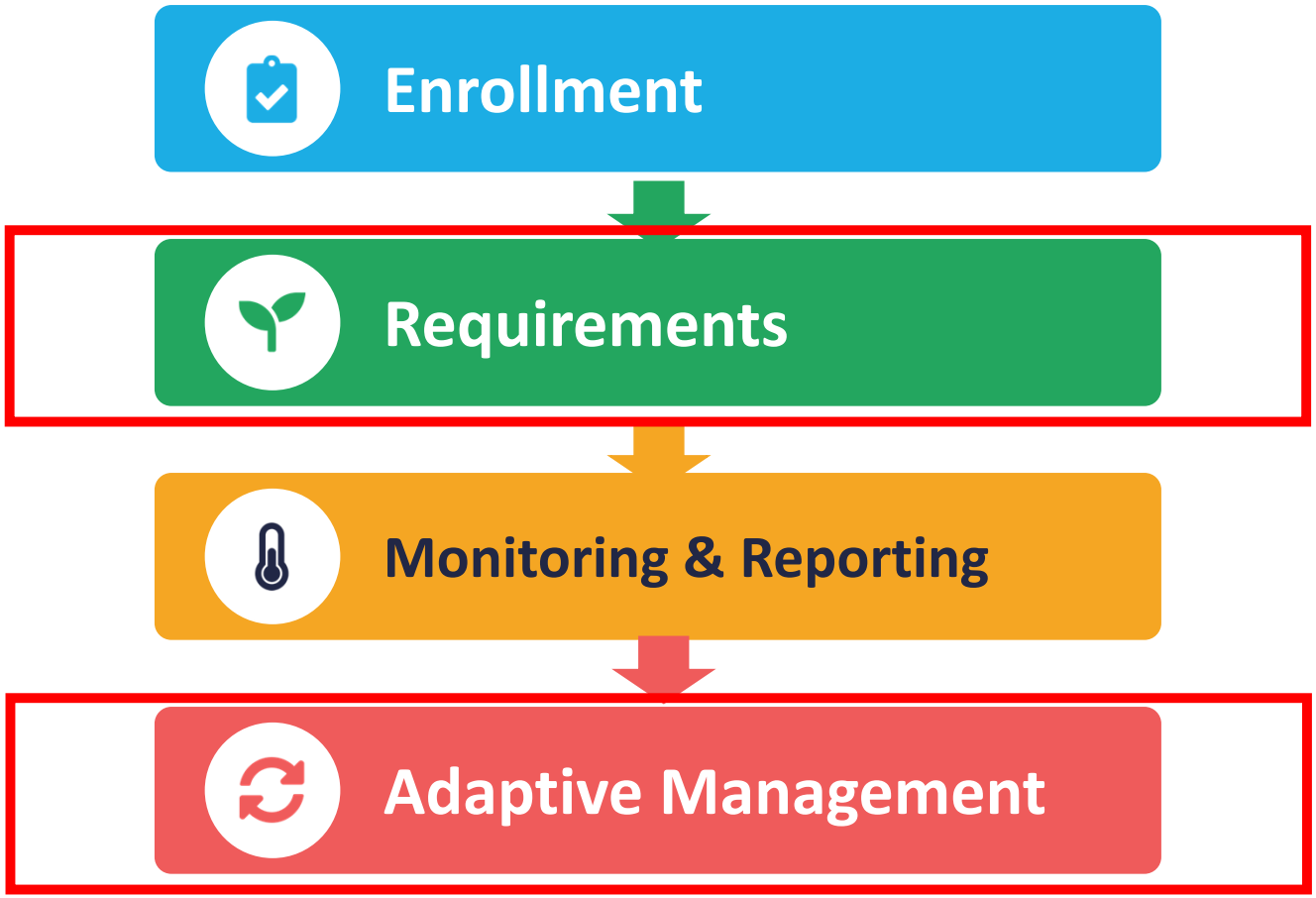
1. Apply
2. Staff site visit
3. EO determines

Requirements

Meet Prohibitions ·
Submit Annual Stewardship Status Report ·
Reassess every 10 yrs

ORIENTATION

Draft Order at a Glance



What the Order Requires on the Ground

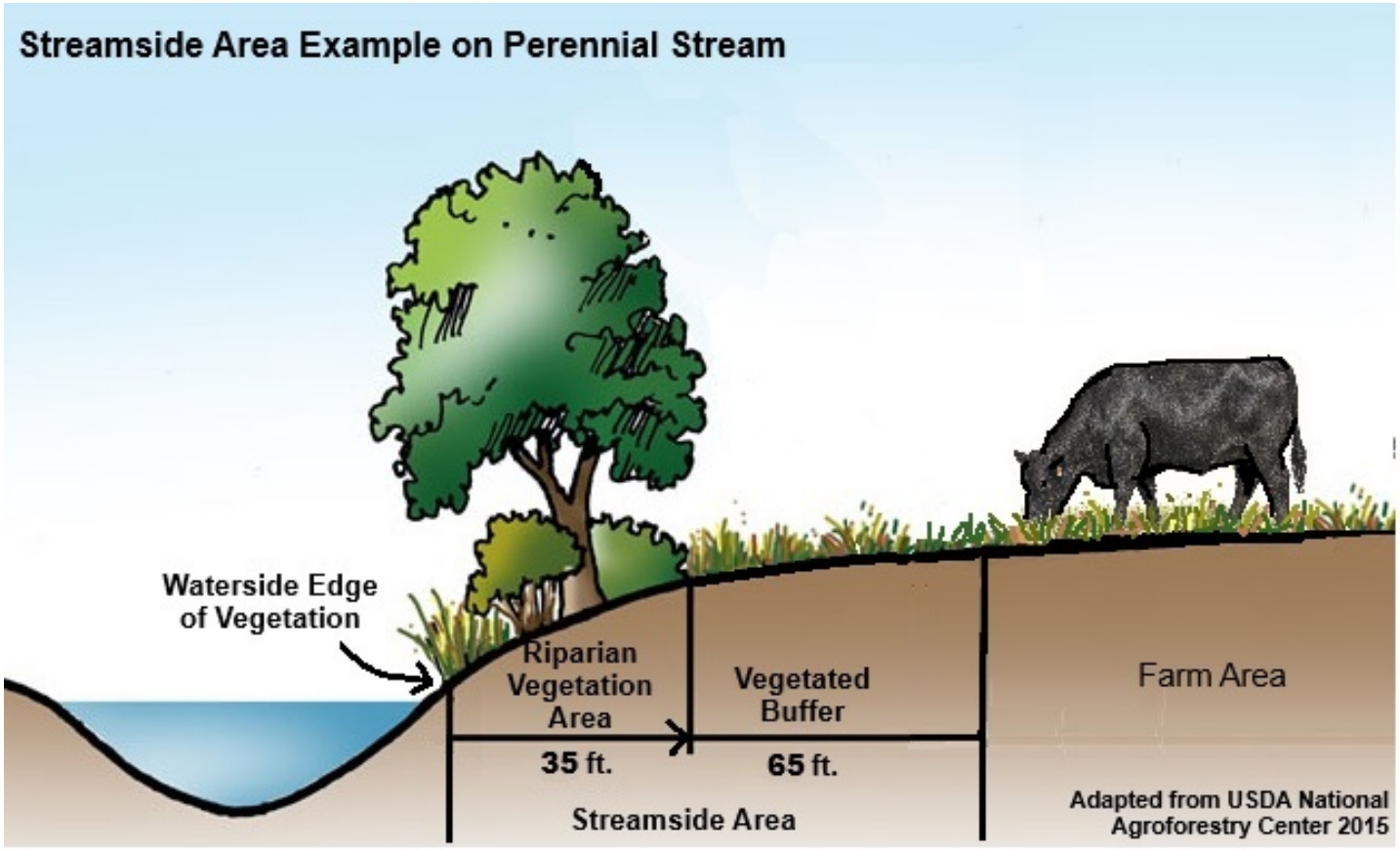


Streamside Area Requirements

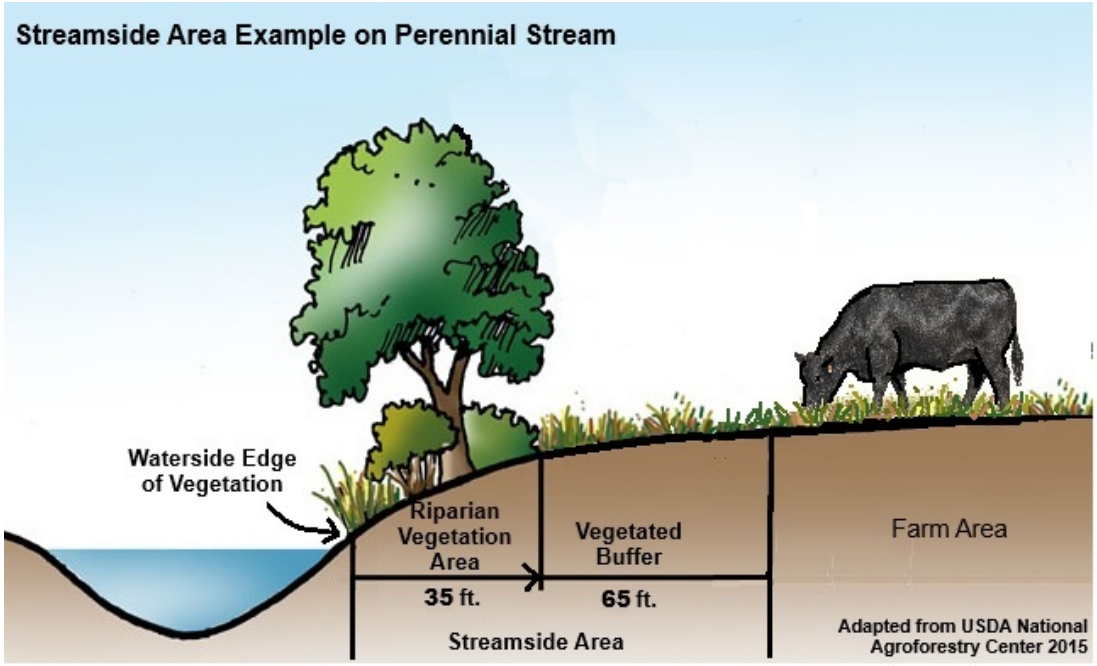
- Shade, sediment filtering, bank stability to implement the Temperature Policy
- Tillage prohibition in Riparian Vegetation Area
- Grazing requirements in Streamside Area



p: CJ Watt


Streamside Area Example on Perennial Stream
Waterside Edge of Vegetation
Riparian Vegetation Area
35 ft.
Vegetated Buffer
65 ft.
Farm Area
Streamside Area
Adapted from USDA National Agroforestry Center 2015

Riparian Grazing



IF YOU CHOOSE

Grazing & Riparian Management Plan

→

- **Photos before & after each grazing event**
- **Representative photo-points**
- **Records kept at the ranch**

Ag Roads



Appurtenant Ag Roads: Unpaved farm roads on enrolled parcels

WHERE ROADS ARE HYDROLOGICALLY CONNECTED

- **Install rolling dips and ditch relief culverts**
- **Install water bars and shape road surface**
- **No discharge onto landslides & gullies**
- **No direct discharge from culverts**

DEADLINE

- Existing roads **10 years from the enrollment deadline**
- New roads **at completion of construction**

Tailwater Discharge Requirements



Eliminate or Meet Benchmarks

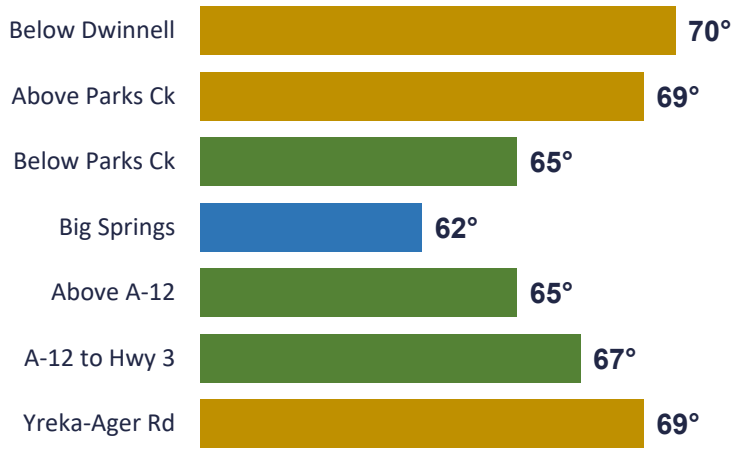
Water Quality Benchmarks

TEMPERATURE

SCOTT + SHASTA TRIBUTARIES

Early	Mid	Late
61°	64°	56°
Apr–mid Jun	mid Jun–Aug	September

SHASTA MAINSTEM (MID-SEASON)



NUTRIENTS

Shasta Watershed

0.20 mg/L

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen

Scott Watershed

Early	Mid	Late
0.014 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0.008 mg/L

Total Phosphorus

Tailwater Requirements

Order provides **time schedule** and 2 compliance options:

PATHWAY 1

Eliminate Tailwater

OR

PATHWAY 2

Treat & Control Tailwater

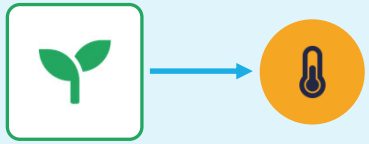
SAME SCHEDULE FOR BOTH



Tailwater Monitoring

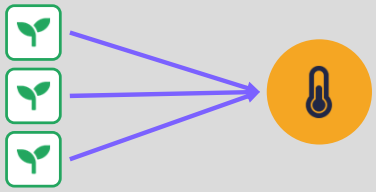
If Enrollee elects Pathway 2: Treatment & Control

MONITOR ALONE OR TOGETHER



Individual

Edge-of-field Point of Compliance



Group

Tailwater neighborhood · shares Point of Compliance



MONITORING CONSTITUENTS

Temperature

Logged every 15 min while tailwater flows

Compliance:
Temperature meets Benchmark for 80% of Irrigation Cycle

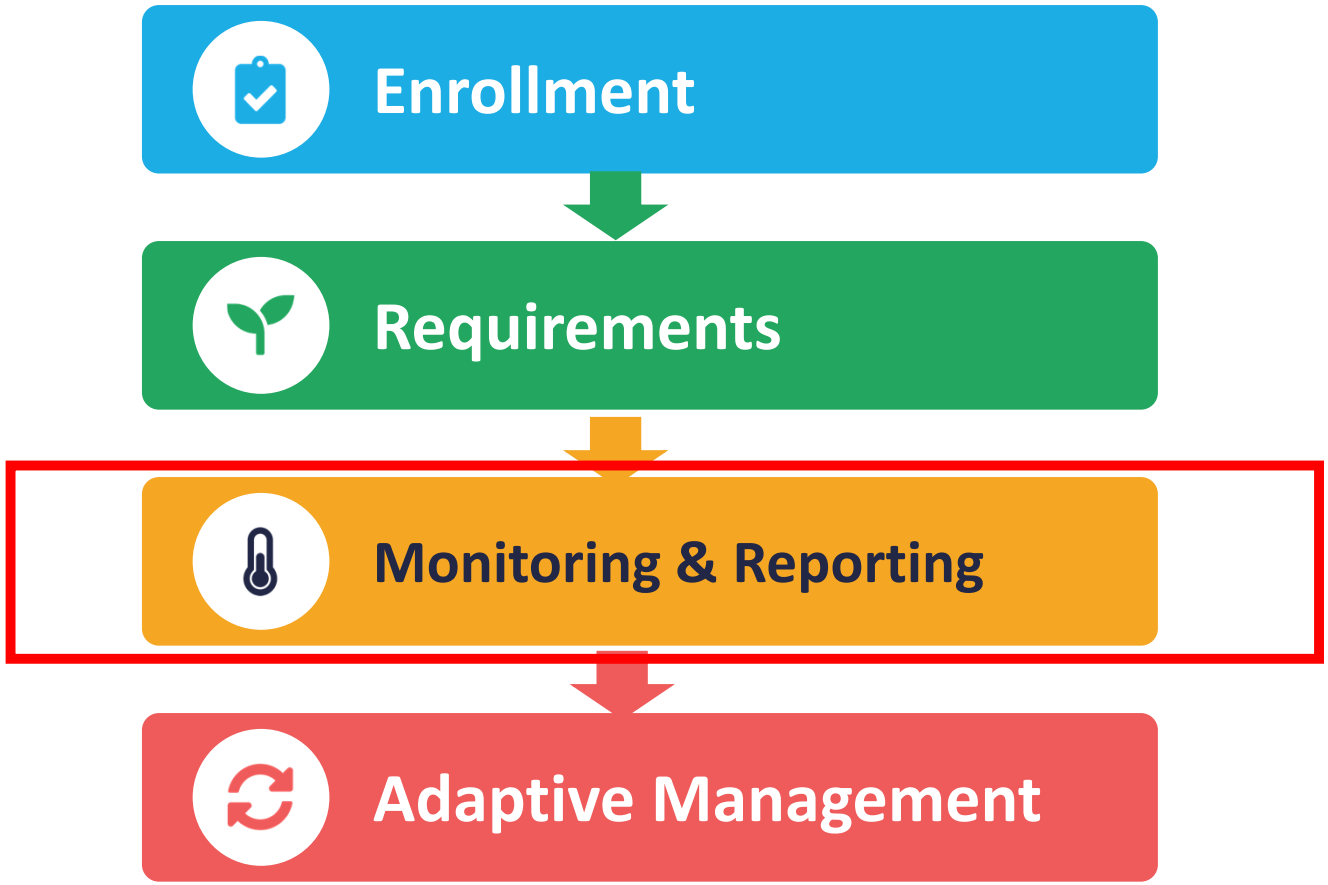
Nutrients

Grab sample each Irrigation Cycle

Compliance:
Zero exceedance of Benchmark

ORIENTATION

Draft Order at a Glance



Monitoring and Reporting Program

Required Monitoring



Representative Groundwater Monitoring



Drinking Water Well Sampling

Conditional Monitoring



Photo-point Monitoring

if implementing Grazing Plan



Tailwater Monitoring

if implementing Pathway 2

Annual Reporting



Farm Evaluation



Monitoring Report



Drinking Water Well

Required Monitoring

COALITION CAN RUN

Representative Groundwater Monitoring

- Representative network
- Nitrate + TDS
- Annual

Assess regional impacts from agriculture

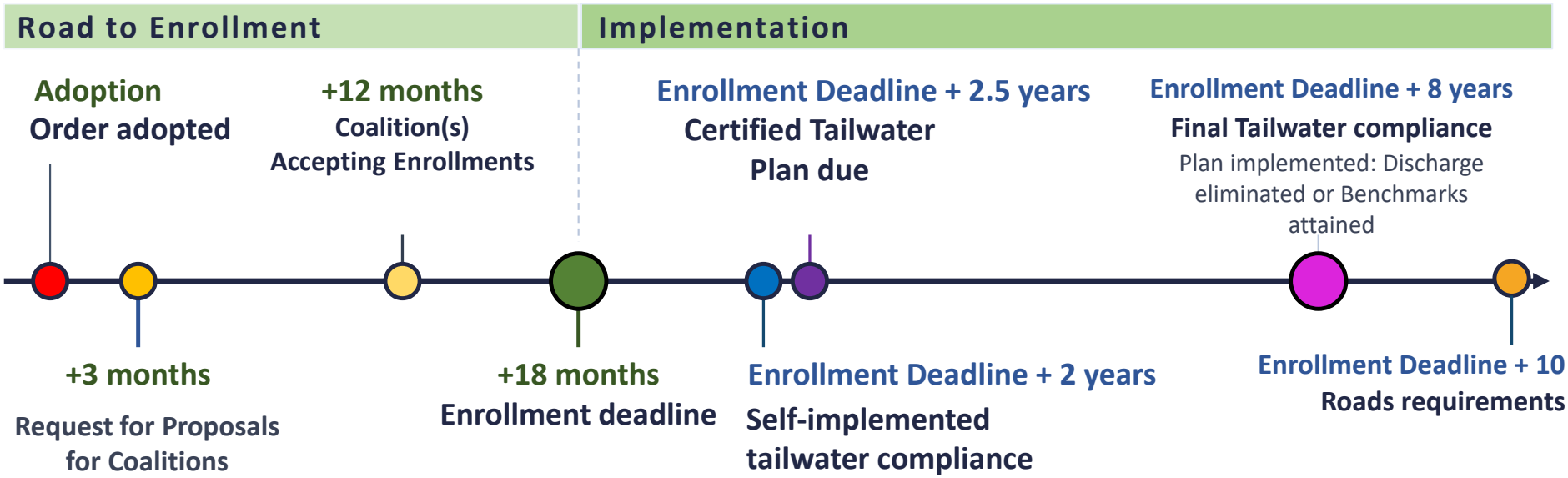
EACH ENROLLEE

Drinking Well Sampling

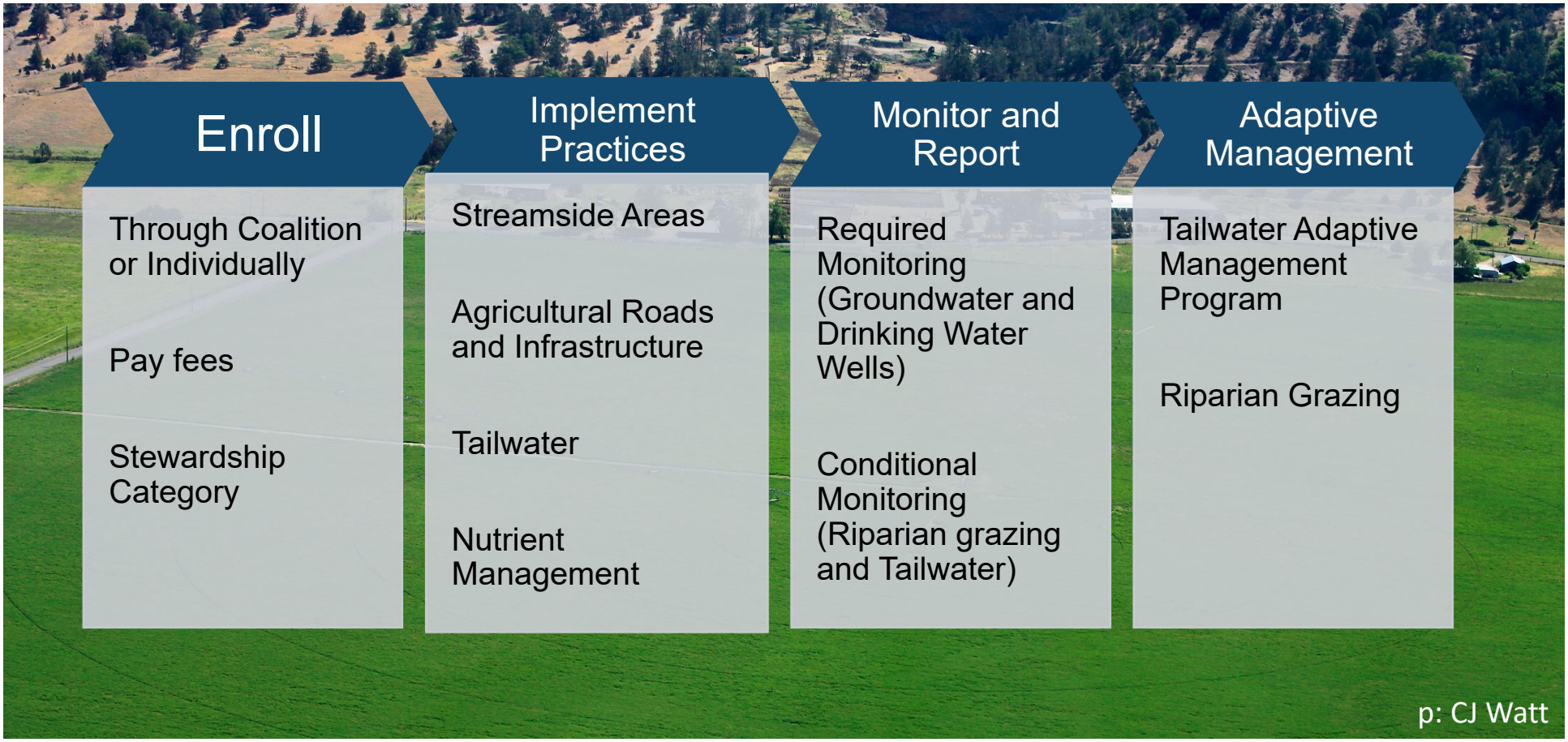
- Every Drinking Water Well
- Nitrate
- Annually for 3 yrs w/ reduced monitoring avail.

>10 mg/L → Notify well users within 10 days

Order Implementation Timeline



Actions Required Under Draft Order:





Draft Environmental Impact Report

Approach to Impact Analysis

Evaluate difference between environmental baseline and implementation of Order

Conservative methods designed to capture maximum potential impacts

Analysis of reasonably foreseeable management practices

What the Draft EIR Identified

Draft EIR identified potential impacts to:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources

Impact Mitigation

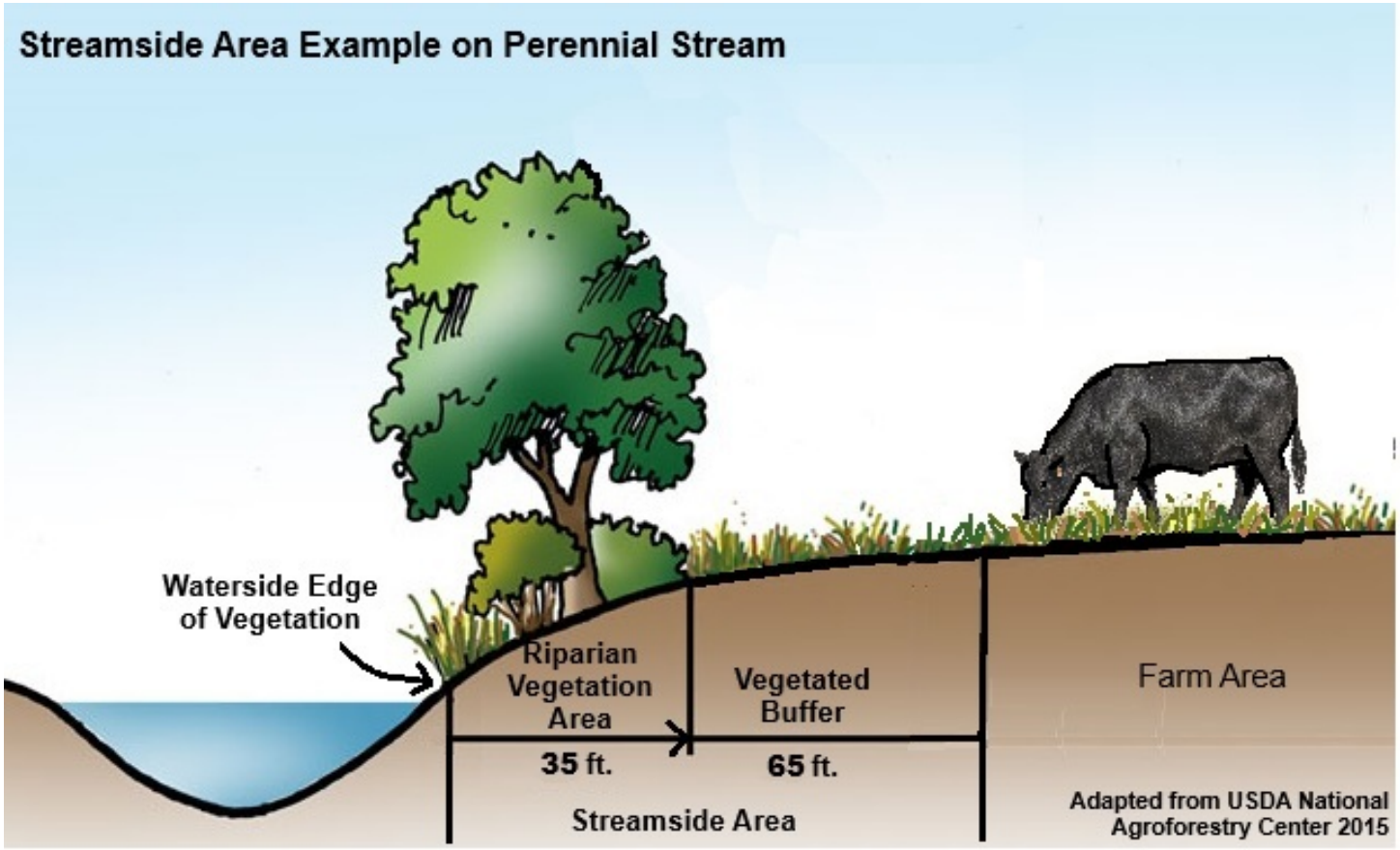


Draft EIR Findings

EIR evaluates environmental impacts from **implementation of the Project** (Draft Order)

Impacts are **less than significant with mitigation** to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources

Significant and unavoidable impact to Agriculture and Forestry Resources due to tillage prohibition in Riparian Vegetation Area (conversion of Prime Farmland to non-agricultural use)


Streamside Area Example on Perennial Stream
Waterside Edge of Vegetation
Riparian Vegetation Area
Vegetated Buffer
Farm Area
35 ft.
65 ft.
Streamside Area
Adapted from USDA National Agroforestry Center 2015

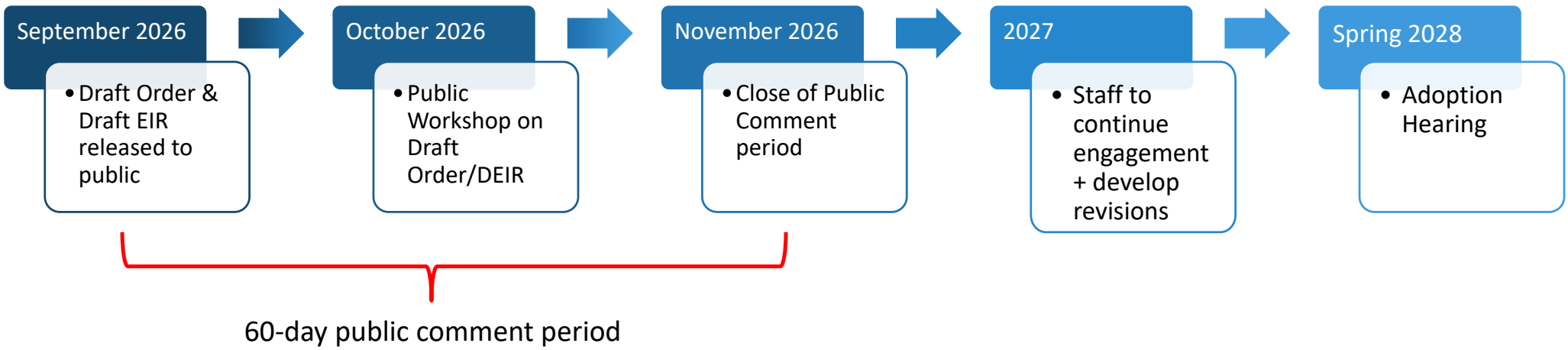


Next Steps

Next Steps

- Public comment period
- How to submit comments
- Board consideration schedule
- Continued public engagement

Anticipated Order and EIR Schedule





Questions and Discussion



Back pocket slides

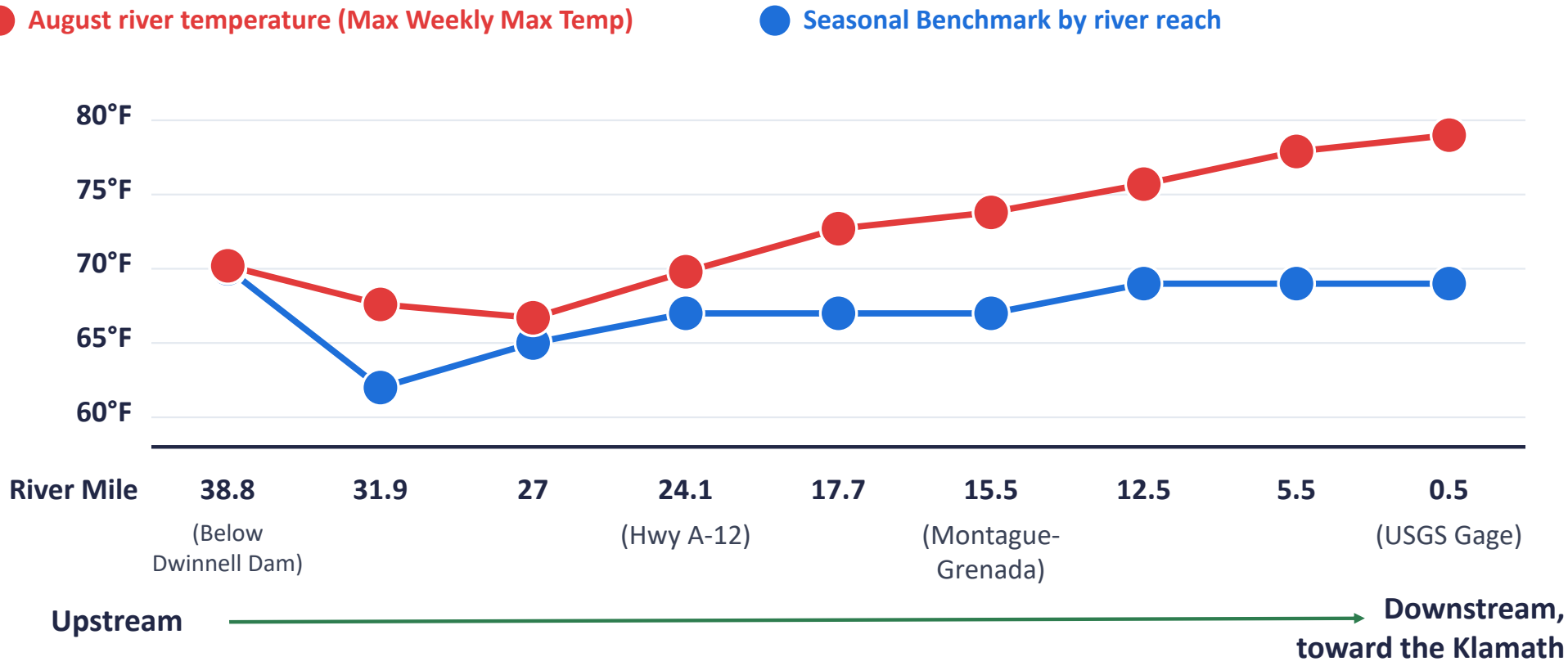
Estimated Annualized* Compliance Cost by Ranch Type

COMPLEXITY Riparian, Tailwater, Roads, DW wells	RANCH SIZE **Small** 25 – 100 acres	**Medium** 100 – 1,000 acres	**Large** 1,000 + acres
Simple	$200--$800	$800-$8,000	$8,000 +
Average	$1,500-$6,000	$6,000-$60,000	$60,000 +
Complex	$6,000-$25k	$25k-$250k	$250k +

*Costs assume participation in Coalition annualized over 10 years

How Shasta River Temps Compare to Mid-Season Benchmarks

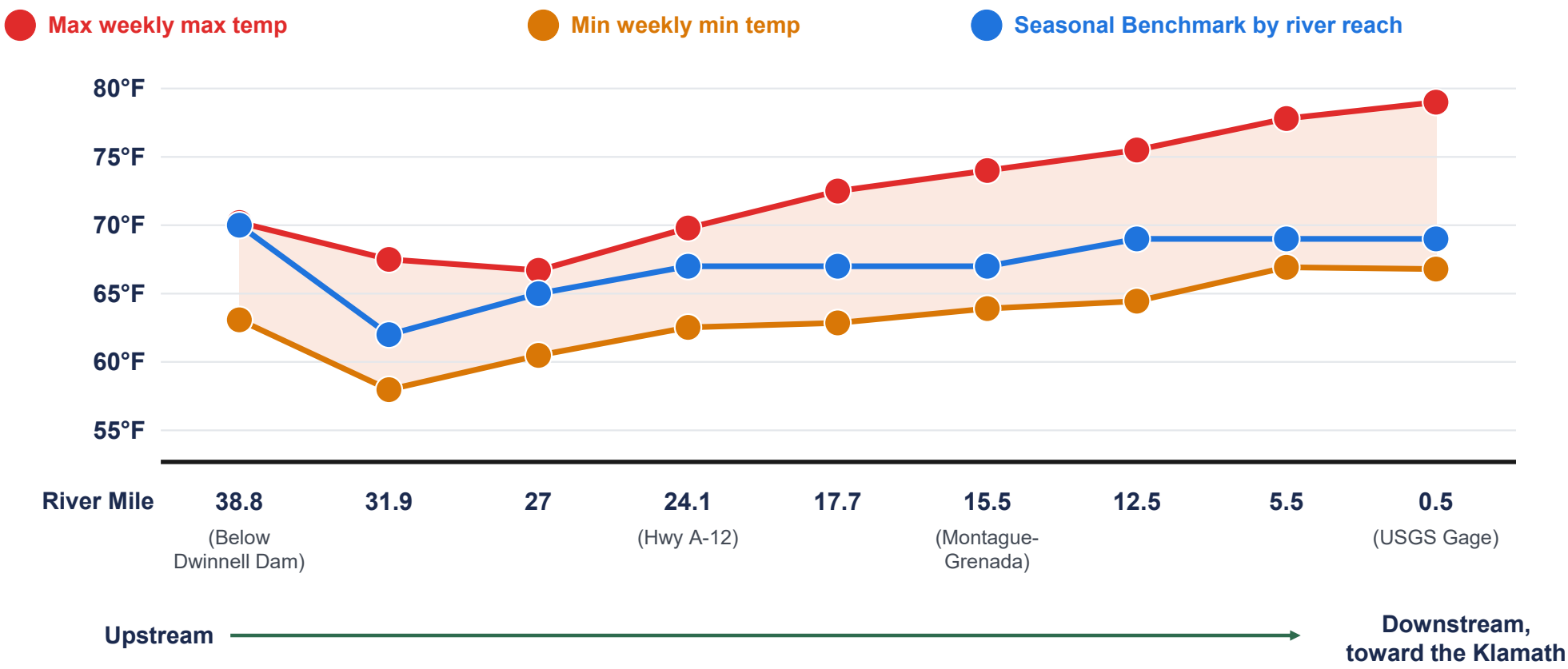
Average peak summer temperatures between 2015-2023 exceeded the reach-specific Benchmarks at most locations



Average maximum weekly maximum temperature, years common to all sites · Benchmarks from the Shasta TMDL model, mid-season

Shasta River Temps in August Compared to Mid-Season Benchmarks

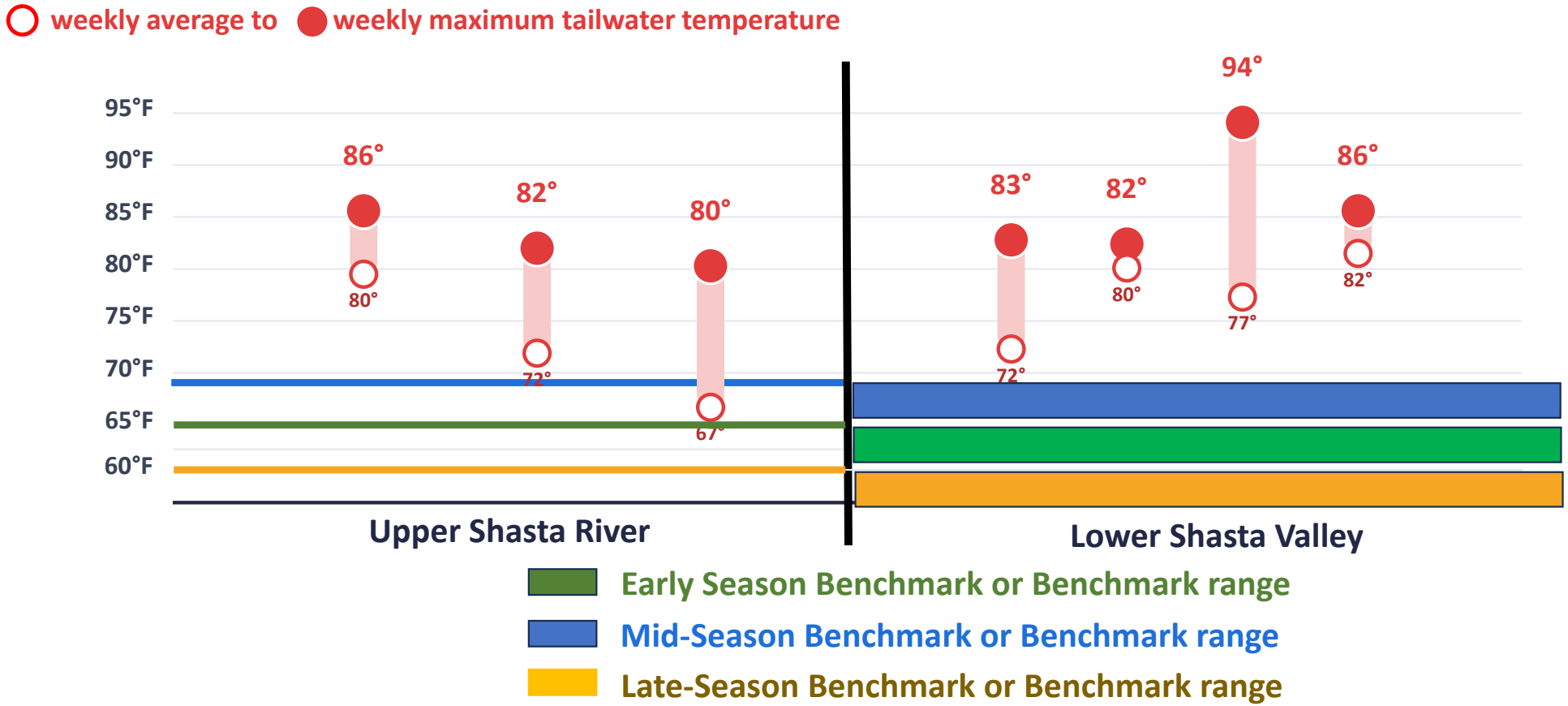
Average maximum weekly temperatures exceed the reach Benchmarks, while average minimum weekly temperatures fall below them



Averages across years common to all sites (2015-2023) · Benchmarks from the Shasta TMDL model, mid-season

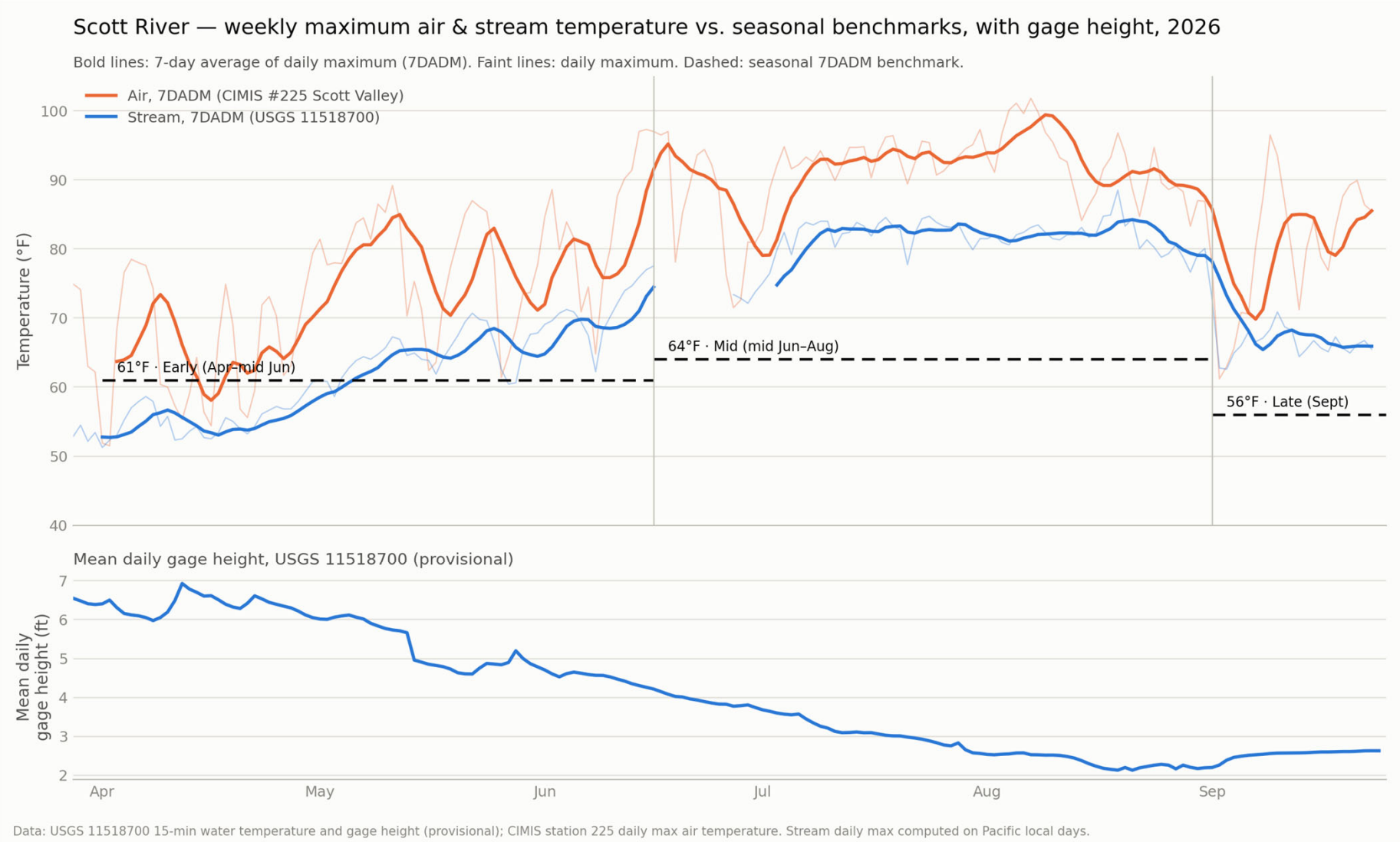
Shasta Valley Tailwater Temperature Examples

The Shasta Valley RCD measured tailwater returns in two areas



Hourly loggers in each return, April–September; monitored years differ by site (2008–2011)

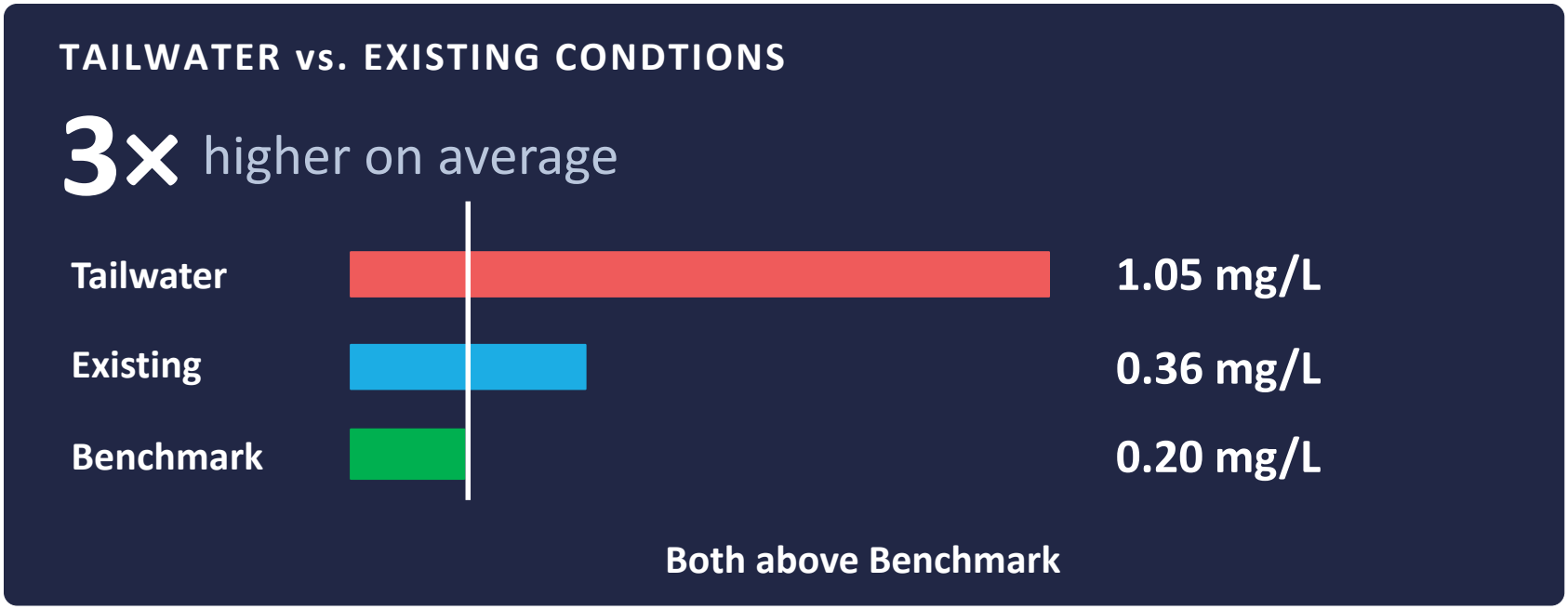
BS1


Scott River — weekly maximum air & stream temperature vs. seasonal benchmarks, with gage height, 2026
Bold lines: 7-day average of daily maximum (7DADM). Faint lines: daily maximum. Dashed: seasonal 7DADM benchmark.
Air, 7DADM (CIMIS #225 Scott Valley)
Stream, 7DADM (USGS 11518700)
Temperature (°F)
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
61°F · Early (Apr–mid Jun)
64°F · Mid (mid Jun–Aug)
56°F · Late (Sept)
Mean daily gage height, USGS 11518700 (provisional)
Mean daily gage height (ft)
7
6
5
4
3
2
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Data: USGS 11518700 15-min water temperature and gage height (provisional); CIMIS station 225 daily max air temperature. Stream daily max computed on Pacific local days.

Slide 47

BS1 [@Scott, Elias@Waterboards] can you review this slide Chris made, is it useful as a back pocket?
Sullivan, Brenna@Waterboards, 2026-09-24T21:53:24.864

How the Nitrogen Benchmark Compares to the Shasta River



Shasta Tailwater Reduction project, 2011–2016 (104 records) · excludes one spring-pipe outlet sample (1.7 mg/L) and two blank results

How the Phosphorus Benchmarks Compare to the Scott River

Early
Apr 1 – Jun 15

RIVER FLOW

822 cfs

PHOSPHORUS BENCHMARK

0.014 mg/L

P in River: **0.011 – 0.015 mg/L**

Mid
Jun 16 – Aug 31

RIVER FLOW

152 cfs

PHOSPHORUS BENCHMARK

0.010 mg/L

P in River: **0.007 – 0.010 mg/L**

Late
Sep 1 – Oct 1

MOST SENSITIVE

RIVER FLOW

19 cfs

PHOSPHORUS BENCHMARK

0.008 mg/L

P in River: **0.006 – 0.008 mg/L**

Klamath Basin Monitoring Program, Scott River near its mouth, 2009–2016 · USGS flow gauge, Scott River near Fort Jones


Shasta River

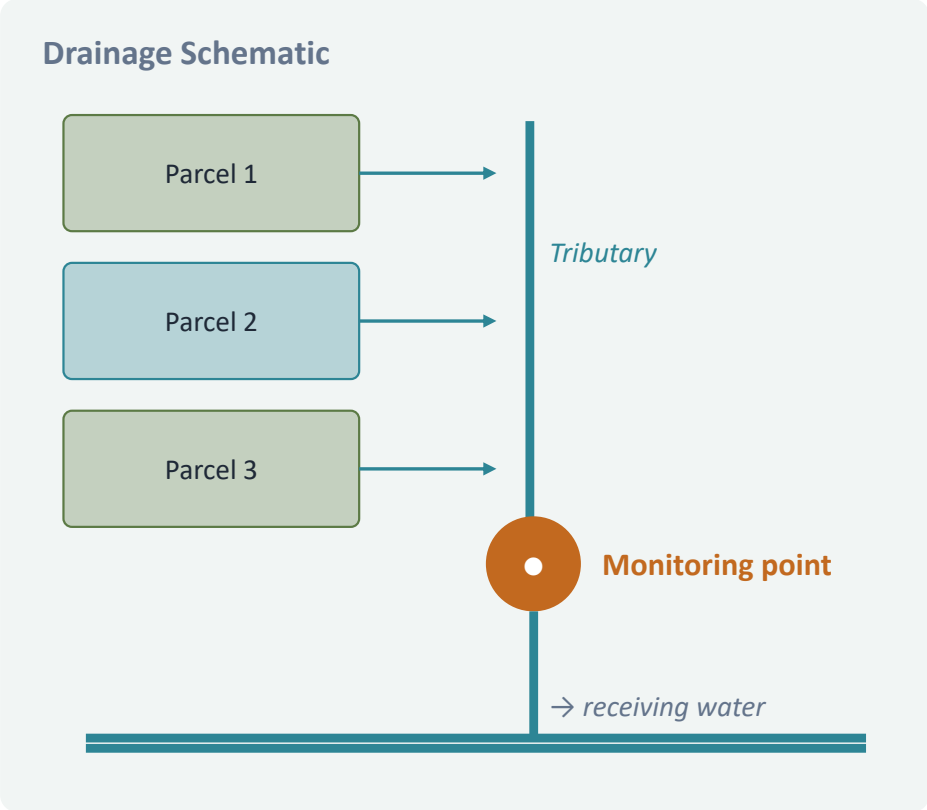


Example of tailwater discharge into Shasta River

Pathway 2 · Monitoring Network

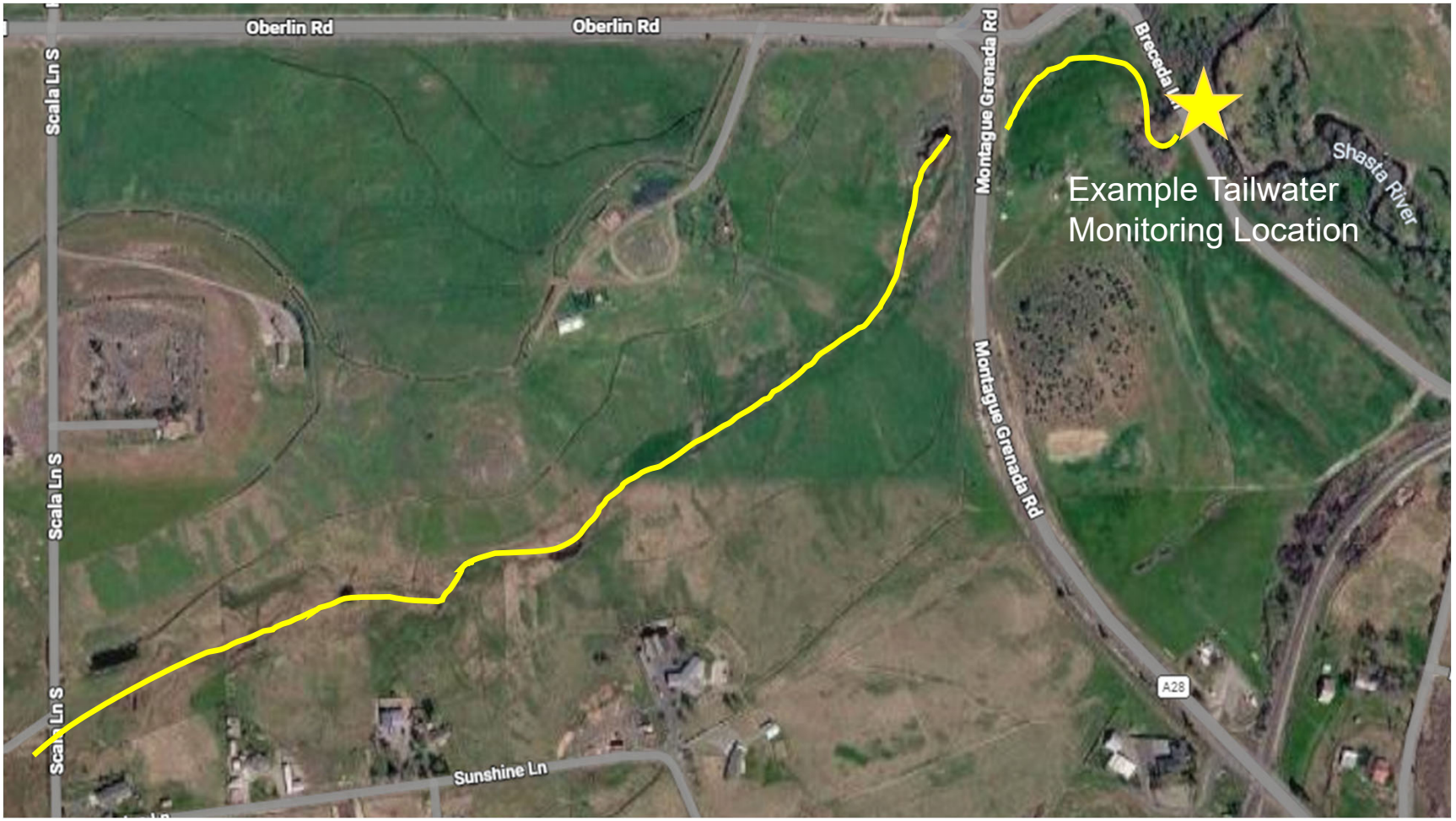
How Sites Get Selected

1. MRP specifies conditions
2. Enrollee, group, or Coalition proposes locations
3. One point can represent many parcels



Oberlin Rd
Oberlin Rd
Scala Ln S
Scala Ln S
Scala Ln S
Montague Grenada Rd
Montague Grenada Rd
Montague Grenada Rd
Breceda Ln
Shasta River
A28
Sunshine Ln
Sunshine Ln
Sunshine Ln
Breceda Ln




Oberlin Rd
Oberlin Rd
Scala Ln S
Scala Ln S
Scala Ln S
Montague Grenada Rd
Montague Grenada Rd
Shasta River
Example Tailwater
Monitoring Location
A28
Sunshine Ln