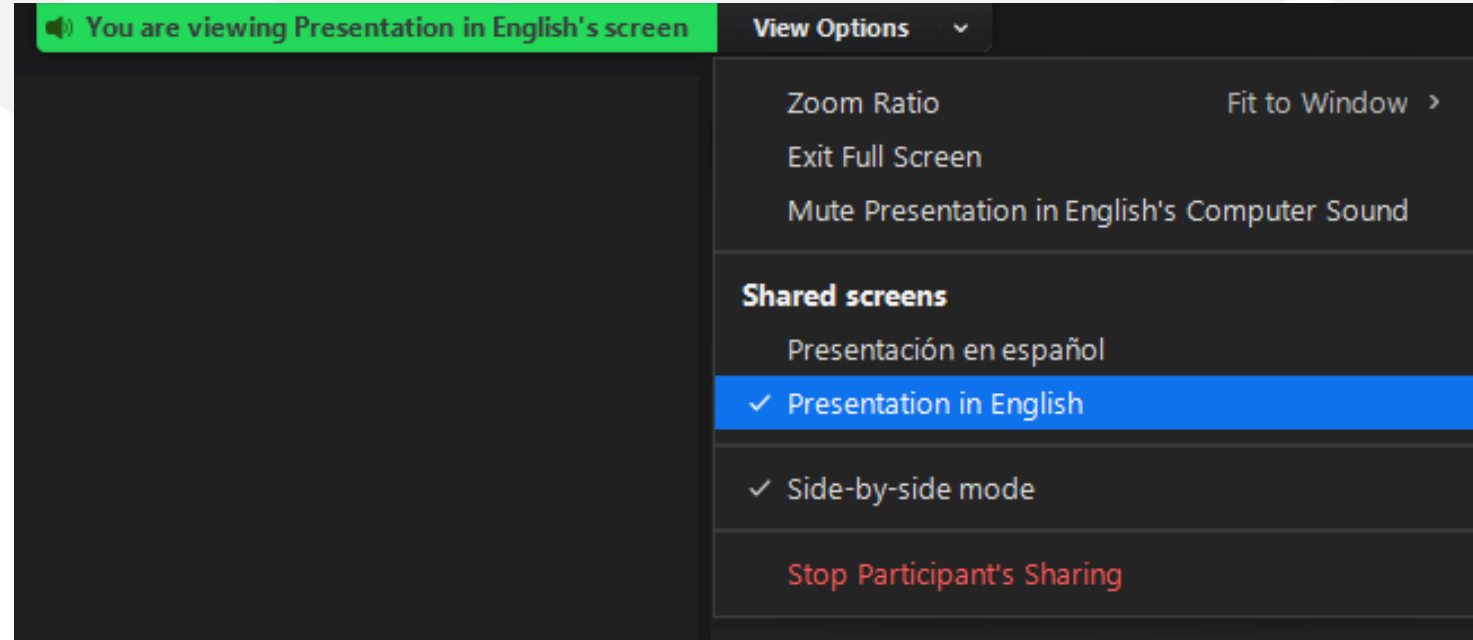


Opciones de Pantalla en Zoom

Haga clic en “View Options” en la parte superior de su pantalla y seleccione “Presentación en español” O “Presentation in English”

Preguntas sobre Zoom?
Envíe un mensaje a Katy vía el chat.

View Options on Zoom



Click on View Options at the top of your screen and select "Presentación en español" or "Presentation in English."

Zoom Questions? Send a message to Katy in the Chat.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Public Workshop For Proposed
Designation Of Tule Subbasin as a
Probationary Basin

April 5, 2024



State Water Resources Control Board

Participation Poll

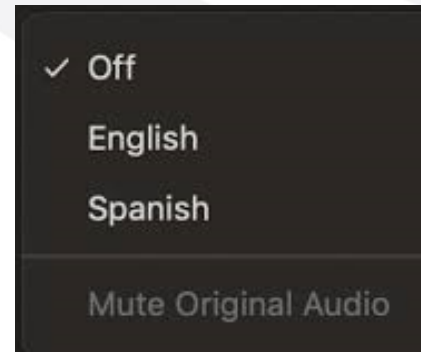
Please take a moment to follow the prompts on the poll by following the link in the chat.



Opción de Interpretación en Zoom

Seleccione el icono de interpretación desde los controles de la pantalla

- Haga clic en “Interpretation” en el menú
- Seleccione español (*Spanish*)
- Seleccione la opción para poner el audio original en silencio (*Mute Original Audio*)



Language Interpretation through Zoom

Click the Interpretation icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- Select Spanish OR English
- Mute Original Audio

Preguntas sobre Zoom? Envíe un mensaje a Katy vía el chat.

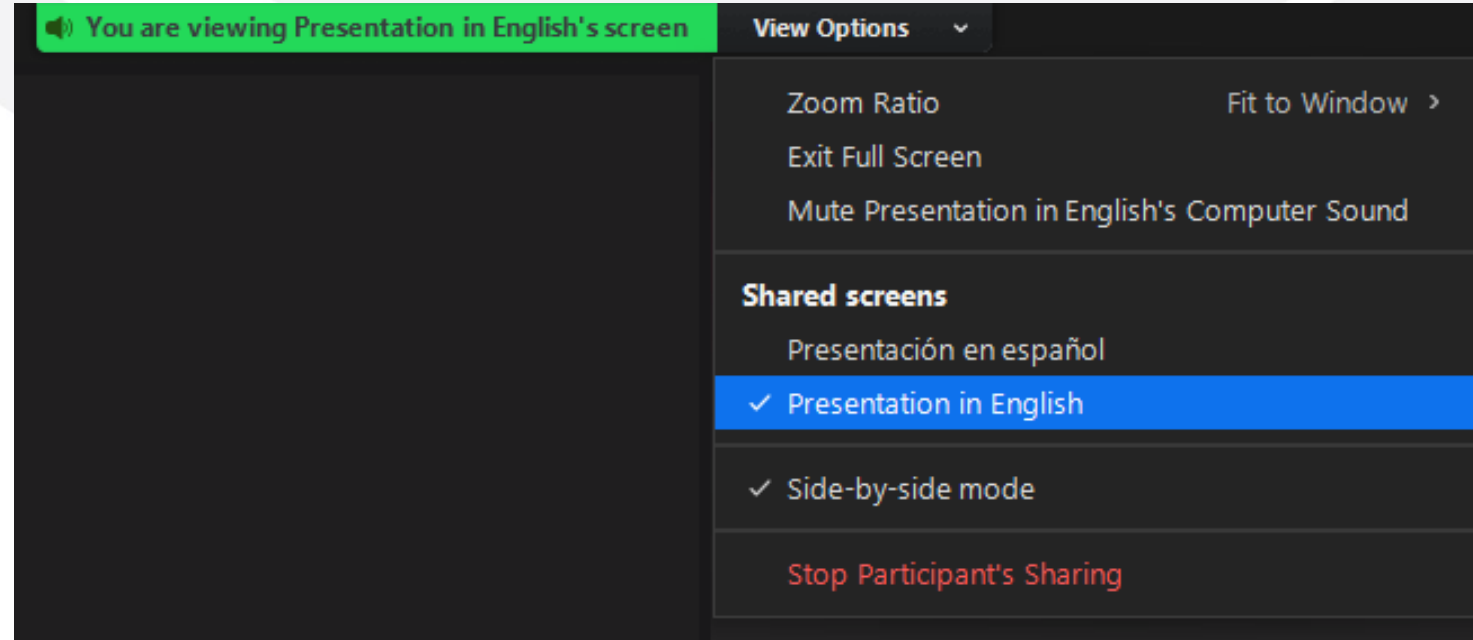
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View Options on Zoom

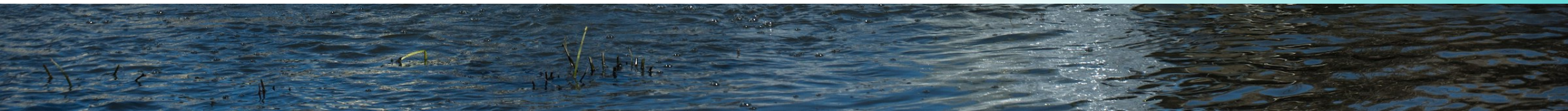


Click on View Options at the top of your screen and select "Presentación en español" or "Presentation in English."

Zoom Questions? Send a message to Katy in the Chat.



Community Guidelines

- 1. Please rename yourself and provide affiliation if it applies**
 - 2. Engage respectfully and avoid personal attacks – verbally or in the chat**
 - 3. Use chat to communicate comments and/or questions to speakers**
 - 4. Please use "Raise Hand" function and wait until the facilitator calls on you to speak**
 - 5. Please remain muted when not speaking**
 - 6. During the comment portion, we will go in order of hands raised and may provide a time limit if there are many people who would like to comment**
- 

Zoom Meeting Controls

How to Use 

To Raise Hand
Press Reactions,
select "Raise Hand"

Black menu bar at top or bottom of screen:



Mute/Unmute Yourself
Please remain muted when not speaking

Turn on/off your video

View all participants
and see where you are in comment line

Send a message
Select chat window to send comments/questions to speakers

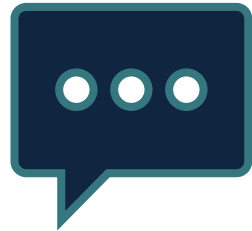


Mute/Unmute Yourself on Phone
Select *6



Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message to Katy using chat

How to Participate



Written Comments

Submit Questions and
Comments During the
Meeting by
Utilizing Chat

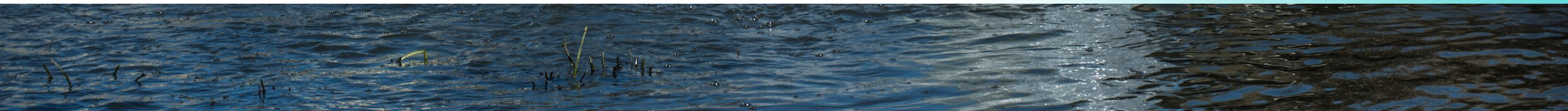


Verbal Comments

Raise Hand
Video On or Off
"Unmute" when
Called On by Facilitator

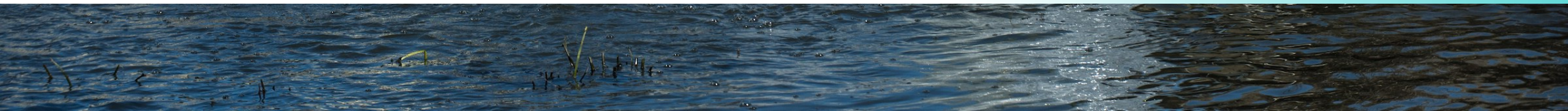


Objectives

- 1. Provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the draft staff report which describes the actions staff recommend the State Water Resources Control Board should take for the proposed designation of Tule Subbasin as a probationary basin.**
 - 2. Provide an opportunity for the public to interact with State Water Resources Control Board staff and raise their questions and concerns.**
 - 3. Provide an opportunity for the public to provide verbal and written comments on the draft recommendations.**
- 

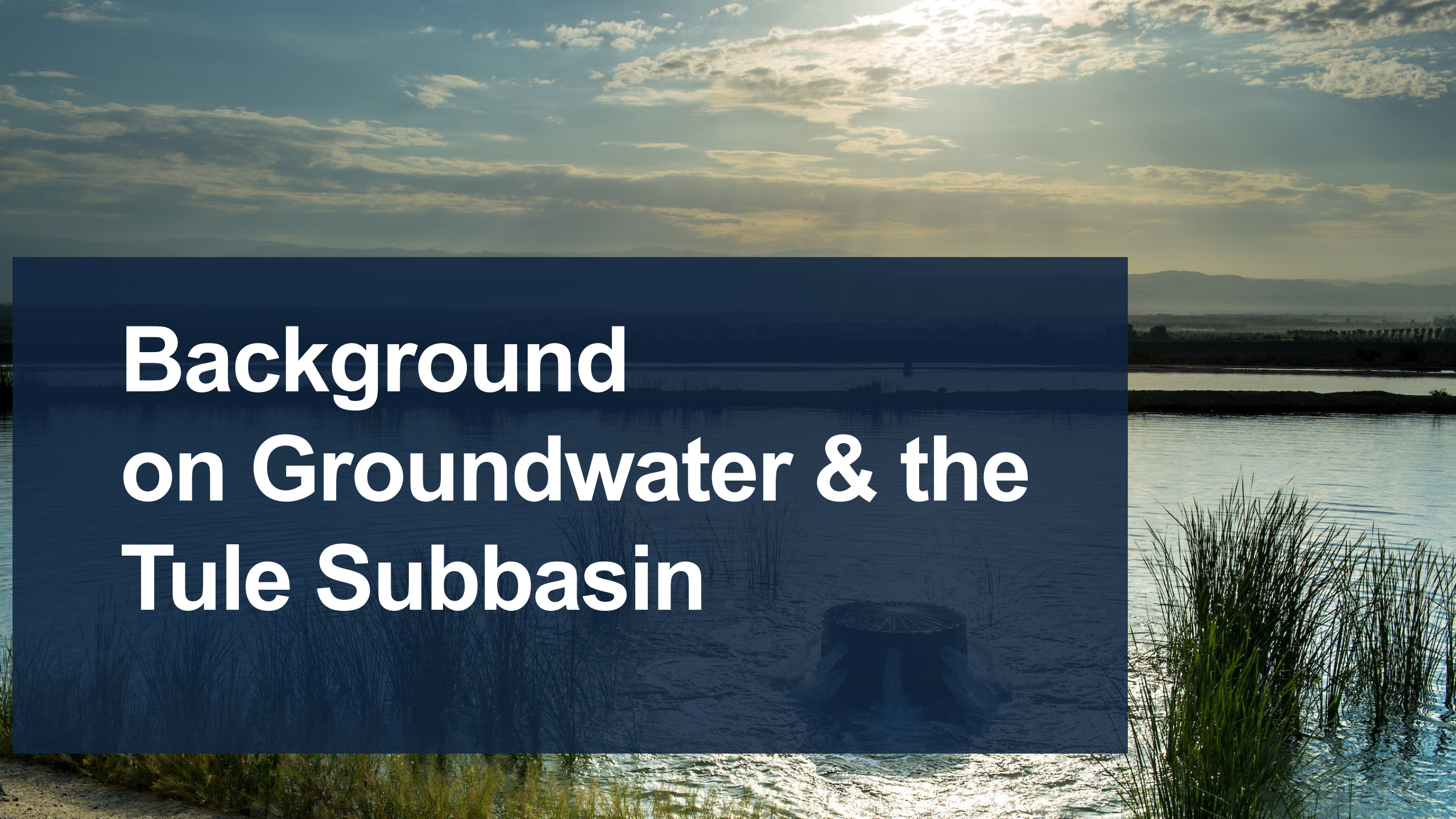


Public Workshop Agenda

- 1. Opening Remarks**
 - 2. Groundwater & Tule Subbasin Background**
 - 3. Overview of State Intervention Under SGMA**
 - 4. Plan Issues Described in Staff Report**
 - 5. Proposed Requirements for Groundwater Extractors**
 - 6. Public Q&A on Probationary Hearing Process**
 - 7. Public Comment (Starts at 12:15 pm)**
- 



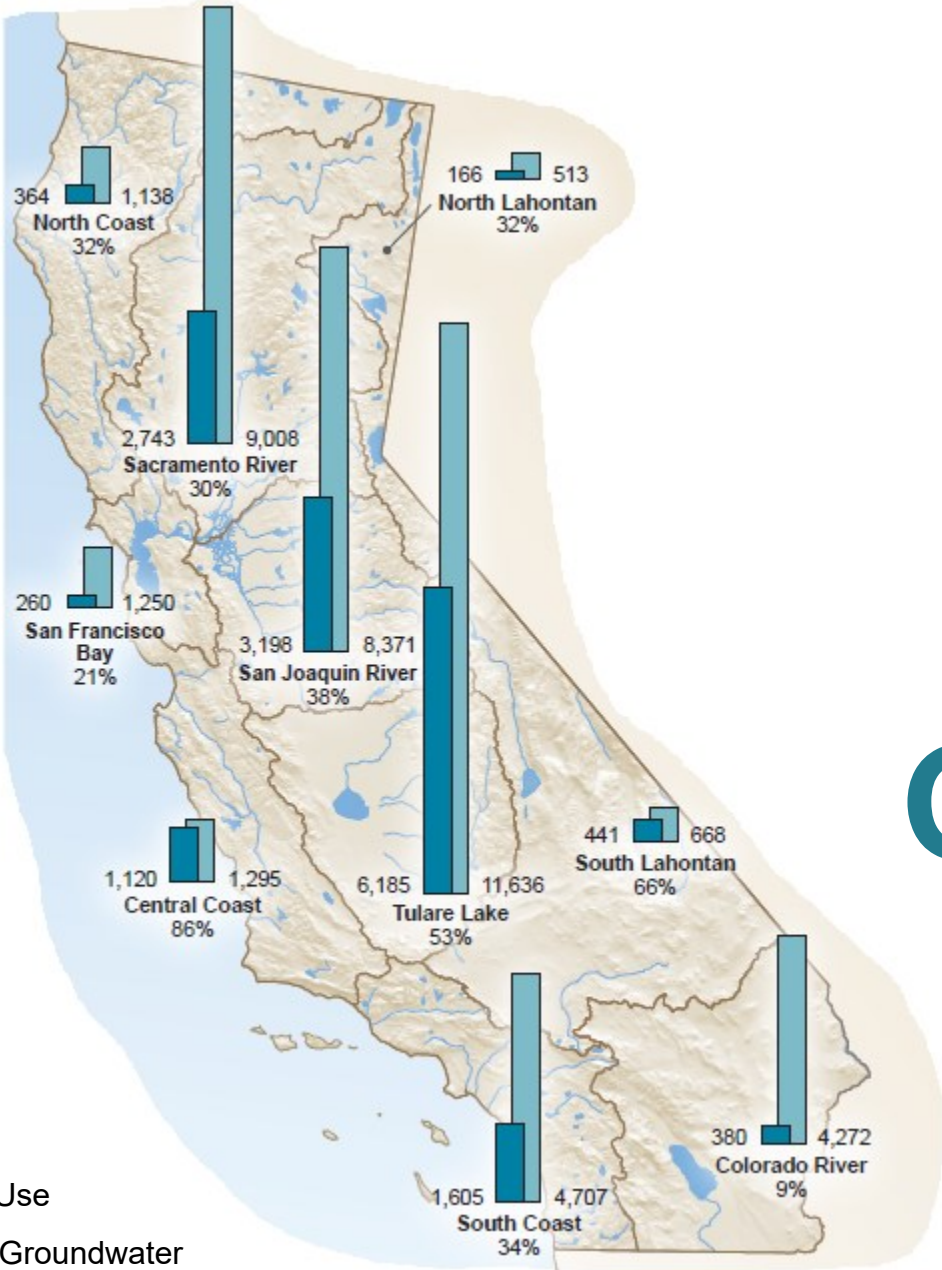
Opening Remarks



Background on Groundwater & the Tule Subbasin

80%

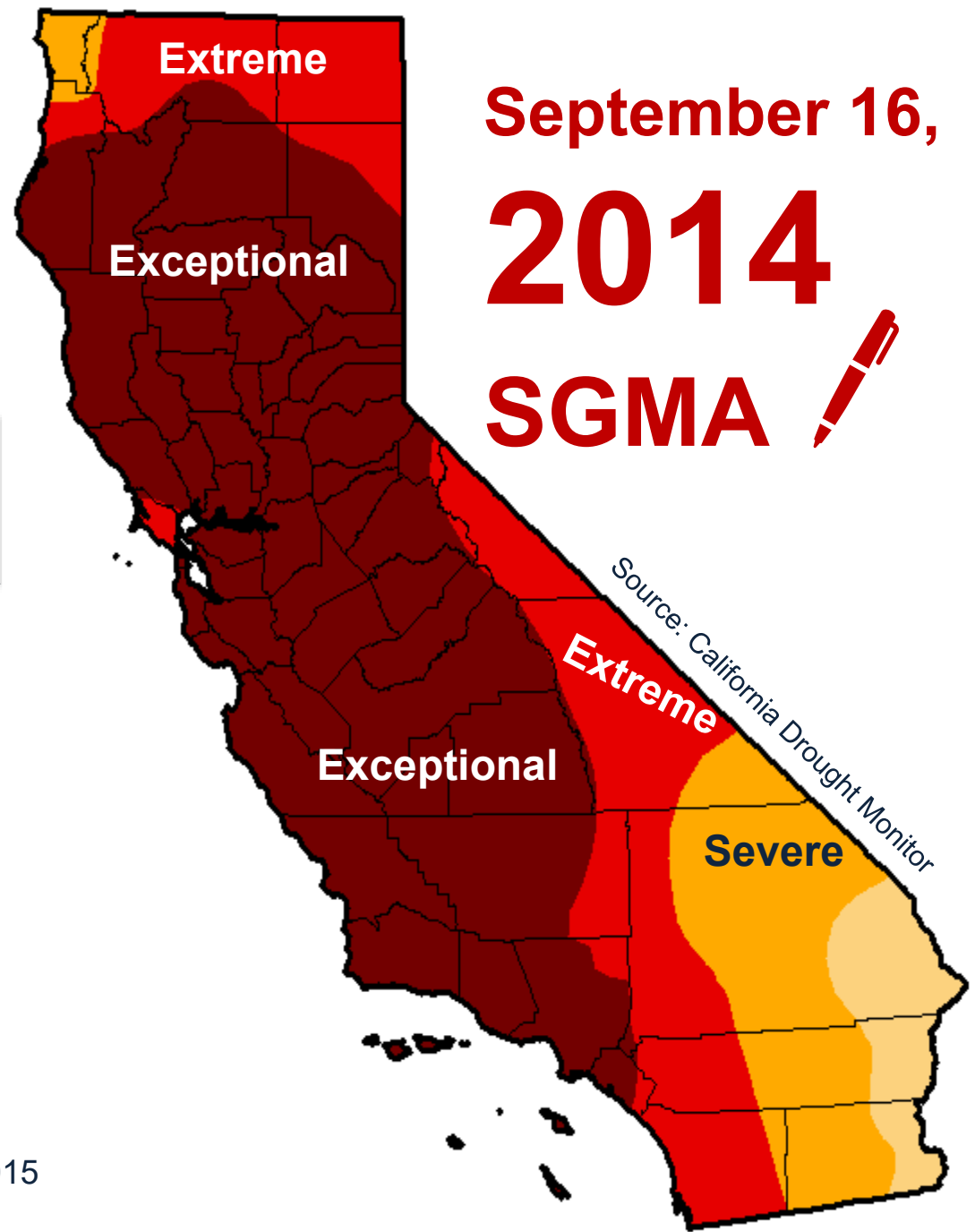
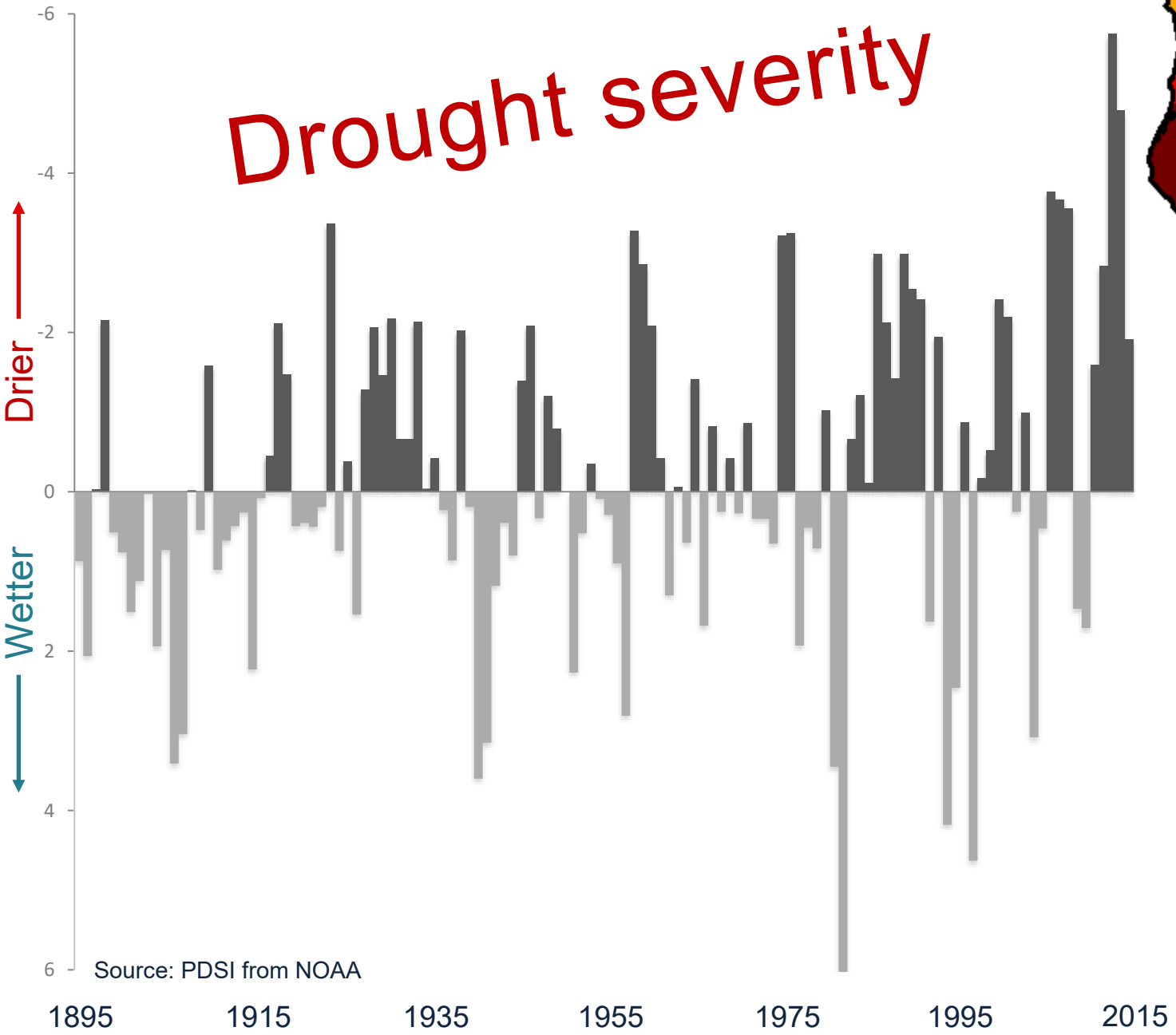
of Californians rely on
GROUNDWATER
for part of their water
supply



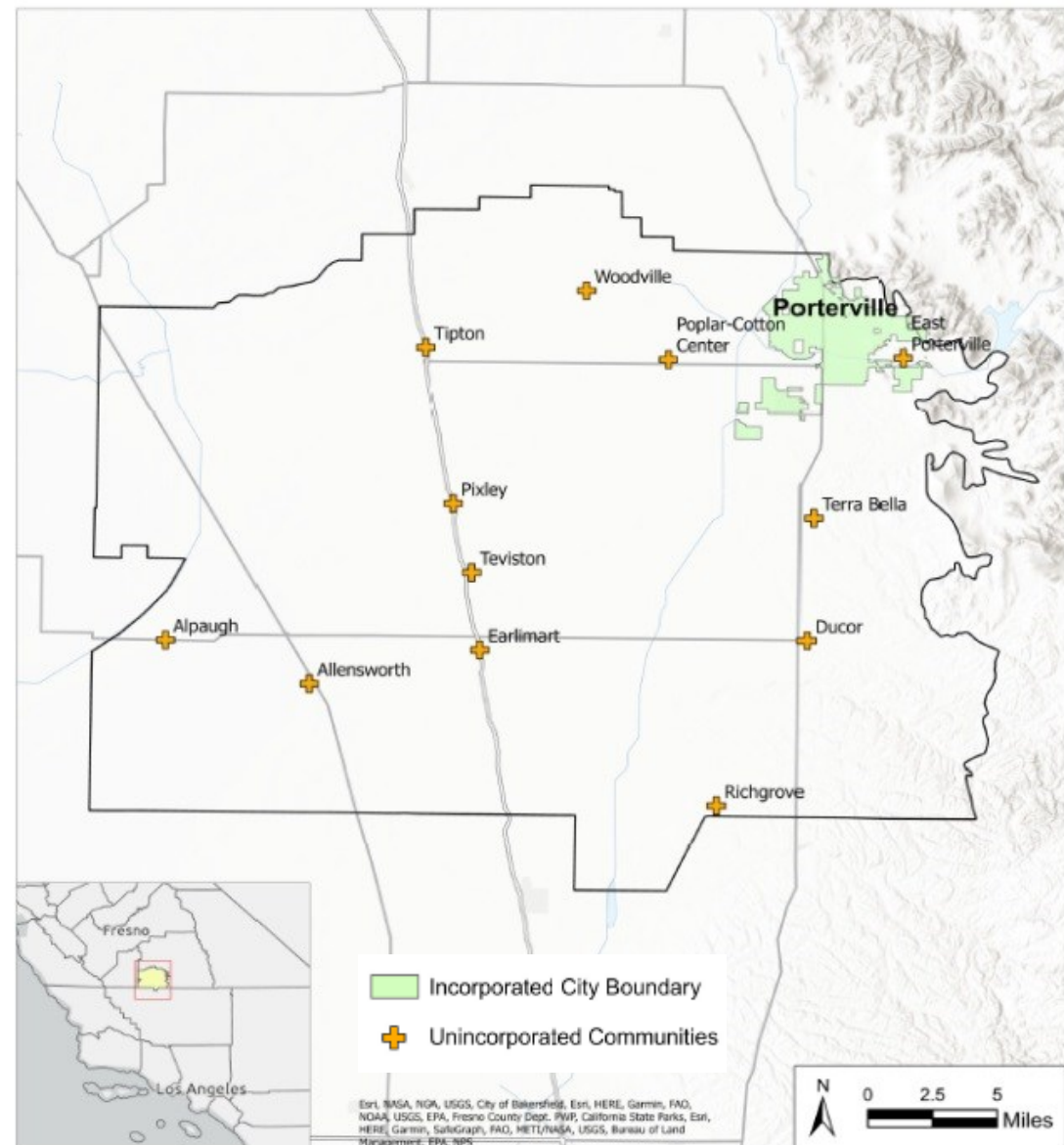
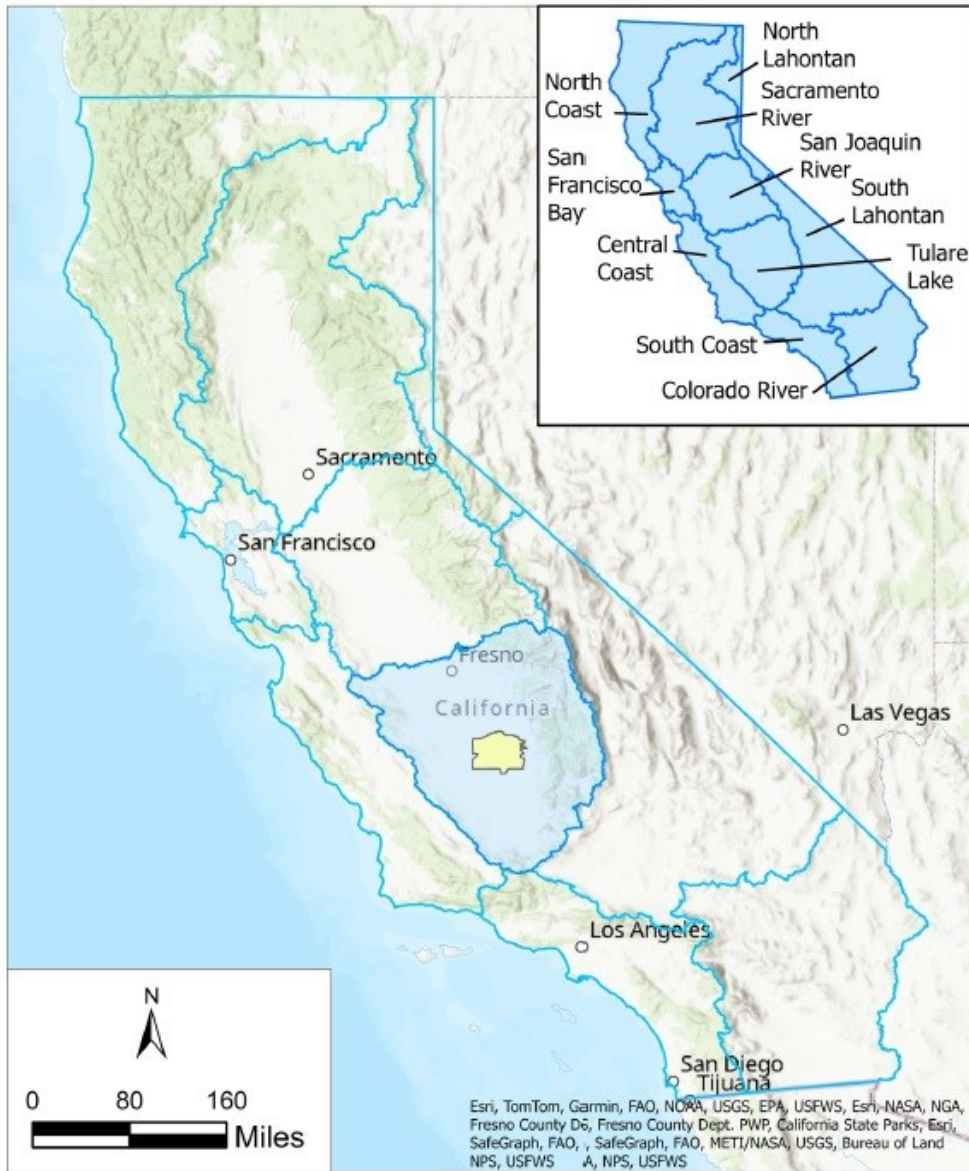
■ Total Water Use
■ Use Met By Groundwater

Source: California Water Plan Update 2013

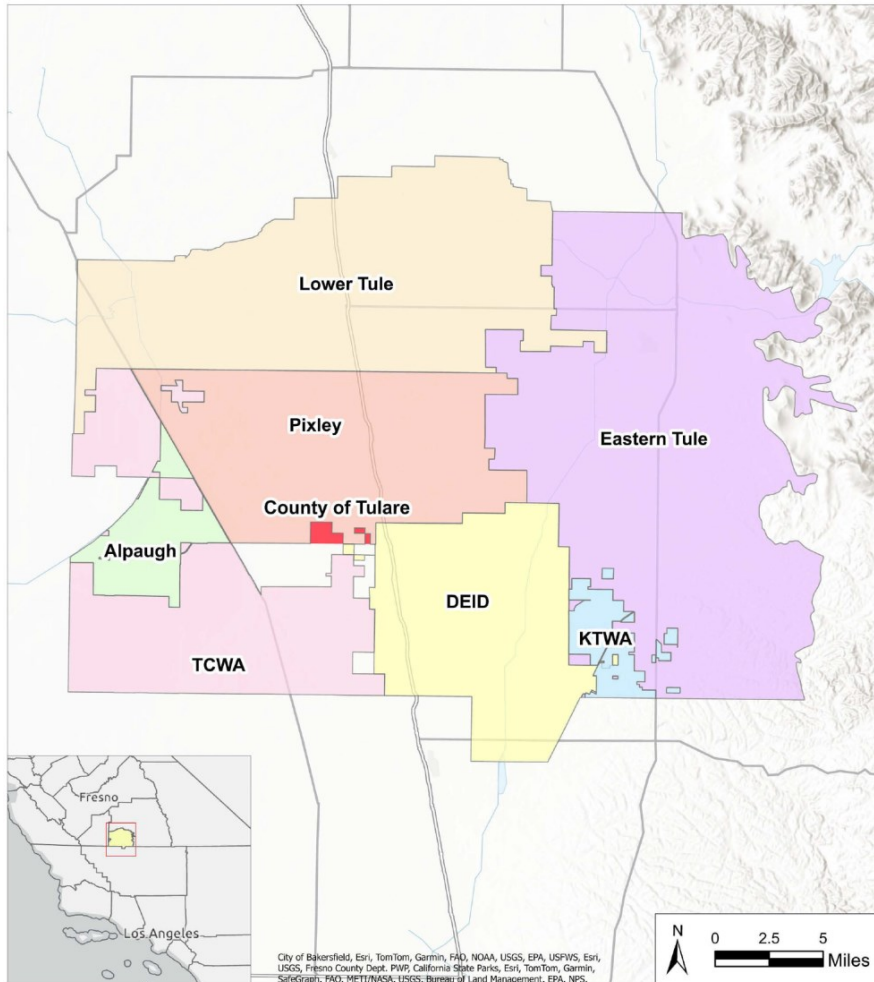
Drought severity



Tule Subbasin



Tule Subbasin (continued)



Eight Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- Eastern Tule GSA
- Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA
- Pixley Irrigation District GSA
- Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA
- Tri-County Water Authority GSA
- Alpaugh GSA
- County of Tulare GSA
- Kern Tulare Water District GSA

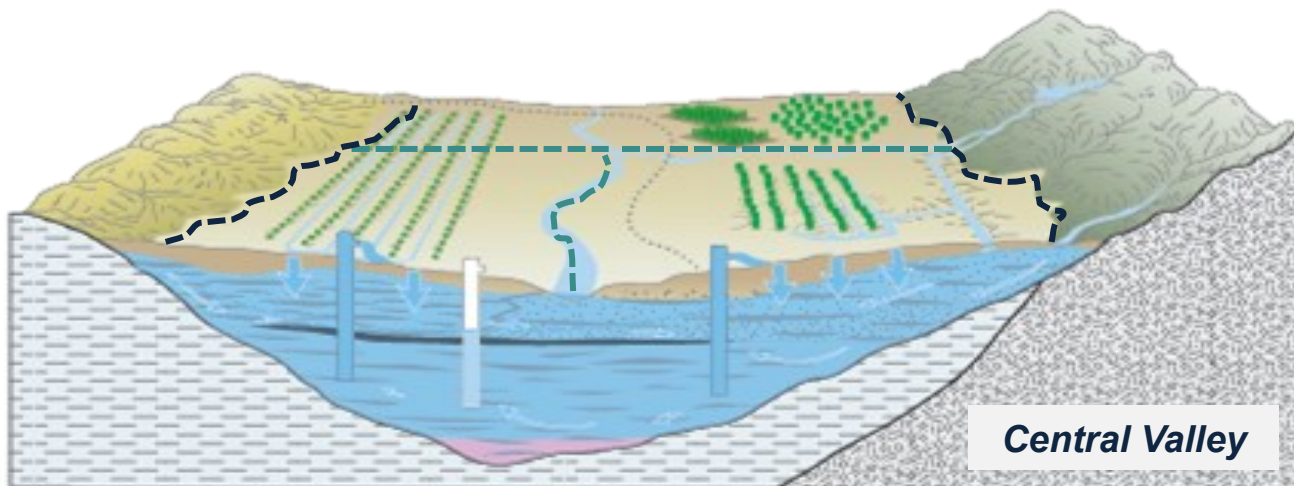
Six Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)

- No GSP for County of Tulare GSA
- New Kern Tulare Water District GSA drafting new GSP

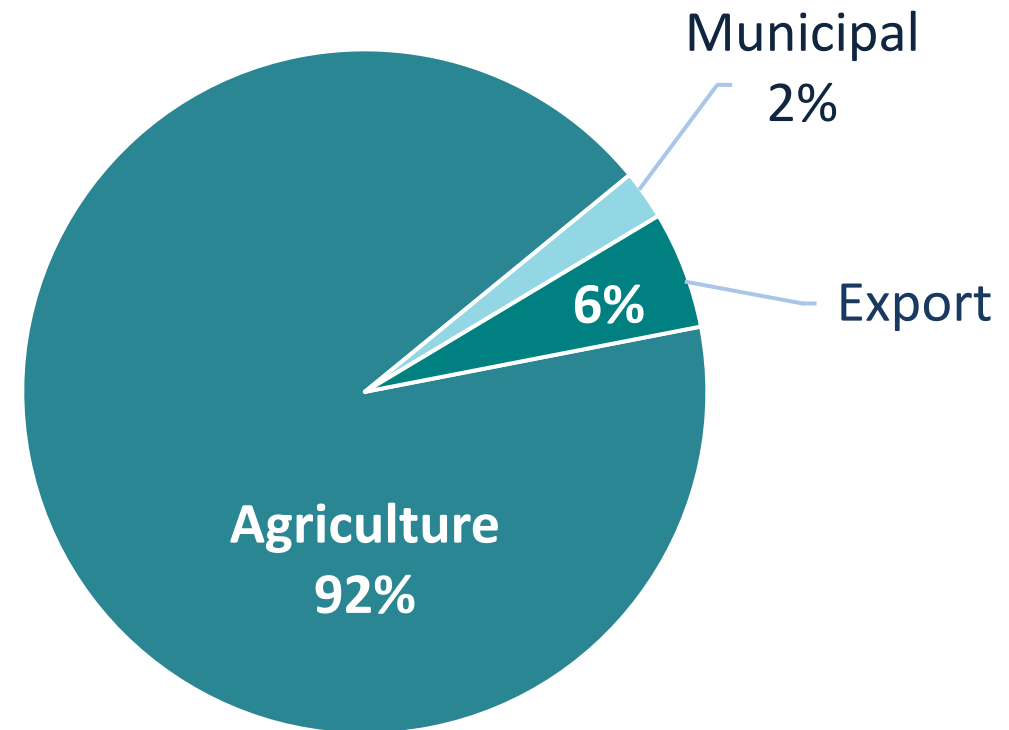
Tule Subbasin (continued 2)

Groundwater Uses

- Municipal and domestic supply
- Agricultural supply
- Wildlife habitat
- Industrial and service supply

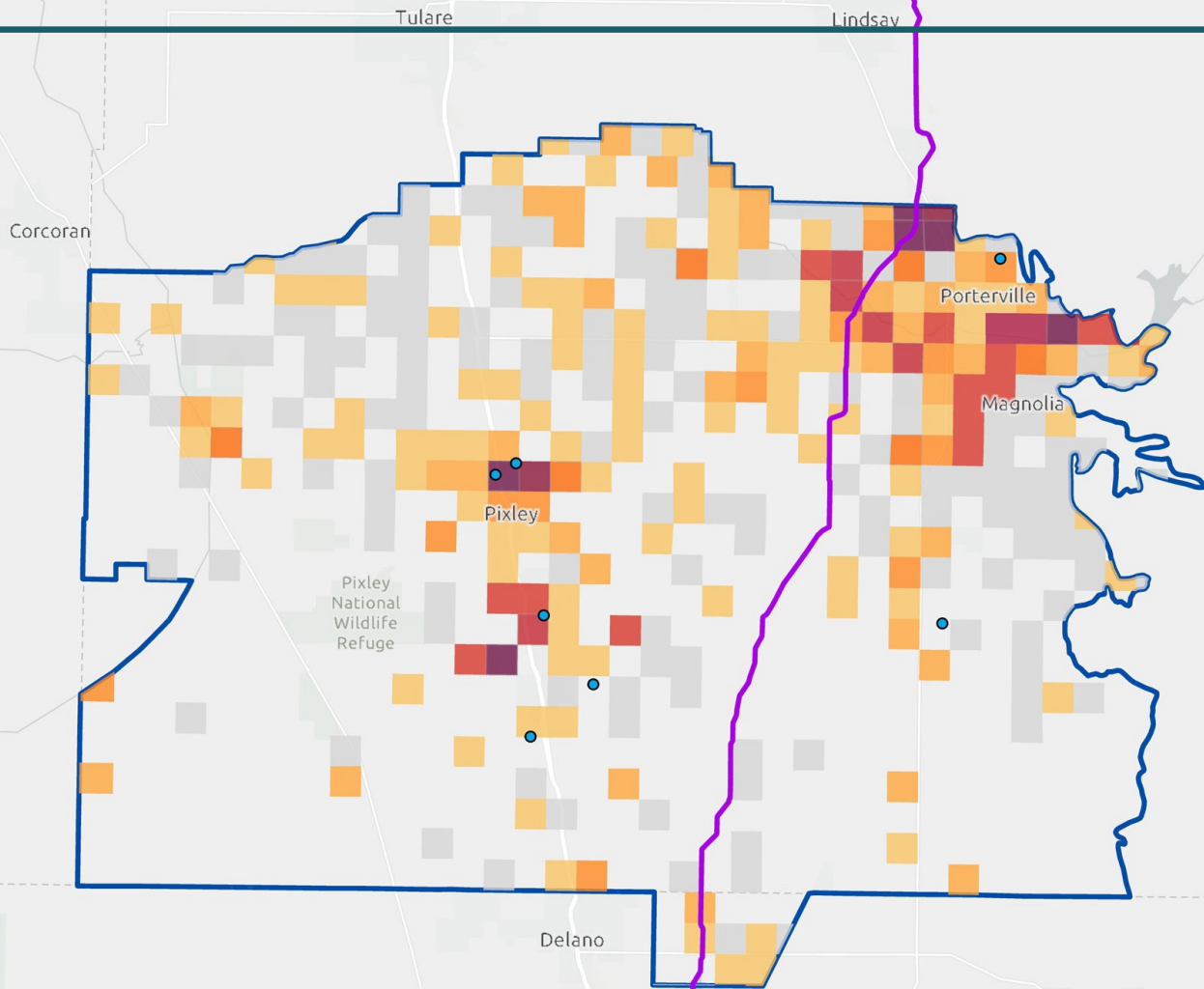


Groundwater Extractions October 2021 – September 2022

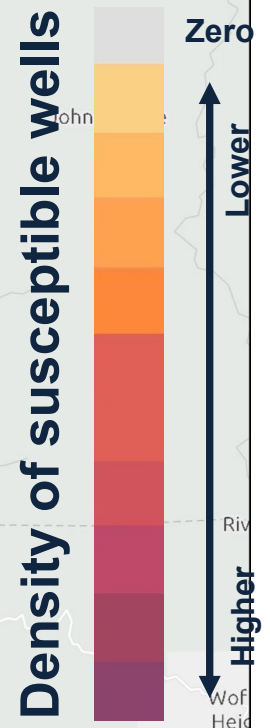


Data Source: WY 2022 Tule Subbasin Annual Report

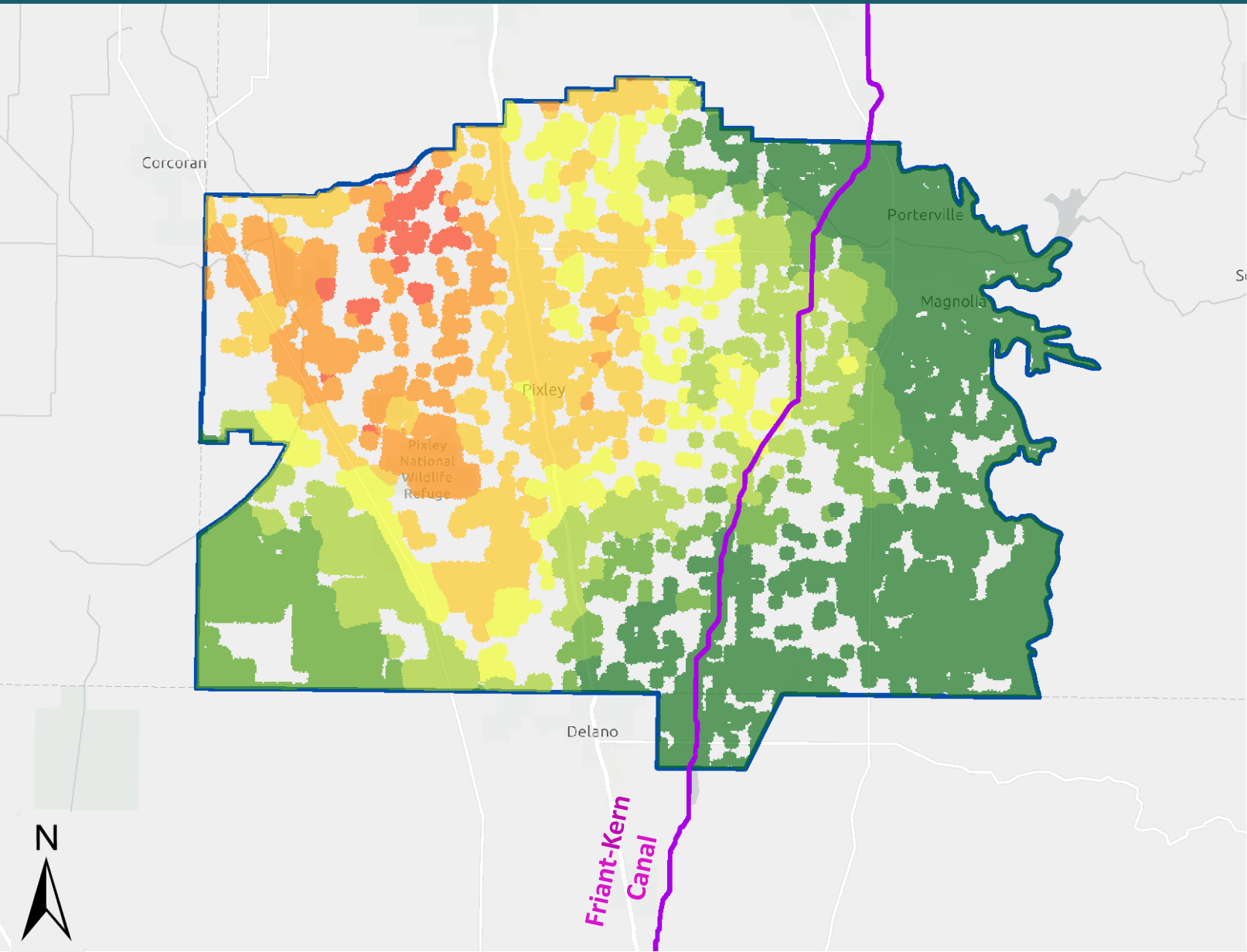
Tule Subbasin: Domestic Wells



Susceptible: 561
Reported dry in 2023: 8



Tule Subbasin: Subsidence



Average: -2.4 ft

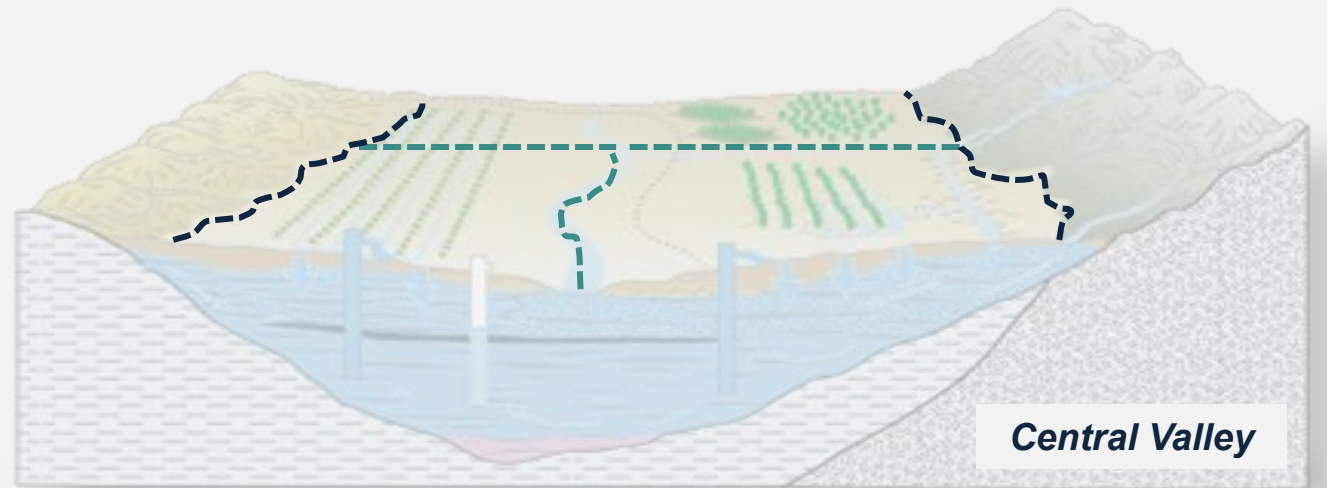
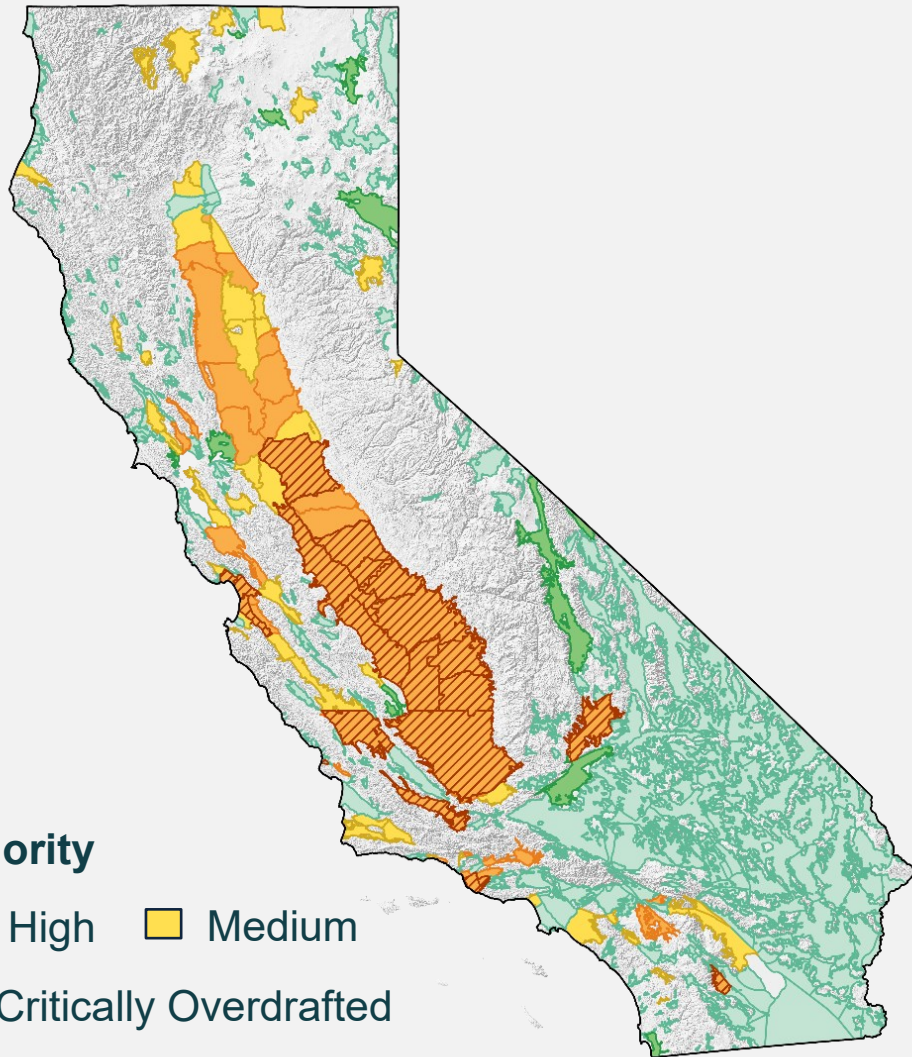
**Subsidence from
InSAR: June 2015
to January 2024**





State Intervention Under SGMA

SGMA AT THE BASIN SCALE



Basins & Subbasins

SGMA Authorities

**State Water Resources
Control Board**

**CA Department of Water
Resources (DWR)**



**Groundwater Sustainability
Agencies (GSAs)**

What is Sustainability?

Basin operated within its sustainable yield and not experiencing undesirable results:



Lowering
GW Levels



Storage
Reduction



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface
Depletion

Significant and unreasonable...

...caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin.

“

Where a local groundwater sustainability agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably,

the state needs to protect the resource

until... a local groundwater sustainability agency can sustainably manage the groundwater basin.

”

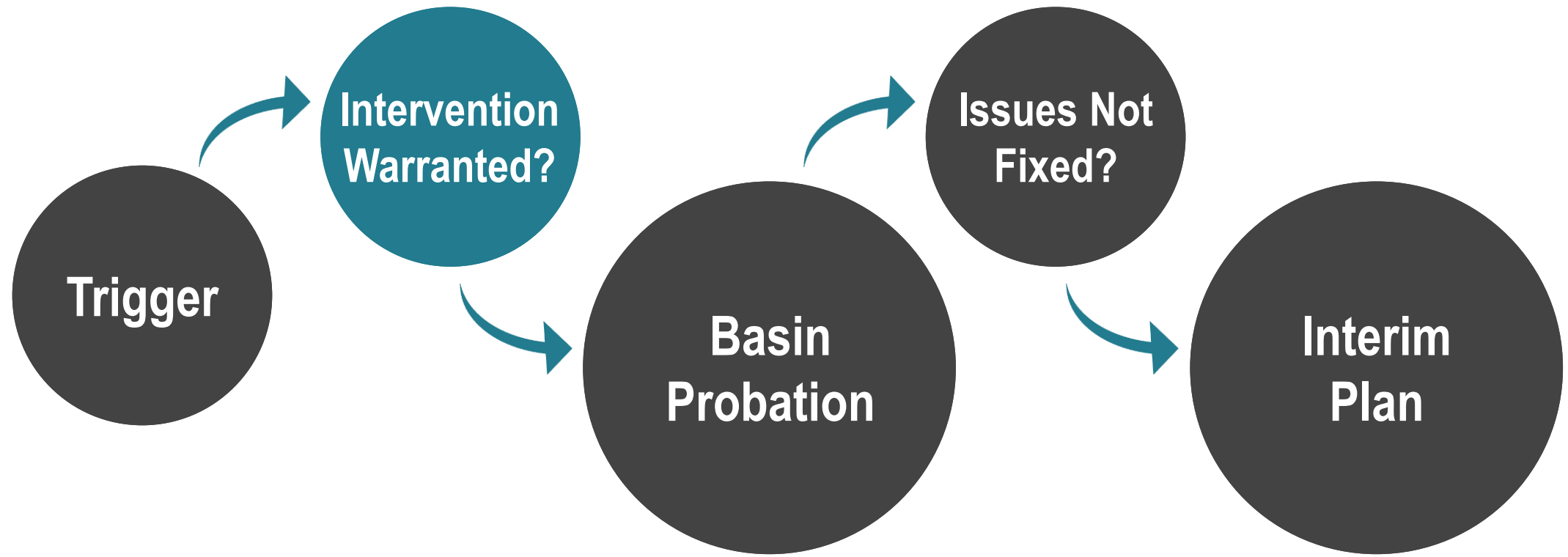
California Legislature

Board Backstop Basics

- 1 Board only steps in when local efforts fail.
- 2 Temporarily protects the basin until locals come up-to-speed.
- 3 Backstop is triggered by deadlines and deficiencies.



State Water Resources Control Board Intervention



Probationary groundwater BASIN



Board identifies deficiencies



GSAs have time to address issues
& continue to implement their plans



Extractors begin reporting



Board may require meters



Board recovers costs via fees





Extraction **REPORTS**

Reports are submitted annually.

Reports require...

- well location & capacity
- monthly extraction volumes
- place & purpose of use

Reports must be filed electronically.

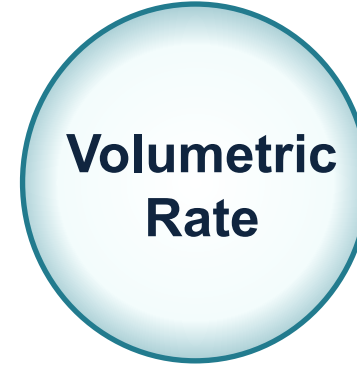
Information on extraction reports is available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html.

Probationary Extraction Reporting Fees

If the Board places the basin on probation



+



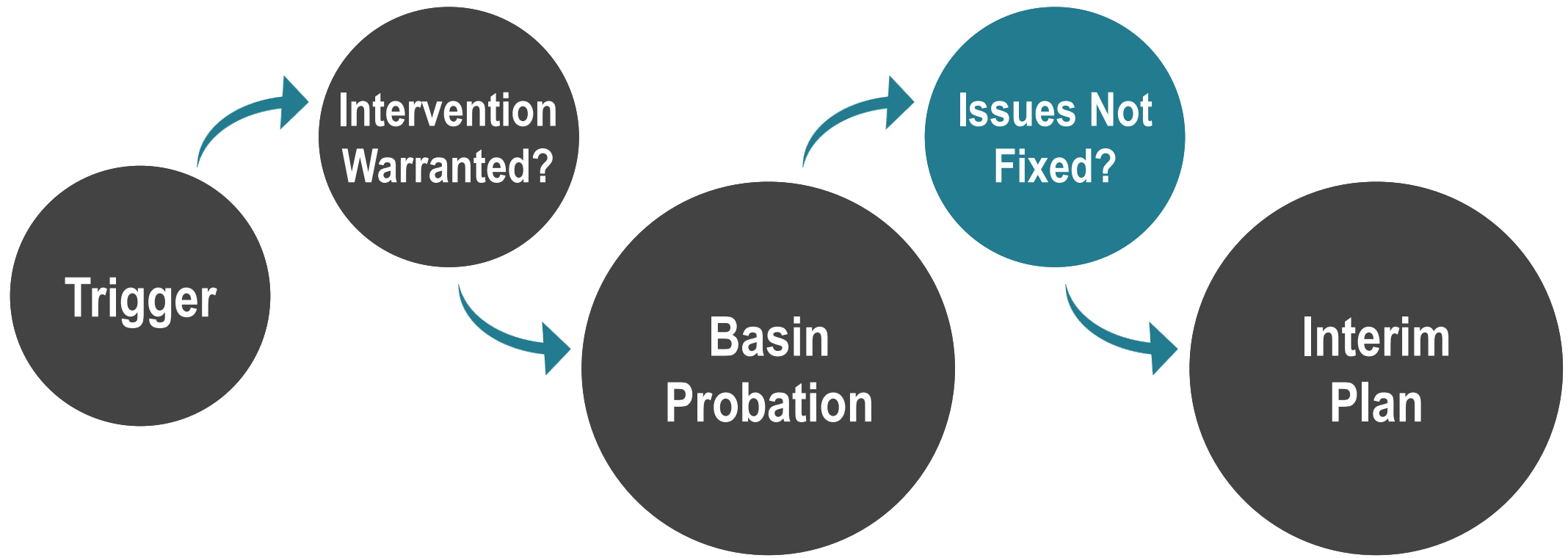
**\$300 per well
per year**

**\$20 per acre-
foot extracted**

Late reporting fee: 25% per month late

*Fee waivers available for DACs, public schools, and those with low income

State Water Resources Control Board Intervention





Corrective Actions



Enforcement

**Interim
PLAN**



Monitoring



Schedule

A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The water is calm, reflecting the sky. In the foreground, there are tall, green reeds. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text. The text reads: "Groundwater Sustainability Plans' Issues Described in Draft Staff Report".

Groundwater Sustainability Plans' Issues Described in Draft Staff Report

Staff Recommendations

- **Designate the basin probationary at the September 17 hearing**
- **The plans will allow substantial impacts to people who rely on domestic wells and critical infrastructure such as canals (for example, the Friant-Kern Canal), levees, and the aquifer itself.**
- **Improved plans are necessary to achieve sustainability in the basin by 2040.**

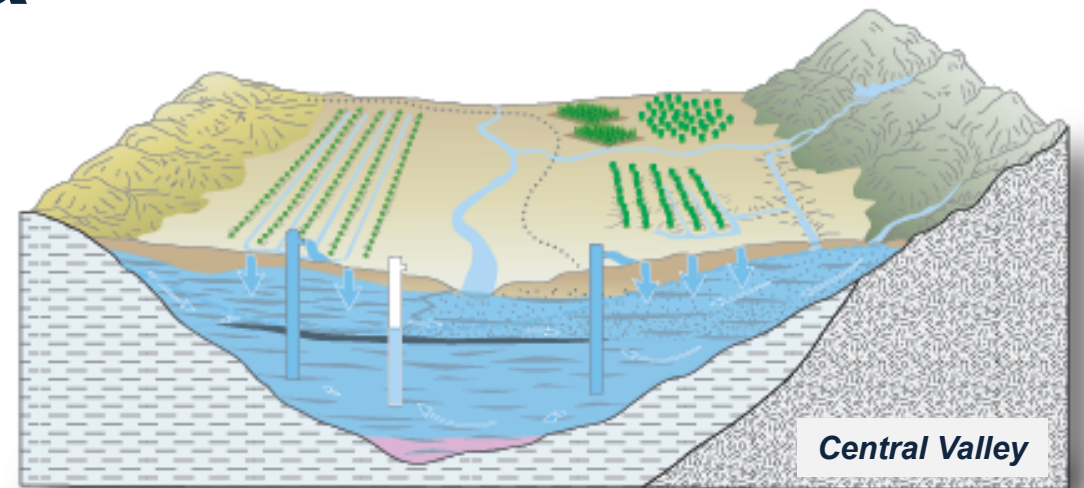
GSP Elements

Groundwater Conditions

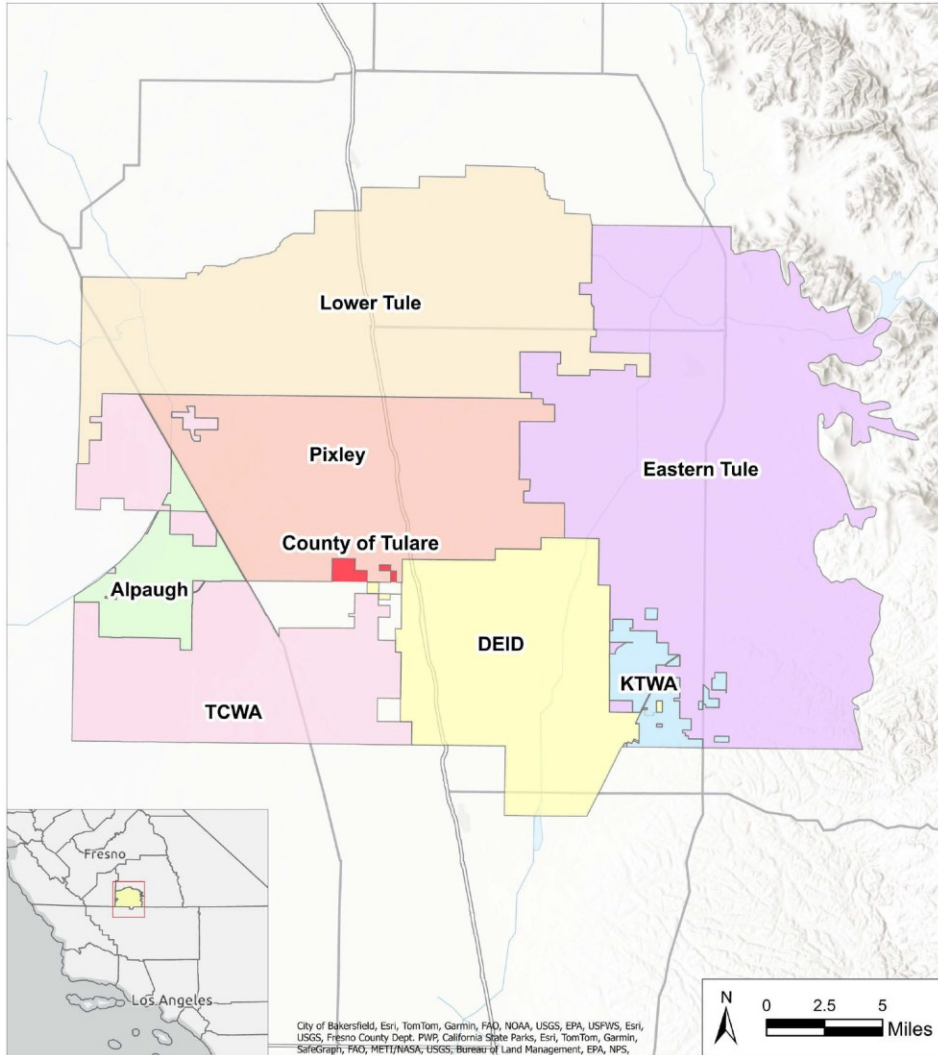
Sustainability Criteria

Monitoring

Projects & Actions



Plan Deficiencies



Issues with:



Declining Groundwater Levels



Land Subsidence (Sinking)



Water Quality Degradation



Interconnected Surface Water

Potential Consequences: Declining Groundwater Levels

- **Threatens drinking water sources by causing wells to go dry or reducing their productivity**
 - **Under current GSPs, about 1 in 5 domestic wells and at least 20 public supply wells could dry**
- **Increases costs to deepen or drill new wells**
- **Increases energy costs of pumping**
- **Increases costs of water for everyone**
- **Causes subsidence, degrades water quality, and depletes interconnect surface water**

Plan Deficiencies: Declining Groundwater Levels

Problems with:

- **Description of what the GSAs are trying to avoid (“undesirable result”)**
 - **Example: how many wells go dry, how low water levels in the aquifers can go**
- **Effects on domestic wells - hundreds of wells could go dry**
- **Role and scope of groundwater allocation plan**
- **Role and scope of well impact mitigation**
- **Reaching sustainability**
- **Inconsistency between GSPs**

Potential Actions: Declining Groundwater Levels

- **Describe the “undesirable result” in sufficient detail**
- **Gather adequate information about pumping and groundwater levels**
- **Provide adequate implementation details for allocation plans**
- **Develop accessible, comprehensive, and appropriately funded well impact mitigation program**
- **Plan ahead for drought conditions and reduce pumping**
- **Be coordinated across the subbasin**

Potential Consequences: Land Subsidence

- **Reduces carrying capacity of gravity-driven water conveyance**
 - **Reduces surface water deliveries and increases flooding risks**
 - **Example: Friant-Kern Canal had lost more than 50% capacity by 2019 due to subsidence. Repair is costing about half a billion dollars.**
- **Damages deeper wells**
- **Damages infrastructure like roads, utilities, and pipelines**
- **Causes irreversible damage to groundwater aquifers and lasting damage to aquatic ecosystems**
- **Can cause degradation of water quality**

Plan Deficiencies: Land Subsidence

Problems with:

- **Description of what the GSAs are trying to avoid**
 - **Example: amount of damage to canals (for example, the Friant-Kern canal), levees, or wells, loss of storage in aquifers**
- **Allowed subsidence impacting land use and infrastructure**
 - **Example: GSPs allow more subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal than the maximum subsidence allowed in an agreement between GSAs and the Friant Water Authority**
- **Plan for halting land subsidence**

Potential Actions: Land Subsidence

- **Describe the “undesirable result” in sufficient detail**
- **Develop quantitative criteria that avoid undesirable results**
- **Reduce pumping and do not allow new wells in areas where subsidence threatens critical infrastructure**
- **Develop accessible, comprehensive, and appropriately funded infrastructure mitigation programs**
- **Plan ahead to avoid significant and unreasonable land subsidence**

Potential Consequences: Degraded Groundwater Quality

- **Can cause chronic disease that could result in death**
- **Can cause foul odor or taste**
- **Can result in irrigation water that is not suitable for crops**
- **Treatment may be difficult and very expensive**
- **May require alternative water source**

Plan Deficiencies: Degraded Groundwater Quality

Problems with:

- **Description of what the GSAs are trying to avoid**
 - **Example: how much worse water quality gets near drinking water wells**
- **Allowing some drinking water to degrade below drinking water standards**
- **Frequency and location of water quality monitoring**
- **Allowing further degradation where water quality is already poor**

Potential Actions: Degraded Groundwater Quality

- **Describe the “undesirable result” in sufficient detail**
- **Revise management criteria to be consistent with SGMA**
- **Update the water quality monitoring plan**
- **Plan additional sampling when water quality is degraded**
- **Develop accessible, comprehensive, and appropriately funded well impact mitigation programs**

Potential Consequences: Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

- **Substantially transforms/harms habitat and wildlife**
- **Threatens recreation: Fishing, hunting**
- **Reduces available surface water available for human use**

Plan Deficiencies:

Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

Problems with:

- **Inadequate justification to conclude there is no interconnected surface water in the subbasin**
- **Conditional: Description of what the GSAs are trying to avoid**

Potential Actions:

Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

- **Use the best available data to identify if there is Interconnected Surface Water**
- **Conditional: If Interconnected Surface Water is identified in the subbasin:**
 - **Describe the “undesirable result” in sufficient detail**
 - **Create a monitoring network near established surface monitoring stations to fill data gaps**



Recommended Requirements For Groundwater Extractors

Staff Recommendations

- **Exclude household domestic well users from reporting and fees**
- **Require other pumpers to report by December of each year**
- **Require meters for those pumping more than 500 acre-feet a year**
- **Require meters for those pumping from the Friant-Kern Canal management area (except for household domestic well users)**
- **Do not exclude any portion of the basin from probationary status**

Tule Schedule

2024

Mar. 7, 2024



**Release draft
deficiencies**
Notice to cities
and counties

Mar. 8, 2024



**Notice to all
known
pumpers**

Apr. 5 & 8,
2024



**Public
Workshops**

Mar. 8 – May.
7, 2024



**Public
comment
period**

Aug. 2024



**Release final
deficiencies**
Issue draft
resolution

Sep. 17, 2024



Hearing
Potential
probationary
designation

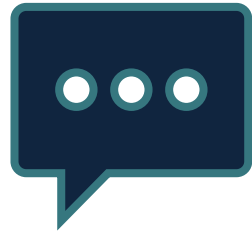
Public Q & A

A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water. In the foreground, there are several clumps of tall, green reeds. In the middle ground, a circular structure, possibly a well or a small island, is partially submerged in the water, with water splashing around its base. The background shows a distant city skyline and mountains under a sky with scattered clouds.

Public Comment



How to Participate



Written Comments

Submit Questions and
Comments During the
Meeting by
Utilizing Chat



Verbal Comments

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resolution

Sep. 17, 2024



Hearing
Potential
probationary
designation

Written Comments

Electronic:

Email in PDF format to
SGMA-Tule@waterboards.ca.gov

Fax to (916) 341-5620

Mail or Hand Delivery:

Address to:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control
Board

Mail: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento,
CA 95812

Hand Delivery: 1001 I Street, 24th
Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments must be received by May 7, 2024, at 12:00 noon.

Thank you and Adjourn

bit.ly/swb-sgma-tule

