

# WESTLANDS WD



Water Users' Workshop  
& Scoping Session  
October 13, 2015

# WORKSHOP OUTLINE

- **Welcome**
- **Introduction**
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**
  - **Groundwater Rights**
  - **Groundwater Condition**
  - **Implementation**
- **Drainage Settlement Agreement**
- **Questions**



# Welcome

*Don Peracchi, President Board of Directors*



# Introduction

*Tom Birmingham, General Manager*

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# Groundwater Rights

**Gary Sawyers, Attorney**

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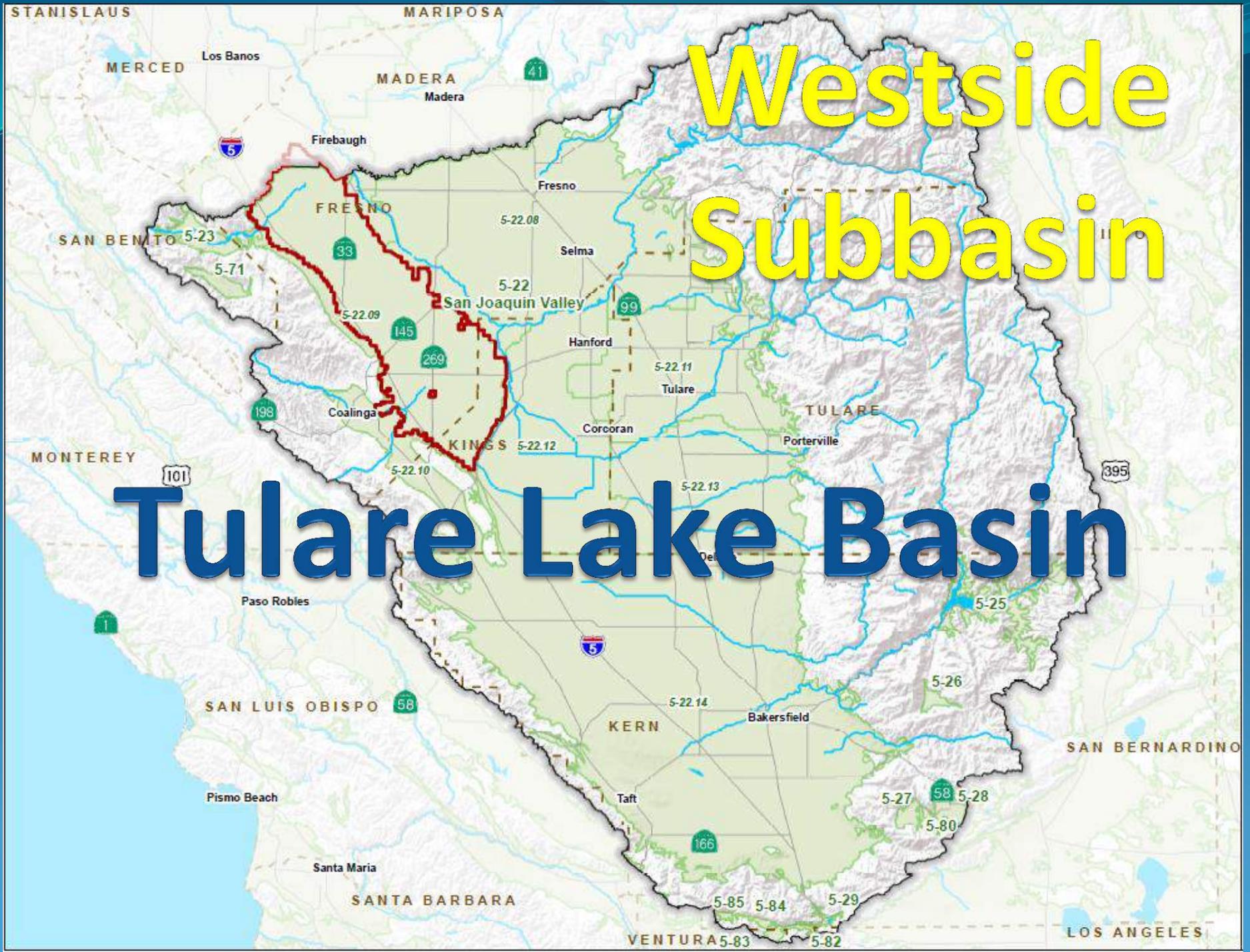


# SGMA

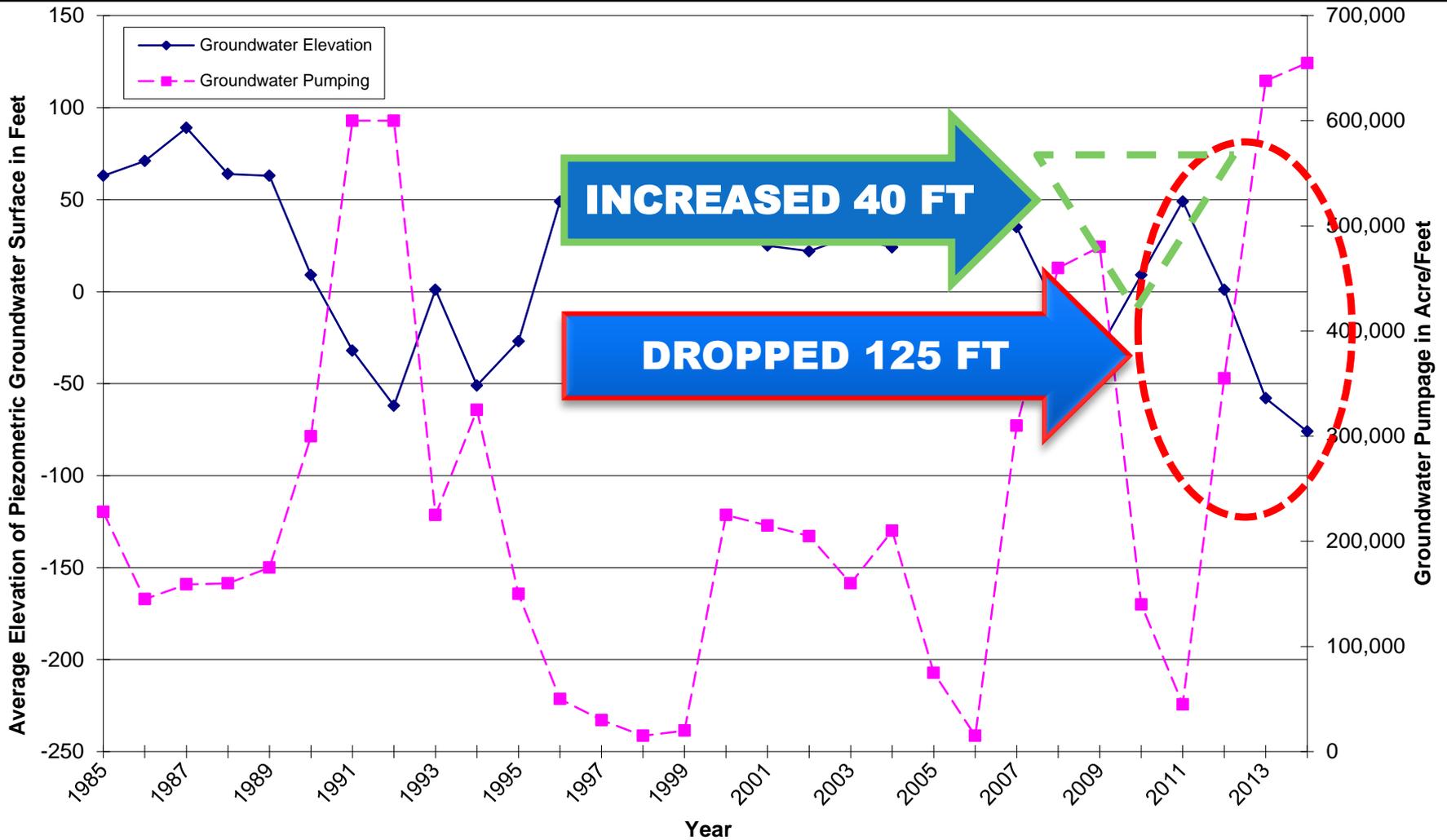
*Jose Gutierrez P.E., Deputy General Manager -  
Resources*

# Westside Subbasin

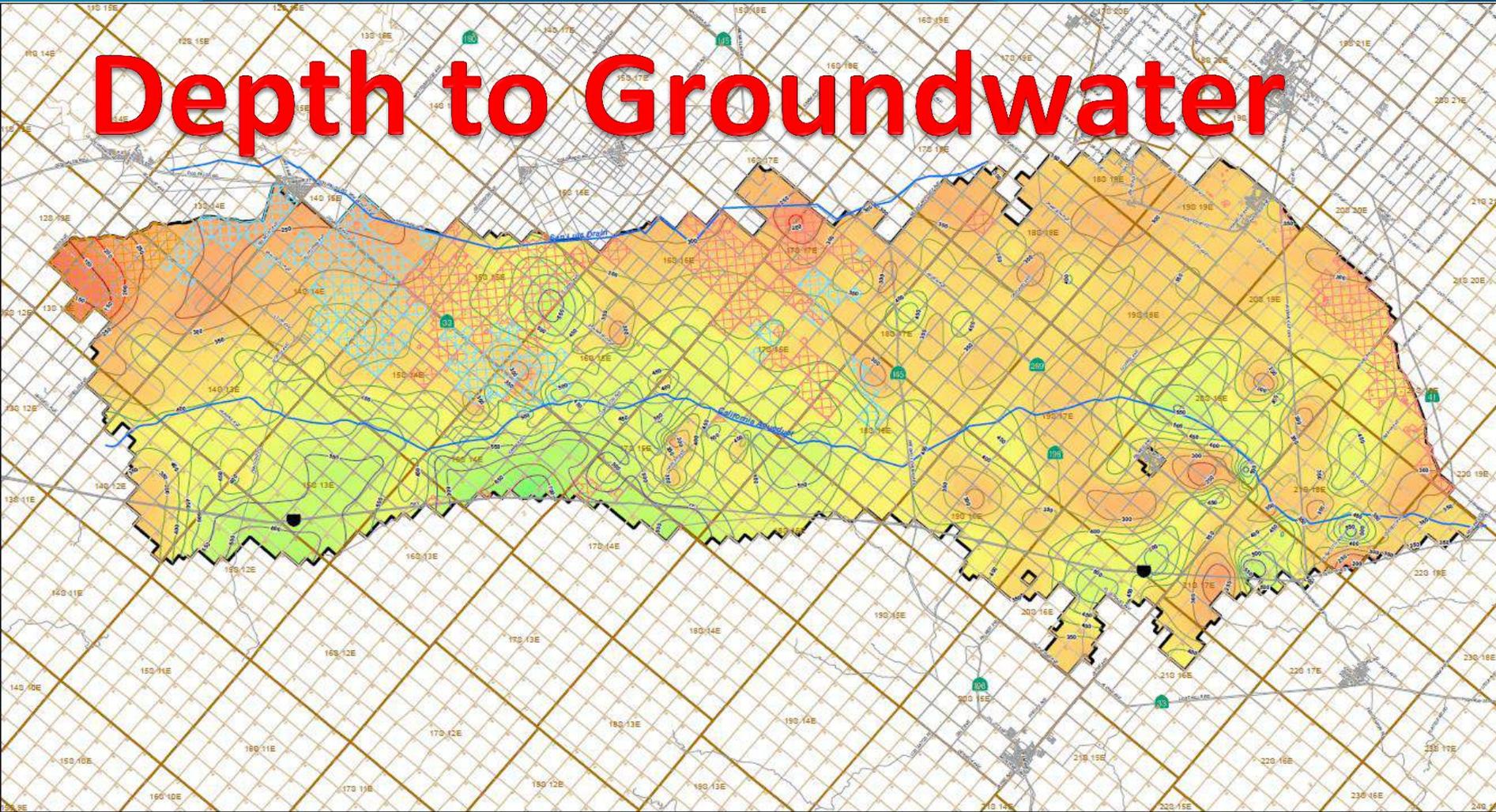
# Tulare Lake Basin



# Groundwater Condition



# Depth to Groundwater



**Legend**

- Streets
- Waterway
- Westlands Water District Boundary
- Townships/Range
- Sections

**Groundwater Depth 50 Feet Intervals**

- 150'
- 200'
- 250'
- 300'
- 350'
- 400'
- 450'
- 500'
- 550'
- 600'
- 650'
- 700'

**Groundwater Depth**

- High: 750 Feet
- 440 Feet
- Low: 130 Feet

**WWD Acquired Land**

- Britz Peck Settlement
- Sagoupe Settlement
- Broadview Water District

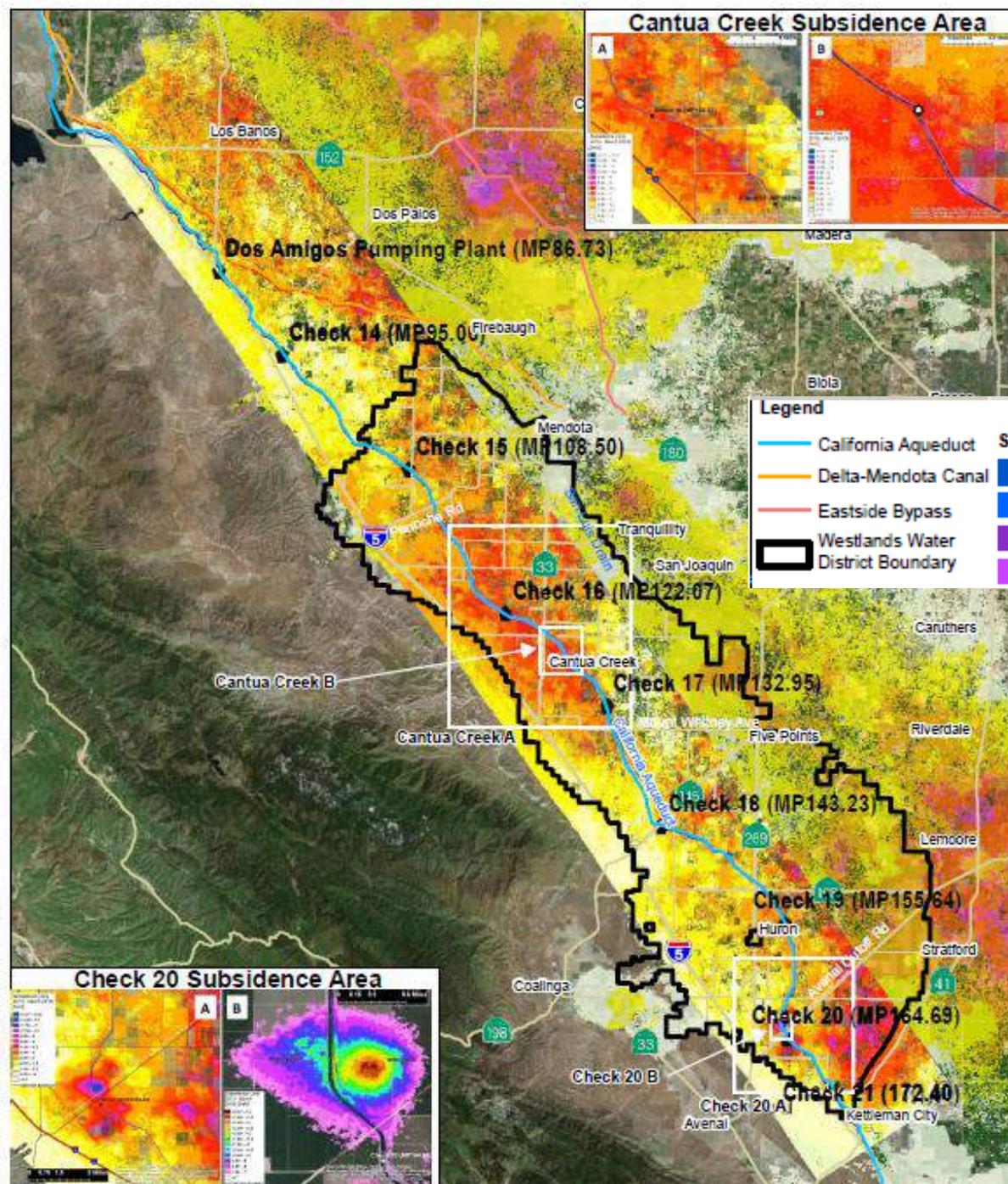


**Generalized Depth of Sub-Corcoran Piezometric Groundwater Surface  
December 2014**



**WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**  
3130 N. FRESNO ST.  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703  
559.224.1523 FAX 559.241.6277

# Measured Subsidence



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# What is SGMA?

- **Local Management of the Groundwater Basin**
- **Requires subbasins to become sustainable by 2040**
  - **Without causing undesirable results:**
    - **Chronic lowering of the Groundwater level**
    - **Reduction in groundwater storage**
    - **Degraded water quality**
    - **Land subsidence**
    - **Seawater intrusion**
    - **Surface water depletion that have adverse impacts**

# Who's Involved?

- **Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)**
  - Westlands Board has the authority to establish a GSA
- **Counties**
  - Counties are the alternative GSA option
- **DWR**
  - Implements GSP & Subbasin boundary regulations
  - Provides technical assistance to GSAs
  - Assess the GSPs develop by the GSAs
- **SWRCB**
  - Intervention if a GSA is not formed or if basin not managed sustainably

# GSA Responsibility/ Authority

- **Develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**
  - **Achieve sustainability by 2040; Interim 5-year milestones**
  - **Adopt rules, regulations, monitor use and report to State**
  - **Establish a Water Budget**
  - **Develop a groundwater model**
  - **Coordinate with adjacent subbasins**

# DWR's Role

- Basin Boundary Adjustments (1/1/16)
- GSP Regulations (6/1/16)
  - Define plan requirements
- GSA Formation Deadline (6/30/17)
- Technical Assistance
- Assessment of GSP

# GSP Issue Topics for Regulation Development

Phase 1 –  
Scoping  
(Collection  
of Issues)

All 10  
Topics  
(May-Jun)

Phase 2 –  
Draft

Framework  
(Present  
and Receive  
Input from  
Advisory  
Groups  
and Public)

1<sup>st</sup> Batch  
(Jun-Jul)

2<sup>nd</sup> Batch  
(Jul-Aug)

3<sup>rd</sup> Batch  
(Aug-Sep)

Adaptive  
Mgt. and  
Focus Areas

Measurable  
Objectives  
and Interim  
Milestones

Pre-SMGA  
Conditions  
and  
Undesirable  
Results

Data  
Collection,  
Mgmt., and  
Reporting

Land Use  
and County  
Involvement

**GSP**  
Components

State Agency  
Coordination

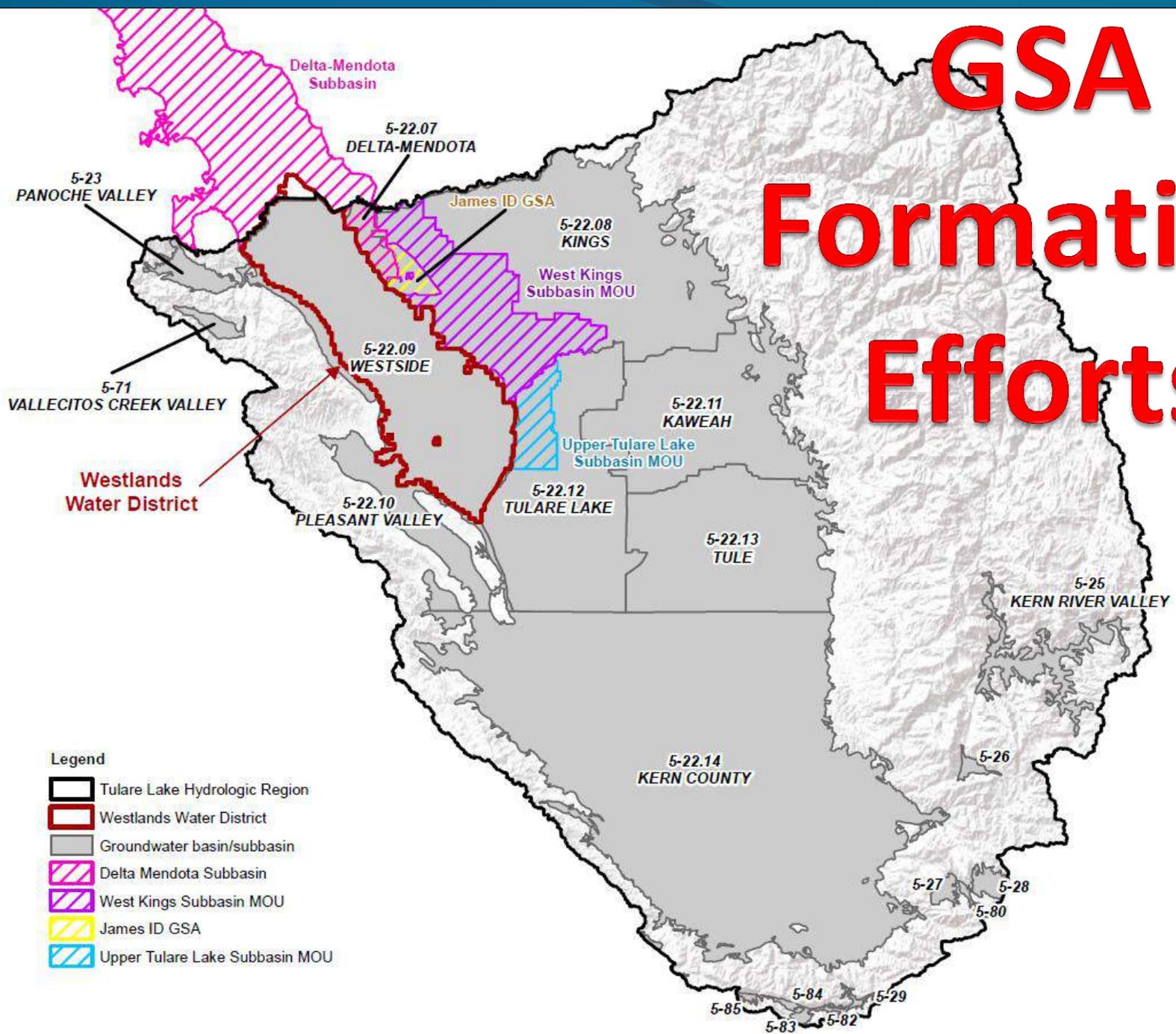
Alternative  
GSP  
Submittals

Water  
Budgets and  
Coordination

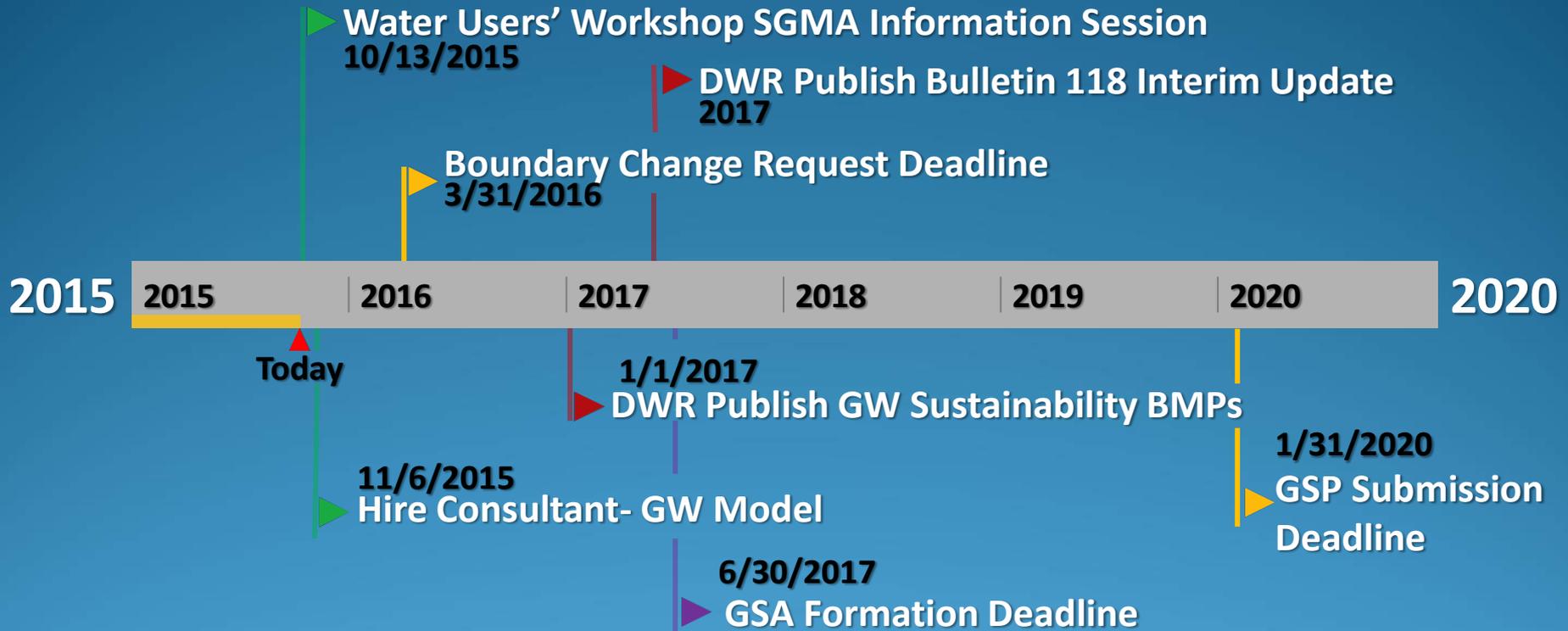
Intra-Basin  
Coordination  
Agreements

Boundaries-  
Overlapping  
and “Fringe”  
Areas

# GSA Formation Efforts



# SGMA Schedule- Major Milestones



## Legend

- ▶ WWD Staff
- ▶ SGMA Deadlines
- ▶ DWR
- ▶ Board Action Required

**Please submit comments to  
assist the District on SGMA  
matters to  
[kcampbell@westlandswater.org](mailto:kcampbell@westlandswater.org).**

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# Drainage Settlement Agreement

*Tom Birmingham, General Manager*

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

- Relieves Westlands of its existing repayment obligation for prior construction costs of CVP - \$375M
- Creates a permanent water contract between the Federal government and the District
- Removes the acreage limitations for lands within Westlands' boundaries

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

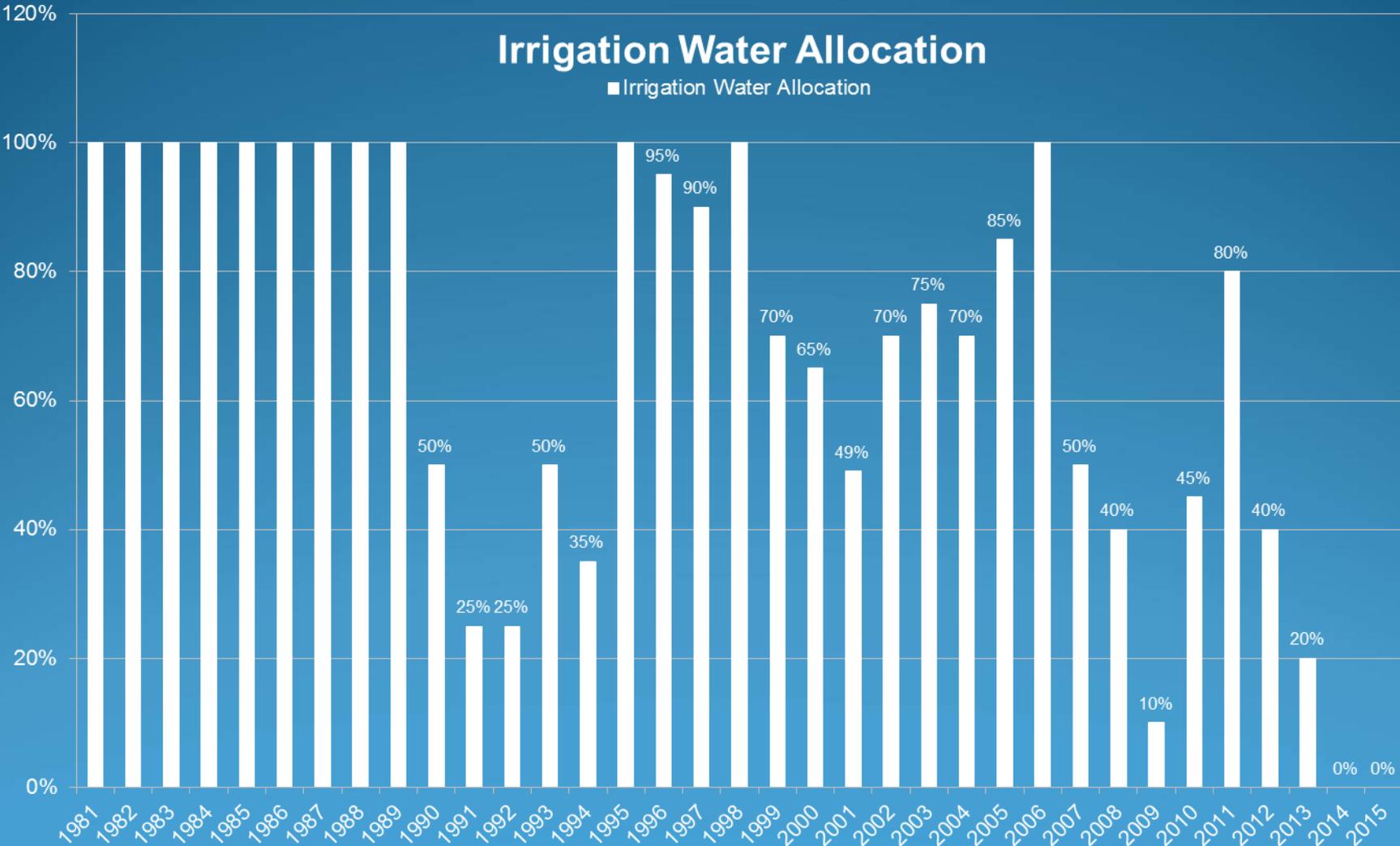
- Relieves taxpayers of a liability of approximately \$3.5B
- Relieves federal government responsibility for drainage service
- Requires District to retire a minimum of 100,000 acres

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT - CONTINUED

- Caps Westlands' water deliveries at 75% of contract quantity
  - Historical water allocation for last 20 years is 63%
  - Historical water allocation for last 10 years is 47%
- If District fails to fulfill drainage obligation, it will lose its water supply

# Drainage Settlement Agreement



# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - DRAINAGE UNIT NEVER COMPLETED

- In 1960's, the San Luis Act mandated Secretary of Interior provide drainage to San Luis Unit.
- The Secretary began but failed to complete construction of facilities to provide drainage
- 1985, San Luis Drain was closed.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS -

### COURT DETERMINED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DUTY TO PROVIDE DRAINAGE

- Westlands filed a claim against the Secretary to compel the Secretary to provide drainage service.
- In 2000, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for Ninth Circuit affirmed decision in favor of Westlands and ruled Secretary had mandatory duty to provide drainage service.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS -

## SETTLEMENT PROVIDES SOLUTIONS FOR THE DISTRICT

- This settlement gives Westlands' farmers and the region certainty that an effective program to address a serious environmental problem will be implemented, providing for the most constructive use of the retired land.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS –  
NEGOTIATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS  
HAVE BEEN TRANSPARENT AND PUBLIC

- Continuous reports were made to the Court concerning the status of negotiations.
- The principle terms of the settlement were made public in December 2013.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS –  
NEGOTIATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS  
HAVE BEEN TRANSPARENT AND PUBLIC – CON'T

- Court hearings were open to the public; numerous Bureau of Reclamation briefings and reports on the drainage issue were held.
- Congressional leaders and staff and interested non-governmental organizations have been briefed repeatedly on the status and principle terms.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - NEXT STEPS

- Congressional approval will be needed to implement the settlement.
- The public will be provided an opportunity to be involved in the deliberations over the legislation.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

## REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - HOW WILL WESTLANDS MANAGE DRAINAGE?

- Westlands will use a suite of measures to manage drain water.
- These measures will depend upon varying needs within drainage-impaired areas and will evolve as conditions change.

# Drainage Settlement Agreement

REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT HIGHLIGHTS -  
MEASUREMENTS USED MAY INCLUDE:

- Land Retirement
- Groundwater Management
- Source Control
- Regional Reuse Projects
- Drain Water Treatment
- Salt Disposal

Questions?