



# Water and the Sacramento Valley

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# How water works in the Sacramento Valley

- Surface water dominated
- Ground water in balance
- Senior water rights and historic investments
- Environment is the dominant use of water

# Accounting for every drop. Water management in the Sacramento Valley.

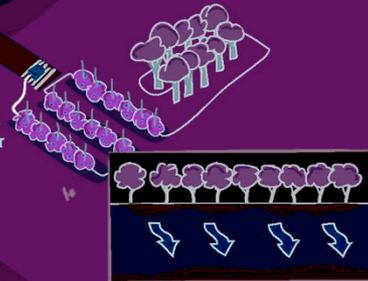
In the Sacramento Valley, a highly efficient "flow-through" system allows water to move from mountains to ocean. Water resources managers work with the Valley's unique topography, geology and hydrology to gather, use and reuse this precious resource.

This system is the heart of the Valley's healthy ecosystem, diverse economy and rich recreational opportunities.

Rice is grown on dense clay soil which prevents seepage and ensures water is available for re-use downstream.



The water not used in one district is a source of water for others downstream.



All water not used by crops and wetlands returns to the river or percolates down to groundwater, recharging Valley aquifers.

This flow-through system works well. Natural vegetation, birds, fish, crops and people require a portion. The rest flows to the delta.

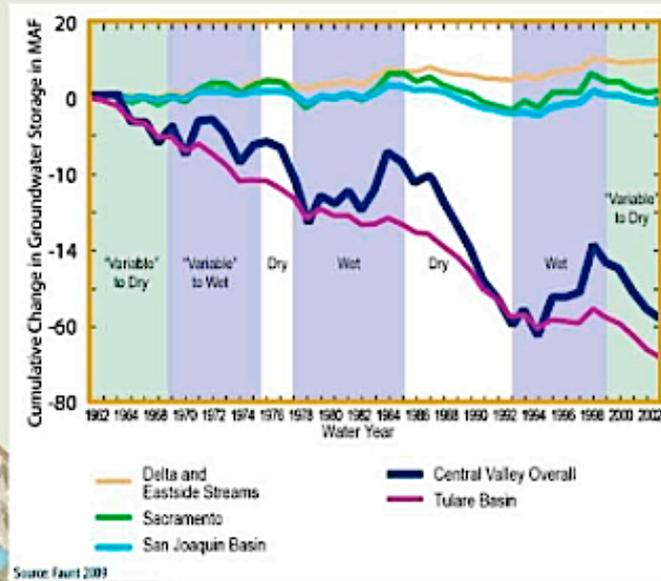
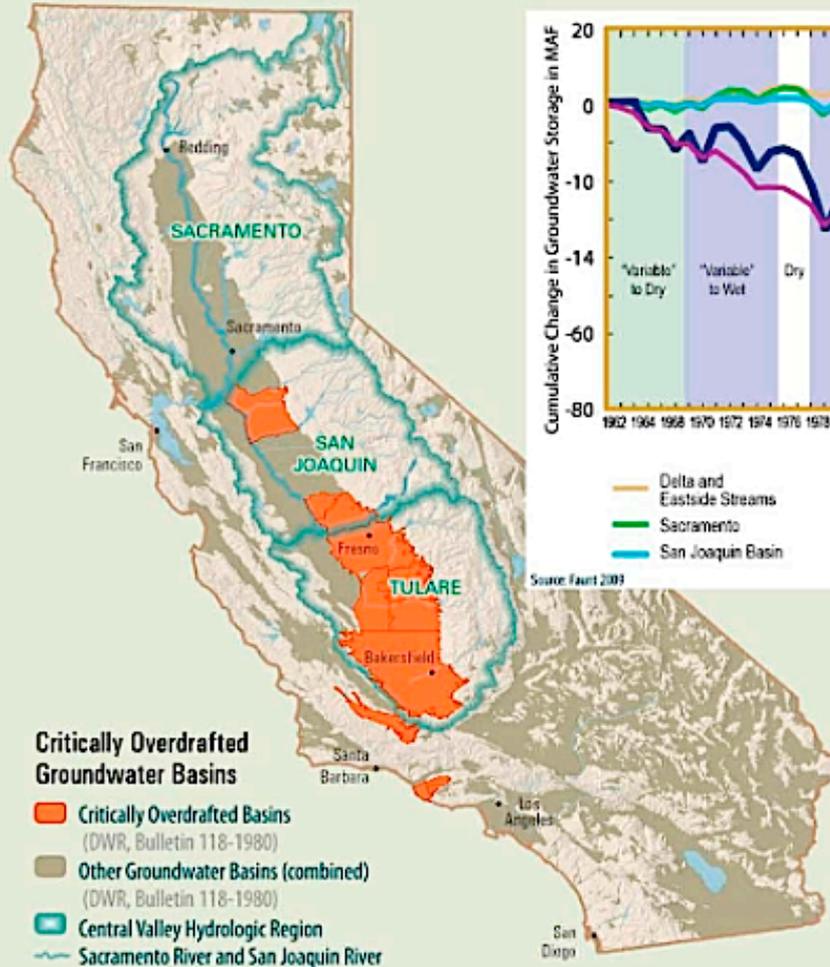
Information compiled by  
Northern California Water Association and  
California Rice Commission.  
[Facebook.com/SacValleyCA](https://www.facebook.com/SacValleyCA)

The Sacramento River and its tributaries are the prime sources for this system. They also gather water from irrigation and wetlands to reuse downstream.

Active management of the Sacramento Valley's flow-through system ensures that the water we need and the benefits we enjoy will continue to be available.



## GROUNDWATER OVERDRAFT CHALLENGES



Source: Faunt 2009

### Critical Overdraft by Region

#### Sacramento Hydrologic Region

None

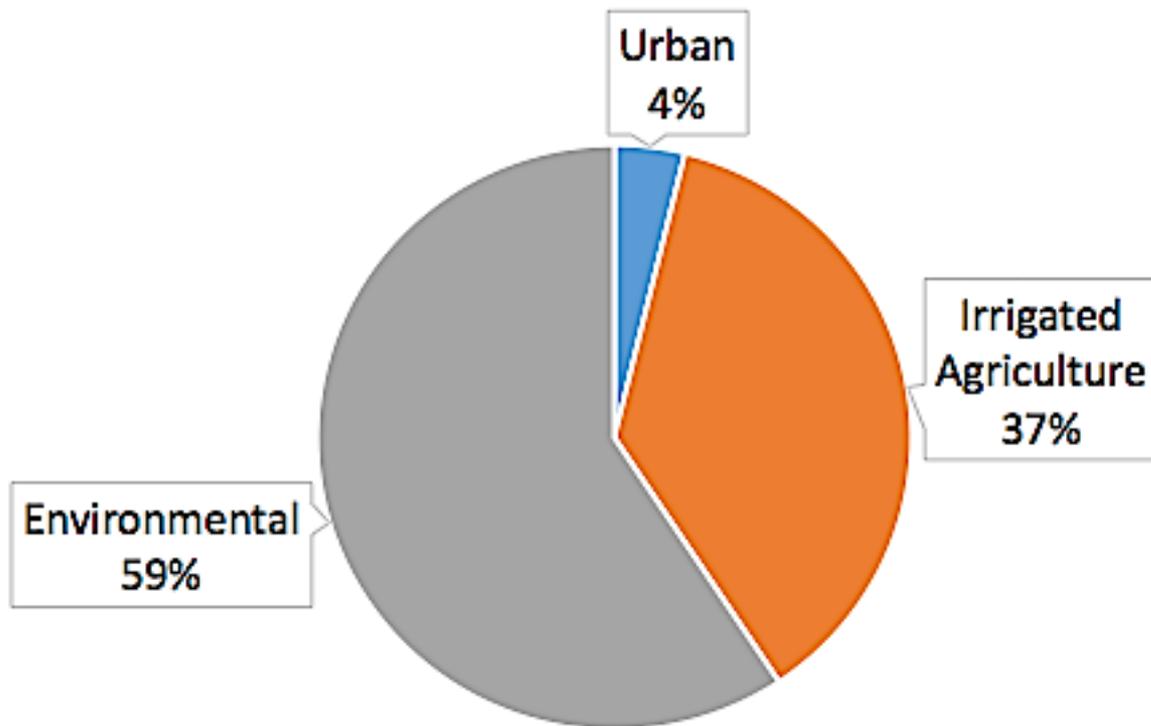
#### San Joaquin Hydrologic Region

Eastern San Joaquin County Basin  
Chowchilla Basin  
Madera Basin

#### Tulare Hydrologic Region

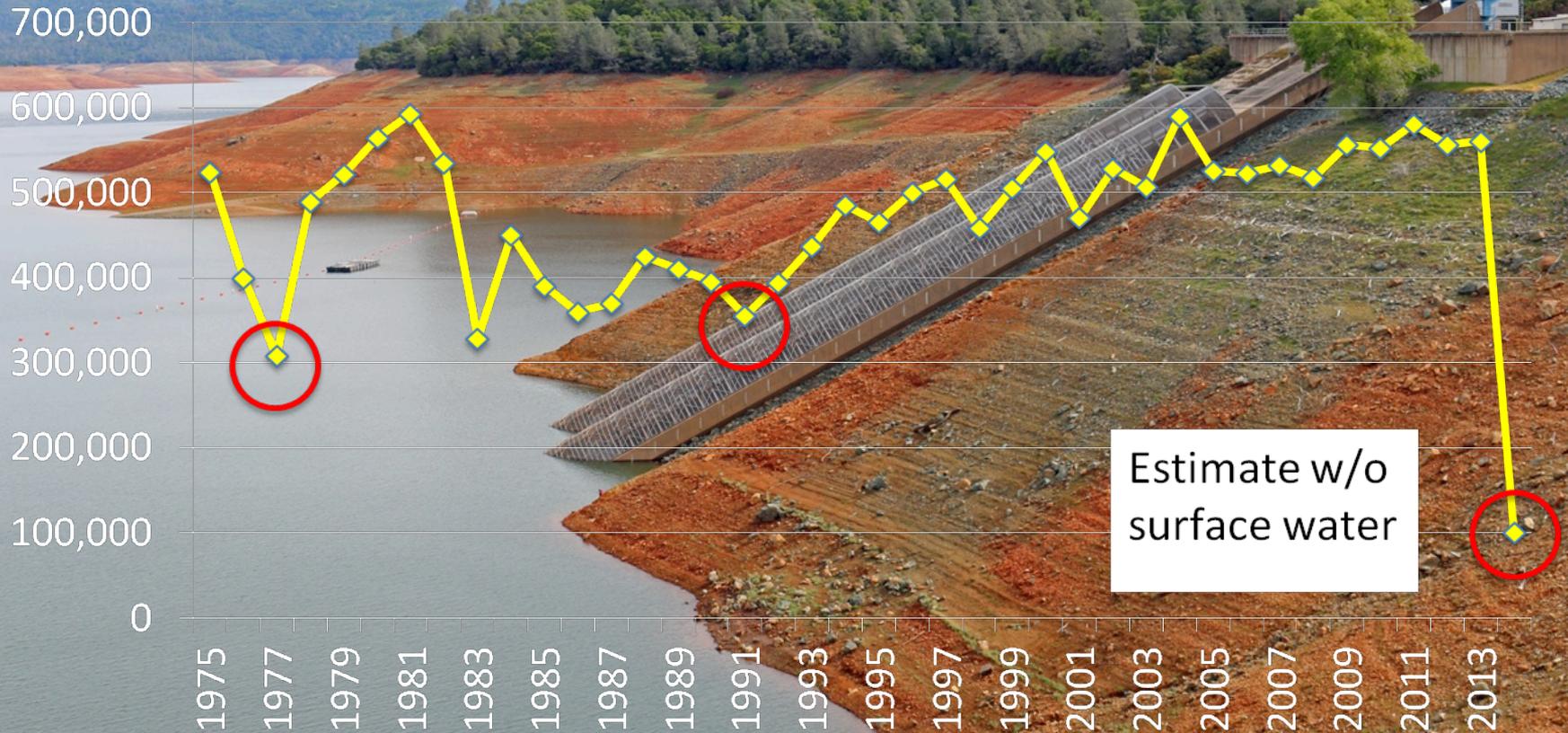
Kings Basin  
Kaweah Basin  
Tulare Lake Basin  
Tule Basin  
Kern County Basin

## Sacramento River Hydrologic Region Water Use



# Historic look at the drought

Rice Acres (harvested)



# Ag in the Sacramento Valley

- Ag economy = \$4.41B farm gate
  - Second largest Ag region in the state
  - Rice, tomatoes, almonds, plums, walnuts, seed, hay, cattle
- Rice Economy = \$844M farm gate/\$5B in economic activity when you add mills and support services (shipping, equipment, fuel)
- Rural Economies – Ag dominates our rural economies
  - Rice alone is 30-50% of economic driver in Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba counties

## Sacramento Valley Water: One Resource, Three Benefits



Fish



Farms



Wildlife

# The high value of water used on ricelands

- 57% of the food needs for Pacific Flyway in the Central Valley
- Designated as shorebird habitat of international significance
  - Second largest designation in North America
- \$1.5 billion in habitat value
- Essentially free because we farm

# A system in balance

