





State of the Basin and Update on Seawater Intrusion in the Coastal Aquifers of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin

- Geographic and Geologic Setting
- State of the Salinas River Groundwater Basin
- Groundwater Extraction
- Groundwater Monitoring and Long Term Groundwater Level Trends
- Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley



Monterey Bay

Salinas River Groundwater Basin

340,000 Acres

200,000 Irrigated Acres

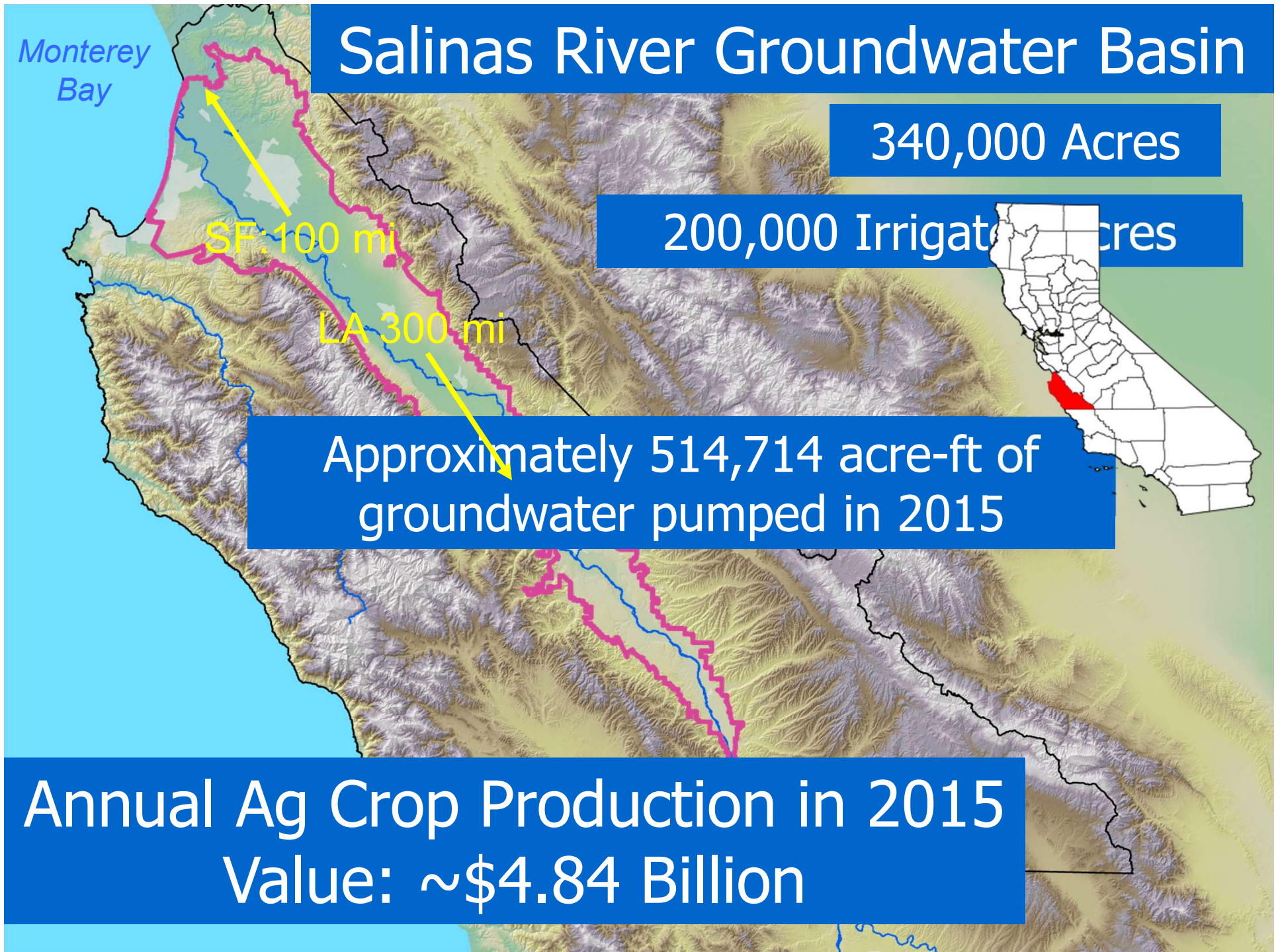
SF: 100 mi

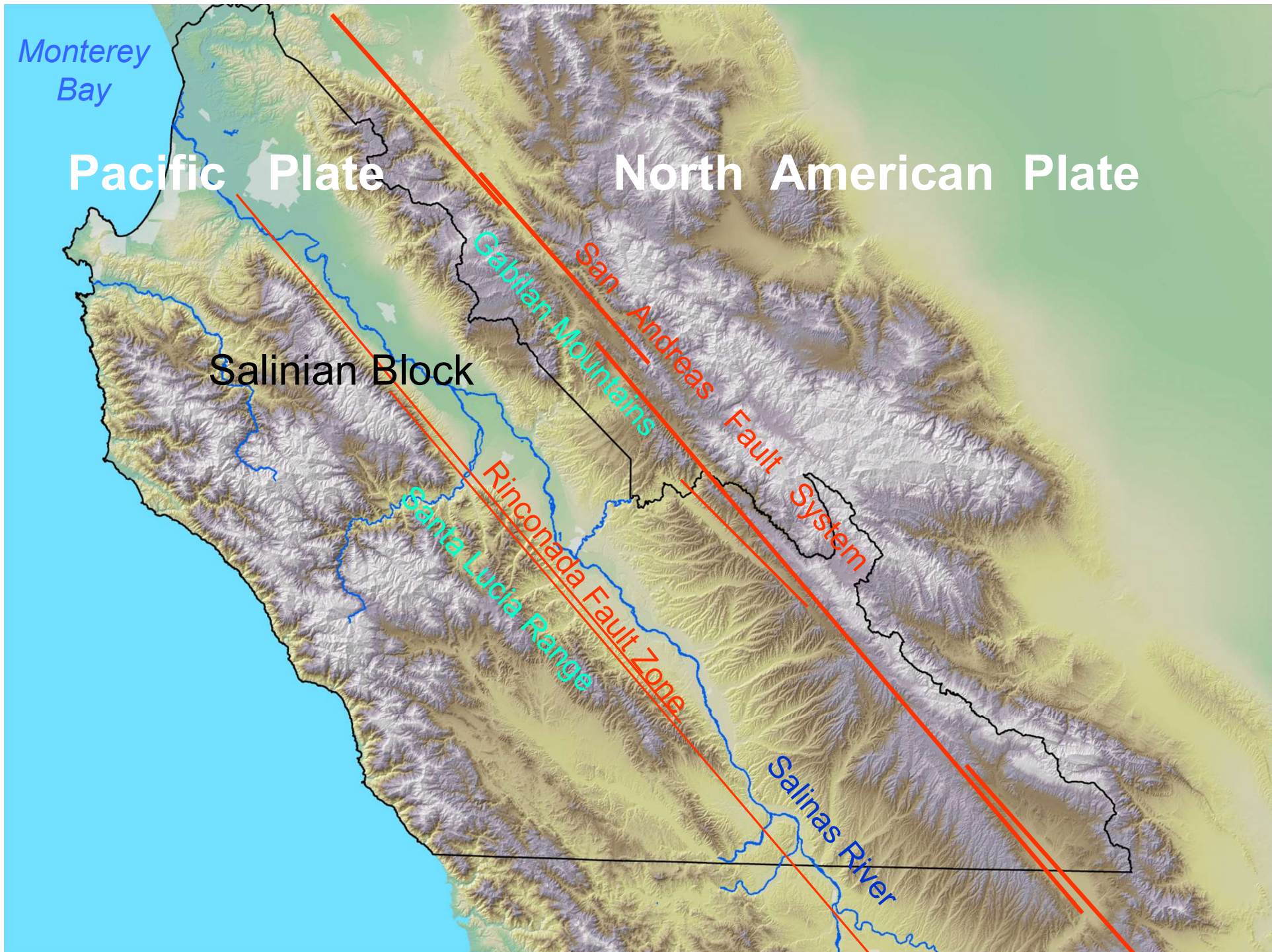
LA: 300 mi

Approximately 514,714 acre-ft of groundwater pumped in 2015

Annual Ag Crop Production in 2015



Value: ~\$4.84 Billion






Monterey County Mean Annual Precipitation

Legend

-  Watershed Boundaries
-  Monterey County

Rainfall (Inches Per Year)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---------|
|  | Less than 11 |  | 30 - 55 |
|  | 11 - 19 |  | 55 - 70 |
|  | 19 - 30 | | |

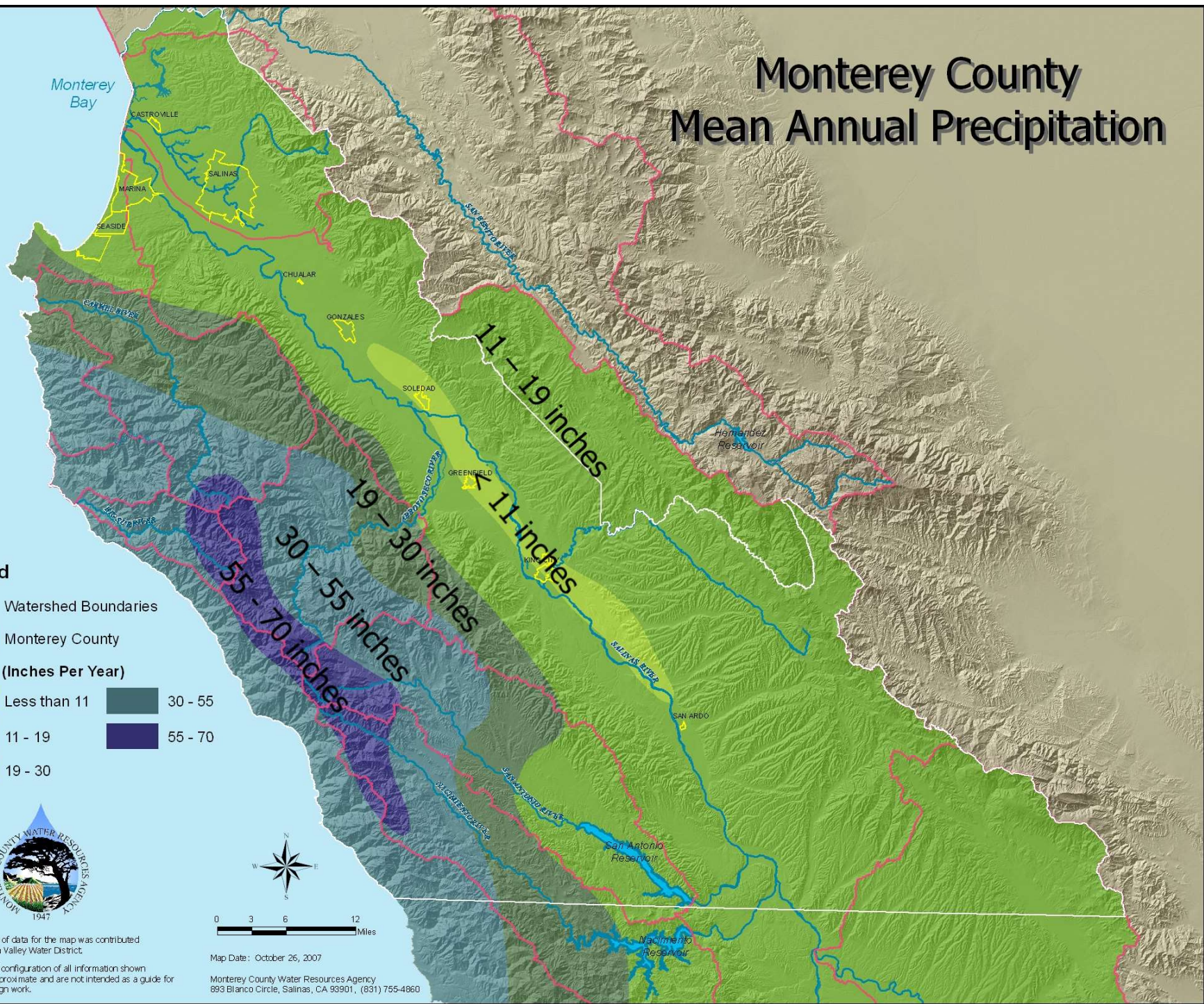


Note: Portion of data for the map was contributed by Santa Clara Valley Water District.

The scale and configuration of all information shown hereon are approximate and are not intended as a guide for survey or design work.

Map Date: October 26, 2007

Monterey County Water Resources Agency
893 Blanco Circle, Salinas, CA 93901, (831) 755-4860





Current Basin Conditions

- The Basin is currently out of balance – usage exceeds yield by approximately 17,000 to 24,000 afy.
- However, the estimated volume of groundwater in reserve (i.e. storage) is about 16.4 million acre-feet.
- Significant groundwater reserve – which could be used to offset temporary overdraft conditions.
- Consequences of extended use of this reserve will result in water level and water quality declines; along with continued seawater advancement.

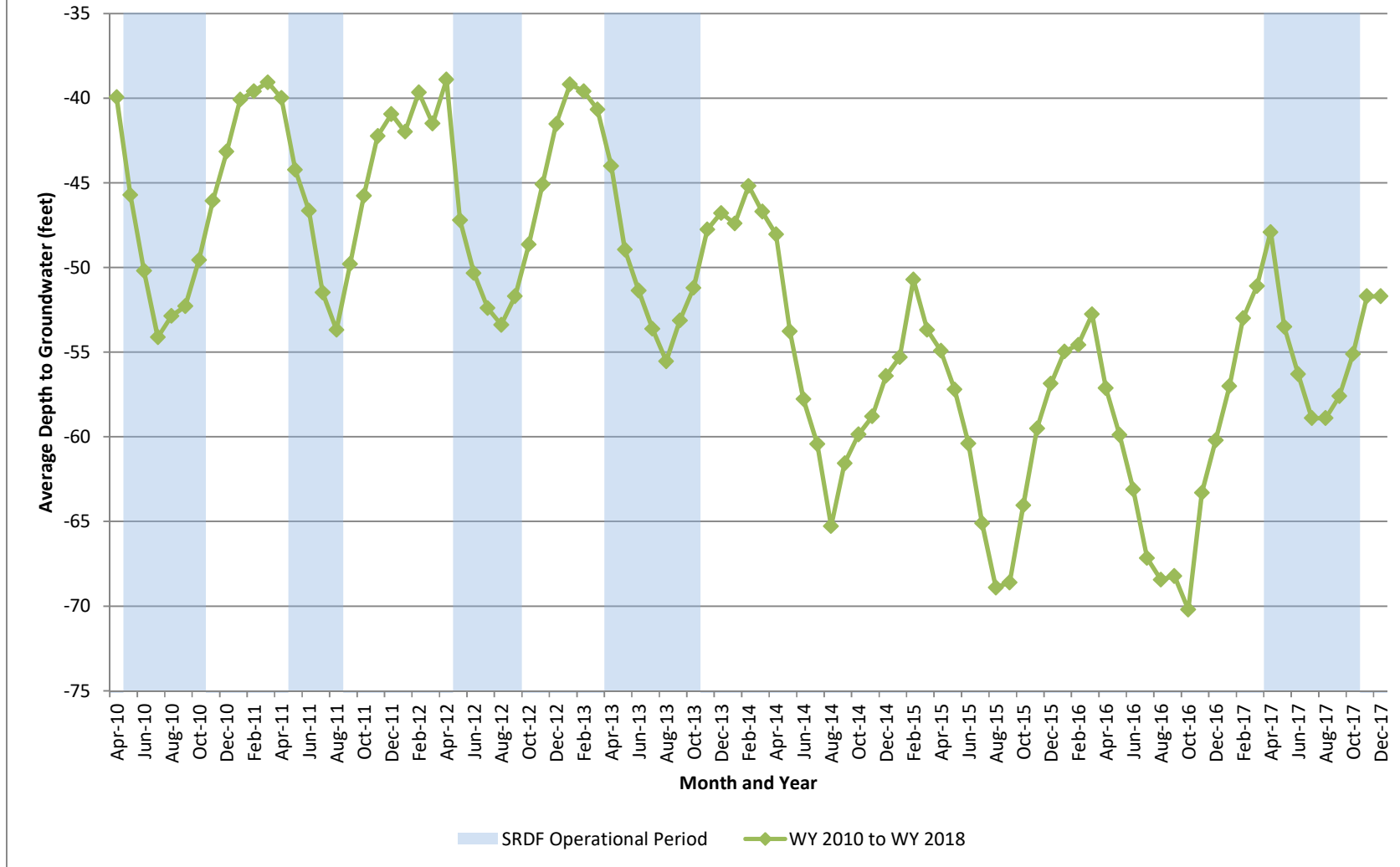


Groundwater Extraction

2015 Reported Groundwater Extraction: 514,714 Acre-Feet

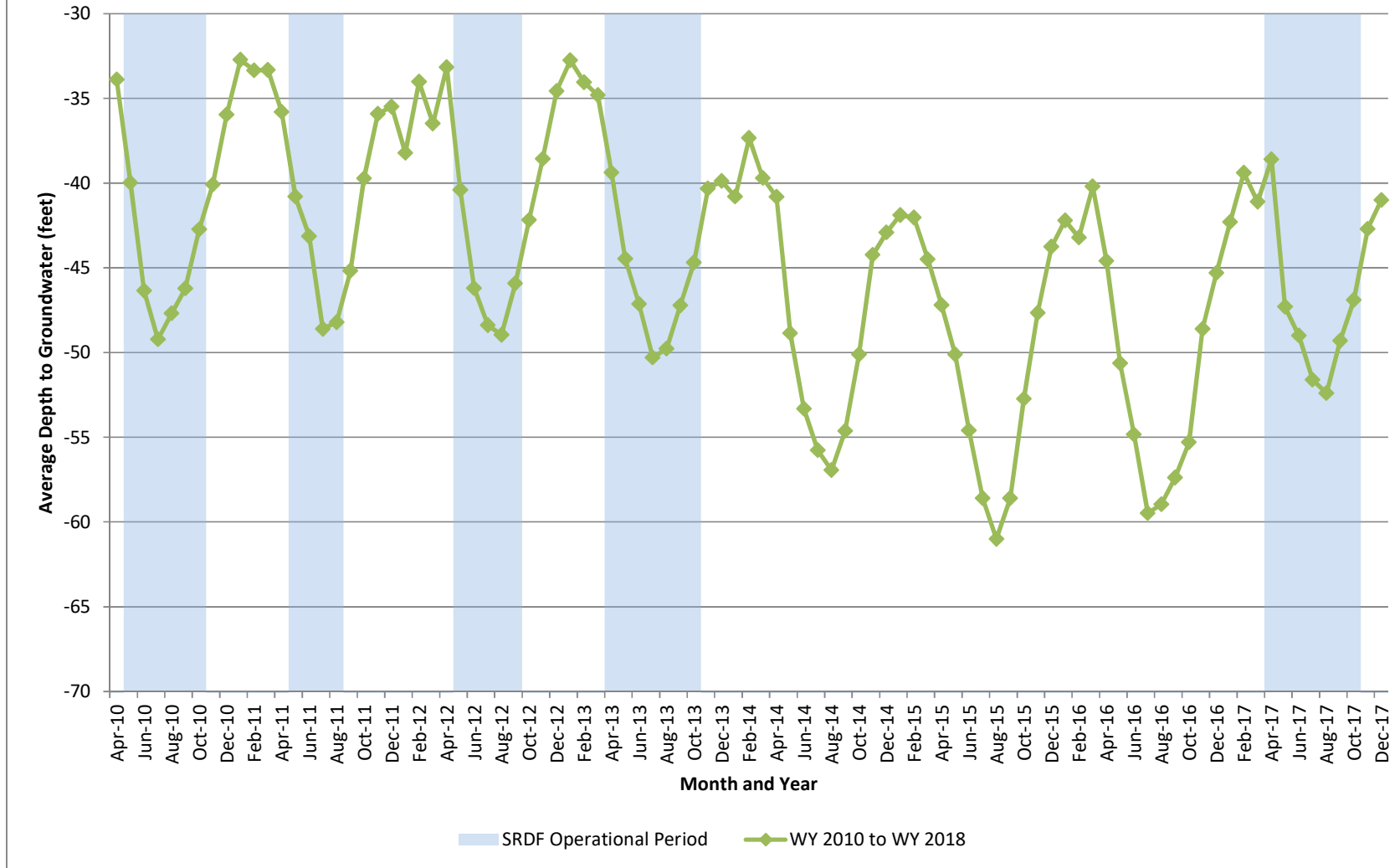
Subarea	Agricultural Pumping (acre-feet)	Urban Pumping (acre-feet)	Total Pumping (acre-feet)
Pressure	109,214	14,443	123,657
East Side	91,491	12,631	104,122
Forebay	142,668	6,221	148,889
Upper Valley	134,740	3,306	138,046
Total	478,113	36,601	514,714
Percent of Total	92.89%	7.11%	100%

Pressure 180-Foot Aquifer Historical Groundwater Trends Since WY 2010

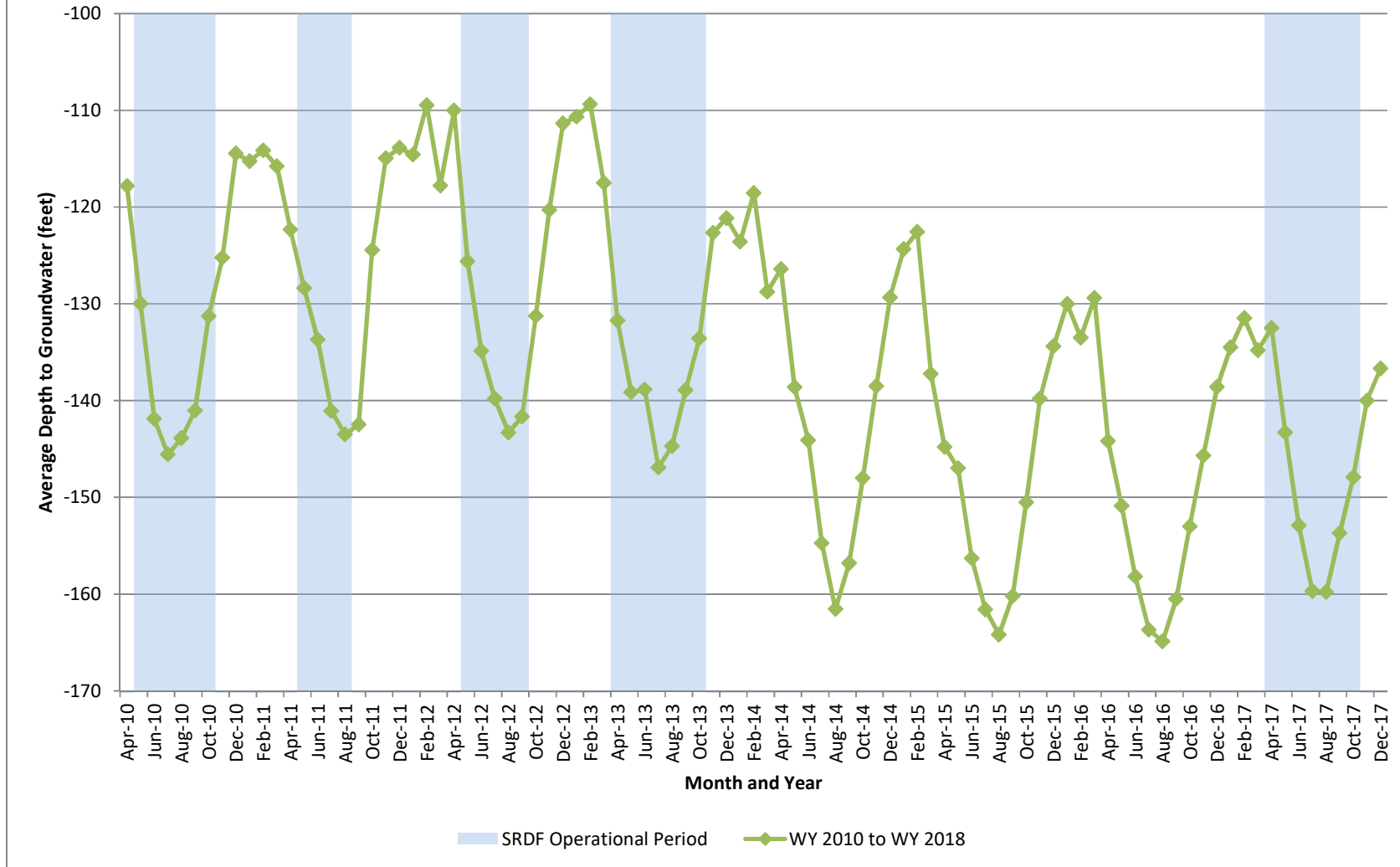




Pressure 400-Foot Aquifer Historical Groundwater Trends Since WY 2010

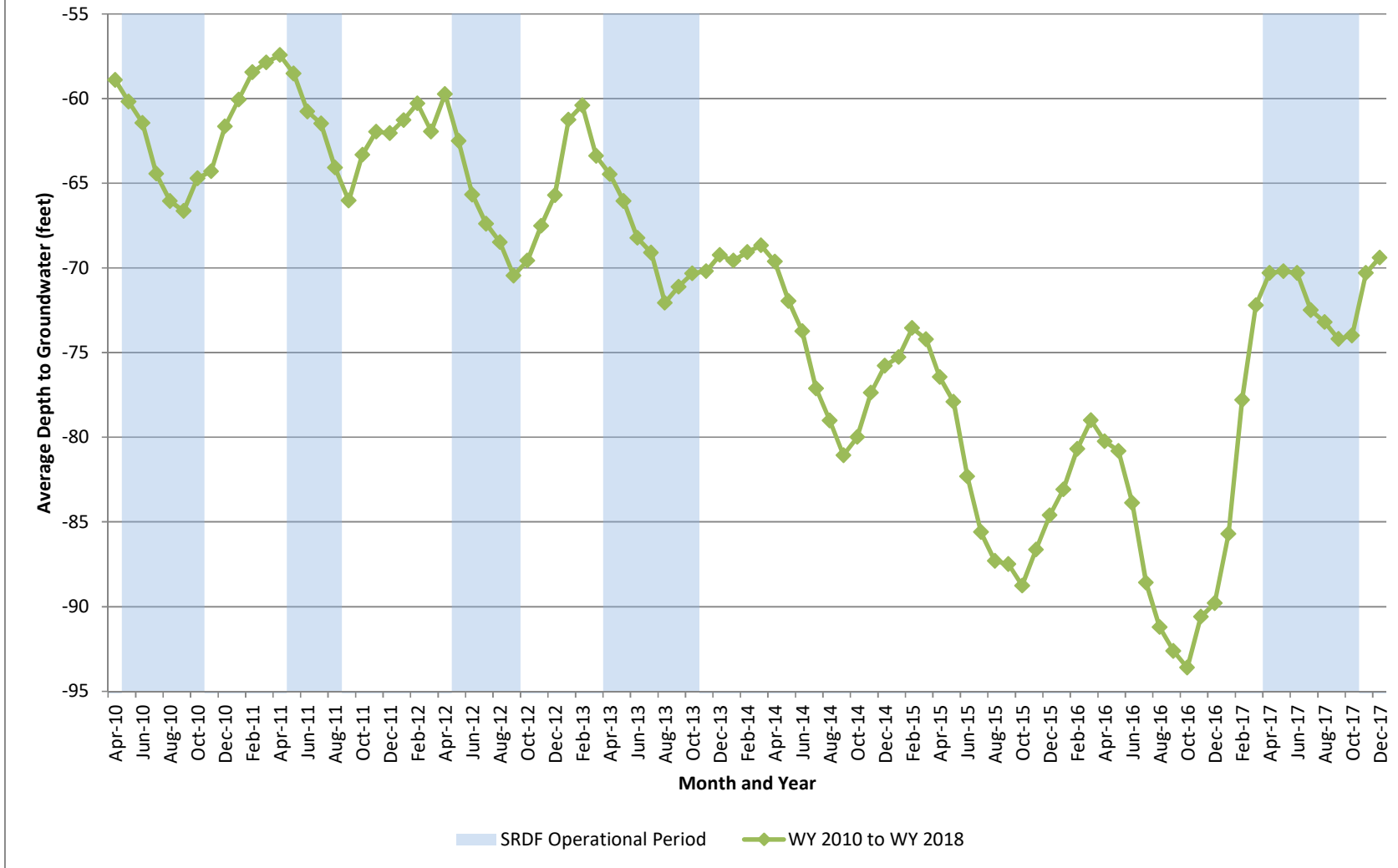


East Side Aquifer Historical Groundwater Trends Since WY 2010

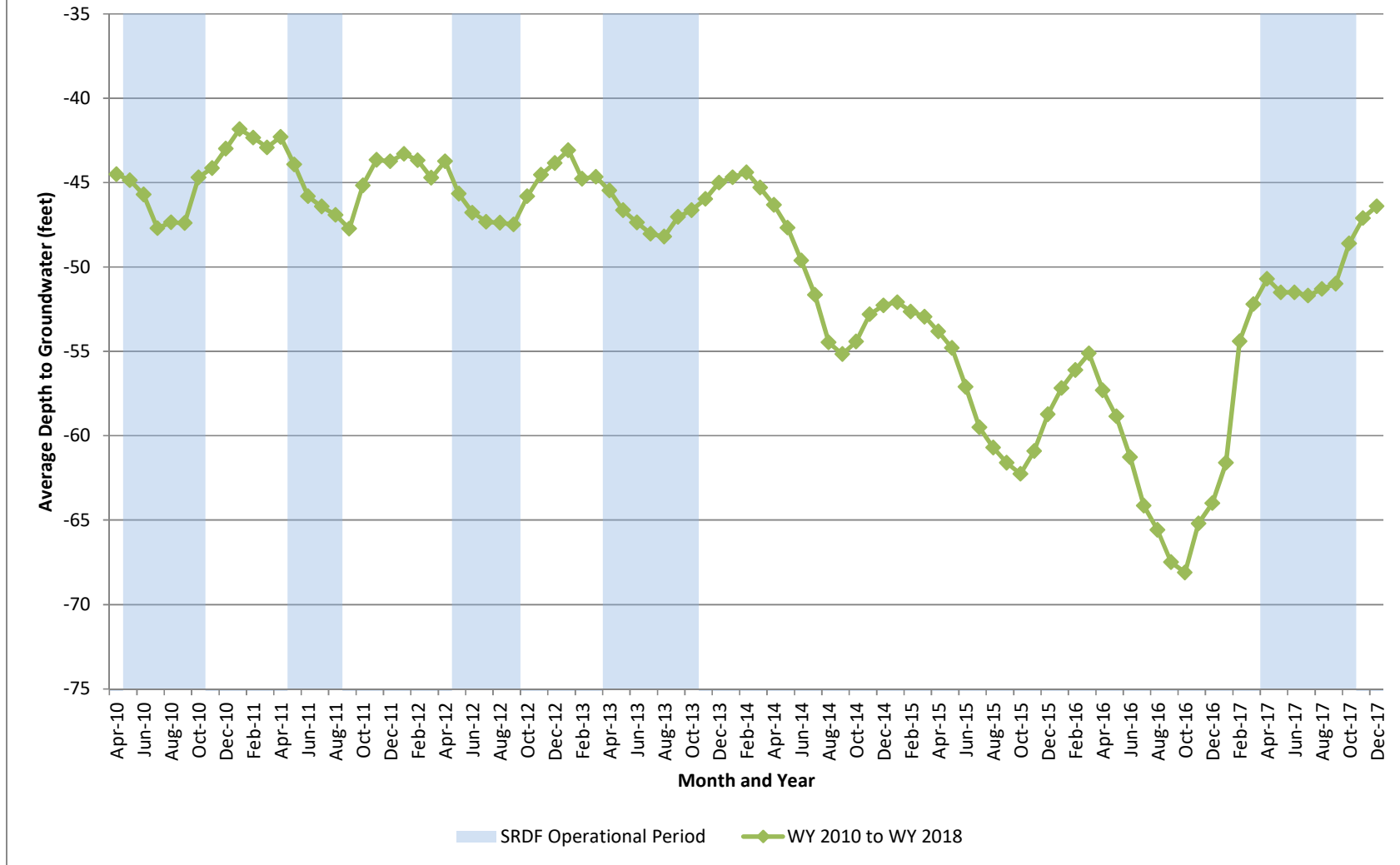




Forebay Aquifer Historical Groundwater Trends Since WY 2010



Upper Valley Aquifer Historical Groundwater Trends Since WY 2010





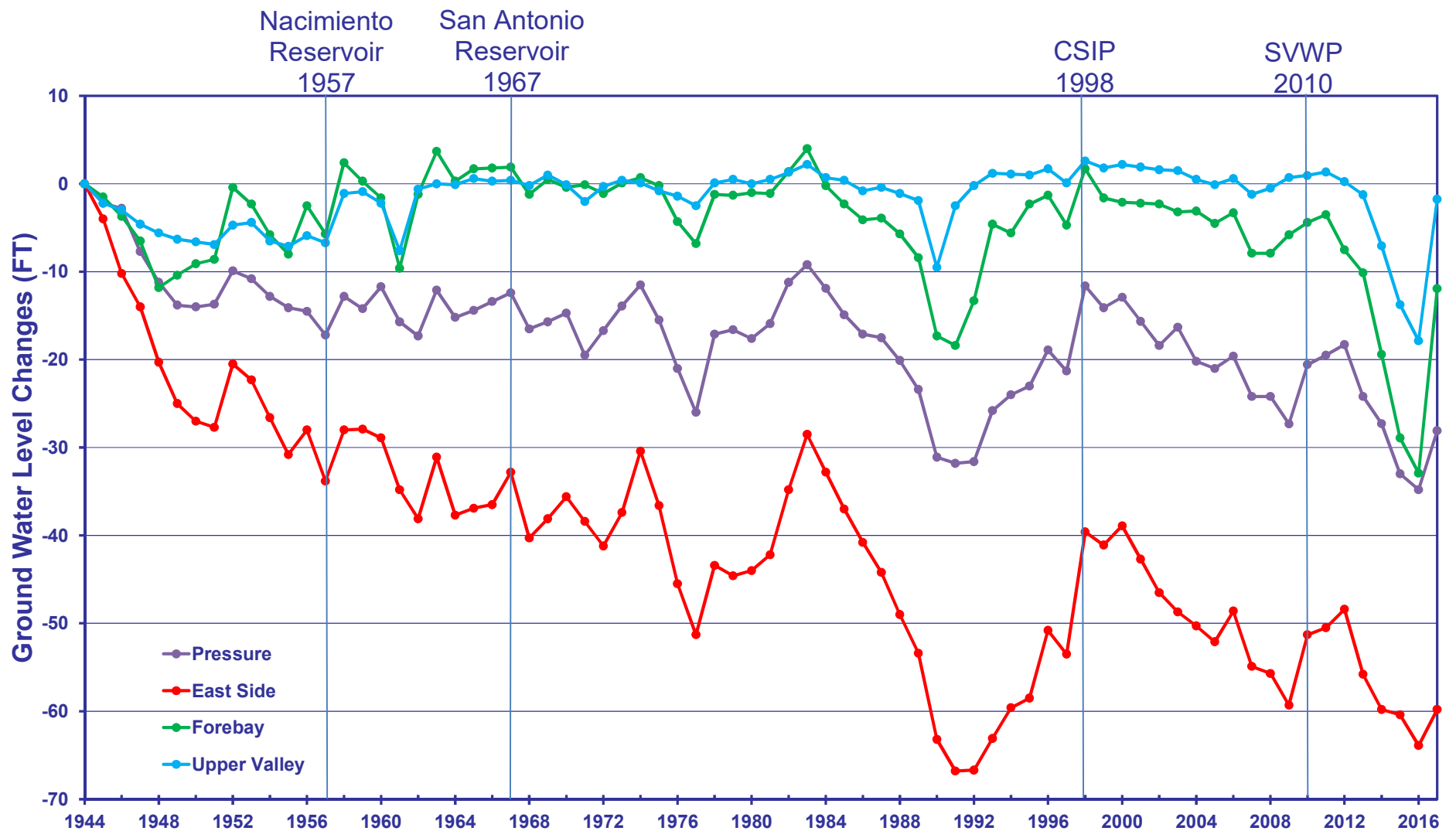
Groundwater Level Changes Since 1944

Fall data (1944-2016)

- Indicator of storage change
- Approximately 400 GWL measurements
- 200-300 used for comparison
- Each Subarea represented by one number



Fall Groundwater Level Changes by Subarea





Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

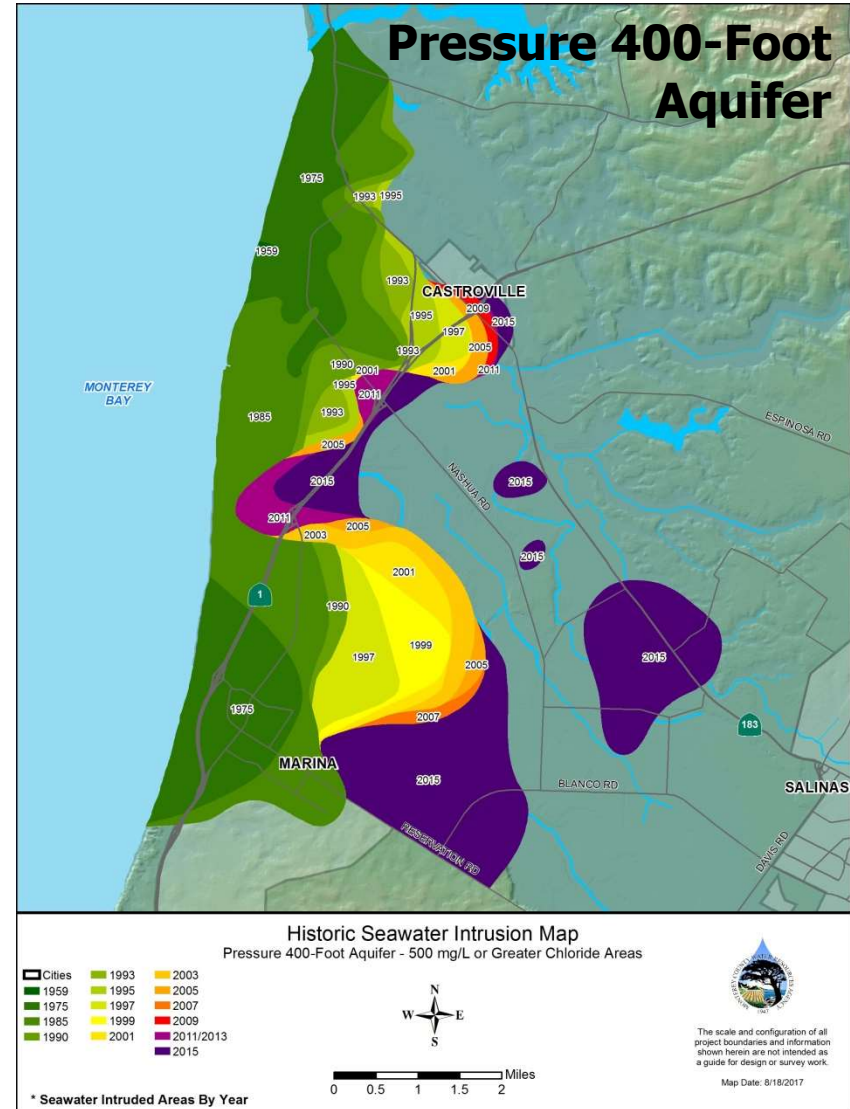
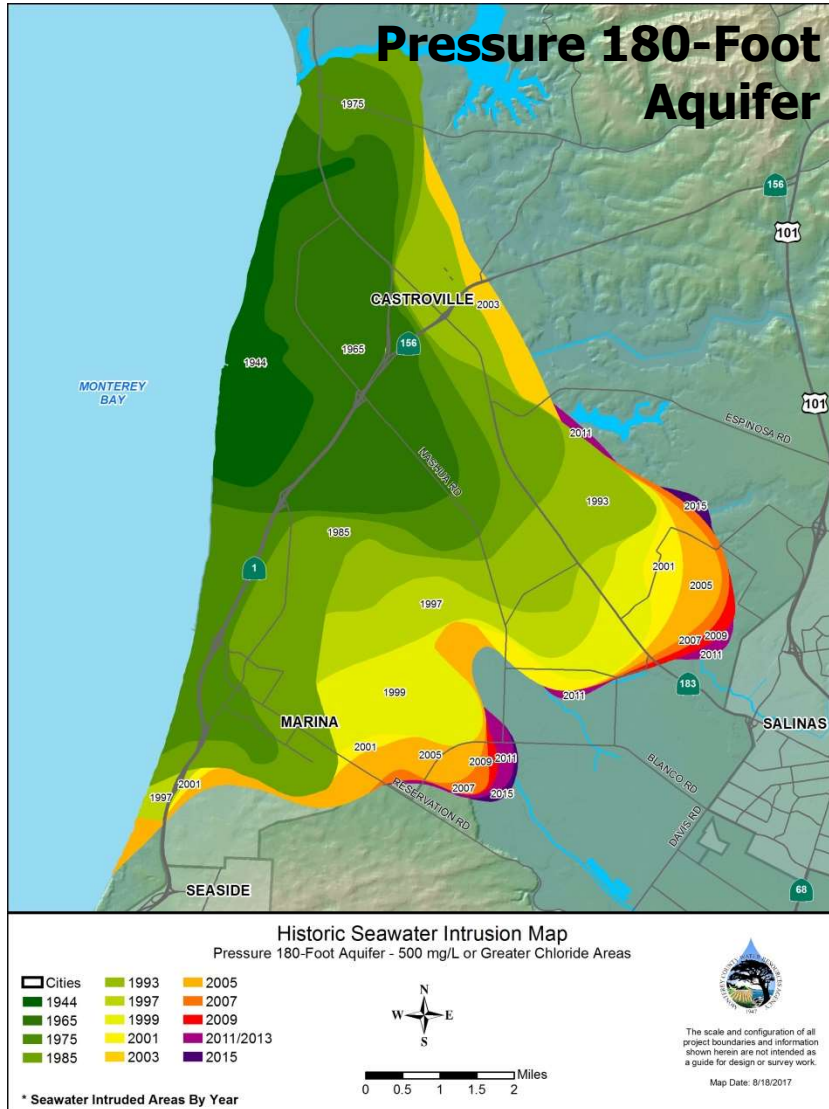
- Approximately 90 Agricultural and 17 Dedicated monitoring wells sampled annually
- Sampling occurs twice during peak pumping season
- Data analyzed and processed every year, with maps created in “odd” years (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015,...)
- 500 mg/L chloride contours delineate seawater intrusion front



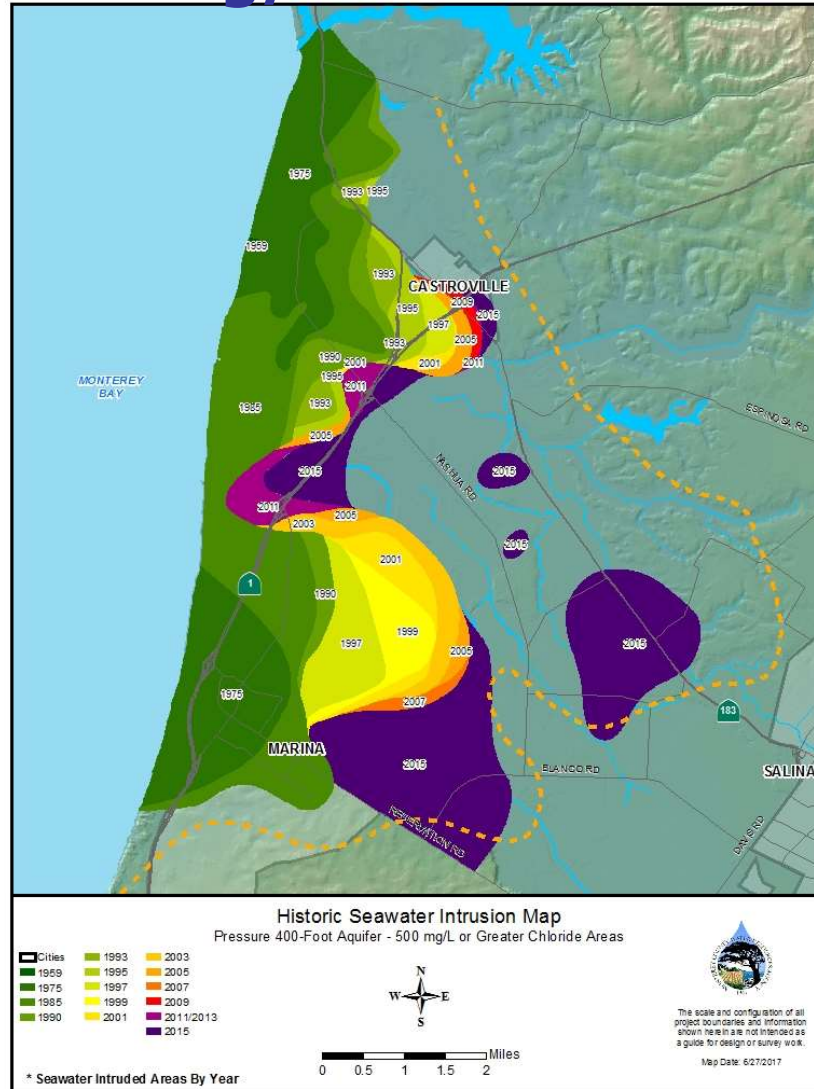
Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

- 2015 coastal Salinas Valley seawater intrusion contours showed advancement of seawater intrusion front
- Included delineation of “islands” of seawater intruded groundwater in the Pressure 400-Foot Aquifer beyond the contiguous seawater intrusion front

Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley



2015 Pressure 400-Foot Aquifer 500 mg/L Chloride Areas





Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

- On July 11, 2017 when these maps were presented at a special Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Board or Directors of the Water Resources Agency:

Staff was directed to provide to the Board recommendations for actions that, if implemented, would slow or halt the further expansion of seawater intrusion.



Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

"Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin"

(October, 2017)

- Provided a discussion of the current knowledge and related background information surrounding seawater intrusion pathways and potential impacts.
- Served as a body of evidence to catalogue the findings used to support the recommendations



Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

"Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin" (October, 2017)

- Each recommendation was developed to be implemented on its own or in concert with the others, and the relative importance of each was discussed in the Report.
- The recommendations were developed as a comprehensive solution that, along with continued operation of projects that have been constructed for the same purpose, have the strongest potential to ensure success in slowing or halting further seawater intrusion.



Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

"Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin"

(October, 2017)

Recommendations - Overview

1. An immediate moratorium on groundwater extractions from new wells in the Pressure 400-Foot Aquifer within an identified Area of Impact.
2. Enhancement and expansion of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) Service Area.



Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

"Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin" (October, 2017)

Recommendations - Overview

3. Following expansion of the CSIP Service Area, termination of all pumping from existing wells within the Area of Impact, except for the following use categories:
 - a. Municipal drinking water supply wells;
 - b. Wells operating under the auspices of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project; and,
 - c. Monitoring wells owned and maintained by the Agency or other water management agencies.



Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

"Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin"

(October, 2017)

Recommendations - Overview

4. Initiate and diligently proceed with destruction of wells in Agency Zone 2B, in accordance with Agency Ordinance No. 3790, to protect the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin against further seawater intrusion.
5. An immediate moratorium on groundwater extractions from new wells within the entirety of the Deep Aquifers until such a time as an investigation determines its long-term viability.



Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley

"Recommendations to Address the Expansion of Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin"

(October, 2017)

Recommendations - Overview

6. Initiate and diligently proceed with an investigation to determine the long term viability of the Deep Aquifers.



Salinas River Groundwater Basin Summary

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- Significant groundwater reserve – which could be used to offset temporary overdraft conditions.
- Consequences of extended use of this reserve will result in water level and water quality declines; along with continued seawater advancement into the coastal regions of the aquifer.

