MONTEREY COUNTY
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

Monterey County Water Future – First Steps toward a 21st Century Water System

Regional Water Forum Themes

Existing Work Underway – We are Problem-Solving Now
March 15, 2022

Importance of a Water Secure Future
September 20, 2022

How do we Complete Our 21st Century Water System
Scheduled for December 13, 2022

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Agenda
Regional Water Forum #2

- Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

- Presentation

- Federal and State Perspectives

- Special District and Regulated Utility Perspectives

- Public Comment

Water is the lifeblood of our communities in Monterey County

The **interdependence** of water

Water is essential to human health and central to agricultural– the future will require refining priorities

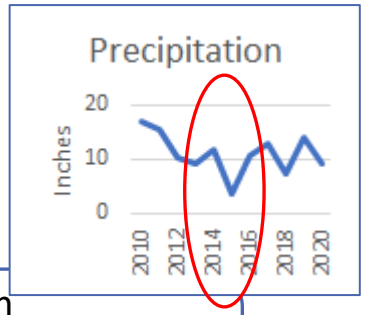
We have **relationships** with our neighbors

Further scientific understanding of our aquifers shows the **inter-relatedness of aquifers** in North County

Collaboration is required for success

Increasing demands on water and impacts from climate variability calls for a strategic, coordinated, and **urgent** approach

Climate variability calls for a coordinated approach to better understand, manage, and secure water

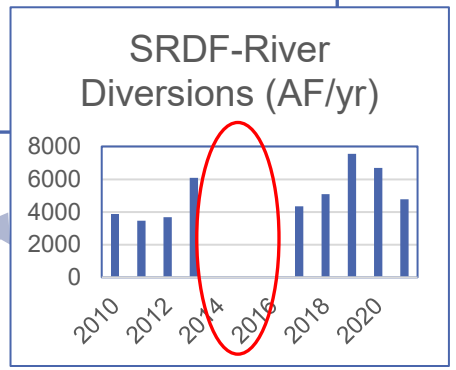


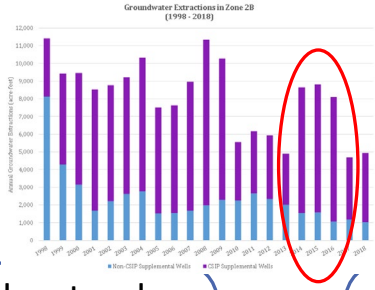
- Decrease in precipitation
- Lower reservoir storage
- Fewer reservoir releases

Drought

Less Salinas River Flow & Diversion

- Less aquifer recharge
- Less surface water for CSIP

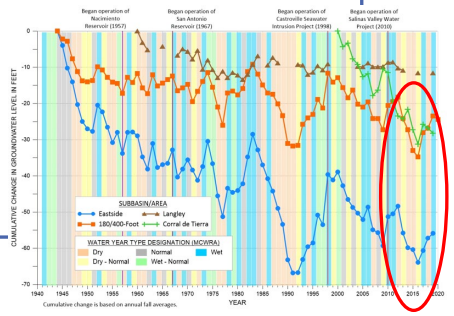




- Less recycled water due to urban conservation and decreased wastewater flows
- Greater irrigation need

Increased Groundwater Pumping

Groundwater Level Decline & Seawater Intrusion



Challenges to Water Security

Climate change and drought test operational assumptions

Irregularity of precipitation and increased evaporation both matter

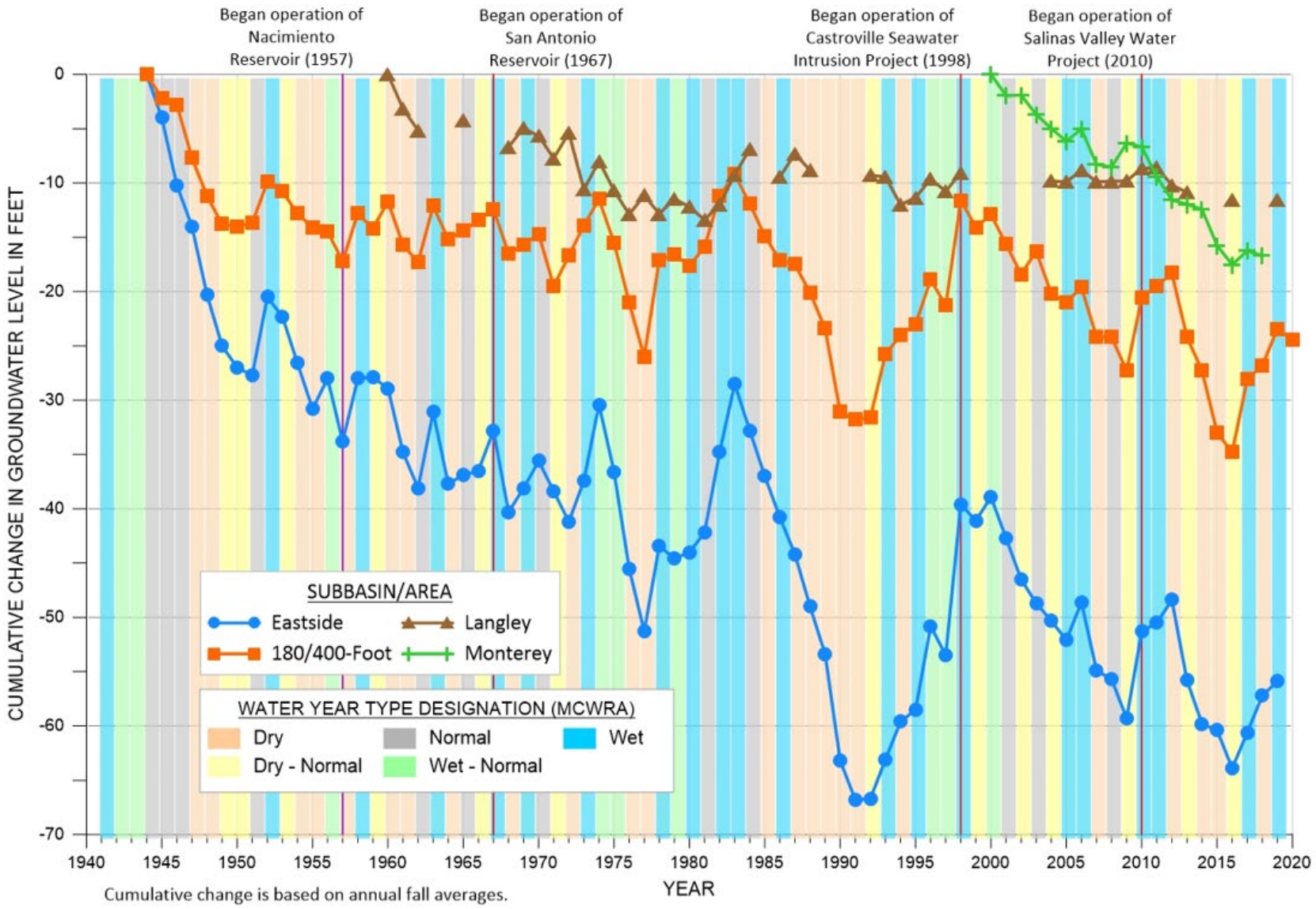
Water supply reliability & demand need to be co-assessed

Plan "B" may need to be quickly developed as conditions require

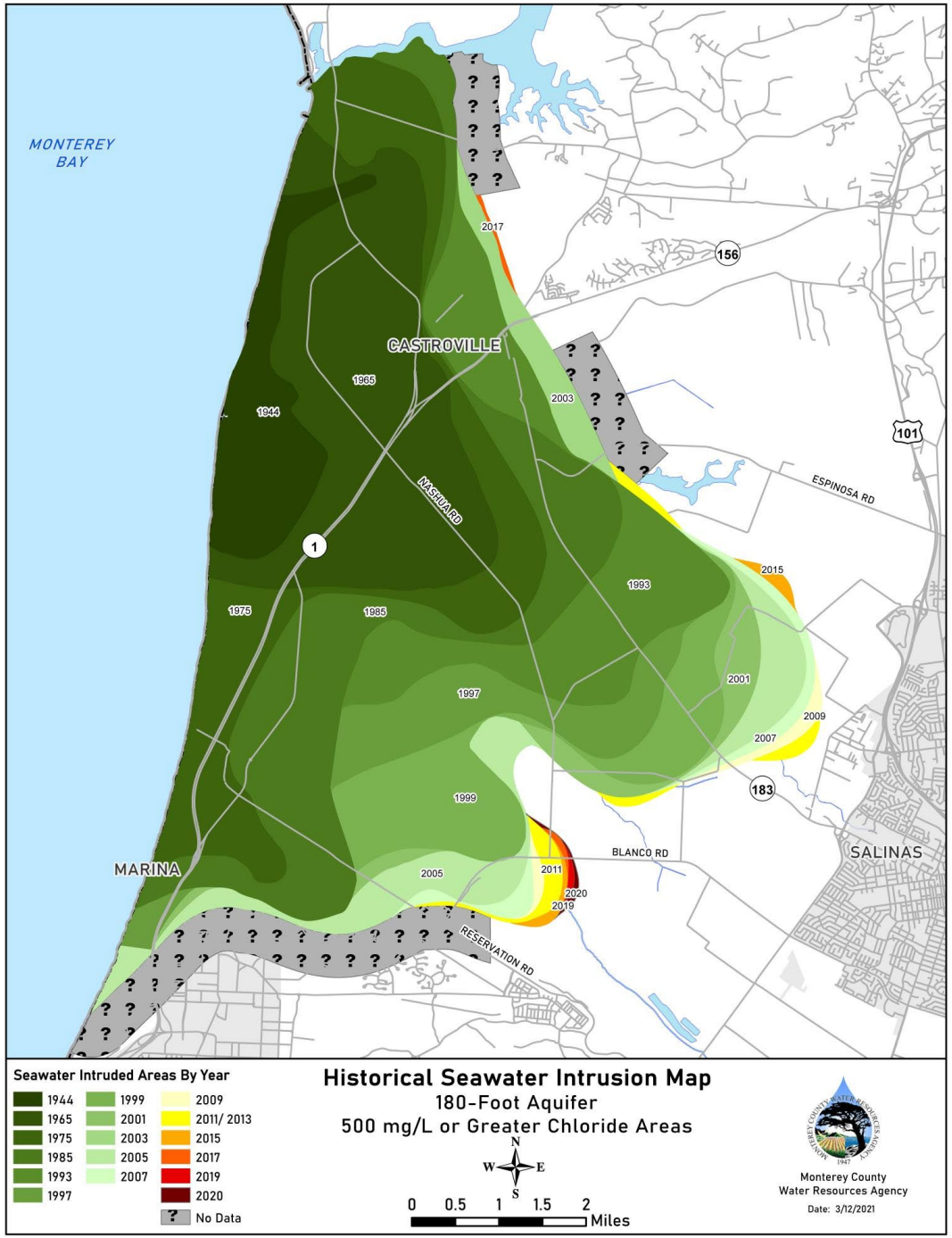
Supplies are interrelated

Cost of water
Environmental/permitting requirements
Complexity of funding projects

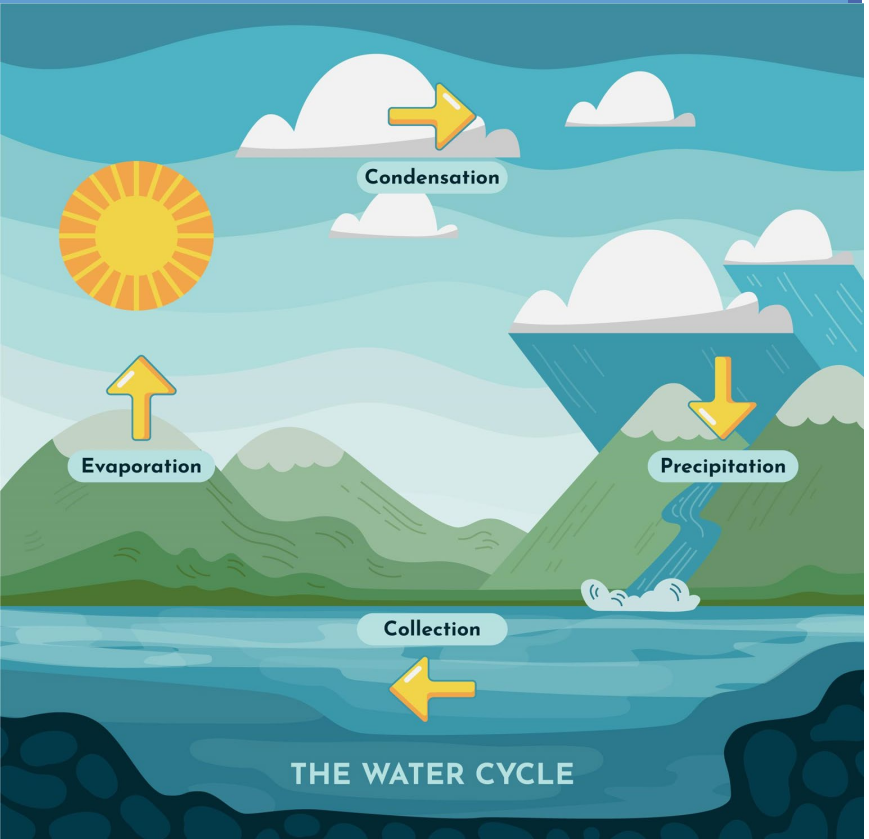
Current Challenges – Declining Groundwater Levels



Current Challenges – Seawater Intrusion



Future Water Security Solutions



1. Better utilization of current supplies
   - Recycled water
   - Stormwater capture
   - Increased storage (above and below ground)
2. Create new supplies
   - Desalination
   - Brackish water desalting
3. Find ways to use less water
   - Leakage management
   - Demand management
   - Conservation
4. Planning for redundancy and reliability
   - Affordability
   - Fire protection
   - Emergency operations (power outages)
     - Interties

Our Water System Today

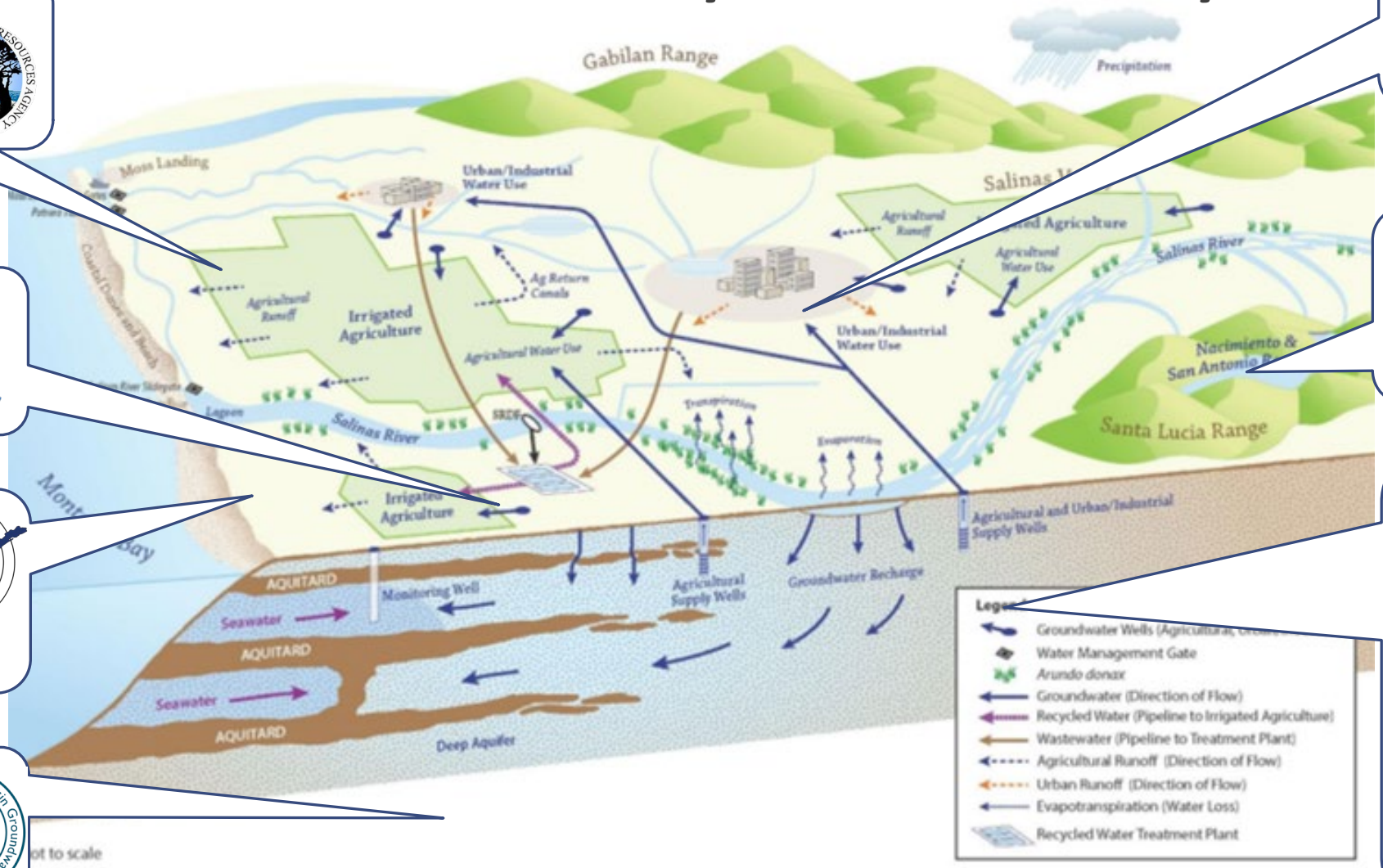
CSIP Optimization

Pure Water Monterey

Monterey One Water

Stormwater Recharge, Conservation, & Recycled Water Use

Deep Aquifers Management



Providing safe water for domestic users

Reservoirs: Assets to Maintain

Groundwater Sustainability Plans:

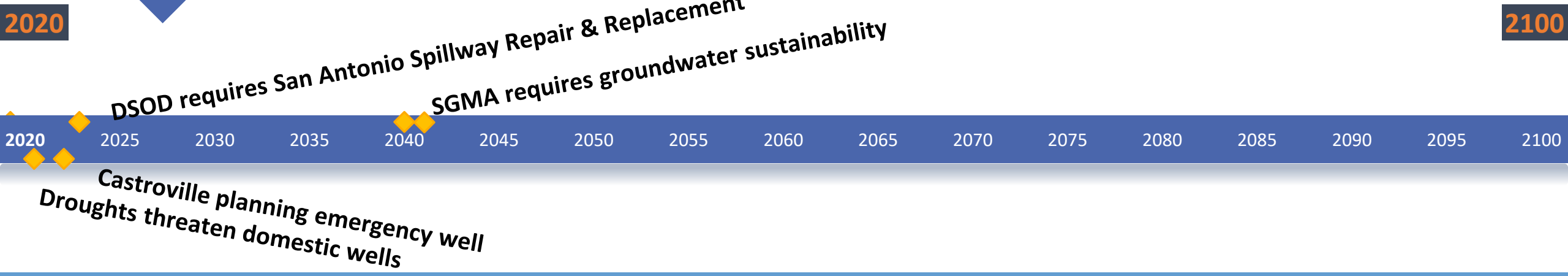
- 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin
- Langley Area Subbasin
- Eastside Aquifer Subbasin
- Monterey Subbasin

Building on 75-years of water infrastructure assets, we need to:

Maintain	Modernize	Innovate
Assets that should be maintained, operated, and managed for the future (i.e., reservoirs)	Modernization of assets needed to address challenges - science (modeling/data collection), engineering, and technology (i.e. CSIP)	Develop local collaborative solution to overcome challenges (i.e., SGMA, a new state law requiring groundwater sustainability, extended drought)

Pressing Timeline

Now	Castroville losing drinking water wells and planning emergency well
Now	Droughts and extended high temperature events threaten water supplies
2024	Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requires San Antonio Spillway Repair & Replacement
2040/ 2042	SGMA requires groundwater sustainability



Regional Priorities - Examples

Coordination on Operations

-Water scheduling in CSIP

Impact Avoidance – surface and groundwater

-Water Quality

-Reduced groundwater elevations

Evaluating Feasibility – affordability, effectiveness

-Aquifer Storage and Recovery in the 180/400

-Brackish water desalting

Pursuing Projects

-Nacimiento/San Antonio repairs/rehabilitation

- Pure Water Monterey

Obtaining Funding

Work Ahead:

Vision of a 21st Century Water System

Environmental benefits	Provide aquatic habitats with sufficient water
Good quality water	Have water quality suitable for urban and agricultural users
Groundwater sustainability	Fulfill groundwater regulatory requirements –SGMA
Healthy groundwater ecosystems	Groundwater dependent ecosystems and interconnected surface waters
Economic prosperity	Meet economic and social needs (housing RHNA goals, agriculture, underrepresented communities, etc.)
Climate resilient	Have a robust, resilient water system amidst climate change

Today’s Board Listening Session

Federal and State Perspectives and Funding Opportunities

Potential regional project partners

- Special District Water Agencies and Regulated Utilities
- Questions
  - Where do you see progress towards regional solutions in the next five years?
  - What are the biggest challenges to getting there?

Public Comments

Board Comments