



SANTA CLARA RIVER WATERSHED



WATERSHED WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015



WATERSHED AND IRWM PLANS



WATERSHED VISION

The Santa Clara River system (i.e., The Santa Clara River, its tributaries, and associated floodplain) is one of the last remaining river systems relatively intact in the state and is recognized as exceptional in its value and quality by local communities and the public in Southern California and beyond. The river system drains a 1,600-square-mile watershed the majority of which is publicly owned, and encompasses a river corridor supporting a thriving agricultural industry and several urban communities. All of these uses help define the character of the watershed. The Santa Clara River system merits appropriate stewardship to ensure that the river, its natural resources, the economic activities it supports, and the ecosystem services it provides are protected for generations to come. This stewardship protects the river's ecological integrity, provides water supplies for various uses, minimizes damage resulting from floods, and supports sustainable economic development.

WATERSHED VISION

To this end, we envision a Santa Clara River system that:

- Allows for **natural river processes**, to the maximum extent feasible, including permitting the river to freely meander within its floodplain and to accommodate flows within the natural range of variation.
- Allows for the preservation and **protection of existing and future sustainable uses** in the watershed including cultural, agricultural, and educational activities, water use efficiency and conservation, low impact recreation, scientific studies, and aesthetic and spiritual enjoyment.
- Emphasizes environmentally sensitive **flood management** that allows for a functional floodplain while minimizing damage to life and property.
- ...

WATERSHED VISION

To this end, we envision a Santa Clara River system that:

- ...
- Maintains **biodiversity** through matrix of native aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat with minimal habitat fragmentation and barriers, with emphasis on enhancing recovery of species of conservation concern.
- Is **unimpaired by pollution or invasive non-native species**.
- Is managed by cooperating public entities, private landowners, and organizations working toward the **common vision**.
- **Supplies water** for agriculture, groundwater recharge, and habitat maintenance.

WATERSHED VISION FOCUS GROUPS

Allows for **natural river processes**, to the maximum extent feasible, including permitting the river to freely meander within its floodplain and to accommodate flows within the natural range of variation.

- **Biggest Challenges:**

- Expected population increase
- Drought
- Increased pressure for water supply
- Climate change, extreme weather and sea level rise

- **Biggest Opportunity:**

- Changes in the regulatory and legislative environment
- Local land use planning
- Purchase of land

WATERSHED VISION FOCUS GROUPS

Allows for the preservation and **protection of existing and future sustainable uses** in the watershed including cultural, agricultural, and educational activities, water use efficiency and conservation, low impact recreation, scientific studies, and aesthetic and spiritual enjoyment.

- **Biggest Challenges:**

- Lack of public access for recreation
- Lack of water resources

- **Biggest Opportunity:**

- Preservation
- Conservation
- Value of the river for spiritual enjoyment
- Connecting to the strong Chumash culture and history

WATERSHED VISION FOCUS GROUPS

Maintains **biodiversity** through matrix of native aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat with minimal habitat fragmentation and barriers, with emphasis on enhancing recovery of species of conservation concern.

- **Biggest Challenges:**

- Achieving a sustainable water supply for human species and balancing human and ecosystem water needs

- **Biggest Opportunity:**

- Augment stakeholder interests
- Strategic alignment among stakeholders

WATERSHED VISION FOCUS GROUPS

Is unimpaired by pollution or invasive non-native species.

- **Biggest Challenges:**

- Funding opportunities do not match research needs
- Detection level for pollutants is too high
- Limited options for dealing with pollution after it occurs
- Quagga mussels

- **Biggest Opportunity:**

- Integrated water quality planning
- Public acceptance of recycled water
- Research cooperation in academic communities

WATERSHED VISION FOCUS GROUPS

Is managed by cooperating public entities, private landowners, and organizations working toward the **common vision**.

- **Biggest Challenges:**

- Lack of holistic leaders
- Public outreach

- **Biggest Opportunity:**

- Stakeholders coming together around a common vision
- Vision statement for the Santa Clara River Watershed

WATERSHED VISION FOCUS GROUPS

Supplies water for agriculture, groundwater recharge, and habitat maintenance.

- **Biggest Challenges:**

- Bringing supply and demand of groundwater into balance
- Cost of recycled water
- Permitting costs and regulatory challenges

- **Biggest Opportunity:**

- Increased conservation
- Using allocations available from the State Water Project
- Building more storage facilities
- Water wheeling arrangements for state water
- Water reuse

THE CAMPAIGN APPROACH

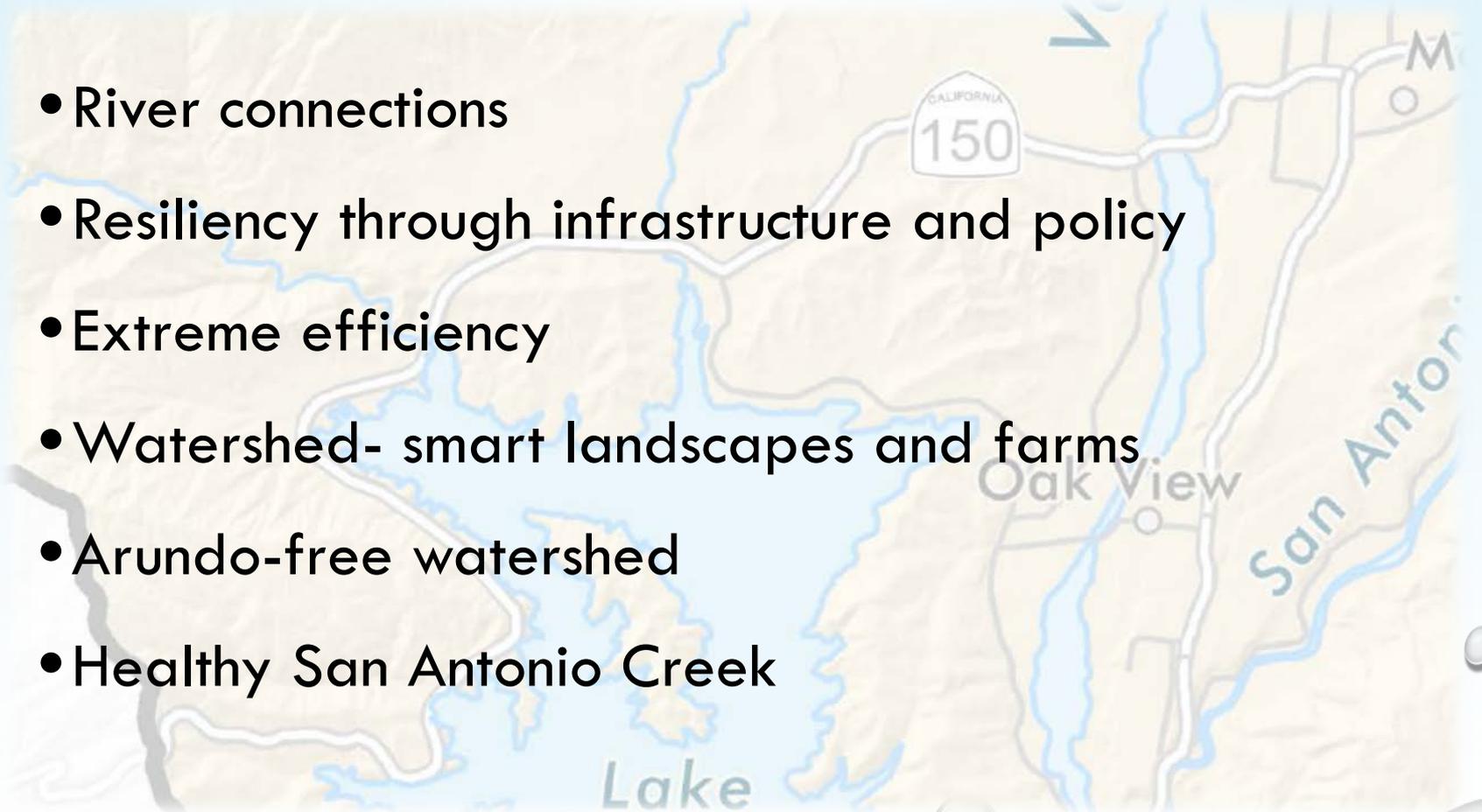
- **Tell the story of the watershed** and its many interdependencies
- **Identify and prioritize** water-related concerns in the watershed
- **Outline strategies to collectively solve** our shared problems and collectively manage our shared resources
- **Better position ourselves for funding**

CAMPAIGN DESIGN

- State campaign intent
- Describe the conditions and necessity of continued management
 - Strengths
 - Weaknesses
 - Opportunities
 - Threats
- Identify the campaigns specific targets
- Highlight some of the projects, programs, and practices
- Proposed future projects and programs

VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED CAMPAIGNS

- River connections
- Resiliency through infrastructure and policy
- Extreme efficiency
- Watershed- smart landscapes and farms
- Arundo-free watershed
- Healthy San Antonio Creek



DESIGN THE SCRW CAMPAIGNS

- State campaign intent
- Describe the conditions and necessity of continued management
 - Strengths
 - Weaknesses
 - Opportunities
 - Threats
- Identify the campaigns specific targets
- Highlight some of the projects, programs, and practices
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SANTA CLARA RIVER WATERSHED CAMPAIGNS

- Cooperative stewardship and management
- Restoration/conservation/biodiversity
- Supplies and conserves clean water
- Floodplain management/Natura River Processes

PROPOSITION 1

- \$7.5 BILLION
- APPROVED BY VOTERS IN 2014
- MULTIPLE FUNDING PROGRAMS
- MOST REQUIRE CONNECTION TO WATERSHED PLAN AND/OR STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH
- ADMINISTERED BY DIFFERENT STATE ENTITIES
- MOST GRANTS REQUIRE 50% MATCH
- \$900 MILLION STATEWIDE FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
- \$810 MILLION FOR IRWM; \$98 MILLION FOR OUR FUNDING AREA

The image features a light blue gradient background with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The word "QUESTIONS?" is centered in the middle of the page in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

QUESTIONS?