

Shhhh!!!! Linking Land and Water with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

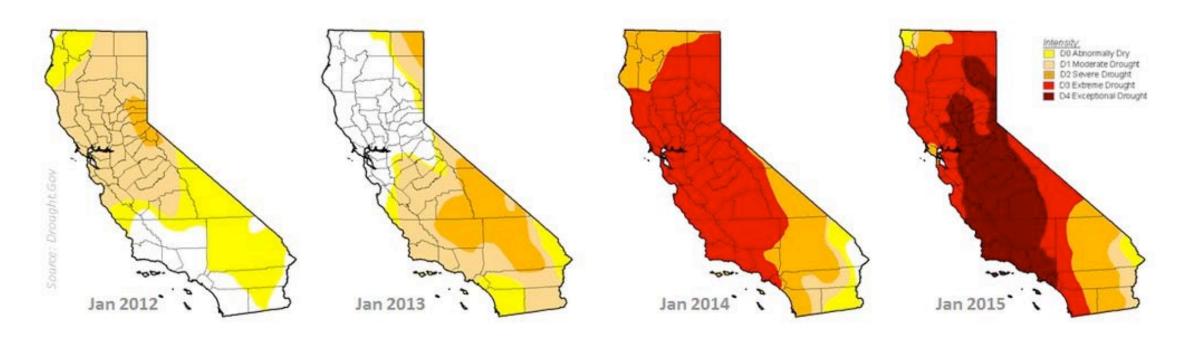
Andrew Fahlund, Senior Program Officer March 29, 2019





Crises Focus Attention



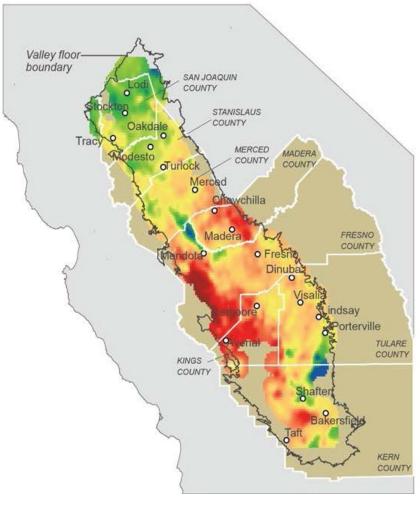


The drought of the century focuses attention.

A Crisis Tied to Land Use







Groundwater in the Headlines?





"Farmers experiencing wells drying up"

August 9, 2013

The Fresno Bee

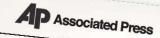
"Sinking land makes Valley levees unreliable"

January 19, 2013

VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

"Tulare County running dry?"

August 23, 2013



"In drought, water war in Calif. fought underground"

September 7, 2013

Los Angeles Times

"In Paso Robles, vineyards' thirst pits growers against residents"

September 1, 2013

Santa Maria Times Lee Central Coast Newspapers

"Rural community sinking because of groundwater use"

July 18, 2013

The Modesto Bee

modbee.com

"Denair neighbors say farmer's drilling sapped their wells"

July 7, 2013

The Desert Sun

"Desert water supply strained by heavy pumping"

September 9, 2013

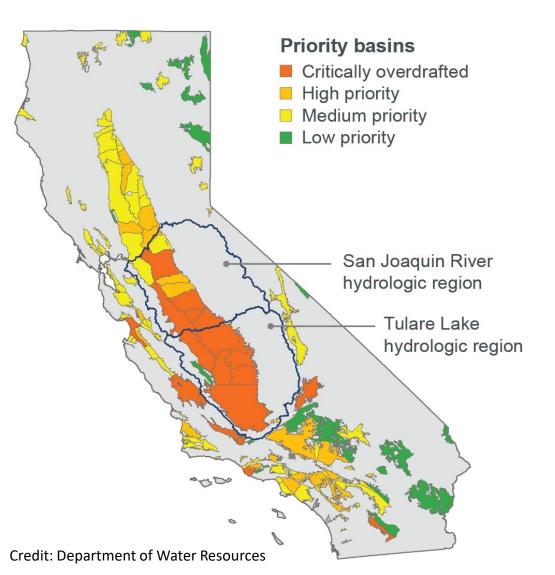
THE TRIBUNE

California's groundwater management is like Texas: It's the wild West

June 16, 2013

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)





- **Empowers local agencies** to determine an appropriate local goals for sustainability and provides them with the tools to enforce them by establishing a water budgets that avoid long-term harm.
- Requires development and implementation of plans that set water budgets and management requirements which achieve sustainability by 2040.
- Establishes the State as a backstop that directs the State Water Resources Control Board to assume control over any groundwater basin that fails to meet the requirements and schedule of the Act.



Regulates 90% of all groundwater pumped in the State.

SGMA as a Land Use Tool?





- 65352.5. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE WATER-RELATED DOCUMENTS TO GENERAL PLAN AGENCY (a) The Legislature...declares that...there be close coordination and consultation between California's water supply or management agencies and California's land use approval agencies...
- 10726.2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (c) Provide for a program of voluntary fallowing of agricultural lands or validate an existing program.
- 10726.8. RELATIONSHIP OF THIS PART TO OTHER LAW (f)
 Nothing in this chapter or a groundwater sustainability plan shall
 be interpreted as superseding the land use authority of cities and
 counties, including the city or county general plan, within the
 overlying basin.

Anticipated Land Retirement: San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basin





Image Credit: The Nature Conservancy

Managing Land Use Changes



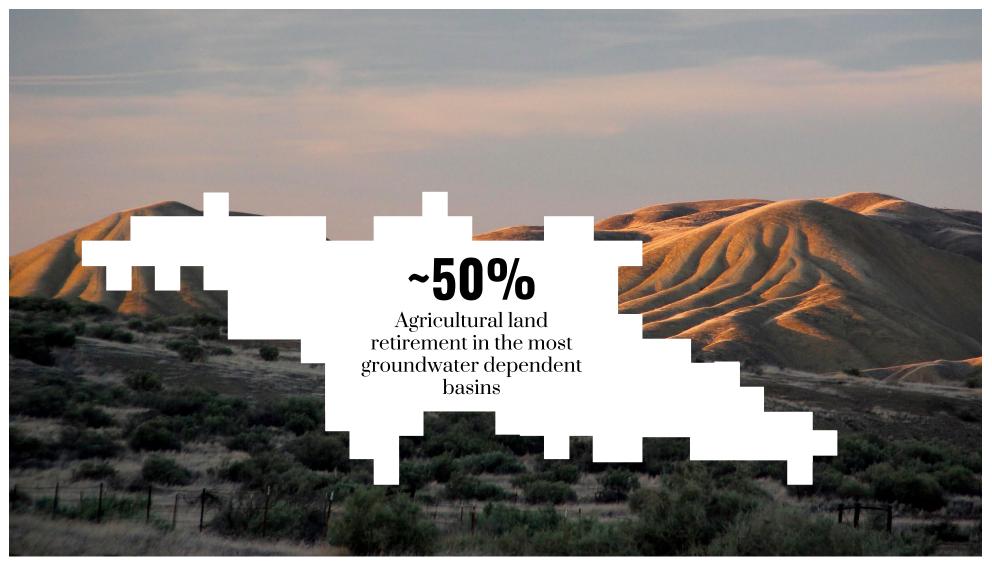


Image Credit: The Nature Conservancy



Andrew Fahlund afahlund@waterfdn.org (916) 414-3303

