CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION



SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

California Water Commission

June 18, 2014

Presentation Overview

- Introduction: California Water Foundation
- Overview: Groundwater in Context Problems
- CWF Groundwater Findings & Recommendations
- Moving Forward

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

California Water Foundation

Our mission is to advance a sustainable & resilient water future for cities, farms and the environment.

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

California Water Foundation

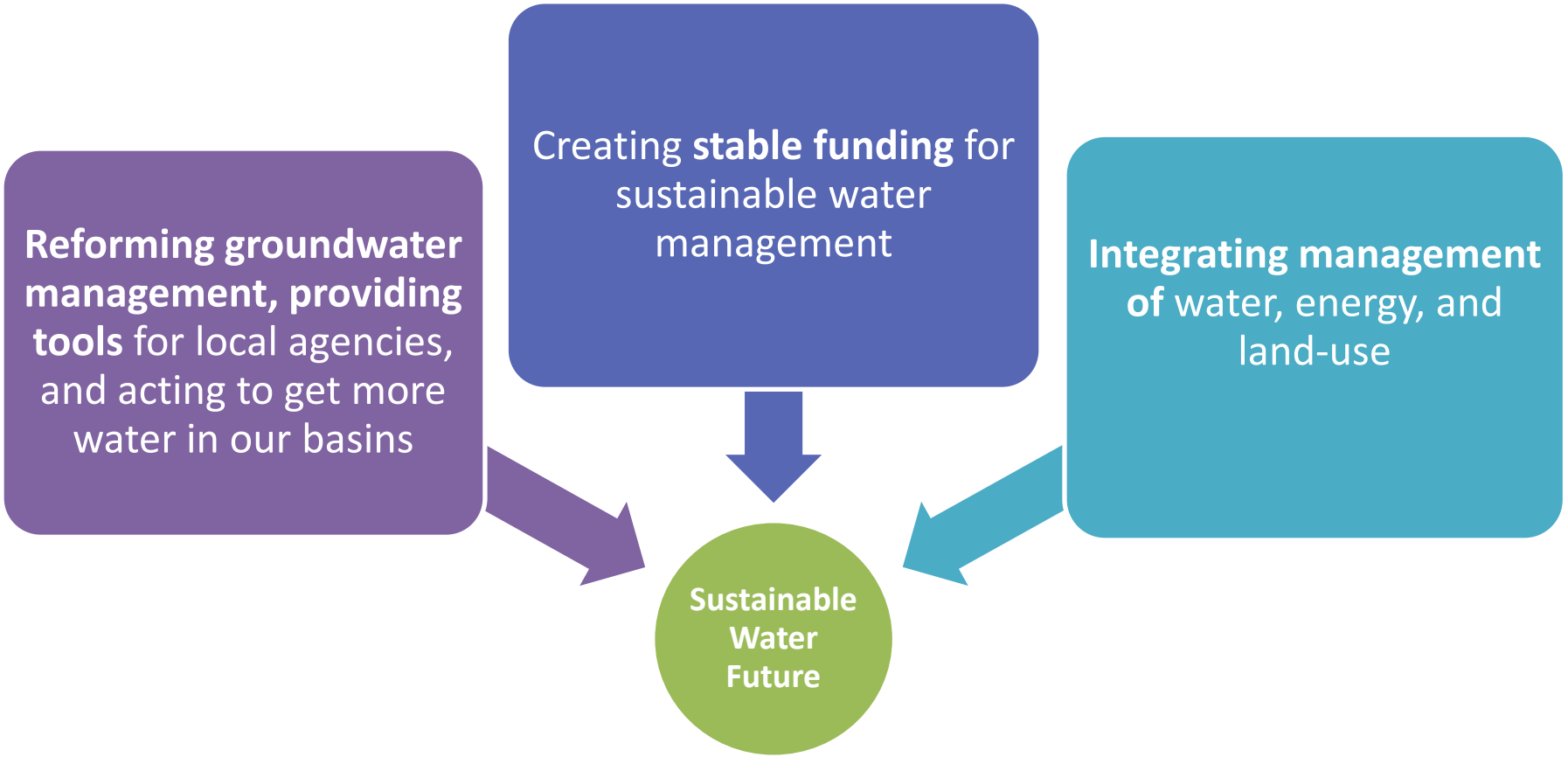
Achieving sustainable water management through:

1. Advancing Policy Initiatives
2. Targeted Regional Investments
3. Building a Strong Field



CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Current Policy Initiatives



CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Targeted Regional Investments

Demonstrating sustainability of **cities, farms, and the environment** through regional examples:

Making **Los Angeles** a resilient city of the future

Helping the **Kings River Basin** remain a highly productive farming region for decades to come

Restoring the environment of the **Lower San Joaquin River Basin**

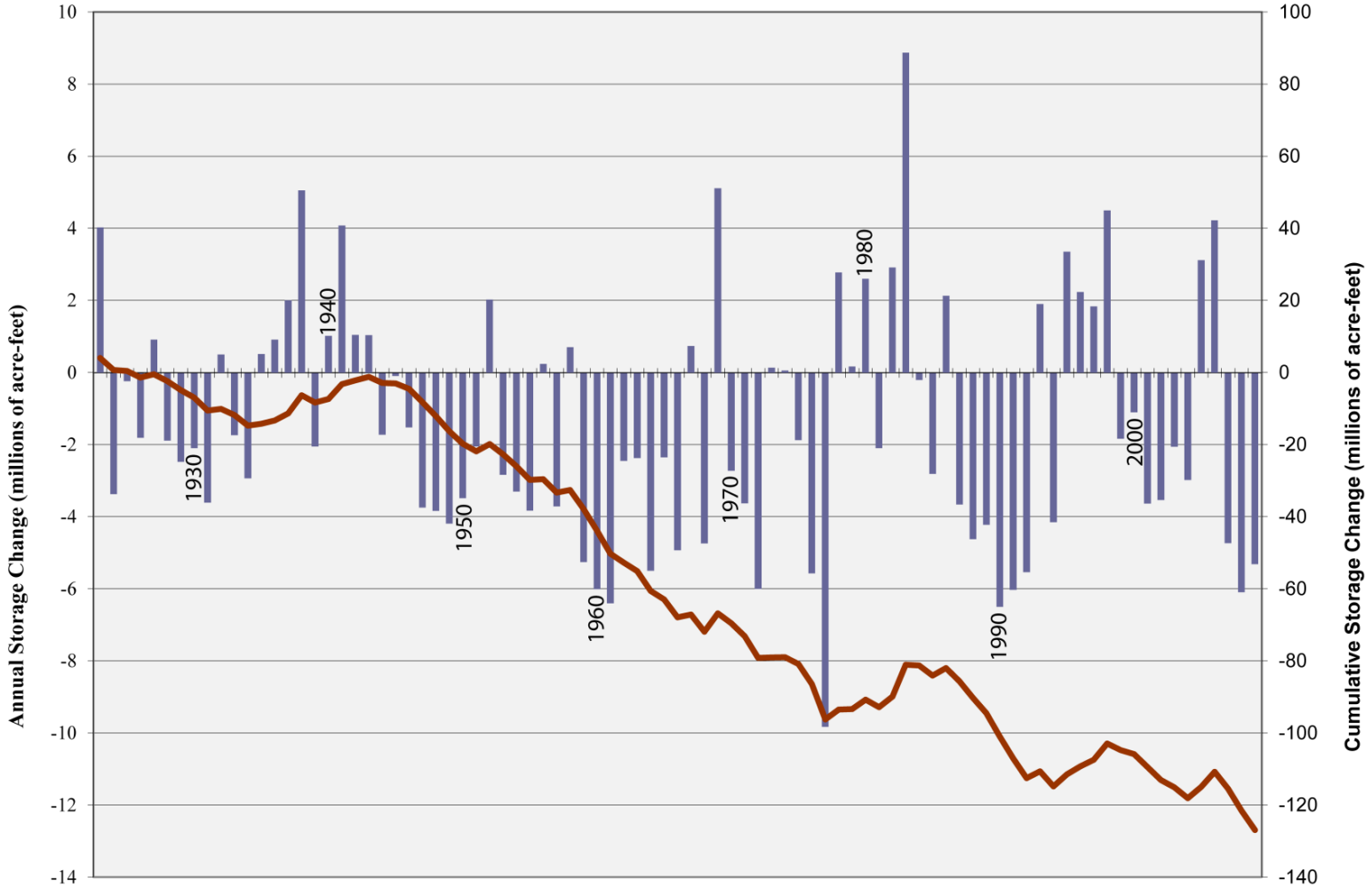
CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Groundwater in Context

- 40% of supply in an average year; 60% in dry
- Critical part of integrated management
- Flexible source for storage and use
- Several decades of increasing use
  - Reduction in surface supplies
  - Hardening of demand
- Increasing landowner conflicts

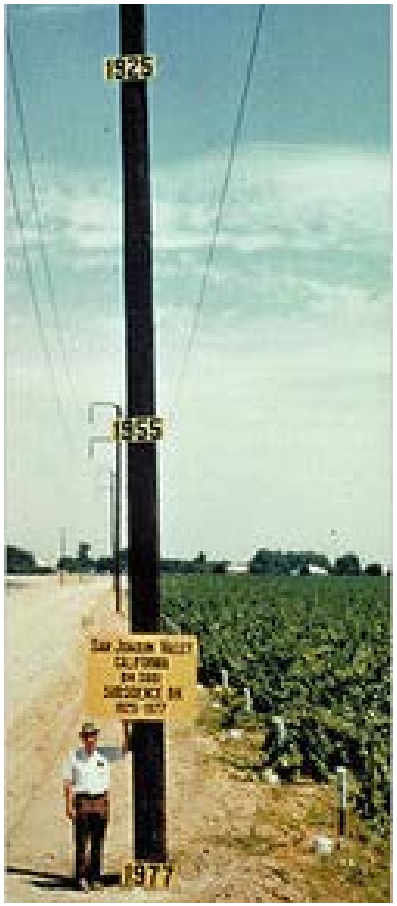
CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Change in Groundwater Storage for the Central Valley



Source:
RMC analysis of C2VSIM historical simulation results, 2012.

Problems with Overdraft



- Subsidence threatens infrastructure
- Reduced water for species and habitats
- Reduced surface supplies
- Increased drilling/pumping costs
- Impacts water quality
- Increased costs for taxpayers, business, farmers

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

CWF Groundwater Policy Efforts

- Brown Administration Request (Feb)
  - Diverse stakeholder Steering Committee
  - Multiple Interest Group meetings
  - Individual stakeholder discussions
  - State Administration and Legislative discussions
- Recommendations & Report (May)
- Policy bills – Legislative process (June-September)

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

CWF Report Findings

- Groundwater is essential to reliability.
- Current groundwater trends are not sustainable.
- Groundwater is linked to surface water and the environment.
- Groundwater is most effectively managed at a local level.
- Local groundwater managers require better tools.
- Protection of private property and water rights is imperative.

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Findings (cont.)

- State technical and financial assistance and “backstop” are essential
- Groundwater is an important source of drinking water.
- Correcting the problem will take time.
- Funding is needed.
- Access to information is important.
- Comprehensive legislation is necessary.

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

CWF Report Recommendations

1. Adopt a definition of sustainable groundwater management
2. Develop a prioritized statewide program covering all subbasins
3. Establish local groundwater management entities
4. Provide local entities with sufficient groundwater management authorities

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

CWF Report Recommendations (cont.)

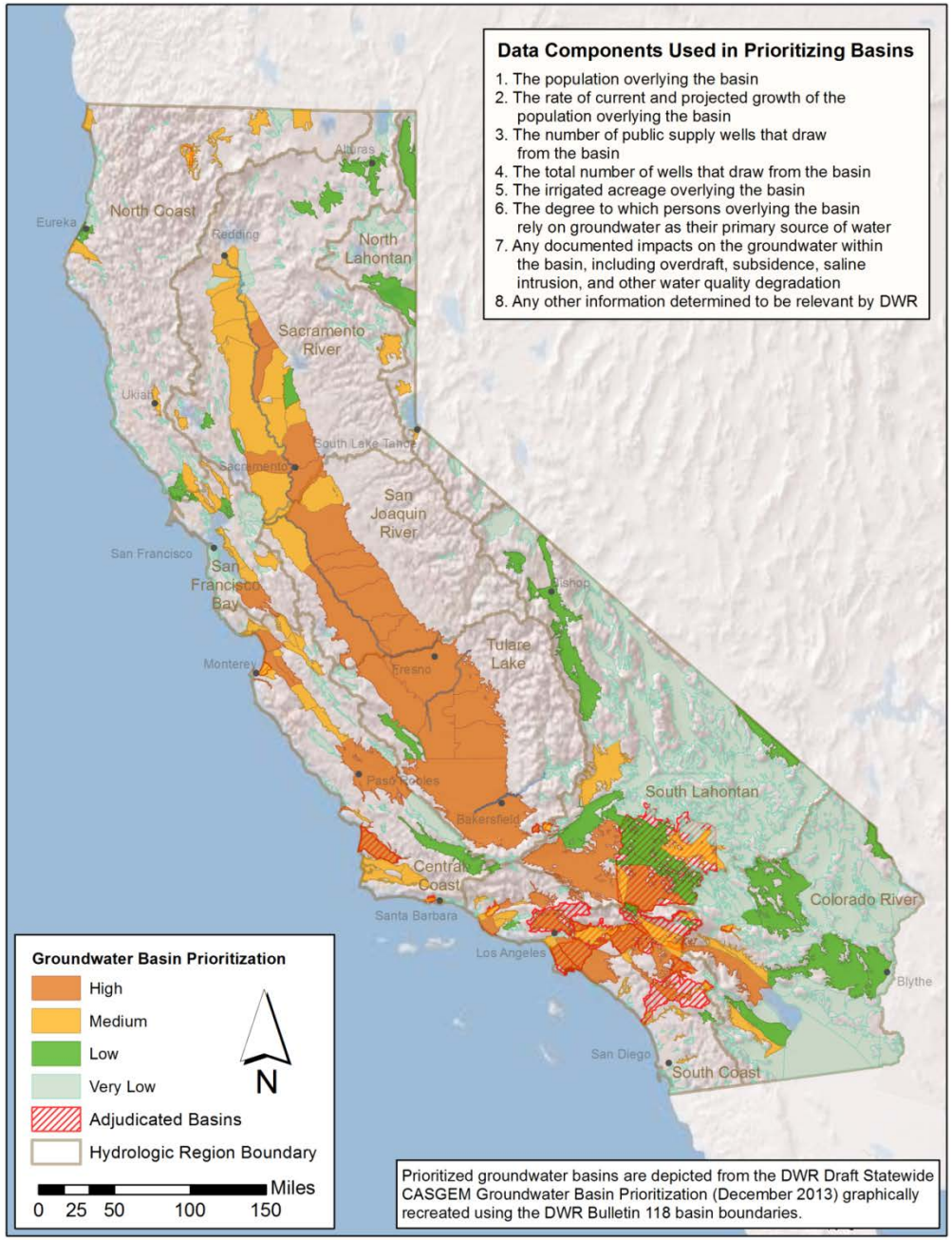
5. Require local sustainable groundwater management plans with 20 yr targets and milestones
6. Establish a clear and coordinated state role for assistance, oversight, and enforcement
7. Provide funding for groundwater management

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

State Role- Multiple levels

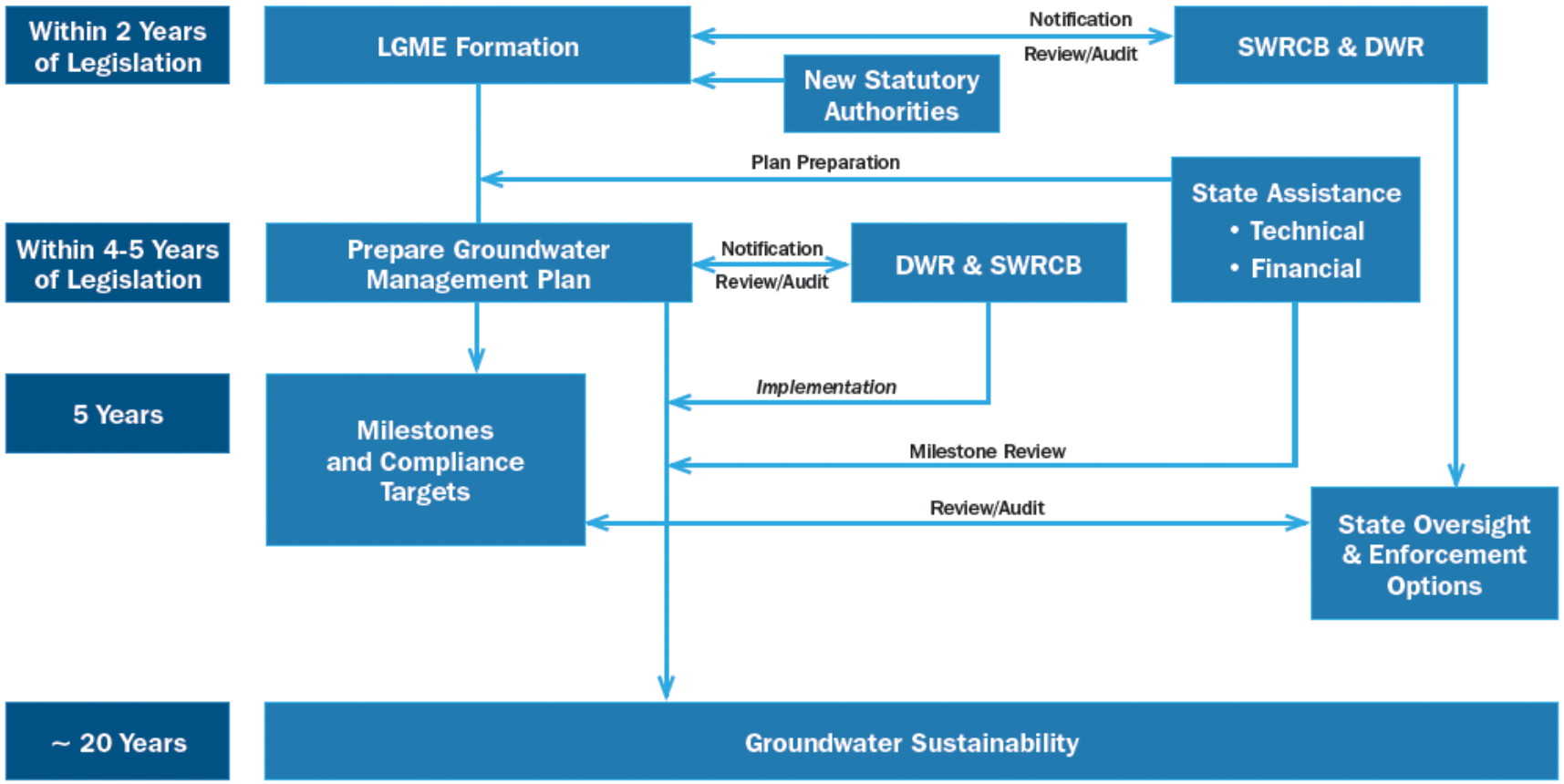
- Technical & financial assistance – DWR
- Oversight and compliance – DWR and SWRCB
- Enforcement – SWRCB
- Regulatory relief – SWRCB in coordination with DWR

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION



CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Proposed Groundwater Management Framework



CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

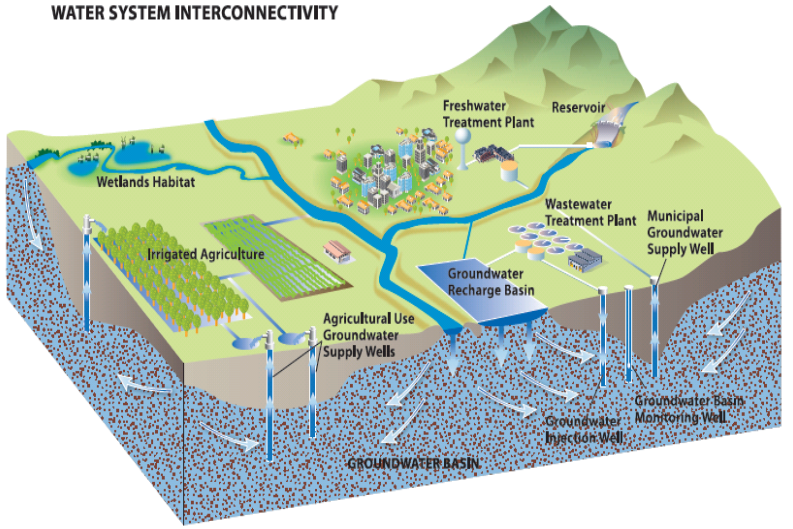
Challenging Issues

- Protection of property rights
- Groundwater management and surface water supplies
- Inclusiveness and transparency
- Water management and land use coordination
- Prevention vs. reaction (tipping point)

CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION

Moving Forward

- Two policy bills – efforts to coordinate and merge (SB 1168 & AB 1739)
- Statewide critical issue
- Must avoid the slow moving disaster
- Now is the time



CALIFORNIA WATER FOUNDATION