January 16, 2006

Selica Potter
Acting Clerk to the Board
P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

COMMENT LETTER – 1/31/06 BOARD WORKSHOP ON SALINITY

Dear Ms. Potter:

Attached is a presentation I request to give at the subject workshop on salinity, 1/31/06 on behalf of the San Joaquin River Water Quality Management Group.

In intend only to go through slides 1-11, with the remainder of the slides available to address questions that may arise. Please contact me at 916.489.9280 if you have questions. Enclosed also is a Powerpoint version of the slide presentation so that you may load it into the Board's computer at the workshop.

Sincerely,

Byron M. Buck
Facilitator, San Joaquin River Water
Quality Management Group

Recommendations and Status Report of the San Joaquin Water Quality Management Group

Plan for Achieving Salinity/Boron and DO Objectives

Presentation to SWRCB 1/31/06

Plan for Achieving Salinity/Boron and DO Objectives

Overview

- Review Group and Objectives
- Recommendations and Expected Outcomes
- Current Status

Plan for Achieving Salinity/Boron and DO Objectives List of Participants

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Water Resources
- USFWS
- California Dept. Fish and Game
- Central California Irrigation District
- Friant Water Users Authority
- Grassland Water District
- James Irrigation District
- Merced Irrigation District
- Modesto Irrigation District
- Oakdale Irrigation District
- San Luis Canal Company
- San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition
- San Joaquin County RCD
- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
- San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority
- San Joaquin River Group
- San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority
- South San Joaquin Irrigation District
- State Water Contractors
- South Delta Water Agency
- Stockton East Water District
- Tranquility Irrigation District
- Turlock Irrigation District
- Venice Island RD 2023
- California Farm Bureau
- Western Growers

Plan for Achieving Salinity/Boron and DO Objectives

- Group Objective: *Prepare and implement a plan to meet the water quality objectives for Salt and Boron at Vernalis and Dissolved Oxygen at the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel in coordination with CALFED Stage I objectives*

SJRWQMG Recommendations

Salinity

1. Fully implement the Westside Regional Drainage Plan.

   status: *Prop 50, Consolidated Grants and Federal funding pursued to supplement local funding*

2. Further evaluate and pursue managed wetland drainage management action to mitigate impacts of February through April drainage releases.

   status : ***three*** *- yr. pilot project underway to assess water quality and biological effects of modified refuge draw-down operations to reduced saline discharges. Budget of $1.2 million from CALFED and the participating agencies.*

Summary Recommendations cont.

Salinity

3. Develop a real-time water quality management coordination group involving LSJR tributaries, LSJR drainers and the DWR to coordinate reservoir release and SWP/CVP Project operations (head of Old River barrier and New Melones operations) to realize opportunities to improve water quality and increase the utility of stored water releases.

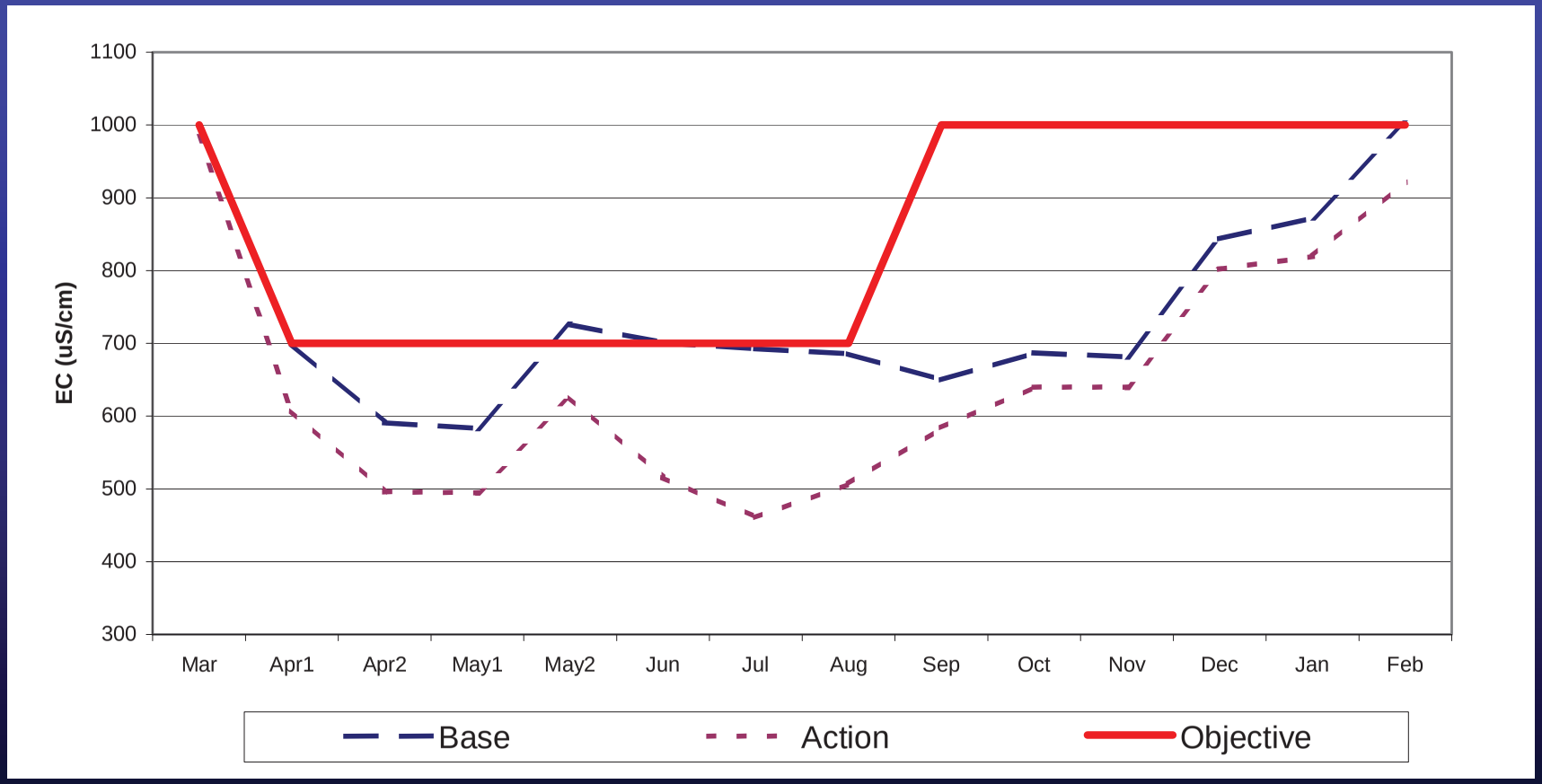
status: *initial meeting held and agreement reached to begin with coordinated efforts to utilize new real-time data available and begin more regular reservoir release coordination.*

Summary Recommendations cont.

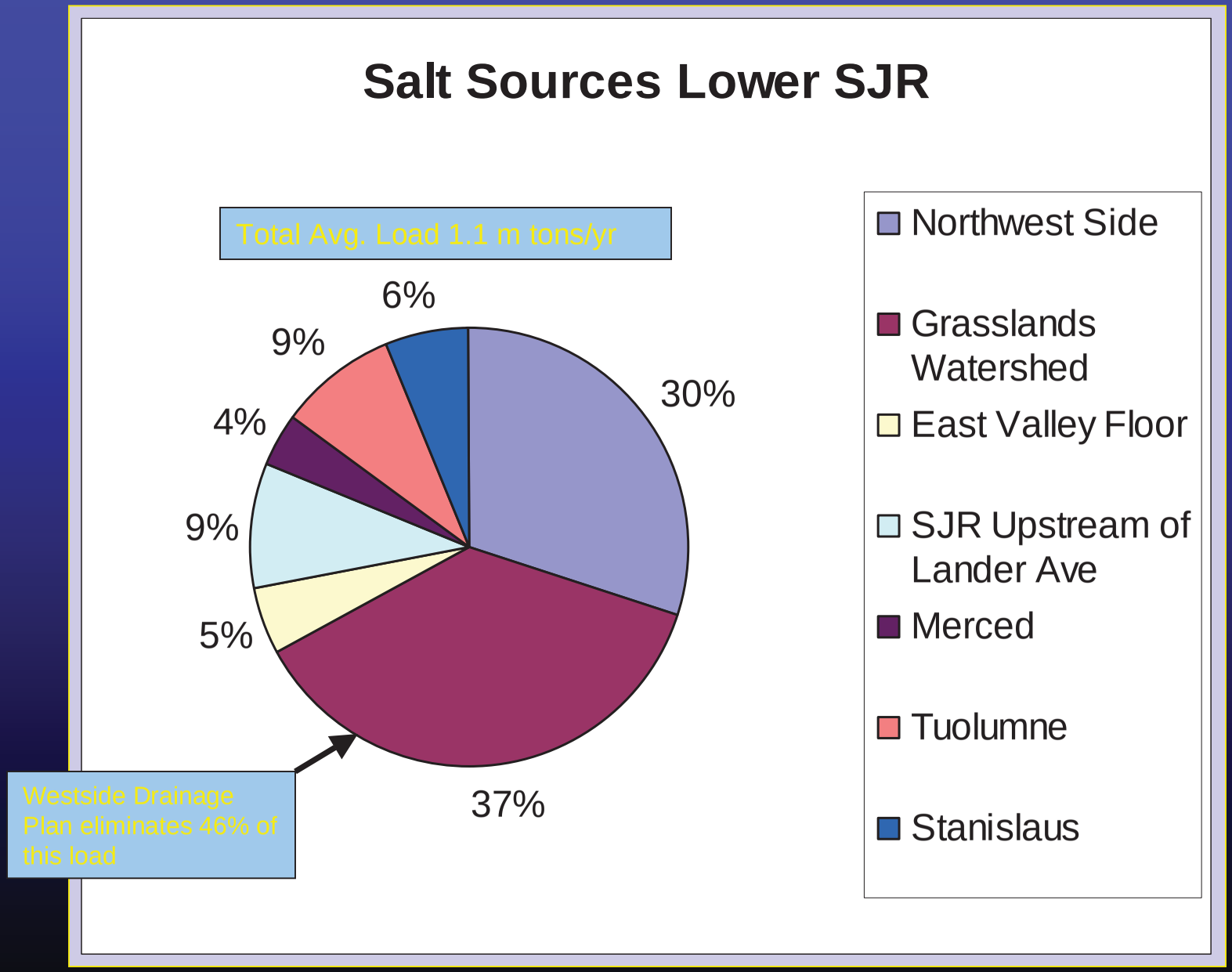
5. Establish a forum to evaluate ongoing changes in the water quality baseline and suggest further management actions to continue progress on water quality improvement.

status : *water quality management group to continue*

Salinity Improvement at Vernalis from Recommendations – Critical Water Year Average



Gross Salt Reduction



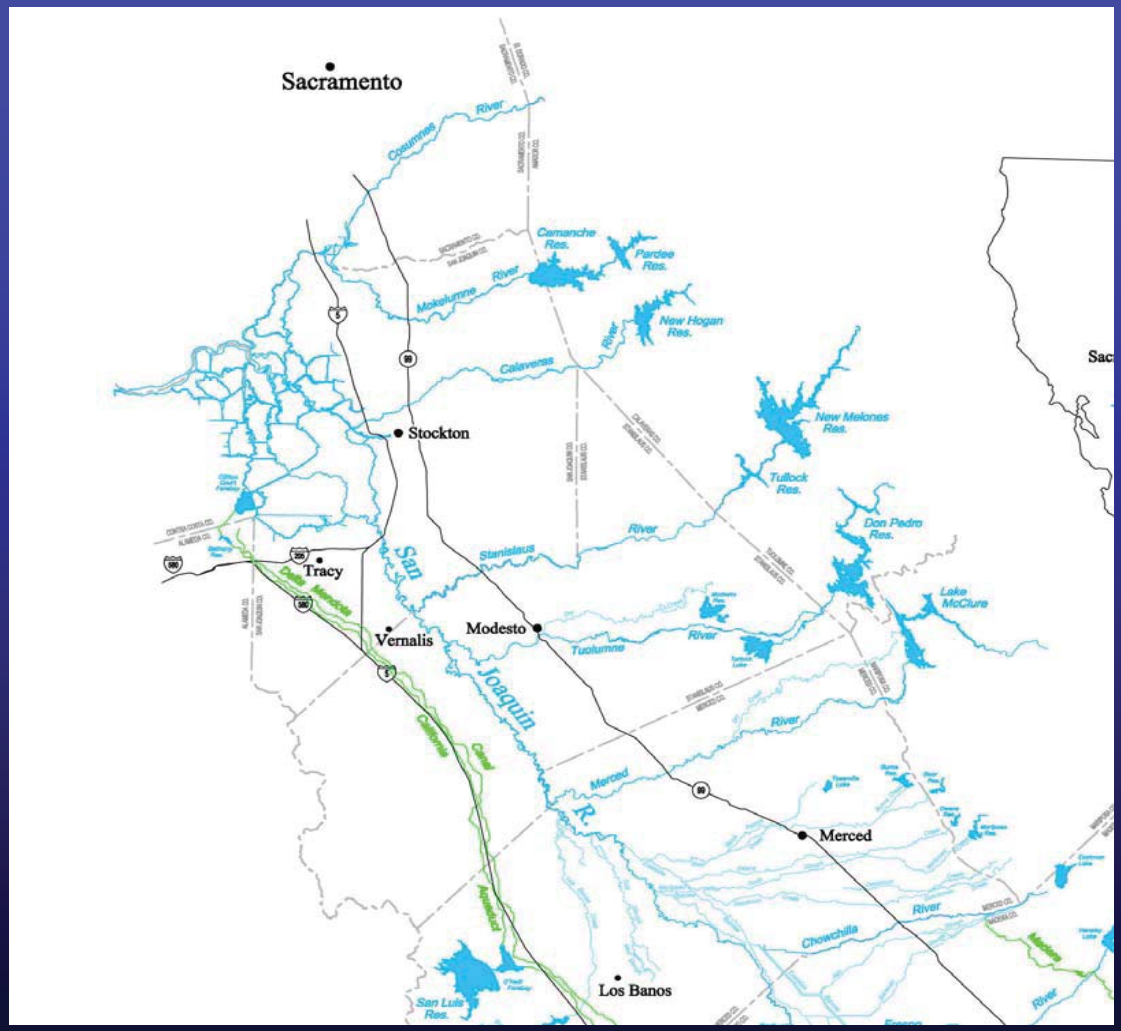
Implementation Roles

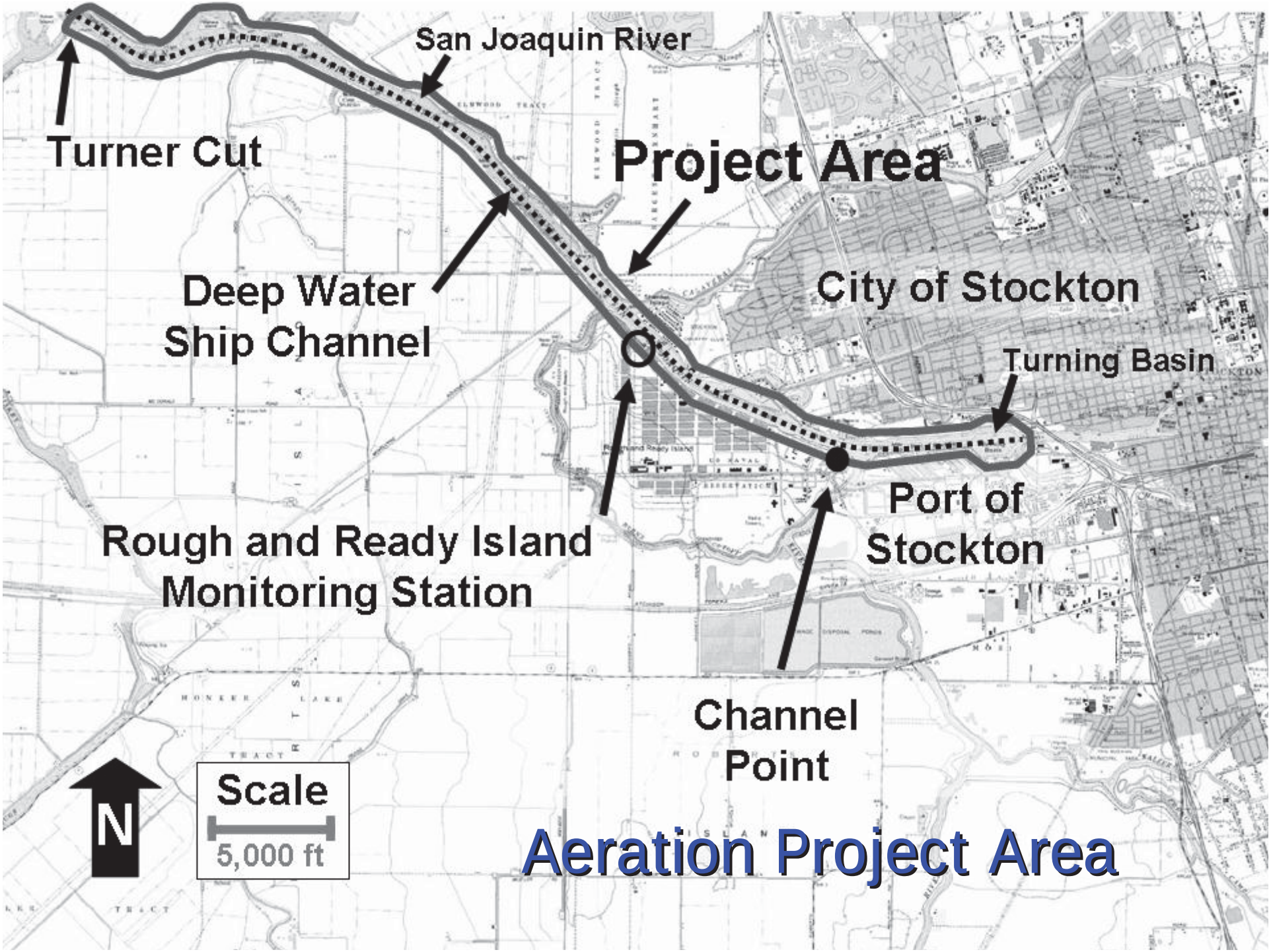
Recommendation	Agency Role/Participant		
	Local	State	Federal
Salinity			
Implement Westside Drainage	Drainage	DWR/SWRCB	USBR
	agencies	SRWQCB	
Wetlands Drainage Management	Refuges	DFG/SWRCB	USBR
		SRWQCB	FWS
Real Time SJR Operations Coordination	Various	DWR (barriers)	USBR
Dissolved Oxygen			
HORB Use		DWR	USBR
		DFG	FWS/NMFS
Stockton Treatment Plant Upgrade	Stockton	SRWQCB	
Demonstration Aerator	Port	DWR; CALFED	
	others		
Future Actions Evaluation/Change Forum	Various	DWR	USBR
		SWRCB	FWS/NMFS
		DFG	

Summary

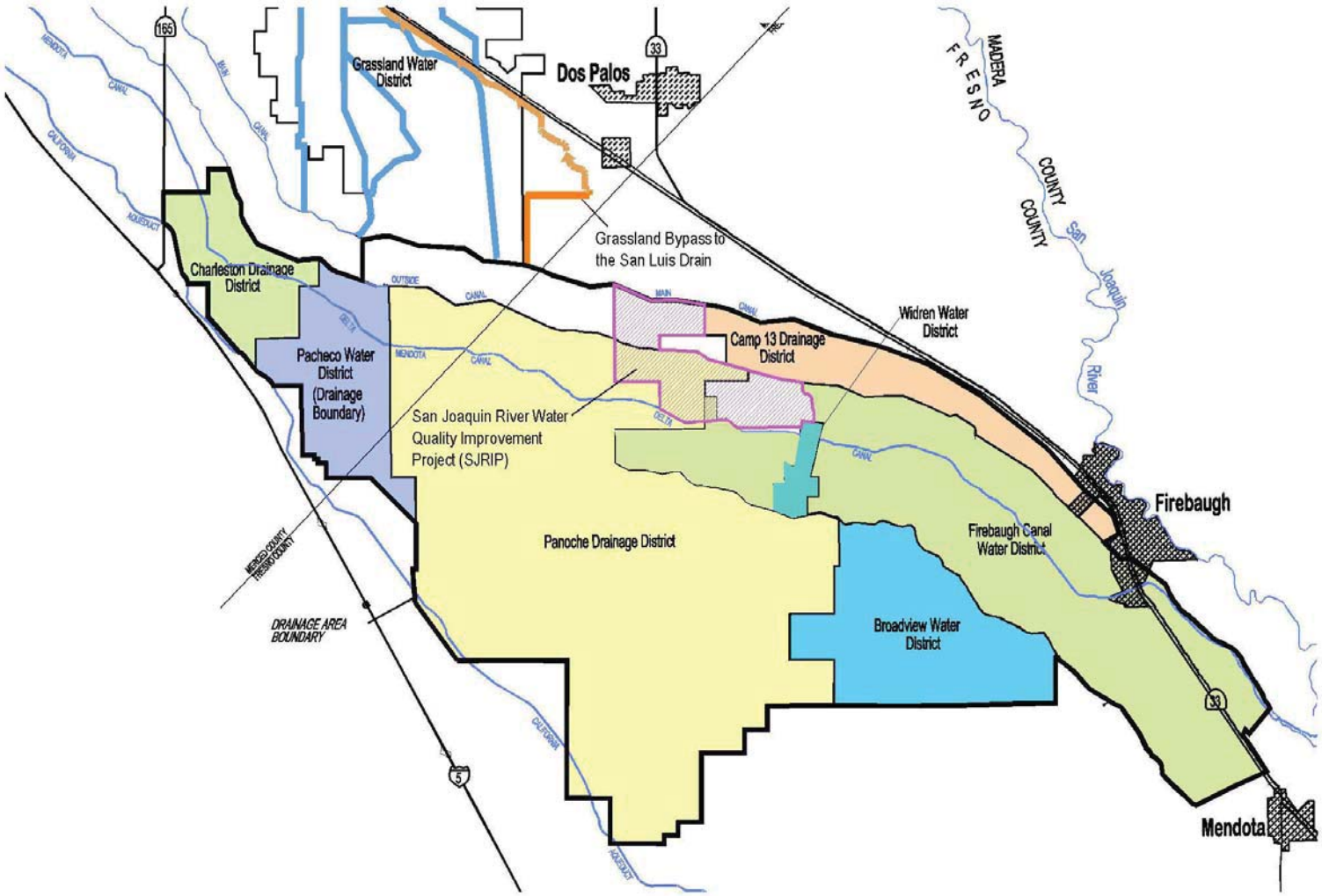
- SJWQMG solutions have broad consensus for implementation
- SJRWQMG Group needs to continue
  - Pursue solution
  - Adapt to changes
- State and Federal Agency Commitment Necessary to assist in Plan Implementation: DWR Agrees to Lead Joint Agency Task Force

Extra slides


Sacramento
Cosumnes River
Camanche Res.
Pardee Res.
Mokelumne River
New Hogan Res.
Calaveras River
New Melones Res.
Stockton
Tullock Res.
Don Pedro Res.
Stanislaus River
Tracy
San Joaquin R.
Delta Mendota
Lake McClure
Vernalis
Modesto
Tuolumne River
California Canal
Merced River
Merced
Aqueduct
Chowchilla River
Los Banos
San Luis Res.



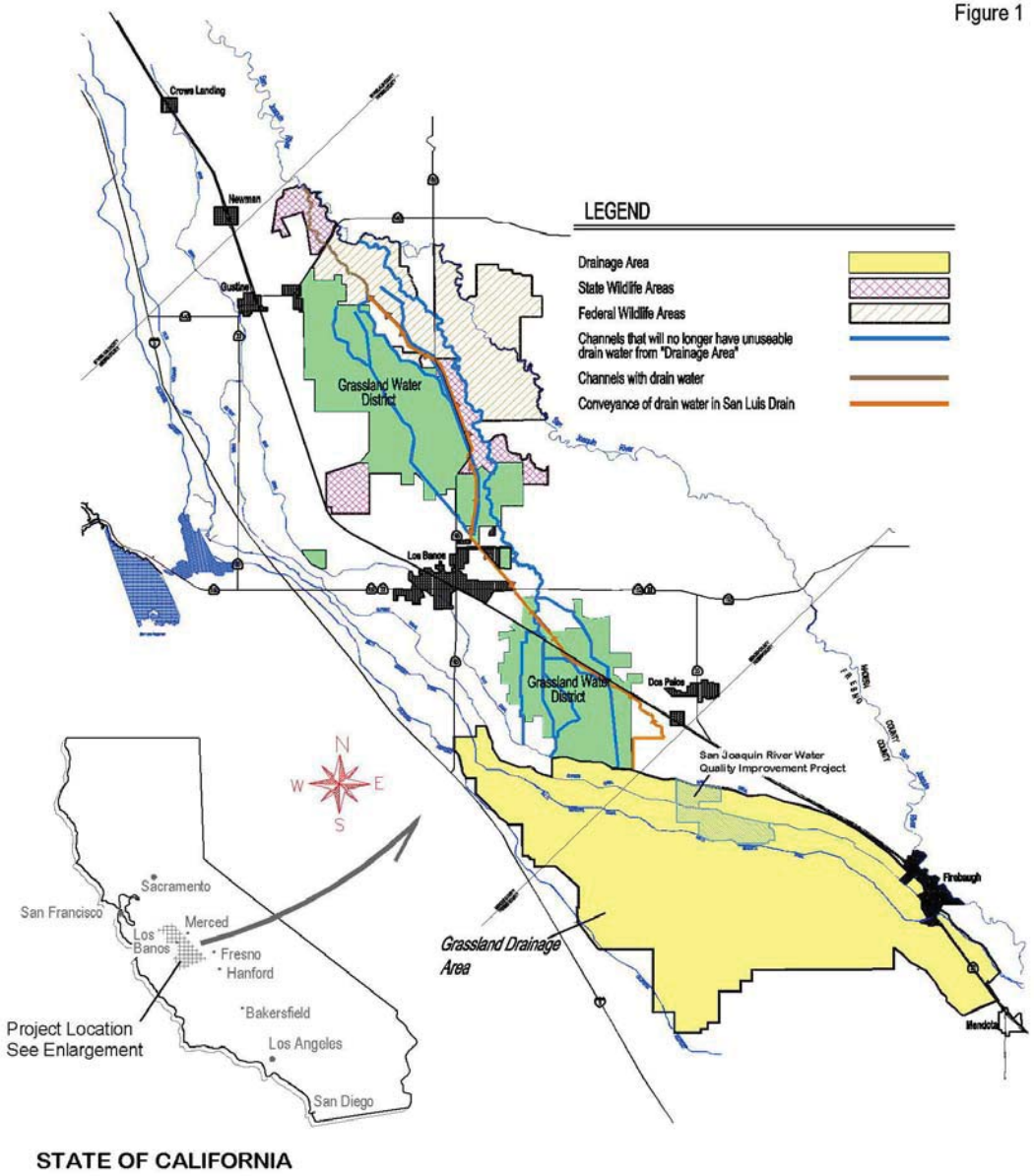
Aeration Project Area



Grassland Drainage Area
San Joaquin River Water Quality
Improvement Project
Location Map

SUMMERS ENGINEERING, INC.
Consulting Engineers
HANFORD CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 2003

Figure 1

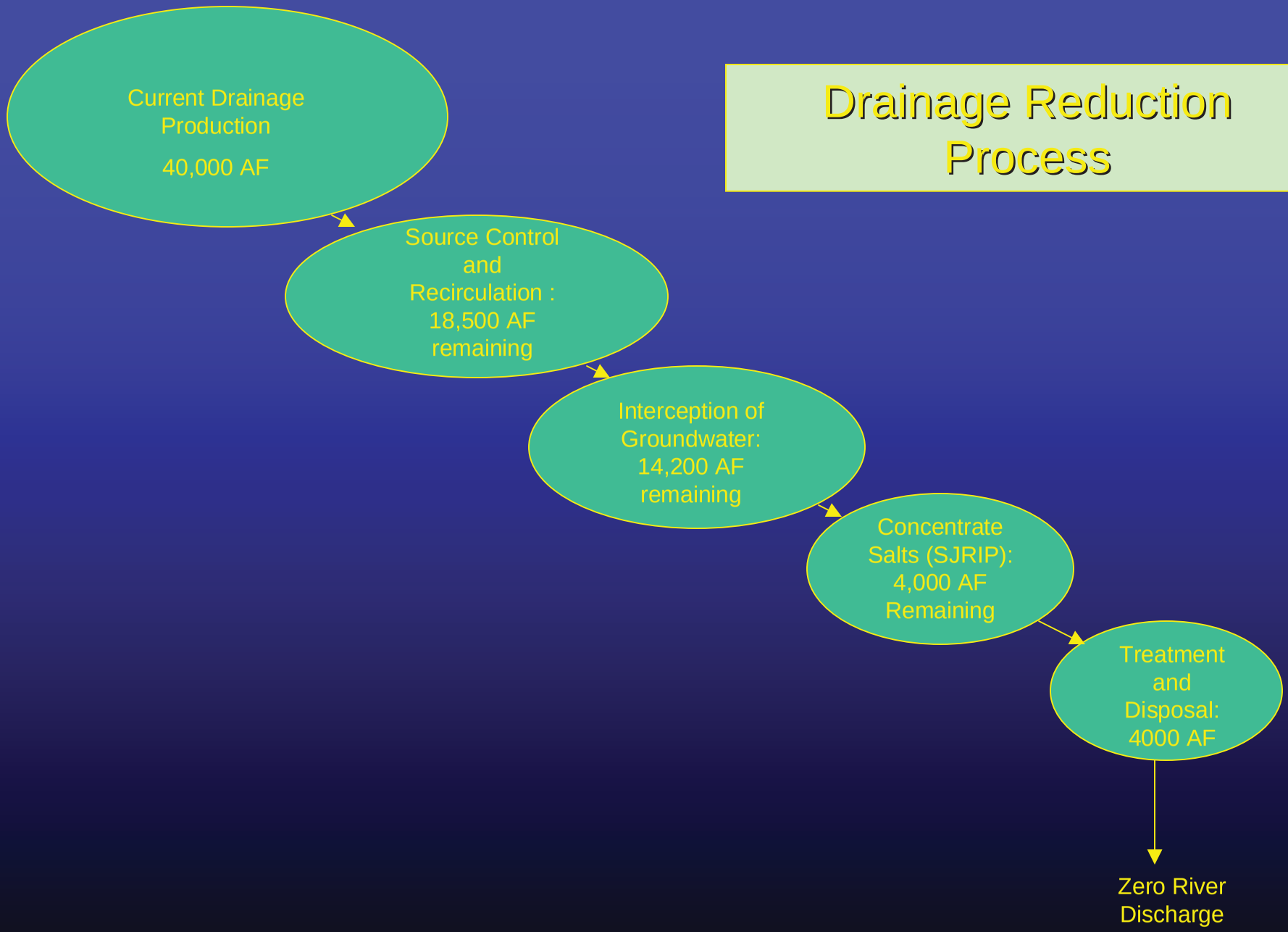


STATE OF CALIFORNIA

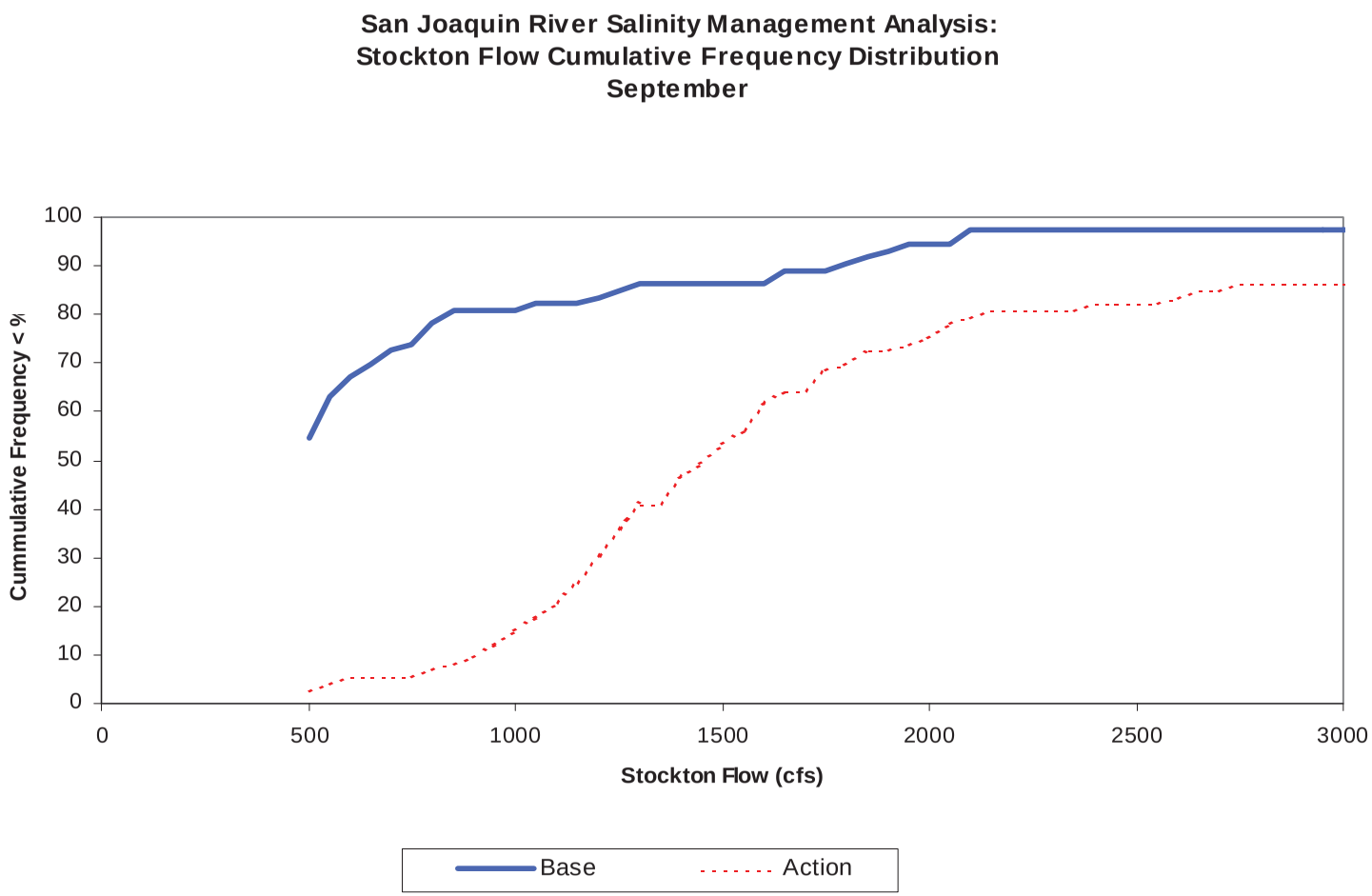
Grassland Drainage Area Location Map

SUMMERS ENGINEERING, INC.
Consulting Engineers
HANFORD CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 2003

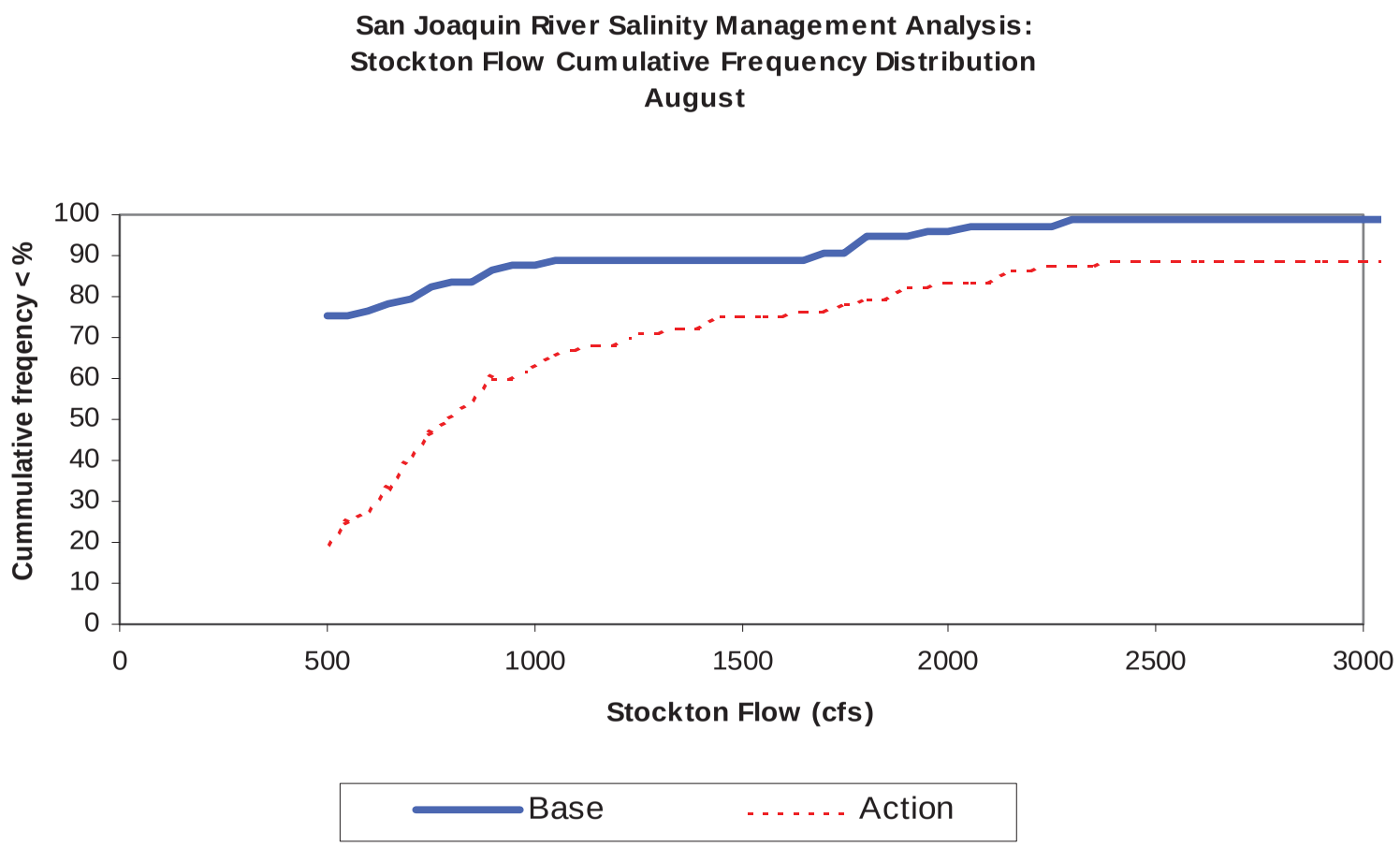
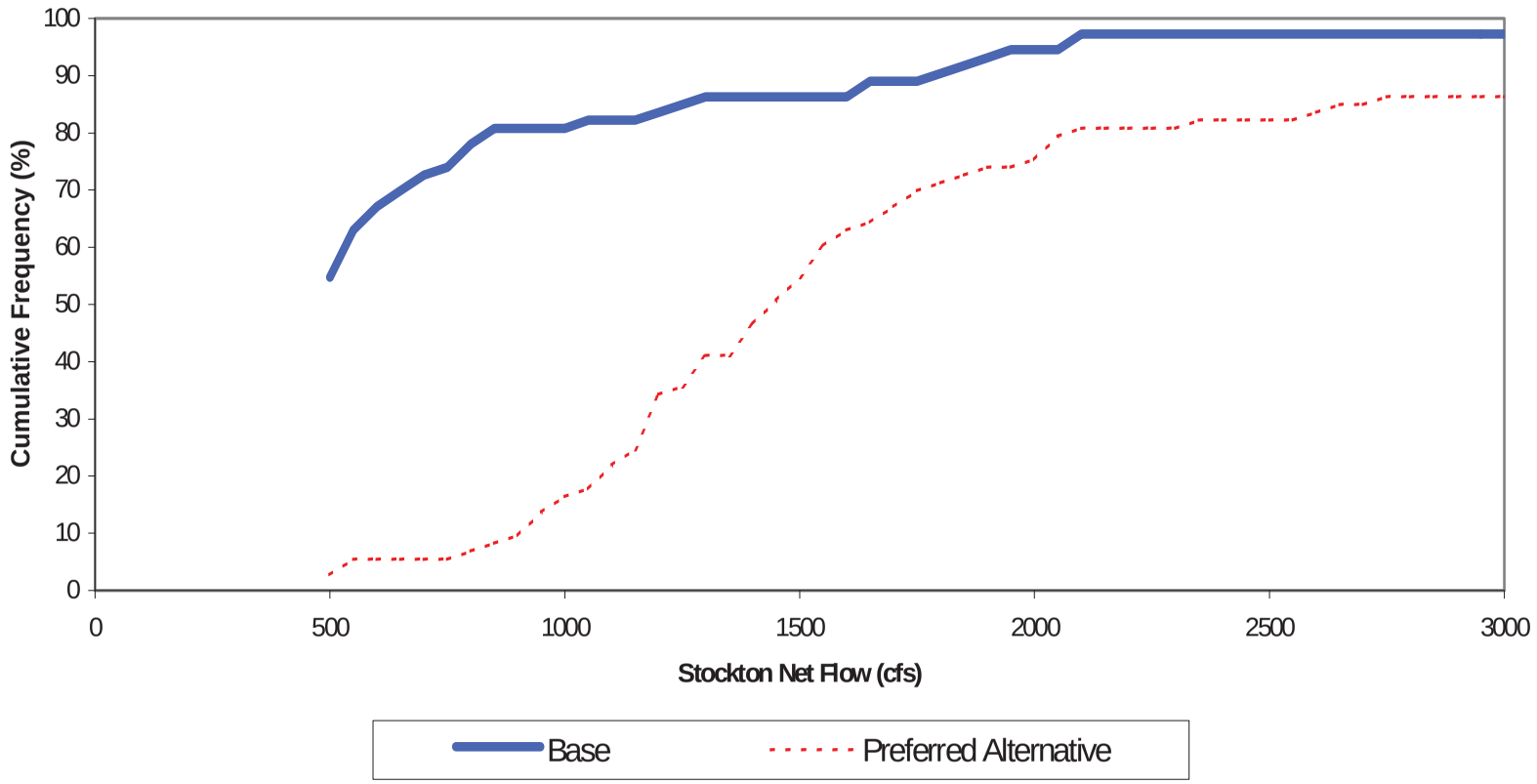
Drainage Reduction Process



Dissolved Oxygen Improvement from Recommendations – Frequency of Flow at Stockton September



Dissolved Oxygen Improvement from Recommendations – Frequency of Flow at Stockton - August



Dissolved Oxygen Improvement from Recommendations – Frequency of Flow at Stockton - September