



A Public Education Effort of South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts

# Oakdale Irrigation District

**Steve Knell, P.E.  
General Manager**

March 21, 2013



# Oakdale Irrigation District

- Formed in 1909
- Serves 62,000 acres of irrigated agriculture
- 600 rural domestic users
- Hydropower wholesaler
  - Donnells, Beardsley, Tulloch
- \$15 Million Budget
- 75 Employees (Now 68)
- Senior water right holder on the Stanislaus River





# What you missed in the SED for the Stanislaus Basin...

OID and SSJID hold pre-1914 adjudicated water rights to the first 1,816.6 cfs of flow in the Stanislaus River





# What you missed in the SED for the Stanislaus Basin...

OID an SSJID Irrigation District rights are separate and distinct to 1988 Agreement and Stipulation with the USBR.

OID and SSJID are not water contractors to the federal government.





# What you missed in the SED for the Stanislaus Basin...

SED failed to include any of the science and empirical data we have developed on the River over the last 20 years!





# What you missed in the SED for the Stanislaus Basin...

You fail to focus on solutions that don't cost water...



Habitat Creation  
in the Floodplain



# What you missed in the SED for the Stanislaus Basin...

Our science in our river shows that the real problem is not flow...

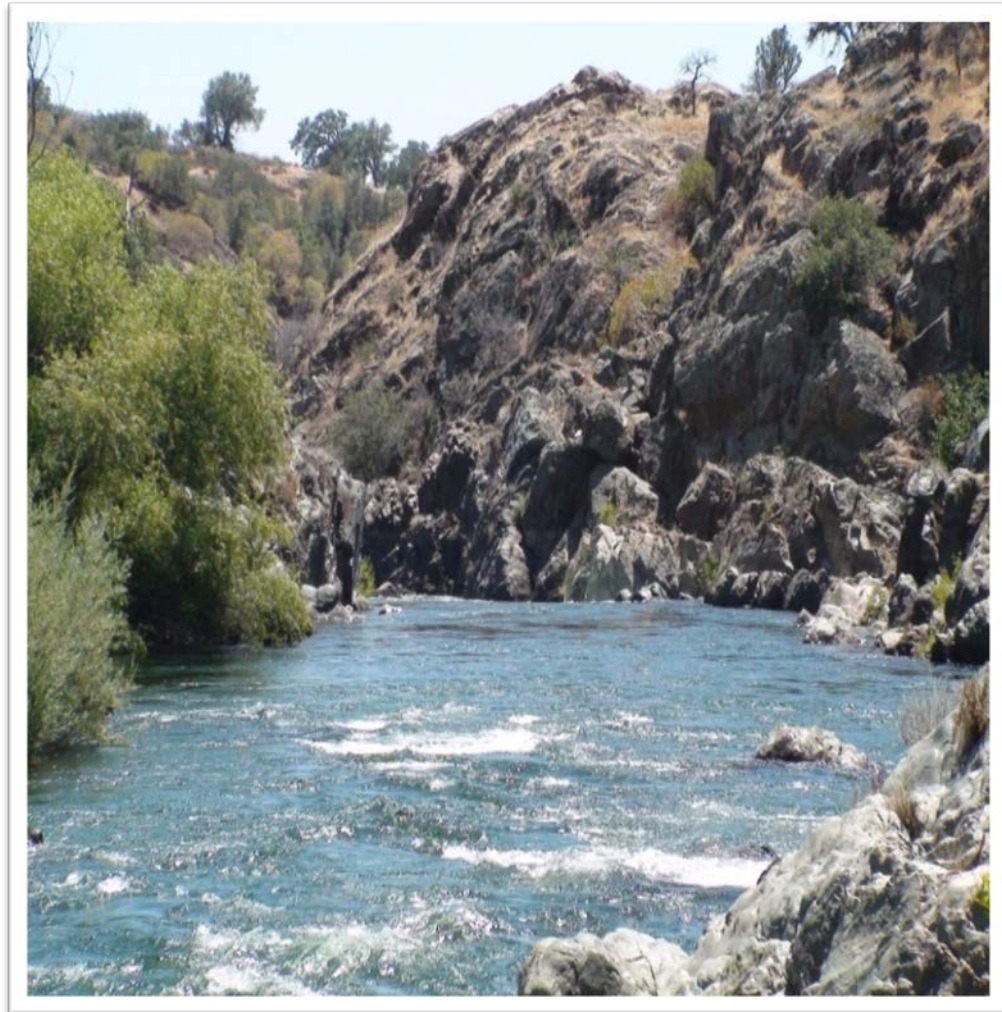


it's predation



# The Stanislaus River Saga

The NMFS BO puts the Stanislaus River at 35-40% of the unimpaired flow (UIF)

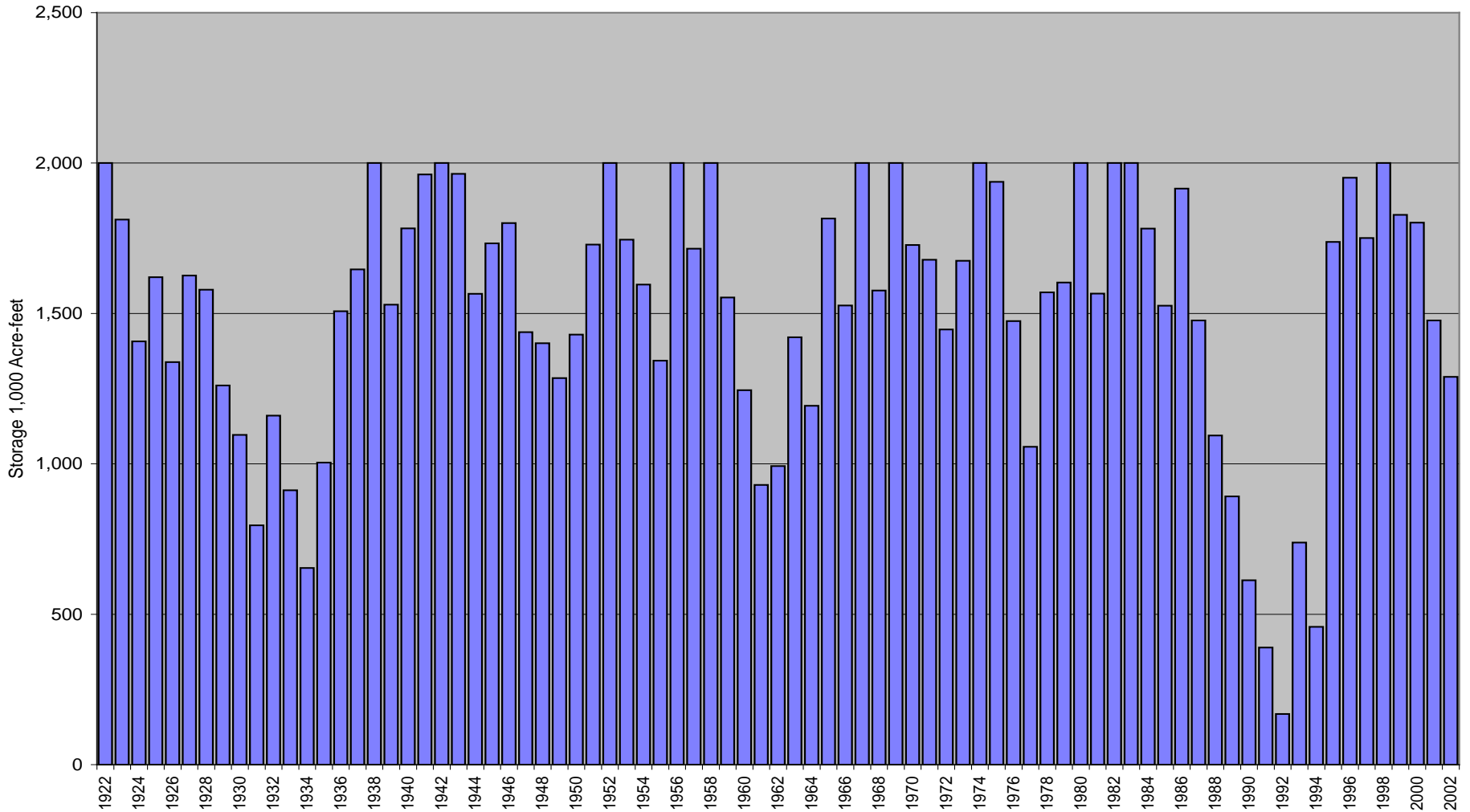






# NM Storage before the BO (35% UIF)

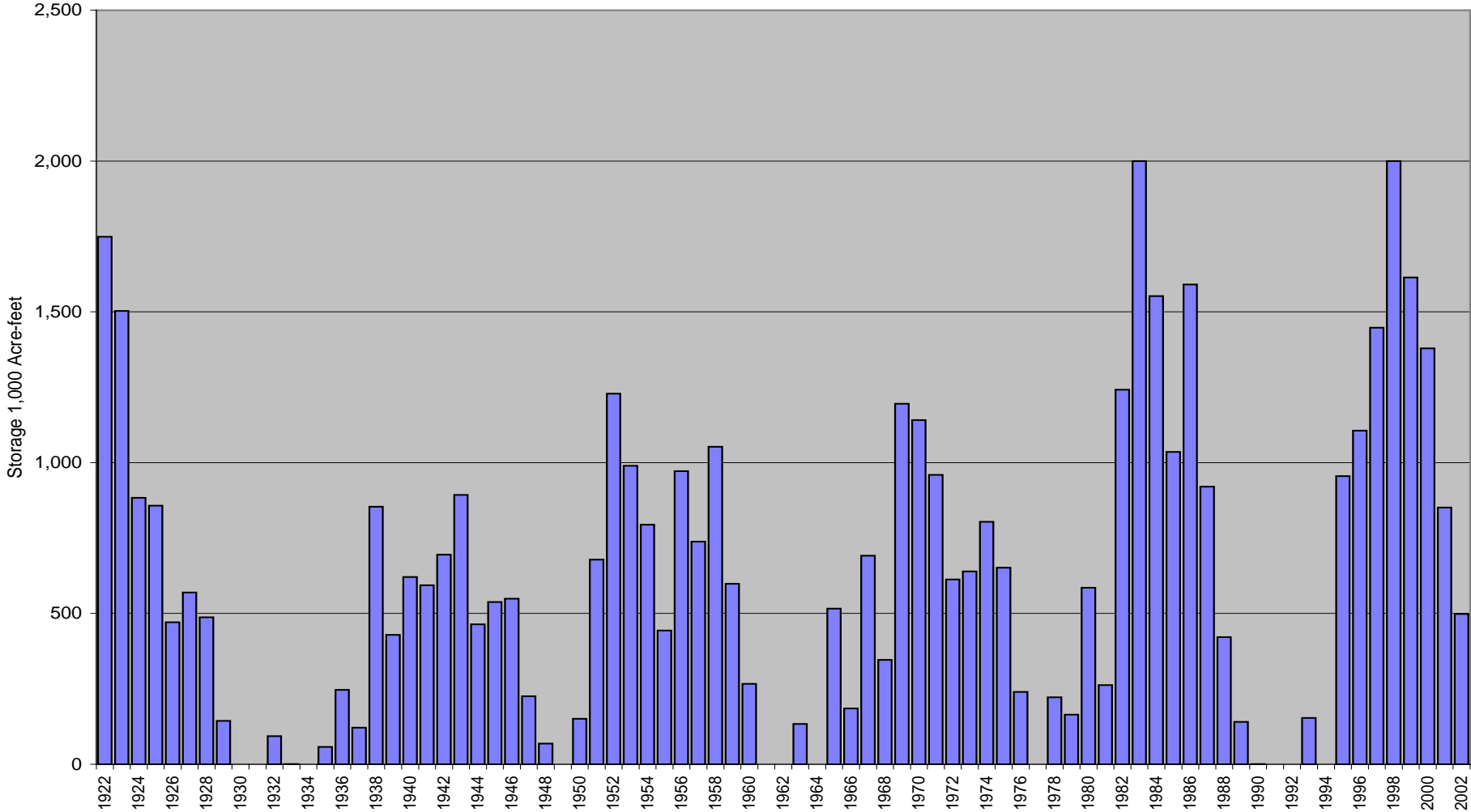
**New Melones Storage**  
**End of September Carryover - 1997 IPO**





# NM Storage after the BO (35% UIF)

### New Melones Storage End of September Carryover - BO RPAs





# Stanislaus Impacts Missing in SED

Stanislaus River impact analysis under the SED assumes NMFS BO is the baseline...hence no impacts.

Under CEQA that is true, but for those who will live under the 35% UIF standard, it's an analytical ruse that distorts reality.

The affects of the 35% UIF standard on the Stanislaus needs to be additive to the SED's impacts as well as the impacts from the SJRRP and BDCP to paint the true picture.



# Impacts of 35% on Fish

Under the NMFS RPAs New Melones will be empty  
18% of the time

Loss of cold water pool 45% of the time (below 500  
TAF of storage)

The recovery time between the loss of the cold water  
pool and re-establishment of the fisheries will take  
multiple years, likely ending cold water fishing  
below Sonora permanently

The loss of the cold water pool = loss of o. mykiss  
population below New Melones...killing the very  
fish the federal law was implemented to protect



# Impacts of 35% on Tourism

As goes New Melones...so goes Woodward and Tulloch. These lakes will return to an operations regime to meet irrigation needs, not recreation .

Tourists don't recreate on empty lakes. Our inns, motels, restaurants, antiques stores, museums will see huge declines in visitors.

The loss in sales tax revenue will be significant.

Recreational values are being sacrificed to meet unachievable goals.





# Impacts of 35% on Jobs

## Stanislaus County

\$2.3 billion in annual ag revenues. 1 of every 7 employed in ag

1.5% permanent job loss in Stanislaus County based on “average year” scenario

3.1% added job loss in dry and critically dry year

Job losses are to the lowest income working sectors in our County





# New Melones Operations Plan

2006 OID, SSJID and SEWD gave the Bureau an Operations Plan for New Melones that made it sustainable for fish, local ag and federal contractors. They have not provided a response to that Plan for 7 years.

We asked for similar consideration from State on developing sustainable programs to avoid an untenable SED document only to be ignored again.

Makes one wonder if it's really about the fish?



# SED Focus Misguided

Yesterday's Presentation from Wildlife Agencies:

SED Focus is **Water**, Habitat, Predation, Water Quality

## SED Focus

- Water =
- Habitat =
- Predation =
- Water Quality =

## SED Impacts

- Livelihoods and Futures
- \$
- \$
- \$





# What if You're Wrong?

The SED is an “all-in” **gamble** on the water card.  
At stake are our local economies and our futures.

