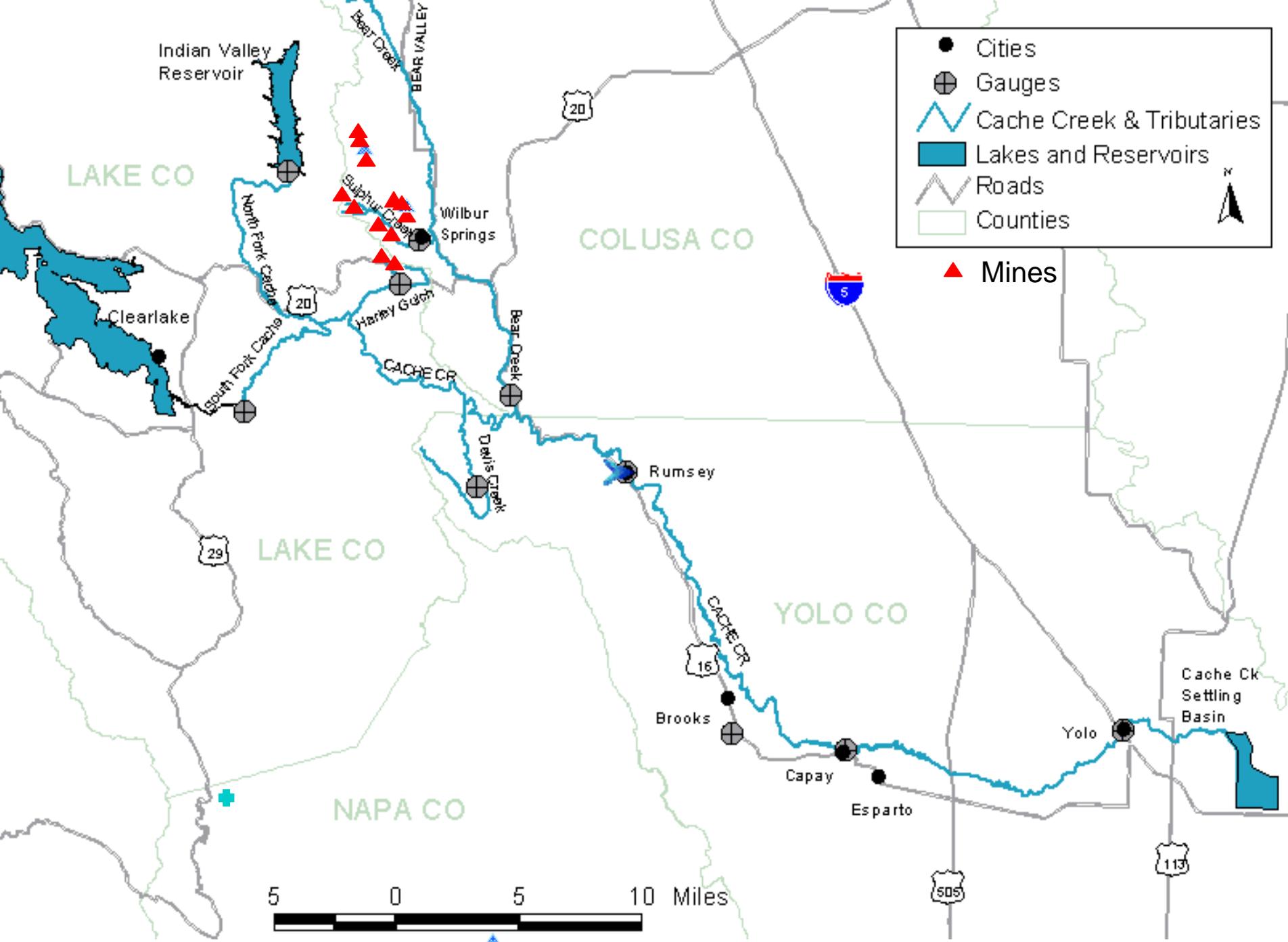


Amendment to the Central Valley Water Board Basin Plan

Agenda Item 12

Plan for Control of Mercury in Cache
Creek, Bear Creek, Sulphur Creek,
and Harley Gulch



Necessity

- 303(d) listing

- Mercury in water and sediment
- Methylmercury in fish tissue

- Impairing Beneficial Uses

- Municipal and domestic water supply
- Recreational fishing
- Wildlife habitat

Sources of Mercury

- Erosion from mines
- Remobilization of mine waste deposited in the floodplain
- Erosion of mercury-laden banks and soil
- Geothermal springs

What Does the Amendment Do?

- Completes 3 TMDLs
- Water Quality Objectives for methylmercury in fish tissue
- Load allocations for methylmercury
- Compliance – 5 years for mine cleanup
- Surveillance and monitoring

Total Maximum Daily Loads

- Cache Creek
- Bear Creek
- Harley Gulch

Water Quality Objectives

- Cache Creek, North Fork Cache Creek & Bear Creek
 - 0.12 mg methylmercury/kg for trophic level 3 fish (*bluegill, sucker, and trout*)
 - 0.23 mg methylmercury/kg for trophic level 4 fish (*bass, catfish*)
- Harley Gulch
 - 0.05 mg methylmercury/kg for small, trophic level 2 & 3 fish (*roach*)

Allocations

- The amendment establishes load allocations
 - methylmercury within Cache Creek and its tributaries
- Achievement of methylmercury loads measured by aqueous concentration goals
 - Cache Creek
 - Bear Creek
 - Harley Gulch

Actions

- Owners of inactive mines
 - Reduce total mercury load by 95%
 - » Cleanup & Abatement Orders in 2 years
 - » Cleanup completed by 2011
- Federal, State, and local agencies
 - Control erosion of mercury-contaminated soils and sediments
 - Control methylmercury discharges from new reservoirs, ponds, wetlands
 - » Complete assessments or management plans in 2 years

Comments to State Board



Questions?