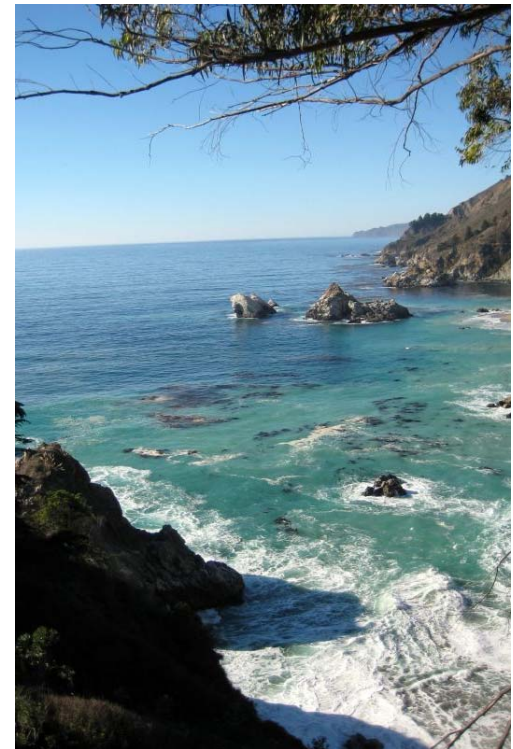


Central Coast Poor Water Quality Concentrated in Low-Income Communities of Color



Thank you to the USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity

WATER QUALITY, AGRICULTURE & PEOPLE



ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC ASSETS: COASTLINE

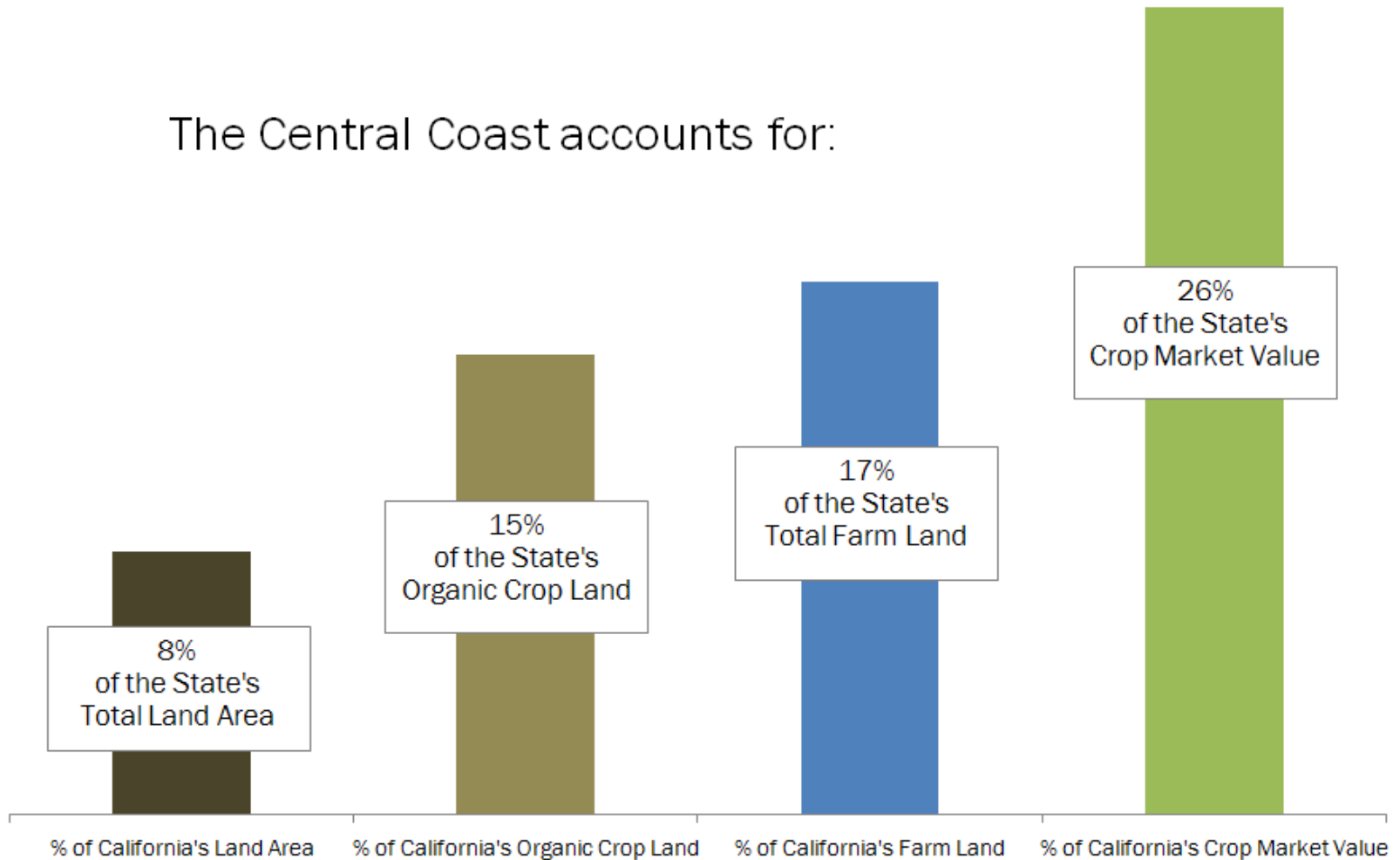
The Central Coast comprises over 300 miles of the California coastline and accounts for 27% of the total coastline of the State



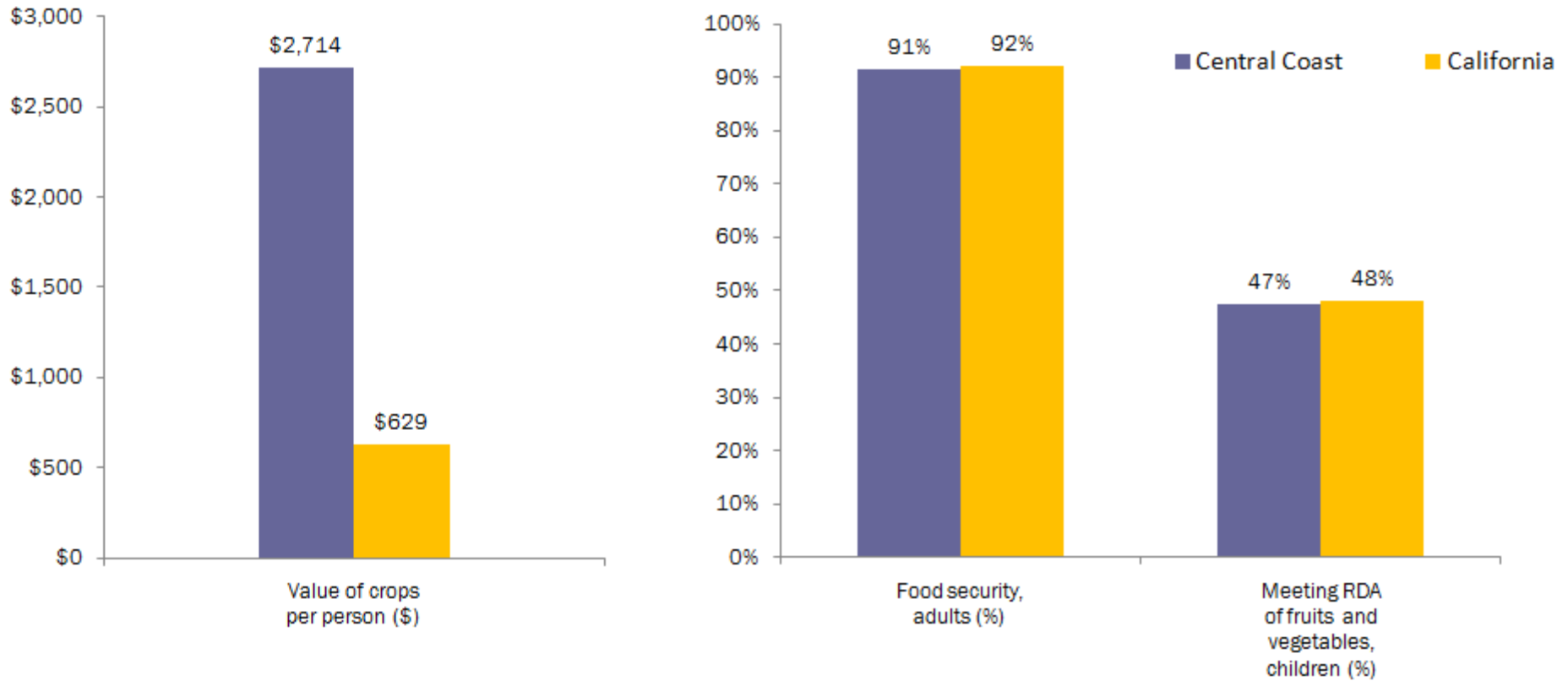
Tourist dollars generated are integral to support the local and state economies

ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC IMPACTS: AGRICULTURE

The Central Coast accounts for:



ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE, FOOD JUSTICE



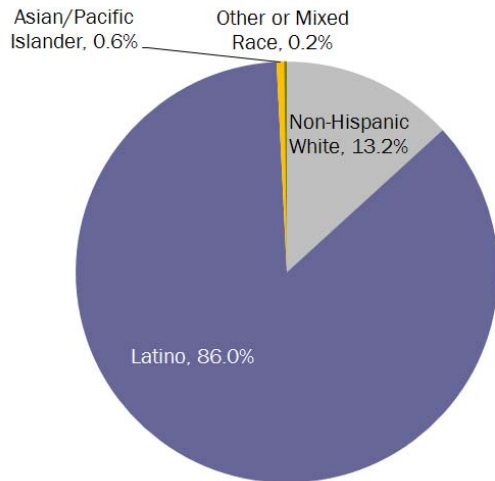
Data Sources: 2007 USDA Agricultural Census (Farmland); 2005-2007 CHIS Survey (Food security, Fruits/vegetables consumption); 2006-2008 ACS (Population data).

THE NEW ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

CALIFORNIA POUNDS OF PESTICIDES APPLIED BY COUNTY 2008

Demographic Composition of Workers in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting Industry in the Central Coast in 2008 (Age 25-64)



Central Coast Water Board Draft Order Attachment A

Recent impacts to public supply wells are greatest in portions of the Salinas Valley (up to 20 percent of wells impacted) and Santa Maria (approximately 17 percent) groundwater basins.

In the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin, 12.5% of the public supply wells are impacted...CDPH (California Department of Public Health) identified over half of the drinking water supply wells as vulnerable to discharges from agricultural-related activities.

In the northern Salinas Valley, 25 percent of 352 wells sampled had concentrations above the nitrate drinking water standard.

The Pajaro River watershed has the highest recent nitrate concentration – more than 14 times the drinking water standard

The costs of groundwater pollution and impacts to beneficial uses caused by irrigated agriculture are transferred to the public. Public drinking water systems expend millions of dollars in treatment and replacement costs

Excessive concentrations of nitrate or nitrite in drinking water are hazardous to human health, especially for infants and pregnant women

Central Coast Water Board Draft Order Attachment A

In many cases, whole communities that rely on groundwater for drinking water are threatened due to nitrate pollution, including the community of San Jerardo and other rural communities in the Salinas Valley

Agricultural waste discharges contribute to pollution of groundwater basins most vulnerable to waste migration, including major portions of the Santa Maria, Salinas and Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basins

Seventy percent of impaired waterbodies are in three major agricultural watersheds: Salinas, Pajaro River and Santa Maria River

According to February 1, 2010 Draft Order, compared to 5 years ago, nitrate concentrations in Salinas and Santa Maria “appear to be getting worse” (p.19). The February 1, 2010 Draft Order cited the following:

82% of the worst water quality sites are in the Salinas and Santa Maria areas.

ALL of the most toxic water sites are in the Santa Maria and Salinas areas.

All but three of the most toxic sediment sites are in the Santa Maria and Salinas areas.

Concentrated poverty

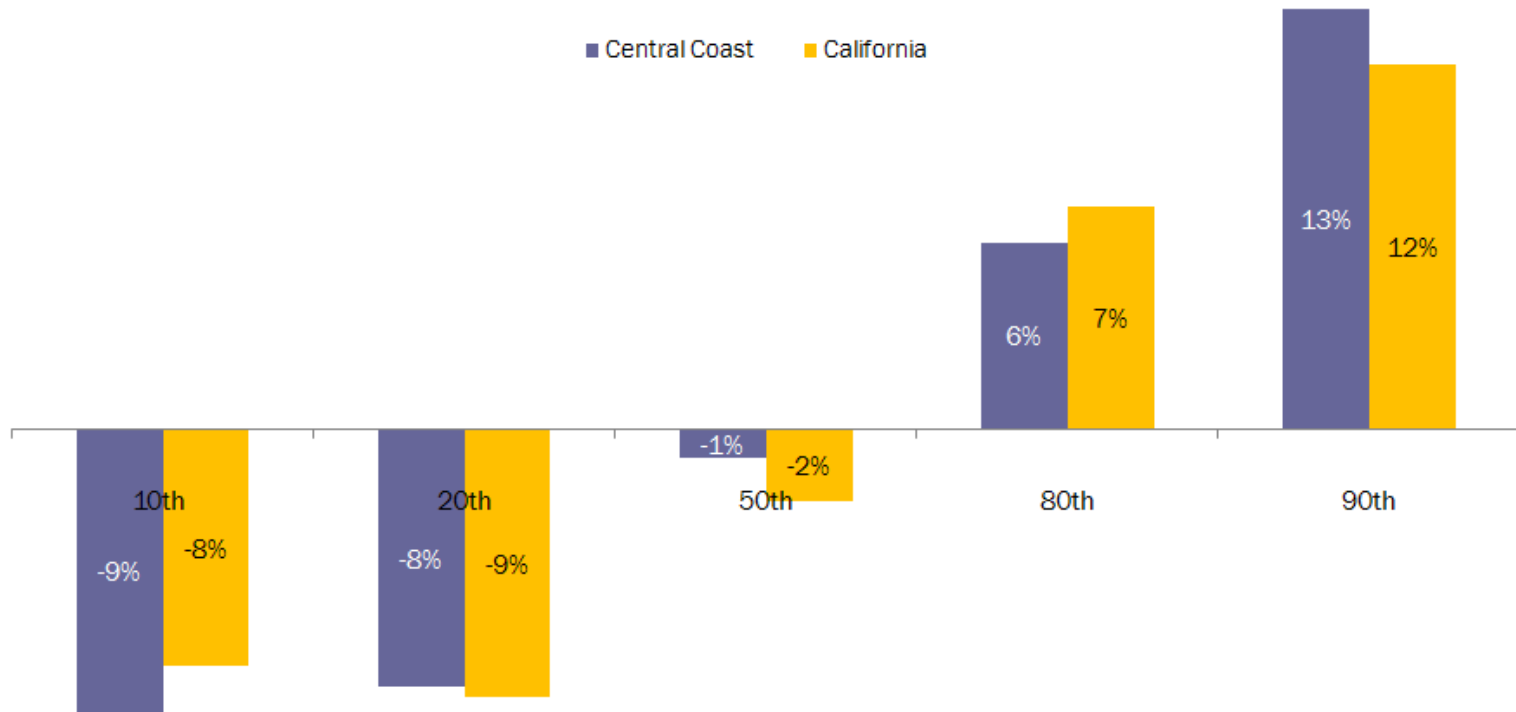
CENTRAL COAST MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY CENSUS TRACT 2009



THE ECONOMY

PROSPERITY, FOR SOME

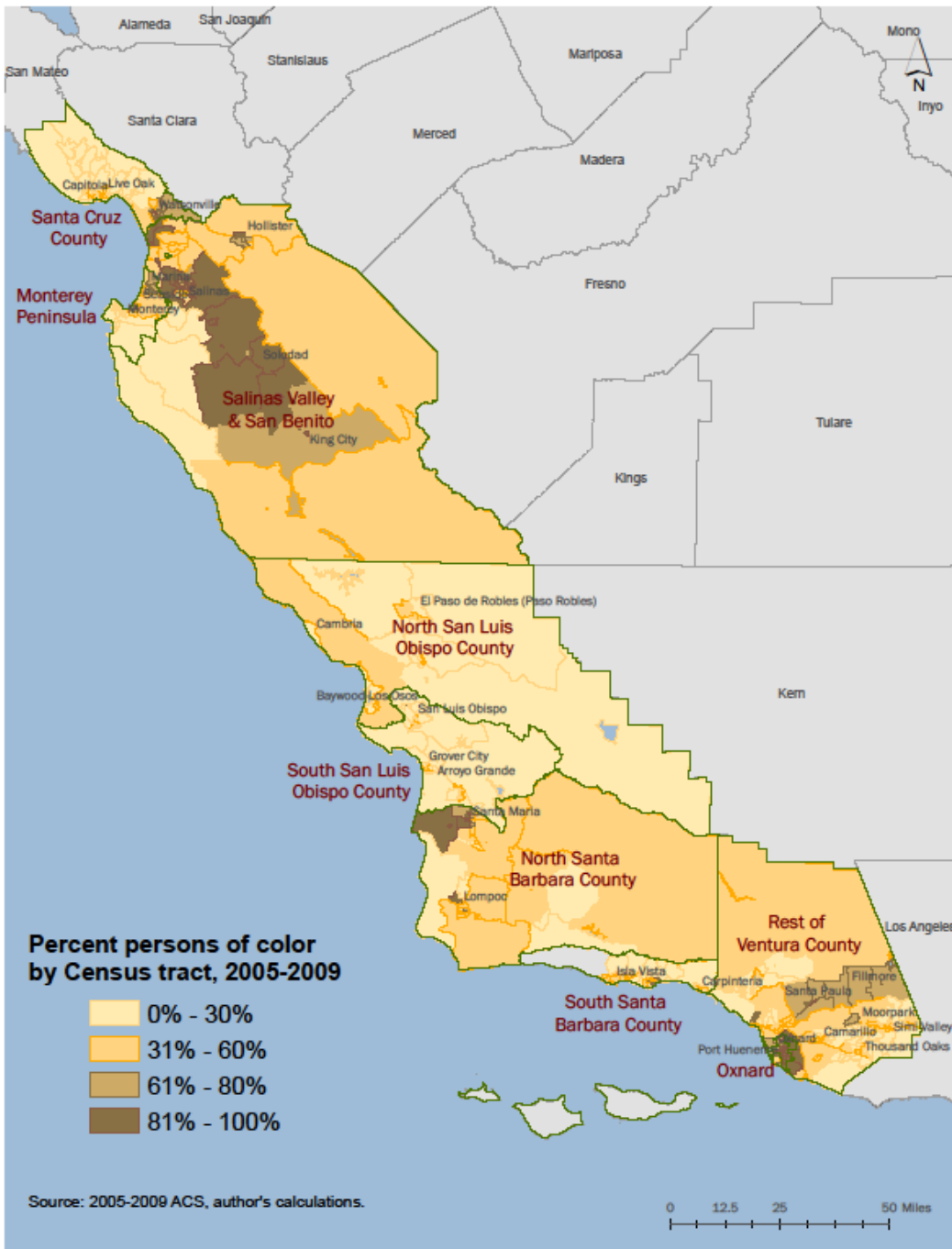
California and the Central Coast: Real Household Income Growth by Percentile
Percent Change in Real Household Income from 1989-2008



Household Income Percentile

Latino, Black, API & Native American

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Central Coast | 47.8% |
| Hollister | 69.2% |
| Salinas Valley | |
| - Chualar | 97.6% |
| - Gonzales | 91% |
| - Greenfield | 93.4% |
| - King City | 89.7% |
| - Salinas | 83% |
| - Soledad | 85.7% |
| Santa Maria | 76.7% |
| Watsonville | 85.1% |



Data Sources: US Census and ACS

Central Coast Concentrated Poverty in Agricultural Communities

| | Median Income |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Central Coast* | \$58,822 - \$66,495 |
| Hollister | \$59,754 |
| Salinas Valley | |
| - Chualar | \$41,818 |
| - Gonzales | \$50,000 |
| - Greenfield | \$50,349 |
| - King City | \$50,996 |
| - Salinas | \$51,615 |
| - Soledad | \$57,132 |
| Santa Maria | \$47,653 |
| Watsonville | \$47,598 |

Counties of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo & Santa Barbara
Data Sources: US Census and ACS

Support for Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands as a matter of environmental justice for the people of the central coast most impacted by toxic and polluted waters

One Recommendation

Addition of a Tier “S” for sustainable agricultural operations not adequately addressed by Tier 1