



**Salinas River Watershed
Stream Maintenance Program Update**
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General Manager MCWRA

**Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
September 24, 2015**

Agenda

- **Memorandum of Understanding**
- **Project Background**
- **Project Update:**
 - Phase 1:**
 - Project Timeline/Status
 - 5-Year Permit Requirement
 - Work Plan: Years 1 & 2
 - Phase 2:**
 - Project Timeline
 - 2D Model
 - Technical & Design Committee
 - Funding Sources
- **Defining Success**





Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- **June 3, 2015**

- **Parties:**



- **Collaboratively manage the Salinas River**

- Reduce flood risk
- Enhance groundwater recharge
- Improve water quality
- Provide efficient use of surface water
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Mitigate food safety risk





MOU Responsibilities



Provide Coordination & Oversight

- Overall administration
- Lead for Program eligibility & authorization
- Permits (401 & 404) & Reports



Grower Engagement

- Explore and confirm participation
- RMU boundary proposals & operating principals



Biological Monitoring

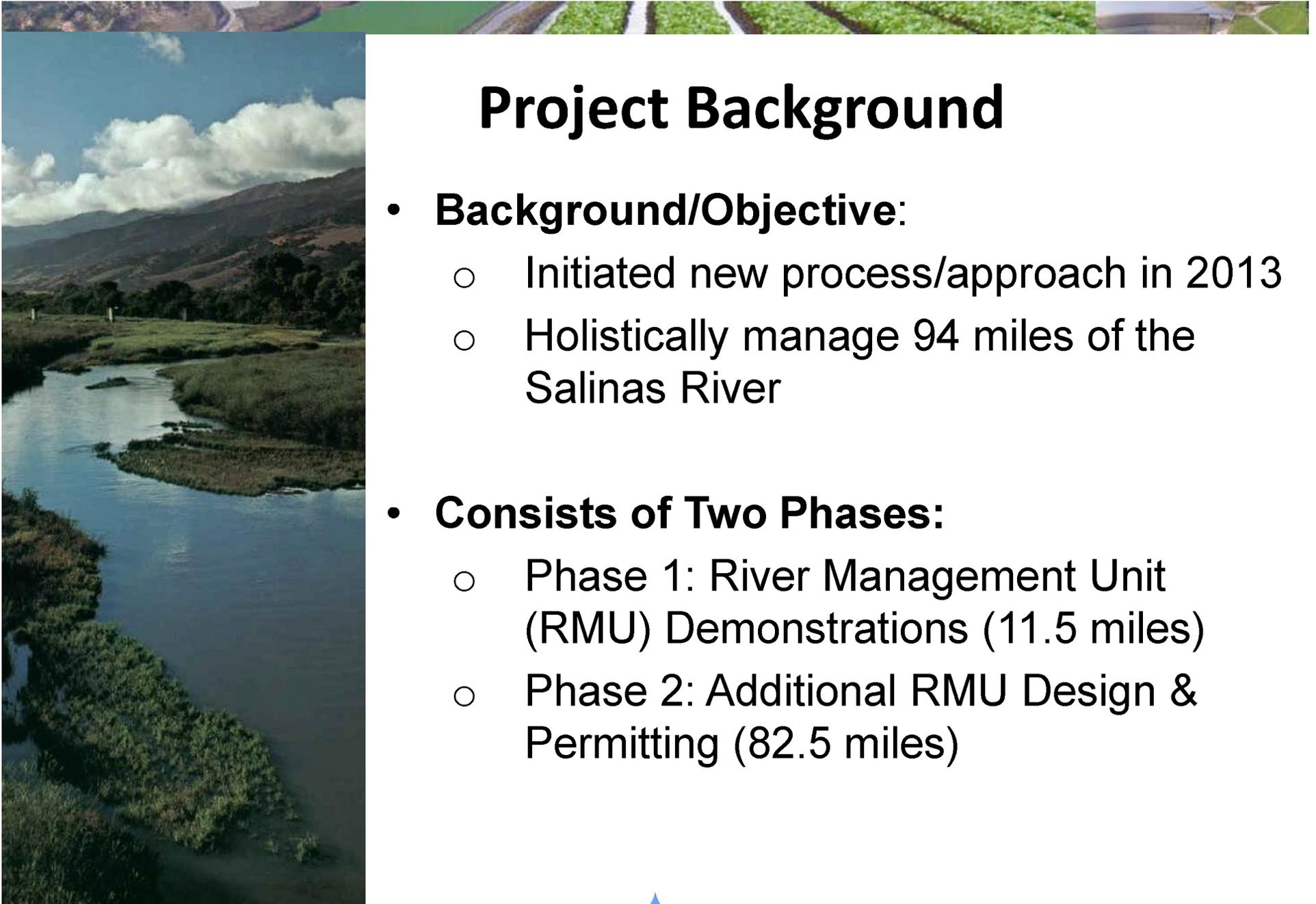
- Required by Permits & Maintenance Surveys



Technical & Design Support

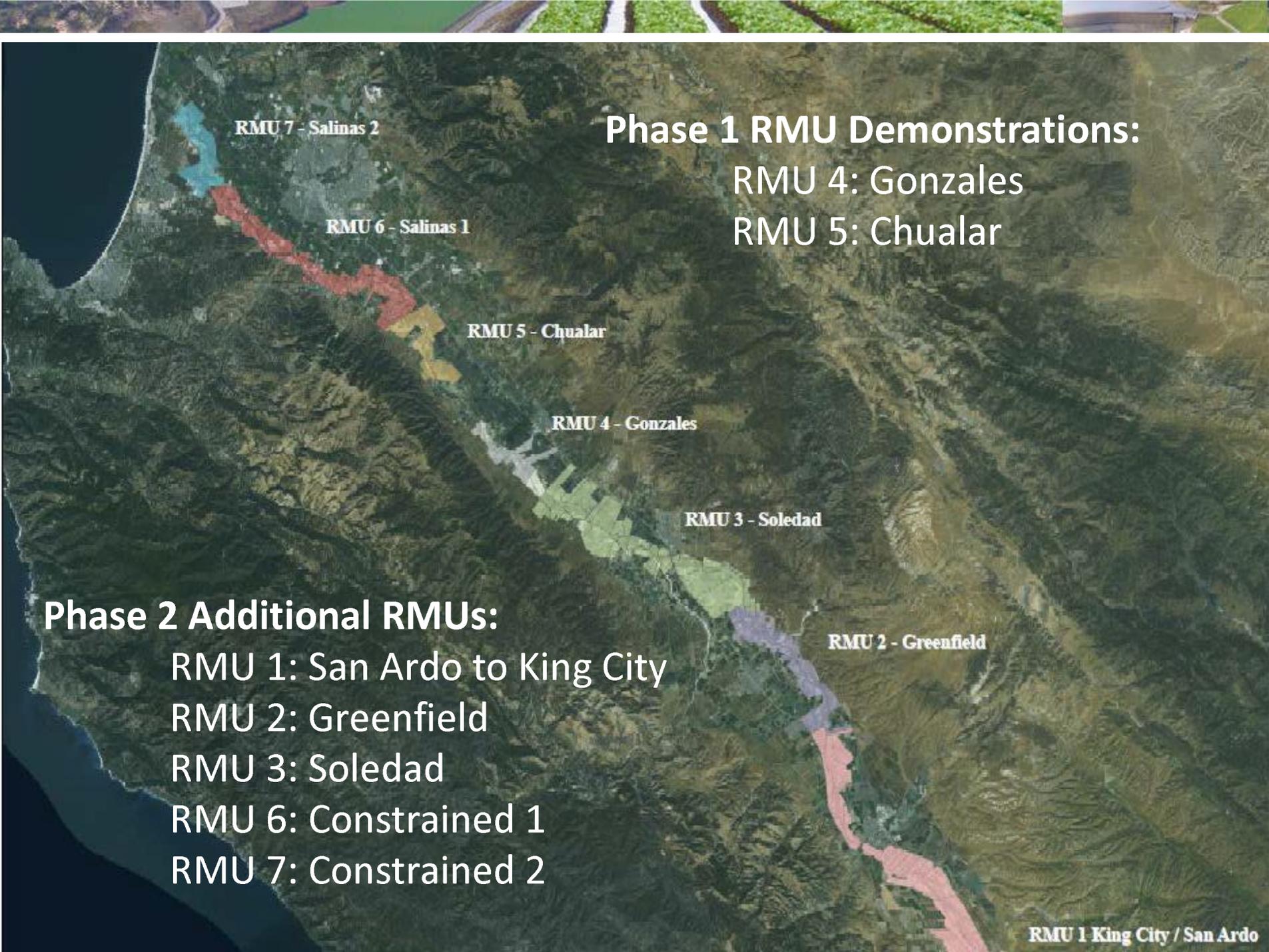
- Conduct biological surveys
- Assess hydrological & biological baseline conditions





Project Background

- **Background/Objective:**
 - Initiated new process/approach in 2013
 - Holistically manage 94 miles of the Salinas River
- **Consists of Two Phases:**
 - Phase 1: River Management Unit (RMU) Demonstrations (11.5 miles)
 - Phase 2: Additional RMU Design & Permitting (82.5 miles)



Phase 1 RMU Demonstrations:

- RMU 4: Gonzales
- RMU 5: Chualar

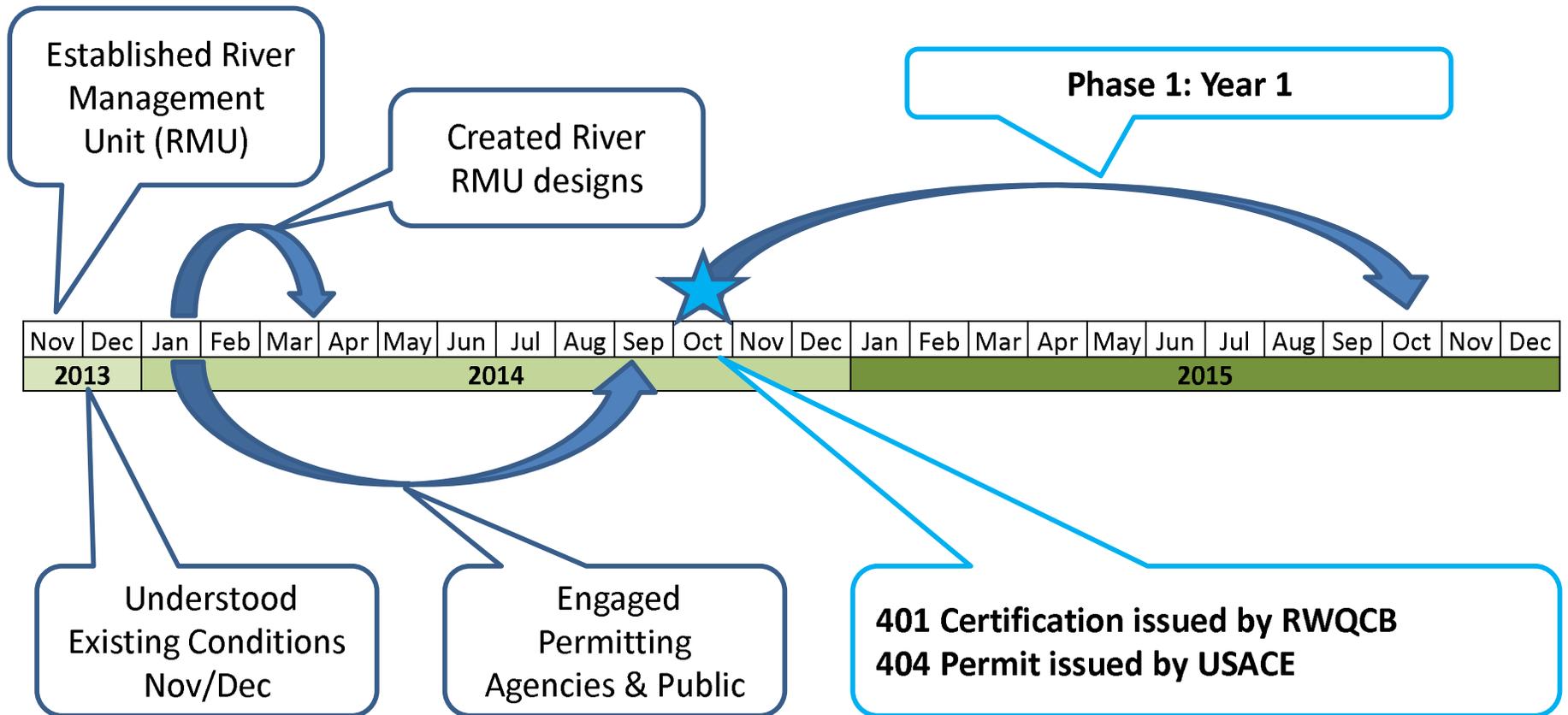
Phase 2 Additional RMUs:

- RMU 1: San Ardo to King City
- RMU 2: Greenfield
- RMU 3: Soledad
- RMU 6: Constrained 1
- RMU 7: Constrained 2

RMU 1 King City / San Ardo



Phase 1: Project Timeline/Status





Phase 1: 5-Year 401 Certification Requirements

- Annual Work Plan
- Annual Training
- Pre-Construction Staking
- Pre-Construction Biological Surveys
- Pre-Maintenance Staking
- Pre-Maintenance Biological Surveys
- Compensatory Mitigation for Impacts
- Daily Inspecting, by MCWRA staff
- Annual Reporting





Phase 1 Work Plan: Year 1

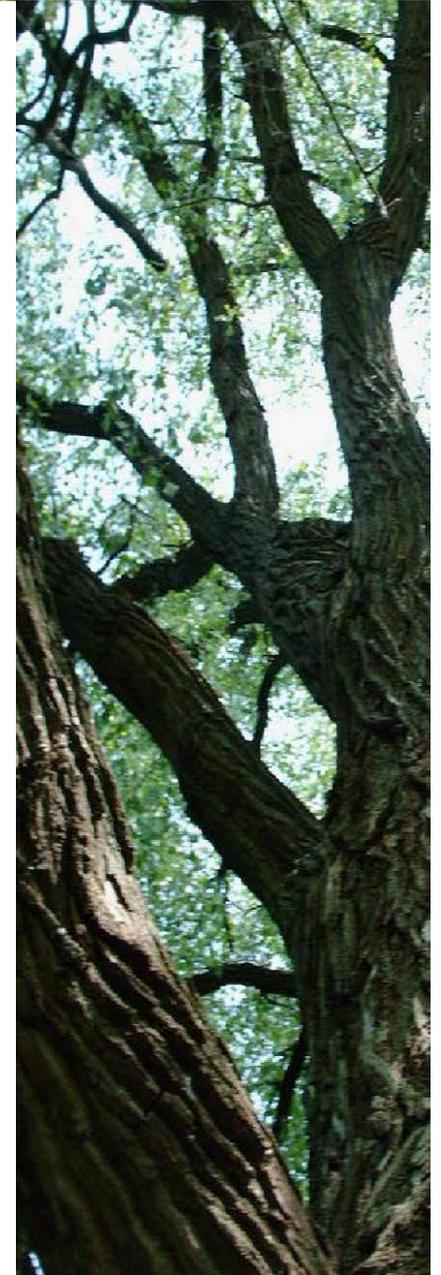
- Constructed 19 secondary channels
- Removed 53.1 acres of invasive Arundo

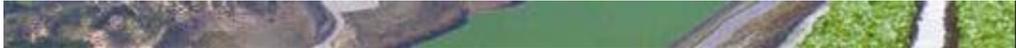




Phase 1 Work Plan: Year 2

- Construct 4 secondary channels
- Remove 12.2 acres of Arundo
- Remove 15,000 CY of Sediment
- Plant 45 cottonwood, alder or sycamore trees
- Re-Treat 13 secondary channels
- Re-Treat 61.8 acres of Arundo re-growth



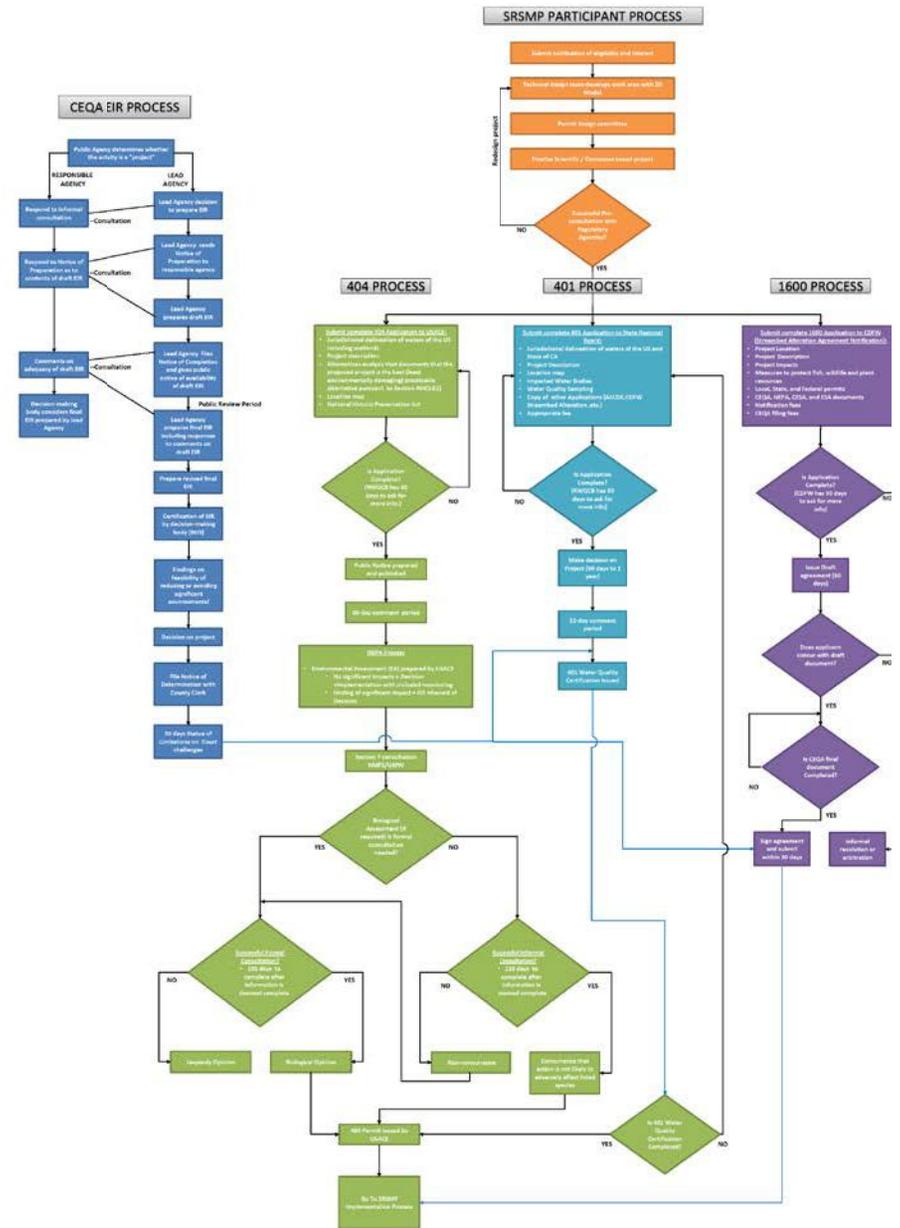


Permitting Process

- CEQA EIR
- 404
- 401
- 1600

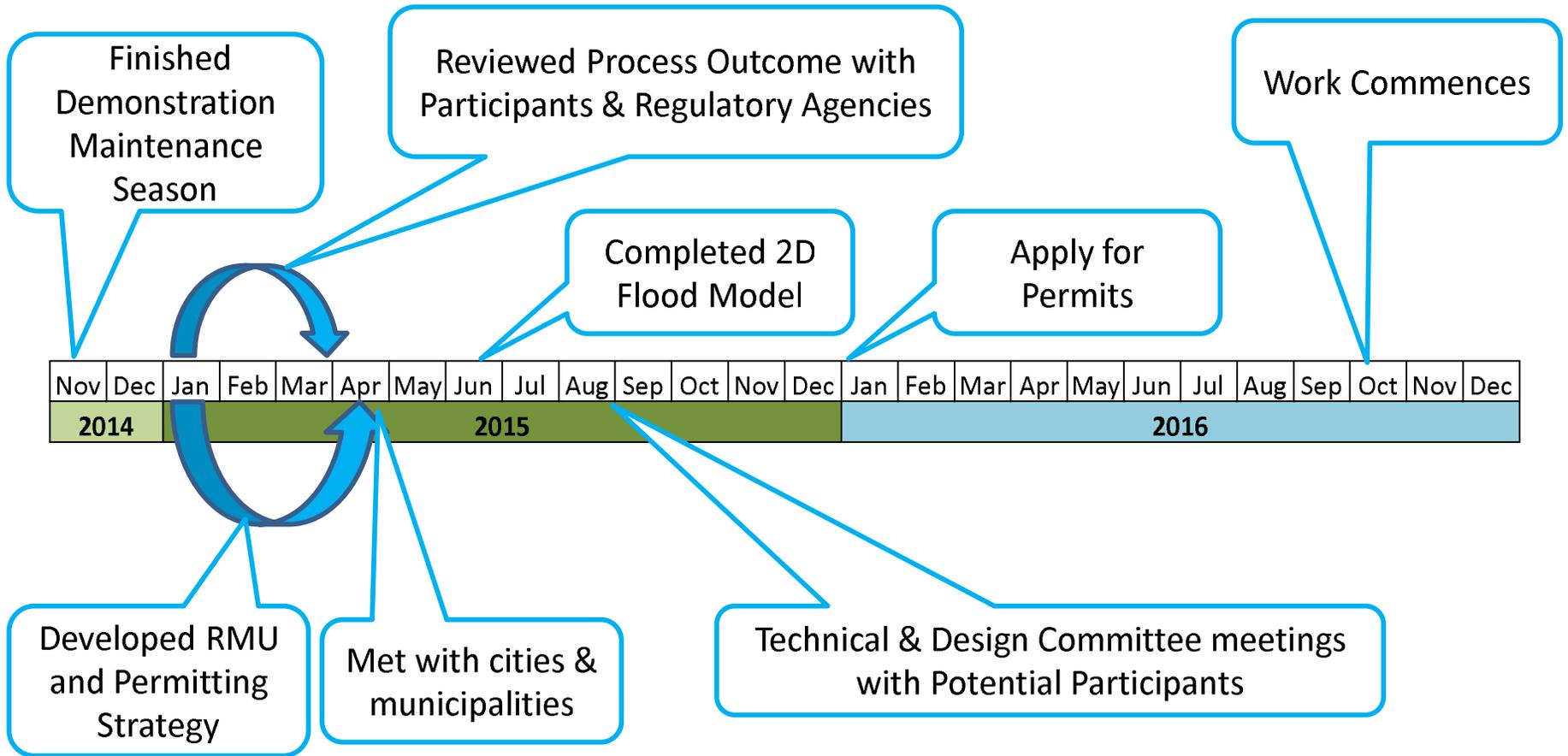


SALINAS RIVER STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (SRSMP) PERMITTING PROCESS





Phase 2: Project Timeline





2D Flood Model

- New model developed by US Army Corps of Engineers – beta versions tested by consultant
- Represents Salinas Valley 3D surface, with varying “roughness” based on vegetation
- Simulates flow of water through the valley
- Incorporates water surface, depth averaged velocity, and other parameters

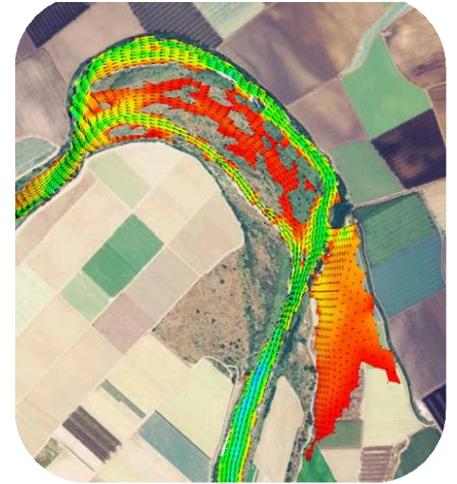
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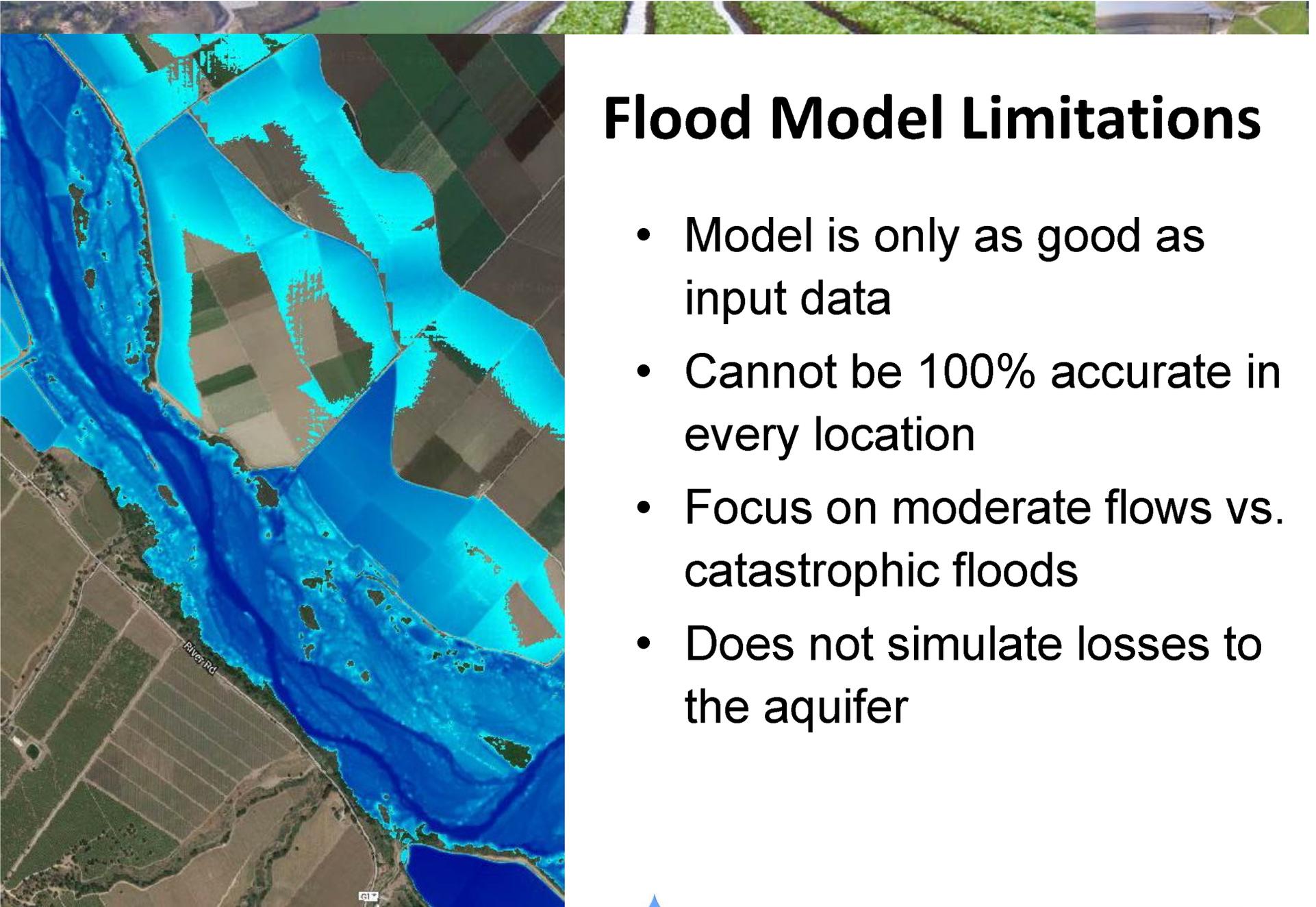
2D Model results indicate the Stream Maintenance Program efforts provide for flood reduction for less than 10-Year flood events.



Modeling the Salinas River

- Salinas River often overflows its banks
- Salinas River has non-continuous levees
- Flooding can occur as backwater flowing upstream onto farmland
- Channel often has multiple flow paths





Flood Model Limitations

- Model is only as good as input data
- Cannot be 100% accurate in every location
- Focus on moderate flows vs. catastrophic floods
- Does not simulate losses to the aquifer





Technical & Design Committee

Total of 3 meetings per RMU:

- Refine flood model and site specific data
- Finalize river management unit boundaries
- Identify the following:
 - Flood risk reduction objectives
 - Probable costs and benefits
 - Habitat conditions to be retained
 - Arundo removal objectives
- Conduct modeling for identified maintenance activities and resulting flood conveyance goal





Phase 2 Example Funding Sources

Source	\$\$\$	Task
The Nature Conservatory	\$ 85,000	Flood Model
Coastal Conservatory IWRP Funding	\$ 65,000	Flood Model
Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready Grant	\$ 276,000	Baseline surveys, reports, permits, coordination
MCWRA	FY 15/16	Staff Support

Note:

Completion of Phase 2 permits will require alternative sources or another fiscal year to be fully funded.

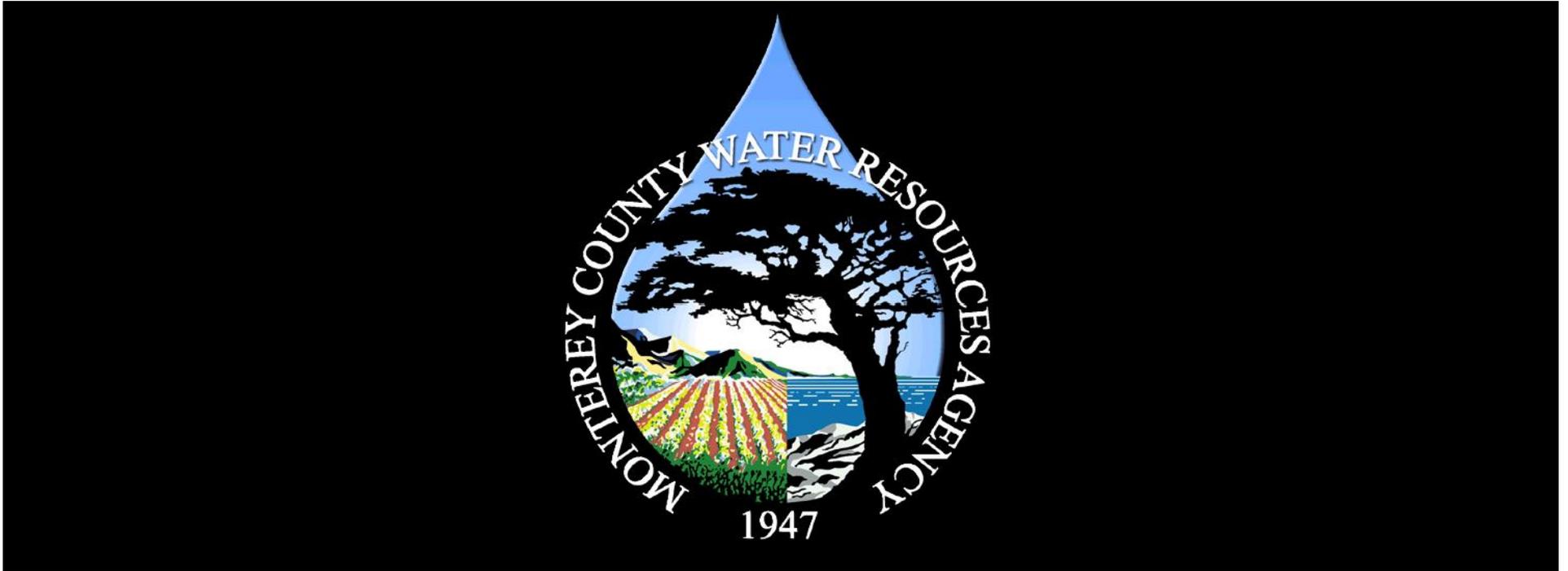




Defining Success

**In summary,
we continue to collaboratively
work together on shared interests
to protect and restore
multiple benefits of a healthy and
productive Salinas River system**







Flood Model Inputs: Flow (CFS)

Location	50% Flow Event	Similar to 2011 Flow Event	20% Flow Event	10% Flow Event
Selected Flow at Bradley	3740	12490	18550	22000
Addition at San Lorenzo	0	0	0	5000
Resulting Flow at Soledad	3740	12490	18550	27000
Addition at Arroyo Seco	0	0	6900	15800
Resulting Flow At Chualar	3740	12490	25450	42800

Dec 1983	Mar 2001	Jan 1997	Feb 1998
Feb 2000	Apr 2006	Feb 1993	
Jan 2010	Mar 2011		

