

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



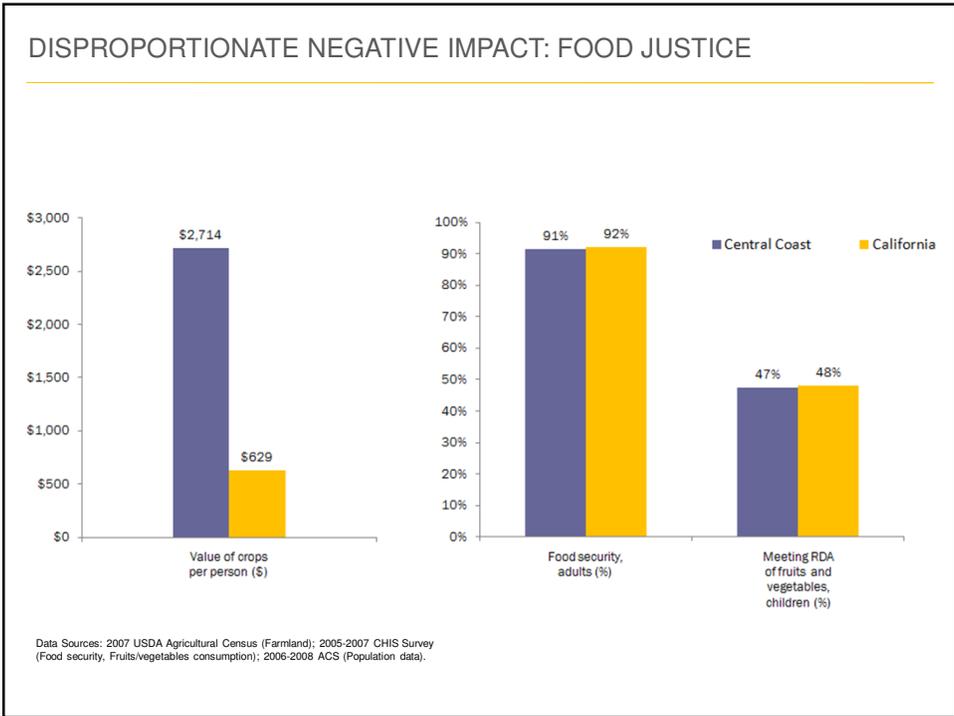
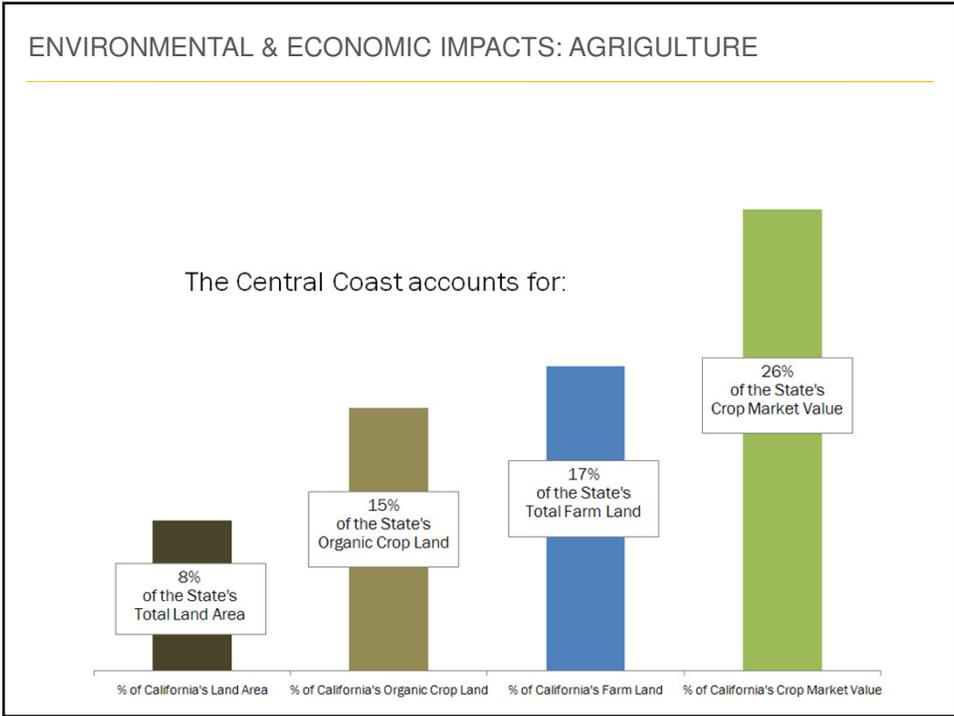
Thank you to the USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity

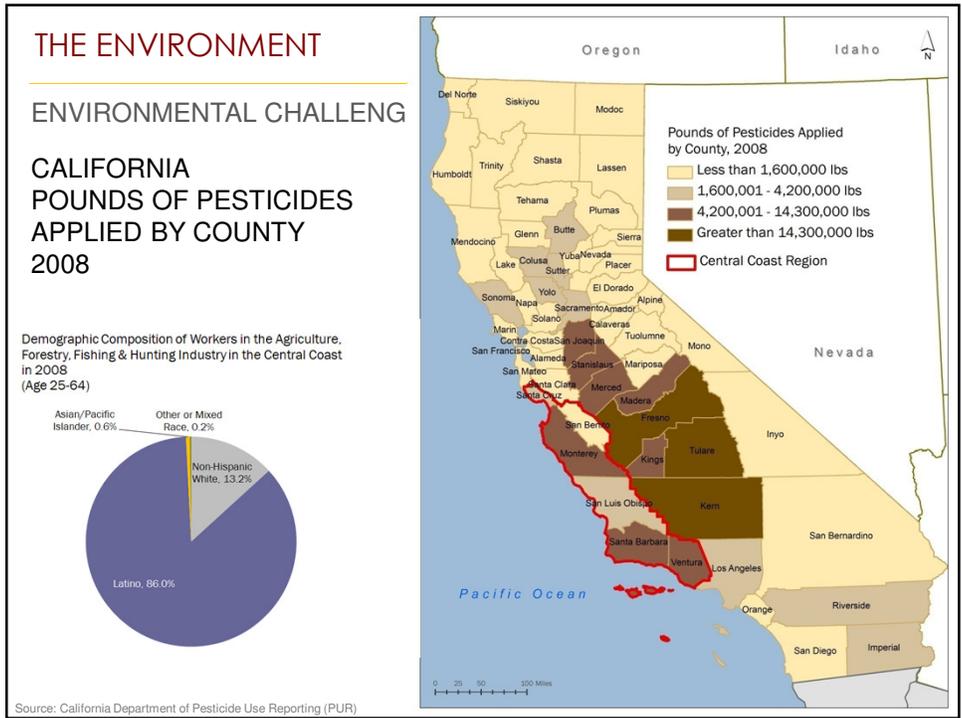
CA Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Protecting WATER QUALITY&... PEOPLE



Image sources: Fairview Gardens [via flickr], Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (http://www.mixteco.org/Mixtecs_in_Ventura_County.html), & Jennifer Tran





CA Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

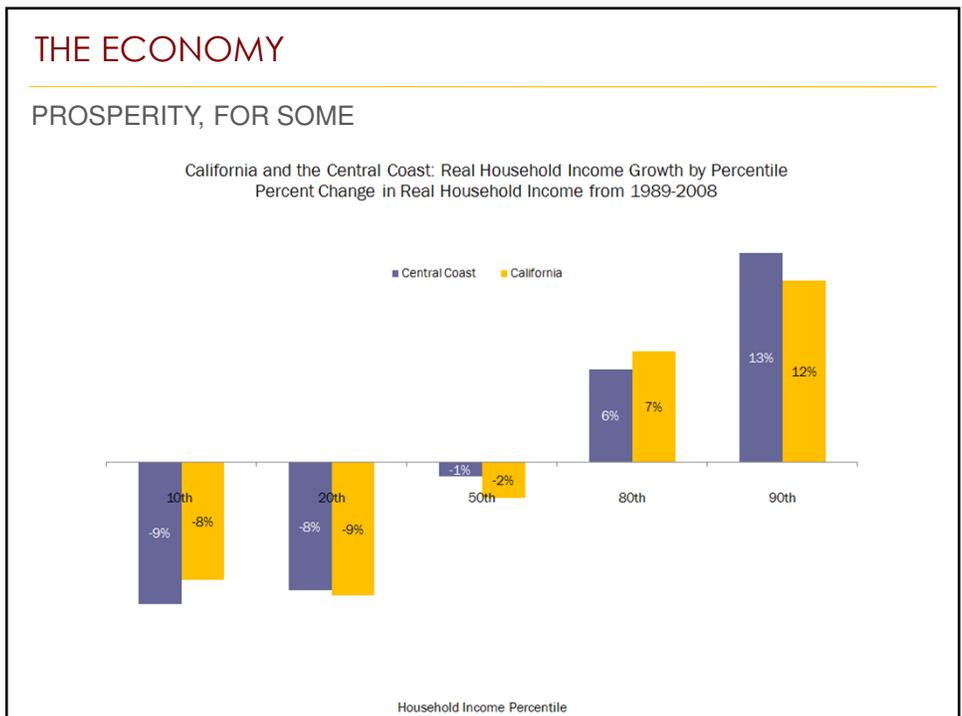
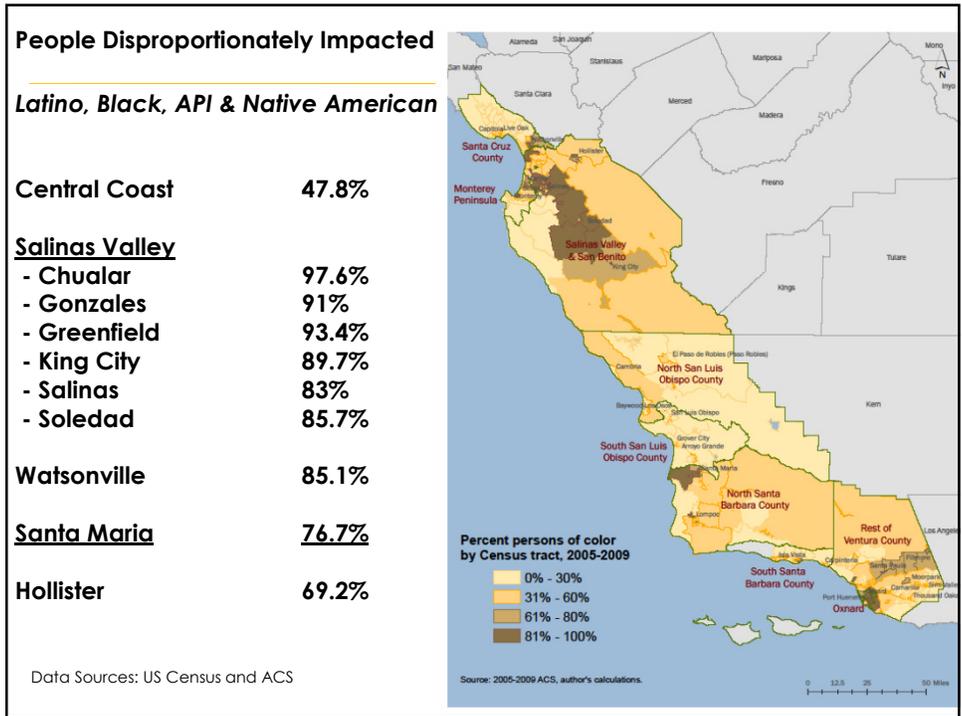
TOXIC DRINKING WATER for SALINAS VALLEY and SANTA MARIA

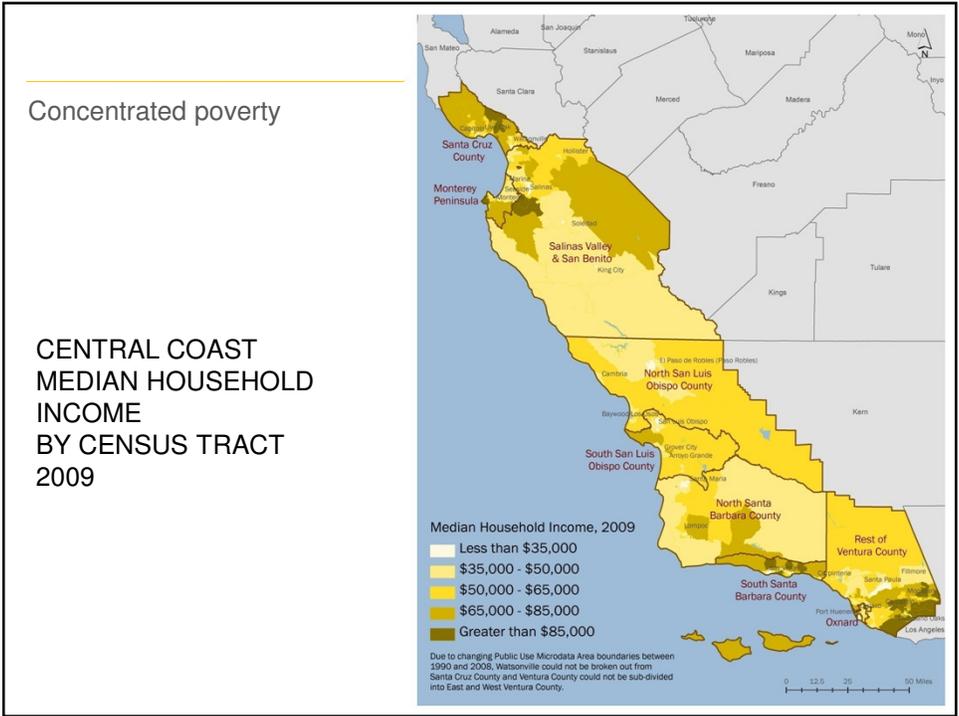
From the Water Quality Conditions in the Central Coast Region Related to Agricultural Discharges^[1] to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board dated February 1, 2010:

- I. **82% of the worst water quality sites are in the Salinas and Santa Maria areas.**^[2]
- II. **ALL of the most toxic water sites are in the Santa Maria and Salinas areas.**^[3]
- III. **All but three of the most toxic sediment sites are in the Santa Maria and Salinas areas.**^[4]
- IV. Of the "impaired water body listings" ^[5]
 - 17% are in the Salinas area, including 11 different pollutants
 - 12% are in the Santa Maria area, including 15 different pollutants
 - 68% of the polluted drinking water bodies are in Salinas, Santa Maria and Pajaro River areas** ^[6]
- V. Compared to 5 years ago, nitrate concentrations in Salinas and Santa Maria "appear to be getting worse." ^[7] ...i.e. not better

Nitrates have been associated with increased risk of cancer. Pregnant women and infants are particularly vulnerable.

^[1] Preliminary Draft Report Staff Recommendations for Agricultural Order Resolution No. R3-2010-00XX, Attachment 1
^[2] Ibid. pg. 5, ^[3] Ibid. p. 6 and p. 9, ^[4] Ibid. p.10, ^[5] Ibid. p. 6, ^[6] Ibid. p. 6, ^[7] Ibid. p. 19





Central Coast Concentrated Poverty in Agricultural Communities

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

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

CA Central Coast Regional Water Quality Ctrl Board Recommendations

1. Do not further delay, an already delayed decision
2. Adopt a *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands (Ag Waiver)* that addresses environmental justice for the low-wage working families and communities of color disproportionately negatively impacted by toxic and polluted waters:

Environmental justice is equal and fair access to a healthy environment including equal enforcement of environmental regulations, protection from environmental hazards and elimination of inequitable environmental burdens for communities of color and low income communities
(derived from U.S. Executive Order 12898 and Cal/ EPA)

Clear standards and timelines for compliance for the elimination of pollutant discharge and runoff; particularly for the most polluted waters in Santa Maria and the Salinas Valley

THANK YOU for protecting....

WATER QUALITY &... PEOPLE

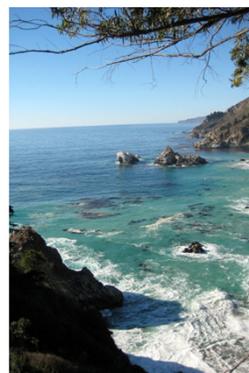


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