



San Diego Creek Causal Assessment

Comparator Sites

April 21, 2015

Comparator Sites

- Used to contrast biotic and abiotic conditions at the test site
 - Provide insight to the causes of condition at the test site
- Not reference sites
 - Though 1 or 2 reference sites may be useful
- Sites with similar ecological settings and biology in the absence of human modifications
 - Ideally comprising a gradient of condition

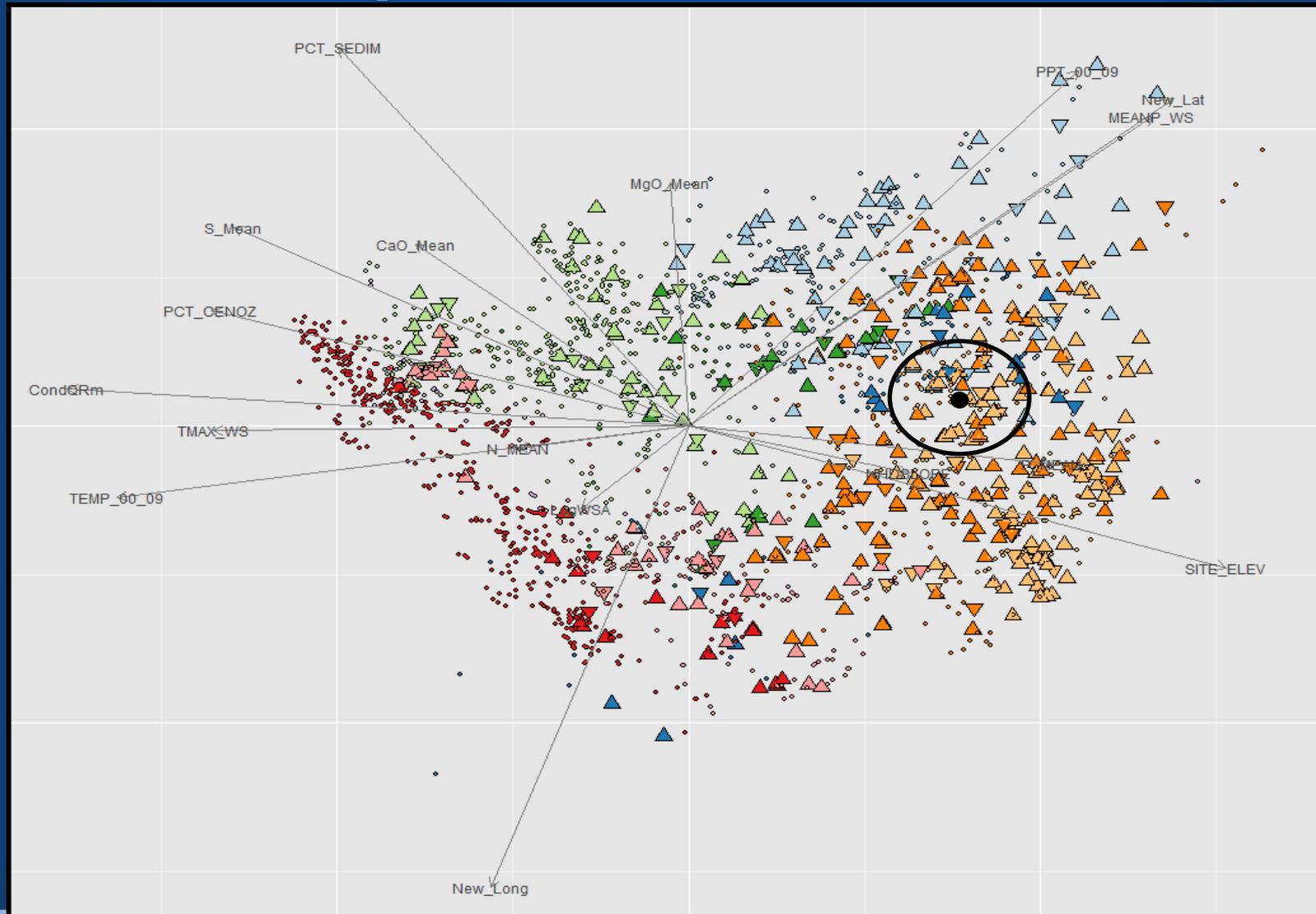
Comparator Sites

- Variety of ways to select comparator sites
 - Upstream/downstream or before/after
 - BPJ within the same watershed or biogeographic province
 - Empirically based upon measured natural gradients
- We chose empirical method, but constrained to southern California

Empirical Selection

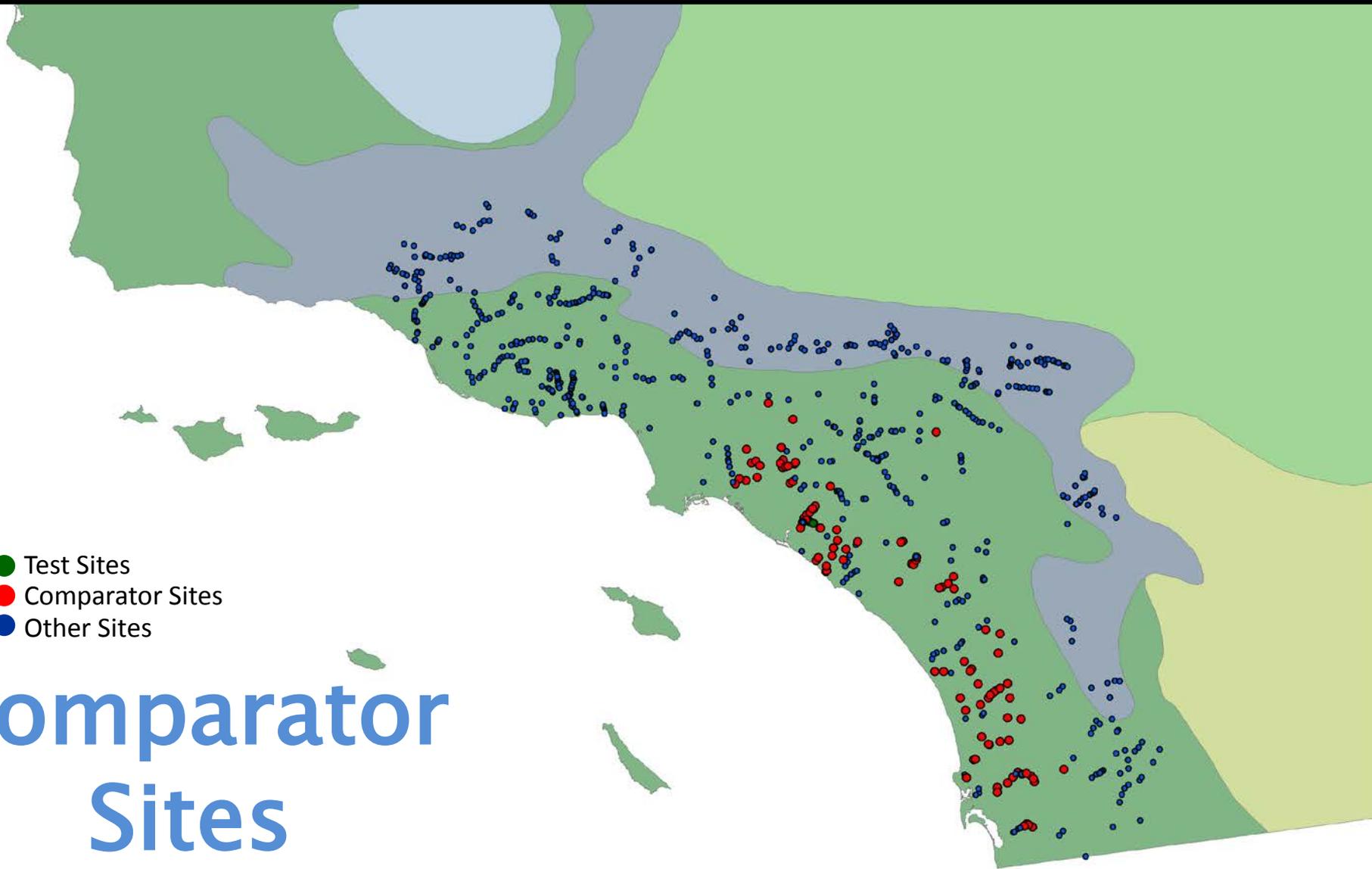
- Looking for ecologically similar sites
 - Sites that could have comparable biology to San Diego Creek
- Used same environmental gradients that are used in the CSCI
 - Latitude/longitude
 - Watershed area
 - Elevation
 - Elevation range
 - Temperature
 - Precipitation
 - Summer precipitation
 - Soil phosphorus content
 - Soil erodibility
 - Soil bulk density

Empirical Selection

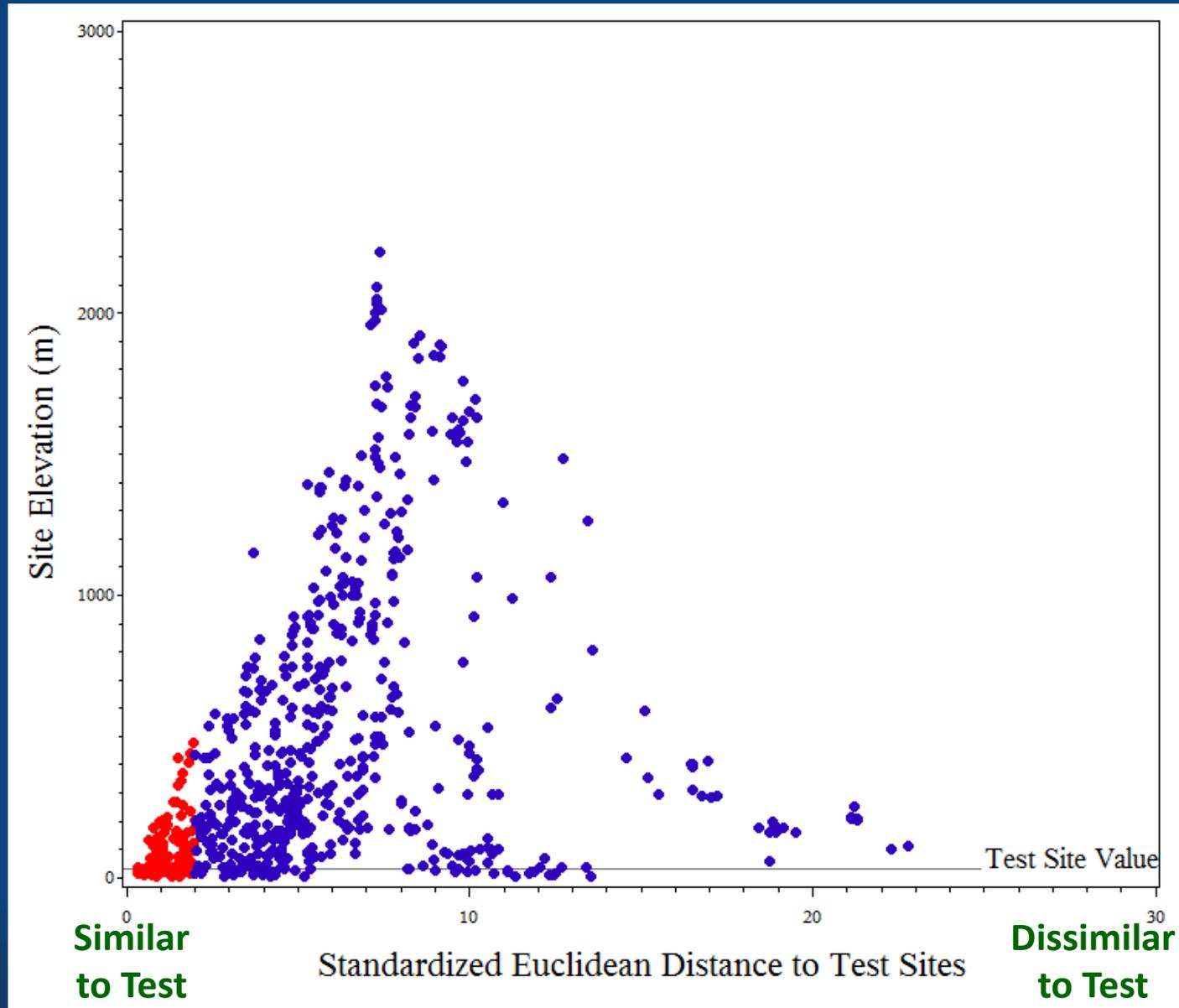


- Test Sites
- Comparator Sites
- Other Sites

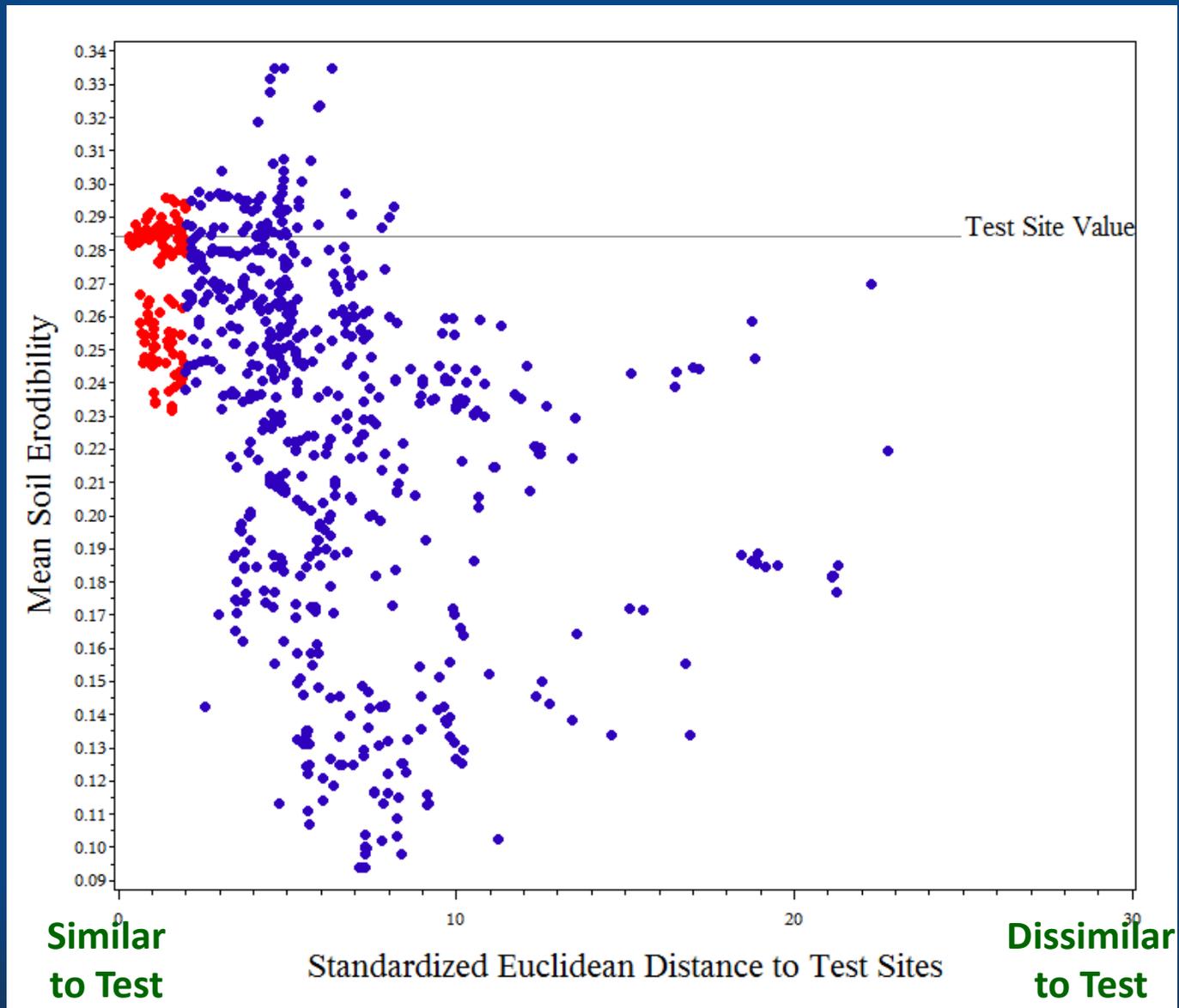
Comparator Sites



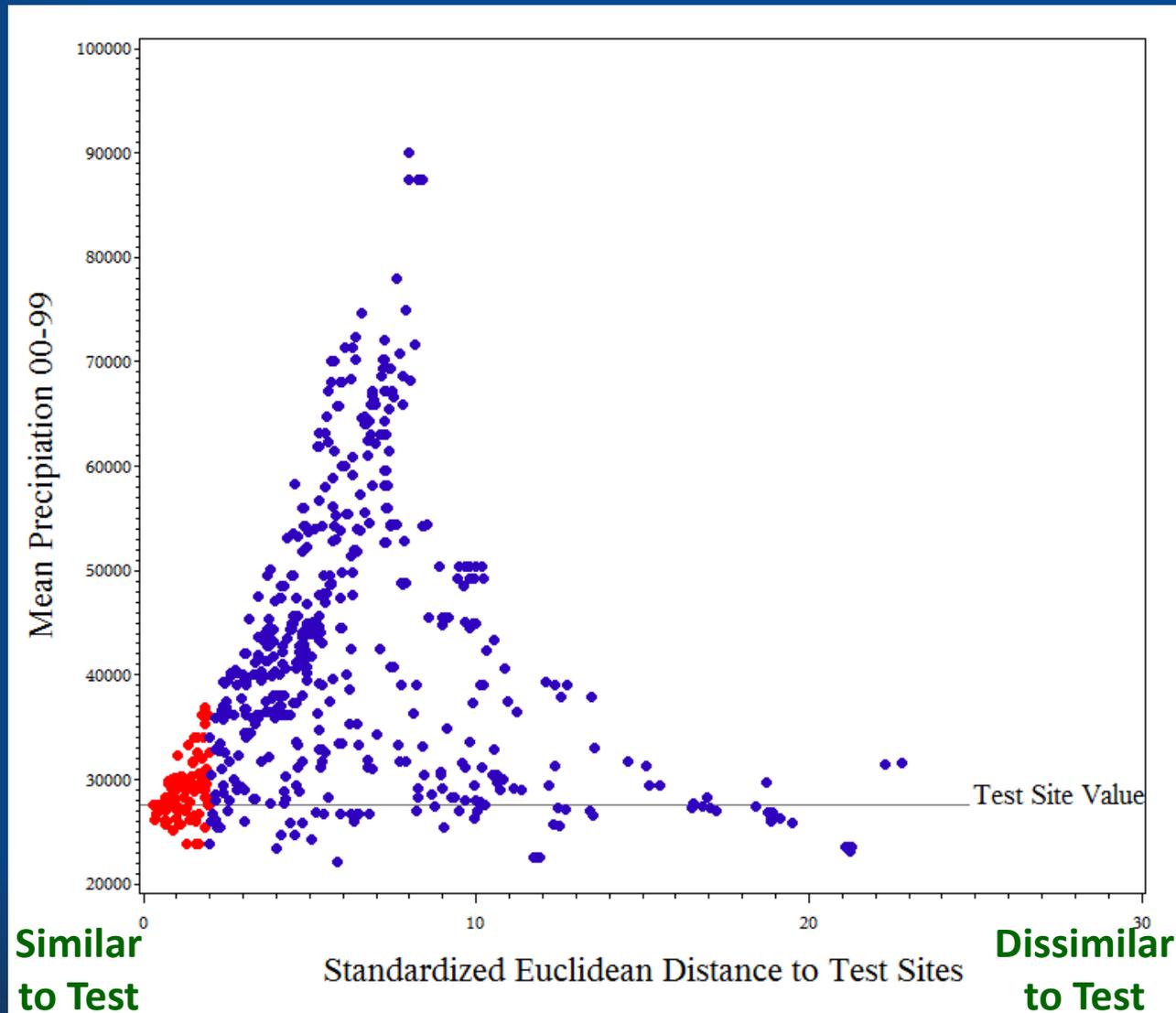
Similarity and Enviro Gradient



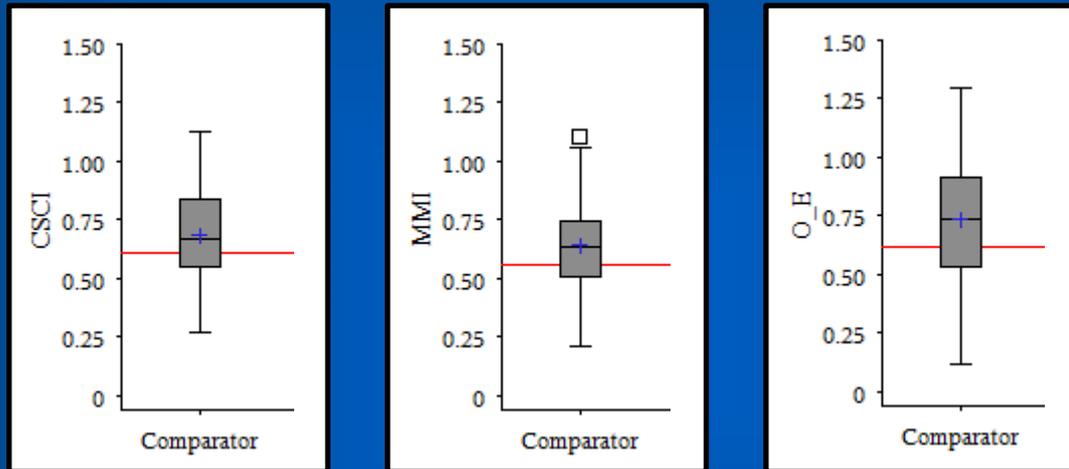
Similarity and Enviro Gradient



Similarity and Enviro Gradient



Comparator Site Condition



- 3 of the comparator sites are undisturbed reference sites
- 36 of the comparator sites have reference condition biology

- Test Sites
- Comparator Sites
- Other Sites

Comparator Sites

