

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)

University of California
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Central Valley Region

What Are WE Trying to Accomplish?

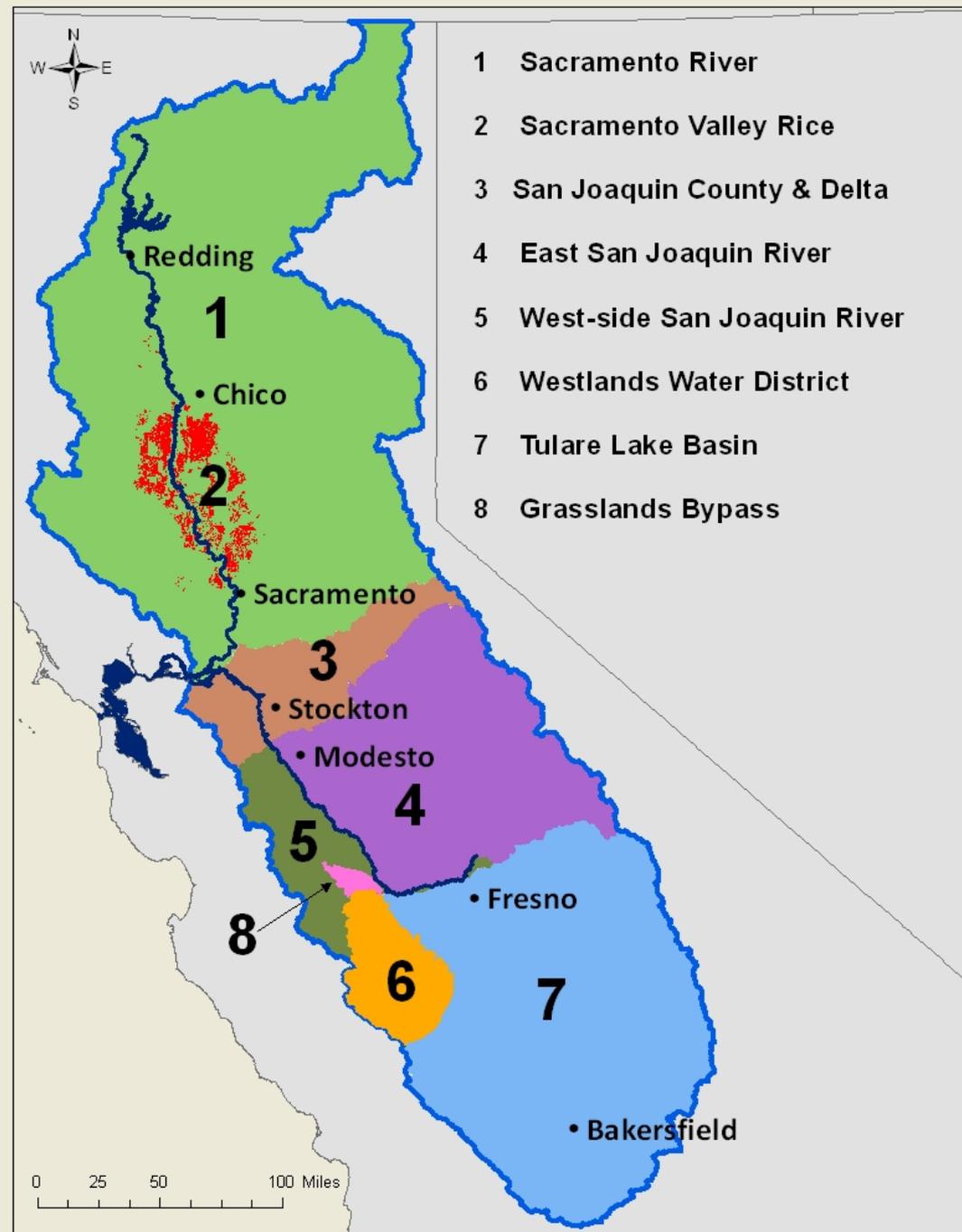
WE = Water Board, Agriculture, Stakeholders

- Protect water quality for current and future generations
- Ensure any new requirements are consistent with sustaining agriculture in the Central Valley
- Learn and adapt as we move forward
- Note – Consistent w/UC ANR Strategic Vision and Initiatives

Geographic Areas/Commodities Addressed by WDRs

Approximately 7.8 million acres of irrigated land and over 35,000 growers

An estimated 560,000 acres regulated under Dairy Order



Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Scope

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)

- Includes commercial operations, managed wetlands, nurseries
- Surface water discharges
 - surface return flows, storm runoff, tile drainage, drift
- Groundwater discharges
 - Fertilizer/pesticides moving down soil profile, well head, or backflow

Known Nitrate Sources (Regional)

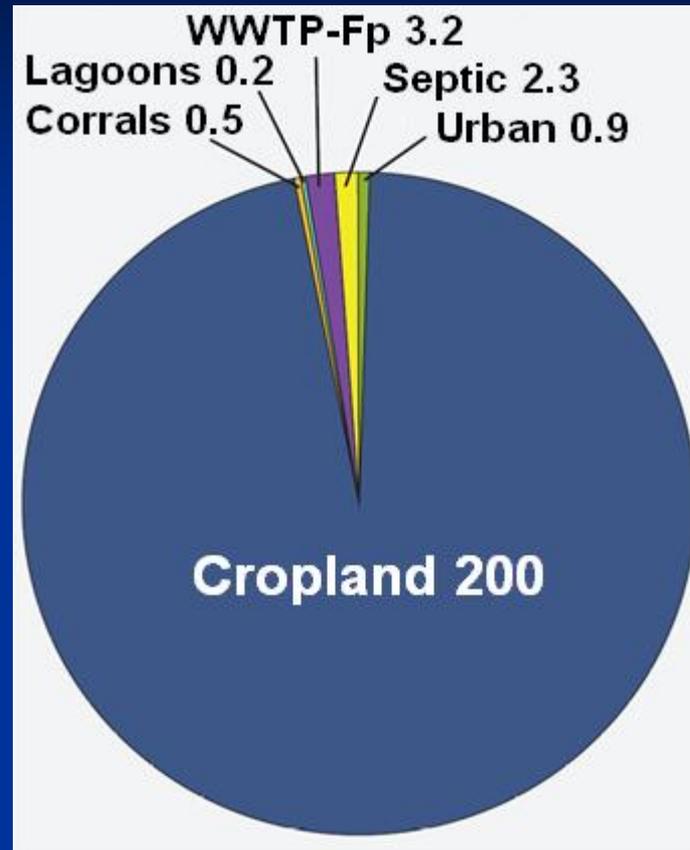


Figure 1. Estimated groundwater nitrate loading from major sources within the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, in Gg nitrogen per year (1 Gg = 1,100 t).

<http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/files/139110.pdf> ; Viers, J.H., et al (2012). Nitrogen Sources and Loading to Groundwater

Draft High Vulnerability Groundwater Areas & Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) Areas

East San Joaquin
Water Quality Coalition

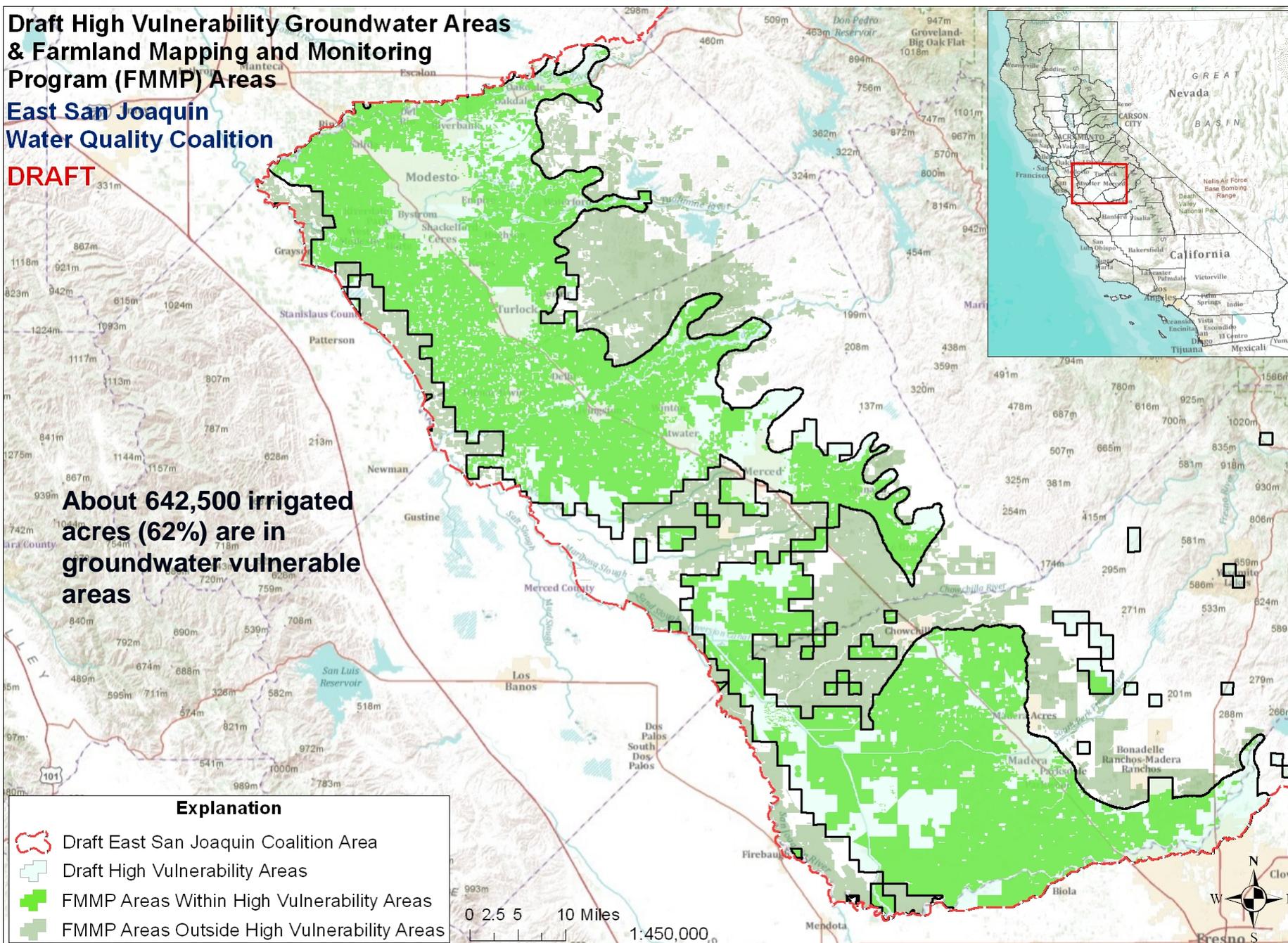
DRAFT

About 642,500 irrigated acres (62%) are in groundwater vulnerable areas

Explanation

-  Draft East San Joaquin Coalition Area
-  Draft High Vulnerability Areas
-  FMMP Areas Within High Vulnerability Areas
-  FMMP Areas Outside High Vulnerability Areas

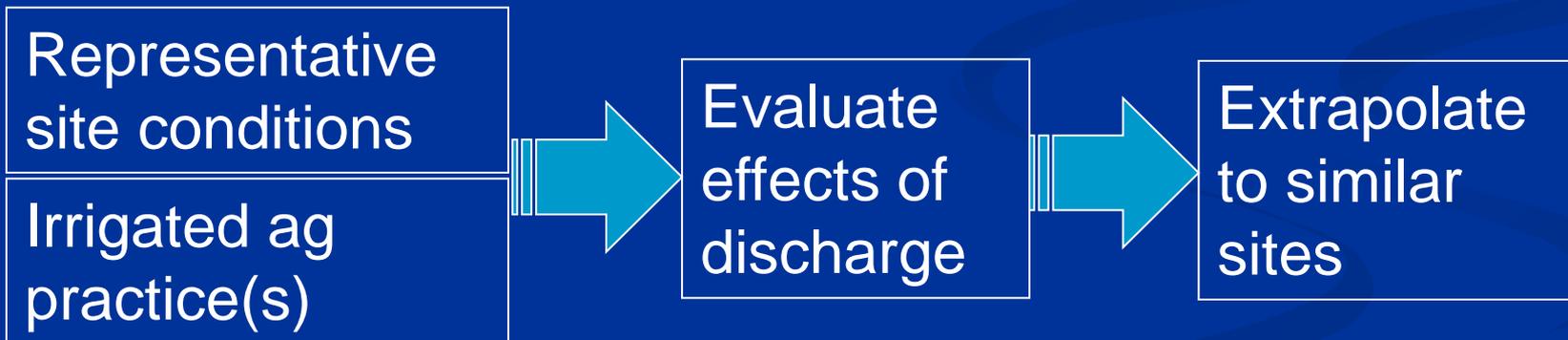
0 2.5 5 10 Miles
1:450,000





Order Components – Information from Third Party

- Management Practices Evaluation Program
 - Relates practices on the land surface to effect on groundwater quality
 - Develop mass balance/conceptual model of transport, storage, degradation/chemical transformation mechanisms



Performance Standards

- Minimize waste discharge off-site to surface water
- Minimize/eliminate discharge of sediment above background
- Minimize percolation of waste to groundwater
- Minimize excess nutrient application relative to crop need
- Prevent pollution and nuisance
- Achieve/maintain water quality objectives and beneficial uses
- Protect wellheads from surface water intrusion

Significant Issues – Compliance/Enforcement

- Near-term compliance evaluation
 - Membership in third-party
 - Backflow prevention
 - Wellhead protection
 - Sediment discharge evaluation
 - Member complete plans (e.g., sediment and erosion/nitrogen management)

Significant Issues – Compliance/Enforcement

- Long-term compliance evaluation
 - Are practices protective of water quality?
 - Informed by monitoring, management plans, MPEP
 - Are Members implementing effective practices?
 - Management plan implementation and review of monitoring data

Thoughts for UC ANR

- To effectively implement initiatives, awareness of regulatory efforts is critical
- Key role in translating goal of regulations to what farmer needs to do
- Partnering in studies to evaluate effectiveness of practices in protecting water quality while sustaining ag

What's Next?

Implementation begins with the adoption of the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Order

Other geographic areas and rice should have Orders adopted within a year

Pending litigation may result in delays

Questions ?



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