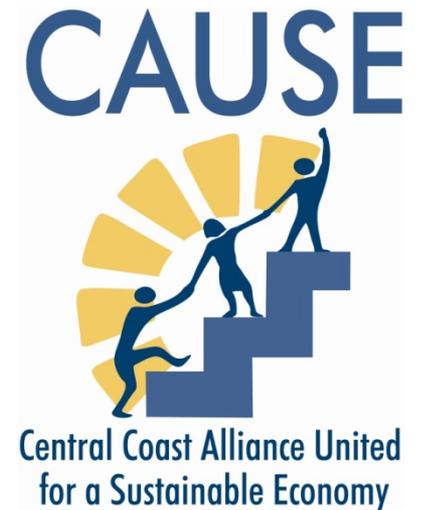


Climate Change, Water, and Environmental Justice



Maricela Morales, MA
Executive Director
CAUSE



CAUSE's mission is to build grassroots youth to adult power for social, economic and environmental justice for the people of California's Central Coast Region through leadership development, grassroots organizing, policy research, and advocacy.

CAUSE Environmental Justice History

- 2500 people, including low-income Latinx youth and indigenous Mexican migrants at the forefront, to defeat LNG terminal (2006)
- Grassroots organizing to designate abandoned metal recycling plant as a US EPA Superfund Site (2007)
- On-going success advancing pesticide protections, green space access, and healthy food access for DAC's
- Years of organizing, culminating in first civil disobedience, to defeat proposed Puente Power Plant in Oxnard (2017)
- Throughout 2018 invited to inform the development of EJ sections of the statewide Safeguarding CA & Climate Adaptation Plan, 4th Climate Change Assessment, and Ocean Protection Council Sea Level Rise Guidance; as well as first Environmental Justice Policies for the CA Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission.

Disadvantaged Communities in Southern Central Coast

Santa Maria Valley is the most socially and economically disadvantaged region, including the most populated city of Santa and city of Guadalupe



	People of Color	< High School Grad	Limited English proficiency	Not a US Citizen
Santa Barbara County	45%	20%	18%	15%
Santa Maria	82%	41%	34%	26%

Climate Change Disproportionately Impacts Water in DACs

- More affluent communities benefit from historic public infrastructure investments creating dams/reservoirs or are able to afford expensive State Water Project imported water
- Disadvantaged communities more likely to depend on groundwater for both safe drinking water and agricultural employment



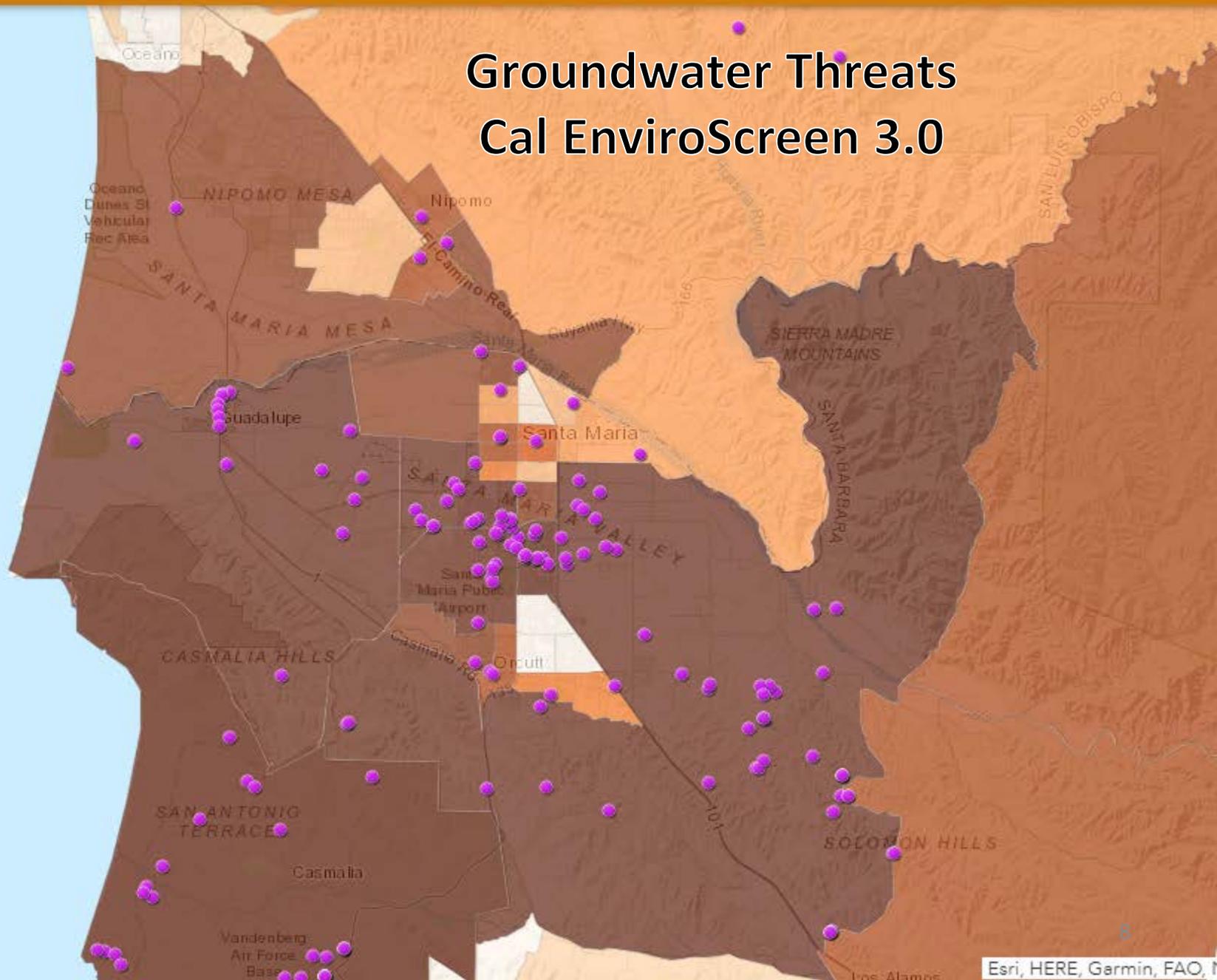


Climate Change Disproportionately Impacts Water in DACs

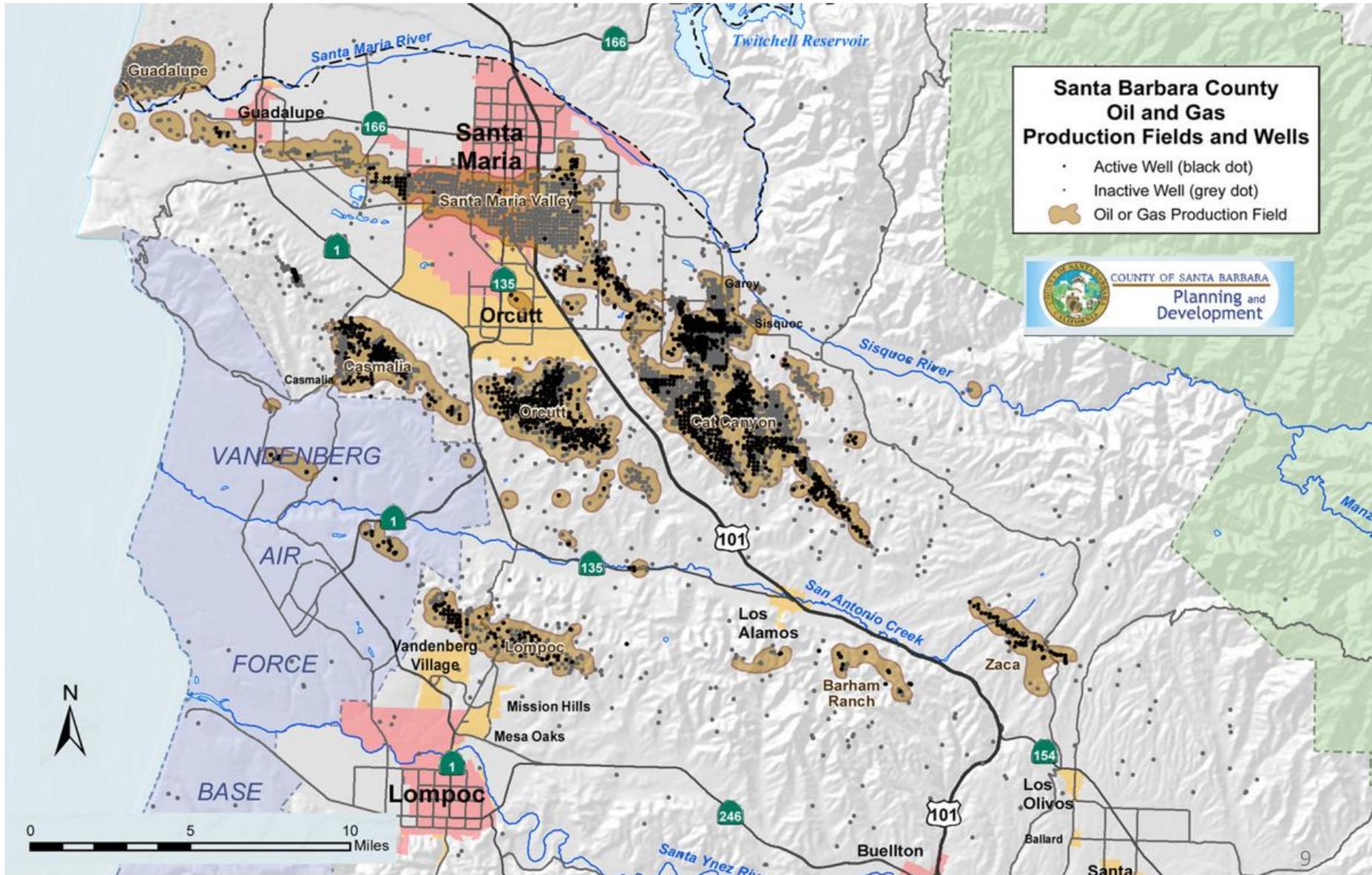
- State Water imports (or other options like Desalination) will become more expensive and out of reach for disadvantaged communities
- Groundwater will become over-drafted, leaving shrinking supplies more concentrated with pollutants
- Groundwater contamination risks largest in areas with heavily industrialized agriculture and oil and gas extraction, which is concentrated in DACs



Groundwater Threats Cal EnviroScreen 3.0

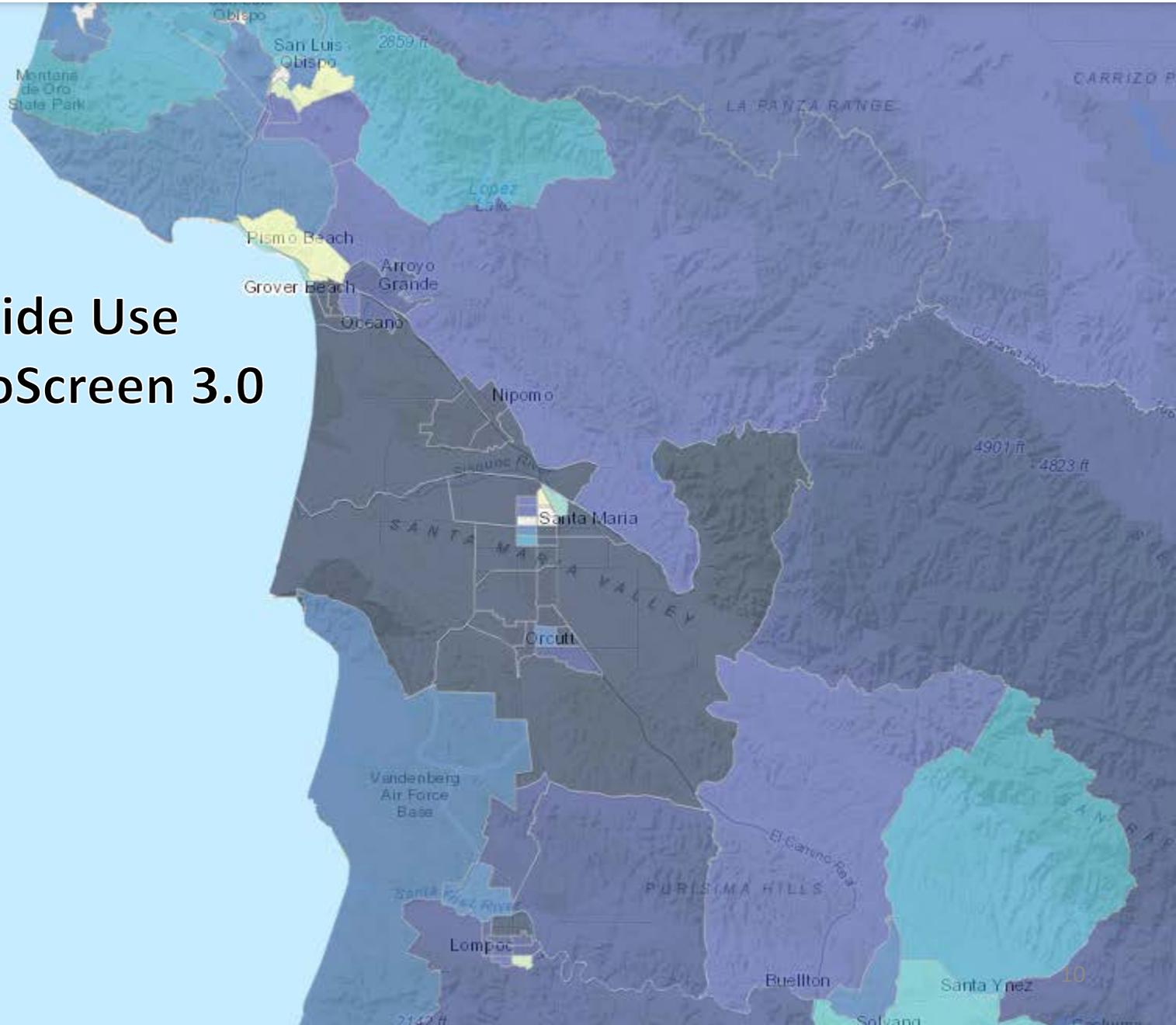


Oil Development around Santa Maria





Pesticide Use Cal EnviroScreen 3.0



Central Coast Climate Justice Network

Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties

