





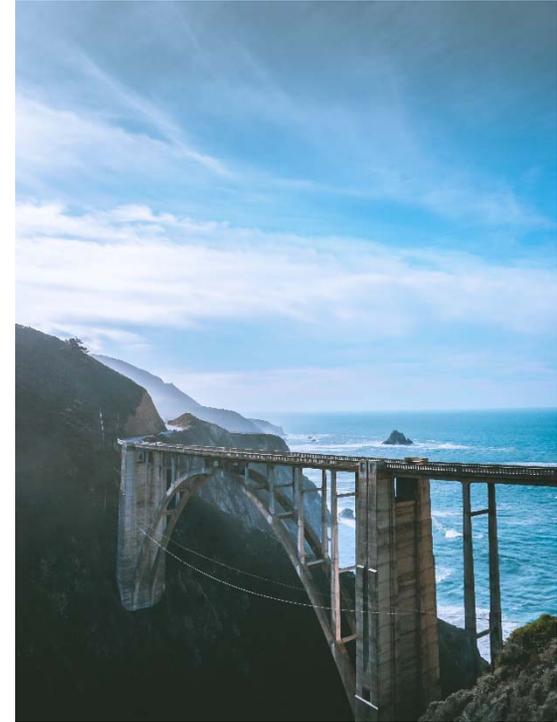
Monterey County Water Resources Agency

The Path to a Salinas River Habitat Conservation Plan



MONTEREY COUNTY

- Located on the Central Coast of California
- 3,771 sq. mi.
- Population 415,000
- Longest Coastline of any county in CA (3 million visitors annually \$3B)
- 3rd largest agricultural county in CA (\$4.2B)
- Groundwater supplies 90% of total water used in the county





About MCWRA

- 32 full time employees
 - Surface Water Management
 - Storage and releases
 - Ground Water Monitoring
 - Quality (seawater intrusion & nitrates)
 - Monthly, Annual data collection
 - Biannual mapping
 - Flood control
 - ALERT
 - Community Support
 - Stormwater/Ag Drainage
 - Channels
 - Pump stations
 - Tide gates



Dams and Reservoirs

- San Antonio dam
 - On San Antonio River
 - Maximum storage capacity 335,000 ac. ft.
 - Approx. 5 miles to confluence with Salinas River
- Nacimiento dam
 - On Nacimiento River
 - Maximum storage capacity 377,900 ac. ft.
 - Approx. 10 miles to confluence with Salinas River





Salinas River

- Longest river system on the Central Coast (175 mi. draining 41,600 sq. mi.)
- Natural flow is seasonal
- Supports booming agricultural industry (groundwater recharge)
- Substantial Management challenges
 - Flooding
 - Streamflow
 - Invasive species
 - Water Quality
 - Stream channel encroachment



Salinas Valley Water Project

- 3 components
 - Naci spillway modification
 - Reoperation of reservoirs
 - Salinas River Diversion Facility
- Operational 2010
- NMFS and USFW Biological Opinions issued in 2007
 - 2016 Corps re-initiated consultation with NMFS
 - NMFS rescinded in 2019





Salinas River Diversion Facility

- Diverts Salinas River water released from reservoirs (approx. 5,000 ac. ft./year)
- Mixed with tertiary recycled wastewater
- Supplies 12,000 acres of crops Apr-Oct

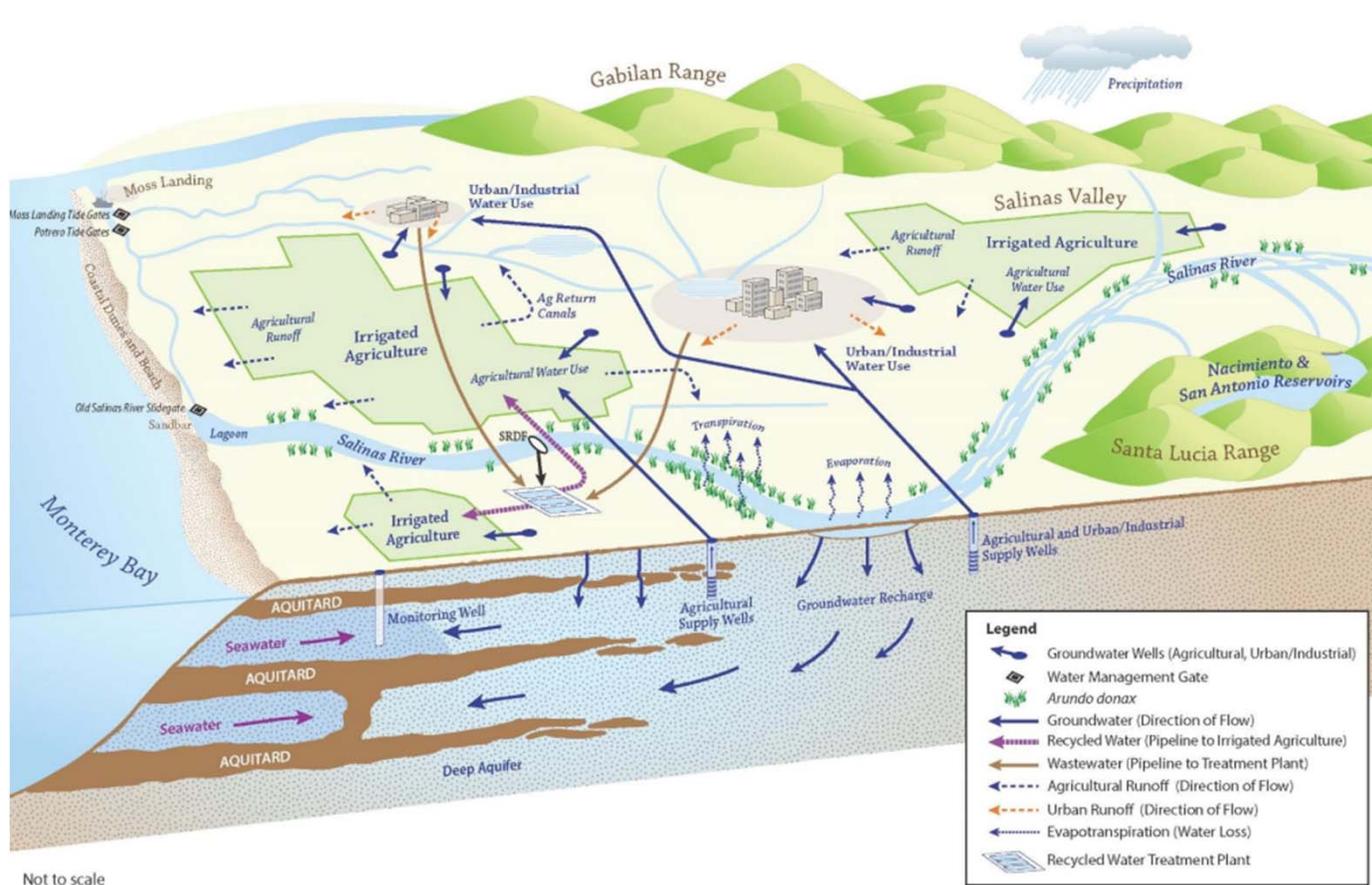


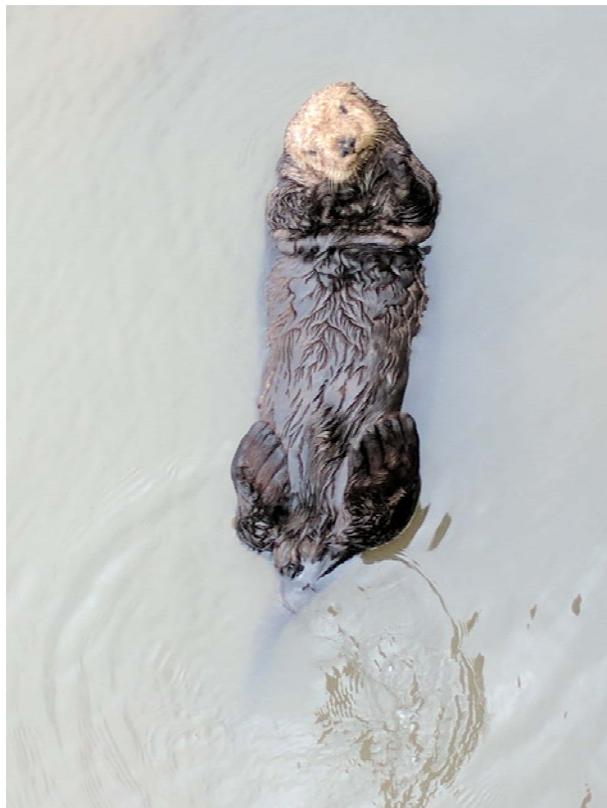
Salinas River Lagoon

- Bar-built estuary
- Surrounded by agriculture and national refuge
- MCWRA manages sandbar due to flooding



Salinas Valley Water Management System





Potential Covered Species

- CA red legged frog (FT)
- CA tiger salamander (FT)
- Western Snowy Plover (FT)
- Southern Sea Otter (FT)
- San Joaquin kit Fox (FE)
- Monterey Spineflower (FT)
- South-Central CA Coast steelhead (FT)
- Tidewater Goby (FE)
- Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (FT)
- Arroyo toad (FE)
- Least Bell's Vireo (FE)
- Others?



Where are we in the process?

- February 2019 Completed the Salinas River Long Term Management Plan
 - www.salinasrivermanagementprogram.org
 - Established Management Area and Study Area
 - Historical and existing conditions
 - Identifying data gaps
 - Identifying management actions
 - Draft species list
 - Draft Charter with USFW/NMFS



What's Next?

- Finalize activities to cover
- Finalize the management area
- Get stakeholder input





QUESTIONS?

Elizabeth Krafft, Acting Deputy General Manager
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