



Lessons from the Latest Drought

CWA Spring Conference

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PPIC

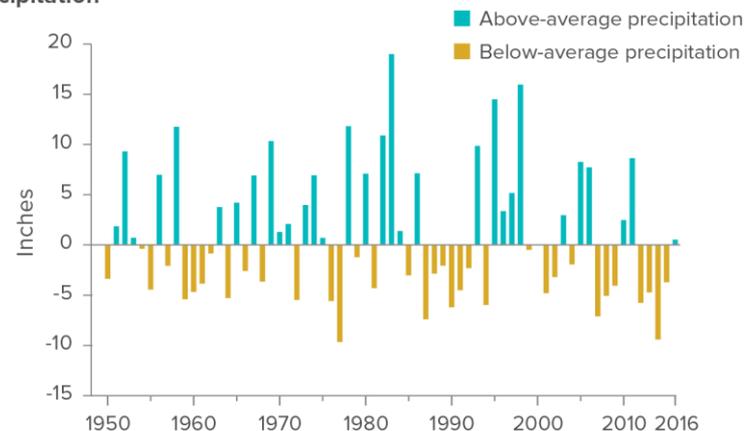
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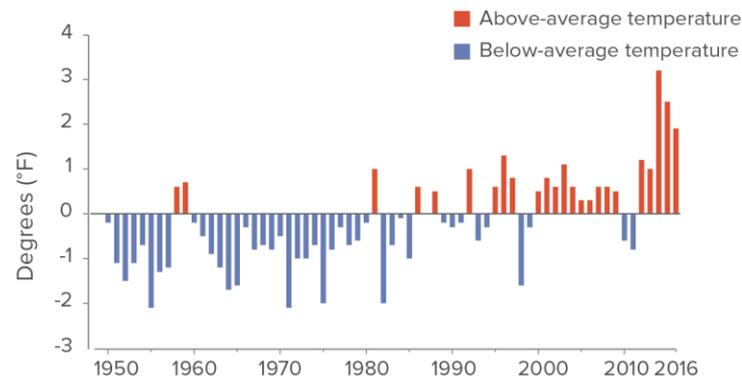
What did we learn from the past drought that could help us better manage the next one?

- This drought gave us a glimpse into the future:
 - Record high temperatures made management difficult
 - The drought ended with an extremely wet year

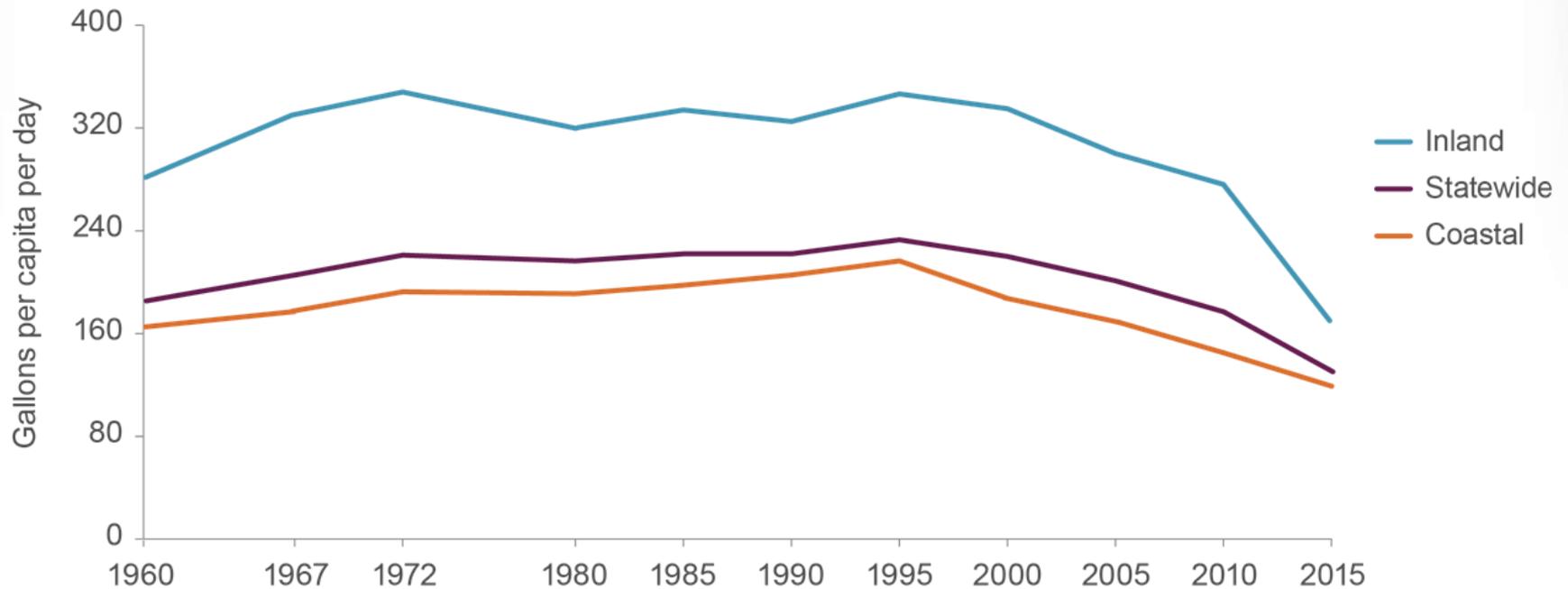
Precipitation



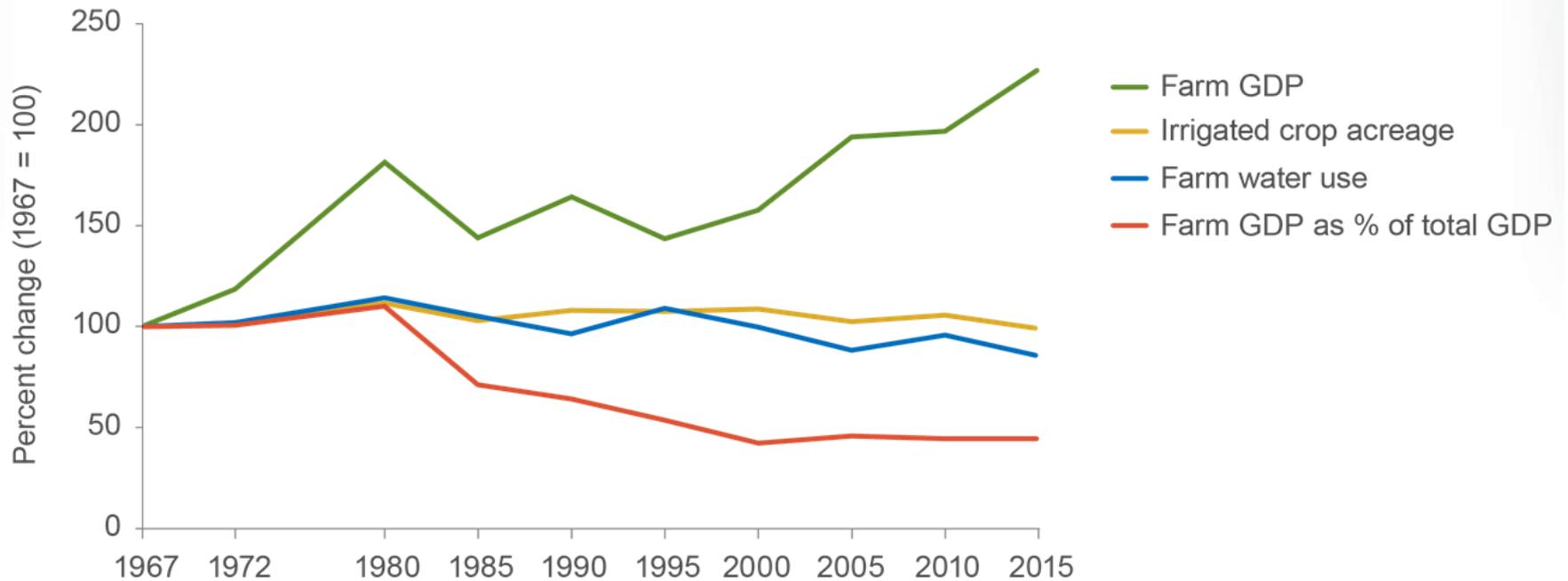
Temperature



Urban economy remained strong, despite large water savings under the state mandate



Amidst drought and water cuts, farm GDP has also been growing



We learned some hard lessons...



Safe drinking water solutions are needed for rural residents

Small systems with contaminated wells and health violations

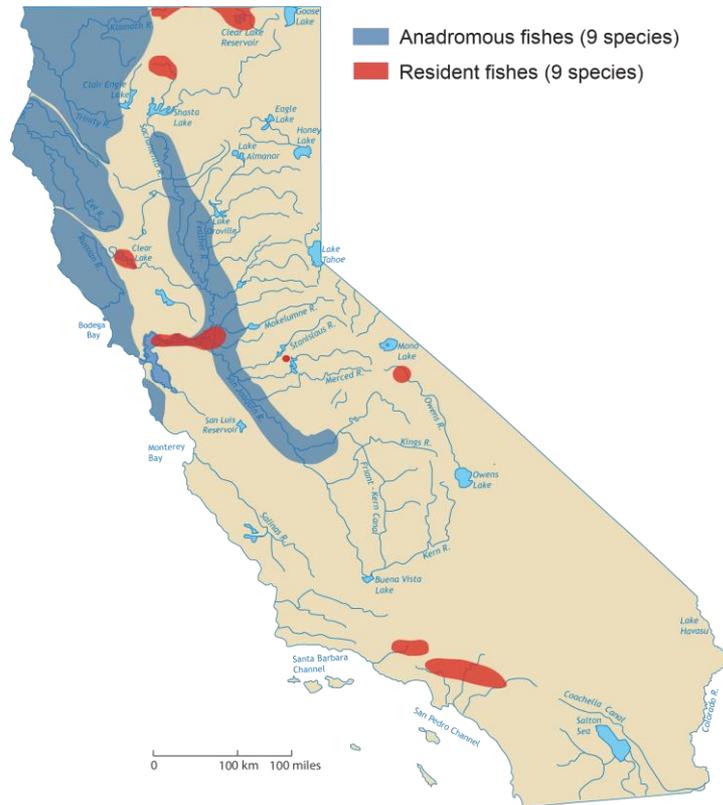


Reported dry wells



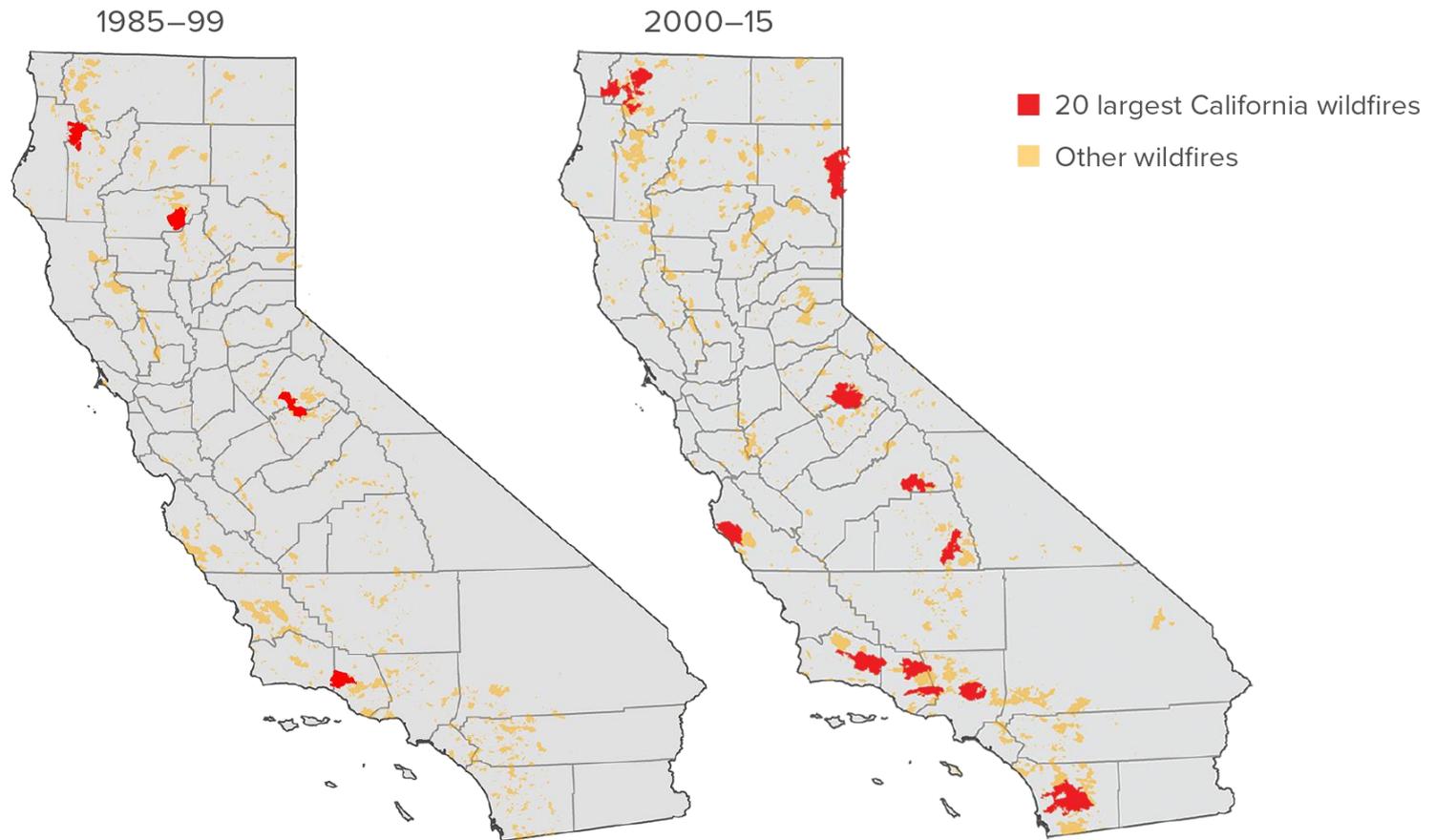
California's aquatic ecosystems were unprepared for a warm, extended drought

18 fishes at near-term risk of extinction

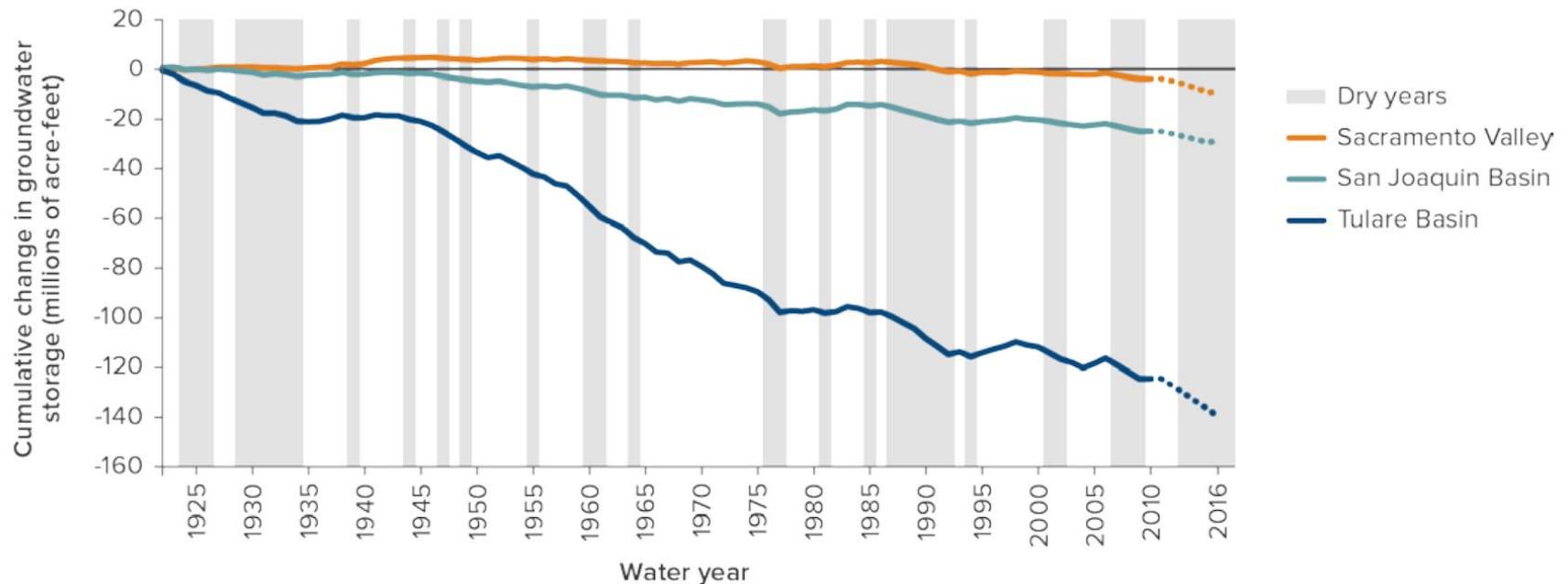


- Building resilience requires:
 - Drought plans to prioritize supplies
 - Investments in refugia, conservation hatcheries
 - Environmental water budgets (and funds to buy water)

Funding, political will necessary to implement forest management plans



Groundwater should be managed as a drought reserve

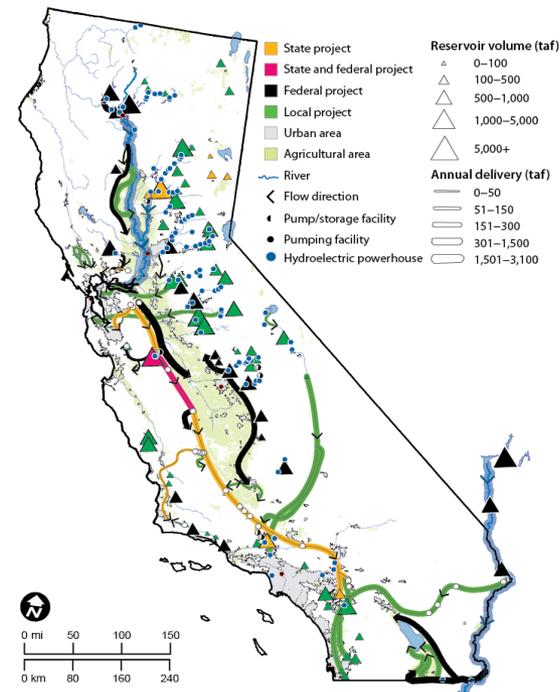


Continued efforts needed to build urban drought resilience

- Urban communities avoided major shortages, thanks to investments in supplies since early 1990s
- Even though major impacts were averted:
 - Local agencies should continue fostering regional approaches to managing supplies
 - More certainty needed on state, local roles in managing demand
 - Locals, state should address the fiscal fallout from conservation

California needs to strengthen water information, allocation, marketing systems

- Provide more accurate assessments:
 - How much water is there?
 - Who has claims to use it?
 - What is actually used?
- Fill accounting gaps, consolidate information, and make data useful



Thank you!



More information at www.ppic.org/water

Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.