Funding Stormwater Services

Floodplain Managers Association

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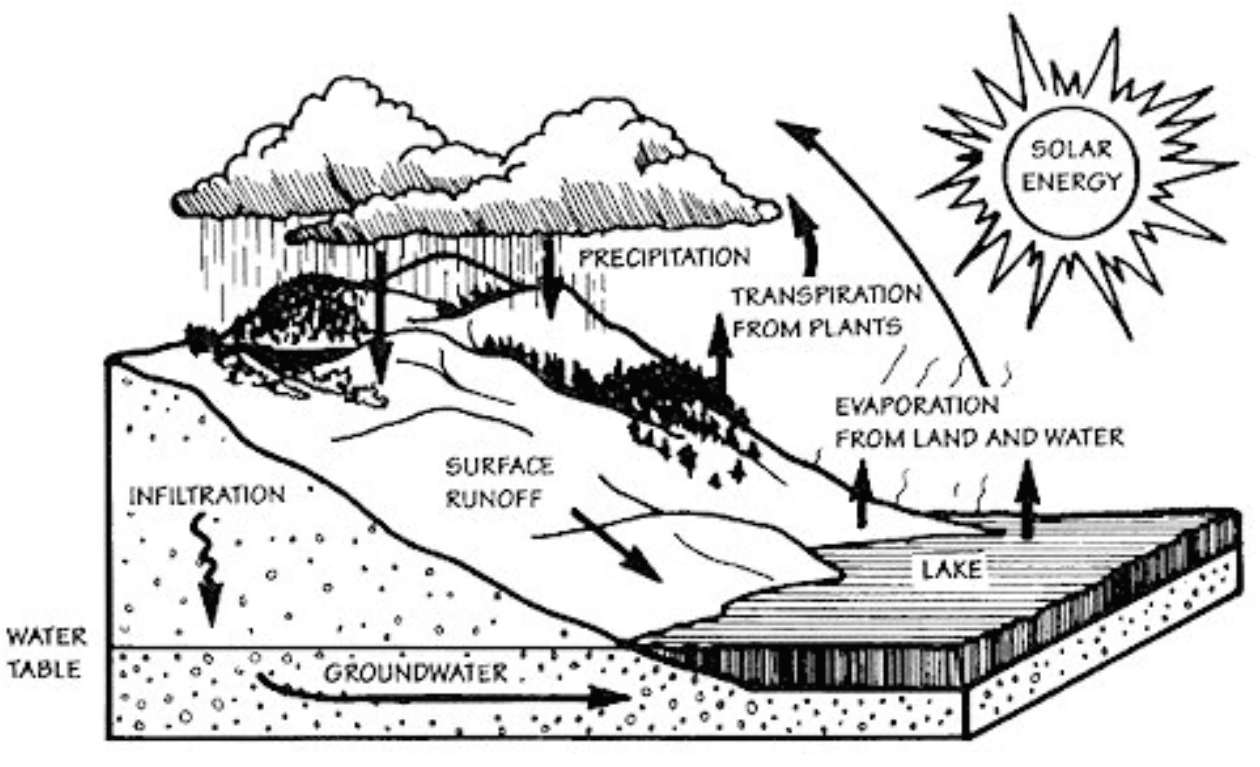
Pine Creek Flooding, Concord 1958

Contra Costa County
Flood Control
& Water Conservation District

Overview

- Ballot Measure
- Definitions
- How stormwater services are funded
- Stormwater Problem
- Stormwater Solution



Nature's Water Cycle

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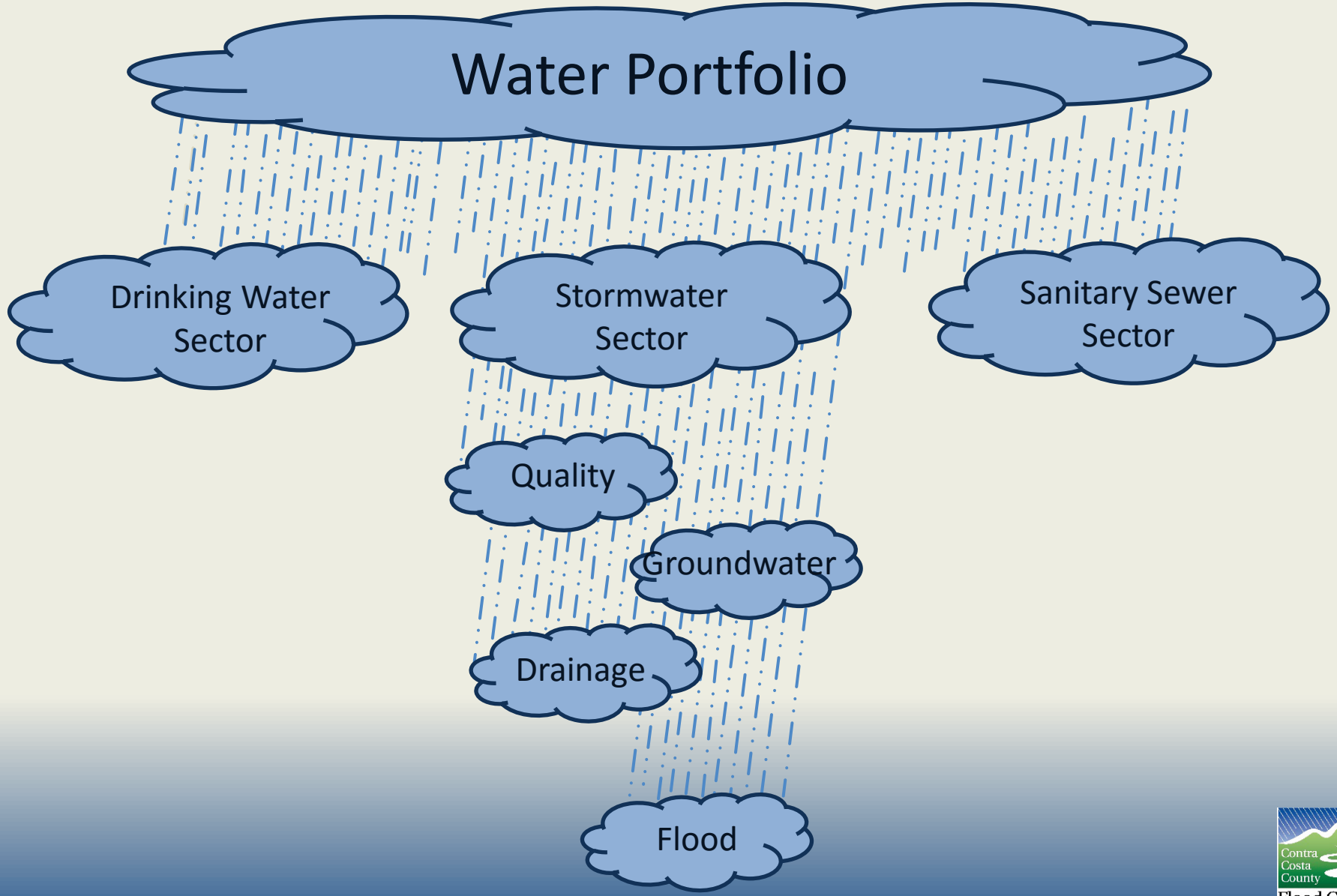
Anatomy of California Water Portfolio



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Stormwater is……

Groundwater Supply

Regional Flood Protection

Community Drainage

Stormwater Quality

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Funding Stormwater Services

- Flood Control District Services: Funded with tax revenue “frozen” in 1978 (Prop 13, **38 years ago**)
- Flood Control District Services: Funded with benefit assessments “frozen” in 1996 (Prop 218, **20 years ago**)
- Community Drainage Services: Typically funded from the General Fund (no dedicated funding source)
- Stormwater Quality Services: Typically funded from the General Fund (no dedicated funding source)

Federal Investment

- EPA invested Billions in California to upgrade sewer treatment plants to reduce point source pollution.
- The Corps of Engineers have invested Billions in California, and continue to do so, to improve flood protection
- There has been no equivalent level of federal investment to improve stormwater quality

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Flood Protection Services

- 79 miles channels, 29 basins
- $1 B Asset Value (2010)
- $25 B property protected
- 33% over 50 years old
- $2.4 B replacement cost
- $20 M annual budget need
- $4 M current annual budget
- **<$16 Million>** Annual Disinvestment/Shortfall

Failed Drop Structure

Source: County Flood Control District 2014 Annual Report,

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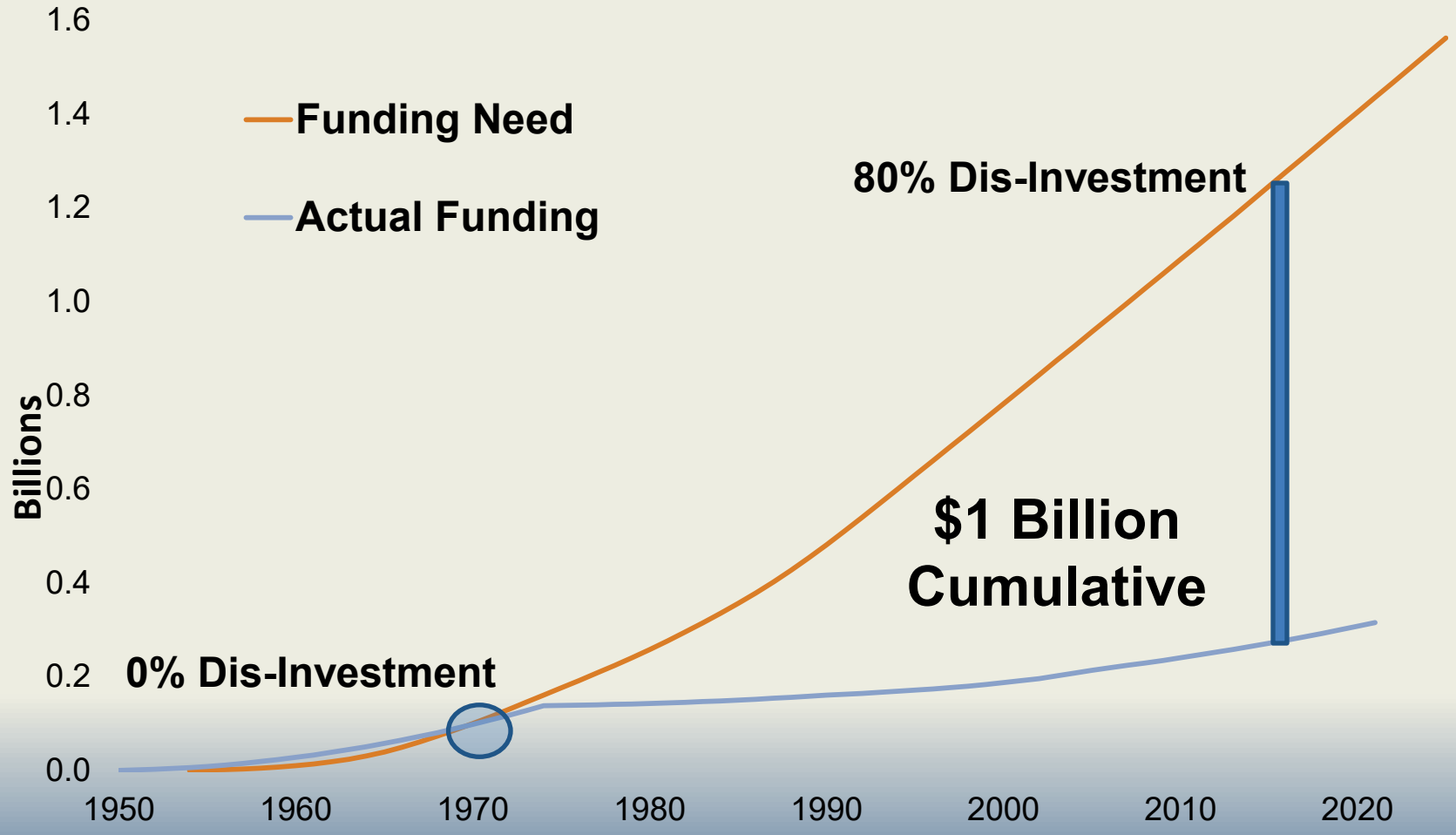
Dis-Investment Crisis



Contra Costa County Stormwater Quality Services

- NPDES/MS4 permits (RWQCB)
- **$37 Million current permit costs** for 19 cities and County
- **$14 Million annual revenue**
- **<$23 Million>** covered by General Funds, Road Funds, Park Funds…
- New November 2015 permit requires Green Infrastructure Planning that will result in increased program costs

Trash is a Pollutant

Source: Contra Costa Clean Water Program

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LA County Stormwater Services

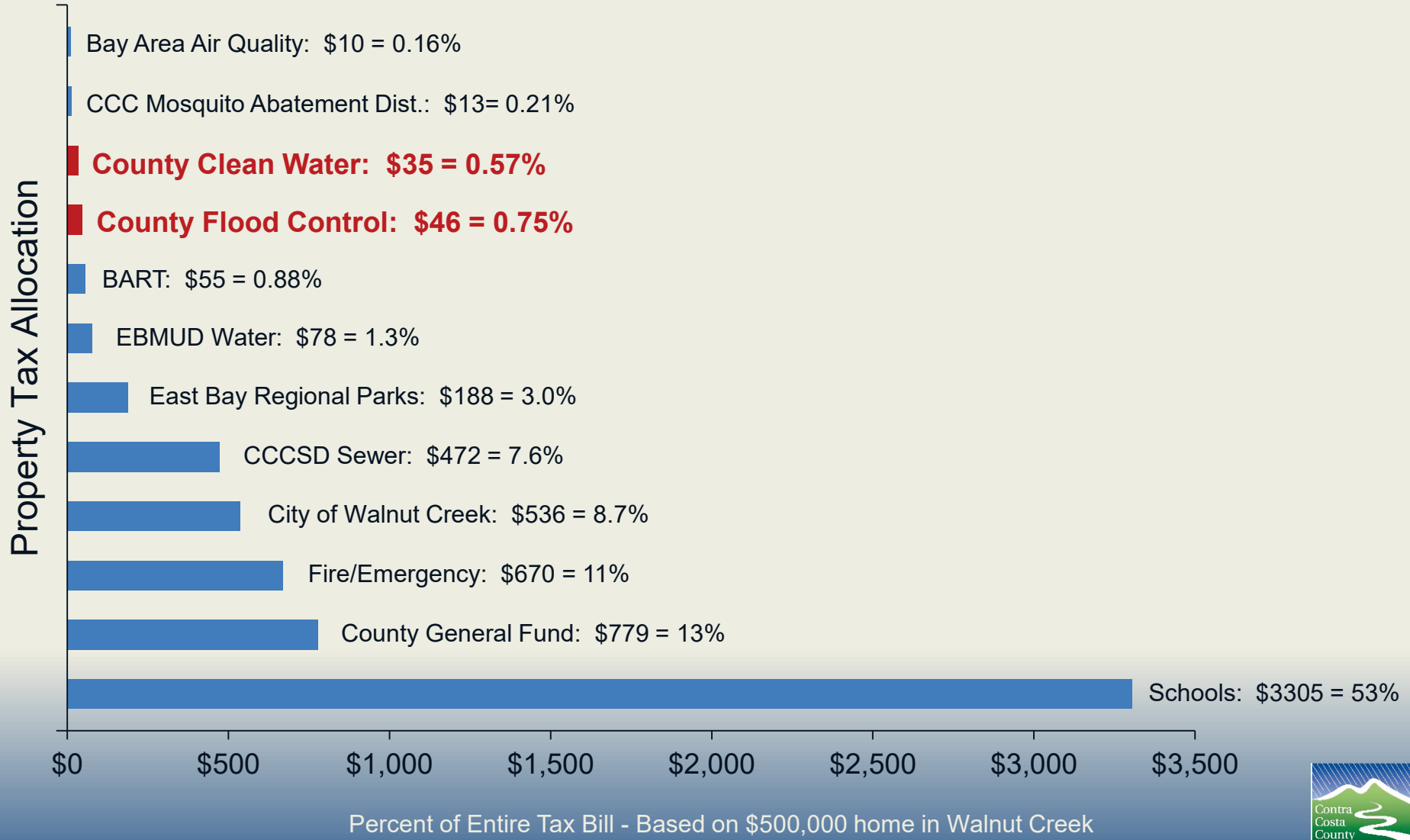
(Stormwater Quality: 2012 MS4 Permit Compliance)

- 20 year estimated costs for Watershed and Enhanced Watershed Management Program requirements for LA County MS4 permit:
  - Los Angeles City: $8 billion
  - LA unincorporated County: $2.6 billion
  - LA County and all cities: $20 billion

  Of the 86 permittees, 84 have no dedicated funding source for these costs

Source: LA County Department of Public Works

How CCC Stormwater is Funded



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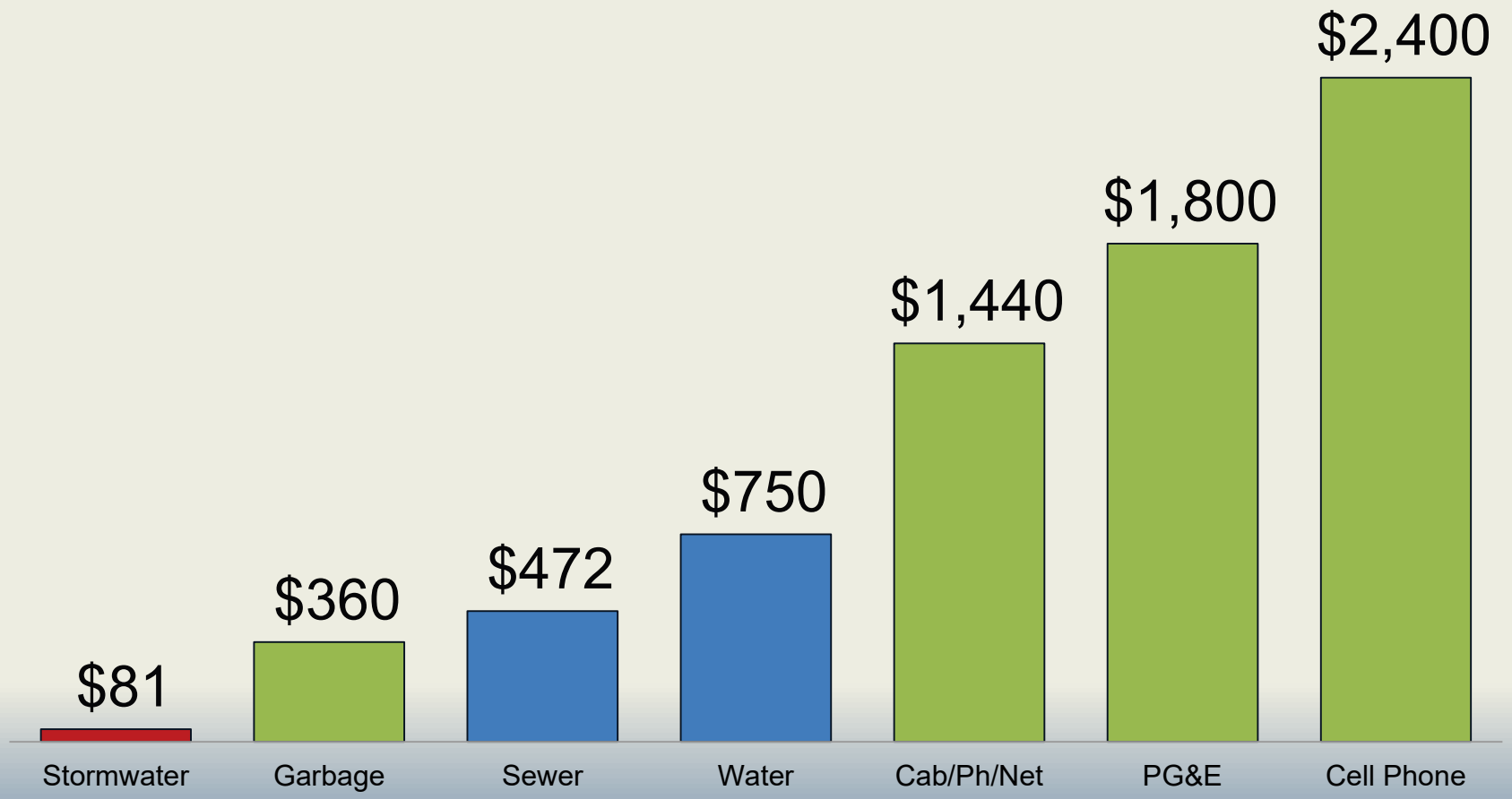
Society's Investment in Stormwater



Annual Costs Based on $500,000 home/family in Walnut Creek

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Contra Costa County Example (Stormwater Quality Services)

- 2012 Clean Water Funding Initiative
- Property related fee
- Ballot sent to all County property owners
- Process time: 1 ½ years
- Cost: $1.5 million
- Outcome: 60% “No” votes

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Stormwater Funding Solution…..

- Goal: Provide “utility” status for stormwater with a process to raise revenue similar to water districts and wastewater districts
- Need a Constitutional Amendment approved by the legislature (67% vote) to establish a ballot measure
- California voters will decide whether stormwater should have “utility” status (50% vote)
- Local Control: Each local government agency/area, if desired, goes through a public process to establish a “Stormwater Utility” and adopt a stormwater fee

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Proposed Ballot Measure

- Amend Article 10 “Water” (One-Water concept)
- Provide for “conservation rates” to encourage water conservation and prevent waste
- Provide for “life-line” rates to assist qualified low income households
- Provide optional funding mechanism for water, sewer, flood control, and stormwater services

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The Ballot Measure Would NOT…

- Modify Proposition 218
- Create instant funding
- Change current funding process
- Change current process protections
  - Funds can only be used for proposed services
  - Written notice mailed to each property owner
  - Public hearing required after 45 days
  - Rejected if majority of property owners protest

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The Ballot Measure WOULD….

- Build on the provisions in Proposition 218
  - Independent annual audit
  - Initiative power available to repeal/reduce service fee
  - Burden of proof on local agency that fee amount is no more than necessary for cost of service
- Provide comprehensive approach to financing water management
- Provide local control (voluntary, determined by local community)

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Current Status

- Ballot measure Title and Summary completed
  - Initiative 15-116 on Attorney General website
- Polling of Title and Summary was not favorable
- Primary ballot measure sponsors decided to not pursue it this year.

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Now what?.... Next Steps

- We aren’t throwing in the towel!
- Ballot measure is still needed - talk it up!
- Work on compatible legislation to keep policy issue alive
- Primary sponsors and Coalition still need to decide next steps
- Prepare CEAC Plan of Engagement

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Current Water Portfolio

Consumptive Uses

Objective: Collect, retain, treat, and convey water for human use and economic and social benefit

USES

Drinking

Residential

Commerce

Industry

Agriculture

Recreation

Fire Fighting

Protective Activities

Objective: Protect aquatic ecosystems (water supply sources, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities), and lives, property and infrastructure

ACTIVITIES

Collect and treat wastewater

Manage flood waters

Manage and treat polluted stormwater

Manage and treat urban runoff

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Next Steps?

- Continue to inform public and elected officials:
    - Need for sustainable funding.
    - Benefits of sustainable funding.

Questions?

For more information visit

www.cccounty.us/stormwaterinitiative