

Groundwater Recharge in the Pajaro Valley, Central Coast, CA

California Water Commission

September 16, 2026

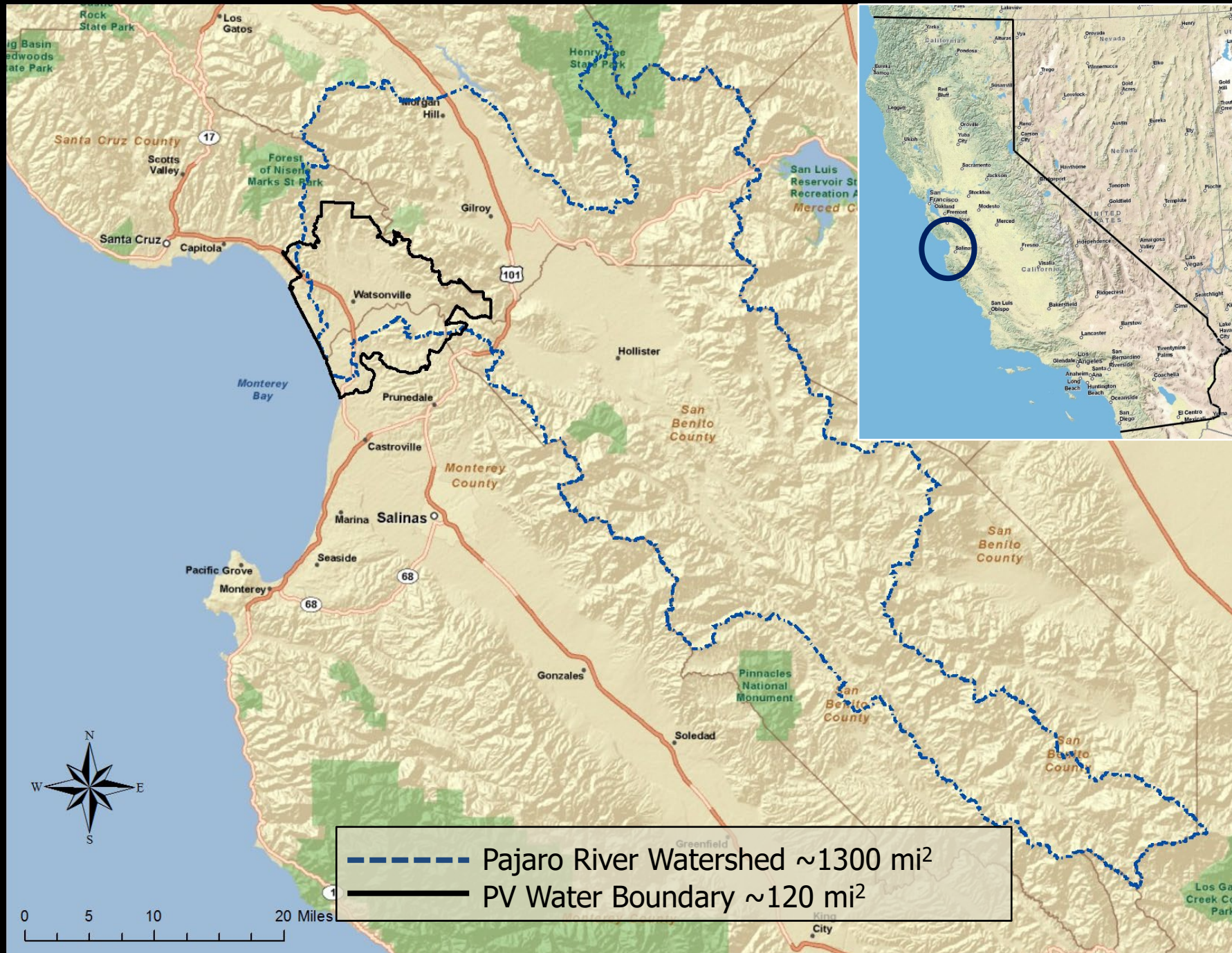
Brian Lockwood, PG, CHg
General Manager



Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

- **Authority:** Special District formed by the CA State Legislature in 1984; Groundwater Sustainability Agency in 2015
- **Mission:** To achieve sustainable groundwater resources in the Pajaro Valley for its vibrant agricultural, commercial, industrial, and residential communities for today and future.
- **Multi-Jurisdictional:** City of Watsonville, parts of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties
- **What We Do:** Basin Management Planning, Supplemental Water Deliveries for Agricultural Irrigation; Groundwater Recharge, Conservation

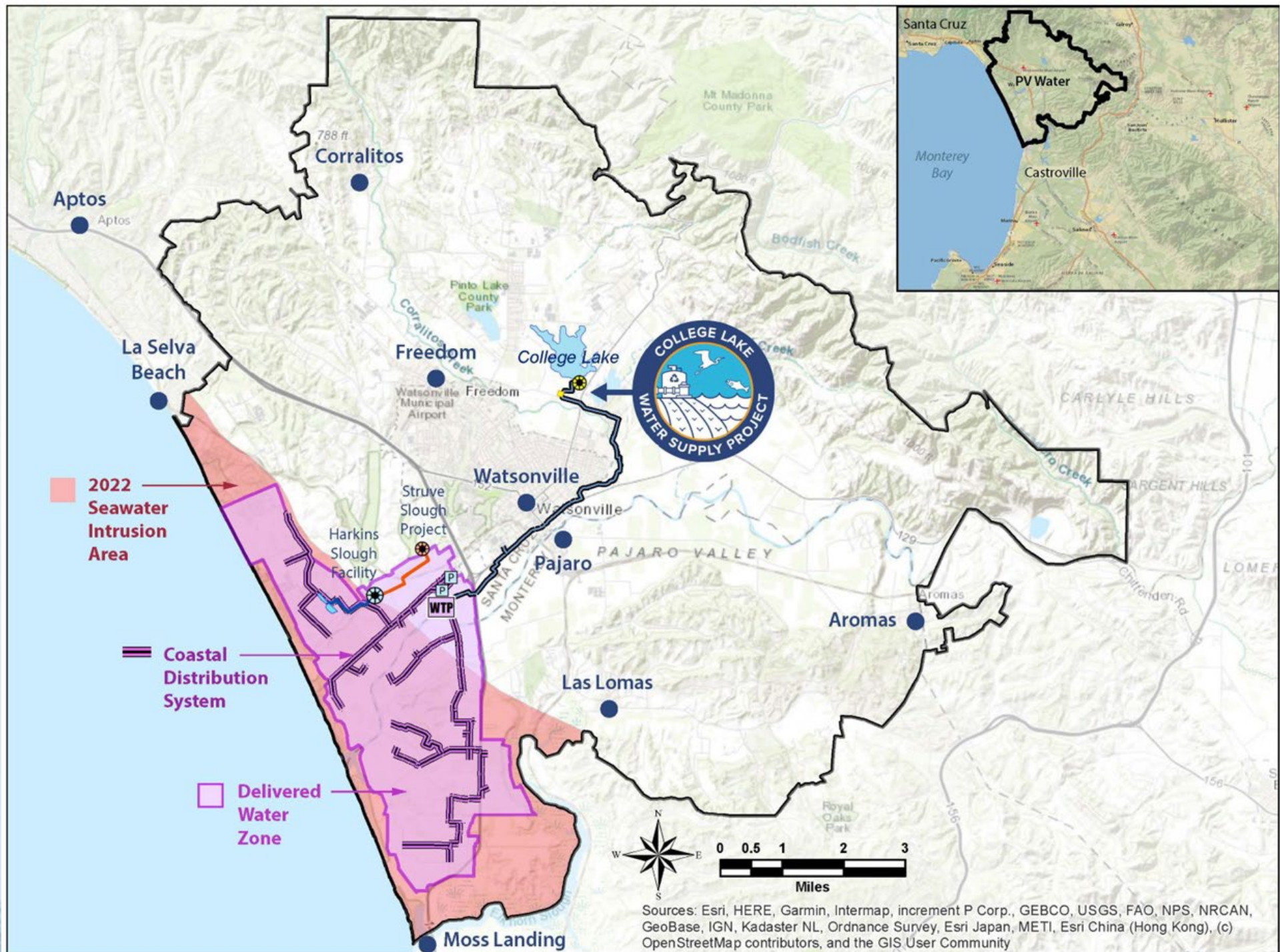




Types of Recharge Occurring in the Pajaro Valley & Beyond

- Low Impact Development
 - Enhanced Stormwater Infiltration
“Recharge Net Metering”
 - Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery
 - In-Lieu Recharge
 - Delivery of Supplemental Water to Farms (e.g., recycled water, treated surface water...)
 - Indirect Potable Recharge*
 - Pure Water Monterey
 - Pure Water Soquel
- *Outside of the Pajaro Valley

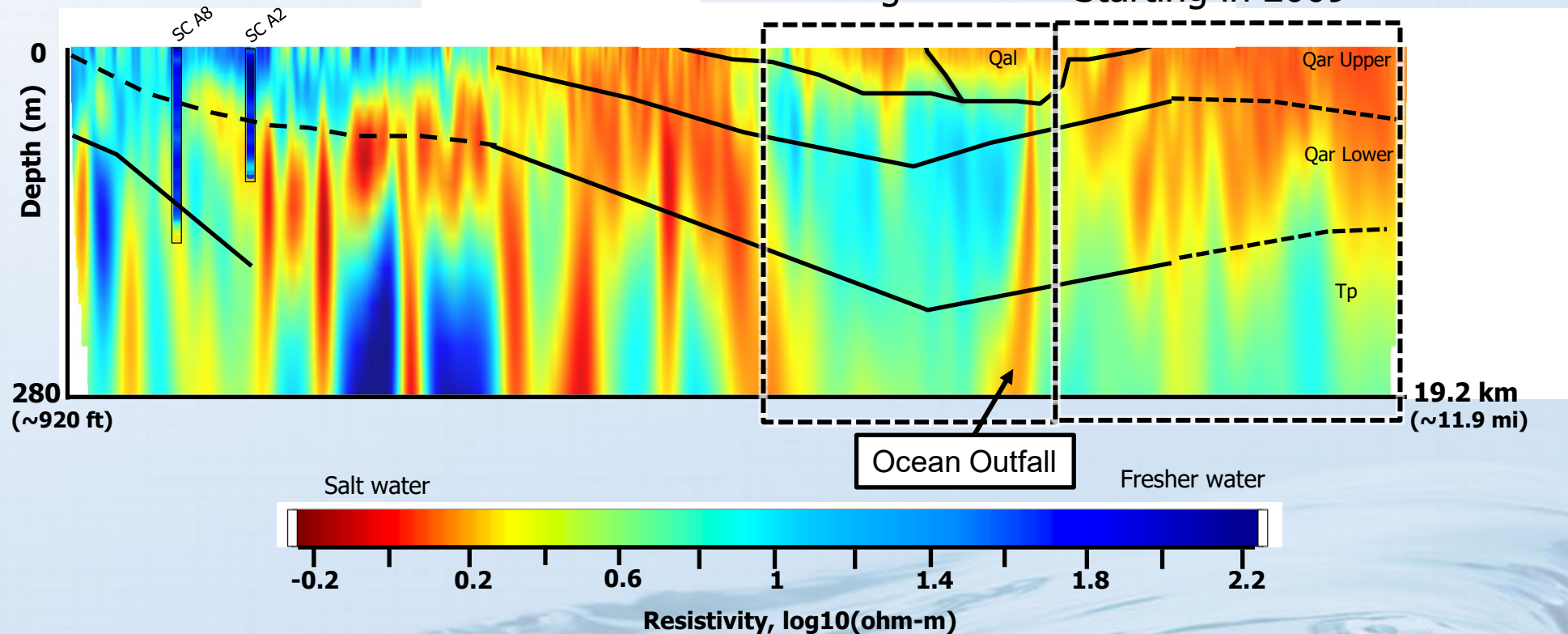




Geophysical Survey Shows Improvements



Delivered Water Starting in 2002 Delivered Water Starting in 2009

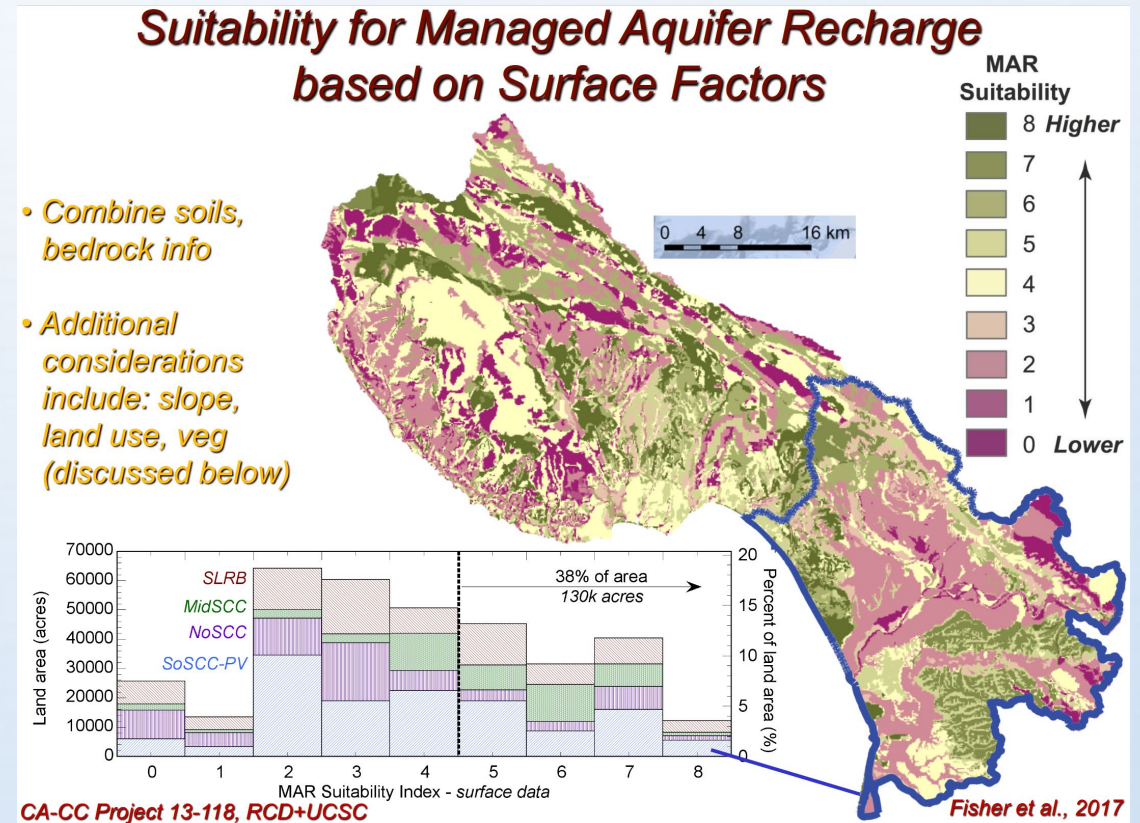


Goebel, et al, JoH, 2017

Geologic Cross Section: Hanson et al., 2002; Brabb et al., 1997

Recharge Net Metering Program

- Goal: Recharge 1,000 Ac-Ft per Year
- Collaborative effort between Landowners, U.C. Santa Cruz, RCD of Santa Cruz County, and PV Water
- Financial incentive
 - $(50\% * \text{Augmentation Charge}) * \text{Volume of Water Infiltrated}$
 - Where Augmentation Charge = \$346 during WY 2025/26



Harkins Slough Facility Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery



Opportunities for Additional Groundwater Recharge

- Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery Project: 100% designed, undergoing permitting
- Additional Recharge Net Metering sites to get achieve $> 1,000$ AFY
- Pajaro River Flood Risk Reduction Project may include levee setbacks which would increase recharge during high flow events
- Coordination through Pajaro River Watershed Resilience Program & Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program



Thank you.

Comments / Questions?

Email: Lockwood@pvwater.org

Website: www.pvwater.org



College Lake Guide



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