

Agriculture's Role in Protecting Water Quality

Vegetable Production in Ventura County

8 April 2014

Freedom Center, Camarillo

Presented by Dale Zurawski, Farm Bureau VC

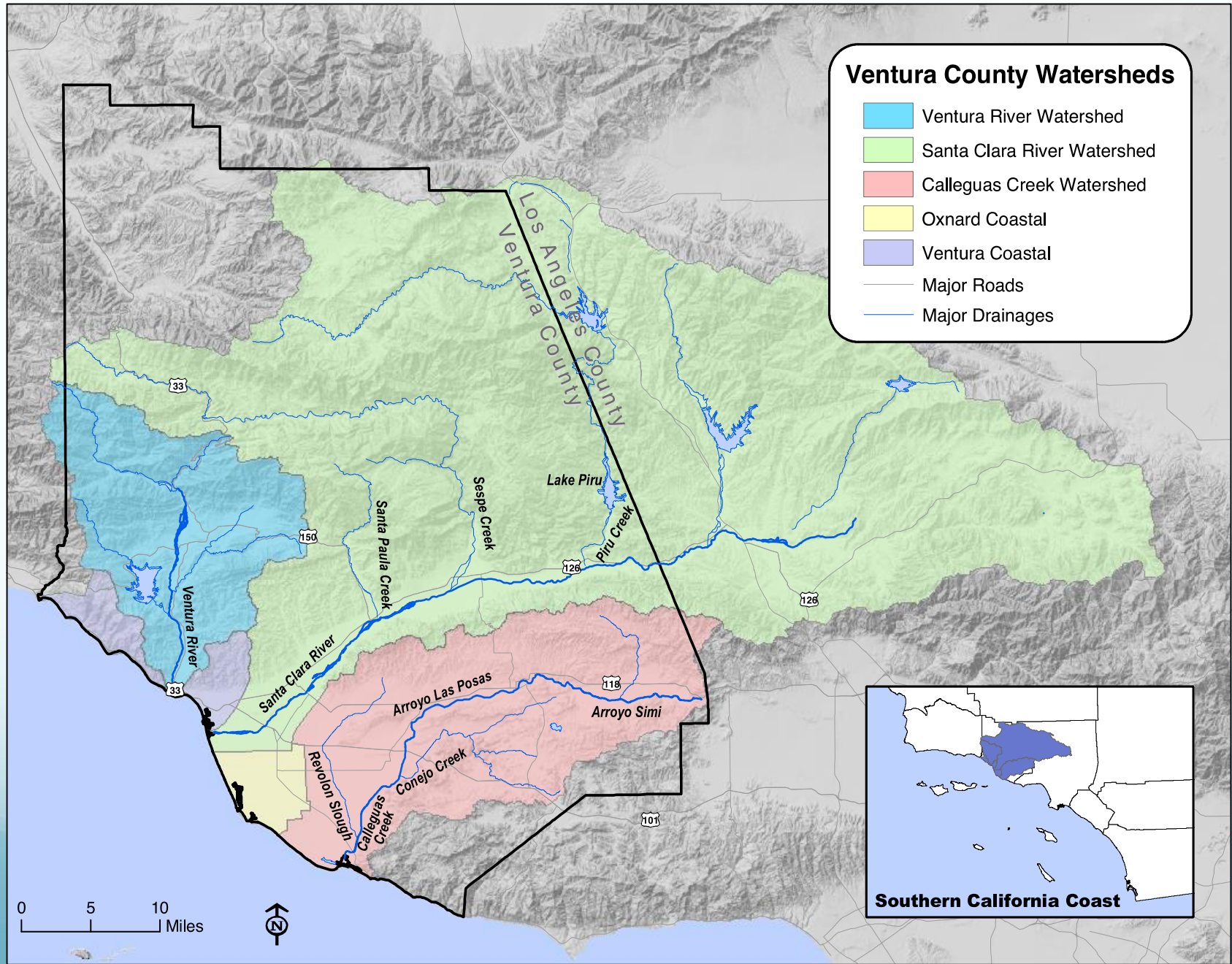


Our role:

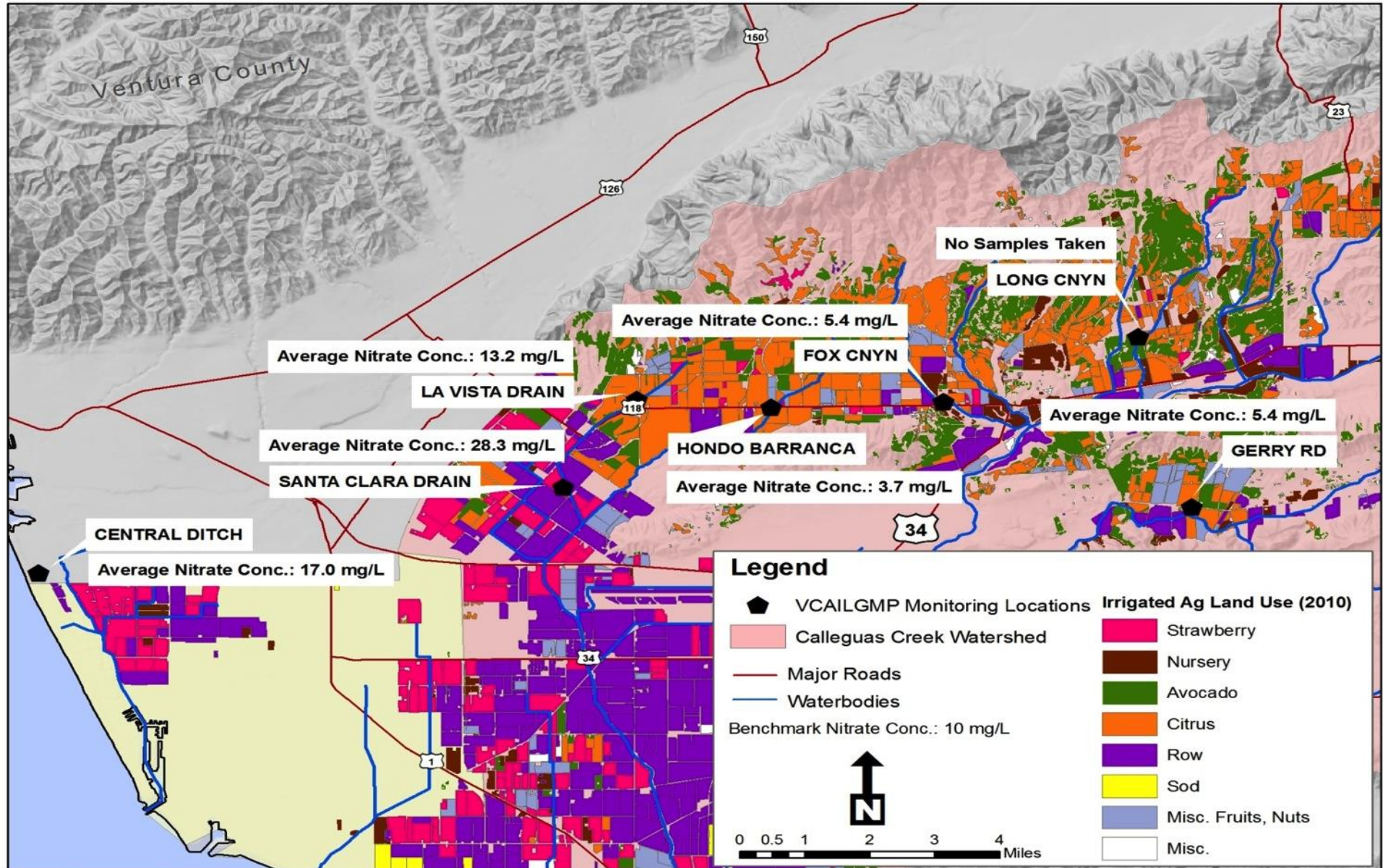
- Water quality from farms in VC
- The Plan: our “Conditional Waiver”
- Documenting BMPs



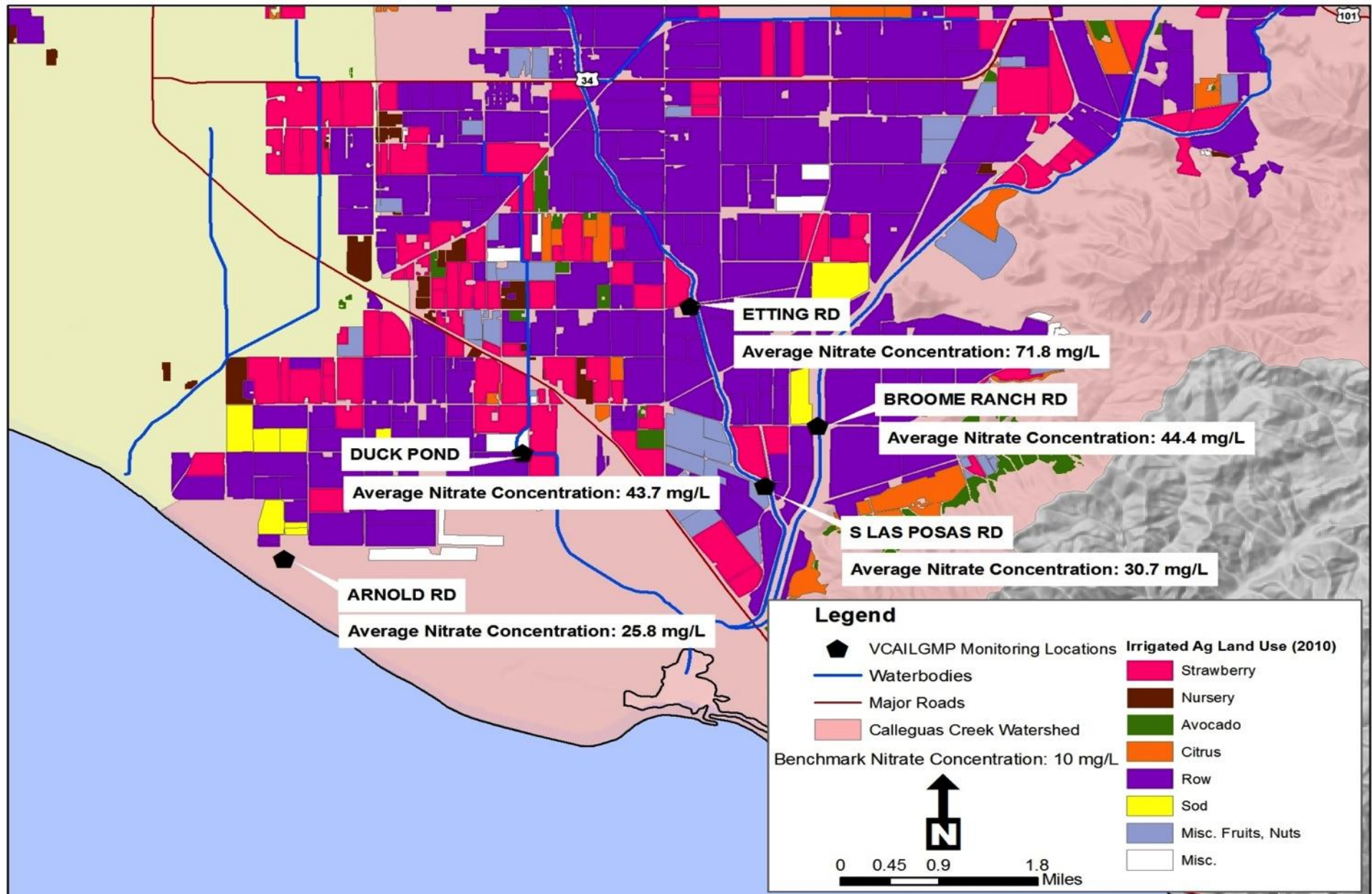
Ventura County Watersheds



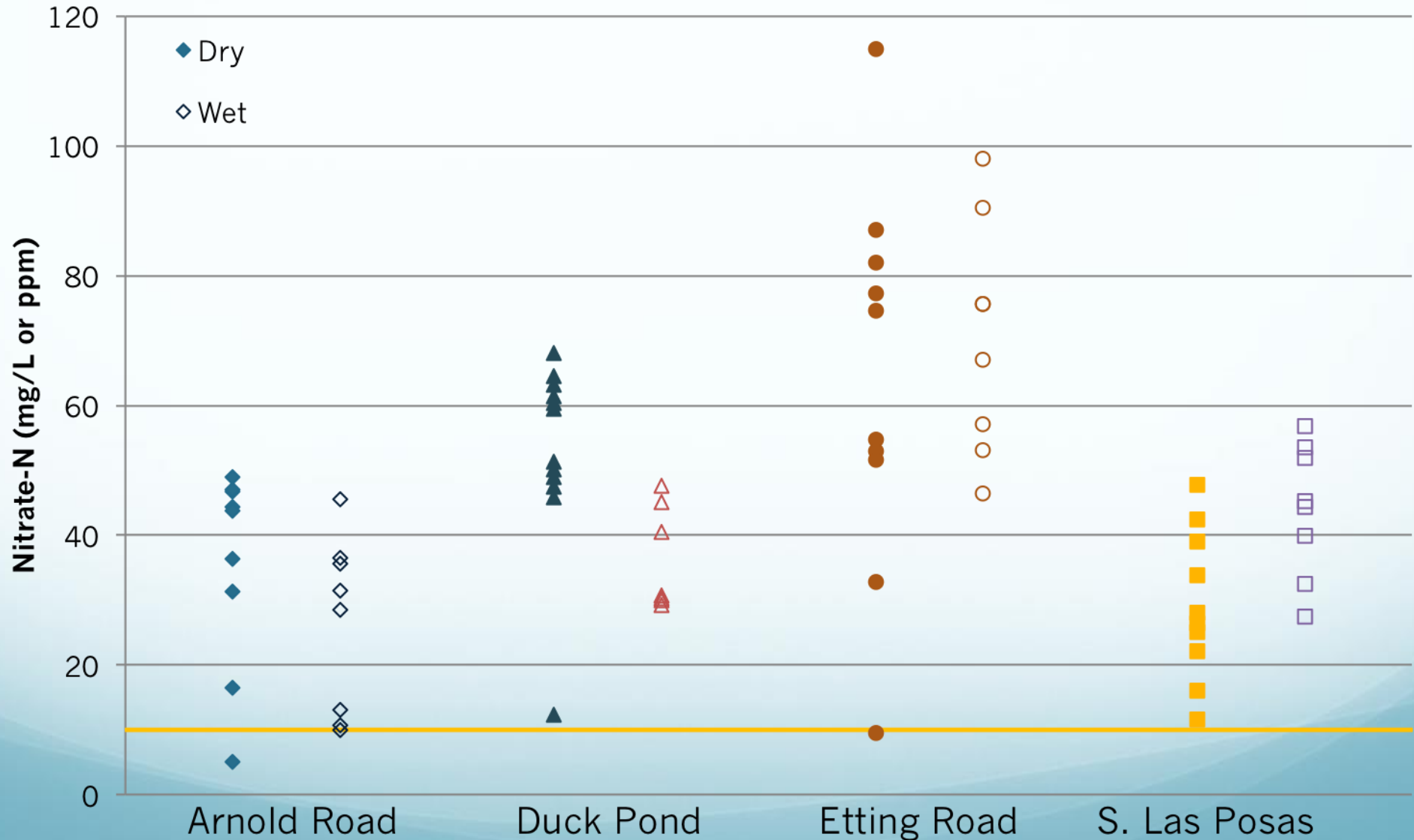
Upper Calleguas Creek Aver. Nitrate



Lower Calleguas Creek Aver. Nitrate



Nitrate at Sites with a Large Proportion of Row Crop Acreage



Most Frequently Exceeded: Nutrients and Pesticides



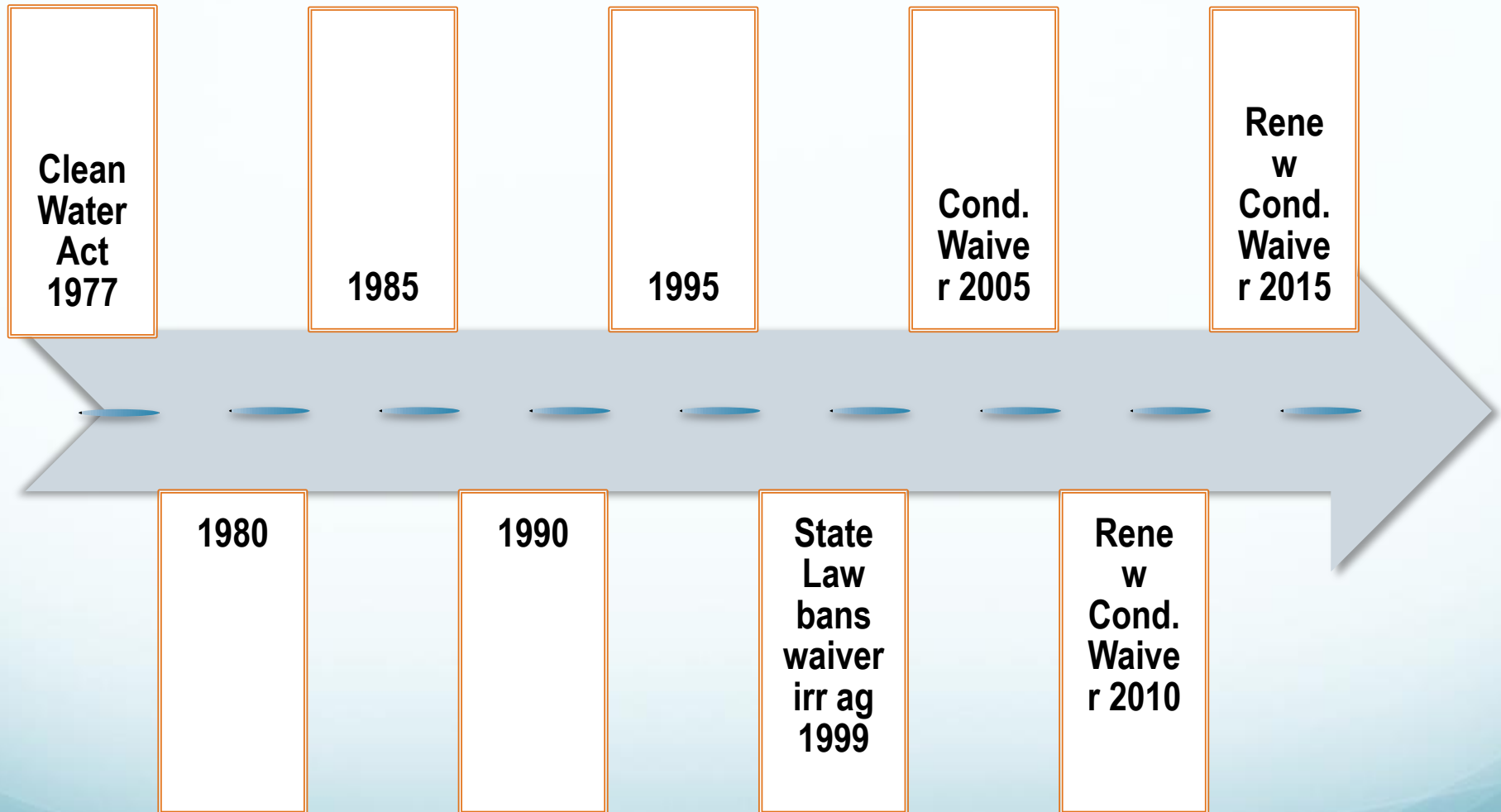
Excessive algae growth



Toxicity

Newman, LARWQCB, 2011

Conditional Waiver Timeline



BMPs

Best Management Pactices



Irrigation and Salinity Management

Best Management Practice	Yes, Prior to Oct. 2010	Yes, new since Oct. 2010	Planned for future	No, not currently used	Not Applicable
1 Sprinkler irrigation runoff is captured or kept on the property.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 At least every 5 years, the irrigation system is tested for distribution uniformity by monitoring water delivery or pressure differences within a block.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Regular maintenance is performed on the irrigation system to maintain distribution uniformity and prevent runoff caused by leaks or clogged lines.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Pressure regulators or pressure compensating emitters are used.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Sprinkler heads and drip emitters of the same flow rate are used within each block and replaced with the same heads or emitters, when necessary.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 Soil moisture is measured using any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensors • Tensiometers • Probes • Irrigation monitoring service 	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What can I do to make improvements?

1. Prevent Irrigation Runoff
2. Practice the 4Rs of fertilizer usage
3. Minimize the transport of pesticides by controlling erosion



Drip tape replaces overhead



Drip to establish celery



Distribution Uniformity Testing



Vegetated buffer to reduce sediment



Soil testing to reduce fertilizers



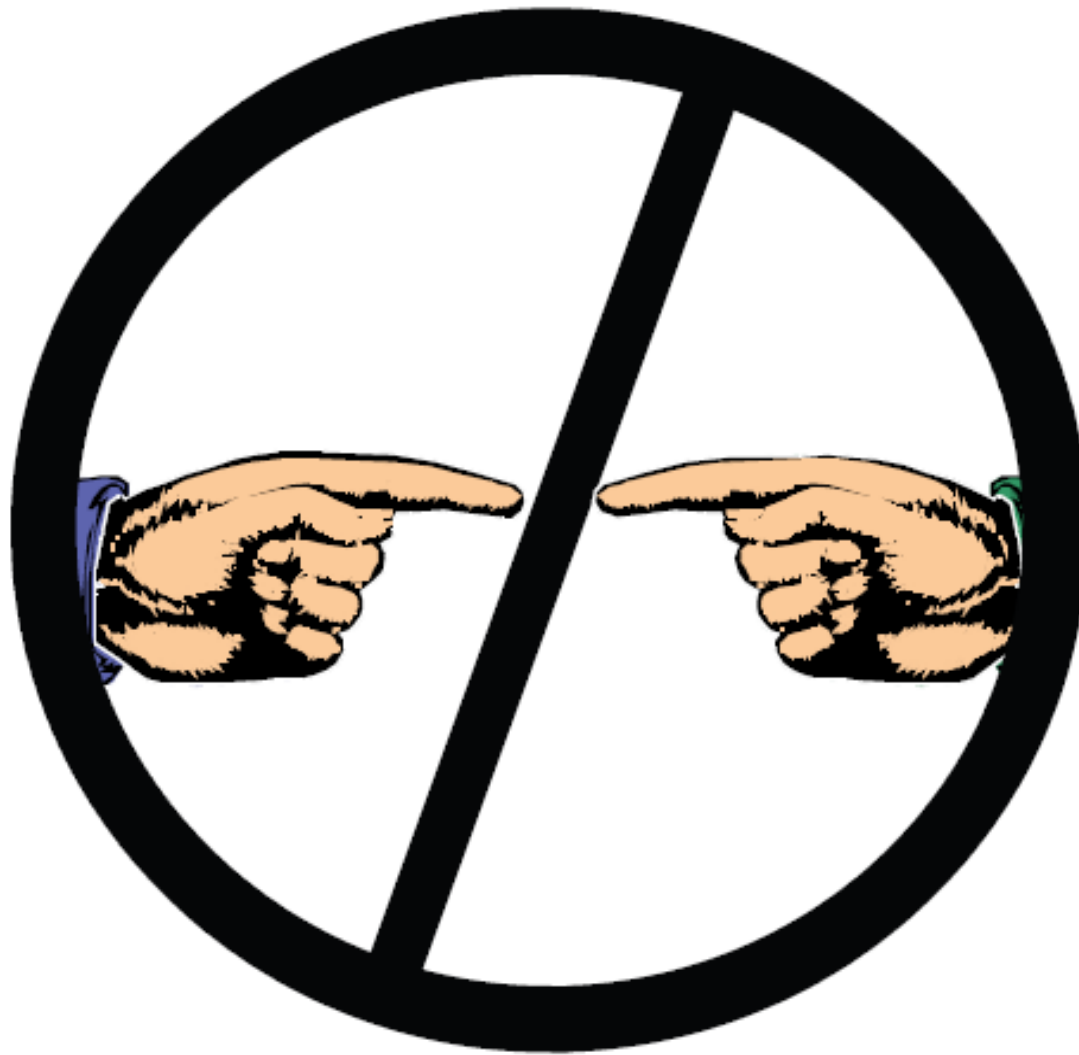
Quick Nitrogen Test



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Don't play the "Blame Game"...



We're all in this together!



VENTURA COUNTY
Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group

www.FarmBureauVC.com
Water Issues

