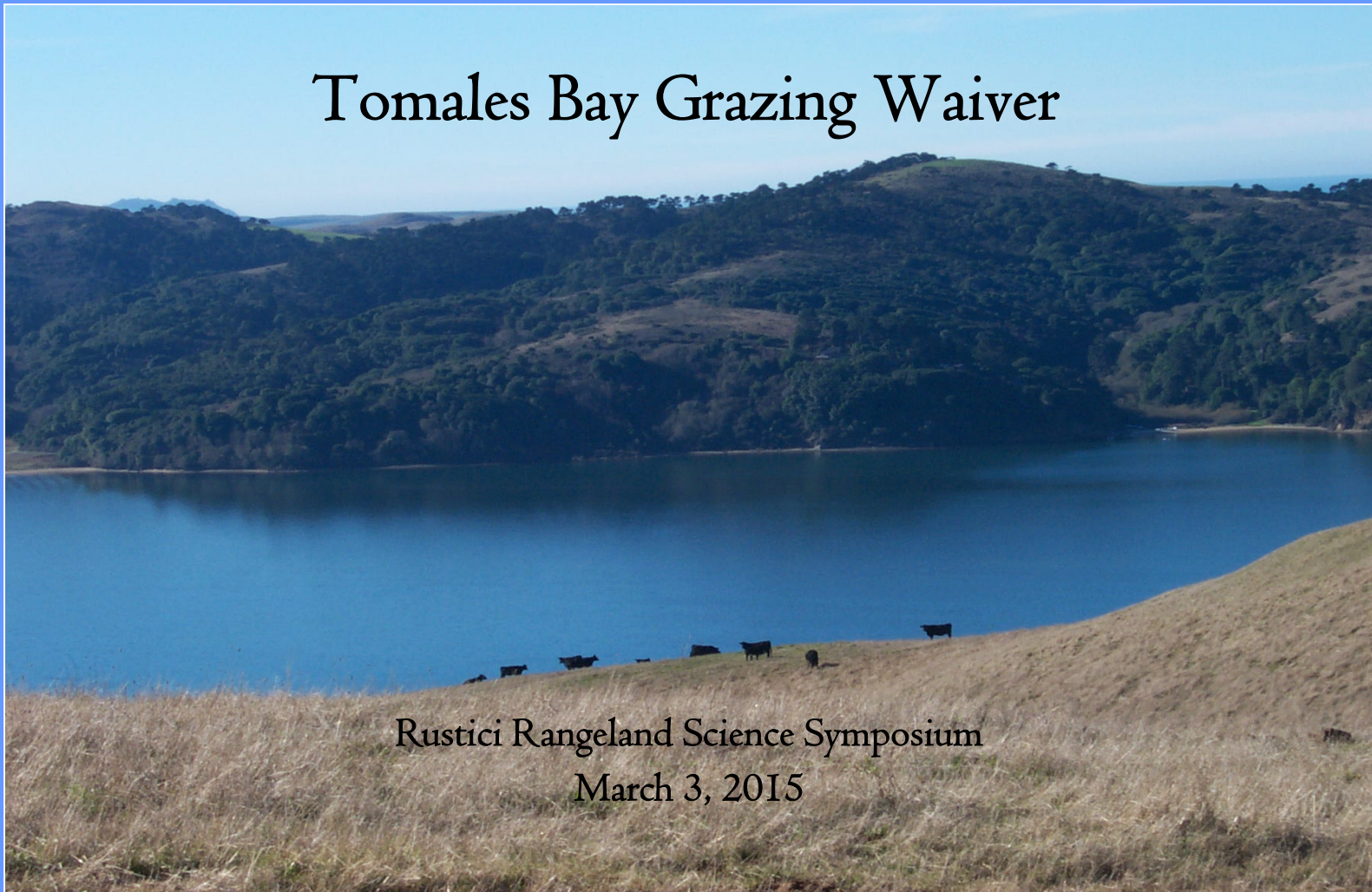


Tomales Bay Grazing Waiver



Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium
March 3, 2015

Nancy Scolari
Marin Resource Conservation District

Steps Leading to the Waiver

- 1998 170 people ill from Norwalk-like virus
- 2000 Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan
Tomales Bay Agricultural Group forms
Marin Coastal Permit Coordination
- 2006 Water Board meets with Ag Groups
- 2007 U.S. EPA approved the Pathogen TMDL for Tomales Bay
- Strict water quality regulations for shellfish
 - 250 parcels are affected
 - Notices of Intent to Comply
 - Implementation of projects
 - Monitoring, Annual Certifications
- 2008 Grazing Waiver is approved and then renewed in 2013

Grazing Waiver Implementation



Of the 424 notifications sent

- 187 Notices of Non-Applicability
- 45 No Response
- 210 Notices of Intent

Conditional Waiver Compliance Team

- Marin Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- Marin County Farm Bureau
- Western United Dairyman
- California Cattlemen's Association
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- University of California Cooperative Extension

Ranch Plans - Keeping it Simple

List all future potential water quality projects, including livestock grazing or current practices, and changing maintenance practices, and changing maintenance time needed to conduct maintenance. List the steps needed to implement the project. List the steps for each work item. List the steps for each meeting, applications, etc.

This ranch/farm is in compliance with the Grazing Operations Waiver Program (Conditional Waiver in the Tomales Bay Watershed, R2-2008-0054).

Farm/Ranch Name:	Phone:
Mailing address or P.O. Box:	City, State and Zip Code:
List all Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) or legal description (Township, Range, Sections) for each parcel, pasture, or silage field included in this plan:	

Do not indicate that problems such as implementing new practices is the amount of time needed to conduct maintenance. List the steps needed to implement the project. List the steps for each work item. List the steps for each meeting, applications, etc.

Water Quality Concerns

Ranch Plan (check one)

- A Ranch Water Quality Plan was completed in _____ (year) and will be updated in _____ (year).
 The Ranch Water Quality Plan is expected to be finished in _____ (year).

Compliance Monitoring Inspections (fill-in dates of monitoring inspections were completed)

- 1) Wet season inspections conducted on: Dec. _____ Jan. _____ Feb. _____
 March _____ April _____
- 2) Dry season inspections occurred on: June _____ Sept. _____
- 3) Survey of stream(s) below and above ranch facility completed on : _____
- 4) Are further management practices needed to improve water quality? Yes No Not Sure

If yes is indicated in question 4, list any new potential water quality projects identified during ranch or stream inspections and describe planned or implemented fixes and any maintenance. Use additional pages if needed.

Date	Location (Pasture/ Field)	Describe Water Quality Concern	Notes (action taken, success, & future needs)

Completed by: Landowner Tenant Other _____

(Print name)

(Signature)

(Date)

Phone #: _____

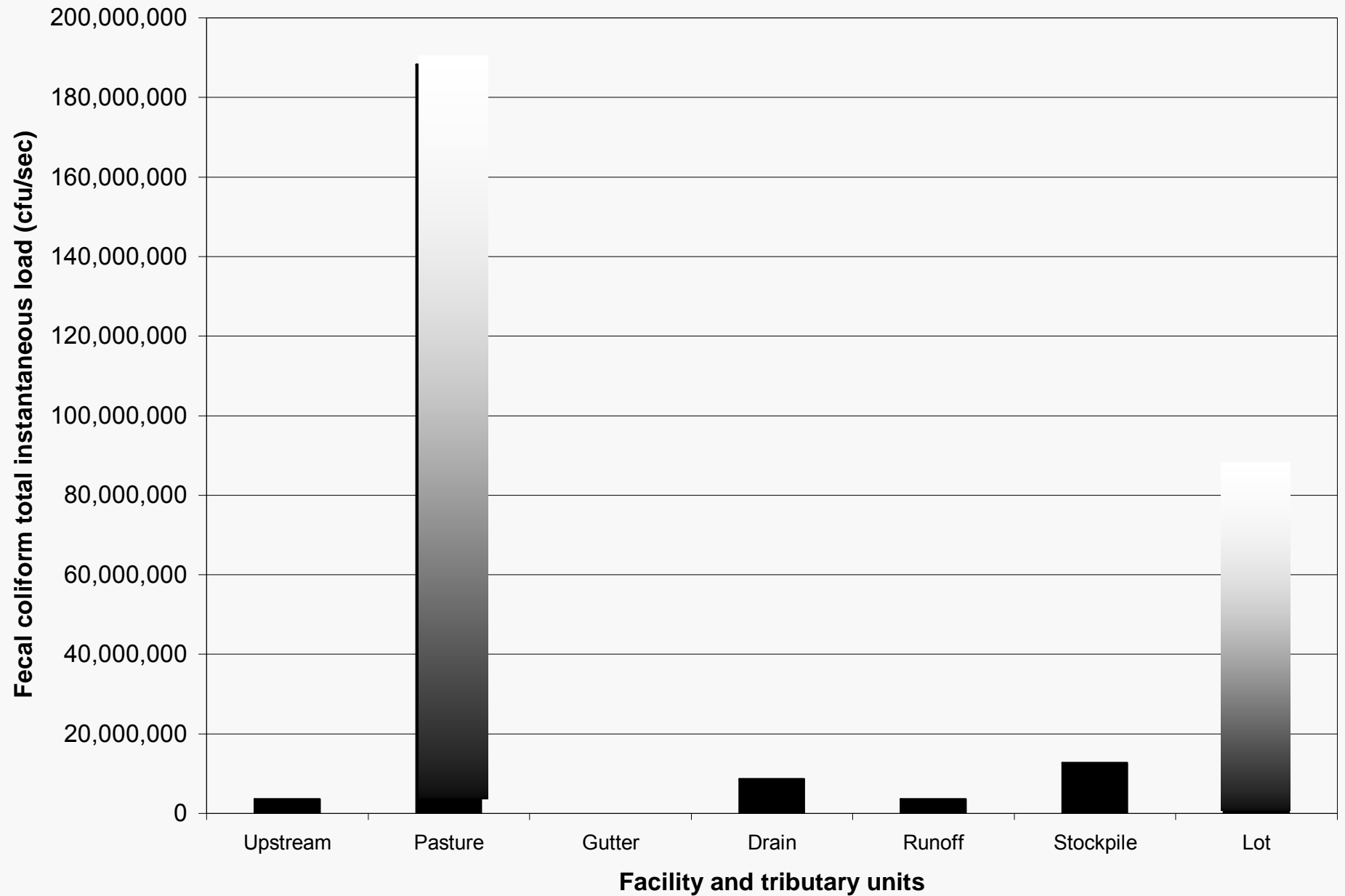
Implementation Planning

Make copies for landowner & tenant.
 Mail completed form by registered mail
before November 15 to:

San Francisco Bay RWQCB
 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
 Oakland, CA 94612

ATTN: Grazing Operations Waiver Program

Fecal coliform load in storm run-off



Plan Implementation



- I. RCD Applies for and receives grant funding
 - Have acquired \$4M in the last 10 years
2. Sends out announcement to ranchers
 - 50+ Ranchers signed up
3. A preliminary site assessment is completed for each ranch.

Steps to Construction



November

December-January

February-March

June-October

Landowner applies for funding

Project is evaluated and ranked
(NRCS technician/RCD Advisory Group).

Project is approved by RCD Board for design
and permit services.

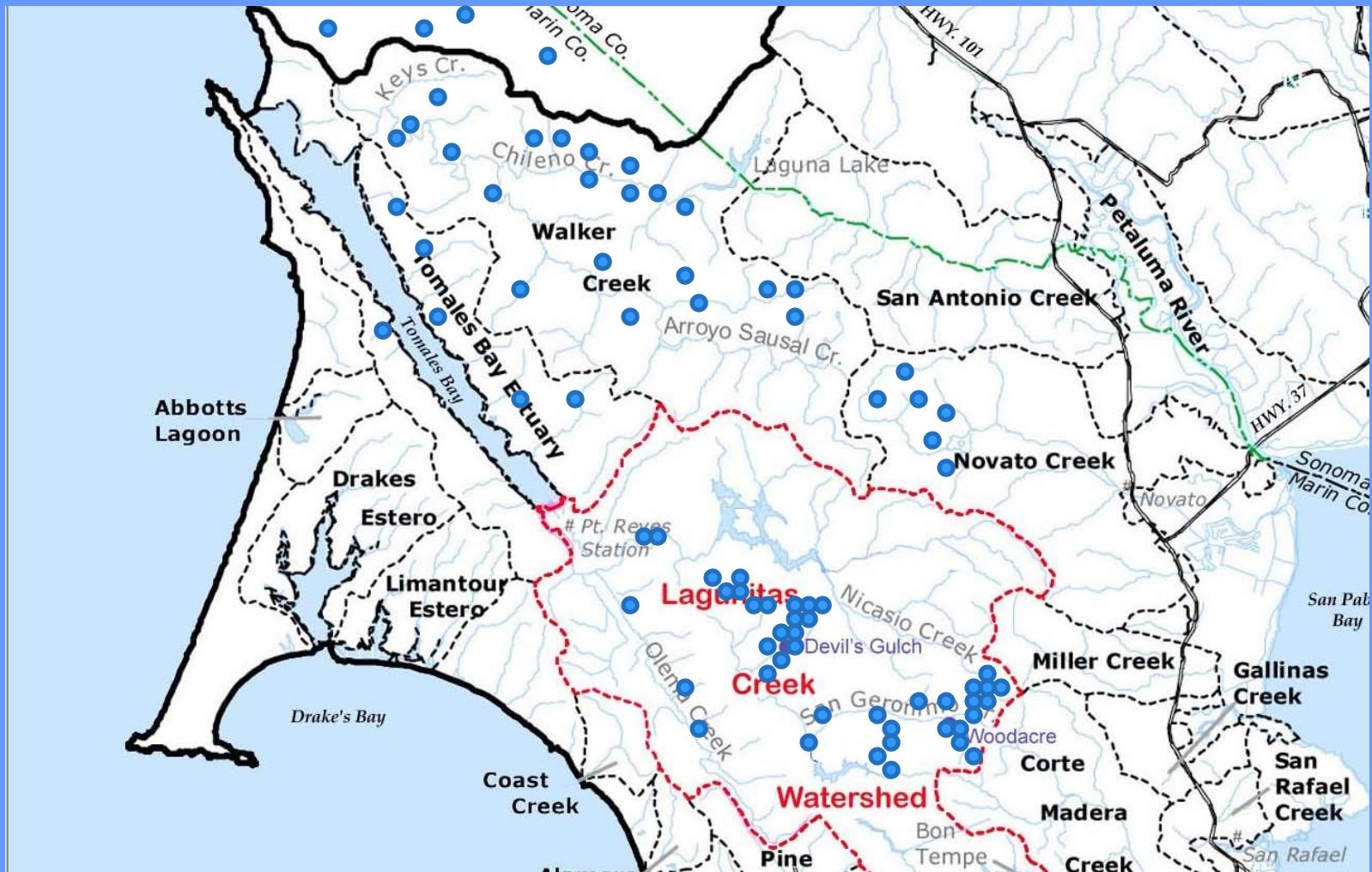
Construction

Staying on Track

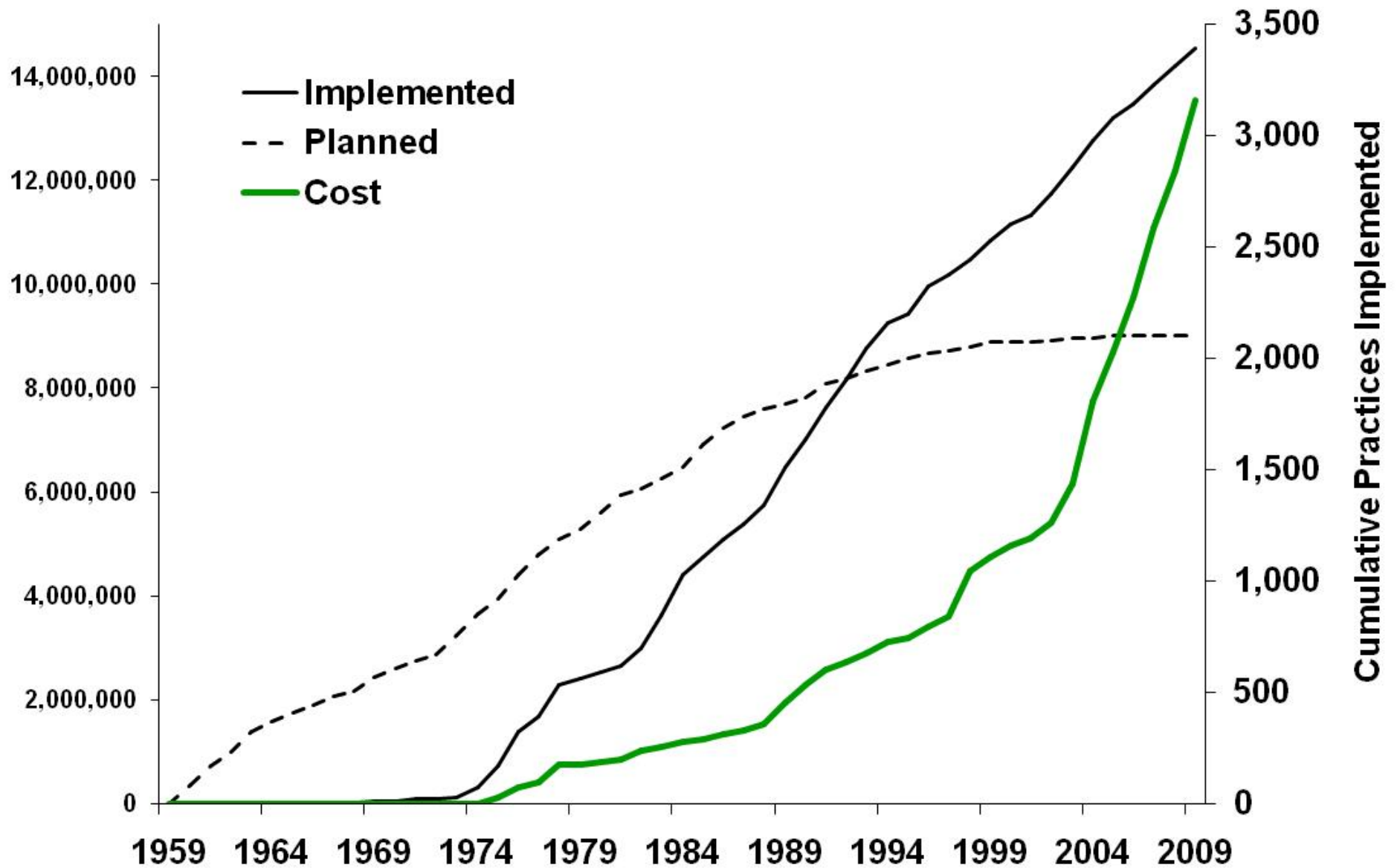


- UC Cooperative Extension – Marin
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- Marin Resource Conservation District
- Bay Institute's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)
- Point Reyes National Seashore

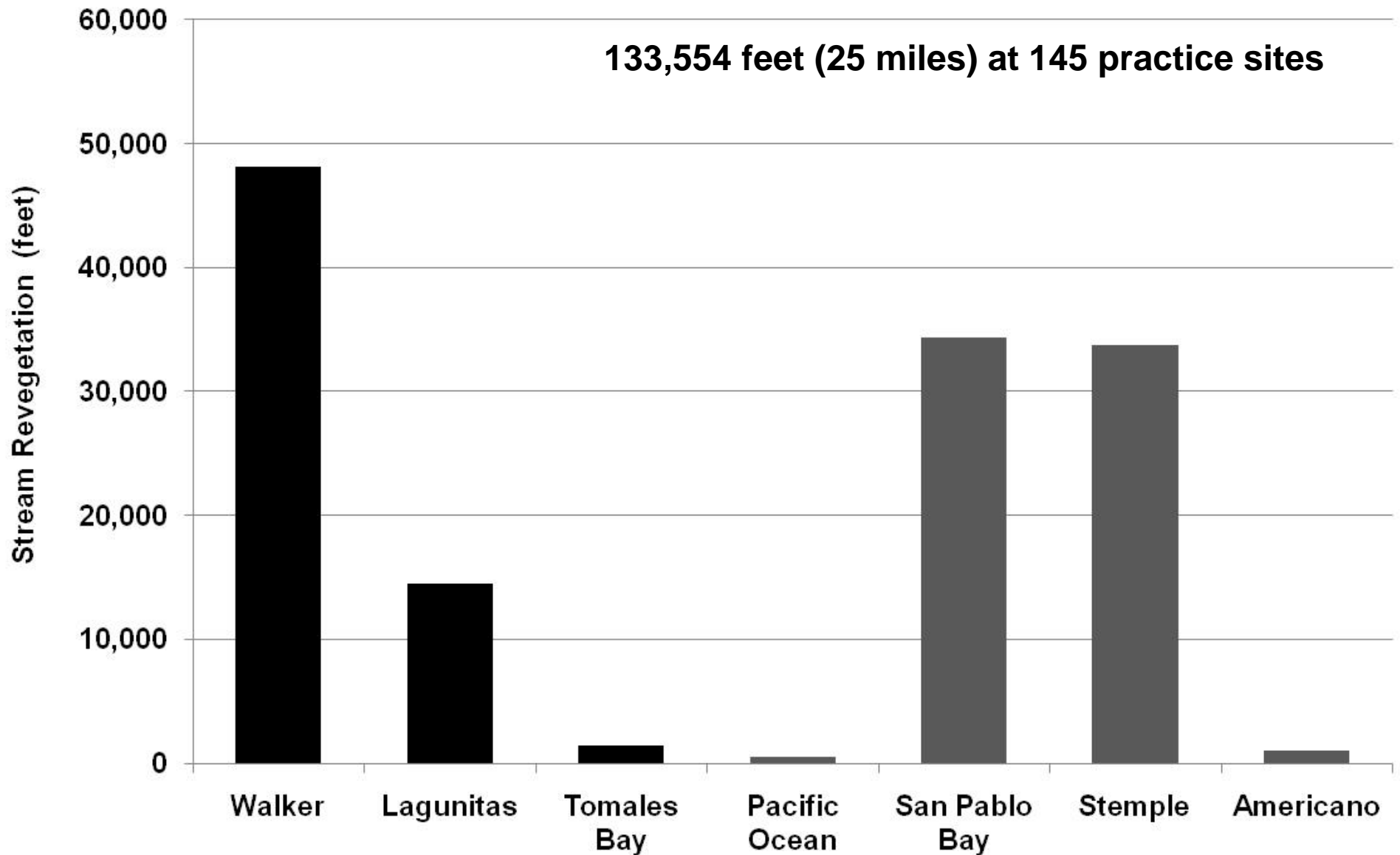
Map of Projects



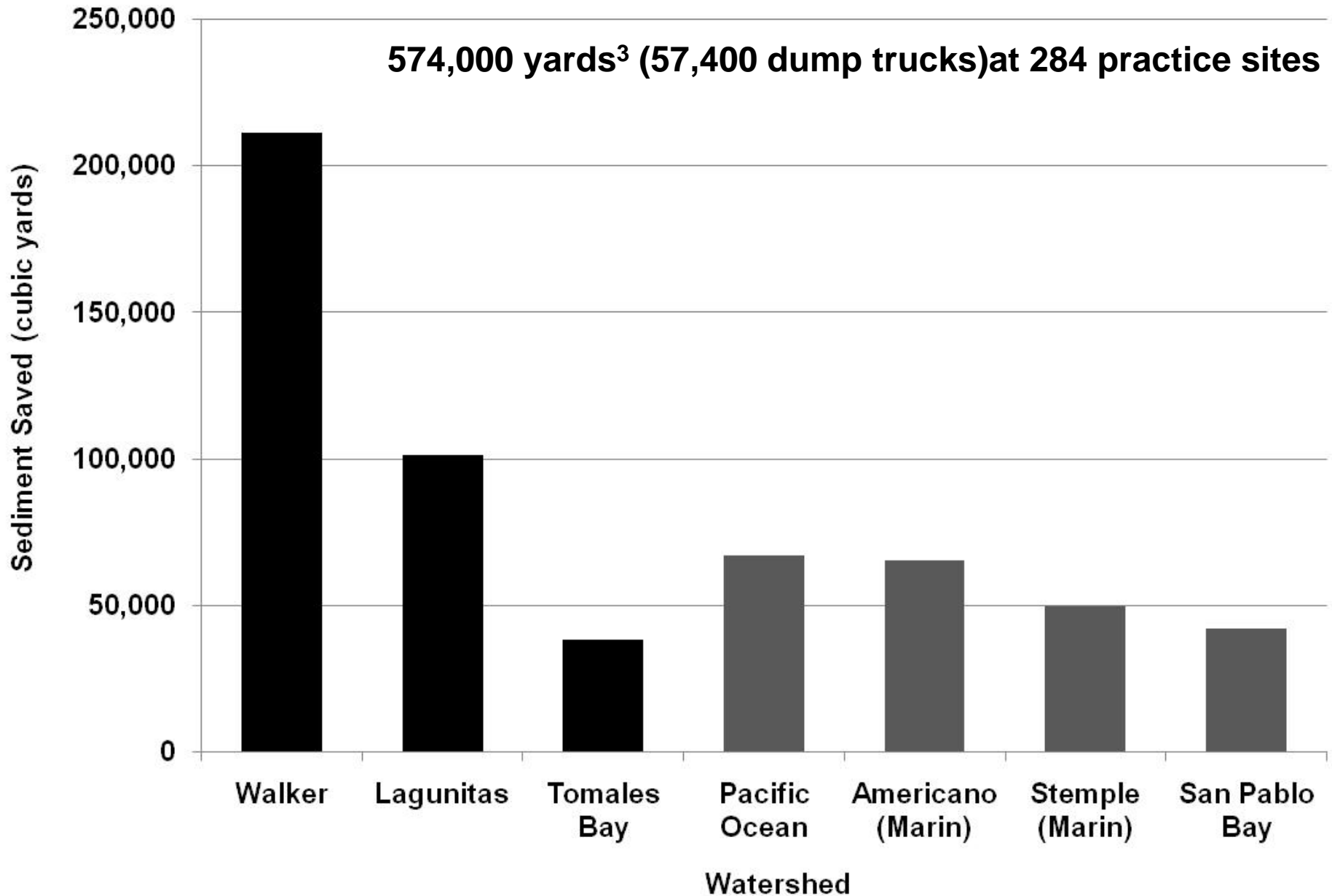
Cumulative Practices Implemented



Stream Revegetation



Sediment Saved



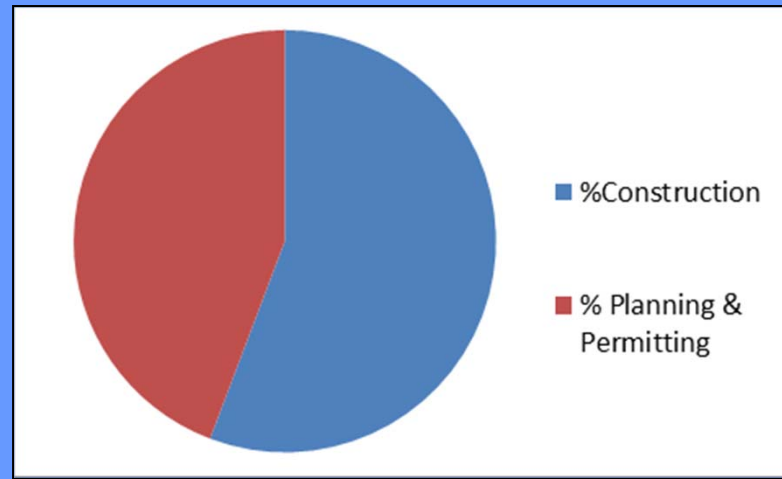
Implementation



Implementation



RESULTS – 10 years



- \$4M applied to projects (56% Construction, 44% Planning/Permitting)
- 155 conservation practices implemented
- 36 Ranchers receive construction \$\$
- 20 on waiting list for future work
- 10 miles of stream restored
- 7000 native trees and shrubs planted
- Increases in neomigratory bird and salmon sightings
- 80% COMPLIANCE

What didn't work

- Surprise notices without notifying partnership
- NOT reminding ranchers to submit annual certifications
- Low staffing at our NRCS and RCD offices
- Ignoring compliance
- Lack of water quality data

And what did

- Ag partnership
- Working with Water Board from the beginning
- Responsive Water Board staff who understood field work
- NRCS-EQIP, Water Board, Land Trust
- Permit and funding programs to accommodate need
- Ranch Plans stay on the ranch. Self certification option
- RDM is a management tool. Not regulatory criteria.

Thank you!

