

# Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)

University of California  
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region

# What Are WE Trying to Accomplish?

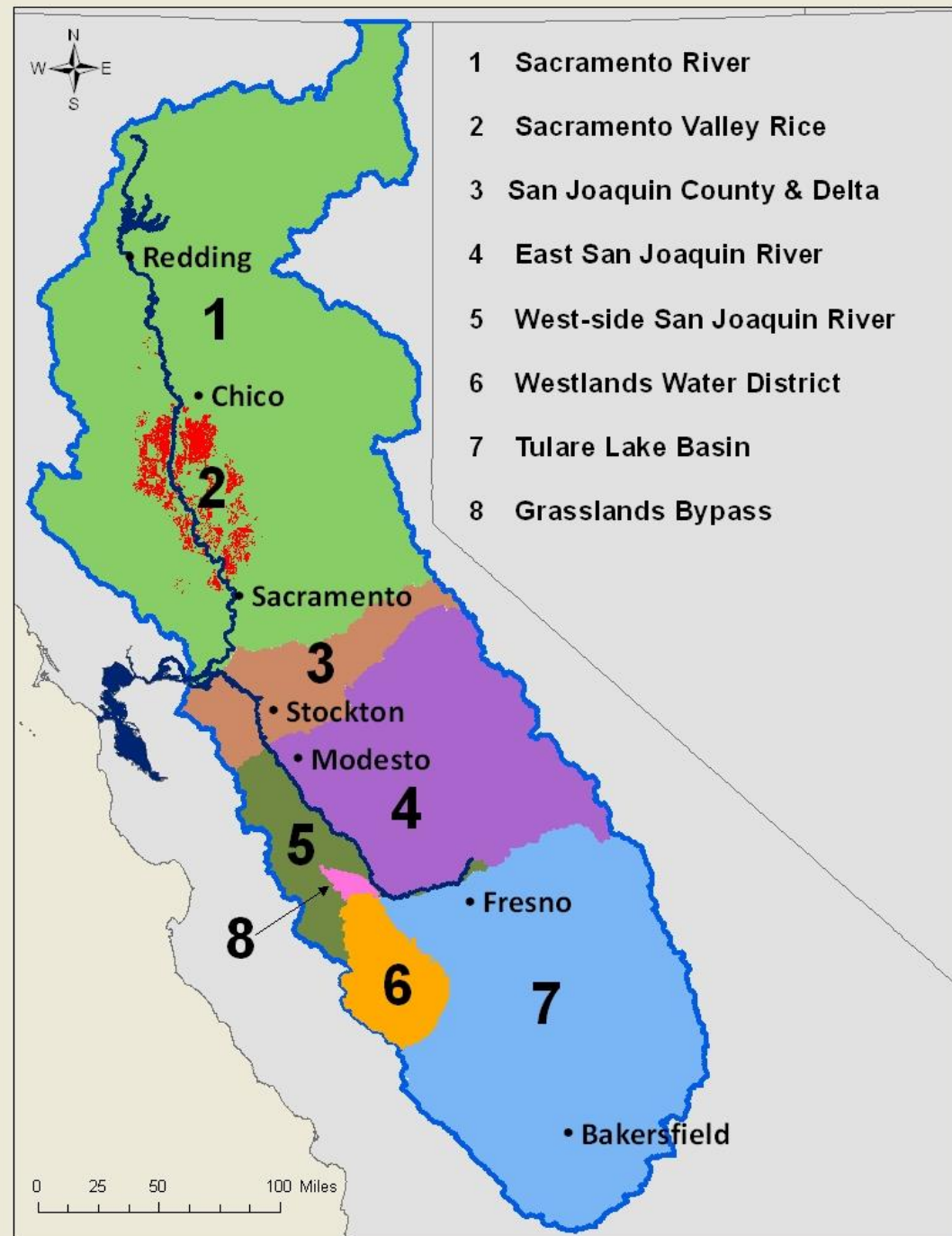
WE = Water Board, Agriculture, Stakeholders

- Protect water quality for current and future generations
- Ensure any new requirements are consistent with sustaining agriculture in the Central Valley
- Learn and adapt as we move forward
- Note – Consistent w/UC ANR Strategic Vision and Initiatives

# Geographic Areas/Commodities Addressed by WDRs

Approximately 7.8 million acres of irrigated land and over 35,000 growers

An estimated 560,000 acres regulated under Dairy Order



# *Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Scope*

## **Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)**

- Includes commercial operations, managed wetlands, nurseries
- Surface water discharges
  - surface return flows, storm runoff, tile drainage, drift
- Groundwater discharges
  - Fertilizer/pesticides moving down soil profile, well head, or backflow

# Known Nitrate Sources (Regional)

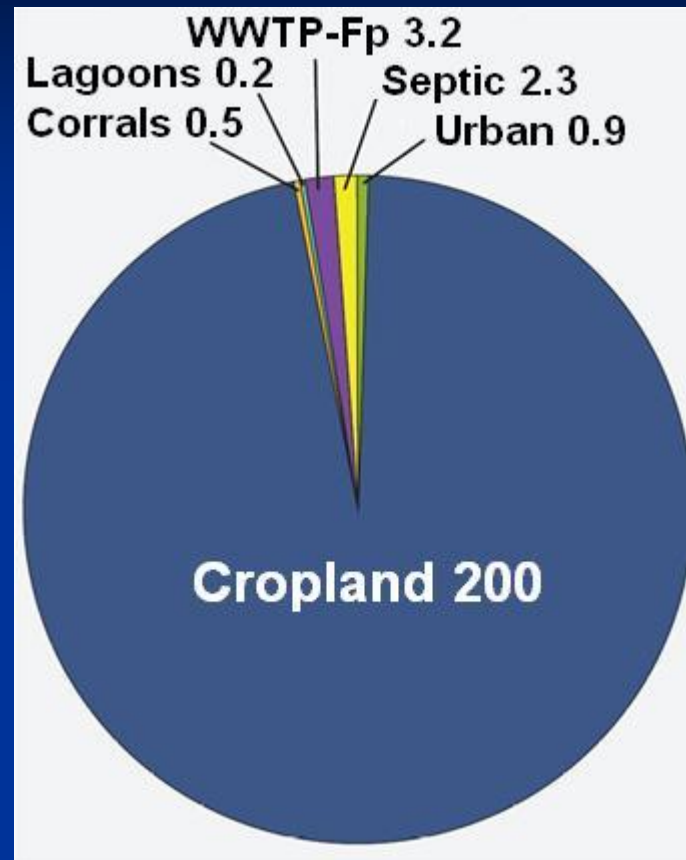


Figure 1. Estimated groundwater nitrate loading from major sources within the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley, in Gg nitrogen per year (1 Gg = 1,100 t).

<http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/files/139110.pdf> ; Viers, J.H., et al (2012). Nitrogen Sources and Loading to Groundwater





# Draft High Vulnerability Groundwater Areas & Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) Areas

East San Joaquin  
Water Quality Coalition

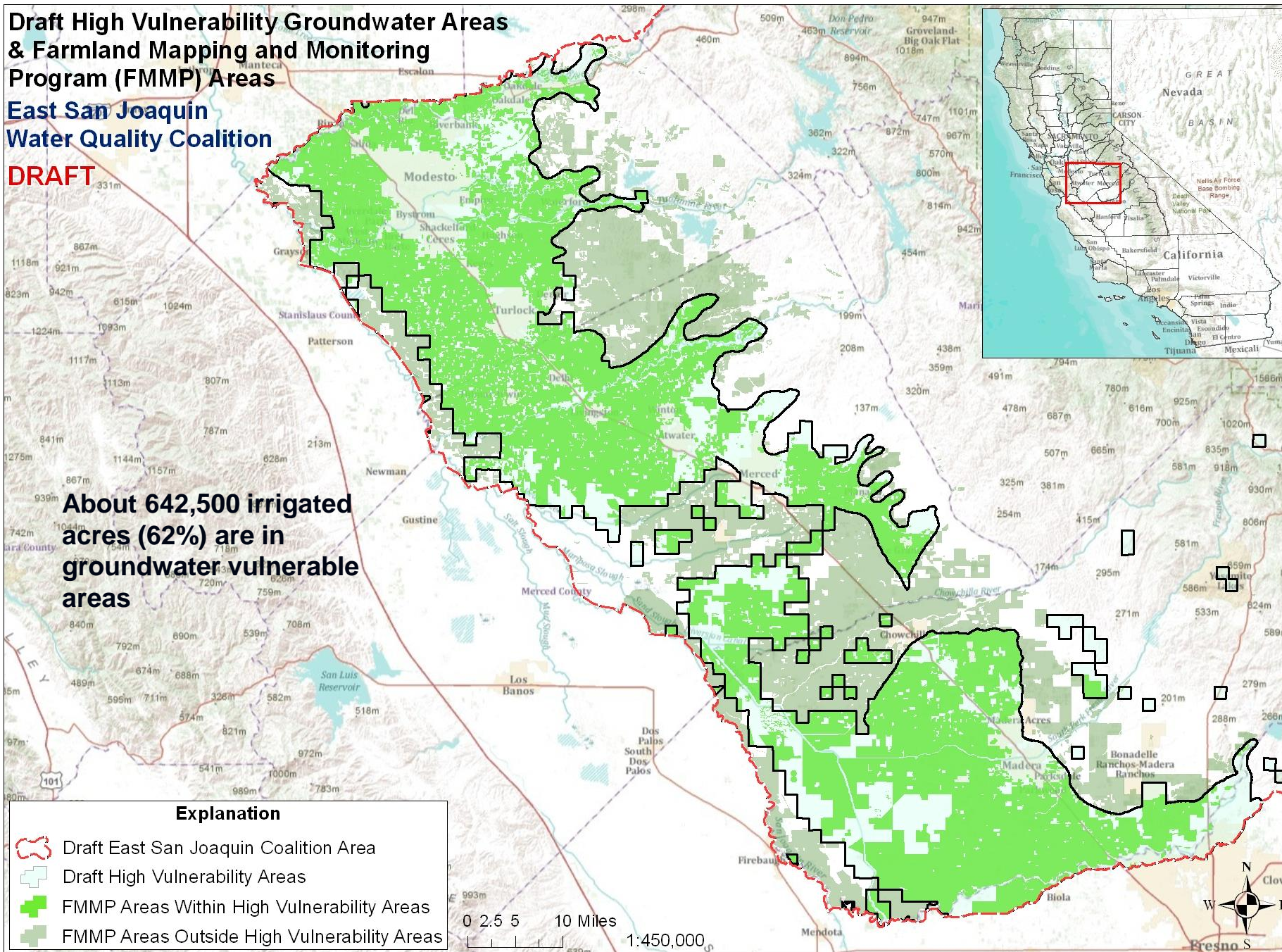
**DRAFT**

**About 642,500 irrigated acres (62%) are in groundwater vulnerable areas**

## Explanation

-  Draft East San Joaquin Coalition Area
-  Draft High Vulnerability Areas
-  FMMP Areas Within High Vulnerability Areas
-  FMMP Areas Outside High Vulnerability Areas

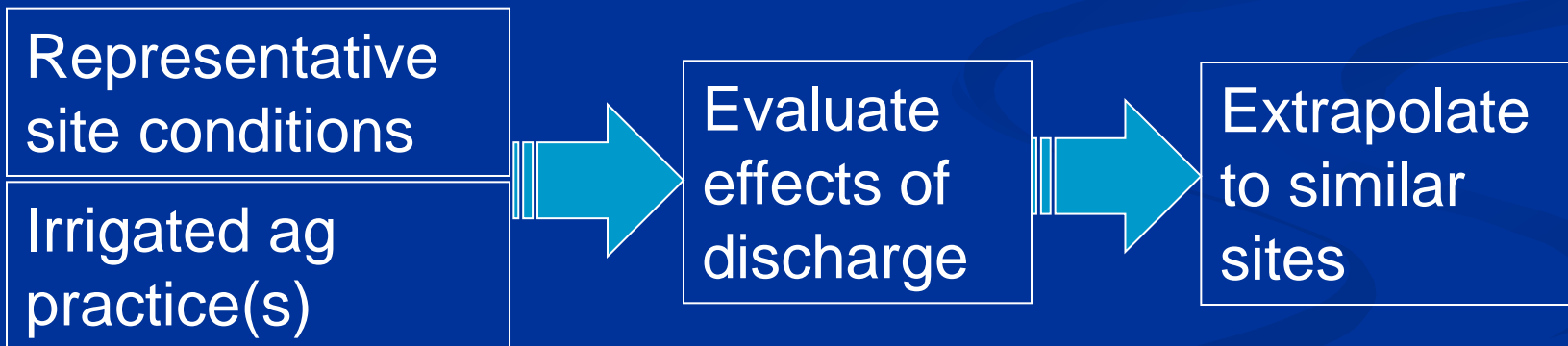
0 2.5 5 10 Miles  
1:450,000





# Order Components – Information from Third Party

- Management Practices Evaluation Program
  - Relates practices on the land surface to effect on groundwater quality
  - Develop mass balance/conceptual model of transport, storage, degradation/chemical transformation mechanisms





# Performance Standards

- Minimize waste discharge off-site to surface water
- Minimize/eliminate discharge of sediment above background
- Minimize percolation of waste to groundwater
- Minimize excess nutrient application relative to crop need
- Prevent pollution and nuisance
- Achieve/maintain water quality objectives and beneficial uses
- Protect wellheads from surface water intrusion

# Significant Issues – Compliance/Enforcement

- Near-term compliance evaluation
  - Membership in third-party
  - Backflow prevention
  - Wellhead protection
  - Sediment discharge evaluation
  - Member complete plans (e.g., sediment and erosion/nitrogen management)

# Significant Issues – Compliance/Enforcement

- Long-term compliance evaluation
  - Are practices protective of water quality?
    - Informed by monitoring, management plans, MPEP
  - Are Members implementing effective practices?
  - Management plan implementation and review of monitoring data

# Thoughts for UC ANR

- To effectively implement initiatives, awareness of regulatory efforts is critical
- Key role in translating goal of regulations to what farmer needs to do
- Partnering in studies to evaluate effectiveness of practices in protecting water quality while sustaining ag

# What's Next?

*Implementation begins with the adoption of the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Order*

*Other geographic areas and rice should have Orders adopted within a year*

*Pending litigation may result in delays*

# Questions ?



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