

# Agricultural BMP's to reduce sediment and pyrethoid insecticides in irrigation runoff

Michael Cahn, UC Cooperative Extension, Monterey County

Allan Fulton, UC Cooperative Extension, Tehama County

Blaine Hanson, Extension Specialist, UC Davis

Rachael Long, UC Cooperative Extension, Yolo County

Michael Lydy, University of Southern Illinois

Donald Weston, Professor, UC Berkeley

## Funding:

- California State Water Resources Control Board

# Agricultural BMP's:

- Anionic polymers (PAM)
- Vegetative ditches
- Sediment traps

## Goal:

To understand how to use each of these practices to their fullest potential

# 2006 and 2007 Field Studies



- Chico, CA
  - Clay loam soil
  - Lima bean
  - Zeta-cypermethrin
- Davis, CA
  - Loam soil
  - Processing tomato
  - Lambda-cyhalothrin
- Salinas, CA
  - Sandy loam soil
  - Lettuce
  - Permethrin

# Field Research Layout



# General experimental methods:

- Conducted six irrigations per season per site
- First irrigation cultivated but no insecticide
- Subsequent irrigations, cultivated then applied insecticide
- Irrigated within 48 hours of insecticide application

# Primary Data Collection

- Volume of flow on and off of each plot
- Suspended sediment concentration in runoff with and without BMP (control vs treatment)
- Pesticide concentration on suspended sediment
- Aquatic toxicity



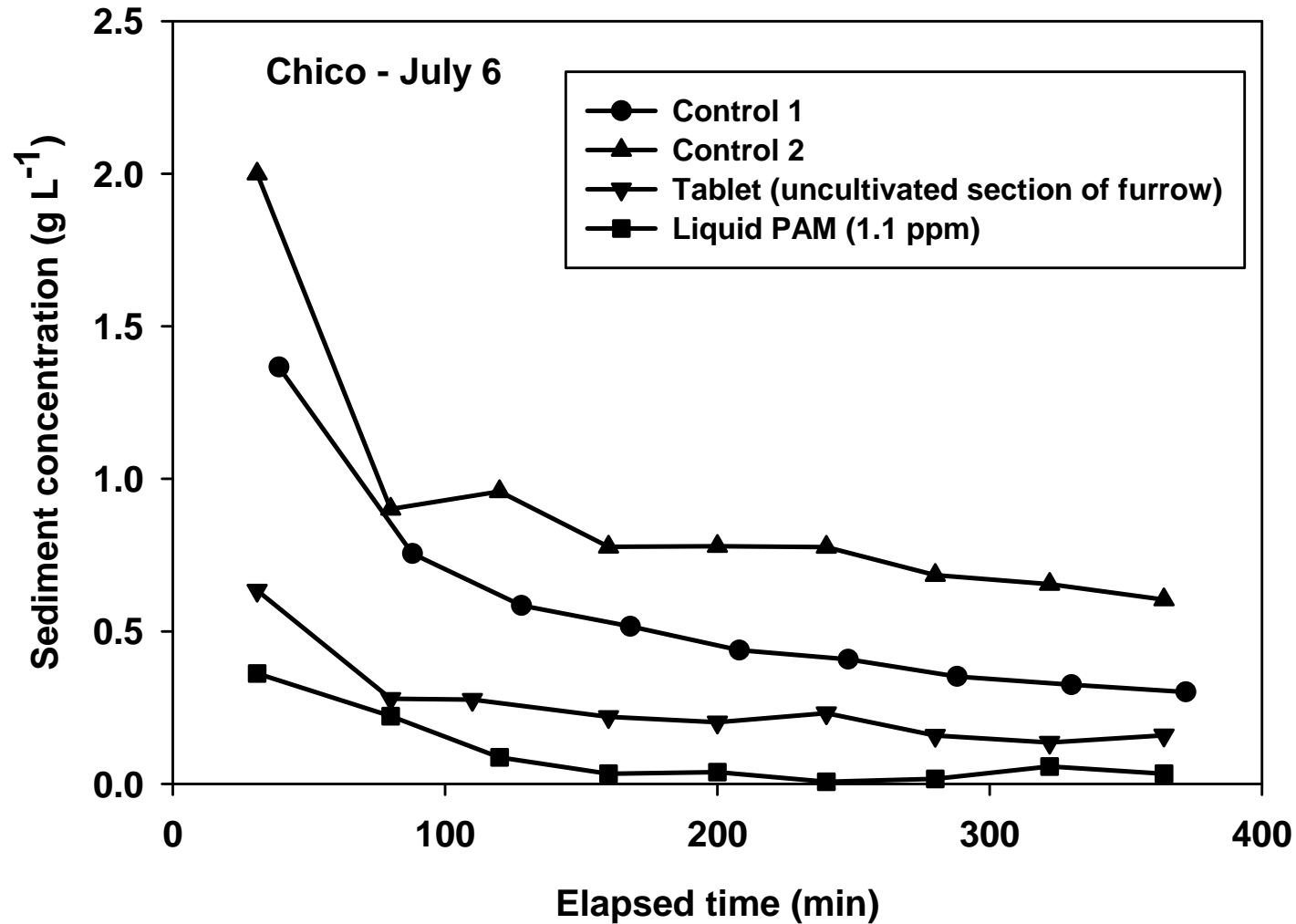
# Results with Anionic Polymer (PAM)

## The Effects of:

- Formulations
- Application methods
- PAM concentrations



# Effect of PAM on Sediment Concentrations, 2007



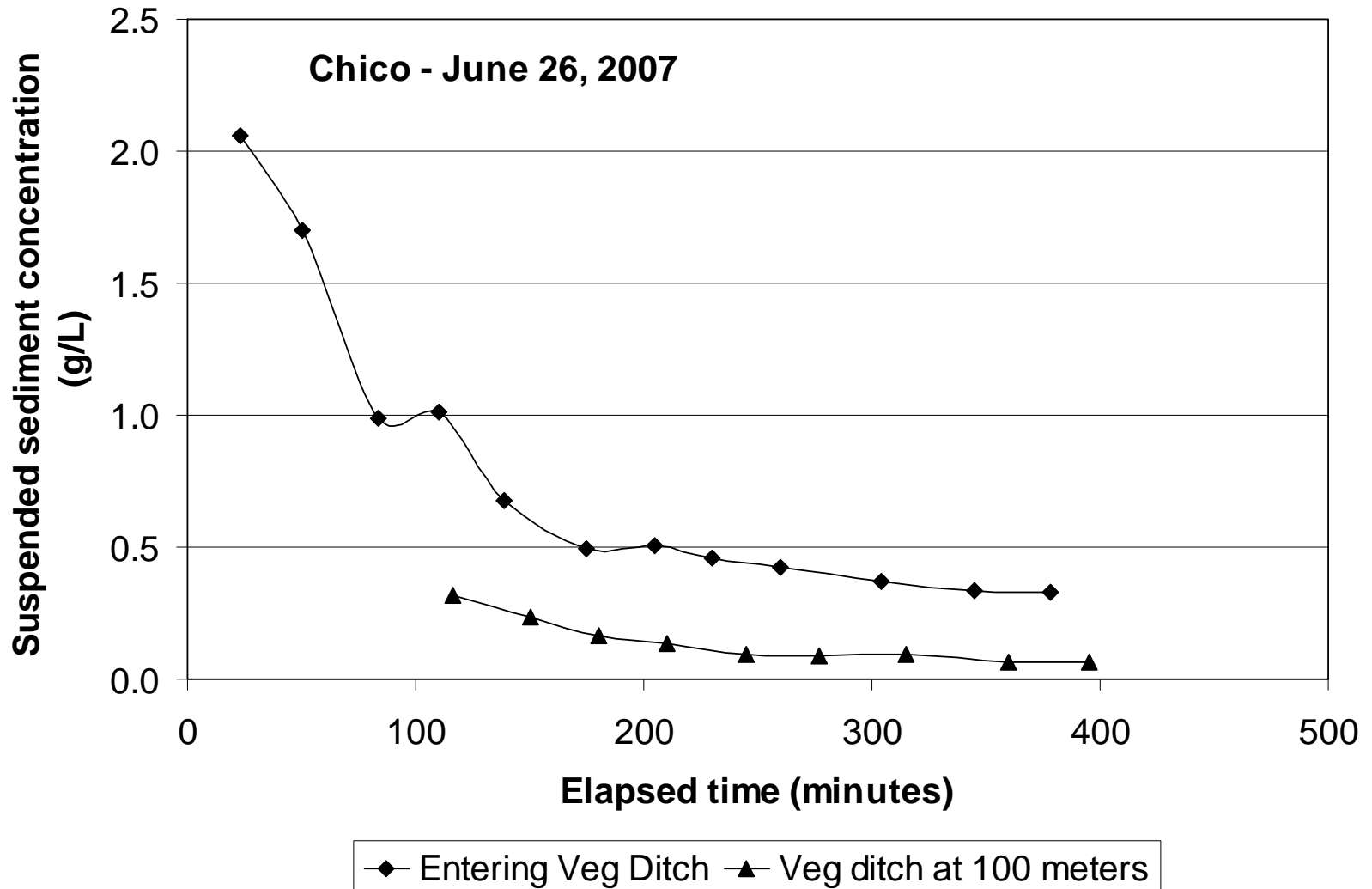
# Effect of liquid PAM on Level of Pyrethroid Discharge and Survival of *H. azteca*

- In 2006, averaged 91 % reduction in pyrethroid discharge across all tests
- 100 % mortality of *H. azteca*
  
- Oil-based PAM (37 % a.i.) LC50  $\geq$  0.82 ppm, 2.07 ppm (2 tests)
- Water-based PAM (50 % a.i.) LC50  $\geq$  100 ppm

# Results with Vegetated Tailwater Ditch



# Effect of Vegetated Tailwater Ditch on Suspended Sediment



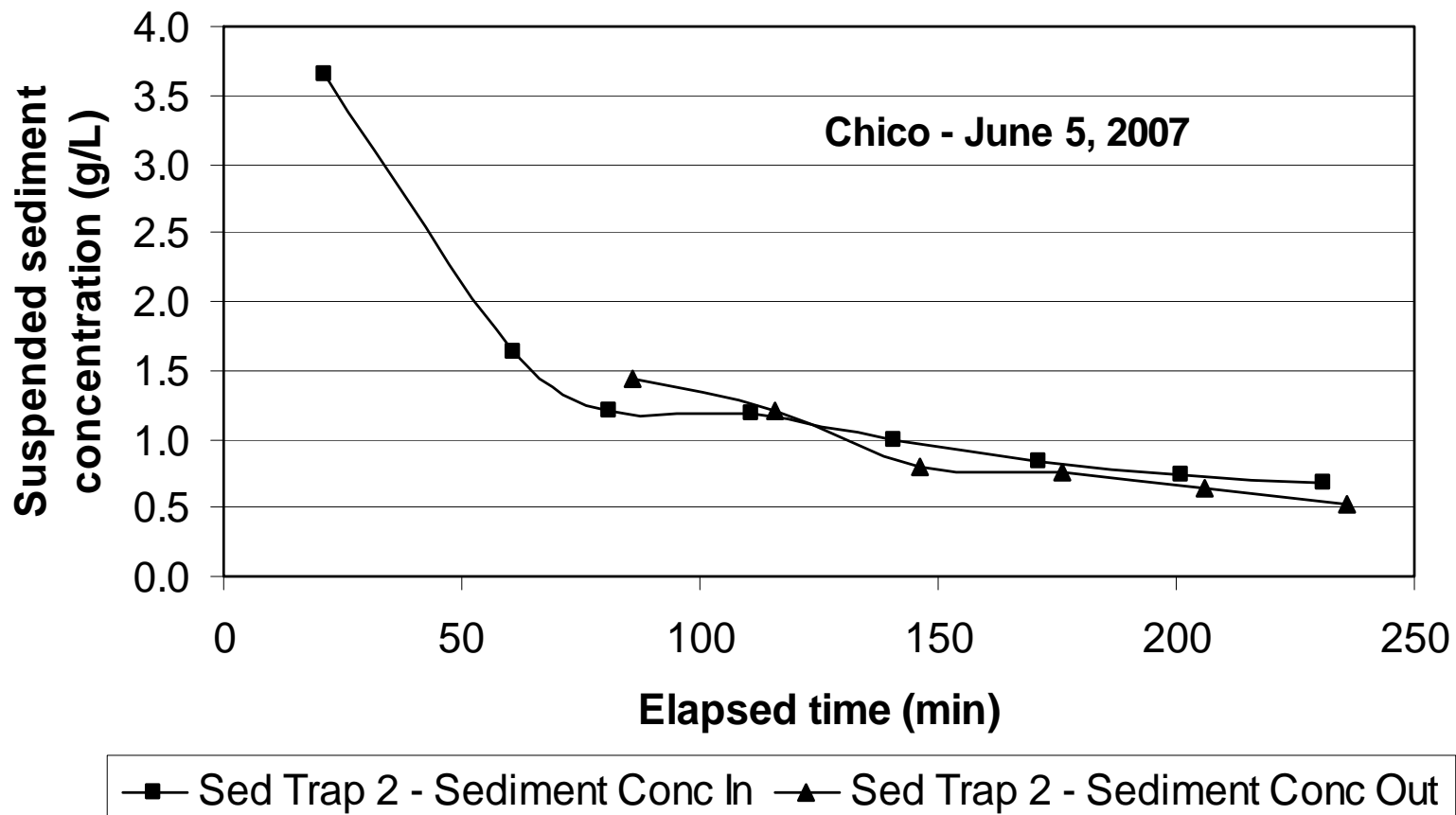
# Effect of Vegetated Ditches on Level of Pyrethroid Discharge and Survival of *H. azteca*

- In 2006, averaged 56 % reduction in pyrethroid discharge with a 50 meter vegetative ditch
- 56 % survival of *H. azteca*

# Results with Sediment Traps



# Effect of Sediment Traps on Suspended Sediment Concentration



# Effect of Sediment Traps on Level of Pyrethroid Discharge and Survival of *H. azteca*

- In 2006, averaged 1.3 % reduction in pyrethroid discharge
- 18 % survival of *H. azteca*

## Summary:

- PAM emulsions in source water were highly effective at reducing sediment and pyrethroids in runoff.
- Granular and tablet formulations of PAM were effective but not to the extent of emulsions.
- Toxicity to aquatic species was a concern for oil-based PAM emulsions.
- Vegetated tailwater ditches effectively filtered sediment and sediment-bound insecticides.
- Sediment traps were less effective at reducing suspended sediment and pyrethroid insecticides in field runoff.