

# Competition with wildlife and ESA objectives

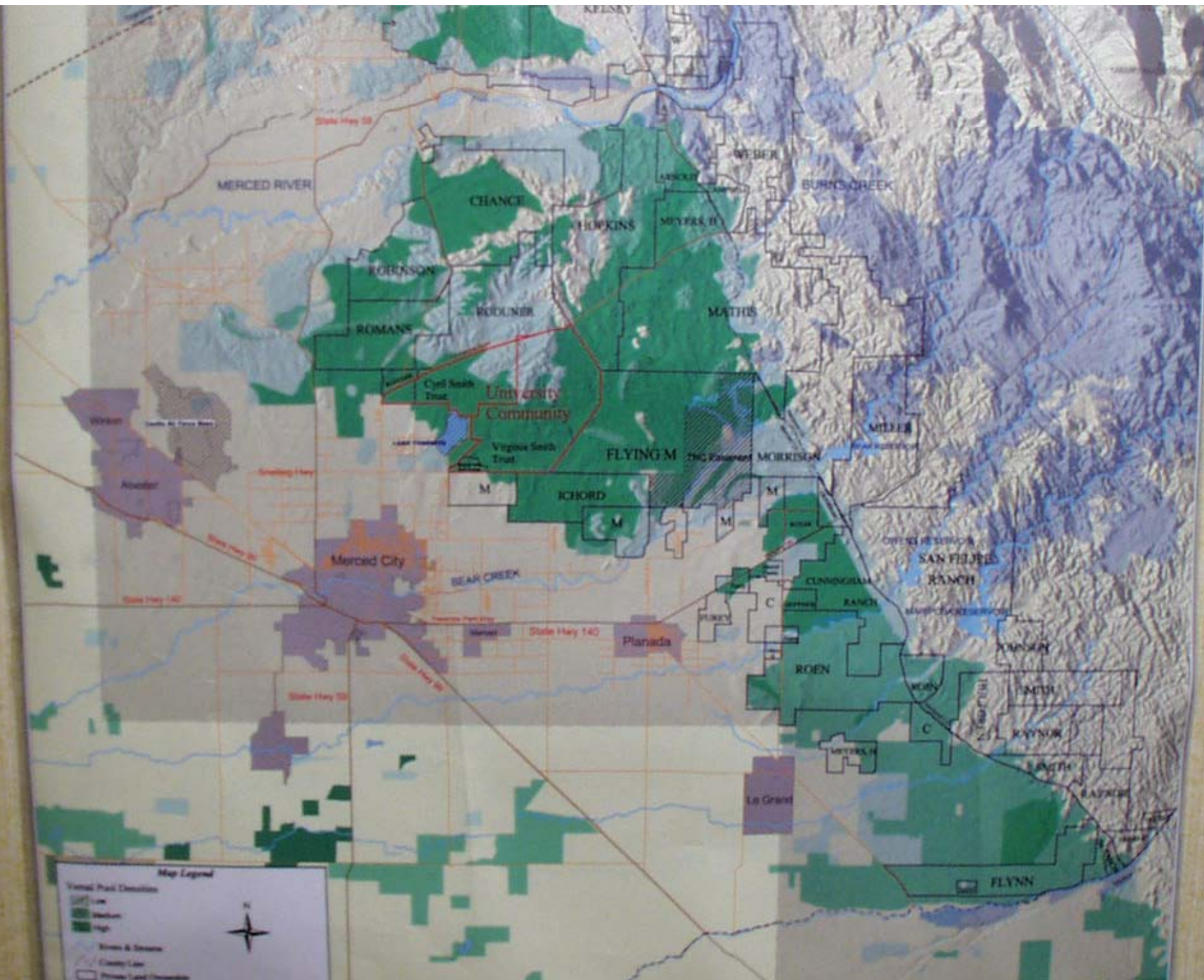
Purchase of lands or conservation easements for wildlife habitat

Protecting large tracts of marginal land  
→ forces urban growth onto productive farmland







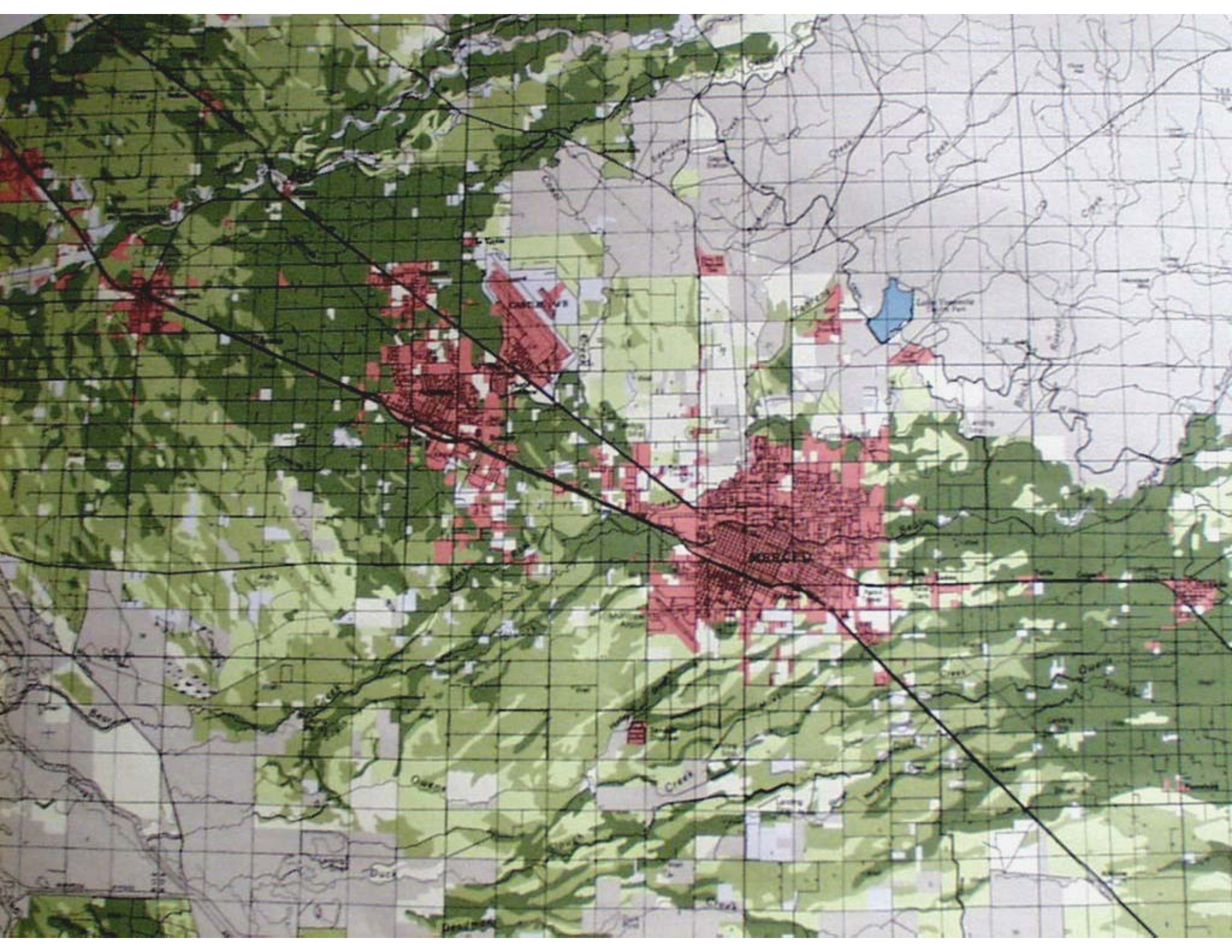


**Map Legend**

- Watershed Description
  - Low
  - Medium
  - High
- Roads & Streams
- County Line
- Private Land Ownership

N





CHICKEN WIRE

AGRESTA

LONG TONNAGE  
PARK

Creek

Owens

Duck

Deadman

Owens

Stream

Trail

Trail

Trail

Trail

Trail

Trail

Trail

Trail

Trail



# PRESERVING HABITAT VS FARMLAND



Does the prime farmland deserve that same protections that vernal pools do?

Should we have comparable mitigations?



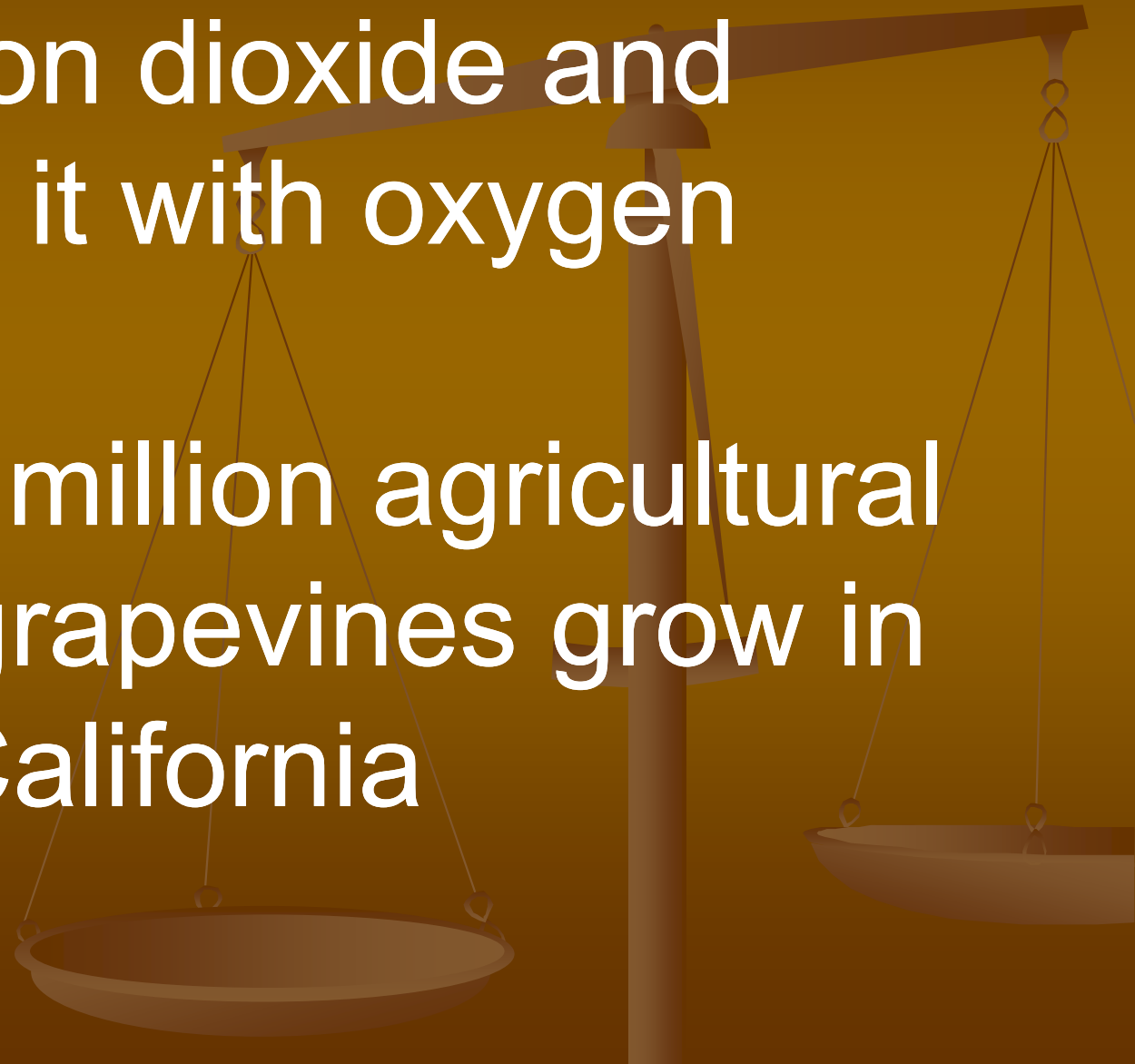
Farms provide a significant portion of wildlife **habitat** on both range land and crop land.

Many do this intentionally  
-Utah State University

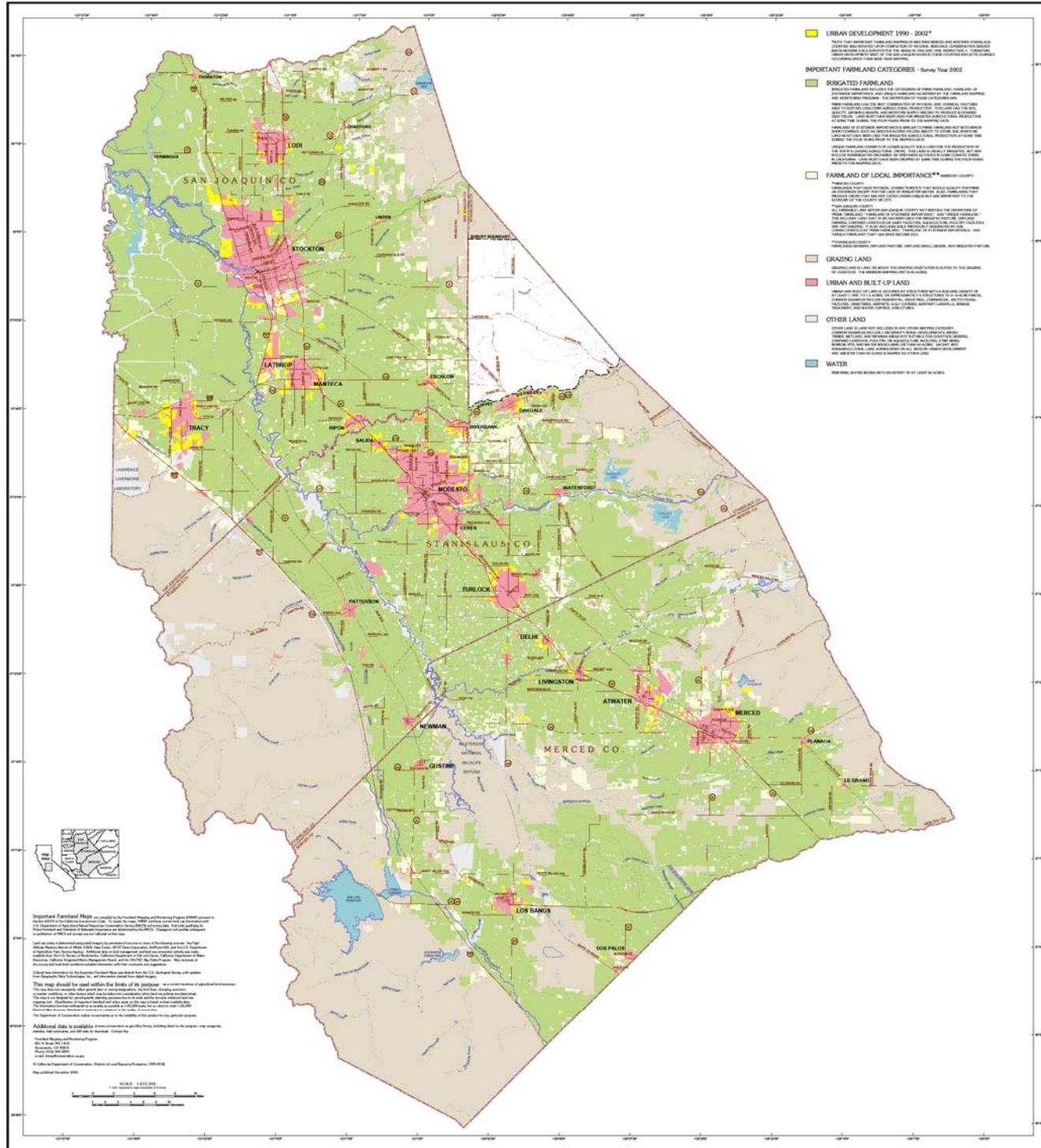
Agriculture can be an important wildlife **food** source before and after harvest as some of the crop is often left behind

Crops remove large amounts  
of carbon dioxide and  
replace it with oxygen

About 520 million agricultural  
trees and grapevines grow in  
California



# URBAN DEVELOPMENT 1990-2002\* AND IMPORTANT FARMLAND 2002





# Factors that affect land use patterns:

Zoning - General plan

Endangered species

Population pressures and economy

Water and sewer lines

Industrial uses, dumps, sewer facilities

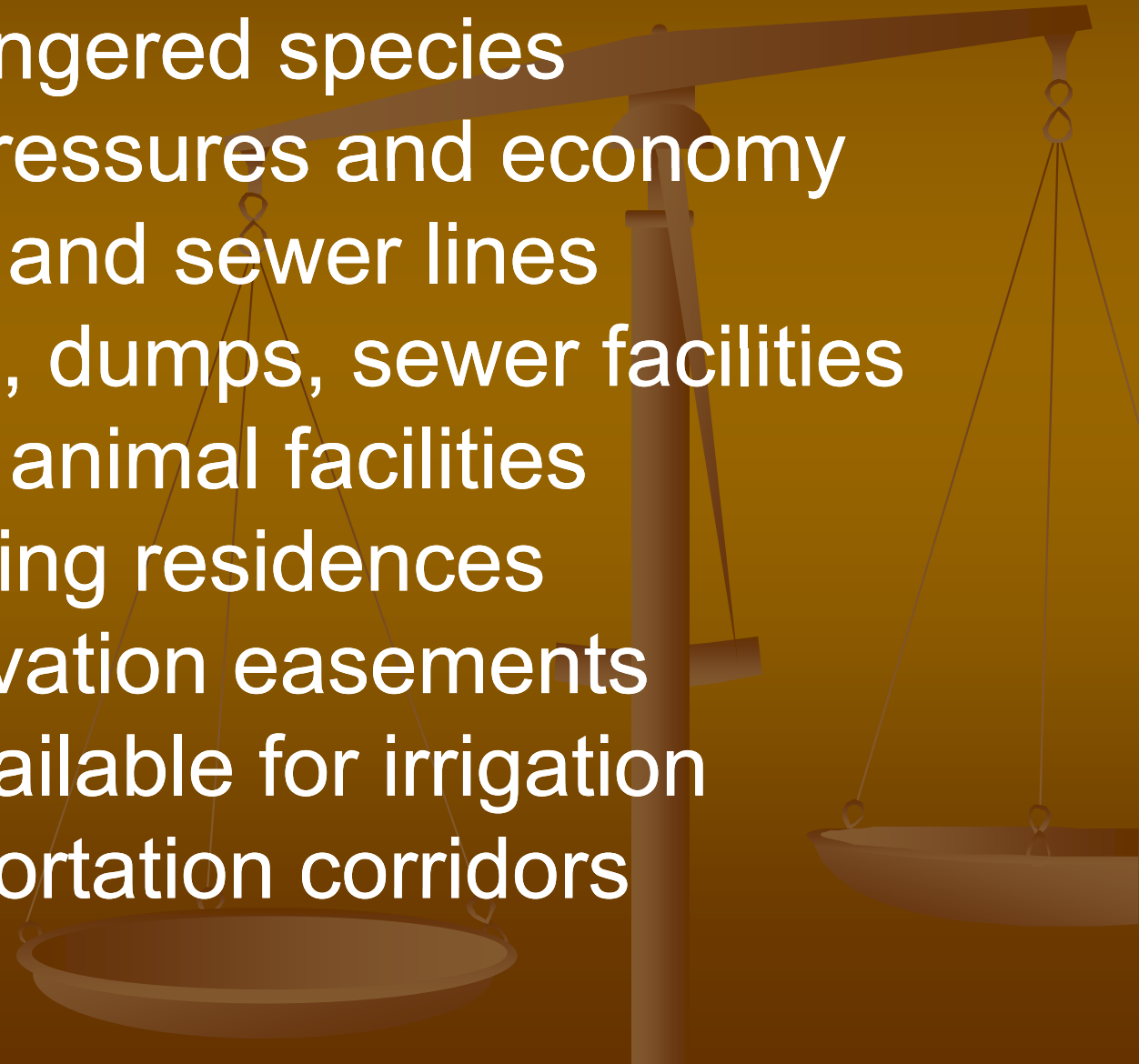
Large animal facilities

Existing residences

Conservation easements

Water available for irrigation

Transportation corridors

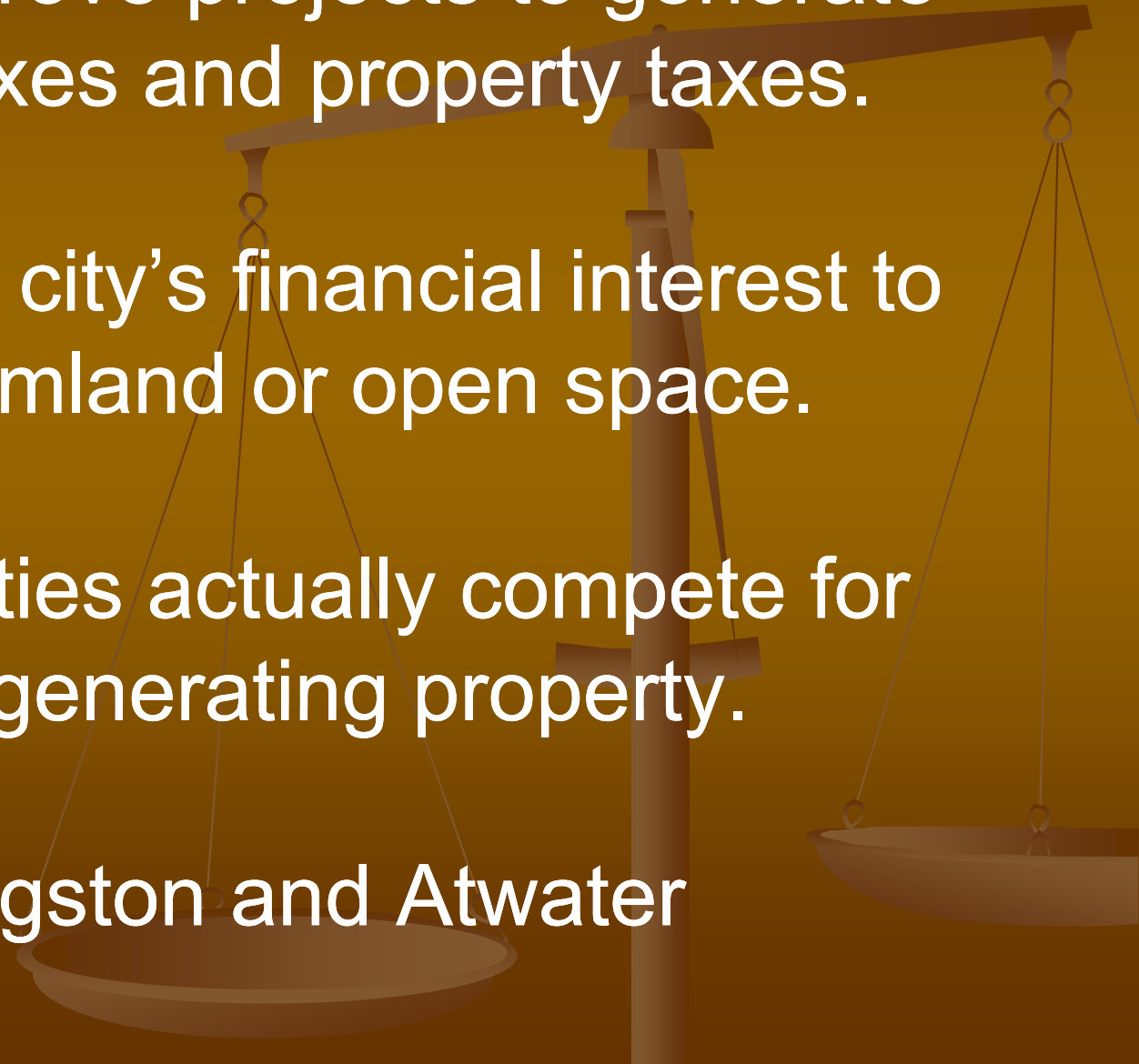


Another driver of rapid growth and sprawl is the tax structure which forces cities and counties to approve projects to generate fees, sales taxes and property taxes.

Usually not in a city's financial interest to preserve farmland or open space.

Neighboring cities actually compete for prime tax-generating property.

Eg: Livingston and Atwater





Modesto Bee

## **Local officials complaining state housing rules unfair**

November 25, 2002

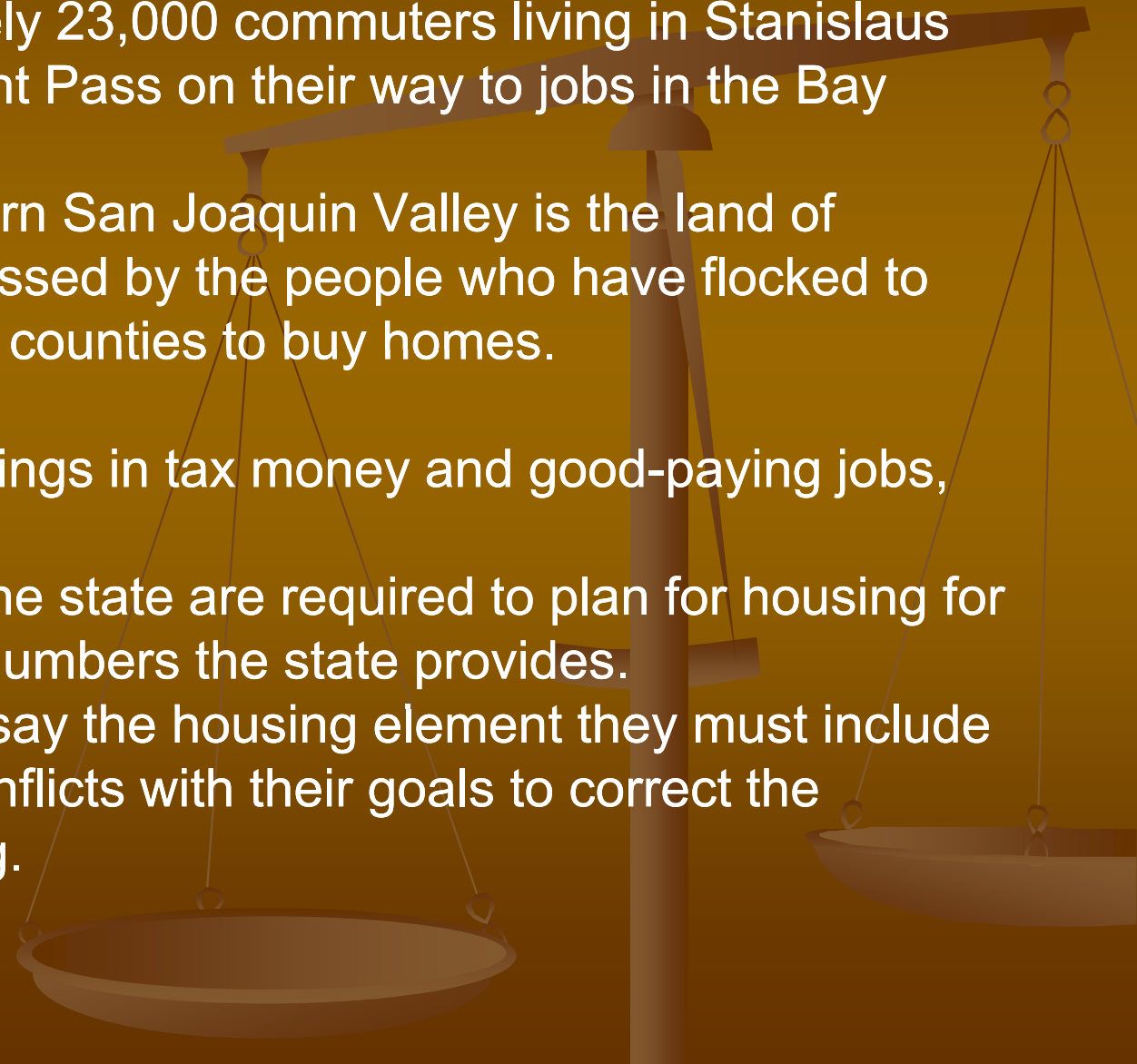
Each weekday, approximately 23,000 commuters living in Stanislaus County crawl up the Altamont Pass on their way to jobs in the Bay Area.

It's no secret that the Northern San Joaquin Valley is the land of affordable housing, as witnessed by the people who have flocked to San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties to buy homes.

But industry, not housing, brings in tax money and good-paying jobs, local officials say.

Counties and cities across the state are required to plan for housing for all income levels based on numbers the state provides.

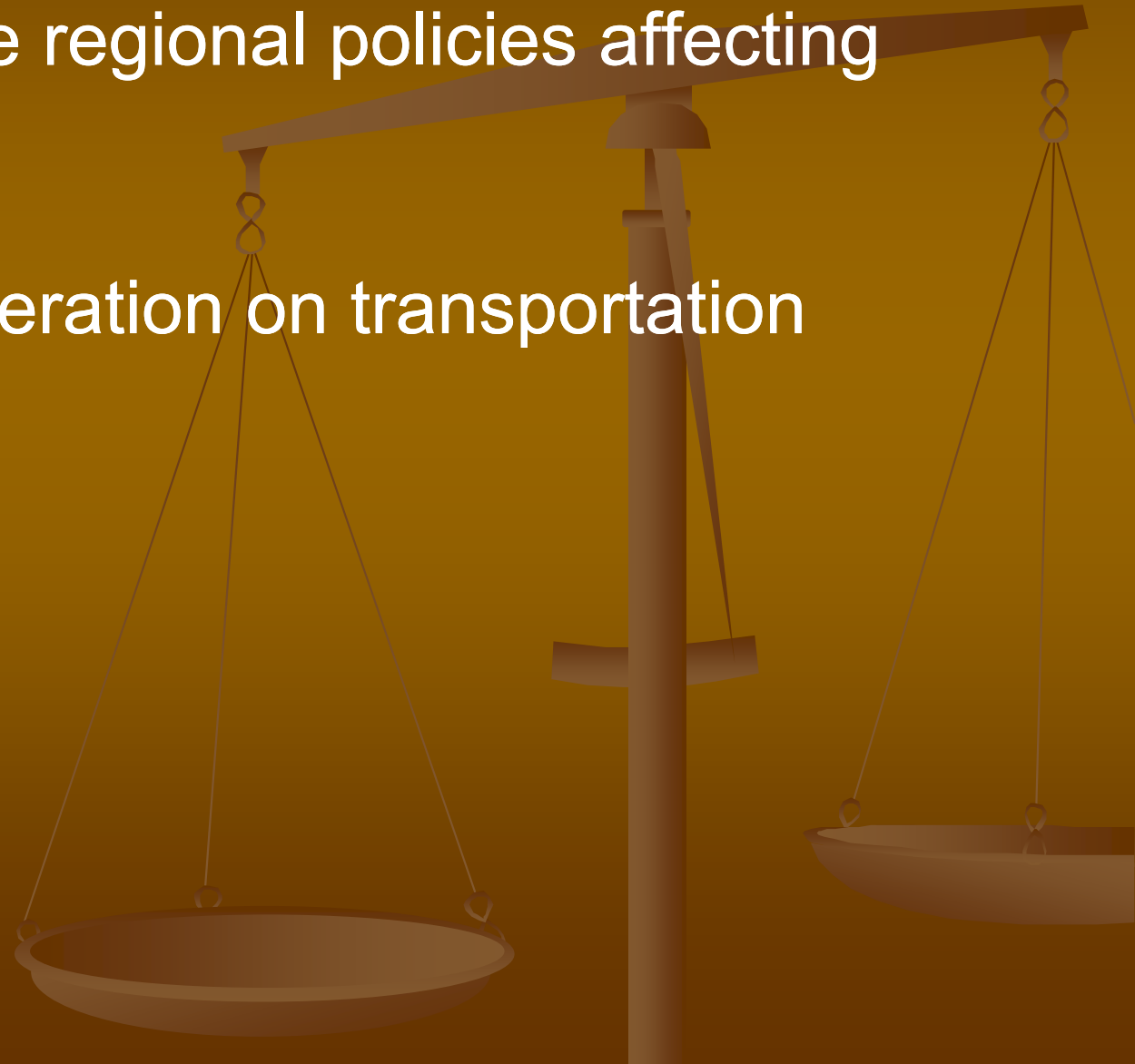
However, local city officials say the housing element they must include in the cities' general plan conflicts with their goals to correct the imbalance of jobs to housing.



Local control of land use policy has prevented CA from having effective regional policies affecting growth.

Some regional cooperation on transportation issues.

SJV “Blueprint”



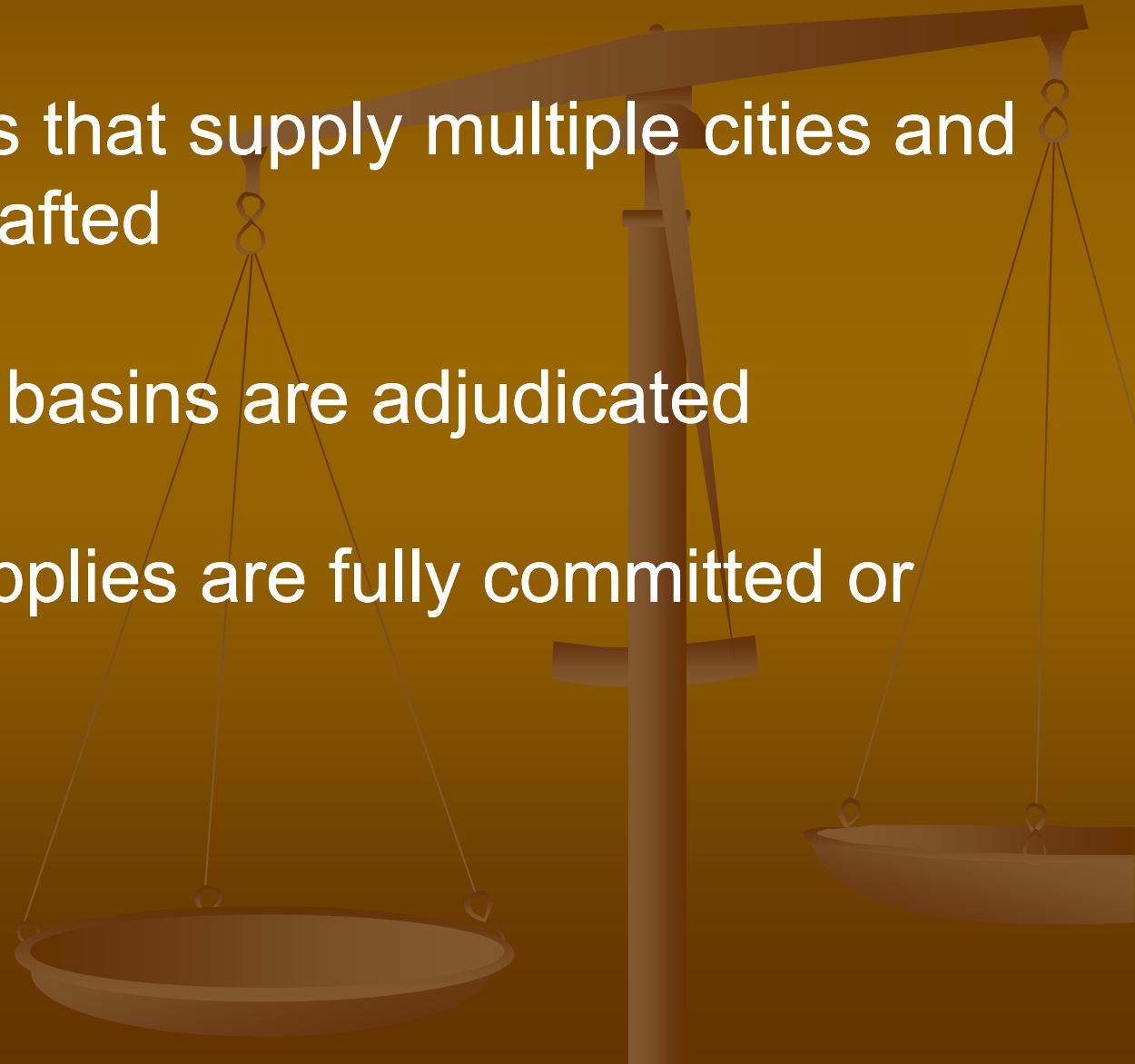


Only in the larger urban areas are water issues dealt with on a regional scale.

Ground water basins that supply multiple cities and counties are over-drafted

Some ground water basins are adjudicated

All surface water supplies are fully committed or over subscribed



# water facts

No. 3

## Adjudicated Groundwater Basins in California

The State of California is not authorized by the California Water code to manage groundwater. In some basins, the amount of water that can be extracted under that correlative right has been defined by a court. In other basins, each landowner's correlative right has not been defined. In these basins, groundwater may be managed by agencies that obtain their authority from the Water Code, or there may be little or no management. Some such ordinances at implementing groundwater management plans is untested. Whatever management plan is adopted by an agency, the groundwater rights of overlying landowners must be considered.

Landowners or other parties overlying some groundwater basins in California have turned to the courts to settle disputes over how much groundwater can rightfully be extracted by each landowner. The litigants pay for court-directed studies using the available data, to arrive at an equitable distribution of the groundwater that is available each year.

This court-directed process can be lengthy and costly, although some of these cases have been resolved with a court-approved negotiated settlement, called a stipulated judgment. Unlike overlying and non-overlying right to groundwater, such

decisions guarantee each party to the decision a proportionate share of the groundwater that is available each year. This Water Facts explains groundwater management by adjudication and lists the adjudicated basins.

In the court decision, the court appoints a Watermaster to oversee the court judgment and specifies how much each of the parties to the decision can extract. The basin boundaries are defined by the court and sometimes do not include an entire basin as defined in Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater. Puente Narrows is an addendum to the Main San Gabriel Basin adjudication that requires a minimum underflow from Puente basin to Main San Gabriel Basin of 588 acre-feet per year. The Santa Margarita Basin was adjudicated in federal court. That decision requires water users to report the amount of surface water and groundwater they use, but groundwater extraction is not restricted.

For most basins, the court has defined a fixed value for the safe yield. Extraction may exceed this value during some years as a part of the operating range that is allowed in the judgment. Adjudicated groundwater basins in California, their appointed Watermasters, the year the cases were filed, and the year the decision became final are shown in the table on pages 2 and 3. The court's name for the adjudicated portion of the basin is listed first, followed by the basin name used in DWR *Bulletin 118*.

**Water Facts** are short reports on water resources issues of general interest. They are published periodically by the California Department of Water Resources and can be obtained free by contacting DWR Bulletin and Reports, P. O. Box 942835

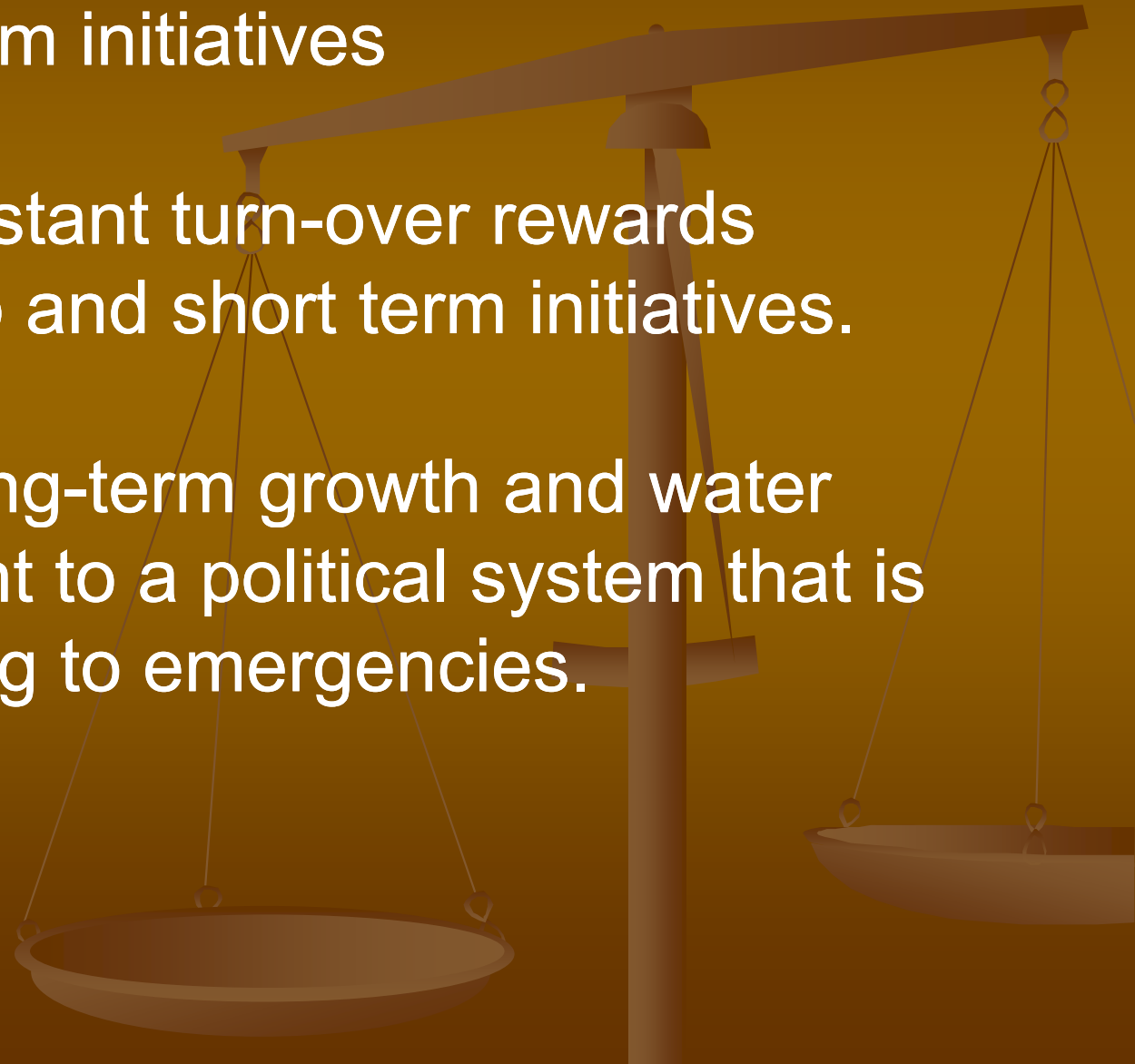
Although adjudication of groundwater basins has



Dynamics of local politics does not necessarily reward very long-term initiatives

Term-limits and constant turn-over rewards political partisanship and short term initiatives.

Dealing with very long-term growth and water issues is not inherent to a political system that is geared to responding to emergencies.



The loss of certain types of land resources must be mitigated per state and federal laws.

Issue of whether the loss of farmland must be mitigated not been resolved – legislature? Courts?

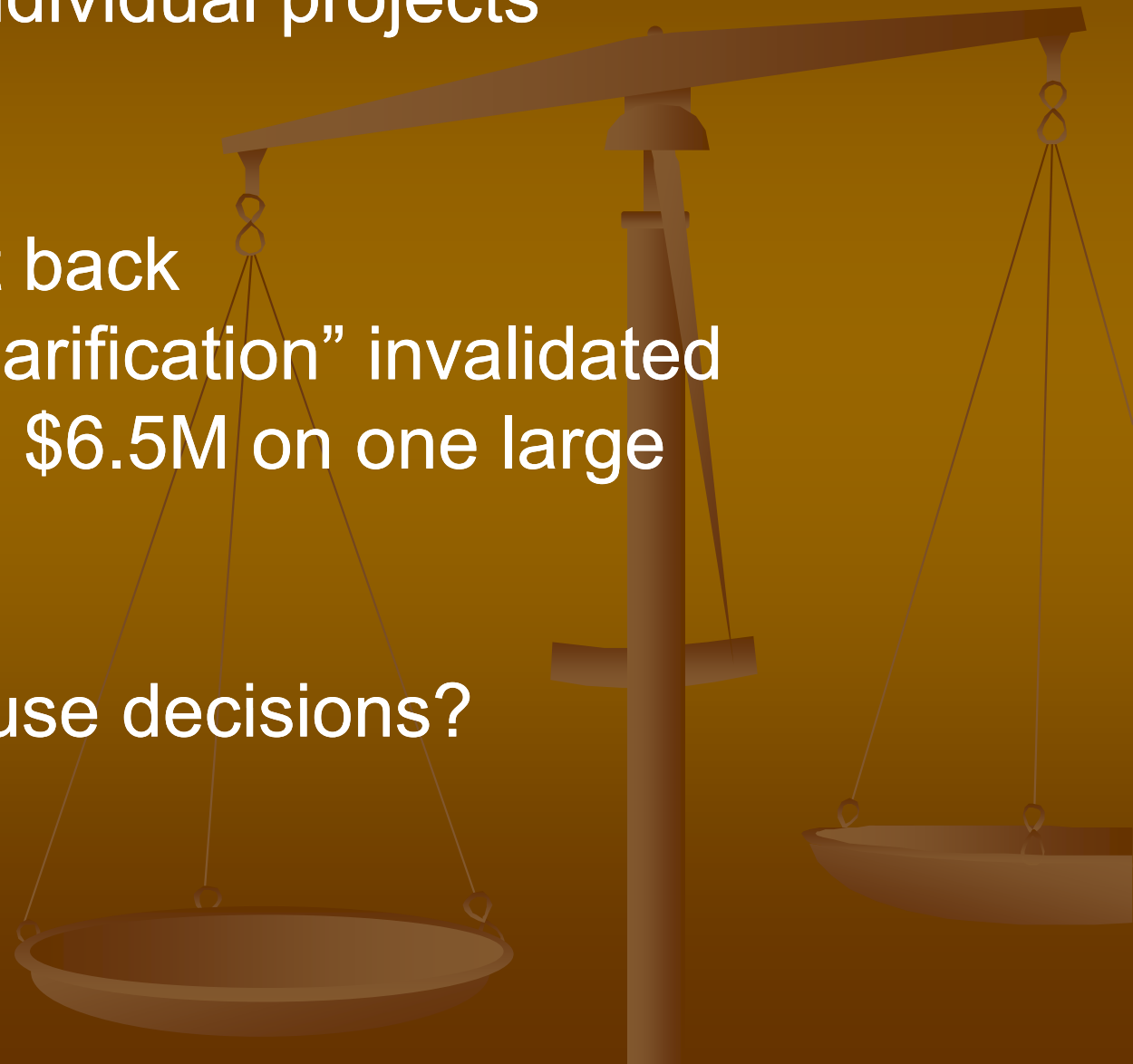


Local and national groups have been challenging general plans and individual projects

2009 examples:

- >Livingston GP sent back
- >Inyo County GP “clarification” invalidated
- >Irvine recently paid \$6.5M on one large development

Courts driving land-use decisions?

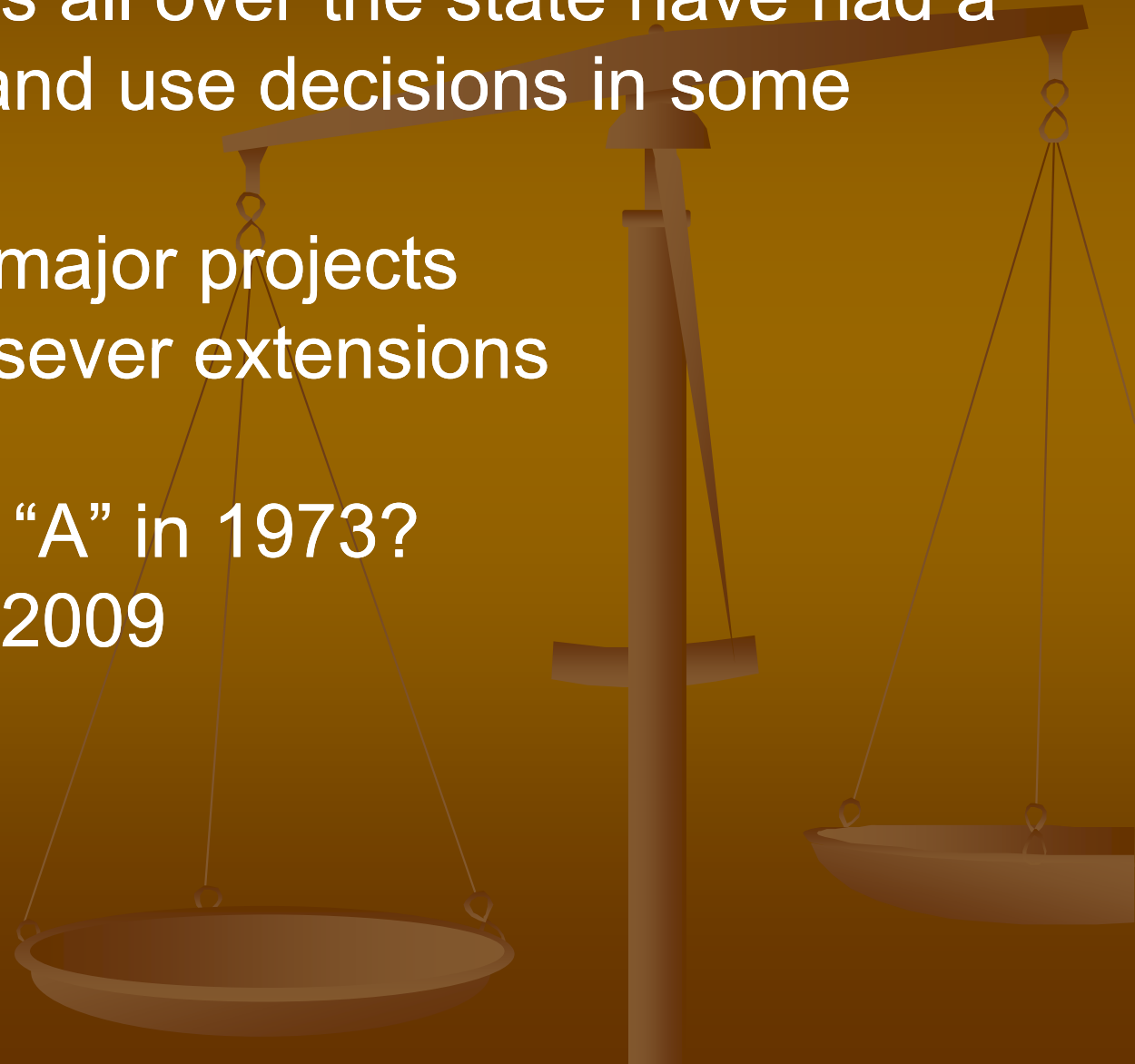




Local ballot initiatives all over the state have had a profound effect on land use decisions in some cities

- >Advisory votes for major projects
- >Advisory votes for sever extensions

Modesto – Measure “A” in 1973?  
Stanislaus County - 2009





Planning and Dev. Report: **[cp-dr.com](http://cp-dr.com)**

Great Valley Center: **[greatvalley.org](http://greatvalley.org)**

Local Government Commission: **[lgc.org](http://lgc.org)**

SJV Valley Blueprint: **[Valleyblueprint.org](http://Valleyblueprint.org)**

Central Valley Farmland Trust: **[farmland.org](http://farmland.org)**

Maxwell's: **[cemerced.ucdavis.edu](http://cemerced.ucdavis.edu)**

“public policy”



