



Training Event Summary

Event: Upper Santa Clara River Workshop 1 – Systems Thinking

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Intended Audience | Public agencies, elected offices | Date and Time | 2022.07.07 10am - 12pm |
| Producer / Facilitator | Council for Watershed Health | Event Format | Virtual |
| IRWM Region | Upper Santa Clara River | Number of Participants | 51 |

Event Summary:

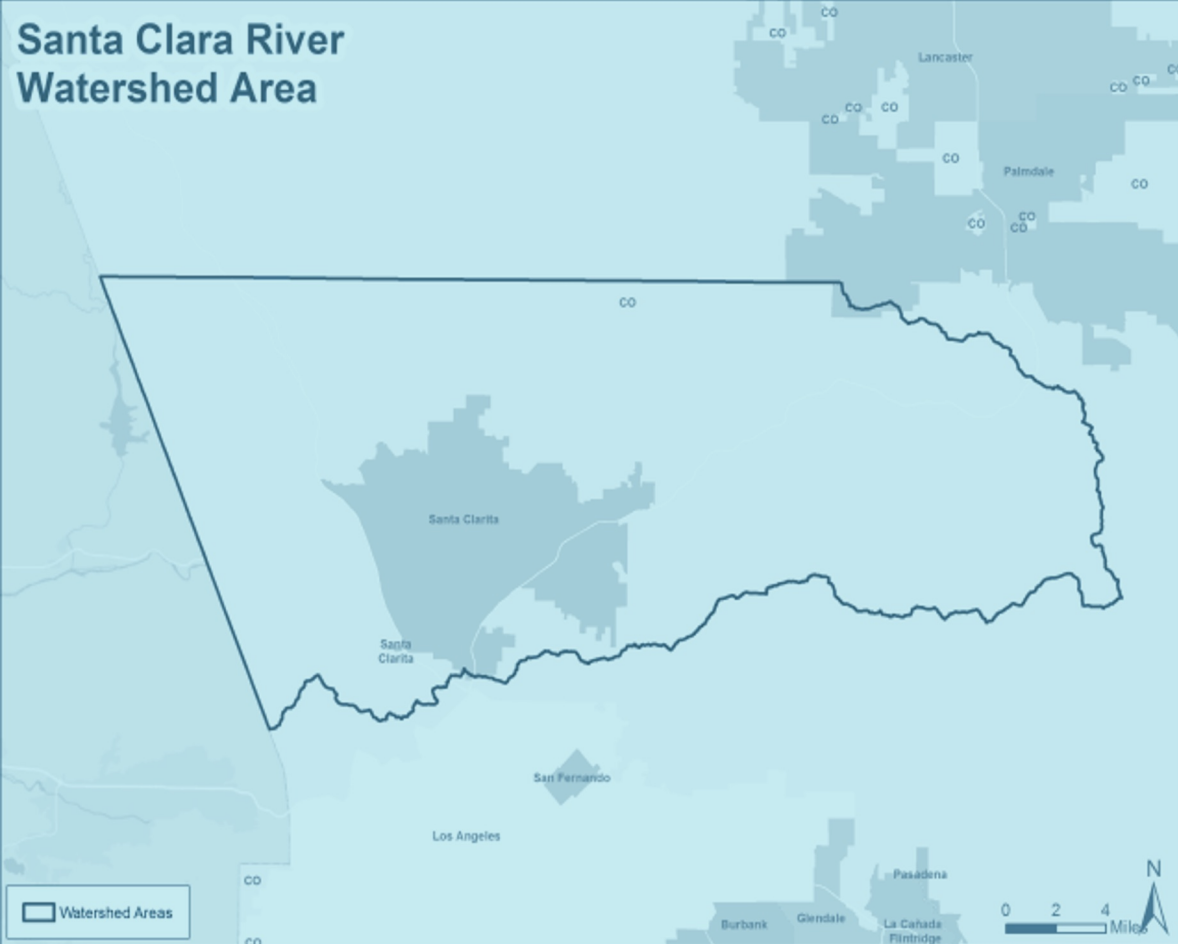
Participants learned about the systems thinking approach to water and land-use planning in relation to the Integrated Regional Water Management and the Safe Clean Water Programs. Attendees heard from local government representatives about how these programs have benefitted their constituents and how communities, especially those facing ongoing economic and environmental distress, can be engaged.

Speakers included Heather Merenda, City of Santa Clarita, Environmental Services Division; Rick Viergutz, Principal Water Resources Planner, Santa Clarita Valley Water, and Lara Shellenbarger, Water Resources Specialist, County of Ventura.

Link for Additional Information:

<https://www.watershedhealth.org/watertalks-workshop1>

Presentation slides continue on the following pages.



Integrated Watershed Management

From Policy to Practice

Upper Santa Clara River

July 7, 2022

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Greater Los Angeles County
Integrated Regional Water Management
Leadership Committee



UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER
Integrated Regional Water Management



COUNCIL FOR
WATERSHED
HEALTH



Stantec

TreePeople

Land Acknowledgement

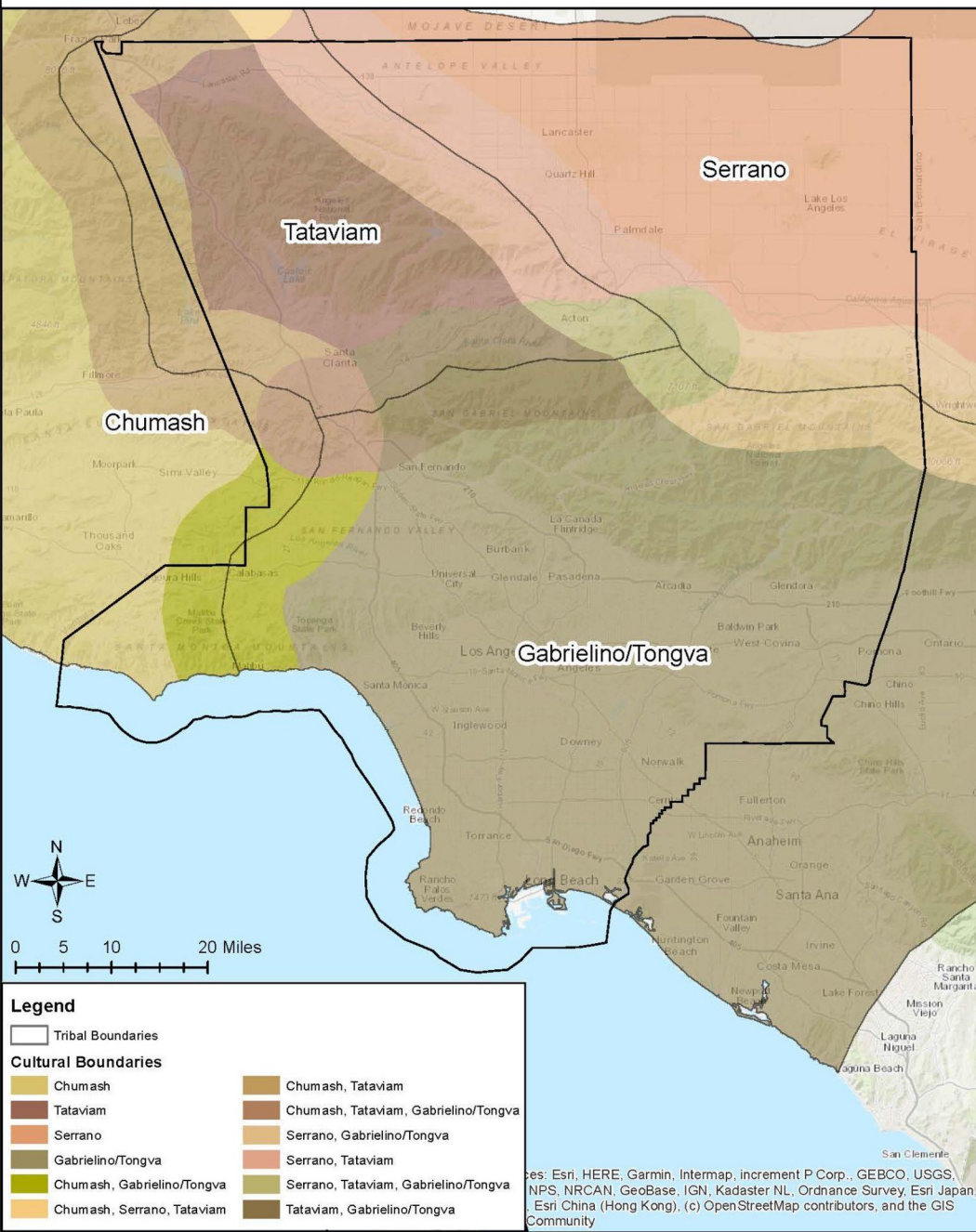
We acknowledge that the lands and waters in the Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Region are unceded ancestral homelands of many tribal communities including the Serrano, Gabrielino Tongva, Ventureño Chumash, and Fernandeano Tataviam Nations.

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose homelands we live and who are the ancestral stewards of the land and water. We make this acknowledgement out of respect for their long-standing connection to and protection of this area's watershed.

We urge you to learn more about how to engage with tribal communities in your water work by attending the **Allyship with Tribal Communities Workshop in August and September**. You can scan this QR code with your phone to register today. A link can also be found in the chat!



The Fluid Connection of Tribal Communities and Water



Agenda

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome |
| 10:05 - 10:20 | Discussion - Setting the Scene: Local Governments as Watershed Leaders |
| 10:20 - 10:30 | Integrated Planning: A Systems Approach |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Discussion - Mapping Our System |
| 11:00 - 11:10 | Integrated Planning In Practice: Safe Clean Water Program and the Integrated Regional Water Management Program |
| 11:10 - 11:50 | Panel Discussion- Local Governments and Integrated Planners |
| 11:50 - 11:55 | Resource Roundtable |
| 11:55 - 12:00 | Workshop Close |

WaterTalks for Electeds & Agencies

-  **1** Workshop: Integrated Watershed Management Now
- 2** Workshop: Community Engaged Planning Summer
- 3** Workshop: Water Training: Allyship with Tribal Communities Ongoing
- 4** Site Visit: Community Water Tours Summer





For Agencies & Electeds

Setting the Scene:

Local Governments as Watershed Leaders

Workshop 1

2022

www.watershedhealth.org/watertalks

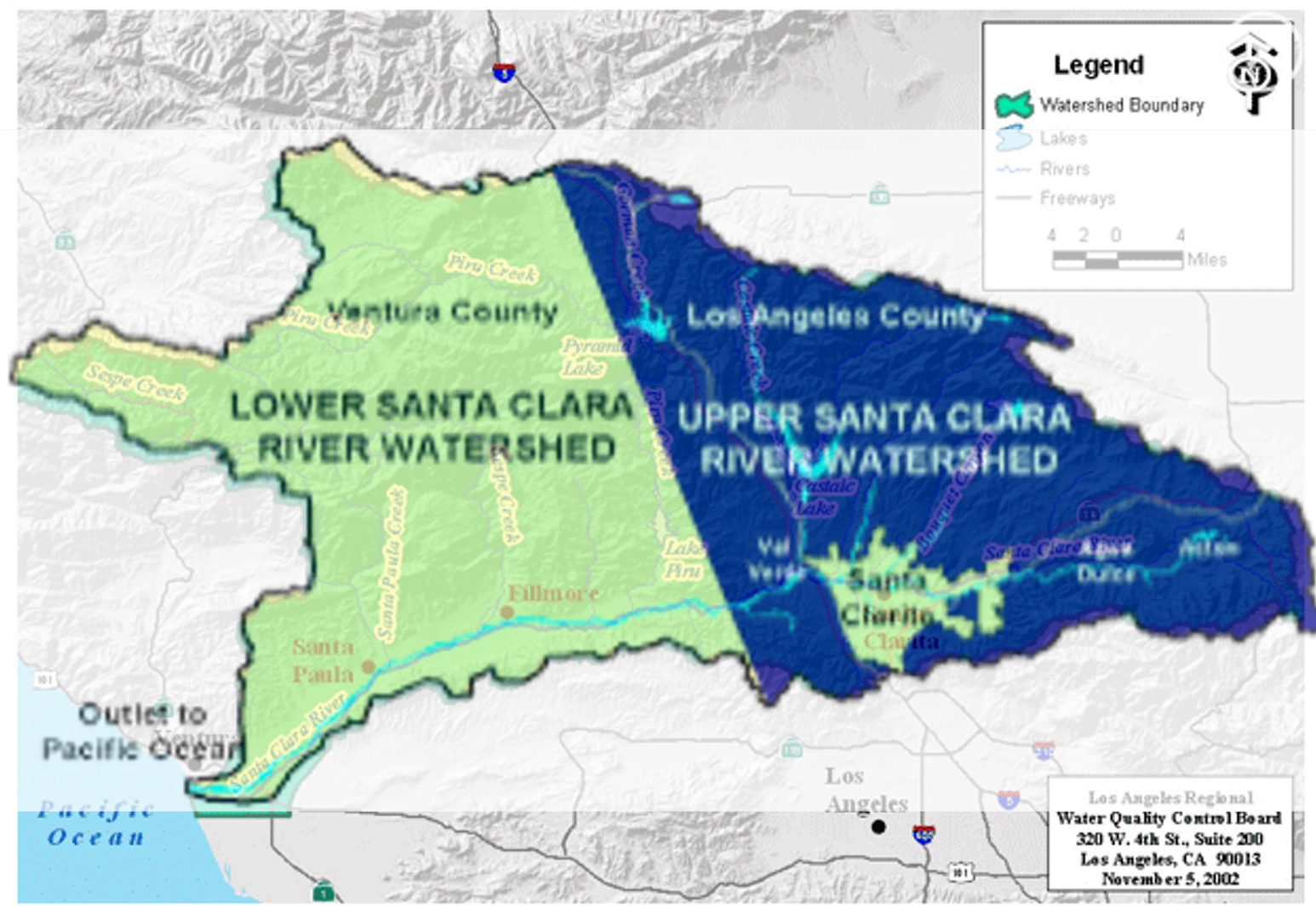
What is a watershed?



Our water is ancient.














Principles of Watershed Management

- Water, land, and the relationship between
- Water where it flows, regardless of political boundaries
- Interdependence
 - Resilience anywhere is resilience everywhere
- Inclusive of all communities



Setting the Scene

Local Governments as Watershed Leaders



**What is your community's
primary water challenge?**





For Agencies & Electeds

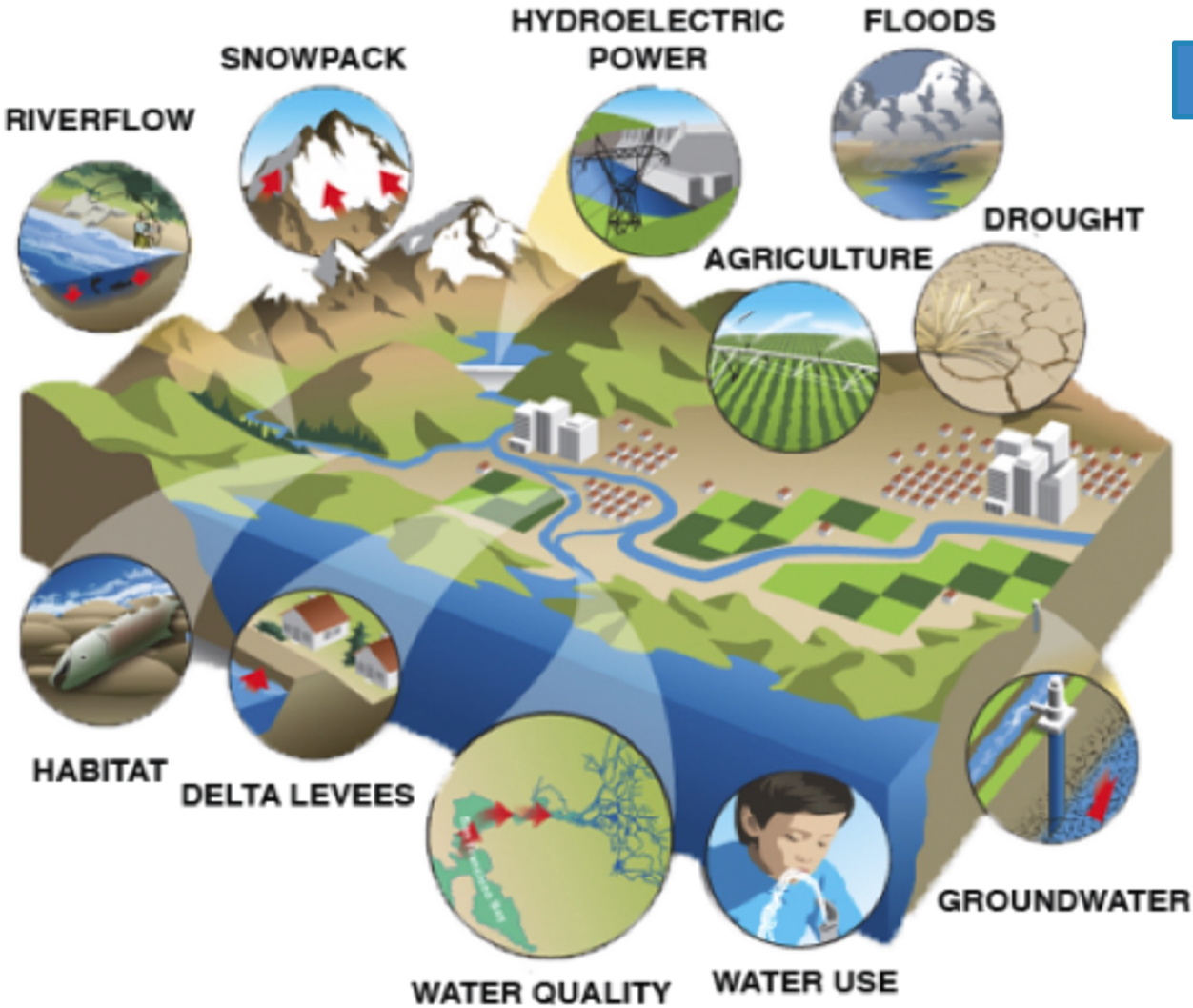
Integrated Planning: A Systems Approach

We've dissected every part of the water cycle...

Urban Water & Wastewater Utilities

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Integrated Regional Water Management Groups



City & County Governments

Local Water Agencies:
Storm water
Drinking water
Wastewater

Regional Water Distributors

Irrigation Districts

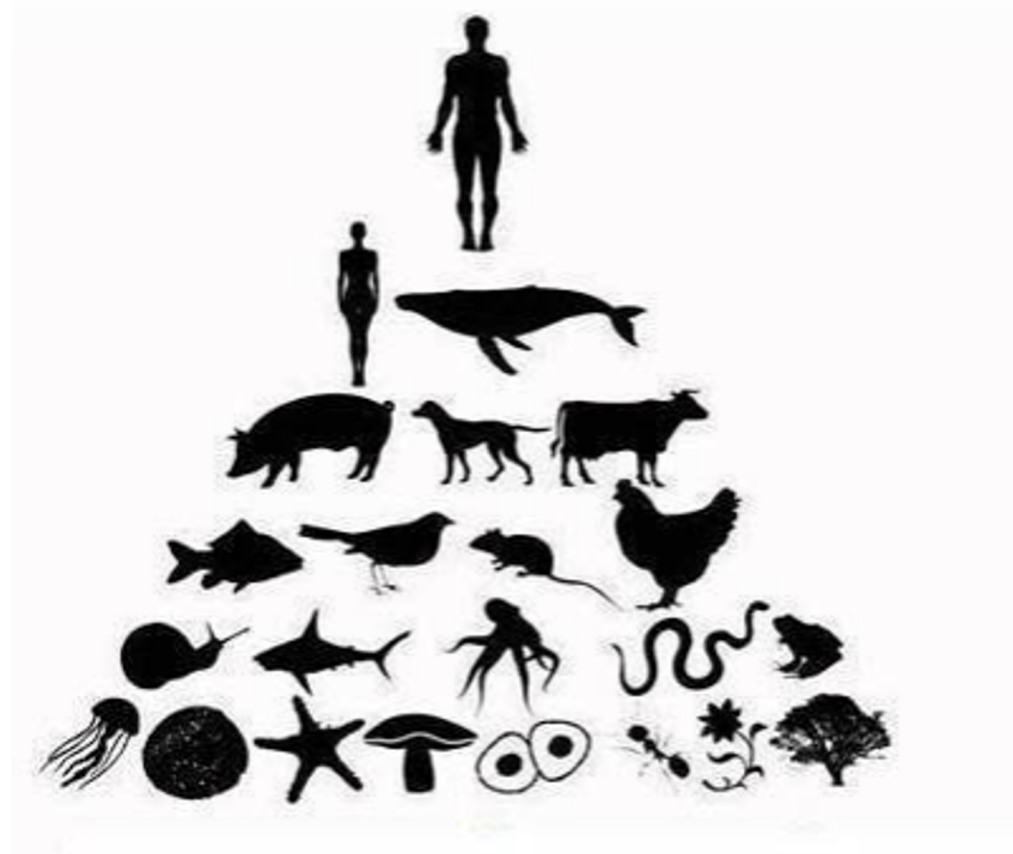
Resource Conservation Districts

Reckoning with unintended consequences



MAN above all else . . .

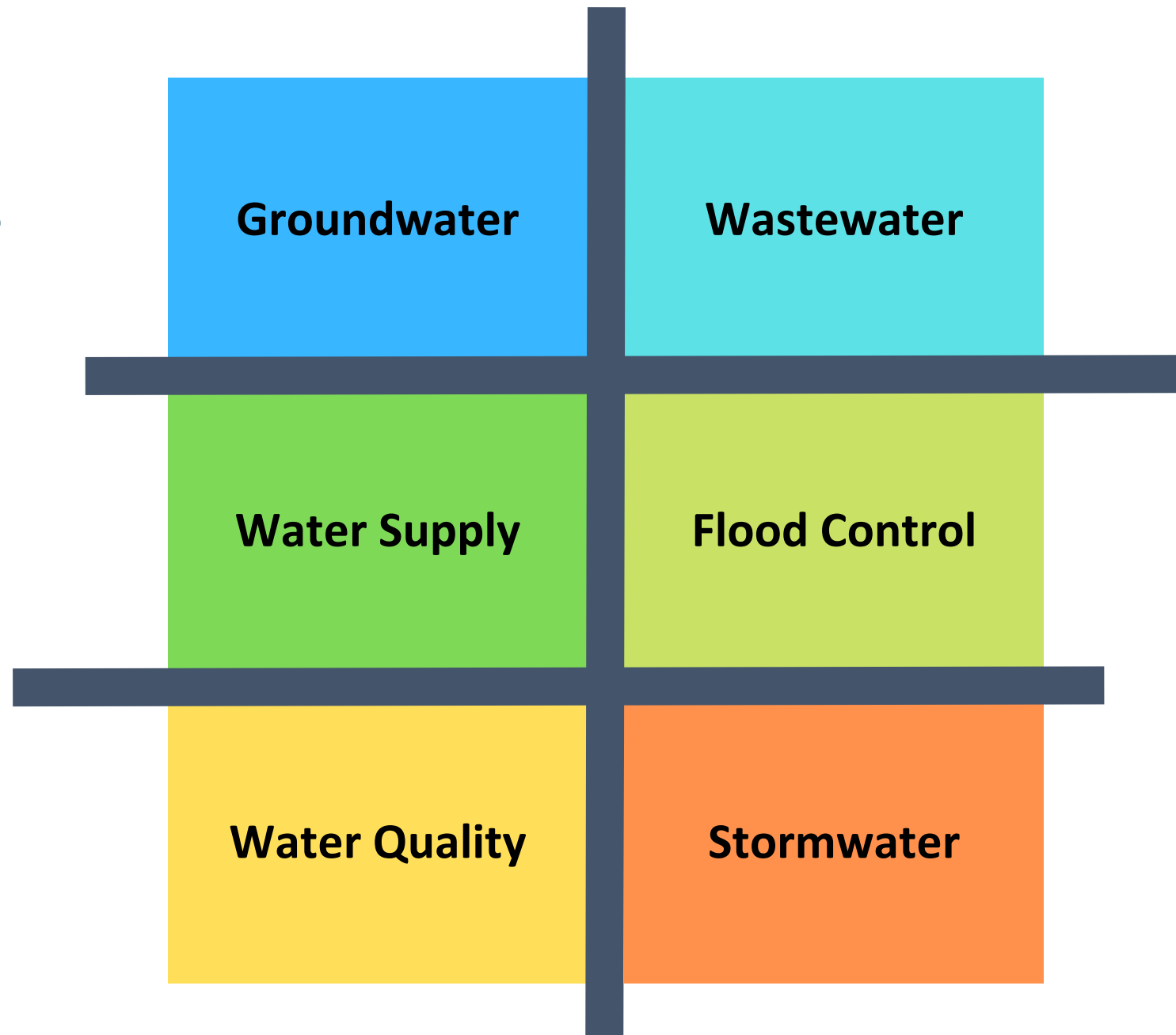
EGO





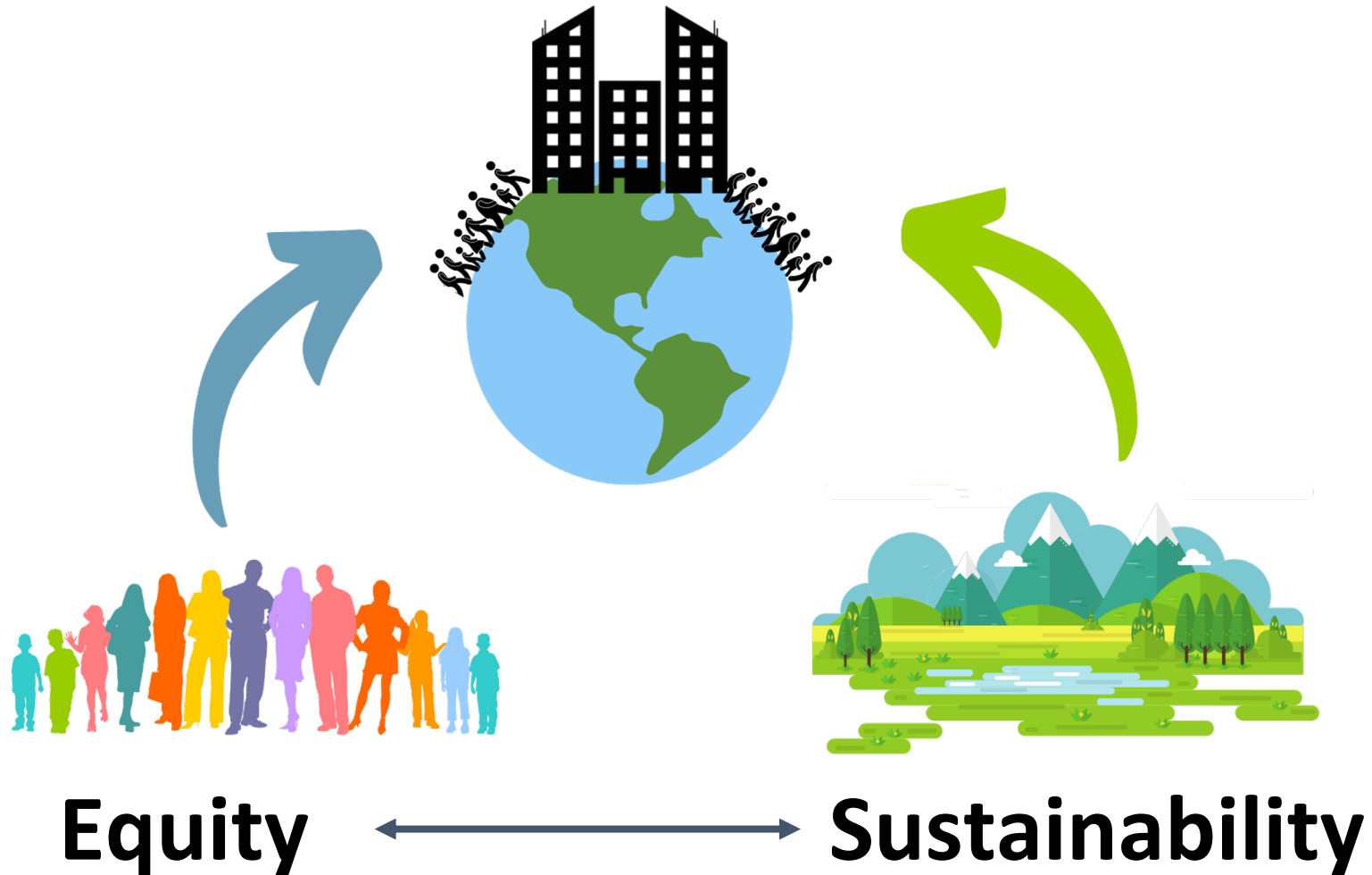


Water
governance is
fragmented





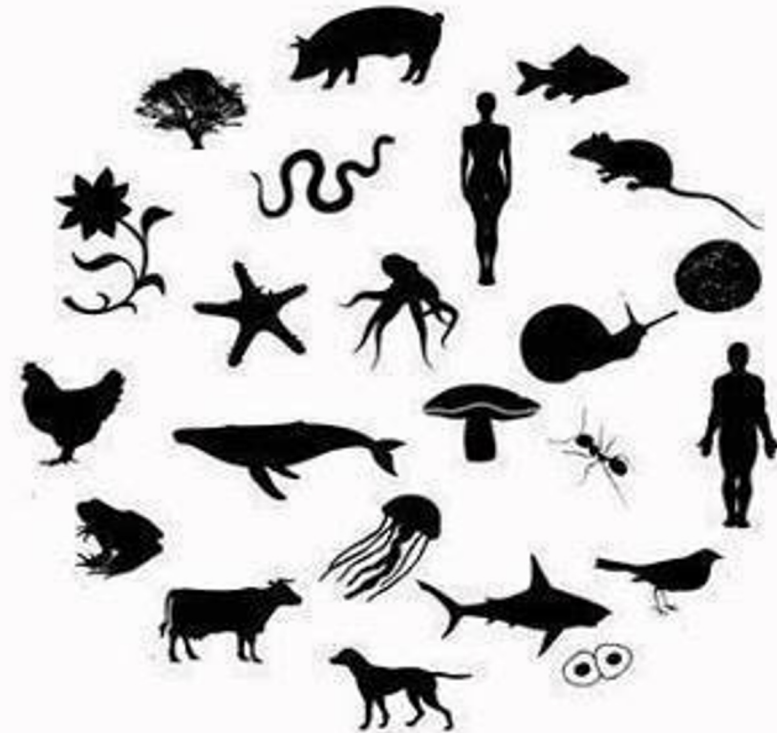
Social-Ecological Systems



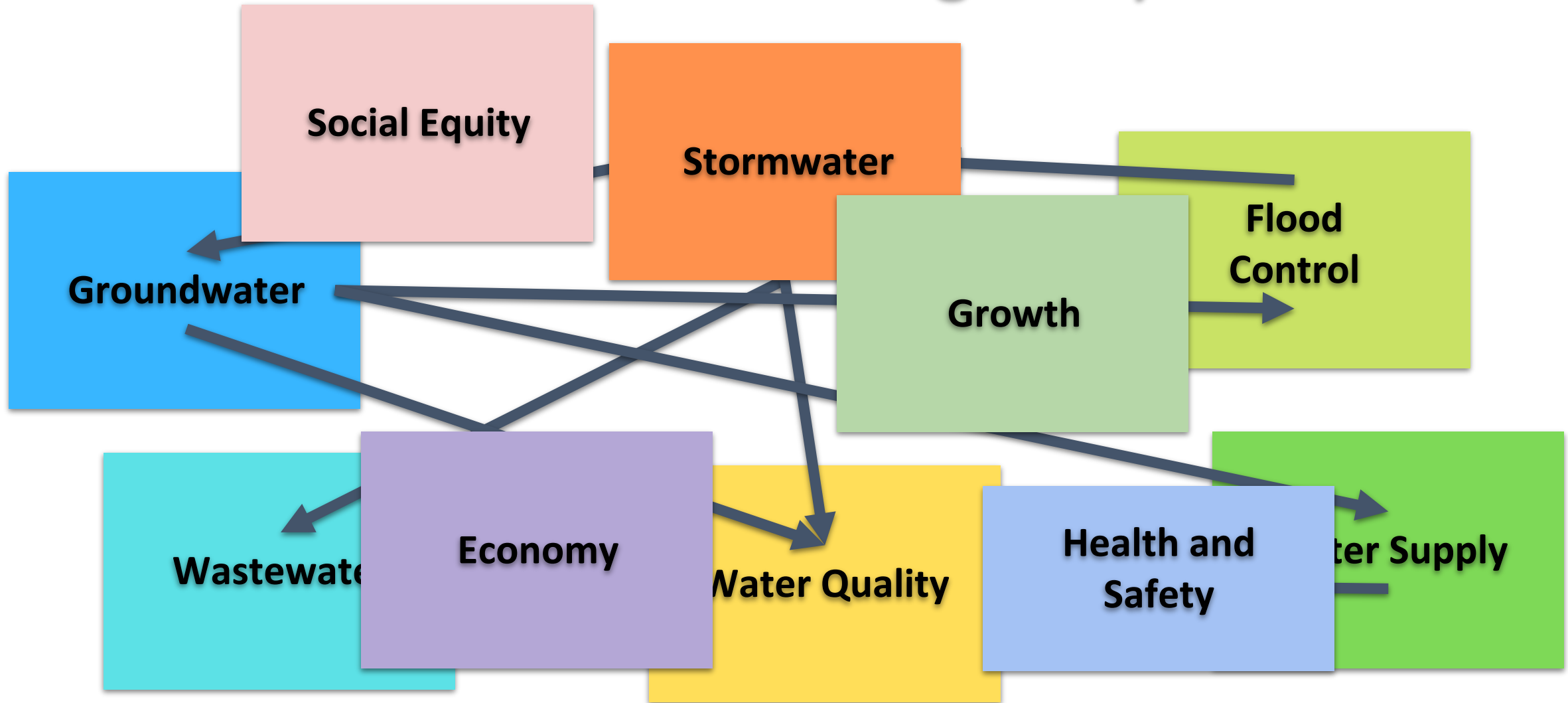
EGO






ECO






Watersheds as a socio-ecological system

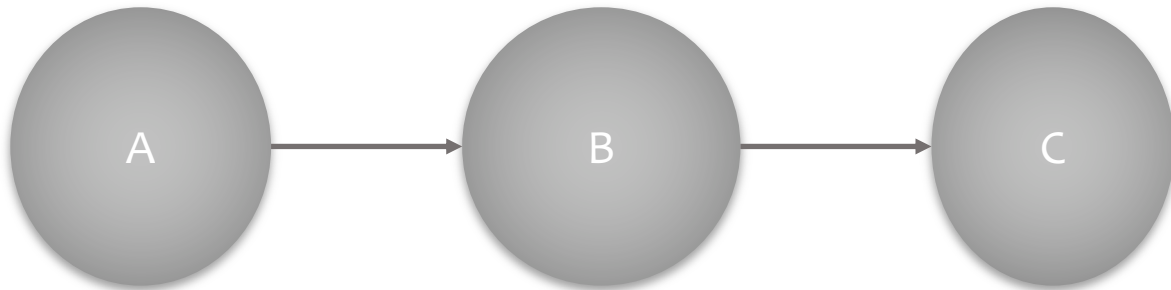


We can make decisions differently.

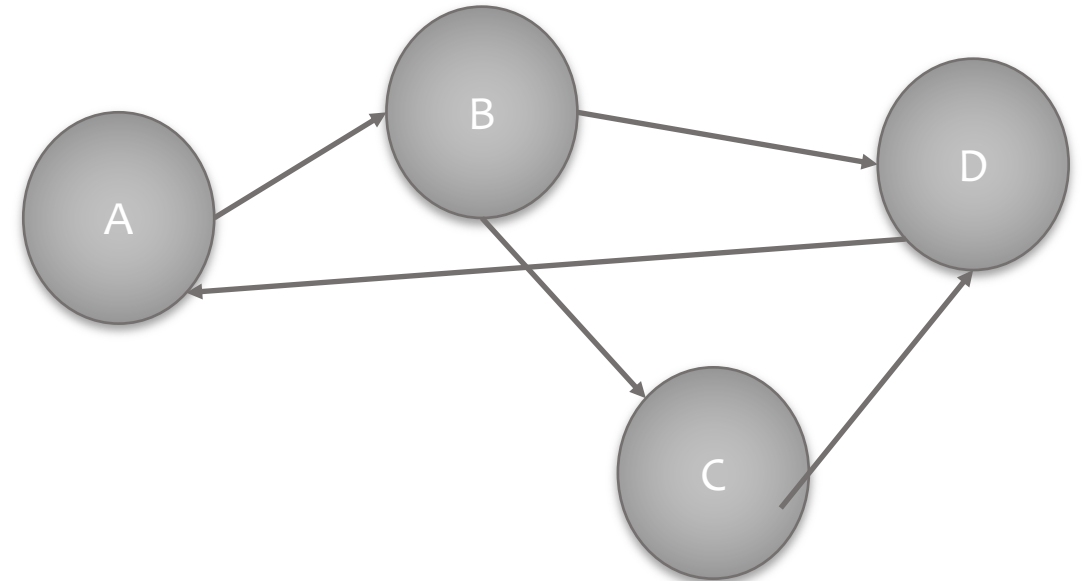
-  based on point-in-time scenarios
-  reactionary
-  little to no consideration of climate or ecosystems

-  adaptive to present and future needs
-  comprehensive planning
-  collaborative

Systems Thinking Can Lead to New Outcomes



Traditional Thinking



Systems Thinking

Systems Thinking in Practice

Example:

You don't get enough sleep and are tired in the morning

You limit your coffee intake even though you are tired

~~You drink several cups of coffee to wake up~~

You wake up well rested and ready to collaborate

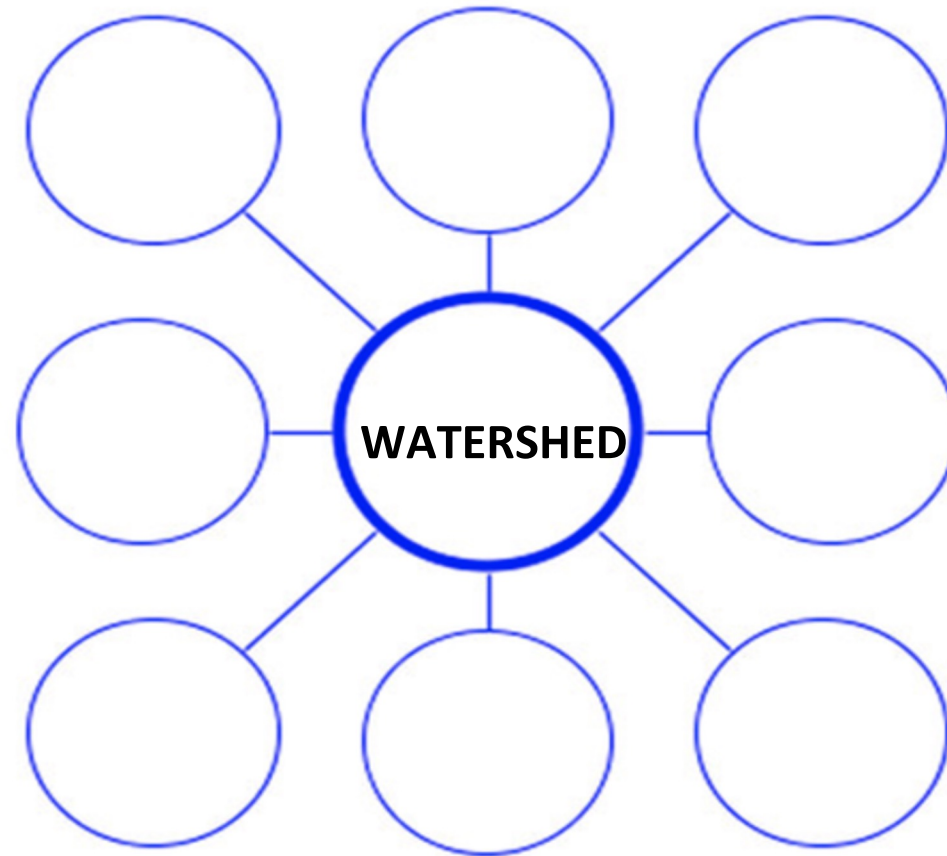
You can't sleep at night because you drink too much coffee



For Agencies & Electeds

Mapping Our System

Breakouts: Mapping the Watershed System

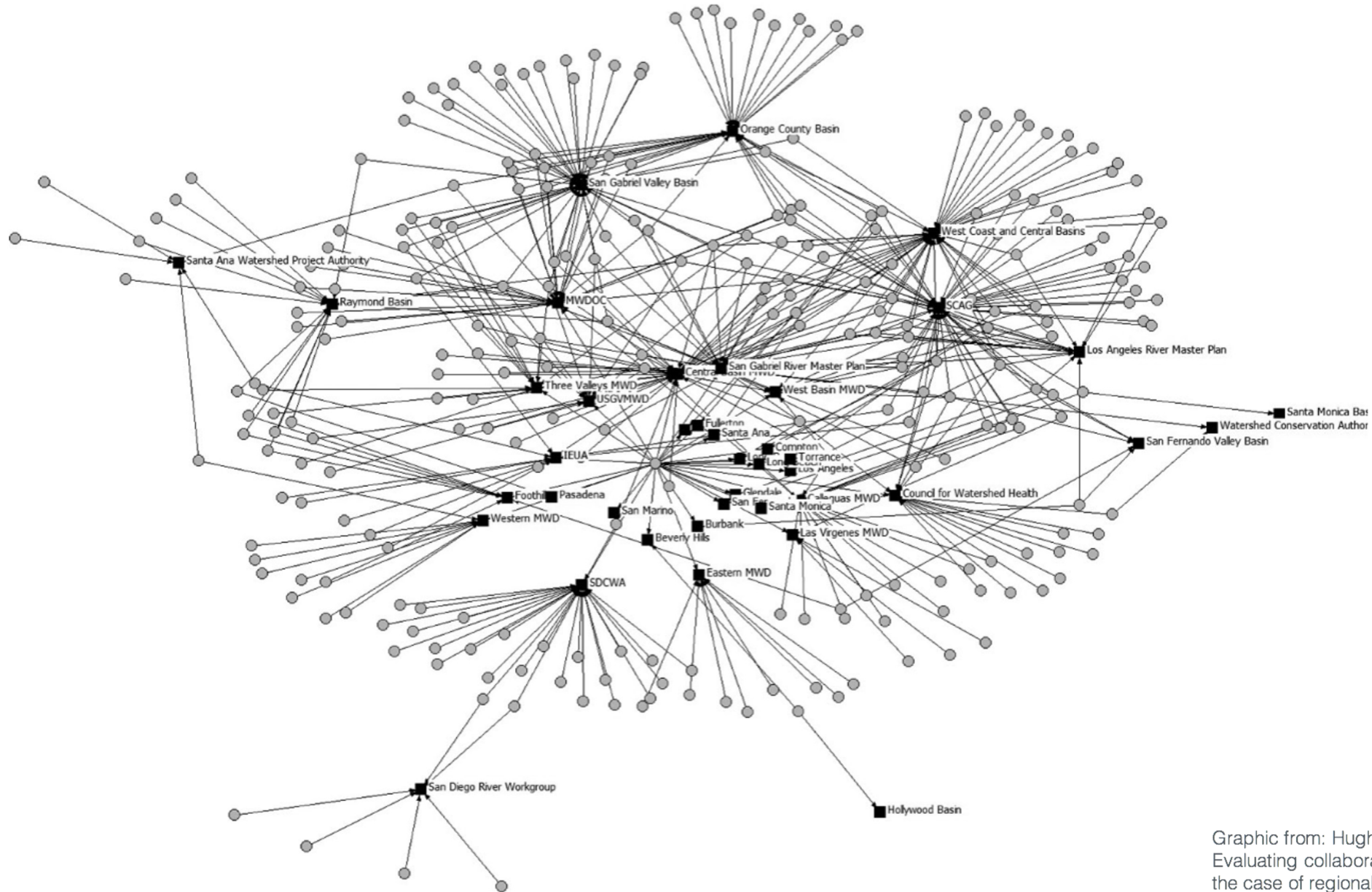




For Agencies & Electeds

**Integrated Planning in Practice:
Safe Clean Water Program
&
*Integrated Regional Water
Management***





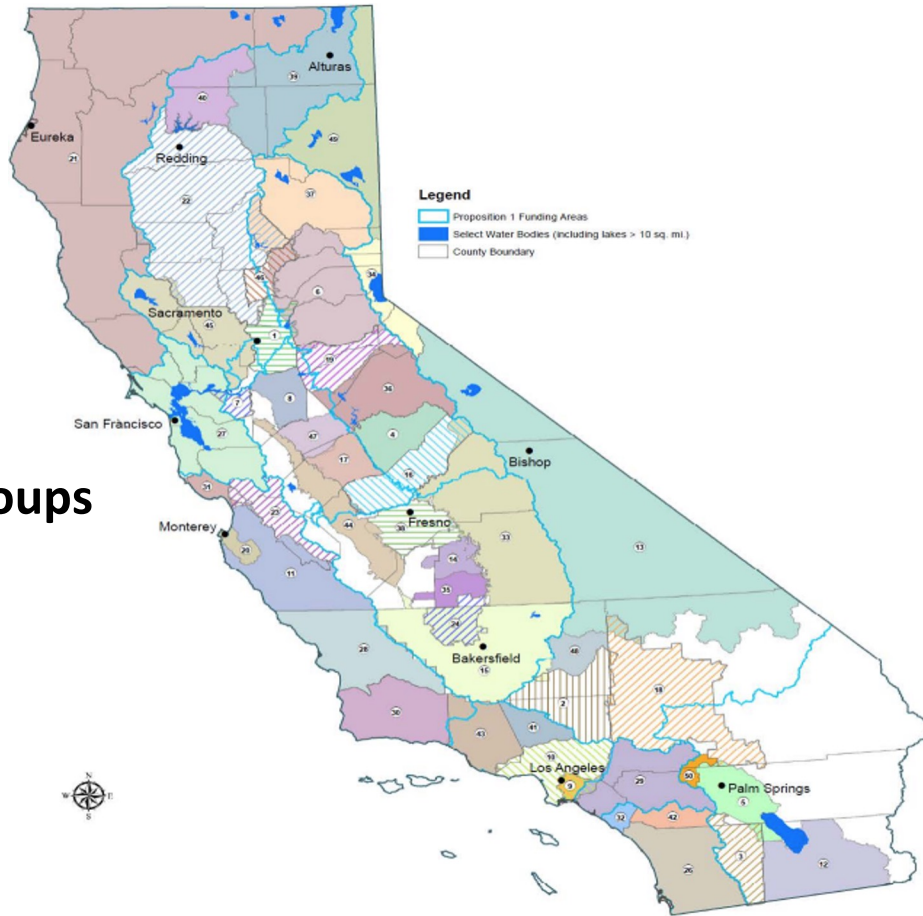
Graphic from: Hughes, S. & Pincetl, S., 2014. Evaluating collaborative institutions in context: the case of regional water management in southern California. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 32(1), pp.20-38.

Funding frameworks support integration.



What is IRWM and how does it work?

Regional Water Management Groups

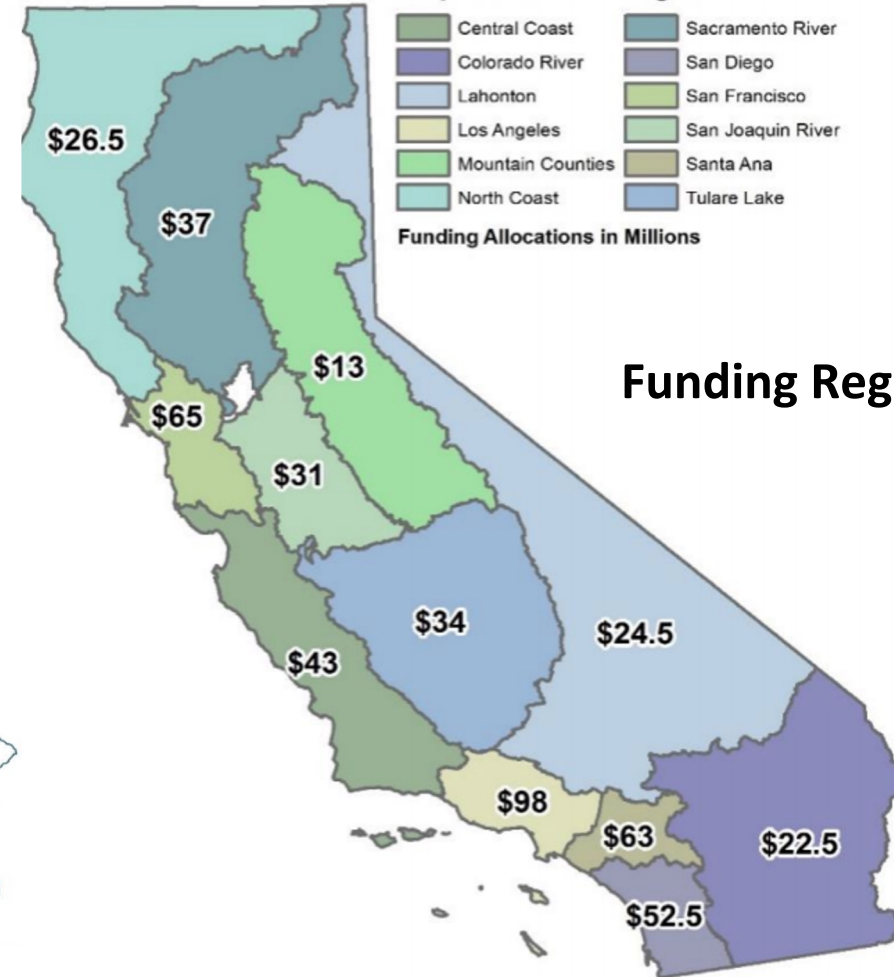


Proposition 1 Funding Areas

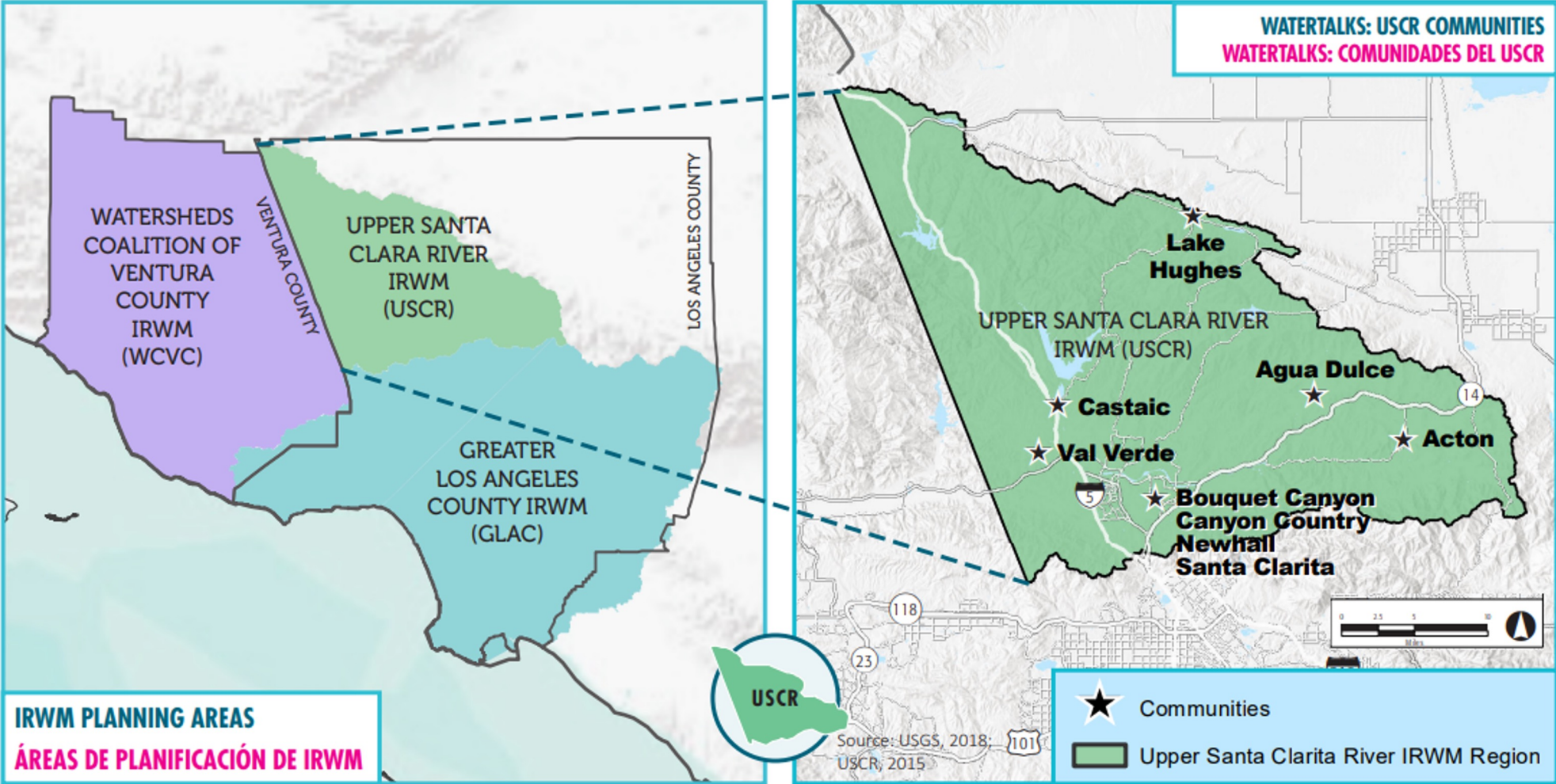


Funding Allocations in Millions

Funding Regions



Funding Region



Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program

IRWM
Program

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graph LR; A[IRWM Program] --> B[Pilot Projects]; B --> C[Prop 1]
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From inception, had a focus on supporting disadvantaged communities

Pilot
Projects

2010 - DWR Regional Assistance funding efforts

Prop 1

Responding to findings of pilot efforts, creates DACIP

WaterTalks





**Phase I and III
Engagement**



**PHASE I
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**PHASE II
STRENGTHS & NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

**PHASE III
FINDINGS
ENGAGEMENT**

**PHASE IV
PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT**

Strengths and Needs Assessment Audiences

Community



Indigenous People



Institutions



Schools



Regional issues...

1

Improve Water Quality

2

Increase Local Water Supply

3

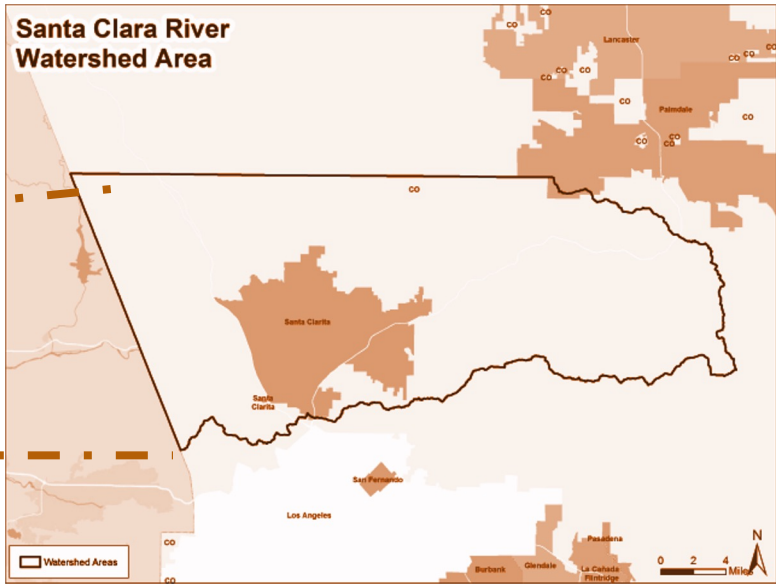
Enhance Communities

Capture
Clean
Conserve

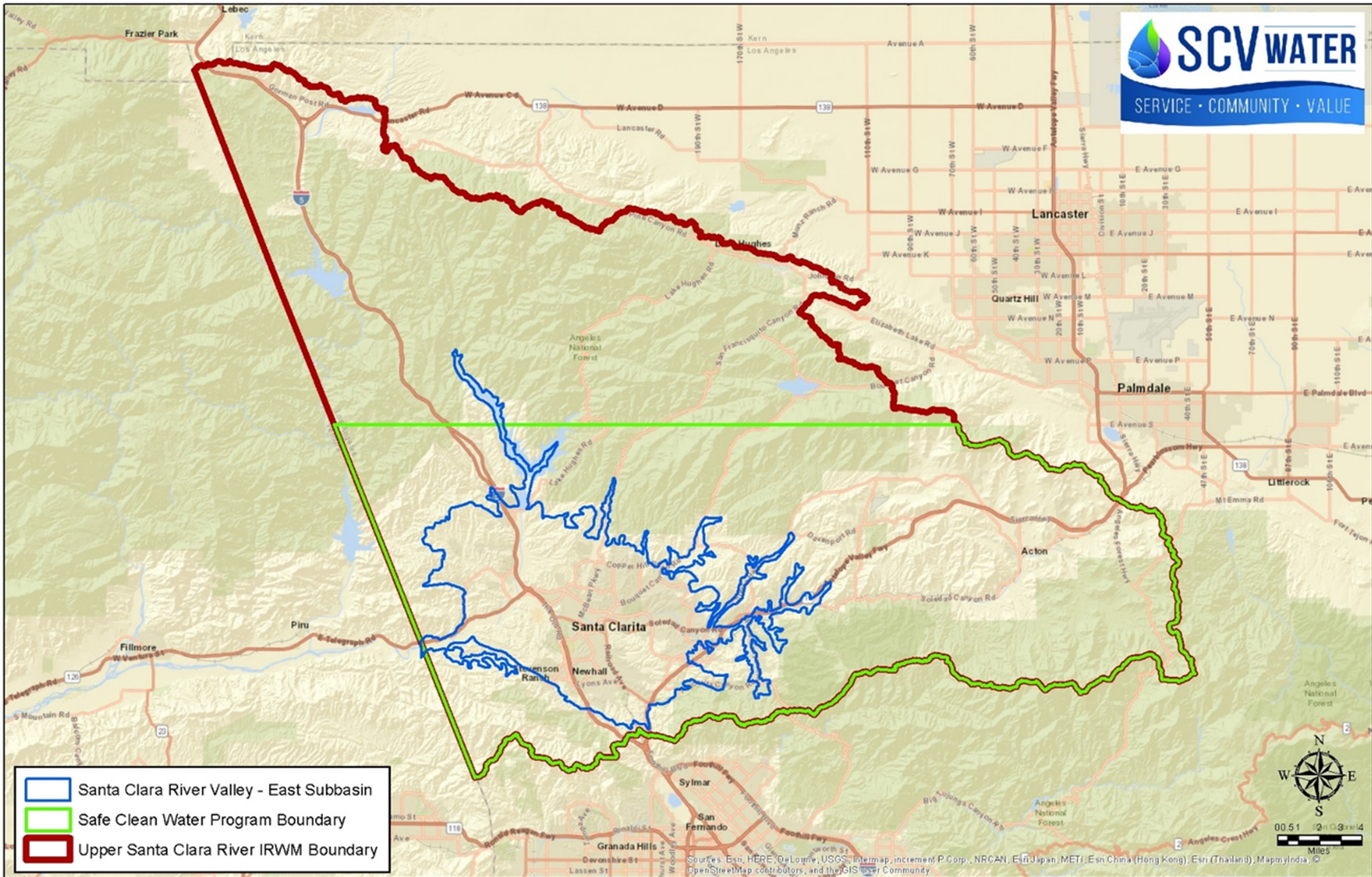
...Regional solutions



Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs)



SAFE CLEAN WATER PROGRAM



- Santa Clara River Valley - East Subbasin
- Safe Clean Water Program Boundary
- Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Boundary

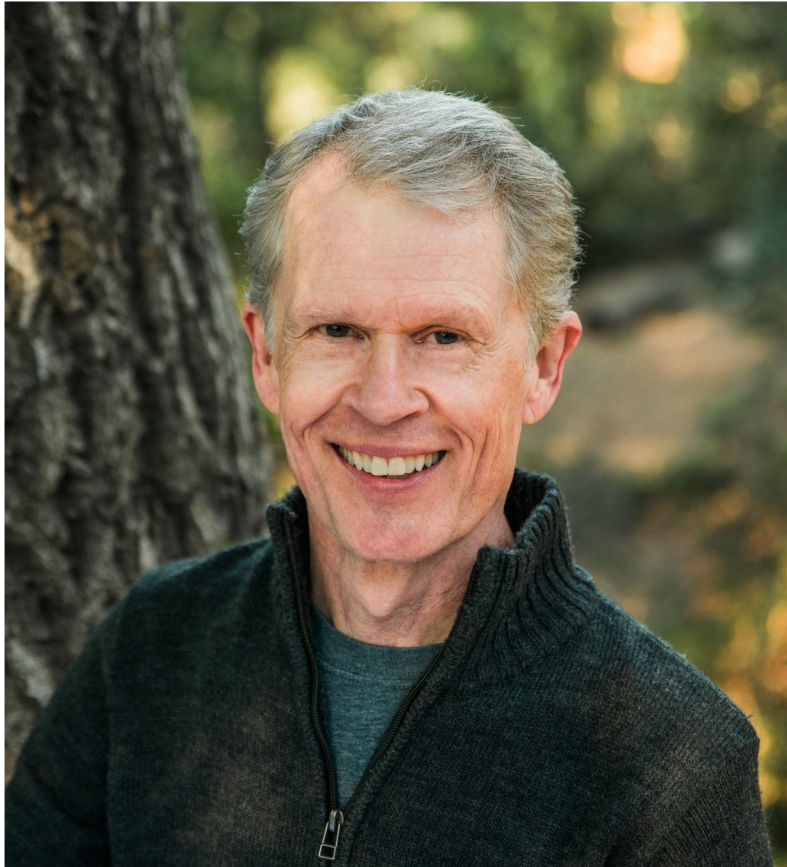


Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), Swisstopo, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Technical Resources Program (TRP)

Watershed Coordinators

Santa Clara River



Peter Massey

petermassey@treepeople.org



Amanda Begley

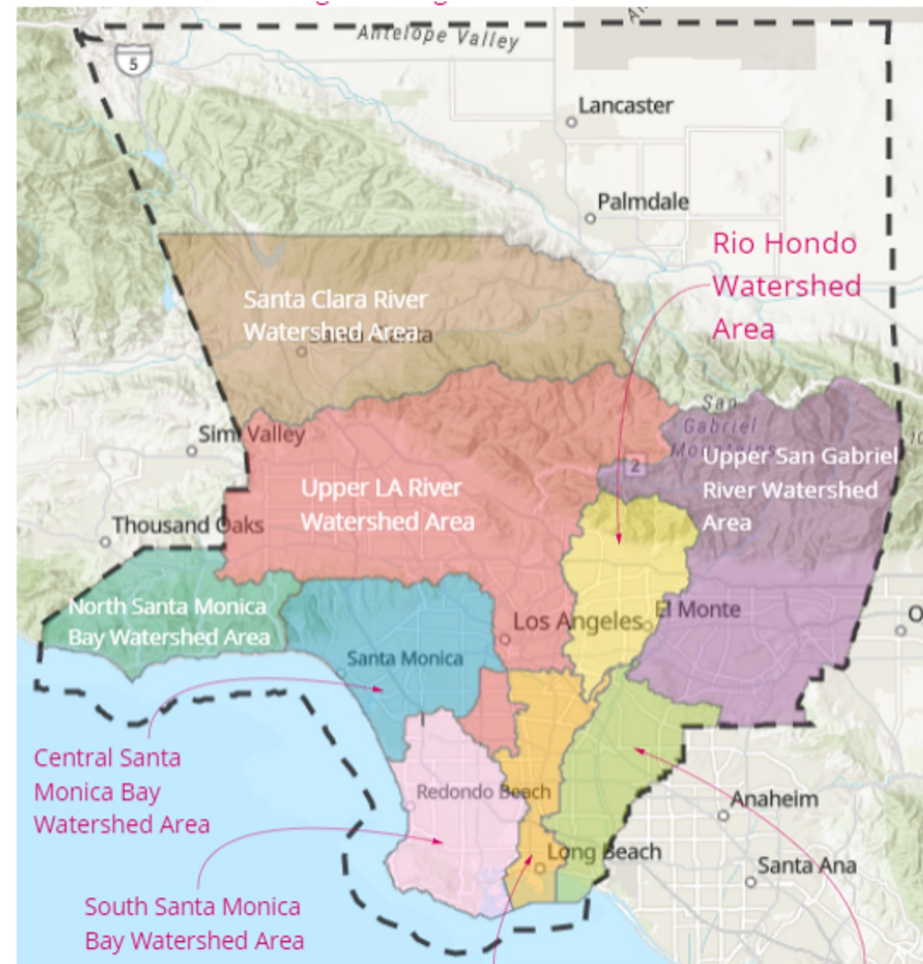
abegley@treepeople.org

Both Programs Fund Multiple Benefit or Critically Needed Water and Watershed Projects and Programs

Integrated Regional Water Management



Safe Clean Water Program



Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Area

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area

Panel Discussion

Local Governments and Integrated Planners



Heather Merenda
Environmental Services Division
City of Santa Clarita
Upper Santa Clara WASC
Member



Rick Viergutz
Principal Water Resources Planner
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency



Lara Shellenbarger
Water Resources Specialist and
Coordinator for Santa Clara Watershed
County of Ventura - Public Works Agency



For Agencies & Electeds

Resources Roundtable

Green Infrastructure Funders Forum

Coming Fall 2022



**Registration opens soon. Sign up here:
watershedhealth.org/contact-us**

~ Stay Tuned ~

Summer Workshops Community Engaged Planning