

# Report on Ventura County Groundwater Fact Finding Mission

Stephanie Anagnoson

Director of Water & Natural Resources

August 8, 2018

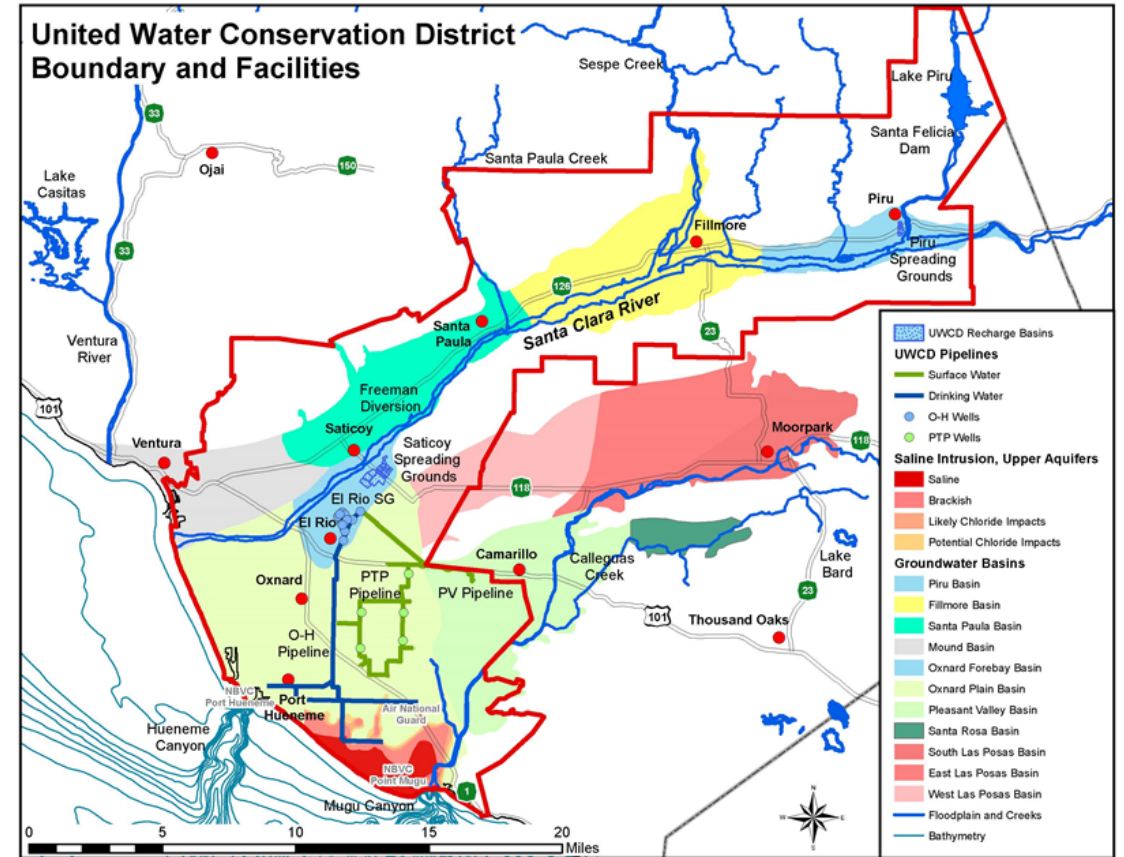


# Goals

- To gather experiences from agencies with expertise in
  - Recharge
  - Farmer-community relationships with stressed groundwater basins
  - Water markets

# United Water Conservation District

- Entirely devoted to recharge
- Purchased lands in 1920s and 1950s to use for recharge
- Charges fees per each AF extracted
- Significant environmental challenges at diversion facilities





# Ventura Farm Bureau

- Berries and citrus farmed in Ventura County
  - 3.5 AFY for Berries
  - 1.7 AFY for Lemons
  - 1.2 AFY is sustainable
- Some rotational fallowing occurs
- Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) - Series of local initiatives requiring vote before land can be re-zoned for development
- Debates over allocation process
  - Allocating based on prior water use adversely impacts early efficiency adopters
  - Allocating evenly across all acres results in not enough for everyone
  - Allocating by crop type drives growers to highest water use crops



# Ventura County Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency

- Well moratorium is in place
- Wells are metered and recertified every three years
- Pilot Program for Water Market
  - AMI and meters required for participation
  - Growers can see all transactions in real time (but not names)
  - Exchange manager sees all transactions
  - Currently, allocations are generous and past winter was wet
  - No trades to date in pilot program