

Clean water is a human right, not a privilege.

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COMMUNITY  
WATER CENTER

EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO  
POR EL AGUA



The background of the slide features a photograph of several plastic bottles, some upright and some lying on their sides, with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The bottles appear to be water bottles, some with labels that are partially visible and handwritten. The overall scene is set on a light-colored wooden surface.

## **Our Mission**

Act as a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education and advocacy in California.

## **Our Vision**

Ensure that ALL Californians have access to safe, clean and affordable water.

# How Does Climate Change Impact Drinking Water Availability?

- More frequent and longer drought
  - **Dry wells & water quality**
- Severe flooding events
  - **Contamination, blocked access for delivery**
- Extreme heat
  - **Dry wells, danger at work, electricity problems**
- Sea level rise
  - **Contamination, crops fail**



# California's Human Right to Water

*“Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.”*

- California Assembly Bill (AB) 685 signed into law in 2012



# 13 days

...Per year between the years of 1971-2000 where temperatures did **exceed 100 degrees** in Visalia

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/killer-heat-interactive-tool?location=visalia-ca>

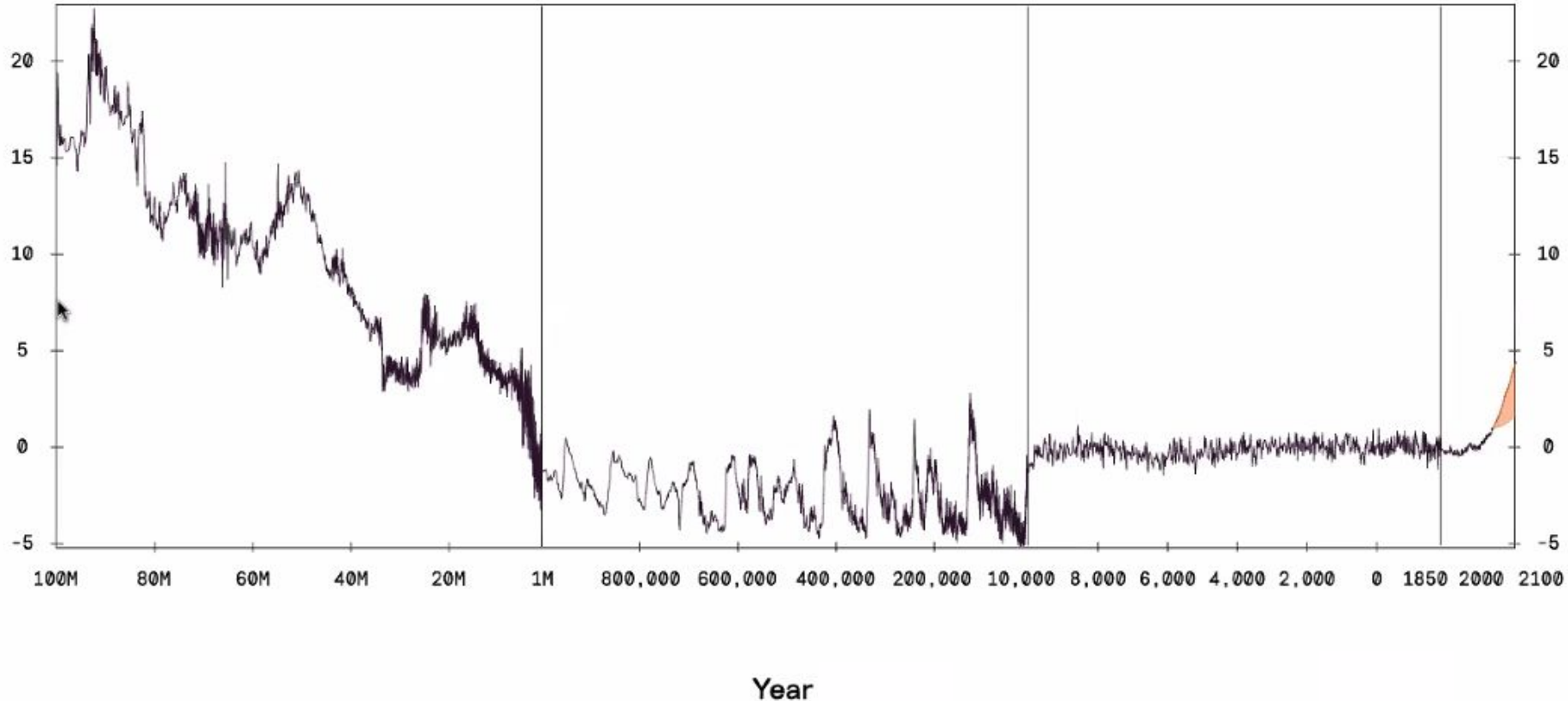
# 55 days

...Per year between the years of 2036-2055 where temperatures will **exceed 100 degrees** in Visalia

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/killer-heat-interactive-tool?location=visalia-ca>

# Global Temperature History

Temperature vs 1850-1900  
average (°C)



# Tulare County General Plan

Uncertainties regarding the future of many communities, particularly those minor rural service centers and residential tracts which have a high incidence of sub-standard housing, a low assessed valuation, and a low level of public services and facilities required for an adequate urban existence lead to the conclusion that there are several communities in the county which may be classed as "non-viable" (not likely to achieve a state of development permitting continued provision of satisfactory community services -- an improbable growth future) unless some unforeseen set of circumstances drastically alters the present decline of such communities. Heavy tax burdens which would

11. Unincorporated communities which are expected to lose population because of factors mentioned above include: Allensworth, Alpaugh, Delft Colony, East Orosi, Lindcove, Monson, Plainview, Poplar-Cotton Center, Seville, Sultana, Teviston, Tooleville, Tonyville, Tract No. 51 and Waukena.





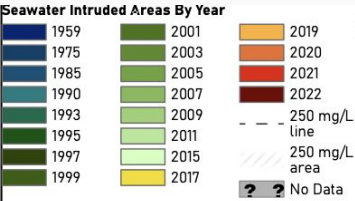
# Infrastructure Challenges

# Pajaro Valley Levee Breach

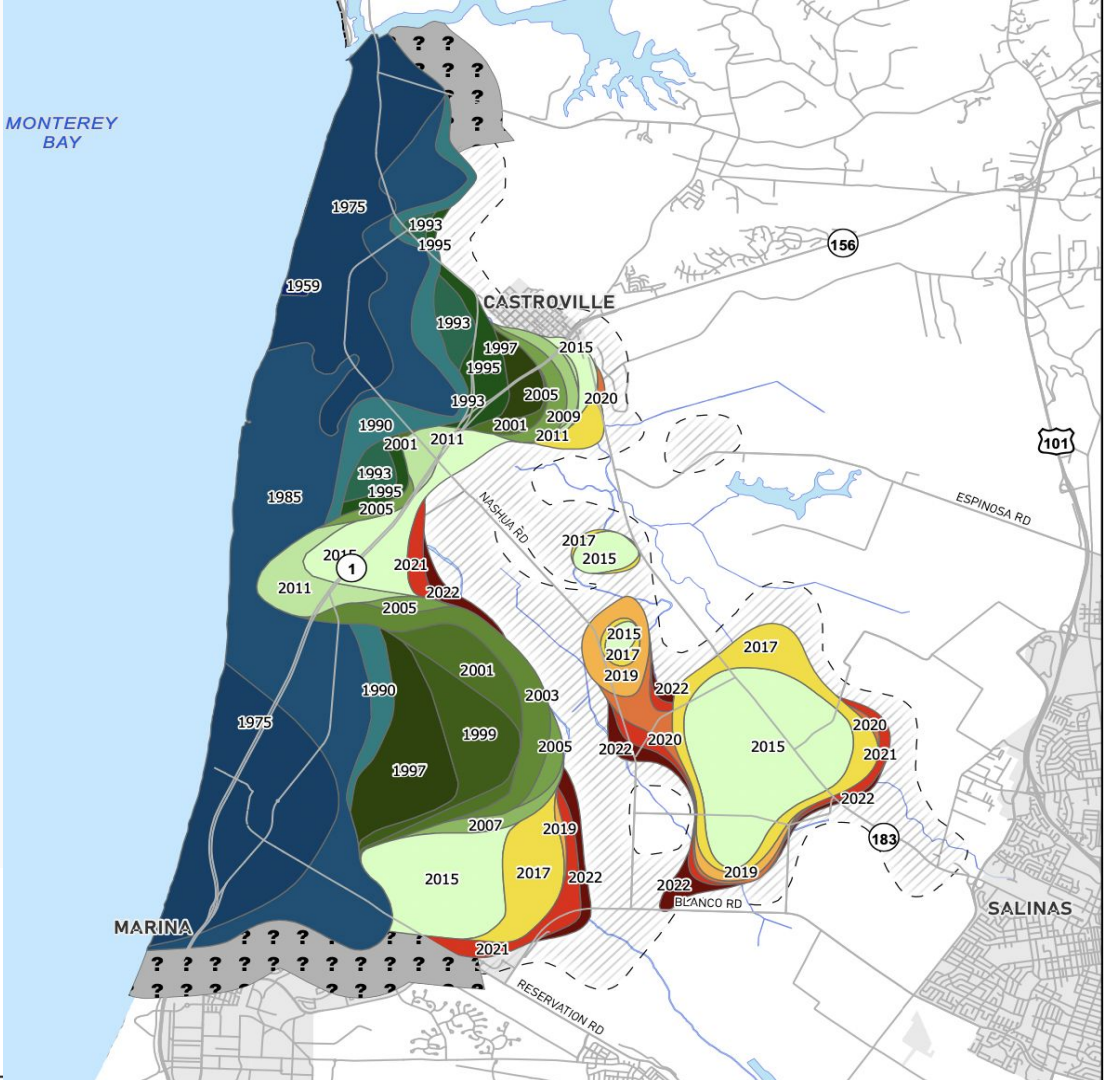
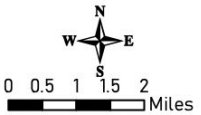


# Seawater intrusion

MONTEREY BAY



**Historical Seawater Intrusion Map**  
 400-Foot Aquifer  
 500 mg/L or Greater Chloride Areas



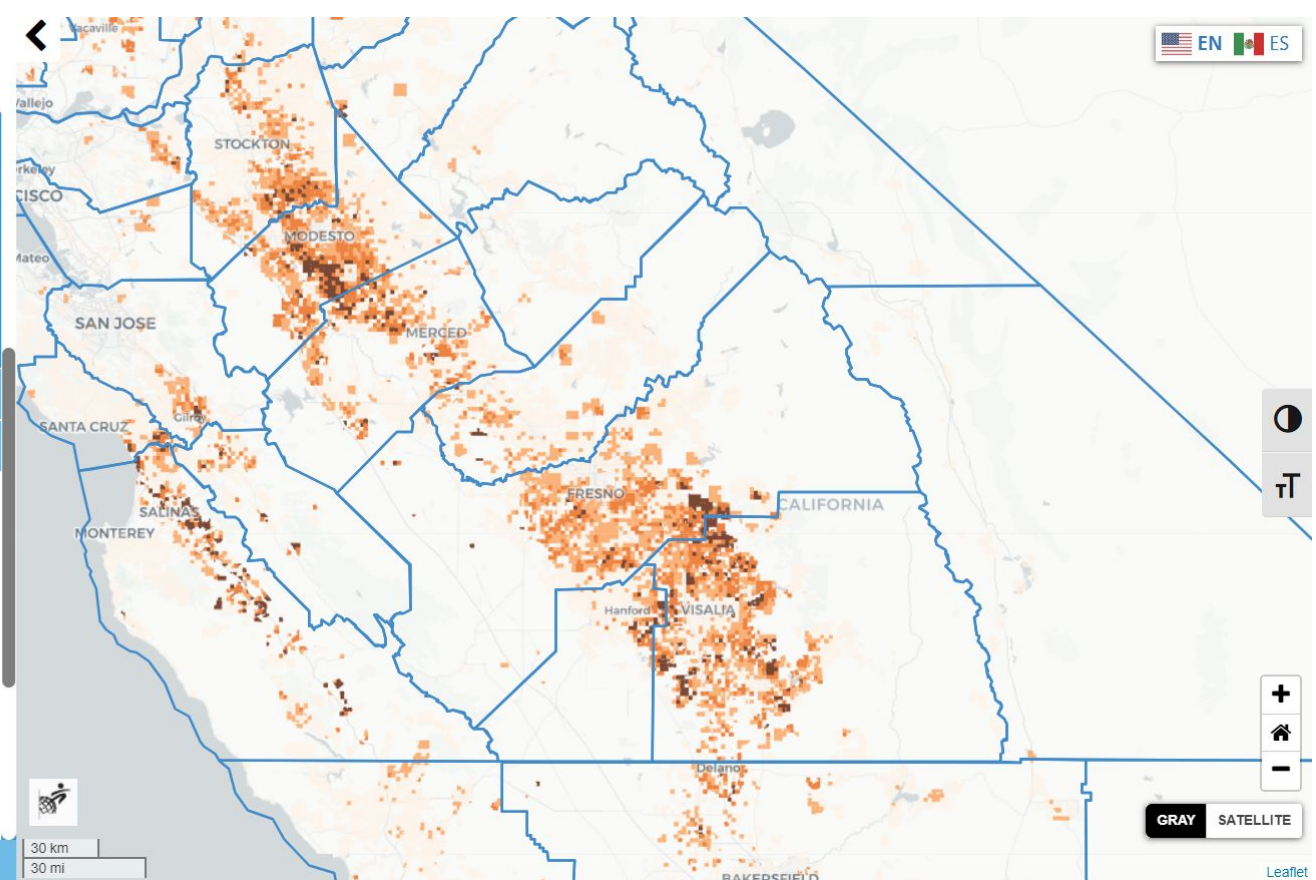


# Water Quality

- Water Systems ⓘ
- US Congressional Districts ⓘ
- CA Assembly Districts ⓘ
- CA Senate Districts ⓘ

- Reference Layers**
- + Groundwater Users
  - Water Quality

- Water Systems**
- Arsenic ⓘ
  - Nitrates ⓘ
  - Hexavalent Chromium ⓘ
  - 1,2,3-Trichloropropane ⓘ
- Domestic Wells**
- Arsenic ⓘ
  - Nitrates ⓘ
- 0 - 50% MCL (MCL = 10 mg/L)  
 50 - 100% MCL  
 100 - 200% MCL  
 > 200% MCL



CWC Drinking Water Tool - Nitrate contamination

# Vulnerability of Domestic Well Communities

- Domestic well communities need to be reliably connected to sustainable water supplies.
- Costs tend to be higher than public water system consolidations.
- Need accountability to disincentivize over-extraction and pollution
  - Polluter fees
  - Well Impact Mitigation



# Planning For the Future

- Community Resilience Planning
  - SB 552 Implementation
    - Resilience for water systems
    - County Drought Plans to guide response and resilience
- Land Transition
  - Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program
    - Ensure benefits reach communities





**Land Transition**



**Healthy Soil**



**Multibenefit**



**Recharge**



**Drinking Water Resilience**



Safe and  
Affordable  
Water for All  
Californians

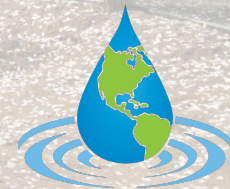


# Questions?

- Sign-up to receive monthly newsletters on water justice:  
**CommunityWaterCenter.org**
- Follow us on social media!



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