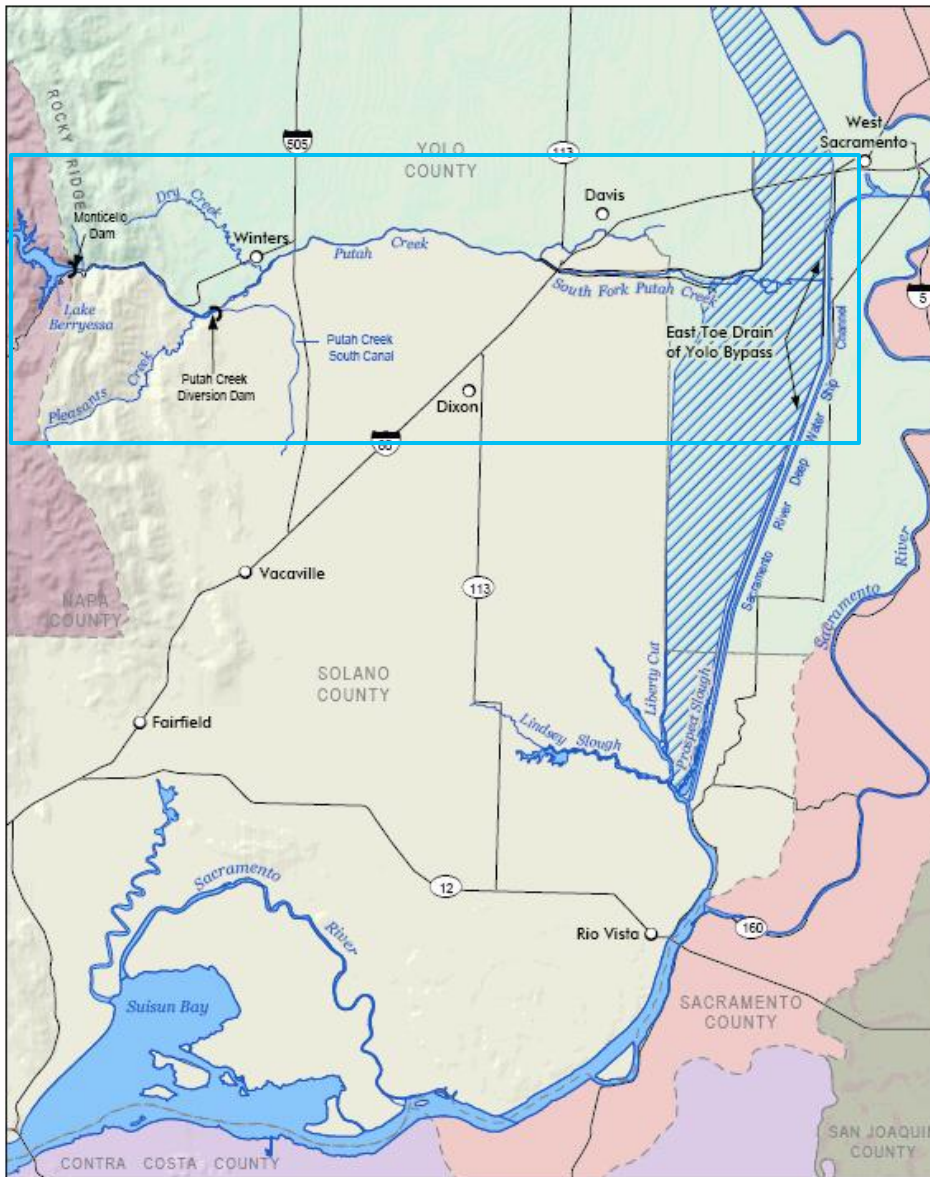


California Roundtable on Water and Food Supply

# **LOWER PUTAH CREEK CASE STUDY**



Source: Teale GIS Solutions Group 1999, U.S. Census Bureau 2002, U.S.G.S 1983

### Lower Putah Creek Regional Area

Lower Putah Creek Watershed Management Action Plan  
X 11136.02 1003



EXHIBIT 1-2



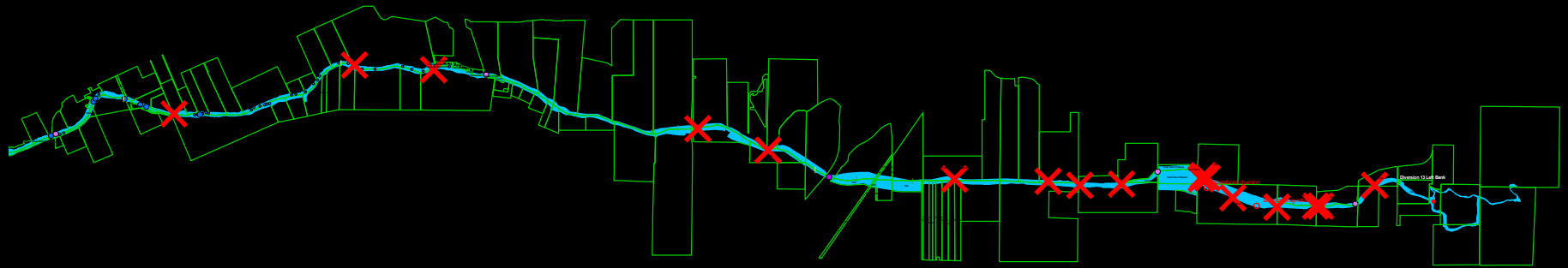
# Lower Putah Creek



# Monticello Dam, Berryessa Reservoir



# Ag Parcels and Diversions



100 major landowners, 10 active diversions

# Flow Litigation 1990-2000

- Putah Creek Council formed in 1988
- Drought of 1986-1993 (-200,000 a.f./year)
- Sued Solano County Water Agency in 1990
- Farmers drawn in because of ag diversions
- Failed adjudication of riparian rights

# Settlement (Putah Creek Accord)

- Settled in 2000 forming the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee to oversee a schedule of perennial flows, also protect and enhance resources of Lower Putah Creek
- Farmers were not part of settlement
- SCWA must maintain flows at all times

# Putah Creek Accord Releases and Flows

Exhibit "E-1"

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Mean Daily Release (cfs)	20	25	25	25	16	26	46	43	43	43	34	20

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Mean Daily Flows (cfs)	5	10	10	15	15	25	30	20	15	15	10	5

Additional riparian releases are available on demand

# History of Putah Creek Accord

- 2000-2008: Two flow violations
- August 2008: Five flow violations
- Post 2008 season: dialogue with active diverters; mutual cooperation
- 2008-2011: increasing coordination of diversions and flows
- Annual meeting to review results and adapt
- All parties retain legal options

# Drivers of Change

- Putah Creek Flow Litigation
- Putah Creek Accord
- Ongoing dialogue with riparian diverters

# Objectives

- Maintain environmental (Accord) flows
- Equitably share riparian water among farmers with riparian water rights
- Restore fish and wildlife habitat

# Challenges and Obstacles

- Riparian water demand exceeded supply

# Successes

- Riparian landowners agreed to share water and help to maintain flows in the creek

# Lessons learned

- Communities manage watersheds
- Co-discovery of solutions through dialogue

# Impacts on Farmers

- Experienced farmers have alternative water supplies
- Two new farmers counted too heavily on creek diversions
- Most farmers are satisfied with July 15 riparian cutoff date