



Photo Credit: Chris Austin

MultiBenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP):

Creating a more resilient Salinas Valley through Repurposing Flood-prone Farmlands

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MULTIBENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM

- Created to assist with SGMA compliance
 - Repurpose irrigated lands to a lower water use function that provides multiple benefits
- Not considered necessary right now by Salinas Valley Basin GSA, but our region can significantly benefit from strategic repurposing nonetheless



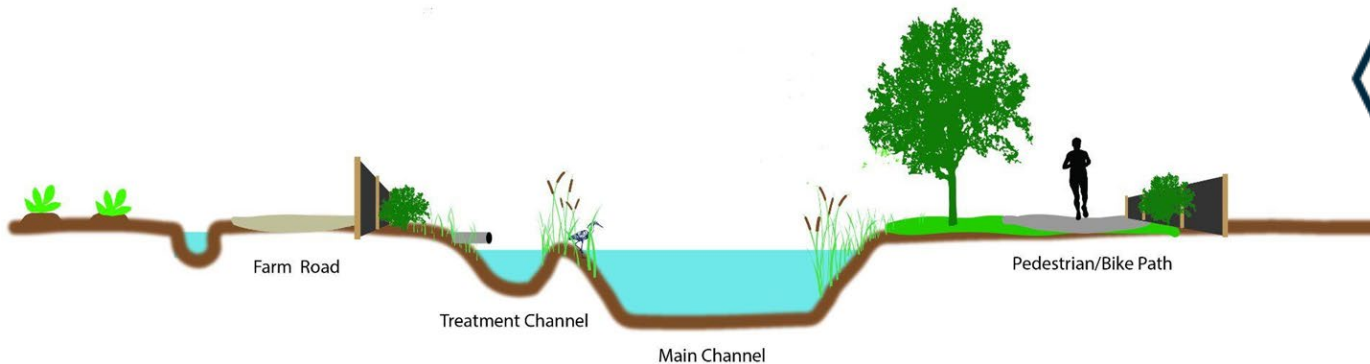
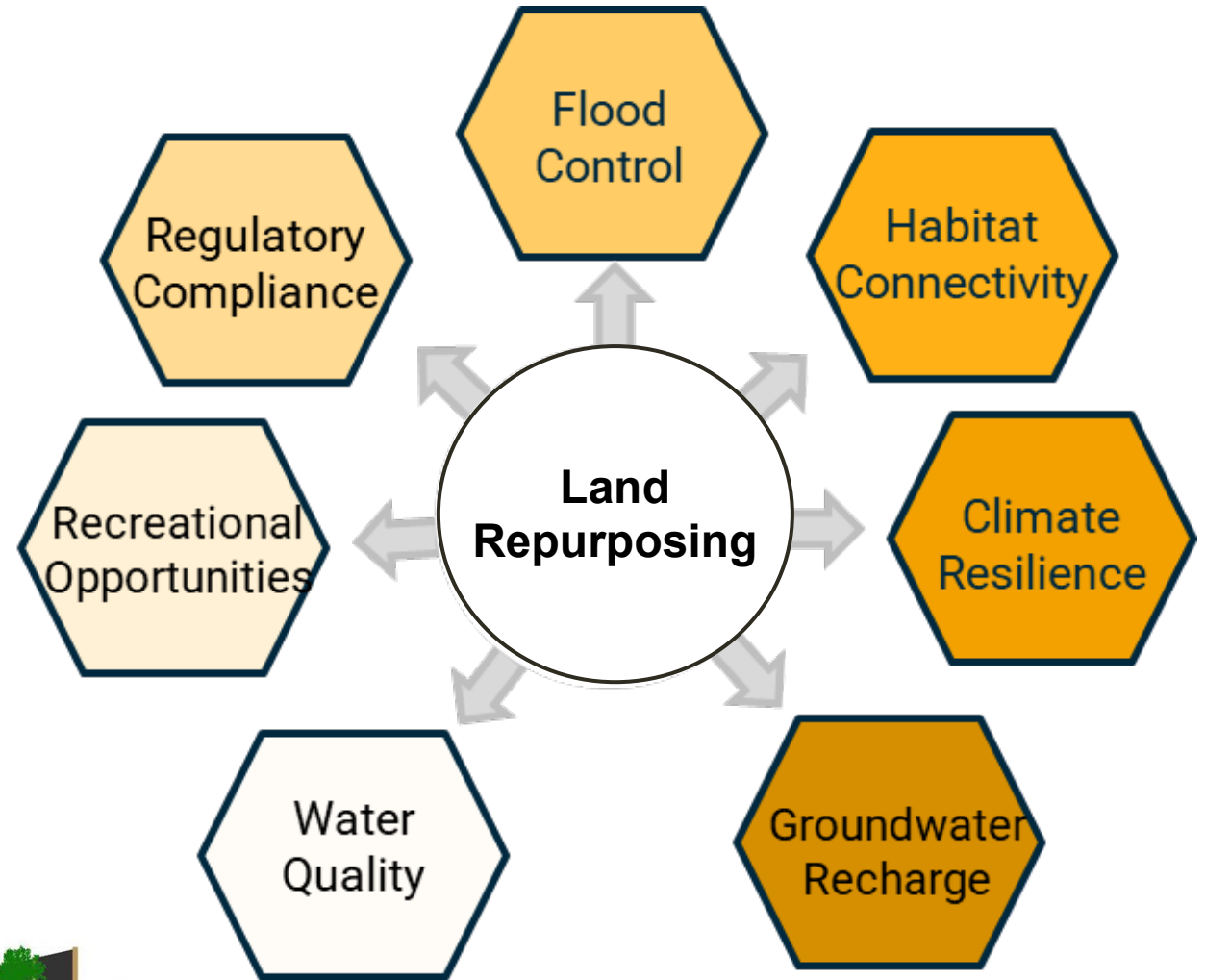
San Joaquin Valley, Credit: Associated Press

Greater Monterey County RWMG awarded \$10 million by California Department of Conservation



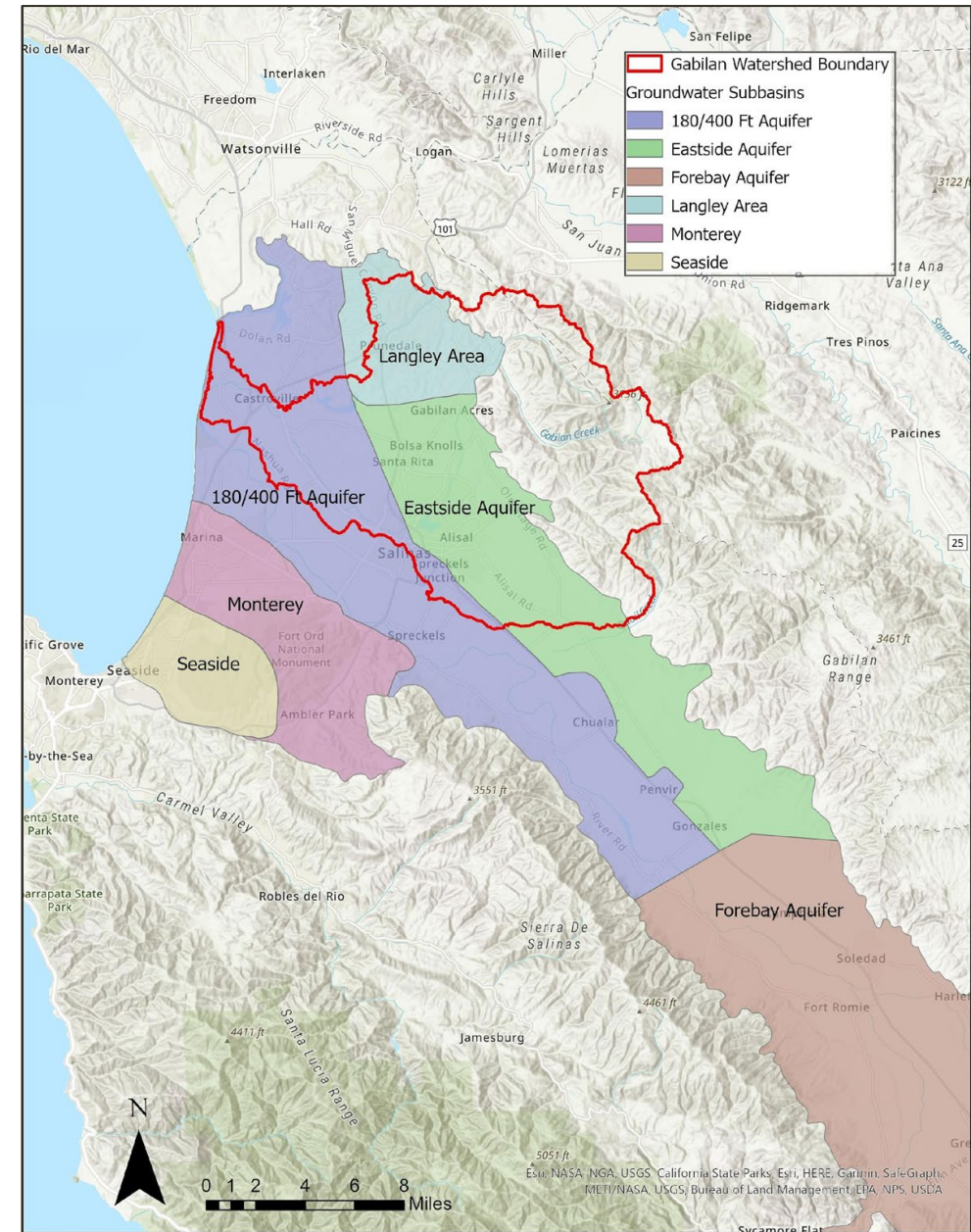
OUR VISION

Work with a broad coalition of stakeholders to strategically and voluntarily repurpose the least viable agricultural lands in the Lower Salinas Valley that can provide multiple water resource benefits



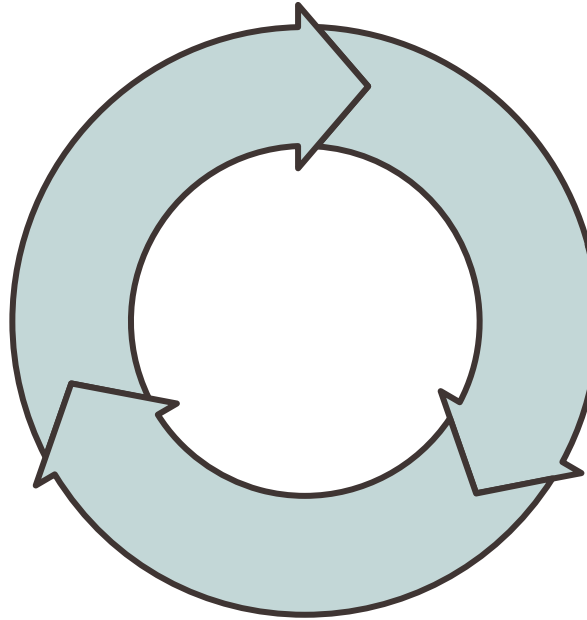
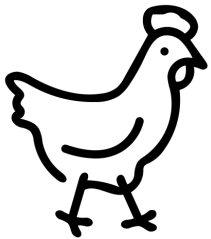
ELIGIBLE AREAS

- The 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin
- The Eastside Subbasin
- Gabilan Watershed – Watershed Coordinator focus region
- Irrigated lands within the above boundaries

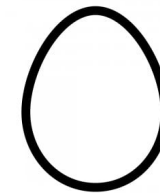


MLRP AS SOLUTION TO OUR “CHICKEN AND EGG” PROBLEM

Funding agencies
need signed
landowner agreement
before awarding
acquisition funding



Landowners want to
know what they will
receive before signing
anything



TASKS

1. Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan (MALRP)
2. Land Repurposing Project Development and Design
 - Many concept designs
 - 60% designs for 4 projects
- ★ ¹3. Land Repurposing Project Implementation
 - Primarily acquisition, can be other implementation activities if necessary
4. Support Partner Capacity Needs
 - GSA for evaluation of groundwater recharge potential and economic analysis
5. Outreach
 - Landowners
 - Growers
 - GSA implementation committees
 - Underserved communities
- ¹6. Pre/Post Project Monitoring

★ Over half of the \$10 million in this task

MLRP Committees

Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program			
Governance Committee	Policy and Project Development Committee (PPD)	Technical Committee	Land Acquisition Committee
Task 1 – MALRP (Plan) Development Task 7 - Project Admin (CMSF)	Task 2 – Project investigation, development, and design Task 5 – Outreach	Task 4 – Support Partner Capacity Task 6 – Pre/post project monitoring	Task 3 – Land repurposing project implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee drafting of Multi-benefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan (MALRP) Implement MALRP project ranking process – advise selection of projects sent for approval* Disseminate outreach materials to raise program awareness, coordinate with stakeholders regarding MALRP development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policy incentives Develop outreach materials Communicate with landowners Develop long-term management plans Oversee project design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design projects Quantify estimated benefits Develop and conduct monitoring protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft easement language Identify organization to hold each easement Participate in negotiations Complete approved easement transactions

* Core Project Team will be responsible for final decision on which projects are sent to the state for approval

Multi-Benefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan (MALRP)

- 2 Parts:
 - PDF that will be a blueprint for a long-term program that could apply to the whole Salinas Valley
 - Website/living database of projects
- Blueprint will include a project prioritization/ranking process to determine which projects we pursue first for implementation

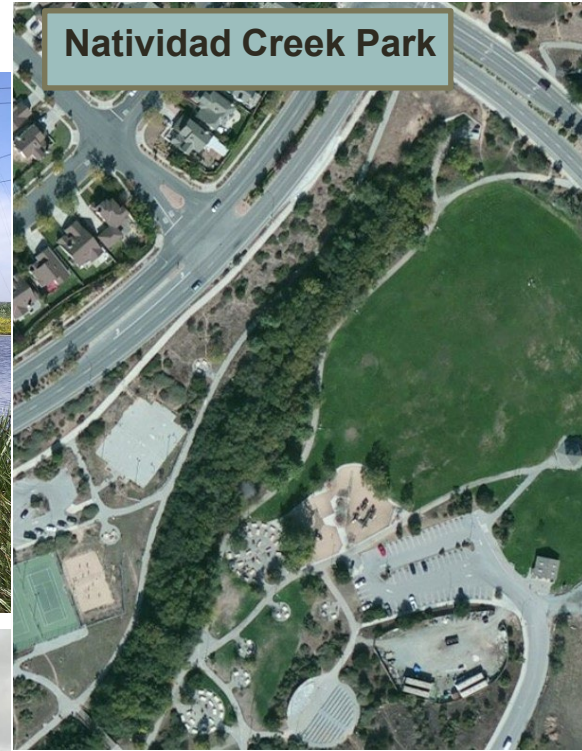


January 2023 drone imagery of damage to ag lands from recent storms

Existing Multibenefit Project Examples

New projects could be a combination of the following:

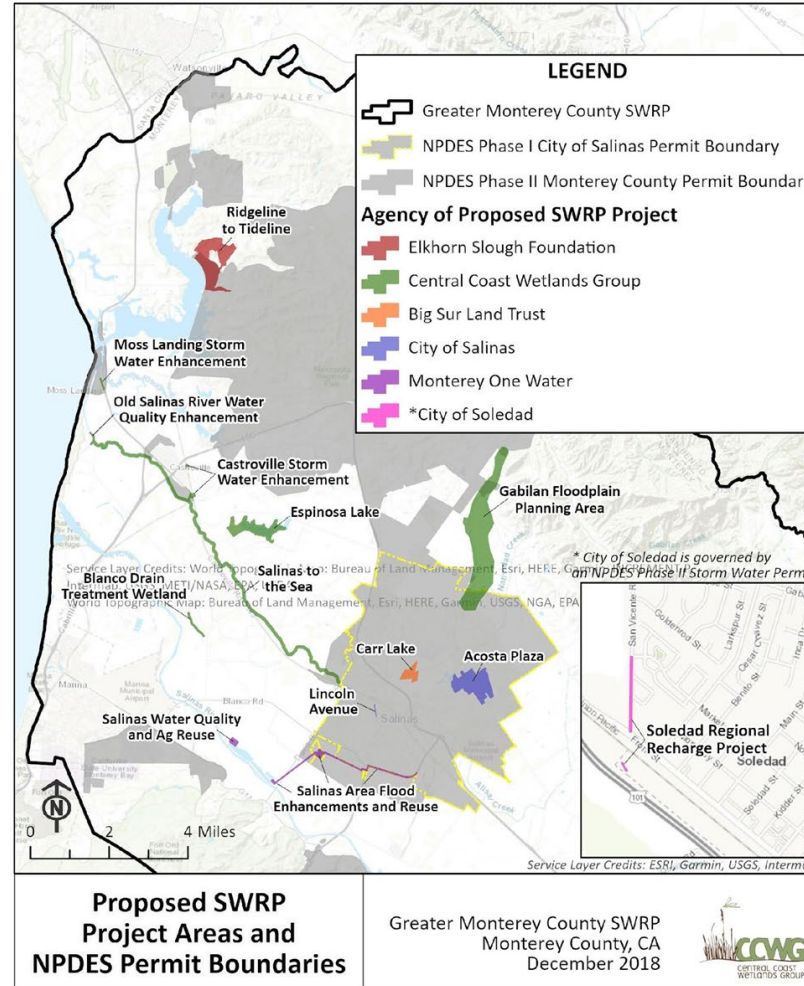
- Floodplain restoration
- Stormwater capture and reuse
- Wildlife friendly recharge basin
- Treatment wetland
- Riparian corridor enhancement
- Parks/Open Space



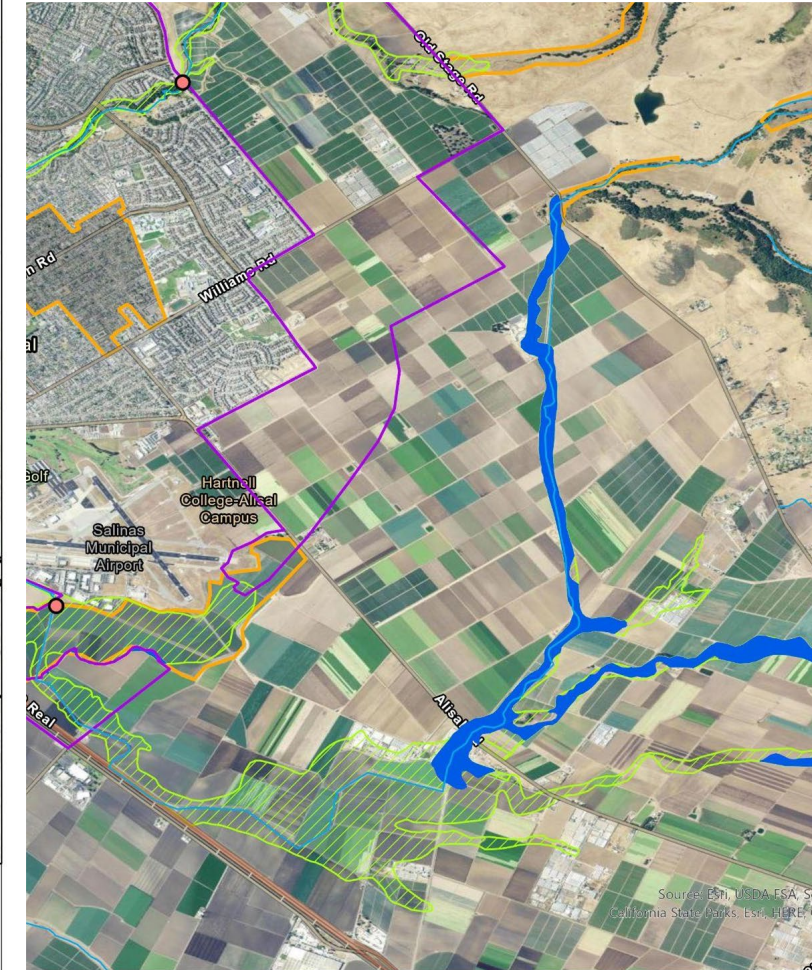
Note: All new projects must still be in eligible areas

Two Tracks for Project Development and Implementation

1. Pre-identified, pre-vetted concepts from existing plans:
 - Storm Water Resources Plan
 - Groundwater Sustainability Plans
 - Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan
1. Identify new projects based on landowner/grower interest and appropriate hydro-geology:
 - Highly permeable soils
 - 100 year flood zone
 - Ag Order 4.0 priority area



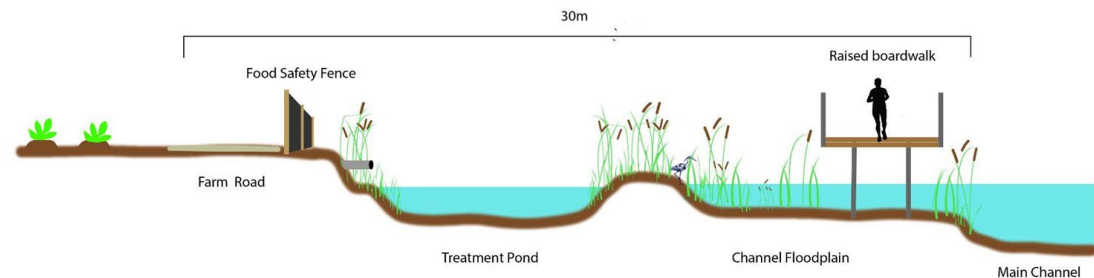
Track 1



Track 2

Track 1 Example: Castroville to the Coast

- Set back irrigated lands for multibenefit floodplain restoration along Tembladero Slough between Castroville and Salinas River State Beach
- Included in the Storm Water Resource Plan
- Planning, design, permitting and matching acquisition funds secured through other grant awards



Track 1 Example: Espinosa Lake



Track 2 Example: Salinas River (and other areas)

- Interested landowner
- Initial evaluation form:
 - Highly permeable soils?
 - 100 year flood zone?
 - Ag Order 4.0 priority area?

Salinas Valley

Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program

Site Opportunity Evaluation Form

Project Contributor:

Site Name:

Location Center Point: Lat: Long:

Parcel #:

Land Owner:

Grower:

Acres (of project area):

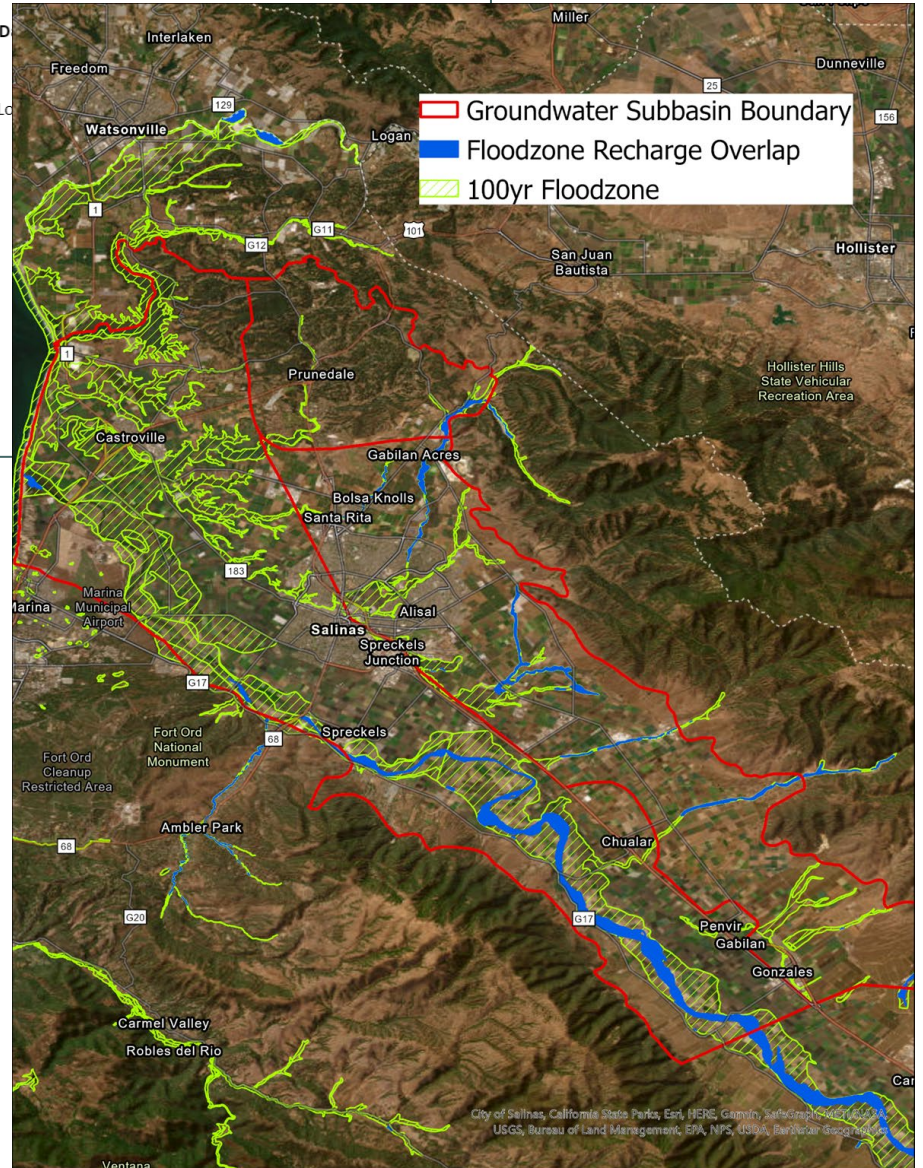
Current Use (of project area):

Project site aerial photo/map (google earth):

Groundwater Subbasin Boundary

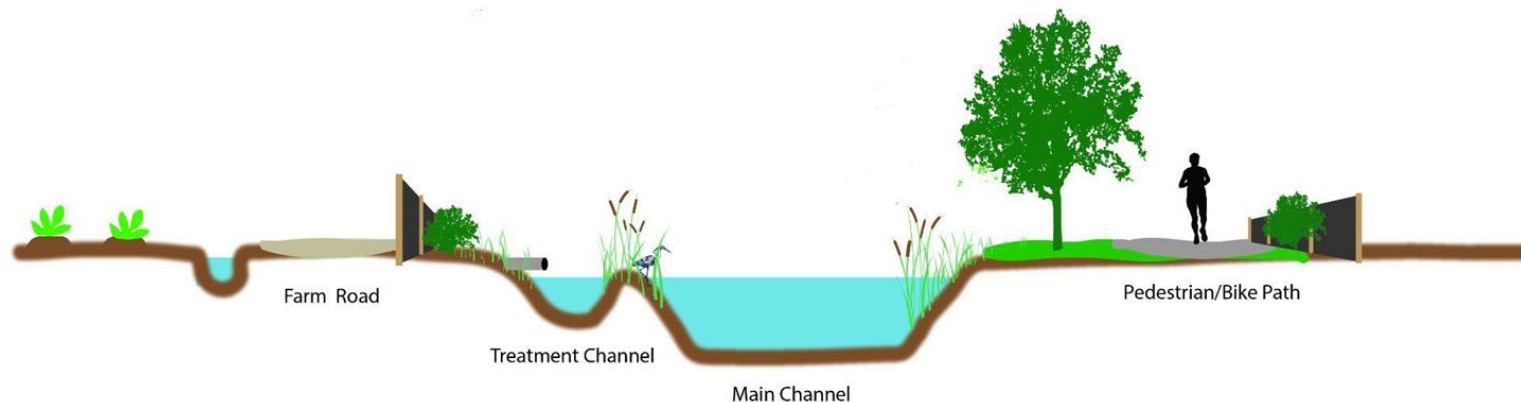
Floodzone Recharge Overlap

100yr Floodzone



Challenges/Risk Mitigation Items To Address

- Existing development/conservation plans (City, County, Ag Easement)
- Channel maintenance (Rec Ditch, others)
- Food safety
- Public access concerns
- ESA, Safe Harbor Agreements
- Long-term O&M – responsible entity, funding source
- Benefit/cost determination and allocation



Questions?

