

Managing Stormwater in California

Our Current Crisis and a New Pathway to Sustainability

Bay Area Watershed Network Conference

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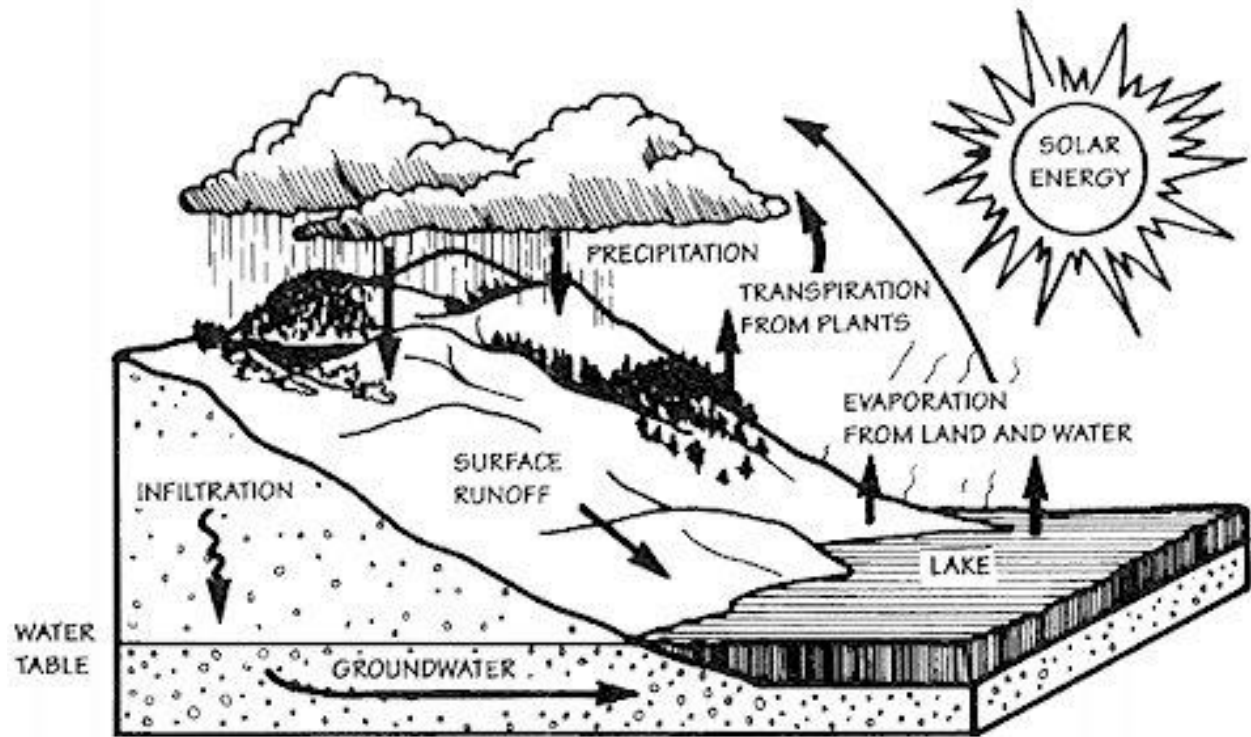
Pine Creek Flooding, Concord 1958



Contra Costa County
Flood Control
& Water Conservation District

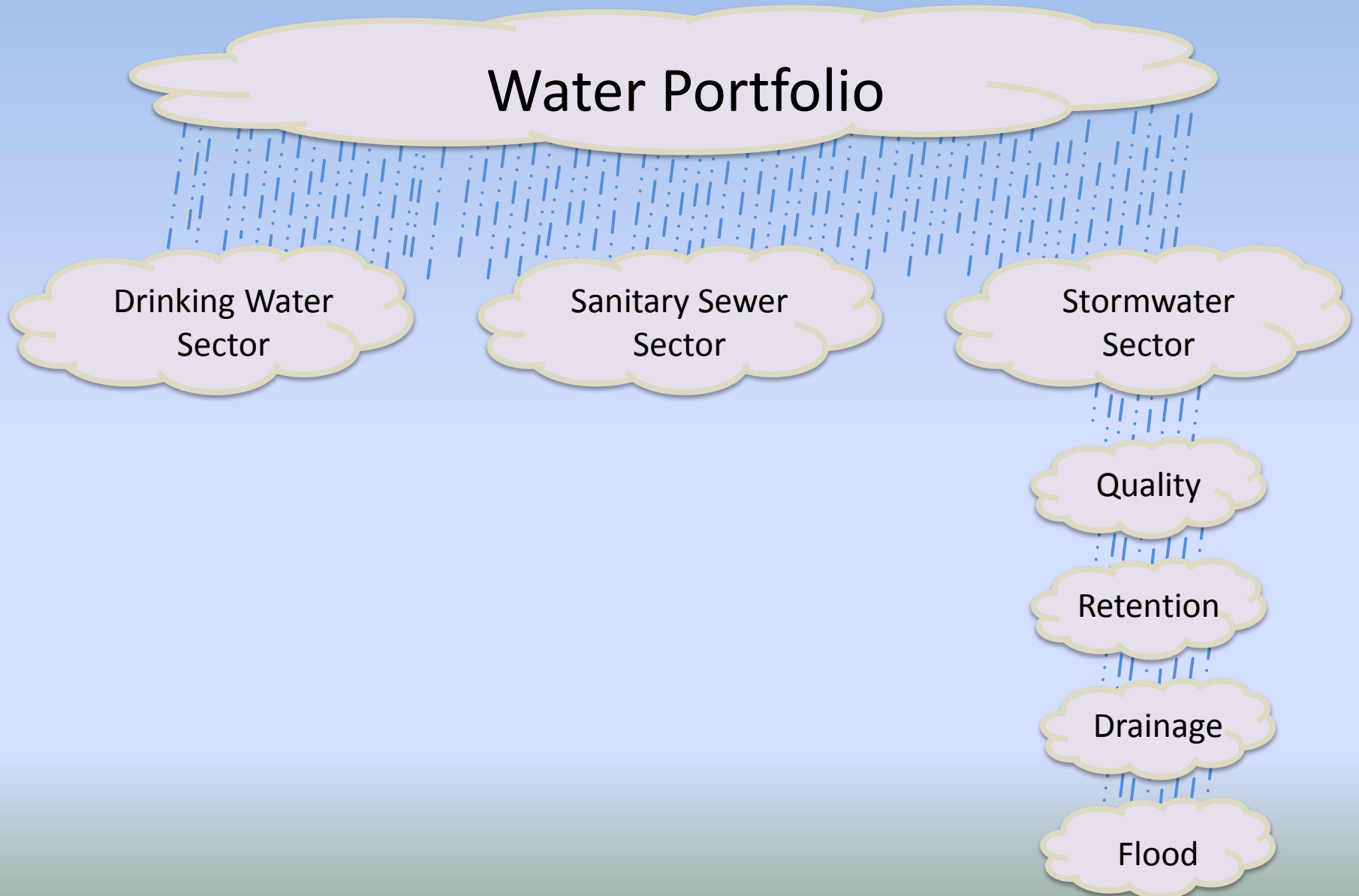
Overview

- Background
- Definitions
- How stormwater services are funded
- Stormwater Initiative
- Opportunities



Nature's Water Cycle

Anatomy of California Water Portfolio



Stormwater is.....



Stormwater Retention and Infiltration



Regional Flood Protection



Community Drainage



Stormwater Quality

$\frac{218}{1996} =$ Voting Requirements

Proposition 218 Voting Requirements

Proposition 218 requires approval of a majority vote of property owners or two-thirds vote of electorate in the service area for any property related fee or charge **except** fees or charges for sewer, water and refuse collection services.

Current Water Portfolio

Resource

Drinking Water
Sector

Sanitary Sewer
Sector

Stormwater
Sector

Quality

Retention

Drainage

Flood

Management

Water Utilities

Wastewater Utilities

Cities, Counties,
Flood Control Districts

Funding

Rate Structure

Rate Structure

No Rate Structure

Process

Voting Exempt

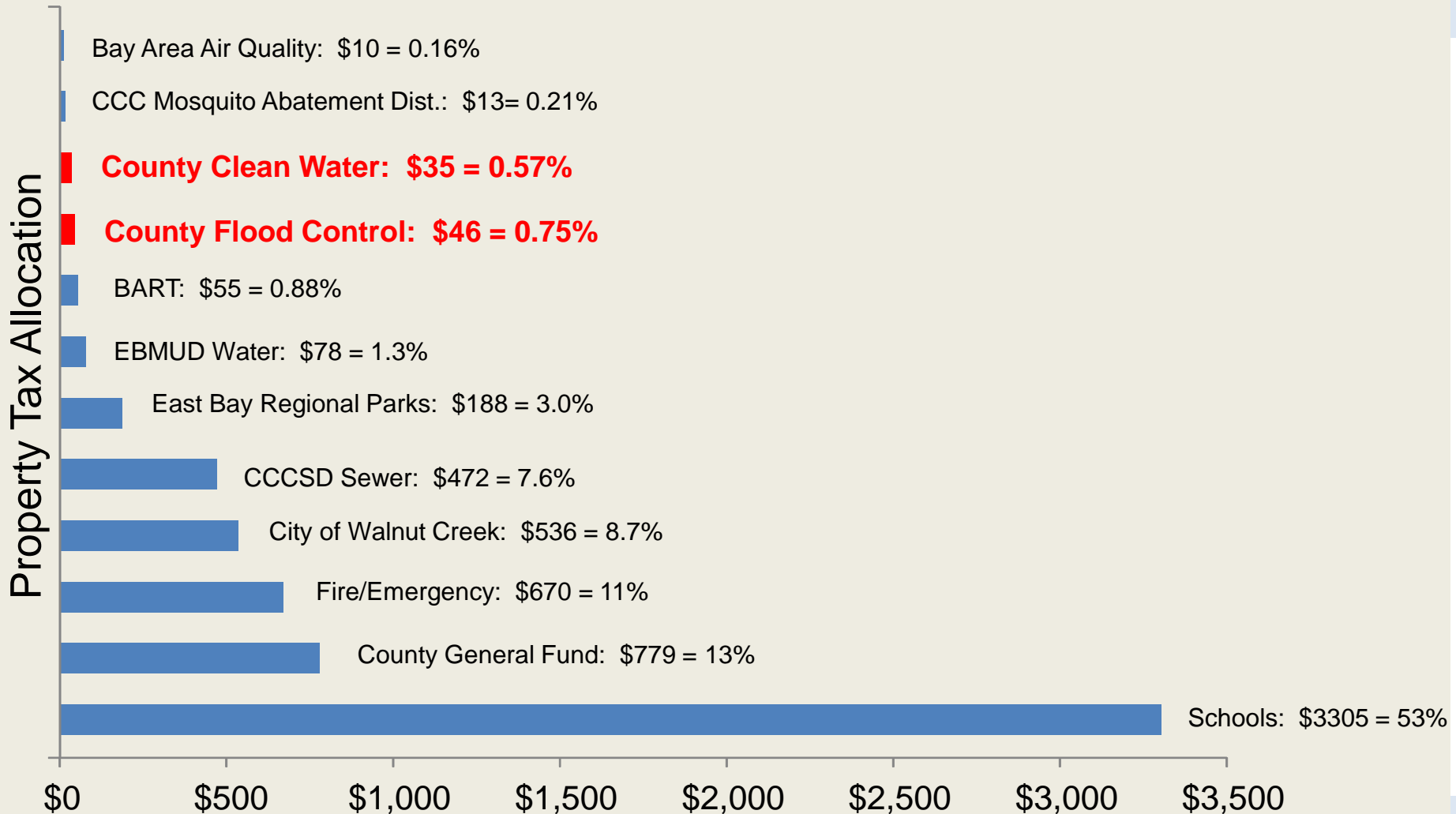
Voting Exempt

Voting Required

Contra Costa County Example

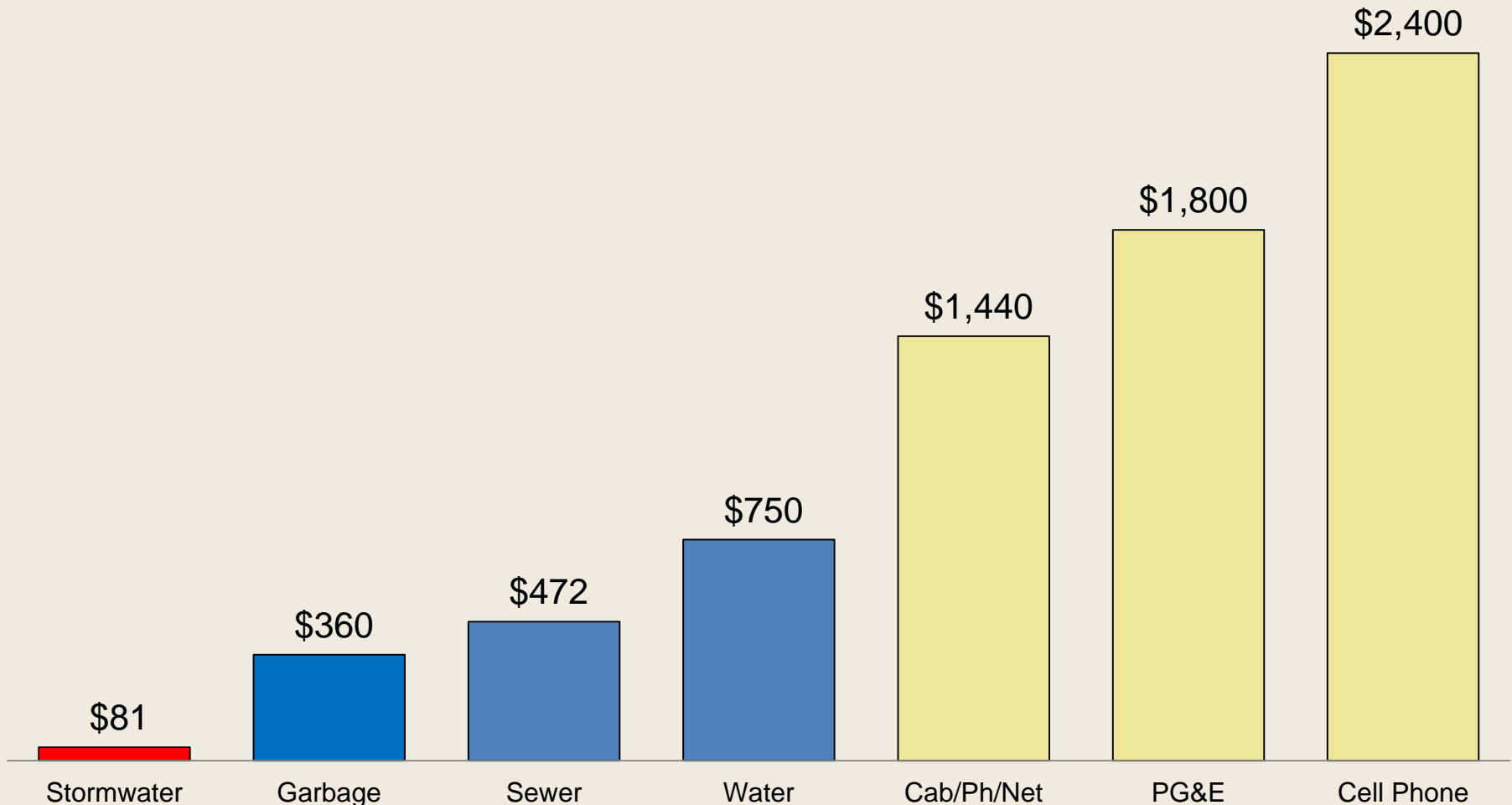
- 2012 Clean Water Funding Initiative
- Property related fee
- Ballot sent to all County property owners
- Process time: 1 ½ years
- Cost: \$1.5 million
- Outcome: 60% “No” votes

How CCC Stormwater is Funded



Percent of Entire Tax Bill - Based on \$500,000 home in Walnut Creek

Society's Investment in Stormwater



Annual Costs Based on \$500,000 Home/Family in Walnut Creek

Stormwater Initiative

- Goal: “Utility” status for stormwater similar to water and wastewater
- Exempt stormwater agencies from voter requirements like water districts or wastewater districts
- Need a Constitutional Amendment approved by the legislature (67% vote)
- California voters will decide whether to grant an exemption for stormwater (50% vote)
- Stormwater is a valuable resource! Stormwater and its infrastructure is important for our health and prosperity

AB 1362 Omnibus Act Amendment

“Stormwater” means any system of public improvements or service intended to provide for the quality, conservation, control, or conveyance of waters that land on or drain across the natural or man-made landscape.

Stormwater Initiative Process

- AB 1362 introduced, need Constitutional Amendment
- Aiming for 2016 election
- Coalition pushing Initiative forward
- Need campaign to support ballot measure



Two Step Process

Step One: Ballot measure approves exemption, grants same authority to local government as water and wastewater districts to fund operations.

Step Two: Each local government agency/area, if desired, goes through a political process to:

- Establish a “utility”
- Determine scope and level of services
- Determine rates
- Determine rate structure

Opportunities

- More emphasis on resources and resource management
- More interest in water and resources conservation
- Offsets or alternative compliance to the built environment
- More pressure to preserve watershed function in “Step Two”
- Increased funding for wetlands and stormwater treatment

Opportunities

- Naturalize traditional flood protection infrastructure
- Restructure stormwater services
- Develop all-encompassing watershed plans
- Plan and implement creek restoration projects
- Increased funding for watershed coordinators
- Develop financial partnerships with Flood Control Districts

Stormwater Initiative

- **It is not a TAX!**
- Clarification of Proposition 218 exemptions
- Recognizes stormwater as a basic service
- Completes adequate funding for our total water portfolio

