



# **Federal Legislative Opportunities for Funding Water Recycling in 2016:**

## **A Western Recycled Water Coalition Perspective**

Jayne Strommer, Delta Diablo



TRANSFORMING WASTEWATER TO RESOURCES

# Agenda



1. Western Recycled Water Coalition Background

2. Federal Legislative Funding Accomplishments

3. Introduced Legislation

4. Federal Legislative Opportunities for Funding in 2016

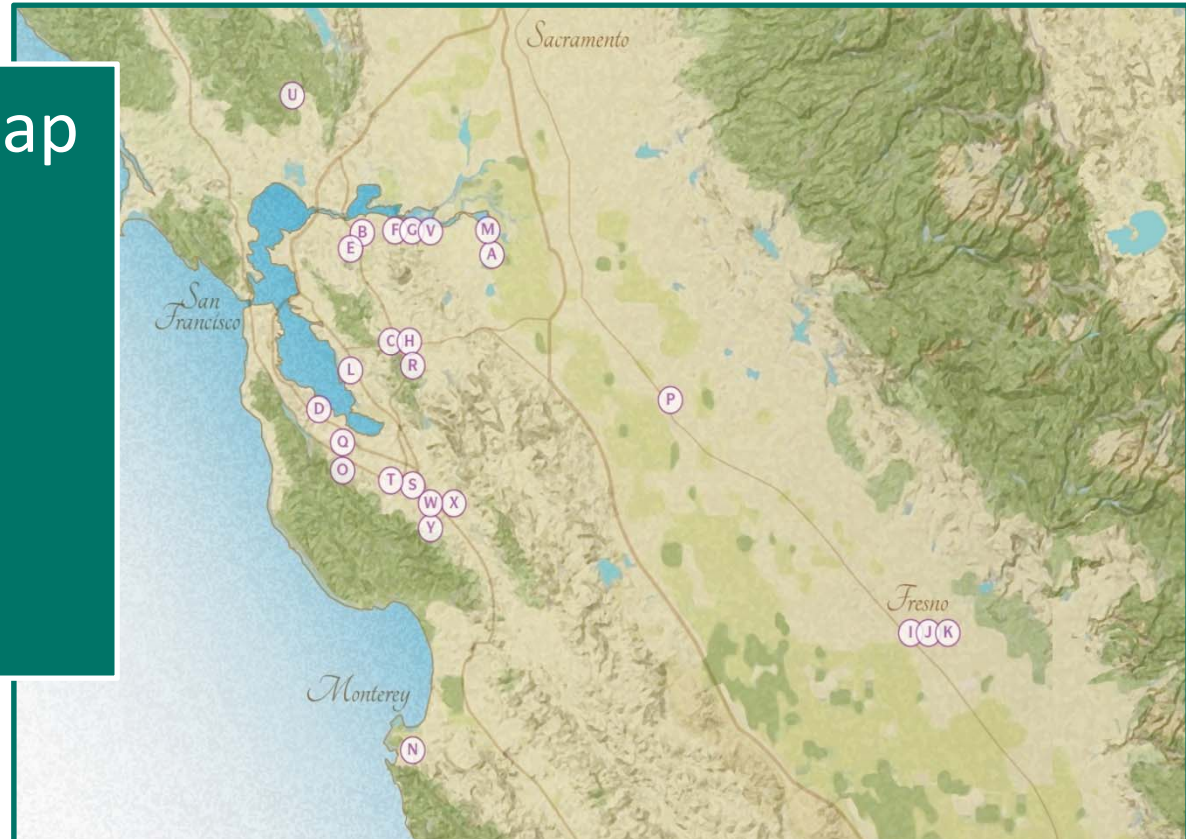
# Western Recycled Water Coalition

*A Collaborative Approach to Developing Sustainable Water Supplies*



## 2015 Project map

- 24 members  
Cities, Districts,  
IOWU's
- 27 Projects
- 100,000 AFY

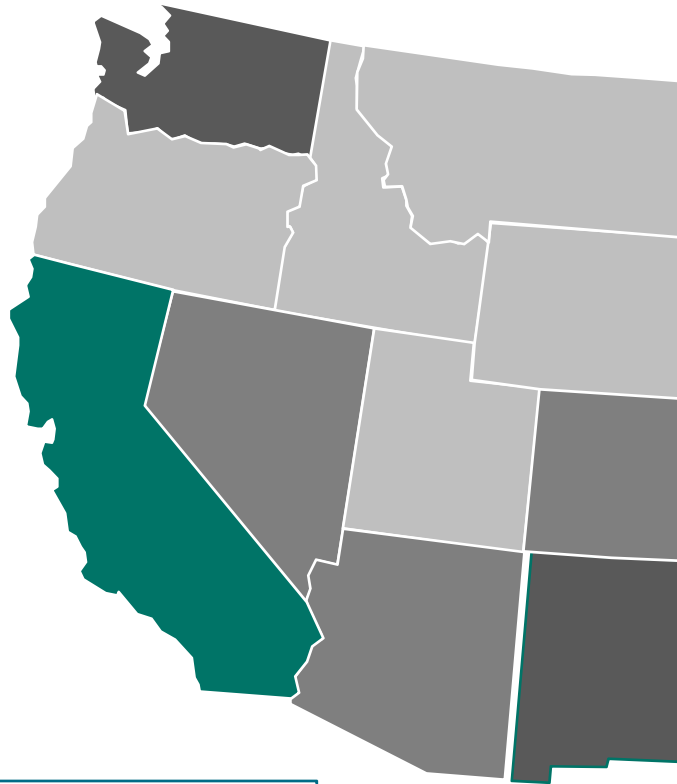


TRANSFORMING WASTEWATER TO RESOURCES

# Western Recycled Water Coalition



*A Collaborative Approach to Developing Sustainable Water Supplies*



- 2016 Project Map – in development
  - Cities, Districts, IOWU's
  - CA, HI, ...
  - >37 Projects
  - >200,000 AFY



# Water Resources Reform & Development Act

June 10, 2014

## WRRDA – included Clean Water Act Amendments

- SRF Eligibility for investor-owned water utilities
- Additional incentive & subsidization for “to address water-efficiency goals”
- WIFIA explicit RW eligibility, project bundling, extended repayment terms
  - 12/1/15 Hwy Bill agreement – fixes prohibition on using tax-exempt bonds in combination with WIFIA Loans

# Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

State Water  
Resources  
Control  
Board  
provided  
loan  
incentive  
for recycled  
water

- Proposed 13/14 by WRWC w/WateReuse CA & CASA
- Board passed Resolution March 18, 2014
  - \$800 M in 1% interest financing for RW
  - Successful >45 projects, seeking >\$1.9 B, developing >210,400 AFY
- Dec. 2 application deadline
  - Nov. 9 - Met with Water Board and DFA Staff
  - Nov. 24 - Joint letter w/CASA, WateReuse & ACWA requesting extension/expansion of the program

# On-going Drought

Entering 5<sup>th</sup> year of drought

Nov. 13 Executive Order 8-36-15

Prop. 1, \$625 M thru WRFPP

CA Survey >\$5 Billion in projects planned



# Federal Legislation Introduced in 2015



January  
15

S.176/H.R. 291,  
Boxer/Napolitano, *Water in the  
21<sup>st</sup> Century*

March  
4

H.R. 1278/S. 741, Capps/Cardin  
*Water Infrastructure Resiliency  
and Sustainability Act of 2015*

July  
9

H.R. 2993, Matsui,  
*Water Recycling Acceleration  
Act of 2015*



# Federal Legislation Introduced in 2015



July  
8

H.R. 2983/S. 1837,  
Huffman/Boxer, *Drought  
Recovery and Resilience Act*

July  
13

H.R. 3045, McNerney,  
*California Water Recycling and  
Drought Relief Act*

July  
29

S. 1894, Feinstein & Boxer,  
*Emergency Drought Relief Act  
of 2015*

# Federal Legislative Opportunities in 2016



## Drought Bill

- Sen. Murkowski - Oct. 8 hearing, discussions w/Sen's Feinstein & Boxer et al., bill TBD

## Project Authorization

- Amend/new bill for WRWC's 2016 Projects

## CWA Reauthorization

- Supplement CWSRF \$, vehicle for bills

## Loan Program

- Support proposals with favorable interest rates & terms

## Grant Program

- Competitive, nationwide, EPA administered

# WRWC Proposed Grant Program



## *“National Water Recycling and Reclamation Act of 2015”*

- Provided draft legislation to Congressional leaders by letter January 2015
- Huffman and Boxer introduced in omnibus *Drought Recovery & Resilience Act*
- Pursuing standalone bill
- Seeking House and Senate Leaders, both parties, in and outside western U.S.

# WRWC Proposed Grant Program



## *“Water Recycling and Reclamation Act of 2015”*

- Modeled after TIGER
  - Up to 80% grants
  - \$500 M annual appropriation
  - Competitive
- Nationwide Eligibility
- EPA Administered
- Funding Offset



# Should water be a national priority?

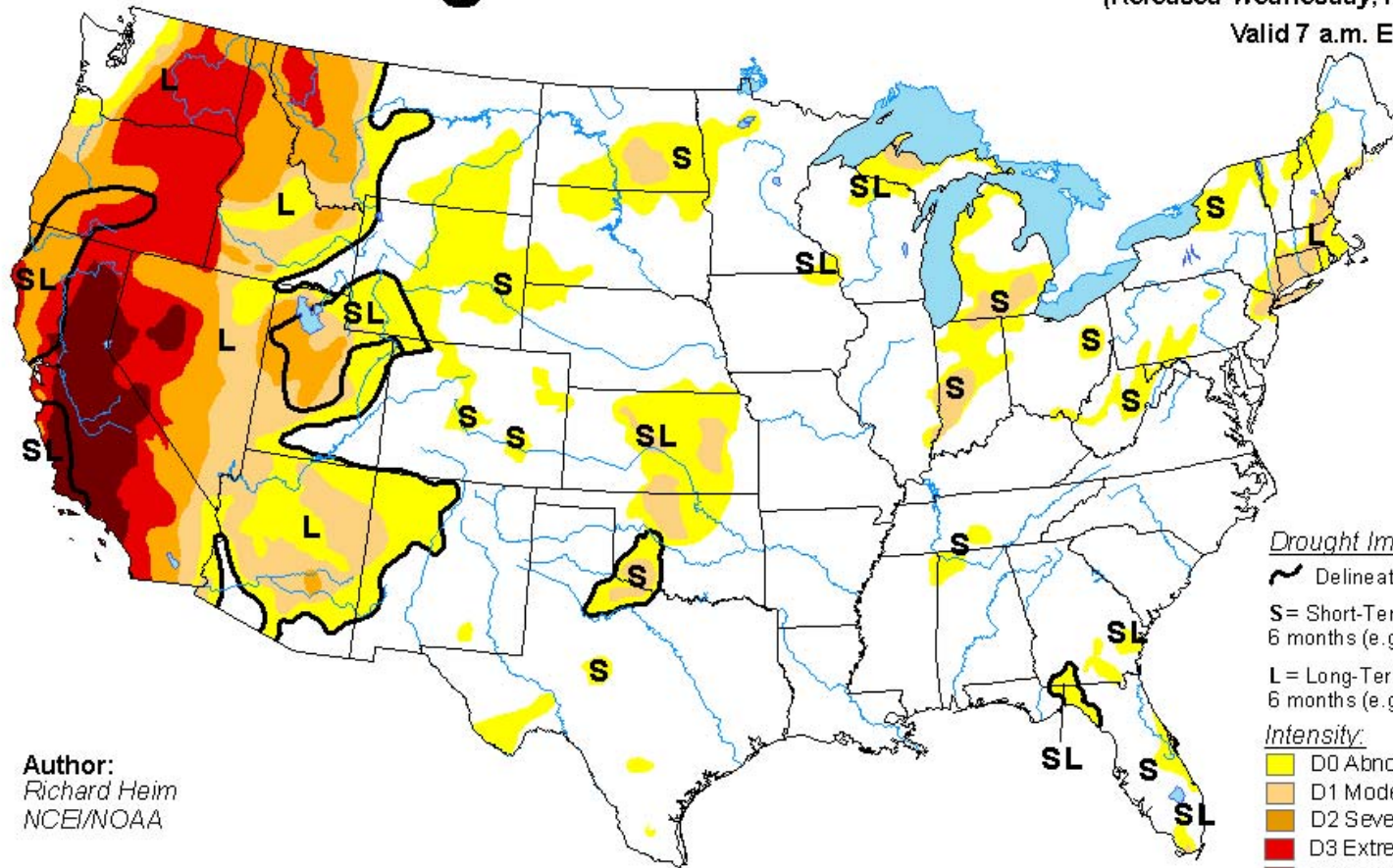
- Should the federal government significantly invest in recycled water development?

# U.S. Drought Monitor

November 24, 2015

(Released Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Author:  
Richard Heim  
NCEI/NOAA

## Drought Impact Types:

~ Delineates dominant impacts

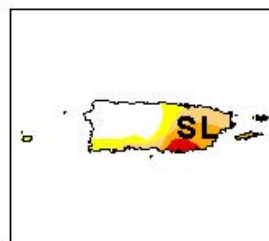
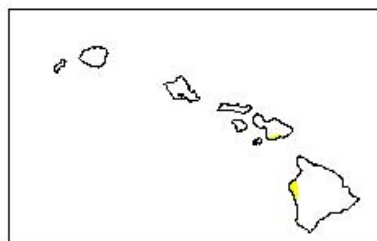
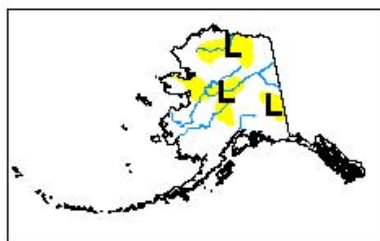
S= Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)

L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

## Intensity:

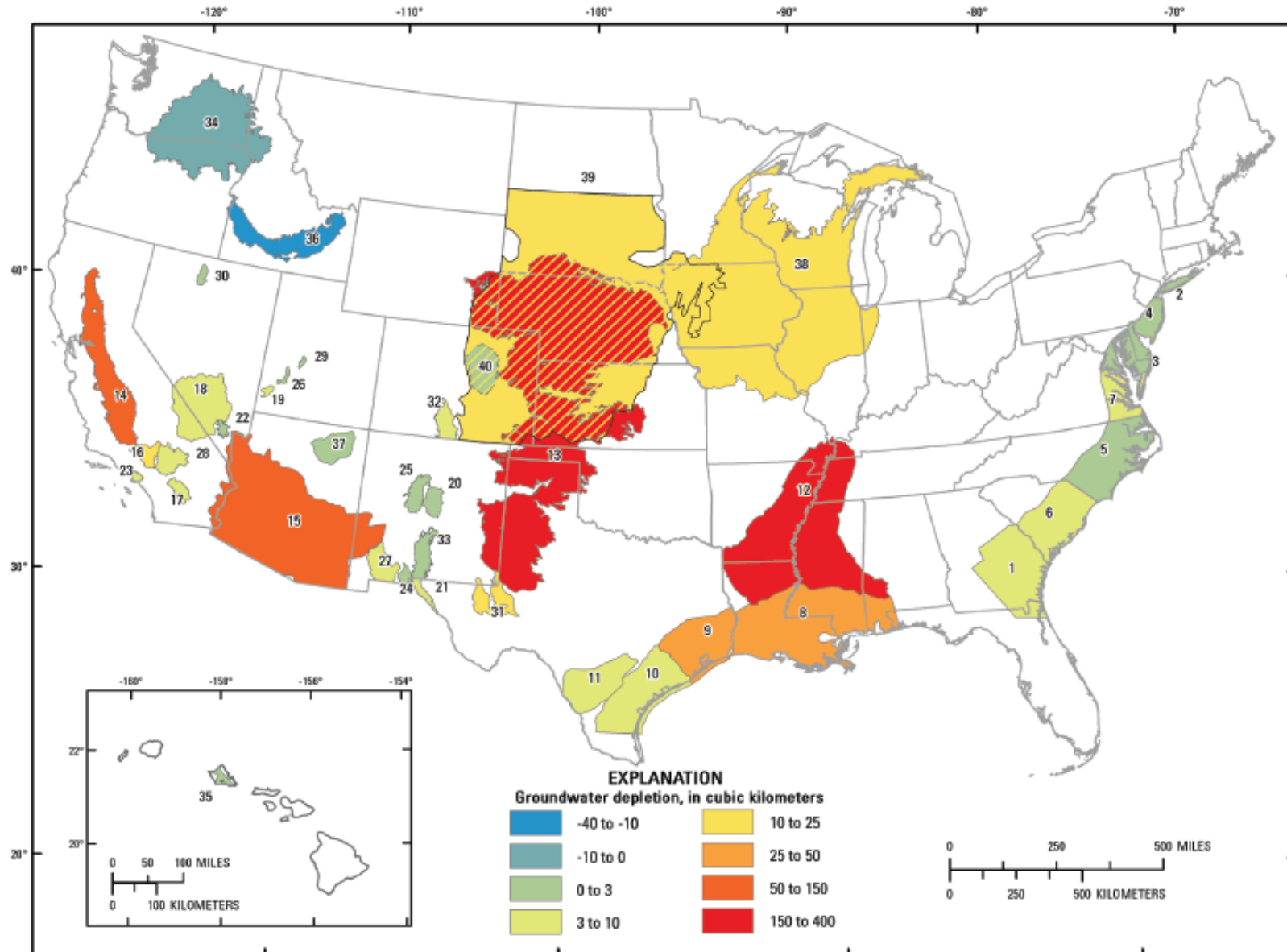
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

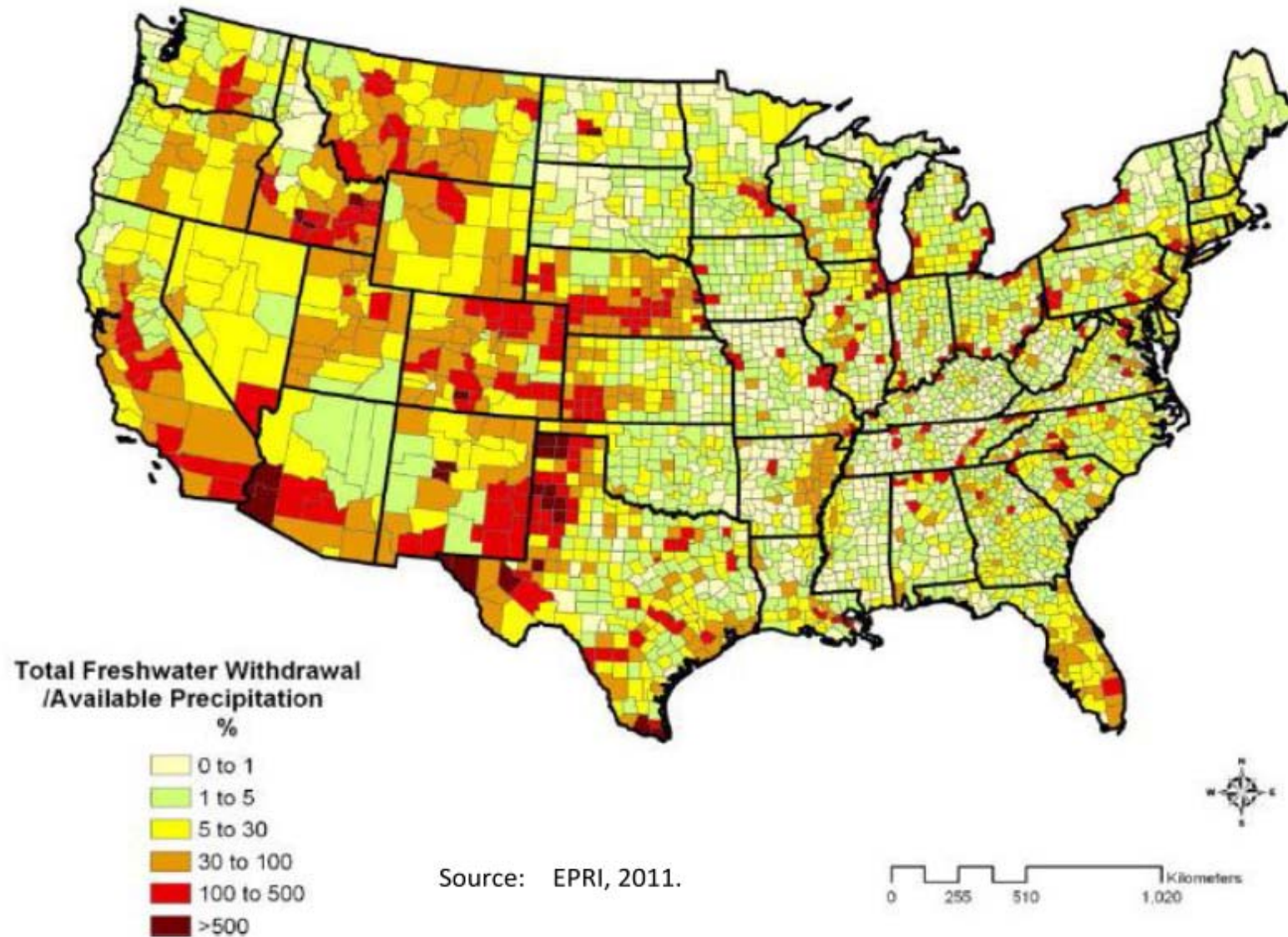


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

# Cumulative groundwater depletion, 1900-2008, in 40 Assessed Aquifer Systems or Subareas (USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2013-5079)



# Freshwater Withdrawals as a Percent of Available Precipitation (2005)

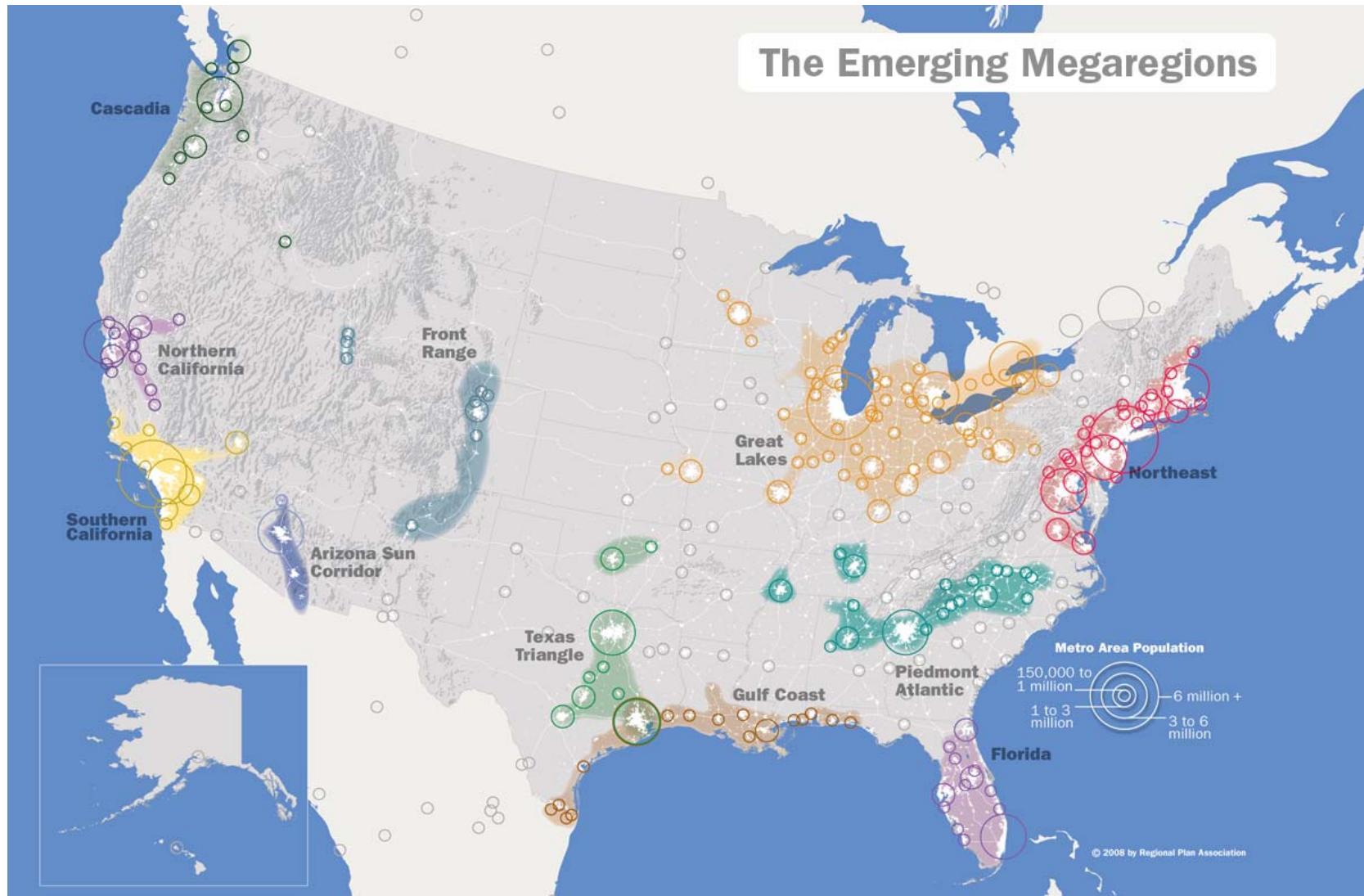




U.S. Population on July 4, 2015 was est. 321,216,397

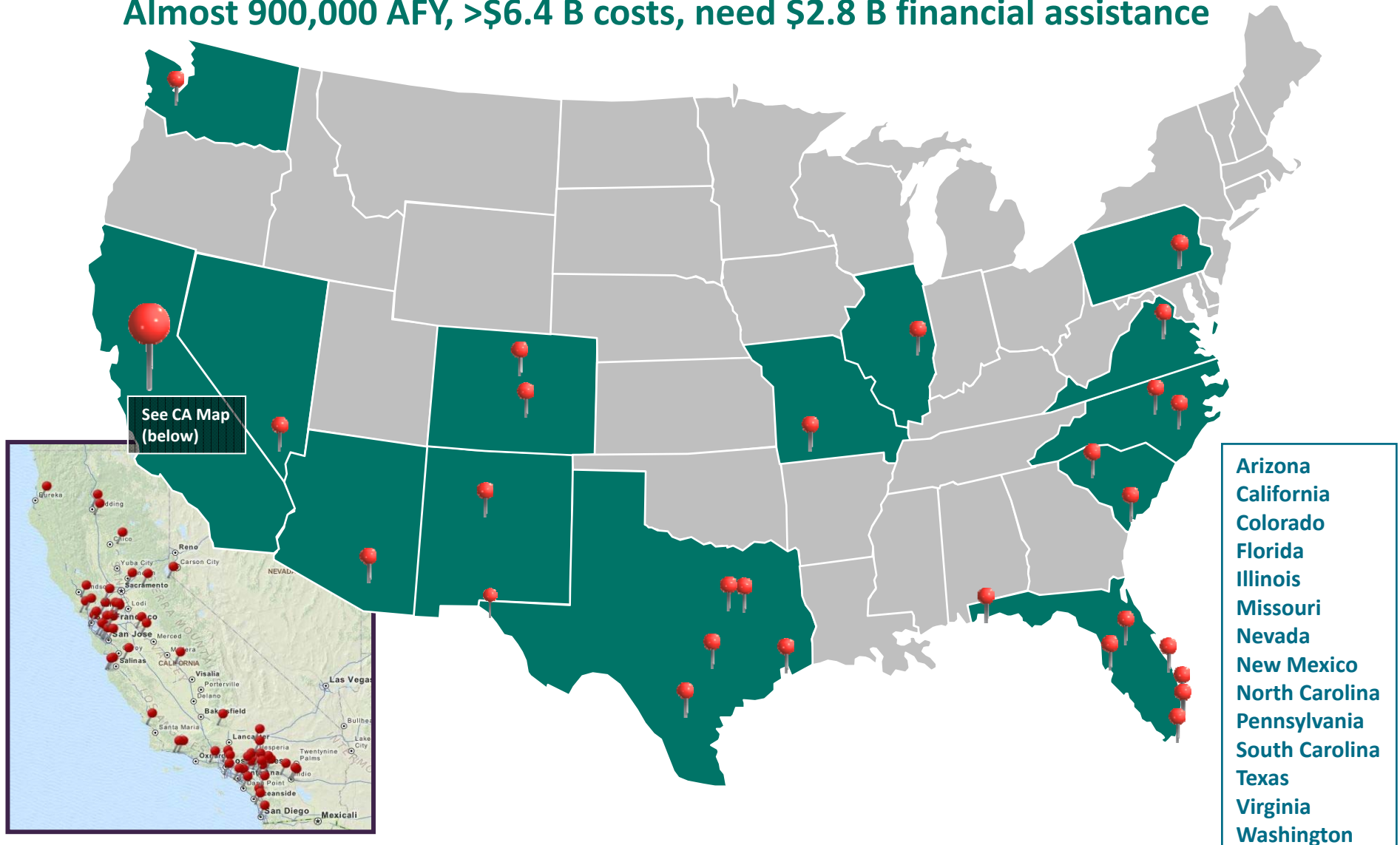
Per U.S. Census Bureau there is a net gain of 1 person every 16 seconds

<http://www.census.gov/popclock/>



# 92 Agencies developing Recycled Water Projects

Almost 900,000 AFY, >\$6.4 B costs, need \$2.8 B financial assistance



# Should water be a national priority?



*We need clean and sufficient water supplies*

- Critical for human health, wellness, and the environment
- Critical for the economy – for jobs – for agriculture, manufacturing, power, ...
- Unlike energy (multiple sources) there is no substitute for water
- There are no new sources of freshwater on this planet



# Should the federal government significantly invest in recycled water development?



*Recycling water produces sustainable, reliable supplies*

- It is a largely untapped resource in the U.S.
- Need federal financial assistance to leverage with State and local funds to construct recycled water treatment and distribution systems
  - Public agencies need reasonable payback periods
  - Comparison with other (often subsidized) water rates



# Join the Western Recycled Water Coalition

- WRWC Associate and Participant membership levels
- Speak as one voice – unified, urgent message
- Support new, nationwide grant program
  - Seeking House and Senate Leaders, both parties, in and outside western U.S.
- Work together with WateReuse, NACWA, CASA, ACWA and others

Clean and sufficient water supplies are of national importance, and the federal government should significantly invest in recycled water development

# Contact Information



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