

# Napa County Watershed Information Center and Conservancy

## Stormwater Resource Management in Contra Costa County

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Contra Costa County Flood Control  
& Water Conservation District



Contra Costa County  
**Flood Control**  
& Water Conservation District



**Pine Creek Flooding, Concord 1958**

# Overview

- Contra Costa Watershed Forum
- Flood Control District
- Contra Costa Clean Water Program
- Water Agency
- Challenges/Funding



# About Watershed Activities

- Contra Costa County has about 20 “community-sized” watersheds (& 2 big ones)
- Grassroots interest in local creeks has been present for years (with Resource Conservation District)
- Many subregional activities – monitoring, clean-ups, env. education, restoration, native plantings, etc.
- Contra Costa Watershed Forum is a partnership focused on creeks and watersheds



Volunteer Groups



Patricia Mathews



# Mission of the CCWF

The mission of the Contra Costa Watershed Forum is to identify common principles among parties involved in creek and watershed issues and promote actions that transform these principles into multi-objective enhancements of creeks and watersheds throughout the county.





# Who is Involved

- Local governments
- Watershed planning groups
- Friends of creek groups
- Special districts
  - RCD
  - Flood Control
  - Water Districts
  - Park Districts
  - Sanitary Districts
  - Mosquito Abatement, etc.
- Environmental education organizations
- Private landowners
- Farmers and Ranchers
- Developers
- Regulatory agencies







# Activities

- Regular bi-monthly meetings (+ committees)
- Creek and Watershed Signage
- Volunteer GPS Data Collection/ BMI Surveys/ Technical Assistance
- Publications: Watershed Atlas, Databook
- Historical Ecology (East County)
- Quadrennial Countywide Symposium
- Awards program
- Website: [www.cocowaterweb.org](http://www.cocowaterweb.org)



# CCC Creek and Watershed Symposia: Background

- Symposia held quadrennially: 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011
- Hosted by CCWF
- Broad participation and support: planning committee, volunteers at the event, monetary and in-kind sponsorship
- Well-attended: 300+ people at each one
- Attended by representatives from: public agencies, creek groups, non-profits, cities, elected officials

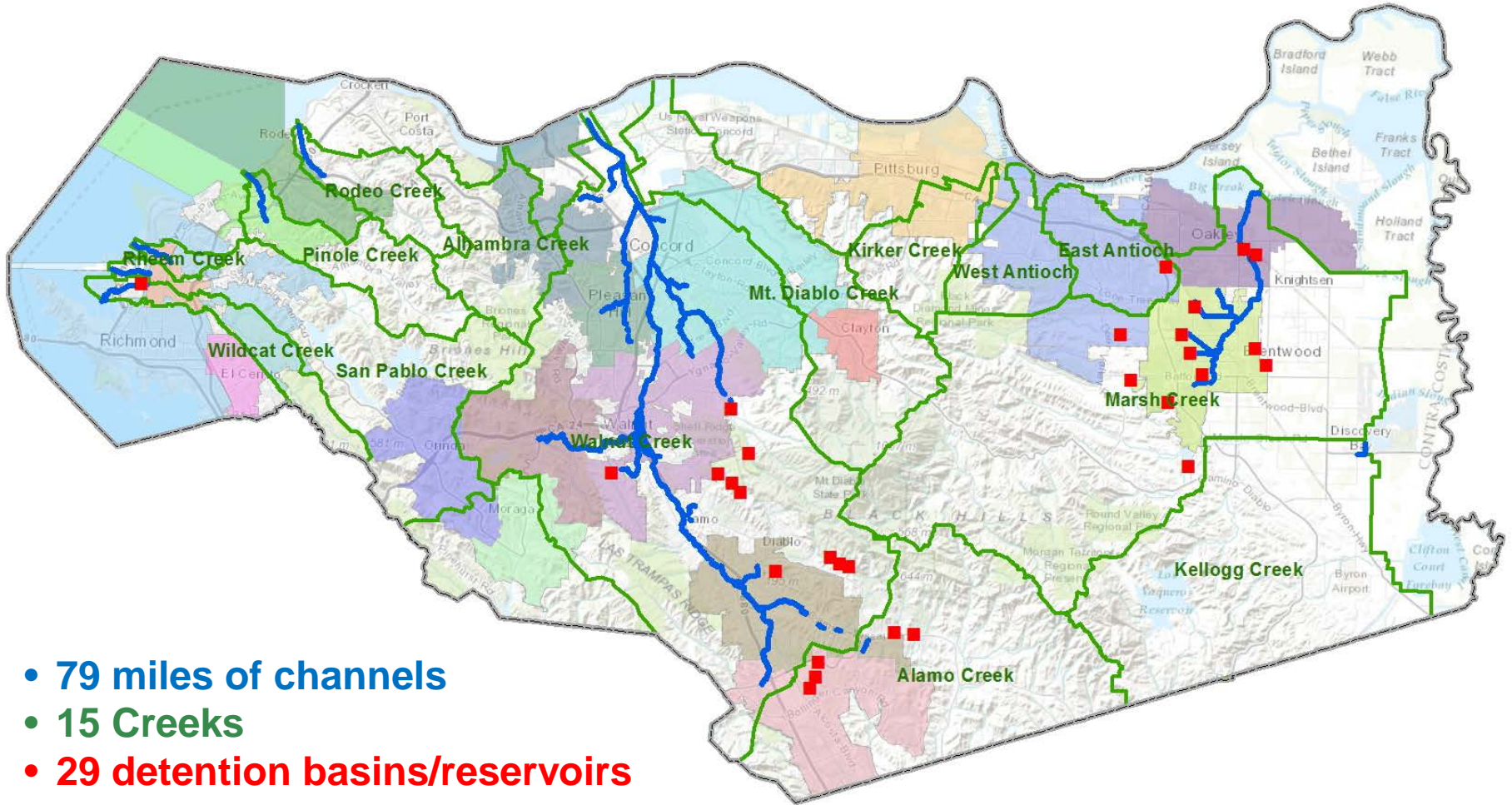
# CCC Creek and Watershed Symposia: Background (continued)

Purposes of the symposium:

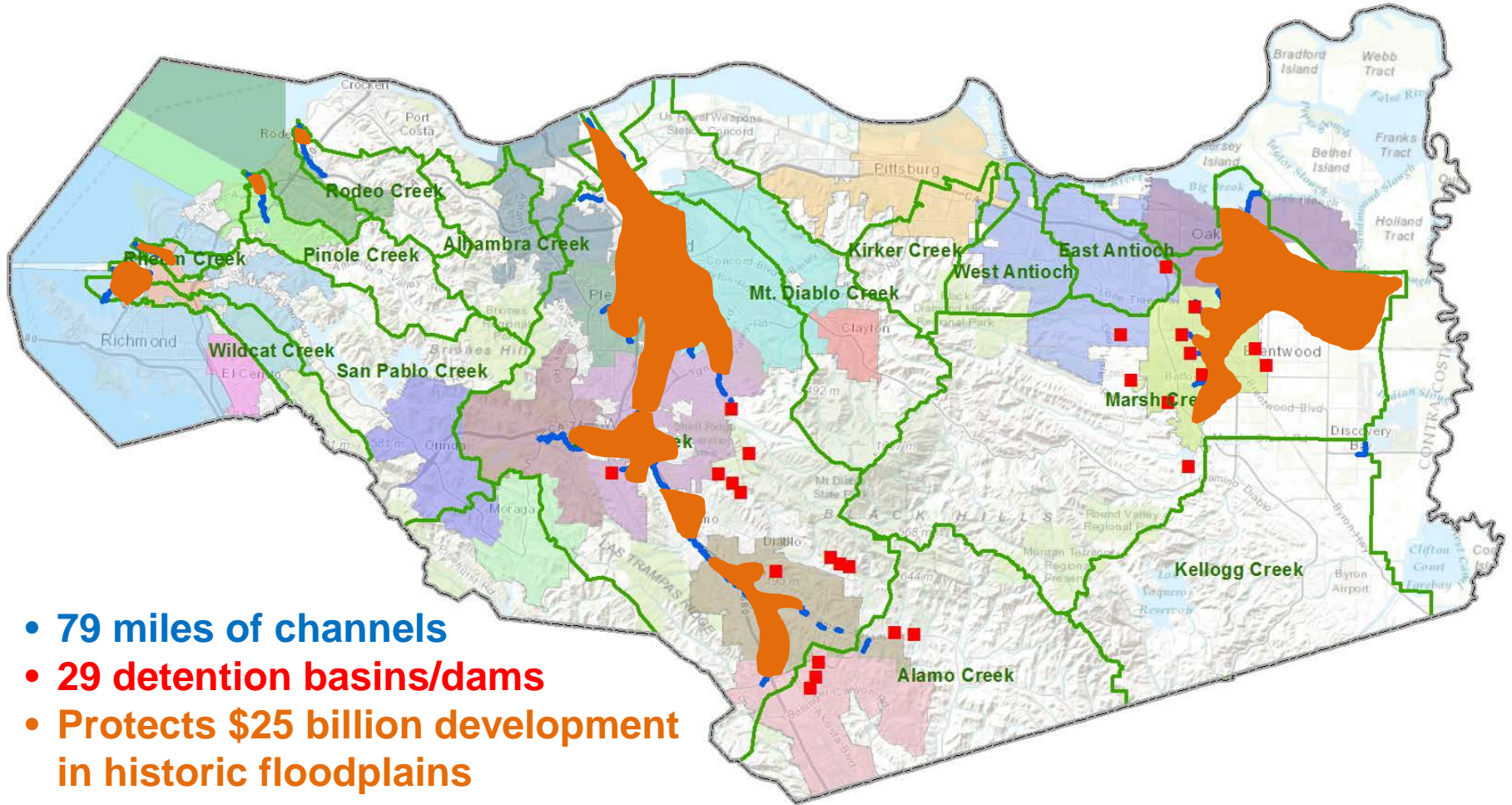
- Learn about current issues
- Share information
- Network
- Recognize accomplishments
- Improve outreach on creek and watershed issues



# Flood Control District Map

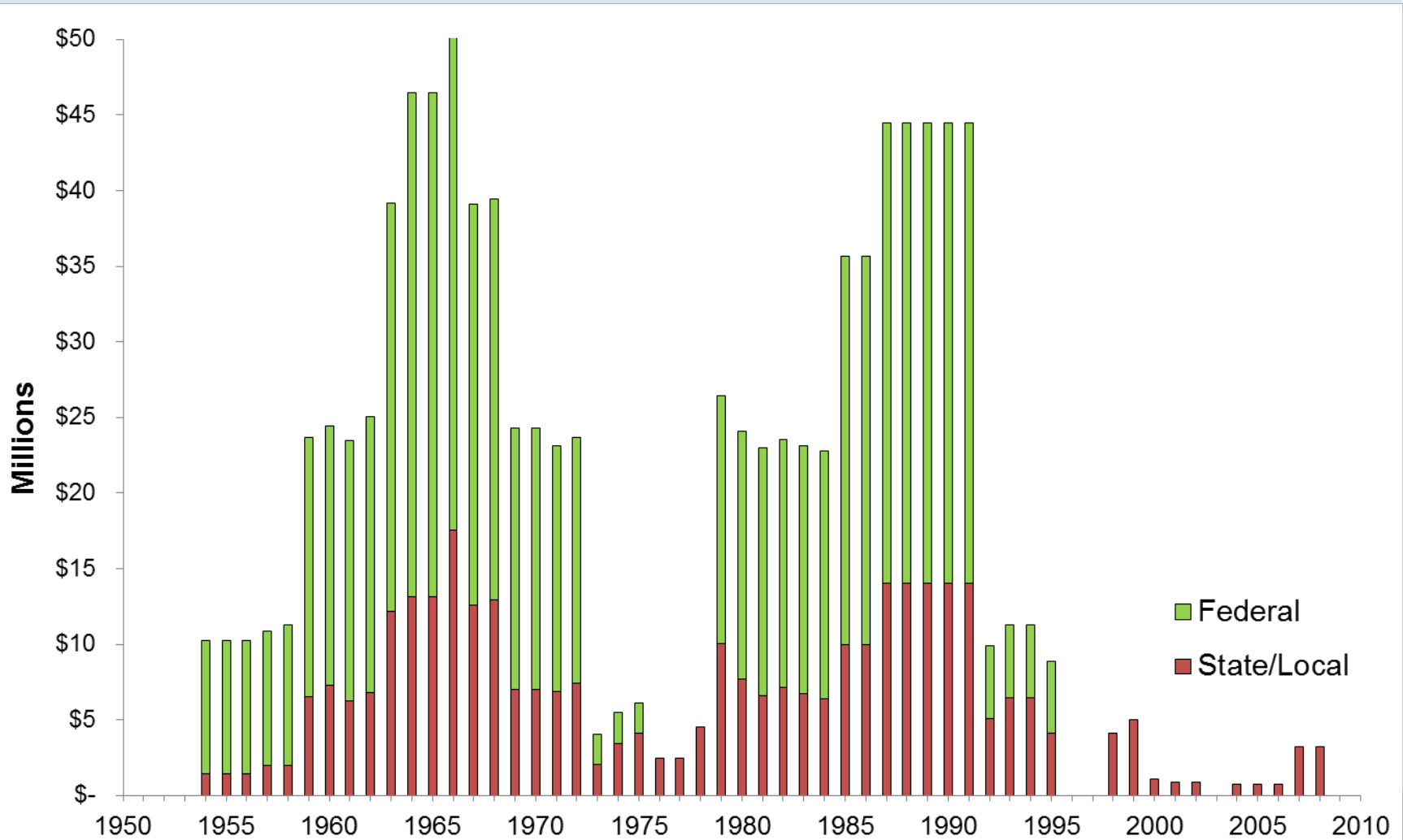


# Regional Flood Protection Infrastructure



# \$1 Billion Investment 1951 – 2010

## (Replacement will cost \$2.4 Billion!!)



Adjusted to 2010 dollars



# Flood Control District: Finances

- \$8 - \$9 million annual tax revenue to District and Flood Control Zones
- Development fees picking up again
- Revolving Fund: Allows loans between project areas
- Expenditure Policy: Focus on system preservation



# Flood Control District: Customer Service

- Business Plan: Strategies to improve customer service and increase business efficiencies
- Creek and Channel Safety: Program to increase awareness of dangerous conditions in channels
- Public Polling: Determine public knowledge and opinion of District services
- City Coordination: Through City County Engineering Advisory Committee



# Flood Control District: Current Programs

- Infrastructure Assessment: 5 year program to assess conditions and remaining service life
- 50 Year Plan: Board adopted plan to convert concrete channels to natural creeks
- Watershed Master Plans: Plans to include Alternative Compliance, TMDL Response, Stormwater Permit, and Capital Improvement projects
- Environmental Permitting: Develop programmatic permits

# Contra Costa Clean Water Program: Structure

- Phase I: Stormwater permit since 1993
- Joint Permit: 19 cities, County, Flood Control District (21 permittees)
- Management: Committee of all permittees provides policy and budget direction
- Staffing: 5 County employees paid by all permittees

# Contra Costa Clean Water Program: Fiscal

- Budget: \$15 million annual revenue from parcel assessments
- Revenue: Parcel assessments collected by the District
- Cost Split: 85% assessment revenue returned to permittees, 15% retained to fund Program costs
- Program Activities: Permit compliance/negotiations, group studies, pilot projects

# Contra Costa Water Agency

- Budget: \$250,000 annual revenue from taxes
- Focus: Water policy especially in the Delta and Bay
- Projects: Manages Corps navigation projects

# 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,  
Voting Exempt

Rate Structure,  
Voting Exempt

**No** Rate Structure,  
Voting Required



# What is Stormwater



Stormwater Retention and Infiltration



Regional Flood Protection



Community Drainage



Stormwater Quality

# Stormwater Funding Initiative

- Provide a similar process to establishing or raising rates for stormwater as a water district or wastewater district
- Need a Constitutional Amendment approved by the legislature
- Need a ballot measure placed before California voters to grant an exemption for stormwater
- Provide “utility” status for stormwater similar to water or wastewater



# Stormwater Funding Initiative Process

- Legislation begins early 2015
- Aiming for 2016 election
- Coalition established to push Initiative forward
- Need campaign to support ballot measure



**California State Building**

# 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 must go through a political process to:

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