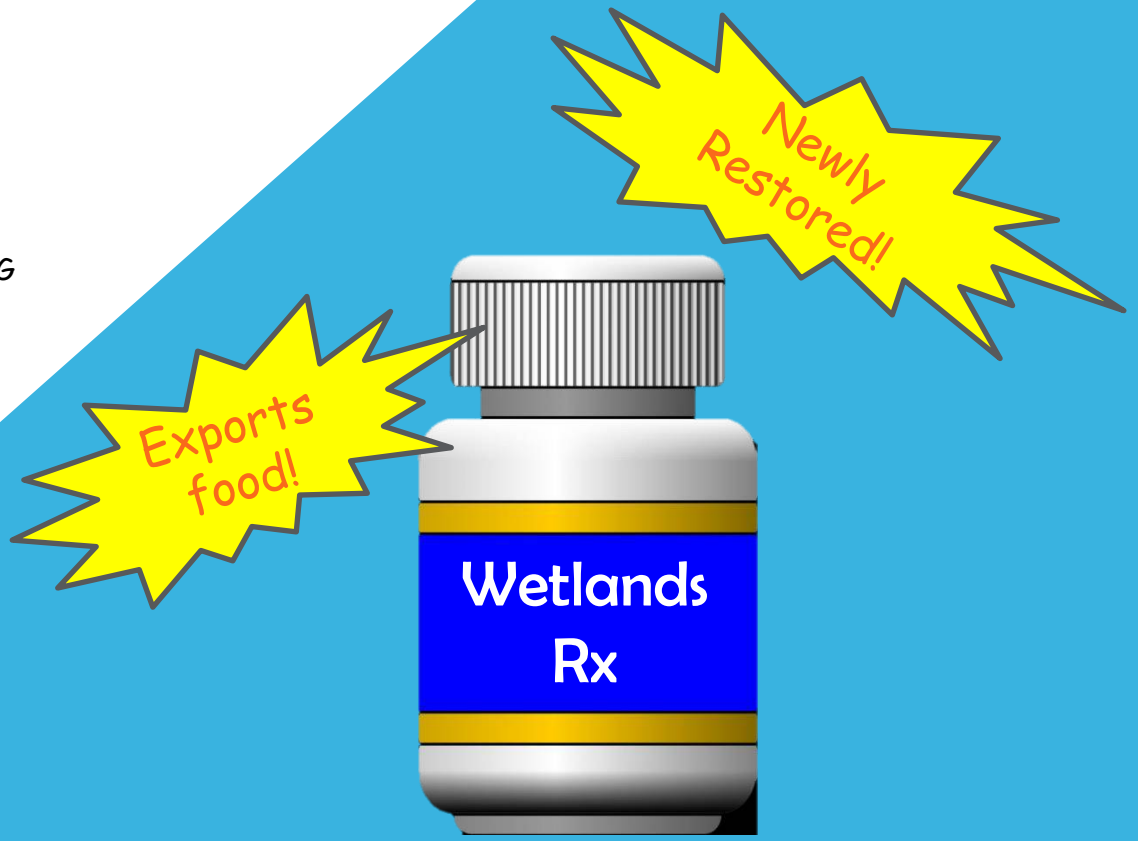
ARE TIDAL WETLANDS THE NEW MIRACLE CURE?

ROSEMARY HARTMAN, CDFW

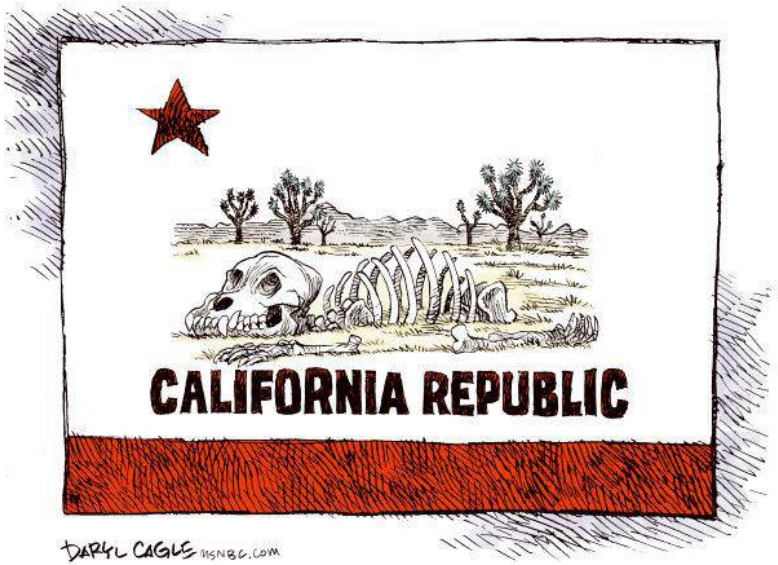
FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM MONITORING TEAM



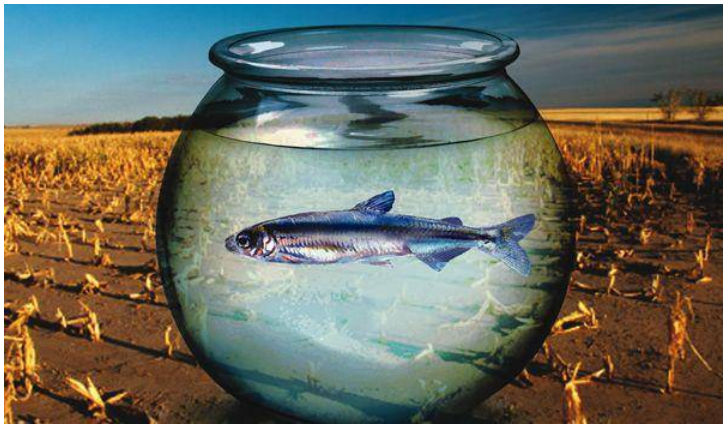
Now with 50% more resilience!

AS SEEN ON TV

THE SITUATION



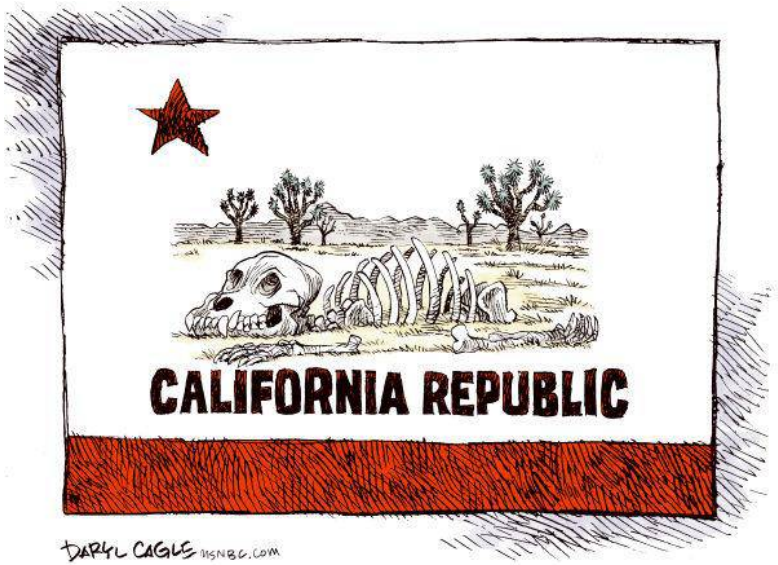
Versus



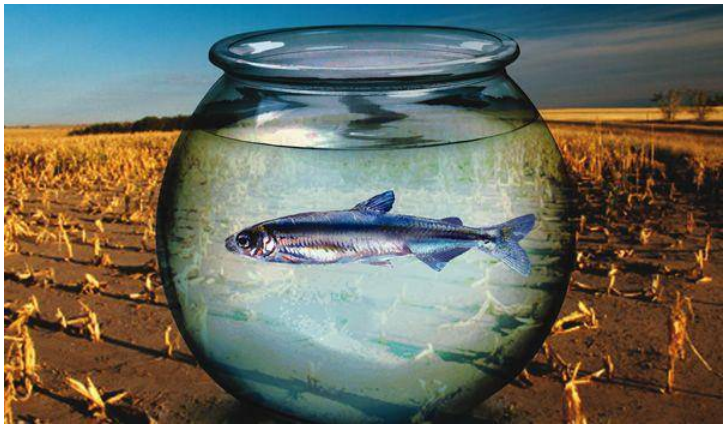
- Constant fresh water in the Delta
- Constant fresh water for export
- Land in the Delta.
- Money

- ~~Water with natural flow regime and salinity~~
- ~~Food~~
- ~~Refuge from predators~~

THE COMPROMISE



Versus



- Constant fresh water in the Delta
- Constant fresh water for export
- less ^ Land in the Delta.
- less ^ Money

Restrictions

less bad

- Water with ^ ~~natural~~ flow regime and salinity
- some ^ Food*
- some ^ Refuge from predators*

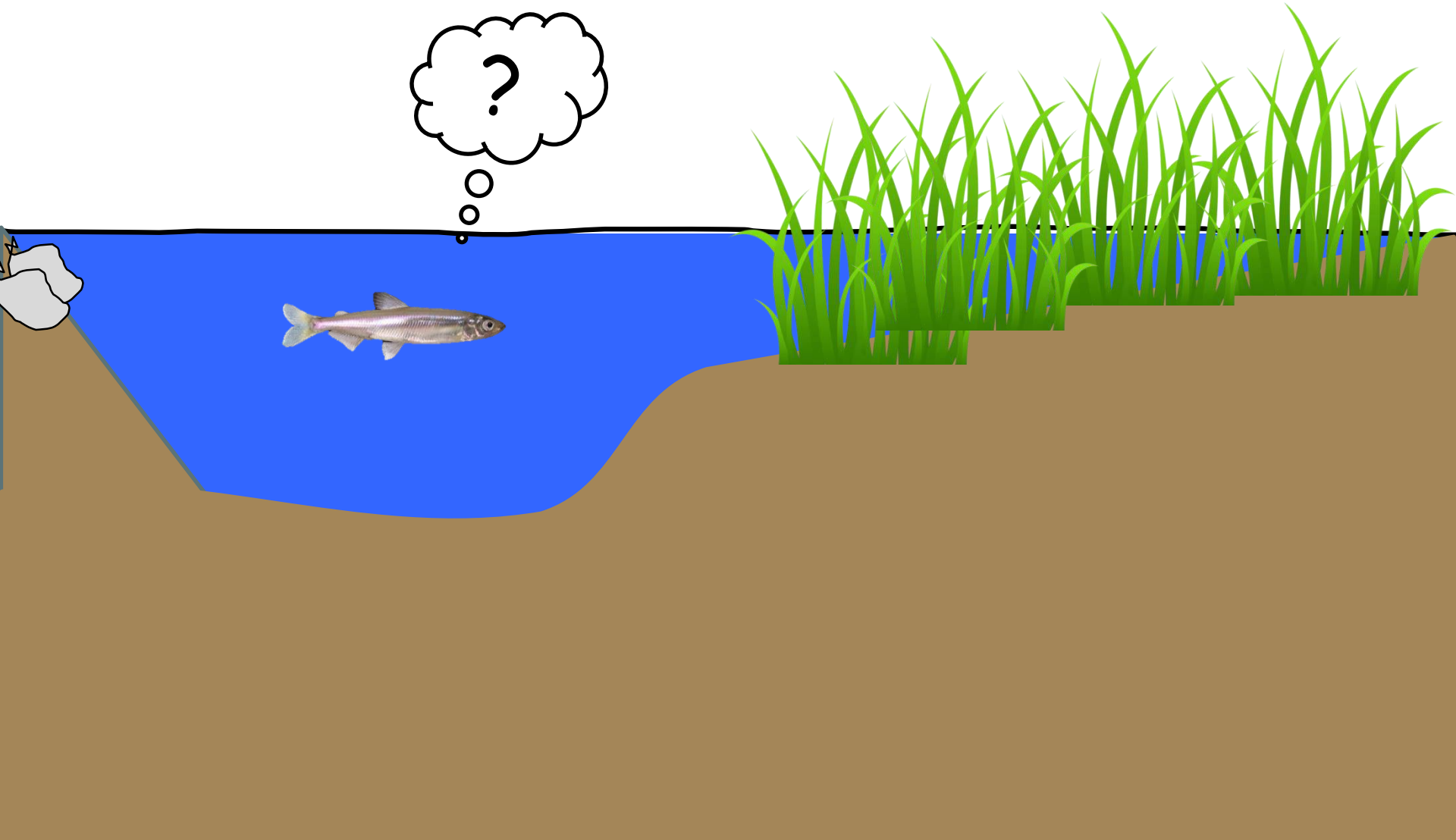
*maybe

THE BORING DETAILS

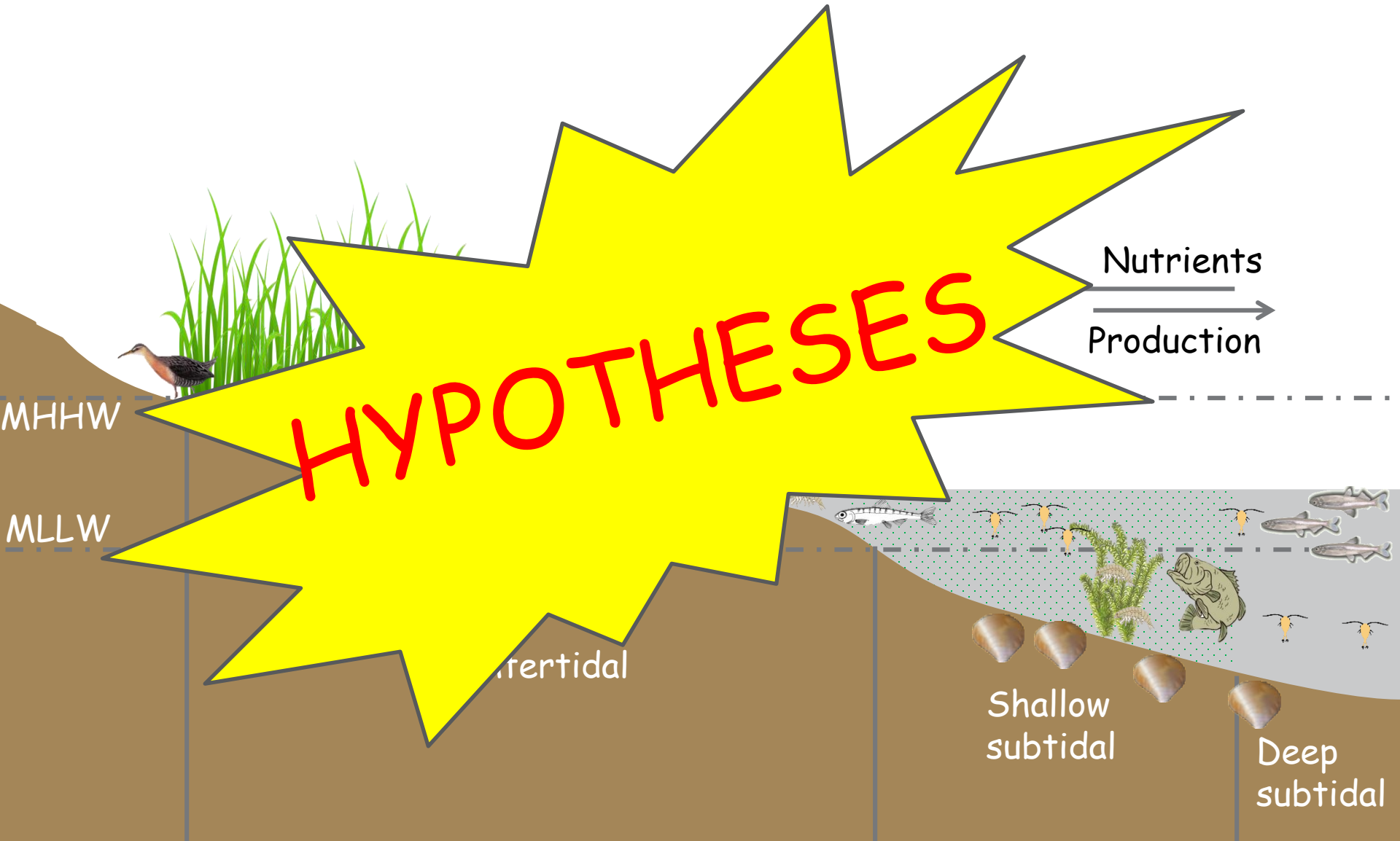
- DWR must restore 8000 acres of tidal wetland and associated subtidal habitat
  - 2008 USFWS Bi-Op for Delta Smelt
  - 2009 NMFS Bi-Op for Salmon
  - CDFW ITP for Longfin Smelt
- Implemented through FRP agreement with CDFW
- Target date: 2018

BUT WAIT!

AREN'T SMELT PELAGIC?



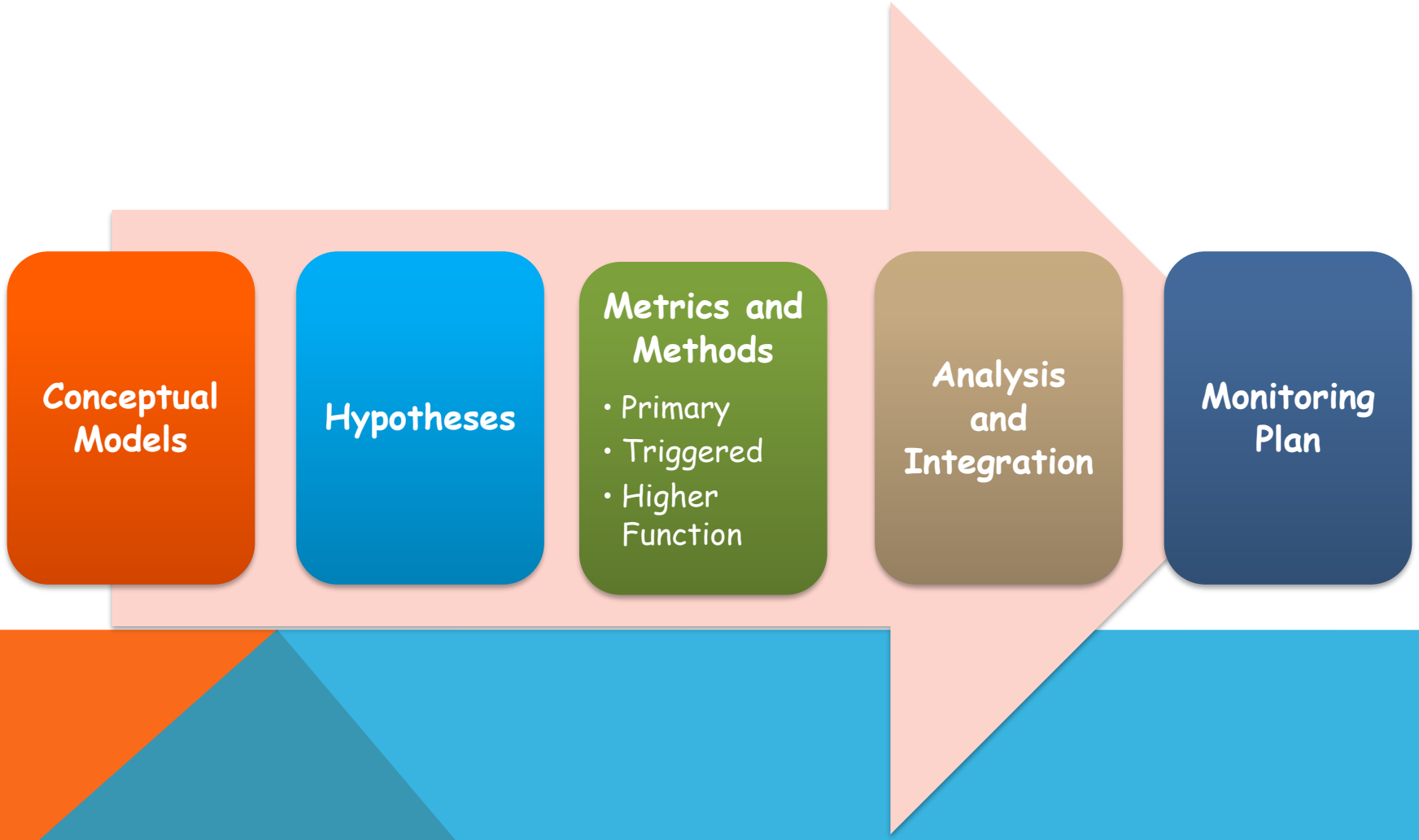
TIDAL WETLAND BENEFITS



LET'S FIND OUT!

- Tidal Wetlands Project Workteam
- Local experts on wetland and smelt ecology
- Developing generalized framework for effectiveness monitoring restoration sites
- Now we are putting the framework into action!

GENERALIZED FRAMEWORK



LET"S DO IT!!!!

CASE STUDY – PROSPECT ISLAND

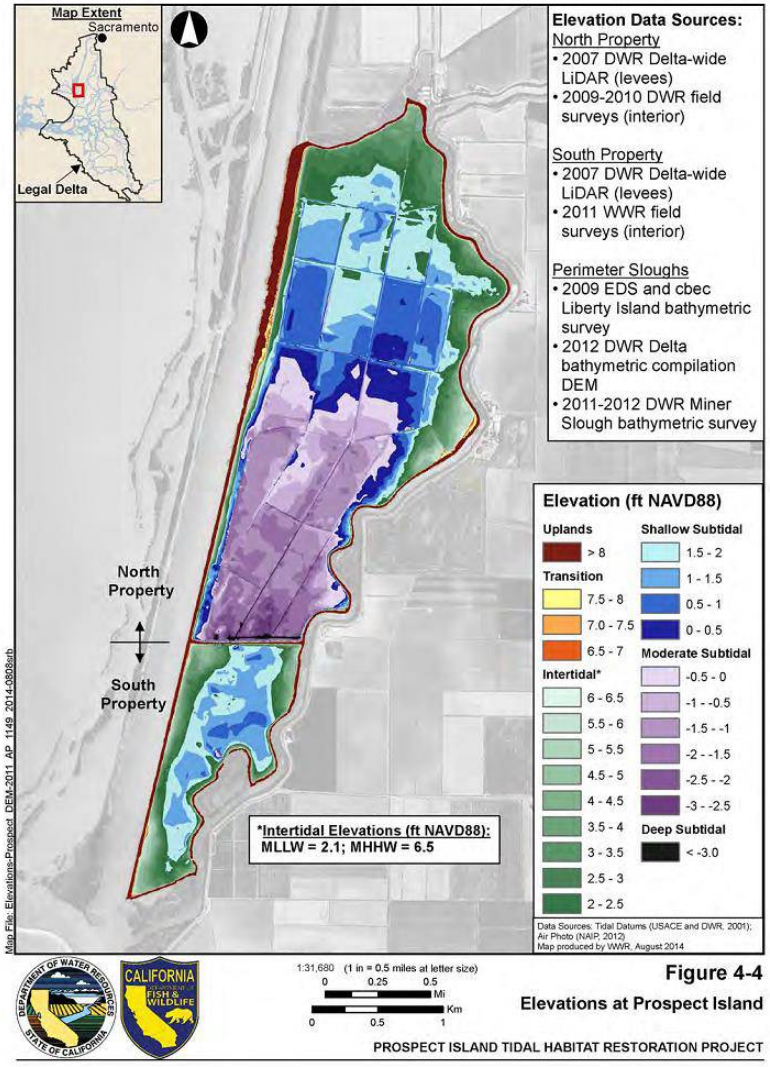


Figure 4-4
Elevations at Prospect Island
PROSPECT ISLAND TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

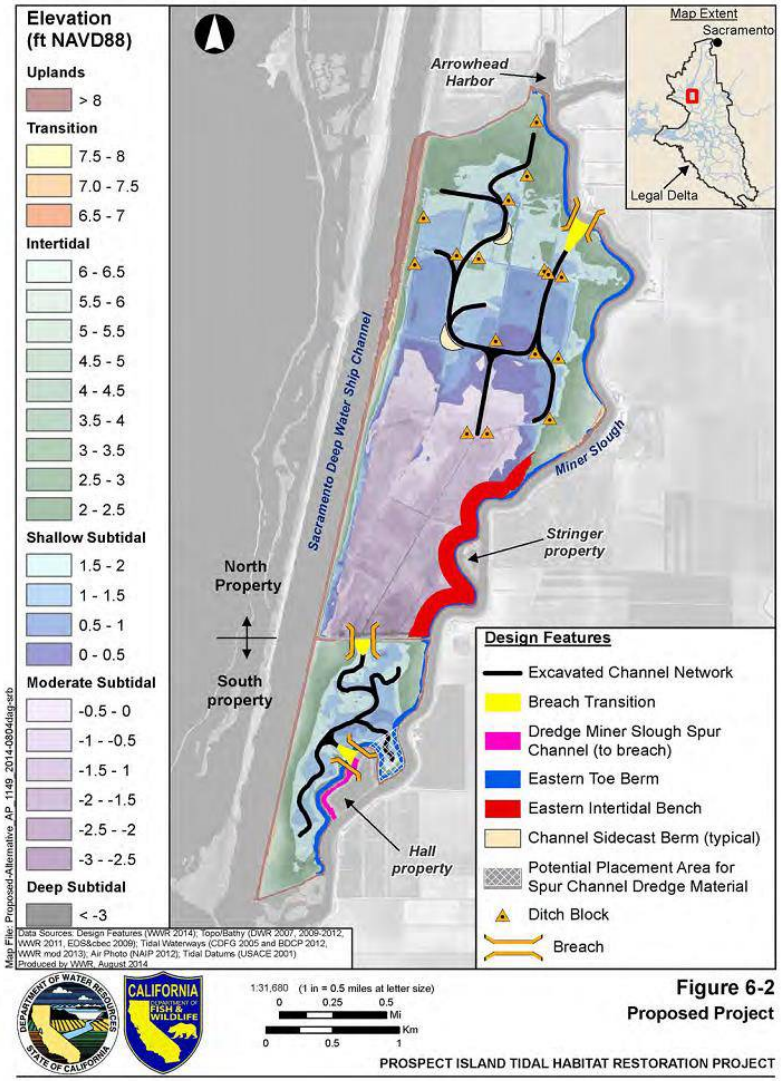
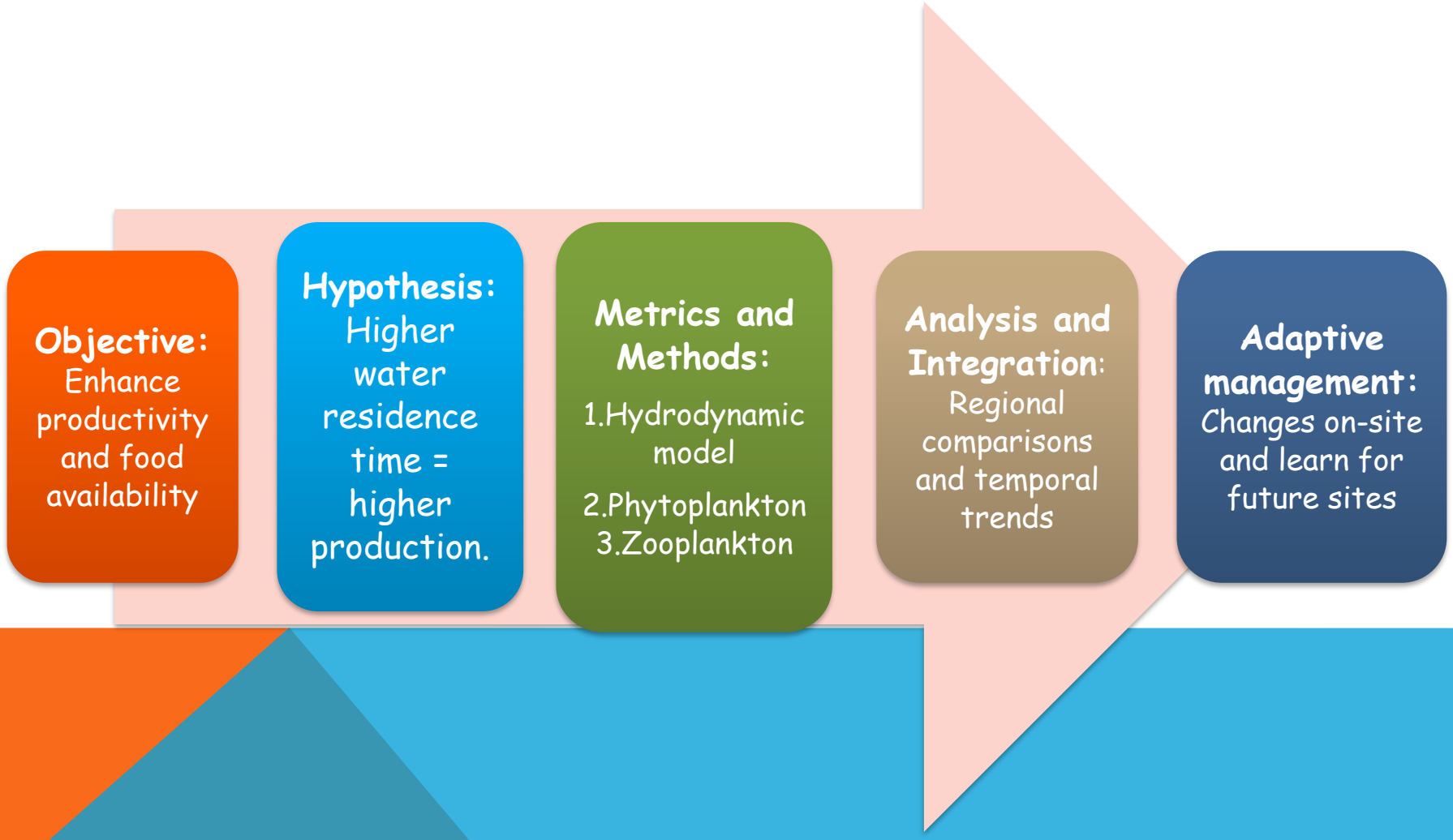


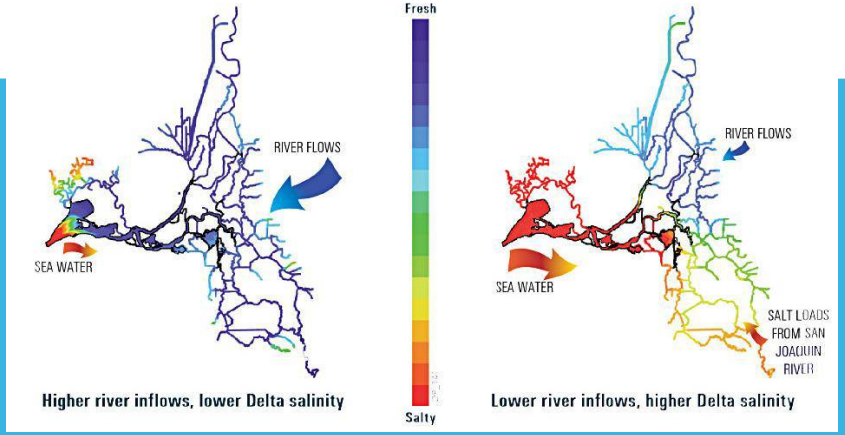
Figure 6-2
Proposed Project
PROSPECT ISLAND TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

PROSPECT MONITORING PLAN



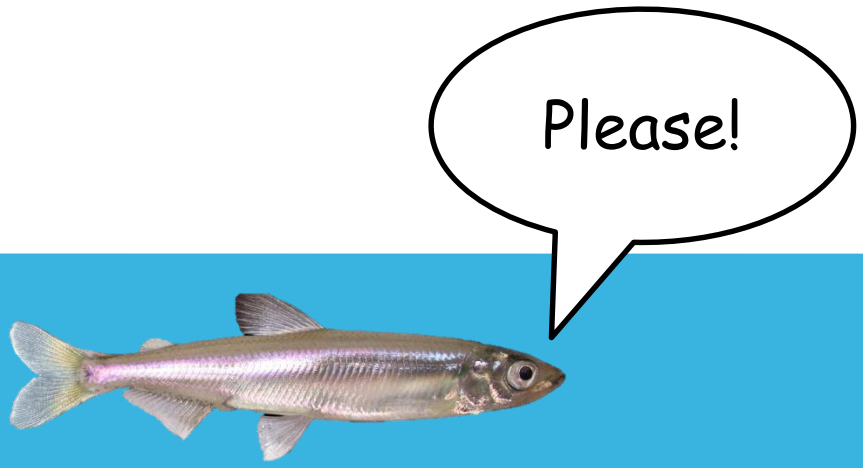
SO, ARE YOU DONE YET?

- **Constraints on restoration**
  - Land acquisition
  - Permitting
  - Engineering
  - Salinity effects
  - Other endangered species
  - Scientific unknowns



WHY MONITOR?

- Adaptive management required by Delta Plan
- Unprecedented scientific opportunity
- Stakes are high
- Are tidal wetlands a miracle cure?
- Only effectiveness-monitoring can say for sure!
- Come on! Let's save the Smelt!!



QUESTIONS?