

# **WATER**

## **California's Gold and the Environment**

**Bay Area League Day  
League of Women Voters  
February 2, 2013**





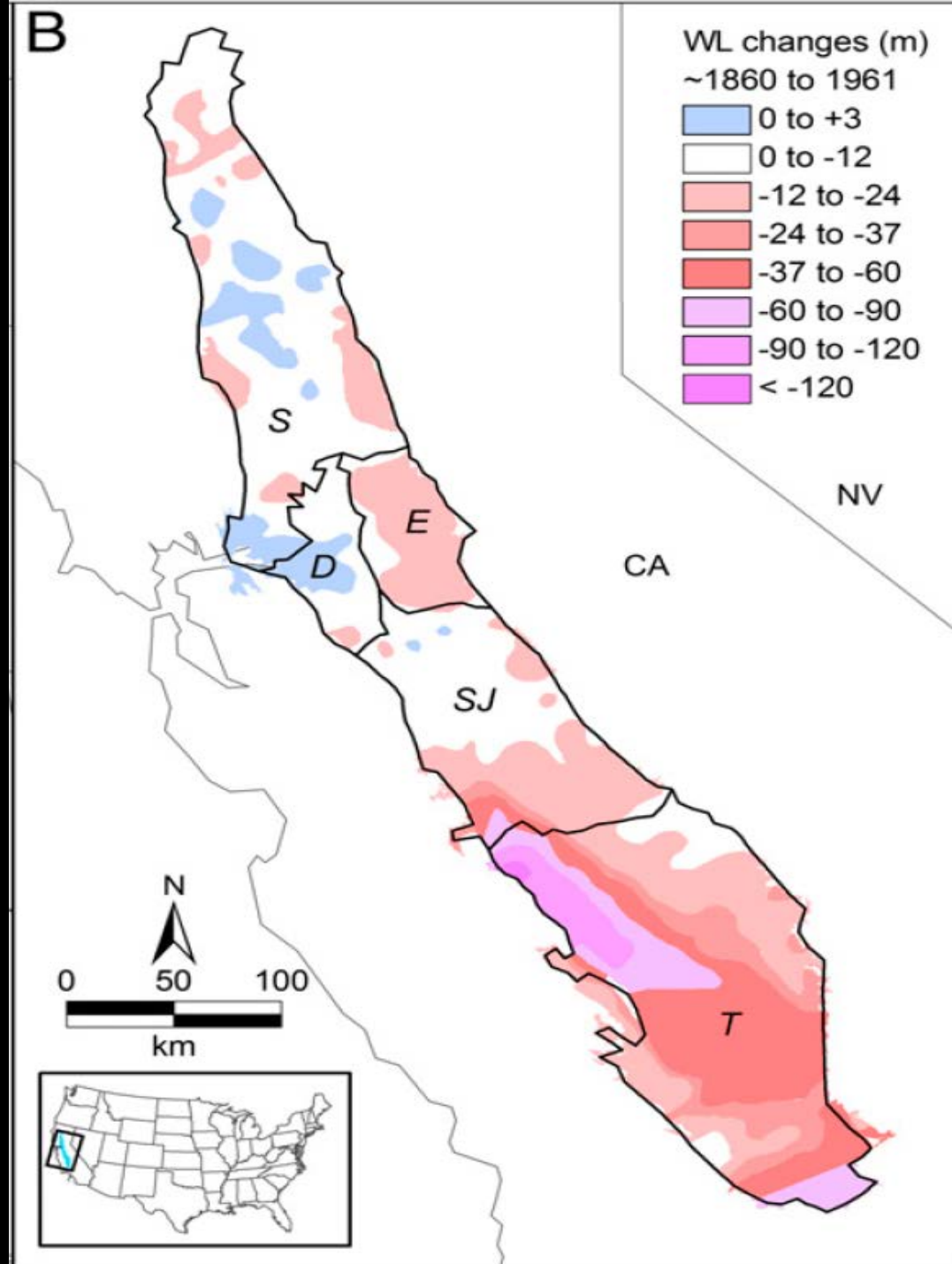
A pie chart illustrating the distribution of water resources. The chart is divided into two segments: a larger dark blue segment on the left representing surface water, and a smaller light blue segment on the right representing groundwater. Each segment is connected to a white rectangular callout box with a black border containing text.

Water Type	Percentage
Surface water	~60-70%
Groundwater	~30-40%

**Surface water**  
~60-70%

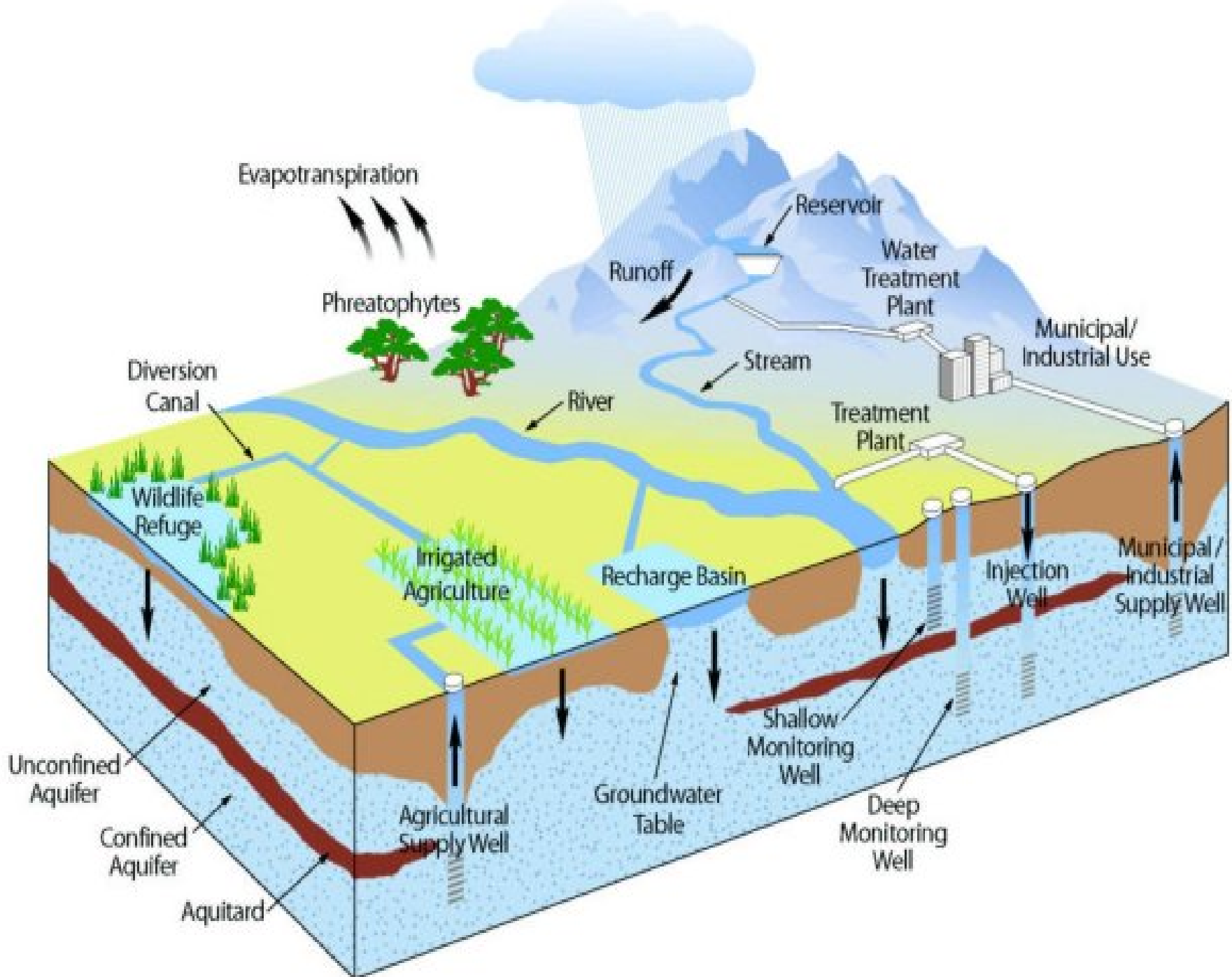
**Groundwater**  
~30-40%

# Groundwater depletion in California



University of Texas

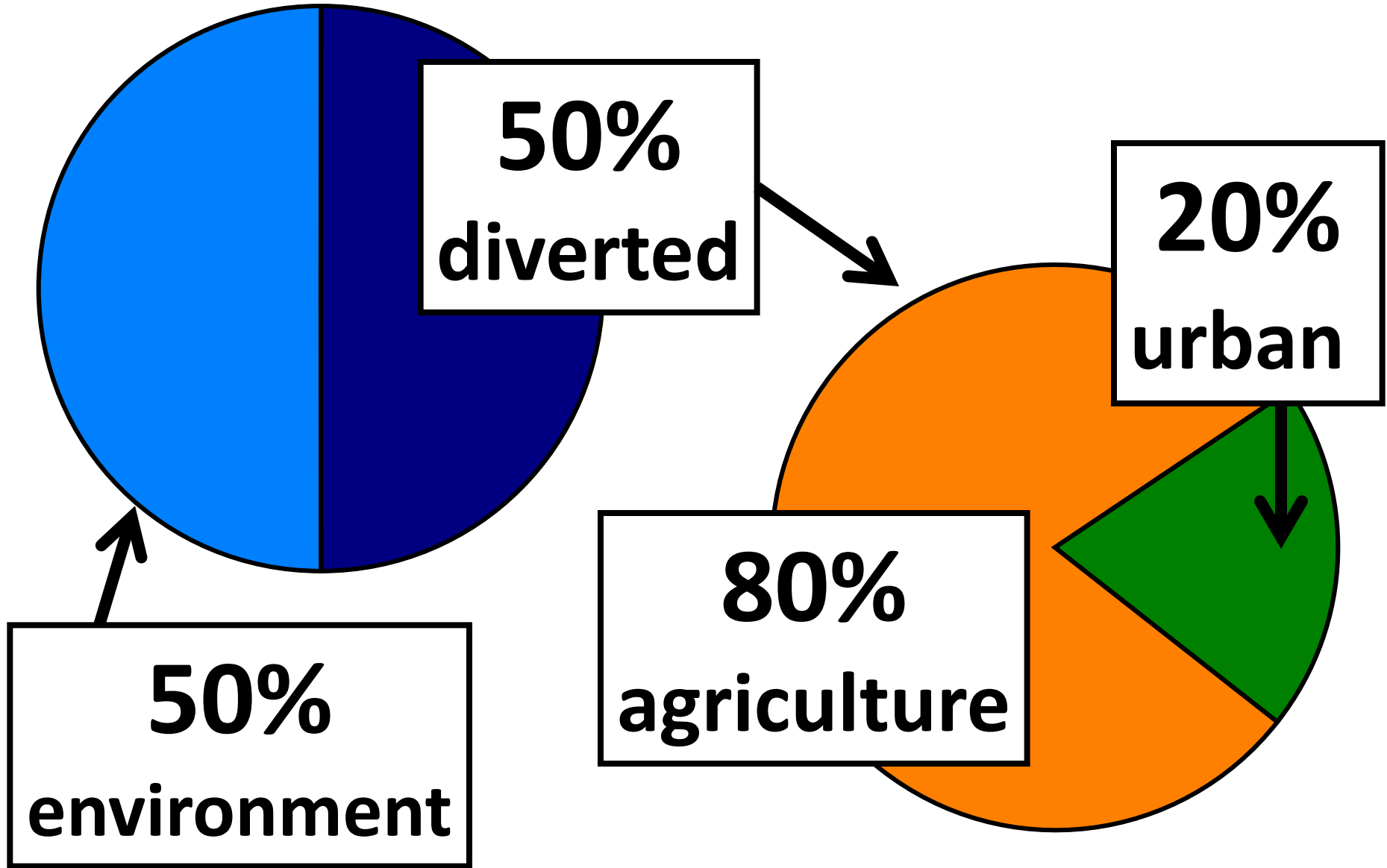
<http://www.utexas.edu/news/2012/05/29/groundwater/>



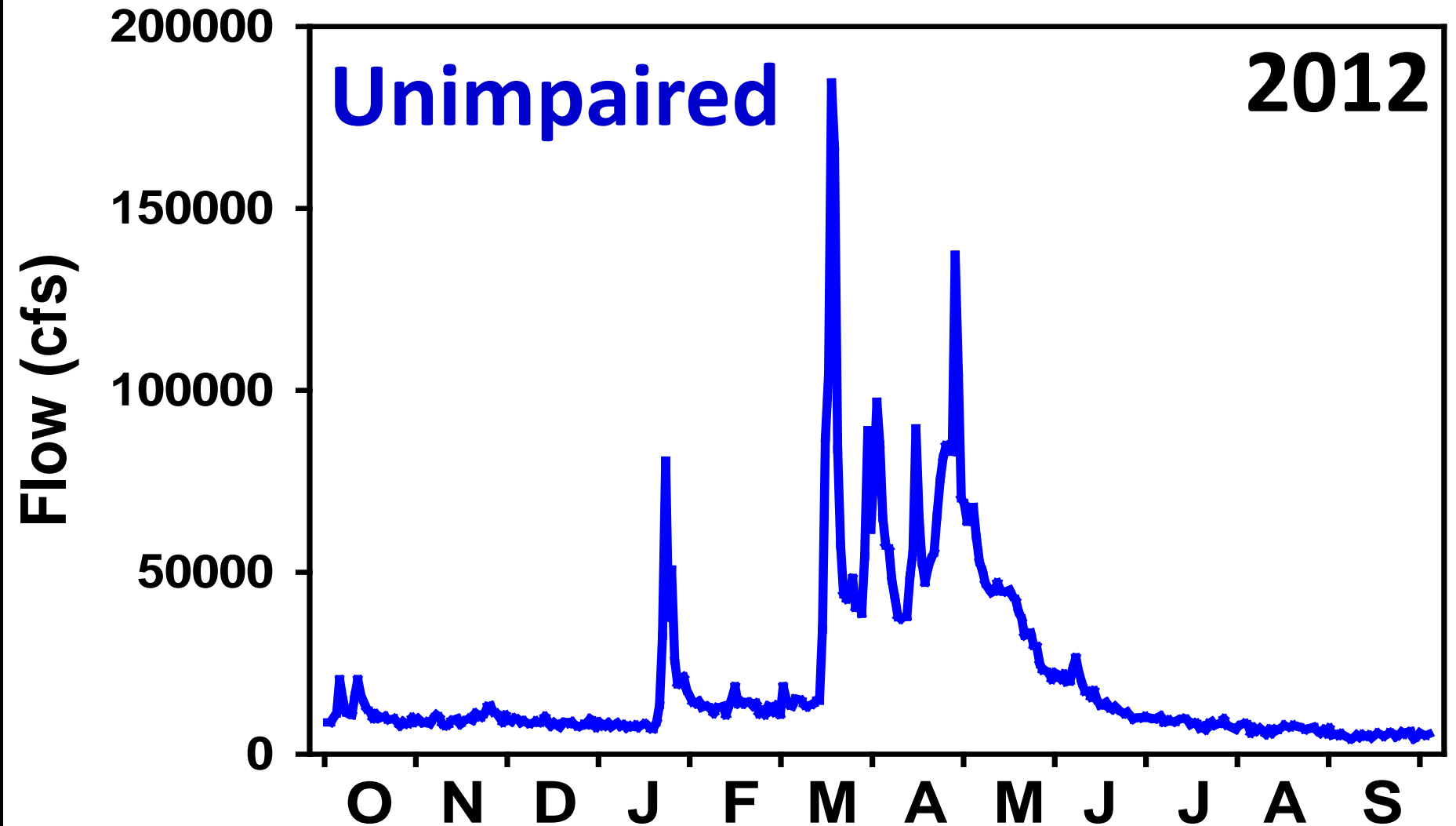
# Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed



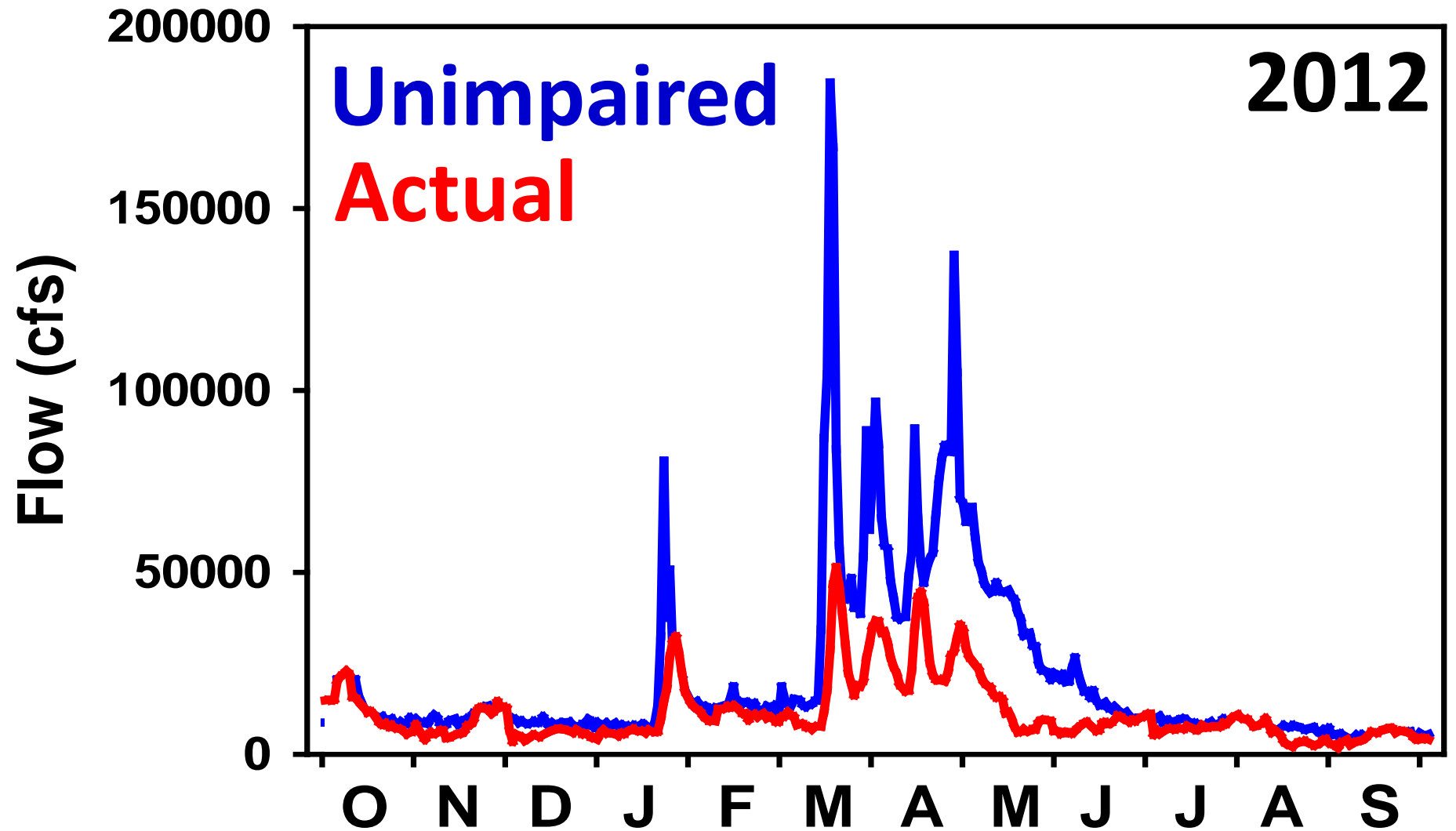
# Sac-SJ Surface Waters



# Inflow to San Francisco Bay

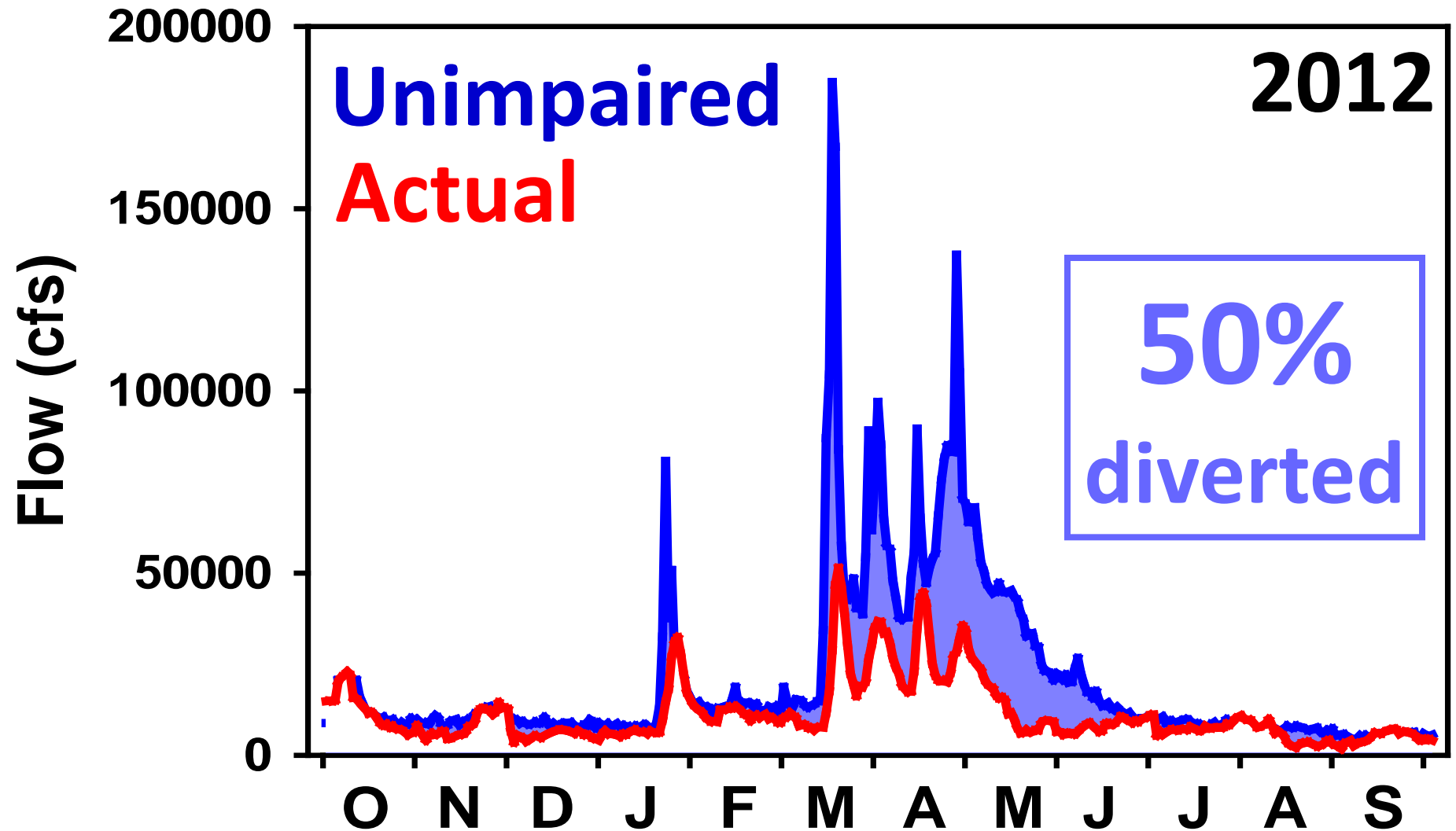


# Inflow to San Francisco Bay

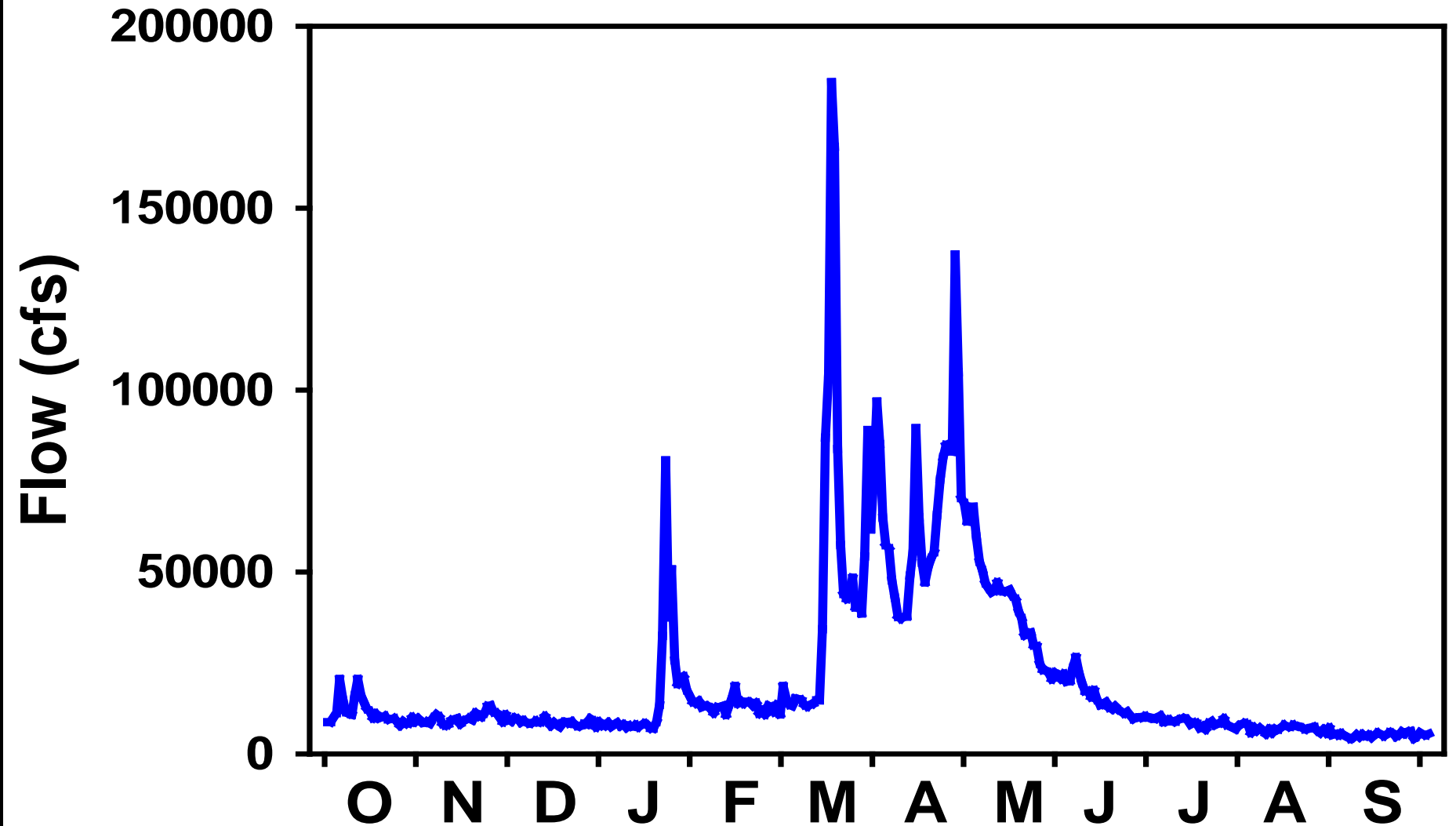




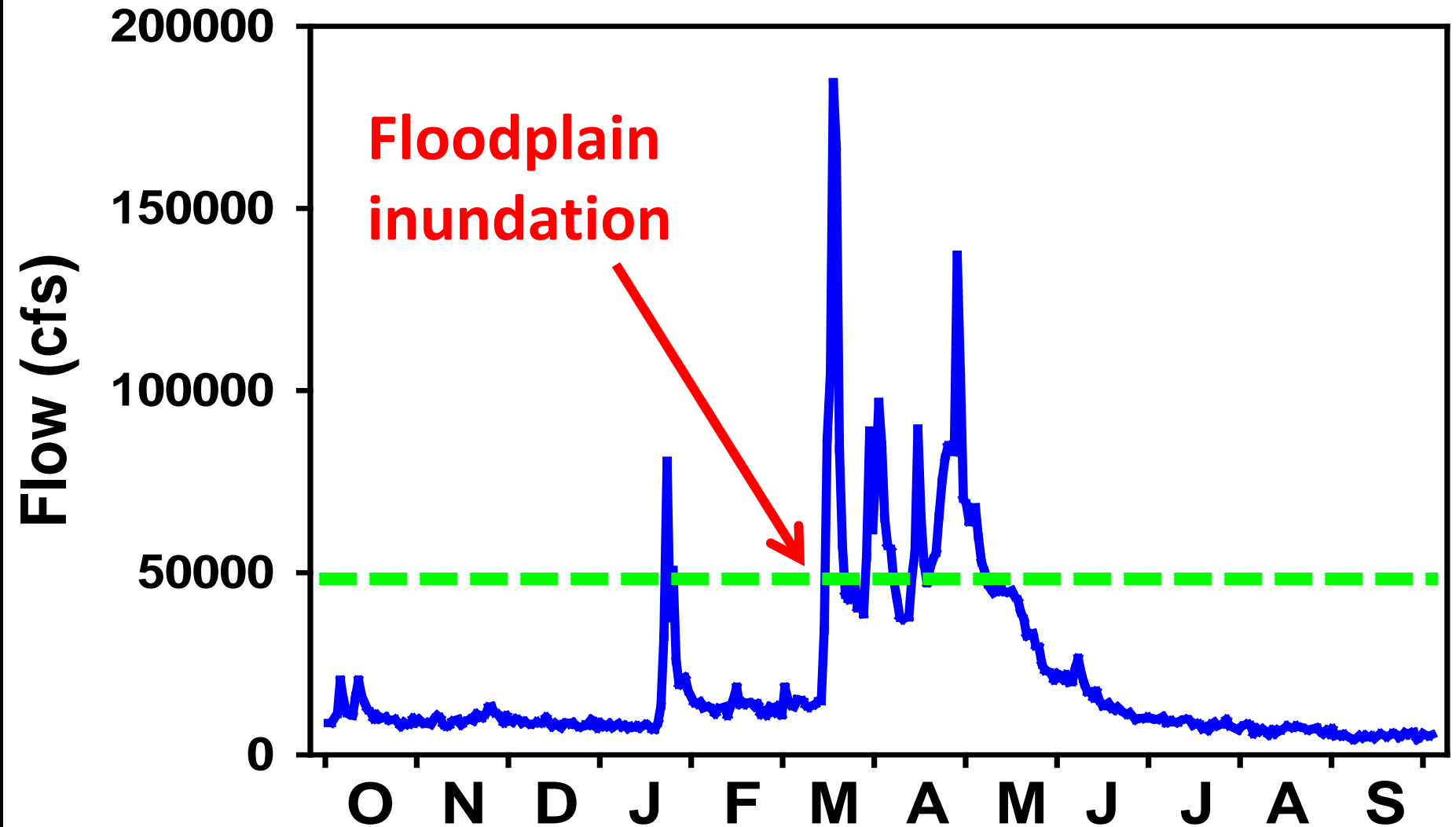
# Inflow to San Francisco Bay



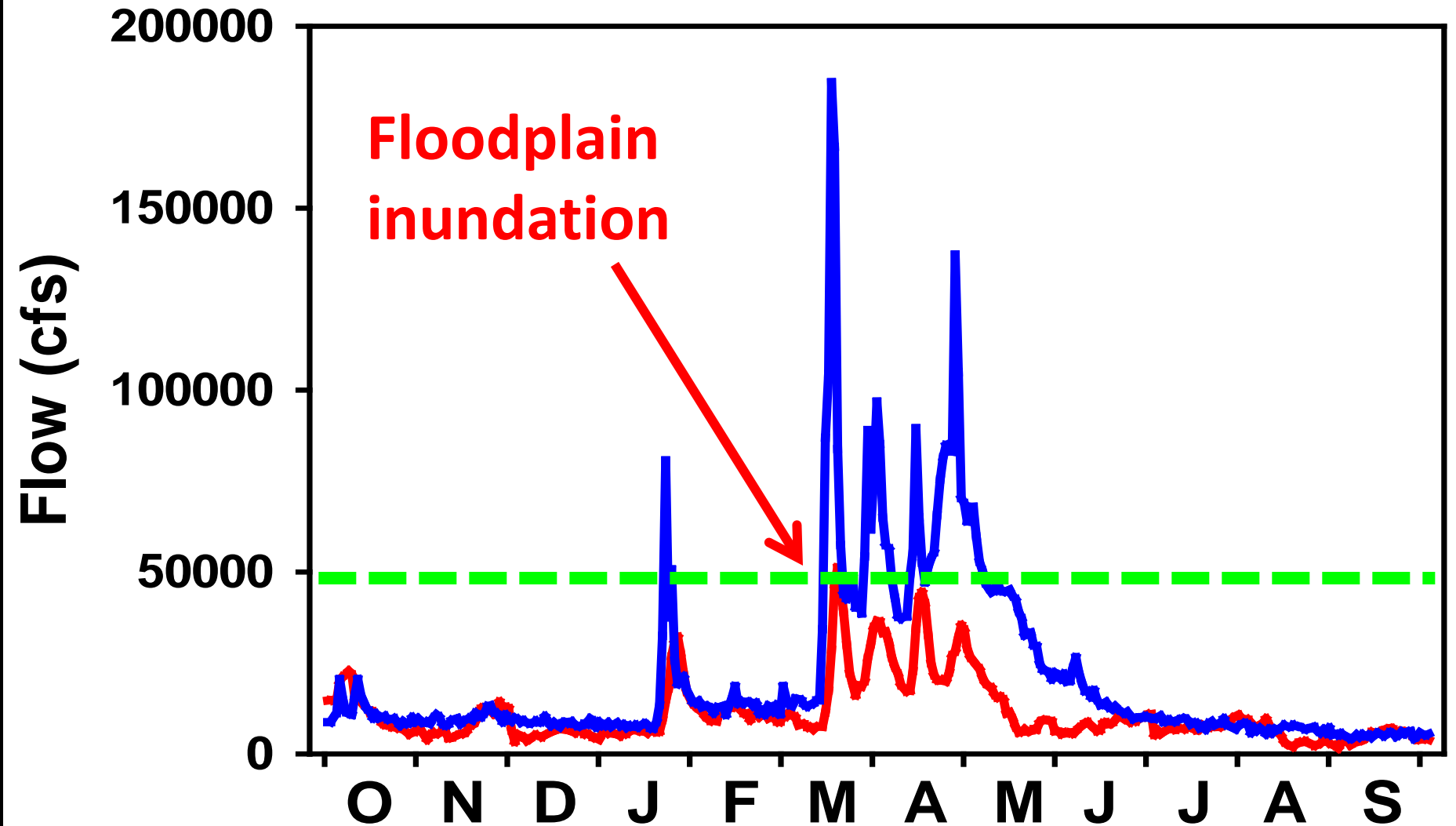
# Size • Shape • Timing



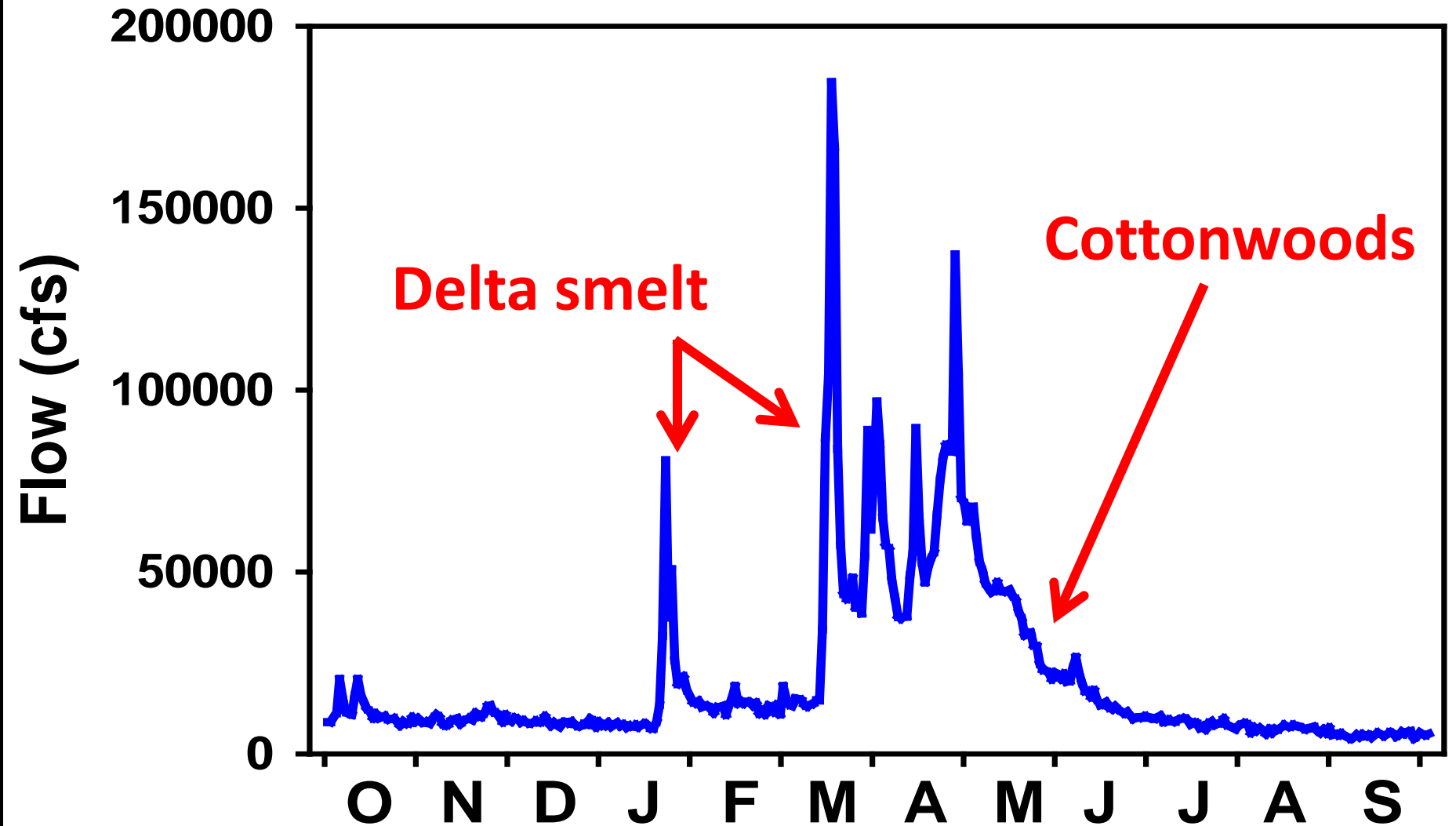
# Floodplains, groundwater recharge



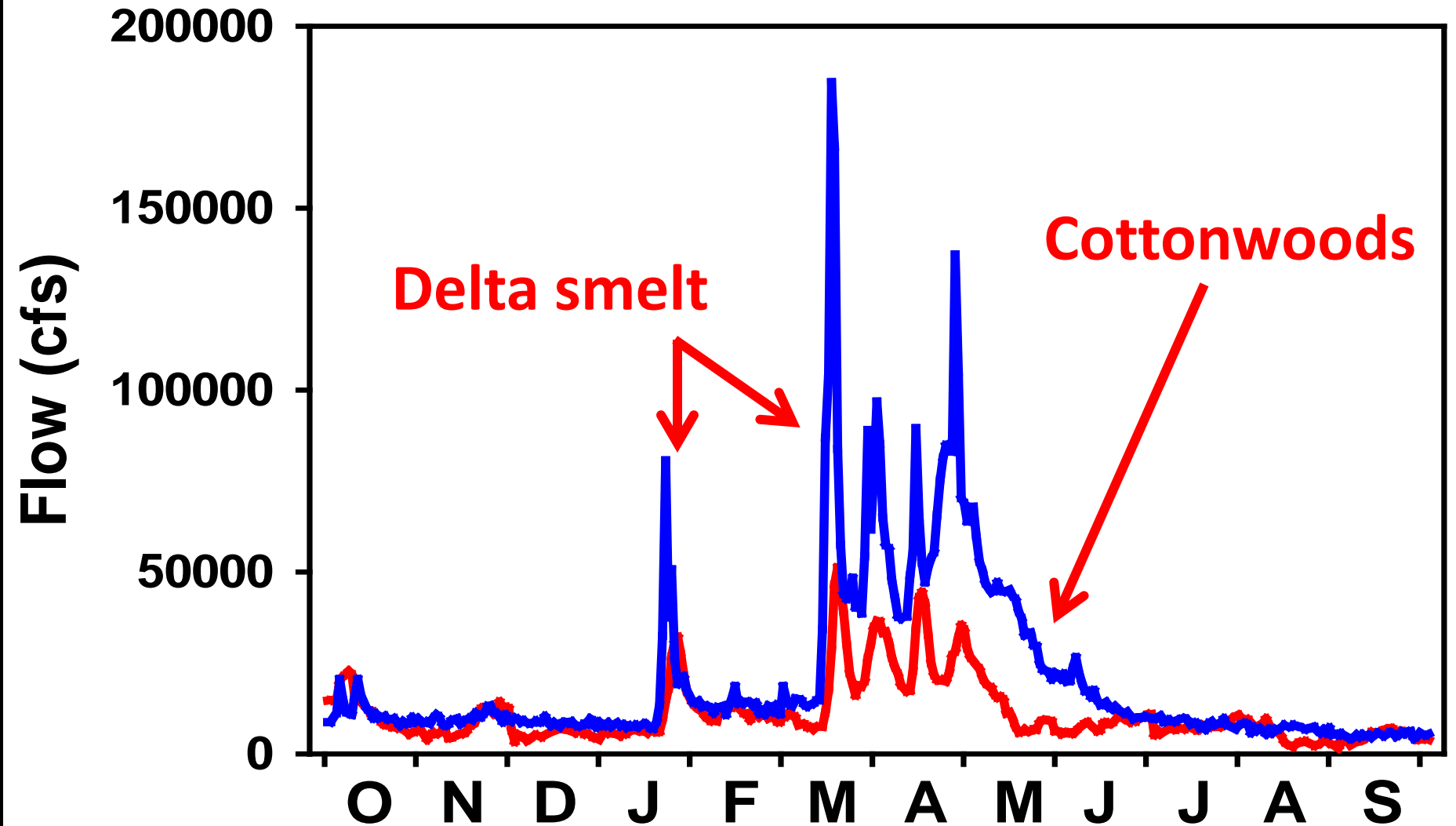
# Floodplain inundation, groundwater recharge



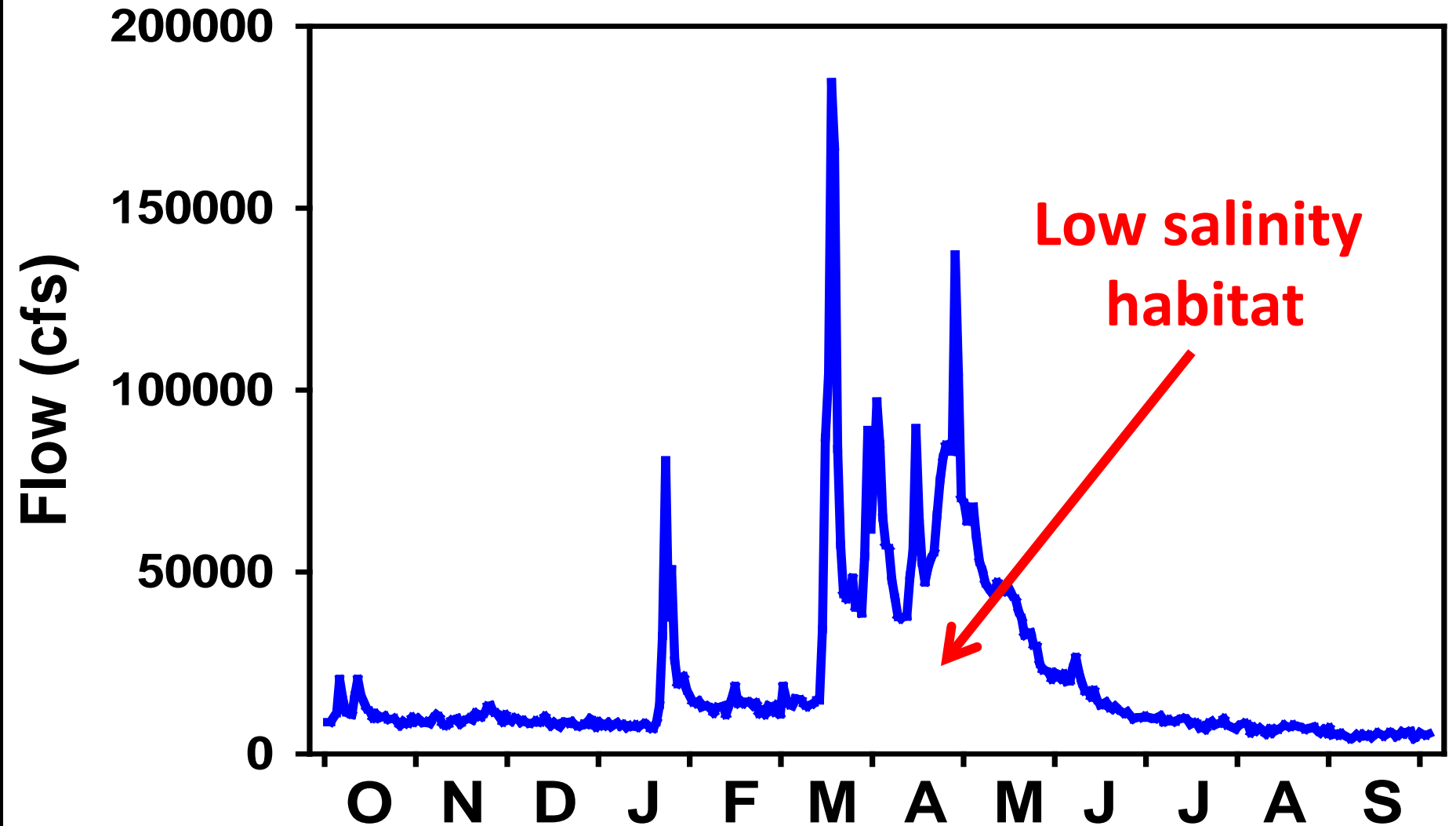
# Reproduction



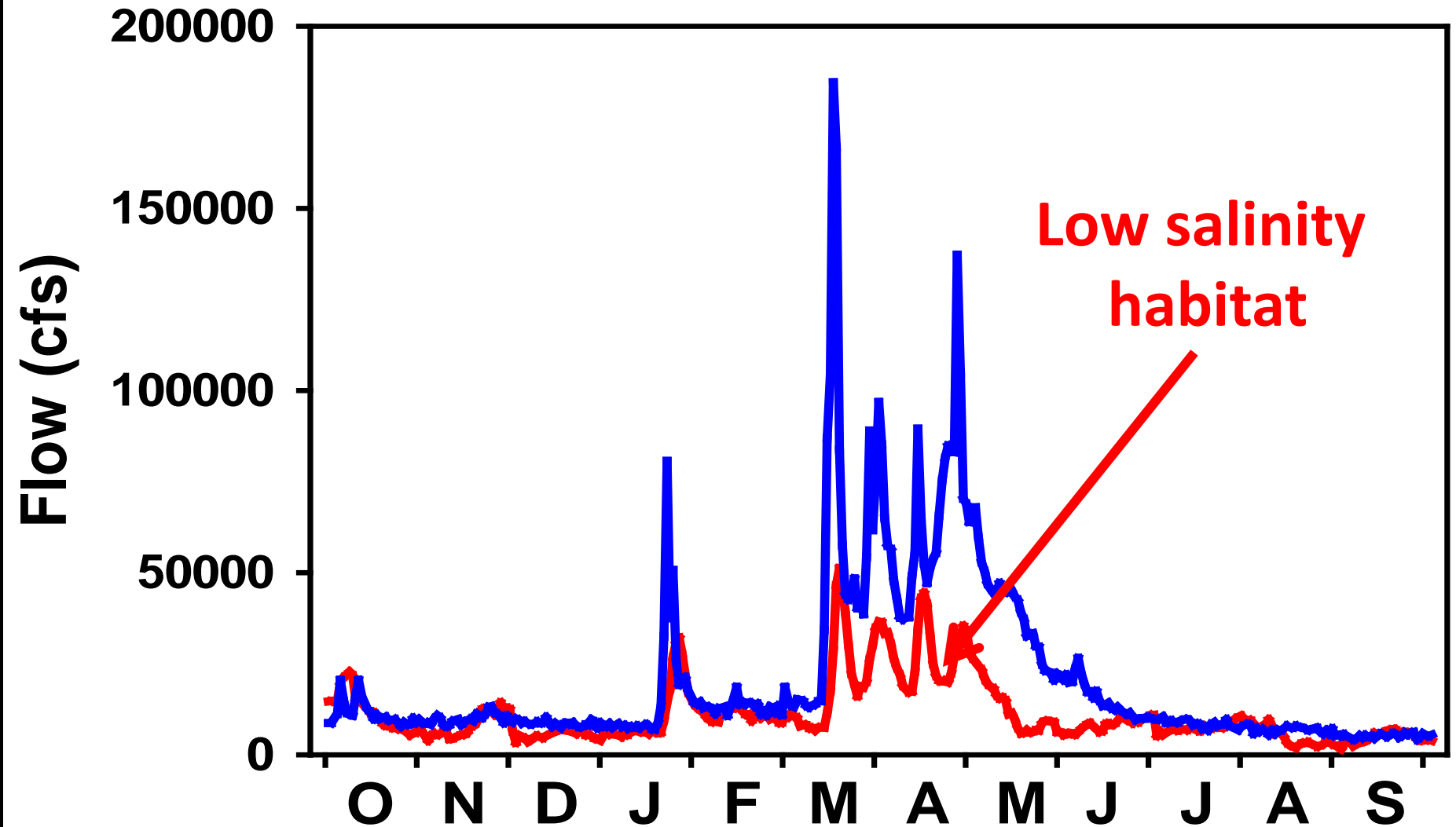
# Reproduction



# Habitat

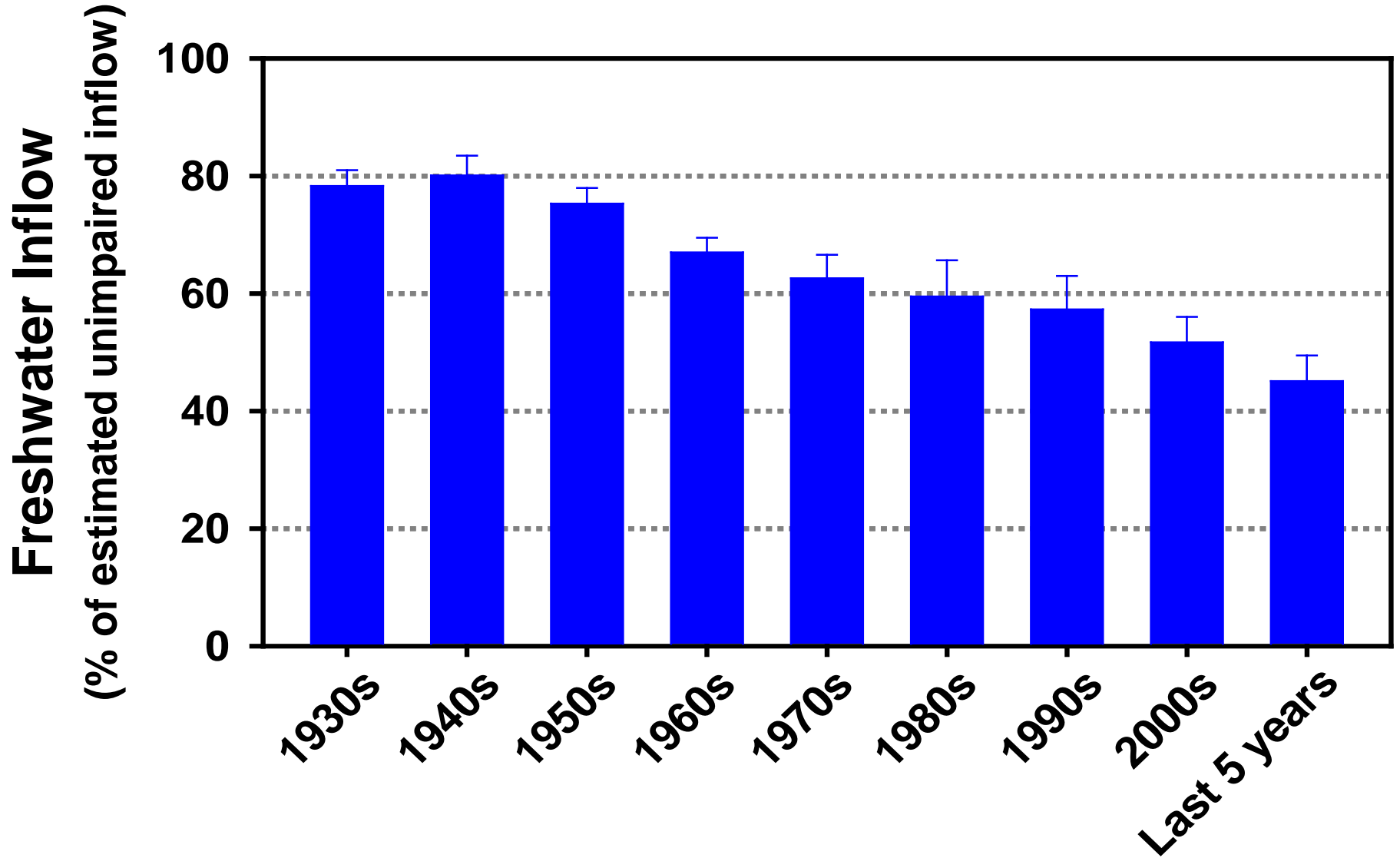


# Habitat

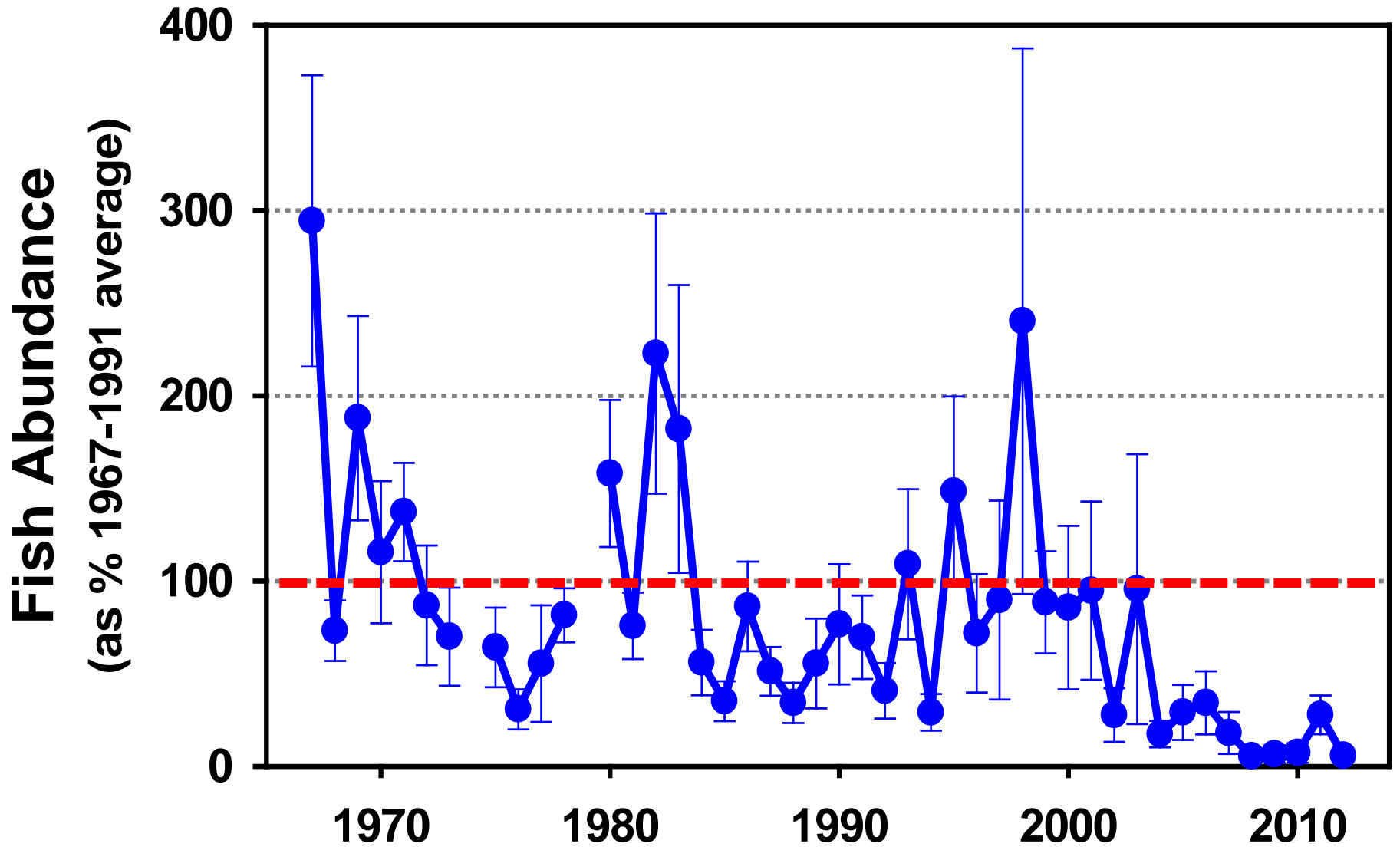




# Inflows are declining



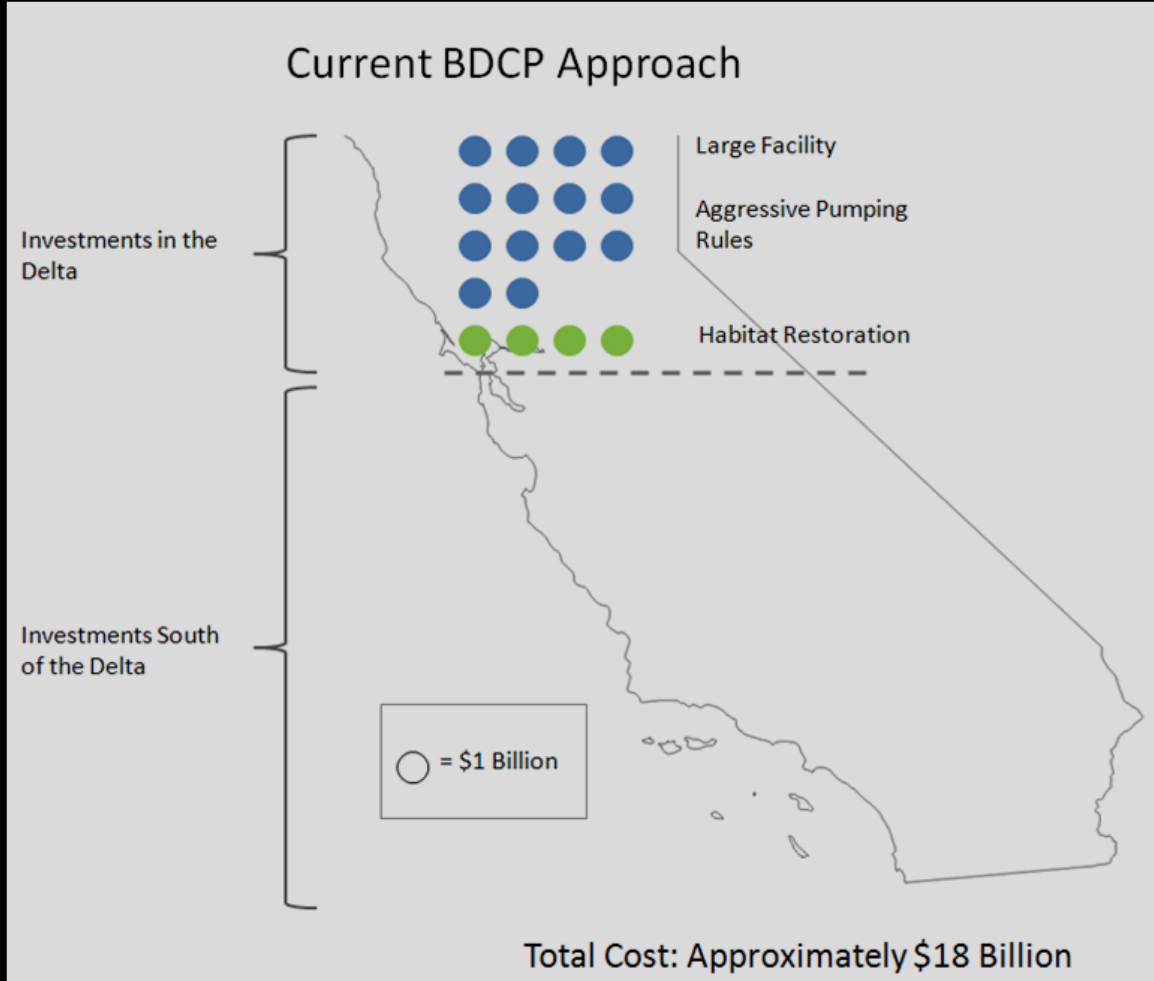
# Fish populations are collapsing



# **Current management of California's water is Unsustainable**

- **Environmentally destructive**
- **Diversions exceed supply**
- **Surface v groundwater conflict**
- **Climate change**
- **Too reliant on the Delta**

# Bay Delta Conservation Plan



Total Cost: Approximately \$18 Billion

# Alternative Plan

Barry Nelson's Blog

## Coalition Releases a New Portfolio-Based Conceptual Alternative for the Bay-Delta



Posted January 16, 2013 in [U.S. Law and Policy](#)

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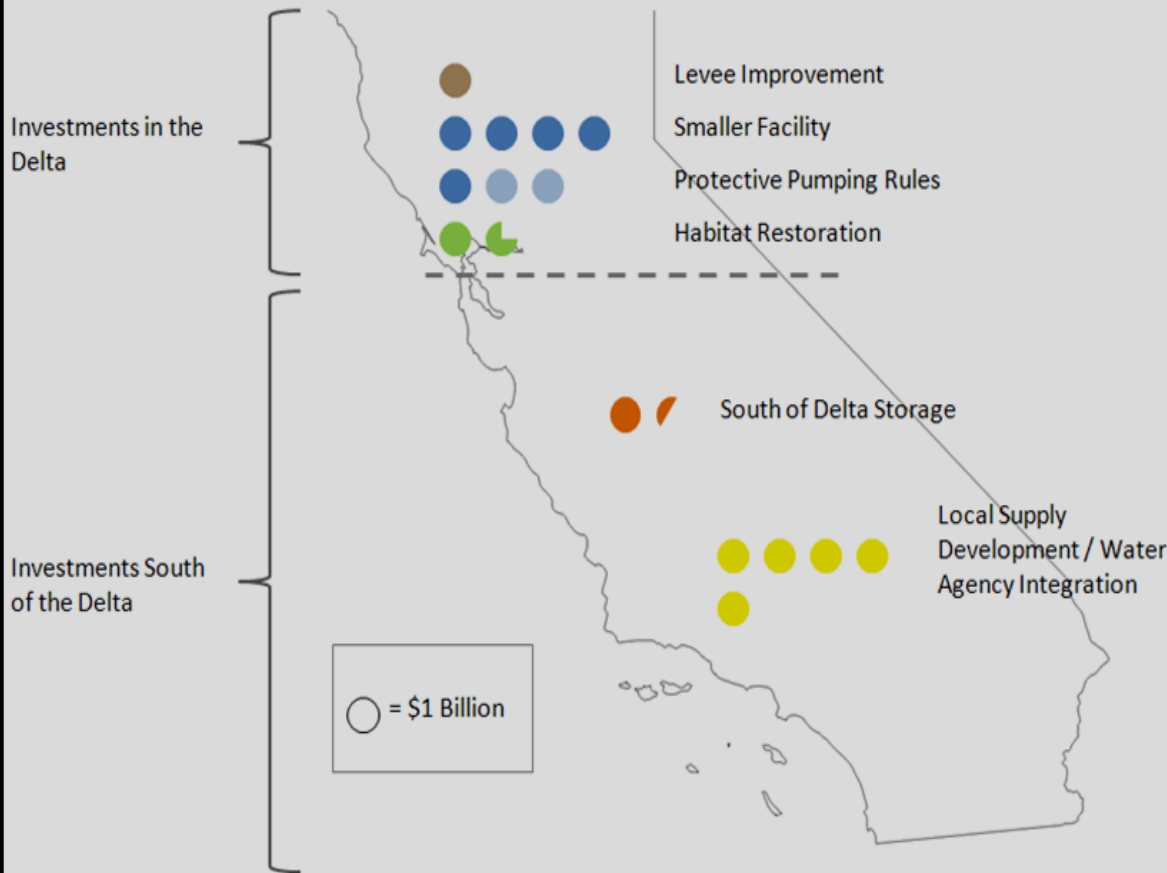
Today, a diverse coalition of [environmental and business groups](#) and urban water agencies released a new "portfolio-based" conceptual alternative to meet the ecosystem and water supply challenges facing the Bay-Delta, and to help California provide reliable water supplies (see the cover letters from [environmental and business groups](#) and from [water agencies](#)). In concept, this new approach is focused exclusively on a large Delta facility and Delta habitat restoration, as the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan currently proposes a more diverse portfolio of investments, both in and outside of the Delta. The results of our initial

analysis show California can develop a plan that would shrink the size of a Delta facility, strengthen protection for total costs and deliver more water to water users. This approach is supported by a remarkably diverse coalition of groups, two business organizations, six urban water agencies in Northern and Southern California and Congressman George Miller has also stated:

"This approach that is needed to protect the Bay-Delta environment, state taxpayers, and meet California's water needs will be what it can be when thoughtful environmentalists, business leaders and urban water agencies reach common sense solutions that are so critical to our state's future."

The results of this new portfolio-based approach are summarized in these two graphics.

### Conceptual Alternative Portfolio Approach



Total Cost: Approximately \$14-16 Billion

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**<http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/tswanson/>**

