

WATER

California's

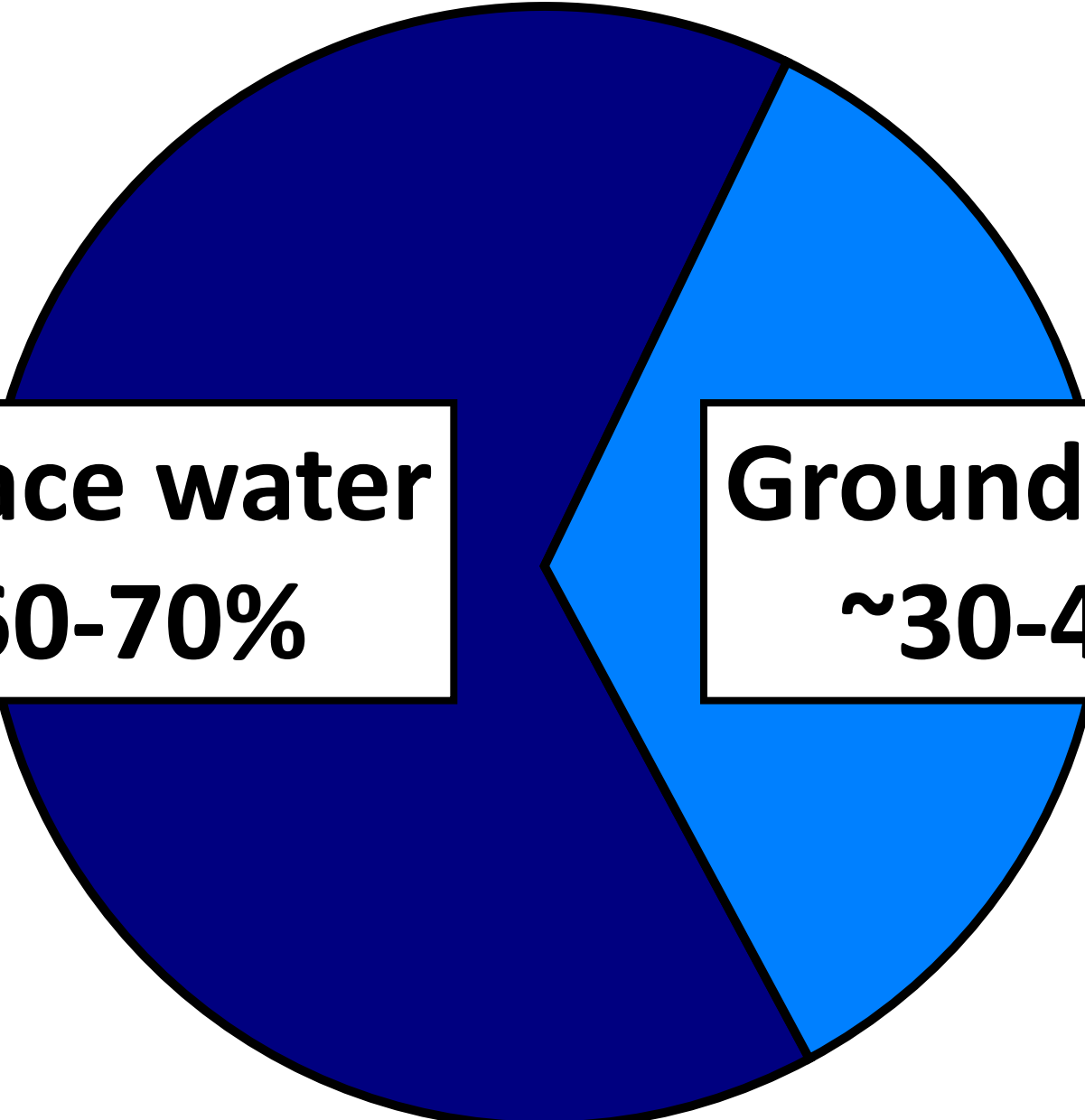
Gold

and the

Environment

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





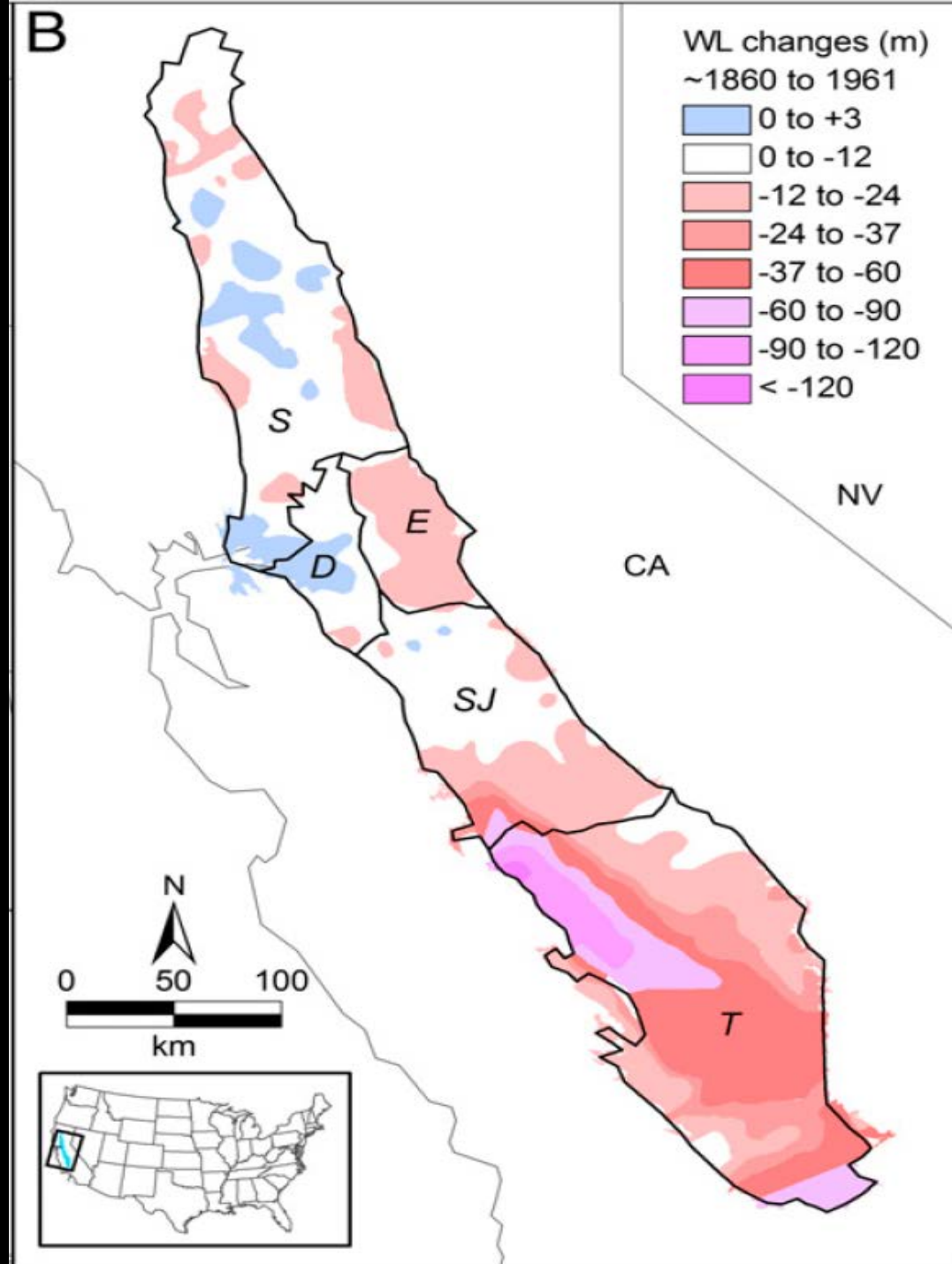
A pie chart illustrating the distribution of water resources. The chart is divided into two segments: a larger dark blue segment on the left representing surface water, and a smaller light blue segment on the right representing groundwater. Each segment is connected to a white rectangular label with a black border. The surface water label is on the left, and the groundwater label is on the right. The labels contain the category name and a percentage range.

Category	Percentage
Surface water	~60-70%
Groundwater	~30-40%

Surface water
~60-70%

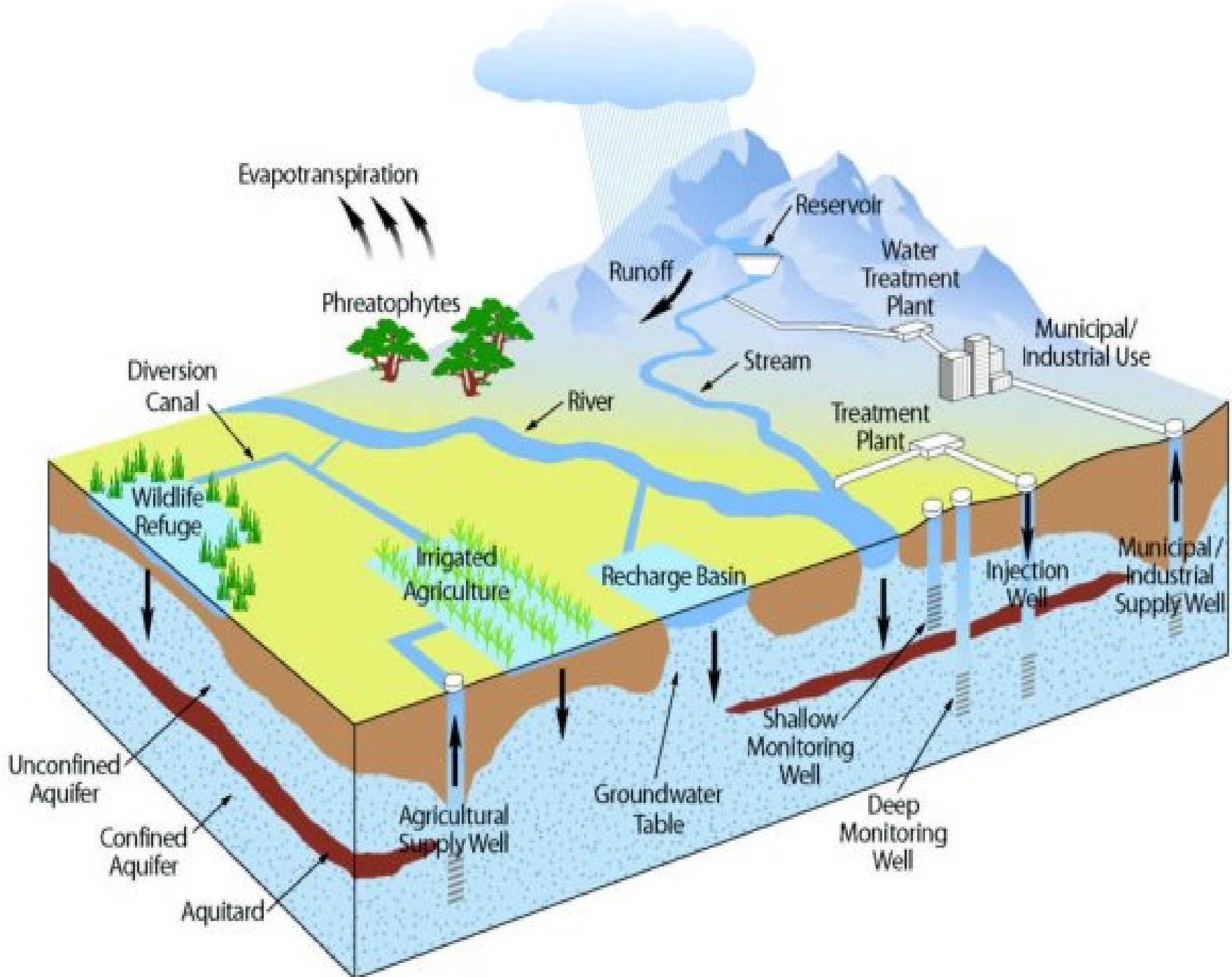
Groundwater
~30-40%

Groundwater depletion in California



University of Texas

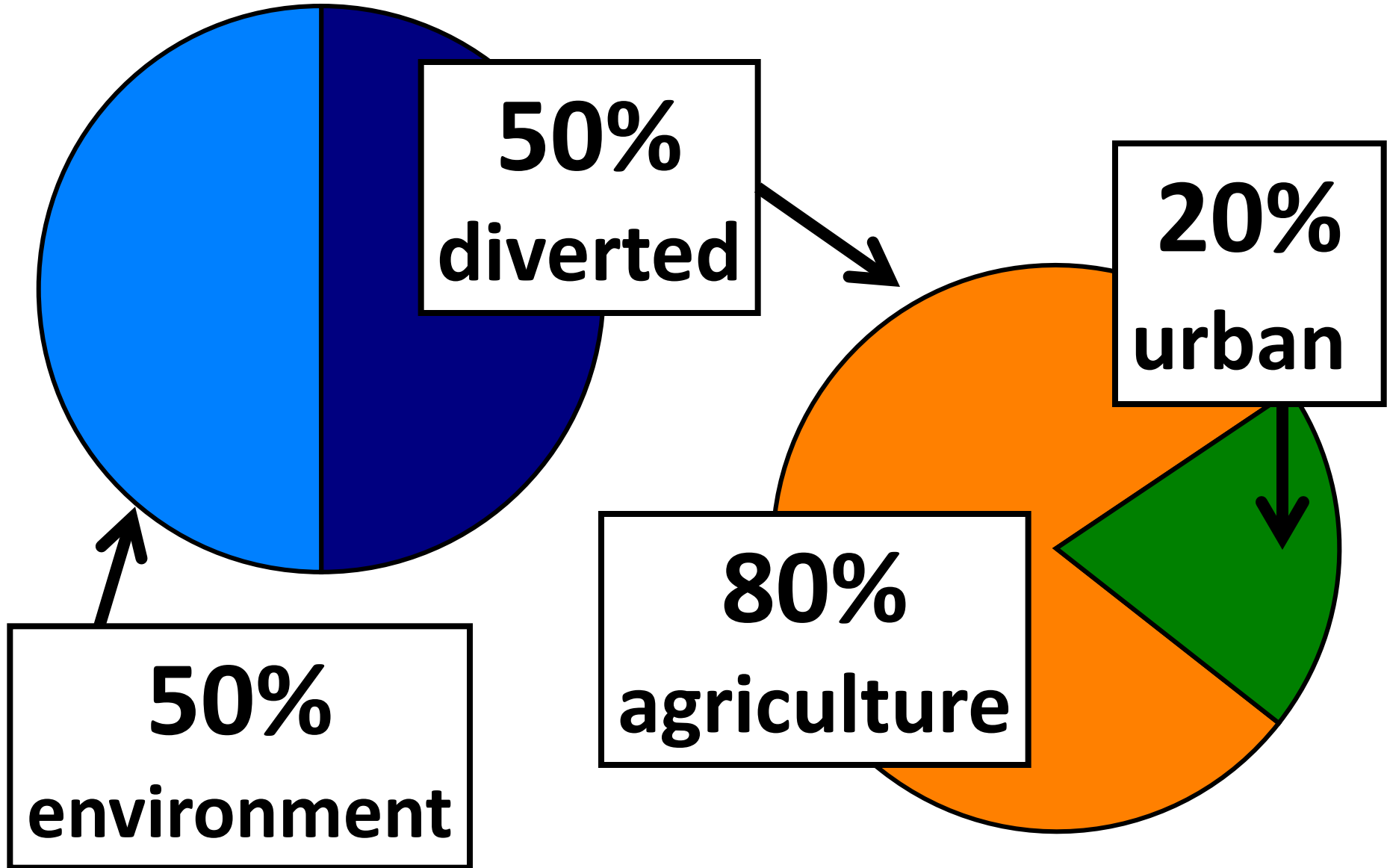
<http://www.utexas.edu/news/2012/05/29/groundwater/>



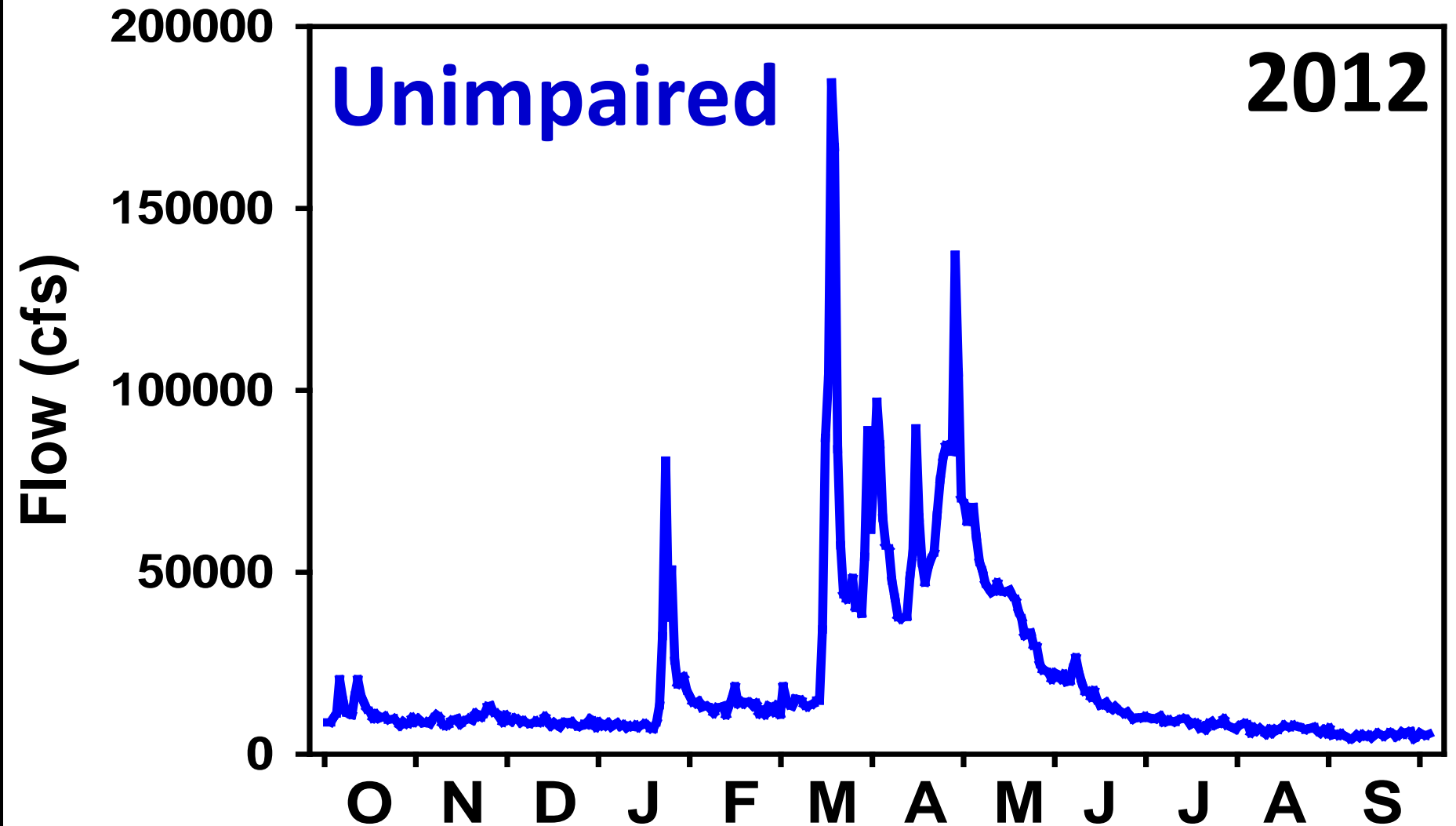
Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed



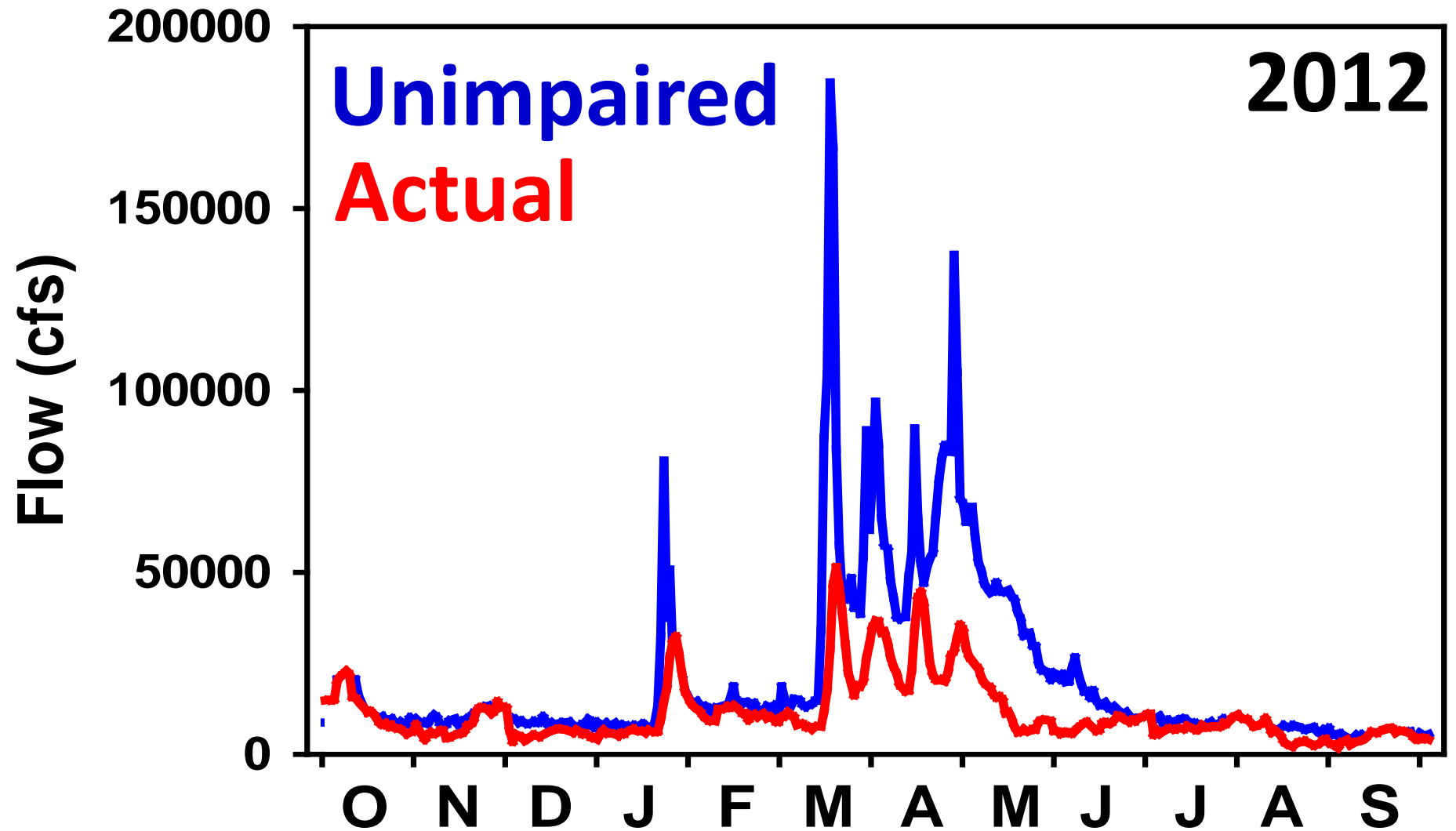
Sac-SJ Surface Waters



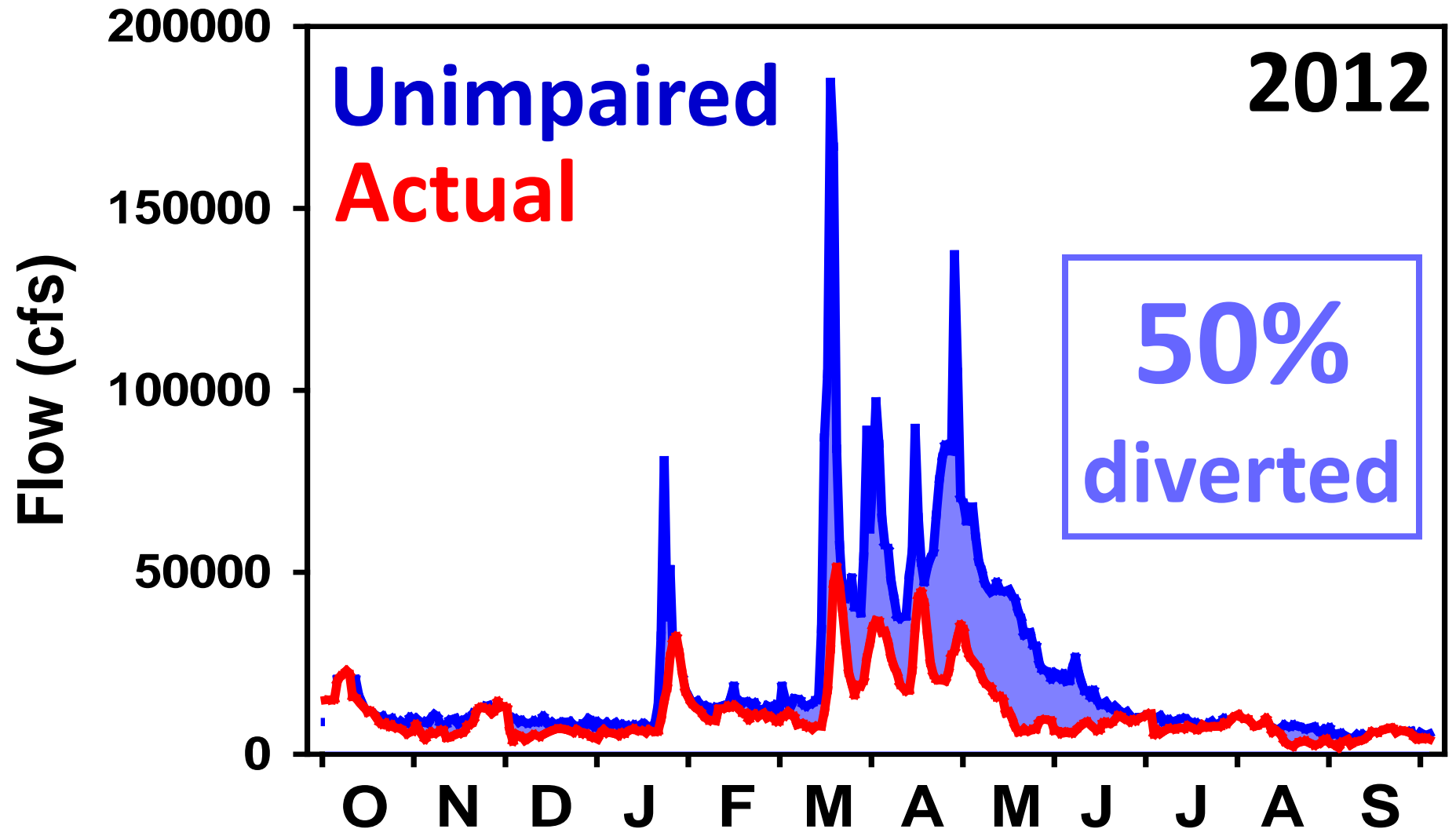
Inflow to San Francisco Bay



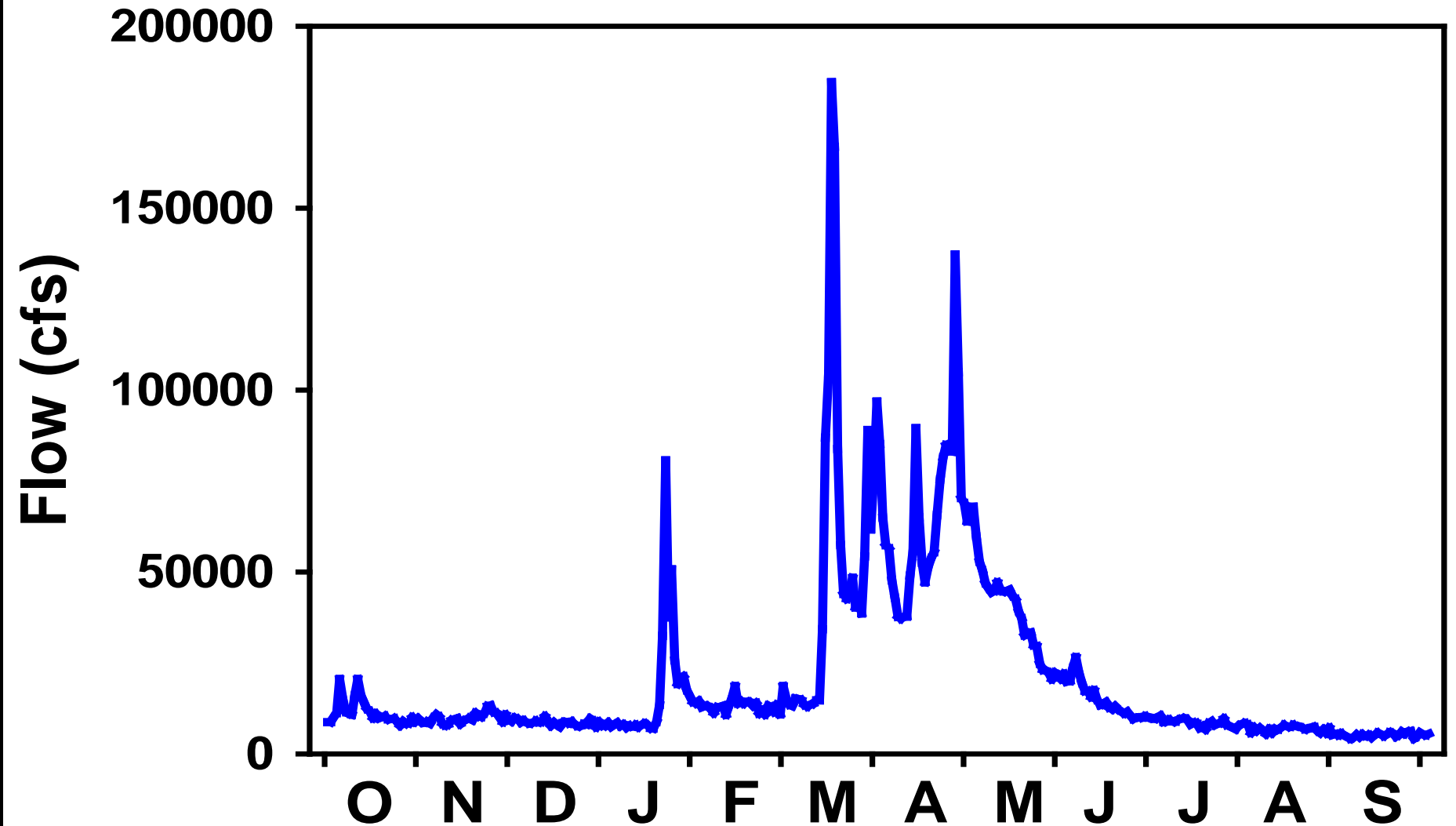
Inflow to San Francisco Bay



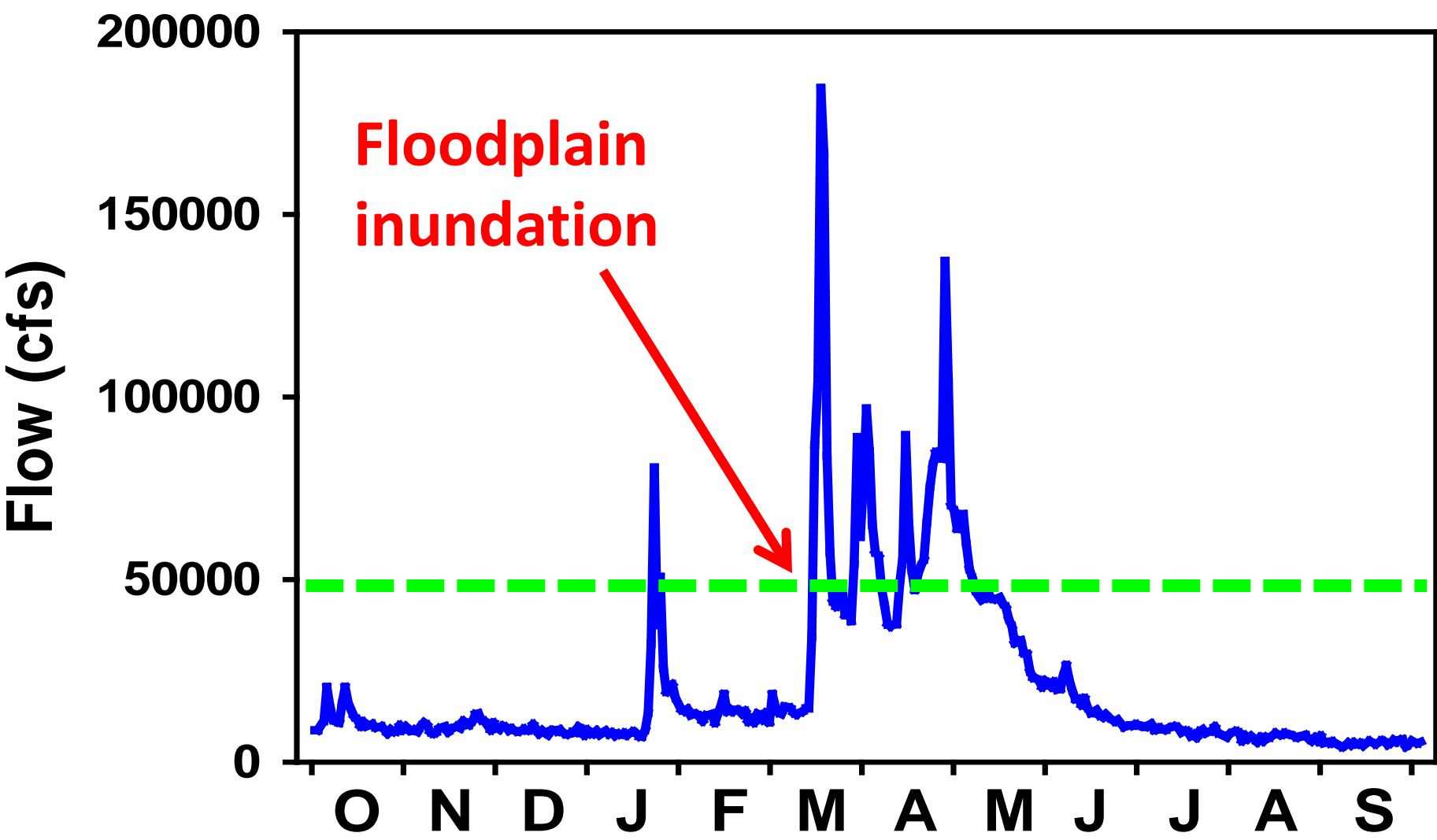
Inflow to San Francisco Bay



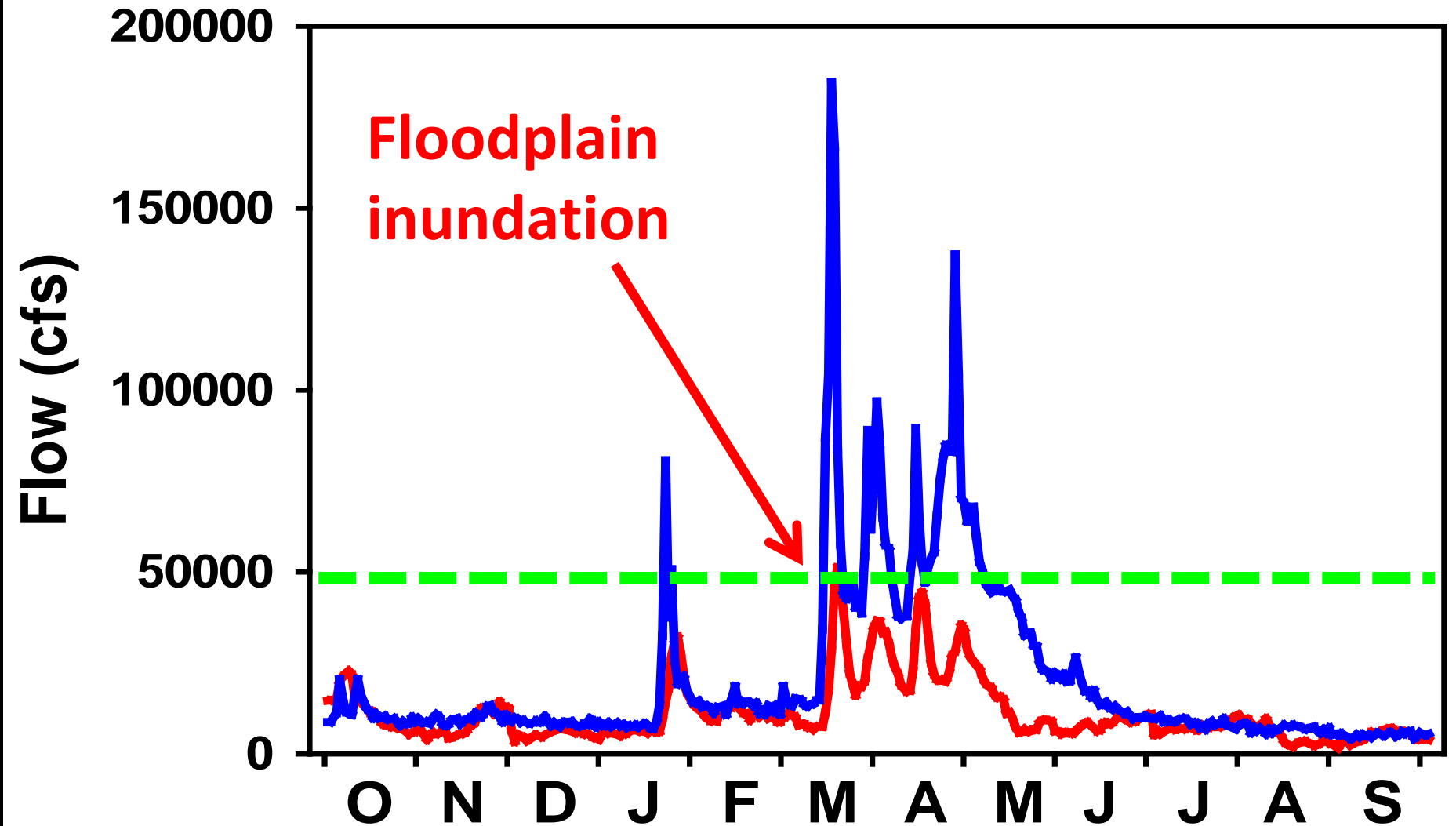
Size • Shape • Timing



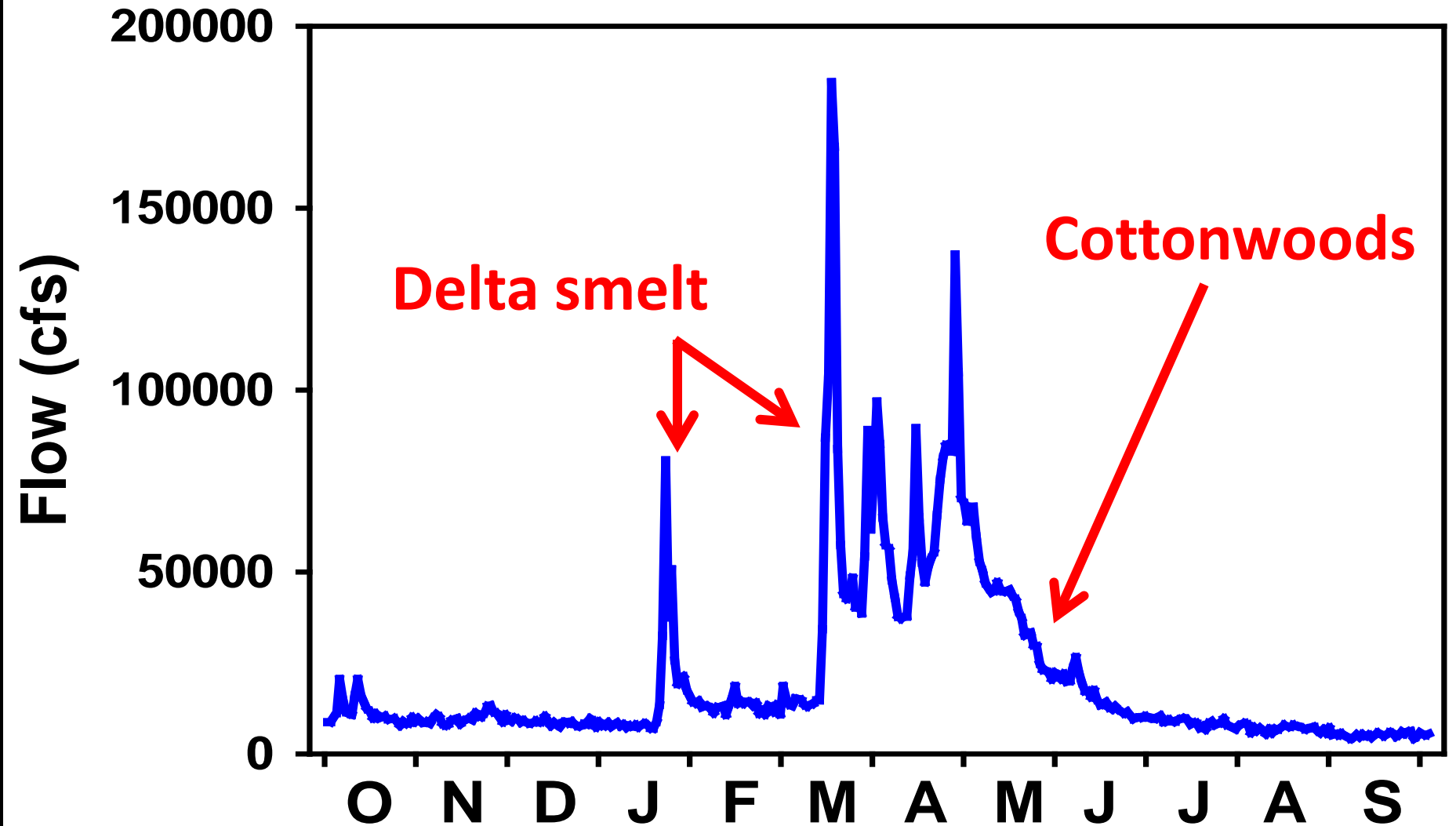
Floodplains, groundwater recharge



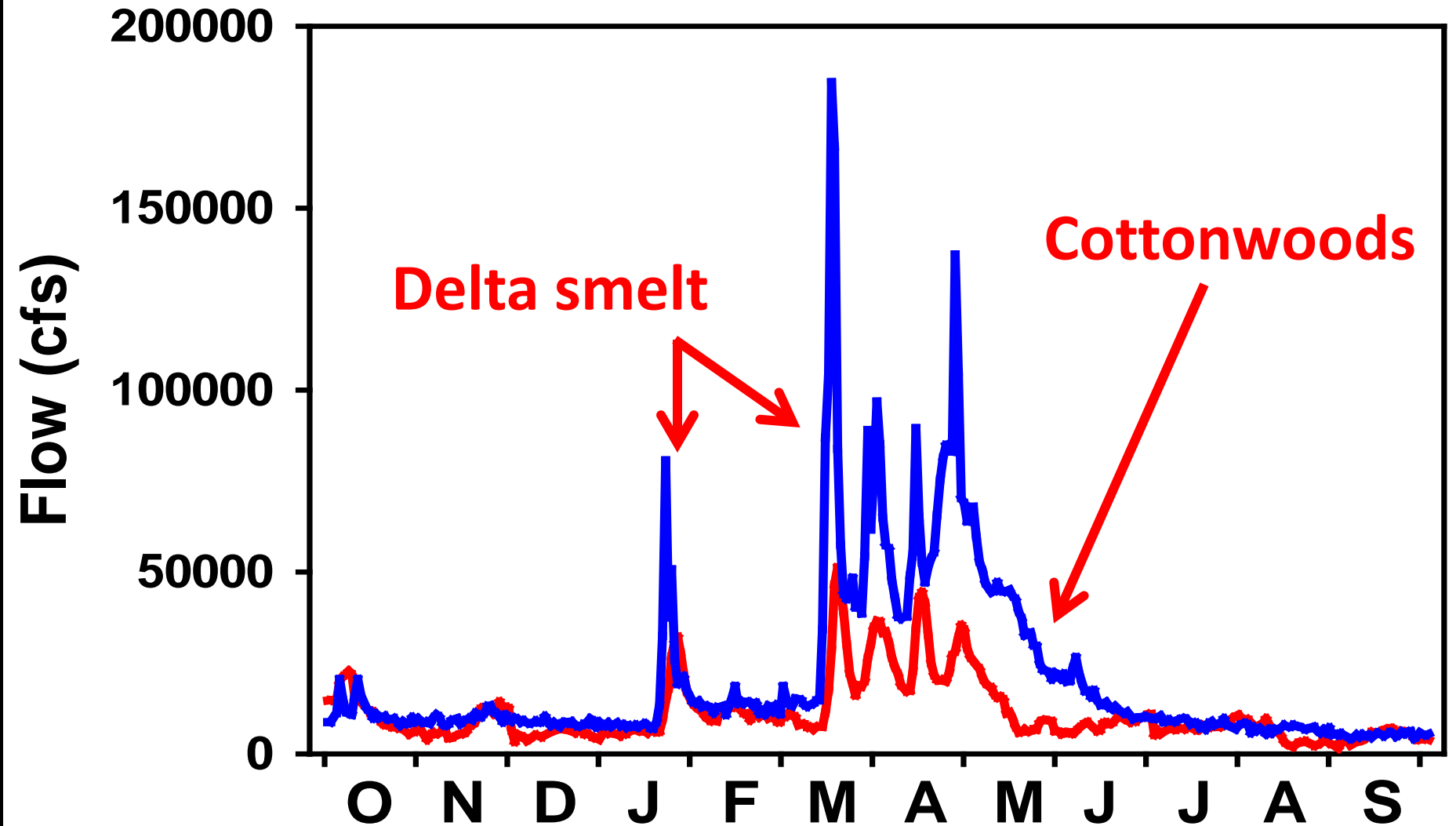
Floodplain inundation, groundwater recharge



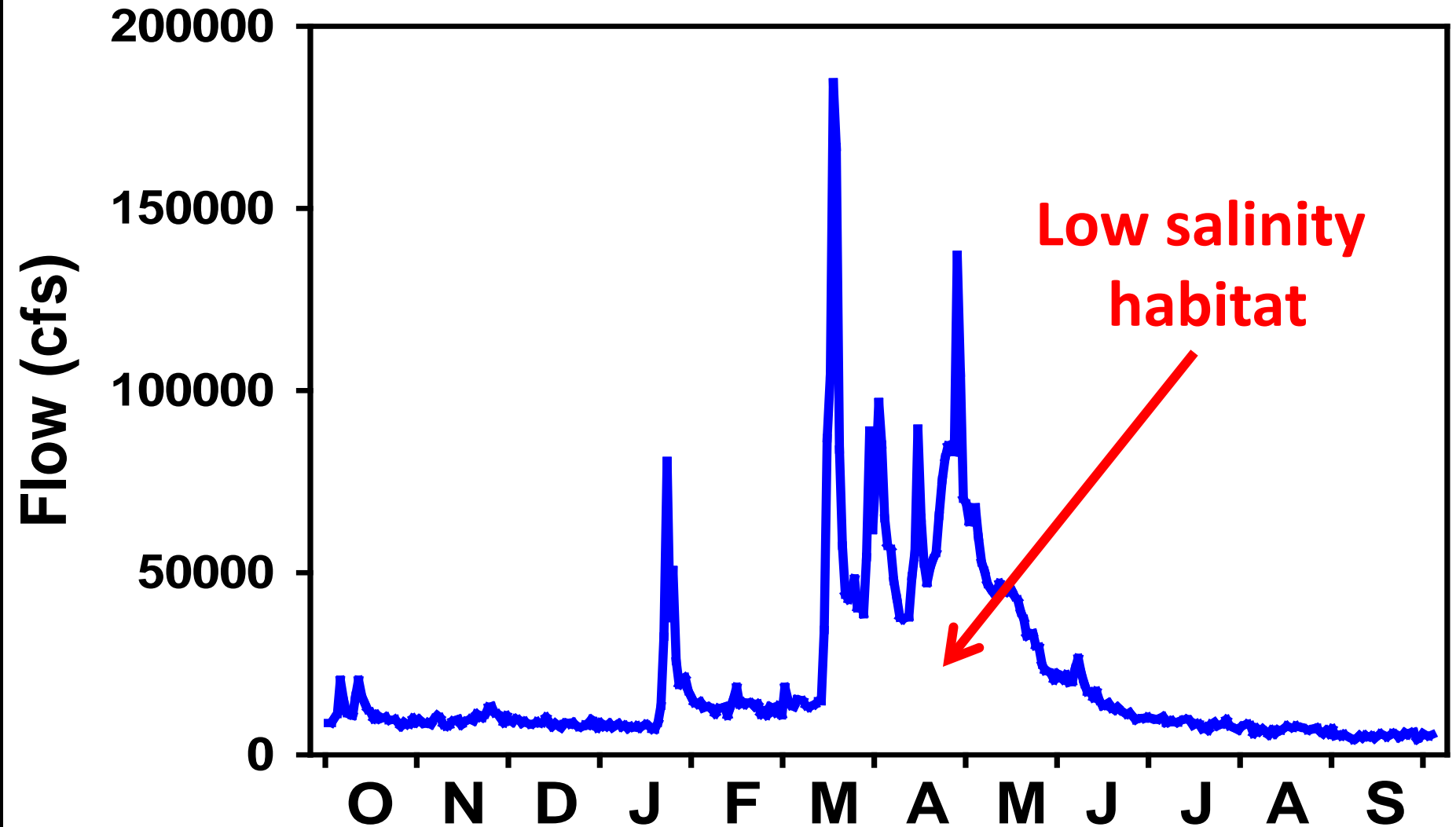
Reproduction



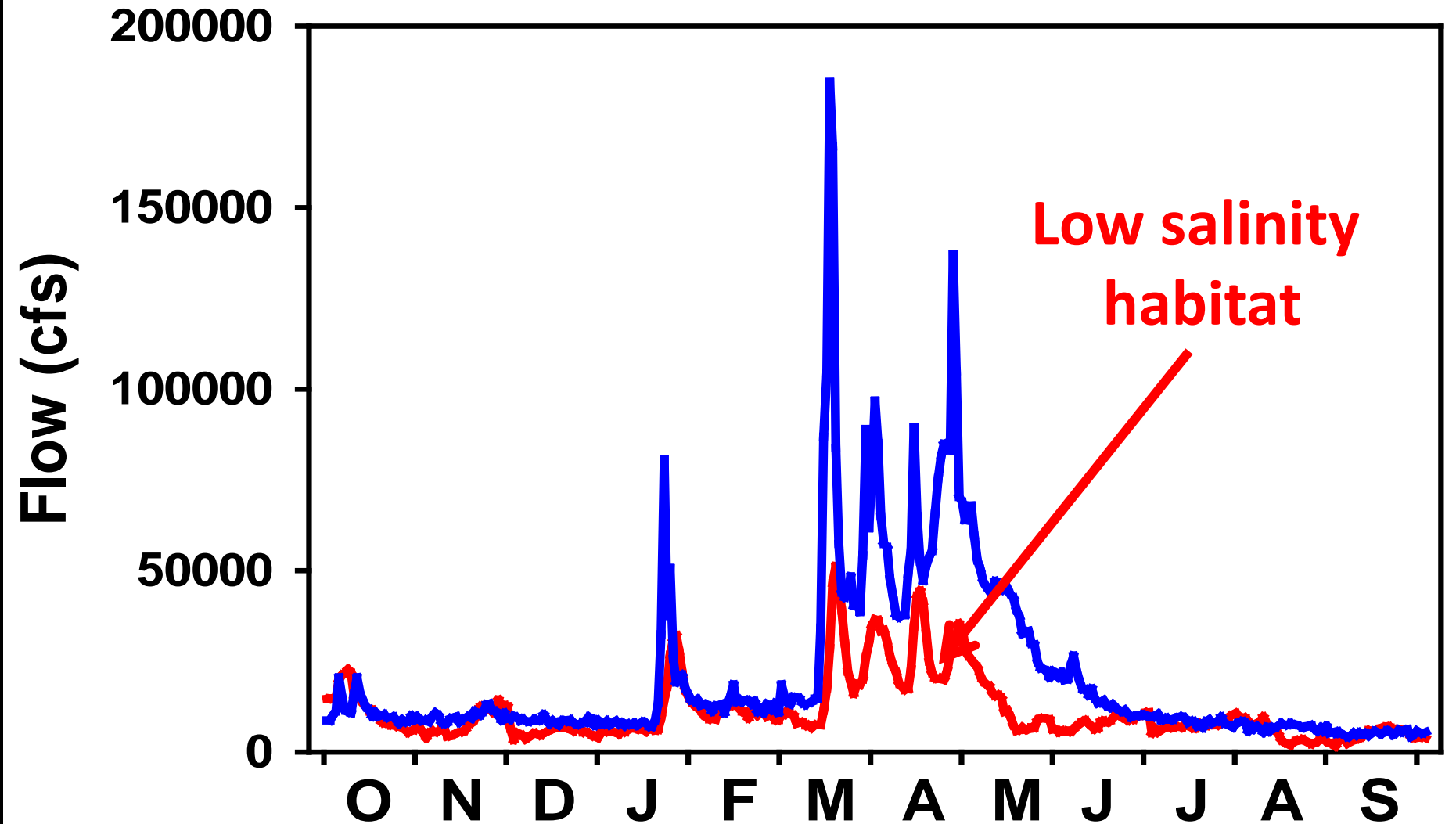
Reproduction



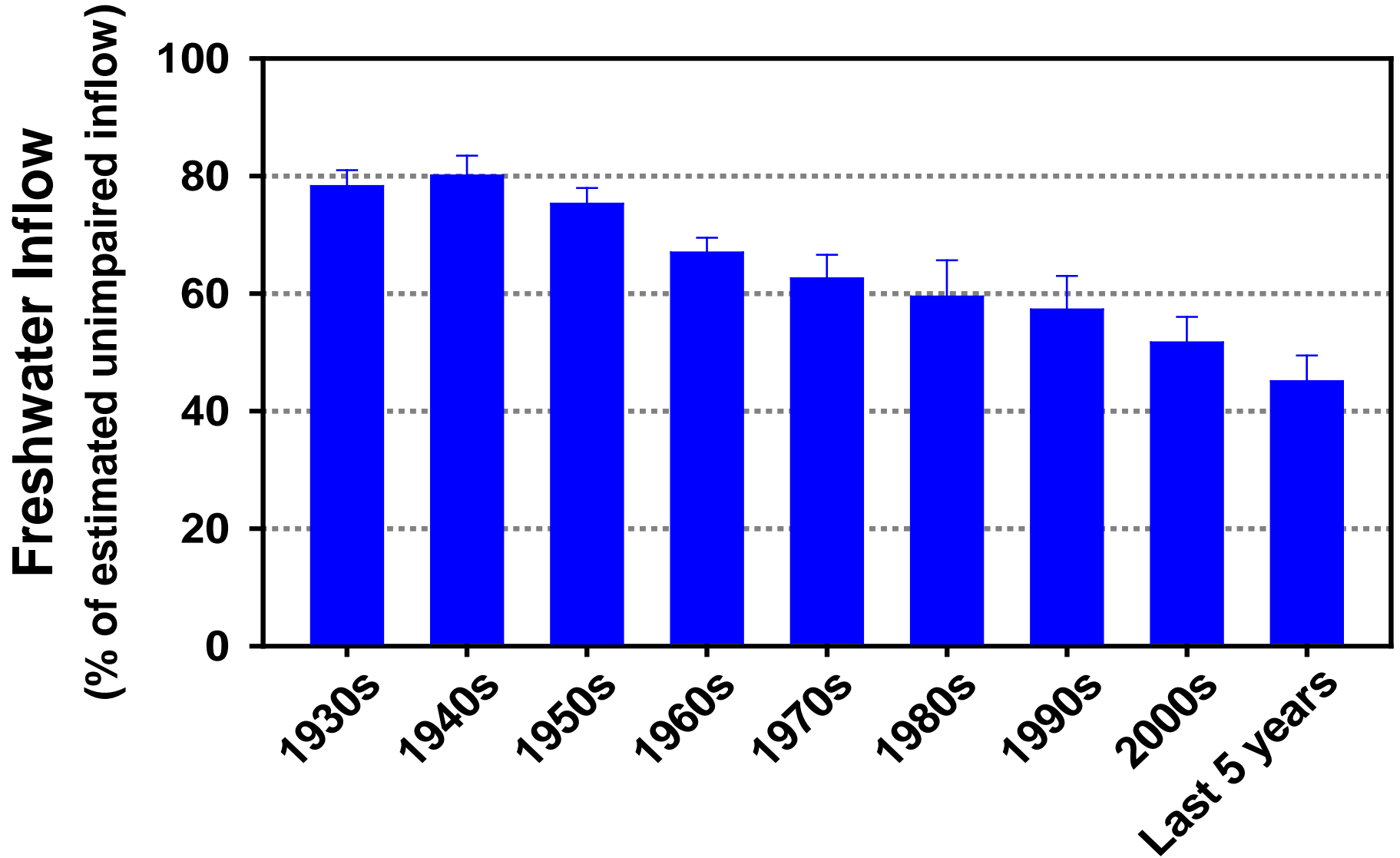
Habitat



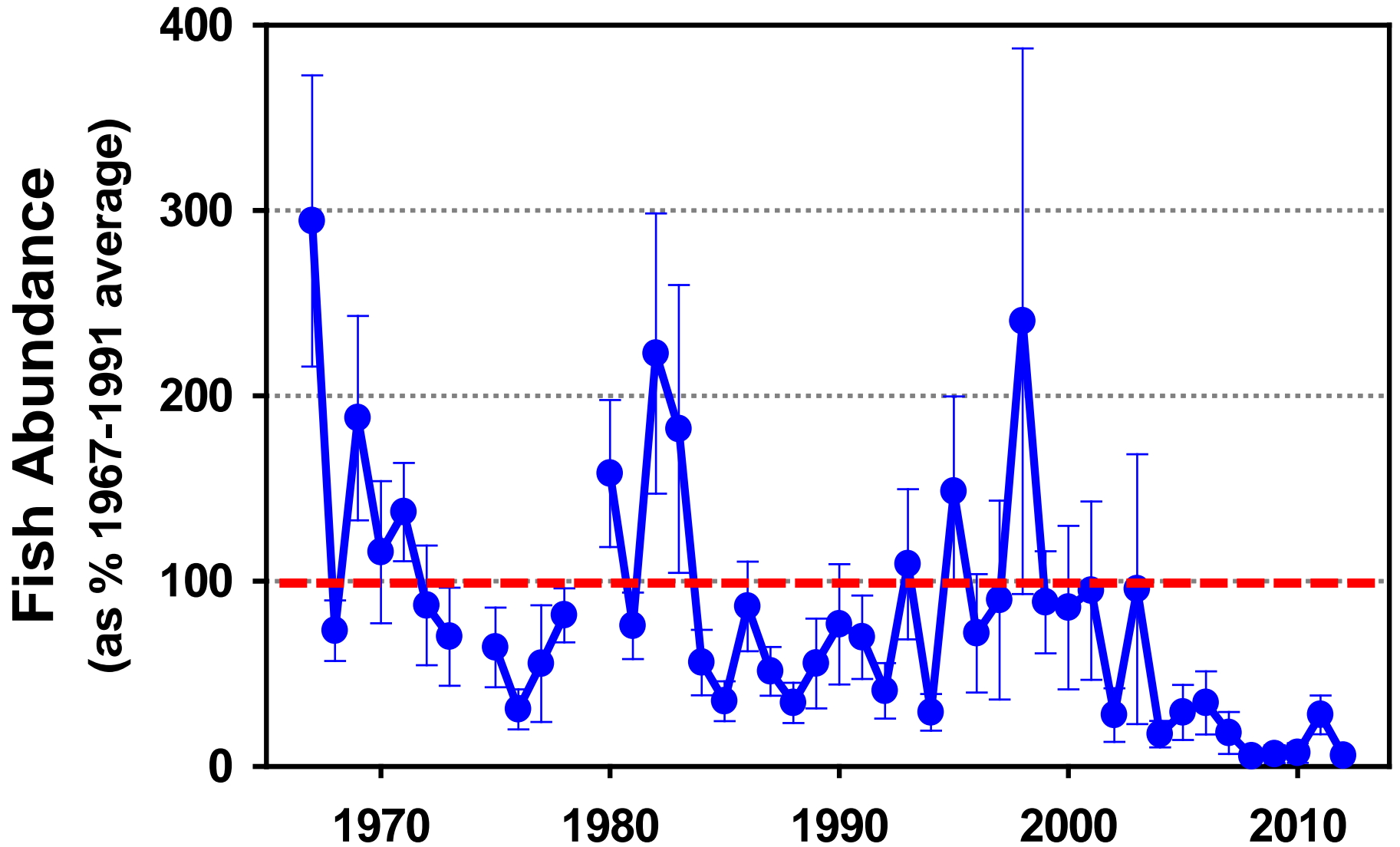
Habitat



Inflows are declining



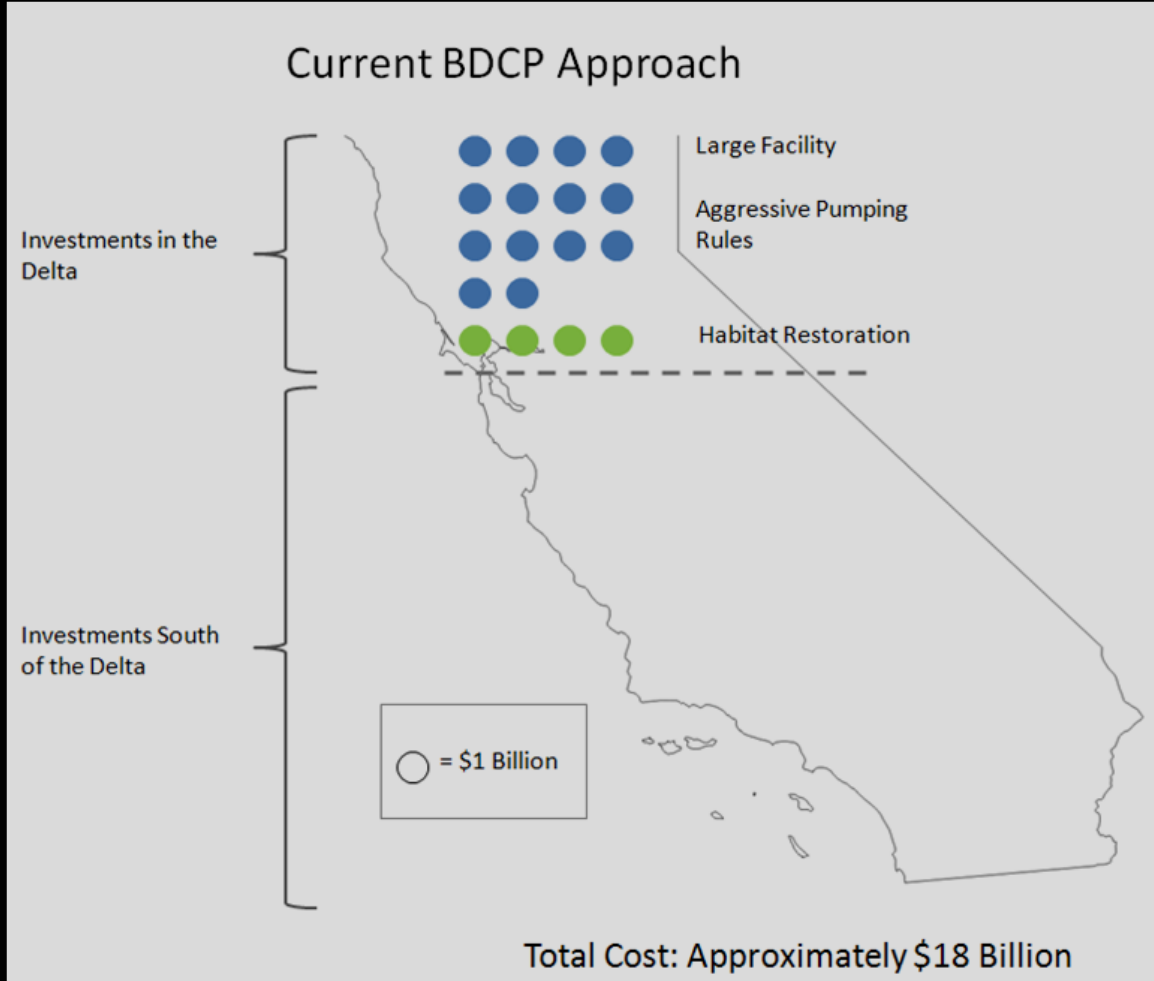
Fish populations are collapsing



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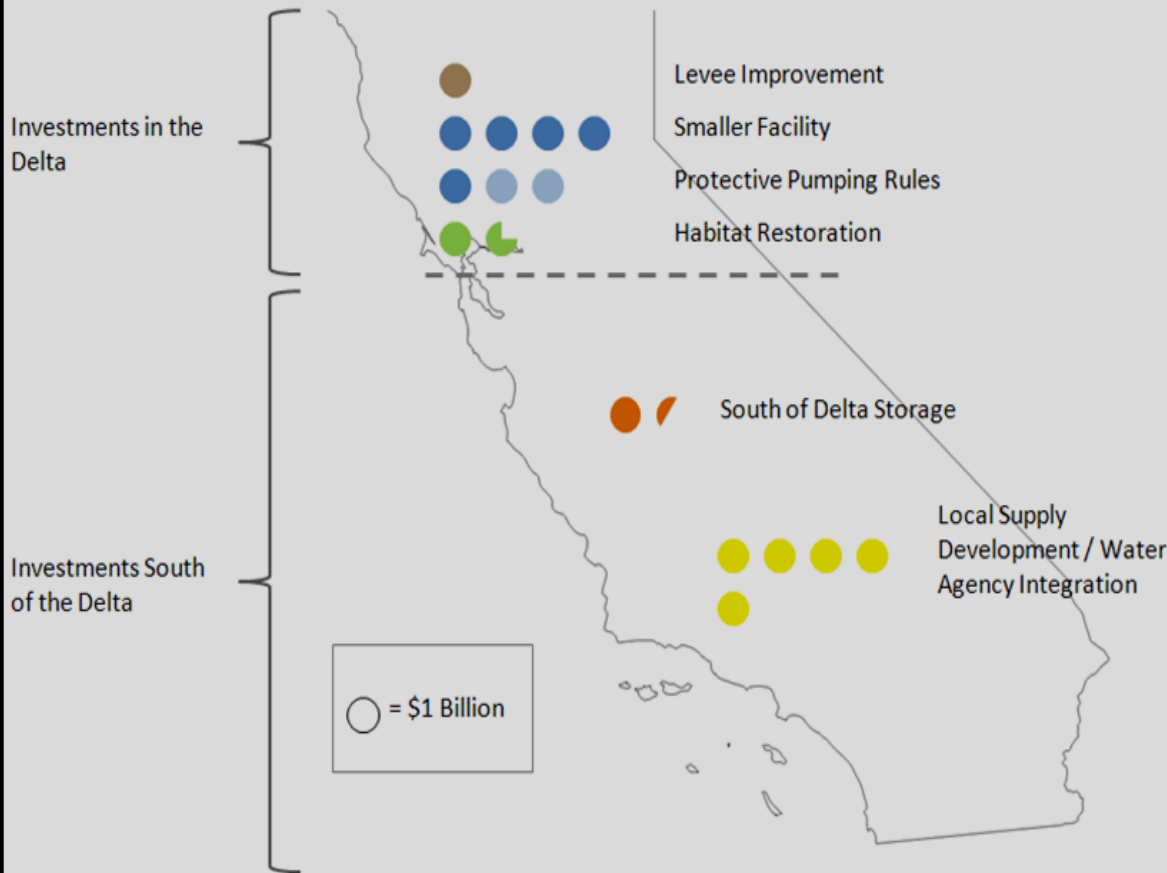
Today, a diverse coalition of [environmental and business groups](#) and urban water agencies released a new "portfolio-based" conceptual alternative to meet the ecosystem and water supply challenges facing the Bay-Delta, and to help California provide reliable water supplies (see the cover letters from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

"The approach that is needed to protect the Bay-Delta environment, state taxpayers, and meet California's water needs will be when thoughtful environmentalists, business leaders and urban water agencies reach common ground 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/>

