



San Luis Obispo County Regional Instream Flow Assessment

Prepared by Stillwater Sciences

Prepared for Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Ethan Bell
WRAC Meeting
December 4th, 2013



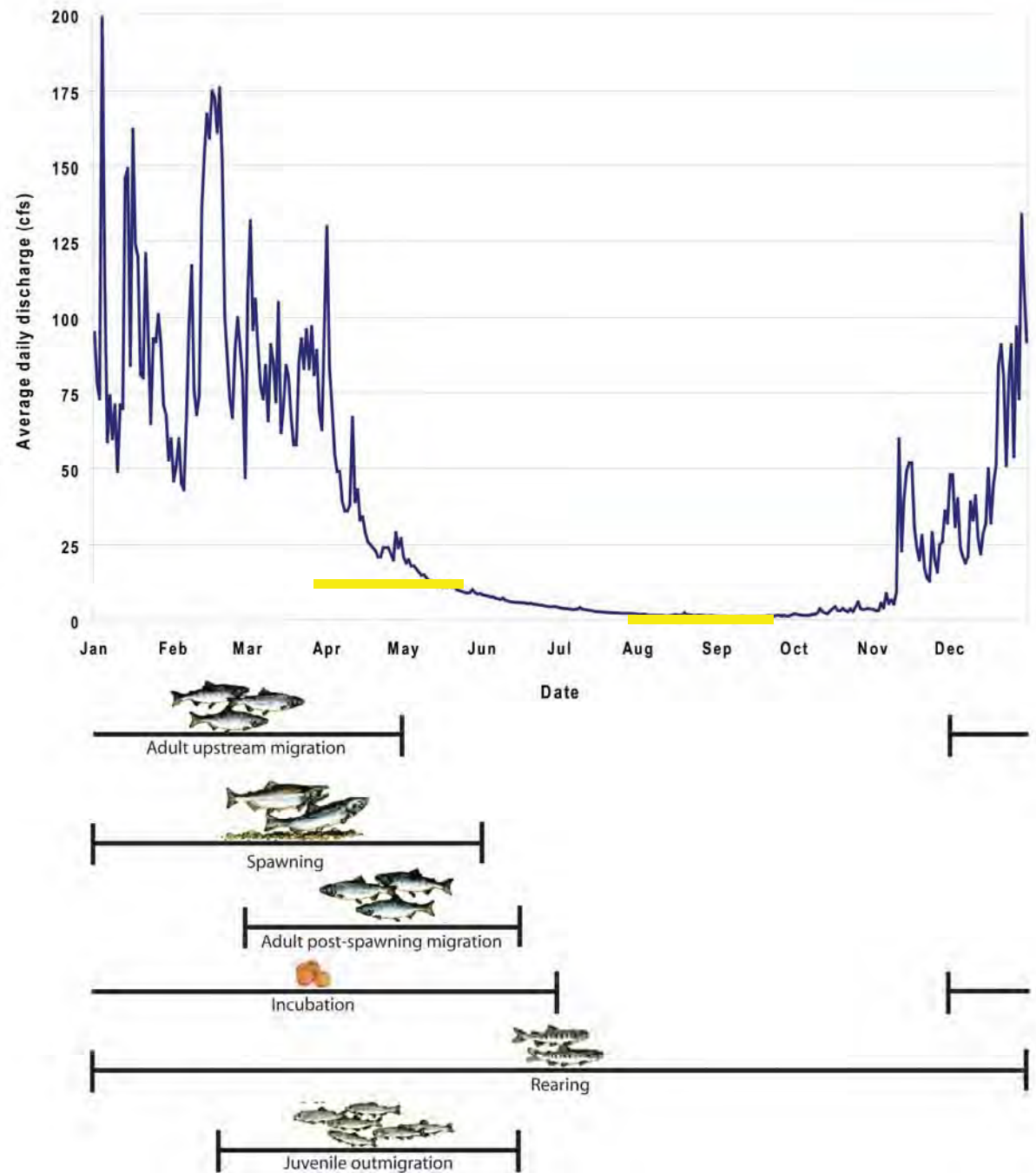
Introduction

- Master Water Report (MWR) of the current and future water resource management activities
- Environmental Water Demand: instream flow requirements for steelhead
- Discussed approach during August meeting
- This presentation will focus on results



Define environmental water demand

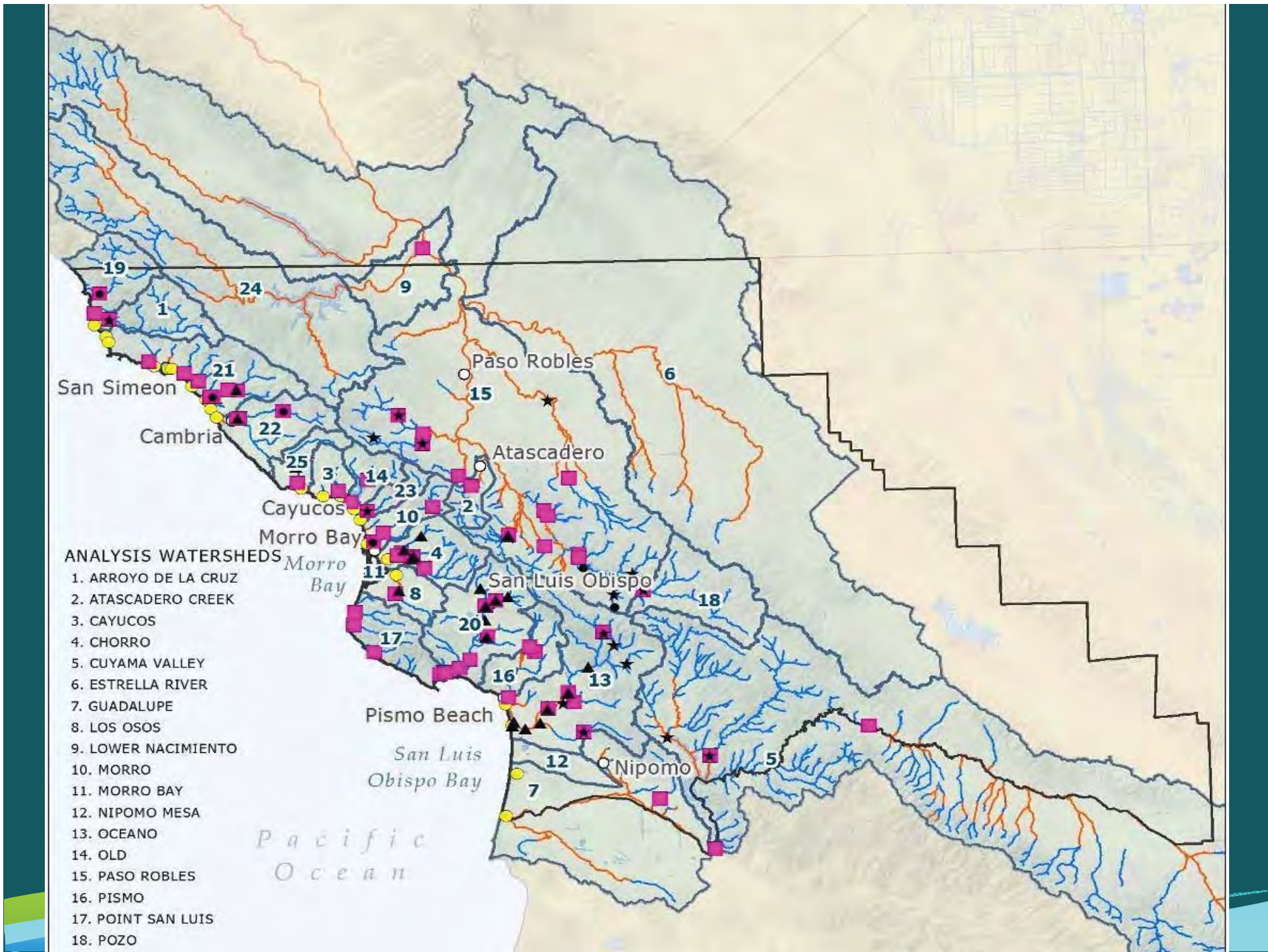
- Steelhead biology
- Tidewater goby occurrence
- Quantitative:
 - Flows to grow in spring
 - Flows to survive in summer
- Qualitative:
 - Adult fish passage
 - Lagoon conditions
 - Geomorphic function



Results

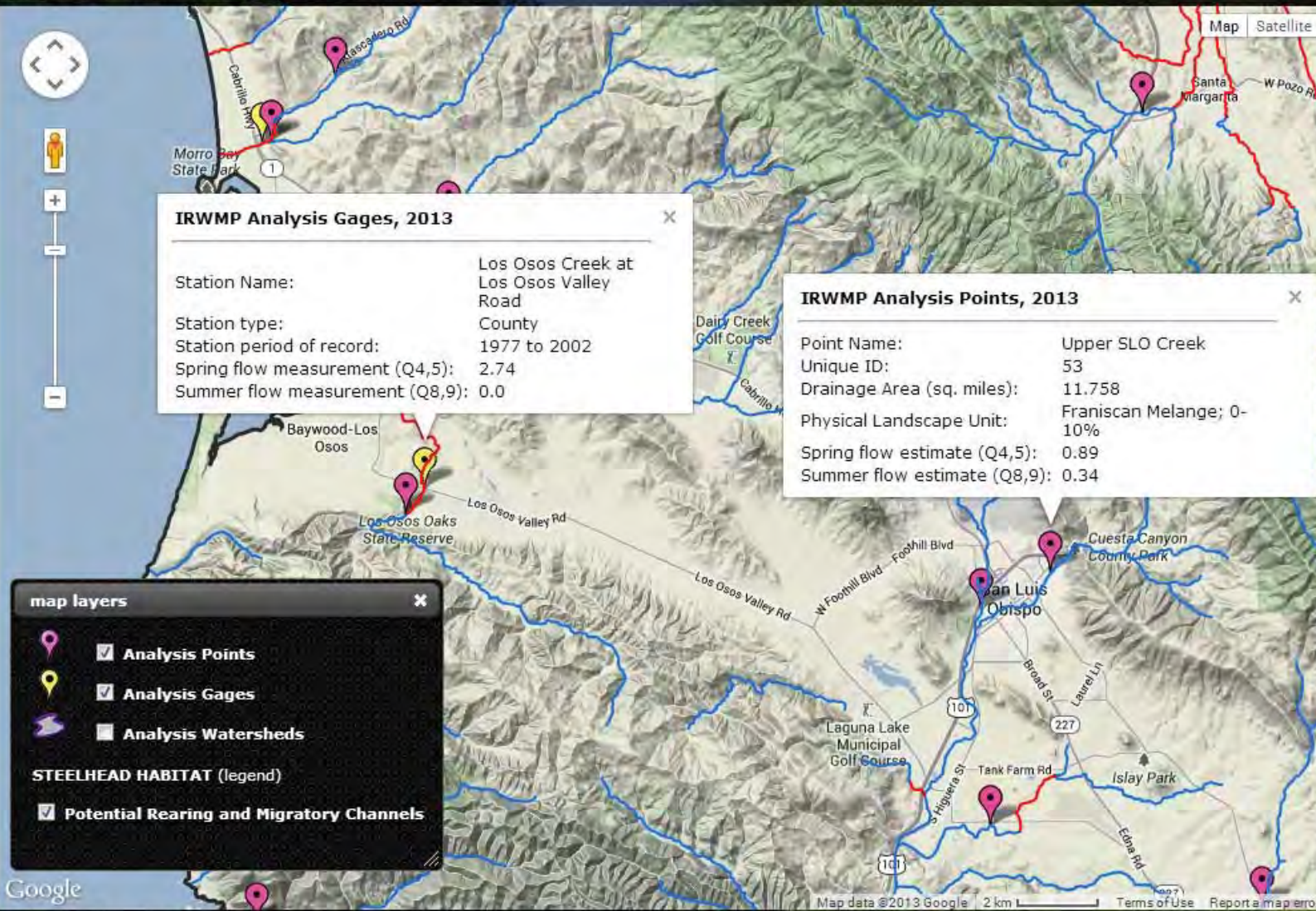
- Defined environmental water demand for spring and summer
- Analyzed existing landscape and hydrology data
- Conducted field assessment
- Estimated environmental water demand for Analysis Points
- Identified key data gaps and priority watersheds





2013 Regional Instream Flow Assessment San Luis Obispo County

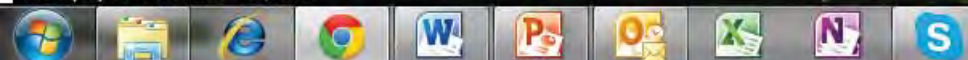
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Summary

- Data on existing flows in comparison with EWD is limited
- Based on available data:
 - During spring existing flows exceed EWD at most locations
 - During summer existing flows are less than EWD at most locations





San Luisito Creek, sufficient spring flows (0.3cfs)



Atascadero Creek, with insufficient spring flows (1 cfs)



Islay Creek, sufficient summer flows (0.3)



Santa Rosa Creek, insufficient
summer flows (0.8 cfs)

Summary

Streams where existing flows exceed EWD:

- Tar Spring Creek,
- Torro Creek,
- Lower San Luis Obispo Creek,
- Islay Creek,
- Lower Arroyo Grande Creek, and
- Chorro Creek.



Summary

Streams where EWD exceeds existing flows:

- Alamo Creek
- Arroyo De La Cruz
- Arroyo Grande
- Jack Creek
- Los Berros Creek
- Los Osos Creek
- Salinas River
- Santa Rita Creek
- Santa Rosa Creek



Summary

- Highest priority watersheds for more intensive analysis include:
 - Santa Rosa Creek
 - Chorro Creek
 - Pismo Creek
 - Arroyo Grande Creek

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