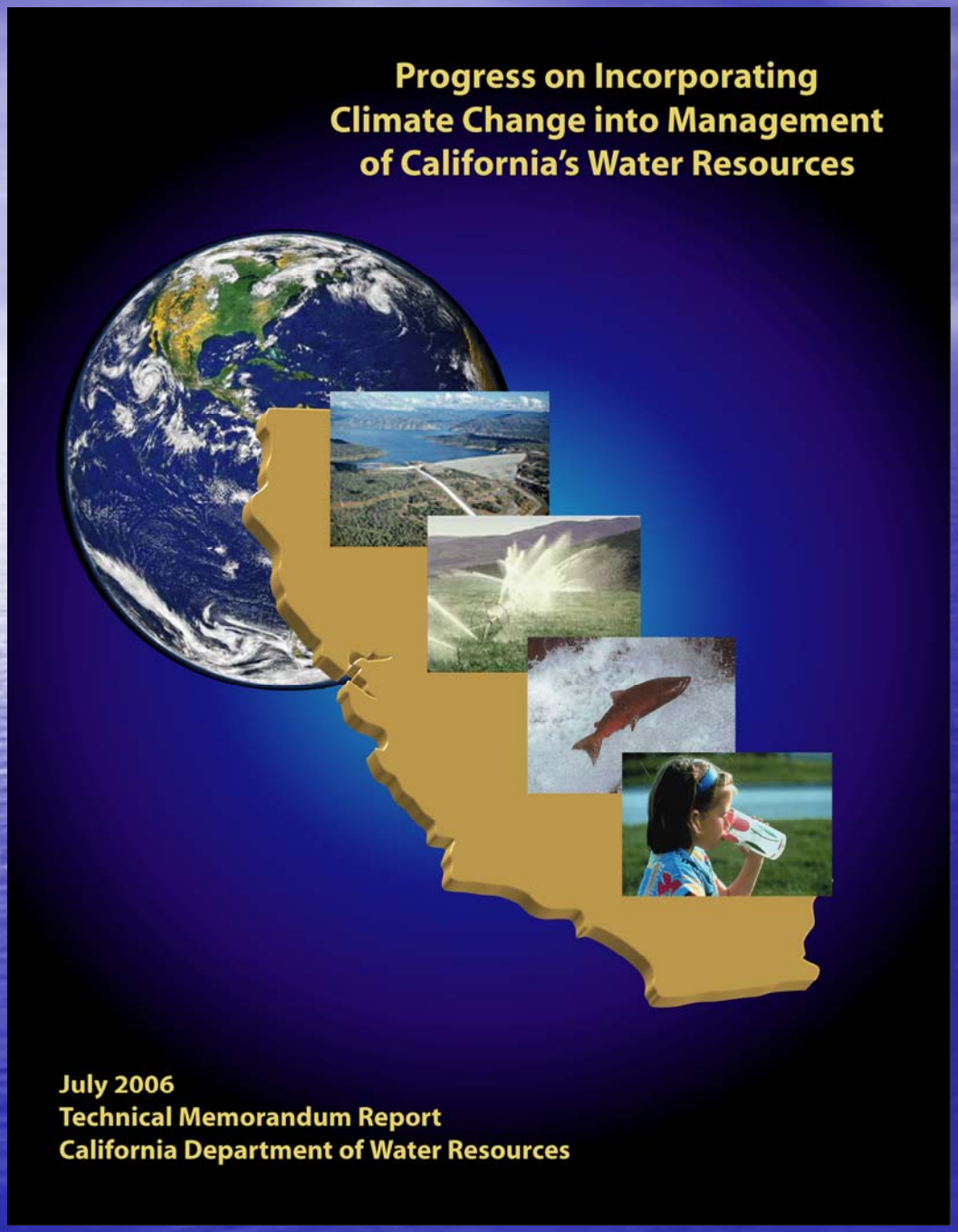
California Climate Change: A Historical Perspective

Michael Anderson, Ph.D., P.E.
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management



CH1 Introduction

CH2 Background

CH3 DWR Studies

CH4 SWP-CVP Impacts

CH5 Delta Impacts

CH6 Flood Management

CH7 Evapotranspiration

CH8 Future Directions

Peer reviewed chapters

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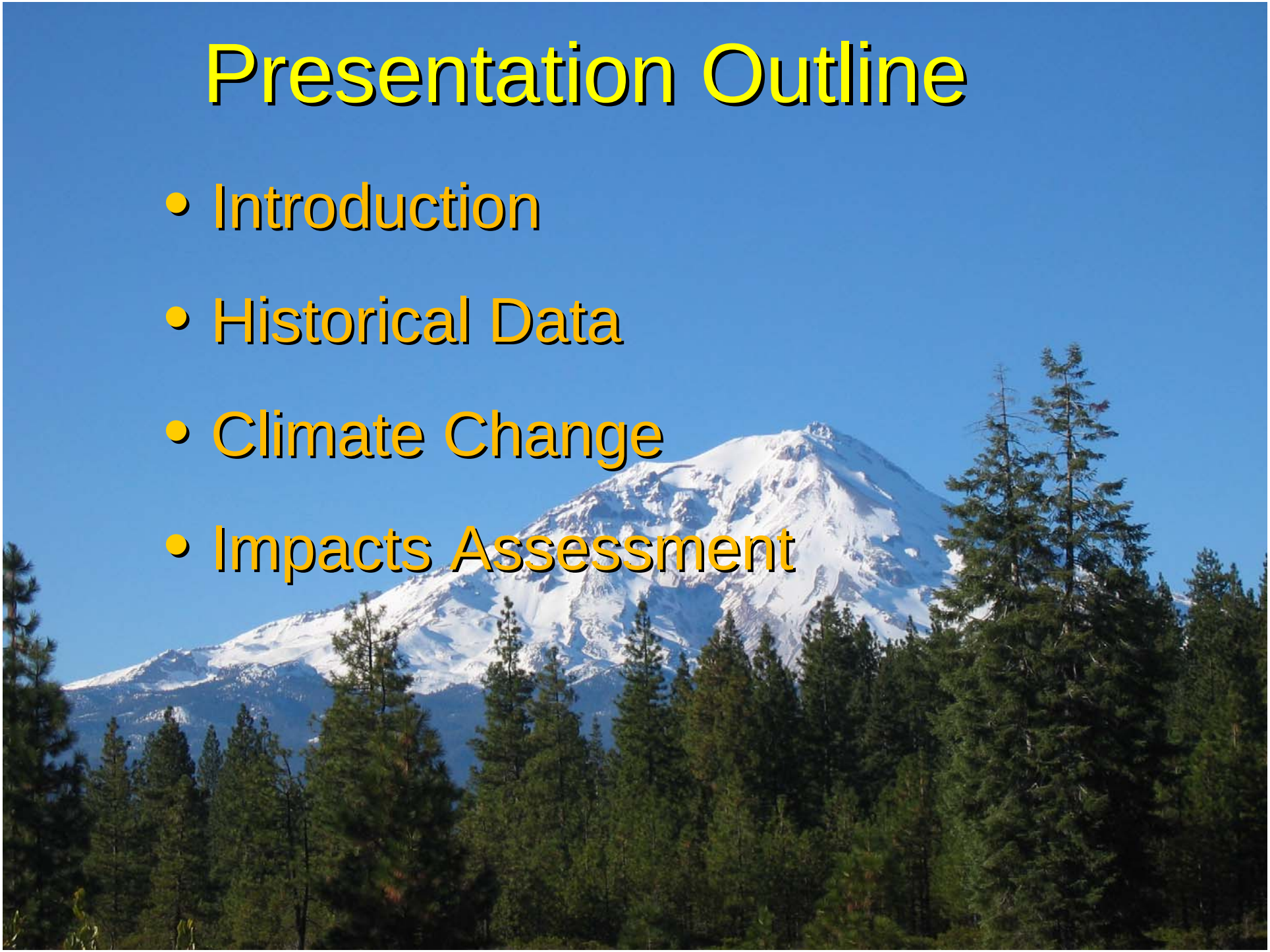
Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Historical Data
- Climate Change
- Impacts Assessment



Introduction

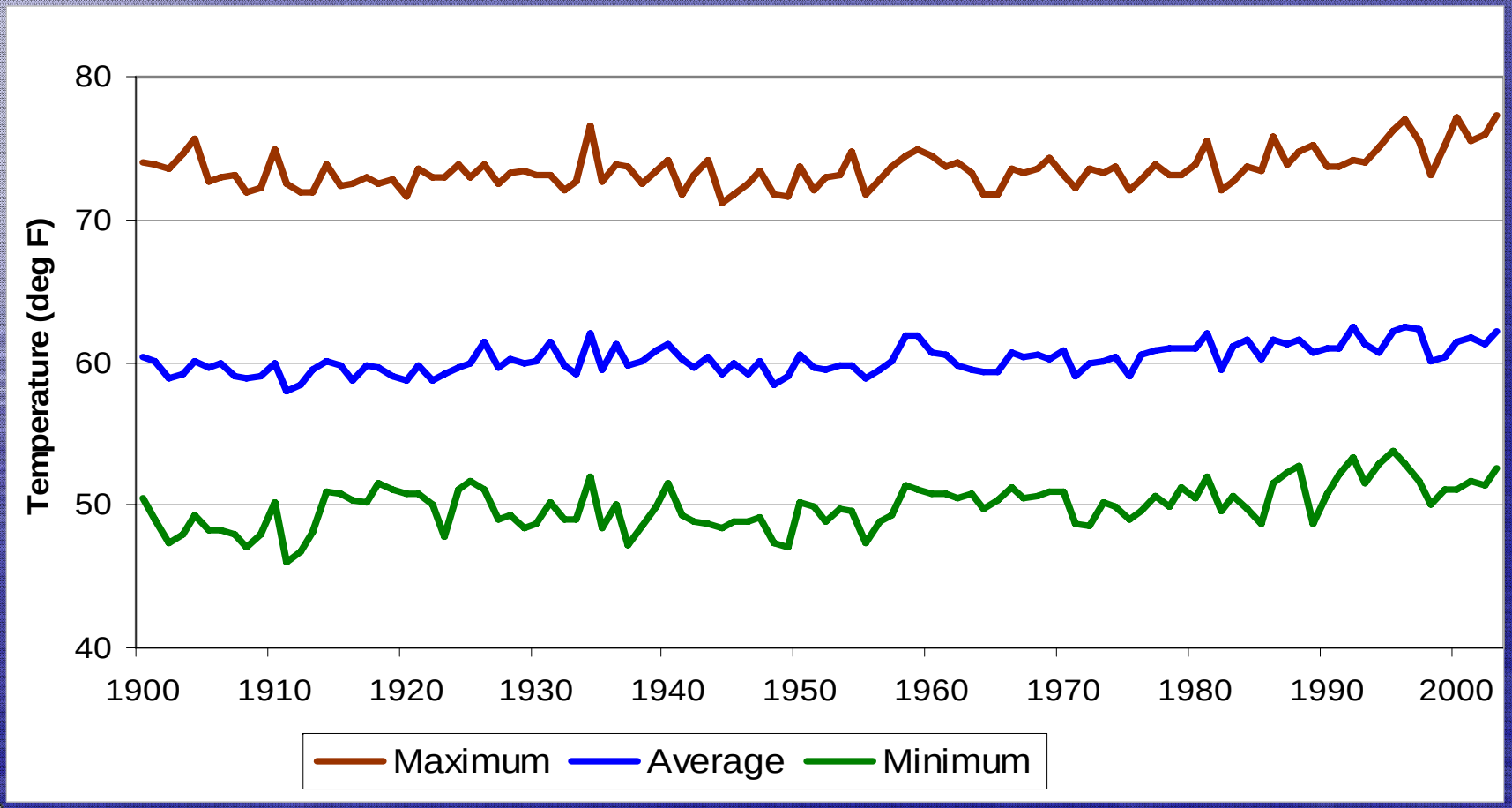
- Climate vs. Weather – “Climate is what you expect and weather is what you get” Mark Twain
- Global Climate Models aim to predict climate not weather
- Individual weather events may vary greatly for a given climate

Introduction

- Looking back to frame a look ahead
- Examine historical record for trends and variability
  - Temperature
  - Precipitation
  - Runoff
  - Flood Peaks
  - Sea Level Rise
- How does variability compare to trends?

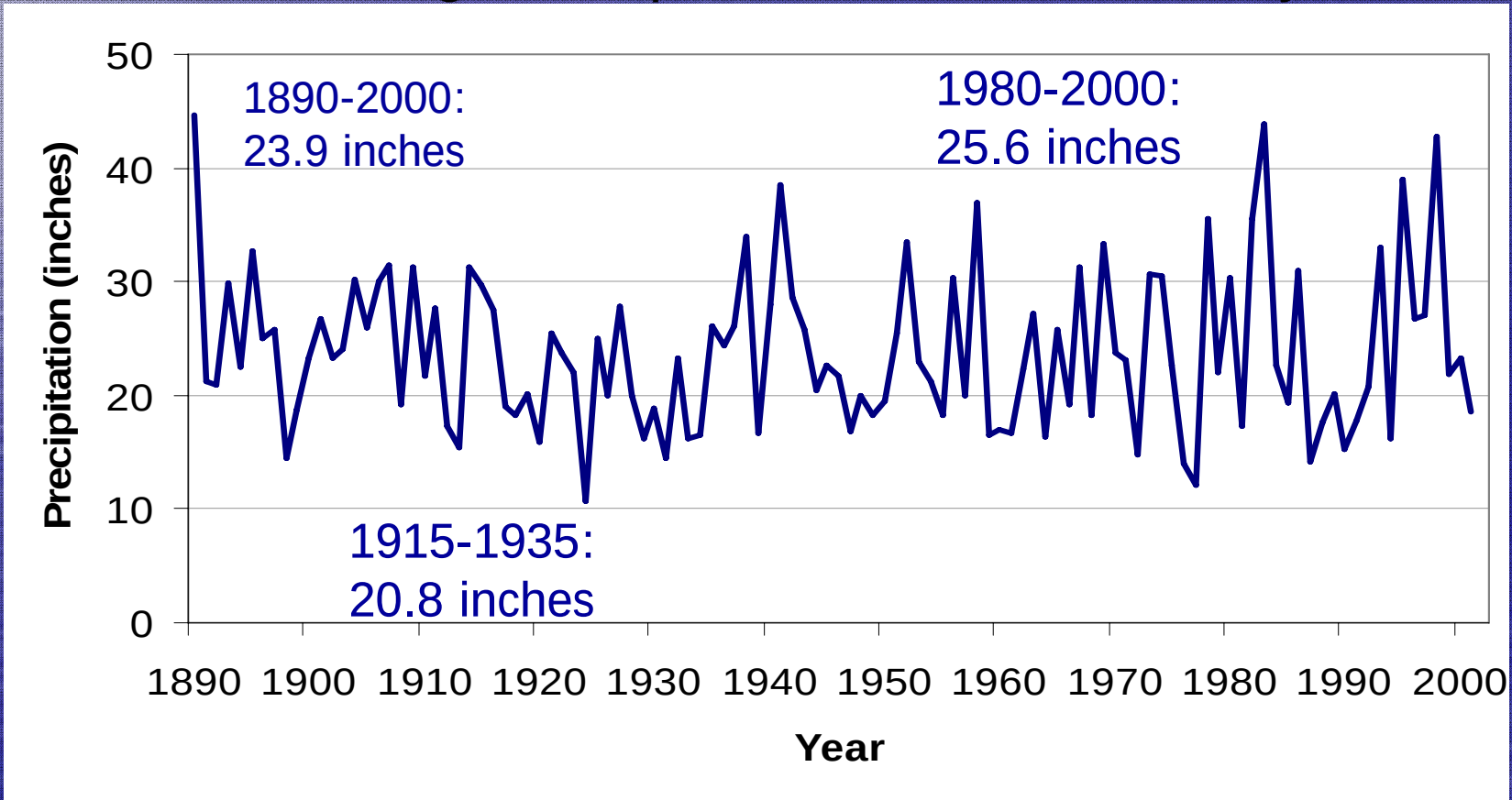
Historical Temperature

- Statewide average observed warming of about 0.5 °C (1 °F)



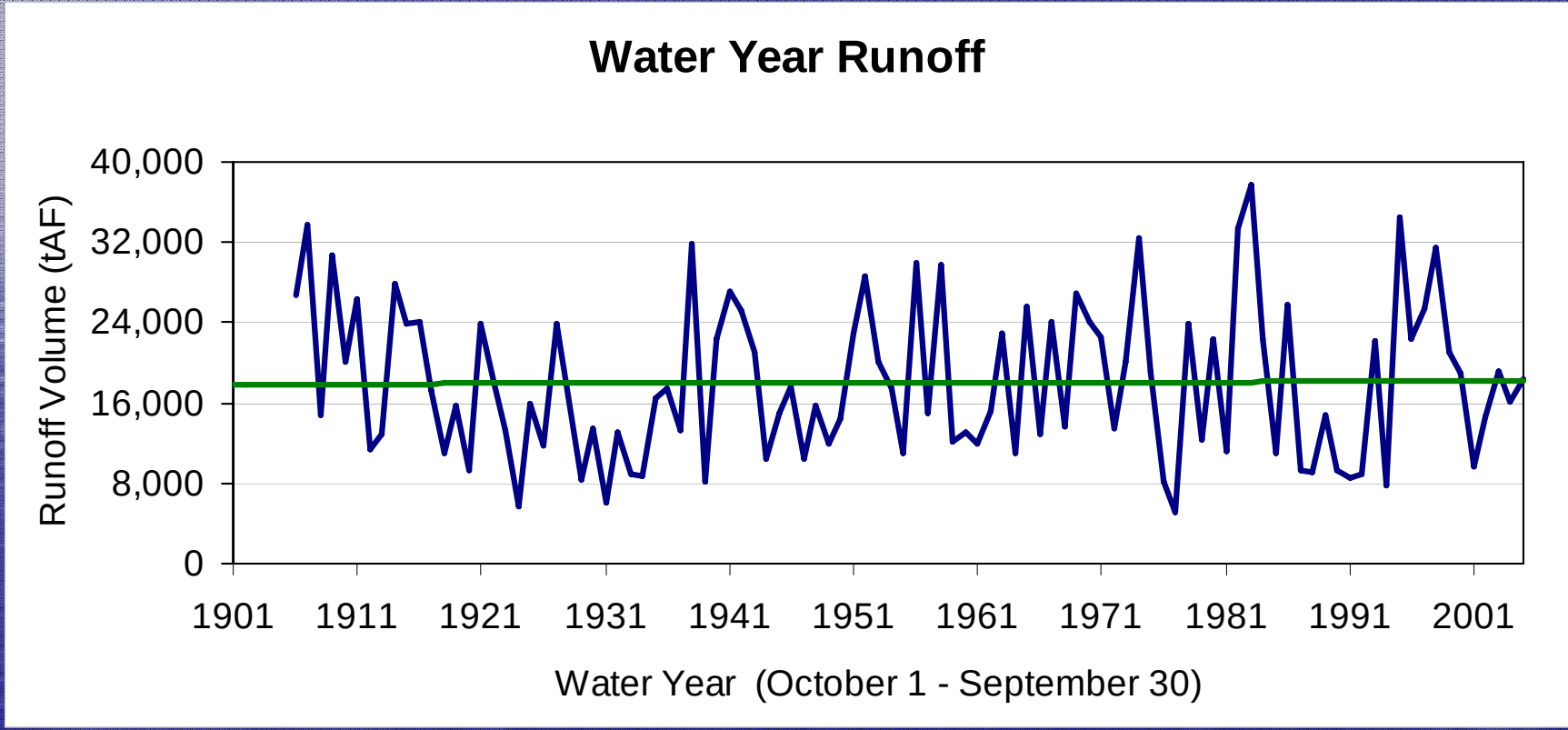
Historical Precipitation

- Statewide Average Precipitation: Lots of variability, no trend



Historical Runoff Timing

Sacramento River System



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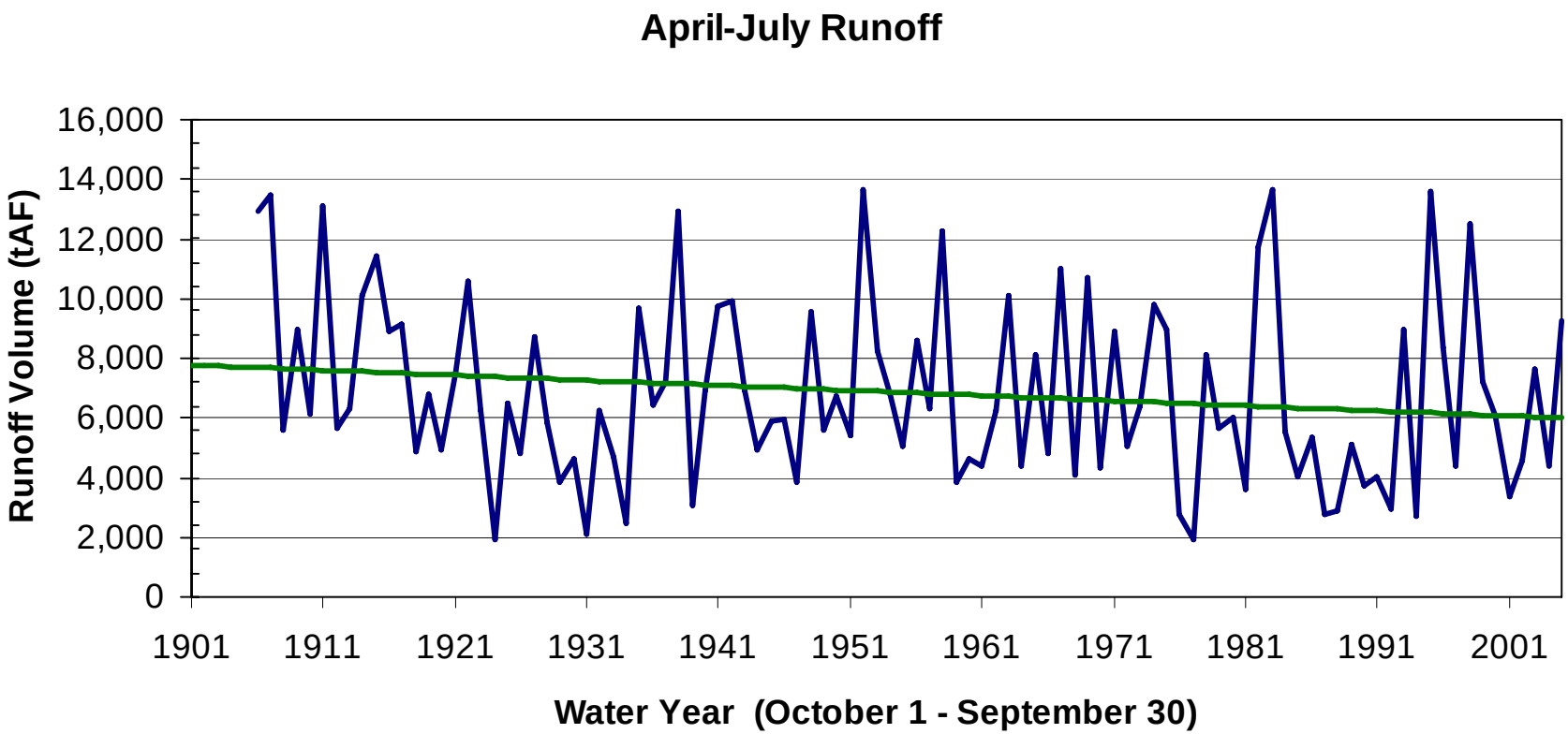
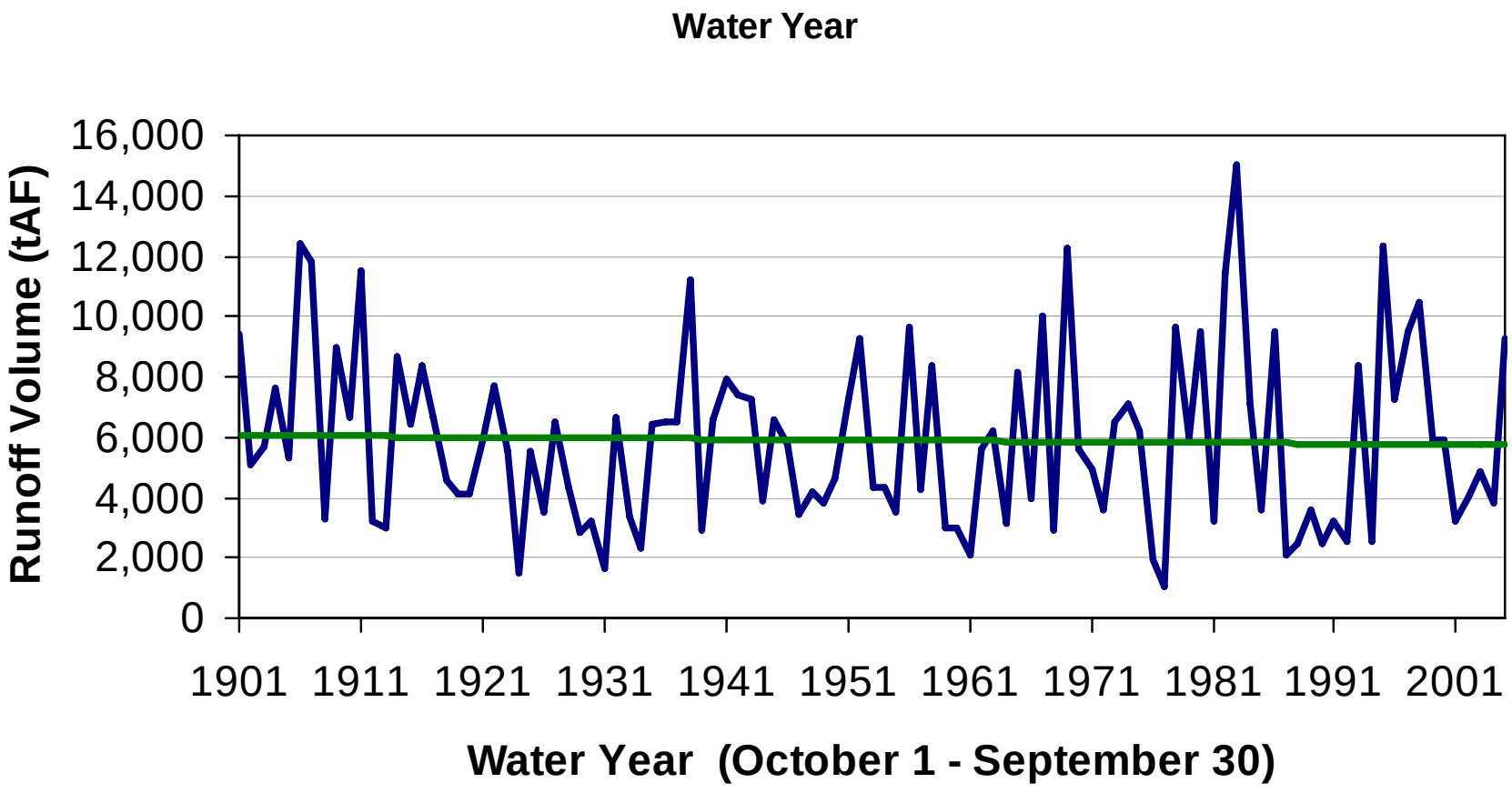


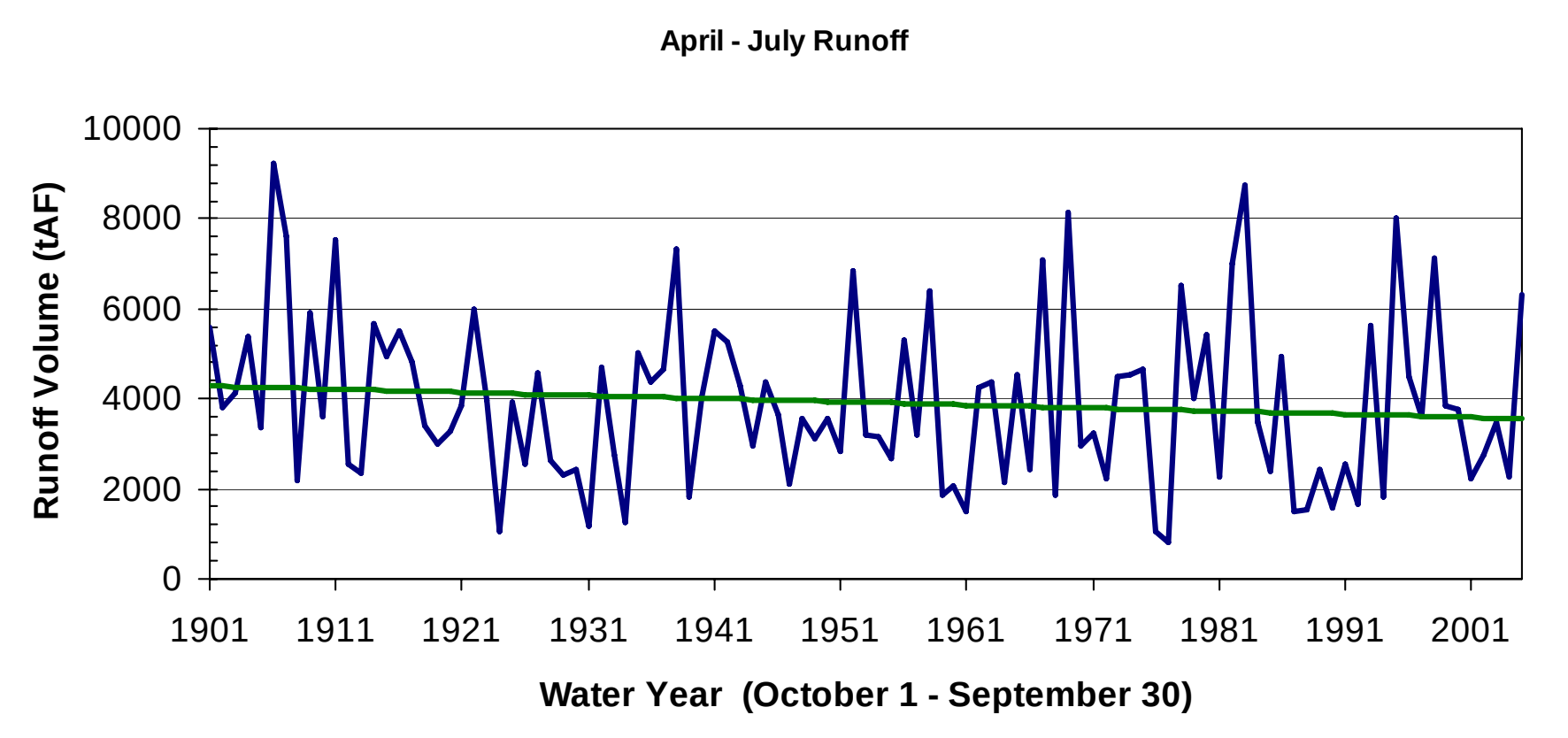
Historical Runoff Timing

San Joaquin River System



Historical Runoff Timing

San Joaquin River System



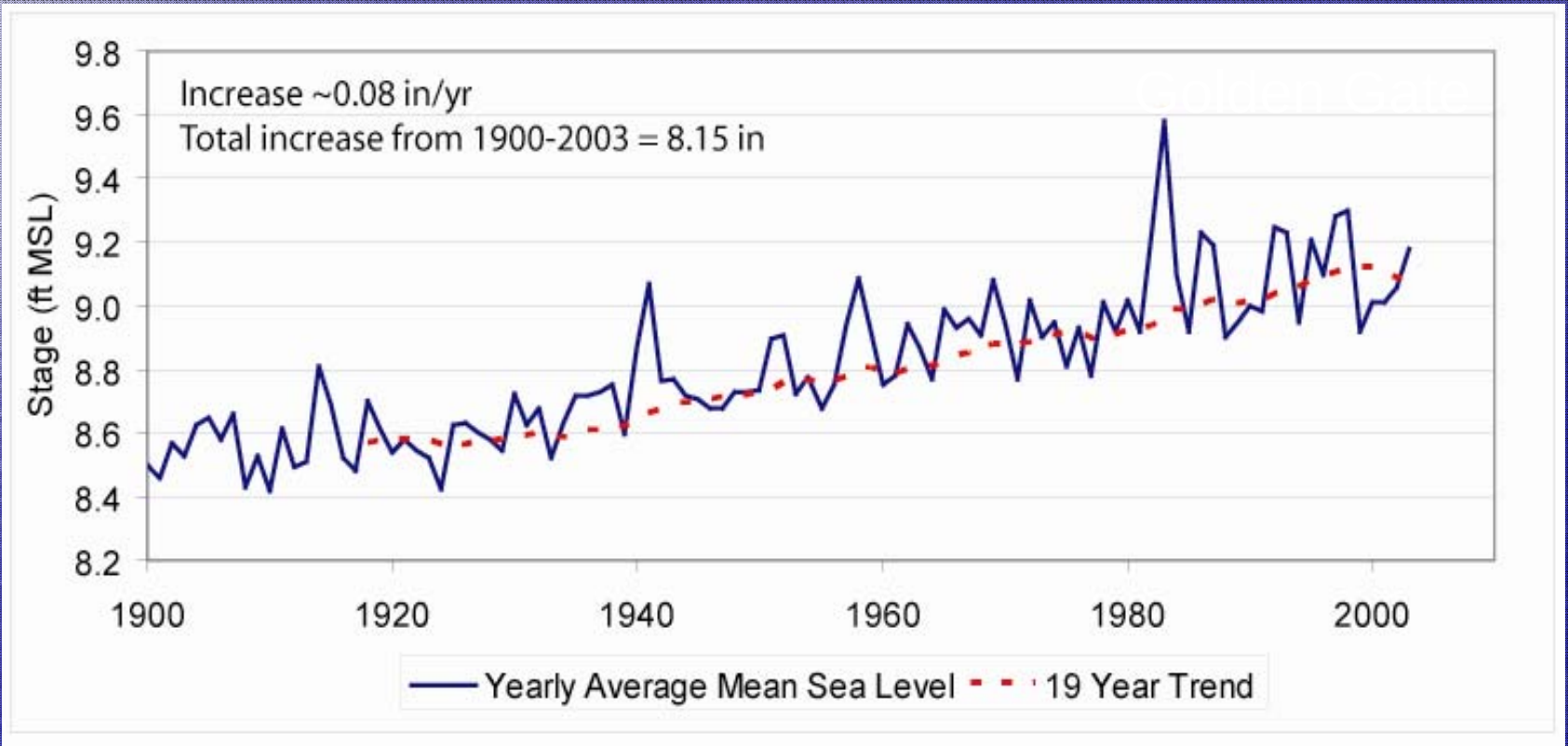
Changes in Annual Peak Runoff

Pre/Post 1955	Feather	Tuolumne	Eel
Mean	42/52	12/17	93/123
Standard Deviation	33/50	11/19	48/84
Range	145/232	52/91	165/489

Values in 1000 cfs for annual peaks of 3-day average flows
1904-2004 data used for analysis
Range is maximum-minimum values for time period

Sea Level Rise

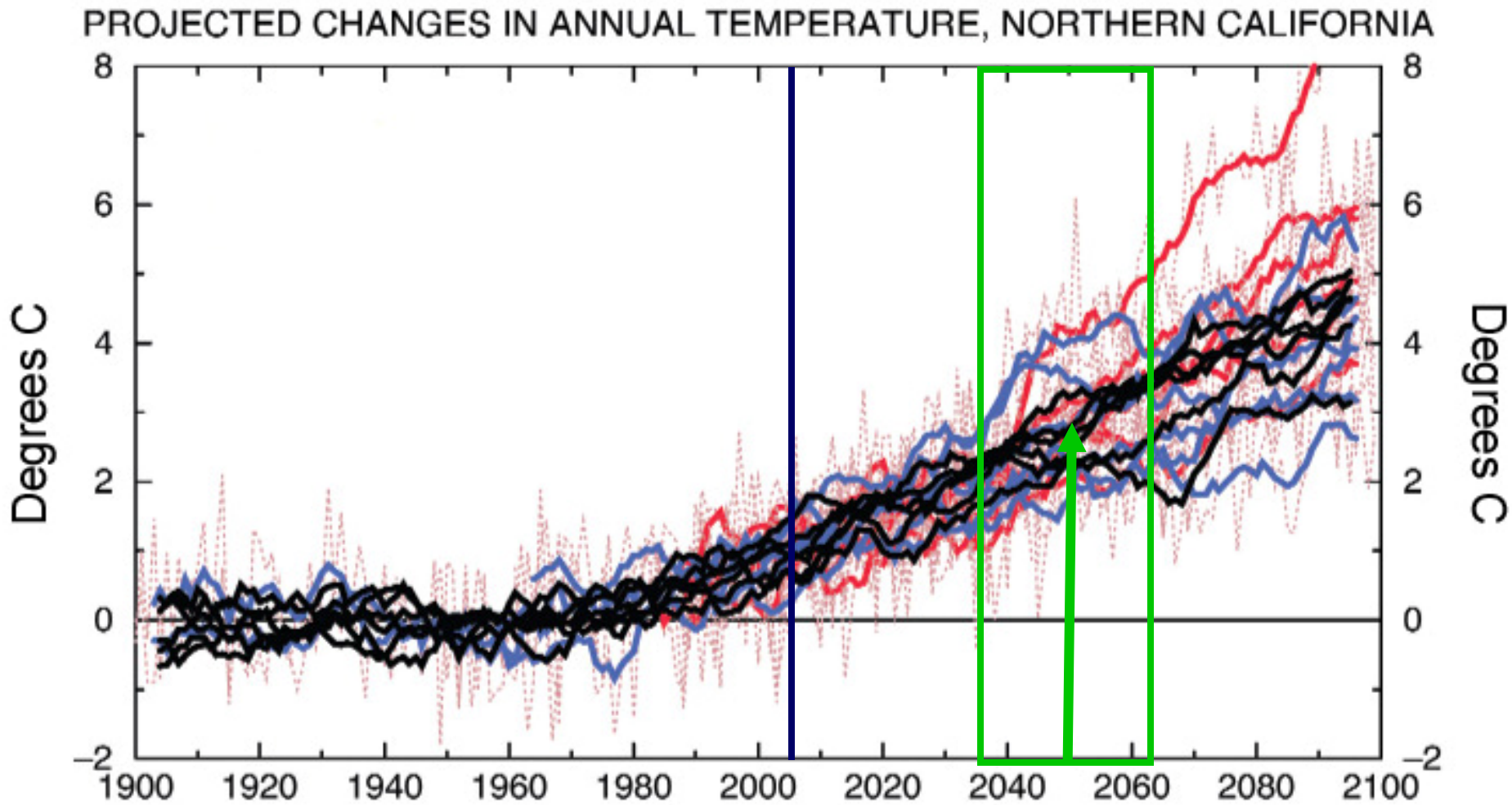
Golden Gate



A look ahead…

Climate change model information
from Global Climate Models

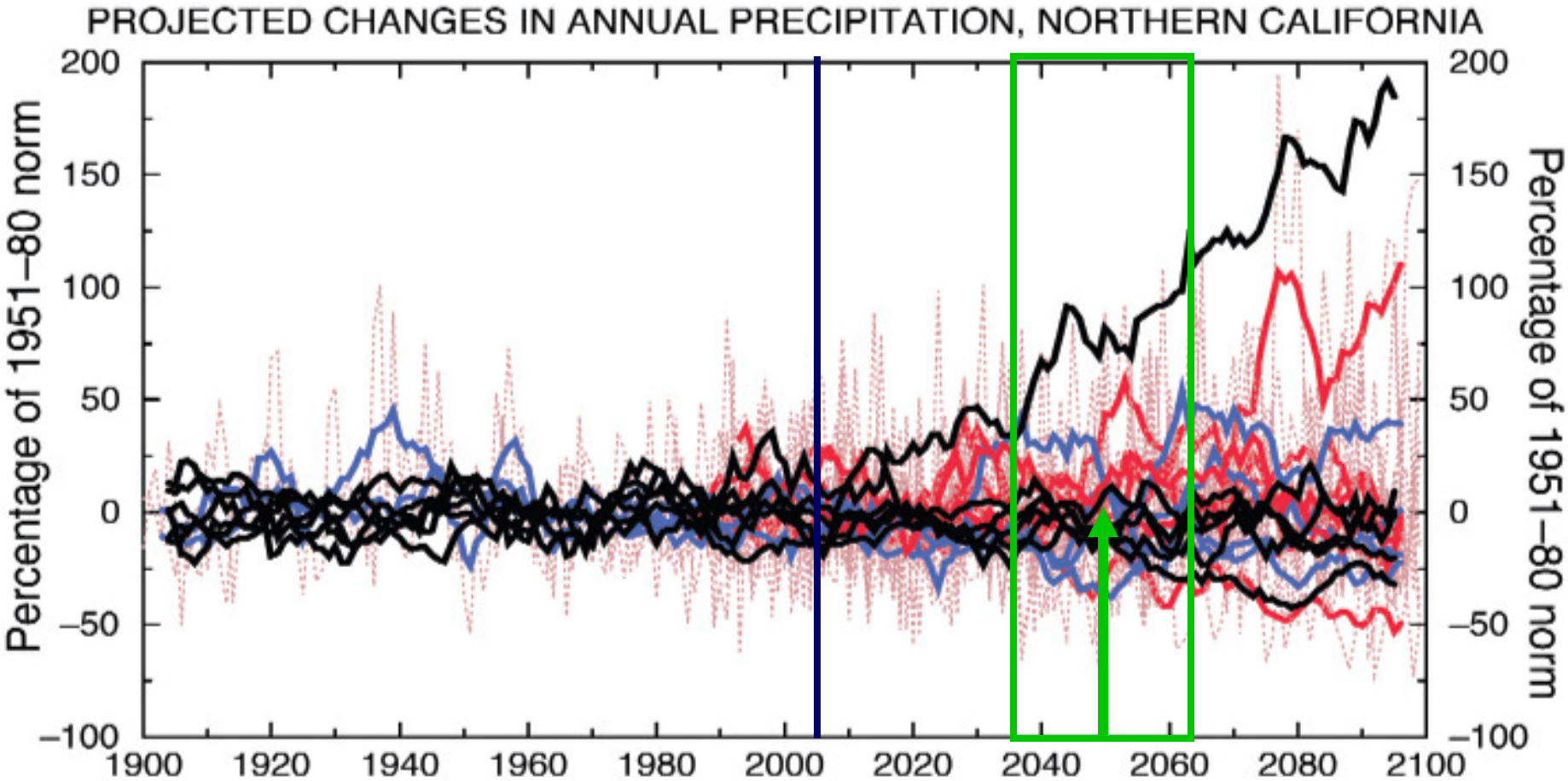
Projected Changes Temperature



Some Uncertainty

From Dettinger, 2005

Projected Changes Precipitation

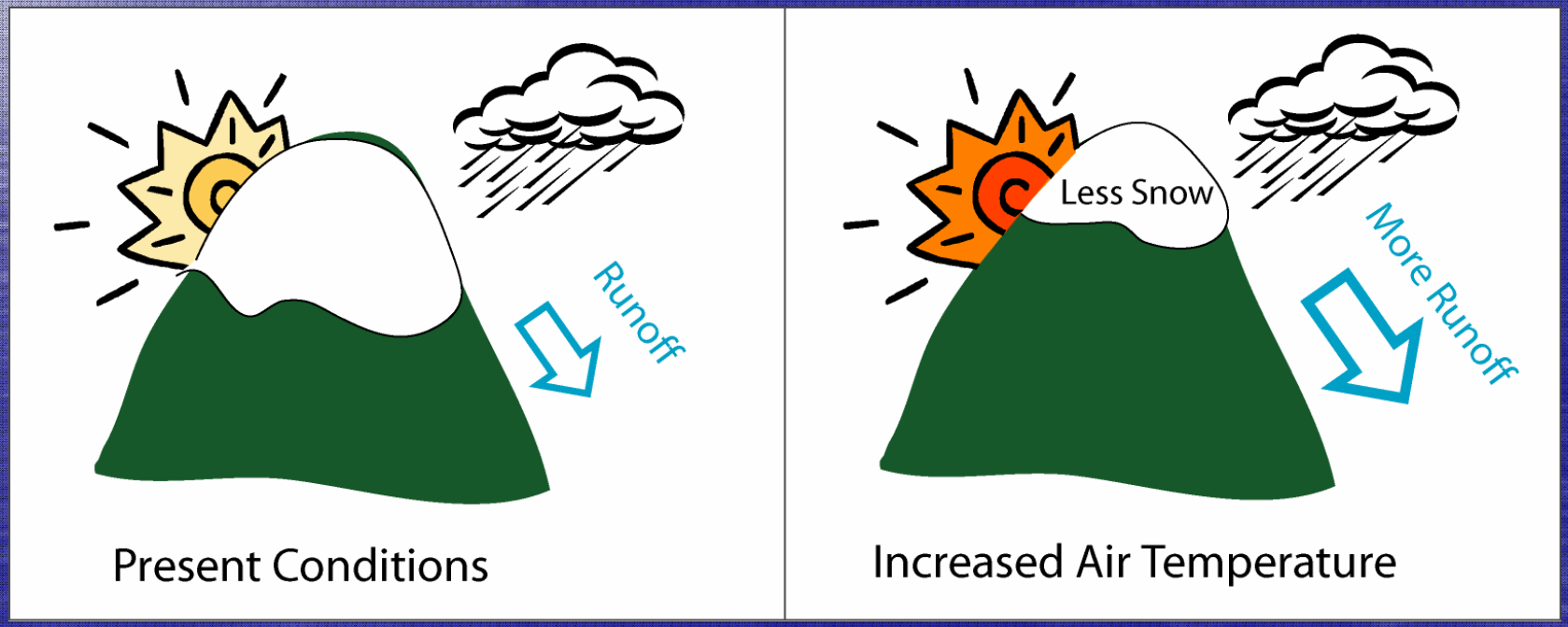


Lots of Uncertainty !

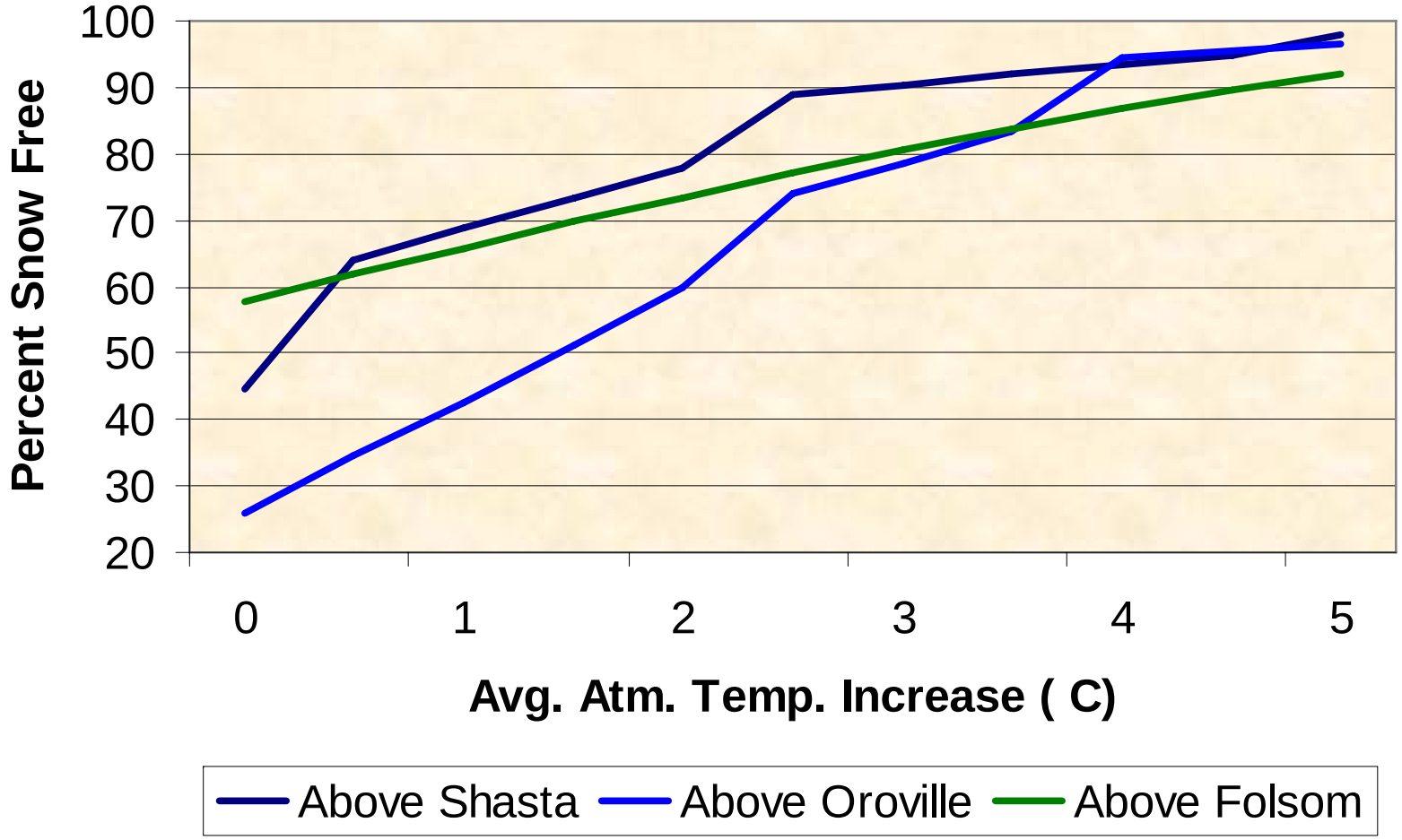
From Dettinger, 2005

Impacts Assessment - Hydrology

- Examine possible impacts of increases in mean atmospheric temperature of 1-5° C
- Assume snowpack retreats at 500 feet per 1° C

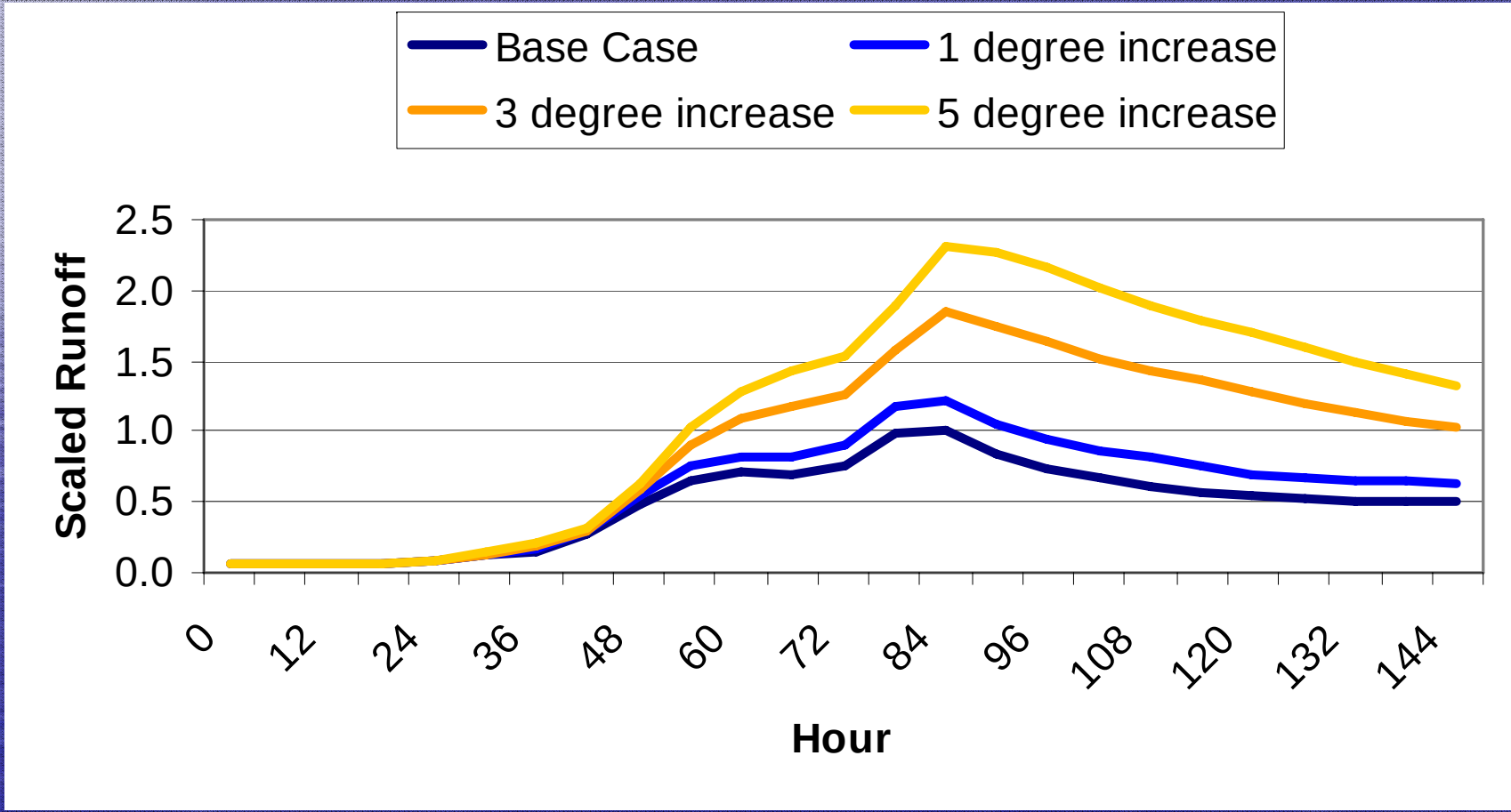


Snowpack Reduction Impacts



Storm Runoff Impacts

- Higher snow levels yield more direct runoff per storm



Impacts Assessments

- Initial Assessments
  - CVP/SWP Operations – Dan Easton (DWR)
  - Delta Issues – Jamie Anderson (DWR)
- Ensemble Methods – The next step
  - CVP/SWP Operations Impacts with Ensemble Analysis – Levi Brekke (USBR)
  - Weighted Estimation of Projection Distributions – Levi Brekke (USBR)

Questions ?

Web Page: http://www.climate.water.ca.gov
Email: climate@water.ca.gov