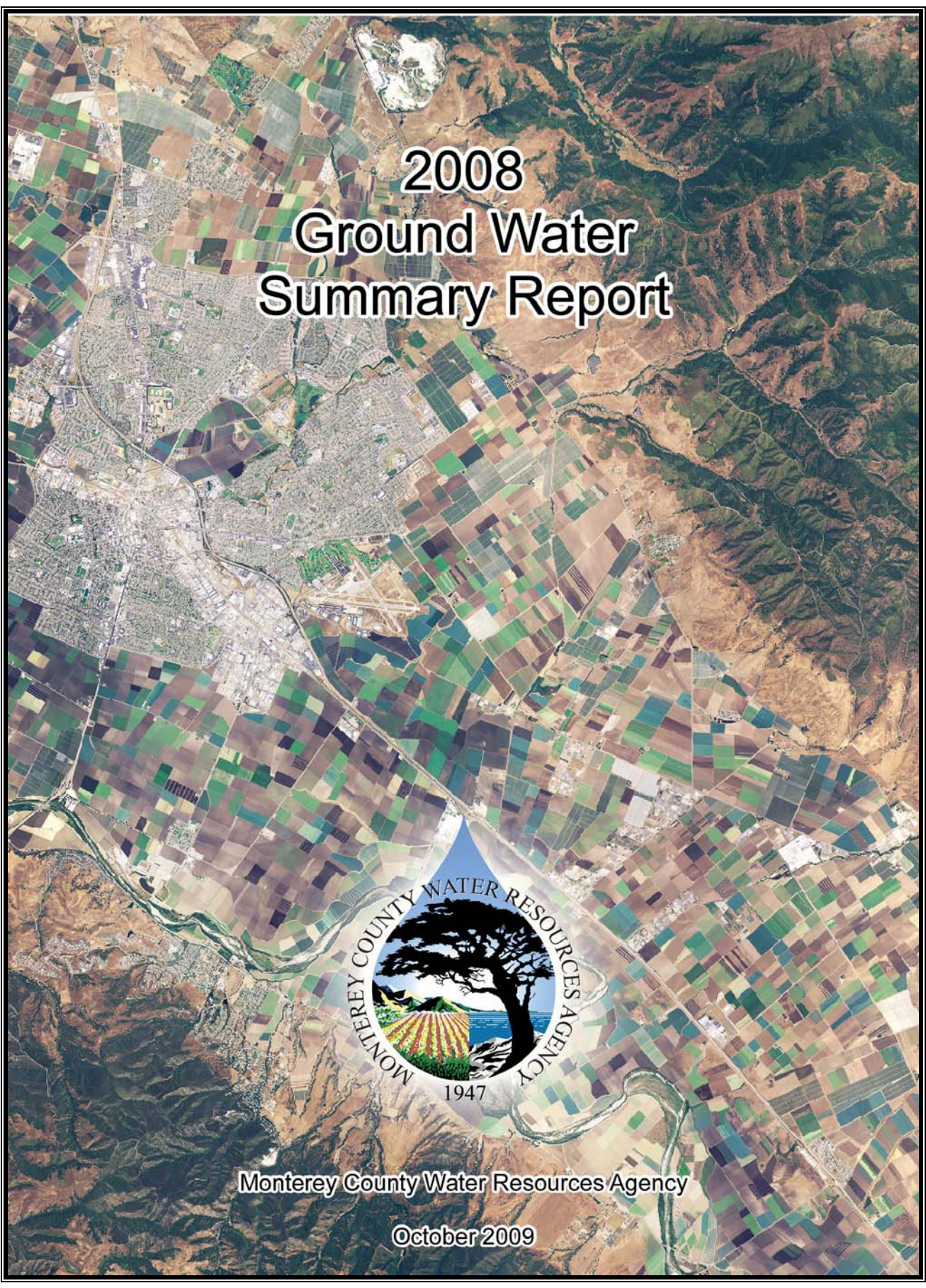


An aerial photograph of a landscape featuring a patchwork of agricultural fields in various shades of green, brown, and purple. A city is visible in the center-left, and rugged mountains are in the background. The title text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

2008 Ground Water Summary Report



Monterey County Water Resources Agency

October 2009

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Overview of the Ground Water Reporting Program

History of the Ground Water Reporting Program

In February 1993, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 3663 that required water suppliers within Zones 2, 2A, and 2B to report water-use information for ground water extraction facilities (wells) and service connections to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency). Monterey County Ordinance No. 3717, which replaced Ordinance No. 3663 and was adopted in October 1993, modified certain other requirements in the previous ordinance while keeping the ground water extraction reporting requirements in place for wells with a discharge pipe having an inside diameter of at least three inches.

The Agency has collected ground water extraction data from well operators, for the period beginning November 1 and ending October 31, starting with the 1992-1993 reporting year. Information received from the 300-plus well operators in the above-referenced zones of the Salinas Valley is compiled by the Ground Water Extraction Management System (GEMS) portion of the Water Resources Agency Information Management System (WRAIMS), a relational database maintained by the Agency. The intent of the ground water reporting program is to provide documentation of the reported amount of ground water that is extracted from Zones 2, 2A, and 2B of the Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin each year.

Since 1991, the Agency has required the annual submittal of Agricultural Water Conservation Plans (Ordinance 3851), which outline the best management practices that are adopted each year by growers in the Salinas Valley. In 1996, an ordinance was passed that requires the filing of Urban Water Conservation Plans (Ordinance 3886). Developed as the urban counterpart of the agricultural water conservation plans, this program provides an overview of the best management practices being implemented by urban water purveyors as conservation measures.

2008 Ground Water Summary Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the data submitted to the Agency by well operators in February 2009 from the following annual reports:

- Ground Water Extraction Reports (agricultural and urban)
- Water Conservation Plans (agricultural and urban)
- Water and Land Use Forms (agricultural)

The agricultural data from the ground water extraction program covers the reporting year of November 1, 2007, through October 31, 2008; the urban data covers calendar year 2008. The agricultural and urban water conservation plans adopted for 2009 are also summarized. This report is intended to present a synopsis of current water extraction within the Salinas Valley, including agricultural and urban water conservation improvements that are being implemented to reduce the total amount of water pumped. It is not the purpose of this report to thoroughly analyze the factors that contribute to increases or decreases in pumping.

Reporting Methods

The Ground Water Conservation and Extraction Program provides well operators with a choice of three different reporting methods for each of their wells: Water Flowmeter, Electrical Meter, or Hour Meter (timer). The summary of ground water extractions presented in this report is compiled from data generated by all three reporting methods. Ordinance 3717 requires annual pump efficiency tests and/or meter calibration of each well to ensure the accuracy of the data reported.

Disclaimer

While the Agency has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the data presented in this report, it should be noted that the data is submitted by individual reporting parties and is not verified by Agency staff. In addition, since so many factors can affect the extraction calculations, it is understood that no reporting method is 100 percent accurate. The Agency maintains strict quality assurance in the compilation, standardization, and entry of the data received. The Agency received Ground Water Extraction Reports from ninety-seven percent (97%) of the 1796 wells in the Salinas Valley for the 2008 reporting year. Agricultural and Urban Water Conservation Plan submittals for 2009 were ninety-six percent (96%) and ninety-five percent (95%), respectively.

Reporting Format

Ground water extraction data is presented in this report by measurement in acre-feet. One acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons.

Ground Water Extraction Data Summary

The Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin is divided into four major hydrologic subareas whose boundaries are derived from discernible changes in the hydrogeologic conditions of the underground aquifers. Figure 1 (below) illustrates the Agency-designated Zones of the Salinas Valley in relation to the hydrologic subareas.

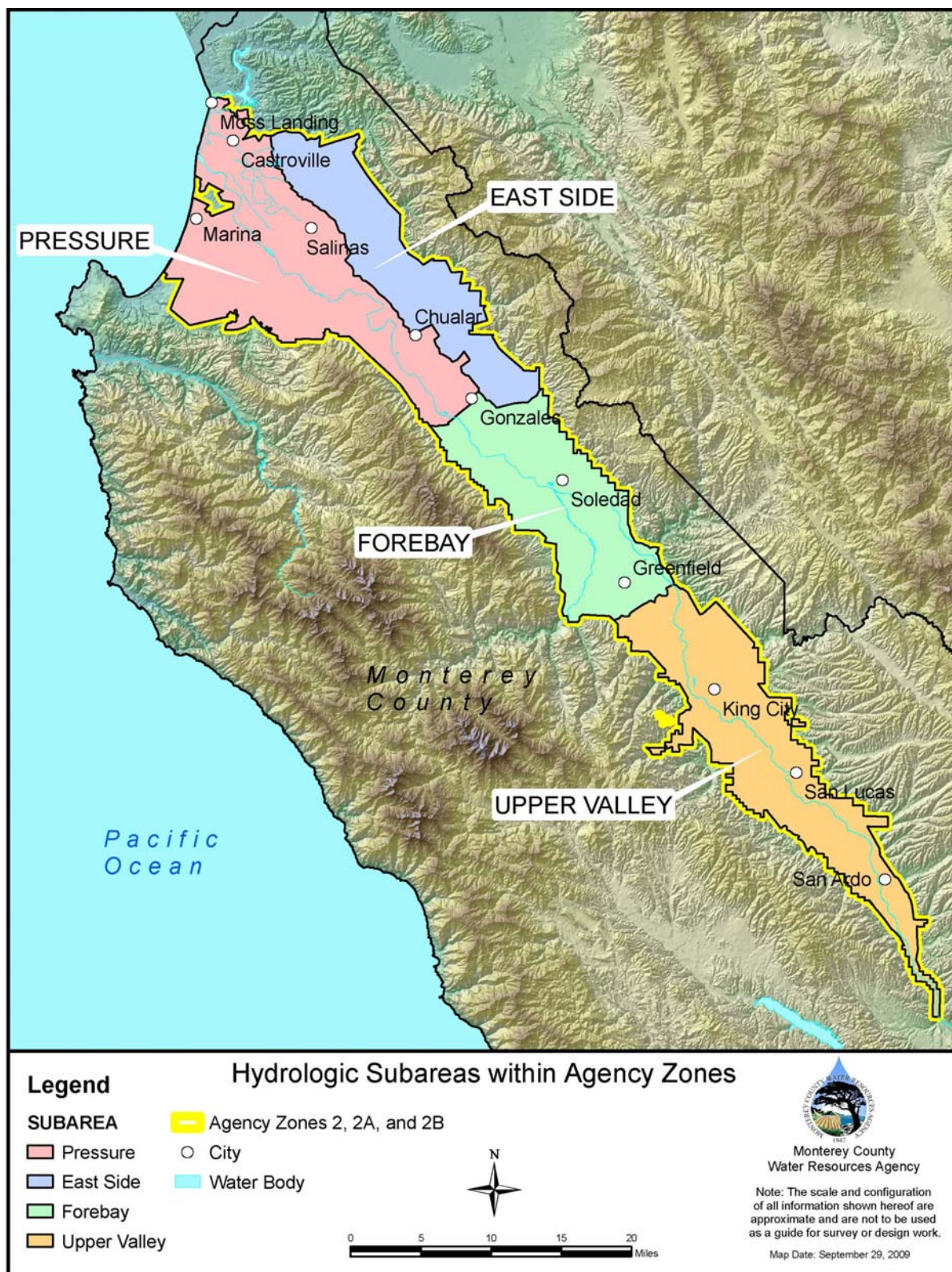


Figure 1. Agency Zones and hydrologic subareas of the Salinas Valley Ground Water Basin

Ground Water Extraction Data Summary (continued)

Summary of Methods Used for Extraction Reporting

The distribution of methods used for ground water extraction reporting (agricultural and urban) for the 2008 reporting year is shown in Table 1; a percentage distribution by volume is shown in Figure 2.

Table 1. Total extraction data by reporting method

<i>Reporting Method</i>	<i>Acre-Feet per Reporting Method</i>	<i>Wells per Reporting Method</i>
Water Flowmeter	380,000	1,327
Electrical Meter	135,845	403
Hour Meter	11,326	20
Total (2008)	527,171	1,750
Average ('99-'08)	499,001	1,669

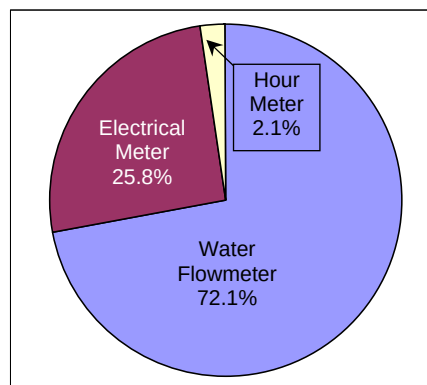


Figure 2. Percentage distribution by volume of methods used for extraction reporting

Total Extraction Data by Hydrologic Subarea and Type of Use

The total ground water extractions for the 2008 reporting year are summarized by hydrologic subarea, type of use (agricultural and urban in Table 2), and percentage (Figure 3).

Table 2. Total extraction data by hydrologic subarea and type of use

<i>Subarea</i>	<i>Agricultural Pumping (acre-feet)</i>	<i>Urban Pumping (acre-feet)</i>	<i>Total Pumping (acre-feet)</i>
Pressure	108,335	21,804	130,139
East Side	93,283	15,413	108,696
Forebay	149,565	8,657	158,222
Upper Valley	125,941	4,173	130,114
Total	477,124	50,047	527,171
Percent of Total	90.5%	9.5%	100%

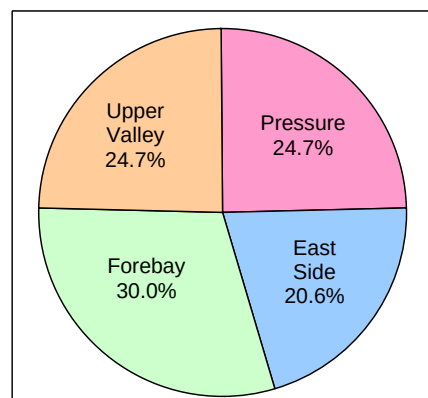


Figure 3. Percentage of total extractions by hydrologic subarea

Urban Extraction Data by City or Area

The total ground water extractions attributed to urban (residential, commercial/institutional, industrial, and governmental) pumping for the 2008 reporting year are summarized by city or area in Table 3. Figure 4 shows how the total urban pumping for 2008 is apportioned among each city or area.

Table 3. Urban extraction data by city or area

<i>City or Area</i>	<i>Urban Pumping (AF)</i>	<i>Percentage of Total</i>
Castroville	806	1.6%
Chualar	126	0.3%
Former Fort Ord	2,980	6.0%
Gonzales	1,541	3.1%
Greenfield	2,504	5.0%
King City	2,809	5.6%
Marina Coast WD	1,856	3.7%
Other Areas	9,228	18.4%
Salinas	22,988	45.9%
San Ardo	135	0.3%
San Lucas	45	0.1%
Soledad	2,554	5.1%
Soledad Prisons	2,475	4.9%
Total	50,047	100.0%

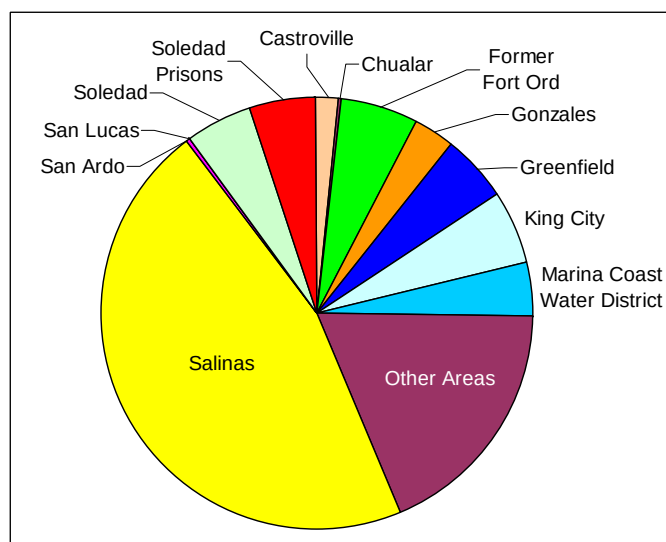


Figure 4. Distribution of urban extraction by city or area

Agricultural Water Conservation Plans

The Agricultural Water Conservation Plans include net irrigated acreage, irrigation method, and crop category. This information is forecasted and indicates what the grower plans to do in the upcoming year. It reflects the changing trends in irrigation methods in the Salinas Valley. Tables 4, 5, 6, and 7 show the distribution of irrigation methods by crop type for 1993, 2007, 2008, and 2009, respectively. Figure 5 (on the following page) illustrates the irrigation method trends from 1993 to 2009. Note: Percentage of companies reported varies from year to year.

Table 4. 1993 - net acre distribution of irrigation methods by crop type (based on 94% companies reported)

1993	Furrow	Sprinkler & Furrow	Hand Move Sprinklers	Solid Set Sprinklers	Linear Move	Drip	Other ¹	Total
Vegetables	2,349	84,060	30,764	6,607	3,827	3,682	0	131,289
Field Crops	575	2,173	2,236	90	50	48	0	5,172
Berries	1	0	0	0	0	4,158	0	4,159
Grapes	261	0	0	13,347	0	15,976	0	29,584
Tree Crops	0	0	122	251	0	1,216	10	1,599
Forage	41	202	1,327	0	48	0	189	1,807
Unirrigated ³								N/A
Total	3,227	86,435	34,449	20,295	3,925	25,080	199	173,610

Table 5. 2007 - net acre distribution of irrigation methods by crop type (based on 94% companies reported)

2007	Furrow	Sprinkler & Furrow	Hand Move Sprinklers	Solid Set Sprinklers	Linear Move	Drip	Other ¹	Total
Vegetables	1,043	31,097	23,516	11,017	1,941	52,644	13	121,271
Field Crops	41	277	311	0	0	1,585	78	2,292
Berries	0	0	0	0	0	4,647	0	4,647
Grapes	0	0	0	990	0	33,559	0	34,549
Tree Crops	0	0	2,262	441	0	2,898	0	5,601
Forage	0	45	135	0	0	0	100	280
Other Type ²	18	0	0	512	0	382	174	1,086
Unirrigated ³								1,501
Total	1,102	31,419	26,224	12,960	1,941	95,715	365	171,227

Table 6. 2008 - net acre distribution of irrigation methods by crop type (based on 94% companies reported)

2008	Furrow	Sprinkler & Furrow	Hand Move Sprinklers	Solid Set Sprinklers	Linear Move	Drip	Other ¹	Total
Vegetables	547	31,818	23,616	10,622	1,644	54,577	4	122,828
Field Crops	107	215	341	1,528	0	226	80	2,497
Berries	0	192	276	0	0	4,595	0	5,063
Grapes	0	0	0	659	0	35,805	0	36,464
Tree Crops	0	0	2,807	412	0	2,287	0	5,506
Forage	0	0	320	0	0	0	18	338
Other Type ²	0	0	0	28	0	940	0	968
Unirrigated ³								1,402
Total	654	32,225	27,360	13,249	1,644	98,430	102	175,066

Table 7. 2009 - net acre distribution of irrigation methods by crop type (based on 96% companies reported)

2009	Furrow	Sprinkler & Furrow	Hand Move Sprinklers	Solid Set Sprinklers	Linear Move	Drip	Other ¹	Total
Vegetables	50	33,970	21,921	11,754	927	51,311	0	119,933
Field Crops	75	736	422	100	1,416	502	143	3,394
Berries	0	185	0	0	0	6,209	0	6,394
Grapes	0	0	0	2,045	0	34,056	0	36,101
Tree Crops	0	0	0	366	0	2,018	0	2,384
Forage	18	0	243	10	0	0	92	363
Other Type ²	0	4	0	213	0	936	0	1,152
Unirrigated ³								6,742
Total	143	34,895	22,586	14,488	2,343	95,032	235	176,463

¹ "Other" may include an irrigation system not listed here or a different combination of systems

² "Other Type" are for other crop types not included, i.e. cactus, flower bulbs, etc.

³ "Unirrigated" includes dry farming, summer fallow or 12 month set-aside

Agricultural Water Conservation Plans (continued)

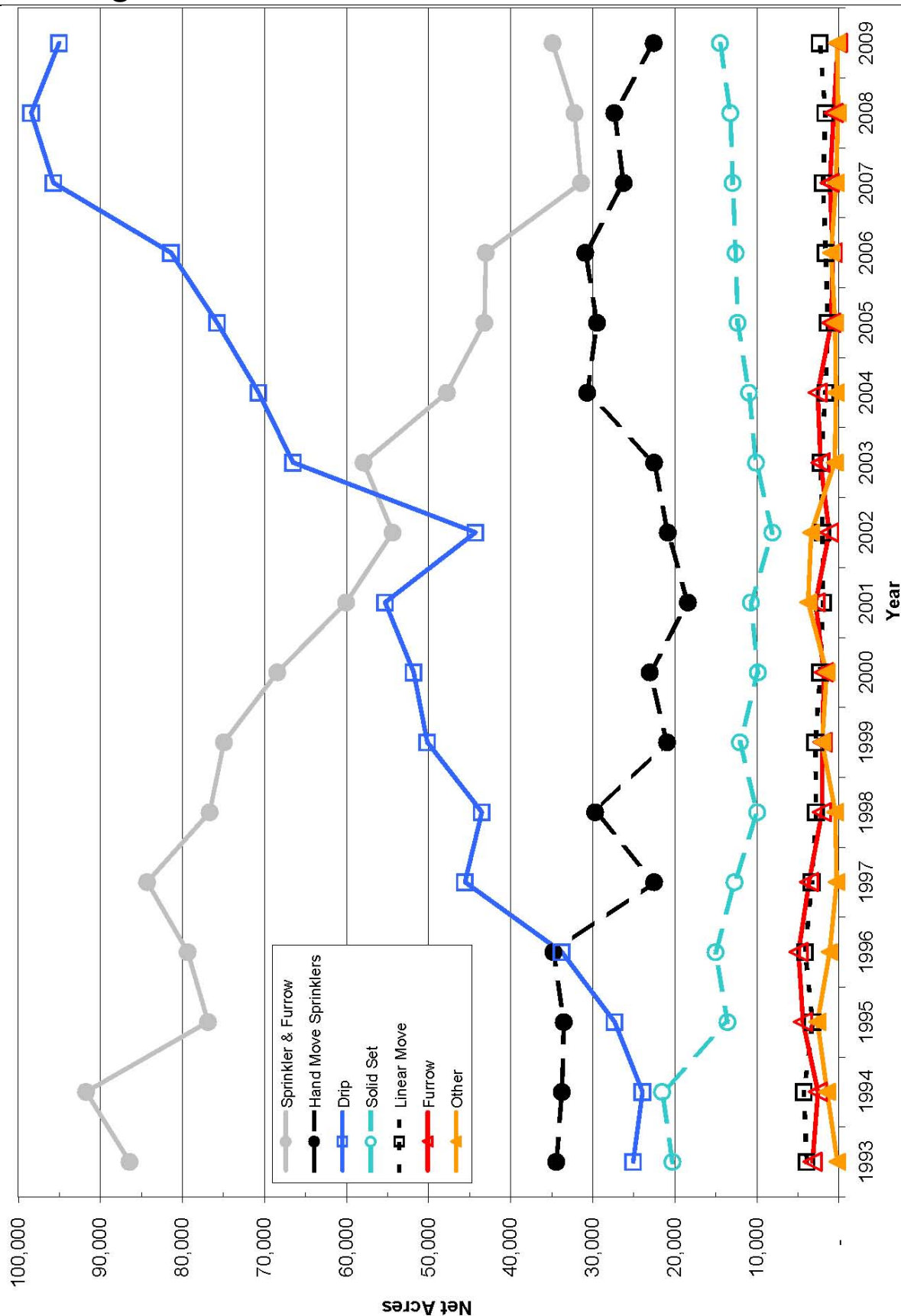


Figure 5. Types of irrigation methods used in the Salinas Valley based on companies reported

NOTE: Reported net acres vary from year to year

Agricultural Water Conservation Plans (continued)

Since 1991, Salinas Valley growers have submitted Agricultural Water Conservation Plans to the Agency. Table 8 shows the number of net acres, by year, for selected Best Management Practices (BMPs) or water conservation measures that were reported to be implemented over the past eight years.

Table 8. Agricultural Best Management Practices reported to be adopted from 2002 through 2009

Best Management Practices	Net Acres ¹							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
12 Months Set Aside	3,940	2,742	6,012	3,337	2,557	2,282	768	9,043
Summer Fallow	2,652	2,278	2,025	2,535	5,797	464	703	509
Water Flowmeters	106,739	124,342	133,349	131,711	133,148	137,701	105,374	124,561
Time Clock/Pressure Switch	116,062	133,405	140,167	138,707	142,184	148,993	117,554	126,694
Soil Moisture Sensors	45,927	50,460	49,328	48,824	50,130	53,269	37,631	32,427
Pre-Irrigation Reduction	80,501	90,878	93,094	88,576	96,082	102,103	73,186	84,693
Reduced Sprinkler Spacing	61,607	76,691	82,292	81,068	87,159	85,105	72,287	83,046
Sprinkler Improvements	85,302	110,194	102,041	105,544	102,642	105,491	89,973	105,495
Off-Wind Irrigation	91,706	111,278	111,862	117,254	113,867	112,952	92,160	107,552
Leakage Reduction	95,217	121,890	118,125	115,117	116,662	117,655	94,694	105,702
Micro Irrigation System	44,078	58,742	62,796	68,861	74,829	77,107	55,749	71,710
Surge Flow Irrigation	7,084	8,538	6,708	7,180	7,117	4,551	4,549	7,182
Tailwater Return System	25,263	23,914	27,653	23,097	23,968	14,410	15,906	10,046
Land Leveling/Grading	56,361	69,420	71,682	69,673	71,873	73,993	60,710	56,482

¹ Due to unique crop rotations, it is difficult to account for each BMP used on total Crop Acres; therefore Net Acres were used.

Note: For Urban Water Conservation Plan information, see page 10.

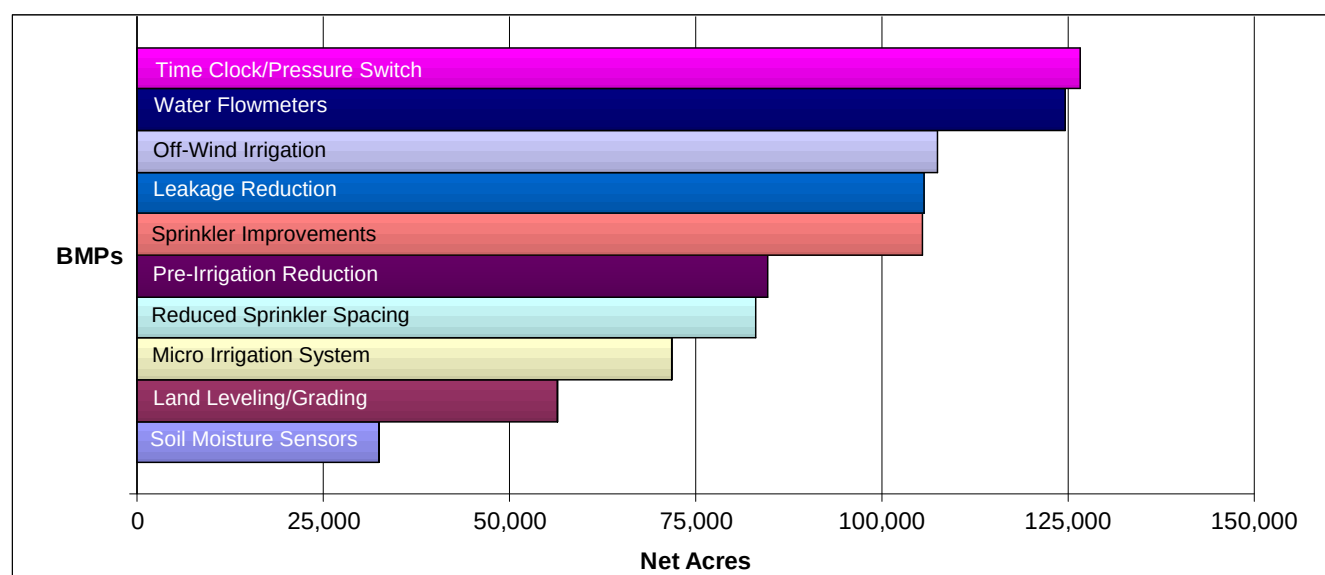


Figure 6. Top ten Best Management Practices forecasted for 2009 based on reported net acres

Water and Land Use Forms

Agricultural Water Pumped

The following three figures present the agricultural water pumped (Fig. 7), irrigated net acres (Fig. 8), and amount of water pumped per acre (Fig. 9) by hydrologic subarea and crop type. The data was compiled using the reported acreage and water pumped from the 2008 Water and Land Use Forms. The data accounts for all crop types reported and all reporting methods: Water Flowmeter, Electrical Meter, and Hour Meter.

Changing weather patterns, variable soils, and crop types affect the amount of water needed for efficient irrigation. Even during a normal rain year, pumping rates will vary from one area to another and crop types will vary depending on economic demand.

Water and Land Use Forms (continued)

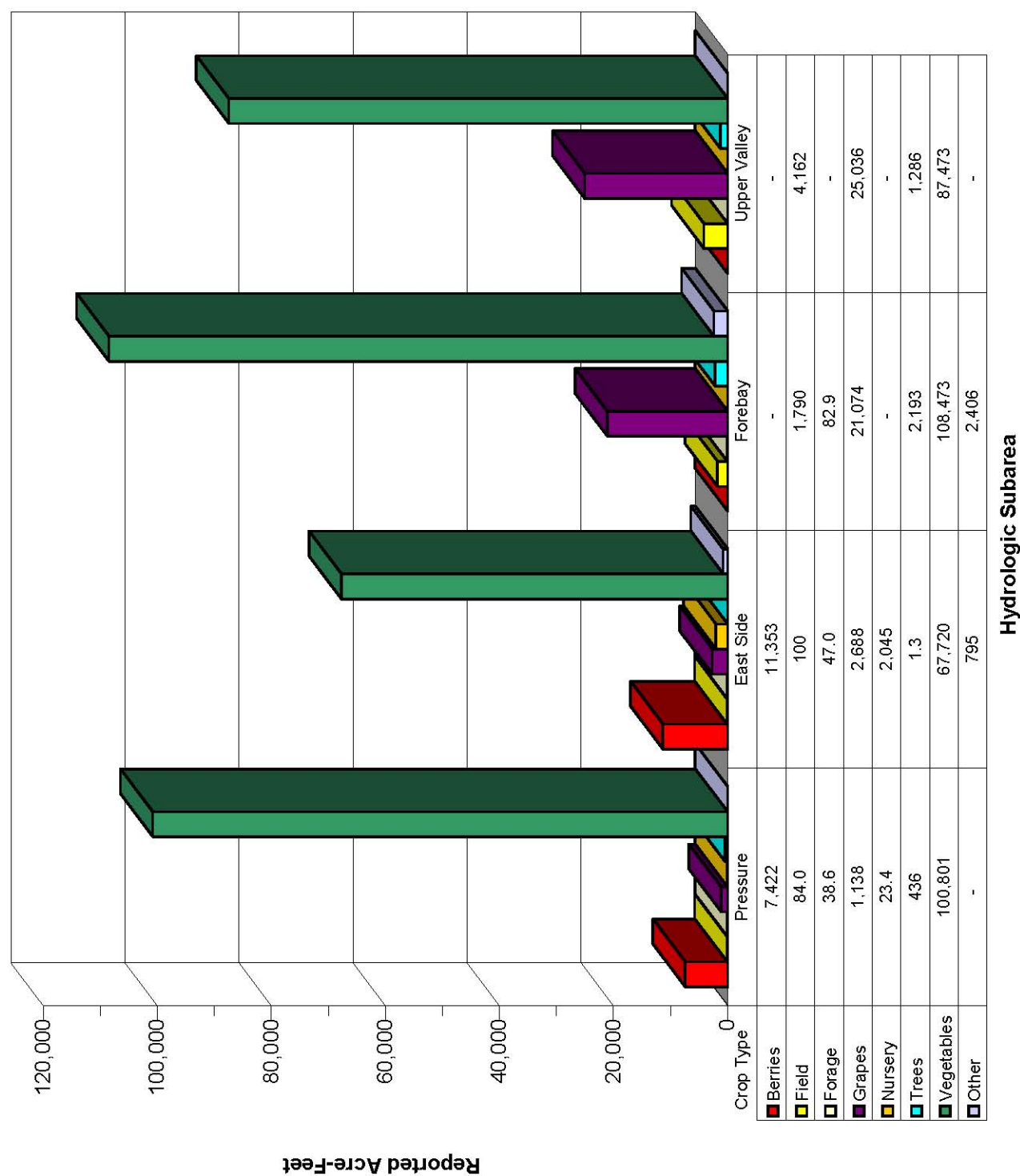


Figure 7. 2008 reported acre-feet by crop type & hydrologic subarea

Water and Land Use Forms (continued)

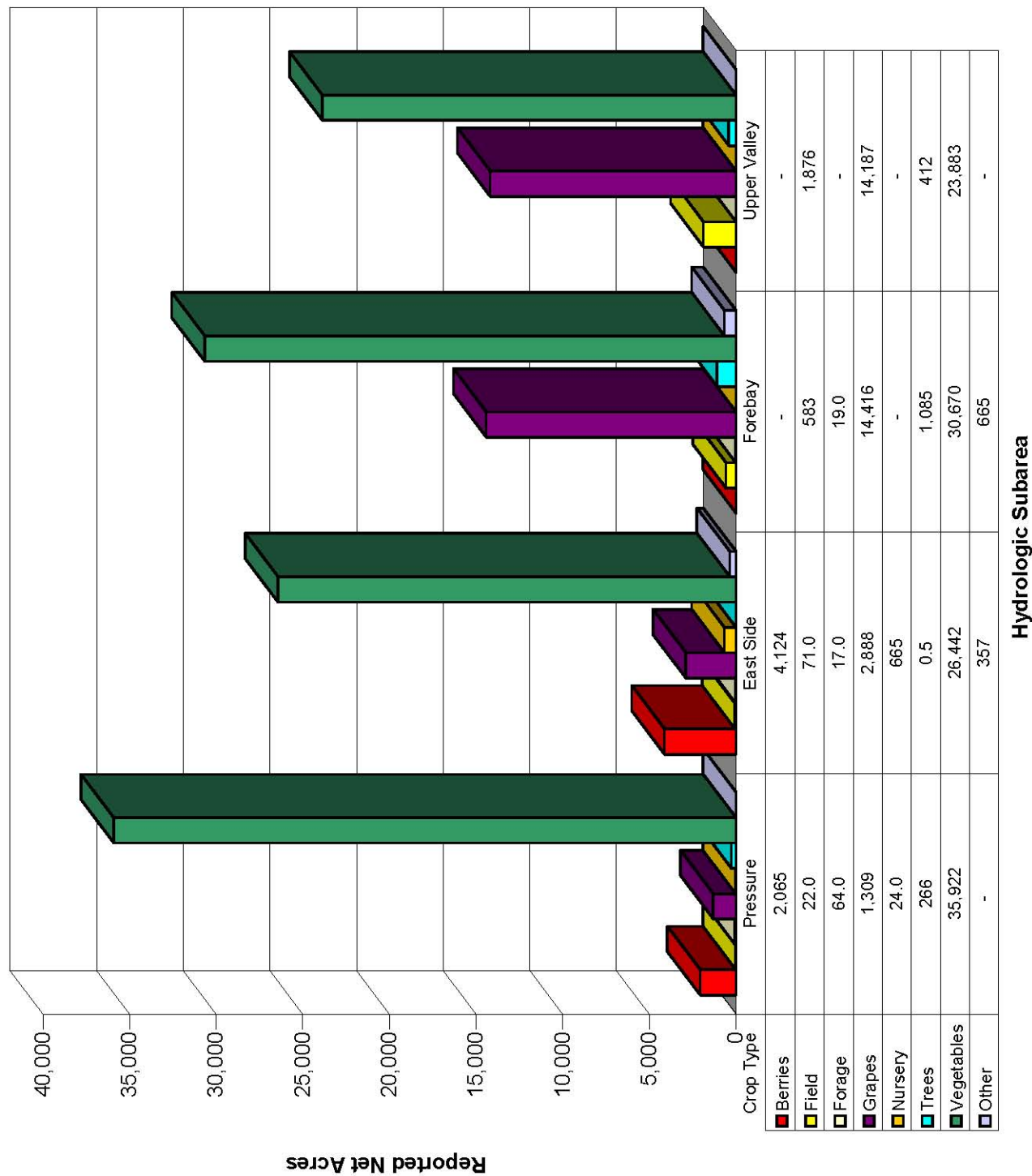


Figure 8. 2008 reported net acres by crop type & hydrologic subarea

Water and Land Use Forms (continued)

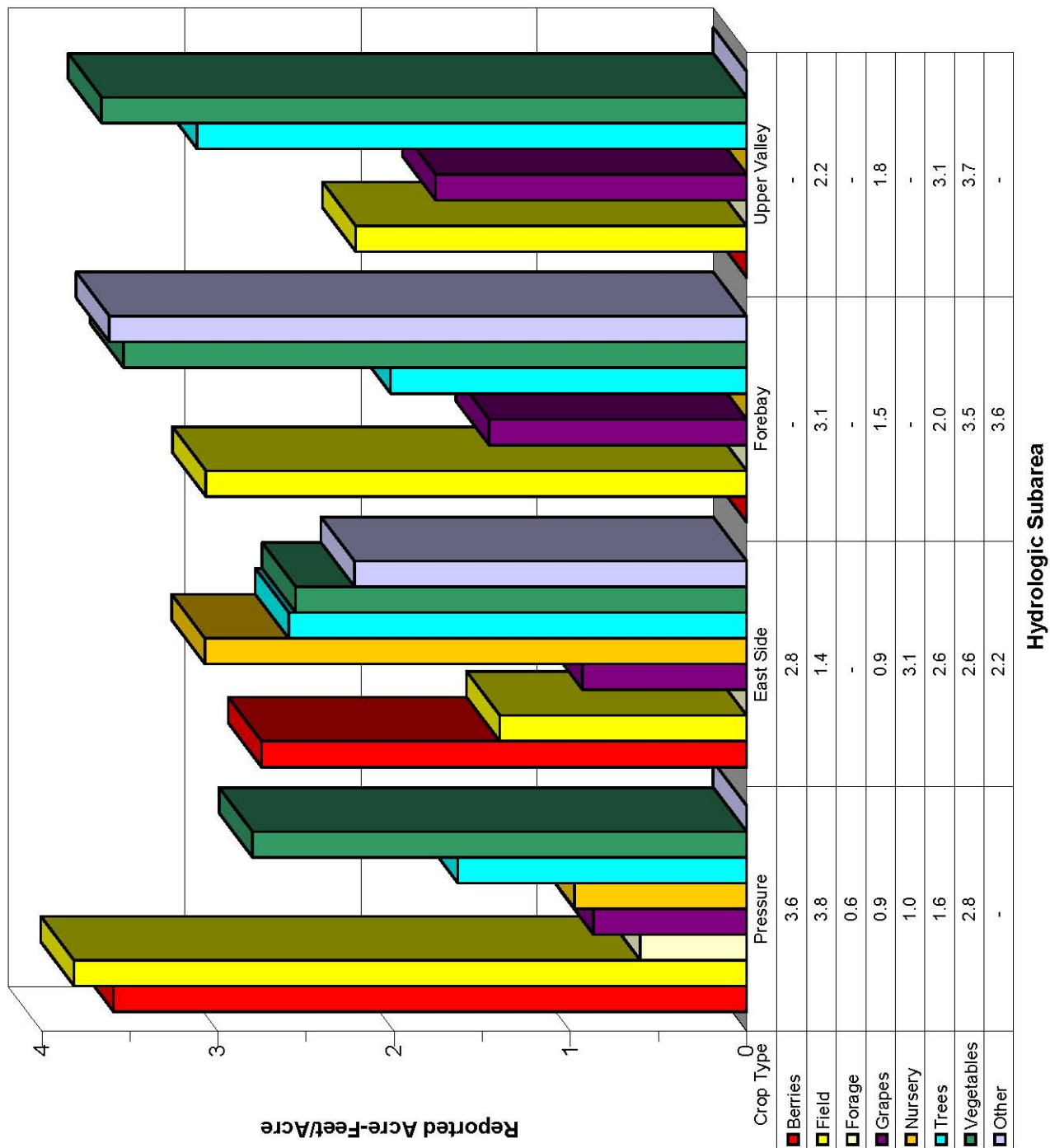


Figure 9. 2008 reported acre-feet/acre by crop type & hydrologic subarea

Urban Water Conservation Plans

Since 1996, the Agency has been collecting data for the Urban Water Conservation Plan program. Table 9 shows the forecasted adoption of “Best Management Practices” (water conservation measures) for the past five years, as a percentage of total acreage reported. It is important to note that, while all of the listed practices apply to “large” water systems (200 or more customer connections), not all apply to “small” water systems (between 15 and 199 customer connections). The practices that apply *only* to large systems are printed in **bold** below.

Table 9. Urban Best Management Practices reported to be adopted from 2005 through 2009

Best Management Practices	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Provide speakers to community groups and media	42%	70%	67%	67%	85%
Use paid and public service advertising	45%	70%	67%	67%	85%
Provide conservation information in bill inserts	52%	76%	54%	79%	96%
Provide individual historical water use information on water bills	72%	81%	80%	85%	90%
Coordinate with other entities in regional efforts to promote water conservation practices	68%	92%	82%	91%	94%
Work with school districts to provide educational materials and instructional assistance	46%	72%	68%	69%	87%
Implement requirements that all new connections be metered and billed by volume of use	76%	93%	81%	94%	98%
Establish a program to retrofit any existing unmetered connections and bill by volume of use	45%	57%	54%	58%	97%
Offer free interior and exterior water audits to identify water conservation opportunities	96%	92%	100%	54%	79%
Provide incentives to achieve water conservation by way of free conservation fixtures (showerheads, hose end timers) and/or conservation “adjustments” to water bills	70%	68%	61%	67%	85%
Enforcement and support of water conserving plumbing fixture standards, including requirement for ultra low flush toilets in all new construction	94%	94%	100%	55%	100%
Support of State/Federal legislation prohibiting sale of toilets using more than 1.6 gallons per flush	95%	90%	88%	61%	78%
Program to retrofit existing toilets to reduce flush volume (with displacement devices)	54%	62%	41%	28%	83%
Program to encourage replacement of existing toilets with ultra low flush (through rebates, incentives, etc.)	33%	71%	67%	67%	80%
Provide guidelines, information, and/or incentives for installation of more efficient landscapes and water-saving practices	86%	83%	63%	87%	90%
Encourage local nurseries to promote use of low water use plants	53%	59%	35%	62%	58%
Develop and implement landscape water conservation ordinances pursuant to the “Water Conservation in Landscaping Act”	36%	35%	11%	33%	63%
Identify and contact top industrial, commercial, and/or institutional customers directly; offer and encourage water audits to identify conservation opportunities	67%	68%	59%	65%	57%
Review proposed water uses for new commercial and industrial water service, and make recommendations for improving efficiency before completion of building permit process	73%	73%	62%	72%	64%
Complete an audit of water distribution system at least every three years as prescribed by American Water Works Association	58%	64%	36%	24%	60%
Perform distribution system leak detection and repair whenever the audit reveals that it would be cost effective	60%	71%	47%	28%	85%
Advise customers when it appears possible that leaks exist on customer’s side of water meter	94%	94%	84%	94%	100%
Identify irrigators of large landscapes (3 acres or more) and offer landscape audits to determine conservation opportunities	29%	30%	8%	65%	57%
Provide conservation training, information, and incentives necessary to encourage use of conservation practices	34%	32%	61%	67%	81%
Encourage and promote the elimination of non-conserving pricing and adoption of conservation pricing policies	24%	30%	30%	64%	84%
Implementation of conservation pricing policies	26%	29%	30%	64%	88%
Enact and enforce measures prohibiting water waste as specified in Agency Ordinance No. 3932 or as subsequently amended, and encourage the efficient use of water	51%	46%	33%	80%	78%
Implement and/or support programs for the treatment and reuse of industrial waste water / storm water / waste water	40%	40%	26%	32%	61%

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