Recycled Water Basics

20 March 2012
Assembly Committee on
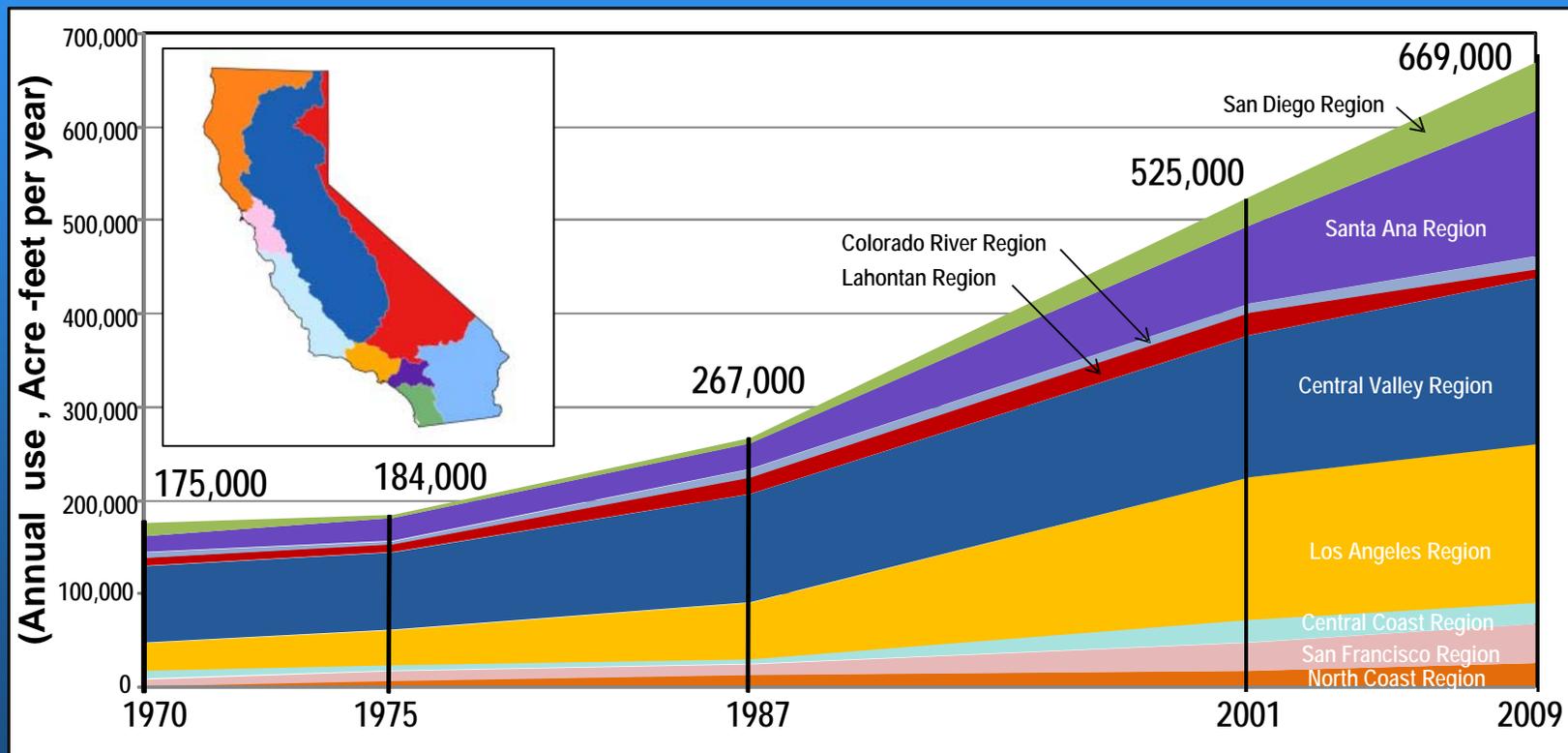**Water, Parks & Wildlife**

Richard A. Mills

Water Recycling and Desalination Section
California Department of Water Resources

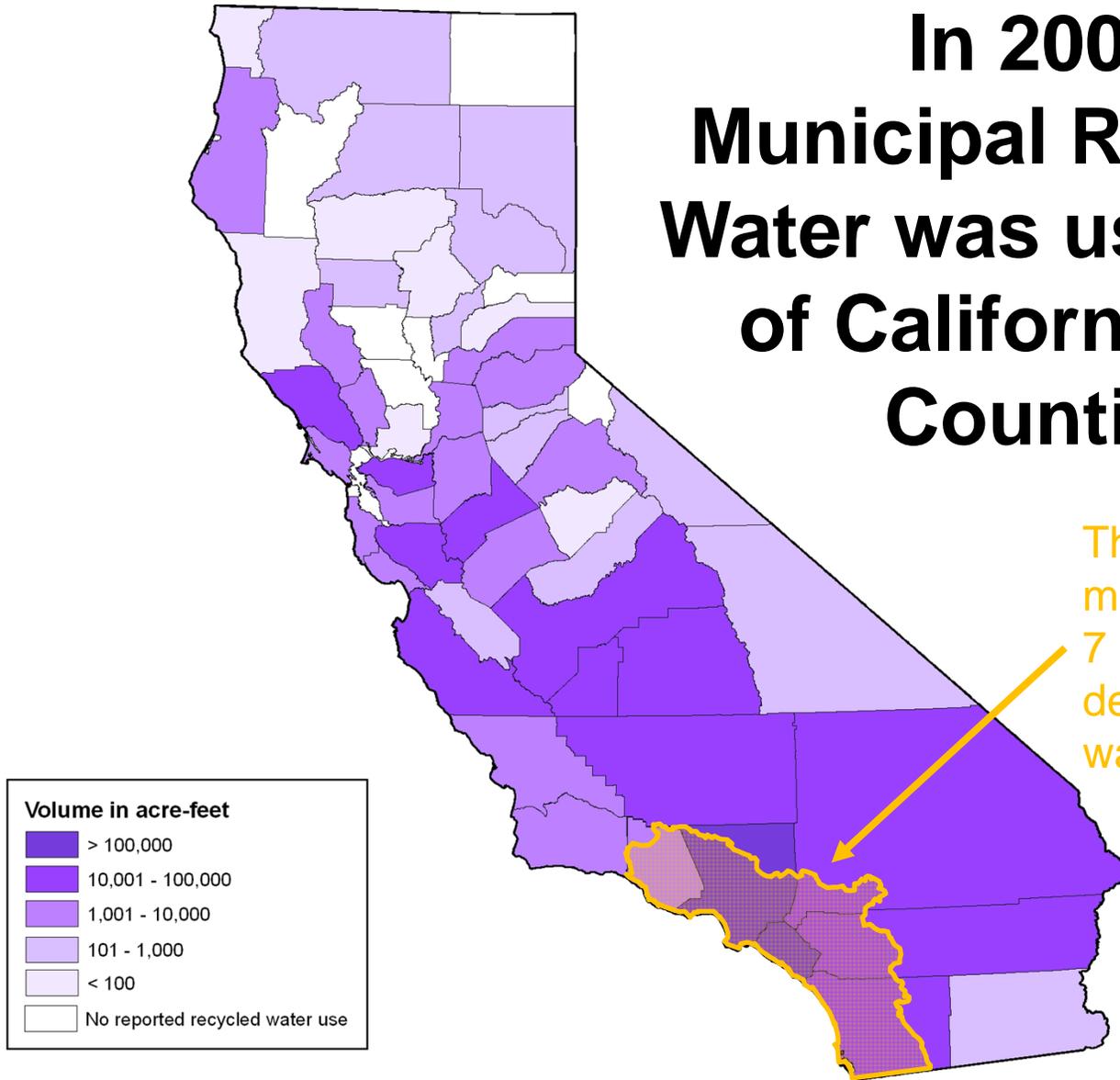# Recycled Water – Synopsis of Legal Definition

- Water that begins as wastewater

- Treated to an appropriate level

- Suitable for either

  - Direct beneficial use (piped to a point of use)

  - Controlled use (indirect but planned use, e.g., groundwater recharge)

- Also called reclaimed water

1970-2009
Municipal Recycled Water Use
(by Region)
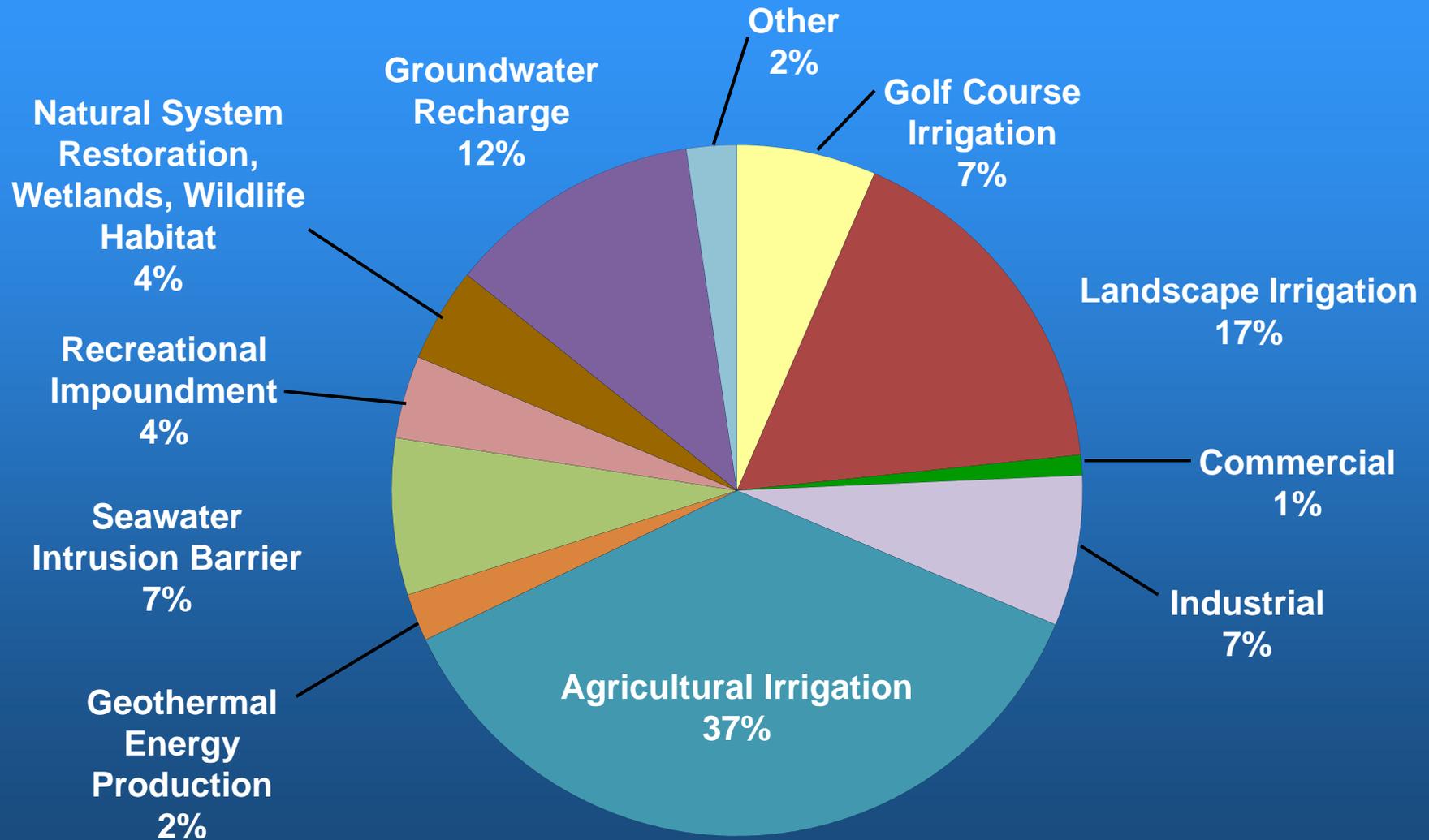
2009 Total 669,000 acre-feet

In 2009, Municipal Recycled Water was used in 51 of California's 58 Counties

The South Coast Region met approximately 7 percent of its water demands with recycled water

Volume in acre-feet
- > 100,000
- 10,001 - 100,000
- 1,001 - 10,000
- 101 - 1,000
- < 100
- No reported recycled water use

2009
Beneficial Uses of Recycled Water in California

Other 2%

Groundwater Recharge 12%

Natural System Restoration, Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat 4%

Golf Course Irrigation 7%

Landscape Irrigation 17%

Recreational Impoundment 4%

Commercial 1%

Seawater Intrusion Barrier 7%

Industrial 7%

Geothermal Energy Production 2%

Agricultural Irrigation 37%

2009 Total = 669,000 acre-feet

5

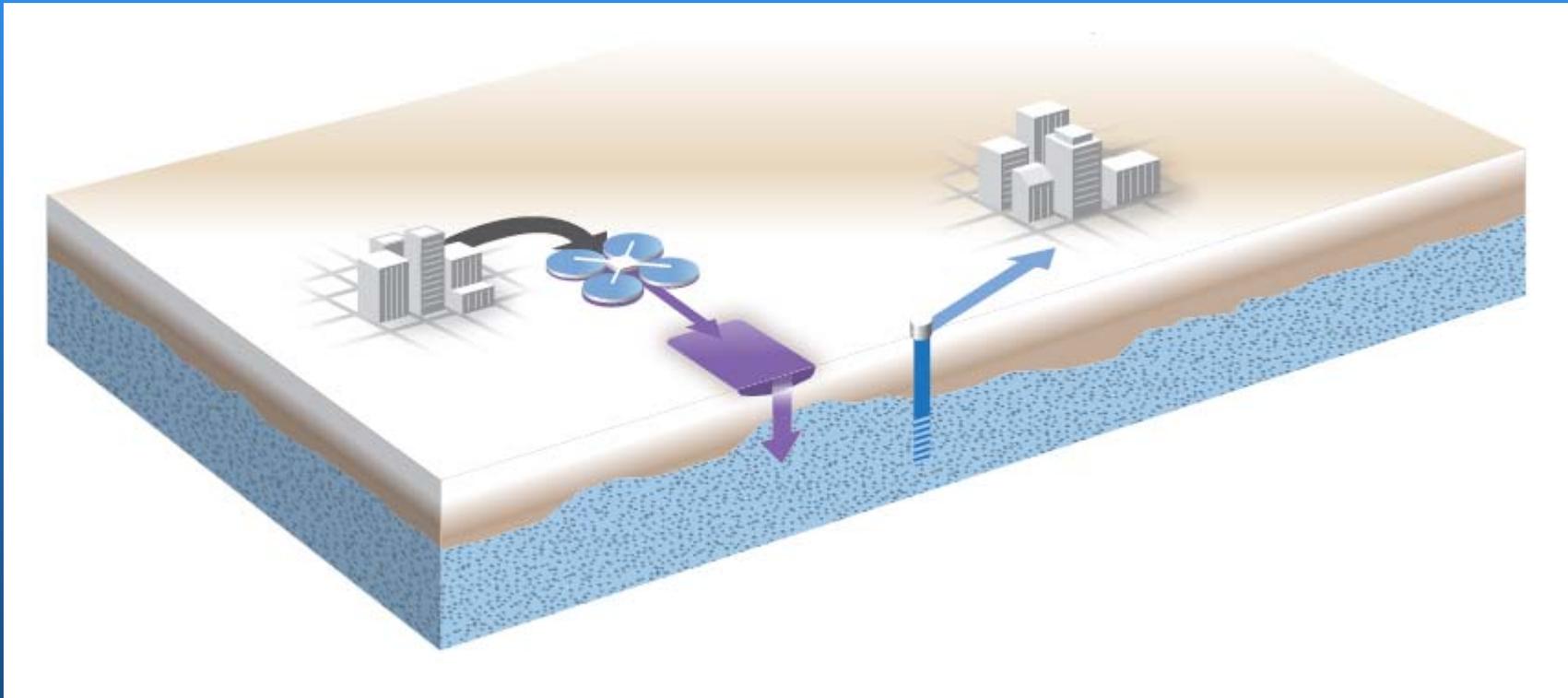# Direct Nonpotable Use

Wastewater collection system

Wastewater treatment

Recycled water distribution system
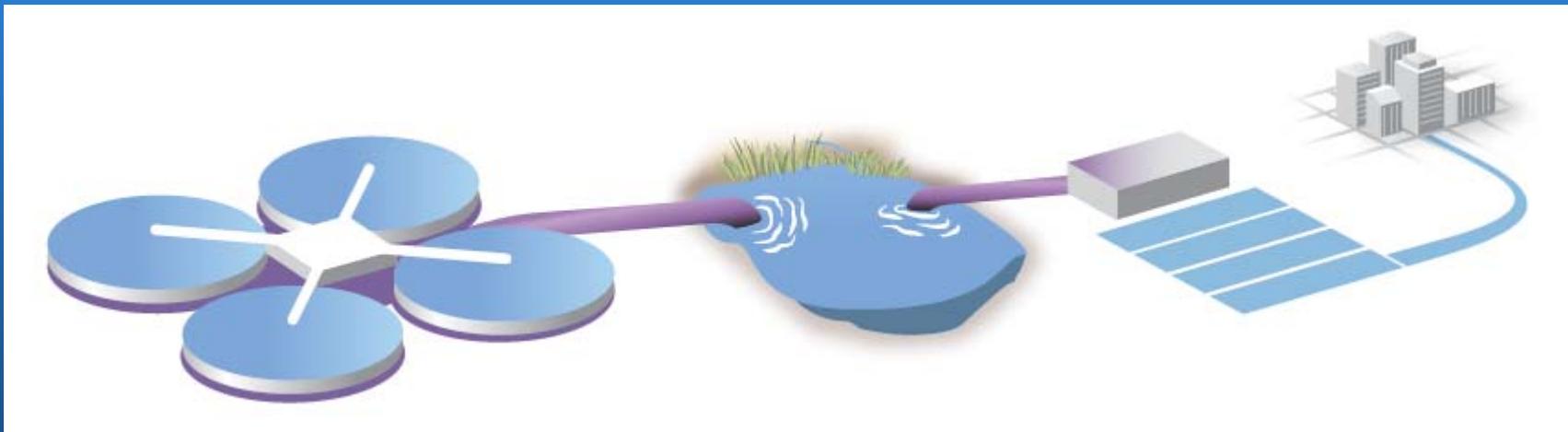
Recycled water use

Potable Uses

- Indirect – Groundwater recharge

Potable Uses

- Indirect – Surface water augmentation

Drinking water distribution system

Wastewater treatment

Drinking water reservoir augmented with recycled water

Drinking water treatment plant

Potable Uses

- Direct – Into potable water lines
  - Legislatively specified pathway to evaluate (SB 918, 2010)

Wastewater collection system

Advanced wastewater treatment to drinking water standards

Drinking water distribution system

Future Reuse Potential

- By 2030
  - Total statewide potential = 2 million acre-feet
  - Reusing about 30% of urban wastewater
  - About 80% of increased reuse could be "new water" -- captured before entering salt water bodies

DWR Information

Water Recycling and Desalination Section

- http://www.water.ca.gov/recycling/

Rich Mills

- mills@water.ca.gov
- (916) 651-0715