

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape in the Ventura River watershed. The foreground is dominated by large, organized agricultural fields, likely orchards or vineyards, with rows of young plants. A dirt road winds through these fields. In the middle ground, a green field is visible, with a small house and a tree on a slight rise. The background features rolling hills with patches of green vegetation and exposed, light-colored rock formations under a clear blue sky.

Agriculture in the Ventura River watershed

**John Krist, CEO
Farm Bureau of Ventura County**

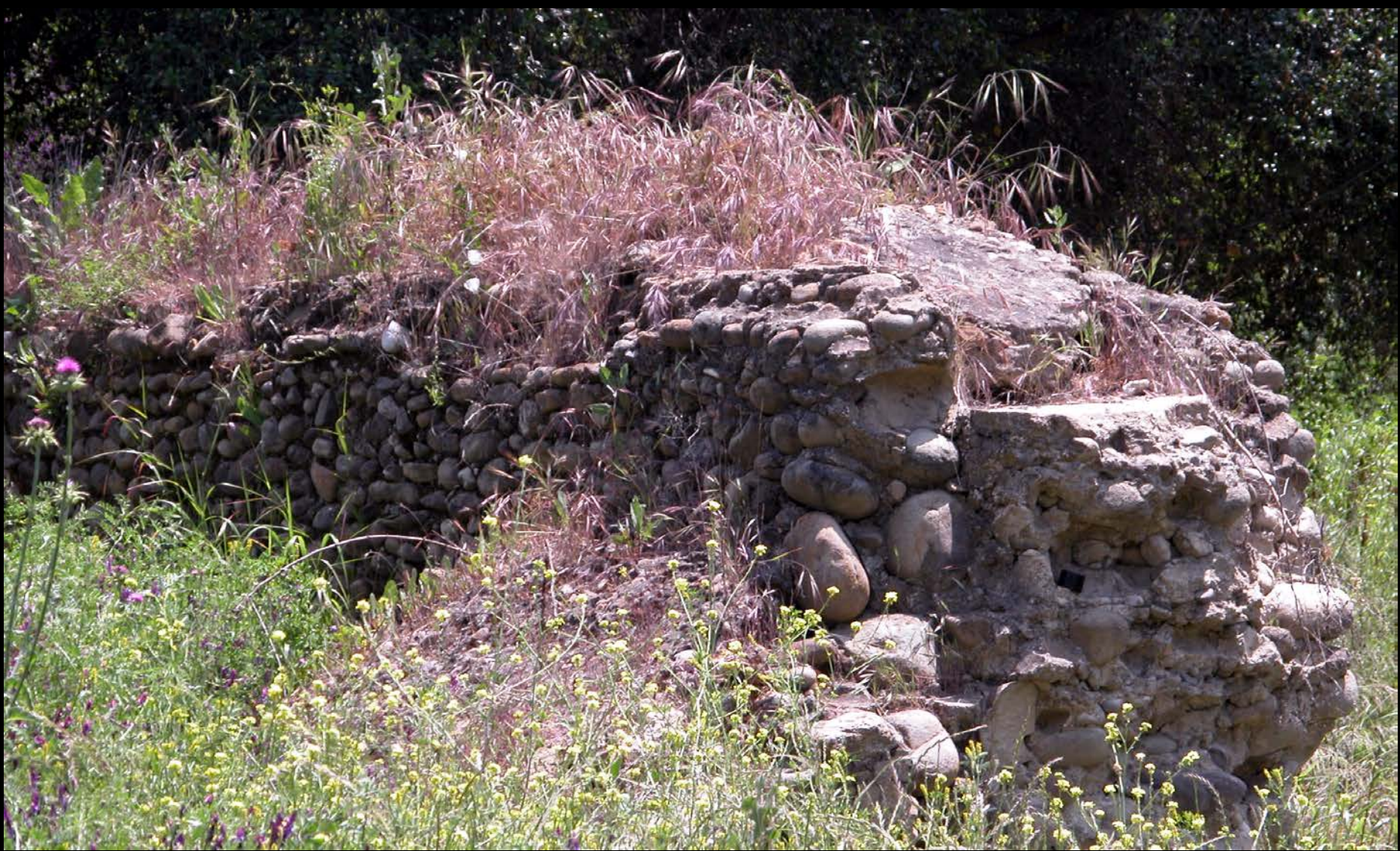
“The garden of Buena Ventura far exceeded any thing of that description I had before met with in these regions, both in respect of the quality, quantity, and variety of its excellent productions.”

— *George Vancouver, 1793*





Mission aqueduct ruins



Length: 7 miles
Constructed: 1805-1815

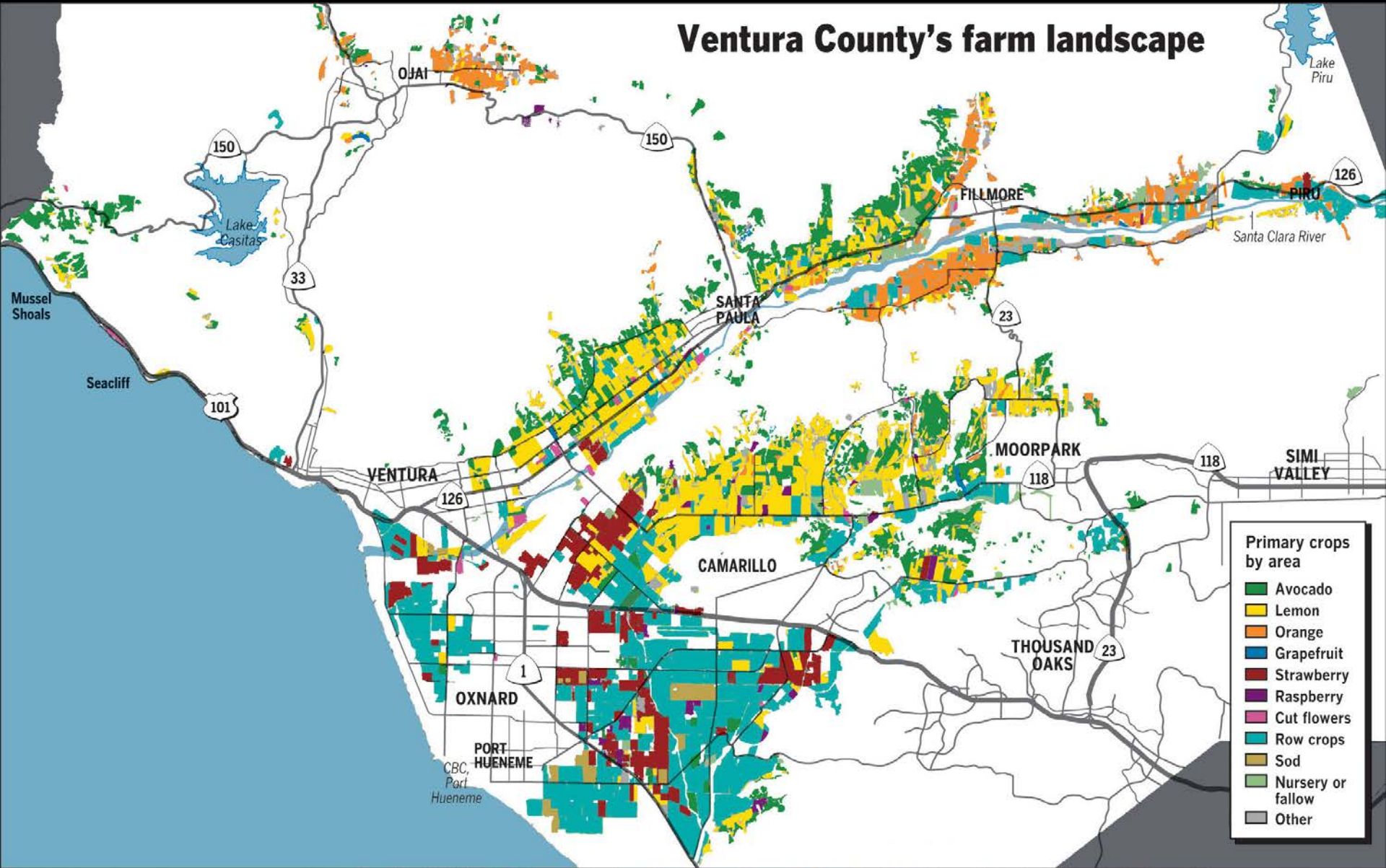
Material: Cobbles and mortar
Gravity feed





Picking oranges at Santa Ynez Ranch, Ojai, 1899

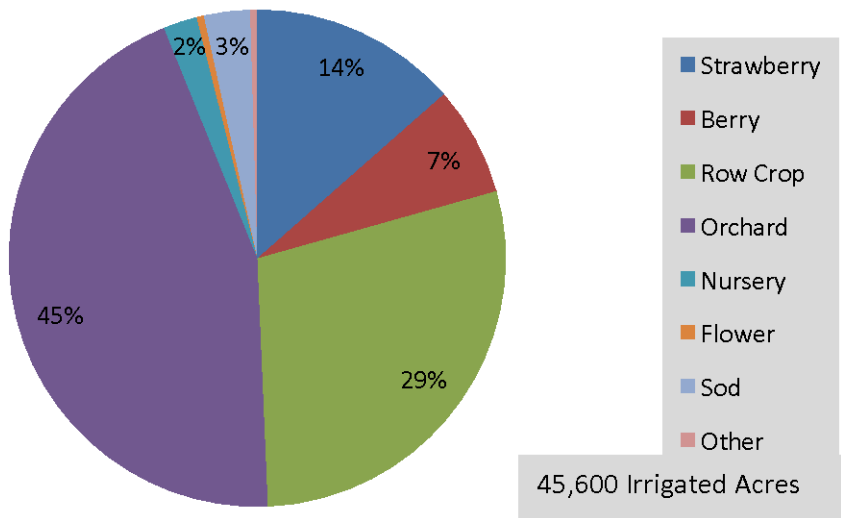
Ventura County's farm landscape



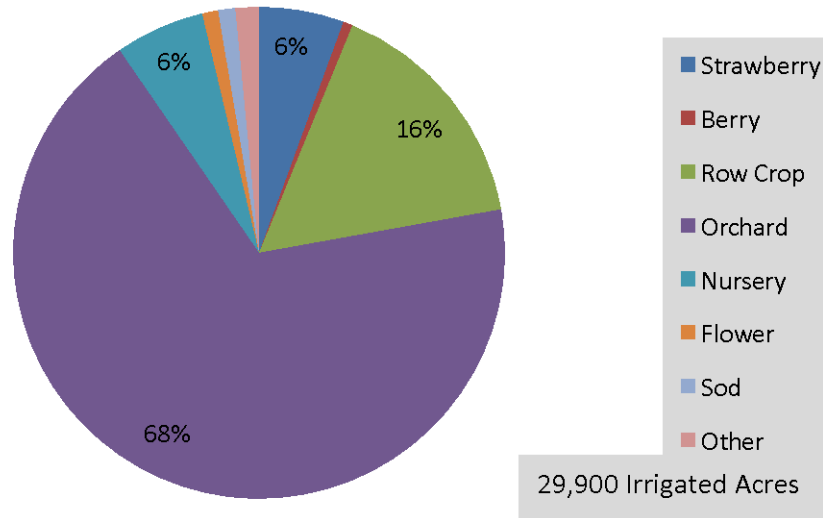
Harvested acres: 96,586
Urbanized acres: 105,233

*Acres converted from farmland
to urban uses 1998-2010: 6,352*

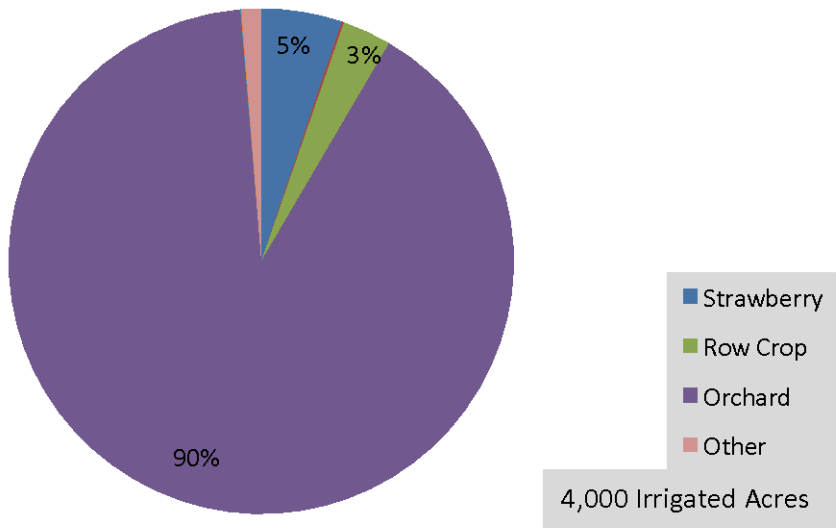
Calleguas Creek



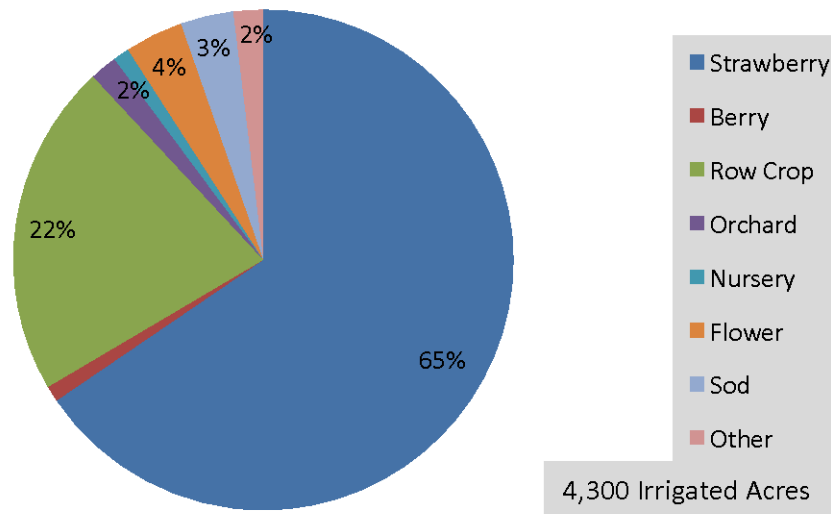
Santa Clara River



Ventura River

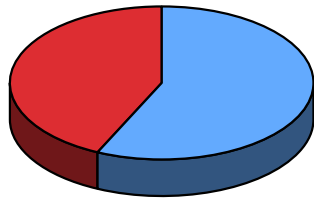


Oxnard Plain



Where does Ventura County get its water, and who uses it?

Water demand by sector

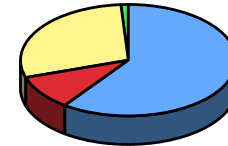


Demand

Agricultural: 253,531 acre-feet per year
Urban: 189,868 AF/Y

Total: 443,398 AF/Y

Water supply by source



Supply

Groundwater: 268,821 AF/Y
Local surface water: 42,808 AF/Y
Imported: 131,206 AF/Y
Recycled: 3,000 AF/Y

Total: 445,835 AF/Y

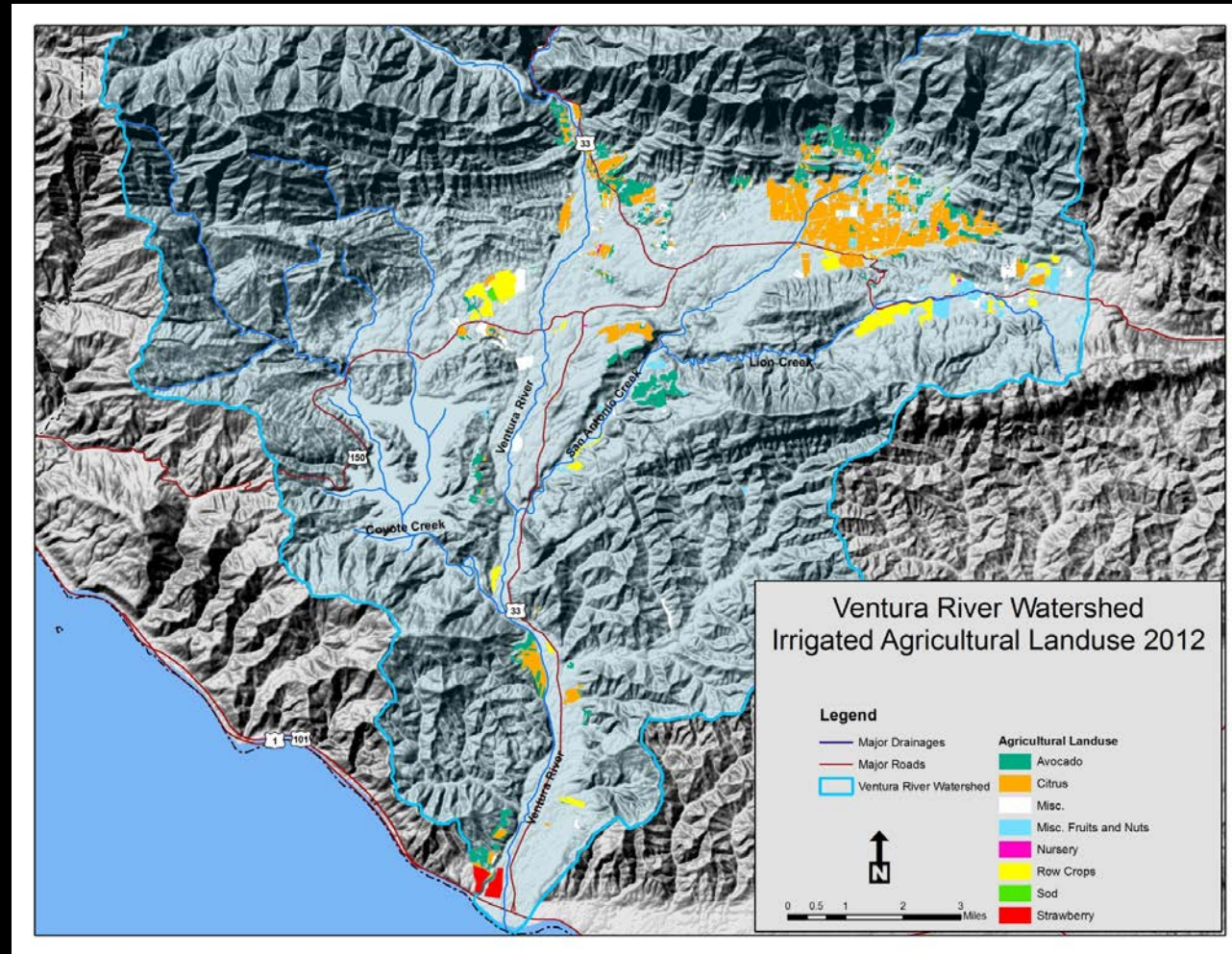
Note: One acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, or about the amount used by two average Southern California households in one year.



*Lake
Casitas and
Robles
diversion
structures*



Irrigated agriculture in the Ventura River watershed



Orchards (lemons, avocados, oranges, mandarins):	3,279 acres
Field crops (vegetables, cut flowers):	116 acres
Irrigated pasture:	12 acres
Strawberries:	188 acres
Total irrigated cropland:	4,047 acres



Citrus water use: 2.1 acre-feet per acre per year



Strawberry water use: 3.2 acre-feet per acre per year



Avocado water use: 2.1 acre-feet per acre per year



Field crop water use: 2.8 acre-feet per acre per year



Total agricultural water use in watershed: 7,837 AF/Y



*Water-quality monitoring, Ellsworth Barranca
Annual compliance costs: \$1.6 million*

The future of agriculture in the watershed





Thank you!

**To learn more:
www.farmbureauvc.com**