State Small Water System Assistance Plan

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What SB 552 requires for the County plan

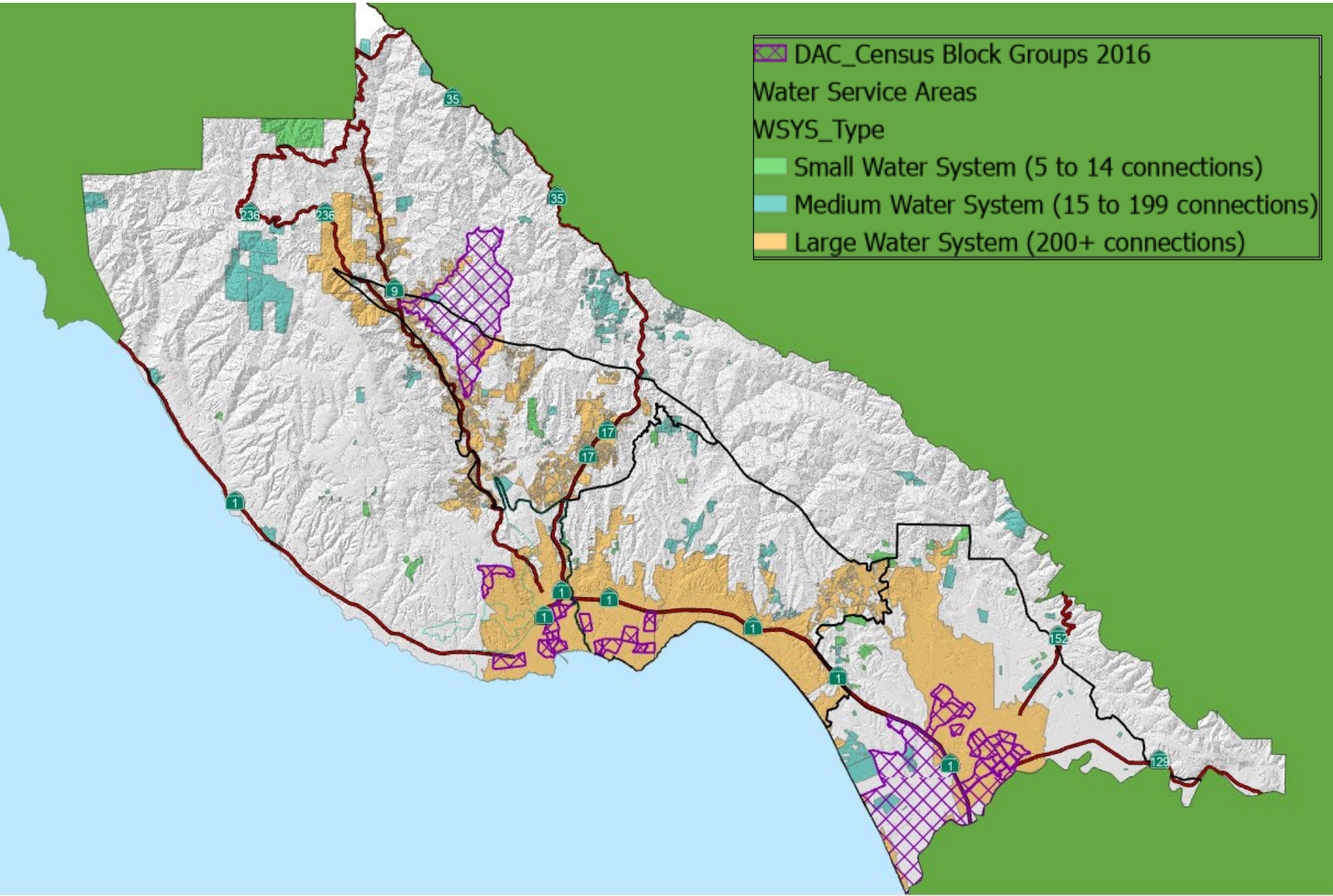
Drought Task Force must consider the following, at a minimum:

1. Consolidations for existing water systems.
2. Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs.
3. Provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions.
4. An analysis of the steps necessary to implement the plan.
5. An analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan.

What is a State Small Water System (SSWS)?

"State small water system" means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves **at least five, but not more than 14, service connections** and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an **average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year**

All Water Systems in Santa Cruz County



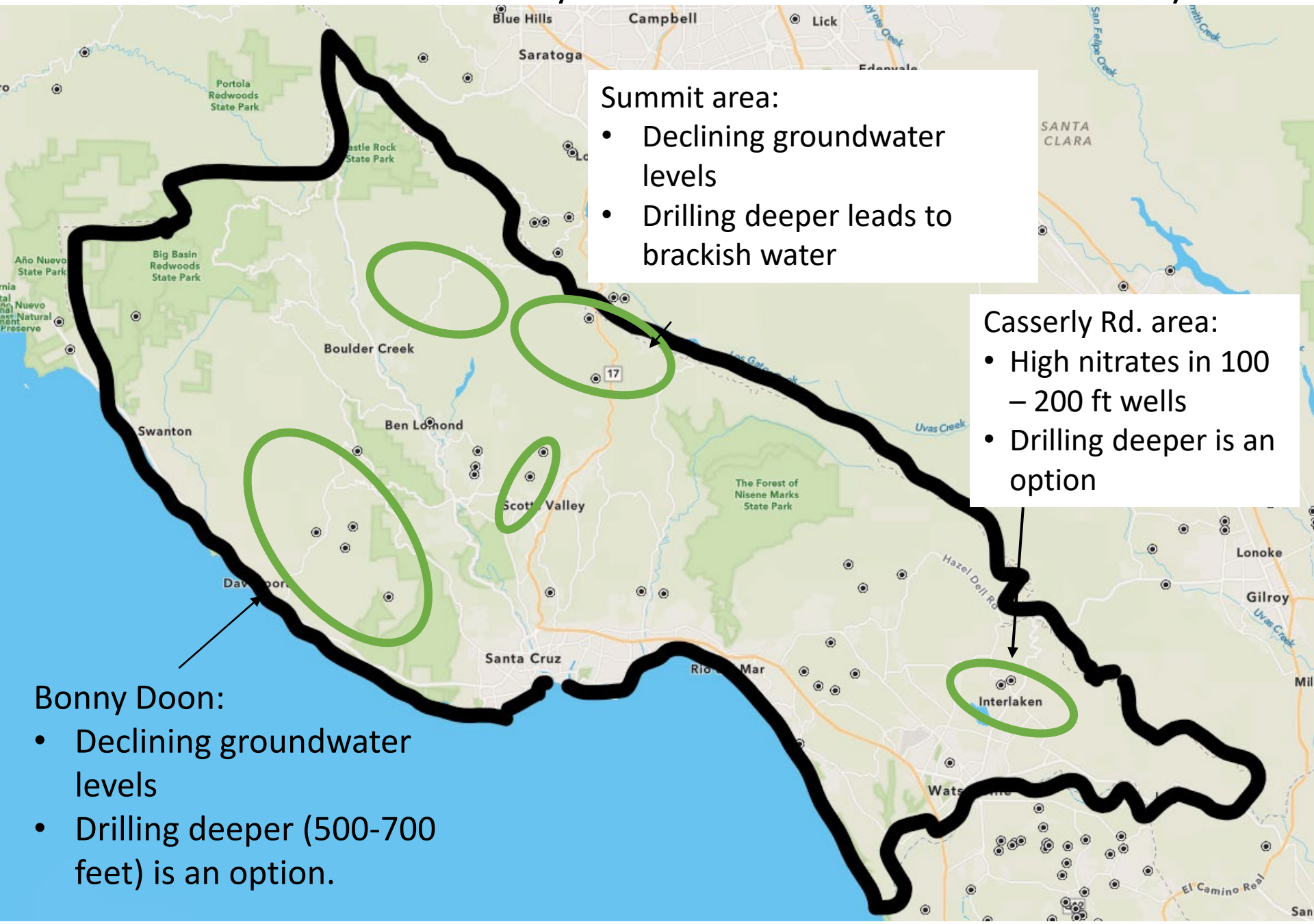
What about the Medium Systems?

SB 552 does not require Medium systems to be included in the County's Drought Task Force plan. However, SB552 created several new requirements for Community and Non-transient systems, including

- Monitoring of groundwater levels
- Metering Connections
- Membership in a mutual aide org
- Ensure continuous supply during power failure
- One backup source of water by 2027
- Meet fire flow requirements

In addition, Schools are required to create a Water Shortage Contingency Plan

State Small Water Systems in Santa Cruz County



Summit area:

- Declining groundwater levels
- Drilling deeper leads to brackish water

Casserly Rd. area:

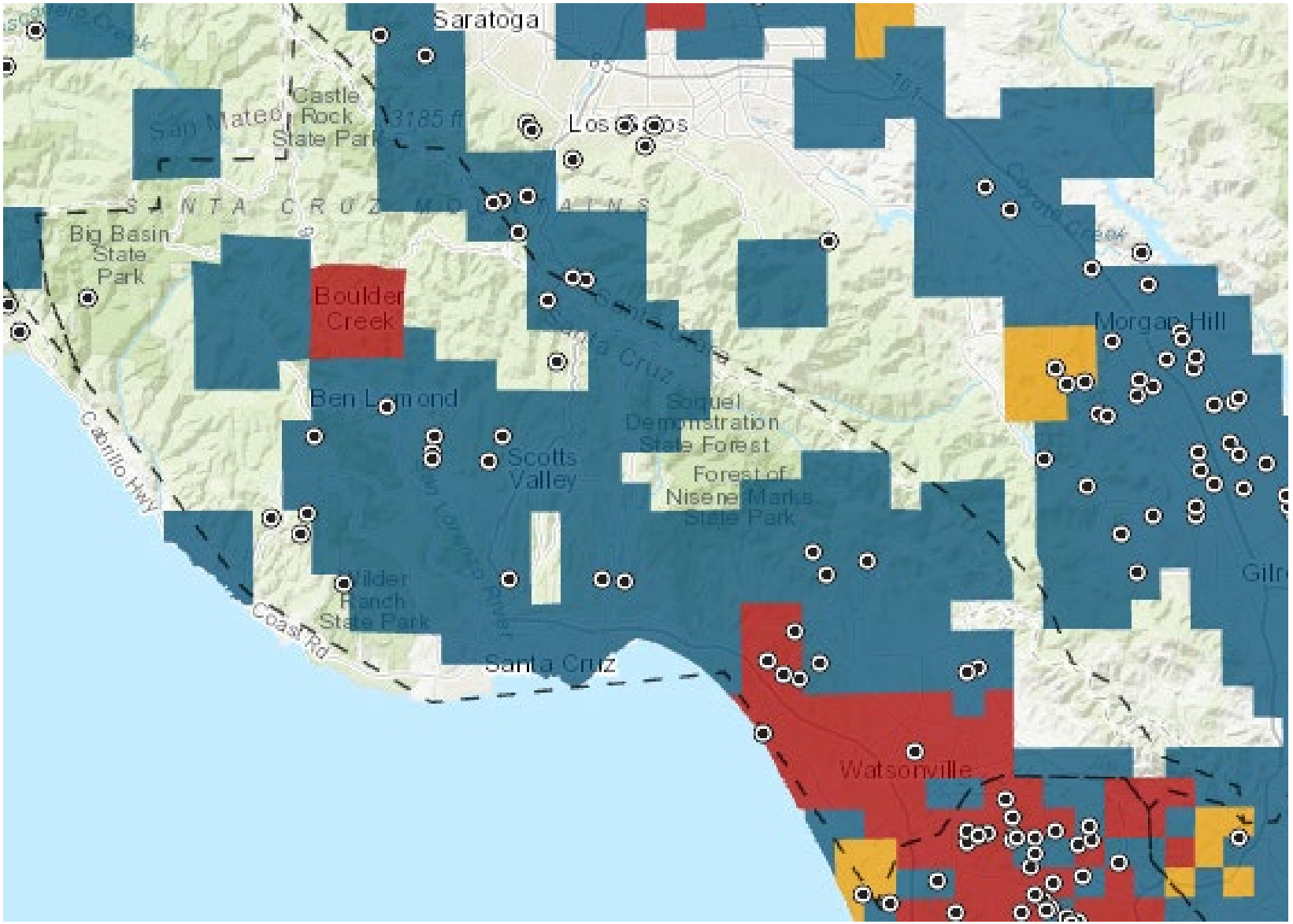
- High nitrates in 100 – 200 ft wells
- Drilling deeper is an option

Bonny Doon:

- Declining groundwater levels
- Drilling deeper (500-700 feet) is an option.

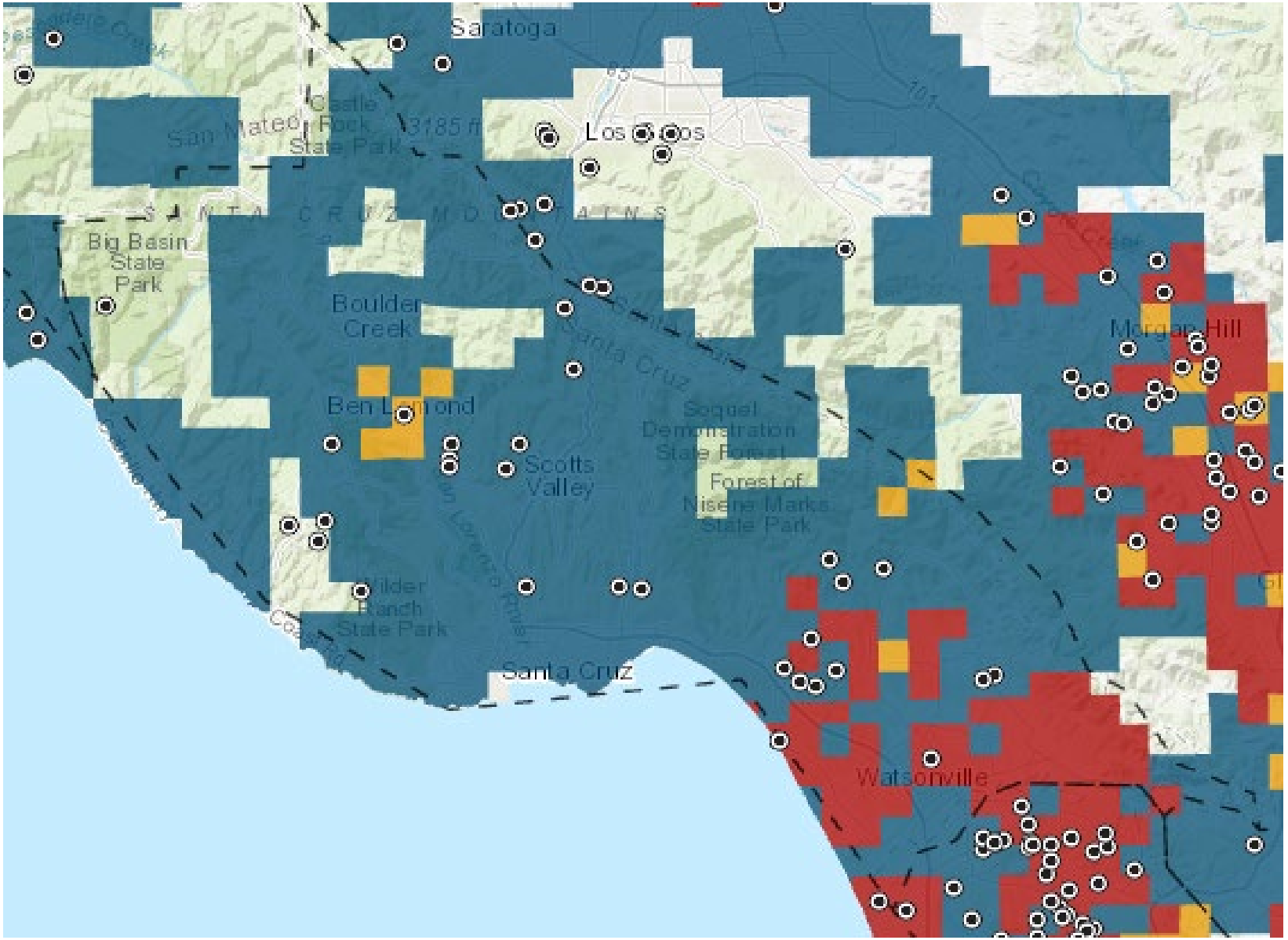
Hexavalent Chromium RISK MAP:

Source: [2022 Aquifer Risk Map (ca.gov)]



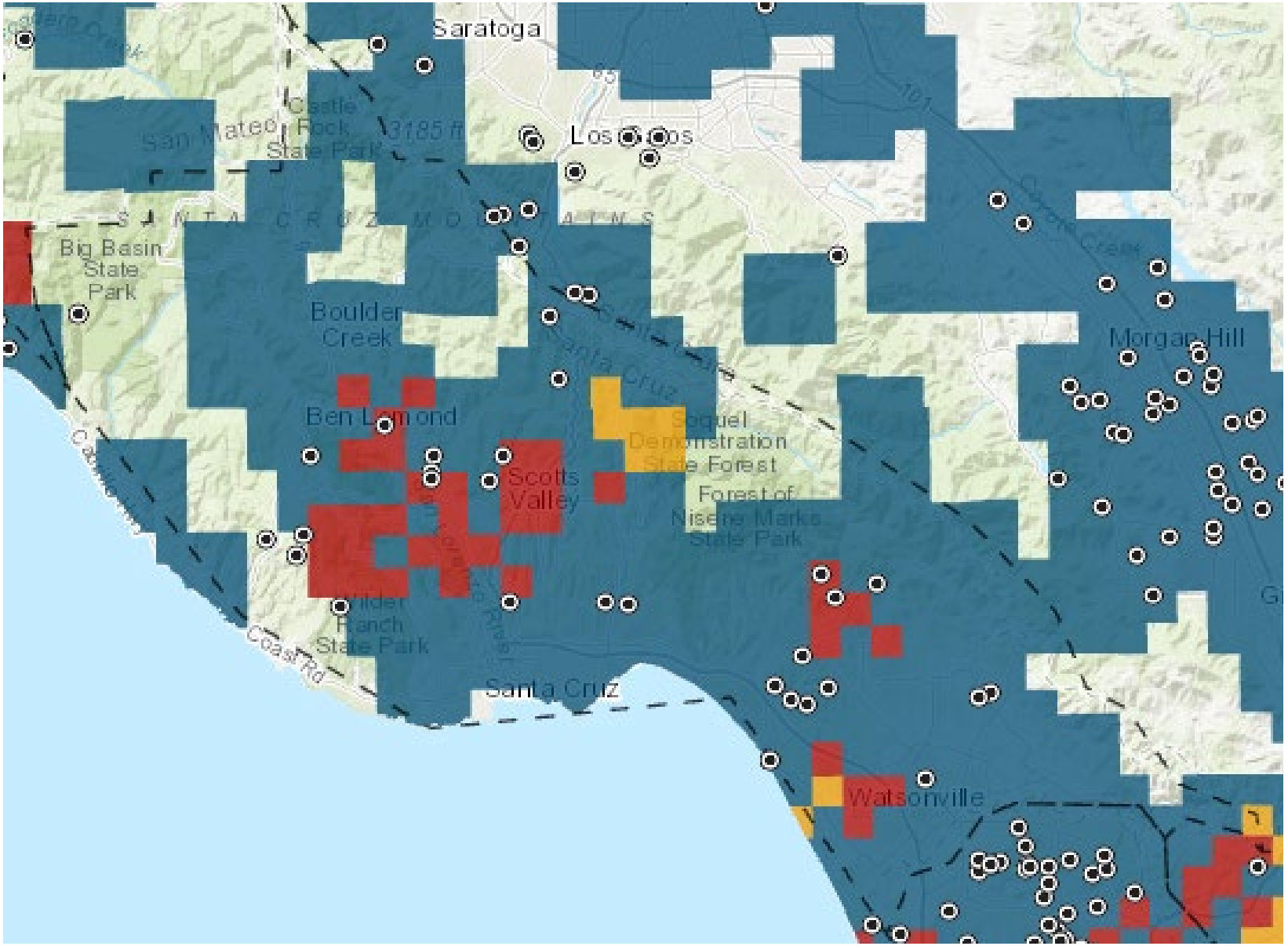
Nitrate RISK MAP:

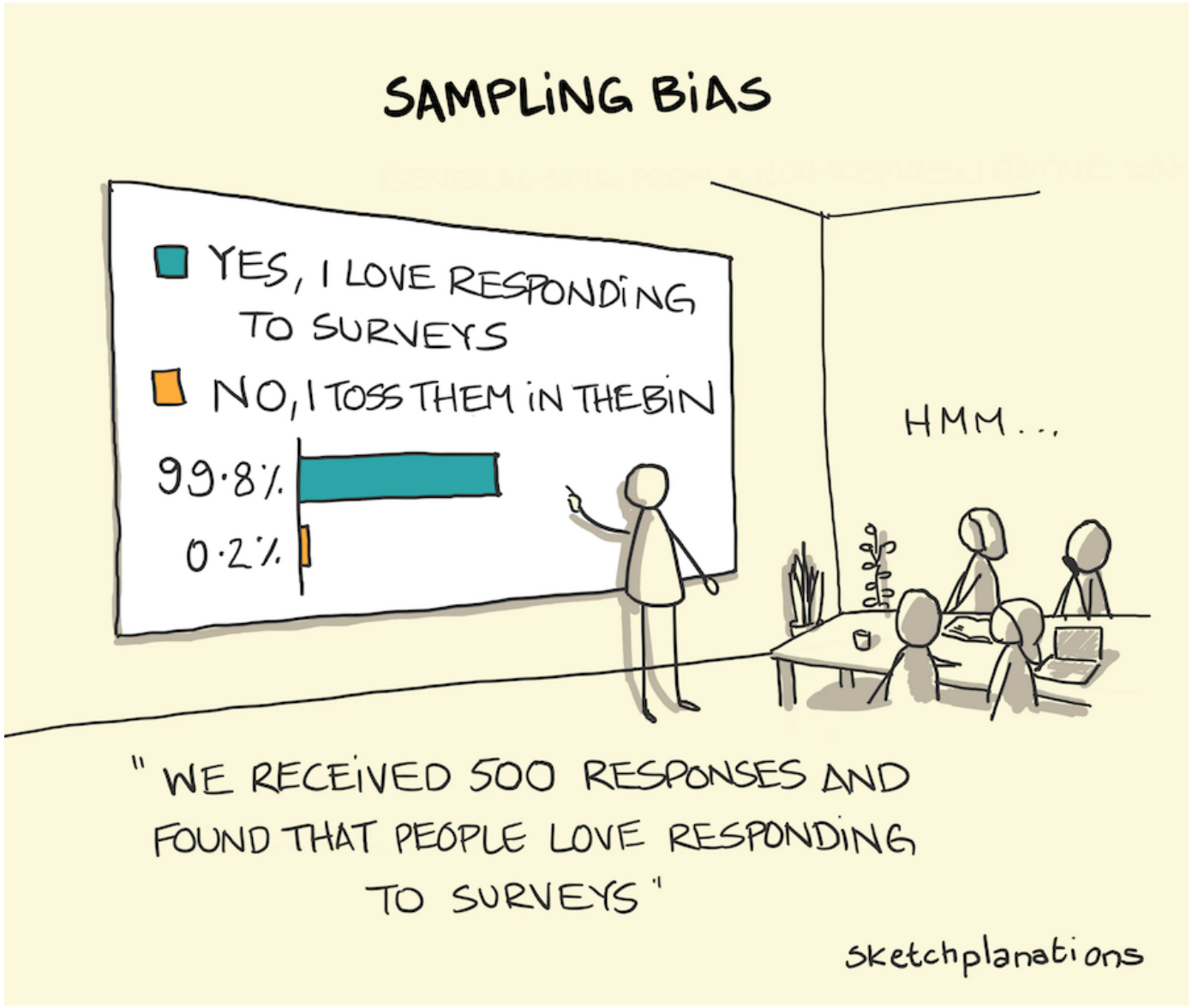
Source: [2022 Aquifer Risk Map (ca.gov)]



Arsenic RISK MAP:

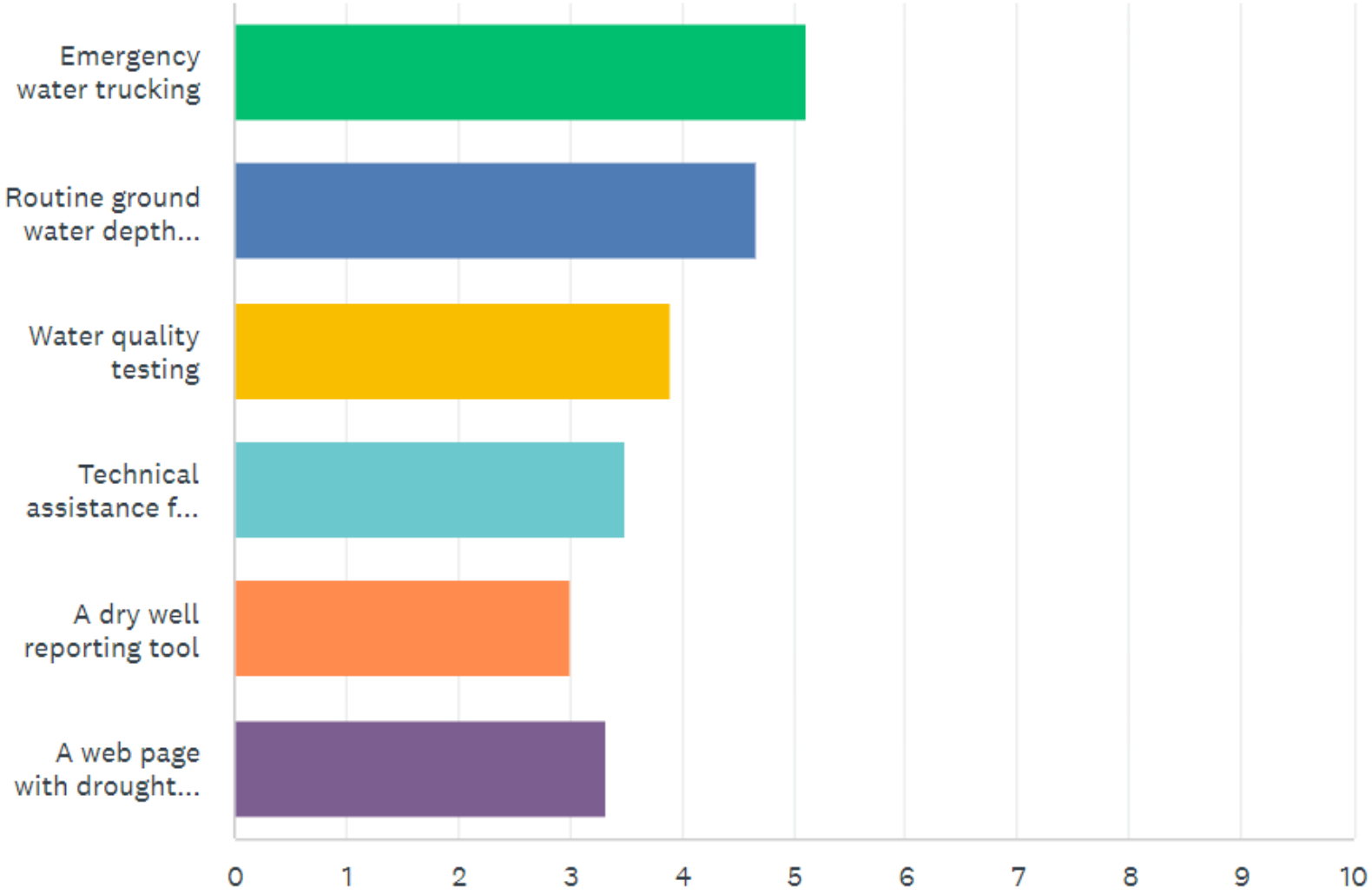
Source: [2022 Aquifer Risk Map (ca.gov)]




SAMPLING BIAS
YES, I LOVE RESPONDING TO SURVEYS
NO, I TOSS THEM IN THE BIN
99·8%
0·2%
HMM...
" WE RECEIVED 500 RESPONSES AND FOUND THAT PEOPLE LOVE RESPONDING TO SURVEYS "
sketchplanations

Rank the following programs on how likely you would be to use them.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



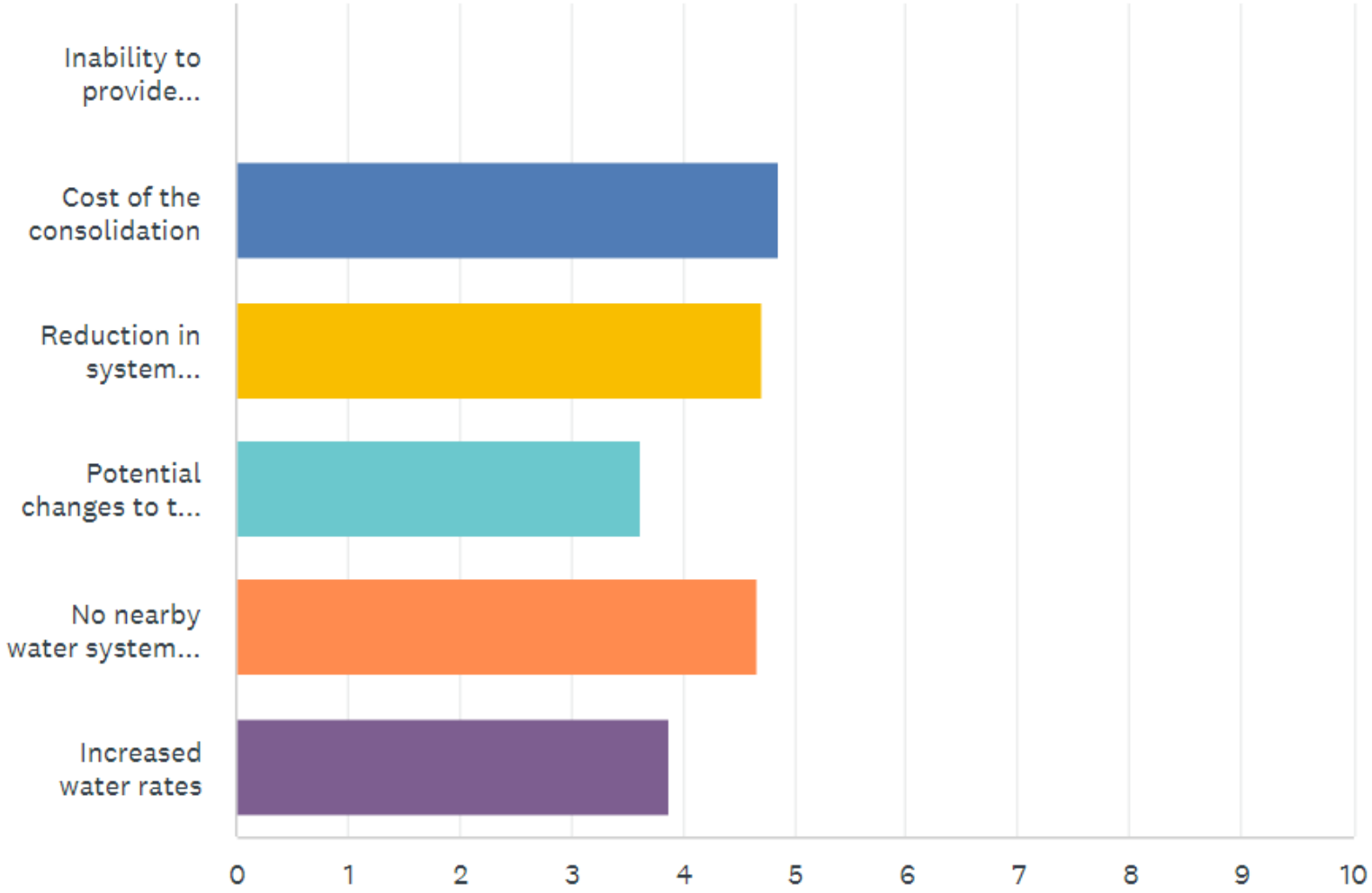
Other Key findings from SSWS survey

11 SSWS of 44 responded, of those that responded:

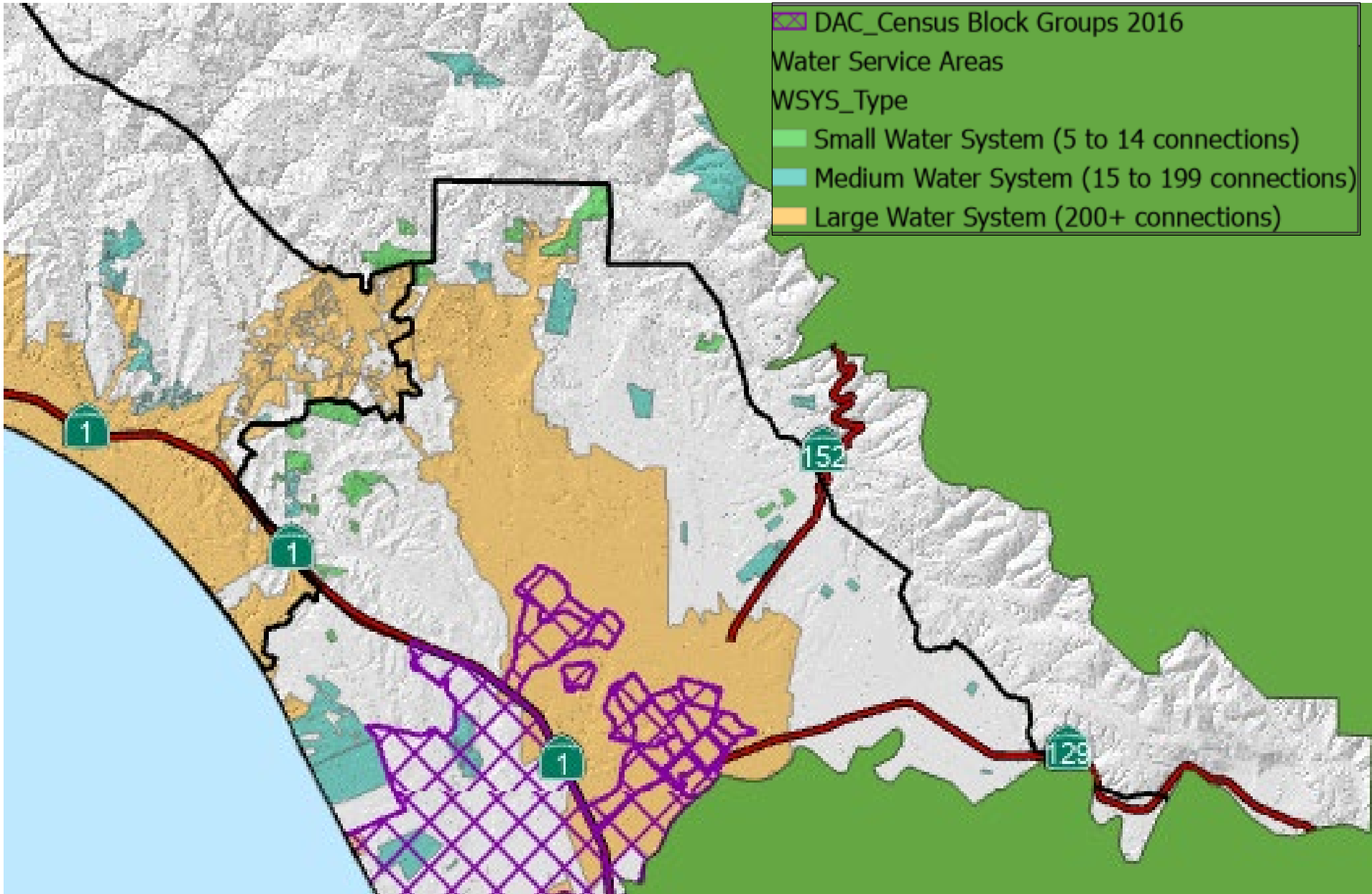
- None reported more than $20,000 in reserve funds and 45% had $5,000 or less
- 27% lose water pressure in electrical outages
- 72% would not connect to a private property with a dry well
- 63% have never considered an emergency intertie
- None had considered consolidating with a nearby water system

Rank the biggest concerns you would have about consolidating with another water system.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 1

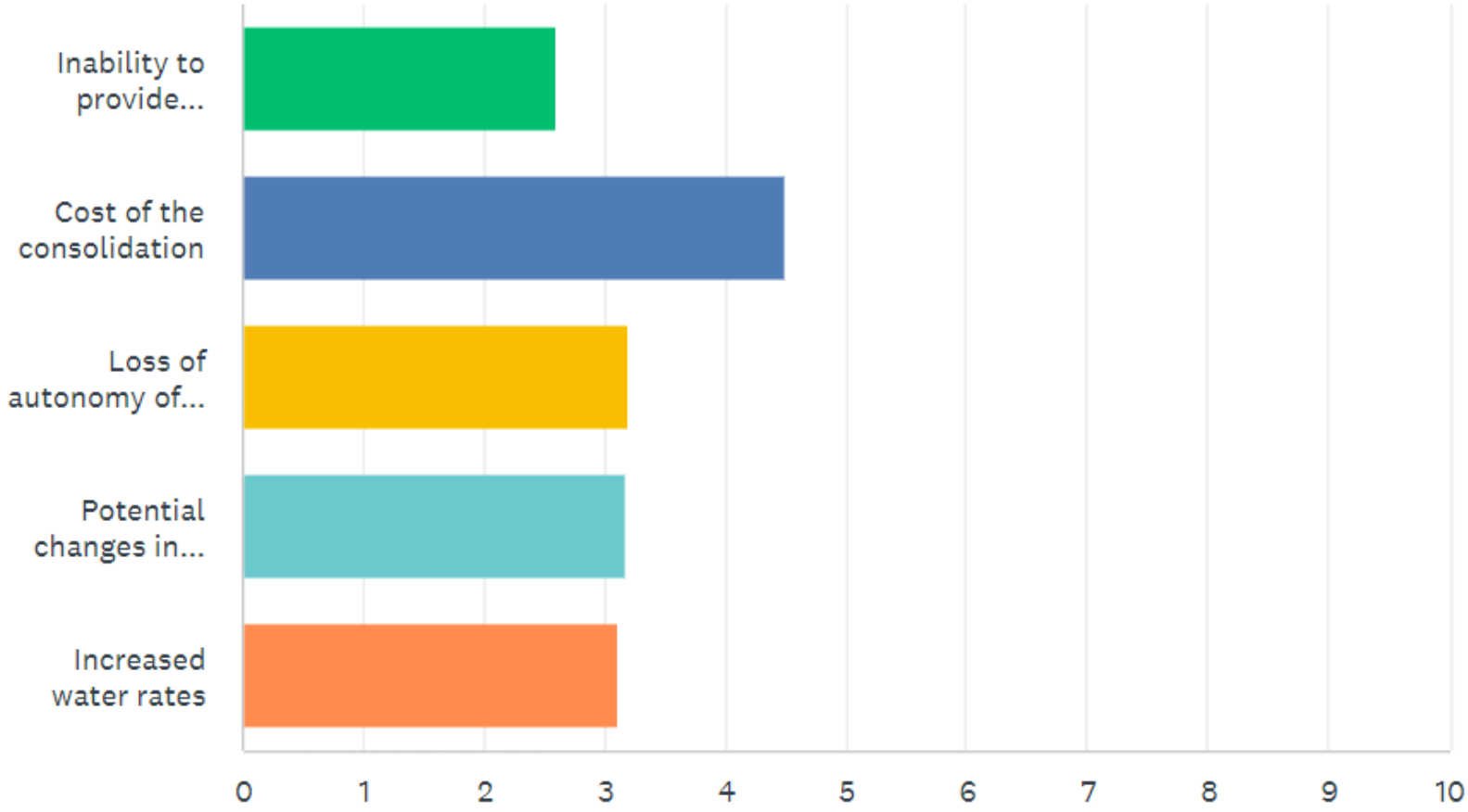


Water Systems in South Santa Cruz County



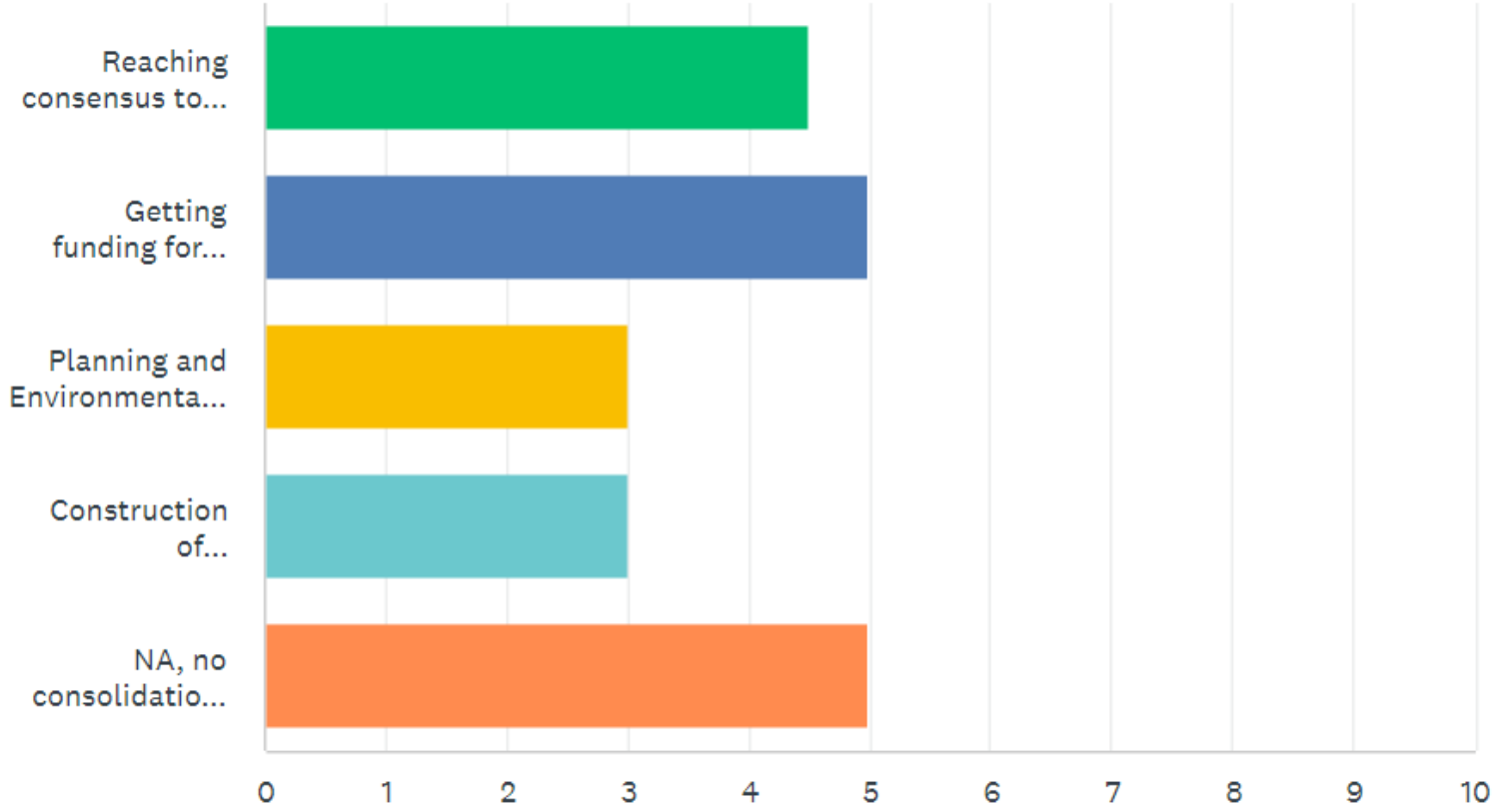
Rank the biggest concerns raised by either system when consolidation was being considered.

Answered: 13 Skipped: 4



If consolidation was approved, rank which of the following aspects were the most difficult.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 6



Other Key findings from Consolidation survey

4 Large Systems of 7 responded;

- All had experience with consolidations
- All reported cost as the highest concern
- None reported ability to provide water as a significant concern

13 Medium Systems of 43 responded:

- 12 had not considered consolidating with a smaller system
- 9 had not considered consolidating a private well
- 6 had considered consolidating or connecting with an equal size or larger system
- Cost was a highest ranked concern, followed by increased rates and changes in water quality

Main Take Aways

- State Smalls are largely not considering consolidation, but would like tools to support them
- The primary concerns with consolidation are related to the price, but small water systems note independence as being important
- State Smalls have limited ability to manage emergencies
- Large water systems appear to be more willing to consolidate a struggling system than medium systems