

Water Supply for Agricultural Resources

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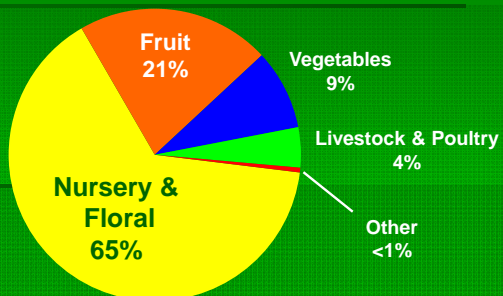
Presentation

- San Diego County farm profile
- Water use reduction
- Runoff monitoring and pollutant reduction
- Projects in need of consideration

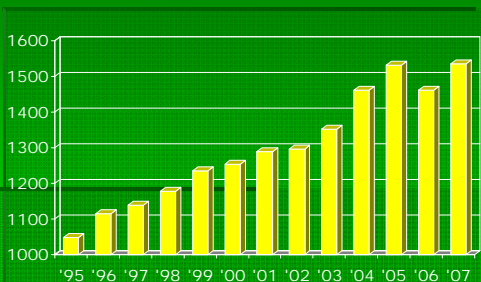
San Diego County Farming

- 12th ranked farm economy in U.S.
- \$5.1 billion local economic impact
- #1 in the nation
 - Nursery crops
 - Avocados
 - Small farms
 - Farmers with off-farm income

The Crop Profile - Sales



Annual Farmgate Value in millions



Access to Imported Water

- Interim Agricultural Water Program (IAWP)
 - Growers receive discount in exchange for agreeing to interruptible service
 - Historically (since 1994) the majority of ag water use
- Full rate - full service
 - Less price sensitive crops
 - Considered an M&I use

Current State of Water

- 30% IAWP reduction entering 2nd year
- Reductions will go deeper with M&I cuts
 - 15% M&I = 40% IAWP
 - 25% M&I = 75% IAWP
- IAWP program ramps out over 4 years
- Many growers have exited IAWP early
- M&I growers preparing for July cut

Water Supply Impacts

- Smaller farms hardest hit
- No new investment or new entries
- Production shrinkage
- Heavier use of groundwater
- Extent and length of water cuts unknown
- Risk of employing wrong strategies
- Downsizing and exit strategies under consideration

Water Price Impacts

- Some crops can't be sustained at predicted prices
- Crop conversion a limited choice
- Downsizing and exit strategies under consideration

Citrus Tree Removal



Avocado Tree Stumping



Water Use Reduction

- Pressure-compensating systems
- Runoff capture and reuse
- Groundwater filtration and brine disposal
- Smart controllers
- Hillside pressure valves
- Field research on irrigation strategies
- Research on alternate crops

Farm Runoff Monitoring

- Regional Board Conditional Waiver #4
- Agricultural and nursery operators must join a monitoring group or act alone to sample, test, and report on runoff
- San Diego County's 5000 farms dispersed throughout 8 of 11 watersheds
- Scale of project is very large

San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group

- 1100 farms enrolled to date
- Represent 35,000 of 63,000 irrigated acres
- Organizational expense estimated at \$300,000
- Annual monitoring budget estimated at \$600,000+
- Ongoing educational expenses unknown

Projects in Need of Consideration

- Water use reduction
 - On-farm technical water audits
 - Purchase of water efficiency devices
 - Research
- Runoff
 - Monitoring
 - Best Management Practices
 - Education

Why Should San Diego Public Care?

- Economic contribution
- Local products – 33 farmers' markets
- One avocado tree will sequester 2600 pounds of CO₂
- Farmers maintain open spaces
- Hedge against urban expansion
- Part of San Diego's heritage and ambiance
