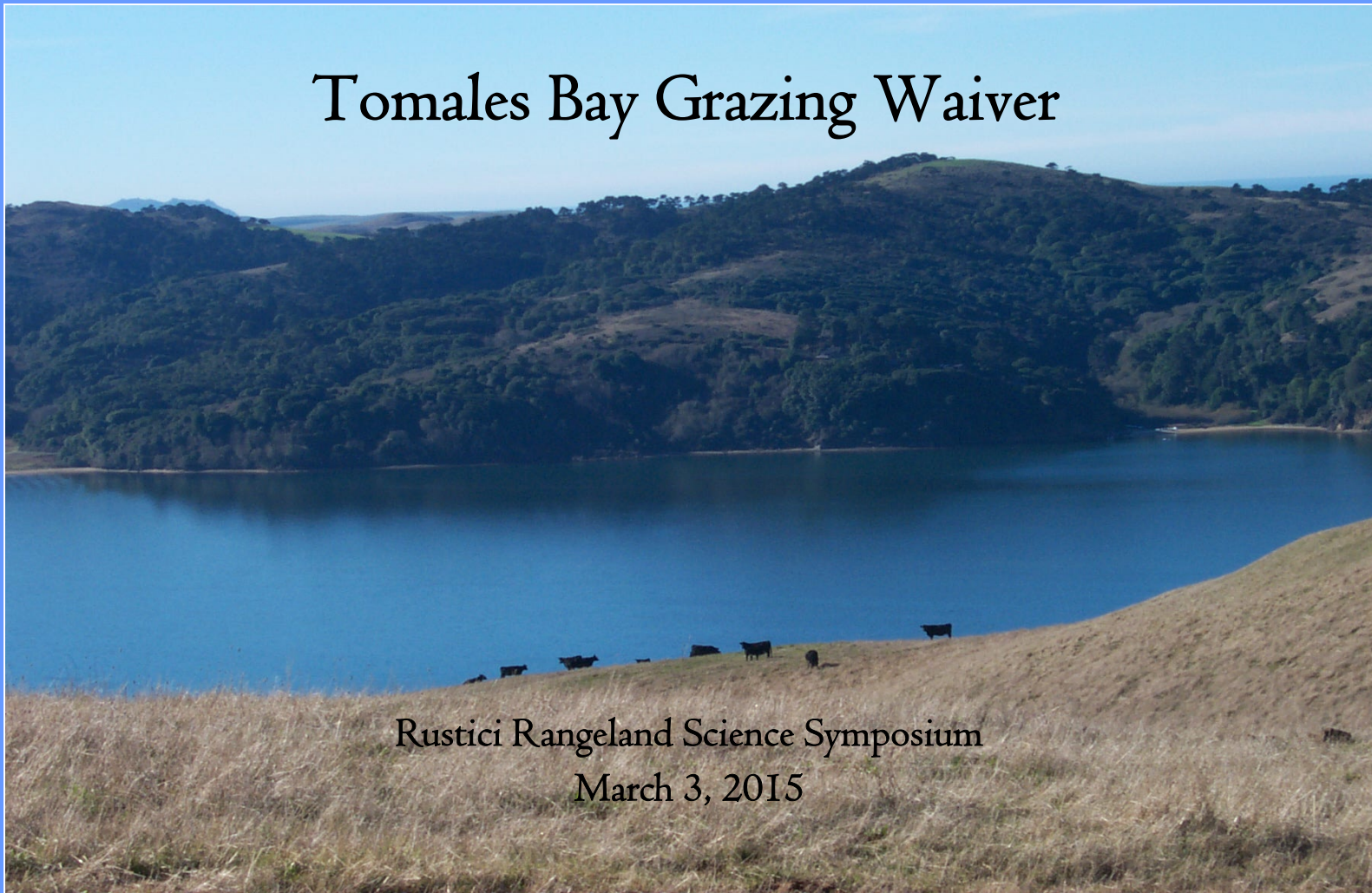


# Tomales Bay Grazing Waiver



Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium  
March 3, 2015

Nancy Scolari  
Marin Resource Conservation District

## Steps Leading to the Waiver

- 1998 170 people ill from Norwalk-like virus
- 2000 Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan  
Tomales Bay Agricultural Group forms  
Marin Coastal Permit Coordination
- 2006 Water Board meets with Ag Groups
- 2007 U.S. EPA approved the Pathogen TMDL for Tomales Bay
- Strict water quality regulations for shellfish
  - 250 parcels are affected
  - Notices of Intent to Comply
  - Implementation of projects
  - Monitoring, Annual Certifications
- 2008 Grazing Waiver is approved and then renewed in 2013

# Grazing Waiver Implementation



## Of the 424 notifications sent

- 187 Notices of Non-Applicability
- 45 No Response
- 210 Notices of Intent

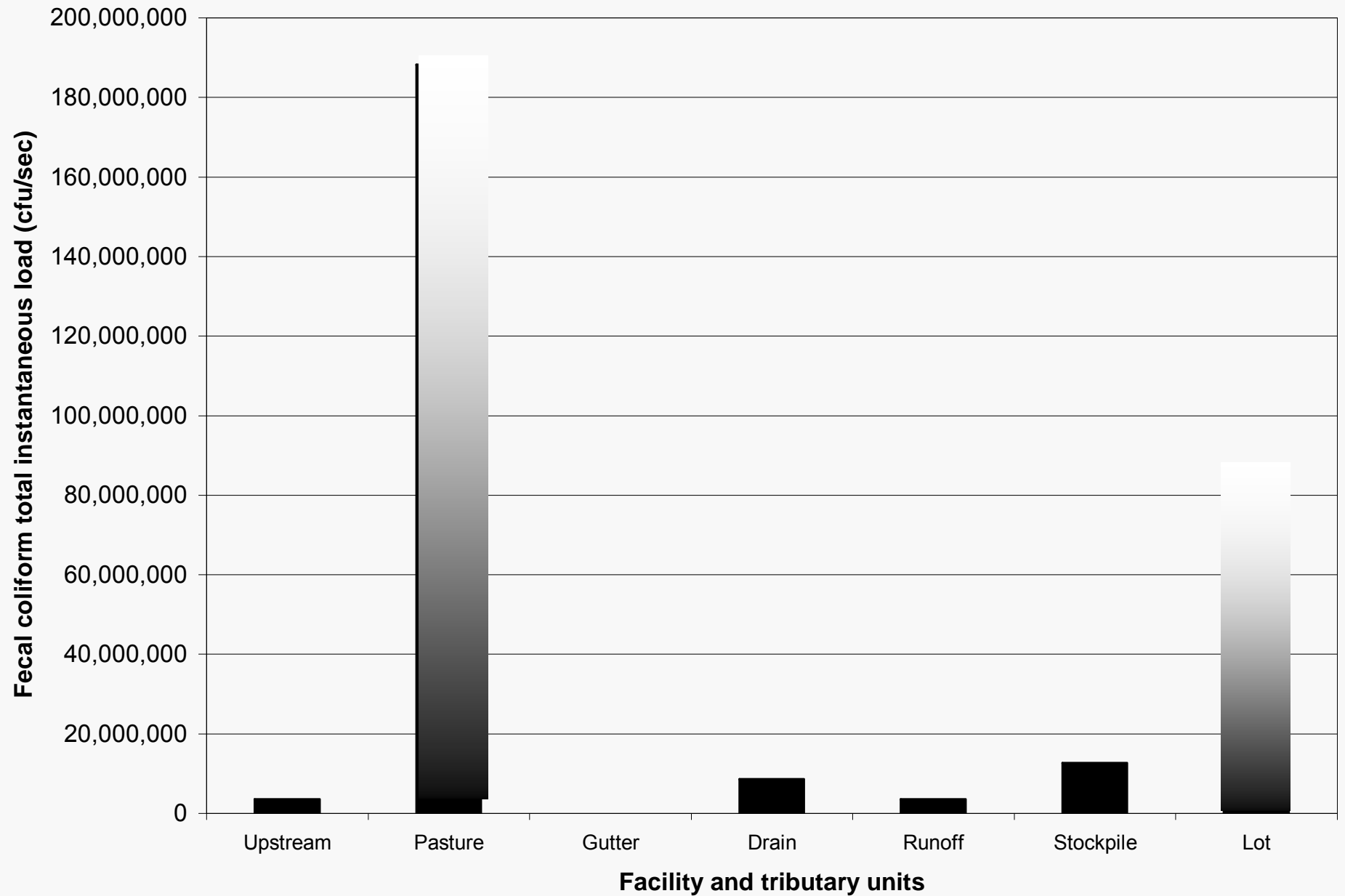
## Conditional Waiver Compliance Team

- Marin Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- Marin County Farm Bureau
- Western United Dairyman
- California Cattlemen's Association
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- University of California Cooperative Extension





# Fecal coliform load in storm run-off



# *Plan Implementation*



- I. RCD Applies for and receives grant funding
  - Have acquired \$4M in the last 10 years
2. Sends out announcement to ranchers
  - 50+ Ranchers signed up
3. A preliminary site assessment is completed for each ranch.

## *Steps to Construction*



*November*

*December-January*

*February-March*

*June-October*

Landowner applies for funding

Project is evaluated and ranked  
(NRCS technician/RCD Advisory Group).

Project is approved by RCD Board for design  
and permit services.

Construction

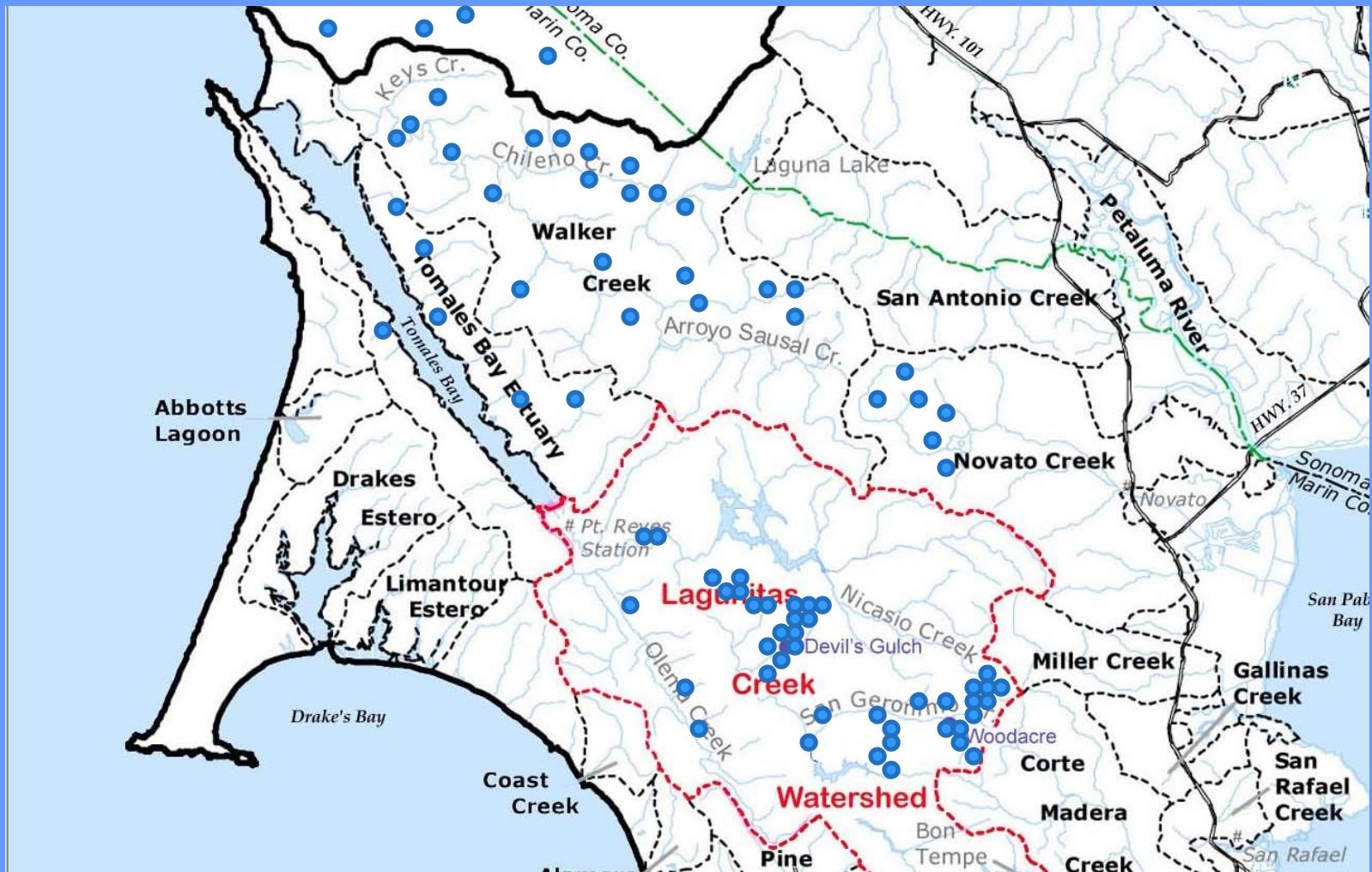
## *Staying on Track*



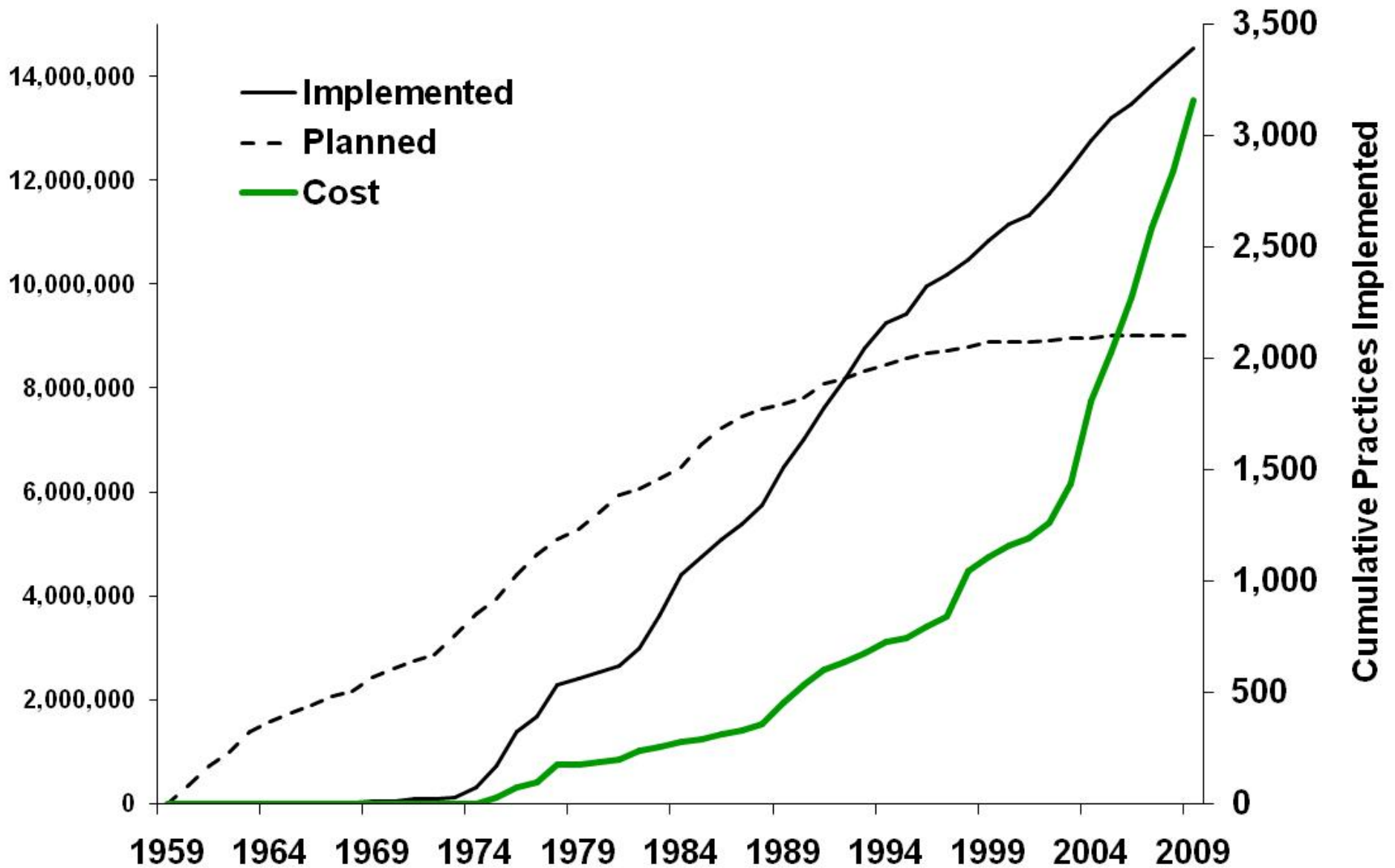
- UC Cooperative Extension – Marin
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- Marin Resource Conservation District
- Bay Institute's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)
- Point Reyes National Seashore



# Map of Projects

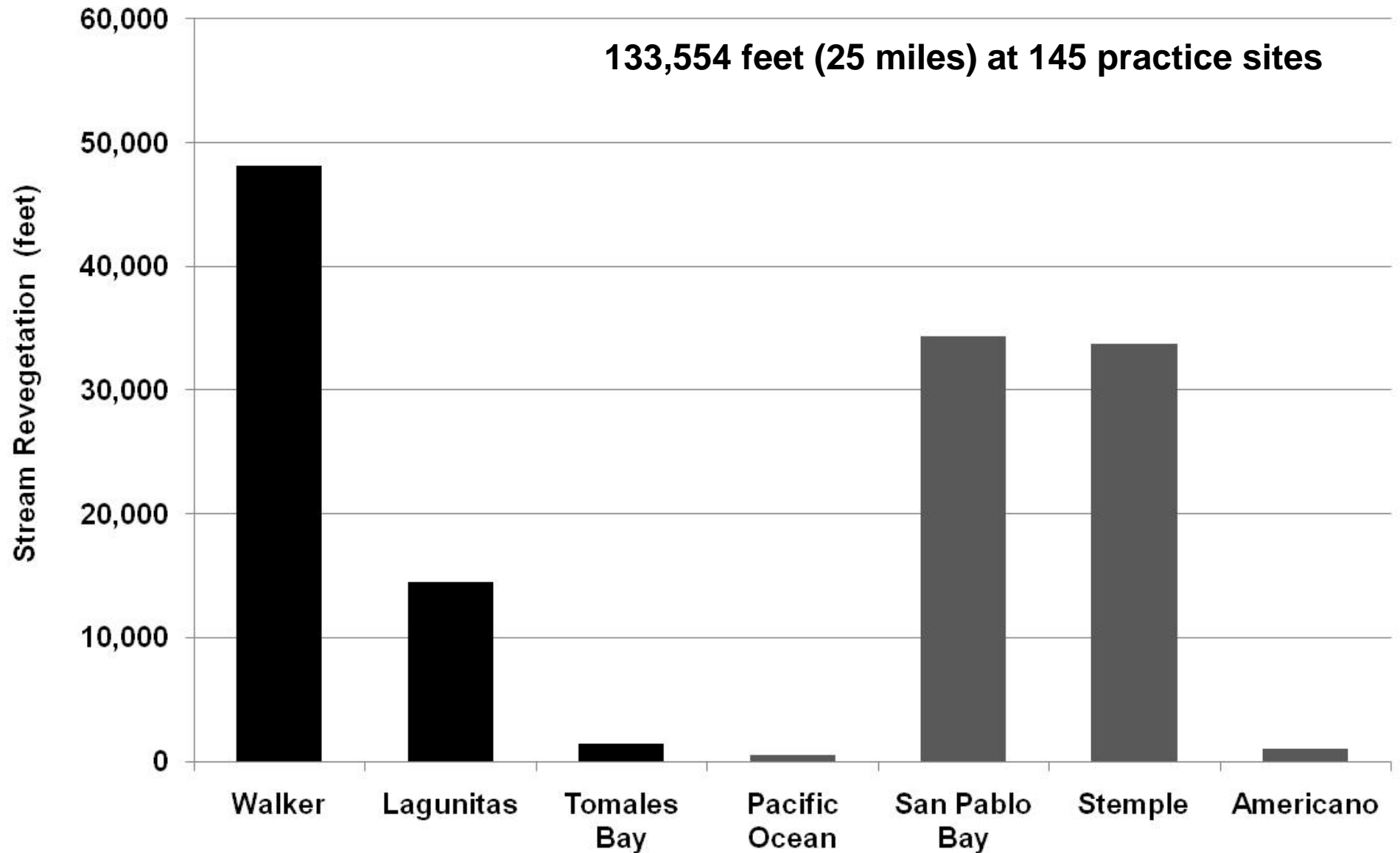


# Cumulative Practices Implemented

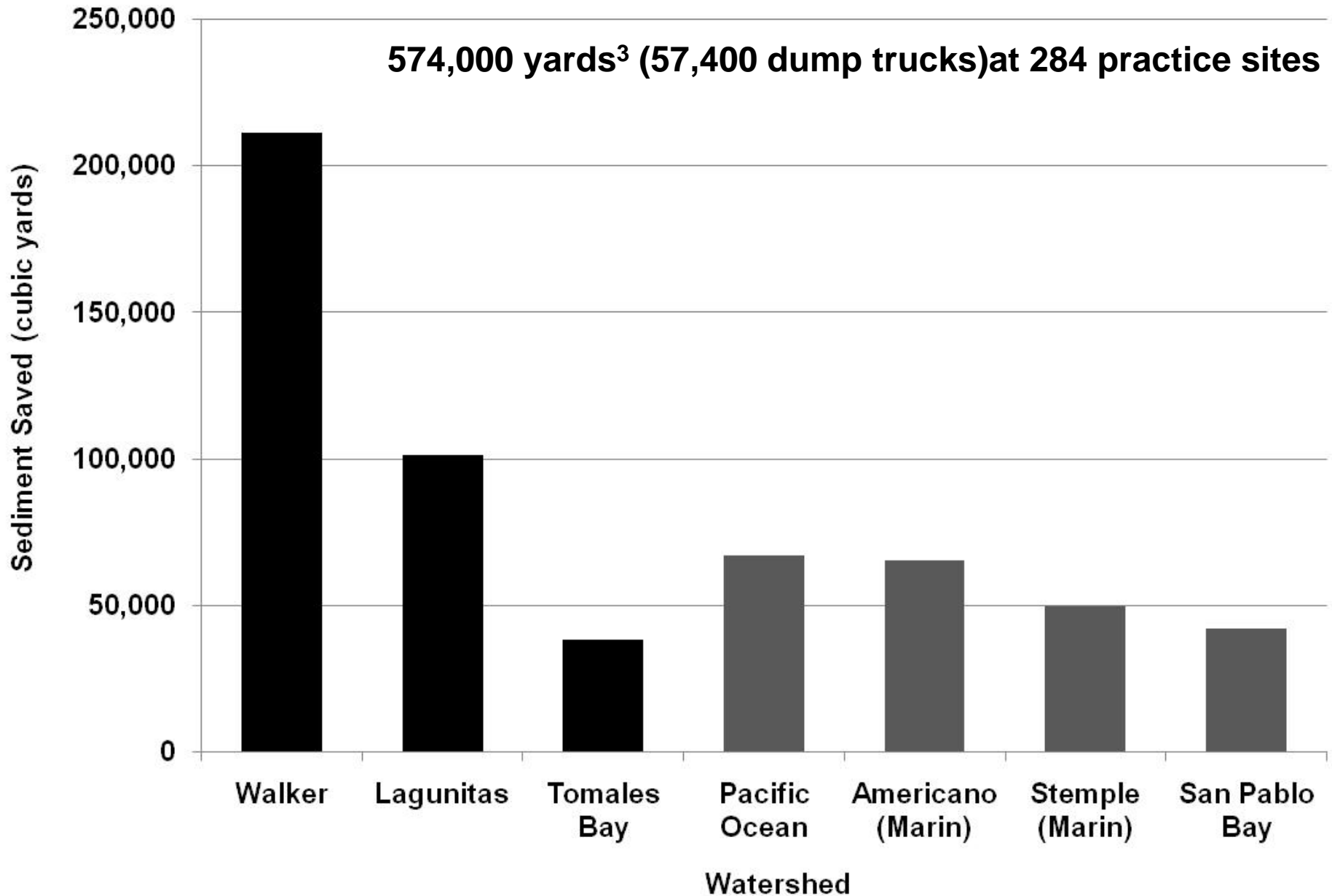


# Stream Revegetation

133,554 feet (25 miles) at 145 practice sites



# Sediment Saved





# Implementation

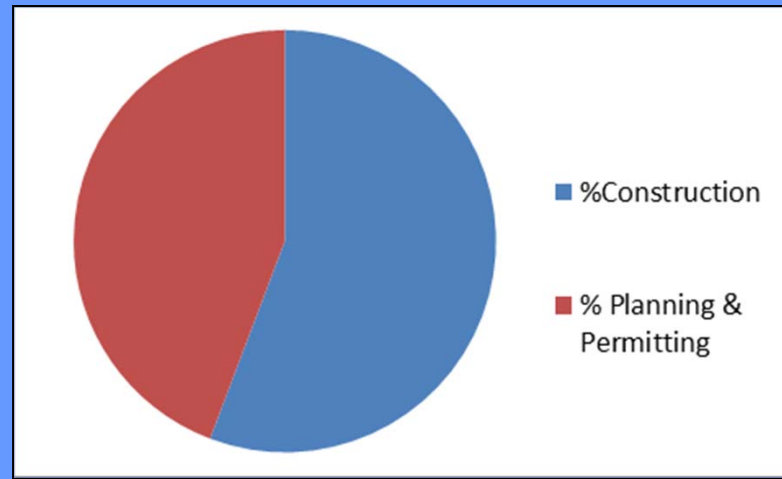




# Implementation



## *RESULTS – 10 years*



- \$4M applied to projects (56% Construction, 44% Planning/Permitting)
- 155 conservation practices implemented
- 36 Ranchers receive construction \$\$
- 20 on waiting list for future work
- 10 miles of stream restored
- 7000 native trees and shrubs planted
- Increases in neomigratory bird and salmon sightings
- 80% COMPLIANCE

## What didn't work

- Surprise notices without notifying partnership
- NOT reminding ranchers to submit annual certifications
- Low staffing at our NRCS and RCD offices
- Ignoring compliance
- Lack of water quality data

## And what did

- Ag partnership
- Working with Water Board from the beginning
- Responsive Water Board staff who understood field work
- NRCS-EQIP, Water Board, Land Trust
- Permit and funding programs to accommodate need
- Ranch Plans stay on the ranch. Self certification option
- RDM is a management tool. Not regulatory criteria.



Thank you!

