

Machine Learning-Based Tools for Ion Constituent Simulation in the Delta

Machine Learning in Water and Environmental Modeling Workshop
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Module #4

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Outline

1. Problem Definition

2. Study Phases

- **Phase 1:** Pilot study (South Delta)
- **Phase 2:** Interior Delta
- **Phase 3:** Water intake locations
- **Phase 4:** Hybrid model

3. Dashboard Tools

4. Key Messages



Problem Definition

Why ion levels matter in the Delta?

- Water quality management
- Regulatory compliance
- Decision-making and forecasting



Problem Definition

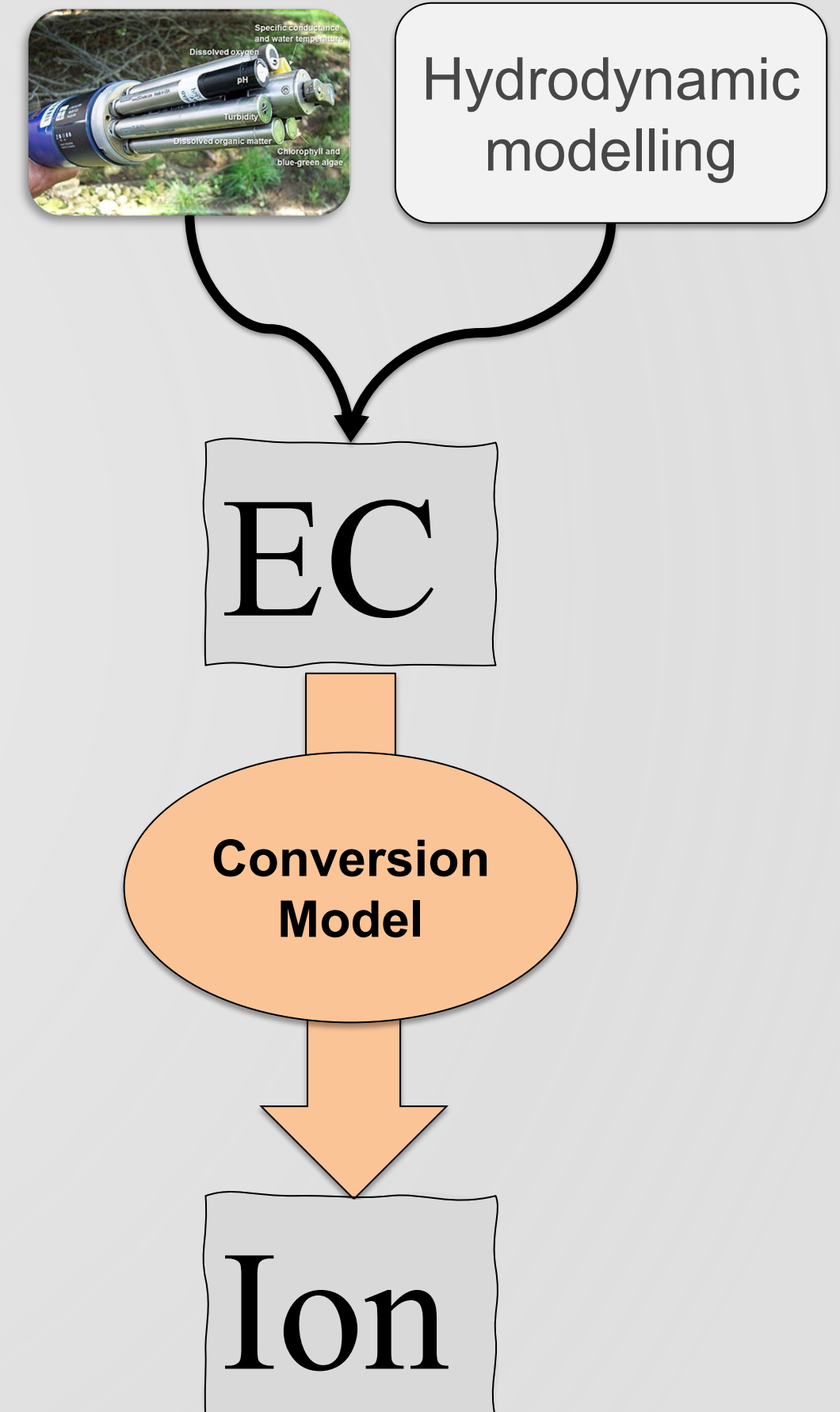
Why use a conversion method (Electrical Conductivity (EC) → Ion constituents)?

Sampling limitations:

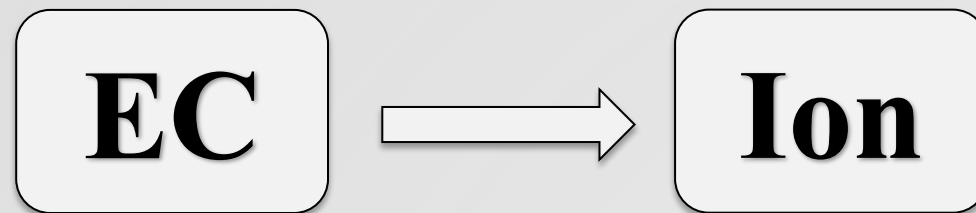
- time-consuming: collection, laboratory analysis
- costly
- limited spatial and temporal coverage



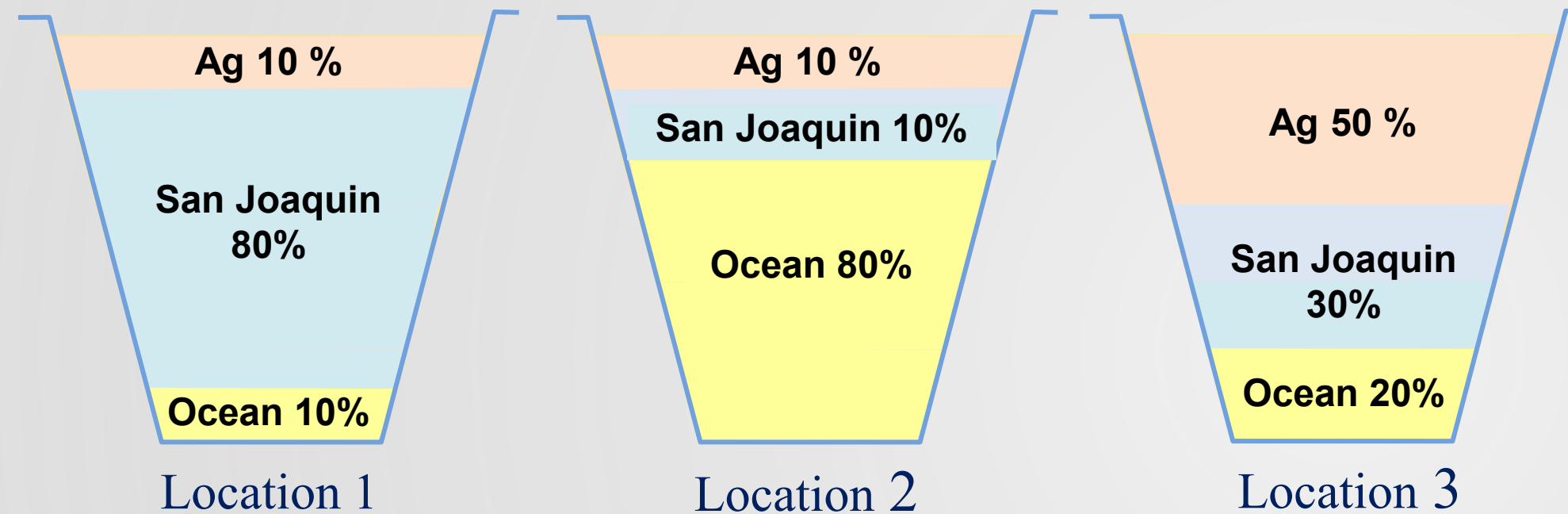
Source of Photos: <https://pixel-ca-dwr.photoshelter.com/>



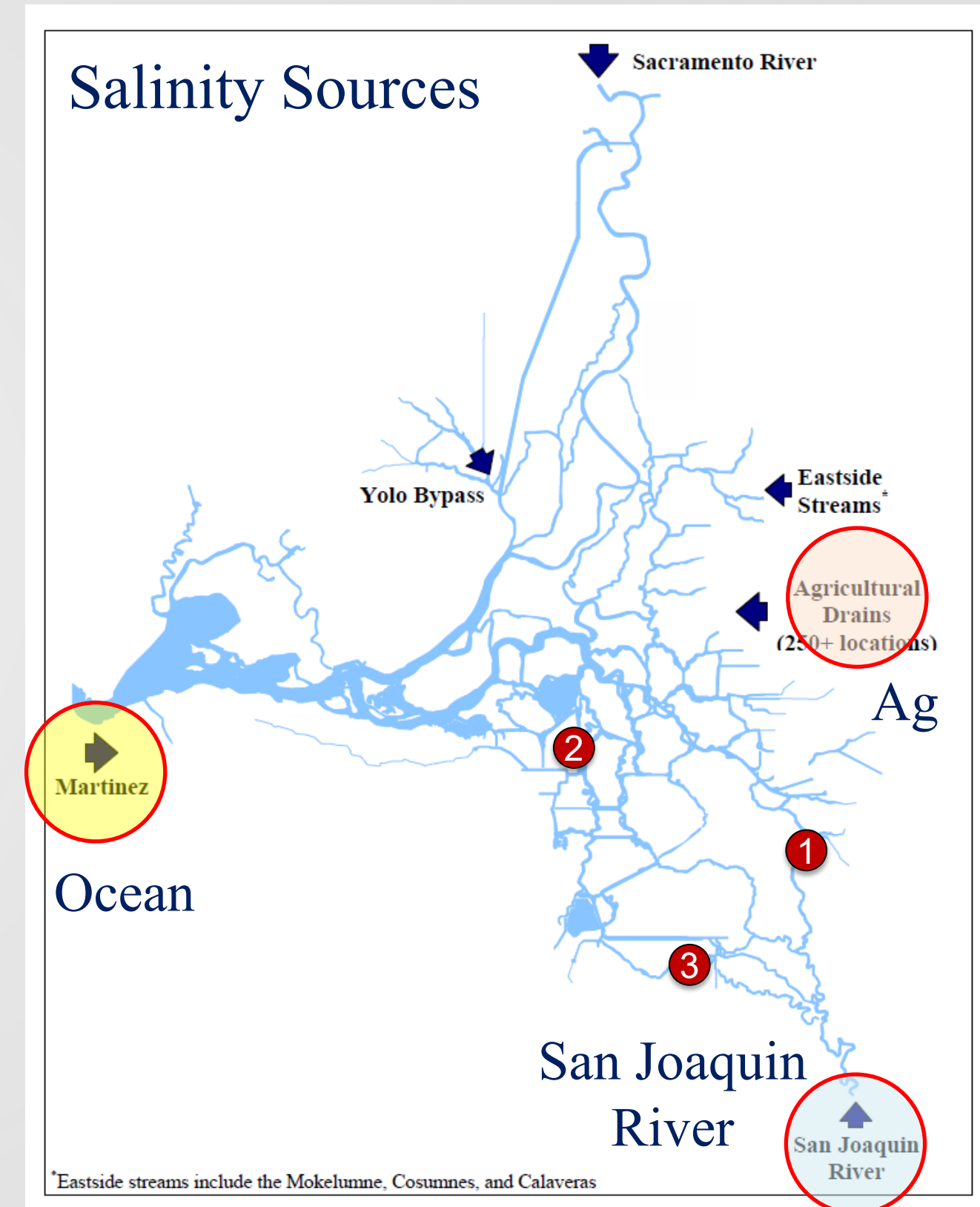
Problem Definition



Contribution from each source (demonstration purposes only)



- Even with **similar EC levels**, the **ion constituent levels can vary** as the **sources of salinity are different**.
 - **Ocean sources** → higher levels of **Chloride/Bromide**.
 - **Agricultural drainage** → more **Sulfate**.
- Understanding the **source of salinity** is crucial for accurately assessing ion constituents.



Problem Definition

Traditional method:

Similarity

$$\begin{cases} Ion = A \times EC + B \\ Ion = A \times EC^2 + B \times EC + C \end{cases}$$

If **Region** = R1 & **X2*** < 81 km & **Month** = June & **WYT*** = Wet

If Region = R2 & X2 < 81 km & Month = June & WYT = Dry

If Region = R3 & X2 > 81 km & Month = April & WYT = Critical

⋮

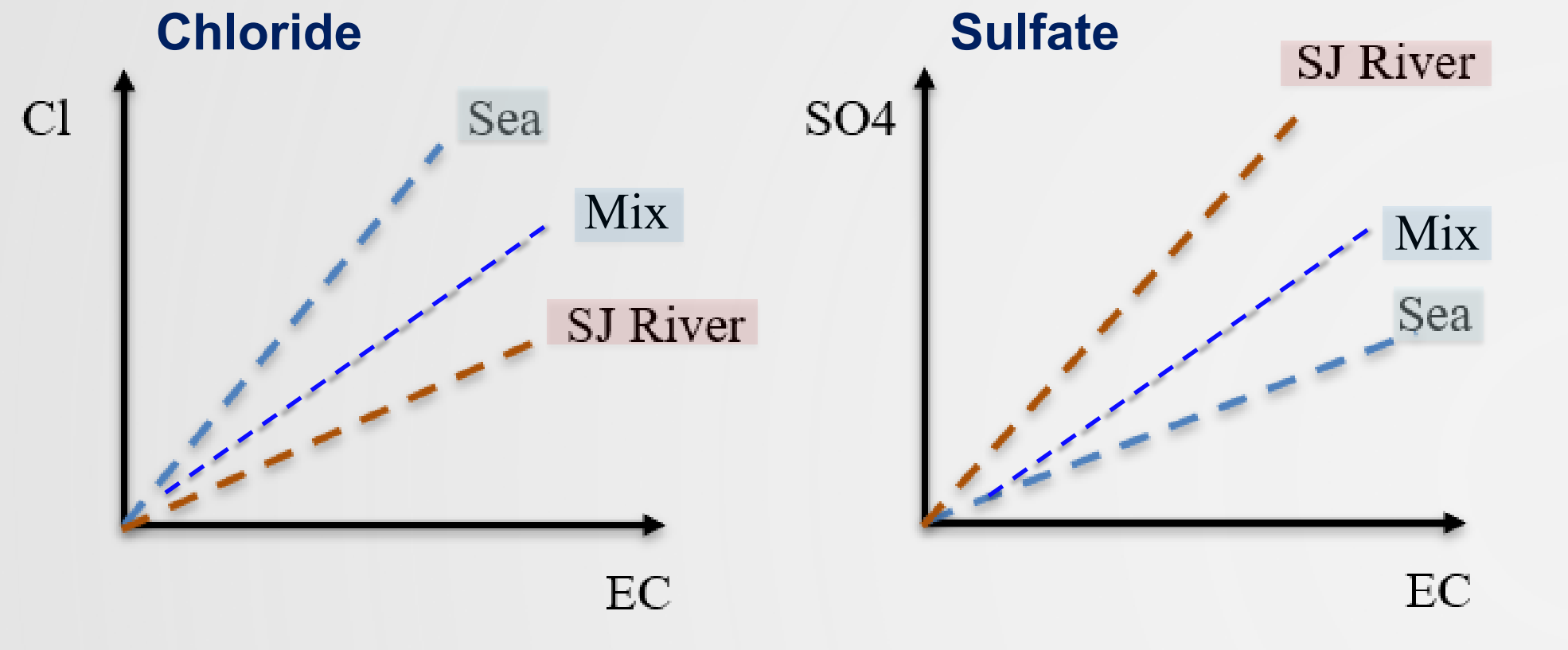
$\longrightarrow A_1, B_1, C_1$

$\longrightarrow A_2, B_2, C_2$

$\longrightarrow A_3, B_3, C_3$

⋮

Water Year Type and Season Matrix #2												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Old-Middle River Export Corridor Subregion												
Jan												Dec
W	SEA	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA
AN	SEA	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA
BN	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA
D	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA
C	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA
San Joaquin River Corridor Subregion												
W	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
AN	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
BN	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
D	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
C	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
South Delta Subregion												
W	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
AN	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR
BN	IND	IND	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
D	IND	IND	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	SJR	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
C	IND	IND	SJR	SJR	SJR	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND

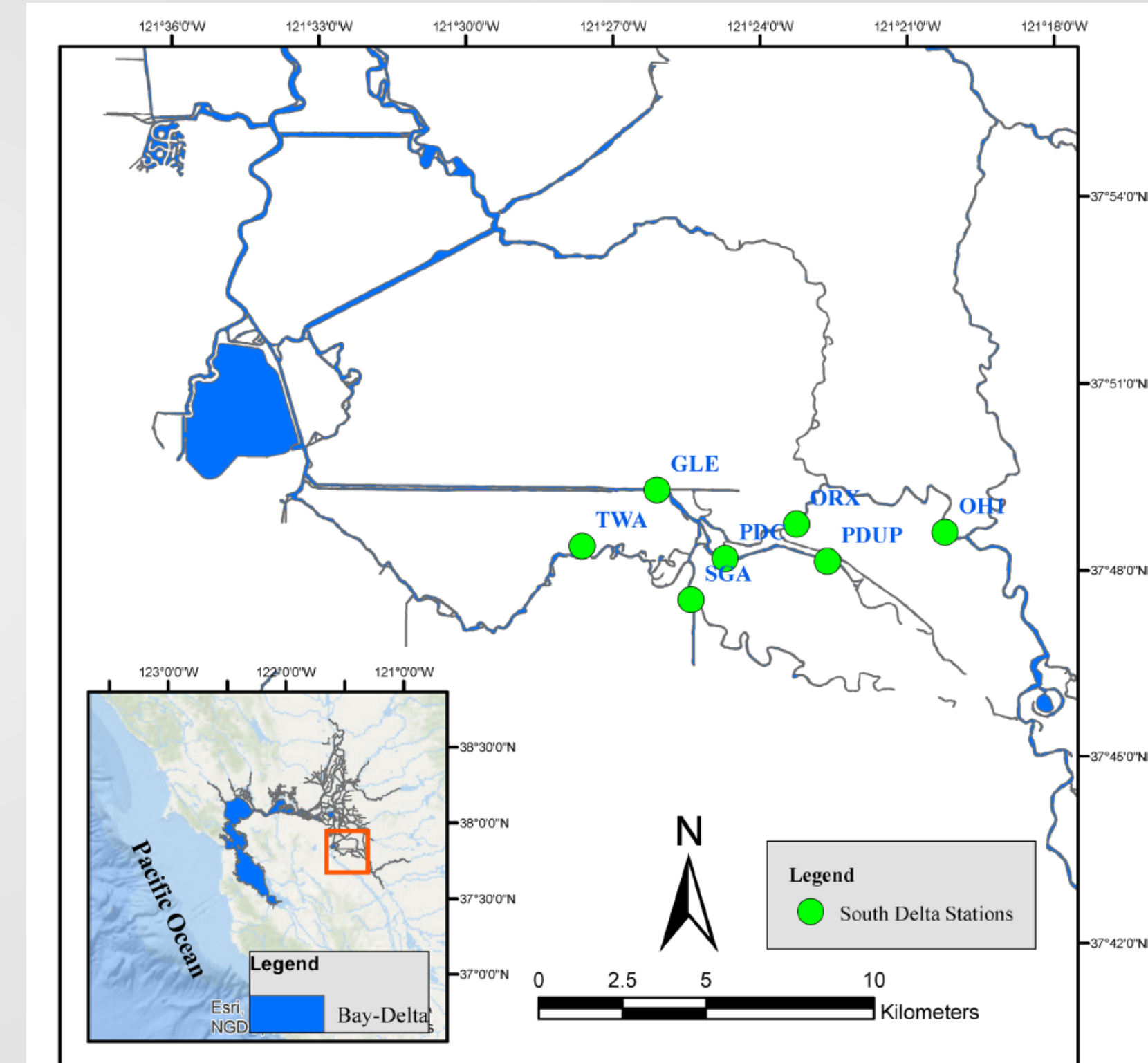
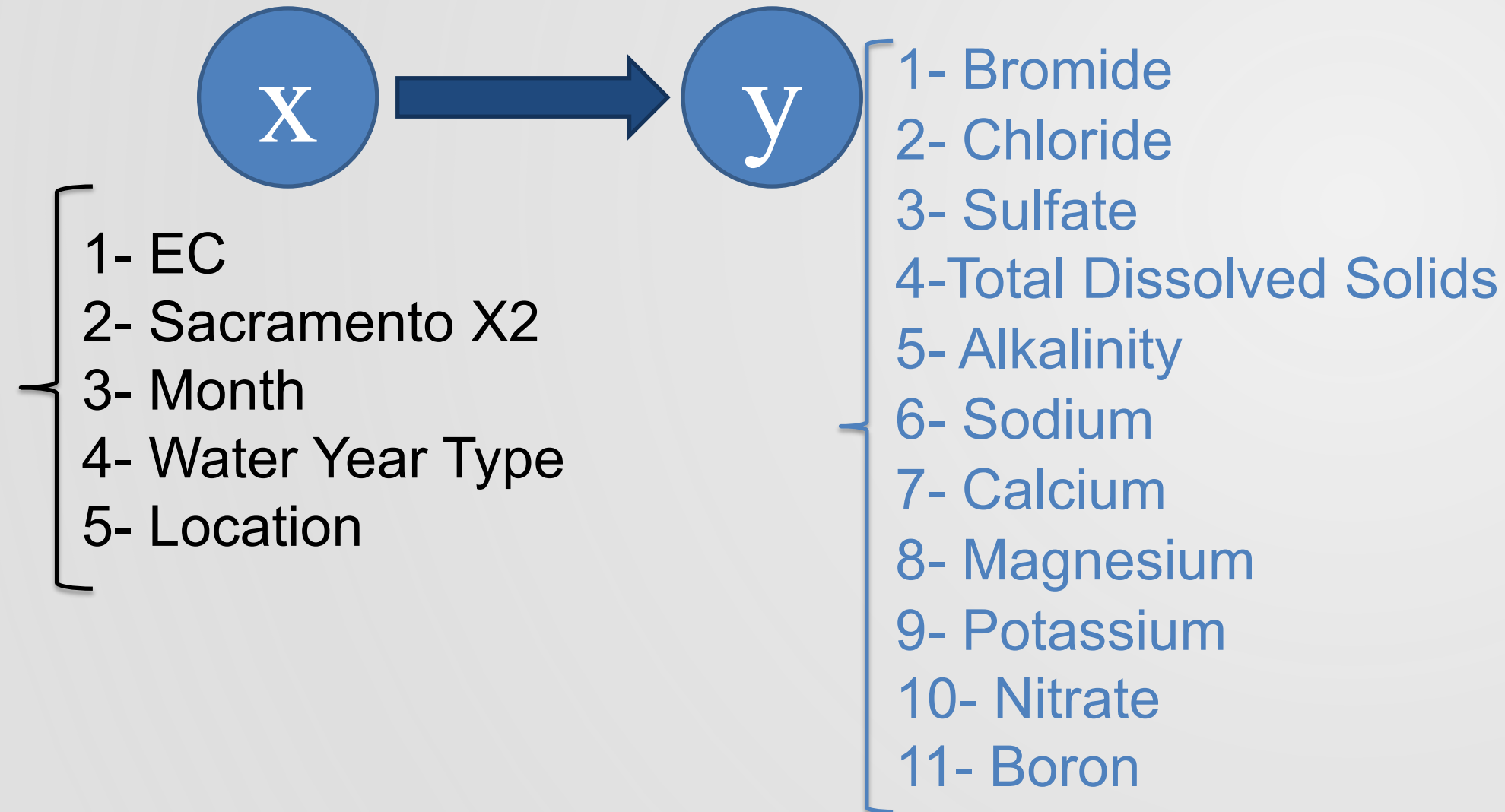


Wet (W), Above-Normal (AN), Below-Normal (BN), Dry (D), Critical (C),
SEA (Sea boundary is dominant), SJR (San Joaquin boundary is dominant), IND (indeterminate or Mix)

Data Preparation: Phase 1

South Delta:

- 11 ion constituents
- ~180 samples (2018 to 2020)

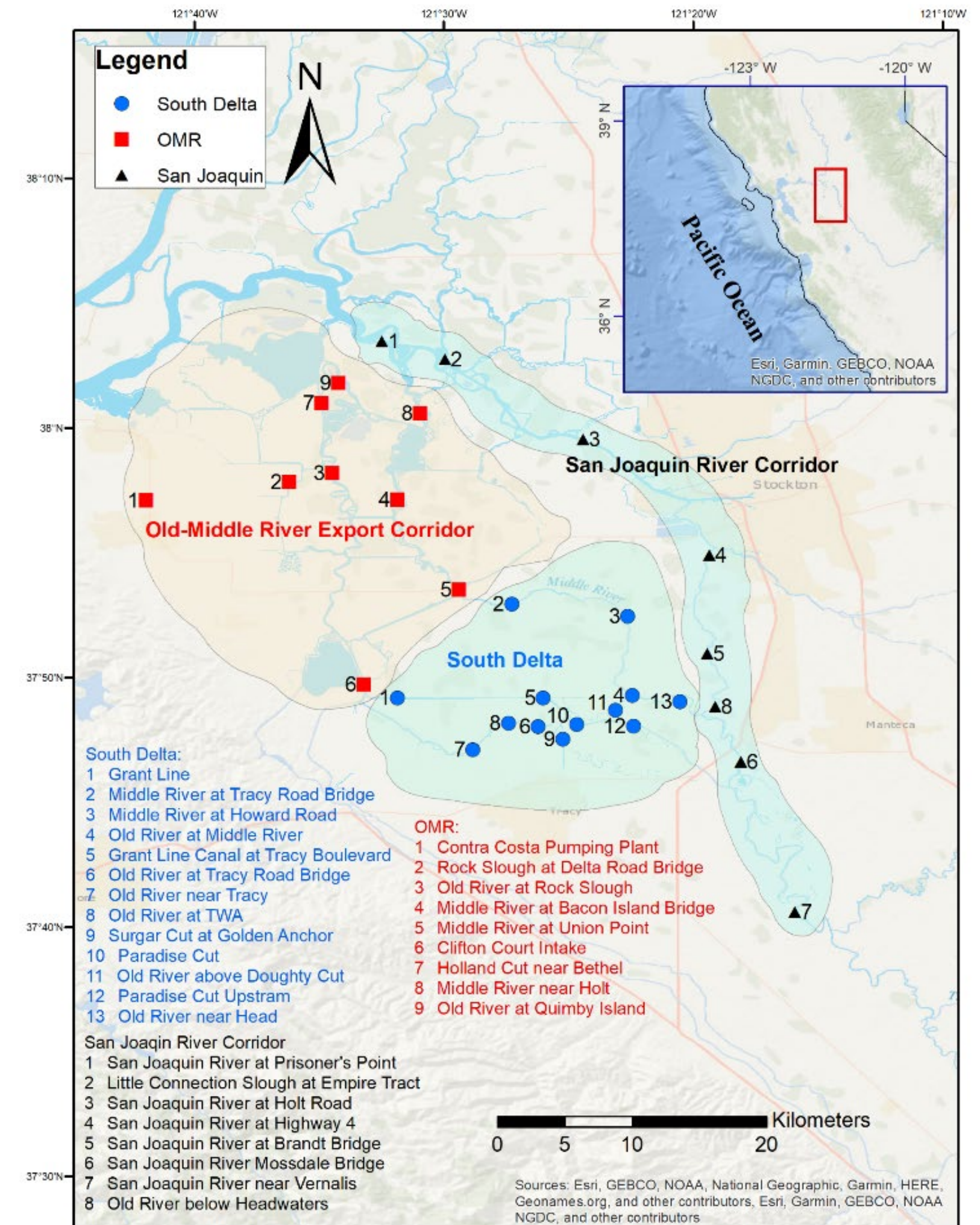
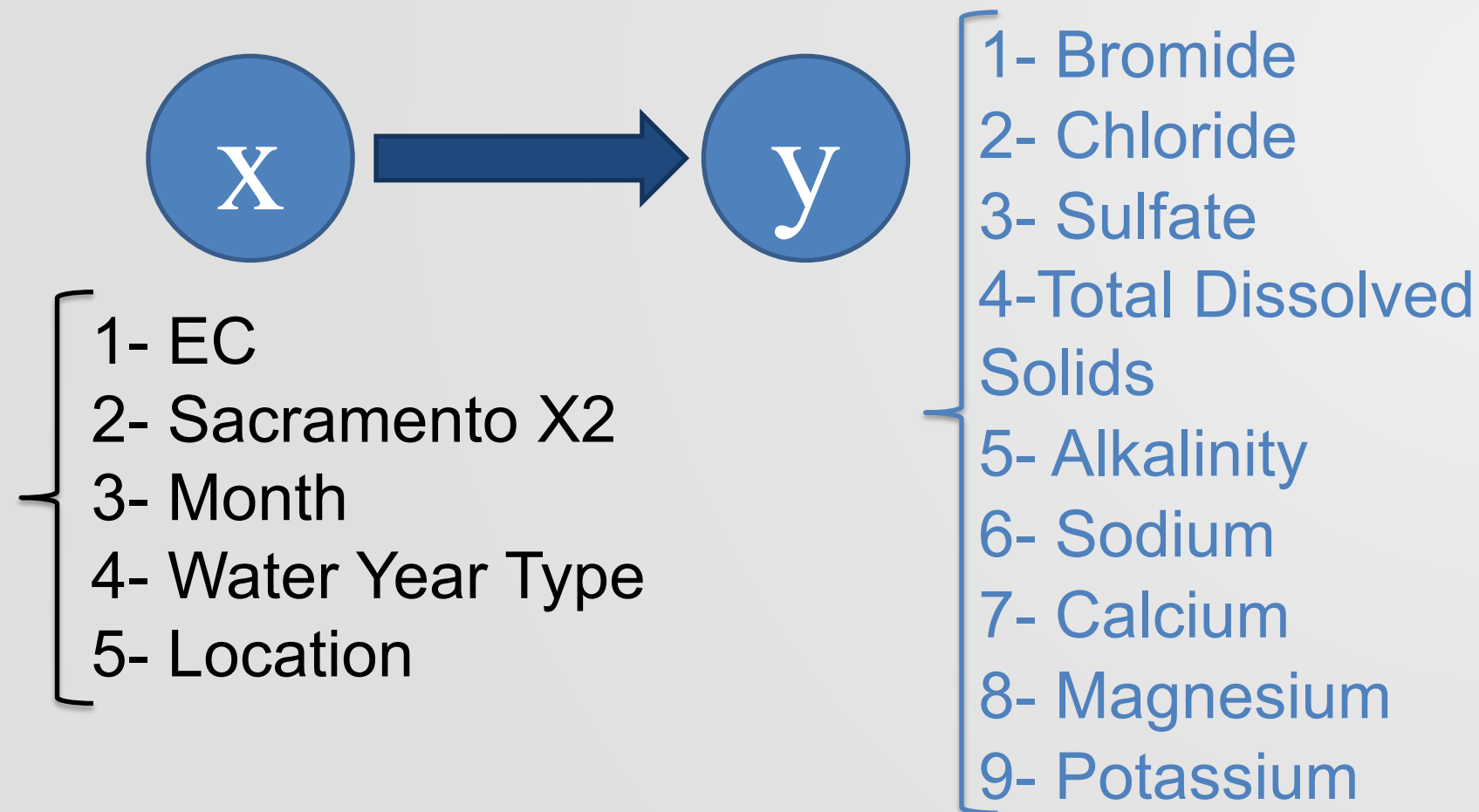


Data Preparation: Phase 2

Interior Delta

9 ion constituents; 1000 ~ 2000 samples (1959-2022)

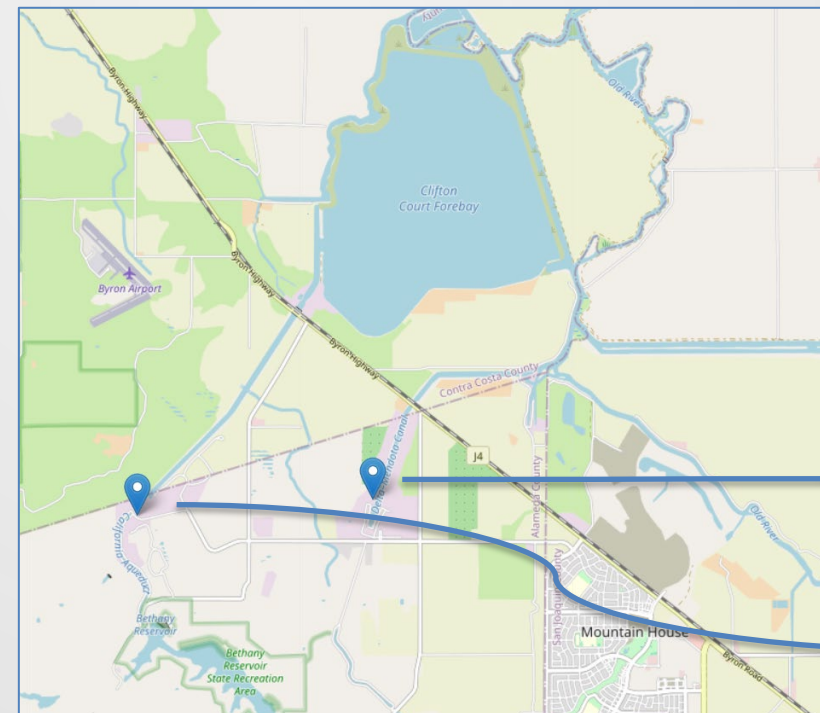
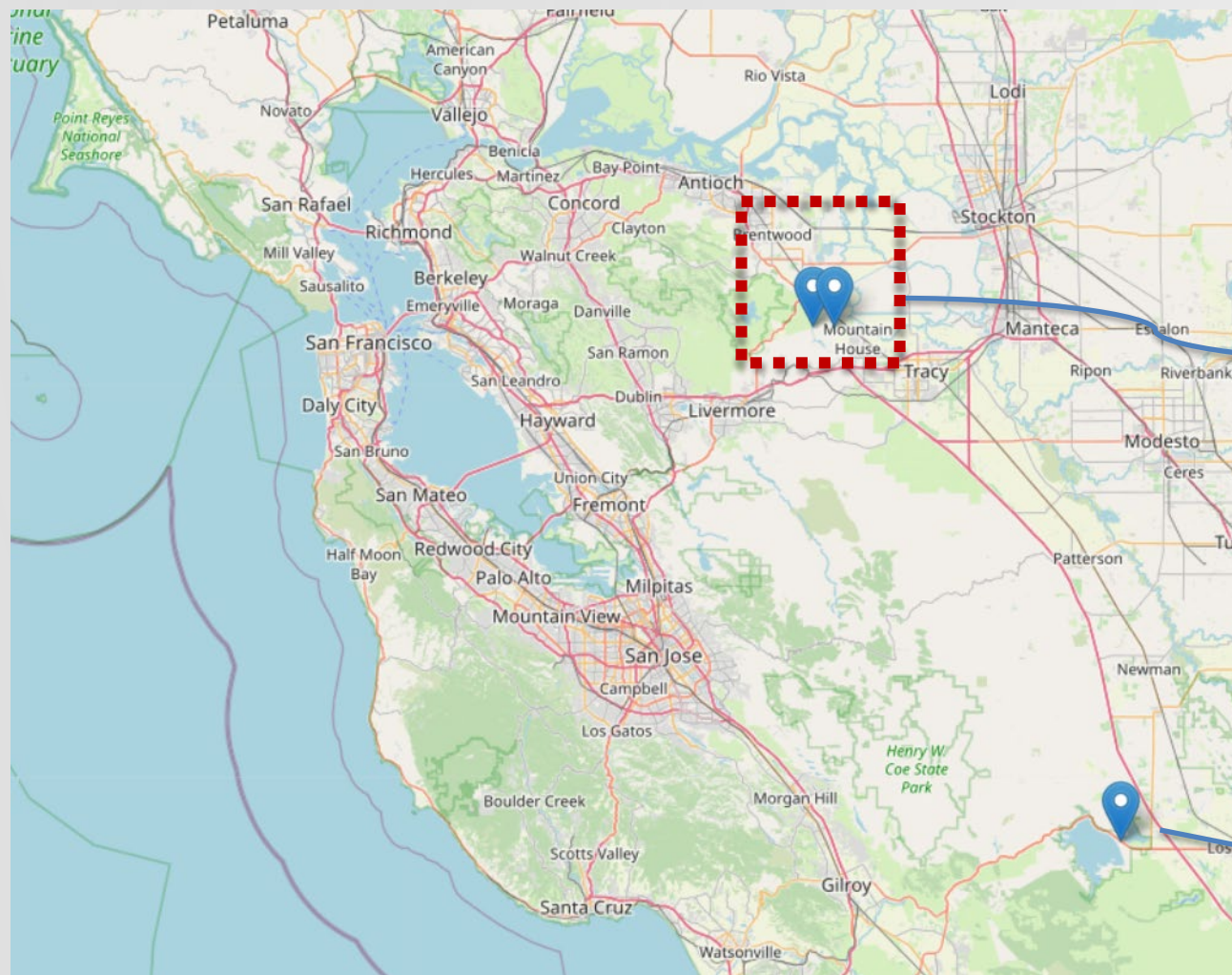
- Old-Middle River Export Corridor (OMR)
- San Joaquin River Corridor
- South Delta



Data Preparation: Phase 3

Key Intake Locations

- 3 ion constituents (Bromide, Chloride, Sulfate)
- ~5000 samples
- HRO and TRP (2019-2023), ONG (2012-2023)

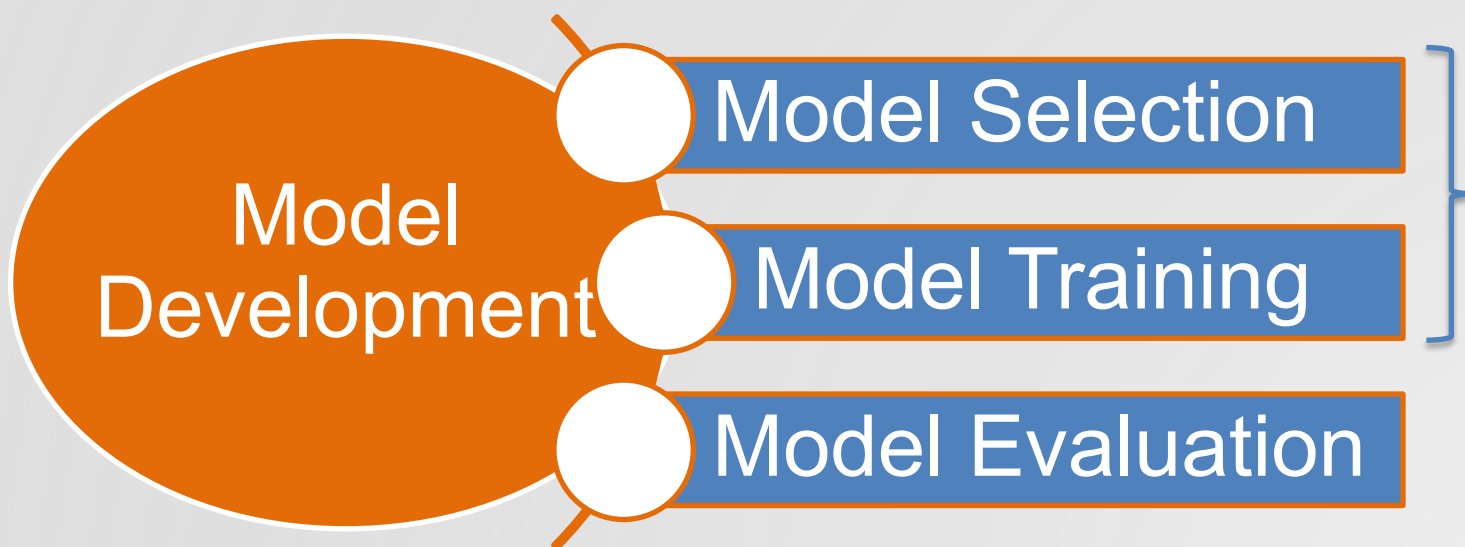


Tracy Pumping Plant (TRP)

Banks Pumping Plant (HRO)

'Neill Forebay at Gianelli Pumping Plant (ONG)

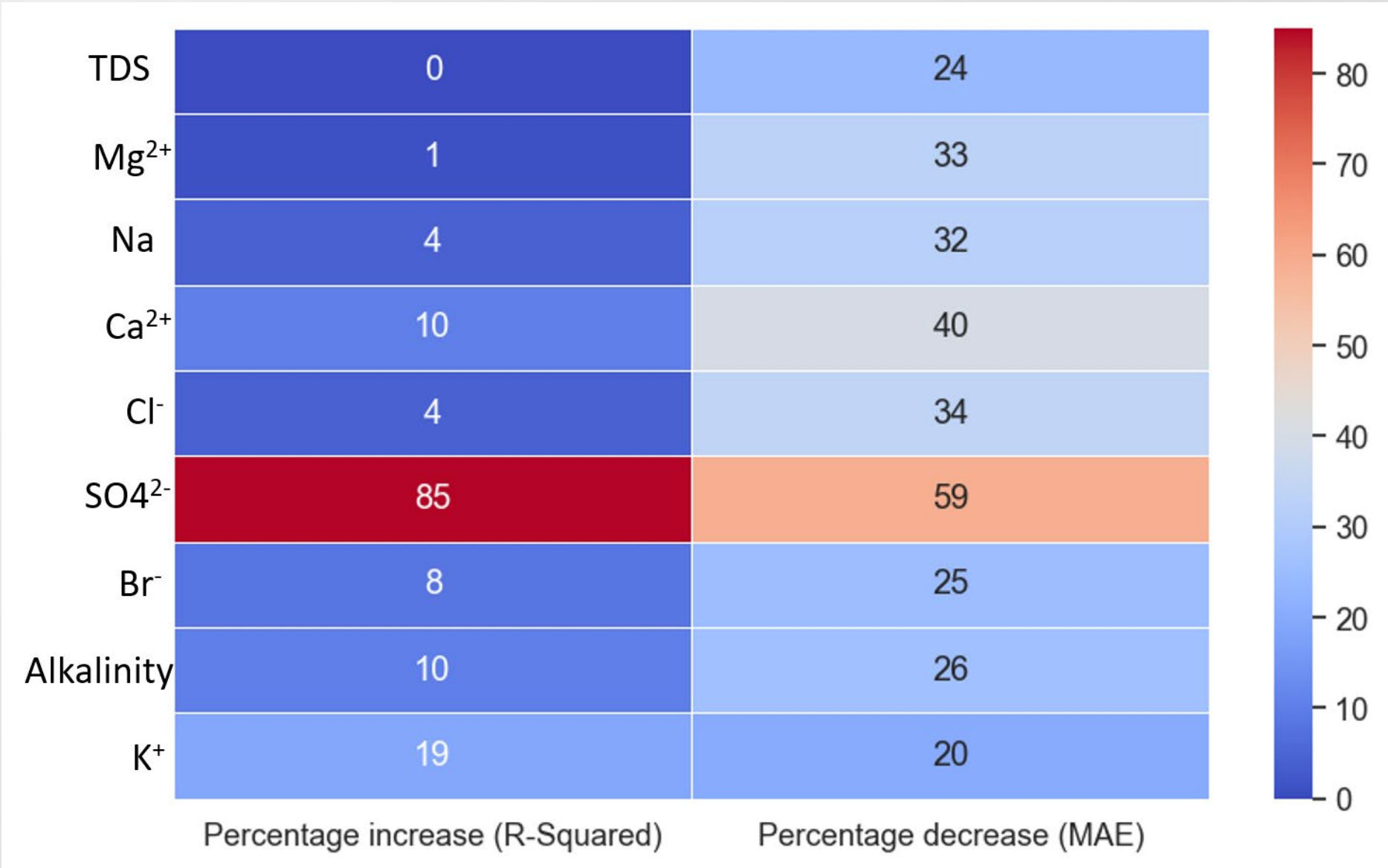
Model Development: Phrases 1-3



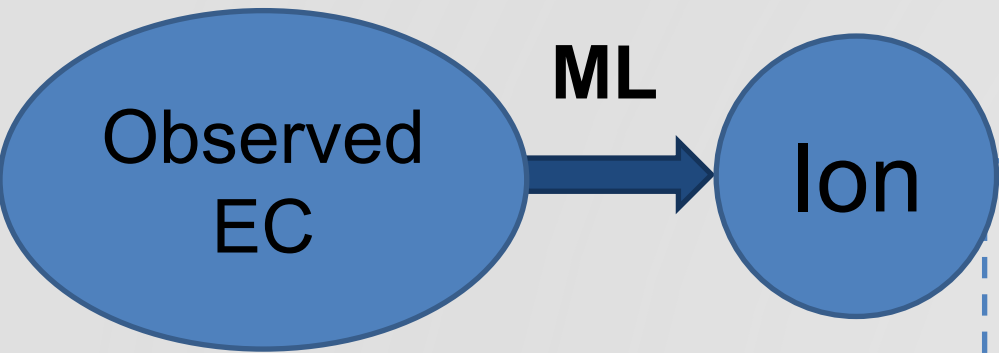
Details to be covered in the hands-on portion

K-fold cross validation; Sensitivity analysis

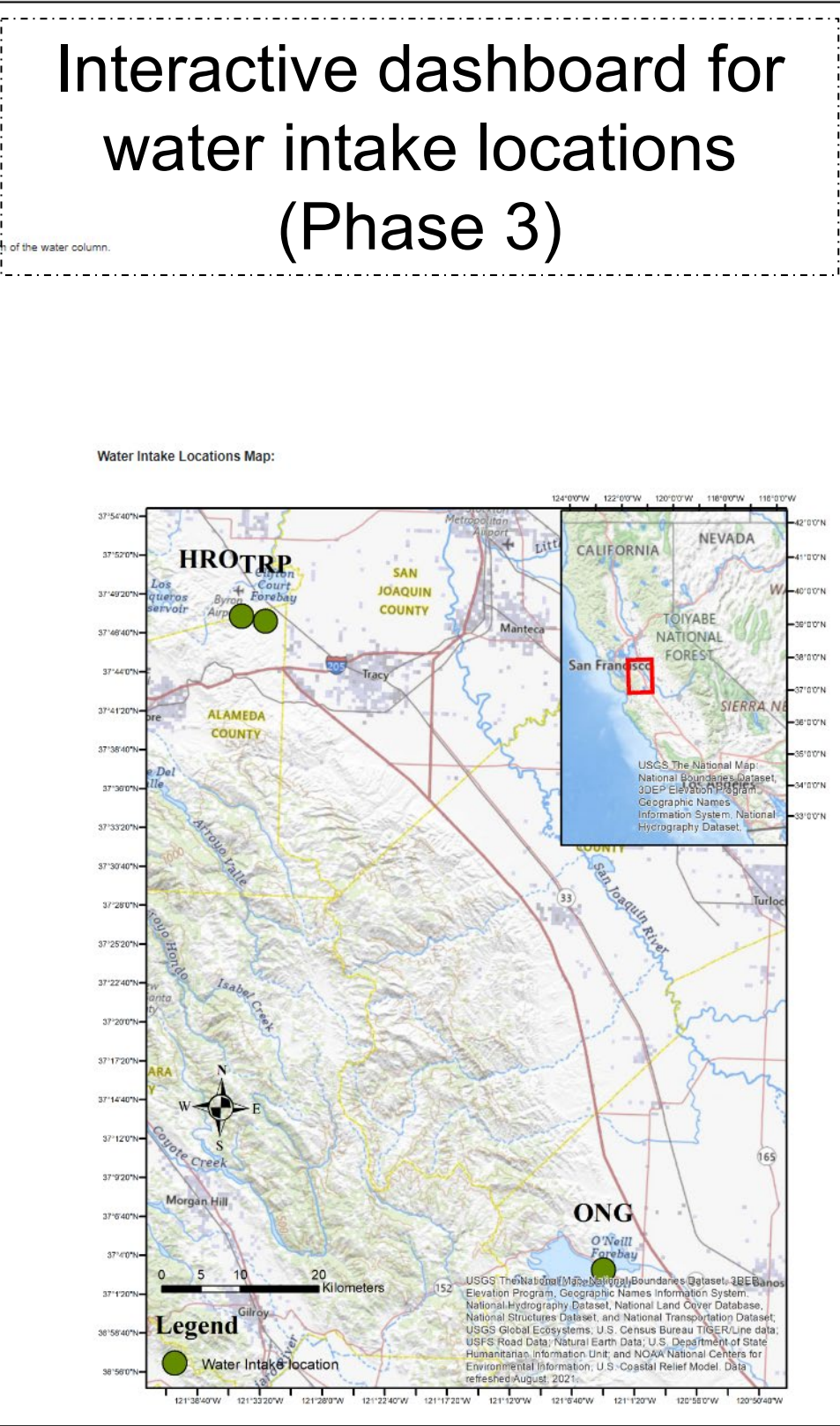
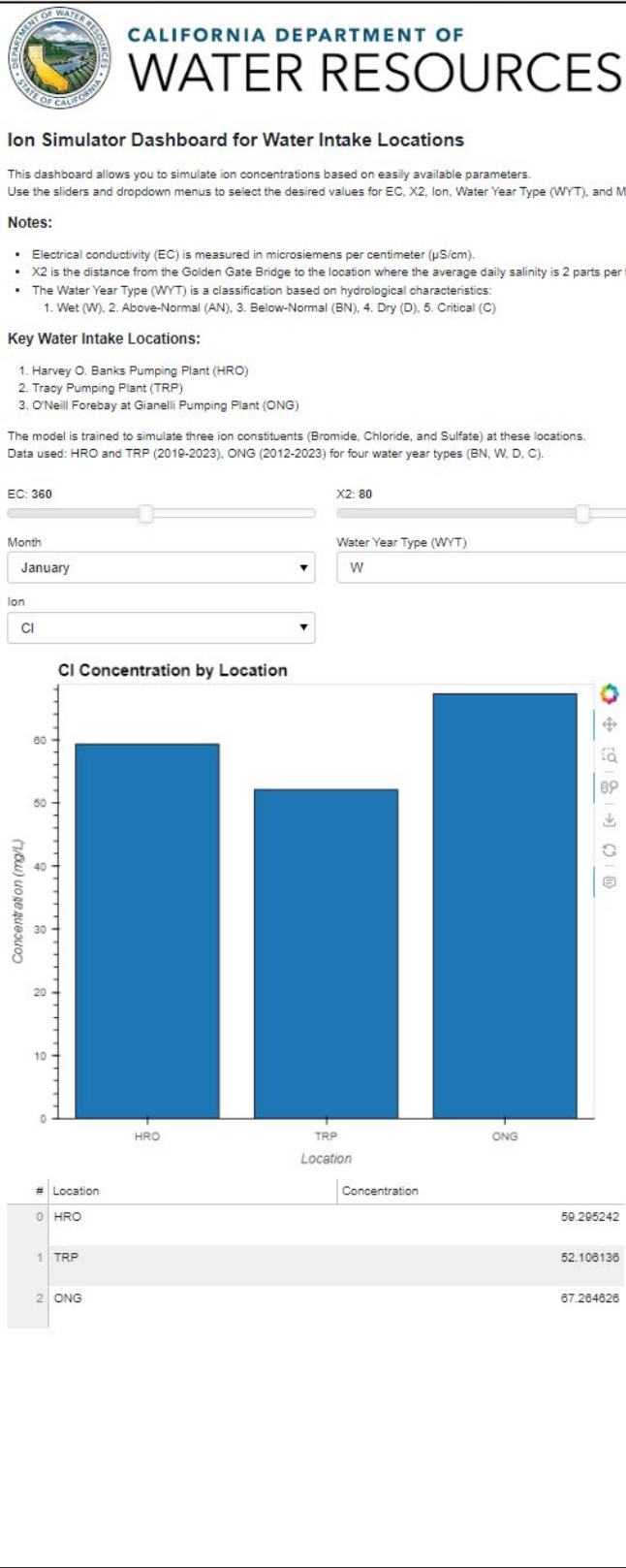
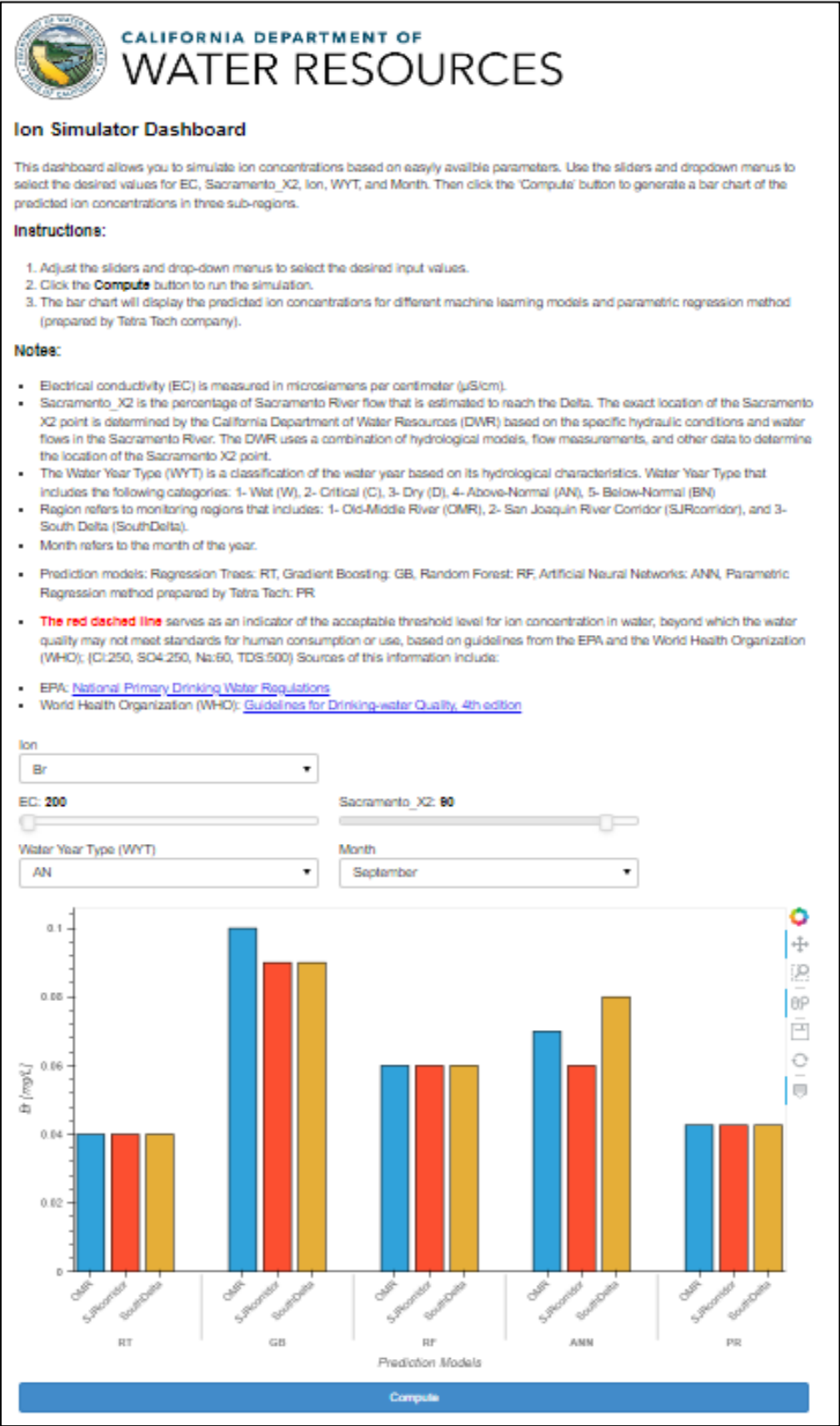
% improvement over traditional method
(Phase 2): **R^2** & Mean Absolute Error (**MAE**)



Model Deployment: Dashboards

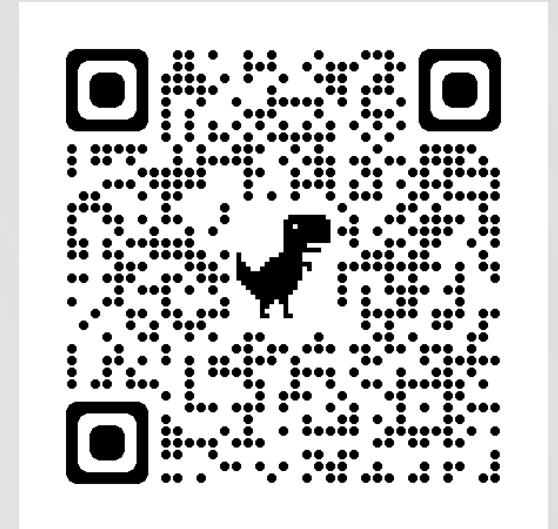


Interactive dashboard
for interior Delta
(Phase 2)



Model Deployment: Dashboards

<https://dwrddashion.azurewebsites.net/Dashboard> (Interior Delta)



https://dwrddashionintake.azurewebsites.net/Intake_dashboard (Intake Locations)



https://dwrddashionsensitivity.azurewebsites.net/Sensitivity_IonStudy (Intake Locations: Sensitivity)

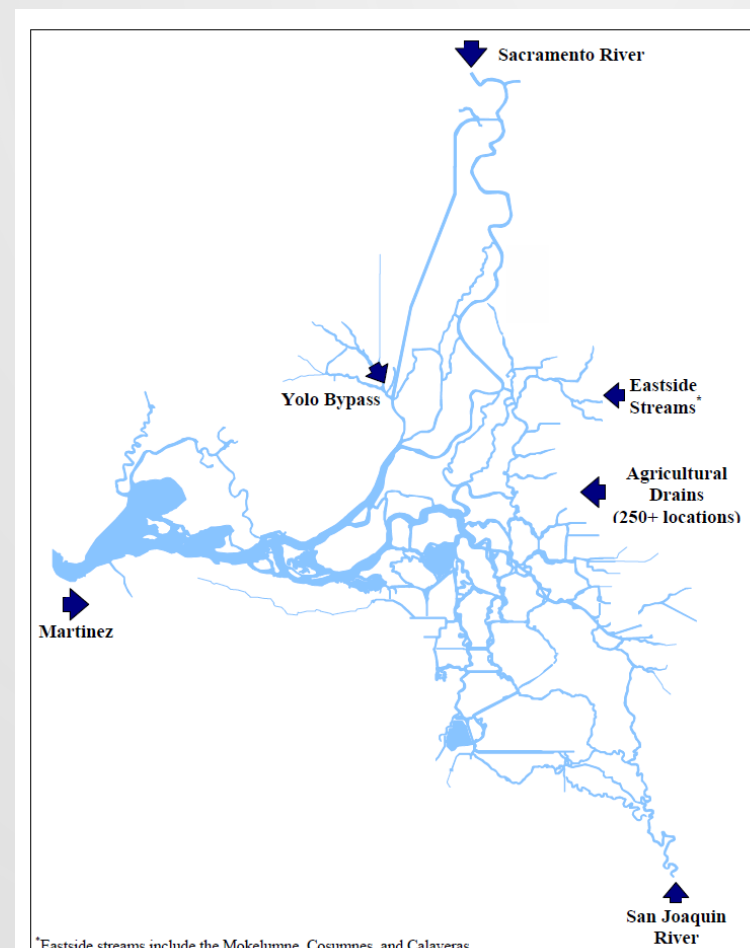
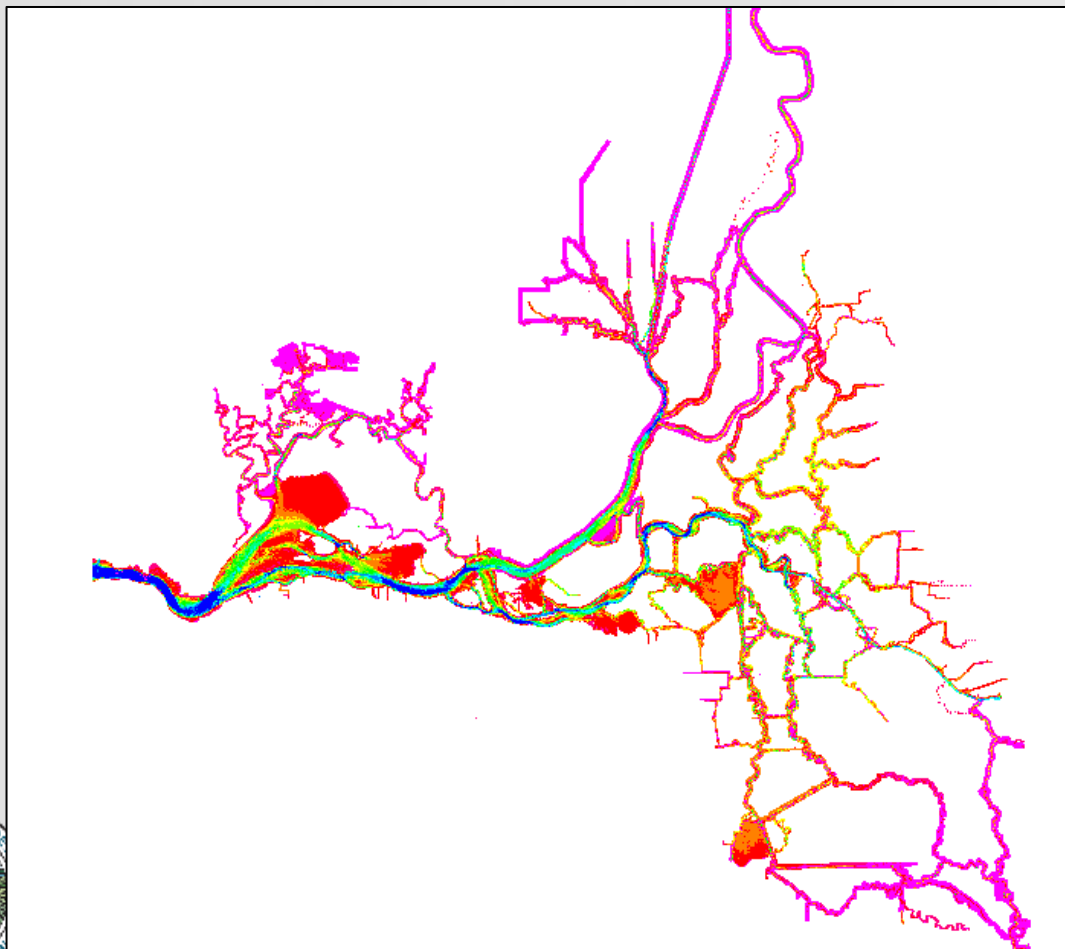


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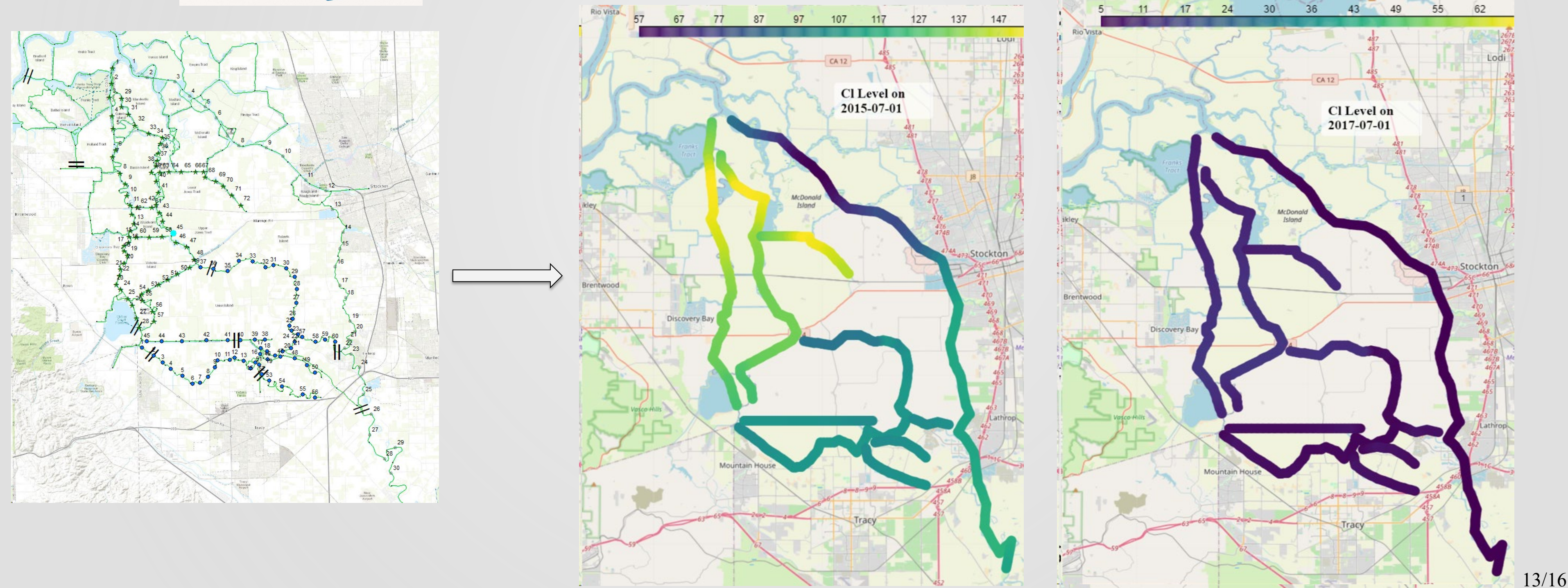
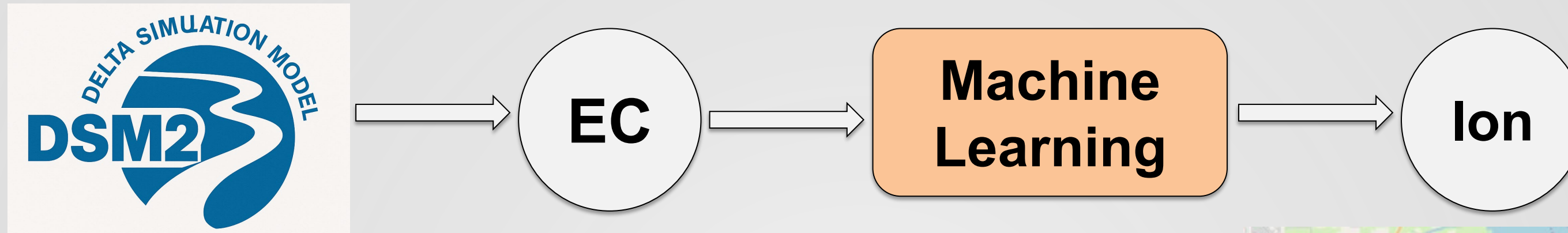
Note: No dashboard developed for Phase I pilot study on [South Delta](#)

Limitations: Phrases 1-3

- Limited temporal and spatial coverage
- No source contribution analysis
- Inability to simulate potential planning scenarios



Phrase 4: Hybrid Model



Phrase 4: Dashboard

2000 – 2022

- 1- Total Dissolved Solids
- 2- Bromide
- 3- Chloride
- 4- Sulfate
- 5- Alkalinity
- 6- Sodium
- 7- Calcium
- 8- Magnesium
- 9- Potassium



Documentation: Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Phase 1 : Pilot study (South Delta)
- Phase 2: Interior Delta
- Phase 3: Water intake locations
- Phase 4: Hybrid model

Earth Science Informatics
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12145-022-00828-1>

Phase 1

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Check for updates

Salinity-constituent conversion in South Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta of California via machine learning

Peyman Namadi¹ · Minxue He¹  · Prabhjot Sandhu¹

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Journal of Hydroinformatics




Phase 2


Check for updates



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Modeling ion constituents in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta using multiple machine learning approaches

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 **Phases 3 and 4 Under review** 

Article

Advancing Ion Constituent Simulations in California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Using Machine Learning Tools

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Key Messages

- **Machine learning (ML) models:**

- run fast
- perform better

- **User-friendly dashboards:**

- **Interior Delta Ion Simulation Dashboard**

- 9 ion constituents

- **Water Intake Locations Ion Dashboard**

- 3 ion concentrations

- **Sensitivity Analysis Dashboard**

- Sensitivity of ML models

- **Hybrid Hydrodynamic & Machine Learning Dashboard**

- Higher spatial and temporal distribution

- Suitable for users with or without coding or ML expertise



Questions?

