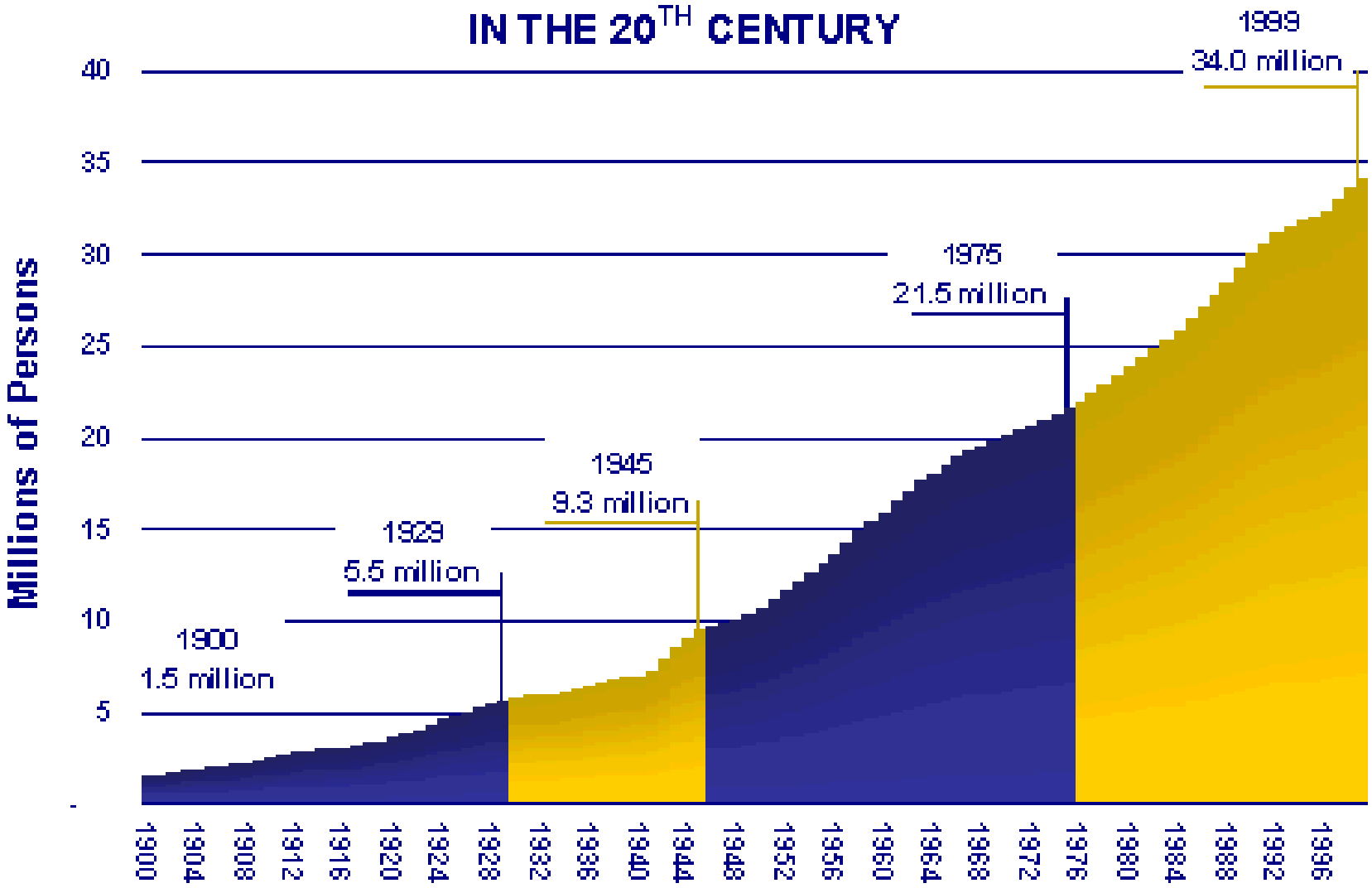
LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

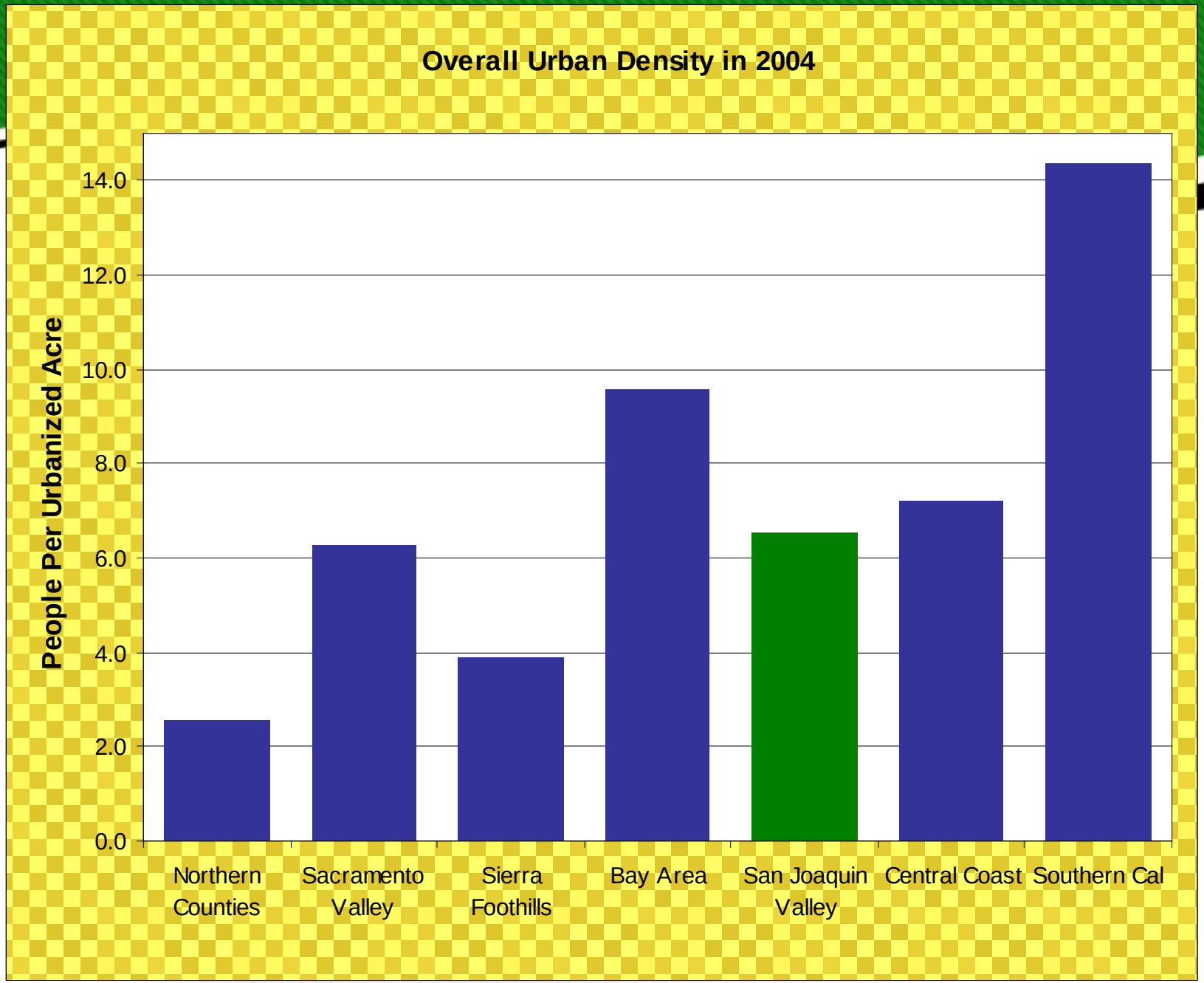
Protecting California's Agricultural Lands

Introduction & Overview

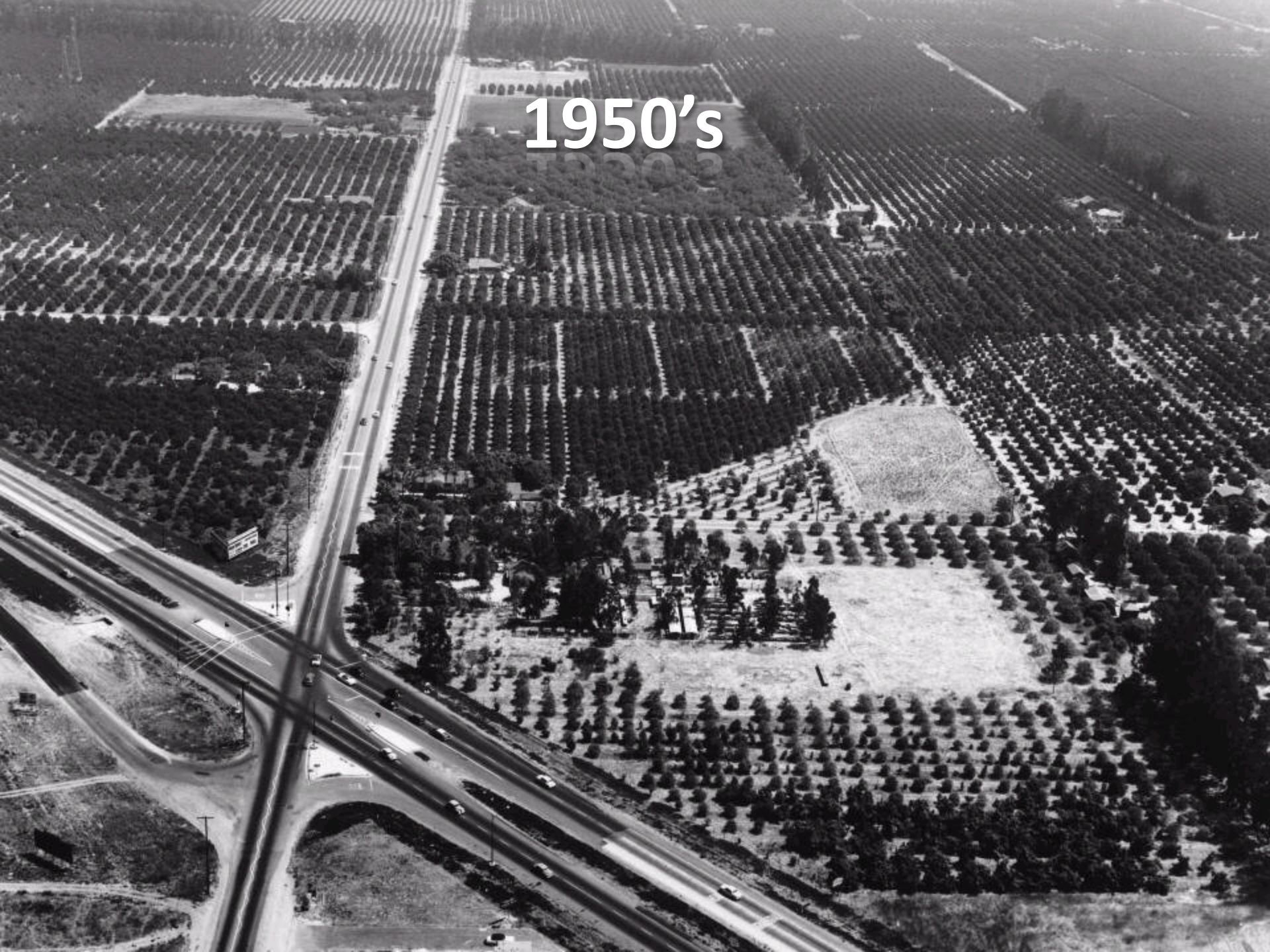
Land Use Decisions Matter

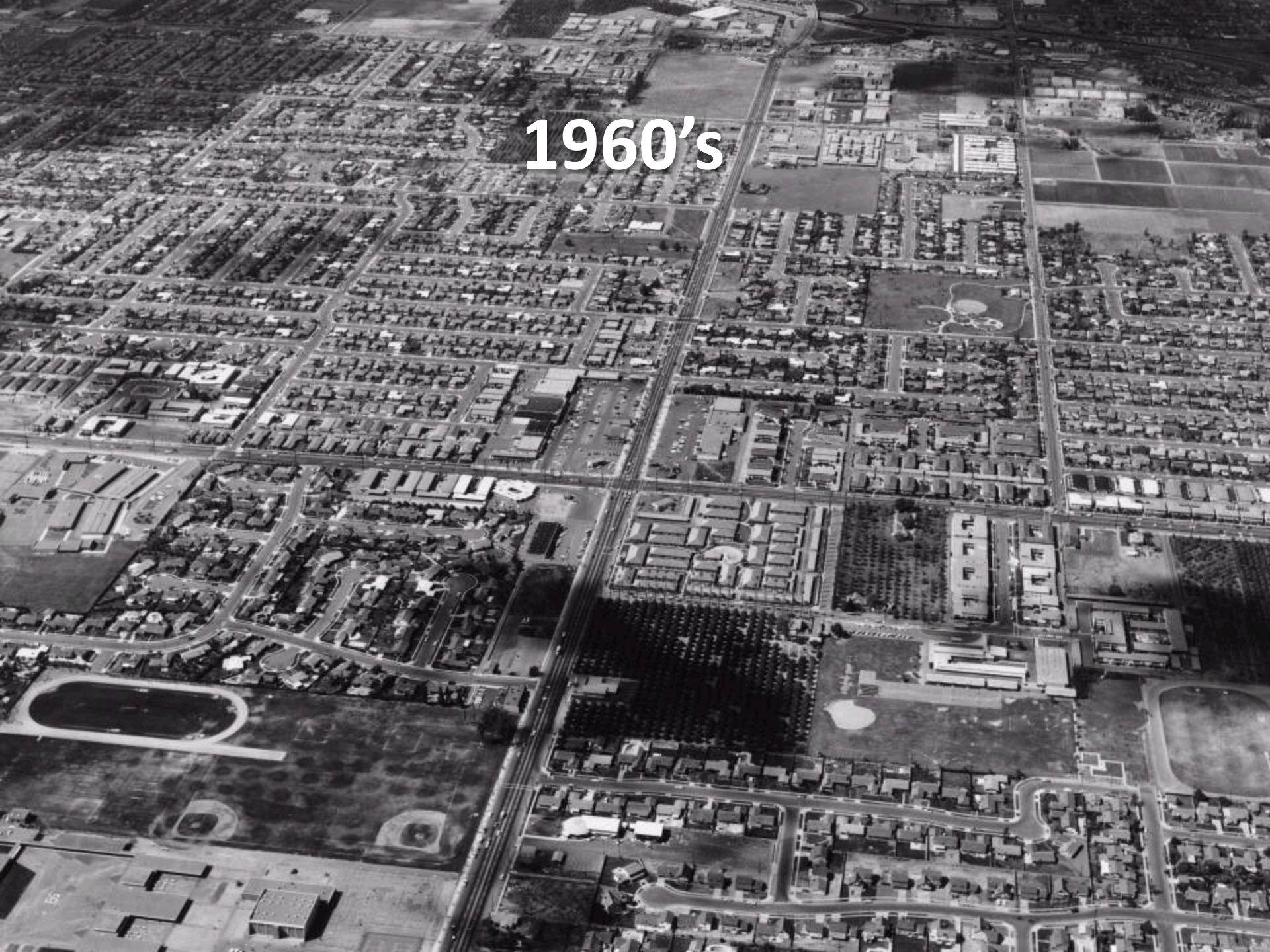
California Sprawl


CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION
IN THE 20TH CENTURY
Millions of Persons
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
-
1900
1.5 million
1929
5.5 million
1945
9.3 million
1975
21.5 million
1999
34.0 million
1900
1904
1908
1912
1916
1920
1924
1928
1932
1936
1940
1944
1948
1952
1956
1960
1964
1968
1972
1976
1980
1984
1988
1992
1996

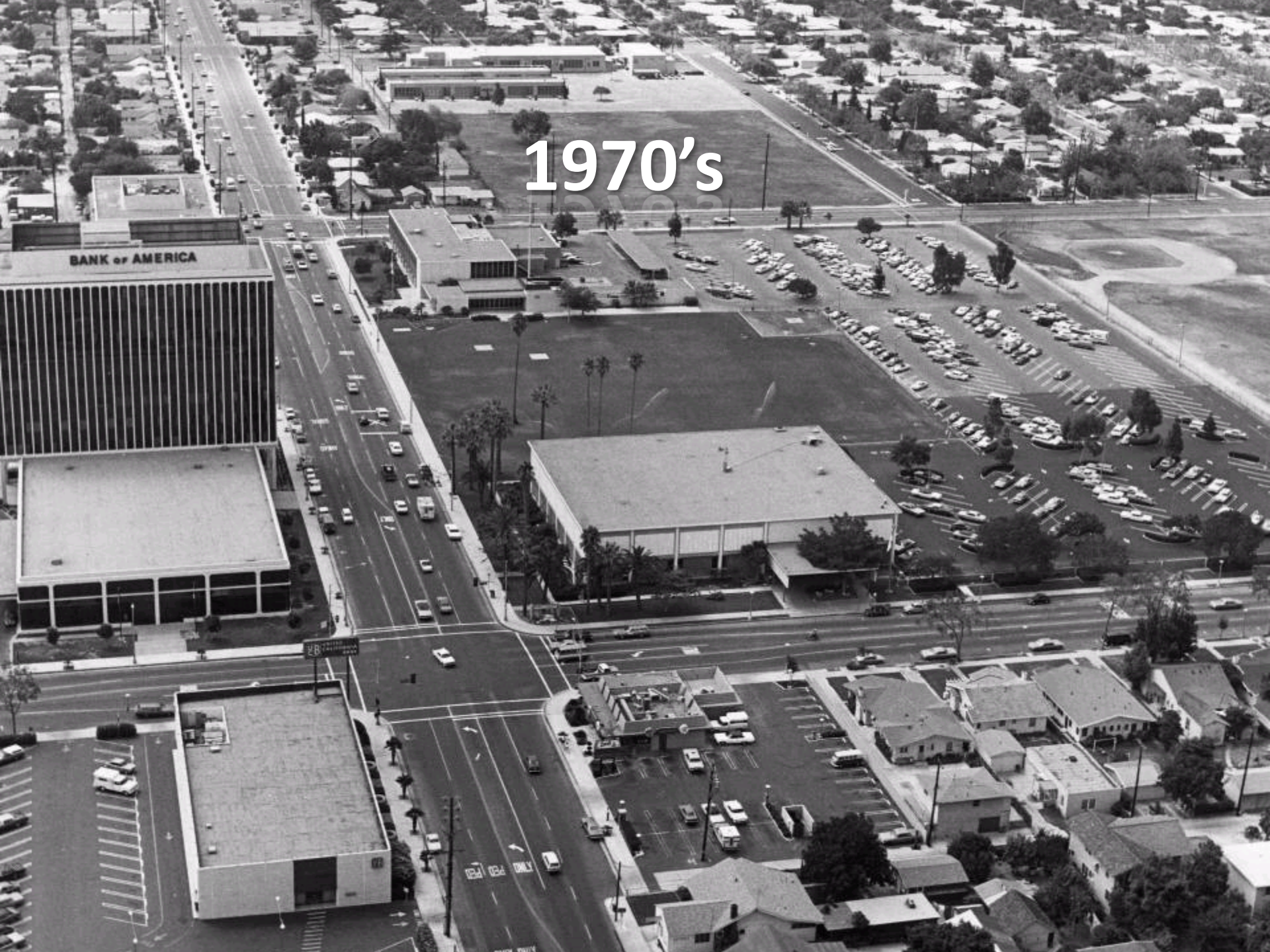

Overall Urban Density in 2004
People Per Urbanized Acre
14.0
12.0
10.0
8.0
6.0
4.0
2.0
0.0
Northern Counties
Sacramento Valley
Sierra Foothills
Bay Area
San Joaquin Valley
Central Coast
Southern Cal

1938

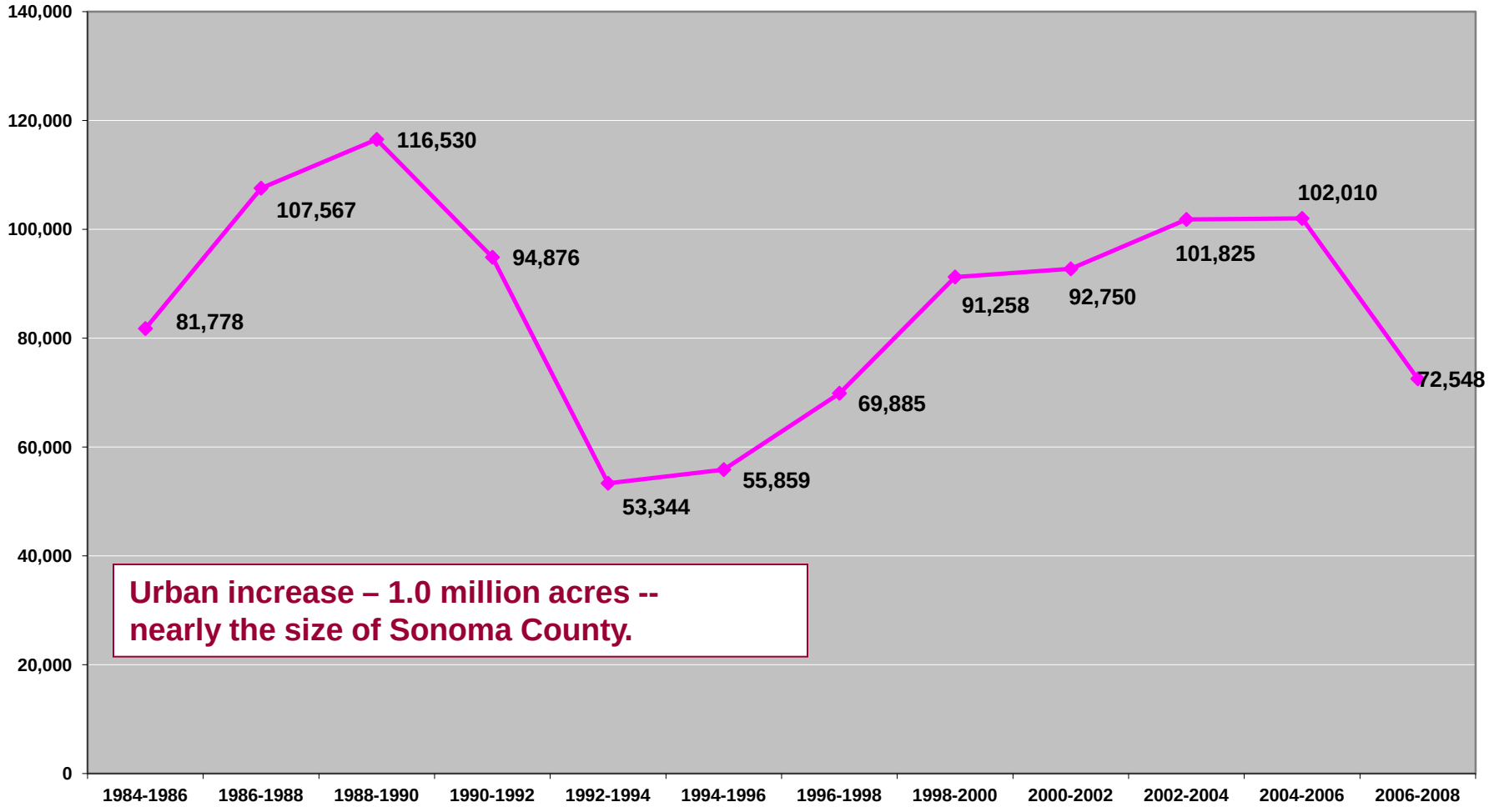

1950's


1960's

1970's

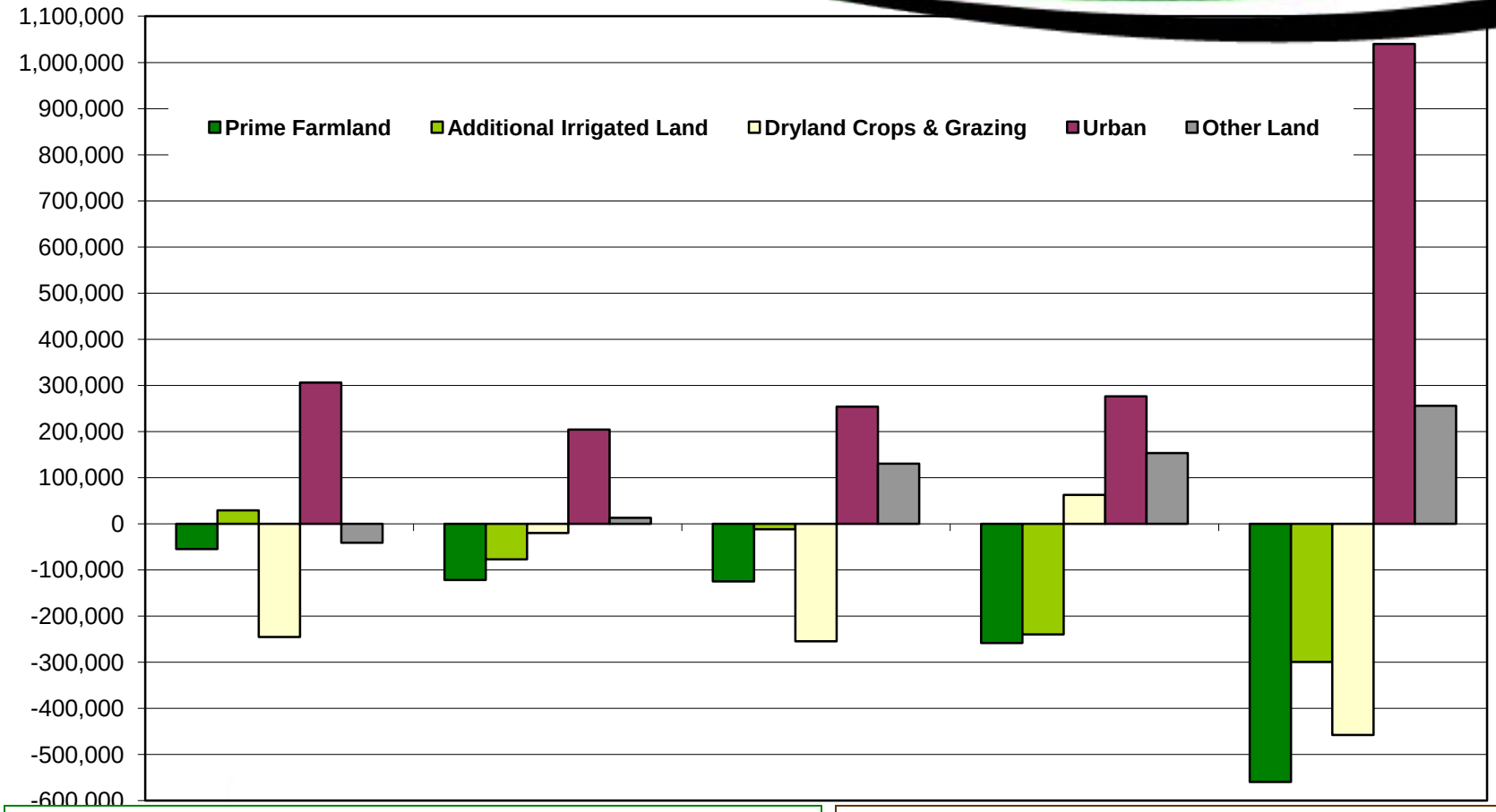


FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM
Increase in Urban and Built-up Acreage
1984-2008



Urban increase – 1.0 million acres -- nearly the size of Sonoma County.

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
NET CHANGE IN LAND USE
1984-2008



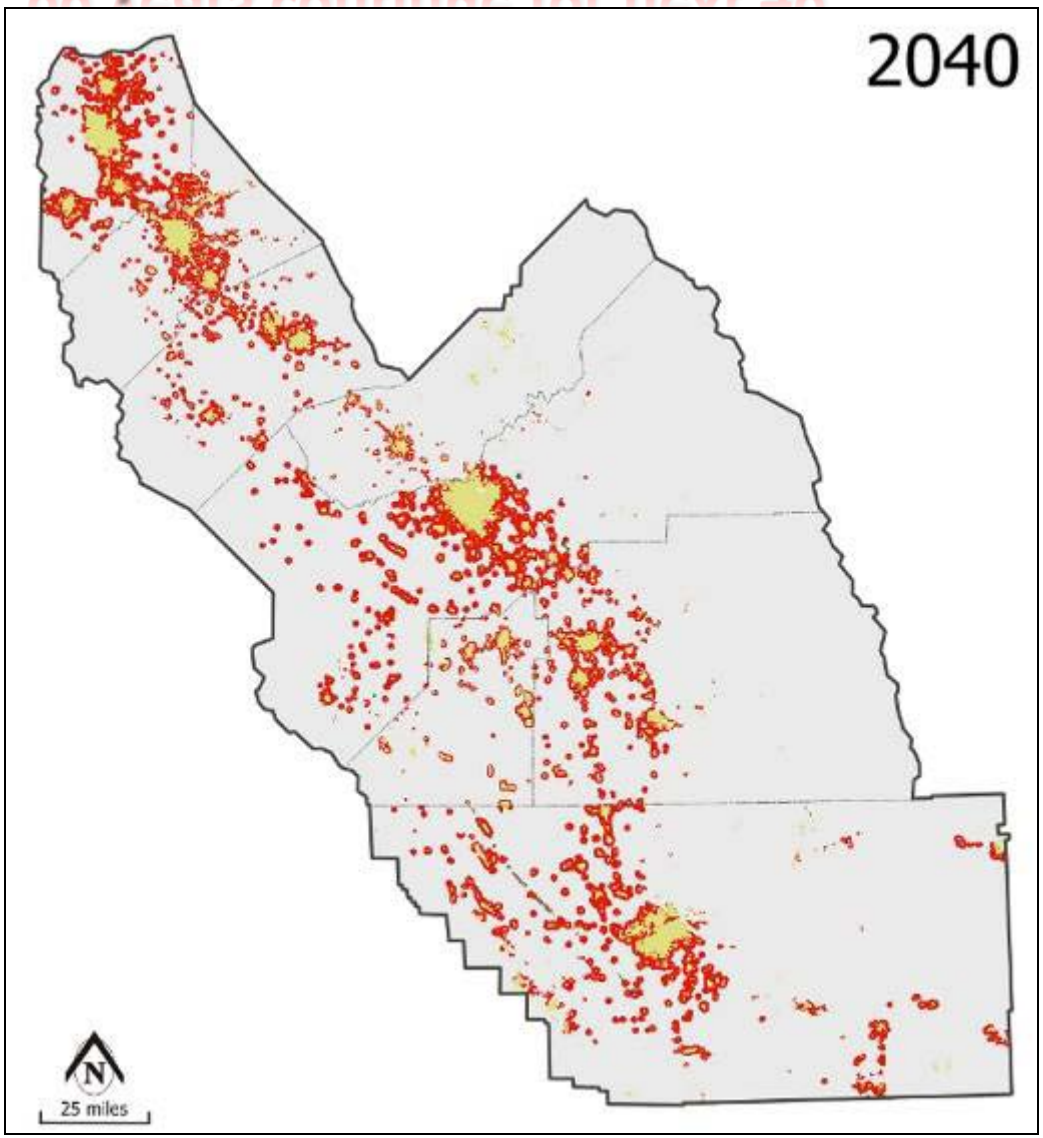
Prime Farmland decrease -- 559,000 acres – nearly the size of Solano County.

Farmland and open space decrease – 1.3 million acres – larger than Merced County.

"Status Quo" Scenario

assumes development patterns of the past

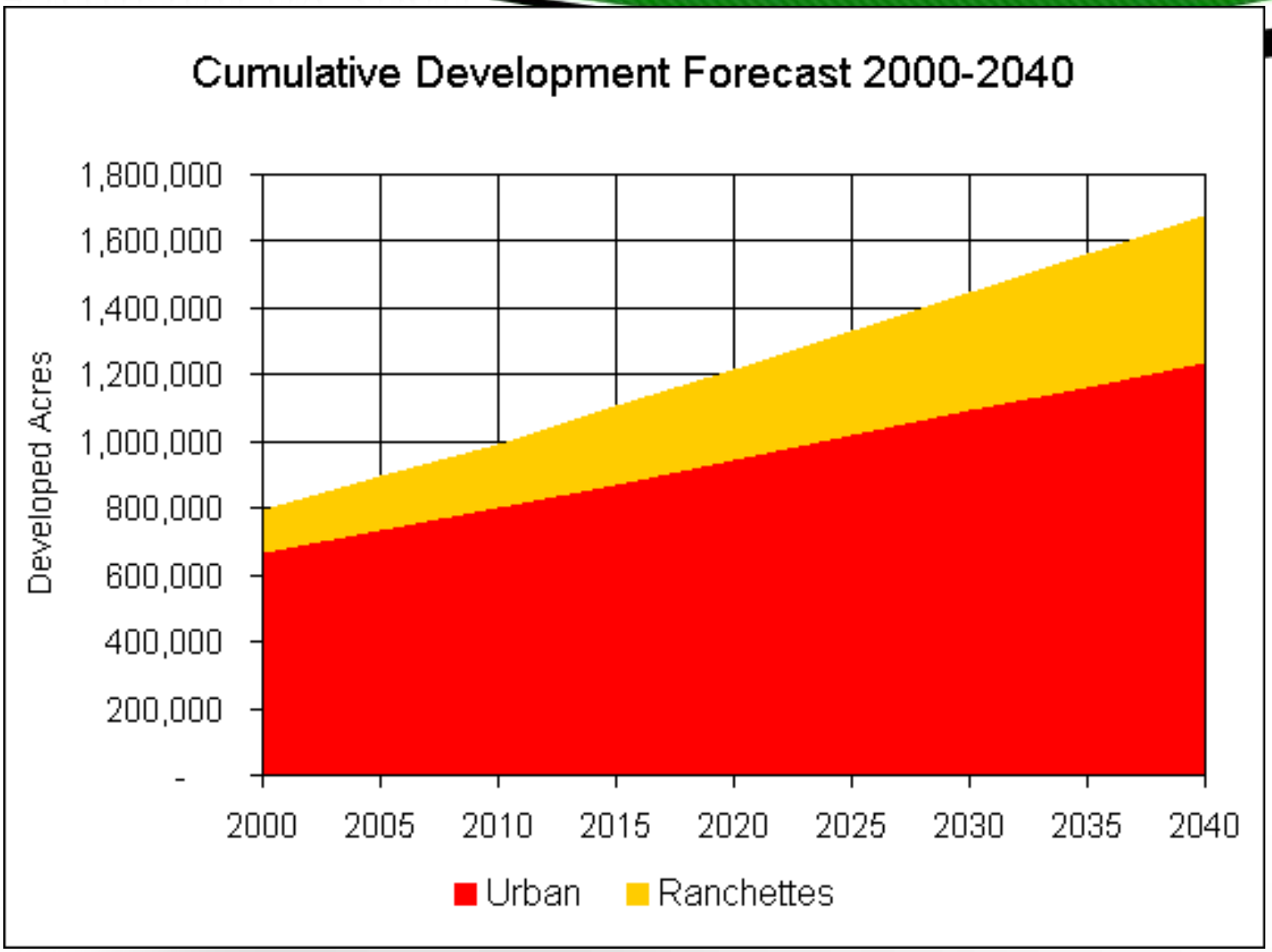
60 years continue for next 40



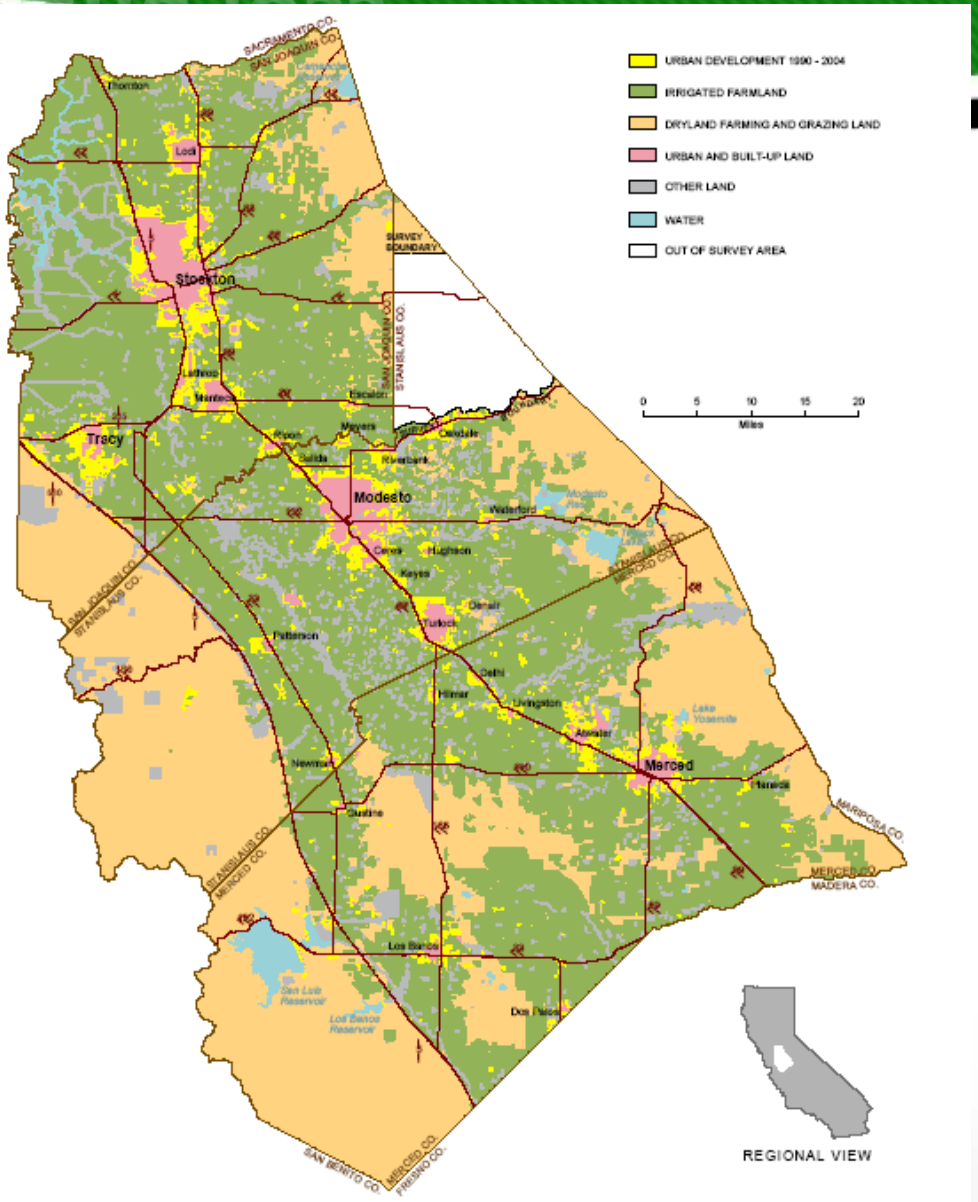
26% reduction in farmland and almost continuous urbanization along Hwy. 99

One million acres of land could be consumed for urban use in the San Joaquin Valley.

Projected Development of Central Valley Farmland by 2040



1990-2004 Upper San Joaquin Valley Farmland loss



“Fiscalization of Land Use”

Local land tax policy is encouraging the development of agricultural land and a competition between cities and counties as to which will develop agricultural land first.

- The use of a site-based formula instead of a per-capita basis to allocate sales tax revenue has encouraged communities to attract revenue-producing development with low service needs, such as auto malls and “big-box” retailers.

THREATS

- Changing Climate
- Population Growth and Distribution
- New Development Pressures
  - Public infrastructure
  - Renewable Energy
- Water- Demand and Availability

TOOLBOX

- Williamson Act and CEQA
- Education- good land and good water are scarce
- Local and Regional Land use planning & decision making
  - Growth boundaries
  - In-fill
  - Up rather than Out
- Environmental Markets for public goods and services