

# **El Dorado County West Slope Agricultural Development Feasibility Assessment**

## **WRDMP Agricultural Advisory Group Grower Interview Summary and Project Update Meeting**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
May 21, 2019  
Placerville, CA**

# Meeting Topics & Desired Outcomes

- **Grower Interview Summary**
  - Review grower interview feedback
- **EDC Economic Analysis**
  - Review major EDC crops and markets
  - Review economic analysis approach
  - Receive AAG input on revised crop and market definitions
- **Land Suitability Analysis**
  - Review crop factor analysis
  - Receive AAG input on crop factor analysis

# Grower Interview Summary

# Grower Interviews

- **Conducted 13 interviews between April 1 and April 19, 2019**
  - 2 cow-calf rangeland operations
  - 1 specialty livestock farm
  - 2 Christmas tree farms
  - 4 wine grape growers
  - 1 small mixed vegetable operation
  - 3 diversified apple/berry/fruit operations
- **Interview topics included:**
  - Business practices, production, costs, and markets
  - Irrigation management practices and costs
  - Discussion of EDC factors that could encourage or limit future agricultural development

# Interview Feedback: Economics

- **EDC markets**
  - Direct to consumer
  - Specialty wholesale
  - Wholesale
- **Crop production costs validated and updated**
  - Labor costs and availability
  - Custom operation costs
  - Owner-operator labor costs and return to management
- **Direct to consumer value added markets**
  - Apple Hill, farmers markets, EDC wines, local farm stands

# Interview Feedback: Irrigation

- Most growers deliberately located in EID and appreciate EID's flexible, affordable service
- Water availability generally not identified as a factor limiting growth
- Various configurations of drip and sprinkle systems most common; some dual systems
- Most growers reported using EID's IMS system for irrigation scheduling, typically with adjustments
- Most growers manage water carefully from an agronomic perspective, but do not track water use or costs

# Interview Feedback: Other Considerations

- **Key concerns identified include:**
  - Oak Ordinance (new, uncertain enforcement)
  - Potential EID water cost changes (policy shift)
- **Limited market opportunities cited as more important factor than water supply for growth**
- **Other constraints to expansion**
  - Infrastructure (roads/traffic)
  - Places for visitors to stay (hotels, restaurants)
  - Difficulty working with wholesalers
  - Land costs
  - Labor availability

# Economic Analysis



# Economic Analysis

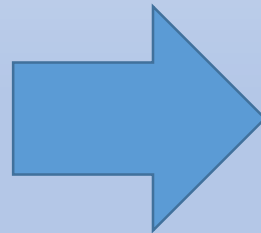
## Objective and Approach

- **Objective**
  - Establish the value of water in crop production under current market conditions, and how it would change with expansion of irrigated agriculture (if water were available)
- **Approach**
  - Quantify production costs, returns, and markets for current and alternative EDC crops
  - Develop economic model to assess the value of water as EDC production expands, and optimally allocate land that is identified to be suitable for irrigated agriculture (DE analysis)

# EDC Major Crop Updates

- Expanded total crops from 5 major crops and 2 alternatives to 9 major crops and 3 alternatives

| Initial Major Crops |
|---------------------|
| Apples              |
| Pasture             |
| Grapes              |
| Misc. Deciduous     |
| X-Mas Trees         |
| Alt 1 (TBD)         |
| Alt 2 (TBD)         |



| Revised Major Crops | Market Type             | Current Acres |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Apples              | DTC (Apple Hill)        | 587           |
| Apples              | Specialty Wholesale     | 65            |
| Pasture             | DTC (Specialty Meat)    | 813           |
| Pasture             | Wholesale               | 813           |
| Grapes              | DTC (Wine)              | 1,519         |
| Grapes              | Wholesale (Export)      | 1,012         |
| Misc. Deciduous     | DTC (Peaches)           | 229           |
| Misc. Deciduous     | Wholesale (Walnuts)     | 200           |
| X-Mas Trees         | DTC (You-Cut)           | 227           |
| (Alt) Berries       | DTC (Farmers Markets)   | 9             |
| (Alt) Small Veg     | DTC (Specialty Markets) | 41            |
| (Alt) Mandarins     | Wholesale               | 56            |

# EDC Crop Markets Overview

| Crop                  | Market Type         | Market Supply                                | Market Demand                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Apples                | DTC                 | EDC  | Greater Sacramento Area <sup>1</sup> |
| Apples                | Specialty Wholesale | California + U.S.                            | U.S. + Export                        |
| Pasture               | DTC                 | EDC  | Greater Sacramento Area              |
| Pasture               | Wholesale           | U.S.   | U.S.                                 |
| Grapes                | DTC                 | EDC  | Greater Sacramento Area              |
| Grapes                | Wholesale           | Portions of Crush Districts:<br>10, 8, and 7 | U.S. + Export<br>(mid-priced wines)  |
| Misc. Deciduous       | DTC                 | EDC  | Greater Sacramento Area              |
| Misc. Deciduous       | Wholesale           | California                                   | U.S. + Export                        |
| X-Mas Trees           | DTC                 | Greater Sacramento Area                      | Greater Sacramento Area              |
| (Alt) Berries         | DTC                 | EDC  | Greater Sacramento Area              |
| (Alt) Small Vegetable | DTC                 | EDC  | Greater Sacramento Area              |
| (Alt) Mandarins       | Wholesale           | California                                   | U.S.                                 |

1. Includes Sacramento Area, EDC, Reno, and SF Bay Area

# Apples

- **Direct to consumer**
  - Includes farmers markets and Apple Hill pies, ciders, you-pick, and other apple products
  - EDC supplies the entire market
  - Market growth depends on population and income growth (more Apple Hill visitors)
- **Specialty wholesale**
  - New apple varieties demanded by consumers that fetch a small price premium (e.g. Fuji, Honeycrisp)
  - EDC faces potentially large consumer demand, but expansion is limited by competition from other producers (e.g. Washington)

# Irrigated Pasture

- **Direct to consumer**
  - Local milk and specialty meat production
  - EDC is 100% of market supply
  - Consumer demand is primarily local (within EDC)
  - EDC expansion would have a significant effect on price
- **Wholesale**
  - EDC is a small share of the total market supply, and faces a large consumer market
  - EDC expansion would have no effect on price

# Wine Grapes

- Mid-price consumer wine market
- Supply is modeled jointly with portions of Crush Districts 8 and 7 (Central Coast)
- Direct to consumer
  - Includes EDC grapes (and any imports) bottled and labeled as EDC wines
  - Consumer demand includes cellar door sales, wine clubs, and local retail
- Wholesale
  - Out of EDC sales to Napa or other regions

# Misc. Deciduous and X-Mas Trees

- **Miscellaneous deciduous: walnuts**
  - Wholesale market
  - EDC is a small share of supply and sells to a large market
- **Miscellaneous deciduous: peaches**
  - Local DTC sales (farmers markets, farm stands)
  - EDC is a large share of local supply and sells to a small market
- **Christmas Trees**
  - You-cut operations depend on demand from visitors
  - Limited or no irrigation on some farms
  - High value-added with DTC sales

# Alternative Crops (3)

- **Berries (blueberries)**
  - DTC market for local sales and farmers markets
    - Evaluating potential for larger export market
  - EDC acreage is small and currently expanding to meet farmers market demand
- **Citrus (mandarins)**
  - Wholesale market with potential for specialty local demand
- **Small mixed vegetable**
  - Local (regional) demand from farmers markets and cooperatives



# EDC Crop Markets, Costs, and Returns

• Each crop is characterized by:

- Itemized operating costs
- Itemized capital costs
- Full cost of “unpriced” inputs (owner-operator time, return to management, return to risk)
- Developed as series of crop budget models tailored to EDC conditions

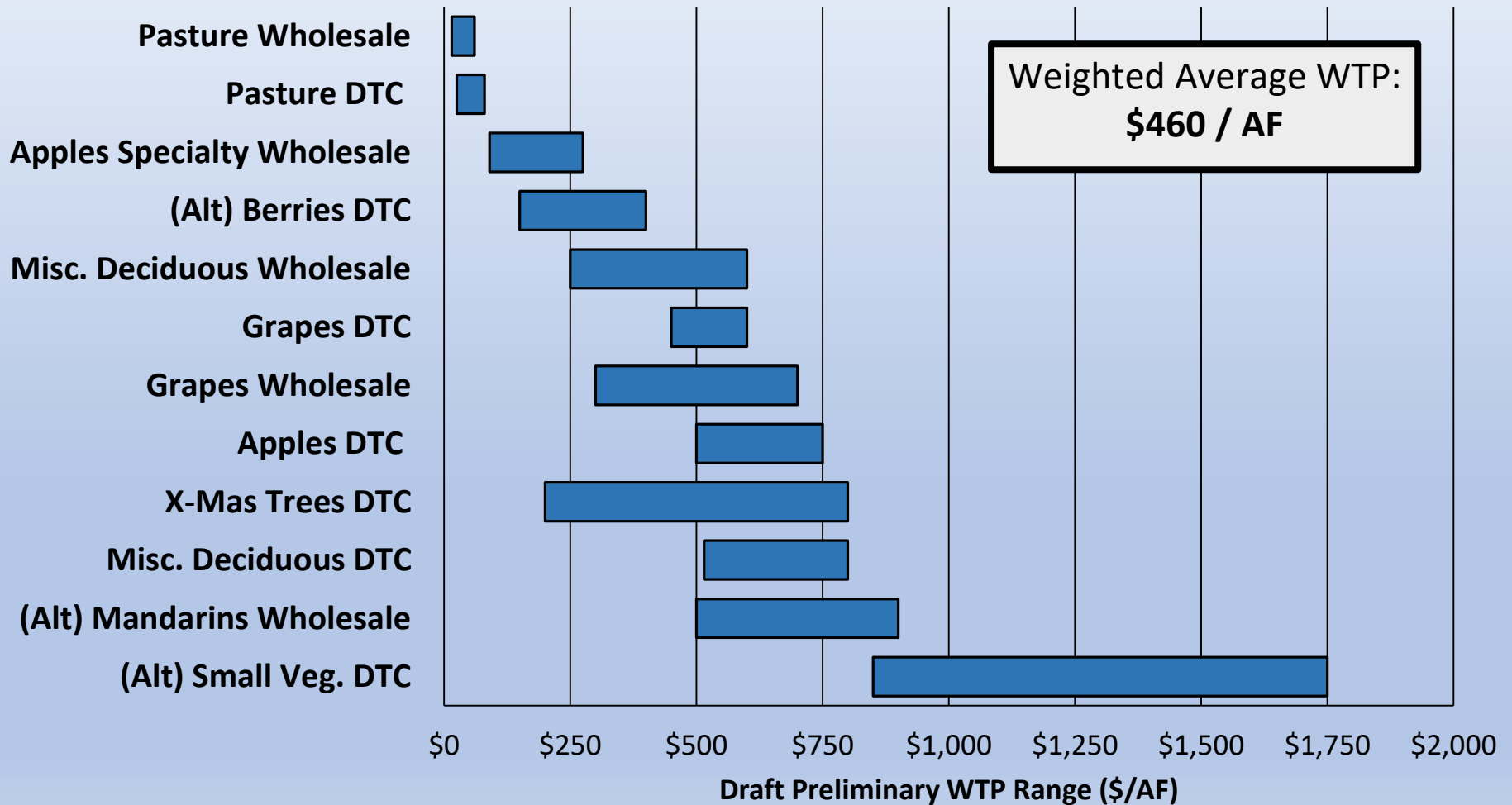
Costs and Returns to Produce Christmas Trees - White Fir  
Sierra Nevada Foothills - 2018\$

|                         | Unit | Price or Cost/Unit | Year 1 |       | Year 2 |     | Year 3 |     | Year 4 |     | Year 5 |     | Year 6 |     | Year 7 |     | Year 8 |       | Year 9 |        | Year 10 |        | Total  | Average |       |     |
|-------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-----|
|                         |      |                    | Units  | \$    | Units  | \$  | Units  | \$  | Units  | \$  | Units  | \$  | Units  | \$  | Units  | \$  | Units  | \$    | Units  | \$     | Units   | \$     | \$     | \$      |       |     |
| <b>GROSS RETURNS</b>    |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Trees                   | each | 69.00              | -      | 0     | -      | 0   | -      | 0   | -      | 0   | -      | 0   | -      | 0   | -      | 0   | 87     | 6,003 | 1,132  | 78,108 | 174     | 12,006 | 96,117 | 9,612   |       |     |
| <b>OPERATING COSTS</b>  |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>    |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Soil Analysis           | each | 37.87              | 0.33   | 12    |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 12      | 1     |     |
| Tree Netting            | each | 2.52               | 0      |       | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      | 0   | 87     | 220   | 1,132  | 2,858  | 174     | 439    | 3,517  | 352     |       |     |
| Misc. Harvest Supplies  | acre | 25.25              | 0      |       | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      | 1   | 25     | 1     | 25     | 1      | 25      | 1      | 25     | 76      | 8     |     |
| <b>Custom</b>           |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Rip                     | acre | 220.91             | 2      | 442   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 442     | 44    |     |
| <b>Trees</b>            |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Tree Plugs P-1          | each | 0.63               | 1742   | 1,099 | 348    | 220 |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 1,319   | 132   |     |
| <b>Fertilizer</b>       |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| 46-0-0 (Urea)           | lb   | 0.25               | 0      |       | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 200    | 50  | 200    | 50  | 200    | 50    | 200    | 50     | 30      | 8      | 210    | 21      |       |     |
| <b>Herbicide</b>        |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Atrazine 4L             | ptnt | 2.90               | 6      | 17    | 6      | 17  |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   |        | 0   | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 35      | 3     |     |
| Roundup Pro             | ptnt | 7.88               | 2.5    | 20    | 2.5    | 20  | 2.5    | 20  | 1.25   | 10  | 1.25   | 10  | 1.25   | 10  | 1.25   | 10  | 1.25   | 10    | 1.25   | 10     | 1.25    | 10     | 1.25   | 10      | 128   | 13  |
| <b>Insecticide</b>      |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Asana XL                | ptnt | 21.84              | 0.25   | 5     | 0.5    | 11  | 0.5    | 11  | 0.5    | 11  | 0.5    | 11  | 0.5    | 11  | 0.5    | 11  | 1      | 22    | 1      | 22     | 0.16    | 3      | 118    | 12      |       |     |
| Floramite SC            | floz | 2.45               | 0      |       | 6      | 15  | 6      | 15  | 6      | 15  | 6      | 15  | 6      | 15  | 6      | 15  | 6      | 15    | 6      | 15     | 6       | 15     | 6      | 15      | 120   | 12  |
| <b>Fungicide</b>        |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Bravo Weather Stik      | ptnt | 10.06              | 0      |       | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      |     | 0      | 0   | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0     |     |
| <b>Baits</b>            |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Gopher Getter Bait 1.8% | lb   | 9.34               | 0.5    | 5     | 0.5    | 5   | 0.5    | 5   | 0.25   | 2   | 0.25   | 2   | 0.25   | 2   | 0.25   | 2   | 0.25   | 2     | 0.25   | 2      | 0.25    | 2      | 0.25   | 2       | 30    | 3   |
| <b>Irrigation</b>       |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |
| Groundwater             | acin | 7.65               | 1.00   | 8     | 0.00   | 0   | 0.00   | 0   | 0.00   | 0   | 0.00   | 0   | 0.00   | 0   | 0.00   | 0   | 0.00   | 0     | 0.00   | 0      | 0.00    | 0      | 0.00   | 0       | 8     | 1   |
| Surface Water           | acin | 4.42               | 47.09  | 208   | 47.09  | 208 | 47.09  | 208 | 47.09  | 208 | 47.09  | 208 | 47.09  | 208 | 47.09  | 208 | 47.09  | 208   | 47.09  | 208    | 47.09   | 208    | 47.09  | 208     | 2,080 | 208 |
| <b>Labor</b>            |      |                    |        |       |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |     |        |       |        |        |         |        |        |         |       |     |

# EDC Economic Analysis

- **This analysis establishes the “willingness to pay” (WTP) for irrigation water for EDC crops**
  - **WTP is a measure of irrigation water value to the producer**
  - **WTP is compared to the cost of developing new water supply when assessing feasibility (beyond the scope of this analysis)**
- **Economic approach is the Residual Valuation Method**
  - **Other approaches were considered, and used as a cross-check on reasonableness of results**
- **WTP changes with crop net returns**
  - **Important considerations for this analysis include acreage expansion or growth in consumer demand**

# Preliminary (Current) WTP Estimates



# Quantifying WTP as Acreage Expands

- Developed an economic analysis (model) of key EDC crops, alternative crops, and markets
- WTP for water is a result of crop markets and the net return to crop production
  - Acreage expansion identified in the land suitability analysis
  - Consumer market demand increases over time
- Model evaluates 'optimal' allocation of land suitable for agriculture
- The economic analysis does not consider:
  - Water supply cost
  - Infrastructure cost
  - Land development costs and constraints

# EDC Agricultural Economic Model

EDC\_Optimization\_Data.xlsx - Excel

|                                   | Closed Market<br>DTC Crops |           |             |         |                         |          |             | Open Market<br>Wholesale Crops |           |             |           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
|                                   | Apples                     | Grapes    | Xmas        | Pasture | Misc. Descid. (Peaches) | Berries  | Misc.Veg.   | Pasture                        | Apples    | Grapes      | Mandarin  |
| Ed                                | (1.5)                      | (1.5)     | (1.6)       | (1.5)   | (1.8)                   | (1.8)    | (1.8)       |                                | (1.5)     | (5.0)       |           |
| Es                                | 0.3                        | 0.4       | 0.2         | 0.7     | 0.8                     | 0.7      | 0.8         | 0.7                            | 0.3       | 0.4         |           |
| AW                                | 3.0                        | 1.3       | 3.9         | 2.6     | 3.5                     | 2.0      | 1.2         | 2.6                            | 3.0       | 1.3         |           |
| AC                                | 587                        | 1,519     | 227         | 813     | 229                     | 9        | 41          | 813                            | 65        | 1,012       |           |
| Delta AC                          | 424                        | 778       | 819         | (0)     |                         | 3        | 20          |                                |           | 24,381      | 1         |
| Price                             | 2,811.0                    | 3,471.0   | 69.0        | 79.0    | 5,000.0                 | 5.0      | 1.3         | 79.0                           | 2,322.0   | 3,471.0     |           |
| Yield                             | 6.4                        | 2.5       | 1,393.0     | 10.5    | 2.8                     | 3,107.0  | 111,000.0   | 10.5                           | 7.0       | 2.5         | 26.7      |
| Revenue                           | 17,906.1                   | 8,538.7   | 96,117.0    | 829.4   | 14,050.0                | 15,535.0 | 146,520.0   | 829.4                          | 16,277.2  | 8,538.7     | 33.4      |
| Total Costs                       | 14,910.0                   | 6,891.0   | 43,063.0    | 632.0   | 10,693.0                | 12,715.0 | 122,389.0   | 632.0                          | 14,910.0  | 6,891.0     | 30.3      |
| Irrigation Costs                  | 159.0                      | 73.0      | 1,456.0     | 239.0   | 193.0                   | 106.0    | 66.0        | 239.0                          | 159.0     | 73.0        | 1         |
| Manager Fee                       | 1,000.0                    | 800.0     | 16,000.0    | 100.0   | 800.0                   | 1,500.0  | 2,000.0     | 100.0                          | 1,000.0   | 800.0       | 8         |
| Net returns to Management & Water | 2,155.1                    | 920.7     | 38,510.0    | 336.4   | 2,750.0                 | 1,426.0  | 22,197.0    | 336.4                          | 526.2     | 920.7       | 2.4       |
| SO                                | 3,737.9                    | 3,735.8   | 316,211.0   | 8,531.3 | 643.5                   | 27,963.0 | 4,551,000.0 | 853,125                        | 21,030    | 358,890     | 1,523,610 |
| S1                                | 6,437.2                    | 5,649.0   | 1,456,441.9 | 8,531.3 | 643.5                   | 37,637.9 | 6,791,719.9 | 853,125                        | 21,030.00 | 418,867     | 1,550,340 |
| Change in S (K)                   | 72.2%                      | 51.2%     | 360.6%      | 0.0%    | 0.0%                    | 34.6%    | 49.2%       | 0.0%                           | 0.0%      | 16.7%       |           |
| Change in D                       | 0.0%                       | 0.0%      | 0.0%        | 0.0%    | 0.0%                    | 0.0%     | 0.0%        | 0.0%                           | 0.0%      | 0.0%        |           |
| Change in P (Z%)                  | -12.0%                     | -10.8%    | -40.1%      | 0.0%    | 0.0%                    | -9.2%    | -15.1%      | 0.0%                           | 0.0%      | -1.2%       |           |
| Delta CS                          | 1,150,446                  | 1,285,053 | 5,939,805   | 0       | 0                       | 11,774   | 785,992     | 0                              | 0         | 14,943,400  | 5,556,53  |
| Delta PS                          | 7,122,022                  | 5,893,030 | 97,953,808  | 0       | 0                       | 40,597   | 2,575,033   | 0                              | 0         | 199,677,723 | 27,929,2  |
| Delta TS                          | 8,272,467                  | 7,178,083 | 103,893,613 | 0       | 0                       | 52,371   | 3,361,025   | 0                              | 0         | 214,621,122 | 33,485,7  |
| TS/AC                             | 19,522                     | 9,229     | 126,925     | 0       | 0                       | 16,818   | 166,497     | 0                              | 0         | 8,803       | 33,486    |
| Z (change in price)               | 0                          | 0         | 0           | 0       | 0                       | 0        | 0           | 0                              | 0         | 0           | 0         |
| New Net WTP                       | -                          | -         | 0.00        | 336.40  | 2,750.00                | 0.00     | 0.00        | 336.4                          | 526.2     | 815.0       | 2.3       |
| Net WTP (\$/af)                   | -                          | -         | 0.00        | 129.38  | 785.7                   | 0.00     | 0.0         | 129.4                          | 175.4     | 626.9       | 8         |
| Old Net (\$/af)                   | 718.4                      | 708.2     | 822.9       | 129.4   | 785.7                   | 713.0    | 1,541.5     | 129.4                          | 175.4     | 708.2       | 8         |

Safe to edit

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EDC_Optimizing.gms

DELTA2 (I) CALIBRATED ;

POSITIVE VARIABLE GAMMA2, DELTA2;

EQUATIONS
    OBJECTIVEEPCS OBJECTIVE
    PMPCON (I)
    ELASCON (I) ;

OBJECTIVEEPCS.. VALOROB =E= SUM ((I)$ (XLND (I) AND NET2 (I)), ( SQR (EPS2 (I))))

PMPCON (I)$ ((XLND (I) GT 1.0) AND (LHS1 (I) GT 0))..
    LOG (LHS1 (I) + 0.001) - LOG ((GAMMA2 (I)* DELTA2 (I)) + 0.001) =E= (GAMMA2 (I)*

ELASCON (I)$ ((XLND (I) GT 1.0) AND (LHS1 (I) GT 0) AND (TREV2 (I) GT 0))..
    LOG ( ELAS (I) * GAMMA2 (I) * DELTA2 (I)*XLND (I) + 0.001) + (GAMMA2 (I)*XLND (I)

=====
MODEL LEASTSQ /OBJECTIVEEPCS, PMPCON, ELASCON /

=====
LOOP (G,
    LHS1 (I) = LA (G, I, "LAND") + C (G, I, "LAND") ;
    XLND (I) = X (G, I, "LAND") ;
    NET2 (I) = NET (G, I) ;
    TREV2 (I) = V (G, I)* YB (G, I) ;

* INITIAL VALUES
    EPS2.L (I) = 0.1 ;
    EPS2.FX (I)$ (XLND (I) LT 1.01) = 0 ;
    EPS2.LO (I)$ (XLND (I) LT 1.01) = -100000 ;
    EPS2.UP (I)$ (XLND (I) LT 1.01) = 100000 ;

    GAMMA2.FX (I)$ (XLND (I) LT 1.01) = 0 ;
    GAMMA2.L (I)$ (XLND (I) GT 1.01) = 1.2 ;
    GAMMA2.LO (I)$ (XLND (I) GT 1.01) = 0.00001 ;
    GAMMA2.UP (I)$ (XLND (I) GT 1.01) = 5.0 ;

    DELTA2.FX (I)$ (XLND (I) LT 1.01) = 0 ;
    DELTA2.L (I)$ (XLND (I) GT 1.01) = 1.2 ;
    DELTA2.LO (I)$ (XLND (I) GT 1.01) = 0.25* LHS1 (I) ;
    DELTA2.UP (I)$ (XLND (I) GT 1.01) = 0.75* LHS1 (I) ;

SOLVE LEASTSQ USING NLP MINIMIZING VALOROB;

GAMMA22 (G, I) = GAMMA2.L (I) ;
DELTA22 (G, I) = DELTA2.L (I) ;

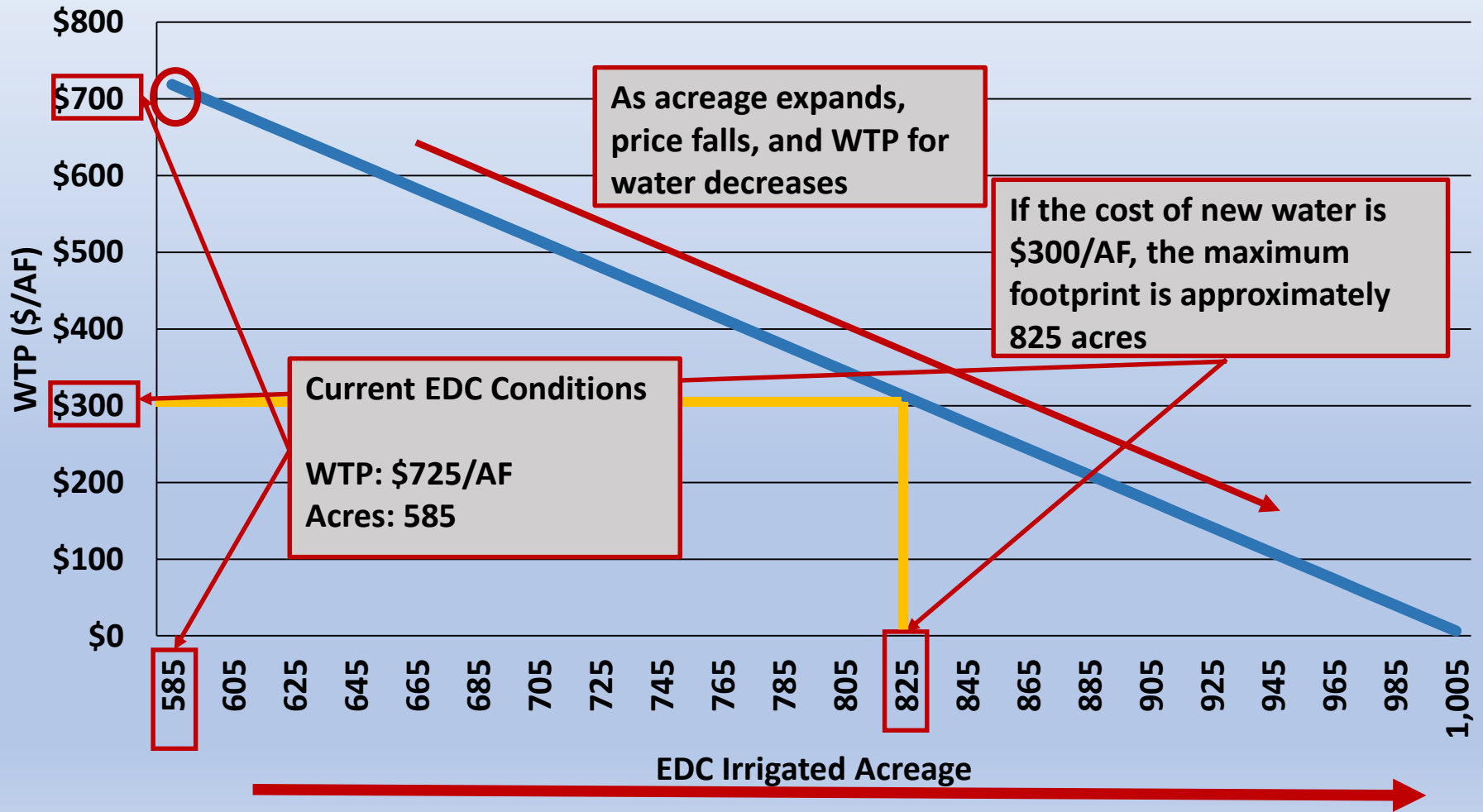
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# WTP Analysis Example: Direct to Consumer Apples

- Example shows economic analysis of increasing water supply scenarios
- Supply expands and puts downward pressure on price, net returns fall, which causes WTP to decrease
- Increasing consumer demand puts upward pressure on price, net returns rise, which causes WTP to increase
  - Growth in Sacramento area population and income
  - Demand is held constant in this example

# Direct to Consumer Apples WTP Example

*(presentation is animated)*



# Preliminary Assessment of Markets and Potential for EDC Expansion

- 1. EDC crops that face a large consumer market can expand with little effect on WTP**
- 2. EDC crops that are a small share of total market supply can expand acreage with moderate decrease in WTP**
- 3. WTP falls quickly as acreage expands for EDC crops that are a significant share of supply and sell to local consumers**



# Next Steps

- Refine crop market characteristics, data, and economic model
- Finalize current WTP and projected growth in crop demands (consistent with WRDMP timeline)
- Integrate land suitability analysis and applied water requirements into economic model
- Evaluate potential agricultural expansion that is consistent with land suitability analysis and can be supported by the market for EDC crops

# Land Suitability Analysis

# Land Suitability Analysis

## Objective and Approach

- **Objective**
  - Identify West Slope lands with physical and other characteristics suitable for expansion of irrigated agriculture
- **3-Step Screening/Selection Approach**
  - Develop database of potential fields
  - “Coarse” screening to identify fields meeting basic eligibility criteria (not crop-specific)
  - “Fine” screening to identify fields meeting suitability factors (crop-specific)
- **Spreadsheet model allows convenient alternative analyses through user settings**

# Fields (not Parcels) are Basis of Analysis

- **Fields defined as areas within legal parcels meeting basic physical eligibility criteria:**
  - **Elevation below 4,000 feet**
  - **Slope less than 15%**
  - **Area greater than 1 acre**
- **Referred to as “ParcelFields”**
- **Broadly inclusive West Slope database of potential new ag land**
  - **16,432 ParcelFields**
  - **98,224 acres**
  - **Average 6.0 acres/ParcelField**

# Factors in ParcelField Database

- Elevation
- Slope (min, max, avg.)
- Size (1 ac min)
- General Plan land use designation
- Ownership
- Land capability classification (1-8)
- Shape (P/A ratio)
- Slope variability
- Exposure (aspect)
- Existing land use/cover
- Oak Woodland designation
- In/out of surface water purveyor area
- Proximity to closest:
  - Primary road
  - Secondary road
  - Existing irrigated field
- Crop on closest irrigated field

# ParcelField Database and Screening Model Interface

|    | A   | B                            | C                | D                | E   | F                         | G                         | H                       | I                       | J                 | K                                 | L                  | M                 | N                           | O             | P              | Q   | R              | S              | T               | U               |
|----|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Color   | Definition                   |                  |                  | Description   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 2  |   | Qualifying Characteristic    |                  |                  | Characteristic applied in first screening step, excludes ParcelFields least desirable for agricultural development            |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 3  |   | Screening Characteristic     |                  |                  | Characteristic applied in second screening step, identifies ParcelFields most desirable for agricultural development          |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 4  |   | Observational Characteristic |                  |                  | Characteristic not applied to screening; however characteristic provides more information about screening process and results |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 5  |   | User-Defined Criteria        |                  |                  | Cells can be defined by user to screen results to those matching criteria set, detailed description below (Row 7)             |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 6  | The yellow-highlighted row contains criteria that can be adjusted to automatically filter ParcelFields to show those matching criteria; the ParcelFields and their characteristics that meet all criteria are shown in the Results tab. The sun |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 7  | The yellow-highlighted row contains criteria that can be adjusted to automatically filter ParcelFields to show those matching criteria; the ParcelFields and their characteristics that meet all criteria are shown in the Results tab. The sun |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 8  |   |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 9  | ParcelField Characteristics   |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   | Physical Location Characteristics |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 10 |   | Land Ownership               | Land Designation | Acres            | Perimeter-Area Ratio  | ParcelField Polygon Count | Lower Average Elevation   | Upper Average Elevation | Minimum Elevation       | Maximum Elevation | Range in Elevation                | Average Slope      | Slope Variability | Minimum Slope               | Maximum Slope | Range in Slope | Average Aspect  | Minimum Aspect | Maximum Aspect | Range in Aspect |                 |
| 11 | Characteristic Conditions   | Equal to                     | Equal to         | Greater than     | Less than   | Less than                 | Greater than or Equal to  | Less than or Equal to   | Greater than            | Less than         | Less than                         | Less than          | Less than         | Greater than                | Less than     | Less than      | Less than   | Greater than   | Less than      | Less than       |                 |
| 12 | Criteria:   | Private                      | Ag               | 1                |   |                           | 4,000                     |                         |                         |                   |                                   | 15                 |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 13 | Instructions (or Units for Numerical Characteristics)   | Private or Public or Blank   | Ag or Blank      | Acres            | Feet/Acres  | Number                    | Feet above Mean Sea Level |                         |                         |                   | Feet                              | Degrees            |                   |                             |               |                | Cosine of Aspect in Degrees (1 represents directly northward, -1 directly southward, 0 directly eastward) |                |                |                 |                 |
| 14 |   |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 15 | Summary statistics (for Parcel Fields meeting all criteria)   | Count of ParcelFields:       |                  | 4,691            |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 16 |   | Total Acres:                 |                  | 38,525           |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 17 |   | Average                      |                  | 9.17             | 631   | 1                         | 3,625                     | 3,625                   | 3,564                   | 3,684             | 119                               | 10                 | 3                 | 4                           | 16            | 12             | -0.21   | -0.79          | 0.50           | 1.29            |                 |
| 18 |   | Minimum                      |                  | 1.09             | 165   | 1                         | 3,402                     | 3,402                   | 3,295                   | 3,429             | 23                                | 5                  | 1                 | 0                           | 13            | 3              | -0.95   | -1.00          | -0.80          | 0.14            |                 |
| 19 |   | Maximum                      |                  | 81.20            | 1,556   | 1                         | 3,948                     | 3,948                   | 3,912                   | 3,992             | 357                               | 14                 | 5                 | 12                          | 20            | 19             | 0.94  | 0.74           | 1.00           | 2.00            |                 |
| 20 | <b>Data Criteria Results</b>  |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 21 | ParcelField Characteristics   |                              |                  |                  |   |                           |                           |                         |                         |                   | Physical Location Characteristics |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |
| 22 | ParcelField ID  | Parcel ID                    | Land Ownership   | Land Designation | Acres   | Perimeter-Area Ratio      | ParcelField Polygon Count | Lower Average Elevation | Upper Average Elevation | Minimum Elevation | Maximum Elevation                 | Range in Elevation | Average Slope     | Standard Deviation in Slope | Minimum Slope | Maximum Slope  | Range in Slope  | Average Aspect | Minimum Aspect | Maximum Aspect  | Range in Aspect |
| 25 | 00107115_1  | 00107115                     | Y                | N                | Y   | Y                         | Y                         | Y                       | Y                       | Y                 | Y                                 | Y                  | Y                 | Y                           | Y             | Y              | Y   | Y              | Y              | Y               | Y               |
| 26 | 00109227_1  | 00109227                     | Y                | N                | Y   | Y                         | Y                         | Y                       | Y                       | Y                 | Y                                 | Y                  | Y                 | Y                           | Y             | Y              | Y   | Y              | Y              | Y               | Y               |
| 27 | 00201133_1  | 00201133                     | Y                | N                | Y   | Y                         | Y                         | Y                       | Y                       | Y                 | Y                                 | Y                  | Y                 | Y                           | Y             | Y              | Y   | Y              | Y              | Y               | Y               |
| 28 | 00201138_1  | 00201138                     | Y                | N                | Y   | Y                         | Y                         | Y                       | Y                       | Y                 | Y                                 | Y                  | Y                 | Y                           | Y             | Y              | Y   | Y              | Y              | Y               | Y               |
| 29 | 00202108_1  | 00202108                     | Y                | N                | Y   | Y                         | Y                         | Y                       | Y                       | Y                 | Y                                 | Y                  | Y                 | Y                           | Y             | Y              | Y   | Y              | Y              | Y               | Y               |
|    | Instructions  |                              | Characteristics  |                  | Data  |                           | Results                   |                         |                         |                   |                                   |                    |                   |                             |               |                |   |                |                |                 |                 |

# ParcelField “Coarse” Eligibility Screening

- **Eligibility Factors**

- Gen. Plan LU designation aligned with ag demands
- Private Ownership (excludes public lands)
- Excluded existing ag fields, urban development, and open water
- Plus factors used to develop database
  - Elevation below 4,000 feet
  - Slope less than 15%
  - Area greater than 1 acre

- **Results**

- 4,691 ParcelFields
- 38,525 acres
- Average 8.2 acres/ParcelField

# ParcelField “Fine” Crop-Specific Screening

- Analyze *existing* irrigated fields to define suitable characteristics for potential *future* irrigated fields
- Selected fine screening factors
  - Elevation
  - Average Slope
  - Land Capability Classification



# Land Capability Classes

- System for grouping soils on their capability of sustainably producing cultivated crops

|                                     |  | Land Capability Class | Increase in Intensity of Land Use |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     |  |                       | Wildlife                          | Forestry | Limited Grazing | Moderate Grazing | Intense Grazing | Limited Cultivation | Moderate Cultivation | Intense Cultivation | Very Intense Cultivation |
| Increase in Limitations and Hazards | Decreased Adaptability and Freedom of Choice of Uses | 1                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 2                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 3                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 4                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 5                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 6                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 7                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |
|                                     |  | 8                     |                                   |          |                 |                  |                 |                     |                      |                     |                          |

\*Shaded portion shows uses for land classes are suitable.

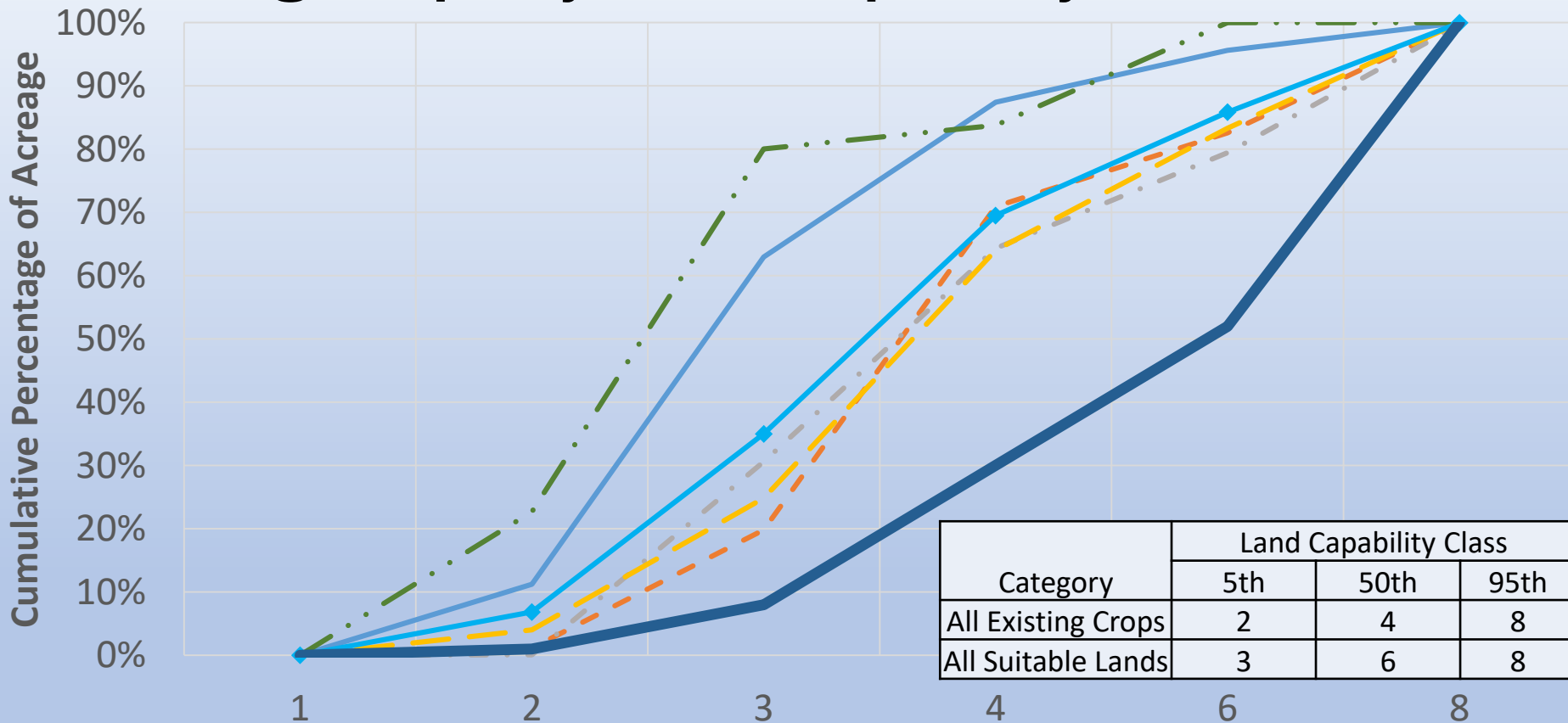
Source: Buckman and Brady, 1969

**Note: Improvements in irrigation methods and systems have allowed increasing intensity of use in higher land capability classes.**

# Land Capability Class Distribution of Eligible ParcelFields

| Land Capability Class | ParcelField Count | Total Acres | Total Percentage of Acres |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1                     | 0                 | 0           | 0%                        |
| 2                     | 46                | 444         | 1%                        |
| 3                     | 270               | 2,863       | 7%                        |
| 4                     | 820               | 8,435       | 22%                       |
| 5                     | 0                 | 0           | 0%                        |
| 6                     | 995               | 8,364       | 22%                       |
| 7                     | 144               | 1,169       | 3%                        |
| 8                     | 2,416             | 17,250      | 45%                       |
| Totals                | 4,691             | 38,525      | 100%                      |

# Distribution of Eligible Parcel Fields and Existing Crops by Land Capability Class



- Apples
- Vineyard
- All Suitable Potential Lands
- - Misc. Deciduous
- · X-Mas Trees
- · Pasture
- ◆ All Existing Crops

# ParcelField “Fine” Crop-Specific Screening Preliminary Factors

- Screening factors generally defined by 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> percentiles of existing ag fields

| Crop                    | Lower Elevation | Upper Elevation | Average Slope | General Land Capability Class |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Apples                  | 1,700           | 3,200           | 11            | 6                             |
| Miscellaneous Deciduous | 0               | 2,700           | 12            | 8                             |
| Pasture                 | 0               | 2,500           | 8             | 8                             |
| Vineyard                | 0               | 2,900           | 14            | 8                             |
| X-mas Trees             | 2,600           | 3,400           | 14            | 6                             |

# ParcelField “Fine” Crop-Specific Screening Preliminary Results

| Crop                    | ParcelField Count | Total Acres |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Apples                  | 1,425             | 13,599      |
| Miscellaneous Deciduous | 3,589             | 33,213      |
| Pasture                 | 1,128             | 16,478      |
| Vineyard                | 4,233             | 35,547      |
| X-mas Trees             | 497               | 3,248       |

- **Substantial overlap exists because many ParcelFields suitable for multiple crops**
- **Discrete results (overlap accounted for):**
  - 4,484 ParcelFields
  - 37,021 total acres
  - Average 8.3 acres/ParcelField

# ParcelField “Fine” Crop-Specific Screening Preliminary Results (Excluding Class 8)

| Crop                    | ParcelField Count | Total Acres |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Apples                  | 1,425             | 13,599      |
| Miscellaneous Deciduous | 1,580             | 16,717      |
| Pasture                 | 669               | 9,382       |
| Vineyard                | 1,808             | 17,930      |
| X-mas Trees             | 497               | 3,248       |

- **Substantial overlap exists because some ParcelFields suitable for multiple crops**
- **Discrete Results (e.g. no overlap):**
  - 2,059 ParcelFields
  - 19,404 total acres
  - Average 9.4 acres/ParcelField

# Potential Agricultural Expansion Land Suitability Analysis

- Google Earth Live Demo

# Potential Screening Refinements as Analysis is Merged with Economics

- Limit or exclude Class 8 lands?
- Exclude odd-shaped ParcelFields?
- Exclude oak woodlands subject to ordinance (3,400 acres)?
- Other factors?



# Comparison to Prior Analysis

- **Prior Analysis: about 53,000 acres of potential agricultural expansion**
- **Current Preliminary Analysis: about 37,000 acres of potential agricultural expansion**
  - **Allowing up to Class 8 lands (key factor/decision)**
  - **No consideration of development costs**
- **Prior analysis applied coarser criteria; differences include:**
  - **Parcel-based (rather than field-based)**
  - **No evaluation of existing agriculture**
  - **Maximum slope of 30 degrees**
  - **No minimum limit on agricultural area (e.g. 1 acre)**
  - **No evaluation of land ownership**

# Next Steps

- Refine screening criteria and tool to determine final potential land use results
- Complete estimates of applied water use through root zone modeling
  - Searching for applied water records for calibration
- Integrate applied water use and potential agricultural expansion to determine total projected water requirements
- Document work-to-date and include additional work in project report

# Thank You!

## Questions and Discussion