



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# Groundwater Modeling Results

Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study

22 February 2021

Brandon House | Reclamation TSC

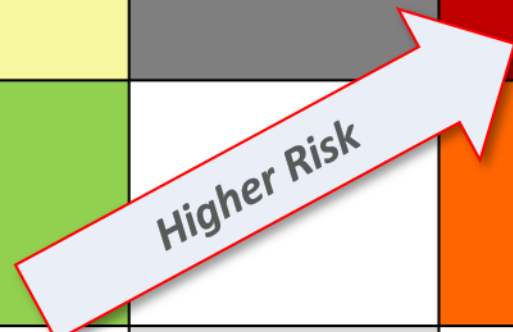
# Outline

- Scenarios and introduction
- Groundwater model inputs for scenarios
- Results from scenario runs
- Comparison of scenario results

# Supply-Demand Basin Study Scenarios

- A. Official Projections: Medium, mixed-density growth and Current climate
- B. Slow, compact growth and Best Case climate
- C. Rapid, outward growth and Best Case climate
- D. Slow, compact growth and Worse Case climate
- E. Official Projections and Worse Case climate
- F. Rapid, outward growth and Worse Case climate

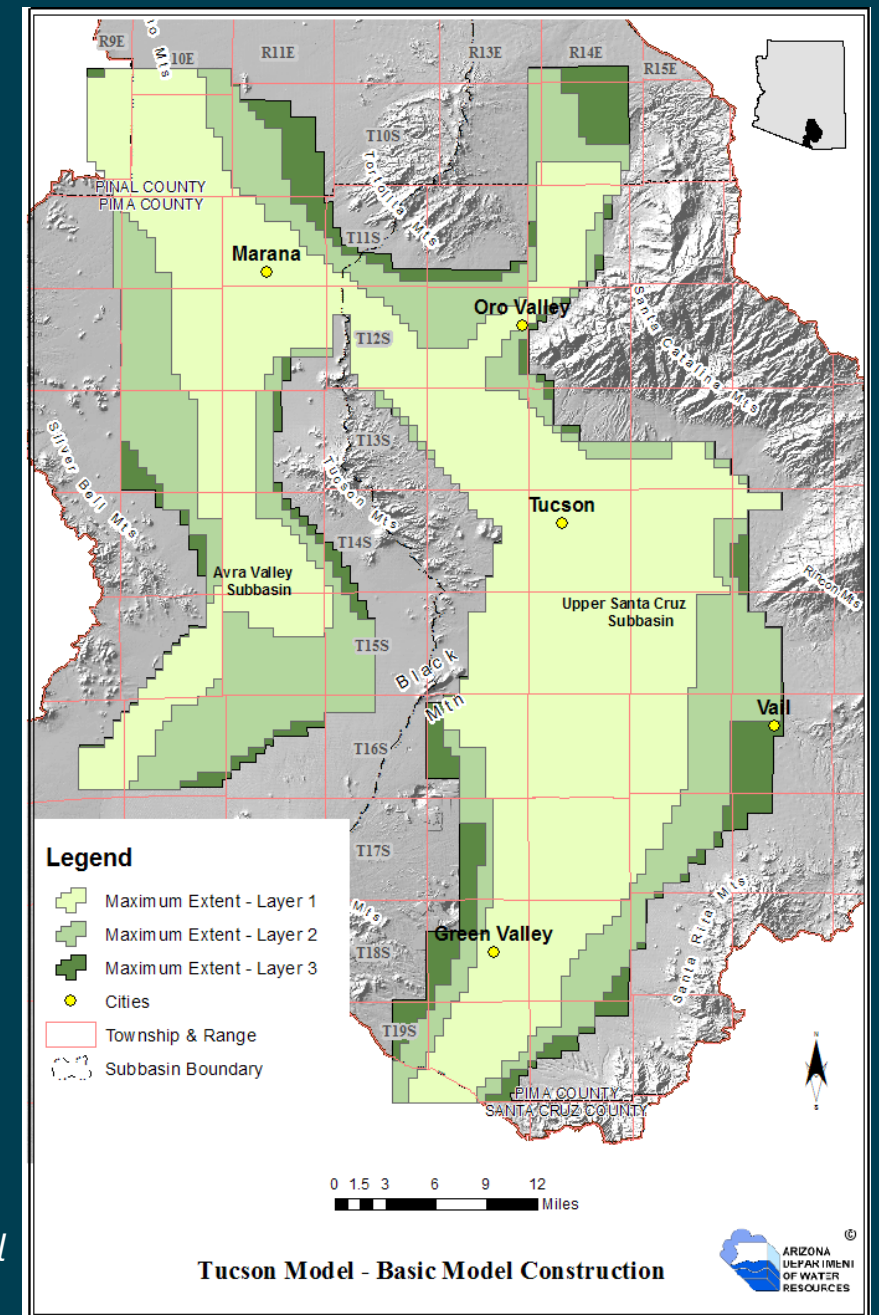
		Demand Growth		
		Slow, Compact	Medium, Official	Rapid, Outward
Climate	Worse Case	D	E	F
	Best Case	B		C
	Current Climate		A	



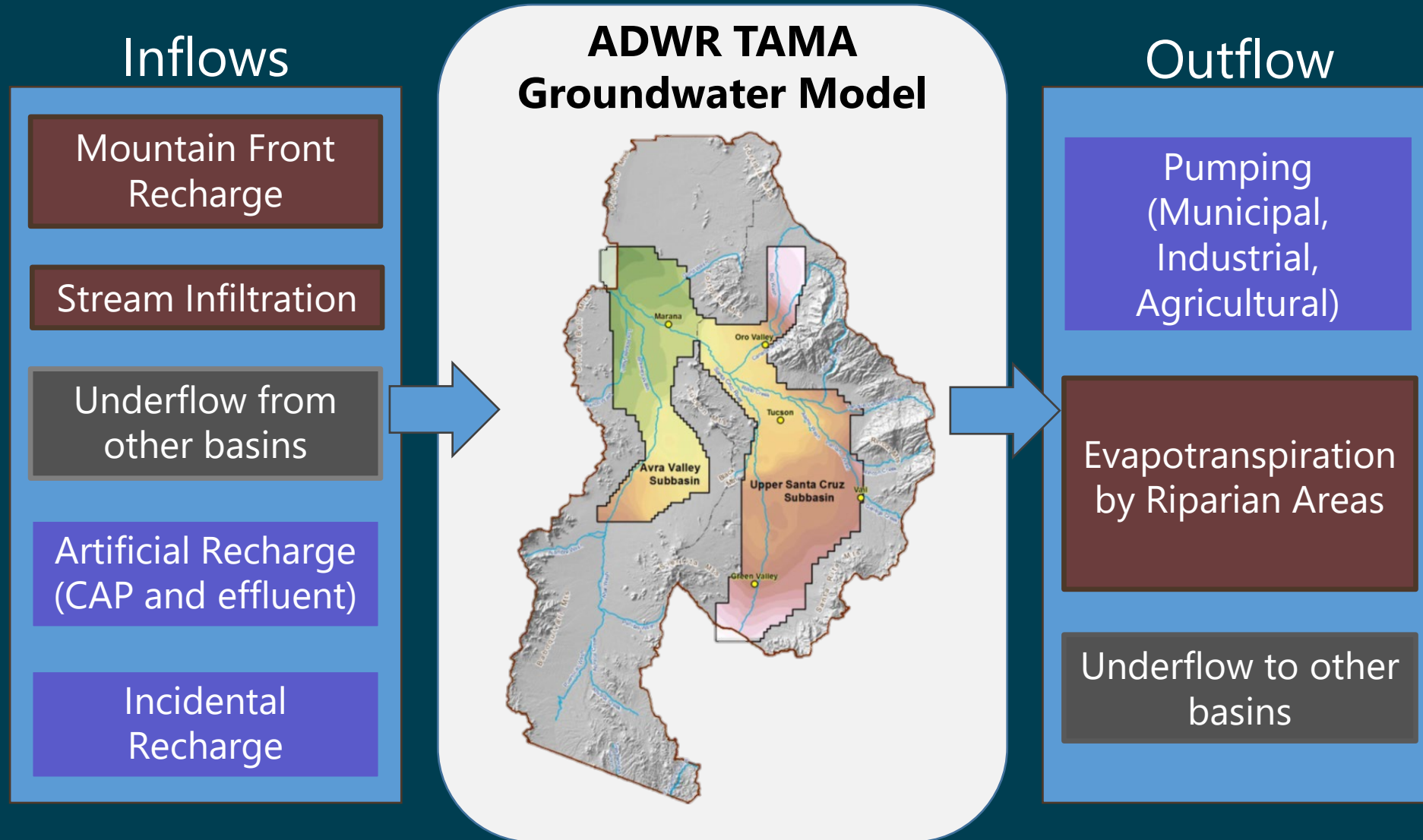
# TAMA Groundwater Model

- Developed by ADWR (2013) using MODFLOW
- Solved annually 1940-2010
- Three Layers
  - Based on geology
- Half-mile by half-mile grid cell resolution

Mason, D., & Hipke, W. (2013). *Regional groundwater flow model of the Tucson Active Management Area, Arizona*. (24), 97.



# Groundwater Model Components



Drivers:

Primarily Socio-Economic Forces

Primarily Climate

Estimated within Model

Introduction/Overview

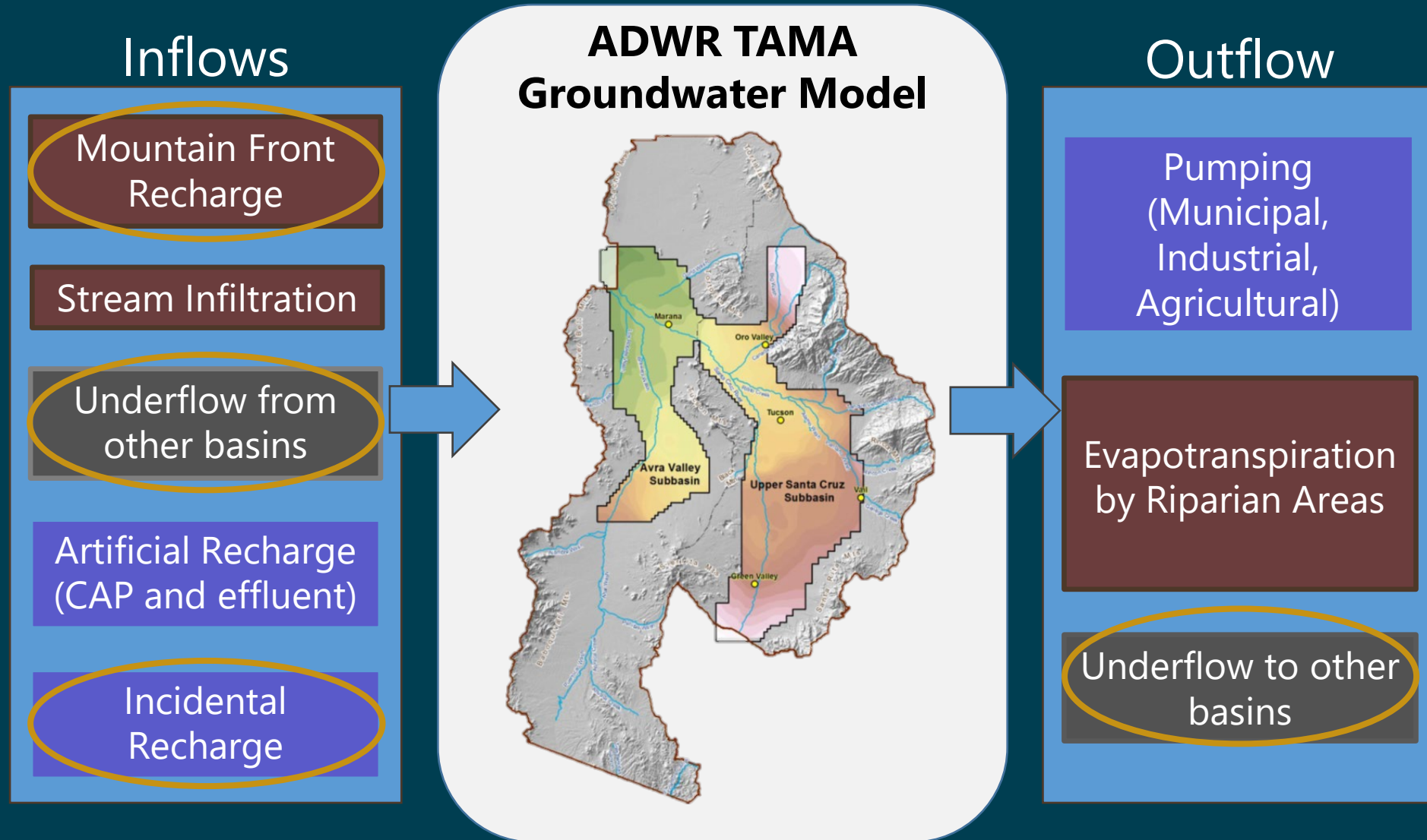
**Scenario Development**

Recharge

Pumping

Results from Scenarios

# Groundwater Model Components - Constants



Drivers:

Primarily Socio-Economic Forces    Primarily Climate    Estimated within Model

Introduction/Overview

**Scenario Development**

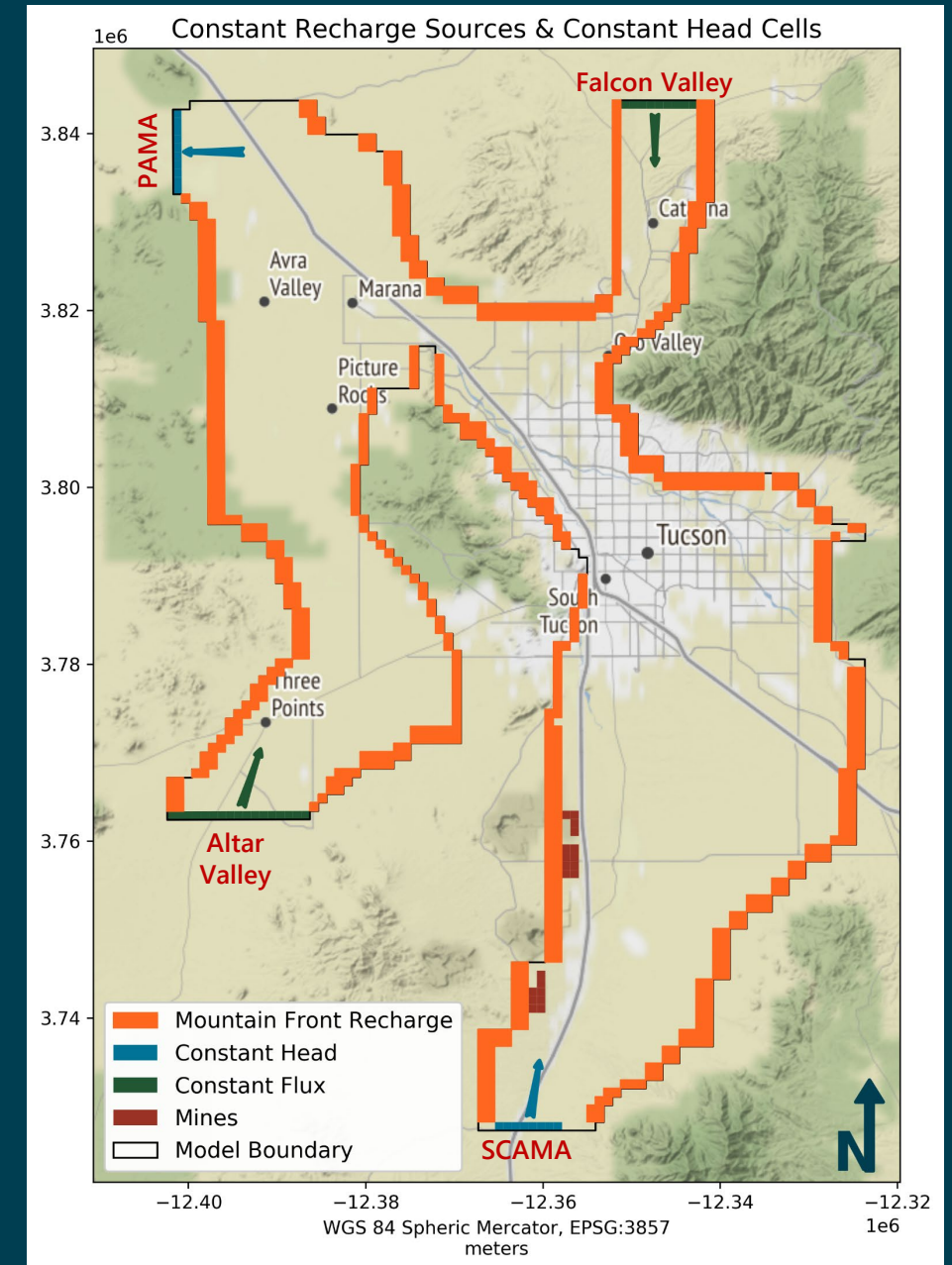
Recharge

Pumping

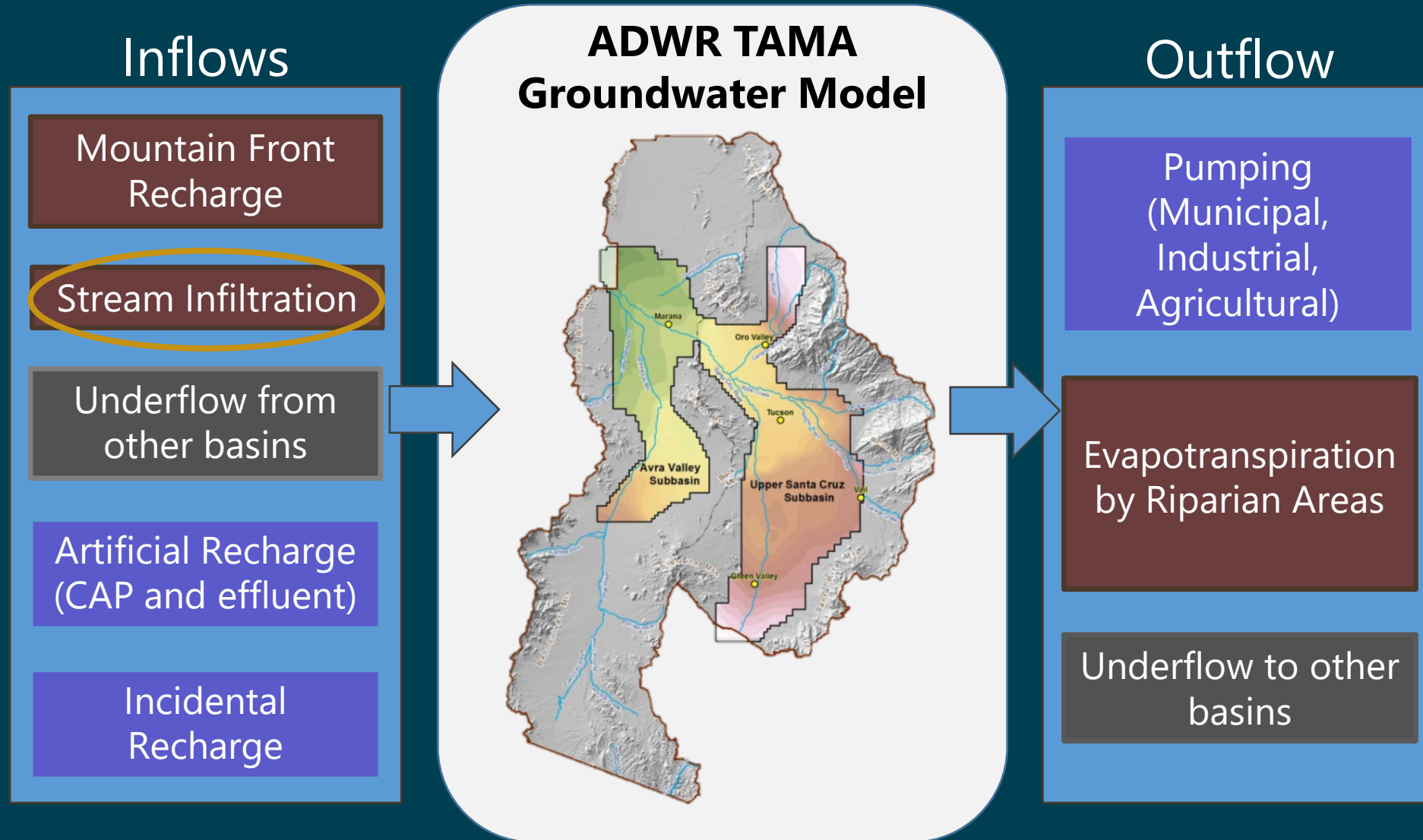
Results from Scenarios

# Constant Groundwater Elev. & Recharge

- Constant Elev. Boundaries
  - Flow into TAMA from SCAMA (~20 TAF/yr)
  - Flow from TAMA into PAMA (~-26 TAF/yr)
- Underflow (10 TAF/yr)
  - Altar & Falcon Valleys
- Mountain Front Recharge (27 TAF/yr)
  - Excludes recharge from major streams
- Mine Tailings Ponds (8 TAF/yr)



# Groundwater Model Components



Drivers:

Primarily Socio-Economic Forces    Primarily Climate    Estimated within Model

Introduction/Overview

Scenario Development

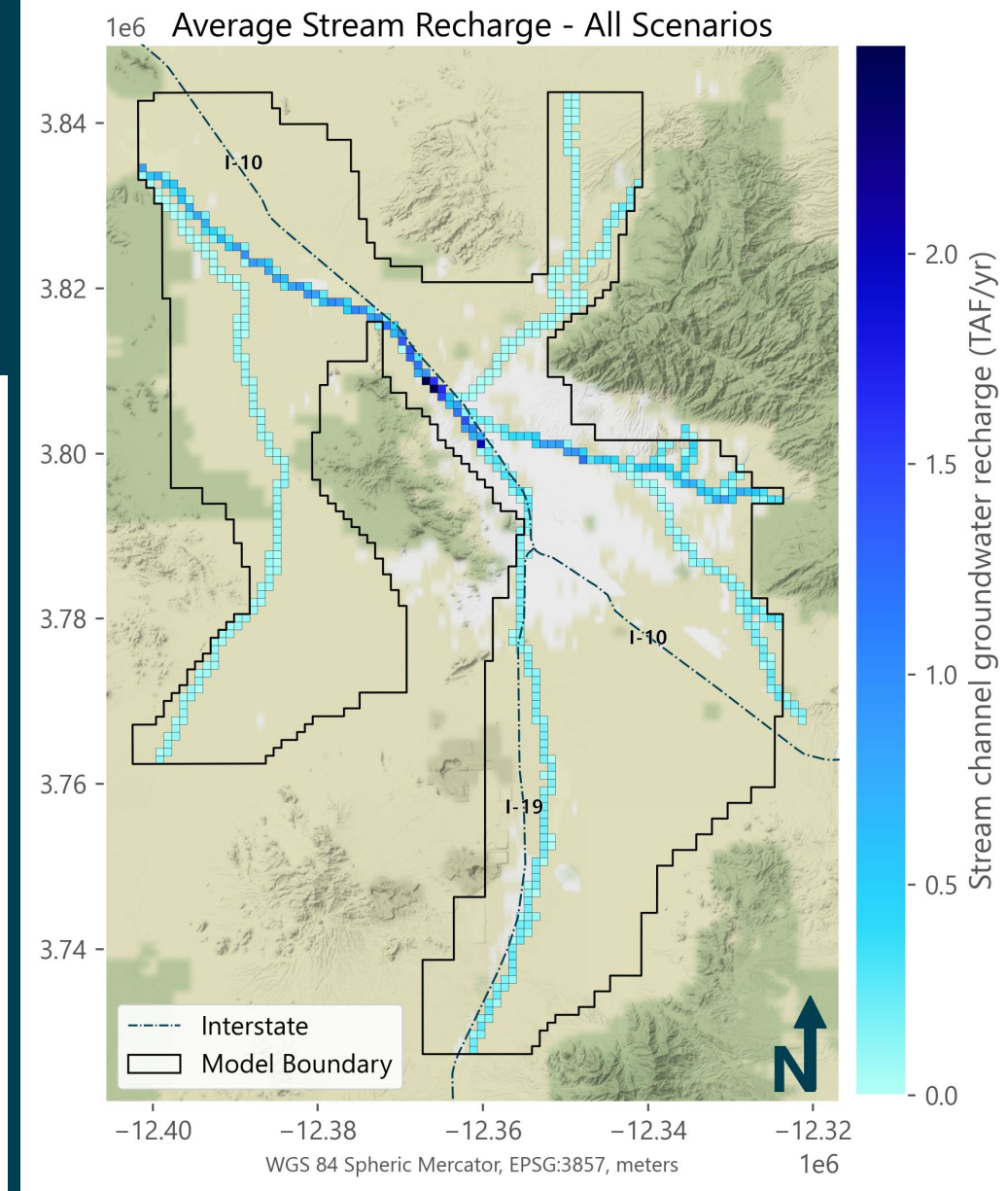
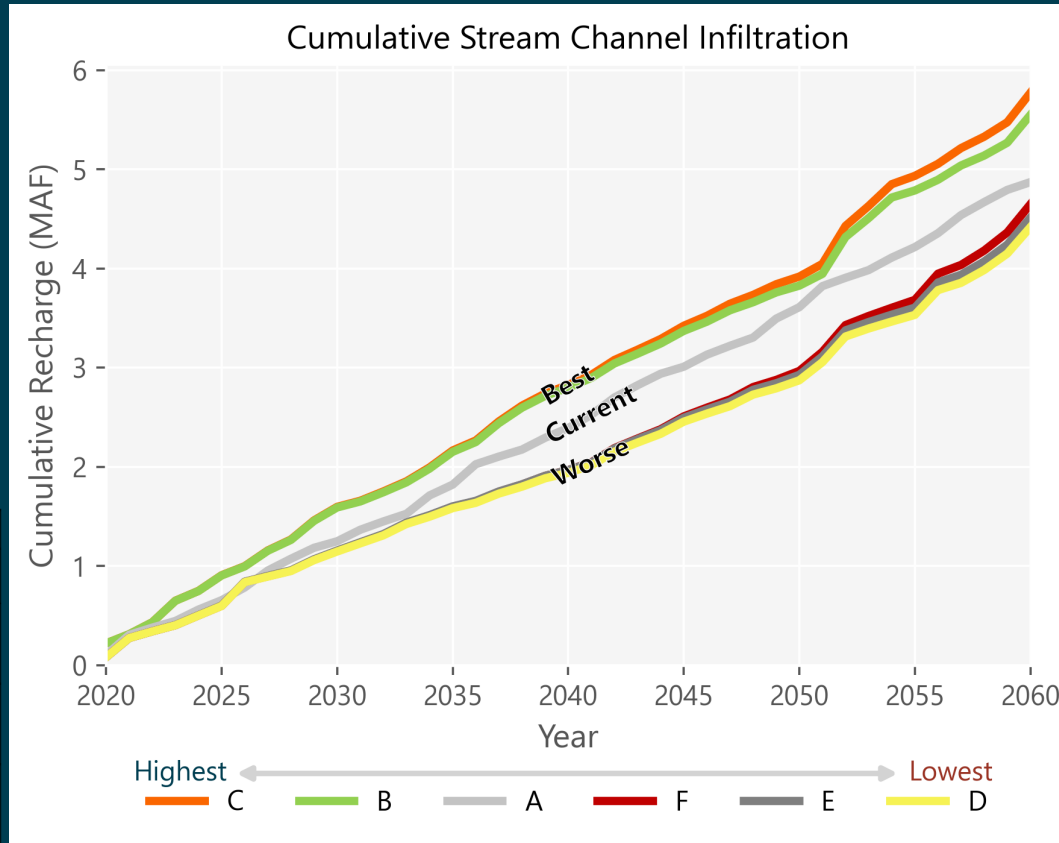
Recharge

Pumping

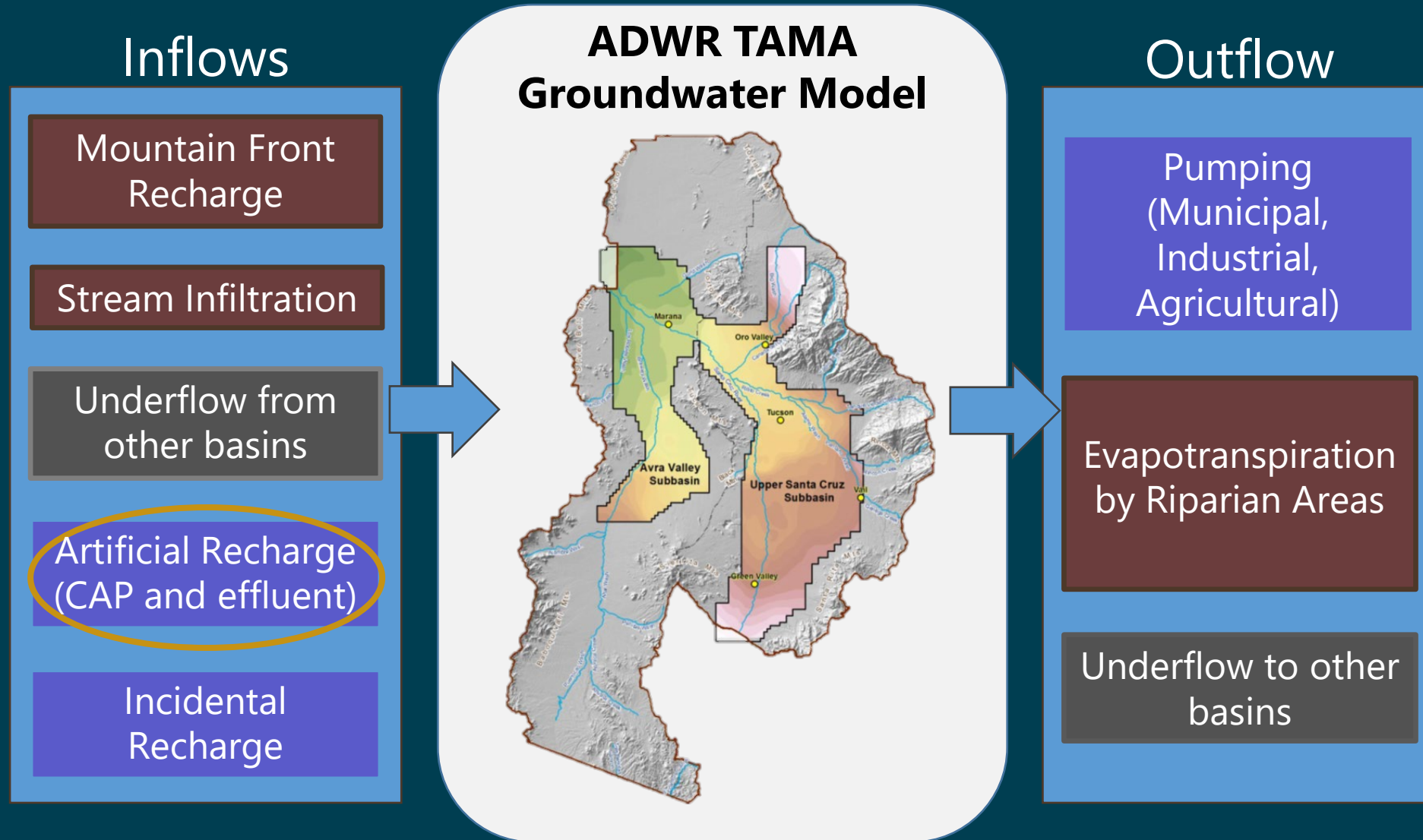
Results from Scenarios

# Stream Channel Infiltration

- Wastewater discharge projections from CAP
- Streamflow from climate projections and historic simulation



# Groundwater Model Components



Drivers:

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Introduction/Overview

Scenario Development

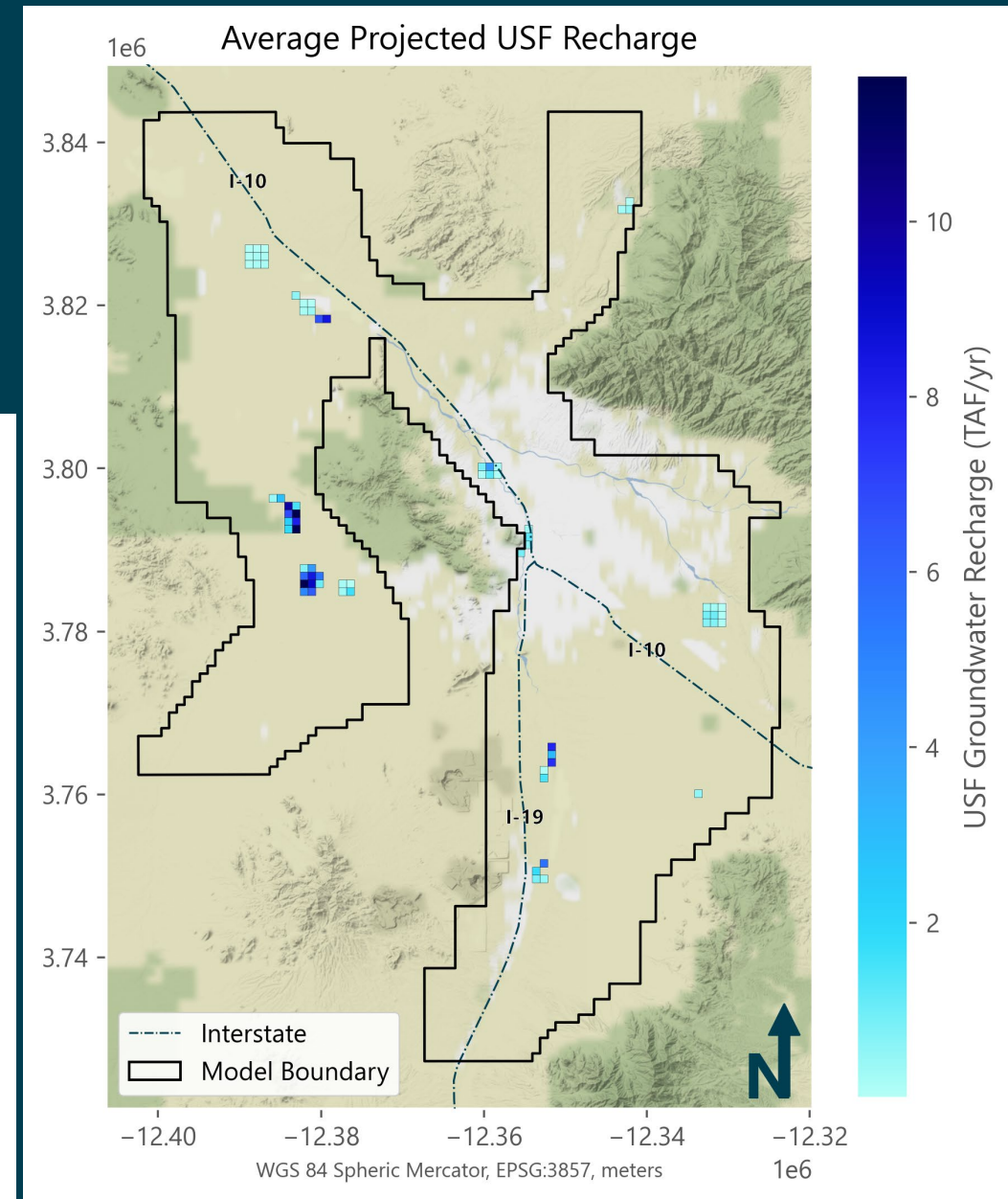
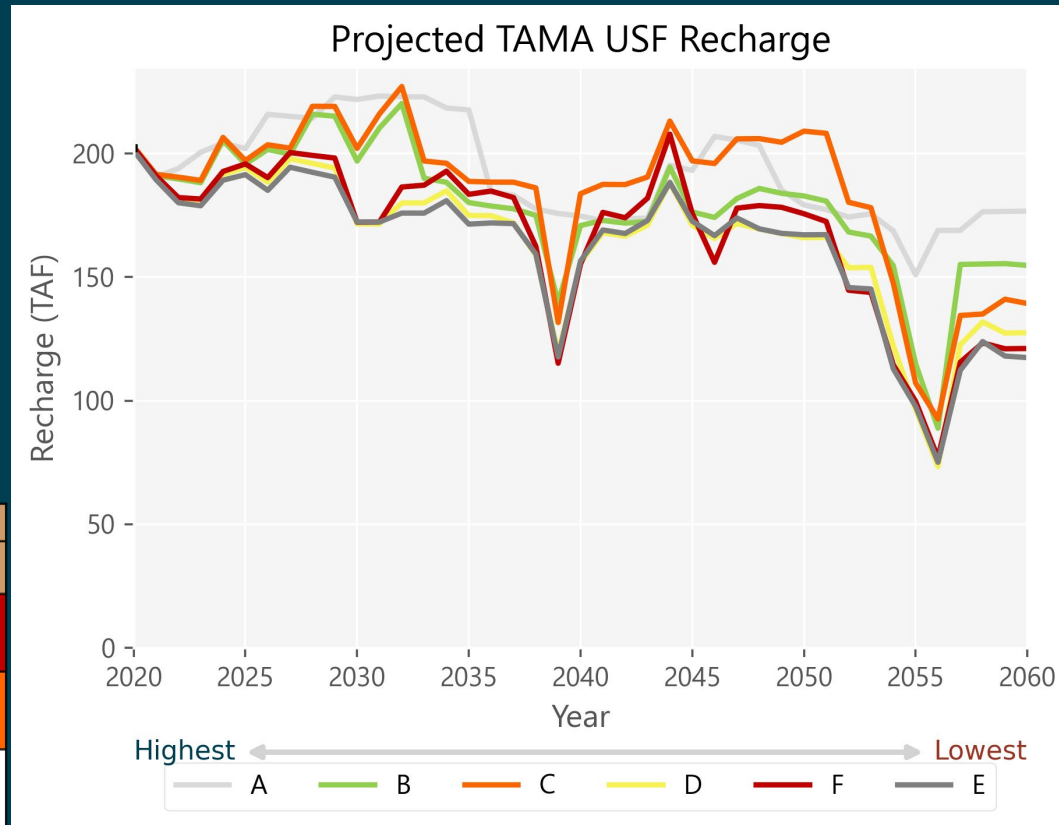
Recharge

Pumping

Results from Scenarios

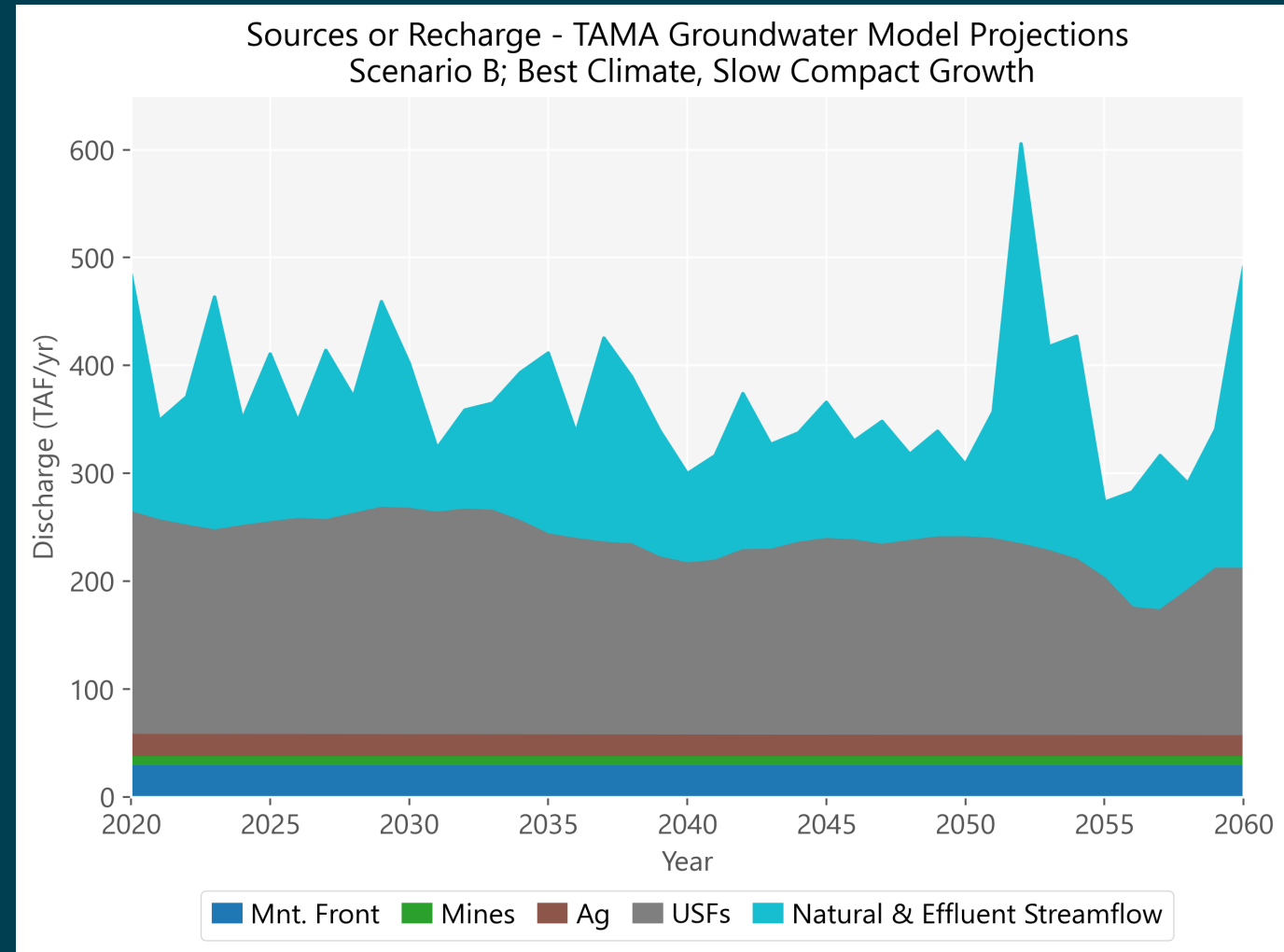
# Underground Storage Facilities (USF) Recharge

- Recharge projections from CAP



# Major Sources of Recharge

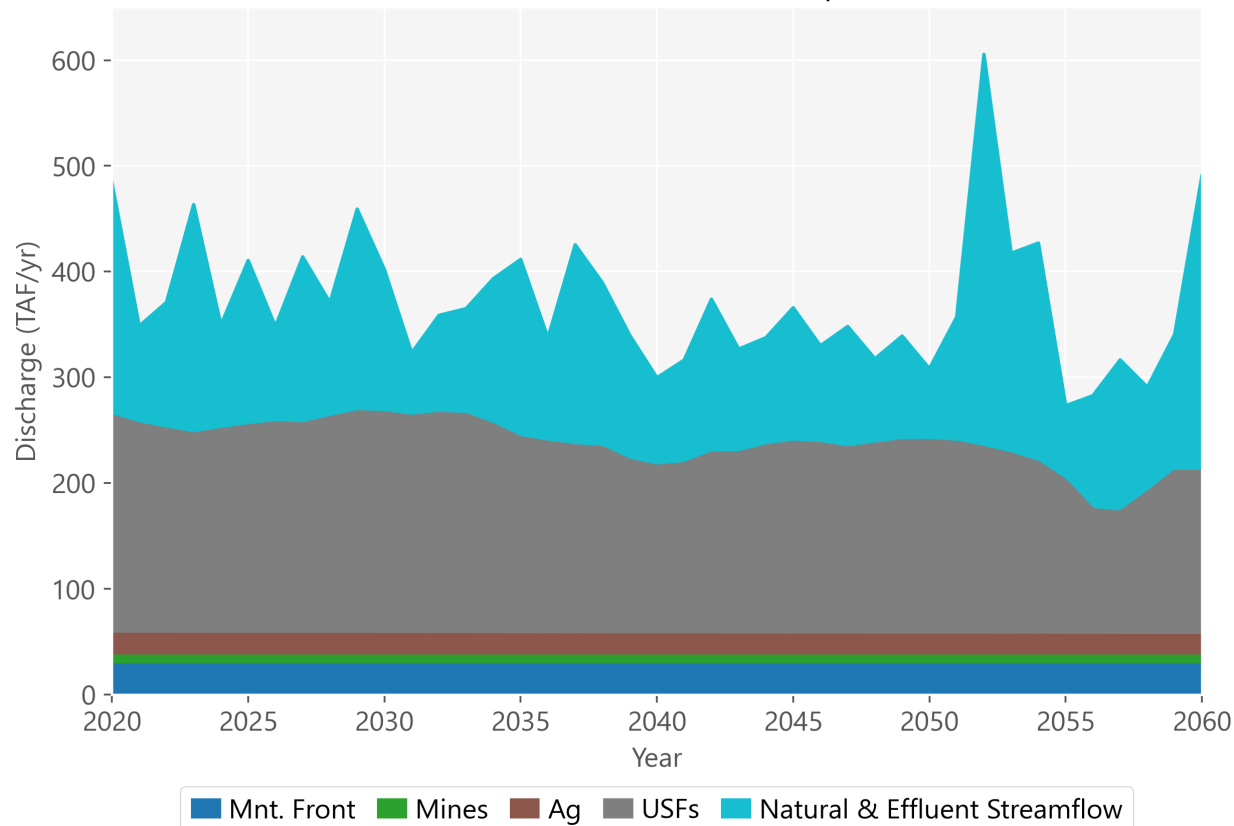
- **Constant Rates:**
  - Mountain front recharge
  - Mine tailings ponds
- **Variable Rates:**
  - Ag (Commercial, Tribal, IGFR)
  - USFs (CAP and effluent sources)
  - Natural streamflow based on climate projections and projections of effluent discharge to Santa Cruz River



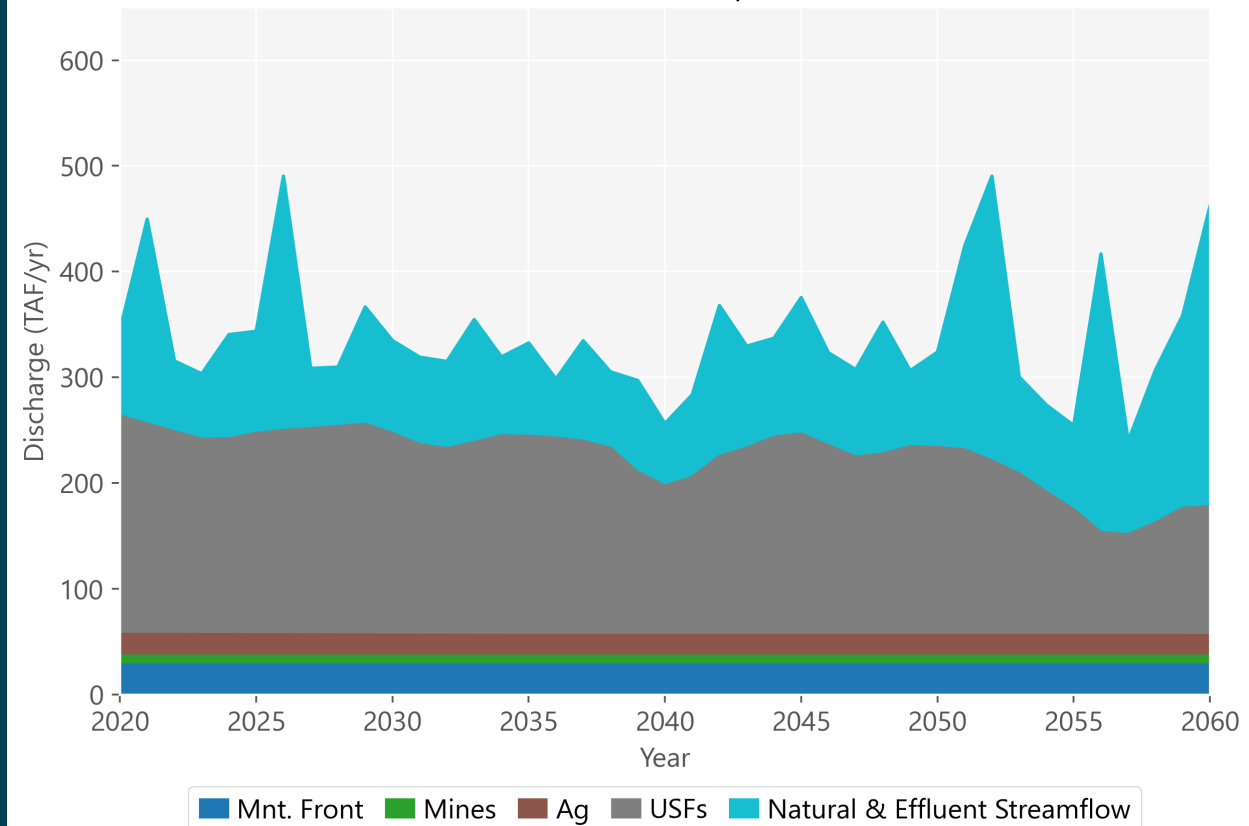
# Major Sources of Recharge continued

- Compare low risk (Scn. B) vs. high risk (Scn. F)

Sources or Recharge - TAMA Groundwater Model Projections  
Scenario B; Best Climate, Slow Compact Growth



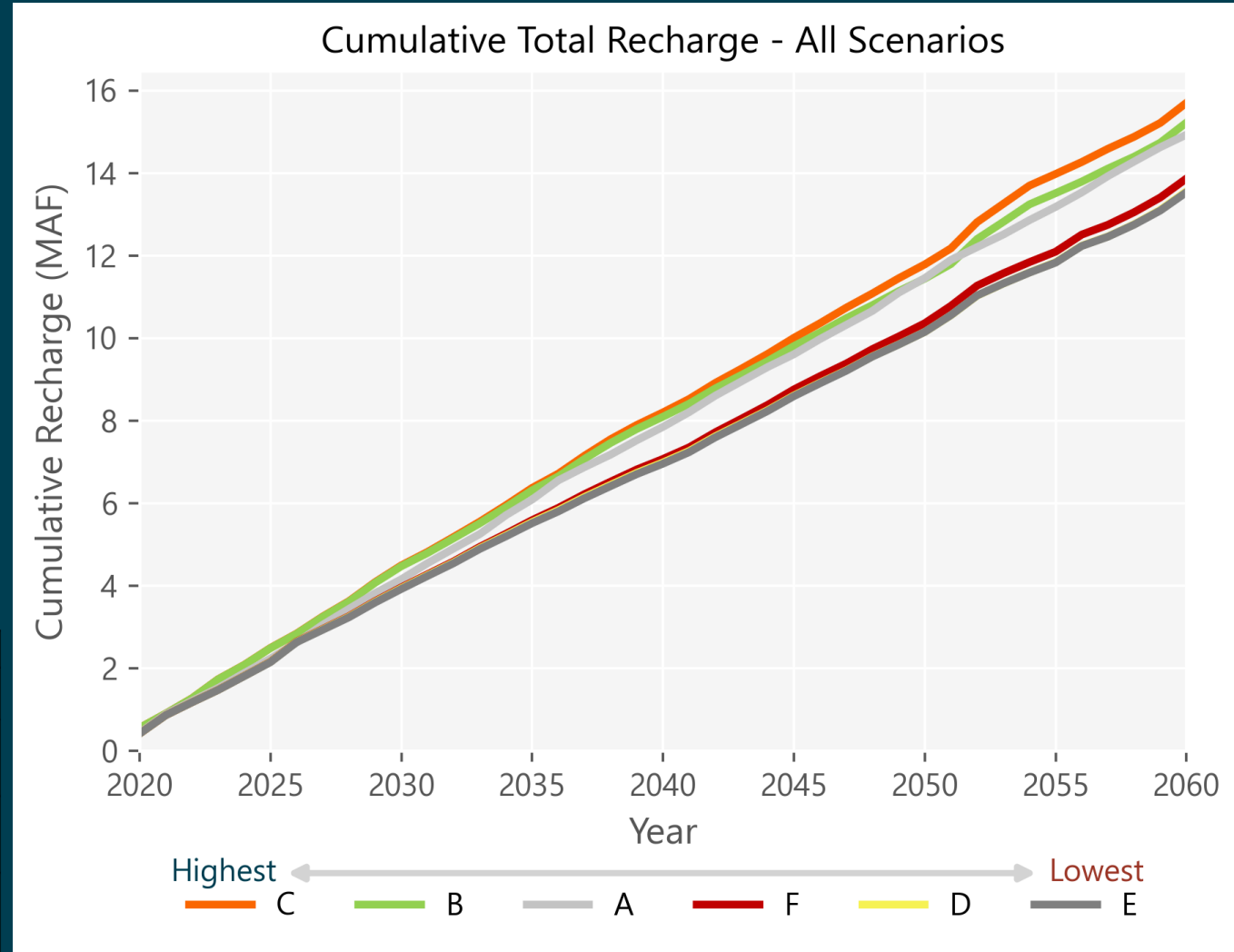
Sources or Recharge - TAMA Groundwater Model Projections  
Scenario F; Worse Climate, Rapid Outward Growth



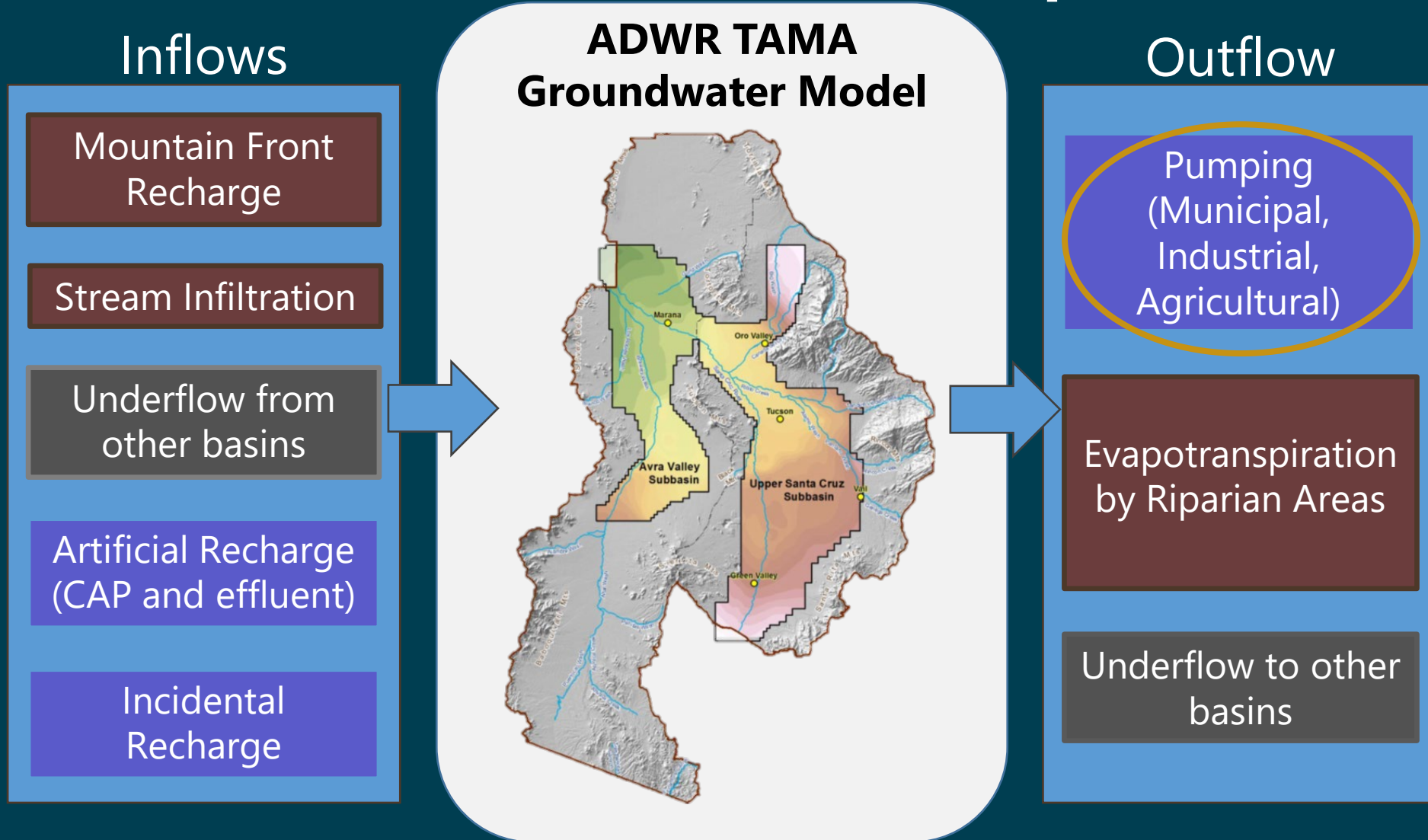
# Groundwater Recharge Projections

- Total recharge from:
  - Streamflow, USFs, WWTP Discharge, Ag, Mountain fronts, and Mine tailings ponds
- Typical High Rate (Scenario C): 370 TAF/yr
- Typical Low Rate (Scenario E): 315 TAF/yr

		Demand Growth		
		Slow, Compact	Medium, Official	Rapid, Outward
Climate	Worse Case	D	E	F
	Best Case	B		C
	Current Climate		A	



# Groundwater Model Components



Drivers:

Primarily Socio-Economic Forces    Primarily Climate    Estimated within Model

Introduction/Overview

**Scenario Development**

Recharge

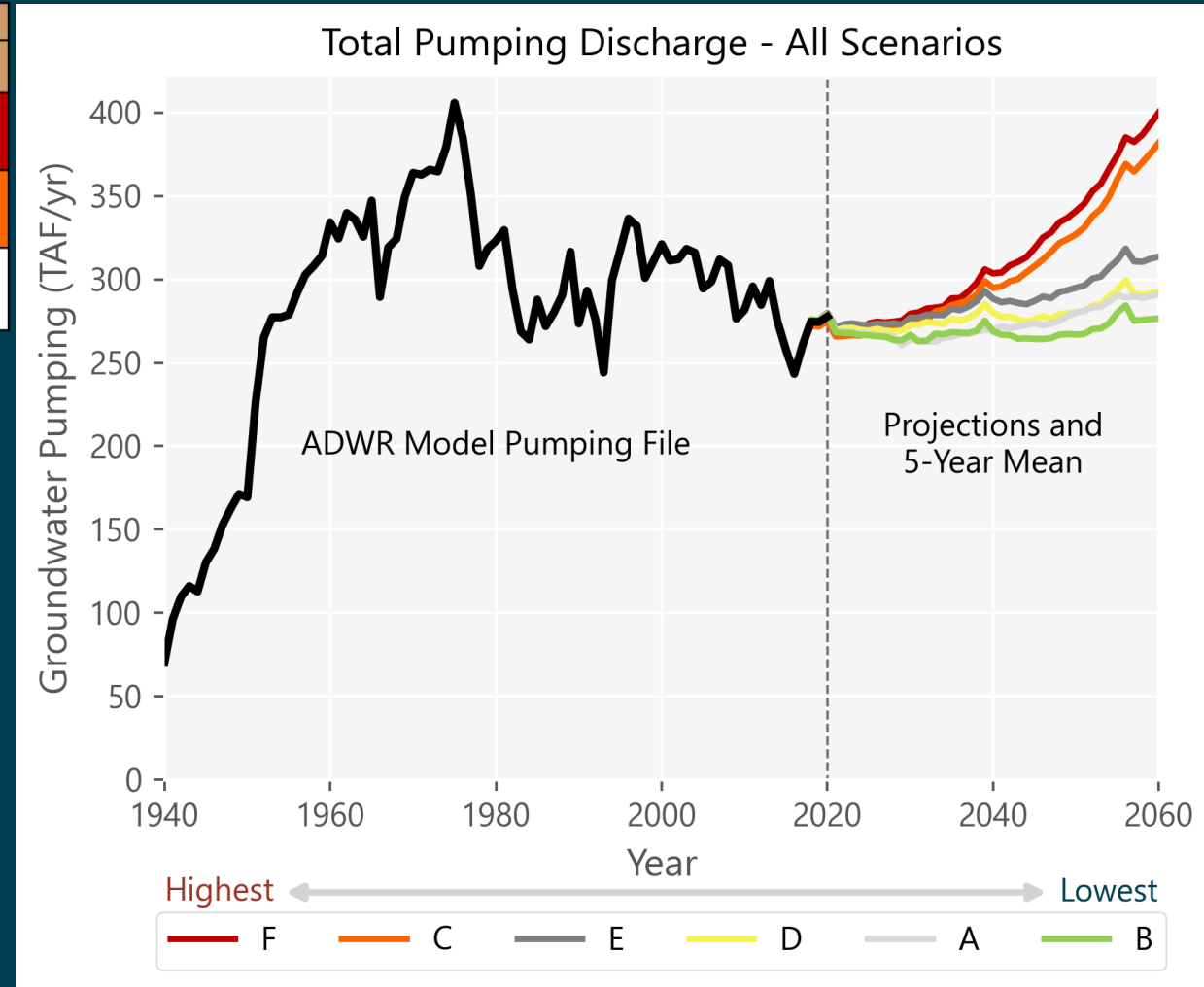
**Pumping**

Results from Scenarios

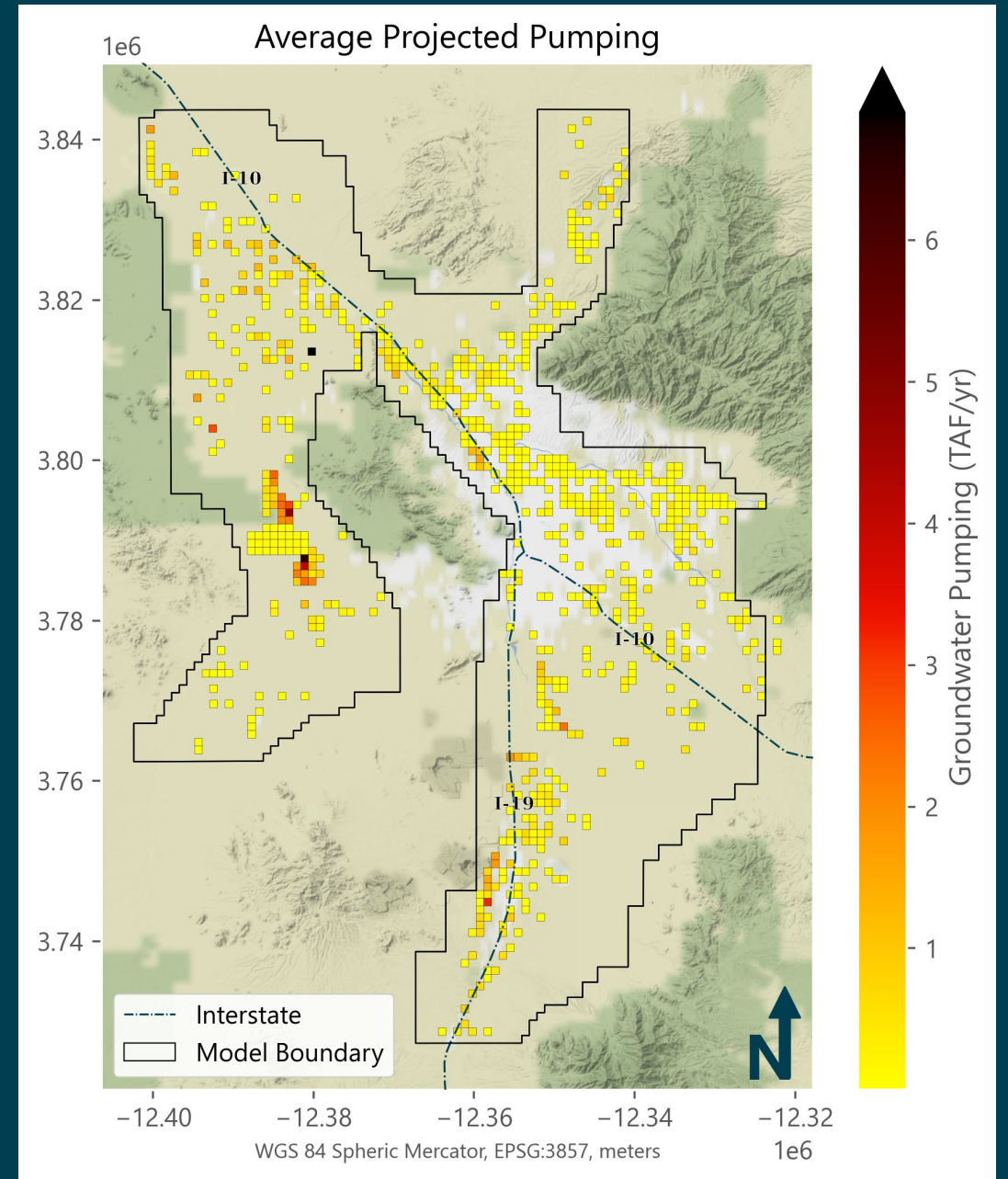
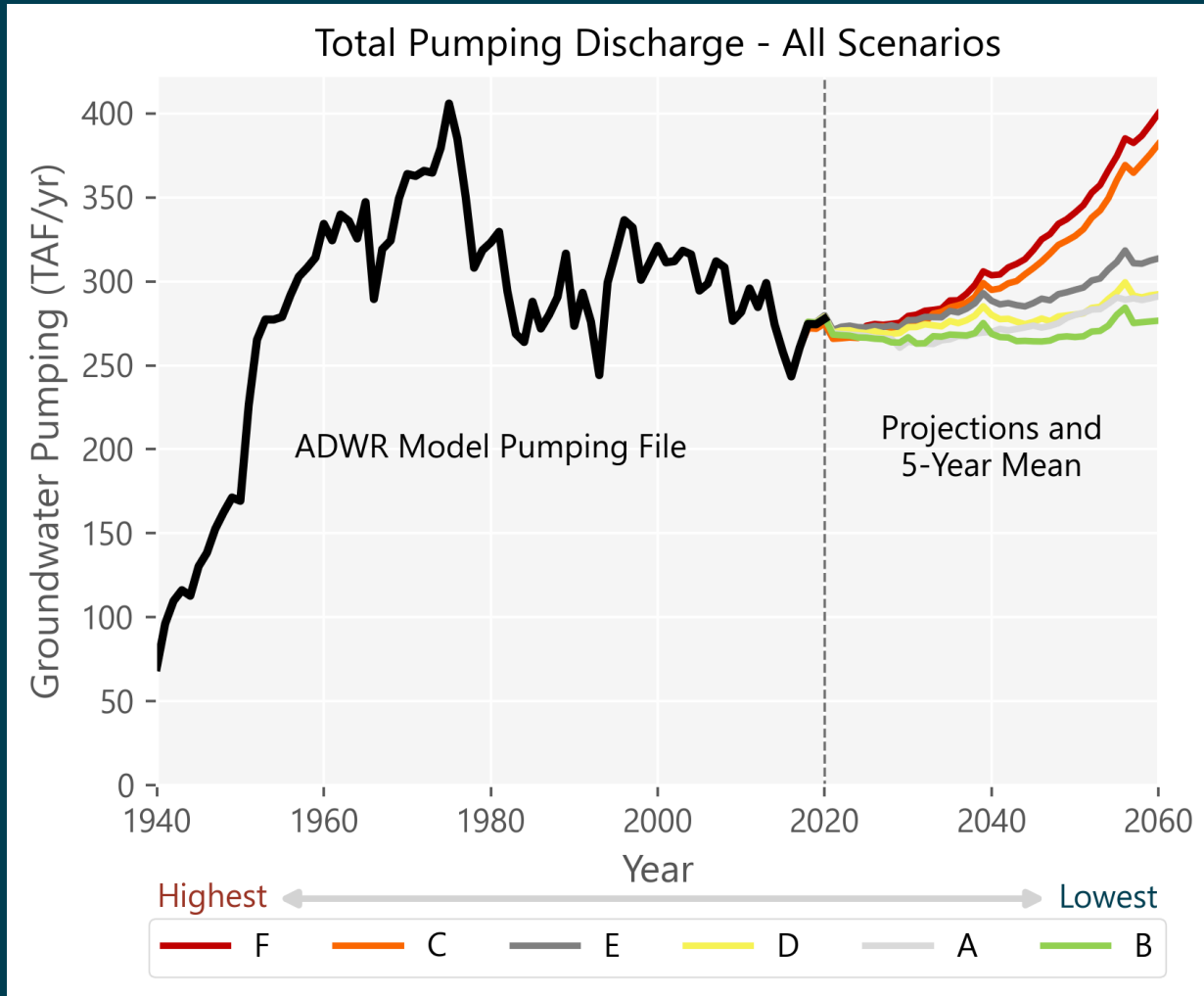
# Pumping Projections

- Projections to 2060 (inside TAMA) include:
  - Municipal
  - Agricultural
  - Stored Water Recovery (Nevada, Phoenix)
  - Mining (Scns. C & F)
- Constant Pumping
  - 5-yr historic average (industrial, turf, some municipal, and ag outside TAMA)

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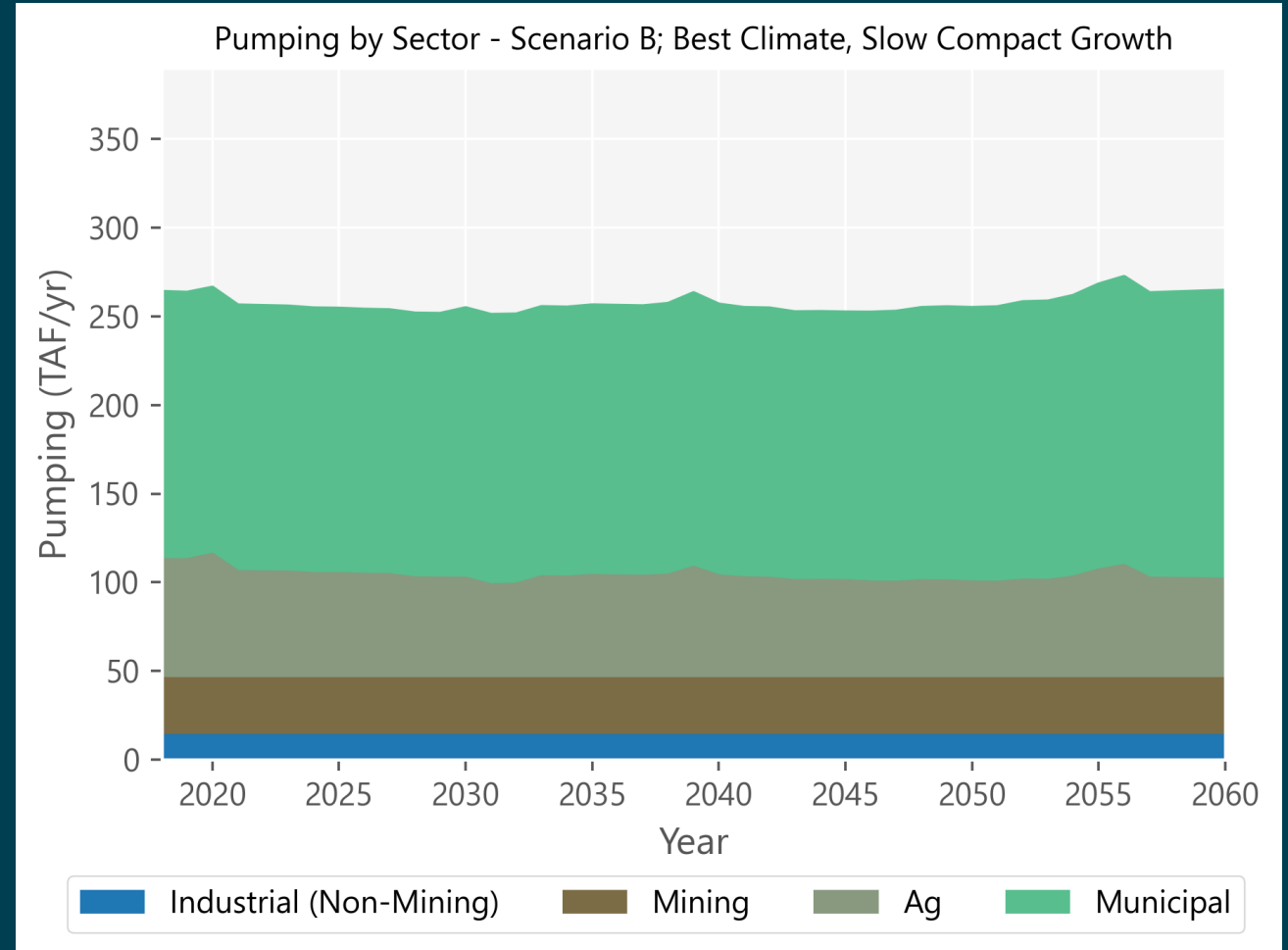


# Pumping Projections



# Pumping Projections by Sector, Scenario B

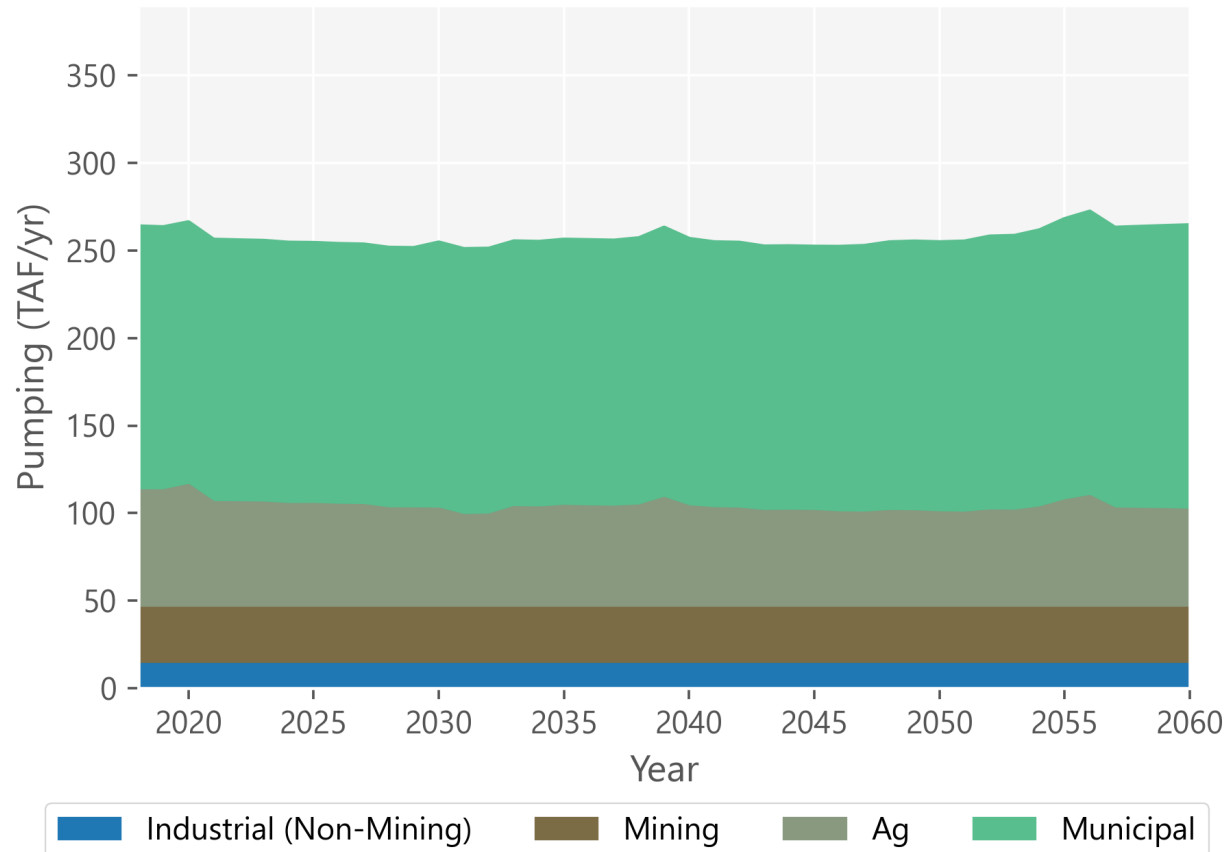
- **Municipal**
  - Municipal water providers
  - Exempt wells
  - Stored water recovery
- **Agricultural**
  - Irrigation districts
  - Tribes
  - Individual rights
- **Mining**
  - Constant
- **Industrial**
  - General industrial, turf facilities



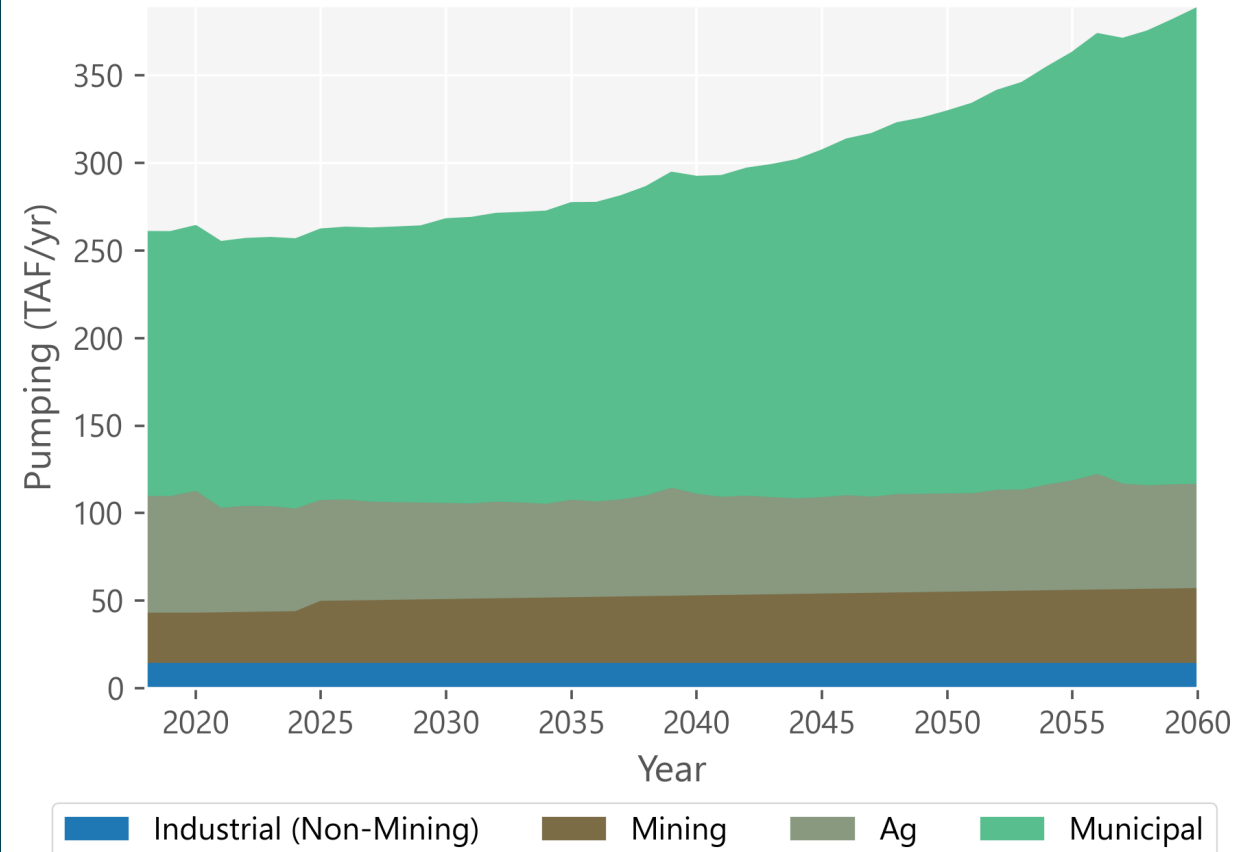
# Comparison of Pumping Projections

- Compare low risk (Scn. B) vs. high risk (Scn. F)

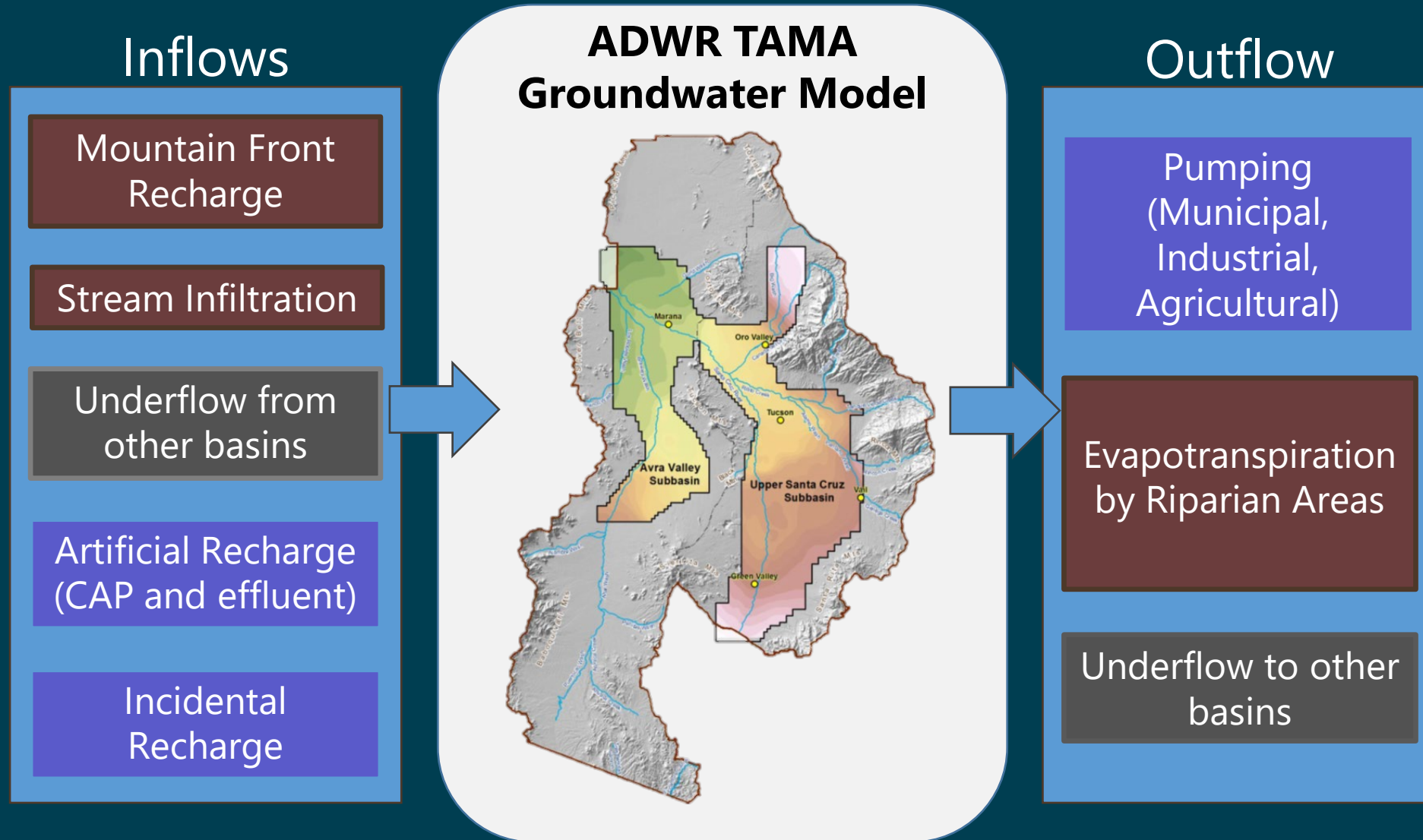
Pumping by Sector - Scenario B; Best Climate, Slow Compact Growth



Pumping by Sector - Scenario F; Worse Climate, Rapid Outward Growth



# Groundwater Model Components



Drivers:

Primarily Socio-Economic Forces

Primarily Climate

Estimated within Model

Introduction/Overview

**Scenario Development**

Recharge

Pumping

Results from Scenarios

# Groundwater Model Projection Results

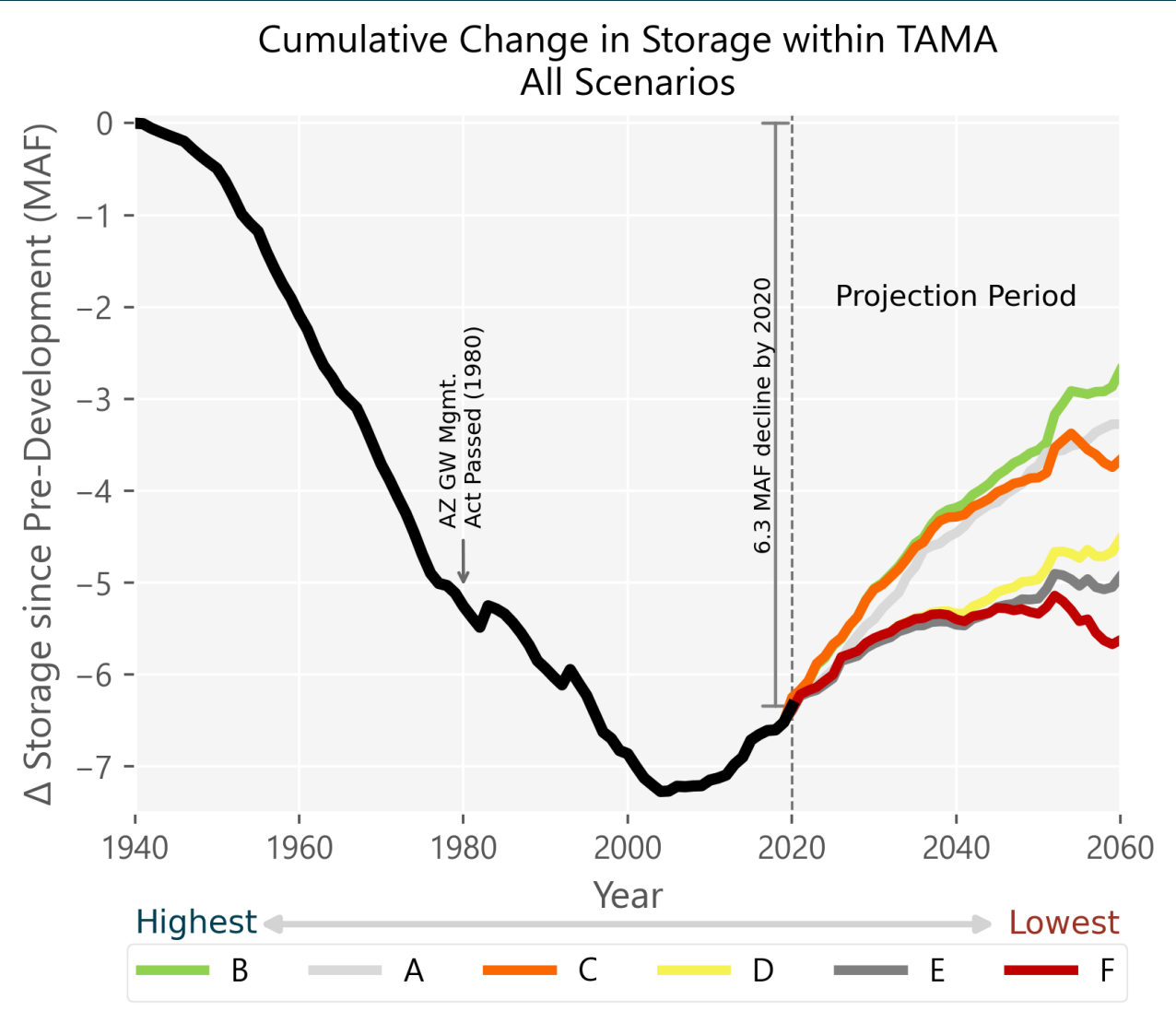
Introduction/Overview

Scenario Development

**Results from Scenarios**

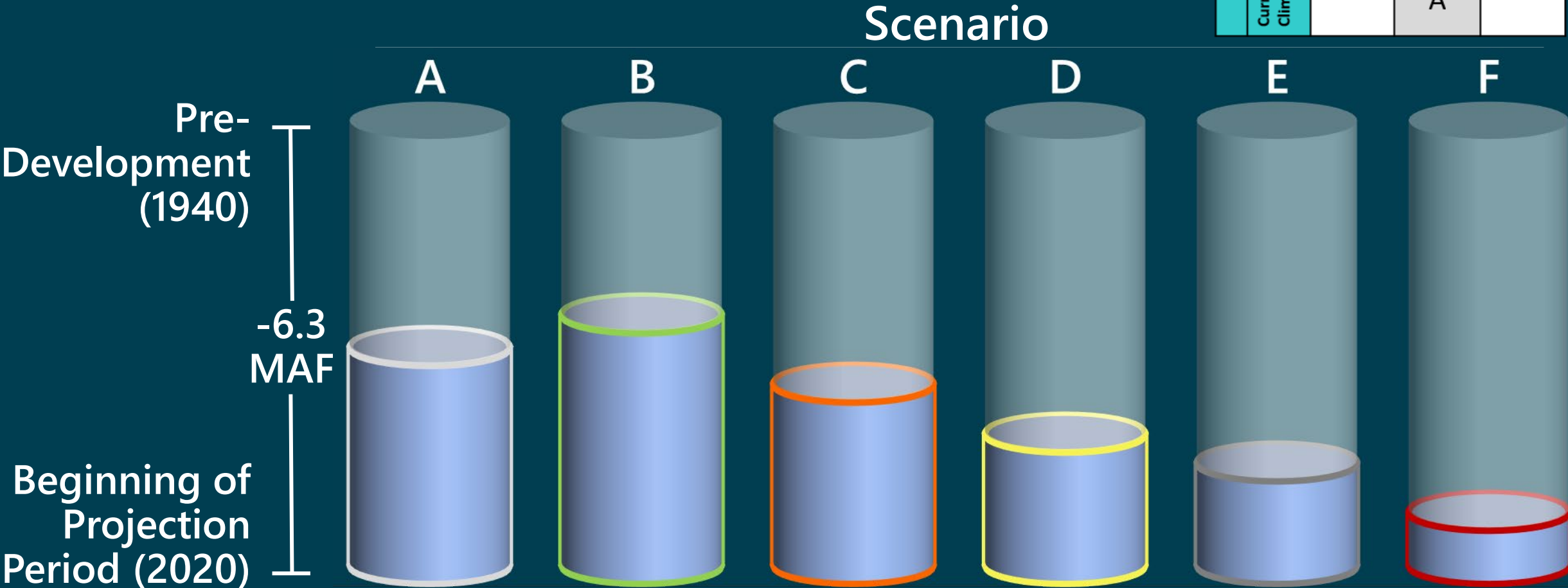
# Change in Groundwater Storage 1940 to 2060

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Climate	Worse Case	D	E	F
	Best Case	B		C
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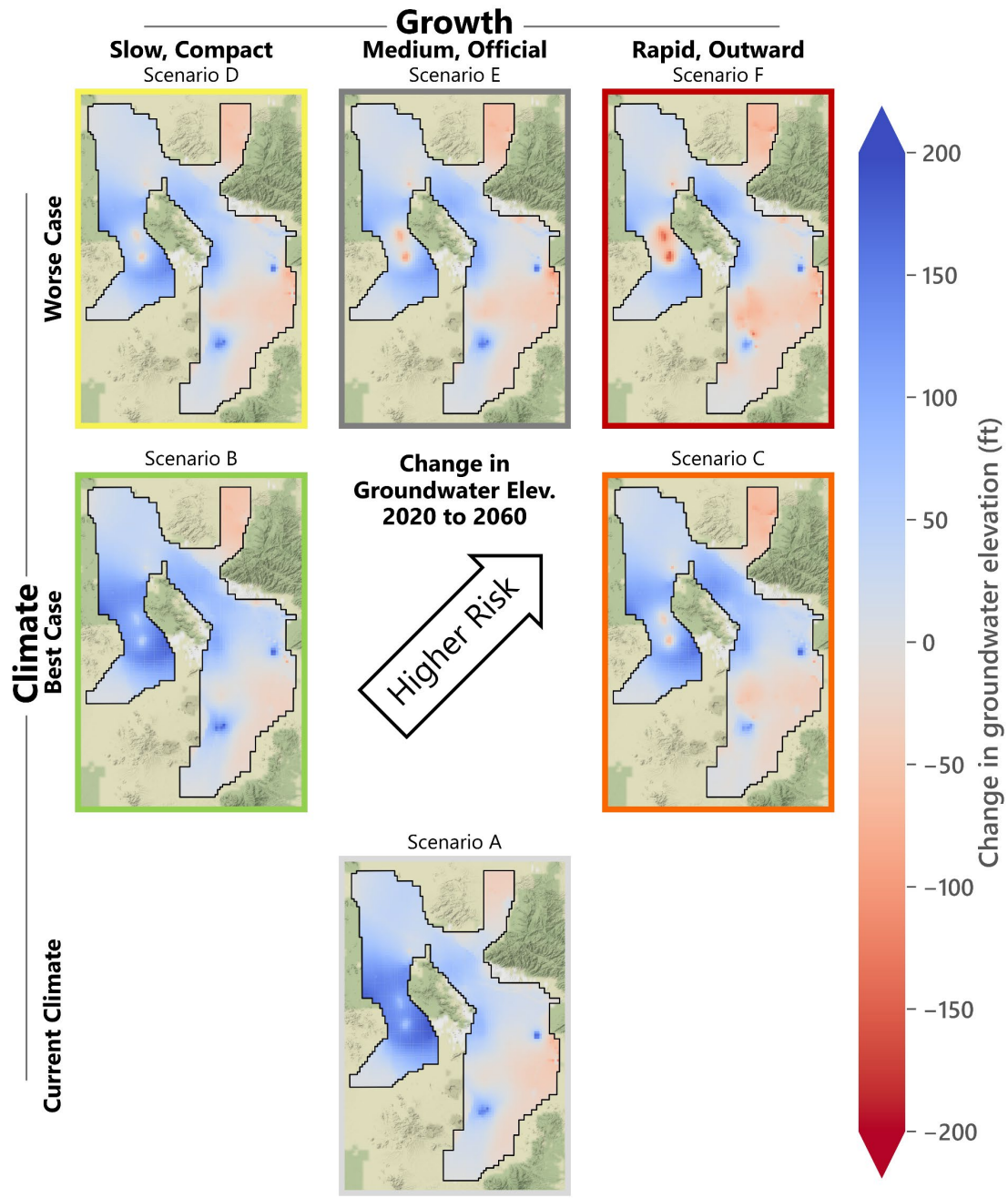
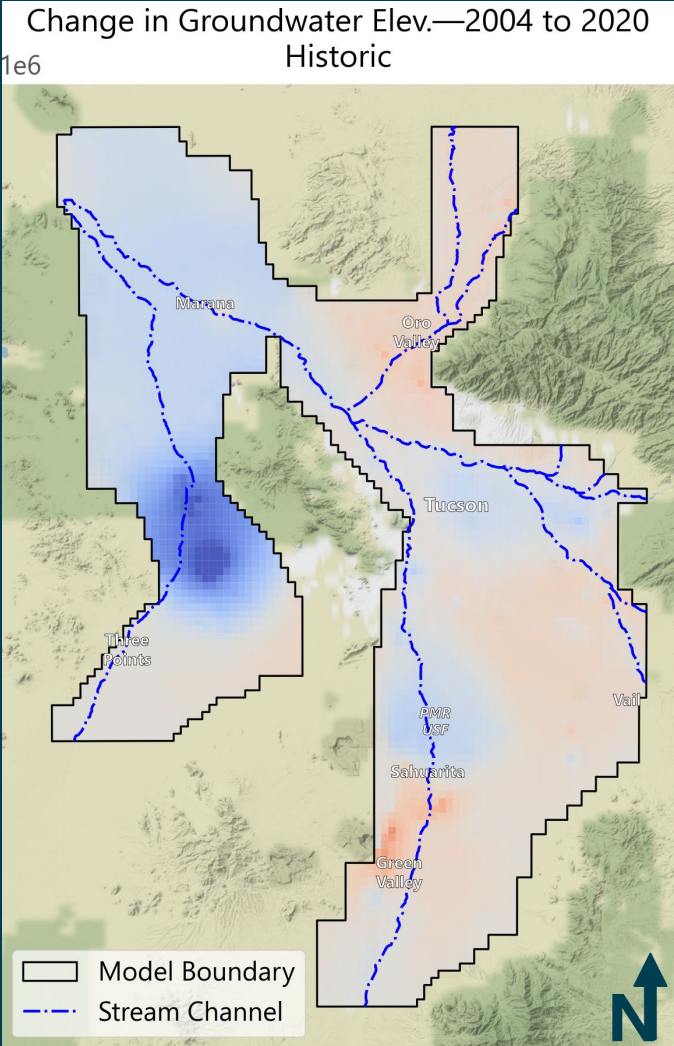
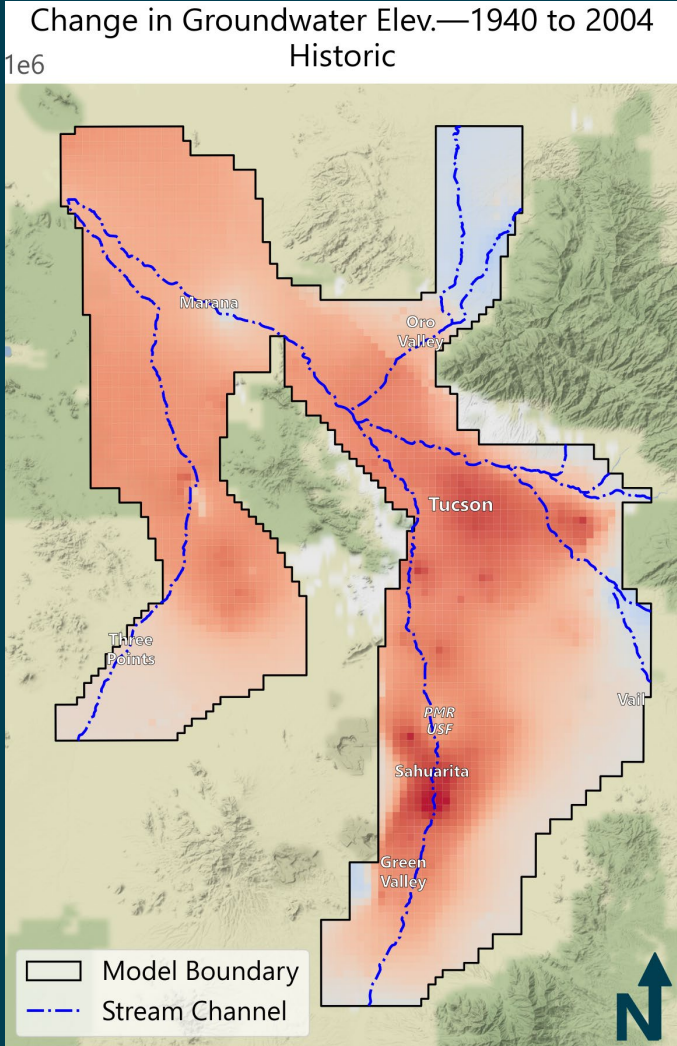


# Replenished Groundwater Storage by 2060

		Demand Growth		
		Slow, Compact	Medium, Official	Rapid, Outward
Climate	Worse Case	D	E	F
	Best Case	B		C
	Current Climate		A	



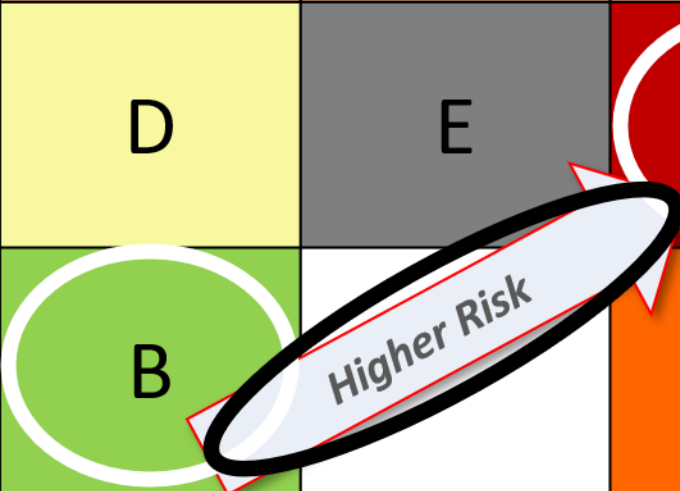
# Change in Groundwater Elevation through time



# Supply-Demand Basin Study Scenarios, B vs F

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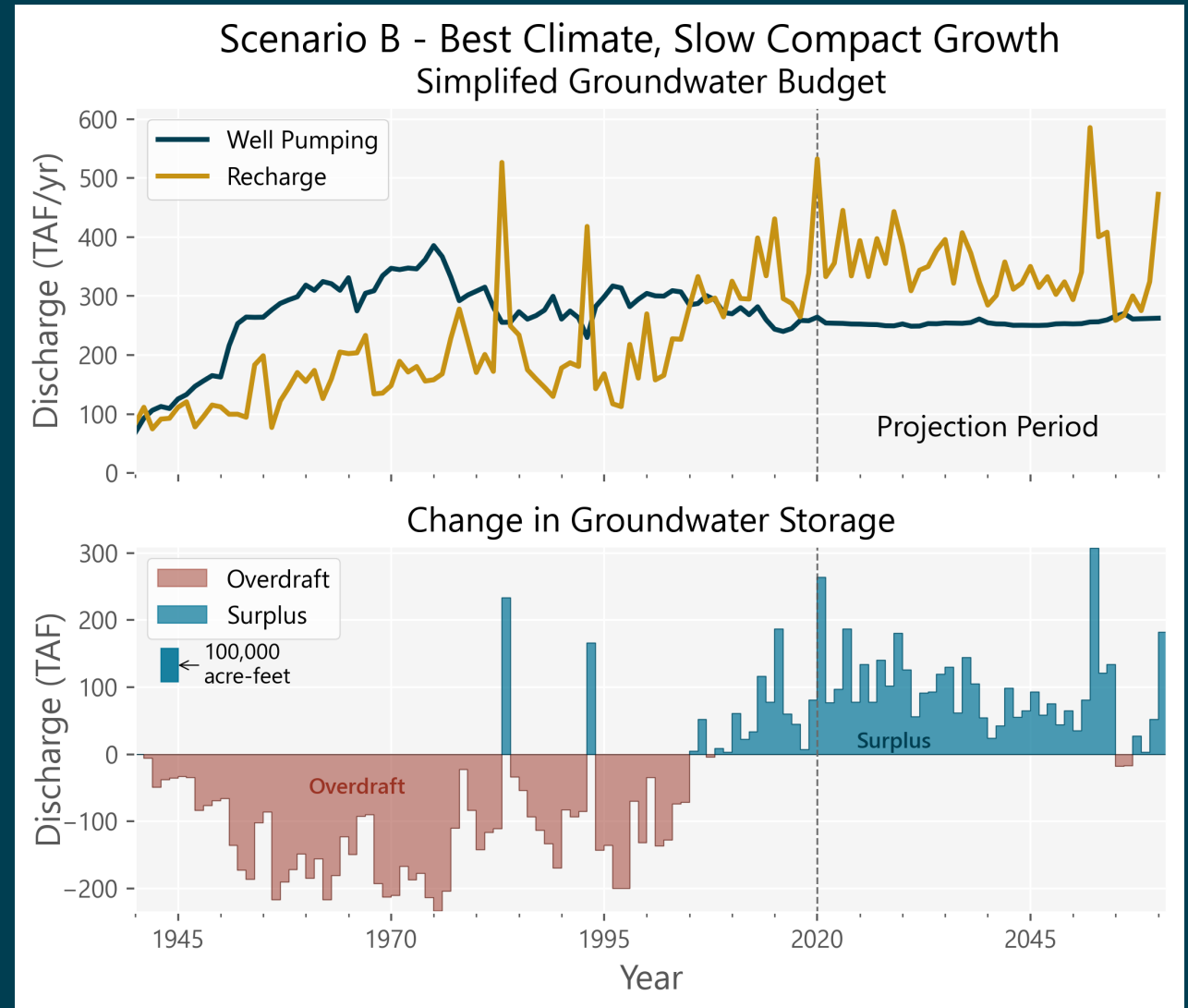
		Demand Growth		
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# Risk Comparison

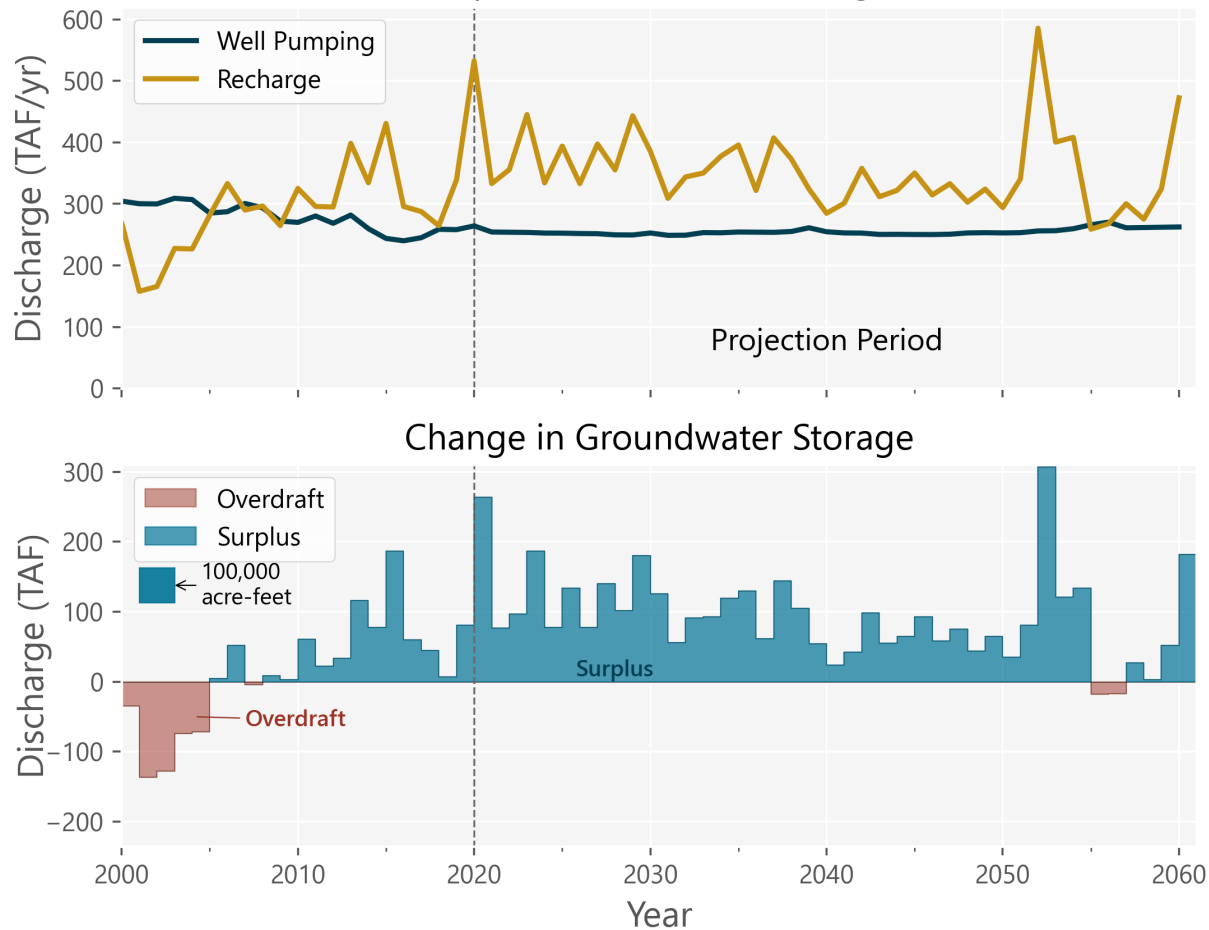
## TAMA Water Balance

- Minor impacts/discharges excluded from plot
- Outflows remove groundwater
- Inflows add groundwater
- $\text{Outflows} < \text{Inflows} = +\Delta\text{Storage} = \text{Surplus (Good)}$
- $\text{Outflows} > \text{Inflows} = -\Delta\text{Storage} = \text{Overdraft (Bad)}$

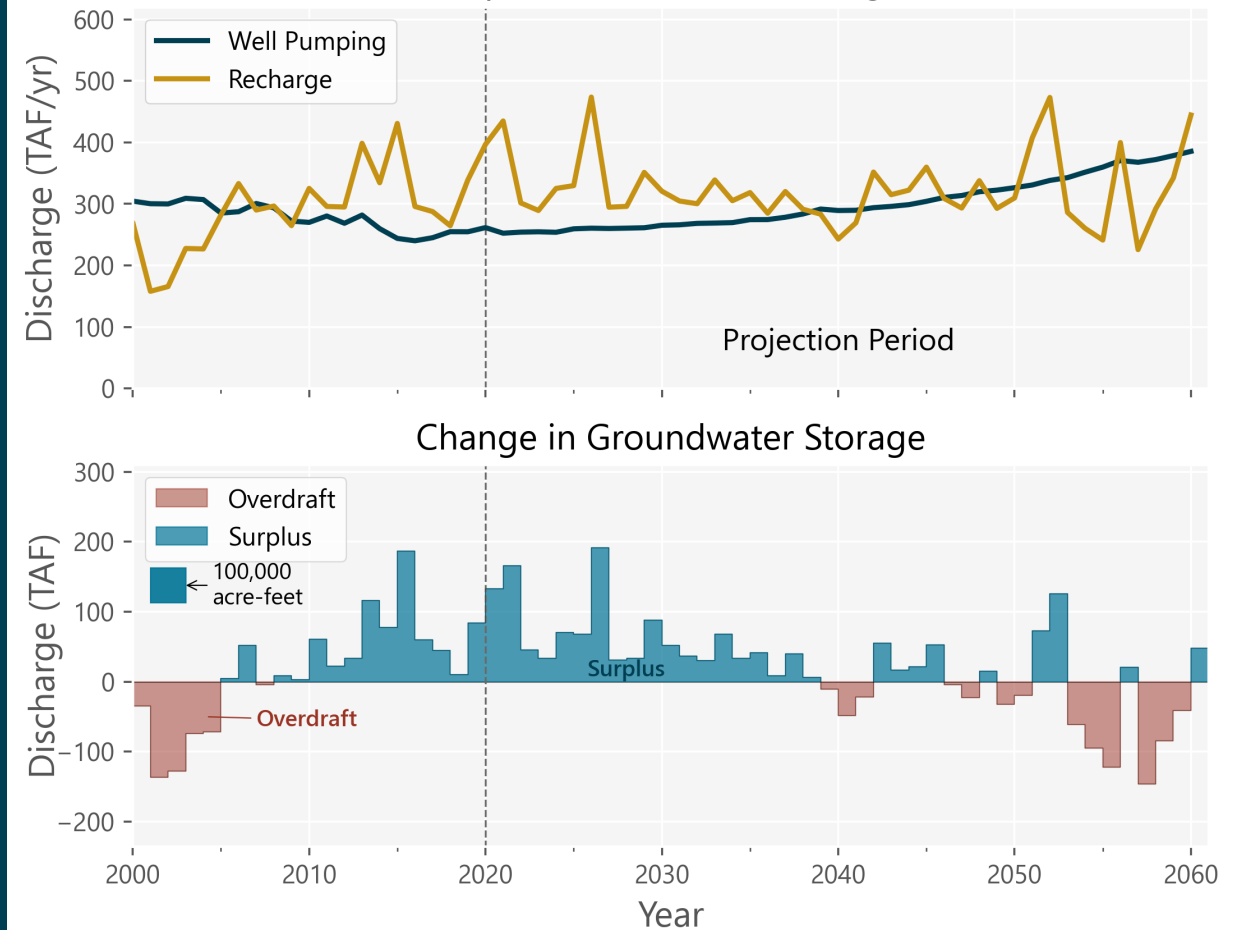


# Risk Comparison - TAMA Water Balance

Scenario B - Best Climate, Slow Compact Growth  
Simplified Groundwater Budget

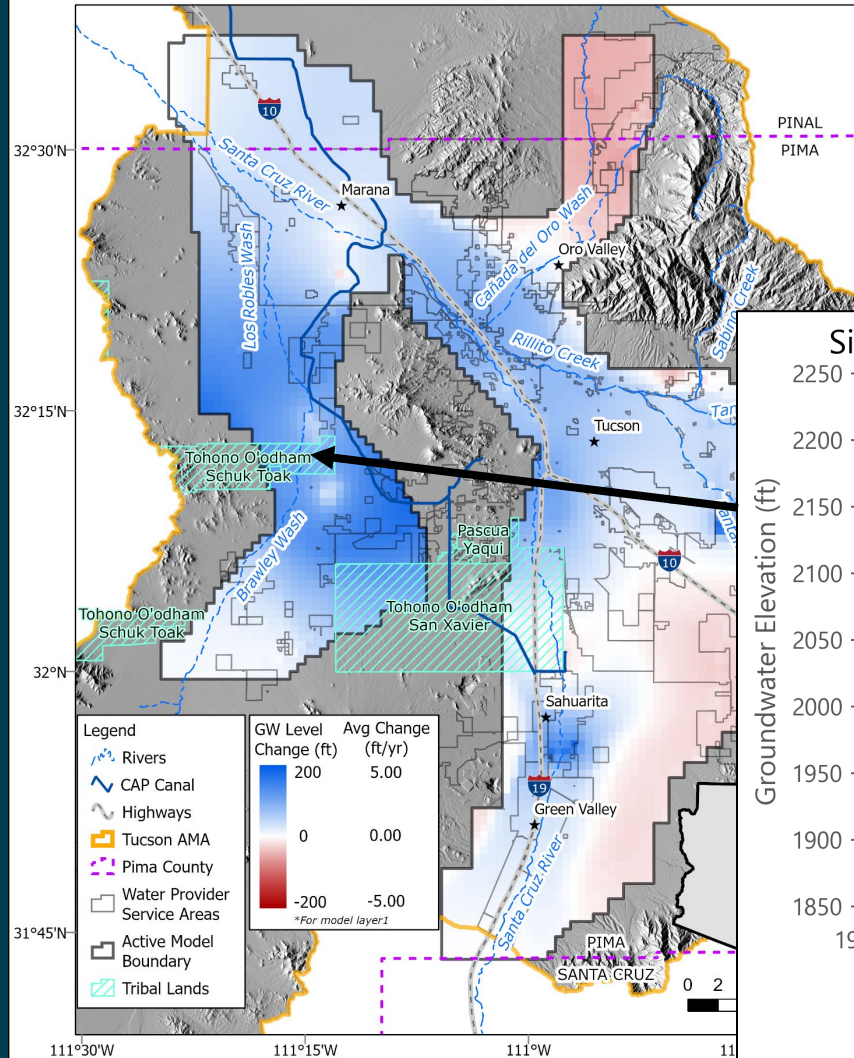


Scenario F - Worse Climate, Rapid Outward Growth  
Simplified Groundwater Budget

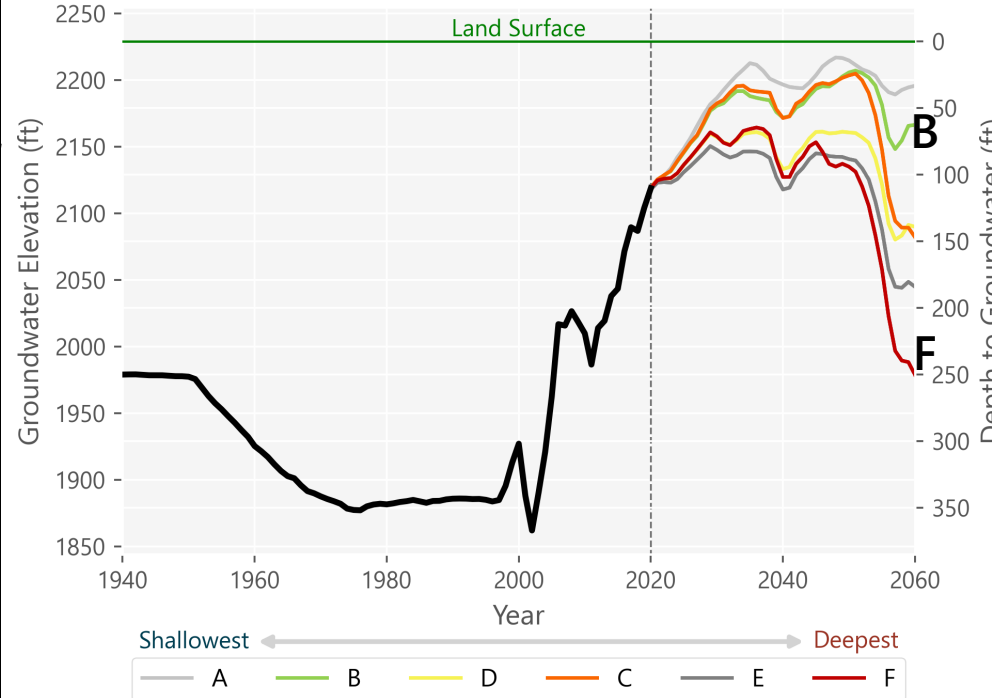


# Risk Comparison - Change in Head

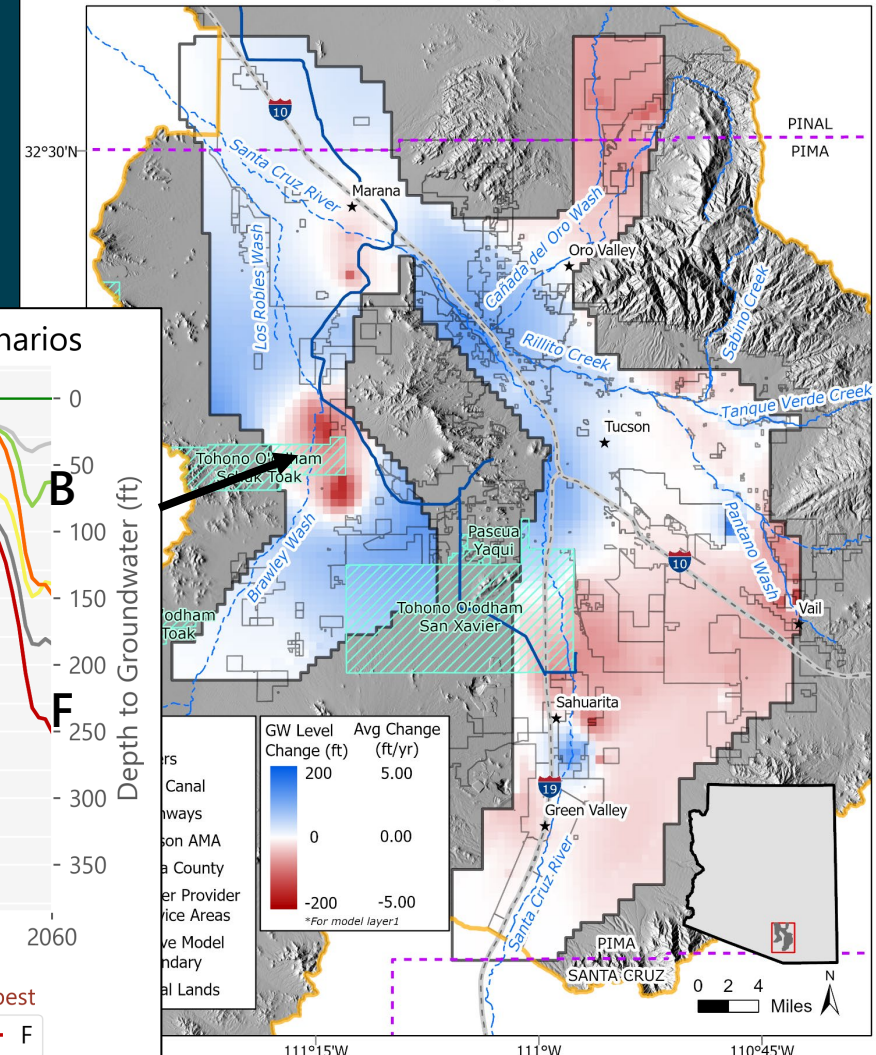
Projected Change in Water Level (ft): 2020 - 2060  
LSCR Basin Study - Scenario B



Simulated Water Table Elevation - CAVSARP - All Scenarios



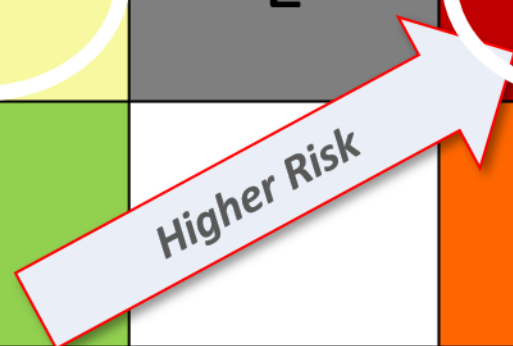
Projected Change in Water Level (ft): 2020 - 2060  
LSCR Basin Study - Scenario F



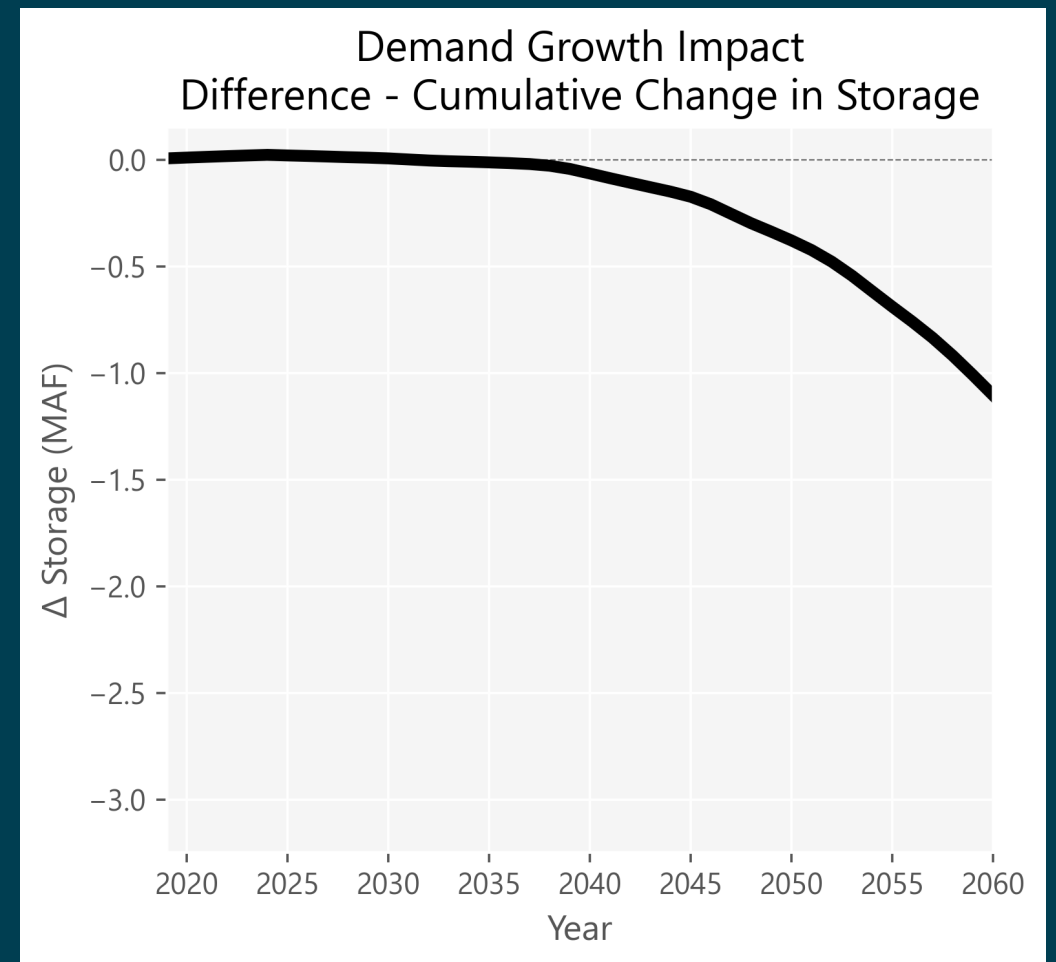
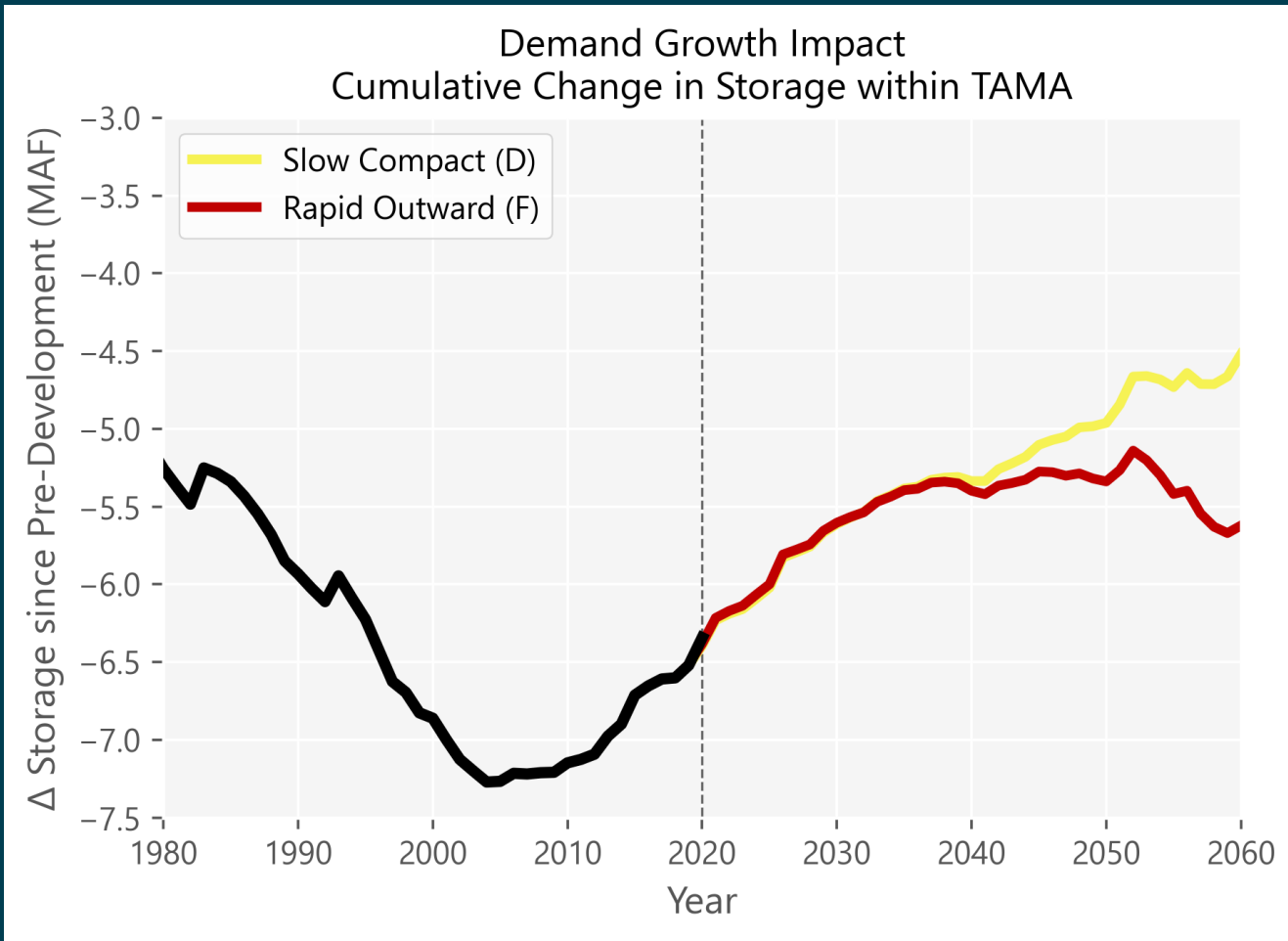
# Supply-Demand Basin Study Scenarios, D vs. F

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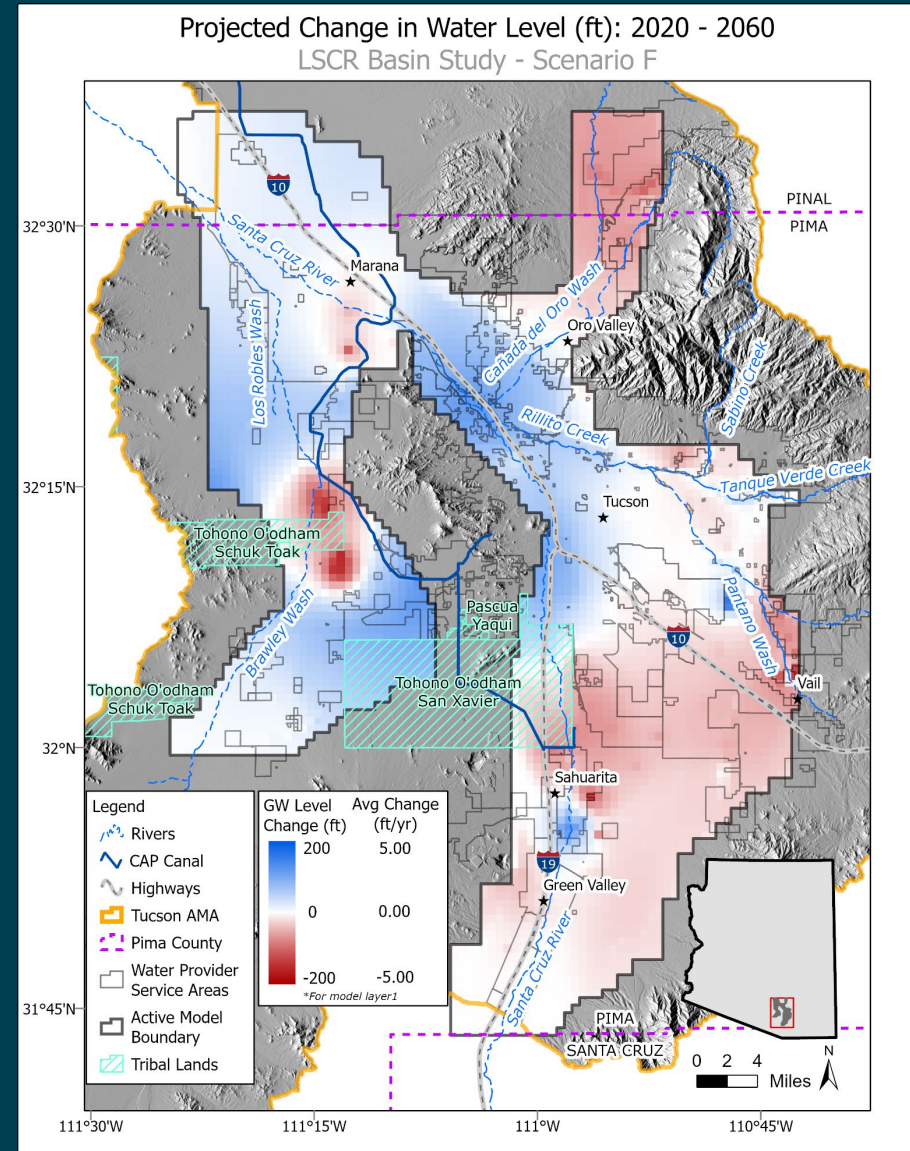
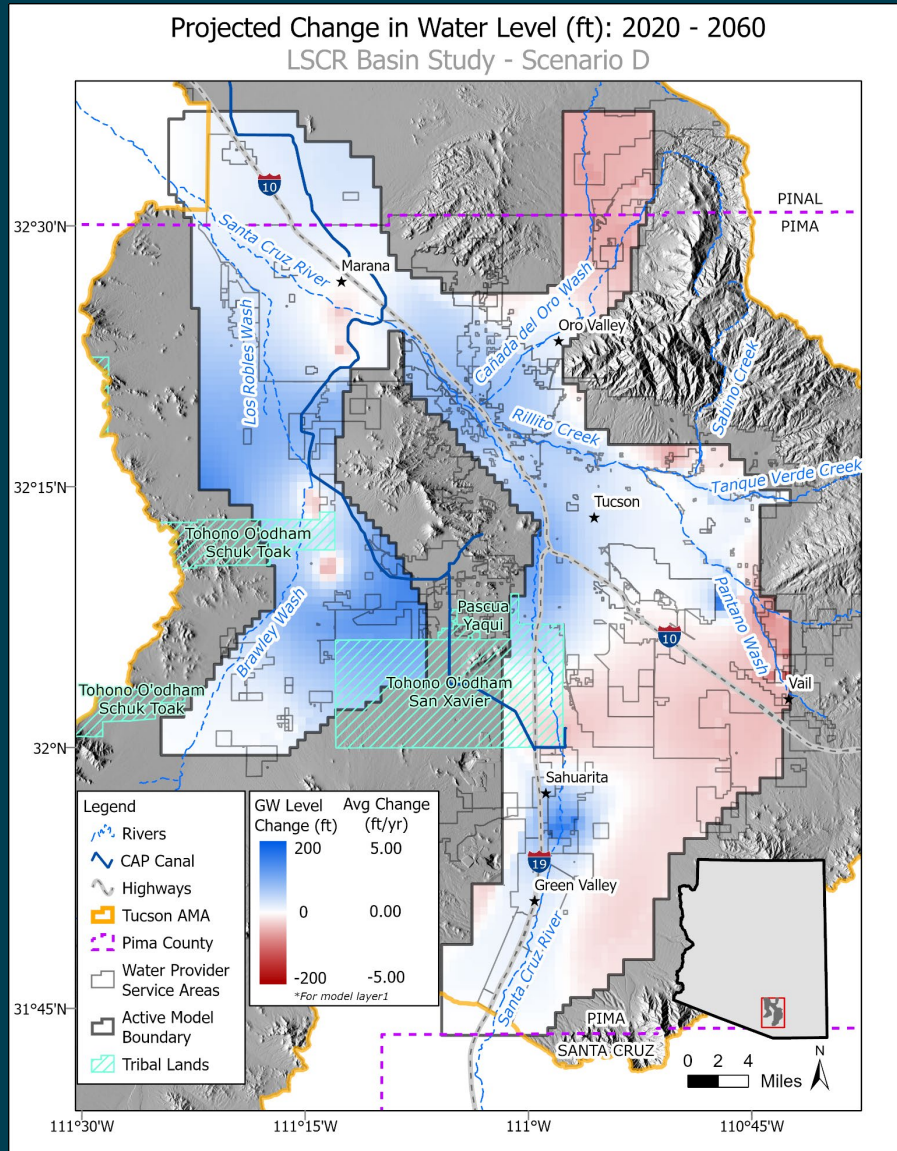
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# Demand Growth Impact Change in Groundwater Storage



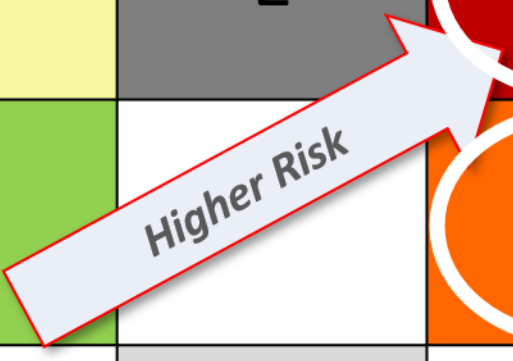
# Demand Growth Impact - Change in Head



# Supply-Demand Basin Study Scenarios, C vs. F

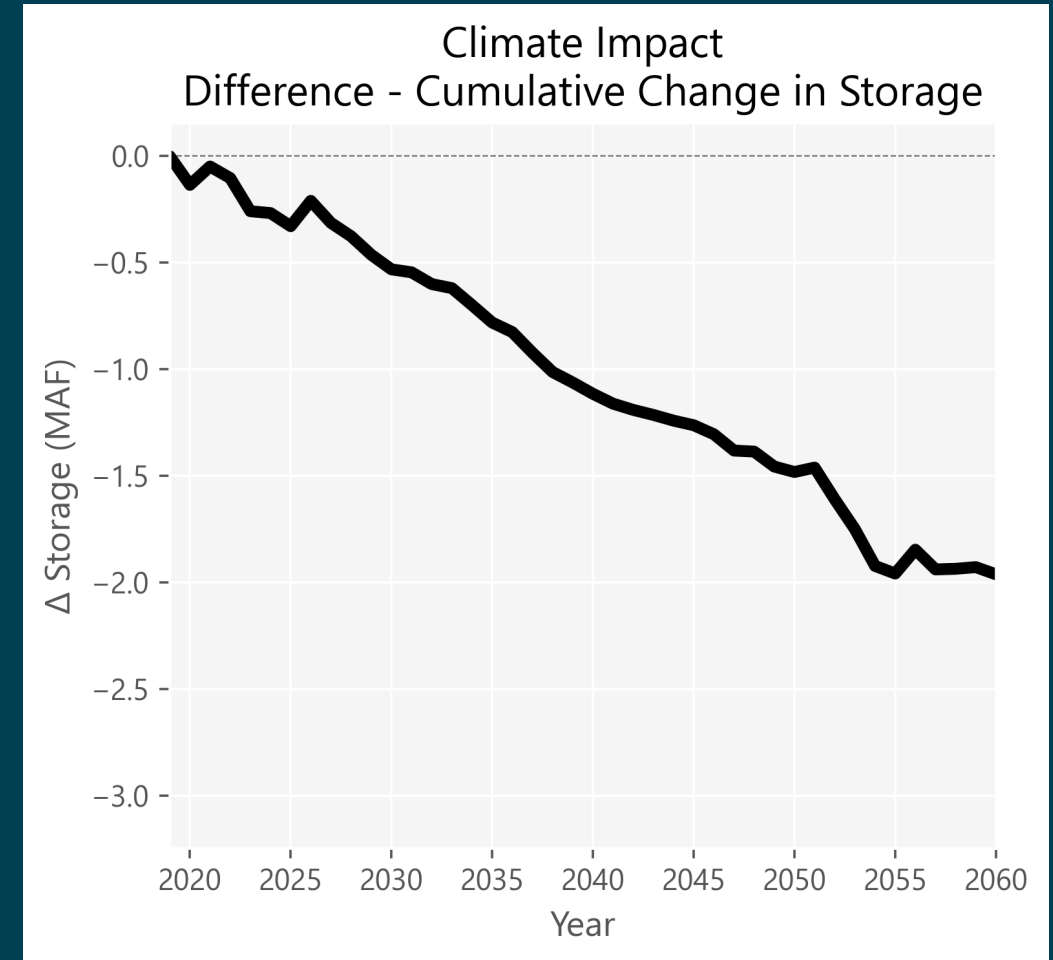
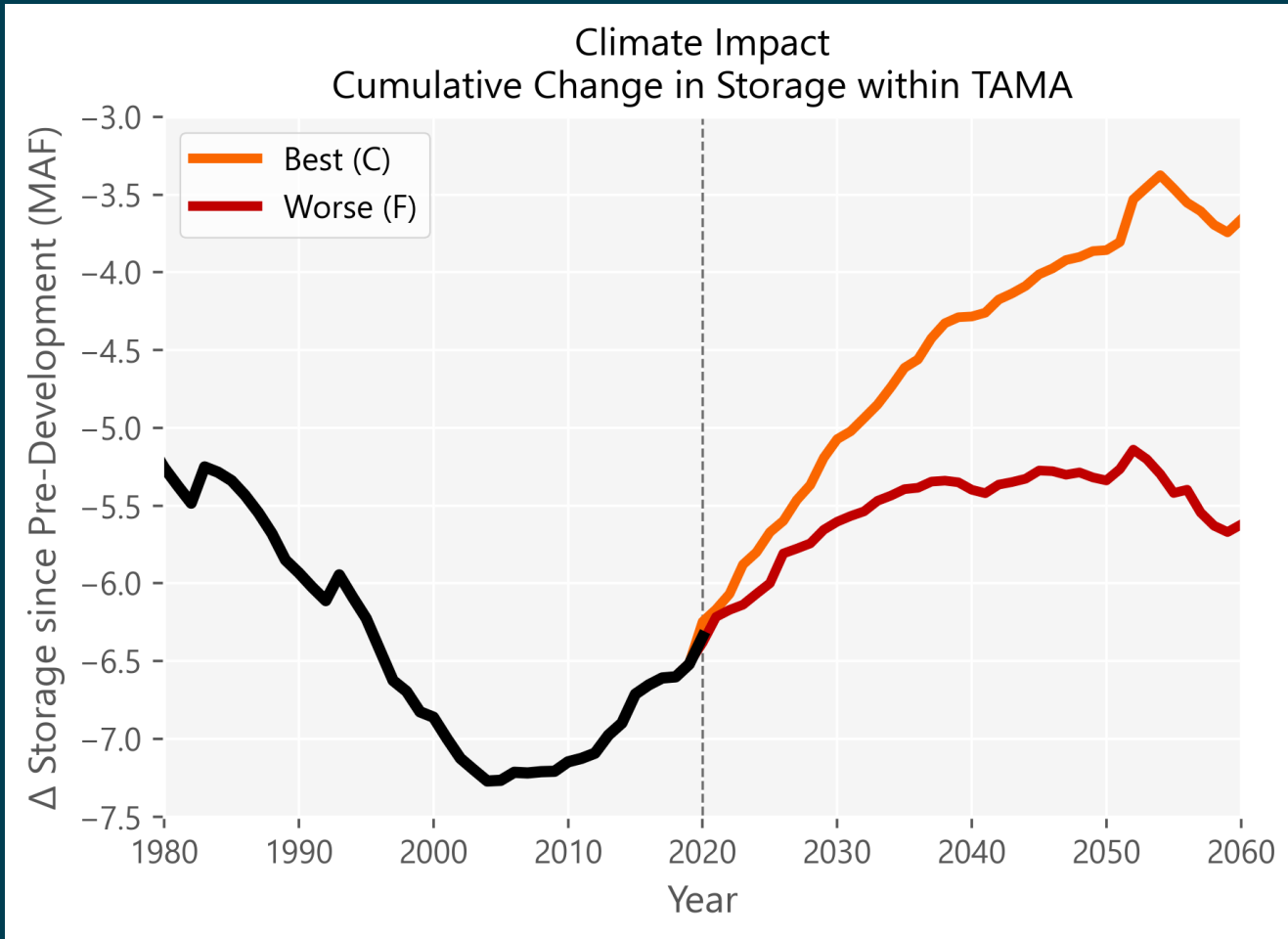
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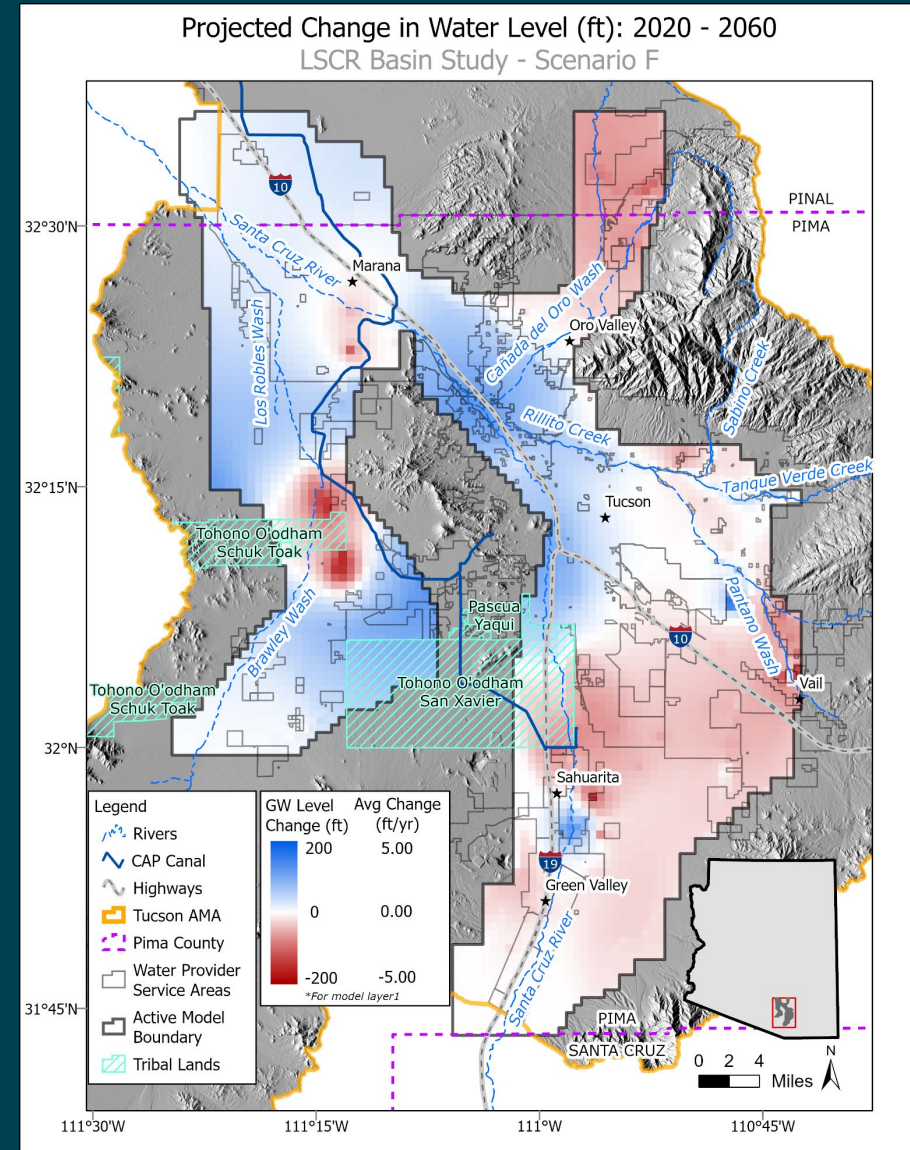
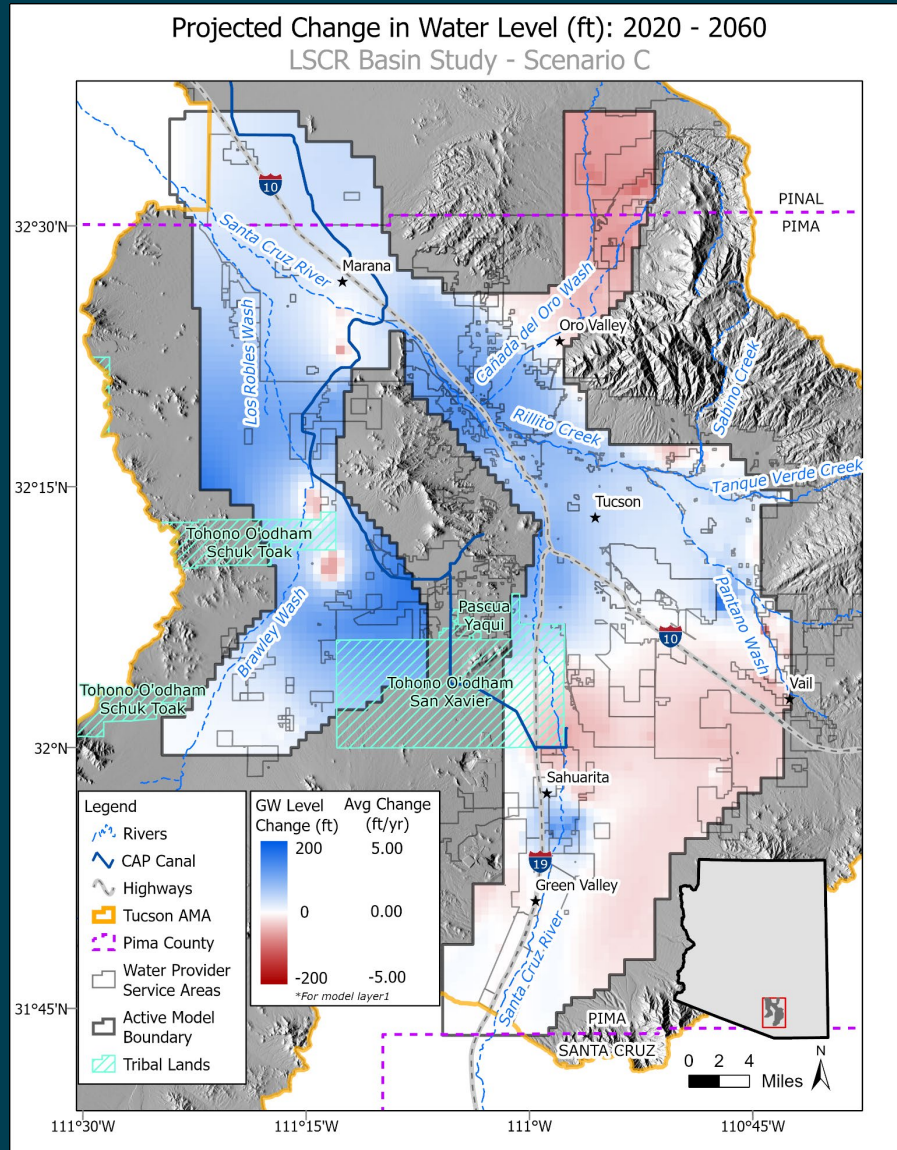


Higher Risk

# Climate Impact Change in Groundwater Storage



# Climate Impact - Change in Head




# Supply-Demand Basin Study Scenarios

## B vs. D vs. F

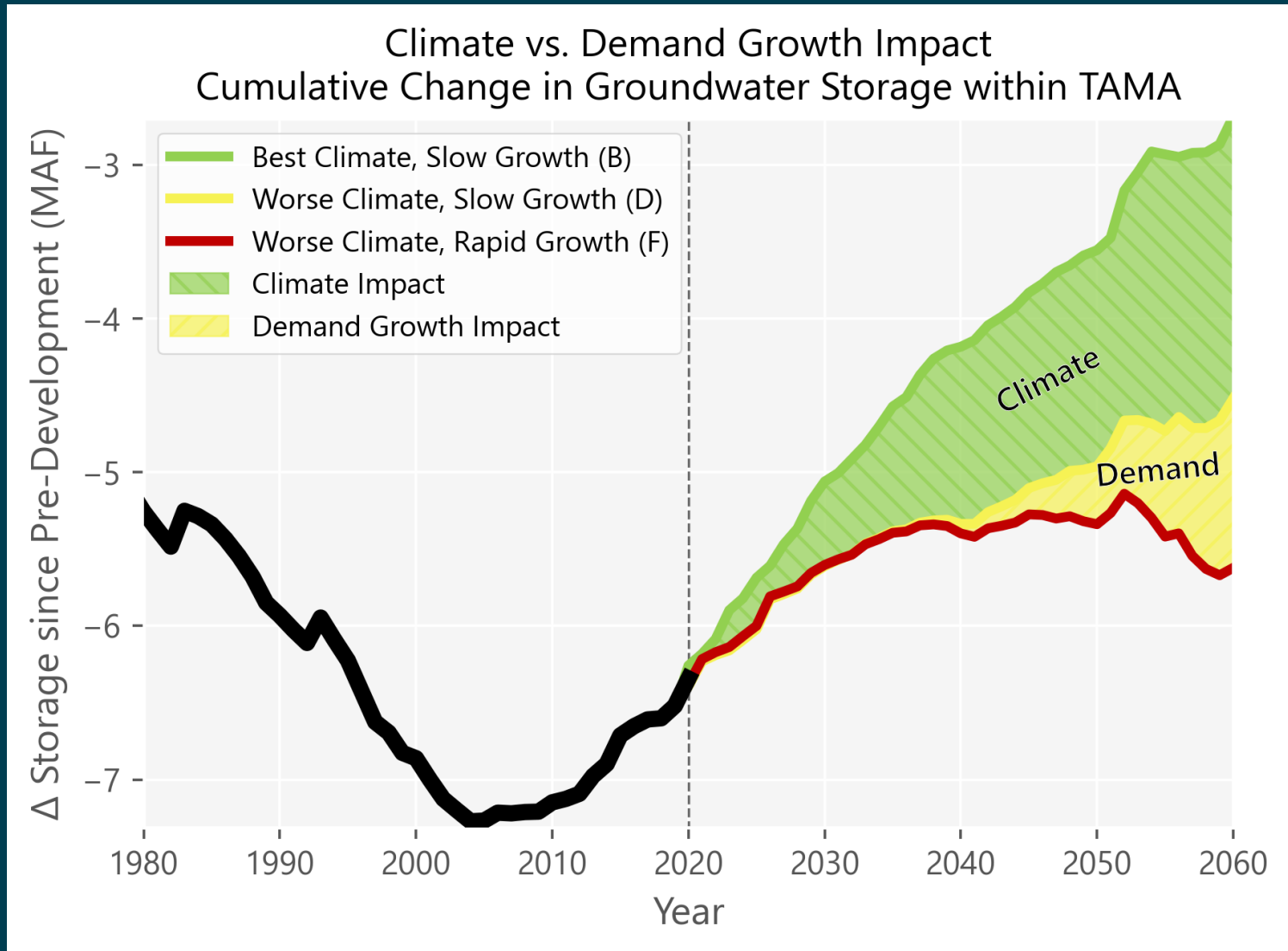
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# Climate vs. Demand

- Cross-scenario comparison suggests impact of climate (green) has greater influence on groundwater supply future than demand growth (yellow)



# Key Takeaways

- Impacts of demand growth are largely driven by local decisions
- Impacts of climate are largely driven by global decisions
- Climate has greater impact than demand growth
- Areas of adaptation (see maps)

## Next Steps...

- Identify risks
- Develop/Refine adaptation strategies