Basin Plan Amendment to Establish SF Bay Mercury Water Quality Objectives and Revised TMDL

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Presentation Overview

- Basin Plan amendment
  - New water quality objectives
  - TMDL revisions
- Key comments
- Changes in response to comments
- Remand and response

History

- TMDL and Implementation Plan adopted by Water Board (Sept. 2004)
- State Water Board remand (Sept. 2005)
- Water Board Testimony Hearing (June 2006)

PROPOSED Water Quality Objectives in SF Bay

0.2 ppm mercury
in large predator fish

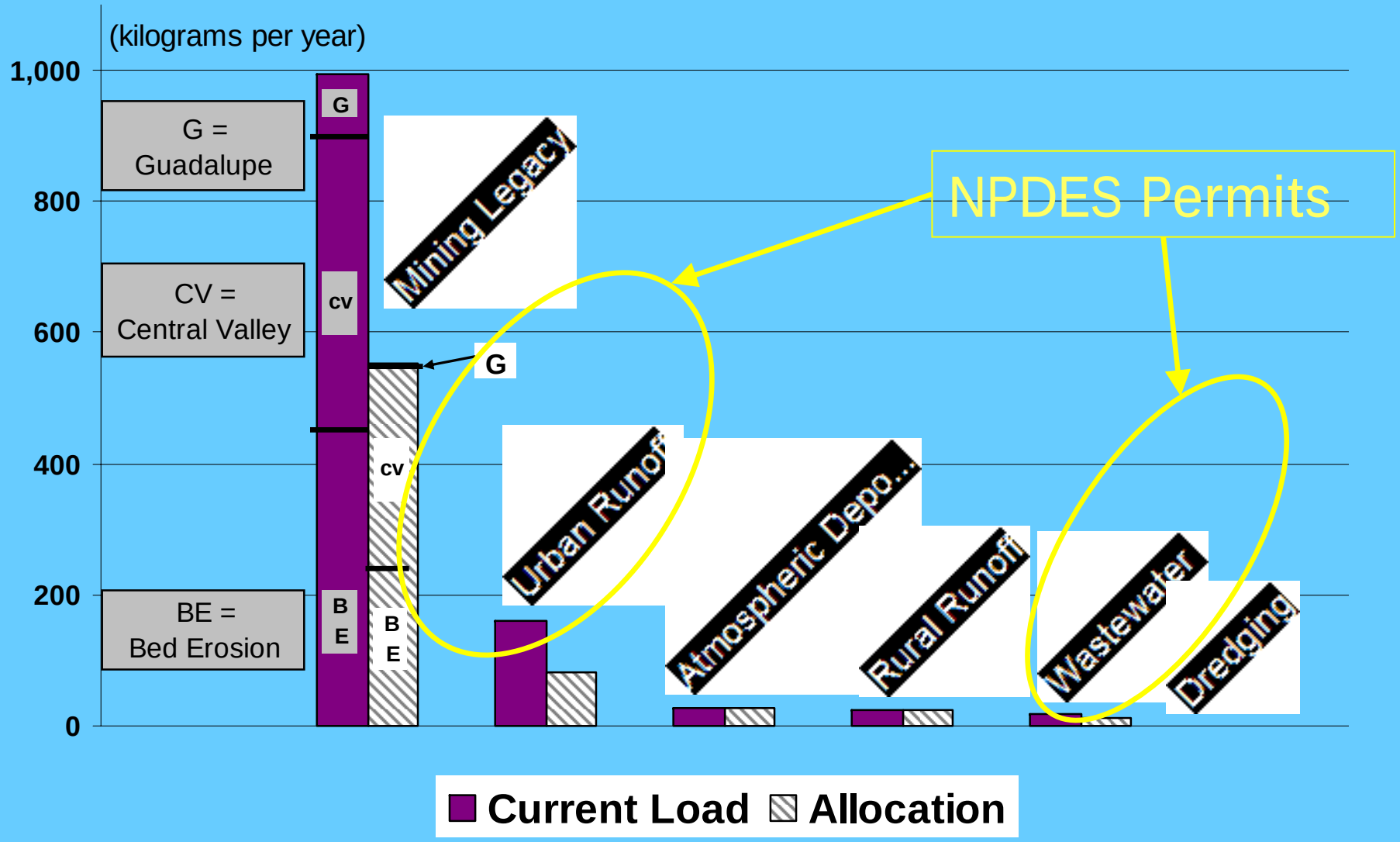
0.03 ppm mercury
in prey fish

California least tern

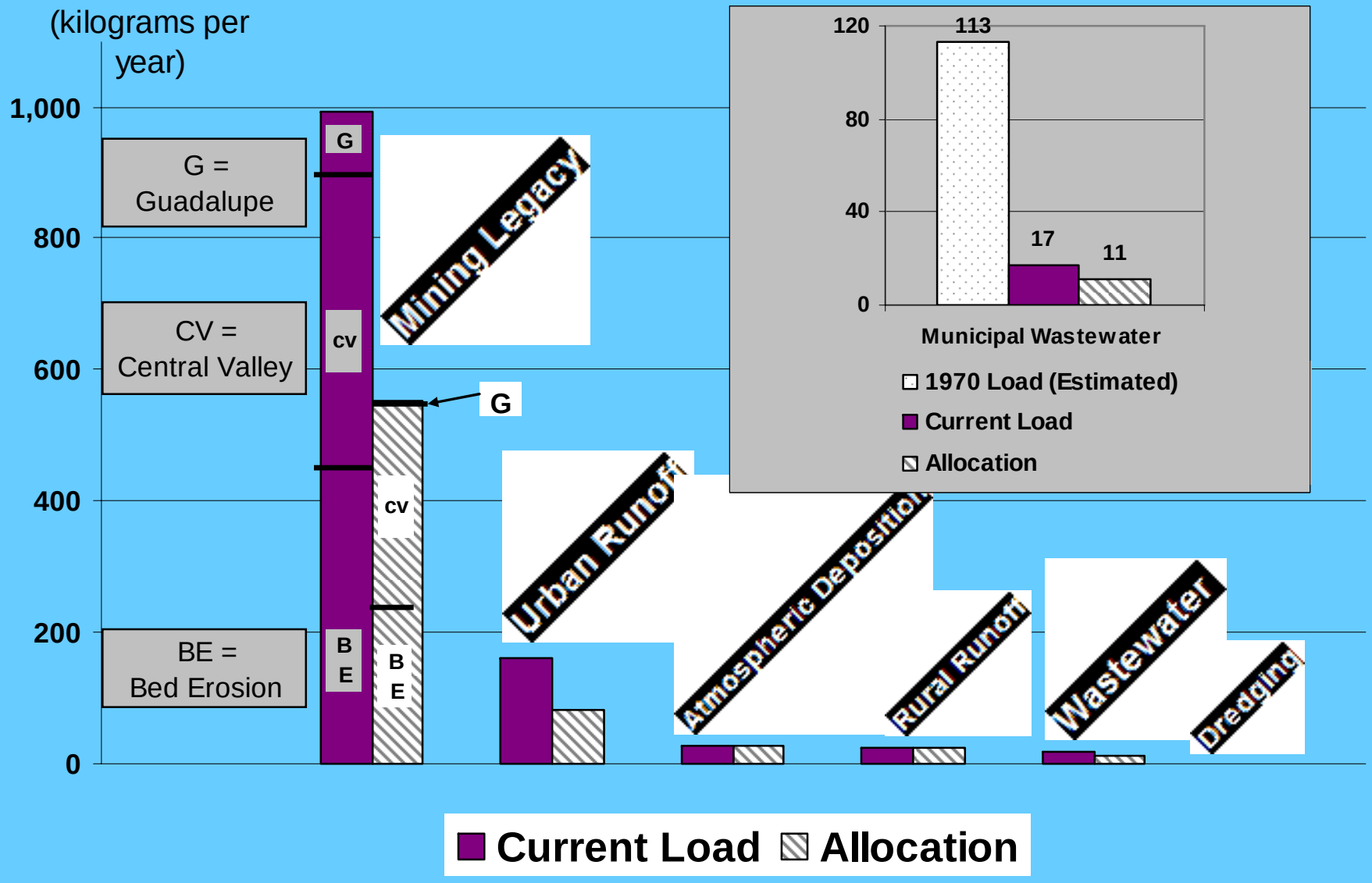
Revisions to TMDL

- Reduction in wastewater wasteload allocation

Sources, Loads, and Allocations



Sources, Loads, and Allocations



Key Comments

- U.S. EPA support
- Wastewater – reducing allocations
- Pollutant offsets
- CEQA and regulatory analysis
- Wastewater – enforceable limits

Implementation of Wastewater Wasteload Allocations

- Combination of numeric and narrative effluent limitations
- Consistent with but more stringent than 2004
- Individual wasteload allocations → enforceable limits

Enforcement of Effluent Limitations

1. Individual numeric annual mass limits
   - Enforcement tied to aggregate allocation
   - Consistent with wasteload allocations
2. Individual numeric triggers
   - Immediate corrective action
3. Narrative requirements

Key Changes Made in Response to Comments

- Board Member Comments:
  - Removed urban runoff “deemed in compliance”
  - Clarified “methylmercury” issues
    - Wastewater to conduct methylmercury studies
    - Adaptive Implementation – new evidence – may justify a methylmercury TMDL or allocations

Key Changes Made
- continued -

- Written Comments:
  - Implement corrective actions when a trigger is exceeded
  - Board will pursue enforcement

Remand

- ✓Wastewater allocations should reflect best pollution prevention and treatment
- ✓Require methylmercury monitoring
- ✓Clarify consistency with dredge disposal Long Term Management Strategy

Remand, continued

- ✓ Inventory and prioritize legacy sources
- ✓ Address risk reduction concerns
- ✓ Revise wildlife target
- ✓ Resolve USEPA concern with outdated water quality objective

Other Approaches

- Considerable time and effort for no water quality benefit
  - More technical and regulatory analyses
  - New public notice
- May compromise other components
  - Special studies
  - Risk reduction

Benefits of our Approach

- Reflects and promotes discharger collaboration to solve mercury problem, address risk, and other impairments
- Triggers ensure immediate individual accountability and corrective action
- Allows for adaptive implementation