

Regional Water Authority –

**Symposium on Making
Safe, Clean, Affordable
and Accessible Water a
Reality**

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Northern California Field Operations
Division of Drinking Water



Human Right to Water

- AB 685 (2012)
- HR2W
Resolution at
State Water
Board (2016)
- First yearly
update (2017)

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 106.3 is added to the Water Code, to read:

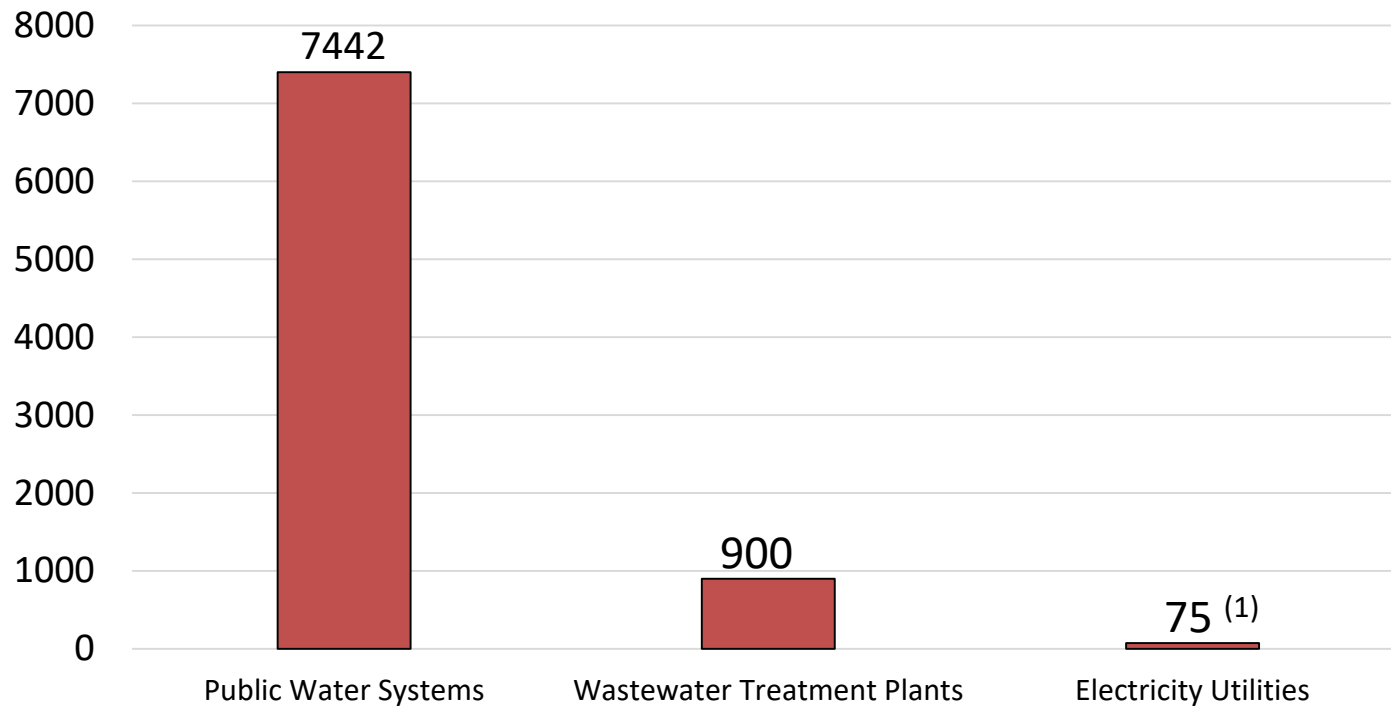
106.3. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. (b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and criteria are pertinent to the uses of water described in this section

...

California Division of Drinking Water (DDW)

- 7,500 Public Water Systems (PWS)
- 3,000 Community Water Systems (CWS)
- 77% of the CWS serve less than 1,000 connections
- DDW regulates all types of Water Systems, public & private

Compare with Other Utilities



⁽¹⁾http://www.energy.ca.gov/almanac/electricity_data/utilities.html#service

Issues Small Water Systems Face

- Small systems often have inadequate staffing
- Less resilient to natural disasters
- Difficulty funding infrastructure improvements
- Poor economies of scale
- Difficulty adjusting to regulatory changes
- Majority of MCL violations occur in small systems

Santa Rosa Fires 2017

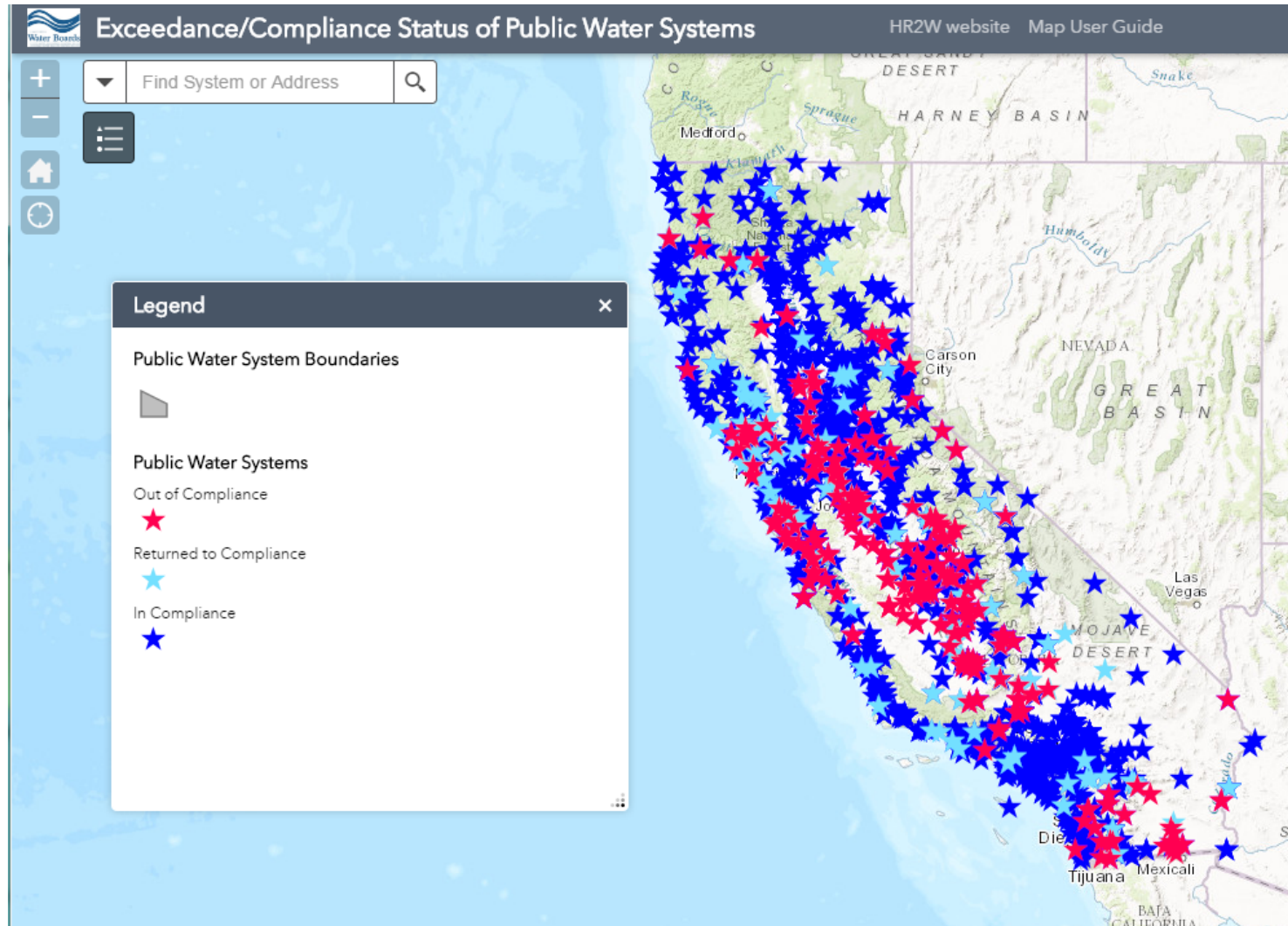


CA Drinking Water Violations

System Size	% of Systems	% of Violations ²
Very small (pop. 25-500)	61%	80%
Small (pop. 501-3,300)	16%	12%
Medium (pop 3,301-10,000)	8%	5%
Large (pop 10,001-100,000)	12%	2%
Very Large (>100,000)	3%	0%

²Violations based on CA Human Right to Water data for communities and schools-8/2017

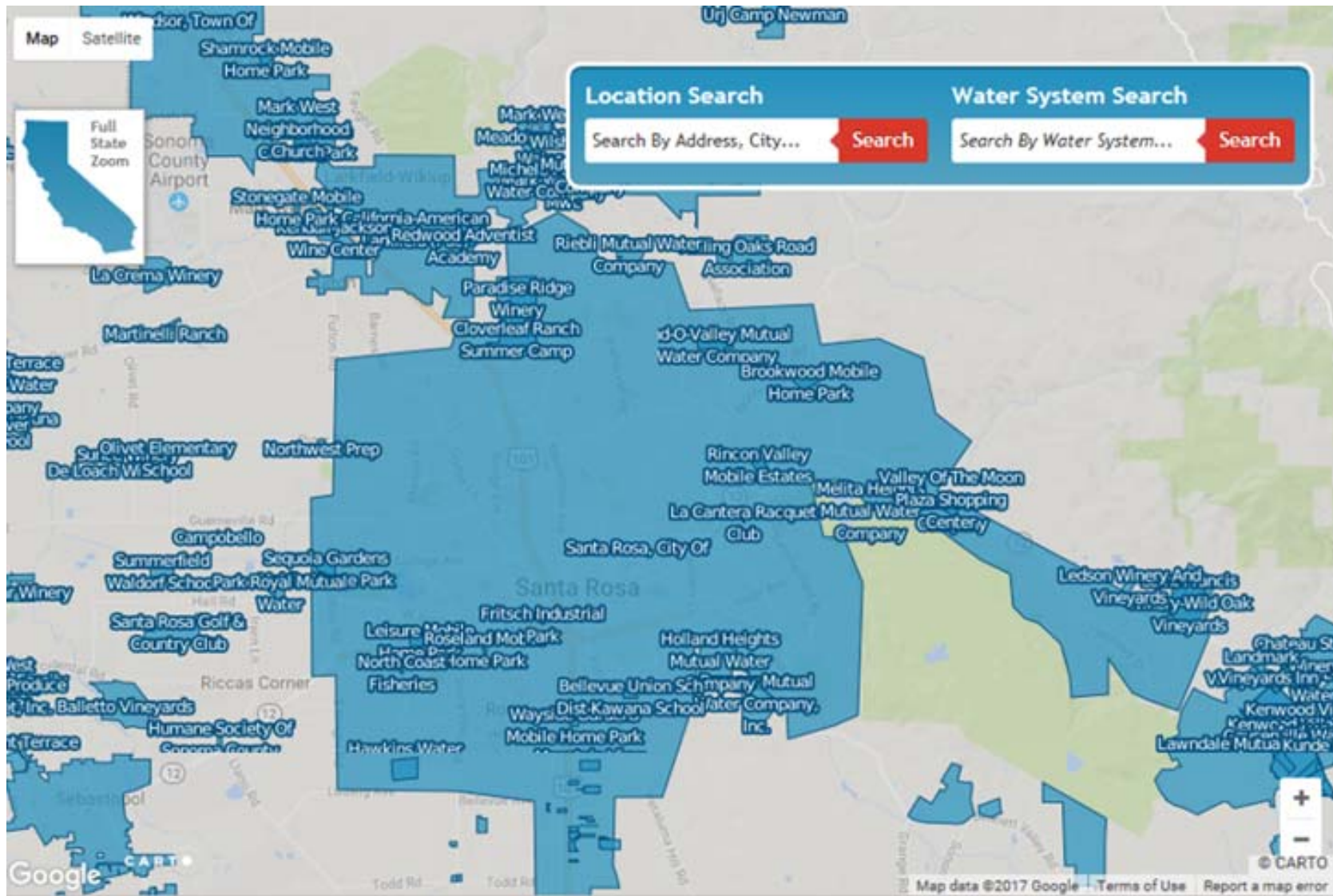
Web Portal – Maps

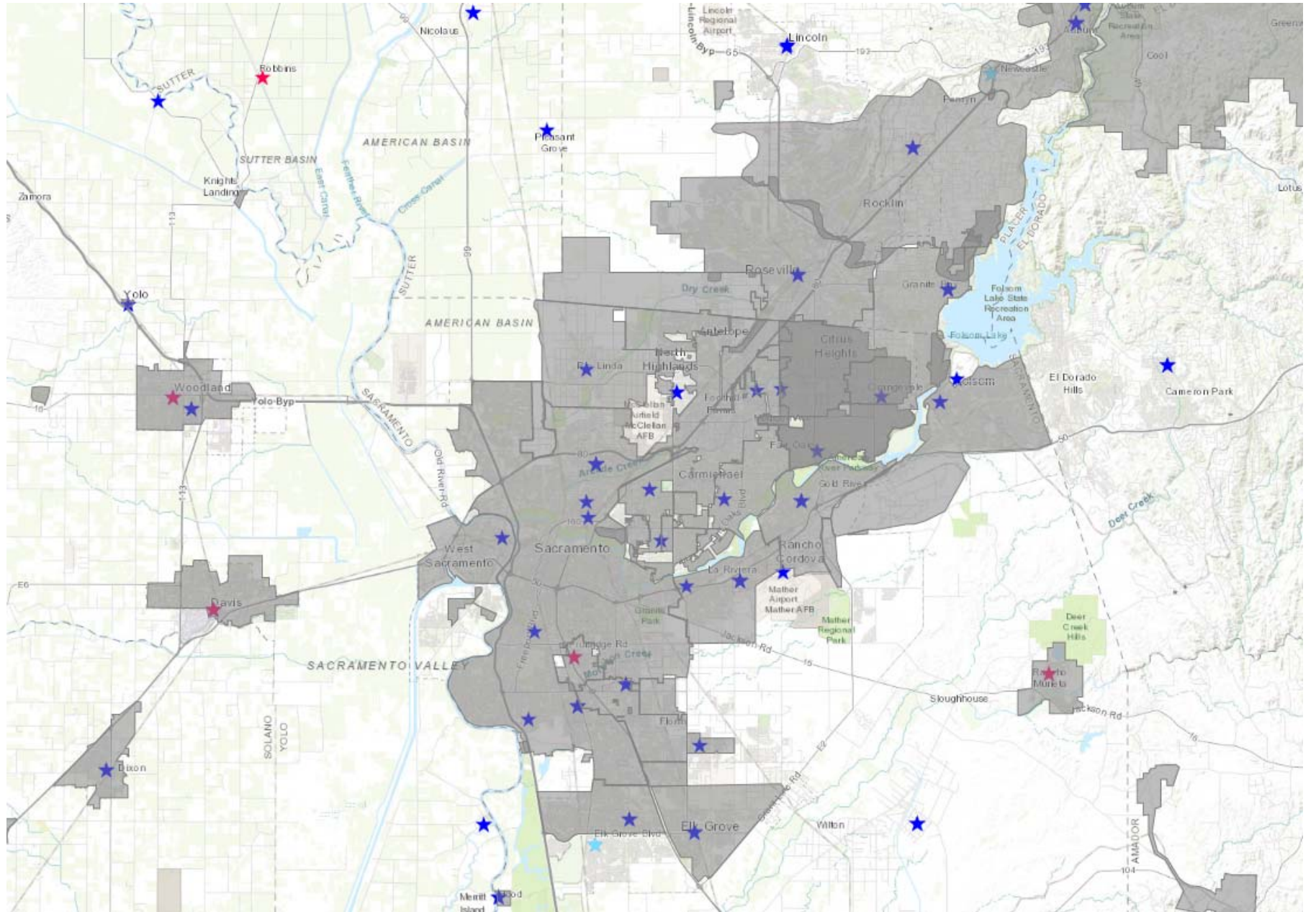


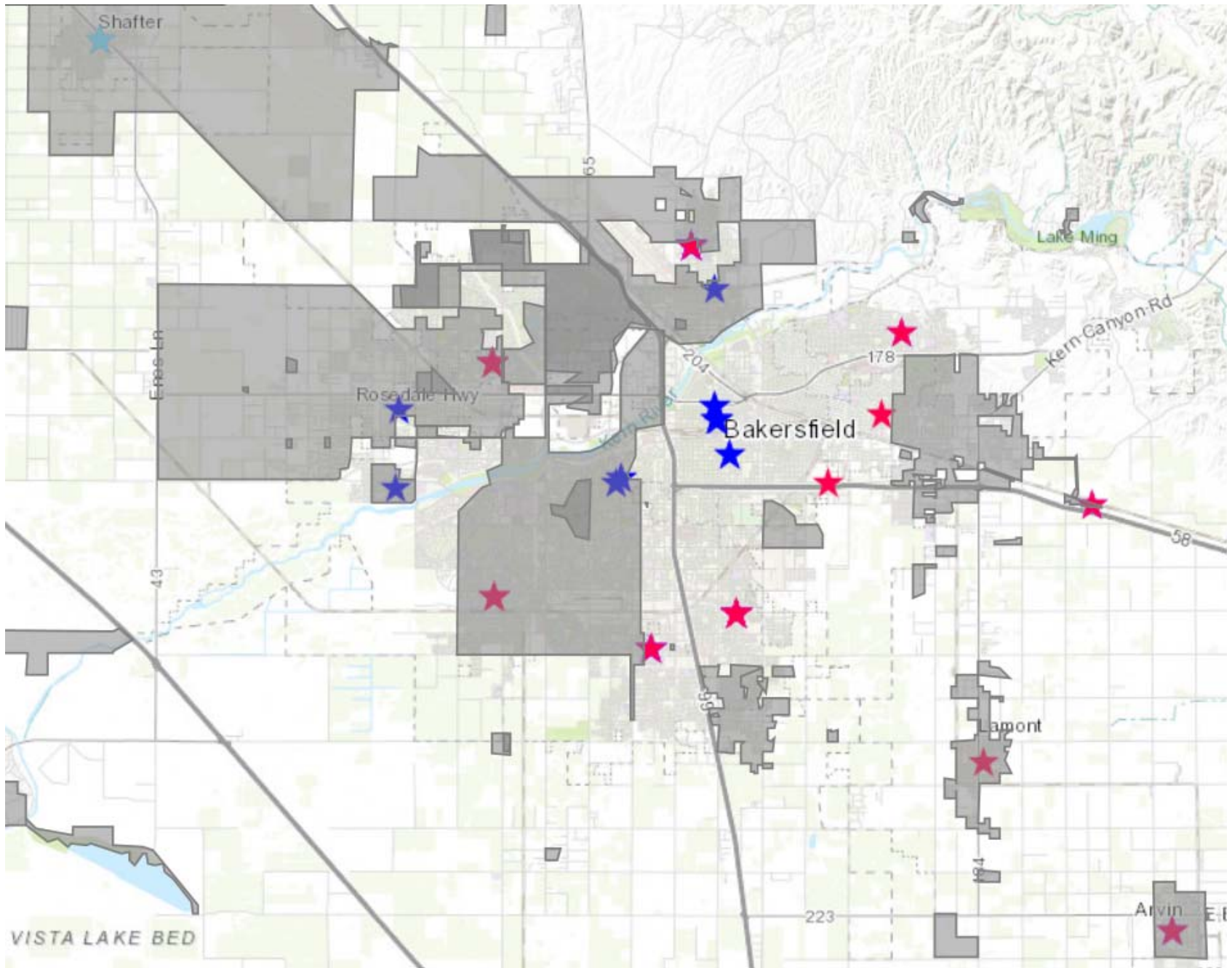
Water System Sprawl

- Lack of comprehensive land-use planning around water systems at the State, county and city levels
- Water system sprawl just outside cities
 - due to higher city development fees (even if appropriate)
 - unwillingness/inability to serve outside their service area
 - County/city disagreements over tax revenue

Water System Sprawl







com·mu·ni·ty

kə'myoʊnədə/

noun

1.1.

a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.

- a group of people living together in one place, especially one practicing common ownership.
- a particular area or place considered together with its inhabitants.
- a body of nations or states unified by common interests.
- the people of a district or country considered collectively, especially in the context of social values and responsibilities; society.
- denoting a worker or resource designed to serve the people of a particular area.

2.2.

a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

- a similarity or identity.
- joint ownership or liability.

Questions I think we should ask

- Times change – water supplies change – is the system still viable now and into the future?
- Does the water system really serve the community at large best interest – or does it exist to self perpetuate?
- What is your responsibility to the parts of your community outside of your boundaries and to neighboring systems?
- Can a community be successful when part of it is struggling to meet a basic need?
- Who do you want to be responsible – local control, regional agency, state takeover?