



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

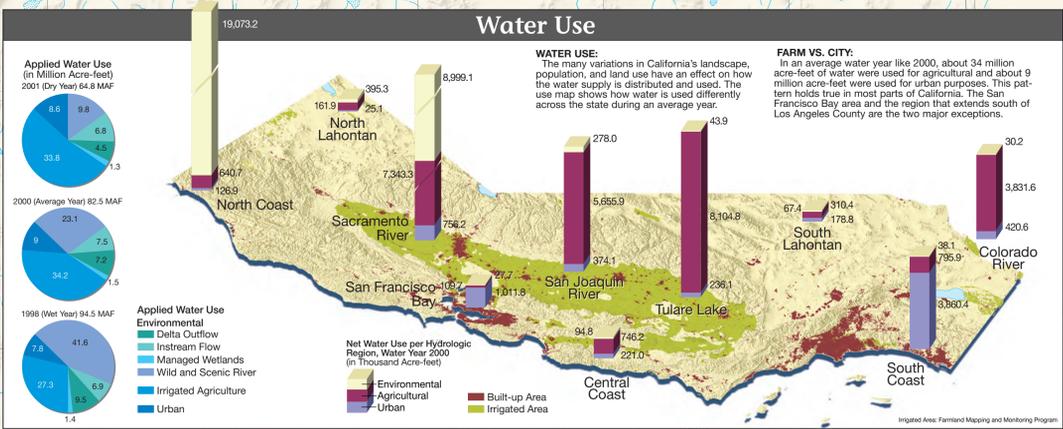
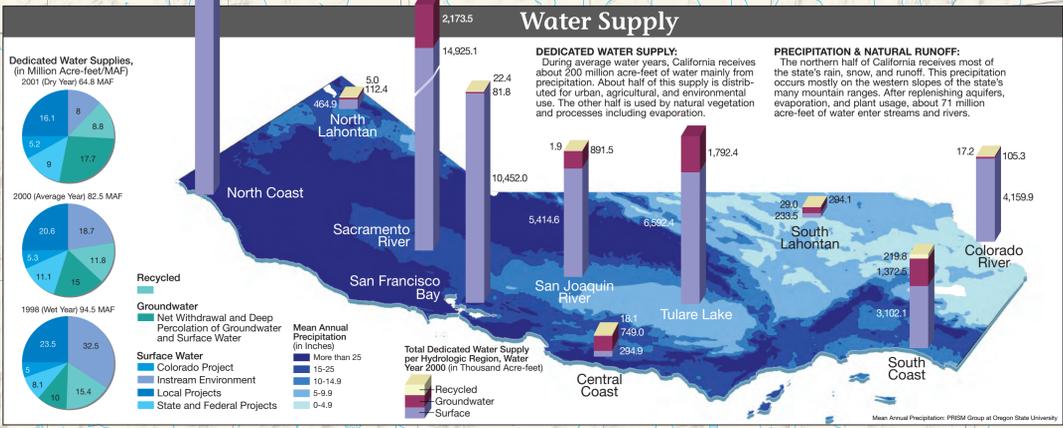
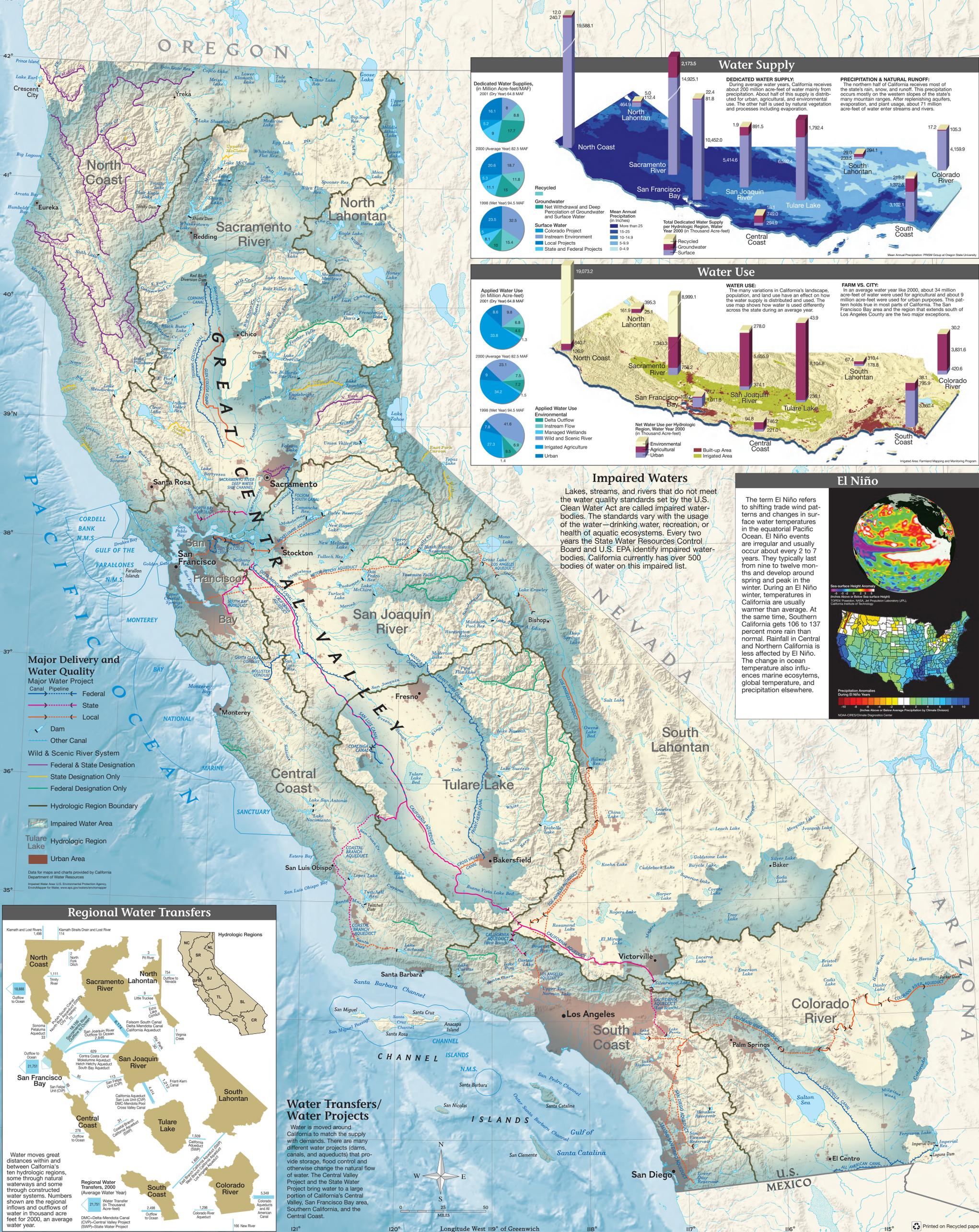
# California

Education and the Environment Initiative



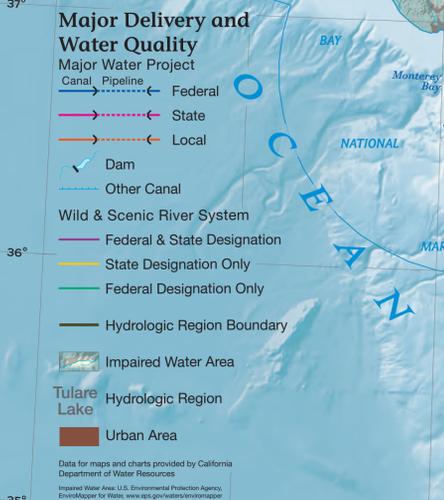
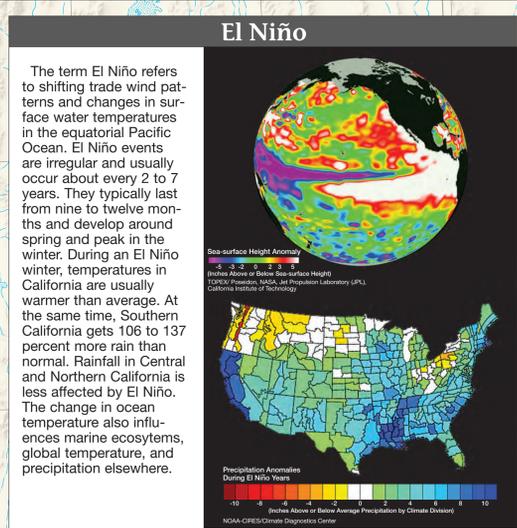
# Water for Life

Copyright © 2009 National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.



### Impaired Waters

Lakes, streams, and rivers that do not meet the water quality standards set by the U.S. Clean Water Act are called impaired waterbodies. The standards vary with the usage of the water—drinking water, recreation, or health of aquatic ecosystems. Every two years the State Water Resources Control Board and U.S. EPA identify impaired waterbodies. California currently has over 500 bodies of water on this impaired list.



### Water Transfers/Water Projects

Water is moved around California to match the supply with demands. There are many different water projects (dams, canals, and aqueducts) that provide storage, flood control and otherwise change the natural flow of water. The Central Valley Project and the State Water Project bring water to a large portion of California's Central Valley, San Francisco Bay area, Southern California, and the Central Coast.