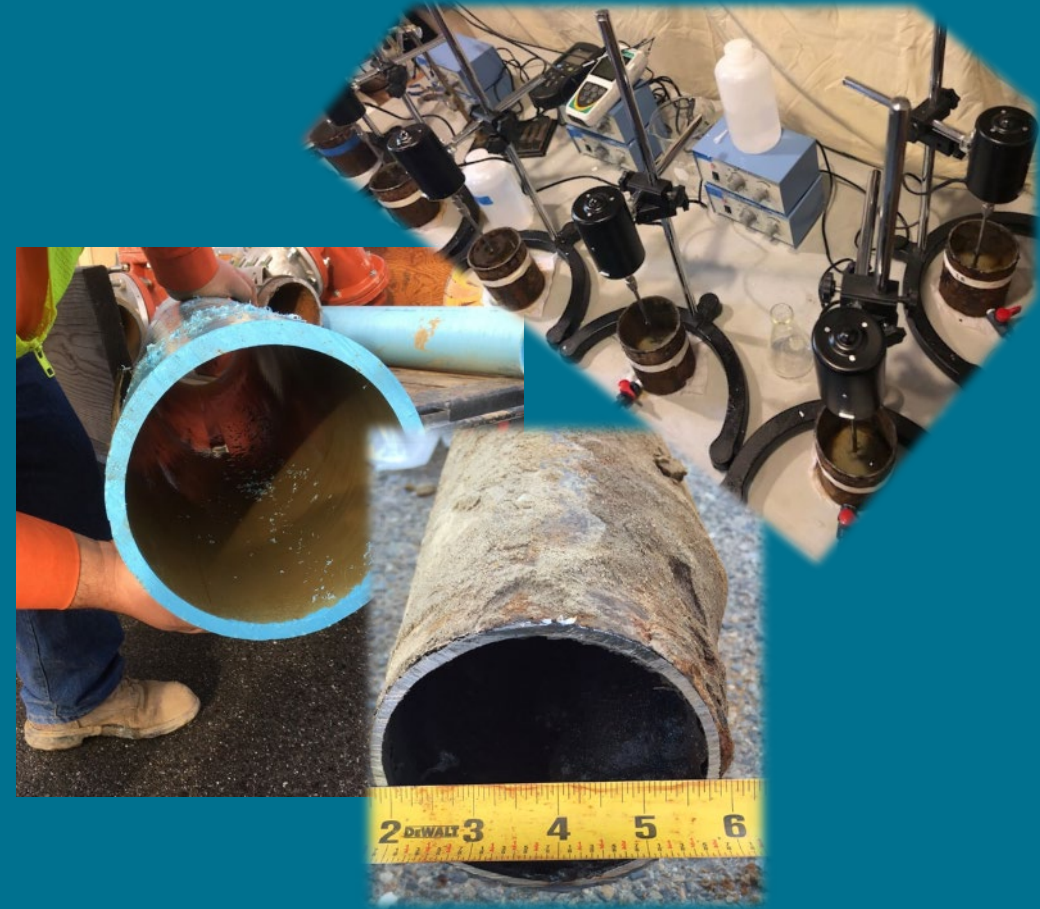


Bench Testing & Field Activities to Identify Distribution Destabilization Risk



Alex Mofidi ¹

Andrew Hill, Melinda Friedman, Michael Hallett, Danbi Won, Al Vetrovs, Virpi Salo-Zieman ¹
Jeanne White, Brooke Corgiat, Carlos Guerrero ²



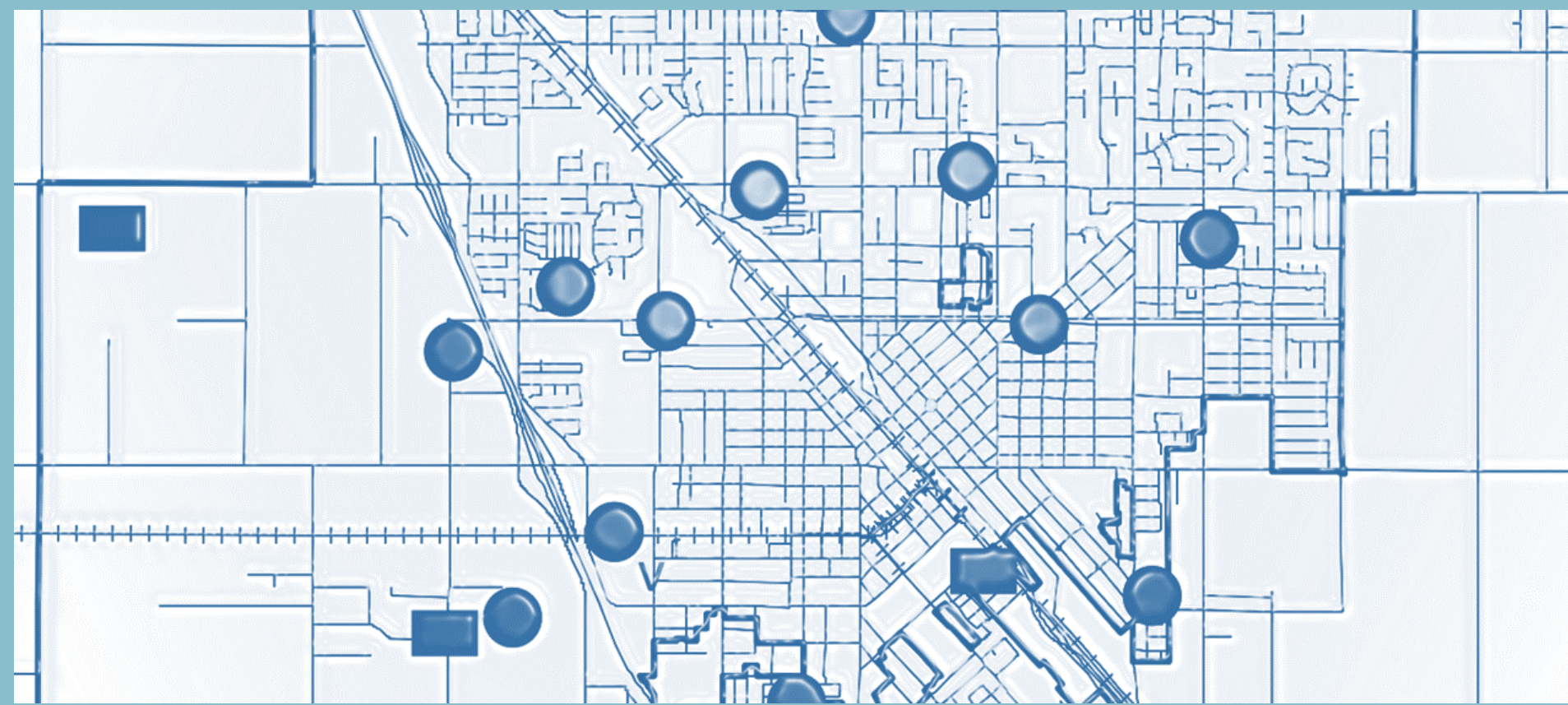
2023 Section Conference May 3-5, 2023
Kennewick, WA



Discussion Topics

1. Background & Expected System Changes
2. Characterizing the System: Field Investigations
3. Bench-Scale Testing
4. Current Activities and Next Steps

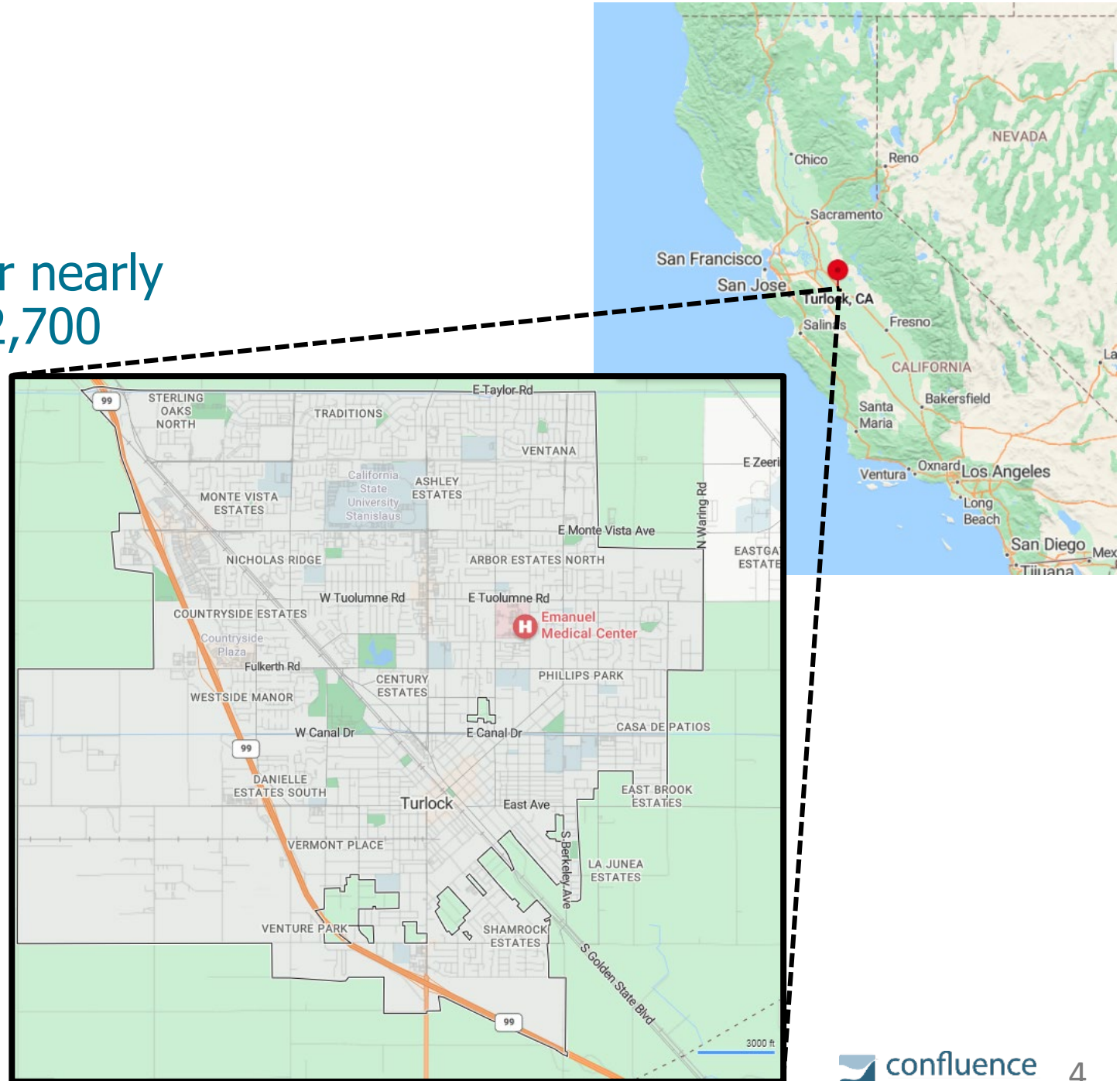




1 Background & Expected Change

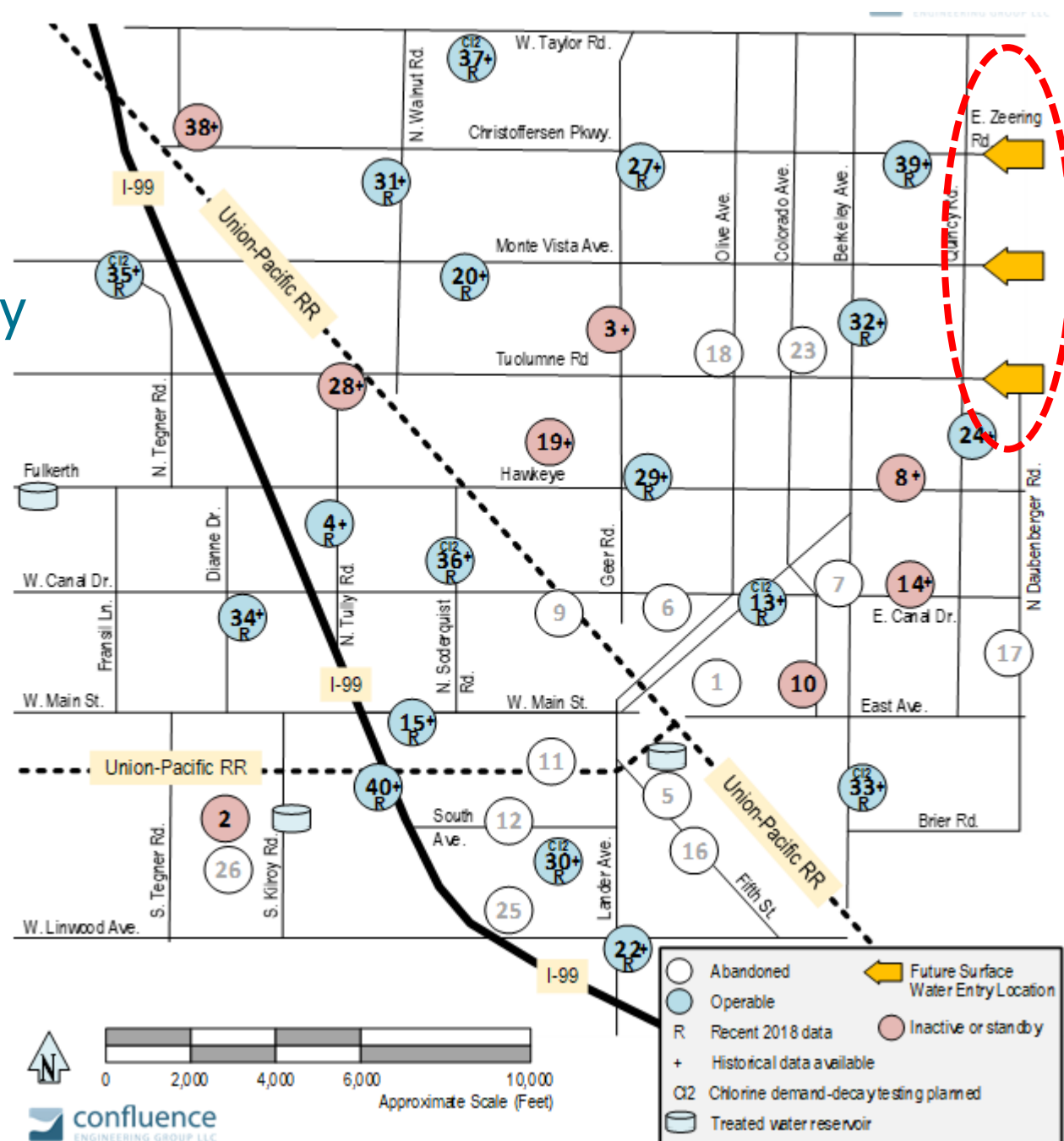
Turlock, California

➔ All unchlorinated groundwater for nearly 100 years; 2020 Population of 72,700



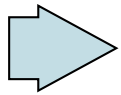
Turlock, California (Cont.)

- All unchlorinated groundwater for nearly 100 years; 2020 Population of 72,700
- 18-20 Wells from 500 to 2900 gpm
- ➔ New Surface Water To Meet Growth
 - Enter at NE corner of the system



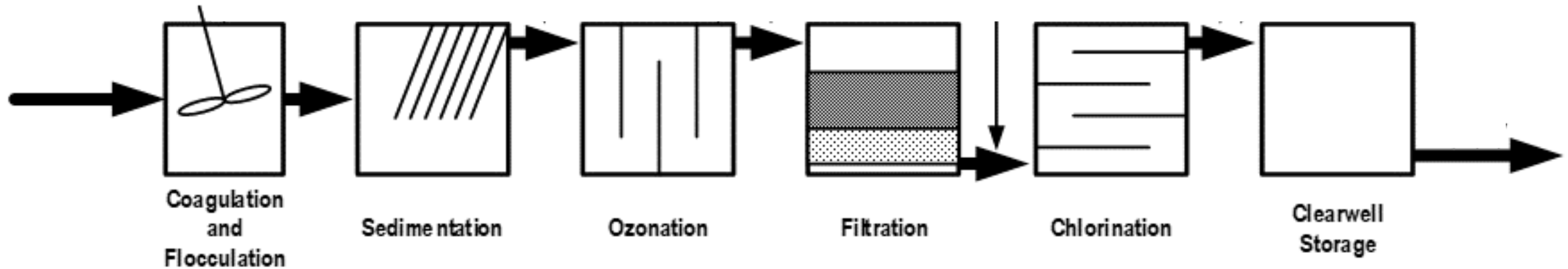
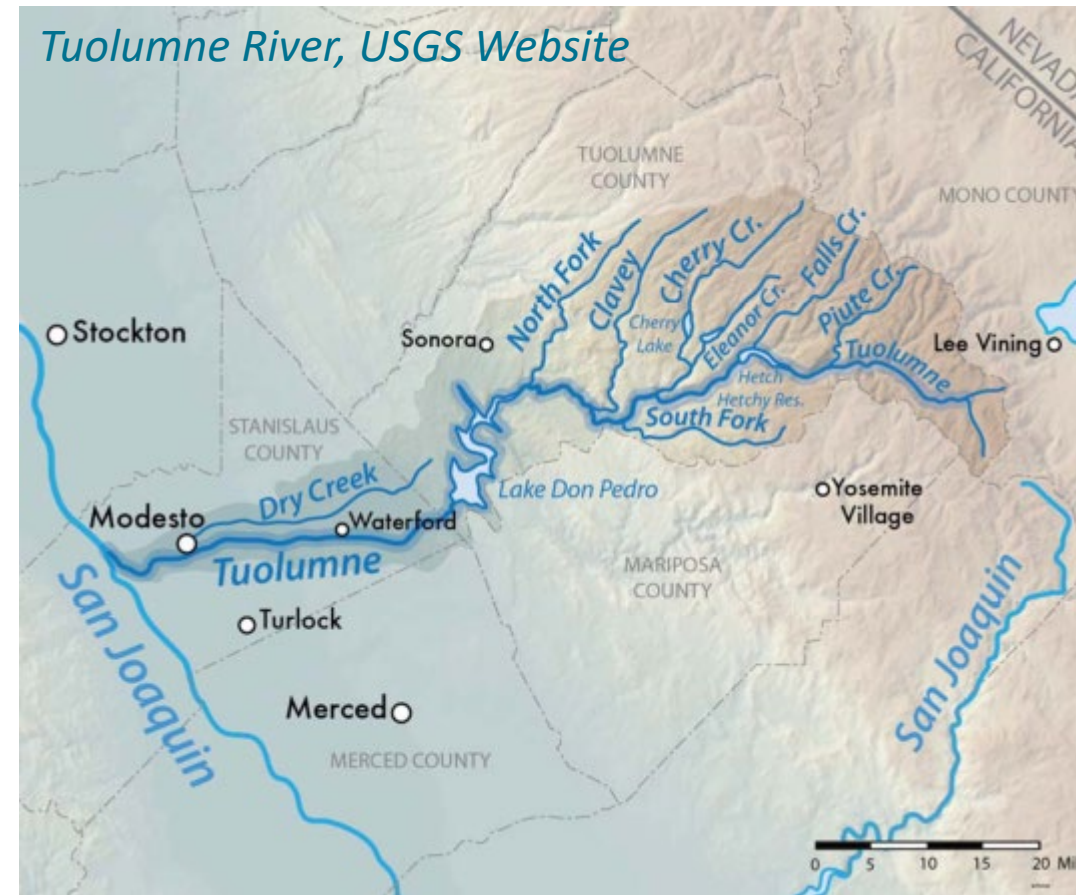
Turlock, California (Cont.)

- All unchlorinated groundwater for nearly 100 years; 2020 Population of 72,700
- 18-20 Wells from 500 to 2900 gpm



New Surface Water To Meet Growth

- Enter at NE corner of the system
- Tuolumne River (Coag/floc/Sed/O₃/Filtration)
with complementary water chemistry

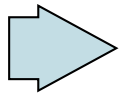


Woodland, CA Case Study

- *GW with low chlorine, to SW with higher Cl₂ target*
- *Top right: UDF 5 months after integration*
- *Bottom right: Swabbing 10 months after integration*

Turlock, California (Cont.)

- All unchlorinated groundwater for nearly 100 years; 2020 Population of 72,700
- 18-20 Wells from 500 to 2900 gpm
- New Surface Water To Meet Growth



Bringing the Project Into Focus:

- Is there water quality risk to manage during chlorination or integrating surface water?
- Preventative measures to mitigate risk?
- Overall: How to estimate potential for, and develop protective measures to minimize water quality upsets



Video and comment was posted to Facebook from a Woodland customer



Source: Confluence Engineering Group LLC



Source: Confluence Engineering Group LLC

Michael Hallett and Andrew Hill
preparing for flushing and
swabbing trials



2 Characterizing the System: Field Investigations

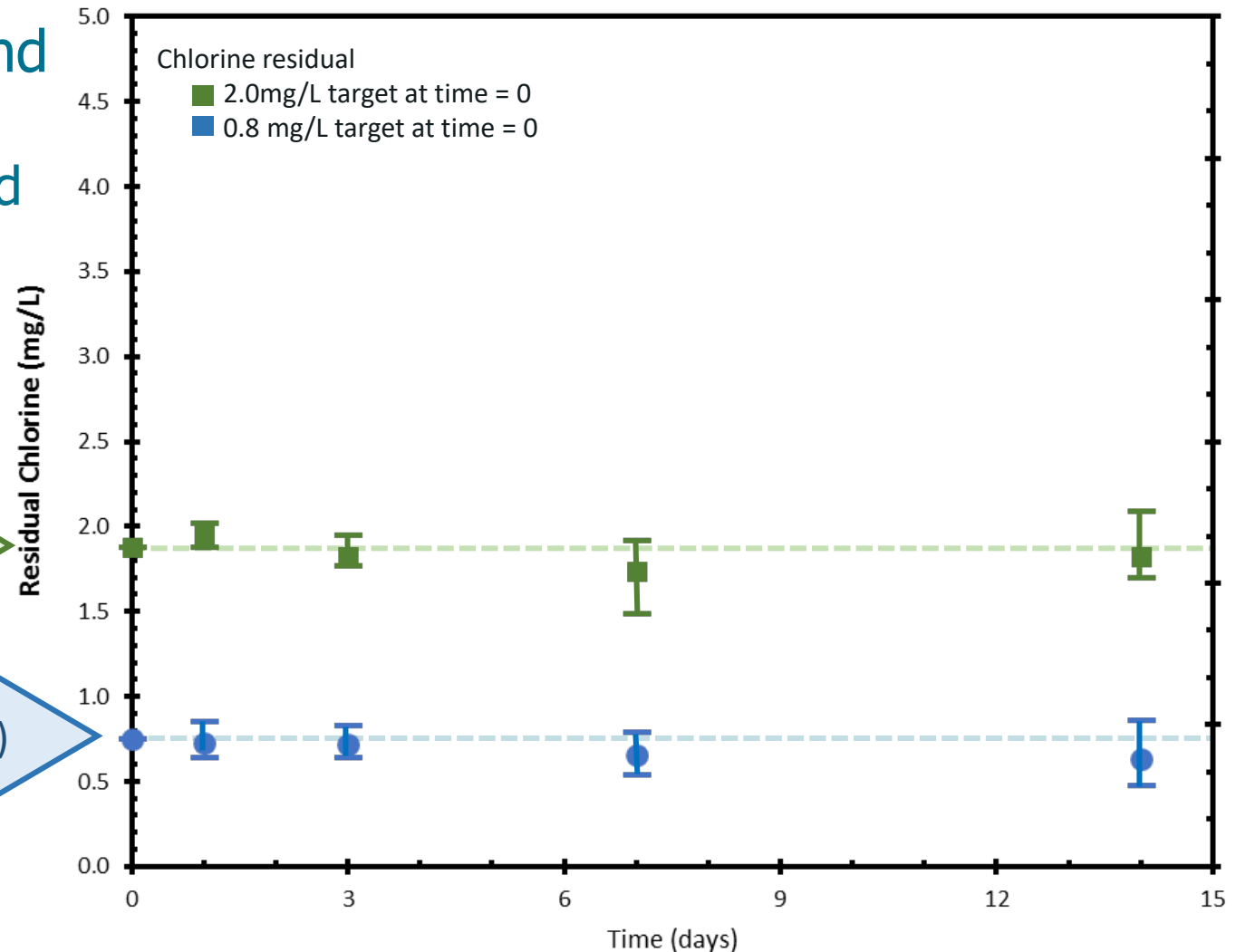
Characterizing the System

Chlorine Demand & Decay and DBP Formation at 14 days

- Nearly zero chlorine demand

2.0 mg/L target at time 0 (1.9 mg/L)

0.8 mg/L target at time 0 (0.75 mg/L)

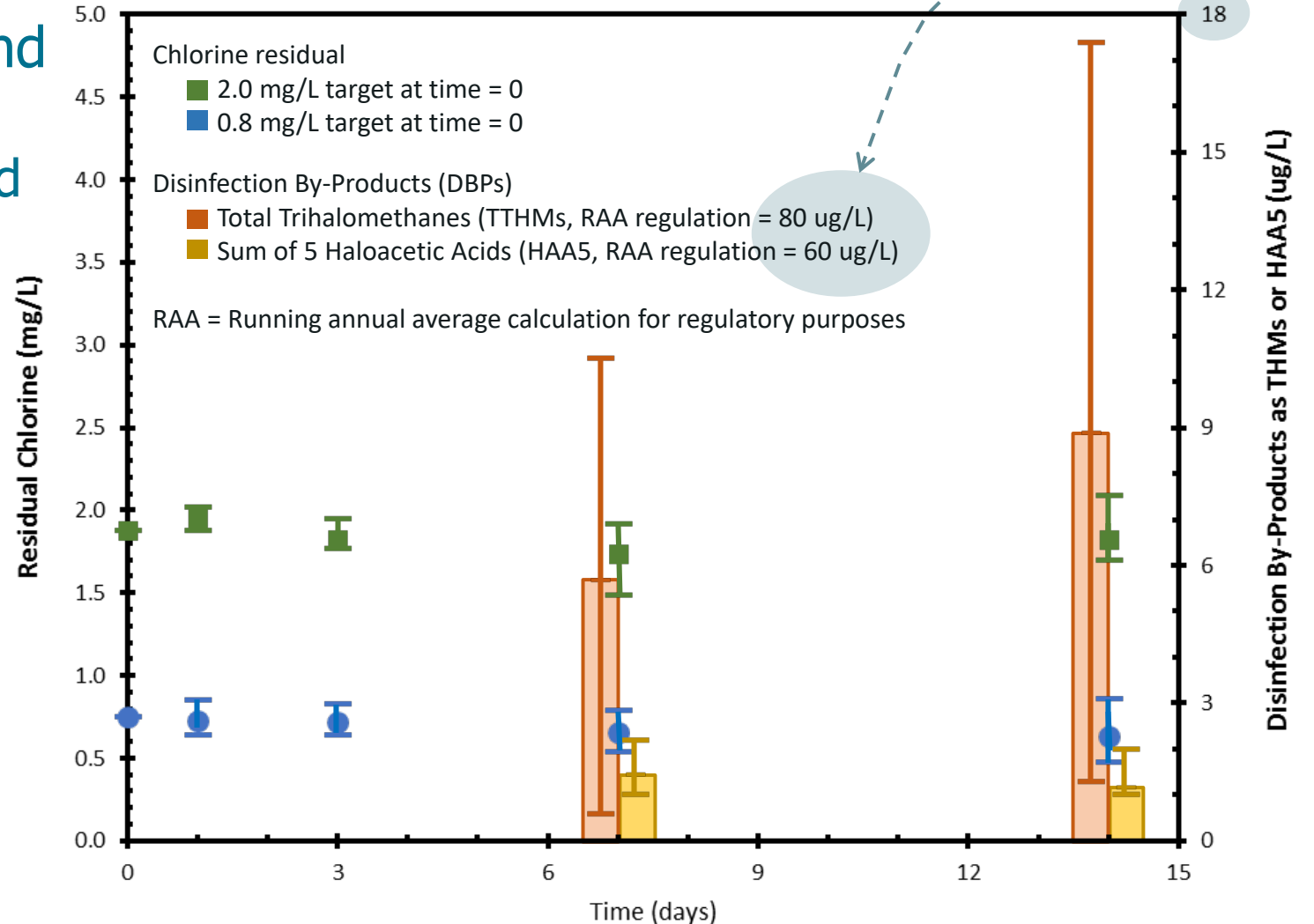


Data represent high/low and average calculated results from 6 wells

Characterizing the System (Cont.)

Chlorine Demand & Decay and DBP Formation at 14 days 😊

- Nearly zero chlorine demand
- <10 TTHMs, <20 HAA5s



Data represent high/low and average calculated results from 6 wells

Characterizing the System (Cont.)

- Chlorine Demand & Decay and DBP Formation at 14 days 😊

➡ Pipe Tap Scale Inventory ☹️

- PVC, C900, AC, Mortar lined
- Manganese: 24-80 mg/sq-ft (and Fe, Cr, As, Pb, Ni, Al, V)
- Similar to Woodland

Turlock, CA Pipes

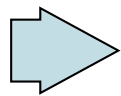


Woodland, CA Pipe experiencing recurring problems after Cl₂ increases

Characterizing the System (Cont.)

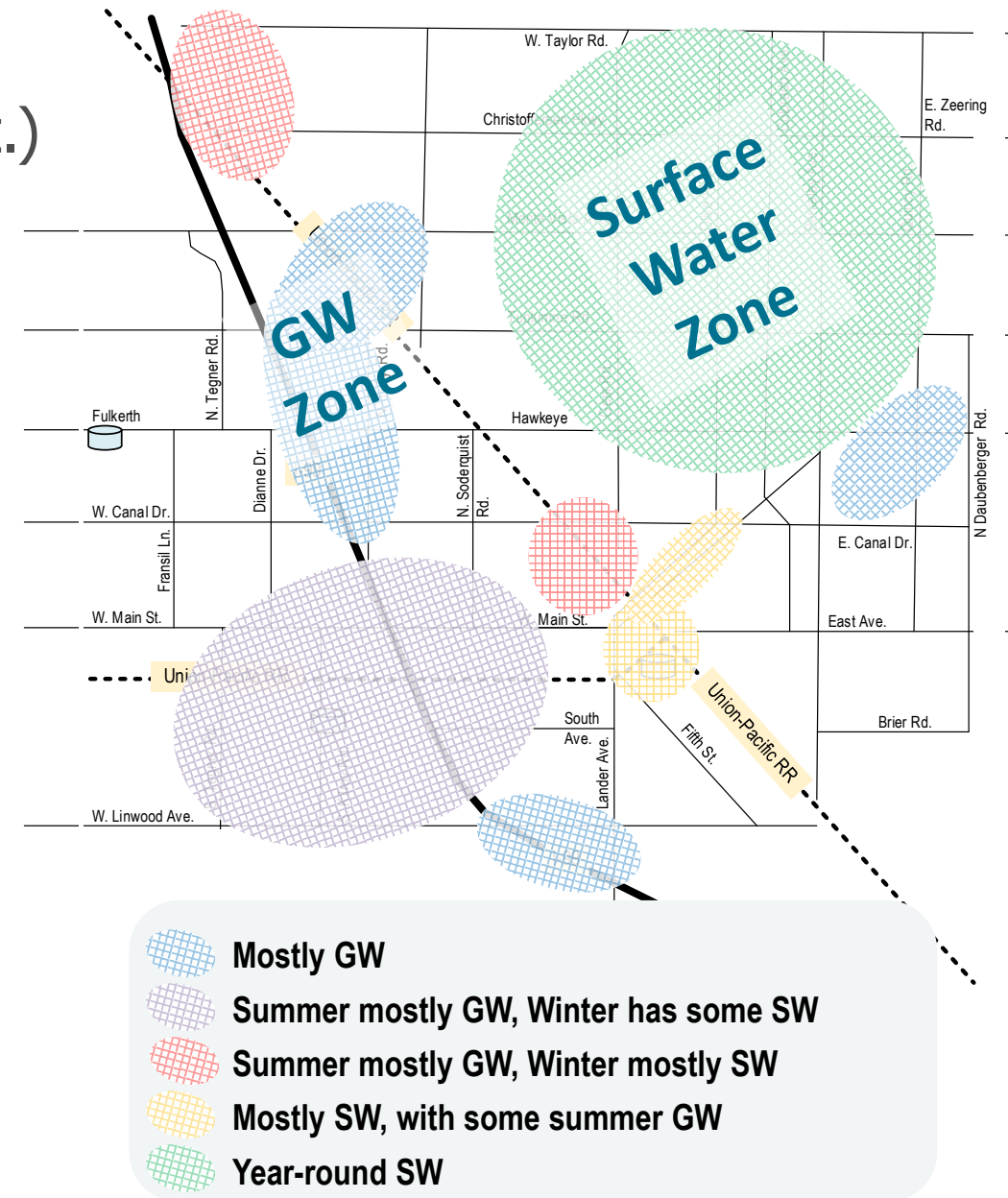
- Chlorine Demand & Decay and DBP Formation at 14 days 😊

- Pipe Tap Scale Inventory 😞



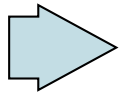
Changes Anticipated in Blend, Age, and Water Velocity 😞

- Surface water & blend zones
- Water velocity change in northeast from <1 to >4 fps
- Slight water age decrease to a 3x increase in some areas



Characterizing the System (Cont.)

- Chlorine Demand & Decay and DBP Formation at 14 days 😊
- Pipe Tap Scale Inventory 😞
- Changes Anticipated in Blend, Age, and Water Velocity 😞

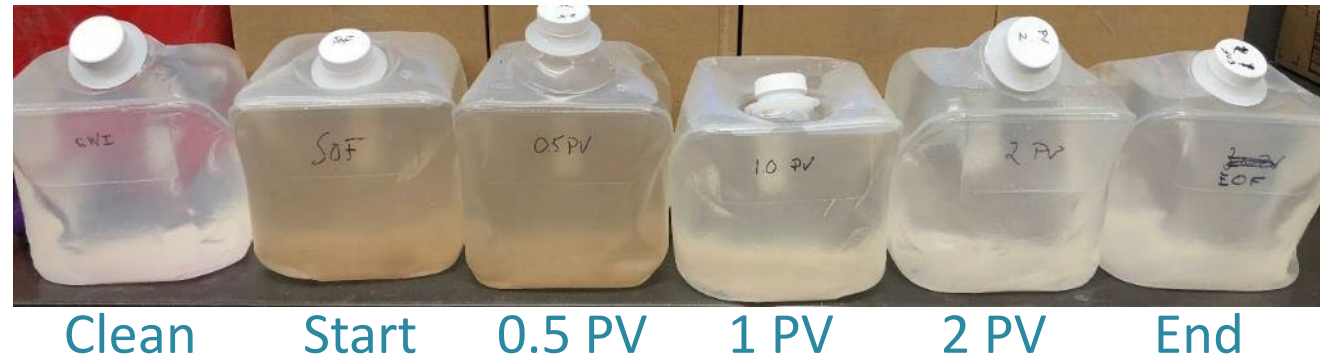


What Material is 'Available' to Events (UDF and Swabbing)

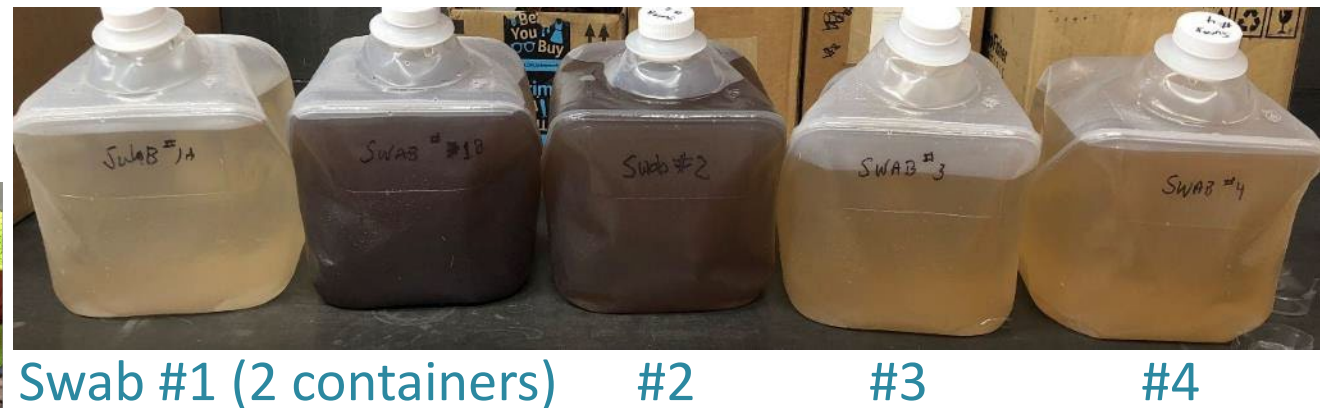
- UDF = Hydraulically available
- Swab = Everything else



UDF Result



Swab Result



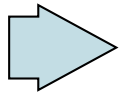
UDF = Strict unidirectional flushing

PV = Pipe volume flushed

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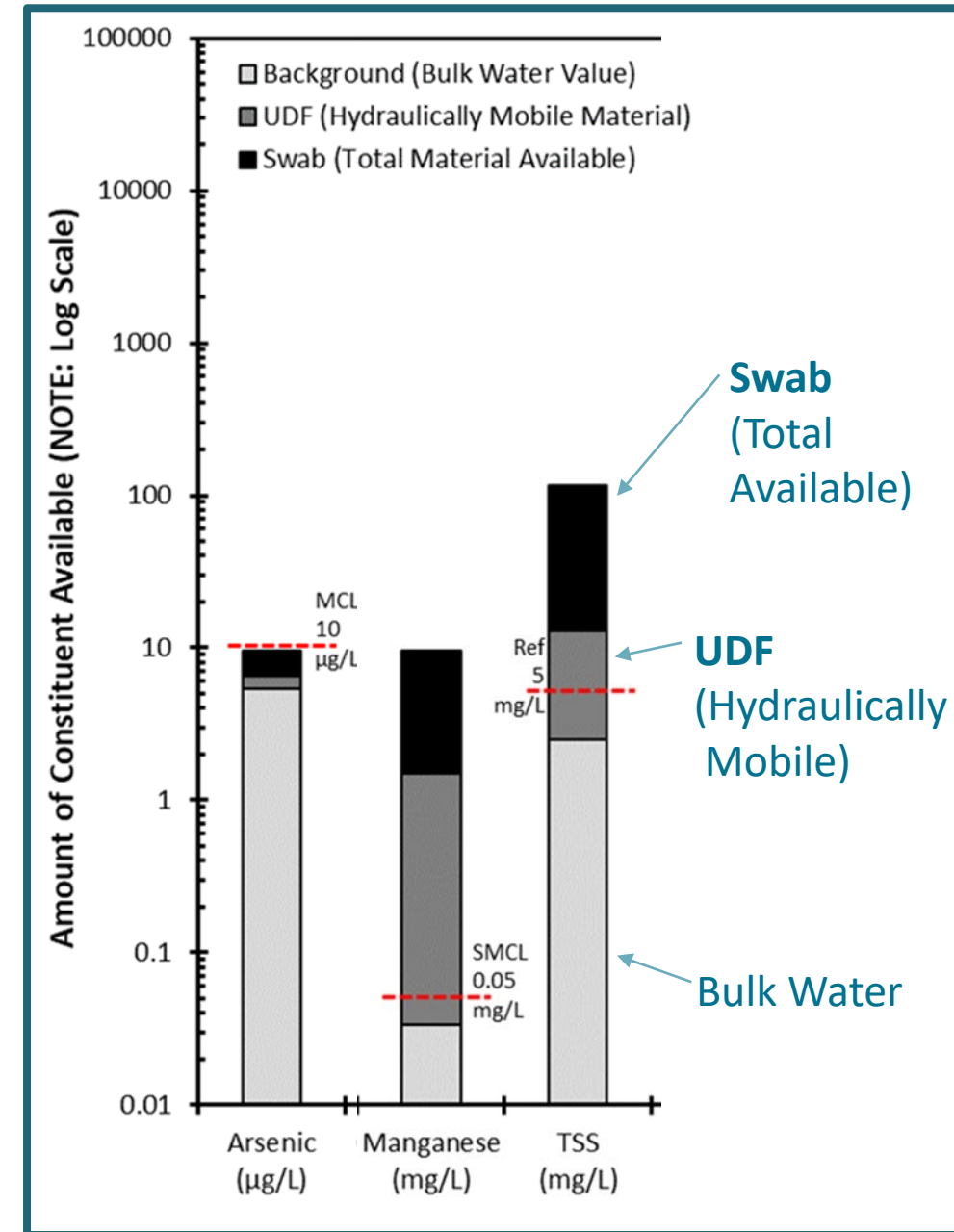
Characterizing the System (Cont.)

- Chlorine Demand & Decay and DBP Formation at 14 days 😊
- Pipe Tap Scale Inventory 😞
- Changes Anticipated in Blend, Age, and Water Velocity 😞

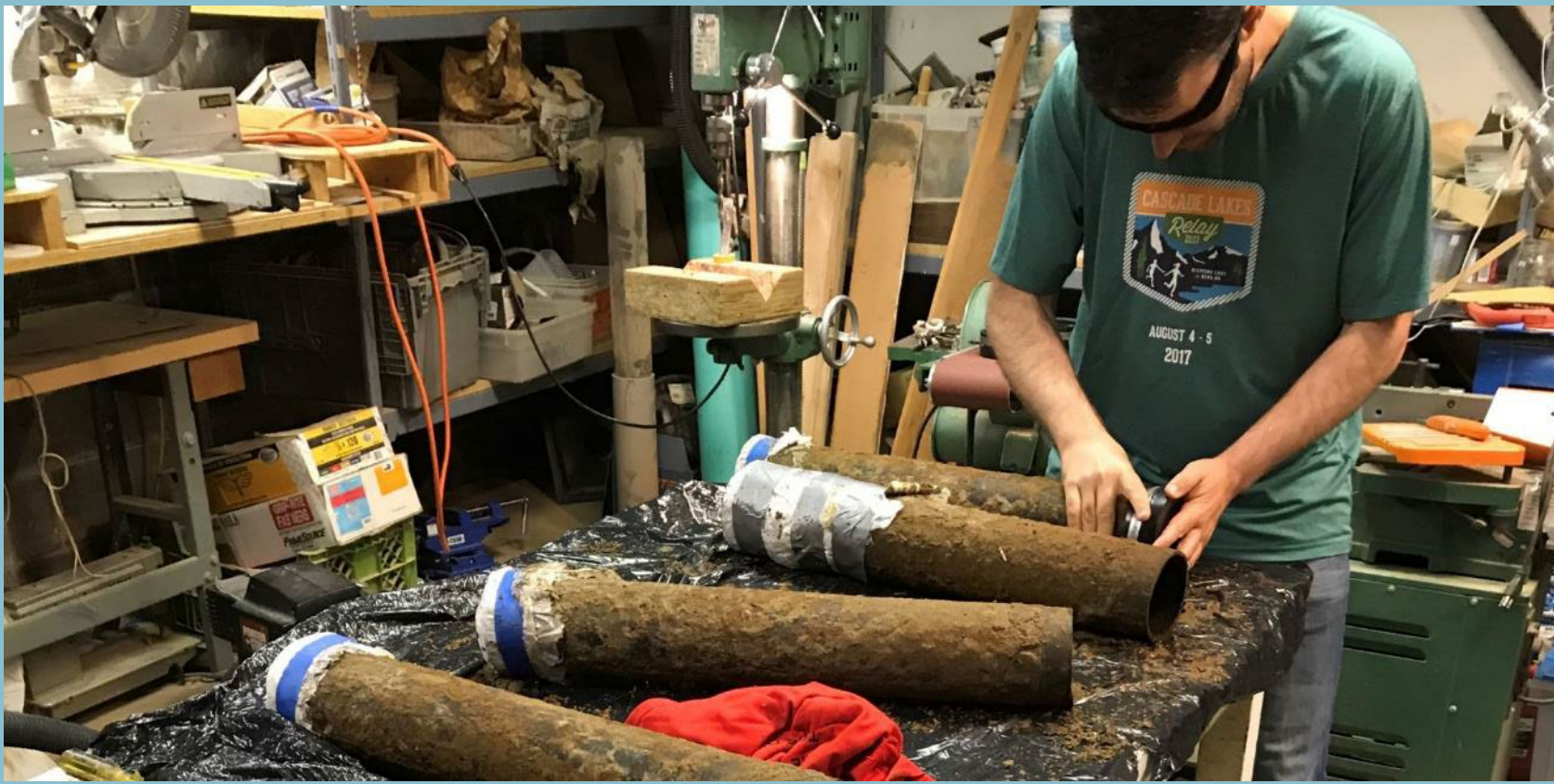


What Material is 'Available' to Events (UDF and Swabbing) 😞

- UDF = Hydraulically available
- Swab = Everything else
- Significant potential to release accumulated material with chemistry or hydraulic change (*Teams flushing now to prepare the system*)



Andrew Hill preparing pipe samples in the Confluence shop/lab



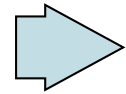
3 Bench Testing

Bench Test Pipe Harvesting

- 4-in dia. Galvanized Steel Pipe (several decades old)
- Challenges with harvested metal pipe
 - Fragile pipe wall 'lining'
 - Oils and petroleum hydrocarbons present, likely from (typical) industry linings placed in metal pipes
 - Impact of material on bench tests?
 - Metal pipe conditions may be 'worst case' vs plastic
 - Scale adherence to a lining may be weaker than adherence to metal surfaces (so it may be a worst-case condition)
 - Unclear of representative nature or how it applies throughout the system (especially to non-metal pipe)



Material Prep



Identified best pipes

- Surfaces consistent
- Lining intact



Material Prep

- Identified best pipes
 - Surfaces consistent
 - Lining intact

➔ Prepare

- Cut to length
- Sample taps; seal rims
- Base installation



Material Prep

- Identified best pipes
 - Surfaces consistent
 - Lining intact
- Prepare
 - Cut to length
 - Sample taps; seal rims
 - Base installation

➡ Stabilize before testing with gentle mixing and fill/dump sampling 2x/week



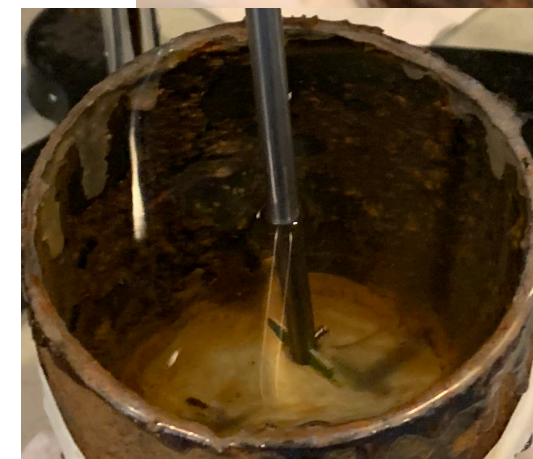
Pre-test pipe acclimation period

Test Approach

- Lab stands with variable-speed mixers (120 rpm); achieved stability after 3 months (some scale lost during acclimation)
- Activities: Observe during 3 months of introducing chlorine and integrating surface water (low/no hydraulic disturbance)
- Details
 - 2x/week fill and dump w/ mild rinse
 - Physical/chemical water quality parameters
 - Surface water shipped from CA (including Modesto Irrigation District WTP; adjust pH)



Mixers with small paddles were used for testing



Mixers with small paddle size

Test Approach (Cont.)

- At the Confluence Lab in Ballard
 - 163 days (84 days acclimation + 79 days testing)
 - Unchlorinated GW, to chlorinated GW, to chlorinated SW
 - Chlorine at 0.03 mL/min (result = 1 to 1.6 mg/L residual)

Test Phase	Pipe A	Pipe B	Pipe C	Pipe D	Test Description and Duration
1	UGW	UGW	UGW	UGW	Acclimation Period 84 d total testing
2	UGW	UGW	UGW	UGW	Baseline Conditions 16 d total testing
3	UGW	CLGW	CLGW	CLGW	Chlorinating Groundwater 33 d total testing
4	UGW	CLGW	CLSW	CLSW	Integrating Surface Water 30 d total testing

UGW Unchlorinated groundwater

CLGW Chlorinated groundwater

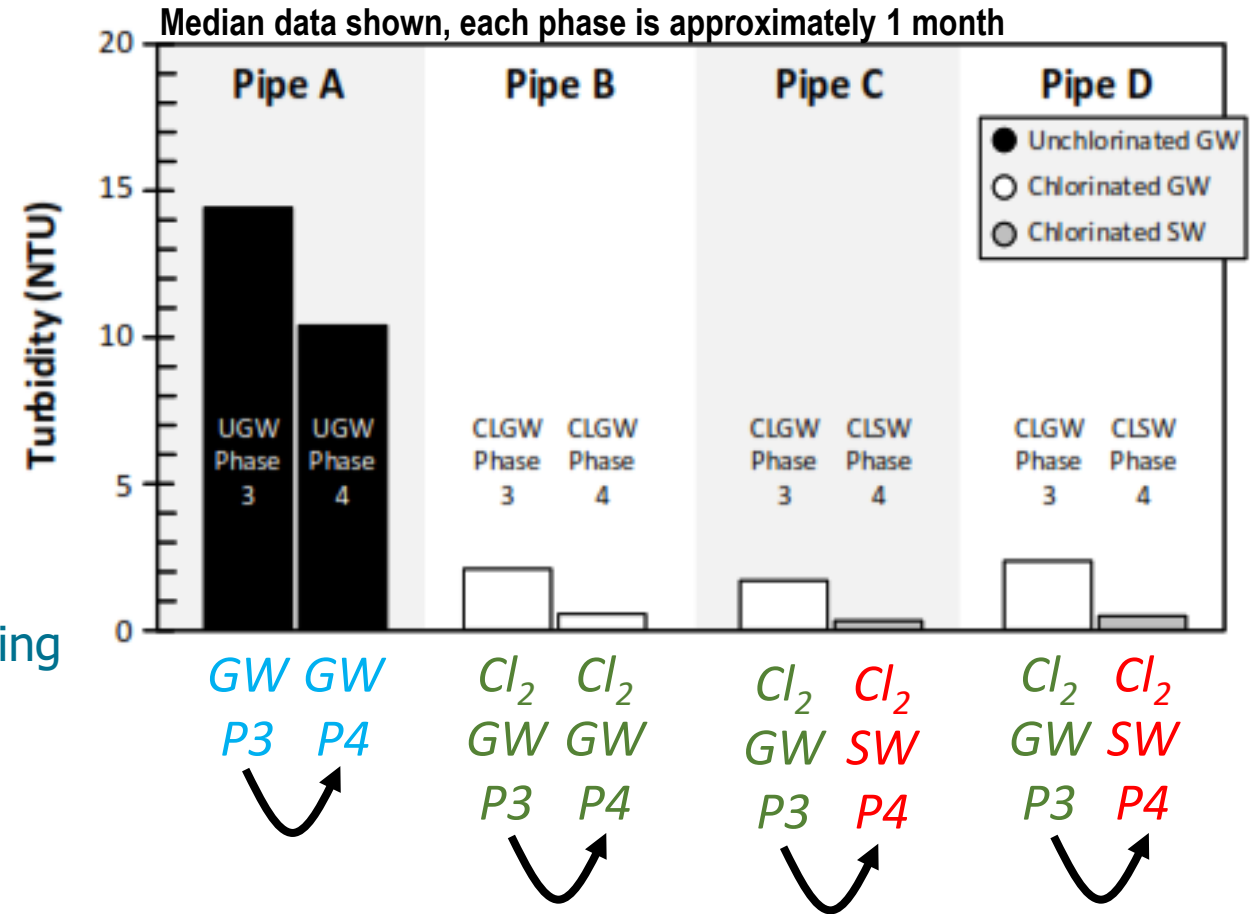
CLSW Chlorinated surface water

GW = Groundwater
SW = Surface water

Results

➔ Pipes stable (turbidity, iron)

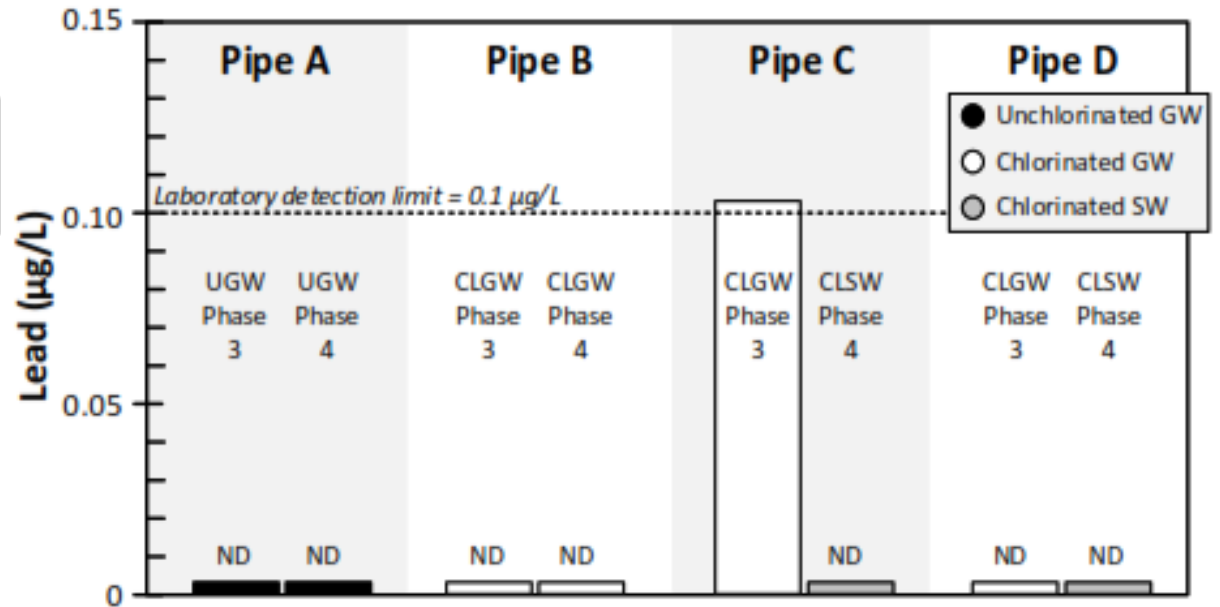
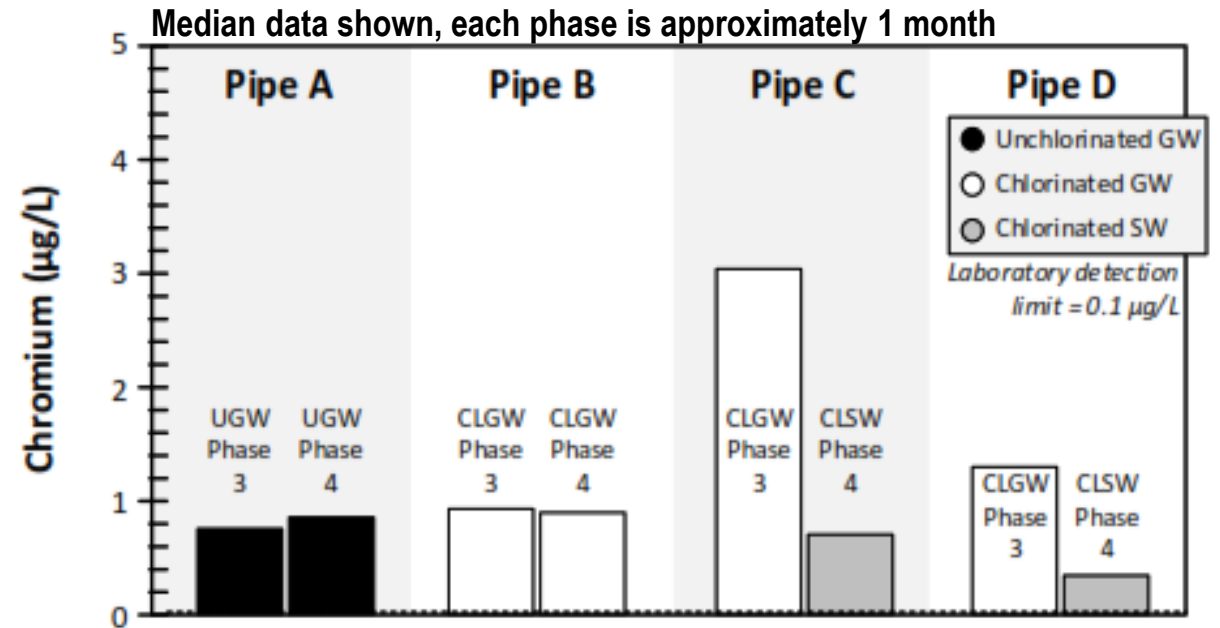
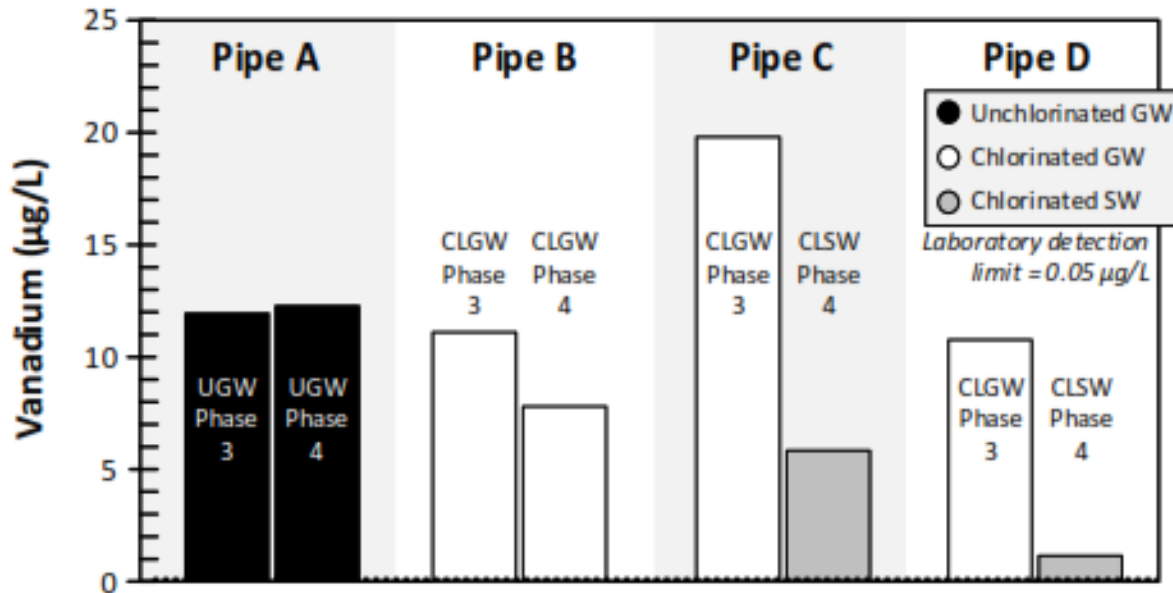
- Chlorine reduced turbidity in Phase 3
- Chlorine alone continued to reduce turbidity in Phase 4
- Turbidity continued to remain low during Phase 4 surface water introduction



Results (Cont.)

- Pipes stable (turbidity, iron)

➔ Chromium, Lead, Vanadium, Arsenic seemed stable (release only in one of three pipes)



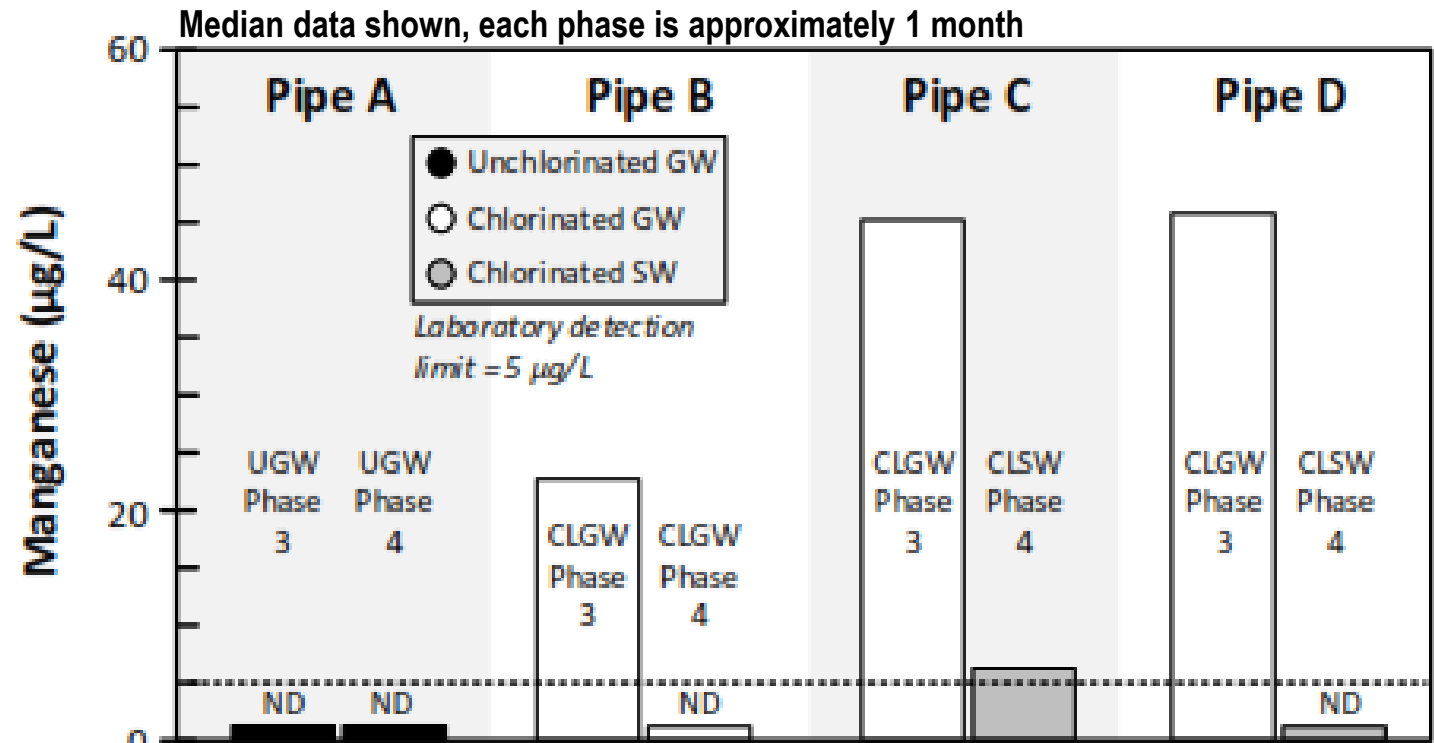
Results (Cont.)

- Pipes stable (turbidity, iron)
- Chromium, Lead, Vanadium, Arsenic seemed stable (release only in one of three pipes)

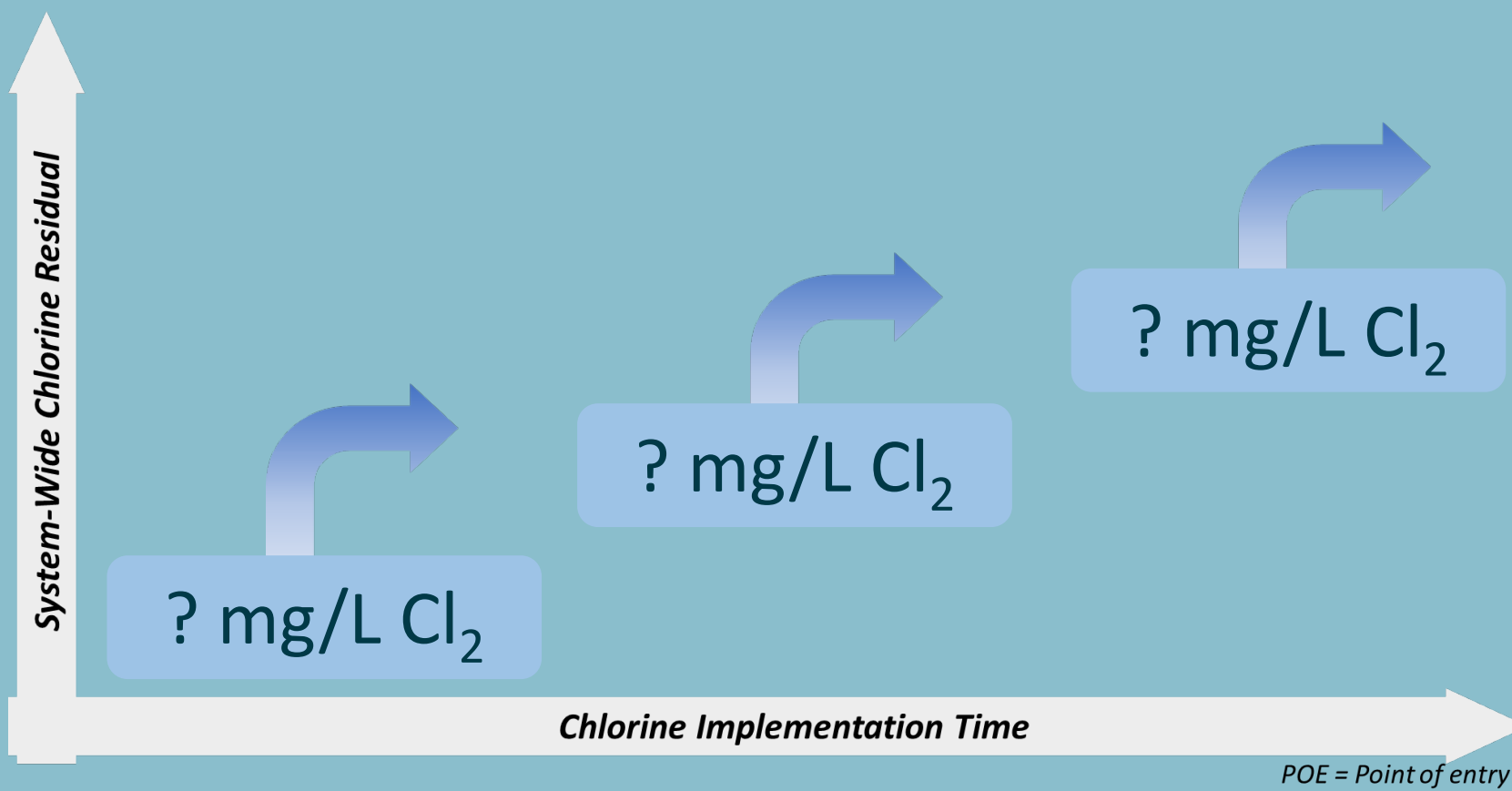
Manganese:

- Increase during Phase 3 testing with chlorine in two pipe segments
- When continuing chlorination during Phase 4, levels stabilized (?)
- Stability was observed during surface water integration

Overall Results:



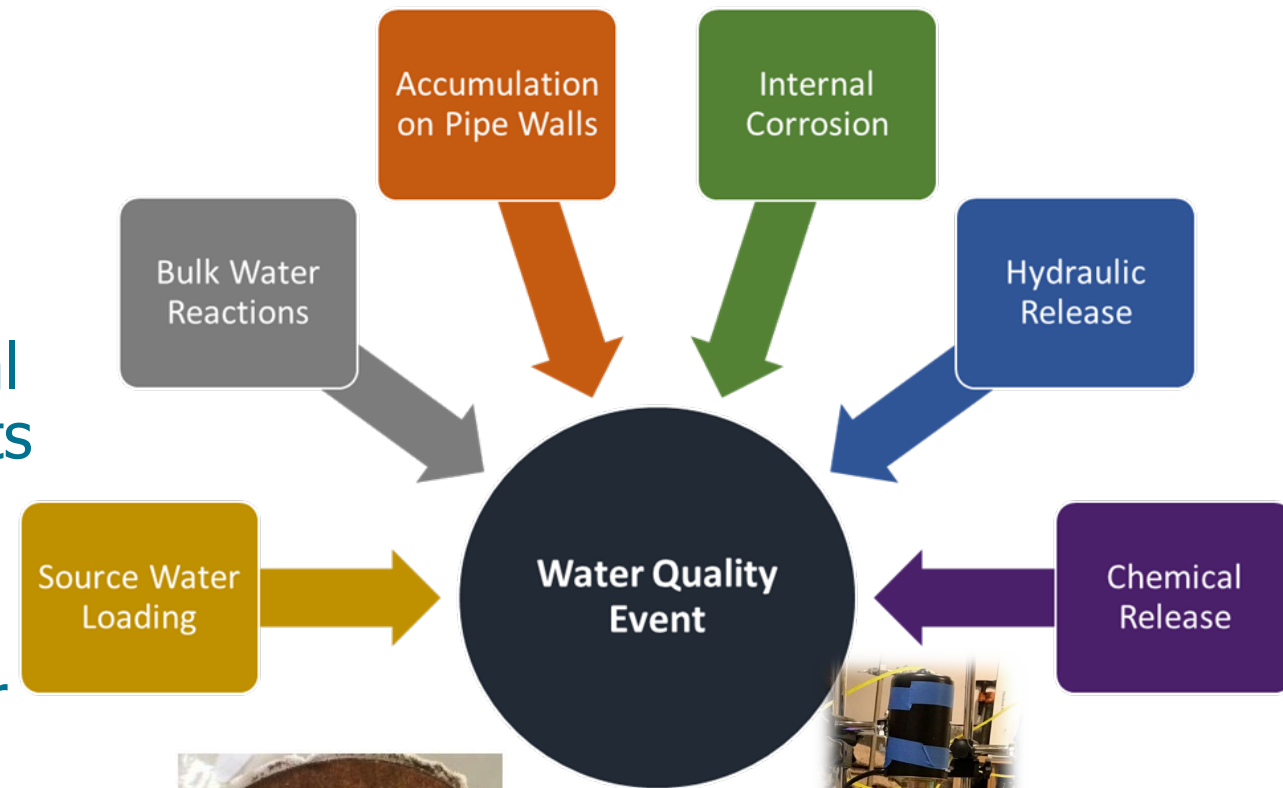
- *Potential Mn release with initial chlorination (at ~1 mg/L free chlorine)*
- *Surface water did not indicate scale instability*



4 Next Steps

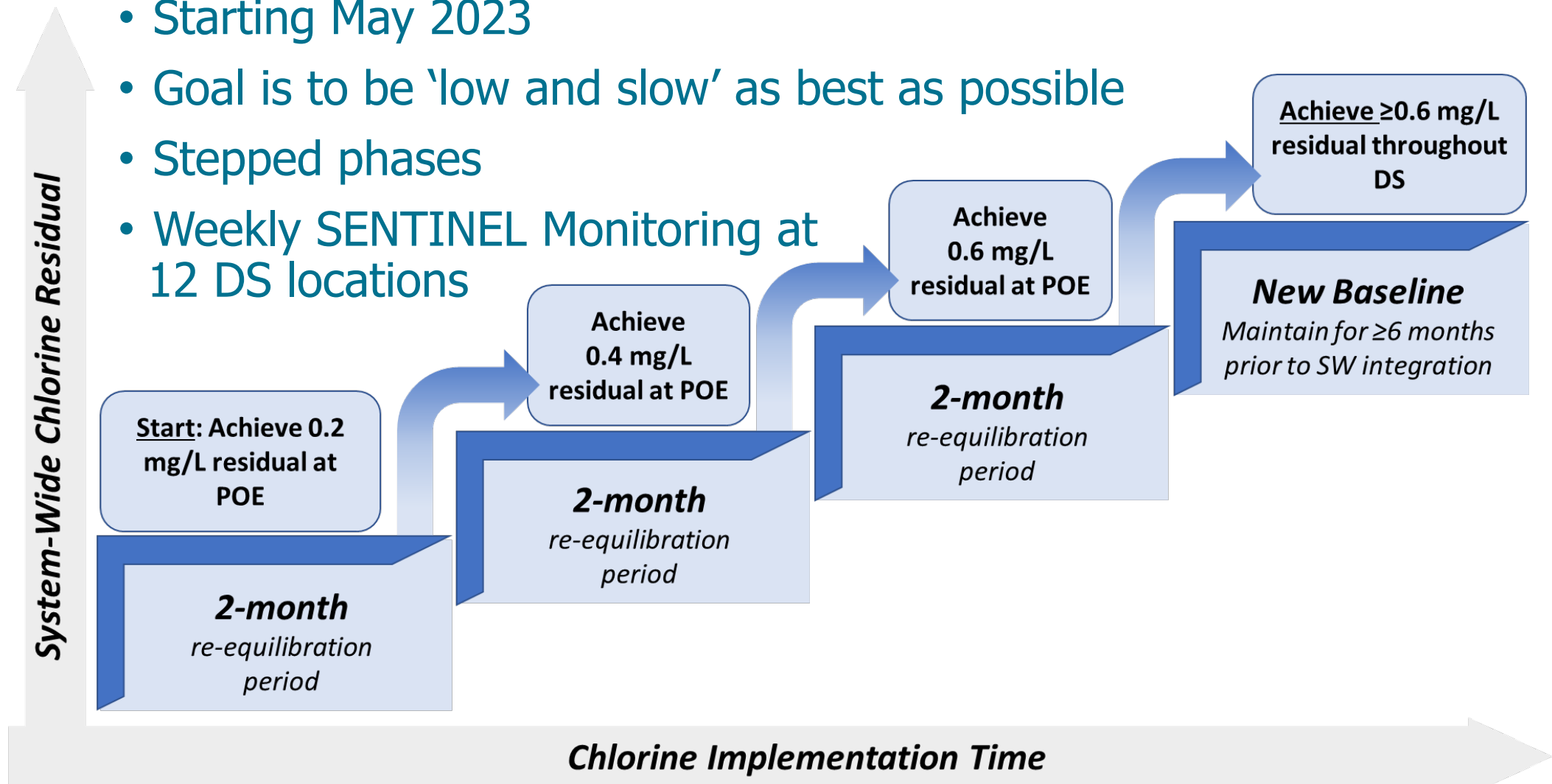
What Do We Know?

- Multi-Faceted Study to Assess Potential for Water Quality Destabilization Events
- Metals Present In Pipe Scale Even Though Very Low Levels In Well Water
- Scale is Highly Mobile When Exposed to Hydraulic or Chemistry Shifts (Chlorine)
- Need to Implement Chlorination and Integrate Surface Water While Minimizing These Disturbances



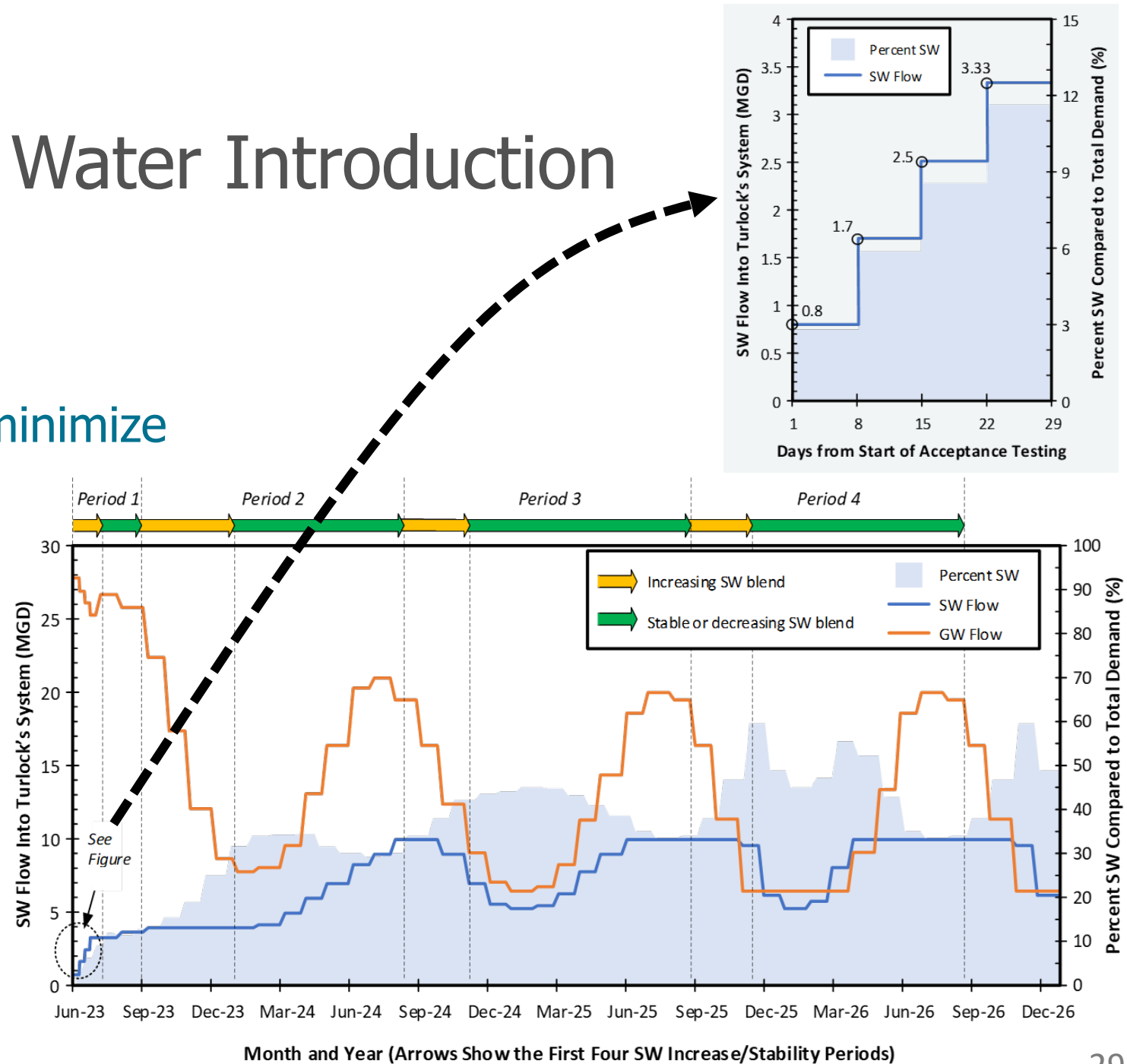
Next Steps: Chlorination

- Starting May 2023
- Goal is to be 'low and slow' as best as possible
- Stepped phases
- Weekly SENTINEL Monitoring at 12 DS locations



Next Steps: Surface Water Introduction

- Starting at End of 2023
- Step hydraulic increases to minimize hydraulic disturbance
- Gently blend chemistry during first two years of surface water integration



Bench Testing & Field Activities to Identify Distribution Destabilization Risk

Alex Mofidi

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Thank You!



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

2023 Section Conference May 3-5, 2023
Kennewick, WA

