

A Regional Approach to Adaptation



Kate Meis, Local Government Commission
Supervisor Jim Patterson, County of San Luis Obispo
New Partners for Smart Growth- February 3, 2011

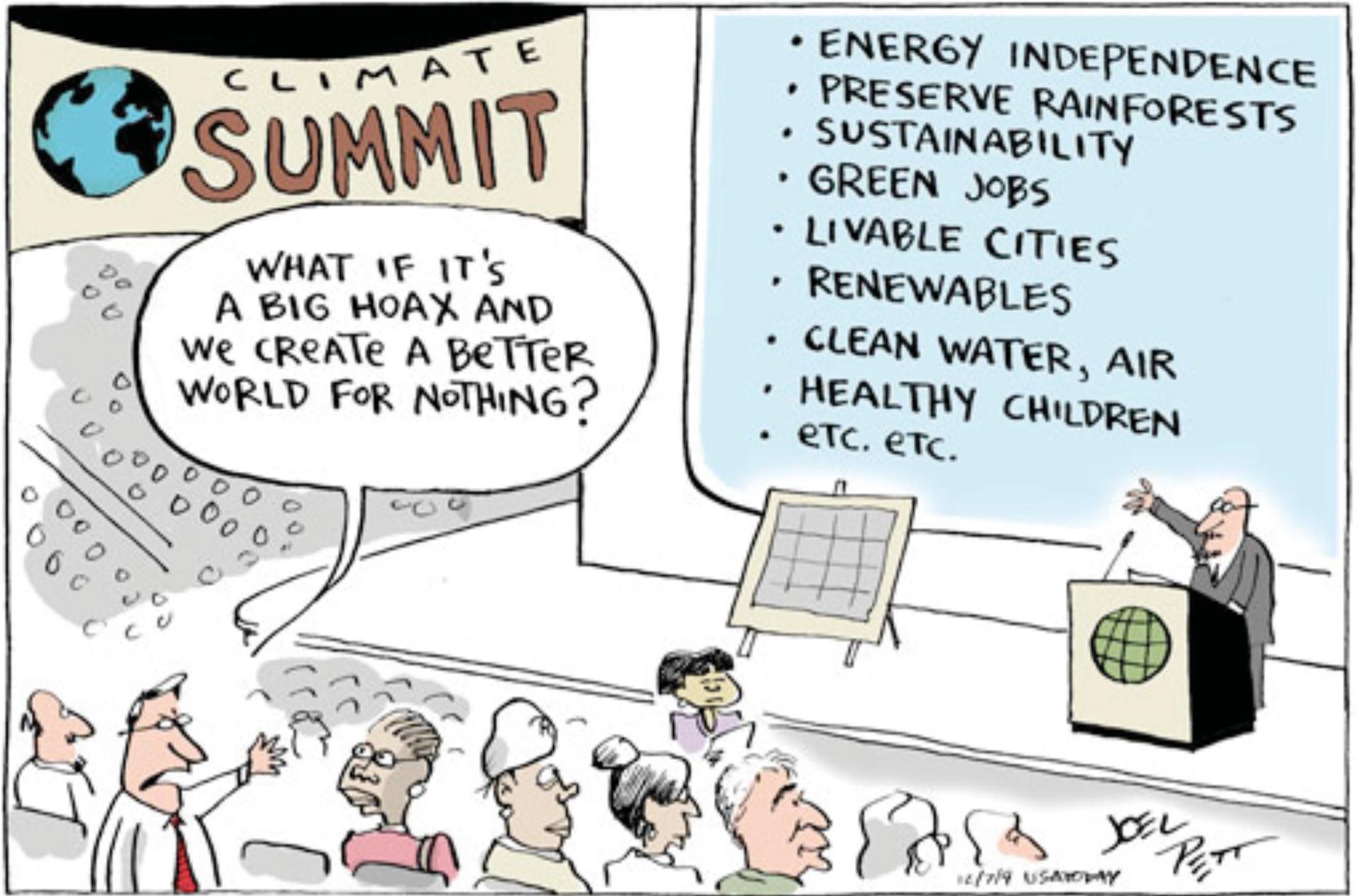


"Some say it's irrevocable, others say it's irreversible. Given such an absence of consensus I suggest we do nothing drastic."

The Cost of Climate Change

**\$1.9 TRILLION
PER YEAR**





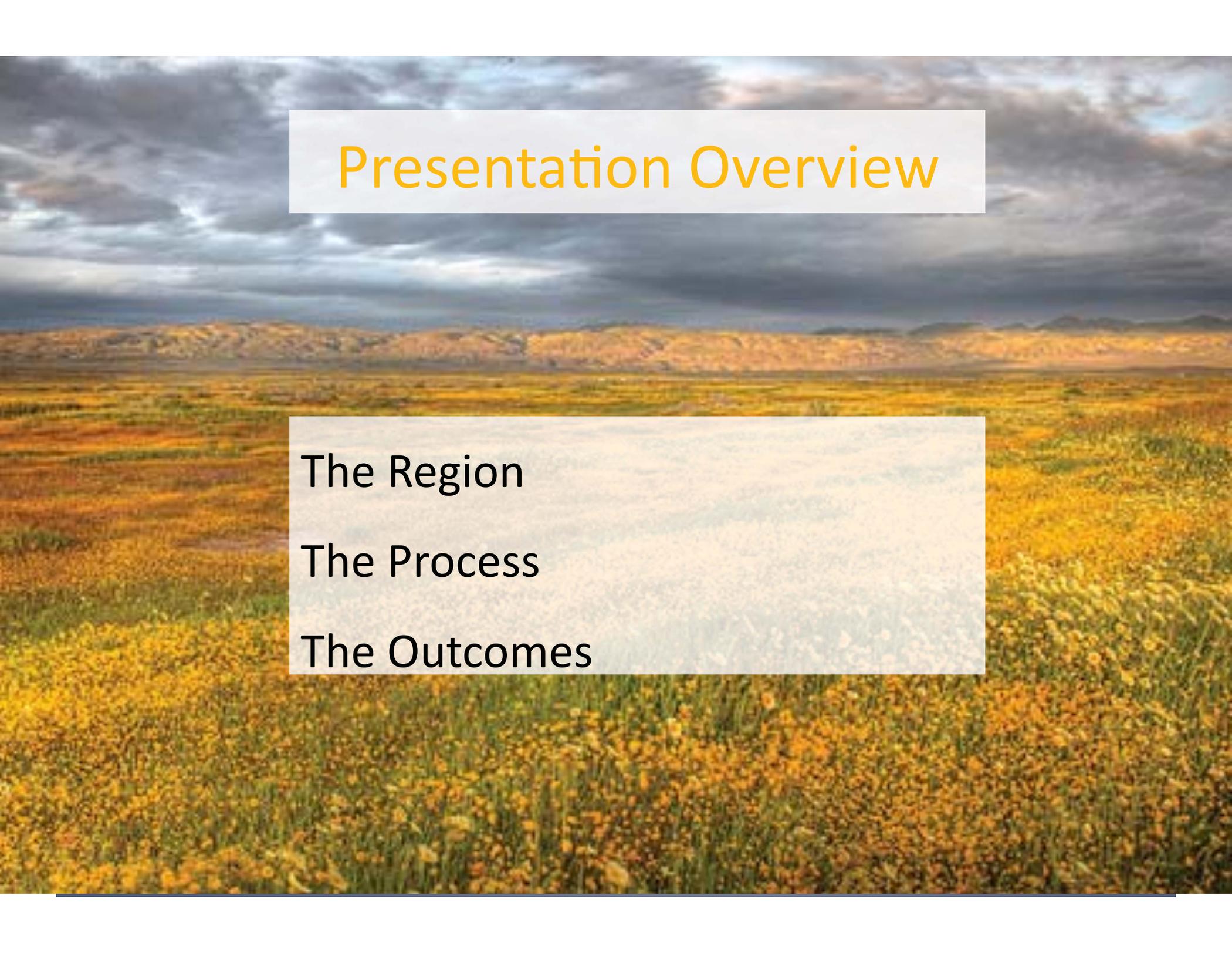
WHAT IF IT'S
A BIG HOAX AND
WE CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- etc. etc.

JUL PETT
11/19 USA TODAY

Local Government Leaders





Presentation Overview

The Region

The Process

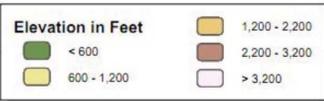
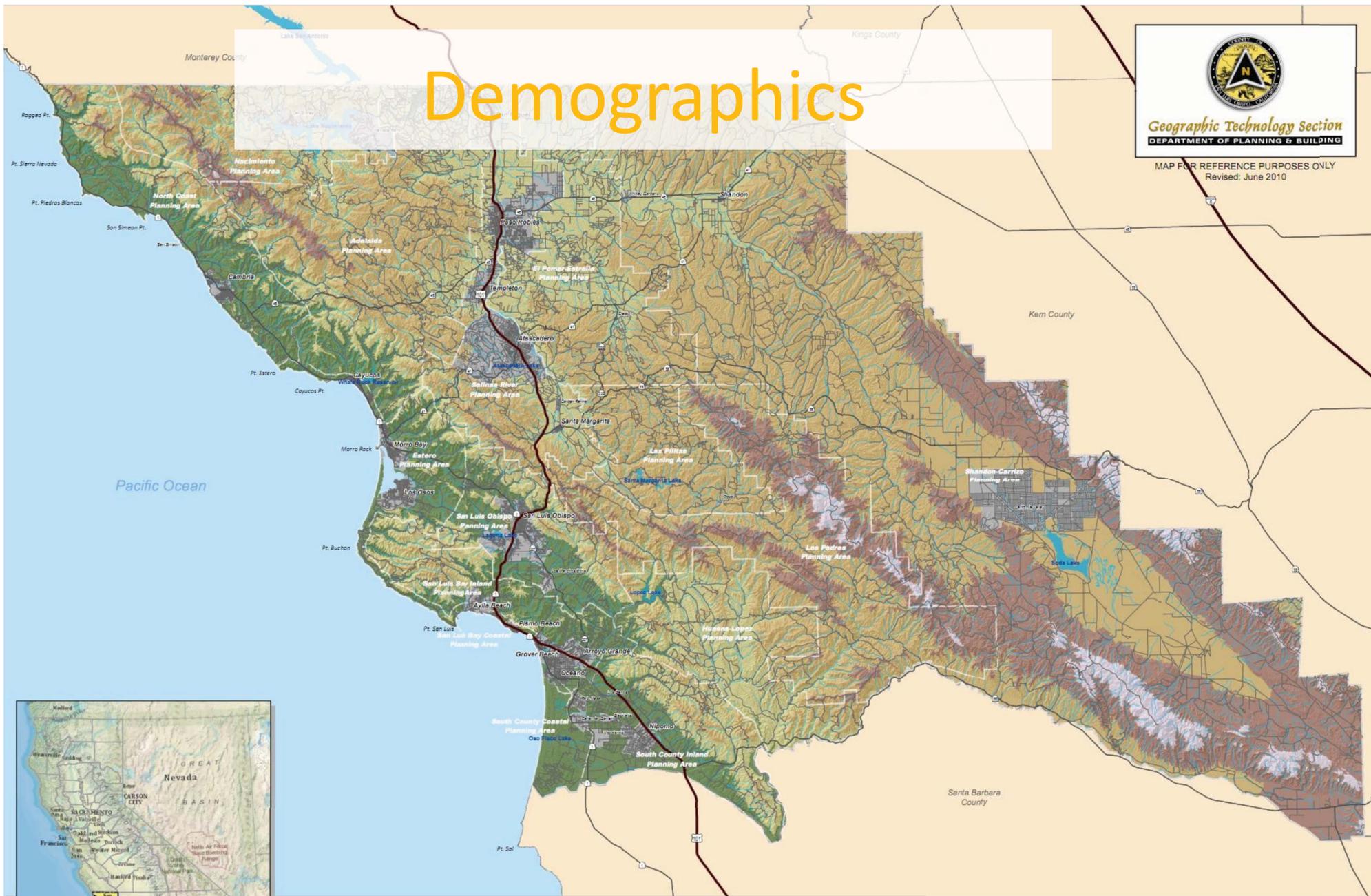
The Outcomes

Demographics



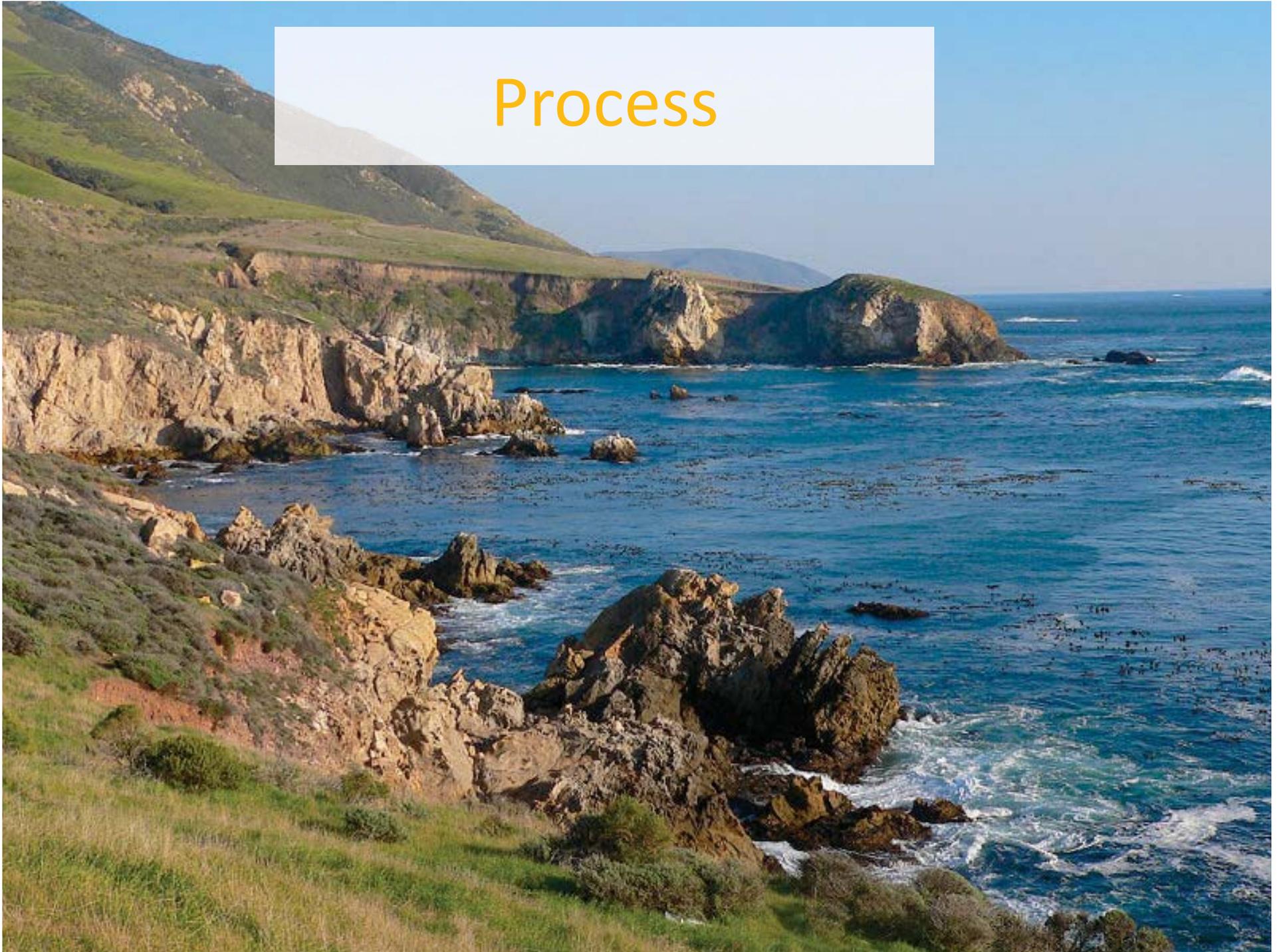
Geographic Technology Section
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING

MAP FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY
Revised: June 2010



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Process



Build Local Support First



San Luis Obispo County
CALIFORNIA

city of
san luis obispo



**AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL DISTRICT**
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Zoom In

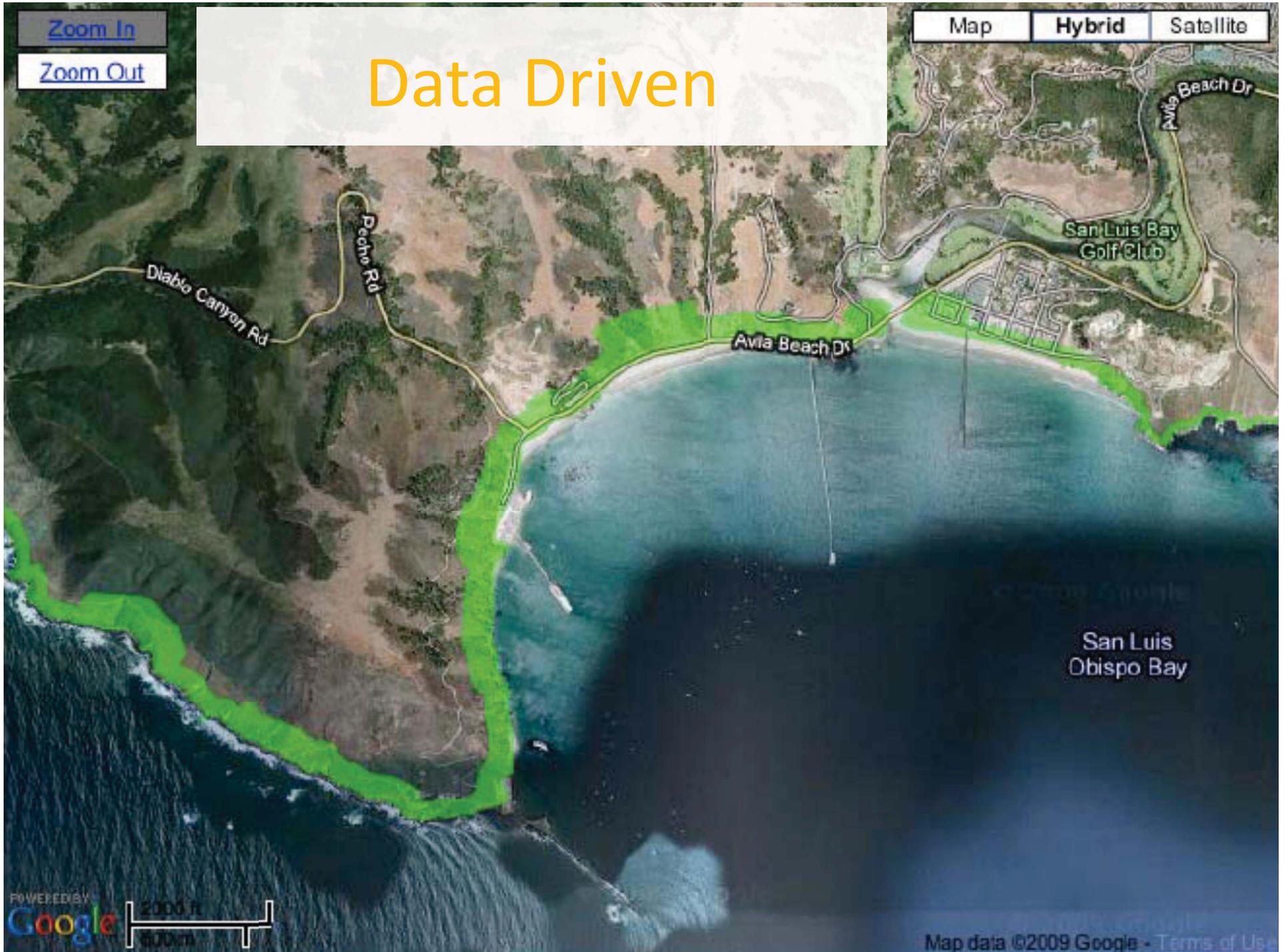
Zoom Out

Data Driven

Map

Hybrid

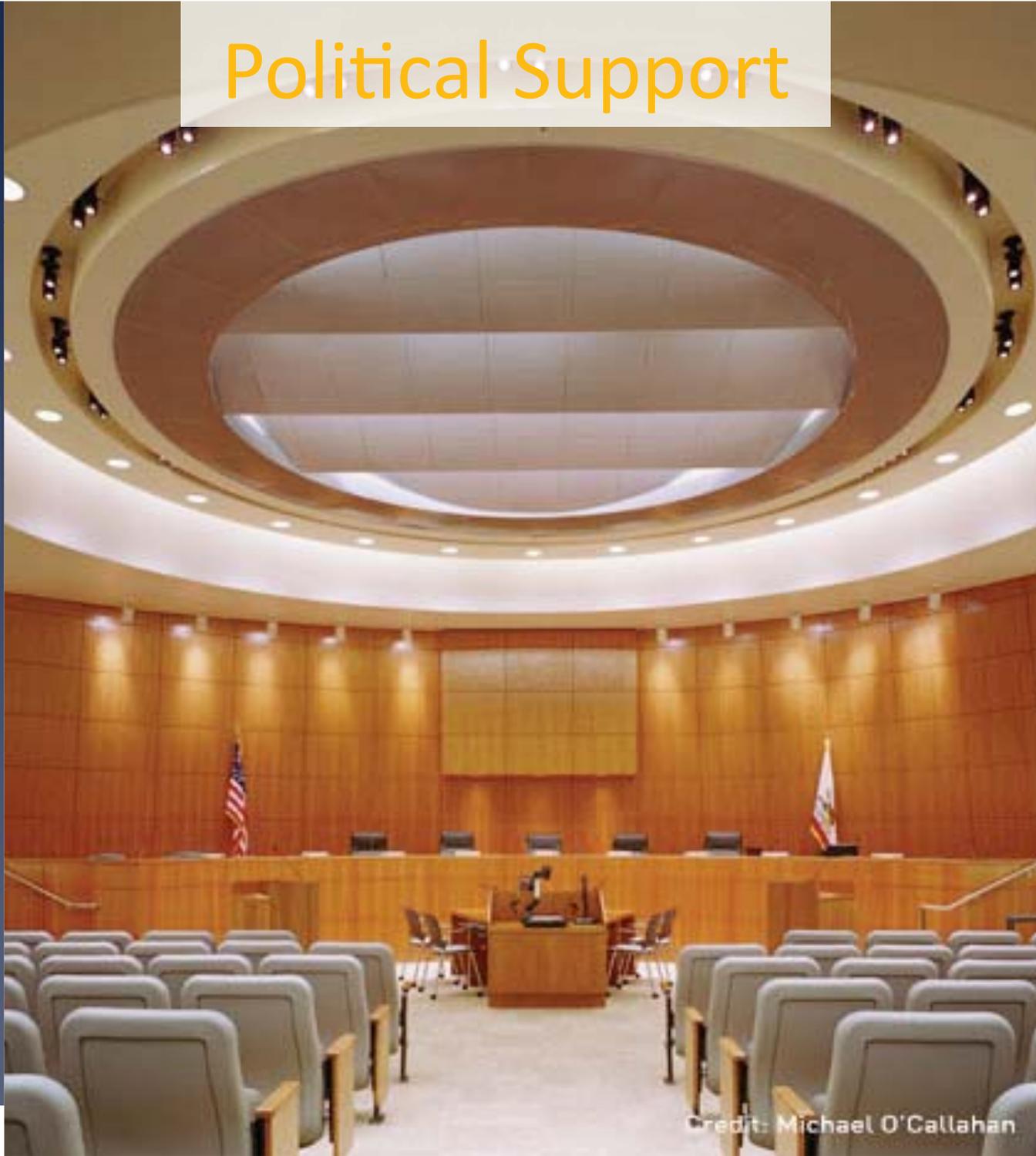
Satellite



Stakeholder Engagement



Political Support



Credit: Michael O'Callahan

Involve the Public





Strategy Areas

Species and Ecosystems

Water

Infrastructure

Health & Emergency Preparedness

Agriculture/Tourism

Coastal and Marine Resources/Tourism

Economy

Key Process Findings

1. Phase implementation
2. Build on current opportunities
3. Frame it right
 - Focus on existing issues
 - Focus on local impacts
 - Humanize- it's not just about polar bears!
4. Have the right people at the table
5. Identify local champions

Addressing Political Challenges

- **Politically Conservative County**
- **Climate Change Disbelievers**
- **Current State of the Economy**
- **More than the Environment**

Utilizing the Media

SanLuisObispo.com
THE TRIBUNE

Climate change is a hot issue in San Luis Obispo County

Yearlong effort will seek to understand effects of climate change and what can be done about them

What's in store for SLO County?

Locally, it's predicted climate change will bring water shortages and health issues

SLO County ponders climate changes

Leaders discuss ways to minimize the potential impact of shifting weather pattern



Outcomes

- **SLO County Specific Data**
- **Increased Awareness**
- **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**

Current Opportunities

- **Community and General Plan Updates**
- **Encourage Energy Conservation**
- **Renewable Energy Technologies**
- **Protect Local Water Supplies**
- **Improve Water Use Efficiency**
- **Adopt Sustainable Communities Land Use Policies**



Implementation

- **Climate Action Plan**
- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- **Engage Public Health Officials**
- **Ongoing Public Education and Outreach**

Challenges

- **Political Climate**
- **State and Local Budget Constraints**
- **Current Planning Processes & Tools**



Resources

- 1. Non profit organizations (LGC, Geos, ICLEI)**
- 2. Local Universities (Cal Poly)**
- 3. Local Agencies (Public Health Dept, Air District, COG, Planning Dept, Emergency Services, Water Districts)**
- 4. Engaged Stakeholders**
- 5. Legislation Driving Local Policy (AB 32, SB 375, CalGreen)**

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Top 10 Concerns for Species and Ecosystems under Climate Change

1. Water Withdrawals
2. Connectivity of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
3. Sedimentation
4. Loss of Riparian, Wetland & Marsh Ecosystems
5. Sea Level Rise
6. Loss of Oak Woodlands
7. Threatened and Endangered Species
8. Comprehensive Planning
9. Monitoring of Species & Ecosystems
10. Utilize New Opportunities



Potential Impacts: Water

- **Water supply shortages**
- **Reduced groundwater recharge**
- **Saltwater intrusion**
- **Septic systems and sewage treatment plants could be compromised**



Water Strategies

1. Monitor and reduce agricultural water use
2. Cooperative basin planning
3. Low impact development



Potential Impacts: Infrastructure

- Transportation routes are exposed to several climate change impacts
 - Sea-level rise
 - Flooding
 - Erosion
 - Heat extremes
 - Wildfire
- The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is exposed to the impacts of climate change.



Infrastructure Strategies

1. Smart growth policies and avoid building in at risk areas
2. Encourage alternative transportation
3. Encourage energy conservation and alternative energy development



Potential Impacts: Health & Emergency Preparedness

- Increase of heat related mortality and hospitalizations
- Increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease
- Decline in food security
- Increased demand for emergency and social services



Health & Emergency Preparedness Strategies

1. Expand outreach and education
2. Identify and target vulnerable populations for outreach
3. Bolster wildfire management
4. Increase local food production
5. Reduce food miles traveled
6. Promote healthy lifestyle practices



Potential Impacts: Agriculture

- Higher temperatures
- Reduced water availability
- Potential for increased water costs
- More intense downpours
- Increased risk of soil erosion
- Increased water demand
- Increased risk of pest infestations and invasive plants



Agriculture Strategies

1. Water conservation
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities
3. Increase carbon sequestration
4. Conserve agricultural land
5. Provide additional support for farm workers and employees



Potential Impacts: Coastal and Marine Resources

- Threats to fisheries, harbors and coastal tourism
- Coastal flooding of low-lying areas-damage to coastal developments and facilities
- Beach erosion
- Damage to tourism infrastructure



Coastal and Marine Resources Strategies

1. Identify high-risk areas and
2. Map failing infrastructure
3. Prioritize repairs/improvements
4. Reassess coastal land use policies
5. Protect habitats
6. Ecotourism

