Assumption Used for Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Estimates

- Irrigated acreage is expected to decline from about 8.6 million acres today to about 8.2 million acres by 2020 (DWR, Bulletin 160-93). This includes estimates of urbanization and land retirement.

- Conservation of water that results in additional water supply is limited to the reduction of *irrecoverable losses* (see definition below).

- Conservation of water in areas where water returns to the hydrologic system in a usable form yields *recoverable losses*, these can potentially be credited with ecosystem or water quality benefits but typically not water supply benefits.

- Water that is truly conserved (either by the supplier or the water user) is assumed to remain in the control of the supplier or water user for their discretionary use or reallocation.

- Estimates of loss reductions resulting from implementation of water use efficiency measures were developed for the following:
  - on-farm irrigation
    - existing irrigation efficiency
    - projected irrigation efficiencies under the No Action Alternative
    - additional efficiency improvements as a result of the CALFED Program
  - water delivery by water suppliers
    - existing delivery inefficiencies
    - projected improvement under the No Action Alternative
    - additional improvements as a result of the CALFED Program

- Irrecoverable vs. Recoverable loss definition:
  In theory, all losses are recoverable. In practice, however, losses that flow to very deep aquifers or excessively degraded water bodies may not be recoverable because of prohibitively expensive energy requirements (i.e., they become irrecoverable). Distinguishing between irrecoverable and recoverable losses is typically based exclusively on water quality considerations. This assumes that all losses flowing to usable water bodies can be economically recovered. Principal water bodies that are generally regarded as irrecoverable include saline, perched groundwater underlying irrigated land on the west side and southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, the Salton Sea, which receives drainage from the Coachella and Imperial Valleys, and the ocean. Irrecoverable loss reduction is real water savings. This water is available to reallocate to other uses.

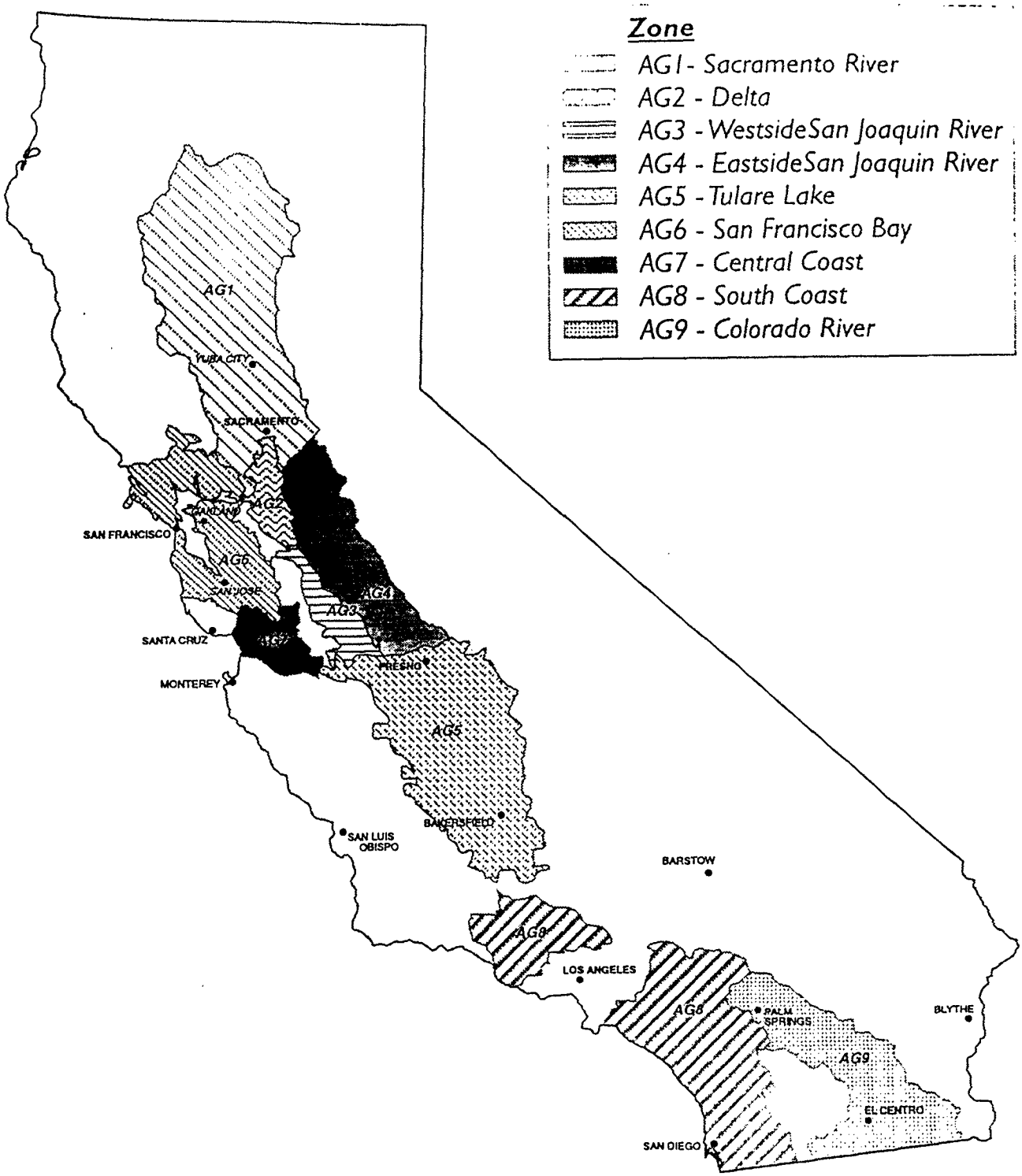

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Figure X
Agricultural Regions