

You otter know,



IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

is a group of citizens, scientists, businesses and communities concerned about the health of the Ipswich River and its watershed. Our aim is to protect nature and make sure there is enough clean, safe, reliable water for people and wildlife.

What follows is a summary of our water sustainability work.



Advocacy

Our advocacy efforts focus on ensuring that federal, state and local water policies, water withdrawal permits, and regulatory decisions are protective of ecosystem health and include prudent water conservation measures.



When student activists, state and local government and community members work together, it means positive change for the Ipswich River!

#EndangeredIpswich

The Ipswich River is one of America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2021. Help us save it.



[Watch John Kerry's Full Remarks here!](#)

April 13, 2021, Ipswich, MA. – American Rivers named the Ipswich River among America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2021, citing the grave threat to ecosystem health and regional water security in the context of climate change. [Download our full press release here.](#)



@ipswich_river

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK

You can save our rivers!

Scroll or click for how to join our growing movement. Check back for more news.

[Resident-led Action →](#)

[Support Our Cities and Towns →](#)

[State Policy →](#)

Two Primary Drivers of Ipswich River Low Flow problems:

- Inefficient & Discretionary Water Use
- Water Exports Outside Basin

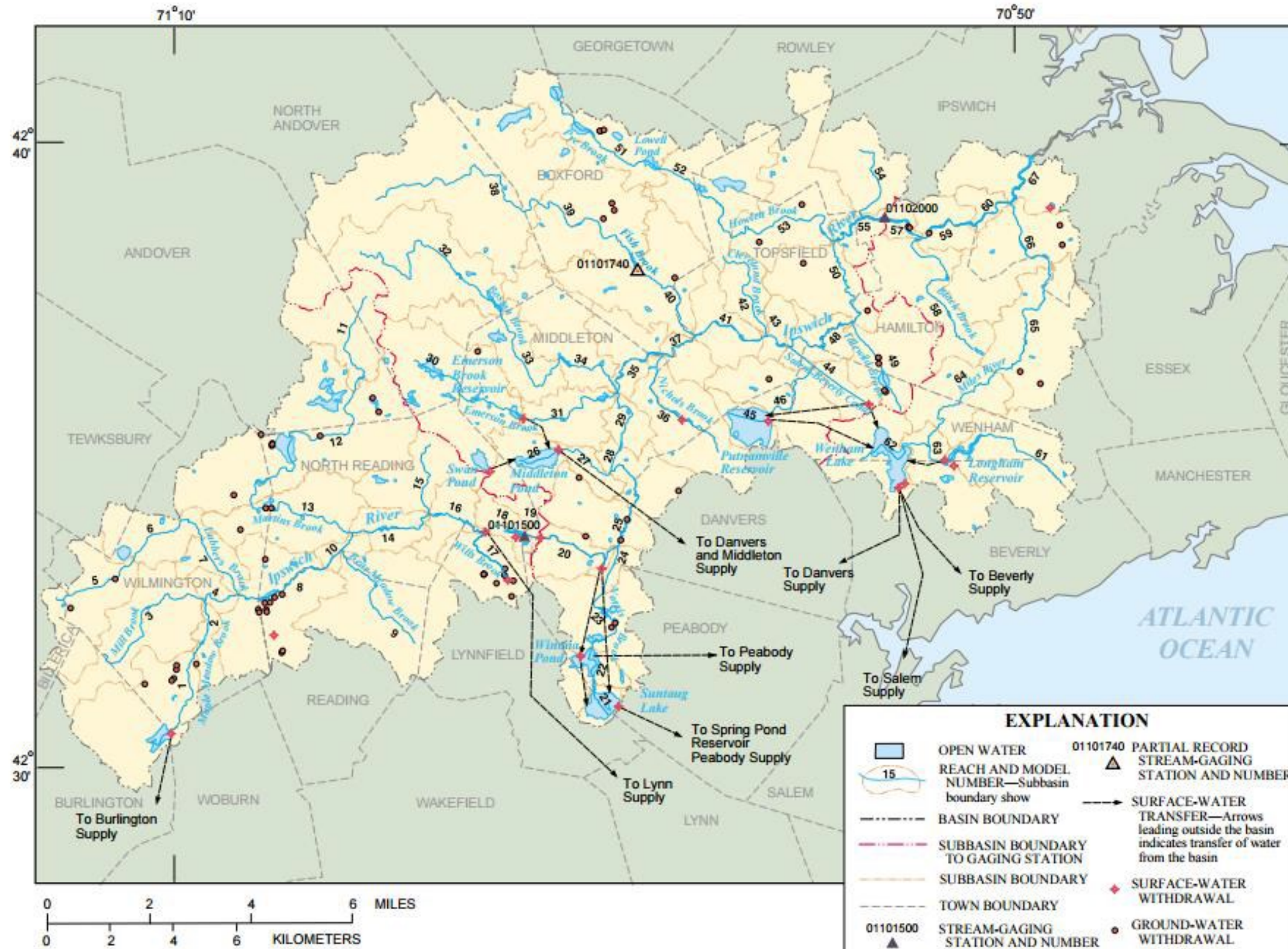
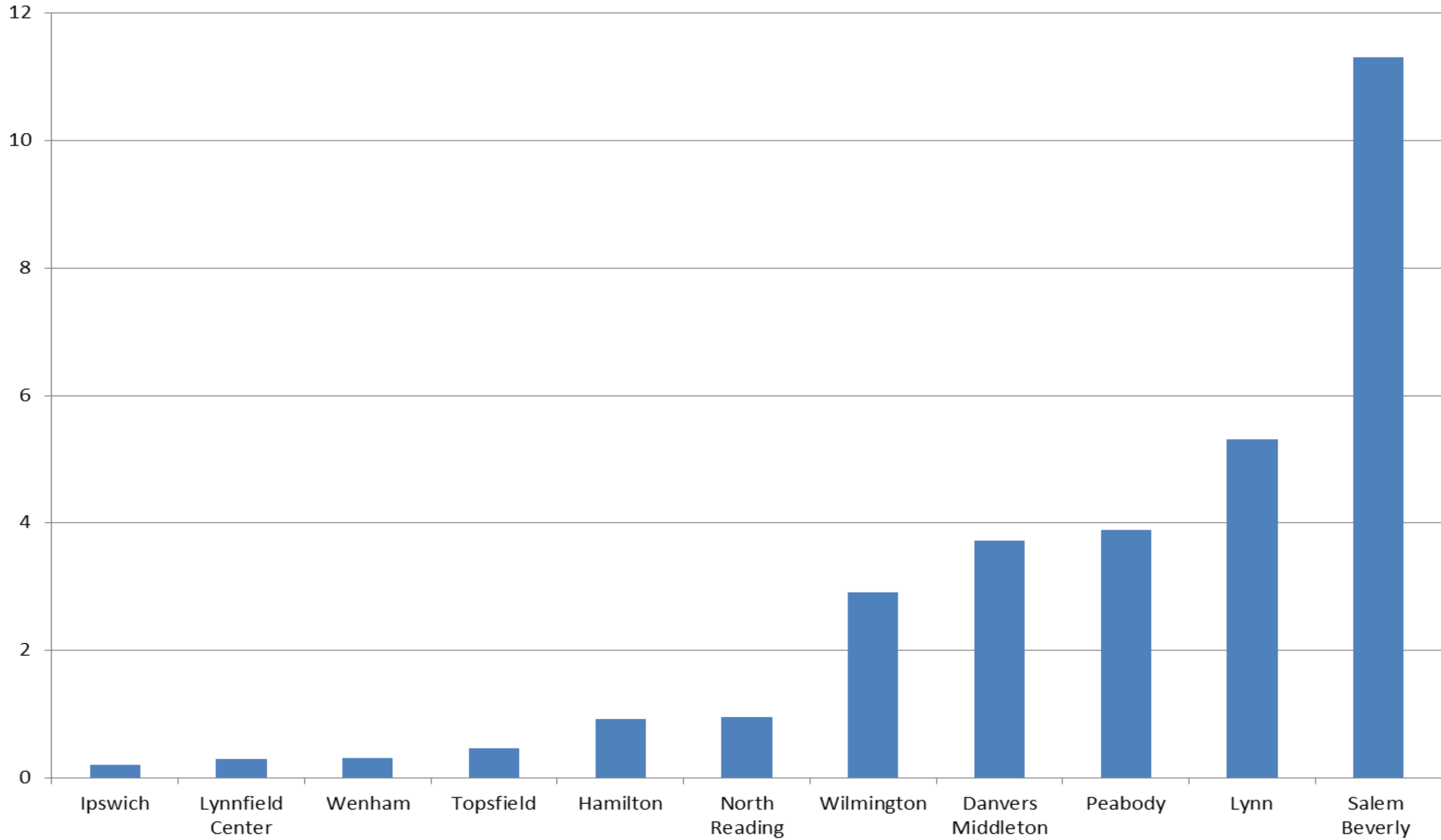


Figure 8. Model reaches, subbasin boundaries, and water withdrawal locations in the Ipswich River Basin, Mass.



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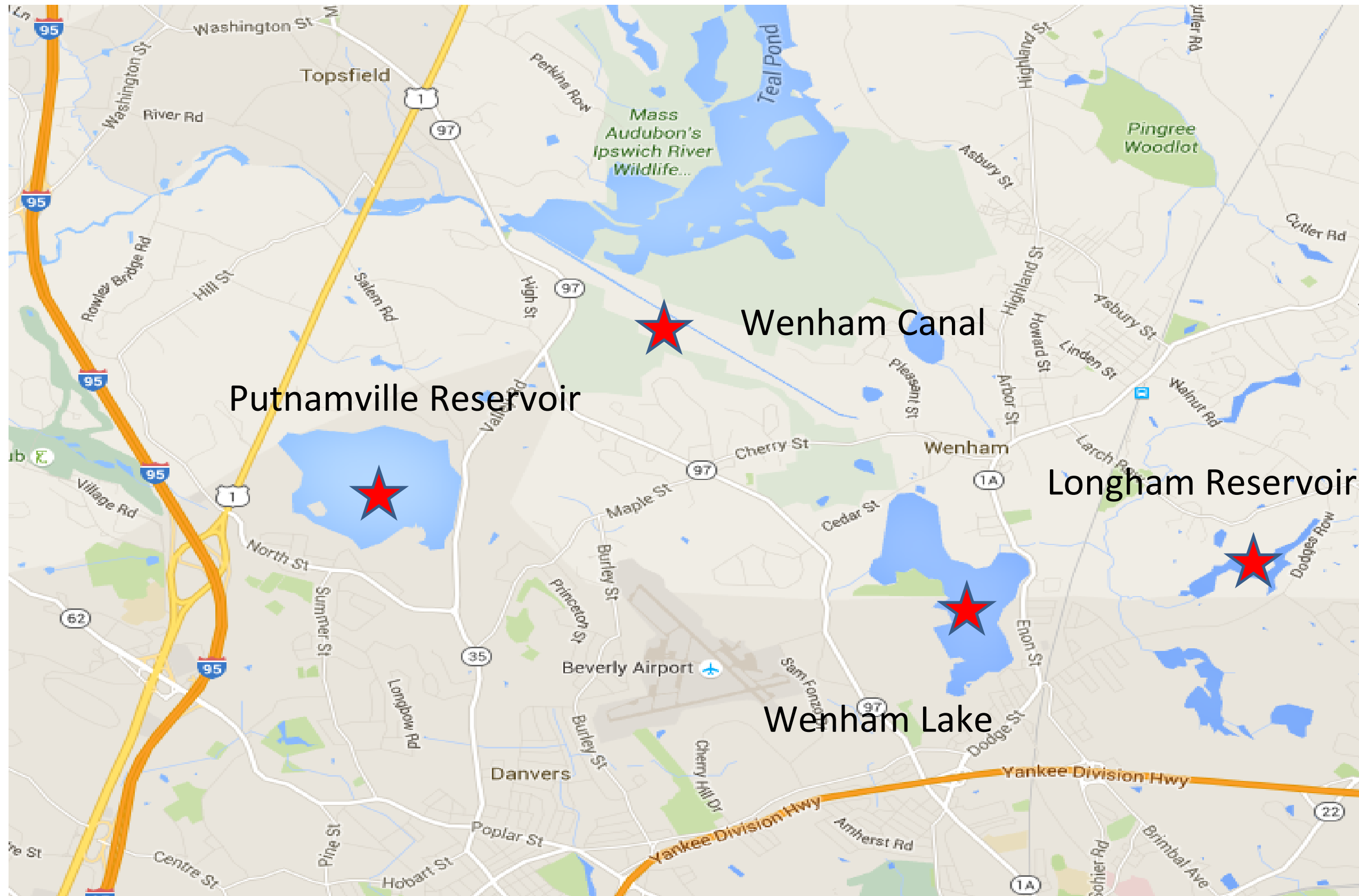
Municipal Water Withdrawals: MGD





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Beverly/Salem and the Ipswich River: ★ Water Supply Sources: ~11.31 MGD





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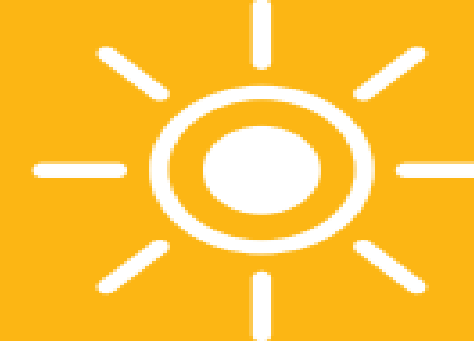
Climate Risks to Ipswich River



SEA LEVEL RISE



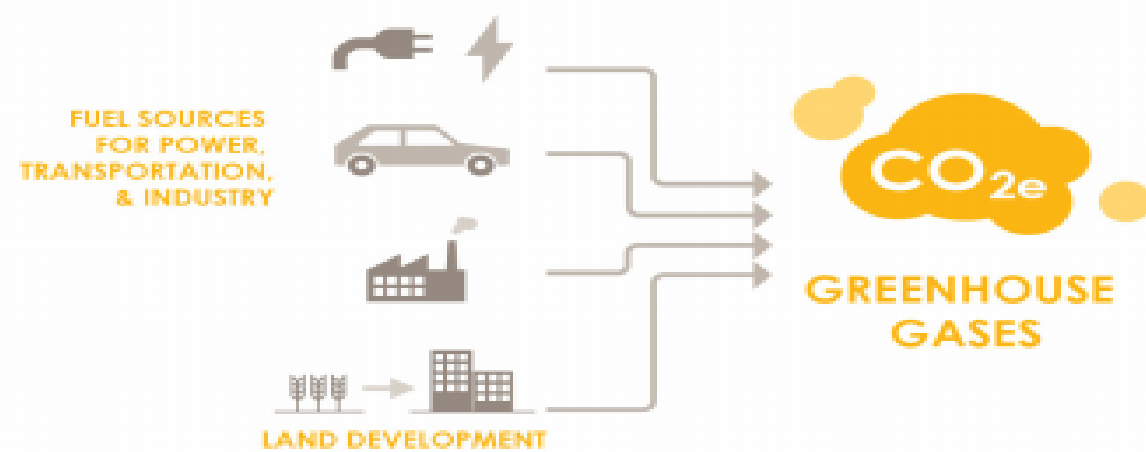
STORMS



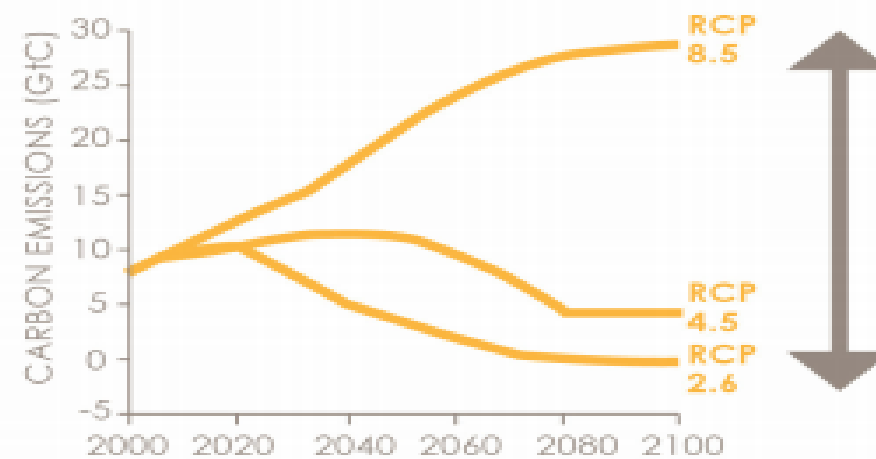
EXTREME
TEMPERATURES



EXTREME
PRECIPITATION



TODAY'S CHOICES



EMISSION
SCENARIOS

The more greenhouse gases
in the atmosphere...

MORE HOT
DAYS



INCREASED
EXTREME
PRECIPITATION



GREATER
AMOUNTS
OF SEA
LEVEL RISE

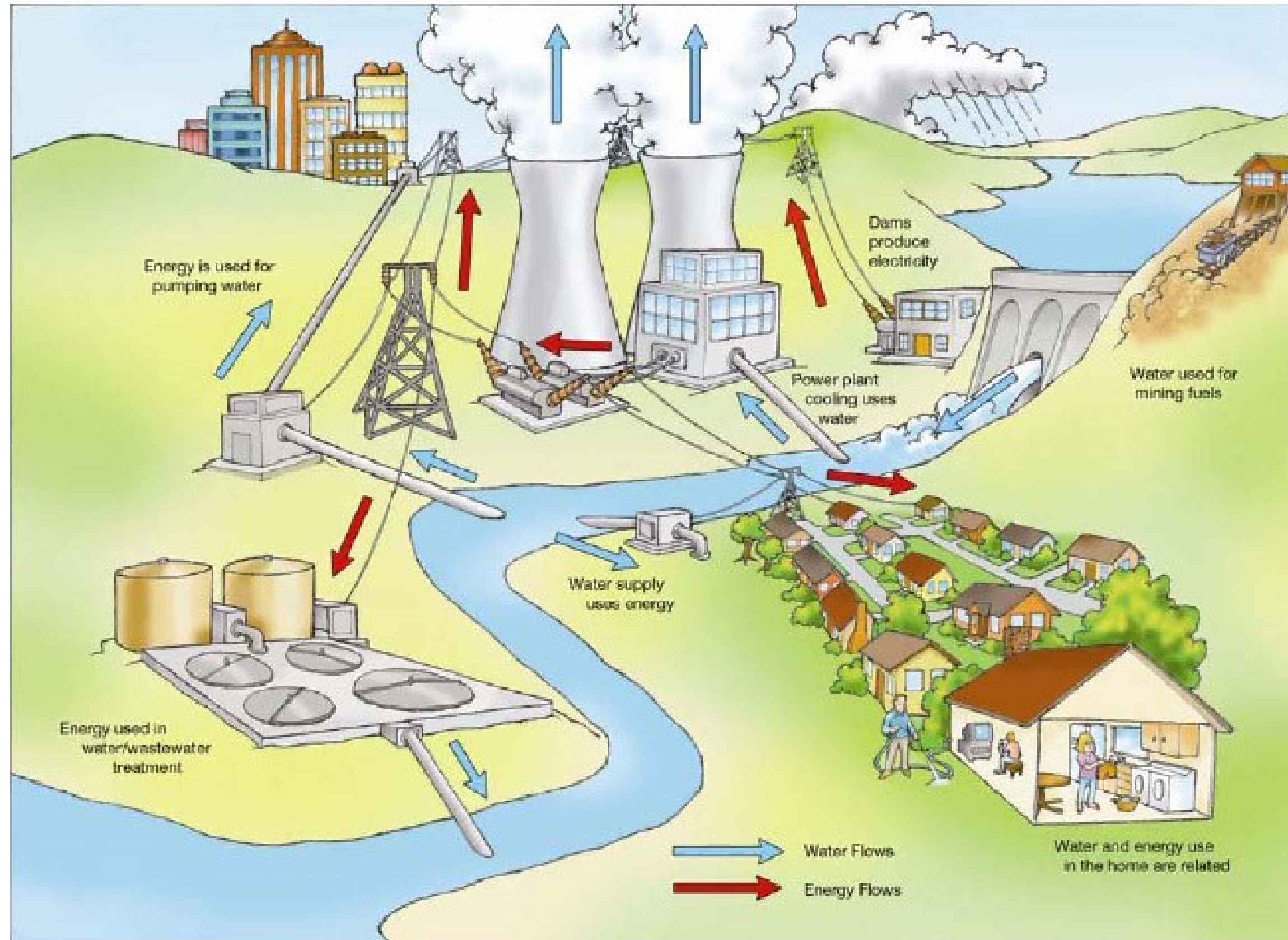


FUTURE IMPACTS



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Water Energy Nexus: 13% of US Energy Consumption





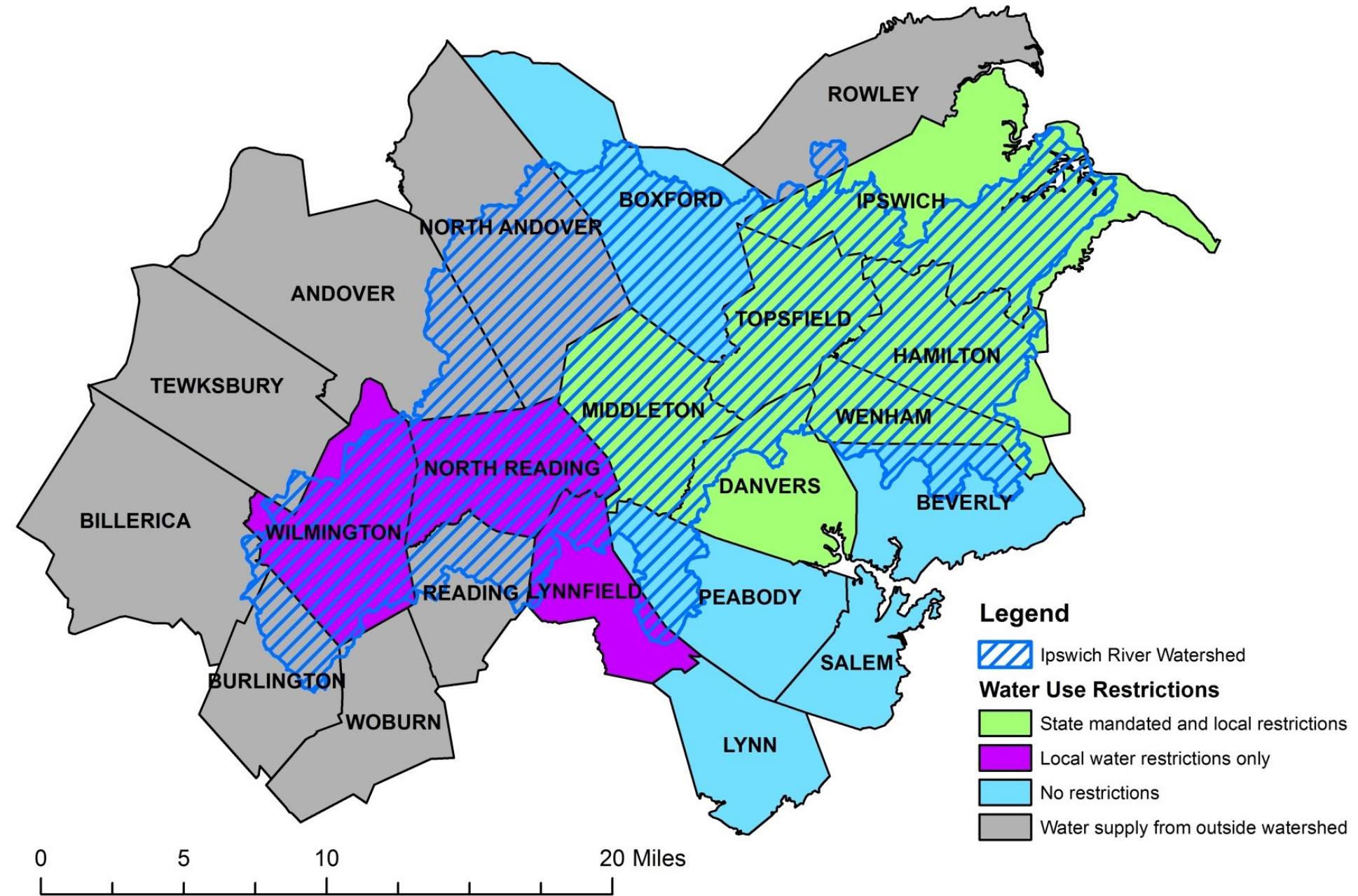
Massachusetts Water Management Act 1986

- Regulates water withdrawals >100,000 GPD
- Existing withdrawals before 1986 exempt (“registrations”)
- Permits required for amounts over 1986 usage
- Establishes Safe Yield for each river basin (Ipswich River SY exceeded)
- State imposes conditions on withdrawal permits
- > 90% of all water withdrawals for Ipswich River exempt from regulation



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Town Water Restrictions in the Ipswich River Watershed







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Droughts of 2016 & 2020:

-The two lowest river flows in recorded history

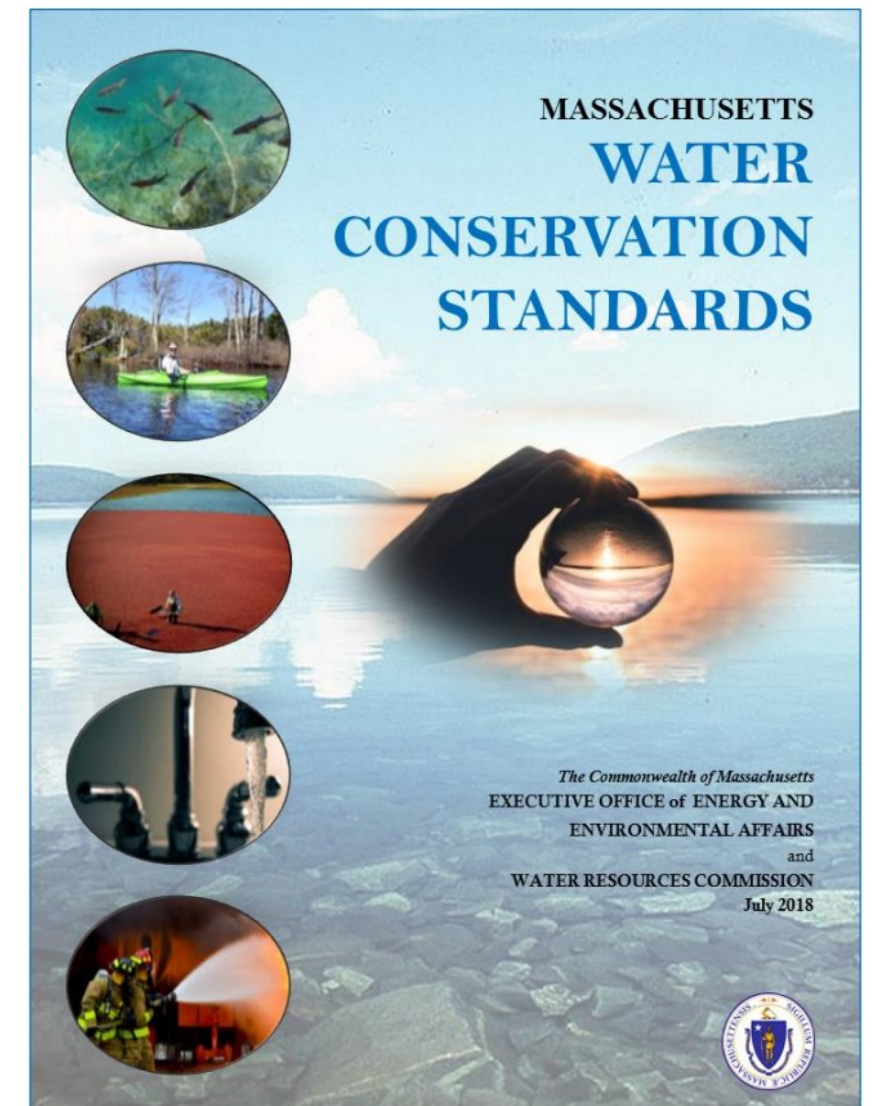
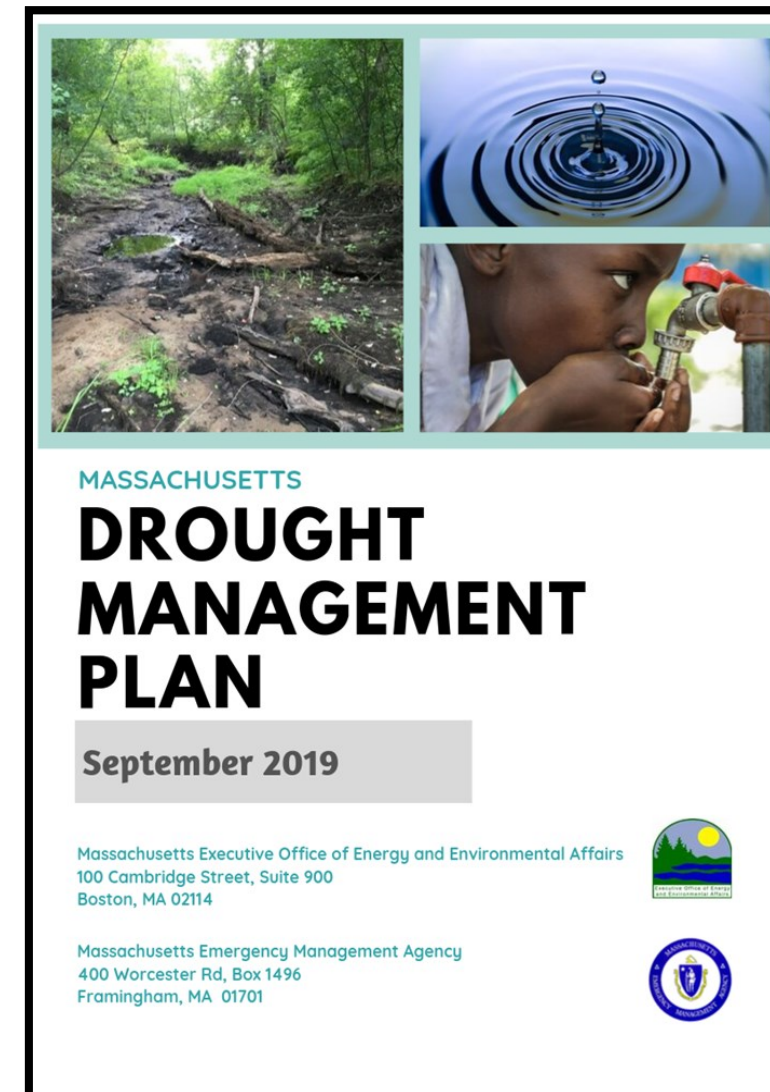
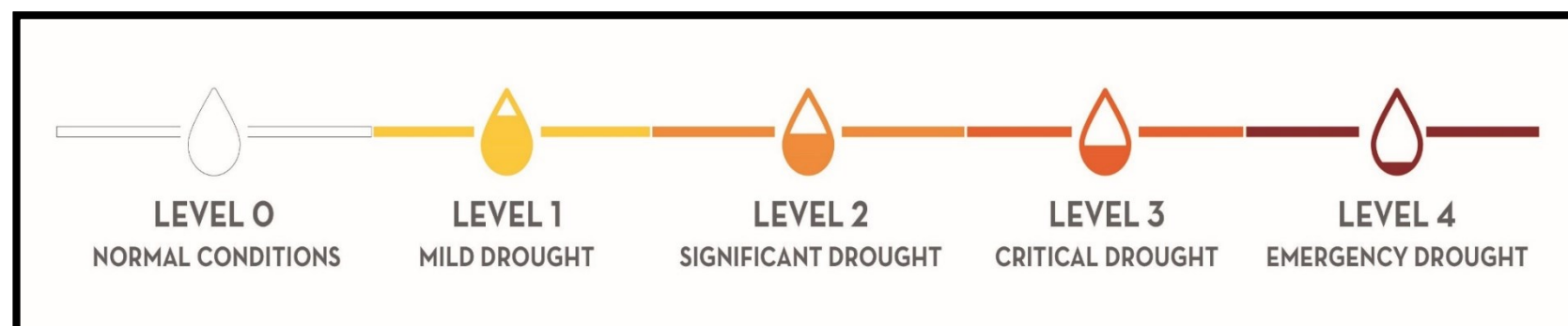


SOLUTIONS: WATER CONSERVATION

- First resort” water source
- Cost effective
- Practical
- Can avoid infrastructure expansion costs and environmental impacts
- Reducing summer demand is key
- Among highest cost-benefit to reduce carbon footprint
- Large savings have been achieved when motivation to save has been strong

SOLUTIONS: CONDITION REGISTRATIONS

- DEP is proposing new regulation to condition registrations during drought
- Public hearings July 7 & 21, 2021
- River/climate advocates asking for stronger conditions



Communities that depend on the river for their drinking water need to plan for a future with a limited water supply.



By adopting a
NET ZERO
WATER USE POLICY
towns can minimize water
demand from new development.

After a 10 year lull, development is once again increasing rapidly in the region, causing new water demand to increase.

Due to the critical importance of the river to our communities, we are advocating for a Net Zero Water Use Policy, which advises that every development project that utilizes water from the Ipswich River watershed does not increase water use above existing levels, resulting in “net zero” water use.

The Ipswich River Watershed Association is developing a comprehensive toolkit and technical services program to assist communities in implementing this new Net Zero Water Use policy.

Support the River!

There are many great ways to get involved and support the Ipswich River. Here are 3:

1. BECOME A MEMBER Help the river and use our fleet of boats for free!
2. PARTICIPATE IN MOST ENDANGERED RIVER CAMPAIGN
3. JOIN PADDLE-A-THON Save the date JUNE 18, 2022

Paddle-a-thon is the most fun way to support a clean, healthy, flowing Ipswich River.

