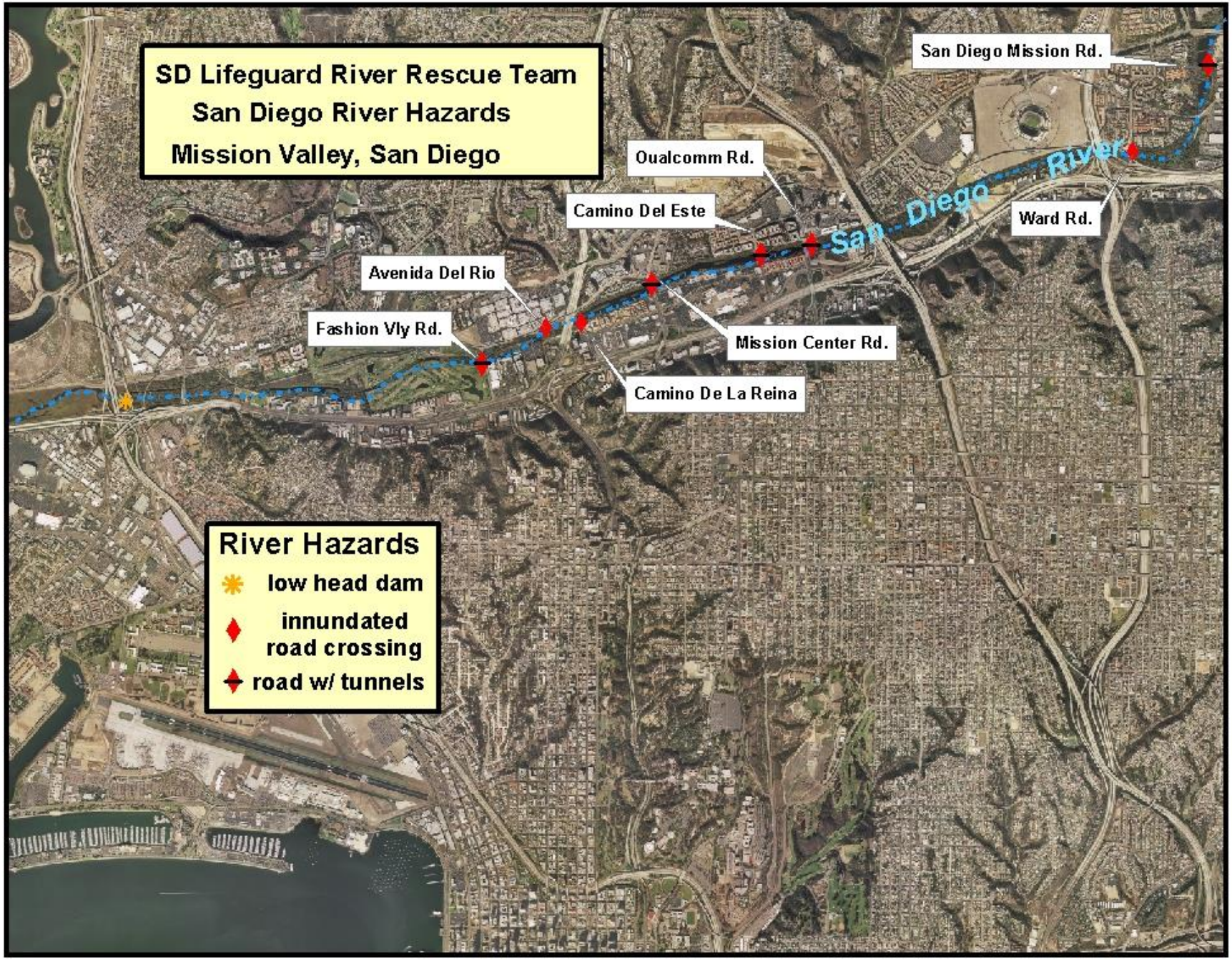
San Diego Lifeguard River Rescue Team

- 19 Member Team
- Season: November 15 - April 15
- Wettest Months, Dec – Feb
- Annual training & certifications
- State CalOES resource
- Average 9-11” of rain Per Year in San Diego
- El Nino / La Nina effects 15”+
- 2-3+ Day events cause the most significant activity

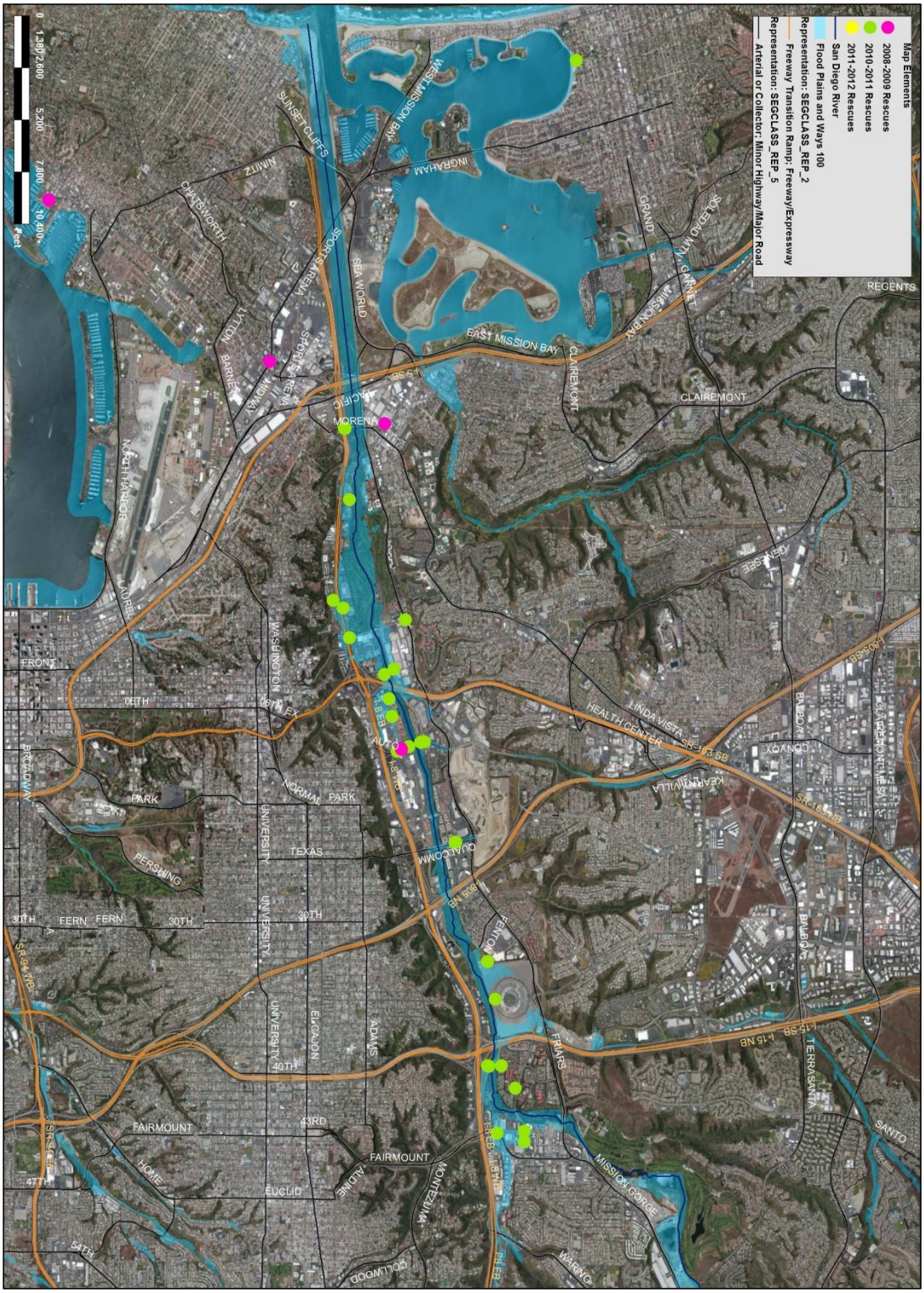
Most Significant Flood Events

- 1978-79
- 1982-83 El Nino
- 1984
- 1987
- 1993
- 1994-95
- 1997-98 El Nino
- 2002
- 2007/08
- 2009/10
- 2010/11

SD RRT Flood Access Hazards: Mission Valley

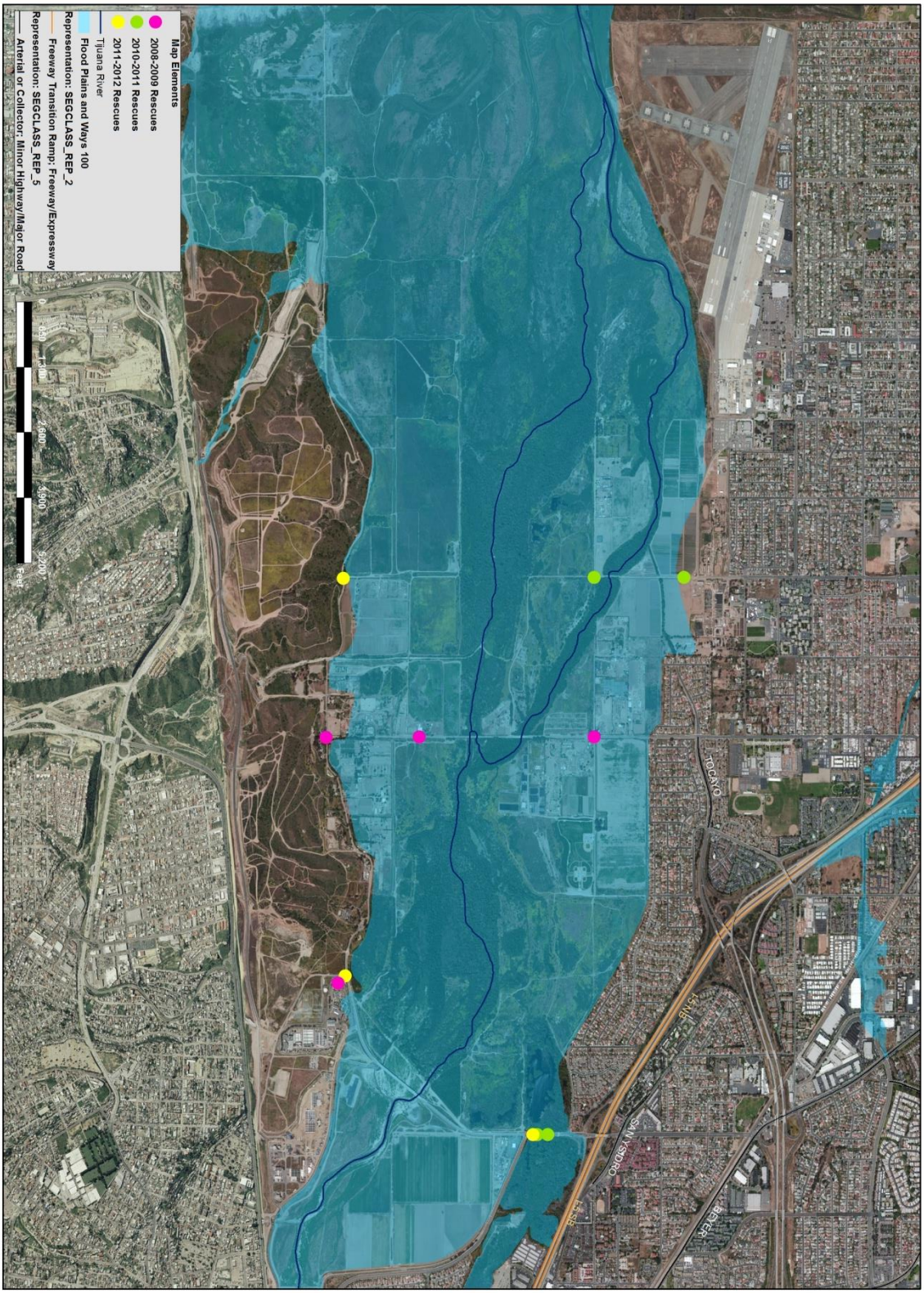

SD Lifeguard River Rescue Team
San Diego River Hazards
Mission Valley, San Diego
San Diego Mission Rd.
Qualcomm Rd.
Camino Del Este
San Diego River
Ward Rd.
Avenida Del Rio
Fashion Vly Rd.
Mission Center Rd.
Camino De La Reina
River Hazards
low head dam
innundated road crossing
road w/ tunnels

SD RRT Rescue Locations: Mission Valley



SD RRT Flood Access Hazards: Sorrento Valley

SD RRT Rescue Locations: Tijuana River Valley



Tijuana River Watershed

Typical Flood Responses

San Diego Hotspots

- Mission Valley
- Sorrento Valley/ Carmel Vly
- Chollas Creek
- Sweetwater River
- Tijuana River Valley
- Mission Gorge/Grantville
- Loma Portal/Midway Dr.
- Murphy Canyon/Adobe Falls
- Coastal Flooding, OB/MB/PB
- Canyon Neighborhoods
- Mesa Flooding, Puddling

Mutual Aid Resquests

- Via de La Valle / Del Dios
- Otay /Jamul/ Springvalley
- Santee/ El Cajon/ Escondido

CalOES TF-8 Deployments

State Swiftwater Asset

- 11 lifeguards
- 3 Fire Fighters
- US&R Task Force 8
- Completed 100's of Rescues
- Responses to Katrina 2005
- Riverside County 2011
- Marysville, CA 1996

Hurricane Katrina 2015

Urban Rescue & Animal Assists

Hazards

Man-made Hazards

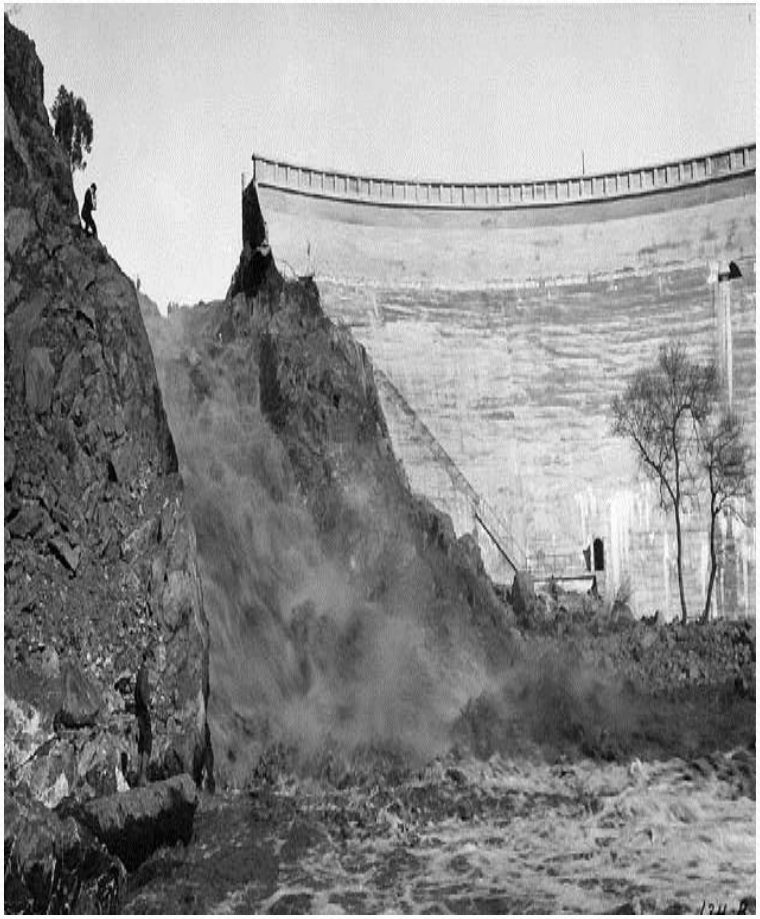
Environmental Hazards

Regional Response & Coordination

- San Diego City: FF's, LG's, Police, Utilities & Wastewater
- Regional Partners: Sheriff, OES, CHP, Cal Fire, Red Cross
- San Diego County Swiftwater Teams: Oceanside, Imperial Beach, Del Mar, Encinitas, BORSTAR, Elfin Forest

Urban Flooding

River Responders in the County



- Emergency vehicles
- Three person squads
- Specialized gear
- Coms with like agencies
- Staging at strategic locs
- First unit deployed and last unit released

San Diego River Rescue Team

- River Rescues are very dangerous to public safety workers
- It is a very specialized skill that is perishable
- Requires special gear
- Urban river valleys are most dangerous
- Environmental
- Animal Rescues
- Trash & Sewage
- Number of victims
- Constant development challenges
- Access Orientation

River Rescue Awareness for 2015-16

- Training for First Responders
  - ✓ Equipment Orientation, Hazard Identification, Rescue SOP's
  - ✓ Vehicle Rescue, Urban Channels, Debris Flows, Heavy Equip
- Community Outreach
  - ✓ Community Meetings, PIO Messaging, Signage
  - ✓ Safety Messages, Emergency Pre-plans
- Evacuation Planning
  - ✓ Early Notification, Coordinated Closures, Red Cross Evac Sites
  - ✓ Security & Safety Patrol, IMT Activations

San Diego Fire-Rescue
River Rescue Size-Up Checklist

Location

- ✓ Determine accurate address & location of victims on river

Victims

- ✓ Number of victims
- ✓ Disposition: stable or free floating

Water Conditions

- ✓ Standing, Slow, Fast, Depth if known

Hazards

- ✓ Submerged objects, floating debris, obstructions

Swiftwater Safety Tips

- PFD, Helmet and PPE for Rescue Personnel
- Always wear a lifejacket near moving water
- Do Not enter moving water unless trained and equipped
- Do Not tie yourself to a rope if you enter moving water
- Do Not get out of a vehicle trapped by moving water
- Stay where you are if trapped - Wave or call for assistance
- If caught in a river, face up with feet pointed downstream
- Always maintain downstream safety with rope throwbags
- Determine best action and communicate plan to all