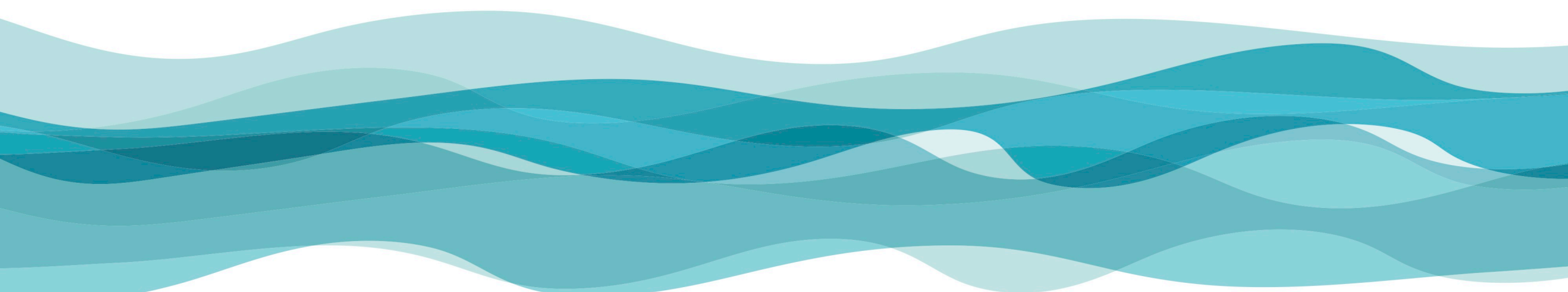




# SECURING OREGON'S WATER FUTURE

Oregon Business Council Water Task Force





# Goal:

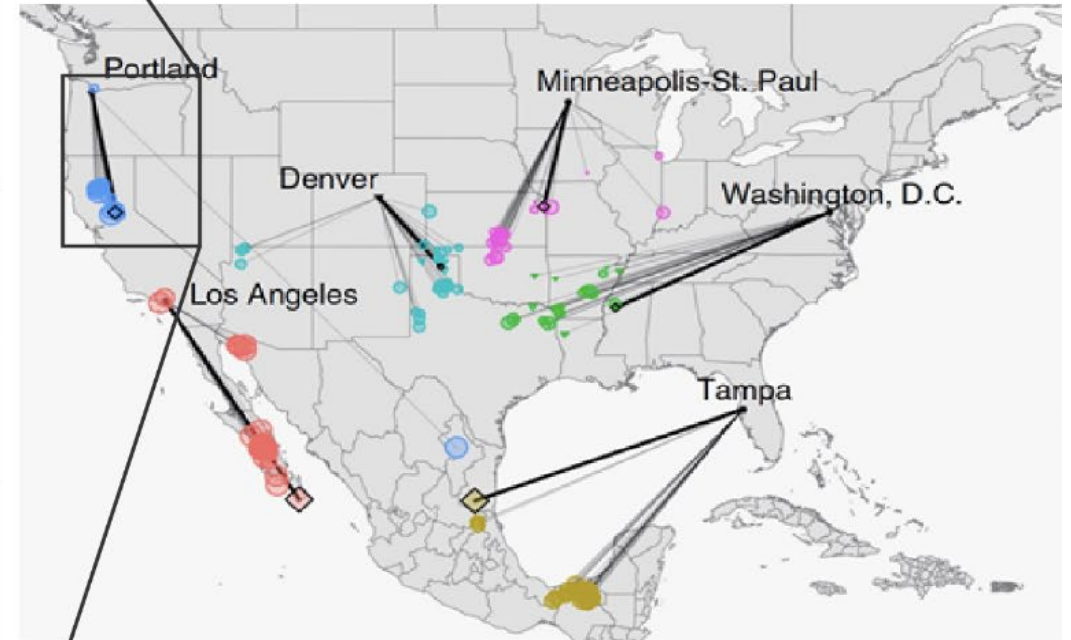
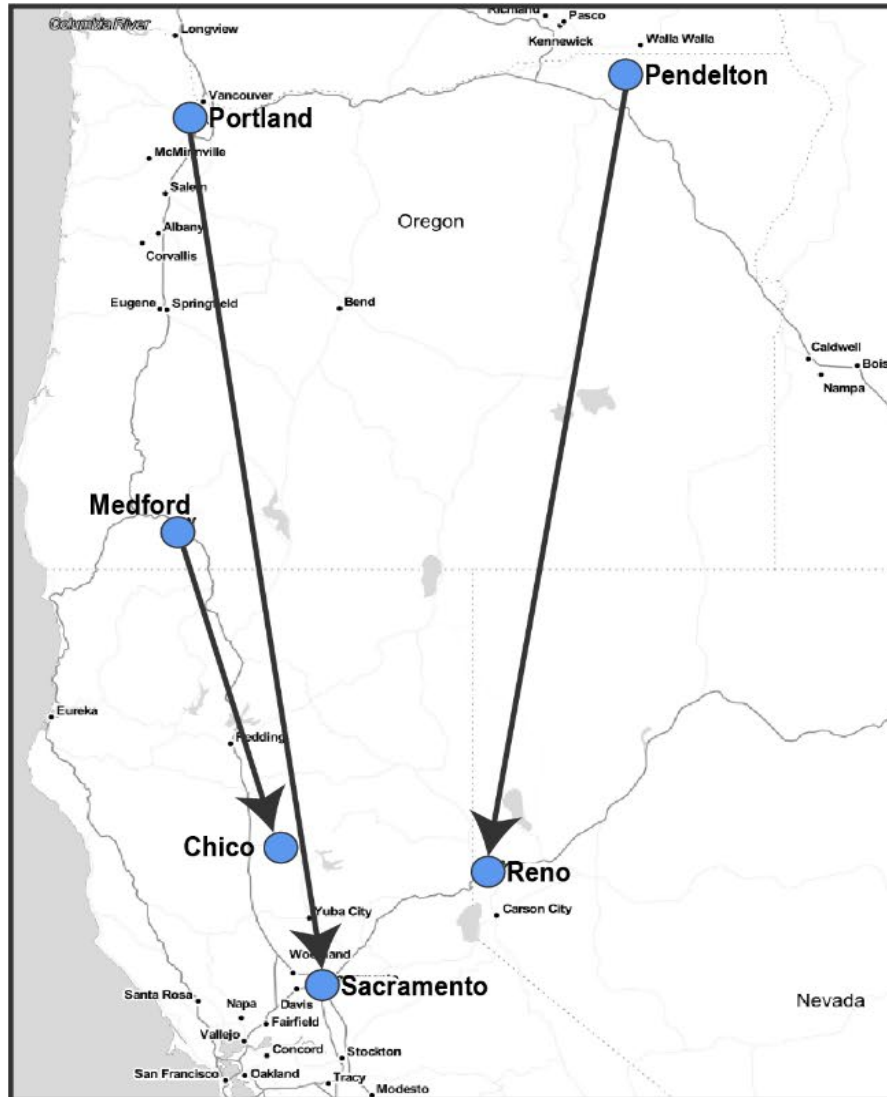
... to frame water management in a way that enables policy makers to discuss difficult but critical water issues.

This report represents the start of a conversation.

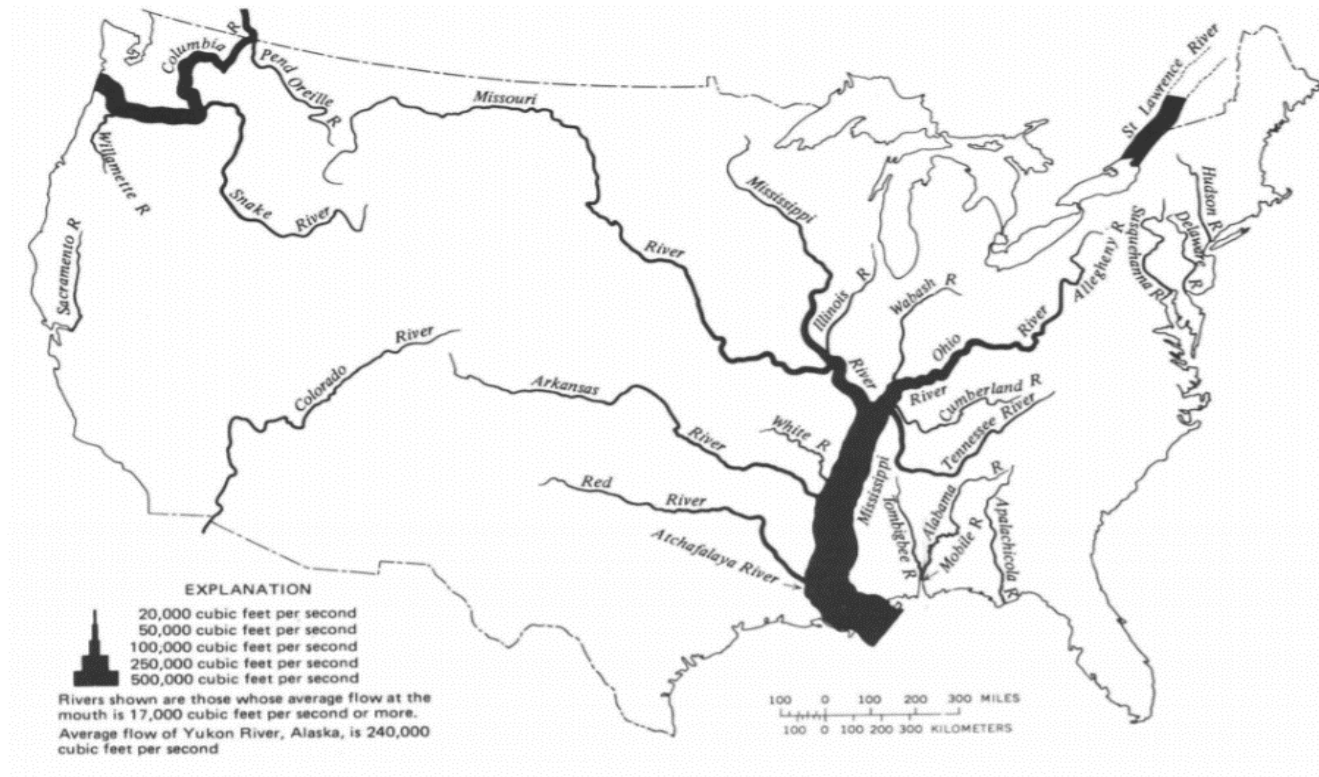
# Key Findings

- Despite some constraints, Oregon has a comparative strategic advantage in water resources.
- Over-allocation and seasonal variability are putting greater pressure on groundwater and surface water.
- Water services are increasingly costly for low-income/some rural customers.
- Current water data management system needs to be modernized.
- Water use permitting has been problematic, fueling adversarial conditions, inaction, and delay.
- Oregon water laws went through important adjustments 25 years ago
  - Significant reforms of Oregon water laws have not occurred since

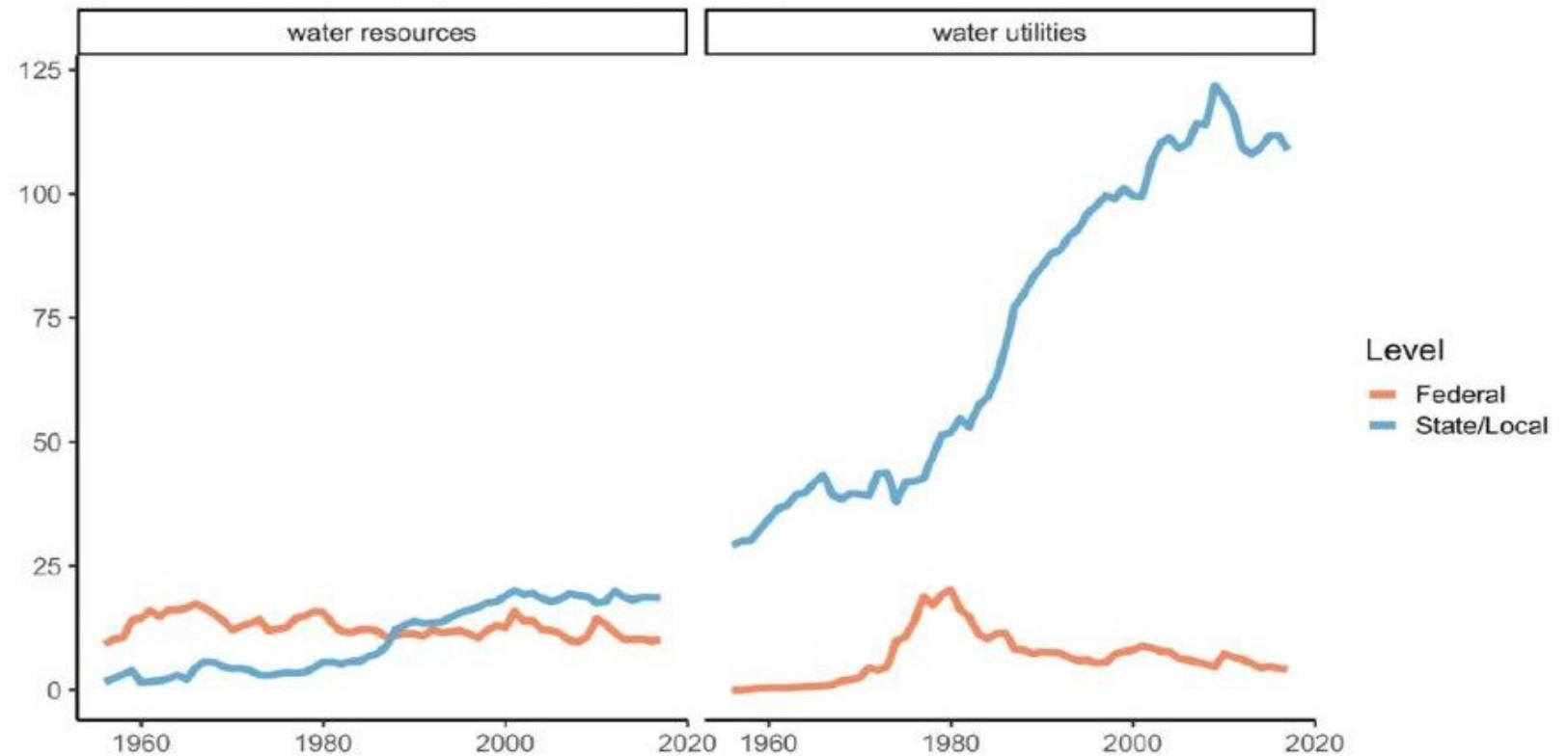
# What Climate Change Will Look Like



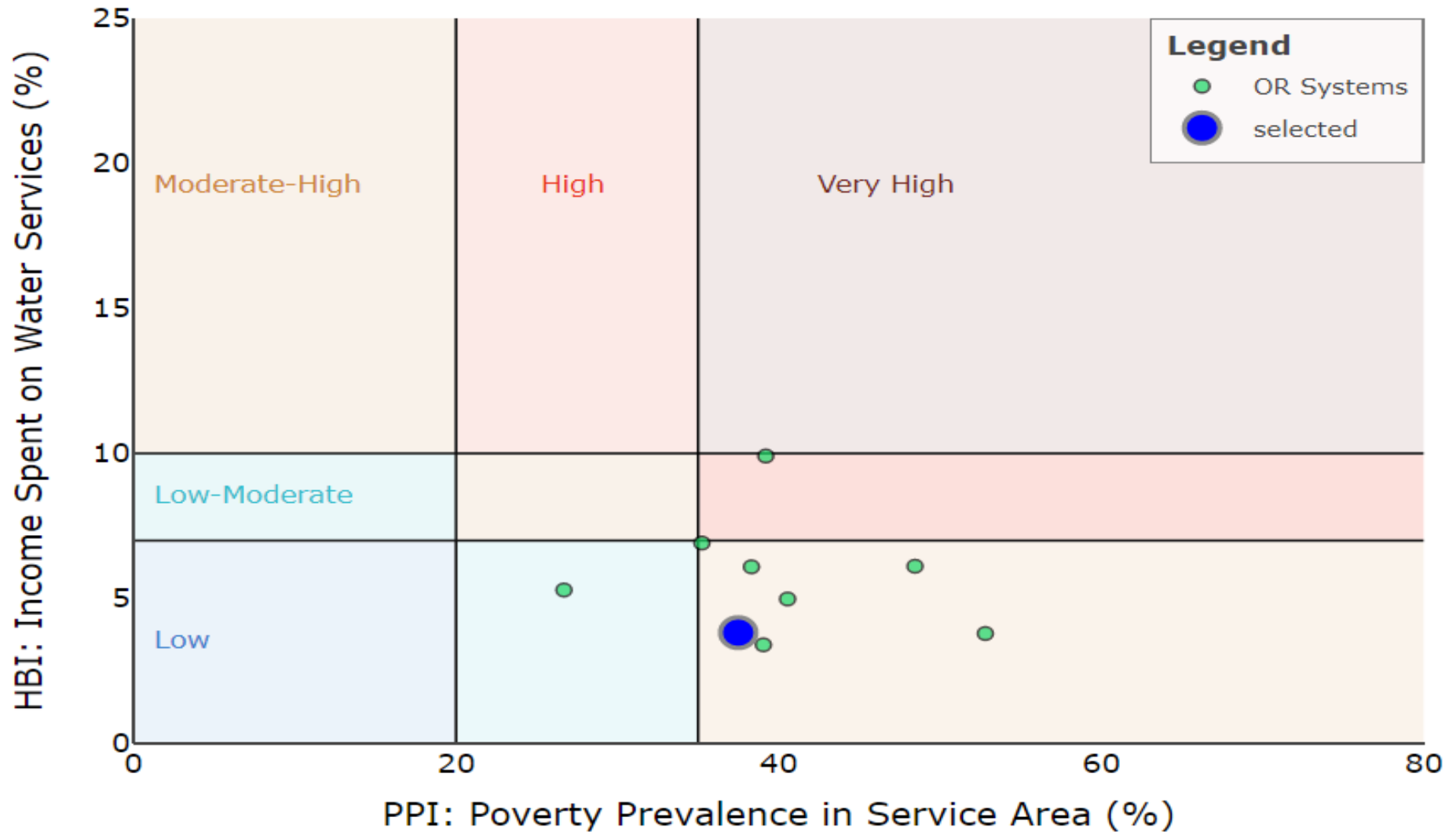
# Over Several Decades, Oregon's Water is Advantage



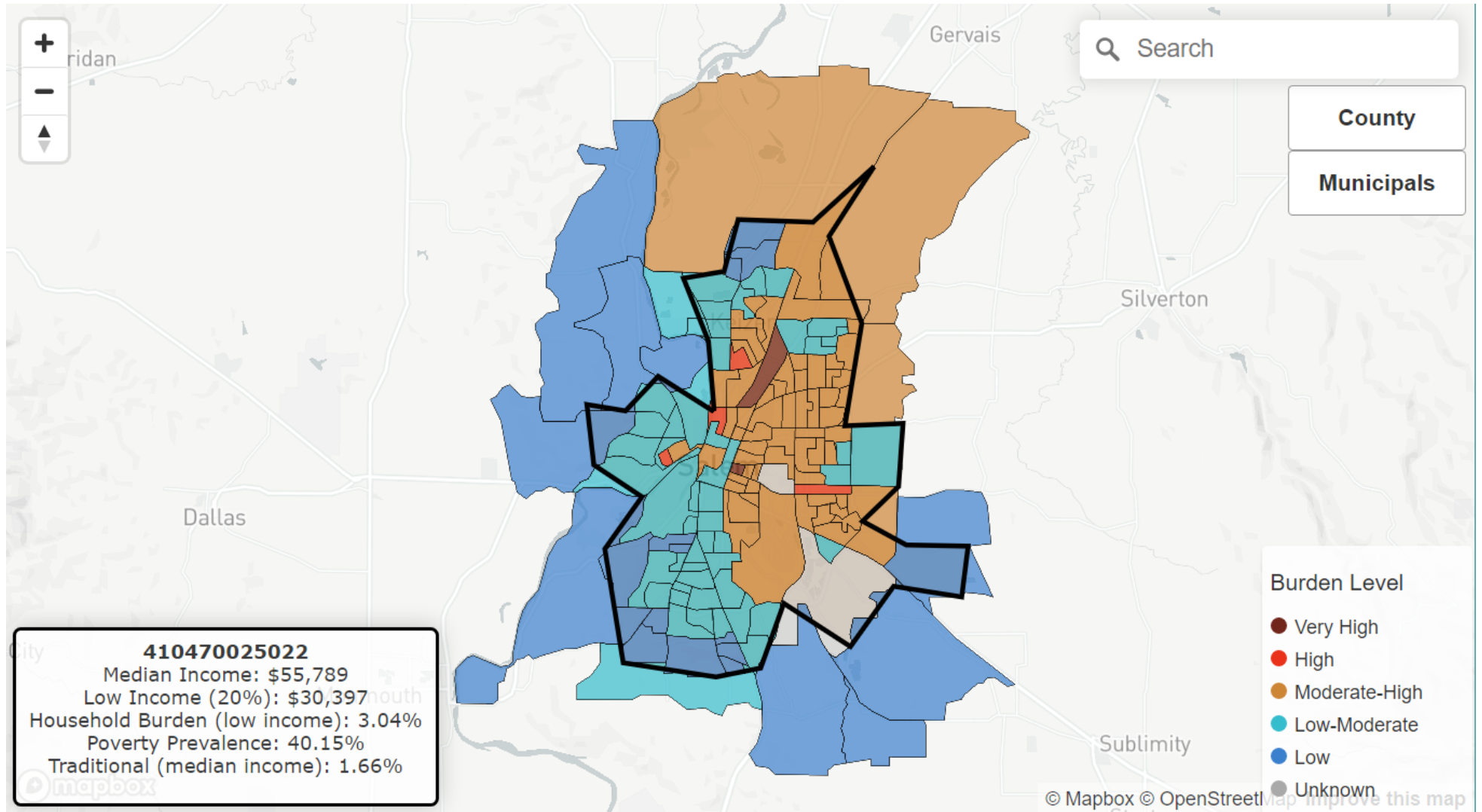
# Public Spending on Water Infrastructure: Federal Support Has Been, and Will Continue to be Small Compared to State/Local



# Affordability

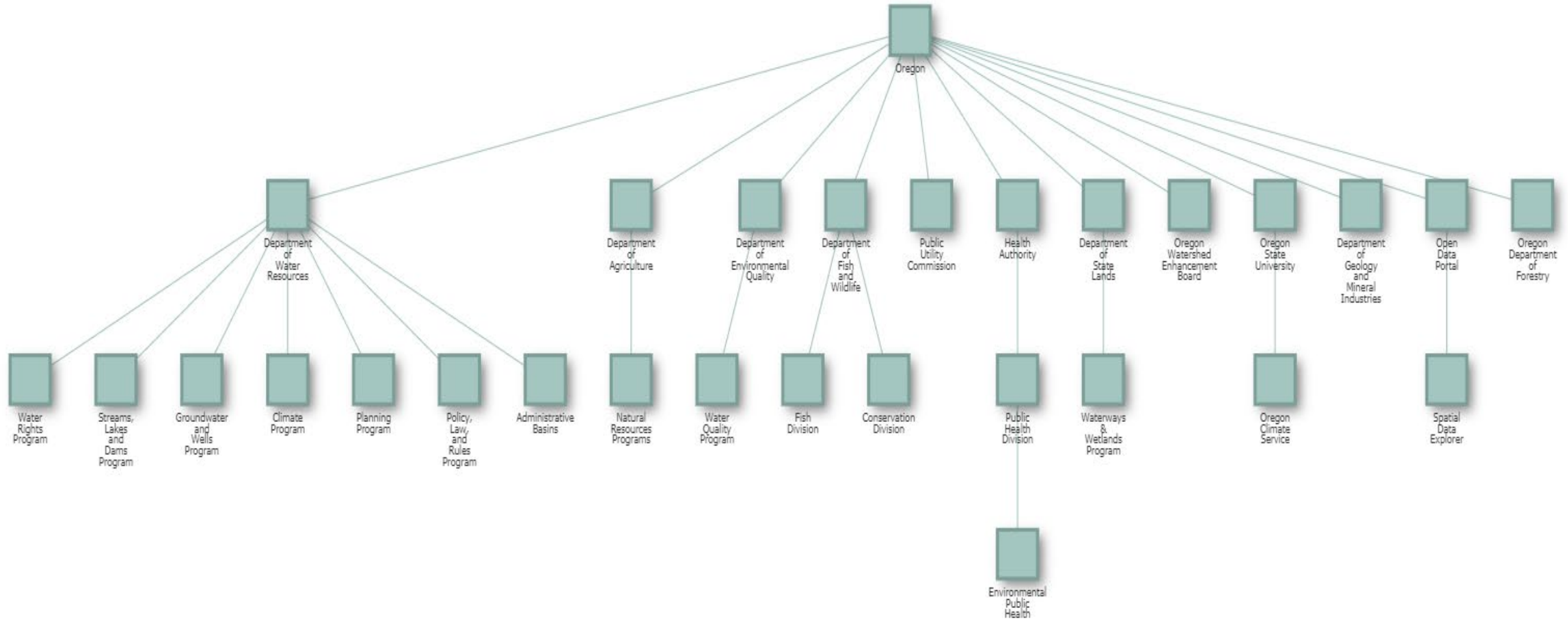


# Affordability: Salem





# Data Modernization Needed



# Permitting

Calendar Year	Applications Received for Water Permits of All Kinds		Final Orders Issued		Pending Applications at End of Calendar Year**		Permits Awaiting Final Certification
	Water Right Permits	Transfers	Water Right Permits	Transfers	Water Right Permits	Transfers	
2018	379	284	208	281	724	350	1,157
2019	222	244	375	260	571	302	1,197
2020	254	234	357	289	468	265	1,224

# Protests

Number of Protests Filed Per Time Period						
Protest type	In 2020	2018 – 2019	2016 - 20117	2011 - 2015	Prior to 2011	Total
Instream water right	0	0	15	0	61	76
Water right permit*	2	13	7	1	5	28
Transfers	4	4	1	0	0	9
Permit extensions of time	3	7	7	4	2	23
Other (protested cancellations)	0	1	0	0	0	1

\* Includes surface and groundwater

# What to Do? Timing Must Be Right

- COVID-19
- Wildfires
- Social and Political Unrest

# Next Steps

- Wait for Session to End, Vaccinations Take Effect
- Integrated Water Resources Strategy
- ARPA investments
- Make Water a Central Issue for '22 Gubernatorial and Legislative Elections

# Contact

John Audley: 971-203-3248 [john@jjaconsults.com](mailto:john@jjaconsults.com)

Report:

[https://orbusinesscouncil.org/docs/archive/FINAL\\_Water\\_Paper\\_4.13.pdf](https://orbusinesscouncil.org/docs/archive/FINAL_Water_Paper_4.13.pdf)