

California Agriculture Water Use



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- Questions;

Slide 3. How much total water does the state get in one year on average?

- How much water does agriculture need in a given year to feed us?

Slide 4. How much water does agriculture get in California from total water?

Slide 5. How much water does the environment get in California from total water?

Slide 6. How much water is captured for use in California?

Slide 7. How much captured water does agriculture get in California?

Slide 8. How much captured water does the environment get in California?

Slide 9. How is water for California agriculture portrayed?

Slide 10. How is water for California agriculture portrayed?

Slide 11. How should agriculture be portrayed in California?

Slide 12. How should agriculture be portrayed in California?

Slide 13. How should agriculture be portrayed in California?

Slide 14. How should agriculture be portrayed in California?

Slide 15. Some key statistics about California agriculture.

- Data sources are; the Public Policy Institute of California, DWR, and UC Merced.

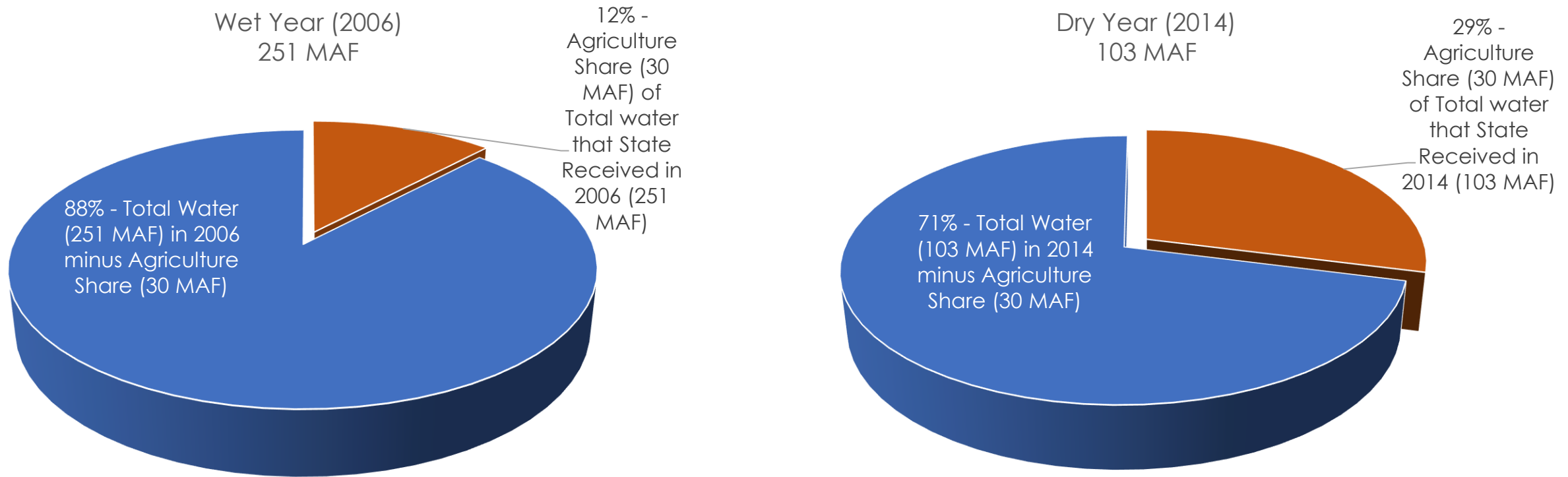
How much total water does the state get in one year on average?

- On average over many years – 200 Million Acre Feet (MAF). In wet years such as 2023, this number is significantly higher (e.



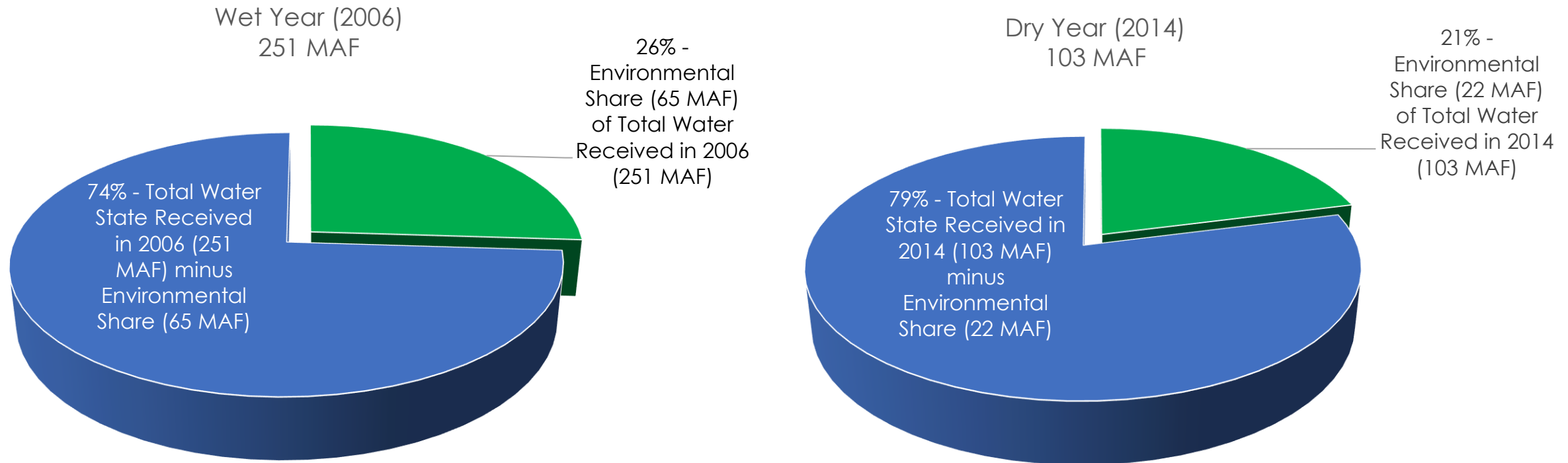
- How much does agriculture need in a given year to feed us; Approximately 43 MAF for 9.6 million irrigated acres (less now due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and droughts)

How much water does agriculture get in California from total water?



Note: The amount of water agriculture gets in a wet or dry year does not change (30 MAF). Agriculture only receives approximately three times the amount of domestic water use (9 MAF)

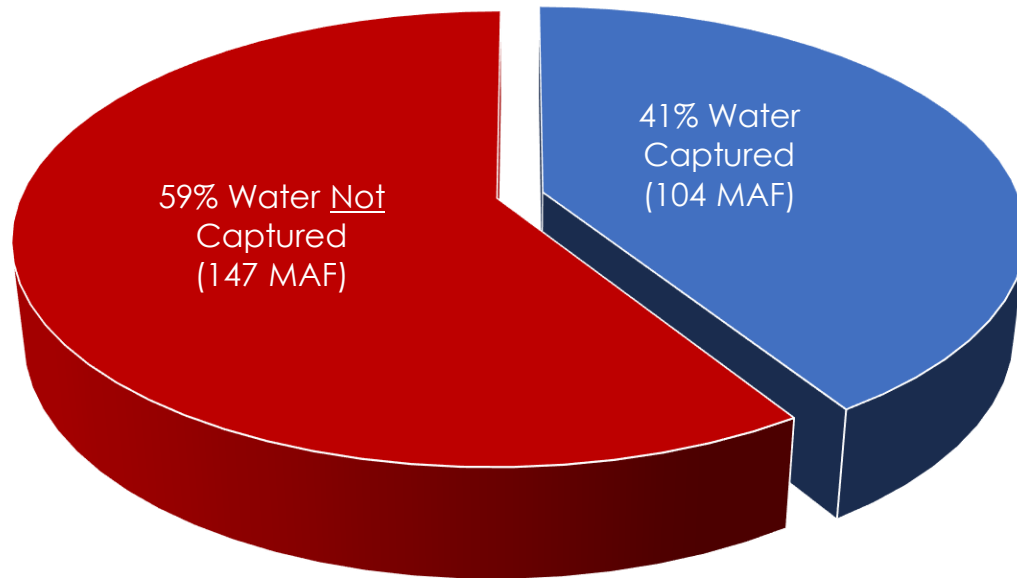
How much water does the environment get in California from total water?



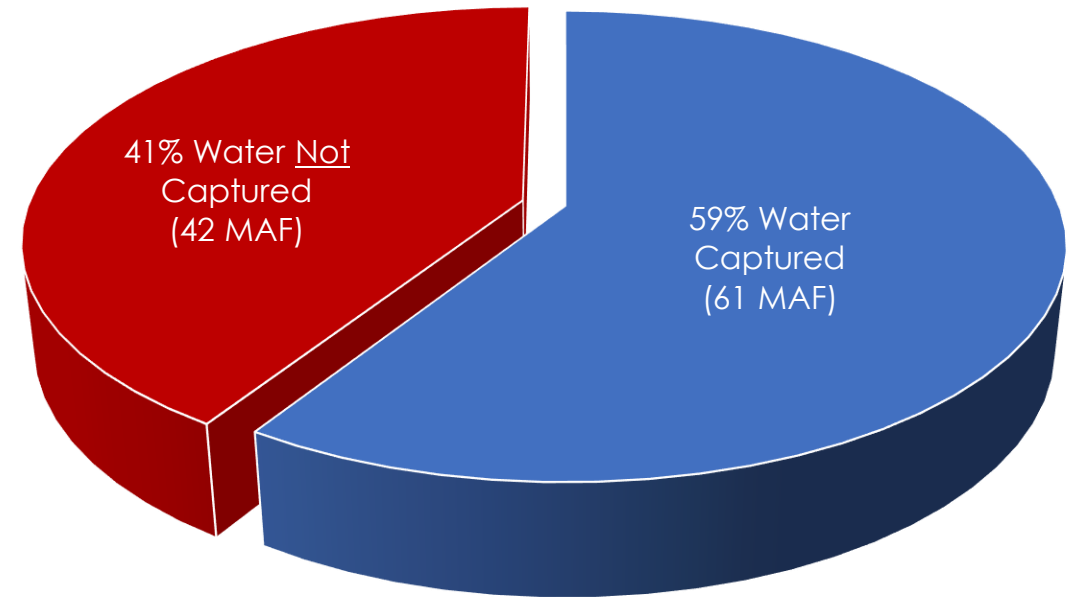
Note: In wet year (2006), environmental water was more than double the water for food production – recharge projects on fallowed agricultural lands can help reduce this gap.

How much water is captured for use in California?

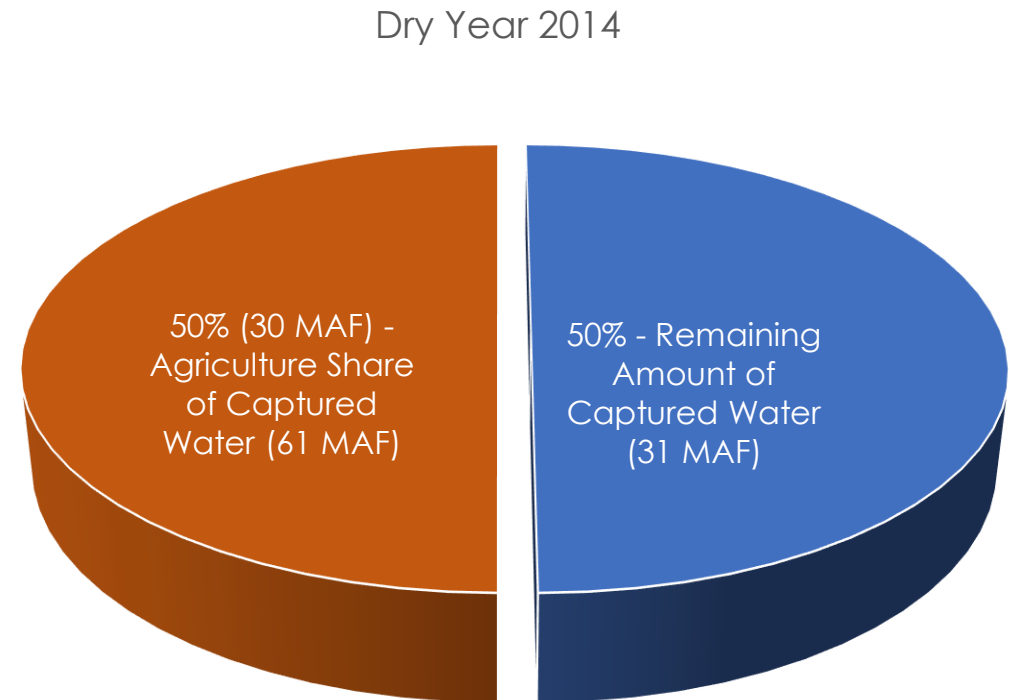
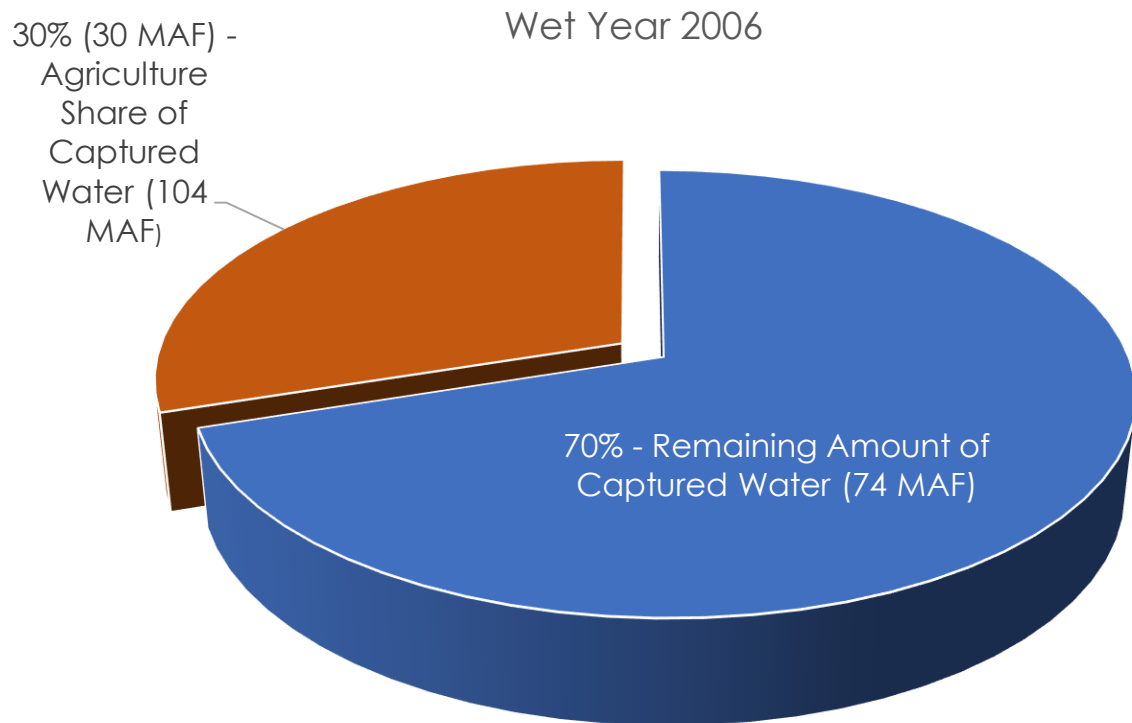
Captured Water - Wet Year (2006)



Captured Water - Dry Year 2014

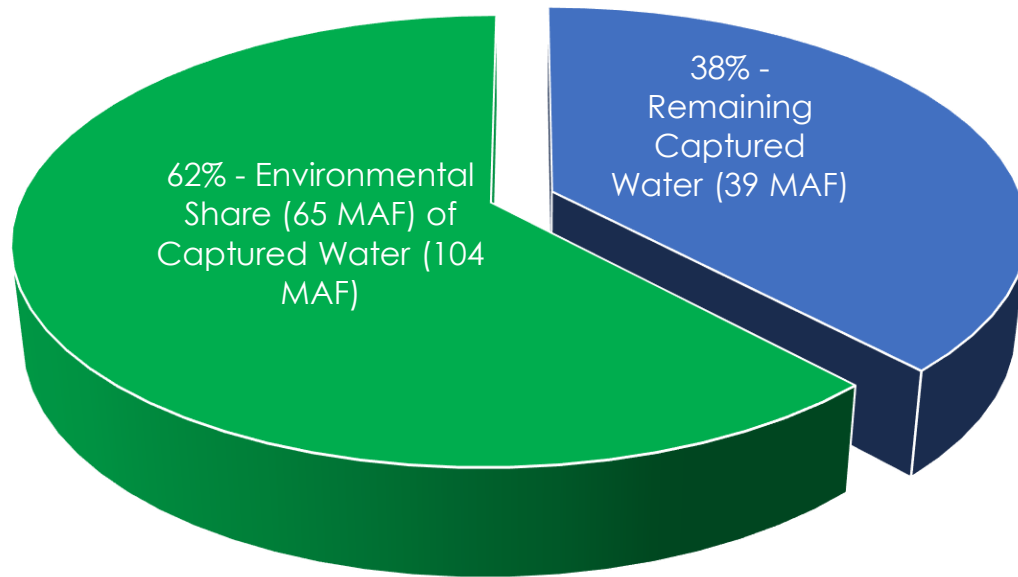


How much captured water does agriculture get in California?

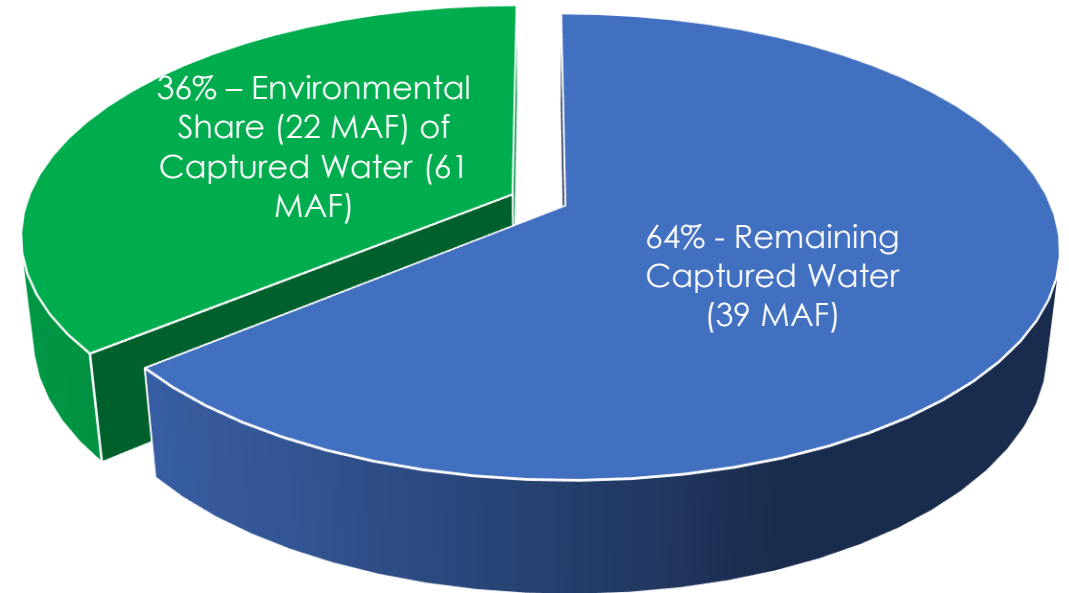


How much captured water does the environment get in California?

Wet Year 2006

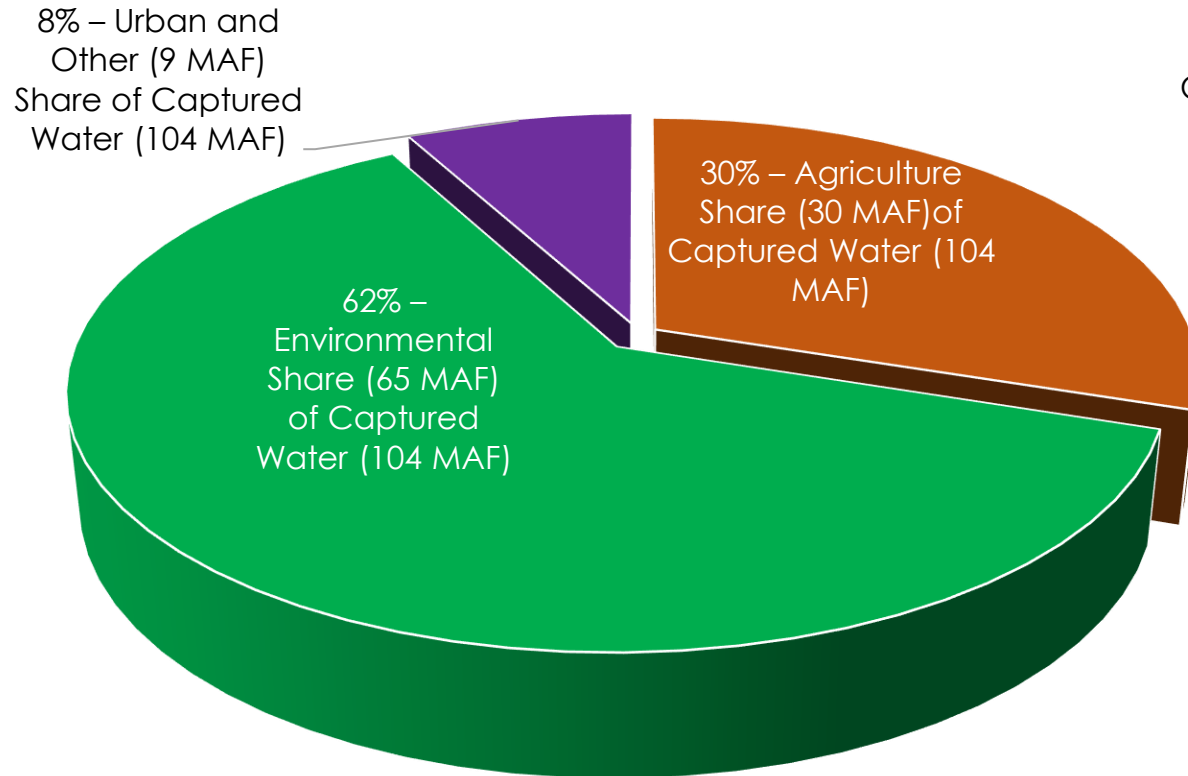


Dry Year 2014



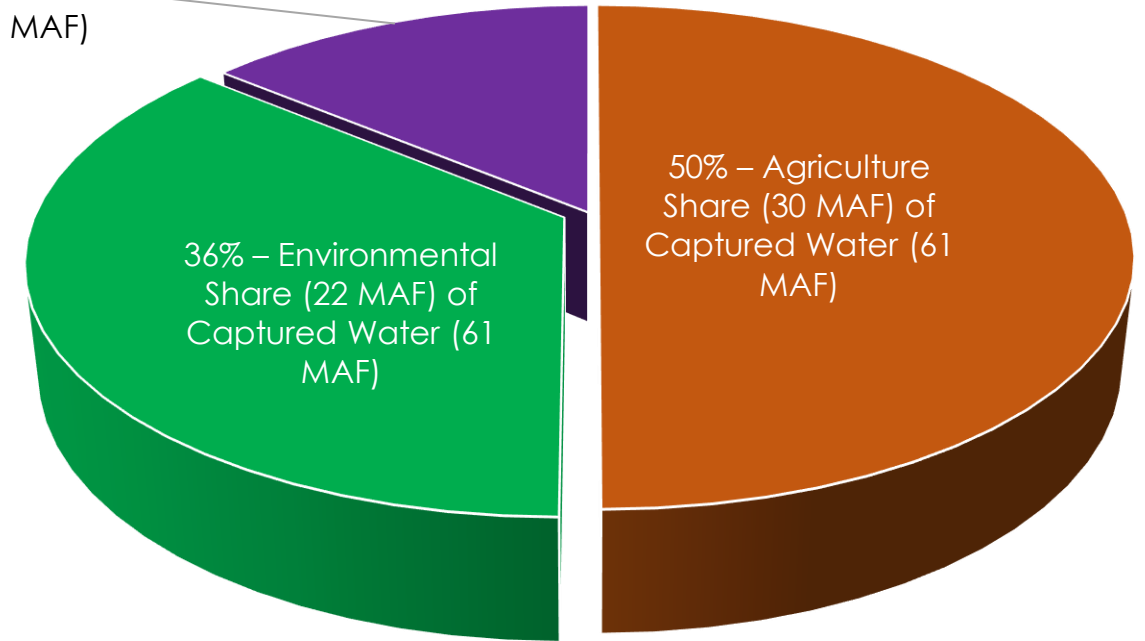
How is water for California agriculture portrayed? Captured Water only (not accounting for half of water that does not get captured)

Wet Year 2006



14% – Urban and Other Share (9 MAF) of Captured Water (61 MAF)

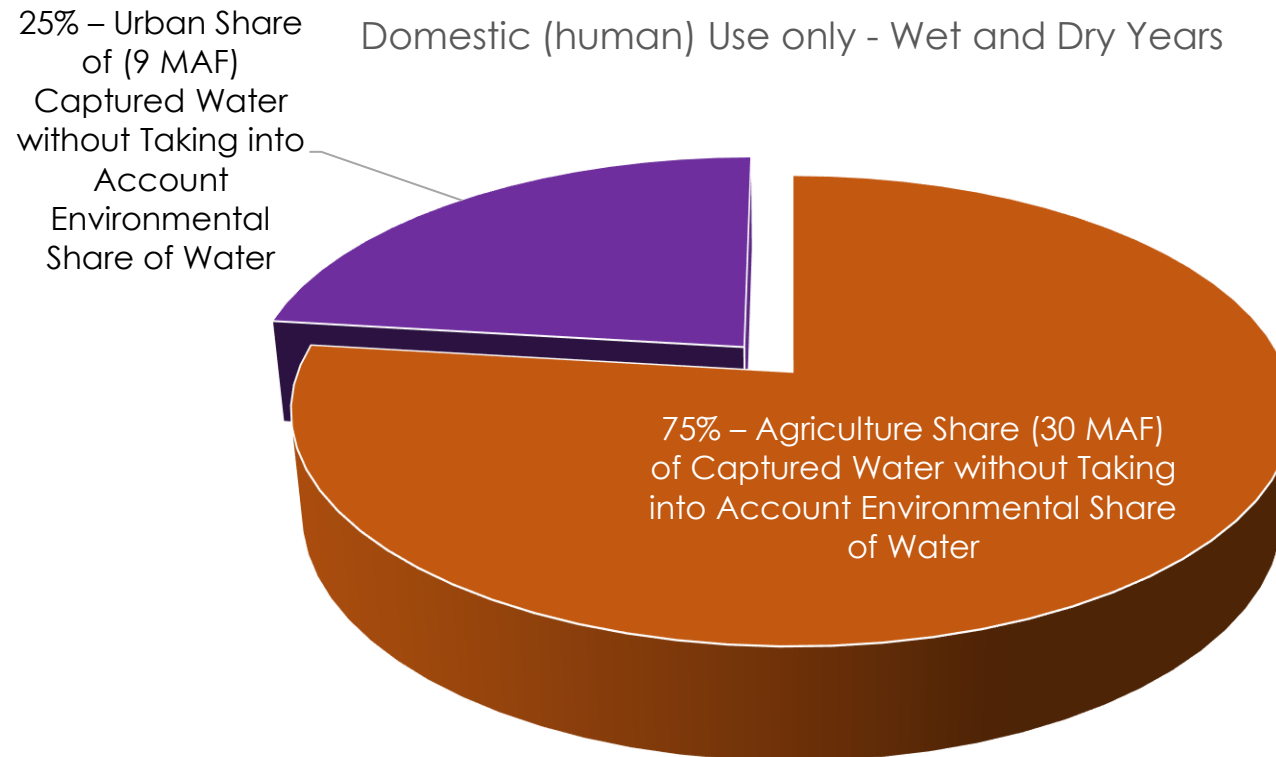
Dry Year 2014



Note: This data supports the citation by academic institutions that agriculture uses 30-50% of “domestic” (human use) water in California.

How is water for California agriculture portrayed?

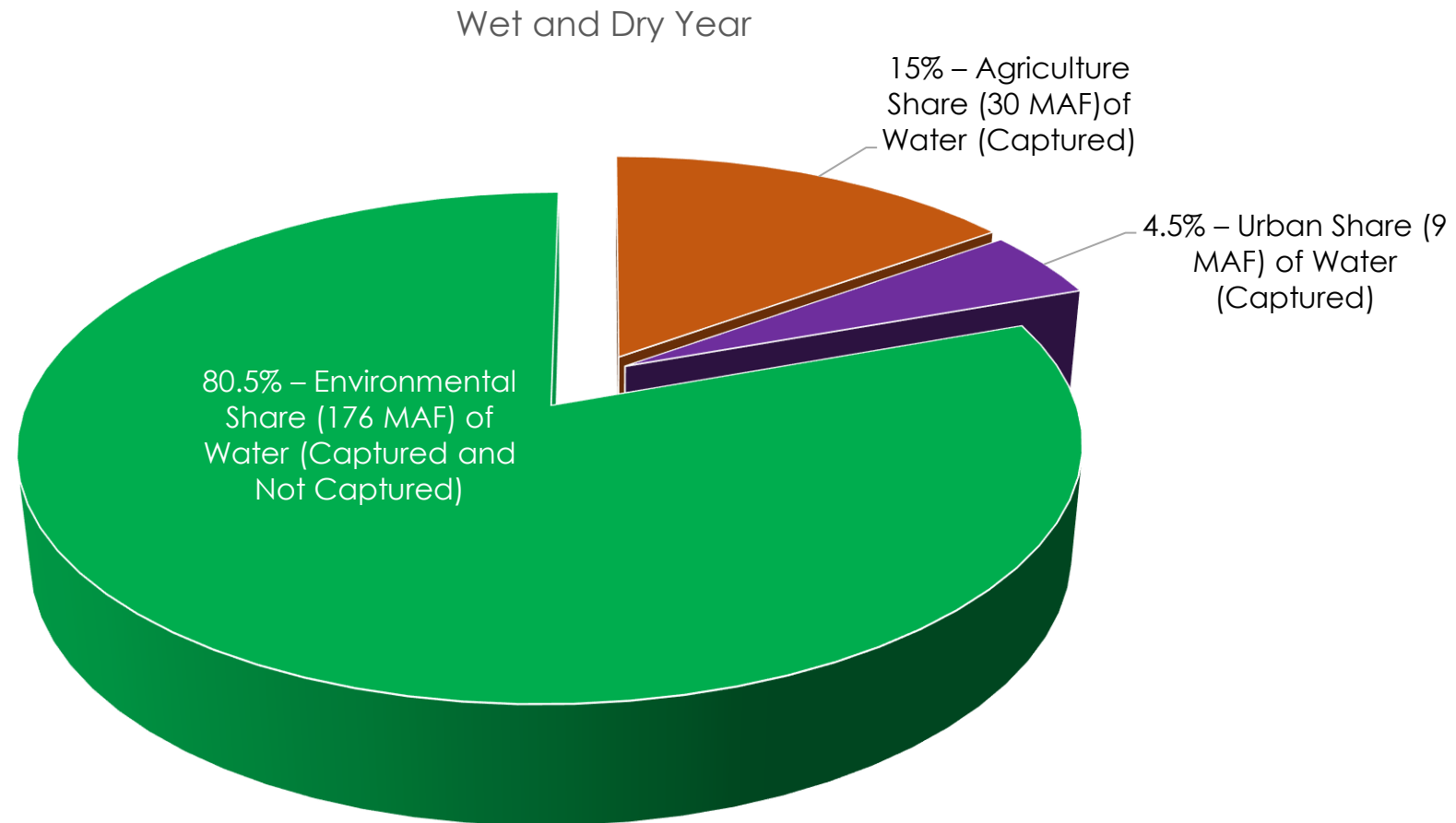
Agriculture uses 80% of the water statement. Based on Domestic use of Water. Ag and Urban only...no Environ Water. Incorrect use of data.



Note: This is a highly biased way to portray California agriculture and food production. California agriculture uses efficient irrigation in >50% of its 9 million plus irrigated acres.

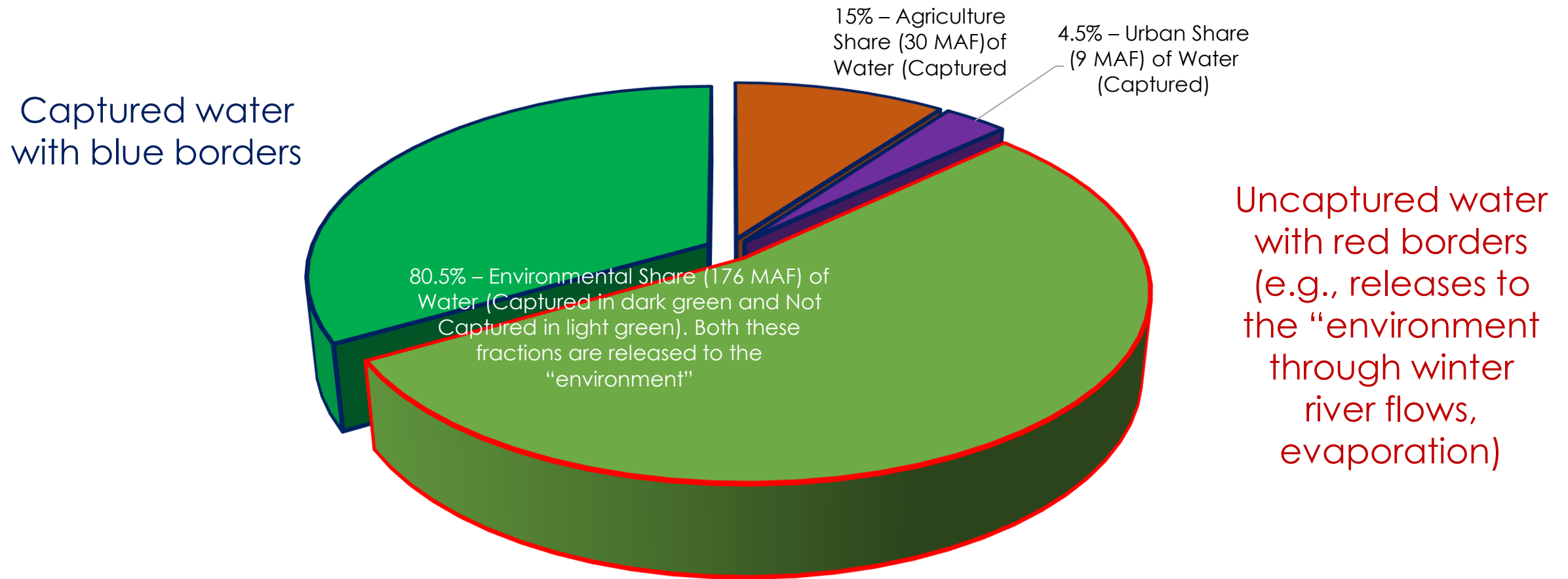
How should agriculture be portrayed in California?

Environmental Water includes the water that is not captured. Agriculture uses 15% of total water.

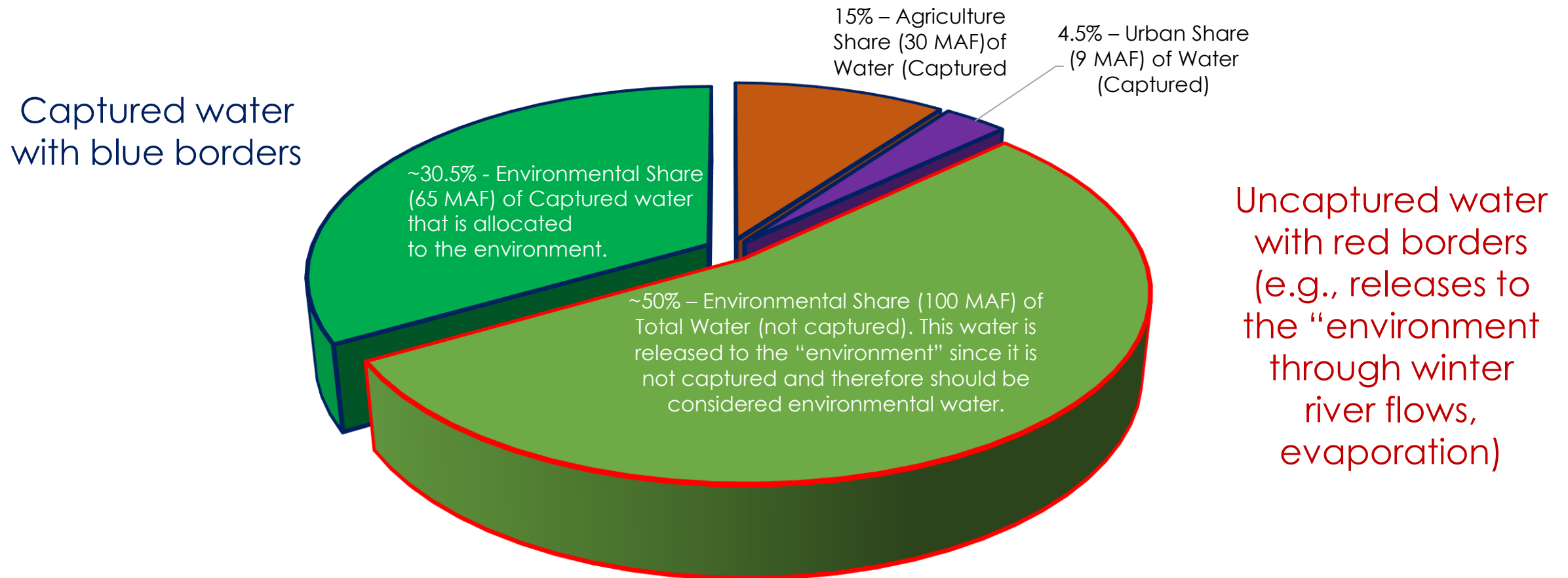


Note: The fact is that the environment (and not agriculture) gets 80% of the water in the state.

How should agriculture be portrayed in California agriculture? Environmental Water includes the water that is not captured.

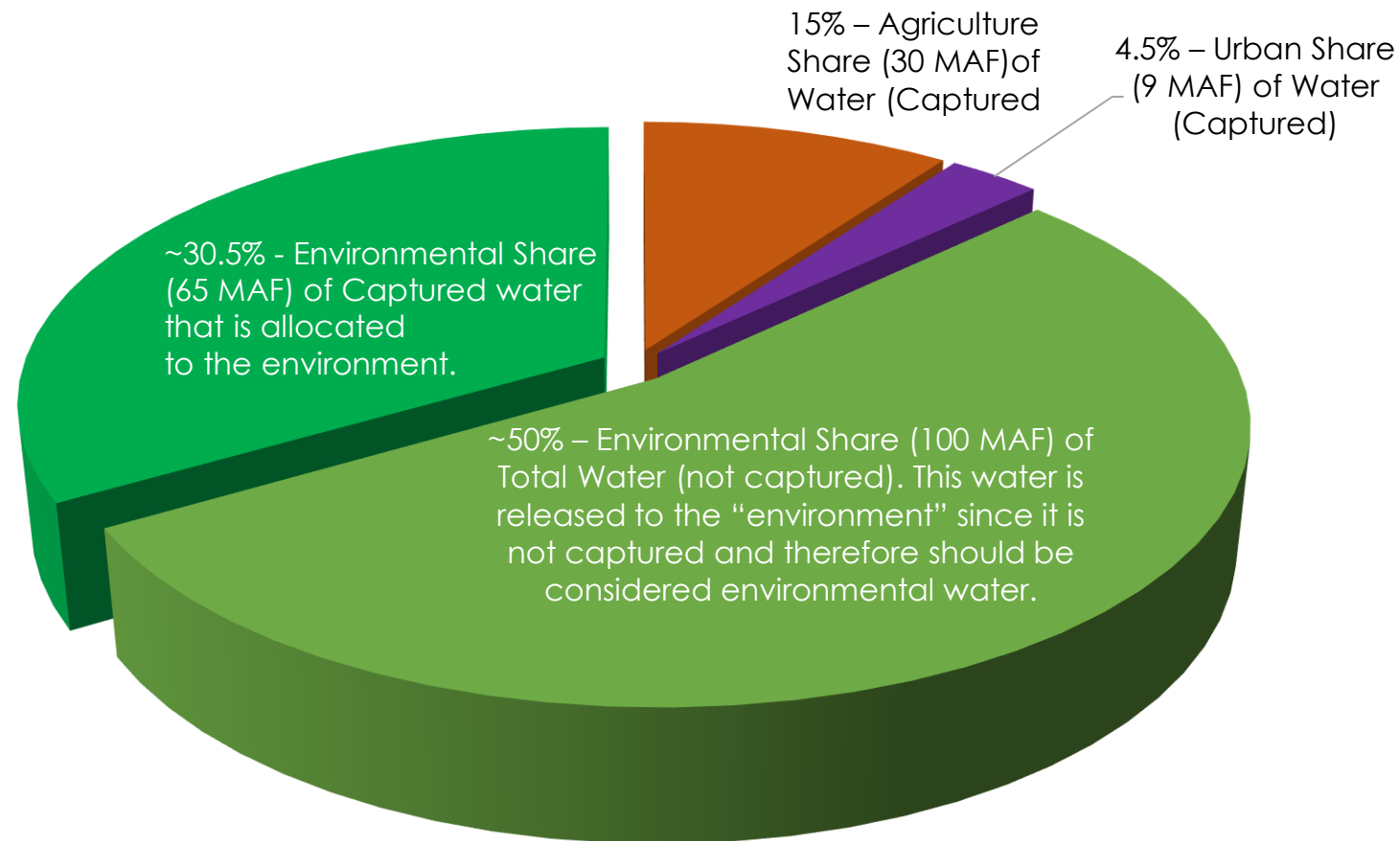


How should agriculture be portrayed in California agriculture? Environmental Water includes the water that is not captured.



Note: Same slide as slide 12 but with numbers broken down further for "environmental" water. Environmental water is 80% of all water the state receives on average.

How should agriculture be portrayed in California agriculture? Environmental Water includes the water that is not captured.



Note: Same slide as slides 12 and 13 with borders removed. Important to note that agriculture only uses just over three times the amount of urban water to feed the state and nation.

Key Statistics about California Agriculture

- Number 1 state in the nation for agriculture outputs ([\\$51.1 billion in cash receipts](#)).
- Water use is very efficient – more than half the acres use efficient technologies such as drip irrigation.
- Acres in efficient irrigation technologies have been steadily increasing over time while less efficient methods are declining.
- Total irrigated acres – approximately 9 million acres.
- Only uses just over three times the water used for urban use.
- California is one of five unique Mediterranean regions in the world (with no rain for six to eight months of the year).
- Produces high-value “[specialty crops](#)” including fruits, nuts, and lettuces.
- Many specialty crops not grown anywhere else in the country.
- Reputation for providing a safe, affordable, nutritious, diverse, and consistent food supply to California and the nation.

Get more ag stats on California Agriculture from [CalPoly](#).

For questions, please contact Amrith Gunasekara, PhD. agunasekara@cxbf.com