Impacts of the Drought on Water Quality

Mid-Central Water Quality Advisory Committee

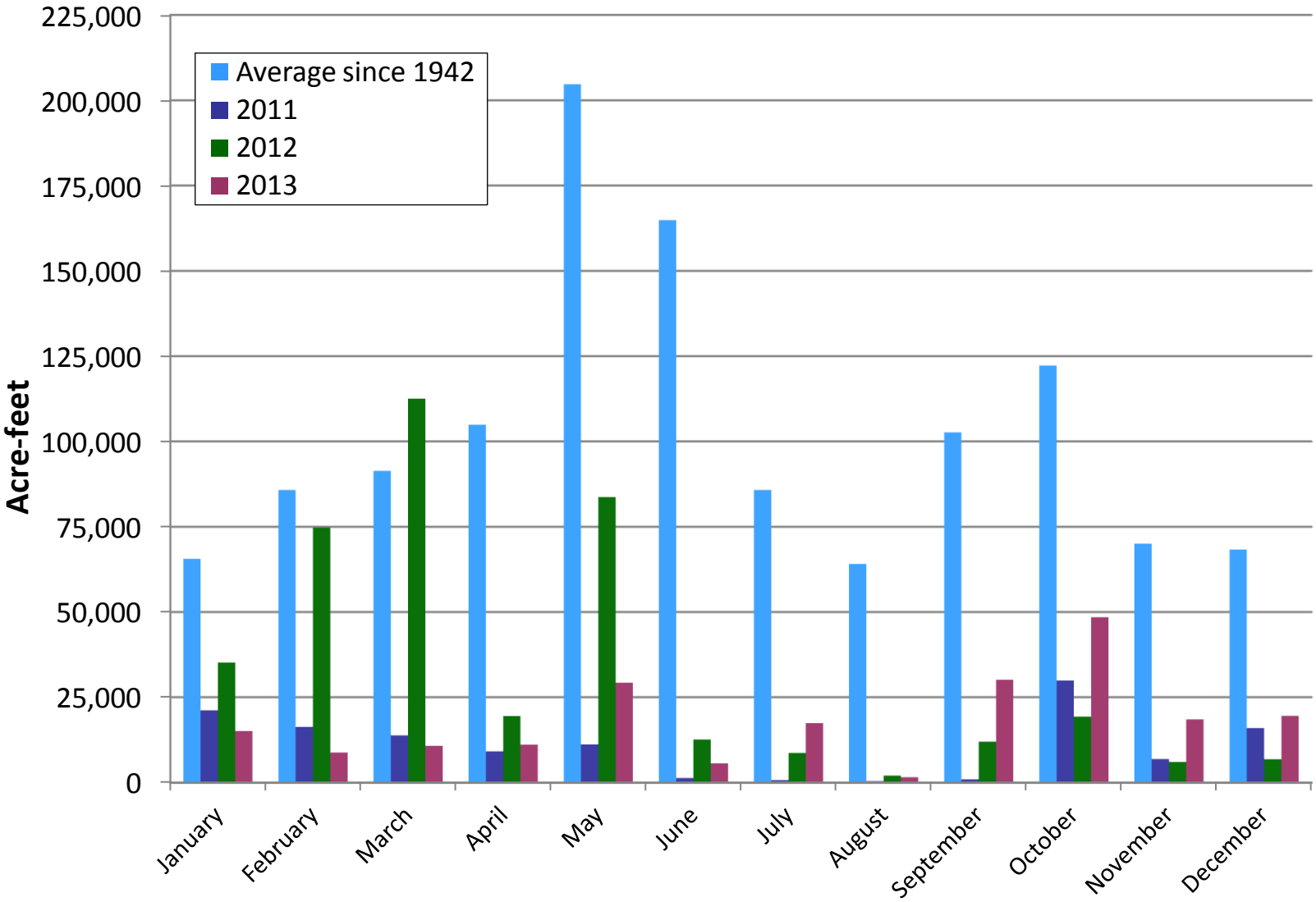
1/21/2014

Highland Lakes' tributaries

Brady Creek

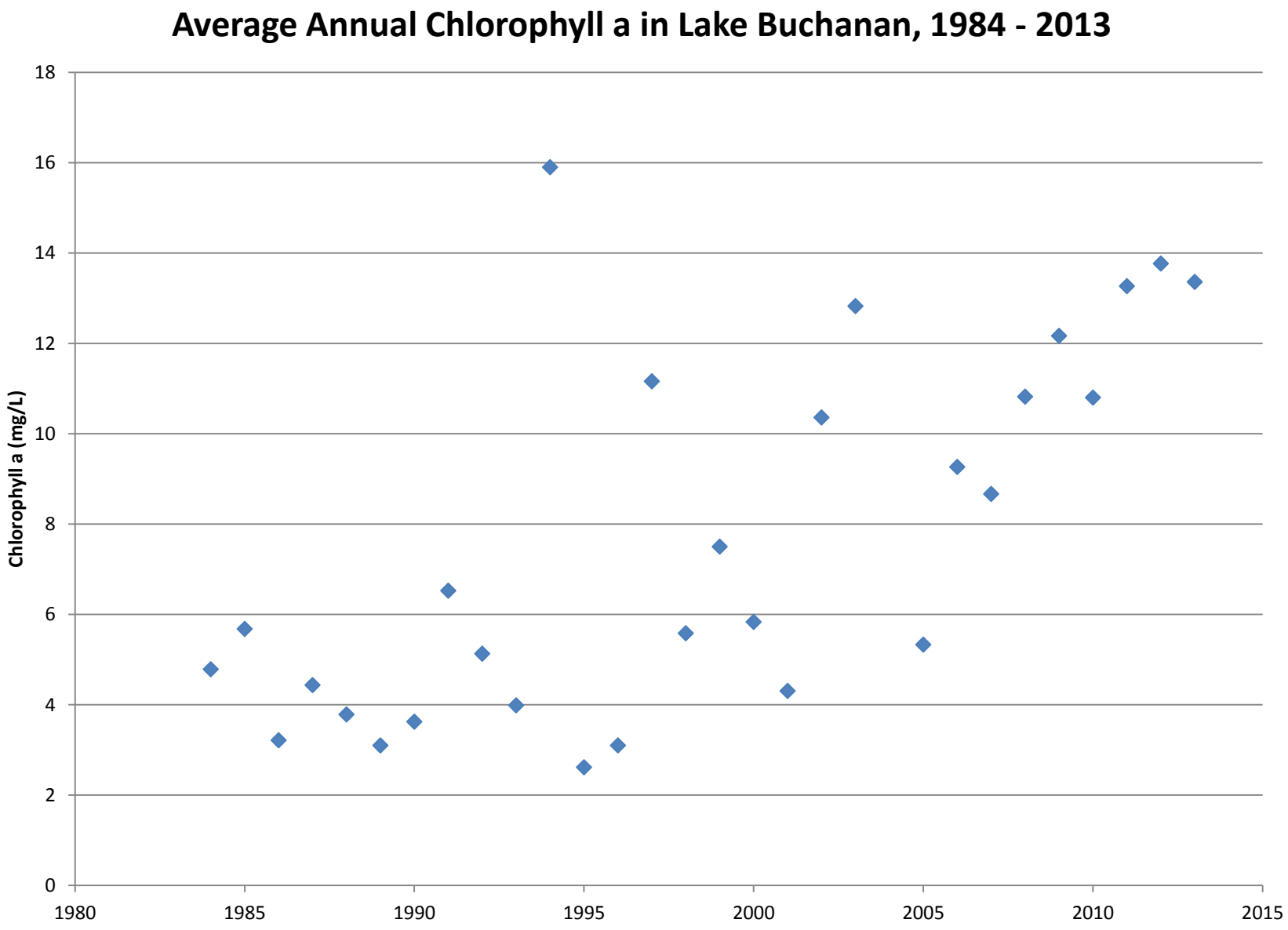
Colorado River

Water flowing into the Highland Lakes

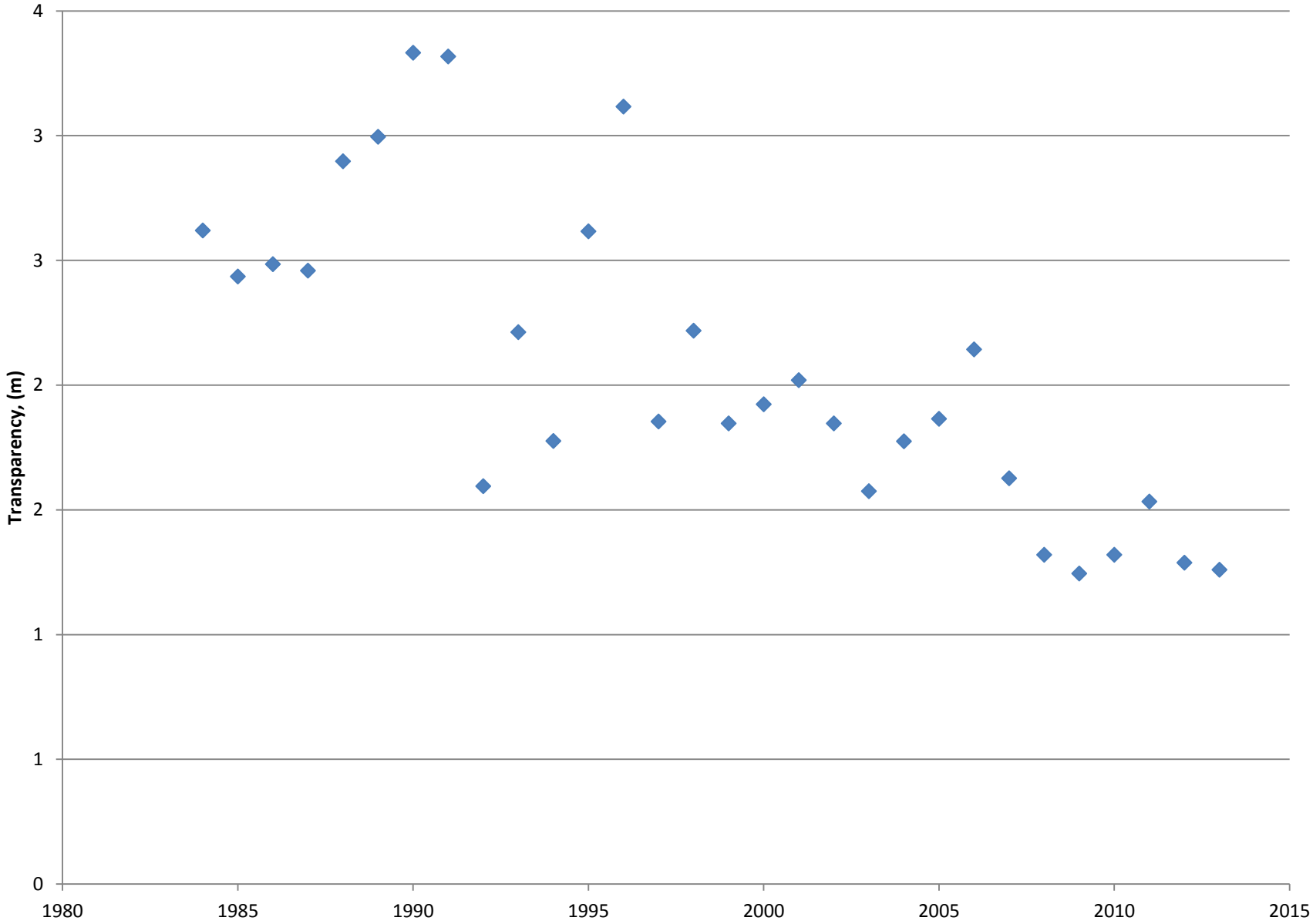


Colorado River

Lake Buchanan

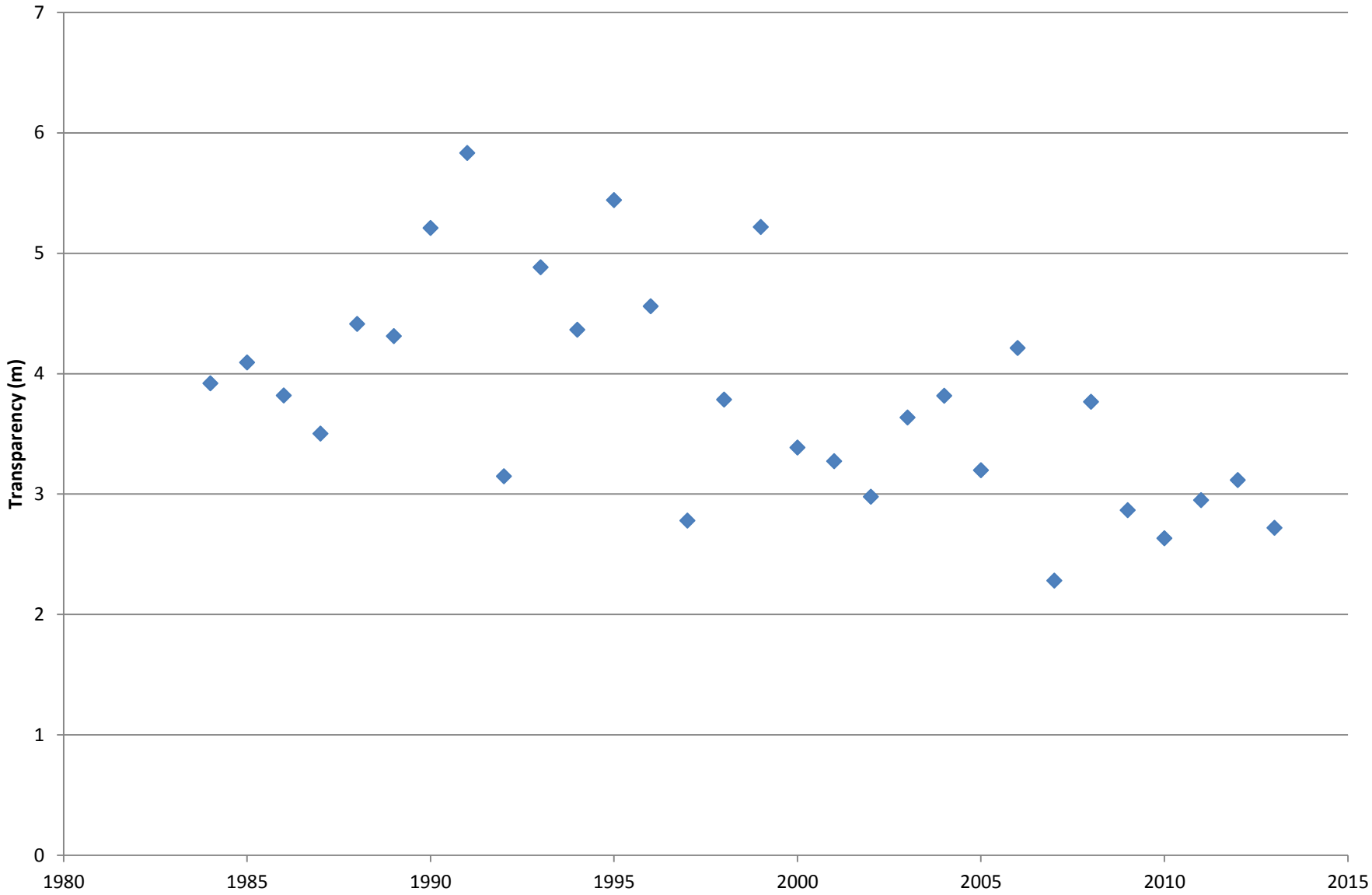

Average Annual Chlorophyll a in Lake Buchanan, 1984 - 2013
Chlorophyll a (mg/L)
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015

Average Annual Transparency in Lake Buchanan, 1984 - 2013



Lake Travis

Average Annual Transparency in Lake Travis, 1984 - 2013



The drought's impact on the lakes and rivers

Milfoil in Lake LBJ

A messy nuisance

Downstream of Austin

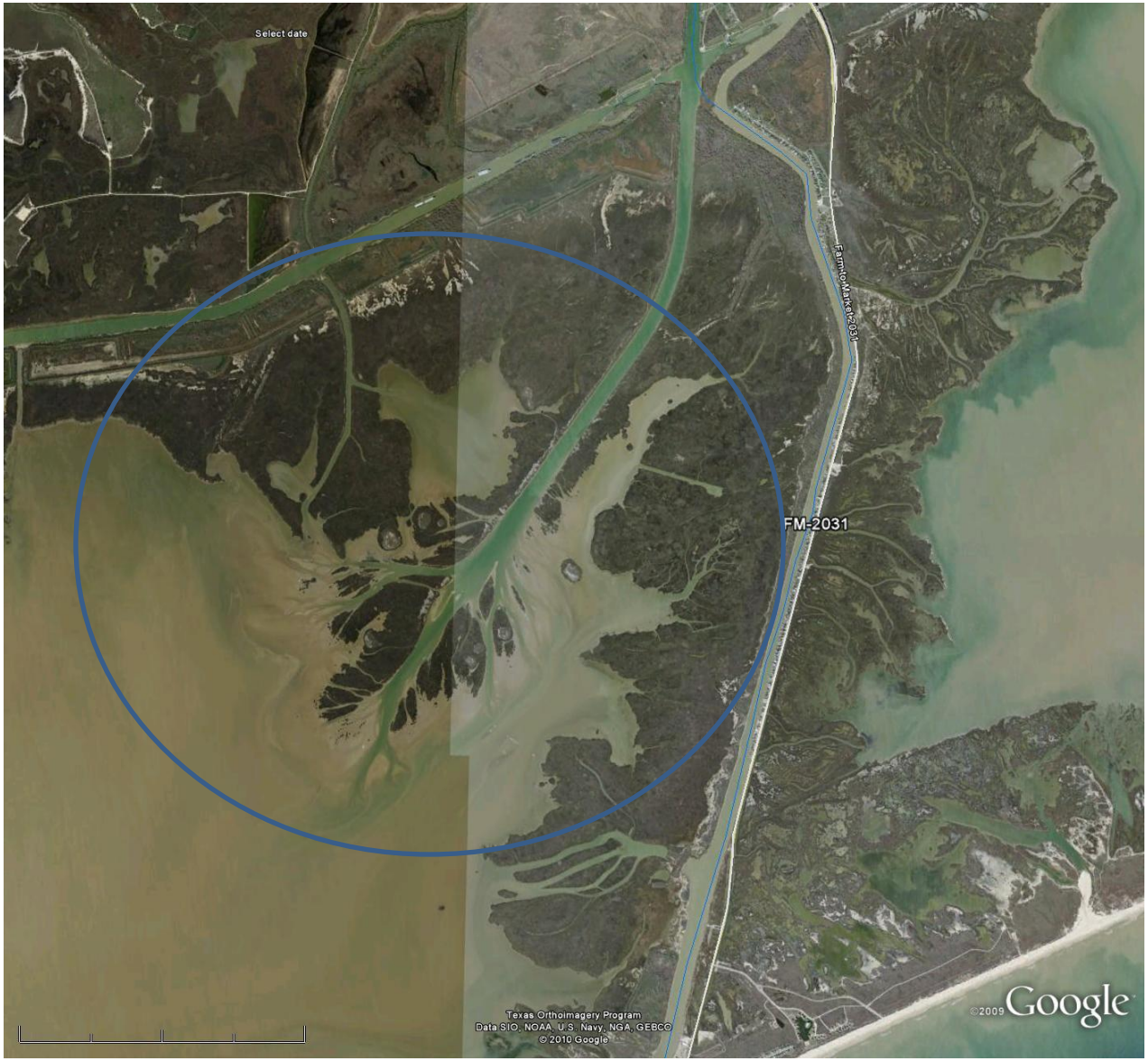
Rampant water weeds

Summer 2013

Critical Flow Refuge

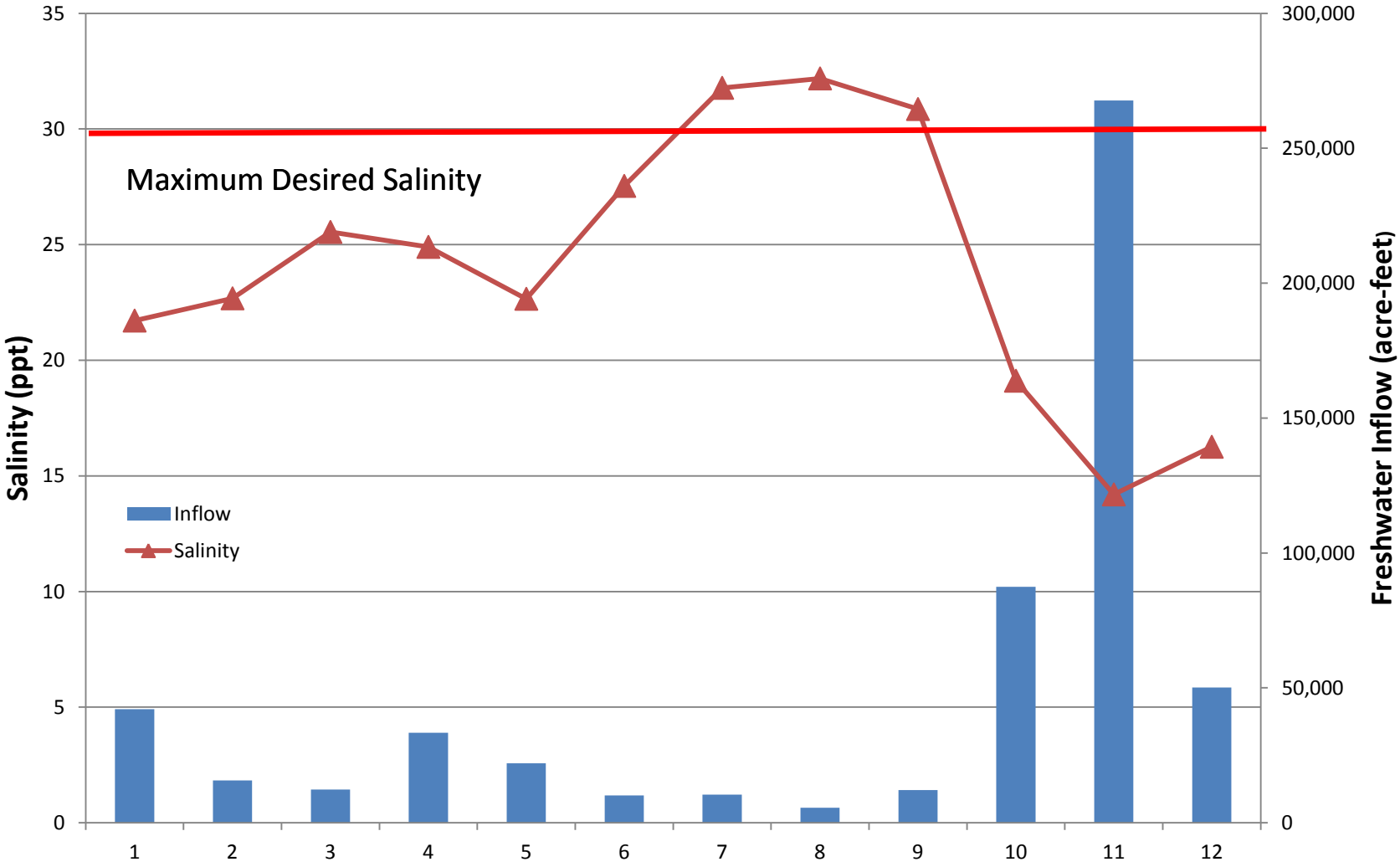
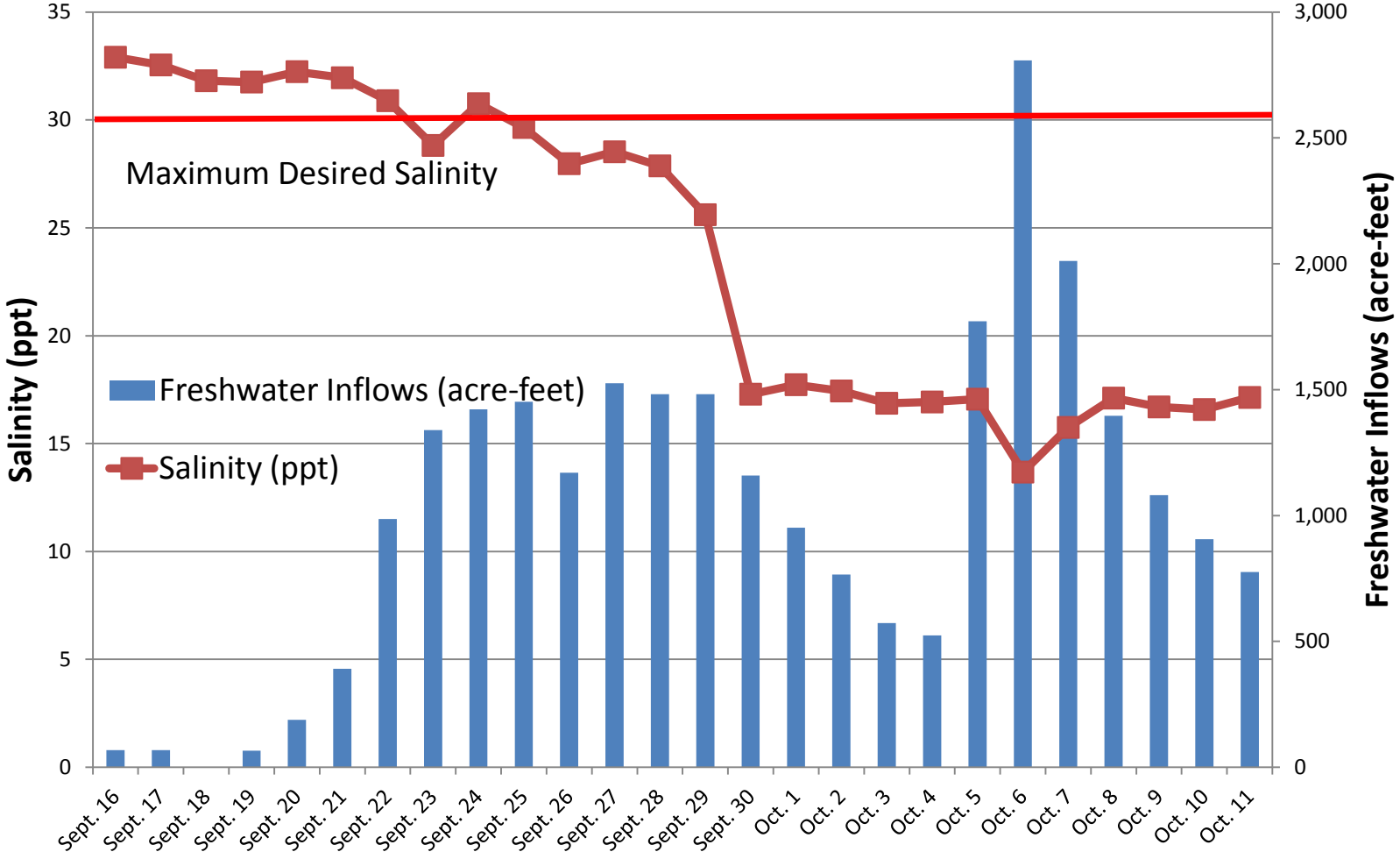
Goal of the critical flow is to maintain low-salinity area near the mouth of the Colorado River

Provides some habitat for all species, which is very important for oysters



Habitat

Monthly Colorado River Delta Salinity and Freshwater Inflows into Matagorda Bay, 2013



Daily Colorado River Delta Salinity and Freshwater Inflows into Matagorda Bay, Sept. 16 – Oct. 11, 2013