Identifying, Quantifying and Tracking Microbial Contaminants, Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Order to Protect Food and Water Supplies

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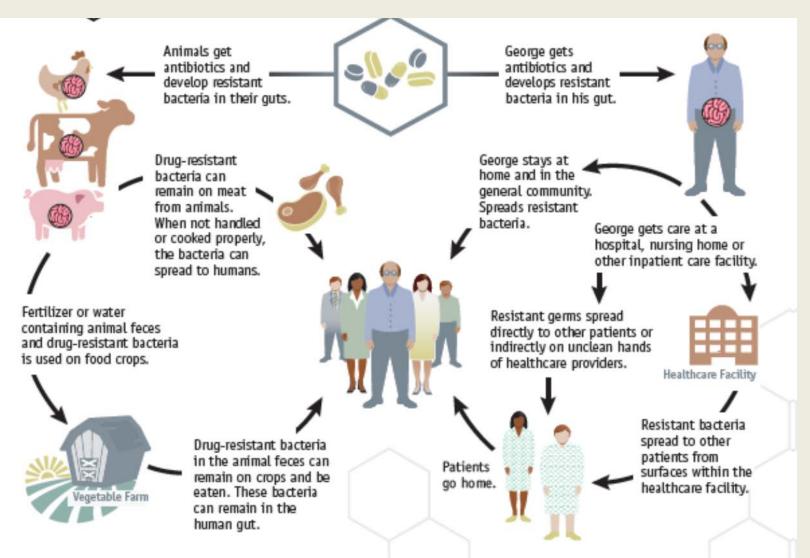
### Antibiotic Resistance and Public Health

- In the United States each year (according to the CDC):
  - 2 million people are infected with Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (ARB).
  - At least 23,000 die from the resulting infections.
  - Most infections occur in the community, while most deaths occur in healthcare facilities.
- The use of antibiotics is the most important factor leading to ARB around the world (CDC).
  - ARB arise naturally, but misuse speeds up the process.
  - Up to 50% of antibiotics are not optimally prescribed (CDC).
  - In some US states, the number of prescribed antibiotic treatments exceeds the population (Gross, 2013; Ventola, 2016).

### **ARB Occurs in Pristine Soils**



## **ARB Increases with Antibiotic Use**

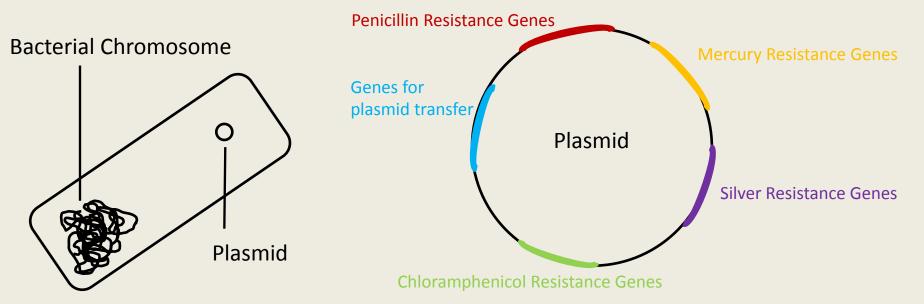


Simply using antibiotics creates resistance. These drugs should only be used to treat infections.

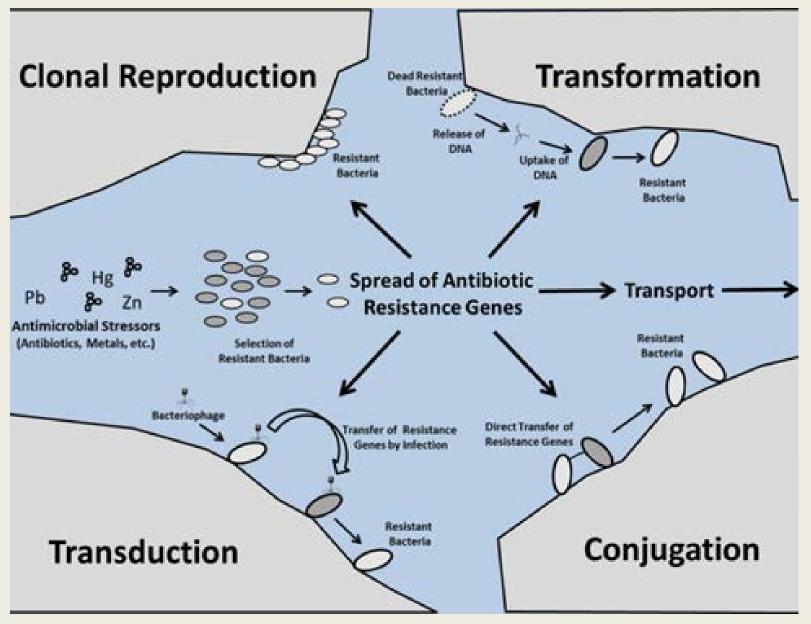
From: www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/about.html

## **Environmental Stressors and ARB**

- ARB arise naturally due to stressors in the environment
  - Antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) are often found on plasmids.
  - These plasmids contain resistance genes to antibiotics, heavy metals, and other pollutants that allow bacteria to survive.
  - The presence of one of these stressors can ensure the survival and dissemination of all the other resistance genes on the plasmid through Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT).

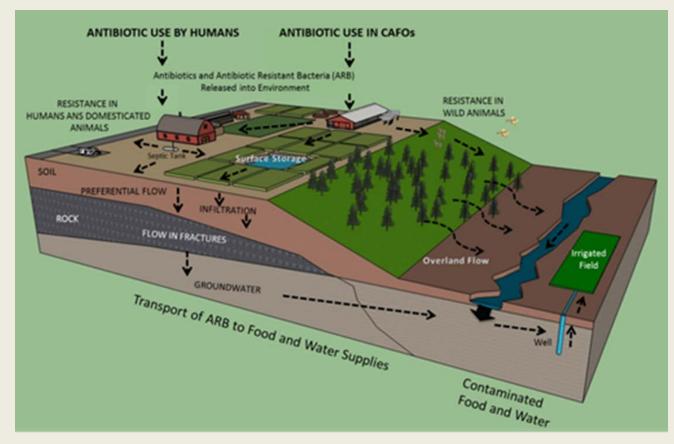


### Modes of Antibiotic Gene Transfer



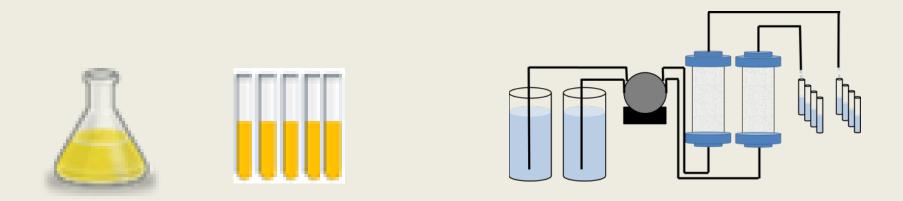
### **Environmental Fate of ARB**

- Factors that influence retention and release of ARB in the nature:
  - Water chemistry, flow velocity, surface properties of bacteria



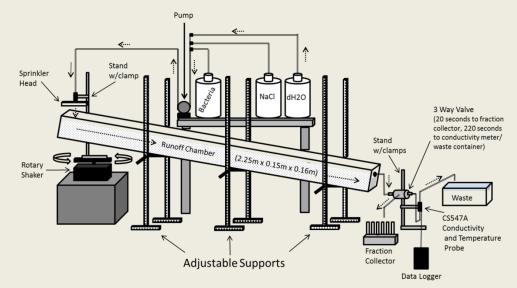
- What role does HGT play in the spread of ARB/ARGs in nature?
- Under what physiochemical conditions does HGT occur in nature?

## **Batch and Column Experiments**



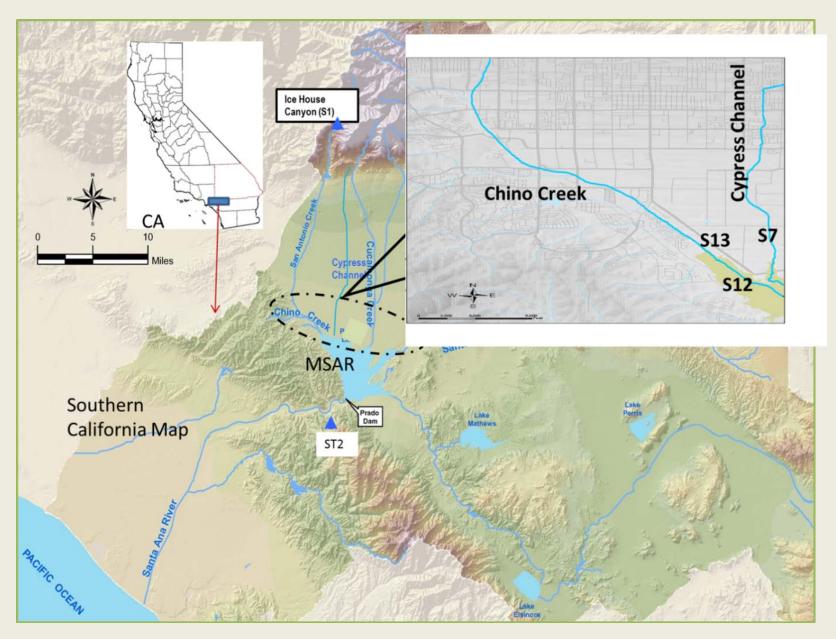
- Goal: Mechanistically study and model the transport, retention, and release of ARB and ARGs.
- Method: Idealized batch and column systems with fluorescent bacteria and selected antibiotic and metal resistant plasmids.
- Outcome: Model and identify environmental stressors and physicochemical conditions required for HGT and transport of ARB.

### **Runoff Chamber Experiments**



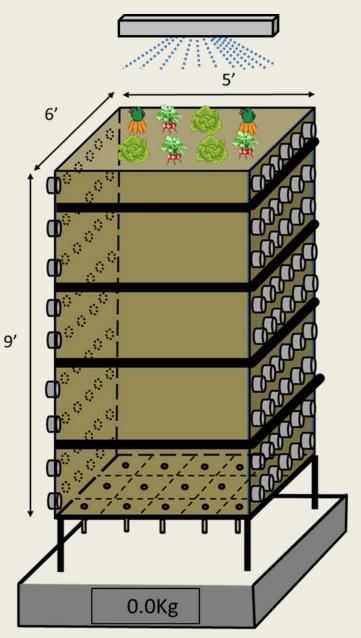
- Goal: Investigate factors that influence the development, spread and mitigation of ARB, ARGs, and pathogenic *E. coli* and *Salmonella* in sediment/runoff water from the Santa Ana River watershed.
- Method: Natural sediment and microbial communities spiked with stressors and pathogens in runoff chamber.
- Outcome: Modeling and isolation/identification/quantification of environmental pathogenic bacteria and ARGs.

#### Sample Locations - Runoff Chamber



### Lysimeter Experiments

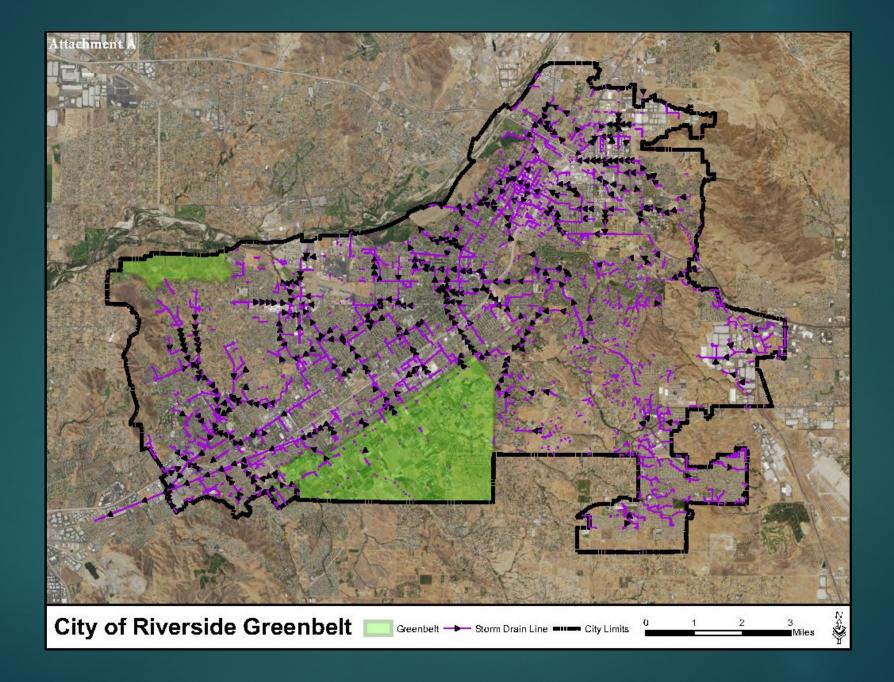
- Goal: Investigate the influence of environmental stressors on the development, spread, and mitigation of ARB and ARGs in the root zone
- Method: Crops in unsaturated soil with *in situ* and injected microbes and stressors
- Outcome: Modeling and Identification of HGT in the root zone and uptake of ARB in plants



## Summary

- Antibiotic resistance is a growing problem around the world.
- The physiochemical factors that lead to the spread of ARB via HGT in the environment are not well studied.
  - Batch and column experiments will reveal which physiochemical factors most influence HGT.
  - Runoff chamber experiments will reveal the most common ARB and ARGs in the Santa Ana River watershed.
  - Lysimeter experiments will reveal under what physiochemical conditions HGT occurs in the root zone and possible uptake by plants.

# Tier 2 Source Investigation in the Arlington Greenbelt







## Summer, 2015 Sampling Program



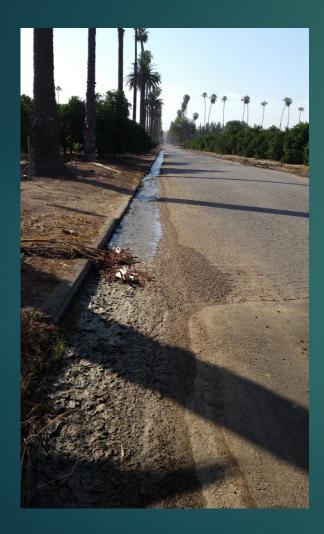
## Summer, 2015 Sampling Program

Table 3-4 Samples Collected During Dry Weather 2015											
Sampling Agency	Station Name	Sample Date	Sample Time	Flow (cfs)	Notes						
District	MonroeAg01	5/27/2015	11:55 AM	0.03	•	Bubbles forming at surface					
District	MonroeAg01	6/2/2015	7:20 AM	0.025	F	Excessive leaf litter upstream of sampling location					
District	MonroeAg01	6/8/2015	7:25 AM	0.043		Excessive leaf litter upstream of sampling location					
District	MonroeAg01	6/16/2015	9:00 AM	0	-	No flowing water from any direction, all inlets were dry					
District	MonroeAg01	6/23/2015	8:40 AM	0	•	All inlets are dry flow of water (south to north) along Monroe that stops about 70' from SE corner of Monroe and Victoria					
District	MonroeAg01	8/17/2015	8:38 AM	0.00456							
District	MonroeAg02	6/2/2015	7:45 AM	0.05	•	Sampled water on eastern side of Gratton St.					
District	MonroeAg02	6/8/2015	7:55 AM	0.028	•	Sampled water on western side of Gratton St. Water flows past sampling location into catch basin at corner of (SW) Gratton St. and Lincoln Ave.					
District	MonroeAg02	6/16/2015	9:20 AM	0.07	-	Sampled water on eastern side of Gratton St.					
District	MonroeAg02	6/23/2015	8:15 AM	0.10	ŀ	sampled water on western side of Gratton St Water flows past sampling location into catch basin at corner of (SW) Gratton St. and Lincoln Ave.					
District	MonroeAg02	8/17/2015	9:03 AM	0.04	•	Sampled water on eastern side of Gratton St. Water flows past sampling location into catch basin at corner of (SW) Gratton St. and Lincoln Ave.					

## Summer, 2015 Sampling Program

Table 3-6 Grab Sample Results for the Monroe Stations in the 2015 Dry Season									
Station	Sample Date	Sample Time	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Method					
MonroeAg01	5/27/2015	11:55	1600	SM9223B					
MonroeAg01	6/2/2015	7:20	310	SM9223B					
MonroeAg01	6/8/2015	7:25	600	SM9223B					
MonroeAg01	8/17/2015	8:38	700	SM9223B					
MonroeAg02	5/27/2015	12:20	2300	SM9223B					
MonroeAg02	6/2/2015	7:45	410	SM9223B					
MonroeAg02	6/8/2015	7:55	5600	SM9223B					
MonroeAg02	6/16/2015	9:20	4100	SM9223B					
MonroeAg02	6/23/2015	8:15	5500	SM9223B					
MonroeAg02	8/17/2015	9:03	500	SM9223B					

## Fall, 2015 Follow-up Sampling

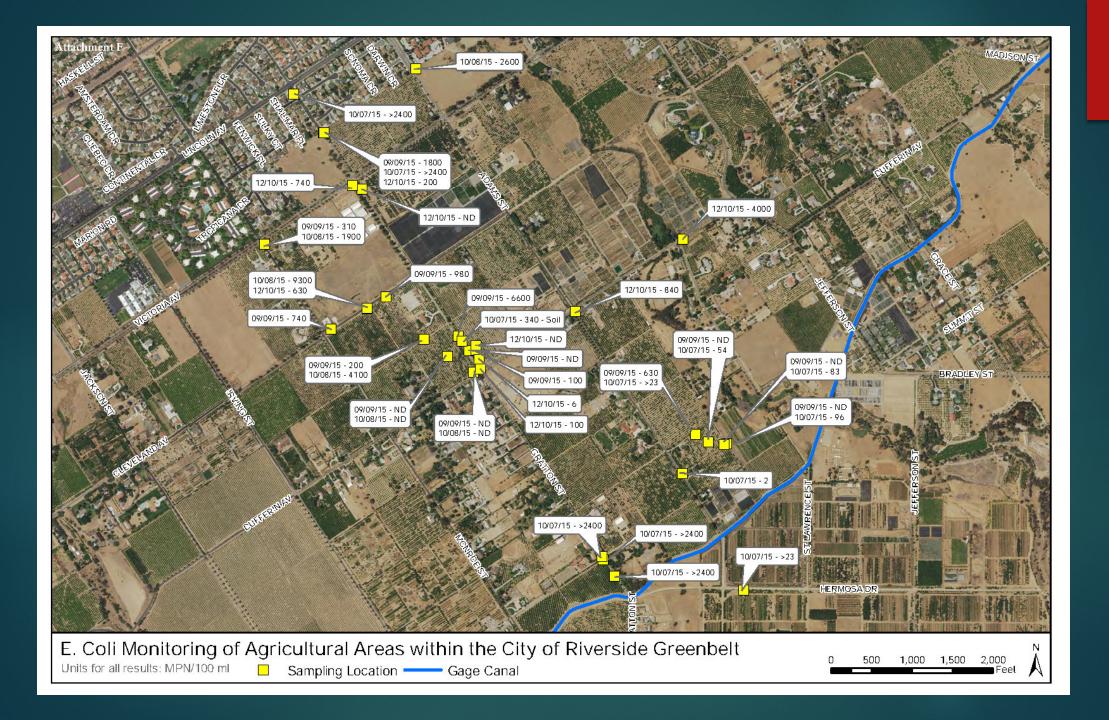






## Fall, 2015 Follow-up Sampling





### Next Steps:

Bacteroides analysis to exclude human sources

Sanitary survey if human signals are detected

- DNA testing for non-human sources (birds, dogs, critters)
- Recon-level fate and transport study (dry weather conditions)
- Preliminary alternatives analysis for BMPs

### Task Force Initiative

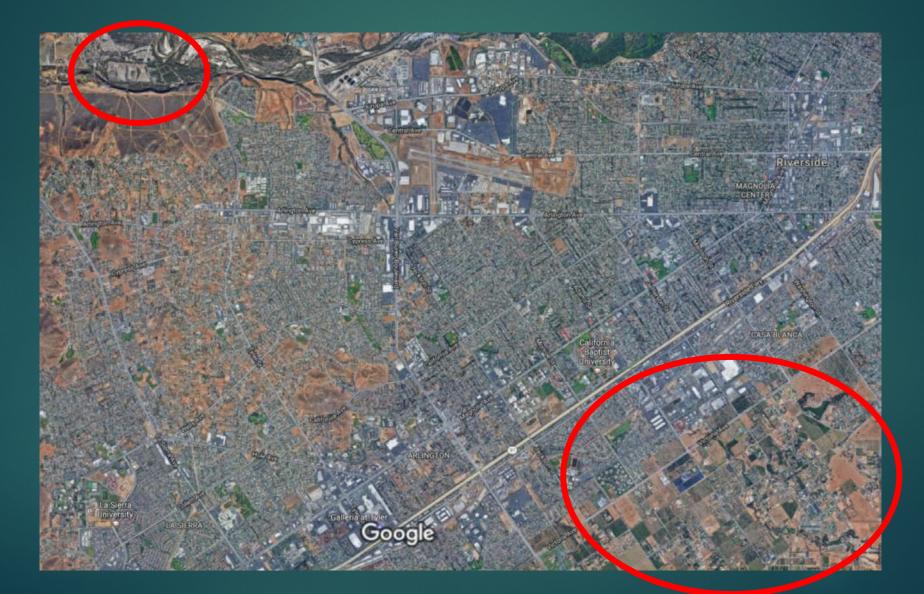
Establish a rigorous approach for natural source exceptions

Develop approach for distinguishing ag vs. urban sources

Standardize procedure for addressing bacteria inputs to the MS4 unrelated to Urban Runoff

Potential opportunity for a large-scale regional BMP solution by re-routing dry weather runoff through the Hidden Valley Wetlands

## Hidden Valley Wetlands



## Funding:

Approved FY 2016-17 Budget: Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task	Force March 14, 2016				
Summary: TMDL Task Force Implementation Schedule and Budget					
Summary Expenses	Task Force Budget 2016-17	SAW Bacteria Monit Budget 2016-17	Tier 2 Source Eval 2016-17	Total Budget 2016-17	
TASK FORCE: Administration (assumes quarterly meetings)	S 30,000			S 30,000	
Grant Proparation	S 20,000			S 20,000	
TASK FORCE: TMDL Contipliance Expert	S 25,000			S 25,000	
TMDL Implementation: Task 3 - Watershed-wide Monitoring Program	S 140,000	5 149,175		S 289,175	
TMDL Implementation: Tasks 4 & 5 - Source Evaluation / Management	S -		5 -	S -	
Estimated Total Annual TMDL Implementation Budget	S 215,000	5 149,175	S -	S 364,175	
Applied Task Force Carryover Funds:	S 100,000			S 100,000	
Estimated Total Stakeholder Cash Contribution	S 115,009	S 149,175	S: -	S 264,175	
Contingency Reserve (estimated):	S 50,000	· ·	S -	S 50,000	
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