

# Bridging the Gap: The “Soft Path” and Water Wedge Strategies

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Human-Water Systems

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# Introducing New Water Concepts for the Soft Path and “Water Wedges”

- Soft Water Path resources
  - Gleick, P.H. 2002. “Soft water paths.” Nature, V.418, pp. 373. 25 July
  - Gleick, P.H. 2003. “Global Freshwater Resources: Soft-Path Solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Science, V. 302, 28 November, pp. 1524-1528.
  - Gleick, P.H. 2009. “Getting it Right: Misconceptions about the Soft Path.” In David B. Brooks, Oliver M. Brandes, and Stephen Gurman (eds.), Making the Most of the Water We Have: The Soft Path Approach to Water Management. Earthscan, London, UK, pp. 49-60.
  - Gleick, P.H. 2009. “Water Soft Path Thinking in the United States.” In David B. Brooks, Oliver M. Brandes, and Stephen Gurman (eds.), Making the Most of the Water We Have: The Soft Path Approach to Water Management. Earthscan, London, UK, pp. 195-204.
- Water Wedges (see following slides)

Water Use

### Example of Soft Path “Wedge” Strategies

- A: Improved agricultural efficiency, changing diet, land use changes...
- B: Improved urban/industrial efficiency or changing industrial structure
- C: New water supply, traditional
- D: New water supply, non-traditional
- E: Other water policies...

“Business as usual” scenario

Changing climate?

“Positive vision” scenario

Water Demand Scenarios

Time

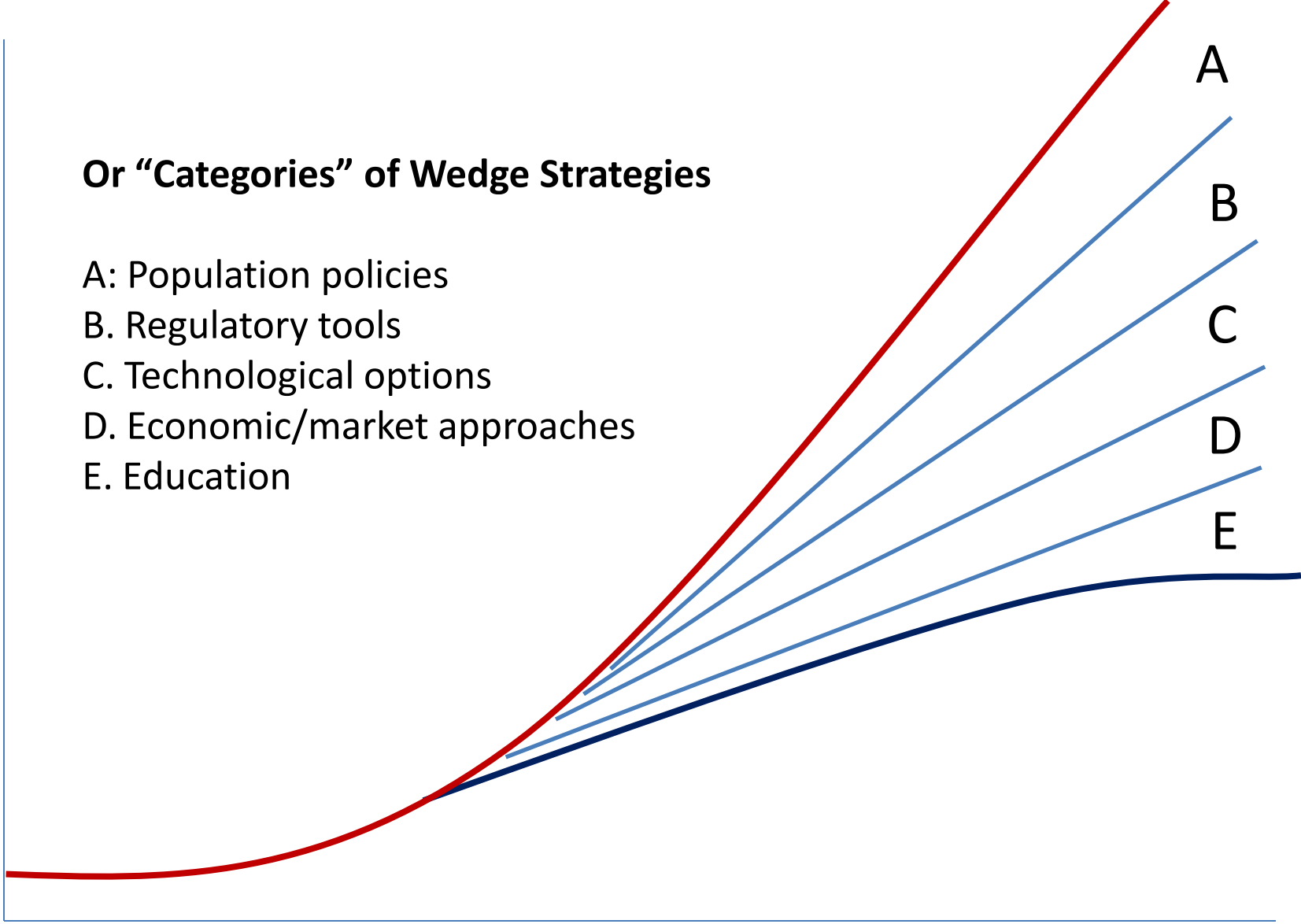


Water Use

### Or “Categories” of Wedge Strategies

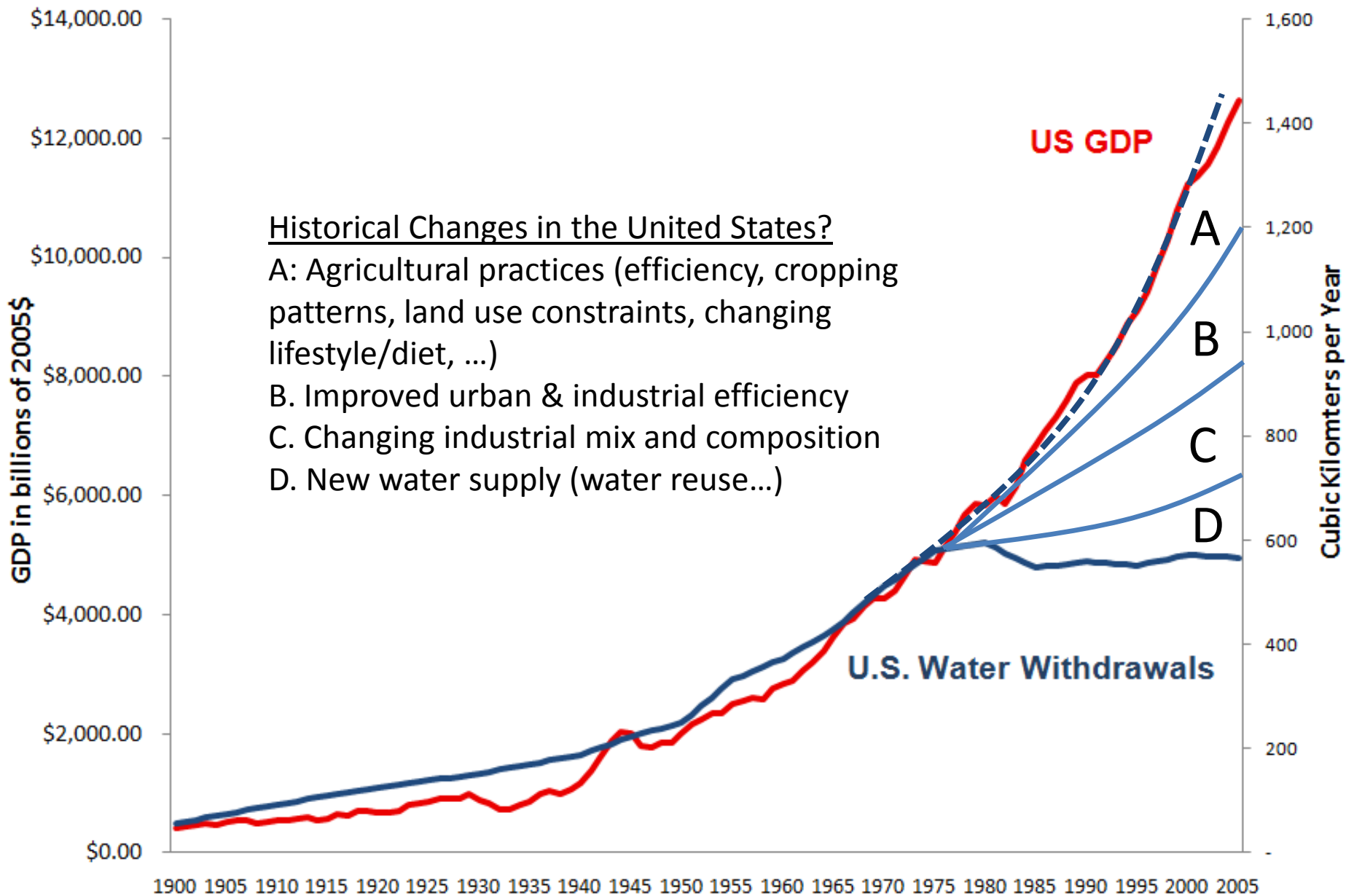
- A: Population policies
- B. Regulatory tools
- C. Technological options
- D. Economic/market approaches
- E. Education

A  
B  
C  
D  
E

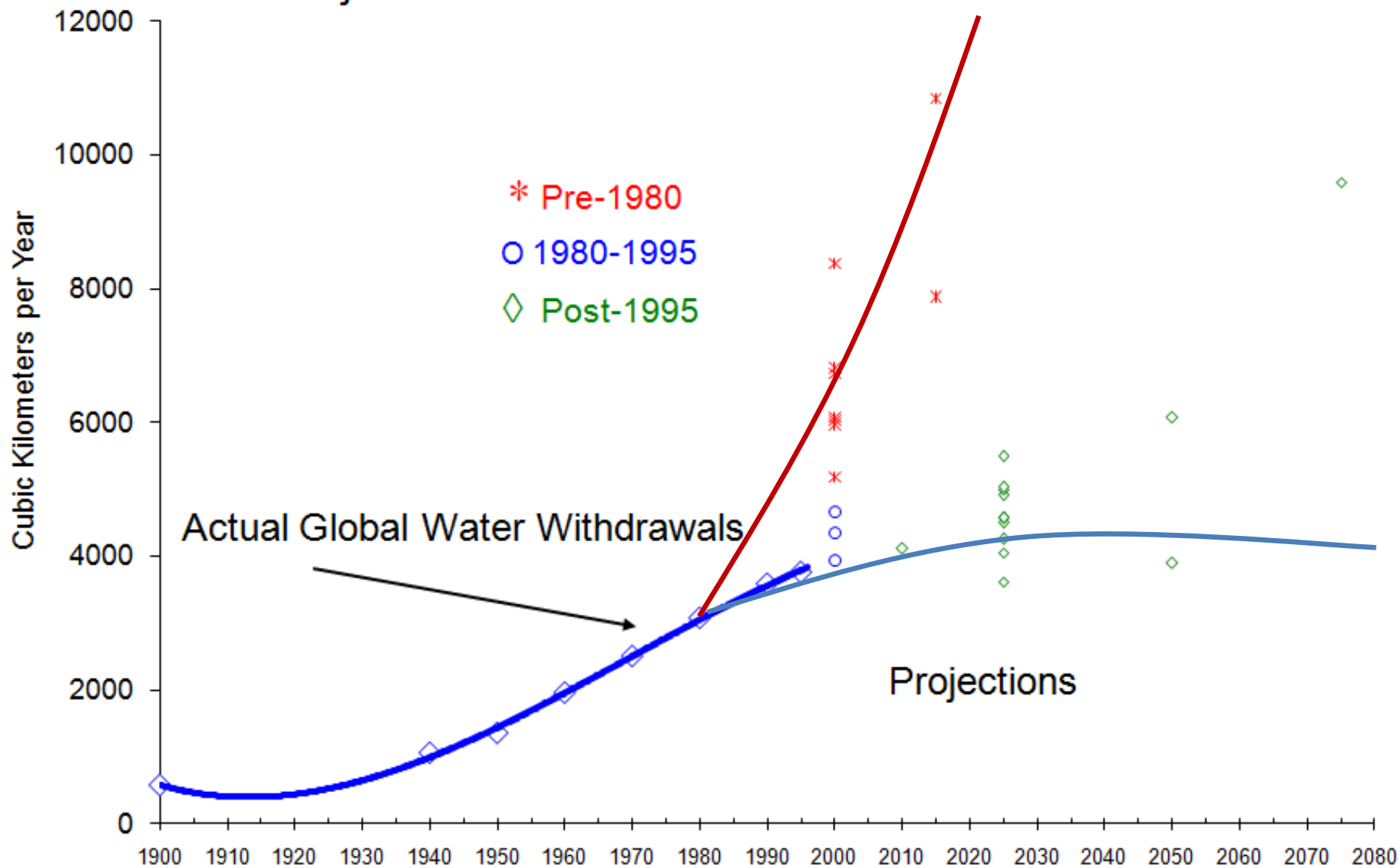


Water Demand Scenarios

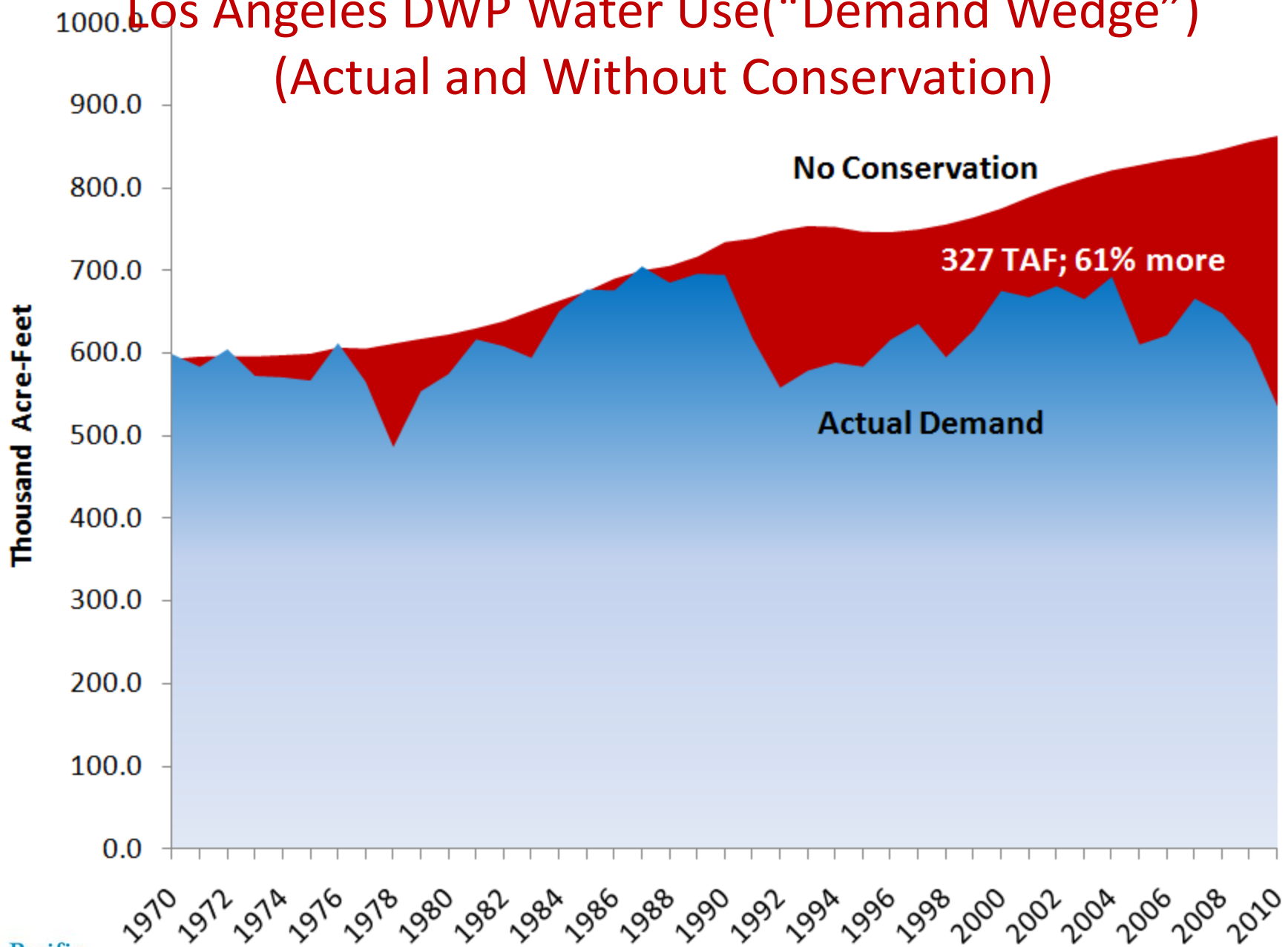
Time



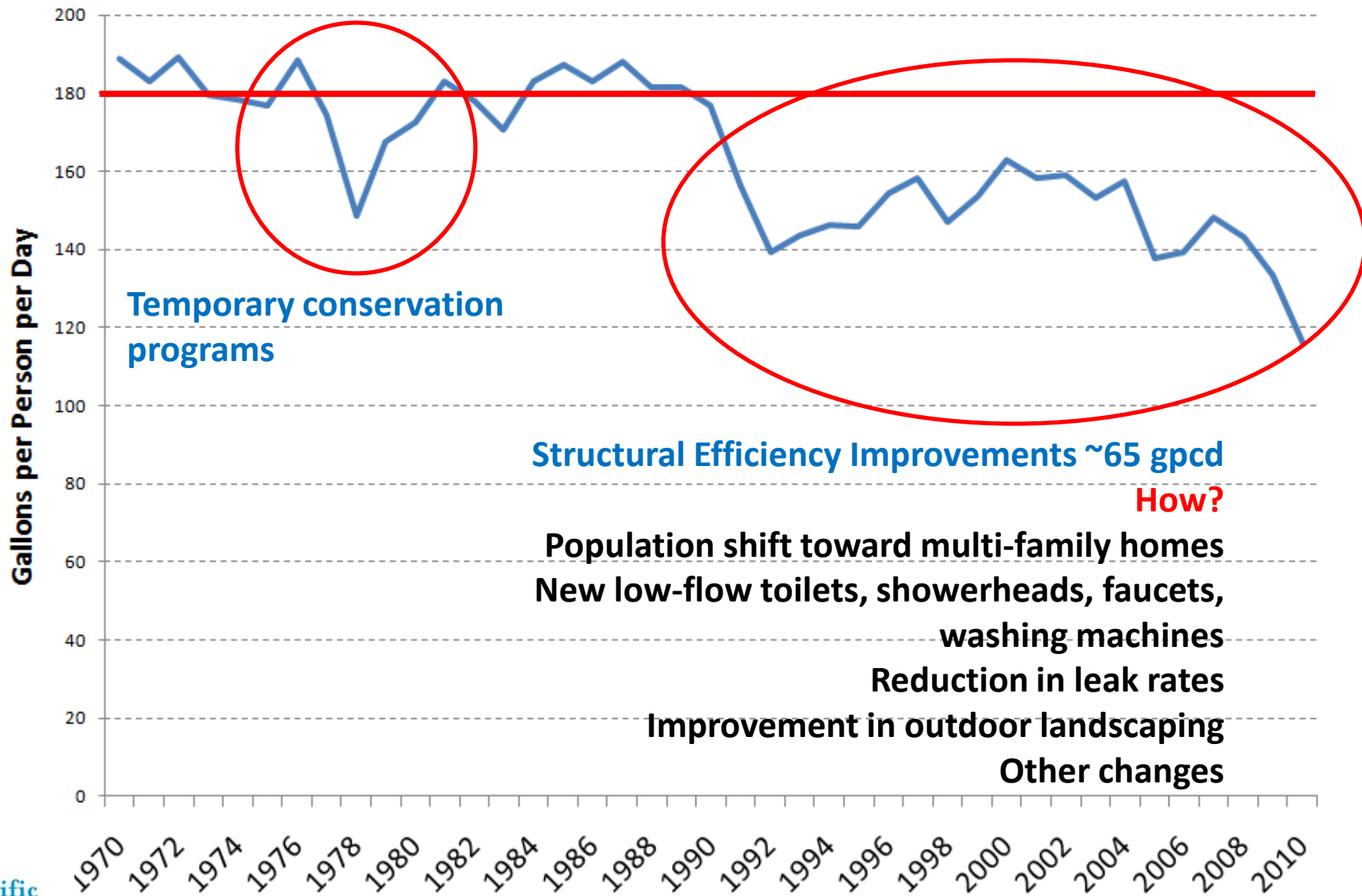
# Projected and Actual Global Water Withdrawals



# Los Angeles DWP Water Use (“Demand Wedge”) (Actual and Without Conservation)



# City of Los Angeles Water Use (gallons per person per day)





# Research Challenges

- Defining and quantifying “Business as Usual” and “Positive Vision” scenarios.
- Categorizing and defining “wedge” approaches.
- Quantifying “wedge” potentials.
- Identifying barriers to strategies.
- Identifying how to overcome those barriers.