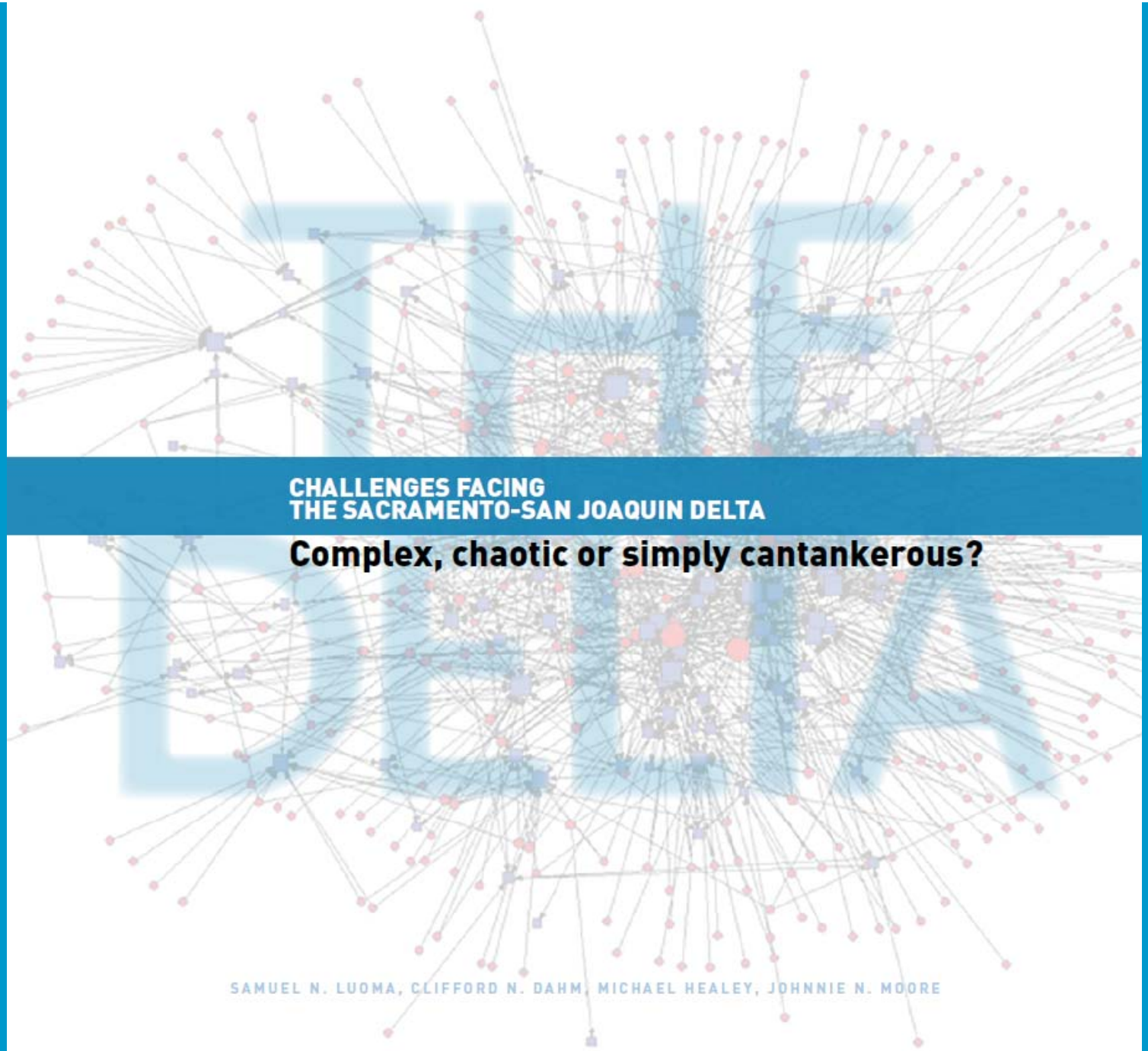


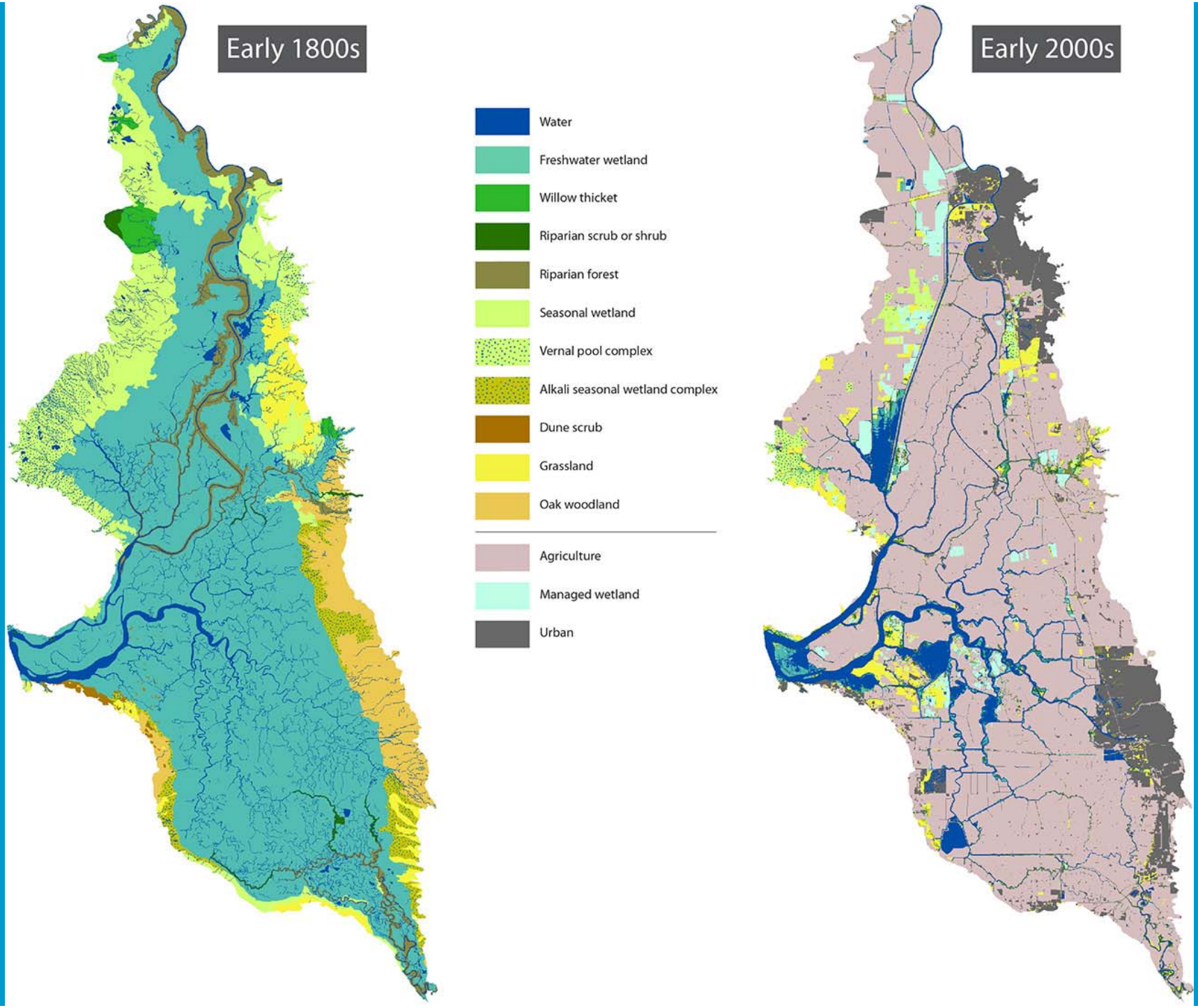
CHALLENGES FACING THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

Complex, chaotic or simply cantankerous?

SAMUEL N. LUOMA, CLIFFORD N. DAHM, MICHAEL HEALEY, JOHNNIE N. MOORE

"In these times of uncertainty it is important to be nimble, be timely and be prepared in our decisions and our implementation. We cannot afford to shy away from bold actions but we must broaden the definition of "bold" to include more than engineering: conservation alternatives, the environment and governance must be a part of every decision."

- Samuel N. Luoma


Early 1800s
Early 2000s
Water
Freshwater wetland
Willow thicket
Riparian scrub or shrub
Riparian forest
Seasonal wetland
Vernal pool complex
Alkali seasonal wetland complex
Dune scrub
Grassland
Oak woodland
Agriculture
Managed wetland
Urban

"As we enter an era of increasing uncertainty about climate, water supply, the fate of the Delta's native ecosystem, and institutional complexity, multi-institutional collaborative approaches will become increasingly important. California has the tools and the intellectual resources to manage these problems and, as difficult as they are, achieve the twin goals of reliable water supply and an ecologically diverse Delta ecosystem."