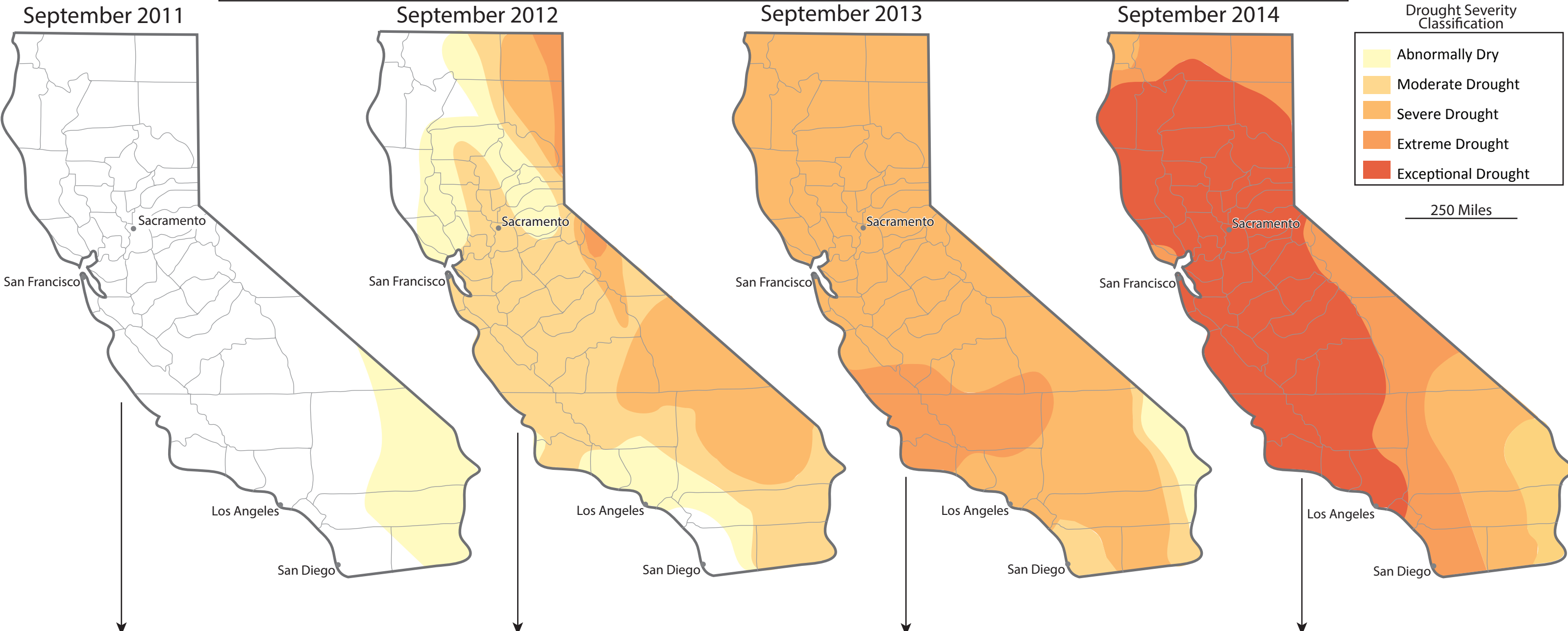
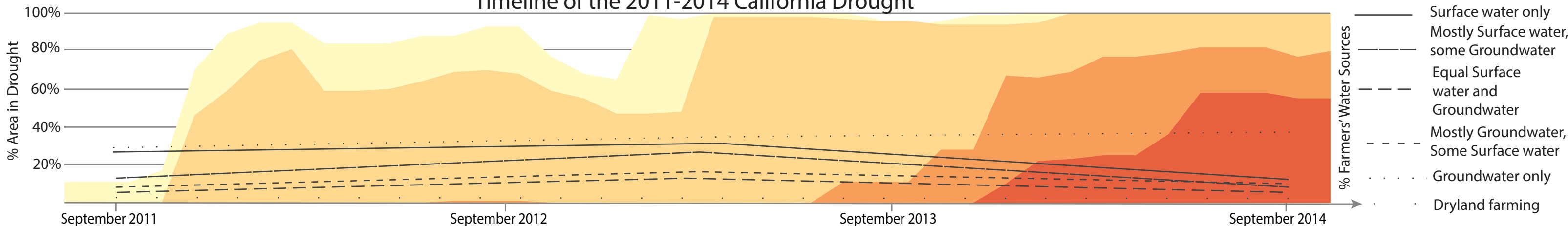


# A STATE OF SCARCITY: CALIFORNIA DROUGHT 2011-2014

In 2011, California entered into one of the most severe droughts in its recorded history. Water users in the state, and especially agriculture, have historically relied upon a combination of both surface water and groundwater. However, as the winters of 2011, 2012, and 2013 did not produce sufficient precipitation to replenish reservoir levels, farmers began to rely more heavily on groundwater for irrigation. Thus, drought can be as much a product of human decisions around water use as it is a physical measure of lack of precipitation. These maps depict snapshots of the drought's severity as measured by precipitation amounts at the beginning of each water year. The associated timeline shows the progression of drought severity throughout these years, and concurrent water sources for farmers.



Timeline of the 2011-2014 California Drought



Produced by Daniel Grant. Data from: United States Drought Monitor ([www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)); Niles et al. (2014). "How will farmers respond to the 2014 drought?" Center for Environmental Policy and Research Behavior Brief, UC-Davis. Title adapted from Alatout S, 2008, "States' of scarcity: water, space, and identity politics in Israel, 1948 - 59" Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 26(6) 959 - 982