



# Thoughts on Drought Risk Assessment

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Resources

# Points to Keep in Mind About Drought

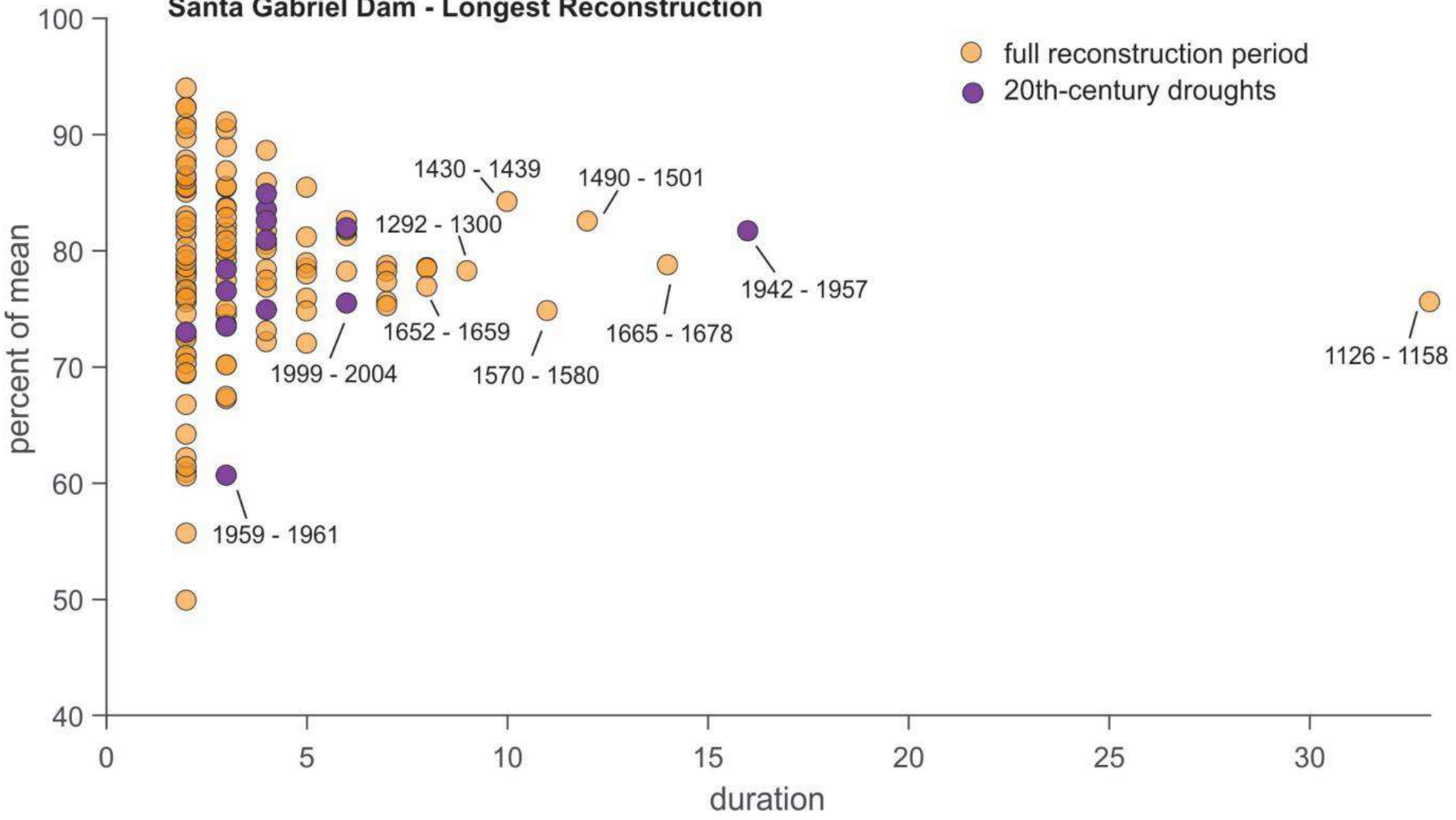
- Droughts/dry years are a normal part of the hydrologic cycle
- Drought conditions develop slowly
- Drought impacts are site-specific and sector-specific
- Impacts increase with drought duration

# **How Long a Drought Should We Plan For?**

# Duration

- UWMPs – previously 3 years, now 5
- 2012-16 (5 years, statewide)
- 1987-92 (6 years, statewide)
- 1920s-30s
- Paleo record?

### Santa Gabriel Dam - Longest Reconstruction



# Vulnerability Factors

- Fractured rock groundwater
- Fewer connections
- Smaller financial reserves
- Single source of supply
- No interconnections
- Rural location
- Wildfire risk area

# **How Long a Drought Should We Plan For?**

**(It Depends)**

# Things To Consider

- Access to storage
- Mix of surface water/groundwater, local & imported supplies
- Access to recycled water or desal
- Current level of resiliency



# Helping Manage Drought Risk With Paleo Data

- Sensitivity analyses for water project operations, scenario testing
- Setting reliability targets
- Climate change analyses

