


**Northern California  
CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Pilot**

**WESTCARB Annual Meeting**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**  
**October 1, 2008**

**John Henry Beyer, Ph.D.**  
WESTCARB Program Manager, Geophysicist  
510-486-7954, jhbeyer@lbl.gov  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Earth Sciences Division, MS 90-1116  
Berkeley, CA 94720




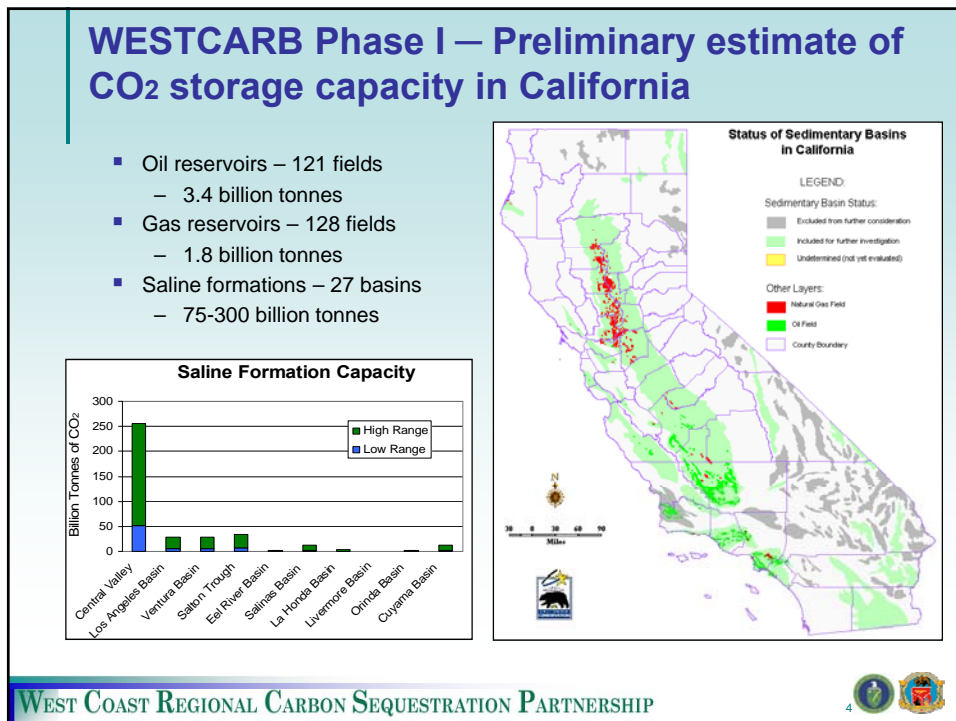
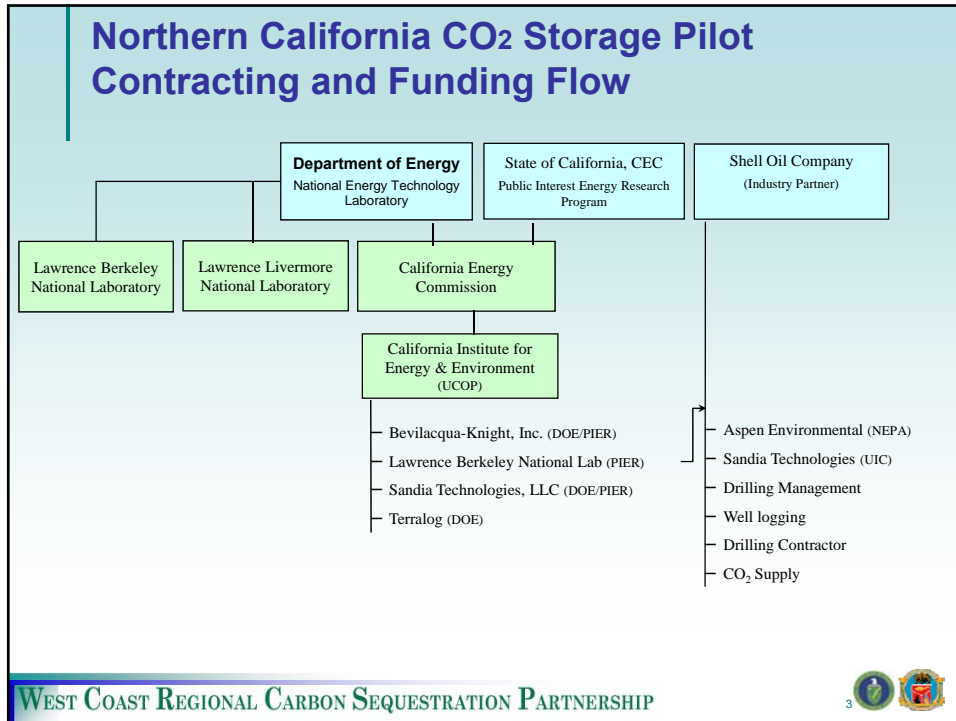
**Industry Partner: Shell Oil Company**

A welcome industry partner

- Committed to reducing global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Extensive technical expertise in:
  - Geologic evaluation
  - Well log analysis
  - Porosity and permeability evaluation
  - Geophysics
  - Deep well drilling
  - CO<sub>2</sub> injection

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP

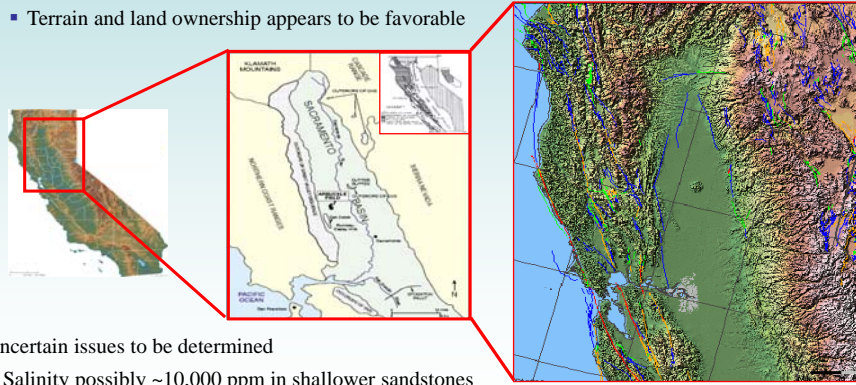




## Western Sacramento Valley Location

Viable Pilot Test Site

- Capacity to trap CO<sub>2</sub> is adequate for planned volume
- Leak potential is low due to scarcity of faults and old wells; thick, multiple shale seals
- Terrain and land ownership appears to be favorable



Uncertain issues to be determined

- Salinity possibly ~10,000 ppm in shallower sandstones
- Permeability uncertainty at injection depth – axis of syncline is very deep
- Sand continuity in the syncline is unknown

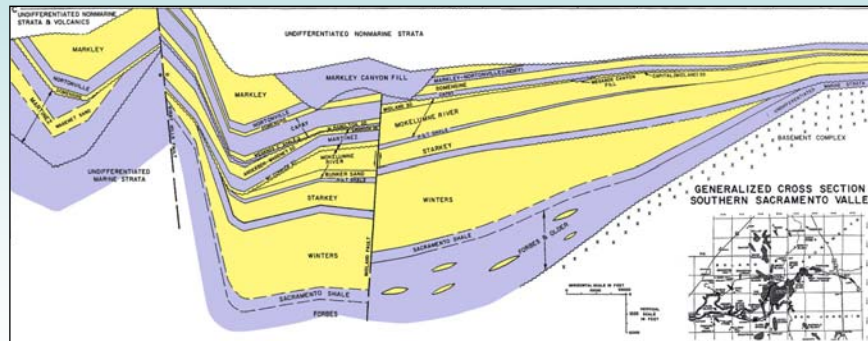
Source: Shell

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP



## Sacramento Valley geologic cross-section

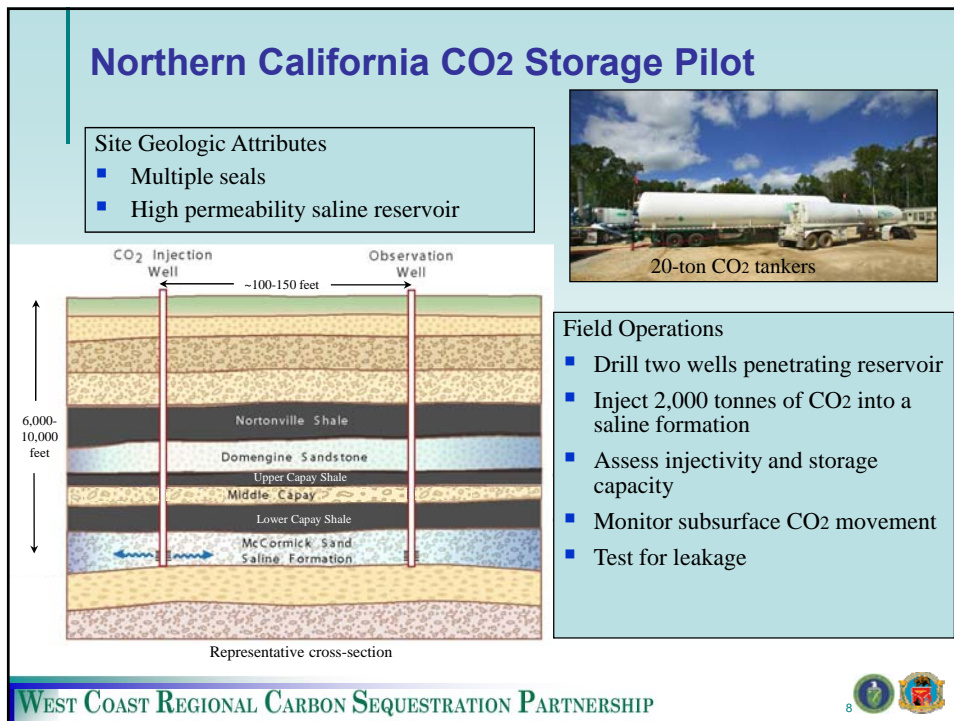
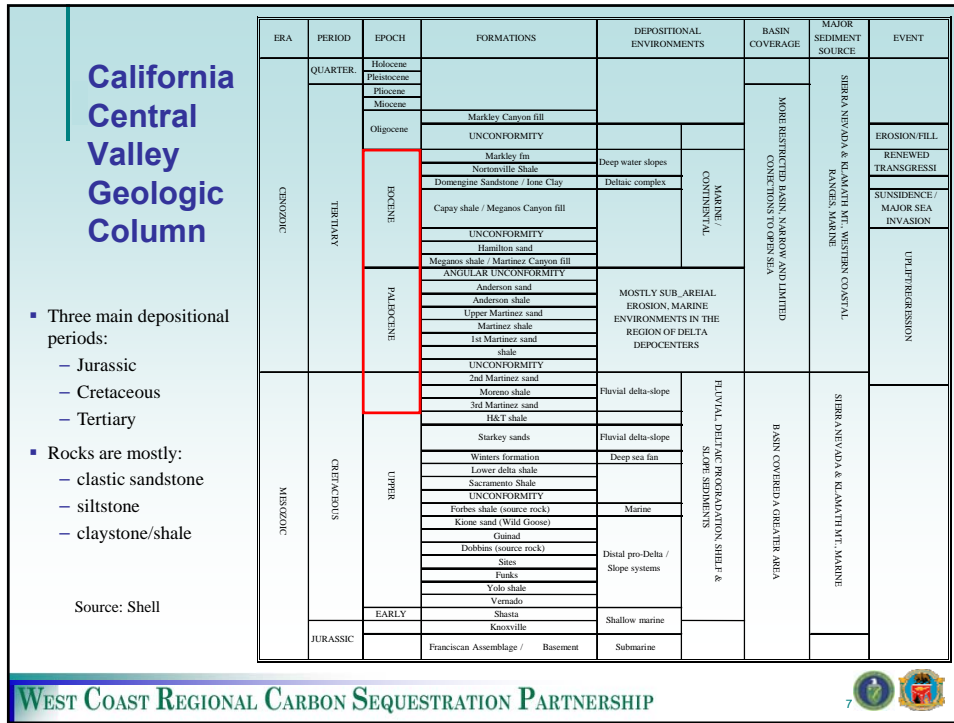
Numerous stacked sandstone (yellow) and shale (purple) formations



Source: California Geological Survey

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP






## Pilot Objectives

```
graph TD; A[Identify Pilot Test Objectives] --> B[Rank Objectives  
• Scientific  
• Public  
• Industry  
• Likelihood of Success];
```


- Determine the injectivity of the reservoir
- Determine the storage capacity of the reservoir
- Model and monitor the trapping of the injected CO<sub>2</sub>
- Assess seal integrity
  - Caprock
  - Faults
- Evaluate and manage environment

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP 

## Pilot Project Test Plan

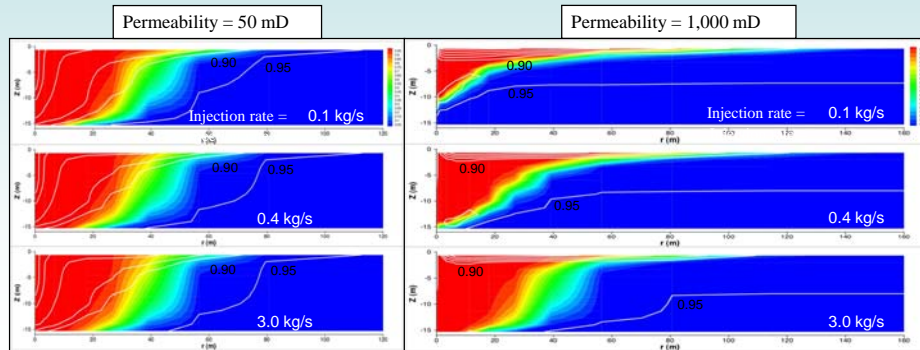
```
graph TD; A[Identify Measurement and Monitoring Approaches] --> B[Prioritize Pilot Program Test Plan];
```

- Model CO<sub>2</sub> injection and CO<sub>2</sub> movement
- Assess injectivity with step-rate injection test
- Assess storage capacity
- Use tracers in CO<sub>2</sub> to assess gas (supercritical) and liquid (dissolved) phases
- Monitor subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> movement using time-lapse VSP and cross-well seismic
- Run Reservoir Saturation Tool (RST) logs to monitor near wellbore
- Use a Distributed Thermal Perturbation Sensor to monitor CO<sub>2</sub> near wells
- Monitor CO<sub>2</sub> at surface near wells
- Validate models

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP 

## TOUGH2\* simulation of CO<sub>2</sub> injection into saline reservoir

- CO<sub>2</sub> plume 1 year after injection of 2,000 tonnes
- High residual water saturation:  $S_w = 95\%$ ,  $S_G = 5\%$
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> is buoyant; displaces water
- Sensitive to injection rate only at high permeability



Color contours: Weight % CO<sub>2</sub> in supercritical (gaseous) phase. White contours: Water saturation ( $1 - S_2$ ).

\* Transport of Unsaturated Groundwater and Heat

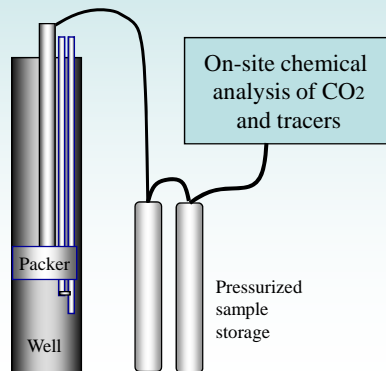
Source: C. Doughty, LBNL

WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP



## Water sampling at injection and monitoring wells with the U-Tube System

Continuous pressurized samples of water and gas during and after CO<sub>2</sub> injection



Frio CO<sub>2</sub> Test Site, Texas

Source: B. Freifeld, LBNL


WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP






## U-Tube System for fluid and tracer sampling


pH, Ec, temperature monitors




Control room




Pressure control valves



U-tube and check valve strapped to production tubing




Sample collection chambers



Source: B. Freifeld, LBNL

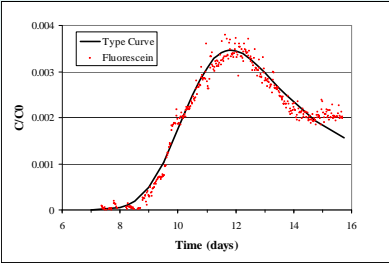
WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP



## Tracer analysis to estimate CO<sub>2</sub> sweep efficiency in the reservoir

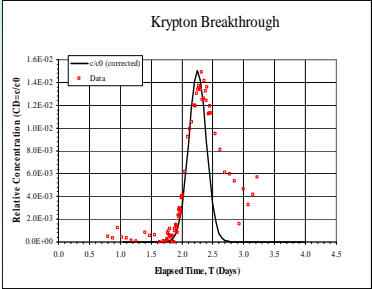
Single-phase and two-phase tracer test in Frio Sandstone at the Frio CO<sub>2</sub> Test Site in Texas, using two wells with 30-meter separation

- Water pumped from one well was tagged with fluorescein dye and injected into the 2<sup>nd</sup> well.
- Data analysis yielded the porosity-thickness product of the swept reservoir region.



Source: B. Freifeld, LBNL


### Krypton Breakthrough



- CO<sub>2</sub> tagged with Krypton was injected into one well and its arrival monitored at the 2<sup>nd</sup> well.
- Data analysis showed that CO<sub>2</sub> followed high permeability paths and accessed only ~20% of the reservoir.

Source: B. Freifeld, LBNL

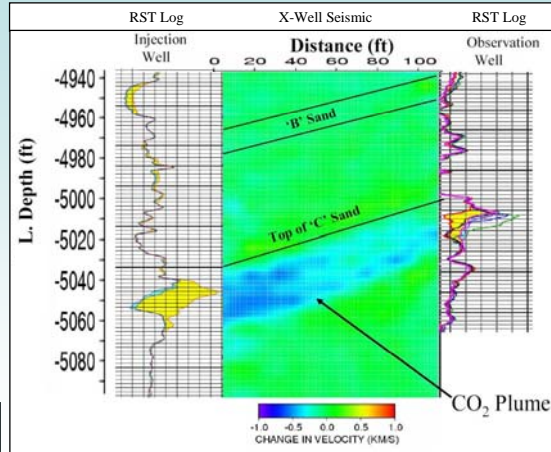
WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP



## Monitoring the CO<sub>2</sub>

- Seismic imaging
  - Time lapse VSP
  - Time lapse crosswell
  - Controlled-Active-Source Seismic Monitoring (CASSM)
  - Correlate seismic with fluid and tracer samples obtained with U-tube
- Time lapse Reservoir Saturation Tool (RST)\* log

\*Schlumberger tool that measures thermal neutron absorption to infer water saturation, and C/O ratio with an induced gamma ray spectrometer.

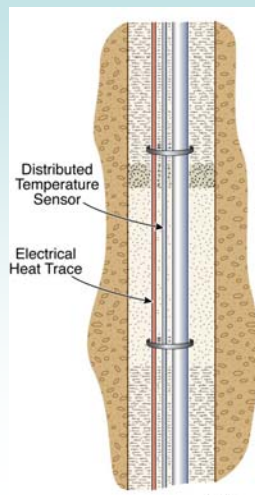


Frio CO<sub>2</sub> Test Site, Texas

Source: T. Daley, LBNL



## Distributed Thermal Perturbation Sensor (DTPS) for tracking CO<sub>2</sub> migration in the subsurface



Thermal conductivity measurements during and after CO<sub>2</sub> injection monitor the distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> near the well

- The DTPS consists of a borehole-length electrical resistance heater and fiber optic distributed temperature sensor.
- Constant heating is applied along the borehole, then is turned off. The temperature sensor measures the decay.
- The low thermal conductivity of CO<sub>2</sub> versus water allows for estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation.
- The DTPS has been successfully tested at the CO<sub>2</sub>SINK project in Germany.

Source: Barry Freifeld, LBNL





## Regulatory Agencies & Permits

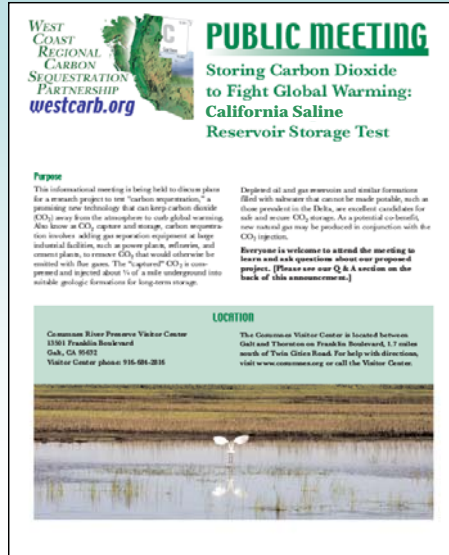
- Injection permit: US EPA Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program – Class V, Experimental  
*(New draft regulations for Class VI, CO<sub>2</sub> wells)*
- Drilling permit: County agency
- (Drilling permit in oil/gas field: CA Department of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources)
- NEPA: DOE Environmental Questionnaire
- CEQA: Lead state or local agency; CEC approval

## Agreements & Contracts

- Surface owner
- Mineral rights owner
- Mineral rights leaseholder
- Pore space owner *(surface owner in Wyoming)*
- Agreements among project partners
- Contracts with subcontractors and suppliers
- Adjacent surface owners for VSP source points

## Public Outreach

- State-wide and local information
- Public meetings
- Input on test plans and monitoring



**WEST COAST REGIONAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION PARTNERSHIP**  
[westcarb.org](http://westcarb.org)

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
Storing Carbon Dioxide to Fight Global Warming:  
California Saline Reservoir Storage Test

**Purpose**  
This informational meeting is being held to discuss plans for a research project to test "carbon sequestration," a promising new technology that locks up carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) away from the atmosphere to curb global warming. Also known as CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage, carbon sequestration involves adding gas separation equipment at large industrial facilities, such as power plants, refineries, and cement plants, to remove CO<sub>2</sub> that would otherwise be emitted with the gases. The "captured" CO<sub>2</sub> is compressed and injected about 1/2 of a mile underground into suitable geologic formations for long-term storage.

Depleted oil and gas reservoirs and similar formations filled with subsurface that cannot be made possible, such as those produced in the Delta, are excellent candidates for safe and secure CO<sub>2</sub> storage. As a potential co-benefit, some natural gas may be produced in conjunction with the CO<sub>2</sub> injection.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting to learn and ask questions about our proposed project. (Please see our Q & A section on the back of this announcement.)

**LOCATION**  
Commons River Preserve Visitor Center  
1301 Franklin Boulevard  
Oak, CA 94612  
Visitor Center phone: 916-984-2816

The Commons Visitor Center is located between Oak and Thornton on Franklin Boulevard, 1/2 mile north of Delta Glenn Road. For help with directions visit [www.commonsr.org](http://www.commonsr.org) or call the Visitor Center.

