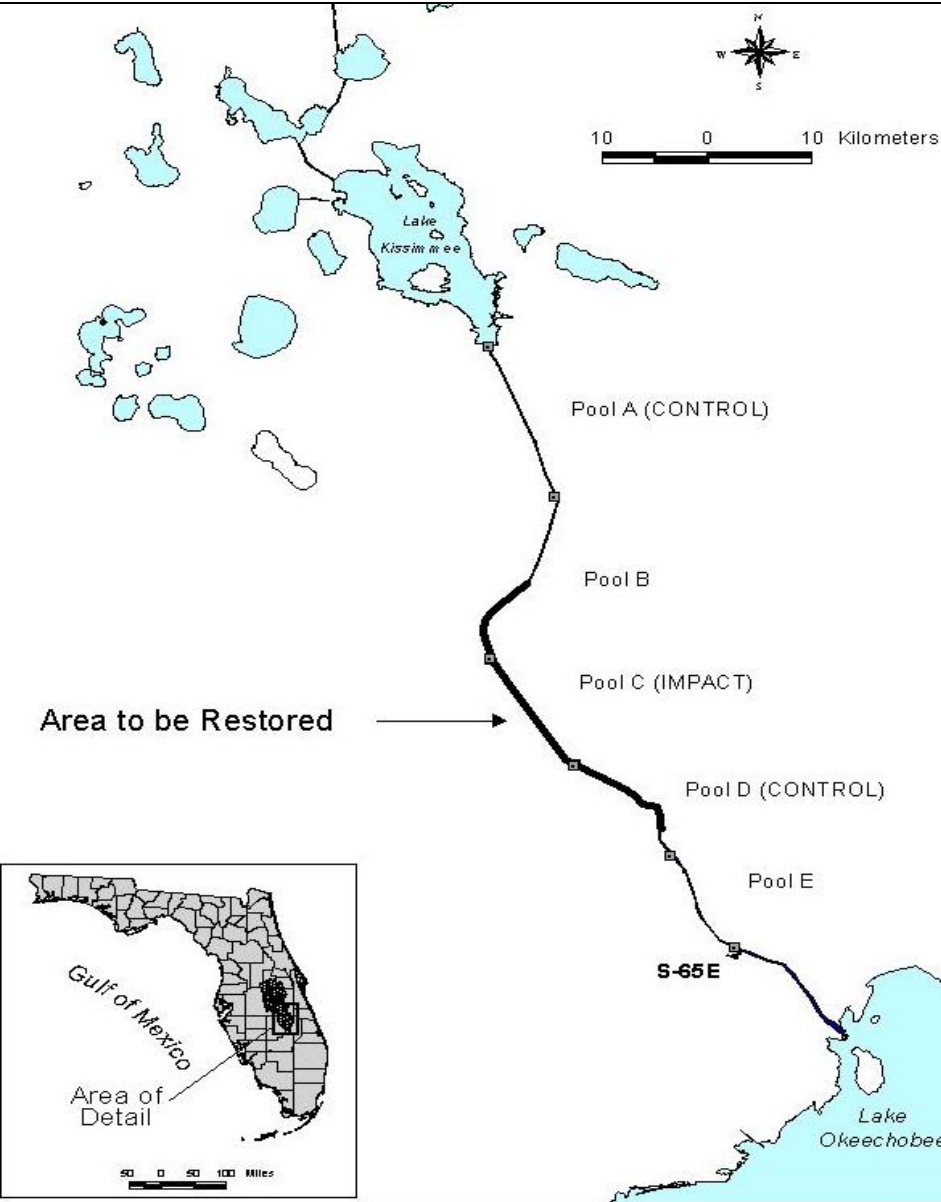
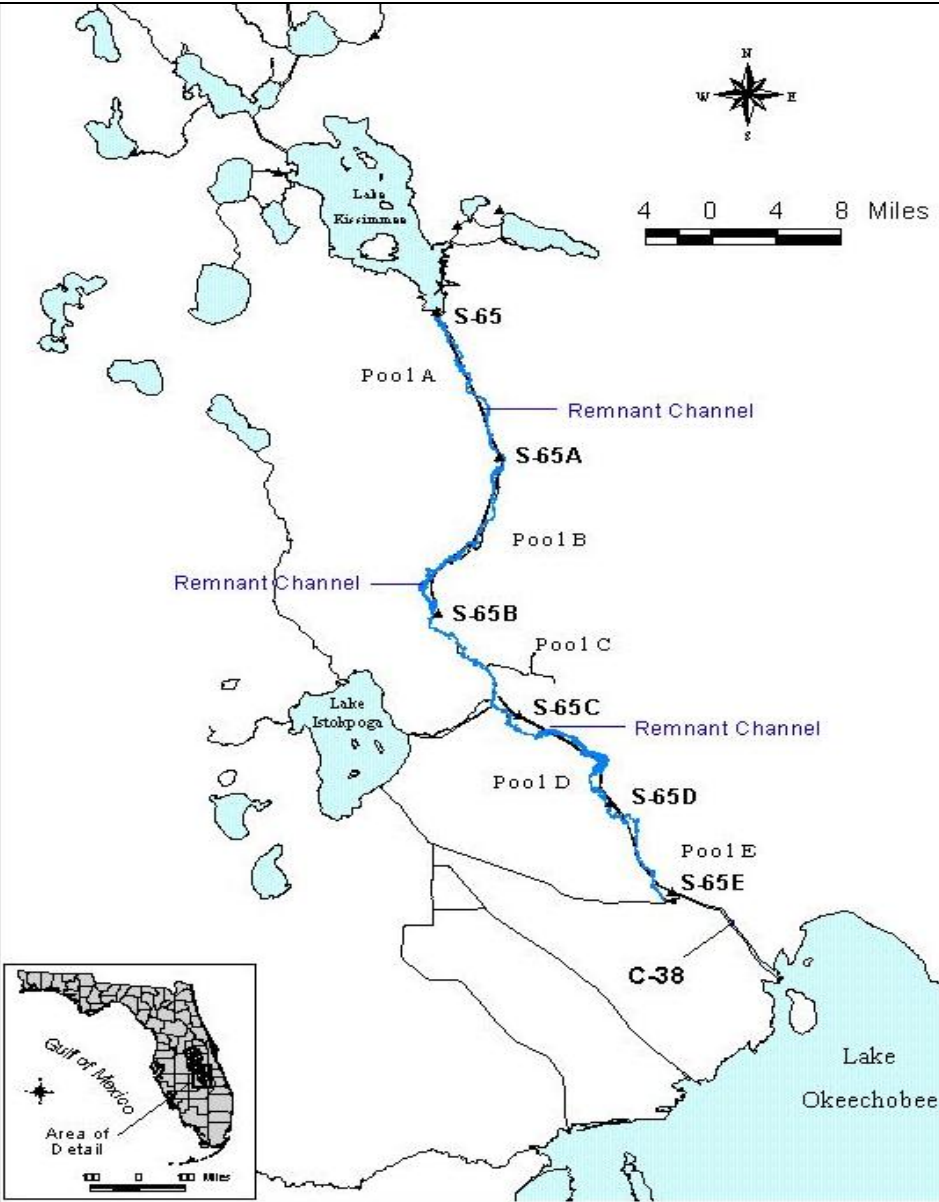


# The Science-Decision Making Interface of the Kissimmee River Restoration Program

*Session: Making Adaptive Management Meaningful – Bridging the Science / Decision Making Gap: Governance and Management Decision Making*

# Before

# After





River channels  
are bypassed and  
floodplain is dry

Canal dredged through river-floodplain  
system during 1960s

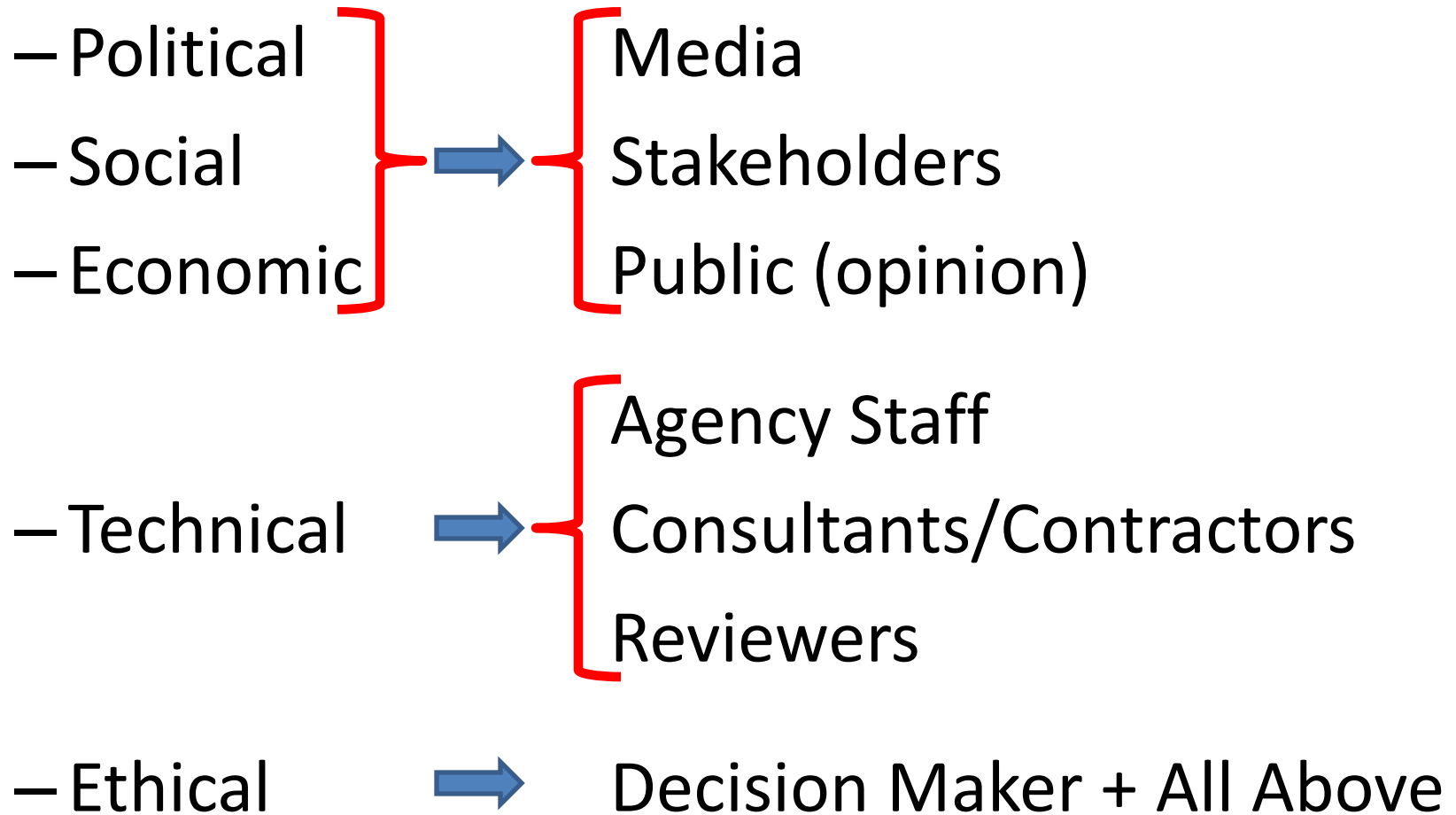


# Factors in Decision Making

- Political
- Social
- Economic
- Technical
- Ethical

# Factors in Decision Making...

## Who Can Inform and Effect Change?



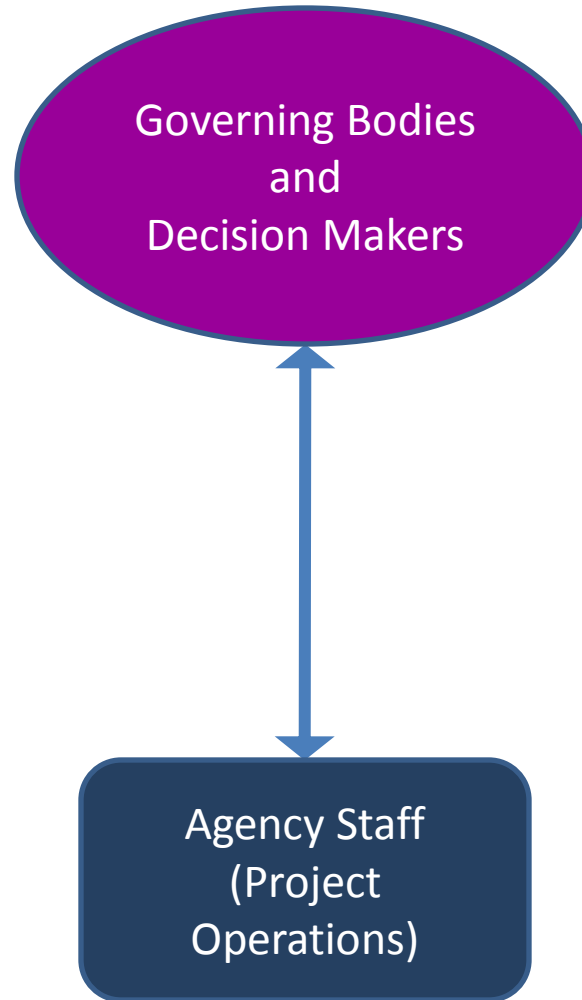
# Assembling, Distilling, Transmitting

- Decision Makers required education in terms of:
  - Problems
  - Uncertainties (we called them “unanswered questions”)
  - Resolution of uncertainties
  - Options (alternative plans)
  - Recommended actions
- Following the principles of Adaptive Management, as uncertainties were discovered, methods were employed to sufficiently resolve or reduce each and communicate synthesized findings across the science-decision making interface to facilitate restoration progress.

# The Science-Decision Making Interface

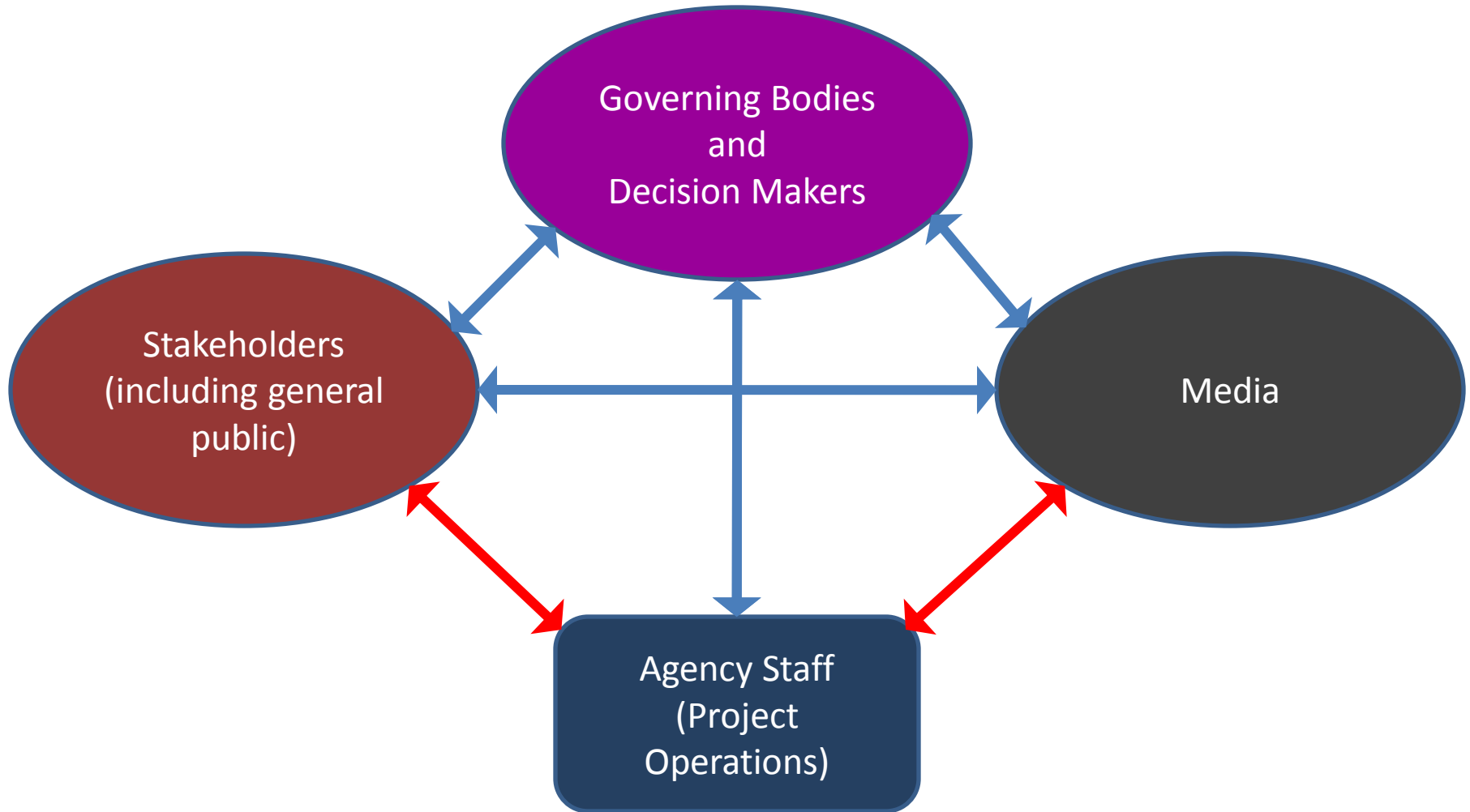
- Abstract (execution vs. declaration)
- Built over time, evolved, and was fine-tuned
- Became the tool for strategic communications
- Once developed, it was cultivated to serve the needs of the restoration program
- Over time, this interface became as important as the information itself, enabling
  - Trust among parties
  - Transparency-communications preceded actions

# Governance and Strategic Communications

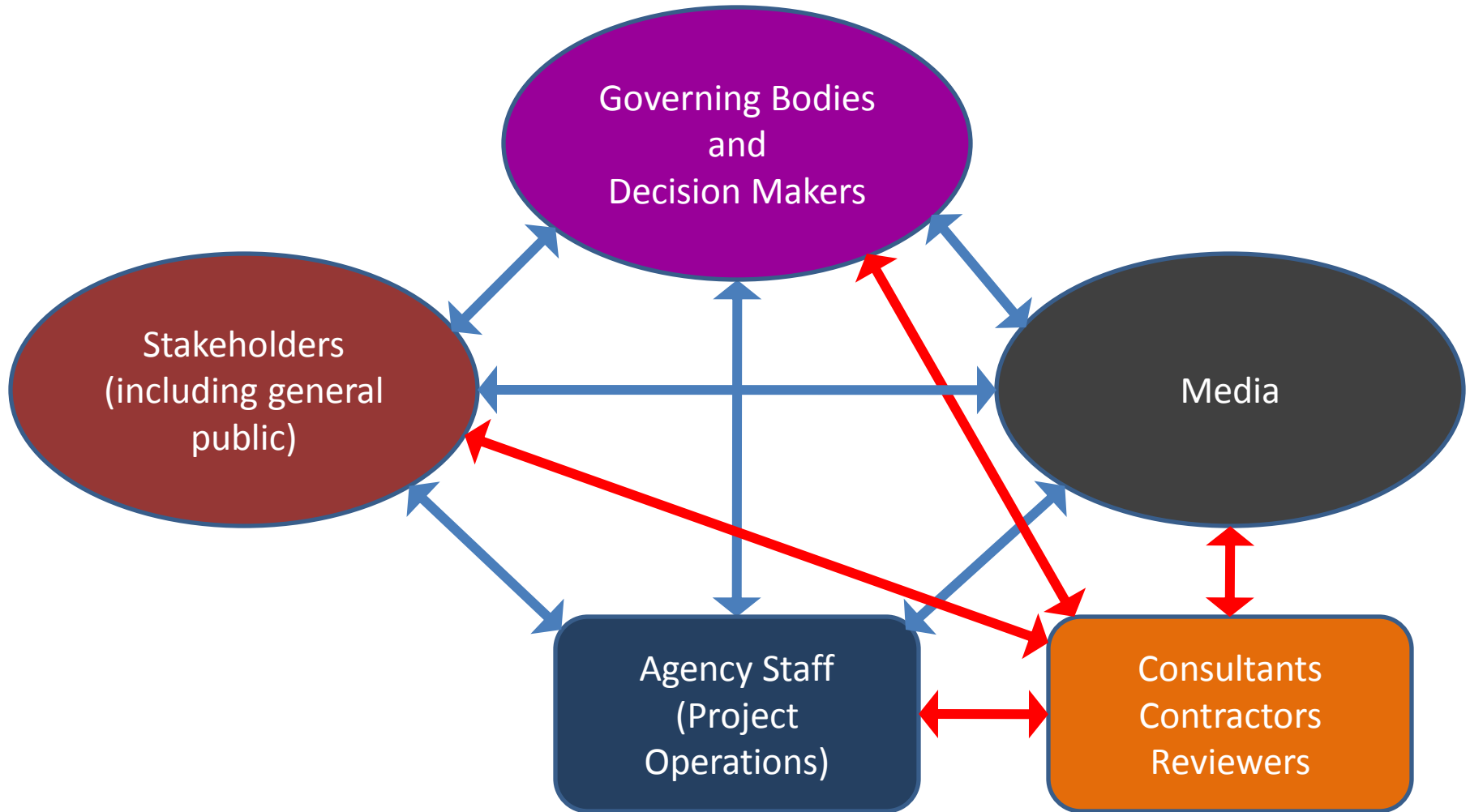




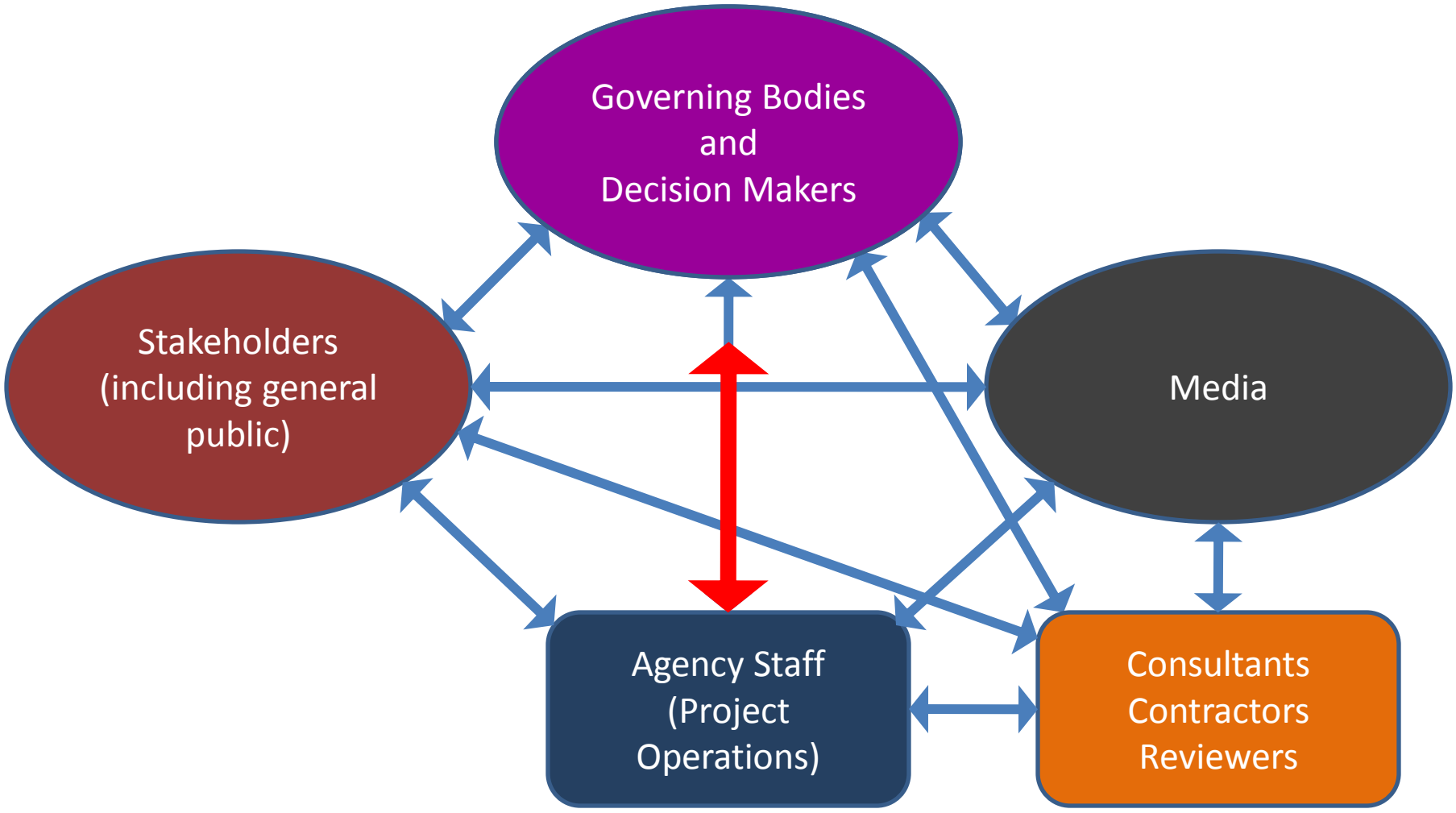
# Governance and Strategic Communications



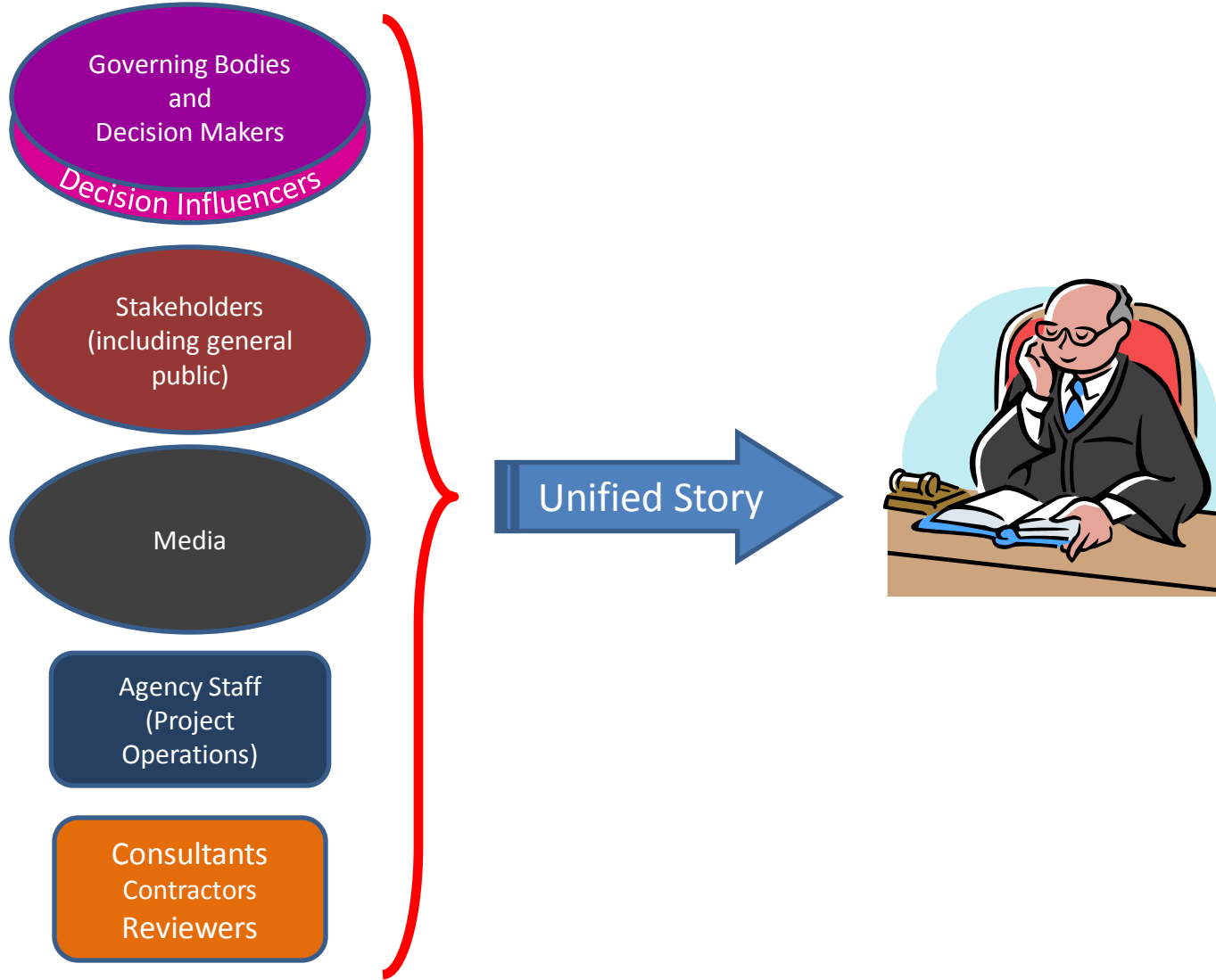
# Governance and Strategic Communications



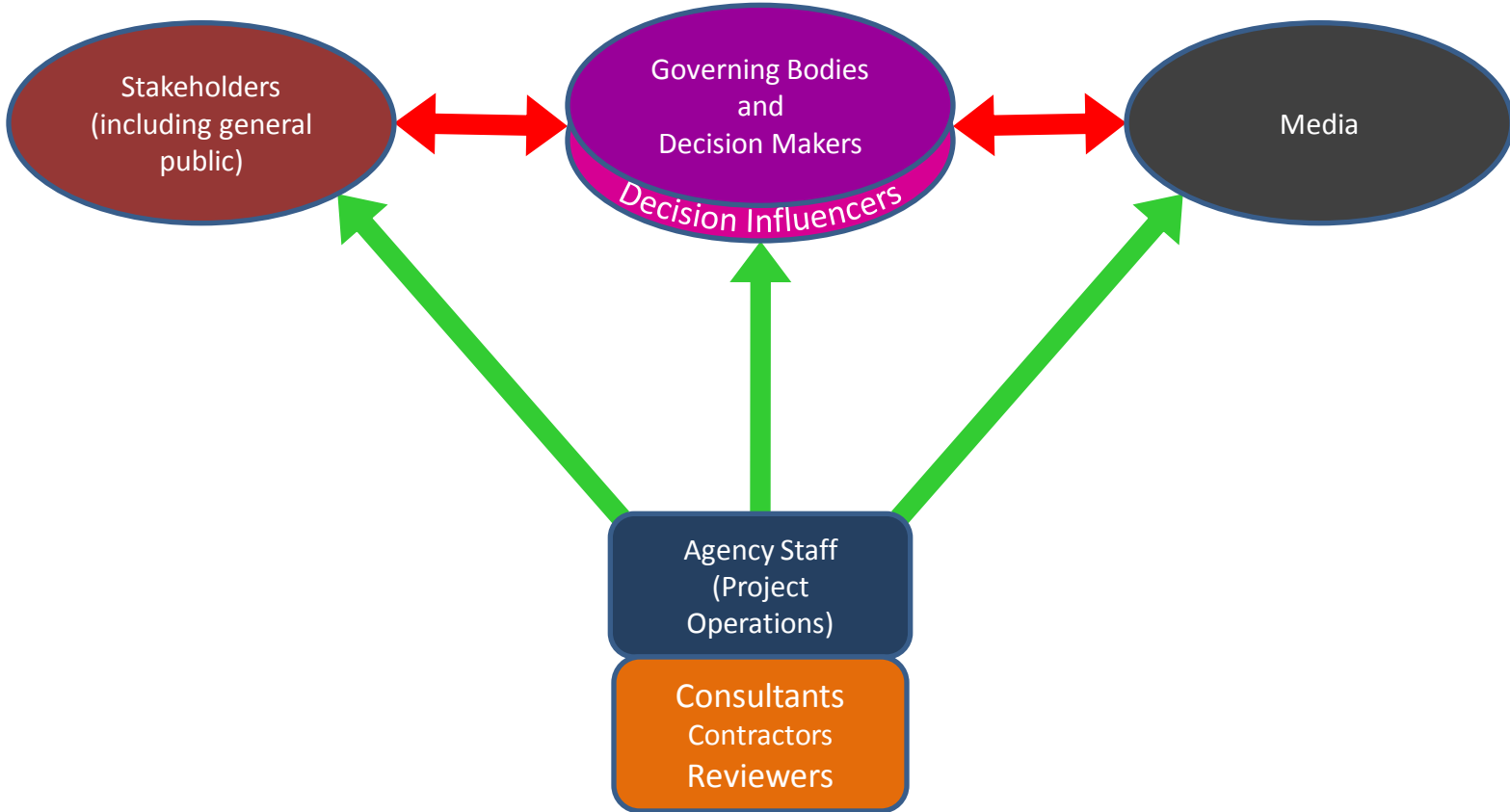
# Governance and Strategic Communications



# Governance and Strategic Communications



# Governance and Strategic Communications



# Communications--Methods

- Briefings
- Field and Laboratory Visits
- Public Meetings
- Symposium
- Public TV Feature Documentaries
- National and Local TV News
- National and Local Print News and Feature Magazines
- Press Releases
- “One Pagers” (Designed to Sell Perspectives)
- Printed Public Information and Educational Material
- and, oh yes, Technical Publications

# Communications--Targets

- President/Federal Administration
- Congress/Florida Delegation
- Governor/Florida Legislators
- Agency Heads (all governments)
- SFWMD Governing Board
- Media
- Stakeholders/Public/NGOs
- Technical Staff of Other Agencies

# Communications--Cycles

- Events, Natural or Project-driven
  - Field Discharge Tests
  - Ground-breaking for Experiments
- Project Milestone Cycles
  - AM Findings
  - Report Publications
- Monthly SFWMD Board Meetings
- Technical Conferences



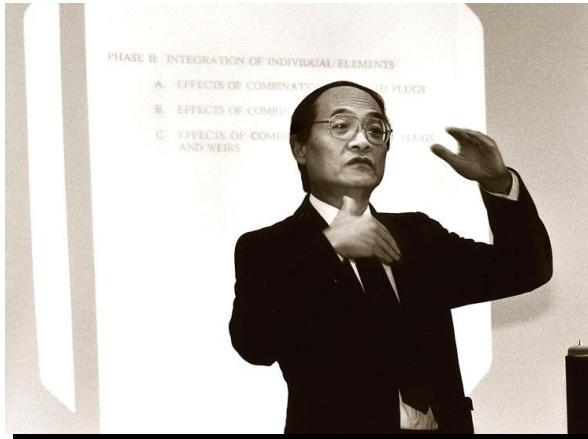


Field studies, numerical models, and physical models were used to establish potential for restoration and evaluate restoration alternatives

One of the Kissimmee models constructed at UC-Berkeley

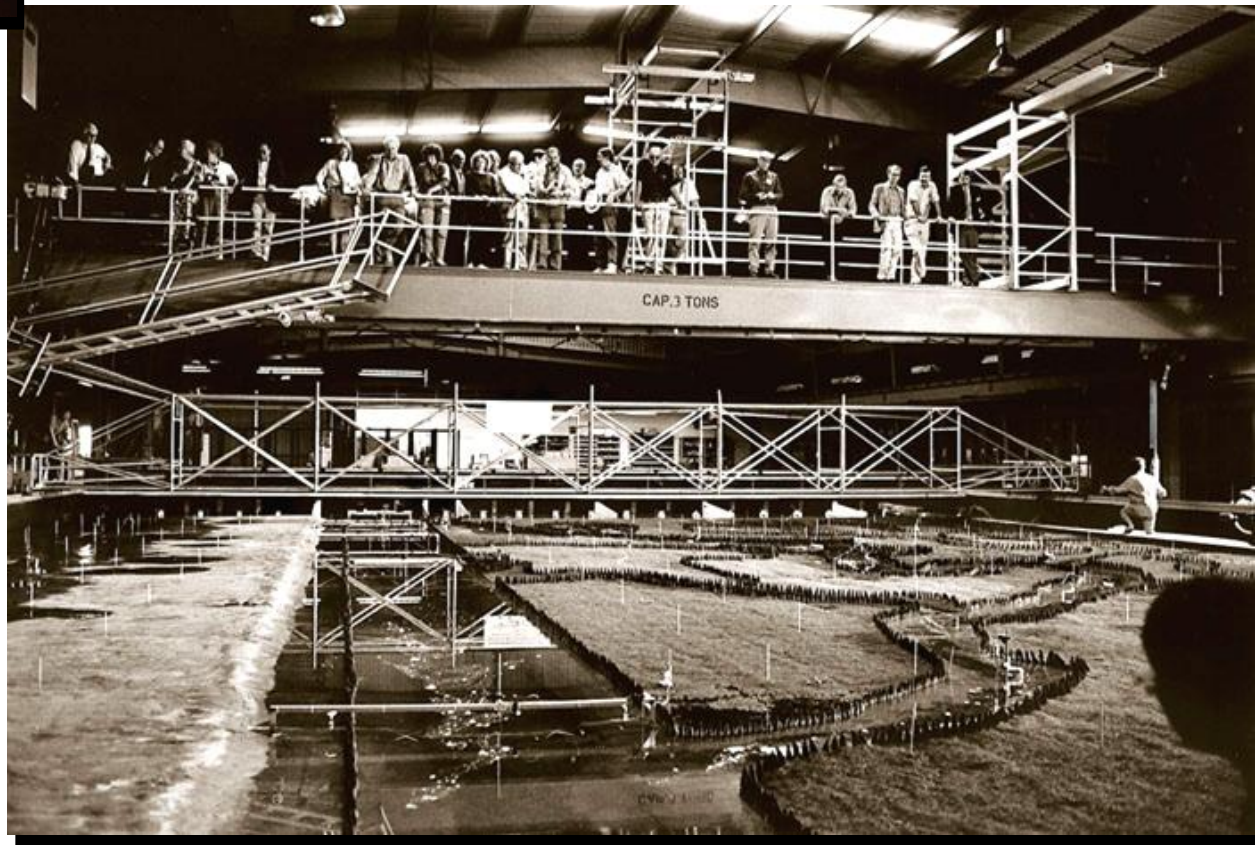


# Educating decision makers, stakeholders, and media



Professor H. W. Shen  
PI for UCB contract

One of the Kissimmee  
models constructed at  
UC-Berkeley





Water levels and flows are being reestablished

Backfilled canal and newly dredged river channels



# Political Dividends



# Spillway and Lock Being Removed



# Two Litmus Tests

- Public Meetings
  - Attendance and fervor subsided over time
- Decision Maker Actions
  - Did not ask for more studies!!
  - Adopted the recommended plan!!







# Signs of Success



# Questions?

