

**Testimony before Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources in Support
of LD 493, An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council**

by Roger Wheeler, Director, Friends of Sebago Lake

Senator Baker, Senator Devin and all members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Roger Wheeler and I am a former President of Friends of Sebago Lake and am currently a director with this organization. My efforts are presently focused on assembling available scientific research literature regarding the impacts of unnatural freshwater flow by dam regulation on lakes, lake wetlands, rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters. LD 493 is very important and Friends of Sebago Lake and myself support this bill. Ocean acidification and its causes are very complicated. The sheer number of factors that contribute to increased ocean acidification and the synergistic impacts of the combination of factors may require much time to study and gather data. I believe that if we do not understand and establish remedies for Maine's rising ocean acidification, the resulting ecosystem and economic impacts will bring great harm to the State. Because of my interest in working to assemble available information on the impacts of unnatural freshwater flow, I have been drawn to learning about the impacts of the present prevalent unnatural freshwater flow regulation from many of the 800 dams in Maine on estuaries. For years I missed a key aspect of impact(s) of unnatural freshwater flow and that is how unnatural freshwater flow is affecting

nutrient delivery to estuaries and the chemistry of coastal waters. Other states like Texas and Florida have studies that link freshwater flow timing and quantity with acidity and the health of molluscs and fish populations. I am attaching charts of the Presumpscot River historical flow data. Many rivers in Maine are similiarly affected by the State's push to alter historical lake regulation. The State regulatory agencies and scientific community have no idea how much the historical flow of our rivers has been altered by unnatural lake regulation. Hopefully, with passage of this bill we can begin to understand the gaps in information about such factors as the one I have mentioned. Thank you all for your dedication to helping our coastal waters.

Roger Wheeler,

Director of Friends of Sebago Lake

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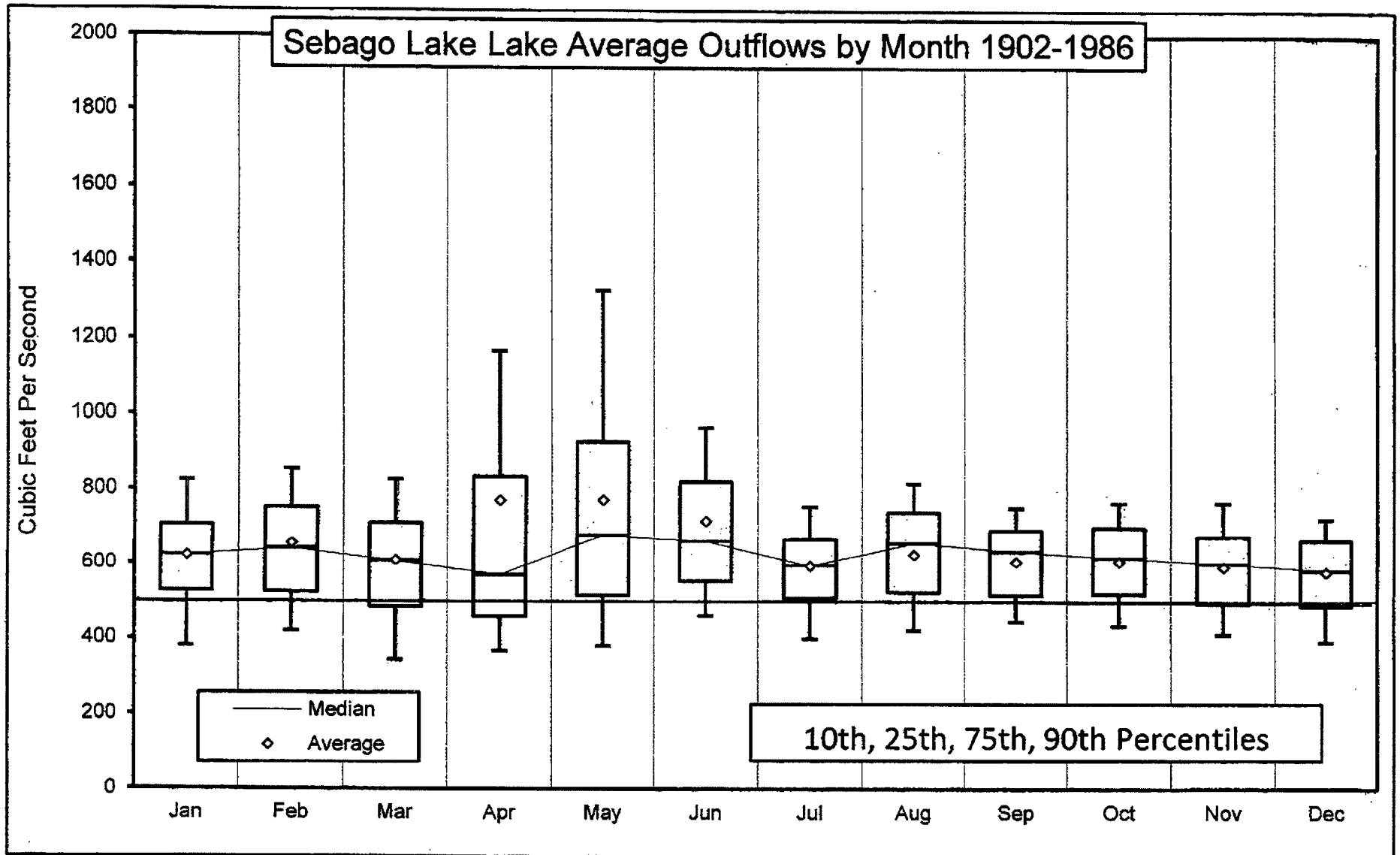
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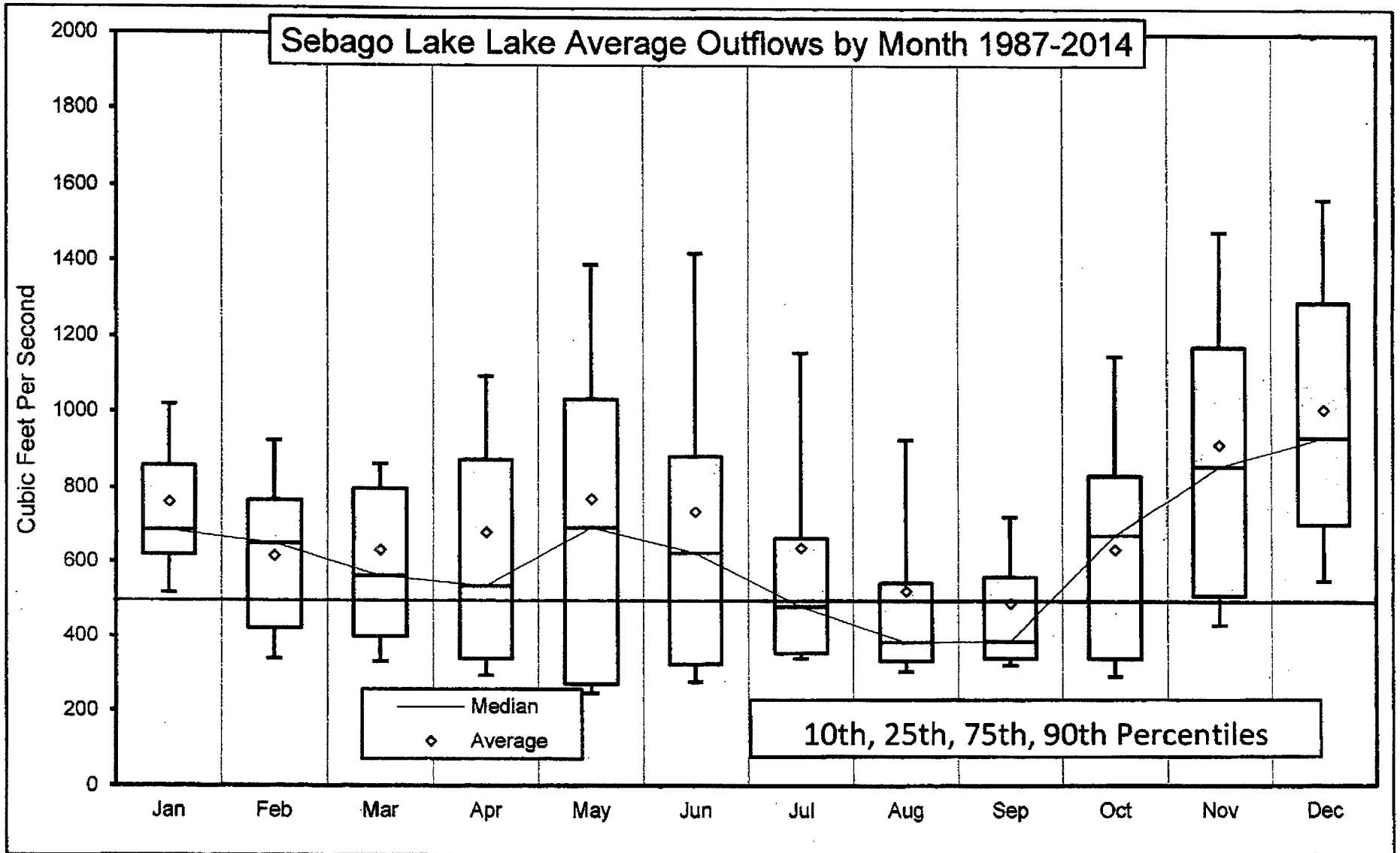
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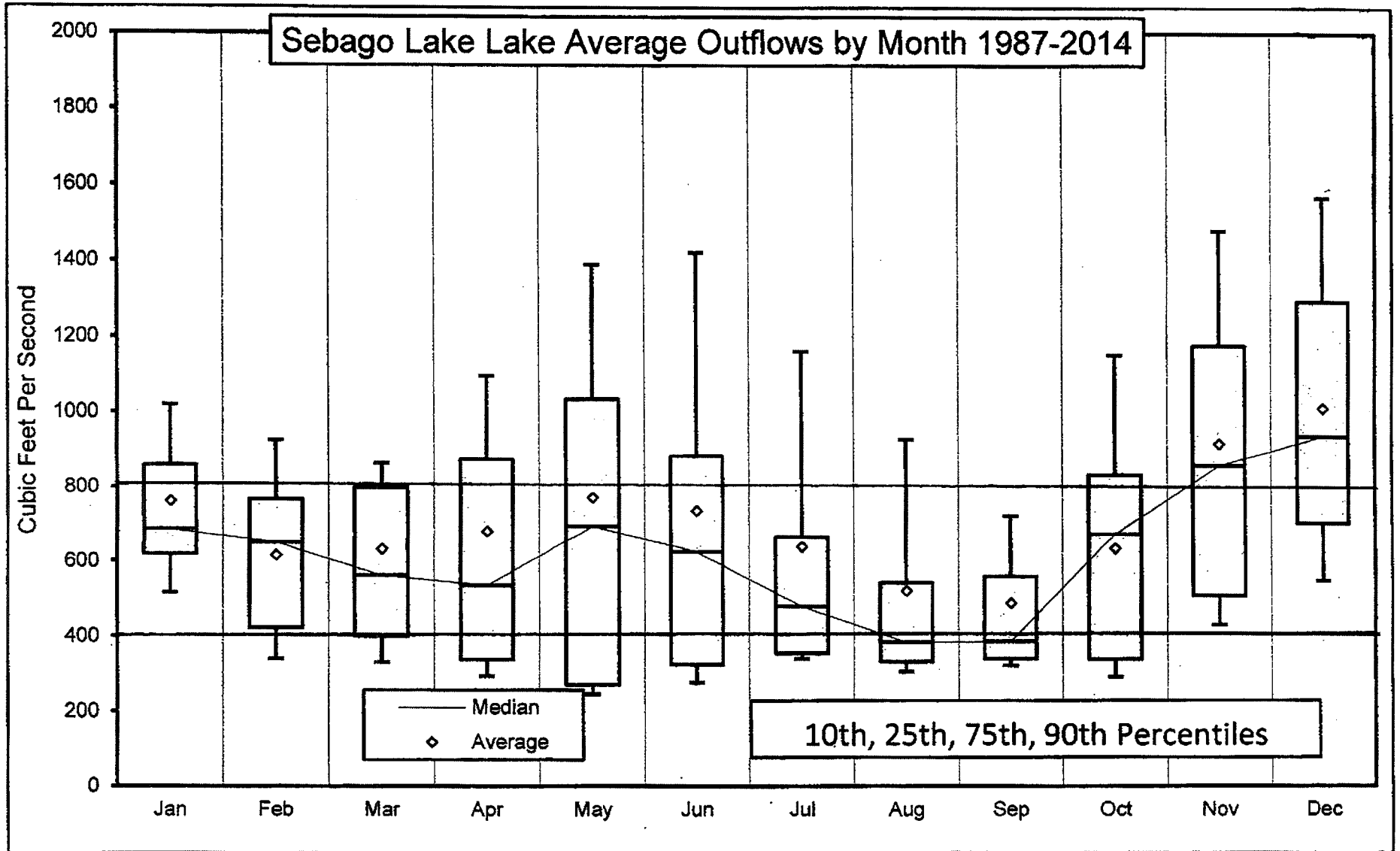
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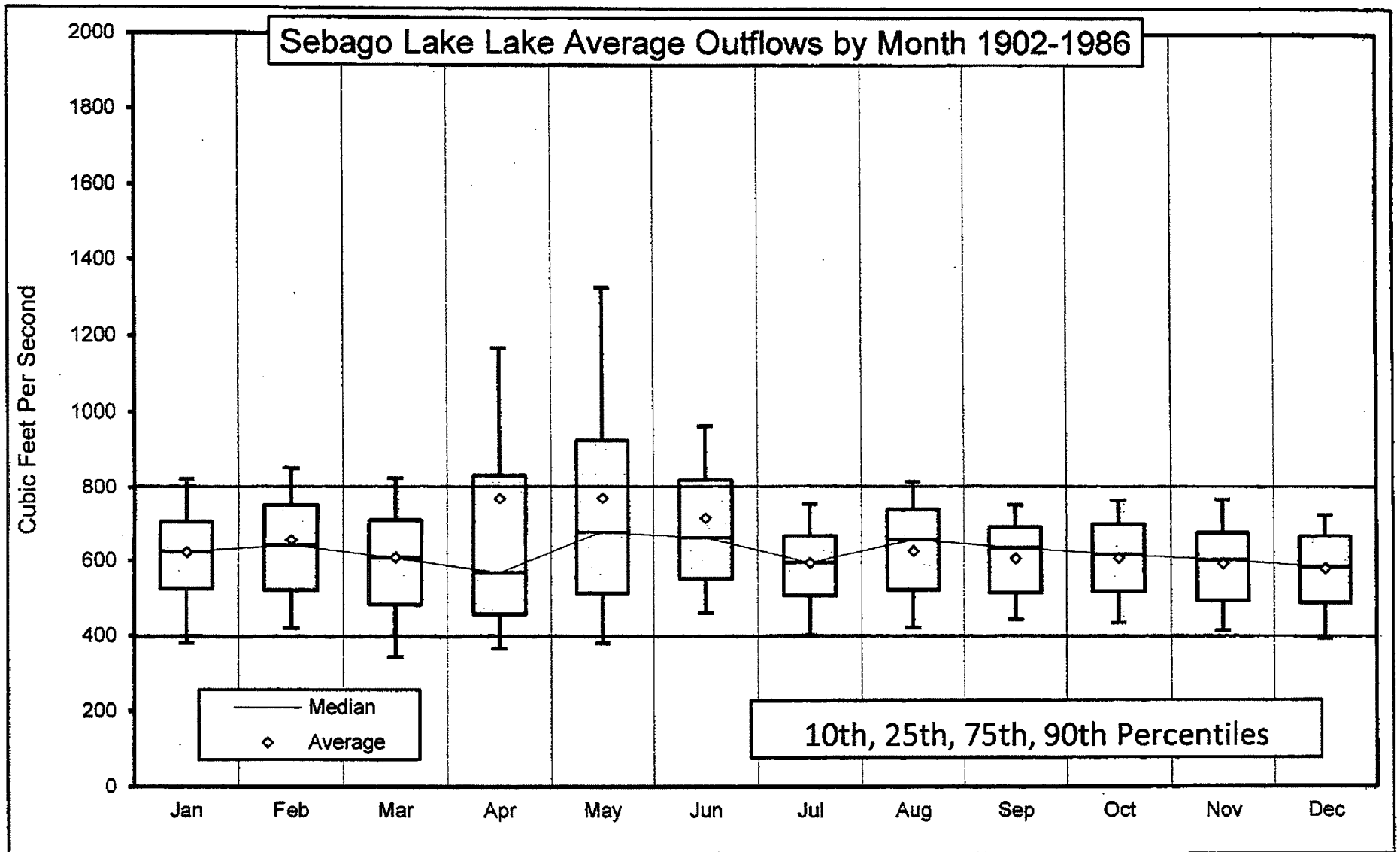
Source of Data: USGS, Portland Water District
 Prepared By: Stephen M. Kasprzak



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