



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resources Programs Manager
Chris Linneman, Regional Drainage Coordinator
Orvil McKinnis, Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for February 2024

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for February 2024 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activity Summary

General Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)

Construction continues on the two remaining projects funded by the California Department of Water Resources Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation grant. Sixty acres of recharge ponds and associated infrastructure are being installed as part of the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project sponsored by Central California Irrigation District. The Broadview Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project sponsored by Westlands Water District will benefit the aquifer below the Corcoran clay to address potential subsidence.

Staff is participating on the technical committee for the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to identifying solutions for water supply reliability south of the Delta, the technical committee is exploring the feasibility of transferring/selling excess flood flows to maintain beneficial use.

Self Help Enterprises (SHE) continues its work to update Community Water Needs Assessments for disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Westside San Joaquin IRWM Region. The updated assessments will be used to identify and prioritize the most critical drinking water needs for DACs in the region, including recommendations for navigating drought years.

¹ For the sake of completeness, this includes those Activity Agreements that have been approved by the Board of Directors, but not yet signed by all interested members and/or participants (i.e., the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Activity Agreement, the Exchange Contractors 2019-2023 Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Agreement).

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

General SGMA Activities

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) groups continue work projects and tasks funded by the SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant. The Coordination Committee approved selection of a consultant to perform construction management of well installation for an Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Monitoring Network. ISW is one of the sustainability indicators DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will use to determine whether a subbasin is operating sustainably under the provisions of SGMA. The monitoring network installation including the construction management aspect will be reimbursed by grant funds.

As February came to a close, a draft of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's Water Year 2023 Annual Report is being reviewed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The annual reports are required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Annual Reports must be submitted via DWR's SGMA Data Portal by April 1, 2024. This year's annual report data is taking on added significance as it will be used to inform the single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) now under development for the Subbasin.

Coordinated Activities

The D-M Subbasin Coordination Committee is diligently working to develop a single GSP for the Subbasin. Technical subcommittee members met with SWRCB staff in February to discuss the Subbasin's approach to addressing water quality concerns. GSA representatives believe a single GSP will help the Subbasin address inadequacies identified by DWR in its analysis of the original six GSPs submitted in early 2020. The Subbasin faces a probationary hearing and direct SWRCB oversight unless SWRCB members approve the revised single GSP.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

The Grassland Bypass Channel gates were opened on January 3 as a result of storm events and remained open through February 28, when they were closed. Available data indicates that GBP operations are meeting water quality objectives.

GBP Activities

- General administration: Review and approve consultant billing. Field review of drainage conditions and correspondence with SJRIP manager.
- Mud Slough Restoration Project: The intent of this project is to restore Mud Slough in accordance with the 2010 MOU between the Authority and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The Water Authority adopted the CEQA for the project in December 2021, which was not challenged. GBP management staff had a meeting with CDFW on August 15th during which CDFW committed to providing a revised MOU that would outline the specific tasks required to complete restoration of Mud Slough. A letter from CDFW regarding the MOU status was received the last week of January and we are in the process of reviewing that letter.

- **Compliance Monitoring:** Monitoring in compliance with the 2019 revised WDRs and 2019 Use Agreement is a continuous and daily effort. Regular flow, water quality and toxicity monitoring are required at eight locations at a frequency that varies from monthly to daily. Special monitoring for fish and invertebrate selenium levels has occurred annually, along with efforts to collect particulate samples for selenium analysis.
- **Grassland Drainage Area Coalition:** Work continues to provide coverage for farmers within the Grassland Drainage Area for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Farm evaluation surveys will be sent out to farmers in 2024.
- **Proposition 84 Grant:** Work is ongoing to support the Prop 84 Grant administered by Panoche Drainage District for improvements to the San Joaquin River Improvement Project. The Short Term Storage Basins construction is in progress but will take some time to complete. Other projects are in design phase.
- Due to a levee failure on the CCID Outside Canal, a critical drainage culvert was washed out. That culvert has been replaced and is currently operating.

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary

- Participated in conference calls with the Regional Board to respond to questions on surface water quality management plans and required follow up. Working with the Regional Board to formulate a more efficient focused outreach program to address sediment and surface water quality impacts to receiving waters.
- **Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition:** Work continues to provide coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program for farmers within the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. The work includes managing the monitoring program, assisting farmers with the necessary reporting to comply with the program and preparing reports for the Regional Board. Analyze pyrethroid Focused Outreach data for follow up MPIRs. Respond to Regional Board's comments on annual monitoring report.
- **Groundwater Protection Formula, Values and Targets:** Coalitions have developed a methodology to establish nitrogen loading Values and Targets as required by the WDRs. Review documents and provide input for upcoming presentation to Regional Board.
- **Management Practices Effectiveness Program:** Attend conference call meetings of the MPEP group. Developing work schedules to implement nitrogen control measures for farmer member compliance. Work with other Coalitions to develop Acceptable Ranges methodology to be presented in report form to Regional Board for public review and approval.
- **Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative:** Attend conference call meetings to give direction to program. Work with other coalitions and staff to develop an updated groundwater monitoring CQAP.
- **Management Zones:** Work continued to develop plan for compliance within the Westside Coalition. Attend meetings with other Management Zone dischargers to begin formation of official Management Zone. Prepare the contracts and agreements that will be used going forward. Attend Central Valley Salinity Coalition meetings to inform SJVDA regarding Management Zone formation.
- **Salt Control Program:** Phase I of the Salt Control Program involves the development of a Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study). Consultants are compiling data in

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order to characterize current salinity conditions of both surface and groundwater across the Central Valley. This work is being supported through the SJVDA budget.

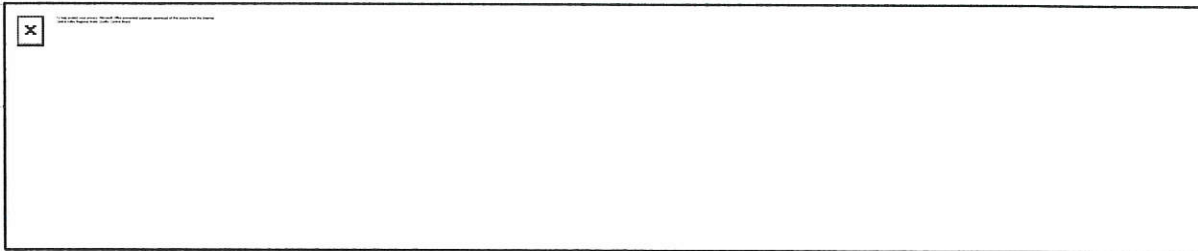
- Prop 84 Real Time Program Grant: Work continues on maintaining the stations, gathering monitoring data, and computer modeling to determine and manage salt discharges to the San Joaquin River. The project has been extended to December of 2024 and the remaining funds will be used for the purchase of spare monitoring equipment.

VIII B.

Anthea Hansen

From: California Water Boards <public@info.waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 5:57 PM
To: Anthea Hansen
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing: Nitrate Control Program, Management Zone Implementation Plans/Aviso de audiencia pública: Programa de Control de Nitratos, planes de implementación de las zonas de gestión

Having trouble viewing this? [View it as a webpage](#)



Notice of Public Hearing for the Nitrate Control Program, Management Zone Implementation Plans

Friday, April 19, 2024 | 9:00 AM

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) invites interested parties to attend a public hearing on April 19, 2024 at 9 A.M. concerning the Nitrate Control Program Management Zone Implementation Plans.

Please view the Public Notice for more information regarding the meeting agenda and document availability. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided for the meeting.

For general questions, to request a special accommodation, or to request interpreter services, please send an e-mail to agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 464-3291. Please request special accommodations or interpreter services at least 10 business days in advance of the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

[View the Notice Here \(PDF\)](#)

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DRAFT Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 2:00 PM

Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present

- Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
- Bobby Pierce, Member – West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)
- Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County
- Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County
- Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Representative Present

John Brodie

Others Present

- Larissa Camara – City of Patterson
- Margaret Caligaris – Trihydro

Others Present via Zoom

- Anthea Hansen, Member – DPWD
- Lea Emmons – City of Tracy (first 30 minutes of meeting)
- Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen (BMJ)
- Anona Dutton – EKI Environment & Water, Inc. (EKI)
- Meredith Durant – EKI
- Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
- Brian Smith - Trihydro

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Bobby Pierce/WSID called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

2. Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda of items.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Pierce/Brodie

- a. Minutes for the December 6, 2023 Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
- b. Minutes for the January 18, 2024 Special Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee
- c. Budget-to-Actual Report

Adam Scheuber/DPWD provided the motion to approve the Consent Calendar and Maria Encinas/City of Patterson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. **Committee to Consider Authorizing Its Representative to the Coordination Committee to Approve a Consultant for Construction Management for Monitoring Wells for the Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Network (Grant Funded), Brodie**

John Brodie/SLDMWA reported that one consultant responded to the Subbasin Request for Proposal (RFP) to perform Construction Management for the Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Wells. The work will be funded by the SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant.

Adam Scheuber provided the motion to authorize its representative to the Coordination Committee to approve the consultant and Lacey McBride/Merced County seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

6. **Committee to Consider Authorizing Its Representative to the Coordination Committee to Approve a Proposed Increase in Budget for the FY 2024 Grant Administration Task Order for the SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant for Woodard & Curran, Dumas/Brodie**

John Brodie noted that a detailed explanation regarding the budget increase request is included in the meeting materials. Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran reported that the initial invoice submitted to DWR for reimbursement had to be revised, and reviewed, and discussed internally. The issues with the initial invoice carried over into the next two invoices. The total budget overrun is projected to be -\$26K. Woodard & Curran is offering to accept 50 percent of the anticipated overrun, thereby reducing the amount of the requested budget increase to -\$13K.

Maria Encinas provided the motion to authorize its representative to the Coordination Committee to approve the requested budget augmentation for the SGMA Round 1 grant administration and Adam Scheuber seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

7. **Committee to Discuss the Scheduled April 23, 2024 Subbasin Tour with State Water Board Members and Staff, Lucchesi/Pierce/Scheuber**

John Brodie reminded the meeting participants that an ad hoc subcommittee of the Northern Region Management Committee intended to discuss planned stops for the Water Board tour of the Subbasin in April. John Brodie also noted that if the number of Subbasin participants in the tour exceeds a quorum, then the tour will need to be publicly noticed to comply with Brown Act requirements.

8. **Committee to Discuss Progress on Development of a Single GSP for the Subbasin**
 - a. **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, Layne/Brodie**
 - b. **Demand Management for the Northern Zone, McKinnon/Scheuber**
 - c. **Use of Woodard & Curran and existing budget from Fund 64 for Development of Stanislaus County Demand Management Strategy, McKinnon/Dumas/Brodie**
 - d. **Draft Well Mitigation Policy, Brodie**
 - e. **Water Leader Institute Recruitment, Brodie**
 - f. **Timeline and Budget Update, Dutton/Brodie**

(a) John Brodie reminded the meeting participants that as with the previous GSPs, a 90-day Notice of Intent to adopt is required. Lauren Layne/BMJ added that the Notice can be provided early, but it must be issued a minimum of 90 days prior to adoption. The Notice should be sent

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by USMail and email from the GSAs to the affected and interested cities and counties. John Brodie anticipates there will be a robust public outreach process including; activities led by Self-Help Enterprises, outreach through the Water Leader Institute, and Stantec activities funded through the DWR FSS program. Lauren Layne commented that the previous distribution list can serve as a starting point, and that each city and county only needs to receive one Notice regarding the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP. Placing the Notice in local newspapers is not required.

(b) Anona Dutton/EKI reported that using information provided by the GSAs, EKI is evaluating the data to assist with demand management planning for the Upper and Lower Aquifers. Anona Dutton reminded the group that subsidence also must be managed, and that more frequent monitoring may be necessary for the Subbasin to more proactively manage groundwater levels.

(c) Christy McKinnon/Stanislaus County explained that Stanislaus County has retained Trihydro Corporation to assist the County with GSP implementation, including response measures to data obtained in compliance with SGMA. The County would like to access the institutional knowledge of other consultants involved in the GSP preparation and data evaluation.

(d) John Brodie hopes to circulate a revised draft of the Well Mitigation Policy to the GSAs ahead of the upcoming Coordination Committee meeting. This is still a confidential document.

(e) The latest flyer from the Water Leader Institute is attached. John Brodie spoke to the Dean at Merced College regarding outreach efforts at that campus. The Institute is hoping for additional participation from the northern portion of the Subbasin.

(f) Anona Dutton reported that at this time, development of the single GSP is on schedule and within budget.

9. Report of the Representative to the Coordination Committee, Lucchesi/McKinnon

Christy McKinnon/Stanislaus County reported on the January 2024 meeting of the Coordination Committee meeting. The Coordination Committee is considering retaining the current chair and vice chair at least through completion and submittal of the single GSP in 2024.

10. Committee to Discuss Data Needs for the Annual Report and Development of the Annual Report, Dumas

Leslie Dumas reported that the Annual Report is in progress. Natalie Cochran/Woodard & Curran is sending weekly updates to the Subbasin participants regarding the Annual Report. The Northern & Central Regions have submitted their data and information.

II. Committee to Discuss 2023 GSP Implementation

a. 3-Month Look-Ahead Schedule, Dutton

b. Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement, Brodie

Anona Dutton reviewed the upcoming activities for development of the Subbasin GSP.

John Brodie noted that the planned three-pronged approach for stakeholder outreach and engagement was discussed in the earlier agenda item.

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12. Committee to Discuss Potential Additional Funding Opportunities, Brodie

John Brodie referred to the updated list of Potential Funding Opportunities included in the meeting packet.

13. Next Steps

- John Brodie will email SWRCB Chair Esquivel's staff to obtain the start time and duration of the tour of the northern portion of the Subbasin planned for April 23, 2024.
- John Brodie will locate the previous distribution list for the 90-day public notice regarding the planned adoption of the GSP. The list will be reviewed and updated, and then shared with the GSAs.
- Vince Lucchesi and Christy McKinnon will vote to approve the action items in the upcoming Coordination Committee meeting as authorized by the Northern Delta-Mendota Management Committee.
- John Brodie will provide the latest draft of the Well Mitigation Policy for review by the GSAs.

14. Reports Pursuant to Government Code 54954.2(a)(3)

No reports were discussed under this item.

15. Future Meetings

a. Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

- i. Wednesday, March 8, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- ii. Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM

b. Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

- i. Monday, February 12, 2024 at 1:00 PM
- ii. Monday, March 11, 2024 at 1:00 PM
- iii. Additional Coordination Committee meetings may be scheduled

16. ADJOURNMENT

Bobby Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:47 PM.

DRAFT Special Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Tuesday February 27, 2024, 12:00 PM

Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present

Bobby Pierce, Member – West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)
Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Greg Reichmuth, Alternate - PID
Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County
Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson
Fernando Ulloa, Alternate – City of Patterson

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Representative Present

John Brodie

Others Present

Larissa Camara – City of Patterson
Ashlee Chan-Gonzalez – Merced County
Anona Dutton – EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI)
Amir Mani – EKI
Margaret Caligaris – Trihydro

Others Present via Zoom

Anthea Hansen, Member – DPWD
Lea Emmons – City of Tracy (first 30 minutes of meeting)
Manuel Martinez – Modesto
Jeremy Parnell – Modesto
Juan Ochoa – City of Patterson
V. Tostado – City of Patterson
Connie Payan – Westley
Matt Brady
Tim Barahona
Chris Olvera – CA Dept. of Water Resources
Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
Natalie Cochran – Woodard & Curran
Brian Smith – Trihydro
Ryan Athey – Trihydro

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Bobby Pierce/WSID called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

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2. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

3. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Zone Three Overdraft Amounts for Upper and Lower Aquifers, Brodie/Dutton**

Anona Dutton/EKI provided overdraft estimates for both aquifers based on updated modeling. Committee members established consensus on the updated overdraft numbers from the model.

4. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Water Level Representative Monitoring Network (RMN) Well Locations, Brodie/Dutton**

Committee members expressed that there were an appropriate number of wells in the RMN. Some committee members noted they are monitoring more wells than those in the RMN, and wondered whether those should be added to the contouring that is done for SGMA reporting.

5. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Subsidence Monitoring Locations and Data Gaps, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

The Committee reviewed existing RMN sites for subsidence and reviewed possible areas of concern. Consensus was reached on maintaining the current RMN for subsidence. John Brodie was directed to seek opportunities for installation of DWR continuous GPS stations to augment existing monitoring.

6. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Thresholds for Triggering Water Level Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Committee members suggested responding if well levels descend towards minimum thresholds (MTs). It was suggested that three triggers be chosen along a downward glide path, recognizing that an area-wide allocation will not solve issues at potential "hotspots." A range specific to individual wells was suggested by comparing spring high water levels annually from previous years.

7. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Thresholds for Triggering Subsidence Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Duma/Dutton**

The Committee established a threshold based on the rate of subsidence over the course of time. The threshold is reached if the rate projects subsidence to exceed two feet of subsidence prior to 2040.

8. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Pumping Restrictions for Water Level Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Committee members felt the consensus here was achieved during discussion on agenda item 6. EKI was directed to write up a proposal for the upper aquifer wells based on the discussion. The Committee agreed Land IQ ET will be used to estimate pumping in areas where meters are not used/required.

9. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Pumping Restrictions for Subsidence Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Anona Dutton reported to Committee members that they had to solve for about 8,000 acre-feet of annual overdraft from the lower aquifer as the best way to eliminate subsidence in zone 3/northern area. Committee members discussed sources for additional surface water supply,

restrictions on pumping from the lower aquifer, and/or a combination of the two without reaching consensus. Further discussion on this item will be held at the next regular meeting.

10. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Area of Influence for Pumping Restrictions for Water Level Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Discussion on this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

11. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Area of Influence for Pumping Restrictions for Subsidence Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Discussion on this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

12. **Committee to Review MOA Adaptive Management Process for Conflict Resolution, Brodie**

Discussion on this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

13. **Next Steps**

- EKI will write-up the proposal for establishing triggers for exceedance prevention for on RMN wells in zone 3/Northern Region.
- Committee members will bring their ideas for eliminating the 8,000AFY overdraft in the lower aquifer in zone 3/Northern Region.
- Meeting materials will be transmitted to Westley
- Agenda items 9-12 will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting (March 6, 2024)

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Bobby Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:29 PM.

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Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday February 12, 2024, 1:00 PM DRAFT

Board Room, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority 842 Sixth St., Los Banos, CA

Coordination Committee Members and Alternates Present

Jarrett Martin, Member – Central California Irrigation District (CCID)/ San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors (SJREC)

John Wiersma, Member – San Luis Canal Company (SLCC)/ SJREC

Chase Hurley, Member – Pacheco Water District/ Central Delta-Mendota

Lacey McBride, Alternate – Merced County/ Central Delta-Mendota*

Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)/ Northern Delta-Mendota Region

Christy McKinnon, Alternate – Stanislaus County/ Northern Delta-Mendota Region

Ric Ortega, Member – Grassland Water District (Grassland)

Augustine Ramirez, Member – Fresno County

Jim Stilwell, Member – Farmers Water District (FWD)

Joe Hopkins, Member – Aliso Water District (AWD)/ Provost & Pritchard (P&P)

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Staff Present

John Brodie

Lauren Viers*

Others Present

Steve Stadler – San Luis Water District

Anona Dutton – EKI Environment & Water, Inc. (EKI)

Margaret Caligaris – Trihydro

Maria Encinas – City of Patterson*

Adam Scheuber – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)*

Patrick McGowan – Panoche Water District*

Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen, PC (BMJ)*

Ellen Wehr – Grassland Water District

Sarah Gerenday – EKI*

Susan Xie – EKI*

Amir Mani – EKI*

Andrew Francis – Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)*

Rick Iger – P&P*

Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran*

Haley Miller – Department of Water Resources (DWR)*

Jane Gray – DWR*

Lauren Crotty – DWR*

Matt Naftaly – Dudek*

Maryse Suppiger – Dudek*

Brian Smith – Trihydro*

Jenny Nunez Rodriguez*

Greg Young – Zanjero*

Lisa Beutler – Stantec*

Casey Shorrock – Somach Simmons & Dunn*

* Denotes telephonic/Zoom participation.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

John Wiersma (SLCC/ SJREC) called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

2. Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No additions or corrections were made.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Consent Calendar

4. Committee to Review and Take Action on the Consent Calendar (Wiersma/Brodie)

a) Minutes of the January 12, 2024 Committee Meeting

b) Coordination Committee Budget to Actual Report

John Wiersma moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Jarrett Martin (CCID/ SJREC) seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

5. Committee to Consider Approval of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget, Hopkins/Hurley/Ramirez

John Brodie (SLDMWA) informed the Committee that the SLDMWA Board had approved the FY 2025 budget. Ric Ortega (Grassland) moved to approve the budget. Vince Lucchesi (PID/ Northern Delta-Mendota) seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee to Consider Accepting the Proposal from LSCE to Conduct Construction Management of Wells for the Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Network (Grant Funded), Hopkins/Lucchesi/Ramirez

John Brodie informed the Committee that LSCE was the only consultant to respond to the Request for Proposals. Ric Ortega moved to accept the LSCE proposal. Joe Hopkins (AWD/ P&P) seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Committee to Consider Approval of a Budget Increase for the FY 2024 Task Order to Perform Grant Administration for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Round 1 Implementation Grant, Brodie/Dumas

Leslie Dumas (Woodard & Curran) explained why the budget increase was needed, and a more detailed memo from Woodard & Curran was included in the meeting materials. The ad hoc Finance Subcommittee agreed to review the request and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

8. Committee to Consider Approval of Chair and Vice Chair Appointments for Calendar Year 2024, Brodie/Layne

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In the previous meeting, the Committee members present agreed that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) groups should waive their rotations for Chair and Vice Chair appointments so that the same leadership could continue while the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is being developed; however, no vote was held as not all Committee members were present. Chase Hurley (Pacheco Water District/ Central Delta-Mendota) moved that all GSA groups waive their rotations and allow the current Chair and Vice Chair to keep their positions. Jarrett Martin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Committee to Discuss Water Leader Institute and Recruitment, Ortega/EDF/RCAC

Ric Ortega shared that the Water Leadership Institute workshops will be held at the Bird Ranch at San Luis Creek, with the schedule provided in the meeting materials. Ric Ortega informed the Committee that over 30 individuals have applied but that all of the applicants are from south of Dos Palos and requested that GSA representatives make further efforts to recruit applicants from more northern areas of the Basin.

10. Committee to Discuss DWR Funding Opportunities for Disadvantaged Communities and Small Farmers, Martin/DWR

Jane Gray (Dudek), Matt Naftaly (Dudek), and Lauren Crotty (DWR) gave a presentation on DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Technical Assistance (SGM TA) Program. Technical assistance available to small farmers may include groundwater testing, installation or repair of wells and monitoring instruments, and educational workshops with interpretation available for any language. Crotty explained DWR's working definition of small farms, which are currently defined as having a gross cash annual income under \$350,000, and requested that any comments or suggestions be sent to SGM_TA@water.ca.gov by June 30th.

II. Committee to Discuss Progress on Development of a Single GSP for the Subbasin

a) Single GSP Development, Dutton

Anona Dutton (EKI) informed the Committee that the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) section for most sustainability indicators and the Hydrologic Conceptual Model cross sections would be provided within a week and that the projected water budget will be delivered later in February. Anona Dutton shared that the water budget included in the GSP will be on a subbasin scale, as specified by SGMA. Anona Dutton confirmed that the work remains on budget.

b) Demand Management for the Subbasin, Hurley/Lucchesi/Dutton

Anona Dutton and Amir Mani (EKI) shared that quantifiable P/MAs with established timelines for implementation described by the GSAs have been incorporated into the latest version of the model. Amir Mani explained that while the P/MAs would theoretically provide enough quantitative benefits to eliminate annual overdraft, a substantial cumulative overdraft would continue to accrue over the implementation timeline. Amir Mani also explained that a larger proportion of benefits would be needed in the Lower Aquifer.

Anona Dutton advised that, at a minimum, monthly monitoring would likely be needed for successful water level-based management and also that the Subbasin would probably need to make the most aggressive pumping reductions early in the implementation process to address the overdraft that is continuing to occur until the projects come on-

line. The GSAs agreed to bring written demand management plans to the next Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting. EKI agreed to calculate minimum demand reduction quantities, local projected effects of P/MAs, and P/MA shortfalls by zone to present to the TWG.

c) February 21, 2024 Technical Meeting with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Staff, Dutton/Brodie

Anona Dutton shared the SMCs for water quality to be presented to the SWRCB staff. The proposed definition of an undesirable result (UR) will be exceedances in at least 25% of representative monitoring wells for three consecutive years as a result of groundwater extraction or recharge in the Subbasin. The proposed minimum threshold will be the greater of the applicable maximum contaminant level (MCL) or pre-SGMA baseline concentration, and the proposed measurable objective will be the MCL. It was noted that the UR definition is consistent with what has been approved by DWR in other GSPs and is reasonable for the Subbasin.

d) April 23, 2024 Subbasin Tour for SWRCB Chair Esquivel and Staff, Lucchesi

Vince Lucchesi shared that the Northern Delta-Mendota group is developing a tour itinerary for SWRCB Chair Esquivel and the staff. Vince Lucchesi explained that the tour will be noticed as a Northern Delta-Mendota committee meeting and will be open to the public, as a quorum of committee members will be present at some tour stops.

e) Coordinating with Water Quality Programs, Martin/Ortega

Ric Ortega informed the Committee that a discussion would be scheduled between representatives of the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

f) Draft Well Mitigation Policy, Brodie

John Brodie advised the Committee members that he would distribute a draft well mitigation policy to them for review and comment within a week. It was confirmed that the draft policy will address only mitigation for water levels, though the SWRCB staff will likely want it to also cover water quality.

g) Timeline and Budget Update, Dutton/Brodie

This item was discussed under agenda item 11a.

12. Committee to Discuss Development of the Annual Report, Dumas/Cochran

Leslie Dumas announced that Kenneth D Schmidt & Associates is working on the groundwater contours for the Annual Report and reminded the Committee that reports of plan implementation progress and extraction quantities were still needed from some GSAs. Jim Stilwell (FWD) explained that FWD was in the process of resolving a change in the data provided by some of the FW's growers.

13. Committee to Review Monitoring Exceedances, Dumas/Dutton

Leslie Dumas announced that there were six water quality exceedances for 2023 and that there have been five water level exceedances in the fall and three in the spring. Leslie Dumas noted that the Delta-Mendota-II group was in the process of reviewing some potentially anomalous data. It

was agreed that a map of the representative monitoring network should be provided to the GSAs along with the exceedance table for reference, and that John Brodie would compile a list of the monitoring wells with exceedances in a Google Docs spreadsheet.

14. Committee to Discuss Available Funding Opportunities, Brodie

Information on available funding opportunities was included in the meeting materials.

15. Next Steps

- John Brodie will work with Jarrett Martin on a breakdown of the FY 2025 budget.
- The Finance Subcommittee will review Woodard & Curran's budget augmentation request.
- Members of the Northern group will work to recruit applicants for the Water Leadership Institute.
- Comments on DWR's working definition of small farmers should be emailed to SGM_TA@water.ca.gov by June 30th.
- John Brodie will email the presentation that was not in the meeting materials to the Committee.
- GSA groups to develop demand management plans to be shared during the next Technical Working Group meeting.
- Demand management will be discussed with the SWRCB in April.
- A call will be scheduled with SWRCB member D'Adamo and a representative from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- John Brodie will create and share a spreadsheet of monitoring wells with exceedances.

16. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

John Brodie announced that DWR has funding available for the installation of continuous global positioning systems (CGPS) in the San Joaquin Valley and that Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley is working on a flood management forum. John Brodie agreed to ask DWR for a more detailed map of potential CGPS sites and inquire as to whether they would be interested in installing any stations in the Basin.

17. Future Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee Meetings

- a) Monday March 11, 2024 1:00 PM SLDMWA Board Room
- b) Monday April 8, 2024 1:00 PM SLDMWA Board Room
- c) Future Special Meetings May Be Scheduled at the Request of the Committee.

18. ADJOURNMENT

John Wiersma adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.

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DRAFT Special Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

Tuesday February 27, 2024, 12:00 PM

Patterson City Council Chambers, 1 Plaza Circle, Patterson, CA

Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee Members and Alternates Present

Bobby Pierce, Member – West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID)
Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District (DPWD)
Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District (PID)
Greg Reichmuth, Alternate - PID
Christy McKinnon, Member – Stanislaus County
Lacey McBride, Member – Merced County
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson
Fernando Ulloa, Alternate – City of Patterson

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Representative Present

John Brodie

Others Present

Larissa Camara – City of Patterson
Ashlee Chan-Gonzalez – Merced County
Anona Dutton – EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI)
Amir Mani – EKI
Margaret Caligaris – Trihydro

Others Present via Zoom

Anthea Hansen, Member – DPWD
Lea Emmons – City of Tracy (first 30 minutes of meeting)
Manuel Martinez – Modesto
Jeremy Parnell – Modesto
Juan Ochoa – City of Patterson
V. Tostado – City of Patterson
Connie Payan – Westley
Matt Brady
Tim Barahona
Chris Olvera – CA Dept. of Water Resources
Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
Natalie Cochran – Woodard & Curran
Brian Smith – Trihydro
Ryan Athey - Trihydro

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Bobby Pierce/WSID called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

2. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

3. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Zone Three Overdraft Amounts for Upper and Lower Aquifers, Brodie/Dutton**

Anona Dutton/EKI provided overdraft estimates for both aquifers based on updated modeling. Committee members established consensus on the updated overdraft numbers from the model.

4. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Water Level Representative Monitoring Network (RMN) Well Locations, Brodie/Dutton**

Committee members expressed that there were an appropriate number of wells in the RMN. Some committee members noted they are monitoring more wells than those in the RMN, and wondered whether those should be added to the contouring that is done for SGMA reporting.

5. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Subsidence Monitoring Locations and Data Gaps, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

The Committee reviewed existing RMN sites for subsidence and reviewed possible areas of concern. Consensus was reached on maintaining the current RMN for subsidence. John Brodie was directed to seek opportunities for installation of DWR continuous GPS stations to augment existing monitoring.

6. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Thresholds for Triggering Water Level Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Committee members suggested responding if well levels descend towards minimum thresholds (MTs). It was suggested that three triggers be chosen along a downward glide path, recognizing that an area-wide allocation will not solve issues at potential "hotspots." A range specific to individual wells was suggested by comparing spring high water levels annually from previous years.

7. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Thresholds for Triggering Subsidence Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Duma/Dutton**

The Committee established a threshold based on the rate of subsidence over the course of time. The threshold is reached if the rate projects subsidence to exceed two feet of subsidence prior to 2040.

8. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Pumping Restrictions for Water Level Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Committee members felt the consensus here was achieved during discussion on agenda item 6. EKI was directed to write up a proposal for the upper aquifer wells based on the discussion. The Committee agreed Land IQ ET will be used to estimate pumping in areas where meters are not used/required.

9. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Pumping Restrictions for Subsidence Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Anona Dutton reported to Committee members that they had to solve for about 8,000 acre-feet of annual overdraft from the lower aquifer as the best way to eliminate subsidence in zone 3/northern area. Committee members discussed sources for additional surface water supply,

restrictions on pumping from the lower aquifer, and/or a combination of the two without reaching consensus. Further discussion on this item will be held at the next regular meeting.

10. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Area of Influence for Pumping Restrictions for Water Level Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Discussion on this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

11. **Committee to Establish Consensus on Area of Influence for Pumping Restrictions for Subsidence Exceedance Prevention, Brodie/Dutton/Dumas**

Discussion on this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

12. **Committee to Review MOA Adaptive Management Process for Conflict Resolution, Brodie**

Discussion on this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

13. **Next Steps**

- EKI will write-up the proposal for establishing triggers for exceedance prevention for on RMN wells in zone 3/Northern Region.
- Committee members will bring their ideas for eliminating the 8,000AFY overdraft in the lower aquifer in zone 3/Northern Region.
- Meeting materials will be transmitted to Westley
- Agenda items 9-12 will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting (March 6, 2024)

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Bobby Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:29 PM.

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March 8, 2024

- City of Dos Palos
- City of Firebaugh
- City of Gustine
- City of Los Banos
- City of Mendota
- City of Newman
- City of Patterson
- County of Fresno
- County of Madera
- County of Merced
- County of San Benito
- County of San Joaquin
- County of Stanislaus

Re: *Notice of Intent to Adopt a New Groundwater Sustainability Plan*

On behalf of the twenty-three (23) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (collectively, the “DM GSAs”, as listed below), the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“Water Authority”), acting as Plan Manager, hereby gives notice that these GSAs intend to adopt a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (hereafter referred to as “Delta-Mendota GSP”) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin No. 5-022.07) pursuant to California Water Code Section 10727.8. This notice is specifically given to the cities of Dos Palos, Firebaugh, Gustine, Los Banos, Mendota, Newman, and Patterson; and the Counties of Fresno, Madera, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus, which are the cities and counties within the area of the proposed Delta-Mendota GSP.

842 SIXTH STREET

On January 12, 2020, six coordinated GSPs were submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).¹ DWR completed its two-year review of the six coordinated GSPs on January 21, 2022, determining all GSPs submitted in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to be incomplete and identifying corrective actions that must be completed within 180 days of the determination.² On July 20, 2022, revised Plans were submitted to DWR. On March 2, 2023, DWR issued a determination for the revised coordinated Plans and determined all six

P.O. BOX 2157

LOS BANOS, CA

93635

¹ Water Code §§ 10720, *et seq.*

² DWR’s letter determination can be accessed on DWR’s SGMA Portal website: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/status>.

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209 826-9698 FAX

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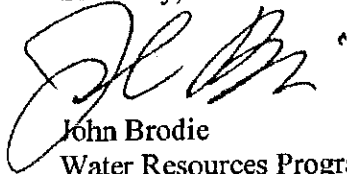
were inadequate. The DM GSAs now intend to address the deficiencies identified by DWR in a single GSP for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

The DM GSAs intend to hold public hearings to consider adoption of the Delta-Mendota GSP beginning in July 2024, but no earlier than 90 days from the date of this notice.

Cities or counties that receive this notice may request in writing to consult on the Delta-Mendota GSP. These requests must be received by the Plan Manager at the contact information below within 30 calendar days upon receipt of this notice.

To review the list of the GSA public hearings scheduled for adoption proceedings of the Delta-Mendota GSP, to download copies of the public drafts of the Delta-Mendota GSP and for other information, please visit <https://deltamendota.org/>

Sincerely,



John Brodie
Water Resources Programs Manager
San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
Plan Manager and Point of Contact for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin
P.O. Box 2157
842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635
john.brodie@sldmwa.org

GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin :

- Aliso Water District
- Central Delta-Mendota
- City of Dos Palos
- City of Firebaugh
- City of Gustine
- City of Los Banos
- City of Mendota
- City of Newman
- City of Patterson
- County of Madera—3
- DM-II
- Farmers Water District
- Fresno County—Management Area 'A'
- Fresno County—Management Area 'B'
- Grassland
- Merced County—Delta-Mendota
- Northwestern Delta-Mendota

- Oro Loma Water District
- Patterson Irrigation District
- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
- Turner Island Water District-2
- West Stanislaus Irrigation District
- Widren Water District

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DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN RESPONSE TO INADEQUATE DETERMINATION

11 MARCH 2024

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW

1. 21 February 2024 SWRCB Meeting Summary
2. Demand Management
3. GSP Implementation Schedule

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1. 21 FEBRUARY 2024 SWRCB MEETING SUMMARY

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21 FEBRUARY 2024 SWRCB MEETING SUMMARY

- Presented revised water quality groundwater conditions and SMC proposals
- SWRCB staff generally responded neutrally / positively
- Pleaded that COCs are not being excluded
- More data required (in the future) to show lack of correlation between groundwater management and COC concentrations
- “SGMA is supposed to be redundant with IRLP and CV-SALTS”
- Requested to see references/reports on the Western Saline Front

ADDITIONAL SWRCB STAFF FEEDBACK

- SWRCB staff in Kern Subbasin Meeting: “The SWRCB staff will not recommend approval of a GSP is there is not an active well mitigation program in place...”
- Tule Subbasin Draft Staff Report:
 - Deficiency GL-8 – The well mitigation framework provided in the GSPs lacks necessary detail.
 - Deficiency GWQ-5b – Well mitigation plans don’t address water quality degradation.

2. DEMAND MANAGEMENT

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TARGET OVERDRAFT REDUCTION

■ Based on Baseline Projection (2024-2073) we identified a need for about 32,000 AFY of overdraft reduction that was then distributed across the Basin by Aquifer and by Zone

■ We have now been able to incorporate impacts of Climate Change on the basin water budget:

- 2030 Climate Change adds ~10,000 AFY of overdraft
- 2070 Climate Change adds ~15,000 AFY of overdraft

■ *What Future Scenario does the Basin want to plan for?*

Climate Change Scenarios with P/MAs (AFY)

Overdraft Change from Projected Baseline

2030 Central Tendency

Upper Aquifer -3,319

Lower Aquifer -6,881

Basin -10,201

2070 Central Tendency

Upper Aquifer -4,077

Lower Aquifer -10,701

Basin -14,778

CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIOS

- 2030 and 2070 climate change scenarios increase Basin’s overdraft primarily due to less SW availability and increased ET, leading to increased pumping.
- Overdraft increase is dampened by changes to GW/stream interaction and boundary flows.

Climate Change Scenarios with P/MAs: All Values in Average AFY

	GW Extraction	Total Overdraft	Overdraft “Caused” by Basin	Additional Boundary Outflow Due to P/MAs	Remaining Overdraft GSA’s Must Directly Address	Overdraft Change from Projected Baseline
2030 Central Tendency						
Upper Aquifer	-309,666	-15,534	-14,820	5,298	-9,522	-3,319
Lower Aquifer	-213,299	-109,392	-50,914	18,426	-32,487	-6,881
Basin	-522,965	-124,926	-65,734	23,724	-42,010	-10,201
2070 Central Tendency						
Upper Aquifer	-309,804	-17,028	-15,490	5,210	-10,280	-4,077
Lower Aquifer	-228,167	-112,619	-54,886	18,579	-36,307	-10,701
Basin	-537,971	-129,647	-70,376	23,789	-46,587	-14,778

FUTURE BASELINE ~32,000 AFY MORE OF PUMPING REDUCTION

- Total Basin overdraft is ~128,000 AFY.
- 50% (~65,000 AFY) is due to adverse impacts from neighboring basins.
- Total overdraft “caused” by Basin is ~63,000 AFY.
- Basin loses ~25,000 AFY of P/MA benefits to boundary outflows.
- Remaining overdraft for GSAs to address is ~32,000 AFY, incorporating the surplus boundary flows due to P/MAs.

WY2024-2073: All Values in Average AFY

	GW Extraction Overdraft	Total Overdraft	Overdraft Due to Impacts From Neighboring Basins	Overdraft “Caused” by Basin	Additional Boundary Outflow Due to P/MAs	Remaining Overdraft GSAs Must Directly Address
Upper Aquifer	-300,626	17,562	284	-17,846	11,643	-6,203
Lower Aquifer	-192,617	110,121	-64,964	-45,157	19,551	-25,606
Basin	-493,243	127,683	-64,680	-63,003	31,194	-31,809

BASELINE PUMPING REDUCTION - UPPER AQUIFER

- Increase in subsurface outflows between the Projected Baseline and the Projected Baseline with P/MA scenarios credited as a P/MA benefit.
- Identified remaining overdraft that needs to be managed through additional GW pumping reduction (demand management).
- Reduction for each zone is assumed equal to percentage of GW Storage Change:
% Demand Reduction of Remaining Overdraft (+)

$$= \frac{\text{Zone's Upper Aquifer Overdraft Caused by Basin (Column B)}}{\text{Basin's Total Upper Aquifer Overdraft Caused by Basin (17,826 AF)}}$$

	(A) Groundwater Extraction	(B) Overdraft "Caused" By Basin	(C) Remaining Overdraft: Overdraft-Subsurface Flow Difference	(D) % Demand Reduction of Remaining Overdraft	(E) Necessary Pumping Reduction	(F) Available to Pump
Upper Aquifer (AFY; WY 2024-2073 Average)						
Zone 1	-87,819	-6,542	1,382	36.7%	-2,274	85,545
Zone 2	-149,769	-7,936	-17,920	44.5%	-2,759	147,011
Zone 3	-30,085	-948	7,267	5.3%	-329	29,756
Zone 4	-32,952	-2,420	3,069	13.6%	-841	32,111
Basin	-300,626	-17,846	-6,203	100.0%	-6,203	294,423

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BASELINE PUMPING REDUCTION - LOWER AQUIFER

- Same approach was used to calculate the remaining overdraft in the Lower Aquifer (i.e., increases in subsurface outflows credited back to the Basin).
- Reduction in each zone “allocated” using the percentage of Zones’ GW extraction:

$$\% \text{ Demand Reduction of Remaining Overdraft (+)} = \frac{\text{Zone's Lower Aquifer GW Extraction (Column A)}}{\text{Basin's Total Lower Aquifer GW Extraction (191,491 AF)}}$$
- Calculated pumping reductions are in addition to currently identified P/MAs, including demand management P/MAs.

Lower Aquifer (AFY; WY 2024-2073 Average)					
	(A) Groundwater Extraction	(B) Overdraft “Caused” By Basin	(C) Remaining Overdraft: Overdraft-Subsurface Flow Difference	(D) % Demand Reduction of Remaining Overdraft	(F) Available to Pump
Zone 1	-17,881	-1,181	-1,636	9.3%	15,458
Zone 2	-19,818	-18,621	-18,803	10.3%	17,133
Zone 3	-54,345	-669	15,474	28.2%	46,981
Zone 4	-100,573	-24,686	-20,641	52.2%	86,945
Basin	-192,617	-45,157	-25,606	100.0%	166,518

TWO-PART PUMPING REDUCTION POLICY

■ Overdraft Reduction

- GSAs will adopt and implement pumping reduction plans based on the remaining overdraft presented for each Zone for both aquifers, **at least** ~32,000 AFY.
- Total overdraft caused by Basin will be presented as Basin Overdraft in the GSP:
~63,000 – 71,000 AFY
 - Upper Aquifer: ~15,000 -17,000 AFY
 - Lower Aquifer: ~45,000 – 55,000 AFY
- P/MA “on-paper benefits”, including pumping reduction, will be shown to cover Basin overdraft, while also mitigating potential impacts of Climate Change: ~ 157,000 AFY

■ MT Avoidance

- Basin will adopt a consistent MT Avoidance Policy, complementing its overdraft reduction through local and targeted mitigation.
- The Policy will be used to mitigate local hotspots and avoid Undesirable Results.
- The technical framework used under the Policy will provide the needed justification for MTs not caused by Basin’s management.

POLICY TIMELINES

- Policy Adoption by CC: April 2024
- GSP Adoption by GSAs (inclusive of policies): July 2025
- Boots on the Ground / Implementation Plan Development: By Sept 2024
- Implementation: By January 2025

- Both Policies' frameworks will be adopted prior to the adoption of the Single GSP, with a detailed short-term implementation schedule.
- The short-term timeline and deferred implementation are intended for developing and adopting detailed processes, undertaking education and outreach, and implementing the required monitoring and instrumentation.

3. GSP IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

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FEEDBACK ON SMCs – GW Levels

- Justification needed for selection of 20 ft. operational flexibility
 - Average decline of 19 ft. was seen in RMW-WL during 2012-2016 drought
 - 20 ft. provides a buffer so wells normally at MOs do not exceed MTs in dry periods
 - Substantial changes in water levels must be allowed to accommodate for recharge projects
- Justification needed for 30 ft. bgs. And 10 ft. bgs. minimum MT and MO depths
 - 30 ft. is TNC's estimated rooting zone depth
 - Requiring that water tables be maintained above 30 ft. bgs. risks waterlogging and harm to vegetation
- Greater emphasis should be placed on well-specific data
 - Well-specific data used wherever available to develop SMCs
 - MOs and MTs set by other methods are preliminary and subject to review and revision when more data are collected
- IMs should be in 5-year increments
 - 5-year increments will be calculated as the linear interpolation between MTs and MOs

FEEDBACK ON SMCs – STORAGE & SUBSIDENCE

- More justification needed for UR threshold of 15% storage reduction
 - UR will be amended to equal a loss of storage relative to the change in storage between MO and MT
 - Reduction of ~10-15%, to be finalized after final groundwater level SMCs are calculated and model is rerun
- InSAR potentially inaccurate for agricultural and wetland areas
 - As agreed by the Coordination Committee (and received positively by SWRCB staff), multiple data sources will be used to assess land subsidence including survey points and continuous GPS from GSA, SJRRP, and USBR networks, in addition to InSAR.
 - Analysis of the TRE Altamira subsidence dataset for California groundwater basins suggests that it agrees with continuous GPS observations to within 20 mm (0.79 in.)

3 MONTH LOOK AHEAD

- April
 - Draft SMC Water Quality sections, Water Budget Chapter, and Interconnected Surface Water sections to be provided
- May
 - Draft Projects and Management Actions (PMA) and Plan Implementation Chapters to be provided
 - Revised chapters for all other sections (Admin draft)
- June
 - Complete Draft of the Single GSP to be provided for Public review

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CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY SUBSIDENCE POLICY

**POLICY TITLE: SOUTHERN DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL SUBSIDENCE
MANAGEMENT AREA POLICY**

POLICY NUMBER:

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 1, 2024

PURPOSE:

Along the Delta-Mendota Canal ("DMC"), the area from approximately mile post 89.71 to 98.73 has experienced subsidence at a rate that exceeds adjacent reaches. The current rate of subsidence in this area is not consistent with the approved Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") requiring specific groundwater pumping goals. By implementing the stated pumping goals and objectives, the expectation is to reduce the rate of subsidence to be consistent with the GSP.

BACKGROUND:

The Southern DMC Subsidence Management Area ("SSMA") provided as Exhibit A includes portions of Eagle Field Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, Oro Loma Water District, Pacheco Water District, Panoche Water District, and San Luis Water District (collectively, the "Districts"). The objective is for all Districts to adopt and implement this policy to provide uniform regional response and equity for all landowners. This policy will focus on all wells (including composite wells) that pump groundwater from below the Corcoran Clay Layer ("CCL").

DATA AND STATISTICS:

SSMA Acreage: 24,720 acres

Safe Yield Pumping from below the CCL

Corrective pumping ("Corrective") limit: 0.25 acre-foot to the acre

Maintenance pumping ("Maintenance") limit: 0.50 acre-foot to the acre

The SSMA is further divided into three regions to expand or contract policy implementation based on the subsidence degradation rate and overall goal of the GSP. Exhibit A identifies the Region boundaries.

Region A – 0.5 mile from either side of the DMC. (approx. 5,740 acres)

Region B – from 0.5 to 1.0 mile from either side of the DMC. (approx. 5,710 acres)

Region C – from 1.0 miles to the boundary of the SSMA on either side of the DMC.

POLICY:

Well Construction: The construction of a new well below the CCL is prohibited within the SSMA. A replacement well may be authorized and approved through the current county and GSA policies and procedures.

Existing Wells Below CCL: It is assumed all wells within the SSMA are below the CCL unless the landowner, in cooperation with the home district, can provide a well driller's log showing the well perforations are above the CCL. If a well driller's log is not available, then a well video inspection or other approved method must be conducted to determine that the depth of the well is above the CCL. When pumping a well that extracts water from below the CCL, a landowner is only eligible to deliver groundwater to their parcels (under the same ownership as the parcel with the well) and pumping shall not exceed an annual equivalent volume provided in Tables 1 or 2.

Replacement Water "Subsidence Pool": Every year each District will contribute surface water to develop a pool of Replacement Water that will be made available to landowners subject to the safe yield restriction. The Subsidence Pool is first made available to those landowners subject to the Corrective safe yield restriction and any remaining water will be made available to the other Regions not subject to the Corrective safe yield restriction. The Subsidence Pool will be administered according to the following guidelines:

- To be eligible for the Subsidence Pool, landowners must show proof of purchase or application of their home District Central Valley Project ("CVP") allocation, railroad commission water, supplemental water, or other surface water programs for the parcels subject to the Corrective or Maintenance safe yield restriction. Also, landowners must be in good standing with the home District's rules and regulations.
- If the Subsidence Pool is over subscribed the water will be prorated based on applicant's acreage owned or leased.
- Each District will contribute water to the Subsidence Pool and a blended rate will be developed. The price for the Subsidence Pool water will target a blended rate not greater than the Exchange Contractor's Conserved water price structure based on that year's CVP allocation, plus 10%. At the end of the water year, participants will be subject to a true-up based on actual cost of each water supply that could increase or decrease the blended rate.
- Home District Subsidence Pool Participation – Each home District shall contribute an amount of Subsidence Pool water equal to 0.25 acre-foot to the acre of District land within each Region subject to Corrective pumping limitations. The cost of water a home District is providing may not exceed the Exchange Contractor's Conserved water price plus 10% ("Price Cap"). Any home District that does not have a well (district owned or privately owned) below the CCL is not required to supply water, but is encouraged to participate.
- If the Exchange Contractor Conserved Water program is not available (Shasta Critical water year), the home Districts will implement a subscription program. The subscription program average water price may exceed the Price Cap. Home districts are relieved of the 0.25 acre-foot to the acre minimum contribution but shall make every effort to secure water for the subscription program. Landowners

will be provided an application for the subscription program and a landowner is obligated to purchase the subscription water upon submittal of a signed application form to their home District.

Performance and Objectives:

Table 1 - Performance and Implementation Objectives				
Region	Implementation Year Start	Safe Yield Pumping - Corrective Limit	Replacement Water Goal	Subsidence Trigger
Region A	2024	0.25 AF/Acre	5,000 AF	Subsidence Degradation Slope greater than adjacent reaches of the DMC.
Region B	2029	0.25 AF/Acre	7,000 AF	
Region C	2034	0.25 AF/Acre	9,000 AF	

Table 2 - Relief from Performance and Implementation Objectives				
Region	Implementation Start	Safe Yield Pumping - Maintenance Limit	Replacement Water Goal	Subsidence Trigger
Region A-C	After 1 year of trigger compliance	0.5 AF/Acre	Up to approximately 9,000 AF	Subsidence Degradation Slope matches adjacent reaches of the DMC.

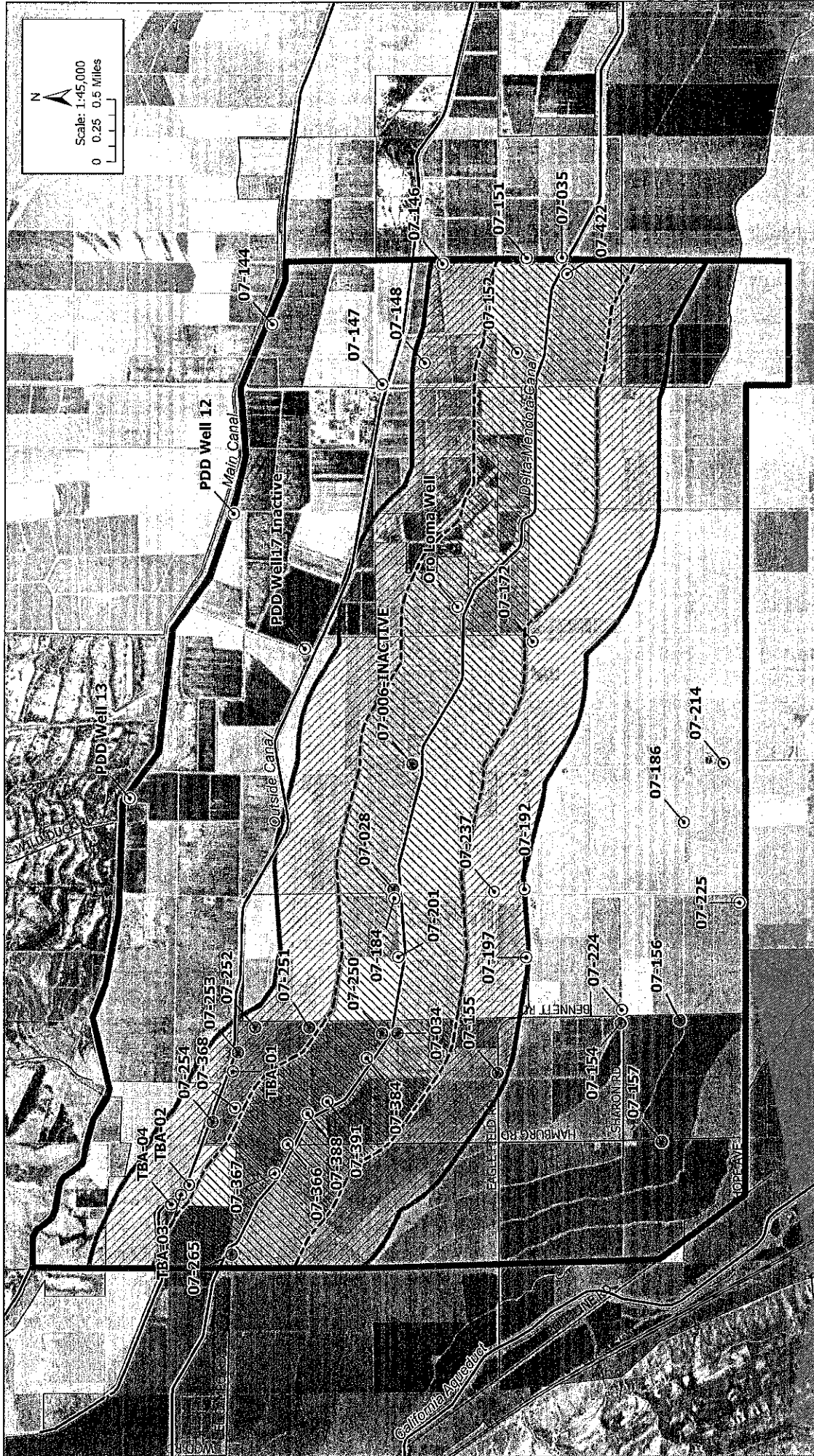
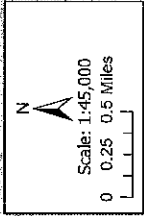
Monitoring and Reporting:

The home Districts will map all operational wells and differentiate wells that are above or below the CCL. All wells (above and below CCL) will be required to be fitted with a meter. The home Districts will conduct monthly meter readings for all wells, and those wells below the CCL will be monitored for operating within the safe yield restriction. Annually, the home Districts will use readily available subsidence measurements to determine the effectiveness of the pumping restrictions. Based on the Subsidence Trigger listed in Table 1, the safe yield pumping restrictions may be expanded to the next Region.

Policy Implementation Charge:

The cost for reading well meters, corresponding with the landowners, managing the Subsidence Pool, reporting to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and any other related activity shall be charged to those landowners operating wells within the SSMA. The rate shall be set a \$5/AF of water pumped and invoiced monthly. At the end of the water year pumpers will be subject to a true-up based on actual cost incurred which could increase or decrease the rate being charged.

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		Subsidence Management Area Map SGMA-DMC Mitigation Project Spatial References: NAD 1983 CA State Plane Zone III Created by: Water & Land Solutions Date exported: 2/26/2024	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oro Loma Water District Pacheco Water District Panoche Water District San Luis Water District 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central California Irrigation District Eagle Field Water District Firebaugh Canal Water District Mercy Springs Water District 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep Well EFWD MSWD PAC PAN SLWD 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence Management Area (24,720 ac) 0.5 mile from DMC (5,740 ac) 0.5-1 mile from DMC (5,710 ac) 			

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 8, 2024

Project No. 22-1-032

22-1-033

TO: Jim Stillwell, Augie Ramirez

FROM: Andrew Francis, PG
Will Halligan, PG

SUBJECT: Draft Demand Management Approach

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this draft Technical Memorandum (TM) is to foster a collaborative discussion among the Delta-Mendota Subbasins Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the development of a demand reduction policy to address areas of overdraft in the Subbasin and also to develop a proactive approach to prevent exceedances of minimum thresholds and related significant and unreasonable undesirable results to beneficial users of groundwater. Developing a demand management approach that is acceptable to all GSAs in the Subbasin is a significant challenge that can only be accomplished with adequate monitoring and data collection. Farmers Water District (FWD) and Fresno County Management Areas A&B (FMCA) have had an extensive monitoring program for over 20 years which involves frequent water level monitoring throughout the irrigation season and monthly pumping data. In addition, both GSAs will utilize dedicated monitoring wells for Representative Monitoring Sites (RMS) for water levels preventing situations where water levels are not collected when wells are pumping. Many GSAs throughout the Subbasin historically have had limited data collection, currently do not have metered pumping data and primarily rely on irrigation wells for RMS locations. Ten years after the start of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), significant data gaps still exist and the Subbasin has a lack of data consistency. For the Subbasin to develop an effective demand management approach, it will be necessary to utilize consistent data collection methods across the Subbasin in order to fairly implement a demand management program.

Concerns with Existing Monitoring Program

Any demand management strategy for the Subbasin will require a coordinated effort for data collection. This data quality for water levels and groundwater pumping will need to be consistent throughout the

Subbasin. FWD and FCMA have over 20 years of water level and pumping data. To successfully implement a demand management strategy across Subbasin, the following monitoring requirements are proposed:

- Quarterly to monthly (preferred) monitoring at all water level monitoring sites
- Semi-annual water quality monitoring to assess potential relationship between water levels and water quality.
- Totalizers on all agricultural, commercial, and industrial wells. Pumping estimates will no longer be acceptable.
- Use of RMS wells that are aquifer specific and have well construction information. Use of composite wells should be phased out within an agreeable time frame.

Occurrence of Seasonal Lows

To illustrate the need for more frequent monitoring, a hydrograph representing conditions within FWD is presented in **Figure 1**. This well (R-5) is an inactive production well that has historically collected water level measurements throughout the irrigation season. R-5 was also used because it has similar construction to FWD dedicated monitoring well for the Upper Aquifer (R-5: 180-320 feet below ground surface [bgs]; TSS-325: 300-320 feet bgs). **Figure 1** shows all available measurements but also highlights those that were collected during the currently defined seasonal low time frame of September through October. Going back to 2003, groundwater levels have ranged from a seasonal high of 120 feet in 2007 and a seasonal low of 0 feet msl in 2016. On an annual basis, the groundwater levels regularly fluctuate up to 100 feet between seasonal low and seasonal high conditions. While FWD experiences significant variations, seasonal highs are consistently above the Management Objective (MO) and seasonal lows are consistently above the MT.

For R-5, historic low conditions have occurred outside the seasonal low timeframe for the Subbasin. Seasonal low measurements for R-5 typically occurred between June and August but have occurred as early as May. The purpose of **Figure 1** is to illustrate the need for additional groundwater level monitoring beyond what is currently required for the Subbasin monitoring program. This will allow for the identification of actual seasonal low groundwater levels that often may not occur during the September and October time frame that is currently being used.

Need for Coordination

For the Subbasin demand management approach, there will be a need for GSAs to coordinate in order to determine the cause of declining water levels. This is especially important for smaller GSAs that share boundaries with multiple other GSAs inside and out of the Subbasin. The response of groundwater levels do not always directly correspond to pumping amounts within a given GSA. For example, **Figure 2** shows season low measurements with FWD and annual pumping amounts from 2012 to 2023. From 2020 to 2021, pumping amounts increased from ~7600 AF to ~12500 AF and seasonal low water levels slightly

recovered from the previous year. This highlights the importance of have an accurate account of each GSAs pumping and the need for GSAs to coordinate when water levels are near or exceed MTs.

Proposed Demand Management Approach

LSCE is proposing a three-step demand management approach for the Subbasin.

- Step 1 targets areas where subsidence is forecasted to exceed 2 feet by 2028, 2030, 2035, and 2040. Significant pumping reductions for Lower Aquifer, composite, and wells with unknown construction within high-risk subsidence zones.
- Step 2 focus shifts to agencies facing current MT exceedances. For compliance, these agencies must implement pumping reductions to allow for water level to recover above their MT. This will be determined through a storage calculation based on the level below MT, a storage coefficient, and the affected groundwater area.
- Step 3 mandates a proactive approach applicable to all agencies, ensuring pumping reductions in response to declining seasonal low water levels and projected exceedances of MT limits after a three-year period of declining water levels. Through these strategic steps, the process aims to address groundwater sustainability and alleviate the detrimental impacts of over-extraction on the basin's beneficial users of groundwater. A key component of this step is that it requires consistent monitoring across the Subbasin. All GSAs must have at a minimum quarterly water level monitoring and metered pumping data.

Step 1 – Immediate Pumping Reductions

Immediate and substantial pumping reductions will be required for areas with Lower Aquifer pumping and are anticipated to exceed two feet of total subsidence by 2028, 2030, 2035 and 2040 (Figure 3). The following would apply to Lower Aquifer wells, composite wells, and wells without know construction:

- **Two feet by 2028:** 100% pumping reduction
- **Two feet by 2030:** 75% pumping reduction
- **Two feet by 2035:** 50% pumping reduction
- **Two feet by 2040:** 25% pumping reduction

This pumping restriction would apply until all the following requirements are met:

- Well construction is determined.
- Well is equipped with a totalizer.
- Composite wells are sealed off from the Lower Aquifer.
- Plan is developed to show how future pumping from Lower Aquifer will not cause additional subsidence.

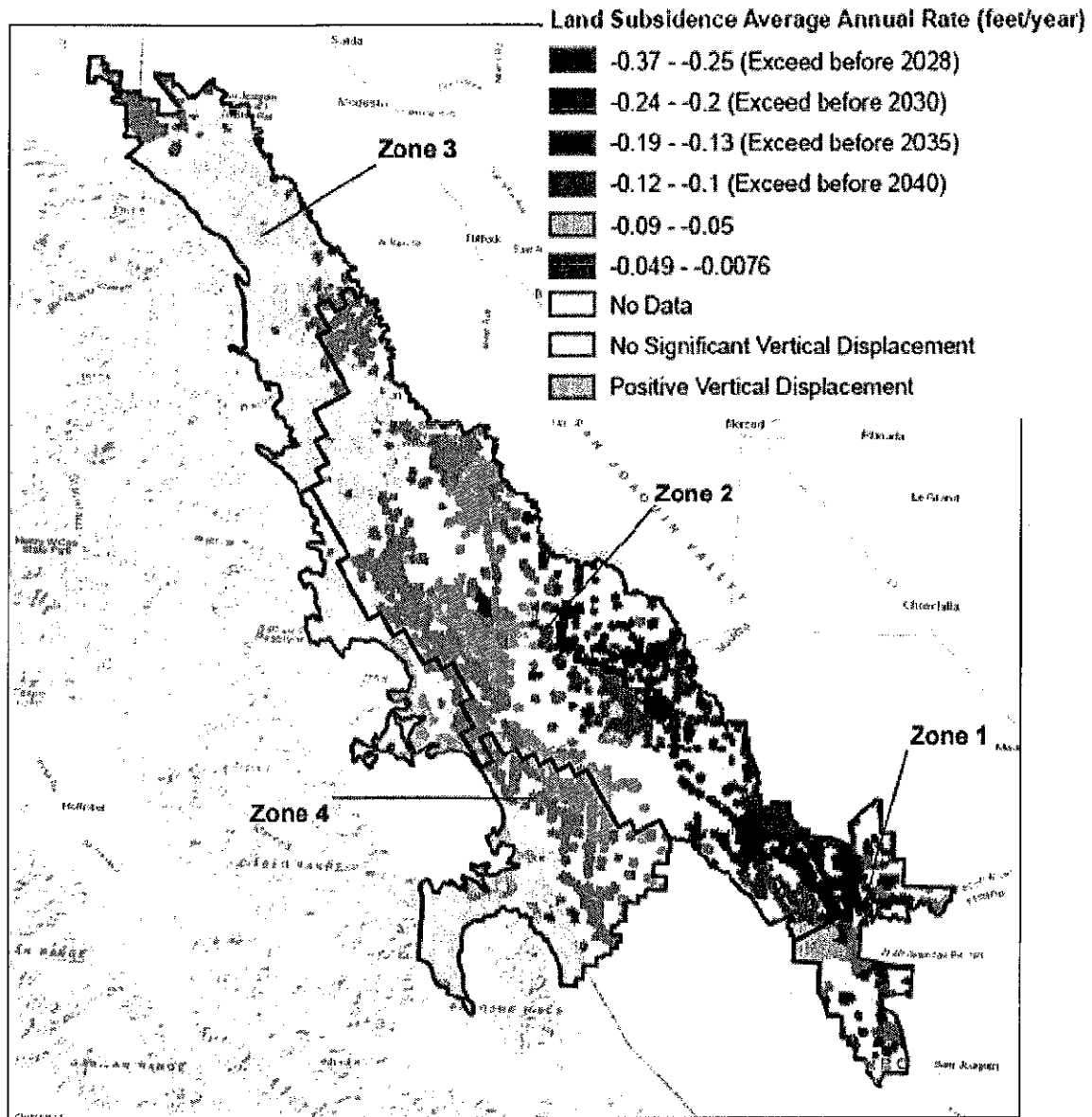


Figure 3. Projected Land Subsidence
 (EKI Presentation at 12/18/2023 Technical Working Group Meeting)

Step 2 – Reactive Demand Management

The following methodology is proposed as a reactive demand management strategy to address areas of the Subbasin that are already experiencing MT exceedances. This is a modified approach from the information presented by Jarrett Martin of the Central California Irrigation District (CCID).

- For GSAs currently experiencing MT exceedances, the first step would be to conduct an investigation to assess the cause of declining water levels. If the investigation concludes that the

groundwater pumping occurring within the impacted GSA is causing the MT exceedance, pumping reductions would be applied. The GSA would have 60 days to complete the investigation and an additional 60 days to provide the coordination committee with a plan for pumping reductions and start implementation.

- Pumping reductions are calculated based on the storage calculation based on GSA area (or area of impact for very large GSAs), difference between current water level and MT level, storage coefficient based on aquifer pumping test (24-hours test with at least one observation point away from pumping well).
- The following example for hypothetical GSA:
 - Average pumping from 2015-2023 is 20,000 acre-feet per year (AF/year).
 - The GSA has an area of 20,000 acres.
 - Water levels are currently 2 feet below the MT.
 - The storage coefficient is 0.1.
 - The two-foot difference over the 20,000 acres multiplied by the storage coefficient equals 4,000 acre feet of aquifer storage decline.
 - The average annual pumping of 20,000 AF/year would need to be reduced by 4,000 AF to 16,000 AF/year.

Step 3 – Proactive Demand Management

The following demand management strategy is proposed for GSAs with quarterly (preferably monthly) monitoring and metered pumping data:

- three-year trend of declining seasonal low water levels predicting a MT exceedance in the following year,
- single year exceedance of 125% of the difference between the MO and MT value, or
- MT exceedance followed by spring water levels not meeting MO levels.

When one of the three conditions listed above occurs, an investigation by the GSA(s) will occur to assess the cause of the single year exceedance and downward trend in seasonal low groundwater levels. This investigation will need to be completed within 60 days from the water level measurement triggering the investigation. If the investigation concludes that the groundwater pumping occurring within the impacted GSA is causing the trigger, pumping reduction would be applied on a local GSA basis. If the exceedances are found to be caused by other parties outside the GSA or impacted area, then a regional approach to demand reductions or other measures will be pursued. Once an investigation is completed and a cause is determined, GSA(s) will have 60 additional days to provide the Coordination Committee with a plan and implement pumping reduction to prevent MT exceedances in the following year.

Example for hypothetical Subbasin Zone:

- Three locations with the Subbasin zone have had declining seasonal low water levels over three years and the decline indicates an MT exceedance is possible in the following year in those RMS wells.
- Conduct a collaborative GSA investigation involving the impacted GSAs.
- Determine the cause of the potential exceedance if conditions of the prior three years were to continue into the fourth year.
- Identify the primary causes of the declining trend and reduce pumping by the parties within the Zone that have been identified as being the primary causes of the declining trend.
- If the declining trend is found to be caused by entities outside the Subbasin zone or outside the Subbasin, then immediate outreach and communication will occur and potential remedies will be identified and implemented.
- Determine average pumping amount over three-year period of decline across zone if the cause is found to be caused by a GSA within the Zone.
- Reduce pumping the following year within the GSA(s) found to be the primary cause.

An example based on data utilized in the FWD groundwater model is presented in **Figure 4**. Three wells around in the southern part of the Subbasin (**Figure 5**) show declining water levels from 2013 to 2015. All three wells in 2016 dropped below 2015 levels (MT levels). Average pumping over this timeframe is 80,000 AF/year. From the 2017 to 2021 timeframe, water levels recover above MT levels for which pumping reduced to an average of 50,000 AF/year. Based on this, a 37% pumping reduction would need to be applied to avoid a MT exceedance when water levels are regionally declining and projected to exceed MT levels. The investigation would determine how this cut back would be distributed amount the affected GSAs.

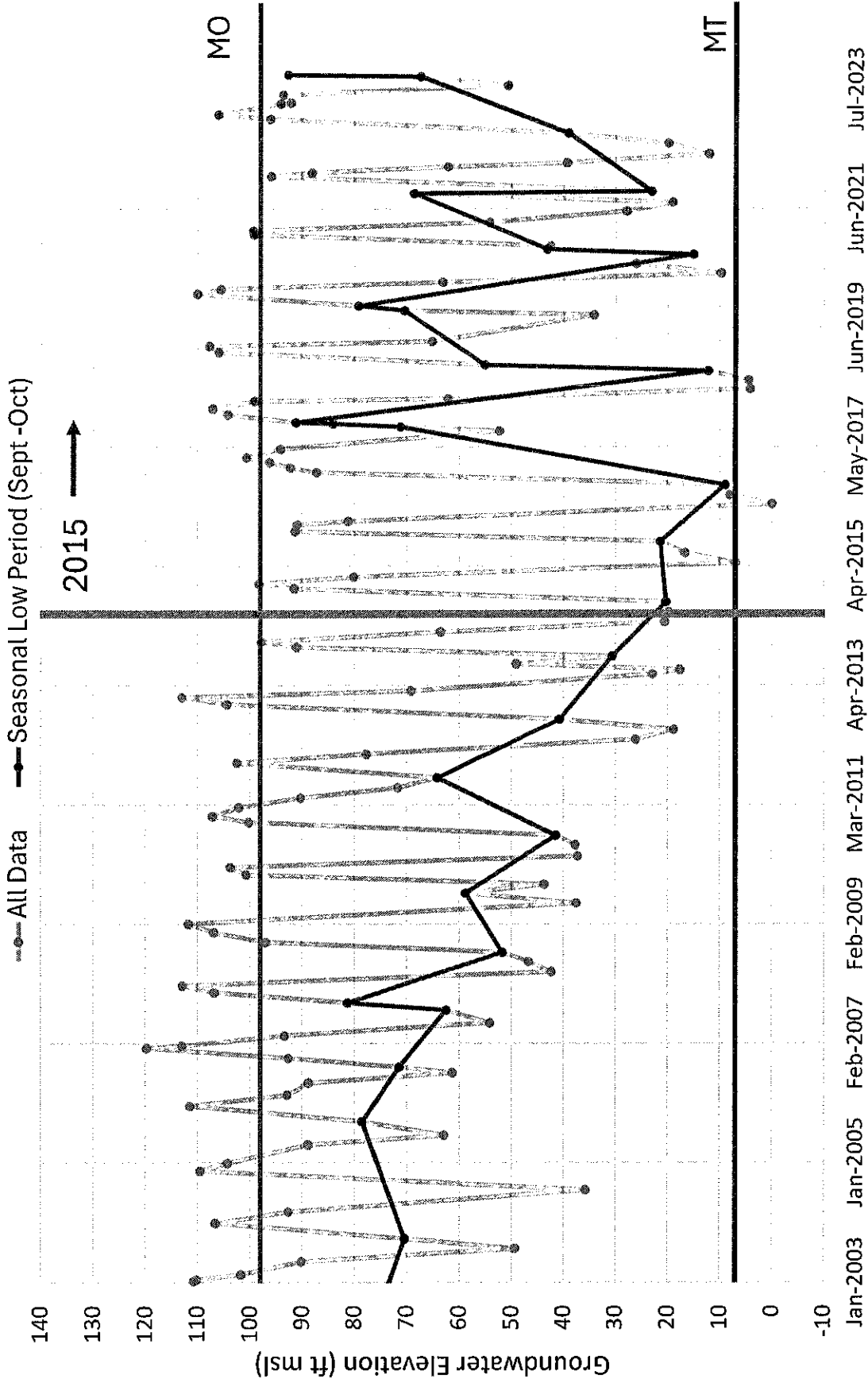
Figure 6 depicts seasonal low measurements (June-October) for three Lower Aquifer wells in the Central GSA group area. Location specific pumping data for this location was not available but the purpose of this figure is to illustrate the proposed method is applicable in other areas of the subbasin. It is assumed rising water levels post 2015 are associated with decreased pumping amounts. Well locations are presented in **Figure 7**.

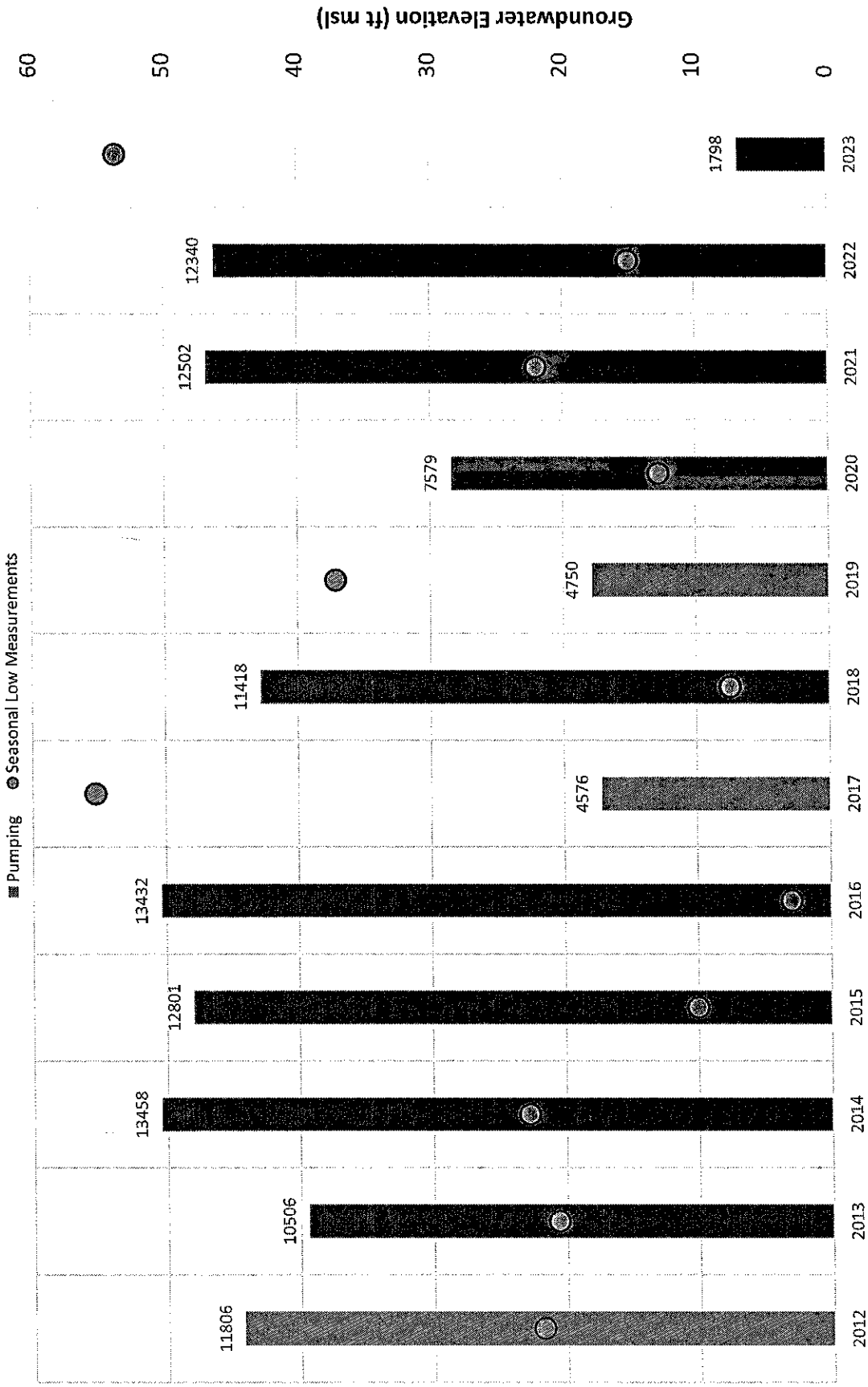
Conclusion

The purpose of this TM is to provide a possible path for demand management in the Subbasin. Steps 1 and 2 are intended to address immediate problems in the Subbasin while Step 3 is viewed as a long-term approach to allow GSAs to pump groundwater at levels above established MTs and achieve sustainability. Demand management will require an improvement in the Subbasins data collection. For GSAs to coordinate and achieve sustainability, a firm understanding of how current groundwater management is impacting groundwater levels within and outside a given GSA will require higher quality

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data which includes at minimum quarterly water level monitoring and metered pumping data collected on a monthly basis.





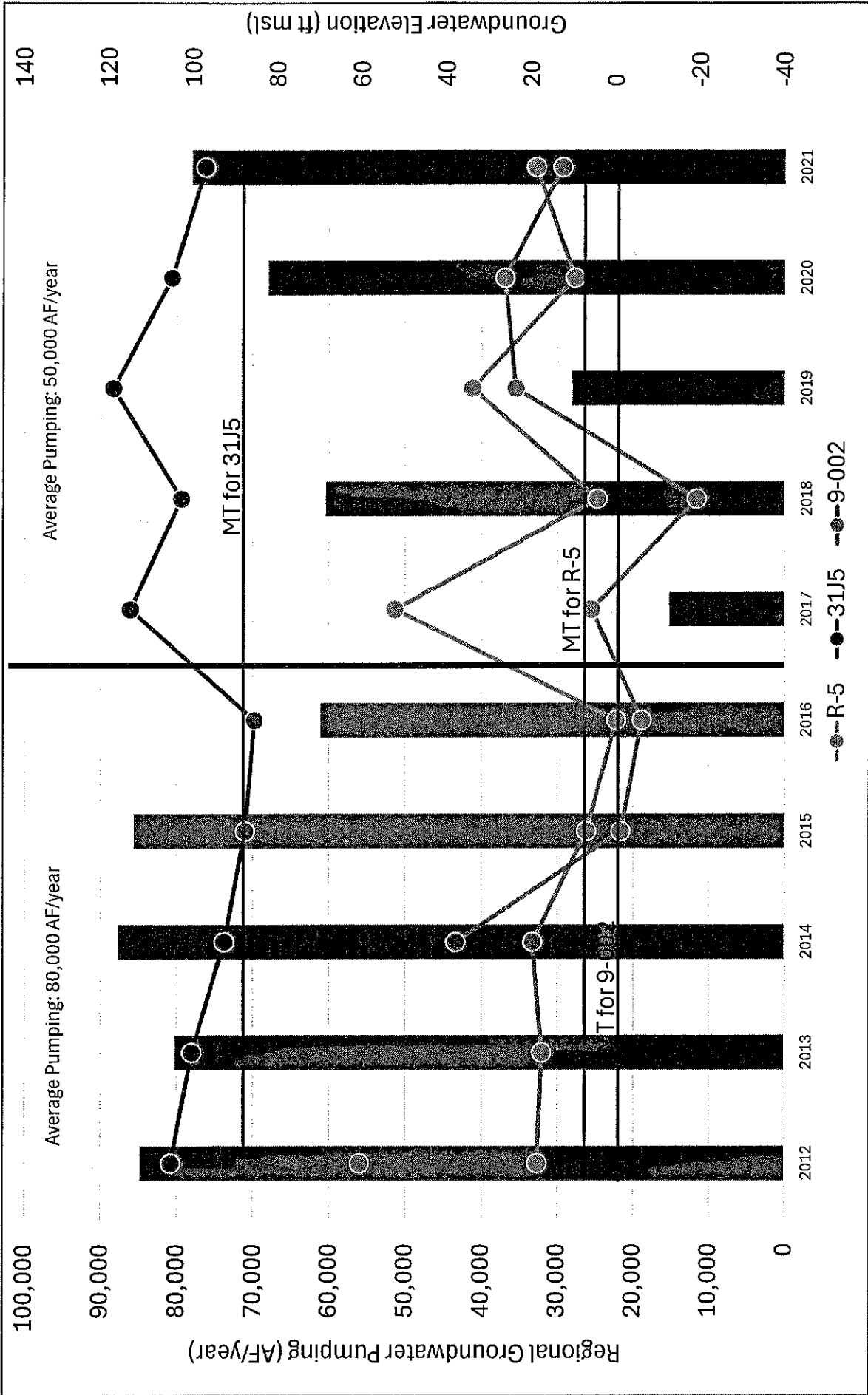
FWD Pumping and Seasonal Low Measurements

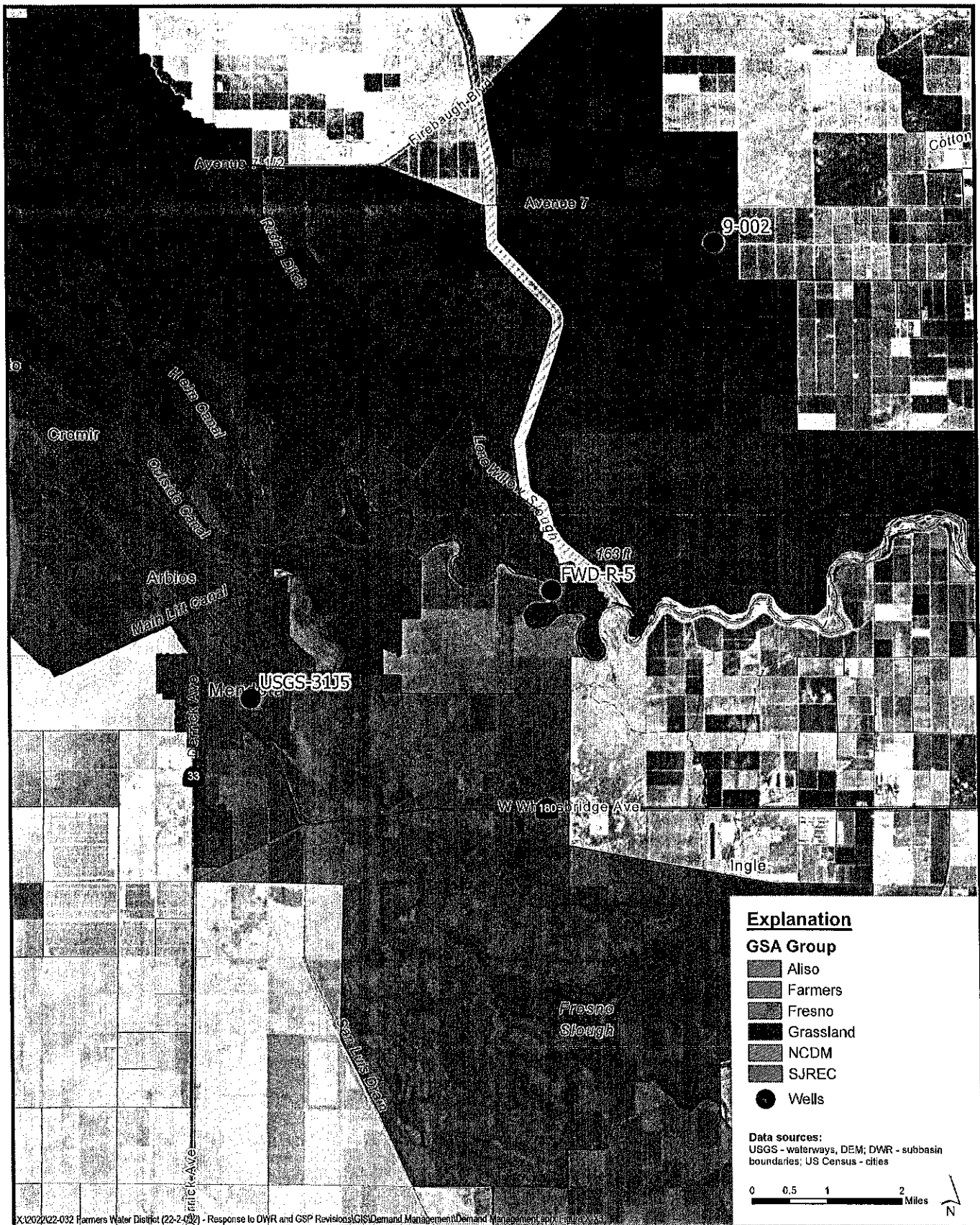
Demand Management
Delta-Mendota Subbasin



Figure 2

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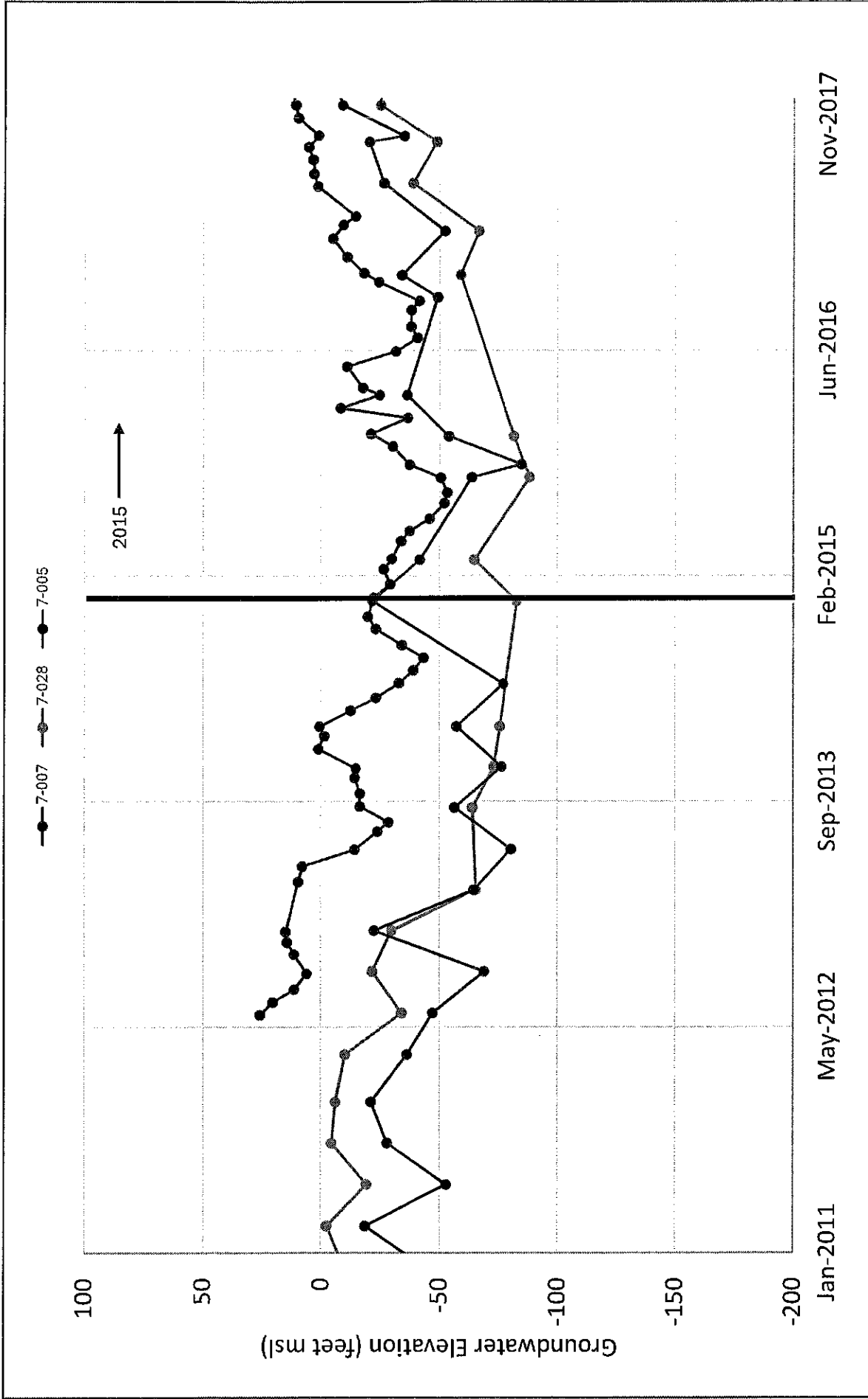
Luhdorff & Scalmanini
 Consulting Engineers

Well Locations

*Demand Management
 Delta-Mendota Subbasin*

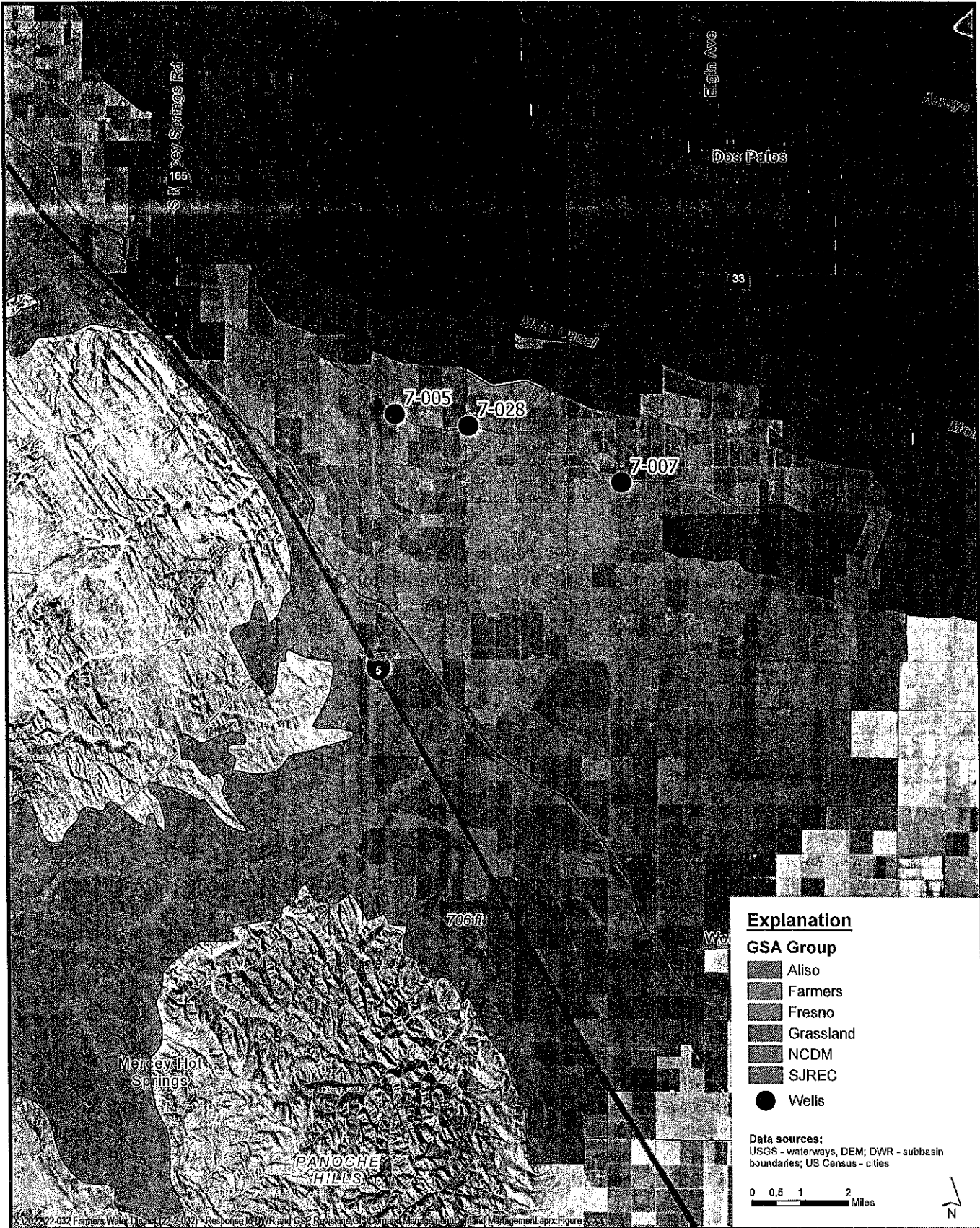
Figure 5

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Conditions for Demand Management-Central Delta-Mendota (Lower Aquifer)
 Demand Management
 Delta-Mendota Subbasin

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**Luhdorff &
Scalmanini**
Consulting Engineers

Well Locations

*Demand Management
Delta-Mendota Subbasin*

Figure 7

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8 March 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: John Brodie [San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDWMA)]
Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee

From: Anona Dutton, PG, CHg [EKI Environment and Water (EKI)]
Amir Mani, PhD, PE (EKI)

Subject: Northern Delta-Mendota Region's Proposed Plan to Avoid Exceedances of Groundwater
Level Minimum Thresholds
(C00041.09)

BACKGROUND

Information presented by EKI on 26 and 27 February 2024 indicates that the Northern Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Group (Zone 3) is responsible for a pumping reduction volume of approximately 9,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), primarily from the Lower Aquifer. The modeling conducted by EKI also indicates that, in the absence of corrective measures, several Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs) within Zone 3 are projected to exceed their Minimum Thresholds (MTs) by 2040. Per direction from the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee, the Northern GSA Group has been tasked with developing and presenting a plan to address their local overdraft and to avoid MT exceedances by 11 March 2024. This memorandum focuses on the Northern GSA Group's plan to mitigate potential MT exceedances (MT Avoidance Policy), while a separate plan will be proposed to address Zone 3 overdraft (Pumping Reduction Plan).

MT AVOIDANCE POLICY

The Northern GSA Group MT Avoidance Policy uses available data to establish high-season groundwater level triggers (*Trigger*) that will allow the GSAs to proactively implement annual pumping reductions, increased frequency of monitoring, and/or other projects and management actions (P/MAs) in order to avoid an MT exceedance at a given RMW. Triggers will be determined on a well-specific basis for each RMW, drawing from sufficient historical data. In cases where RMWs have limited observation data, similar nearby RMWs can be used until adequate data become available.

At each RMW, the average seasonal variability for a representative recent hydrological period will be calculated. *Seasonal variability* is defined as the average difference between consecutive low and high-season (Fall and Spring) groundwater level measurements over the period of record for that RMW (Figure 1a). This average seasonal variability will be added to RMW's defined MT to establish the Trigger for the well. The Trigger is the minimum high-season groundwater level that, based on average hydrology and demands, would not lead to exceedance of the MT in the Fall.

In February of each year the GSAs will compare the water level data at each RMW to its Trigger. If the groundwater level at an RMW is above its Trigger, the RMW is not projected to exceed its MT and GSAs will follow normal groundwater management as defined in the Delta-Mendota Groundwater

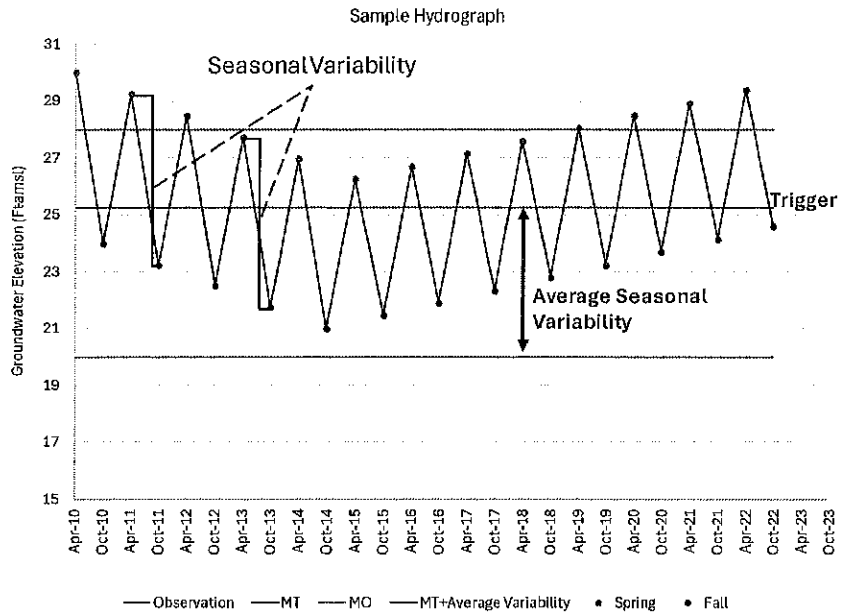
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Sustainability Plan (Figure 1a). If the groundwater level at an RMW is below its Trigger, the RMW is designated as an MT "hotspot", its respective groundwater level deficit is calculated, and pumping reductions and other management actions (e.g., confirmation monitoring) will be initiated (Figure 1b).

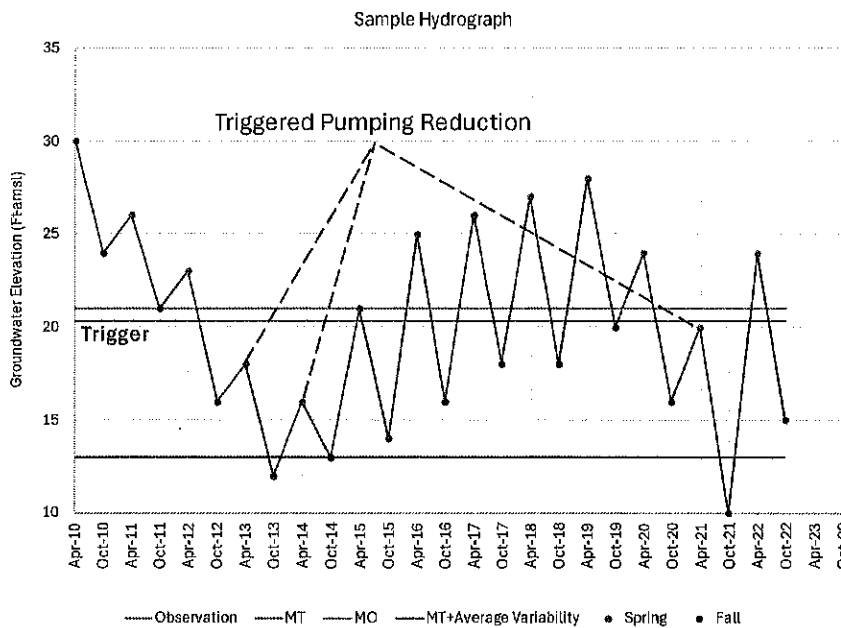
In order to assess where to implement pumping reductions or other management actions around the RMW that has exceeded a Trigger, a *zone of influence* will need to be estimated. The Basin's Integrated Hydrological Model (CVHM2-SJV; Model) [or equivalent method/tool] will be used to estimate the *zone of influence* and sensitivity to pumping from different areas of the Basin at each RMW. Based on the Model's results and the calculated groundwater level deficit, an allowable pumping limit will be identified for the zone of influence on an acre-foot per acre basis and maintained up to the end of the water year.

In addition, an increased frequency of groundwater level monitoring and reporting will be triggered for the RMW. Increased monitoring will facilitate a better assessment of groundwater level recovery and the potential need for additional corrective actions for the following years or an opportunity to provide possible relief. The GSA Groups impacted by the MT hotspot may collectively decide to increase their previously set allowable pumping limit if groundwater level trends increase at levels that ensure MT avoidance in the upcoming Fall Season.

This proposed process will repeat in late winter and early spring of each year, providing annual certainty for beneficial users of groundwater. It is worth noting that successful implementation of this MT Avoidance Policy requires monthly or more frequent groundwater level monitoring and metering of groundwater pumping. Lack of these data will increase uncertainty and prevent the GSAs from ensuring the successful implementation of proposed pumping reductions and other management actions.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1. Example RMW hydrograph with corresponding average seasonal variability, (a) RMW does not trigger pumping reduction, and, (b) RMW groundwater levels fall below the Trigger, requiring active management to avoid an MT exceedance.



NORTHERN &
CENTRAL
DELTA-
MENDOTA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Coordination Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resources Program Manager

DATE: March 11, 2024

RE: Northern Management Committee Proposal to Reduce Lower Aquifer Groundwater Pumping in Zone 3.

BACKGROUND

Information presented by EKI to the Northern Management Committee (NMC) in February 2024 indicates that the NMC member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must reduce pumping volume of approximately 9,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to achieve balance. Most of that reduction (8,000 AFY) must come from a reduction in pumping from the lower aquifer (below the Corcoran clay).

As directed by the Coordination Committee, the NMC has been meeting to reach consensus on a strategy to address and eliminate local overdraft. The proposal for lower aquifer pumping reduction is presented below for consideration.

PUMPING REDUCTION PLAN

The NMC is committed to reducing pumping in an effort to reduce local (zone 3) overdraft and provide a balanced water budget for the zone. The estimated 8,000 AFY deficit from the lower aquifer represents approximately 25% of all lower aquifer groundwater pumping in the Northern Region of the Subbasin. This pumping reduction plan (PRP) will provide for a phased reduction of lower aquifer pumping during a four-year time period, beginning with the adoption of a single GSP for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

Per the phased-in PRP, each GSA agrees to reduce its share of 2,000 AFY within one year of adoption of the single GSP for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. Each subsequent year, each GSA agrees to reduce its share of an additional 2,000 AFY until the 8,000 AFY threshold is achieved.

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One challenge for the GSAs is to gauge participation of well-owners in the reduction. Though some GSAs have well-metering policies in place, some private wells in the region are not currently equipped with meters. Those NMC GSAs without an existing well metering policy agree to enact such a policy and begin requiring extraction reporting via meter within one year of adoption of a single GSP for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. In areas where metered wells do not currently exist, NMC GSAs agree that the standard for estimation of groundwater extraction will be the Land IQ ET platform.

MT AVOIDANCE POLICY

The NMC GSAs Minimum Threshold (MT) Avoidance Policy (Policy) uses available data to establish high-season groundwater level triggers that will allow the GSAs to proactively implement localized pumping reductions, increased monitoring frequency, other projects and management actions to avoid an MT exceedance at a given representative monitoring well (RMW). Those triggers will be determined on a well-specific criterion based on sufficient historical data. In cases where there is limited historical data, similar nearby RMWs may be used until adequate data becomes available. Please refer to the specific NMC MT Avoidance Policy for additional details on groundwater level MT avoidance.

NMC GSAs recognize that additional lower aquifer pumping reductions and/or management actions may be required if monitoring indicates subsidence rates at representative sites in the NMC GSA region are in excess of the rate specified in the single GSP for the Subbasin. In instances where the area of influence for a RMW crosses GSA boundaries, the GSAs will work together in a cooperative manner to find a solution. The Adaptive Management Process in the MOA for the single GSP shall guide the dispute resolution process.

PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700
www.provostandpritchard.com

MEMORANDUM

To: DM Subbasin Coordination Committee

From: Joe Hopkins, PE

Subject: AWDGSA - Potential Approach to MT Exceedance Correction

Date: March 8, 2024

The DM Subbasin Coordination Committee adopted an “Adaptive Management Framework” as part of its Single GSP MOA. This document obligates all parties to responsible to correct MT exceedances (actual or impending).

The Aliso Water District GSA intends to maintain water levels above the MT, by observing Seasonal High (~Feb) and Seasonal Low (~October) data. Data outside of this period will be considered, but is too “noisy” for management decisions, and beyond the SMC criteria.

Minium Threshold Exceedance Action Plan (MTEAP)

The MTEAP will be a landowner developed action plan to respond to threshold exceedances. It will dictate when, where, and how severe the pumping restrictions will be. The landowner workgroup will be presented with a menu of demand management activities that could reduce groundwater use. Initial items will be voluntary or incentive based programs. Latter items will be restrictions. The landowner workgroup is also tasked with spatial severity of MTEAP implementation.

Potential actions at various groundwater level positions

<u>Groundwater Level Position</u> (most recent seasonal low measurement)	<u>Trend</u> (Period = 4 years, Data = Seasonal Low)	<u>Action</u>
Above MO	Decreasing	MTEAP – voluntary actions
	Increasing	None
Below MO	Decreasing	MTEAP – voluntary actions, increased observation density
	Increasing	MTEAP – voluntary actions, increased observation density, (reduce MTEAP tier restrictions if previously implemented)
Below Trigger	Decreasing	MTEAP – tier restrictions implemented
	Increasing	MTEAP – tier restrictions maintained
At or Below MT	Decreasing	MTEAP – tier restrictions increased
	Increasing	MTEAP – tier restrictions maintained

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Engineering • Structural • Geosstructural • Surveying • Planning • Environmental • GIS • Construction Services • Hydrogeology • Consulting
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VIII: D.

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T 800.426.4262
T 916.999.8700
F 916.999.8701

Via Electronic Mail

3/15/2024



Department of Water Resources
Maria Jochimsen
Division of Regional Assistance
P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-001

Re: Grant Agreement Amendment Request
Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Rd 1 Grant
Implementation Agreement No. 4600014644

Dear Maria:

On behalf of Del Puerto Water District, as grantee of the referenced grant agreement and as the Local Project Sponsor (LPS) for Component 5, and Central California Irrigation District, as one of two LPSs for Component 1 under the referenced grant agreement, Woodard & Curran (W&C) is requesting an amendment to the SGM Rd 1 Implementation Grant Agreement No. 4600014644 (Grant Agreement) allowing the movement of grant funding from the Los Banos Creek Recharge & Recovery Project (LBCRRP), Component 1 in the current Grant Agreement, to the Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project, and allowing for the movement of grant funding from Budget Category (c) to Category (b) for Component 5.

Background for the Component 1 Request: As described in the original grant application and referenced in the grant agreement, the LBCRRP is being designed and constructed jointly by San Luis Water District (SLWD) and Central California Irrigation District (CCID) to divert stormwater runoff from Los Banos Creek and recharge those and other waters via surface percolation into the underlying Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin. The LBCRRP consists of taking two existing gravel pits on Los Banos Creek and converting them to recharge basins (e.g., adding diversion structures off the creek and into the existing pits). SLWD is taking the lead on connecting one gravel pit while CCID is taking the lead on connecting the second gravel pit. Internally, each agency (SLWD and CCID) is receiving \$1M of the \$2M in grant funding allocated to the project. CCID is also a partner in the Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project (OCRRP), a similar project located approximately 25 miles north, which received construction grant funding under the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant (Grant Agreement No. 4600013845).

At this time, CCID does not believe that they will be able to expend their \$1M in construction grant funding for the LBCRRP by the April 30, 2025 deadline specified in the current Grant Agreement, primarily due to issues surrounding land acquisition. As such, CCID and W&C are requesting to shift these funds from the LBCRRP to the OCRRP, which is presently under construction. SLWD would like to retain their \$1M with the plan to complete permitting and environmental documentation and initiate construction on their recharge basin/gravel pit prior to the April 30, 2025 deadline.

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Per this request, the same local sponsor, CCID, would receive the project benefits by moving the grant funding from one project to the next, and the same benefits will be received by the Delta-Mendota Subbasin via the OCRRP as would have occurred under the LBCRRP as the two projects are similar in operation, and, while independent (i.e., on different creeks), the OCRRP will provide the same flood protection benefits to be received by downstream communities and similar increases in drought resiliency through groundwater recharge to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin as would have occurred under CCID's portion of the LBCRRP.

Background for the Component 5 Request: At the time of the grant application, staff at the City of Ceres and Del Puerto Water District had been pursuing additional infrastructure at the Ceres Wastewater Treatment Plant which would support increased deliveries to the City of Turlock Water Quality Control Facility, which has been for a number of years processing a portion of Ceres' wastewater into tertiary treated recycled water and delivering it to the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program. During 2023, the City of Ceres began planning for two large development projects, the Copper Trails and West Landing Developments. These development projects, if approved, would accelerate the expansion needed for increased wastewater treatment capacity, and staff at Ceres has recommended making improvements at the Ceres Wastewater Treatment Plant to allow it to process the additional wastewater locally to tertiary levels and to simultaneously pursue the delivery of said tertiary treated water directly via new conveyance infrastructure to the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program via the existing pumping plant at the Jennings Facility. If grant agreement amendment request for Component 5 is approved, Del Puerto Water District proposes to utilize the existing funds to pursue planning and design of a preferred route for the conveyance infrastructure. It is fully anticipated that this work could be accomplished in advance of the April 30, 2025 deadline for funding under this grant.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this grant agreement amendment request; I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Woodard & Curran, Inc.

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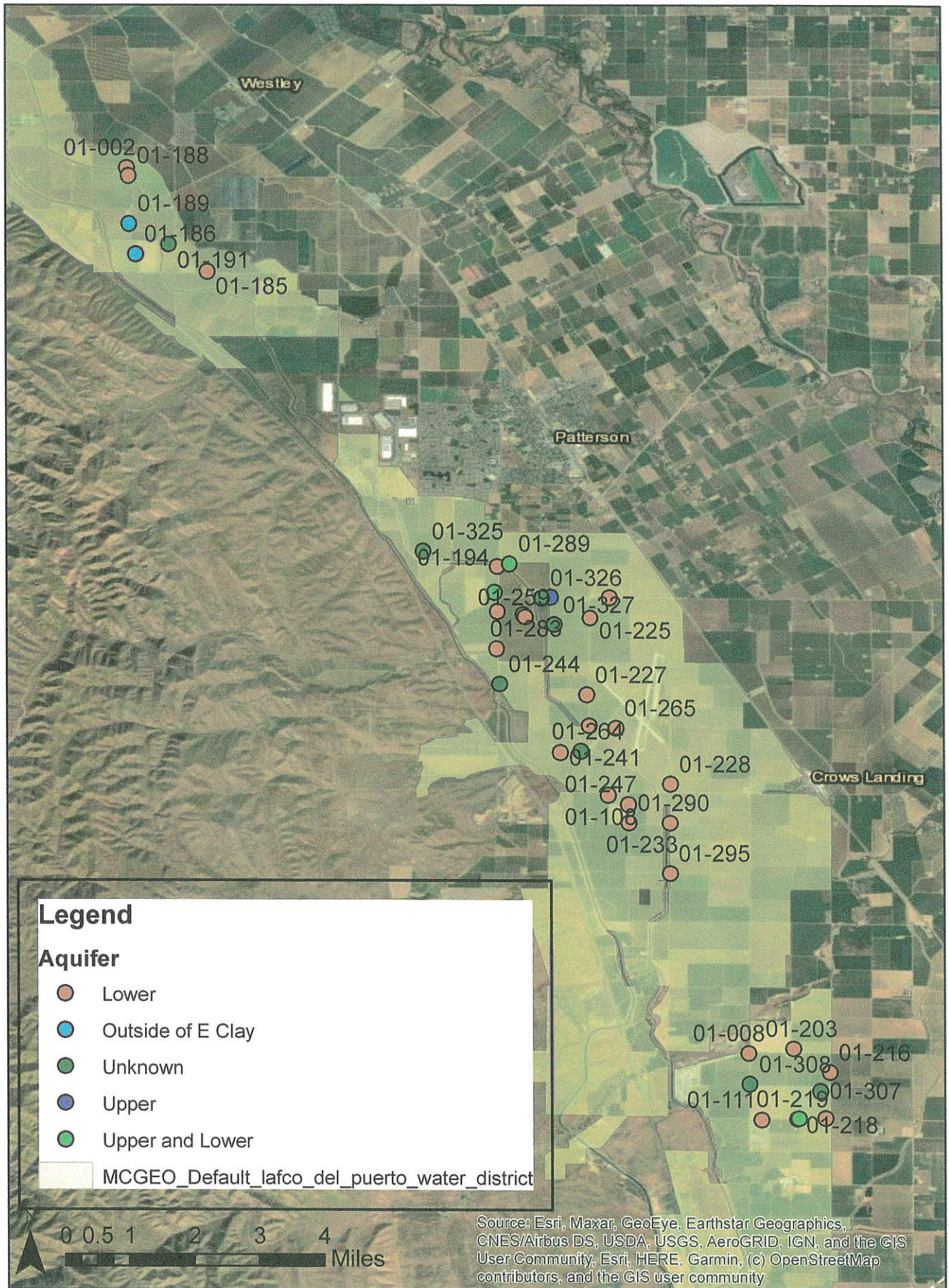
Leslie Dumas, PE
Principal-in-Charge

Del Puerto Water District

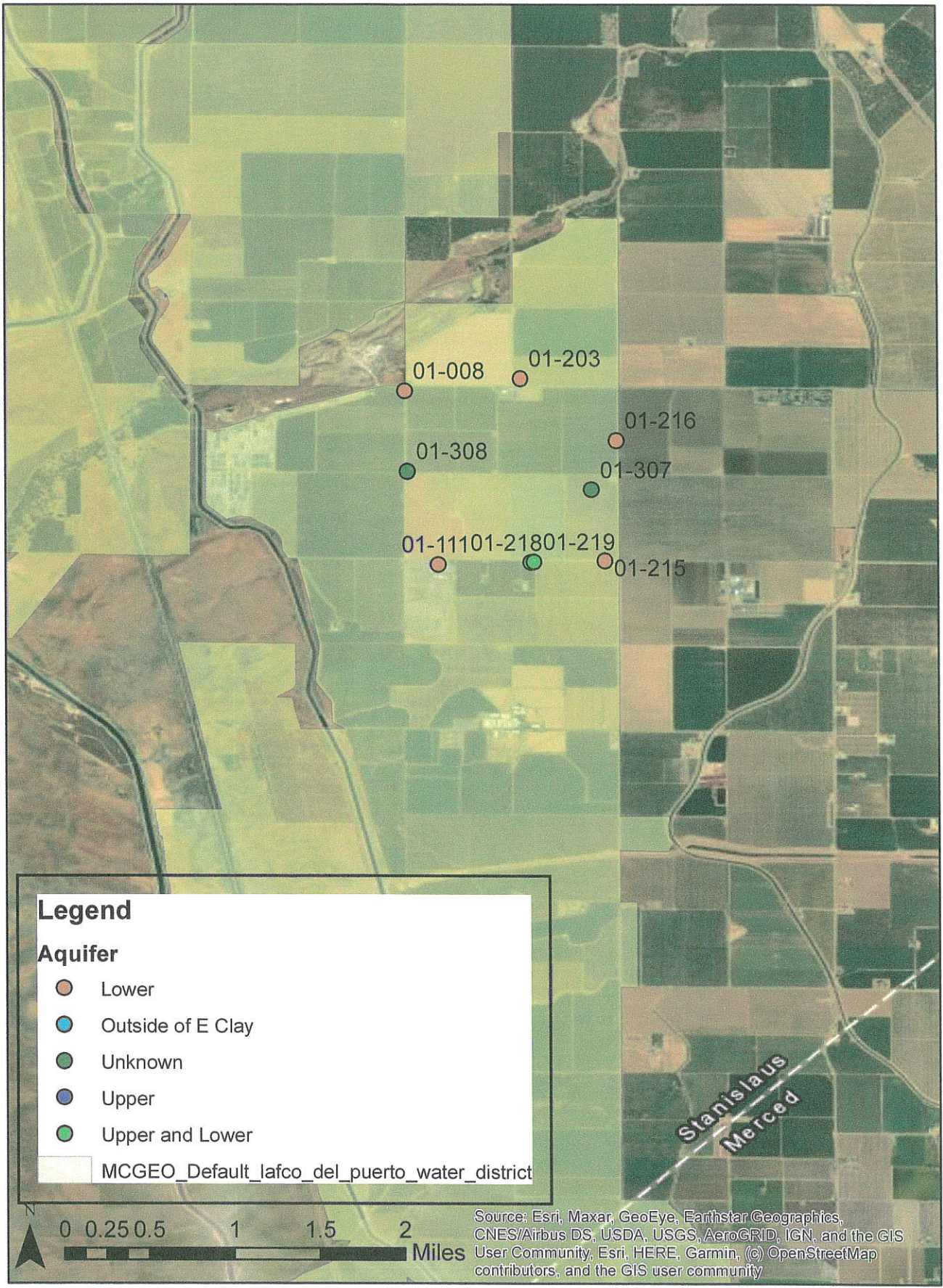
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthea G. Hansen".

Anthea G. Hansen
General Manager

VIII. E



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

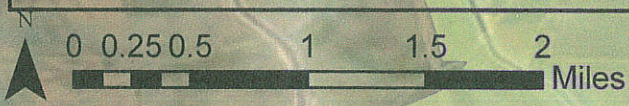


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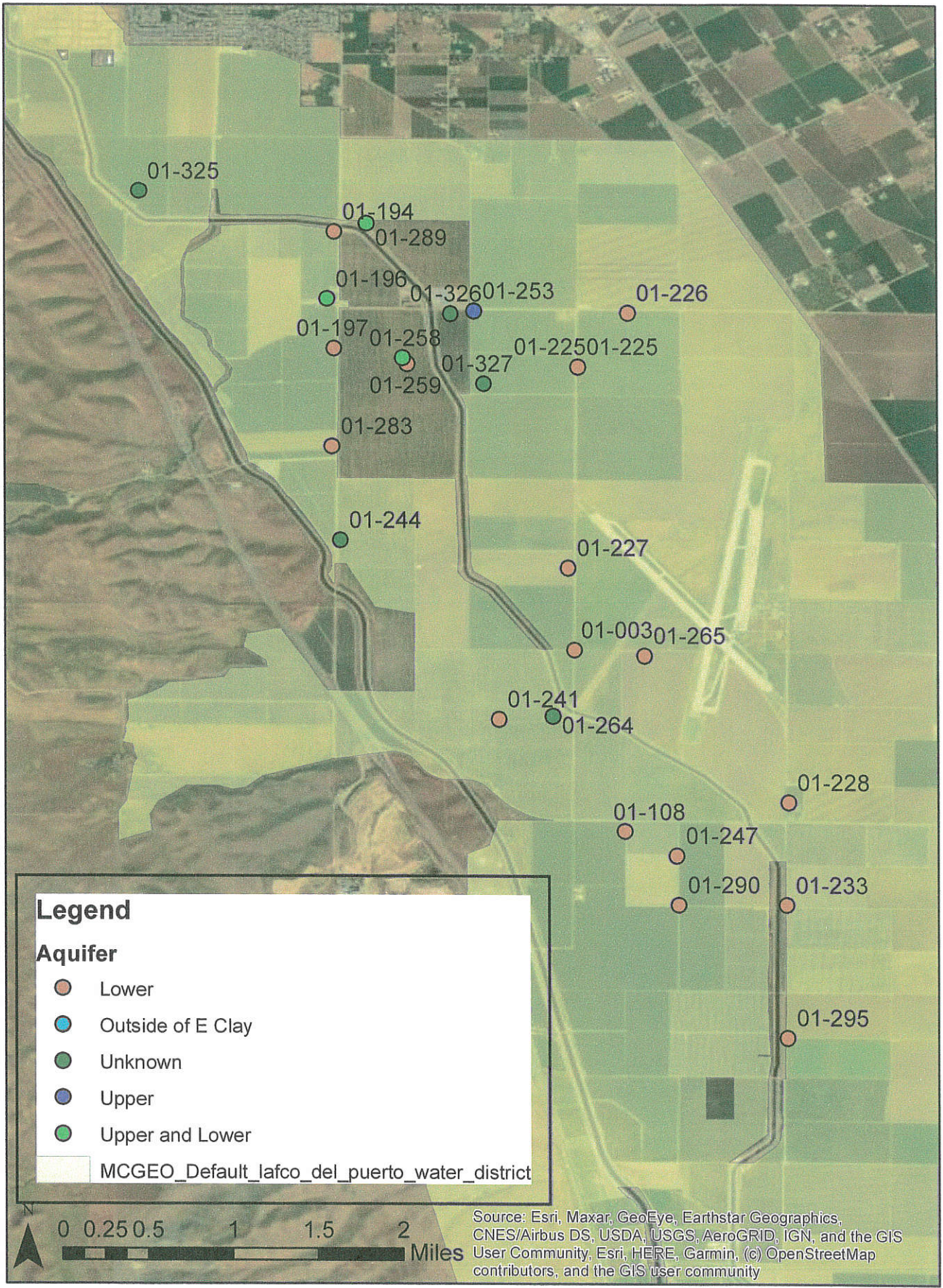
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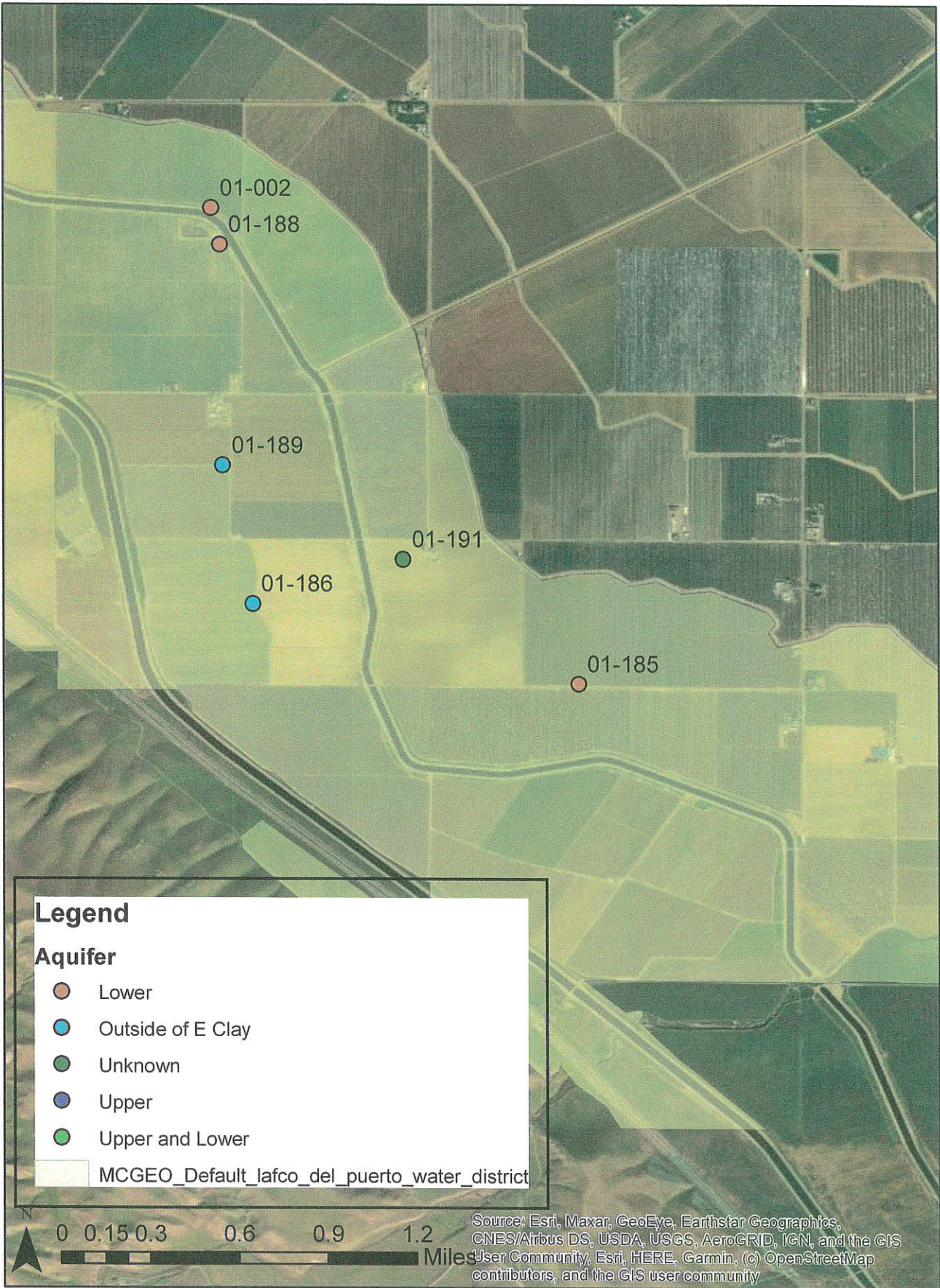
- Lower
- Outside of E Clay
- Unknown
- Upper
- Upper and Lower

MCGEO_Default_lafoo_del_puerto_water_district



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community





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