



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Directors in Attendance

Director Carole Fornoff
Director Debbie Jackson
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Kelly Long (joined meeting virtually at 4:15p.m.)
Director Albert Mendez
Director Candice Meneghin

Staff in Attendance

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Keith Lemieux, legal counsel
Kris Sofley, clerk of the Board

Public in Attendance

Zachary Hanson, UWCD
Logan Hardison
Rachel Laenen, Kimball Ranches-El Hogar
Heather Mereuda (virtual)
Tony Morgan, DBS&A (virtual)
Ed Reese, UWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER 4:08p.m.

Vice Chair Kimball called the meeting to order at 4:08p.m. and advised everyone that Chair Long would be joining the meeting virtually.

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Kimball asked Director Mendez to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

The clerk called the roll. Five directors were present: Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Mendez, and Meneghin; Long was not yet present at the meeting.

1C Public Comments

Vice Chair Kimball asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. None were offered.

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Vice Chair Kimball asked Executive Director Emmert if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Emmert responded that there had been no changes to the agenda. Vice Chair Kimball then asked for a motion.

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Mendez. Voice vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Mendez, and Meneghin), none opposed, one absent (Long). Motion carries unanimously 5/0/1.

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Jackson reported that the Fillmore Pumpers Association had held a meeting on Tuesday, May 16, and had agreed to schedule its annual meeting for Tuesday, June 20 and hold the meeting virtually as many people were still not ready to meet in person. She added that at the annual FPA meeting on June 20, FPBGSA Executive Director Emmert will be presenting an update on the activities of the GSA and will also provide basin updates to the association's members.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Fornoff said that she would echo what Director Jackson had reported.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin reported the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee funding partners had a meeting on May 15 to discuss the role of Lara Shellenbarger, the former coordinator for the SCRWC, who has been reassigned. VC Public Works, who was overseeing the position, is stepping back and the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD) will take over managing the coordinator role. The next meeting of the SCRWC will be in June.

Director Meneghin continued, stating that Land Trust stakeholders have a meeting coming up to discuss long term protection of properties in the Santa Clara watershed, possibly through a non-profit collaboration in the future. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were part of an environmental outreach effort at the Fillmore Hatchery. Friends of the Santa Clara River are hosting field trips to Cienega and are intending to partner with Fillmore on river clean-up as part of this year's Coastal Clean-Up. Also, a grant application has been submitted for Watershed Restoration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. It was a quick turnaround but could support

several restoration activities in the Santa Paula area.

Director Mendez asked for the dates of the Coastal Clean-up event and Director Meneghin said it would be on Saturday, September 16.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Mendez stated that he had nothing to report from the City of Fillmore.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Vice Chair Kimball reported that UWCD staff continue to do work on projects including the Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement project, the Freeman Diversion Expansion project, and the Extraction Barrier Brackish Water project in addition to going flat out managing the water on the Santa Clara River. He noted that the Saticoy spreading grounds were almost full, even with the fast percolation rate of the ponds and said these are all challenges that are good to have. He reported that this year's stormwater recharge to date is nearing 100,000-acre feet.

Director Fornoff asked if United was expanding the recharge basins. Vice Chair Kimball stated that high flows are restricted to 375cfs and explained how, in the past, operations would wait for the turbidity to subside and then divert cleaner water, but that is changing now because the turbid or high sediment stormwater doesn't impact fish as much. Lake Castaic and Lake Piru will likely be receiving water until November, especially as it looks like Article 21 water will be available. UWCD has also entered into contracts with other entities to take those agencies' State Water allocations, when possible.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long was absent.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

Executive Director Anthony Emmert reported that many elected officials, other water agencies, stakeholder groups and others were participating in UWCD's tour of its Freeman Diversion and encouraged the Agency's directors to take advantage of the opportunity to see the Freeman in operation.

Mr. Emmert then provided an update to the Board on the GSP grant, including the DWR's assignment of a new grant manager, who has suggested changes on how the invoice should be used to report line items for "total yield, and encouraged the Agency to amend its invoice 15, to use all the money on the table. Mr. Emmert said he will make the suggested changes and resubmit the invoice. He added that the potential final grand

amendment will be adjusted to the budget line items and that there may also be a potential invoice 16.

Mr. Emmert said the SGM Implementation Round 2 Grant recommendations are to be released by DWR on May 19 and he will notify the Board if DWR announces the grant awards. DBS&A's Tony Morgan said the grant awards were promised for August and may be made sooner.

Mr. Emmert continued stating that a receivables report was coming soon and that a FY 2023-24 Budget Workshop would be presented as part of the June 15 FPBGSA Board meeting and would include notice of the groundwater extraction fees and a work plan and that the meeting would be noticed in the local newspapers, as required. Director Meneghin asked if DWR had okayed the Agency's GSPs. Mr. Emmert stated that DWR was at the tail end of reports and was making problematic basins the priority, with a deadline of January 2024 for DWR to provide comments to the GSAs regarding Groundwater Sustainability Plans. He added he would email the Board if he hears anything on the Agency's grant submission. Vice Chair Kimball thanked Mr. Emmert and said he appreciated all the effort Mr. Emmert had made on the grant invoices to date. Mr. Emmert said the Agency was very lucky in getting Eddie Pech as its grant manager as he was very good at his job and was pleasant to work with as well. Mr. Morgan added that DWR will release a list of accepted GSPs in June, and every couple of months after that as well.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Mr. Lemieux stated that the many of the proposed bills he had reported on at the last meeting were moving on to the Appropriations Committee and that he would have updates at the next meeting regarding the status of proposed legislation impacting DWR, SWRCB and more.

2D GSP Consultant Update

Information Item

Daniel B Stephens & Associates' Tony Morgan reported that he had just returned from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference. He said that 82 GSAs had requested some \$780 million in funding from the \$260 million that is available. He also said that there is a new Natural Resources \$8 billion bond in Sacramento, of which \$1 billion will be used to address groundwater issues specifically. Mr. Morgan also said that DWR was conducting a survey regarding well permitting processes.

Chair Long said she would check with the County to see if it had new guidance documents. She mentioned the GSP every five-year GSP report was being referred to as the "measurable progress report; and the surface water-groundwater interconnection was expected to be operational in 2024.

She also noted ACWA's opposition to AB 460, AB 560, AB 1337, and AB 1563 as well as SB 389.

Director Meneghin said she had attended an Environmental Conference where revamping water rights in California was the main topic and there was a report that contained formal recommendations that she would send to the Clerk for distribution to the Board and staff.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the Board Meeting of April 20, 2023.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

Aleshire & Wynder LLP	\$ 2,636.00
County of Ventura IT Services Dept.	\$ 537.70
DBS&A	\$11,265.00
Roger, Anderson, Malody & Scott LLP	\$ 300.00
United Water Conservation District	\$21,105.80

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive the Agency's monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar items, Director Jackson; second, Director Fornoff. Roll call vote: six ayes (Long, Kimball, Mendez, Fornoff, Jackson, Meneghin); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget and Groundwater Charges

Motion

Mr. Emmert presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget and groundwater extraction charges, requesting comments and direction from the Board. He began by reporting the Agency's activities for the current fiscal year, including annual reports for Water Year 2021-2022, updating of the online groundwater database, a subsidence technical memorandum and discussions and developments in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 with regard to well permit reviews and procedure development; the Agency's monitoring well project, accounting for the \$1.5 million GSP grant from DWR and the status of the \$3.8 million SGM implementation grant

submission to DWR.

Mr. Emmert noted the work plan for fiscal year 2023-2024 would include a continuation of the same tasks and the estimated costs of those tasks (see attached slides). He then presented a very straightforward budget and was happy to report that the proposed groundwater extraction rates for FY 2023-24 would remain at \$12 per acre foot. He then asked the Board for comments and direction.

Director Fornoff asked if funds from the first grant will help to pay for the next budgeted items. Mr. Emmert said that the grant funds help with cash flow and help the Board maintain the consistent modest groundwater extraction rate. He also stated that a balanced budget is the top priority and if tasks need to be spread out to help with cash flow, that's okay.

Mr. Emmert said the proposed budget and groundwater extraction charges would be posted on the Agency's website in advance of the June 15, 2023, regular Board meeting, and that a Public Hearing would be noticed as part of that meeting so the Board could receive public comments before voting to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget and continue the \$12 per acre foot groundwater extraction fee. Director Meneghin asked about Stillwater and DBS&A's teams, specifically if they would continue efforts in encouraging stakeholder engagement. Mr. Emmert confirmed that the teams would continue to work with the GSA, especially on the Cienega Springs Enhancement Project and the Rising Groundwater Evaluation.

Director Fornoff stated that DWR's focus on subsidence seems to indicate that it is important for the Agency to keep that in the work plan. Mr. Emmert stated that wells going dry, subsidence, groundwater-surface water interaction, stakeholder outreach and communication, evaluation of vulnerable wells, difficulties during COVID, the Agency needs to know more and DWR would like us to learn more about these issues and have more stakeholder engagement.

Director Meneghin said that EJ Remson (Nature Conservancy) upstream of the Cienega Springs project allows the Agency to have a bigger commitment for the environment.

Vice Chair Kimball said that cash flow gives him heartburn and that the Board does not want stakeholder money sitting in a bank. Director Mendez thanked Mr. Emmert for his time in preparing the presentation. Chair Long also thanked Mr. Emmert for his work on the GSP and budget and reminded everyone that the Board made a promise to its end users that it would keep the groundwater extraction fee as low as possible. She said she would love to bring it down lower but understands that there are still valuable projects that must be completed. She added that she really appreciates the efforts and thoughtfulness that goes into the whole budgeting and rate setting process.

Mr. Emmert again stated that the Board will subsequently hold a public hearing and consider approving the budget and groundwater charges at its next regular meeting on June 15, 2023.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5A Basins Groundwater Conditions Report Information

UWCD's Hydrogeologist Dr. Zachary Hanson provided an informational presentation on the Fillmore and Piru basins groundwater conditions (see slides).

Director Meneghin asked about the 10 percent overdraft on the Oxnard Plain. Dr. Hanson replied that the Oxnard Plain is 1 million acre-feet in overdraft and that even diverting and recharging at 100,000-acre feet (the possible target for the Freeman Diversion this year) that only reduces the overdraft by 10 percent.

The Board and Dr. Hanson continued to discuss the groundwater conditions for the Fillmore and Piru basins as he proceeded to move through the presentation.

6. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Kimball asked if there were any topics the Board would like to add to future agendas for discussion. None were offered.

Chair Long asked if there would be a vote on the rates. Mr. Emmert replied that the "motion" for this item was further direction from the Board as the proposed budget and groundwater extraction rates could not be approved until after a public hearing was held. Director Jackson asked how the groundwater extraction fees were calculated. Mr. Emmert said he used the same figures as UWCD for the past five years and included estimated pumping for July, but lowered that estimate based on the wet year conditions currently experienced. He added that it was a conservative estimate, based on groundwater usage over the past five years. Vice Chair Kimball explained that there has been no pumping basically from December through April.


Mr. Emmert reminded the Board of the Freeman Diversion tour opportunity again and Chair Long commented that her staff had attended the tour and thought it was very educational and very helpful.

7. ADJOURNMENT 5:27p.m.

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 5:27p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **June 15, 2023**, or call of the Chair.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of June 18, 2020.

ATTEST:


Kelly Long, Chair, FPB GSA Board of Directors

ATTEST:


Kris Soley, Clerk of the Board



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 18, 2023 @ 4:00pm

**City Council Chambers, Fillmore City Hall
250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93015**

Name: Logan Harrison
Organization: Lu Pedersen, LLC
Phone: 805-525-4059
E-mail: loganharrison@x4kca.com

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Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

18 May 2023

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AGENCY ACTIVITIES CURRENT FISCAL YEAR



- **Annual Reports for Water Year 2021-2022**
- **Online Groundwater Database**
- **Subsidence Technical Memorandum**
- **Executive Order N-7-22**
 - **Well Permits Reviews**
 - **Procedure Development**

2

AGENCY ACTIVITIES CURRENT FISCAL YEAR



- **Monitoring Wells Project**
- **\$1.5 Million GSP Grant from DWR**
- **\$3.8 Million SGM Implementation Grant from DWR**

3

WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| • Annual Reports for Water Year 2022-2023 | \$50,000 |
| • Online Groundwater Database Update | 2,000 |
| • Subsidence Technical Memo 2022-2023 | 25,000 |
| • Wells Permitting Process Development and Reviews | 50,000 |

4

WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



• Evaluation of Vulnerable Shallow Wells Phase I	\$80,000
• Cienega Springs Enhancement Project Phase I	100,000
• Rising Groundwater Evaluation Phase I	80,000

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PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET



• Total Income		\$733,537
• Professional Services	667,334	
• Legal Fees	40,000	
• Office Expenses	7,000	
• Insurance	2,625	
• Capital Expenditures	0	
• Total Expenses		716,959
• Net Income		16,578

6

GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION CHARGES



- **Current Groundwater Charges** **\$12.00 Per Acre-Foot**
- **Proposed FY 2023-2024 Charges** **\$12.00 Per Acre-Foot**

7

COMMENTS and INPUT



- **Work Plan**
- **Budget**
- **Proposed Groundwater Extraction Charge**

8

NEXT STEPS



- **Post Budget and Groundwater Charges on District Website**
- **15 Jun 2023 Regular Board Meeting**
 - **Hold Public Hearing**
 - **Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**
 - **Adopt Groundwater Extraction Charges**



BASINS GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS REPORT UPDATE

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2023

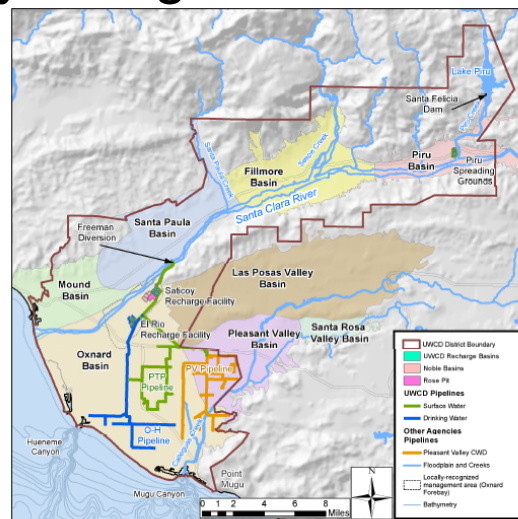
Presented By: Zachary Hanson, Ph.D., P.E.



1

District's Monthly Hydrologic Conditions Report

April 2023 reporting for
the 2022/2023 Water Year
[Oct 2022 – Sep 2023]



<https://www.unitedwater.org/key-documents/#groundwater-conditions>
"Hydrologic" Tab



Note: This report may contain provisional data until final review at the end of the water year.

2

UWCD April 2023 Hydrologic Conditions Report

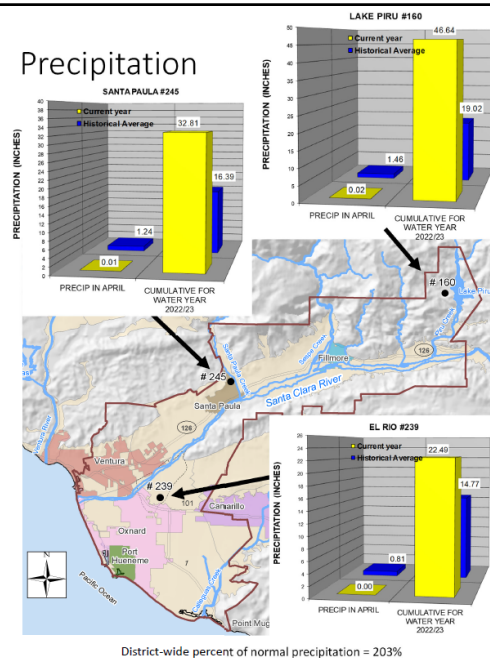
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Surface Water Update

3

Precipitation

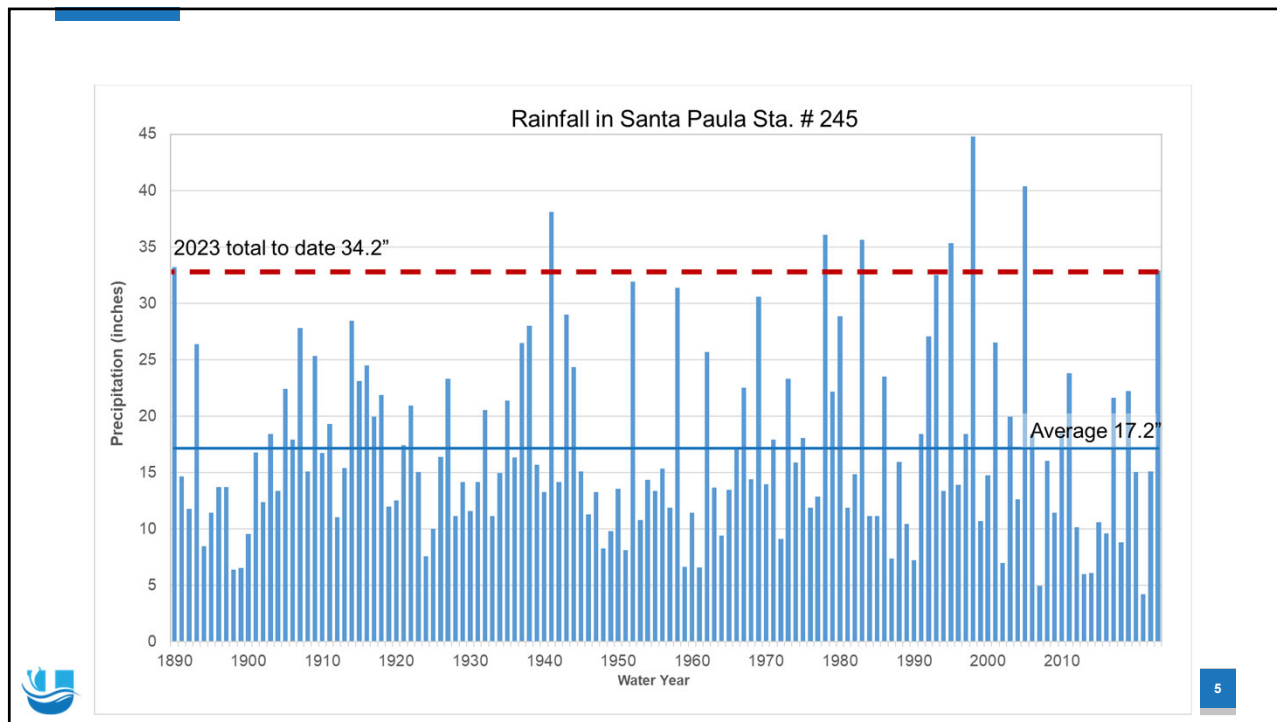
- Piru station ~245% of average
- Santa Paula station ~200%
- Oxnard Forebay station ~150%



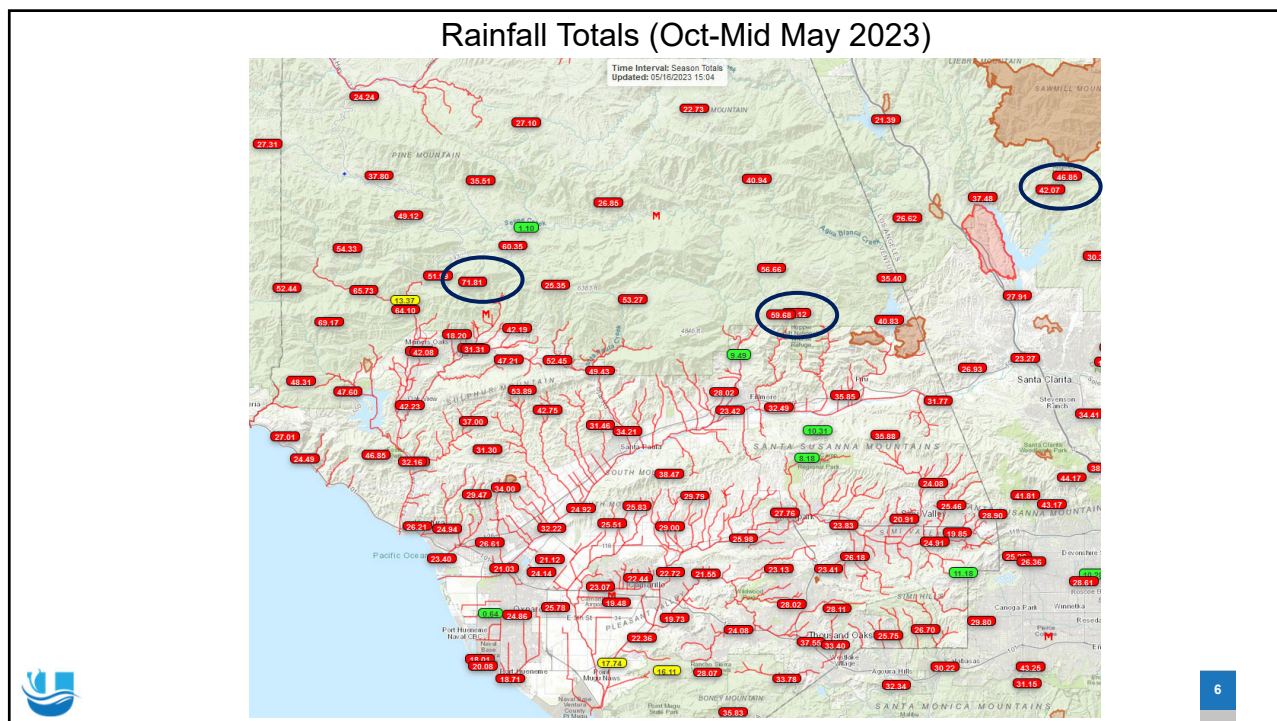
UWCD April 2023 Hydrologic Conditions Report

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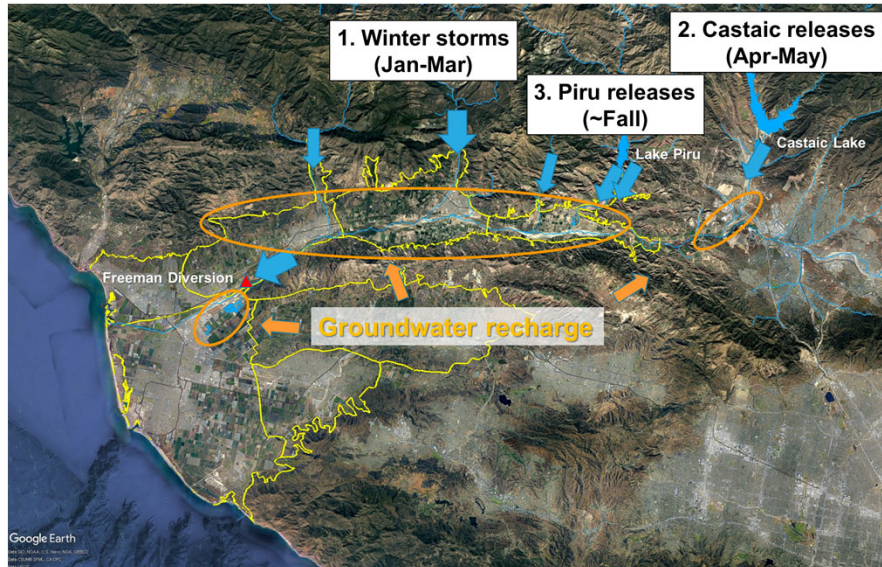


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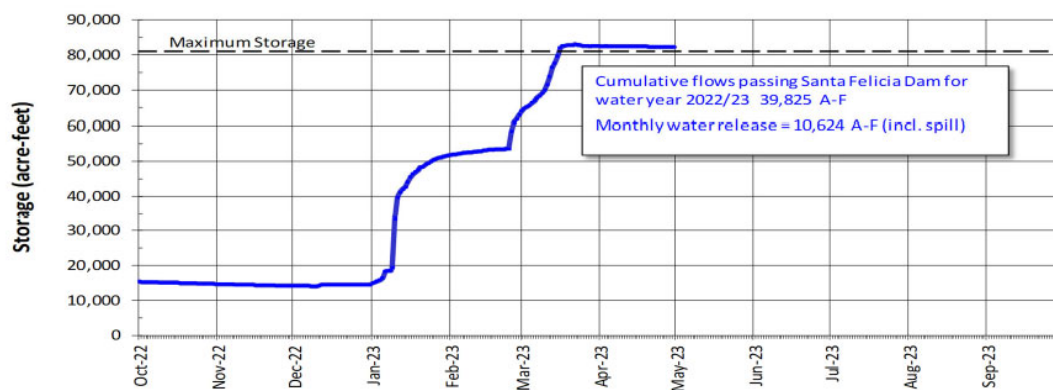
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Typical Periods of Surface Water Inflows



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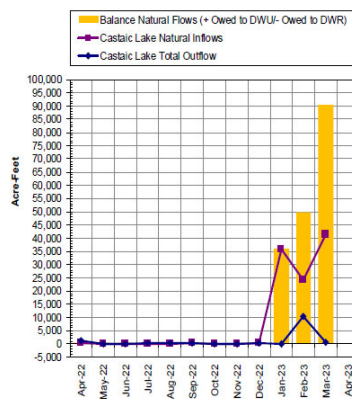
Lake Piru Storage



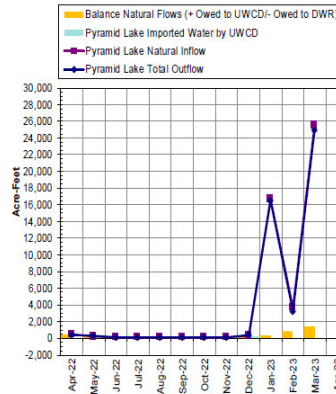
8

Nearby Reservoir Storage

Castaic Lake releases to downstream water users (DWU)



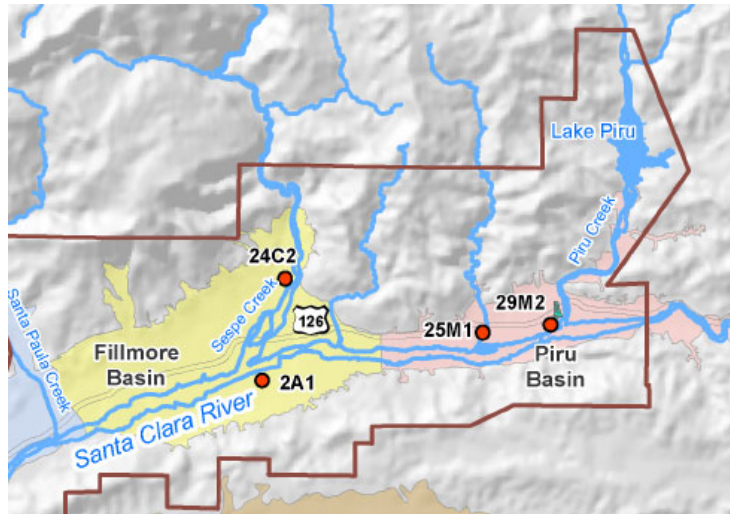
Pyramid Lake releases to UWCD



Groundwater Levels Update

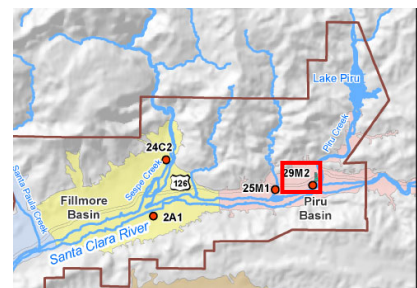
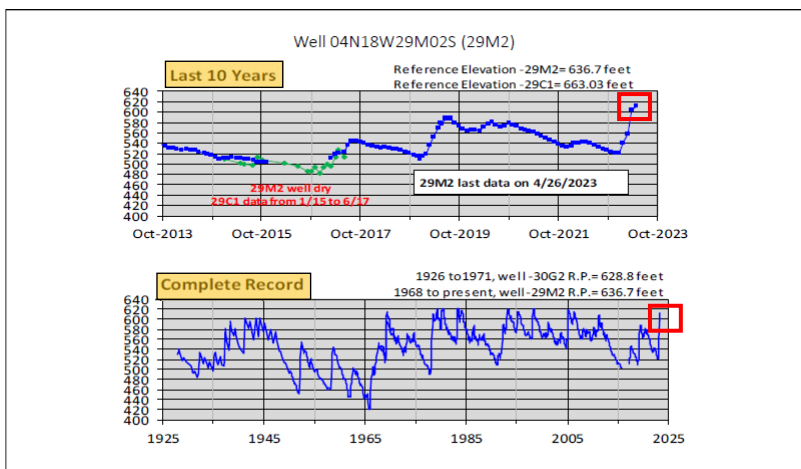


Locations of Key Wells for UWCD Monthly Groundwater Elevation Monitoring



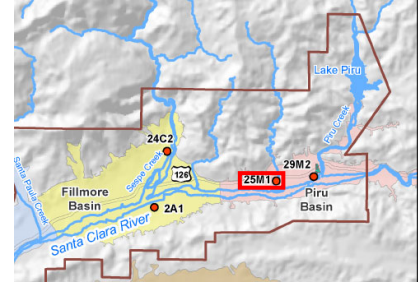
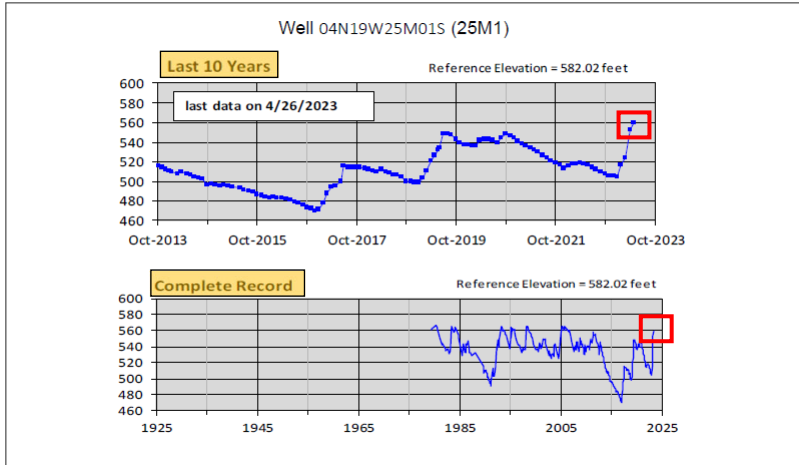
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Piru Basin Groundwater Elevations



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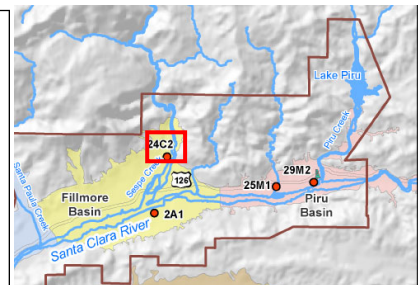
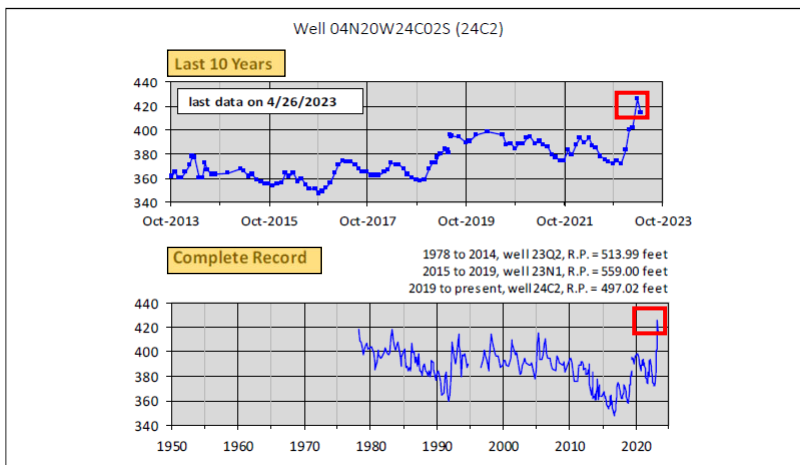
Piru Basin Groundwater Elevations



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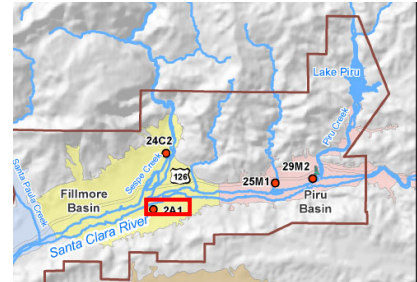
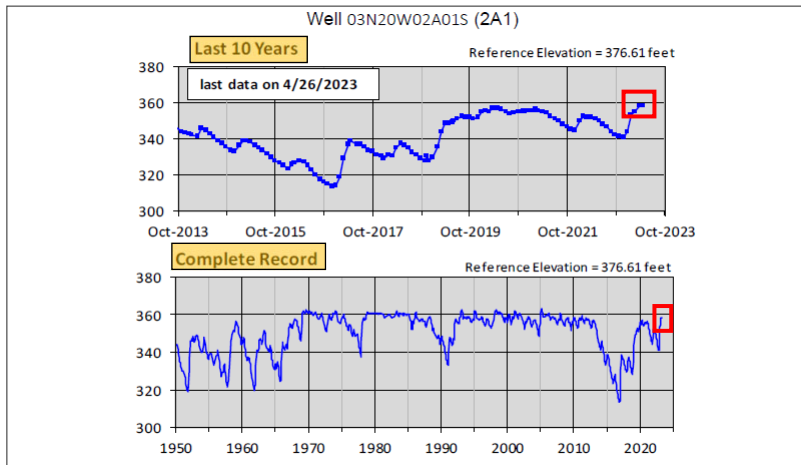
Fillmore Basin Groundwater Elevations



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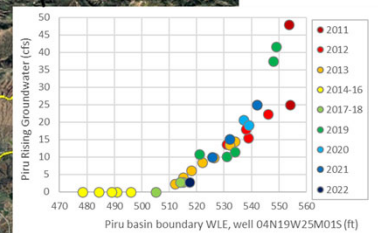
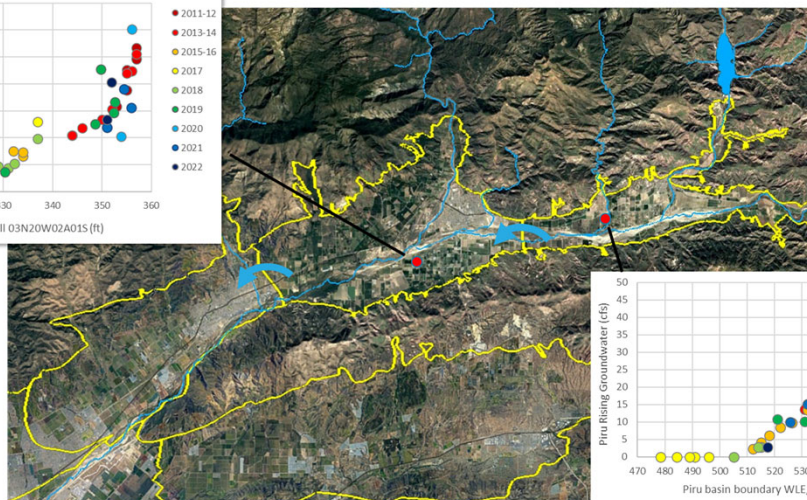
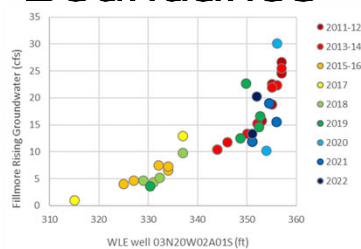
Fillmore Basin Groundwater Elevations



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Rising Groundwater near Basin Boundaries



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Downstream Basins

17

Freeman Diversion



18

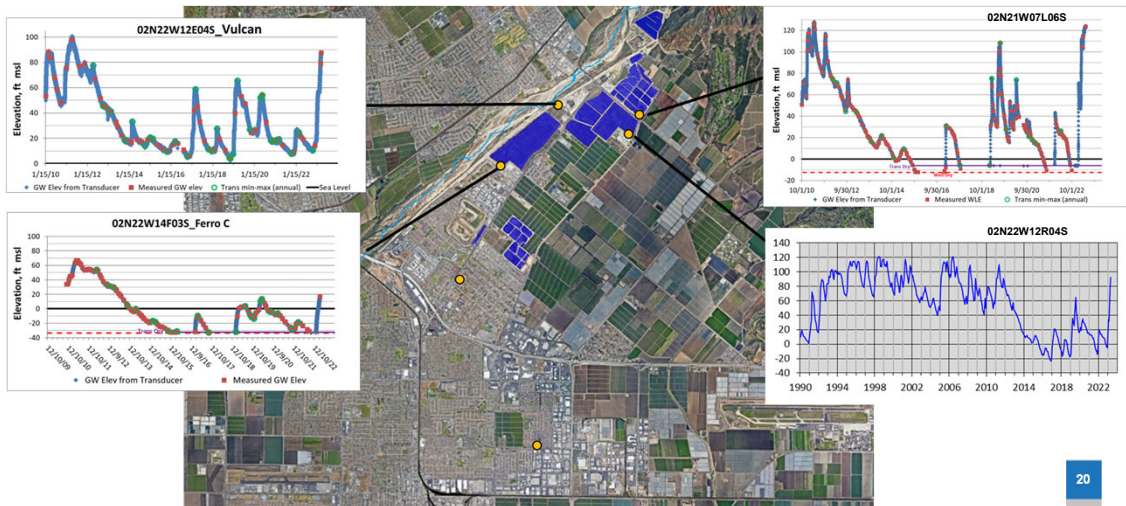
Flows at the Freeman Diversion



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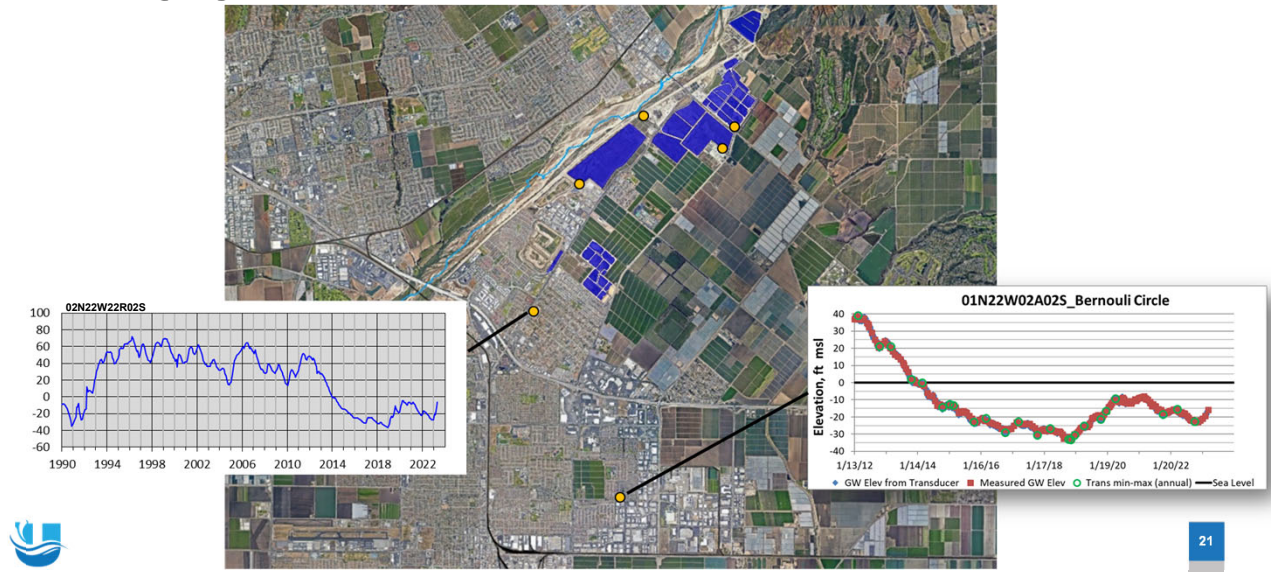
Oxnard Forebay Monitoring Wells



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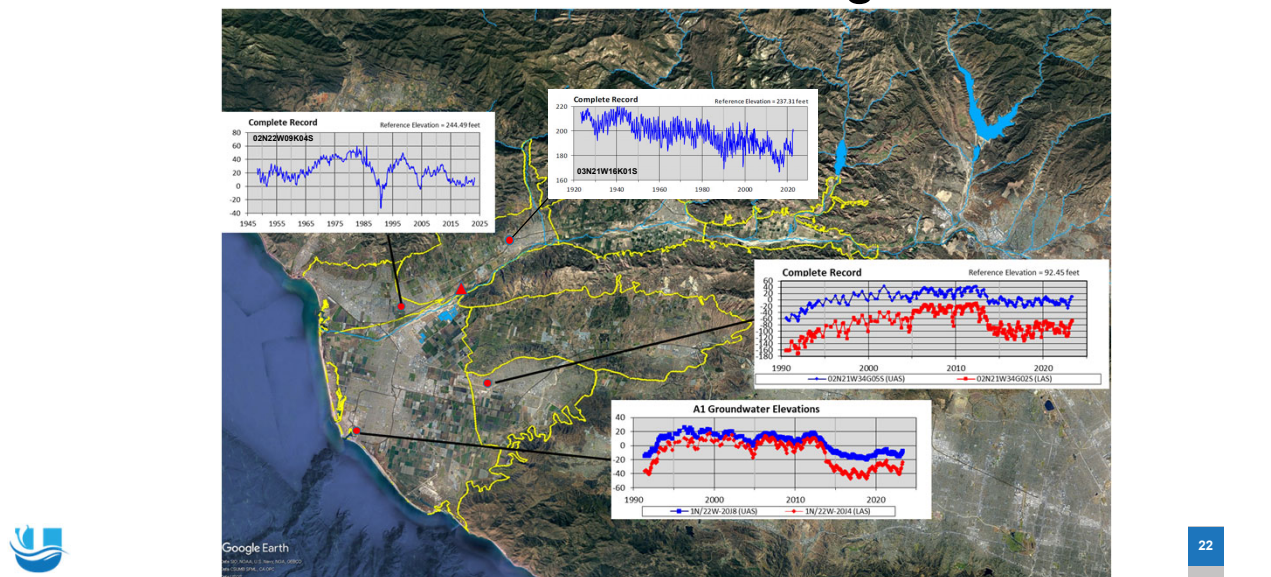
20

Lower Forebay/Oxnard Plain Monitoring Wells



21

Other Downstream Monitoring Wells



22



Questions?



Cover Photo: Santa Felicia Dam Spillway
Photo by John Carman, March 22, 2023

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