



## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

**City of Fillmore City Hall Council Chambers**

**250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93015**

**To participate in the Board of Directors meeting via Zoom, please access:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480305580?pwd=ZnFBWGhtVU05dXd3REFkM255c0h6UT09>

Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580** Password: **FPBGSA**

To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into:

Toll-free number: **877 853 5247** Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

##### **1A Pledge of Allegiance**

##### **1B Directors Roll Call**

##### **1C Public Comments**

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) will accept public comment concerning agenda items at the time the item is considered and on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board during the agendaized Public Comment period. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per issue.

##### **1D Approval of Agenda**

###### **Motion**

#### **2. UPDATES**

##### **2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:**

Oral Reports from the Board.

**Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

**Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

**Environmental Stakeholder Director Update**

**City of Fillmore Member Director Update**

**United Water Conservation District Member Director Update**

**County of Ventura Member Director Update**

## **2B Executive Director Update**

### **Information Item**

The Executive Director will provide an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of February 15, 2024.

## **2C Legal Counsel Update**

### **Information Item**

Legal Counsel will provide an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of February 15, 2024.

## **2D GSP Consultant Update**

### **Information Item**

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates will provide an informational update on the Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities since the previous Board of Directors meeting of February 15, 2024.

## **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 of Directors meeting of February 15, 2024.

### **3B Approval of Warrants**

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

DBS&A	\$20,287.00
Aleshire & Wynder LLP	\$ 4,060.00

### **3C Monthly Financial Report**

The Board will receive the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

## **4. MOTION ITEMS**

### **4A Annual Reports to California Department of Water Resources**

#### **Motion**

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates summarizing edits made to the draft Water Year 2023 Annual Reports to the California Department of Water Resources and consider approval of the Reports.



#### **4B Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

##### **Motion**

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates and staff summarizing the Agency's progress toward addressing the findings, comments, and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provide comments and direction.

#### **4C Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

##### **Motion**

The Board will consider forming an Ad Hoc Committee for interacting with the California Department of Water Resources regarding Amendment of the Agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

#### **4D Chiquita Canyon Landfill**

##### **Motion**

The Board will consider approving a letter to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles, regarding increased leachate discharges from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

### **5. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**


### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board will adjourn to the next **Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, April 18 21, 2024**, or call of the Chair.

*Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at UWCD's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street in Oxnard during normal business hours.*

*The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the UWCD Office at (805) 525-4431 or the City of Fillmore at (805) 524- 1500. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.*

Approved:

  
Board Chair Kelly Long

Posted: (date) March 15, 2024

(time) 5:30 p.m.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: <https://www.FPBGSA.org>

Posted: (date) March 15, 2024

(time) 5:35 p.m.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: <https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA>

Posted: (date) March 15, 2024

(time) 5:40 p.m.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard

Posted: (date) March 15, 2024

(time) 5:45 pm

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 4:00p.m.**  
**MINUTES**

**Directors in Attendance**

Director Carole Fornoff  
Director Debbie Jackson  
Director Gordon Kimball  
Director Kelly Long  
Director Candice Meneghin

**Director Absent**

Albert Mendez

**Staff in Attendance**

Anthony Emmert, executive director  
Christine Carson, legal counsel  
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the board

**Public in Attendance**

Sara Guzman, UWCD (virtual)  
Zachary Hanson, UWCD (virtual)  
Rachel Laenen, Kimball Ranches-El Hogar  
Tony Morgan, DBS&A  
Patrick O'Connell, UWCD  
Zachary Plummer, UWCD  
EJ Remson, The Nature Conservancy  
Gus Tolley, DBS&A (virtual)  
Hannah Vaughn-Hulbert, UCSB(virtual)

**1. CALL TO ORDER 4:04p.m.**

Director Long called the meeting to order at 4:04p.m.

**1A Pledge of Allegiance**

Director Long led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1B Directors Roll Call**

The Clerk called the roll. Five Directors were present: Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin. Director Mendez was absent. 05/0/01.

**1C Public Comments**

Director Long asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. None were offered.

## **1D Approval of Agenda**

### **Motion**

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

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Fornoff. Voice vote: Five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin), none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 05/0/01.

## **2. Updates**

### **2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:**

#### **Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Jackson said the Fillmore Pumpers Association had nothing to report.

#### **Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Fornoff said Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholders had nothing to report.

#### **Environmental Stakeholder Director Update**

Director Meneghin reported a water quality leakage issue at Chiquita Canyon landfill from recent wet year and said the Agency may want to inquire with Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

#### **City of Fillmore Member Director Update**

Director Mendez was absent.

#### **United Water Conservation District Member Director Update**

Director Kimball provided an update on storm water capture, and Lake Piru levels. He also said recharging is ongoing.

#### **County of Ventura Member Director Update**

Chair Long reported the Old Telegraph Road Bridge over the Sespe Creek was damaged in the Fillmore area. She said the Chiquita Canyon landfill incident is under investigation and the County is fully engaged. She also mentioned a few employees will be retiring in the near future at the County and touched on the State's budget deficit

### **2B Executive Director Update**

#### **Information Item**

The Executive Director reported on the GSP grant, stating amendment #2 has now been executed clarifying monitoring wells scope of work which will allow for

DWR to pay for monitoring wells-related invoices. He also provided an update on receivables with a description of the range of delinquent accounts with amounts owed. He said he would like to propose the idea of changing banks and mailing address for all mail sent to the Agency. This would eliminate extra work with retrieving mail in Fillmore, and the cost of a PO box. The mail would be delivered directly to United’s office in Oxnard, where the mail is processed. He said he would like to agendize these two items at a future date. He ended his update with discussing the Agency’s budget timeline.

**2C Legal Counsel Update**  
**Information Item**

Legal Counsel had no update.

**2D GSP Consultant Update**  
**Information Item**

Tony Morgan from Daniel B Stephens & Associates presented slides and provided an update on all projects, upcoming, ongoing, and on hold, for the Agency.

**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 approved the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of January 18, 2024.

**3B. Approval of Warrants**

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

United Water Conservation District	\$41,711.84
DBS&A	\$12,239.75
RAMS	\$ 2,755.00
Aleshire & Wynder LLP Attorneys at Law	\$ 1,932.30
County of Ventura IT Services Department	\$ 628.50

**3C Monthly Financial Report**

The Board received the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Motion to approve consent calendar, Director Jackson; second, Director Kimball. Voice call vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 05/0/01

## **4. MOTION ITEMS**

### **4A Waiver of Late Fees and Interest for Ignacio Loemli**

#### **Motion**

The Board approved waiving the late fees and interest in the amount of \$1,327.41 for Ignacio Lomeli.

Motion to approve, Director Jackson; second, Director Fornoff. Roll call vote: five ayes (Fornoff, Jackson, Kimball, Long, and Meneghin); none opposed. Motion carries unanimously 05/0/01.

### **4B Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans in Response to Findings and Comments from California Department of Water Resources**

#### **Motion**

The Board received a presentation from staff and DBS&A summarizing the findings, comments, and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding its Sustainable Groundwater Management Act review of the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provided comments and direction.

Executive Director Emmert and DBS&A will work with DWR to develop edits to the GSPs that will be acceptable to DWR. He will also coordinate with DWR on a date that the Board could meet with DWR representatives.

### **4C Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

#### **Motion**

The Board discussed this item and determined there was no need for forming an ad hoc committee for Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. No motion needed.

### **4D Annual Reports to California Department of Water Resources**

#### **Motion**

The Board received a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates summarizing the Water Year 2023 Annual Reports to the California Department of Water Resources and provided comments and direction.

## **5. FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

Bank Change  
Address Change  
DWR Meetings

## 6. ADJOURNMENT 5:48pm

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m. to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **March 21, 2024**, 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 February 15, 2024.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Long, Chair, FPBGSA Board of Directors

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board

Fillmore and Piru Basins, GSA

Check Detail Report  
March 2024

ACCOUNT	TRANSACTION ID	DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	CLEARED	AMOUNT
Bank of the Sierra								
	17573							
Bank of the Sierra	17573	03/14/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11215	Aleshire & Wynder LLP	--	Uncleared	-\$4,060.00
Bank of the Sierra	17573	03/14/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11215	Aleshire & Wynder LLP	--	--	-\$4,060.00
	17574							
Bank of the Sierra	17574	03/14/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11216	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.	--	Uncleared	-\$20,287.00
Bank of the Sierra	17574	03/14/2024	Bill Payment (Check)	11216	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.	--	--	-\$20,287.00



Attachments: February 29, 2024, Profit and Loss Budget Performance  
February 29, 2024, Balance Sheet



# Fillmore and Piru Basins, GSA

Budget vs. Actuals: FY\_2023\_2024 - FY24 P&L

July 2023 - February 2024

	JUL - SEP, 2023		OCT - DEC, 2023		JAN - FEB, 2024		TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income								
40001 Groundwater Extraction Charge	-165.60	0.00	-4,050.48	0.00	-16.82	0.00	\$ -4,232.90	\$0.00
41000 Grant Revenue							\$0.00	\$0.00
41001 State Grants		23,750.00		23,750.00		0.00	\$0.00	\$47,500.00
<b>Total 41000 Grant Revenue</b>		<b>23,750.00</b>		<b>23,750.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$47,500.00</b>
47000 Other Revenue							\$0.00	\$0.00
47001 Late Fees	10,968.50	0.00	5,128.81	0.00	957.26	0.00	\$17,054.57	\$0.00
47012 Returned Check Charges		0.00		0.00		0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total 47000 Other Revenue</b>	<b>10,968.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,128.81</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>957.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$17,054.57</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,802.90</b>	<b>\$23,750.00</b>	<b>\$1,078.33</b>	<b>\$23,750.00</b>	<b>\$940.44</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,821.67</b>	<b>\$47,500.00</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$10,802.90</b>	<b>\$23,750.00</b>	<b>\$1,078.33</b>	<b>\$23,750.00</b>	<b>\$940.44</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,821.67</b>	<b>\$47,500.00</b>
Expenses								
52200 Professional Services	0.00						\$0.00	\$0.00
52240 Prof Svcs - IT Consulting		446.25	628.50	446.25	628.50	297.50	\$1,257.00	\$1,190.00
52250 Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep							\$0.00	\$0.00
52251 Prof Svcs - UWCD GW Services		9,999.99		9,999.99	3,673.57	6,666.66	\$3,673.57	\$26,666.64
52252 Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant	6,092.50	123,750.00	26,648.75	123,750.00	32,526.75	82,500.00	\$65,268.00	\$330,000.00
<b>Total 52250 Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep</b>	<b>6,092.50</b>	<b>133,749.99</b>	<b>26,648.75</b>	<b>133,749.99</b>	<b>36,200.32</b>	<b>89,166.66</b>	<b>\$68,941.57</b>	<b>\$356,666.64</b>
52270 Prof Svcs - Accounting		6,352.50	7,365.00	6,352.50	17,092.58	4,235.00	\$24,457.58	\$16,940.00
52275 Prof Svcs - Admin/Clerk of Bd		6,562.50		6,562.50	5,184.98	4,375.00	\$5,184.98	\$17,500.00
52280 Prof Svcs - Executive Director		14,472.21		14,472.21	15,786.69	9,648.14	\$15,786.69	\$38,592.56
52290 Prof Svcs - Other		5,250.00		5,250.00	342.12	3,500.00	\$342.12	\$14,000.00
<b>Total 52200 Professional Services</b>	<b>6,092.50</b>	<b>166,833.45</b>	<b>34,642.25</b>	<b>166,833.45</b>	<b>75,235.19</b>	<b>111,222.30</b>	<b>\$115,969.94</b>	<b>\$444,889.20</b>
52500 Legal Fees							\$0.00	\$0.00
52501 Legal Counsel	3,181.23	9,999.99	1,519.30	9,999.99	5,992.30	6,666.66	\$10,692.83	\$26,666.64
<b>Total 52500 Legal Fees</b>	<b>3,181.23</b>	<b>9,999.99</b>	<b>1,519.30</b>	<b>9,999.99</b>	<b>5,992.30</b>	<b>6,666.66</b>	<b>\$10,692.83</b>	<b>\$26,666.64</b>
53000 Office Expenses		500.01		500.01		333.34	\$0.00	\$1,333.36
53010 Public Information		249.99		249.99	230.60	166.66	\$230.60	\$666.64
53020 Office Supplies		249.99		249.99	221.57	166.66	\$221.57	\$666.64
53026 Postage & Mailing		249.99		249.99	734.65	166.66	\$734.65	\$666.64
53060 Computer Software					1,080.00		\$1,080.00	\$0.00
53110 Travel & Training		500.01		500.01	120.08	333.34	\$120.08	\$1,333.36
<b>Total 53000 Office Expenses</b>		<b>1,749.99</b>		<b>1,749.99</b>	<b>2,386.90</b>	<b>1,166.66</b>	<b>\$2,386.90</b>	<b>\$4,666.64</b>
53500 Insurance							\$0.00	\$0.00
53510 Liability Insurance		0.00	2,462.42	2,625.00		0.00	\$2,462.42	\$2,625.00
<b>Total 53500 Insurance</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,462.42</b>	<b>2,625.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$2,462.42</b>	<b>\$2,625.00</b>
70130 Bank Service Charges	135.00	0.00	135.00	0.00	90.00	0.00	\$360.00	\$0.00
80000 AR Write-Offs - Bad Debt Exp.			1.47				\$1.47	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,408.73</b>	<b>\$178,583.43</b>	<b>\$38,760.44</b>	<b>\$181,208.43</b>	<b>\$83,704.39</b>	<b>\$119,055.62</b>	<b>\$131,873.56</b>	<b>\$478,847.48</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$1,394.17</b>	<b>\$ -154,833.43</b>	<b>\$ -37,682.11</b>	<b>\$ -157,458.43</b>	<b>\$ -82,763.95</b>	<b>\$ -119,055.62</b>	<b>\$ -119,051.89</b>	<b>\$ -431,347.48</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$1,394.17</b>	<b>\$ -154,833.43</b>	<b>\$ -37,682.11</b>	<b>\$ -157,458.43</b>	<b>\$ -82,763.95</b>	<b>\$ -119,055.62</b>	<b>\$ -119,051.89</b>	<b>\$ -431,347.48</b>

# Fillmore and Piru Basins, GSA

## Balance Sheet

As of February 29, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 Bank of the Sierra	1,129,084.42
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$1,129,084.42</b>
Accounts Receivable	
11000 Accounts Receivable	304,943.83
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$304,943.83</b>
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
12900 Clearing Account	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,434,028.25</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,434,028.25</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	24,347.00
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$24,347.00</b>
Other Current Liabilities	
20001 Advance from County of Ventura	0.00
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Payable	0.00
Out Of Scope Agency Payable	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$24,347.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$24,347.00</b>
Equity	
32000 Retained Earnings	1,528,733.14
Net Income	-119,051.89
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,409,681.25</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,434,028.25</b>



**Item No.**            **4A Motion**

**DATE:**            **March 14, 2024 (for March 21, 2024, meeting)**

**TO:**                **Board of Directors**

**FROM:**           **Anthony Emmert, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**        **Annual Reports to Department of Water Resources**

**RECCOMENDATION:**

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates summarizing edits made to the draft Water Year 2023 Annual Reports to the California Department of Water Resources for the Fillmore Basin and Piru Basin and consider approval of the Reports.

**BACKGROUND**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that groundwater sustainability agencies such as the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) produce and submit annual reports for each groundwater basin to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year. SGMA also requires that groundwater sustainability agencies update and keep current their public databases of groundwater information. The Agency's groundwater sustainability consultant Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBS&A) has prepared annual reports that conform to the requirements of SGMA and has included recommendations received from the Board and stakeholders. DBS&A will provide an overview of the final reports and highlight edits made. Prior to April 1, 2024, the Agency will upload the reports to the DWR SGMA portal.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Fillmore Annual Report  
Piru Annual Report

Proposed Motion:

Approve the Annual Reports to the Department of Water Resources.

1<sup>st</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Fornoff:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Mendez:

Director Meneghin:

# Fillmore Groundwater Subbasin Annual Report Water Year 2023

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Submitted to



California Department of  
Water Resources

Submitted by



Prepared by



3916 State Street, Garden Suite  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

[www.dbstephens.com](http://www.dbstephens.com)

Project# DB23.1279.00

April 1, 2024

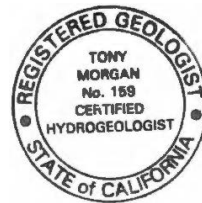
## Certification

This report was prepared in accordance with generally accepted professional hydrogeologic principles and practices. This report makes no other warranties, either expressed or implied as to the professional advice or data included in it. This report has not been prepared for use by parties or projects other than those named or described herein. It may not contain sufficient information for other parties or purposes.

**DANIEL B. STEPHENS & ASSOCIATES, INC.**



Douglas (Gus) Tolley  
Project Hydrogeologist  
[gtolley@geo-logic.com](mailto:gtolley@geo-logic.com)  
143E Spring Hill Dr.  
Grass Valley, CA 95945



Tony Morgan  
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3916 State Street, Garden Suite  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Date signed: March 13, 2024

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Definition</u>
AF	acre-feet
AFY	acre-feet per year
Ag	agriculture
amsl	above mean sea level
Basin	Fillmore subbasin of the Santa Clara River Valley basin
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
DBS&A	Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
DWR	[CA] Department of Water Resources
FPBGSA	Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency
FT	feet
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
MO	Measureable Objective
MT	Minimum Threshold
RMP	Representative Monitoring Point
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMC	Sustainable Management Criteria
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
United	United Water Conservation District
WLE	water level elevation
WY	water year



## Executive Summary

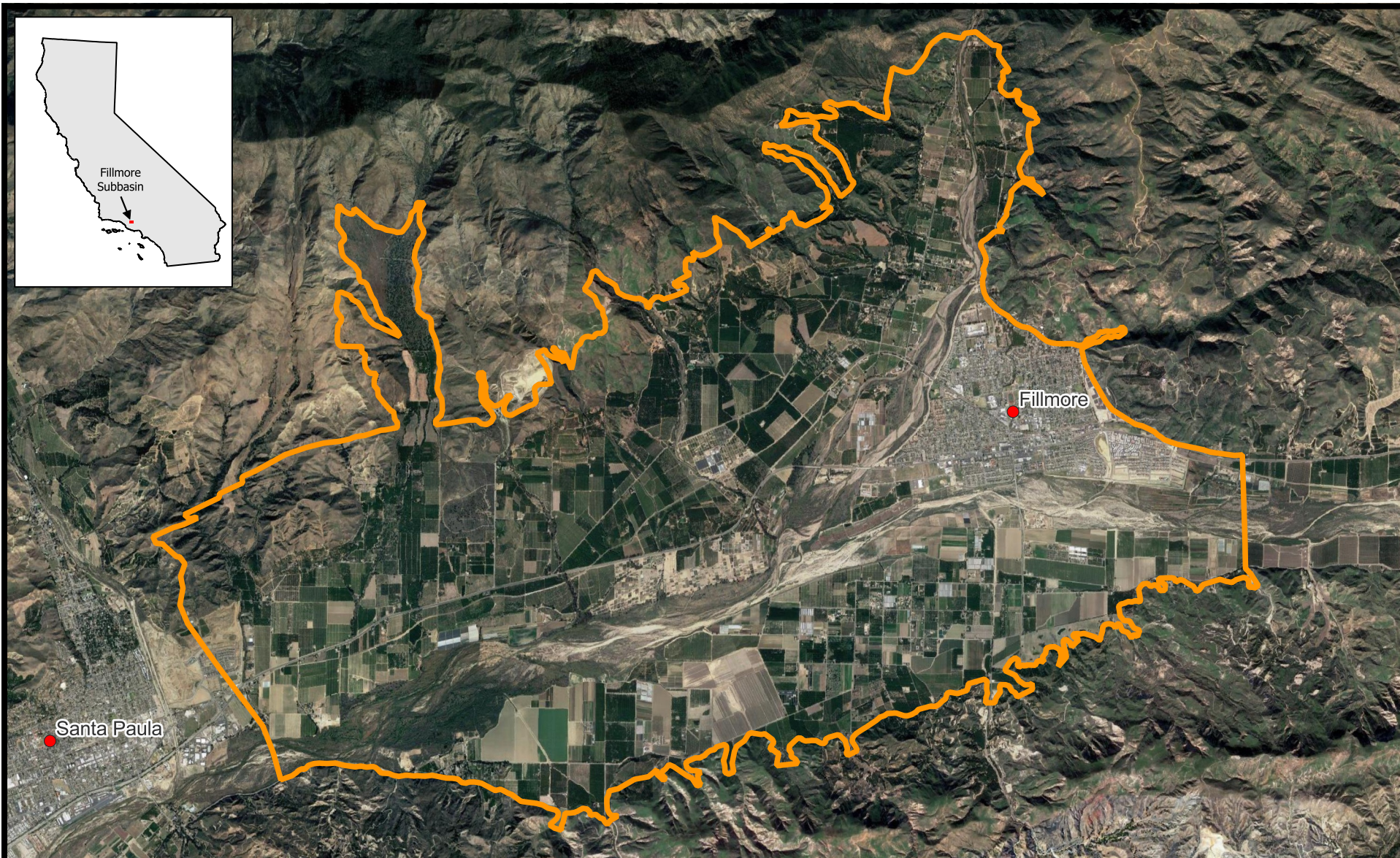
Water year (WY) 2023 was a wet year for California which broke drought conditions that have persisted throughout the state for the previous three years. Precipitation measured at the CIMIS Moorpark station (#217) was 29.74 in, or 150% of the annual average of 19.81 in from WY 2015-2022. Recharge entering the aquifer system increased groundwater levels in the Basin by an average of 19.06 ft from October 2022 to October 2023. Groundwater in storage increased by an estimated 34,149 AF acre-ft (AF). Groundwater extractions and surface water diversions were estimated to be 33,467 AF and 153 AF, respectively, totaling 33,620 AF of water used beneficially in the basin during WY 2023. Although the Fillmore subbasin was not selected for a Round 2 GSP Implementation Grant award, GSP implementation activities that move the subbasin towards established sustainability goals have continued. These include supporting the Cienega Springs Restoration Project as a Drought Refuge; annual evaluation and reporting of subsidence; ongoing research into improving monitoring networks for groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and groundwater-surface-water (GW-SW) interactions; consideration and discussions of updates to the well permit application review workflow; development of a groundwater export policy; and maintenance of the database management system (DMS).

On January 18, 2024 DWR notified the FPBGSA that the Fillmore subbasin GSP was determined to be incomplete. This was largely due to insufficient justification of proposed minimum thresholds for reductions of groundwater in storage and depletions of interconnected surface water. The FPBGSA and their consulting team are working on addressing these deficiencies and resubmitting an updated version of the GSP to DWR by July 16, 2024 (180 days from notification).

## 1. Introduction



The Fillmore Subbasin (the Basin) is managed with the adjacent Piru Subbasin by the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the Agency). Following the submittal of the Fillmore Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) on January 31st, 2022, the Agency is required to submit an annual report for the preceding Water Year (October 1st through September 30th) to DWR by April 1st (23 CCR §356.2). These annual reports provide a summary of hydrologic conditions and water use in the Basin (Figure 1) using observed data from monitoring networks and/or estimated using best available methods. This annual report





Source: <https://gis.water.ca.gov>

#### Explanation

 Groundwater Basin Boundary     City



0    0.5    1 mi



01/30/2024

DB23.1279



## FILLMORE SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT Location Map

Figure 1



provides a summary of Basin water use and changes in groundwater storage during the period from October 1, 2022 to September 30th, 2023, and provides context for Basin conditions relative to the sustainable management criteria developed for the Basin. This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements for annual reports as identified in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). More detailed analysis and discussion of long-term hydrologic trends will be included in the periodic evaluation of the GSP the Agency is required to perform at least every five years (23 CCR §356.4).

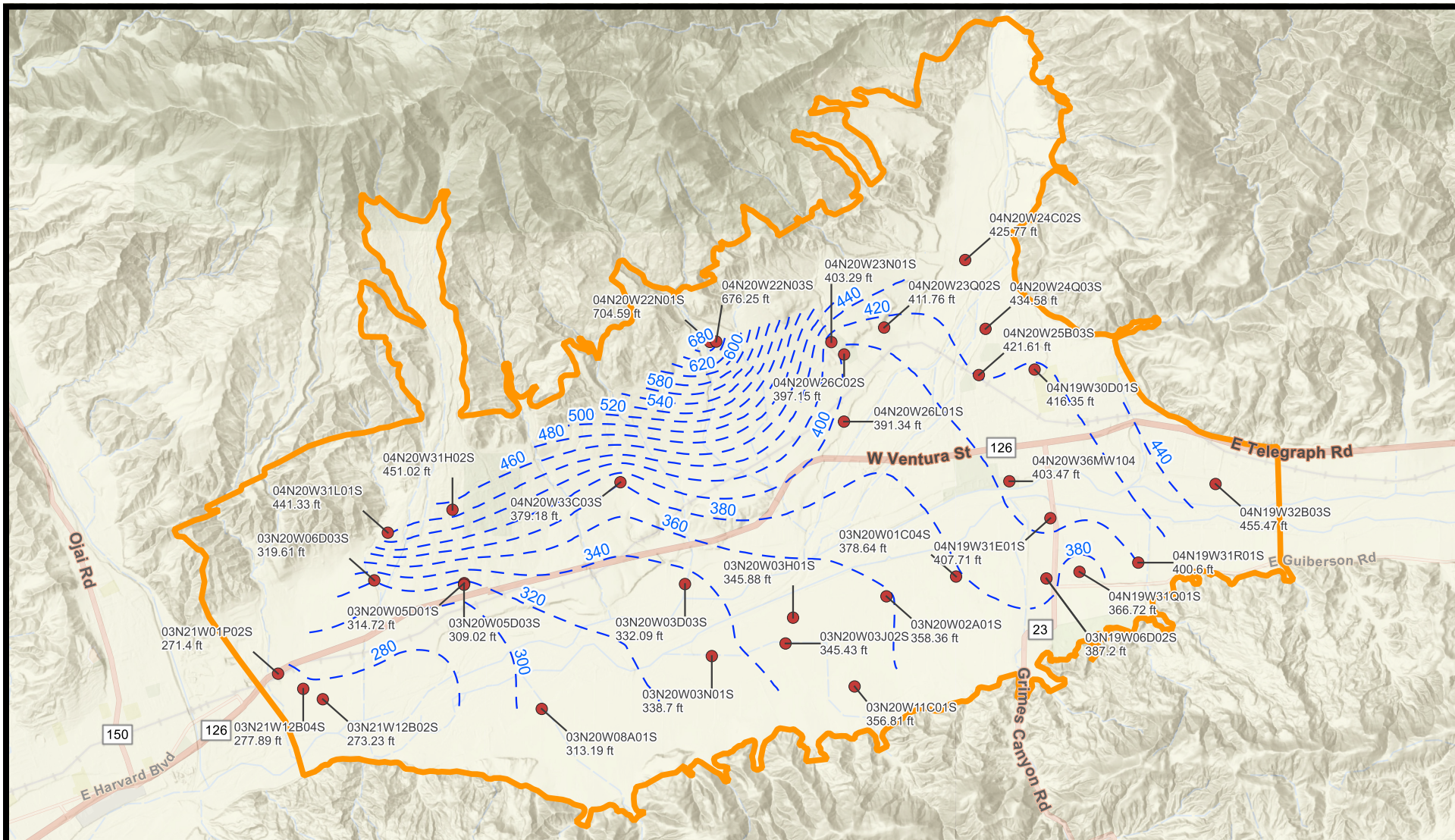
For additional clarification or more detailed information on the basin plan area or conditions, please refer to the Fillmore Subbasin GSP. As acknowledged by the Department of Water Resources, it is important to note that there are still some data gaps and missing information as the Agency continues to gather information for better analysis and decisions.

## 2. Groundwater Elevations

Groundwater elevation contour maps for the spring and fall of 2023 are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively. These maps depict the seasonal high (spring) and low (fall) water level elevations in the Basin. Spring and fall water level elevations are defined as observations within a 50-day period centered on April 1st or October 1st. If a well has multiple observations within this period, then the value collected nearest to April 1st or October 1st is used. The Basin is conceptualized as a single aquifer, and therefore subsetting water level data by well screen depth was not required.

Observed spring groundwater elevations (Figure 2) ranged from 271.40 to 704.59 ft above mean sea level (amsl), with an average elevation of 391.22 ft amsl. Fall groundwater elevations (Figure 3) ranged from 270.54 to 711.69 ft amsl, with an average elevation of 407.07 ft amsl. Flow is generally from east to west, but is influenced by recharge along the margins of the valley and drawdown in the vicinity of high-capacity irrigation wells. Observed groundwater elevation changes from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 ranged from +4.65 to +38.20 ft, with an average change of +19.06 ft.

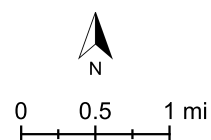
Hydrographs for representative monitoring points (RMPs) in the Basin are shown in Figure 4 (a-d). Groundwater levels at all RMPs are near or above their respective measurable objectives. Water levels in 04N20W36MW104, which were within 1.5 ft of the minimum threshold in November 2022, fully recovered above the measurable objective.



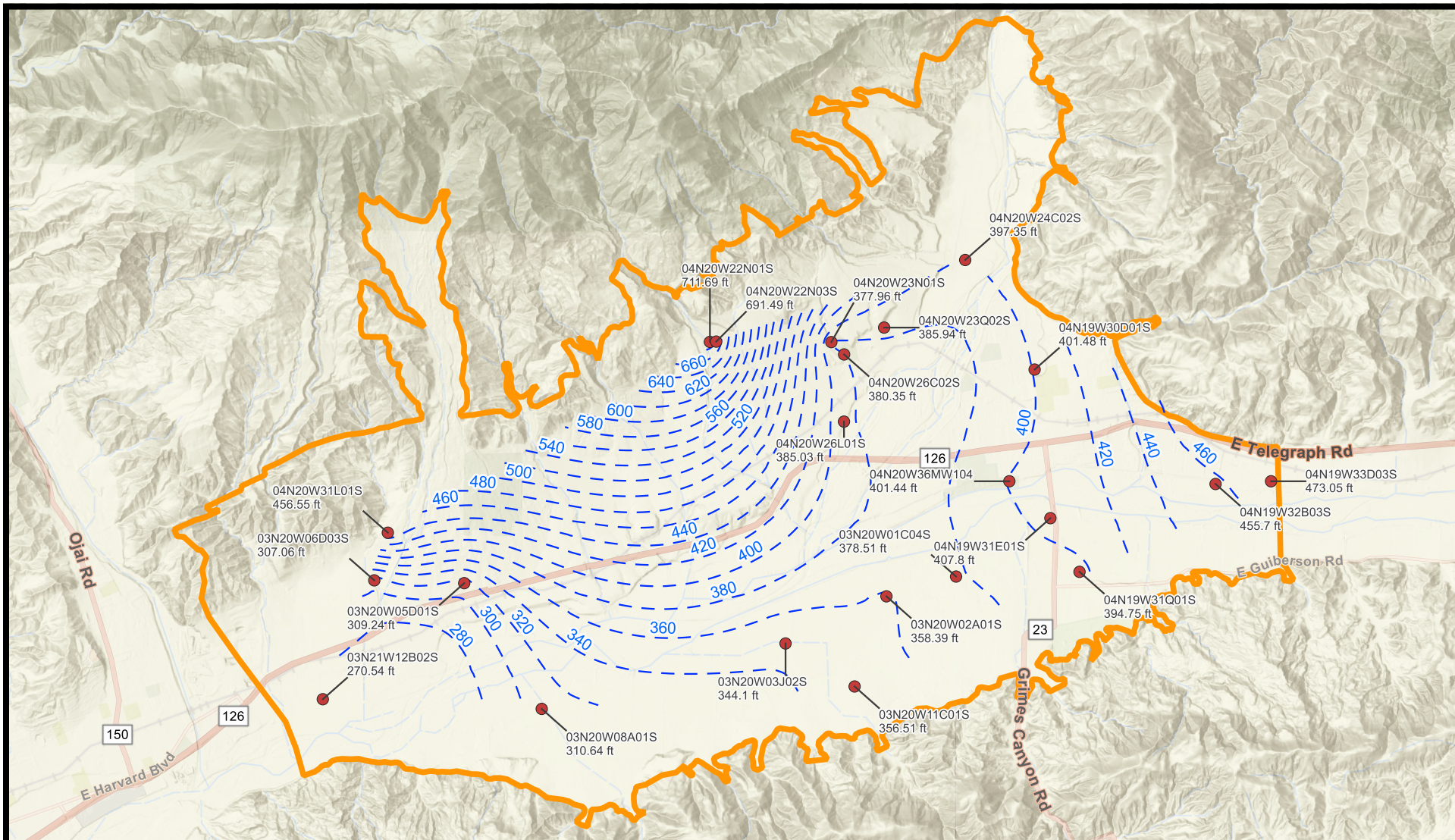
Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com/>

## Explanation

- Well Name
- Groundwater Elevation (ft amsl)
- Water Level Contour (ft amsl)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary



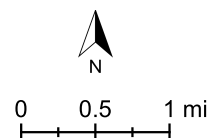


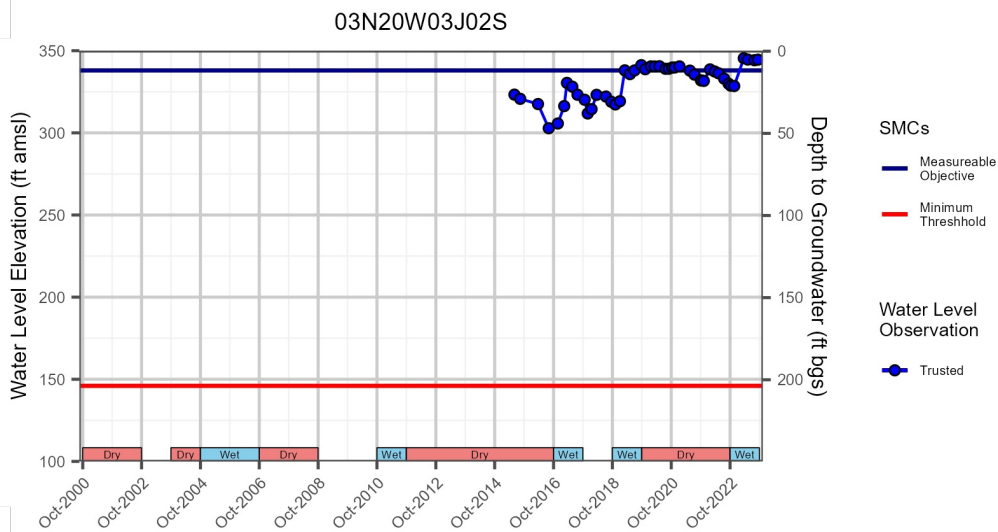
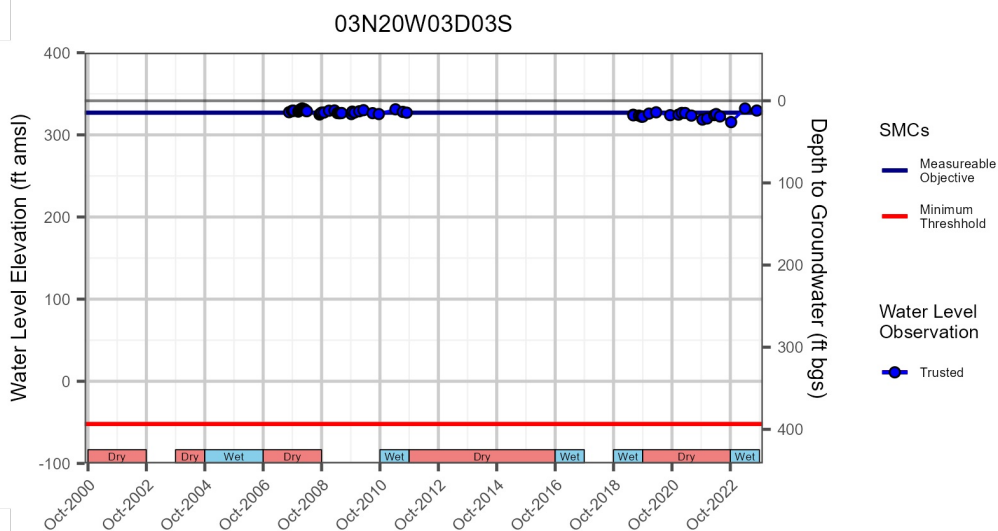
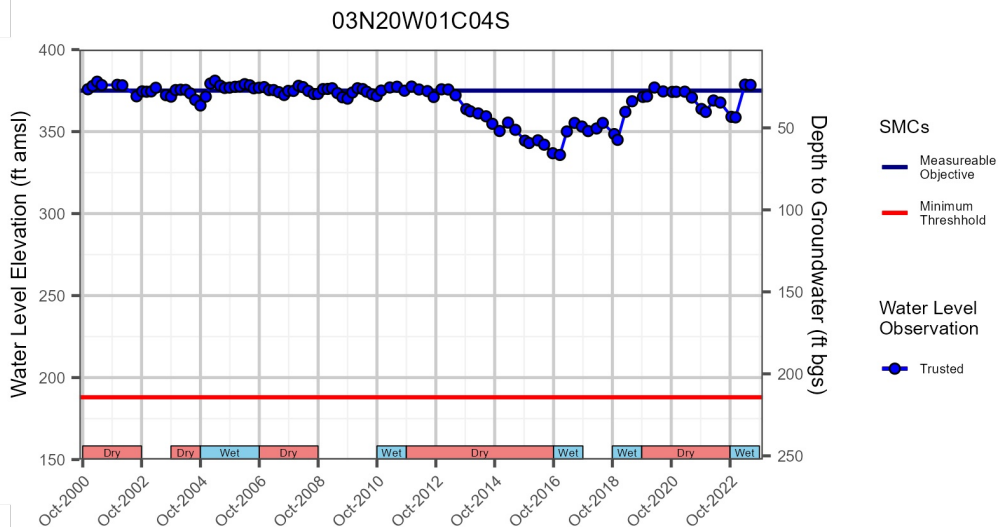


Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com/>

## Explanation

- Well Name
- Groundwater Elevation (ft amsl)
- Water Level Contour (ft amsl)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

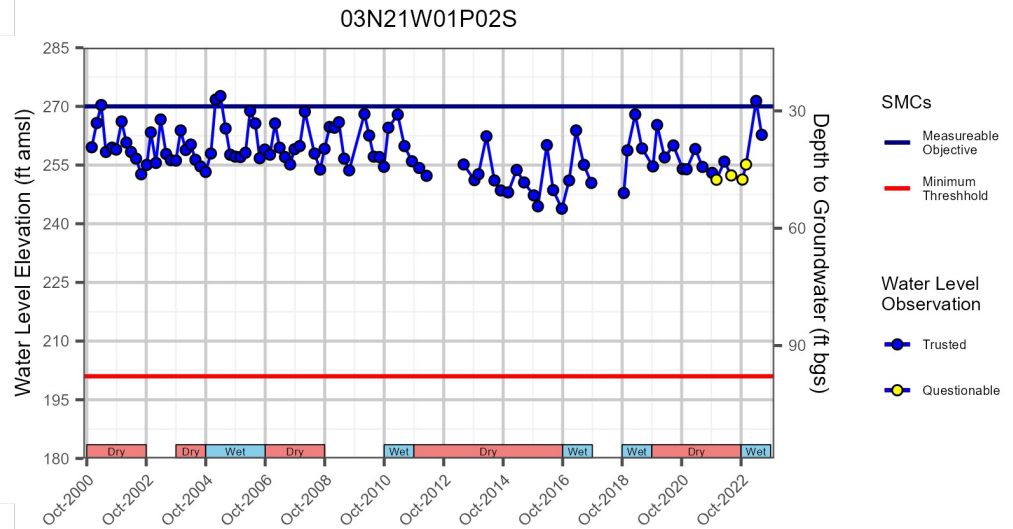
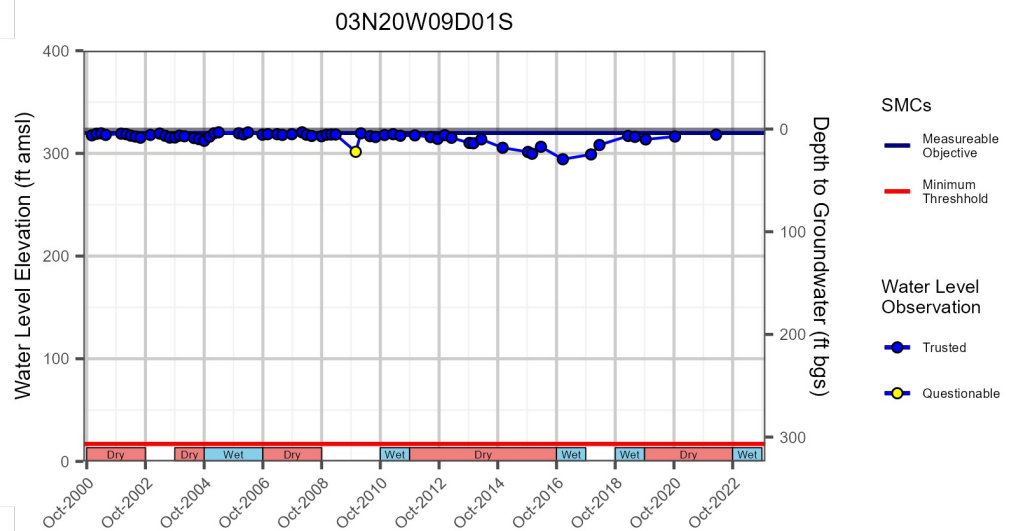
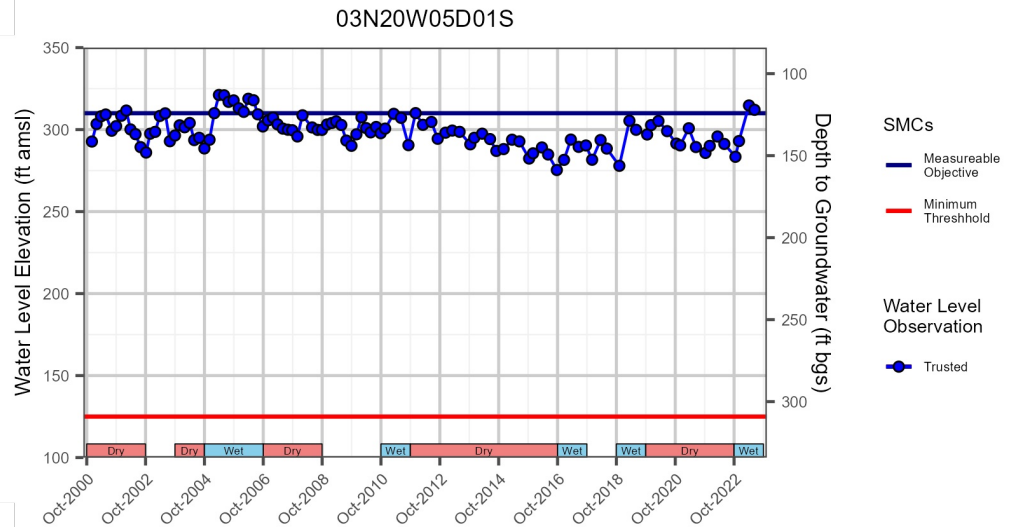




#### Notes:

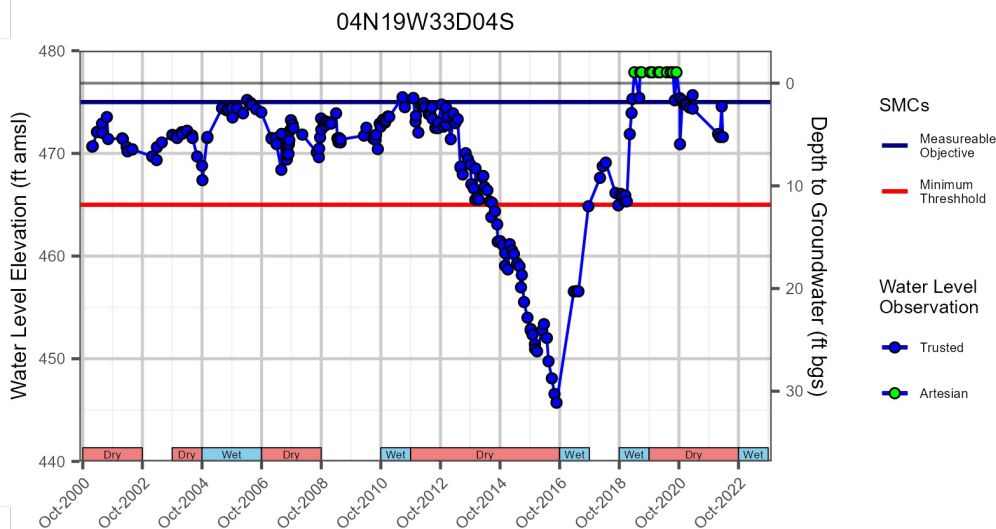
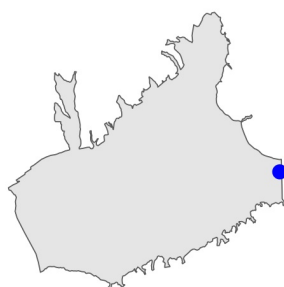
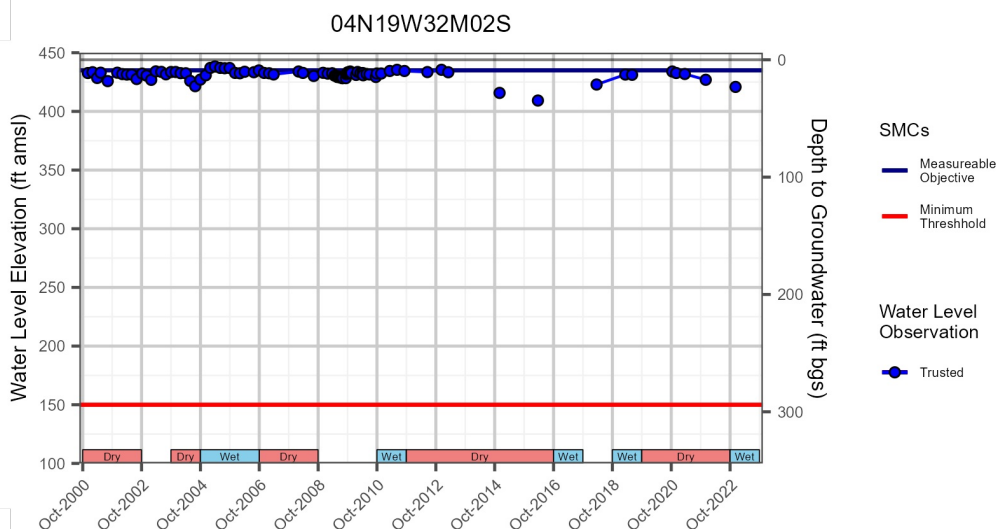
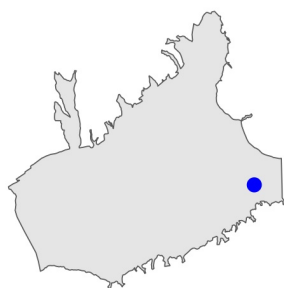
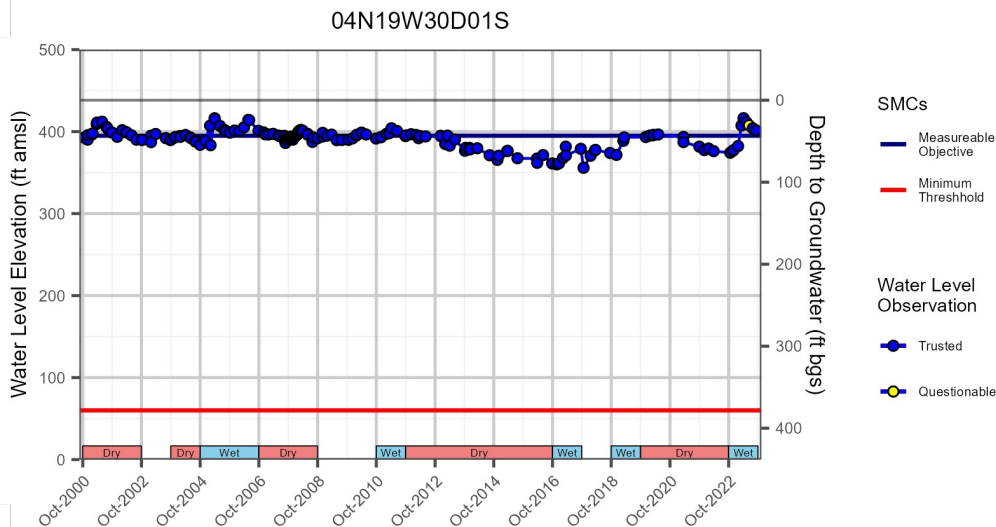
1. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.
2. Well location indicated by reference image to left of hydrograph.





**Notes:**

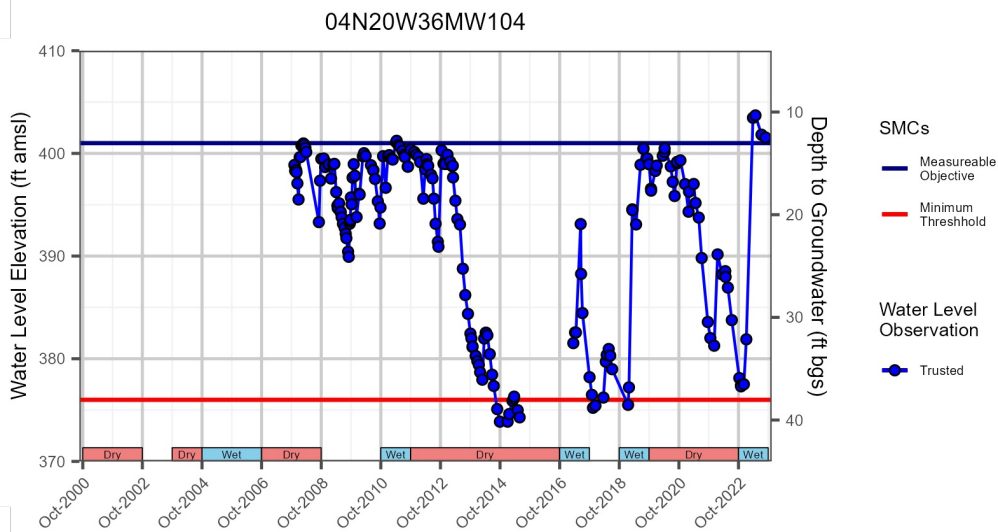
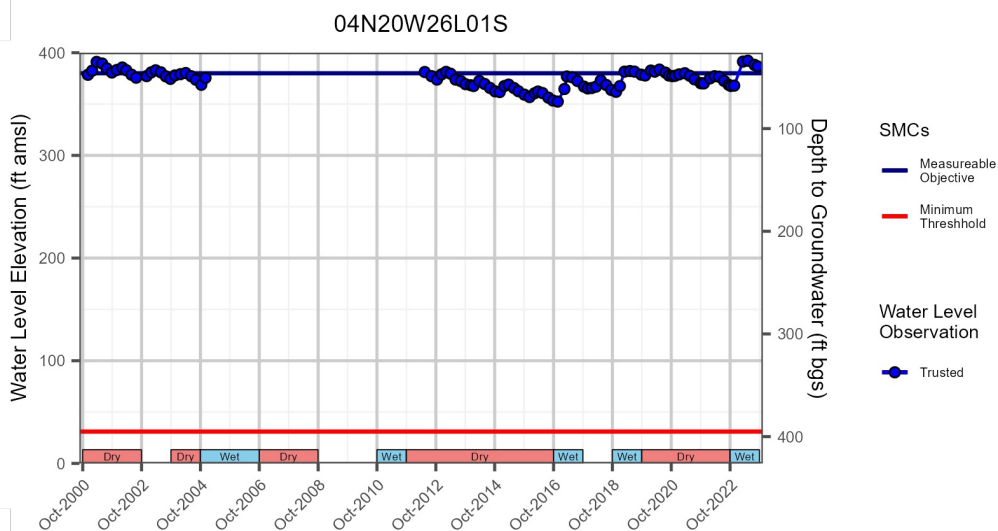
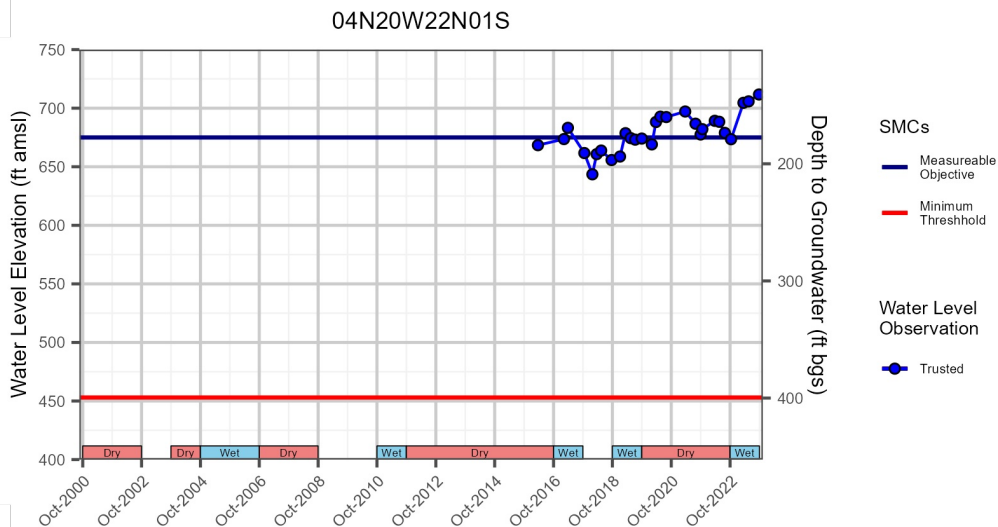
1. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.
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**Notes:**

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**Notes:**

1. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.
2. Well location indicated by reference image to left of hydrograph.

### 3. Groundwater Extractions

Groundwater pumpers that produce groundwater from the Basin pay United Water Conservation District (UWCD) an extraction fee based on the number of acre-ft they pump. Prior to 2022, this was reported on a 6-month basis (reporting to UWCD twice per calendar year). Period 1 covers January through June, and period 2 covers July through December of each year. A description of the historical groundwater extraction monitoring in Fillmore Basin is provided in Section 3.5.1.4 of the Fillmore Subbasin GSP. To better comply with SGMA reporting requirements, the Agency is requesting growers voluntarily report groundwater extractions on a quarterly (3-month) basis.

Groundwater pumpers are required to self-report groundwater extractions by well to UWCD using one of three methods: domestic multiplier, electrical meter (based on Southern California Edison efficiency testing), or water flow meter. For non-reporters, an estimate from historical usage is entered in the groundwater production database for accounting and basin volume calculation purposes. For wells with water meters, reporting typically involves filing out a form and submitting an accompanying photograph of the digital totalizer reading. The extent to which “smart meters” or automated (advanced) metering infrastructure (AMI) technology is used by individual well owners to quantify their groundwater production is unknown in the Fillmore Basin. There is not currently a mechanism by which well owners can automatically report groundwater production from their water meters to UWCD or the Agency. De minimis domestic pumping can be reported to UWCD using a multiplier of 0.2 AF per person in a household per 6-month period with a minimum of 0.5 AF (e.g., if there are 1 or 2 people reporting domestic usage on a well, then 0.5 AF minimum is assessed). De minimis pumpers (extractors) that have a meter on their well discharge have the option of calculating their usage based on the meter reading which may show less than 0.5 AF usage, and are billed based on actual usage.

Estimated groundwater extractions for WY 2023 grouped by water use sector and measurement method are shown in Table 1. Pumping from October through December 2022 was estimated for wells that did not report quarterly by scaling the reported volumes from period 2 of that year by the fraction of reference ET from the Moorpark<sup>1</sup> CIMIS station (#217) that occurred during that time. Using this method, an estimated 2,102 AF (32%) of 2022 period 2 (July - December) groundwater pumping occurred during WY 2023. Due to the timing of the 6-month

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<sup>1</sup> The Santa Paula CIMIS station (#198) was previously used but became inactive in July 2023. DBS&A is currently investigating options for re-establishing a CIMIS station in the Santa Clara River Valley.

**Table 1. Groundwater Extractions**

Sector	Method	GW Extraction Volume (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Agriculture	Electrical Efficiency	10,408	± 20	8,326 - 12,489
	Water Meter	21,071	± 5	20,017 - 22,124
Agriculture Subtotal		31,479		28,343 - 34,613
Domestic, Municipal and Industrial	Domestic	98	± 20	78 - 117
	Electrical Efficiency	71	± 20	57 - 85
	Water Meter	1,821	± 5	1,730 - 1,912
Domestic, Municipal and Industrial Subtotal		1,990		1,865 - 2,114
<b>Total</b>		<b>33,469</b>		<b>30,209 - 36,728</b>

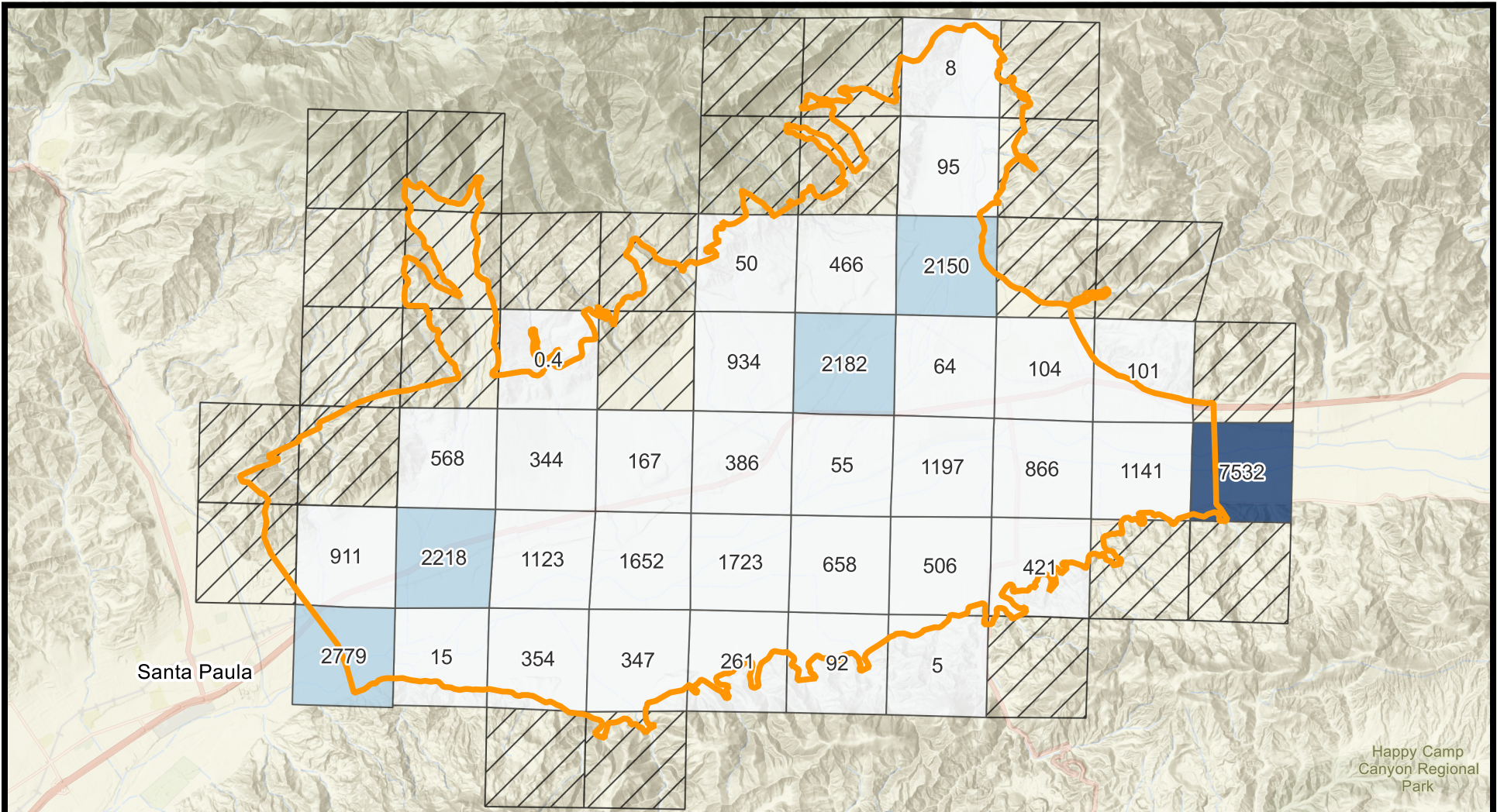
measurement and billing cycle described above, only voluntarily reported quarterly extractions during period 2 (July - December) of 2023 were available at the time this annual report was developed. Voluntarily reported extractions for July through September 2023 were estimated to represent approximately 63% of total extractions during that period using the complete 2022 period 1 (January - June) data set for reference. The difference between the reported and estimated total extraction volume was assigned to wells that did not voluntarily report using proportions obtained from the complete 2023 period 1 (January - June) data set.

Groundwater pumping aggregated within each public land survey (PLSS) section (1 mi<sup>2</sup>) shows the spatial distribution of agricultural (Figure 5), domestic, municipal & industrial (Figure 6), and total (Figure 7) groundwater extractions within the Basin. Groundwater pumping totaled approximately 33,469 AF, with agricultural beneficial uses accounting for about 94% of total groundwater extractions for WY 2023.

## 4. Surface Water Supply

Surface water used in the Basin grouped by source and measurement method is summarized in Table 2. All surface water diversions are used beneficially for agricultural irrigation. Not all





Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

### Explanation

- Extraction Volume (AF)
- 0 - 2,000
  - 2,000 - 4,000
  - 4,000 - 6,000
  - 6,000 - 8,000
  - No Extractions
  - Groundwater Basin Boundary

### Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Agricultural groundwater extractions totaled 31,479 AF.



FILLMORE SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT

**Estimated Groundwater Extractions WY 2023**

**Agricultural**



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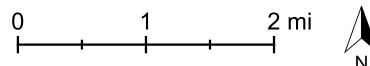
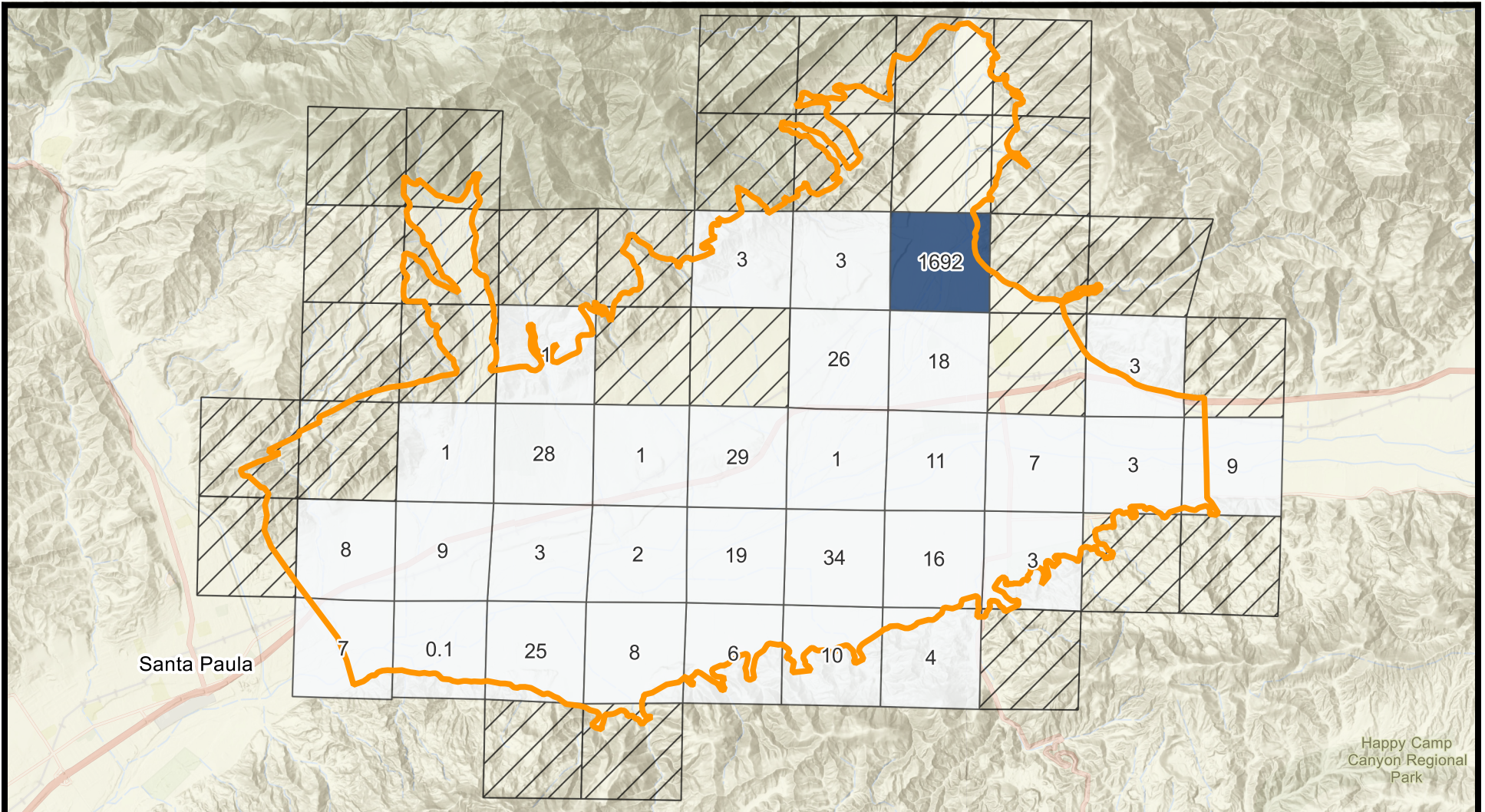


Figure 5





Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

### Explanation

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Extraction Volume (AF) | 1,000 - 1,500              |
| No Extractions         | 1,500 - 2,000              |
| 0 - 500                | Groundwater Basin Boundary |
| 500 - 1,000            |                            |

### Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Domestic, municipal, and industrial extractions totaled 1,990 AF.



FILLMORE SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT

## Estimated Groundwater Extractions WY 2023 Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial



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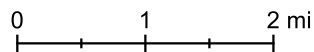
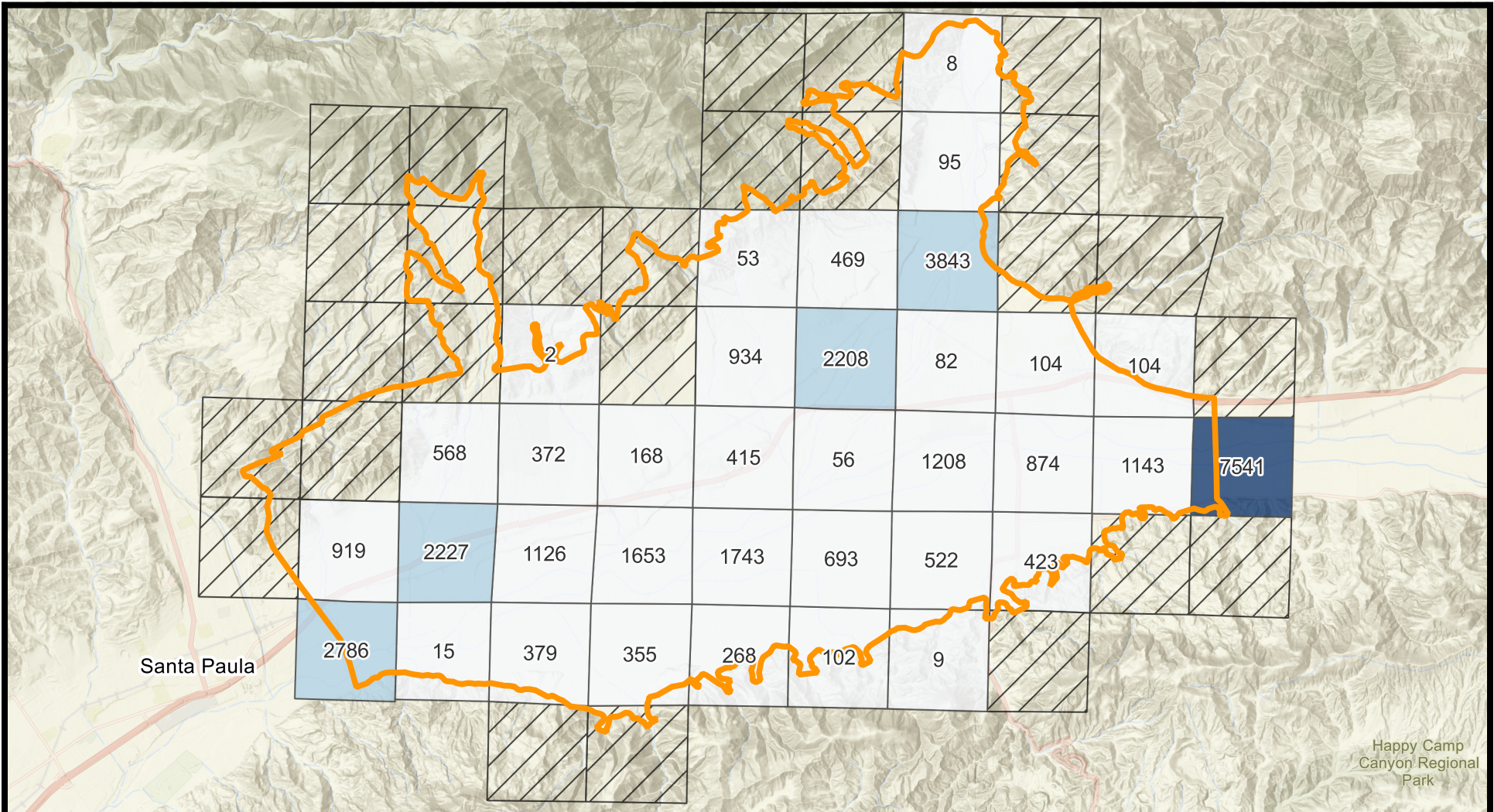


Figure 6





Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

### Explanation

- |                        |  |                            |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Extraction Volume (AF) |  | 4,000 - 6,000              |
| No Extractions         |  | 6,000 - 8,000              |
| 0 - 2,000              |  | Groundwater Basin Boundary |
| 2,000 - 4,000          |  |                            |

### Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Fillmore subbasin groundwater extractions totaled 33,469 AF.



FILLMORE SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT

**Estimated Groundwater Extractions WY 2023**

**Total**



03/13/2024

DB23.1279

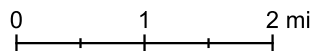


Figure 7

**Table 2. Surface Water Use**

Source	Method	Annual Volume Used (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Local Supplies	Estimated from previously reported diversions	135	± 33	90 - 179
	Weir	18	± 5	17 - 19
<b>Total</b>		<b>153</b>		<b>107 - 198</b>

diversions for WY 2023 were reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) at the time this report was written. Unreported diversion volumes were estimated by averaging reported diversion volumes for the previous five years (WY 2018 through WY 2022). Total surface water used in the Basin during WY 2023 was estimated to be 153 AF.

## 5. Total Water Use

Total water use in the Basin grouped by water use sector and measurement method is shown in Table 3. Total water volume used in the Basin during WY 2023 was estimated to be 33,622 AF.

## 6. Change in Groundwater Storage

Change in groundwater storage for WY 2023 was estimated using differences in water level elevations from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. Observed differences in water levels were interpolated to a 65x65 ft (20x20 m) grid using the universal kriging method. Volume was calculated by multiplying the area of each cell by the estimated change in water level and vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient for each respective cell. The vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficients were calculated as the thickness weighted average of each model grid cell in the UWCD groundwater model, and ranged from 0.08 to 0.13. The total change in storage for the Basin was calculated by summing the estimated change in volume for all cells and then multiplying by a scaling factor of 1.35. The scaling factor accounts for the interpolation area not covering the entire area where pumping is known to occur in the Basin due to the location of, and data availability from, monitoring wells. It is defined as the ratio of the area within the groundwater basin boundary area and a half-mile radius of each production well to the water

**Table 3. Total Water Use**

Sector	Method	Total Annual Volume (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Agriculture	Electrical Efficiency	10,408	± 20	8,326 - 12,489
	Estimated from previously reported diversions	135	± 33	90 - 179
	Water Meter	21,071	± 5	20,017 - 22,124
	Weir	18	± 5	17 - 19
Agriculture Subtotal	-	31,632	-	28,450 - 34,811
Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial	Domestic	98	± 20	78 - 117
	Electrical Efficiency	71	± 20	57 - 85
	Water Meter	1,821	± 5	1,730 - 1,912
Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial Subtotal	-	1,990	-	1,865 - 2,114
<b>Total</b>		<b>33,622</b>		<b>30,315 - 36,925</b>

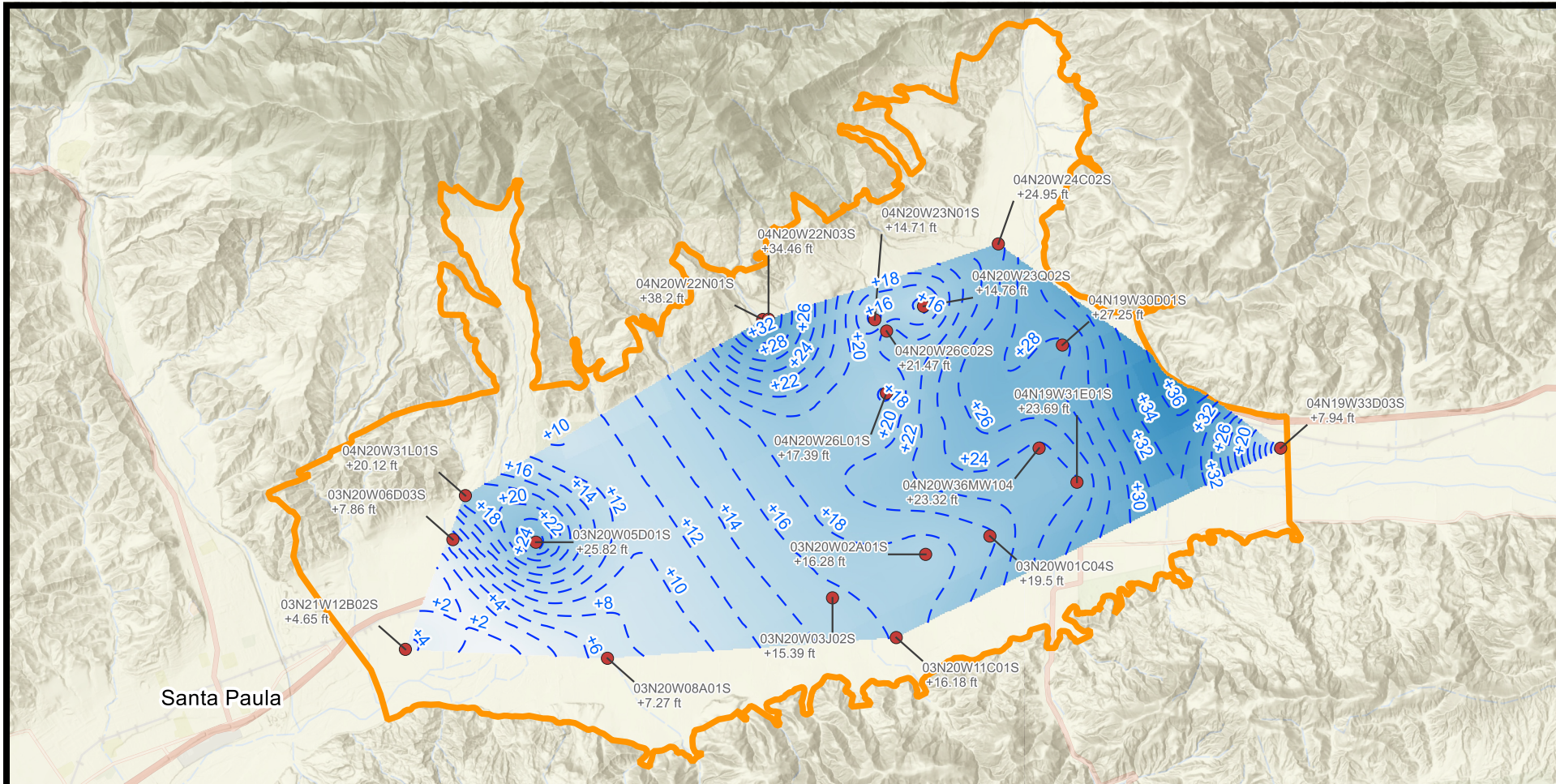
level change interpolation area. This assumes that water level changes in areas of the basin with no observations are similar to those with observations.

A map of the change in storage for WY 2023 with contour lines showing water level differences is shown in Figure 8. Estimated total change in storage for WY 2023 is +34,149 AF, which is expected due to exceptionally wet conditions. Figure 9 shows annual groundwater pumping and change in storage, along with cumulative storage since WY 2000. Current storage condition relative to WY 1988 is -32,775 AF.

## 7. Progress Towards GSP Implementation

The Fillmore Subbasin GSP provided seven Projects or Management Actions that the FPBGSA Board of Directors would implement or consider implementing to facilitate the maintenance of sustainable conditions in the basin (see Section 4 of the GSP). The FPBGSA completed Projects #2 and #3 in WY 2022, and have continued work on Projects #1 and #7 as well as items not included in the GSP. The remaining Project or Management Actions (Projects #4-7 detailed in





Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

### Explanation

- Estimated Groundwater Storage Change (AF)
  - +0.5
  - 0.5
- Well Name
- Change in Water Level (ft)
- Water Level Elevation Change Contour (ft)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

### Notes:

1. Storage change estimated by interpolating changes in observed water levels to a 65 x 65 ft grid and multiplying by the vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient for each grid cell.
2. Vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient calculated as the thickness weighted average of aquifer storage coefficients for each model layer used in the United groundwater model.
3. Estimated WY 2023 total groundwater storage change is +34,149 AF.



FILLMORE SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT

## Estimated Change in Groundwater in Storage WY 2023



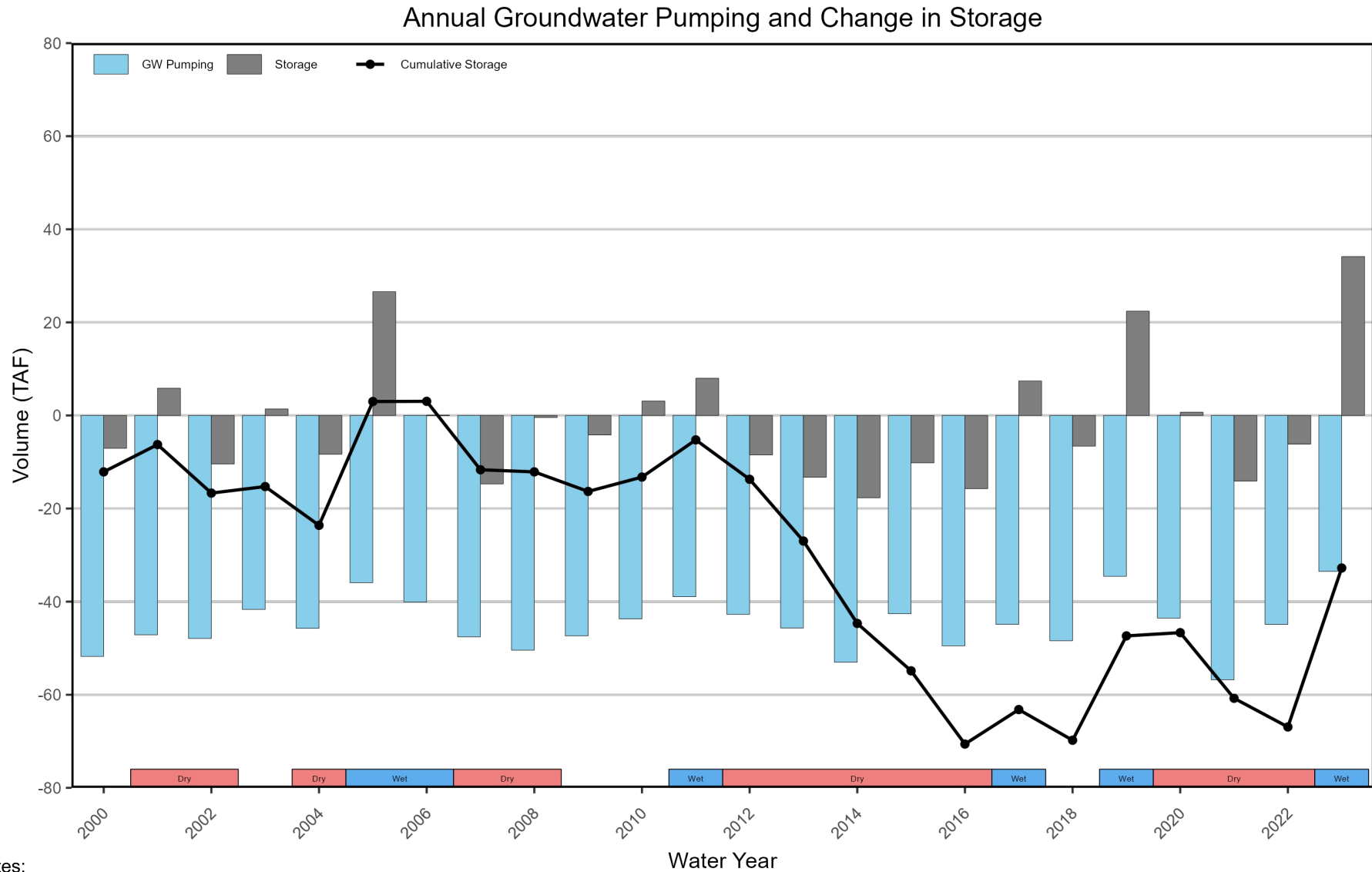
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0 1 2 mi



Figure 8



**Notes:**

1. Negative GW pumping values indicate extractions from groundwater aquifer.
2. Positive storage values indicate increasing groundwater levels.
3. Change in storage volumes estimated from water level data for WY 2020-2023.
4. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.



**FILLMORE SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Groundwater Pumping and Change in Storage**  
**WY 2000-2023**

the GSP) have yet to be discussed by the FPBGSA Board of Directors. These projects or management actions will be considered by the Board of Directors over the next year and it is anticipated that more substantive updates will be included in future Annual Reports. Below is a description of activities related to each project that occurred during WY 2023.

## **7.1 Project #1: Supporting the Cienega Springs Restoration Project as a Drought Refuge**

Since submittal of the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), staff and the consultant team for the FPBGSA have had limited additional discussions/meetings with representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and researchers from University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) to further explore how the mitigative actions proposed in the GSP might be implemented.

The discussions with CDFW to date have focused on:

- Refining the mitigative project description
- Identifying which land parcels in the restoration project area would most benefit from receiving supplemental waters during a drought
- Exploring possible existing deep groundwater wells in proximity to the site that could be used as a water source; and
- Discussing the practicality and potential benefits of including adjacent land parcels owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) into the mitigation plan.

Ongoing action items with respect to this management action include:

- Establish communication with TNC to determine their interest in participating in the mitigation program
- Field verification of the operational condition of potential existing wells that are candidates to supply the supplement water
- Contact well/land owners to determine their willingness to allow access to their well(s) and establish terms of an access agreement
- Preparation of a Mitigation Plan that will detail, for example:
  - Triggers for starting and stopping the delivery of the supplemental waters
  - Quantities of supplemental water to be supplied
  - Source(s) of the supplemental water



- Parties responsible for conveyance of the supplemental water from the source to the desired land parcel
- Responsible parties for making decisions regarding the beneficial use of the water
- Cost reimbursement and extraction fee waiver mechanisms for use of existing wells owned by others
- Vegetative monitoring protocols to document the success of the mitigation program.

In addition, the Mitigation Plan will estimate the cost to the FPBGSA for the implementation of the mitigative actions.

## **7.2 Project #7: Subsidence Infrastructure Vulnerability Evaluation**

The FPBGSA contracted DBS&A to prepare an updated land subsidence evaluation (<https://bit.ly/3lbFkJ8>) that included an evaluation of InSAR data sets, Continuous Global Positioning Station (CGPS) data, a comparison of water levels v. estimated historical low water levels, and review of water levels and the Subsidence Minimum Threshold established in the GSP. Additional monitoring locations for land displacement measured remotely via satellite (InSAR) were selected based on proximity to critical infrastructure that may be negatively impacted by subsidence (e.g., bridges, railroads). The update concluded that no net subsidence has been observed since InSAR data became available in June 2015, therefore no further infrastructure vulnerability evaluations are planned. The FPBGSA will continue the annual subsidence data review and reporting.

## **7.3 Improvement of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Groundwater-Surface-Water Interactions Monitoring Networks**

DBS&A have had discussions with the FPBGSA Board of Directors regarding monitoring GW-SW interactions and the GDE monitoring network. In certain areas of the Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Basins, ephemeral groundwater discharges to surface flow. Measuring these interactions can be important for quantifying groundwater flow rates into surface water.

DBS&A has begun evaluating techniques for gathering additional information regarding surface water – groundwater interactions near the prominent GDEs. A promising evaluative technique requires measuring groundwater temperature differentials to determine rising groundwater flux in areas near the prominent GDEs. Thermal probes have been used to determine groundwater infiltration rates in previous studies (e.g., Racz et al, 2011; Schmidt et al, 2011). A similar method can be used to determine rising groundwater flux. Design of the temperature measurement array (e.g., up to 20 locations in a 300 by 300 ft grid) and the equipment required to implement the temperature monitoring program is currently in development.

## 7.4 Update to Well Permitting Application Review Workflow

The FPBGSA has had extensive discussions about their role in the well permit application review process under Executive Order N-3-23 ([EO N-3-23](#)). While the goal of the FPBGSA is to develop a review policy that is simple, fair, and transparent, this issue is complicated by the need for coordination with Ventura County, lack of specificity in the EO, and legal concerns. It is anticipated that a new workflow for reviewing well permit applications will be adopted in WY 2024.

## 7.5 Development of Groundwater Export Policy

The FPBGSA is developing a groundwater export policy for the Fillmore and Piru basins to help maintain groundwater sustainability in the basins and keep beneficial uses local. Implementation of a groundwater export policy can help the GSA effectively manage groundwater in the Fillmore basin. Three policy options will be presented to the board, and it is anticipated a final policy decision will be made during water year 2024.

## 7.6 DMS Maintenance

The FPBGSA has continued to maintain and update the Fillmore and Piru DMS (<https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>), which provides stakeholders access to all available groundwater data in the subbasin using a user-friendly, map-based web interface. Groundwater levels are typically uploaded bi-annually, coincident with the July 1 and December 31 reporting dates set by DWR. Water quality and well production data are uploaded annually, coincident with GSP annual report preparation.

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# Piru Groundwater Subbasin Annual Report Water Year 2023

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Submitted to



California Department of  
Water Resources

Submitted by



Prepared by



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Project# DB23.1279.00

April 1, 2024



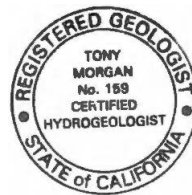
## Certification

This report was prepared in accordance with generally accepted professional hydrogeologic principles and practices. This report makes no other warranties, either expressed or implied as to the professional advice or data included in it. This report has not been prepared for use by parties or projects other than those named or described herein. It may not contain sufficient information for other parties or purposes.

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Definition</u>
AF	acre-feet
AFY	acre-feet per year
Ag	agriculture
amsl	above mean sea level
Basin	Piru subbasin of the Santa Clara River Valley basin
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
DBS&A	Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
DWR	[CA] Department of Water Resources
FPBGSA	Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency
FT	feet
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
MO	Measureable Objective
MT	Minimum Threshold
RMP	Representative Monitoring Point
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMC	Sustainable Management Criteria
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
United	United Water Conservation District
WLE	water level elevation
WY	water year (October 1 - September 30)

## Executive Summary

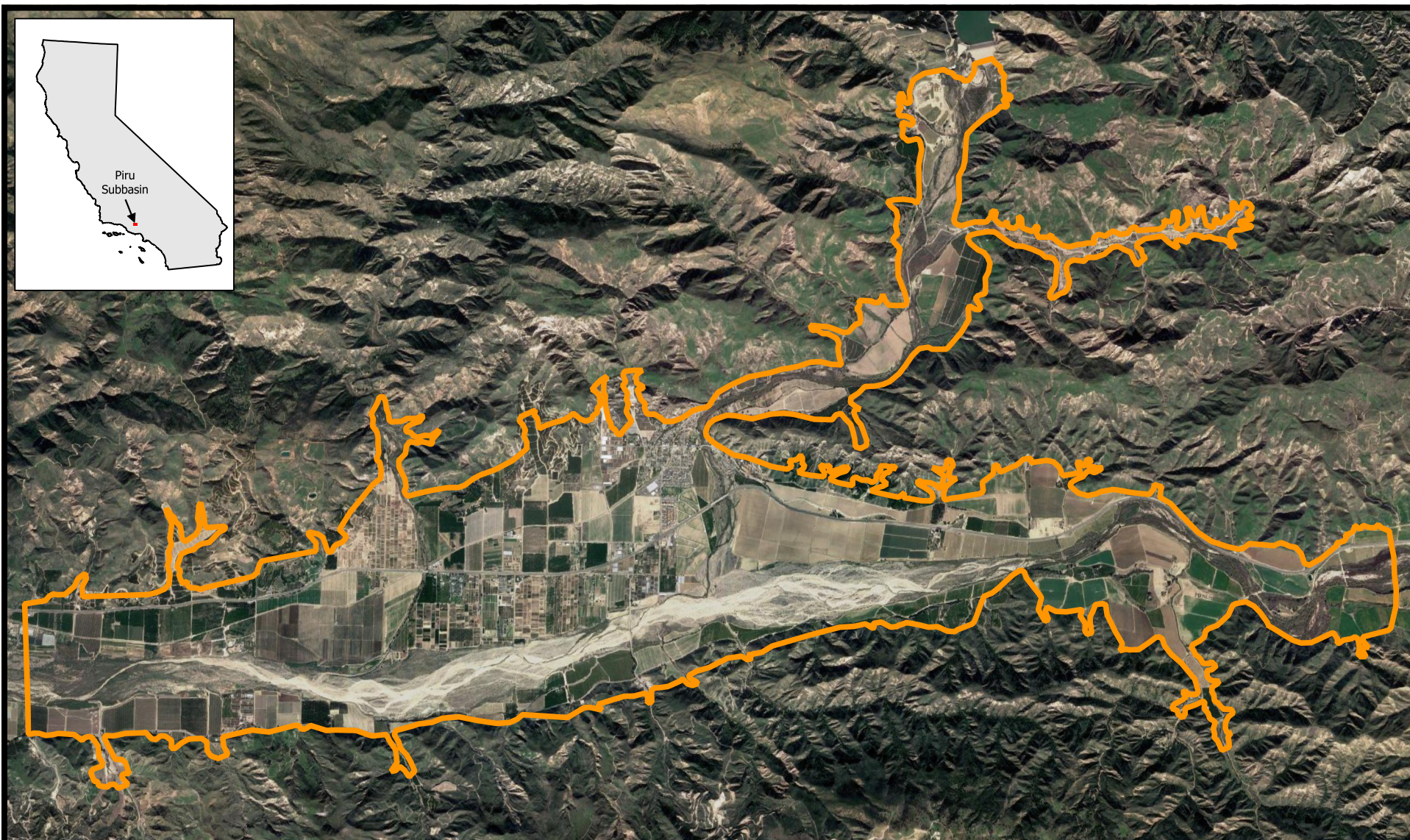
Water year (WY) 2023 was a wet year for California which broke drought conditions that have persisted throughout the state for the previous three years. Precipitation measured at the CIMIS Moorpark station (#217) was 29.74 in, or 150% of the annual average of 19.81 in from WY 2015-2022. Recharge entering the aquifer system increased groundwater levels in the Basin by an average of 19.06 ft from October 2022 to October 2023. Groundwater in storage increased by an estimated 34,149 AF acre-ft (AF). Groundwater extractions and surface water diversions were estimated to be 33,467 AF and 153 AF, respectively, totaling 33,620 AF of water used beneficially in the basin during WY 2023. Although the Piru subbasin was not selected for a Round 2 GSP Implementation Grant award, GSP implementation activities that move the subbasin towards established sustainability goals have continued. These include ongoing research into improving monitoring networks for groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and groundwater-surface-water (GW-SW) interactions; consideration and discussions of updates to the well permit application review workflow; annual evaluation and reporting of subsidence; development of a groundwater export policy; and maintenance of the database management system (DMS).

On January 18, 2024 DWR notified the FPBGSA that the Piru subbasin GSP was determined to be incomplete. This was largely due to insufficient justification of proposed minimum thresholds for reductions of groundwater in storage and depletions of interconnected surface water. The FPBGSA and their consulting team are working on addressing these deficiencies and resubmitting an updated version of the GSP to DWR by July 16, 2024 (180 days from notification).

## 1. Introduction


The Piru Subbasin (the Basin) is managed with the adjacent Fillmore Subbasin by the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the Agency). Following the submittal of the Piru Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) on January 31, 2022, the Agency is required to submit an annual report for the preceding Water Year (October 1 through September 30) to DWR by April 1 (23 CCR §356.2). These annual reports provide a summary of hydrologic conditions and water use in the Basin (Figure 1) using observed data from monitoring networks and/or estimated using best available methods. This annual report provides a summary of Basin water use and changes in groundwater storage during the period from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, and provides context for Basin conditions relative to the sustainable





Source: <https://gis.water.ca.gov>

#### Explanation

 Groundwater Basin Boundary

0 0.5 1 mi



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## PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT Location Map

Figure 1



management criteria developed for the Basin. This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements for annual reports as identified in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). More detailed analysis and discussion of long-term hydrologic trends will be included in the periodic evaluation of the GSP the Agency is required to perform at least every five years (23 CCR §356.4).

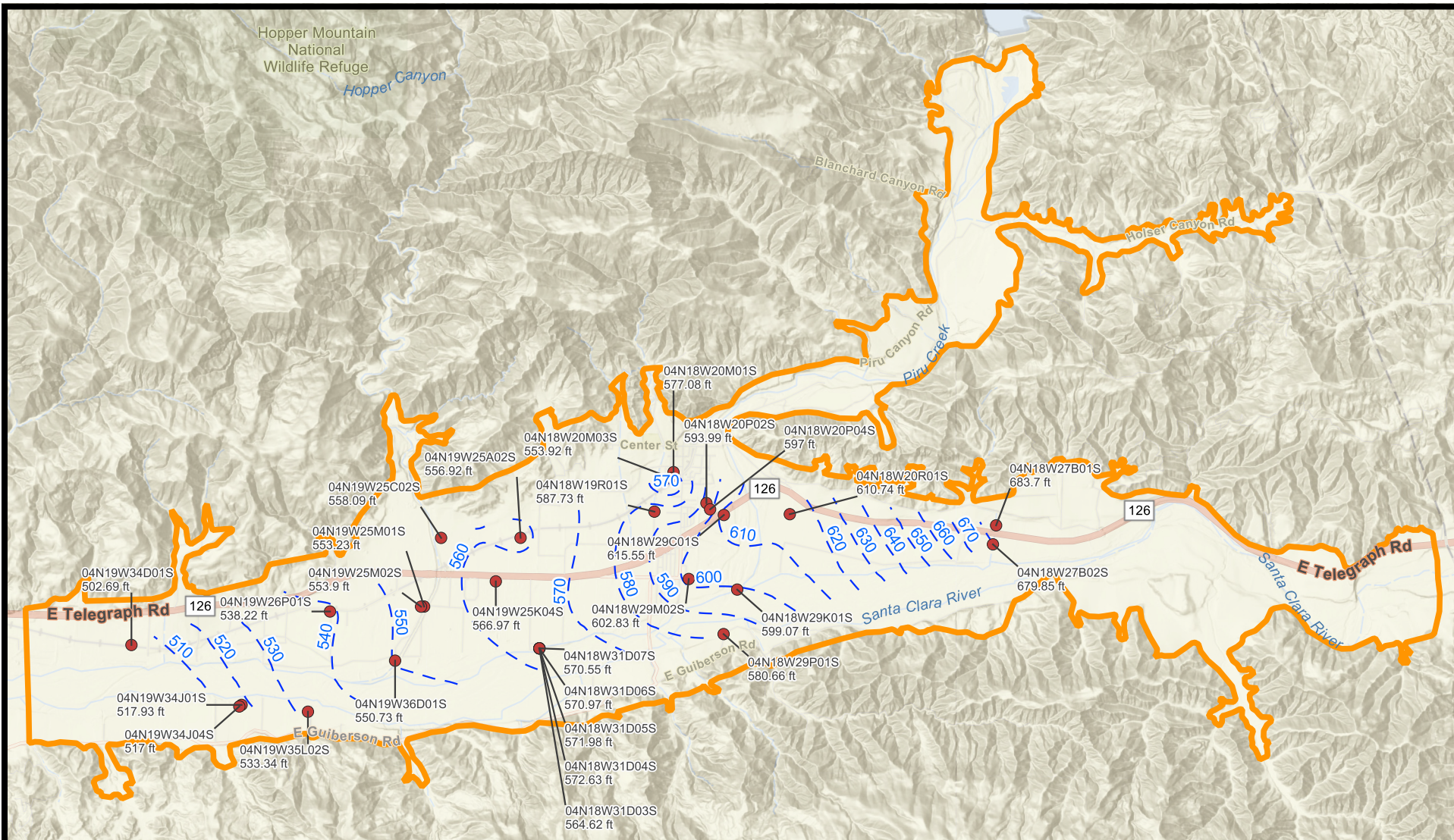
For additional clarification or more detailed information on the basin plan area or conditions, please refer to the Piru Subbasin GSP. As acknowledged by the Department of Water Resources, it is important to note that there are still some data gaps and missing information as the Agency continues to gather information for better analysis and decisions.

## 2. Groundwater Elevations

Groundwater elevation contour maps for the spring and fall of 2023 are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively. These maps depict the seasonal high (Spring) and low (Fall) water level elevations in the Basin. Spring and Fall water level elevations are defined as observations within a 40 day period centered on April 1st or October 1st. If a well has multiple observations within this period, then the value collected nearest to April 1st or October 1st is used unless otherwise noted. The Basin is conceptualized as a single aquifer, and therefore subsetting water level data by well screen depth was not required.

Observed spring groundwater elevations (Figure 2) ranged from 502.69 to 683.70 ft above mean sea level (amsl), with an average elevation of 574.35 ft amsl. Fall groundwater elevations (Figure 3) ranged from 517.15 to 685.82 ft amsl, with an average elevation of 590.88 ft amsl. Flow is generally from east to west, but is influenced by recharge along the margins of the valley and drawdown in the vicinity of high-capacity irrigation wells. Observed groundwater elevation changes from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 ranged from +27.34 to +120.96 ft with an average change of +68.95 ft.

Hydrographs for representative monitoring points (RMPs) in the Basin are shown in Figure 4 (a-c). Groundwater levels at all RMPs are near or above their respective measurable objectives. Water levels in 04N19W36D01S, which had the lowest water levels at the end of WY 2022 and came within 8 ft of the minimum threshold, fully recovered above the measurable objective.



Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

## Explanation

- Well Name
- Groundwater Elevation (ft amsl)
- Water Level Contour (ft amsl)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

0 0.5 1 mi



01/30/2024

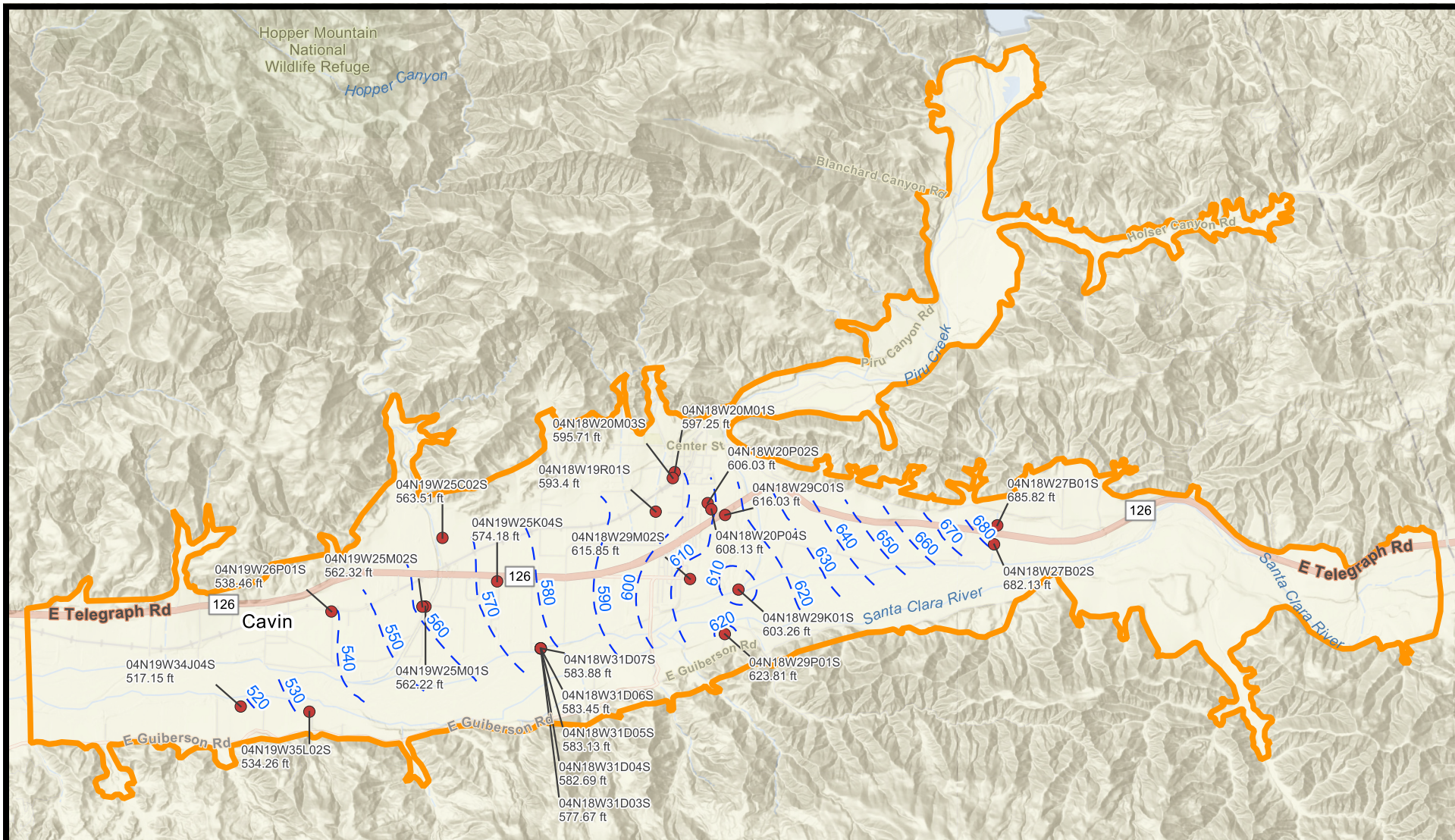
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## PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT Groundwater Elevation Contours Spring 2023

Figure 2





Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

## Explanation

- Well Name
- Groundwater Elevation (ft amsl)
- Water Level Contour (ft amsl)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

0 0.5 1 mi



01/30/2024

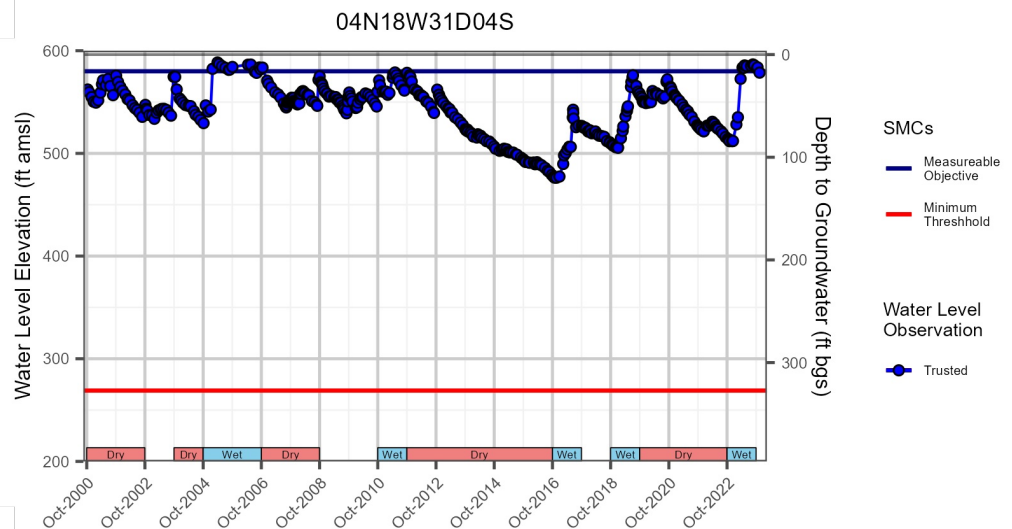
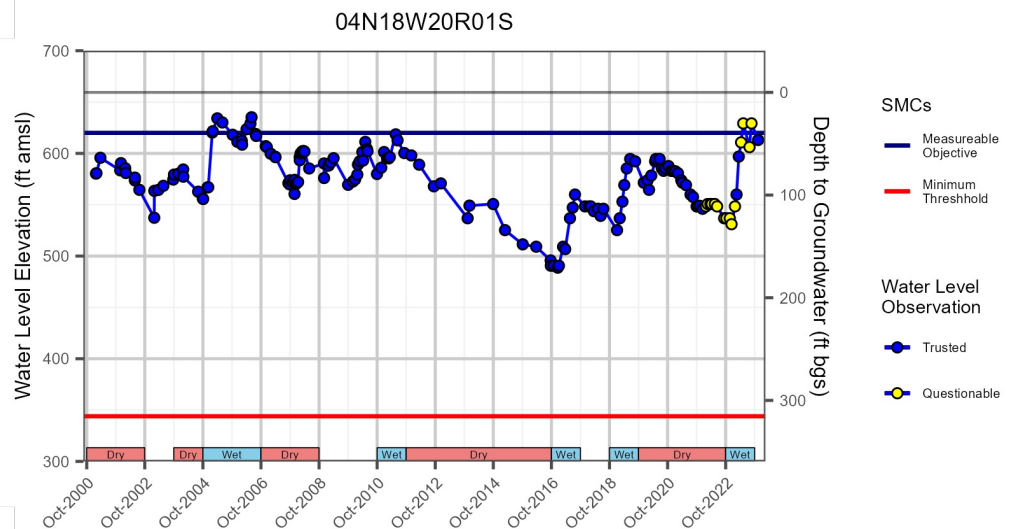
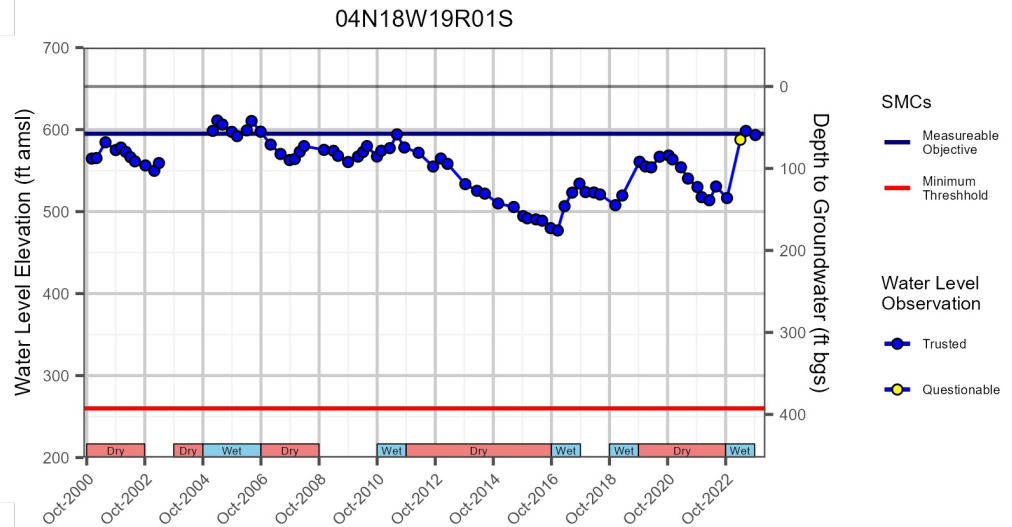
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## PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT Groundwater Elevation Contours Fall 2023

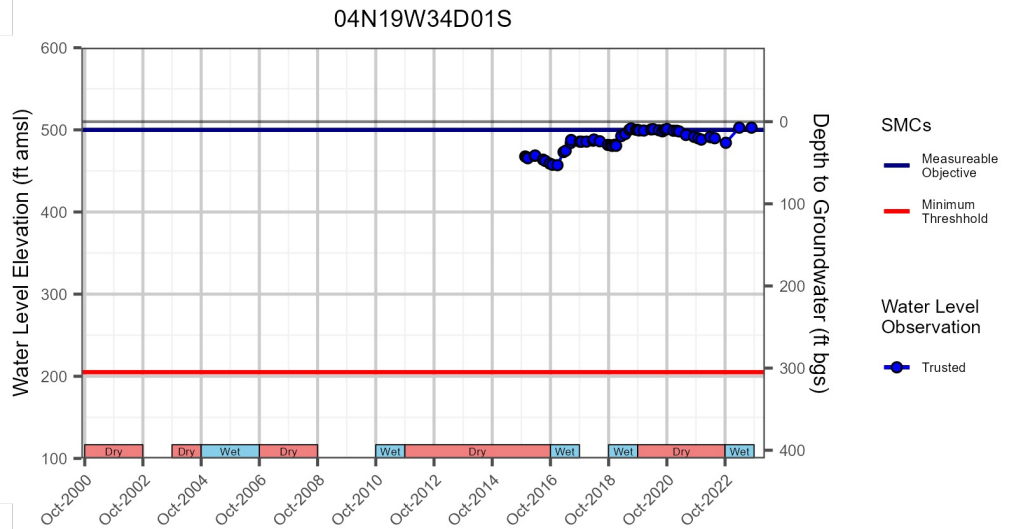
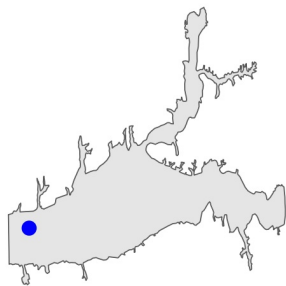
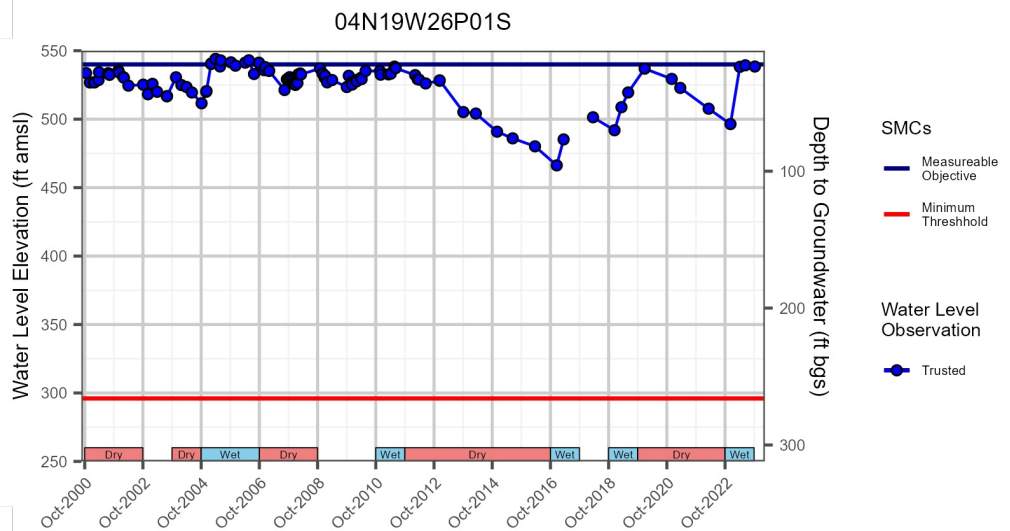
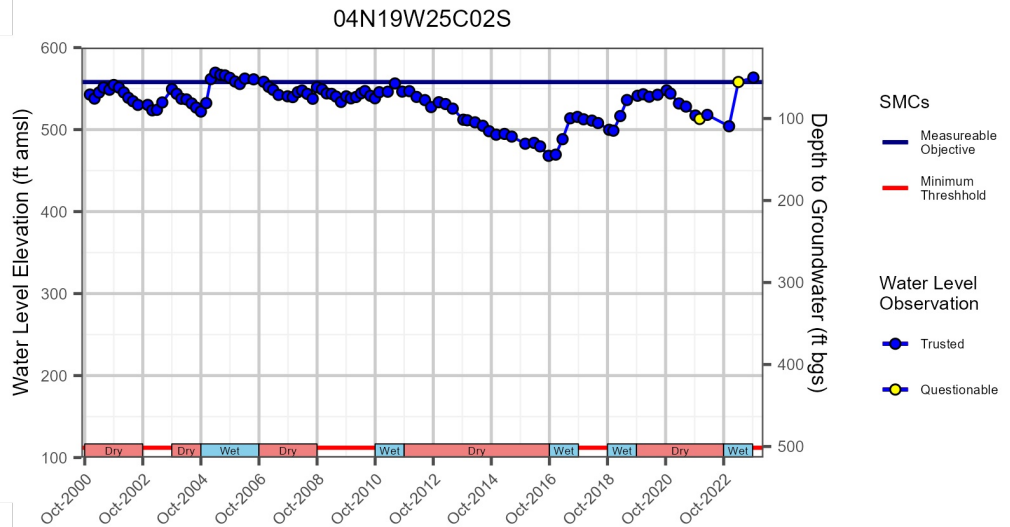
Figure 3





#### Notes:

1. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.
2. Well location indicated by reference image to left of hydrograph.



Notes:

1. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.
2. Well location indicated by reference image to left of hydrograph.



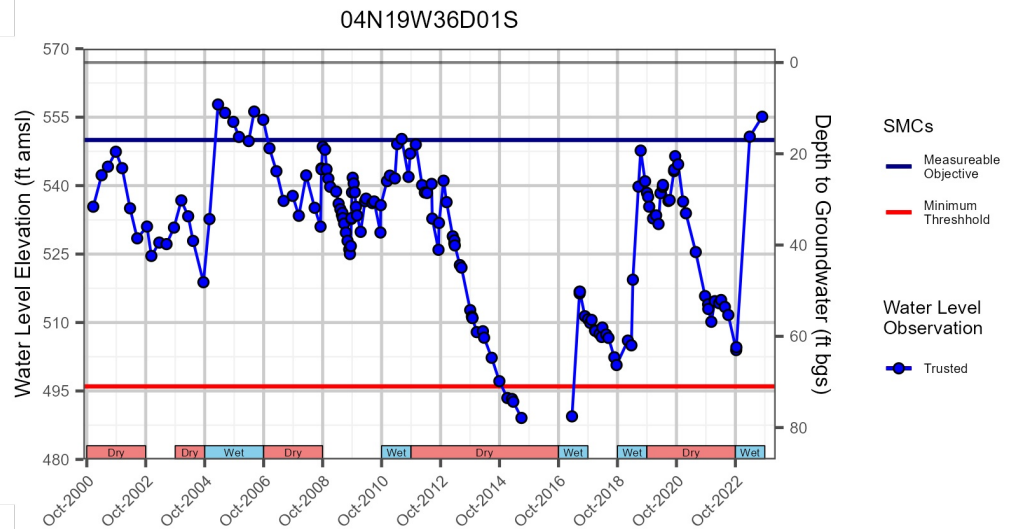
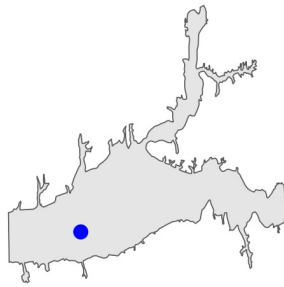
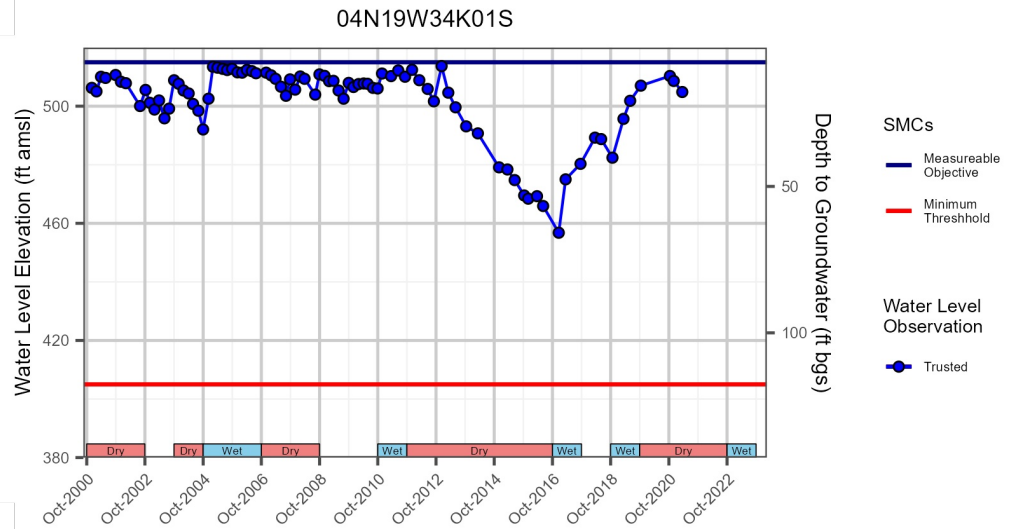
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PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT  
**Representative Monitoring Points  
Hydrographs**

Figure 4b



#### Notes:

1. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.
2. Well location indicated by reference image to left of hydrograph.

### 3. Groundwater Extractions

Groundwater pumpers that produce groundwater from the Basin pay United Water Conservation District (UWCD) and the Agency an extraction fee based on the number of acre-ft they pump. Prior to 2022, this was reported on a 6-month basis (reporting to UWCD twice per calendar year). Period 1 covers January through June, and period 2 covers July through December of each year. A description of the historical groundwater extraction monitoring in Piru Basin is provided in Section 3.5.1.4 of the Piru Subbasin GSP. To better comply with SGMA reporting requirements, the Agency is requesting growers voluntarily report groundwater extractions on a quarterly (3-month) basis.

Groundwater pumpers are required to self-report groundwater extractions by well to UWCD using one of three methods: domestic multiplier, electrical meter (based on Southern California Edison efficiency testing), or water flow meter. For non-reporters, an estimate from historical usage is entered in the groundwater production database for accounting and basin volume calculation purposes. For wells with water meters, reporting typically involves filing out a form and submitting an accompanying photograph of the digital totalizer reading. The extent to which “smart meters” or automated (advanced) metering infrastructure (AMI) technology is used by individual well owners to quantify their groundwater production is unknown in the Piru Basin. There is not currently a mechanism by which well owners can automatically report groundwater production from their water meters to UWCD or the Agency. De minimis domestic pumping can be reported to UWCD using a multiplier of 0.2 AF per person in a household per 6-month period with a minimum of 0.5 AF (e.g., if there are 1 or 2 people reporting domestic usage on a well, then 0.5 AF minimum is assessed). De minimis pumpers (extractors) that have a meter on their well discharge have the option of calculating their usage based on the meter reading which may show less than 0.5 AF usage, and are billed based on actual usage.

Estimated groundwater extractions for WY 2023 grouped by water use sector and measurement method are shown in Table 1. Pumping from October through December 2022 was estimated for wells that did not report quarterly by scaling the reported volumes from period 2 of that year by the fraction of reference ET from the Moorpark CIMIS station that occurred during that time. Using this method, an estimated 536 AF (32%) of 2022 period 2 (July - December) groundwater pumping occurred during WY 2023. Due to the timing of the 6-month measurement and billing cycle described above, only voluntarily reported quarterly extractions during period 2 (July - December) of 2023 were available at the time this annual report was developed. Voluntarily reported extractions for July through September 2023 were estimated to represent



**Table 1. Groundwater Extractions**

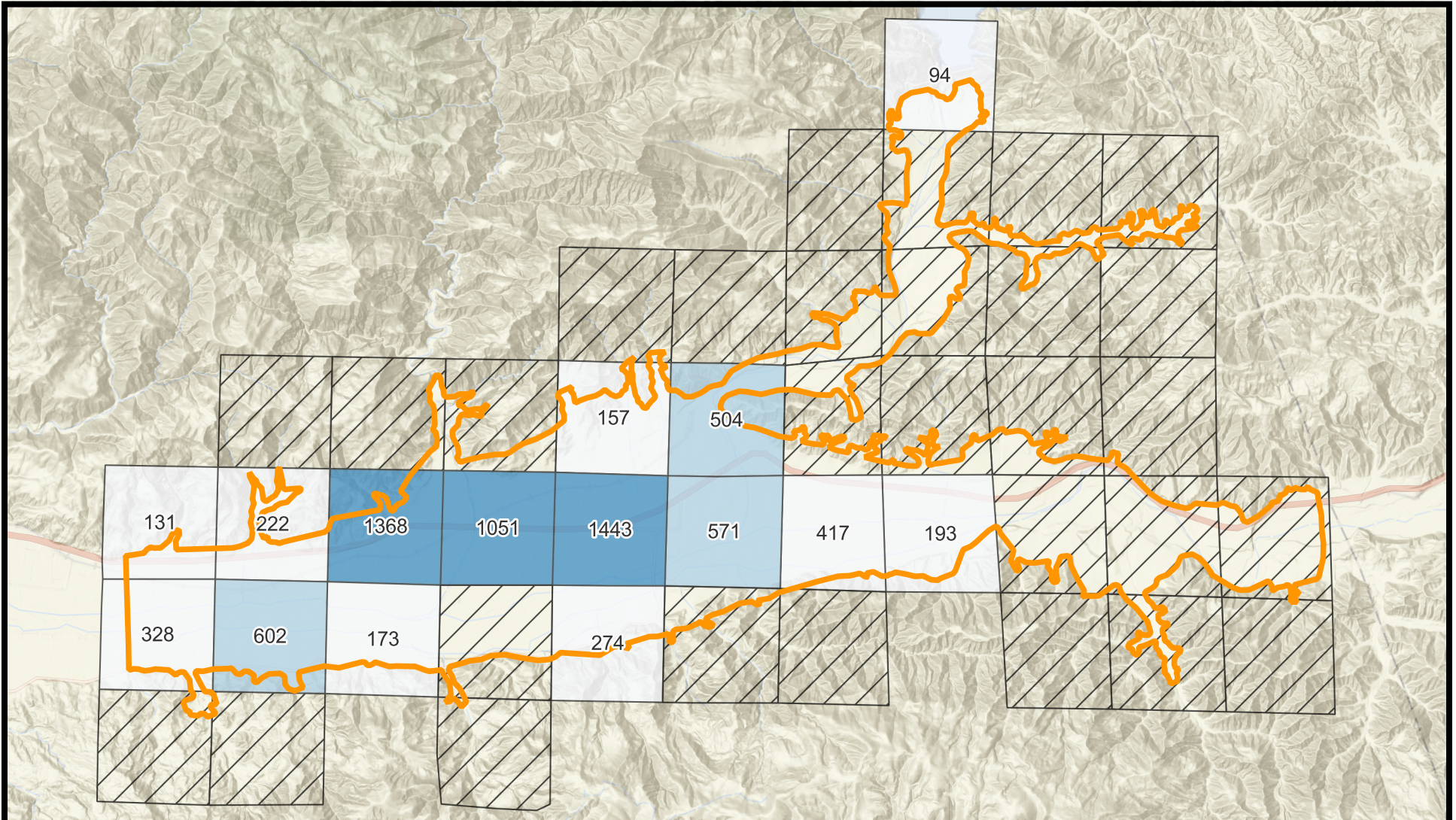
Sector	Method	GW Extraction Volume (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Agriculture	Electrical Efficiency	2,016	± 20	1,613 - 2,419
	Water Meter	5,512	± 5	5,237 - 5,788
Agriculture Subtotal		7,528		6,850 - 8,207
Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial	Domestic	21	± 20	17 - 25
	Electrical Efficiency	9	± 20	7 - 10
	Water Meter	588	± 5	558 - 617
Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial Subtotal		618		582 - 652
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,146</b>		<b>7,432 - 8,859</b>

approximately 45% of total extractions during that period using the complete 2023 period 1 (January - June) data set for reference. The difference between the reported and estimated total extraction volume was assigned to wells that did not voluntarily report using proportions obtained from the complete 2023 period 1 (January - June) data set.

Groundwater pumping within each public land survey (PLSS) section (1 mi<sup>2</sup>) shows the spatial distribution of agricultural (Figure 5), municipal & industrial (Figure 6), and total (Figure 7) groundwater extractions within the Basin. Groundwater pumping totaled approximately 8,146 AF, with agricultural beneficial uses accounting for about 92% of total groundwater extractions for WY 2023.

## 4. Surface Water Supply

Surface water used in the Basin grouped by source and measurement method is summarized in Table 2. All surface water diversions are used beneficially for agricultural irrigation. Not all diversions for WY 2023 were reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) at the time this report was written. Unreported diversion volumes were estimated by averaging reported diversion volumes for the previous five years (WY 2018 through WY 2022). Total surface water used in the Basin during WY 2023 was estimated to be 2,015 AF.



### Explanation

Extraction Volume (AF)	500 - 1,000
No Extractions	1,000 - 1,500
0 - 500	1,500 - 2,000

Groundwater Basin Boundary

### Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Agricultural groundwater extractions totaled 7,528 AF.

Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>



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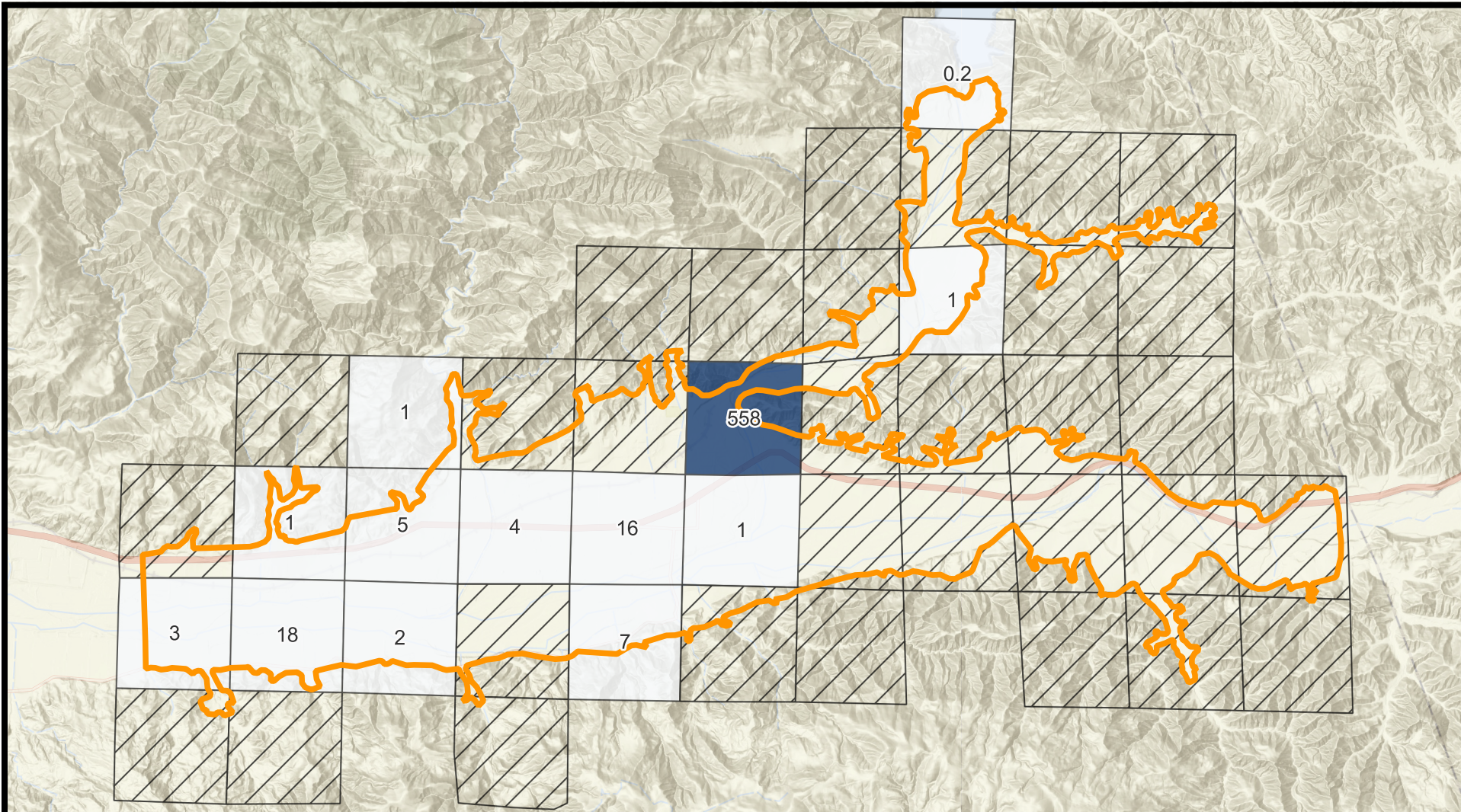
0 1 2 mi



## PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT Estimated Groundwater Extractions WY 2023 Agricultural

Figure 5





Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>

## Explanation

Extraction Volume (AF)	200 - 400
No Extractions	400 - 600
0 - 200	Groundwater Basin Boundary

## Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Domestic, municipal, and industrial groundwater extractions totaled 618 AF.



PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT

## Estimated Groundwater Extractions WY 2023 Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial



03/13/2024

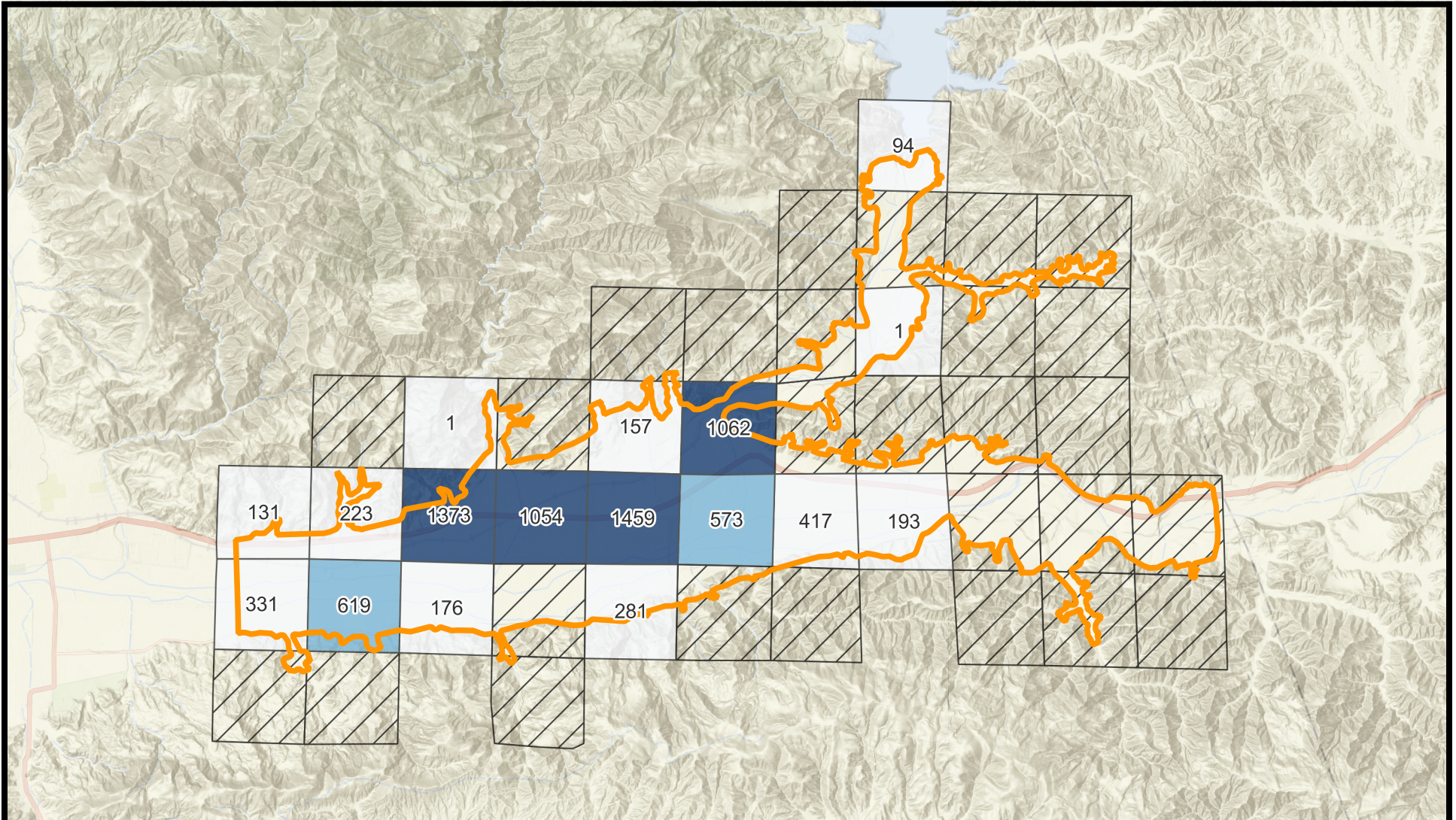
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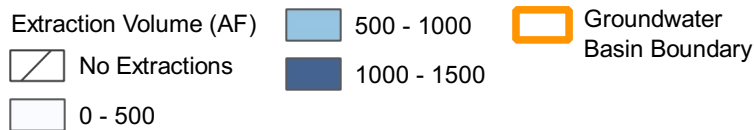


Figure 6





## Explanation



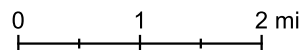
## Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Piru subbasin groundwater extractions totaled 8,146 AF.

Source: <https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com/>



03/13/2024



# PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT Estimated Groundwater Extractions WY 2023 Total

Figure 7



**Table 2. Surface Water Use**

Surface Water Source	Method	Annual Volume Used (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Local Supplies (AF)	Water Meter	915	± 5	869 - 961
	Estimated from previously reported diversions	1,100	± 33	737 - 1,463
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,015</b>		<b>1,606 - 2,424</b>

## 5. Total Water Use

Total water use in the Basin grouped by water use sector and measurement method is shown in Table 3. Total water volume used in the Basin during WY 2023 was estimated to be 10,161 AF.

## 6. Change in Groundwater Storage

Change in groundwater storage for WY 2023 was estimated using differences in water level elevations from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. Observed differences in water levels were interpolated to a 65x65 ft (20x20 m) grid using the universal kriging method. Volume was calculated by multiplying the area of each cell by the estimated change in water level and vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient for each respective cell. The vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficients were calculated as the thickness weighted average of each model grid cell in the UWCD groundwater model, and ranged from 0.09 to 0.15. The total change in storage for the Basin was calculated by summing the estimated change in volume for all cells and then multiplying by a scaling factor of 2.38. The scaling factor accounts for the interpolation area not covering the entire area where pumping is known to occur in the Basin due to the location and data availability of monitoring wells. It is defined as the ratio of the area within the groundwater basin boundary area and a half-mile radius of each production well to the water level change interpolation area. This assumes that water level changes in areas of the basin with no observations are similar to those with observations.

A map of the change in storage for WY 2023 with contour lines showing water level differences is shown in Figure 8. Estimated total change in storage for WY 2023 is +50,703 AF, which is

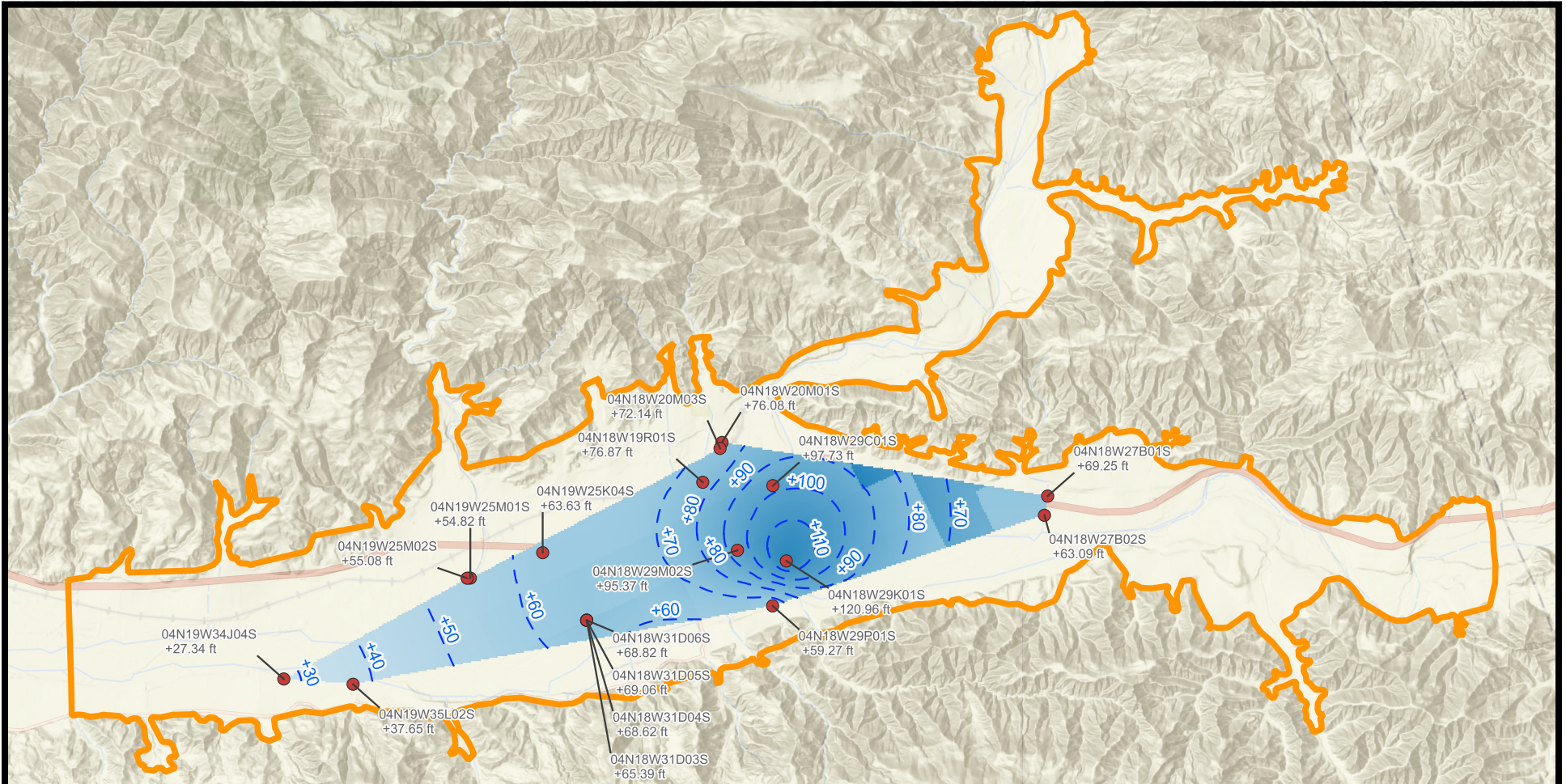
**Table 3. Total Water Use**

Sector	Method	Total Annual Volume (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Agriculture	Electrical Efficiency	2,016	± 20	1,595 - 2,392
	Estimated from previously reported diversions	1,100	± 33	737 - 1,463
	Water Meter	6,427	± 5	5,781 - 6,390
Agriculture Subtotal		9,543	-	8,456 - 10,631
Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial	Domestic	21	± 20	17 - 25
	Electrical Efficiency	9	± 20	7 - 11
	Water Meter	588	± 5	558 - 617
Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial Subtotal		618	-	582 - 653
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,161</b>		<b>9,038 - 11,283</b>

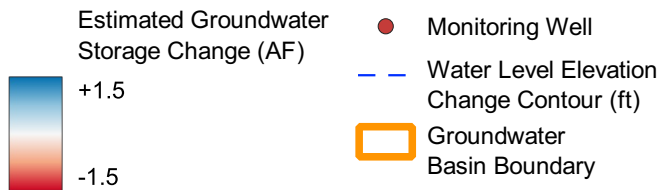
expected due to exceptionally wet conditions. Figure 9 shows annual groundwater pumping and change in storage, along with cumulative storage since WY 2000. Current storage condition relative to WY 1988 is +18,123 AF.

## 7. Progress Towards GSP Implementation

The Piru Subbasin GSP provided seven Projects or Management Actions that the FPBGSA Board of Directors would implement or consider implementing to facilitate the maintenance of sustainable conditions in the basin (see Section 4 of the GSP). The FPBGSA completed Projects #2 and #3 in WY 2022, and have continued work on Projects #1 and #7. The remaining Project or Management Actions (Projects #4 - #6 detailed in the GSP) have yet to be discussed by the FPBGSA Board of Directors. These projects or management actions will be considered by the Board of Directors over the next year and it is anticipated that more substantive updates will be included in future Annual Reports. Below is a description of activities related to each project that occurred during WY 2023.



### Explanation



### Notes:

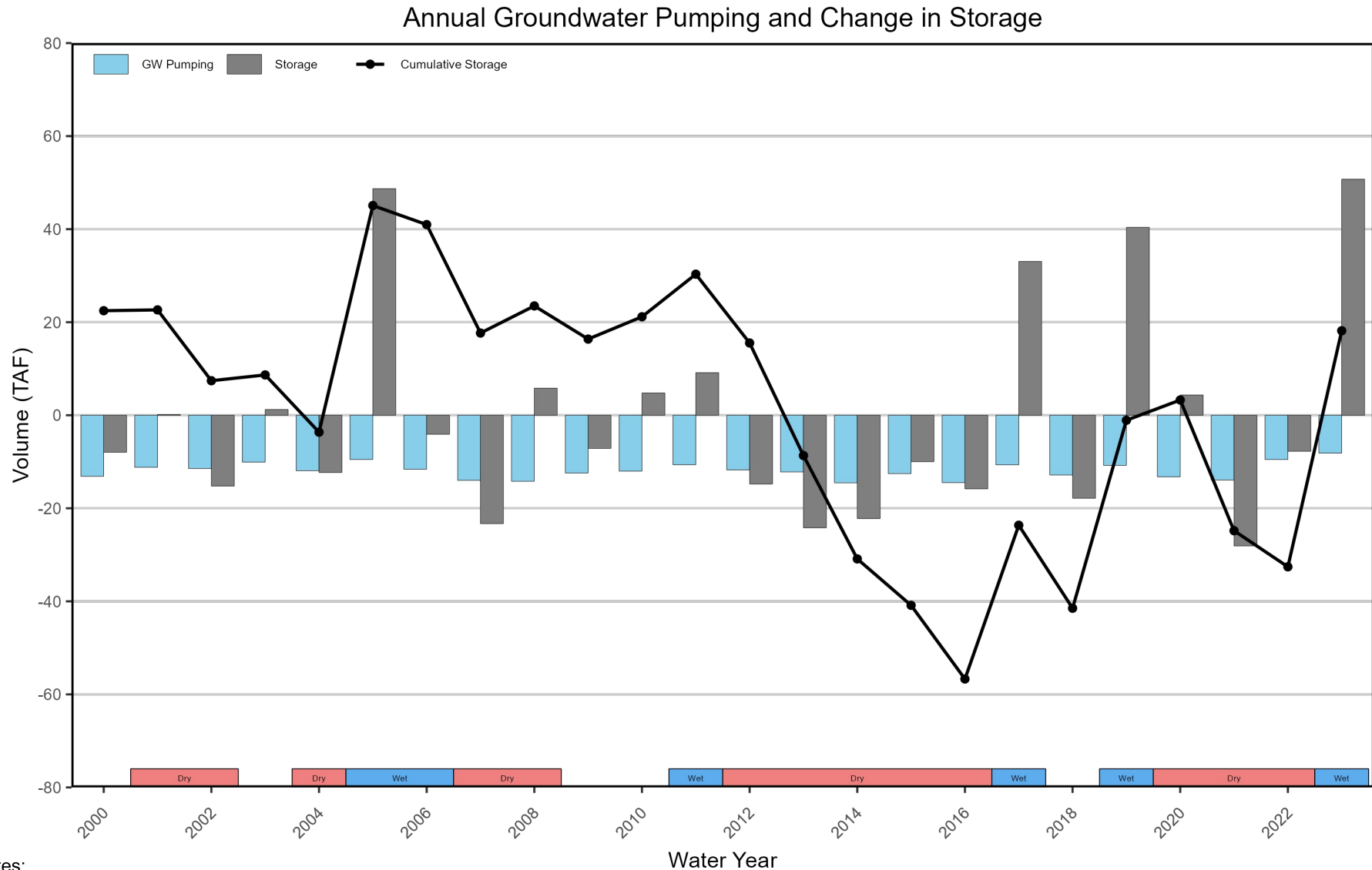
1. Storage change estimated by interpolating changes in observed water levels to a 65 x 65 ft grid and multiplying by the vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient for each grid cell.
2. Vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient calculated as the thickness weighted average of aquifer storage coefficients for each model layer used in the United groundwater model.
3. Estimated WY 2023 total groundwater storage change is +50,703 AF.



PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT

**Estimated Change in Groundwater in Storage  
WY 2023**





**Notes:**

1. Negative GW pumping values indicate extractions from groundwater aquifer.
2. Positive storage values indicate increasing groundwater levels.
3. Change in storage volumes estimated from water level data for WY 2021-2023.
4. Red and blue colored bars at bottom of graph indicate dry/critical and wet water year types, respectively, from San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Indices.



PIRU SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT  
**Groundwater Pumping and Change in Storage**  
**WY 2000-2023**



## 7.1 Project #1: Supporting the Cienega Springs Restoration Project as a Drought Refuge

Since submittal of the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), staff and the consultant team for the FPBGSA have had limited additional discussions/meetings with representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and researchers from University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) to further explore how the mitigative actions proposed in the GSP might be implemented.

The discussions with CDFW to date have focused on:

- Refining the mitigative project description
- Identifying which land parcels in the restoration project area would most benefit from receiving supplemental waters during a drought
- Exploring possible existing deep groundwater wells in proximity to the site that could be used as a water source; and
- Discussing the practicality and potential benefits of including adjacent land parcels owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) into the mitigation plan.

Ongoing action items with respect to this management action include:

- Establish communication with TNC to determine their interest in participating in the mitigation program
- Field verification of the operational condition of potential existing wells that are candidates to supply the supplement water
- Contact well/land owners to determine their willingness to allow access to their well(s) and establish terms of an access agreement
- Preparation of a Mitigation Plan that will detail, for example:
  - Triggers for starting and stopping the delivery of the supplemental waters
  - Quantities of supplemental water to be supplied
  - Source(s) of the supplemental water
  - Parties responsible for conveyance of the supplemental water from the source to the desired land parcel
  - Responsible parties for making decisions regarding the beneficial use of the water

- Cost reimbursement and extraction fee waiver mechanisms for use of existing wells owned by others
- Vegetative monitoring protocols to document the success of the mitigation program.

In addition, the Mitigation Plan will estimate the cost to the FPBGSA for the implementation of the mitigative actions.

## **7.2 Project #7: Subsidence Infrastructure Vulnerability Evaluation**

The FPBGSA contracted DBS&A to prepare an updated land subsidence evaluation (<https://bit.ly/3lbFkJ8>) that included an evaluation of InSAR data sets, Continuous Global Positioning Station (CGPS) data, a comparison of water levels v. estimated historical low water levels, and review of water levels and the Subsidence Minimum Threshold established in the GSP. Additional monitoring locations for land displacement measured remotely via satellite (InSAR) were selected based on proximity to critical infrastructure that may be negatively impacted by subsidence (e.g., bridges, railroads). The update concluded that no net subsidence has been observed since InSAR data became available in June 2015, therefore no further infrastructure vulnerability evaluations are planned. The FPBGSA will continue the annual subsidence data review and reporting.

## **7.3 Improvement of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Groundwater-Surface-Water Interactions Monitoring Networks**

DBS&A have had discussions with the FPBGSA Board of Directors regarding monitoring GW-SW interactions and the GDE monitoring network. In certain areas of the Fillmore and Piru Groundwater Basins, ephemeral groundwater discharges to surface flow. Measuring these interactions can be important for quantifying groundwater flow rates into surface water.

DBS&A has begun evaluating techniques for gathering additional information regarding surface water – groundwater interactions near the prominent GDEs. A promising evaluative technique requires measuring groundwater temperature differentials to determine rising groundwater flux in areas near the prominent GDEs. Thermal probes have been used to determine groundwater infiltration rates in previous studies (e.g., Racz et al, 2011; Schmidt et al, 2011). A similar method

can be used to determine rising groundwater flux. Design of the temperature measurement array (e.g., up to 20 locations in a 300 by 300 ft grid) and the equipment required to implement the temperature monitoring program is currently in development.

## 7.4 Update to Well Permitting Application Review Workflow

The FPBGSA has had extensive discussions about their role in the well permit application review process under Executive Order N-3-23 ([EO N-3-23](#)). While the goal of the FPBGSA is to develop a review policy that is simple, fair, and transparent, this issue is complicated by the need for coordination with Ventura County, lack of specificity in the EO, and legal concerns. It is anticipated that a new workflow for reviewing well permit applications will be adopted in WY 2024.

## 7.5 Development of Groundwater Export Policy

The FPBGSA is developing a groundwater export policy for the Fillmore and Piru basins to help maintain groundwater sustainability in the basins and keep beneficial uses local. Implementation of a groundwater export policy can help the GSA effectively manage groundwater in the Piru basin. Three policy options will be presented to the board, and it is anticipated a final policy decision will be made during water year 2024.

## 7.6 DMS Maintenance

The FPBGSA has continued to maintain and update the Fillmore and Piru DMS (<https://fillmore-piru.gladata.com>), which provides stakeholders access to all available groundwater data in the subbasin using a user-friendly, map-based web interface. Groundwater levels are typically uploaded bi-annually, coincident with the July 1 and December 31 reporting dates set by DWR. Water quality and well production data are uploaded annually, coincident with GSP annual report preparation.

# 8. References

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**Item No.**            **4B Motion**

**DATE:**             March 14, 2024 (for March 21, 2024, meeting)

**TO:**                Board of Directors

**FROM:**            Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:**        **Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates and staff summarizing the Agency's progress toward addressing the findings, comments and recommendations received from the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Agency's Fillmore Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provide comments and direction.

#### **DISCUSSION**

On December 18, 2021, the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) adopted groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for the Fillmore subbasin and Piru subbasin, and subsequently submitted them to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for review and approval, as per the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). As per SGMA, the DWR has two years to review the GSPs.

On January 18, 2024, the DWR transmitted its findings and recommendations to the Agency (see attachments). DWR determined that the two GSPs were incomplete, pursuant to Section 355.2(e)(2) of the GSP regulations. The two areas the DWR determined to be deficient were: 1) sustainable groundwater management criteria (undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and effects) associated with groundwater levels, and 2) must set preliminary sustainable management criteria for depletions of interconnected surface water associated with groundwater use.

The Agency has 180 days to address the deficiencies and resubmit the GSPs to DWR, no later than July 16, 2024. After receiving the letters, Agency staff has coordinated with DWR SGMA staff regarding the process, schedule, expectations, and resources available for amendment of its GSPs, and is meeting with DWR staff on an ongoing basis. Two technical consultation meetings have been held, and a third is scheduled for March 25, 2024. The primary subject matter to date has been developing a better description of the undesirable results associated with lowered water levels and better describing how those line up with the associated sustainability criteria selected by the Agency. The Agency team's objective is to complete discussions regarding water levels during the upcoming technical consultation meeting and initiate discussions regarding the interconnected surface water. The Agency's staff and consultant team will continue meeting with DWR to work through all technical discussions needed for the GSP updates.

DWR previously recommended that the Agency's Board consider including a subset of its members to participate in select technical meetings, along with its staff and consultants. During its February 15, 2024, meeting, the Board declined to form an ad hoc committee, and instead expressed a desire to

meet with DWR representatives as a whole board. During the Technical Consultation Meeting #2, Agency staff expressed the Board's desire to DWR. DWR informed Agency staff that it would not be able to meet with the whole Agency Board if the Brown Act required an open public meeting. Agency Legal Counsel subsequently confirmed that the Brown Act does require an open public meeting. Agency staff and consultants are prepared to continue the technical meetings with DWR staff to resolve all technical issues. However, should the Board desire to have some of its members meet with DWR, then this could only be accomplished by the establishment of an ad hoc committee. See Agenda Item 4C.

Documents required for submittal will be "red lines" and "clean" revisions of its GSPs. To meet the July 16, 2024, deadline, the Agency will need to adopt the amended documents during a noticed public hearing at its June 20, 2024, meeting. The Agency will also need to notify the County of Ventura and City of Fillmore of its intent to amend its GSPs at least 90 days prior to the public hearing. The Agency plans to do so by March 22, 2024.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Agency's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget includes sufficient funds to amend its GSPs.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

#### **Proposed Motion:**

Provide comments and direction to staff regarding amendment of the groundwater sustainability plans.

1<sup>st</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Voice/Roll call vote:**

Director Fornoff:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Mendez:

Director Meneghin:



**Item No.**            **4C Motion**

**DATE:**             March 14, 2024 (for March 21, 2024, meeting)

**TO:**                Board of Directors

**FROM:**            Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:**        **Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans**

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board will consider forming an Ad Hoc Committee for Amendment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has found that including representatives of a groundwater sustainability agency's (GSA) board of directors in technical meetings has been helpful in the process of expeditiously amending groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) that it has determined to be incomplete. Staff is holding ongoing technical consultation meetings with DWR over the next two months to develop potential amendments to the Agency's GSPs. DWR has informed Agency staff that it is unable to meet with GSA boards if the Brown Act requires open public meetings. The Brown Act does require the meetings to be noticed public meetings. If the Board would like to delegate some of its members to participate in these technical meetings, the appropriate mechanism to do so would be to appoint an ad hoc committee.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

#### **Proposed Motion:**

Motion to appoint up to three of its directors to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee for Amendment of its Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

1<sup>st</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Voice/Roll call vote:**

Director Fornoff:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Mendez:

Director Meneghin:



## **Fillmore and Piru Basins** *Groundwater Sustainability Agency*

**Item No.**            **4D Motion**

**DATE:**            March 14, 2024 (for March 21, 2024, meeting)

**TO:**                Board of Directors

**FROM:**           Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:**        **Chiquita Canyon Landfill**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board will consider approving a letter to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles, regarding increased leachate discharges from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL), a Class III non-hazardous municipal solid waste landfill operating under Solid Waste Facilities Permit No. 19-AA-052, issued by CalRecycle (formerly California Integrated Waste Management Board), is located approximately 2.5 miles upstream of the Piru subbasin. It is the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (Agency) understanding that the CalRecycle Permit (and potentially others) requires the CCL to contain any leachate water resulting from landfill operations and to remove it for offsite treatment. It is also the Agency's understanding that in 2023, the CCL began experiencing an elevated temperature landfill (ETLF) incident. ETLF incidents are relatively rare and not well understood. The ETLF incident at CCL resulted in dramatic changes to both the landfill gas discharges and leachate discharges, and that the volume of leachate combined with natural runoff from the wet winter overwhelmed the existing leachate collection system, and discharges to the Santa Clara River occurred. Because surface water flows in the Santa Clara River are readily recharged into the Piru subbasin, unpermitted discharges of leachate water from the CCL are of great concern to the Agency, as they will negatively affect the water quality of the Piru subbasin. The Agency desires this ETLF incident to be addressed expeditiously by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

One of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's (SGMA) sustainability criteria is groundwater quality. The Agency is charged with the management of the groundwater resources of the Piru subbasin and the Fillmore subbasin under authority of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). As per the Agency's groundwater sustainability plans, the Agency tracks water quality issues in the watershed that could potentially impair beneficial uses and users, and coordinates with other agencies with primary water quality regulatory authority, such as the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). Attached is a letter to the LARWQCB expressing concern over the leachate discharge, requesting full containment of the discharge and requesting for the Agency to be included in the list of stakeholders. Staff also recommends a future letter to CalRecycle, who manages landfill permits.



Chiquita Canyon Landfill

March 21, 2024

Page 2 of 2

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**ATTACHMENTS**

Letter to California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles

Proposed Motion:

Motion to approve a letter to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles, regarding increased leachate discharges from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

1<sup>st</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: Director \_\_\_\_\_

Voice/Roll call vote:

Director Fornoff:

Director Jackson:

Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director Mendez:

Director Meneghin:



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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March 21, 2024

Ms. Susana Arredondo, Executive Officer  
California Water Boards  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013

**Subject: Chiquita Canyon Landfill Leachate Discharges to Santa Clara River Watershed**

Dear Ms. Arrendondo:

The Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) is charged with the management of the groundwater resources of the Piru subbasin and the Fillmore subbasin under authority of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). One of SGMA's sustainability criteria is groundwater quality. As per its groundwater sustainability plans, the Agency tracks water quality issues in the watershed that could potentially impair beneficial uses and users, and coordinates with other agencies with primary water quality regulatory authority, such as the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB).

The Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL), a Class III non-hazardous municipal solid waste landfill operating under Solid Waste Facilities Permit No. 19-AA-052, issued by CalRecycle (formerly California Integrated Waste Management Board), is located approximately 2.5 miles upstream of the Piru subbasin. It is the Agency's understanding that the CCL is required to contain any leachate water resulting from landfill operations and to remove it for offsite treatment. It is also the Agency's understanding that in 2023, the CCL began experiencing an elevated temperature landfill (ETLF) incident, that resulted in dramatic changes to both the landfill gas discharges and leachate discharges, and that the volume of leachate overwhelmed the existing leachate collection system, and discharges to the Santa Clara River occurred. Because surface water flows in the Santa Clara River are readily recharged into the Piru subbasin, unpermitted discharges of leachate water from the CCL are of great concern to the Agency, as they will negatively affect the water quality of the Piru subbasin. The Agency desires this ETLF incident to be addressed expeditiously by the appropriate regulatory agencies. The Agency strongly urges full containment of leachate water on the landfill site.

The Agency knows that the LARWQCB is engaged in the water quality problems associated with the CCL's ETLF incident and wishes to be included as a stakeholder in future regulatory discussions and actions. Please add the Agency to the list of stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Kelly Long, Chair