



CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board of Directors

Cory Bantilan Chair, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Derek Yurosek Vice Chair, Cuyama Basin Water District
Matthew Young Secretary, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Arne Anselm County of Ventura
Deborah Williams Cuyama Community Services District
Brian Grant Cuyama Basin Water District

Kyle Richardson Cuyama Basin Water District
Jimmy Paulding County of San Luis Obispo
Katelyn Zenger County of Kern
Mark Ellsworth Cuyama Basin Water District
Steve Jackson Cuyama Basin Water District

AGENDA

January 14, 2026

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors to be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the **Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254**. Participate via computer at: <https://shorturl.at/vQj11> or by going to Microsoft Teams, downloading the free application, then entering Meeting ID: 271 352 086 486 04 Passcode: o9bq6TF7 or enter or telephonically at (469) 480-3918 Phone Conference ID: 246 600 964#.

Teleconference Locations:

4689 CA-166 New Cuyama, CA 93254	1115 Truxtun Ave, 5 th Floor Bakersfield, CA 93301	900 Truxtun Ave, Suite 220 Bakersfield, CA 93301	1087 Santa Rosa Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
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The order in which agenda items are discussed may be changed to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the Board or Committee, the public, or meeting participants. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the commencement of the meeting to ensure that they are present for discussion of all items in which they are interested.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385 by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to this meeting. The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic.

1. Call to Order (Bantilan) (1 min)
2. Roll Call (Bianchi) (1 min)
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Bantilan) (1 min)
4. Meeting Protocols (Bianchi) (2 min)
5. Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Report (Kelly) (3 min)
6. New Director Welcome and Appreciation for Outgoing Directors (Bantilan) (5 min)
7. Election of Officers (Bantilan) (3 min)

CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

8. Approve November 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Bantilan) (1 min)

9. Approve Payment of Bills for October and November 2025 (Blakslee) (1 min)
10. Approve Financial Reports for October and November 2025 (Blakslee) (1 min)

ACTION ITEMS

All action items require a simple majority vote by default (50% of the vote). Items that require a super majority vote (75% of the weighted total) will be noted as such at the end of the item.

11. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
 - a) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Plan and Timeline to Evaluate Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area (Blakslee/Van Lienden/Ceyhan) (90 min)
 - b) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Options to Address New Pumping Outside the Management Area (Blakslee) (30 min)

REPORT ITEMS

12. Administrative Updates
 - a) Report of the Executive Director (Blakslee) (5 min)
 - i. Report on Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Schedule (Blakslee) (3 min)
 - ii. Report on Water Year 2025 Annual Report Schedule (Blakslee) (3 min)
 - b) Report of the General Counsel (Hughes) (5 min)
13. Technical Updates
 - a) Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities (Van Lienden) (5 min)
 - b) Update on Grant-Funded Projects (Van Lienden) (5 min)
 - c) Update on October 2025 Groundwater Level and Quality Conditions Reports (Van Lienden) (5 min)
 - d) Update on Adaptive Management Processes for Minimum Threshold Exceedances (Bianchi) (5 min)
14. Report of Ad Hoc Committees (1 min)
15. Directors' Forum (1 min)
16. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda (5 min)
17. Correspondence (1 min)

CLOSED SESSION

18. Conference with Legal Counsel – Public Employment (Gov. Code section 54957) (30 min)
Title: General Counsel
19. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (15 min)
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1)
 - (a) Bolthouse Land Company, LLC, et al v. All Persons Claiming a Right to Extract or Store Groundwater in the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (BCV-21-101927)
20. Adjourn (6:45 p.m.)

2025 Board Ad hocs

1	CIMIS Station Implementation Policy	Burnes Bantilan Wooster
2	Variance	Albano Anselm Jackson Young
3	Farm Unit Policy	Albano Bantilan Yurosek
4	Fiscal Year Budget	Burnes Young Zenger
5	Allocation Exchanges & Carryover	Anselm Higbee Jackson Williams Wooster
6	Expanding Allocations outside the Management Area and Ventucopa	Bantilan Yurosek Reely Albano
	Adaptive Management	Albano Reely Young

Tech Forum Participants

Participants	Entity	Representing
Bob Abrams	Aquilogic	BBK
Matt Klinchuch	Provost & Pritchard	Cuyama Basin Water District
Jeff Shaw Macy Frost Wes Henson	EKI	Cuyama Basin Water District
Neil Currie	Cleath-Harris Geologists	Grapevine Capital

Matt Nafalby	Dudek	DWR Small Farmer Technical Assistance Program
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Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

November 5, 2025

Draft Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Directors

Bantilan, Cory – Chair
Yurosek, Derek – Vice Chair
Albano, Byron – Treasurer
Anselm, Arne
Higbee, Jason
Jackson, Steve
Reely, Blaine – Alternate
Williams, Debby
Wooster, Jane
Young, Matthew – Secretary
Zenger, Katelyn

Staff

Beck, Jim – Executive Director
Bianchi, Grace – Project Coordinator
Blakslee, Taylor – Assistant Executive Director
Dominguez, Alex – Legal Counsel
Van Lienden, Brian – Woodard & Curran

1. Call to Order

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Chair Cory Bantilan called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Bianchi called roll (shown above) and informed Chair Bantilan that there was a quorum of the Board.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Bantilan.

4. Meeting Protocols

Ms. Bianchi provided an overview of the meeting protocols.

5. Report from Auditors on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit

Patrick Paggi from Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock provided an overview of the fiscal year 2024-2025 audit report.

Director Yurosek asked about the auditors note regarding segregation of duties and asked if staff have done an analysis to determine costs to segregate duties.

Mr. Beck and Mr. Blakslee responded that staff had provided an analysis in March.

CLOSED SESSION

6. Conference with Legal Counsel- Existing Litigation

At 2:16 PM, the Board adjourned to closed session. At 3:10 PM, the Board returned from closed session at which time Legal Counsel reported to the public that there was no reportable action.

7. Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Report

Standing Advisory Committee Report Meeting Date: October 30th, 2025 Submitted to the CBGSA Board of Directors on November 5th, 2025 By Brenton Kelly, SAC Chair

Last week the Standing Advisory Committee met at the Family Resource Center in a hybrid format, with 6 members present at the start, 4 in-person and 3 on the conference line, but Committee Members Lewis and Jaffe had to step away part way through. GSA Staff Taylor Blakslee was joined by Grace Bianchi in the room, with Technical and Legal Staff on the video call. The room was sparsely attended by the public in the room and many more stakeholders were online. The meeting lasted a little over 3.5 hours. Executive Director Jim Beck led the meeting off with the announcement of his retirement. Appreciations were shared all around with reflections of the past 7 years of challenging, constructive and engaging efforts by some passionately dedicated people. Jim's artful and pragmatic guidance of this Committee and the GSA Board was a crucial part of getting us this far. Credit was extended to the whole Staff team with special recognition to the competent Executive team in place to carry us forward. Best wishes to Mr Beck and his family and congratulations to Mr. Blakslee on his promotion. Much of the meeting addressed the update of Groundwater Model accuracy Analysis for Ventucopa. No recommendation or action is needed until our new year meeting but the conclusions are not expected to change much from the consensus that the Model is currently inadequate for the task of determining a Sustainable Yield for Ventucopa much less defining a Management Area and assigning allocations. The most critical item of the evening was regarding the potential Water Market policy. The SAC made a recommendation in support of a variance pool derived from the previous year's unused allocations to provide the minimal amount of water needed to support the viability of small family farms.

8. a) Discuss Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area Committee Member Haslett asked for staff to define Deep Percolation as the Model sees it. Mr. Ceyhan described deep percolation as a model term where precipitation and surface waters percolate through the soil to the groundwater table as recharge. Chair Kelly asked if there is a way to measure the rate it takes deep percolation to descend sometimes over 500 feet through the unsaturated vadose zone to the groundwater table. Mr. Ceyhan responded that the model does not calculate those rates. It is assumed to be instantaneous. Not a very realistic model parameter. Committee Chair Kelly asked again if the groundwater elevations of the wells shown in the simulated groundwater level slides could reflect depth from the surface. Mr. Ceyhan responded that he'll try to include slide graphs with depths from the surface for the board

packet. Committee Member DeBranch asked if staff had calculated an estimate of what a theoretical Sustainable Yield would be for Ventucopa. Mr. Ceyhan responded that the sustainable yield has not been calculated because the model is not adequate in capturing wet years, and was unable to closely simulate the measured well depths and pumping data. Committee Chair Kelly asked if the model is likely to perform as poorly in other areas of the basin outside of the Central Management Area (CMA), where the Monitoring Network is even less robust than it is in Ventucopa. Mr. Ceyhan responded that there had been little information about the western and eastern side of the CMA, but that now new and better data has been added to and improved the Model. Mr. Ceyhan acknowledged that Ventucopa was hydrologically unique with flashy flows from a mountainous catchment and that the basin has very diverse conditions which presents a challenge to model accurately. Chair Kelly asked Mr. Van Lienden if the upcoming SBC Fault data and analysis does locate the fault, will it provide anything to improve the Model uncertainty in Ventucopa? Mr. Van Lienden responded that it should give some new information for modeling parameters, but Jim Strandberg would need to confirm this.

8, b) Discuss Tri-County Pistachio Variance Request There was a general agreement that the ad hoc committee had made the right call with making corrections to inaccurate land use data. The SAC supports all efforts towards factual accuracy and appreciated that the Variance Process allows time for landowners to petition for data corrections whenever they are discovered. MOTION: Committee Member Haslett made a motion to support the ad hoc recommendation. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kelly. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed. 4 to 0.

8, c) Discuss the CMA Allocation Exchanges Policy (i.e. Water Market) Chair Kelly expressed concern for all the time being spent on drafting a policy that will not likely provide any water for family farms whose operations require even a small amount of water to remain viable. He stated that the amount of water needed by farmers like David Lewis and the Zannons to avoid losing trees and losing their business is little more than 1000 acre feet total over the next five years. The latest SFAR memo was discussed with the idea of using a small portion of the previous year's unused allocations to provide the minimum needed variance pool for the smallest farmers who may be at risk of crop loss. This is not being seen as a long term solution but a stop gap opportunity to stay alive until 2030 or as soon as allocations are resolved in Phase 3 of the adjudication.

Committee Member DeBranch declared his support of a water market, but suggested that a voluntary water market is difficult to achieve. He opined that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) does not recognise a tiered approach to land use, crop type or size. Chair Kelly responded that SGMA and the legislature does recognize the vulnerability of the small family farms as beneficial users and the need to take protective measures to support their long term viability. He believes that this policy is an opportunity to move toward that goal. Committee Member Giallard expressed concerns for water markets and that most attempts in this State have been a flop. Two farmers need a little water and the two farmers with the most water are not interested in selling. The small farmers will be squeezed out if not protected by this GSA and the small farmers must continue to be able to farm in Cuyama. Stakeholder Tristan Zannon representing Tri-County Pistachios stated that he has been offering

a cashiers check for \$200,000.00 for the purchase of 400AF over 2 years. He has no takers. Slide 111 in the GSA packet shows the 20 acres of dying pistachio trees where irrigation has been cut off to accommodate the demand reductions. He feels that a policy to offer a small portion of unused allocations would still be inline with these pumping reductions and would buy time to get through the uncertainties of the Adjudication. MOTION: Committee Member Gaillard made a motion to allocate small farmers up to 1,200 AF for the 2025-2029 allocation period for existing permanent crop demand. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Haslett. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed (3-1). AYES: Gaillard, Haslett, Kelly. NOES: DeBranch

8, d) Discuss Adaptive Management Processes The SAC is encouraged to see the Adaptive Management Process in motion and looks forward to some constructive outcomes within the specified timelines. Chair Kelly noted that these wells that are in excess of their Minimum Thresholds do not include the two monitoring wells in the nested clusters that have gone completely dry since the USGS drilled them in 2009. This illustrates the continued decline of the water table in the CMA. 8. e) Discuss how to Address New Pumping Outside the CMA Committee Member Haslett commented that the previous agenda item was on adaptive management process and so there is a plan in place to manage the rest of the basin and is in favor of option 1, To continue with current approach. Chair Kelly was concerned that the Adaptive Management Policy can only work well if there is a monitoring well nearby and only kicks in after the Minimum Threshold is nearly exceeded.

Staff suggested that historical use could be unregulated but that new additional groundwater extraction may need to be regulated and that the adaptive management framework needs to have a plan to identify potential problem areas. Legal Counsel Alex Dominguez commented that SGMA provides the GSA with powers that include the ability to regulate or halt the extraction from groundwater wells. Committee Member DeBranch commented that reported pumping outside of the CMA will still cause exceedance of sustainable yield. He said that the GSA should consider how to manage the whole basin to the sustainable yield. He's in favor of a more proactive approach to demand reduction in areas outside the CMA. Committee Member Gaillard was concerned for operations like the new cannabis farm in Salisbury Canyon that will likely expand the CMA back to the west. Chair Kelly shared Gaillard's concern for land use conversion from rangeland to new irrigation operations or for any other land use changes that may represent major increases in groundwater extraction. He is not as concerned about historic pumping rates outside the CMA which have not been contributing to the long term over draft.

Respectfully submitted, Brenton Kelly SAC Chairperson

CONSENT AGENDA

8-11. Consent Agenda

Chair Bantilan asked if any Directors wanted to move any of the consent items out to discuss in more detail.

Chair Bantilan pulled the 2026 meeting calendar for discussion.

There was board consensus to have the July board meeting before the federal holiday.

Director Yurosek asked about the accounts receivable for September 2025 and the status of the landowner groundwater extraction fee.

Mr. Blakslee responded that staff is contacting landowners regarding payment status.

There were no public comments on this item.

MOTION

Director Jackson made a motion to approve the consent agenda item nos. 8-11. The motion was seconded by Director Young. A roll call vote was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES:	Albano, Anselm, Bantilan, DeBranch, Jackson, Wooster, Young, Yurosek, Zenger, Reely, Williams
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

ACTION ITEMS

12. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

a. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Plan and Timeline to Evaluate Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the objective and timeline for evaluating allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area.

Sercan Ceyhan from Woodard & Curran provided a presentation on the model results on evaluating allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area.

Director Wooster asked about the discrepancy in the simulated streamflow versus the observed streamflow at United States Geological Survey (USGS) 11136500 and if that means the model is inadequate.

Mr. Ceyhan responded that some processes are not fully captured in the model and he will address implications in the conclusions.

Director Albano asked if the reduction of acreage is reflected in the model. Mr. Ceyhan responded that Land IQ data was used and it would depend on when their data was collected.

Director Higbee asked how the percentage (80%) of the infiltration that goes to evapotranspiration (ET) was determined. Mr. Ceyhan explained the model's element-level mass balance and time-step aggregation.

Director Higbee asked how the subsurface flows were derived. Mr. Ceyhan explained that

subsurface flows were derived from element-level mass balance outputs aggregated by time step and summed.

Director Young asked whether surface streamflow was being underestimated and, if so, how the “unaccounted” water was handled in the model. Mr. Ceyhan said “unaccounted” water is explained by ET losses in small watersheds and by local recharge that does not translate to measurable surface flow at the gage.

Mr. Ceyhan responded that the water is lost from ET at the small watersheds.

Director Albano added that as a grower, 80% of infiltration to ET seems high.

Director Young asked how many of the recommended items are included in the budget. Mr. Van Lienden responded that none of the recommendations

Chair Bantilan opened the floor for public comment.

Stakeholder Jim Wegis commented that the flow (1752) into the Qatal Canyon doesn’t seem accurate.

Stakeholder Joe Haslett asked how native vegetation ET rate was calculated in the model.

Mr. Ceyhan responded that native vegetation ET is based on soil moisture.

Stakeholder Mark Ellsworth asked how ET is calculated. Mr. Ceyhan responded that is reduced to soil moisture, which is dependent on many factors, which is calculated within the model.

Mr. Van Lienden added that during Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) an agronomist was hired to develop ET estimates, which accounted for all available data.

Chair Bantilan closed the floor for public comment.

SAC Chair Brenton Kelly provided the SAC report.

Director Jackson said the basin wide goal is sustainability and noted that long-term groundwater storage is declining, including in Ventucopa.

Director Albano commented that the situation in the Central Management Area (CMA) is different than other areas in the basin. He asked how much model recalibration would cost.

Mr. Ceyhan responded that the Ventucopa Management Area is much smaller than CMA and they can assess costs.

Mr. Van Lienden provided a brief update on the Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation.

b. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Tri-County Pistachio Variance Request

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the Tri-County Pistachio Variance Request and the ad hoc recommendation.

SAC Chair Brenton Kelly provided the SAC report.

There were no comments on this item.

MOTION

Director Jackson made a motion to proceed with the ad hoc recommendation to correct Tri-County Pistachio's data. Director Albano seconded, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

AYES: Albano, Anselm, Bantilan, Higbee, Jackson, Reely, Young, Yurosek,
Williams, Wooster, Zenger

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

c. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on CMA Allocation Exchanges Policy

Mr. Blakslee provided background on the CMA allocation exchanges, the issues discussed with the ad hoc committee, and the ad hoc recommendations. He reviewed the map of the CMA plus Farming unit boundaries.

SAC Chair Brenton Kelly provided the SAC report.

Chair Bantilan opened the floor for public comment.

Stakeholder Tristan Zannon commented on importance of this policy to support his family business.

Stakeholder Robbie Jaffe noted the urgency establishing a program to support small farmers at risk of losing allocations and provided a letter from the Small Farmer and Rancher Network with the recommendation to use less than 4% of the unused allocations (1,200 AF).

Stakeholder David Lewis commented that the policy hasn't been revised sign last brought to the board.

Chair Bantilan closed the floor for public comment.

Chair Bantilan noted that if Tristan can't find any sellers for \$500/acre-foot, then what is the point.

Director Yurosek commented that this is the first time that he is learning that small farmers are looking to buy water.

Director Young asked if all farming units are required to sign off allocation exchanges will

impact ability to participate.

Director Yurosek responded that he doesn't support requiring all individuals within a farming unit to sign off on allocation exchanges.

Director Wooster commented on the complexity of the issue and noted that selling water could impact your future water rights.

Director Anselm commented on his experience with the pilot water market in the Fox Canyon CMA. He noted that this is less of a water market, but more of an administrative process to do transfer of allocations between two parties.

Director Wooster reviewed the ad hoc recommendation. She proposed using 1,200 AF

Legal Counsel Alex Dominguez commented that pooling 1,200 AF of a common resource and only allowing certain people to trade poses a risk to the GSA. In another basin, he has

Director Higbee asked if it would have any impacts on allocations or water rights.

Legal Counsel Alex Dominguez responded that the GSA can't impact water rights.

Director Young asked how many pumpers have used all their allocations in the past year.

Director Anselm commented in support of incentives for pumpers that don't use all their allocations.

Director Young commented that there is a market of sellers and if we can resolve the issues of the farming unit, then we can consider a variance pool. He thinks the policy should be passed today to help small farmers needing water.

Director Albano commented that he doesn't think the board is ready to decide anything today. He added that any transfers should be recorded online.

Mr. Beck commented on the various types of transfer pools that he has had experience in the past. He reminded the board that there is no excess water available in the basin and recommended moving forward with the policy tonight. He suggested doing an interim one-year policy.

Director Yurosek asked if the farming unit allocation is a combination of landowners within a farming unit and if the allocated amount for each landowner within the farming unit.

Staff responded that the farming unit allocation is a combination of landowners within a farming unit and each landowner within a farming unit is given allocations.

MOTION

Director Williams made a motion to accept allocation exchange policy with the ad hoc

recommendation to include farming units with time limit of one year, with direction for the ad hoc to evaluate variance pool recommended by the small farmers. Director Wooster seconded, a roll call vote was made and passed unanimously.

AYES: Albano, Anselm, Bantilan, Higbee, Jackson, Reely, Young, Yurosek, Williams, Wooster, Zenger
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: None

d. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Standard Operating Procedures for Adaptive Management Process

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on the status of the adaptive management implementation.

SAC Chair Brenton Kelly provided the SAC report on this item.

There were no public comments on this item.

e. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Options to Address New Pumping Outside the Management Area

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the options to address new pumping outside the management area and the board direction provided in September 2025. He reviewed the current management actions in the CMA and Ventucopa Management area.

SAC Chair Brenton Kelly provided the SAC report on this item.

There were no public comments on this item.

Director Wooster asked if someone starts irrigating and pumps over 25 AF, then do they need to report. She suggested that we should monitor the water level of the wells.

Mr. Beck commented that the board has provided a lot of ideas and staff is looking for how the board would like to proceed with the methodical evaluations of potential ideas.

Director Anselm commented that annual reports are due in March and that it would be a good time to see if there is any new pumping.

MOTION

Director Young made a motion to move forward with option 1 to evaluate during the qualitative assessment. Director Anselm seconded, a roll call vote was made and passed with 89%.

AYES: Albano, Anselm, Bantilan, Higbee, Jackson, Young, Yurosek, Williams, Wooster, Zenger
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reely

REPORT ITEMS

13. Administrative Updates

a. Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Beck noted that he will be leaving Hallmark Group at the end of the year. He thanked the board and committee.

b. Report of the General Counsel

Nothing to report.

14. Technical Updates

a. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities

Mr. Blakslee noted that these updates are included in the board packet.

b. Update on Grant-Funded Projects

Mr. Blakslee noted that these updates are included in the board packet.

15. Report of Ad Hoc Committees

Nothing to report.

16. Directors' Forum

Nothing to report.

17. Public comment for Items Not on the Agenda

George Peraza with DWR noted a grant opportunity from the Department of Conservation's Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program that funds repurposing agricultural land to reduce groundwater use, and provided the following email: mlrp@conservation.ca.gov.

18. Correspondence

Mr. Blakslee noted the correspondence that was included in the packet and distributed to stakeholders prior to the meeting.

19. Adjourn

Chair Bantilan adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair: _____

ATTEST:

Secretary: _____

DRAFT



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Financial Reports for October and November 2025

Recommended Motion

Approve financial reports for October and November 2025.

Discussion

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's financial report for October 2025 is provided as **Attachment 1** and the financial report for November 2025 is provided as **Attachment 2**.

The reports include:

- Statement of Financial Position
- Receipts and Disbursements
- A/R Aging Summary
- A/P Aging Summary
- Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
- 2025/2026 Operating Budget



Cuyama Basin GSA

Financial Statements

October 2025

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Financial Position
As of October 31, 2025

	Oct 31, 25	Oct 31, 24	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Chase - General Checking	1,418,818	59,415	1,359,402	2,288%
Total Checking/Savings	1,418,818	59,415	1,359,402	2,288%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	784	4,383,439	-4,382,655	-100%
Total Accounts Receivable	784	4,383,439	-4,382,655	-100%
Other Current Assets				
Grant Retention Receivable	710,665	0	710,665	100%
Total Other Current Assets	710,665	0	710,665	100%
Total Current Assets	2,130,266	4,442,854	-2,312,588	-52%
TOTAL ASSETS	2,130,266	4,442,854	-2,312,588	-52%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	338,149	2,317,358	-1,979,209	-85%
Total Accounts Payable	338,149	2,317,358	-1,979,209	-85%
Other Current Liabilities				
New/Repl Well Deposits	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Total Other Current Liabilities	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Total Current Liabilities	338,149	2,320,458	-1,982,309	-85%
Total Liabilities	338,149	2,320,458	-1,982,309	-85%
Equity				
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,022,095	2,346,115	-324,020	-14%
Net Income	-229,977	-223,719	-6,258	-3%
Total Equity	1,792,118	2,122,396	-330,279	-16%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,130,266	4,442,854	-2,312,588	-52%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Receipts and Disbursements
 As of October 31, 2025

Type	Date	Num	Name	Debit	Credit
Chase - General Checking					
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1223	HGCPM, Inc.		41,881.43
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1224	Klein DeNatale Goldner		34,078.41
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1225	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		11,231.19
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1226	Woodard & Curran Inc		86,576.03
Payment	07/18/2025	25335	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Yeguada Trujillo	165.25	
Payment	07/18/2025	542062	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Grimmway Enterprises, Inc	66,896.75	
Payment	07/18/2025	10608	Groundwater Extraction Fees:JHP Global, Inc	1,771.50	
Payment	07/18/2025	2616	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Tri-County Pistachios	5,450.00	
Payment	07/18/2025	53647	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Cuyama Dairy Farm	1,711.65	
Deposit	07/18/2025		*	13.20	
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1227	HGCPM, Inc.		33,724.66
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1228	Klein DeNatale Goldner		18,160.50
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1229	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		12,886.35
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1230	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1231	Woodard & Curran Inc		73,258.46
Bill Pmt -Check	09/22/2025	1232	Campbell Scientific Inc.		20,267.35
Payment	09/24/2025	84963	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Duncan Family Farms	263.40	
Payment	10/22/2025	44177	Groundwater Extraction Fees:El Rancho Espanol	15.84	
Total Chase - General Checking				76,287.59	345,214.38
TOTAL				76,287.59	345,214.38

*Miscellaneous deposit consists of interest from Santa Barbara County.

**CUYAMA BASIN GSA
A/R Aging Summary
As of October 31, 2025**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>> 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Groundwater Extraction Fees						
Double H Farming, LLC	0	0	0	0	568	568
Lewis, David	0	0	0	0	216	216
Total Groundwater Extraction Fees	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>784</u>	<u>784</u>
TOTAL	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>784</u>	<u>784</u>

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
A/P Aging Summary
As of October 31, 2025

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	> 90	TOTAL
Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock	1,500	0	3,000	5,000	0	9,500
HGCPM, Inc.	37,428	0	23,812	30,500	0	91,741
Klein DeNatale Goldner	7,609	0	15,923	19,582	0	43,113
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group	17,835	0	4,233	4,562	0	26,630
U.S. Geological Survey	0	0	13,150	0	0	13,150
Woodard & Curran Inc	66,104	0	42,741	45,170	0	154,015
TOTAL	130,477	0	102,858	104,814	0	338,149

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
 July through October 2025

	Jul - Oct 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Direct Public Funds				
Groundwater Extraction Fees	180,531	180,000	531	100%
Grant Reimbursements	23,001	0	23,001	100%
Total Direct Public Funds	203,532	180,000	23,532	113%
Other Income				
Interest Income	13	0	13	100%
Total Other Income	13	0	13	100%
Total Income	203,546	180,000	23,546	113%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Program Expenses				
Technical Consulting				
Adjudication Support	0	12,900	-12,900	0%
GSP Implementation - W&C	43,385	69,664	-26,279	62%
Stakeholder Engagement	39,303	32,400	6,903	121%
Technical Support for DWR	0	3,336	-3,336	0%
Outreach	0	7,036	-7,036	0%
Grant Administration	17,593	20,000	-2,408	88%
Improve Basin Water Use Info	4,306	6,336	-2,030	68%
Fault Investigation	45,551	0	45,551	100%
Other Technical Tasks	43,654	88,000	-44,346	50%
Total Technical Consulting	193,791	239,672	-45,881	81%
Other Technical Consulting				
Monitoring Network	59,187	25,000	34,187	237%
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	13,150	13,300	-150	99%
CIMIS Station	4,370	40,000	-35,630	11%
Total Other Technical Consulting	76,708	78,300	-1,592	98%
Total Program Expenses	270,499	317,972	-47,473	85%
Total COGS	270,499	317,972	-47,473	85%
Gross Profit	-66,953	-137,972	71,019	49%
Expense				
General and Administrative				
Executive Director				
Board Meetings	46,575	45,600	975	102%
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	35,947	16,680	19,267	216%
Financial Information Coord	13,018	15,600	-2,583	83%
Support for DWR/Public Comments	0	4,700	-4,700	0%
Funding - GWE Fees	2,370	0	2,370	100%
CMA Policy and Allocations	0	13,400	-13,400	0%
Outreach	2,801	6,836	-4,035	41%
Adjudication Support	1,998	8,036	-6,038	25%
Water Use Enforcement	0	664	-664	0%
Travel and Direct Costs	1,359	0	1,359	100%
Total Executive Director	104,067	111,516	-7,449	93%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
 July through October 2025

	<u>Jul - Oct 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Other Administrative				
Legal	47,672	83,336	-35,664	57%
Audit Fees	9,500	9,000	500	106%
Printing and Copying	0	1,700	-1,700	0%
Other Admin Expense	1,785	4,000	-2,215	45%
Contingency	0	6,664	-6,664	0%
Total Other Administrative	<u>58,957</u>	<u>104,700</u>	<u>-45,743</u>	<u>56%</u>
Total General and Administrative	<u>163,024</u>	<u>216,216</u>	<u>-53,192</u>	<u>75%</u>
Total Expense	<u>163,024</u>	<u>216,216</u>	<u>-53,192</u>	<u>75%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-229,977</u>	<u>-354,188</u>	<u>124,211</u>	<u>65%</u>
Net Income	<u>-229,977</u>	<u>-354,188</u>	<u>124,211</u>	<u>65%</u>

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
FY 25/26 Budget
 July 2025 - June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Funds	
Groundwater Extraction Fees	180,000
Grant Reimbursements	72,336
Total Direct Public Funds	252,336
Total Income	252,336
Cost of Goods Sold	
Program Expenses	
Technical Consulting	
Adjudication Support	38,500
GSP Implementation - W&C	209,000
Stakeholder Engagement	97,200
Technical Support for DWR	10,000
Outreach	21,100
Grant Proposals	45,100
Grant Administration	30,000
Improve Basin Water Use Info	19,000
Other Technical Tasks	262,100
Total Technical Consulting	732,000
Other Technical Consulting	
Monitoring Network	75,000
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	53,200
CIMIS Station	74,000
Total Other Technical Consulting	202,200
Total Program Expenses	934,200
Total COGS	934,200
Gross Profit	-681,864
Expense	
General and Administrative	
Executive Director	
Board Meetings	136,700
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	50,000
Financial Information Coor	46,800
Support for DWR/Public Comments	14,100
Funding - GWE Fees	12,000
CMA Policy and Allocations	24,500
Outreach	20,500
Adjudication Support	24,100
Water Use Enforcement	2,000
Total Executive Director	330,700
Other Administrative	
Legal	250,000
Insurance Policies	21,400
Audit Fees	10,000
Printing and Copying	5,000
Other Admin Expense	4,200
Contingency	20,000
Total Other Administrative	310,600
Total General and Administrative	641,300
Total Expense	641,300
Net Ordinary Income	-1,323,164
Net Income	-1,323,164



Cuyama Basin GSA

Financial Statements

November 2025

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Financial Position
As of November 30, 2025

	Nov 30, 25	Nov 30, 24	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Chase - General Checking	1,223,648	97,568	1,126,080	1,154%
Total Checking/Savings	1,223,648	97,568	1,126,080	1,154%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	5,359	2,953,322	-2,947,963	-100%
Total Accounts Receivable	5,359	2,953,322	-2,947,963	-100%
Other Current Assets				
Grant Retention Receivable	710,665	0	710,665	100%
Total Other Current Assets	710,665	0	710,665	100%
Total Current Assets	1,939,672	3,050,889	-1,111,218	-36%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,939,672	3,050,889	-1,111,218	-36%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	330,772	1,052,591	-721,819	-69%
Total Accounts Payable	330,772	1,052,591	-721,819	-69%
Other Current Liabilities				
New/Repl Well Deposits	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Accrued Expenses	30,196	0	30,196	100%
Total Other Current Liabilities	30,196	3,100	27,096	874%
Total Current Liabilities	360,967	1,055,691	-694,724	-66%
Total Liabilities	360,967	1,055,691	-694,724	-66%
Equity				
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,022,095	2,346,115	-324,020	-14%
Net Income	-443,390	-350,916	-92,474	-26%
Total Equity	1,578,704	1,995,199	-416,494	-21%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,939,672	3,050,889	-1,111,218	-36%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Receipts and Disbursements
As of November 30, 2025

Type	Date	Num	Name	Debit	Credit
Chase - General Checking					
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1223	HGCPM, Inc.		41,881.43
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1224	Klein DeNatale Goldner		34,078.41
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1225	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		11,231.19
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1226	Woodard & Curran Inc		86,576.03
Payment	07/18/2025	25335	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Yeguada Trujillo	165.25	
Payment	07/18/2025	542062	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Grimmway Enterprises, Inc	66,896.75	
Payment	07/18/2025	10608	Groundwater Extraction Fees:JHP Global, Inc	1,771.50	
Payment	07/18/2025	2616	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Tri-County Pistachios	5,450.00	
Payment	07/18/2025	53647	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Cuyama Dairy Farm	1,711.65	
Deposit	07/18/2025		*	13.20	
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1227	HGCPM, Inc.		33,724.66
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1228	Klein DeNatale Goldner		18,160.50
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1229	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		12,886.35
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1230	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1231	Woodard & Curran Inc		73,258.46
Bill Pmt -Check	09/22/2025	1232	Campbell Scientific Inc.		20,267.35
Payment	09/24/2025	84963	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Duncan Family Farms	263.40	
Payment	10/22/2025	44177	Groundwater Extraction Fees:El Rancho Espanol	15.84	
Deposit	11/05/2025		*	602.07	
Payment	11/14/2025	864	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Lewis, David	246.64	
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1233	Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock		9,500.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1234	HGCPM, Inc.		54,312.10
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1235	Klein DeNatale Goldner		35,504.59
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1236	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		8,794.77
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1237	Woodard & Curran Inc		87,910.91
Deposit	11/25/2025			3.97	
Total Chase - General Checking				77,140.27	541,236.75
TOTAL				77,140.27	541,236.75

*Miscellaneous deposits consist of interest income from Santa Barbara County.

**CUYAMA BASIN GSA
A/R Aging Summary
As of November 30, 2025**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>> 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Groundwater Extraction Fees						
Yeguada Trujillo	0	4,791	0	0	0	4,791
Double H Farming, LLC	0	0	0	0	568	568
Total Groundwater Extraction Fees	<u>0</u>	<u>4,791</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>5,359</u>
TOTAL	<u>0</u>	<u>4,791</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>5,359</u>

**CUYAMA BASIN GSA
A/P Aging Summary
As of November 30, 2025**

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	> 90	TOTAL
Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000
HGCPM, Inc.	17,869	37,428	0	0	0	55,298
Klein DeNatale Goldner	20,990	7,609	0	0	0	28,599
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group	702	17,835	0	0	0	18,537
Sunridge Nurseries, Inc	54,055	0	0	0	0	54,055
U.S. Geological Survey	0	0	0	13,150	0	13,150
Woodard & Curran Inc	94,029	66,104	0	0	0	160,134
TOTAL	188,645	128,977	0	13,150	0	330,772

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
 July through November 2025

	Jul - Nov 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Direct Public Funds				
Groundwater Extraction Fees	184,110	180,000	4,110	102%
Grant Reimbursements	23,001	72,336	-49,335	32%
GWE Late Fees	1,243	0	1,243	100%
Total Direct Public Funds	208,354	252,336	-43,982	83%
Other Income				
Interest Income	619	0	619	100%
Total Other Income	619	0	619	100%
Total Income	208,973	252,336	-43,363	83%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Program Expenses				
Technical Consulting				
Adjudication Support	0	16,100	-16,100	0%
GSP Implementation - W&C	53,310	87,081	-33,771	61%
Stakeholder Engagement	45,235	40,500	4,735	112%
Technical Support for DWR	0	4,169	-4,169	0%
Outreach	0	8,794	-8,794	0%
Grant Administration	24,128	25,000	-873	97%
Improve Basin Water Use Info	6,296	7,919	-1,623	80%
Fault Investigation	114,666	0	114,666	100%
Other Technical Tasks	44,186	110,000	-65,814	40%
Total Technical Consulting	287,821	299,563	-11,742	96%
Other Technical Consulting				
Monitoring Network	59,889	31,250	28,639	192%
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	13,150	13,300	-150	99%
CIMIS Station	88,620	50,000	38,620	177%
Total Other Technical Consulting	161,660	94,550	67,110	171%
Total Program Expenses	449,480	394,113	55,367	114%
Total COGS	449,480	394,113	55,367	114%
Gross Profit	-240,507	-141,777	-98,730	170%
Expense				
General and Administrative				
Executive Director				
Board Meetings	53,346	57,000	-3,654	94%
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	41,318	20,845	20,473	198%
Financial Information Coor	15,488	19,500	-4,013	79%
Support for DWR/Public Comments	0	5,875	-5,875	0%
Funding - GWE Fees	2,370	0	2,370	100%
CMA Policy and Allocations	0	16,600	-16,600	0%
Outreach	3,725	8,544	-4,819	44%
Adjudication Support	2,720	10,044	-7,324	27%
Water Use Enforcement	0	831	-831	0%
Travel and Direct Costs	2,970	0	2,970	100%
Total Executive Director	121,936	139,239	-17,303	88%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
 July through November 2025

	Jul - Nov 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Other Administrative				
Legal	68,020	104,169	-36,150	65%
Audit Fees	10,500	10,000	500	105%
Printing and Copying	0	2,100	-2,100	0%
Other Admin Expense	2,428	4,000	-1,573	61%
Contingency	0	8,331	-8,331	0%
Total Other Administrative	<u>80,947</u>	<u>128,600</u>	<u>-47,653</u>	<u>63%</u>
Total General and Administrative	<u>202,883</u>	<u>267,839</u>	<u>-64,956</u>	<u>76%</u>
Total Expense	<u>202,883</u>	<u>267,839</u>	<u>-64,956</u>	<u>76%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-443,390</u>	<u>-409,616</u>	<u>-33,774</u>	<u>108%</u>
Net Income	<u>-443,390</u>	<u>-409,616</u>	<u>-33,774</u>	<u>108%</u>

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
FY 25/26 Budget
July 2025 - June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Funds	
Groundwater Extraction Fees	180,000
Grant Reimbursements	72,336
Total Direct Public Funds	252,336
Total Income	252,336
Cost of Goods Sold	
Program Expenses	
Technical Consulting	
Adjudication Support	38,500
GSP Implementation - W&C	209,000
Stakeholder Engagement	97,200
Technical Support for DWR	10,000
Outreach	21,100
Grant Proposals	45,100
Grant Administration	30,000
Improve Basin Water Use Info	19,000
Other Technical Tasks	262,100
Total Technical Consulting	732,000
Other Technical Consulting	
Monitoring Network	75,000
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	53,200
CIMIS Station	74,000
Total Other Technical Consulting	202,200
Total Program Expenses	934,200
Total COGS	934,200
Gross Profit	-681,864
Expense	
General and Administrative	
Executive Director	
Board Meetings	136,700
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	50,000
Financial Information Coor	46,800
Support for DWR/Public Comments	14,100
Funding - GWE Fees	12,000
CMA Policy and Allocations	24,500
Outreach	20,500
Adjudication Support	24,100
Water Use Enforcement	2,000
Total Executive Director	330,700
Other Administrative	
Legal	250,000
Insurance Policies	21,400
Audit Fees	10,000
Printing and Copying	5,000
Other Admin Expense	4,200
Contingency	20,000
Total Other Administrative	310,600
Total General and Administrative	641,300
Total Expense	641,300
Net Ordinary Income	-1,323,164
Net Income	-1,323,164



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 10

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Payment of Bills for October and November 2025

Recommended Motion

Approve payment of the bills for October and November 2025 in the amount of \$319,121.

Discussion

Consultant invoices for the months of October and November 2025 are summarized below for consideration of Board approval.

Expense	October	November	Totals
Woodard & Curran – Technical Services	\$66,104	\$94,029	\$160,133
Hallmark – Executive Director services	\$37,428	\$17,869	\$ 55,297
Sunridge Nurseries Inc	\$0	\$54,055	\$54,055
Klein DeNatale Goldner – Legal services	\$7,609	\$20,990	\$ 28,599
Provost & Pritchard – Quarterly groundwater levels	\$17,835	\$702	\$ 18,537
Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock – Audit services	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$2,500
TOTALS	\$130,476	\$188,645	\$319,121



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 11a

FROM: Brian Van Lienden and Sercan Ceyhan, Woodard & Curran

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Plan and Timeline to Evaluate Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area

Recommended Motion

Board feedback requested.

Discussion

On July 9, 2025, the Board approved staff's proposed plan outlining the technical tasks, coordination steps, and a draft schedule for evaluating if the current data and model is adequate to assess if allocations are required in the Ventucopa Management Area.

A technical approach to review the existing data and impact on the model was developed and reviewed with the basin Tech Forum on August 13, 2025, and the Ventucopa Ad hoc (Directors Albano, Bantilan, Reely, and Yurosek) on August 19, 2025.

At the September 3, 2025, Board meeting, staff reported that an assessment of allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area would not be ready for consideration until the January 2026 Board meeting (previously planned for November 2025) to allow incorporation of findings from the ongoing Santa Barbara Canyon Fault (SBCF) field investigation.

Since September, staff have continued refining the technical analysis and reviewed it with the Tech Forum on October 17, 2025, and the ad hoc on October 21, 2025. The findings from the data and model review, along with preliminary recommendations were presented to the Board on November 5, 2025.

An update on the SBCF investigation, recommended model updates, and estimated costs for the evaluation of allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area are included in **Attachment 1**. Staff is looking for feedback from the Board and SAC on how to consider the model recalibration.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

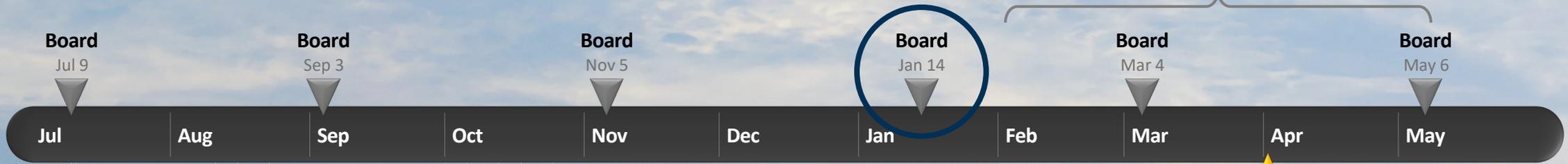
Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Plan and Timeline to
Evaluate Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area
Taylor Blakslee / Brian Van Lienden / Sercan Ceyhan



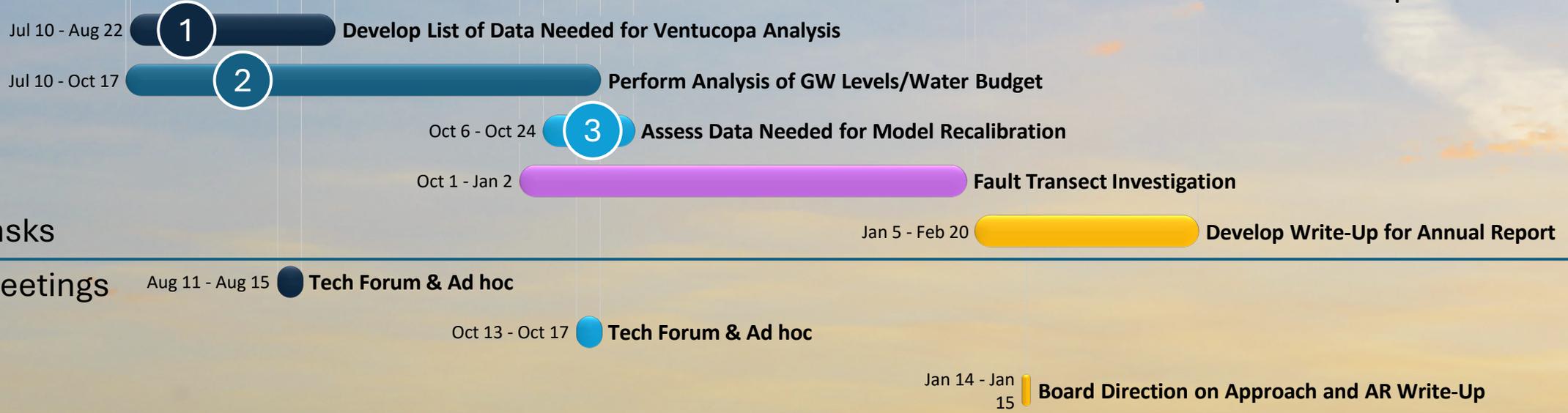
Ventucopa Management Area

Revised: Draft Plan/Timeline for Assessing the Implementation of Allocations

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Development



★
Apr 1
Annual Report Due



Tasks

Meetings

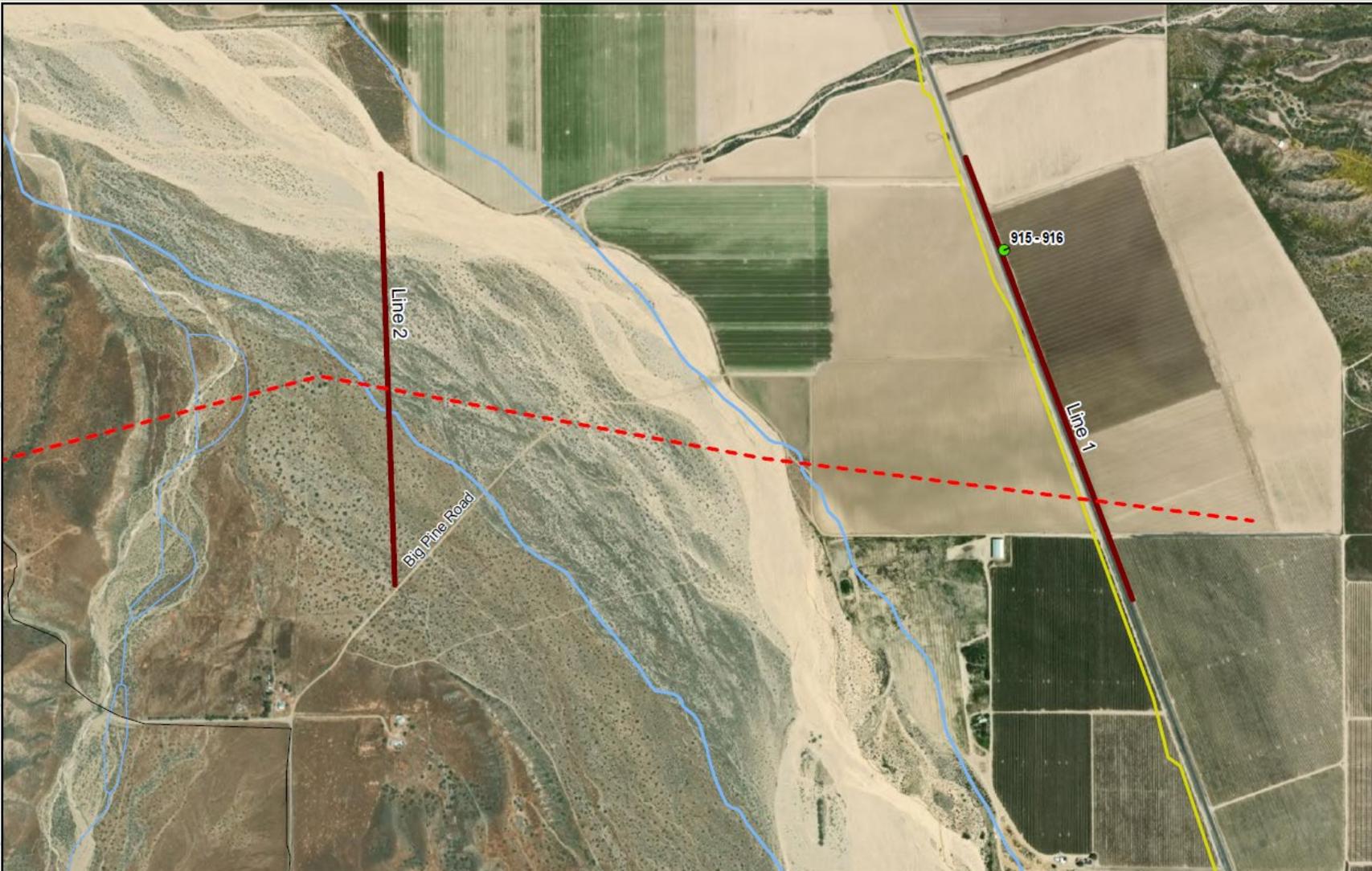
Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation

Jim Strandberg



Surface Geophysical Transects in the 2024 Investigation ³⁸



- **Line 1:**
 - Located in the Right-of-Way on west side of Highway 33
 - Depth of investigation was 800 feet
 - SBC Fault was NOT identified
- **Line 2:**
 - Located on a parcel of land owned by the U.S. BLM.
 - Depth of investigation was 600 feet
 - SBC Fault was identified near where it was expected
 - A second fault was also identified

Figure 3-1: Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Transects

Legend

- Fault (Dashed where Inferred by USGS)
- Survey Transect
- Opti Monitoring Well
- Highway
- Local Road
- Creek
- Cuyama River
- Cuyama Basin



Woodard & Curran



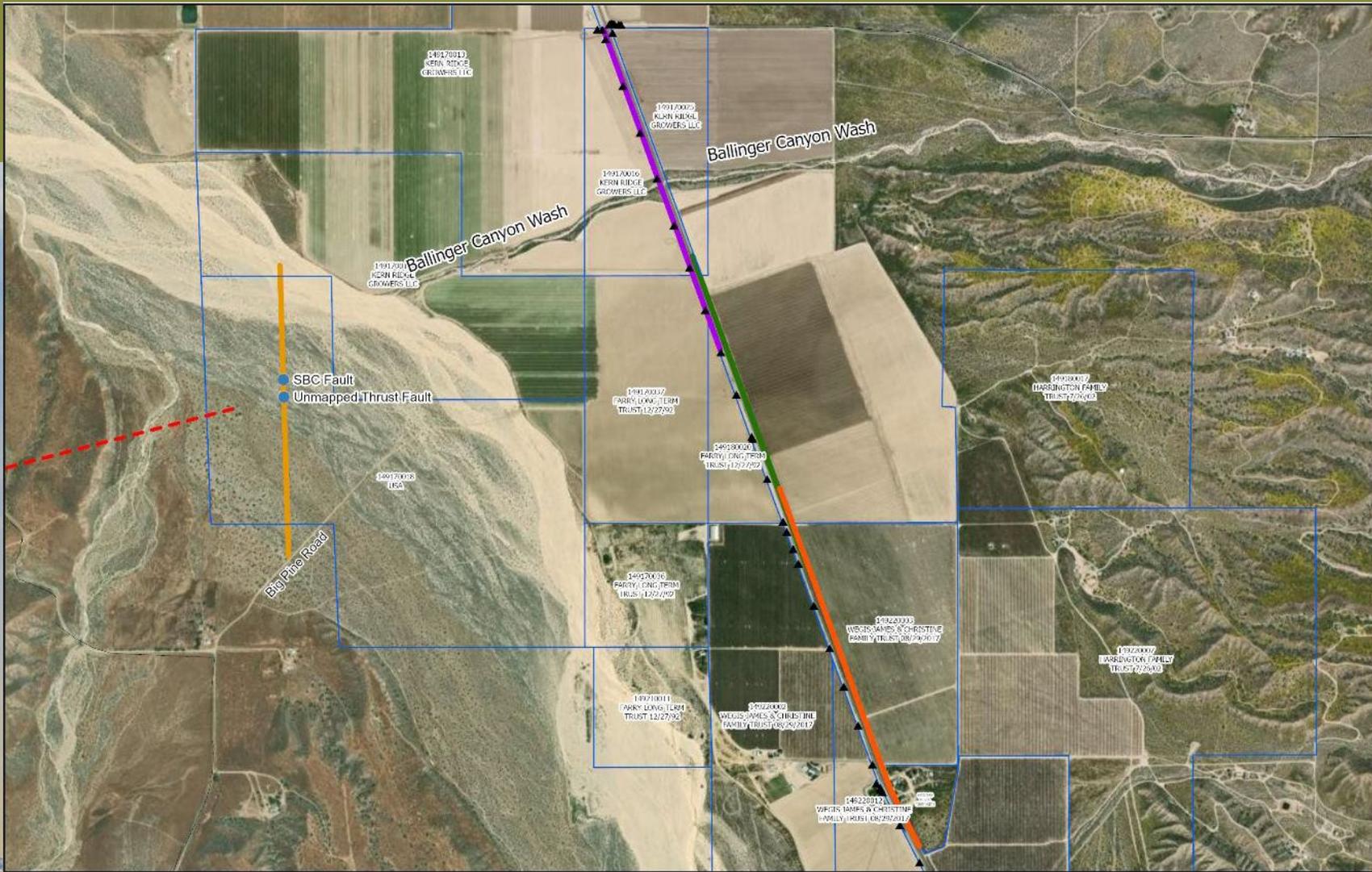
0 0.05 0.1 0.2

HALLMARK GROUP Woodard & Curran

Schedule for Additional Investigation

- August-September 2025 - outreach to stakeholders and field confirmation of new transects 3 and 4.
- October 2025 – field investigation.
- October-December 2025 – data analysis by Spectrum Geophysics.
- December 2025 – Spectrum results to W&C.
- January 2026 – Spectrum draft report to W&C.
- February 2026 – W&C addendum to 2024 report to GSA.

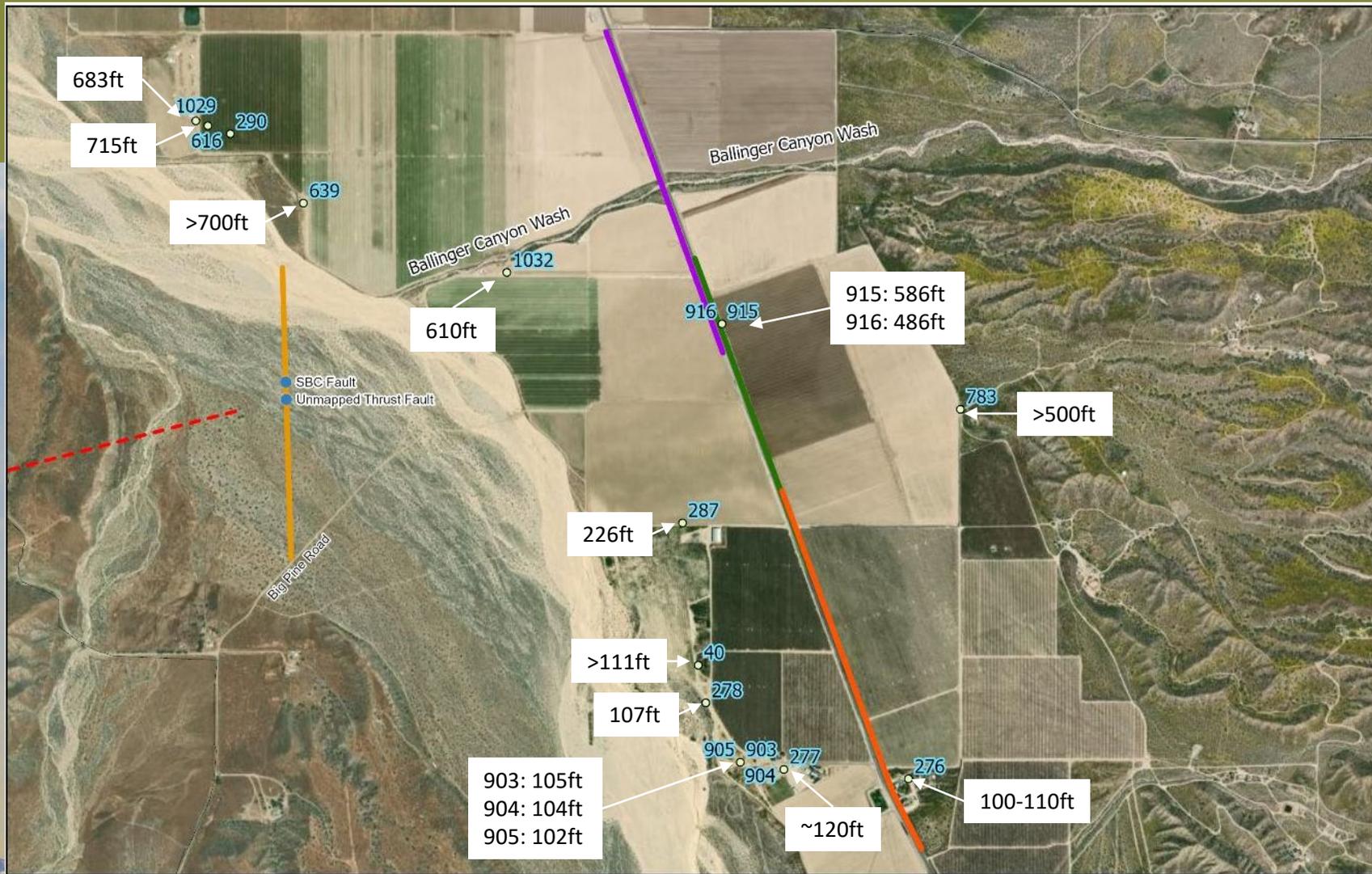
Transects Performed in the 2025 Investigation



- Consistent approach with 2024 investigation. Linear array of electrodes with 10-meter spacing. Measured electrical resistivity and induced polarization.
- Transect 3 was 3,600 feet long; data collected to depth of 820 feet. Approved by Kern Ridge Growers.
- Transect 4 was 4,100 feet long; data collected to depth of 850 feet. Approved by Harrington, Wegis, and Mitzel.
- Data quality was excellent.

<p>Additional SBC Fault Transects</p> <p>Cuyama Basin Groundwater Fault Investigation</p>	<p>Legend</p>	<p>--- Fault (Dashed where Inferred by USGS)</p> <p>— Line 1</p>	<p>— Line 2 with Faults Identified</p> <p>— Line 3 (3,600 ft)</p>	<p>— Line 4 (4,100 ft)</p> <p>□ Parcel Boundaries</p> <p>▲ Telephone Pole</p>	<p>N</p> <p>Woodard & Curran</p> <p>CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT</p> <p>0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet</p> <p>Map Created: December 2025</p>
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Water Levels in Wells near the Transects 1-4



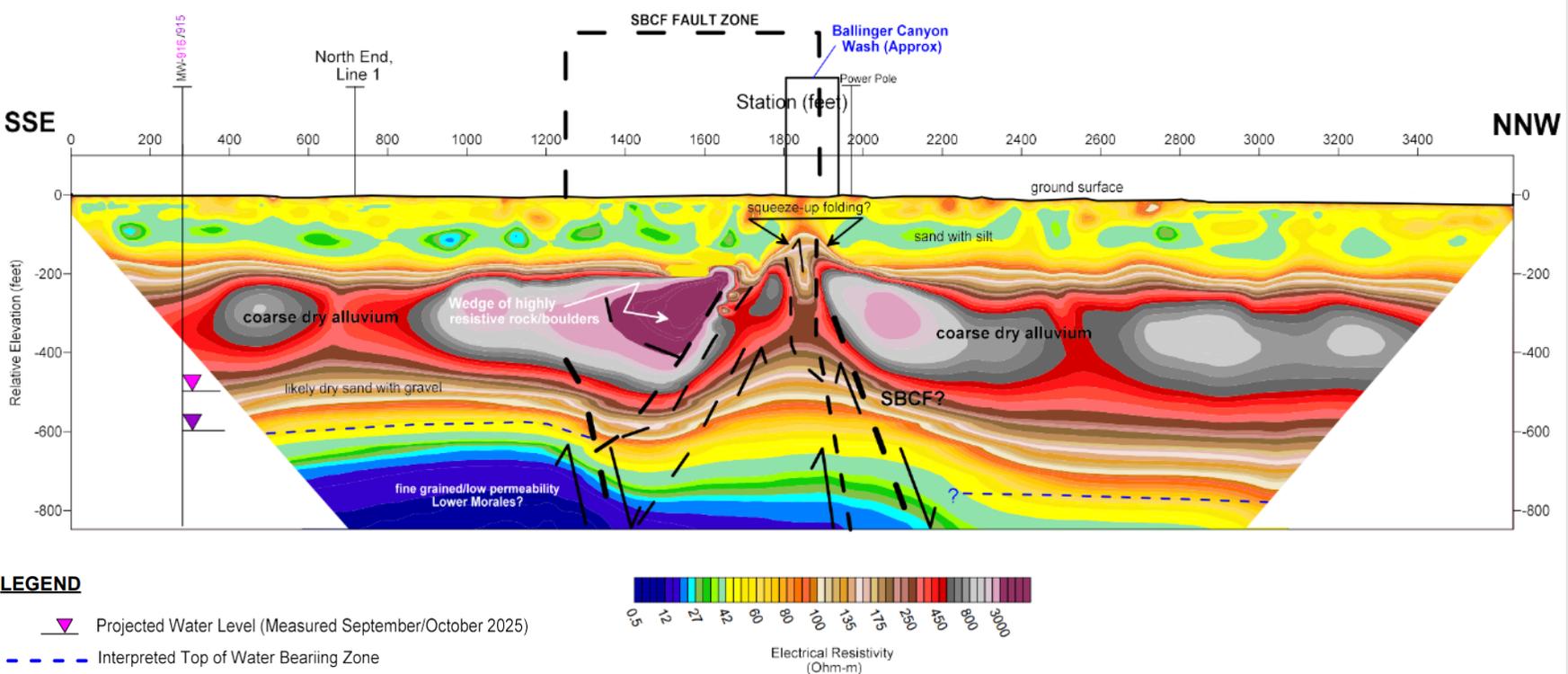
- Water Level measurements at OPTI wells (shown in blue)
 - 903-905, 915 & 916 measured in October 2025.
 - 287 & 783 measured in Sept. 2025.
 - 278 & 40 measured in May 2024.
 - 1032 & 1029 measured in Feb. 2022.
 - 276, 276, & 639 levels obtained verbally from well owner.
- Correlated resistivity/IP data with known water levels.
- Significant difference in water levels occurs south of Ballinger Canyon Wash.

<p>Additional SBC Fault Transects</p> <p>Cuyama Basin Groundwater Fault Investigation</p>	<p>Legend</p>	<p>--- Fault (Dashed where Inferred by USGS)</p> <p>— Line 1</p>	<p>— Line 2 with Faults Identified</p> <p>— Line 3 (3,600 ft)</p>	<p>— Line 4 (4,100 ft)</p> <p>○ Selected DMS Wells</p>	<p>Map Created: December 2025</p> <p>Woodard & Curran</p> <p>CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT</p>
		<p>">500ft" = Depth below ground surface</p>			<p>0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet</p>

Line 3 Electrical Resistivity Profile

DRAFT

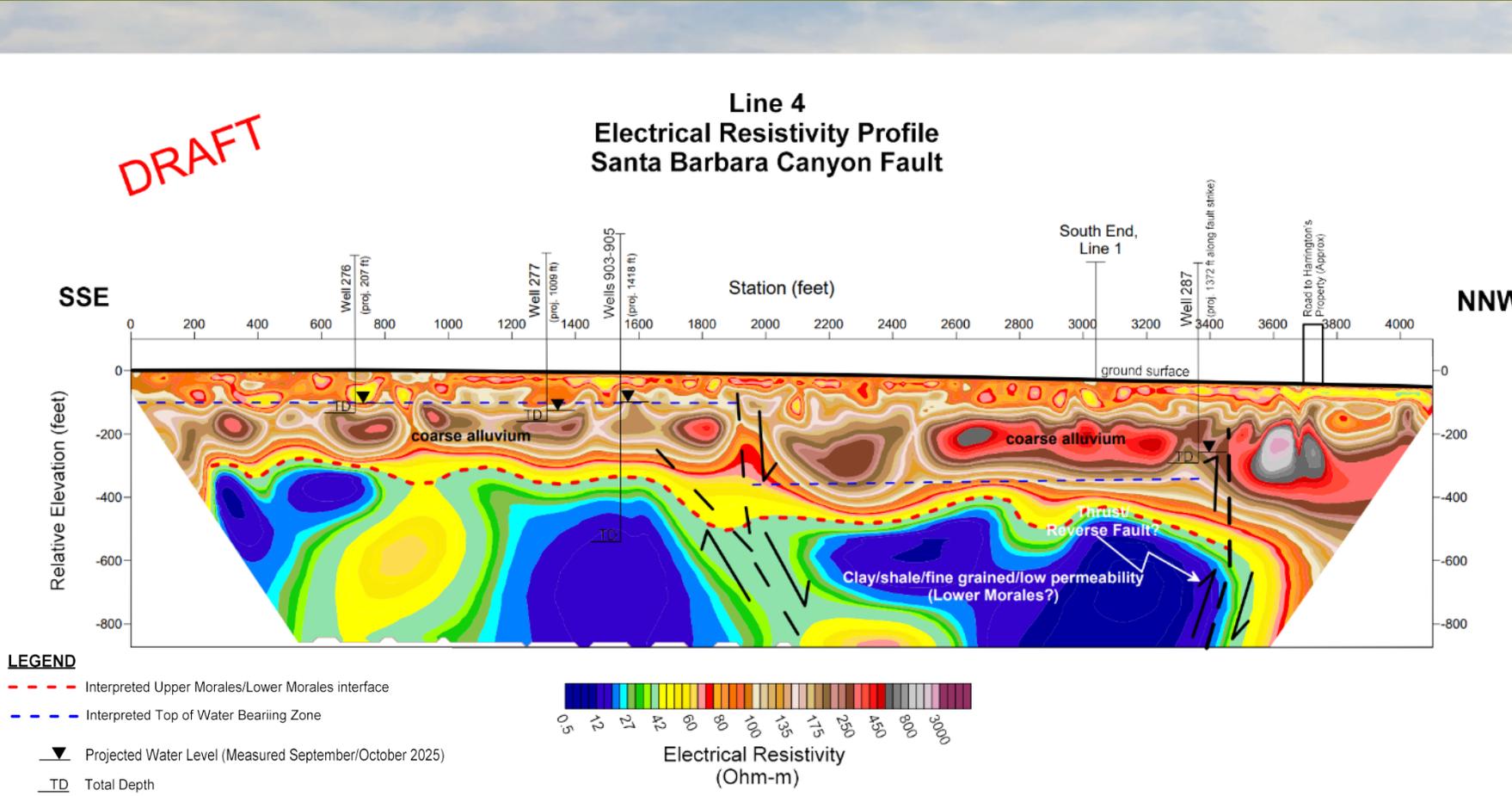
Line 3 Electrical Resistivity Profile Santa Barbara Canyon Fault



Primary Features:

- Complex, roughly 600-foot wide steeply north dipping fault zone (SBC Fault Zone) beneath Ballinger Cyn Wash
- Correlates to SBC Fault on Line 2.
- SBC Fault Zone appears to be transtensional at depth and reactivated as transpressional with younger sub-vertical fault splays
- Water levels appear to be offset by roughly 200 feet across the Ballinger Canyon Wash

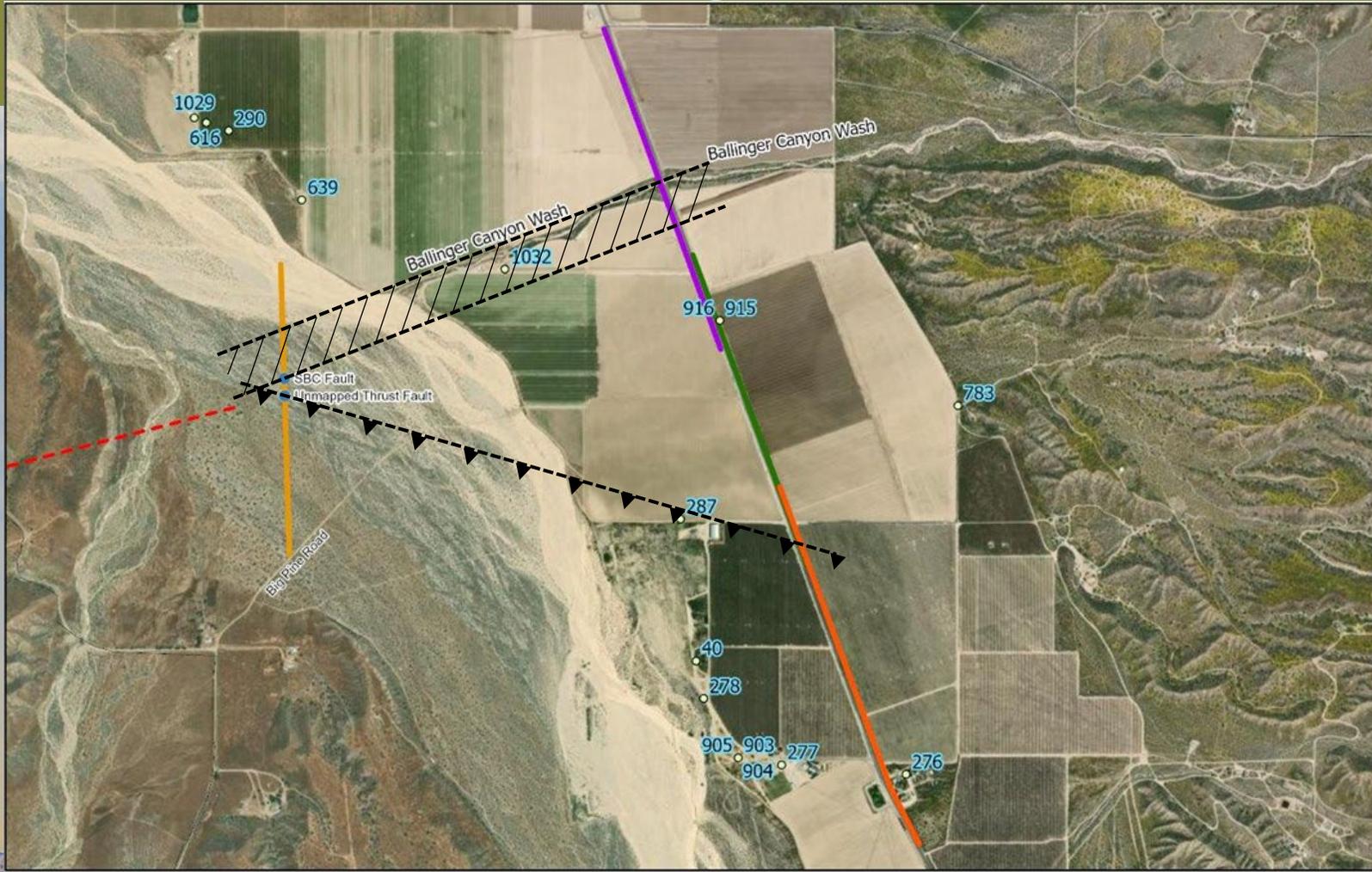
Line 4 Electrical Resistivity Profile



Primary Features:

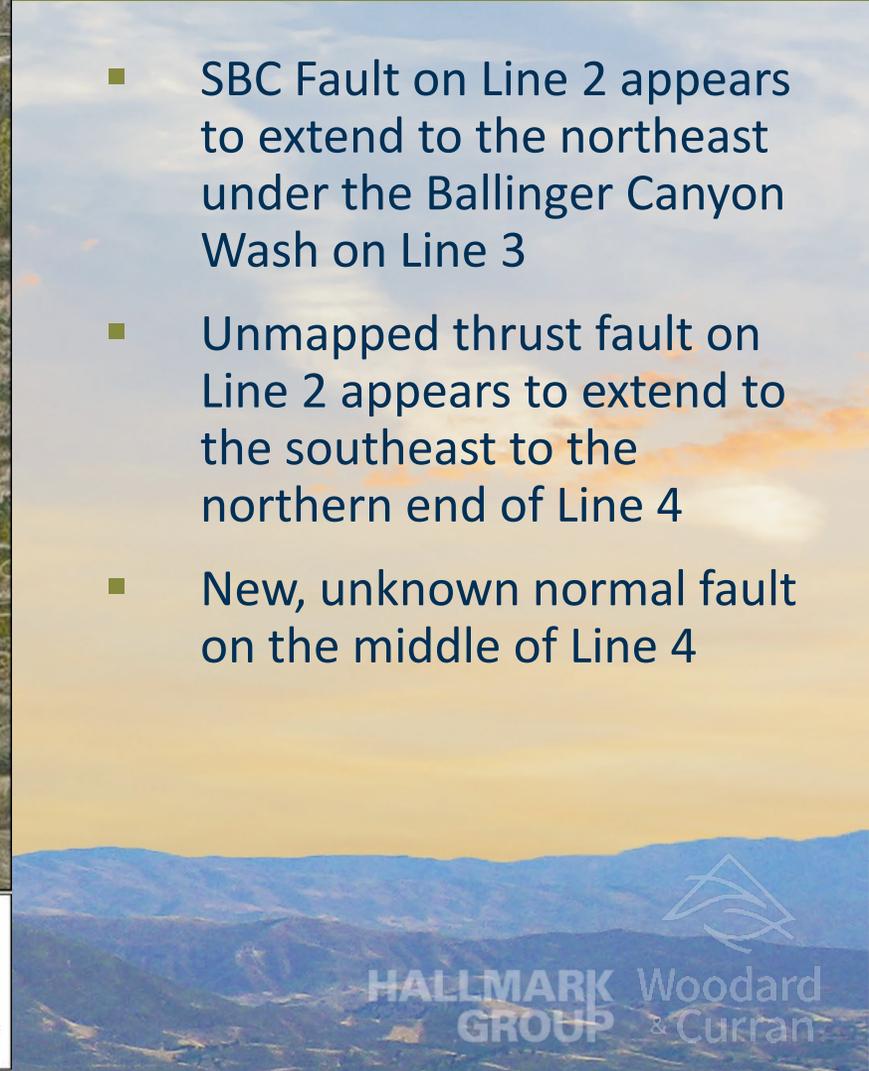
- Steeply south dipping unknown thrust fault appears to thrust Lower Morales over Upper Morales
- Younger vertical extension appears to offset water levels
- Unknown thrust fault on north end correlates to the unnamed thrust fault on Line 2
- New, unknown normal fault offsets units and water levels below 100 feet of ground surface

Projection of Faults/Fault Zones based on 2024 and 2025 Investigations

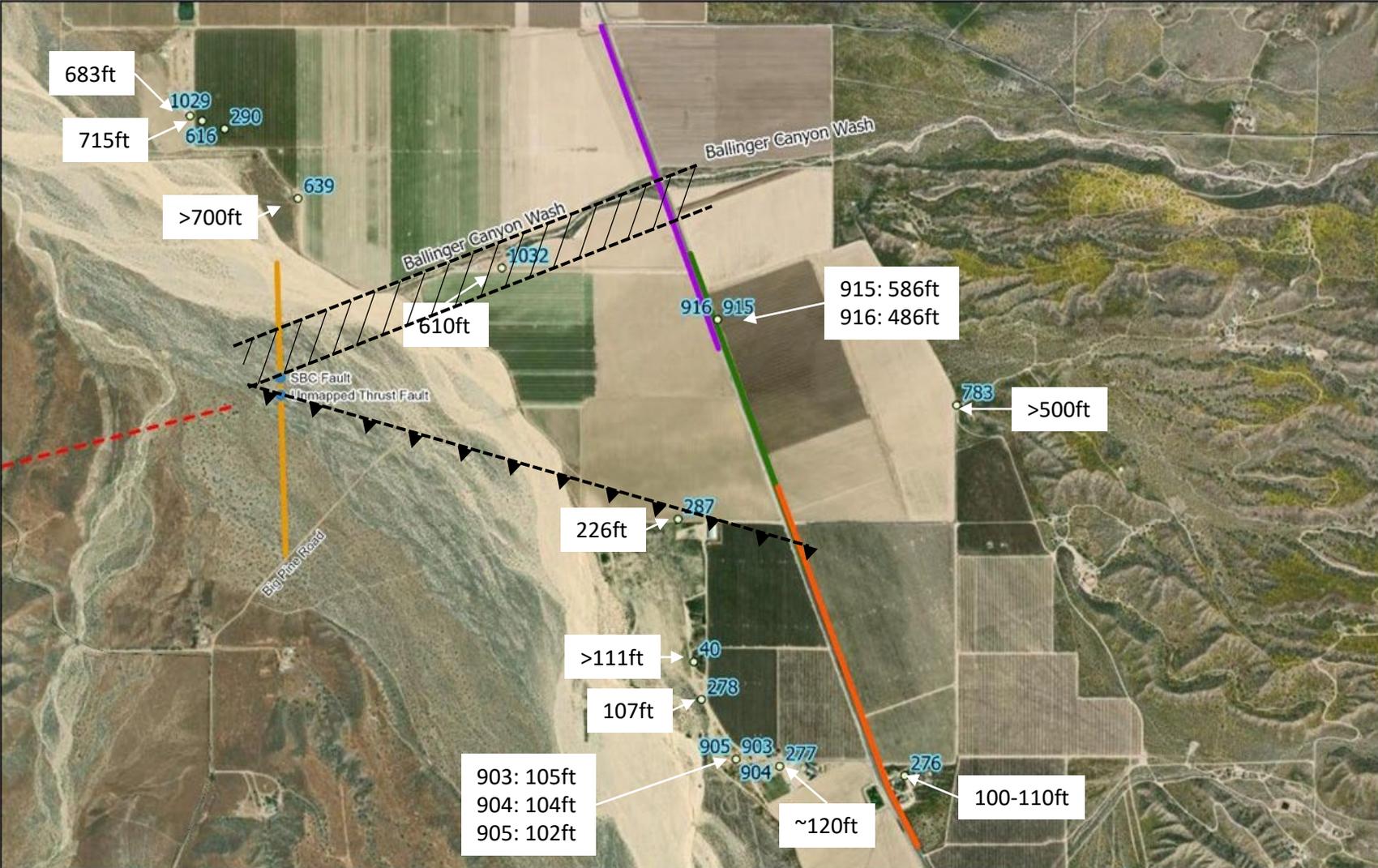


- SBC Fault on Line 2 appears to extend to the northeast under the Ballinger Canyon Wash on Line 3
- Unmapped thrust fault on Line 2 appears to extend to the southeast to the northern end of Line 4
- New, unknown normal fault on the middle of Line 4

<p>Additional SBC Fault Transects</p> <p>Cuyama Basin Groundwater Fault Investigation</p>	<p>Legend</p>	<p>--- Fault (Dashed where Inferred by USGS)</p> <p>— Line 1</p>	<p>— Line 2 with Faults Identified</p> <p>— Line 3 (3,600 ft)</p>	<p>— Line 4 (4,100 ft)</p> <p>○ Selected DMS Wells</p>	<p>N</p> <p>Woodard & Curran</p> <p>CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION</p> <p>0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet</p> <p>Map Created: December 2025</p>
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Presence of Faults with Water Level Data



- New, unknown normal fault on Line 4 appears to offset water levels by roughly 100 feet between wells 278 and 287
- Unmapped thrust fault on Lines 2 and 4 appears to further offset water levels at least 350 feet between wells 287 and 915
- SBC Fault Zone appears to further offset water levels by more than 100 feet north of the Ballinger Canyon Wash

<p>Additional SBC Fault Transects</p> <p>Cuyama Basin Groundwater Fault Investigation</p>	<p>Legend</p>	<p>--- Fault (Dashed where Inferred by USGS)</p> <p>— Line 1</p>	<p>— Line 2 with Faults Identified</p> <p>— Line 3 (3,600 ft)</p>	<p>— Line 4 (4,100 ft)</p> <p>○ Selected DMS Wells</p>	<p>N</p> <p>Woodard & Curran</p> <p>CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION</p> <p>0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet</p> <p>Map Created: December 2025</p>
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">500ft" = Depth below ground surface



Next Steps

- January 2026 – W&C to review draft report addendum from Spectrum.
- February 2026 – W&C to submit an Addendum to 2024 SBC Fault Investigation Report to GSA.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Recommended Model Updates for Evaluation of Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area



Preliminary Recommendation from Ventucopa Data and Model Review (as presented in Nov 2025)

- Cuyama Basin Water Resource Model (CBWRM) in its current state has limitations to adequately simulate the aquifer recovery observed in the wet years near Ventucopa.
- Therefore, the 2ft/yr GWL decline contour estimated by CBWRM v0.30 Baseline may not be a good indicator of the long-term conditions and the sustainable yield near Ventucopa.
- It is recommended to resolve the issues identified in this analysis before using CBWRM in the allocation calculations near Ventucopa Management Area.

Preliminary Recommended CBWRM Model for Ventucopa Analysis (as presented in Nov 2025)

- Areas for potential improvement:
 1. Incorporate findings of the SBCF investigation into the model
 - Improved representation of the depth and extent of the fault,
 - Improved stratigraphy near the fault
 2. Streamflows from the foothill areas and surrounding canyons draining to Cuyama River
 - Revise the SWS module parameters to better align the streamflow and subflow outputs OR
 - An independent Rainfall-Runoff model for the foothill areas with more comprehensive technical formulation of rainfall-recharge conditions is expected to better represent the historical streamflows and be used to improve the estimated Baseline conditions

Preliminary Recommended CBWRM Model for Ventucopa Analysis (as presented in Nov 2025)

- Areas for potential improvement:
 3. Subsurface flows from Quatal Canyon and Ozena
 - An isotope study/geochemical analysis may help to quantify the subsurface inflows
 4. Representation of the stream geometry
 - A hydraulic model using the LiDAR survey of the Cuyama River channel can help produce rating tables at the desired resolution
 5. Recalibration of the CBWRM near and upstream of Ventucopa
 - Re-calibration of the Model for aquifer and streambed parameters upon completion of the above changes can improve model accuracy and long-term trend estimation for use in allocation process

November 5, 2025 Board Direction

- On November 5, 2025, the board directed staff to present a cost estimate for regional model recalibration for the Ventucopa Area, which is provided on the following slide.

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Proposed Model Improvements

Ref. #	Model Improvement Area	Range of Estimated Cost	Notes
1	Incorporate findings of the SBCF investigation into the model	\$35-60,000	Higher end includes revising the model grid to better align with the parcels near Ventucopa.
2	Streamflows from the foothill areas and surrounding canyons draining to Cuyama River	\$15-50,000	Lower end recalibrates CBWRM small watersheds module, higher end uses an independent hydrologic model such as WEHY or HEC-HMS.
3	Subsurface flows from Quatal Canyon and Ozena	\$15-40,000	Lower end assumes simple geochemistry and isotope analysis. Higher end assumes more advanced tests.
4	Representation of the stream geometry	\$60-80,000	Setting up a hydraulic model for the Cuyama River to create rating tables.
5	Recalibration of the CBWRM near and upstream of Ventucopa	\$35-50,000	Manual calibration of aquifer and streambed parameters in the vicinity of Ventucopa to better match observed GWLs.
	Total	\$160-280,000	

Board Direction Needed

Potential Options:

1. Include VMA model recalibration in FY 26-27 budget (and refine scope of work based on tech forum feedback).
2. Consider VMA model recalibration during FY 26-27 budget process (ad hoc to review and develop recommendation for full board review in March/May).
3. Do not consider model recalibration at this time but evaluate during annual budgeting process.
4. Defer until next model update (to occur a at minimum of every 5 years ahead of periodic evaluation; next update is scheduled for 2027).



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 11b

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Options to Address New Pumping Outside Management Areas

Recommended Motion

Board feedback requested.

Discussion

On July 9, 2025, the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board directed staff to prepare a list of options to address new pumping outside the existing management areas.

On September 3, 2025, staff and legal counsel presented a range of management approaches, including basin-wide allocations, additional management areas, and limits on increased pumping outside the Central Management Area. The Board directed staff to continue developing a combined approach of Options 3 and 4, which advances basin-wide management while preventing new or expanded pumping outside existing management areas.

On November 5, 2025, staff provided an overview of the current management of water use in the basin according to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Board policy. Staff reminded the Board that one of the Board policies was for staff to perform an annual assessment to evaluate if water use outside the Central Management Area required further management and potential localized allocations. A summary of the draft approach to performing this annual evaluation of increased water use is provided as **Attachment 1** for SAC/Board feedback.



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 12ai

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Report on Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Schedule

Recommended Motion

None – informational only.

Discussion

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) approved the use of a groundwater extraction fee to fund the administration of the CBGSA. The groundwater extraction fee is based on the Fiscal Year budget and water use from the previous calendar year.

An outline of the process for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027) budget and groundwater extraction fee is provided as **Attachment 1**.

The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 groundwater extraction fee will be based on metered water use for calendar year 2025. However, water users using 25 acre-feet or less per year will provide water use using crop factor forms with a conversion factor to convert from a net water use to a gross use (to be consistent with metered reporters).



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 12ai

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Report on Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Schedule

Recommended Motion

None – informational only.

Discussion

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) approved the use of a groundwater extraction fee to fund the administration of the CBGSA. The groundwater extraction fee is based on the Fiscal Year budget and water use from the previous calendar year.

An outline of the process for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027) budget and groundwater extraction fee is provided as **Attachment 1**.

The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 groundwater extraction fee will be based on metered water use for calendar year 2025. However, water users using 25 acre-feet or less per year will provide water use using crop factor forms with a conversion factor to convert from a net water use to a gross use (to be consistent with metered reporters).

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and Groundwater Extraction Fee Development Process

	Description	Timeframe	Tasks
Step 1	Determine 2026 Water Use	Jan-Feb 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email known pumpers and request meter data Mail all parcel owners to collect “small pumper” water use, identify de minimis users and potential new water users
Step 2	Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget	Feb-Apr 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review with Board ad hoc
Step 3	Develop Groundwater Extraction Fee Report	Feb-Apr 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee Report is based on FY 26-27 budget and 2025 water use Fee Report approval is contingent upon Board adoption of FY 26-27 budget
Step 4	Review Long-Term Fee Policy	Mar 4, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board voted to annually review the need for a long-term fee policy on March 3, 2022
Step 5	Schedule Public Rate Hearing	Schedule during Board meeting on May 6, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post notice in Santa Maria Times Mail notice to all parcel owners Email stakeholders
Step 6	Board to Consider Adoption of FY 2026-2027 Budget and Groundwater Extraction Fee Report	May 6, 2026	
Step 7	Distribute Invoices to Water Users	Mid-May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email and mail invoices



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 13a

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) activities and consultant Woodard & Curran's (W&C) accomplishments are provided as **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities

Brian Van Lienden



Nov-Dec Accomplishments

- ✓ Performed updated assessment of model data needs in the Ventucopa Management Area
- ✓ Performed technical analysis of results of geophysical field surveys for the updated Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation
- ✓ Developed quarterly groundwater level conditions and annual groundwater quality conditions reports
- ✓ Performed DMS data updates
- ✓ Prepared documentation for grant completion



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 13b

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Grant-Funded Projects

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

An update on Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) grant-funded projects is provided as **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Grant-Funded Projects

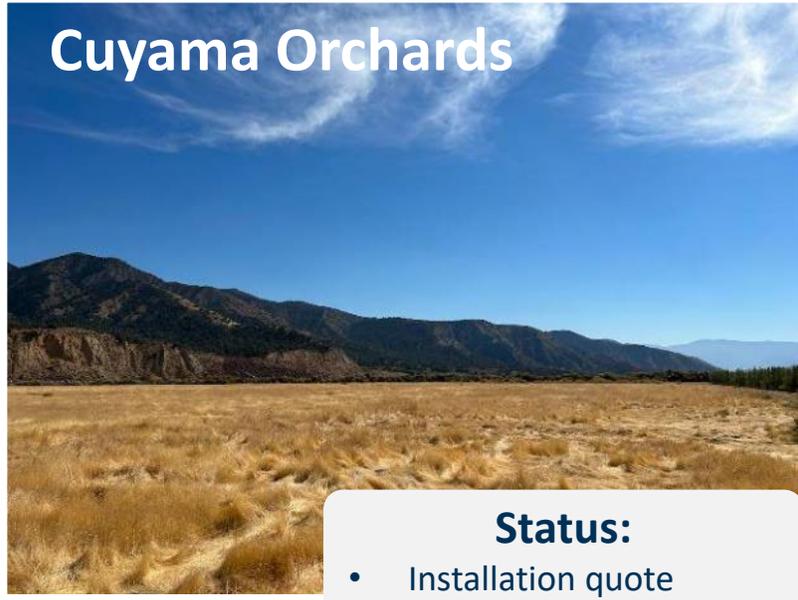
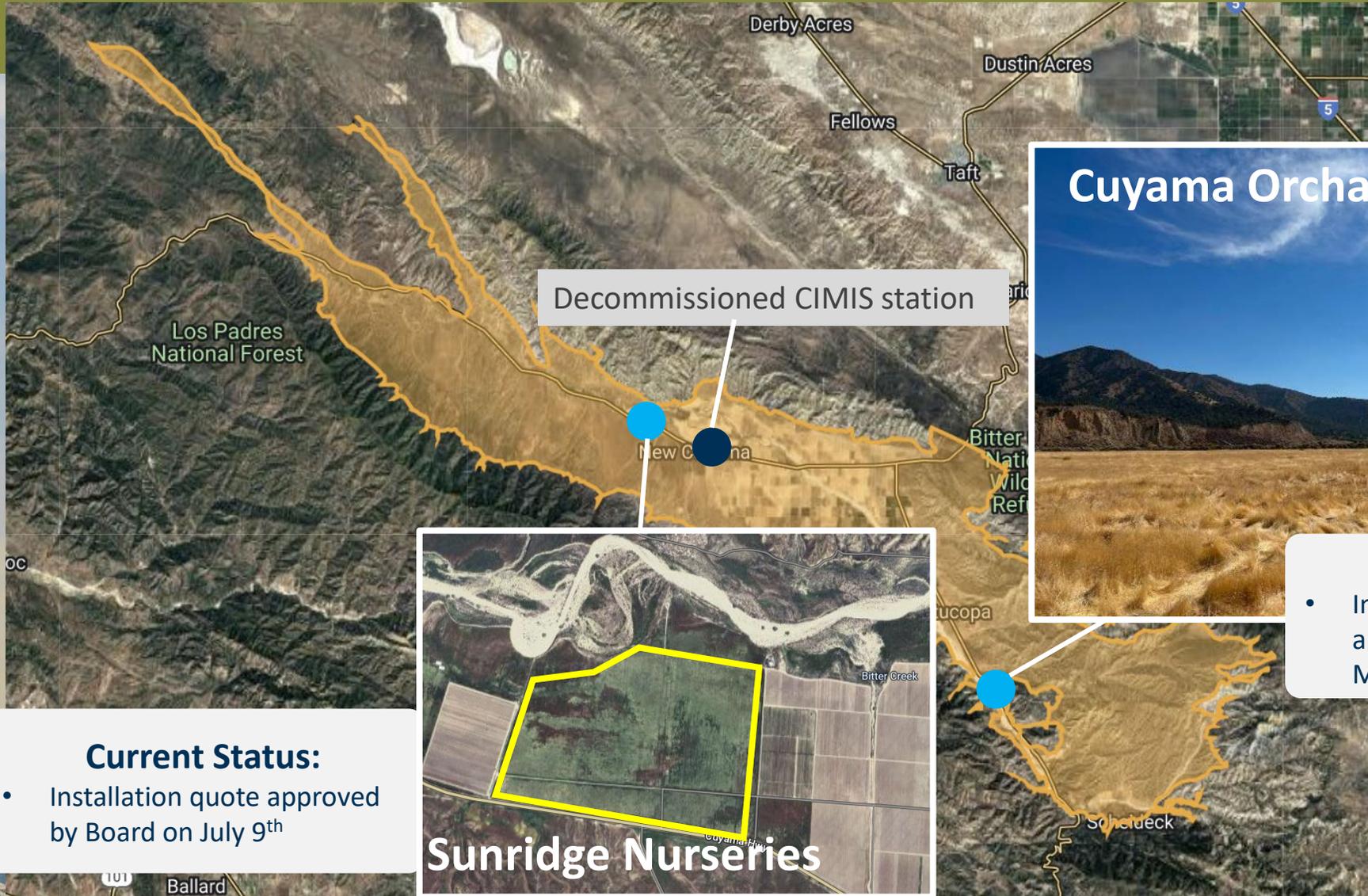
Brian Van Lienden



Update on Grant Funded Projects

- CIMIS station installation:
 - Amended grant agreement allows for reimbursement of work completed through March 2026
 - CIMIS stations are currently anticipated to be installed by February 2026
- Work on all other technical grant components is complete as of the end of June 2025

Sites for New CIMIS Stations



Cuyama Orchards

Status:

- Installation quote approved by Board on Mar 5th

Current Status:

- Installation quote approved by Board on July 9th



Sunridge Nurseries



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 13c

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on October 2025 Groundwater Level and Quality Conditions Reports

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

The quarterly Groundwater Conditions– Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin October 2025 report and Annual Groundwater Quality Conditions Report is summarized as **Attachment 1**. The detailed annual Groundwater Quality Conditions Report and October 2025 Groundwater Conditions Report are provided as **Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**, respectively.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Quarterly Groundwater Conditions Report

Brian Van Lienden

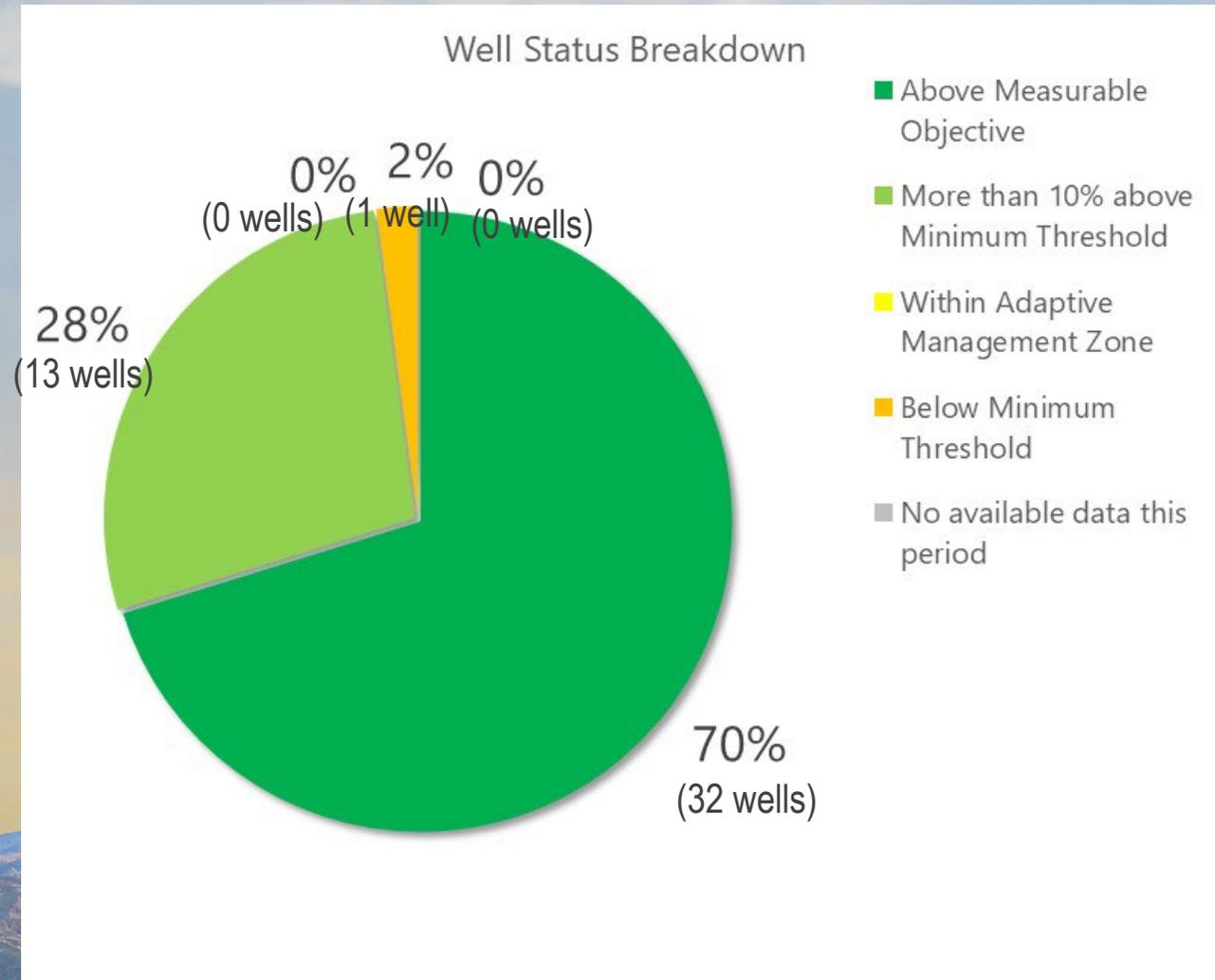


Groundwater Levels Monitoring Network – Summary of Current Conditions

- Monitoring data from April 2025, July 2025, and October 2025 for representative wells is included in the Groundwater Conditions report
- All 47 representative monitoring wells have levels data at least once in the previous 15 months
- 1 well is below the updated minimum threshold based on latest measurement since July 2024

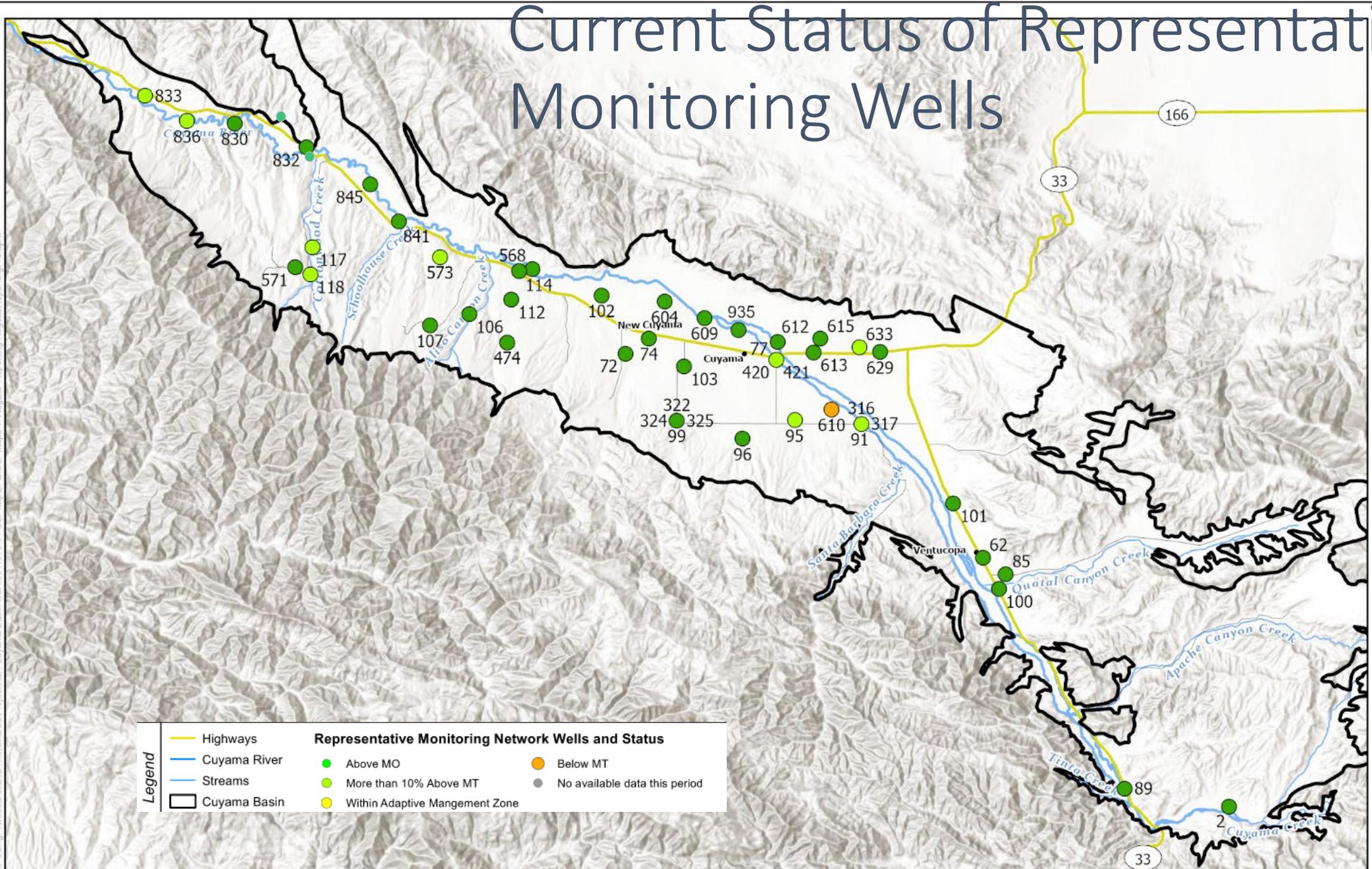
Summary of Groundwater Well Levels as Compared To Sustainability Criteria

- 1 well is currently below the updated minimum threshold (MT)
 - 1 wells (2%) has been below the MT for at least 24 months
 - 0 wells dropped below the MT in October 2025
 - 3 wells moved above the MT in October 2025



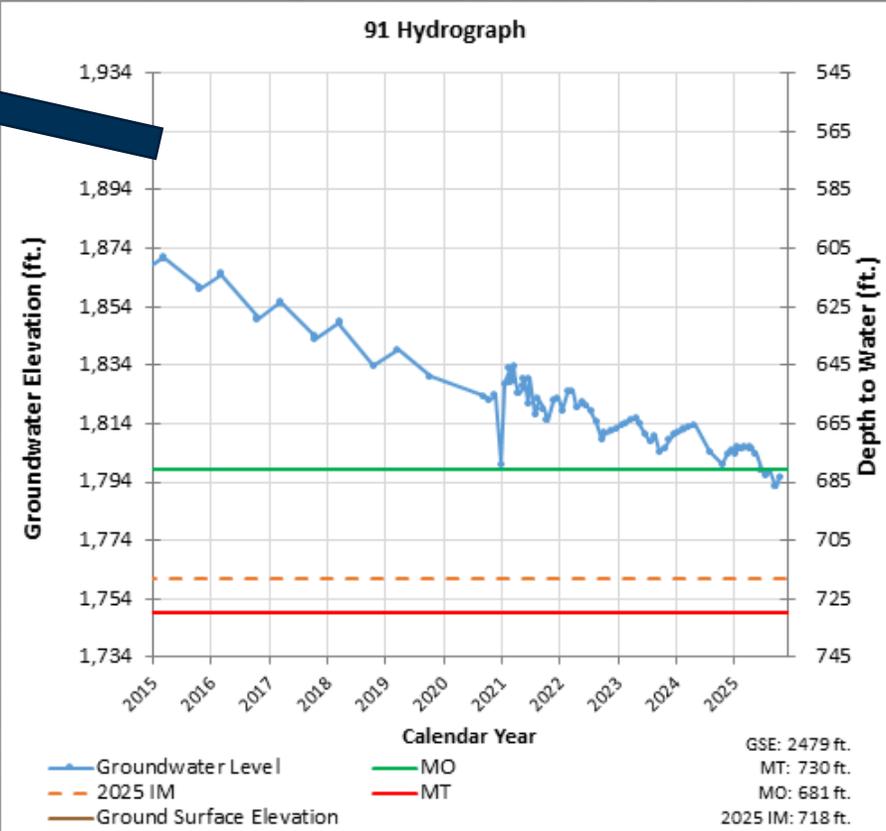
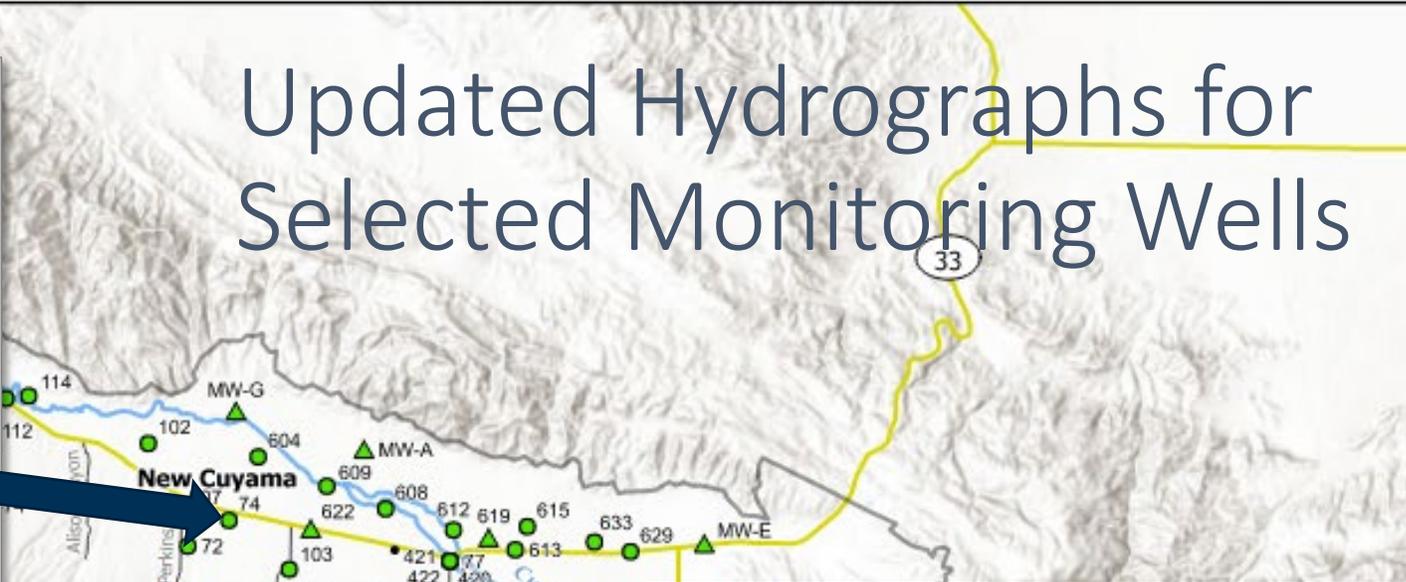
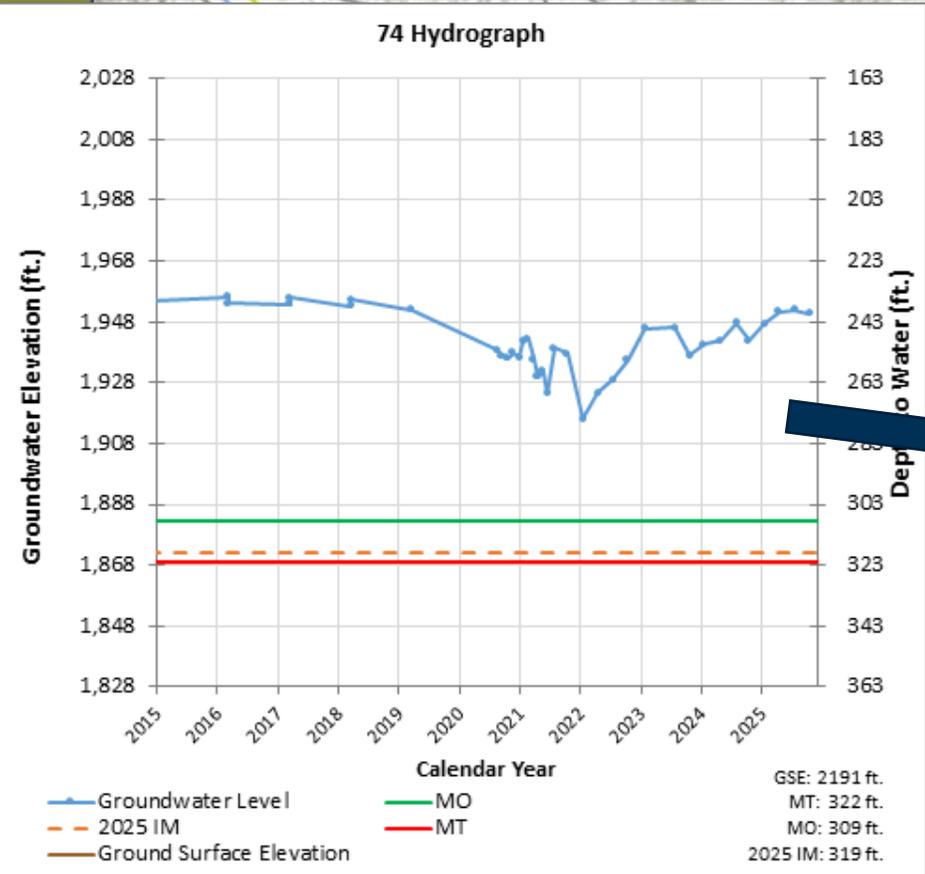
Current Status of Representative Monitoring Wells

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Legend	Highways	Representative Monitoring Network Wells and Status	
	Cuyama River	Above MO	Below MT
	Streams	More than 10% Above MT	No available data this period
	Cuyama Basin	Within Adaptive Mangement Zone	

Updated Hydrographs for Selected Monitoring Wells



Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Annual Groundwater Quality Conditions Report

Brian Van Lienden

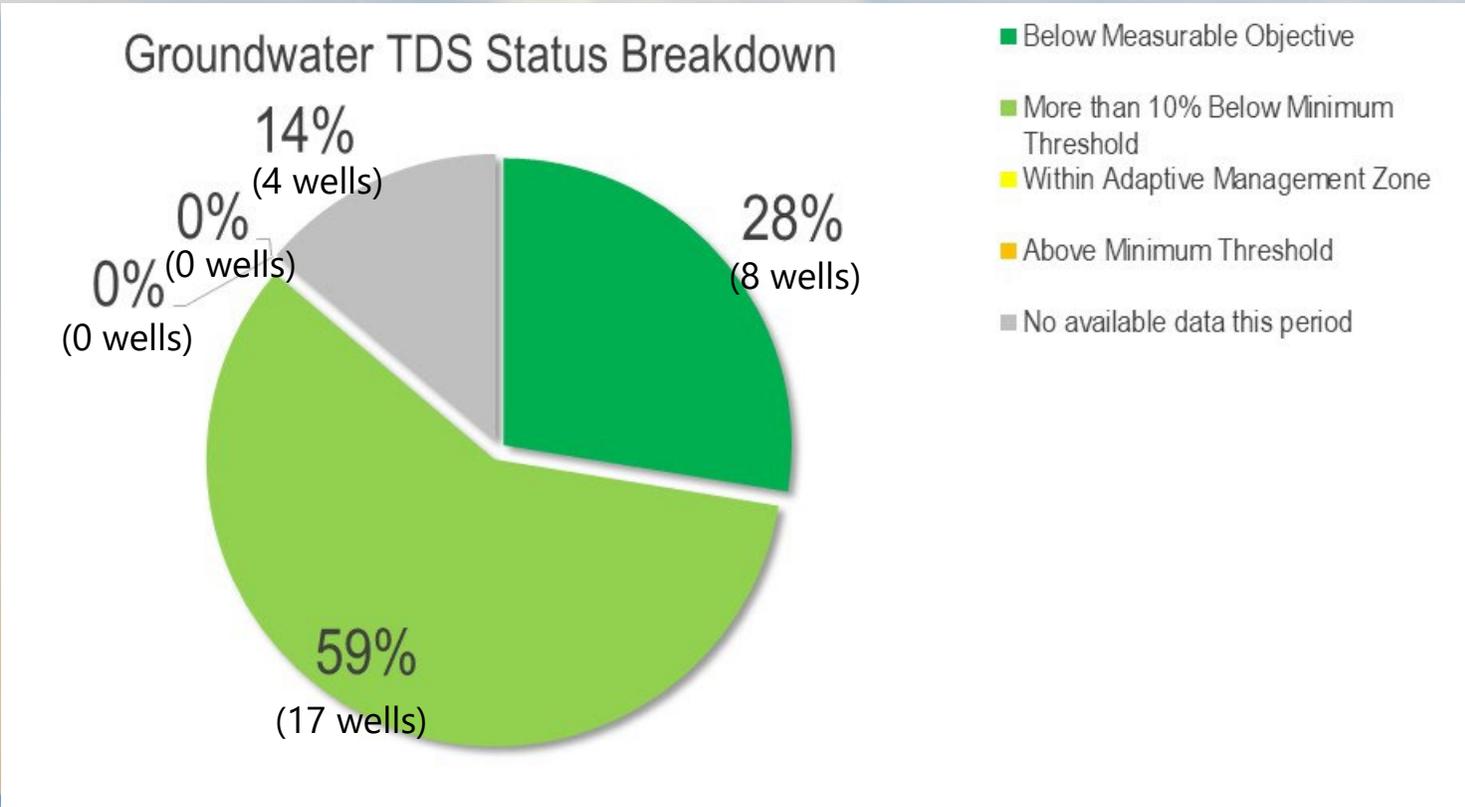


Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network – Summary of Current Conditions

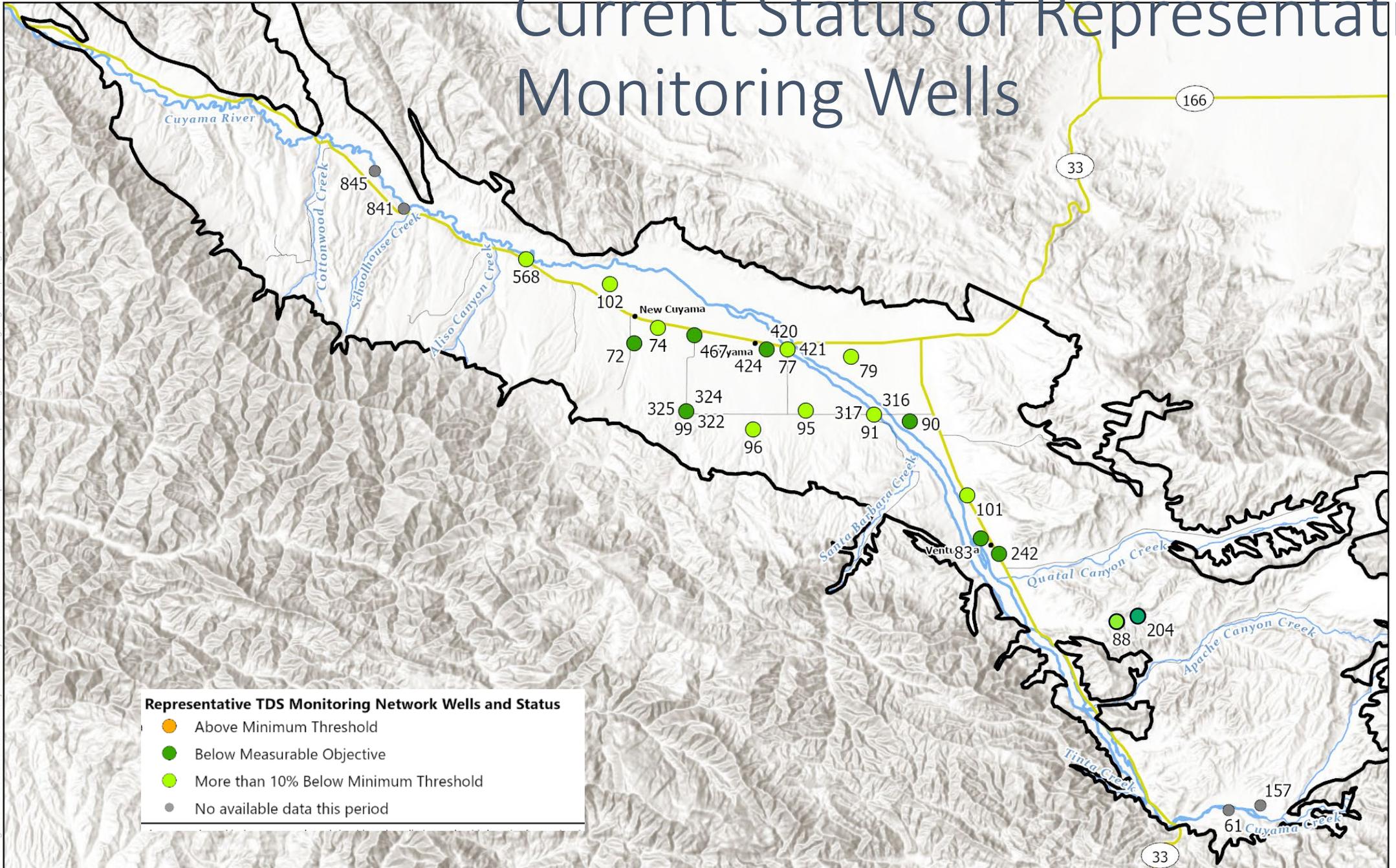
- Monitoring data collected by P&P in October and December 2025 for is included in the Groundwater Quality Conditions report
 - The report also includes transducer data collected at groundwater quality wells in October 2025
- The report reflects the updated monitoring network and sustainability criteria included in the 2025 GSP Update
- 25 representative monitoring wells and 23 other wells have TDS or EC measurements in 2025

Summary of Groundwater Well TDS Measurements as Compared To Sustainability Criteria

- 0 the 25 wells with a measurement in 2025 currently exceed the minimum threshold (MT)
- 4 representative wells did not have a measurement, in most cases because landowner agreement could not be obtained



Current Status of Representative Monitoring Wells



Representative TDS Monitoring Network Wells and Status

- Above Minimum Threshold
- Below Measurable Objective
- More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold
- No available data this period

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**GROUNDWATER
QUALITY
CONDITIONS
REPORT –
CUYAMA VALLEY
GROUNDWATER
BASIN**

December 2025

801 T Street
Sacramento, CA
916.999.8700

woodardcurran.com

0011078.01
**Cuyama Valley
Groundwater
Sustainability Agency**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE NO.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ES-1
1. INTRODUCTION	1-2
2. SUMMARY STATISTICS.....	2-2
3. CURRENT CONDITIONS.....	3-3
4. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS TIME SERIES FIGURES.....	4-1
5. MONITORING NETWORK UPDATES	5-6

TABLES

Table 1: Recent total Dissolved Solids Measurements for Monitoring Network

Table 2: Well Status Related to TDS Thresholds

FIGURES

Figure 1: 2025 Groundwater Status

Figure 2: Groundwater Quality Representative Wells and Status

Figure 3: Southeast Region – Well 157

Figure 4: Eastern Region – Well 83

Figure 5: Central Region – Well 467

Figure 6: Central Region – Well 74

Figure 7: Western Region – Well 571 (not a representative well)

Figure 8: Threshold Regions in the Cuyama Groundwater Basin

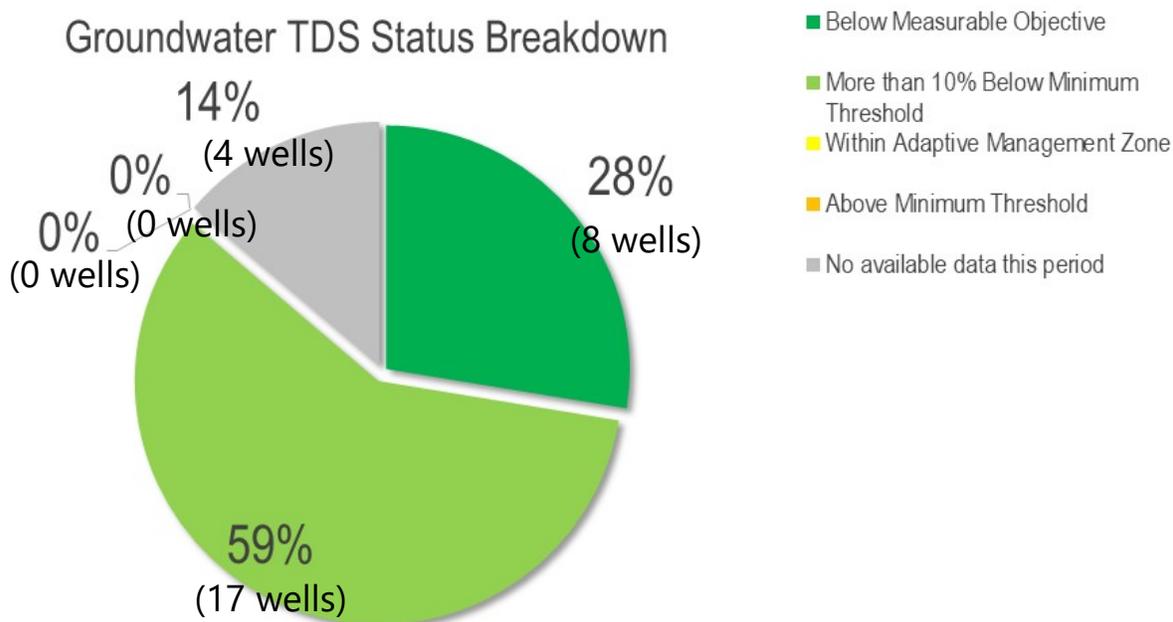
1. INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to provide an update on the current groundwater quality of total dissolved solids (TDS) conditions in the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin. Groundwater quality measurements were taken in October and December 2025. This work is completed by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA), in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

2. SUMMARY STATISTICS

As outlined in the GSP, undesirable results for degraded water quality occurs, “when 30 percent of representative monitoring points... exceed the minimum threshold for a constituent for two consecutive years.” (Cuyama GSP, pg. 3-4). Twenty one wells (900-921), were installed after the GSP was submitted in January 2020 and therefore do not have minimum thresholds or measurable objectives. Additionally, wells 62, 103 and 571 had transducers installed after January 2020 and do not have minimum thresholds or measurable objectives. Measurements from well 204 are now being taken at nearby well 205. The results dating back to first quarter of 2023 have been updated to reflect the well change.

FIGURE 1: 2025 GROUNDWATER STATUS



3. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Table 1 includes the most recent TDS measurements taken in the Cuyama Basin from representative wells and non representative wells included in the Cuyama GSP Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network, which were taken during October and December 2025. Per the plan described in the GSP, it is the intention of the GSA to take TDS measurements once per year. **Table 2:** includes all of the representative wells and their current status in relation to the thresholds applied to each well. This information is also shown in **Figure 1**.

All measurements have also been incorporated into the Cuyama DMS, which may be accessed at <https://opti.woodardcurran.com/cuyama/login.php>

TABLE 1: RECENT TOTAL DISSOLVED SOILDS MEASUREMENTS FOR MONITORING NETWORK

Well	Region	Q3, 2023	Q3, 2024	Q4, 2025
		TDS Mg/L	TDS Mg/L	TDS Mg/L
61	Southeastern	-	-	-
72	Central	900	894	895
74	Central	1310	1360	1340
77	Central	1120	1165	1164
79	Central	-	1630	1620
83	Eastern	1120	1110	1040
88	Badlands	320	337	349
90	Central	-	1120	1170
91	Central	1020	1059	1057
95	Central	1340	1310	1340
96	Central	1100	1220	1240
99	Central	1140	1060	1100
101	Eastern	1210	1230	1310
102	Central	1610	1640	1660
157	Southeastern	-	-	-
204	Badlands	-	348	369
242	Eastern	780	883	598
316	Central	1060	1105	1106
317	Central	-	1068	1120
322	Central	1140	1170	1220
324	Central	740	700	749
325	Central	1070	1040	1090
420	Central	1080	1121	1119
421	Central	1280	1390	1394
424	Central	1260	1270	1230
467	Central	1070	1080	926
568	Central	860	841	931
841	Northwestern	-	-	-
845	Northwestern	-	-	-

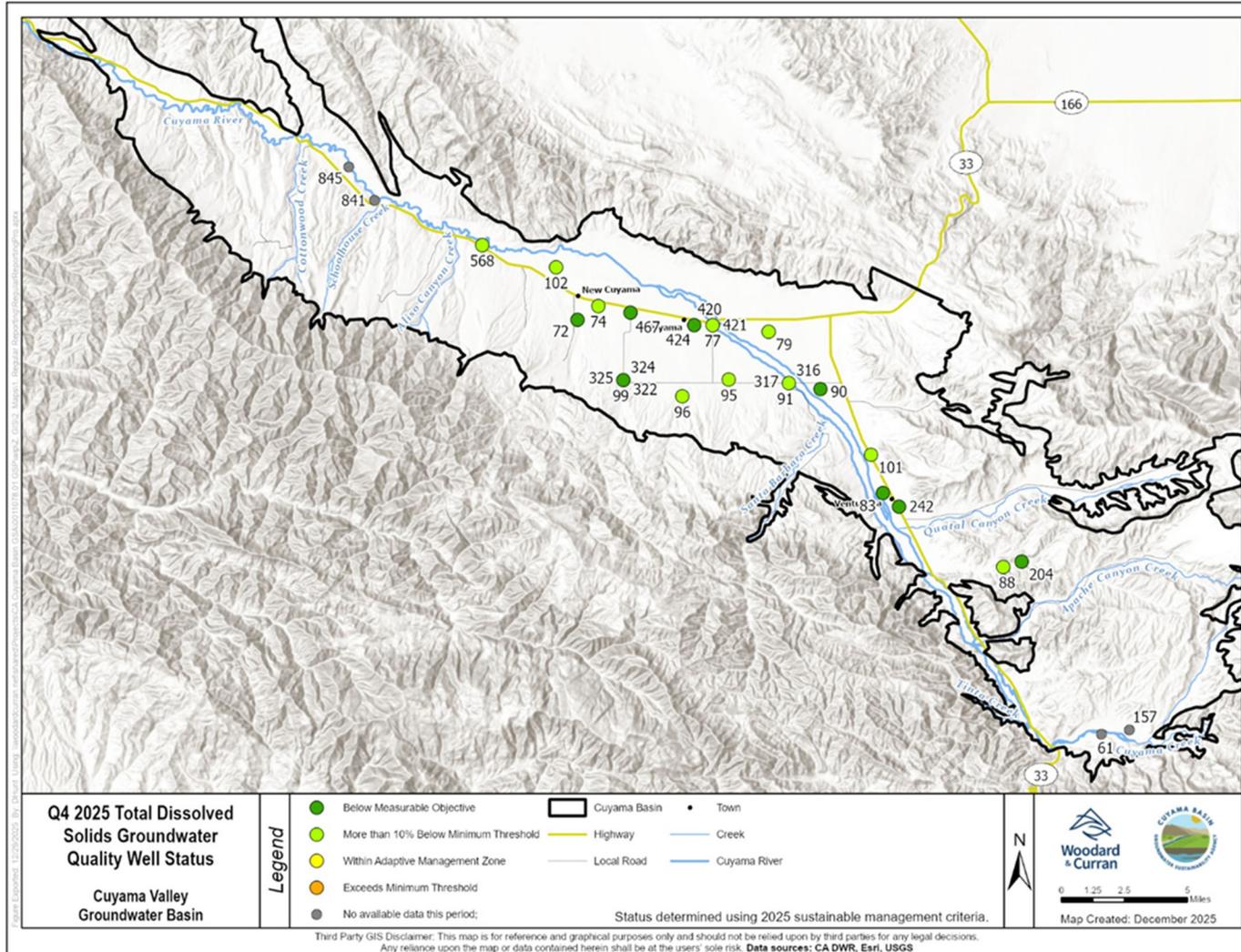
Well	Region	Q3, 2023	Q3, 2024	Q4, 2025
		TDS Mg/L	TDS Mg/L	TDS Mg/L
Non Representative Wells				
62	Eastern	780	-	-
103	Central	930	1035	-
318	Central	-	-	-
422	Central	-	-	-
571	Western	290	294	302
900	Central	-	6410	5740
901	Central	-	9620	5460
902	Central	-	10500	7640
903	Eastern	1080	1110	1160
904	Eastern	1120	1140	1180
905	Eastern	1100	1170	1250
906	Central	-	1230	1310
907	Central	1260	1300	1250
908	Central	1770	1760	1720
909	Northwestern	-	2,270	1840
910	Northwestern	-	946	1950
911	Southeastern	-	1,360	1290
912	Southeastern	-	1,320	2230
913	Central	-	1,830	2000
914	Central	-	1,200	1019
915	Central	-	-	1544
916	Central	-	-	1425
917	Central	-	-	1185
918	Central	-	-	1181
919	Central	-	-	1613
920	Central	-	-	1123
921	Central	-	-	1271

TABLE 2: WELL STATUS RELATED TO TDS THRESHOLDS

Well	Region	Current Measurement Period		Minimum Threshold	Within 10% of Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective	Status	GSA Action Required?
		TDS mg/L	Date					
61	Southeastern	-	-	1000	959	585	No available data this period	No
72	Central	895	10/3/2025	1106	1085	900	Below Measurable Objective	No
74	Central	1340	10/3/2025	1872	1816	1310	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
77	Central	1164	10/20/2025	1682	1626	1120	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
79	Central	1620	10/2/2025	2318	2236	1500	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
83	Eastern	1040	10/2/2025	1816	1746	1120	Below Measurable Objective	No
88	Badlands	349	12/3/2025	1000	932	320	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
90	Central	1170	10/2/2025	1596	1576	1400	Below Measurable Objective	No
91	Central	1057	10/20/2025	1558	1504	1020	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
95	Central	1340	10/2/2025	1950	1889	1340	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
96	Central	1240	10/2/2025	1676	1618	1100	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
99	Central	1100	10/3/2025	1658	1606	1140	Below Measurable Objective	No
101	Eastern	1310	10/2/2025	1735	1683	1210	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
102	Central	1660	10/2/2025	2551	2446	1500	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
157	Southeastern	-	-	2468	2357	1360	No available data this period	No
204	Badlands	369	12/3/2025	1000	938	380	Below Measurable Objective	No
242	Eastern	598	10/2/2025	1656	1568	780	Below Measurable Objective	No
316	Central	1106	10/20/2025	1524	1478	1060	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
317	Central	1120	10/20/2025	1444	1369	692	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
322	Central	1220	10/3/2025	1504	1468	1140	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
324	Central	749	10/3/2025	1000	974	740	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No

Well	Region	Current Measurement Period		Minimum Threshold	Within 10% of Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective	Status	GSA Action Required?
		TDS mg/L	Date					
325	Central	1090	10/3/2025	1687	1625	1070	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
420	Central	1119	10/20/2025	1560	1512	1080	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
421	Central	1394	10/20/2025	1761	1713	1280	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
424	Central	1230	10/3/2025	1658	1618	1260	Below Measurable Objective	No
467	Central	926	10/2/2025	1846	1768	1070	Below Measurable Objective	No
568	Central	931	10/2/2025	1118	1092	860	More than 10% Below Minimum Threshold	No
841	Northwestern	-	-	1000	956	561	No available data this period	No
845	Northwestern	-	-	1250	1250	1250	No available data this period	No

FIGURE 2: GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPRESENTATIVE WELLS AND STATUS



4. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS TIME SERIES FIGURES

The following figures provide an overview of TDS conditions in four of the six area threshold regions identified in the GSP.

FIGURE 3: SOUTHEAST REGION – WELL 157

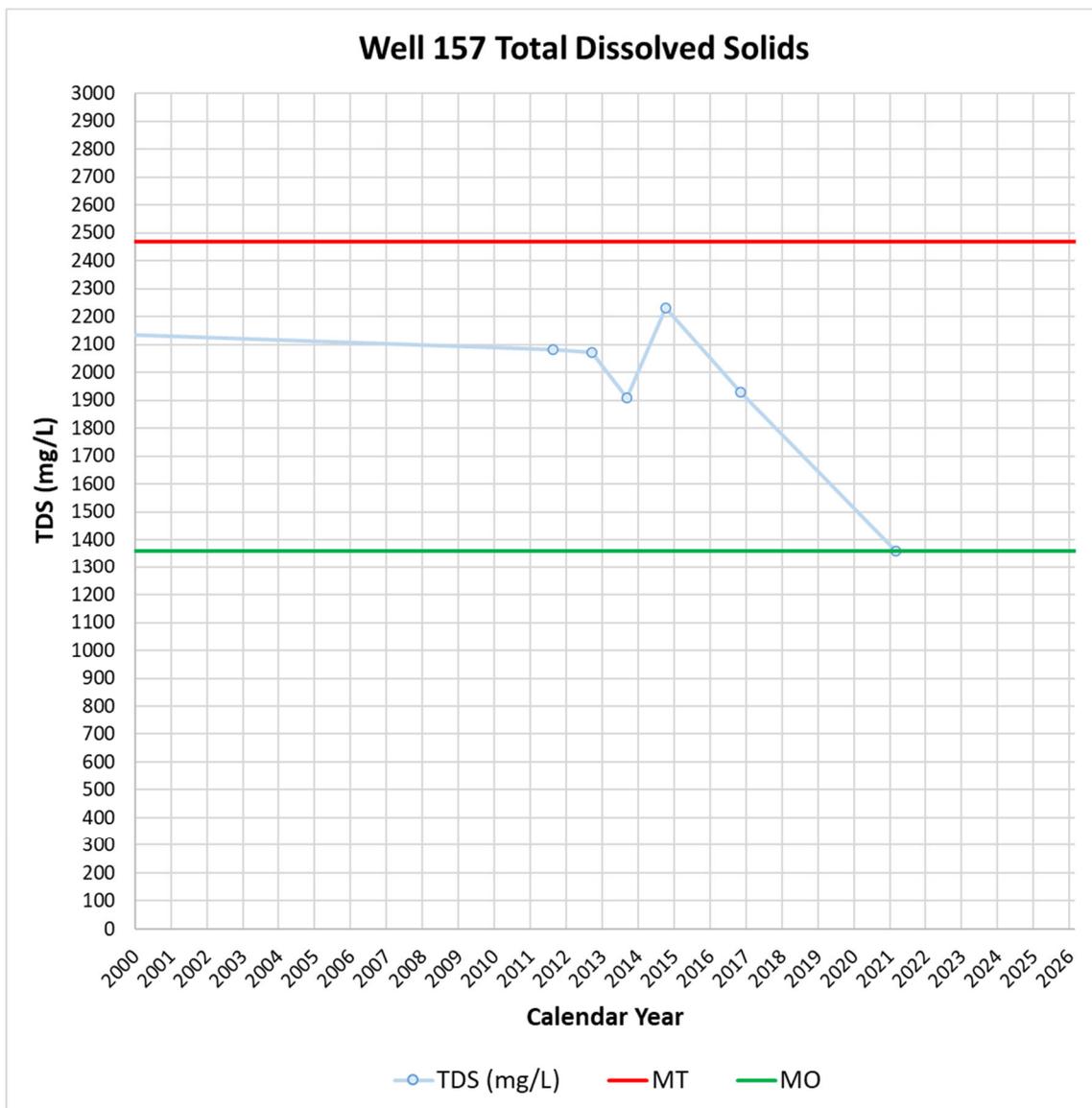


FIGURE 4: EASTERN REGION – WELL 83

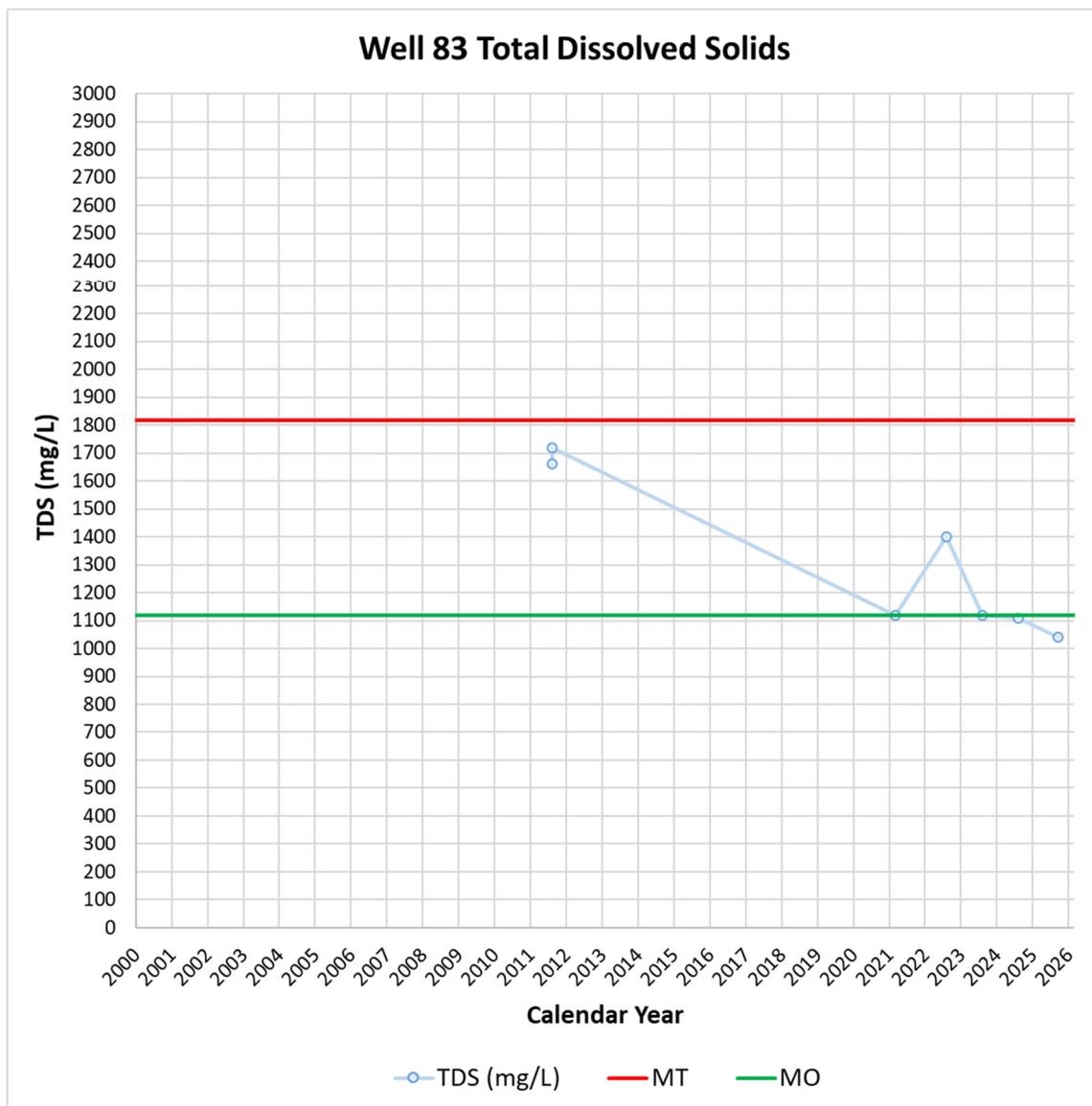


FIGURE 5: CENTRAL REGION – WELL 467

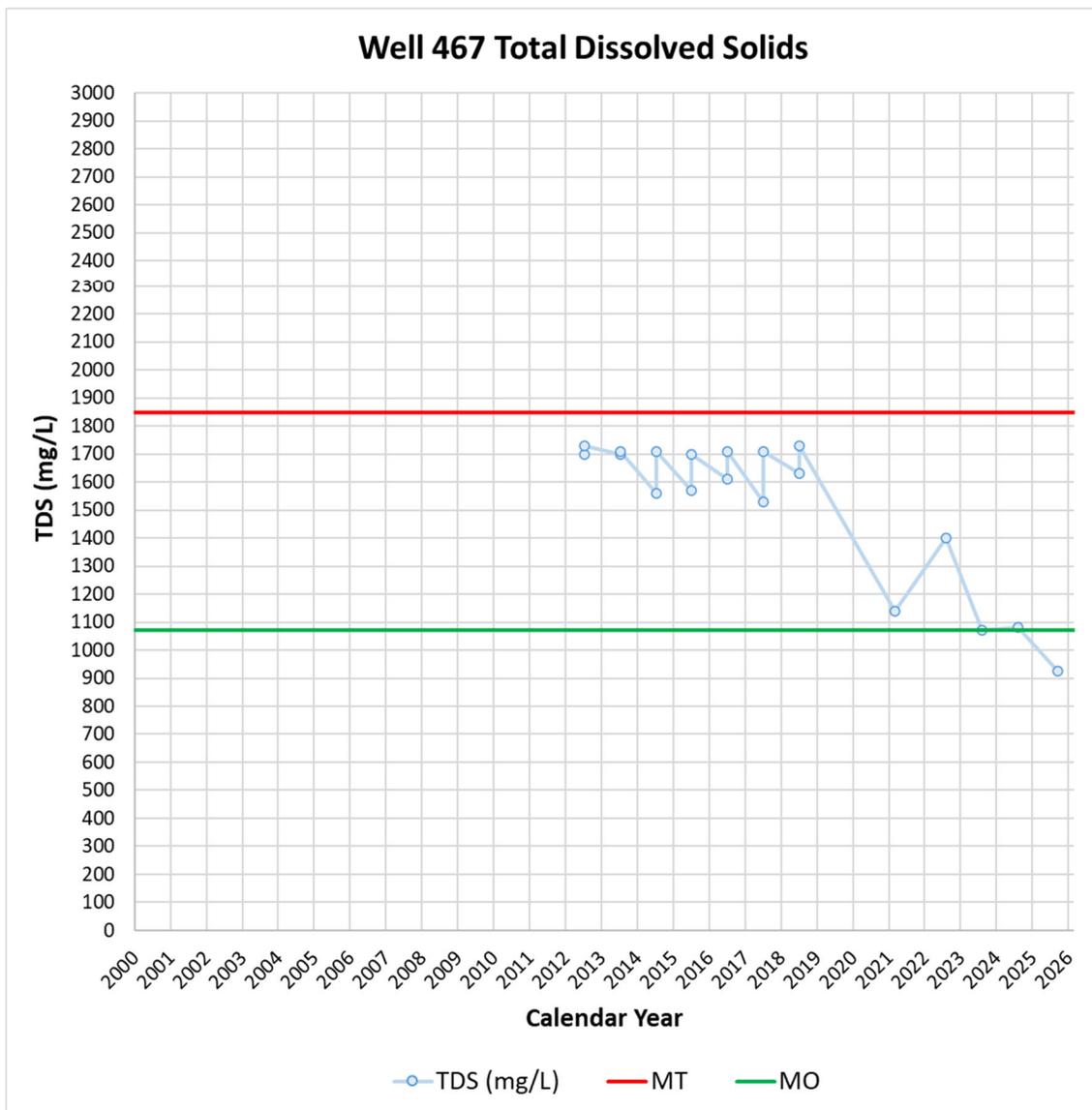


FIGURE 6: CENTRAL REGION – WELL 74

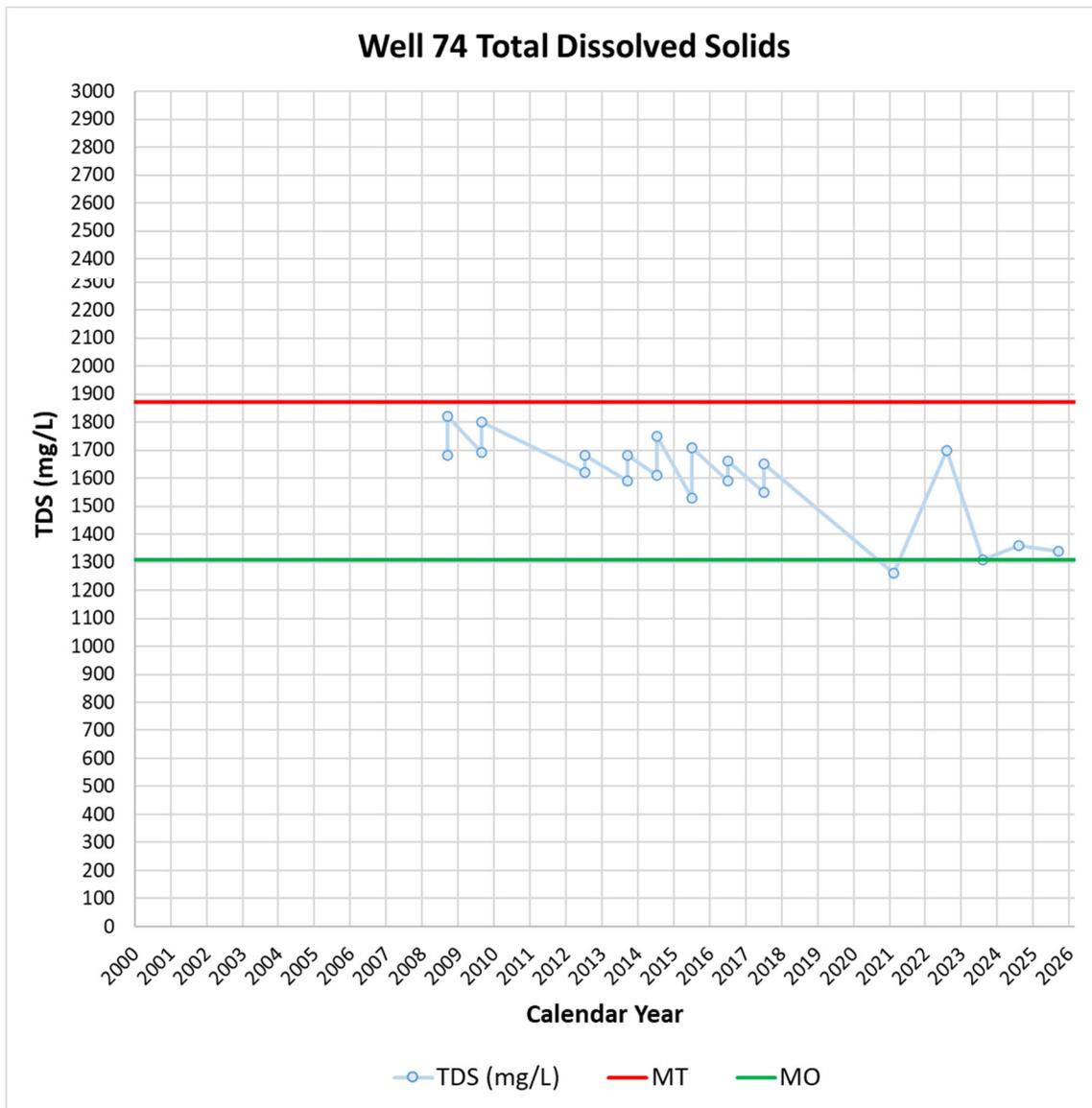


FIGURE 7: WESTERN REGION – WELL 571 (NOT A REPRESENTATIVE WELL)

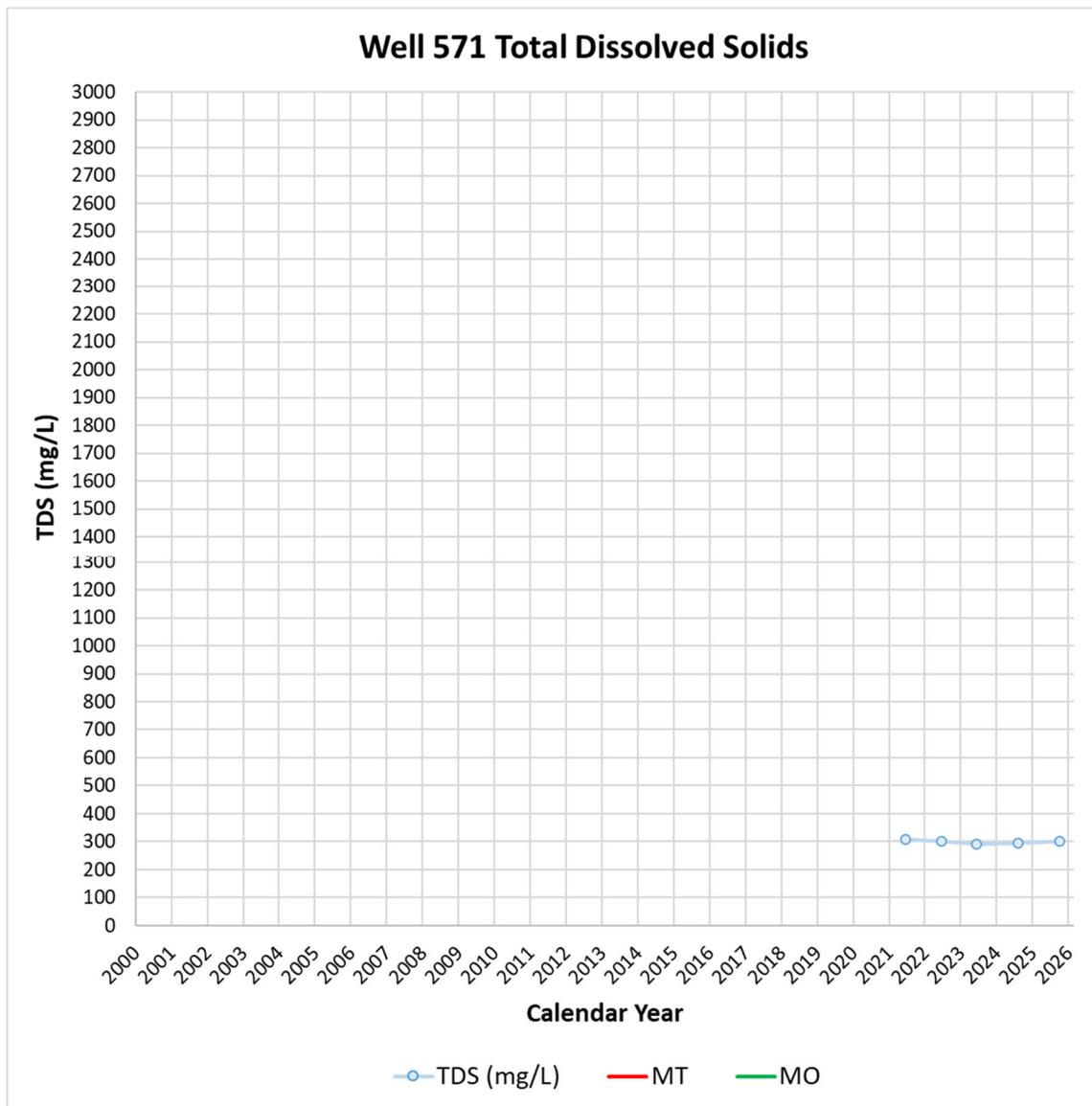
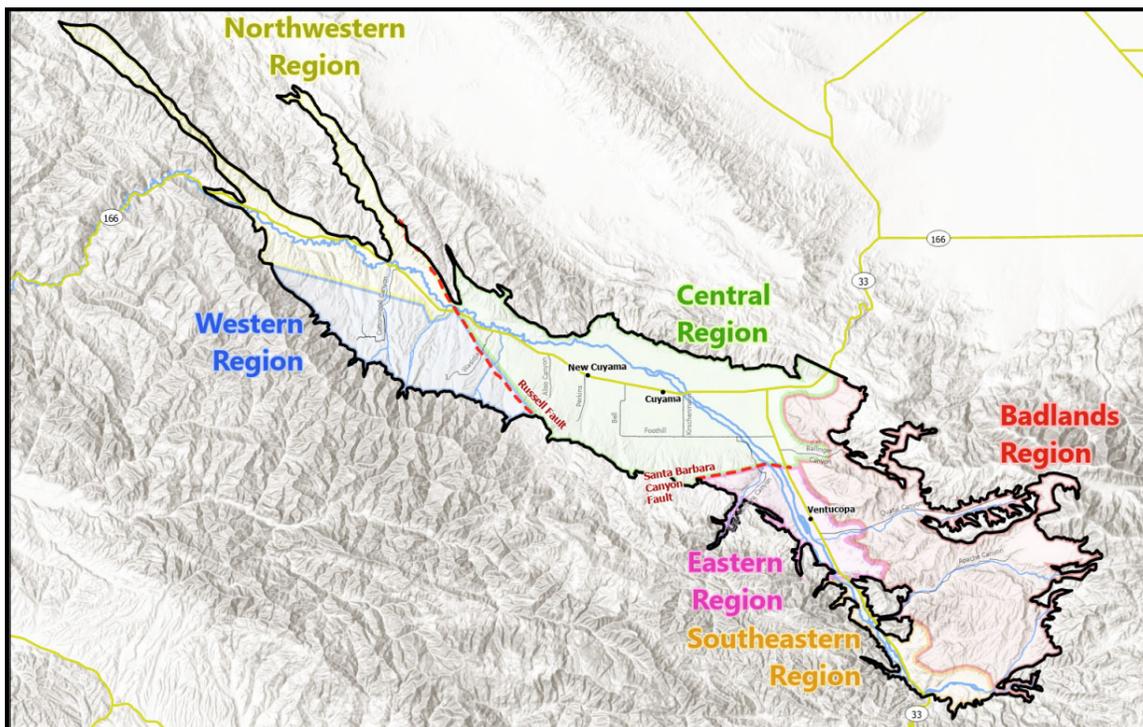


FIGURE 8: THRESHOLD REGIONS IN THE CUYAMA GROUNDWATER BASIN



5. MONITORING NETWORK UPDATES

As shown in the Summary Statistics Section, there are 4 wells without current measurements. These “no measurement codes” can have different causes as described below.

- Access agreements have not yet been established with the landowner, access has not been granted yet, or no access at the time of measurement:
 - Wells 61 and 157.
- Transducer data was not currently available:
 - Wells 841 and 845



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Groundwater Conditions Report: Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin

October 2025

Cuyama Basin
Groundwater
Sustainability
Agency

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE NO.
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. SUMMARY STATISTICS	1
3. CURRENT CONDITIONS	2
4. HYDROGRAPHS	10
5. MONITORING NETWORK UPDATES	16

TABLES

Table 1: Recent Groundwater Levels for Representative Monitoring Network	3
Table 2: Well Status Related to Thresholds.....	6

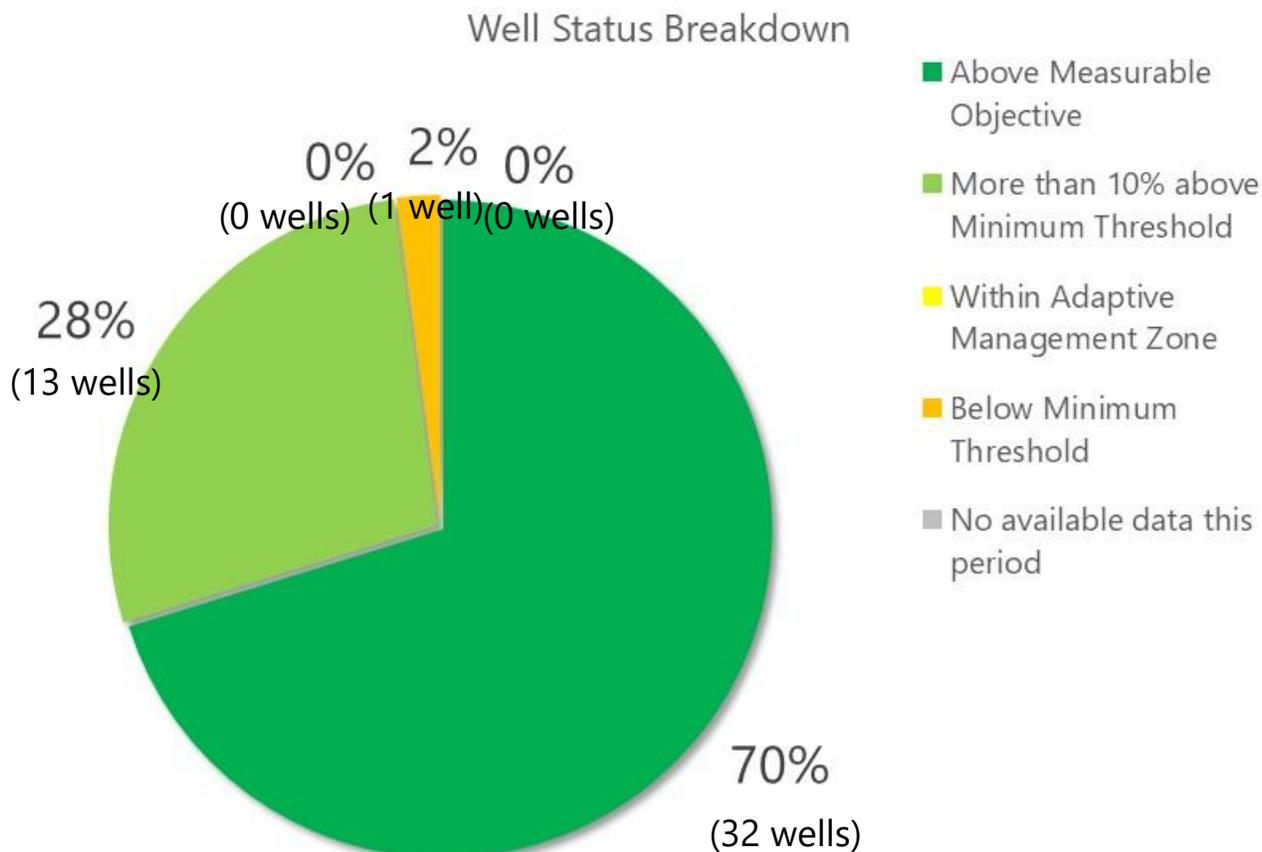
FIGURES

Figure 1: Groundwater Level Representative Wells and Status in October 2025	9
Figure 2: Southeast Region – Well 89	10
Figure 3: Eastern Region – Well 62.....	11
Figure 4: Central Region – Well 91	12
Figure 5: Central Region – Well 74	13
Figure 6: Western Region – Well 571	14
Figure 7: Northwestern Region – Well 841	15
Figure 8: Threshold Regions in the Cuyama Groundwater Basin	16

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to provide an update on the current groundwater level conditions in the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin. This work is completed by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA), in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

2. SUMMARY STATISTICS



There are currently 1 well with groundwater levels exceeding the updated minimum thresholds. As outlined in the GSP, undesirable results for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels occurs, “when 30 percent of representative monitoring wells... fall below their minimum groundwater elevation threshold for two consecutive years.” (Cuyama GSP, pg. 3-2). Currently, 2% of representative monitoring wells (i.e. 1 well) have exceeded the minimum threshold for 24 or more consecutive months.

3. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Table 1 includes the most recent groundwater level measurements taken in the Cuyama Basin from representative wells included in the Cuyama GSP Groundwater Level Monitoring Network, as well as the previous two measurements and the measurement from the same time period in the previous year. Table 2 includes all of the wells and their current status in relation to the thresholds applied to each well. This information is also shown on Figure 1.

All measurements are also incorporated into the Cuyama DMS, which may be accessed at <https://opti.woodardcurran.com/cuyama/login.php>.

Table 1: Recent Groundwater Levels for Representative Monitoring Network

Well	Region	Apr-25	Jul-25	Oct-25	Last Year		Annual Elevation Change
		GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	Month/Year	
72	Central	2025	2020	2027	2005	Oct-24	22.6
74	Central	1951	1952	1951	1942	Oct-24	8.9
77	Central	1777	1749	1783	1766	Oct-24	16
91	Central	1806	1798	1796	1800	Oct-24	-4.2
95	Central	1868	1871	1869	1867	Oct-24	2
96	Central	2268	2295	2268	2266	Oct-24	1.3
99	Central	2156	2129	2195	2145	Oct-24	50.3
102	Central	1669	1684	1668	1671	Oct-24	-3.3
103	Central	2057	2056	2058	2051	Oct-24	7.3
112	Central	2046	2046	2046	2043	Oct-24	3.1
114	Central	1881	1881	1880	1878	Oct-24	1.7
316	Central	1805	1797	1794	1800	Oct-24	-5.9
317	Central	1806	1799	1796	1802	Oct-24	-5.8
322	Central	2152	2126	2194	2138	Oct-24	56.6
324	Central	2178	2156	2198	2169	Oct-24	29
325	Central	2194	2190	2204	2193	Oct-24	10.6
420	Central	1775	1748	1782	1766	Oct-24	15.9
421	Central	1787	1772	1781	1781	Oct-24	-0.6
474	Central	2236	2236	2236	2235	Oct-24	1
568	Central	1878	1876	1875	1858	Oct-24	17.5

Well	Region	Apr-25	Jul-25	Oct-25	Last Year		Annual Elevation Change
		GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	Month/Year	
604	Central	1668	1645	1655	1650	Oct-24	4.7
935	Central	1779	1753	1777	1769	Oct-24	8
609	Central	1732	1747	1748	1722	Oct-24	25.5
610	Central	1803	1795	1795	1795	Oct-24	-0.2
612	Central	1817	1815	1831	1805	Oct-24	25.5
613	Central	1805	1783	1821	1818	Oct-24	2.4
615	Central	1797	1797	1800	1805	Oct-24	-4.7
629	Central	1805	1787	1823	1800	Oct-24	23.6
633	Central	1798	1792	1808	1805	Oct-24	3
62	Eastern	2818	2831	2830	-	-	-
85	Eastern	2910	2908	2908	2907	Oct-24	0.9
100	Eastern	2928	2924	2919	2935	Oct-24	-16
101	Eastern	2678	2679	2680	2655	Oct-24	24.8
841	Northwestern	1708	1710	1692	1688	Oct-24	3.9
845	Northwestern	1642	1640	1632	1632	Oct-24	0.6
2	Southeastern	3697	3693	3690	3686	Oct-24	3.6
89	Southeastern	3411	3422	3406	3409	Oct-24	-3.2
106	Western	2178	2177	2177	2176	Oct-24	1.3
107	Western	2418	2417	2415	2419	Oct-24	-4.3
117	Western	1945	1944	1944	1945	Oct-24	-0.7
118	Western	2212	2213	2213	2212	Oct-24	0.9

Well	Region	Apr-25	Jul-25	Oct-25	Last Year		Annual Elevation Change
		GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	GWL (ft. msl)	Month/ Year	
571	Western	2226	-	2220	2209	Oct-24	11.7
573	Western	2016	2016	2016	2012	Oct-24	4
830	Far-West Northwestern	-	-	-	-	-	-
832	Far-West Northwestern	1608	1608	1607	1605	Oct-24	1.4
833	Far-West Northwestern	1440	1320	1430	1436	Oct-24	-5.5
836	Far-West Northwestern	1480	1479	1478	1477	Oct-24	0.7

Table 2: Well Status Related to Thresholds

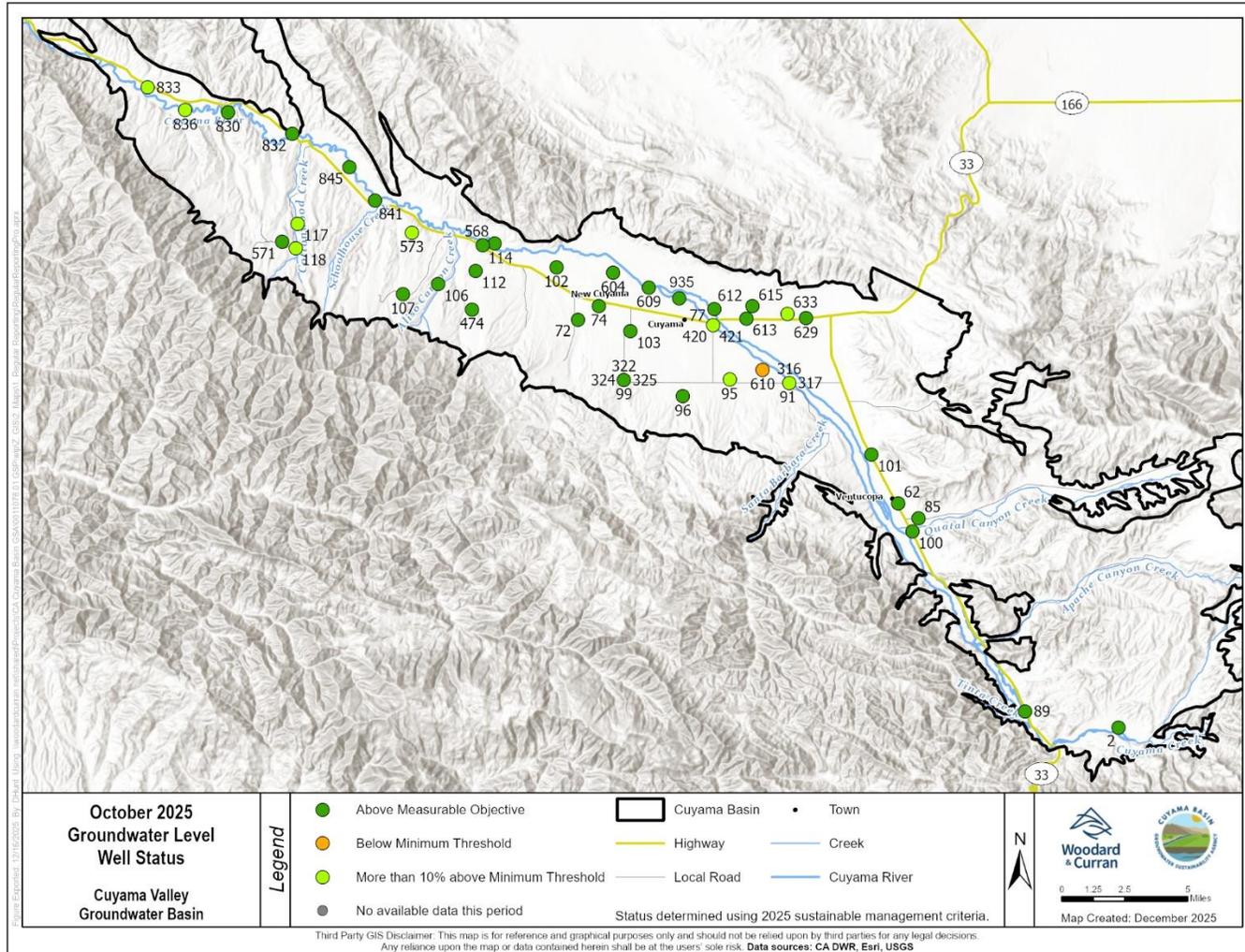
Well	Region	Current Month		Minimum Threshold	Within 10% Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective	Well Depth	Status	GSA Action Required?
		GWL (DTW BGS)	Date						
72	Central	142	10/15/2025	373	369	328	790	Above Measurable Objective	No
74	Central	240	10/15/2025	322	321	309	-	Above Measurable Objective	No
77	Central	501	10/15/2025	514	509	464	980	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
91	Central	683	10/15/2025	730	725	681	980	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
95	Central	588	10/16/2025	597	594	562	805	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
96	Central	341	10/15/2025	369	368	361	500	Above Measurable Objective	No
99	Central	309	10/15/2025	379	378	368	750	Above Measurable Objective	No
102	Central	375	10/15/2025	470	466	432	-	Above Measurable Objective	No
103	Central	229	10/15/2025	379	374	324	1030	Above Measurable Objective	No
112	Central	83	10/17/2025	102	102	100	441	Above Measurable Objective	No
114	Central	47	10/17/2025	58	58	56	58	Above Measurable Objective	No
316	Central	685	10/15/2025	731	726	682	830	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
317	Central	683	10/15/2025	700	695	650	700	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
322	Central	310	10/15/2025	387	386	378	850	Above Measurable Objective	No
324	Central	306	10/15/2025	365	364	353	560	Above Measurable Objective	No
325	Central	300	10/15/2025	331	330	323	380	Above Measurable Objective	No

Well	Region	Current Month		Minimum Threshold	Within 10% Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective	Well Depth	Status	GSA Action Required?
		GWL (DTW BGS)	Date						
420	Central	502	10/15/2025	514	509	464	780	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
421	Central	503	10/15/2025	514	509	466	620	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
474	Central	130	10/17/2025	197	195	178	213	Above Measurable Objective	No
568	Central	37	10/16/2025	47	47	46	188	Above Measurable Objective	No
604	Central	463	10/16/2025	544	540	505	924	Above Measurable Objective	No
935	Central	438	10/15/2025	504	501	475	745	Above Measurable Objective	No
609	Central	419	10/16/2025	499	495	462	970	Above Measurable Objective	No
610	Central	646	10/16/2025	557	554	527	780	Below Minimum Threshold (63 months)	No
612	Central	441	10/16/2025	513	511	490	1070	Above Measurable Objective	No
613	Central	507	10/16/2025	578	575	550	830	Above Measurable Objective	No
615	Central	523	10/16/2025	588	585	556	865	Above Measurable Objective	No
629	Central	556	10/16/2025	613	610	581	1000	Above Measurable Objective	No
633	Central	556	10/16/2025	605	600	551	1000	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
62	Eastern	89	10/15/2025	212	210	187	212	Above Measurable Objective	No
85	Eastern	141	10/15/2025	200	198	176	233	Above Measurable Objective	No
100	Eastern	89	10/15/2025	186	183	157	284	Above Measurable Objective	No
101	Eastern	68	10/15/2025	138	136	115	200	Above Measurable Objective	No
841	Northwestern	69	10/20/2025	203	198	153	600	Above Measurable Objective	No

Well	Region	Current Month		Minimum Threshold	Within 10% Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective	Well Depth	Status	GSA Action Required?
		GWL (DTW BGS)	Date						
845	Northwestern	79	10/20/2025	203	198	153	380	Above Measurable Objective	No
2	Southeastern	31	10/15/2025	52	50	35	73	Above Measurable Objective	No
89	Southeastern	29	10/15/2025	62	60	42	125	Above Measurable Objective	No
106	Western	141	10/17/2025	164	163	152	228	Above Measurable Objective	No
107	Western	78	10/16/2025	122	120	103	200	Above Measurable Objective	No
117	Western	154	10/15/2025	163	162	154	212	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
118	Western	51	10/15/2025	72**	69	42**	500	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
571	Western	96	10/15/2025	142	140	118	280	Above Measurable Objective	No
573	Western	66	10/17/2025	93	88	42	404	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
830	Far-West Northwestern	-	10/16/2025	63	63	60	77	No available data this period (Above MO in July 2024)	No
832	Far-West Northwestern	33	10/16/2025	50	49	35	132	Above Measurable Objective	No
833	Far-West Northwestern	26	10/16/2025	48	44	10	504	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No
836	Far-West Northwestern	31	10/16/2025	49	45	10	325	More than 10% above Minimum Threshold	No

Note: Wells only count towards the identification of undesirable results if the level measurement is below the minimum threshold for 24 consecutive months.

Figure 1: Groundwater Level Representative Wells and Status in October 2025



4. HYDROGRAPHS

The following hydrographs provide an overview of conditions in each of the six areas threshold regions identified in the GSP.

Figure 2: Southeast Region – Well 89

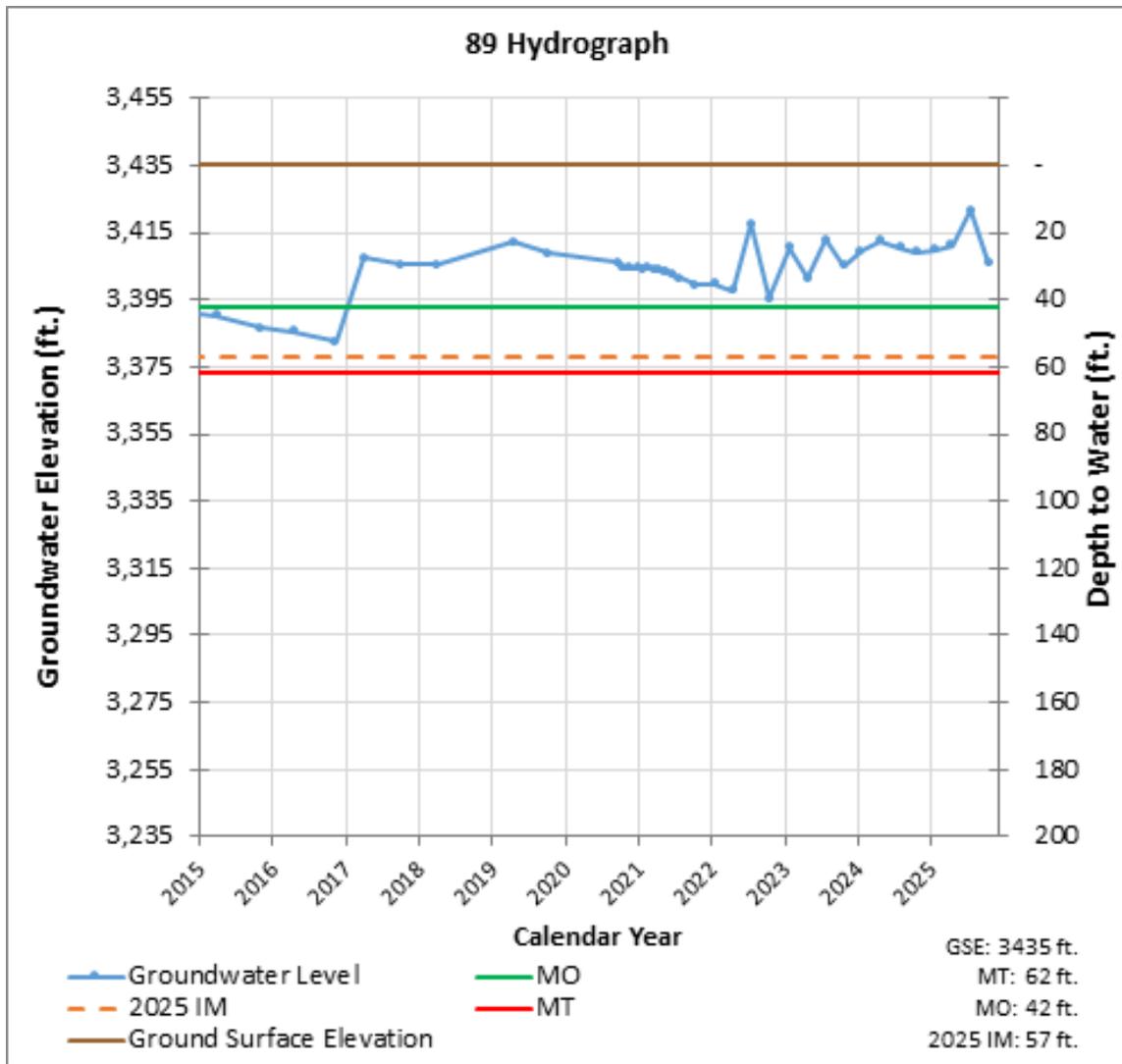


Figure 3: Eastern Region – Well 62

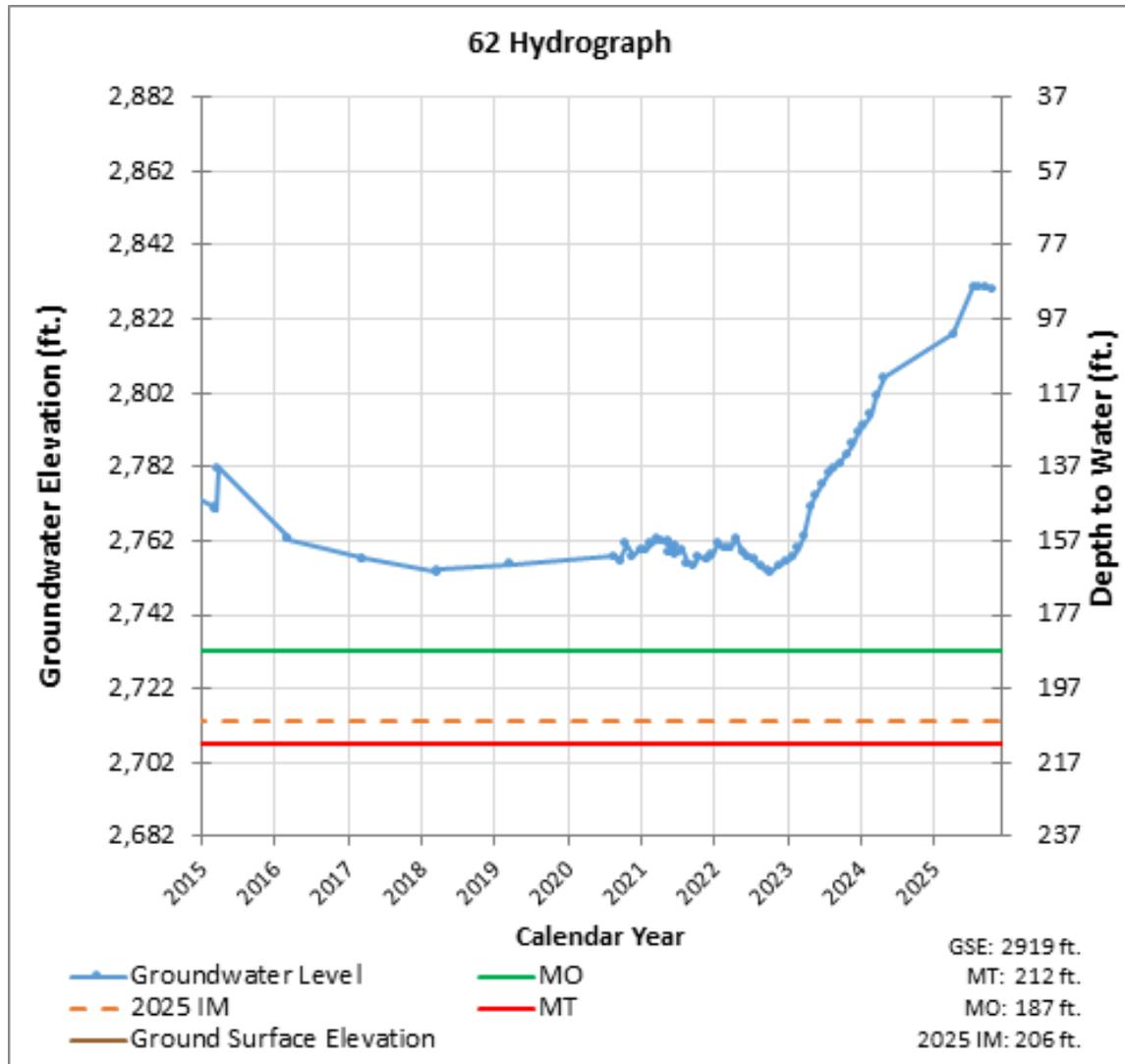


Figure 4: Central Region – Well 91

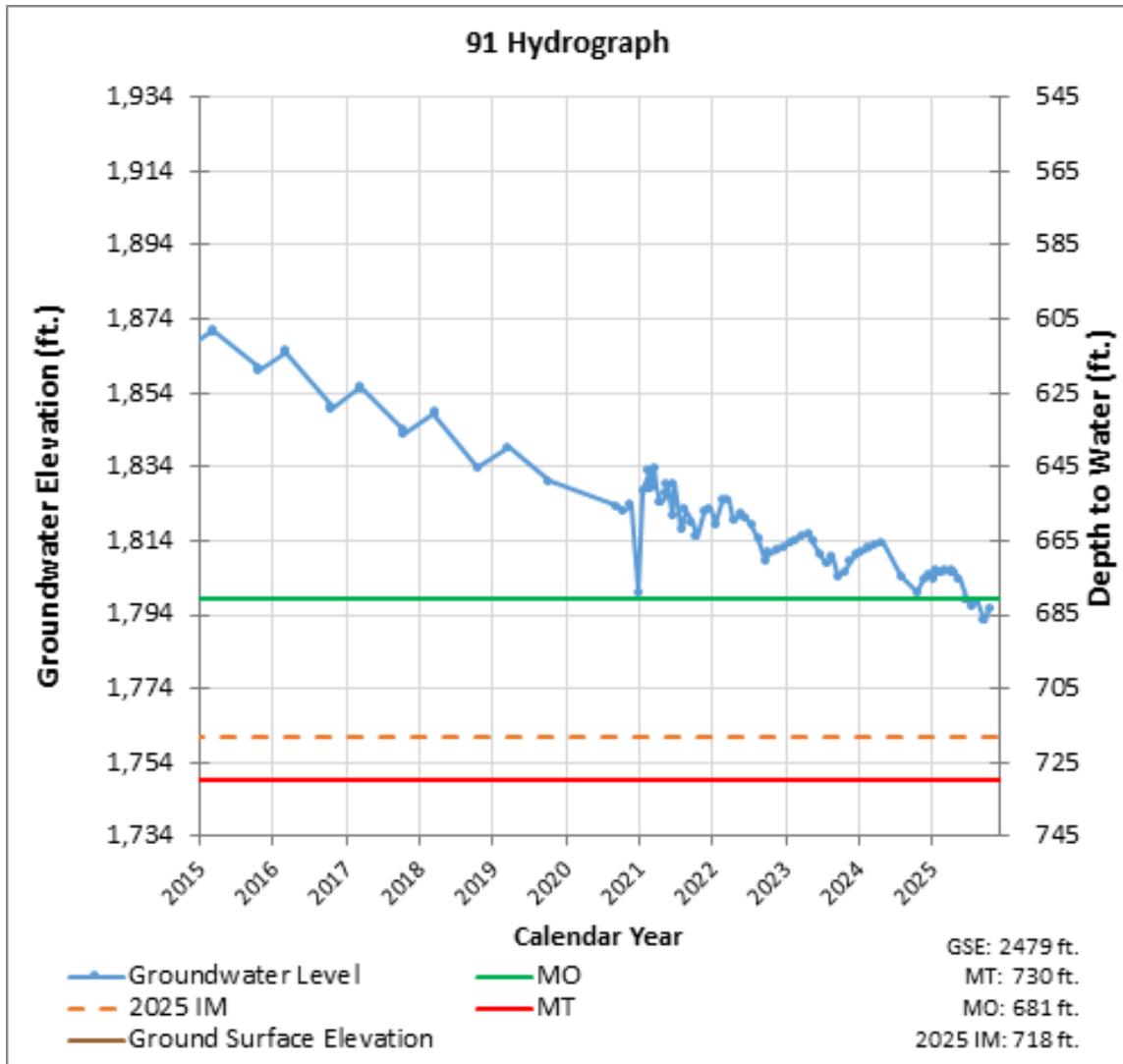


Figure 5: Central Region – Well 74

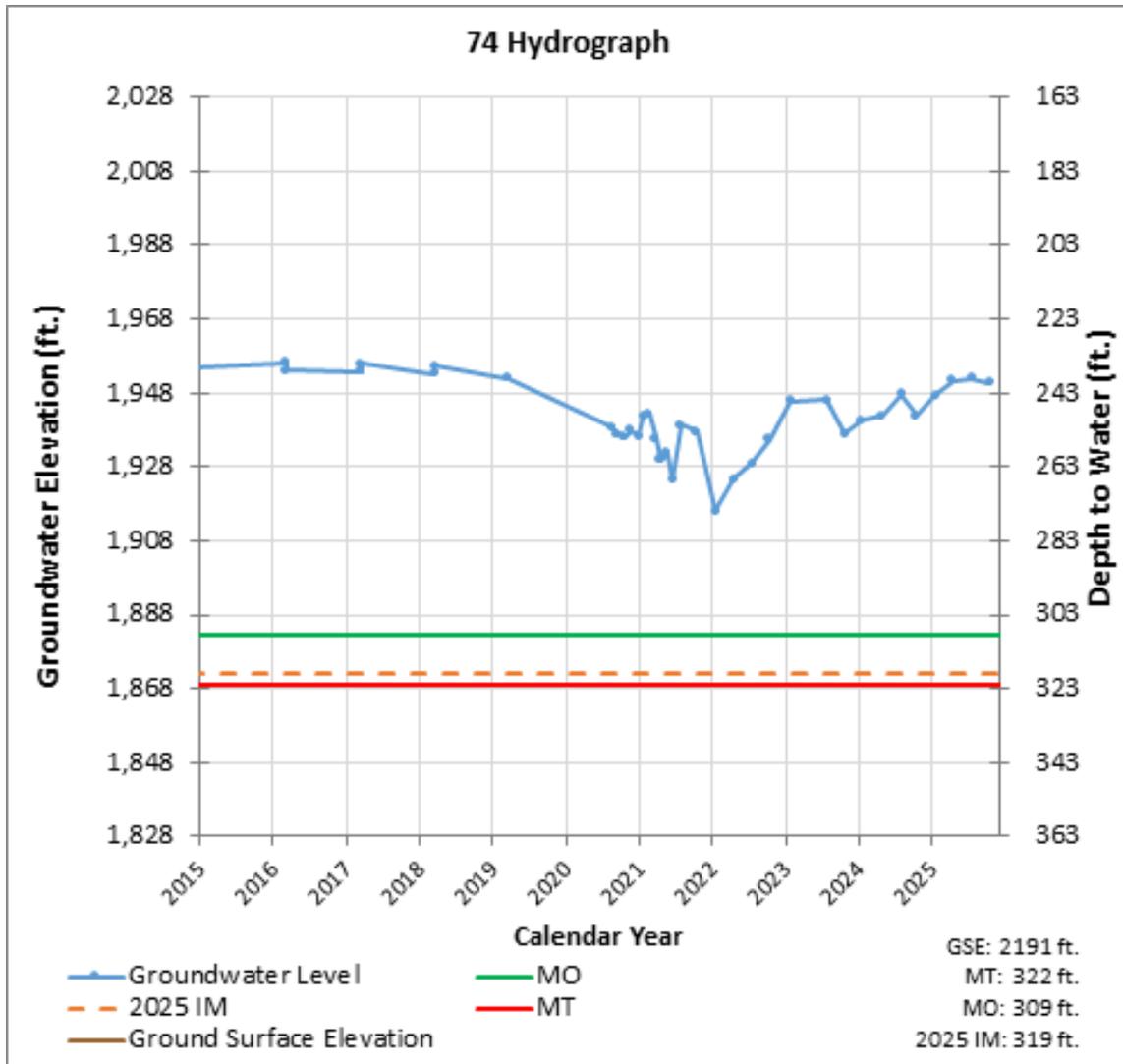


Figure 6: Western Region – Well 571

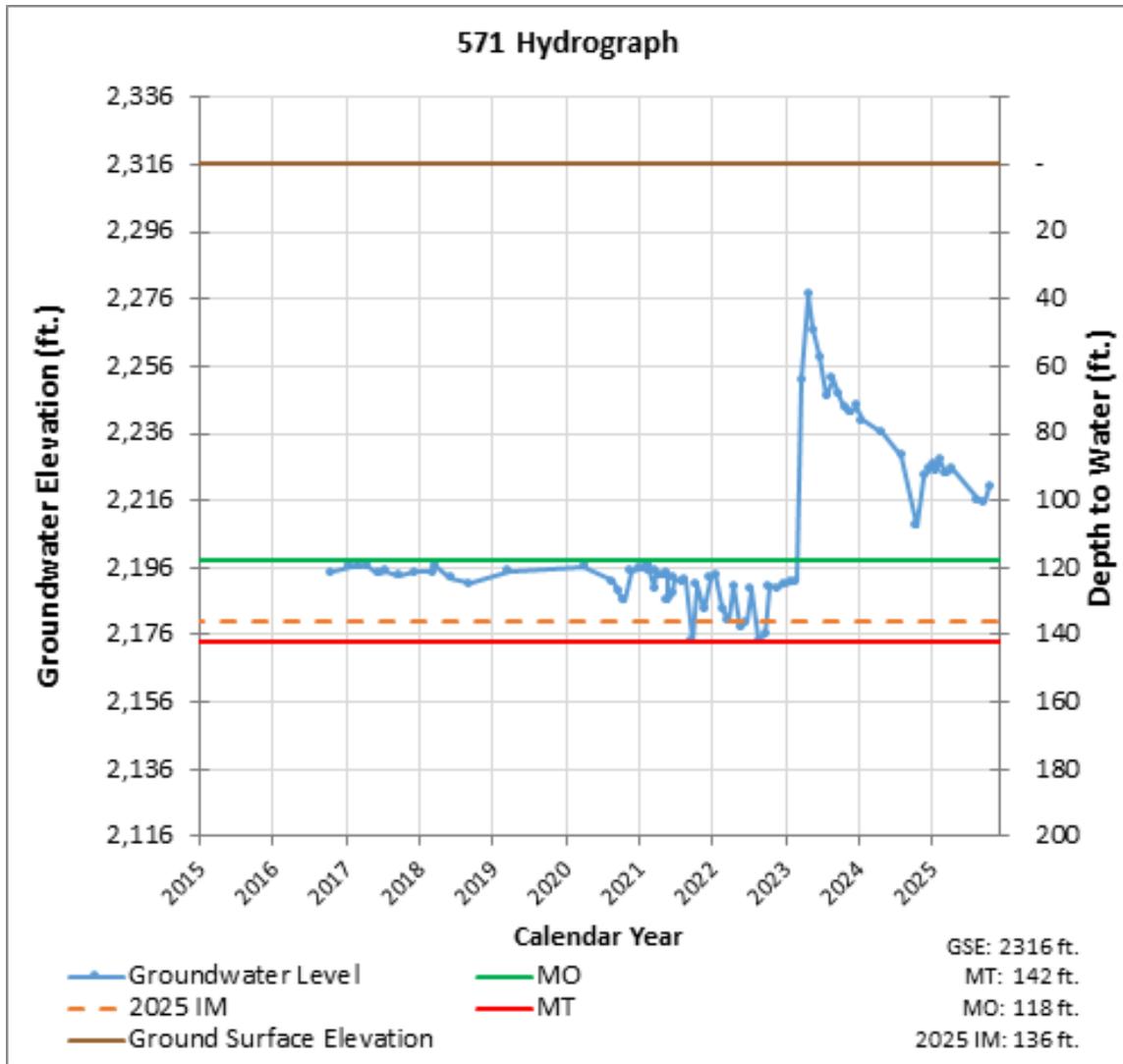
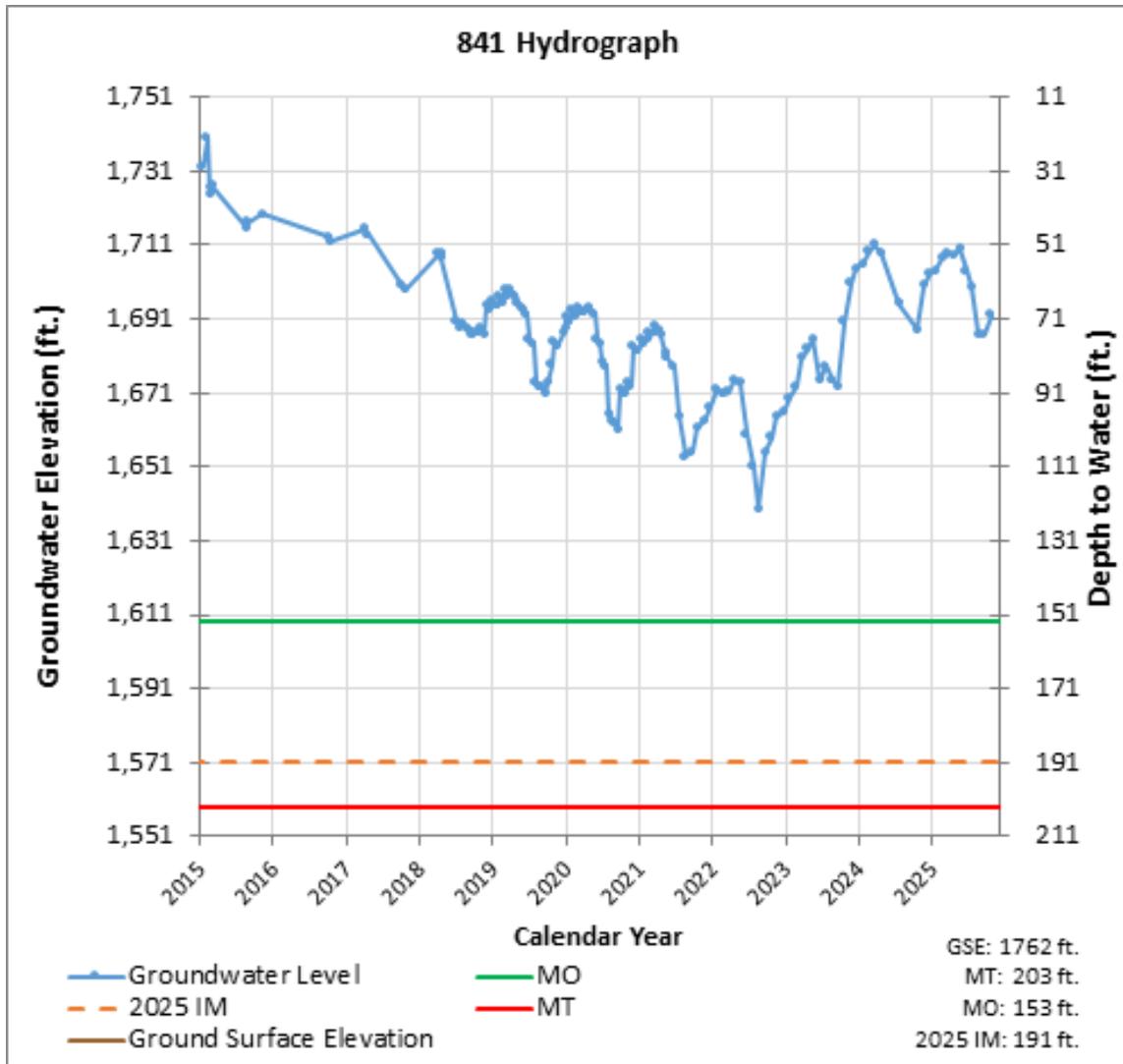


Figure 7: Northwestern Region – Well 841



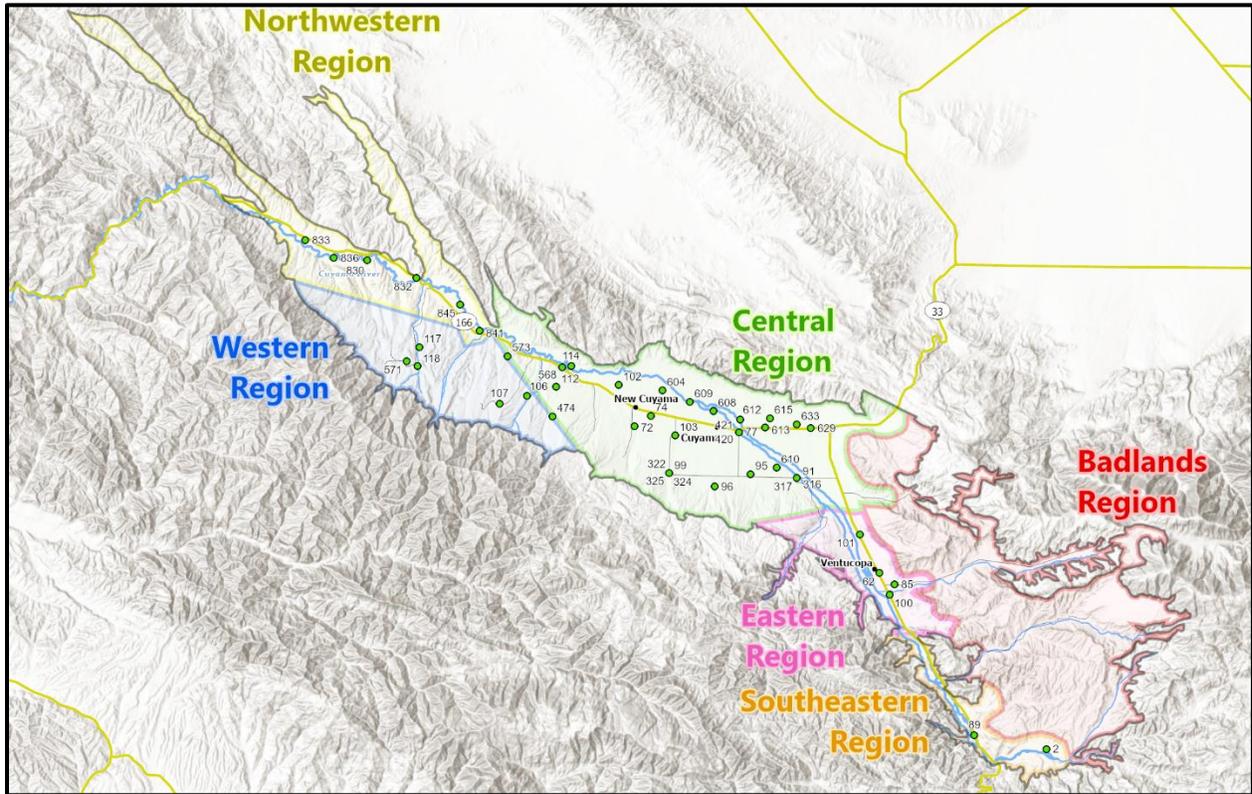


Figure 8: Threshold Regions in the Cuyama Groundwater Basin

5. MONITORING NETWORK UPDATES

As shown in Table 2, there is one well with no measurement during the current monitoring period. These “no measurement codes” can have different causes as described below.

- Landowner changed and an access agreement has not been established with the current landowner:
 - Well 830



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TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 13d

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Adaptive Management Processes for Minimum Threshold Exceedances

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

On October 2, 2025, an ad hoc committee (Directors Albano, Reely, Young) convened to review the MT exceedances and directed staff next steps.

Staff reached out to landowners within 1-mile of nested Opti Well #77,420, 421 and solicited water level data to investigate potential impacts to beneficial users. Regarding Opti Well #610, staff met with landowners and determined that the well is no longer active and therefore does not need to be protected under the Minimum Threshold (MT).

An update on each well based on the October 2025 GW Conditions Report is provided as **Attachment 1**.

The methodology by which the new MT was calculated after removing the Opti Well #610 protection depth is provided as **Attachment 2**.

Update on Status of Adaptive Management Implementation

No.	Opti Well #	Action Taken	Status (as of October 2025)
1	833	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor for anticipated recovery from firefighting efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 10% above MT
2	77, 420, 421	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff was investigating the cause and potential impacts to beneficial users. Staff will follow similar protocol to solicit GWL data from nearby users if wells exceed next year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 10% above MT
3	610	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to well owner and determined that 610 is no longer in use and therefore does not need to be protected. Staff and ad hoc to determine if the well should be removed from the MT calculation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still Below MT

Standing Advisory Committee Report

Meeting Date: January 8th, 2026

Submitted to the CBGSA Board of Directors on January 14th, 2026

By Brenton Kelly, SAC Chair

The Standing Advisory Committee met at the Family Resource Center in a hybrid format, with four Committee Members present in-person and two on the conference line with one member absent. GSA Staff Taylor Blakeslee and Project Coordinator Grace Bianchi were present, and they were joined by Brian Van Lienden, Jim Strandberg and Mr. Ceyhan on the call. Several stakeholders were in the room with many more on the video conference.

In public comments, several Committee Members expressed their appreciation for Jane Wooster and Byron Albano for the time and commitment they have put toward Groundwater Sustainability in the Cuyama Valley as Directors on the GSA representing the CBWD. Their local perspective and community investment will be missed on the GSA moving forward. Thank you for your service.

Several Committee members expressed a desire for an introduction of the new CBWD Directors and their affiliation or experience in the Cuyama Valley specifically. We were told that this would happen as it is on the GSA agenda.

Committee Member Robbie Jaffe asked the GSA to expedite the unanimous motion at the last GSA re: Allocation Exchange that directs the Ad hoc to consider a small variance pool of water, derived from the previous years unused allocations to be made available to the smallest farmers who need a minimal amount of additional allocations to remain commercially viable. For certain small-scale farmers with minimal allocations and who cannot afford to participate in the exchange, the lack of a variance pool for this allocation period will threaten their farm's existence. Committee Member Lewis said the current allocation exchange process is inadequate for small pumpers like him who will fall victim to the lack of consideration for the small-scale family farm and he hopes the development of a variance pool will not die on the vine.

The Committee voted unanimously to keep the current slate of Officers with Joe Haslett as Vice Chair and myself as the Chair.

A lot of in-depth review and questioning went into the 3 & 1/2 hour meetings with one motion made with a split vote regarding what to do with the timeline of the next Model calibration to include the additional Ventucopa Management Area information. Lots of recommendations were made and I will endeavor to present them as those items are brought up in this meeting.

11a) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Plan and Timeline to Evaluate Allocations in the Ventucopa Management Area

Appreciation and compliments were expressed to Staff for the Mission Accomplishment of finding the Santa Barbara Canyon Fault. The location and complexity of the Fault Zone is now better known, and it seems a naming process is now needed to identify several previously unknown Faults found in this process. The series of faults depicts a distinct stair stepping of

groundwater elevations across the SBC Fault Zone that is assumed to be continuous across the width of the river valley.

Chair Kelly asked how this information will inform the model regarding the flow rates and volumes of groundwater flowing across the fault zone into the main basin? Mr. Strandberg responded that the faults are a barrier to flow and the fault zone is difficult to model because it is not a constant gradient. Mr. Ceyhan suggested that the new data will improve gradient resolution, but the complexity of the stair stepping is harder to simulate than an even gradient. The impacts to flow cannot be estimated without recalibration of the model.

Committee Member Debranch asked if this model recalibration will require supplemental study or whether it will fit into the scope of this work. We were told this would have additional costs and that the next agenda item includes estimated costs for model improvements.

Committee Member Caufield asked whether the current groundwater model already incorporates faults in the Ventucopa area? Mr. Ceyhan explained that the model includes faults based on prior inaccurate USGS interpretations, and that representation is simplified. He clarified that the model currently treats the fault as one simple barrier to flow below a defined depth and groundwater could flow over the fault at higher water levels and shows water flowing around the fault zone in the east. Mr. Ceyhan suggested that when the improved fault characterization is added to the model it would reduce conductance values and increase resistance to flow across the fault zone. This would all be recalibrated and the updated model should show much less flow over and around the fault than the current model suggests.

Stakeholder Byron Albano questioned whether additional funding and time should be allocated to fully determine fault extents, given the potential implications for Ventucopa groundwater management. Staff acknowledged the concern and noted that prioritization would be considered in the context of overall model improvement within the planning and budget constraints.

Stakeholder Jim Wegis asked when the next comprehensive model update is anticipated? Mr. Blakslee responded that staff is targeting 2028 to allow sufficient time for data collection, technical work, and preparation for the next periodic review in 2030. Stakeholder and Committee discussions focused on which items were critically time sensitive and top priority, and which could be put off to the next comprehensive model update. Mr. Blakslee responded that this timeline is driven by the GSA Board's top priority for understanding and possibly implementing Allocations in the VMA.

Stakeholder Jim Wegis suggested that because you needed options #1-4 to do #5 and #5 would need to be done anyway in a couple of short years, we should spread out these additional studies to collect more information, and since real well data have not indicated a decline, what is the point? A VMA allocation effort would be jumping the gun. Move forward without doing anything to Ventucopa right now until we have more data in 2 years and save this money until the expense is already anticipated.

Stakeholder Jane Wooster expressed concern about the wide cost ranges presented and requested that refined cost estimates be brought back for consideration before any major decisions are made.

Committee Chair Kelly repeated his concern that the current Model is insufficient Basin Wide. The Ventucopa area is a unique and complex issue and will benefit from the incorporation of data in #1. But the rest of the studies should be considered to include input from all the major

side channels in the basin as well. For example, Salisbury Canyon, Aliso Canyon, Schoolhouse Canyon and other places where this same info is missing or inadequate in the Model. The GSA cannot make management decisions based on only understanding one area, we need to understand the entire basin, especially since there are the same unknowns across the basin and the Model is equally inadequate to understand stratigraphy, surface and sub surface flows everywhere else in this complex Basin.

Committee Member DeBranch emphasized that overdraft is a basin-wide issue and cautioned against viewing Ventucopa in isolation. Brad says the 6–7 million-dollar grant funding gave us a lot of great info. But future work is going to be landowner funded and it will be a lot. It will be hard to determine how much funds can be funded in the future. He admitted that the more data the Basin can get is always better but couldn't say for sure if it is worth it. He is not in favor right now since work needs to be done across the entire basin.

Stakeholder Byron Albano emphasized that improvements #1-2 addressing basin structure and fault behavior are foundational and should be prioritized, especially #2 since it addresses all the headlands above the fault to the south. #1 will have to be done sooner or later. # 5 can wait until the next scheduled Model update. But no allocation for Ventucopa is needed since we now all know that Ventucopa is not overdrafted.

MOTION: Committee Member Jaffe made a motion to recommend option 4; to defer model improvements until the next model update. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Haslett. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed.

AYES: Haslett, Jaffe, Lewis, Kelly

NOES: DeBranch, Caufield

11b) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Options to Address New Pumping Outside the Management Area

There was general agreement that this Policy should be driven by real groundwater data and ground truthing and should not be dependent on the Models predictions of a <2' draw down over 50 years. Land use changes, pumping records and well improvement permit info should trigger a specific analysis by Staff of the localized impact to the Sustainable Yield. It was concerning that the Monitoring Network and Sustainable Criteria would not discover a problem until too late. Several Committee Members used the new Salisbury Canyon Cannabis operation as a prime example.

Committee Member DeBranch emphasized that the basin is managed as a single interconnected system which is designated as overdrafted by SGMA. He stated that pumping increases outside the CMA could affect basin-wide sustainability and noted that cumulative pumping outside management areas could exceed what might otherwise be allocated under basin sustainable yield assumptions. He feels this should be static from now on.

Stakeholder Jane Wooster shared her concern for the accuracy of the monitoring network interpretation with examples from the color-coded map in the western area. Areas that have no pumping and show groundwater elevations coming up are labeled as declining. She emphasized the need for more ground truthing and situational analyses.

13c) Update on October 2025 Groundwater Level and Quality Conditions Reports

Stakeholder Jim Wegis says he is paying for water analysis out of his pocket while GSA is charging to do it again and suggested that the GSA could request the irrigation well records that are required by the state of any large pumper that include groundwater elevations, water quality and pump capacities information. Stakeholder Byron Albano agreed that a lot of money could be saved in consulting fees if this duplication of data collection was minimized and avoided.

13d) Update on Adaptive Management Processes for Minimum Threshold Exceedances

Committee Member Robbie Jaffe shared that she continues to be baffled by the explanation of how the Minimum Thresholds are established and is further confounded by how the only solution to an exceedance issue is to find a reason to lower the threshold.

Committee Member DeBranch felt that the concept of "Well Protection Depth" had technical merit and that this correction is justifiable.

Chair Kelly emphasized his concern for the unrelenting downward trend of groundwater levels. Opti wells 91 and 99 are prime examples. Although they bounce back over 20' seasonally they are consistently dropping almost 10' year over year. That is unacceptable and all we have ever done (in the name of Adaptive Management) is lower the MTs to make it appear to be perfectly acceptable. He feels this is exactly how this GSA will fail SGMA and this Valley.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenton Kelly
SAC Chairperson