



AGENDA

December 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm

Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall

401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023

Phone: 805.640.1207 **Web site:** obgma.com

Email: obgma@aol.com

Board of Directors

Richard Hajas, Casitas Municipal Water District

Jim Finch, Ojai Water Conservation District

Peter Thielke, Mutual Water Companies

Bob Daddi, Community Facilities District

Andrew Whitman, City of Ojai

Zoom Teleconferencing for Public Call in Participation:

1. Zoom Dial in Information: 1-669-900-9128, Meeting ID: 827 5712 7464, Password: 218792.

For Public Viewing

2. Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82757127464?pwd=Rm5JenhNUDNvRVovaEUwMzdScnFRdz09>

3. www.OBGMA.com

4. City of Ojai YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DhCB5Z1DynNC7n8qcNeDQ/live> (2 Minute delay of transmission)

5. In Ojai, CA: Spectrum Channel 10.

Public Comments: Members of the public may provide public comments under Item 6 or on each agenda item presented herein. Please wait until the Board Chair asks if any members of the public wish to comment. This will provide for orderly participation during the meeting.

Members of the public may also submit written public comments in advance via e-mail no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Public comment e-mails should be sent to

OBGMA@aol.com "Attention Board of Directors".

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

- Mutual Water Companies
- Ojai Water Conservation District
- City of Ojai
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Community Facilities District – CMWD Ojai Service Area

4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

5. BASIN STATUS REPORTS

- Current Status of Basin: Input, Output, and Storage

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive comments from the public at this time. Other than for emergency items, no action can be taken during this period. Matters raised at this time may be briefly discussed by the Board and will generally be referred to staff and/or placed on a subsequent agenda.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Financial Report for October 2024
- b) Minutes of October 24, 2024, meeting

8. ACTION ITEMS

a. Well Verification – 3622 Reeves Road

- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin;
- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not decrease the likelihood of achieving any sustainability goal for the Basin as covered by the Plan; and
- Adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 Authorizing Well Verification for a Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 035-0-290-165, 3622 Reeves Road

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update
- b) Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update

10. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meetings of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency are scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. The meeting agenda will be posted at Ojai City Hall and the OBGMA website 72 hours prior to the meeting.

The December 26, 2024, meeting was cancelled by the Board. The next regular meeting of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency is scheduled for January 30, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers at Ojai City Hall and by Zoom Teleconferencing. Please contact OBGMA by email at obgma@aol.com or by calling 805.640.1207 with any questions.

	Oct-24	YTD	Annual Budget
Beginning Bank Balance			
Checking	121,380.07		
Savings	50,032.57		
	171,412.64		
Income			
Returned Check Charges		-	
Well Permit Fees	3,875.00	3,875.00	
GSP Extraction Fees	82,497.62	82,497.62	300,000.00
Well Head Fee	7,929.07	7,929.07	55,000.00
Late Fees	138.10	138.10	1,000.00
Recordation Fee	489.92	489.92	3,000.00
Extraction Charges	28,737.76	28,737.76	75,000.00
Savings Acct Interest		-	5.00
Total Income	123,667.47	123,667.47	434,005.00
Total Income	123,667.47	123,667.47	
Expense			
Equipment Purchased			
Advertising		-	
Outside Services	245.00	245.00	17,500.00
Dues & Subscriptions		-	
GSP Implementation	900.00	900.00	85,000.00
Printing and Reproduction		-	
Liability Insurance		-	4,500.00
Postage and Delivery		-	
Bank Service Charges		-	
Workers Comp Ins		-	500.00
Office/Administrative Expenses	515.73	515.73	5,000.00
Payroll Expenses	4,147.61	4,147.61	48,000.00
Professional Fees	22,288.10	22,288.10	129,700.00
Website Expense		-	
Rent	926.00	926.00	12,000.00
Travel		-	
Telecommunications		-	
Total Expense	29,022.44	29,022.44	302,200.00
Net Ordinary Income	94,645.03	94,645.03	131,805.00
Grant Activity			
WCB Grant Income		-	
WCB (WS) Expenses		-	
GSP Expenses		-	
Net Income	94,645.03	94,645.03	
Other Adjustments			
Permit Deposit Paid/Deducted	(3,875.00)		
Transfer to Savings			
Transfer From Savings			
Customer Well Deposit			
Payroll Tax Liab Paymts	1,593.22		
Payroll Liab on hold	981.47		
Customer Overpayments			
Nominal Over/Short	376.31		
Refund- Work Comp Ins			
Customer Credits Applied			
State Comp Fund Dividend	50.00		
Rent Reimbursement			
Customer Reimbursement			
Ending Bank Balance			
Checking	211,964.66		
Savings	50,032.57		
	261,997.23		

OBGMA
Cash Flows

As of October 31, 2024

Oct 31, 24

Beginning Cash Balance September 30, 2024

Bank of the Sierra-Checking	121,380.07
Bank of the Sierra-Savings	<u>50,032.57</u>
	171,412.64

Inflows

Well Permit Deposit	-3,875.00
Well Permit Charges	3,875.00
GSP Extraction	82,497.62
Well Head Fee	7,929.07
Late Charge On Extraction	138.10
Recordation Fee	489.92
Extraction Charges	28,737.76
Overpayments	<u>376.31</u>
	120,168.78

Expense

Outside Services	245.00
Postage and Delivery	425.99
Insurance	-50.00
Ground Water implementation	900.00
Office Supplies	-11.49
Payroll Expenses	4,759.36
Professional Fees	22,288.10
Rent	926.00
Telephone	<u>101.23</u>
Total Expense	<u>29,584.19</u>

Ending Cash Balances as of October 31, 2024

Bank of the Sierra-Checking	211,964.66
Bank of the Sierra-Savings	<u>50,032.57</u>
	261,997.23

9:54 AM

11/04/24

OBGMA Reconciliation Summary

Bank of the Sierra-Checking, Period Ending 10/31/2024

	<u>Oct 31, 24</u>
Beginning Balance	129,016.32
Cleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 21 items	-33,198.57
Deposits and Credits - 14 items	125,263.81
Total Cleared Transactions	<u>92,065.24</u>
Cleared Balance	<u>221,081.56</u>
Uncleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 6 items	-9,116.90
Total Uncleared Transactions	<u>-9,116.90</u>
Register Balance as of 10/31/2024	<u>211,964.66</u>
New Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 3 items	-866.25
Deposits and Credits - 1 item	6,260.54
Total New Transactions	<u>5,394.29</u>
Ending Balance	<u>217,358.95</u>

OBGMA Reconciliation Detail

Bank of the Sierra-Checking, Period Ending 10/31/2024

Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balance						129,016.32
Cleared Transactions						
Checks and Payments - 21 items						
Bill Pmt -Check	09/23/2024	3623	Hollister & Brace, At...	X	-9,018.75	-9,018.75
Bill Pmt -Check	09/23/2024	3621	Casitas Municipal W...	X	-1,785.00	-10,803.75
Bill Pmt -Check	09/23/2024	3620	417 Bryant Circle LLC	X	-800.00	-11,603.75
Bill Pmt -Check	09/23/2024	3624	Michelle Gaston	X	-225.00	-11,828.75
Check	10/02/2024	ACH	Condor Self Storage	X	-126.00	-11,954.75
Bill Pmt -Check	10/07/2024	ACH	Streamline	X	-1,740.00	-13,694.75
Bill Pmt -Check	10/07/2024	ACH	JStreet Technology I...	X	-245.00	-13,939.75
Check	10/07/2024	ACH	Stamps.com	X	-50.00	-13,989.75
Bill Pmt -Check	10/15/2024	ACH	Spectrum	X	-101.23	-14,090.98
Check	10/15/2024	ACH	Stamps.com	X	-50.00	-14,140.98
Liability Check	10/16/2024	E-pay	IRS	X	-1,494.18	-15,635.16
Liability Check	10/16/2024	E-pay	Employment Develo...	X	-67.60	-15,702.76
Check	10/16/2024	ACH	Harland Clark	X	-33.54	-15,736.30
Liability Check	10/16/2024	E-pay	Employment Develo...	X	-31.44	-15,767.74
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2024	3629	Farber Hass Hurley ...	X	-8,750.00	-24,517.74
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2024	3628	Dudek	X	-4,043.75	-28,561.49
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2024	3630	Hollister & Brace, At...	X	-2,526.09	-31,087.58
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2024	3627	Casitas Municipal W...	X	-1,785.00	-32,872.58
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2024	3631	USPS	X	-256.00	-33,128.58
Check	10/25/2024	ACH	Stamps.com	X	-19.99	-33,148.57
Check	10/31/2024	ACH	USPS	X	-50.00	-33,198.57
Total Checks and Payments					-33,198.57	-33,198.57
Deposits and Credits - 14 items						
Deposit	09/30/2024			X	5,000.00	5,000.00
Deposit	10/02/2024			X	4,811.10	9,811.10
Deposit	10/07/2024			X	500.00	10,311.10
Deposit	10/11/2024			X	1,725.70	12,036.80
Deposit	10/14/2024			X	73,621.45	85,658.25
Deposit	10/16/2024			X	10,457.00	96,115.25
Deposit	10/18/2024	ACH	Staples	X	45.03	96,160.28
Deposit	10/18/2024			X	15,936.25	112,096.53
Deposit	10/21/2024			X	50.00	112,146.53
Deposit	10/21/2024			X	2,513.50	114,660.03
Deposit	10/23/2024			X	4,148.00	118,808.03
Deposit	10/25/2024			X	3,156.52	121,964.55
Deposit	10/28/2024			X	1,355.26	123,319.81
Deposit	10/30/2024			X	1,944.00	125,263.81
Total Deposits and Credits					125,263.81	125,263.81
Total Cleared Transactions					92,065.24	92,065.24
Cleared Balance					92,065.24	221,081.56
Uncleared Transactions						
Checks and Payments - 6 items						
Bill Pmt -Check	09/25/2023	3528	Michelle Gaston		-412.50	-412.50
Bill Pmt -Check	04/24/2024	3586	Michelle Gaston		-395.00	-807.50
Bill Pmt -Check	10/21/2024	3626	417 Bryant Circle LLC		-800.00	-1,607.50
Bill Pmt -Check	10/31/2024	3632	Kear Groundwater		-4,343.26	-5,950.76
Paycheck	10/31/2024	3634	VanDerMeer, Cece A		-1,661.64	-7,612.40
Paycheck	10/31/2024	3633	Ransom, Tara R.		-1,504.50	-9,116.90
Total Checks and Payments					-9,116.90	-9,116.90
Total Uncleared Transactions					-9,116.90	-9,116.90
Register Balance as of 10/31/2024					82,948.34	211,964.66
New Transactions						
Checks and Payments - 3 items						
Check	11/02/2024	ACH	Condor Self Storage		-126.00	-126.00
Check	11/04/2024	3635	Culbert Family Trust		-372.75	-498.75
Check	11/04/2024	ACH	JStreet Technology I...		-367.50	-866.25

9:54 AM

11/04/24

OBGMA Reconciliation Detail

Bank of the Sierra-Checking, Period Ending 10/31/2024

<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Clr</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Total Checks and Payments					-866.25	-866.25
Deposits and Credits - 1 item						
Deposit	11/01/2024				6,260.54	6,260.54
Total Deposits and Credits					6,260.54	6,260.54
Total New Transactions					5,394.29	5,394.29
Ending Balance					88,342.63	217,358.95

OBGMA
Disbursements
As of October 31, 2024

Date	Num	Name	Account	Amount
10/02/2024	ACH	Condor Self Storage	Rent	-126.00
10/07/2024	ACH	JStreet Technology Inc	Outside Services	-245.00
10/07/2024	ACH	Streamline	Professional Fees	-1,740.00
10/16/2024	ACH	Harland Clark	Office Expenses	-33.54
10/25/2024	ACH	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-19.99
10/07/2024	ACH	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-50.00
10/15/2024	ACH	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-50.00
10/15/2024	ACH	Spectrum	Office Expenses	-101.23
10/31/2024	ACH	USPS	Postage and Delivery	-50.00
10/16/2024	E-pay	Employment Development Department	Paryoll Taxes	-67.60
10/16/2024	E-pay	Employment Development Department	Payroll Taxes	-31.44
10/16/2024	E-pay	IRS	Payroll Taxes	-1,494.18
10/21/2024	3626	417 Bryant Circle LLC	Rent	-800.00
10/21/2024	3627	Casitas Municipal Water District	Professional Fees	-1,785.00
10/21/2024	3628	Dudek	Professional Fees	-4,043.75
10/21/2024	3629	Farber Hass Hurley LLP	Professional Fees	-8,750.00
10/21/2024	3630	Hollister & Brace, Attorneys at Law	Professional Fees	-2,526.09
10/21/2024	3631	USPS	Postage and Delivery	-256.00
10/31/2024	3632	Kear Groundwater	Professional Fees	-4,343.26
10/31/2024	3633	Ransom, Tara R.	Payroll Expenses	-1,504.50
10/31/2024	3634	VanDerMeer, Cece A	Payroll Expenses	-1,661.64
				-29,679.22
				<u>-29,679.22</u>

OBGMA EXTRACTION CHARGES BY PERIOD

2023/2024 Water Year

Oct/Nov/Dec 2023	(1-2024)		(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	415.58	\$10,430.59				
Dom/Land	56.27	\$1,505.00				
Muni/Indus	11.70	\$292.50				
CMWD	401.70	\$10,042.50				
Totals	885.25	\$22,270.59	\$10,400.00	\$740.00	\$31,991.64	\$65,402.23

Jan/Feb/Mar 2024	(2-2024)		(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	108.75	\$3,119.99				
Dom/Land	51.88	\$1,654.75				
Muni/Indus	2.16	\$70.00				
CMWD	221.10	\$5,527.50				
Totals	383.89	\$10,372.24	\$9,815.00	\$550.00	\$29,033.29	\$49,770.53

April/May/June 2024	(3-2024)		(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	391.46	\$10,014.43				
Dom/Land	98.32	\$2,000.91				
Muni/Indus	8.40	\$210.00				
CMWD	335.89	\$8,397.25				
Totals	834.07	\$20,622.59	\$9,972.50	\$590.00	\$58,928.49	\$90,113.58

Jul/Aug/Sept 2024	(4-2024)		(\$25/acre foot)			
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	593.35	\$15,090.01				
Dom/Land	113.65	\$3,140.85				
Muni/Indus	14.00	\$350.00				
CMWD	539.96	\$13,499.00				
Totals	1260.96	\$32,079.86	\$7,670.00	\$440.00	\$93,699.26	\$133,889.12

Total for water YTD 10/1/23- 9/30/24

Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head Fee	Recordation F	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
3364.17	\$ 85,345.28	\$37,857.50	\$2,320.00	\$213,652.68	\$339,175.46

OBGMA EXTRACTION CHARGES BY PERIOD

2022/2023

Oct/Nov/Dec 2022		(1-2023)		(\$25/acre foot)		
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	359.52	\$9,092.60				
Dom/Land	40.56	\$1,180.75				
Muni/Indus	9.56	\$239.00				
CMWD	299.00	\$7,475.00				
Totals	708.64	\$17,987.35	\$10,010.00	\$570.00	\$24,655.79	\$53,223.14

Jan/Feb/Mar 2023		(2-2023)		(\$25/acre foot)		
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	119.85	\$3,041.61				
Dom/Land	37.69	\$1,053.50				
Muni/Indus	1.83	\$47.25				
CMWD	229.50	\$5,737.50				
Totals	388.87	\$9,879.86	\$10,140.00	\$580.00	\$12,857.33	\$33,457.19

April/May/June 2023		(3-2023)		(\$25/acre foot)		
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	515.32	\$12,949.87				
Dom/Land	61.22	\$1,586.85				
Muni/Indus	3.63	\$90.75				
CMWD	337.40	\$8,435.00				
Totals	917.57	\$23,062.47	\$10,790.00	\$340.00	\$32,597.67	\$66,790.14

Jul/Aug/Sept 2023		(4-2023)		(\$25/acre foot)		
	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	675.42	\$16,993.26				
Dom/Land	142.11	\$3,627.33				
Muni/Indus	11.87	\$296.75				
CMWD	493.70	\$12,342.50				
Totals	1323.10	\$33,259.84	\$10,346.65	\$744.00	\$47,547.62	\$91,898.11

Total for water YTD 10/1/22- 9/30/23

Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head Fee	Recordation Fee	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
3338.18	\$ 84,189.52	\$41,286.65	\$2,234.00	\$117,658.41	\$245,368.58

OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 24, 2024

The Regular Meeting of October 24, 2024, of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency was called to order at 3:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023.

Attendees were: Board Members: Richard Hajas, Jim Finch, Bob Daddi and Andrew Whitman. General Manager Julia Aranda and Secretary/Treasurer Cece VanDerMeer.

Also in attendance: Peter Candy, Attorney and Jordan Kear, Consultant.

Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. VanDerMeer called the roll.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Hajas.

2. **Director Announcements/Reports/Comments:**

Mutuals: None

Ojai Water Conservation District: None

City of Ojai: None

Casitas Municipal Water District: None

Community Facilities District Report: None

3. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Aranda reported that she would be attending Ojai Day with Casitas Mutual Water District and would have information about the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency on hand. Aranda reported that she will be attending the Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Act 10-year anniversary event via Zoom.

4. **BASIN STATUS REPORT:**

Jordan Kear had a presentation "Dry But Not Scary Dry". Kear reported the Key Well was 97.55' below ground level and there was 64,800 acre-feet in the basin.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA:**

None.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

a. Daddi motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Finch seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Roll Call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Whitman and Hajas
Noes: None

7. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Item: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

The Board discussed the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget.
Finch motioned to approve the 2024-25 Budget. Whitman seconded.
Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Whitman and Hajas
Noes: None

b. Item: Employment Agreements

The Board discussed the Employment Agreements with Cece Vandermeer and Tara Ransom for the period October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.
Daddi motioned to approve the Employment Agreements. Whitman seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Whitman and Hajas
Noes: None

c. Item: November and December Board Meetings

The Board discussed moving the November 28, 2024, Board meeting to November 21, 2024, and cancelling the December 26, 2024. The Board decided to combine the next two scheduled Board meetings and meet on December 5, 2024. Daddi motioned to cancel the December 26, 2024, meeting and move the November 28 meeting to December 5, 2024. Finch seconded.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Daddi, Finch, Whitman and Hajas
Noes: None

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Item: Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee Update

The Ad-Hoc Committee did not meet.

b. Item: Meter Compliance Ad-Hoc Committee Update

Aranda reported that she will be sending out a 90-day notice to the unmetered well owners, which gives them a deadline of January 30, 2025, to install a meter.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be on December 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai.

ATTEST: _____

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

Memorandum

To: Board of Directors
From: Julia Aranda, PE, General Manager
Subject: Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency on APN 035-0-290-165, 3622 Reeves Road

December 5, 2024

Recommendation

- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management program established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin;
- Determine that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not decrease the likelihood of achieving any sustainability goal for the Basin as covered by the Plan; and
- Adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 Authorizing Written Verification of a Proposed New Well Located Within the Boundaries of the Agency of Assessor's Parcel No. APN 035-0-290-165, 3622 Reeves Road

Background and Discussion

The attached Well Application for 3622 Reeves Road was submitted September 20, 2024, for a replacement well with anticipated demand of 100 acre-feet per year (AFY). There are two wells on the property, State Well No. (SWN) 04N22W08B04S and SWN 04N22W09D02S. The proposed well will replace SWN 04N22W08B04S and SWN 04N22W09D02S will remain as a backup well. The property is 49.6 acres, 48 acres of which are citrus and avocado groves.

The applicant provided the deposit for OBGMA to engage Dudek, OBGMA's GSP consultant, to evaluate the proposed well's consistency with the approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Dudek's memorandum dated November 12, 2024, is attached herein. Based on their analysis, the proposed well is not anticipated to cause undesirable results in the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin.

The proposed well will be located approximately 200 feet from Thacher Creek and in close proximity to the current interpreted eastern extent of the perched aquifer system comprising the Southwest Upper Saturated Zone (SWUSZ). OBGMA adopted Ordinance No. 12 on September 28, 2023, to require sealing of annular spaces of wells drilled through the perched aquifer (SWUSZ) to protect surface water streams directly connected to the perched system,

including Thacher Creek, from direct extraction. Kear Groundwater was engaged (with additional deposit by the well owner) to investigate nearby wells and the potential for the perched system to extend eastward beyond the location of the proposed well. Kear's memorandum dated November 11, 2024, is attached. Lithologic data from nearby wells indicates the presence of thick clays that may support extending the interpreted extent of perched system eastward beyond the proposed well site (Kear Groundwater 2024). Kear recommends accepting verification of the proposed well with specific conditions during well drilling and sealing of the annular space to protect the perched system to the extent it exists at the proposed well site.

Resolution No. 2024-05 is attached for adoption which incorporates the recommendations from Kear Groundwater; the draft verification letter is also attached for information.

Budget Impact

There is no budget impact related to well verification as the applicant paid for staff time, attorney review, and the evaluations by Dudek and Kear Groundwater.

Attachments:

- Well Verification Application
- Dudek memorandum, Assessment of GSP Consistency – Proposed Replacement Well Located at 3622 Reeves Road, dated November 12, 2024
- Kear Groundwater memorandum dated November 11, 2024
- Resolution No. 2024-05
- Draft Verification Letter with Conditions



**OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY
A STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCY**

417 BRYANT CIRCLE, SUITE 112
OJAI CA 93023

P.O. BOX 1779
OJAI CA 93024

WWW.OBGMA.COM

WATER WELL REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION REQUEST

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA or Agency) requires all groundwater extraction facilities within its jurisdictional boundaries to be registered with the Agency. No extraction facility may be operated or otherwise utilized so as to extract groundwater within the boundaries of the Agency unless the facility is registered with the Agency, equipped with a water meter, and all extractions are reported to the Agency as required by OBGMA Ordinance No. 8. In addition, pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-3-23, Paragraph 4a, all non-exempt proposed new or modified extraction facilities located within the boundaries of the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Bulletin 118 Basin No. 4-002) require written verification from the Agency prior to issuance of a well permit by the Ventura County Public Works Agency. The written verification must find that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the Agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin, and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving any of the sustainability goals the Agency has established for the Basin pursuant to the GSP.

ALL WELLS MUST HAVE A METER INSTALLED PER OBGMA ORDINANCE NO. 8

A. PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

NAME: Reeves Orchard LLC
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3622 Reeves Road
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 035-0-290-165
PHONE NO.: 805-640-1912
EMAIL: ninekitties@aol.com

B. OPERATOR INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NO.: _____
EMAIL: _____

C. TYPE OF WELL

<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW	EXISTING WELL NO.:	<u>04N22W08B04S</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REPLACEMENT	EXISTING WELL NO.:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	ALTERATION OF EXISTING WELL	EXISTING WELL NO.:	_____

D. TYPE OF USE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION		
		<u>EXISTING</u>	
	<u>CROP TYPE</u>	<u>OR NEW?</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
	<u>Citrus/avo</u>	<u>Ex</u>	<u>45+</u>
			<u>TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM</u>
			<u>Drip and spray</u>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOMESTIC	NO. OF HOUSING UNITS: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	MUNICIPAL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	INDUSTRIAL	TYPE OF INDUSTRY: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	MONITORING	



OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

E. PROPOSED EXTRACTION

ACRE-FEET PER YEAR: 100

F. EXISTING WATER SUPPLY

NO OTHER SUPPLY
 EXISTING WELL WELL NO.: _____
 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIER WATER AGENCY: _____

G. WELL DRILLER

NAME: Hansen Drilling
ADDRESS: p.o. box 729 Oak View CA 93022
PHONE NO.: 805-646-4802
EMAIL: brandon@welldo.com

H. MAP REQUIREMENTS

Attach a map accurately plotted and show the location of the proposed well. If a replacement well, show location of existing well and distance to proposed well. Provide dimensions of area to be irrigated, indicating crop type for each area, as applicable. For domestic, municipal, or industrial, show the water distribution system and location of structures to be served. Include a north arrow, the Assessor's Parcel Number, and the nearest streets. No permit applications will be accepted without an adequate map.

I. APPLICANT SIGNATURE

By signing in the space below, the Applicant declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that (1) the information provided with this form is true and correct, and (2) the Applicant/Owner/Operator of the proposed extraction facility agrees to comply with all Agency rules and regulations governing extraction facilities located within the boundaries of the Agency.

My member Applicant 9-20-24 Date

A WELL COMPLETION REPORT MUST BE PROVIDED TO OBGMA WITHIN 30 DAYS OF COMPLETION

All Applications must be accompanied by:

- _____ Copy of VCPWA Well Permit Application
- _____ Acknowledgement Form
- _____ Indemnification Agreement
- _____ Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement
- _____ \$5,000 Deposit

November 12, 2024

Julia Aranda
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
417 Bryant Circle, Suite 112
Ojai, California 93023

Subject: Assessment of GSP Consistency – Proposed New Well Located at 3622 Reeves Road

Dear Ms. Aranda:

On September 27, 2024, Dudek received a request from the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) to support the agency's evaluation of a proposed well's consistency with the sustainability program outlined in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (OVGB). Dudek received notice-to-proceed on this evaluation on September 30, 2024. This letter provides Dudek's evaluation of the proposed well in a manner consistent with the OBGMA's *Updated Process and Criteria for Administering Water Well Registration and Verification Requests*.

The application provided to Dudek by OBGMA indicates that the new well would be located at 3622 Reeves Road and is anticipated to pump approximately 100 acre-feet per year (AFY) from the basin for domestic water supply and agricultural irrigation. Additionally, Dudek understands that the applicant will be operating this well in lieu of existing wells owned and maintained by the applicant. For this evaluation, OBGMA provided Dudek with two well permit forms: the Ventura County Well Permit Application and the OBGMA's Water Well Registration and Verification Request form. These forms indicate that the proposed well would replace well 04N22W08B04S and be backed up by well 04N22W09D02S. In water year 2023, wells 04N22W08B04S and 04N22W09D02S extracted a combined total of approximately 22 acre-feet (AF) of groundwater from the OVGB. Therefore, operation of the proposed new well will result in a net increase in groundwater extractions from the OVGB of approximately 78 AFY.

To assess the consistency of the proposed use with the GSP, Dudek evaluated the proposed well against the set of four evaluation criteria established in the OBGMA's *Updated Process and Criteria for Administering Water Well Registration and Verification*

1 Well Permit Review Approach

On September 26, 2024, the OBGMA established an *Updated Process and Criteria for Administering Water Well Registration and Verification Requests*. In this, the OBGMA developed a set of criteria for evaluating the impacts of a proposed new or modified well that is consistent with the Sustainability Goal of the OVGB. The GSP adopted by the OBGMA on January 6, 2022, outlines the Sustainability Goal for the basin,

The OBGMA's sustainability goal is to preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater in the Ojai Basin in order to protect and maintain the long-term water supply for the common benefit of the water users in the Basin. (p. 3-3, OVGB GSP)

The data presented in the GSP indicates that conditions in the basin have historically been, and are currently, sustainable (p. 3-3; OVGB GSP). To maintain sustainability in the OVGB, the GSP states that conditions in the basin will be (p. 3-3, OVGB GSP),

Considered sustainable so long as the following sustainability goal components continue to be met:

- *Long-term, aggregate groundwater use is less than or equal to the OVGB's estimated sustainable yield, as defined by SGMA;*
- *Groundwater levels are maintained at elevations necessary to avoid undesirable results. Lowering of groundwater levels potentially leading to significant and unreasonable depletions of available water supply for beneficial use could occur if groundwater levels fall below minimum thresholds set at representative monitoring points (RMPs);*
- *Groundwater quality, as measured in municipal and domestic water wells, generally exhibits a stable and/or improving trend for identified contaminants of concern (COCs): total dissolved solids (TDS), sulfate, chloride, boron, nitrate, iron, and manganese; and*
- *Groundwater quality is suitable for existing beneficial uses.*

Based on the sustainability goal components outlined in the GSP, the four criteria developed by OBGMA to evaluate the consistency of the proposed new well with the Sustainability Goal for the OVGB are:

1. Will the projected drawdown cause groundwater level minimum threshold exceedances at the nearest representative monitoring points?
2. Is the projected production likely to cause long-term exceedance of the sustainable yield of the OVGB?
3. Is the project likely to cause exceedance of the minimum thresholds for groundwater quality at the nearest representative monitoring points?
4. Will the projected drawdown impact ongoing or future projects aimed at maintaining sustainability or addressing critical data gaps in the OVGB?

While impacts to ongoing or future projects are not explicitly identified as a sustainability goal component in the GSP, significant data gaps were identified in the GSP that limit understanding of the hydrogeologic conceptual model and characterization of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the OVGB. The GSP identifies projects that support additional data collection and field investigations to reduce these data gaps. As such, criteria 4 was added to the evaluation to ensure that these projects are not significantly impacted by a proposed well or well modification.

3 Technical Review of Proposed Well Located at 3622 Reeves Road

3.1 Evaluation Criteria No. 1 - Groundwater Level Minimum Threshold Exceedance

When water is extracted from a well, groundwater levels around the well decline creating a cone of depression. The cone of depression is deepest at the well and extends radially to a distance away from the well where water-level decline (or drawdown) is effectively zero. Groundwater extraction from the proposed well located at 3622 Reeves Road would result in localized groundwater level drawdown in the OVGB.

As defined in the GSP, conditions in the OVGB are considered sustainable if groundwater levels at the representative monitoring points (RMPs) in the OVGB remain above their established minimum threshold groundwater elevations. To evaluate whether the proposed new well may induce conditions that cause minimum threshold exceedances at the RMPs, Dudek quantified the anticipated groundwater elevation drawdown at each RMP associated with operation of the proposed new well. The drawdown associated with operation of the proposed new well was quantified using the Cooper-Jacob approximation of the Theis non-equilibrium flow equation (Cooper and Jacob 1946):

$$s = \frac{2.3Q}{4\pi T} \log_{10} \frac{2.25Tt}{r^2S}$$

Where:

- s = predicted drawdown (ft)
- Q = average pumping rate (ft³/d)
- T = Transmissivity (ft²/d)
- t = time since pumping started (days)
- R = distance from pumping well (ft)
- S = coefficient of storage (dimensionless)

The Cooper-Jacob provides a close approximation to the Theis equation when the dimensionless time (u) is sufficiently small (i.e., u < 0.05) (Driscoll 1986), where:

$$u = \frac{r^2S}{4Tt}$$

Where:

- u = time (dimensionless)
- r = distance from pumping well (ft)
- S = coefficient of storage (dimensionless)
- T = transmissivity (ft²/d)
- t = time since pumping started

The dimensionless time parameter, u , that represents drawdown associated with operation of the proposed new well after 1-year of steady-state operation ranged from 0.0002 to 0.0020, from nearest to farthest RMP.

Table 1 provides estimated groundwater level decline at RMPs after one year of pumping 100 AF from the proposed new well. Aquifer transmissivity and storativity values used in the calculations were obtained from the Ojai Basin Groundwater Model (OBGM) and represent weighted average values for the model layers of the grid cell where the proposed well is to be located. Saturated aquifer thickness was calculated by subtracting the bottom elevation of the lowermost model layer of the grid cell where the proposed well is to be located from the most recent groundwater elevation recorded at the groundwater level monitoring well closest in land surface elevation and distance to the proposed new well. The transmissivity value used in the calculations was 4,653 square feet per day and the storativity value used was 0.0001.

Table 1. Estimated Drawdown at RMPs

Representative Monitoring Point SWN	Distance from Proposed New Well (feet / miles)	Drawdown after One Year of Pumping (feet)	Most Recent Groundwater Elevation (feet MSL) ¹	Groundwater Elevation Minimum Threshold (feet MSL)
04N22W04Q001S	5,274 / 1.00	1.47	964.40	915.90
05N22W32P003S	6,696 / 1.27	1.37	804.24	771.60
04N22W05L003S	3,792 / 0.72	1.60	792.03	576.30
04N22W06K003S	6,884 / 1.30	1.36	785.6	556.50
04N23W01J003S	10,658 / 2.02	1.18	751.71	567.50
04N22W06E06S	9,297 / 1.76	1.24	674.46	NA
NA "South Central DDMW"	11,346 / 2.15	1.15	720.01	NA
04N22W05L008S	3,506 / 0.66	1.63	820.89	576.28

Note: SWN = state well identification number; MSL = mean sea level.

¹ Groundwater elevation measured Fall 2023 (mostly September 2023).

As shown in Table 1, groundwater elevations currently range from approximately 30-feet to 230-feet above the established minimum threshold groundwater elevations. Estimates of pumping-induced drawdown at these RMPs range from approximately 1.15-feet to 1.63-feet (Table 1). These levels of drawdown are not expected to cause exceedance of the minimum thresholds under current conditions.

The minimum thresholds established in the GSP were set using the historical low groundwater levels to avoid groundwater elevation declines that would:

“lower the rate of production of existing groundwater wells below that necessary to meet the minimum required to support the overlying beneficial uses, where alternative means of obtaining sufficient groundwater resources or local surface water resources from Lake Casitas are not technically or financially feasible for the well owner to absorb, either independently or with assistance from the OBGMA, or other available assistance/grant program(s)” (pg. 3-7 of OVGB GSP).

Under drought conditions, operation of the proposed well may result in groundwater elevations at RMPs that occur 1 to 2 feet below the historical lows. However, considering the rapid groundwater elevation recovery experienced in the OVGB during normal and wet water years, the additional 1 to 2 feet of drawdown is not anticipated to cause

significant and unreasonable impacts to overlying beneficial users by limiting groundwater accessibility. Based on this, the proposed new well is not anticipated to cause undesirable results associated with chronic lowering of groundwater levels or reduction of groundwater in storage.

3.2 Evaluation Criteria No. 2 – Sustainable Yield Exceedance

The estimated sustainable yield of the OVGB is between 4,100 and 5,000 AFY (p. 3-2, OBGMA 2022). Groundwater extractions since 2019 have averaged approximately 4,035 AFY (OBGMA 2024), which is less than the estimated sustainable yield of the OVGB. The Proposed well plans to pump 100 AFY, but Dudek understands that this production will replace pumping from two wells (04N22W08D02S and 04N22W08B04S), which collectively pumped 22 AF from the OVGB in water year 2023. Based on this, it is anticipated that operation of the proposed new well would result in a net increase in groundwater extractions from the OVGB of approximately 78 AFY.

The additional 78 AFY of groundwater extractions from this well is not likely to cause an exceedance of the sustainable yield.

3.3 Evaluation Criteria No. 3 – Degradation of Water Quality

The primary potential constituents of concern (COCs) in the OVGB include total dissolved solids, sulfate, chloride, boron, nitrate, iron, and manganese. Figures 1 through 7 show maximum concentrations of these constituents in wells sampled in the OVGB from 2010 to 2020. As shown in the figures, the concentrations of COCs are generally below State and Federal primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water, although there is high variation between individual wells sampled. Where concentrations of COCs exceed MCLs, the exceedances are largely due to naturally occurring elevated concentrations and not degradation of water quality due to groundwater extraction.

The proposed new well is to be located in the southeastern portion of the OVGB. There are limited groundwater quality measurements in the vicinity of the proposed well.

As noted in the GSP, undesirable results associated with chronic lowering of groundwater levels may be closely linked to undesirable results associated with degradation of water quality because groundwater levels below historical lows may increasingly limit the efficacy of existing mitigation strategies (e.g., blending of groundwater with other water sources). Because the proposed operation of the new well is not anticipated to cause groundwater level minimum threshold exceedances, the proposed new well is similarly not anticipated to cause minimum threshold exceedances associated with the degradation of water quality. Additionally, the projected drawdown associated with operation of the proposed new well is not anticipated to significantly alter existing groundwater elevation gradients and flow directions, which would potentially lead to the migration of low-quality groundwater.

3.4 Evaluation Criteria No. 4 – Impacts to Ongoing and Future Projects

The GSP includes projects and management actions (PMAs) that will be implemented to maintain sustainability in the OVGB. Of the PMAs outlined in the GSP, the following have been implemented to date:

- Conduct Groundwater Level, Groundwater Quality, and Streamflow Monitoring

- Conduct Groundwater Extraction Monitoring
- Implement Public Outreach and Engagement Plan
- Complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Reports and 5-Year Updates
- Explore Grant Funding Opportunities

The proposed new well is consistent with the PMAs listed above and hydrogeologic data (i.e., lithology and groundwater elevation measurements) collected at this well would help to implement the project entitled *Conduct Groundwater Level, Groundwater Quality, and Streamflow Monitoring*.

The proposed well is located approximately 200 feet from Thacher Creek, which drains to San Antonio Creek, and the degree to which groundwater and surface water are connected in this part of the OVGB is uncertain. Additionally, the proposed well is located approximately 0.5 miles east of the current interpreted extent of the Southwest Upper Saturated Zone (SWUSZ). Lithologic data from nearby wells indicate the presence of thick clays that may support a perched system at the proposed well site (Kear Groundwater 2024). To the extent that the perched system extends to the proposed well site, the long-term effects of operating the well on groundwater elevations supporting interconnected surface flows in Thacher Creek are likely to be negligible. Conversely, if the perched system does not extend beyond the proposed well site, operation of the proposed well may result in groundwater elevation declines underlying the nearest reach to Thacher Creek of 3 feet after 1-year of operation, and declines of approximately 1 foot after 1-year of operation at the nearest potential GDE identified in the GSP downstream along Thacher Creek (Figure 8). Because the hydrogeology, groundwater levels, stream flows, and presence of environmental resources along these reaches of Thacher Creek are not well constrained, the impact of the proposed well on depletion of interconnected surface waters and groundwater dependent ecosystems is uncertain.

Lithologic data collected from the proposed well, logged under the supervision of a professional geologist/certified hydrogeologist, would: (i) help refine understanding of the lateral extent in the SWUSZ, and (ii) help to construct the well in a manner that reduces the impact of the proposed groundwater extractions on surface flows in Thacher Creek (OBGMA 2023). Additionally, seasonal groundwater elevation measurements collected at this well could help inform the degree of surface water-groundwater interactions in this part of the OVGB.

4 Conclusion

The above provides a technical assessment of the groundwater extraction well planned for construction at 3622 Reeves Road. The assessment quantifies the potential impacts that operation of the proposed well may have on the sustainable management program and sustainability goal components outlined in the GSP for the OVGB. Dudek has identified four screening criteria to assess consistency with the GSP and sustainability goal for the OVGB (see Section 2). Based on the analysis completed and described above, Dudek has made the following evaluation:

<p>Will the projected drawdown cause groundwater level minimum threshold exceedances at the nearest representative monitoring points?</p>	<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Note: <u>Groundwater levels are currently 30 to 230 feet higher than minimum threshold groundwater elevations; the proposed well is anticipated to induce drawdowns that range from 1.15 to 1.63 feet at RMPs</u></p>
---	---	---	--

<p>Is the projected production rate likely to cause long-term groundwater usage to exceed the estimated sustainable yield?</p>	<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Note:</p>	<p>Pumping is currently lower than the sustainable yield. Operation of the proposed new well is not anticipated to result in a net increase in groundwater withdrawals from the OVGB.</p> <hr/>
<p>Is the project likely to cause exceedance of the minimum thresholds for groundwater quality at the nearest representative monitoring points?</p>	<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Note:</p>	<p>Proposed well is not anticipated to significantly alter groundwater elevation gradients or flow directions</p> <hr/>
<p>Will the projected drawdown impact ongoing or future projects aimed at addressing critical data gaps in the OVGB?</p>	<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Note:</p>	<p>No ongoing or future projects are anticipated to be impacted by operation of the proposed well. Additionally, data collected from the proposed well could support the OBGMA's implementation of the project entitled "Conduct Groundwater level, stream flow, and groundwater quality monitoring" and help to characterize the degree of groundwater-surface water interactions along Thatcher Creek.</p> <hr/>

This analysis is being provided to the OBGMA to assist in their final determination of the proposed well's consistency with the GSP. Based on the criteria evaluated above, operation of the proposed new well is not anticipated to cause undesirable results in the OVGB.

5 References

Cooper, H.H., Jr and C.E. Jacob. 1946. A Generalized Graphical Method for Evaluating Formation Constraints and Summarizing Well Field History. Transactions, American Geophysical Union 27:526-34.

Driscoll, F.G. 1986. Groundwater and Wells. 2nd edition, Johnson Screens, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Kear Groundwater. 2024. Review of eastern extent of perched system, Vicinity 3622 Reeves Road (APN 035-0-290-165), Ojai, California. November 2024.

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA). 2022. Draft Final Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin. Prepared by Dudek. January 2022.

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA). 2023. Ordinance 12: An Ordinance of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency to Protect the Southwest Upper Saturated Zone (SWUSZ) From Groundwater Extraction and Depletion. September 2023.

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA). 2024. Annual Report Covering Water Year 2023: Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin. Prepared by Dudek. February 2024.

Sincerely,

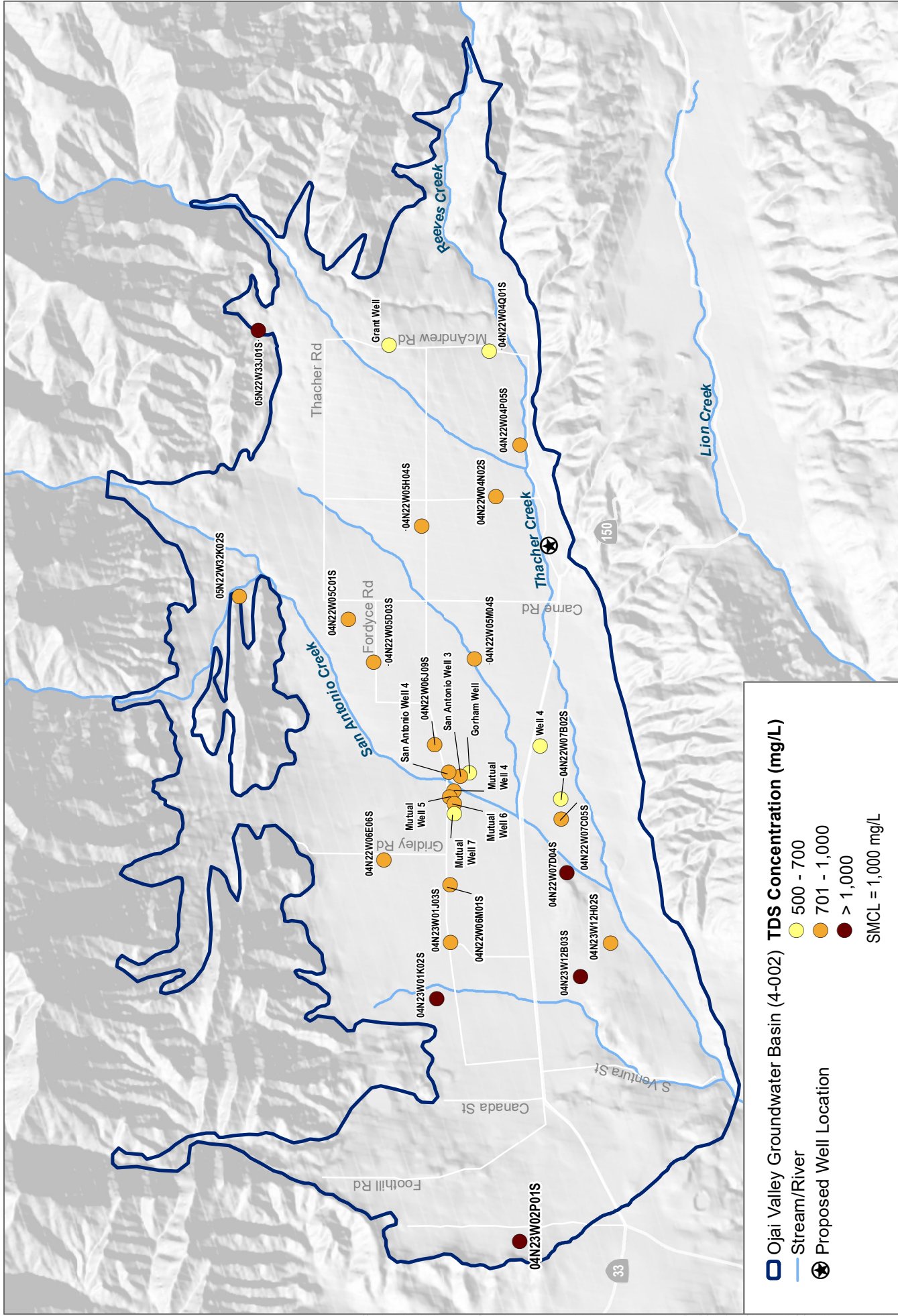


Trevor Jones, PhD
Senior Hydrogeologist



Devin Pritchard-Peterson, PG
Senior Hydrogeologist

Attachments: Figures 1-8



SOURCE: VCWPD, SWRCB



DRAFT

FIGURE 1

Maximum Total Dissolved Solids Concentrations 2010-2020

3622 Reeves Rd Well Permit Review

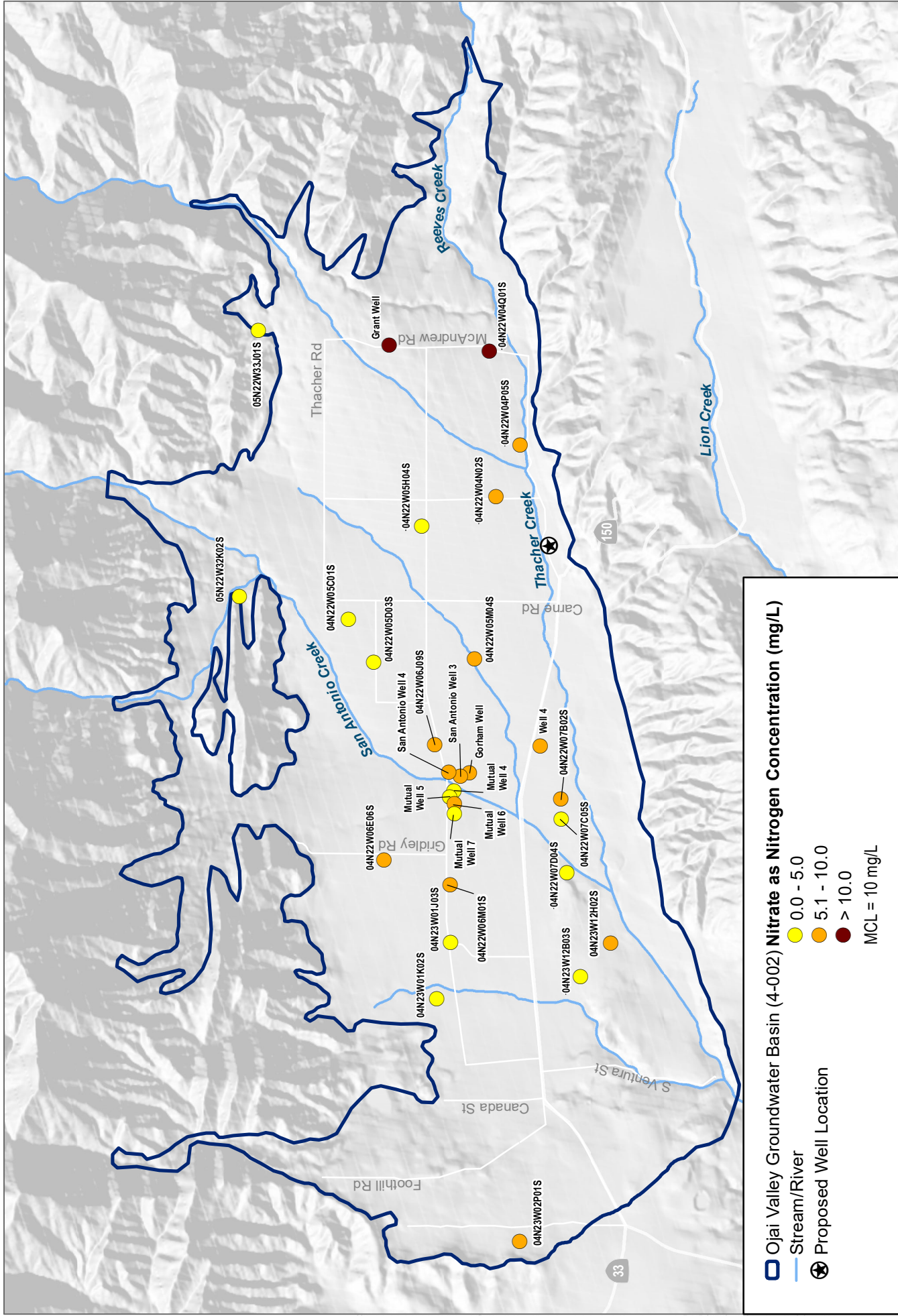
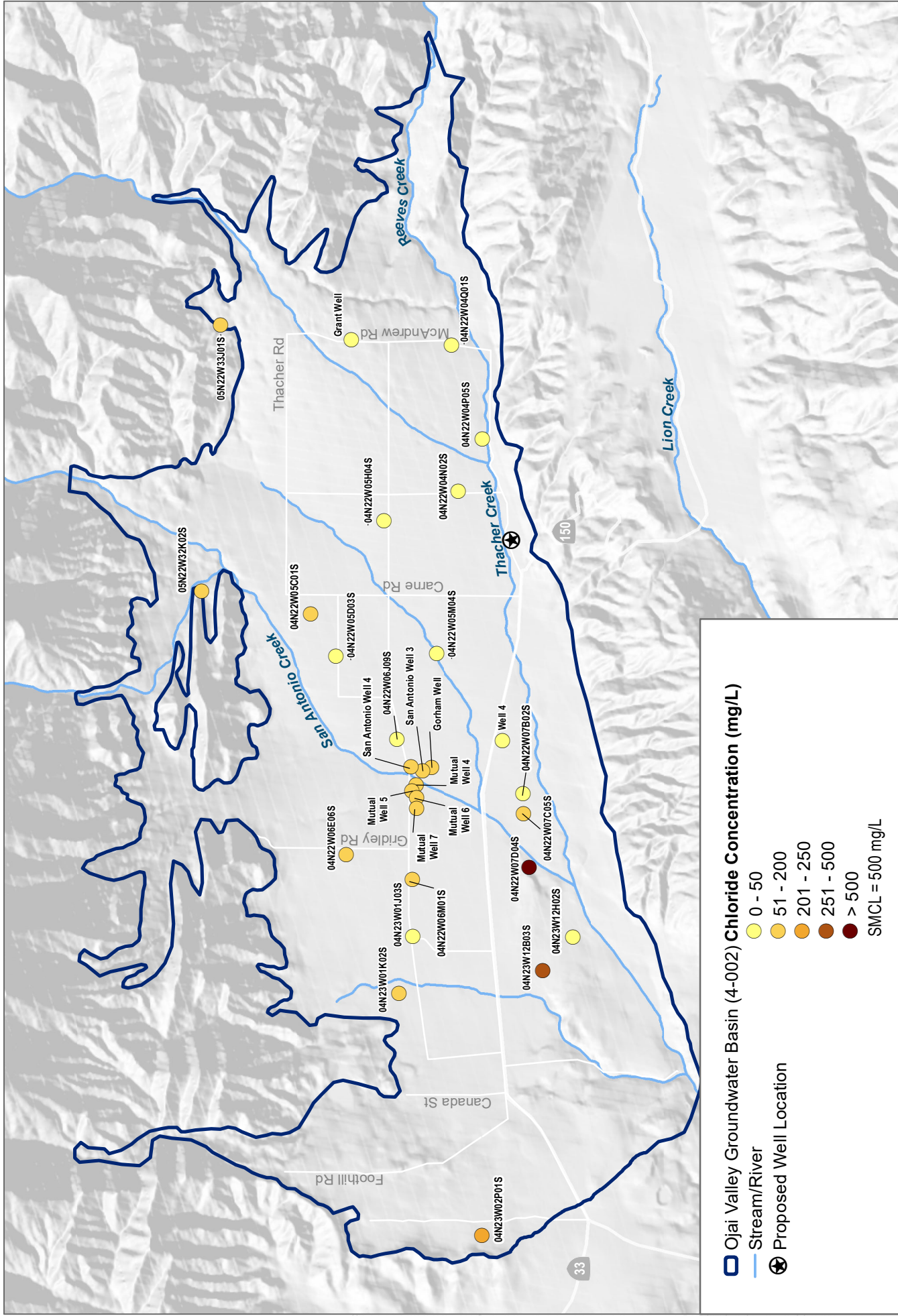


FIGURE 2
 Maximum Nitrate as Nitrogen Concentrations 2010-2020
 3622 Reeves Rd Well Permit Review

DRAFT

SOURCE: VCWPD, SWRCB





SOURCE: VCWPD, SWRCB



DRAFT

FIGURE 3

Maximum Chloride Concentrations 2010-2020

3622 Reeves Rd Well Permit Review

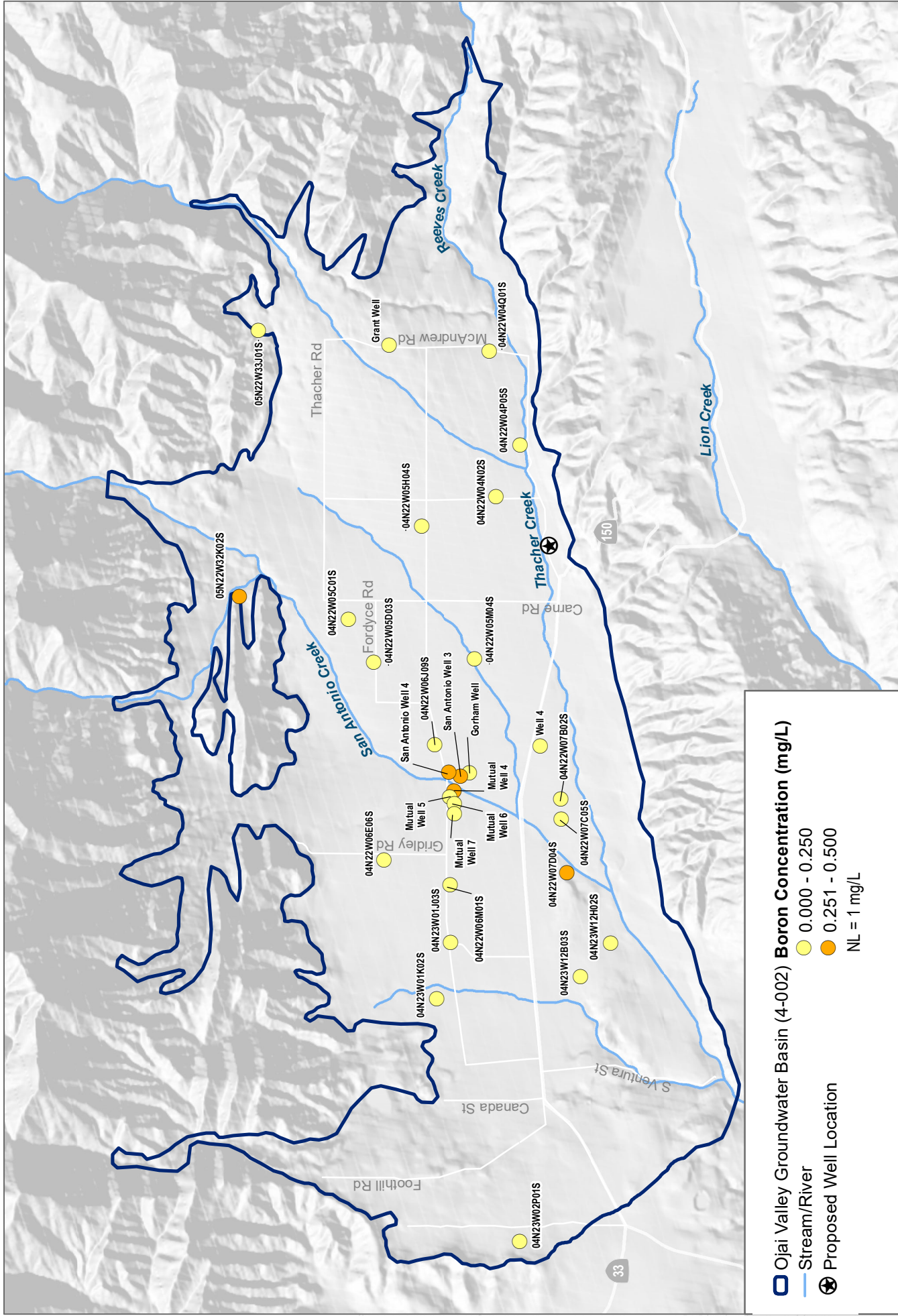


FIGURE 5
Maximum Boron Concentrations 2010-2020
 3622 Reeves Rd Well Permit Review

DRAFT

SOURCE: VCWPD; SWRCB



Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (4-002) Boron Concentration (mg/L)
 ● 0.000 - 0.250
 ● 0.251 - 0.500
 NL = 1 mg/L

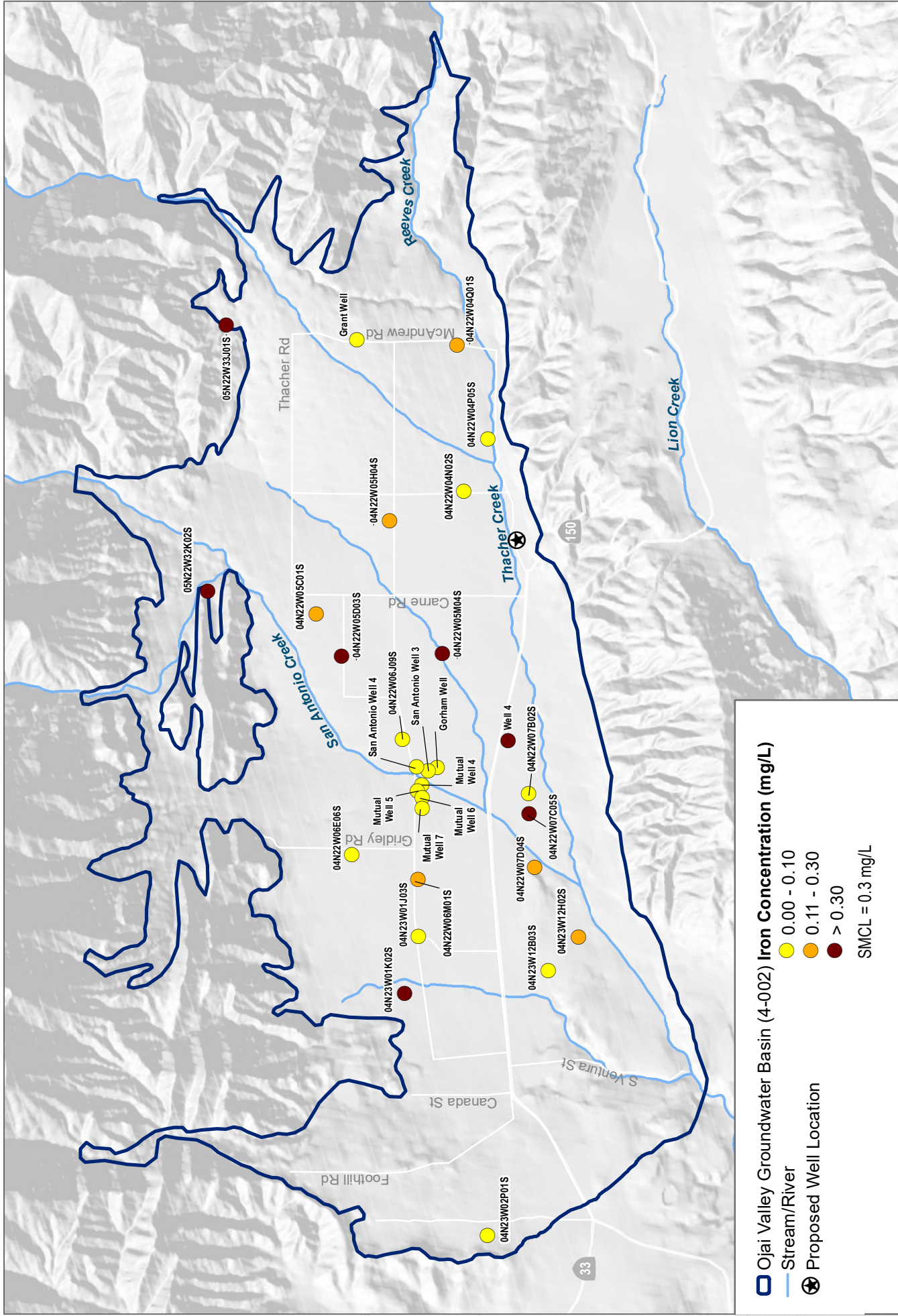


FIGURE 6
Maximum Iron Concentrations 2010-2020
 3622 Reeves Rd Well Permit Review

DRAFT

SOURCE: VCWPD, SWRCB



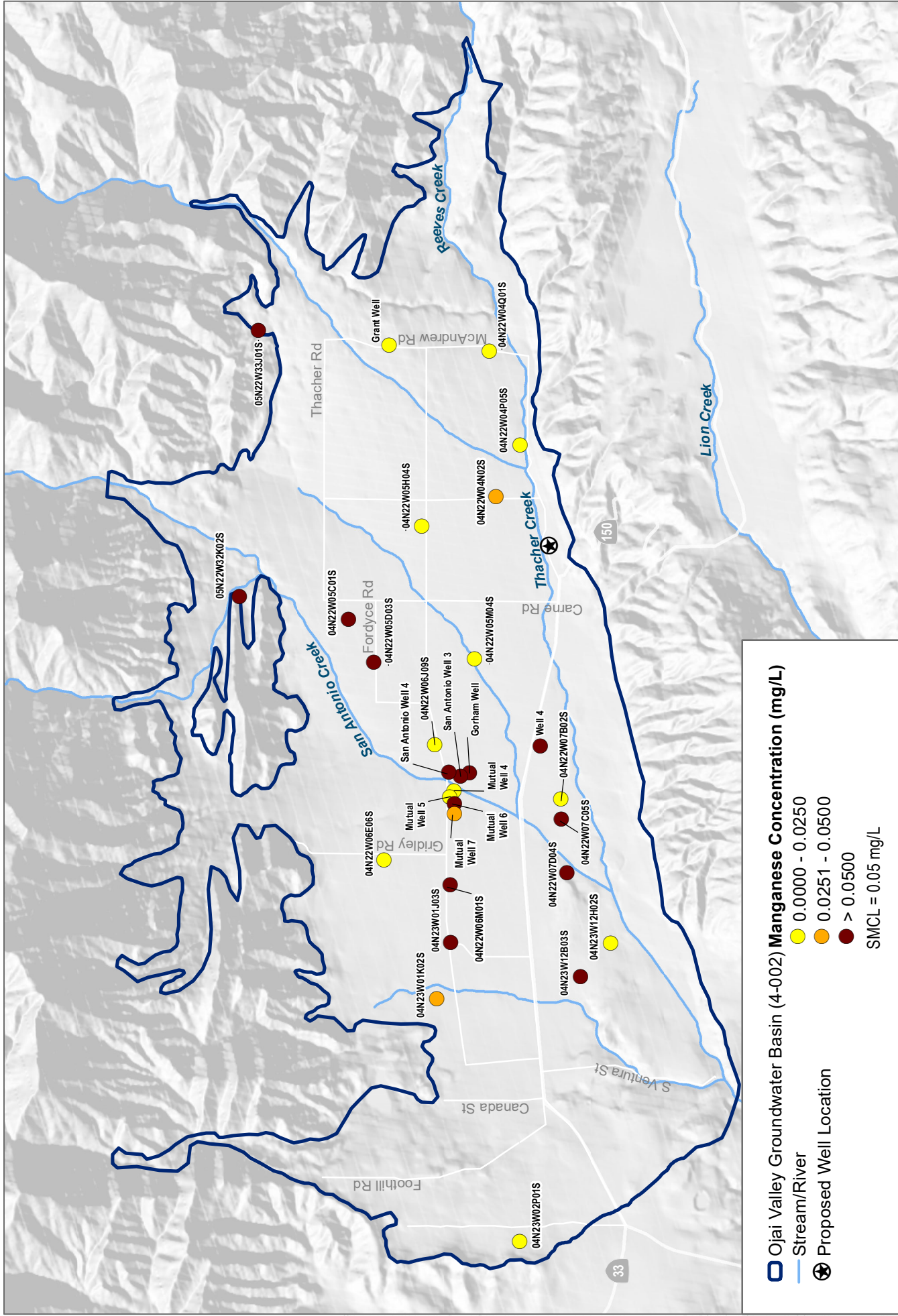
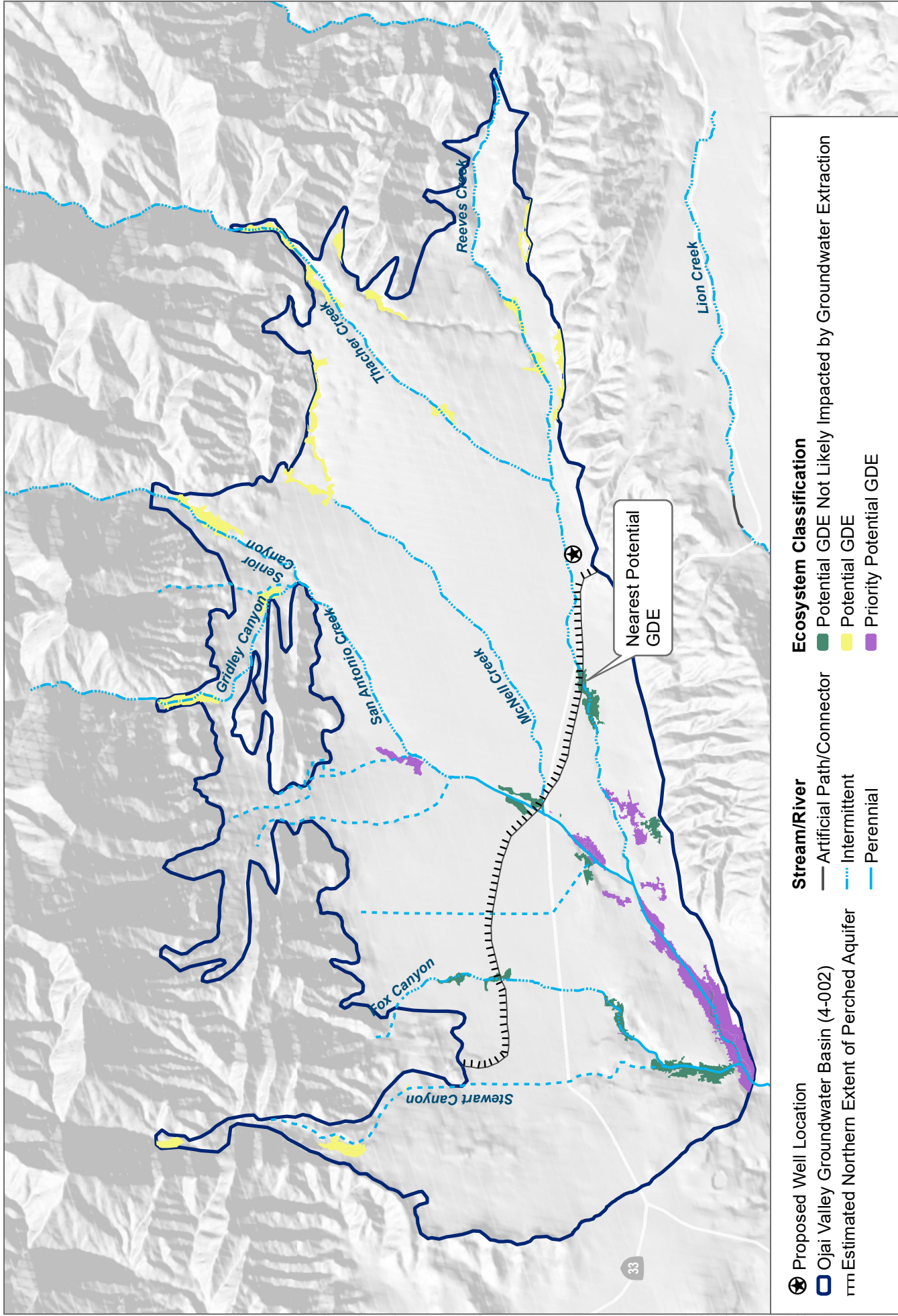


FIGURE 7
Maximum Manganese Concentrations 2010-2020
 3622 Reeves Rd Well Permit Review

DRAFT

SOURCE: VCWPD, SWRCB





Proposed Well Location	Stream/River	Ecosystem Classification
Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (4-002)	Artificial Path/Connector	Potential GDE Not Likely Impacted by Groundwater Extraction
Estimated Northern Extent of Perched Aquifer	Intermittent	Potential GDE
	Perennial	Priority Potential GDE

SOURCE: ESR; DWR; USGS; NCCAG; OBGMA



DRAFT

FIGURE 8

Potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems



TO: Julia Aranda
OBGMA

FROM: Kear Groundwater
PO Box 2601
Santa Barbara, CA 93120-2601

DATE: November 11, 2024

SUBJECT: *Review of eastern extent of perched system,
Vicinity 3622 Reeves Road (APN 035-0-290-165)
Ojai, California*

Dear Julia,

Kear Groundwater (KG) provides this letter to summarize our review of the eastern extent of the perched system of the Ojai Groundwater Basin. This effort is conducted for the OBGMA on review of well verification prepared by Dudek and on information provided by the applicant.

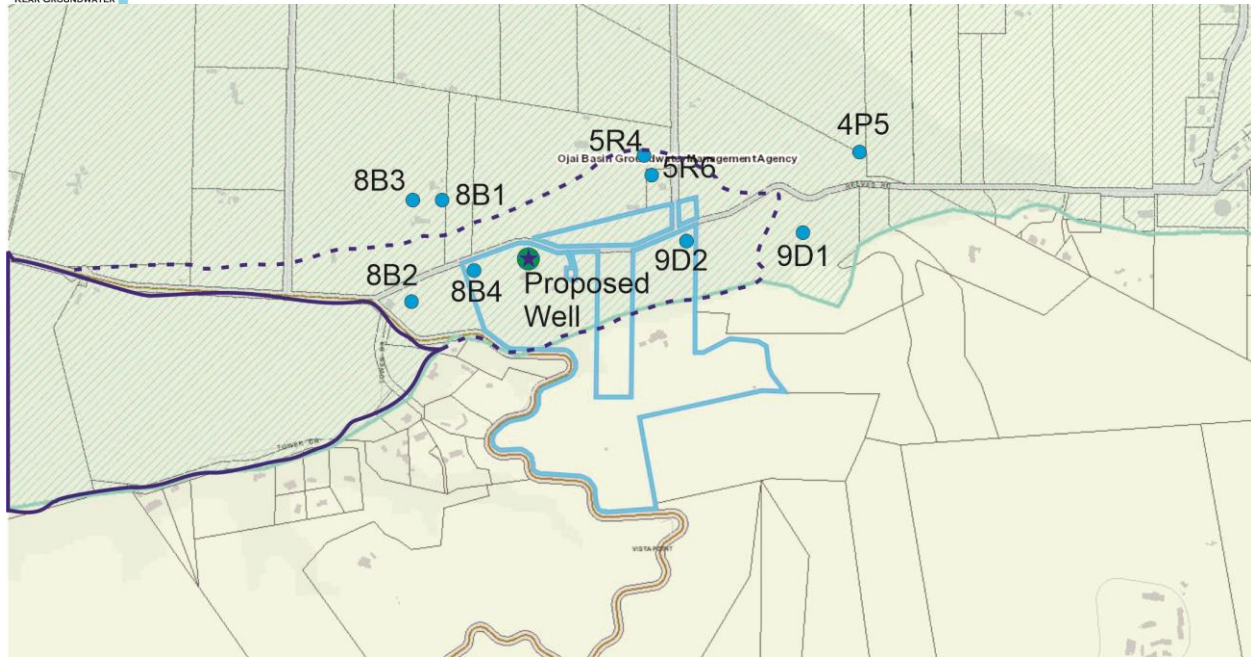
As discussed during our October 31, 2024 teleconference, a detailed review of available information to specifically distill the nature and extent of a shallow clay stratum in the proposed well vicinity is required to support Dudek's modeling efforts. Dudek estimated surface water interference between the pumped well and the proximal and ephemeral Thacher Creek.

KG collected and reviewed well completion reports and logs of nearby wells to create a proposed additional extent of the perched system. Our focus was to identify the shallowest apparent competent clay that could act as a perching stratum in the area.

The OBGMA Ordinance No. 12 was passed September 28, 2023 to require sealing of annular spaces of wells drilled through the perched aquifer [or Southwest Upper Saturated Zone (SWUSZ)] which is directly connected to the surface water streams and separated from the deep production aquifers by the underlying aquitard where it exists. The understood and mapped extent at the time of Ordinance 12 drafting was graphically presented as being just to the west of the 3622 Reeves Road property. As presented on the graphic below, KG suggests moving the limits of the mapped extent eastward and northward locally, requiring sealing of the upper 100 feet of the annular space of the proposed well to protect the perched aquifer from direct extraction, and updating the graphic of Ordinance 12 based on the findings of the drilling efforts associated with the new well.

KEAR GROUNDWATER

P.O. BOX 2601 • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA • 93120 TELEPHONE: (805) 512-1516 JORDAN@KEARGROUNDWATER.COM
CALIFORNIA REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST N. 6960 CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED HYDROGEOLOGIST N. 749



Selected wells in vicinity of 3622 Reeves Road, suffixes of State Well Numbers in Township 4 North, Range 22 West. Ordinance No. 12 SWUSZ Extent is solid dark blue line, suggested extension is dashed blue line.

KG's review of the driller log data is summarized on the above graphic and tabulated below.

State Well Number	Depth of shallow competent clay	Note
4N/22W-4P5	None: "rock with sand and clay to 100 ft"	Perched system likely absent
4N/22W-5R4	Unclear: "clay and rocks 0 to 91 ft"	Perched system likely marginal
4N/22W-5R6	25 to 50 feet clay	Perched system likely present
4N/22W-8B1	Clay 80-125 feet	Clay is deep; Perched likely absent
4N/22W-8B2	No log, deep water levels continuously	Perched system likely present, deeper aquifers represented
4N/22W-8B3	No Clay	Perched System likely absent
4N/22W-8B4	Clay 16-47 feet	Perched System likely present
4N/22W-9D1	No log, but reportedly open to 125 ft with 81 ft water level in 1990	Perched system likely absent
4N/22W-9D2	Sand and Gravel over Brown Clay to 30 ft	Perched system likely present

KEAR GROUNDWATER



Based on this review, KG recommends accepting the verification of the proposed well, and requiring the following:

- 1) OBGMA representative(s) must be present during ground breaking and drilling of the upper 50 feet, and be allowed to collect samples and log cuttings
- 2) A geophysical log must be conducted in the borehole, and a copy submitted to the OBGMA representative(s).
- 3) The well should effectively comply with the Ordinance No. 12 by sealing the upper 100 feet of annular space or a field-agreed depth based on conditions encountered in the borehole.

Based on the review of the field data from this bore, KG recommends updating the Ordinance No. 12 and the mapped extent of the perched system with the forthcoming information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Kear', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jordan Kear
Principal Hydrogeologist
Professional Geologist No. 6960
California Certified Hydrogeologist No. 749

KEAR GROUNDWATER

P.O. BOX 2601 • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA • 93120 TELEPHONE: (805) 512-1516 JORDAN@KEARGROUNDWATER.COM
CALIFORNIA REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST N. 6960 CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED HYDROGEOLOGIST N. 749

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY AUTHORIZING WRITTEN VERIFICATION FOR A PROPOSED WELL LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AGENCY ON ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 035-0-290-165

WHEREAS, by its enabling legislation, the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) is responsible for managing the groundwater resource within its jurisdictional boundaries.

WHEREAS, the OBGMA jurisdictional boundaries contain the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (Ojai Basin), as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as some, but not all, of the larger watershed area containing the Ojai Basin.

WHEREAS, the Ojai Basin is subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (California Water Code § 10720 et. seq.) and has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin.

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Water Code § 10723(c)(1), OBGMA is designated as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Ojai Basin and has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Basin.

WHEREAS, by its Ordinance No. 8, the OBGMA requires all water wells constructed within the OBGMA boundary to be registered with the Agency, to have a meter installed, and for all groundwater extractions to be reported to the Agency.

WHEREAS, in compliance with its statutory obligation to ensure sustainable groundwater management of the Ojai Basin, OBGMA must determine, prior to issuing written verification for a permit to construct a new well or for replacement of an existing well, that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the GSP adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Basin, and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Basin covered by the GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the OBGMA Board of Directors finds as follows in consideration of the Well Verification Application of Reeves Orchard, LLC (APN 035-0-290-165) dated September 20, 2024:

1. A well verification analysis was completed by Dudek dated November 12, 2024, and substantial evidence supports the finding that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the GSP adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Basin and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Basin covered by the GSP.
2. A review of the eastern portion of the perched system in the vicinity of 3622 Reeves Road was conducted by Kear Groundwater, dated November 11, 2024, and based on that review, Kear recommends sealing the upper 100 feet of the proposed well to protect the perched aquifer from direct extraction.
3. The proposed well must be constructed and operated pursuant to the standards of Ventura County Ordinance 4468, Section 4814, which incorporates California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-

- 81; the draft supplemental, Bulletin 74-90; Ventura County Water Well Standards Bulletin No. 74-9 and compliance with all other County permitting requirements.
4. The proposed well must meet OBGMA's requirements for new wells including metering, registration, monitoring, reporting, and any other special conditions of approval.
 5. The following OBGMA permit conditions are also made a part of this water well authorization to proceed:
 - a. OBGMA representative(s) shall be provided an opportunity to confirm the drilling location prior to drilling.
 - b. OBGMA representative(s) must be present during groundbreaking and drilling of the upper 50 feet and be allowed to collect samples and log cuttings.
 - c. A geophysical log must be conducted in the borehole and a copy provided to OBGMA representative(s).
 - d. The upper 100 feet of the annular space of the well, or a field-agreed depth based on conditions encountered in the borehole, shall be sealed to effectively comply with Ordinance No. 12.
 - e. The well owner shall comply with all applicable OBGMA Ordinances and Resolutions requiring metering of the well, extraction reporting, and fee payment to OBGMA now in effect or as may hereafter be adopted.
 - f. Well contractor to provide OBGMA with the completion Report and State Well Number within 30 days of well completion.

WHEREFORE, the Application of Reeves Orchard, LLC (APN 035-0-290-165) for a Well Verification dated September 20, 2024, is hereby **APPROVED** by the Board of Directors of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency on December 5, 2024.

Richard Hajas, President

Attest: _____
Peter Thielke, Secretary

Vote:

Richard Hajas, Casitas Municipal Water District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Peter Thielke, Mutual Water Companies	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Jim Finch, Ojai Water Conservation District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Andrew Whitman, City of Ojai	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]
Bob Daddi, Community Facilities District	[Yes / No / Abstain / Absent]



Member Agencies

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ojai Water Conservation District | Ojai Basin Mutual Water Companies: |
| Casitas Municipal Water District | Senior Canyon MWC |
| City of Ojai | Siete Robles MWC |
| Community Facilities District | Hermitage MWC |

December 5, 2024

Reeves Orchard, LLC
3622 Reeves Road
Ojai CA 93023

Subject: Well Application for APN 035-0-290-165, 3622 Reeves Road, Ojai CA

Dear Property Owner:

The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) is responsible for managing the groundwater resource within its jurisdictional boundaries. The OBGMA jurisdictional boundaries contain the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin (Ojai Basin), as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as some, but not all, of the larger watershed area containing the Ojai Basin.

The Ojai Basin is subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (California Water Code § 10720 et. seq.) and has been designated by DWR as a high priority basin. Pursuant to California Water Code § 10723(c)(1), OBGMA is designated as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Ojai Basin and has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Ojai Basin.

In compliance with its statutory obligation to ensure sustainable groundwater management of the Ojai Basin, OBGMA must determine, prior to issuing written verification for a permit to construct a new well or for replacement of an existing well, that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the GSP adopted by OBGMA for the Ojai Basin, and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Basin covered by the GSP.

You have applied to OBGMA for written verification regarding construction of a new well located on APN 024-0-141-025. With regard to your application, OBGMA finds as follows:

<u>OBGMA Verification of Water Well Application.</u>	
<u>Your application is:</u>	
Approved:	X based on:
1.	Water use is intended for domestic use and extraction will be under 2 acre feet each water year (October 1 through September 30 of each year)
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">2.</div>	A verification analysis has been completed and the water well is not inconsistent with OBGMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP. This verification is approved by the OBGMA Board of Directors and this is your authorization to proceed with application to the County of Ventura, subject to the General and Standard permit conditions contained herein.

Office Address:
Mailing Address:

417 Bryant Circle Drive, Suite 112, Ojai CA 93023
P.O. Box 1779, Ojai CA 93024
www.obgma.com

805.640.1207
obgma@aol.com

Any approval shall be valid for one year from the date of this verification unless changes in law make this approval invalid.

Not Approved: _____ based on:

1. Needing the following additional information or clarification on your water well application (see attached):
2. A verification analysis has been completed and the water well is not consistent with OBGMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and may decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP.

The following general conditions are to be followed for the proposed water well:

1. The proposed well must be constructed and operated pursuant to the standards of Ventura County Ordinance 4468, Section 4814, which incorporates California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-81; the draft supplemental, Bulletin 74-90; Ventura County Water Well Standards Bulletin No. 74-9 and compliance with all other County permitting requirements.
2. The proposed well must meet OBGMA's requirements for new wells including registration, monitoring, reporting, and any other special conditions of approval.
3. If the proposed well is located in an area overlying the Southwestern Uppermost Saturated Zone (SWUSZ) of the Ojai Basin as determined by OBGMA, Ordinance No. 12 requires the well be equipped with a seal of adequate depth to preclude communication between the well's production zones and the SWUSZ. **Lithologic data from nearby wells indicate the presence of thick clays that may support the perched system (SWUSZ) at the proposed well site (Kear Groundwater 2024). Therefore, the following conditions apply:**
 - a. OBGMA representative(s) shall be provided an opportunity to confirm the drilling location prior to drilling.
 - b. OBGMA representative(s) must be present during groundbreaking and drilling of the upper 50 feet and be allowed to collect samples and log cuttings.
 - c. A geophysical log must be conducted in the borehole and a copy provided to OBGMA representative(s).
 - d. The upper 100 feet of the annular space of the well, or a field-agreed depth based on conditions encountered in the borehole, shall be sealed to effectively comply with Ordinance No. 12.
4. The following standard OBGMA permit conditions are also made a part of this water well authorization to proceed:
 - a. The well owner shall comply with all applicable OBGMA Ordinances and Resolutions requiring metering of the well, extraction reporting, and fee payment to OBGMA now in effect or as may hereafter be adopted
 - b. Well contractor to provide OBGMA with the completion Report and State Well Number within 30 days of well completion

The following forms are attached for your information and use:

- Water Well Registration and Verification Request
- Well Registration Form

- Sample Quarterly Extraction Statement
- First Notice of Groundwater Extraction

Please contact us at obgmagm@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Julia Aranda, PE
General Manager

c: County of Ventura

Attachments: Water Well Registration and Verification Request
Well Registration Form
Sample Quarterly Extraction Statement
First Notice of Groundwater Extraction