Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
Meeting
March 25, 2021
3:00 pm
Zoom Conferencing Meeting
Agenda Package

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
A Special District of the State of California

AGENDA
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
Meeting of March 25, 2021

Meeting Time 3:00 pm

Zoom Teleconference Meeting

Phone: (805) 640-1207 **Web site**: obgma.com

Email address: obgma@aol.com

"Note: Due to staffing and facility availability on Thursday, March 25, 2021, **OBGMA will hold its regular board meeting at 3:00 p.m.**, not the normally scheduled time of 5:00 p.m."

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, Board Members of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency will participate in this meeting via a teleconference from separate locations.

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, this meeting will be available through:

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. The OBGMA.com Website;
3. City of Ojai YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DhCB5Z1DynNC7n8qcNeDQ/live (2 Minute delay of transmission)
4. Spectrum Channel 10.

Public Comments: Members of the public who Call In may provide public comment. Please wait until the Board Chair ask 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

- Mutuals:
- Ojai Water Conservation District:
- City of Ojai:
- Casitas Municipal Water District – Lake Level
- 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 ITEMS: Directors may pull an item off of consent items for discussion and action.

a. Approve the Minutes of December 4, 2020 and February 25, 2021.

8. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Treasurer's Report for February 2021

Board to Review and Approve.

b. Draft Ventura River Instream Flow Recommendations - CDFW

Board to review comments presented and provide direction on a comment letter submittal to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

c. Nested Monitoring Well Project Update

Board to receive project update and provide direction on next steps presented by Kear Groundwater.

d. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update – Water Budget

Board to receive update from Dudek, provide feedback and direction on the information presented.

e. Channel Keeper Litigation

Board to receive information on status of litigation and Kear Groundwater's technical representation of other parties.

f. San Antonio Ranch Refund Request

Board to review request and staff analysis*. Recommendation: Approve refund as presented.*

9. Information Items

a. Form 700's – Statements for Annual Filing, Leaving Office and Assuming Office for2020/2021.

1. Annual Statement -filed by April 1, 2021.
2. Leaving Office Statement -filed within 30 days of leaving office.
3. Assuming Office – filed within 30 days after assuming office.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **April 29, 2021**, **3:00pm**, by Zoom conferencing. Details for providing public comment and or observation of the meeting will be posted with the agenda 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Meeting Date: March 25, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Roberta Barbee
Subject: Minutes of the Zoom Teleconference Board Meeting of December 4, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ojai Groundwater Management Agency, held as a Zoom Teleconference Meeting due to the Covid-19 virus response, called to order at 3:01 pm.

Attendees were: Board Members: Jim Finch, Russ Baggerly, Peter Thielke, Johnny Johnston, and Chair Richard Hajas; General Manager John Mundy, and Roberta Barbee, Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board. Also in attendance: Jordan Kear, Consultant, Peter Candy, Attorney, and Trey Driscoll, Dudek Consultant

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.** Barbee called the roll.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** not performed.

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

   Mutuals: Thielke had nothing to report.

   Ojai Water Conservation District: Finch had nothing to report.

   City of Ojai: Johnston had nothing to report.

   Casitas Municipal Water District: Baggerly reported lake at 39.7% full this equals 94,457 Acre Feet.

   Community Facilities District – CMWD Ojai Service Area: Hajas had nothing to report.

4. **General Manager Comments:** Mundy apologized for missing documents in the Agenda for this meeting. He asked the board to approve the Minutes for the October 29, 2020 Board Meeting and will bring the Minutes for the September 24, 2020 and the Treasurer's Report back in January 28, 2021 for comments.

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5. **Basin Status Reports:** Kear reported that the Elrod Well in Key Well Area depth to water is 143.98' very similar to last month.
   Four of the five loggers at the San Antonio Spreading have been sent to Canada where their data is being downloaded, then reset, shipped back, and will be back on line next month.
   The discharge from the basin was at 0.52 CFS again very similar to last month.
   On behalf of the request of Mary Bergin, former OBGMA Board Member and Casitas Board Member, Kear did a water quality survey in San Antonio Creek leaving the basin and are waiting on the laboratory results. 10 locations were

picked in the creek to take 10 samples simultaneously. This is not an OBGMA project but the information is useful.

6. **Public Comments on Items Not Appearing on the Agenda:** None

7. **Consent Items:**
a. Approve Minutes of October 29, 2020 Zoom Teleconference Regular Meeting: Johnston motioned to approve Treasurer's Report. Finch seconded. Roll call vote:
Ayes: Finch, Baggerly, Johnston, Theilke, and Hajas
Noes: None

8. **Action Items:**
a. Treasurer's Report for October 2020 (Budget Actual, Disbursements, Cash Flow, Grant Expenses and Extraction Charges by Period.) Mundy will bring these reports to the January 28, 2021 meeting.

b. OBGMA Service Recognition: Mundy gave Virtual Plaques to Russ Baggerly and Johnny Johnston for their service on the board. Kear will deliver the actual plaques to the OBGMA office when he is in the area. Other members of the Board indicated that it is going to be at a loss for OBGMA with both of them leaving as their work on the board was greatly appreciated by all.

9. **Information Items:**

a. GSP update: Driscoll stated Dudek is on schedule with Chapters 1 & 2 and will be coming out next month with an outreach and communication plan draft.

b. Director Appointments: Mundy stated Board member replacements need to be determined to fill the vacancies of Baggerly and Johnston's seats beginning in January. Mundy asked the Board to contact those member of the public that may be interested, assuming they meet the conditions of holding office. City of Ojai contacted Mundy to see if the Mayor was required to be on the Board based on the OBGMA Act. Mundy informed the City they are allowed to choose their representative and it does not have to be the Mayor.

c. Form 700's – Annual & Leaving Office Statements: Annual statements are required and due by early March. Leaving Office Statements due January 31, 2021.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be January 28, 2021 at 5:00 pm, in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street; Ojai, CA 93023. However, it is expected the meeting will continue to be held as a Zoom Teleconferencing Meeting at 3:00 pm that day.

Meeting Date: March 25, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Roberta Barbee
Subject: Minutes of the Zoom Teleconference Board Meeting of February 25, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ojai Groundwater Management Agency, held as a Zoom Teleconference Meeting due to the Covid-19 virus response, called to order at 3:03 pm.

A**ttendees were**: Board Members: Jim Finch, Bill Weirick, Peter Thielke, Bob Daddi, and Chair Richard Hajas; General Manager John Mundy, and Roberta Barbee, Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board. Also in attendance: Jordan Kear, Consultant, Peter Candy, Attorney, Betsy Stix, Trey Driscoll, Dudek Consultant, Eddie Pech, Devin Pritchard-Peters, and Charlotte Holifield, and Eric Spencer, member services from California Special Districts Association.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Hajas called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. Barbee called the roll.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** not performed.

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

   Mutuals: Theilke had nothing to report

   Ojai Water Conservation District: Finch had nothing to report, have not met.

   City of Ojai: Weirick reported the City approved the agenda item for the depth discrete monitoring well. Kear gave an overview of the monitoring well project, the type and method of construction to be used and how the well will collect water samples at different levels within the aquifer.
   Regina Hirsch et al gave a presentation on Stream Flow Enhancement program that was well received.

   Community Facilities District – CMWD Ojai Service Area: Daddi had nothing to report.

   Casitas Municipal Water District: Hajas reported the District has been working on and finalizing the Safe Yield Report for the past two and a half months and is planning on having a draft report in a few weeks. They are looking at a safe yield that is much higher than proposed in the Stantec Consulting Study.

4. **General Manager Comments:** Mundy received comments from some of the Directors about the outreach program for the GSP and provided them to Dudek along with his own comments.

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5. **Basin Status Reports:** Kear reported it has been exceedingly dry in the basin this winter. Just under 4 inches on the valley floor, upward of 6 inches on the ridge top. Not much rain on the horizon either, hopefully we will have a March Miracle. Flow out of the Basin from San Antonio Creek is at 0.59 CFS, not a lot of change from last month.

6. **Public Comments on Items Not Appearing on the Agenda:** Charlotte Holifield and Eric Spencer, local member services from California Special Districts Association which has been around for over 50 years to provide workshops and assistance to Districts requested the Board to consider joining the organization in the future. They are having a membership opportunity to join at a minimal fee (name your on price). Hajas thanked them for their presentation and will consider this opportunity.

7. **Consent Items:**
a. Approve Minutes of January 28, 2021 Zoom Teleconference Regular Meeting: Weirick had a question and suggestion for accuracy on the minutes in January 28, 2021 **8b. GSP Updated** reads: Dudek created an email address for comments and questions on the plan and how it would be used. It would be more accurate to say: On the draft plan when approved. Mundy agreed to make that change in the minutes.
Weirick motioned to approve with amendment Minutes of January 28, 2021 Zoom Teleconference Regular Meeting. Finch seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Finch, Daddi, Weirick, Theilke, and Hajas
Noes: None

Mundy made note that the minutes from September 24, 2020 and December 4, 2020 plan to be brought up in the March meeting.

8. **Action Items:**
a. Treasurer's Report for December 2020, and Budget and Extraction Charges by Period: Largest expense for December was payment to Dudek other than that expenses were normal.
The error in the Extraction Report for 2018/2019 Director Weirick mentioned in the last meeting has been corrected.

Finch motioned to approve Treasurer's Report. Theilke seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Finch, Daddi, Weirick, Theilke, and Hajas
Noes: None

b. Resolution 2021-01 - Authorizing Signatory Authority for Banking Activities: Since the change in members of the board of directors OBGMA needs to update the signature authorization for banking services. Once the

board approves this item and the bank has verified documents all board members will be authorized to sign checks for OBGMA. The Bank of the Sierras will set up an appointments with those listed on Resolution 2021-1 to confirm the documents supplied to them.
Weirick motioned to approve Resolution 2021-1. Daddi seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Finch, Daddi, Weirick, Theilke, and Hajas
Noes: None

c. Resolution 2021-02 – Making findings to approve the Nested Monitoring Well Project and its exemption from CEQA. Mundy stated that in order to file a Notice of Exemption with the County the Board needs to approve a resolution making findings and clarifying the Boards intent that the Depth Discrete Monitoring Well Project was Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Theilke motioned to approve Resolution 2021-1. Wierick seconded.
Roll call vote:
Ayes: Finch, Daddi, Weirick, Theilke, and Hajas
Noes: None

d. GSP update – Water Quality: Dudek consultants Trey Driscoll and Devin Pritchard-Peters presented the update on water quality issues with the Ojai Basin. Issued presented spoke to point and non-point pollution (780 septic tanks in basin considered point source pollution), most properties connected to sewers, basin meeting State MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels), variability of water quality between wells, chloride, nitrate (contributing nitrates coming from the Eastern portion of the basin), TDS and some metal levels,14 mostly old gas station cleanup sites in basin, draft of chapters 1 & 2 of the plan have been prepared.

9. Information Items:

a. Form 700's – Annual & Leaving Office and Assuming Office for 2020/2021 Statements:

1. Annual statements – filed by April 1, 2021.
2. Leaving Office Statement – filed within 30 days of leaving office.
3. Assuming Office – filed within 30 days after assuming office.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be March 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm, in the Council Chambers, Ojai City Hall, 401 South Ventura Street; Ojai, CA 93023. However, it is expected the meeting will continue to be held as a Zoom Teleconferencing Meeting at 3:00 pm that day.

OBGMA

Cash Flow

February 2021

Beginning Balances February 1, 2021	
Bank of the Sierra-Checking	26,924.00
Bank of the Serra-Savings	124,976.02
	$ 151,900.02
Inflows	
GSP Extraction	20,958.27
Well Head Fee	4,485.00
Interest Charge On Extraction	6.25
Recordation Fee	265.00
Extraction Charges	14,587.27
Short Payments	-194.35
Over Payments	99.28
	$ 40,206.72
Outflows	
Internet	85.60
Postage and Delivery	17.99
Bank Service Charges	9.99
Office Supplies	21.61
Payroll Expenses	1,175.45
Web Hosting and Domain Registra	97.00
Bookkeeping	376.25
Mileage	72.46
Hydrogeologist	12,642.00
Legal Fees	325.00
GSP-Administrative Activities	125.00
Professional Fees - Admin	1,531.25
Rent	892.00
Telephone	199.18
	$ 17,570.78
Ending Balance February 28, 2021	
Bank of the Sierra-Checking	49,559.94
Bank of the Serra-Savings	124,976.02
	$ 174,535.96
Net Change in Cash Position February 2021	$ 22,635.94

OBGMA

Budget Actuals FYTD 20/21

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	*YTD*
Beginning Bank Balance						
Checking	47,006.96	52,469.04	96,212.19	20,379.37	26,924.00	
Savings	104,956.62	134,956.62	134,956.62	164,976.02	124,976.02	
	151,963.58	**187,425.66**	**231,168.81**	**185,355.39**	**151,900.02**	
Income						
Returned Check Charges	-	-	-	-		**-**
GSP Extraction Fees	25,256.20	25,953.90	2,517.85	15,957.60	20,958.27	***90,643.82***
Well Head Fee	3,965.00	4,095.00	585.00	3,900.00	4,485.00	***17,030.00***
Interest Charges	-	3.75	1.25	2.50	6.25	***13.75***
Recordation Fee	250.00	245.00	25.00	250.00	265.00	***1,035.00***
Extraction Charges	17,490.85	17,936.79	1,763.75	11,269.53	14,587.27	***63,048.19***
Short Payments	(60.34)	(536.51)	(39.50)	(32.98)	(194.35)	***(863.68)***
Savings Acct Interest	-	-	19.40	-	-	***19.40***
Total Income	46,901.71	47,697.93	4,872.75	31,346.65	40,107.44	***170,926.48***
Total Income	**46,901.71**	**47,697.93**	**4,872.75**	**31,346.65**	**40,107.44**	***170,926.48***
Expense						
Print Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Liability Insurance	2,131.00	-	-	-	-	***2,131.00***
Postage and Delivery	247.97	-	17.99	110.98	17.99	***394.93***
Bank Service Charges	3.00	-	-	-	9.99	***12.99***
Workers Comp Ins	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Office Supplies	150.15	-	-	-	21.61	***171.76***
Payroll Expenses	1,453.27	1,243.36	1,130.32	1,285.25	1,417.06	***6,529.26***
Professional Fees	4,957.60	1,902.13	47,752.00	3,755.50	15,043.96	***73,411.19***
Rent	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00	892.00	***4,092.00***
Telecommunications	131.15	129.96	25.00	129.27	284.78	***700.16***
Total Expense	**9,874.14**	**4,075.45**	**49,725.31**	**6,081.00**	**17,687.39**	**87,443.29**
Net Ordinary Income	**37,027.57**	**43,622.48**	**(44,852.56)**	**25,265.65**	**22,420.05**	**83,483.19**
Grant Activity						
WCB Grant Income	-	-		-		**-**
WCB (WS) Expenses	-	-		-		**-**
GSP Expenses	1,130.00	-	1,260.00	58,361.75	125.00	***60,876.75***
	(1,130.00)	**-**	**(1,260.00)**	**(58,361.75)**	**(125.00)**	***(60,876.75)***
Other Adjustments						
Deposit for Bldg Key	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfer to Savings	30,000.00	-	70,000.00	-	-	
Transfer From Savings	-	-	40,000.00	40,000.00	-	
Deposit Adj from Bank	(0.50)	(82.50)	-	-	-	
Payroll Tax Liab Paymts	(753.15)	-	-	(627.57)	-	
Payroll Liab on hold	254.16	200.27	173.14	218.80	241.61	
Customer Overpayments	64.00	2.90	43.50	49.50	99.28	
Voided Checks	-	-	-	-	-	
Missing deposit item	-	-	82.50	-	-	
Ending Bank Balance						
Checking	52,469.04	96,212.19	20,379.37	26,924.00	49,559.94	
Savings	134,956.62	134,956.62	164,976.02	124,976.02	124,976.02	
	187,425.66	**231,168.81**	**185,355.39**	**151,900.02**	**174,535.96**	

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Disbursements Register

February 2021

Date	Num	Name	Description	Amount
02/04/2021	eft	AT&T	Telephone	-174.18
02/04/2021	eft	AT&T Uverse	Internet	-52.79
02/28/2021	eft	AT&T Uverse	Internet	-42.80
02/26/2021	eft	Stamps.com	Postage and Delivery	-17.99
02/28/2021	3278	Barbee, Roberta J	Payroll	-1,175.45
02/28/2021	3277	Roberta Barbee	Telephone	-25.00
02/28/2021	3276	Ojai Digital	Website Hosting	-97.00
02/28/2021	3275	M J Saltis Bookkeeping	Professional Fees-Bookkeeping	-397.86
02/28/2021	3274	Kear Groundwater	Professional Fees-Hydrogeologist	-12,686.46
02/28/2021	3273	JMundy Consulting LLC	Professional Fees-Admin	-1,684.25
02/28/2021	3272	Hollister & Brace, Attorneys at Law	Professional Fees-Legal	-325.00
02/28/2021	3271	Condor Self Storage	Rent	-92.00
02/28/2021	3270	417 Bryant Circle LLC	Rent	-800.00

Total February 2021 Disbursements **$ (17,570.78)**

OBGMA EXTRACTION CHARGES BY PERIOD

2019/2020 Water Year

October/November/December 2019 (2020/1) ($25/acre foot)

2020/1	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	423.89	$10,631.74				
Dom/Land	84.35	$2,327.39				
Muni/Indus	23.22	$579.92				
CMWD	378.10	$9,450.00				
Totals	**909.56**	**$22,989.05**	**$9,620.00**	**$730.00**	**$0.00**	**$33,339.05**

Jan/Feb/Mar 2020 (2/2020) ($25/acre foot)

2020/2	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	419.30	$10,549.78				
Dom/Land	84.39	$2,176.19				
Muni/Indus	7.34	$183.50				
CMWD	264.80	$6,620.00				
Totals	**775.83**	**$19,529.47**	**$9,880.00**	**$710.00**	**$0.00**	**$30,119.47**

April/May/June (3/2020) ($25/acre foot)

2020/3	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	695.81	$17,529.84				
Dom/Land	89.76	$2,244.06				
Muni/Indus	15.06	$376.59				
CMWD	337.80	$8,445.00				
Totals	**1138.43**	**$28,595.49**	**$9,230.00**	**$565.00**	**$41,206.18**	**$79,596.67**

July/August/September 2020 (2020-4) ($25/acre foot)

2020/4	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	977.43	$24,435.70				
Dom/Land	148.72	$3,718.19				
Muni/Indus	19.00	$476.00				
CMWD	359.00	$8,975.00				
Totals	**1504.15**	**$37,604.89**	**$8,905.00**	**$545.00**	**$54,301.45**	**$101,356.34**

Total for water YTD 10/1/19- 9/30/20

Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head Fee	Recordation Fee	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
4327.97	$ 108,718.90	$ 37,635.00	$ 2,550.00	$ 95,507.63	$ 244,411.53

2020/2021 Water Year

October/November/December 2020 (2021/1) ($25/acre foot)

2020/1	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture	598.25	$14,956.25				
Dom/Land	49.15	$1,228.71				
Muni/Indus						
CMWD	339.50	$8,487.50				
Totals	**986.90**	**$24,672.46**	**$7,670.00**	**$470.00**	**$35,275.66**	**$68,088.12**

Jan/Feb/Mar 2021 (2/2021) ($25/acre foot)

2020/2	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture						
Dom/Land						
Muni/Indus						
CMWD						
Totals	**0.00**	**$0.00**				**$0.00**

April/May/June (3/2021) ($25/acre foot)

2020/3	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture						
Dom/Land						
Muni/Indus						
CMWD						
Totals	**0.00**	**$0.00**				**$0.00**

July/August/September 2020 (2020-4) ($25/acre foot)

2020/4	Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
Agriculture						
Dom/Land						
Muni/Indus						
CMWD						
Totals	**0.00**	**$0.00**				**$0.00**

Total for water YTD 10/1/20- 9/30/21

Acre Feet	Charges	Well Head Fe	Recordation	GSP Fees	Total Rec'd
986.90	$24,672.46	$ 7,670.00	$ 470.00	$ 35,275.66	$ 68,088.12

OBGMA

WCB Grant Budget Update
February 2021

	Actual to Date	Budget	Balance
WCB Grant Income	5,607.00	150,600.00	(144,993.00)
	$ 5,607.00	$ 150,600.00	$ (144,993.00)
WCB Grant Expenses			
1 Task- Project Mgmt	3,238.75	5,200.00	(1,961.25)
2 Task- Water Mgmt Framewk	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
3 Task- Plans/Permits/Due D	8,510.00	138,400.00	(129,890.00)
4 Task- Reg Agency Guidance	-	-	-
5 Task- Education & Outreach	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
	$ 11,748.75	$ 150,600.00	$ (138,851.25)
WCB Grant Cost Share Expenses	$ 3,135.00	$ 29,400.00	$ (26,265.00)
Total Cost of Project	$ 14,883.75	$ 180,000.00	$ (165,116.25)
Net Cost of Project to Date	**$ 9,276.75**		

*****Retention of $623.00 Held by WCB on 1st Progress Invoice**
*****Expenses recorded through 02/28/2021**

Ventura River Study (Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties)

For Review - Draft instream flow recommendations for the lower Ventura River and Coyote Creek (PDF)

Please email input to InstreamFlow@wildlife.ca.gov by March 29, 2021.

Overview

The Ventura River was once home to of one the largest southern steelhead runs on the south coast, and is considered one of the four major steelhead-bearing watersheds in Southern California. The Ventura River is also one of five priority stream systems selected as part of the California Water Action Plan effort. The Ventura River watershed may experience long periods of dry conditions with little to no measureable precipitation, resulting in mainstem reaches becoming seasonally and even annually intermittent. In addition, moderate to extremely high episodic precipitation patterns and flow events may also occur in the winter months. This unpredictability in the timing, magnitude, frequency and duration of river flows limits the hydrologic connectivity of the riverine habitat for southern steelhead migrating to and from upstream spawning and rearing habitats.

The goal of this study is to develop streamflow versus habitat relationships in the mainstem Ventura River, and San Antonio Creek, a primary tributary. This information will be used to enhance flows in the watershed in several ways, including the development of flow criteria and identification of important flow thresholds for conservation, restoration, and protection of southern steelhead in the Ventura River watershed. Some key questions include:

- What flows are required to maintain hydrologic connectivity for steelhead lifestages throughout the mainstem and typically intermittent reaches of the Ventura River?
- What flows are required for survival and movement of southern steelhead, as well to promote productive riffle habitat for benthic macroinvertebrates, in San Antonio Creek?
- What are the appropriate flows for maintaining important fluvial geomorphic conditions in the watershed?

To answer these questions, surveys must be performed and data collected. The Instream Flow Program anticipates performing various actions at locations within the Ventura River watershed including evaluating existing data and habitat conditions, performing riverine topographical surveys, constructing hydraulic-habitat models, measuring streamflows, and conducting data analyses.

Resources

- Draft instream flow recommendations for the lower Ventura River and Coyote Creek (PDF)
- Ventura River Watershed Criteria Report
- Ventura River Study Plan (PDF)
- Addendum to Ventura River Study Plan (PDF)
- Ventura River Gage near Ventura (11118500)
- San Antonio Creek Gage at Casitas Springs (11117500)

Click map to enlarge.

Instream Flow Program

- Instream Flow Studies
  - Big Sur River
  - Butte Creek
  - Deer Creek
  - Mark West Creek
  - Mill Creek
  - Scott River and Shasta Rivers
  - South Fork Eel River
  - Ventura River
- Watershed Criteria Reports
- Instream Flow Program Documents
- SOPs and QA/QC Documents
- Instream Flow Recommendations Map
- Outreach

KG21-0569

TO: John Mundy
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency

FROM: Kear Groundwater
P.O. Box 2601
Santa Barbara, CA 93120-2601

DATE: March 22, 2021

SUBJECT: *Comments to 'CDFW Draft Instream Flow Recommendations – Lower Ventura River and Coyote Creek, Ventura County'*

Dear Mr. Mundy,

Kear Groundwater (KG) presents this letter detailing our recommended comments to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) draft "Instream Flow Recommendation for the Lower Ventura River, Ventura County," offered for public input on behalf of the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA). Input must be delivered to the CDFW (InstreamFlow@wildlife.ca.gov) by March 29, 2021.

The CDFW draft recommendations identify river flows necessary to support the federally endangered Southern California steelhead (*pg. 2*). The California Water Action Plan (CWAP) recognizes the need for fish and wildlife to have access to suitable habitat, and enough cold, flowing clean water at key times of the year to support all life stages for anadromous fish species in the Ventura River watershed. The river is one of five priority streams designated by the CWAP due to its high resource biological value and potential for species recovery.

At the lower Ventura River, the CDFW draft instream flow recommendations are intended to support passage and habitat during the wet spawning season (December to May) and protect low-flow habitat during the dry season (June to October), with additional fall pulse flows in October through December and varying peak flows January through May. The draft flow recommendations are reportedly based on the 2020 CDFW report 'Instream Flow Regime Criteria on a Watershed Scale: Ventura River.' The 2020 report presents a portion of the results from the initial 2017 CDFW studies in the lower Ventura River and San Antonio Creek ('Habitat

and Instream Flow Evaluation for Steelhead in the Ventura River Study Plan' and its addendum).

The 2020 Watershed Criteria Report included 16 total assessed reaches, two of which are in San Antonio Creek: "San Antonio Creek 1" is located near the confluence with the Ventura River and "San Antonio Creek 2" is near Camp Comfort. The report lists the Steelhead Habitat Optimum Flow for "San Antonio Creek 2" to be 8 cfs and for "San Antonio Creek 1" to be 11 cfs. For "San Antonio Creek 2," the steelhead passage flows range from 7 cfs (juvenile) to 24 cfs (adult). And the wetted perimeter Sensitive Period Indicator flow is 5 cfs.

No assessed reach is within the Ojai Basin as defined by Bulletin 118, and the San Antonio Creek 2 reach is likely just outside of OBGMA's southwestern corner boundary.

Comments to Draft CDFW Report

COMMENT 1. *"Groundwater basins in the Ventura River watershed are composed of alluvial aquifers underlying the surface channels and* ***are highly interconnected with surface water****" (pg. 2, bold emphasis added).*

This is nearly verbatim of the citation (LARWQCB 2016) and occurs throughout the recent CDFW reports on the Ventura River watershed. Groundwater aquifers and surface water channels are highly interconnected only at perennially wet reaches. That is not the case for the "dry reach" of the river across much of the Upper Ventura River Basin, nor is it the case for the San Antonio Creek along much of its reach across the Ojai Basin. San Antonio Creek typically receives upwelling groundwater near Skunk Ranch Road in the southwestern corner of the Ojai Basin.

COMMENT 2. *"****Currently****, there are* ***five*** *major urban water suppliers in the Ventura River watershed which provide water for roughly 42,000 connections; the City of Ventura supplies the majority with approximately 32,000 service connections (Walter 2015)" (pg. 3, bold emphasis added).*

The VRWC report (Walter 2015) includes Golden State Water Company as one of the five major urban suppliers in the watershed. GSWC service members incorporated into Casitas Municipal Water District, thus there are now four major suppliers (Casitas MWC, the City of Ventura, Ventura River Water District, and Meiners Oaks Water District).

COMMENT 3. *"USGS gage 11118501 (Ventura R Nr Ventura + Div) combines the discharge of USGS 11118500 and USGS 11118400. This gage, referred to here as the least- impaired gage, has a period of record between water years 1965 to 2007" (pg. 9).*

If USGS gage 11118501 is simply a composite of 11118500 (Ventura River under Casitas Bridge) and 11118400 (Ventura River diversions from Foster Park by the City), how is it repeatedly deemed the "least-impaired gage"? It cannot be any more or less impaired than the

sum of its parts. Further, the period of record is from 1965 to 2007, as that is around the end of the 11118400 gage (diversions) record. Only the 11118500 gage (river) continues through to today, yet its modern record is conspicuously absent from the report. That modern record includes one of the driest periods (2012-2016) on record. The report later states *"Precipitation variability in the Ventura River watershed is anticipated to increase and lead to more extreme fluctuations from drought to flooding as climate change impacts intensify" (pg. 25).* Given that as the case, inclusion of most recent flow records where these impacts may already be occurring is all the more necessary.

COMMENT 4. *"The Department understands these flows to be protective of steelhead and the habitat that supports them and* ***recommends applying them across all water year types. In some cases, the recommended flows may not be available due to precipitation variability.*** *When flows naturally fall below the flow recommendations … full natural flows should be maintained." (pgs. 19-20, bold emphasis added).*

The CDFW (2020) report defines 'natural flows' to be "the streamflows (in cfs) that would be expected with no human influence." Median monthly flows across wet, moderate, and dry water month types are assigned to the Ventura River and its tributaries (including the two San Antonio Creek reaches). There is no defined 'Full Natural Flow,' presumably this actually refers to the dry natural flow as that is when it would be applicable. Natural flows across many reaches in the watershed are totally absent during drought or summer months (independent of groundwater pumping from wells in the basins), despite the apparent importance for rearing juvenile steelhead.

The annual total of the monthly dry natural flow reported at Ventura River near the Casitas Bridge (with 188.5 square mile watershed area) is 3820 acre-feet. Historic rainfall and runoff data at the Venura River (reportedly also above 'Cassitas' with 189 square mile watershed area) from 1892-93 through 1923-24 are included with the Lippincott (1925) report; therein, the lowest reported rainfall (8.67 inches) produced just 2460 acre-feet of runoff in 1923-24. Further, water has been diverted from the Ventura River near the confluence of San Antonio Creek since the early 1800s when an aqueduct served the nearby mission and field (CERES 2004).

COMMENT 5. *"Lower Ventura River reach 4 is also located within the live reach and begins at the levee pool and continues upstream to the San Antonio Creek confluence … past studies have shown* ***this reach to have the highest abundance of adult steelhead present out of the mainstem lower Ventura River*** *reaches (Allen 2015)" (pgs. 21-22, bold emphasis added).*

A direct quote from the citation is "San Antonio Creek is the only known tributary to the lower mainstem Ventura River that supports significant spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, **although in some years much of the seven mile anadromous reach become intermittent during summer and fall months**" (*pg. 3)*. Additional emphasis must be given to the fact that this reach does not naturally remain perennially wet, and thus is unlikely to support abundant steelhead during dry or drought periods.

COMMENT 6. *"Table 7 below contains criteria for each reach in the lower Ventura River. The footnotes below the table describe the data sources supporting each of the flow criteria. When flows naturally fall below the flow recommendations, full natural flows should be maintained" (pg. 22).*

Recommended flow for the three Ventura River reaches (2, 3, 4) all appear to be based on the USGS composite gage 11118501 (water years 1965-2007). Thus, the most recent data (2007-present) are again absent. This is also the case for the lower Ventura River's "ecosystem baseflow" (*see Table 3, pg. 14*) and "steelhead habitat optimum flows" (*see Table 4, pg. 15*).

Only the "sensitive period indicator flow" (*see Table 1, pg. 12*) and "steelhead passage flow" [to produce a mean depth of 0.7 ft for steelhead clearance] (*see Table 2, pg. 13*) are derived from modern and field-based data from CDFW (2020). The Sensitive Period Indicator is identified by the Wetted Perimeter Method, where channel cross sections are surveyed at select riffle crests with an accompanying discharge measurement, and then the wetted perimeter length is modeled at a range of discharges. The CDFW method describes that the "beginning at the left bank wetted edge, the water depth is measured across the transect at **1-ft intervals, or smaller intervals as needed**, to the right bank wetted edge." At what interval were the San Antonio Creek transects

conducted?

CDFW Ventura River Instream Flow Study 2021 – Comments by J.Mundy – 3/21/21

1. No discussion of impacts on fish populations from past stocking from Fillmore Fish Hatchery.

2. Page 2. – Report Comment “Basins within the watershed are highly connected to surface water”. – What is the basis for this comment? It is known some areas have out cropping’s and strata between the sub-surface flows and the lower aquifers.

3. Page 3 – Listing water use connections in the watershed, i.e.: city of Ventura 42,000 connections, implies this water demand is all being taken out of the Ventura River Watershed. This is not the case as the City of Ventura can only use Casitas water within its area located within the Casitas Water District. Foster Park water can be used throughout the City but diversions have been reduced in recent years. (Need to verify with City)

4. Page 3 – Listing wells as a domestic diversion from the Ventura River Watershed is a false statement. Not all this water would make its way into the watershed with reduced pumping.

5. Page 8 – discussion of the subsurface dam built across the Ventura River 1906-08. Don’t know if this is the same dam but I know the City of Ventura constructed a subsurface dam to divert water from Foster Park to its treatment plant. As the construction of the dam was moving eastward toward HWY 33 the bedrock deepened and the City could not complete the construction due to the depth and subsurface flow of water at the time. Therefore water does flow subsurface around the dam supporting the lower reaches of the Ventura River below Foster Park. This needs to be addressed in the report as a flow contributor to the river.

6. Sensitive Period Indicators – How does this relate to drought years? This number needs to be more variable to take into account dryer years when that level of flow in the river cannot be supported. It’s an average number for each period listed but historically there is no average actual flow in the river from year to year.

OJAI BASIN
Groundwater Management Agency

DRAFT WORKPRODUCT

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Basin

Water Budget

OBGMA Board Meeting
March 25, 2021

DUDEK

Agenda

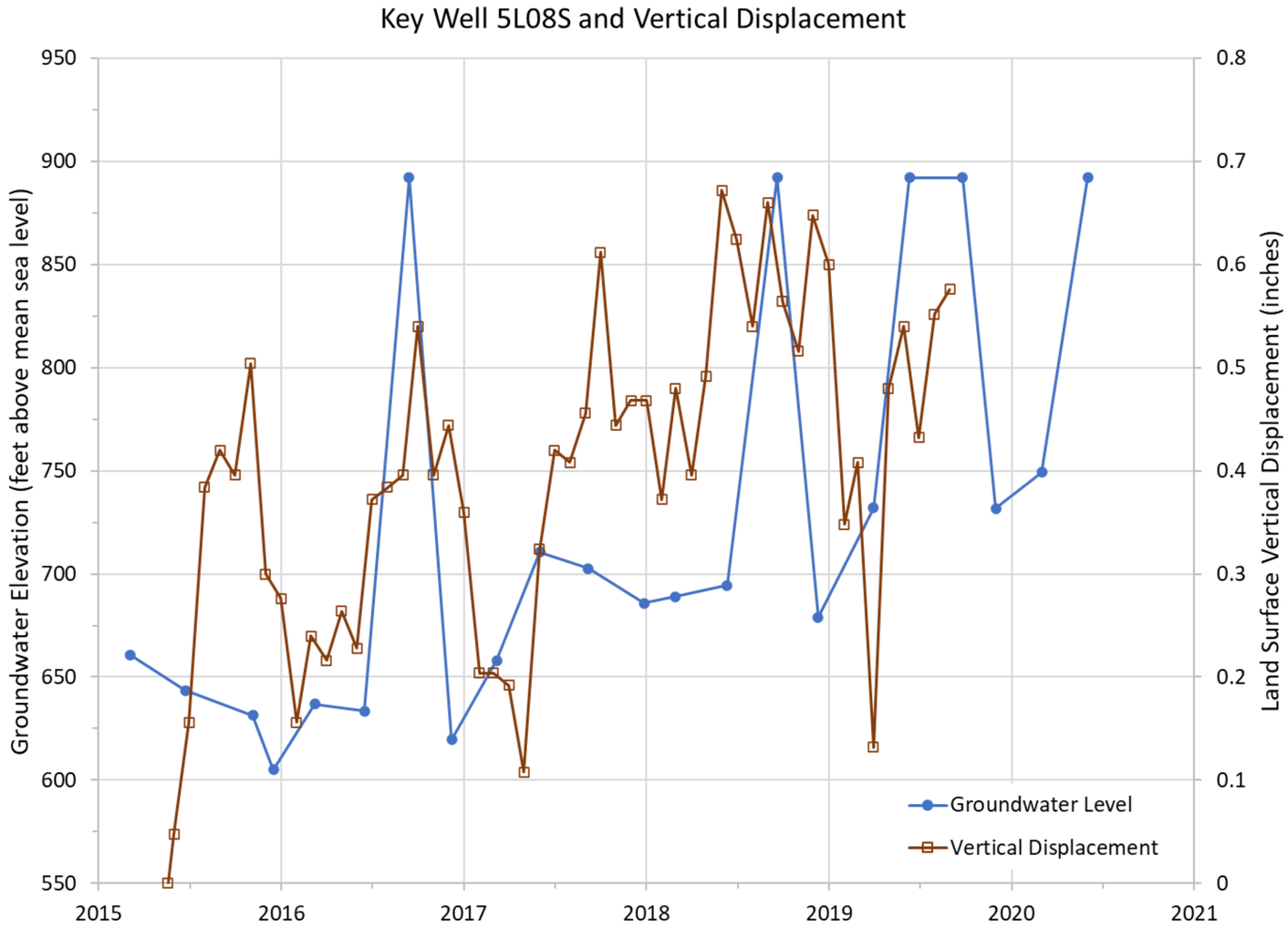
1. Review of Land Subsidence
2. Review of Water Quality
3. Water Budget

Source: Ventura County Watershed Protection District 2016

Groundwater Levels and Land Subsidence

Key Well 5L08S

- Correlation coefficient = 0.75
- Correlation coefficient measure of strength of linear relationship between two variables
- Values between ±0.7 and ±1.0 indicate a strong linear relationship



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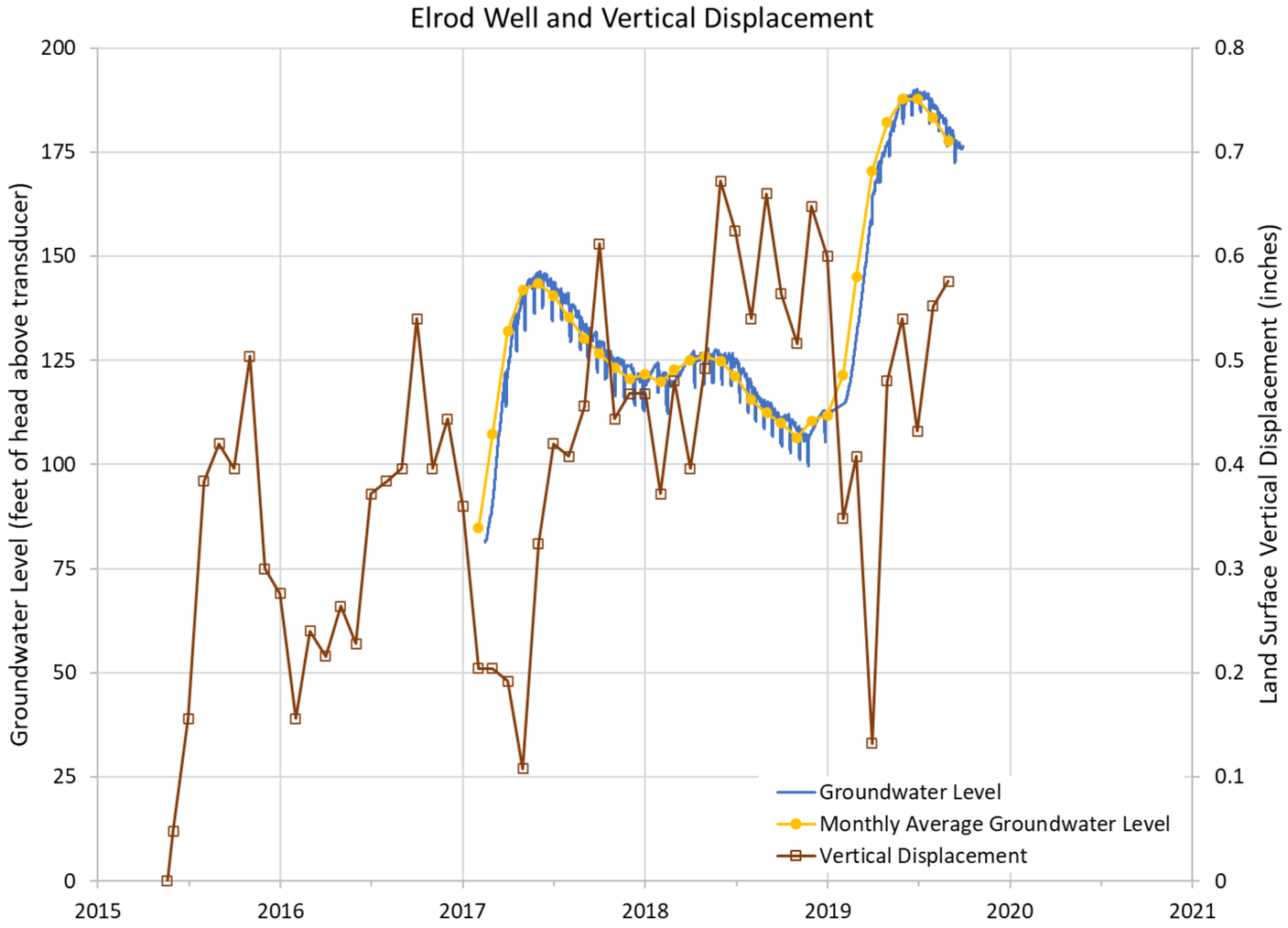
Groundwater Levels and Land Subsidence

Elrod Well

- Correlation coefficient = 0
- Values between 0 and ±0.3 indicate a weak linear relationship
- Possible lag time of ~4 months between groundwater levels and vertical displacement response



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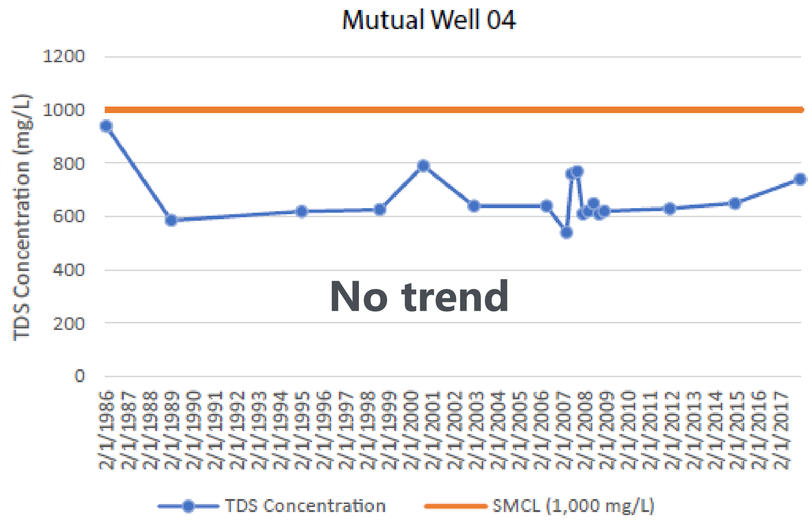
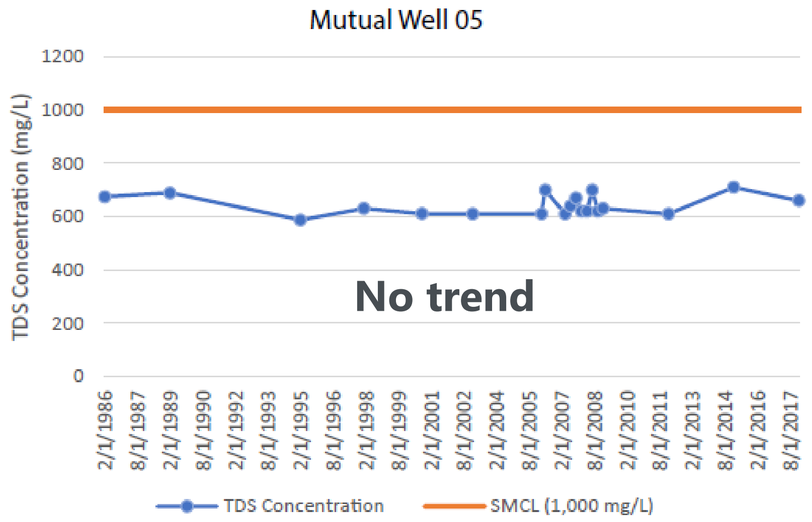
Groundwater Quality

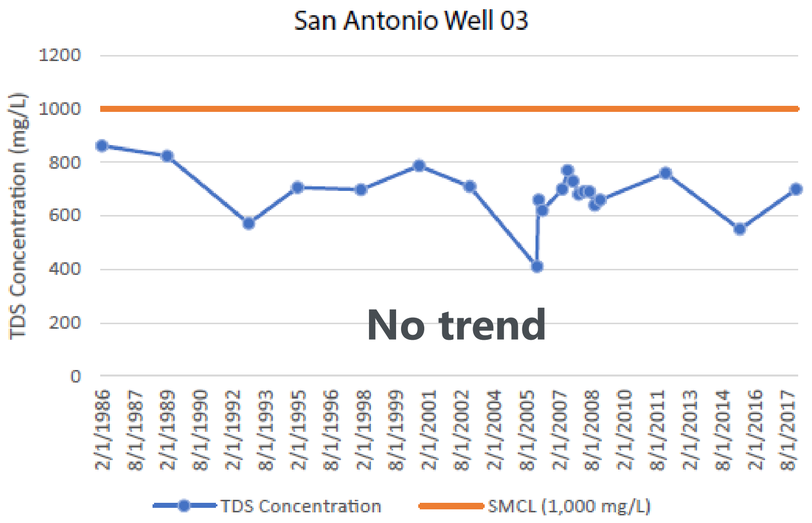
Total Dissolved Solids

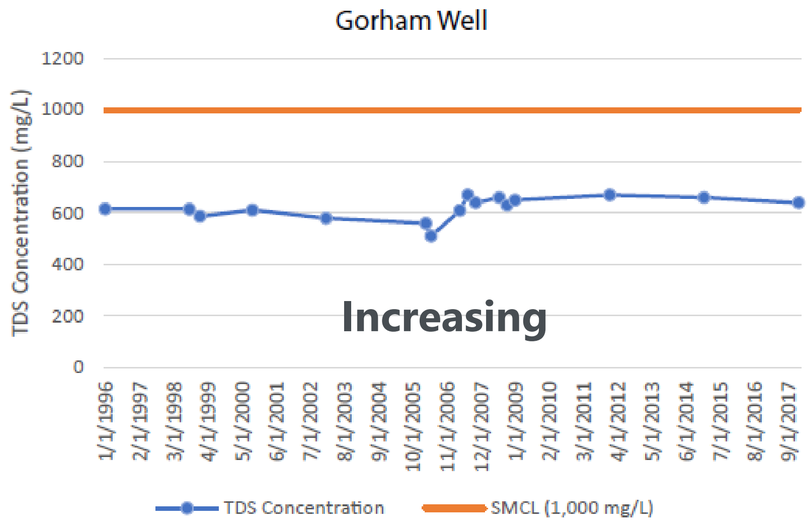
- The Mann-Kendall test assesses whether or not a dataset exhibits a monotonic (up or down) trend within a selected significance level
- A significance level of 0.05 or confidence level of 95% was selected for this analysis

Recommended MCL = 500 mg/L
Upper MCL = 1,000 mg/L



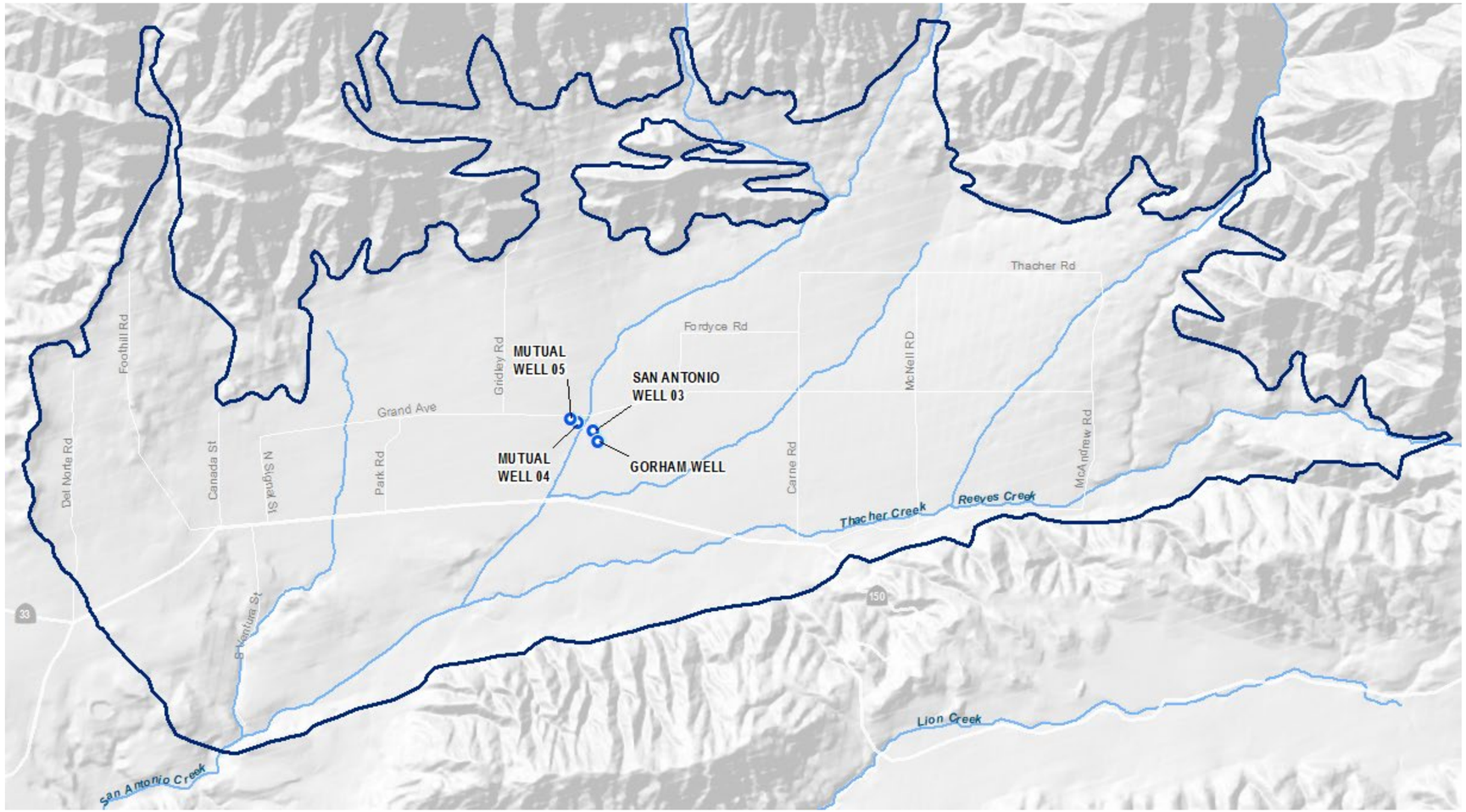






Groundwater Quality

Well ID	Top of Screen	Bottom of Screen
Gorham	260	630
Mutual 4	150	580
Mutual 5	123	610
San Antonio 3	225	585



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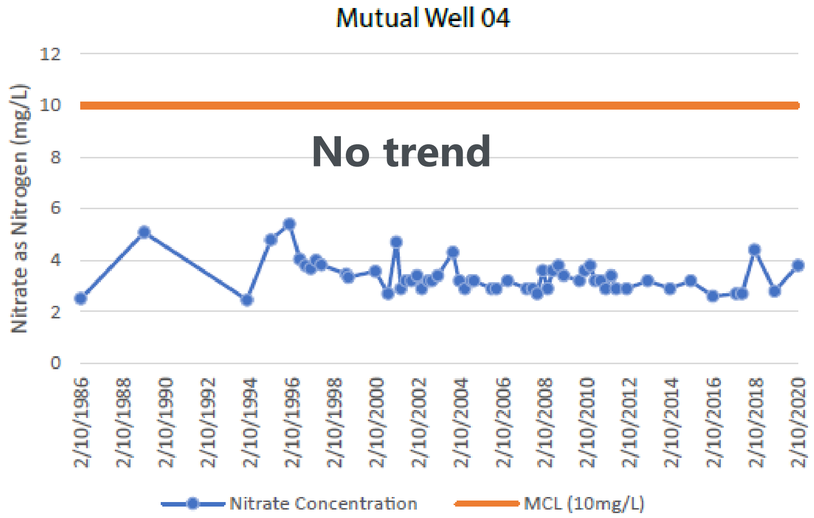
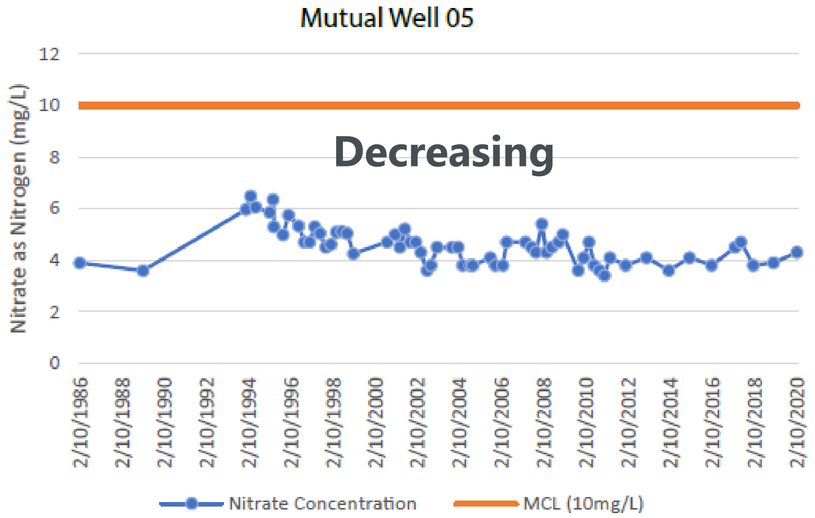
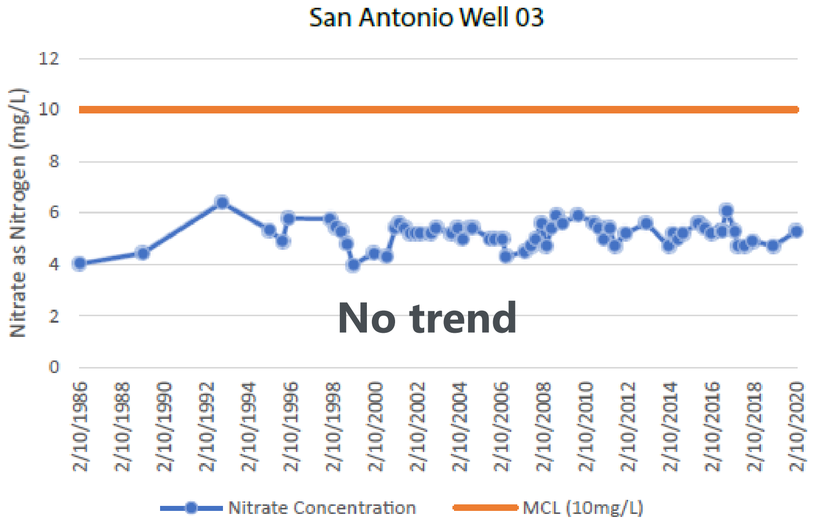
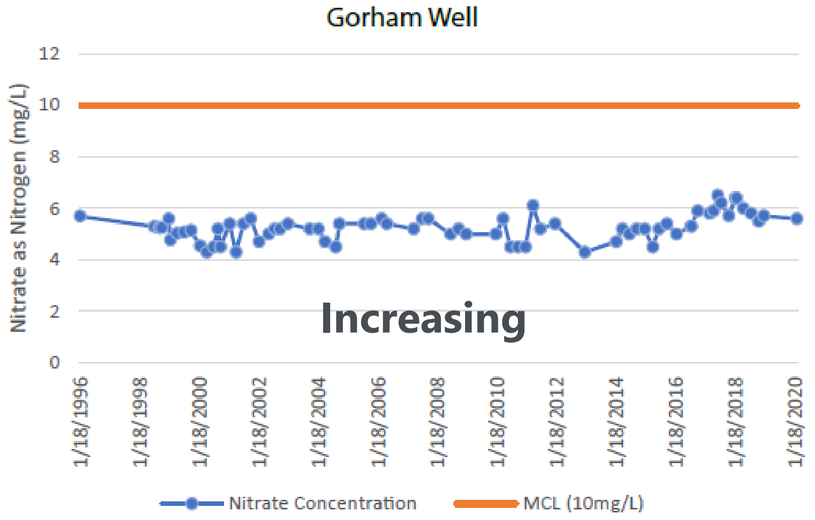
Groundwater Quality

Nitrate









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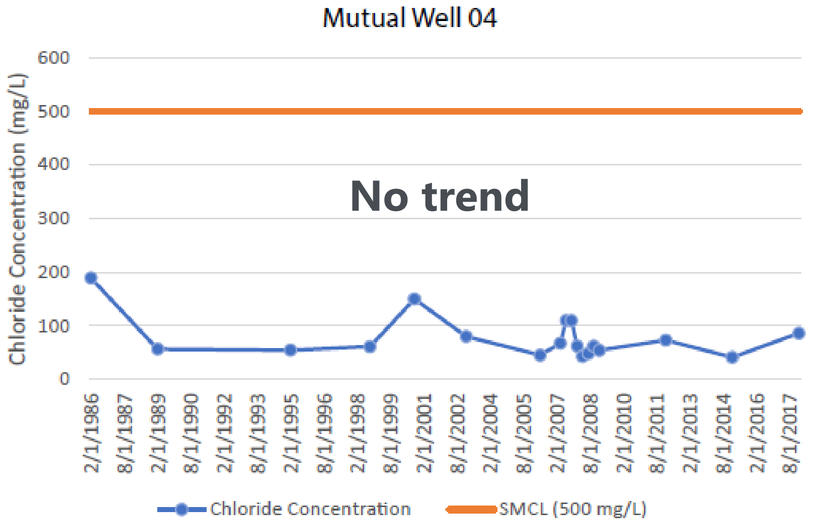
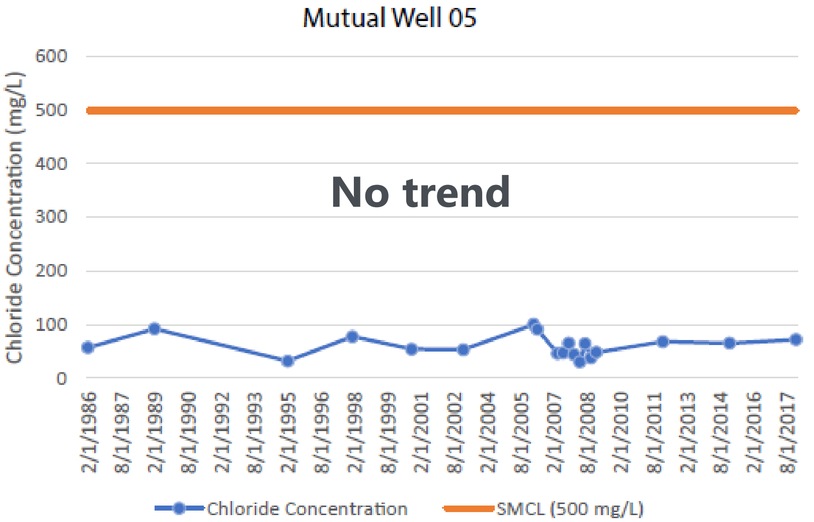
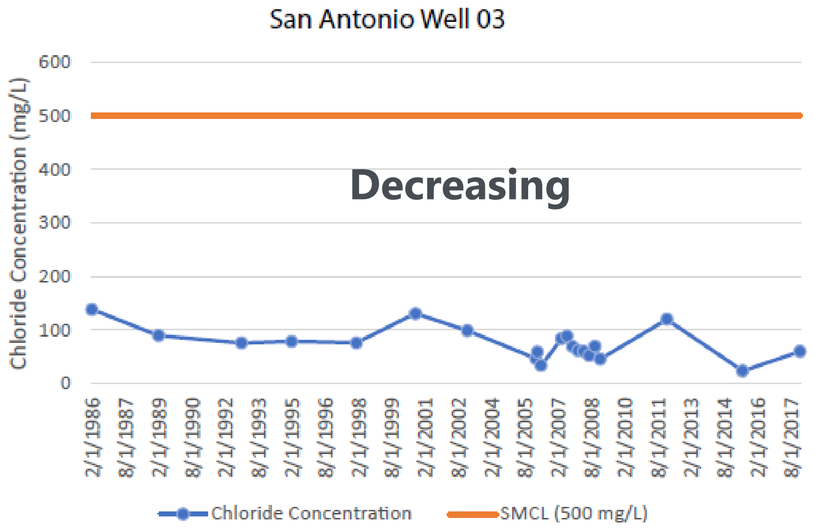
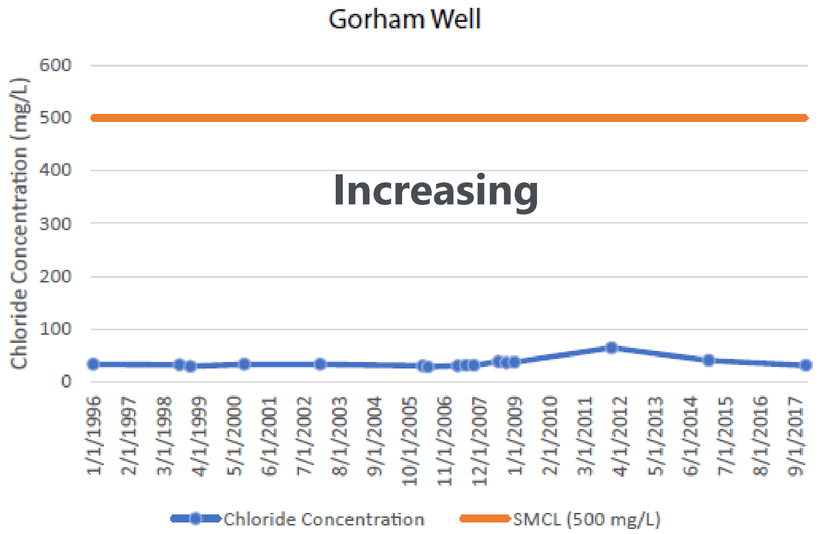
Groundwater Quality

Chloride







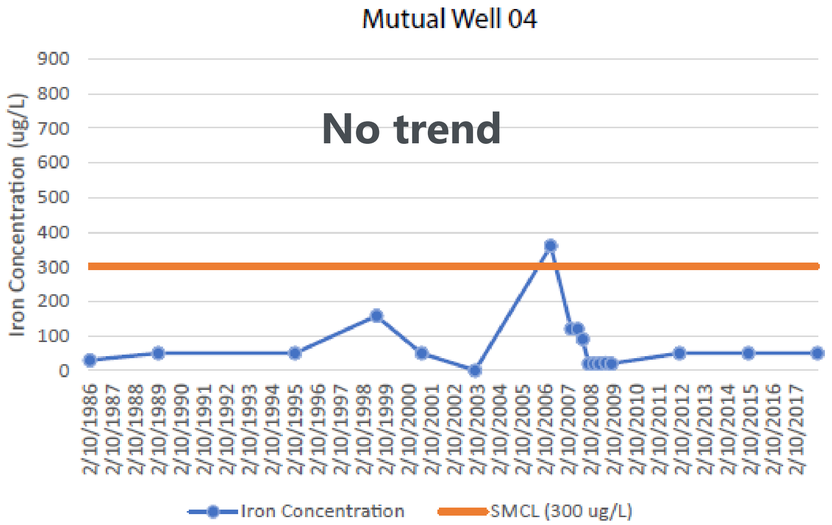


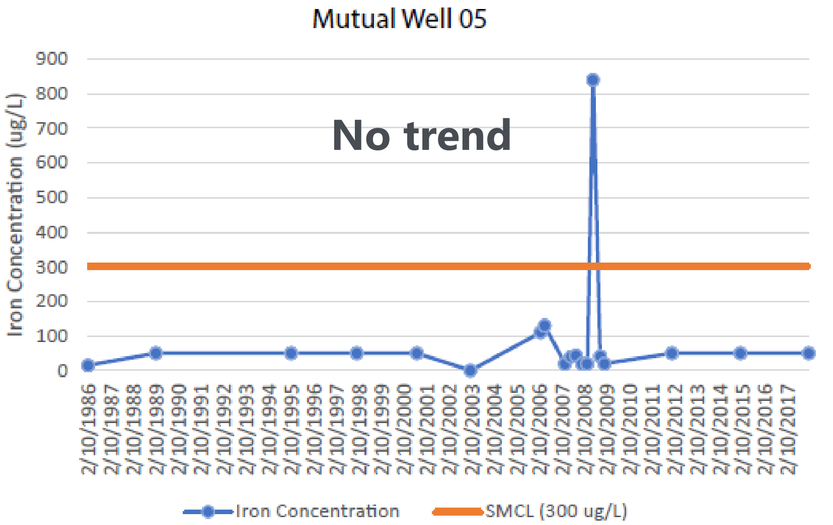
Recommended MCL = 250 mg/L
Upper MCL = 500 mg/L

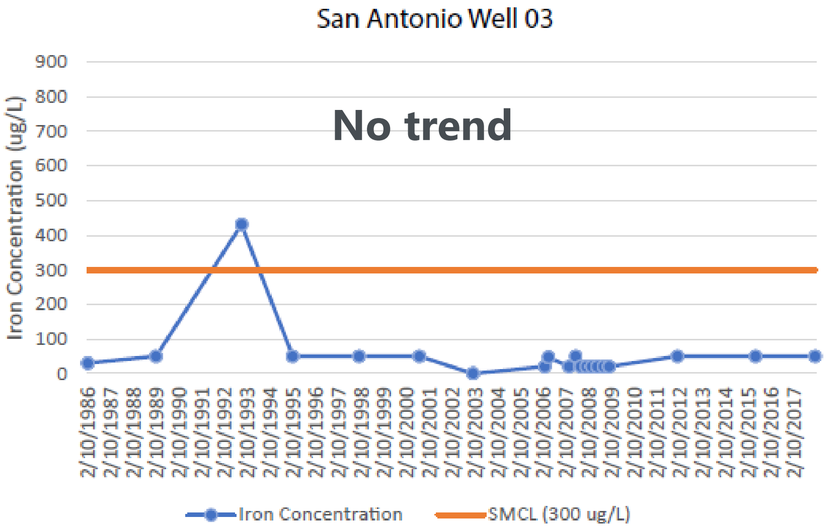
DUDEK

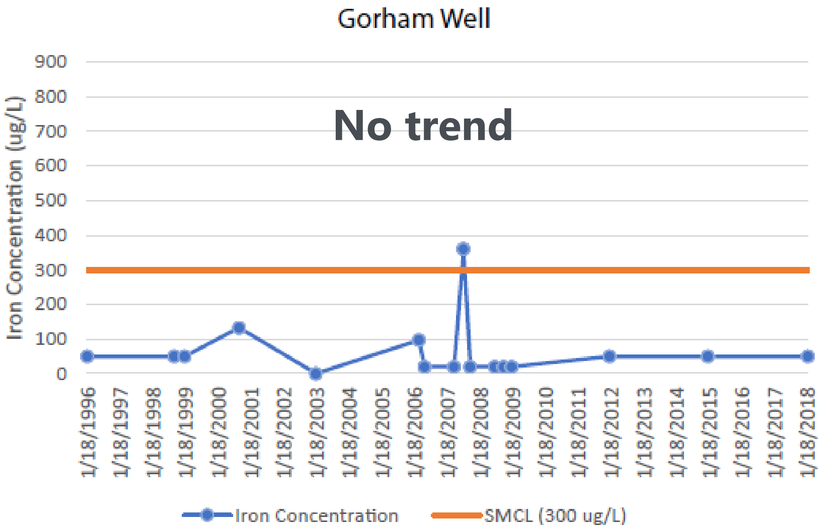
Groundwater Quality

Iron









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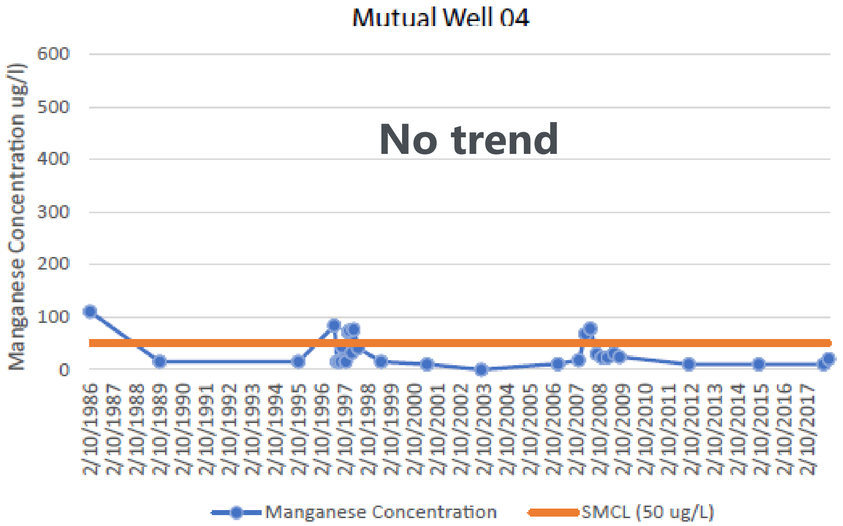
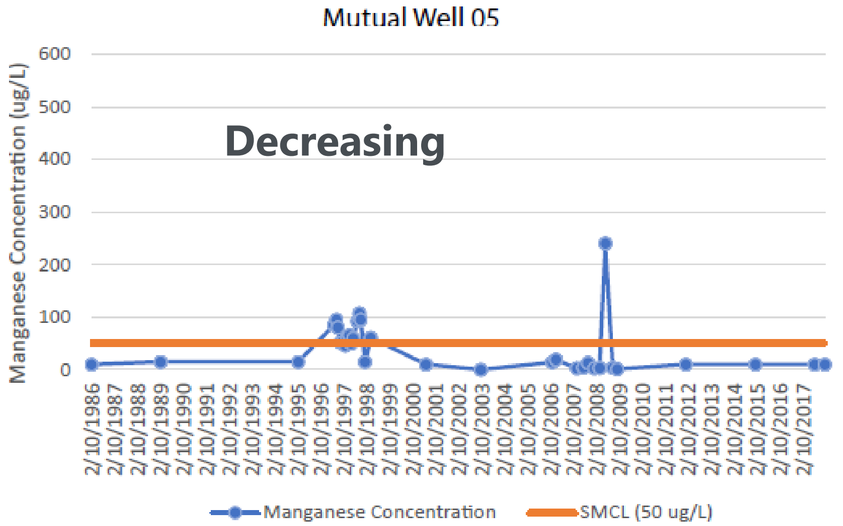
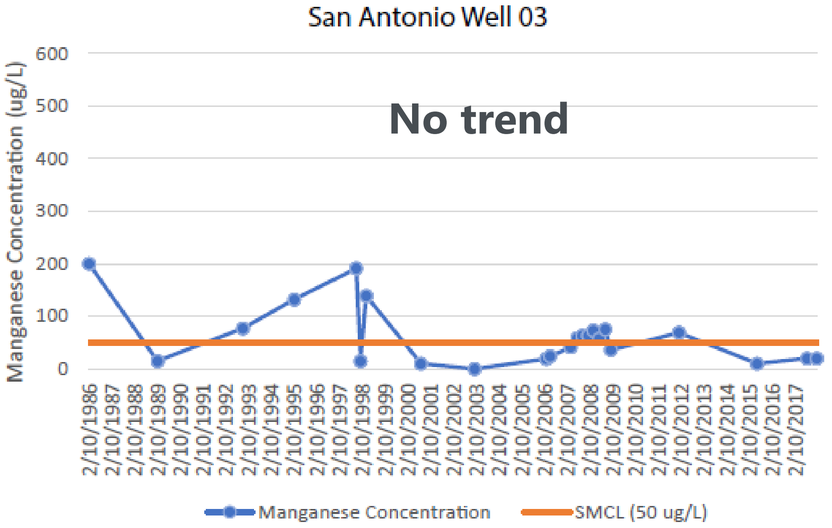
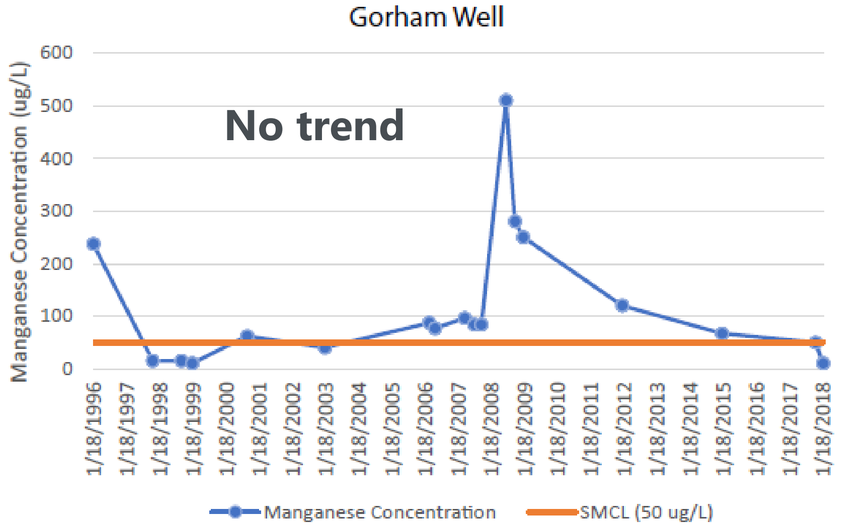
Groundwater Quality

Manganese









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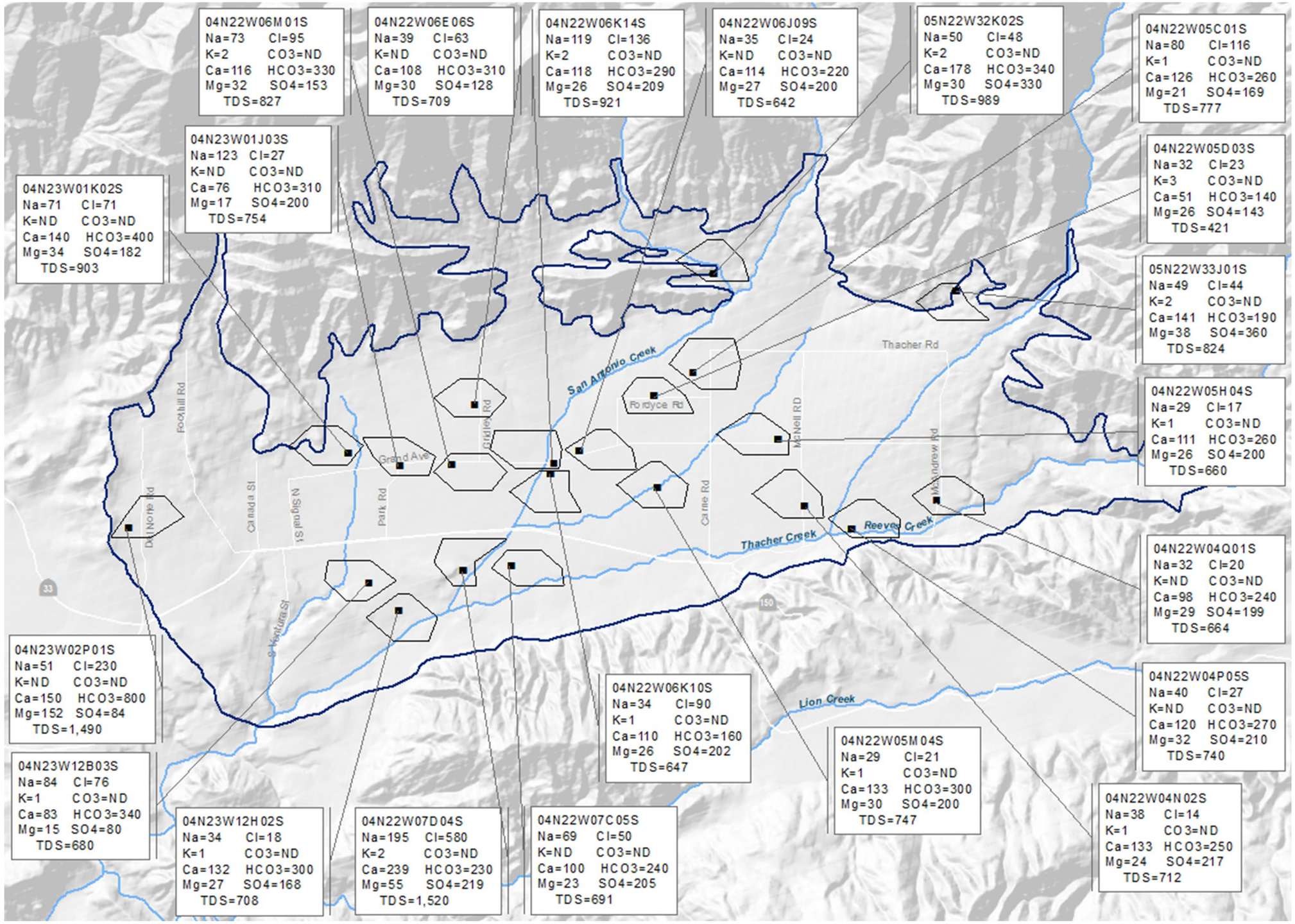
Stiff diagrams for wells sampled by VCWPD between 2010 and 2015



Water Budget – Ojai Basin Groundwater Model

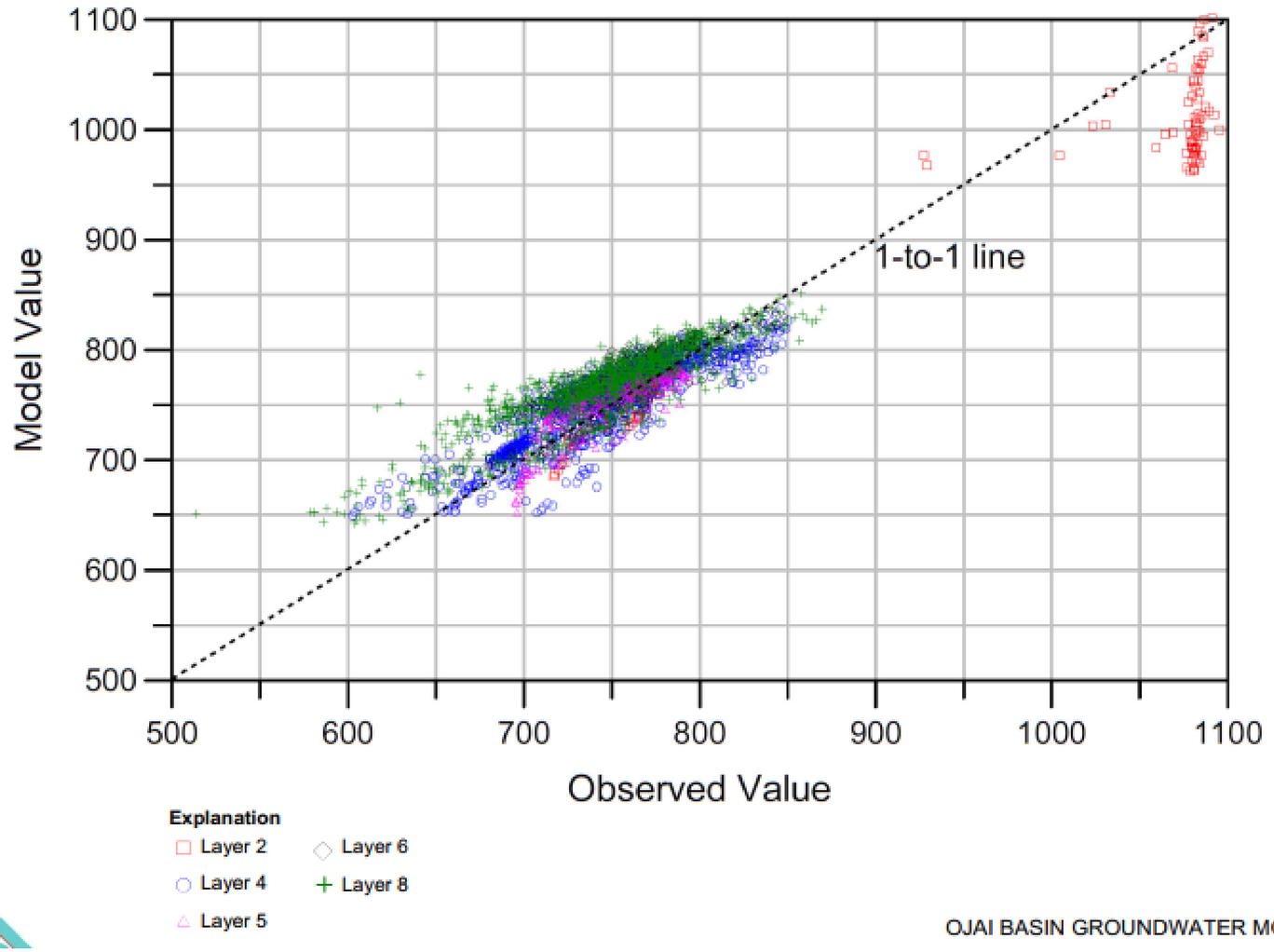
- Initially developed between 2009 and 2011 by Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBS&A)
- Updated in 2014 and 2020 to include additional data and improve model calibration
- Comprised of two coupled models
  - Watershed model using Distributed Parameter Watershed Model (DPWM) code
  - Finite-difference numerical groundwater model using MODFLOW-SURFACT code
- DPWM uses inputs such as precipitation, evapotranspiration, geology, soils, and vegetation cover to estimate streamflow and water percolation in the basin
- Outputs from DPWM are fed into groundwater model to provide inputs for recharge and streamflow

Water Budget – Ojai Basin Groundwater Model

- Model calculates water budget quarterly from April 1970 through September 2019
- Model is calibrated to measured groundwater elevations at 18 wells within the Basin
- Calibration is accomplished by adjusting aquifer properties to match measured heads as closely as possible
- Aquifer properties adjusted:
  - Hydraulic Conductivity
  - Specific Yield
  - Specific Storage

Water Budget – Ojai Basin Groundwater Model

- Mean error was -11.26 feet
  - Indicates that model simulated heads are, on average, about 11 feet higher than observed values
- Scaled root mean square error was 4.6 percent, which is in the range of what is considered acceptable (<10%)
- Most sensitive parameters were determined to be recharge from precipitation and irrigation, hydraulic conductivity, and specific yield



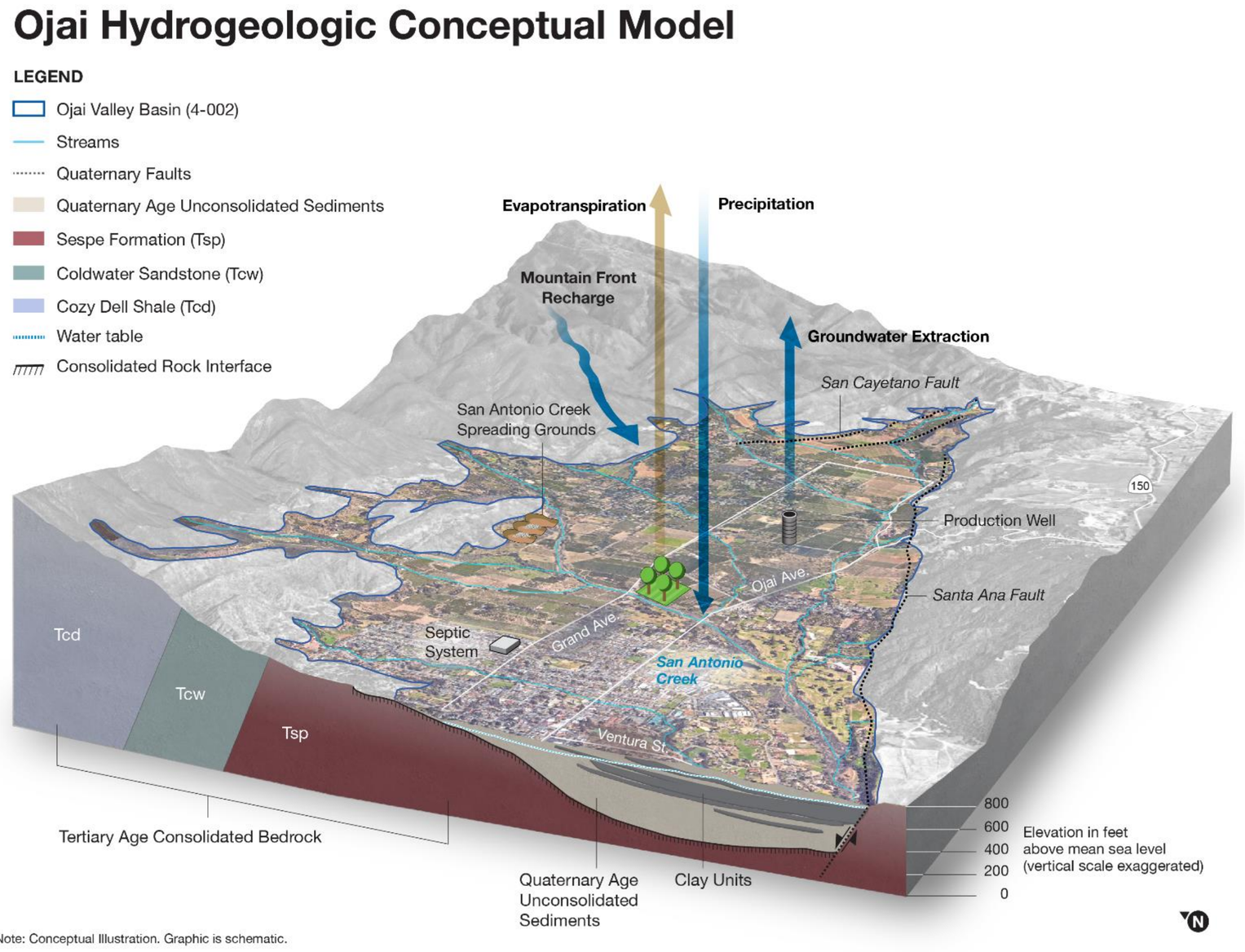
OJAI BASIN GROUNDWATER MODEL

Source: DBS&A 2020

Water Budget – OBGM

- Water budget for the basin was calculated using inputs and outputs from the Ojai Basin Groundwater Model
- Budget consists of inflows of water to the basin and outflows from the basin
- Change in Storage is calculated using the following equation:

$$\sum Inflows - \sum Outflows = Change\ in\ Groundwater\ in\ Storage$$



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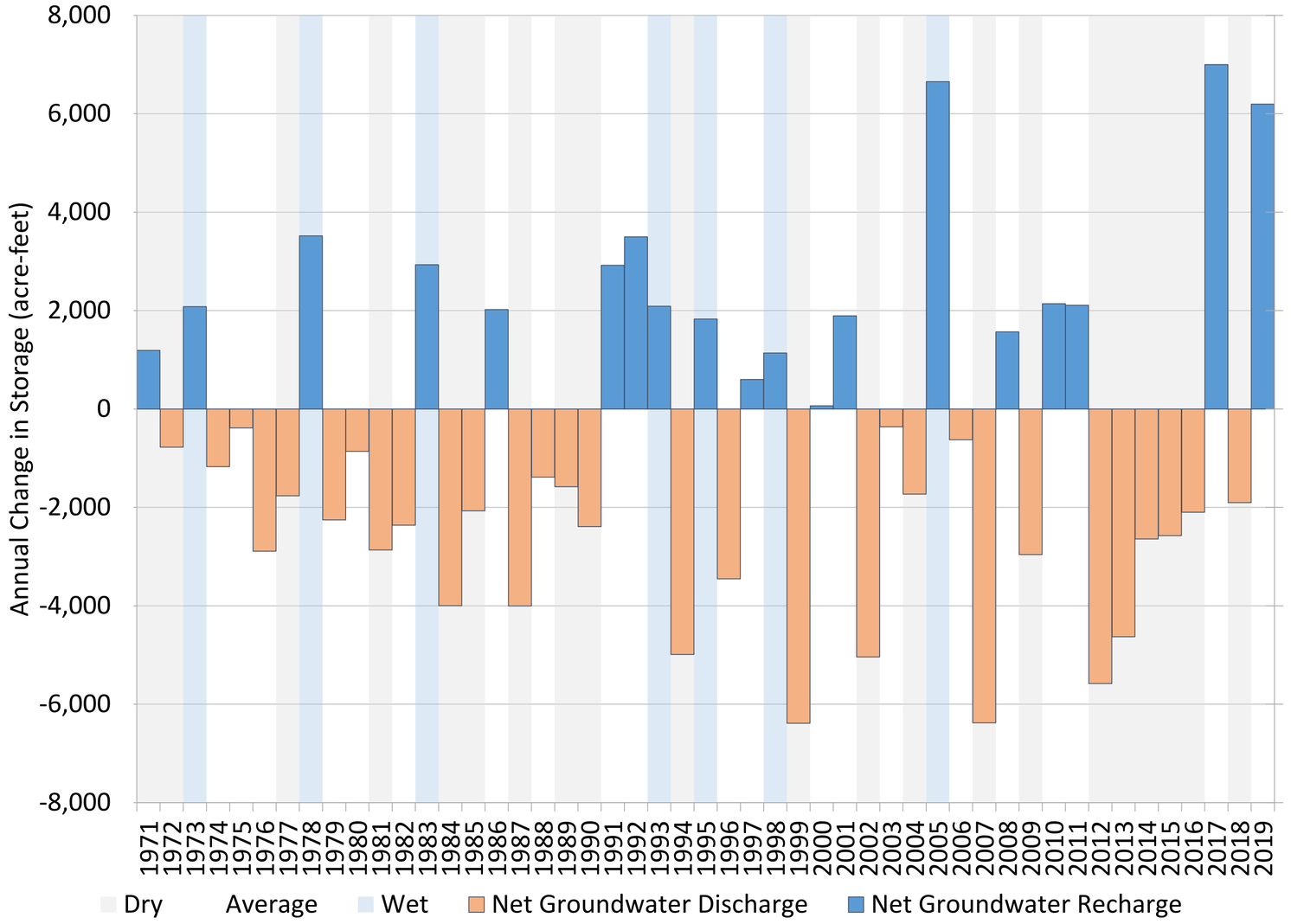
Annual Change in Groundwater in Storage

- Annual Change in Storage Calculated by Subtracting Total Annual Outflows from Total Annual Inflows
- When Outflows exceed Inflows, there is a Net Discharge (Decrease) in Groundwater in Storage
- When Inflows exceed Outflows, there is a Net Recharge (Increase) in Groundwater in Storage
- Discharges from storage tend to occur in dry periods, while recharge to storage tends to occur in wet periods



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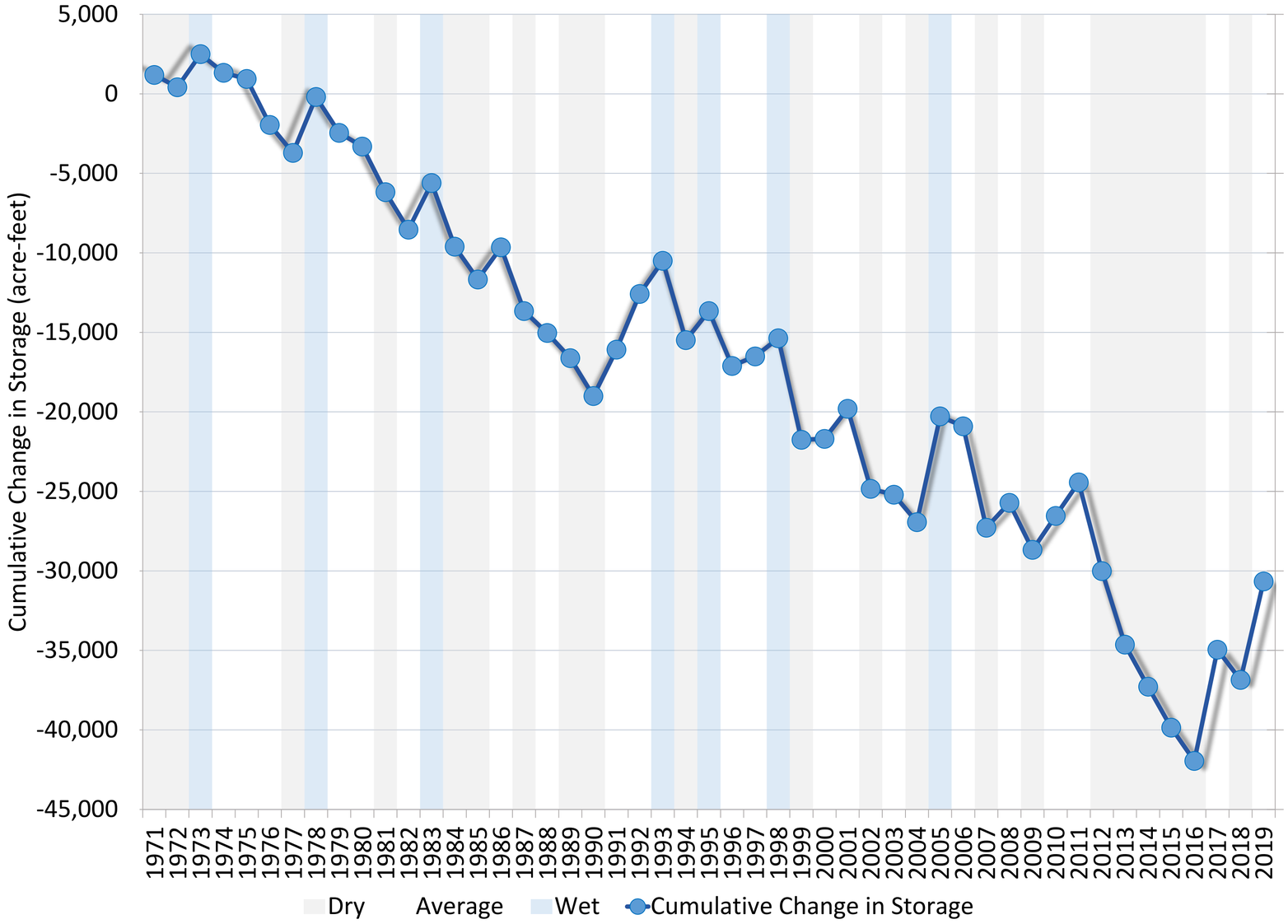
Cumulative Change in Groundwater in Storage

- Cumulative Change in Storage calculated by adding up the values of Annual Change in Storage
- Upward trends show increasing groundwater in storage over time
- Downward trends show decreasing groundwater in storage over time
- OBGM calculates that ~30,000 AF of groundwater has been lost from storage since 1971



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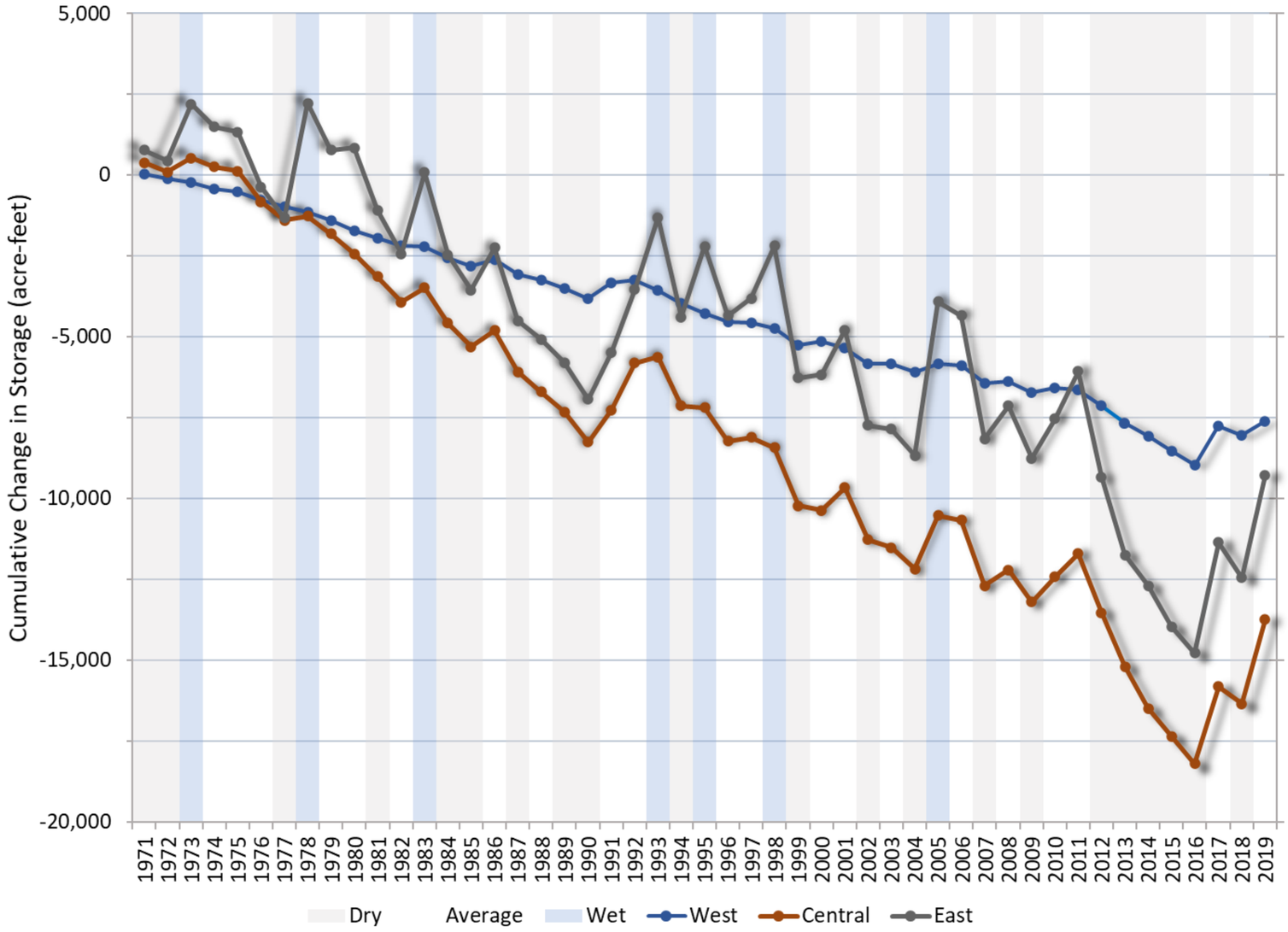
Cumulative Change in Groundwater in Storage by Basin Area

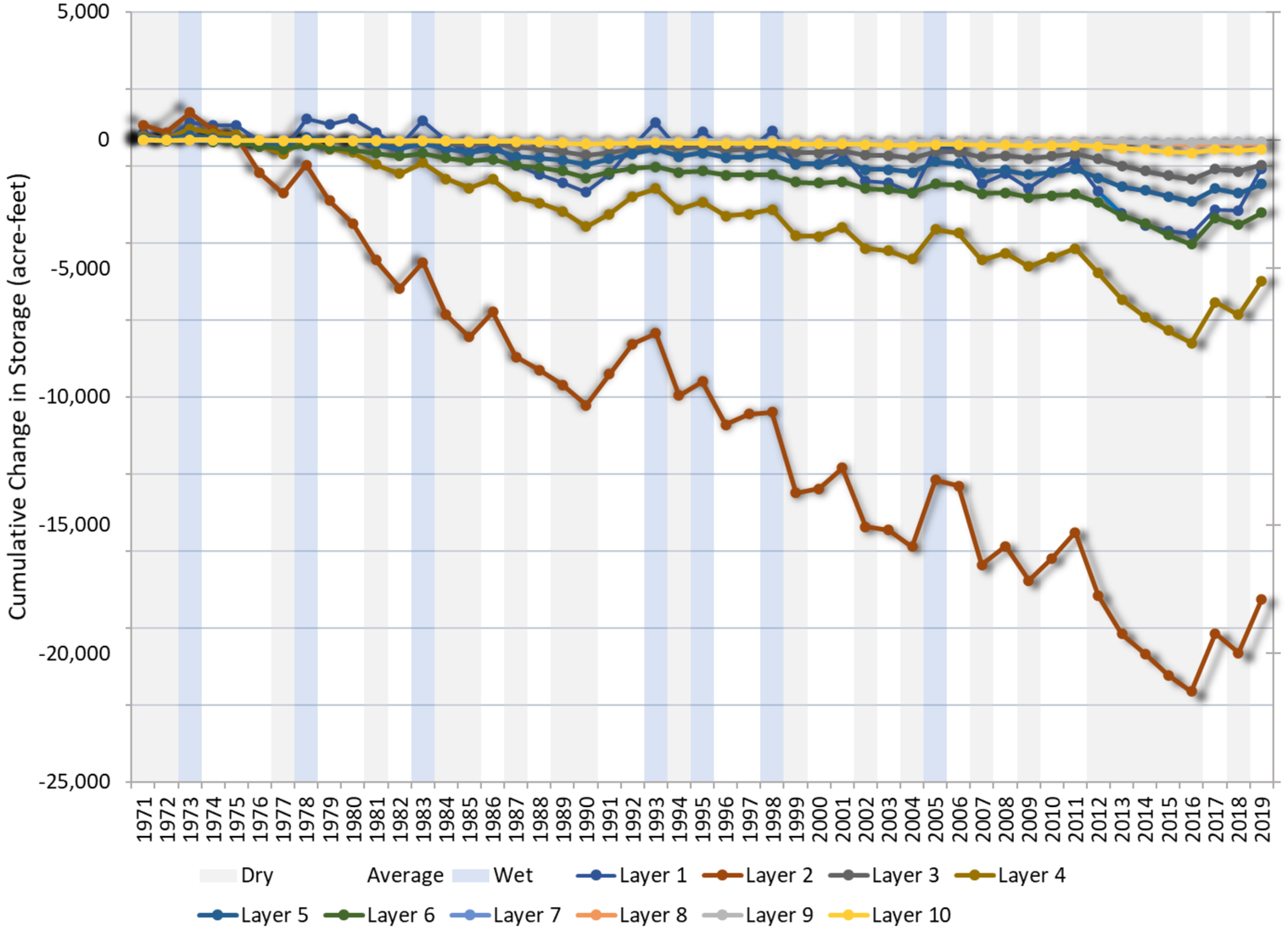
- Basin divided into three sections roughly equal in area: West, Central, and East
- Total Storage declines by area:
  - West: ~7,600 AF
  - Central: ~13,750 AF
  - East: ~9,300 AF
- Storage declines in the Central and East basin areas seem to be more influenced by variations in climate
- Storage declines in the West area were steadier regardless of water year type



DUDEK

Cumulative Change in Groundwater in Storage by Model Layer

- Even numbered Layers represent aquifer units, odd numbered units are semi-confining units
- Majority of Storage lost (~18,000 AF of the total of ~30,000 AF) comes from Model Layer 2, which represents the unconfined aquifer
- Remaining loss in storage is from other aquifer units; Little storage is lost from semi-confining units



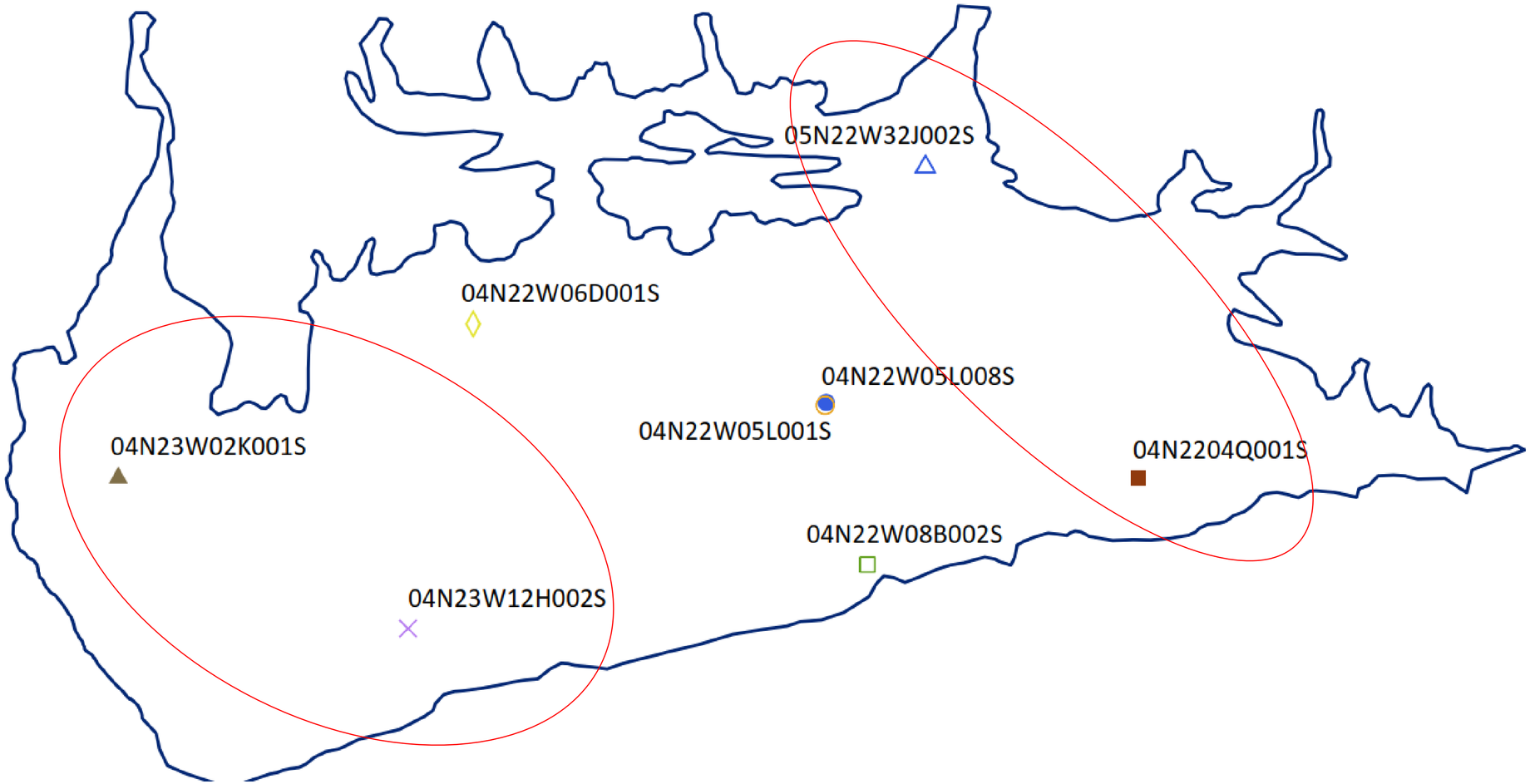
DUDEK

Undesirable Results

Chronic Lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply

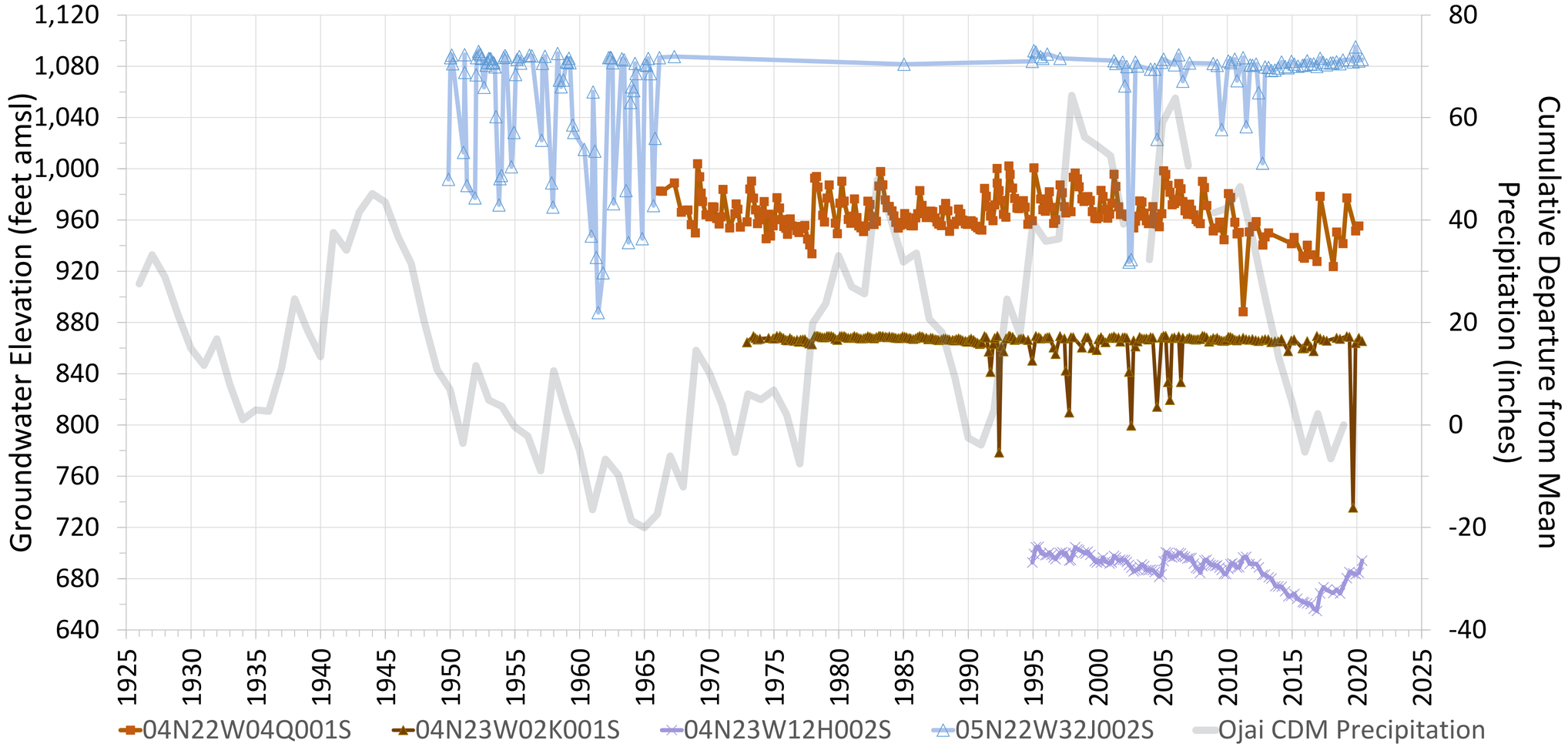
Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater in storage

Select Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs



DUDEK

Select Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs



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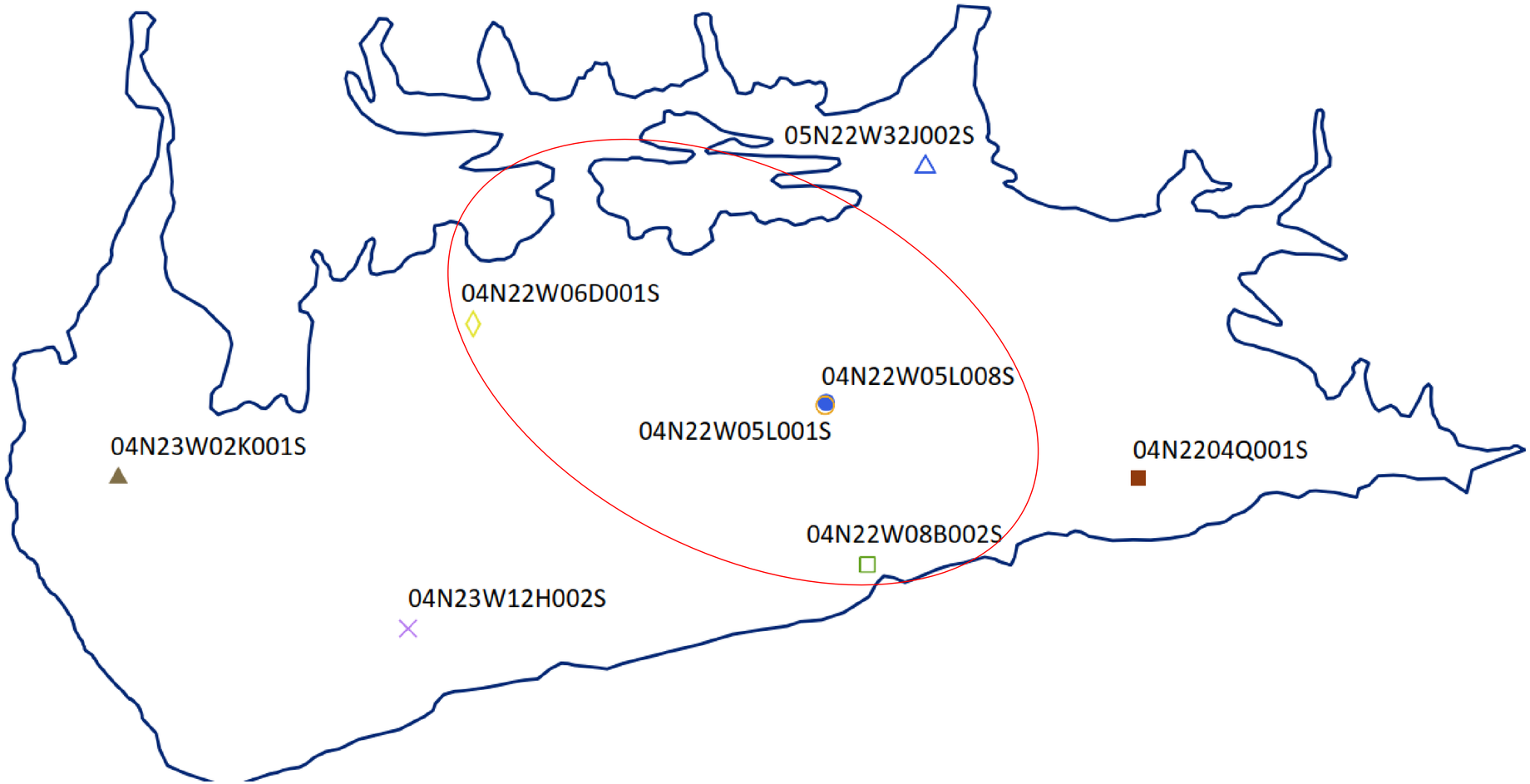

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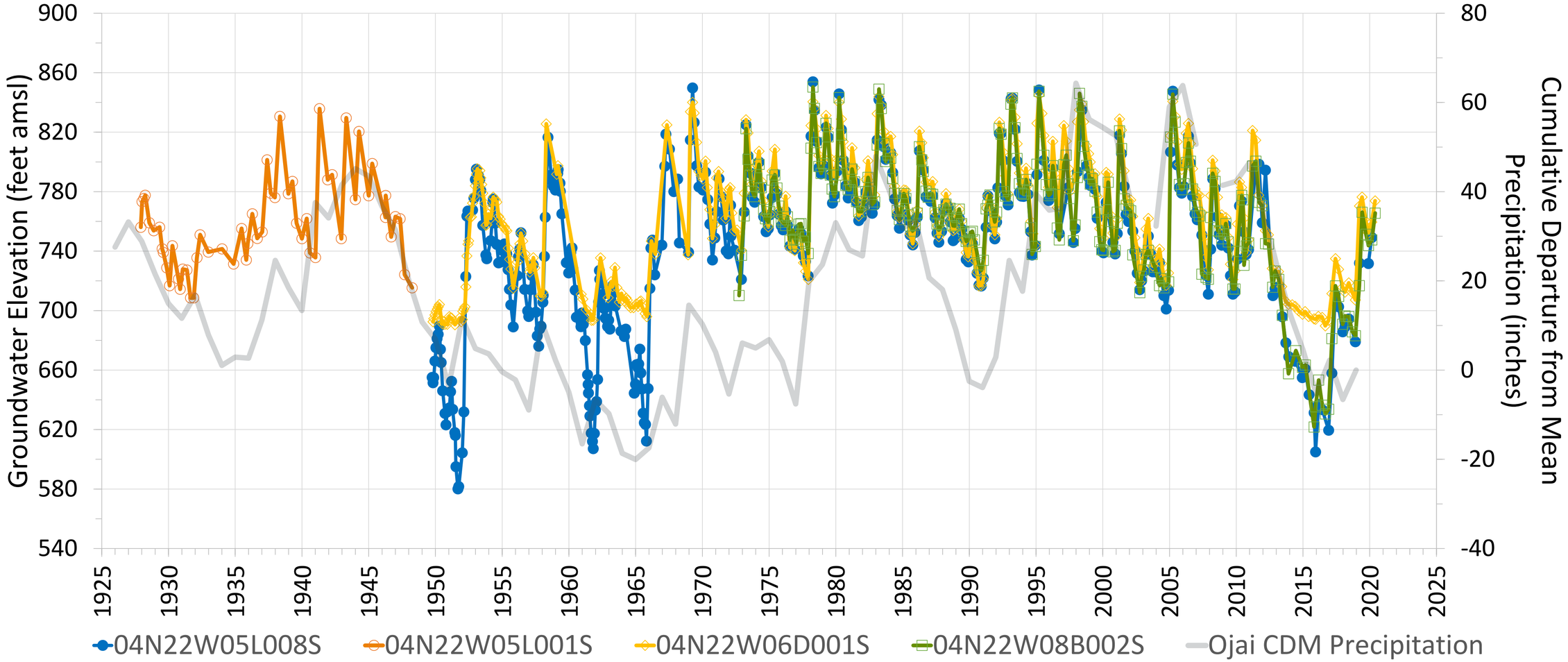

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Water Budget Conclusions – Groundwater Elevations

- Groundwater Elevations have been relatively stable in the eastern and western portions of the basin.
- In the central portion of the basin, water elevations have fluctuated with changes in climate, falling during dry periods and recovering during wet periods.
- Objectives for groundwater elevations should be set low enough to account for climatic fluctuations in groundwater elevations that recover to historical highs

Water Budget Conclusions – Groundwater in Storage

- Model estimates a loss in storage of ~30,000 AF since 1971
- This implies a deficit (more extraction than recharge) of roughly 625 AFY
- Minimum threshold will need to be established that takes into account declining groundwater in storage
  - According to the model, ~17,000 AF of storage was lost between 2011 and 2016
  - Between 2016 and 2019, ~12,000 AF of storage was recovered
  - Minimum threshold should take into account the amount of storage the basin would lose during a drought period while the basin works toward sustainability
- Strategies for sustainability should keep this value in mind while also taking into account potential uncertainty in the model estimates of storage changes.

QUESTIONS?

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Fwd: Quarterly Extraction Statement

1 message

Roberta Barbee <obgma@aol.com> Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 11:08 AM
Reply-To: Roberta Barbee <obgma@aol.com>
To: "jmundyconsultingllc@gmail.com" <jmundyconsultingllc@gmail.com>

Roberta

Roberta Barbee
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
P.O. Box 1779
Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640.1207
OBGMA@aol.com
OBGMA.COM

-----Original Message-----
From: Nan Davis <exceptionalpixie@gmail.com>
To: Cece VanDerMeer <obgma@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 12:43 pm
Subject: Quarterly Extraction Statement

I am emailing because in filling out the Quarterly Groundwater Extraction Statement for San Antonio Creek Ranch Backup well SCR1, I realized that I have been using the incorrect meter multiplier and have been paying 10 times the actual amount. Below are the actual quarterly figures.

Q1 1.3 acre feet x 25 = $32.50 + 5 + 65 = $102.50 (not $407.50) that was reported. A difference of $305.

Q2 2.9 acre feet x 25 = $72.50 + (2.9 x 37) 107.30 + 5 + 65 = $249.80 (not $1892.80) that was reported. A difference of $1643.

Q3 9.7 acre feet x 25 = $242.50 + (2.9 x 37) $358.90 + 5 + 65 = $671.40 (not $6115) that was reported. A difference of $5443.60.

Please advice how you would like to handle to overpayment of $7391.60

Thank you,

Nan Davis

San Antonio Creek Ranch Payments 2018-2021 - Refund Request - State Well No. 04N22W06J07S			
Quarter	Amount Due	Amount Paid	Amount Over/Under Paid
2021-1	$ 969.00		$ (969.00)
2020-4	$ 674.50	$ 6,115.00	$ 5,440.50
2020-3	$ 252.28	$ 1,892.80	$ 1,640.52
2020-2	$ 103.75	$ 407.50	$ 303.75
2020-1	$ 120.00	$ 570.00	$ 450.00
2019-4	$ 445.00	$ 445.00	$ -
2019-3	$ 217.50	$ 1,545.00	$ 1,327.50
2019-2	$ 82.50	$ 112.50	$ 30.00
2019-1	$ 265.00	$ 2,020.00	$ 1,755.00
2018-4	$ 242.50	$ 1,795.00	$ 1,552.50
2018-3	$ 269.75	$ 2,067.50	$ 1,797.75
2018-2	$ 82.50	$ 82.50	$ -
2018-1	$ 82.50	$ 82.50	$ -
Total	$ 3,806.78	$ 17,135.30	$ 13,328.52
Prepared and reviewed by OBGMA Staff 3/22/21 - Barbee/Mundy			