

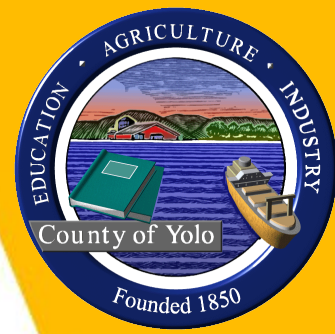
Agricultural Well Permitting

Department of Community Services
Division of Environmental Health



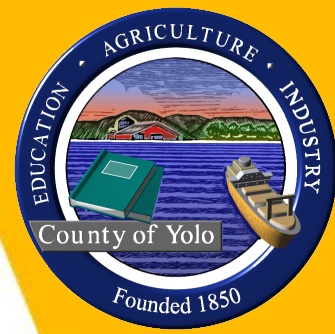
Moratorium Background

- On August 26, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 1576 imposing a temporary 45-day moratorium on the approval or issuance of well permits for new agricultural, non-exempt wells located within the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) designated Focus Areas of the Yolo Subbasin.
- On October 7, 2025, the Board adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 1577 extending the moratorium for an additional 10 months 15 days through August 25, 2026 (unless rescinded by the Board prior to this date).
- On November 4, 2025, the Board adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 1580 to include an exemption to the moratorium for replacement wells.



Ag Well Working Group Formation

- At the August 26, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board directed staff to form an Agricultural Well Permit Working Group.
- The purpose of this Working Group was to review possible changes to the Yolo County Well Ordinance regarding well permitting within the YSGA Focus Areas and to advise Yolo County Environmental Health (YCEH) staff on possible changes. YCEH staff would then take this into account when developing recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.
- The working group members include both large- and small-scale Yolo County farmers/growers, well drillers, academia and other interested parties.

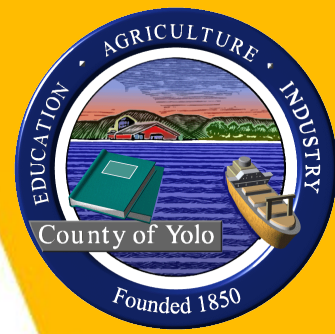


Ag Well Working Group Meeting Topics

- November 6th – Overview of the well permitting process and introduction of topics to be discuss by the working group
- December 4th –Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SMGA), the YSGA formation, and the 2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- January 8th – Meters and additional hydrogeological reviews
- February 5th – Regulating crop conversations and the Yolo County General Plan
- March 12th – Water law and various water rights
- April 2nd – Recap of previous meetings and advice to staff.

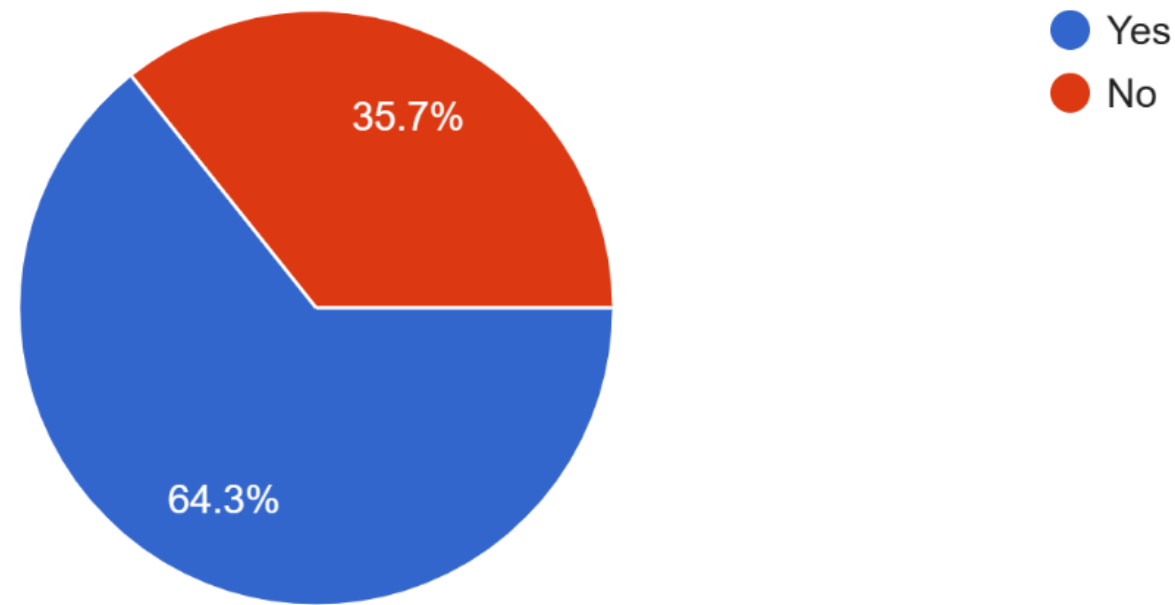
Survey of the Working Group followed the April 2nd meeting

Ag Well Working Group Survey Results

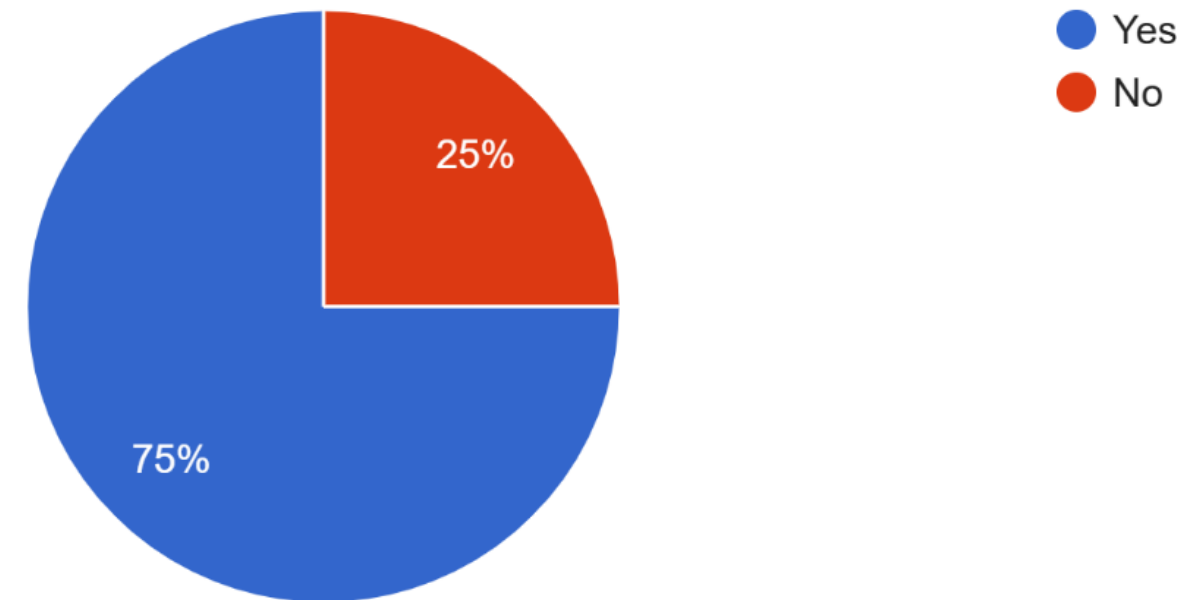


Meters:

Should the County require that meters be installed as part of the well permitting process?

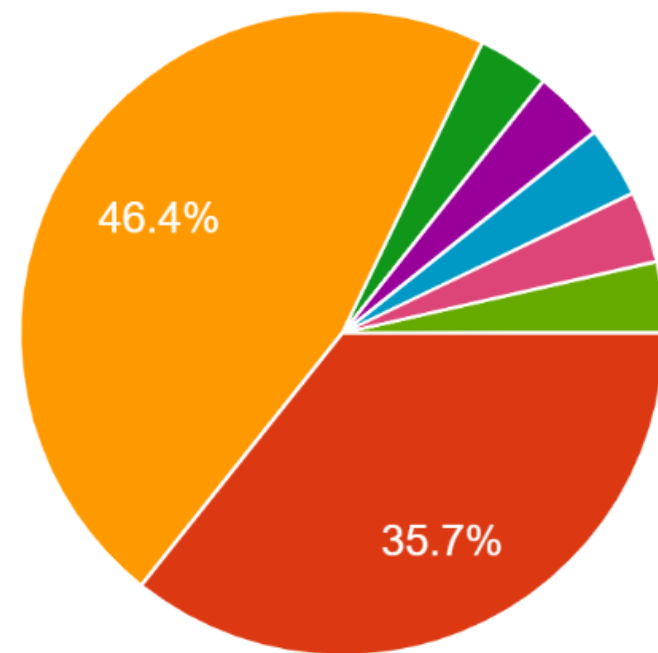


If the County doesn't require a meter be installed, should the County require that the water distribution system be designed to allow for future installation of a meter?



Meters cont.

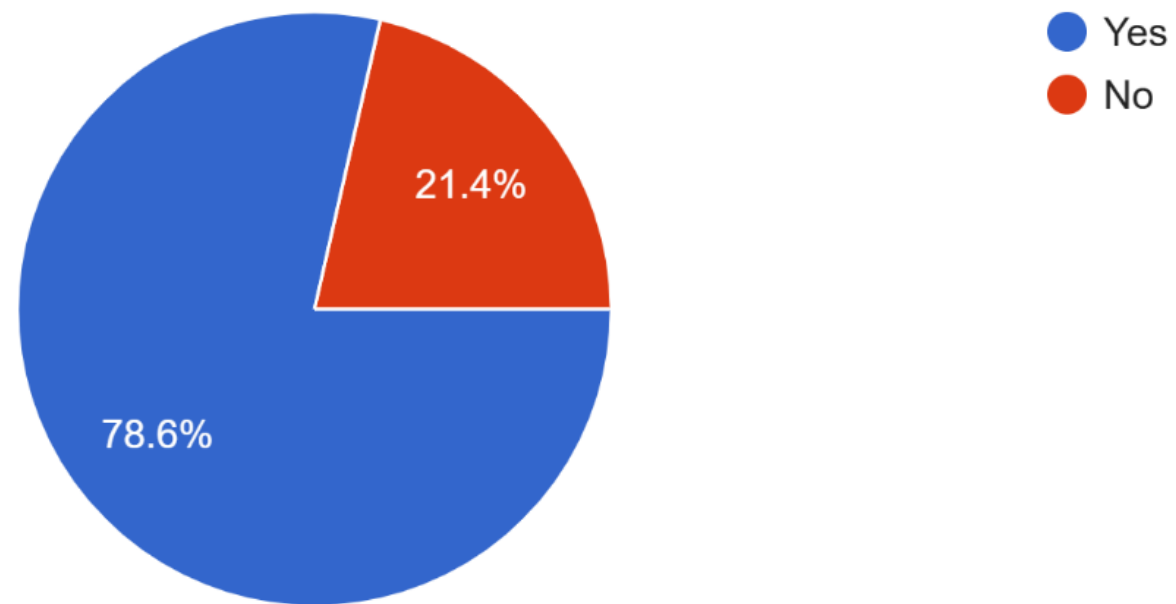
If meters were installed, who should be responsible for collecting and maintaining the metering data?



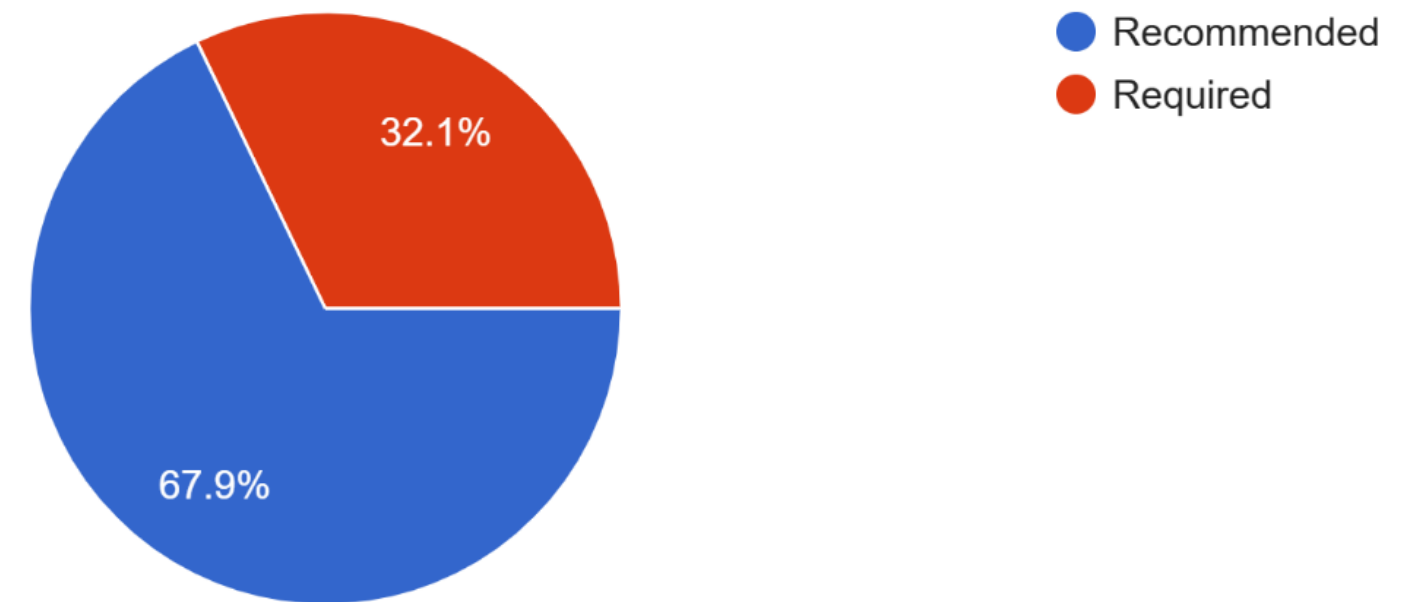
- Yolo County Environmental Health (YCEH)
- Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA)
- Owner maintains data and provides it...
- Both the YSEH for verifying well permi...
- Ag already have meters, set for syste...
- None
- Meters should not be required and sel...
- I suggest owner's report data but have...

Additional Hydrogeological Review

Should the County establish a list of qualified hydrogeologists through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process?

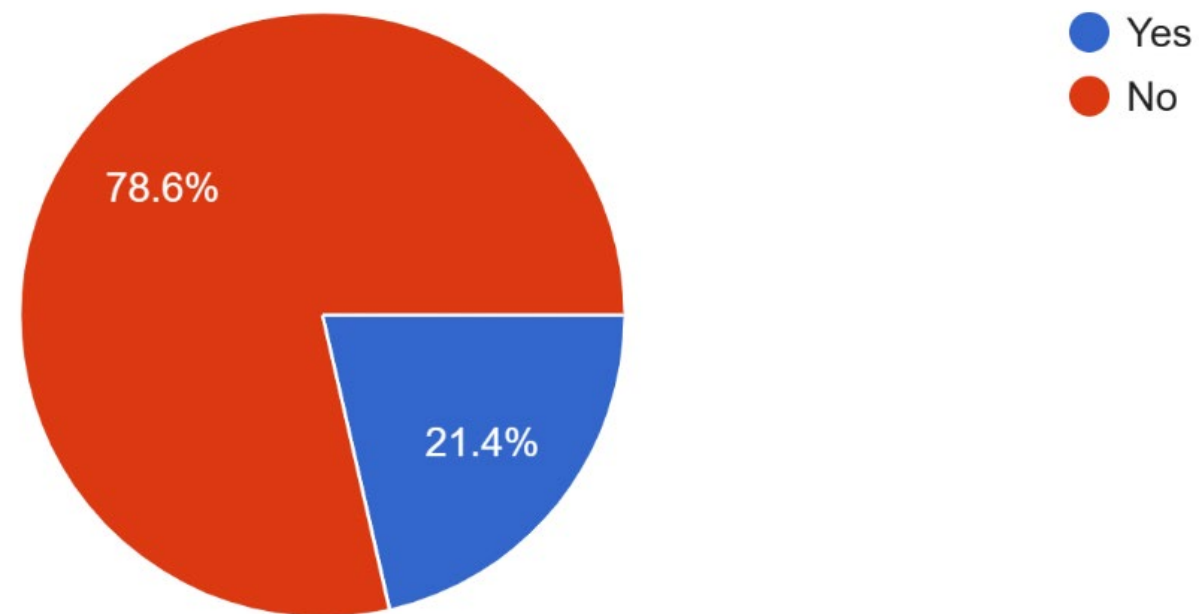


If the County developed a list, should the list be a recommended list or a required list?

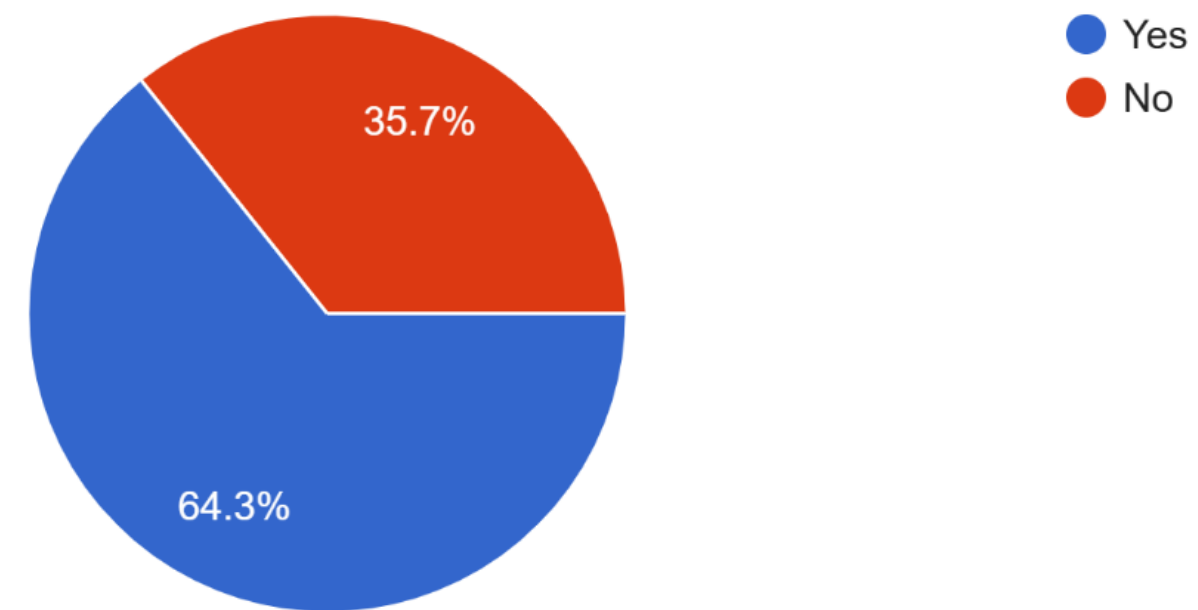


Regulating Crop Conversions

Should the County actively pursue updates to the General Plan and Zoning Code to regulate crop conversions?

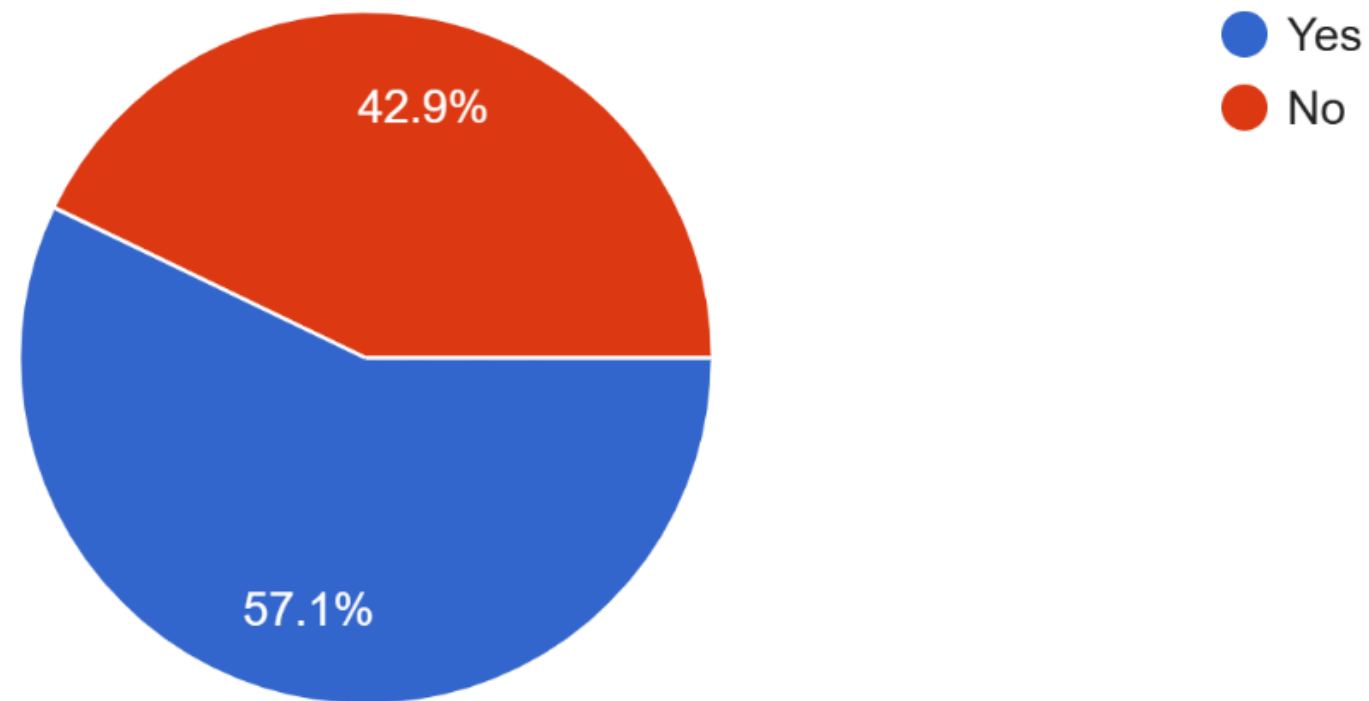


Alternatively, should the County continue monitoring implementation of groundwater regulations and plan to evaluate possible changes during the next scheduled General Plan/Zoning Code update?



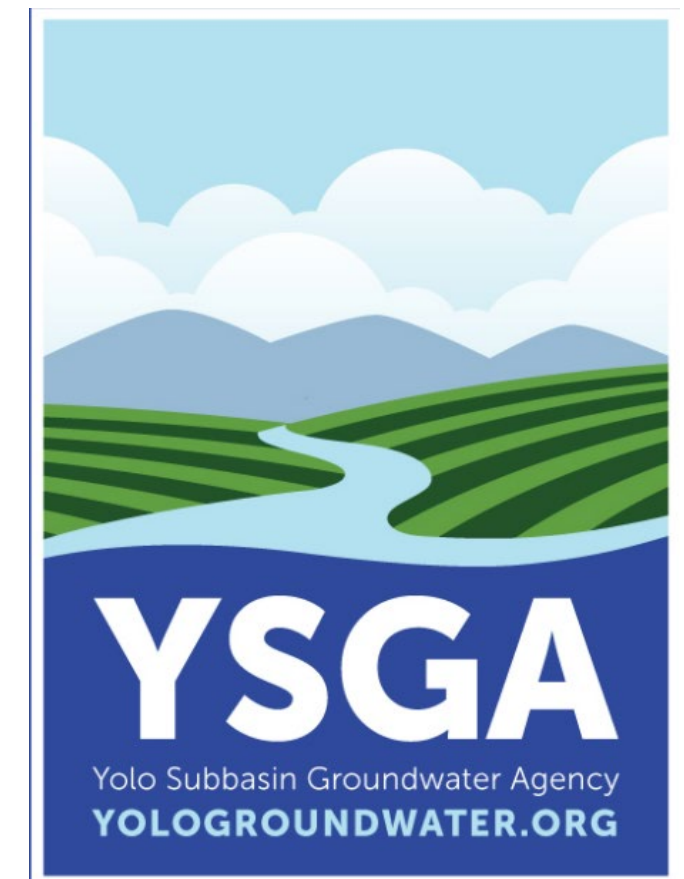
Ag Well Moratorium

Should the County consider extending the current moratorium on new agricultural wells in the existing Focus Areas?



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) Update

- Water Year 2025 Annual Report
- Update on Water Year 2026 Surface Water Supplies
- Overview of Groundwater Legislation
- Update on the Hungry Hollow Area
- Update on the SGMA Fee Study
- Overview of Expected Steps to Develop an Allocation System



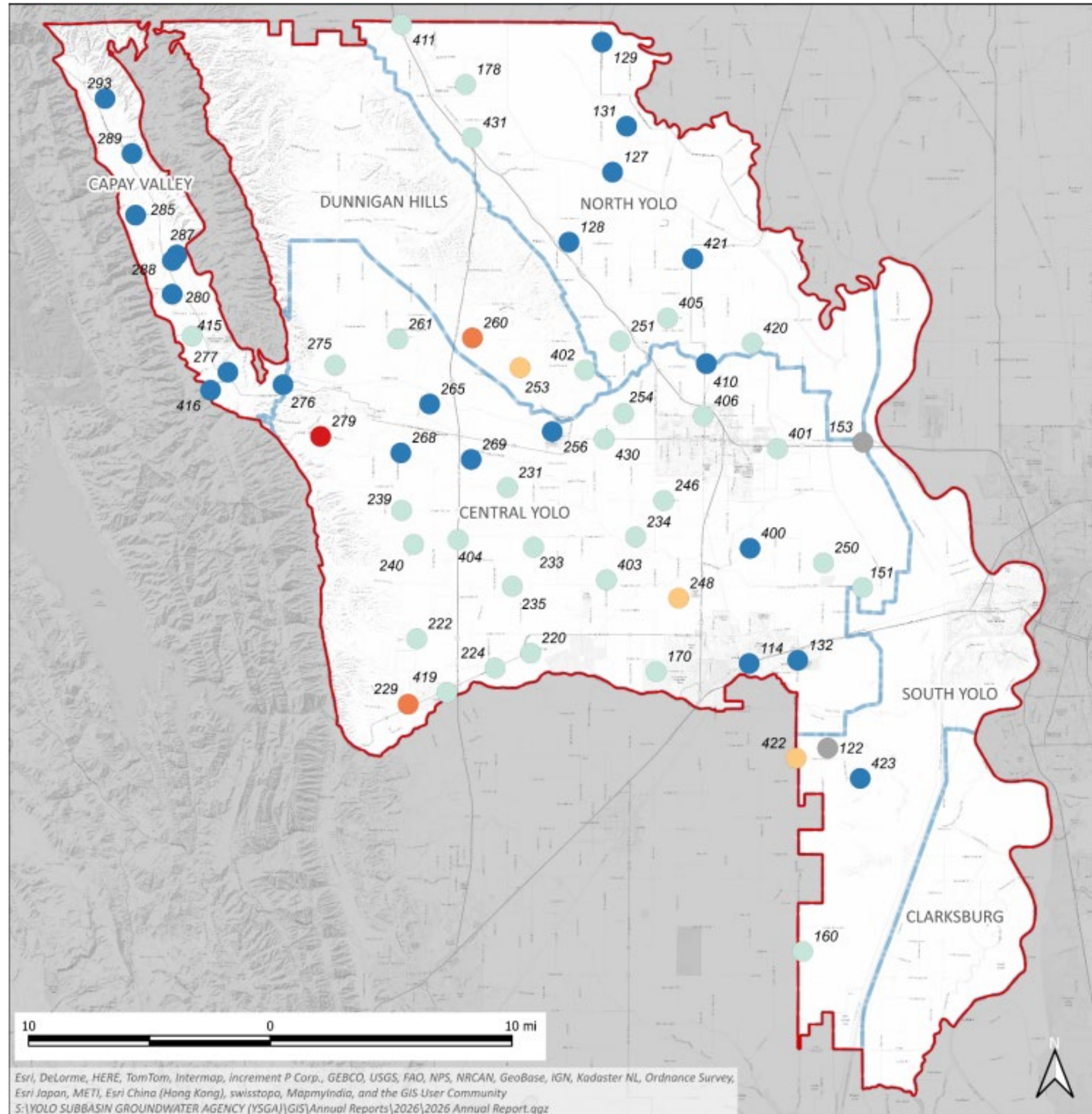


YSGA Annual Report

Water Year 2025

<https://www.yologroundwater.org/>

WY 2025 Annual Report Summary



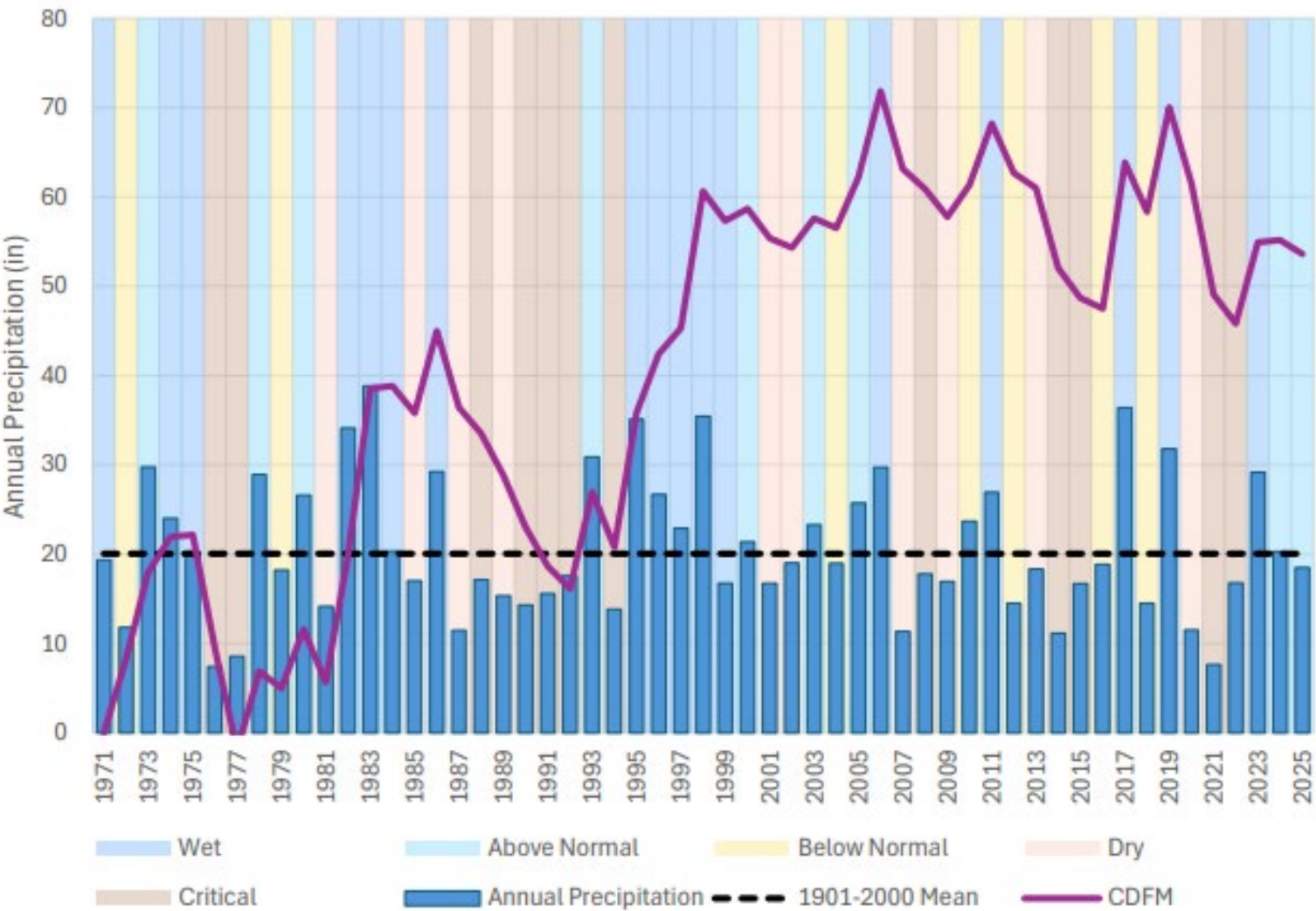
GROUNDWATER LEVELS MINIMUM THRESHOLD EVALUATION

Fall 2025 Representative Wells
Groundwater Elevation

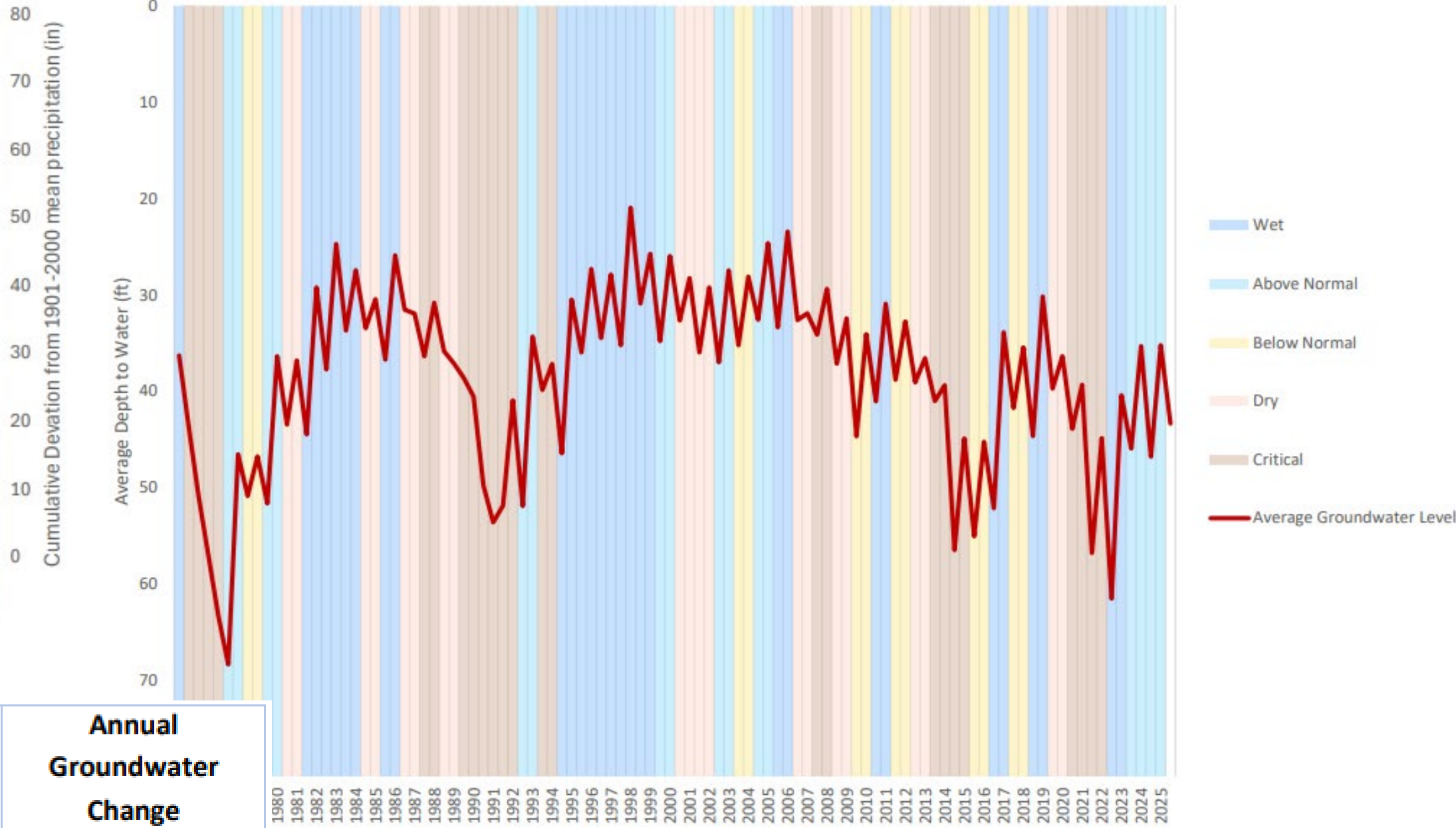
- Yolo Subbasin Boundary
- Management Areas
- Fall 2025 Groundwater Elevation**
- Above MO
- Between 50-75% of MO
- Between 25-50% of MO
- Below 25% of MO, above MT
- Below MT
- No 2025 Measurement

WY 2025 Annual Report Summary

Yolo Subbasin Water Year Precipitation
NOAA Yolo County Time Series

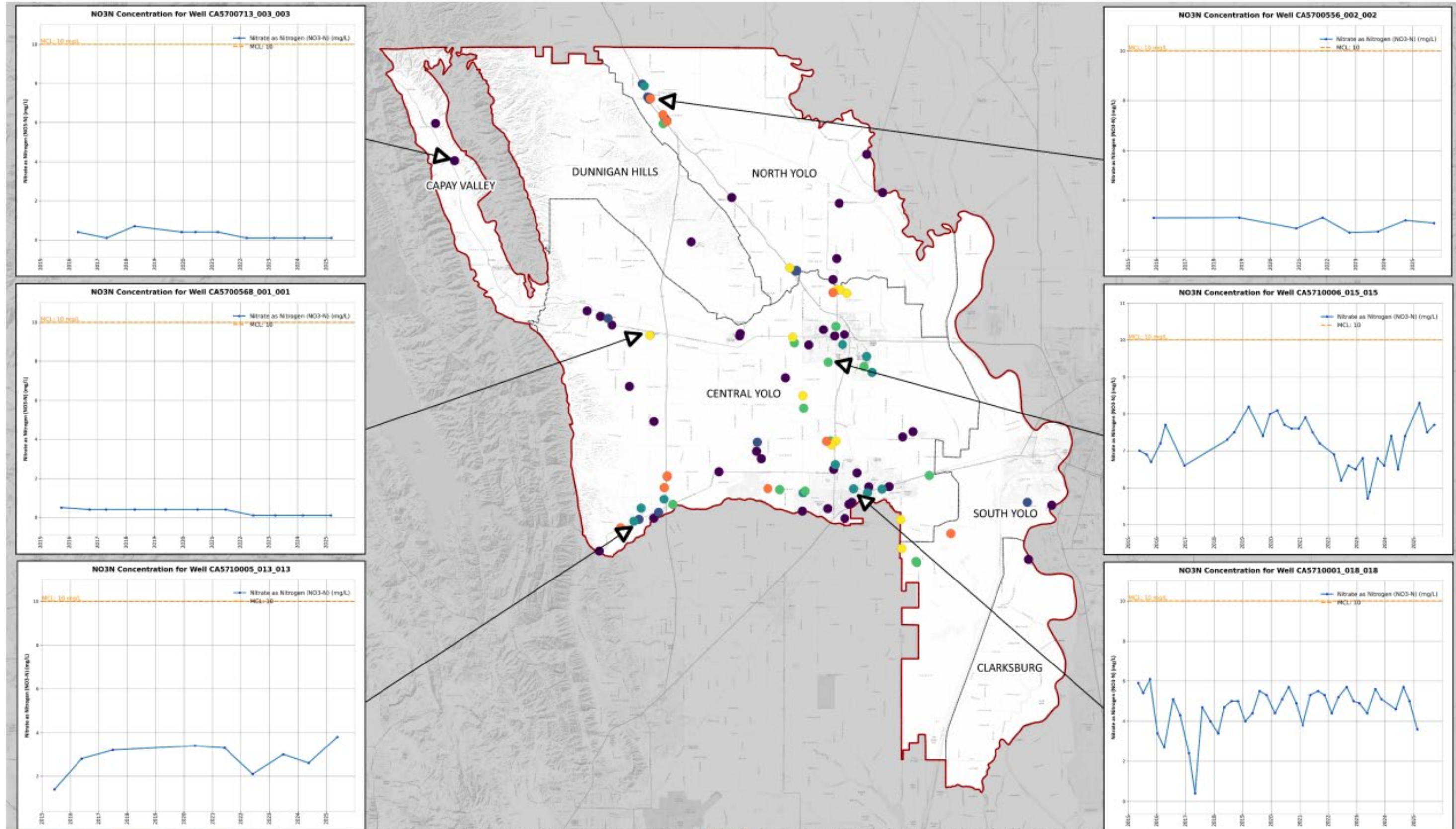


Yolo Subbasin Average Groundwater
Representative Wells - Depth by Season



Water Year	Sacramento River Index ⁹	Sac Valley Water Year Type	Yolo Subbasin Precipitation ¹⁰	Percent of Yolo County Average ¹¹	Annual Groundwater Change (Fall to Fall)
2020	6.0	Dry	11.53"	57%	-4 ft
2021	3.8	Critical	7.64"	38%	-13 ft
2022	4.6	Critical	16.79"	83%	-5 ft
2023	9.3	Wet	29.15"	145%	+16 ft
2024	8.4	Above Normal	20.30"	101%	+1 ft
2025	8.95	Above Normal	18.51"	92%	+3.5 ft

WY 2025 Annual Report Summary



**GROUNDWATER QUALITY
NITRATE CONCENTRATION
2025 Sampling Results in mg/L**

Nitrate as N Average Concentration

- < 2 mg/L
- 2 - 4 mg/L
- 6 - 8 mg/L
- 8 - 10 mg/L
- > 10 mg/L

Yolo Subbasin Boundary
 YSGA Management Areas

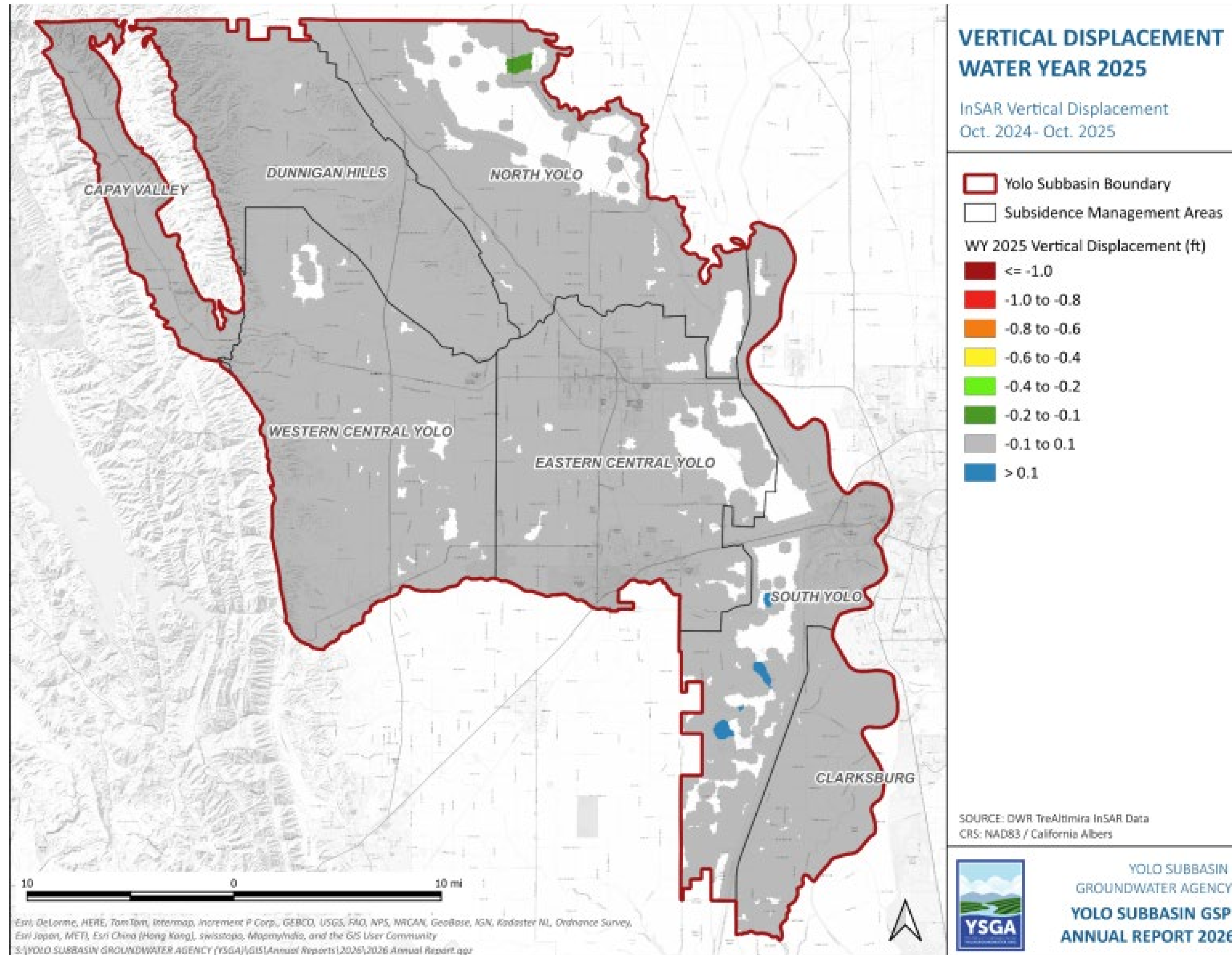
0 5 10 mi

SOURCE: GAMA Database
CRS: NAD83 / California Albers

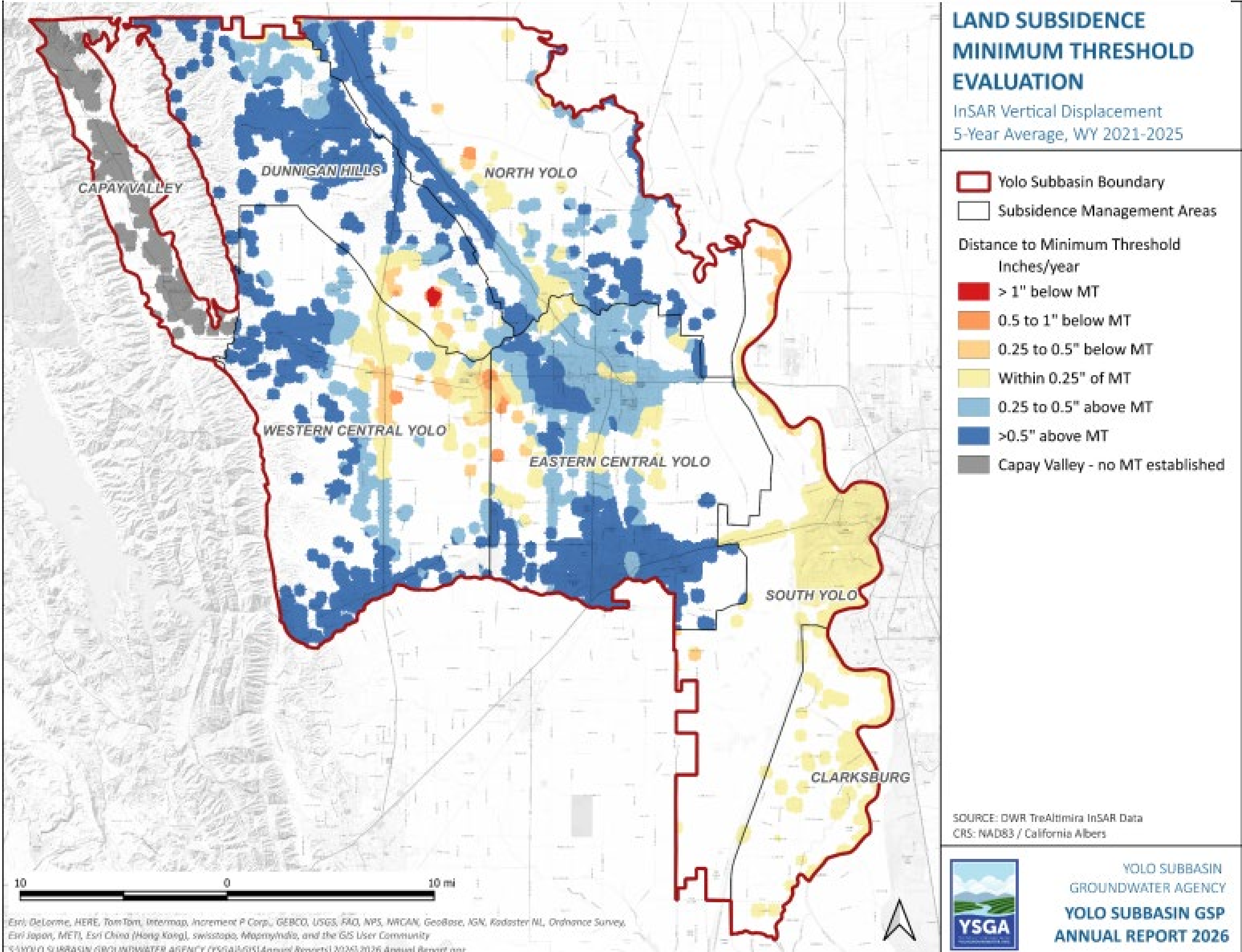


YOLO SUBBASIN
GROUNDWATER AGENCY
**YOLO SUBBASIN GSP
ANNUAL REPORT 2026**

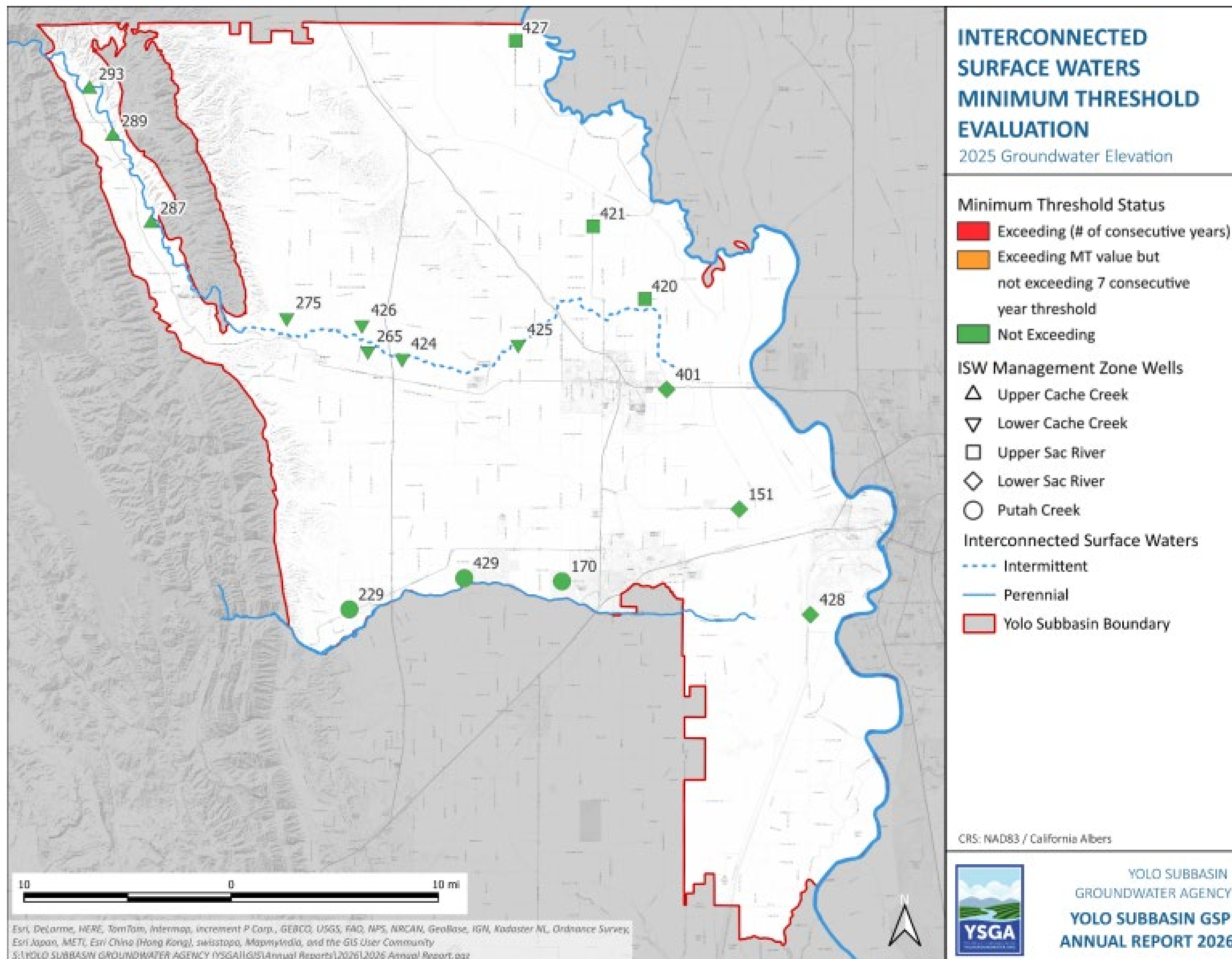
WY 2025 Annual Report Summary



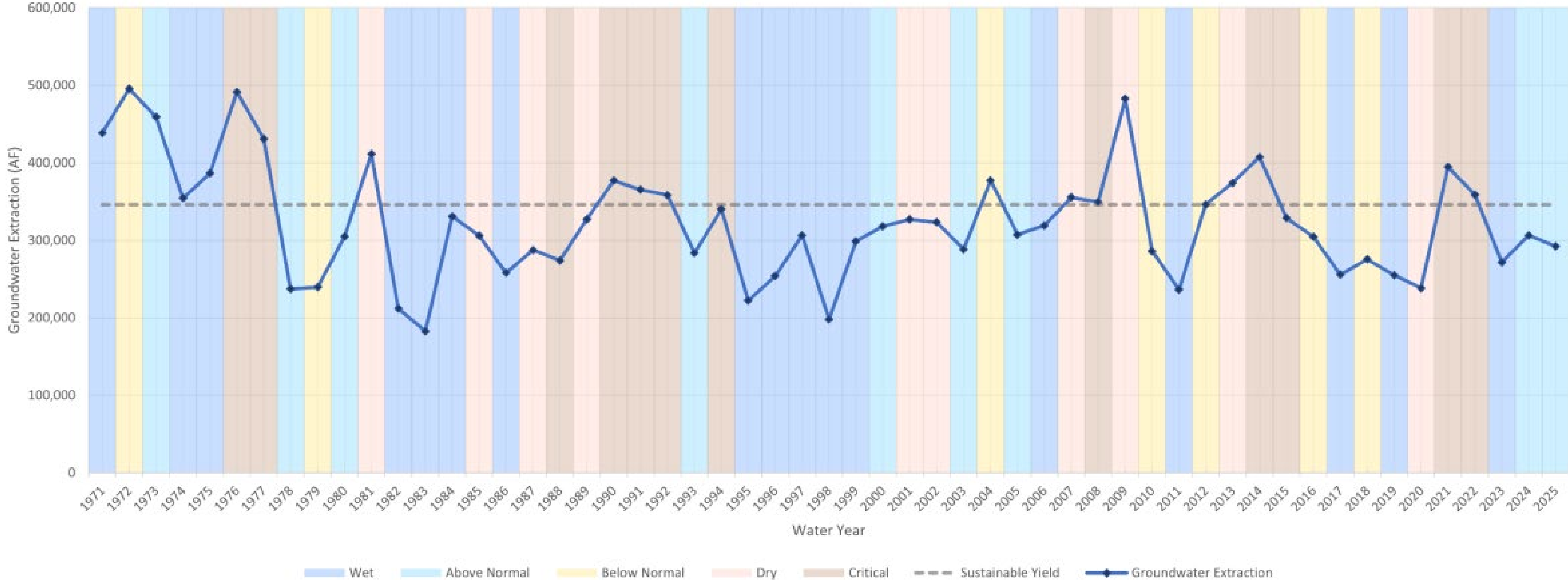
WY 2025 Annual Report Summary



WY 2025 Annual Report Summary



Groundwater Extraction



Water Year 2026 Surface Water Availability

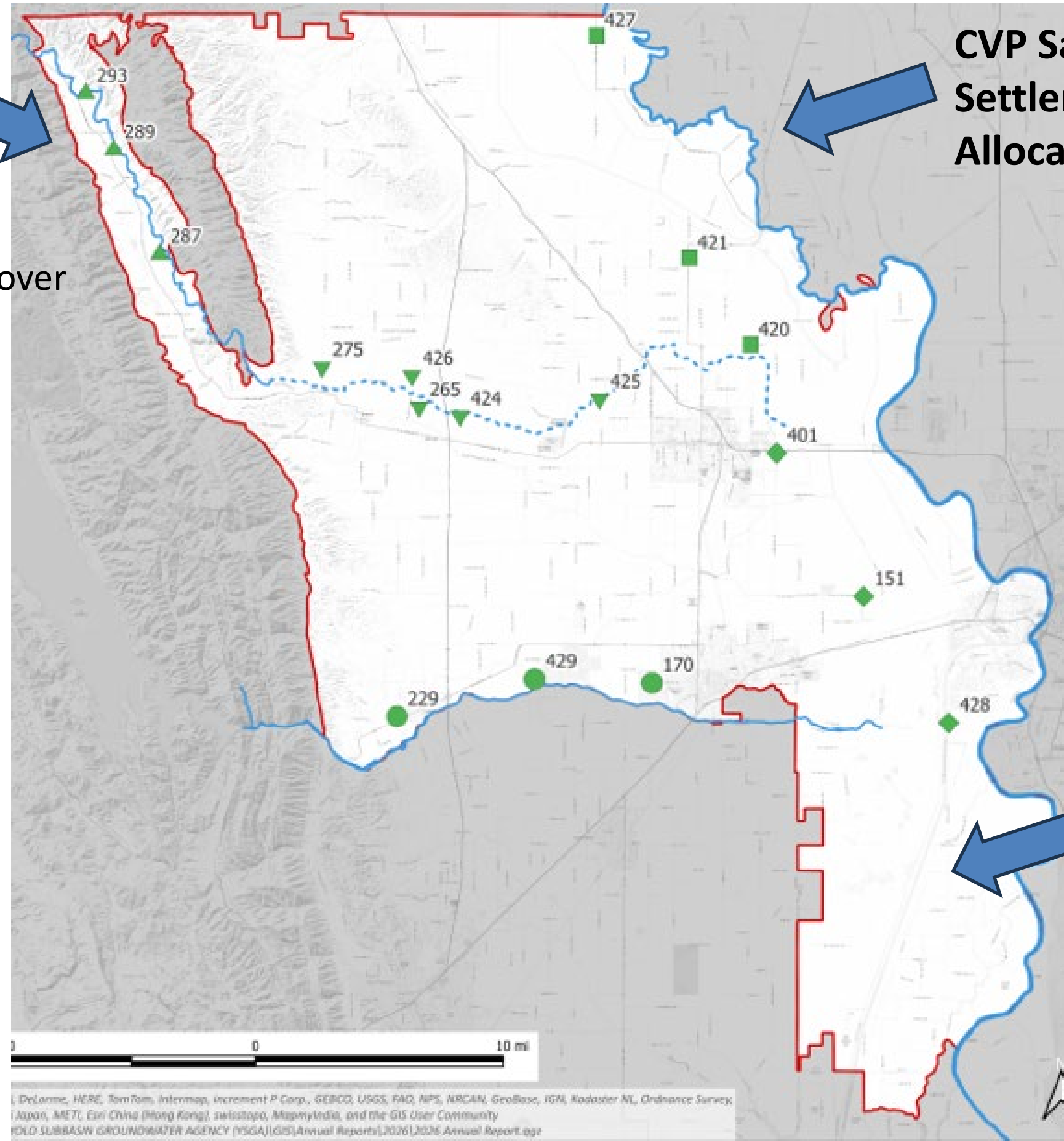
Cache Creek Watershed

Clear Lake: 150 TAF (100% allocation)

Indian Valley Reservoir: 260 TAF (carryover storage for 2027)

**CVP Sacramento River
Settlement Contractors: 100%
Allocation**

**North Delta Water Contract:
100% Allocation**



Update on Groundwater Recharge Legislation

Update on AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry)





Framing the Problem

- California encourages recharge—but our policies and regulations need refinement to make recharge a practical, more affordable, and more expansive management tool.

We all lose when we cannot recharge our groundwater.

- Authorized recharge vs actual recharge
- SB 72 (Caballero, 2025) calls for 9 MAF of additional storage by 2045; *groundwater provides natural storage infrastructure*



The Solution



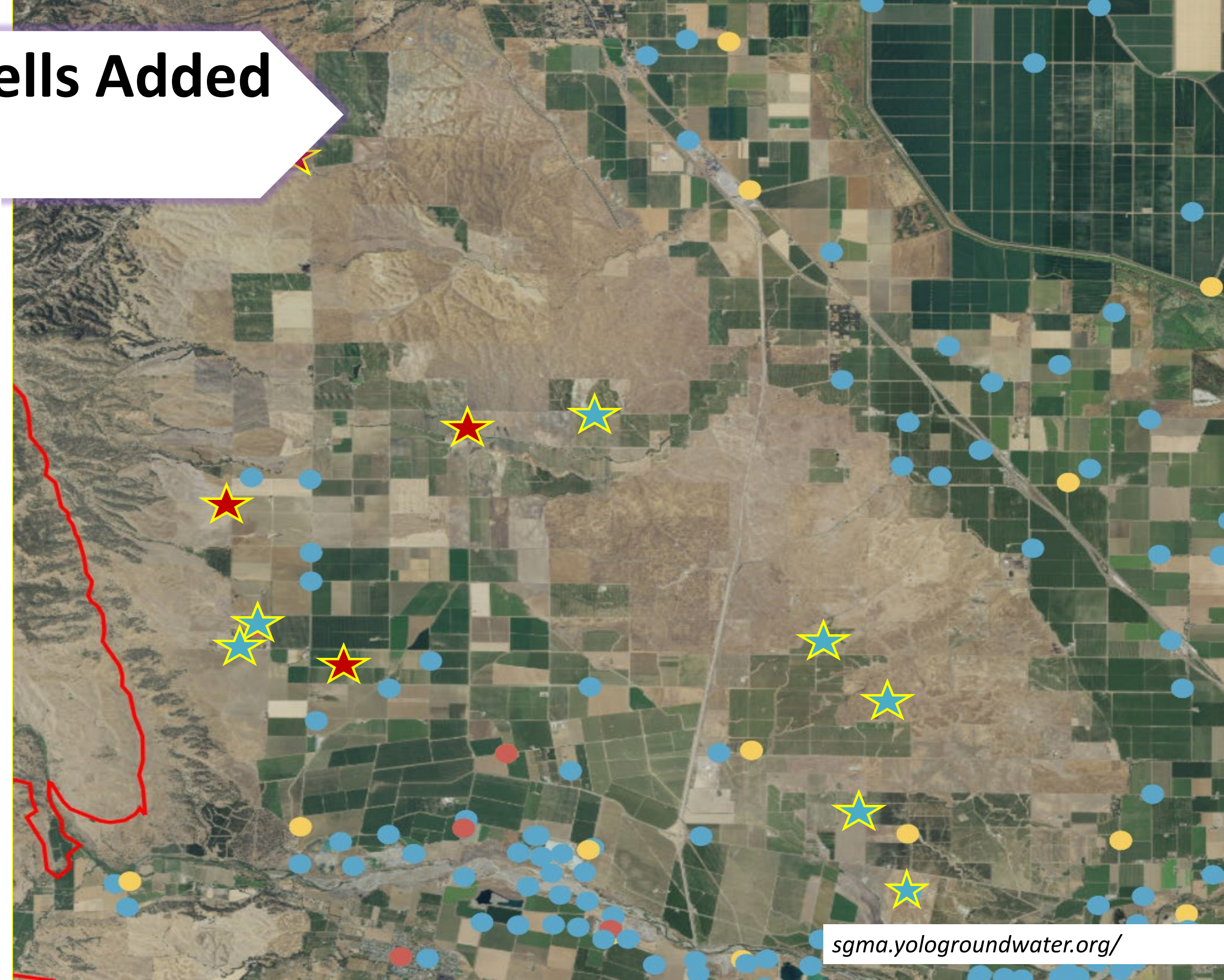
- **AB 2026: Authored by Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar Curry**
- Increase opportunities for groundwater recharge via the permitting process while protecting downstream water rights, the State and Federal water projects, tribal consultation and the Environment
- Key Elements of the Legislation:
 - Delta Conditions
 - Flood flows
 - Water Availability for Permitting
 - Beneficial Uses
 - CEQA Streamlining
 - Fees

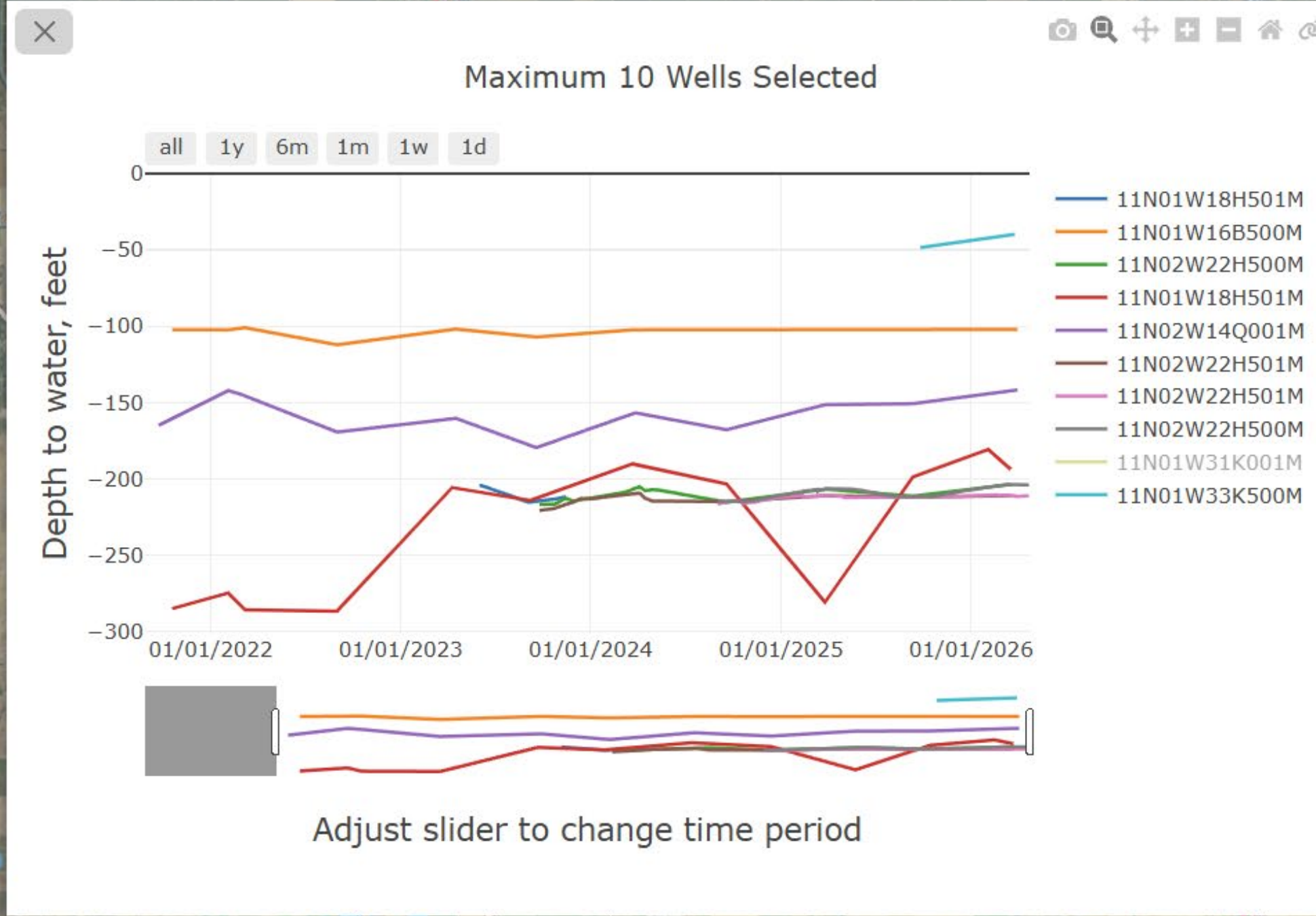
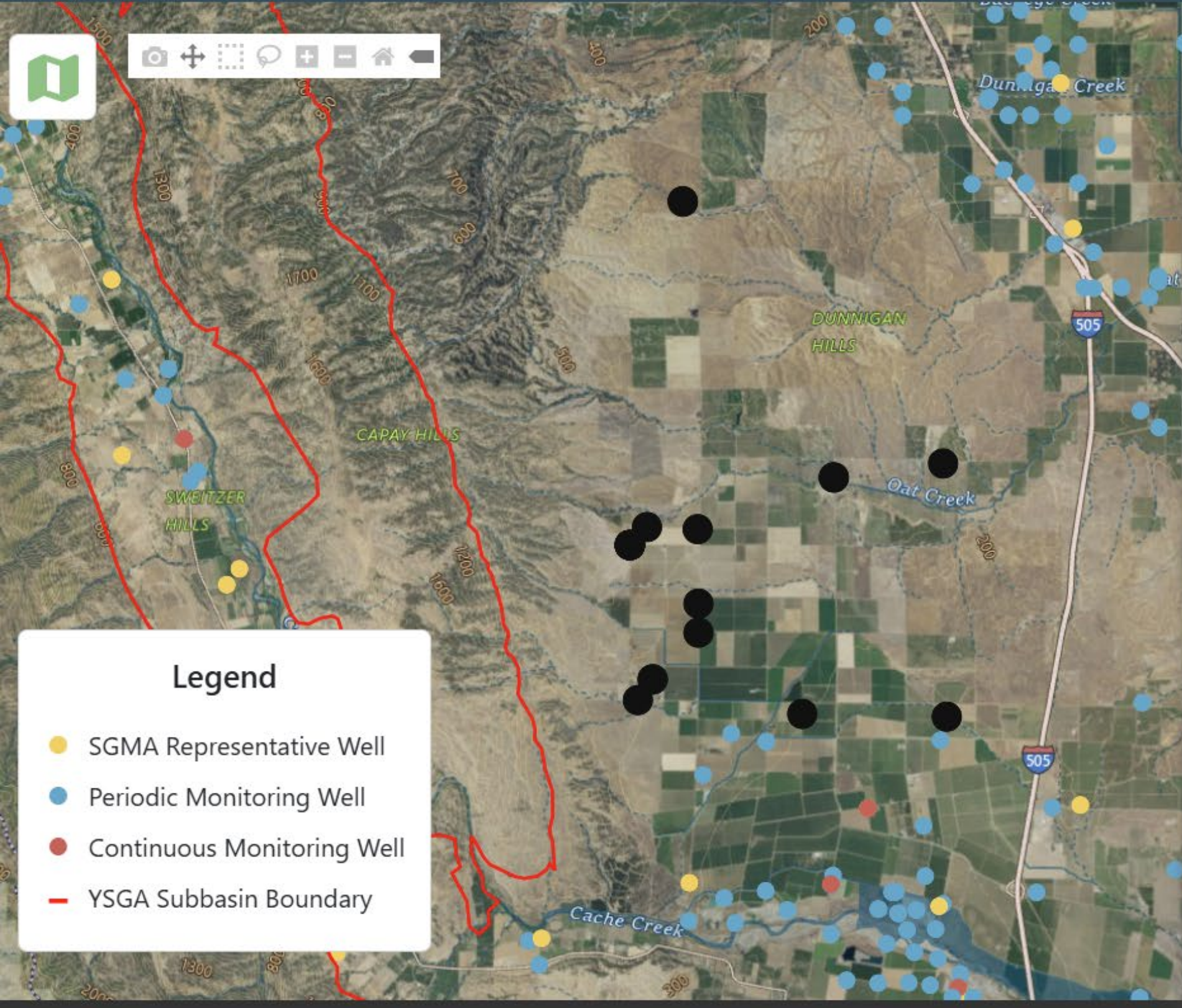
Update on the Hungry Hollow Area

11 Monitoring Wells Added

Legend

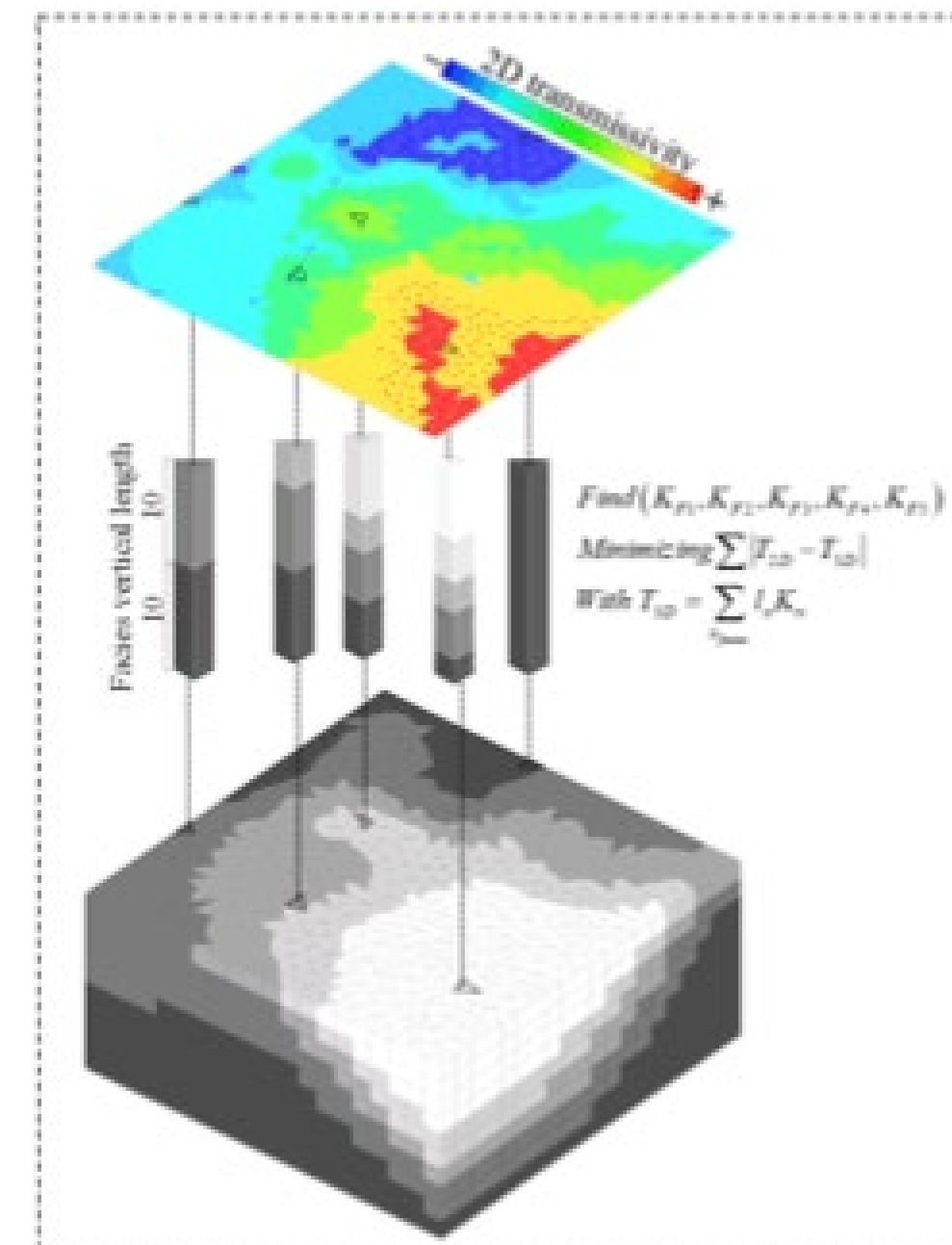
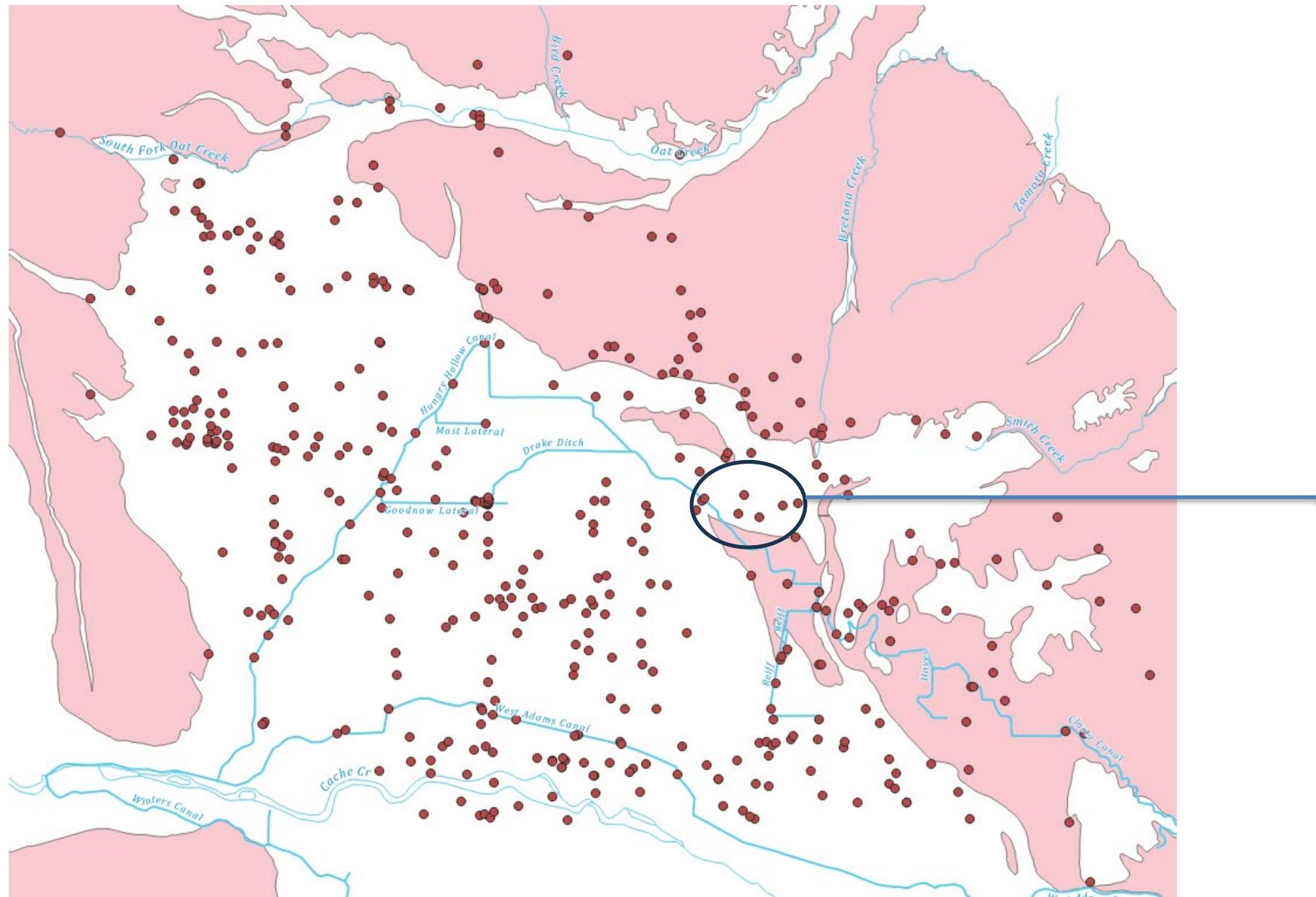
- SGMA Representative Well
- Periodic Monitoring Well
- Continuous Monitoring Well
- YSGA Subbasin Boundary





Geologic Cross-Sections

Updating the aquifer parameters for the model



Water Budget Model

Precipitation
Climate data
and use data

Inputs

Surface water model

Groundwater model

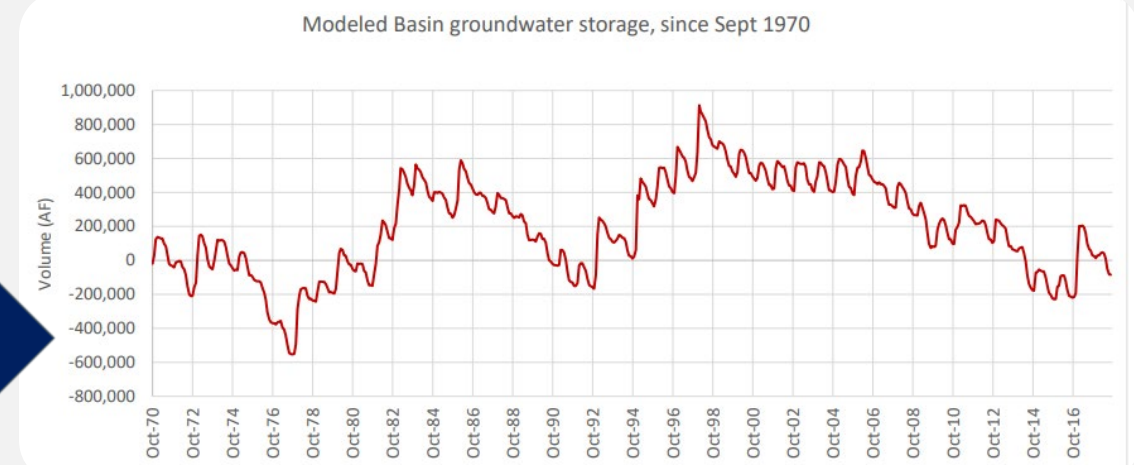
Outputs

- Surface water rights
- Irrigation efficiency
- Soil & aquifer properties
- Crop water use info
- Projects & management actions

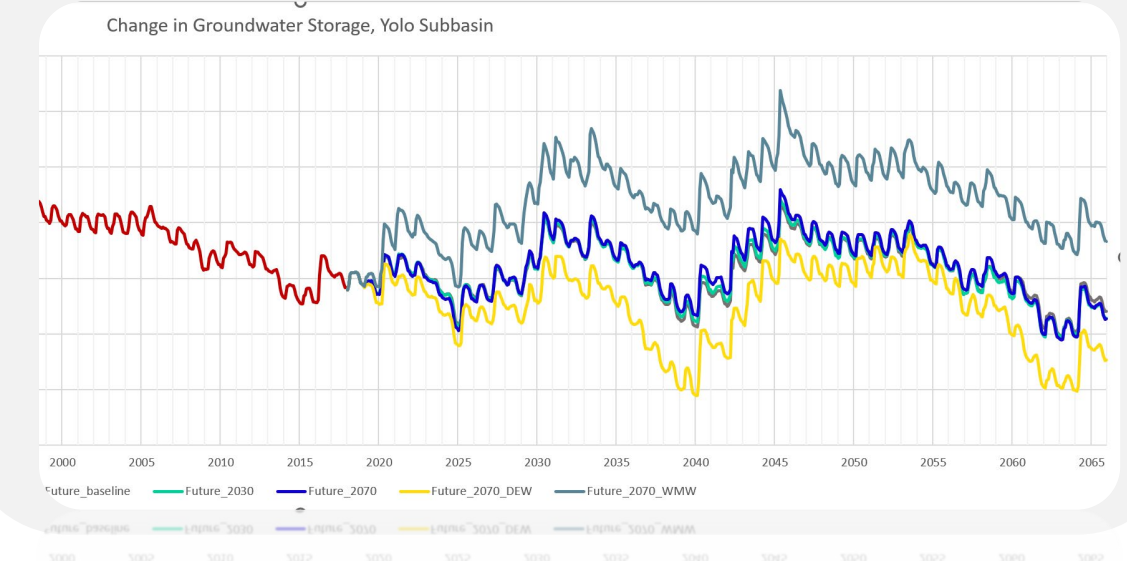
Water Balance



Groundwater storage

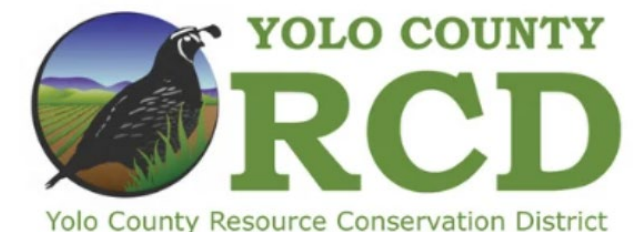


Future Scenarios

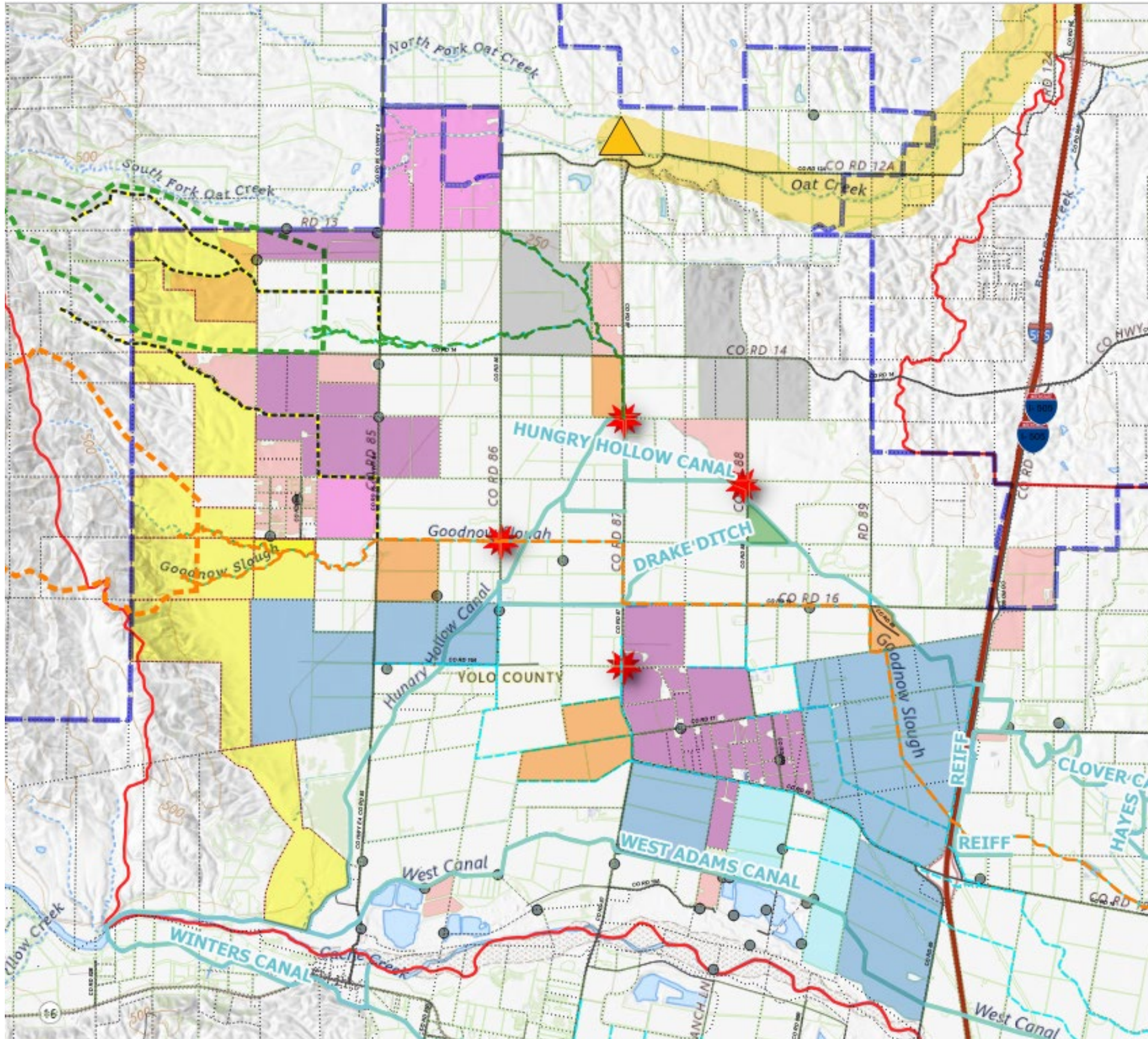


Update on the Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group

- Hosted 7 Meetings since August 2024
- Developed a Charter and Engagement Strategy
- Appointment Working Group members
- Identified the Working Group Goals
- Identified and prioritized Projects
- Collaborated with landowners to understand project dynamics
 - Fritz Durst (Tule Farms)
 - Bob Schaupp (Schaupp Farms)
 - Geoff Klein (Bullseye Farms)
 - Justin Smith (Cobram Olive Oil)
- Initiated collaborative partnerships with Yolo RCD and Center for Land-Based Learning
- Next meeting scheduled for May 2026



Hungry Hollow Area Prioritized Projects



Project 1: HUH Groundwater On-farm Recharge

Project 2: Oat Creek ▲

Project 3: Conjunctive Use

Project 4: Land Management

Project 5: Fox Canyon - - -

Project 6* (New): Western Hills Erosion and Flood-MAR Management

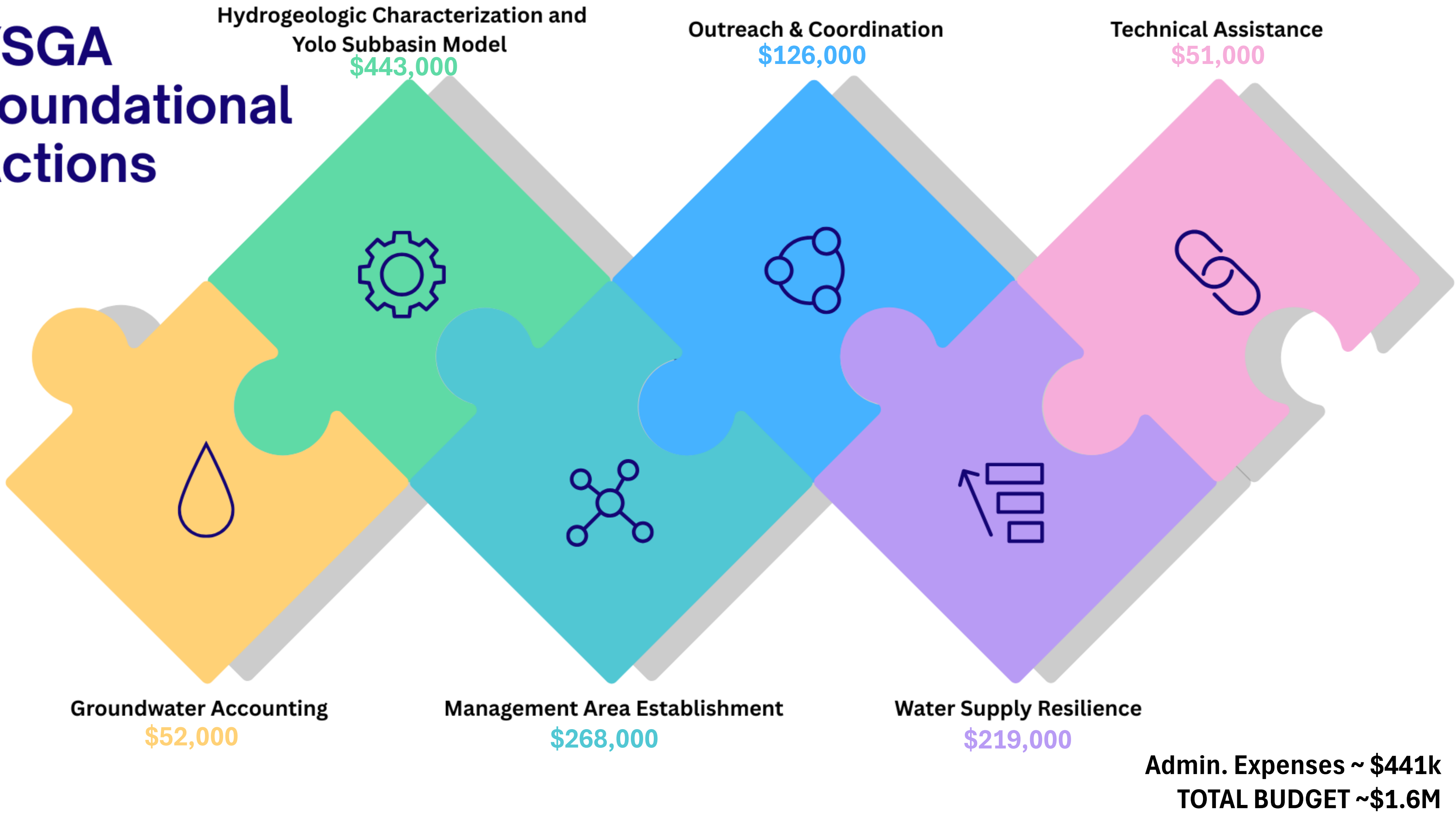
Hungry Hollow Draft White Paper (June 2026)

- Hydrogeologic conceptual model for Hungry Hollow
 - Geology
 - Groundwater conditions
 - Water quality
 - Overall aquifer dynamics
 - Data gaps
- Projects and Management Actions
 - Working Group prioritization
 - Estimated costs and identify potential funding options (Prop. 4, SWEEP, etc.)
 - Anticipated schedule for implementation

Update on YSGA's SGMA Fee Study

<https://www.yologroundwater.org/fee-study>

YSGA Foundational Actions



Groundwater Accounting
\$52,000

**Hydrogeologic Characterization and
Yolo Subbasin Model**
\$443,000

Management Area Establishment
\$268,000

Outreach & Coordination
\$126,000

Water Supply Resilience
\$219,000

Technical Assistance
\$51,000

Admin. Expenses ~ \$441k
TOTAL BUDGET ~\$1.6M

YSGA Fee Parcel Map

Legend



Yolo Subbasin Boundary



Lands subject to Tier 2 Agricultural Fee (billed via tax roll)

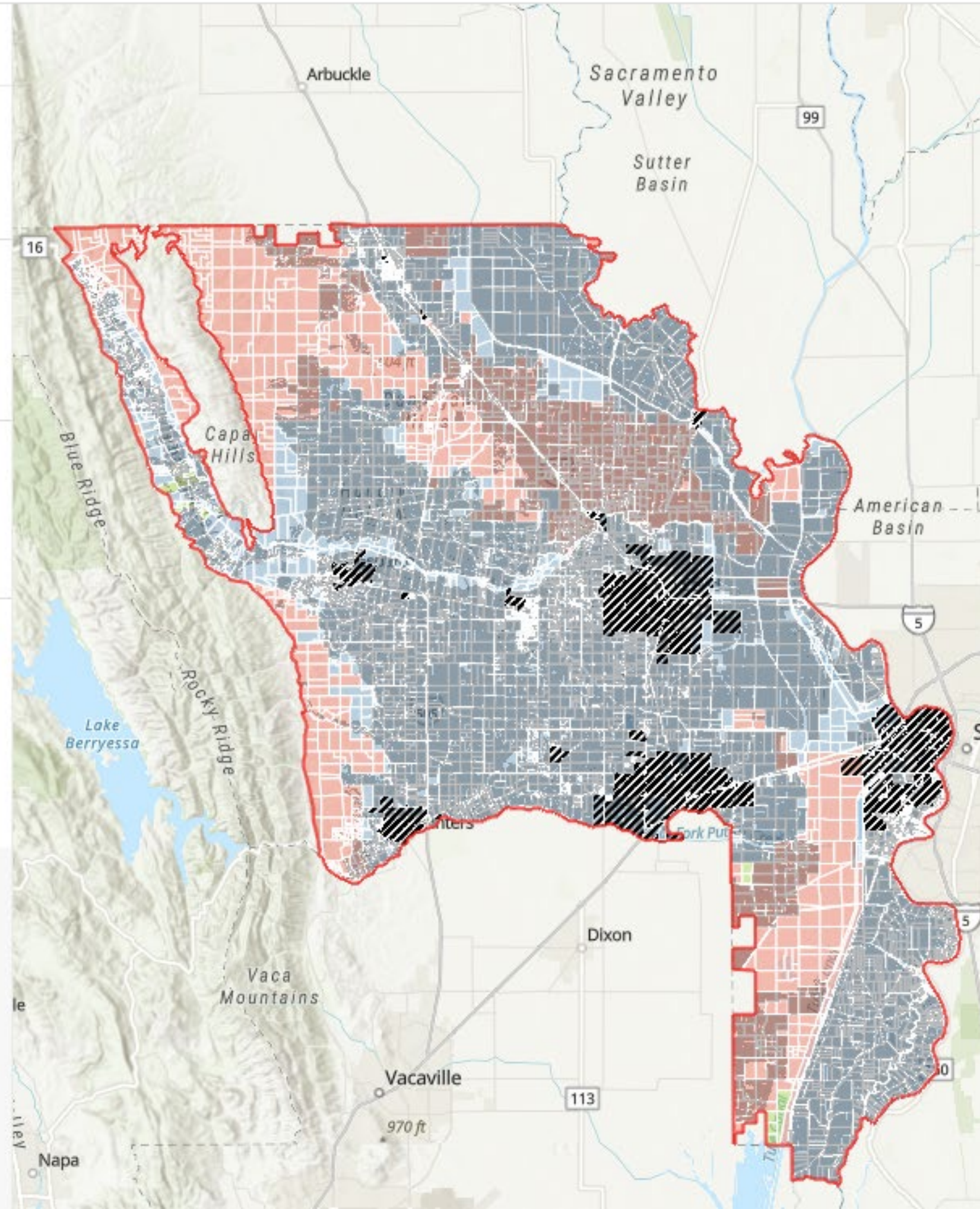


Tier 1 and Domestic Tier 2 fees paid by a Community Water System (not billed via tax roll)

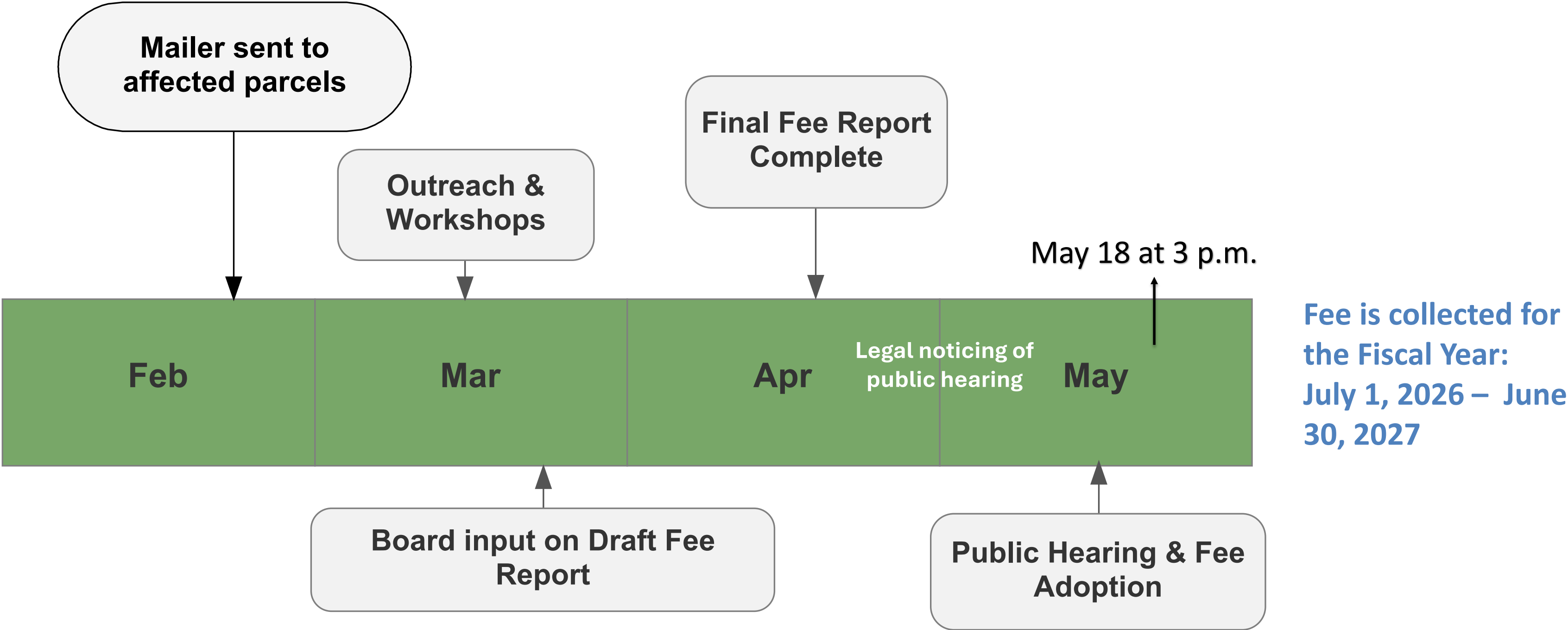


Parcels

- Districted
- Undistricted
- Federal



Fiscal Year 2027 Fee Timeline



Reasonable Steps and Timeline for Demand Management

under the SGMA Framework

Background

- The Yolo Subbasin is currently sustainable with no history of overdraft
- Demand management is a proactive tool to maintain long-term sustainability and build resilience
- SGMA does not modify or determine water rights
 - Demand management, such as an allocation, would be implemented consistent with those water rights

Demand Management Overview

- Typically implemented across an entire Subbasin
- If a smaller region is identified it would need to be specified in the adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan (i.e., Management Areas)
- Requires significant legal and broad landowner input to develop an appropriate program that supports a GSA in meeting SGMA obligations

Demand Management Example - Allocation

1. Define boundary or extent of “management zone”
2. Estimate the water budget of the “management zone”
3. Draft potential allocation framework and methodology
4. Engage with landowners in the “management zone” to receive feedback on draft allocation framework and methodology
5. Develop water accounting platform
6. Legal review
7. Pilot implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management

Anticipated cost and schedule: \$0.5-\$1.0 M in 16-24 months

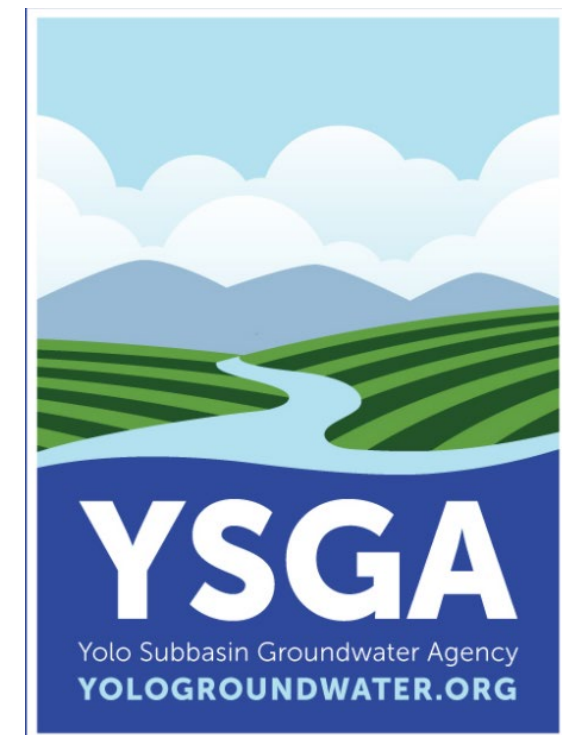
Thank You

Contact Information:

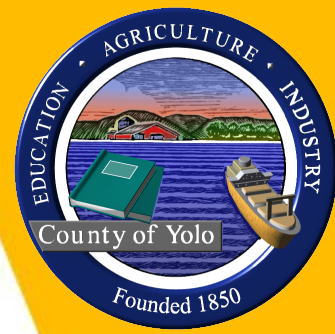
Kristin Sicke

ksicke@yolosga.org

530.662.3211



Staff Recommendations

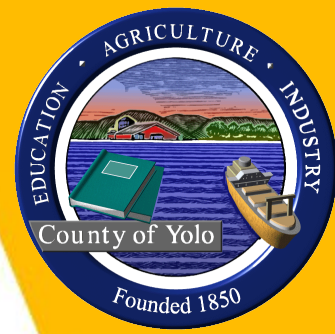


- **Well Meters**

- Staff recommend that the Board direct staff to develop a proposed amendment to the well ordinance to incorporate this requirement. Staff propose to work with Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) and the YSGA to develop the detailed provisions and to share the draft requirements with the working group for feedback prior to returning to the Board. Staff anticipate returning to the Board in July with a proposed ordinance amendment.

- **Additional Hydrogeological Review**

- Staff recommend that the Board direct staff to develop an RFQ process to develop a list of qualified hydrogeologists with knowledge of or experience working in the Yolo Subbasin. Staff propose to collaborate with LSCE and YSGA to define the necessary qualifications for the list. Staff further recommend deferring the decision on whether the list will be recommended or required until after reviewing the RFQ responses.



Staff Recommendations

- **Regulating Crop Conversions**

- Staff recommend deferring consideration of potential policy changes related to crop conversions to the next targeted amendments to the General Plan.

- **Ag Well Moratorium**

- Staff acknowledge that there is a continued concern regarding drilling new agricultural wells in the YSGA defined focus areas. Staff recommend that the moratorium remain in place through the current period of August 25, 2026. Staff propose to return to the Board of Supervisors on July 21, 2026, to provide an update on any developments and additional input over the next few months, along with a recommendation as to whether to extend the moratorium beyond that point, and followed by a public hearing on August 25, 2026, if there is interest in extending. To extend the moratorium pursuant to Government Code section 65858, the Board of Supervisors must hold a noticed public hearing and approve the extension by a 4/5 vote.