Appendix A

Technical Memorandum, Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Basin

DRAFT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Bryan Bondy, Executive Director, Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA)

From: Trevor Jones, PhD, Steven Humphrey, PG, CHG, Abhishek Singh, PhD, PE

Date: May 8, 2026

Re: Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Basin

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1.0 Introduction

Since adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in 2021, the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA) has undertaken several actions to improve understanding of interconnected surface waters in the Subbasin, including:

- Constructing a new clustered monitoring well near the Santa Clara River Estuary;
- Coordinating with monitoring entities to support continued shallow groundwater monitoring; and
- Enhancing the groundwater monitoring program to provide higher-frequency groundwater level and quality data than were available during development of the GSP.

These new monitoring data, together with information on Santa Clara River flows and estuary conditions collected by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District and City of Ventura, provide an expanded basis to verify the conclusions presented in the GSP that groundwater pumping from the Mugu and Hueneme aquifer do not cause a material depletion of surface waters in the Basin. This technical memorandum summarizes the newly available data and evaluates whether they support the GSP findings regarding depletion of interconnected surface waters.

2.0 New Information Collected Since Adoption of the GSP

2.1 Groundwater Monitoring Data

INTERA compiled groundwater elevation and groundwater quality data from a network of 15 wells distributed across the Mound Basin (Basin) (Figure 1; Table 1). This network expands upon the set of wells evaluated in the GSP's interconnected surface water analyses to include the newly constructed MBGSA clustered monitoring well at the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility (VWRF), as well as four additional wells completed in the Hueneme aquifer (Table 1). The VWRF monitoring well consists of three collocated wells separately completed in the shallow alluvial deposits, Mugu aquifer, and Hueneme aquifer. Importantly, this well is proximal to the Santa Clara River Estuary and provides a direct means of evaluating the hydraulic connectivity between the shallow alluvial deposits, which are connected to local surface water bodies, and the Basin's principal aquifers.

Groundwater elevation data from these wells include measurements ranging from sub-daily pressure transducer records to monthly manual water-level measurements. These high-frequency groundwater level data provide insight into the sub-seasonal responses of each hydrostratigraphic unit to climate conditions, Santa Clara River flows, and groundwater extractions. Groundwater quality data were compiled for each well and generally consist of periodic groundwater samples analyzed for general mineral composition. These water quality data characterize local geochemical composition and salinity and, importantly, enable quantitative comparison of water types and isotopic signatures among different hydrogeologic units in the Subbasin.

Table 1. Groundwater Monitoring Network

Local Well Name	Depth (ft. bgs)	Screen Interval (ft. bgs)	Aquifer	Record of Measurement
02N23W23MW8 (GW-8)	25.9		Shallow	2015 – 2016, 2022 – Current
02N23W23MW9 (GW-9)	26.3		Shallow	
02N23W23MW10 (GW-10)	25.8		Shallow	
02N23W23MW11 (GW-11)	25.9		Shallow	
02N23W23Q03S*	110	30 – 105	Shallow	2023 – Current
02N23W15J02S	660	480 – 660	Mugu	2000 – Current
02N22W19M04S	500	343 – 493	Mugu	2011 – Current
02N23W23Q02S*	540	310 – 530	Mugu	2023 – Current
02N22W07M02S	790	710 – 780	Mugu	2000 – Current
02N23W24G01S	932	742 – 754	Hueneme	1962 – Current
02N23W23Q01S*	1,200	670 – 680	Hueneme	2023 – Current
02N22W07M01S	1,280	1,200 – 1,280	Hueneme	2000 – Current
02N22W09K04S	548	521 – 794	Hueneme	2000 – Current
02N22W16K01S	354	292 – 345	Hueneme	2000 – Current
02N23W15J01S	1,110	970 – 1,070	Hueneme	2000 – Current

Notes: ft. bgs = feet below ground surface.

* New MBGSA clustered monitoring well at VWRF. Constructed in July 2022.

2.2 Santa Clara River Flow Data

Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) operates and maintains stream gaging stations on the Santa Clara River. Station 723[1], located in the adjacent Oxnard Subbasin, is approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the Santa Clara River Estuary and provides an estimate of Santa Clara River flows entering the Subbasin (Figure 1). For the post-GSP adoption period, VCWPD has published Santa Clara River flow data for water years 2023, 2024, and part of 2022.[2] INTERA compiled these data to evaluate the relationship between Santa Clara River flows and groundwater levels in the shallow alluvial deposits and principal aquifers.

[1] https://vcwatershed.net/hydrodata/get-station/?siteid=723#top

[2] As of January 7, 2026, VCWPD reports that stream flows measured at Station 723 are missing (M) for water years 2020, 2021, and part of 2022.

2.3 Santa Clara River Estuary Data

Through their VenturaWaterPure program, the City of Ventura (City) plans to expand use of reclaimed water within its service area. The VenturaWaterPure program will utilize treated effluent from the VWRF that is currently discharged to the Santa Clara River Estuary. To assess the ecological effects of reducing VRWF discharges to the estuary, the City is implementing the Santa Clara River Estuary Pre-Construction Assessment Program (PCAP)[3]. The PCAP establishes baseline conditions in the estuary and includes monitoring of physical characteristics, water quality, and habitat conditions.

Beginning in water year 2022, the City has published PCAP reports documenting estuary conditions (Ventura Water, 2023, 2024, 2025). For this evaluation, INTERA compiled data from these reports to assess the physical mechanisms controlling estuary water levels and the hydraulic connection between the estuary, shallow alluvial deposits, and principal aquifers.

3.0 Observed Hydrologic and Hydrogeologic Conditions

3.1 Santa Clara River and Estuary

3.1.1 Santa Clara River Flows

Since water year 2019, the end of the GSP reporting period, the Basin has experienced variable climate conditions. Water years 2020 and 2022 were classified as near normal, water year 2021 was classified as dry, and water years 2023 and 2024 were classified as wet (MBGSA, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025).

During water years 2023 and 2024, the Subbasin received an average of approximately 27 inches of rainfall per year, representing about 175% of the long-term historical average. These wet conditions resulted in substantial flows in the Santa Clara River, with daily flows at Station 723 averaging approximately 690 cubic feet per second (cfs) and peaking at more than 48,400 cfs (measured in January 2023; Figure 2). The January 2023 peak was the highest flow recorded at this station and the total annual flows in 2023 and 2024 averaged approximately 499,000 acre-feet per year, or nearly four times the average annual flows recorded from 2008 to 2017.

3.1.2 Santa Clara River Estuary

Despite the variability in Santa Clara River flows measured at Station 723, surface water levels in the Santa Clara River Estuary were generally similar across water years 2022 through 2024 (Table 2). This similarity is primarily attributable to the physical condition of the sand berm that periodically separates or connects the estuary from the Pacific Ocean, thereby controlling estuary water levels (Ventura Water 2023, 2024, 2025).

During water years 2022, 2023, and 2024, the estuary sand berm remained open for approximately 60 days, 290 days, and 300 days, respectively (Ventura Water, 2023, 2024, and 2025). The prolonged

[3] https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/2196/Santa-Clara-River-Estuary-Monitoring

periods of berm openness in water years 2023 and 2024 reflect the wetter-than-average hydrologic conditions and high Santa Clara River flows observed during those years (Figure 2).

Table 2. Santa Clara River Estuary Surface Water Levels

Water Year	Water Year Type	Maximum Surface Water Level (ft. NAVD88)	Minimum Surface Water Level (ft. NAVD88)
2022	Near Normal	12.3	4.3
2023	Wet	12.9	3.9
2024	Wet	12.85	3.8

Source: City of Ventura (2023, 2024, 2025)

3.2 Groundwater Conditions

3.2.1 Groundwater Elevation and Quality Trends

3.2.1.1 Shallow Alluvial Deposits

Groundwater elevations in the shallow alluvial deposits underlying the Santa Clara River and its estuary varied geographically and in response to flow conditions.

Near the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River within the Basin, groundwater levels at MW-8 varied from a low of approximately 14.5 feet relative to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (ft NAVD88) in September 2022 to a high of approximately 23.8 ft NAVD88 in February 2024. The groundwater high corresponded to the historically elevated flows recorded at Santa Clara River Station 723 (Figure 3). During spring and summer 2023, groundwater levels at MW-8 gradually declined by approximately 2.5 to 5 feet. These groundwater level declines are well correlated with the gradual recession in Santa Clara River flows over the same period (Figure 3).

Farther west, near the Santa Clara River Estuary, groundwater levels at MW-9 and MW-10 showed similar responsiveness to Santa Clara River flows during the wet 2023 and 2024 water years but exhibited distinctly different behavior compared to MW-8 prior to peak flow events (Figure 3). For example, in spring 2022, groundwater levels at both MW-9 and MW-10 increased from approximately 5.8 ft. NAVD88 to approximately 11.4 ft. NAVD88 (Figure 3). Over this same period, groundwater levels at MW-8 declined from approximately 16.0 ft NAVD88 to 14.7 ft. NAVD88 (Figure 3). Estuary berm condition data indicate that the groundwater level increases at MW-9 and MW-10 coincided with periods of estuary berm closure, during which the estuary was hydraulically disconnected from the Pacific Ocean and surface water levels increased (Figure 3). Similar groundwater level increases at MW-9 and MW-10 were observed during berm closure in late October and November 2024 (Figure 3). In contrast, groundwater levels at MW-8 showed minimal sensitivity to estuary berm conditions.

These data indicate that groundwater elevations in the shallow alluvial deposits are driven by changes in Santa Clara River flows and physical conditions of the estuary berm.

Groundwater samples collected from wells 02N22W23MW10, 02N22W23Q03S, 02N23W23MW11, and 02N23W23MW8 indicate that groundwater in the shallow alluvial deposits is high in salinity and predominantly sodium-sulfate type (Figure 4).

3.2.1.2 Principal Aquifers

3.2.1.2.1 Mugu Aquifer

Groundwater elevations in the Mugu aquifer have steadily increased across the Subbasin since adoption of the GSP (Figure 5). In the central portion of the basin, groundwater elevations at well 02N22W07M02S increased from a low of approximately -21.2 ft NAVD88 in October 2019 to a high of approximately 31.9 ft NAVD88 in March 2025 (Figure 5). Near Ventura Harbor, groundwater elevations at well 02N23W15J02S, groundwater elevations exhibited similar recovery, increasing from approximately -13.2 ft NAVD88 in October 2019 to approximately 22.1 ft NAVD88 in March 2025 (Figure 5).

Near the Santa Clara River Estuary, groundwater elevations measured at the new MBGSA well, 02N23W23Q02S, closely tracked changes observed at 02N23W15J02S. Groundwater elevations increased from approximately -2.3 ft NAVD88 in May 2023 before becoming artesian in April 2024. Artesian conditions persisted at this location through April 2025 (Figure 5).

Along the boundary with the Oxnard Subbasin, groundwater elevations were more responsive to water year type. During the near-normal 2019 and 2020 water years, groundwater elevations at well 02N20W19M04S increased by approximately 30 feet. Groundwater elevations declined by approximately 20 feet during the subsequent dry 2021 water year, followed by rapid recovery of nearly 65 feet during the near-normal and wet 2022 through 2024 water years. These climate-driven responses are consistent with groundwater trends observed in the adjacent Oxnard Subbasin, where the hydrostratigraphically continuous Mugu aquifer is directly recharged by spreading at basins in the Oxnard Forebay (FCGMA, 2024).

Groundwater quality samples collected from wells in the Mugu aquifer show distinctly different water quality characteristics than the shallow alluvial deposits, with overall lower salinity and higher calcium composition (Figure 4).

3.2.1.2.2 Hueneme Aquifer

Similar groundwater elevation trends to the Mugu have persisted across the Hueneme aquifer since adoption of the GSP. At wells 02N20W07M01S, 02N23W24G01S, 02N22W09K04S, and 02N23W15J01S, groundwater elevations recovered by approximately 30 to 40 feet (Figure 6). Near the Santa Clara River Estuary, groundwater elevations at well 02N23W23Q01S increased from approximately -0.7 ft NAVD88 and transitioned to artesian in April 2024 (Figure 6). Like the Mugu aquifer, this well was artesian through April 2025.

Consistent with the Mugu aquifer, groundwater elevations in the Hueneme aquifer near the boundary with the Oxnard Subbasin were responsive to water year type. Between October 2018 and June 2020, groundwater elevations at well 02N22W16K01S increased by approximately 35 feet (Figure 6), followed by a decline of nearly 28 feet duri47ng the drier-than-average 2022 water year. Subsequent wet conditions in water years 2023 and 2024 resulted in more than 80-feet of recovery at this well, consistent with the increases measured at well 02N20W19M04S, which is screened in the Mugu (Figures 5 and 6).

These climate-driven responses are consistent with groundwater trends observed in the adjacent Oxnard Subbasin, where the hydrostratigraphically continuous Hueneme aquifer is directly recharged by spreading at basins in the Oxnard Forebay (FCGMA, 2024).

Water quality samples indicate that water quality composition is similar between the Hueneme and Mugu aquifers (Figure 4).

4.0 Evaluation of GSP Findings

The groundwater elevation, surface water flow, and estuary condition data indicate that groundwater elevations in the shallow alluvial deposits, which are connected to the Santa Clara River, and the Subbasin's principal aquifers exhibit distinctly different behaviors:

- In the shallow alluvial deposits, groundwater elevations are controlled by flows in the Santa Clara River and physical status of the sand berm that connects the estuary with the Pacific Ocean.
- In the Mugu and Hueneme aquifers, groundwater elevations are controlled by groundwater extraction trends (MBGSA, 2021) and, locally, by underflows to and from the adjacent subbasins.

The limited hydraulic communication between shallow alluvial deposits and the principal aquifers is most clearly shown when comparing groundwater elevation data across completions at MBGSA's new clustered monitoring well (Figure 7). At this location, groundwater elevations show two different trends throughout time:

- Between May 2023 and October 2023, groundwater elevations in the shallow completion steadily declined by approximately 1.5 feet, while groundwater levels in the Mugu and Hueneme aquifers increased by approximately 5 feet.
- Between March 2024 and May 2025, groundwater conditions in the Mugu and Hueneme aquifer were artesian, while groundwater elevations in the shallow alluvial deposit varied in response to estuary berm status.

Further, groundwater quality data collected from this well cluster also show distinct differences, with groundwater in the shallow alluvial deposits showing much higher salinity and sulfate concentrations than groundwater measured in the Mugu and Hueneme aquifers (Figure 7).

These new data support the GSP's conclusions that there is no material depletion of interconnected surface water within the Subbasin.

5.0 References

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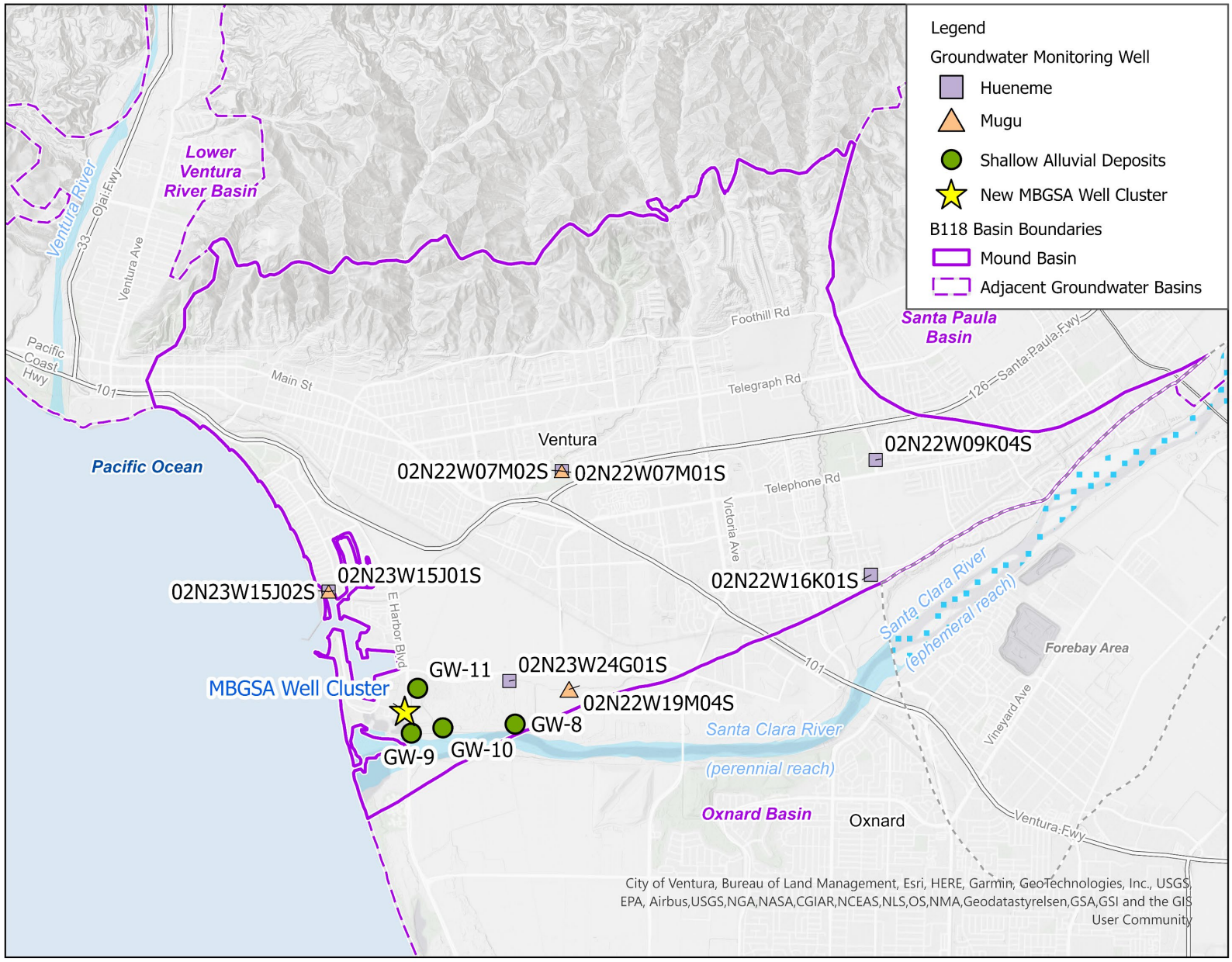

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Figure 1
Monitoring Network
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

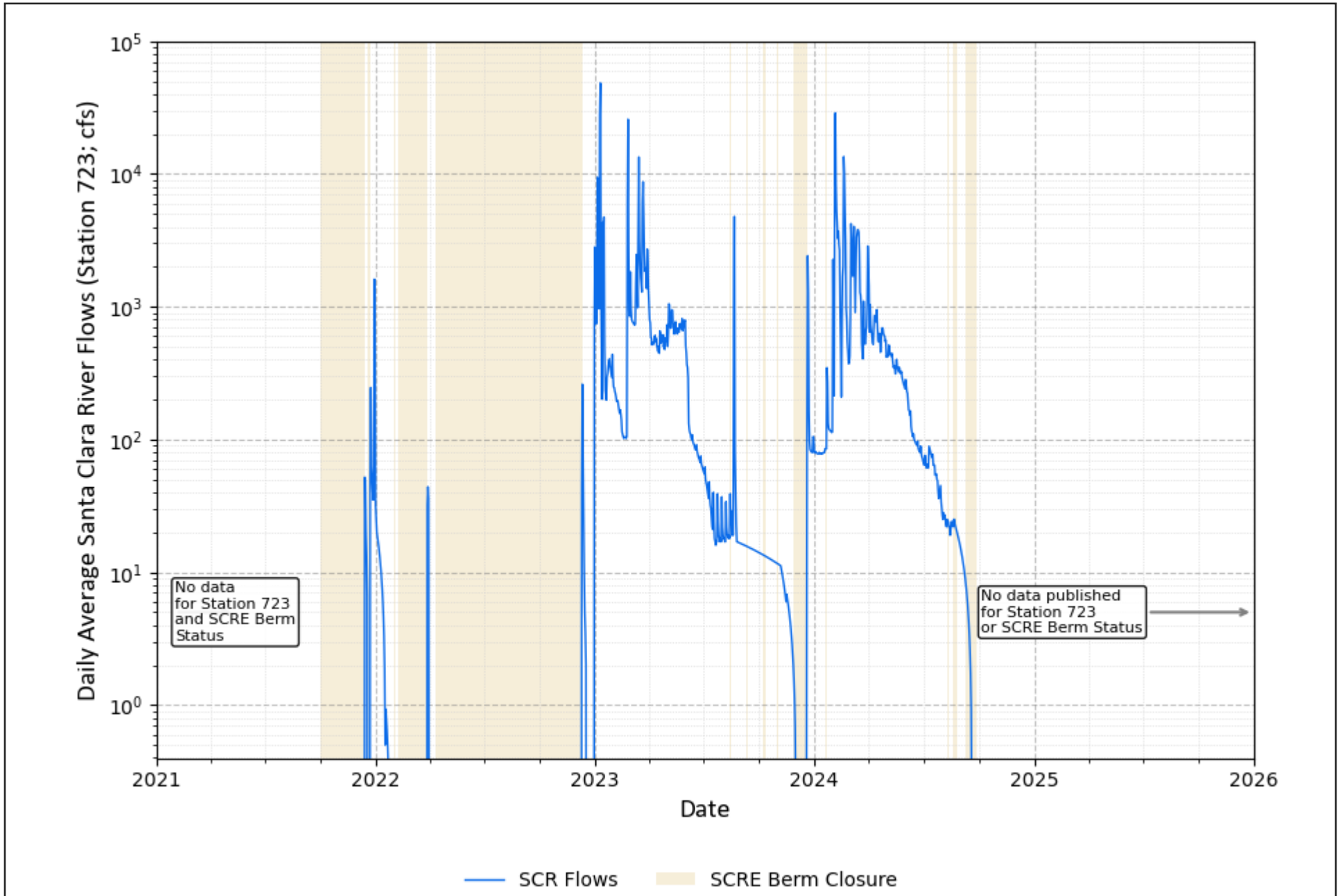

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Figure 2
Measured Santa Clara River Flows and Estuary Conditions
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

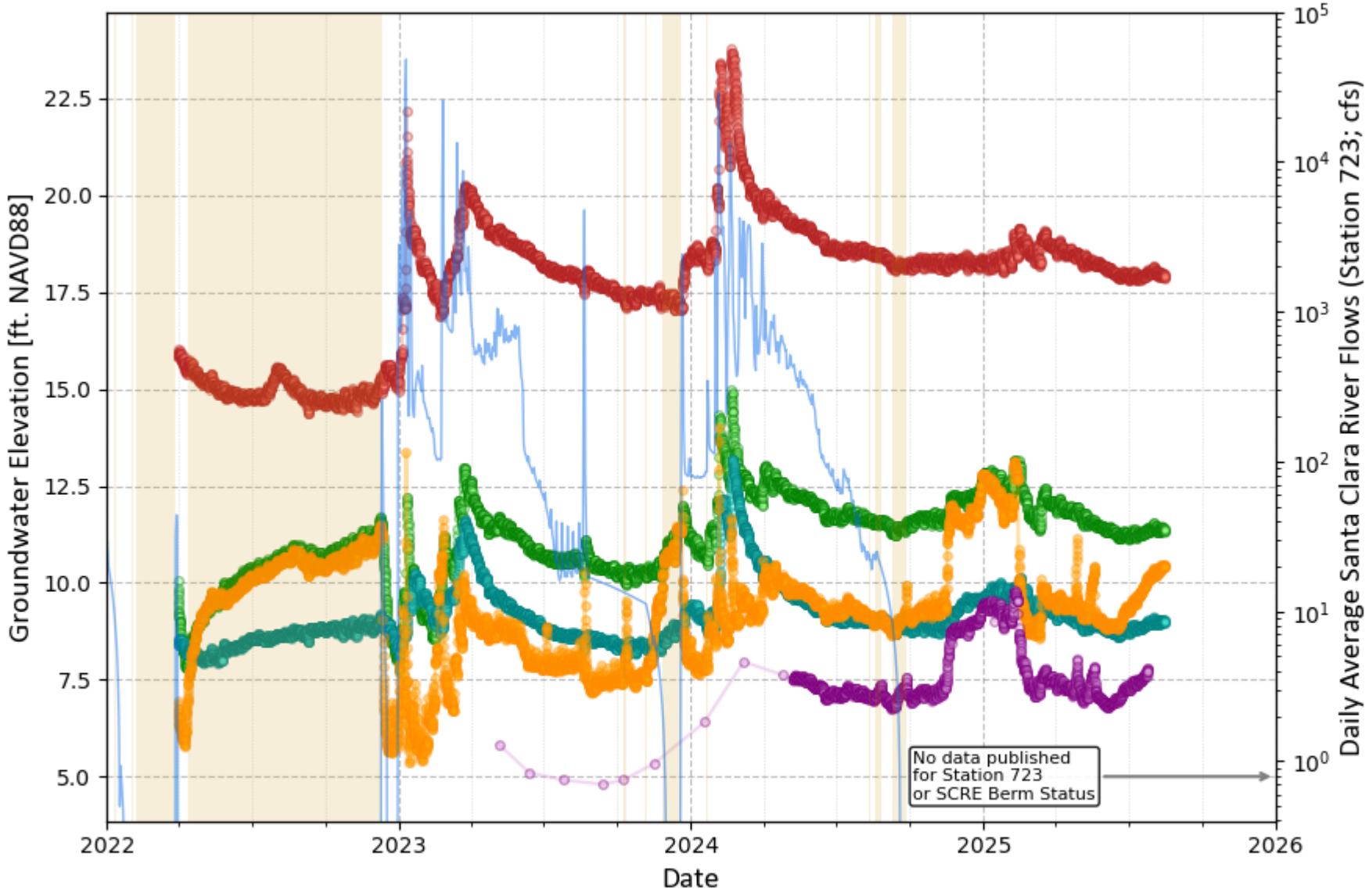

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Figure 3
Shallow Alluvial Deposits Groundwater Level Characteristics
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

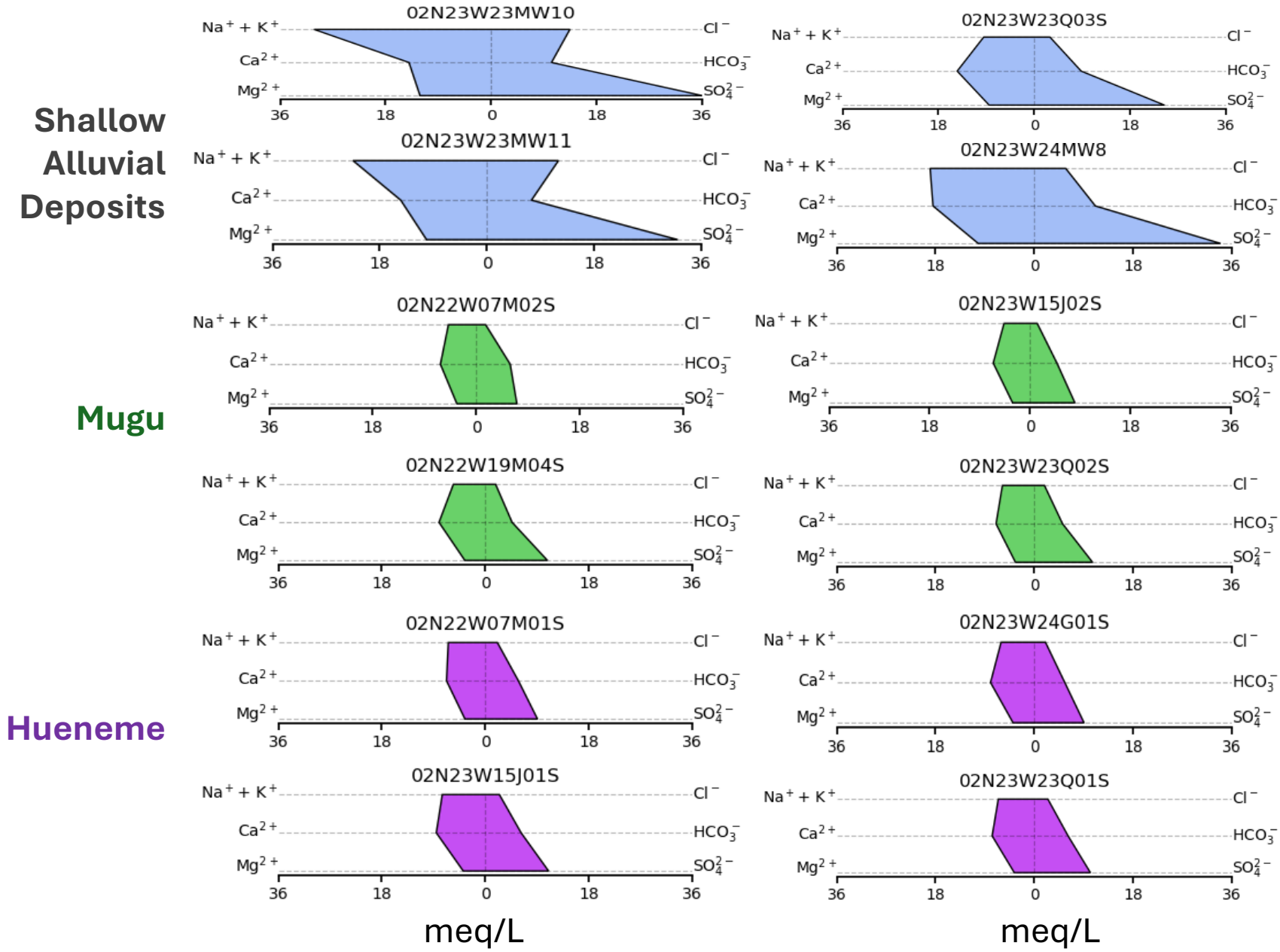

Figure 4
Shallow Alluvial Deposits Water Quality Characteristics
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

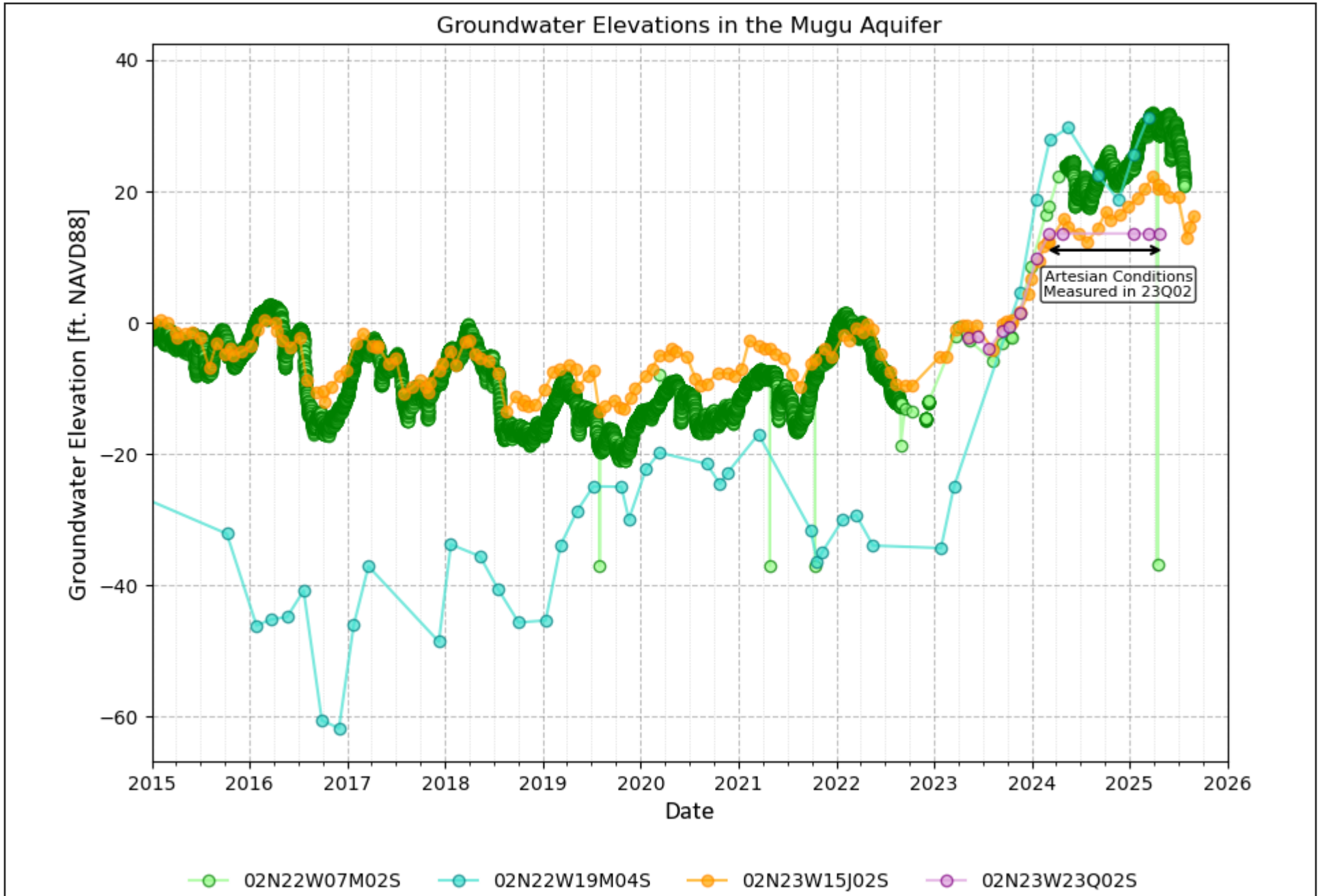

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Figure 5
Mugu Aquifer Groundwater Level Characteristics
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

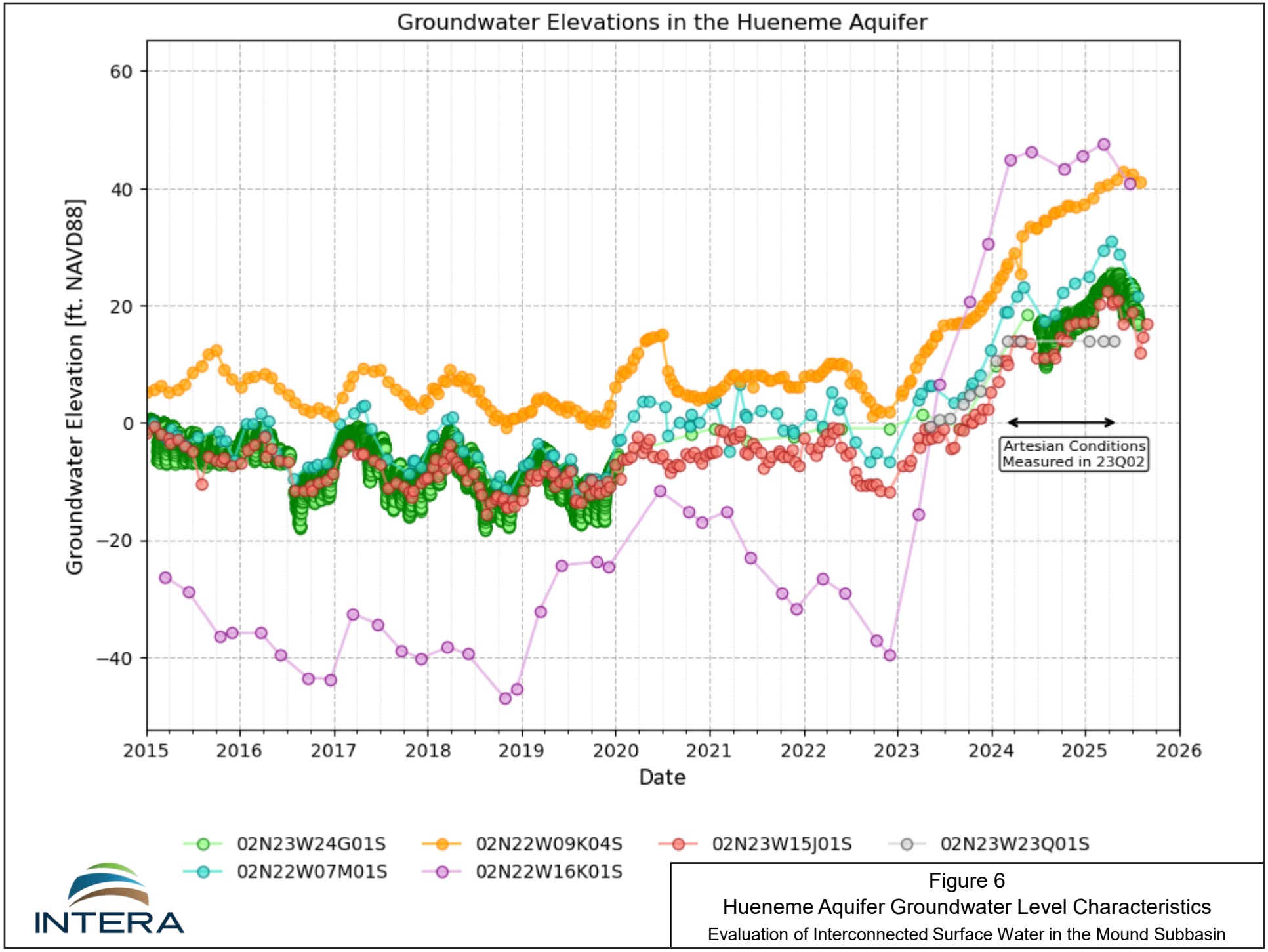

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Figure 6
Hueneme Aquifer Groundwater Level Characteristics
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

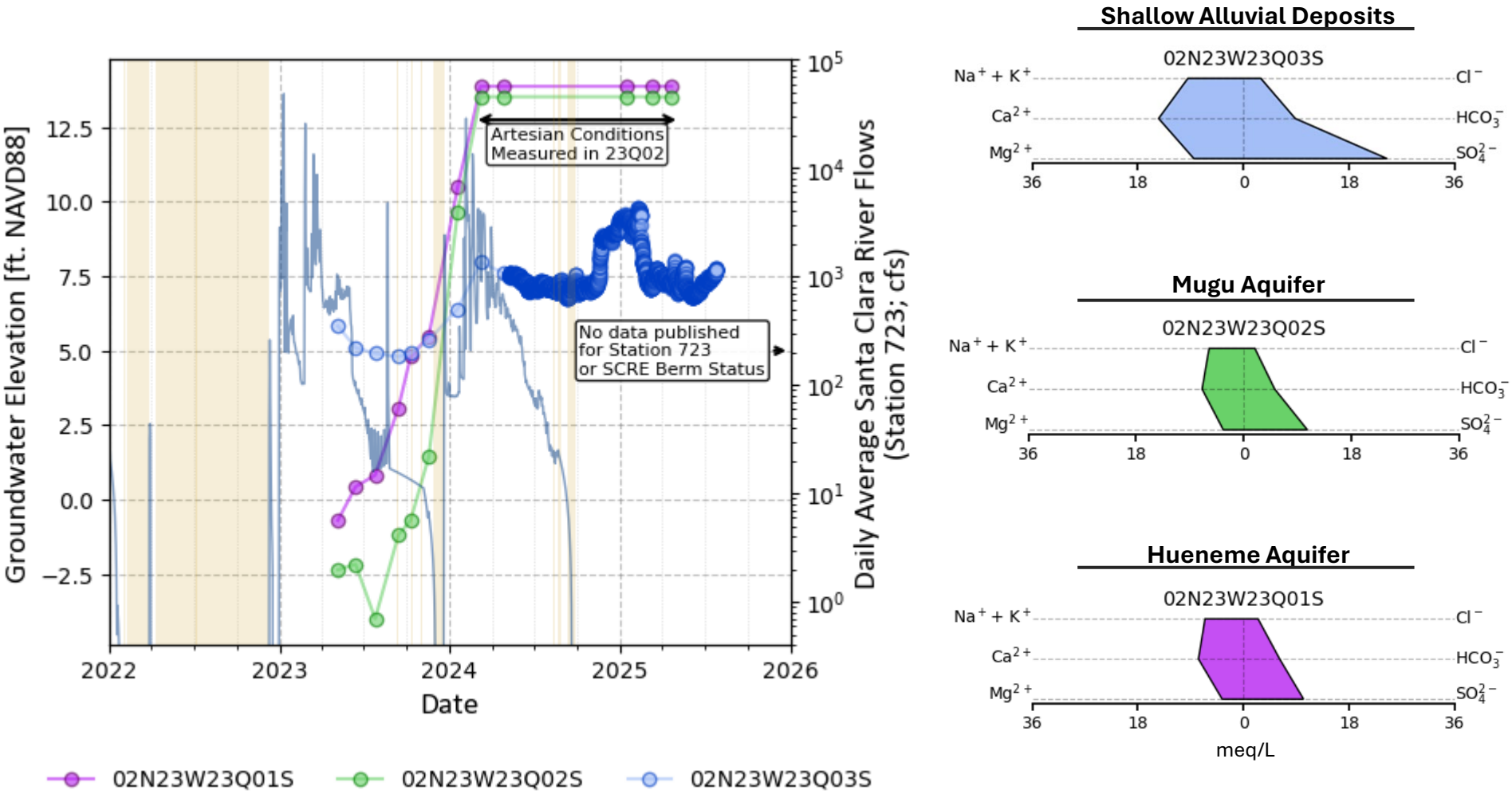


Figure 7
Groundwater Level and Quality Characteristics: New MBGSA Clustered Monitoring Well
Evaluation of Interconnected Surface Water in the Mound Subbasin

Appendix B

Summary Groundwater Monitoring Network and Well Construction Details

State Well Identification Number	Aquifers Monitored	Relevant Monitoring Network				Local Well Identifier	CASGEM Master Site Code	Year Well Constructed	Easting Coordinate[a]	Northing Coordinate[a]	Ground Surface Elevation (feet msl)[b]	Reference Point Elevation (feet msl)[b]	Reference Point Description	Reported (Original) Well Use	Well Pumping Status	Well Configuration	Depth of Screened Interval(s) (feet bgs)[c]	Borehole Depth (feet bgs)[c]	Total Well (Casing) Depth (feet bgs)[c]	Casing Diameter (inches)	Frequency of Groundwater Elevation Measurement 2020-2025	Frequency of Groundwater Quality Sampling 2020-2025	Measurement or Sampling Entity[d]
		Groundwater Levels/Storage	Degraded Water Quality	Seawater Intrusion	Land Subsidence																		
02N22W07M02S	Mugu	X	X	X	X	CP-780	342703N1192342W002	1995	6,188,662	1,922,431	164.56	164.06	Ground surface (flush-mount vault)	Monitoring	---	Cluster	710-780	790	790	2	Monthly	Semiannually	United
02N22W07P01S	Mugu	X			X	---	not currently in CASGEM	2000	6,190,044	1,920,430	150 (approx.)	150.21	Top of casing cover plate (at 1/2" access hole)	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	460-580	580	580	10	Monthly	---	United
02N22W08G01S	Mugu[e]	X	X	X	X	Mound #1	not currently in CASGEM	2000	6,196,790	1,923,509	260 (approx.)	261.61	Lip of sounder access port	Municipal Supply	Active	Single casing	580-650	720	660	18	Monthly	Monthly	City of Ventura
~~02N22W08P01S~~[f]	~~Mugu~~	~~X~~	~~X~~	~~X~~	~~X~~	~~---~~	~~342658N1192109W001~~	~~1932~~	~~6,195,769~~	~~1,921,338~~	~~215.29~~	~~213.79~~	~~Lip of sounder access port~~	~~Irrigation~~	~~Inactive~~	~~Single casing~~	~~160-321~~	~~364~~	~~321~~	~~10~~	~~Quarterly~~	~~---~~	~~VCWPD~~
02N22W19M04S	Mugu	X			X	---	not currently in CASGEM	2004	6,188,984	1,912,787	48.18	49.68	Lip of 1" access port at base of pump pedestal	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	343-493	500	500	12	Bimonthly	---	United
02N23W15J02S	Mugu	X	X	X	X	MP-660	342533N1192690W001	1995	6,178,364	1,917,108	8.73	8.23	Ground surface (flush-mount vault)	Monitoring	---	Cluster	480-660	660	660	2	Monthly	Semiannually	United
02N23W23Q02S[g]	Mugu	X	X	X		MBGSA 530, VTA WWTP		2021	6,181,732	1,911,836	13.53	13.53	Ground surface (flush-mount vault)	Monitoring	---	Cluster	310-330, 390-430, 500-530	540	540				United
02N22W07M01S	Hueneme	X	X	X	X	CP-1280	342703N1192342W001	1995	6,188,662	1,922,431	164.56	164.06	Ground surface (flush-mount vault)	Monitoring	---	Cluster	1,200-1,280	1,280	1,280	2	Monthly	Semiannually	United
02N22W08F01S	Hueneme		X	X	X	Victoria #2	not currently in CASGEM	1994	6,195,468	1,923,287	245 (approx.)	245.82	Lip of sounder access port	Municipal Supply	Active	Single casing	580-640, 900-940, 1,060-1,180	1,310	1,190	14	---	Monthly	City of Ventura
02N22W09K04S	Hueneme	X				---	342703N1191881W001	1935	6,202,524	1,922,919	244.89	244.49	Lip of 2" sounder access pipe	Irrigation	Inactive	Single casing	521-794	548	548	14	Monthly	---	United
02N22W09L03S	Hueneme	X	X	X	X	CWP-950	342688N1191952W001	2008	6,200,555	1,922,367	253.25	251 .25	Lip of 2" PVC casing	Monitoring	---	Cluster	890-950	1,480	950	3	Monthly	Semiannually	United
02N22W09L04S	Hueneme	X	X	X	X	CWP-510	342688N1191952W002	2008	6,200,555	1,922,367	253.25	251.25	Lip of 2" PVC casing	Monitoring	---	Cluster	480-510	510	510	2	Monthly	Semiannually	United
02N22W10N03S	Hueneme	X			X	Well 2	not currently in CASGEM	2002	6,205,442	1,921,235	185 (approx.)	187.07	Lip of 2" sounder access pipe	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	200-280	280	280	12	Bimonthly	---	United
02N23W13F02S	Hueneme[h]		X	X		---	not currently in CASGEM	1990	6,184,131	1,918,834	60 (approx.)	60.85	Lip of sounder access port	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	521-982	997	982	14	---	Annually	United
02N22W16K01S	Hueneme	X			X	---	342564N1191892W001	1934	6,202,316	1,917,850	150.74	149.37	Lip of sounder access port	Industrial	Active	Single casing	292-345	354	354	12	Quarterly	---	VCWPD
02N22W17M02S	Hueneme	X			X	---	342555N1192173W001	2001	6,193,835	1,917,580	143.44	145.04	Lip of 2" sounder access pipe	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	550-850	853	850	14	Bimonthly	---	United
02N22W17Q05S	Hueneme	X			X	---	342491N1192078W001	1965	6,196,677	1,915,235	88.60	89.60	Top of casing cover plate (at access hole)	Irrigation	Inactive	Single casing	365-483	506	500	not reported	Bimonthly	---	United
02N22W20E01S	Hueneme	X			X	Olivas-Victoria	342459N1192169W001	1991	6,193,910	1,914,098	74.15	72.15	Lip of 1" access port at base of pump pedestal	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	462-592, 612-723, 737-818	818	818	10	Monthly	---	United
02N23W13K03S	Hueneme	X	X	X	X	---	342552N1192422W001	1977	6,186,323	1,917,561	68.71	68.71	Lip of sounder access port	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	800-1,200	1,200	1,200	16	Quarterly	Annually	VCWPD
02N23W13K04S	Hueneme	X			X	---	not currently in CASGEM	1981	6,186,689	1,917,396	70 (approx.)	70.66	Lip of 2" sounder access pipe	Irrigation	Active	Single casing	800-1,200	1,215	1,200	14	Quarterly	---	United
02N23W15J01S	Hueneme	X			X	MP-1070	342533N1192676W001	1995	6,178,365	1,917,106	8.73	8.23	Ground surface (flush-mount vault)	Monitoring	---	Cluster	970-1,070	1,110	1,070	2	Monthly	Semiannually	United
02N23W24G01S	Hueneme	X			X[h]	Olivas (old)	not currently in CASGEM	1948	6,186,343	1,913,155	25 (approx.)	26.30	Lip of 3" access port at base of pump pedestal	Municipal Supply	Inactive	Single casing	742-754, 795-825, 898-927	932	932	not reported	Quarterly	---	United
02N23W23Q01S[g]	Hueneme	X	X	X		MBGSA 1140, VTA WWTP		2021	6,181,732	1,911,836	13.88	13.88	Ground surface (flush-mount vault)	Monitoring	---	Cluster	680-740, 960-1010, 1080-1140	1,200	1,200				United

Notes

[a] Coordinate system is North American Datum 1983 (NAD83), State Plane, California Zone 5, in feet.

[b] feet msl =Feet above mean sea level, from light detecting and ranging (LiDAR) data to an accuracy of 0.5 feet or better (except where listed as "approx."), referenced to North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD88).

[c] feet bgs =Feet below ground surface, reported by driller (updated by video survey by United Water Conservation District in some wells)

[d] United = United Water Conservation District; VCWPD = Ventura County Watershed Protection District

[e] This well may be partially screened in the Hueneme Aquifer.

[f] Well was destroyed in 2020 and is no longer part of the monitoring network.

[g] Well was constructed in 2022

[h] Subsidence rates are measured using InSAR at this well.

Appendix C

Correspondence with Environmental Stakeholders and Interested Parties Related to Depletion of Interconnected Surface Waters and Beneficial Users

Bryan Bondy

From: Bryan Bondy
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 2:39 PM
To: Bryan Bondy
Cc: Mound Basin GSA Admin; Conner Everts
Subject: Mound Basin GSA GSP Surface Water Beneficial Users
Attachments: Pages from 1_MBGSA_GSP_FINAL_FULLREPORT_20211214 (1).pdf; Newsletter Vol 3 Issue 1_Final.pdf

Dear Resource Agency or Interested Party Representative,

Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA) is reaching out to resource agencies and interested parties to collaborate and coordinate with you concerning the identification of beneficial uses and users of surface water within the Mound Basin. You are receiving this email because you or someone else from your organization provided comments on the Mound Basin groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) in 2021. We have identified your organization as one that may have useful information relevant to the identification of beneficial uses and users of surface water within the Mound Basin.

This outreach part of MBGSA's process to complete a periodic evaluation of the Mound Basin GSP. Part of the GSP period evaluation involves describing new information that has been obtained since the GSP was adopted. To this end, we are reaching out to determine whether you have any new information concerning the beneficial uses and users of surface water within the Mound Basin. We kindly request that you review the surface water beneficial uses and users described in the GSP, which can be found in the highlighted sections of the GSP appendix H (please see *attachment to this email*), and please let us know if you have any information concerning any new beneficial uses or users identified since the GSP was adopted in late 2021.

We thank you in advance for any information that you may have.

Lastly, I have also attached our most recent newsletter, which described the GSP evaluation process and invites you to our first GSP evaluation workshop scheduled for December 18, 2025. Please see the newsletter or our website for more information. We hope to see you there.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,

--
Bryan Bondy, PG, CHG
Executive Director
MBGSA
805-212-0484

MoundBasin
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Appendix D

Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

MOUND BASIN

(4-004.03) VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) PROGRAM

PREPARED BY THE MOUND BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

UPDATED AND ADOPTED NOVEMBER 27, 2023

Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Engagement Plan) summarizes the strategies to educate and involve stakeholders (those individuals and representatives of organizations who have a direct stake in the outcome of the planning process) and other interested parties in the implementation, assessment, and updating of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Mound Basin – Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin No. 4-004.03 (Figure 1).

SGMA provides a framework to regulate groundwater for the first time in California's history. SGMA's intent is to strengthen local management of specified groundwater basins that are most critical to the state's water needs by regulating groundwater and land use management activities. SGMA also aims to preserve the jurisdictional authorities of cities, counties and water agencies within groundwater basins while protecting existing surface water and groundwater rights. Additionally, SGMA requires and directs GSAs to encourage active involvement of stakeholders and interested parties in the process to sustainability manage the basin.

The Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MBGSA or Agency), a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), was formed by three local agencies: County of Ventura (County), City of San Buenaventura (City), and United Water Conservation District (UWCD). There was extensive stakeholder engagement during that process. The governing board consists of one representative from each of those agencies plus two stakeholder directors representing environmental and agricultural interests. The GSA is responsible for developing and implementing GSP for the Mound Basin to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. The GSP was be prepared in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and was adopted by MBGSA on November 18, 2021 and approved by DWR on October 26.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the outreach activities described in this Engagement Plan is to encourage the active involvement of individual stakeholders and stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties in the implementation, assessment, and updating of the GSP for the Mound Basin. The projects and management actions necessary to implement the GSP could affect individuals and groups who have a stake in ensuring the basin is sustainably managed as required by SGMA.

In an effort to understand and involve stakeholders and their interests in the decision- making and activities, the MBGSA prepared and regularly updates this Engagement Plan to encourage broad, enduring and productive involvement during the GSP development and, now, the implementation phase. This Engagement Plan assists the MBGSA in providing timely information to stakeholders and receive input from interested parties. This Engagement Plan identifies stakeholders who have an interest in groundwater in the Mound Basin, and recommends outreach, education, and communication strategies for engaging those stakeholders. The plan also includes an approach for evaluating the overall success of stakeholder engagement and education of both stakeholders and the public. In consideration of the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, this Engagement Plan has been developed pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723.2. Additionally, this Engagement Plan has been developed to encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Mound Basin, in accordance with GSP Regulations Section 354.10.

3 GENERAL INFORMATION

The following personnel will serve as contacts for the public during GSA formation and GSP preparation.

3.1 Clerk of the Board

For general information about MBGSA and the GSP status, contact:

Jackie Lozano, Clerk of the Board, (805) 525-4431, email jackiel@unitedwater.org.

3.2 Executive Director

MBGSA's Executive Director will be available for stakeholders and the public seeking specific detailed information about the GSP, contact:

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director, (805) 212-0484, email bryan@moundbasingsa.org.

4 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

MBGSA implemented the following outreach activities to maximize stakeholder involvement during the development of the GSP and will continue throughout GSP implementation.

4.1 Public Notices

To ensure that the general public is apprised of local activities and allow stakeholders to access information, SGMA specifies several public notice requirements for GSAs. Refer to Table 1 in Appendix A for a summary of statutory requirements. Three sections of the California Water Code require public notice before establishing a GSA, adopting (or amending) a GSP, or imposing or increasing fees:

- Section 10723(b). "Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency, and after publication of notice pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code, the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties overlying the basin." In accordance with California Water Code Section 10723(b), the following was noticed to the public: On June 22, 2017, the MBGSA held a public hearing to consider becoming a GSA for the Mound Basin. The public hearing was noticed in the *Ventura County Star* in accordance with Government Code Section 6066.
- Section 10728.4. "A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. …" A public hearing notice was printed in the *Ventura County Star* on November 3, 2021 in accordance with Government Code Section 6066 prior to adopting the GSP. Public notices will be printed in the *Ventura County Star* or other appropriate publication prior to holding public hearings for any future GSP amendments.
- Section 10730(b)(1). "Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting, at which oral or written presentations may be made as part of the meeting....(3) At least 10 days prior to the meeting, the groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public data upon which the proposed fee is based." Public hearing notices have been printed in the *Ventura County Star* in accordance with Government Code Section 6066 prior to adopting groundwater extraction fees each year.
- Future noticing will occur as required by SGMA.

4.2 Stakeholder Identification

Pursuant to Water Code Sections 10723.8(a)(4) and 10723.2, the Agency will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a GSP.

MBGSA engaged stakeholders during development of the Agency to serve as the GSA. For example, during development of the joint powers authority agreement ("JPA Agreement") forming the Agency, the signatory members held numerous public meetings to discuss important terms to be included in the JPA Agreement. The signatory members also held multiple stakeholder outreach meetings to engage and educate stakeholders within the Mound Basin about the SGMA requirements the JPA Agreement, and the Agency's intention to form a GSA for the Mound Basin. In addition to the Agency's public outreach efforts, it also designated two seats on its five-seat Board of Directors for Stakeholder Directors: one seat is reserved for an Agricultural Stakeholder Director and one seat is reserved for an Environmental Stakeholder Director.

The Agency plans to continue its practice of seeking broad stakeholder engagement in management of the Mound Basin's groundwater resources as it implements the GSP.

SGMA mandates that a GSA establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding GSP preparation and implementation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. The MBGSA compiled a list of interested persons for this purpose that has been maintained since the initial GSA formation efforts. The list of stakeholders and interested parties include, but are not limited to, the following:

a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

    1) Agricultural well owners - There are agricultural users of groundwater operating on land overlying the Basin. To account for these users' interests, the Agency designated a seat on its five-member governing board to be filled by an Agricultural Stakeholder Director. The Agricultural Stakeholder Director is appointed from nominations received by the Mound Basin Ag Water Group (MBAWG) or the Ventura County Farm Bureau. The Agricultural Stakeholder Director is responsible for engaging the Basin's agricultural users of groundwater and representing their interests before the Agency.

    2) Domestic well owners - There are no domestic wells in the Basin.

    3) Industrial well owners - Two industrial wells have been identified in the basin: Saticoy Lemon Association (lemon packing facility cooperative) and Ivy Lawn Cemetery Association. Given Saticoy Lemon Association's ties to agriculture, the Agricultural Stakeholder Director is responsible for engaging this stakeholder. The Executive Director is responsible for engaging Ivy Lawn Memorial.

    4) Other - The County of Ventura operates a well for landscape irrigation at the County Government Center. The County is represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

b) Municipal Well Operators - The Agency is a joint powers authority created by three local public agencies. One of the Agency's signatory members—the City of San Buenaventura operates municipal wells within the Basin and is represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

c) Public water systems

1) Ventura Water (City of San Buenaventura)

The City of San Buenaventura is a signatory member to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency and is represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

d) Local land use planning agencies - Both the County of Ventura ("County") and the City of San Buenaventura have land use planning authority on land overlying the Basin. Both are signatory members to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency and are represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

e) Environmental - There are several environmental organizations dedicated to preserving and maintaining environmental values operating within the boundaries of the Basin. To account for these users' interests, the Agency designated a seat on its five-member governing board to be filled by an Environmental Stakeholder Director. The Environmental Stakeholder Director is appointed from nominations received from local environmental nonprofit organizations supportive of the Basin's groundwater sustainability. The Environmental Stakeholder Director is responsible for engaging stakeholders within the Basin and representing environmental interests before the Agency.

f) Surface Water Users There are no permitted or licensed surface water diversions within the Basin.

g) The federal government - No land overlying the Mound Basin is managed by the Federal Government.

h) California Native American Tribes – There are no tribal trust lands located within the Basin. However, the Mound Basin lies within the traditional tribal territory of the Chumash. The Agency has contacted the tribal representative to encourage engagement with MBGSA.

i) Disadvantaged communities - There are no disadvantaged communities served by private domestic wells or small community water systems located within the Basin. The City of San Buenaventura (City) serves the areas indicated by DWR as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs). Outreach to DAC's is accomplished via bill stuffers or other means through the City's water department (Ventura Water), including materials provided in Spanish.

j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency. The County is the designated California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring ("CASGEM") entity for the Basin. The County is a signatory member to the JPA Agreement forming the Agency and represented on the Agency's Board of Directors.

k) Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) - CMWD is a wholesale water agency that provides a portion of the potable water supplied by Ventura Water within the Basin. CMWD does not operate any facilities in the Basin. CMWD's service area overlaps with a western portion of the Basin.

MBGSA has worked cooperatively with partner agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties to develop and, now, implement the GSP for the Mound Basin and will maintain a list of stakeholders and interested parties.

A person can be added to the interested parties list by submitting an inquiry via the MBGSA website: http://moundbasingsa.org/contact-us/ or by contacting the Clerk of the Board.

4.3 Integrated Regional Water Management

The Watershed Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) prepared an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in 2006 and has been updated multiple times since. The Santa Clara River Watershed Committee, a sub organization of WCVC, is actively involved in the community on a wide range of issues affecting the watershed, including the Mound Basin. Since this group provides a forum for the discussion of issues that are important to the community, it is important for this group to be well informed about groundwater management in the Mound Basin. Representatives from the MBGSA attend committee meetings and provide updates and receive feedback from Council members.

4.4 Public Hearings/Meetings

4.4.1 Planning Commission

As appropriate, updates on SGMA implementation will be provided to the City of Ventura Planning Commission and the Ventura County Planning Commission and the public will be invited to listen.

4.4.2 Public Meetings

Comprehensive stakeholder involvement includes regularly scheduled public meetings to aid in implementing, assessing, and updating the GSP. Logical subdivisions of the GSP will be the subject of public meetings to receive comments prior approving any updates. In addition to signing up to receive information about GSP implementation at the MBGSA webpage, interested parties may participate in the implementation of the GSP by attending and participating in public meetings (Water Code Section 10727.8(a)). Public meetings are generally been held at Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, California 93001. Future public meetings will generally be held at this location, although some meetings may be moved to other locations depending on meeting room availability. Each meeting will have a scheduled time for public comments. Information about upcoming meetings can be found on the MBGSA website: http://moundbasingsa.org.

4.4.3 Local Agency Meetings

To ensure their constituency is kept informed of GSP implementation progress, the Directors representing MBGSA member agencies, which consist of County of Ventura, City of San Buenaventura, and United Water Conservation District provide periodic updates during their regularly scheduled board meetings. These meetings offer a chance for the public to receive information and provide comment. Information about upcoming meetings is provided on the following agency websites, or by the means each agency currently meets its legal noticing requirements, whichever is appropriate:

http://cityofventura.ca.gov

http://ventura.org (Board of Supervisors)

https://www.unitedwater.org/

4.5 Direct Mailings/Email

Public meetings and project information is disseminated through email, from the Agency office, or direct mail under special circumstances if requested. This communication provides information for the community, public agencies, and other interested persons/organizations about milestones, meetings, and the progress of GSP implementation. Property owners with groundwater wells

within the basin have been notified via email and/or direct mailings about the establishment of an interested persons list and the opportunity to receive future notices.

4.6 Newsletters/Columns

Periodic GSP newsletters are developed and sent to the interested parties and posted on the website. Periodic updates may be provided to the *Ventura County Star* newspapers to advise, educate, and inform the public on SGMA implementation.

4.7 MBGSA Website

Regular updates on the GSP implementation are provided on the MBGSA website. This information includes maps, timelines, frequently asked questions, groundwater information, and schedules/agenda of upcoming meetings and milestones. This information is accessible on the MBGSA website: http://moundbasingsa.org. MBGSA staff updates the website regularly and invites users to request information or be added to the interested persons list.

4.8 Database

To distribute information about GSP development, an email list of interested persons and stakeholders is maintained. The database is updated regularly to add names of attendees at public meetings along with those requesting information via email or the through the MBGSA website.

4.9 Tribal Engagement

There are no tribal trust lands located within the Basin. However, the Mound Basin lies within the traditional tribal territory of the Chumash. MBGSA contacted Tribal Elder, Julie Tumamait, and Tribal representative Walter Viar during GSP development to encourage tribal participation.

4.10 Prioritized Collaboration With Regulatory Agencies and Interested Parties Concerning Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

In accordance with Recommended Corrective Action No. 5(d), of DWR's GSP Assessment Staff Report dated October 26, 2023, MBGSA will prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the MBGSA jurisdictional area.

4.11 Additional Opportunities

Additional opportunities for stakeholder participation (e.g., an advisory committee) will be considered as GSP implementation progresses and as stakeholder interests evolve.

5 EVALUATION

To determine the level of success of the Engagement Plan, the MBGSA implements the following measures:

5.1 Attendance/Participation

A record of those attending public meetings is maintained. MBGSA utilizes sign-in sheets and requests feedback from attendees to determine adequacy of public education and productive engagement in the GSP implementation process. Meeting minutes are also prepared and are provided on the MBGSA website once approved.

5.2 Polling

Polls are used to determine how stakeholders are receiving notices about GSP status and meetings and if any stakeholder categories require additional outreach. Polls are also used to determine

topics of most interest and the level of information that is desired for specific topics. Outreach methods are tailored based on polling responses.

5.3 Plan Update

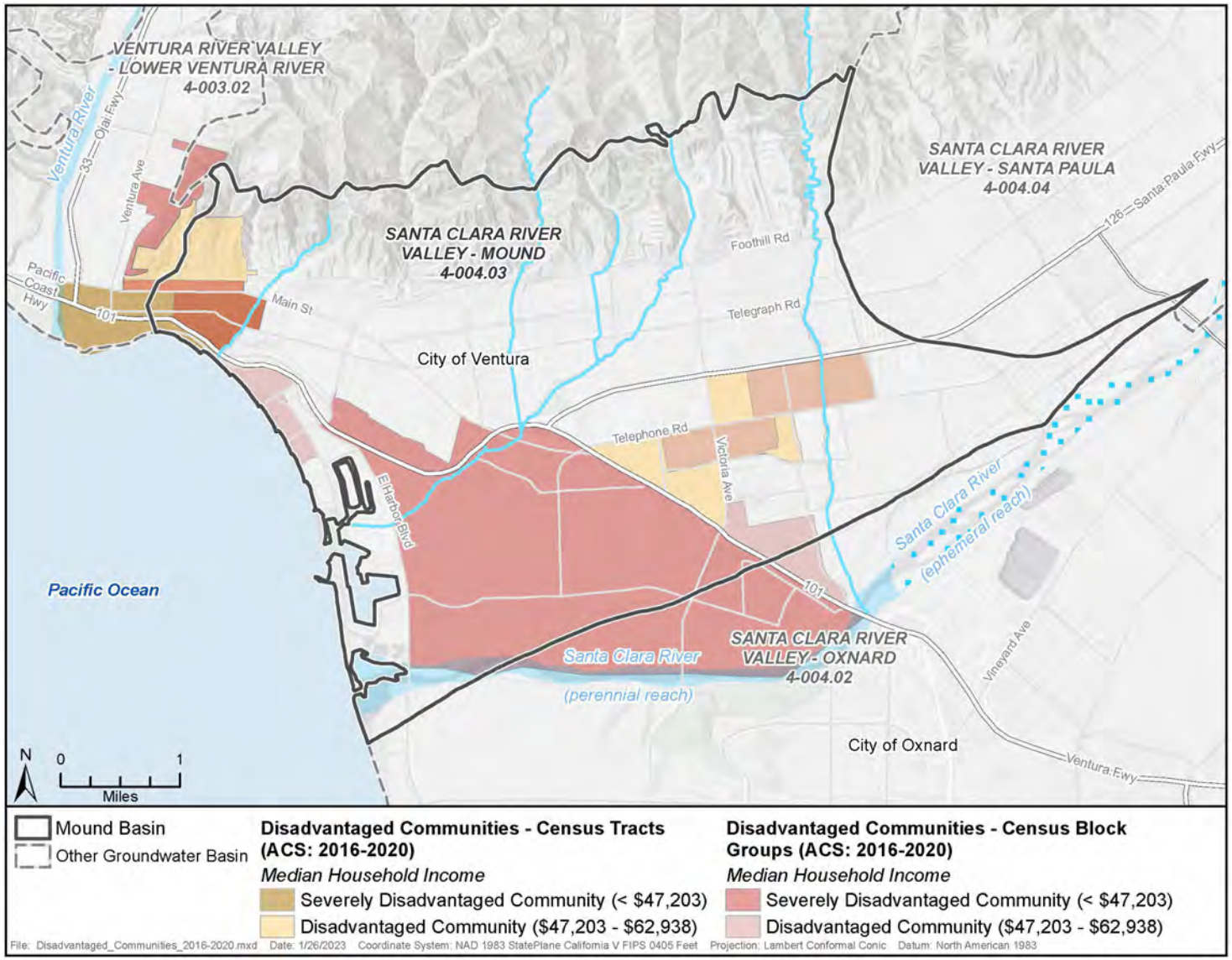
This Plan will be updated annually.

APPENDIX A

TABLE 1

During GSA Formation:	
"Before electing to be a groundwater sustainability agency... the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing."	Water Code Sec. 10723 (b)
"A list of interested parties [shall be] developed [along with] an explanation of how their interests will be considered."	Water Code Sec. 10723.8.(a)(4)
During GSP Development and Implementation:	
"A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing."	Water Code Sec. 10728.4
"Prior to imposing or increasing a fee, a groundwater sustainability agency shall hold at least one public meeting."	Water Code Sec. 10730(b)(1)
"The groundwater sustainability agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents."	Water Code Sec. 10723.4
"Any federally recognized Indian Tribe... may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan... A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part."	Water Code Sec. 10720.3(c)
"The groundwater sustainability agency shall make available to the public and the department a written statement describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan."	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)
Throughout SGMA Implementation:	
"The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater."	Water Code Sec. 10723.2
"The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin."	Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)

FIGURE 1


VENTURA RIVER VALLEY - LOWER VENTURA RIVER 4-003.02
SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY - MOUND 4-004.03
SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY - SANTA PAULA 4-004.04
SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY - OXNARD 4-004.02
Ventura River
Ojai Fwy
Ventura Ave
Pacific Coast Hwy
101
Main St
Foothill Rd
Telegraph Rd
126
Santa Paula Fwy
City of Ventura
Telephone Rd
Victoria Ave
E Harbor Blvd
Santa Clara River (ephemeral reach)
Pacific Ocean
Santa Clara River (perennial reach)
Vineyard Ave
City of Oxnard
Ventura Fwy
N
0
1
Miles
Mound Basin
Other Groundwater Basin
Disadvantaged Communities - Census Tracts (ACS: 2016-2020)
Median Household Income
Severely Disadvantaged Community (< $47,203)
Disadvantaged Community ($47,203 - $62,938)
Disadvantaged Communities - Census Block Groups (ACS: 2016-2020)
Median Household Income
Severely Disadvantaged Community (< $47,203)
Disadvantaged Community ($47,203 - $62,938)
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Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Datum: North American 1983

Appendix E

Periodic Evaluation Kickoff Newsletter

MoundBasin
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

https://www.moundbasingsa.org/

Winter Newsletter
December 2025
Volume 3, Issue 1

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation Underway

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to perform a periodic evaluation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) at least once every five years. The first periodic evaluation of the Mound Basin GSP must be submitted to the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by November 2026. The periodic evaluation process is underway and MBGSA is seeking your input.

Your Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation team will be performing the GSP periodic evaluation, which is intended to address the following:

- Describe new information that has been obtained since the GSP was adopted.
- Describe the status of each GSP section, including any changes and whether they impact basin management.
- Explain how GSP corrective actions provided by DWR have been addressed.
- Explain whether and how actions taken by MBGSA have informed changes to basin management.
- Describe whether there is a need to change any part of the GSP that would lead to a GSP Amendment.

MBGSA is seeking your input during the GSP periodic evaluation process. A draft period evaluation document will be issued in mid-2026 for public comment. The MBGSA Board of Directors are expected to adopt the periodic evaluation document no later than early November 2026. **Please join us at our first workshop on December 18, 2025. Comments may be submitted at any time during the process using MBGSA's online comment submission form available on the MBGSA website at: https://www.moundbasingsa.org/public-comments-invited/. Feel free to contact us with any questions at admin@moundbasingsa.org.**

GSP Periodic Evaluation Public Workshop No. 1 Thursday December 18, 2025 1 p.m.

This workshop will present information about the periodic evaluation of the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. This workshop is a key opportunity ask questions and provide feedback periodic evaluation of the GSP for your groundwater basin.
Your active participation is highly encouraged!

Get Involved!

At the core of SGMA is the idea that locals should make groundwater management decisions, not the State. Your input is critical for ensuring the Mound Basin GSP reflects local values.

Contact the MBGSA Clerk of the Board Jackie Lozano at: admin@moundbasingsa.org to be added to our interested parties list!

Appendix F

Response to Public Comment Matrix

MoundBasin
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Groundwater Sustainability Plan 45-day Periodic Evaluation
Public Comment Period: June 23 through August 7, 2026

Entry Date	First Name	Last Name	Section Referenced	Comment/Question	MBGSA Response
4-Aug-26	Zachary	Hanson	5.3.3 Evaluation of Water Use Trends and Updated Future Projections	United Water Conservation District Staff: Within the Mound Basin GSA response in Section 5.3.3.2, “Relevant Recommended Corrective Actions,” United understands that VenturaWaterPure is described in the City of Ventura's 2025 UWMP as an “indirect” potable reuse project, rather than a “direct” potable reuse project. Accordingly, the project description should be revised to reflect this distinction.	Thank you for noting this typographical error. Section 5.3.3 has been updated to VenturaWaterPure as an indirect potable reuse project. This revision was also incorporated into Table 2-1.
4-Aug-26	Zachary	Hanson	5.3.3 Evaluation of Water Use Trends and Updated Future Projections	United Water Conservation District Staff: Similar to United's comment on Section 5.3.2 (Water Supplies), additional discussion of factors that may have contributed to the observed reduction in water use during the Evaluation Period compared to the Historical Period should be considered to improve readers' understanding.	Please see additional discussion added to the referenced section.
4-Aug-26	Zachary	Hanson	5.3.2 Water Supplies	United Water Conservation District Staff: Background related to potential factors contributing to the observed reduction in water use during the Evaluation Period compared to the Historical Period should be considered to provide readers with an improved understanding. This may include state-encouraged/state-mandated reductions in M&I water use during water years 2021 and 2022 (e.g., EO N-7-22, March 2022, required a Water Shortage Level 2 response with up to a 20% reduction in water use), as well as above-average precipitation during water years 2023 and 2024 (Draft Figure 3.2).	Please see additional discussion added to the referenced section.
7-Aug-26	Burt	Handy		I believe you meant to add not in the paragraph from page 27 where it states "seawater intrusion did occur"... I believe you meant to say did not occur. During the evaluation period, chloride concentrations along the shoreline and east of Harbor Boulevard did not increase and remained below the measurable objective concentrations. These stable, and relatively low, **chloride concentrations indicate that seawater intrusion did occur** and, therefore, there were no adverse impacts to groundwater beneficial users, land uses, or property interests.	Thank you for noting this typographical error. This text in section 3.4.4 has been revised to read: "These stable, and relatively low, chloride concentrations indicate that seawater intrusion did **not** occur, and therefore, there were no adverse impacts to groundwater beneficial users, land uses, or property interests."