



Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
1231 11th Street | Modesto, CA 95354
Email: strgba@mid.org

STRGBA GSA AGENDA

October 9, 2024 (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Webinar Digital Platform or Phone Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82844864384>

By phone: 1-669-900-9128

Webinar ID: 828 4486 4384

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public may participate in this meeting in the three ways described below.

Instructions for Participating in STRGBA GSA & Technical Advisory Meeting via Zoom Webinar or Phone

On your desktop/iPad or tablet/laptop:

1. To join the webinar, click the link published in the Agenda for the current meeting about 5 minutes before the webinar begins.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to install and/or launch the Zoom application.
3. If prompted, enter the Webinar ID published in the Agenda.
4. All public attendees will enter the meeting muted.
5. If you wish to speak under Business from the Public, or after the Chairman calls for Public Comment, click on the “Raise Hand” button to request to speak.

On your phone:

1. To attend the meeting by phone, call the number published in the Agenda for the meeting.
2. Enter the Webinar ID published in the Agenda, then hit the # symbol.
3. All public attendees will enter the meeting muted.
4. If you wish to speak under Business from the Public, or after the Chairman calls for Public Comment, press *9 on your phone to “Raise Hand” or simply request to speak.

In person: Oakdale Irrigation District 1205 E. F Street, Oakdale

To view a physical copy of the agenda, please visit the Oakdale Irrigation District office at 1205 East F Street, Oakdale. A complete copy of the agenda packet is also available on www.strgba.org.



Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
1231 11th Street | Modesto, CA 95354
Email: strgba@mid.org

1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions
(Four agencies are needed for a quorum)
2. Business from the Public
Who: Public
Expected Outcome: Interested persons are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. Matters presented under this heading may be discussed but no action will be taken by the Agency at this meeting. It is not required, but speakers may provide their name and address. Public Comments will be limited to five minutes per speaker.
3. Topic: Approve 8/14/2024 Meeting Minutes [\[Action Item\]](#)
Who: Eric Thorburn, Committee
Expected Outcome: Approval
4. Topic: Approve 2025 STRGBA GSA Budget [\[Action Item\]](#)
Who: Eric Thorburn, Committee
Expected Outcome: Approval
5. Topic: STRGBA GSA Comment Letter to Notice of Preparation of a PEIR for the Salida Community Plan Amendment Area [\[Action Item\]](#)
Who: Eric Thorburn, Committee
Expected Outcome: Approval
6. Topic: Spring 2024 Groundwater Level Analysis Presentation
Who: Todd Groundwater, Committee
Expected Outcome: Discussion
7. Next Meeting
November 13, at 1:30 p.m.
8. Committee Comments/Reports



MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2024 (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) attended either in-person or via Zoom.

In-Person Attendees:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID):	Jesse Franco
Oakdale Irrigation District (OID):	Eric Thorburn
Stanislaus County:	Christy McKinnon
City of Modesto:	Tim Barahona
City of Waterford:	Michael Pitcock
City of Oakdale:	Ian Sather
City of Riverbank:	Darin Smallen

Other Attendees:

Juan Ochoa	Henderson Hatfield
Gordon Enas	David Cameron
William Fahey	Ali Stevens
Lucas Law	Louis Brichetto
Dimitri Lee	Rebecca Ramirez
Dana Ferreira	Melissa Williams

2. Business from the Public

N/A

3. Approve 7/10/2024 Meeting Minutes [Action item]

Pitcock moved, 2nd by Sather to approve the 7/10/2024 meeting minutes.



Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
1231 11th Street | Modesto, CA 95354
Email: strgba@mid.org

4. RFP/RFQ Status and Schedule Discussion

Franco provided an update on the RFP/RFQ process, which is aimed at finding consulting firms to develop a well mitigation plans and management strategies. The selected firm will be announced in October.

5. Workgroup Solicitation Status & Schedule

Williams mentioned that the application for the workgroup is currently being developed. Once it's finalized in the next few weeks, it will be shared with the public through email and social media.

6. Draft STRGBA GSA Budget Discussion

Thorburn reviewed the budget modifications, outlining the key adjustments and explaining their impact.

7. Next Meeting

September 11, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom or in-person at OID

Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency

2025 OPERATING BUDGET

Revised 10/3/2024		
OPERATING EXPENSES	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
Administration	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
2024 Revised GSP Revisions	N/A	\$0.00
Annual Report	\$75,000.00	\$191,305.00
Grant Preparation	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Insurance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Legal and Auditing	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Model Update	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Monitoring Wells	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
Public Outreach	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Website Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Data Management System	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
MA's & Well Mitigation Consultant	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
Well Mitigation Plan Funds	\$0.00	\$300,000.00
Total Operating Budget	\$206,000.00	\$812,805.00

Notes:

1. The cost of the Annual Report will be split equally amongst each of the 7 STRGBA GSA member agencies and the Tuolumne County GSA (\$191,305/8 = \$23,913.13 each). Payment for the Annual Report will be made to the City of Modesto with Stanislaus County being invoiced for the Tuolumne County GSA's 1/8 share of the Annual Report budget item.

2. The remaining operating budget (excluding the Annual Report) will be split equally amongst each of the 7 STRGBA GSA member agencies (\$812,805 - \$191,305/7 = \$88,785.71) and payment being made to the Modesto Irrigation District.

STRGBA GSA Agency Invoices:

\$88,785.71 (MID Invoice) + \$23,913.13 (City of Modesto Invoice) = \$112,698.84

Tuolumne Co. GSA Invoice (via Stanislaus County):

\$23,913.13 (City of Modesto Invoice)



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: September 11, 2024
TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties
FROM: Jeremy Ballard, Senior Planner, Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Department
SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NO. PLN2024-0083 - SALIDA COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT AREA

As the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Stanislaus County (herein referred to as the "County") is issuing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a program environmental impact report (PEIR) evaluating the effects of development of the Salida Community Plan Amendment Area. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this NOP provides agencies, interested parties, members of the public, and organizations with sufficient information describing the proposed project and the potential environmental effects to enable meaningful input on the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the PEIR. The PEIR will evaluate the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of development within the Amendment Area of the Salida Community Plan and will identify feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that may lessen or avoid any significant impacts. Responsible Agencies, which are public agencies other than the County that also have a role in approving or implementing the community plan, may consider the PEIR prepared by the County when issuing permits or other approvals for the implementation of the community plan.

Public Review Period and Scoping Meeting

This NOP is available for public review and comment for 30 days, ending on October 11, 2024. Copies of this NOP may be reviewed in the Planning and Community Development Department at:

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
Modesto, CA 95354

Project materials, including this NOP, are available online at:

<https://www.stancounty.com/planning/pl/act-projects.shtm>

The County will hold a public scoping meeting to inform interested parties about the project and provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to submit comments on the scope and content, including alternatives, that should be addressed in the PEIR. The public scoping meeting will be conducted in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Salida Municipal Advisory Council meeting on September 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Salida Branch of the Stanislaus County Library at:

4835 Sisk Rd.
Salida, CA 95368

Any interested person may appear at the scoping meeting. If you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, contact Jeremy Ballard, Senior Planner at (209) 525-6330 or planning@stancounty.com.

Providing Comments on this Notice of Preparation

Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis in the PEIR, potential mitigation measures, and alternatives are invited from all interested parties. Written and/or email comments or questions concerning the PEIR should be directed to Jeremy Ballard at the address provided above. Comments should be provided at the earliest possible date but must be received on **October 11, 2024** by **4:30 p.m.** Please include the commenter's full name and address.

Project Overview

In 2007, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved the Salida Area Planning, Road Improvement, Economic Development, and Farmland Protection Initiative (herein referred to as the "Initiative"). Now known as the Salida Community Plan Amendment Area, the Initiative covered a 3,383-acre area with a proposed mix of uses, including 2,029 acres of employment uses (up to 27,783 employees), 1,110 acres of residential uses (5,000 dwelling units supporting an estimated population of 15,063), regional and local parkland, open space, a wastewater treatment plant, transportation improvements, and other uses. The PEIR will provide a planning level analysis of the land uses outlined for the Salida Community Plan Amendment Area.

Project Location: The community is located along the State Route 99 corridor, north of Modesto and south of Ripon, abutting the San Joaquin County boundary (Figure 1). The Community Plan area is bound by Dale Road to the east, Bacon Road to the south, Hammett Road to the west, and Stanislaus River and Ladd Road to the north; and is divided by State Route 99 into eastern and western portions. Current development in the community of Salida consists mostly of residential housing, with commercial and light industrial uses located along State Route 99. The Amendment Area primarily consists of production agriculture and scattered residential development.

Project Description: As described above, the Community Plan consists of the pre-2007 Existing Plan Area and the Amendment Area. An illustrative diagram of the Community Plan that shows the integration of the Amendment Area with the Existing Community is provided (Figure 2). The Salida Community Plan was integrated into the Land Use Element of the Stanislaus County General Plan upon the Initiative's adoption in 2007. Land use designations for the Salida Community Plan include: Low-Density Residential, Medium-Density Residential, Medium High-Density Residential, Commercial, Planned Industrial, Business Park, and Agriculture (Figure 3).

The Salida Community Plan (SCP) Zoning District was created by the Initiative and regulates land use for parcels in the Amendment Area. The SCP District encourages the use of flexible development standards designed to ensure the development of the Amendment Area as a master planned community and includes specific district standards, procedures, required findings, urban services requirements, and fee provisions. Within the Amendment Area, the community is zoned for single and multi-family residential, neighborhood and community commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses (Figure 3 and Table 1). The SCP District requires the adoption of a discretionary non-legislative Development Plan that is Board approved and Planning Commission recommended (Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance § 21.66.010(a).), which would outline the precise design, location of uses, and amenities in the Amendment area. Land in the Existing Plan Area is subject to standard County zoning and is zoned for a variety of uses including single and multi-family residential, planned development, and commercial uses adjacent to State Route 99, as well as limited industrial and agricultural designations. To effectively implement the Planned Industrial, Business Park, or Commercial Land Use designations in the Amendment area, land may be rezoned from commercial, Planned Industrial, or Business Park to Planned Development to allow for flexibility and diversification in the relationship of different uses, buildings, structures, lot sizes and open spaces, while ensuring compliance with, and implementation of, the Community Plan.

Table 2-1 Amendment Area Zoning Designations

Land Use Designation	Zoning	Total Acreage
Planned Industrial	SCP-PI	1,259
Business Park	SCP-IBP	490
Commercial	SCP-C-1 and SCP-C-2	280
Low-Density Residential	SCP-R-1	802
Low-Density Residential-Special Treatment Area	SCP-R-1-ST	64
Medium-Density Residential	SCP-R-2	187
Medium High-Density Residential	SCP-R-3	57
Agriculture	SCP-A-2	244
Total Acres		3,383

Source: Stanislaus County 2016, Appendix I-A8, Table 1.

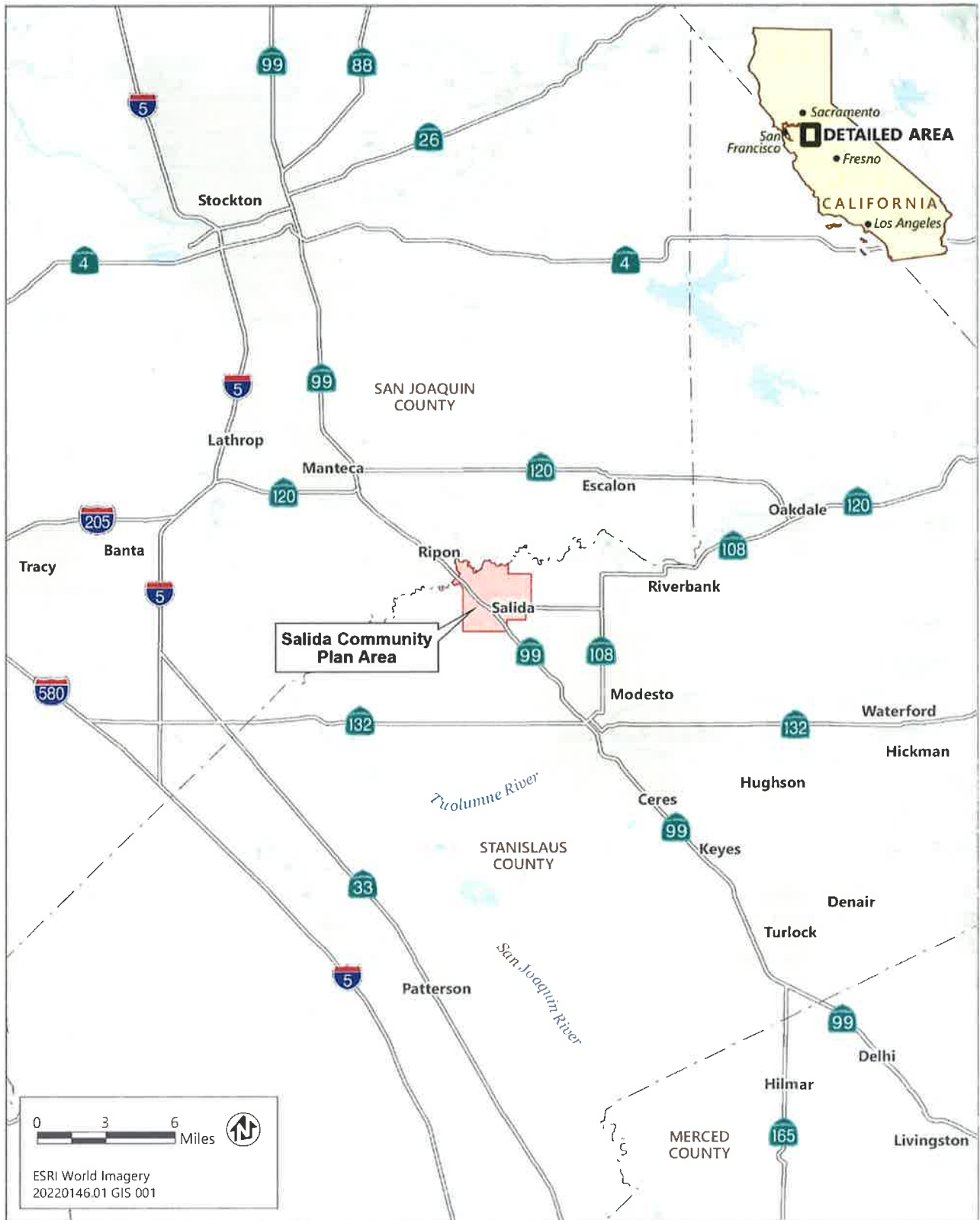
Environmental Process and Public Input

Following receipt of input during the public comment period of this NOP, the County will prepare a Draft PEIR that will describe the project and evaluate the following environmental issue areas for both program-level and cumulative effects. The County anticipates, based on available information, detailed analysis of the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Noise
- Population, Employment, and Housing
- Public Services and Recreation
- Public Utilities
- Transportation

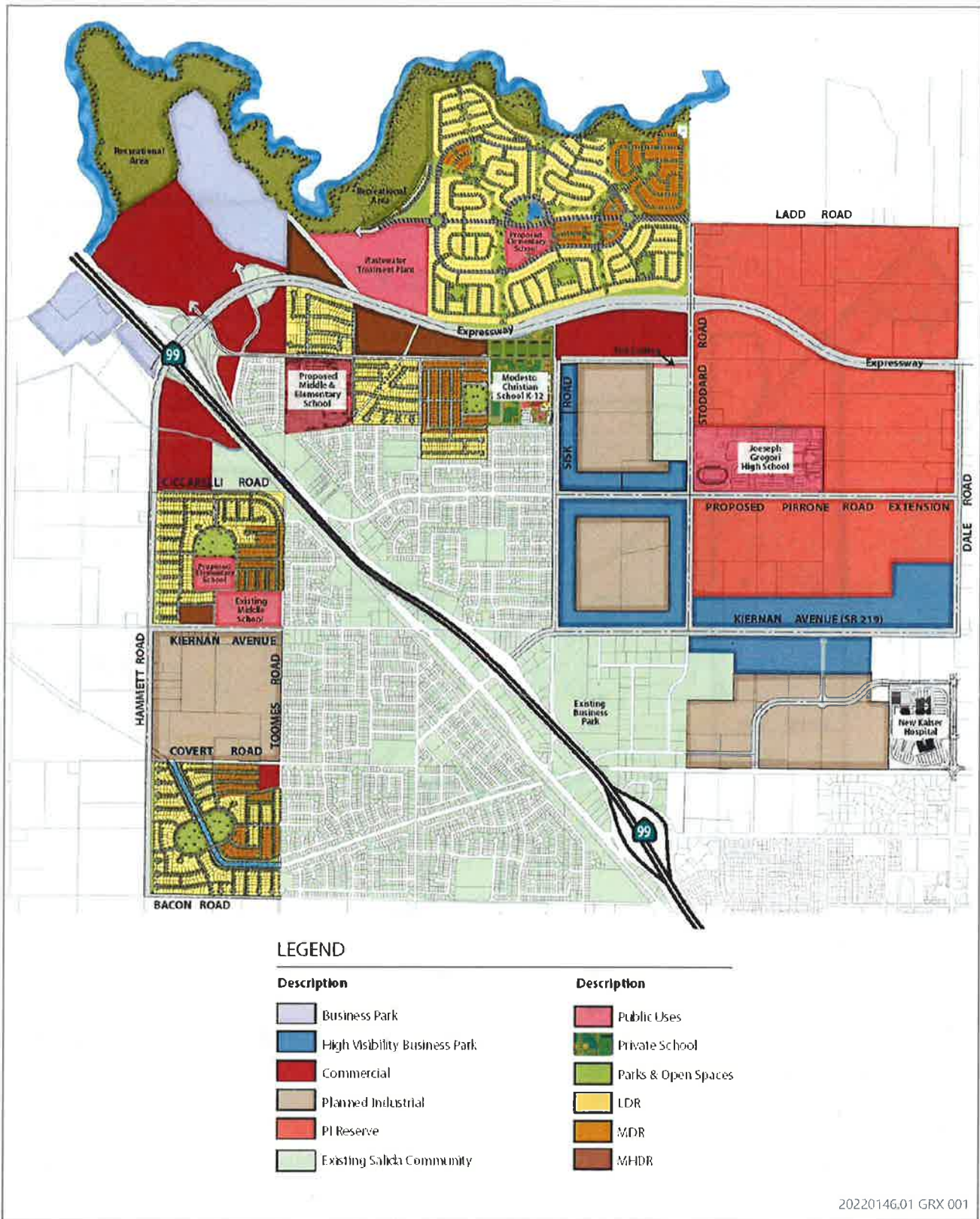
The PEIR will also identify significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided, growth inducing impacts, and significant and irreversible environmental changes. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, the PEIR will consider and evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the Salida Community Plan Amendment Area.

The Draft PEIR will be made available for public review and input for a 45-day review period. The County will consider all comments received and will prepare a Final PEIR that identifies any necessary changes to the Draft PEIR and provides responses to all comments on the Draft PEIR. The County Board of Supervisors will consider certification of the Final PEIR.



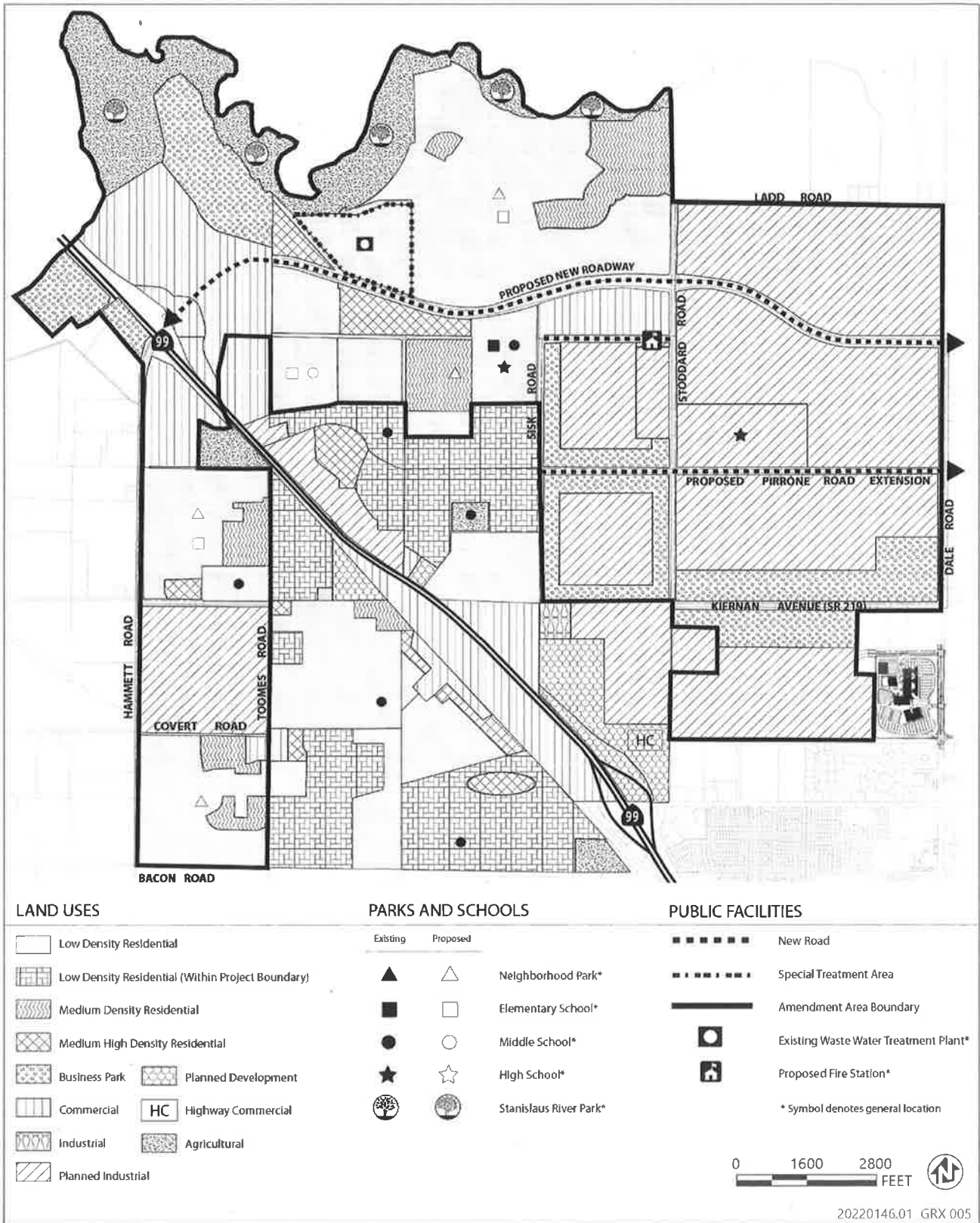
Source: Adapted by Ascent in 2023.

Figure 1 Regional Location



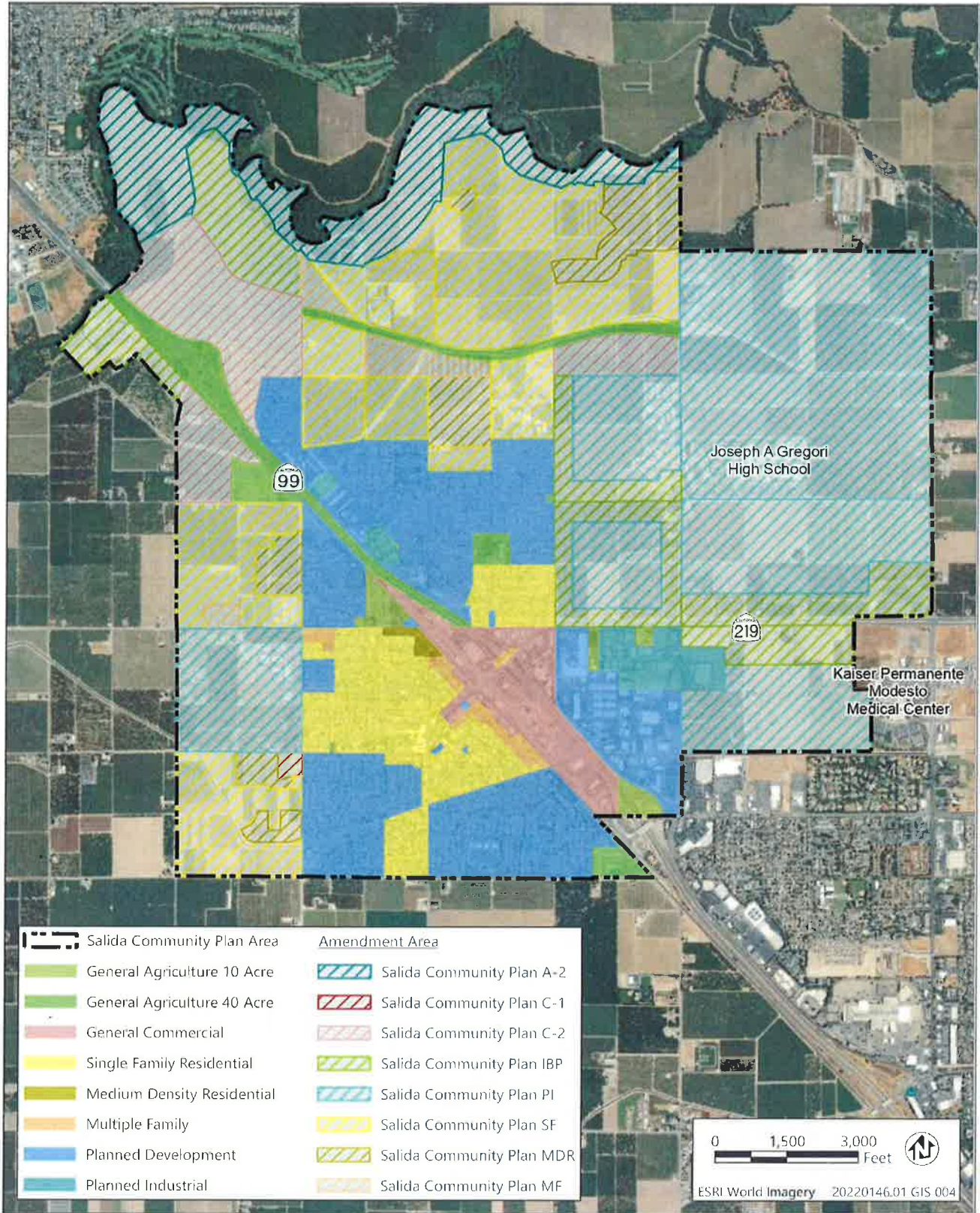
Source: Salida Community Plan, adapted by Ascent in 2023.

Figure 2 Illustrative Salida Community Plan



Source: Salida Community Plan Appendix I-A8.

Figure 3 Community Plan Land Use Designations



Source: Data downloaded from Stanislaus County in 2023; adapted by Ascent in 2023.

Figure 4 Salida Community Plan Zoning



October 9, 2024

Jeremy Ballard, Senior Planner
Stanislaus County Department of Planning
and Community Development
1010 10th Street, Ste. 3400
Modesto, CA 95354

**Re: Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report No. PLN 2024-0083 –
Salida Community Plan Amendment Area**

Mr. Ballard,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation noted above. The Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) and the Tuolumne County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Tuolumne GSA) adopted the Modesto Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the San Joaquin Valley - Modesto Subbasin (subbasin). The Basin is designated as “high-priority” by the Department of Water Resources and lies within portions of Stanislaus County and Tuolumne County. The STRGBA GSA is the exclusive GSA for the portion of the Subbasin in Stanislaus County. The GSP sets sustainable management criteria and defines projects and management actions to achieve its sustainability goals. With that in mind, the STRGBA GSA has provided comments below.

In the proposed Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), consideration should be given to the water supply of the proposed Salida Community Plan Amendment Area (Amendment Area). Due to the continued average annual groundwater overdraft in the Subbasin, there is a vital need for water supply projects and/or groundwater demand reduction within the subbasin. While there are no groundwater pumping allocations or restrictions in the Subbasin at this time, the STRGBA GSA has committed to development of such management actions by or before January 31, 2026, with implementation by or before January 31, 2027. Therefore, Stanislaus County is strongly encouraged to review opportunities during the Draft PEIR process to reduce groundwater demand within the Amendment Area from current conditions as part of the future land development.

Coordination with the STRGBA GSA regarding groundwater demand during the planning phase of future specific development projects within the Amendment Area is also requested. The STRGBA GSA requests that detailed analyses of the proposed water supplies and impact to groundwater be provided in the PEIR. The analysis should include water budgets of the Amendment Area which provide estimated surface water supply, groundwater demand and groundwater recharge, under both existing and proposed conditions.

If the STRGBA GSA can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 840-5525.

Sincerely,

STRGBA GSA

Eric C. Thorburn, P.E.
STRGBA GSA Chair



MODESTO SUBBASIN GSP

SPRING 2024 WATER LEVEL ANALYSIS

STRGBA GSA Meeting
October 9, 2024



AGENDA

- Spring 2024 GSP Monitoring Event
- Water Level Analysis – Draft Results
 - Sustainable Management Criteria
 - Hydrographs
- Summary



Representative Monitoring Well MW-9

DEFINITION OF UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels



An undesirable result will occur when at least 33% of representative monitoring wells exceed the MT for a principal aquifer in three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events.

Interconnected Surface Water



An undesirable result will occur on one of the rivers when 33% to 50% of the representative monitoring wells for that river exceed the MT in three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events.

(33% on Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers, 50% on San Joaquin River)

SPRING 2024 GSP MONITORING EVENT

- 5th GSP monitoring event
- Objective: to capture seasonal high groundwater elevations before irrigation season
- Groundwater elevations measured in 59 representative monitoring wells (RMWs) in late February and early March
- 2 RMWs not measured due to casing obstructions (Wood and Quesenberry)
- Groundwater elevations reported to DWR by July 1, 2024

WY 2024 MINIMUM THRESHOLDS (MTs)

Chronic Lowering of Water Levels

	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Western Upper Principal Aquifer (Target <33%)		
Above MT	17	17
Below MT	0	0
Not Measured	0	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	0%	0%
Western Lower Principal Aquifer (Target <33%)		
Above MT	4	5
Below MT	1	0
Not Measured	0	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	20%	0%
Eastern Principal Aquifer (Target <33%)		
Above MT	26	30
Below MT	11	7
Not Measured	2	2
% Below (includes measured wells)	30%	19%

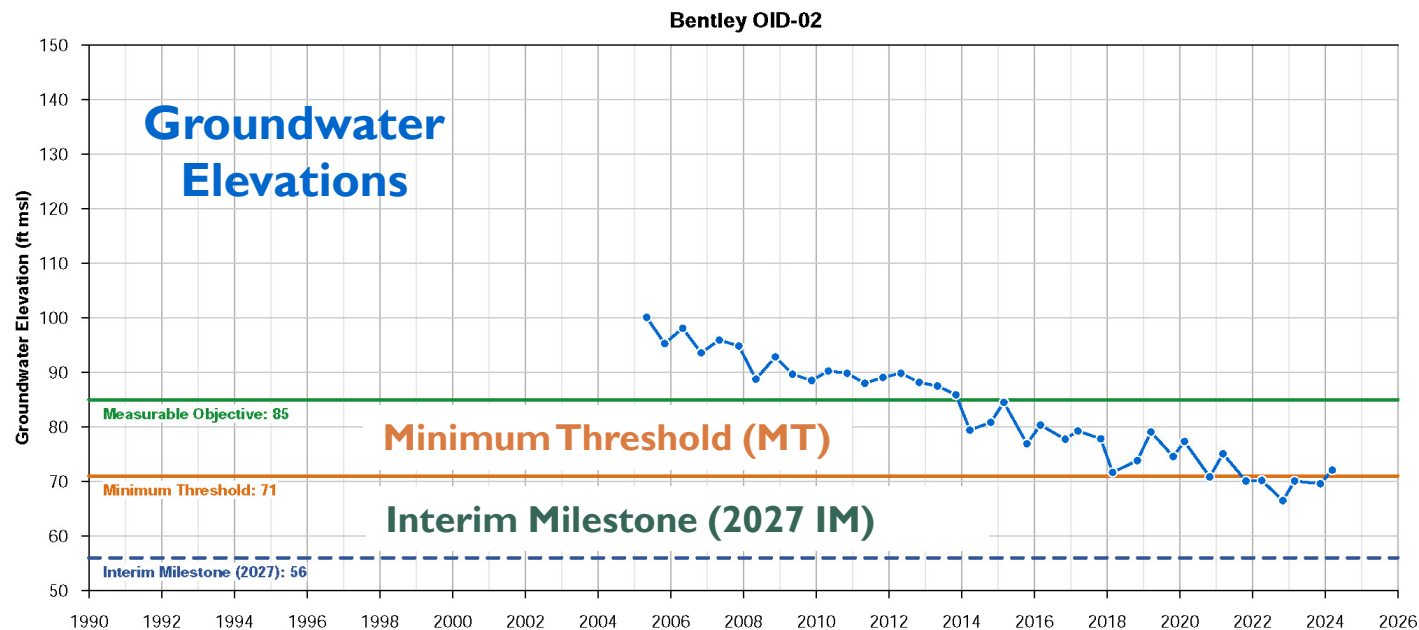
WY 2024 MINIMUM THRESHOLDS (MTs)

Interconnected Surface Water

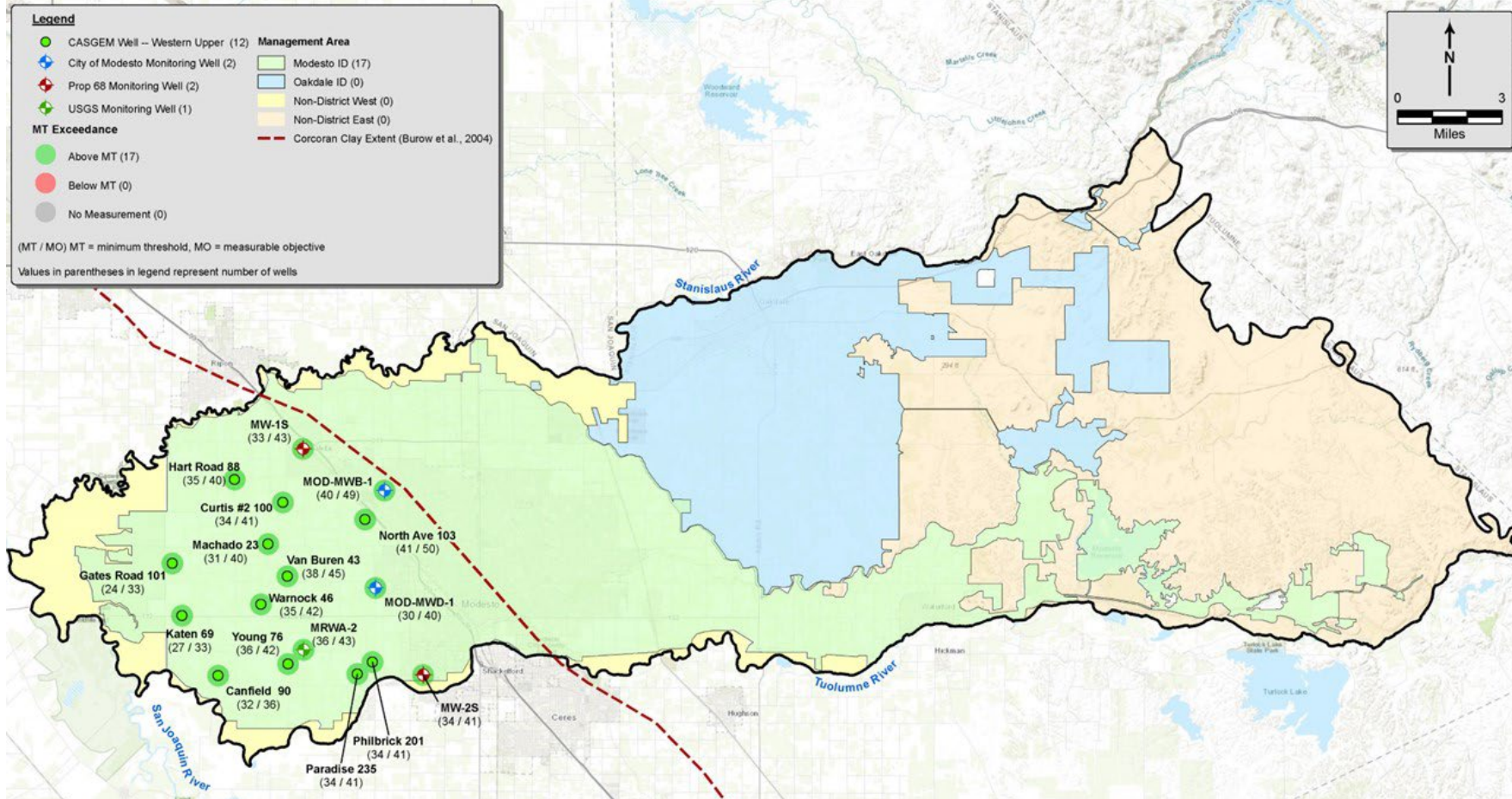
	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
San Joaquin River (Target <50%)		
Above MT	2	2
Below MT	0	0
Not Measured	0	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	0%	0%
Stanislaus River (Target <33%)		
Above MT	6	7
Below MT	2	1
Not Measured	0	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	25%	13%
Tuolumne River (Target <33%)		
Above MT	8	9
Below MT	1	0
Not Measured	1	1
% Below (includes measured wells)	11%	0%

INTERIM MILESTONES (IMs)

- No wells exceeded their IMs in Spring 2024
- Chronic Lowering of Water Levels: 14 wells with IMs
- Interconnected Surface Water: 5 wells with IMs



SPRING 2024 WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

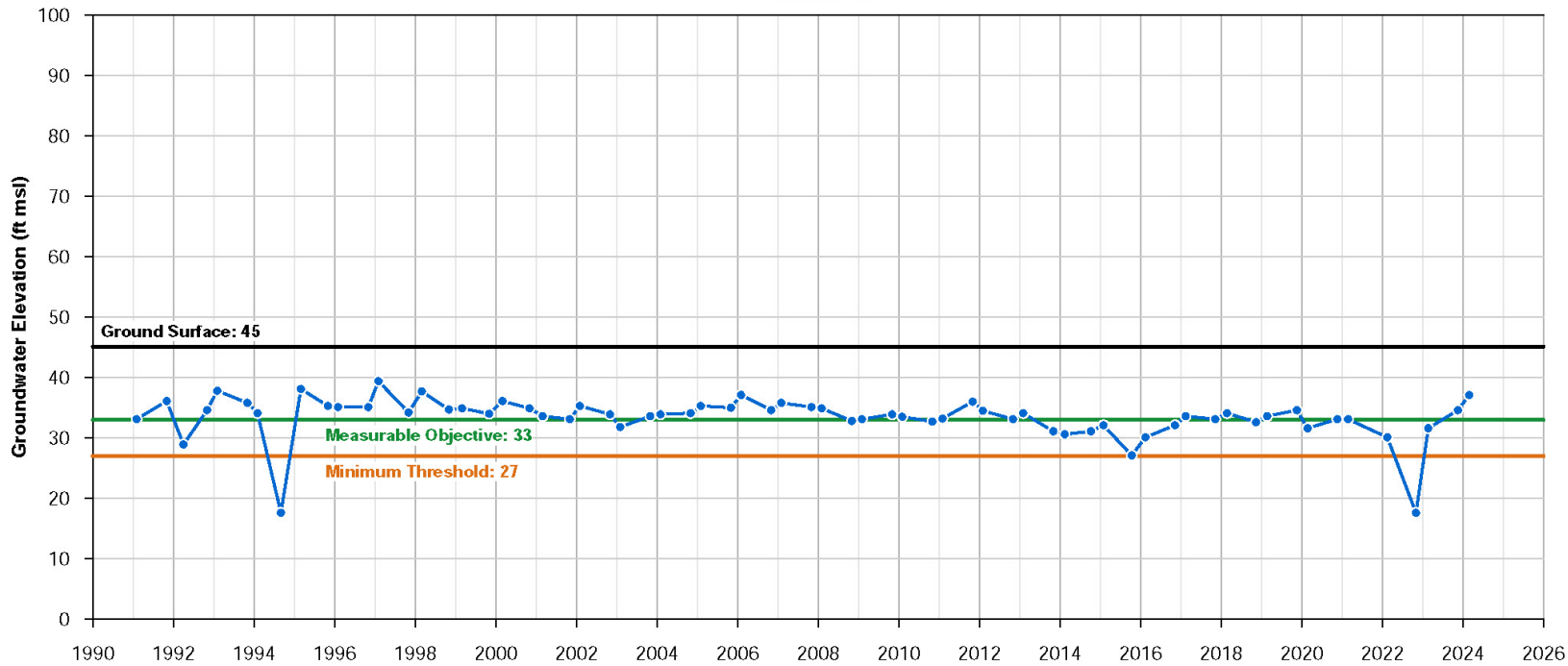


- No RMWs below MT
- Most wells at or above MOs
- Spring 2023: no wells below MT

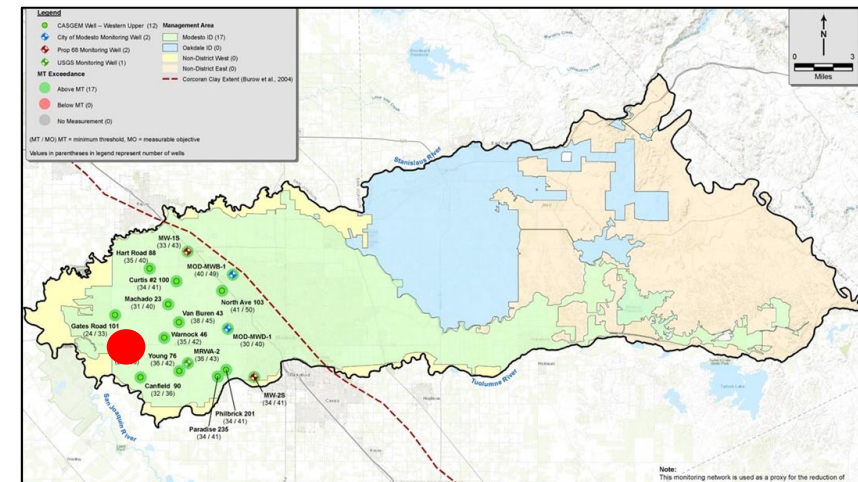
HYDROGRAPHS

WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

Katen 69



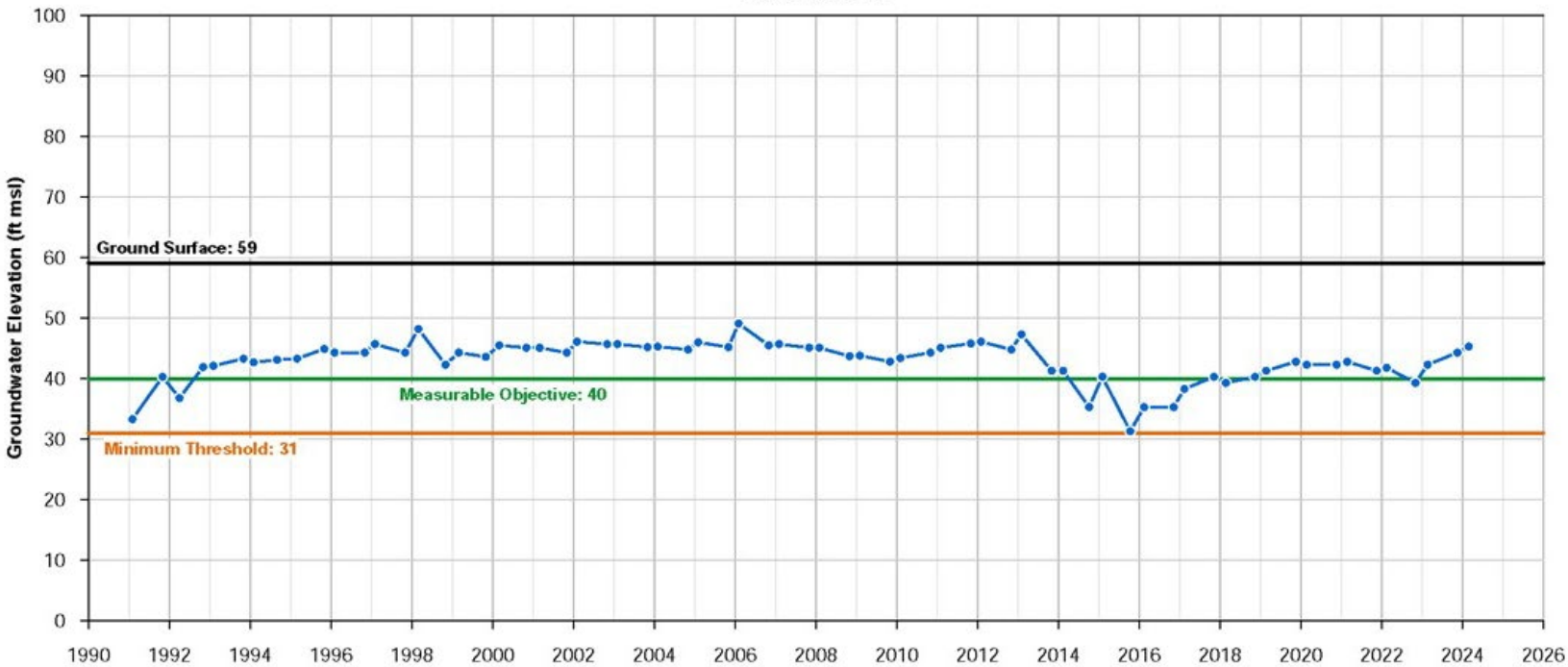
- Water levels have risen since Fall 2022.
- Spring 2024 levels above the MO.



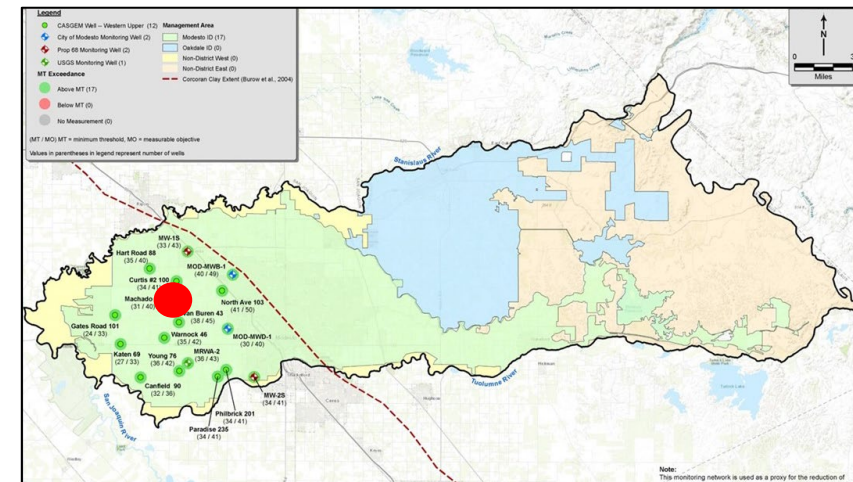
HYDROGRAPHS

WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

Machado 23

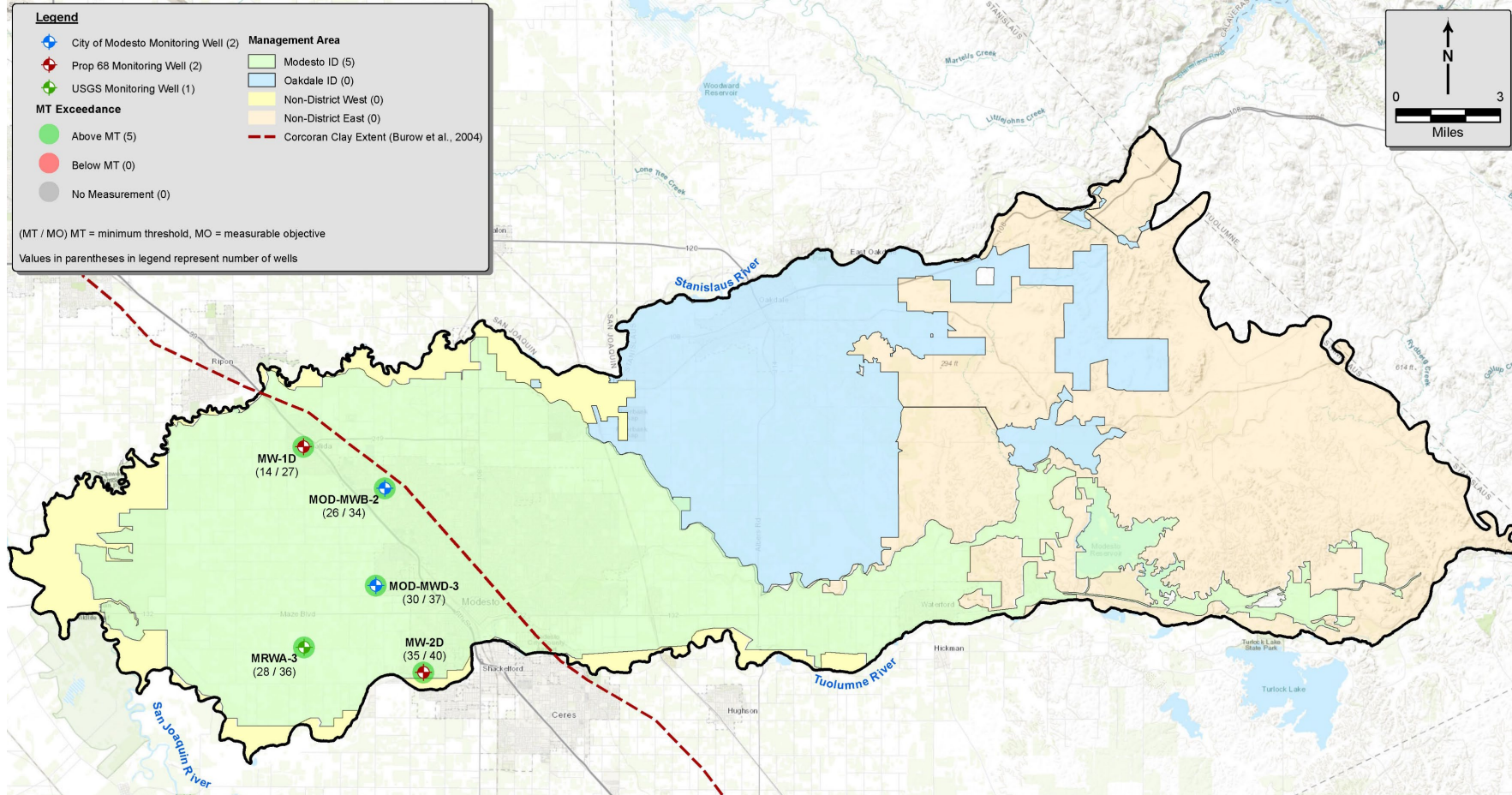


- Spring 2024 levels above the MO.
- Groundwater levels have risen since Fall 2022 throughout most of the aquifer.



SPRING 2024

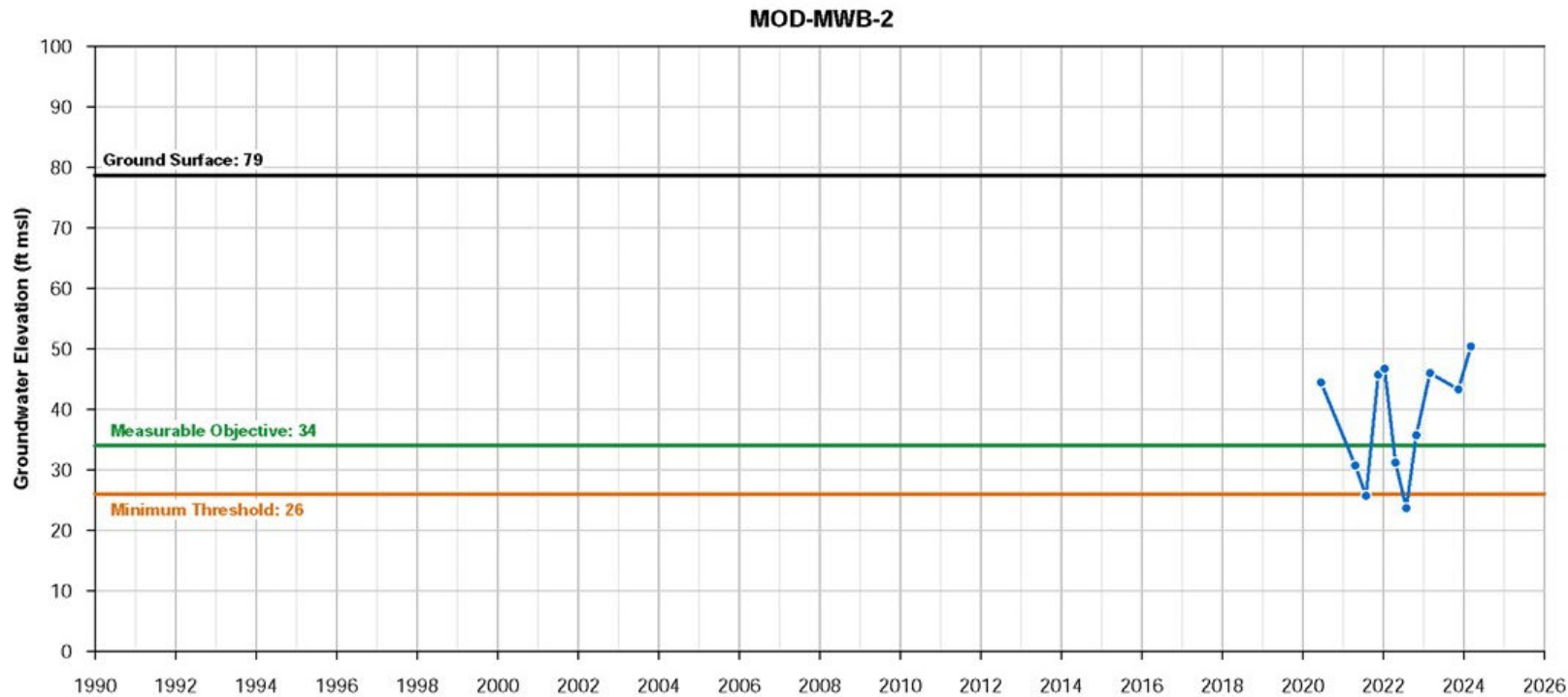
WESTERN LOWER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



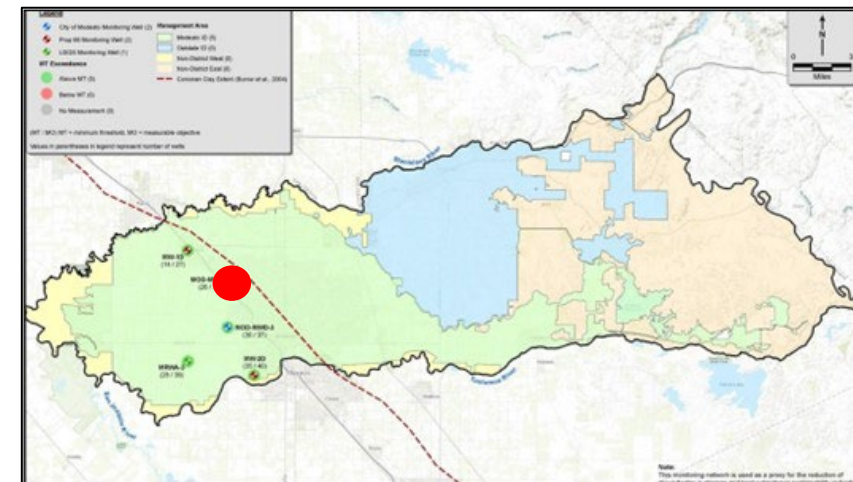
- No RMWs below MT
- Spring 2023: no wells below MT

HYDROGRAPHS

WESTERN LOWER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

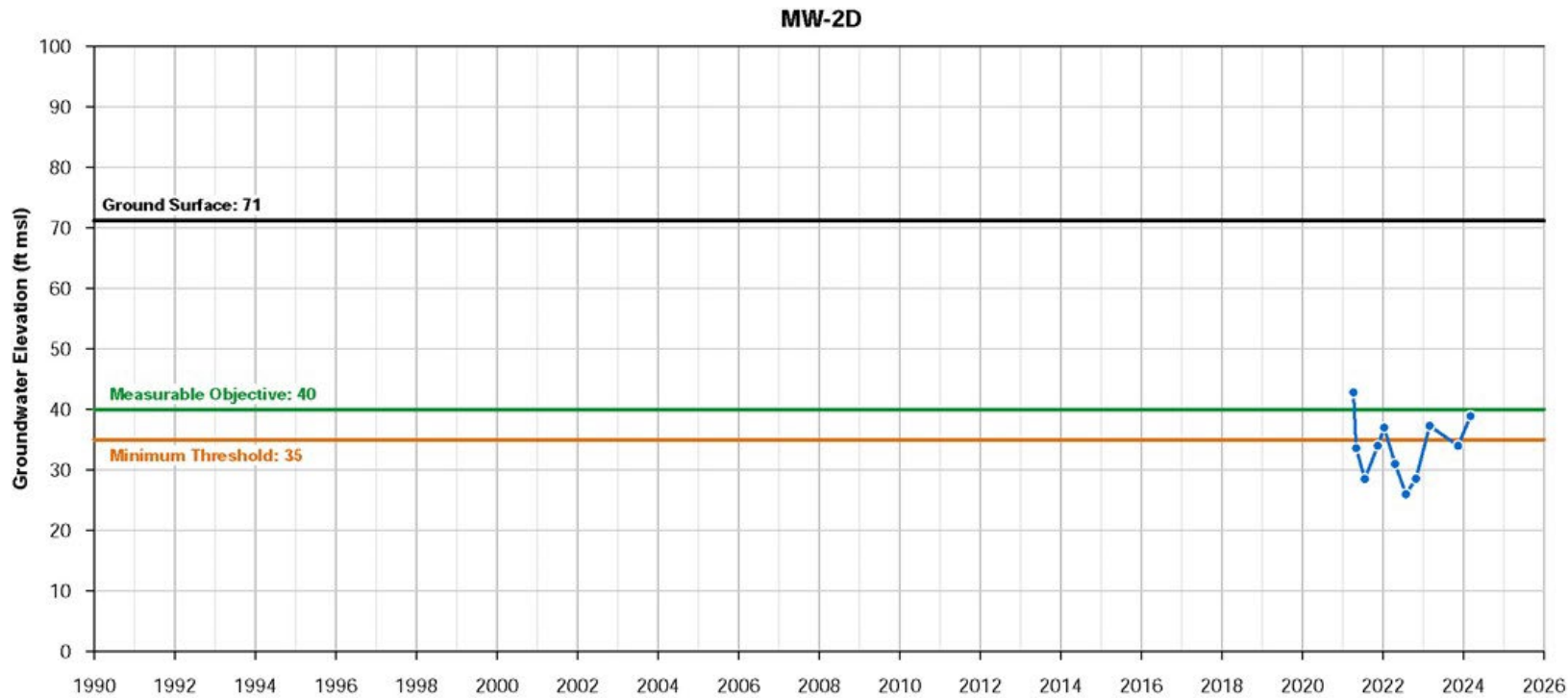


- Spring 2024 groundwater level is highest measured level since well was constructed and first measured in 2020.

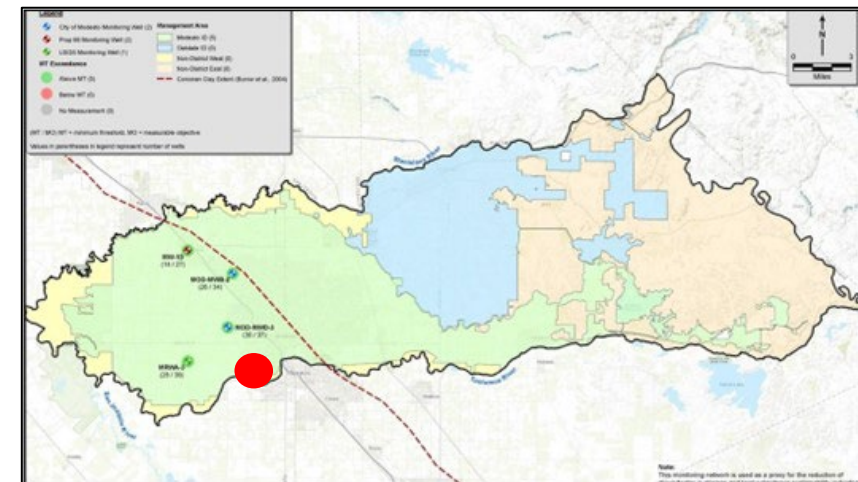


HYDROGRAPHS

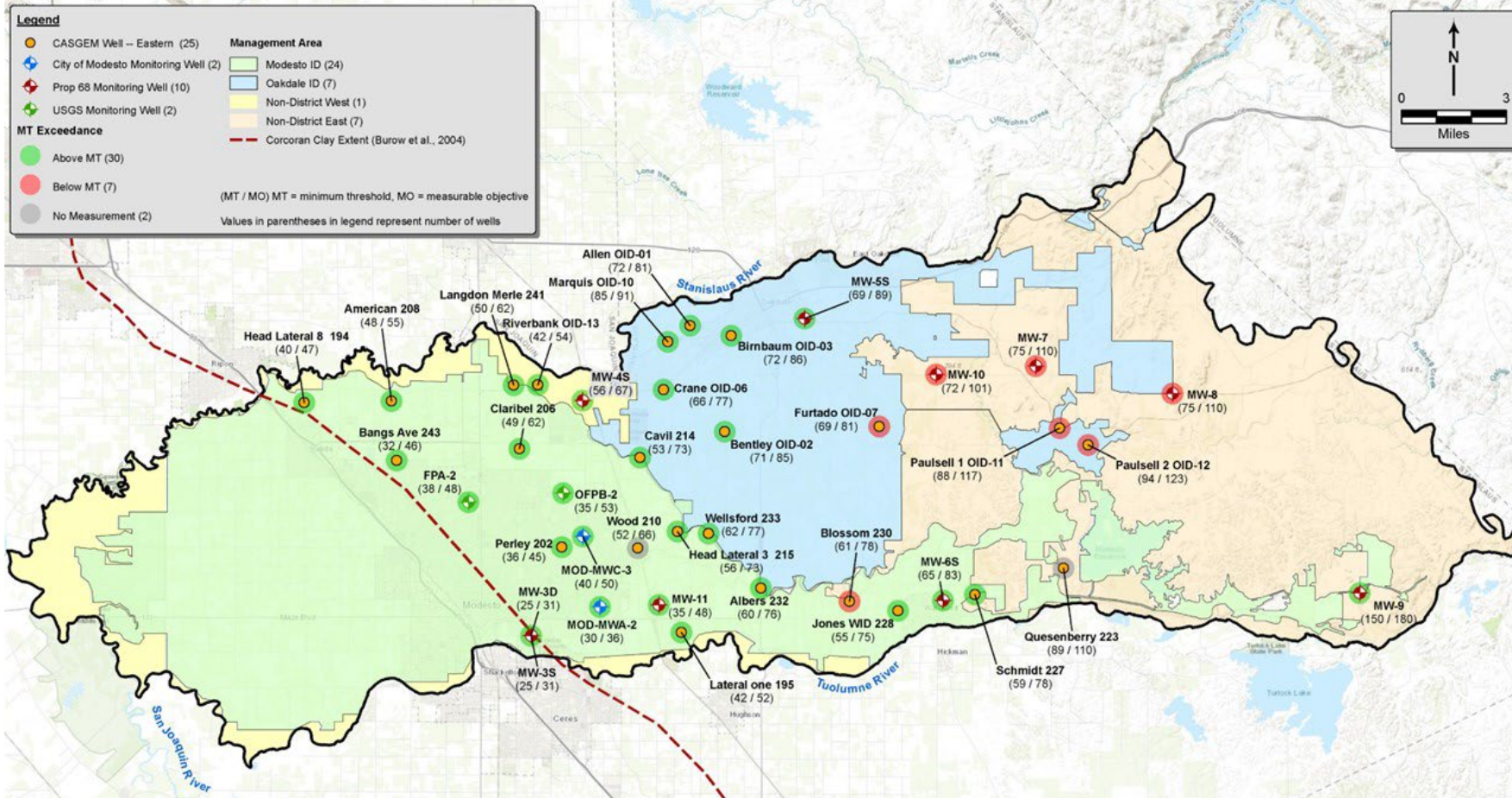
WESTERN LOWER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



- Spring 2024 groundwater level is above the MT.
- Higher than Spring 2023.



SPRING 2024 EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



19% of RMWs below MT

- 30 wells > MT
- 7 wells < MT
- 2 wells not monitored

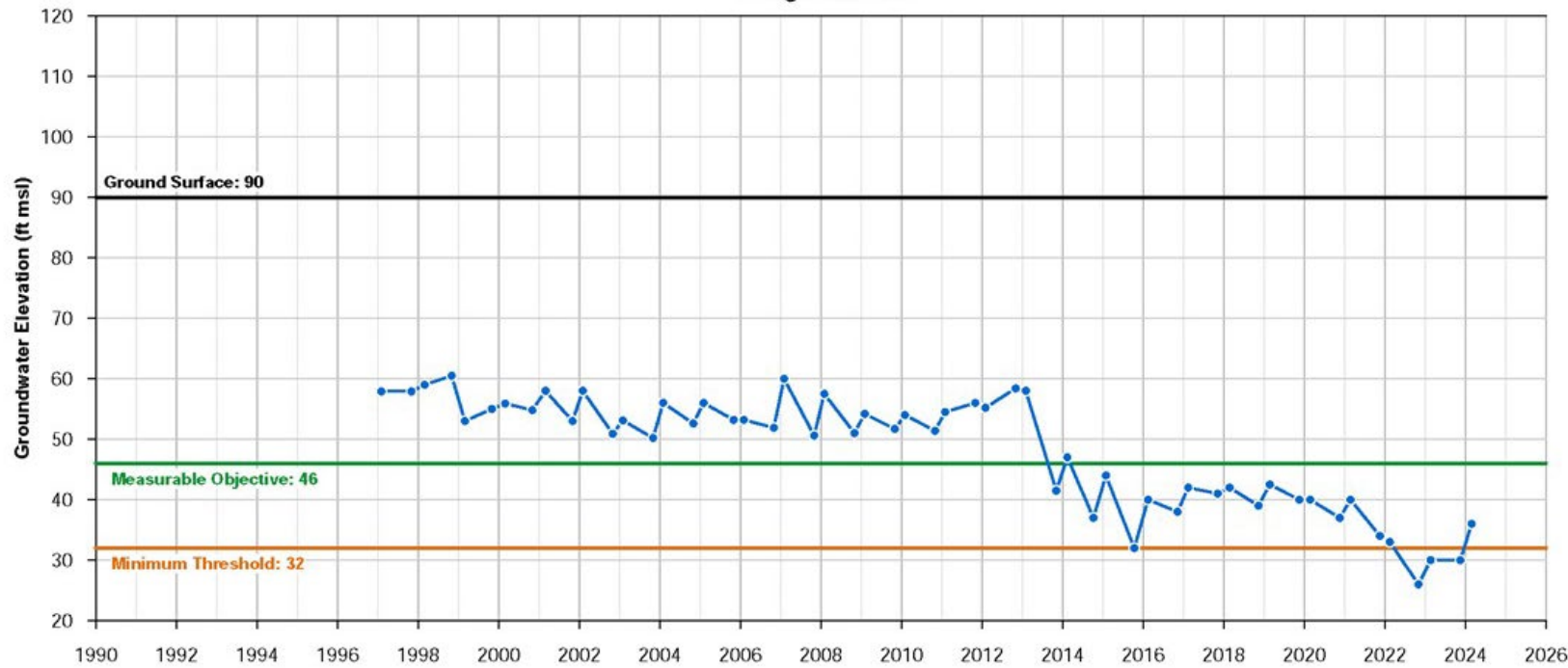
14 RMWs have IMs (13 above and 1 NM)

Spring 2023: 12 wells (32%) were below MT

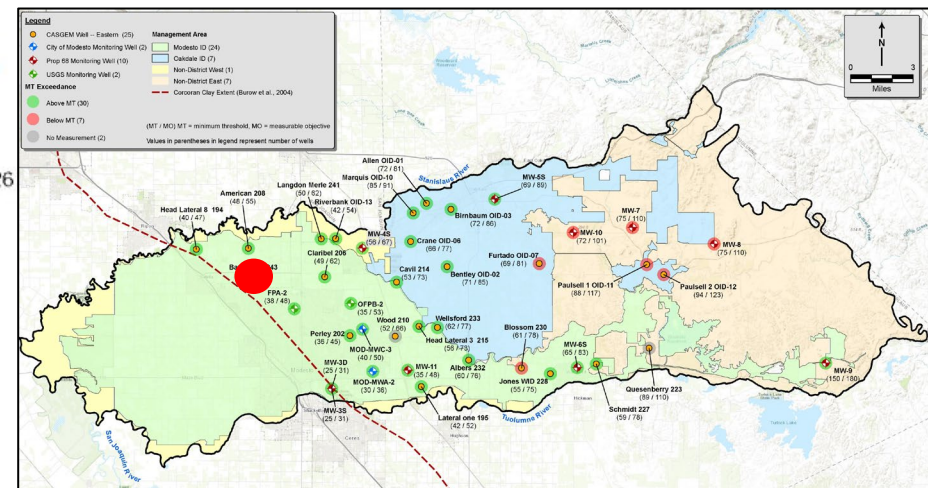
HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

Bangs Ave 243



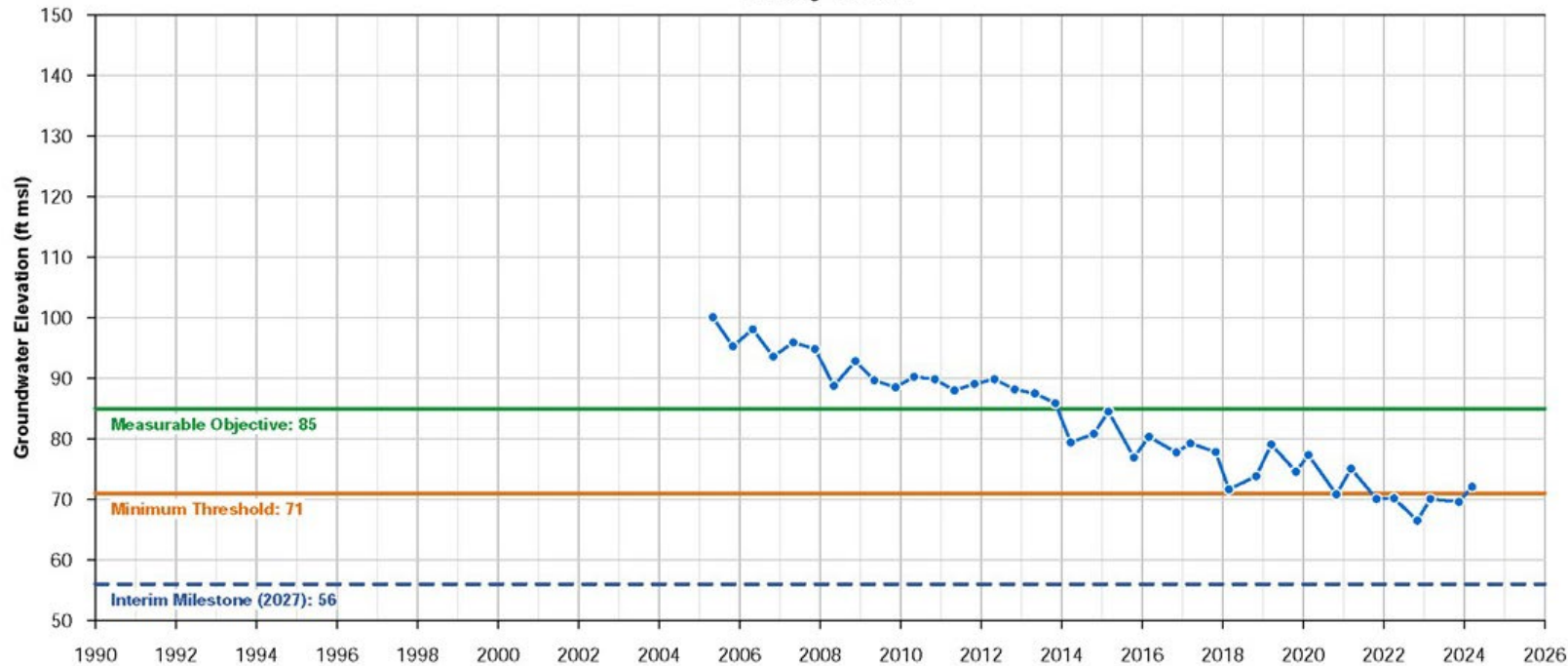
- Spring 2024 groundwater level is above the MT for first time since Spring 2022.



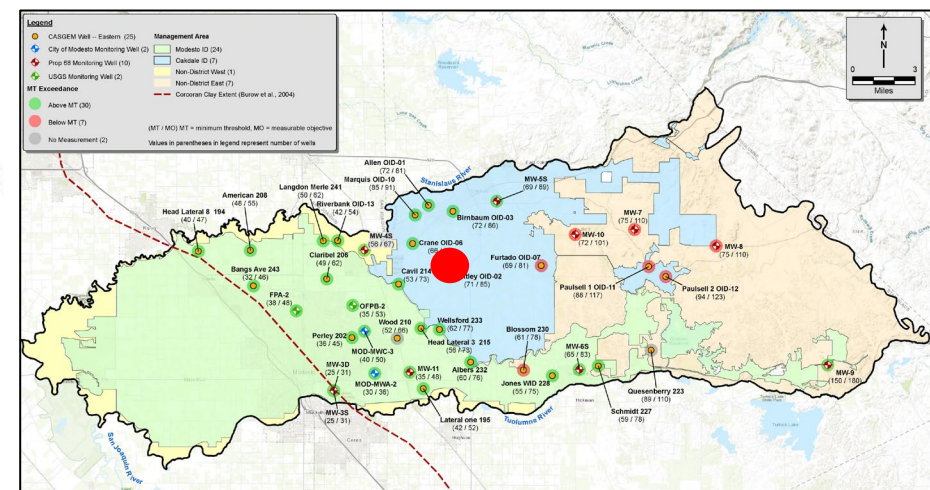
HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

Bentley OID-02



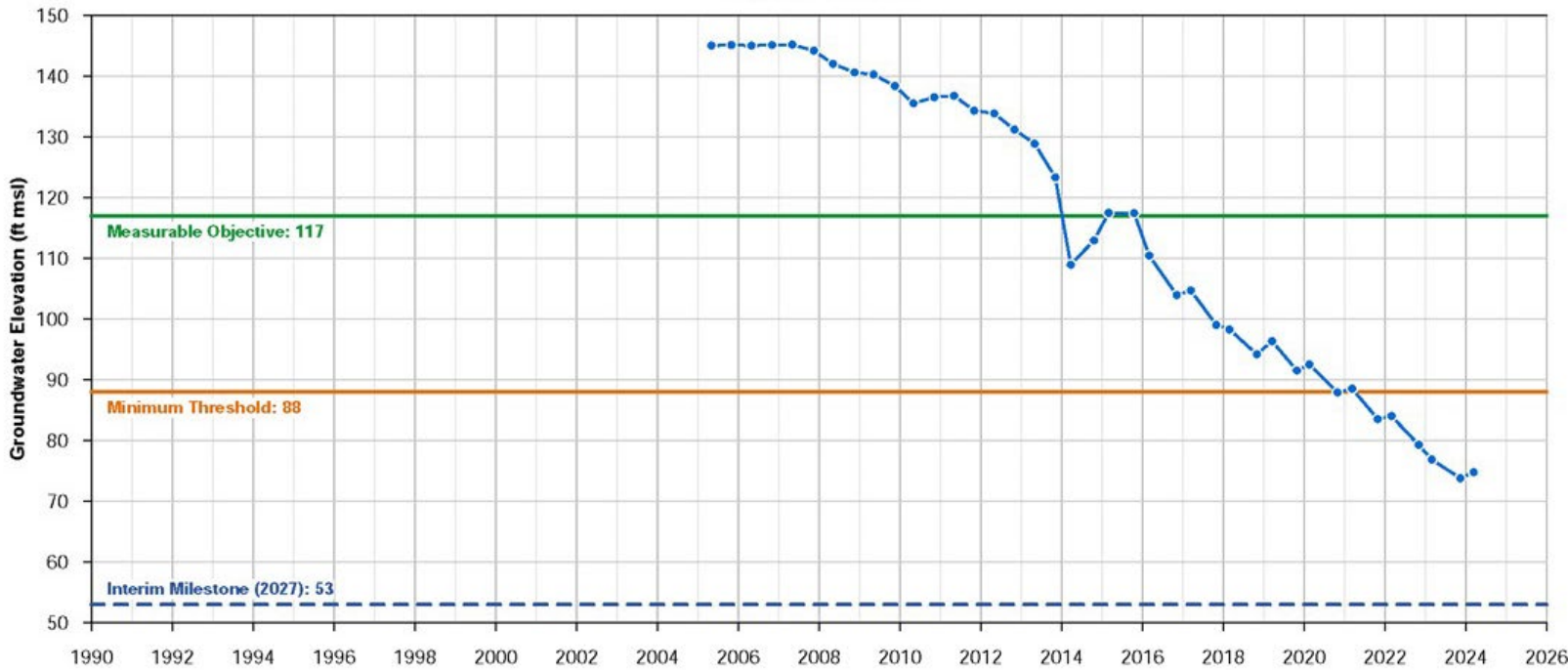
- Spring 2024 groundwater level is above the MT for the first time since Spring 2021.



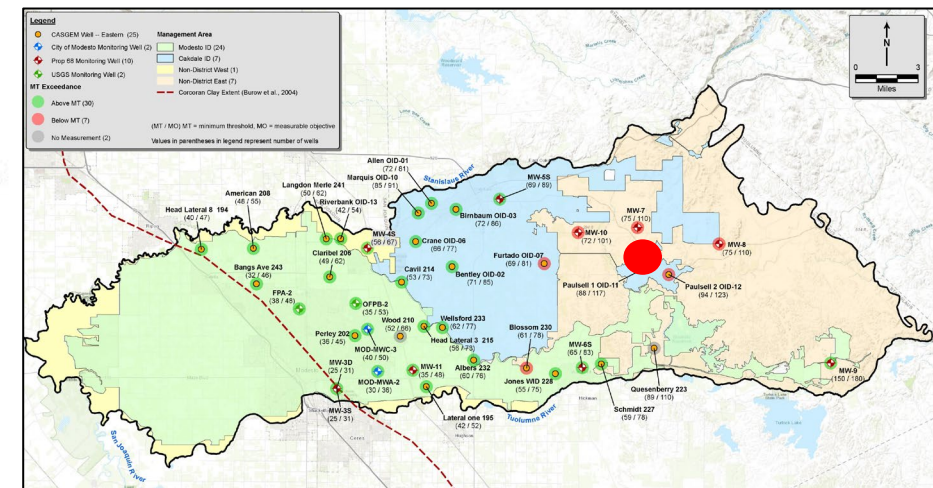
HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

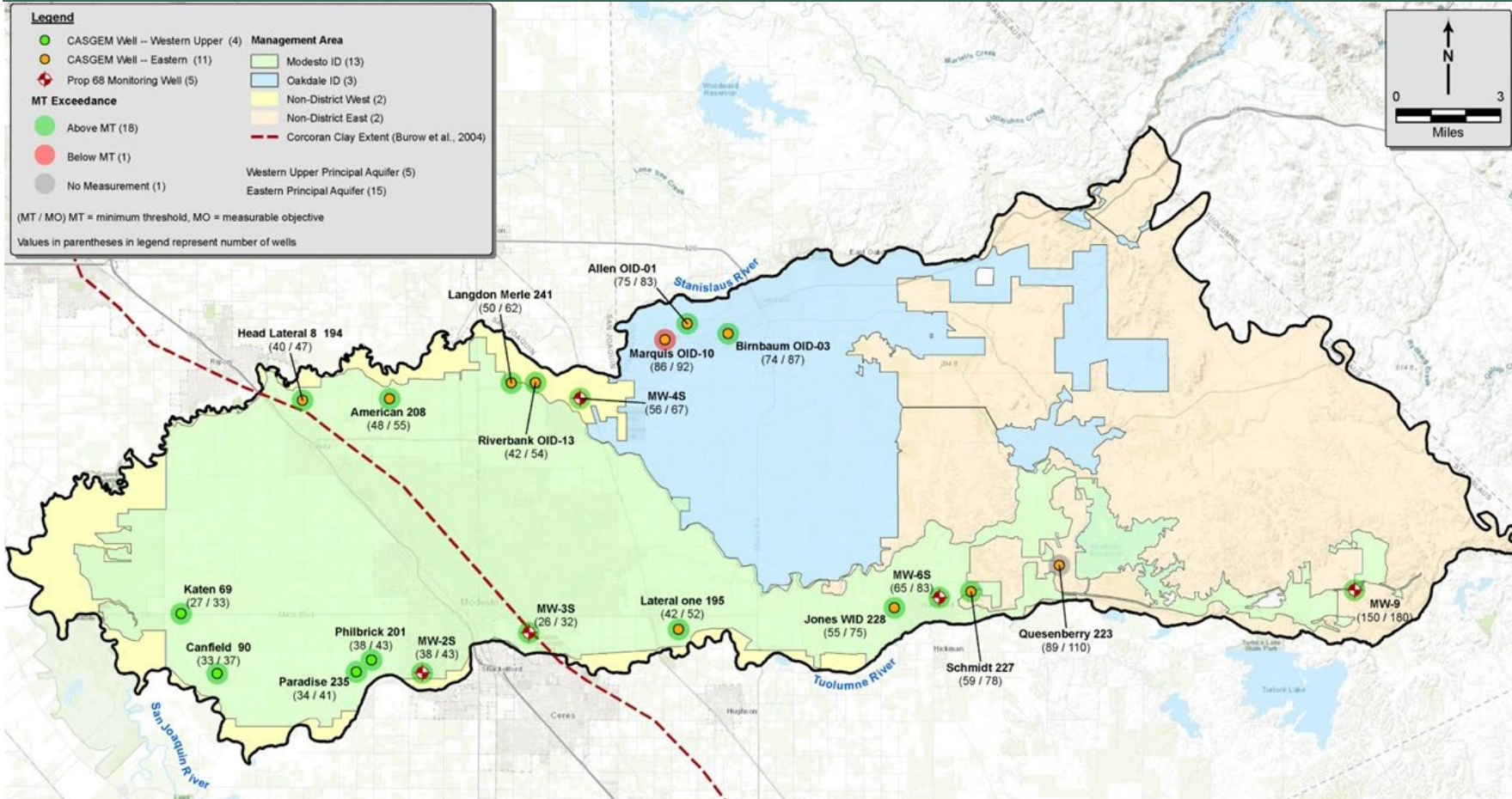
Paulsell 1 OID-11



- Groundwater level rose slightly since Fall 2023.
- This interrupts steady decline since Spring 2022.



SPRING 2024 INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



San Joaquin River

- 0 of 2 below MT (0% below MT)
- Spring 2023: same

Stanislaus River

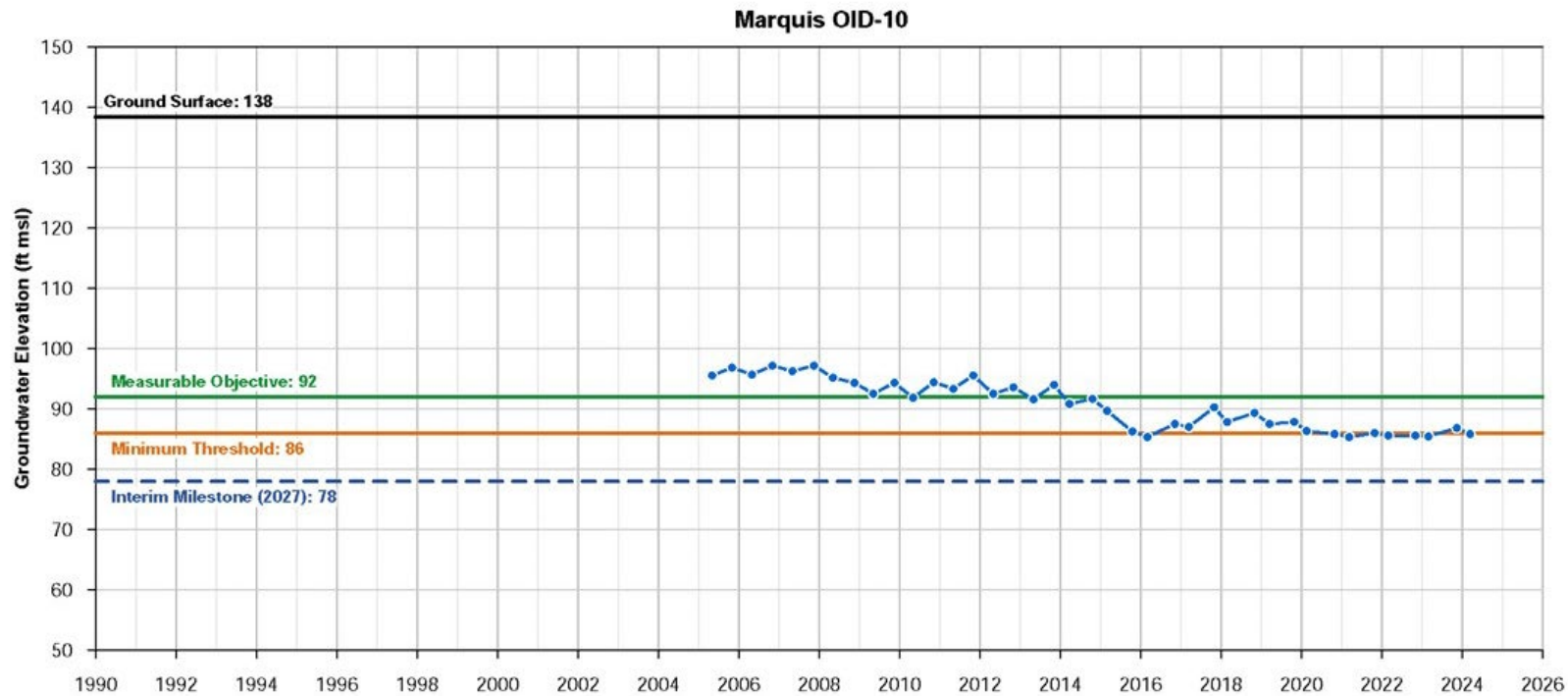
- 1 of 7 below MT (13% below MT)
- Spring 2023: 25% below

Tuolumne River

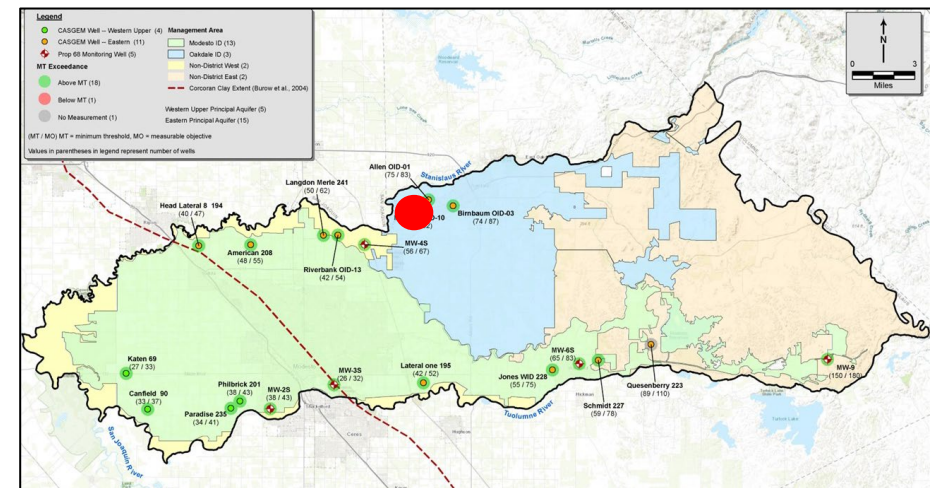
- 0 of 9 below MT (0% below MT)
- Spring 2023: 22% below

HYDROGRAPHS

INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



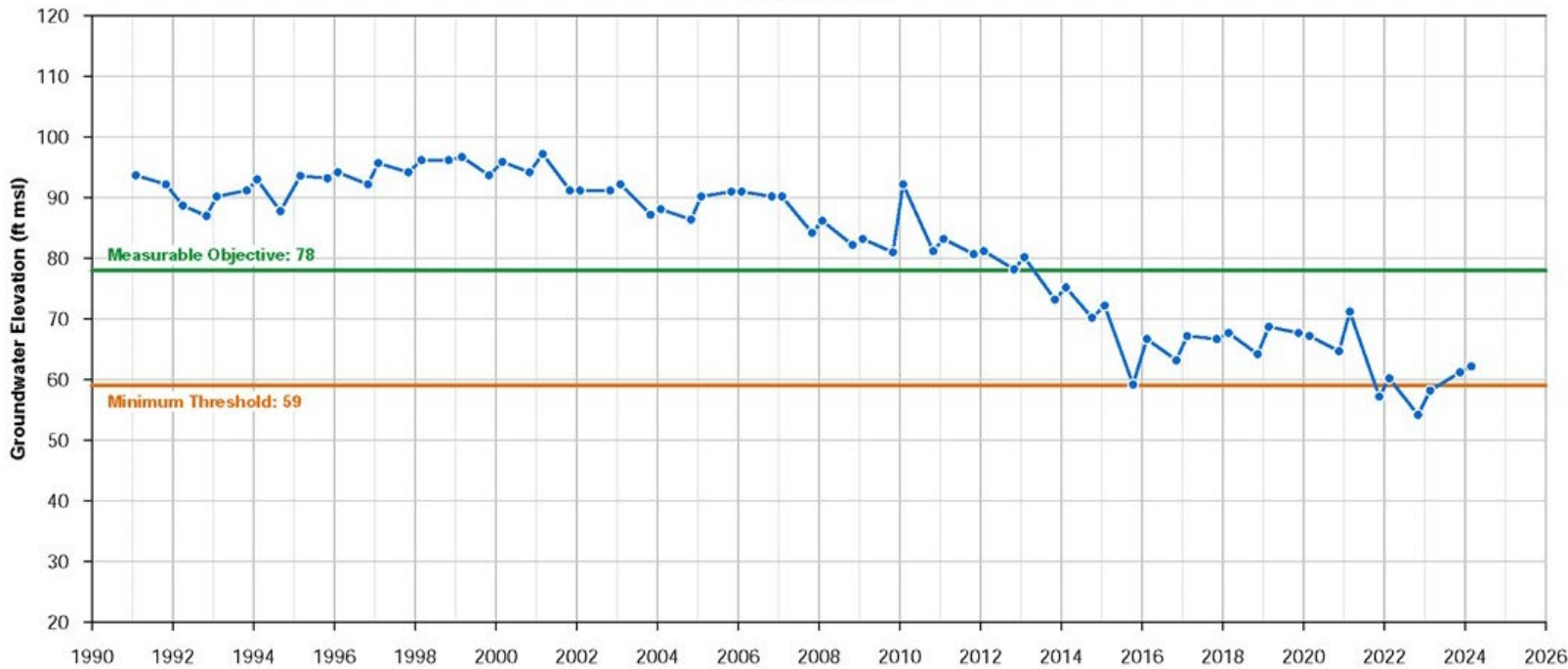
- Spring 2024 level is slightly below the MT.
- This is the only well in the ISW network below the MT in Spring 2024.



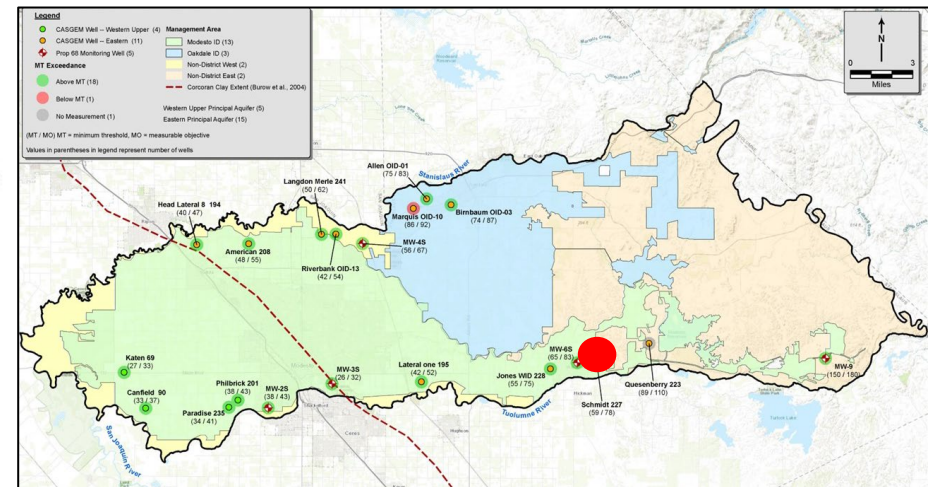
HYDROGRAPHS

INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER

Schmidt 227



- Spring 2024 level is above the MT.
- Groundwater levels continue to rise since Fall 2022.



SUMMARY

- Spring 2024 groundwater levels showed positive effects of another wet year.
- Groundwater levels have risen since Fall 2023, and in much of the Subbasin continue to rise since Fall 2022.
- Groundwater elevation increases are less in the eastern Subbasin.
- Spring MT exceedances do not count towards definition of undesirable results.
- No wells are below IMs.

Next Step: Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 groundwater elevations will be the basis for the next annual report (WY 2024).



QUESTIONS?