



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

## WELL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKSHOP AGENDA

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903668157>

By phone: 1-669-900-9128

Webinar ID: 899 0366 8157

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Instructions for Participating in the Workshop 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 on 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:** Modesto Irrigation District Board Room, 1231 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto



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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 GSA's jurisdiction. Matters presented under this heading may be discussed but no action will be taken by the GSA 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: Well Mitigation Program  
Who: Todd Groundwater/Self-Help Enterprises, Committee  
Expected Outcome: Discussion
4. Next workshop  
To be determined
5. Committee Comments/Reports



# MODESTO SUBBASIN GSP WELL MITIGATION PROGRAM

WORKSHOP 2

MAY 28, 2025



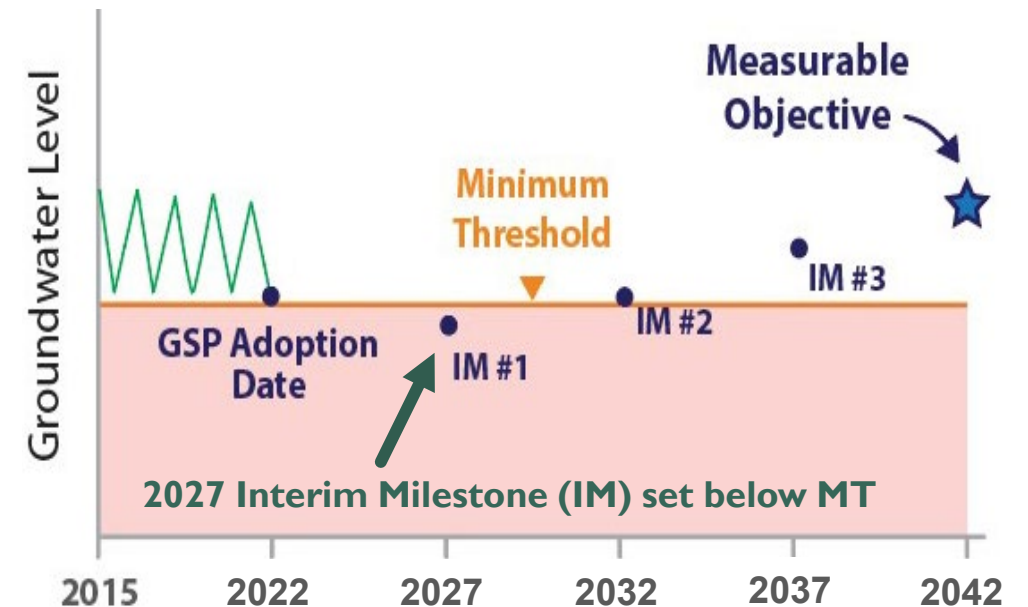
# WHY DO WE NEED A WELL MITIGATION PROGRAM?

- Long-term groundwater level declines have occurred in the Non-District East Management Area and propagated into OID and MID Management Areas.
- 2027 Interim Milestones below the Minimum Threshold were developed for monitoring network wells within these two management areas.
- Groundwater levels are anticipated to decline before recovering as a result of projects and management actions.
- DWR requires that GSA provide mitigation for affected wells.
- Revised GSP includes an analysis of potential impacts to water supply wells due to groundwater levels decreasing to minimum thresholds (MTs) and reaching interim milestones (IMs).

# INTERIM MILESTONES (IMs)

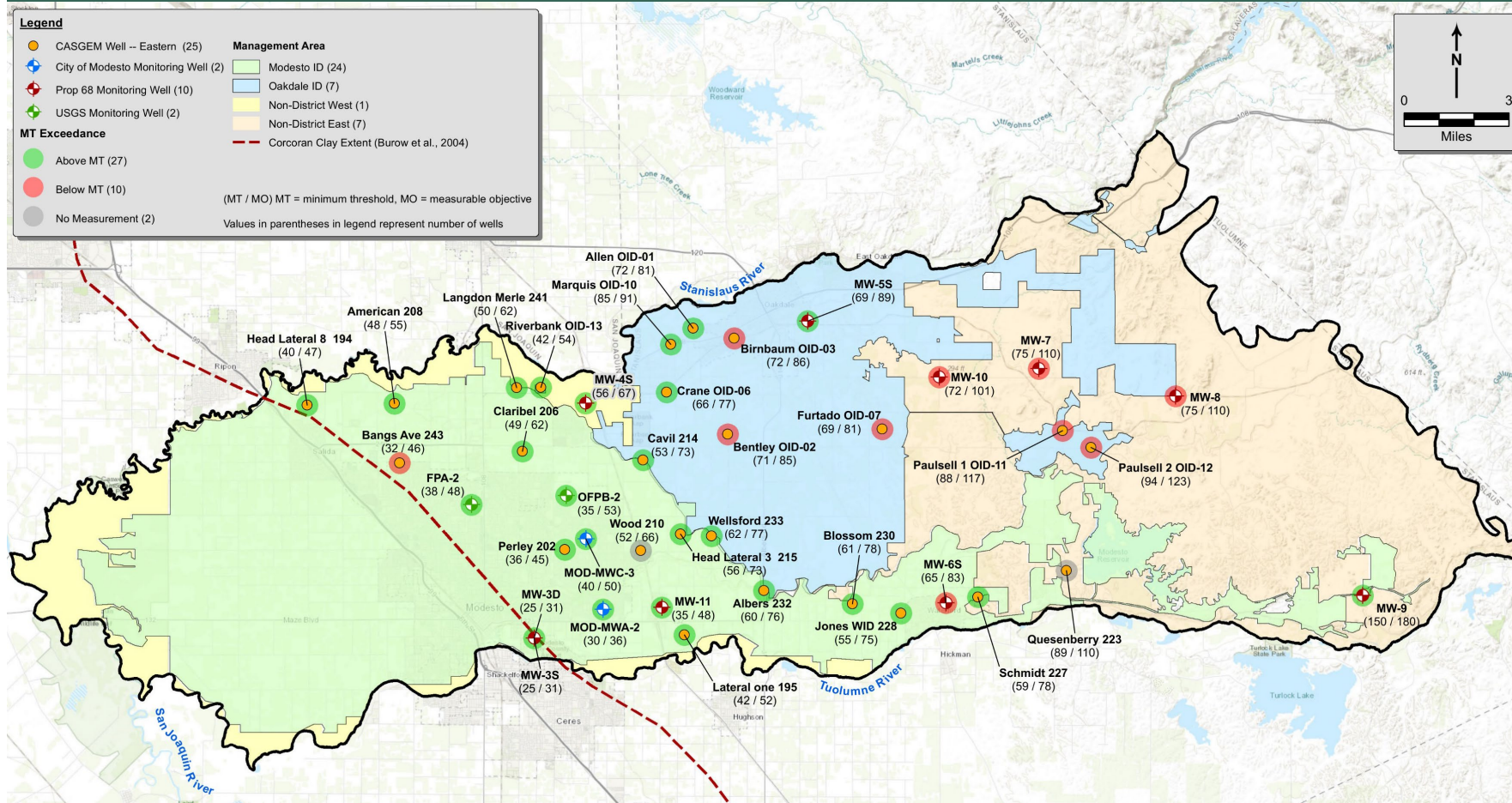
- MT Exceedances were anticipated;
  - Dry conditions continued through WY 2022
  - Water levels continue to decline in eastern RMWs
- Projects and Management Actions will take time to support MT water levels
- Significant declining trends were expected to continue
- Accordingly, 2027 IMs designated below the MTs for some wells

SGMA allows GSAs to define *Interim Milestones* as a “glide path” to sustainable management





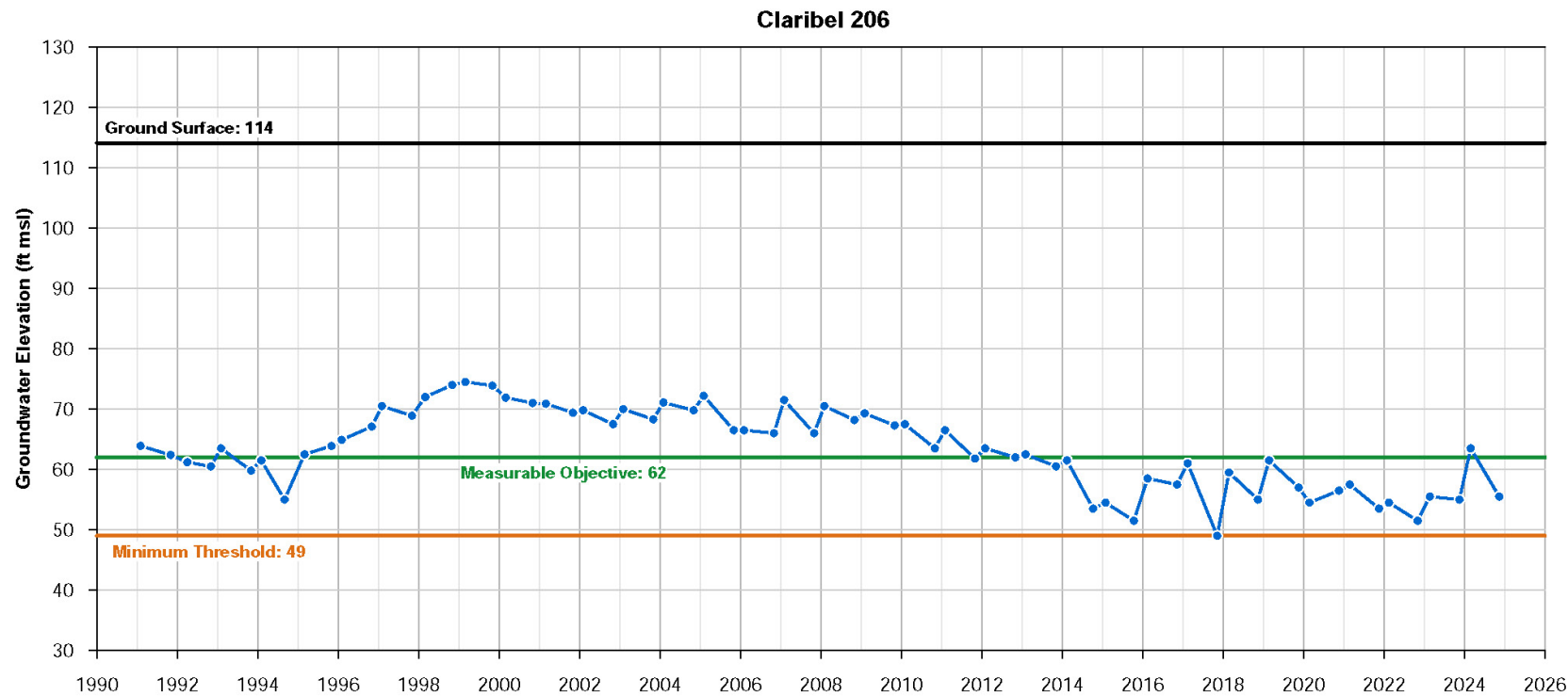
# FALL 2024 GROUNDWATER LEVELS EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



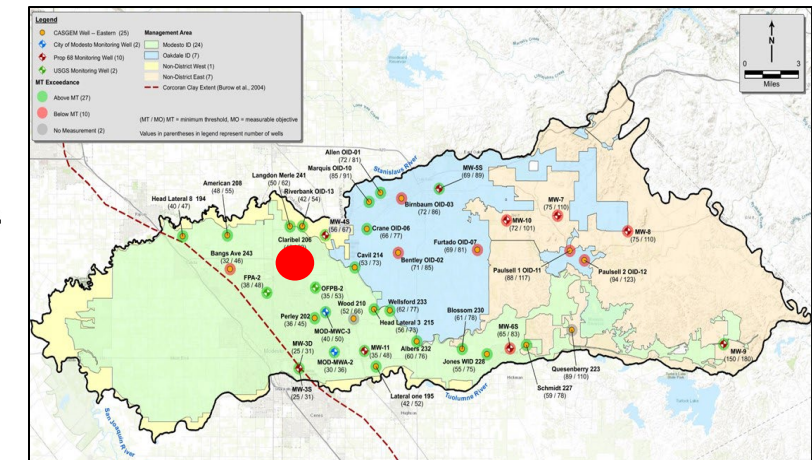
- 27% of RMWs below MT
  - 27 wells > MT
  - 10 wells < MT
  - 2 wells not measured
- 14 RMWs have IMs (13 above and 1 NM)
- Fall 2023: 11 wells (30%) were below MT

# HYDROGRAPHS

## EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

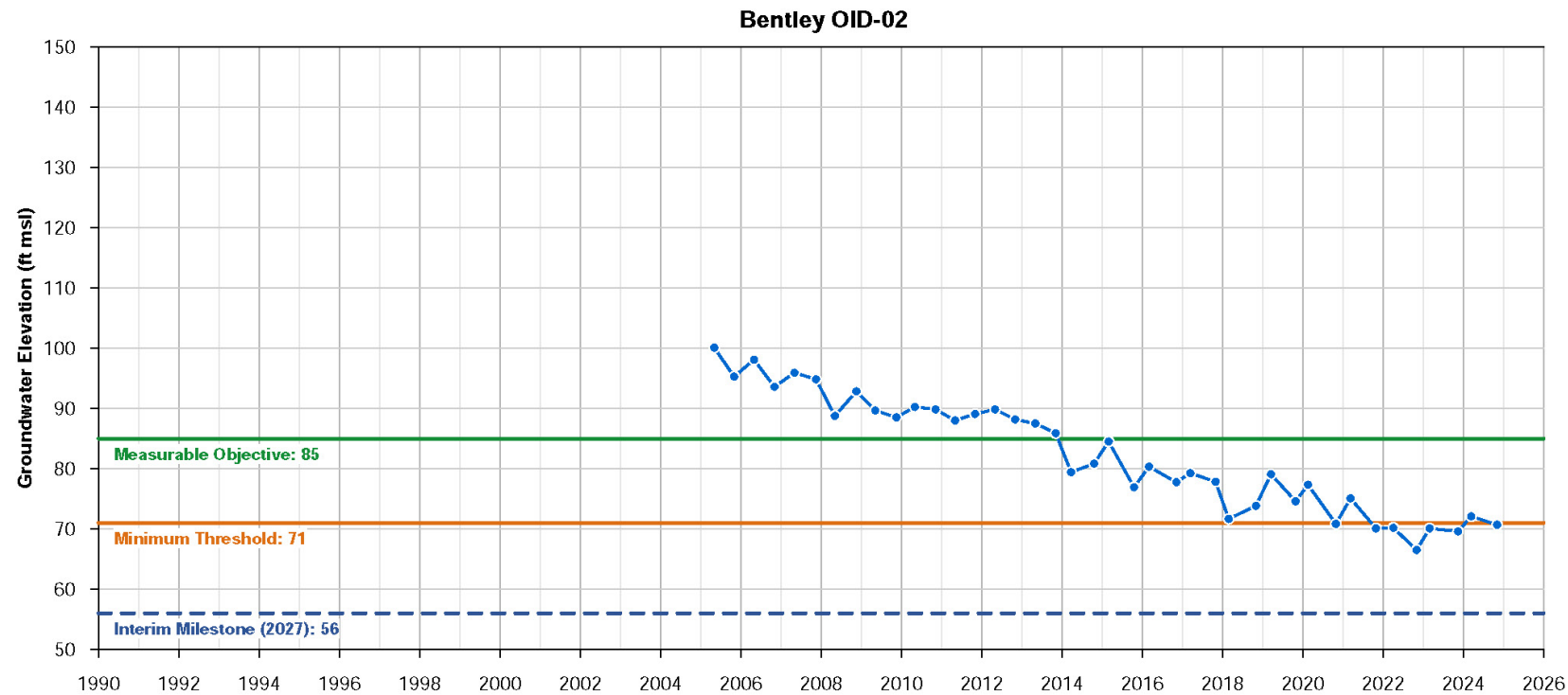


- Water levels are above the MT
- Seasonal fluctuations, but relatively stable since Fall 2014

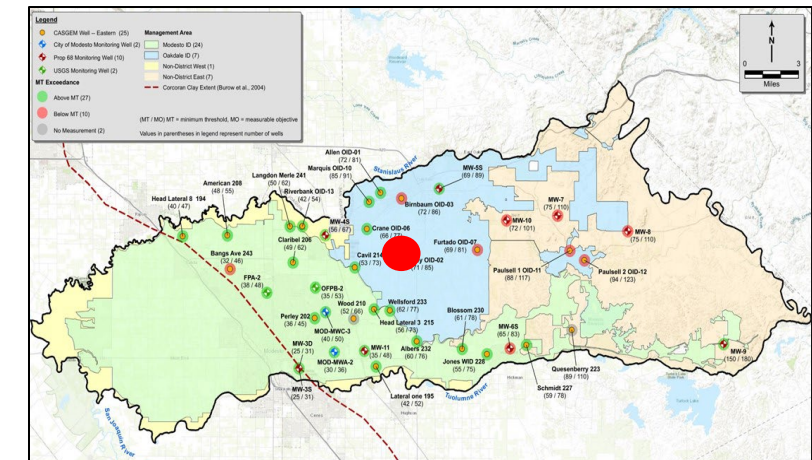


# HYDROGRAPHS

## EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



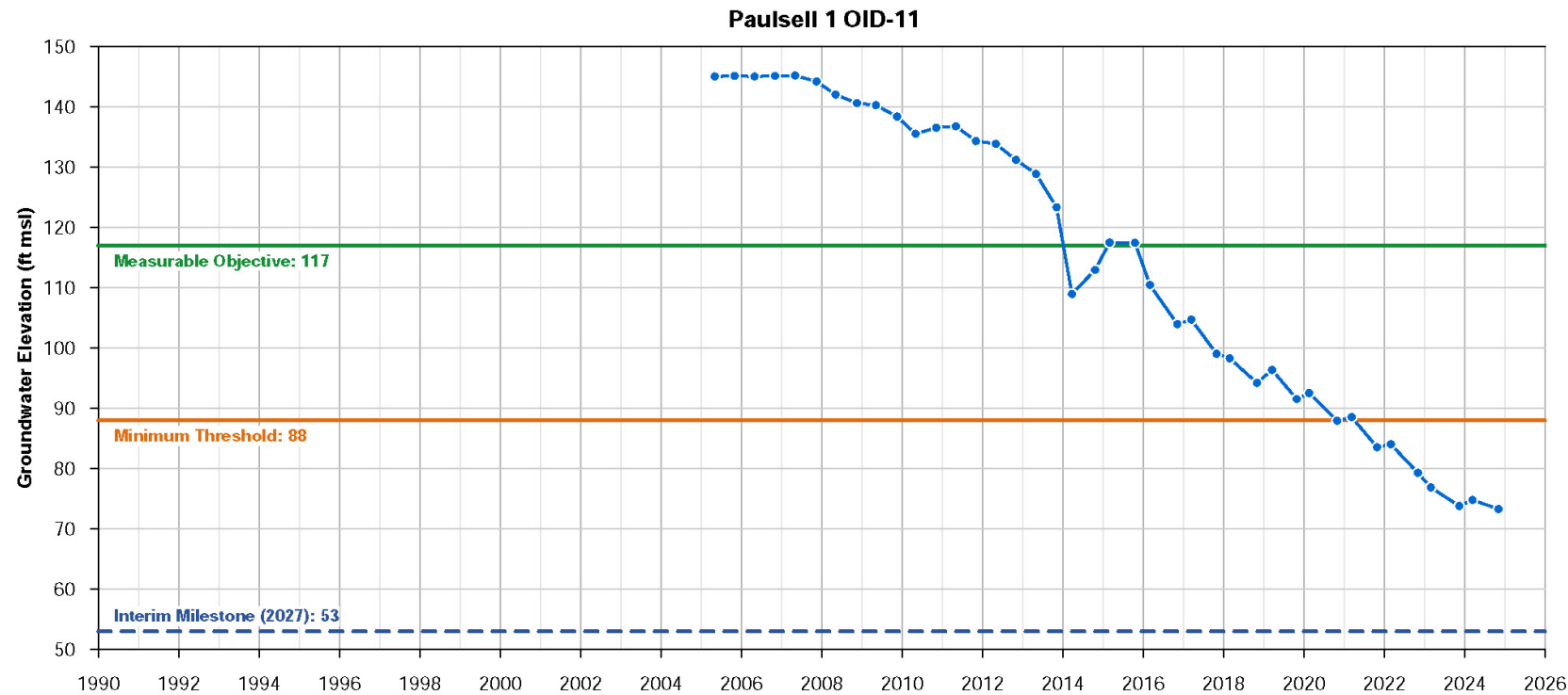
- Water level in Fall 2024 was slightly below the MT
- Overall declining trend, but relatively stable over the last two years.



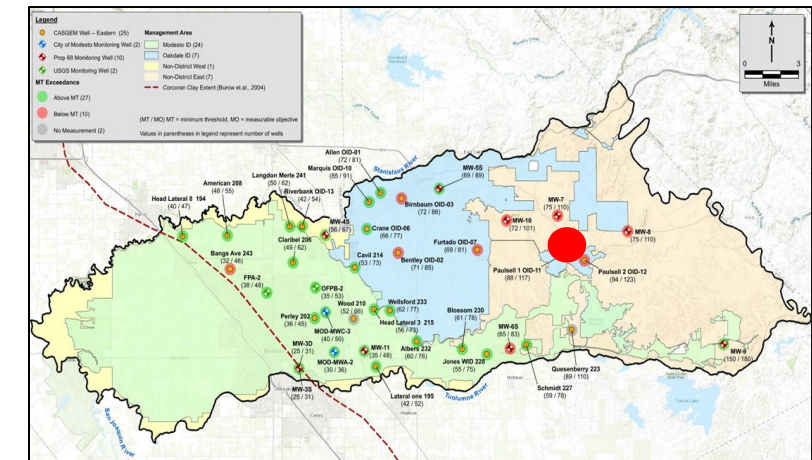


# HYDROGRAPHS

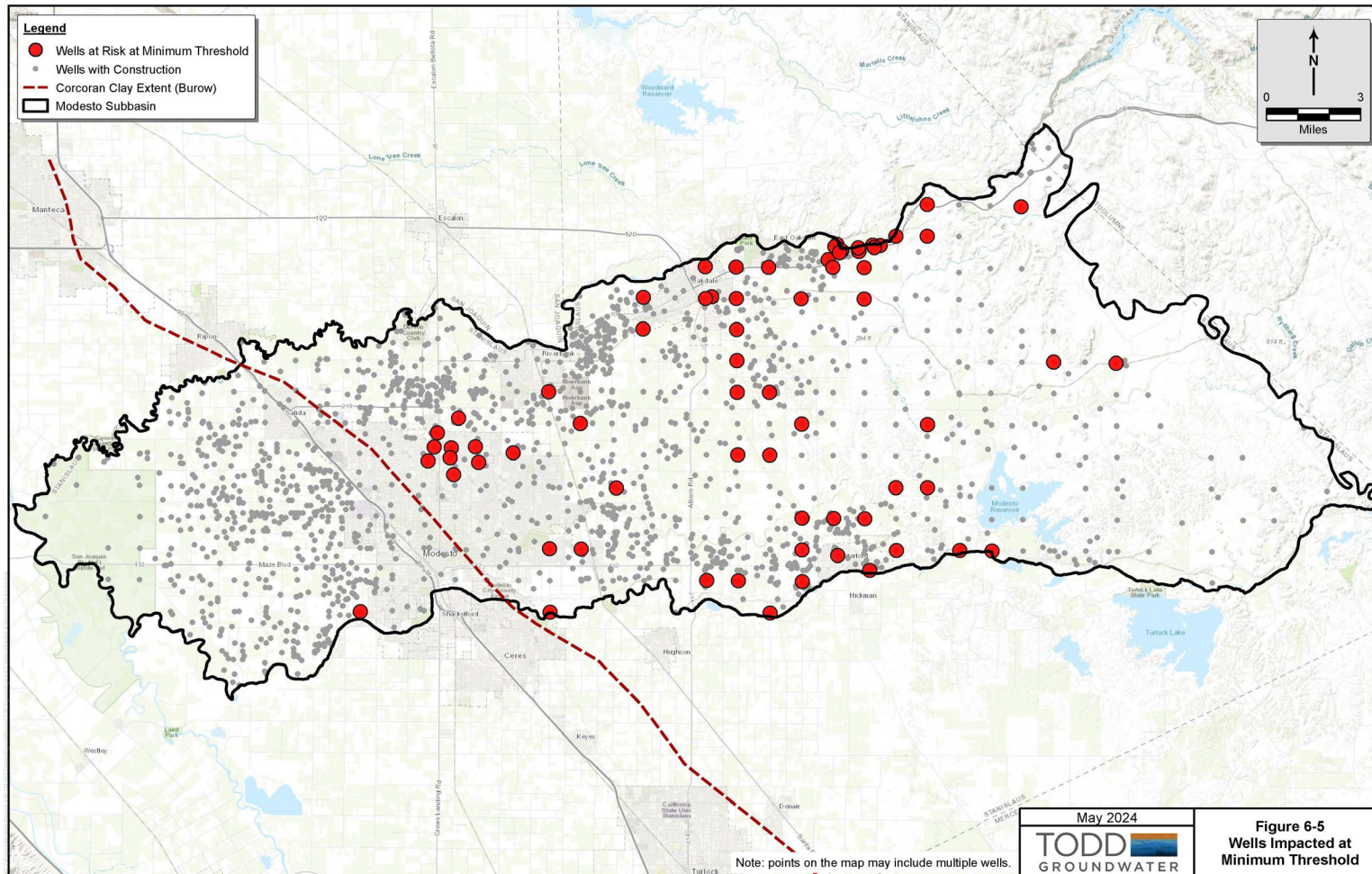
## EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



- Water level is below the MT in Fall 2024
- Eastern wells have highest rates of water level declines



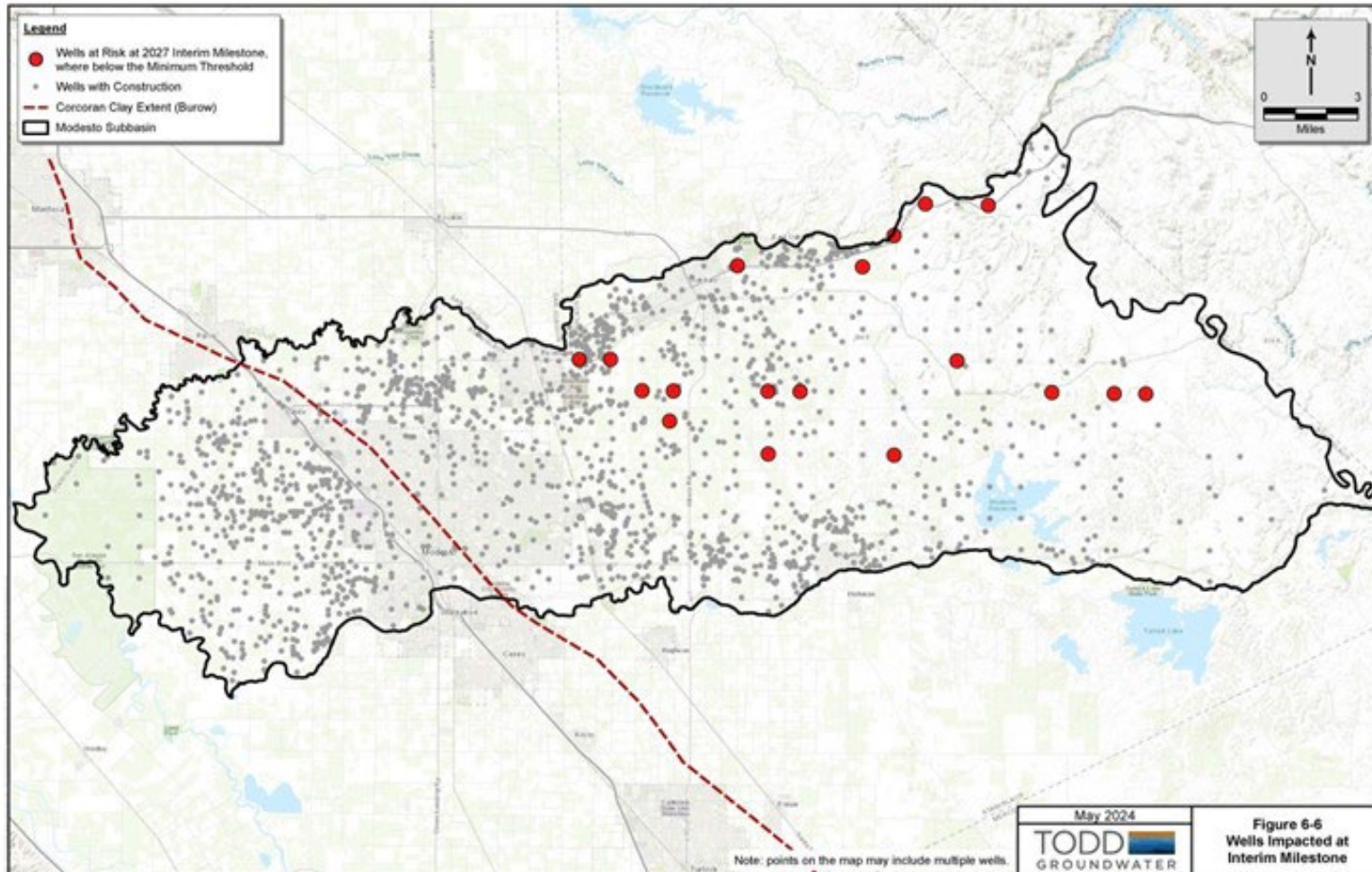
# WELLS IMPACTS ANALYSIS AT RISK AT MINIMUM THRESHOLD



- Analysis includes 4,563 water supply wells (municipal, industrial, domestic, and agricultural)
- Analysis includes all water supply wells with construction information, regardless of well age or status
- Compared MT and IM elevations at the RMWs to total depth of water supply wells.
- 126 wells indicated to go dry when levels go below MT
  - Western Upper = 1
  - Western Lower = 0
  - Eastern = 125

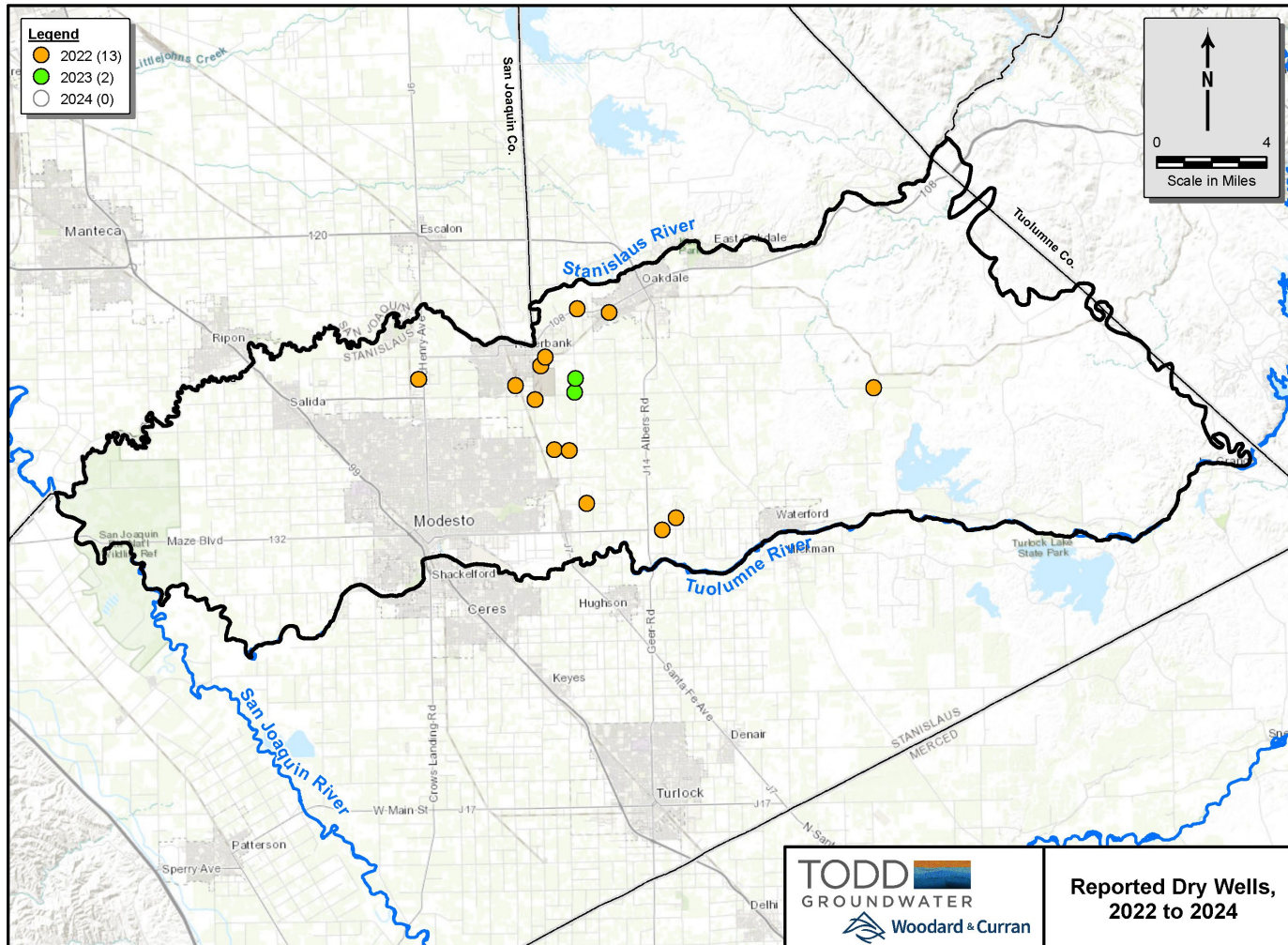


# WELLS IMPACTS ANALYSIS AT RISK AT INTERIM MILESTONE



- 29 wells indicated to go dry when levels go below MT to the IM
- 27 domestic wells
- 2 agricultural wells
- All dry wells in the Eastern Principal Aquifer
- Impacted wells are older and shallower than average age and depth of wells in the Subbasin

# HOW MANY WELLS HAVE BEEN REPORTED DRY?



- Pre-GSP Adoption:  
159 domestic wells reported dry or failed from 2014 to 2017
- Since GSP Adoption:  
15 domestic wells reported dry or failed
  - 2022: 13 wells
  - 2023: 2 wells
  - 2024: 0 wells

# WELL MITIGATION PLAN DOCUMENT

GSA is developing a plan document based on 2024 Revised GSP and review of other WMPs, for example:

- Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin
- Turlock Subbasin
- Chowchilla Subbasin
- Mid-Kaweah Subbasin
- Madera Subbasin



# WELL MITIGATION PLAN: KEY TOPICS

- Purpose of Well Mitigation Plan - what is covered and what is not.
- Dry Well Services - what are they and who provides which services.
- Application Process - generally what it is and how it will roll out.

# PURPOSE OF WELL MITIGATION PLAN

**Purpose:** to provide mitigation for drinking water wells having adverse impacts due to declining groundwater levels from groundwater management activities since the January 31, 2022, GSP Adoption.

- ✓ For domestic and small water system wells
- ✓ Due to basin management, not other problems
- ✓ Indirect impacts of water quality and subsidence have not been documented
- ✓ After January 2022

# DRY WELL SERVICES

## **Services:**

What services are provided for dry wells?

- ✓ Emergency water supply (bottled water)
- ✓ Interim short-term solutions (bottled water or filling a water tank)
- ✓ Long-term solutions (deepen pump setting, deepen well, new well, connection to a water system)

Self Help Enterprises (SHE) has substantial experience providing such services.

GSA is responsible for dry wells due to management activities and is collaborating with SHE.

# PRESENTATION BY SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES



The technical consultant team and the Committee recommend working with SHE to implement the Well Mitigation Program

Why?

- Administrative burden
- Recognize short term nature of program
- Adaptive approach to SHE involvement during program implementation

Introducing: Rhett Anderson and Lucy Bennett

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## **Application Process:**

- ✓ SHE has an initial eligibility review and application to document location, basic well/pump/facility information, right of entry, etc.
- ✓ GSA is:
  - Establishing committee(s) to administer its program
  - Coordinating with SHE on outreach
  - Developing its own process, criteria, and application to determine eligibility for dry well mitigation



# WHAT'S NEXT?

- Finish development of the Draft Well Mitigation Plan.
- Continue to coordinate with SHE?
- Develop and implement the Well Mitigation Program by January 31, 2026, per STRGBA GSA Resolution No. 2024-01 (July 2022).