Borrego Springs Watermaster Board Meeting

February 19, 2025

I. Opening Procedures

******This meeting is being recorded***

A. Call to Order and start meeting recording
B. Pledge of Allegiance
C. Roll Call
D. Approval of Agenda

II. Public Correspondence

II.A – Written Correspondence - *None*

II.B – Public Comment

Instructions for Public Comment

The public may address the Board on items within the Watermaster's Jurisdiction that are included or not included on the meeting agenda.

To address the Board on items that are not included on the meeting agenda, the public may request to speak during ***Agenda Item III – Public Correspondence***. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker.

To address the Board on items that are included on the meeting agenda, the Board Chairperson will call for public comments immediately following the agenda item's staff report presentation and prior to Board discussion.

The Board may direct staff to include topics brought forward during Public Correspondence and Comment on a future meeting agenda. No action or discussion is otherwise taken by the Board.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – January 15, 2025

B. Approval of January 2025 Financial Report

C. Receive and file Watermaster Staff invoices from December 2024 (RWG and West Yost)

IV.A Prop 68 White Paper: Towards an Integrated Watershed Scale Master Community Plan and Resilient Community

V.A Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Project

Recommended Actions:

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

None. This project is funded by DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands in Borrego Valley, California

Project Overview &

Fallowing Strategy Recommendations

February 19, 2025

Presentation to the Borrego Springs Watermaster Board
by Travis Brooks, Restoration Ecologist, Land IQ

LAND IQ

UCI Nature



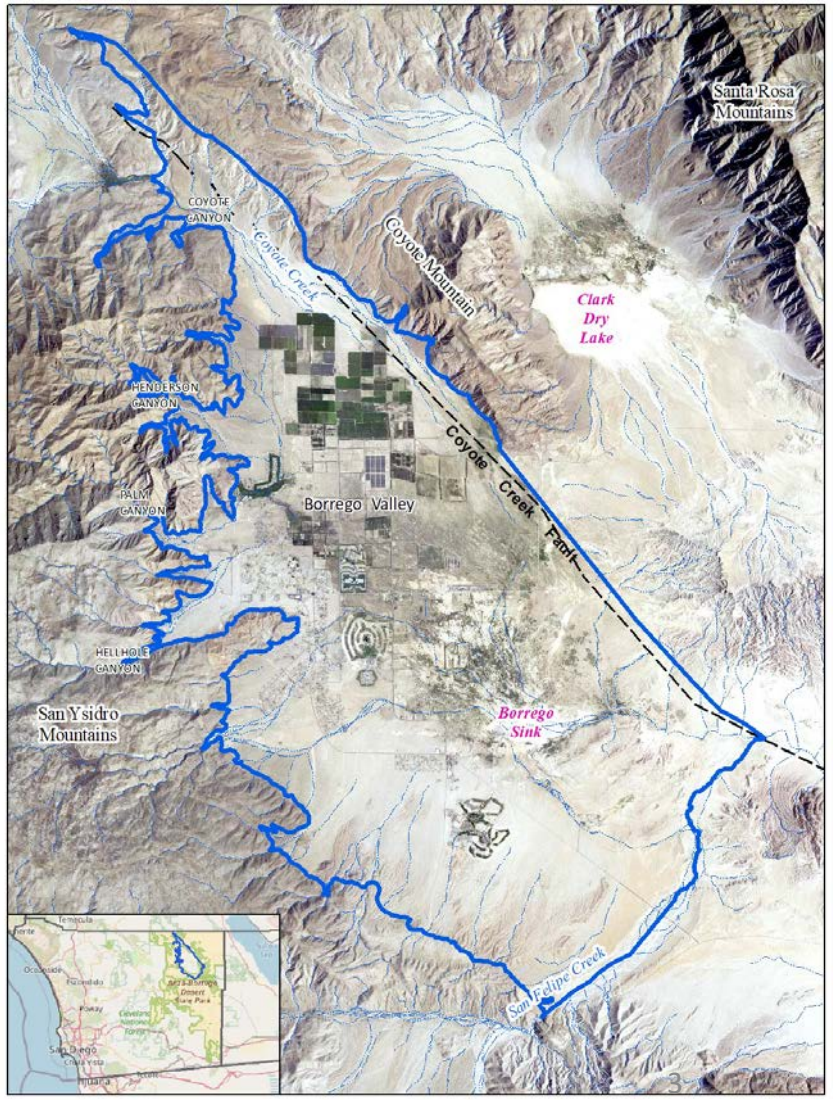






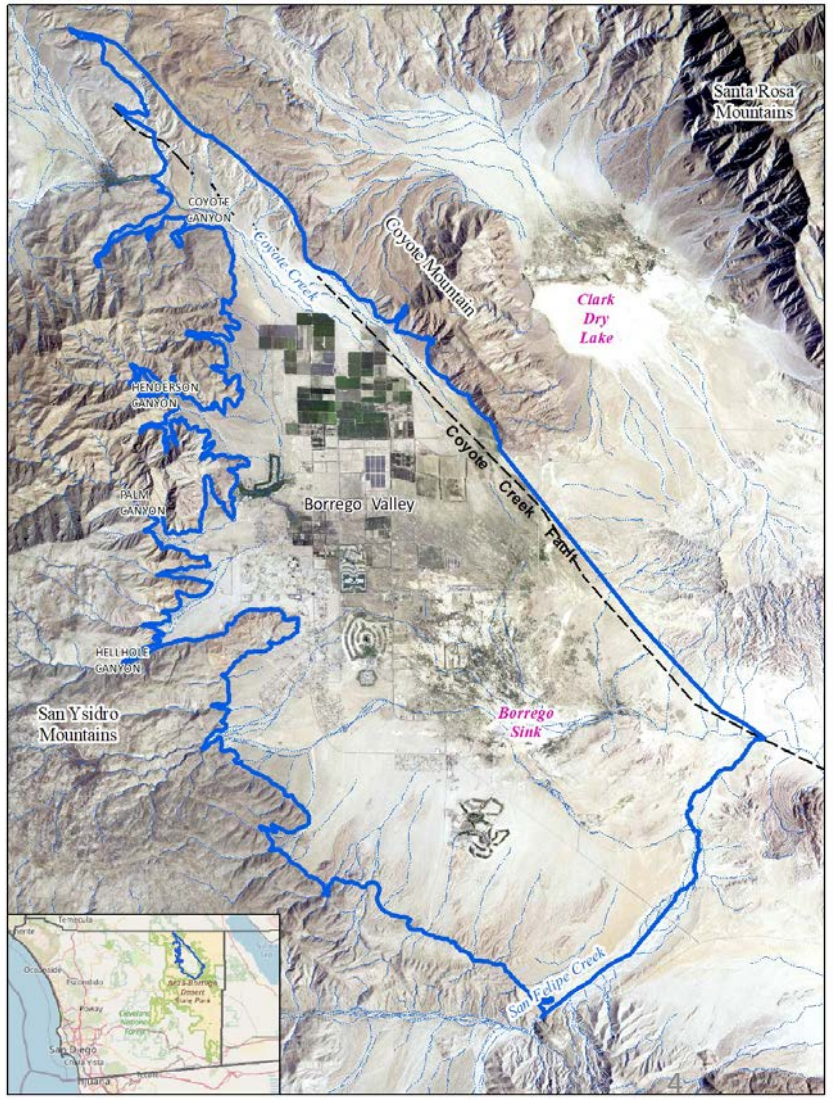
Background

- **Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin**
  Sole water source for Borrego Springs and surrounding areas
- **Groundwater rights adjudication**
  Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) and Judgment
- **Borrego Springs Watermaster**
  Responsible for managing and implementing the GMP

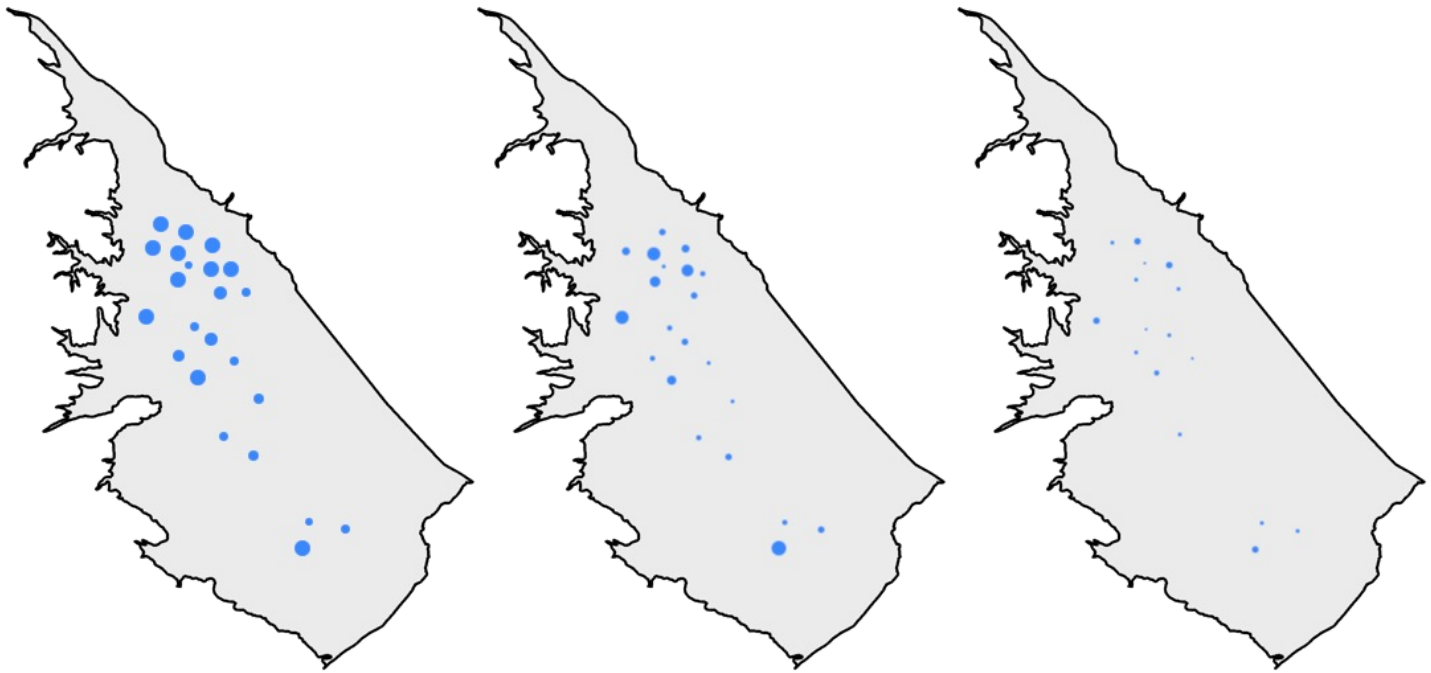


Background

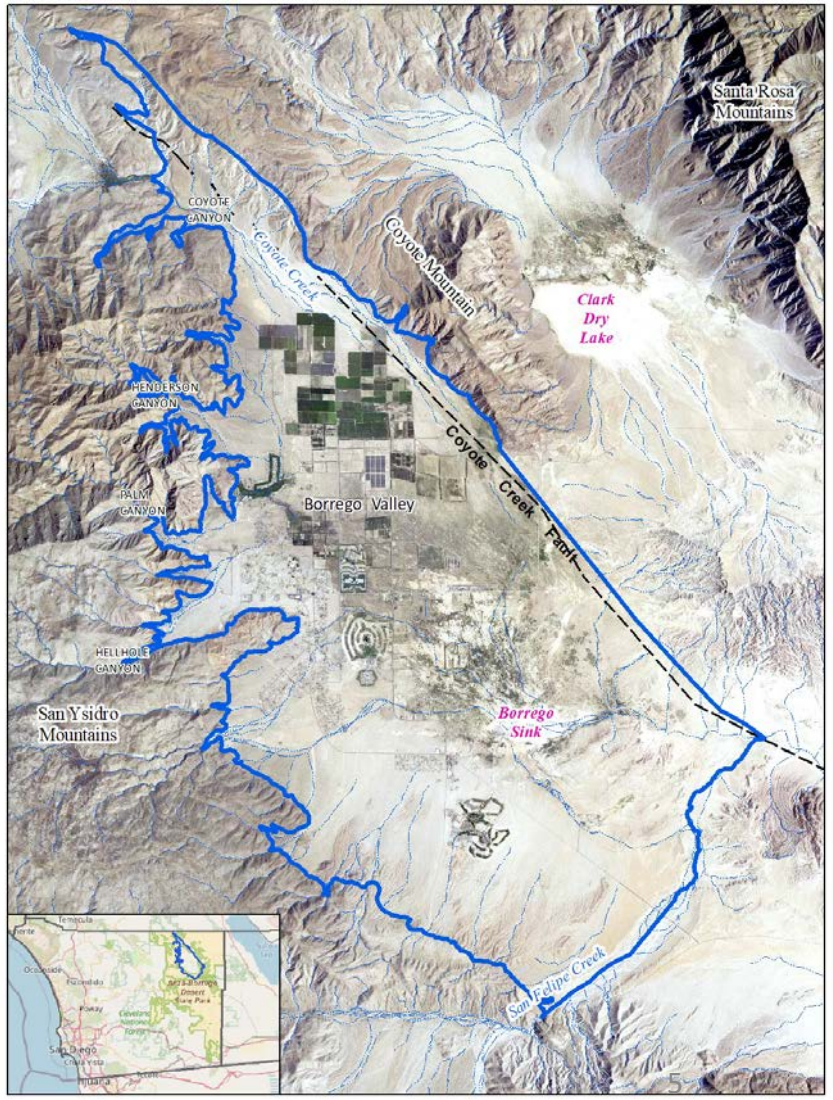
- **GMP Purpose**
  Maintain a viable water supply for current and future users
- **Sustainability Goal**
  Operate the Basin within sustainable yield by 2040 with a ~75% reduction in groundwater pumping demands



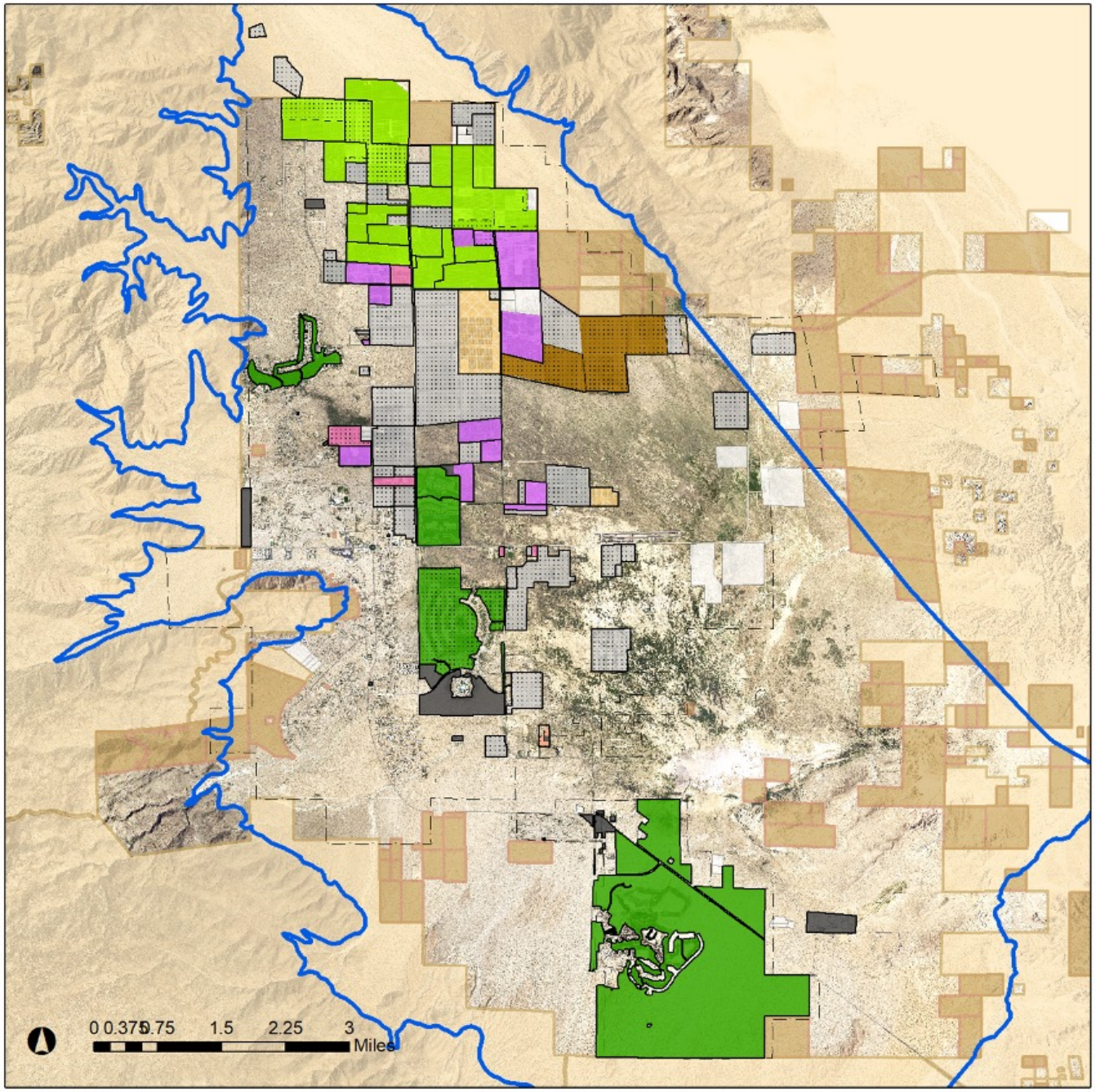
Background



Water Year **2020** **2030** **2040**



Land Use: Farmland & Parcels with Baseline Pumping Allocation (BPA) Water Rights in 2022



Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Project

Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin

- Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin

Land Use with BPA

- Citrus
- Palms
- Nursery, Herbs
- Golf Course Resort
- Other Water Use

Fallowed and Abandoned Land with BPA

- Fallowed/Abandoned Citrus
- Fallowed/Abandoned Palms
- Fallowed/Abandoned Nursery, Herbs
- Fallowed/Abandoned Crops
- Fallowed/Abandoned Potato
- Fallowed Golf Course

Land Use without BPA

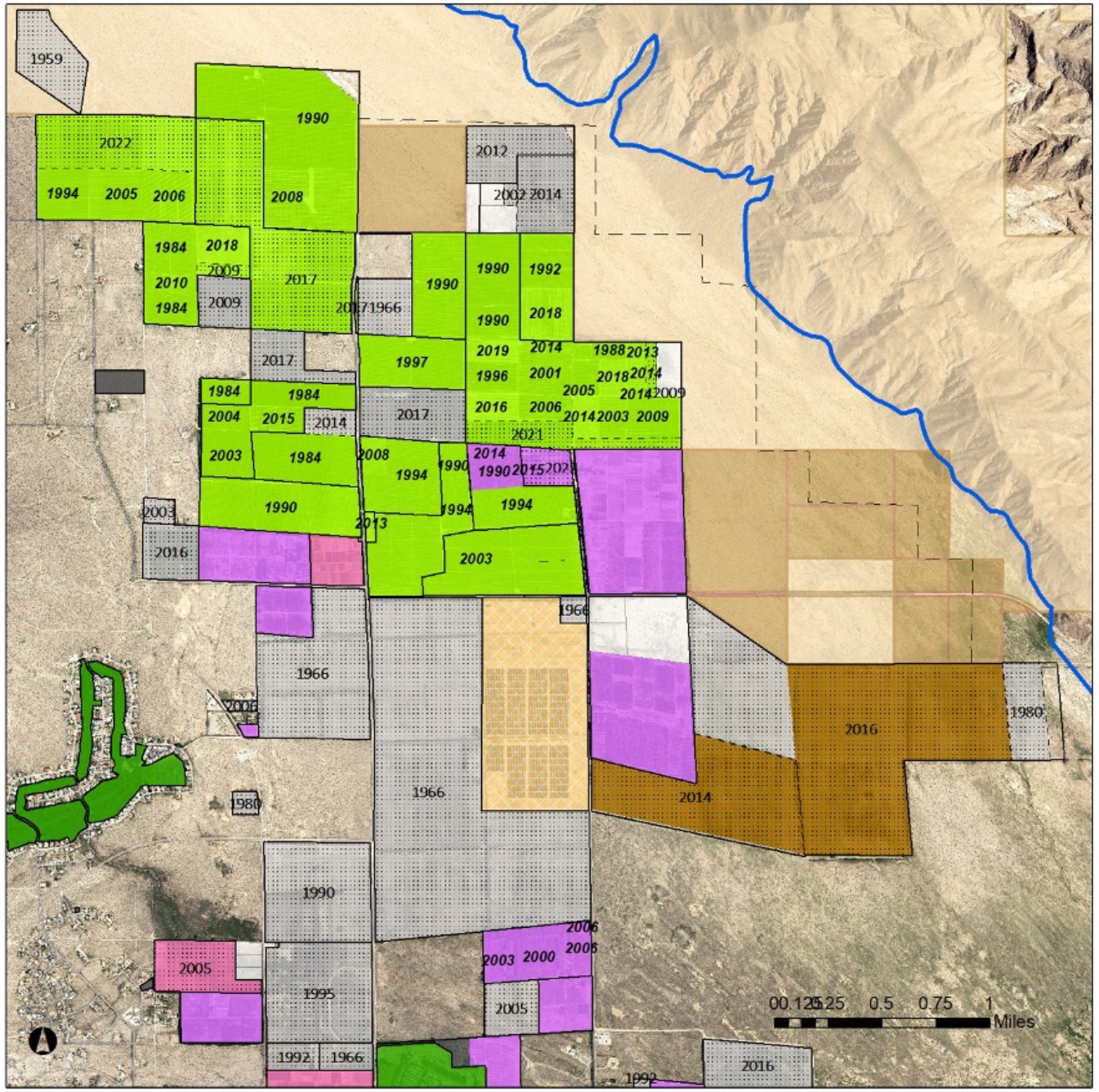
- Disturbed or Cleared (Not Cultivated)
- Fallowed
- Solar Energy Project
- Borrego Water District
- Anza-Borrego State Park
- Anza-Borrego Foundation Property

Types of Retired Farmland

- 2,480 acres have been retired (fallowed or abandoned) prior to the GMP/Judgment
- “Fallowed” = cultivated in one of the past 5 years, unless:
  - Enrolled in Habitat Conservation Program
  - Not cultivated in 5 years per accepted farm management practice
  - Not cultivated in 5 years because of government requirement
- ”Abandoned” = not cultivated in over 5 years

Current Minimum Fallowing Standards

- Tree crop destruction: Chipping or burning
- Surface irrigation equipment removal
- Soil stabilization: Mulching with chips or ash
- Limitations: While addressing temporary dust emissions and soil erosion, current standards may not address other environmental and socioeconomic concerns



Crop Type (2021)	Acres
Citrus	1,622
Dates	76
Flowers, Nursery and Christmas Trees	571
Young Perennials[1]	27

Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Project

Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin
- Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin

Land Use with BPA
- Citrus
- Palms
- Nursery, Herbs
- Golf Course Resort
- Other Water Use

Fallowed and Abandoned Land with BPA (Year of Fallowing Labeled)
- Fallowed/Abandoned Citrus
- Fallowed/Abandoned Palms
- Fallowed/Abandoned Nursery, Herbs
- Fallowed/Abandoned Crops
- Fallowed/Abandoned Potato
- Fallowed Golf Course

Land Use without BPA
- Disturbed or Cleared (Not Cultivated)
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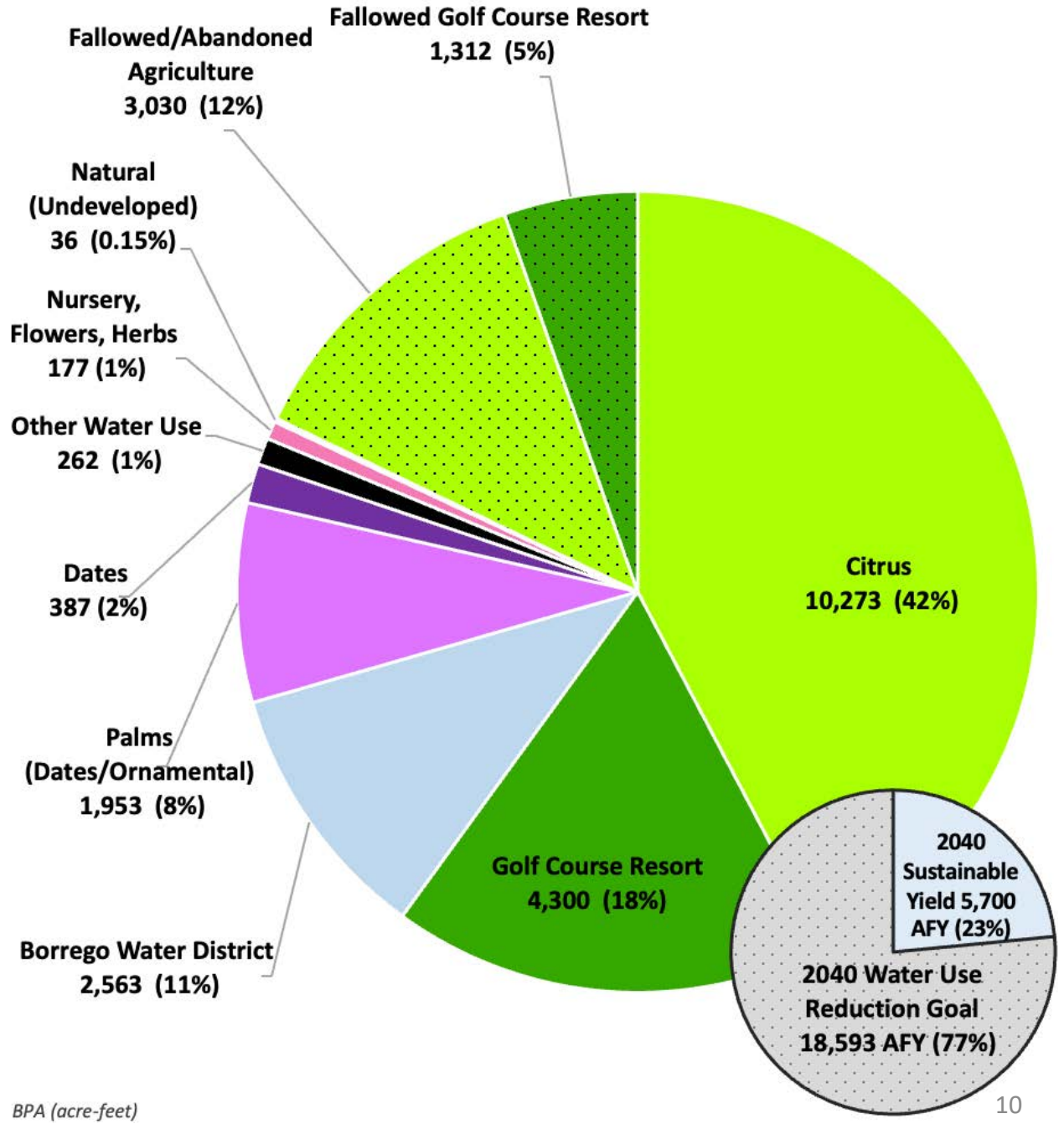
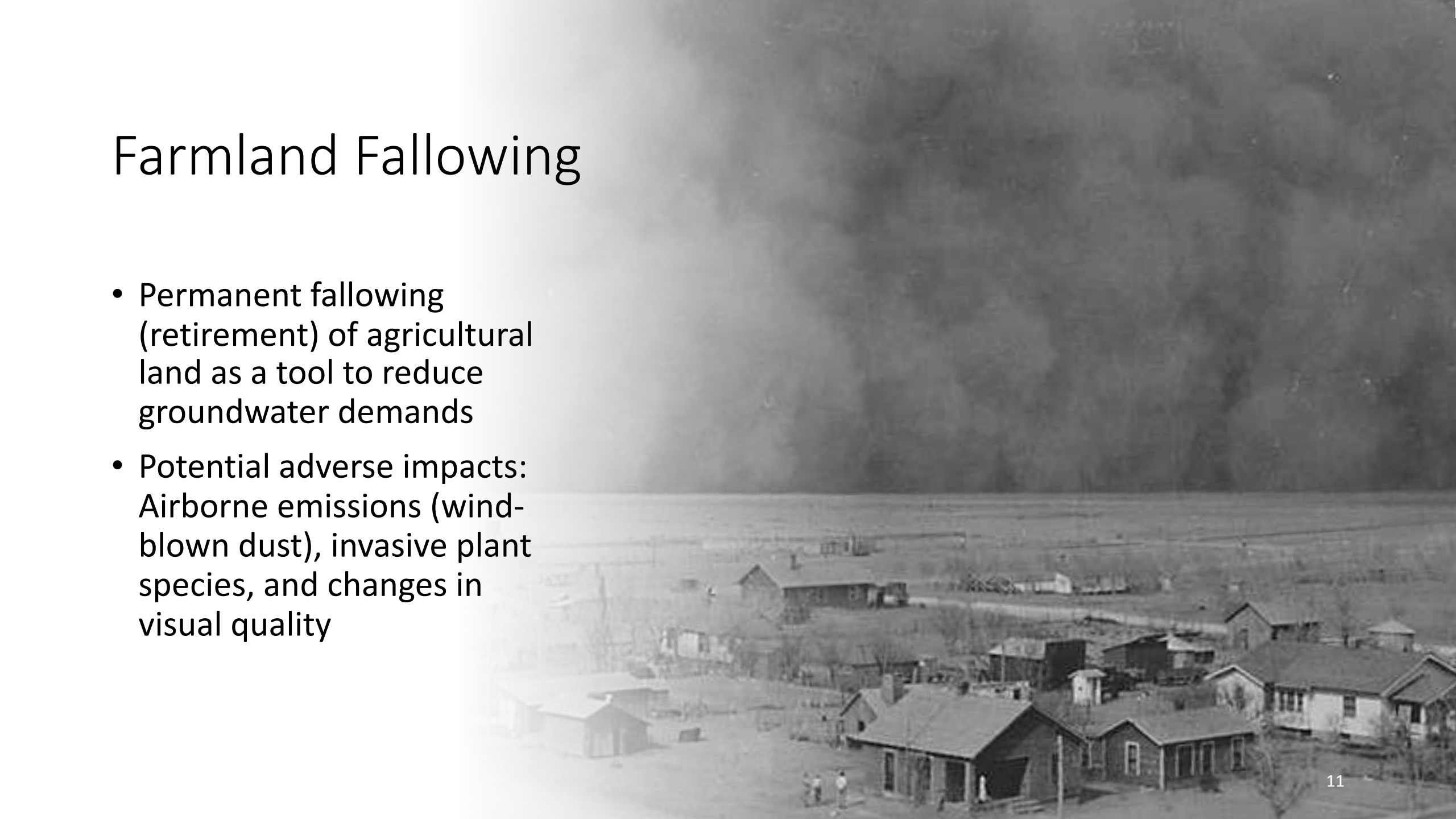
2022 Land Use
for Parcels with
BPA Water Rights



BPA (acre-feet)

Farmland Fallowing

- Permanent fallowing (retirement) of agricultural land as a tool to reduce groundwater demands
- Potential adverse impacts: Airborne emissions (wind-blown dust), invasive plant species, and changes in visual quality



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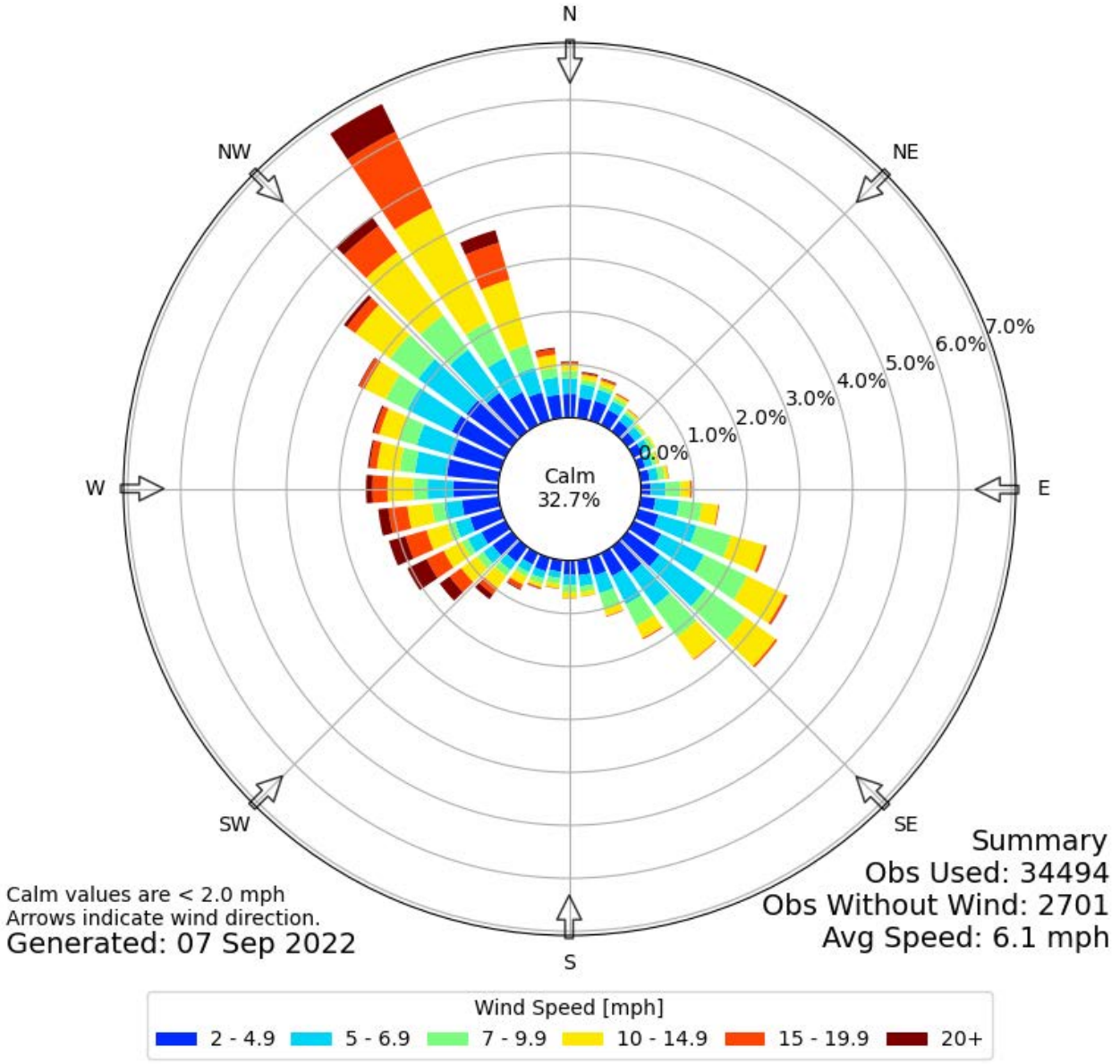
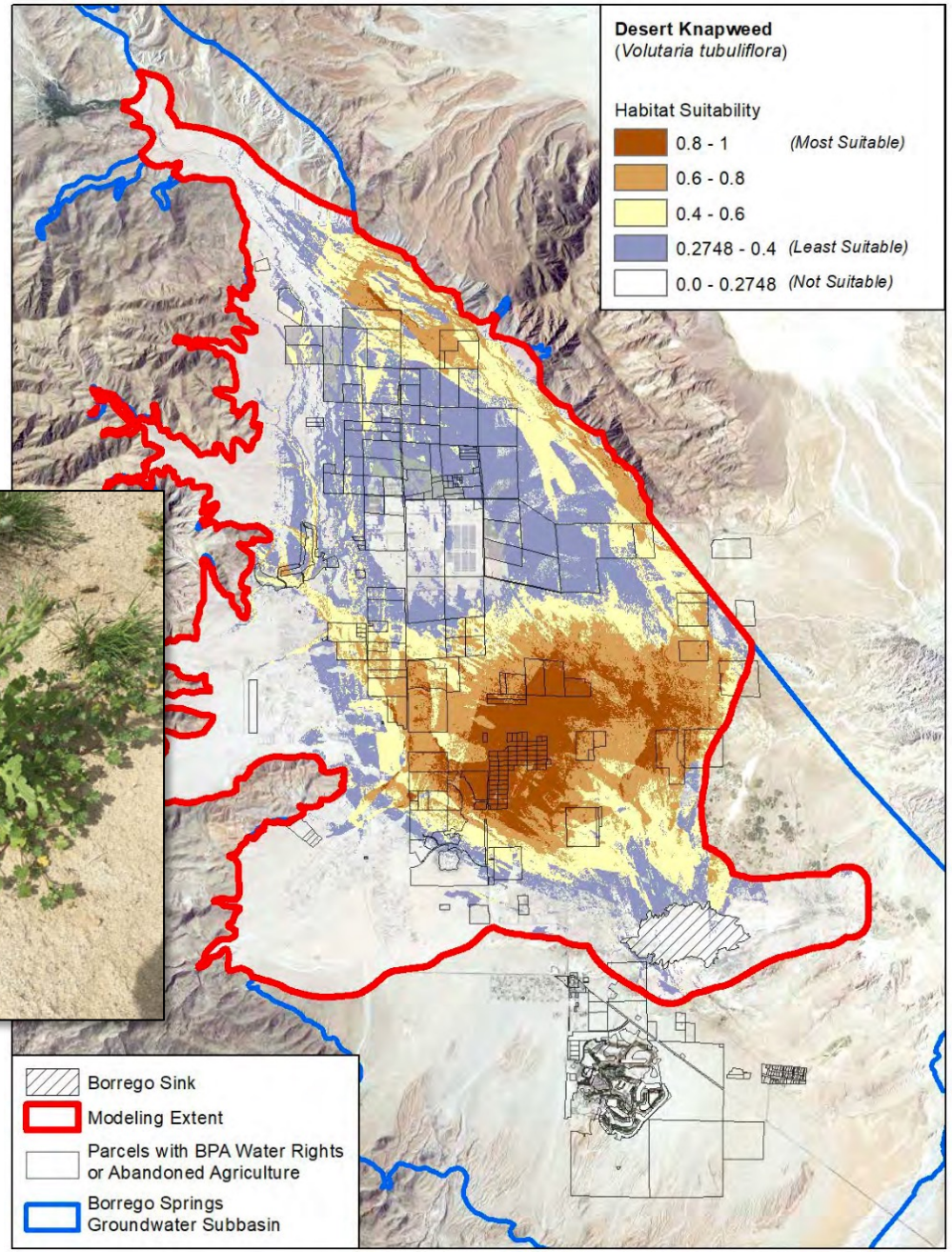


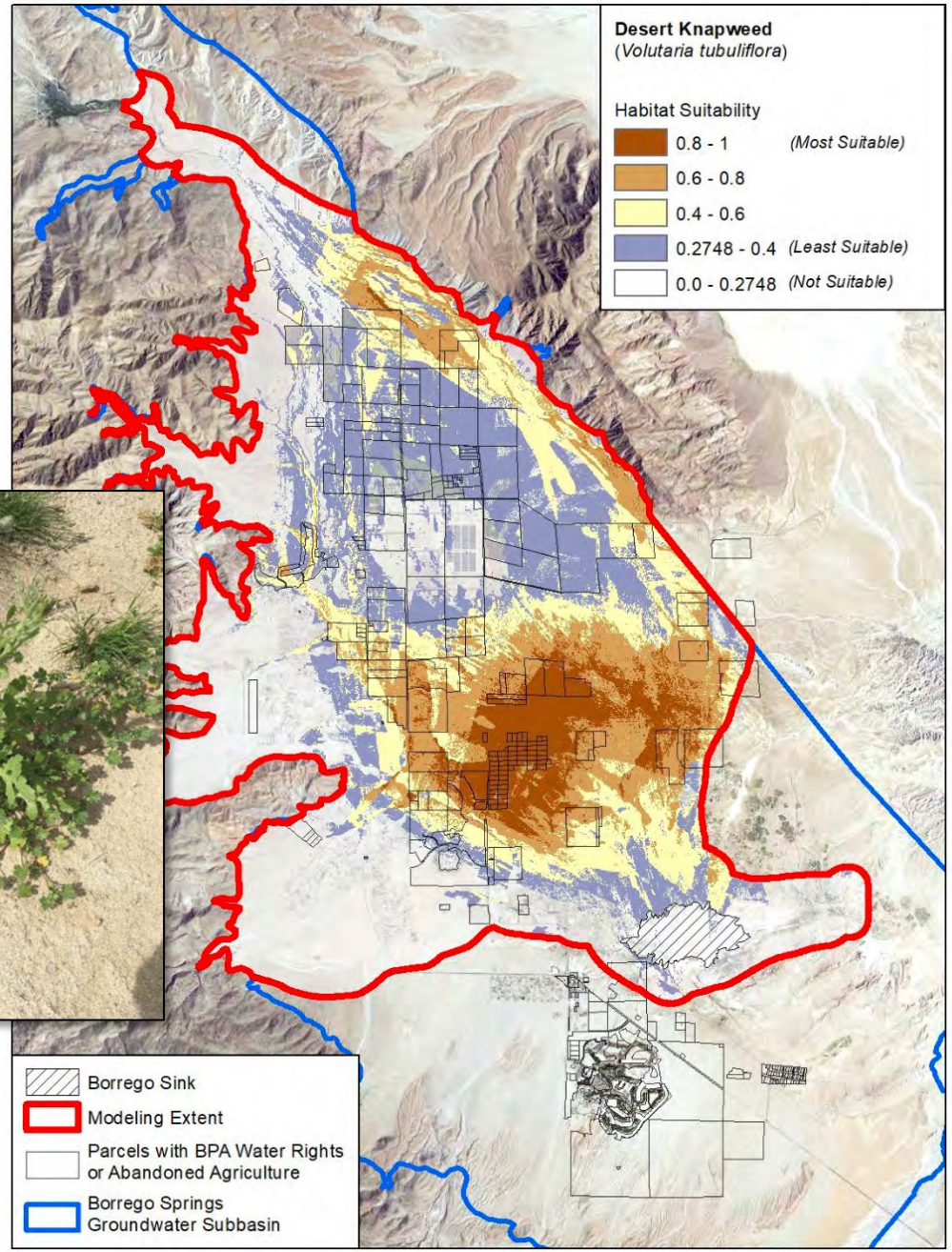
Invasive Plant Habitat Suitability Models

Desert Knapweed

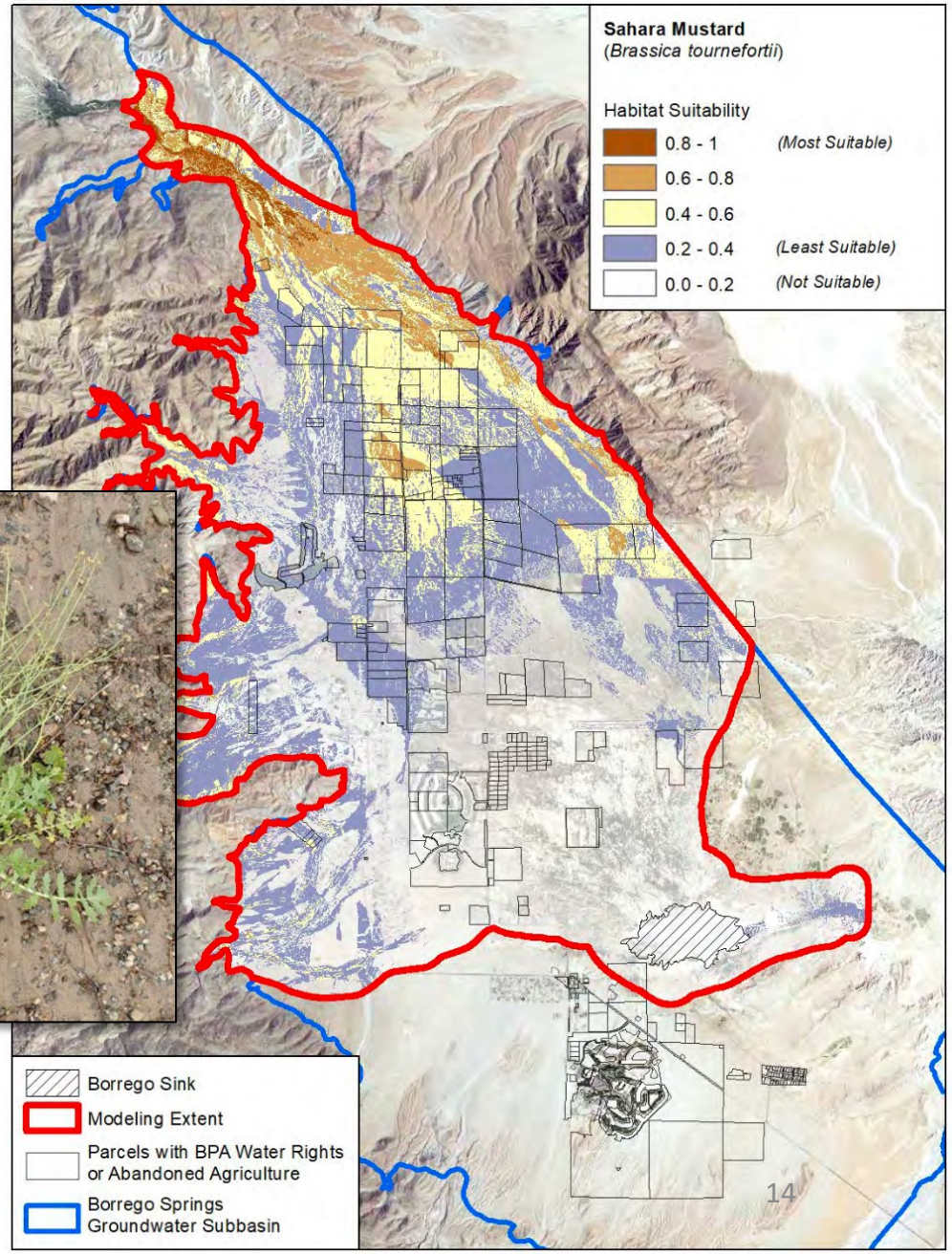


Invasive Plant Habitat Suitability Models

Desert Knapweed



Sahara Mustard



Solution

- Biological rehabilitation of current and future permanently fallowed lands to protect human health, environment, and community well-being
- Address barriers to establishing native habitat on fallowed lands

Rehabilitation of Retired Farmland

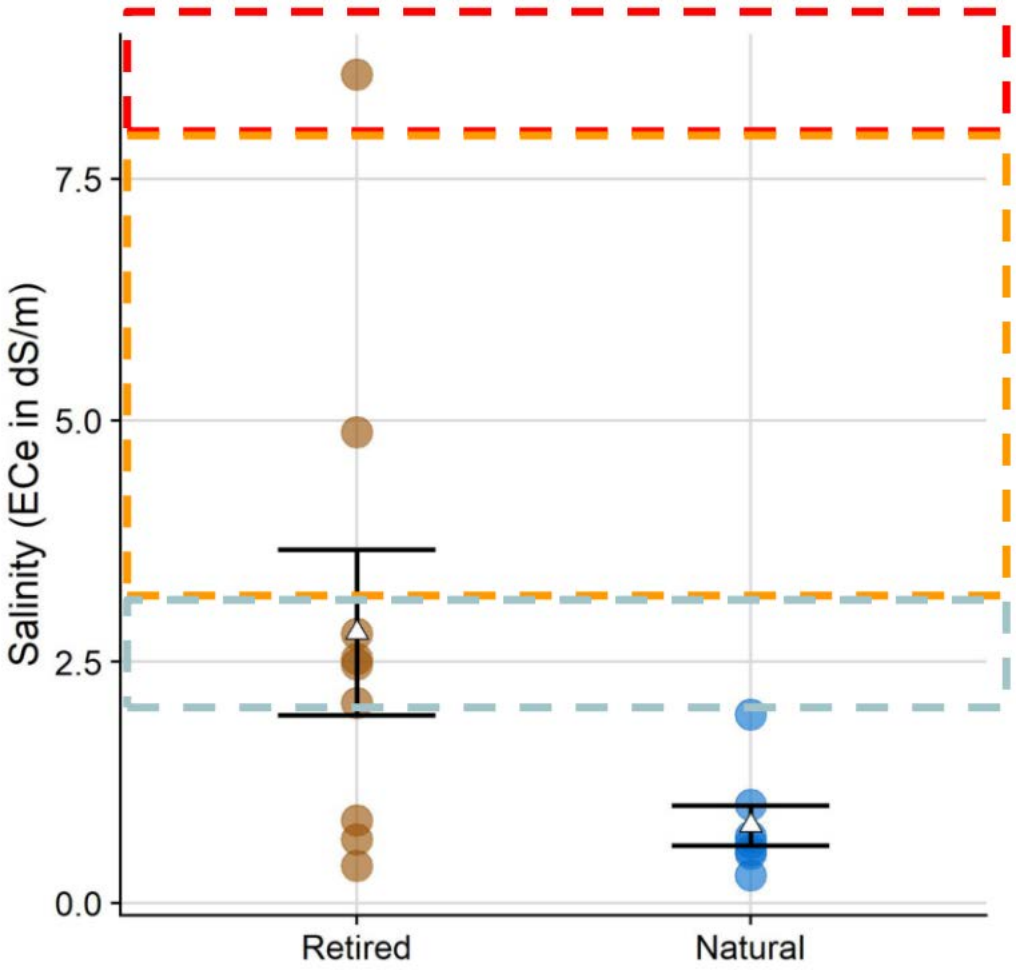
- Dryland systems take longer to recover; stochastic processes
- Cultivated soils require more intervention than other land uses and may recover as novel plant communities
- Some form of active intervention necessary without fluvial processes
- High Variability in Outcomes
  - *Spatial heterogeneity; islands of fertility*
  - *Temporal seasonal and interannual climatic variability*
  - *Land Management History*

Retired Agricultural

Natural Reference

Retired Agricultural

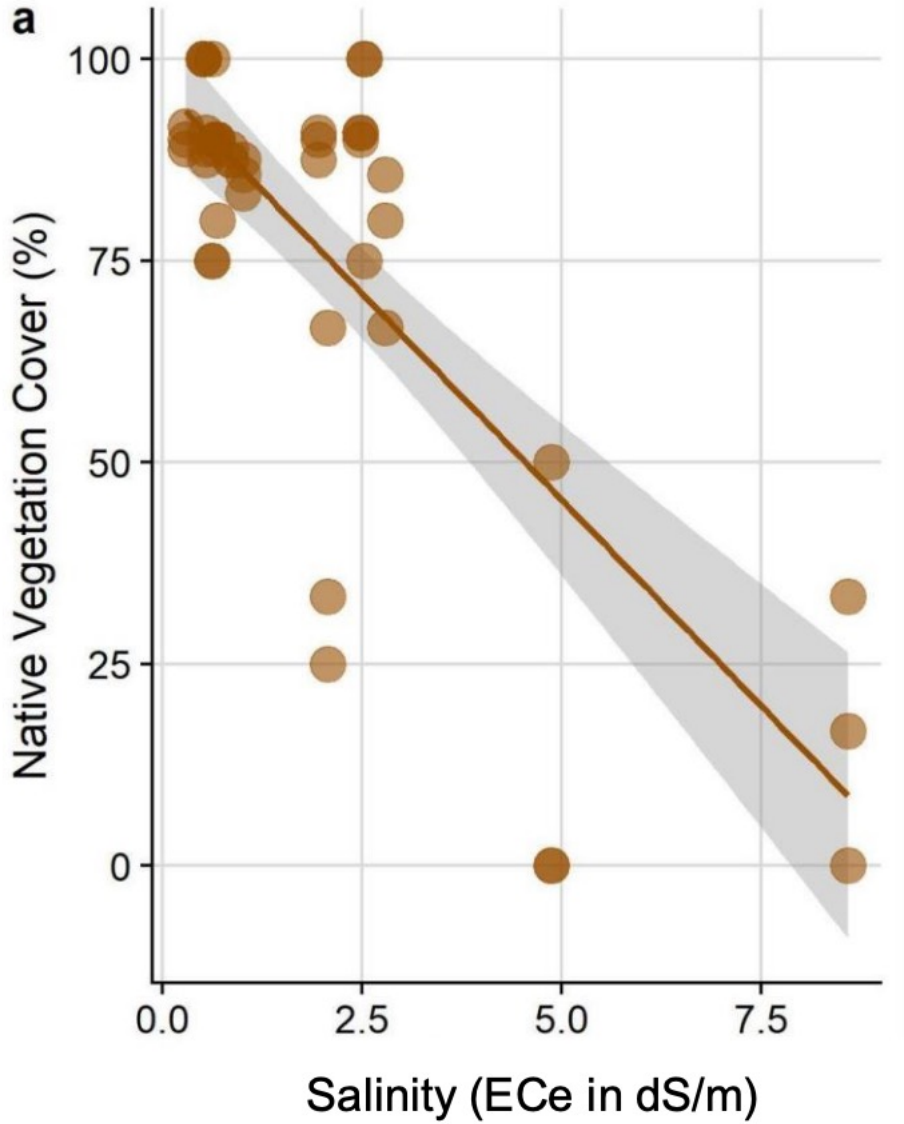
Natural Reference

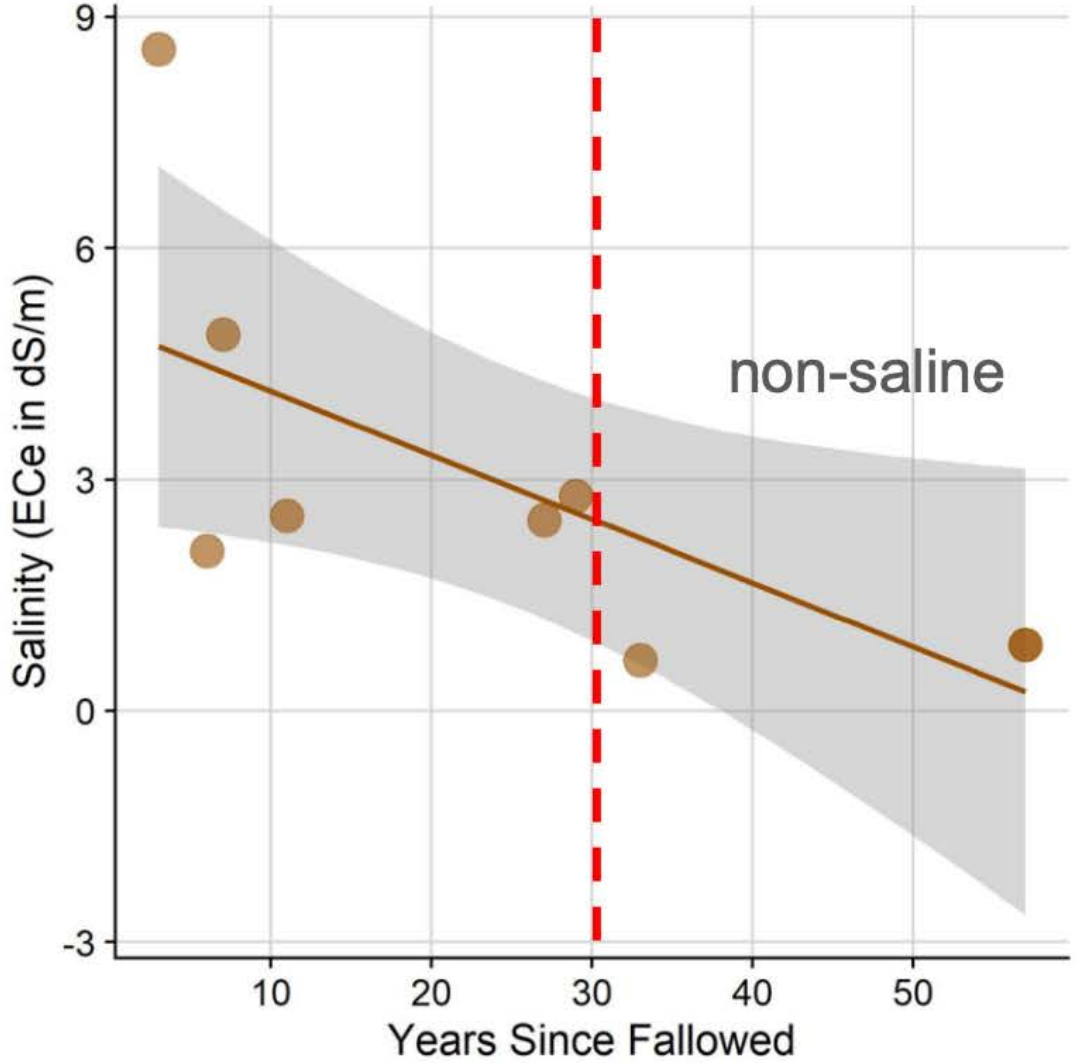


Highly saline

Moderately saline

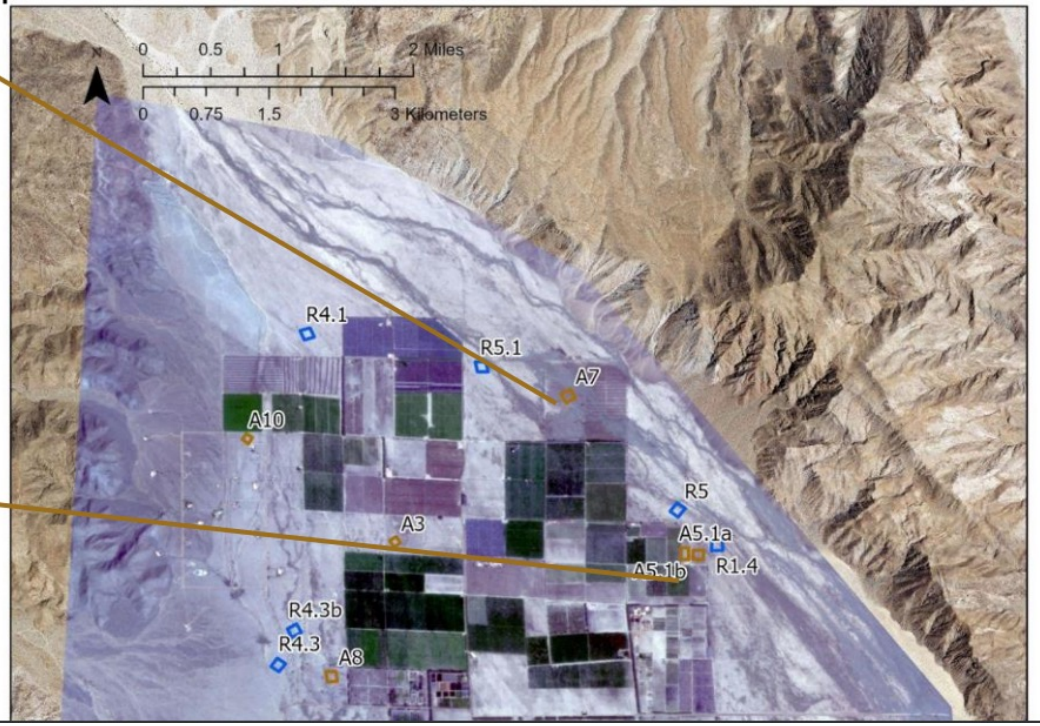
Slightly saline


a
100
75
50
25
0
Native Vegetation Cover (%)
0.0
2.5
5.0
7.5
Salinity (ECe in dS/m)


9
6
3
0
-3
Salinity (ECe in dS/m)
non-saline
10
20
30
40
50
Years Since Fallowed

- Retired sites closer to the flow of water had higher microtopography, larger and greater cover of patches

False color aerial imagery from 21 Aug 2023, following a monsoon rainfall event. Flowing water, pooling water, and wet soil = dark spots.



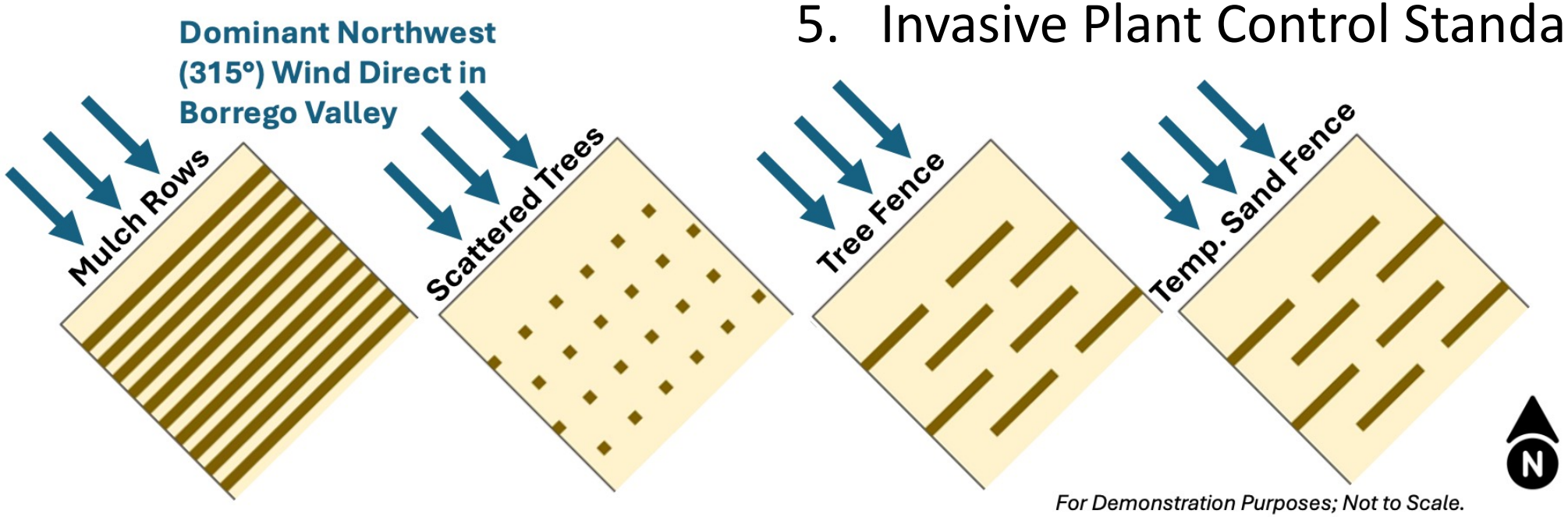
Potential Outcomes of Retired Farmland without Intervention

1. Little to no vegetation establishment and high sand transport
2. Invasive plant (e.g., *Volutaria, Brassica*) colonization and spread; high sand transport
3. Natural succession to Saltbush Scrub (*Atriplex* spp.), in response to soil salinization from farm management of high water use crops
4. Natural succession to Creosote Bush Scrub over long time scales, decades to hundreds of years (**unless there are fluvial processes**)

Recommended Fallowing Strategies

Can be used separately or in combination:

1. Mulch
2. Citrus Tree Sand Fence
3. Citrus Scattered Trees
4. Temporary Sand Fence
5. Invasive Plant Control Standard



Recommended Fallowing Strategies

Can be used separately or in combination:

1. Mulch (rows or spread mulch with 25 to 50% bare ground)

Recommended Fallowing Strategies

Can be used separately or in combination:

2. Citrus Tree Sand Fence

Recommended Fallowing Strategies

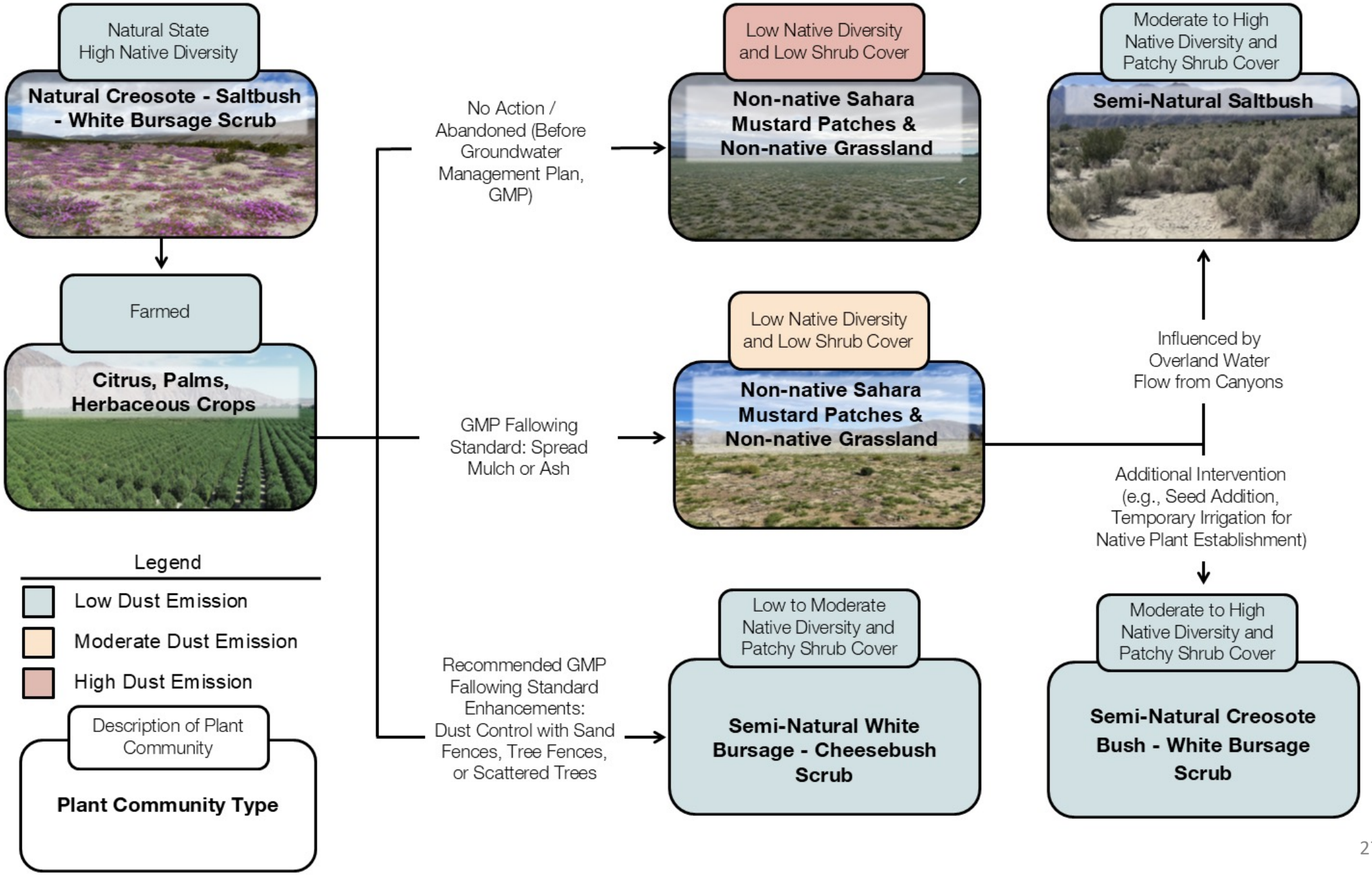
Can be used separately or in combination:

3. Citrus Scattered Trees

Recommended Fallowing Strategies

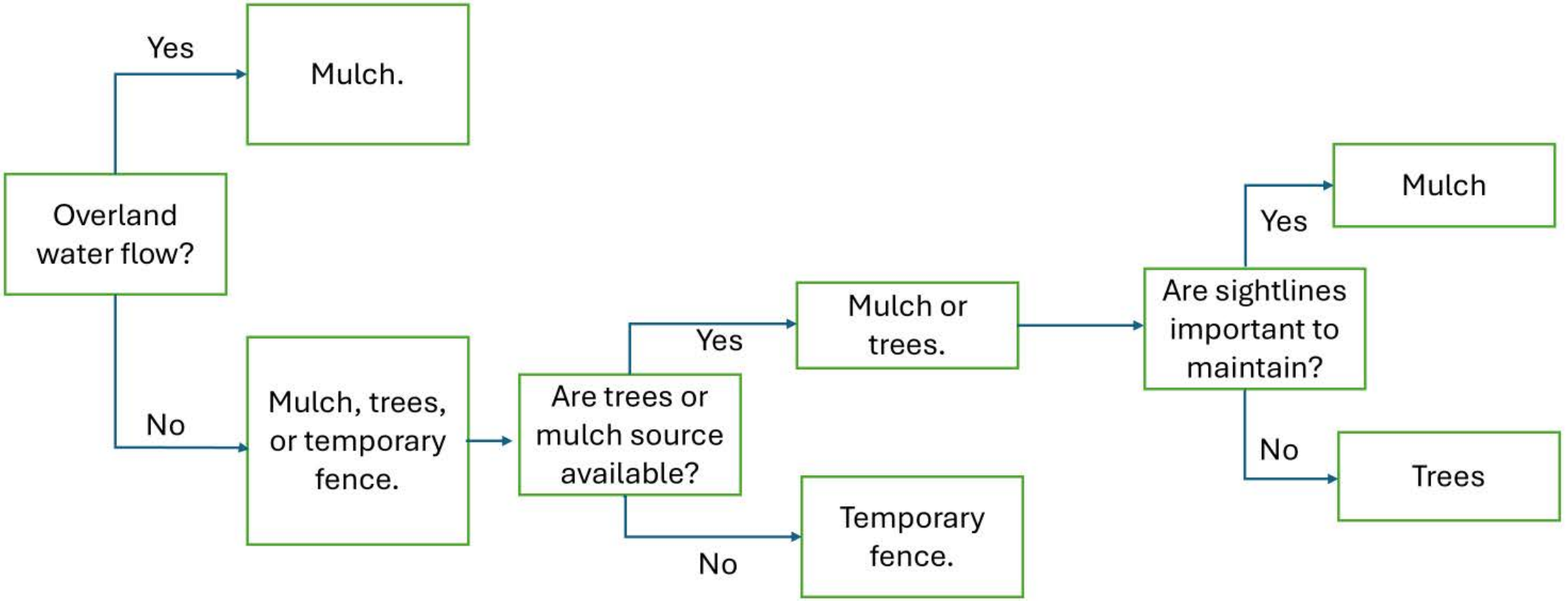
Can be used separately or in combination:

4. Temporary Sand Fence


Natural State
High Native Diversity
Natural Creosote - Saltbush - White Bursage Scrub
Farmed
Citrus, Palms, Herbaceous Crops
No Action / Abandoned (Before Groundwater Management Plan, GMP)
Low Native Diversity and Low Shrub Cover
Non-native Sahara Mustard Patches & Non-native Grassland
Moderate to High Native Diversity and Patchy Shrub Cover
Semi-Natural Saltbush
GMP Fallowing Standard: Spread Mulch or Ash
Low Native Diversity and Low Shrub Cover
Non-native Sahara Mustard Patches & Non-native Grassland
Influenced by Overland Water Flow from Canyons
Additional Intervention (e.g., Seed Addition, Temporary Irrigation for Native Plant Establishment)
Recommended GMP Fallowing Standard Enhancements: Dust Control with Sand Fences, Tree Fences, or Scattered Trees
Low to Moderate Native Diversity and Patchy Shrub Cover
Semi-Natural White Bursage - Cheesebush Scrub
Moderate to High Native Diversity and Patchy Shrub Cover
Semi-Natural Creosote Bush - White Bursage Scrub
Legend
Low Dust Emission
Moderate Dust Emission
High Dust Emission
Description of Plant Community
Plant Community Type

Treatment	Dust Control Effectiveness	Habitat Value	Cost
1. Mulch Rows (Current Judgment/ GMP Standard)	High wind velocity; Moderate soil stabilization with short term benefits	Lack of microsites; Very low native seed and litter deposition	High cost to grind trees and use mulch on site (~$2,000 to $2,500 per acre). Can also burn some trees for cost savings, if a burn permit is available.
2. Scattered Trees	Moderate wind velocity; potential for more complex wind movement on site for microsites	Mimic natural wind breaks; create diverse microsites for native plant recruitment and litter; buffer climate	Moderate cost to cut and place about 25% of the trees in grid. Then sell ~75% of trees to CoGen Plant or burn trees. About $1,300 per acre on average tree fence and selling remaining trees to the CoGen Plant.
3. Tree Fence Rows	Optimal wind management	Mimic natural wind breaks; create diverse microsites for native plant recruitment and litter; buffer climate	Moderate cost to cut and place about 33% of the trees in grid. Then sell ~67% of trees to CoGen Plant or burn trees. About $1,300 per acre on average tree fence and selling remaining trees to the CoGen Plant.
4. Temporary Sand Fence Rows	Optimal wind management	Maximize wind management; create topography for native plant recruitment and litter, but no habitat structure or climate buffer	Sell all trees to CoGen Plant (~$700/acre) or burn trees and spread ash; purchase and install sand fence ($ ~3,000 per acre).

Fallowing Strategy Selection Criteria for Site Suitability



Site Suitability Decision Tree - Optimizes Dust Control Effectiveness, Biological Benefits and Regulatory Compliance on Fields or Parts of Fields

Farmland Fallowing Prioritization

Model Effort to Rehabilitate Ecosystem Values

The prioritization model and corresponding maps estimate the level of effort required to rehabilitate the ecosystem values of permanently fallowed farmland

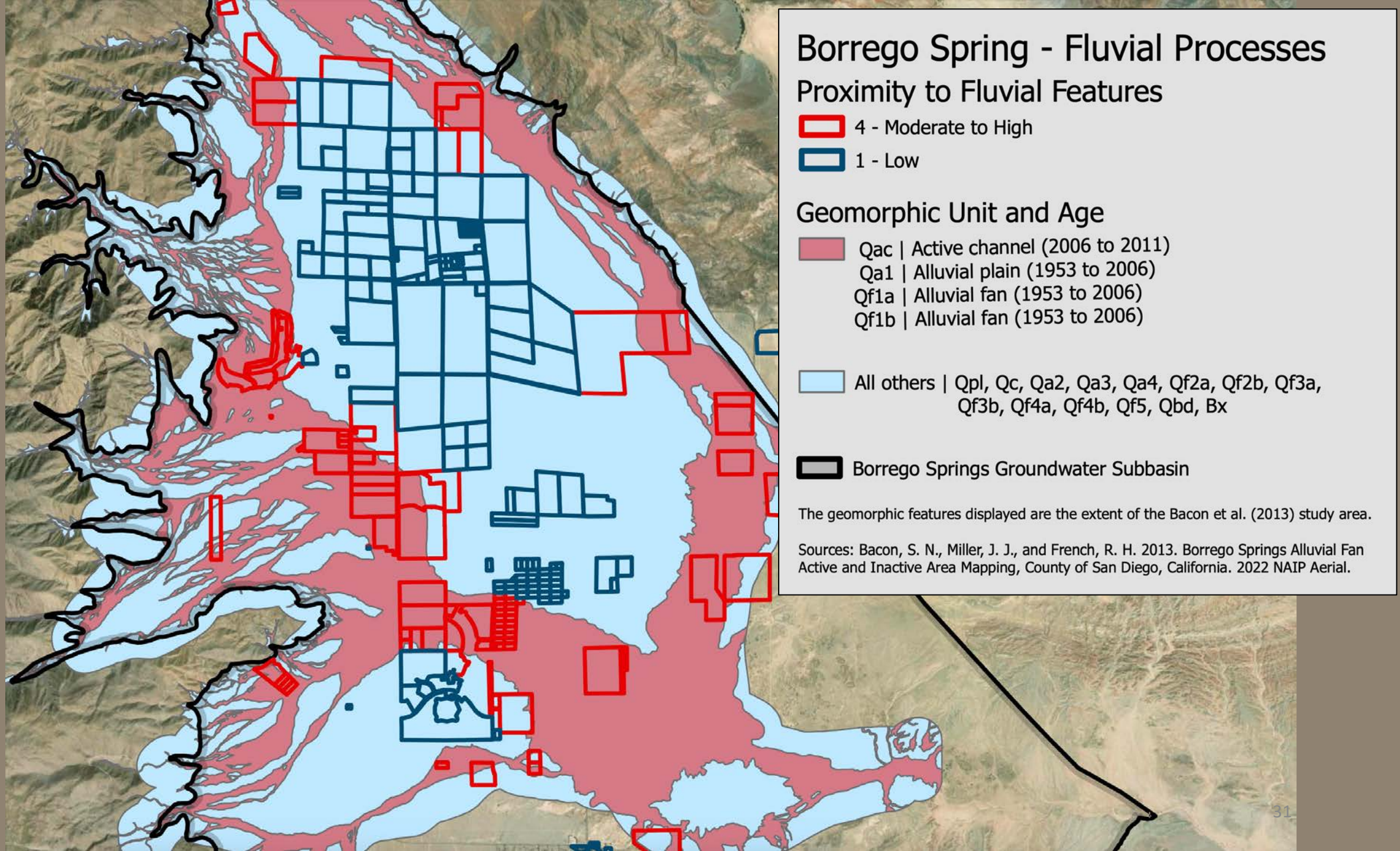
FIND LOW HANGING FRUIT

Environmental Factors Influencing Level of Intervention Required

1. Fluvial Processes
2. Aeolian Processes (Wind Breaks)
3. Soil Stability (Soil Erodibility)

Cultural Factor

1. Proximity to Conserved Land


Borrego Spring - Fluvial Processes
Proximity to Fluvial Features
4 - Moderate to High
1 - Low
Geomorphic Unit and Age
Qac | Active channel (2006 to 2011)
Qa1 | Alluvial plain (1953 to 2006)
Qf1a | Alluvial fan (1953 to 2006)
Qf1b | Alluvial fan (1953 to 2006)
All others | Qpl, Qc, Qa2, Qa3, Qa4, Qf2a, Qf2b, Qf3a, Qf3b, Qf4a, Qf4b, Qf5, Qbd, Bx
Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin
The geomorphic features displayed are the extent of the Bacon et al. (2013) study area.
Sources: Bacon, S. N., Miller, J. J., and French, R. H. 2013. Borrego Springs Alluvial Fan Active and Inactive Area Mapping, County of San Diego, California. 2022 NAIP Aerial.

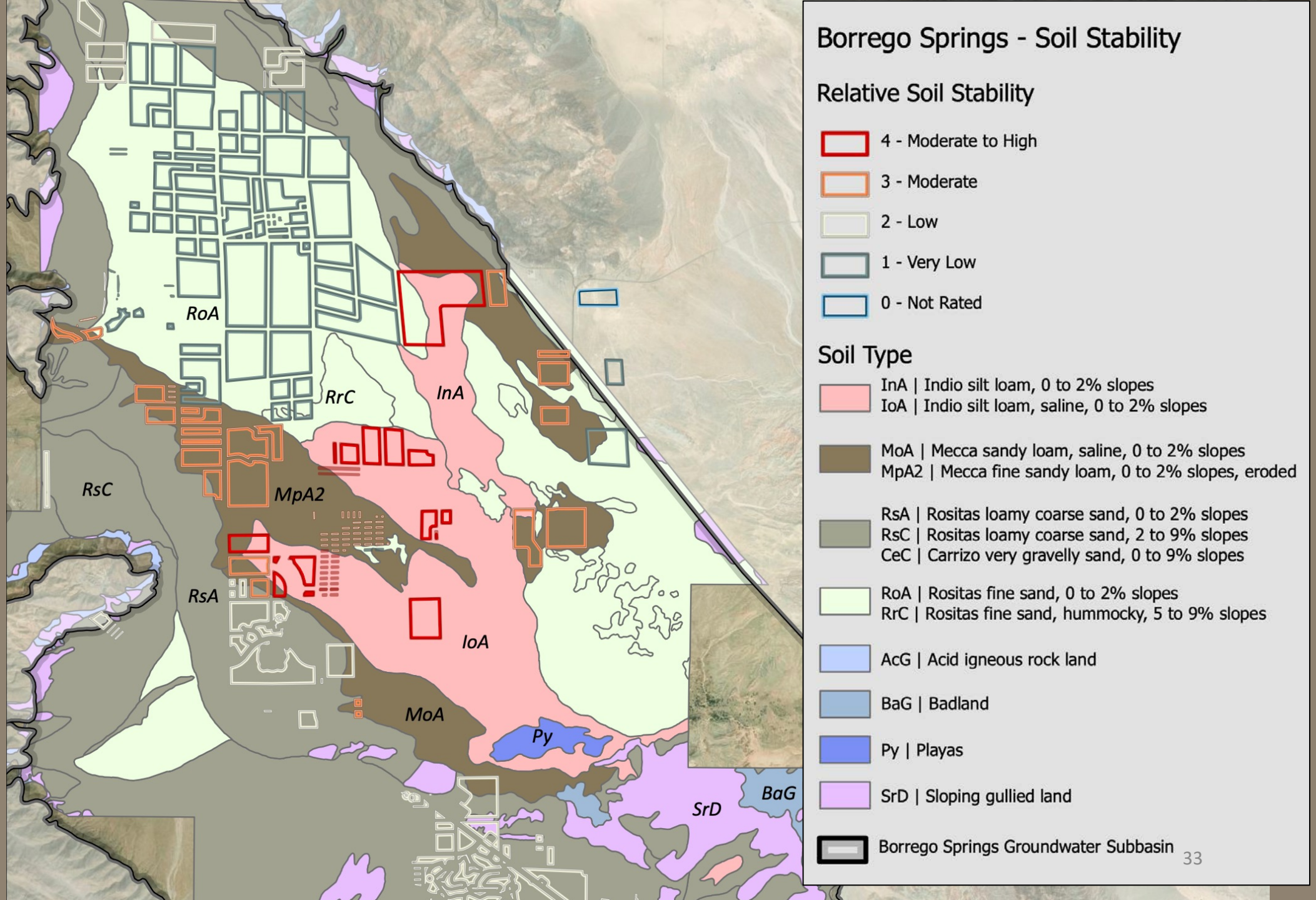
Farmland Fallowing Prioritization

Model Effort to Rehabilitate Ecosystem Values

Soil Stability

Soil Erodibility

Soil Type	Erodibility (tons/ac/yr)	Relative Soil Stability	Score
IoA, InA	56	Moderate to High	4
MpA2, MoA	86	Moderate	3
RsA, RsC, Cec	134	Low	2
RoA, RrC	250	Very Low	1


Borrego Springs - Soil Stability
Relative Soil Stability
4 - Moderate to High
3 - Moderate
2 - Low
1 - Very Low
0 - Not Rated
Soil Type
InA | Indio silt loam, 0 to 2% slopes
IoA | Indio silt loam, saline, 0 to 2% slopes
MoA | Mecca sandy loam, saline, 0 to 2% slopes
MpA2 | Mecca fine sandy loam, 0 to 2% slopes, eroded
RsA | Rositas loamy coarse sand, 0 to 2% slopes
RsC | Rositas loamy coarse sand, 2 to 9% slopes
CeC | Carrizo very gravelly sand, 0 to 9% slopes
RoA | Rositas fine sand, 0 to 2% slopes
RrC | Rositas fine sand, hummocky, 5 to 9% slopes
AcG | Acid igneous rock land
BaG | Badland
Py | Playas
SrD | Sloping gullied land
Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin
RoA
RrC
InA
RsC
MpA2
RsA
IoA
MoA
Py
BaG
SrD

Borrego Springs - Soil Stability

Relative Soil Stability

- 4 - Moderate to High
- 3 - Moderate
- 2 - Low
- 1 - Very Low
- 0 - Not Rated

Soil Type

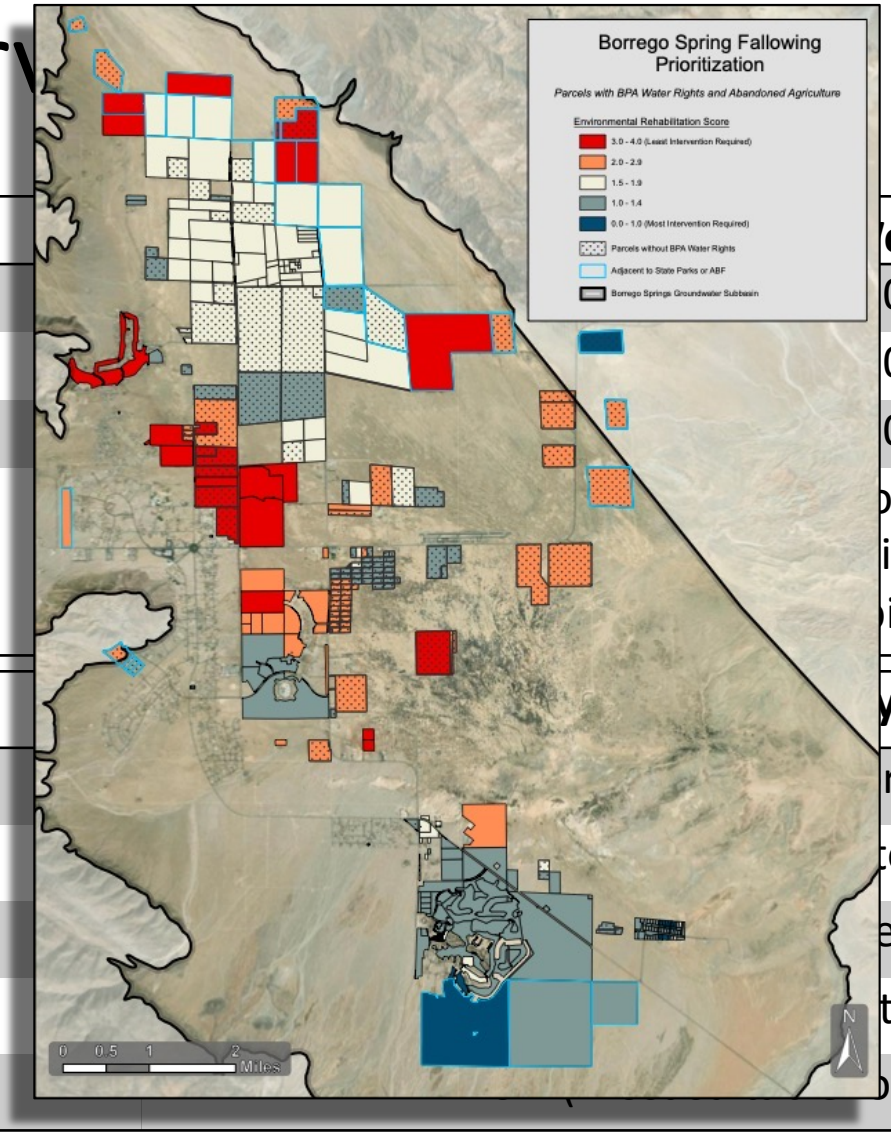
- InA | Indio silt loam, 0 to 2% slopes
  IoA | Indio silt loam, saline, 0 to 2% slopes
- MoA | Mecca sandy loam, saline, 0 to 2% slopes
  MpA2 | Mecca fine sandy loam, 0 to 2% slopes, eroded
- RsA | Rositas loamy coarse sand, 0 to 2% slopes
  RsC | Rositas loamy coarse sand, 2 to 9% slopes
  CeC | Carrizo very gravelly sand, 0 to 9% slopes
- RoA | Rositas fine sand, 0 to 2% slopes
  RrC | Rositas fine sand, hummocky, 5 to 9% slopes
- AcG | Acid igneous rock land
- BaG | Badland
- Py | Playas
- SrD | Sloping gullied land
- Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin

Cumulative Environmental Rehabilitation Score Level of Intervention Required

Criterion	Weight
Fluvial Processes	0.5
Wind Protection	0.3
Soil Erodibility	0.2
Total Environmental Score	Sum = (Fluvial Processes Score* 0.5) + (Wind Protection Score * 0.3) + (Soil Erodibility Score *.2)

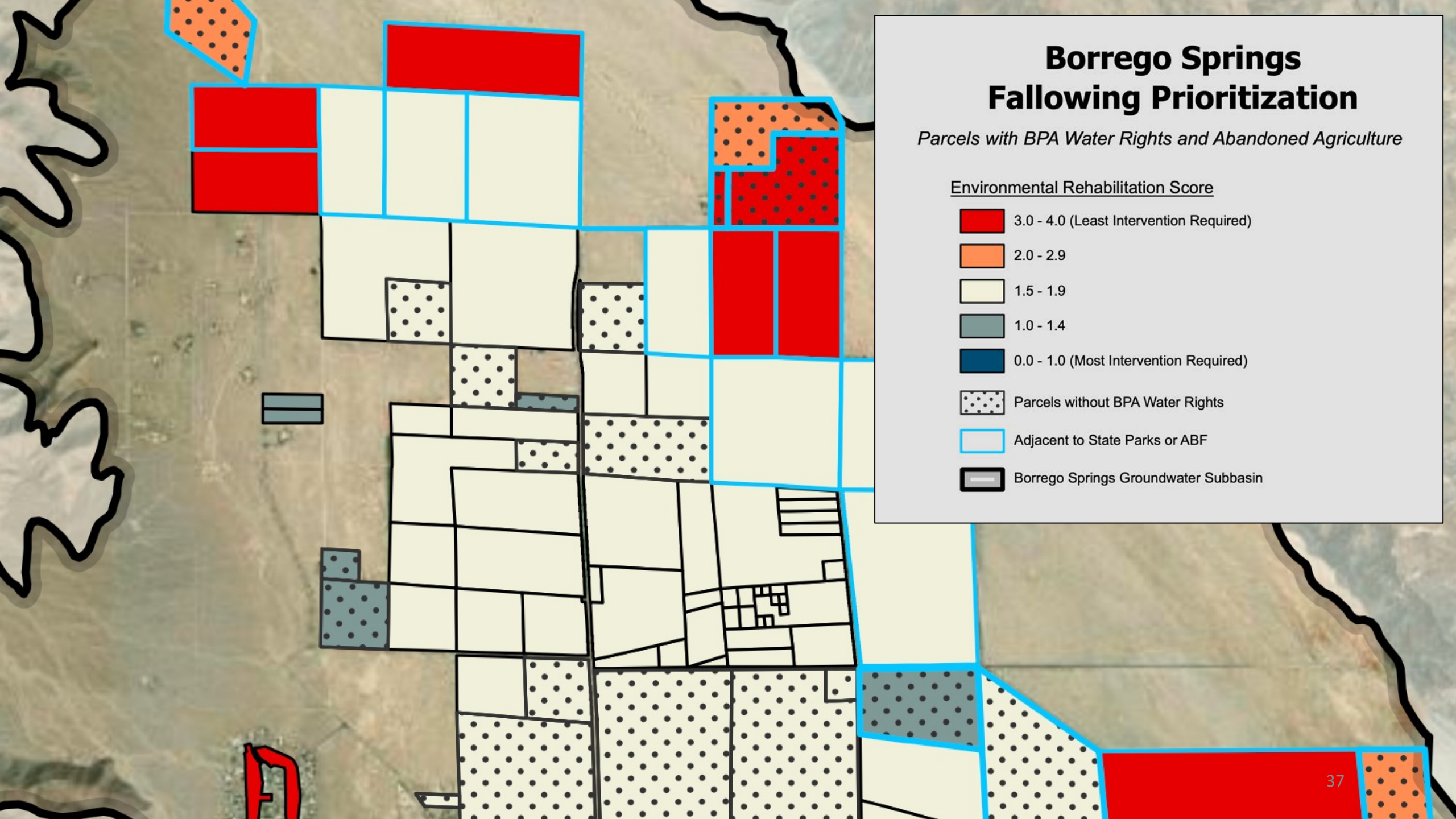
Environmental Score Range	Priority Rank
3.0 – 4.0	High (Most suitable for passive approaches)
2.0 – 2.9	Moderately high
1.5 – 1.9	Moderate
1.0 – 1.4	Moderately low
0.0 – 0.9	Low (Most suitable for active approaches)

Cumulative Environmental Rehabilitation Score Level of Interv



Criterion	eight
Fluvial Processes	0.5
Wind Protection	0.3
Soil Erodibility	0.2
Total Environmental Score	ocesses Score* 0.5) + ion Score * 0.3) + ility Score *.2)

Environmental Score Range	y Rank
3.0 – 4.0	r passive approaches)
2.0 – 2.9	tely high
1.5 – 1.9	erate
1.0 – 1.4	tely low
0.0 – 0.9	r active approaches)


Borrego Springs
Fallowing Prioritization
Parcels with BPA Water Rights and Abandoned Agriculture
Environmental Rehabilitation Score
3.0 - 4.0 (Least Intervention Required)
2.0 - 2.9
1.5 - 1.9
1.0 - 1.4
0.0 - 1.0 (Most Intervention Required)
Parcels without BPA Water Rights
Adjacent to State Parks or ABF
Borrego Springs Groundwater Subbasin

EWG Projects

Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

- Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Workplan
- Task 1 Report: Literature Review
- Task 2: Existing Retired Farmland and Natural Habitat Field Study

EWG Meetings

- **January 23, 2025**: Agenda — Minutes — Presentation — Recording
- **November 20, 2024**: Agenda Package — Minutes — Presentation
- **July 16, 2024**: Agenda Package — Minutes — Presentation — Recording
- **September 26, 2023:** Agenda Package — Minutes — Presentation — Recording

Thank you.

V.A Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Project

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.B Hearing to Review the Draft 2024 Annual Report to DWR

Recommended Actions:

Conduct Hearing to receive comments and provide direction to staff on finalizing the report, if needed, based on comments received

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Annual Report Overview

- **Executive Summary.** High-level overview of the report and some of its key findings.
- **Section 1 – Introduction.** Background information on the Basin, Physical Solution, the Watermaster's powers and responsibilities, and how this report complies with SGMA and the Judgment.
- **Section 2 – Watermaster Administrative Activities.** Watermaster's administrative activities for the reporting period, including an overview of the Watermaster Board and Staff, meetings and Board actions, Judgment amendments, and financial management (budget, audit, and grant funding).

Annual Report Overview

- **Section 3 – Watermaster Technical Activities.** Watermaster's technical activities during the reporting period, including monitoring of groundwater pumping, water levels, water quality, data management, conversion of abandoned wells, 5-year GMP assessment report, activities of the TAC and EWG, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Section 4 – WY 2024 Water Rights Accounting.** Water Rights Accounting for WY 2024 (as reported in November 2024), including a summary of aggregate pumping, a record of leases and permanent transfers of BPA, the amount of Carryover held by each Party, and the Adjusted Pumping Calculation for establishing the WY 2025 Pumping Assessment.

Annual Report Overview

- **Section 5 - Borrego Springs Subbasin Hydrologic Conditions** This section describes the current Basin conditions as of WY 2024. This data and analysis satisfies the reporting requirements of SGMA. The section covers:
  - Climate conditions (Precipitation and ET)
  - Surface water flow (Palm Canyon)
  - Groundwater pumping (Total Water Use)
  - Groundwater levels
  - Change in groundwater storage
  - Groundwater quality

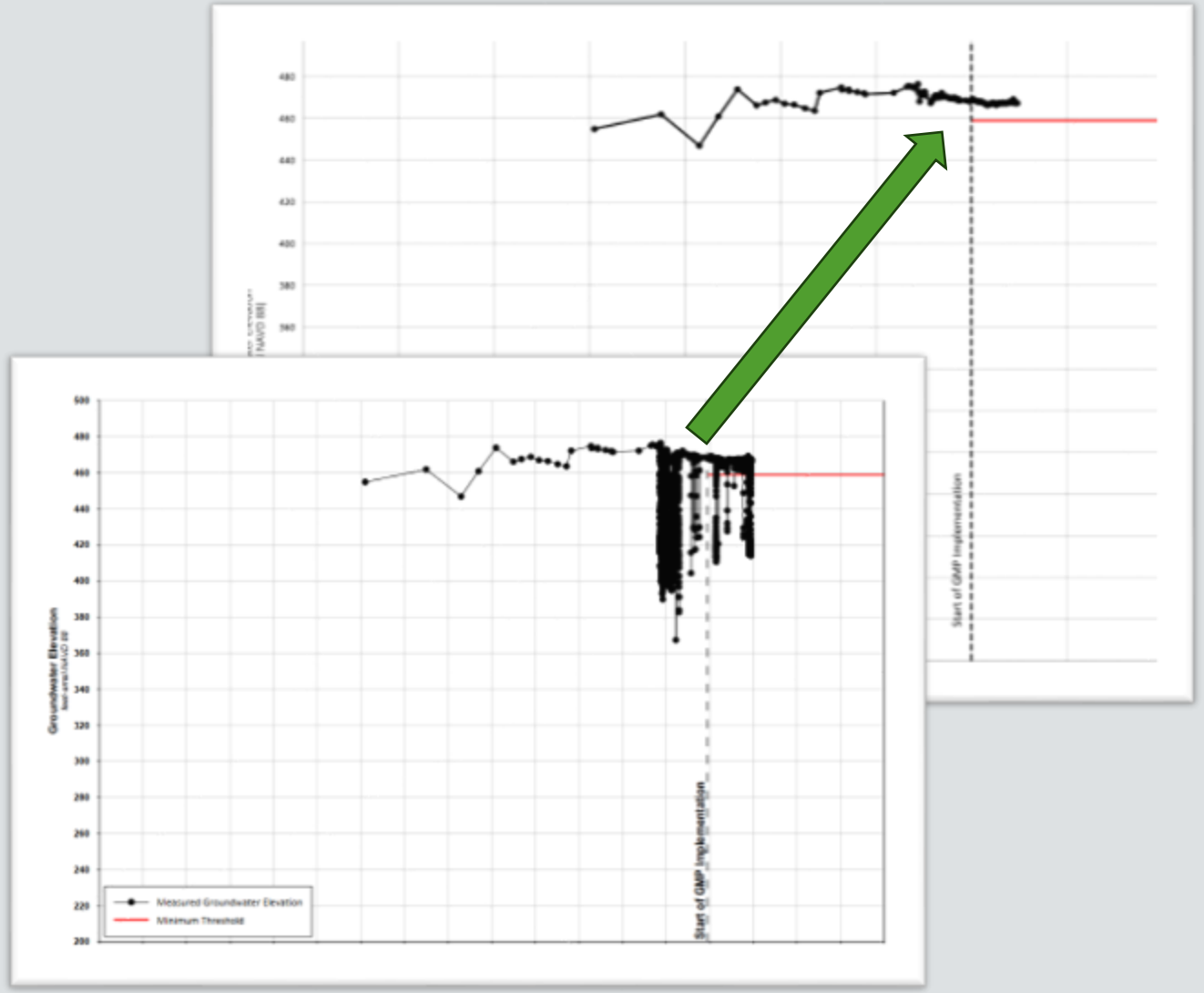
Annual Report Overview

- **Section 6 – Summary of Physical Solution Implementation Progress.** This section summarizes the key milestones accomplished since the formation of the Watermaster in March 2020 through the end of the reporting period.

- Appendix A. Watermaster Board Motions - Water Year 2024
- Appendix B. Water Year 2024 Financial Audit (*not included in draft*)
- Appendix C. Water Year 2025 Budget Memo
- Appendix D. Baseline Pumping Allocations, Revised Judgment Exhibit "4"
- Appendix E. Record of Amendments to Water Rights Accounting
- Appendix F. Groundwater Level Time Histories – 1950 to 2024
- Appendix G. Groundwater Quality Time Histories – 1970 to 2024
- Appendix H. Response to Comments on Draft Annual Report (*not included in draft*)

New or Improved Content in the Annual Report

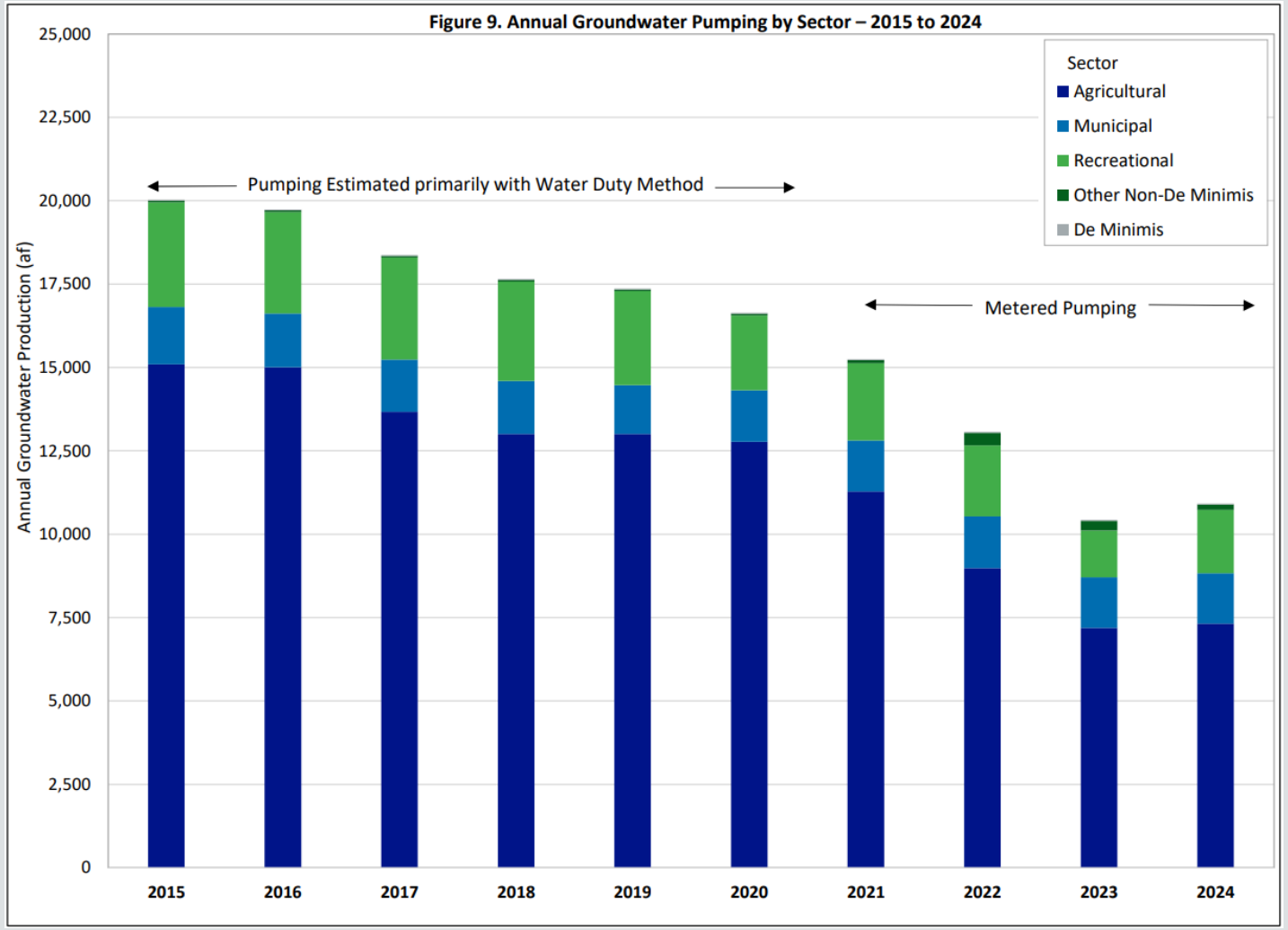
- Grant-funded work on monitoring addressing inactive/abandoned wells (Section 3, Figure 3, and Table 9)
- Grant-funded work on the 5-year assessment of the GMP (Section 3.6)
- Improved graphics to compare *static* groundwater-levels to Minimum Thresholds in the GMP, per feedback on prior reports (Section 5, Figures 13a-p)



Key Findings on Basin Conditions

Precipitation in WY 2024 was 2.83 inches, which is 2.69 inches less than the mean for the historical period of record

Groundwater pumping decreased by 34% since the start of the GMP implementation (WY 2020), but increased by 4% (489 af) relative to WY 2023

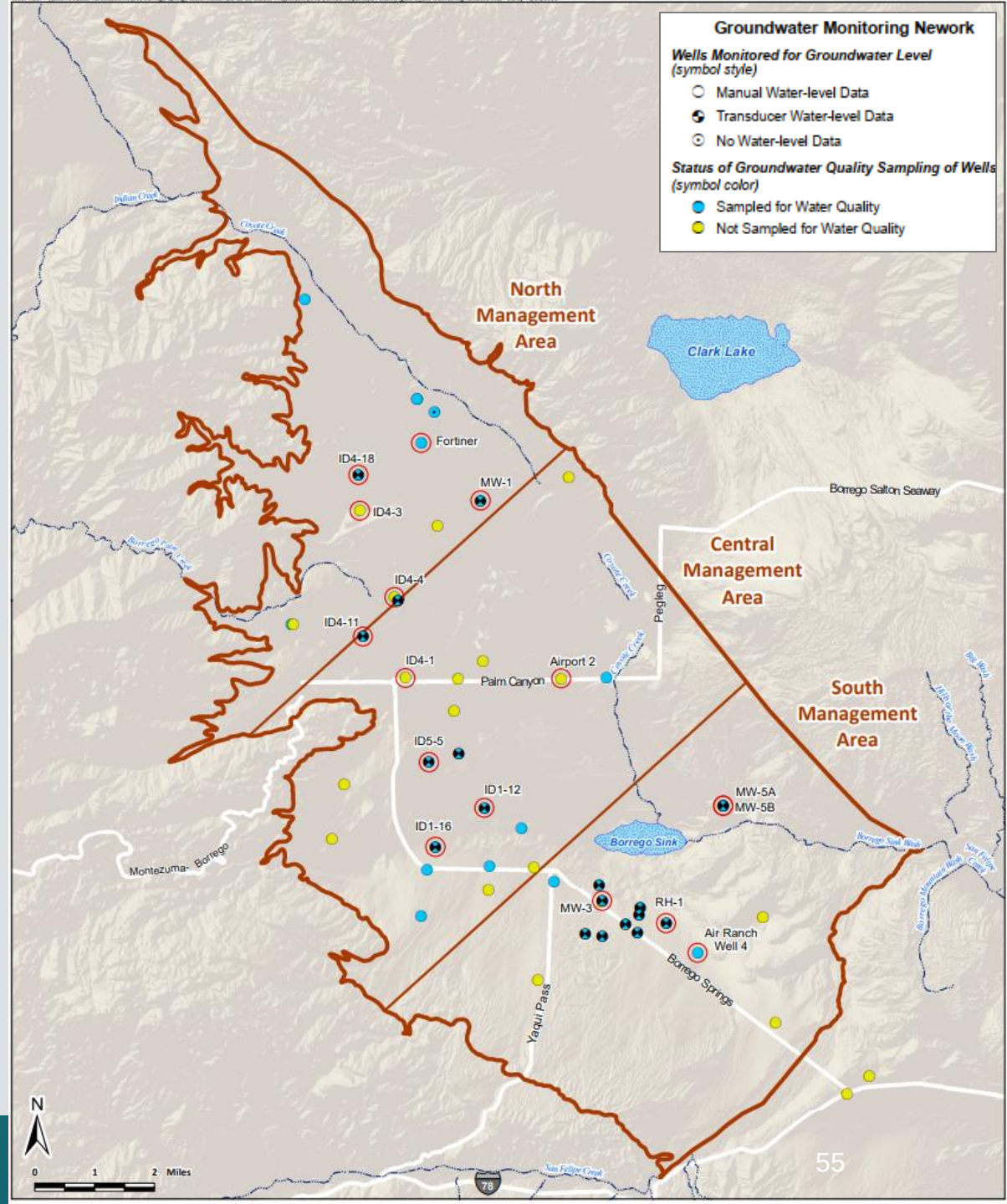


Key Findings on Basin Conditions

The rate of decline in groundwater levels since GMP implementation is less than the historical rate of decline at most wells

There have been no exceedances of groundwater level Minimum Thresholds at any Representative Monitoring Well

Water quality trends and exceedances of MCLs were similar to past observations



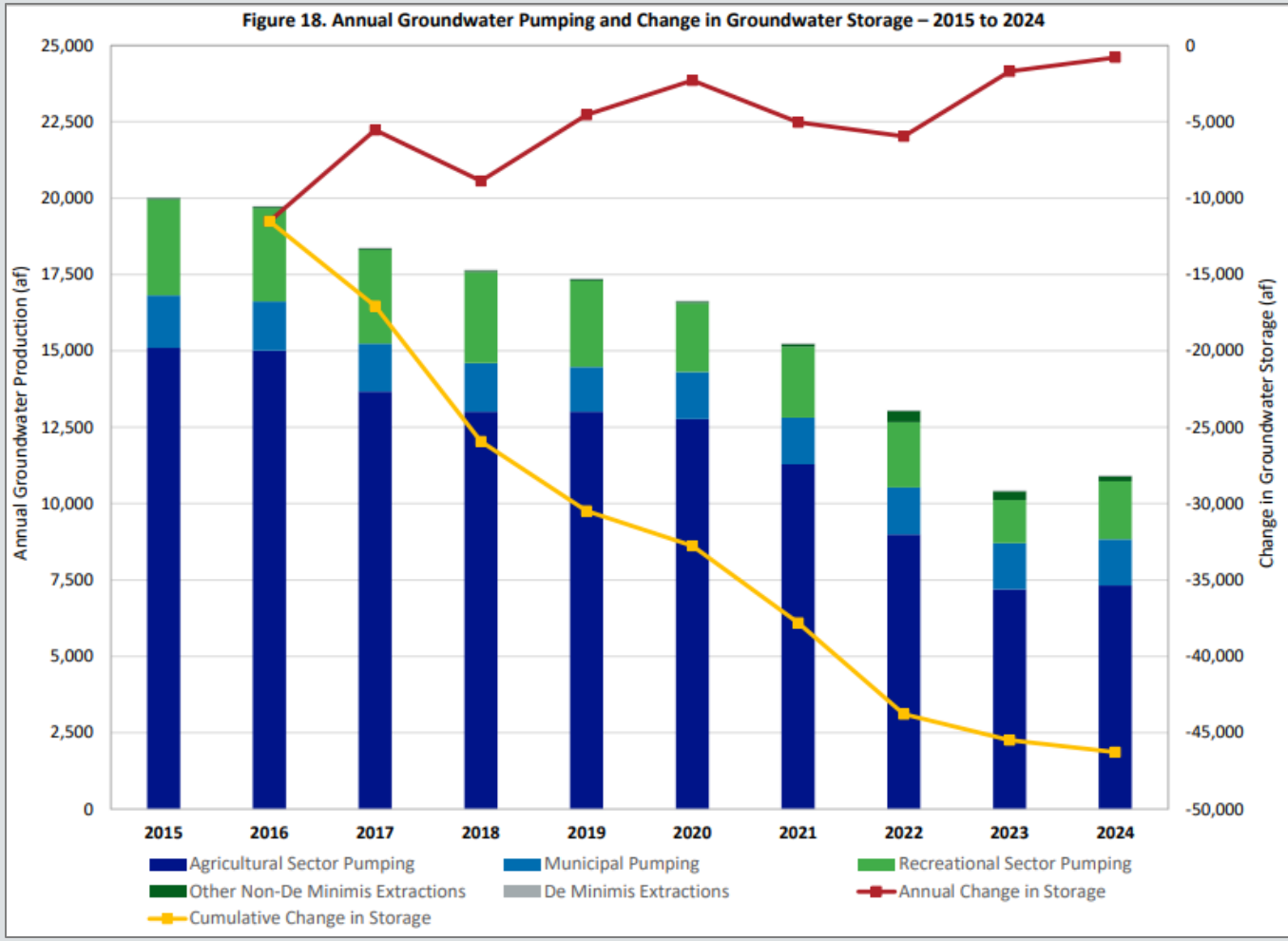
Key Findings on Basin Conditions

The rate of annual decline in storage is decreasing

Change in storage from WY 2023 to 2024
-789 af

Change in storage from 2015 to 2024 was -46,274 af, or about -5,141 afy

Change in storage from WY 2020 to 2024 was -13,499 af, or about -3,375 afy



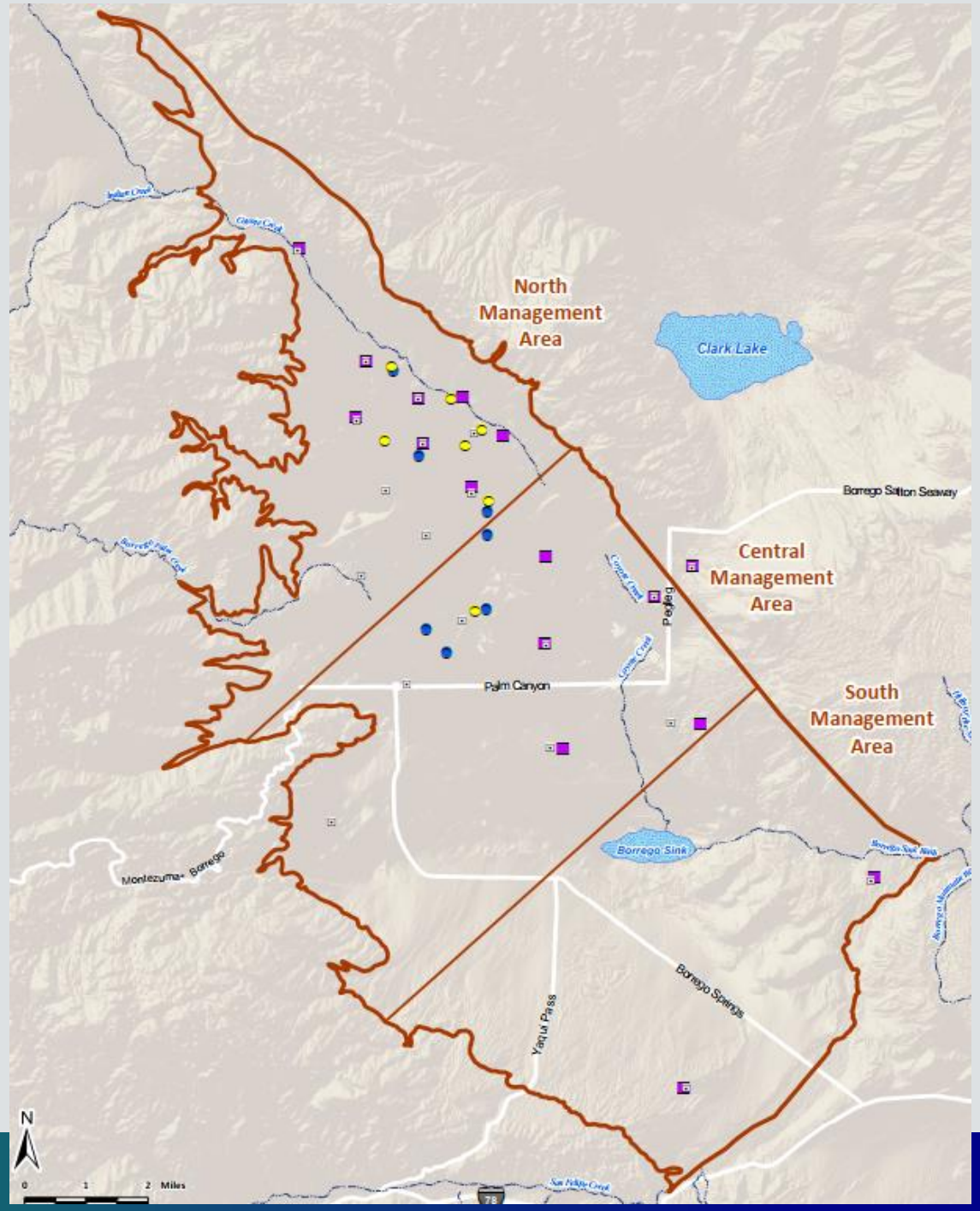
New Milestones Highlighted

Ahead of Rampdown schedule:

Total pumping by the Parities was 10,892 af, 44% less than the Annual Allocation of 19,482 af

Achieved 99% compliance with the meter reading program as of the end of WY 2024 (only one well remains unmetered)

Success of public outreach process to add new sites to the monitoring program



Process and Schedule to Complete Water Year 2024 Annual Report

December 5, 2024 - COMPLETED
- Report on Draft Change in Storage at Regular Board Meeting

January 29, 2025 - COMPLETED
- Post Annual Report to Website and Notice Hearing

February 19, 2025 – TODAY!
- Hearing to receive comments and recommendations for changes

February 28, 2025
- Written comments due to Watermaster staff

March 7, 2025
- Release revised Annual Report with Response to Comments as an appendix

March 19, 2025
- Board Meeting to review and adopt final Annual Report

April 1, 2025
- File Annual Report with the Court and DWR

V.B Hearing to Review the Draft 2024 Annual Report to DWR

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.C Budget Status Report as of December 31, 2024

Recommended Actions:

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

V.C - Budget Status Report as of December 31, 2024

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2025 as of December 31, 2024

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Approved WY 2025 Budget (as Amended)	Actual WY 2025 Year-to-Date	Percent (%) of Budget	Variance to Date *(Budget minus Actual)*	Notes
Revenues	**$ 1,263,380**	**$ 412,748.95**	**33%**	**$ 850,631.05**	**See below note re: DWR Prop 68 Revenue**
Pumping Assessments Invoiced	**$ 350,000**	**$ 163,511.16**	**47%**	**$ 186,488.84**	First installment was due 12/31/24
payments received		*$ 103,747.31*	*30%*		
Bad Debt (non-payment on Assessments)	**$ (2,500)**	**$ -**	**0%**	**$ (2,500.00)**	*Have not recorded bad debt*
Overproduction Penalty Assessments	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ -**	
Revenues Collected for Pass thru Expenses	**$ 7,316**	**$ -**	**0%**	**$ 7,316.00**	
payments received		*$ -*	*0%*		
DWR Prop 68 Grant Reimbursements Accrued	**$ 908,564**	**$ 249,237.79**	**27%**	**$ 659,326.21**	
Total Expenditures	**$ 1,476,038**	**$ 424,695.00**	**29%**	**$ 1,051,342.60**	
Administrative Services	**$ 421,598**	**$ 129,781.56**	31%	**$ 291,816.04**	
Watermaster Staff Admin Services	***$ 290,796***	***$ 95,724.20***	**33%**	**$ 195,071.40**	
Board Meetings	*$ 106,600*	*$ 31,301.45*	*29%*	*$ 75,298.15*	
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings	*$ 52,444*	*$22,224.50*	*42%*	*$ 30,219.50*	
Court Hearings	*$ 3,510*	*$ -*	*0%*	*$ 3,510.00*	
Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops	*$ 12,543*	*$6,828.00*	*54%*	*$ 5,715.00*	
Administration and Management	*$ 78,699*	*$ 17,766.25*	*23%*	*$ 60,932.75*	
Prop 68 Project Admin and Grant Reporting	*$ 37,000*	*$ 17,604.00*	*48%*	*$ 19,396.00*	
Other Administrative or Vendor Services	***$ 130,802***	***$ 34,052.10***	**26%**	**$ 96,749.90**	
Financial Audit	*$ 8,560*	*$ 6,448.00*	*75%*	*$ 2,112.00*	
Insurance	*$ 45,401*	*$ 10,738.62*	*24%*	*$ 34,662.38*	*Note: This is a pre-paid expense - this reflects balance sheet amount*
Misc. Expenses	*$ 2,500*	*$ 27.00*	*1%*	*$ 2,473.00*	
Meter Accuracy Testing Vendors	*$ 13,500*	*$ -*	*0%*	*$ 13,500.00*	
Interest on Vendor Terms During Prop 68 Grant Period	*$ 60,841*	*$ 16,838.48*	*28%*	*$ 44,002.52*	
Pass Through Expenses	***$ -***	***$ 5.26***		**$ (5.26)**	
Reimbursement to BWD for GSP	*$ -*	*$ 5.26*		*$ (5.26)*	
Legal Services	**$ 105,000**	**$ 12,365.00**	**12%**	**$ 92,635.00**	

Excerpt from Table 1 provided in Agenda package, compares Approved WY 2025 Budget (as amended) to actual as of December 31, 2024

V.C - Budget Status Report as of December 31, 2024

- **33% of planned revenues have been accrued to date.**
- **29% of planned expenditures have been spent to date**.
- **Payment liability to vendors with payment terms totals $496,979**
  - Represents about 66% of the maximum allowable liability
- **Cash reserves are $833,315**
  - Represents about 8.3 months of operating expenditures

V.C Budget Status Report as of December 31, 2024

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.D Fall 2024 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Recommended Actions:

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Fall 2024 Monitoring Event

- Groundwater levels were measured at **52 of the 53 wells** in the program
- Groundwater quality samples were collected at **37 of the 39 wells** in the program
  - 2 new wells added to monitoring program

- Reason(s) why remaining wells weren't monitored are documented in Table 1
- Appendix A and B have long-term time history charts with latest results

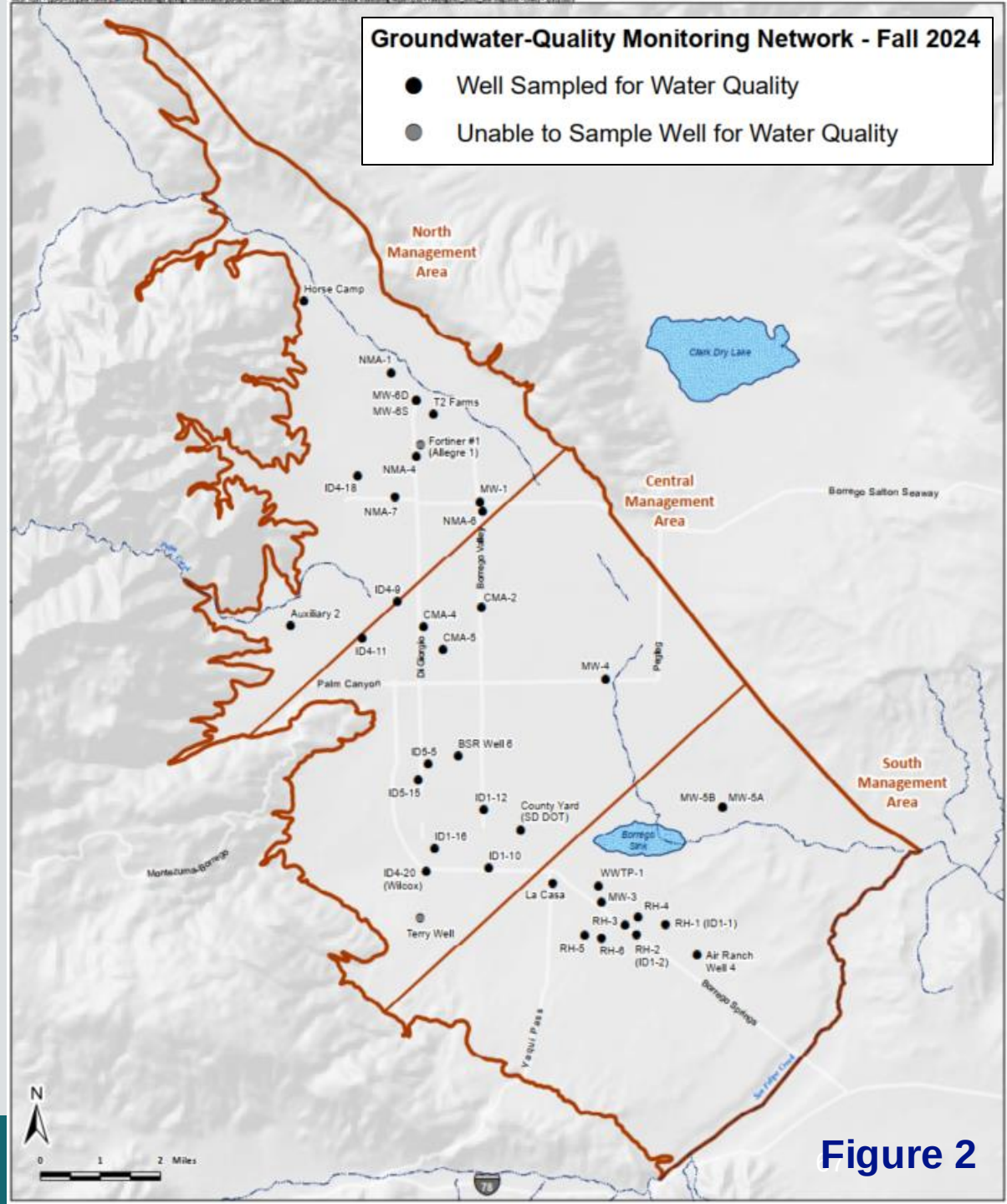


Figure 2

Expansion of Groundwater Monitoring Program

- Evaluated **5 wells** as potential candidates to add to the groundwater-level monitoring network
  - Water level measurements taken at 2 wells
- All 5 wells were deemed suitable and are currently being converted and added to monitoring network

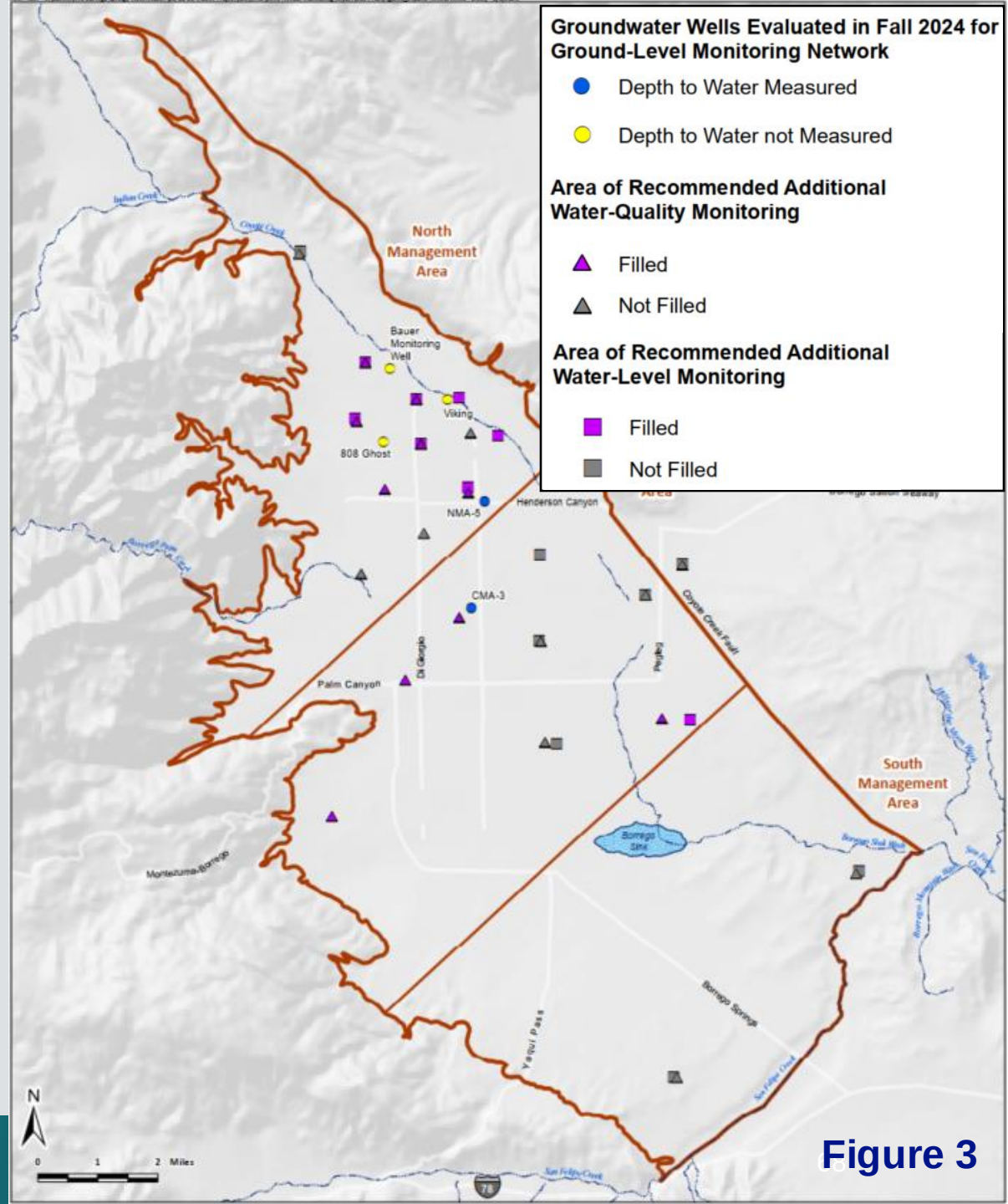


Figure 3

Fall 2024 Groundwater Levels Compared to Minimum Thresholds and Historical Trends

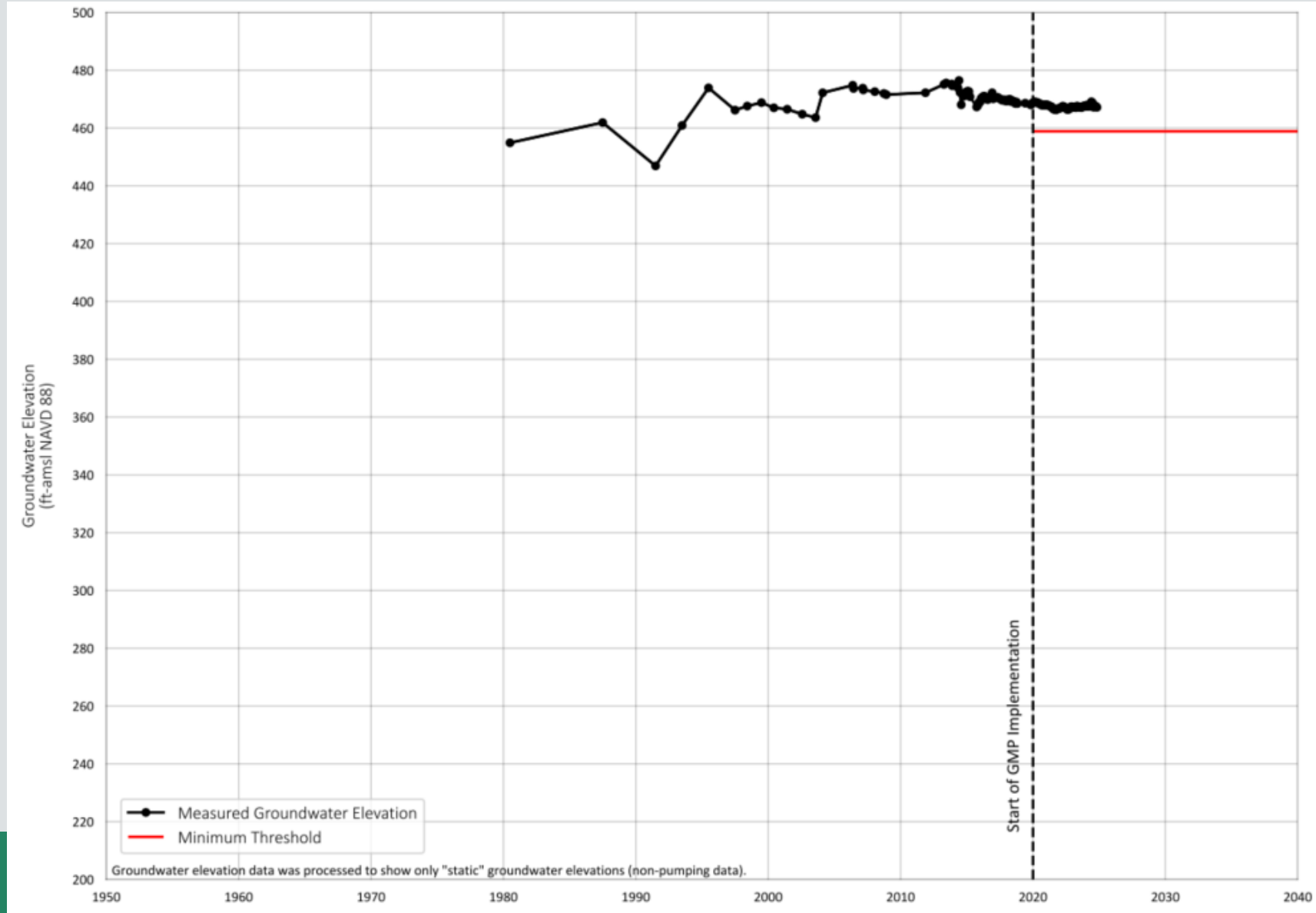
- For the 16 Representative Monitoring Wells, Fall 2024 groundwater level compared to:
  - Minimum Thresholds - **No well exceeded its Minimum Threshold**
  - Fall 2019 groundwater level – **groundwater levels have declined since fall 2019**
  - Historical rate of change – **rate of decline is slower, except at 3 wells**
- See Tables 3 and 4

Table 3. Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to Miniumum Threshold

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Fall 2024 Groundwater Elevation[a] (ft-msl) *a*	Minimum Threshold[b] (ft-msl) *b*	Fall 2024 Groundwater Elevation minus Minimum Threshold (ft) *c = a-b*
North Management Area				
MW-1	010S006E21A002S	373.85	336	38.1
ID4-3	010S006E18R001S	373.81	336	37.9
Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	374.01	331	43.2
ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	369.01	330	38.7
ID4-4	010S006E29K002S	360.75	*128*	233.2
Central Management Area				
ID4-1	010S006E32R001S	388.42	359	29.8
Airport 2	010S006E35N001S	*400.76*	381	20.2
ID1-16	011S006E16N001S	386.18	355	30.8
ID4-11	010S006E32D001S	371.79	*164*	208.1
ID1-12	011S006E16A002S	384.23	*285*	99.6
ID5-5	011S006E09E001S	386.17	*176*	209.8
South Management Area				
MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	407.43	396	11.5
MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	406.00	395	11.2
MW-3	011S006E23J002S	445.22	438	7.5
Air Ranch	011S007E30L001S	467.33	462	5.5
RH-1	011S006E25A001S	466.97	459	8.1

Groundwater Levels Compared to Minimum Thresholds at Representative Monitoring Wells

- Figures 4a-4p compare groundwater-levels at Representative Monitoring Wells to Minimum Thresholds
- No well has exceeded its Minimum Threshold based on static levels
- Figures revised to present *only* static levels (non-pumping data)



Fall 2024 Groundwater Quality

For five COCs, *Figures 5 through 9* show:

- Spatial distribution of water quality concentrations at all wells sampled in fall 2024
- Time history charts of historical concentration trends at selected wells in each Management Area
- The CA MCL for each COC

Key observations:

- Arsenic – increased number of wells exceeded MCL
- Other results similar to prior events

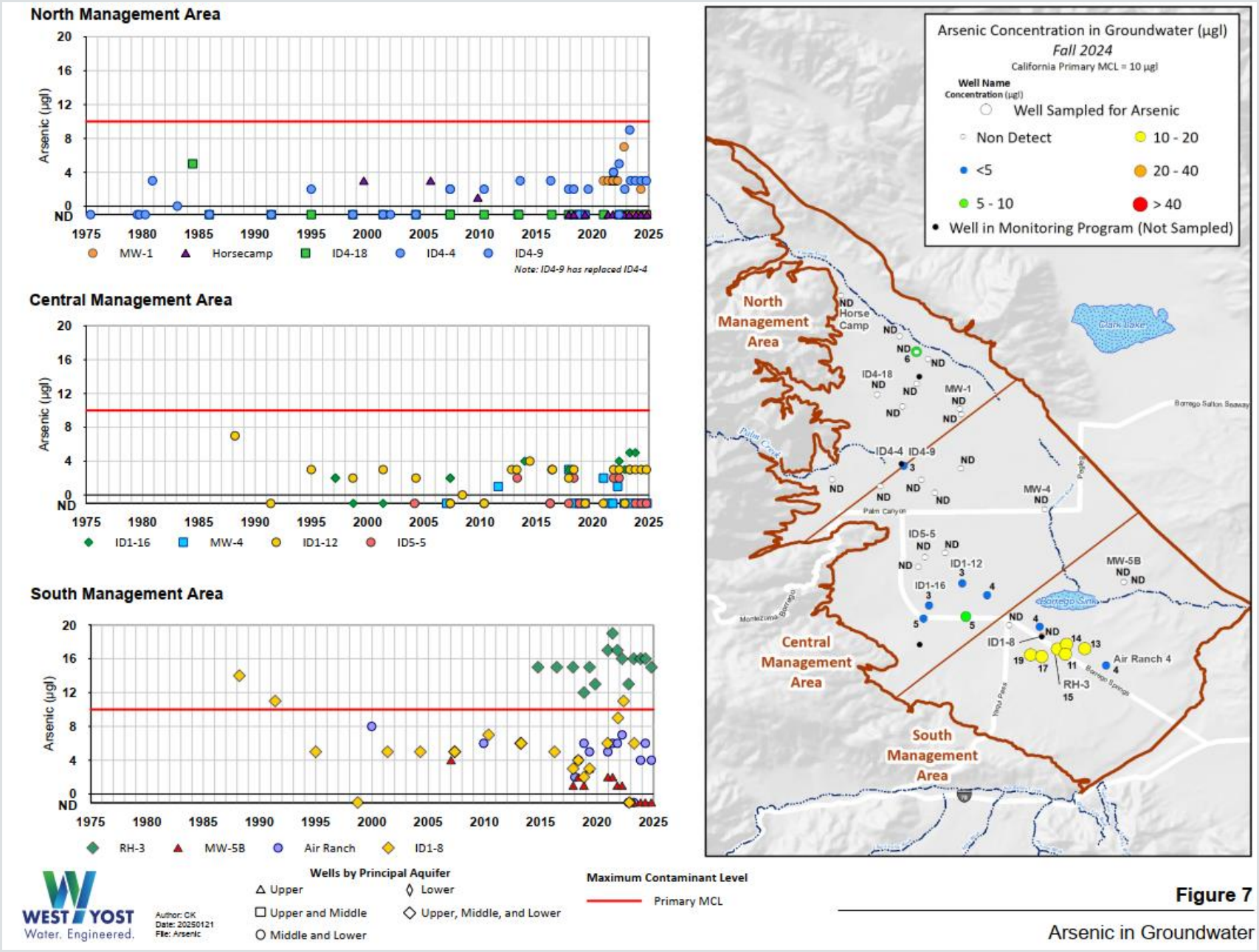


Figure 7

Arsenic in Groundwater

Fall 2024 Groundwater Quality Results Compared to Drinking Water Standards

- Table 5 lists all water quality sample results, by well, that exceeded a California or EPA drinking water standard during the fall 2024 monitoring event
- Table 6 summarizes number of wells with water quality exceedances for each constituent of concern (COC)

Table 6. Summary of Exceedances of Water Quality by Standard and Well Type

Parameter	Standard	Standard Limit (units)	Number of Drinking Water Wells with Exceedance	Number of Non-Potable Water Wells with Exccedance[1]	Number of Observation Wells with Exceedance
TDS[2]	CA Secondary MCL – lower limit	500 mgl	3	10	4
TDS[3]	CA Secondary MCL – upper limit	1,000 mgl	0	1	1
Sulfate	CA and EPA Secondary MCL	250 mgl	1	9	2
Nitrate (as N)	CA and EPA Primary MCL	10 mgl	0	4	1
Fluoride	EPA Secondary MCL	2 mgl	0	0	1
Arsenic	CA Primary MCL	0.01 mgl	0	6	0

IV.A Spring 2024 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

V.D Fall 2024 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

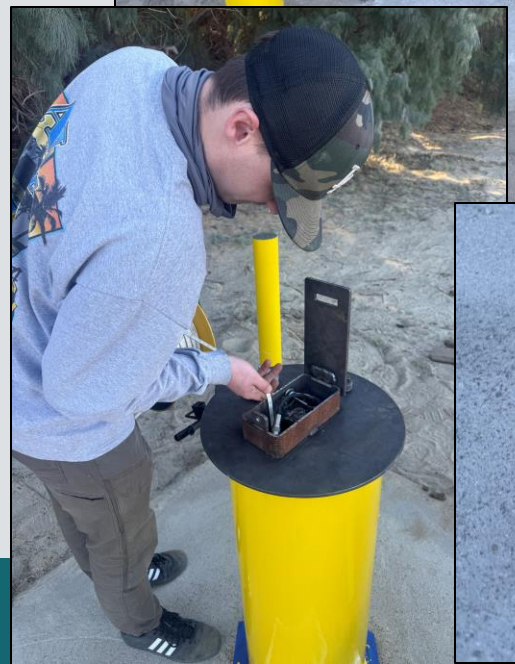
VI.A – Legal Counsel Report

- February 13 hearing on interventions - approved
- February status conference continued to August 2025

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Conversion of Abandoned Wells Project

- Finalized entry agreements with private well owners
- Performing field work Jan. 20th – Feb. 18th
- Secured and/or converted 15 wells:
  - 10 wells were already in monitoring program and in need of maintenance
  - 5 wells are new to monitoring program



Bing Crosby Well

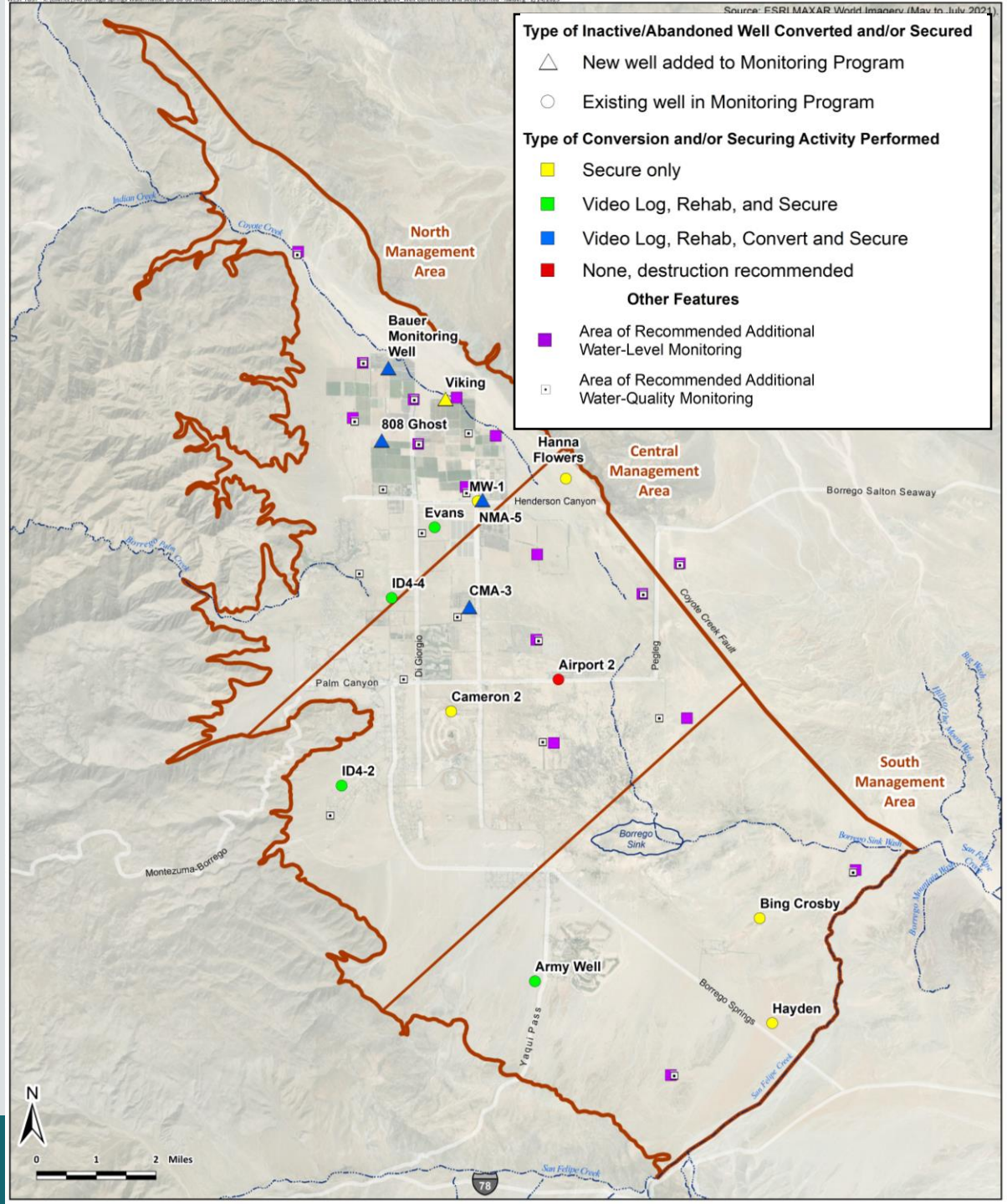
Before

After

VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

Conversion of Abandoned Wells Project

- Secured **6 inactive/abandoned wells**
  - 1 well added to Groundwater-Level Network
- Video logged, rehabilitated, and secured **4 existing wells** in monitoring program
- Video logged, rehabilitated, secured, and added **4 new wells**
- **1 well** (Airport 2) is beyond repair → destruction recommended
- Next steps:
  - Complete field work (2/18)
  - Inspect wells and prepare well completion reports (2/20)



VI.B – Technical Consultant Report

5-Year GMP Assessment Report

- Report due June 25, 2026, but completing as much as possible using grant funding
- Completed development of future pumping plans of the major pumpers in the Basin for use in running BVHM projections of the pumping Rampdown to predict future expected changes in groundwater levels and storage
- Continued preparing the BVHM for projection scenarios to simulate Basin conditions through 2070.
- Based on new information (monitoring program expansion and BVHM updates), developed recommendations for updating:
    - Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model description
    - Representative Monitoring Network
    - Certain Sustainable Management Criteria (e.g., groundwater level Minimum Thresholds, etc.)

VI.C – Executive Director Report

SGM Grant Status

- Status of Reimbursement Requests:
  - Request #6: ***Payment received by BWD!***
  - Request #7: Submitted to DWR on November 30, 2024 and under review (payment assumed June 2025)
  - Request #8: Submitted to DWR on February 14, 2025 (payment assumed September 2025)
- Staff completed and submitted draft "Grant Completion Report" on December 31, 2024
  - Grant manager is reviewing. Feedback expected in February 2025
  - Final Grant Report due 1-month after receipt of DWR comments
- Staff submitted budget amendment to transfer budget between grant categories and components on January 16th

VI.C – Executive Director Report

WY 2025 Pumping Assessments

- Nearly all WY 2025 Pumping Assessments have been paid (99%)
- 6 Parties still have outstanding balance, totaling $226.29
- Staff has sent reminders to all Parties with outstanding balances

Annual Meter Verification Process

- Final year grant funding will be available to cover costs
- Verification testing almost complete→ 88% of the 56 wells were tested
    - 7 wells still need to be tested. Staff is coordinating with remaining Parties to complete tests.

VI.D – Chairperson's Report

VII. Establishing Agenda for March 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Recommended Actions:

Develop and approve agenda for March 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Process:

1. Review the initial March agenda topics planned by Staff
2. Review the April and May tentative topics planned by Staff and previously requested items by Board members, as listed below
3. List out additional items that have arisen during the February 2025 Board meeting
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the March 2025 or other future agenda
5. Consider motion(s) to approve the agenda (the agenda can be approved in a single motion or multiple motions to cover each item).

Note: The Agenda/items are approved by majority vote (3 of 5 directors)

Initial Agenda for March Regular Meeting

1. Consideration of approval of the Water Year 2024 Annual Report to the DWR
2. Biological Restoration Project Final Report (Land IQ)
3. Presentation of 5 Year GMP Assessment Framework
4. Consideration of approval of April TAC Agenda
5. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)

Future Agenda Items

April

1. Final Overview of Work Completed with SGM Implementation Grant Funding
2. 2nd Quarter WY 2025 Budget Status Review
3. WY 2026 Budget Scoping
4. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)

May

1. Draft WY 2026 Budget
2. WY 2025 Mid-Year Pumping Report
3. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)

Set Agenda for March Regular Meeting

1. Consideration of approval of the Water Year 2024 Annual Report to the DWR
2. Biological Restoration Project Final Report (Land IQ)
3. Presentation of 5 Year GMP Assessment Framework
4. Consideration of approval of April TAC Agenda
5. DWR Review of 2020 GMP (if available)

VII. Establishing Agenda for March 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD DISCUSSION

VIII. Board Member Comments

IX. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

- Regular Board Meeting – March 19, 2025 (In-Person)
- Regular Board Meeting – April 16, 2025
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – February 25, 2025
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – March 18, 2025

X. Adjournment

- Thank you for your participation!