Borrego Springs Watermaster
Regular Board Meeting
June 18, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Available by Remote Access Only*

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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 II – 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.

AGENDA

Items with supporting documents in the Board Package are denoted with a page number.

I. OPENING PROCEDURES (Chair)

A. Call to Order and Begin Meeting Recording
B. Pledge of Allegiance
C. Roll Call
D. Approval of Agenda

II. PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE/COMMENT (Chair)

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. Written correspondence includes items received between May 15, 2025 and June 11, 2025.

A. Correspondence Received – *None received*
B. Public Comment

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Chair)

Action Item: All items may be approved with a single motion

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – May 21, 2025 ..... **Page 3**

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Wedneseday, May 21, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Directors Present	Chair Dave Duncan – Borrego Water District (BWD)
	Vice Chair Tyler Bilyk – Agricultural Sector
	Secretary and Treasurer Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector
	Mark Jorgensen – Community Representative (arrived at 3:30pm)
	Jim Bennett – County of San Diego
Watermaster Staff Present	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost
	Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost
	Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost
Others Present	Carol Black
	David Garmon
	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	George Peraza, DWR
	Jesica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Officer
	Kathy Dice, Board Alternate - BWD
	Rich Pinel, Board Alternate – Recreational Sector
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member
	Travis Huxman, UCI
	Trey Driscoll, Intera, TAC Member representing BWD

Please visit the Watermaster's Website[1] to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the May 21, 2025 Meeting.

I. Opening Procedures

A. Chair Duncan called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at which time the meeting recording was started.

B. Chair Duncan led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED), called roll and confirmed that a quorum of 4 of 5 members of the Board were present. Director Jorgensen arrived at 3:30pm, increasing the Board member quorum to 5.

D. Approval of Agenda.

Motion: Motioned by Vice Chair Bilyk, seconded by Director Smith to approve the Agenda. *Motion carried unanimously in a roll-call vote (4-0).* Director Jorgensen was absent.

1 https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/

II. Public Correspondence

A. Correspondence Received. No correspondence was received.

B. Public Comments. Chair Duncan called for public comments. There were no public comments.

III. Consent Calendar. Chair Duncan called for any discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the May 21, 2025 agenda package.

- Director Smith highlighted that the pending reimbursements from DWR are nearly $1,000,000.
- The increased cost in April 2025 is due to the expiration of the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant funding. In March, routine technical activities, such as supporting the meter read program, were reimbursable under the SGM grant. In April, these same activities could no longer be billed to the SGM grants and were billed to the Non-Grant Reimbursable Administrative task.
- Add a footnote to page 6 of the meeting minutes that describes the range of evapotranspiration (ET) consumed by the mesquite bosque reported in the final Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Identification and Monitoring Program Report.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Vice Chair Bilyk to approve the Consent Calendar inclusive of the revisions to the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes. *Motion carried unanimously in a roll-call vote (4-0).* Director Jorgensen was absent.

IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action

A. *Consideration of Approval to Renew Watermaster Insurance Policy.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. There was no public comment.

The key points of discussion by the Board included:

- Director Smith stated he had reviewed the insurance policy and found that there are no material changes compared to prior insurance policies and that the quote was consistent with increases in the insurance market.
- Director Smith also stated that the Watermaster should investigate reducing the insurance policy costs in future years by taking on more risk.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Bennett, to approve renewal of the insurance policy. *Motion carried unanimously in a roll-call vote (4-0).* Director Jorgensen was absent.

B. Draft Water Year 2026 Budget. ED Adams summarized the draft Water Year (WY) 2026 budget included in the agenda package. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. Public comment was made by Diane Johnson, David Garmon, and Trey Driscoll.

Public questions and comments, including Board and staff response if any, included:

- Does the $7,500 budgeted to address DWR's Recommended Corrective Actions (RCA) #5 – Groundwater Quality Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) assume that some of the work will also be performed as routine work (and therefore not included in this cost estimate)?
  - The cost estimated to address RCA #5 reflects the draft scope of work included in the agenda package.

- Why is the cost of the task to evaluate the GDE Study Report listed in Table B1 (of agenda package) lower than the estimated cost presented for this task at the April 16, 2025 Board meeting?
  - ED Adams described that the changes to the estimate for this task include: i) the TAC recommended changes to the scope and schedule of work, and ii) some of the costs are shared among the EWG and TAC budgets.
- What is the objective of the workshops at the Board meetings listed in the schedule? Will the TAC and EWG be involved in these?
  - These workshops are intended to provide the Board with information through the development of the 5-Year Assessment Report, and in responding to DWR comments. The TAC and EWG will provide input on relevant topics through TAC and EWG meetings, but members are always welcome to attend Board meetings to provide public comment.
- The draft WY 2026 budget and the increased costs to Pumpers signifies a shift in the Basin; water is getting more expensive.
- Is the Watermaster seeking external funding from grants or the state?
  - There are limited options right now, but we are listening for grant funding opportunities.

The key points of discussion by the Board included:

- The cost and high-level description of the approach to address DWR's RCA on the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) are included in Exhibit B of the agenda package.
- The budget currently assumes that any legal services needed to address DWR corrective actions will be covered by the as-needed line item, without an increase to the WY 2025 budget. Any support provided by the Judgment attorneys would costs covered by the Parties they represent. Consider the need to increase the legal services budget.
- At the June 2025 Board meeting, staff intends to present the Board with the option to utilize un-spent budget in WY 2025 as a stand-alone action item and/or as part of a series of motions to approve the budget.
- The projected future costs are much higher than assumed and an effort should be made to reduce costs.
- To help reduce future costs, Director Smith recommended more junior staff at West Yost lead meetings instead of the ED and TC.
- There is not enough time between meetings and to meet the Judgment budget deadline to appoint a subcommittee to review and work with West Yost on selecting line items to reduce cost.
- Vice Chair Bilyk mentioned he has a list of items to remove to reduce costs that he plans to share with West Yost.
- The scope of routine work needs to be revisited to reduce costs, such as reducing the level of effort to prepare the Annual Report, reducing the number of Board meetings, limiting the number of in-person Board meetings to once per year, reducing stakeholder open house events, and/or reducing the number/frequency of sampling groundwater monitoring wells.
- Concern that the cost estimate for future modeling work is too low. Director Bennett and Mr. Malone agreed to meet offline to discuss these cost estimates to assess if it is sufficient for meeting the expectation for best available science.

- How the cost for water in Borrego Springs compared to the Judgment implementation for the Hemet-San Jacinto Watermaster.
  - Trey Driscoll (Intera) noted that the Hemet-San Jacinto Watermaster is partially subsidized by Eastern Municipal Water District, who does the numerical modeling, groundwater monitoring, and assists with the Annual Report on behalf of the entire Basin, and thus can't be directly compared to costs in Borrego.
- For planning purposes, it is assumed an update the GMP document will be performed as part of the 5-year GMP assessment.
- The budget line item for "GMP redline document" is for compiling the document, including updating the document based on public feedback.
- The work proposed to be performed using unspent budget in WY 2025 must be performed to complete the 5-Year Assessment. If not performed in WY 2025, it will need to be done in WY 2026. Shifting the schedule will make it very difficult to meet the June 2026 reporting deadline. The item should be presented as a change in scope and an increase in cost to the pumpers, even though it is within the line-item budget for WY 2025. This provides full transparency to the pumpers.
- Chair Duncan and Director Smith both stated they are comfortable with a minimum of 9 months operating reserves.
- Not to be overlooked, the Watermaster has progressed significantly towards achieving sustainability.

Following the discussion, the Board directed staff to finalize a draft of the WY 2026 budget in consideration of the Board discussion.

C. *Review of Pumping-to-Date in WY 2025.* ED Adams reviewed the status of pumping-to-date in WY 2025 and summarized the memo included in the agenda package. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. Public comment was made by David Garmon.

Public questions and comments, including Board and staff response if any, included:

- What is annual De Minimis pumping? De Minimis pumping is not metered. Estimated De Minimis pumping is reported in the Annual Report to the DWR and is estimated using the assumption of 0.5 acre-feet per year per De Minimis pumper (as done in the GMP). Total use is estimated to be about 26 acre-feet per year.

The key points of discussion by the Board included:

- An observation that there's been less than 2 inches of rainfall in WY 2025, which may explain the increase in pumping relative to the wetter WY 2024.
- Request for clarification on the statement that "Pumping by the agriculture, recreational, and other non De-Minimis sectors increased by 22 af to 504 af in **WY 2025** compared to WY 2024." The 22 to 504 acre-feet is the range in increase relative to WY 2025: agriculture increased by 504 af, recreational increased by 309 af, and other non-De minimis increased by 22 af.

No Board action was taken.

D. Consideration of Approval of EWG Meeting. Andy Malone presented the proposed agenda for the upcoming EWG meeting. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair

Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. Public comment was made by David Garmon.

Public questions and comments, including Board and staff response if any, included:

- Will the TAC review the final report on fallowing prepared by Land IQ? And, is the report considered best available science?
  - The Board has not directed the TAC to review the fallowing report. Because the report was prepared by the Watermaster, the report isn't required to go through the process to determine if its "best available science".2 The EWG has been involved throughout the process of developing the report and will provide recommendations to the Board following the outcomes from a future EWG meeting.

The key points of discussion by the Board included:

- When will the EWG review the GDE report?
  - The EWG's review of the GDE report is dependent on the Board's direction and WY 2026 budget. The draft budget assumes the EWG will begin review of the GDE report in WY 2025 and perform the majority of the work in WY 2026 utilizing the $20,000 annual budget that was agreed for the EWG.

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen seconded by Director Bennett, to approve the EWG agenda. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

V. Reports.

A. Legal Counsel Report. Mr. Markman summarized the proposed Assembly Bill (AB) 1413 and its potential impact on the Watermaster's process of redetermining the Sustainable Yield.

B. Technical Consultant Report. Mr. Malone reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 34 through 40 of the Board presentation slides). There were no additional topics discussed. Public comment was made by Tammy Baker, Steve Anderson, and David Garmon.

Public questions and comments included:

- What is the purpose of developing alternative pumping projections? Why should the Watermaster spend money on additional projections instead of fixing the model? What authority exists for Watermaster to manage where pumping is occurring? A discussion ensued to address some of these questions.
- Recommendation for the Board to approve the appropriate budget for future WYs to complete the necessary work.
- Confirm that the two GDE tasks be performed over two years. Yes, the TAC recommended that the budget and schedule be adjusted to be performed iteratively so that Tasks 1 and 2 will be performed in WY 2026 and 2027, respectively.

Board questions and comments included:

2 Per the Watermaster's policy regarding the use of best available science, which is available on the Watermaster's website at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BSWM-Policy-on-Use-of-Best-Available-Science_final.pdf

- Discussion on the pumping sustainability comment made on pg. 198 of 214 of the agenda package. Some Board members (Smith and Bilyk) felt that statement was not a reflection of the TAC discussion and may be a premature statement to make, while other Board members (Bennett) felt that the statement accurately reflected the comments made at the TAC meeting.
- The additional future pumping projection to address a change to BWD pumping location was recommended by the TAC and would ideally be performed in WY 2025 with available unspent budget to support the 5-yr GMP Assessment.

C. Executive Director Reports. ED Adams reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 41 through 42 of the Board presentation slides.) There were no additional topics discussed.

Board questions and comments included:

- To date, DWR has not retained any of the funds requested. Thus far all reimbursements have been paid in full. However, DWR can retain the final 10% of funding requested, which is assumed in the financial model out of caution.

D. Chairperson's Report. NONE

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for June 18, 2025 Board Meeting. ED Adams reviewed the potential agenda items for the next Board meetings listed in the agenda package. The Board discussed items to be included on the June 18, 2025 Board meeting agenda, in addition to items listed in the Agenda package. There was no additional discussion.

— The agenda will include:

- Consideration of approval of WY 2026 Budget
- TAC meeting for July/August
- Spring 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
- Workshop: Addressing DWR Comments on Judgment/GMP - Consideration's for Updating the GMP

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen seconded by Director Smith, to approve the June 18, 2025 agenda presented. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

VII. Board Member Comments. Chair Duncan called for comments.

— Appreciation for the detailed draft WY 2026 budget.

— Concern that the GDE Report is not being reviewed and addressed with enough urgency.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster. Chair Duncan reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package.

IX. Adjournment

A. Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Recorded by:
Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost

Attest:
Shannon Smith, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board

1:10 PM

06/09/25

Accrual Basis

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Profit & Loss for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
October 2024 through May 2025

	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense									
Income									
DWR Grant Reimbursement t	0.00	408,323.49	0.00	0.00	239,810.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	648,133.73
Meter Read Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,025.28	7,025.28
Pumping Assessment	(824.30)	164,335.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175,021.24	338,532.40
Services Rendered	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,691.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,691.75
WY 2024 - Expected Grant Reimb v	0.00	(408,323.49)	0.00	0.00	(239,810.24)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(648,133.73)
WY 2025 - Expected Grant Reimb	136,962.85	49,880.97	62,393.97	224,085.28	212,398.73	202,775.65	11,675.70	(144.50)	900,028.65
Total Income	136,138.55	214,216.43	62,393.97	226,777.03	212,398.73	202,775.65	11,675.70	181,902.02	1,248,278.08
Expense									
Audit	0.00	0.00	6,448.00	806.00	0.00	844.00	0.00	0.00	8,098.00
Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	27.00	25.00	0.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	79.00
Consult Serv Land IQ-Grant Reim **	40,541.61	22,282.97	13,094.22	78,843.89	30,072.97	23,245.55	(182.55)	0.00	207,898.66
Consult Serv WY-Grant Reim **	96,421.24	27,598.00	49,299.75	132,526.39	182,325.76	177,815.10	11,858.25	(144.50)	677,699.99
Consulting Services *	27,124.75	27,751.35	18,892.27	17,707.75	11,272.19	11,814.48	31,425.43	29,158.05	175,146.27
Consulting Services- Meter Read	517.50	(155.25)	51.75	161.25	303.00	107.50	107.50	1,193.50	2,286.75
Insurance	3,579.54	3,579.54	3,579.54	3,579.54	3,579.54	3,579.54	3,579.54	3,579.50	28,636.28
Interest Expense	5,897.50	5,691.39	5,249.59	3,092.56	3,526.73	4,700.21	6,882.68	6,474.39	41,515.05
Legal	4,500.00	4,865.00	3,000.00	13,210.00	8,312.50	3,901.25	540.00	5,034.25	43,363.00
Meter Accuracy Test–Grant Reim **	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,715.00	0.00	1,715.00	0.00	0.00	14,430.00
Meter Read Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,188.22	0.00	0.00	1,190.20	0.00	2,378.42
Reimbursed to BWD for GSP	0.60	0.00	4.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.26
Total Expense	178,582.74	91,613.00	99,646.78	263,855.60	239,392.69	227,749.63	55,401.05	45,295.19	1,201,536.68
Net Ordinary Income	(42,444.19)	122,603.43	(37,252.81)	(37,078.57)	(26,993.96)	(24,973.98)	(43,725.35)	136,606.83	46,741.40
Net Income	**(42,444.19)**	**122,603.43**	**(37,252.81)**	**(37,078.57)**	**(26,993.96)**	**(24,973.98)**	**(43,725.35)**	**136,606.83**	**46,741.40**

* Represents Consulting services by West Yost that are not grant reimbursable.

** Represents expenses that can be reimbursed with grant funding from DWR.

t Reflects actual reimbursement received from DWR.

v Reflects reversal of estimated reimbursement amounts in prior WYs.

12:08 PM

06/09/25

Accrual Basis

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
As of May 31, 2025

	May 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
US Bank	600,938.68
Total Checking/Savings	600,938.68
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	185,080.86
Total Accounts Receivable	185,080.86
Other Current Assets	
Accrued Grant Reimburse 2024	295,964.79
Accrued Grant Reimburse 2025	900,028.65
Prepaid Expenses	47,352.19
Total Other Current Assets	1,243,345.63
Total Current Assets	2,029,365.17
TOTAL ASSETS	**2,029,365.17**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	834,053.02
Total Accounts Payable	834,053.02
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Payables	35,654.30
Total Other Current Liabilities	35,654.30
Total Current Liabilities	869,707.32
Total Liabilities	869,707.32
Equity	
Retained Earnings	1,112,916.45
Net Income	46,741.40
Total Equity	1,159,657.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**2,029,365.17**

1:12 PM
06/09/25
Accrual Basis

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Expense Distribution Detail
May 2025

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount
Land IQ, LLC					
Bill	05/31/2025	LandIQ Int May25 Est	May 2025 Estimated Interest	Interest Expense	2,088.14
Credit	05/31/2025	CR_LandIQ Int May25	Credit for May 2025 Final Interest, Including Payments	Interest Expense	(6.33)
Total Land IQ, LLC					2,081.81
RWG Law					
General Journal	05/01/2025	102R	RWG Estimate for April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Legal	(2,500.00)
Bill	05/14/2025	252962	Services rendered through April 30, 2025	Legal	4,034.25
General Journal	05/31/2025	105	RWG Estimate for May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025	Legal	3,500.00
Total RWG Law					5,034.25
West Yost & Associates					
General Journal	05/01/2025	102R	WY Estimate for April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consulting Services	(31,939.43)
General Journal	05/01/2025	102R	WY Estimate for April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consulting Services- Meter Read	(107.50)
General Journal	05/01/2025	102R	WY Estimate for April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consult Serv WY-Grant Reim	(8,152.25)
Bill	05/19/2025	2062724	West Yost Consulting Services April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consulting Services	30,136.68
Bill	05/19/2025	2062724	West Yost Consulting Services April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consulting Services- Meter Read	107.50
Bill	05/19/2025	2062725	West Yost Consulting Services April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consult Serv WY-Grant Reim	5,836.00
Bill	05/19/2025	2062726	West Yost Consulting Services April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025	Consult Serv WY-Grant Reim	2,171.75
Bill	05/31/2025	Interest May25 Est	May 2025 Estimated Interest	Interest Expense	4,176.73
Bill	05/31/2025	Interest May25 Final	May 2025 Final Interest, Including Payments	Interest Expense	215.85
General Journal	05/31/2025	105	WY Estimate for May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025	Consulting Services	30,960.80
General Journal	05/31/2025	105	WY Estimate for May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025	Consulting Services- Meter Read	1,193.50
Total West Yost & Associates					34,599.63
TOTAL					**41,715.69**

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Register: US Bank
From 05/01/2025 through 05/31/2025
Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
5/6/2025	2193	Borrego Water Dist	Accounts Payable	March 2025 Meter reads	1,190.20			650,151.75
5/6/2025	2194	Land IQ, LLC	Accounts Payable		14,111.48			636,040.27
5/6/2025	2195	West Yost & Associates	Accounts Payable		35,101.59	X		600,938.68

West Yost Associates
2020 Research Park Drive, Suite 100
Davis, CA 95618

To: Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Interest Schedule: 5/31/2025

Invoice No.	Invoice Date / Payment Date	Invoice Amount	Prime Rate (Plus 2%)	Interest Charge	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
2061686	1/31/2025	$ 16,212.94				$ 16,212.94
	2/28/2025		9.50%	$ 118.15	$ 16,212.94	$ 16,331.09
	3/24/2025	$ (238.09)	9.50%	$ 102.01	$ 16,093.00	$ 16,195.02
	3/31/2025		9.50%	$ 29.51	$ 16,195.02	$ 16,224.52
	4/17/2025	$ (812.40)	9.50%	$ 71.79	$ 15,412.12	$ 15,483.91
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 52.39	$ 15,483.91	$ 15,536.30
	5/20/2025	$ (15,617.18)	9.50%	$ 80.87	$ (80.88)	$ (0.00)
2061687	1/31/2025	$ 111,238.53				$ 111,238.53
	2/28/2025		9.50%	$ 810.67	$ 111,238.53	$ 112,049.20
	3/24/2025	$ (1,714.74)	9.50%	$ 699.92	$ 110,334.46	$ 111,034.38
	3/31/2025		9.50%	$ 202.30	$ 111,034.38	$ 111,236.68
	4/17/2025	$ (868.56)	9.50%	$ 492.18	$ 110,368.12	$ 110,860.30
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 375.10	$ 110,860.30	$ 111,235.41
	5/20/2025	$ (1,618.61)	9.50%	$ 579.03	$ 109,616.80	$ 110,195.83
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 315.49	$ 110,195.83	$ 110,511.32
2061688	1/31/2025	$ 4,889.25				$ 4,889.25
	2/28/2025		9.50%	$ 35.63	$ 4,889.25	$ 4,924.88
	3/24/2025	$ (75.37)	9.50%	$ 30.76	$ 4,849.51	$ 4,880.27
	3/31/2025		9.50%	$ 8.89	$ 4,880.27	$ 4,889.17
	4/17/2025	$ (38.18)	9.50%	$ 21.63	$ 4,850.99	$ 4,872.62
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 16.49	$ 4,872.62	$ 4,889.11
	5/20/2025	$ (39.45)	9.50%	$ 25.45	$ 4,849.66	$ 4,875.11
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 13.96	$ 4,875.11	$ 4,889.06
2062142	2/28/2025	$ 12,428.62				$ 12,428.62
	3/31/2025		9.50%	$ 100.28	$ 12,428.62	$ 12,528.90
	4/17/2025	$ (198.11)	9.50%	$ 55.44	$ 12,330.79	$ 12,386.23
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 41.91	$ 12,386.23	$ 12,428.14
	5/20/2025	$ (100.28)	9.50%	$ 64.69	$ 12,327.86	$ 12,392.55
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 35.48	$ 12,392.55	$ 12,428.03

West Yost Associates
2020 Research Park Drive, Suite 100
Davis, CA 95618

To: Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Interest Schedule: 5/31/2025

Invoice No.	Invoice Date / Payment Date	Invoice Amount	Prime Rate (Plus 2%)	Interest Charge	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
2062143	2/28/2025	$ 181,579.00				$ 181,579.00
	3/31/2025		9.50%	$ 1,465.07	$ 181,579.00	$ 183,044.07
	4/17/2025	$ (2,574.43)	9.50%	$ 809.91	$ 180,469.64	$ 181,279.55
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 613.37	$ 181,279.55	$ 181,892.92
	5/20/2025	$ (1,467.60)	9.50%	$ 946.84	$ 180,425.32	$ 181,372.16
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 519.27	$ 181,372.16	$ 181,891.43
2062144	2/28/2025	$ 856.50				$ 856.50
	3/31/2025		9.50%	$ 6.91	$ 856.50	$ 863.41
	4/17/2025	$ (13.65)	9.50%	$ 3.82	$ 849.76	$ 853.58
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 2.89	$ 853.58	$ 856.47
	5/20/2025	$ (6.91)	9.50%	$ 4.46	$ 849.56	$ 854.02
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 2.45	$ 854.02	$ 856.46
2062348	3/31/2025	$ 10,825.11				$ 10,825.11
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 84.52	$ 10,825.11	$ 10,909.63
	5/20/2025	$ (172.54)	9.50%	$ 56.79	$ 10,737.09	$ 10,793.88
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 30.90	$ 10,793.88	$ 10,824.79
2062349	3/31/2025	$ 176,727.47				$ 176,727.47
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 1,379.93	$ 176,727.47	$ 178,107.40
	5/20/2025	$ (16,050.48)	9.50%	$ 927.13	$ 162,056.92	$ 162,984.05
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 466.63	$ 162,984.05	$ 163,450.68
2062350	3/31/2025	$ 1,790.50				$ 1,790.50
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 13.98	$ 1,790.50	$ 1,804.48
	5/20/2025	$ (28.54)	9.50%	$ 9.39	$ 1,775.94	$ 1,785.33
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 5.11	$ 1,785.33	$ 1,790.45
2062724	4/30/2025	$ 30,244.18				$ 30,244.18
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 244.02	$ 30,244.18	$ 30,488.20
2062725	4/30/2025	$ 5,836.00				$ 5,836.00
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 47.09	$ 5,836.00	$ 5,883.09

West Yost Associates
2020 Research Park Drive, Suite 100
Davis, CA 95618

To: Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Interest Schedule: 5/31/2025

Invoice No.	Invoice Date / Payment Date	Invoice Amount	Prime Rate (Plus 2%)	Interest Charge	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
2062726	4/30/2025	$ 2,171.75				$ 2,171.75
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 17.52	$ 2,171.75	$ 2,189.27

Total Invoices (Less Pymts)	**$ 513,164.73**	
Current Month Interest (*Estimated*)		**$ 4,176.73**
Current Month Interest (*Final, including payments*)		**$ 4,392.59**
Prior Month Interest Adjustment		**$ -**
Adjusted Monthly Interest		**$ 215.85**
Total Interest Charges		**$ 12,038.05**
Grand Total		**$ 525,202.76**

2020 L St, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95811

To: Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Interest Schedule: 5/31/2025

Invoice No.	Invoice Date / Payment Date	Invoice Amount	Prime Rate (Plus 2%)	Interest Charge	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
6290	9/30/2024	$ 50,880.24				$ 50,880.24
	10/31/2024		10.00%	$ 432.13	$ 50,880.24	$ 51,312.37
	11/8/2024		9.75%	$ 109.65	$ 51,312.37	$ 51,422.03
	11/14/2024	$ (432.13)	9.75%	$ 82.42	$ 50,989.90	$ 51,072.31
	11/19/2024	$ (421.75)	9.75%	$ 68.21	$ 50,650.56	$ 50,718.78
	11/30/2024		9.75%	$ 149.03	$ 50,718.78	$ 50,867.81
	12/19/2024		9.50%	$ 251.55	$ 50,867.81	$ 51,119.36
	12/31/2024		9.50%	$ 159.66	$ 51,119.36	$ 51,279.02
No Interest to Accrue	1/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 51,279.02	$ 51,279.02
No Interest to Accrue	2/28/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 51,279.02	$ 51,279.02
No Interest to Accrue	3/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 51,279.02	$ 51,279.02
	4/25/2025	$ (1,128.78)	9.50%	$ 333.66	$ 50,150.24	$ 50,483.90
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 65.70	$ 50,483.90	$ 50,549.60
	5/29/2025	$ (12,431.20)	9.50%	$ 381.55	$ 38,118.40	$ 38,499.95
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 20.04	$ 38,499.95	$ 38,519.99
6353	10/31/2024	$ 40,790.41				$ 40,790.41
	11/8/2024		9.75%	$ 87.17	$ 40,790.41	$ 40,877.58
	11/30/2024		9.75%	$ 240.23	$ 40,877.58	$ 41,117.80
	12/19/2024		9.50%	$ 203.34	$ 41,117.80	$ 41,321.14
	12/31/2024		9.50%	$ 129.06	$ 41,321.14	$ 41,450.20
No Interest to Accrue	1/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 41,450.20	$ 41,450.20
No Interest to Accrue	2/28/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 41,450.20	$ 41,450.20
No Interest to Accrue	3/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 41,450.20	$ 41,450.20
	4/25/2025	$ (754.02)	9.50%	$ 269.71	$ 40,696.18	$ 40,965.89
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 53.31	$ 40,965.89	$ 41,019.20
	5/29/2025	$ (330.96)	9.50%	$ 309.61	$ 40,688.24	$ 40,997.85
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 21.34	$ 40,997.85	$ 41,019.19

2020 L St, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95811

To: Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Interest Schedule: 5/31/2025

Invoice No.	Invoice Date / Payment Date	Invoice Amount	Prime Rate (Plus 2%)	Interest Charge	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
6427	11/30/2024	$ 22,757.10				$ 22,757.10
	12/19/2024		9.50%	$ 112.54	$ 22,757.10	$ 22,869.64
	12/31/2024		9.50%	$ 71.43	$ 22,869.64	$ 22,941.07
No Interest to Accrue	1/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 22,941.07	$ 22,941.07
No Interest to Accrue	2/28/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 22,941.07	$ 22,941.07
No Interest to Accrue	3/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 22,941.07	$ 22,941.07
	4/25/2025	$ (363.10)	9.50%	$ 149.27	$ 22,577.97	$ 22,727.24
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 29.58	$ 22,727.24	$ 22,756.82
	5/29/2025	$ (183.61)	9.50%	$ 171.77	$ 22,573.21	$ 22,744.97
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 11.84	$ 22,744.97	$ 22,756.81
6487	12/31/2024	$ 46,546.27				$ 46,546.27
No Interest to Accrue	1/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 46,546.27	$ 46,546.27
No Interest to Accrue	2/28/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 46,546.27	$ 46,546.27
No Interest to Accrue	3/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 46,546.27	$ 46,546.27
	4/25/2025	$ (363.44)	9.50%	$ 302.87	$ 46,182.83	$ 46,485.70
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 60.50	$ 46,485.70	$ 46,546.19
	5/29/2025	$ (375.56)	9.50%	$ 351.33	$ 46,170.63	$ 46,521.96
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 24.22	$ 46,521.96	$ 46,546.18
6525	1/31/2025	$ 61,106.42				$ 61,106.42
No Interest to Accrue	2/28/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 61,106.42	$ 61,106.42
No Interest to Accrue	3/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 61,106.42	$ 61,106.42
	4/25/2025	$ (477.13)	9.50%	$ 397.61	$ 60,629.29	$ 61,026.90
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 79.42	$ 61,026.90	$ 61,106.32
	5/29/2025	$ (493.04)	9.50%	$ 461.23	$ 60,613.28	$ 61,074.51
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 31.79	$ 61,074.51	$ 61,106.30
6649	2/28/2025	$ 20,464.25				$ 20,464.25
	3/31/2025		0.00%	$ -	$ 20,464.25	$ 20,464.25
	4/25/2025	$ (159.79)	9.50%	$ 133.16	$ 20,304.46	$ 20,437.62
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 26.60	$ 20,437.62	$ 20,464.21
	5/29/2025	$ (165.12)	9.50%	$ 154.46	$ 20,299.09	$ 20,453.56
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 10.65	$ 20,453.56	$ 20,464.20

2020 L St, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95811

To: Borrego Springs Watermaster
c/o West Yost Associates
25 Edelman, Suite 120
Irvine, CA 92618

Interest Schedule: 5/31/2025

Invoice No.	Invoice Date / Payment Date	Invoice Amount	Prime Rate (Plus 2%)	Interest Charge	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
6718	3/31/2025	$ 16,096.71				$ 16,096.71
	4/30/2025		9.50%	$ 125.69	$ 16,096.71	$ 16,222.40
	5/29/2025	$ (130.88)	9.50%	$ 122.45	$ 16,091.52	$ 16,213.96
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 8.44	$ 16,213.96	$ 16,222.40
6757	4/30/2025	$ 137.50				$ 137.50
	5/29/2025	$ (1.11)	9.50%	$ 1.04	$ 136.39	$ 137.43
	5/31/2025		9.50%	$ 0.07	$ 137.43	$ 137.50

Total Invoices (Less Pymts)	**$ 240,567.28**		
Current Month Interest (*Estimated*)		**$ 2,088.14**	
Current Month Interest (*Final, including payments*)		**$ 2,081.81**	
Prior Month Interest Adjustment		**$ -**	
Adjusted Monthly Interest		**$ (6.33)**	
Total Interest Charges		**$ 6,205.30**	
Grand Total			**$ 246,772.57**

To: Board of Directors

From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Final Reimbursement Request Report for the April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025 Reporting Period (Reimbursement Request #10)

The Watermaster was awarded grant funding for two projects as a subgrantee to the Borrego Water District (BWD), by the California Department of Resources (DWR) under the Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation grant program (SGM grant). Watermaster is one of four grant-funded entities under the BWD's master SGM grant agreement with DWR. The two Watermaster SGM grant projects are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. SGM Grant Projects awarded to Borrego Springs Watermaster

Grant Package Component	Project Name	Grant Award (as Amended)[1]
Component 6	Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	$790,340
Component 7	Monitoring, Reporting, and Groundwater Management Plan Update	$1,948,250

Watermaster staff submitted the tenth and final SGM grant quarterly reimbursement request documentation to the BWD on May 20, 2025. **Only Category (A) Component Administration tasks were grant reimbursable beyond the expiration of grant funding at the end of March 2025.** The Component Administration budget was used to prepare the final SGM grant reimbursement report and the final Grant Completion Reports**.** Watermaster Staff provided the BWD with detailed documents summarizing work performed during the tenth grant reimbursement period (April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025), including annotated invoices for grant eligible expenses, organized by the two SGM grant components. The total reimbursement request for the reporting period was **$8,145.25**.

The materials submitted to the BWD for the SGM Grant Reimbursement Request included:

1. **Progress Report.** This document describes the Category A) Component Administration work performed during the grant reimbursement period for each task under Component 6 and Component 7.
2. **Invoice Package for Component 6: Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands**. The package includes tables of the reimbursable expenses, by task and invoice, for each vendor. Annotated versions of each individual vendor invoice received by the Watermaster during the grant reimbursement period are also included as documentation of the expenditures. The reimbursement request for the reporting period was **$2,309.25.** The reimbursement amounts by category are summarized in Table 2.

[1] An amendment to transfer $35,000 from Component 7 to Component 6 was submitted to DWR on January 16, 2025 and verbally approved by DWR on April 15, 2025.

3. **Invoice Package for Component 7: Monitoring, Reporting, and Groundwater Management Plan Update.** The package includes a summary table of the reimbursable expenses, by task and invoice, for each vendor. Annotated versions of each individual vendor invoice received by the Watermaster during the grant reimbursement period are also included as documentation of the expenditures. The reimbursement request for the reporting period was **$5,836.00**. The reimbursement amounts by category are summarized in Table 2.

The materials submitted have been compiled in to a PDF for your review and are available on the Watermaster's website at:
https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/HANDOUT-III.C.pdf

Table 2. Summary of Requested Reimbursement Amounts by Component and Task for the April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025 Reporting Period

SGM Grant Component Category		Component 6. Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	Component 7. Monitoring Reporting and GMP Update	Total Amount Requested for Components 6 and 7
a)	Component Administration	$2,309.25	$5,836.00	$8,145.25
b)	Environmental/Engineering Design	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
c)	Implementation/Administration	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
d)	Monitoring/Assessment	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
e)	Engagement/Outreach	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Total	**$2,309.25**	**$5,836.00**	**$8,145.25**

Table 3 summarizes the reimbursements requested to date and the status of review, approval, and payment of each request. This was the final reimbursement request.

Table 3. Summary of Reimbursement Amounts Requested and Paid

Reimbursement Request and Period		Component 6. Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	Component 7. Monitoring Reporting and GMP Update	Total Reimbursement Requested	Status of Request and Payment
1	Jan 2022 to Mar 2023	$168,272.54	$456,607.83	$624,880.37	Approved and Paid
2	Apr to Jun 2023	$40,278.94	$106,402.75	$146,681.69	Approved and Paid
3	July to Sep 2023	$49,196.04	$64,918.25	$114,114.29	Approved and Paid
4	Oct to Dec 2023	$53,986.66	$174,521.28	$228,507.94	Approved and Paid
5	Jan to Mar 2024	$36,074.30	$143,741.25	$179,815.55	Approved and Paid
6	Apr to Jun 2024	$60,757.35	$179,052.89	$239,810.24	Approved and Paid
7	July to Sep 2024	$147,972.19	$147,992.60	$295,964.79	Approved
8	Oct to Dec 2024	$117,604.78	$185,099.99	$302,704.77	Submitted
9	Jan to Mar 2025	$105,203.63	$483,975.00	$589,178.63	Submitted
10	Apr 2025	$2,309.25	$5,836.00	$8,145.25	Submitted
	Total	**$781,655.68**	**$1,948,147.84**	**$2,729,803.52**	

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM VI.A

To: Board of Directors

From: Andy Malone, Technical Consultant

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Status Update on BVHM Groundwater Pumping Projections

☐ **Recommended Action** ✓ **Provide Direction to Staff** ☐ **Information and Discussion**

☐ **Fiscal Impact** ☐ **Cost Estimate: $0**

Recommended Action

Discuss and provide direction to Staff.

Fiscal Impact: TBD.

Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board

As part of the scope of work for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant, the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) was used to predict future groundwater conditions in the Basin (*i.e.*, future changes in groundwater-levels and groundwater storage) under future groundwater pumping plans to assess the sustainability of Basin conditions under the pumping Rampdown to the 2025 Sustainable Yield by 2040 and beyond.

Specifically, the BVHM projections were to be used to determine if the following Sustainability Goals defined in the GMP are expected to be met:

- Trends in groundwater levels are stable or increasing by 2040 and thereafter
- Groundwater levels are always at sufficient elevations to not cause Undesirable Results

The Technical Consultant prepared a technical memorandum (TM) entitled *Use of the BVHM to Evaluate Sustainability of Future Pumping in the Borrego Springs Subbasin* which was provided to the DWR as part of the final deliverable to satisfy the SGM grant requirements. The TM included:

- A description of the pumping projections, which were provided to the Technical Consultant by all major pumpers in the Basin, and were checked for consistency with water rights and the Judgment rules for transfers of BPA and use of Carryover.
- A description of a model discrepancy that was identified during the work.
- A description of the BVHM projection results for future groundwater levels under the assumed pumping plans. These results were characterized as preliminary because of the model discrepancy, but included:

- Potential future increases and stabilization of groundwater levels in the North Management Area (NMA)
- Potential future decreases in groundwater levels in the Central Management Area (CMA) and South Management Area (SMA)

The TM and these BVHM results were shared with the Board and the TAC to receive feedback and develop recommendations for next steps. The majority of the TAC recommended that an additional BVHM projection should be prepared and run to explore the effects of a northward shift of pumping. This effort was estimated to be about $12,000 and was included in the budget presentation to the Board in May with a recommendation to perform the work in WY 2025 to support the finalization of the GMP Assessment Report that is due to DWR in June 2026.

Discussion

At the request of T2 Borrego and the Borrego Water District (BWD), the Technical Consultant scheduled multiple meetings with T2 Borrego and BWD regarding the pumping projections and the TAC-recommended effort to rerun the BVHM under revised pumping projections. In those group discussions, several changes that should be made to the BWD pumping projections were identified—specifically the locations and magnitude of future pumping. T2 Borrego requested a scope of work and cost estimate to update the pumping projections, run the BVHM under the new pumping projections, document the results in a TM to supersede the original TM, and re-publish the SGM grant deliverable. The cost estimate for this effort came out to $17,000. The additional cost of this scope of work relative to the TAC-requested scope of work is for coordination with T2/BWD, preparation of additional tables and figures to describe the pumping projections and BVHM results, and republishing the DWR memo.

T2 Borrego requested the cost estimate in order to consider if this effort could be performed as a Request for Information funded by T2 Borrego (and potentially BWD).

Watermaster Staff believes this work is a logical effort to explore adaptive groundwater management actions that move the Basin closer to its Sustainability Goal, and hence, should be funded by the Watermaster. The cost to perform the work (e.g. $12,000 vs. $17,000) will depend on the Board's need for the additional steps noted above. If this work is to be performed, it should be performed in WY 2025, as proposed in Agenda Item IV.B of this agenda package to ensure the results are available for the 5-Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP).

Next Steps

During Board discussion on this topic, the Board should determine if it wants to update the pumping projections and re-run the BVHM, and if so how should it be funded. Board direction on this item may impact the WY 2026 budget in a subsequent agenda item (Item IV.C of this agenda package). If the work is to proceed, the impact could be:

- $5,000 increase to the expenditures budget to perform the work as re-scoped to address T2 and BWD questions.
- $12,000 decrease to the expenditures budget if it is not funded by Watermaster.

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM IV.B

To: Board of Directors

From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Consideration of Approval To Amend West Yost Statement of Work to Perform Additional Services to Advance to the 5-Year Assessment and Address DWR Comments on GMP

✓ **Recommended Action**	☐ **Provide Direction to Staff**	☐ **Information and Discussion**
✓ **Fiscal Impact**	✓ **Cost Estimate: $65,000**	

Recommendation

Consider approval of an amendment to the West Yost Statement of Work for water year (WY) 2025 to add additional scope to continue working on the 5-Year Assessment and Update of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), including addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs).

Fiscal Impact:

- The current West Yost Statement of Work (SOW No. 7) is approved with a budget of $1,022,874.
- The cost of the recommended scope of work to advance the 5-Year Assessment and Update of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), including addressing DWR RCAs in WY 2025 is $65,000.[1]
- If the recommended work **is not approved to be performed in WY 2025**, total projected spending against the SOW No. 7 budget would be about $952,076. If the recommended work **is approved to be performed in WY 2025**, total projected spending against the SOW No. 7 budget would be about $1,017,076 (e.g. within the limit established in SOW No. 7).
- Approval of the recommended additional scope represents an impact to the pumpers by reducing cost savings they would otherwise realize due to projected underspending of budget during WY 2025.
- The WY 2026 draft budget expenditure presented in Agenda Item IV.C of this agenda package assumes the Board approves this recommendation to advance work during WY 2025. This assumption is made, as discussed in at the May Board meeting, because the work must

[1] Additional costs are proposed for spending in WY 2026, as presented in the WY 2026 Budget in Agenda Item IV.C.

proceed now to finish it in time for the June 2026 deadline. If not approved, the WY 2026 expenditure budget would need to be increased by $65,000 to instead start the work in September 2025.

Discussion

Watermaster has a regulatory deadline to submit the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP Update to the DWR by June 25, 2026. This includes responding to the seven RCAs to improve the GMP. Staff believes that it will be necessary to begin this work in WY 2025 to complete the work on time. **Table B1 of Attachment B of Agenda Item IV.C**[2] presents the line-item detail and schedule to complete this work over WY 2025 and WY 2026. The work is shown under the following headers:

- **Address RCAs** – The total two-year cost is $73,840 (excluding the line item for undefined future follow-on work in WYs 2027 through 2030).
- **Finalize the 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update** – The total two-year cost is $48,010

The total cost of these two items is $121,850, of which we recommend $65,000 be completed in WY 2025. Doing this work could be done without any changes to the total planned expenditures in the amended WY 2025 Budget. This can be done without increasing planned expenditures as a result of finishing other work products under budget as well as not being able to advance the 5-Year Assessment and GMP Update to completion during the grant funding period due to DWR not providing their comments on the GMP until February 25, 2025.[3]

Table IVB-1, enclosed, shows the planned and actual expenditures for the West Yost budget line items in SOW No. 7 assuming board approval to advance the 5-year assessment and address DWR RCAs, demonstrating that the total expenditure remains within the allotted budget in SOW No. 7 and the WY 2025 Budget.

Staff's recommendation to perform this work starting in June 2025 was first presented in April 2025, with a demonstration of available unspent budget in WY 2025 to cover the costs[4] and was further discussed at the May 2025 Board meeting[5]. At the May Board meeting, the Board directed staff to present this item as a stand-alone item for approval prior to consideration of approval of the WY 2026 Budget.

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[2] Please refer to Agenda Item IV.C to review the table.
[3] The Judgment and GMP were submitted to the DWR for review as an alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan in June 2021.
[4] See Table 2 of Agenda Item V.D on page 22 of the April 16, 2025 Board Agenda Package Addendum. Available at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/20250416_Board-Agenda-Package-Addendum-1.pdf
[5] See May 21, 2025 Agenda Package (Item IV.B) and the draft meeting minutes included in this Agenda Package as Item III.A in the Consent Calendar. Available at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/20250521_Board-Agenda-Package.pdf

Despite that this work will not require an increase to the WY 2025 expenditure budget, approval to commence this work in WY 2025:

- Requires an amendment of SOW No. 7 to describe the expanded scope of work and reallocate the budget amongst tasks.
- Requires a Supermajority vote of the Board.

It is also important to re-iterate that this recommended action represents an impact to the pumpers by reducing cost savings they would otherwise realize due to projected underspending of budget during WY 2025.

If Staff's recommendation is not approved, Staff will not be able to complete the work to finalize the 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update in time to meet the June 2026 deadline under the assumed scope of work to complete the effort (see Agenda Item IV.C of this agenda package for additional scope details). Additionally, if not approved, the WY 2026 Budget would need to be modified to show this work being started in September 2025, instead of June 2025.

Next Steps

If the recommended action is approved, Staff will:

- Draft an amendment to West Yost SOW No. 7 consistent with the Board's motion and submit it to legal counsel and the Board Chair for approval and signature.
- Begin performing the scope of work per the schedule identified in Agenda Item IV.C of this agenda package.

Enclosures

Table IVB-1 - Planned and Actual Expenditure Of West Yost Budget Line Items Assuming Board Approval To Advance The Five-Year Assessment Report and Address DWR Comments In WY 2025

TABLE IVB-1. PLANNED AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURE OF WEST YOST BUDGET LINE ITEMS ASSUMING BOARD APPROVAL TO ADVANCE THE FIVE-YEAR ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ADDRESS DWR COMMENTS IN WY 2025

*Planned expenditures are broken down into: (1) planned grant reimbursable expenses and (2) non-grant reimbursable expenses funded by Watermaster Pumpers

*Line items that will support performing out of scope work to address DWR Comments & the continue Five-Year Assessment are shown in bold blue highlighted boxes in the column "Non-Reimbursable Actual"

*The level of proposed spending on the out of scope work keeps the Watermaster's projected actual spending on non-Reimbursable work within the amount assumed/approved in the WY 2025 Budget

	Amended WY 25 Budget	Grant Funded Planned	Grant Funded Actual	Non-Reimbursable Planned	Non-Reimbursable Projected Actual	Total Planned	Total Projected Actual	Variance
	$ 1,022,874	$ 683,041	$ 677,701	$ 339,833	$ 339,375	$ 1,022,874	$ 1,017,076	$ 5,798
Watermaster Staff Admin Services	***$ 290,796***	***$ 84,107***	***$ 86,305***	***$ 206,689***	***$ 201,319***	***$ 290,796***	***$ 287,624***	***$ 3,172***
Board Meetings	*$ 106,600*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 106,600*	*$ 106,600*	*$ 106,600*	*$ 106,600*	*$ -*
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings	*$ 52,444*	*$ 32,564*	*$ 35,645*	*$ 19,880*	*$ 16,799*	*$ 52,444*	*$ 52,444*	*$ -*
Court Hearings	*$ 3,510*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 3,510*	*$ 1,429*	*$ 3,510*	*$ 1,429*	*$ 2,081*
Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops	*$ 12,543*	*$ 12,543*	*$ 11,976*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 12,543*	*$ 11,976*	*$ 567*
Administration and Management	*$ 78,699*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,097*	*$ 76,699*	*$ 76,491*	*$ 78,699*	*$ 78,588*	*$ 111*
Prop 68 Project Admin and Grant Reporting	*$ 37,000*	*$ 37,000*	*$ 36,587*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 37,000*	*$ 36,587*	*$ 414*
General Technical Consultant Services	***$ 445,524***	***$ 347,024***	***$ 383,033***	***$ 98,500***	***$ 48,774***	***$ 445,524***	***$ 431,807***	***$ 13,717***
Coordinate/Implement meter reading program	*$ 30,440*	*$ 18,437*	*$ 16,705*	*$ 12,003*	*$ 13,033*	*$ 30,440*	*$ 29,738*	*$ 702*
Groundwater Monitoring Program	*$ 124,060*	*$ 64,190*	*$ 83,291*	*$ 59,870*	*$ 14,084*	*$ 124,060*	*$ 97,375*	*$ 26,685*
Data Management and Data Reporting	*$ 20,265*	*$ 10,936*	*$ 10,216*	*$ 9,329*	*$ 7,520*	*$ 20,265*	*$ 17,736*	*$ 2,530*
Annual Report to the Court and DWR	*$ 51,188*	*$ 51,188*	*$ 51,553*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 51,188*	*$ 51,553*	*$ (365)*
Address Inactive Wells via Abandonment/Conversion	*$ 203,273*	*$ 202,273*	*$ 221,269*	*$ 1,000*	*$ 1,137*	*$ 203,273*	*$ 222,406*	*$ (19,133)*
As-needed technical support	*$ 16,298*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 16,298*	*$ 13,000*	*$ 16,298*	*$ 13,000*	*$ 3,298*
Consulting Services with TAC Support/Input	***$ 256,418***	***$ 231,098***	***$ 191,143***	***$ 25,320***	***$ 80,444***	***$ 256,418***	***$ 271,587***	***$ (15,169)***
Technical Work to Support Sustainable Yield Updates	*$ 90,590*	*$ 90,590*	*$ 84,851*	*$ -*		*$ 90,590*	*$ 84,851*	*$ 5,739*
Develop Scope and Budget for WY 2026-2029 for Sustainable Yield Updates	*$ 15,272*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 15,272*	*$ 15,444*	*$ 15,272*	*$ 15,444*	*$ (172)*
5-Year Assessment of Judgment/GMP	*$ 140,508*	*$ 140,508*	*$ 106,292*	*$ -*	***$ 65,000***	*$ 140,508*	*$ 171,292*	*$ (30,784)*
Address Ad Hoc Requests from the Board	*$ 10,048*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 10,048*	*$ -*	*$ 10,048*	*$ -*	*$ 10,048*
Environmental Working Group	***$ 27,193***	***$ 20,812***	***$ 17,220***	***$ 6,381***	***$ 6,381***	***$ 27,193***	***$ 23,601***	***$ 3,592***
Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	*$ 20,812*	*$ 20,812*	*$ 17,220*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 20,812*	*$ 17,220*	*$ 3,592*
Ad Hoc Requests and EWG Meetings	*$ 6,381*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 6,381*	*$ 6,381*	*$ 6,381*	*$ 6,381*	*$ -*
Manual Read Meter Services	***$ 2,943***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ 2,943***	***$ 2,457***	***$ 2,943***	***$ 2,457***	***$ 486***

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM IV.C

To: Board of Directors

From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Consideration of Approval of the Water Year 2026 Budget

✓ **Recommended Action**	☐ **Provide Direction to Staff**	☐ **Information and Discussion**
✓ **Fiscal Impact**	✓ **Cost Estimate: $741,153**	

Recommendation

Approve the recommended Water Year (WY) 2026 Budget (with modifications, as needed) **OR** recommend changes to be brought back for consideration of approval at a Special Board meeting on or before June 30, 2025.

Approval of the WY 2026 Budget as recommended herein includes approval of the following:

- A WY 2026 Pumping Assessment of $350,0000
- An Overproduction Penalty Assessment of $500 per acre-foot
- Total operating expenditure for WY 2026 in the amount of $741,153
- Appointment of a Subcommittee of 2 Board members to work with the Executive Director (ED) to identify strategies to reduce operating costs and projected pumping assessments for WY 2027 and beyond

Fiscal Impact:

- The enclosed WY 2026 budget for WY 2026 presents the revenues, expenditures, vendor term liabilities, and cash reserves for WY 2026, and a projection period of WY 2027 through 2030. The budget is shown in its entirety in the enclosed Exhibit 1. **The Projection for WY 2027 through WY 2030 is for informational and planning purposes only** and should not be interpreted as a commitment to perform work at the level of the projected expenditures, or to require the projected pumping assessments, beyond 2026.
- The WY 2026 budget includes **expenditures of $741,153**. The WY 2026 **revenues of $361,020** will be funded by pumping assessments and payment on pass-through expenses. This reduced level of assessment is possible due to receipt of the remaining Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant reimbursements accrued in prior years.

- During WY 2026, vendor financing will be fully paid off as the remaining DWR grant reimbursements are paid out and cash reserves will be maintained at or near the standard reserve policy of nine months of operating expenses.
- The WY 2026 draft budget expenditure assumes the Board approves staff's recommendation to advance completion of the 5-Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), by beginning to address the DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) utilizing available time and budget in the remainder of WY 2025 – as presented in Agenda Item IV.B. If this recommendation is not approved, the budget presented herein would have to change.
- To address Board concerns about future costs and assessments (WY 2027 and beyond), a Board Subcommittee should begin working with the ED to review all budget line items and present options for cost savings to the Board throughout WY 2026, so these concepts are finalized for the first draft of the WY 2027 Budget. For now, the projected costs shown are similar to those presented in May 2025 as the ED is not able to present cost savings until specific direction is provided.

Background and Judgment Requirements

Section IV.E.3 of the Judgment provides for a process and schedule for developing the Watermaster's annual budget and establishing assessments to fund it by July 1st of each year. **The Judgment requires a supermajority vote (4 of 5 Board members) to establish (or change) a budget**.

The purpose of this memo is to present the recommended WY 2026 Budget for approval to meet this deadline. As with past budget packages, the budget includes a projection for four additional years into the future (WY 2027 through WY 2030). The projection is prepared based on Staff's best professional judgment about the scope and cost of future work. The projection for WY 2027 through WY 2030 is built using the Watermaster's Financial Planning Model[1] and is for informational and planning purposes only and should not be interpreted as a commitment to perform work at the level of the projected expenditures, or to require the projected pumping assessments, beyond 2026.

To facilitate the review of the Recommended Budget, this memo is organized into the following sections:

- Overview of the Recommended Draft WY 2026 Budget
- Summary of changes made to the Draft WY 2026 Budget presented in May 2025
- Recommended approach to addressing future costs and revenue requirements
- Recommendation
- Next steps

[1] See Draft WY 2026 Budget memo from the May 21, 2025 Board meeting. See Agenda Item IV.B, page 163 of 214 in this agenda package: 20250521_Board-Agenda-Package.pdf

Overview of the Recommended Draft WY 2026 Budget

Exhibit 1 summarizes the proposed line-item operating budget, including revenues, expenditures, deferred payment liabilities, and reserves for WY 2026 and the projected budgets in these categories for WYs 2027 through 2030. The table also shows the approved WY 2025 Budget (as amended in January 2025) and the projected actual WY 2025 year-end balances for each category. This overview is focused on summarizing WY 2026, and can be further adjusted based on Board feedback. Staff believes that all of the items included in the WY 2026 Budget are necessary to stay on track with Judgment requirements and address DWR comments on the GMP. Later in this memo, considerations will be presented to address Board concerns with future costs and revenue requirements for WY 2027 and beyond.

Revenues. Total WY 2026 revenue is **$361,020**. Revenues will be derived from three sources:

- *Pumping Assessments:* ***$350,000***
    - The WY 2026 Pumping Assessment is the same level that was projected in the WY 2025 budget and is able to remain low due to expected reimbursements payments from DWR from grant expenditures incurred in WY 2025.
- *Bad Debt:* ***-$1,000.*** Up to $1,000 in pumping assessments is assumed written off as bad debt. To date, Watermaster has not written off any bad debt.
- *Overproduction Penalty Assessments*: ***$0***. This is revenue received from Pumpers who exceed their pumping limits defined in the Judgment. The amount of Overproduction that will incur penalty assessments in WY 2026, if any, will not be known until the start of WY 2026 when the Water Rights Accounting for WY 2025 is completed. Per Board direction, the Overproduction Penalty Assessment Rate should be set at $500 per acre-foot (the minimum allowed by the Judgment). The budget assumes that all Overproduction that could trigger penalty assessments will be cured by Pumpers to avoid the penalty and thus no revenues will be collected in WY 2026.
- *Revenues for Pass-thru Expenses*: ***$12,020***. In WY 2026 pass thru revenues will include collection of fees from Parties with manual-read meters for Watermaster services related to reading the meters. The revenue will increase over time as the cost of this service increases with inflation.

Expenditures. This section of Exhibit 1 shows the expenditures by category and line-item. Total expenditures are **$741,153,** which is 50% less than WY 2025. The high-level scope of work categories to support administration of the Judgment and SGMA compliance in WY 2026 include the following:

- Annual Routine Administrative and Technical Services:
    - Administrative Services (Board meetings, TAC meetings, Court hearings, Stakeholder Outreach, financial services, support to BPA parties, maintain website, respond to public inquiries, as-needed administration of the Judgment requirements, and budget management)

  - Professional and Other Vender Services (audit, insurance, equipment, miscellaneous expenses, interest expense on payment terms)
  - Legal Services
  - General Technical Services (meter reading program, groundwater monitoring program, data management and reporting, Annual Report to the Court and DWR, as-needed technical services to support Judgment compliance)
  - Environmental Working Group (support of EWG meetings and technical recommendations at the agreed funding level of $20,000 per year)
- Non-Routine Technical Consultant Services:
  - 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (including addressing DWR RCAs)
  - Technical Work to Support Sustainable Yield Updates

The scope of work detail and budget estimates for the routine annual services, and associated line-item assumptions applied in developing the WY 2026 budget and projections for WY 2027 through 2030, are detailed in Attachment A of this staff memo. The recommended scope of work and budget for the non-routine technical consultant services for WY 2026 through 2030 is detailed in Attachment B, and assumes that the Board has approved Staff's recommendation to start advancing the 5-Year Assessment Report in WY 2025 (Agenda Item IV.B of the June Agenda Package).

Table 1 shows the recommended monthly schedule to complete the non-routine technical services, assuming the Board approved to commence the work in prior Agenda Item IV.B.

Liabilities on Payment Terms. This section of Exhibit 1 summarizes the estimated balance of payments owed to West Yost and Land IQ under the proposed vendor payment terms. It shows the beginning outstanding balance, minimum and maximum monthly balance, and year-end outstanding balance. **The total liability on Payment Terms with West Yost and Land IQ is projected to be $149,988 at the beginning of WY 2026 and $0 at the end of WY 2026**. All liabilities are projected by the financial model to be fully paid off by January 2026.

Cash Reserves. This section of Exhibit 1 summarizes the projected reserve balances and targets based on the monthly financial model. The reserve targets represent the average reserve needed during the year to maintain a balance that would be needed to support the next nine months of spending, per the Watermaster's reserve policy. The table shows the beginning cash reserves, the average reserve target, the minimum month-end reserve balance during the year, the average month-end reserve balance, and the variance of the average month-end reserve balance from the desired average reserve balance. **For WY 2026 the average reserve target is $555,865 and the average reserve is $587,706, an average of $31,841 above the target.**

Exhibit 1. Recommended WY 2026 Budget and Four-Year Projection of Borrego Springs Watermaster Operating Budget (WY 2027 through 2030)

Assuming Vendor Payment Terms, 8-Month Delay in DWR Grant Request Reimbursements through 2026, and 9-month Operating Reserve through 2030

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Amended WY 2025	Projected Actual WY 2025[6]	Draft Proposed WY 2026	Projected Budget[1] WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030
Revenues[2]	**$ 1,263,380**	**$ 1,248,592**	**$ 361,020**	**$ 801,621**	**$ 802,000**	**$ 802,390**	**$ 802,791**
Pumping Assessments	$ 350,000	$ 338,511	$ 350,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000
Bad Debt (assumed non-payment on Assessments)	$ (2,500)	$ (100)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)
Overproduction Penalty Assessments	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Revenues Collected for Pass thru Expenses	$ 7,316	$ 10,008	**$ 12,020**	**$ 12,621**	**$ 13,000**	**$ 13,390**	**$ 13,791**
DWR Prop 68 Grant Reimbursements[3]	$ 908,564	$ 900,173	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Expenditures	**$ 1,475,643**	**$ 1,454,258**	**$ 741,153**	**$ 791,553**	**$ 850,192**	**$ 866,918**	**$ 854,847**
Administrative Services	**$ 421,598**	**$ 418,362**	**$ 301,671**	**$ 299,815**	**$ 312,378**	**$ 325,663**	**$ 339,526**
Watermaster Staff Admin Services	***$ 290,796***	***$ 287,624***	***$ 237,255***	***$ 238,202***	***$ 248,214***	***$ 258,655***	***$ 269,544***
Board Meetings	*$ 106,600*	*$ 106,600*	*$ 104,753*	*$ 99,991*	*$ 104,491*	*$ 109,193*	*$ 114,106*
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings	*$ 52,444*	*$ 52,444*	*$ 32,950*	*$ 33,939*	*$ 34,957*	*$ 36,005*	*$ 37,086*
Court Hearings	*$ 3,510*	*$ 1,429*	*$ 1,512*	*$ 1,588*	*$ 1,659*	*$ 1,734*	*$ 1,812*
Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops	*$ 12,543*	*$ 11,976*	*$ 12,846*	*$ 13,231*	*$ 13,628*	*$ 14,037*	*$ 14,458*
Administration and Management	*$ 78,699*	*$ 78,588*	*$ 85,194*	*$ 89,454*	*$ 93,479*	*$ 97,686*	*$ 102,082*
Prop 68 Project Admin and Grant Reporting	*$ 37,000*	*$ 36,587*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Other Administrative or Vendor Services	***$ 130,802***	***$ 130,733***	***$ 64,417***	***$ 61,613***	***$ 64,164***	***$ 67,008***	***$ 69,982***
Financial Audit	*$ 8,560*	*$ 8,098*	*$ 8,812*	*$ 9,064*	*$ 9,340*	*$ 9,807*	*$ 10,297*
Insurance	*$ 45,401*	*$ 44,420*	*$ 48,142*	*$ 50,549*	*$ 52,824*	*$ 55,201*	*$ 57,685*
Misc. Expenses	*$ 2,500*	*$ 133*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*
Meter Accuracy Testing Vendors	*$ 13,500*	*$ 14,430*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Interest on Vendor Terms During Prop 68 Grant Period[3]	*$ 60,841*	*$ 63,651*	*$ 5,463*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Pass Through Expenses	***$ -***	***$ 5***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***
Reimbursement to Settling Parties	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Reimbursement to BWD for GSP	*$ -*	*$ 5*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Legal Services	**$ 105,000**	**$ 98,000**	**$ 110,000**	**$ 105,000**	**$ 108,150**	**$ 111,395**	**$ 114,736**

Exhibit 1. Recommended WY 2026 Budget and Four-Year Projection of Borrego Springs Watermaster Operating Budget (WY 2027 through 2030)

Assuming Vendor Payment Terms, 8-Month Delay in DWR Grant Request Reimbursements through 2026, and 9-month Operating Reserve through 2030

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Amended WY 2025	Projected Actual WY 2025[6]	Draft Proposed WY 2026	Projected Budget[1]			
				WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030
Technical/Engineering Services	**$ 701,942**	**$ 705,322**	**$ 297,462**	**$ 354,116**	**$ 396,665**	**$ 396,472**	**$ 366,793**
Routine Annual Technical Consultant Services	***$ 242,251***	***$ 212,466***	***$ 224,870***	***$ 231,616***	***$ 238,565***	***$ 245,722***	***$ 253,093***
Coordinate/Implement meter reading program	*$ 30,440*	*$ 30,081*	*$ 33,584*	*$ 34,592*	*$ 35,629*	*$ 36,698*	*$ 37,799*
Groundwater Monitoring Program	*$ 124,060*	*$ 98,387*	*$ 116,969*	*$ 120,478*	*$ 124,092*	*$ 127,815*	*$ 131,650*
Data Management and Data Reporting	*$ 20,265*	*$ 19,354*	*$ 12,276*	*$ 12,644*	*$ 13,024*	*$ 13,414*	*$ 13,817*
Annual Report to the Court and DWR	*$ 51,188*	*$ 51,553*	*$ 51,221*	*$ 52,758*	*$ 54,340*	*$ 55,971*	*$ 57,650*
As-needed technical support	*$ 16,298*	*$ 13,091*	*$ 10,820*	*$ 11,145*	*$ 11,479*	*$ 11,823*	*$ 12,178*
Technical Consultant Services - Non-Routine	***$ 459,691***	***$ 492,856***	***$ 72,592***	***$ 122,500***	***$ 158,100***	***$ 150,750***	***$ 113,700***
Address Inactive Wells via Abandonment/Conversion	*$ 203,273*	*$ 221,269*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
5-Year Assessment and Update of the GMP (includes addressing DWR RCAs)	*$ 140,508*	*$ 171,292*	*$ 56,850*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 75,900*
Develop Scope and Budget for future SY Updates	*$ 15,272*	*$ 15,444*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 17,800*
Technical Work to Support 2035 SY Update	*$ 90,590*	*$ 84,851*	*$ 15,742*	*$ 102,500*	***$ 138,100***	***$ 130,750***	*$ -*
Undefined GMP Implementation Actions	*$ 10,048*	*$ -*		*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*
Environmental Working Group	**$ 240,182**	**$ 225,499**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**
Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	*$ 233,801*	*$ 219,118*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Ad Hoc Requests and EWG Meetings	*$ 6,381*	*$ 6,381*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*
Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters	**$ 6,921**	**$ 7,076**	**$ 12,020**	**$ 12,621**	**$ 13,000**	**$ 13,390**	**$ 13,791**

Exhibit 1. Recommended WY 2026 Budget and Four-Year Projection of Borrego Springs Watermaster Operating Budget (WY 2027 through 2030)

Assuming Vendor Payment Terms, 8-Month Delay in DWR Grant Request Reimbursements through 2026, and 9-month Operating Reserve through 2030

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Amended WY 2025	Projected Actual WY 2025[6]	Draft Proposed WY 2026	Projected Budget[1]			
				WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030
Liabilities on Payment Terms[4]							
Beginning Balance	**$ 587,501**	**$ 587,501**	**$ 149,988**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Minimum Monthly Balance	*$ 278,432*		*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Maximum Monthly Balance	*$ 738,125*		*$ 231,058*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Year-End Balance	**$ 278,432**	**$ 149,988**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Cash Reserves[5]							
Beginning Cash Reserves	**$ 839,254**	**$ 839,254**	**$ 560,559**	**$ 536,361**	**$ 551,213**	**$ 505,625**	**$ 465,593**
Year-End Cash Reserve Balance	**$ 567,595**	**$ 560,559**	**$ 536,361**	**$ 551,213**	**$ 505,625**	**$ 465,593**	**$ 507,091**
Average Reserve to Maintain Target Operating Expenses of 9 months after Vendor Terms Paid off	***$ 699,979***		***$ 555,865***	***$ 593,664***	***$ 637,644***	***$ 650,189***	***$ 641,135***
Minimum Month-End Reserve Balance	*$ 561,309*		*$ 479,588*	*$ 445,053*	*$ 383,464*	*$ 396,488*	*$ 396,488*
Average Month-End Reserve Balance	*$ 660,448*		*$ 587,706*	*$ 557,777*	*$ 528,557*	*$ 507,091*	*$ 468,805*
Variance from Desired Reserve	*$ (39,531)*		*$ 31,841*	*$ (35,887)*	*$ (109,087)*	*$ (143,098)*	*$ (172,330)*

Notes

1-- The projected budget is estimated based on Staff's best professional judgement as to how the cost of each line item will change over time. Some tasks increase at an assumed inflation rate of 4.5%; some tasks decrease in cost with efficiencies, followed by annual inflation increases; and some tasks fluctuate year to year based on the level of effort for non-routine work such as Sustainable Yield updates.

2 -- Revenues are the amounts invoiced by Watermaster to pumpers, or in the case of the DWR grant, they are the accrued spending amounts that are eligible for reimbursement, during the Water Year. In the case of the DWR Reimbursements, payment on the reimbursement requests are actually delayed by 8 months from request date. This delay in payment is taken into consideration in the financial model to determine when to defer or pay on vendor invoices to maintain the target cash reserves.

3 -- Combined interest to West Yost and Land IQ under proposed Payment Terms. Assumes prime interest rate of 9.5%.

4-- Reflects balances owed to West Yost and Land IQ under Payment Terms.

5 -- Projections are developed with the monthly financial model prepared by Watermaster Staff and are based on expected timing of receipt of payment on Watermaster assessments and DWR reimbursement, and timing of payments to vendors.

6 -- The projection assumes that the Board approves staff's recommendation to advance completion of the 5-Year Assessment of the GMP, by beginning to address the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) utilizing available time and budget in the remainder of WY 2025.

**Items listed in green bold text reflect a reduced cost since publishing the Draft WY 2026 budget. Items listed in red bold text reflect an increased cost. Items with blue highlight represent line items identified for investigating future cost savings with a Budget Subcommittee .*

Table 1. Recommended Schedule of Routine and Non-Routine Activities for June 2025 through June 2026

Month/Year	Routine Board Topics for Review and Potential Action at Board Meetings	Non-Routine Technical Topics for Discussion at Board, TAC, EWG, or Open House Workshops
June 2025	*WY 2026 Budget *Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (Spring '25)	**Board:** Workshop - Discuss Considerations for Updating the GMP
July 2025	*Q3 Budget Status	**Board:** Workshop - Judgment vs GMP **TAC:** *Revised BVHM Pumping Projection - Shift Pumping to NMA *Updating Groundwater Level and Storage SMC
Aug 2025	*Contract for Admin and Tech Services	**EWG:** *Bio Restore Study: EWG recommendations to Board *Recommend: Kick off GDE Study Review **Board:** Workshop - SMCs
Sept 2025		**TAC:** Addressing Groundwater Quality SMC, Land Subsidence **Board:** *Workshop - Groundwater Quality and SGMA *EWG recommendations on Bio Restore Study
Oct 2025	*WY 2025 Budget Summary *Draft Water Rights Accounting	**Public Workshop:** Updating SMC **Board:** Workshop - Overview of Public Comments in SMC Workshop
Nov 2025	*Final Water Rights Accounting	**TAC:** Review of Updated SMC (based on comments) **Board:** Workshop - RCA-2: Domestic Well Mitigation
Dec 2025		**TAC/EWG:** UCI Briefing on GDE Study **Board:** Workshop - SMC (final recommendations)
Jan 2026	*Q1 Budget Status *(note: workshop will include Fall '25 semi-annual monitoring results)*	**TAC:** Discuss GDE Study and Recommendation on BAS **EWG:** Discuss GDE Study and Recommendation on BAS **Board:** Workshop - Current Basin Conditions Relative to Updated SMC
Feb 2026	*Hearing: Draft WY 2025 Annual Report	**Board:** *Workshop - Conclusions and Recommendations of the 5-Yr Assessment *TAC, EWG, TC Recommendation on GDE Study
Mar 2026	*Final WY 2025 Annual Report	**Publish Compiled Draft 5-Year Assessment Report **Public Workshop:** Present Draft 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update **Board:** Present Draft 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update
Apr 2026	*Q2 Budget Status *WY 2027 Budget Scoping	**TAC:** 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Update, WY 2027 Budget **Board:** Addressing Public/TAC Comments on 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Update
May 2026	*Draft WY 2027 Budget *Mid-Year Pumping Reports	**TAC:** WY 2027 Budget **Board:** Revised Draft 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Redline
June 2026	*Final WY 2027 Budget *Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (Spring '26)	**Board:** Consider Approval of 5-Yr Assessment Report/GMP Update

Notes:

BAS = Best Available Science
BVHM = Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model
GDE = Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
GMP = Groundwater Management Plan
NMA = North Management Area of the Borrego Springs Subbasin
PMA = Projects and Management Actions
RCA = Recommended Corrective Action
TC = Technical Consultant
UCI = University of California - Irvine

Summary of Changes Made to the Draft WY 2026 Budget Presented in May 2025

The following changes were made to the WY 2026 Budget since presenting the draft at the May 21, 2025 Board meeting. Line items with cost reductions are shown in **bold green** in Exhibit 1. Line items with cost increases are shown in **bold red** in Exhibit 1.

- The following line items were reduced in WY 2026 and beyond to better reflect labor effort in past years:
  - Court Hearings
  - Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops
  - Administration and Management
- The miscellaneous expense line item was reduced from $2,500 to $2,000. We don't recommend going below $2,000 in the event water level monitoring probes need to be replaced.
- Legal Services was increased based on Board feedback at the May 2025 meeting that more budget might be needed to support addressing DWR RCAs.
- The Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters was increased to $12,020 (up from $7,304). This is a pass-through expense, paid only by those parties without telemetry on their wells. Thus, the matching revenue line item has also increased to $12,020. This cost of this service was increased because the BWD General Manager reported that the BWD Board is likely to end its agreement to provide manual meter reading services effective in WY 2026. For now, the revised cost assumes West Yost will provide the services in WY 2026, but to control costs, the frequency of manual meter reads should be reduced to twice per year. Currently BWD reads the meters four times per year, with Pumpers self-reporting in the remaining eight months of the year. If West Yost were to perform the meter reads four times per year, the cost would increase to $20,142. Alternatives to West Yost services, which can meet the insurance requirements of the Entry Agreements, should be investigated to reduce costs.
  - The proposed cost of $12,020 will result in an increase in the per meter cost of manual meter reading from about $146 to $240 per well.
  - If the preferred approach is to remain at 4 Watermaster reads per year, the per meter cost would increase to $419 per well.
- Technical Work to Support the 2035 Sustainable Yield Update was increased in WY 2028 and WY 2029 based on follow-up discussions with Director Jim Bennett, who expressed concern that the future costs for this work were under-budgeted. Specifically the costs did not provide the flexibility to include a task for upgrading the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) to the latest software version, the use of which would represent use of the best available science and tools. And, additional contingency should be assumed during model calibration to reflect typical challenges that can arise. The costs were increased as follows:
  - WY 2028: Increased cost from $44,110 to $138,100
  - WY 2029: Increased cost from $124,400 to $130,750

Recommended Approach to Addressing Future Costs and Revenue Requirements

At the May Board meeting, there was lengthy discussion about the need to reduce future costs and revenue requirements to support those costs. Several potential concepts were discussed to achieve cost savings with a goal to return to the level of routine services provided prior to the period of SGM grant funding. Table 2 summarizes the history of Watermaster's line-item revenues and expenditures for WY 2021 through WY 2025, and the projection for WY 2026 through WY 2030. The intent of this table is to show how costs have changed over time on a line-item basis and support future discussion of actions to achieve cost savings. Table 2 summarizes the total routine and non-routine costs at the bottom of the table.

To change the operating scope of work to achieve cost savings, it will be necessary to have Board input and approval, and in some cases, TAC input. Thus, Staff recommends the Board appoint a Budget Subcommittee to work with the ED to identify changes in scope and vet them with the TAC (if needed) and Board. This Subcommittee could begin work in WY 2025 to begin to affect change in WY 2026. Initial items that have been identified for investigation of cost savings are highlighted in blue in Exhibit 1 and include:

- Board meetings
- Insurance
- Legal services
- Meter reading program
- Groundwater monitoring program
- Data management services
- Annual reporting

Other items may be identified by the Subcommittee so this list should not be considered the only options for finding cost savings. For example, the Subcommittee could also explore alternatives to the current reserve policy requiring Cash Reserves equal to about nine months of operating expenses.

Table 2. Comparison of Historical Actual Budget and Budget Projection

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Actual Startup and WY 2021	Actual WY 2022	Actual WY 2023	Actual WY 2024	Projected Actual WY 2025	Draft Proposed WY 2026	Projected Budget[1]			
							WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030
Revenues[2]	**$ 1,278,428**	**$ 567,663**	**$ 1,541,949**	**$ 1,408,322**	**$ 1,248,592**	**$ 361,020**	**$ 801,621**	**$ 802,000**	**$ 802,390**	**$ 802,791**
Pumping Assessments	$ 1,159,489	$ 457,939	$ 649,021	$ 458,011	$ 338,511	$ 350,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000	$ 790,000
Bad Debt (assumed non-payment on Assessments)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ (100)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)	$ (1,000)
Overproduction Penalty Assessments	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Revenues Collected for Pass thru Expenses	$ 118,939	$ 109,724	$ 6,895	$ 6,569	$ 10,008	$ 12,020	$ 12,621	$ 13,000	$ 13,390	$ 13,791
Accrued DWR Prop 68 Grant Reimbursement	$ -	$ -	$ 886,033	$ 943,742	$ 900,173	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Expenditures	**$ 540,360**	**$ 831,057**	**$ 981,677**	**$ 1,351,015**	**$ 1,454,258**	**$ 741,153**	**$ 791,553**	**$ 850,192**	**$ 866,918**	**$ 854,847**
Administrative Services	**$ 263,070**	**$ 321,144**	**$ 306,502**	**$ 399,824**	**$ 418,362**	**$ 301,671**	**$ 299,815**	**$ 312,378**	**$ 325,663**	**$ 339,526**
Watermaster Staff Admin Services	***$ 185,570***	***$ 155,709***	***$ 220,480***	***$ 269,348***	***$ 287,624***	***$ 237,255***	***$ 238,202***	***$ 248,214***	***$ 258,655***	***$ 269,544***
Board Meetings	*$ 100,296*	*$ 69,240*	*$ 88,542*	*$ 99,167*	*$ 106,600*	*$ 104,753*	*$ 99,991*	*$ 104,491*	*$ 109,193*	*$ 114,106*
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings	*$ 26,318*	*$ 29,458*	*$ 27,511*	*$ 45,625*	*$ 52,444*	*$ 32,950*	*$ 33,939*	*$ 34,957*	*$ 36,005*	*$ 37,086*
Court Hearings	*$ -*	*$ 1,868*	*$ 1,198*	*$ 379*	*$ 1,429*	*$ 1,512*	*$ 1,588*	*$ 1,659*	*$ 1,734*	*$ 1,812*
Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 12,169*	*$ 15,313*	*$ 11,976*	*$ 12,846*	*$ 13,231*	*$ 13,628*	*$ 14,037*	*$ 14,458*
Administration and Management	*$ 58,956*	*$ 55,143*	*$ 58,473*	*$ 67,046*	*$ 78,588*	*$ 85,194*	*$ 89,454*	*$ 93,479*	*$ 97,686*	*$ 102,082*
Grant Administration and Reporting	$ -	$ -	$ 32,587	$ 41,818	$ 36,587	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Other Administrative or Vendor Services	***$ 605***	***$ 37,759***	***$ 83,048***	***$ 126,215***	***$ 130,733***	***$ 64,417***	***$ 61,613***	***$ 64,164***	***$ 67,008***	***$ 69,982***
Financial Audit	*$ -*	*$ 8,000*	*$ 8,425*	*$ 7,840*	*$ 8,098*	*$ 8,812*	*$ 9,064*	*$ 9,340*	*$ 9,807*	*$ 10,297*
Insurance	*$ -*	*$ 29,759*	*$ 33,197*	*$ 41,034*	*$ 44,420*	*$ 48,142*	*$ 50,549*	*$ 52,824*	*$ 55,201*	*$ 57,685*
Misc. Expenses	*$ 605*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 77*	*$ 133*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*	*$ 2,000*
Meter Accuracy Testing Vendors	$ -	$ -	$ 12,600	$ 12,200	$ 14,430	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Interest on Vendor Terms During Prop 68 Grant Period	$ -	$ -	$ 28,826	$ 65,065	$ 63,651	$ 5,463	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Pass Through Expenses	***$ 76,895***	***$ 127,676***	***$ 2,974***	***$ 4,261***	***$ 5***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ -***
Reimbursement to Settling Parties	$ -	$ 10,101	$ 716	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Reimbursement to BWD for GSP	$ 76,895	$ 117,575	$ 2,259	$ 4,261	$ 5	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Legal Services	**$ 78,742**	**$ 124,140**	**$ 78,829**	**$ 102,870**	**$ 98,000**	**$ 110,000**	**$ 105,000**	**$ 108,150**	**$ 111,395**	**$ 114,736**

Table 2. Comparison of Historical Actual Budget and Budget Projection

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Actual Startup and WY 2021	Actual WY 2022	Actual WY 2023	Actual WY 2024	Projected Actual WY 2025	Draft Proposed WY 2026	Projected Budget[1] WY 2027	WY 2028	WY 2029	WY 2030
Technical/Engineering Services	$ 177,785	$ 354,231	$ 331,047	$ 543,352	$ 705,322	$ 297,462	$ 354,116	$ 396,665	$ 396,472	$ 366,793
Routine Annual Technical Consultant Services	***$ 168,734***	***$ 150,696***	***$ 193,144***	***$ 216,094***	***$ 212,466***	***$ 224,870***	***$ 231,616***	***$ 238,565***	***$ 245,722***	***$ 253,093***
Coordinate/Implement meter reading program	*$ 47,854*	*$ 20,942*	*$ 28,753*	*$ 30,147*	*$ 30,081*	*$ 33,584*	*$ 34,592*	*$ 35,629*	*$ 36,698*	*$ 37,799*
Groundwater Monitoring Program	*$ 55,801*	*$ 57,615*	*$ 90,524*	*$ 110,682*	*$ 98,387*	*$ 116,969*	*$ 120,478*	*$ 124,092*	*$ 127,815*	*$ 131,650*
Data Management and Data Reporting	*$ 22,890*	*$ 9,606*	*$ 11,933*	*$ 18,215*	*$ 19,354*	*$ 12,276*	*$ 12,644*	*$ 13,024*	*$ 13,414*	*$ 13,817*
Annual Report to the Court and DWR	*$ 25,656*	*$ 48,608*	*$ 53,028*	*$ 52,279*	*$ 51,553*	*$ 51,221*	*$ 52,758*	*$ 54,340*	*$ 55,971*	*$ 57,650*
As-needed technical support	*$ 16,533*	*$ 13,926*	*$ 8,907*	*$ 4,771*	*$ 13,091*	*$ 10,820*	*$ 11,145*	*$ 11,479*	*$ 11,823*	*$ 12,178*
Technical Consultant Services - Non-Routine	***$ 9,051***	***$ 203,534***	***$ 137,903***	***$ 327,258***	***$ 492,856***	***$ 72,592***	***$ 122,500***	***$ 158,100***	***$ 150,750***	***$ 113,700***
Develop Groundwater Monitoring Plan	*$ -*	*$ 23,564*	*$ 49,013*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Address Inactive Wells via Abandonment/Conversion	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 2,885*	*$ 32,863*	*$ 221,269*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Technical Work to Support 2035 SY Update	*$ 9,051*	*$ 114,222*	*$ 75,234*	*$ 250,822*	*$ 84,851*	*$ 15,742*	*$ 102,500*	*$ 138,100*	*$ 130,750*	*$ -*
Develop Scope and Budget for future SY Updates	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 15,444*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 17,800*
5-Year Assessment and Update of the GMP (includes addressing DWR RCAs)	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 41,174*	*$ 171,292*	*$ 56,850*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 75,900*
Ad-Hoc TAC/Undefined GMP Impl. Actions	*$ -*	*$ 8,823*	*$ 10,771*	*$ 2,400*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*	*$ 20,000*
Grant Applications	*$ -*	*$ 56,926*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
Environmental Working Group	$ 14,110	$ 23,438	$ 257,748	$ 298,791	$ 225,499	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 20,000
Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ 257,748*	*$ 298,791*	*$ 219,118*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
EWG Meetings and Ad-Hoc Requests	***$ 14,110***	***$ 23,438***	***$ -***	***$ -***	***$ 6,381***	***$ 20,000***	***$ 20,000***	***$ 20,000***	***$ 20,000***	***$ 20,000***
Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters	$ 6,654	$ 8,104	$ 7,551	$ 6,178	$ 7,076	$ 12,020	$ 12,621	$ 13,000	$ 13,390	$ 13,791
Total of Routine Services	$ 454,414	$ 499,846	$ 509,039	$ 601,622	$ 627,611	$ 663,099	$ 669,053	$ 692,092	$ 716,168	$ 741,147
% Increase from Prior Year		*10%*	*2%*	*18%*	*4%*	*6%*	*1%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*
Administrative Services (excl. grant admin/interest)	$ 186,174	$ 193,468	$ 229,515	$ 276,480	$ 303,689	$ 296,209	$ 299,815	$ 312,378	$ 325,663	$ 339,526
Routine Legal Services	$ 78,742	$ 124,140	$ 78,829	$ 102,870	$ 98,000	$ 110,000	$ 105,000	$ 108,150	$ 111,395	$ 114,736
Routine Technical Services	$ 189,498	$ 182,239	$ 200,695	$ 222,272	$ 225,923	$ 256,890	$ 264,237	$ 271,564	$ 279,111	$ 286,884
Total of Technical Non-Routine Services	$ 9,051	$ 203,534	$ 395,651	$ 626,049	$ 711,974	$ 72,592	$ 122,500	$ 158,100	$ 150,750	$ 113,700
% Increase from Prior Year		*2149%*	*94%*	*58%*	*14%*	*-90%*	*69%*	*29%*	*-5%*	*-25%*

Notes:
*Routine services (administrative, legal, and technical) are shown in **blue bold text**.
*Totals for Routine and Non-Routine Services exclude the pass-through expenses of reimbursements to BWD and Settling Parties that, and exclude non-routine grant related administrative costs such as interest on vendor terms and grant administration. These are one-off costs and not expected to be repeated in the future

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the WY 2026 Budget as presented herein. Approval includes:

- A WY 2026 Pumping Assessment of $350,0000
- An Overproduction Penalty Assessment of $500 per acre-foot
- Total operating expenditure for WY 2026 in the amount of $741,153
- Appointment of a Budget Subcommittee of 2 Board members to work with the ED to identify strategies to reduce operating costs and projected pumping assessments for WY 2027 and beyond

This recommendation, or any alternative to it motioned by the Board, requires a Supermajority vote to be approved.

Next Steps

If a Supermajority vote for the WY 2026 budget is not achieved, Staff will request direction from the Board for changes to the Budget and a special meeting will need to be scheduled on or before June 30, 2025 to adopt a budget.

Once a budget package is approved, Staff will:

- Publish the WY 2026 budget no later than July 1, 2025
- Report to the Board if any challenges to the Budget are noticed to Watermaster by July 31, 2025
- Prepare a "Statement of Work" based on the proposed scope of services and budget to be provided by West Yost during WY 2026. The Statement of Work will be presented to the Board for consideration of approval as an amendment to the existing West Yost Professional Services Agreement (expected August 2025).

Enclosures

Attachment A – Detailed Description of Routine Annual Administrative and Technical Services Expenditures

Attachment B - Recommended Scope and Budget for Non-Routine Technical Consultant Services through WY 2030

Attachment A – Detailed Description of Routine Annual Administrative and Technical Services Expenditures

The following are the routine annual line items for Watermaster's Administrative and Technical Consultant Services. The scope of work is similar from year to year, and in all cases, the cost of services (as shown in Exhibit 1) is assumed to increase with inflation over WY 2027 through WY 2030, unless otherwise noted. For each item, any key assumptions are noted with the brief scope description.

- *Administrative Services*: ***$301,671 for WY 2026.***
    - The services/costs in this category include:
        - Watermaster Staff administrative services provided by West Yost (***$237,255 for WY 2026***)
            - Board meetings (Assumes 11 meetings per year – 2 in-person, 9 virtual)
            - TAC meetings (Assumes 5 virtual meetings)
            - Court hearings (Assumes support for 2 court hearings)
            - Stakeholder outreach meetings (Assumes 2 in-person events, timed with in-person Board meetings)
            - Administration and Management (budget development, financial services, management of records, website, support to BPA parties, as-needed support for implementation of the Judgment, project/budget management).
        - Other administrative expenses (***$64,417 for WY 2026***)
            - Financial audit *($8,812 for WY 2026*)
            - Liability insurance *($48,142 for WY 2026*)
            - Miscellaneous expenses *($2,000 for WY 2026*)
            - Interest expenses on Payment Terms with West Yost and Land IQ - (*$5,463 for WY 2026; expense ends in WY 2026*)
- *Legal Services*: ***$110,000 for WY 2026.*** This task is for all as-needed legal services from RWG Law, which includes, at a minimum, attending and support of all Watermaster Board meetings and Court hearings. In WY 2026 additional cost is assumed to support addressing DWR comments on the Judgment and GMP. Costs are then reduced in WY 2027.

- *Routine Technical and Engineering Services*: ***$224,870 for WY 2026.*** The routine technical and engineering services include:
    - Coordinate and implement monthly meter reading and annual verification program (*$33,584 for WY 2026, not including costs incurred by Parties with manual-read meters or for annual meter testing*)

  - Implement the Groundwater Monitoring Plan. This involves semi-annual monitoring of groundwater level and quality and associated summary reporting and assumes that the size of the program will not expand by more than 1-2 additional existing wells compared to the spring 2025 monitoring event. (*$116,969 for WY 2026*)
  - Data management and reporting to the DWR Monitoring Network Module (*$12,276 for WY 2026*)
  - WY 2025 Water Rights Accounting Report and Annual Report to the Court/DWR (*$51,221 for WY 2026*)
  - As-needed technical services (*$10,820 for WY 2026*)
- *Environmental Working Group*: ***$20,000 in WY 2026***. For WY 2026 and beyond, it is assumed that the level of work will remain at the agreed upon funding level of $20,000 per year absent grant funding.
  - For WY 2026, Watermaster Staff recommend utilizing funding to facilitate the EWG in developing a recommendation on whether the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study prepared by the Tubb Canyon Conservancy and University of California, Irvine (UCI) represents Best Available Science for use by the Watermaster in adapting its GMP. This would be done in parallel to the TAC review of the GDE Study (see Attachment B). The work will involve reviewing the GDE study, conducting a briefing with UCI (together with the TAC), and preparing a recommendation report to the Board on the use of the GDE Study to support management planning. The draft scope of work for WY 2026 was discussed amongst the TAC at its May 1, 2025 meeting.[2]
- *Services to Parties with Manual-Read Meters*: ***$12,020 in WY 2026***. This work includes Watermaster staff services (provided by West Yost). This work is funded solely by Parties with manual-read meters (see matching revenue line-item).

[2] See Agenda Item IV of the May 1, 2025 TAC Meeting Agenda Package, available at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/20250501-TAC-Agenda-Package.pdf

Attachment B – Recommended Scope and Budget for Non-Routine Technical Consultant Services through WY 2030

The following is the non-routine technical scope of services recommended by the Technical Consultant, in coordination with the TAC where directed. This scope of work is to support compliance with Judgment and SGMA required work and supports Watermaster's effort to achieve sustainability by 2040. Unlike the routine annual services, the scope of work varies from year to year (as shown in the Exhibit 1 Draft WY 2026 Budget).

Table B1 on the following page shows the line-item breakdown of costs by year for the remainder of WY 2025[3] through WY 2030, for each of the following work items:

- Address DWR RCAs
- Completion of the 2026 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update
- Technical Work to Support 2030 Sustainable Yield Update (WY 2026 to 2029)
- Technical Work to Support 2035 Sustainable Yield Update
- Start the 2031 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update

The line-item costs for future work in WYs 2027 through 2030 were estimated based on WY 2026 dollars and escalated to account for inflation. For each item, any key assumptions are noted with the below scope descriptions.

As shown in Table B1 – the total cost to perform this work from WY 2025 through 2030 is $682,642. Of this, $65,000 is assumed to be performed in WY 2025, which was presented for approval by the Board at the June meeting in Agenda Item IV.B.[4] The remaining $617,642 will be spent over the five-year period of WY 2026 through 2030. A summary description of the scope of work for each line item follows Table B1.

[3] June to September 2025.

[4] If utilizing unspent budget in WY 2025 is not approved, then the costs will have to be shifted to WY 2026. This could jeopardize meeting the June 2026 deadline for the 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update.

Table B1. Line Item Costs of Non-Routine Technical Scope of Services through WY 2030[1]							
Technical Scope Items	**WY 2025[2]**	**WY 2026**	**WY 2027**	**WY 2028**	**WY 2029**	**WY 2030**	**Total Cost**
Total all Scope Items	**$ 65,000**	**$ 72,592**	**$ 122,500**	**$ 158,100**	**$ 150,750**	**$ 113,700**	**$ 682,642**
Address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs)	**$ 46,326**	**$ 27,514**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 153,840**
RCA 1 - Management Areas		*$6,131*					**$ 6,131**
RCA 2 - Domestic Well Mitigation		*$7,982*					**$ 7,982**
RCA 3 - Groundwater Level SMC	*$14,926*	*$3,731*					**$ 18,657**
RCA 4 - Groundwater Storage SMC	*$7,550*	*$1,887*					**$ 9,437**
RCA 5 - Groundwater Quality SMC	*$6,000*	*$1,500*					**$ 7,500**
RCA 6 - Land Subsidence	*$9,286*	*$3,517*					**$ 12,803**
RCA 7 - Judgment/GMP Relationship	*$8,564*	*$2,766*					**$ 11,330**
Undefined RCA Follow-on Work[3]			*$20,000*	*$20,000*	*$20,000*	*$20,000*	**$ 80,000**
5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (2026)	**$ 18,674**	**$ 29,336**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 48,010**
BVHM Pumping Projections Update	*$12,000*						**$ 12,000**
Finalize 2026 5-Year Assessment Report	*$6,674*	*$23,854*					**$ 30,528**
Prepare GMP Redline Document		*$5,482*					**$ 5,482**
Technical Work for 2030 Sustainable Yield	**$ -**	**$ 15,742**	**$ 102,500**	**$ 138,100**	**$ 130,750**	**$ -**	**$ 387,092**
Evaluate the GDE Study Report (TAC share)		*$15,742*					**$15,742**
Assess BVHM Updates: HCM updates			*$75,400*				**$75,400**
Assess BVHM Updates: Simulation of GDEs			*$27,100*				**$27,100**
Evaluate New Monitoring Data				*$29,100*			**$29,100**
Develop Methods to Perform Model Updates				*$15,000*			**$15,000**
Upgrade BVHM Version of MODFLOW-OWHM				*$94,000*			**$94,000**
Update and Validate the BVHM					*$60,900*		**$60,900**
Recalibrate BVHM and Determine the 2030 SY					*$69,850*		**$69,850**
Technical Work for 2035 Sustainable Yield	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 17,800**	**$ 17,800**
Prepare Scope and Budget for the 2035 SY						*$17,800*	**$17,800**
5-Year GMP Assessment and Update (2031)	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 75,900**	**$ 75,900**
Evaluate Sustainability of 2030 SY via BVHM Projections						*$45,900*	**$45,900**
Start 5-Yr GMP Assessment and Update						*$30,000*	**$ 30,000**
Notes:							
1 -- The line-item costs for future work in WYs 2027 through 2030 were estimated based on WY 2026 dollars and escalated to account for inflatio							
2 -- Assumes that the Board approves use of unspent budget in WY 2025 to perform this work. Requires Supermajority vote. If not approved, the cost would need to be shifted to WY 2026.							
3 -- This line item is included as a placeholder acknowledging that future follow-on work will be required. It is budgeted as $20,000 per year, but there is no way to know at this time what the actual costs will be. Staff recommend that this placeholder budget remain and not be set at							

Address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs). The DWR issued seven RCAs to the Watermaster as part of its approval of the GMP. In all cases, how the RCA was addressed, or is planned to be addressed, will be documented in the 2026 5-Year GMP Assessment Report and will necessitate redlining the GMP for clarity. The strategy for addressing each RCA is summarized below. The costs are laid out by RCA in Table B1. Note that some RCAs will have follow-on costs that are not able to be estimated at this time. The RCA cost estimates do not include these follow-on costs, however there is a line item for "undefined future GMP implementation actions" that could cover this undefined future cost. **As shown in Table B1, the total cost for this line item is $153,840. Of this $73,840 are for defined work in WYs 2025 and 2026. The remaining $80,000 is for future undefined work that could result from addressing DWR comments and be performed over WYs 2027 through 2030.**

- *RCA 1 – Management Areas.* Addressing this RCA involves redlining the GMP to clarify the application and use of Management Areas in the GMP. Prior to including the redline in a final package for review by the Board and public, the redline will be reviewed by the TAC. This RCA is intended to be resolved as of publishing the 2026 GMP Assessment Report and GMP Redline.
- *RCA 2 – Domestic Well Mitigation*. Addressing this RCA will require Watermaster to develop a policy to mitigate impacts to domestic well users caused by actions performed in accordance with the Judgment and GMP (*e.g.* allowance of continued declines in groundwater levels during the Rampdown). Resolution of this RCA will be addressed over time as follows:
    - As a first step, an approach to developing a policy will be prepared and documented in the 2026 5-Year Assessment Report and redlined in the GMP.
    - As a second step, the approach will be implemented in WY 2027 and beyond. Table B1 does not address the costs of implementation directly as these will be unknown until the first step is completed in WY 2026.
- *RCA 3 – Groundwater Level SMC*. Addressing this RCA requires technical work and coordination with the TAC. The work will involve improving the sustainable management criteria (SMC)[5] to include better quantifiable definitions of Undesirable Results and finalizing the update of previously identified illogical SMC defined in the GMP. This RCA will result in redlines to the GMP to clarify/update the SMC. This RCA is intended to be resolved as of publishing the 2026 GMP Assessment Report and GMP Redline.
- *RCA 4 – Groundwater Storage SMC.* Addressing this RCA requires minimal technical work and coordination with the TAC. The work will involve improving the SMC to include align with the Rampdown schedule defined in the Judgement and will result in redlines to the GMP to clarify/update the SMC. This RCA is intended to be resolved as of publishing the 2026 GMP Assessment Report and GMP Redline.
- *RCA 5 – Groundwater Quality SMC.* Addressing this RCA involves redlining the GMP to clarify the application of the SMC. This will be done in coordination with the TAC. Given the lack of

[5] SMC include minimum thresholds, interim milestones, and measurable objectives.

clarity and guidance from DWR as it relates to addressing water quality under SGMA, there may be follow-on work recommended for future years as an outcome of addressing the RCA. Thus, this RCA may need to be addressed in two phases. Table B1 does not address any future costs as these will be unknown until the SMC clarifications are discussed with the TAC and Board.

- *RCA 6 – Land Subsidence.* Addressing this RCA requires technical work and coordination with the TAC. The work will involve determining if SMC are required as recommended by DWR. If the approach to land subsidence is updated, the GMP may need to be redlined. This RCA will be resolved as of publishing the 2026 GMP Assessment Report and GMP Redline.
- *RCA 7 – Relationship of the Judgment and GMP.* Addressing this RCA requires coordination with the authors of the GMP and the subcommittee assigned to facilitate coordination with the attorneys and DWR. The goal is to prepare a memorandum directly addressing DWR's confusion about the relationship of the documents. This will likely result in redlining the GMP for clarification. This RCA is intended to be resolved as of publishing the 2026 GMP Assessment Report and GMP Redline.
- *Undefined future GMP implementation actions following completion of 5-Year Assessment*. This line item is included as a placeholder acknowledging that future follow-on work will be required. It is budgeted as $20,000 per year, but there is no way to know at this time what the actual costs will be. Staff recommend that this placeholder budget remain and not be set at a lower cost to ensure sufficient revenue planning.

Completion of the 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update. This work includes updating the BVHM projections, finalizing the 5-Year Assessment Report, and updating the GMP. **As shown in Table B1, the total cost for this line item is $48,010.** Staff recommend this be performed starting in WY 2025 and finish by the June 2026 DWR deadline. Each item is described below.

- *Update the BVHM Projections*[6]. The TAC has recommended that the BVHM projections be updated to assess a revised pumping projection that shifts some pumping from the Central and/or South Management Areas to the North Management Area to support understanding of the sustainability of the Rampdown, refined scoping of future BVHM updates, setting of the SMC to address DWR RCAs, and development of Watermaster policy to address areas that may not achieve sustainability (if necessary).
- *Finalize 5-Year Assessment Report*. A Framework to Complete the 5-Year GMP Assessment was prepared using SGM funding in WY 2025.[7] Table F-1 of the Assessment Framework, enclosed at the end of this Attachment B, describes the scope of work to complete the 5-Year Assessment Report. The work to address the RCAs will significantly advance completion of the report. This step is to finalize all ten section of the report, address comments received, and submit the report to the DWR by June 25, 2026.

[6] The Board discussion of Agenda Item IV.B in the June 18, 2025 meeting could affect the cost and scope of this line item. Not knowing the potential outcome, this remains in the recommended budget.

[7] Available on the Watermaster's website at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/C7-d-5-year-Assessment-Framework.pdf

- *Redline GMP*. As noted in the above discussion of addressing the DWR RCAs, the GMP will need to be redlined so that it is more clearly understood by DWR and is reflective of updates to elements such as SMC. Most of the costs to redline are included in the RCA tasks. This step is to compile the draft and final redline for public review and DWR submittal.

Technical Work to Support 2030 Sustainable Yield Update. The TAC prepared a recommended scope of work to redetermine the 2030 Sustainable Yield, which was approved by the Board in December 2024. The process involved the following steps: (1) evaluate new data and information to determine if BVHM updates are needed, (2) develop methods to update BVHM, if needed, (3) update and validate the BVHM, (4) recalibrate the BVHM, if needed, (5) compute the 2030 Sustainable Yield. Subsequently, it has also been identified that the model will likely need to be converted to the latest version of MODFLOW-OWHM. **As shown in Table B1, the total cost for this line item is $387,092 over WYs 2026 through 2029.**

The December 2024 scope of work identified two priority data items to evaluate in step (1), including the GDE Study Report and the latest results of the metering and groundwater monitoring program. One additional priority item was identified in March 2025 – updating the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) of the South Management Area. Based on the priority items, the following scope of work is recommended:

- *Determine if the GDE Study is Best Available Science*. The Watermaster has a policy on the use of Best Available Science. The first step in the use of technical work that was not developed by the Watermaster is to determine if the work constitutes Best Available Science. This task is for the TAC to determine if the GDE Study prepared by the Tubb Canyon Conservancy and UCI is Best Available Science. If it is, follow-on technical work will be recommended to ensure the Watermaster's GMP and BVHM are in alignment with the science. This work is proposed to be done in parallel with a review of the GDE study by the EWG. The work will involve reviewing the GDE study, conducting a briefing with UCI (together with the EWG), and preparing TAC and Technical Consultant Recommendation Reports to the Board on the use of the GDE Study to support management planning. The costs shown in Table B1 represent the costs associated with the TAC process and are additive to the $20,000 utilized in the EWG budget to facilitate the EWG portion of the work.
- *Assess BVHM Updates: HCM.* This task was developed in collaboration with the TAC and involves a process to review new information on well construction, groundwater elevations, and pumping tests to update the HCM of the South Management Area.
- *Assess BVHM Updates: Simulation of GDEs.* This is a follow-on task if the GDE study is determined to be based on best available science as it relates to evapotranspiration (ET) by the mesquite bosque. This task may assess and determine if the BVHM accurately simulates the amount of ET; however, the scope of work will be refined by the TAC following results of the prior task to determine if the GDE Study is Best Available Science.
- *Assess BVHM Updates: New Monitoring Data.* This task will review and analyze the latest pumping and groundwater level data to determine if further updates and calibration of the Farm Process in the BVHM are needed.

- *Develop Methods to Perform Model Updates*. Based on the prior tasks to assess the BVHM, this task will develop a methodology and scope of work to update, validate, and recalibrate the BVHM to better simulate basin conditions (as compared to measured data).
- *Upgrade BVHM Version of MODFLOW-OWHM.* In this task the current BVHM will be converted to the updated model platform.
- *Update and Validate the BVHM*. In this task, the BVHM will be updated and validated following the methods defined in the prior steps.
- *Recalibrate the BVHM and Determine 2030 Sustainable Yield.* In this step the BVHM will be recalibrated, and the 2030 Sustainable Yield will be computed in accordance with the method defined and used to set the 2025 Sustainable Yield.

Technical Work to Support 2035 Sustainable Yield Update. This work will begin in WY 2030 with the TAC developing the recommended scope of work and budget-level cost estimate to redetermine the 2035 Sustainable Yield. The scope of work will be developed from October to December 2029 to meet the January 1, 2030 deadline defined in the Judgment. This work will be utilized to set the future budget projection for WYs 2031 to 2035. **As shown in Table B1, the total cost for this line item is $17,800.**

Start the 2031 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update. The next 5-year assessment (and potential GMP update) is due to the DWR in June 2031. This work should begin in WY 2030 and will include using the BVHM to test the sustainability of the 2030 Sustainable Yield and beginning to prepare the Assessment Report. **As shown in Table B1, the total cost for this line item is $75,900.**

Table F-1. Assessment Report Outline and Scope and Schedule to Complete the Administrative Draft of Chapters

Assessment Report Chapter Title	Section Reporting Objective	% Complete by March 31, 2025	Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025	Recommend Approach and Schedule to Complete Administrative Draft of Chapter
Executive Summary	Provides an overview of the entire report, including highlighting key findings and recommendations. This section also demonstrates how this Assessment meets the regulatory requirements for periodic assessments, as defined in § 356.4 of the GSP Regulations by referencing the Periodic Evaluation Elements Guide	5%	Since this section is a summary of the entire report and its key highlights, it cannot be completed until all other sections have been finalized. Work includes: • Complete ES text after all of other Assessment Report Chapters have been completed • Prepare Table ES-1 – Periodic Evaluation Elements Guide	Draft Executive Summary in March 2026 for inclusion in the March 25, 2026 Draft Assessment Report.
Chapter 1. Regulatory Background and Assessment Objectives	Provides background on the Watermaster, the Judgment and GMP, and the purpose and objectives of the Assessment to facilitate understanding of how the report is organized.	95%	No anticipated changes are expected to be needed to the section, other than minor text additions and/or edits. Any of the following could result in minor changes to this section: • Changes to standard introductory descriptions in the WY 2025 Annual Report • Changes to report organization (e.g. order of Chapters	Draft final version of Chapter 1 in March 2026 for inclusion in the March 25, 2026 Draft Assessment Report.
Chapter 2. Administration, Engagement, and Coordination	Describes the Watermaster's administrative functions, coordination efforts with other agencies, and public outreach efforts through various forms of meetings and workshops. It also describes actions that were taken during the reporting period to adopt policies and procedures in furtherance of the sustainability goal for the basin, including amendments to the Judgment.	95%	Update text and tables to reflect any additional or changed administrative or outreach information through end of reporting period (September 30, 2025).	Draft final version of Chapter 2 in March 2026 for inclusion in the March 25, 2026 Draft Assessment Report.

Table F-1. Assessment Report Outline and Scope and Schedule to Complete the Administrative Draft of Chapters

Assessment Report Chapter Title	Section Reporting Objective	% Complete by March 31, 2025	Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025	Recommend Approach and Schedule to Complete Administrative Draft of Chapter
Chapter 3. Recommended Corrective Actions	Provides an overview of the seven RCAs. For each RCA, it describes the RCA as presented by DWR, summarizes DWR feedback on the Alternative Plan that relates to the RCA, presents the Watermaster's plan to address each RCA, and summarizes the recommended, actual, or planned changes to the Judgment, GMP, and/or other Watermaster program or policy that are expected from addressing the RCA.	5%	The RCAs were not provided by DWR until February 25, 2025 and have yet to be discussed with the Board. Thus, no work on this section could be performed. The entire Chapter will need to be written following discussions with the Board on how to address each of the RCAs.	• Some RCAs are technical, some are policy related, some are simple clarifications. Staff will organize RCAs into logical groupings to be addressed, in collaboration with the TAC (where technical), and make recommendations. Board will direct staff based on recommendations. This will be done from May 2025 to Dec 2026. • All outcomes will be documented as draft Chapter 3 by January 2026 for TAC and Board review, including any redline to the GMP.
Chapter 4. Status of Projects and Management Actions	Provides an overview of the Judgment management actions, the GMP PMAs, and describe the relationship between them. Describes progress to date on implementing each, including a discussion of how implementation has benefited the Basin and contributed to achieving sustainability. To the extent that any PMA will be modified to address an RCA, the changes would be discussed, and the status would be presented relative to the revised PMA.	70 – 90%	Some of the DWR RCAs relate to the PMAs and it may be necessary to clarify and/or modify one or more PMAs. PMAs are a policy decision and thus must be vetted through a Board process, following receipt of technical recommendations from Watermaster staff and/or the TAC or EWG. This section will be updated after changes have been approved by the Board, if any. If no changes to the PMAs are made, then no anticipated changes are needed to the section, other than updating the implementation status through September 30, 2025.	• Discuss communication of the relationship between Judgment management actions and PMAs with Board in light of RCA No. 7. • Work with Board to review management action progress and need to change or add management actions in May to December concurrent with RCA discussions for Chapter 3. • Finalize Chapter 4 text and tables based on Board direction by January 2026 for TAC and Board review, including any redline to the GMP.

Table F-1. Assessment Report Outline and Scope and Schedule to Complete the Administrative Draft of Chapters

Assessment Report Chapter Title	Section Reporting Objective	% Complete by March 31, 2025	Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025	Recommend Approach and Schedule to Complete Administrative Draft of Chapter
Chapter 5. New Information	Summarizes new data and information acquired by the Watermaster during the reporting period. For significant new information, the report identifies how that data is being used by the Watermaster, how the new information impacts the Basin characterization, where to find additional information withing the report, and indicates if any changes to the Judgment/GMP were made as a result of the new information.	90%	This section is nearly complete, but does not yet identify updates that will be made to the Judgment or GMP based on new information. This needs to be discussed with the Board. To complete the section, Watermaster will: • Make recommendations to the Board on what changes should be made to the Judgment/GMP, if any • Add any new data/information items that becomes available before finalizing the draft report	• Make Recommendations to the Board on what changes should be made to the Judgment/GMP, if any, for each new information item. • Complete Table 5-1 with information on any recommended changes to the Judgment/GMP • Update text and Table 5-1 to reflect any additional significant new information obtained through September 30, 2025. • Publish draft Chapter 5 by October 2025 for Board and TAC review. • Incorporate review comments in March 25, 2026 draft Assessment Report.
Chapter 6. Basin Setting Based on New Information	This chapter provides an overview of the Basin Setting in the GMP, identifies the elements of the Basin Setting that have changed based on new information reported in Chapter 5, and describes the revised elements of the Basin Setting based on the new information. For each element described, the section notes where and how the GMP should be updated to reflect the updated characterization.	70-90%	• Update text of Section 6.2.1 based on any further updates made to the BVHM • Complete text and tables of Section 6.2.2 – Aquifer Properties • Complete text and tables of Section 6.2.3 – Water Budget • Determine if any additional changes to the Basin Setting are needed based on responses to the DWR's RCAs. This will be a process done in collaboration with the TAC. If changes are warranted, add text to Section 6.3	How this section is completed, and the level of effort to complete will depend on how the Board proceeds with the recommendations in the March 31, 2025 memo regarding use of the 2022 BVHM to assess the sustainability of future groundwater conditions. Once that path is selected, this text can be completed A draft of Chapter 6 should be prepared by August 2025, including any redline to the GMP. A final draft of Chapter 6 should be prepared by November 2025.

Table F-1. Assessment Report Outline and Scope and Schedule to Complete the Administrative Draft of Chapters

Assessment Report Chapter Title	Section Reporting Objective	% Complete by March 31, 2025	Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025	Recommend Approach and Schedule to Complete Administrative Draft of Chapter
Chapter 7. Monitoring Networks	Describes the monitoring networks, improvements that have been made to the monitoring network over the reporting period, identifies data gaps, and provides recommendations for improvements to the monitoring network.	95%	This section is nearly complete. Remaining work is to: • Update text, tables, and figures with any additional wells that are added to the monitoring program through fall 2025. • Update section 7.4 – Future Activities for WY 2026 through WY 2030 with any additional work identified	• In June 2025 TAC should revie outcomes of Spring 2025 monitoring event and make recommendations for future actions • Draft final version of Chapter 7 in November 2026 for inclusion in the March 25, 2026 Draft Assessment Report.
Chapter 8. Basin Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria	Demonstrates progress towards achieving the Sustainability Goal of the Basin by evaluating current and projected Basin conditions relative to the SMC for each relevant Sustainability Indicator applicable to Borrego Springs. It also discusses any changes to the SMC or Representative Monitoring Network. If the analysis demonstrates that the Basin is not on track to achieving sustainability for any indicator, then recommended actions to address the challenge are described.	60%	Watermaster staff have analyzed all available data through Fall 2024 and generated charts, tables, and maps depicting the data and trends. The charts tables and maps will be updated to include the results of monitoring events through Fall 2025 once the data is available. The templates are set up to compare the groundwater level, storage, and quality information to the relevant SMCs, which may change from what is in the current GMP. The DWR RCAs recommend improvements to the SMCs, particularly adding quantifiable metrics for several of the sustainability indicators. This has also been a recommendation of Watermaster staff. All technical information to support the update of the SMCs will be complete by March 31, 2025.	The establishment of SMCs requires TAC and stakeholder input. The TAC and Stakeholder input will be obtained through the TAC, Board, and Open House process, following discussions with the Board on how to address the DWR RCAs. The SMC updates will be drafted and reviewed for public input by October 2025. The final figures, tables, and text will be prepared from November 2025 through February 2026, for inclusion in the March 25, 2026 Draft Assessment Report.

Table F-1. Assessment Report Outline and Scope and Schedule to Complete the Administrative Draft of Chapters

Assessment Report Chapter Title	Section Reporting Objective	% Complete by March 31, 2025	Work to be Completed After March 31, 2025	Recommend Approach and Schedule to Complete Administrative Draft of Chapter
Chapter 9. Summary and Recommended Changes to the Judgment/GMP	Summarizes key take-aways from the assessment, any proposed amendments to the Judgment or GMP, and next steps for moving the Basin towards the Sustainability Goal.	5%	Since this section is a summary of the entire report and contains recommendations on changes to the Judgment or GMP (if any), it cannot be completed until the remaining report sections are complete and changes have been discussed with and approved by the Board.	Draft Chapter 9 in March 2026 for inclusion in the March 25, 2026 Draft Assessment Report.

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM IV.D

To: Board of Directors

From: Lauren Salberg, Associate Geologist, West Yost

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Semi-Annual Report of Groundwater Level and Quality Results for the Borrego Springs Subbasin: Spring 2025

☐ **Recommended Action** ☐ **Provide Direction to Staff** ✓ **Information and Discussion**

☐ **Fiscal Impact** ☐ **Cost Estimate**

Recommended Action

Board discussion

Fiscal Impact: None.

Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board

On April 6, 2023, the Watermaster adopted an updated *Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* (GWMP) that defined (1) the wells included groundwater monitoring network and (2) the actions and schedule to fill data gaps and improve monitoring documentation and reporting protocols. Generally, the main objectives of the monitoring program are to collect the data that can be used to:

- Demonstrate progress toward meeting the Sustainability Goal of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), which is to ensure that by 2040 the Subbasin is operated within its Sustainable Yield without causing Undesirable Results. The main Undesirable Results to be avoided are the significant and unreasonable occurrences of the following Sustainability Indicators[1]: chronic lowering of groundwater levels; reduction in groundwater storage; and degradation of groundwater quality.
- Inform adaptive management to achieve the Sustainability Goal.
- Improve the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM) in a cost-effective manner that offers the most benefit for the resources expended.

[1] "Sustainability Indicator" refers to any of the effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the Basin that, when significant and unreasonable, cause undesirable results (California Water Code Section 10721(x)).

To demonstrate progress towards sustainability, the monitoring program data is used to track and monitor specific parameters relative to Minimum Thresholds[2] for the relevant Sustainability Indicators for the Basin. The GMP identified a subset of the wells in the monitoring program as Representative Monitoring Wells to assess groundwater conditions within the three management areas of the Basin (North, Central, and South)[3].

Monitoring is performed semi-annually in the spring and fall of each year by Watermaster staff and the Borrego Water District (BWD). Wells in the groundwater-quality monitoring program are sampled for the parameters listed in the following table. The five constituents of concern (COCs) identified in the GMP are total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrate, arsenic, sulfate, and fluoride. The remaining parameters are monitored to assist in source water characterization and general water quality characterization.

Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program: Water Quality Parameters	
Alkalinity (including bicarbonate and carbonate)	Nitrite
Arsenic	Magnesium
Calcium	Potassium
Chloride	Sodium
Fluoride	Sulfate
Nitrate	Total dissolved solids

The spring 2025 Monitoring Event occurred in March 2025 in order to utilize and maximize funding from the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

This report summarizes the spring 2025 Monitoring Event and includes:

- A description of the groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring networks as of spring 2025.
- A summary of the activities that occurred during the spring 2025 event.
- Characterization of the data collected during the spring 2025 event, including:
  - Comparison of groundwater-level data at the Representative Monitoring Wells against Minimum Thresholds.
  - Time-series charts of groundwater-level data at all wells monitored in spring 2025 (showing entire period of historical data at each well).
  - Spatial distribution maps of groundwater-quality results for the five COCs at all wells sampled in spring 2025.

[2] Minimum Thresholds are quantitative values that represent the groundwater conditions at a Representative Monitoring Well that, when exceeded individually or in combination with Minimum Thresholds at other monitoring sites, may cause an Undesirable Result(s) in the Basin.

[3] The GMP identifies representative monitoring wells for groundwater-levels only. For groundwater-quality, this report shows results for all wells monitored.

- Time-series charts of groundwater-quality at all wells monitored in spring 2025 (showing entire period of historical data at each well).

Status of Groundwater Monitoring Network

Table 1 lists wells in the groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring programs. It details the local or alias[4] well name, State Well ID, well use (if known), type of monitoring performed, and, if applicable, the reason(s) why a sample or measurement was not collected during spring 2025. Wells in the groundwater-level monitoring network and the groundwater-quality monitoring network are shown on Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

Of the wells in the monitoring programs, some are strictly observation wells (no pumping), while others are used to pump groundwater for municipal, recreation (e.g., golf courses), and other purposes. As shown in Table 1, the monitoring network currently consists of 71 groundwater wells. Of the 71 wells in the network:

- 64 wells are monitored for groundwater-levels. Figure 1 shows the locations of the wells that are currently or have recently been in the groundwater-level monitoring network. Of these 64 wells:
  - 35 wells have groundwater-level measurements collected manually in the spring and fall of each year.
  - 29 wells have groundwater-level measurements collected at a high frequency interval (15 minutes to 1 hour) using a pressure transducer with an integrated data logger. Manual water level measurements are also collected semi-annually at these wells while the transducer data is downloaded.
- 43 wells are monitored for groundwater-quality. Figure 2 shows the locations of the wells that are currently in the groundwater-quality monitoring network. Of these 43 wells:
  - 10 wells are wells used for drinking water.
  - 19 wells are non-potable wells used for agricultural and recreation irrigation, and other purposes (not used for drinking water).
  - 14 wells are dedicated monitoring wells.

Summary of Spring 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Event

The spring 2025 semi-annual monitoring event took place from March 16 to March 20, 2025, and included the following activities:

- Groundwater-level measurements were taken at 63 of the 64 wells, including:
  - Manual measurement of depth to groundwater at 34 of the 35 wells. Notable outcomes included:
    - One well, Airport 2, could not be monitored due to a collapsed casing, preventing groundwater level measurements since fall 2023. Watermaster staff attempted to rehabilitate this well using SGM funding, however, a video

[4] Due to data confidentiality agreements, some wells in the groundwater monitoring program are not identified by name or owner. Instead, they are assigned anonymous names based on their relative location in the Management Area.

log conducted in February 2025 confirmed that the well cannot be rehabilitated, and should be destroyed. Ultimately, the Airport 2 well should be removed from the groundwater-level monitoring program, but it remains in the monitoring network because it is a Representative Monitoring Well. A replacement Representative Monitoring Well will need to be selected; these options will be explored as part of the 5-year GMP Assessment.

- SGM funding used to expand the monitoring network and/or convert inactive/abandoned wells allowed Watermaster Staff to collect and officially report groundwater-level data from the following wells for the first time:
  - Five observation wells at the Borrego Landfill: BSMW-1R, BSMW-2R, BSMW-3R, BSMW-5R, and BSMW-6.[5]
  - Four inactive/abandoned wells that were converted and secured as part of the as part of the monitoring network expansion[6]: Bauer MW, 808-Ghost, NMA-5, and CMA-3.

- Manual measurement of depth to groundwater and downloaded data from all 29 wells equipped with transducers.[7] Notable outcomes included:
  - Transducer data was downloaded and processed for the first time at ID5-15, MW-6S, and MW-6D.
  - A new transducer was installed at RH-5 to replace the malfunctioning unit. Groundwater-level data from the malfunctioning unit was retrieved and processed up until the unit failed in December 2024. [8]
  - As part of the expansion of the of the GWMP conversion of inactive/abandoned wells[6], six new transducers and seven new cables were installed at the following locations: ID4-3, ID4-4, ID4-10, Viking Well, Army Well, Hayden, and Hanna Flowers (cable only).

- Water quality grab samples were collected at 42 of 43 wells.[9] Notable outcomes include:
  - SGM funding used to expand the monitoring network and/or convert inactive/abandoned wells allowed Watermaster Staff to collect and officially report groundwater-quality data from the following wells for the first time:

[5] The most recent groundwater-level and groundwater-quality data for the Borrego Landfill, as reported on GeoTracker, were recorded in December 2024. Due to elevated total dissolved solids (TDS) levels observed during that sampling event, follow-up sampling for select analytes was conducted in February 2025.

[6] The work to expand the monitoring program is documented in a gjtTM describing the expansion of the Monitoring Program and Conversion of Inactive/ Abandoned Wells, available on the Watermaster's website at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/C7-c-Conversion-of-Abandoned-Wells-TM.pdf

[7] Additionally, the barologger installed in the BSR 6 well was downloaded. The barologger data is used to compensate transducer measurements taken at surrounding wells for variations in barometric pressure.

[8] The transducer battery was depleted, and the unit was returned to In-Situ for data recovery. Data was successfully retrieved up to December 2024, when the unit ceased functioning. The device was no longer under warranty, but the replacement transducer was purchased with SGM grant funding.

[9] The Terry Well was removed from the groundwater-quality monitoring program due to ongoing access issues. The owner of the Terry Well is deceased and Watermaster staff is unable to access the well pump. Going forward, only groundwater-level measurements will be taken at this well.

- Five observation wells at the Borrego Landfill: BSMW-1R, BSMW-2R, BSMW-3R, BSMW-5R, and BSMW-6.[5]
- ID4-2, which was recently rehabbed and secured as part of the conversion of abandoned/inactive wells program.

- A water quality sample was not collected at the RH-4 due to the pump not operating properly.

Expansion of Groundwater Monitoring Network

The GWMP identified and recommended areas for additional monitoring to improve the monitoring programs. Filling these data gaps and expanding the groundwater monitoring networks will improve the understanding of the hydrogeology of the Basin by collecting additional information on seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater quality, the effects of recharge and GMP implementation on groundwater flow and quality, and the depth distribution of groundwater quality, groundwater elevation, groundwater-flow directions, and hydraulic gradients in the North Management Area and the Central Management Area.

To implement the recommended improvements to the groundwater monitoring network, the GWMP identified three primary methods to add a well to the monitoring network, which include: (i) using an existing pumping well, (ii) converting an abandoned or inactive well into a monitoring, and (iii) constructing a new monitoring well. Expanding the groundwater monitoring network during the initial years of implementation of the GWMP is focused on (i) using existing wells in the Basin and (ii) converting inactive/abandoned wells into monitoring wells.

Since adoption of the GWMP, the Watermaster has made efforts to expand the groundwater monitoring networks with an emphasis on identifying existing active and inactive/abandoned wells in the Basin that could be incorporated into the monitoring network. These efforts are summarized in a TM entitled *Expansion of the Borrego Springs Subbasin Groundwater Monitoring Program and Conversion of Inactive/Abandoned Wells.*[10] Figure 3 shows the data gaps that remain unfilled relative to the current water-level and water-quality monitoring network.

During the spring 2025 monitoring event, Watermaster conducted a site visit to evaluate one well for potential inclusion in the monitoring program. This inactive well was canvassed and determined to be a suitable candidate to address an existing groundwater-level and groundwater-quality data gap in the Central Management Area near the Borrego Sink (Figure 3).

Spring 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Results

The following tables and figures were prepared to summarize and analyze the results of the spring 2025 monitoring event.

[10] Available on the Watermaster's website at: https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/C7-c-Conversion-of-Abandoned-Wells-TM.pdf%20

Table 2 – Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to Minimum Threshold. For each well, this table lists the groundwater elevation in spring 2025, the Minimum Threshold[11], and the difference between the spring 2025 groundwater elevation and Minimum Threshold.[12] If the difference is positive, current elevations are above the Minimum Threshold. **Table 2 shows that groundwater-levels are above the Minimum Thresholds at all Representative Monitoring Wells.**

Table 3 – Groundwater Level Trends at Representative Monitoring Wells – Fall 2019 to Spring 2025. For each well, the table lists the groundwater elevation in fall 2019 (*i.e.,* the start of Physical Solution implementation period in WY 2020), the groundwater elevation in spring 2025, the change in groundwater-level, the rate of change in groundwater level from fall 2019 to spring 2025, and the historical groundwater-level trend (average decline in feet per year prior to fall 2019). Table 4 shows that since fall 2019:

- Groundwater levels increased by 2.0 feet at one Representative Monitoring Well in the North Management Area (MW-1).
- Groundwater levels declined in the other 15 Representative Monitoring Wells ranging from 0.1 feet (Fortiner) up to 14.5 feet (ID4-11).
- **Generally, the rate of decline in groundwater-levels at the Representative Monitoring Wells is slowing compared to historical rates of change**. However, two wells (ID4-11 and Air Ranch) exhibited an increase in the rate of groundwater-level decline compared to the historical rate of change. This observation is consistent with observations from prior monitoring events.

Figures 4a – 4p – Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria at Representative Monitoring Wells. For each well, these time-series charts show historical groundwater elevations prior to the start of GMP implementation, groundwater elevations since the start of GMP implementation (*i.e.,* fall 2019), and the Minimum Threshold. Figures 4a-4p show *static* groundwater elevations, which are groundwater levels in an aquifer under non-pumping conditions. In some cases, wells are equipped with high-frequency transducer data and capture groundwater elevations during groundwater pumping at the well, or a nearby well. Pumping groundwater elevations show fluctuations in groundwater levels due to pumping, including drawdown (groundwater level declines due to water being removed from the aquifer) and recovery (groundwater level increases once pumping ends). To display static groundwater elevations for active pumping wells ID4-18, ID4-11, ID5-5, ID1-12, ID1-16, and RH-1 (Figures 4-b, 4-f, 4-i, 4-j, 4-k, and 4-o), the high-frequency transducer data has been screened to remove groundwater elevations influenced by groundwater pumping at the

[11] As defined in the GMP, the Minimum Threshold for water levels is expressed as the maximum allowable decline in groundwater levels from the beginning of the Physical Solution implementation through 2040. Watermaster staff converted the decline into an elevation for comparison to current elevations.

[12] In its work to prepare the five-year assessment of the GMP and perform modeling for the Redetermination of Sustainable Yield, Watermaster staff determined that there are problems with some of the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) established in the GMP—specifically the Measurable Objectives (MOs) and Minimum Thresholds (MTs) for groundwater levels—for a number of wells in the Basin. The problems with the SMCs include: (1) at some Representative Monitoring Wells, the MT elevations are higher than the MO elevations, which is not logical, and (2) the simulation of future pumping in the South Management Area did not accurately reflect planned pumping under the Rampdown—specifically, no pumping was assumed in the future and thus any SMCs based on the model projections do not represent reasonable operational flexibility. The SMCs for groundwater elevations and estimate of groundwater in storage in the Basin are being updated as part of the 5-year GMP Assessment. For the purpose of this report, groundwater levels are only compared to MTs.

well. Groundwater elevations were also screened for monitoring well MW-3 (Figure 4-l), in which the lowest groundwater elevations occur when a nearby pumping well (ID1-8) is in operation. The groundwater elevations that occur while the wells are pumping, or influenced by pumping, are not representative of "true static" groundwater conditions and, therefore, are not intended to be compared to Minimum Thresholds. **Figures 4a-4p show that groundwater-levels are above the Minimum Thresholds at all Representative Monitoring Wells.**

Table 4 – Water Quality Standard Exceedance Report. This table lists all groundwater-quality sample results that exceeded a California or EPA drinking water standard (*e.g.,* California Maximum Contaminant Level [MCL]) for the constituents tested during the spring 2025 monitoring event. For each well with a water quality standard exceedance, the table lists: the well owner, well name, well use (e.g. public supply, non-potable irrigation, or observation), the water quality parameter(s) exceeded, the date of the water quality sample, the spring 2025 parameter concentration, and the water quality standard. Notable results included:

- Fewer wells in the South Management Area exceeded the MCL for arsenic, compared to the number of exceedances observed in fall 2024. The results from spring 2025 are consistent with results from monitoring events prior to fall 2024.
- Exceedances of MCLs were similar to past results, with a few exceptions:
    - From fall 2024 to spring 2025, NMA-7 showed increases in nitrate (9 to 41 mg/L), sulfate (400 to 750 mg/L), and TDS (870 to 1,700 mg/L) concentrations; all exceeded their respective MCLs.
    - ID4-20 (Wilcox) showed an increase in TDS concentration, increasing from approximately 210 to 630 mg/L, now exceeding the secondary MCL.
- ID4-18 showed a decrease in TDS, decreasing from 610 to 360 mg/L—now below the secondary MCL and the lowest value recorded at this well.

Table 5 - Summary of Exceedances of Water Quality Standard by Standard Type and Well Type. This table summarizes the number of water-quality results that exceeded a California or EPA drinking water standard by well type (*i.e.* drinking water, non-potable, or observation well).

The groundwater-quality results from the spring 2025 monitoring program indicate:

- 19 wells exceeded the lower limit of the secondary MCL for TDS (500 mg/L)
- 5 wells exceeded the upper limit of the secondary MCL for TDS (1,000 mg/L)
- 16 wells exceeded the secondary MCL for sulfate (250 mg/L)
- 5 wells exceeded the MCL for nitrate (10 mg/L)
- 1 well exceeded the secondary MCL for Fluoride (2 mg/L)
- 3 wells exceeded the MCL for Arsenic (0.01 mgl)

Figures 6 through 10. These figures characterize groundwater-quality for the five COCs constituents of concern identified in the GMP: TDS, nitrate, arsenic, sulfate, and fluoride. Each figure includes:

- A map that illustrates the spatial distribution of water quality concentrations at all wells sampled in spring 2025.
- Time-series charts of historical concentration trends at selected wells in each of the Management Areas to demonstrate the range of concentrations observed at select wells with long records of groundwater-quality results.

Appendix A (A-1 through A-55). These figures show time-series charts of the historical groundwater elevation data for all 64 wells in the groundwater level monitoring network. Appendix A is available as a handout only – to access click on this LINK or visit the Meetings page of the Watermaster's website

Appendix B (B-1 through B-195). This appendix includes time-series charts of the five constituents of concern for all 43 wells in the groundwater-quality monitoring network (arsenic, TDS, sulfate, fluoride, and nitrate). The primary or secondary MCLs for drinking water quality standards for each constituent are also plotted on each chart. The figures also identify the general well location and the total depth, and screened interval of the well. Appendix B is available as a handout only – to access click on this LINK or visit the Meetings page of the Watermaster's website.

Enclosures

Figure 1. Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network (Spring 2025)

Figure 2. Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network (Spring 2025)

Figure 3. Groundwater Wells Evaluated in Spring 2025 for Expansion of the Monitoring Network

Figures 4a – 4p. Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria at Representative Monitoring Wells

Figure 5. TDS in Groundwater

Figure 6. Nitrate in Groundwater

Figure 7. Arsenic in Groundwater

Figure 8. Sulfate in Groundwater

Figure 9. Fluoride in Groundwater

Table 1. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Network and Wells Monitored in Spring 2025

Table 2. Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to Minimum Thresholds

Table 3. Groundwater Level Trends at Representative Monitoring Wells - Fall 2019 to Spring 2025

Table 4. Water Quality Standard Exceedance Report – Spring 2025

Table 5. Summary of Exceedances of Water Quality by Standard and Well Type

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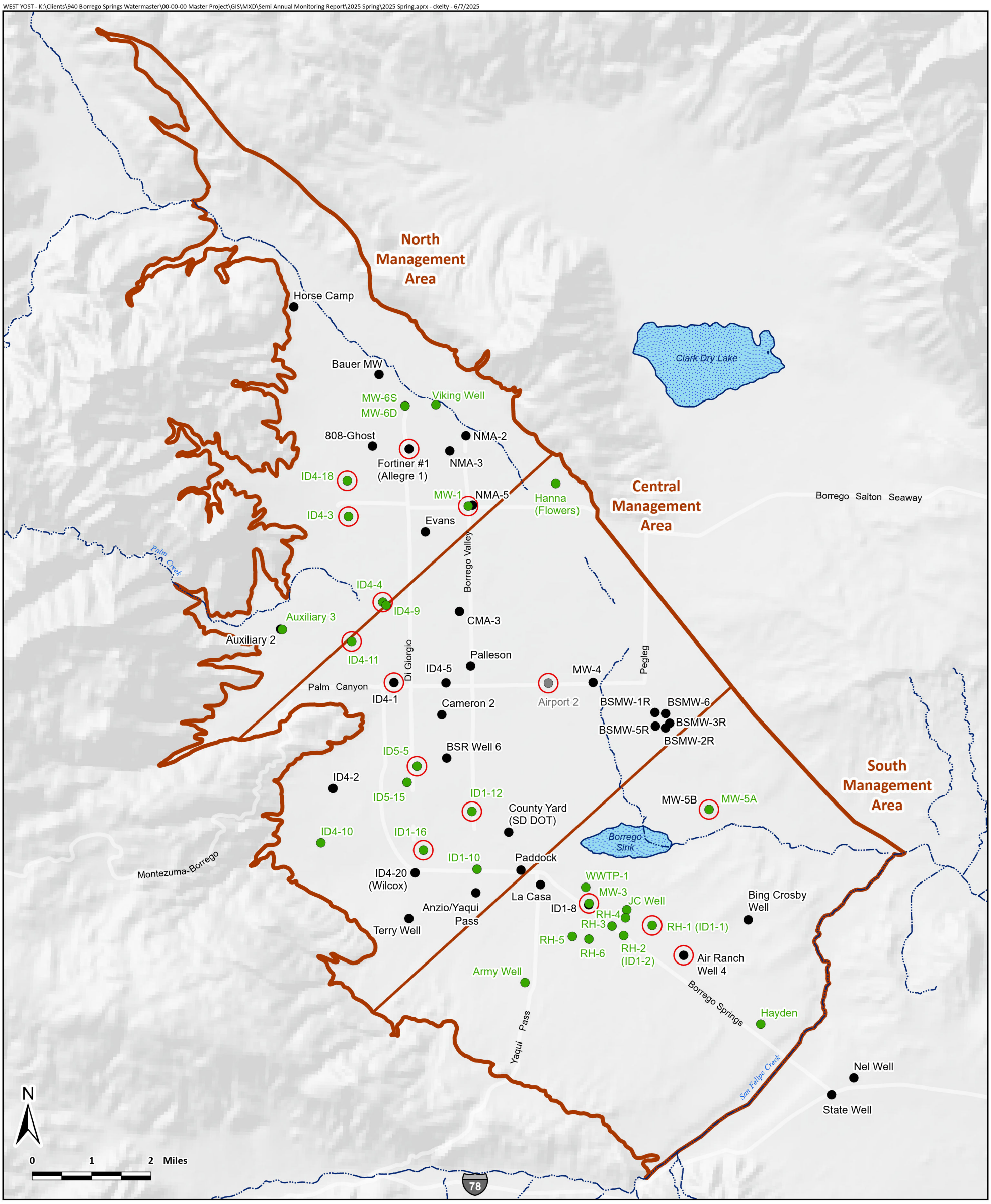


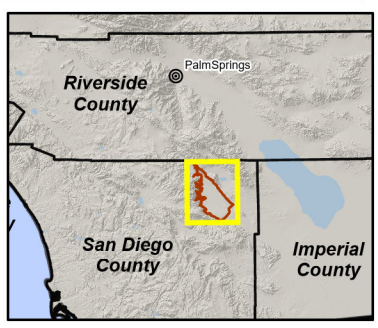
Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network

- Representative Monitoring Site

Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions

Wells Monitored for Groundwater Level - Spring 2025

- Manual Water-Level Data
- Transducer Water-Level Data
- Unable to Measure Water-Level



Borrego Springs Watermaster

Groundwater Monitoring Plan

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Figure 1

Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network
Spring 2025

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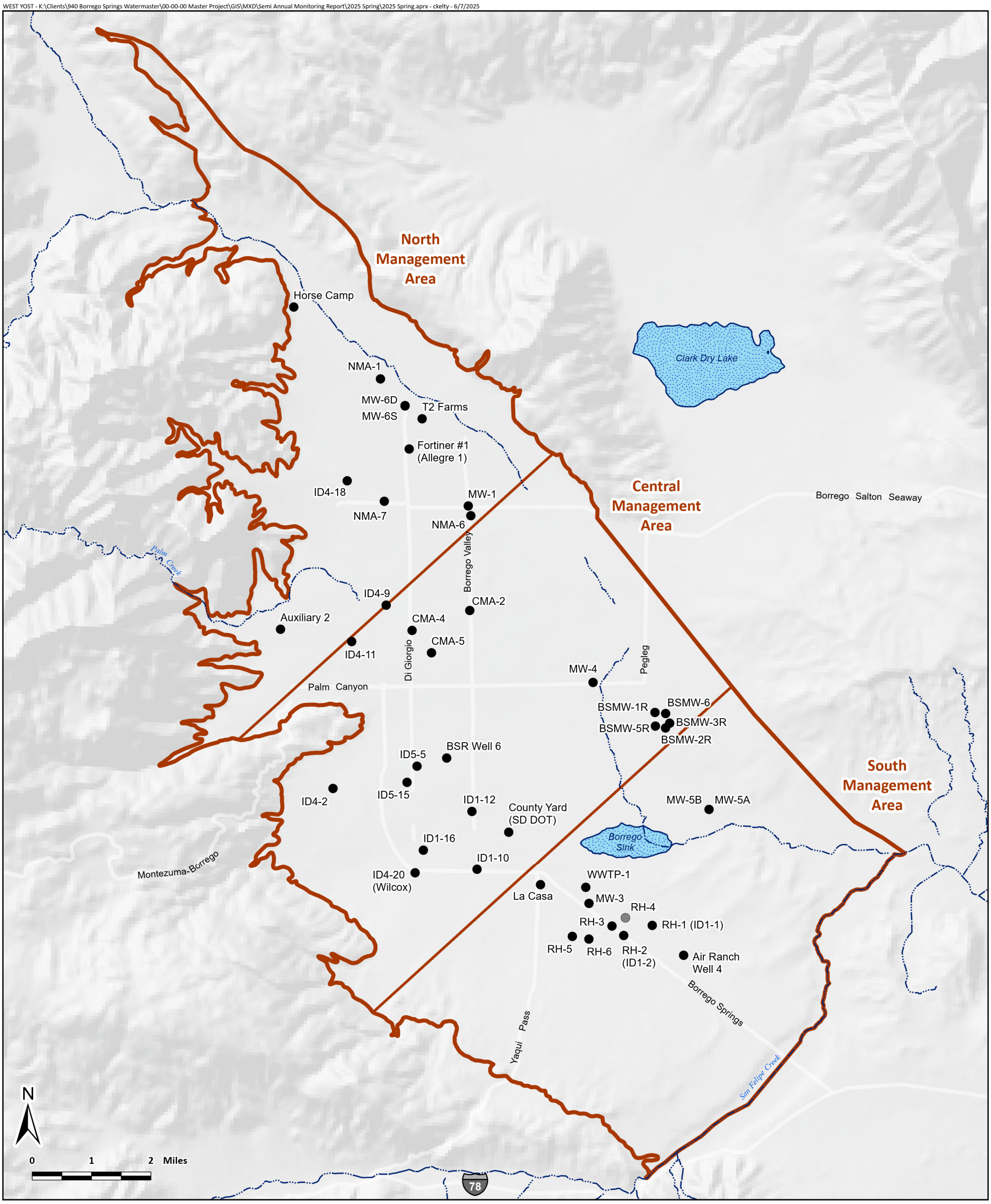

Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network - Spring 2025

- Well Sampled for Water Quality
- Unable to Sample Well for Water Quality

Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions

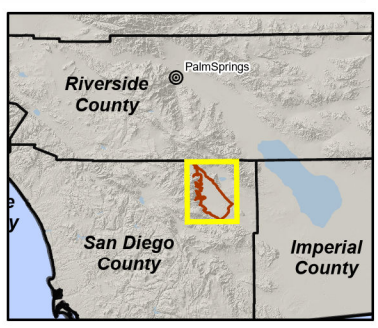

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Figure 2

Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network
Spring 2025

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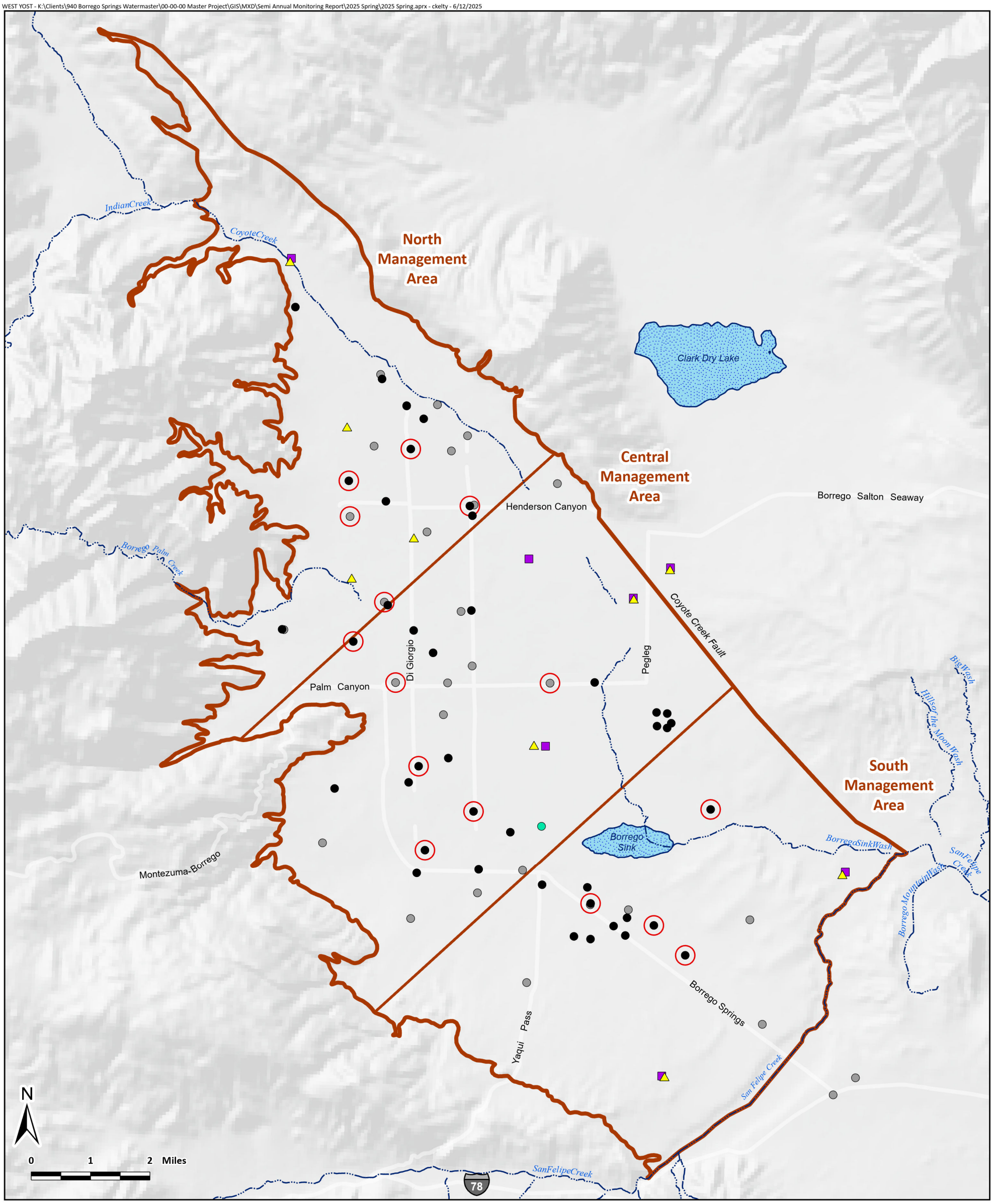


Monitoring Network Expansion in Spring 2025

- Well Evaluated for the Groundwater-Level and Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Networks

Current Monitoring Network

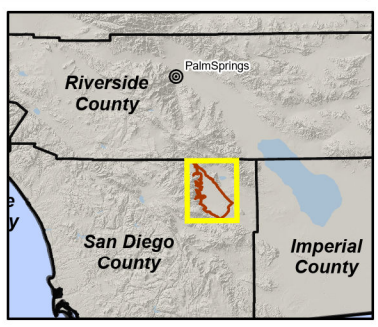
- Well in Groundwater-Level Network
- Well in Groundwater-Quality Network

Area of Recommended Additional Monitoring

- Data Gap for Groundwater-Level
- Data Gap for Groundwater-Quality

Other Features

- Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions



Borrego Springs Watermaster

Groundwater Monitoring Plan

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Figure 3

Groundwater Wells Evaluated in Spring 2025 for Expansion of the Monitoring Network

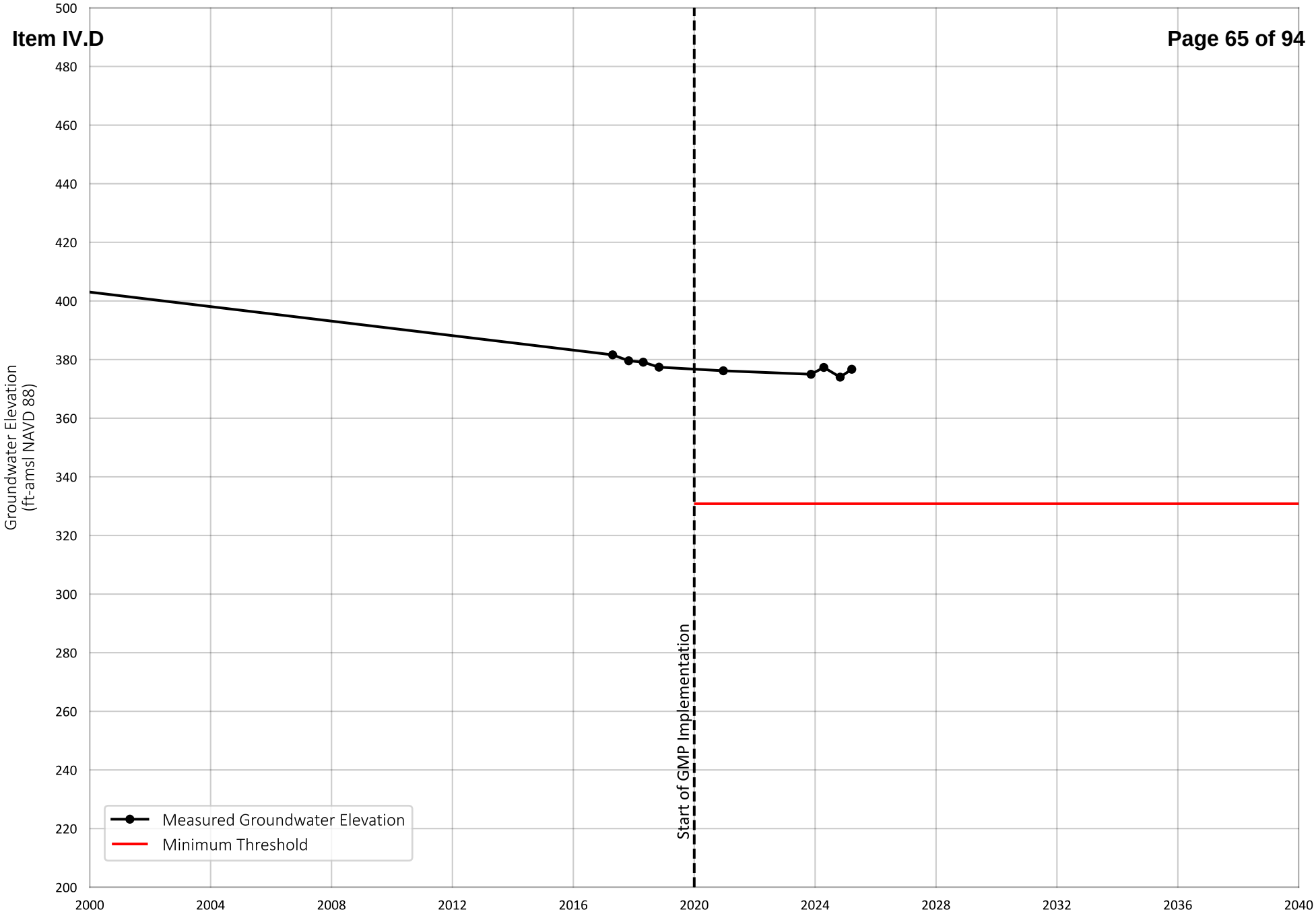

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Figure 4-a

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well Fortiner #1 (Allegre 1)

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Figure 4-b

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID4-18

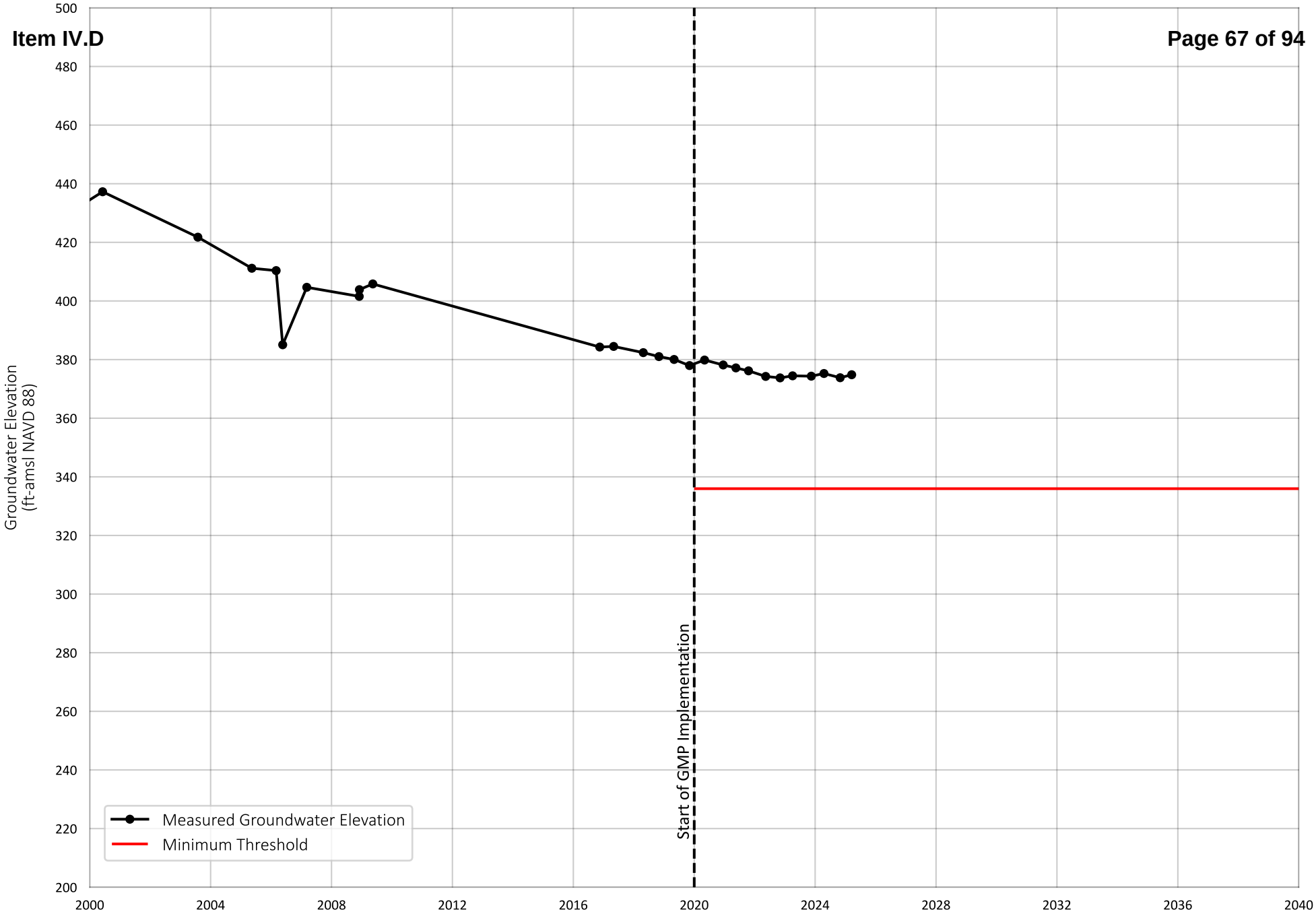

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Figure 4-c

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID4-3

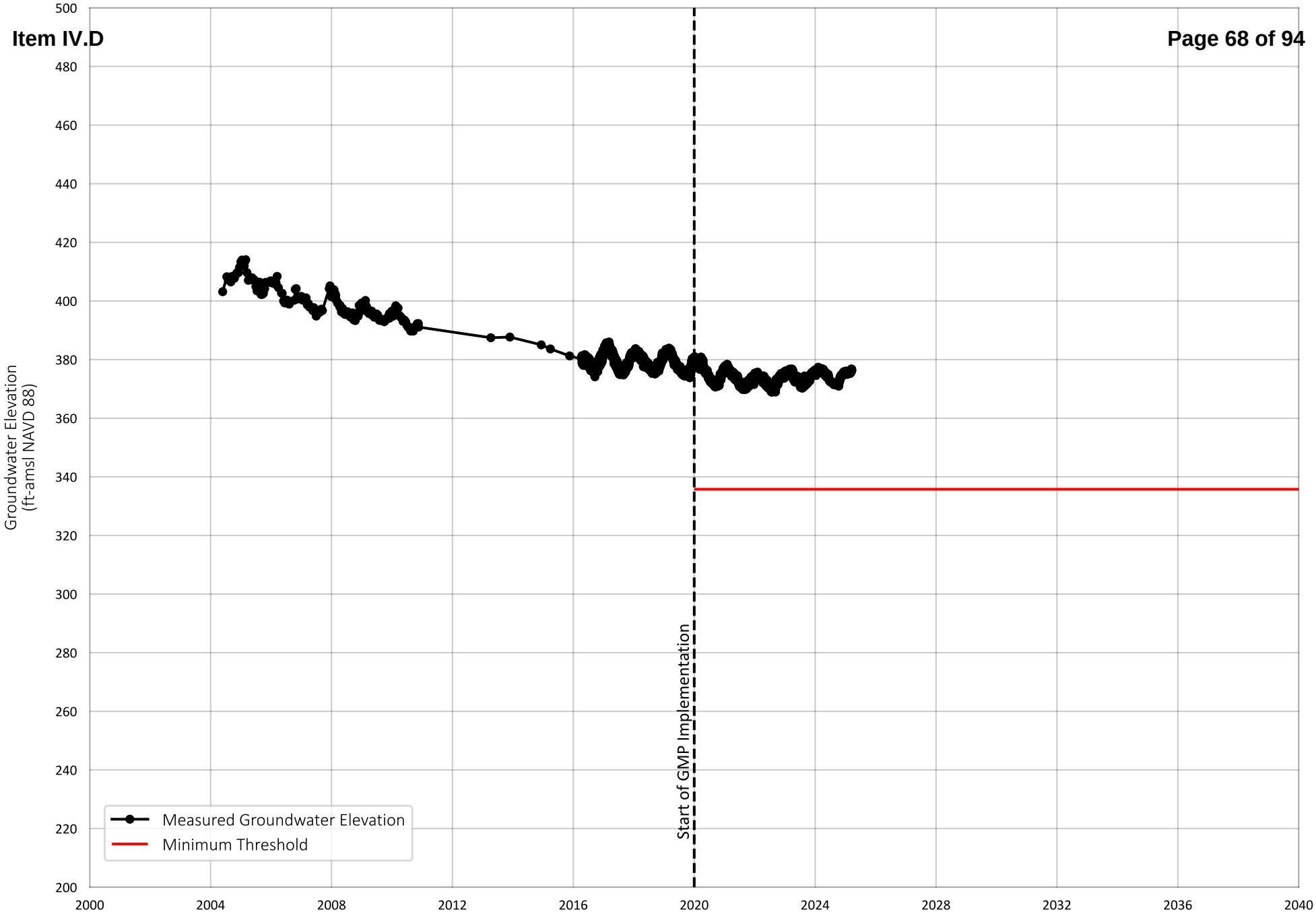

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Figure 4-d

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well MW-1

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Figure 4-e

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID4-4

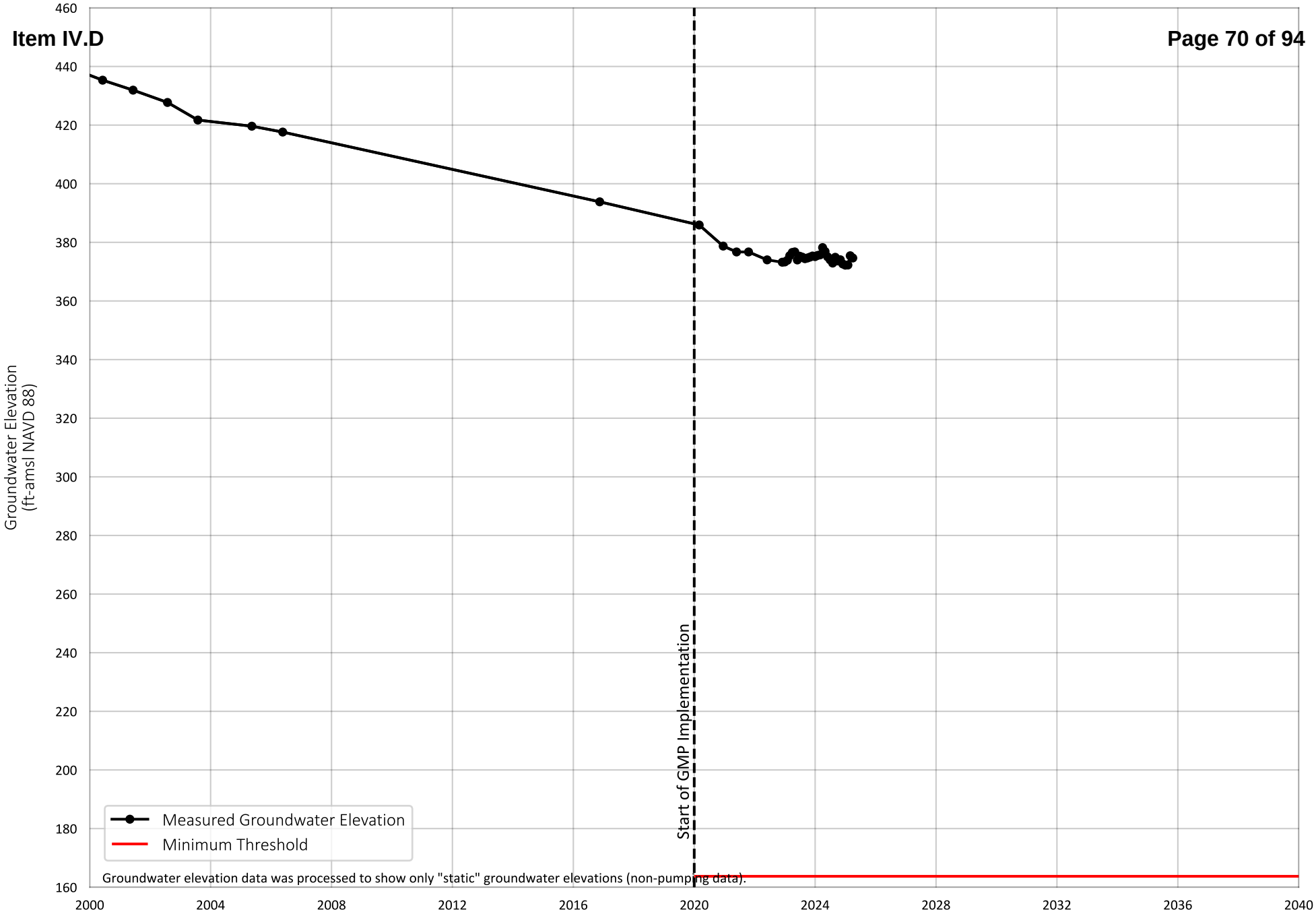

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Figure 4-f

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID4-11

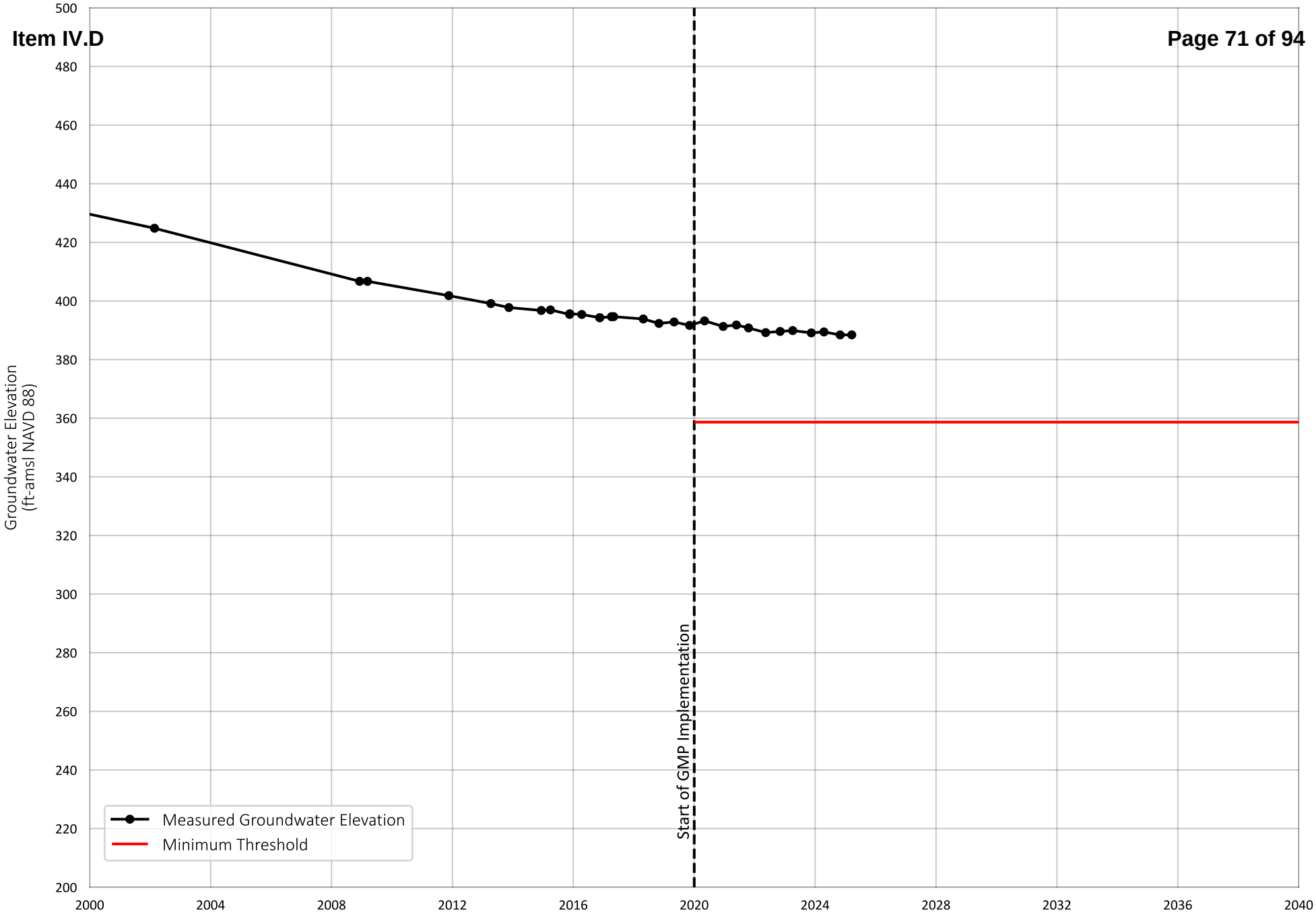

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Figure 4-g

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID4-1

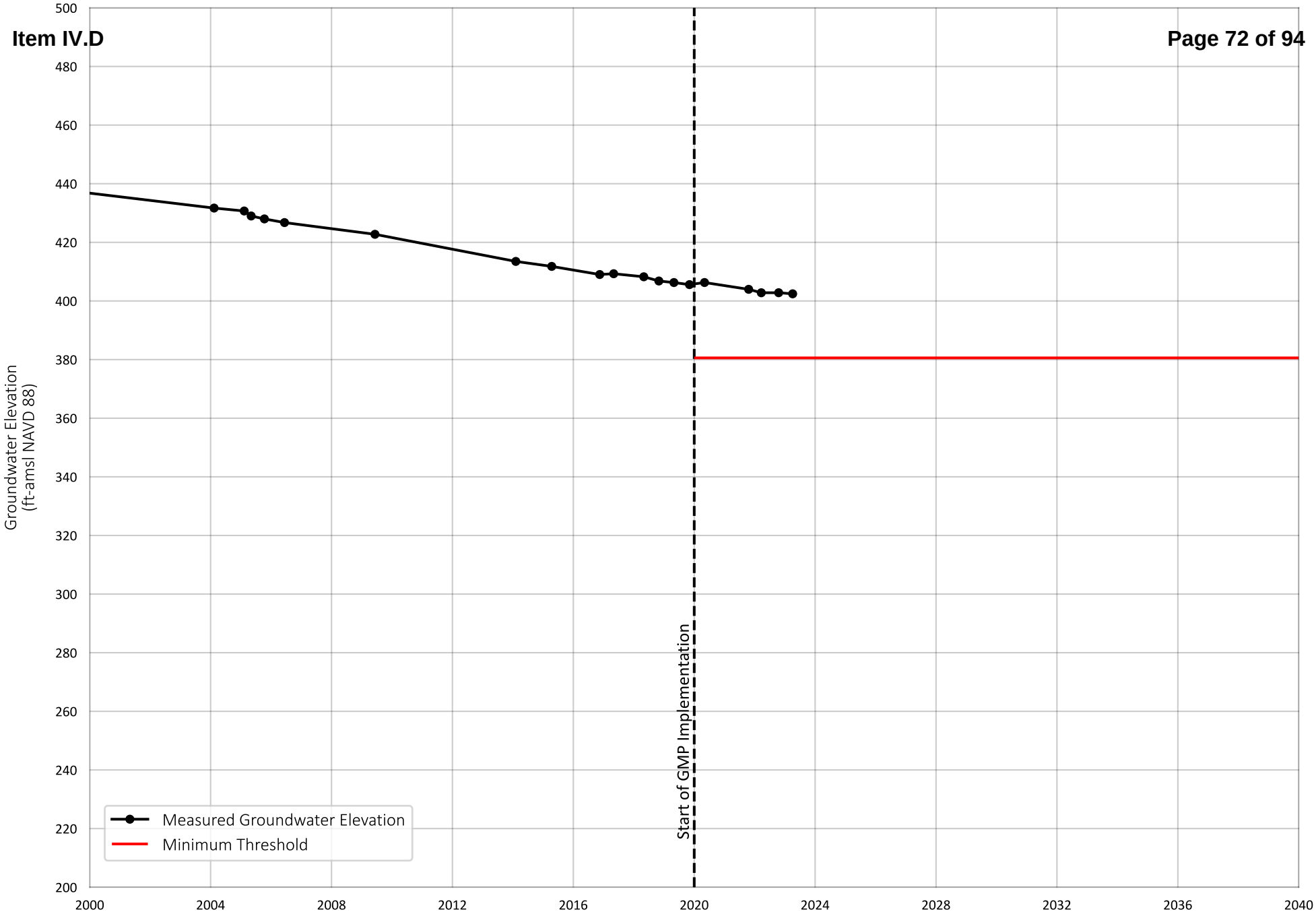

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Figure 4-h

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well Airport 2

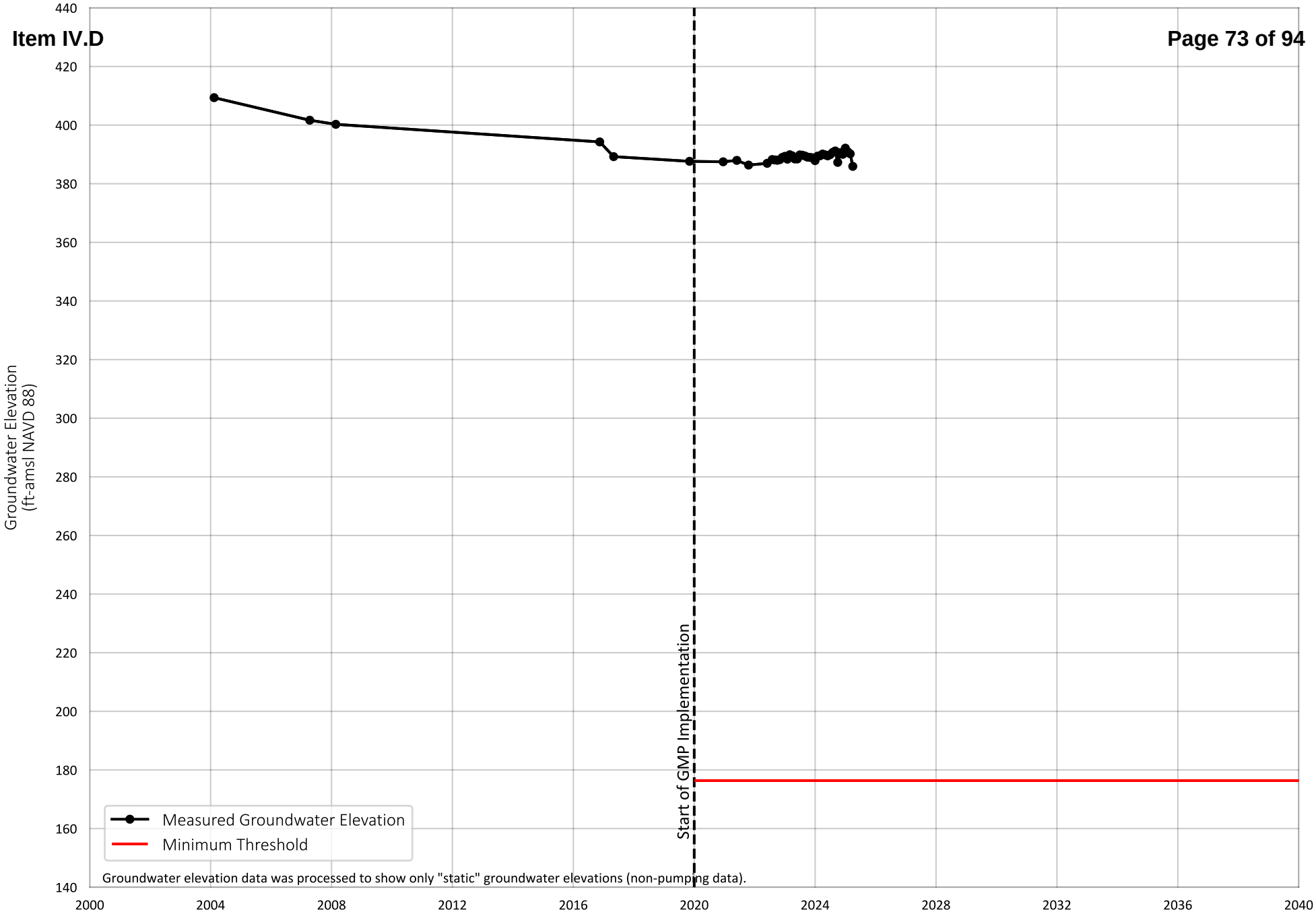

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Figure 4-i

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID5-5

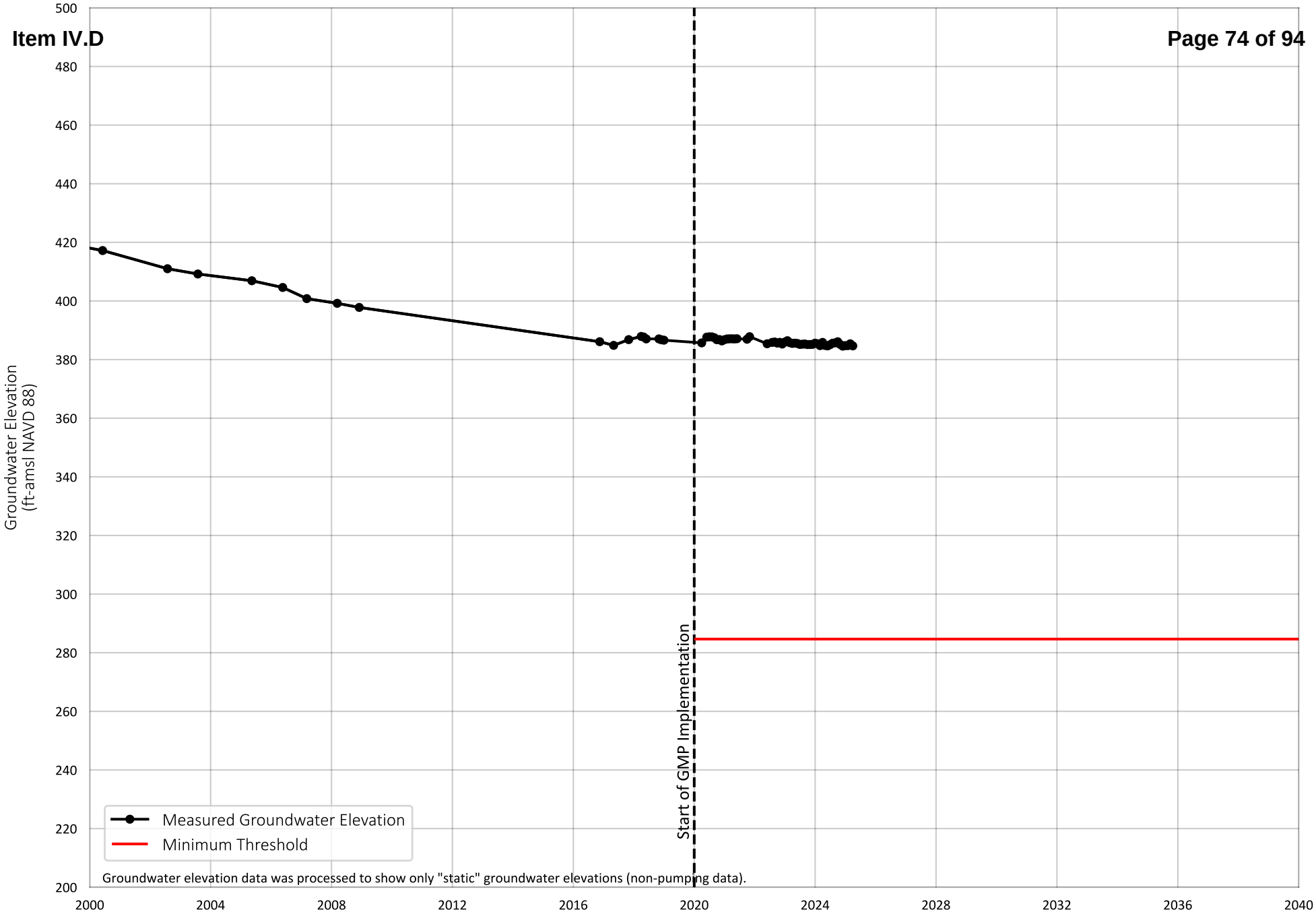

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Figure 4-j

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID1-12

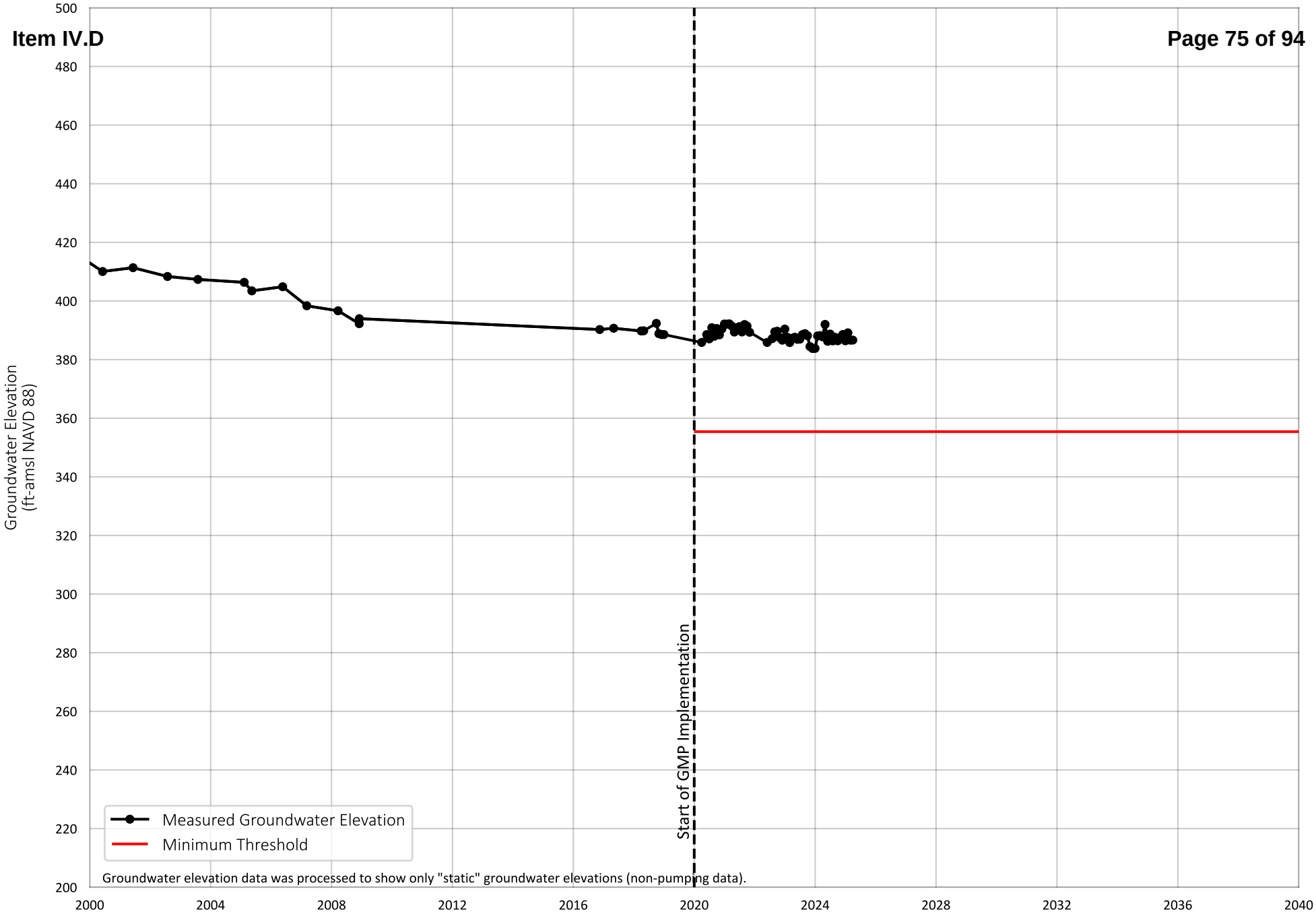

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Figure 4-k

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well ID1-16

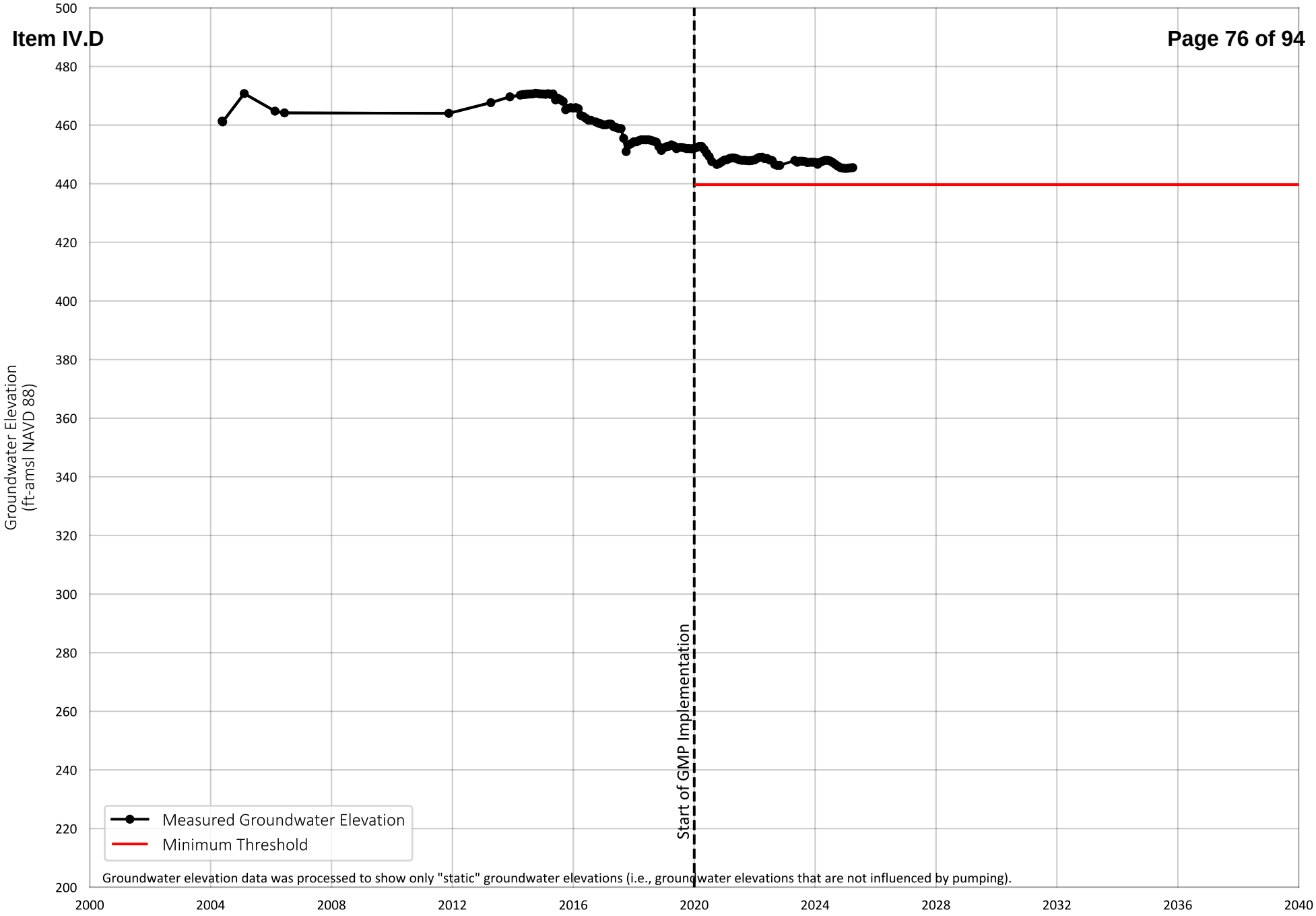

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Figure 4-I

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well MW-3

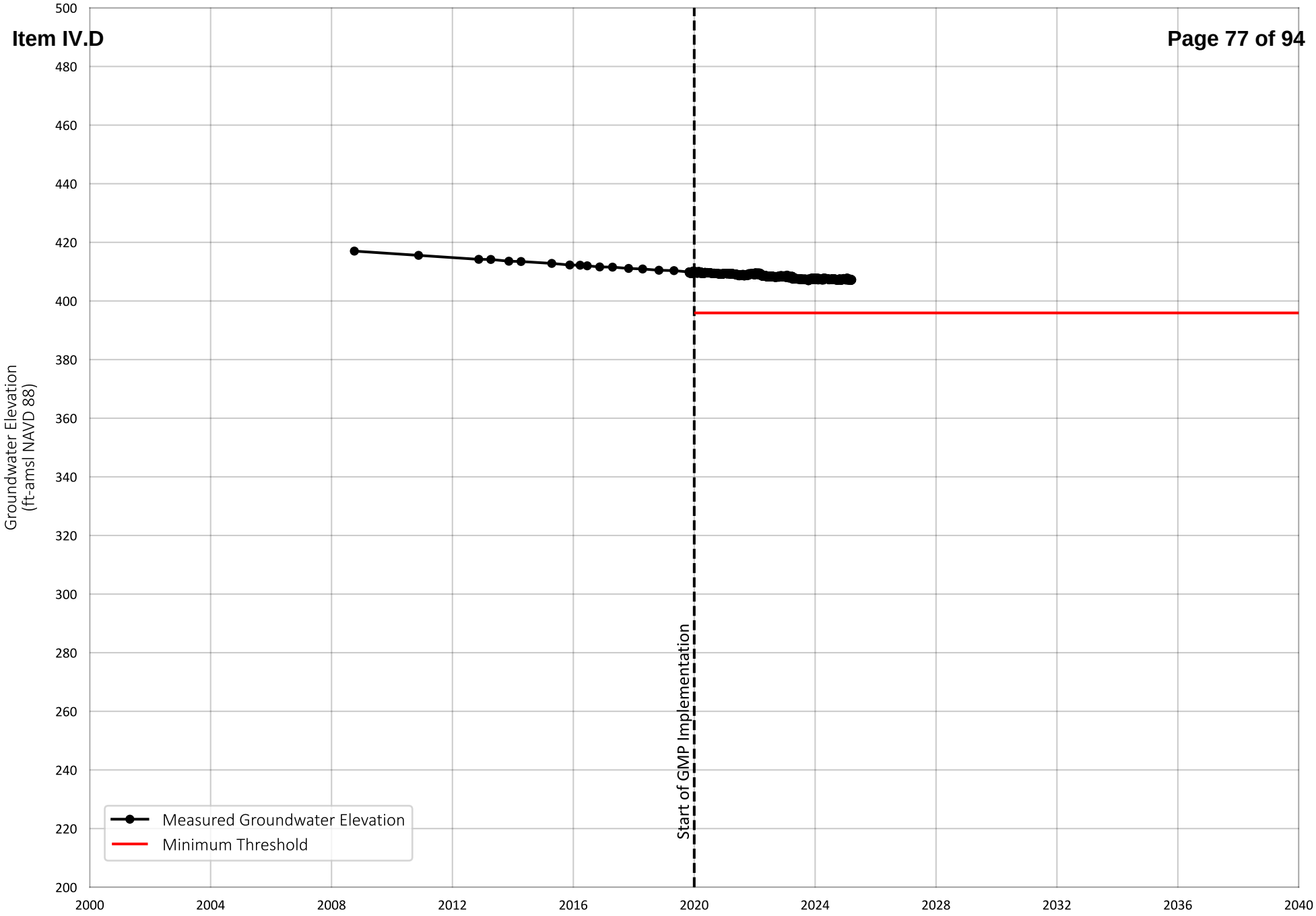

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Figure 4-m

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well MW-5A (East-Lower)

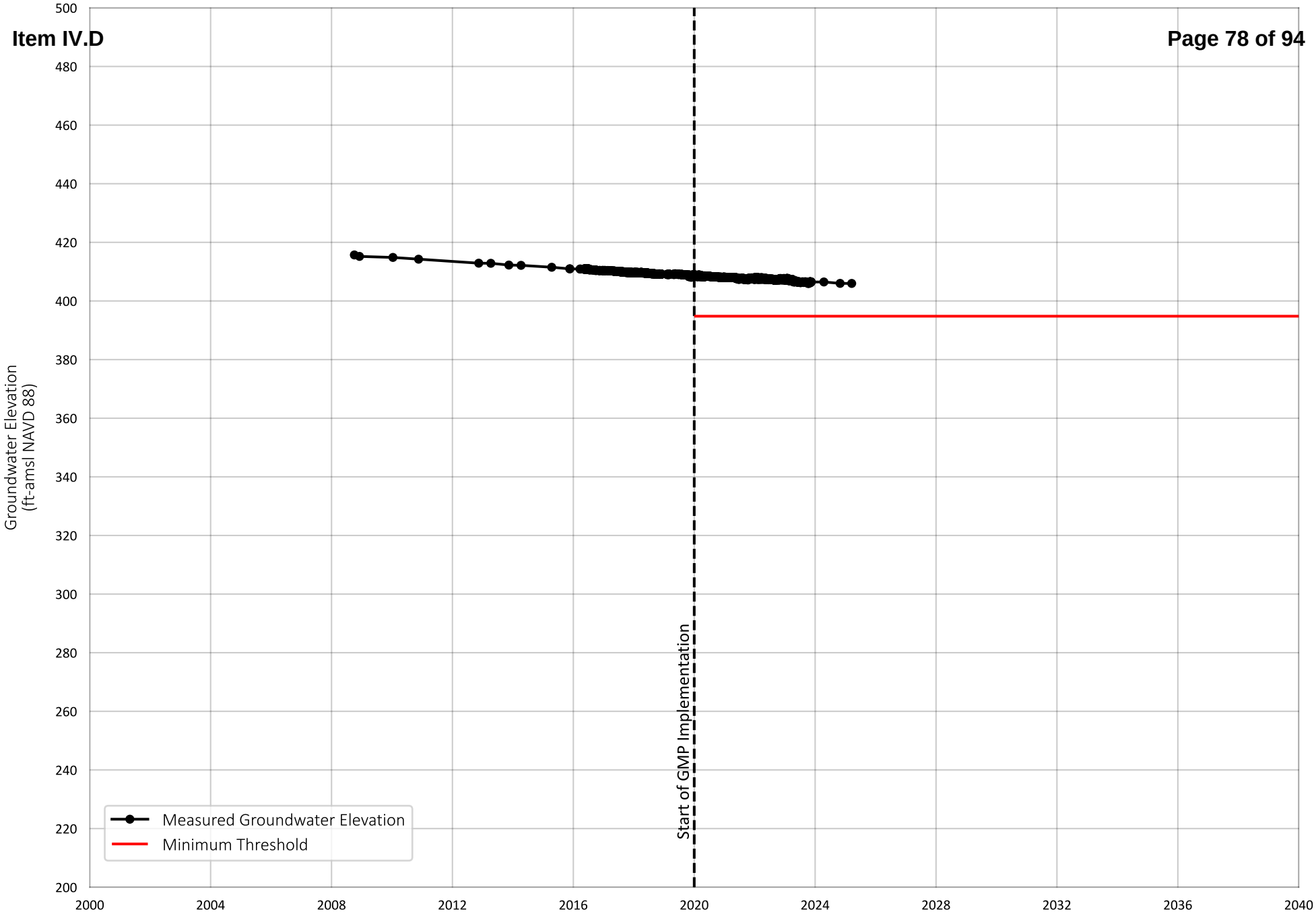

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Figure 4-n

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well MW-5B (West-Upper)

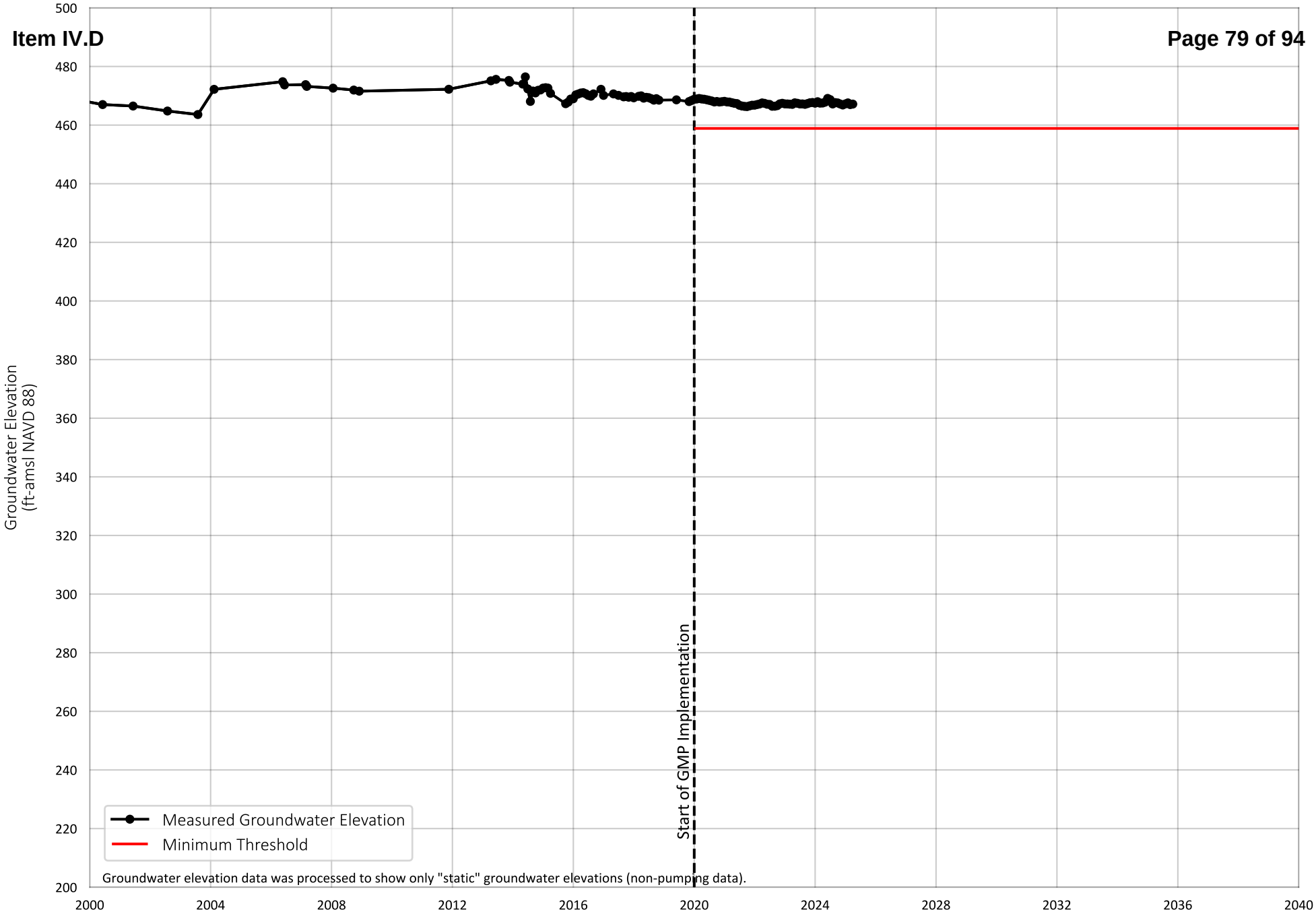

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Figure 4-o

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well RH-1 (ID1-1)

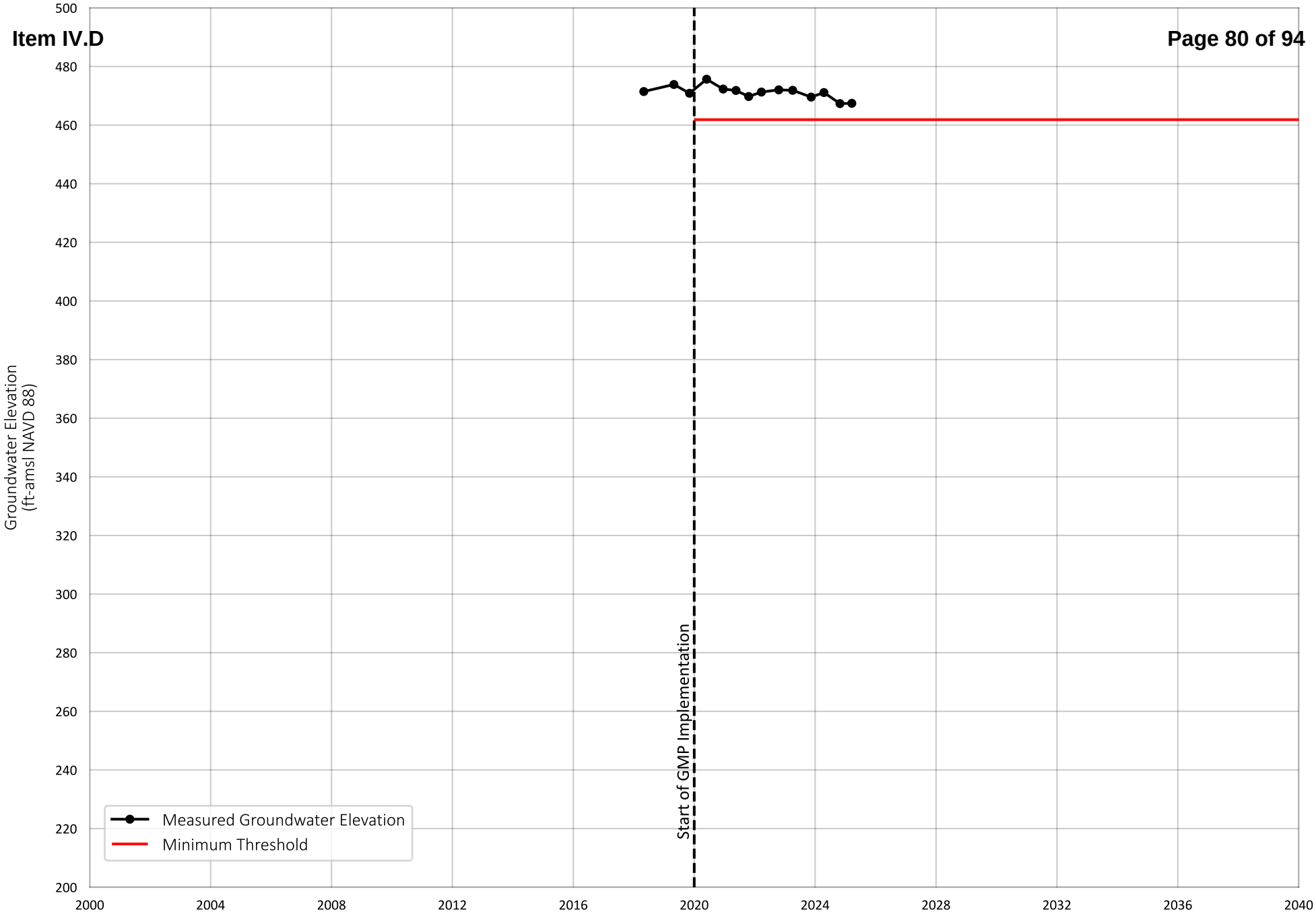

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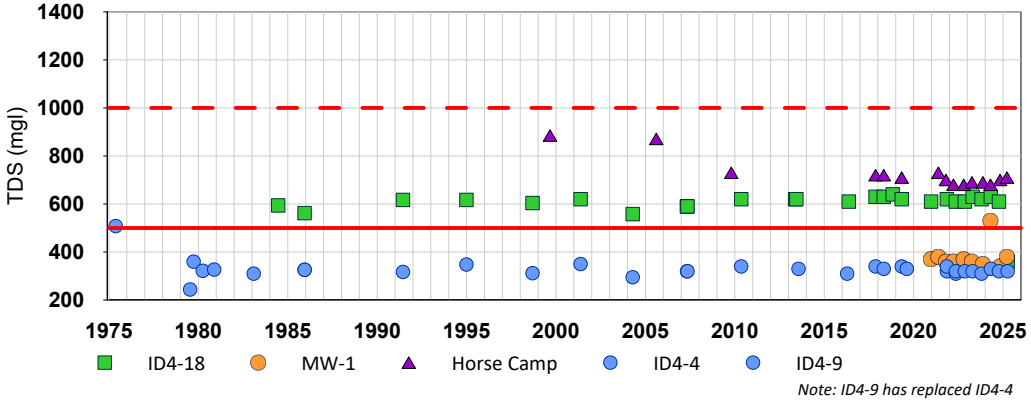
Figure 4-p

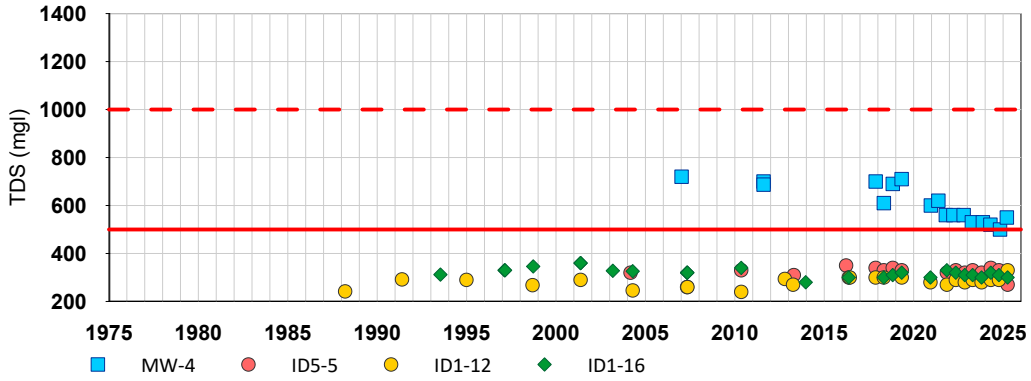
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well Air Ranch Well 4

North Management Area

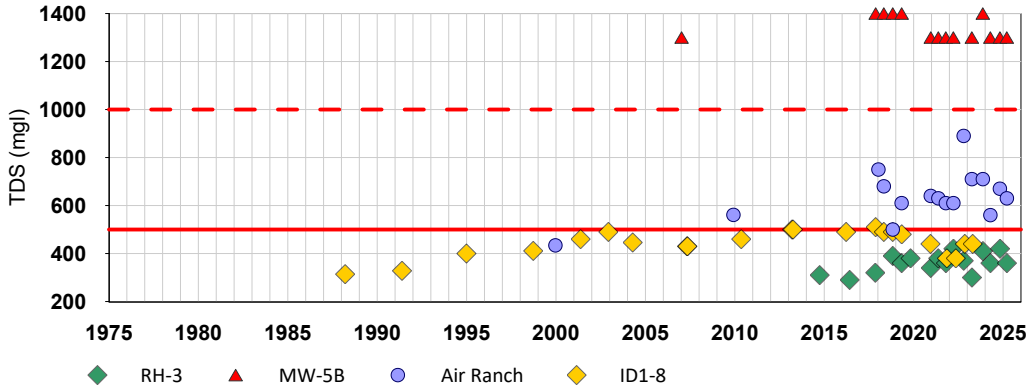


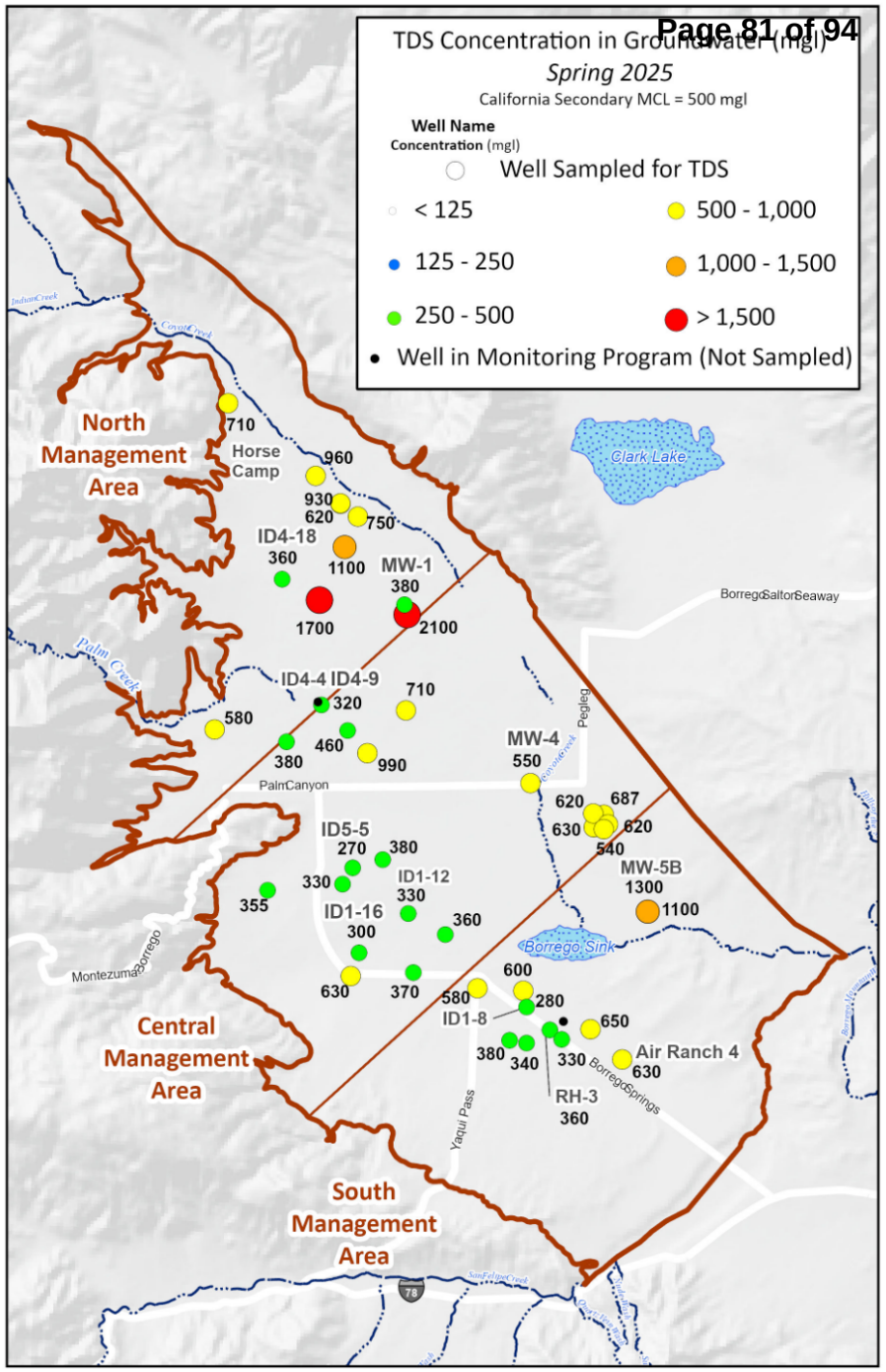
Note: ID4-9 has replaced ID4-4

Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Upper Secondary MCL
- Recommended Secondary MCL

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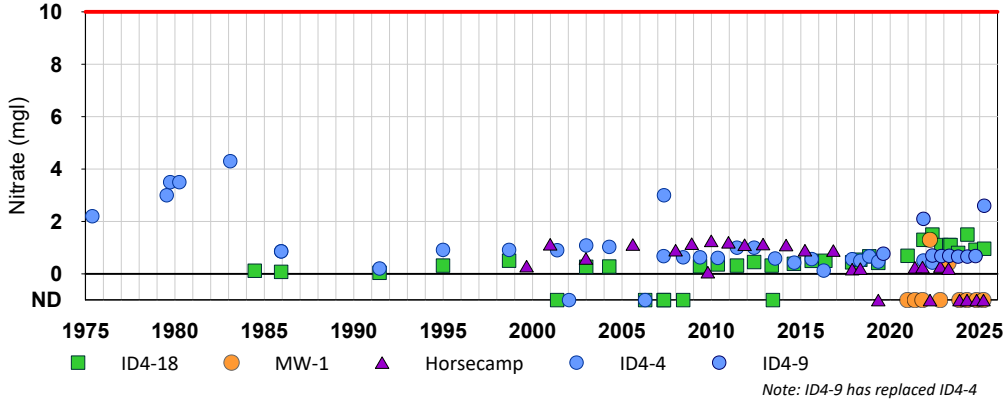
Author: CK
Date: 20250608
File: TDS

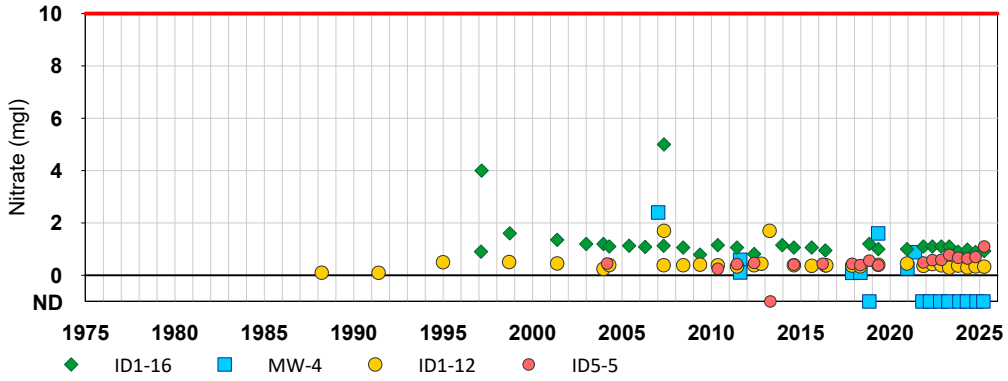
Figure 5

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in Groundwater

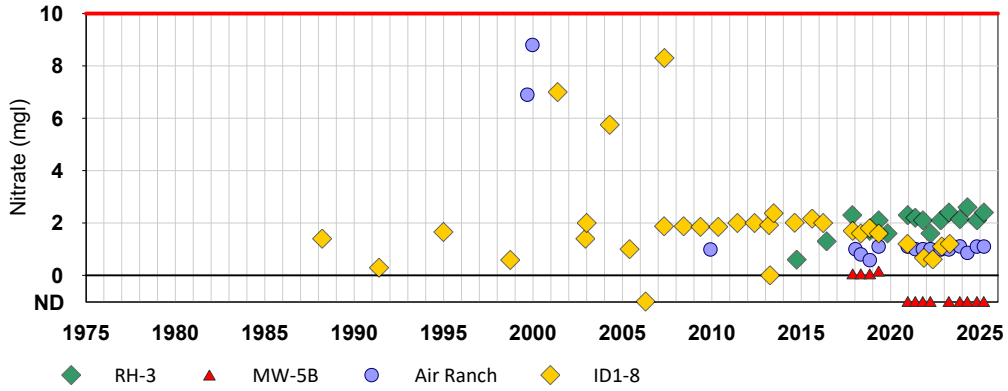
North Management Area

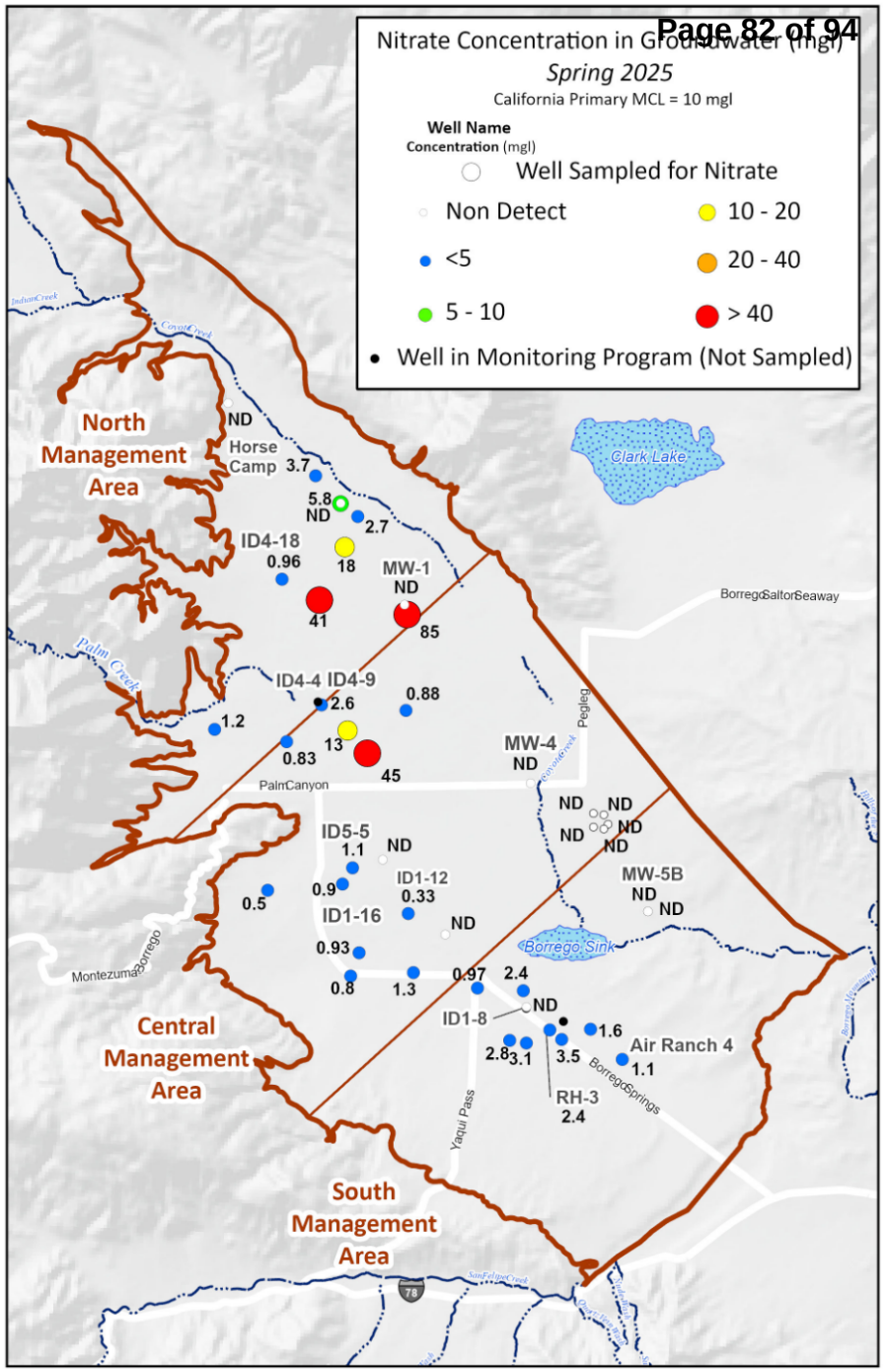


Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

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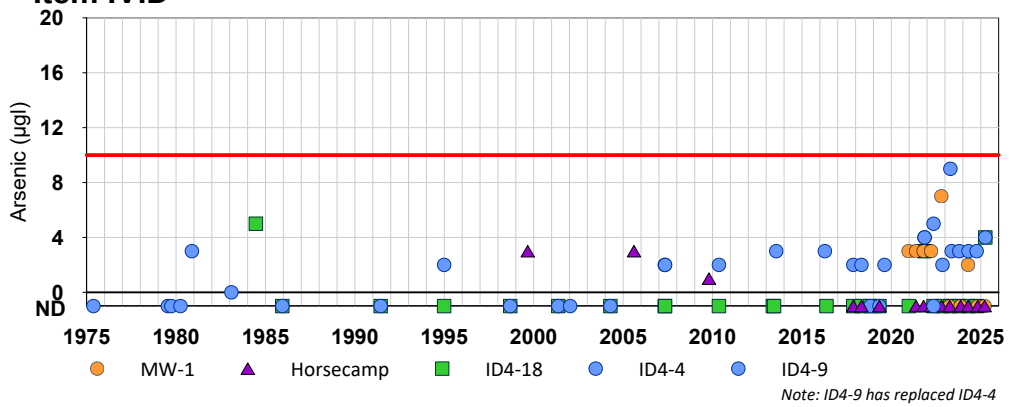
Author: CK
Date: 20250608
File: Nitrate

Figure 6

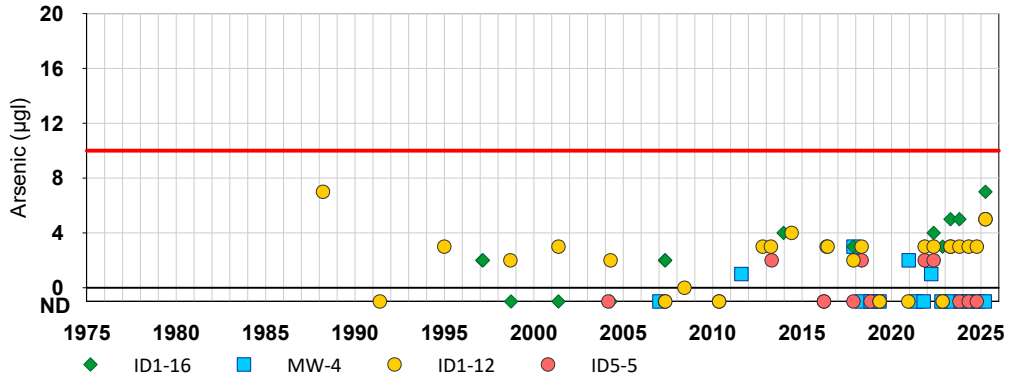
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) in Groundwater

North Management Area

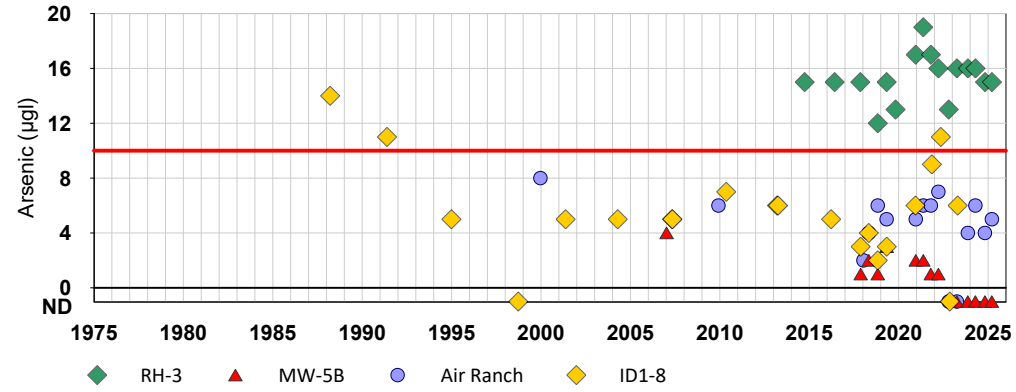


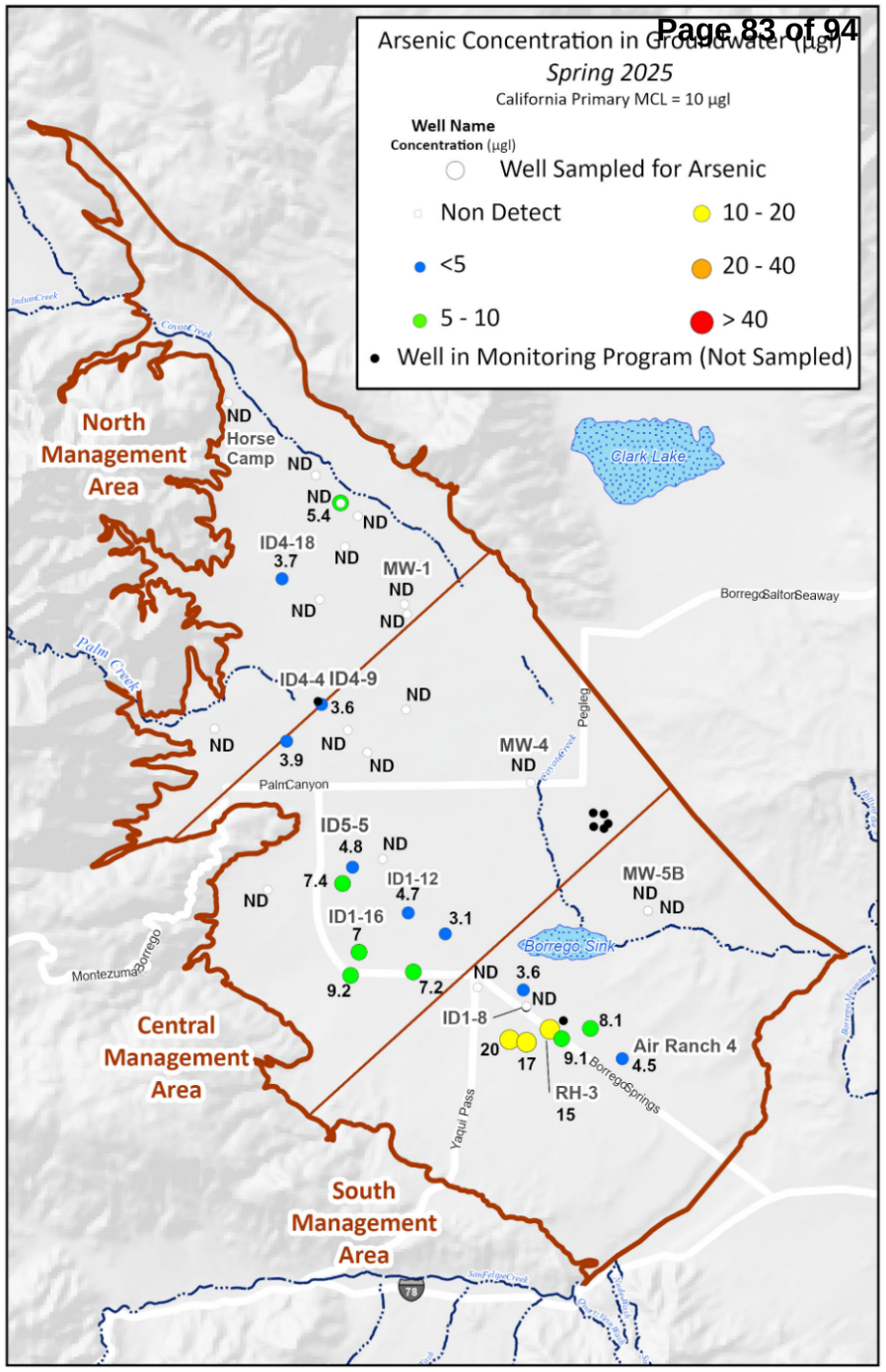
Note: ID4-9 has replaced ID4-4

Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

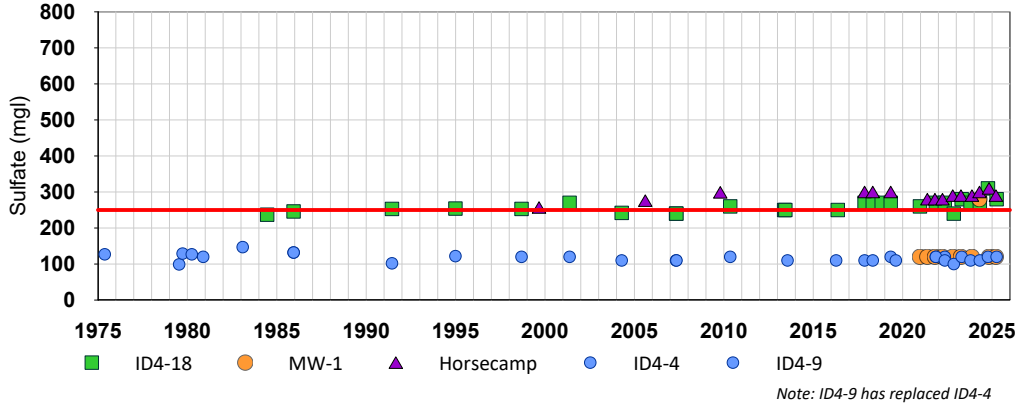
WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Author: CK
Date: 20250608
File: Arsenic

Figure 7

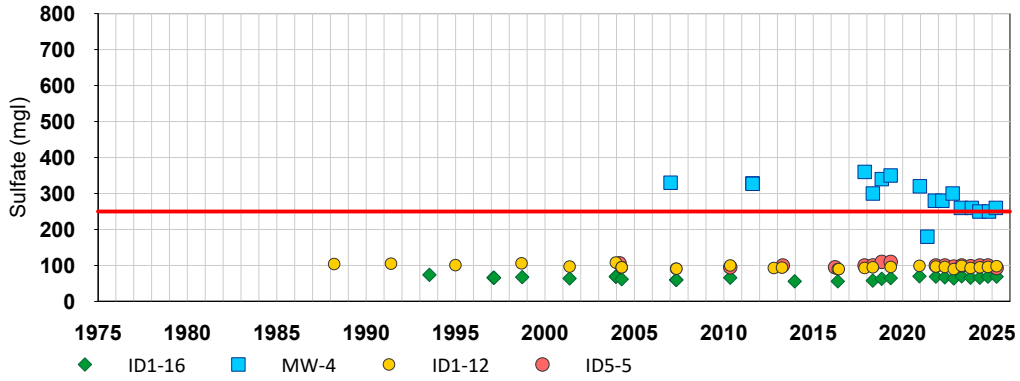
Arsenic in Groundwater

North Management Area

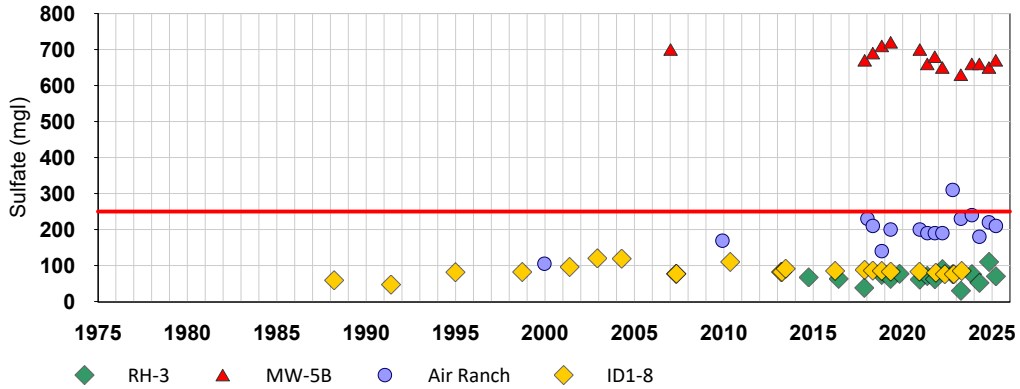


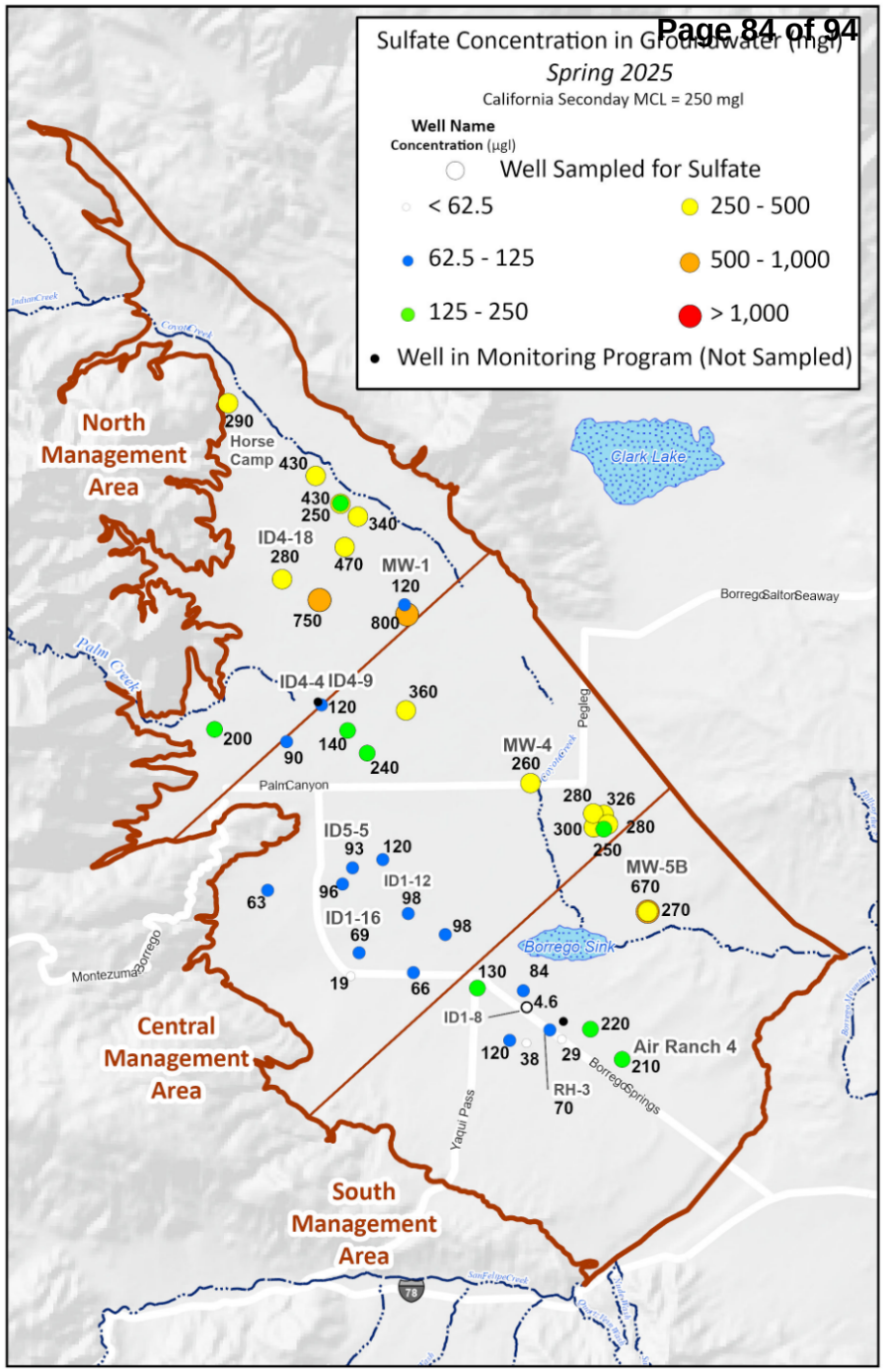
Note: ID4-9 has replaced ID4-4

Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Secondary MCL

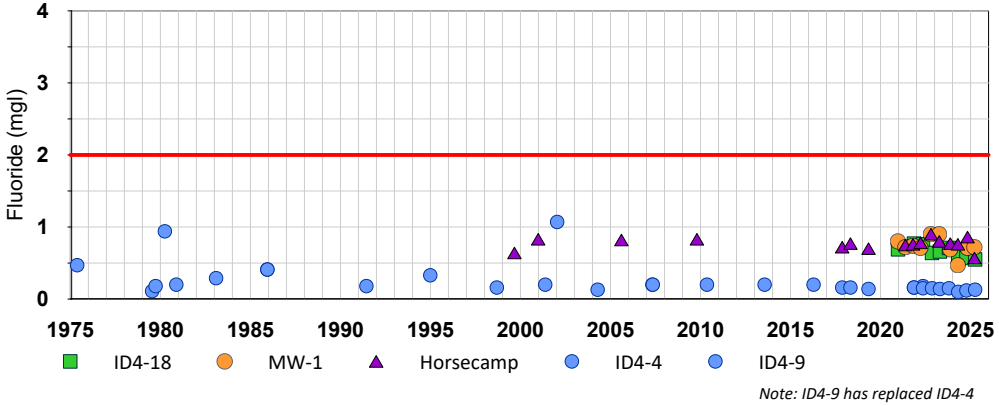
WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Author: CK
Date: 20250608
File: Sulfate

Figure 8

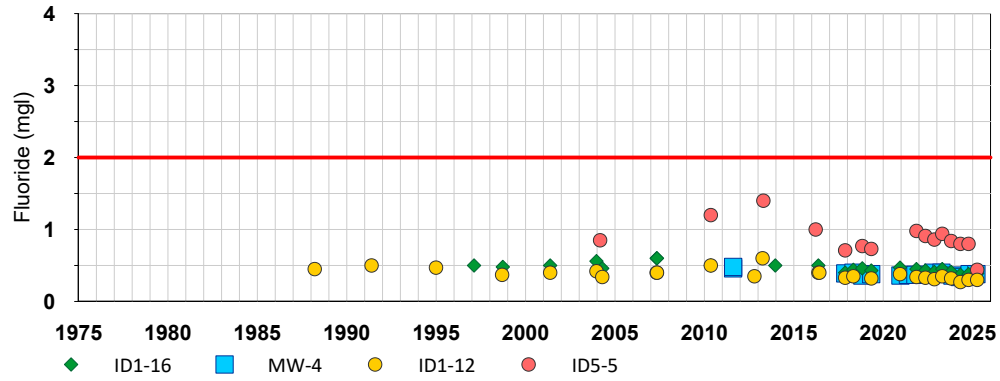
Sulfate in Groundwater

North Management Area

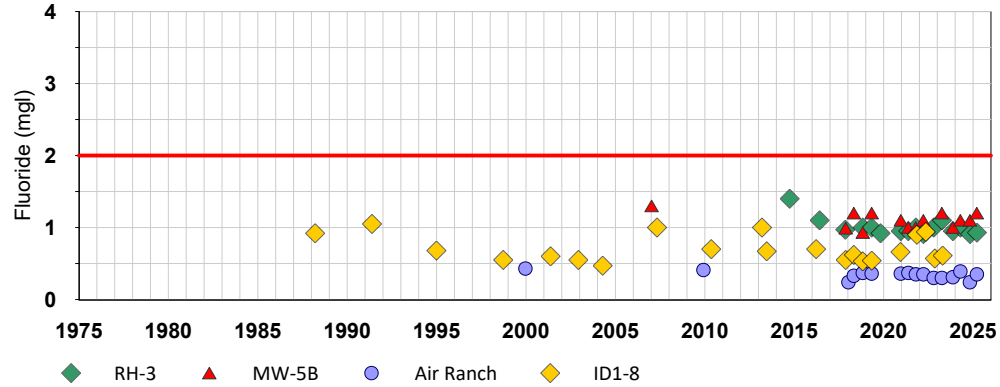


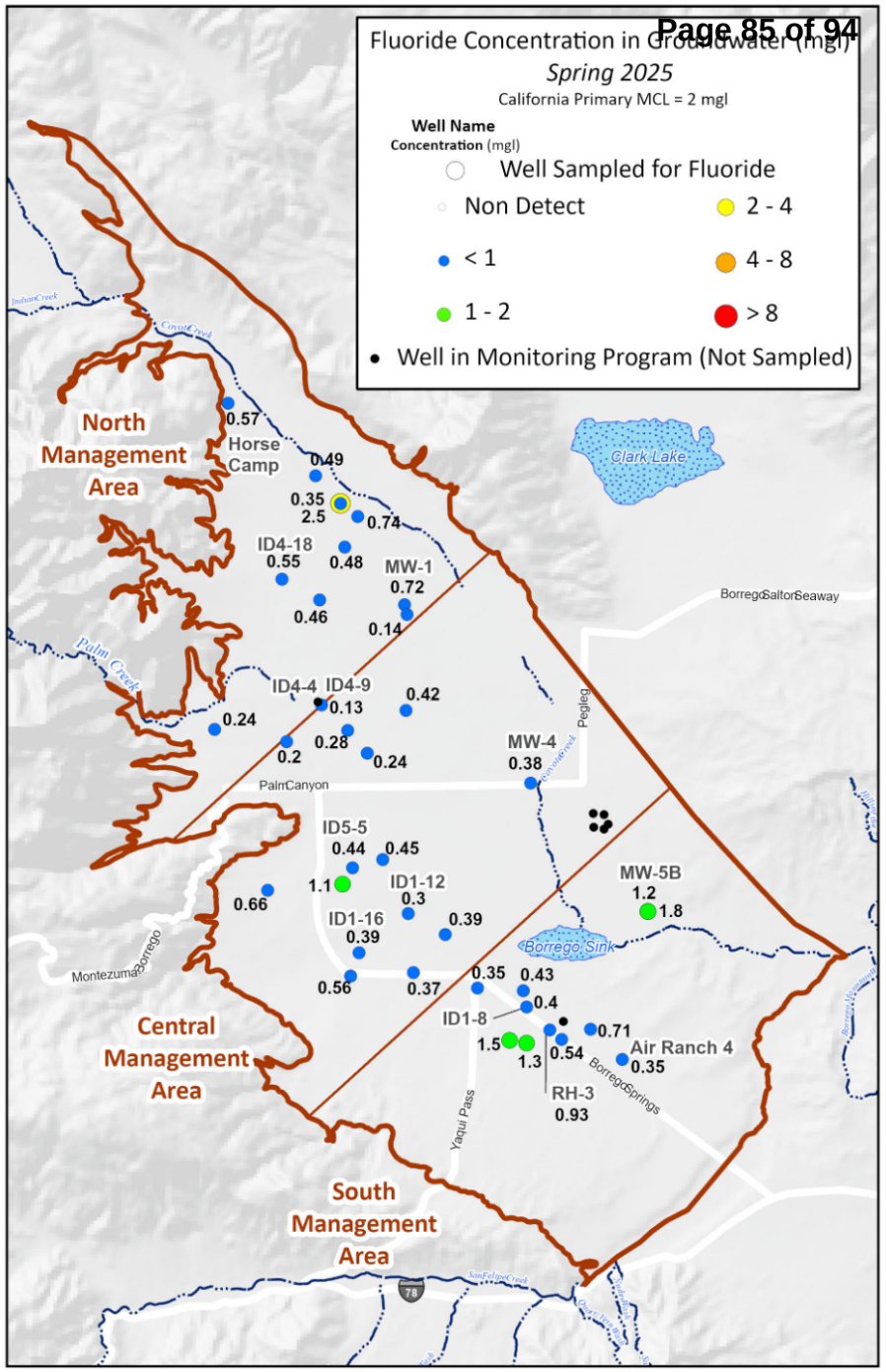
Note: ID4-9 has replaced ID4-4

Central Management Area



South Management Area





Wells by Principal Aquifer

- △ Upper
- ◊ Lower
- □ Upper and Middle
- ◇ Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ○ Middle and Lower

Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Author: CK
Date: 20250608
File: Fluoride

Figure 9

Fluoride in Groundwater

Table 1. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Network and Wells Monitored in Spring 2025

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Well Use	Groundwater Monitoring Network				Comments
			Water Level (WL)		Water Quality (WQ)		
			Method if in program[a]	Spring 2025	Well in program?	Spring 2025	
North Management Area							
ID4-18*	010S006E18J001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID4-3*	010S006E18R001S	Observation	transducer	x			*New transducer and cable installed in Spring 2025.*
ID4-4*	010S006E29K002S	Observation	transducer	x			*Well secured and rehabbed as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. New transducer and cable installed in Spring 2025.*
ID4-9	010S006E29K003S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
MW-1*	010S006E21A002S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	*Well secured as part of the abandoned-inactive well program.*
Evans	010S006E21E001S	Observation	manual	x			*Well secured as part of the abandoned-inactive well program.*
Horse Camp	009S006E31E003S	Other	manual	x	yes	x	
Fortiner*	010S006E09N001S	Other	manual	x	yes	x	
Auxiliary Well 3	010S005E25R002S	Other	transducer	x			
Auxiliary Well 2	010S005E25R001S	Other	manual	x	yes	x	
T2 Farms	010S006E09C001S	Irrigation	na		yes	x	
MW-6S	010S06E08A003S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	*Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Spring 2025.*
MW-6D	010S06E08A002S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	*Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Spring 2025.*
Viking Well	010S006E04Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			*New well added to WL network as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. Well was secured and a new transducer and cable were installed in Spring 2025.*
Bauer Monitoring Well		Observation	manual	x			*New well added to WL network as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. Well was secured, rehabbed, and converted into a monitoring well.*
808 Ghost		Observation	manual	x			*New well added to WL network as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. Well was secured, rehabbed, and converted into a monitoring well.*
NMA-1	Private[b]	Irrigation	na		yes	x	
NMA-2	Private[b]	Domestic	manual	x			
NMA-3	Private[b]	Observation	manual	x			
NMA-5	Private[b]	Observation	manual	x			*New well added to WL network as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. Well was secured and converted.*
NMA-6	Private[b]	Irrigation	na		yes	x	
NMA-7	Private[b]	Irrigation	na		yes	x	
Central Management Area							
Anzio/Yaqui Pass	011S006E22E001S	Observation	manual	x			
BSR Well 6	011S006E09B002S	Irrigation	manual	x	yes	x	
Cameron 2	011S006E04F001S	Observation	manual	x			*Well secured as part of the abandoned-inactive well program.*
County Yard	011S006E15G001S	Industrial	manual	x	yes	x	
ID1-10	011S006E22D001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID1-12*	011S006E16A002S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID1-16*	011S006E16N001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID4-1*	010S006E32R001S	Observation	manual	x			
ID4-10	011S006E18L001S	Observation	transducer	x			*New transducer and cable installed in Spring 2025.*
ID4-11*	010S006E32D001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID4-2	011S006E07K003S	Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*Well added to the WQ network after being secured and rehabbed as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. First WQ sample collected in Spring 2025.*
ID4-5	010S006E33Q001S	Observation	manual	x			
ID5-5*	011S006E09E001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID5-15		Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	*Well added to the WL network in Spring 2025. Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Spring 2025.*
MW-4	010S006E35Q001S	Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
Paddock	011S006E22B001S	Observation	manual	x			
Palleson	010S006E33J001S	Observation	manual	x			
Wilcox	011S006E20A001S	Public Supply	manual	x	yes	x	
Hanna (Flowers)	010S006E14G001S	Observation	transducer	x			*Well secured as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. New cable installed in Spring 2025.*
Terry Well	011S006E20R001S	Irrigation	manual	x			*Unable to sample for WQ since Spring 2024 because of access issues (owner unable to activate pump). Well has been removed from WQ program until new well owner is contacted.*
Airport 2*	010S006E35N001S	Observation	destroyed				*Unable to measure WL since Spring 2023 due to collapsed well casing. Well will be removed from WL network upon finding a replacement Representative Monitoring Well.*
BSMW-1R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ networks.*
BSMW-2R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ networks.*
BSMW-3R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ networks.*
BSMW-5R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ networks.*
BSMW-6[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ networks.*
CMA-2	Private[b]	Irrigation	na		yes	x	
CMA-3	Private[b]	Observation	manual	x			*New well added to WL network as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. Well was secured and converted.*
CMA-4	Private[b]	Recreation	na		yes	x	
CMA-5	Private[b]	Recreation	na		yes	x	
South Management Area							
Air Ranch Well 4*	011S007E30L001S	Public Supply	manual	x	yes	x	
Army Well	011S006E34A001S	Observation	transducer	x			*Well secured and rehabbed as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. New transducer and cable installed in Spring 2025.*
Hayden (32Q1)	011S007E32Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			*Well secured as part of the abandoned-inactive well program. New transducer and cable installed in Spring 2025.*
ID1-8	011S006E23J001S	Public Supply	manual	x			
JC Well	011S006E24Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			
La Casa	011S006E23E001S	Irrigation	manual	x	yes	x	
MW-3*	011S006E23J002S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	
MW-5A*	011S007E07R001S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	
MW-5B*	011S007E07R002S	Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
RH-1 (ID1-1)*	011S006E25A001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	
RH-2 (ID1-2)	011S006E25C001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	
RH-3	011S006E25C002S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	
RH-4	011S006E24Q002S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes		*Unable to sample for WQ in Spring 2025 due to the non-operational well pump.*
RH-5	011S006E26B001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	*Transducer replaced in Spring 2025.*
RH-6	011S006E26H001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	
WWTP	011S006E23H001S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	
Bing Crosby Well	011S007E20P001S	Observation	manual	x			*Well secured as part of the abandoned-inactive well program.*
Outside Borrego Springs Subbasin							
State Well	012S007E03L001S	Observation	manual	x			
Nel Well	012S007E04R001S	Observation	manual	x			

Wells not included in the groundwater level or groundwater quality monitoring program are greyed out.
*Representative Monitoring Well with defined Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives, as identified in Table 3-4 and Table 3-5 of the GMP.
(a) Wells denoted with "transducer" have a pressure transducer installed that continuously records water level measurements on a high frequency interval (15-minutes to 1 hour).
(b) Private wells with data confidentiality agreements are denoted by aliases "NMA-#" or "CMA-#" based on their relative location in the Management Area.
(c) The most recent data for WL and WQ at the Borrego Landfill, as reported on GeoTracker (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=L10003017008), were measured in December 2024, with follow-up measurements collected in February 2025.

Table 2. Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to Miniumum Threshold

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Spring 2025 Groundwater Elevation[a] (ft-msl) *a*	Minimum Threshold[b] [c] (ft-msl) *b*	Spring 2025 Groundwater Elevation minus Minimum Threshold (ft) *c = a-b*
North Management Area				
MW-1	010S006E21A002S	376.78	336	41.0
ID4-3	010S006E18R001S	374.83	336	38.9
Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	376.70	331	45.9
ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	370.56	330	40.2
ID4-4	010S006E29K002S	373.65	*128*	246.1
Central Management Area				
ID4-1	010S006E32R001S	388.43	359	29.8
Airport 2	010S006E35N001S	*400.47*	381	19.9
ID1-16	011S006E16N001S	386.65	355	31.2
ID4-11	010S006E32D001S	371.92	*164*	208.2
ID1-12	011S006E16A002S	384.60	*285*	100.0
ID5-5	011S006E09E001S	385.79	*176*	209.4
South Management Area				
MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	407.22	396	11.3
MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	405.98	395	11.2
MW-3	011S006E23J002S	445.42	438	7.7
Air Ranch	011S007E30L001S	467.43	462	5.6
RH-1	011S006E25A001S	466.91	459	8.0

(a) If a water level was not measured in Spring 2025, an "estimated static" groundwater elevation was selected based on recent trends in groundwater elevation at the well and nearby wells, and knowledge of the influence of nearby pumping. Estimated values are shown in *blue italic font* . In Spring 2025, the only estimated value is for the Airport 2 well; its well casing collapsed prior to the Semi-Annual Monitoring Event in fall 2023.

(b) *Italic values* are Minimum Thresholds established based on the top of the well screen. All other Minimum Thresholds are based on model results from the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM). All Minimum Thresholds in the GMP have been converted to feet above mean sea level.

(c) In its work to prepare the five-year assessment of the GMP and perform modeling for the Redetermination of Sustainable Yield, Watermaster staff determined that there are problems with some of the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) established in the GMP—specifically the Measurable Objectives (MOs) and Minimum Thresholds (MTs) for groundwater levels—for a number of wells in the Basin. The problems with the SMCs include: (1) at some Representative Monitoring Wells, the MT elevations are higher than the MO elevations, which is not logical, and (2) the simulation of future pumping in the South Management Area did not accurately reflect planned pumping under the Rampdown—specifically, no pumping was assumed in the future and thus any SMCs based on the model projections do not represent reasonable operational flexibility. The SMCs for groundwater elevations and estimate of groundwater in storage in the Basin are being updated as part of the 5-year GMP Assessment. For the purpose of this report, groundwater levels are only compared to MTs.

Foonote (c) added to report following Board direction at the June 18, 2025 Board meeting.

Table 3. Groundwater Level Trends at Representative Monitoring Wells
Fall 2019 to Spring 2025

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Fall 2019 Groundwater Elevation[a,b] (ft-msl)	Spring 2025 Groundwater Elevation[c] (ft-msl)	Change in Groundwater Elevation since Fall 2019 (ft)	Rate of Change Groundwater Elevation since Fall 2019 (ft/yr)	Historical Rate of Change in Groundwater Elevation[d] (ft/yr)
		a	*b*	*c = b-a*	*d = c/(2024 - 2019)*	
North Management Area						
MW-1	010S006E21A002S	374.76	376.78	2.0	0.3	-2.14
ID4-3	010S006E18R001S	377.96	374.83	-3.1	-0.5	-2.09
Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	*376.82*	376.70	-0.1	0.0	-2.48
ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	*374.36*	370.56	-3.8	-0.6	-2.31
ID4-4	010S006E29K002S	*375.06*	373.65	-1.4	-0.2	-2.73
Central Management Area						
ID4-1	010S006E32R001S	391.66	388.43	-3.2	-0.5	-1.39
Airport 2	010S006E35N001S	405.60	*400.47*	-5.1	-0.9	-1.67
ID1-16	011S006E16N001S	*388.42*	386.65	-1.8	-0.3	-0.95
ID4-11	010S006E32D001S	*386.44*	371.92	-14.5	-2.4	-2.29
ID1-12	011S006E16A002S	*385.94*	384.60	-1.3	-0.2	-1.51
ID5-5	011S006E09E001S	387.64	385.79	-1.8	-0.3	-0.85
South Management Area						
MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	409.92	407.22	-2.7	-0.4	-0.74
MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	408.80	405.98	-2.8	-0.5	-0.74
MW-3	011S006E23J002S	451.68	445.42	-6.3	-1.0	-5.84
Air Ranch	011S007E30L001S	470.85	467.43	-3.4	-0.6	-0.5
RH-1	011S006E25A001S	467.87	466.91	-1.0	-0.2	-0.94

(a) Fall 2019 is the start of Physical Solution Implementation Period.
(b) If a Fall 2019 water level was not measured, an "estimated static" groundwater elevation was selected based on recent trends in groundwater elevation at the well and nearby wells, and knowledge of the influence of nearby pumping. Estimated values are shown in *blue italic font* .
(c) If a water level was not measured in Spring 2025, an "estimated static" groundwater elevation was selected based on recent trends in groundwater elevation at the well and nearby wells, and knowledge of the influence of nearby pumping. Estimated values are shown in *blue italic font* . In Spring 2025, the only estimated value is for the Airport 2 well; its well casing collapsed prior to the Semi-Annual Monitoring Event in fall 2023.
(d) Historical rate of change in groundwater level is based on pre-fall 2018 groundwater levels as reported in the GMP (Dudek, 2020).

Table 4. Water Quality Standard Exceedance Report
Spring 2025

Owner	Well Name	State Well ID	Well Use	Analyte (unit)	Date	Result	US EPA Primary MCL[1]	US EPA Secondary MCL[2]	California Primary MCL[3]	California Secondary MCL[4]
Borrego Air Ranch	Air Ranch Well 4	011S007E30L001S	Public Supply	TDS (mg/L)	3/19/2025	630		500		500-1,000
Borrego Water District	ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	Public Supply	Sulfate (mg/L)	4/3/2025	280		250		250
	MW-4	010S006E35Q001S	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/18/2025	260		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/18/2025	550		500		500-1,000
	MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/17/2025	270		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/17/2025	1100		500		500-1,000
	MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/17/2025	670		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/17/2025	1300		500		500-1,000
	ID4-20 (Wilcox)	011S006E20A001S	Public Supply	TDS (mg/L)	4/3/2025	630		500		500-1,000
	WWTP	011S006E23H001S	Observation	TDS (mg/L)	3/17/2025	600		500		500-1,000
	MW-6S	010S06E08A002S	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/19/2025	430		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/19/2025	930		500		500-1,000
	MW-6D	010S06E08A003S	Observation	Fluoride (mg/L)	3/18/2025	2.5		2	2	
				TDS (mg/L)	3/18/2025	620		500		500-1,000
CWC Casa del Zorro LLC	La Casa	011S006E23E001S	Public Supply	TDS (mg/L)	3/20/2025	580		500		500-1,000
Domestic	Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	Other	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	3/18/2025	18	10		10	
				Sulfate (mg/L)	3/18/2025	470		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/18/2025	1100		500		500-1,000
Borrgeo Landfill	BSMW-1R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	12/19/2024	280		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	12/19/2024	620		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-2R	N/A	Observation	TDS (mg/L)	12/19/2024	540		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-3R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	12/19/2024	280		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	12/19/2024	620		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-5R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	12/19/2024	300		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	12/19/2024	630		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-6R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	12/19/2024	410		250		250
					2/17/2025	300				
					2/17/2025	270				
				TDS (mg/L)	12/19/2024	830		500		500-1,000
					2/17/2025	620				
					2/17/2025	610				
Private	NMA-1	Private	Irrigation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/18/2025	430		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/18/2025	960		500		500-1,000
	NMA-6	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	3/19/2025	85	10		10	
				Sulfate (mg/L)	3/19/2025	800		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/19/2025	2100		500		500-1,000
	NMA-7	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	3/19/2025	41	10		10	
				Sulfate (mg/L)	3/19/2025	750		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/19/2025	1700		500		500-1,000
	CMA-2	Private	Irrigation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/18/2025	360		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/18/2025	710		500		500-1,000
	CMA-4	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	3/18/2025	13	10		10	
	CMA-5	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	3/18/2025	45	10		10	
				TDS (mg/L)	3/18/2025	990		500		500-1,000
State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation	Horse Camp	009S006E31E003S	Other	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/20/2025	290		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/20/2025	710		500		500-1,000
	Auxiliary 2	010S005E25R001S	Other	TDS (mg/L)	3/20/2025	580		500		500-1,000
T2 Borrego LLC (Rams Hill)	RH-1	011S006E25A001S	Irrigation	TDS (mg/L)	3/19/2025	650		500		500-1,000
	RH-3	011S006E25C002S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	3/19/2025	0.015	0.01		0.01	
	RH-5	011S006E26B001S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	3/19/2025	0.02	0.01		0.01	
	RH-6	011S006E26H001S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	3/19/2025	0.017	0.01		0.01	
T2 Farms	T2 Farms	010S006E09C001S	Irrigation	Sulfate (mg/L)	3/19/2025	340		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	3/19/2025	750		500		500-1,000

Note: Notification levels are health-based advisory levels established by CDPH for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). When chemicals are found at concentrations greater than their notification levels, certain requirements and recommendations apply. State law requires timely notification of the local governing bodies by drinking water systems whenever a notification level is exceeded in a drinking water source.

1) US EPA Primary MCLs are federally enforceable limits for chemicals in drinking water and are set as close as feasible to the corresponding EPA MCL.

2) US EPA Secondary MCLs or National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards.

3) California Primary MCLs are set by the Department of Public Health analogous to EPA Primary MCLs. Primary MCLs are enforceable at the state level.

4) California Secondary MCLs are defined in the California Code of Regulation Title 22 and are set to based on asthetic considerations (taste, odor, color) for consumer acceptance. Some Secondary MCLs have recommended and upper limits.

5) Private wells with data confidentiality agreements are denoted by aliases "NMA-#" or "CMA-#" based on their relative location in the north and central management zones.

Table 5. 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	7	9
TDS[3]	CA Secondary MCL – upper limit	1,000 mgl	0	3	2
Sulfate	CA and EPA Secondary MCL	250 mgl	1	7	8
Nitrate (as N)	CA and EPA Primary MCL	10 mgl	0	5	0
Fluoride	EPA Secondary MCL	2 mgl	0	0	1
Arsenic	CA Primary MCL	0.01 mgl	0	3	0

Notes:
mgl = milligrams per liter
(1) Non-potable wells are wells used for irrigation and/or "other" purposes. These wells are not used for drinking water (potable) supplies. Note that the Fortiner well is considered "other" because water pumped from this well is not used for potable supply, per conversation with the well owner on October 12, 2023.
(2) Wells shown exceeding the CA Secondary MCL – lower limit are wells with TDS results greater than 500 mgl, but less than 1,000 mgl (less than the CA Secondary MCL – upper limit).
(3) Wells shown exceeding the CA Secondary MCL – upper limit are wells with TDS results greater than 1,000 mgl. This row does not include wells that exceeded the CA Secondary MCL – lower limit.

To: Board of Directors

From: Andy Malone, Technical Consultant

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Technical Consultant Report – June 2025

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the monthly Technical Consultant Report is to share information with the Board on the status of technical efforts being performed with guidance and input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Environmental Working Group (EWG). Additional details and topics that may arise after publishing this report will be presented during the Board meeting.

At the June 18, 2025 Board meeting, I intend to report out on the following topics:

- June 12, 2025 EWG meeting

JUNE 12, 2025 EWG MEETING

A concept feasibility study for the biological restoration/rehabilitation of fallowed lands (Project) was implemented by Land IQ and University of California, Irvine (UCI) under contract with the Watermaster and under the supervision of the Watermaster's EWG. The Project was funded by a Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant under Proposition 68. The results of the Project could be used by the Watermaster to develop guidance for the most effective and efficient fallowing techniques.

An important component of the Project was a field experiment that explored the feasibility of various biological restoration/rehabilitation techniques. The experiment included the construction of four types of experimental "Sand Fences" on two parcels of fallowed farmland in the North Management Area of the Borrego Springs Subbasin (Basin). Thereafter, a monitoring program was conducted by Master's degree students in the Conservation and Restoration Science Program at UCI as part of their "Capstone Project."[1] The objective of the monitoring program was to assess the effectiveness of the various Sand Fences at: managing wind erosion, minimizing airborne dust emissions; and increasing natural biodiversity and habitat value.

At the EWG meeting, the UCI students presented their findings and EWG members had the opportunity to ask questions. In summary, the study concluded that the fallowing treatments that were most effective at controlling wind erosion, minimizing dust emissions, and promoting biological restoration were the Tree Fences and Scattered Trees (compared to the Mulch Rows and Sand Fences). However, longer term monitoring is recommended to confirm these conclusions. The Tree Fences and Scattered Trees were also identified as the most cost-effective treatments. The EWG meeting presentation and final report have been posted to the EWG webpage.

[1] At its September 12, 2024 meeting, the Board approved an EWG request to serve as Community Mentor to the UCI Capstone Program and utilize available budget after the grant period to support additional engagements, as needed.

To: Board of Directors
From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Date: June 13, 2025
Subject: Executive Director Report – June 2025

Overview

The purpose of the monthly Executive Director (ED) Report is to share information with the Board on the status of key administrative items, including identifying recommended items for future discussion and action. At our June 18, 2025 Board meeting, I intend to report out on the following items. Some information for each item is provided herein, where available. Additional details and topics that arise after publishing this report may be presented during the meeting. The June 2025 ED Report topics include:

- SGM Grant Reimbursement Status
- WY 2025 Pumping Assessments
- BPA and Party Updates

Status Updates

SGM Grant Status

- Status of outstanding Reimbursement Requests:
    - Reimbursement Request #7 has been approved by DWR and is pending payment. Based on prior turn-around times from approval to payment, payment should be received by end of June.
    - Reimbursement Requests #8 and #9 were submitted to DWR on February 14, 2025 and May 15, 2025, respectively. Both reports have been reviewed by DWR. BWD is coordinating with the subgrantees on addressing DWR comments and questions on the requests.
    - Reimbursement Request #10 was submitted to DWR by June 15, 2025 and is pending DWR review.

WY 2025 Pumping Assessments

- Invoices for the second installment of the WY 2025 pumping assessment were sent out to the Parties the week of May 19th. Payment is due to Watermaster by June 30, 2025. About 20 percent of the payments have been received as of the date of this memo.

BPA and Party Updates

- As reported and discussed in March, there is one Party that remains out of compliance with the Judgment and is not in contact with the Watermaster. Information about outstanding balances and metering requirements to Alternate Director Jim Dax to see how we might be able to get engaged. There is nothing new to report this month on the subject.

Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2025
AGENDA ITEM VI

To: Board of Directors

From: Samantha Adams, Executive Director

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Establishing Agenda for July 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

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Process

To set the July agenda, the Board will:

1. Review the initial July agenda topics planned by Staff, as listed below
2. Review the August and September 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 June Board meeting (such as during public comment)
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the July 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). The Agenda/items are approved by majority vote (3 of 5 directors)

Staff's Initial Agenda for July Regular Meeting

The July 16, 2025 Regular meeting (held virtually) will include all standard items of: public correspondence, consent calendar (meeting minutes, financial reports, staff invoices, etc.), verbal Staff and Chair reports, establishing the agenda for the subsequent meeting, Board member comments, listing of future meeting dates, and adjournment.

In addition to the standard items, the initial agenda planned by Staff for July 2025 includes the following business items for consideration and possible action:

1. WY 2025 3rd Quarterly Budget Status Review
2. Consideration of approval of TAC and EWG agendas for August
3. Workshop - Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP: RCA 7 – Judgment vs. GMP

Staff's Tentative Topics for August and September

August Agenda Topics

1. Consideration of Approval of Statement of Work No. 8 and Contract Amendment No. 12 for West Yost Administrative and Technical Services in WY 2026
2. Workshop - Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP: Sustainable Management Criteria

September Agenda Topics

1. Overview of Anticipated WY 2026 Calendar of Activities
2. Approval of WY 2026 Meeting Dates
3. Report out from August EWG and TAC meetings (may only need to be included in TC Report)
4. EWG Recommendations on Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands Study
5. Workshop - Addressing DWR Comments on the Judgment/GMP: Groundwater Quality and SGMA