

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Regular Board Meeting  
January 21, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.  
Meeting Available by Remote Access Only\***

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://meet.goto.com/976498365>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

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**Access Code:** 976-498-365

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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 December 11, 2025 and January 14, 2026.*

- 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 – December 17, 2025.....**Page 3**

B. Approval of December 2025 Financial Report .....	Page 7
C. Receive and file November 2025 Watermaster Staff invoices	
i. November 2025 RWG Invoice .....	Page 11
ii. November 2025 West Yost Invoice .....	Page 15

**IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

A. Consideration of Approval of Updated Contract with BWD for Meter Reading Services (ADAMS) .....	Page 33
B. Consideration of Approval of Joint TAC-EWG Meeting Agenda (MALONE) .....	Page 40
C. WY 2026 Q1 Budget Status Review (ADAMS) .....	Page 41
D. Fall 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report (SALBERG) .....	Page 45
E. GMP Assessment and Workshop: Projects and Management Actions (ADAMS) .....	Page 81
F. BWD to D. Bauer Transfer (ADAMS) .....	Page 88

**V. REPORTS**

A. Legal Counsel Report .....	Page 91
• Request for Declaration of Watermaster Non-Opposition for BPA Intervention	
B. Technical Consultant Report .....	Page 92
• Status update: Review of GDE Study Report	
• Final SMC for groundwater levels for the GMP Assessment Report	
• New De Minimis Pumping Well Application	
C. Executive Director Reports .....	Page 95
• SGM Grant Reimbursement Status	
• First Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026	
• Budget Subcommittee	
• WY 2025 Annual Report – Schedule for Review and Finalization	
• Status Update on 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update	
• BPA and Party Updates	
D. Chairperson's Report – <i>verbal</i>	

**VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2026 BOARD MEETING .....**Page 97

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**VIII. NEXT MEETINGS OF THE BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER**

A. Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 3:00 pm	
B. Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 3:00 pm (IN-PERSON)	

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES**  
**BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING**  
**Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting**  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

<b>Directors Present</b>	Chair Tyler Bilyk – Agricultural Sector Vice Chair Jim Bennett – County of San Diego Treasurer Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector Secretary Gina Moran – Borrego Water District (BWD) Mark Jorgensen – Community Representative
<b>Watermaster Staff Present</b>	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost
<b>Others Present</b>	David Garmon Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager George Peraza, DWR Kathy Dice, BWD Board Member Rich Pinel, Board Alternate – Recreational Sector Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member and Board Alternate - BWD

Please visit the [Watermaster's Website](#)<sup>1</sup> to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the December 17, 2025 Meeting. The following meeting minutes identify the start time each agenda item discussion (hours, minutes, seconds: 00:00:00), which can be used as a reference to find and listen to the details of each topic discussed in the [meeting recording](#) for specifics and context.

**I. Opening Procedures**

- A. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:12
- B. Chair Bilyk led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. 00:00:24
- C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of 5 of 5 members of the Board were present. 00:00:49
- D. Approval of Agenda. The Board discussed the agenda topics for the December 17, 2025 Board meeting. 00:01:19

**Motion:** Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Director Jorgensen to approve the Agenda. 00:01:37

*Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).*

<sup>1</sup> <https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/>

**II. Public Correspondence**

- A. *Correspondence Received.* Chair Bilyk referenced the written correspondence included in the agenda package. 00:02:03
- B. *Public Comments.* Chair Bilyk called for public comments. Public comment was made by:
- David Garmon on the topics of his Public Comment letter included in the agenda package and De Minimis wells. 00:03:34

**III. Consent Calendar**

Chair Bilyk called for discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the December 17, 2025 agenda package. 00:06:08

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued.

**Motion:** Motioned by Director Moran, seconded by Director Smith to approve the Consent Calendar. 00:08:31

*Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

**IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action**

- A. *Consideration of Approval to Amend West Yost Professional Services Agreement to Incorporate Board-Approved Budget Amendment.* ED Adams summarized the proposed amendment to the WY 2026 budget and Professional Services Agreements as described in the Agenda package. 00:09:11
- There were no public comments.
  - Board discussion ensued to determine action.

**Motion:** Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Moran, to approve Amendment No. 14 and Statement of Work No. 8 with the inclusion of: i) a “most favored” rates clause acceptable to Legal Counsel and West Yost, and ii) language that West Yost staff will work independently on in its review of GDE Study. 00:20:21

*Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

- B. *Consideration of Approval of Resolution 25-02.* ED Adams gave an overview of the Resolution to update authorized signatories with Watermaster's banking institution. 00:21:28
- There were no public comments.
  - There was no Board discussion prior to Board action.

**Motion:** Motioned by Vice Chair Bennett, seconded by Chair Bilyk, to approve Resolution 25-02. 00:23:43

*Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

- C. *Consideration of Approval of Next TAC Meeting Agenda.* Andy Malone presented the proposed agenda for the upcoming TAC meeting. 00:24:18
- Public comment was made by David Garmon, Tammy Baker, and Steve Anderson.
  - Board discussion ensued and the Board directed Watermaster Staff to not hold a TAC meeting and instead prepare a memo on the proposed Measurable Objectives and Interim Milestones to share with the TAC and the Board.
- D. *GMP Update Workshop – RCA #2 and Economic Capacity for Mitigation.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 00:57:04
- Public comments were made by Tammy Baker, Steve Anderson, and David Garmon.
  - Board discussion ensued, and the Board directed Watermaster Staff to not quantify the economic capacity for mitigation, to not proceed with a mitigation policy, and to prepare a simple respond to RCA #2 that states that the Watermaster will mitigate any actions caused by Watermaster actions or will revise the Rampdown to avoid the need for mitigation.
- E. *5-Year GMP Assessment and Update Schedule.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 01:43:39
- There were no public comments.
  - Board discussion ensued, and the Board directed staff to proceed on the recommendation to hold an in-person Board workshop in March to review the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP update.

#### V. Reports.

- A. *Legal Counsel Report.* Mr. Markman had no topics to report on. 02:00:49
- There were no public comments.
  - No action was taken by the Board.
- B. *Technical Consultant Report.* Mr. Malone reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 27 through 42 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 02:00:56
- Public comment was made by Rich Pinel.
  - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- C. *Executive Director Report.* ED Adams reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 43 through 44 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 02:27:58
- There were no public comments.
  - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- D. *Chairperson's Report.* Chair Bilyk provided a reminder of the distinction between change in land use and fallowed farmland as it pertains to Watermaster's responsibilities related to the implementation of the Groundwater Management Plan. 02:29:50

**VI. Approval of Agenda Items for January 21, 2026 Board Meeting**

ED Adams reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the next several Board meetings listed in the agenda package. 02:32:46

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action.

**Motion:** Motioned by Director Smith seconded by Director Moran, to approve the following agenda for the January 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting: 02:41:08

- Consideration of Approval of Joint TAC-EWG Meeting Agenda
- Consideration of approval of updated contract with BWD for meter reading services
- Discussion of BWD to D. Bauer Transfer
- Fall 2025 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
- WY 2026 Q1 Budget Status Review
- GMP Assessment and Workshop – Projects and Management Actions

*Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

**VII. Board Member Comments**

Chair Bilyk called for comments. 02:41:46

- Director Moran reported that Tammy Baker will now serve as the Alternate Watermaster Board Representative for the BWD.

**VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster**

Chair Bilyk reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package. 02:42:41

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 5:43 PM. 02:43:00

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Recorded by:

Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost

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Attest:

Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board

**Borrego Springs Watermaster**  
**Profit & Loss for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**  
October through December 2025

	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Pumping Assessment	0.00	175,024.32	0.00	175,024.32
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>175,024.32</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>175,024.32</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Audit	0.00	161.00	0.00	161.00
Bank Service Charges	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Consulting Services * <span style="color: blue;">*</span>	78,630.25	69,187.07	40,445.00	188,262.32
Consulting Services- Meter Read	215.00	322.50	161.25	698.75
Insurance	3,946.02	3,946.02	3,946.02	11,838.06
Interest Expense	1,044.69	0.00	0.00	1,044.69
Legal	5,000.00	4,855.00	3,445.00	13,300.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>88,860.96</b>	<b>78,471.59</b>	<b>47,997.27</b>	<b>215,329.82</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(88,860.96)</b>	<b>96,552.73</b>	<b>(47,997.27)</b>	<b>(40,305.50)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>(88,860.96)</u></b>	<b><u>96,552.73</u></b>	<b><u>(47,997.27)</u></b>	<b><u>(40,305.50)</u></b>

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

**Borrego Springs Watermaster**  
**Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**  
As of December 31, 2025

	<u>Dec 31, 25</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>US Bank</b>	692,732.98
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	692,732.98
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	130,138.12
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	130,138.12
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
<b>Accrued Grant Reimburse 2025</b>	266,268.25
<b>Prepaid Expenses</b>	19,730.05
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	285,998.30
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	1,108,869.40
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1,108,869.40</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	158,393.07
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	158,393.07
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accrued Payables</b>	43,868.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	43,868.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	202,261.07
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	202,261.07
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	946,913.83
<b>Net Income</b>	-40,305.50
<b>Total Equity</b>	906,608.33
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>1,108,869.40</u></b>

1:29 PM

01/08/26

Accrual Basis

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Expense Distribution Detail**

December 2025

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount
<b>RWG Law</b>					
General Journal	12/01/2025	121R	RWG Estimate for November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025	Legal	(5,000.00)
Bill	12/16/2025	256425	Services rendered through November 30, 2025	Legal	3,945.00
General Journal	12/31/2025	123	RWG Estimate for December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025	Legal	4,500.00
Total RWG Law					3,445.00
<b>West Yost &amp; Associates</b>					
General Journal	12/01/2025	121R	WY Estimate for November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025	Consulting Services	(65,353.25)
General Journal	12/01/2025	121R	WY Estimate for November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025	Consulting Services- Meter Read	(322.50)
Bill	12/30/2025	2065573	Services from November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025	Consulting Services	66,591.50
Bill	12/30/2025	2065573	Services from November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025	Consulting Services- Meter Read	322.50
General Journal	12/31/2025	123	WY Estimate for December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025	Consulting Services	39,206.75
General Journal	12/31/2025	123	WY Estimate for December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025	Consulting Services- Meter Read	161.25
Total West Yost & Associates					40,606.25
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>44,051.25</b>

## Borrego Springs Watermaster

Register: US Bank

From 12/01/2025 through 12/31/2025

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
12/9/2025			-split-	Deposit		X	12,050.85	708,186.97
12/9/2025	2215	C.J. Brown & Company CPAs	Accounts Payable	Audit services rendered during the month of November 2025	161.00			708,025.97
12/9/2025	2216	RWG Law	Accounts Payable	Services rendered through September 30, 2025	8,161.25			699,864.72
12/9/2025	2217	West Yost & Associates	Accounts Payable	Services from September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025	42,301.00	X		657,563.72
12/19/2025			-split-	Deposit		X	35,169.26	692,732.98



T 213.626.8484  
 F 213.626.0078  
 Fed. I.D. No. 95-3292015

350 South Grand Avenue  
 37th Floor  
 Los Angeles, CA 90071

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**Approved January 9, 2026**

BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER  
 C/O SAMANTHA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 WEST YOST  
 25 EDELMAN, SUITE 120  
 IRVINE, CA 92618

Invoice Date: December 16, 2025  
 Invoice Number: 256425  
 Matter Number: 13056-0001

Re: 13056-0001 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

*For professional services rendered through November 30, 2025*

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**Time Detail**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Hours</b>
11/03/25	JLM	ATTEND SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD ON PEER REVIEW OF MESQUITE REPORT	1.50
11/05/25	JLM	REVIEW LETTER ON MESQUITE; REVIEW E-MAILS ON TRANSFER FROM BANER TO BWD	1.70
11/07/25	SLF	REVIEW TAC COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA PACKET	0.10
11/11/25	JLM	E-MAILS ON BROWN ACT ISSUE WITH MS. ADAMS	0.30
11/12/25	SLF	E-MAIL FROM MR. MALONE REGARDING TAC MEETING	0.10
11/13/25	SLF	REVIEW BOARD MEETING AGENDA	0.10
11/14/25	JLM	PHONE CALLS ON BAUER TRANSFER	0.50
11/17/25	JLM	REVIEW LETTER; REVIEW AGENDA MEETING PACKET	1.50
11/18/25	JLM	PROVIDE DOLJIANIN FEDERAL COMPLAINT TO M. STAPLES	0.20
11/19/25	JLM	REVIEW STAFF REPORTS ON PUMPING ESTIMATES ; ATTEND BOARD MEETING	3.60
11/25/25	JLM	E-MAILS ON WATER PRODUCTION ACCOUNTING	0.30
<b>Total</b>			<b>9.90</b>

**Item III.C.i****Page 12 of 98**

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER  
Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Date:  
Invoice Number:  
Matter Number:

December 16, 2025  
256425  
13056-0001

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**Timekeeper Summary**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
JAMES L. MARKMAN	9.60	400.00	3,840.00
STEVEN L. FLOWER	0.30	350.00	105.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.90</b>		<b>\$3,945.00</b>

**Item III.C.i****Page 13 of 98**

Client: BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER

Invoice Date:

December 16, 2025

Matter: GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

Invoice Number:

256425

Matter Number:

13056-0001

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Current Legal Fees.....\$3,945.00  
Current Client Costs Advanced.....\$0.00

**Total Current Fees and Costs.....\$3,945.00**



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Los Angeles, CA 90071

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BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER  
C/O SAMANTHA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WEST YOST  
25 EDELMAN, SUITE 120  
IRVINE, CA 92618

Invoice Date: December 16, 2025  
Invoice Number: 256425  
Matter Number: 13056-0001

Re: 13056-0001 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

*For professional services rendered through November 30, 2025*

---

Fees	3,945.00
Costs	0.00
<b>Total Amount Due</b>	<b>\$3,945.00</b>

**TERMS: PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO**

**RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON**  
**350 South Grand Avenue, 37th Floor**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90071**



Remit Payment To:  
PO Box 2158  
Davis, CA 95617

November 30, 2025

Invoice Number:

2065573

Accounts Payable	Client Project:	Work Order No. 8
Borrego Springs Watermaster	WY Project No:	940-80-25-12
c/o West Yost Associates	Contract Amount:	566,736.00
25 Edelman, Suite 120	Job Name:	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services
Irvine, CA 92618		

Professional Services from November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025

Approved January 9, 2026

Previously Billed :	82,679.07
Total This Period :	66,914.00
Total Amount Billed to Date including This Invoice :	149,593.07
Amount Remaining in Contract :	417,142.93

Project	940-80-25-12	WY 2026 Admin and Technical Services		Invoice	2065573
<b>Professional Personnel</b>					
		<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Eng/Scientist/Geologist Manager I					
Adams, Samantha		25.25	352.00	8,888.00	
Principal Eng/Scientist/Geologist II					
Malone, Andy		44.25	338.00	14,956.50	
Associate Eng/Scientist/Geologist I					
Salberg, Lauren		88.50	237.00	20,974.50	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist II					
Kelty, Clay		15.00	215.00	3,225.00	
Engineer/Scientist/Geologist I					
Arevalo, Andrea		11.25	185.00	2,081.25	
Serafin, Leslie		8.75	185.00	1,618.75	
Administrative IV					
Ehresman, Leah		.25	168.00	42.00	
Administrative III					
Mendoza-Tellez, Maria		10.75	152.00	1,634.00	
Technical Specialist II					
Martin, Tomomi		1.00	224.00	224.00	
Technical Analyst II					
Clymer, Ali		1.25	168.00	210.00	
	<b>Totals</b>	206.25		53,854.00	
	<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>53,854.00</b>
<b>Subconsultants</b>					
Blaine Tech Services, Inc.				8,805.00	
Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, I				3,955.00	
	<b>Total Subconsultants</b>			<b>12,760.00</b>	<b>12,760.00</b>
<b>Reimbursable Expenses</b>					
Other Direct Costs				300.00	
	<b>Total Reimbursables</b>			<b>300.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>
			<b>Total this Invoice</b>		<b>\$66,914.00</b>

**Description of Services:**

Please see attached description of services

**Outstanding Invoices**

Number	Date	Balance
2065124	10/31/2025	82,679.07
<b>Total</b>		<b>82,679.07</b>

Please direct questions to:

Project Manager      Samantha Adams  
 Principal              Greg Chung

*GKC*

**Description of Services Rendered****Project 940-80-25-12****Watermaster Administrative and Technical Services***Invoice Period: November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025*

The services billed in this invoice are those Watermaster administrative and technical services.

**TASK 1 – MEETINGS AND COURT HEARINGS**

The work performed for this task includes preparing for and attending Watermaster Board Meetings, TAC Meetings, Court Hearings, and stakeholder Open House meetings. The work performed in this reporting period included:

**BOARD MEETINGS**

- Corresponded with Watermaster Board officers and legal counsel throughout the month to coordinate meeting agenda items and other Watermaster activities.
- November 2025 Special Board Meeting Preparation:
  - Prepared PowerPoint Presentation to support the Board meeting discussion.
  - Responded to questions from Board members via email and phone calls regarding the Board package items.
  - Attended the virtual Special Board meeting on November 3, 2025. The meeting was attended by Samantha Adams and Andy Malone.
- November 2025 Regular Board Meeting:
  - Prepared meeting minutes from October 2025 Regular Board meeting and the November 2025 Special Board Meeting.
  - Prepared, reviewed, and formatted agenda package content. This work included:
    - Organized, compiled, and formatted the public correspondence and consent calendar items.
    - Performed work, including coordination, preparation, and/or review of staff memos or other materials for 10 agenda items.
  - Compiled the final agenda package and agenda package addendum and distributed via the stakeholder distribution list and Watermaster website.
  - Prepared PowerPoint Presentation to support the Board meeting discussion.
  - Responded to questions from Board members via email and phone calls regarding the Board package items.
  - Attended the virtual Board meeting on November 17, 2025. The meeting was attended by Samantha Adams, Andy Malone, and Lauren Salberg.

**Item III.C.ii****Description of Services**

940-80-25-12

Page 2

- Regular December 2025 Board Meeting Preparation:
  - Prepared punch list of action items for the Board meeting. Created meeting link and coordinated assignments for preparing the package.
  - Prepared meeting minutes from Regular November 2025 Board meeting.
  - Began work on agenda packet materials.

**TAC MEETINGS**

- Prepared the November 12, 2025 TAC agenda, memos, and final package and distributed to the TAC and public distribution list via email.
- Prepared PowerPoint Presentation to support the November 12, 2025 TAC working meeting.
- Conducted a TAC meeting on November 12, 2025. The meeting attendees were Andy Malone, Samantha Adams, and Lauren Salberg.
- Prepared draft meeting minutes from the November 12, 2025 TAC meeting and emailed to TAC to request review of meeting minutes.

**COURT HEARINGS**

- No work performed during the reporting period.

**STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH**

- No work performed during the reporting period.

**TASK 2 – WATERMASTER ADMINISTRATION**

The Executive Director, with support from staff, will organize, oversee, and/or perform the administrative and management aspects of running the Watermaster and administering the Judgment, Rules and Regulations, and GMP. The work performed in this reporting period included:

**PREPARE THE WATERMASTER ANNUAL BUDGET**

- No work performed during the reporting period.

**INSURANCE, ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- Prepared the October 2025 Financial Reports.
- Prepared the October 2025 interest statement for West Yost and Land IQ.
- Communicated with vendors on reporting estimates of billings for inclusion in monthly financials.
- Processed accounts receivable into QuickBooks.
- Processed accounts payable into QuickBooks.
- Cut checks for accounts payable and mailed for signature.
- Prepared and sent the first installment of the WY 2026 Pumping Assessment invoices to the Parties.
- Coordinated with C.J Brown & Company, CPAs to execute engagement letter to perform the WY 2025 financial audit and began gathering documents to begin audit process.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

Page 3

**MAINTAIN WEBSITE AND GRANT COMMUNICATIONS**

- Maintained Watermaster website by updating meeting dates, meeting materials, and other documents.
- Updated bio for new Watermaster Board member Gina Moran.
- The enclosed invoice is for WordPress.com is for the annual fee to host the BorregoSpringsWatermaster.com website domain.

**RESPOND TO AND TRACK PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUESTS**

- Regularly checked Borrego inbox and provided general as-requested support to the public throughout the month by responding to emails on the following topics:
  - Inquiry about if a property for sale is located within the Borrego Springs Subbasin.

**AS-NEEDED SUPPORT TO THE BPA PARTIES**

- Provided general as-requested support to BPA parties throughout the month by performing outreach, responding to emails, and taking phone calls on the following topics:
  - WY 2026 Pumping Assessment invoices
  - Pumping by Management Area for WY 2021 to 2025
  - BPA transfers.

**AS-NEEDED ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERMS OF THE JUDGMENT, RULES & REGULATIONS, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Reviewed and processed one Carryover transfer:
  - T2 Tilting T to Soli Organics
- Prepared and published table of the Rampdown schedule to the 2025 Sustainable Yield and posted to Watermaster website.
- Updated Exhibit 4 to the Judgment based on Final Water Year 2025 Water Rights Accounting.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENTS TASKS**

- Performed monthly project management tasks including budget, schedule, and scope of work progress evaluations.

**TASK 3 – TECHNICAL SERVICES**

The objective of this task is for the Technical Consulting team to perform the technical services required by the Judgment, Rules and Regulations, and GMP for WY 2026. The work performed in this reporting period included:

**GROUNDWATER PUMPING MONITORING - ANNUAL METER VERIFICATION**

- No work performed in this reporting period.

**GROUNDWATER PUMPING MONITORING - MONTHLY COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF METER READ DATA**

- Prepared meter read tracking spreadsheet for WY 2026.
- Cataloged and processed October 2025 monthly meter reads.

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

Page 4

- Calculated October pumping by well.
- Performed QA/QC of October 2025 pumping data.

#### GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

- Cataloged, processed into standard formats, performed QA/QC, and loaded to HydroDaVE groundwater-quality data collected in the field by Watermaster staff in October 2025.
- Performed QA/QC of field water quality parameters and groundwater-quality data collected in the field by Watermaster staff in October 2025.
- Continued processing transducer water level data collected in the field by Watermaster staff in October 2025.
- Prepared a summary of activities completed for the fall 2025 semi-annual monitoring report.
- Reimbursable expenses billed this period from the fall 2025 semi-annual monitoring event include:
  - Groundwater quality sampling support services by Blaine Tech Services
  - Laboratory analysis of groundwater quality samples by Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.

#### COOPERATOR DATA COLLECTION, DATA MANAGEMENT, AND REPORTING DATA TO DWR PORTALS

- Performed QA/QC of groundwater-quality data collected in the field by BWD staff in fall 2025.
- Requested transducer measurements for MW 6S and MW 6D from DWR.
- Requested shapefiles and maps from the Borrego Water District on their water distribution system; reviewed data received.

#### ANNUAL WATER RIGHTS ACCOUNTING

- Finalized WY 2025 water rights accounting memorandum.
- Prepared final WY 2025 pumping reports for the Parties' records and distributed to Parties with WY 2026 Pumping Assessment invoices.

#### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COURT AND DWR

- Began performing technical work to compute the WY 2025 change in storage change from fall 2024 to fall 2025, including developing contour maps of groundwater elevation and maps of change in storage.
- Began drafting text, tables, and figures for the following report sections:
  - Section 1. Introduction and Background
  - Section 2. Watermaster Administrative Activities
  - Section 5. Borrego Springs Hydrogeologic Conditions

## Description of Services

940-80-25-12

Page 5

## AS-NEEDED TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUDGMENT, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

At its September 17, 2025 meeting, the Watermaster Board authorized the use of the WY 2026 As-Needed Technical Services Budget to fund an additional model projection scenario that simulates a shift of 1,800 afy of pumping to the North Management Area (Scenario 1C). The work performed in this reporting period included:

- Complete QC of model results from Scenario 1C.
- Calculated the water budget and change in storage for Scenarios 1A, 1B, and 1C.
- Generated contours, rasters, and figures of the change in groundwater elevation from WY 2040 to 2070 using model results from Scenario 1C.
- Finalized figures of hydrographs comparing observed vs. simulated groundwater-levels across three model scenarios (Scenarios 1A, 1B, and 1C) and total pumping by Management Area at select wells.
- Prepared documentation of the methods and results of Scenario 1C.

## TECHNICAL WORK TO REDETERMINE 2030 SUSTAINABLE YIELD

- No work performed during the reporting period.

## 5-YEAR GMP ASSESSMENT/UPDATE

- Continued work to advance the 5-year GMP Assessment/Update, including:
  - Corresponded with TAC members on their comments related to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for groundwater quality, groundwater level, groundwater storage, and land subsidence.
  - Continued implementing scope to address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) #5 on improvements to SMC for groundwater quality, including:
    - Prepared summary of all wells with historical groundwater quality in excess of maximum contaminant levels (MCL) prior to SGMA.
    - Developed draft figures of maps of wells with historical exceedances of nitrate prior to SGMA.
    - Prepared memorandum documenting RCA #5 and proposed methods to address RCA #5.
  - Continued implementing scope to address DWR RCA #6 on how the Judgment/GMP should address the potential for land subsidence to cause Undesirable Results in the Basin:
    - Finalized figures and time-series charts documenting the changes in land surface elevation, including:
      - Total vertical ground motion that occurred across the Basin between June 2015 and June 2024.
      - Annual vertical ground motion that occurred across the Basin between June 2023 and June 2024.
    - Finalized memorandum documenting on RCA #6, characterization of historical, current, and future subsidence, methods to address RCA #6,

Description of Services

940-80-25-12

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comparison of proposed method with DWR guidance on land subsidence, and TAC feedback on proposed method.

- Continued implementing scope to address DWR Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) 3 and 4 on improvements to SMC for groundwater levels and storage, including:
  - Updated groundwater elevation use thresholds for BWD wells based on comments received from BWD technical consultant, including updates to documentation and figures and tables describing the SMC for groundwater levels.
  - Updated documentation on the methods for updating groundwater level and storage SMCs (based on TAC feedback) and prepared for Board Workshop to discuss updated SMCs.
- Worked on text, tables, and figures of the Five-Year Assessment Report.

#### **TASK 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP**

The objective of this task is to support the activities of the EWG in WY 2026. The work performed in this reporting period included:

At its Special November 3, 2025 meeting, the Board selected West Yost to perform the Peer Review of the UCI Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Study report. Work to advance the review of the report during this period included:

- Communicated the Board's final selection to perform the GDE Study report review with vendors who proposed to complete the review.
- Per Board direction, informed The Nature Conservancy that the Board is not accepting their assistance with the peer review.
- Began review of the UCI GDE Study Report.
- Corresponded with the UCI team (authors of the GDE Study Report) to resolve clarifying questions about the report.

#### **TASK 5 - STAFF SERVICES BILLED TO WATERMASTER RELATED TO MANUAL-READ METERS**

The objective of this task is to coordinate the monitoring and collection of meter data from the parties with manual-read meters. This work is reimbursed by only those Parties with manual-read meters. The work performed in this reporting period included:

- Followed-up with Parties to send October 2025 self-reporting of meter reads.
- Sent email reminders to Parties to perform manual meter reads in November 2025.

#### **PARTY-FUNDED REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

- There are no open requests for information.

**Casey Duncan**

**From:** WordPress.com <help@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 31, 2025 3:59 AM  
**To:** IT-Purchasing  
**Subject:** Receipt #110961990

**Thank you for using WordPress.com!**

Your subscription for

has renewed.

**Billed To**

October 31, 2025

westyost1  
it-purchasing@westyost.com  
Visa \*\*\*\* \* 7516

**Order Summary***Receipt ID: 110961990**Transaction ID: ch\_3SOG2kAEuzoIBr94071ueqXe*

Item	Price
<a href="#">WordPress.com</a> Business <a href="#">borregospringswatermaster.com</a> Payment for Nov 30, 2025 to Nov 30, 2026 <a href="#">Manage subscription</a>	\$300.00
Includes: Domain Connection ( <a href="#">borregospringswatermaster.com</a> )	
<b>Total paid</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

This charge will show up on your statement as **WP\*WordPress 1B6F2GE59**.

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**BLAINE  
TECH SERVICES INC.**

1680 ROGERS AVE., SAN JOSE, CA 95112-1105  
(408) 573-0555 FAX: (408) 573-7771  
FED. EIN 77-0131-704 / CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE #746684

**Invoice**

Invoice Number

2BLJT-251027BN1

Invoice Date

Nov 6, 2025

**Send To:**

WEST YOST ASSOCIATES  
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
2020 RESEARCH PARK DR, STE 100  
DAVIS, CA 95618

Job Number / P.O. Number	Job Date(s)	Customer ID	Payment Terms	Due Date
940-80-25-12	10/27/25	737	Net 90 Days	2/4/26

Quantity	Item	Description	Unit Price	Extension
1.00	BBOR	BORREGO SPRINGS, CA / PM: SAMANTHA ADAMS / PO# 940-80-25-12 / TO# 15		
3.00	B216CB	PER DIEM	200.00	600.00
30.00	B114CB	TECHNICIAN/VEHICLE HOURLY RATE	135.00	4,050.00
20.00	B114CB	ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN/VEHICLE HOURLY RATE	115.00	2,300.00
1.00	B322CB	PROVIDE FLOW CELL:WEEKLY	300.00	300.00
1,500.00	B324CB	SAMPLE TUBING (PER FOOT)	0.72	1,080.00
3.00	B115CB	PROVIDE N2 TANKS	75.00	225.00
1.00	B115CB	PROVIDE ST1102 PUMP AND CONTROLLER	250.00	250.00

**PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT 8,805.00**

**Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates  
 25 Edelman, Suite 120  
 Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3067

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
 Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 329  
 San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number**

**Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3067

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
4	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$40.00
1	Metals Digestion Fee [8 day]	Water	\$20.00	\$20.00
4	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$420.00
4	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$50.00
<b>Additional Items</b>				
1	Pickup Fee		\$50.00	\$50.00
<b>Invoice Total:</b>				<b>\$580.00</b>

**Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates  
 25 Edelman, Suite 120  
 Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3068

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
 Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 329  
 San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number**

**Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3068

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
4	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$40.00
1	Metals Digestion Fee [8 day]	Water	\$20.00	\$20.00
4	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$420.00
4	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$50.00

Invoice Total: **\$530.00**

**Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates  
 25 Edelman, Suite 120  
 Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3069

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
 Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 329  
 San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number**

**Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3069

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
5	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$50.00
5	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$525.00
5	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$62.50

Invoice Total: **\$637.50**

**INVOICE ATTACHMENT****Item III.C.ii****Page 29 of 98****Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402****INVOICE****Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
West Yost Associates  
25 Edelman, Suite 120  
Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3070

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
P.O. Box 329  
San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number****Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3070

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
1	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$10.00
1	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$105.00
1	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$12.50

Invoice Total: **\$127.50**

**Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates  
 25 Edelman, Suite 120  
 Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3071

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
 Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 329  
 San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number**

**Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3071

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
8	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$80.00
1	Metals Digestion Fee [8 day]	Water	\$20.00	\$20.00
8	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$840.00
8	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$100.00

Invoice Total: **\$1,040.00**

**Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates  
 25 Edelman, Suite 120  
 Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3072

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
 Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 329  
 San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number**

**Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3072

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
4	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$40.00
1	Metals Digestion Fee [8 day]	Water	\$20.00	\$20.00
4	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$420.00
4	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$50.00

Invoice Total: **\$530.00**

**Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 329 San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**INVOICE**

**Invoice To:**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates  
 25 Edelman, Suite 120  
 Irvine, CA 92618

**Invoice Number**

25J3073

**Remit To:**

Accounts Receivable  
 Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 329  
 San Bernardino, CA 92402

**PO Number**

**Received**

10/31/25

**Project**

Borrego Springs

**Client**

Lauren Salberg  
 West Yost Associates

**Terms**

NET 30

**Project Number**

Semi-Annual Borrego Springs

**Project Manager**

Jeanette Hernandez

**Work Order(s)**

25J3073

Quantity	Analysis/Description	Matrix	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
<b>Clinical Laboratory of San Bernardino</b>				
4	Nitrite as N EPA 300.0 [8 day]	Water	\$10.00	\$40.00
4	General Mineral Panel [8 day]	Water	\$105.00	\$420.00
4	Arsenic EPA 200.8 [8 day]	Water	\$12.50	\$50.00

Invoice Total: **\$510.00**

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM IV.A**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Samantha Adams, Executive Director  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Consideration of Approval of Agreement for Water Meter Reading Services with BWD

---

**Recommended Action**       **Provide Direction to Staff**       **Information and Discussion**  
 **Fiscal Impact**       **Cost Estimate: \$**

---

**Recommended Action**

Approve the enclosed Agreement for Water Meter Reading Services with the Borrego Water District (BWD).

Fiscal Impact: The BWD meter reading services provide cost savings to the parties with manual-read meters compared to the budget which assumed meter reading services to be provided by West Yost.

**Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board**

The BWD has been providing water meter reading services to the Watermaster since 2020. The BWD intended to step away from performing the meter reading services beginning in WY 2026, however through additional discussions through the Budget Subcommittee process, the BWD has agreed to continue the meter reading services with an updated rate schedule for services and a reduction of the meter read frequency to twice per year (March and September).

Enclosed for your review and approval is an updated Agreement for Water Meter Reading Services, which was prepared in collaboration with the BWD. The agreement has been reviewed by Legal Counsel Markman. The BWD Board of Directors will consider approval of the Agreement at its January 21, 2026 Board meeting. Any changes to the Agreement, if any, will be reported prior to consideration of approval by the Watermaster Board.

**Next Steps**

If approved, Watermaster Staff will finalize and execute the agreement and BWD will perform the mid-year official meter read in March 2026. If needed, the Agreement can be updated and reconsidered in February 2026.

**Enclosures**

Agreement for Water Meter Reading Services

### Agreement for Water Meter Reading Services

This Agreement for Water Meter Reading Services is entered into this **DAY of MONTH** 2026, between the Borrego Springs Watermaster ("Watermaster") and Borrego Water District ("District"). Watermaster and District are referred to herein individually as "Party" and collectively, as "Parties".

#### 1. Introduction

The District agrees to provide water meter reading services as described in Paragraph 4, below ("Services") for the benefit of the Borrego Springs Watermaster ("Watermaster").

Accurate measurement of groundwater extractions is essential for the successful management of groundwater in a distressed groundwater basin. Watermaster is responsible for reading measuring devices installed on groundwater extraction wells in the Borrego Basin, Subbasin No. 7.024.01 designated in DWR Resolution No. 116 ("Basin").

#### 2. Location of Services

The Services shall be performed at all metered production sites within the Basin, except as otherwise agreed to the Parties.

#### 3. Contract Representatives

The Contract Representatives during the term of this Agreement are listed below and may be changed by written notice to the other Party.

<u>District</u>	<u>Watermaster</u>
Geoff Poole, General Manager	Samantha Adams, Executive Director
Borrego Water District	c/o West Yost Associates
806 Palm Canyon Drive	25 Edelman, Suite 120
Borrego Springs, California 92004	Irvine, California 92618
Phone: 760-767-5806	Phone: 949-238-0698
Email: geoff@borregowd.org	Email: sadams@westyost.com

#### 4. District Tasks and Responsibilities

- a. District shall contact non de-minimis groundwater production well owners in the Basin to schedule appointments for meter readings for meters requiring on site physical readings. District shall not be in breach of this Agreement if any well owners refuse access to their meters.
- b. District shall read all of the above-described meters twice each water year (October 1 - September 30). The meter readings shall be performed in accordance with the criteria stated on Exhibit 1 attached hereto.

- c. The Parties agree that District employees that conduct the meter reading or other activities described in this Agreement shall remain District employees and shall not be deemed to be Watermaster employees.

5. Deliverables

- a. On agreed upon intervals, District will provide Watermaster with the data collected from the meters in a medium and format acceptable to both Parties.
    - b. On agreed upon intervals, District will send an invoice for payment to the Watermaster for services rendered during the previous interval. Each invoice will specify the number of hours of service provided by district in the previous interval and any District recoverable costs.

6. Watermaster Information for District

Watermaster shall provide District with updated contact information for non de-minimis well owners within the Basin and well information as necessary for District to complete the tasks identified in this Agreement. In addition, Watermaster shall obtain an Entry Permit in form and content approved by Watermaster so that District may physically access the sites in order to read meters on behalf of Watermaster. District shall not be obligated to conduct a meter reading at any site until an Entry Permit has been executed by the applicable landowner. Watermaster shall retain responsibility for reading any meter in the Basin for which the well owner refuses District access to the applicable well(s).

7. District Insurance

District shall, prior to any entry onto and Party's Property, acquire and keep in full force and effect comprehensive liability insurance with a combined single limit coverage limit of not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) covering bodily injury, personal injury, death and property damage liability per occurrence and in the aggregate, insuring the Property Owner and Watermaster against any and all liability with respect to or arising out of the entry or Activities. No policies issued on a "claims made" basis will be acceptable and no policies will have any deductible provision in excess of five percent (5%) of the total coverage maintained by the District. District shall also obtain and maintain all automobile and workers compensation insurance required by law with respect to the Activities. Upon request, District shall provide the Property Owner and Watermaster with a certificate evidencing such coverage prior to Watermaster's entry onto the Property. All such liability insurance policies shall name the Watermaster as additional insureds. All public liability, property damage, and other casualty policies shall be written as primary policies and any insurance carried by the additional insureds on such policies shall not be contributing with such policies. All policies of insurance under this Agreement shall be issued by reputable insurance companies with general policy holder's ratings of not less than A-, and which are qualified to do business in California.

8. Indemnity

District shall indemnify and hold harmless Watermaster and its officers, Board Members, contractors and employees from and against any claim, allegation, action or cause of action in any way connected with or part of Districts provision of meter reading services provided hereunder.

9. Cost

District will provide the services specified in Exhibit 1 in consideration of the payments to be made in accordance with Exhibit 2.

10. Termination of Contract

Either party may terminate this Contract by giving at least a 60-day written notice to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREAS, the parties have entered into this Agreement as of the date stated below for each such Party.

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Borrego Water District

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit 1**  
**Meter Read Program and Documentation Requirements**  
*Updated September 17, 2025*

**Meter Read Documentation for Official Watermaster Reads**

To ensure accuracy of each meter read, the following protocol must be followed by the Meter Reader at each well.

- Make a handwritten note, or key punch into excel file using a tablet or device, of:
  - BPA Party name
  - Well name or address
  - The last four digits of the meter serial number (SN)
  - Date and time of meter read
  - The meter read
  - The meter read units
  - Any challenges with reading the meter (e.g. face broken/cracked, no access, etc.)
- Take photograph(s) of:
  - The meter make, model, and serial number
  - The well meter face that clearly shows the meter read and units of measure
  - One photograph with both items of information is acceptable.

At the completion of the meter reading event:

- Name each photograph with the following file name:
  - Last 4 digits of SN\_Date\_MeterInfo (e.g. 9999\_20200930\_MeterInfo)
  - Last 4 digits of SN\_Date\_MeterRead (e.g. 9999\_20200930\_MeterRead)
- Scan and save any handwritten notes with the following file name:
  - Date\_MeterReadNotes (e.g., 20200930\_MeterReadNotes)
- Send photographs and scan of handwritten notes (or excel file of notes) to Watermaster Staff at [borregospringswm@westyost.com](mailto:borregospringswm@westyost.com).

Attachment A is the form that should be used for the handwritten or electronic field notes. It will be provided to the meter reader by Watermaster as an Excel file and a PDF file. After the first meter reading event, the form can be updated to pre-populate the well owner and serial number information.



**Exhibit 2**  
**Cost for Water Meter Read Services**  
*Updated September 17, 2025*

District will provide the Services specified herein at a rate of \$157.50 per hour plus annual cost of living adjustment based upon the applicable consumer price index for the San Diego area starting in January 2027, including field work, scheduling, and reporting. In addition, the District will be reimbursed for costs incurred including mileage costs. A 10% charge will be applied to the total invoice amount (labor plus costs).

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM IV.B**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Andy Malone, Technical Consultant  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Consideration of Approval of Agenda for a Joint TAC/EWG Meeting

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**Recommended Action**     **Provide Direction to Staff**     **Information and Discussion**  
 **Fiscal Impact**     **Cost Estimate: \$0**

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**Recommended Action**

Approve the agenda for the joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Environmental Working Group (EWG) meeting, with any recommended changes.

Fiscal Impact: None. TAC/EWG meetings were included in the approved Water Year (WY) 2026 budget.

**Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board**

The TAC and EWG meet at the direction of the Watermaster Board. The Board approved a specific scope of work and budget for the TAC and EWG to perform in WY 2026, which includes periodic meetings to coordinate work and discuss results.

**Recommended Agenda for Joint TAC-EWG Meeting**

A joint TAC/EWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 9 to 11 am. The focus of this meeting will be the review of the Technical Consultant's independent peer review of the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Report prepared by the University of California Irvine and others (UCI GDE Study Report). The Technical Consultant will present the findings of its technical review of the UCI GDE Study Report and a draft of its Recommendation Report, which includes consideration of all comments received on the UCI GDE Study Report from the TAC and EWG members. The authors of the report from UCI will attend the TAC/EWG meeting and be available to answer questions on the study.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM IV.C**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Samantha Adams, Executive Director  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** WY 2026 – Q1 Watermaster Budget Status Report (as of December 31, 2025)

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**Recommended Action**       **Provide Direction to Staff**       **Information and Discussion**  
 **Fiscal Impact**       **Cost Estimate: \$**

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**Recommended Action**

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact: None

**Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board**

On June 18, 2025, the Board adopted the water year (WY) 2026 Budget. The budget was amended in November 2025 to increase budget for the Environmental Working Group (EWG) line-item, in support of the scope of work to review the UCI GDE Study Report. The purpose of this memo is to report the WY 2026 budget status as of December 31, 2025 (end of the first quarter) as compared to the amended WY 2026 Budget.

**Discussion**

Table 1, enclosed, compares actual budget to date to the amended WY 2026 Budget. The table shows:

- The Watermaster budget categories and the relevant line items in the WY 2026 Budget, including: revenues, expenditures (administrative services, legal services, technical/engineering services, Environmental Working Group, services to Parties with manual read meters), liabilities on Payment Terms, and cash reserves
- The amended WY 2026 Budget amount for each category and the associated line-item detail
- The year-to-date values as of December 31, 2025
- The percent of budget expended to date for each category and line item (computed as actual divided by budget)
- The variance of actual compared to budget for each category and line item (computed as budget minus actual)

- The projected year-end values and associated percent of budget for each category and line item
- Any pertinent notes that explain the budget status

As of December 31, 2025 (25% into WY 2026):

- A total of 48% of planned revenues has been accrued to date.
- A total of 28% of planned expenditures have been spent to date.
- Watermaster has paid off the entirety of its vendor liability (\$0).
- Cash reserves are \$692,733, which represents about 8.3 months of the average projected monthly operating expenditure.
- In most categories, Staff is projecting to complete the year at 100% of budget. Given we are only three months into the year, it is early to project otherwise with the exception of the following:
  - The budget for Board meetings is projected to be over-budget due to holding a special meeting in November 2025. Depending on the duration of future meetings, it may be possible to complete the year on-budget.
  - Due to paying off all vendor liabilities sooner than planned in the financial model, Watermaster incurred only 19% of the interest charges assumed for WY 2026.
  - Completion of the 5-year Assessment and Update of the GMP is projected to be about \$15,000 over budget to perform the planned scope of work. Staff had requested a budget amendment to carry forward unspent budget from WY 2025 to cover the cost, but the Watermaster deferred to consider the need for the amendment to see if efficiencies can be found in completing the work. The greatest uncertainty in projecting the cost to complete the work is the level of effort that will be required to address Board and public comments on the draft reports.

### **Next Steps**

The second quarter WY 2026 budget status report will be presented in April 2026 for the period ending on March 31, 2026.

### **Enclosures**

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2026 as of December 31, 2025

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2026  
as of December 31, 2025 (1st Fiscal Quarter)  
NOTE: Corrected and amended values shown in yellow highlight

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Approved WY 2026 Budget (as Amended)	Actual WY 2026 Year-to-Date	Percent (%) of Budget	Variance to Date (Budget minus Actual)	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Variance	Year End % of Budget	Notes
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 361,020	\$ 175,024.32	48%	\$ 185,995.68	\$ 361,020	\$ -	100%	See below note re: DWR Prop 68 Revenue
Pumping Assessments Invoiced	\$ 350,000	\$ 175,024.32	50%	\$ 174,975.68	\$ 350,000	\$ -	100%	First installment was due 12/31/25
payments received		\$ 119,716.95	34%					
Bad Debt (non-payment on Assessments)	\$ (1,000)	\$ -	0%	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ -	100%	
Overproduction Penalty Assessments	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Revenues Collected for Pass thru Expenses	\$ 12,020	\$ -	0%	\$ 12,020.00	\$ 12,020	\$ -	100%	Meter read reimbursement invoices to be sent May 2026
payments received		\$ -	0%					
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ 758,793.70	\$ 215,329.82	28%	\$ 543,463.88	\$ 766,909	\$ (8,116)	101%	
<b>Administrative Services</b>	\$ 301,672	\$ 78,162.74	26%	\$ 223,509.26	\$ 299,754	\$ 1,918	99%	
Watermaster Staff Admin Services	\$ 237,255	\$ 65,094	27%	\$ 172,161.01	\$ 239,755	\$ (2,500)	101%	
Board Meetings	\$ 104,753	\$ 31,457.55	30%	\$ 73,295.45	\$ 107,253	\$ (2,500)	102%	Unplanned Special Meeting held in November 2025
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings	\$ 32,950	\$ 7,571.00	23%	\$ 25,379.00	\$ 32,950	\$ -	100%	
Court Hearings	\$ 1,512	\$ 0.00	0%	\$ 1,512.00	\$ 1,512	\$ -	100%	
Stakeholder Outreach/Workshops	\$ 12,846	\$ 6,455.50	50%	\$ 6,390.50	\$ 12,846	\$ -	100%	
Administration and Management	\$ 85,194	\$ 19,609.94	23%	\$ 65,584.06	\$ 85,194	\$ -	100%	
Other Administrative or Vendor Services	\$ 64,417	\$ 13,068.75	20%	\$ 51,348.25	\$ 59,999	\$ 4,418	93%	
Financial Audit	\$ 8,812	\$ 161.00	2%	\$ 8,651.00	\$ 8,812	\$ -	100%	
Insurance	\$ 48,142	\$ 11,838.06	25%	\$ 36,303.94	\$ 48,142	\$ -	100%	Note: This is a pre-paid expense: to date value reflects balance sheet amount
Misc. Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 25.00	1%	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 2,000	\$ -	100%	
Interest on Vendor Terms During Prop 68 Grant Period	\$ 5,463	\$ 1,044.69	19%	\$ 4,418.31	\$ 1,045	\$ 4,418	19%	Final interest was paid to vendors in October 2025 following receipt of DWR Reimbursement #9
Pass Through Expenses	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Reimbursement to BWD for GSP	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Pumper-Funded Request for Information	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
<b>Legal Services</b>	\$ 110,000	\$ 13,300	12%	\$ 96,700.00	\$ 110,000	\$ -	100%	

Table 1. Borrego Springs Watermaster Budget Status Report for WY 2026  
as of December 31, 2025 (1st Fiscal Quarter)  
NOTE: Corrected and amended values shown in yellow highlight

Revenues, Expenditures, and Reserves	Approved WY 2026 Budget (as Amended)	Actual WY 2026 Year-to-Date	Percent (%) of Budget	Variance to Date (Budget minus Actual)	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Variance	Year End % of Budget	Notes
<b>Technical/Engineering Services</b>	\$ 297,462	\$ 104,707.83	35%	\$ 192,753.87	\$ 311,927.70	\$ (14,466.00)	105%	
<b>General Technical Consultant Services</b>	\$ 224,870	\$ 86,792.33	39%	\$ 138,077.67	\$ 224,870.00	\$ -	100%	
Coordinate/Implement meter reading program	\$ 33,584	\$ 5,592.50	17%	\$ 27,991.50	\$ 33,584	\$ -	100%	
Groundwater Monitoring Program	\$ 116,969	\$ 44,242.83	38%	\$ 72,726.17	\$ 116,969	\$ 0	100%	
Data Management and Reporting Data to DWR	\$ 12,276	\$ 3,883.25	32%	\$ 8,392.75	\$ 12,276	\$ 0	100%	
Annual Report to the Court and DWR	\$ 51,221	\$ 22,412.00	44%	\$ 28,809.00	\$ 51,221	\$ 0	100%	
As-needed technical support	\$ 10,820	\$ 10,661.75	99%	\$ 158.25	\$ 10,820	\$ 0	100%	
<b>Consulting Services with TAC Support/Input</b>	\$ 72,592	\$ 17,915.50	25%	\$ 54,676.20	\$ 87,057.70	\$ (14,466.00)	120%	Scope of work to perform remaining WY 2025 tasks and WY 2026 tasks requires an additional \$14,466. This Carryover was requested and not approved at the Board's November 19, 2025 Regular Board meeting.
5-Year Assessment and Update of the GMP (includes addressing DWR RCAs)	\$ 56,850	\$ 17,915.50	32%	\$ 38,934.20	\$ 71,316	\$ (14,466)	125%	
Technical Work to Support 2030 SY Update	\$ 15,742	\$ -	0%	\$ 15,742.00	\$ 15,742	\$ 0	100%	
<b>Environmental Working Group</b>	\$ 37,640	\$ 18,460.50	49%	\$ 19,179.50	\$ 37,640.00	\$ -	100%	
Ad Hoc EWG Meetings/Requests	\$ 37,640	\$ 18,460.50	49%	\$ 19,179.50	\$ 37,640	\$ 0	100%	
<b>Services to Parties with Manual Read Meters</b>	\$ 12,020	\$ 698.75	6%	\$ 11,321.25	\$ 7,588.00	\$ 4,432.00	63%	Official meter read frequency reduced to two times per year and will be performed by BWD staff.
<b>Liabilities on Payment Terms</b>								
Beginning Balance	\$ 149,988	\$ 291,643.59		\$ (141,656)				
Year-End Balance (Budget) and Current Balance	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Outstanding vendor balances are paid off; Vendor Terms have ended.
<b>Cash Reserves</b>								
Beginning Cash Reserves	\$ 560,559	\$ 738,996.64		\$ 178,437.88				
Average Target Reserve and Actual Reserve	\$ 581,379	\$ 692,732.98	119%	\$ (111,353.74)	\$ 548,584	\$ 32,796	94%	
Number of Months of Operating Reserve	9.00	10.72	119%	-1.72	\$ 8.02	0.98	89%	Estimate of 8.02 months of year-end reserve is based on an estimated reserve target of \$615,654 in WY 2027

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM IV.D**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Lauren Salberg, Associate Geologist, West Yost  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Semi-Annual Report of Groundwater-Level and Groundwater-Quality Results for the Borrego Springs Subbasin: Fall 2025

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Recommended Action       Provide Direction to Staff       Information and Discussion  
 Fiscal Impact       Cost Estimate

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**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 2020 Groundwater Management Plan (2020 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<sup>1</sup>: 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "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 are used to track and monitor specific parameters relative to Minimum Thresholds<sup>2</sup> in the 2020 GMP for the relevant Sustainability Indicators for the Basin. The 2020 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 Management Area (NMA), Central Management Area (CMA), and South Management Area (SMA)<sup>3</sup>.

Monitoring of groundwater levels and groundwater quality 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 table below. 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

This report summarizes the fall 2025 monitoring event and includes:

- A description of the groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring networks as of fall 2025.
- A summary of the activities that occurred during the fall 2025 monitoring event.
- Characterization of the data collected during the fall 2025 monitoring event, including:
  - Comparison of groundwater-level data at the Representative Monitoring Wells against Minimum Thresholds in the 2020 GMP.
  - Time-series charts of groundwater-level data at wells monitored in fall 2025 (showing entire period of historical data at each well).
  - Spatial distribution maps of groundwater-quality results for the five COCs at wells sampled in fall 2025.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 wells monitored in fall 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<sup>4</sup> 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 fall 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 pump groundwater for municipal, recreation, and other uses. As shown in Table 1, the monitoring network currently consists of 72 wells.<sup>5</sup> Of the 72 wells:

- 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 recorded 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.
- 45 wells are monitored for groundwater-quality. Figure 2 shows the locations of the wells that are currently in the groundwater-quality monitoring network. Of the 45 wells:
  - 10 wells are wells pumped for drinking water.
  - 21 wells are wells pumped for non-potable uses, including agricultural and recreation irrigation, and other purposes (not used for drinking water).
  - 14 wells are dedicated monitoring wells.

### **Summary of Activities – Fall 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Event**

The fall 2025 groundwater monitoring event took place from October 26 to October 30, 2025, and included the following activities:

- Groundwater-level measurements were taken at all 64 wells, including:

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> One well, Airport 2, has not been able to be monitored since spring 2023 due to a collapsed well casing. SGM funding was used to evaluate the condition of this well in an effort to rehabilitate the well and restore it as a monitoring well. In winter 2025, a video log taken of the Airport 2 well, which revealed that the well is in poor condition with collapsed well casing and complete obstruction. Rehabilitation of this well would be expensive and time-consuming; thus, staff recommended that this well be properly destroyed by the owner. Since Airport 2 is a Representative Monitoring Well, a new Representative Monitoring well will need to be added to the monitoring program. Table 1 and Figure 1 of this report identify that a water level was unable to be collected from the Airport 2 well in fall 2025; thus, no results are published for this well.

- Manual measurement of depth-to-groundwater at 35 wells. Notable outcomes included:
  - Groundwater-level was measured at the Broome Well for the first time. Funding from the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant was used to perform an evaluation of this well in spring 2025 and was added to the monitoring network as of fall 2025.
- Depth-to-groundwater measurements were downloaded from 28 of 29 wells equipped with transducers.<sup>6</sup> Transducer data was not able to be downloaded from one well due to a dead battery; however, a manual groundwater-level measurement was taken at this well. Notable outcomes included:
  - Transducer data was downloaded and processed for the first time at ID4-3, ID4-4, ID4-10, Viking Well, Army Well, and Hayden. These transducers were installed in spring 2025 as part of the expansion of the GWMP and funded by the SGM grant.
  - A new transducer was installed at RH-4 to replace the existing unit with a low battery.
  - The transducer at ID4-11 died and groundwater-level measurements were unable to be downloaded. BWD installed a new transducer.
- Water-quality grab samples were collected at all 45 wells. Notable outcomes include:
  - Groundwater-quality data was collected from the Broome Well for the first time.

### **Results – Fall 2025 Groundwater Monitoring Event**

The following tables and figures were prepared to summarize and interpret the results of the fall 2025 groundwater monitoring event.

*Table 2 – Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to 2020 GMP Minimum Thresholds.* For each well, this table lists the groundwater elevation in fall 2025, the Minimum Threshold in the 2020 GMP,<sup>7</sup> and the difference between the fall 2025 groundwater elevation and 2020 GMP Minimum Threshold.<sup>8</sup> If the difference is positive, current groundwater

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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 listed in the 2020 GMP.

elevations are above the Minimum Threshold. **Table 2 shows that groundwater levels at all Representative Monitoring Wells are above their respective 2020 GMP Minimum Thresholds.**

*Table 3 – Groundwater-Level Trends at Representative Monitoring Wells – Fall 2019 to Fall 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 fall 2025, the change in groundwater levels, the rate of change in groundwater levels from fall 2019 to fall 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 0.5 feet at one Representative Monitoring Well in the NMA (MW-1).
- Groundwater levels declined in the other 15 Representative Monitoring Wells ranging from 0.1 feet (Fortiner - NMA) up to 13.7 feet (ID4-11 - CMA).
- **Generally, the rate of decline in groundwater-levels at the Representative Monitoring Wells is slowing compared to historical rates of change.** However, one well in the SMA (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.
- In Spring 2025, the rate of change at one well in the CMA (ID4-11) was also greater than its historical rate. As of Fall 2025, the current rate of change at ID4-11 has slowed and is equal to the historical rate of change (-2.29 ft/year).

*Figures 3a – 3p – 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 in the 2020 GMP. Figures 3a-3p 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 3-b, 3-f, 3-i, 3-j, 3-k, and 3-o), the high-frequency transducer data has been screened to remove groundwater elevations influenced by groundwater pumping at the well. Groundwater elevations were also screened for monitoring well MW-3 (Figure 3-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 3a-3p show that groundwater levels are above the 2020 GMP 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 fall 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 fall 2025 parameter concentration, and the water quality standard. Exceedances of MCLs were similar to past results, with a few exceptions:

- Historically, samples collected from deep pumping wells in the SMA have concentrations that occasionally exceeded the primary MCL for arsenic of 0.01 mg/L. Compared to spring 2025, there were two additional wells that exceeded the MCL in fall 2025. The exceedances are within the historical range of observed arsenic concentrations at these wells.
- Measured TDS concentrations at two wells increased compared to spring 2025 such that their concentrations in fall 2025 were above secondary MCLs (lower MCL limit = 500 mg/L; upper MCL limit = 1,000 mg/L). Both wells are in the NMA:
  - Historically, measured TDS concentrations at ID4-18 have ranged from 590 to 640 mg/L, and consistently exceeded the lower limit of the secondary MCL (500 mg/L). A historic low concentration of 360 mg/L was reported in spring 2025. From spring to fall 2025, the TDS concentration increased to 620 mg/L and is again above the lower limit of the secondary MCL. The TDS concentration of 360 mg/L observed in spring 2025 now appears to be an anomaly. Given a similar anomaly at another BWD well (ID4-20), Watermaster Staff are investigating if there was potentially an error in the lab reporting in Spring 2025.
  - MW-6S is a newly constructed well (completed in 2024) and has only been monitored for two years. Prior to fall 2025, the TDS concentration ranged from 880 to 1,100 mg/L and has always exceeded the lower limit of the secondary MCL and has twice before exceeded the upper limit of 1,000 mg/L (spring 2023 and fall 2024). In fall 2025, the TDS concentration increased to 1,600 mg/L, which is above the upper limit of the secondary MCL and the highest TDS concentration recorded at this well to date.
- Two wells exhibited decreases in TDS concentrations compared to spring 2025, and the fall 2025 concentrations are now below the secondary MCLs. Both wells are in the CMA:
  - Historically, measured TDS concentrations at ID4-20 (Wilcox) have ranged from 190 to 270 mg/L and are regularly below the lower limit of the secondary MCL. A historic high concentration of 360 mg/L was reported in spring 2025. From spring to fall 2025, the TDS concentration decreased to 300 mg/L and is again below the lower limit of the secondary MCL. The increased TDS concentration observed in spring 2025 of 630 mg/L now appears to be an anomaly. Given a similar anomaly at another BWD well (ID4-18), Watermaster Staff are investigating if there was potentially an error in the lab reporting in Spring 2025.
  - Historically, measured TDS concentrations at MW-4 have ranged from 500 to 720 mg/L. In fall 2025, the TDS concentration decreased to 490 mg/L, equal to the lowest concentration recorded at this well, and is below the secondary MCL for the first time. TDS concentrations at this well have been decreasing since 2019.

- Two wells exhibited decreases in sulfate concentrations compared to spring 2025 and are below the secondary MCL of 250 mg/L. Both wells are in the SMA:
  - At MW-5A, the measured sulfate concentrations have historically fluctuated from 160 to 1,700 mg/L, and are periodically above the secondary MCL. From spring to fall 2025, the sulfate concentration decreased from 270 to 200 mg/L and is below the lower limit of the secondary MCL.
  - At MW-5B, excluding fall 2025, the measured sulfate concentrations have historically ranged from 630 to 720, and are regularly above the MCL. In fall 2025, the sulfate concentration decreased to 110 mg/L, the lowest concentration recorded at this well, and is below the lower limit of the secondary MCL for the first time. It is premature to determine if the fall 2025 concentration is an anomaly.
- One well exhibited increases in sulfate concentrations compared to spring 2025 and is above the secondary MCL. These wells are located in the NMA and the SMA:
  - MW-6S, located in the NMA, has only been monitored for two years, but over this period the sulfate concentration has ranged from 400 to 490 mg/L and has always exceeded the secondary MCL. In fall 2025, the sulfate concentration increased to 710 mg/L, which is the highest sulfate concentration recorded at this well.
- One well in the NMA, MW-6S, exhibited an increase in nitrate concentration in fall 2025 compared to historical measurements. While this well has only been monitored for two years, historically, nitrate concentrations have ranged from 5.8 to 12 mg/L. Measured nitrate concentrations at MW-6S exceeded the primary MCL for nitrate twice before in spring 2023 and fall 2024. In fall 2025, the measured nitrate concentration increased to 24 mg/L, which is above the primary MCL and the highest nitrate concentration 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) during fall 2025. The exceedances are similar to past observations, with the noted exceptions above relative to spring 2025.

*Figures 4 through 8.* 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 fall 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-64).* 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 the electronic file, click on this [LINK](#) or visit the Meetings page of the Watermaster's website.

*Appendix B (B-1 through B-225).* This appendix includes time-series charts of the five constituents of concern for all 45 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 the electronic file, click on this [LINK](#) or visit the Meetings page of the Watermaster's website.

### **Enclosures**

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

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

Figures 3a – 3p. Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria at Representative Monitoring Wells

Figure 4. TDS in Groundwater

Figure 5. Nitrate in Groundwater

Figure 6. Arsenic in Groundwater

Figure 7. Sulfate in Groundwater

Figure 8. Fluoride in Groundwater

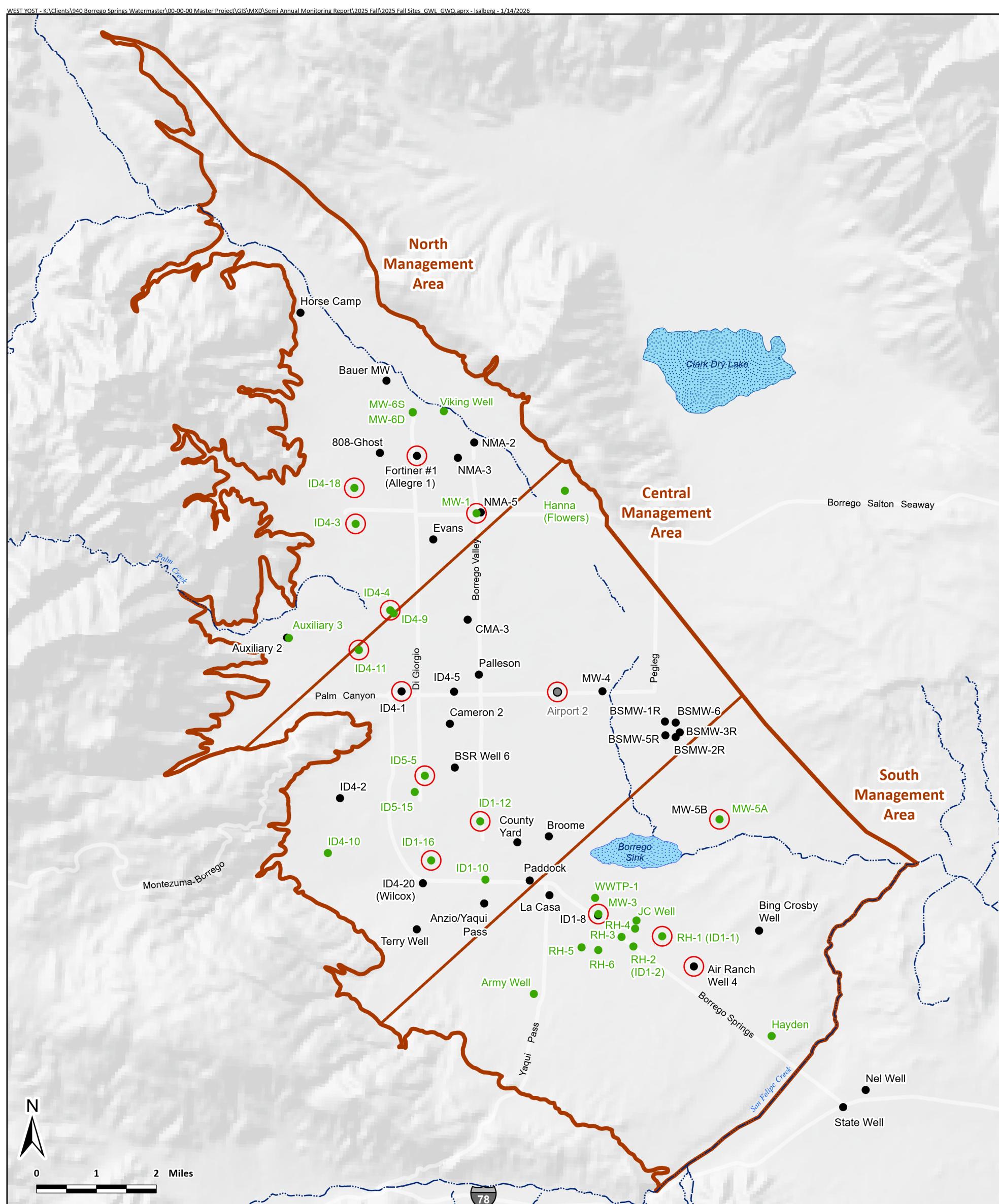
Table 1. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Network and Wells Monitored in Fall 2025

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 Fall 2025

Table 4. Water Quality Standard Exceedance Report – Fall 2025

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



#### Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network

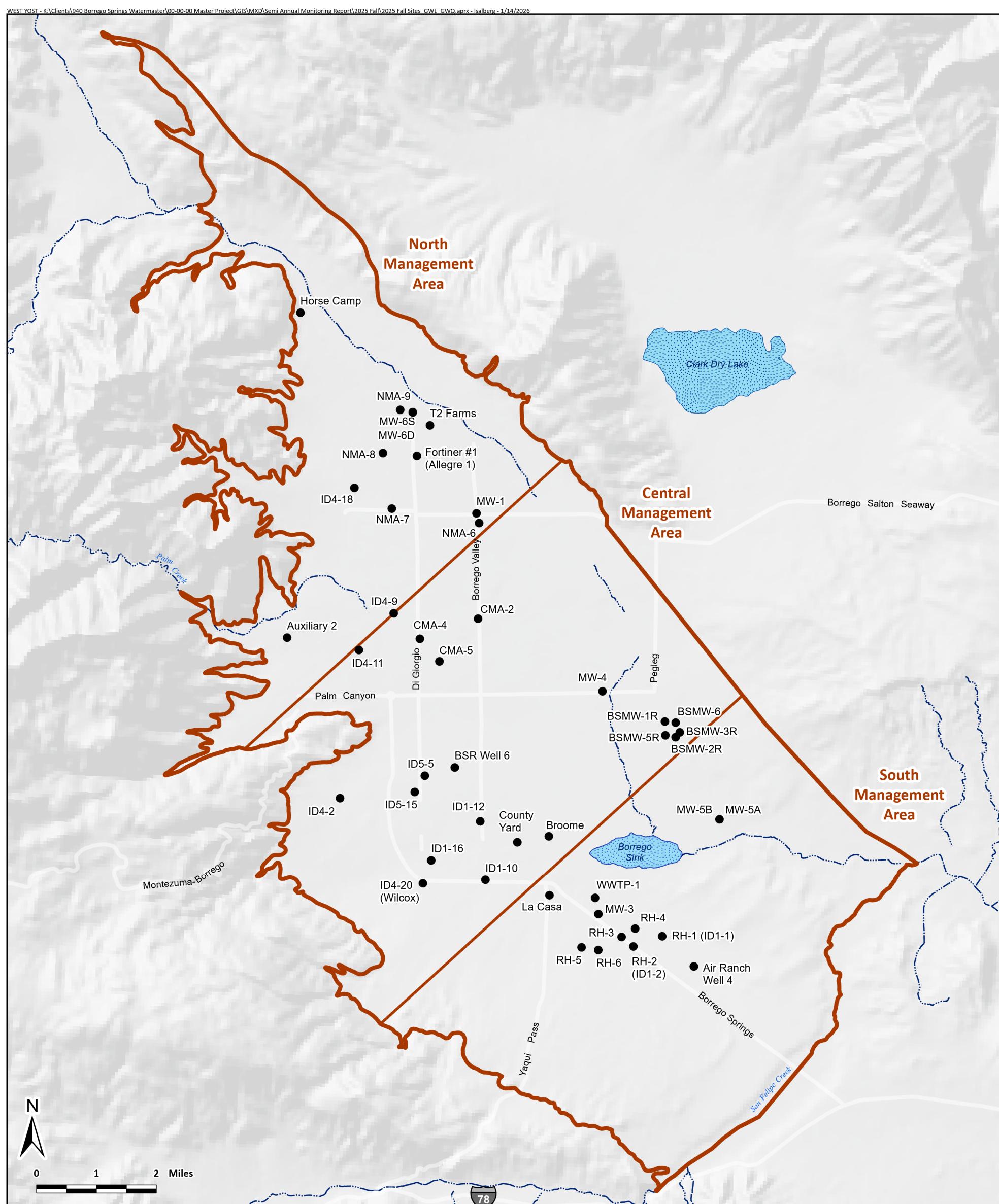
○ Representative Monitoring Site

■ Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions

#### Wells Monitored for Groundwater Level - Fall 2025

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



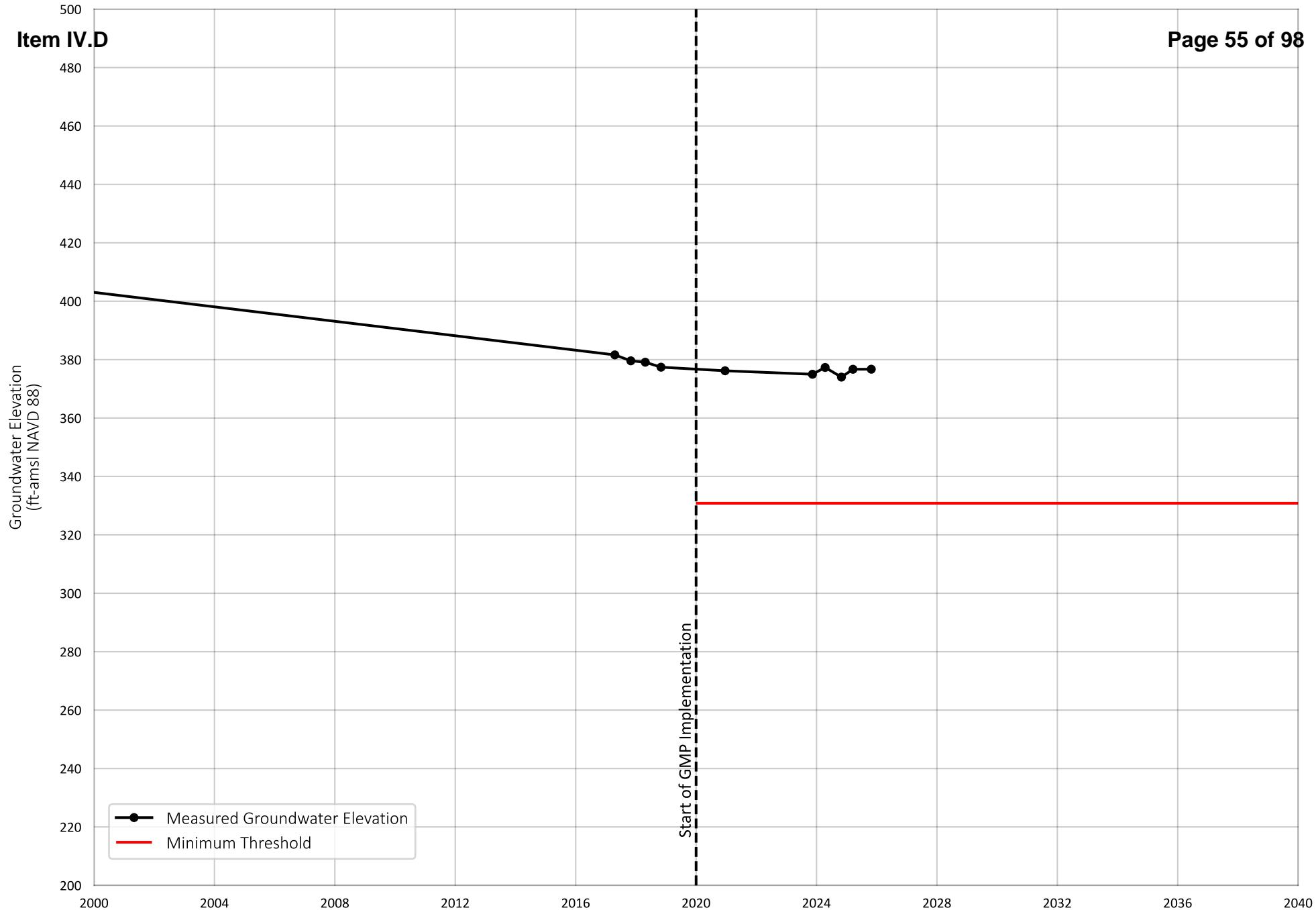


#### Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network - Fall 2025

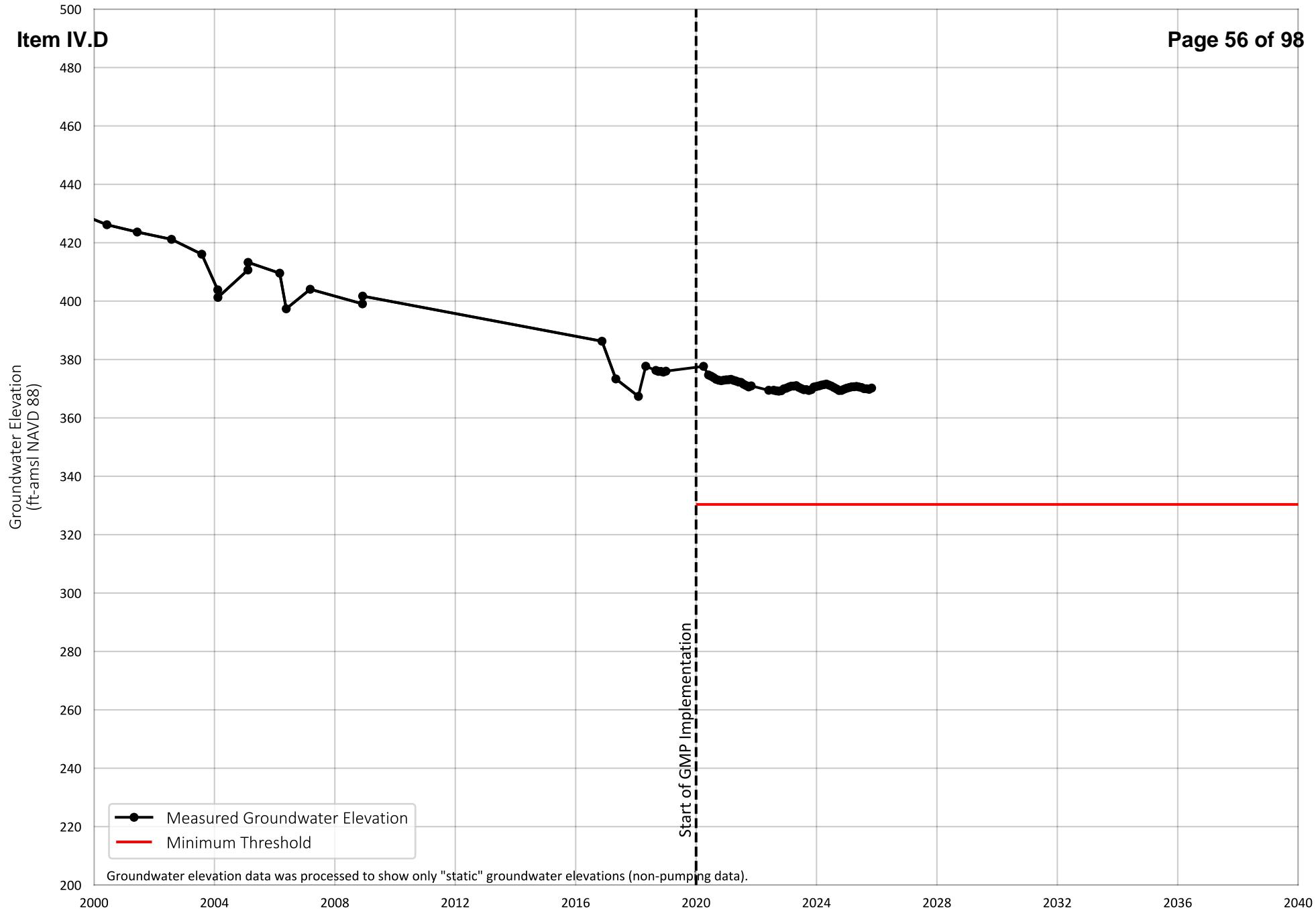
- Well Sampled for Water Quality
- Unable to Sample Well for Water Quality

■ Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions

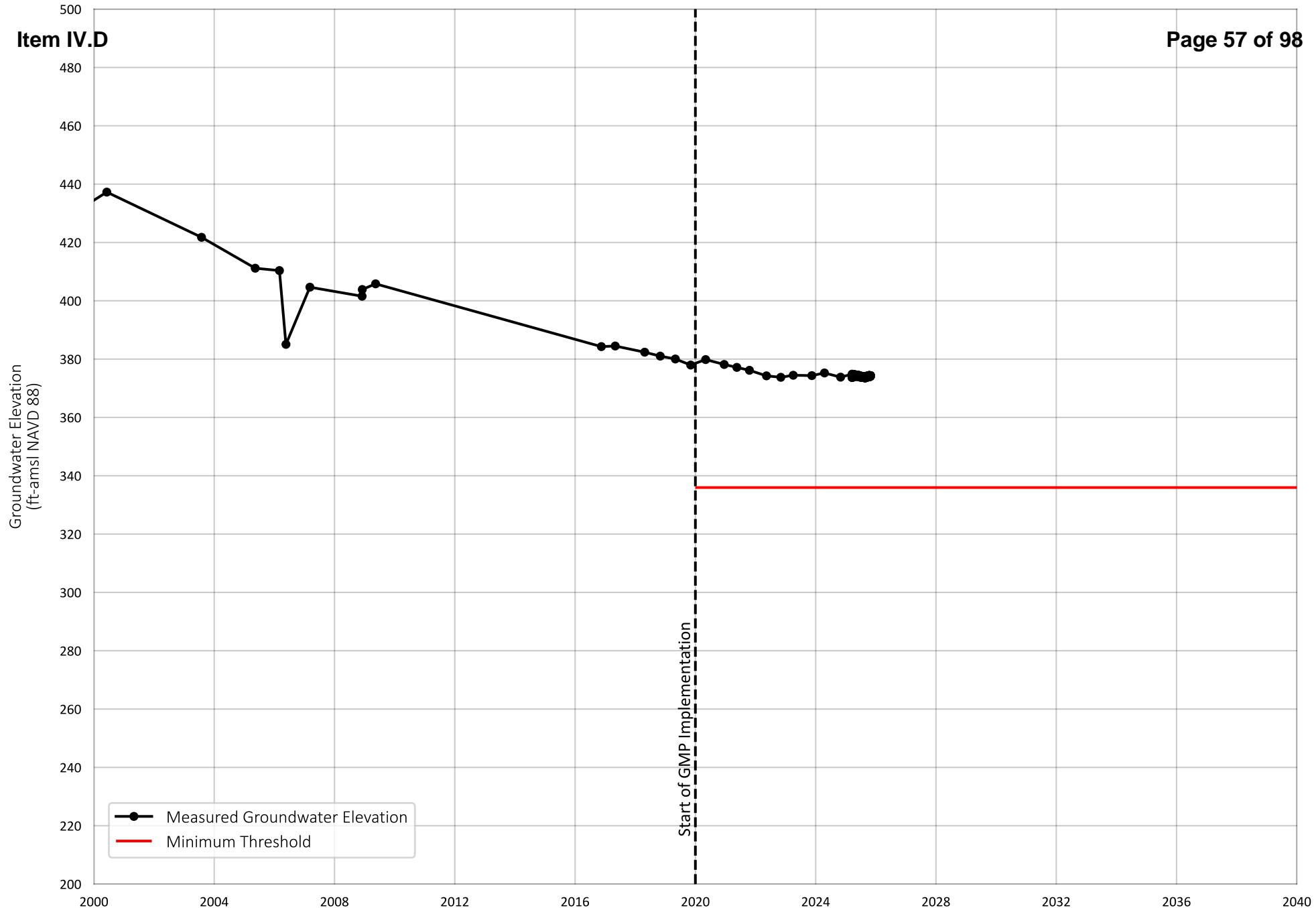




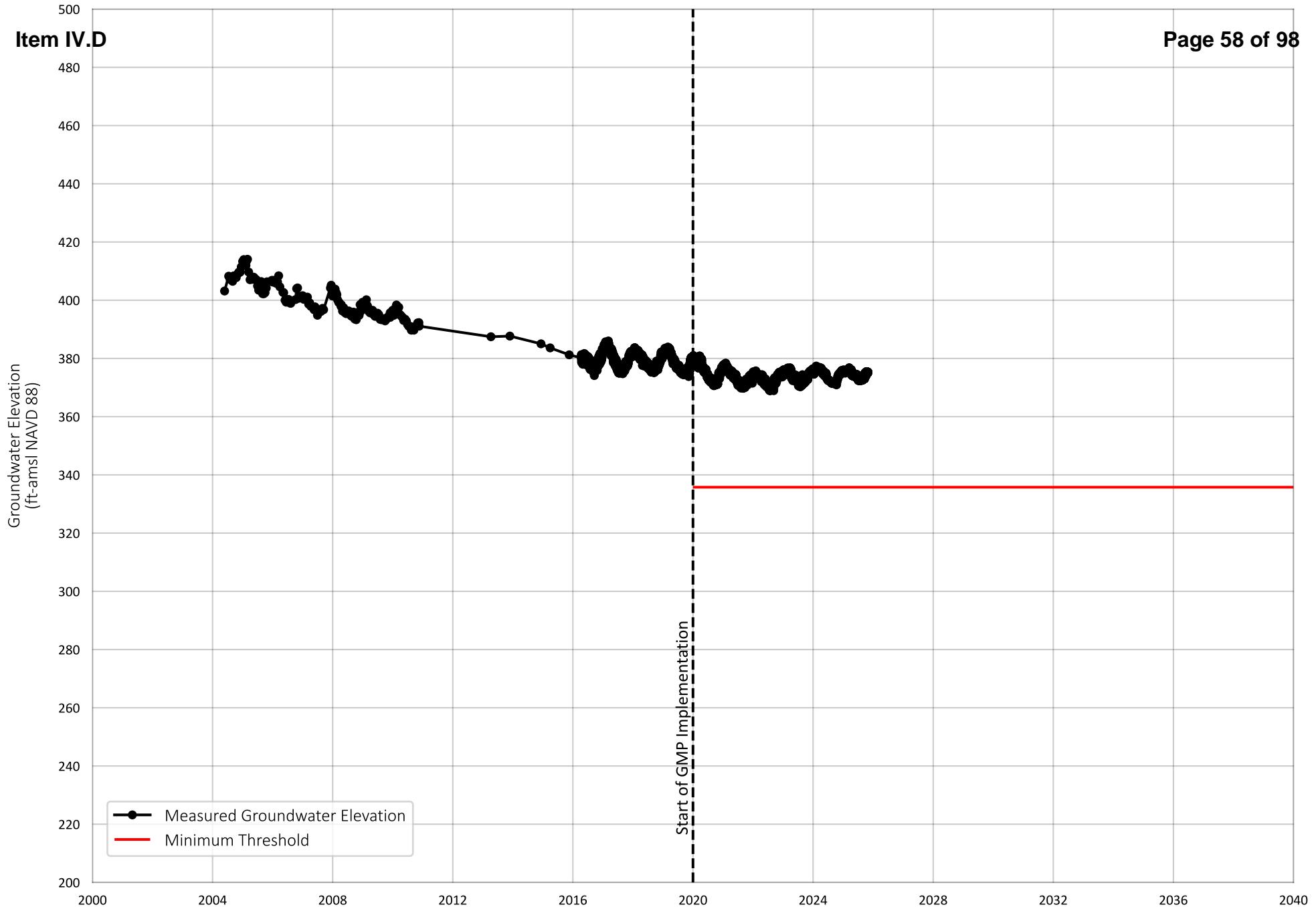
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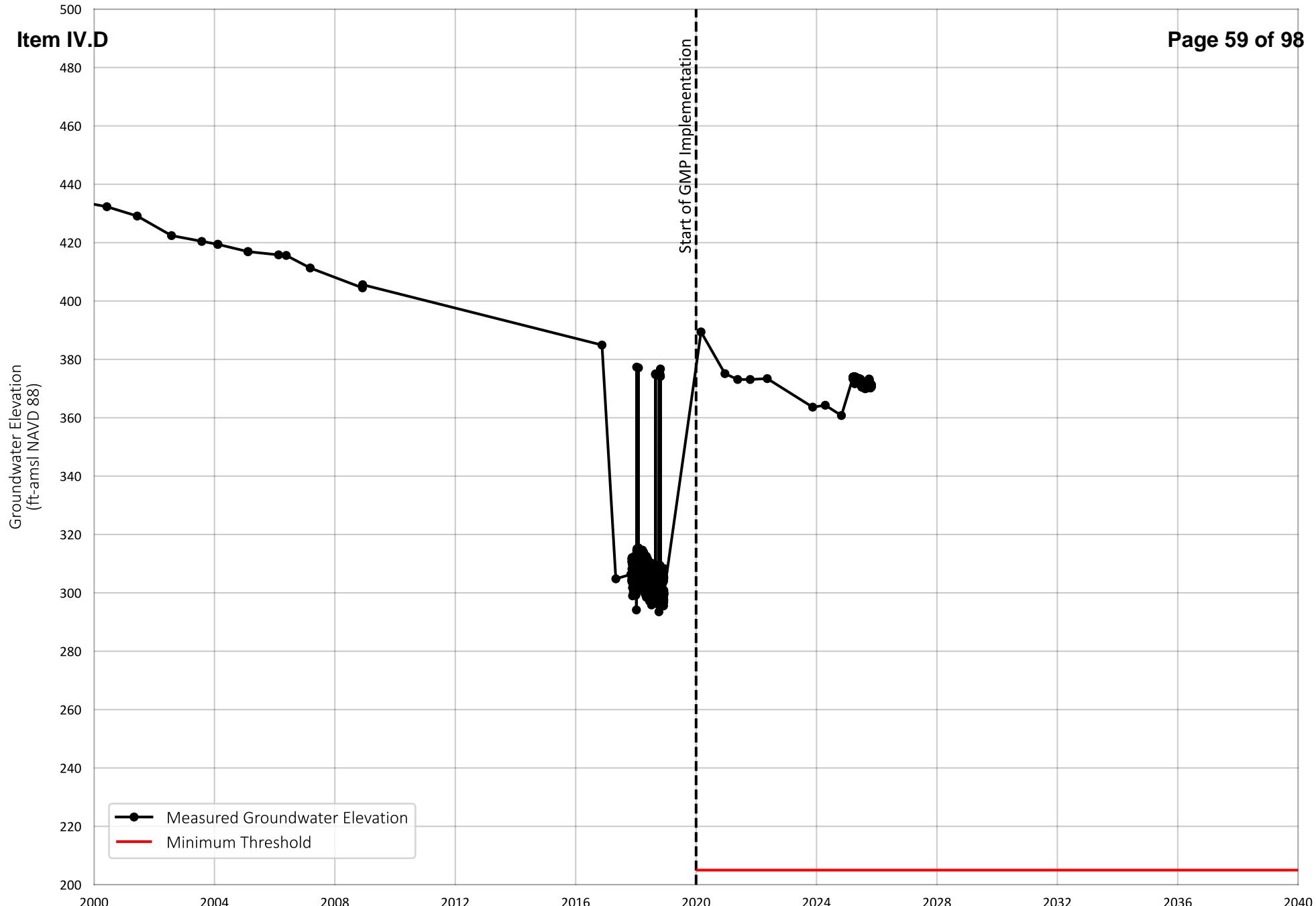
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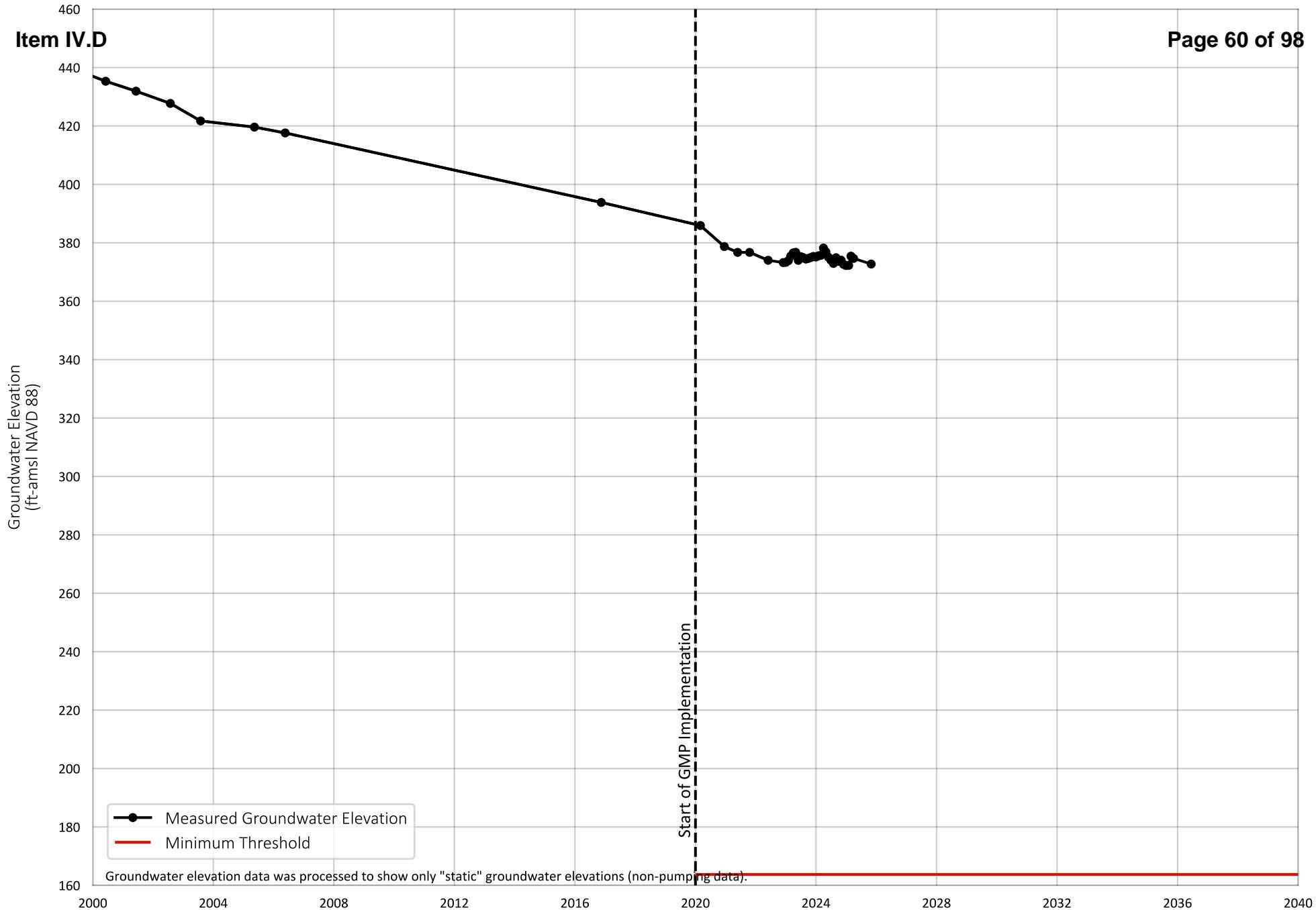
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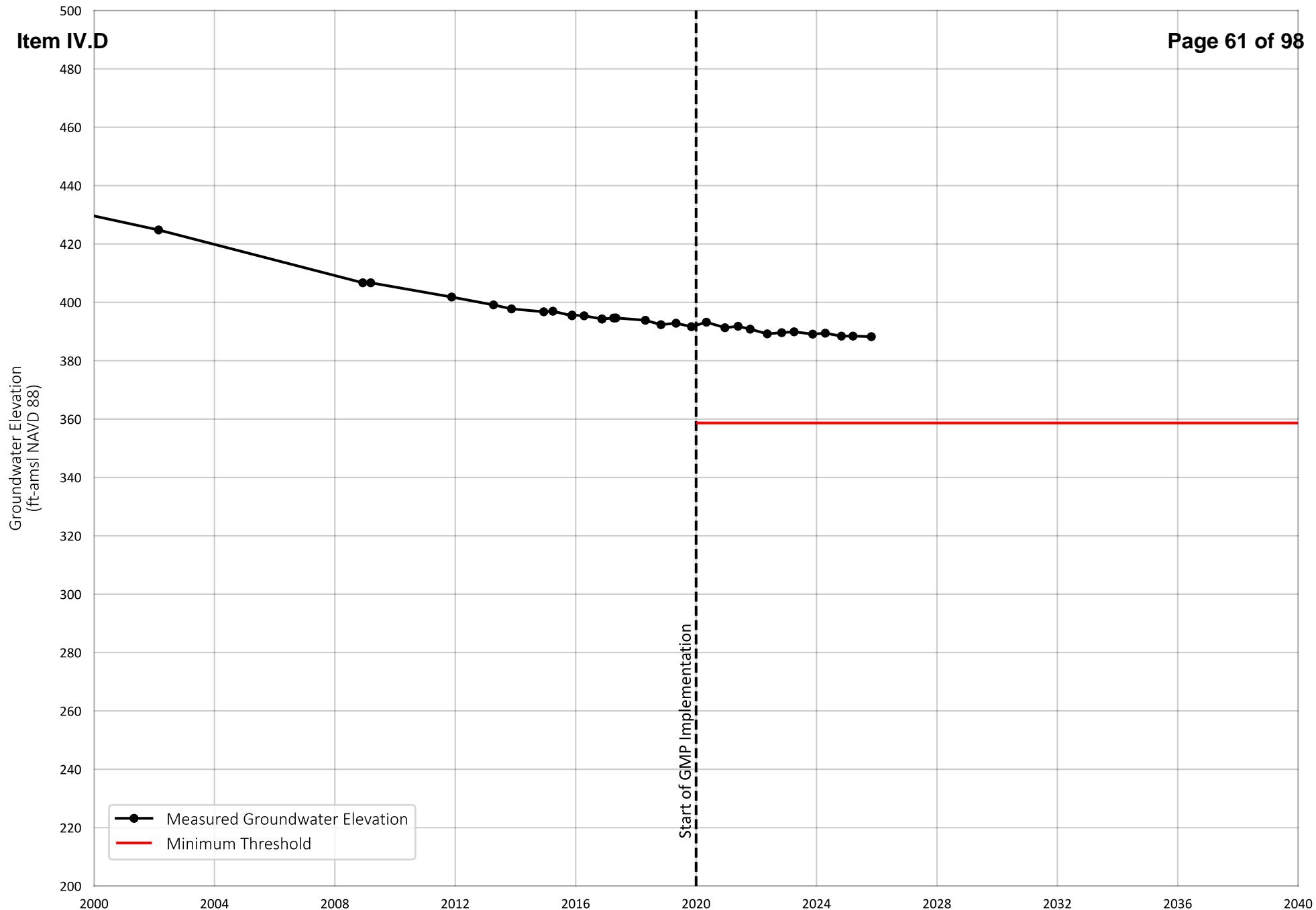
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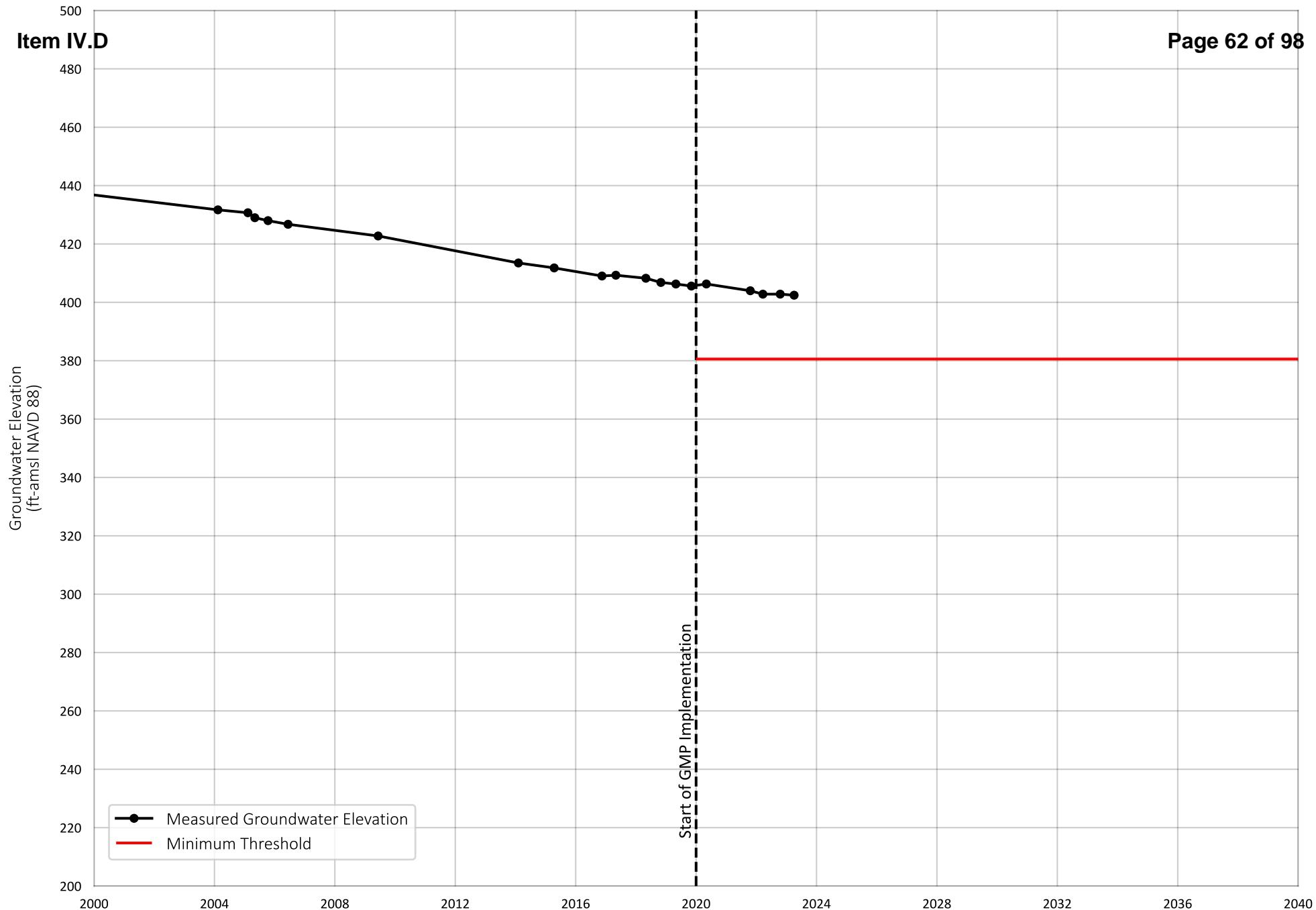
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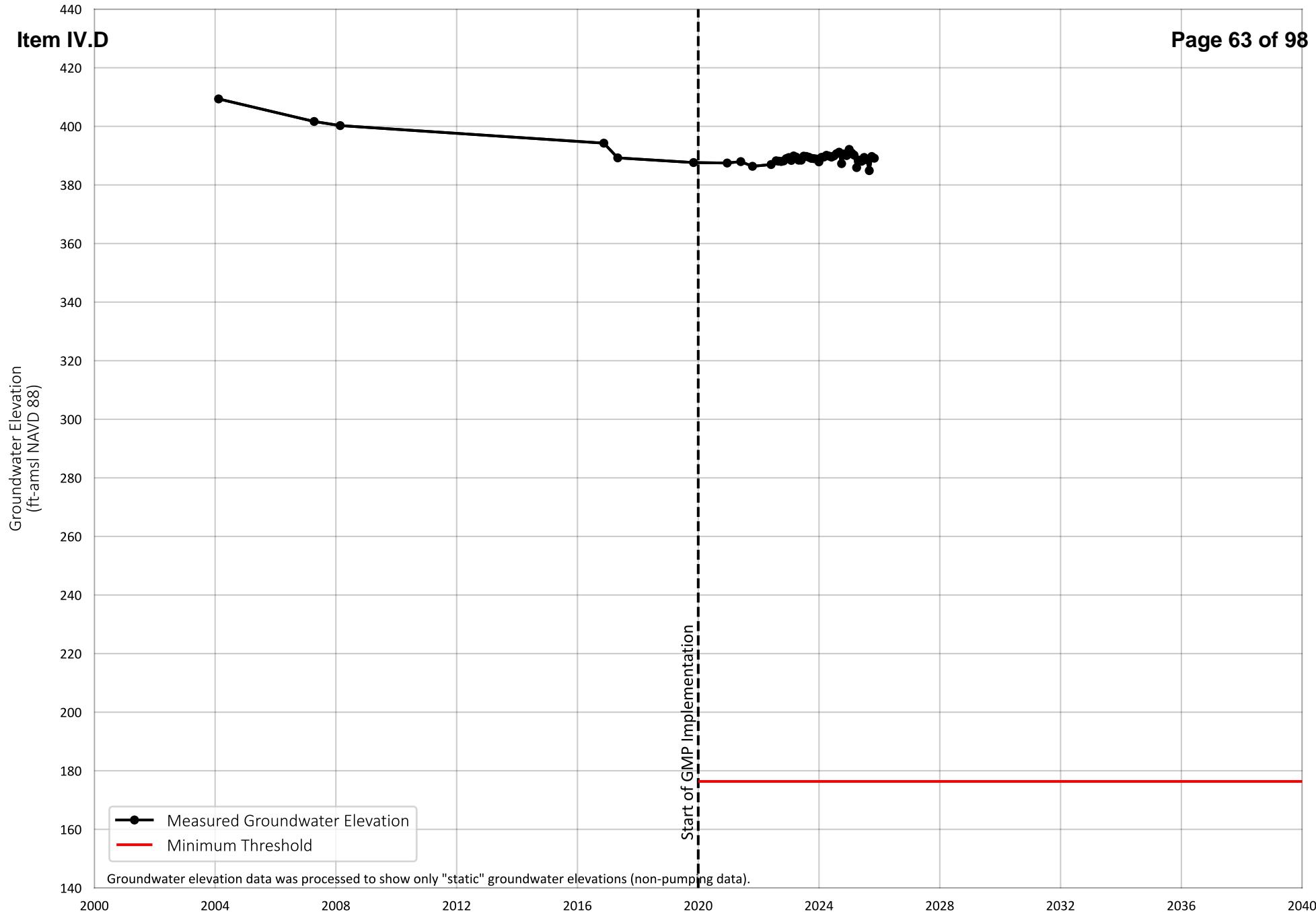
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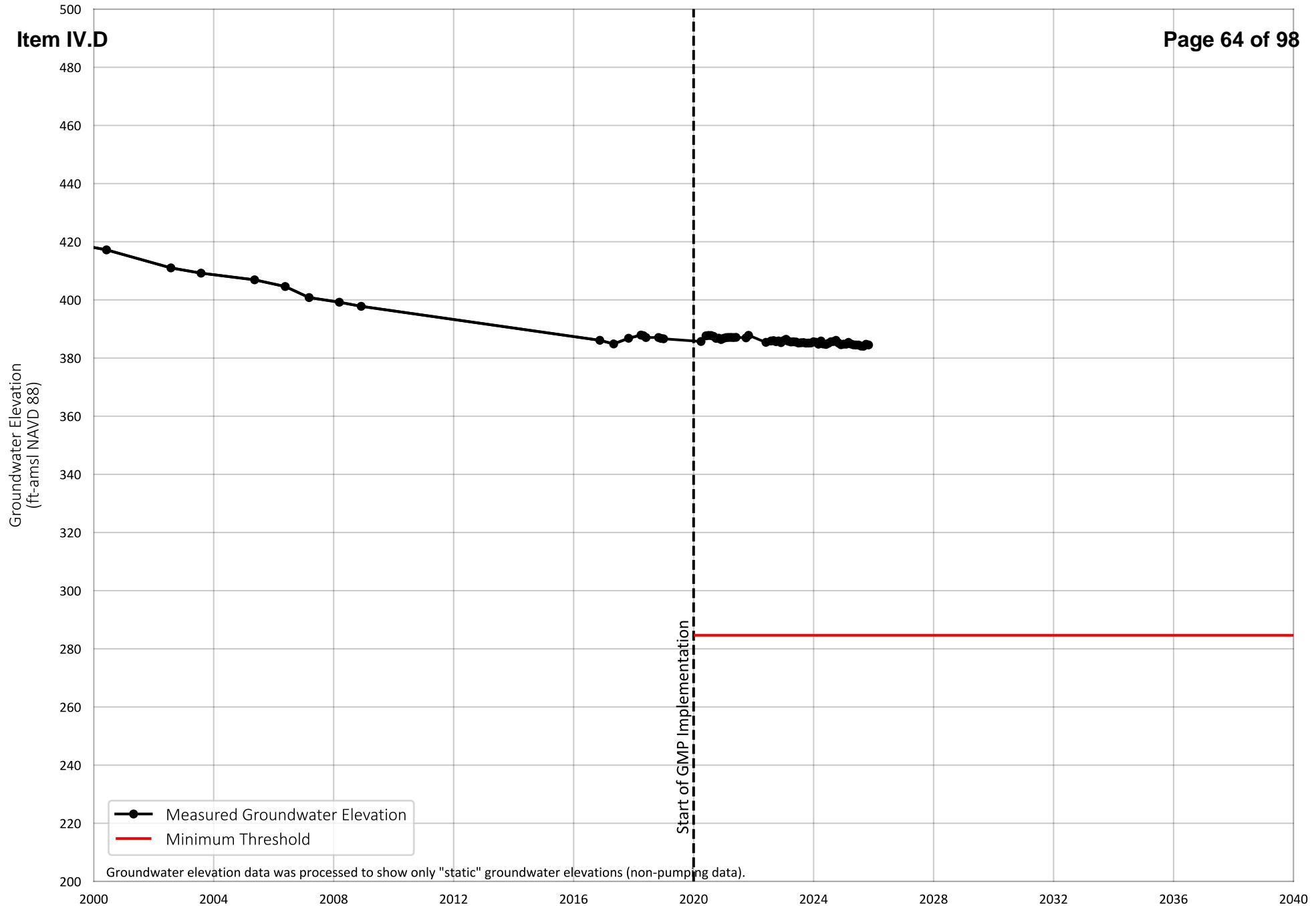
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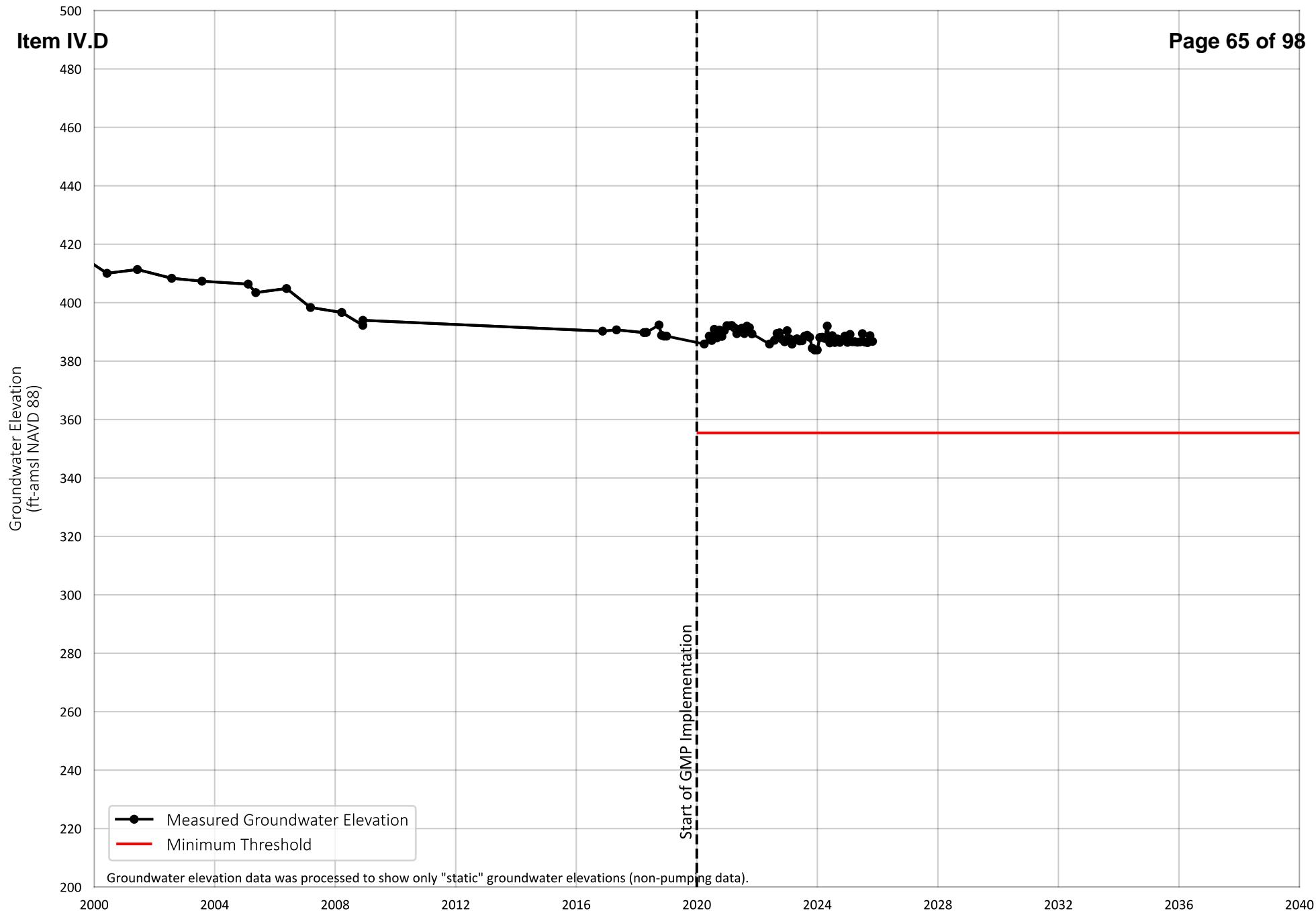
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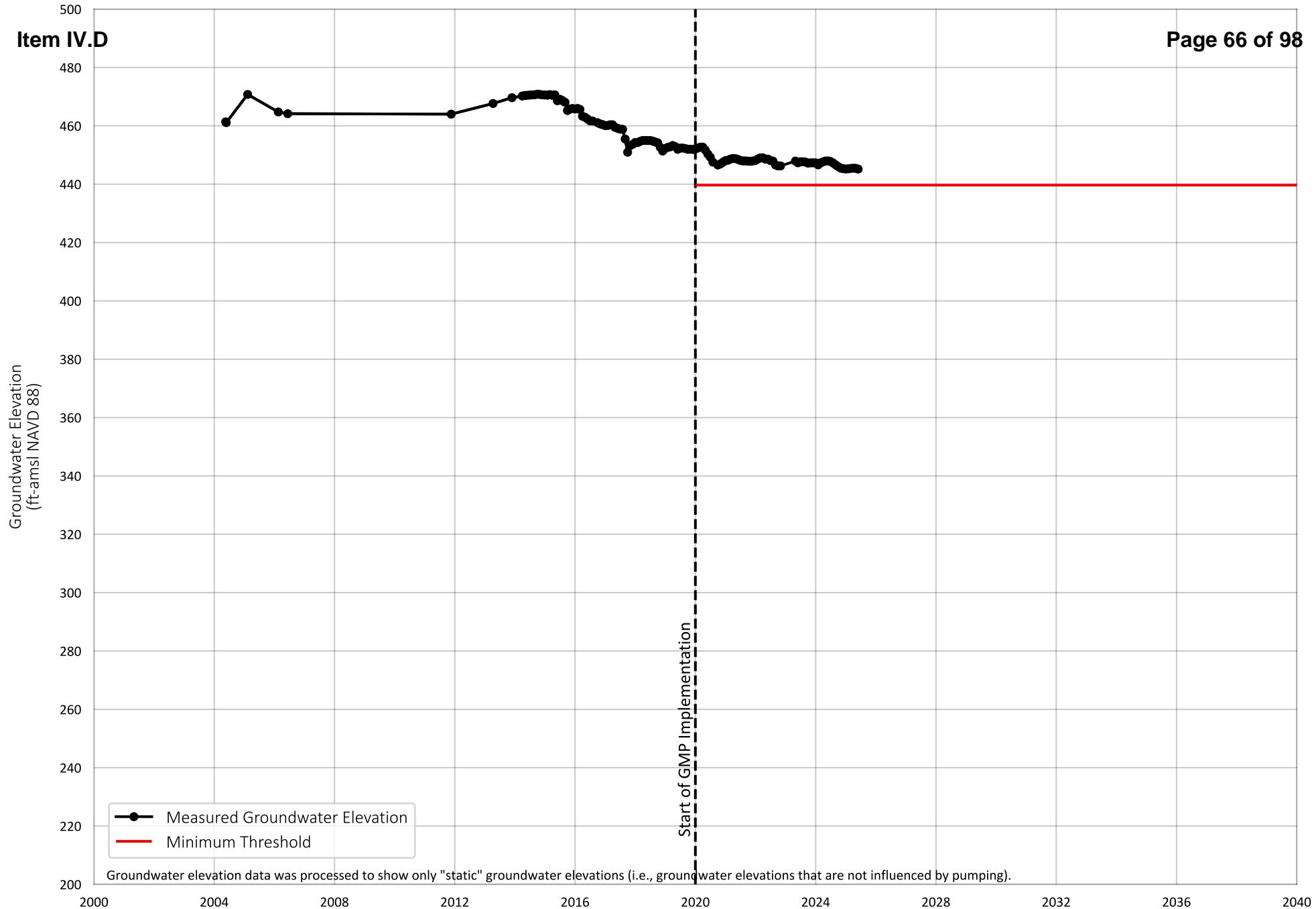
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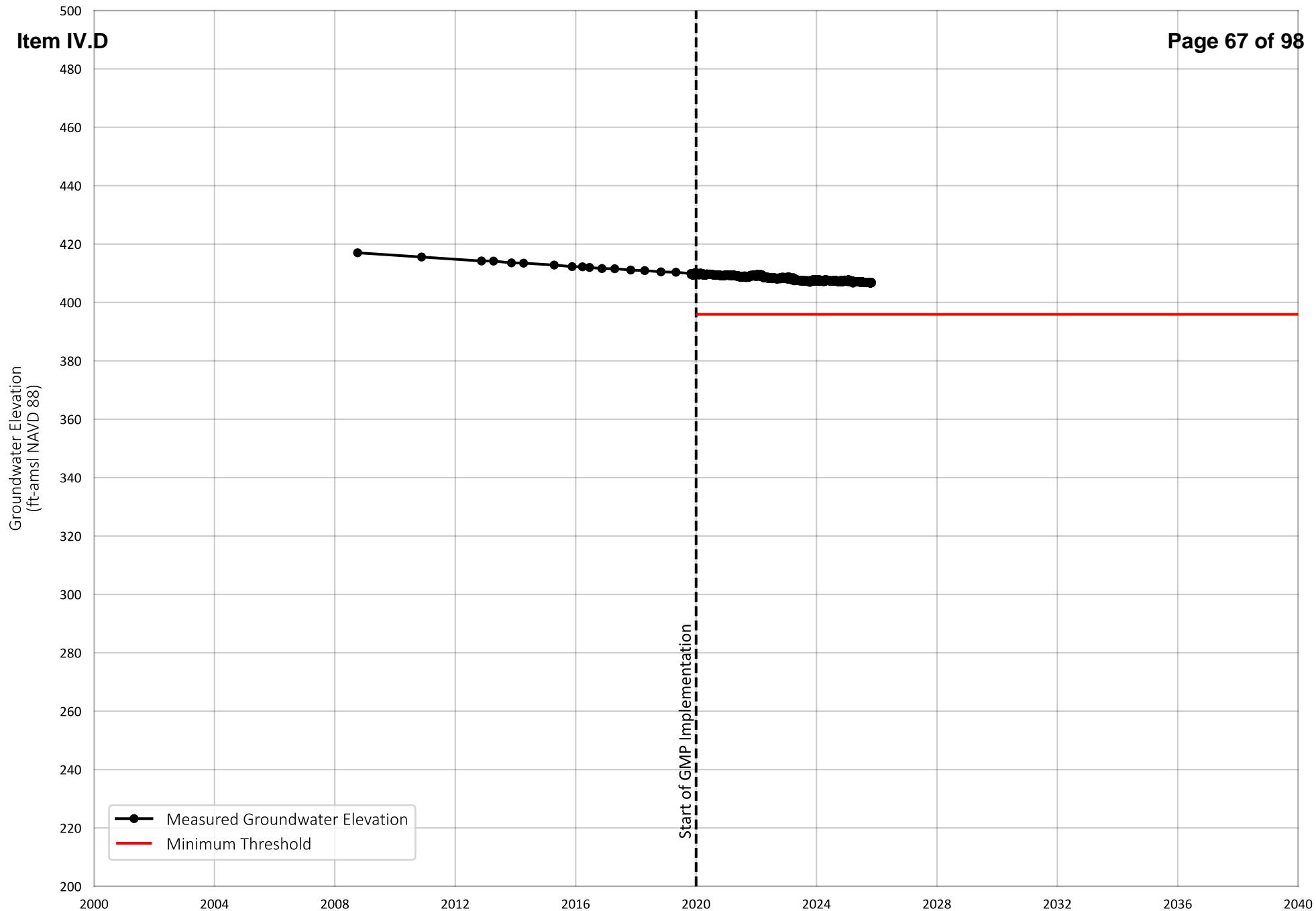
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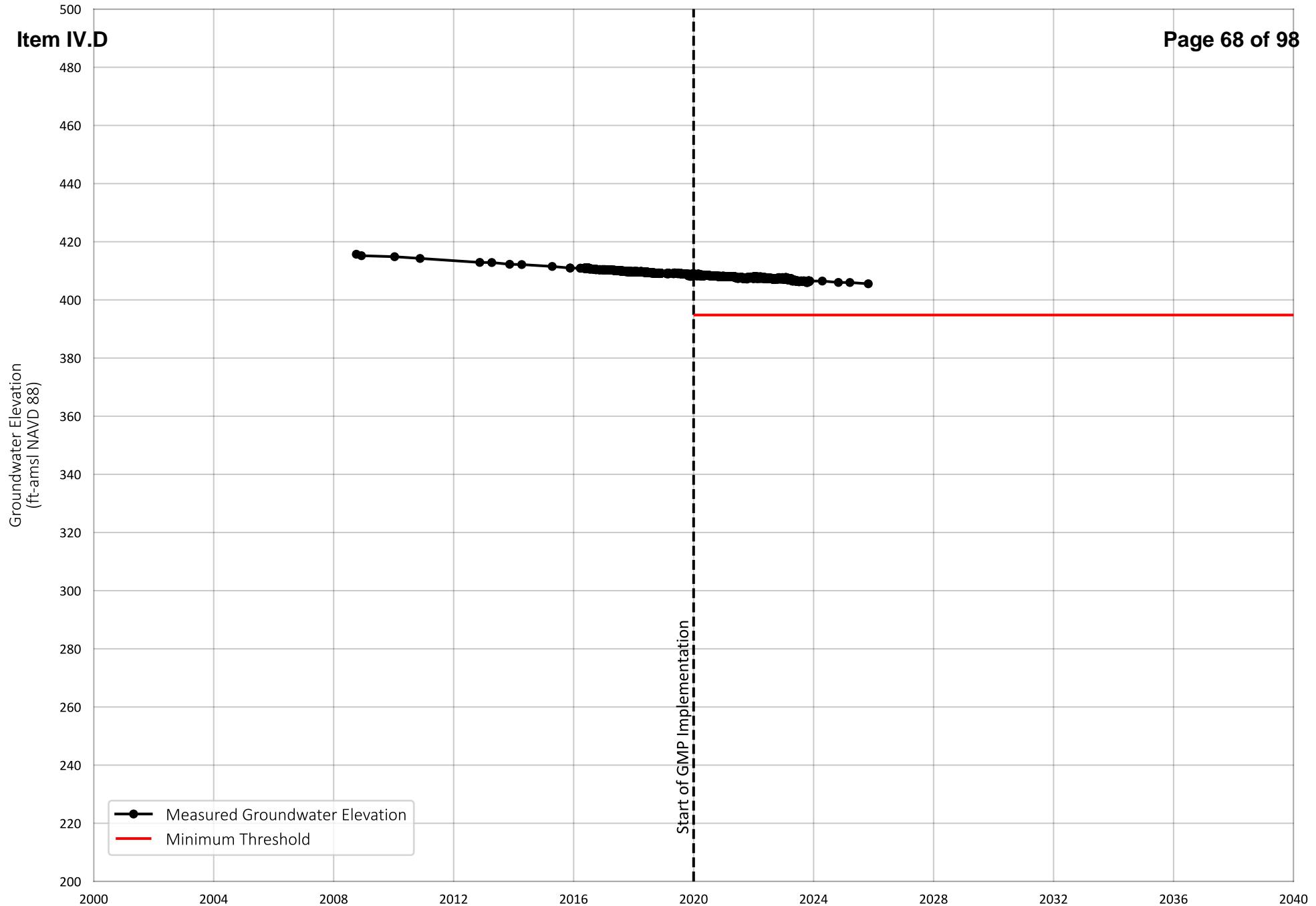
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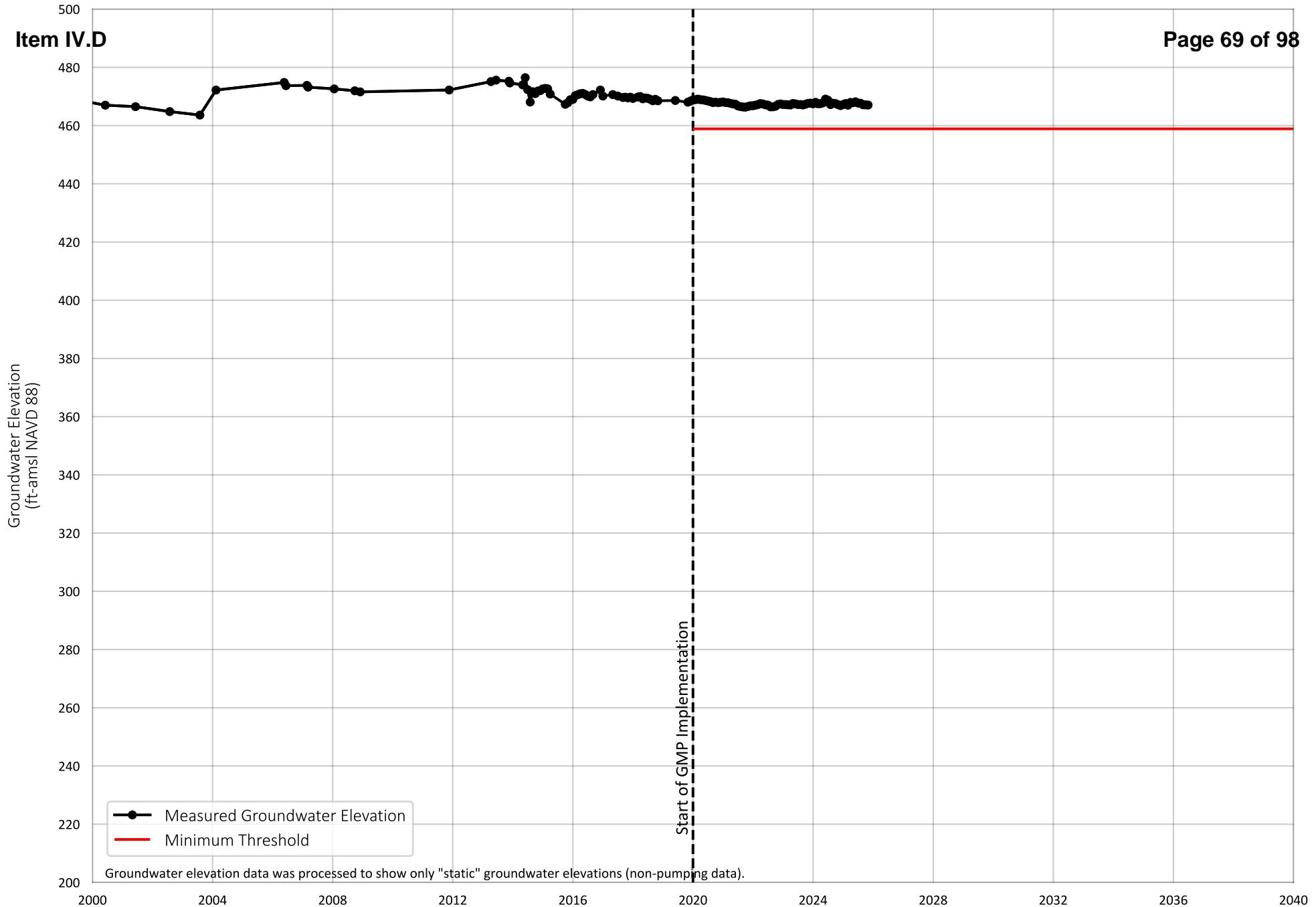
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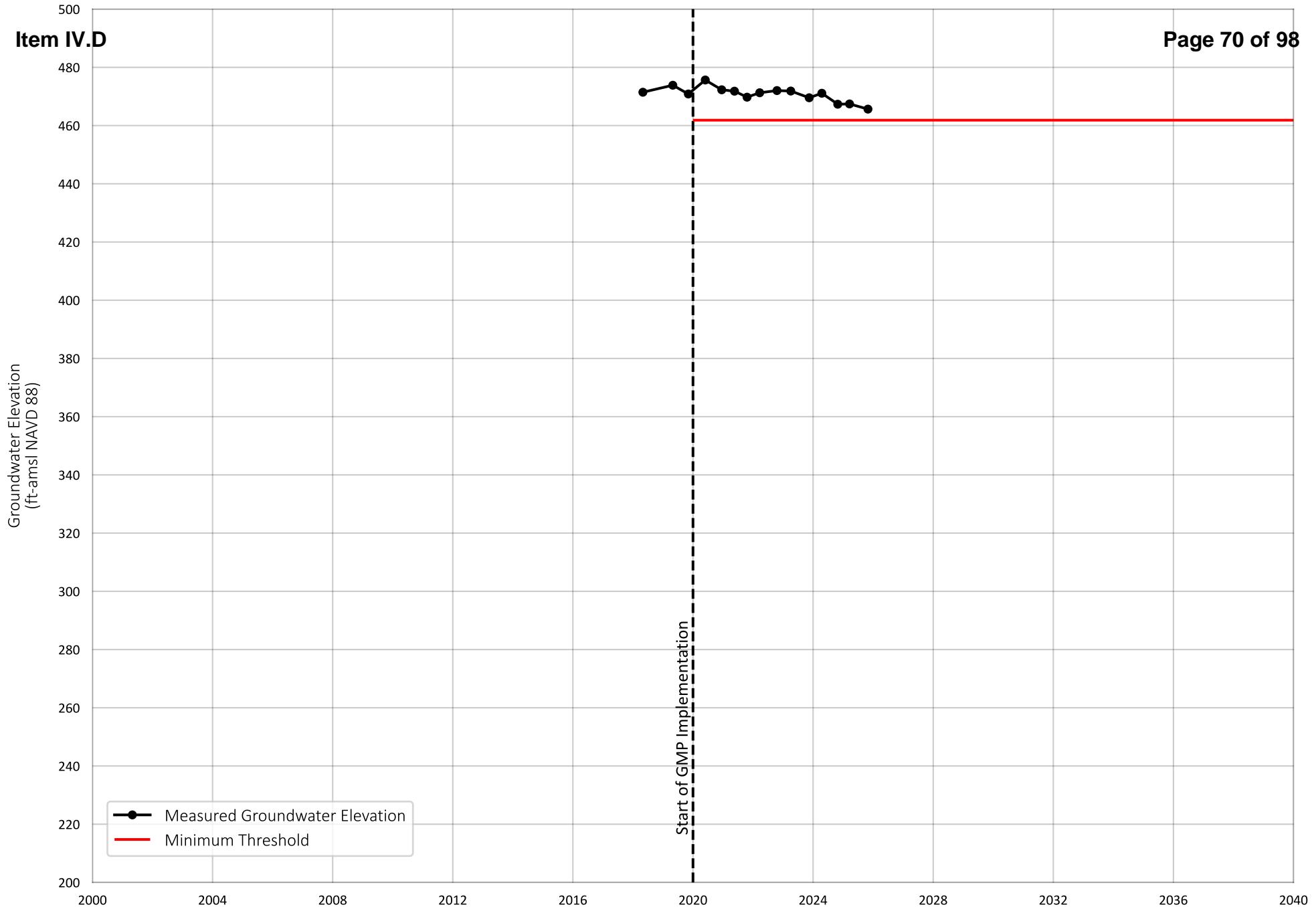
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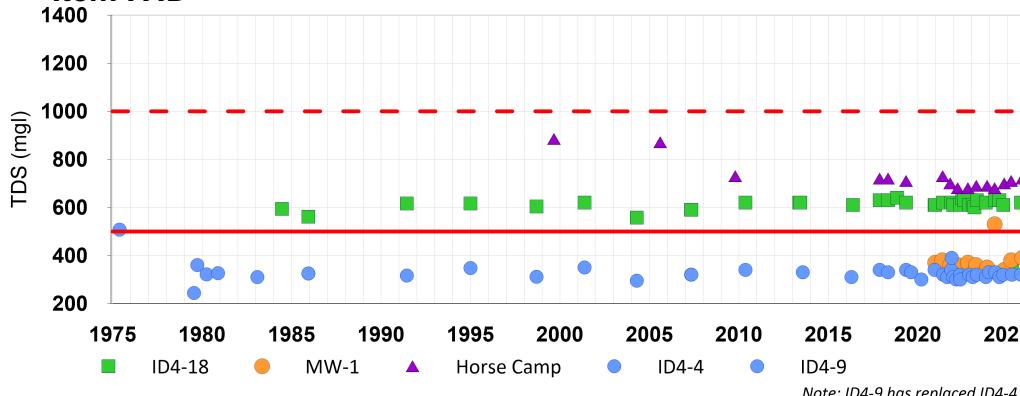


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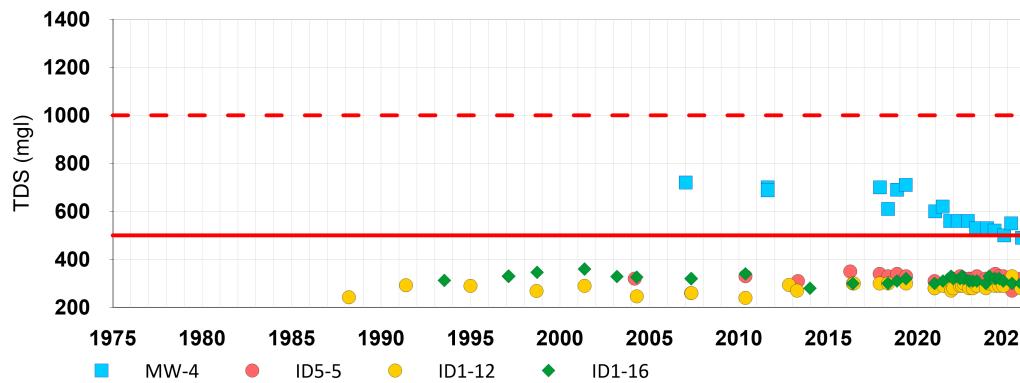


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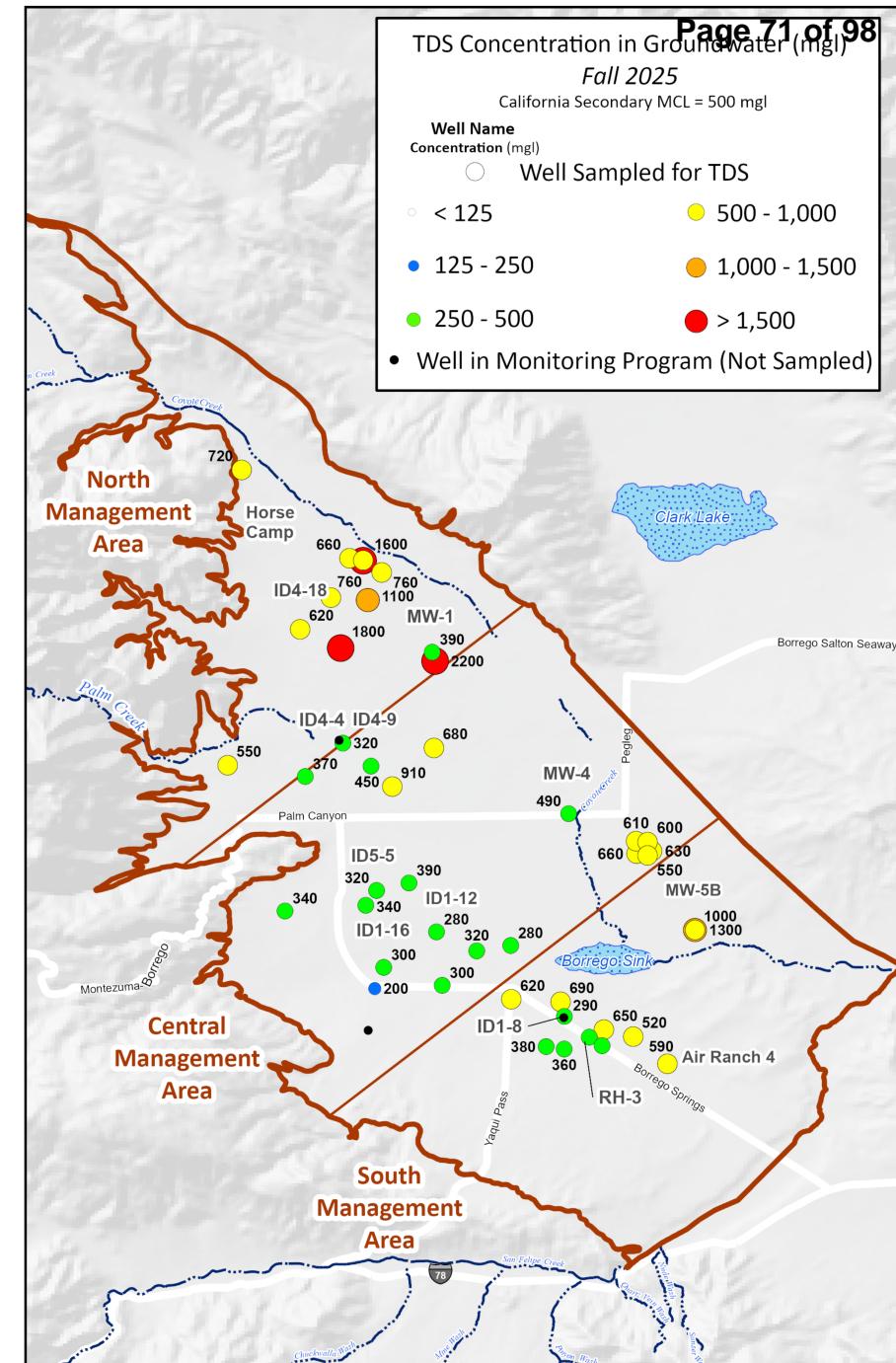
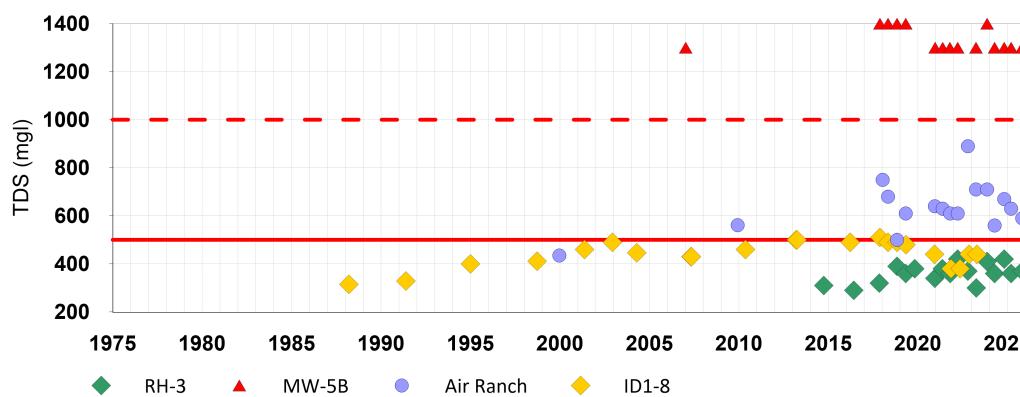
## North Management Area Item IV.D



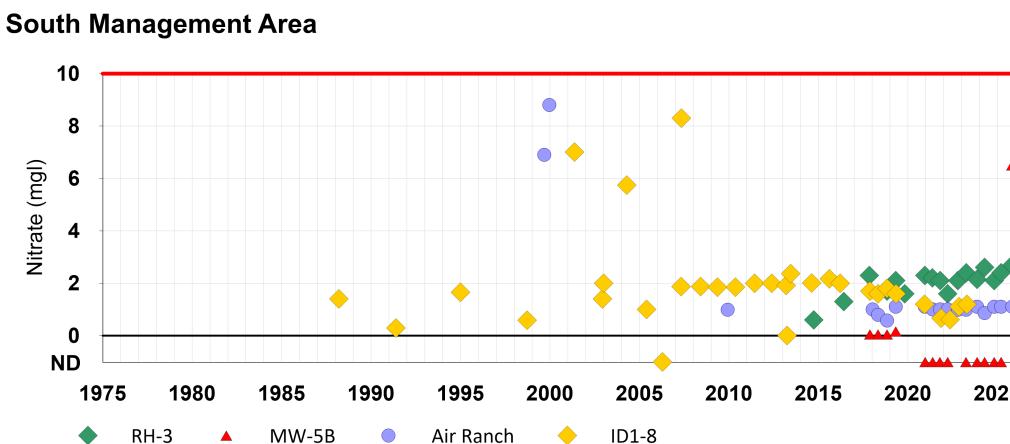
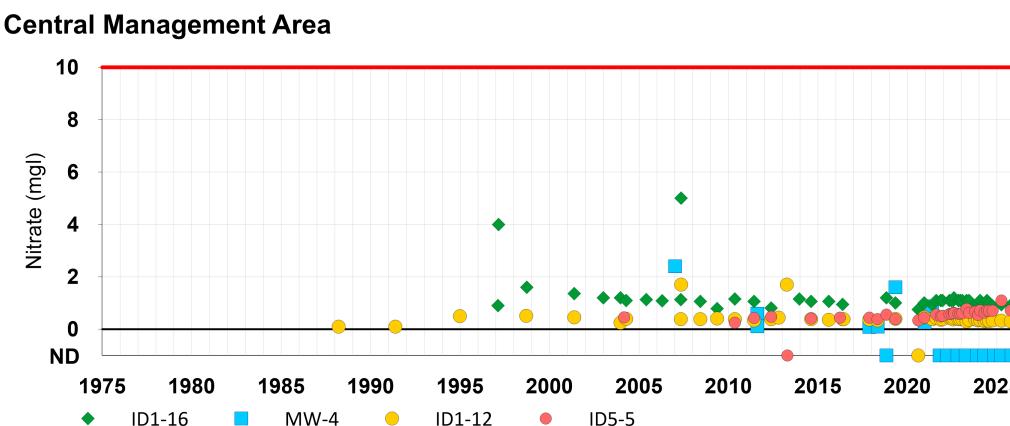
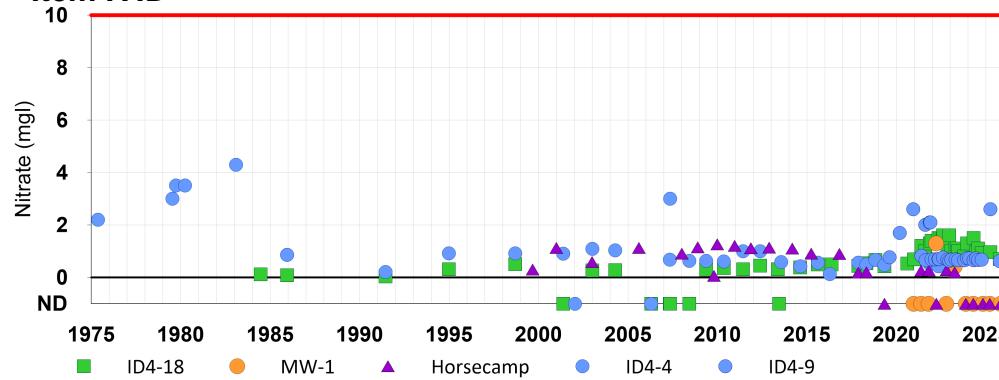
## Central Management Area



## South Management Area



**Figure 4**  
**Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in Groundwater**



Author: LS  
Date: 20260107  
File: Nitrate

The logo for West Yost Water. Engineered. It features a stylized 'W' composed of two overlapping vertical bars, one green and one blue. To the right of the 'W', the word 'WEST' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and 'YOST' is in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the 'W' and the two words is the tagline 'Water. Engineered.' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

## Wells by Principal Aquifer

△ Upper

## Upper and Middle

### Upper and Middle

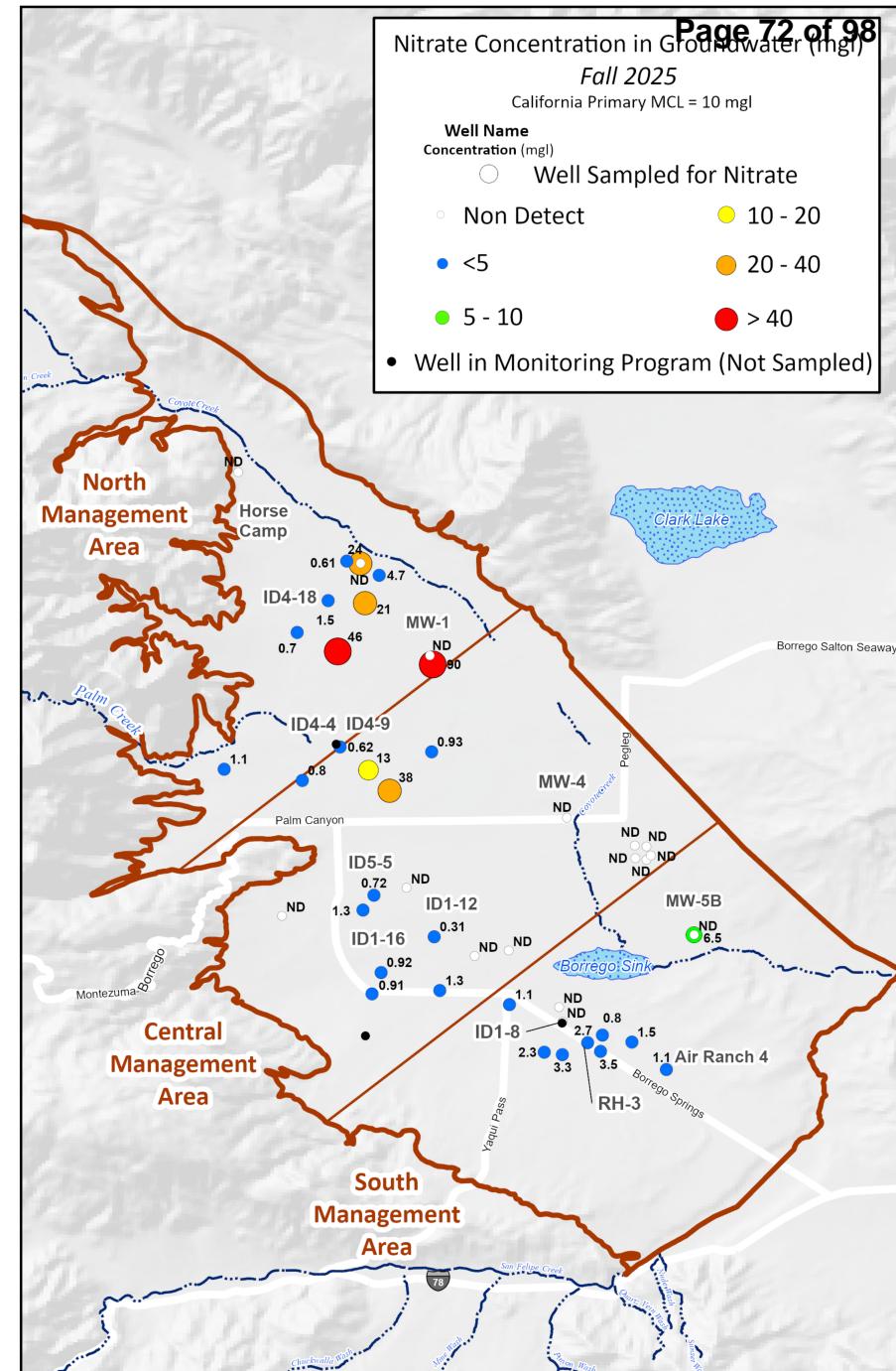
◆ Lower

## Upper, Middle, and Lower

### Maximum Contaminant Level

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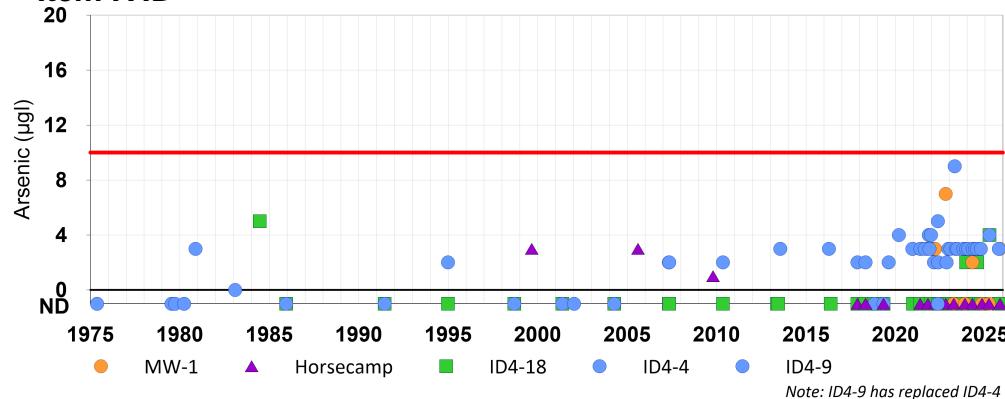
Primary MC



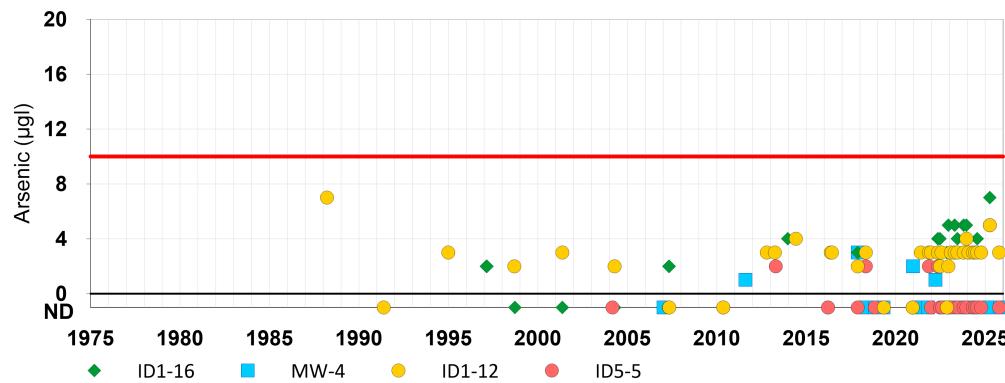
**Figure 5**

## Nitrate (as Nitrogen) in Groundwater

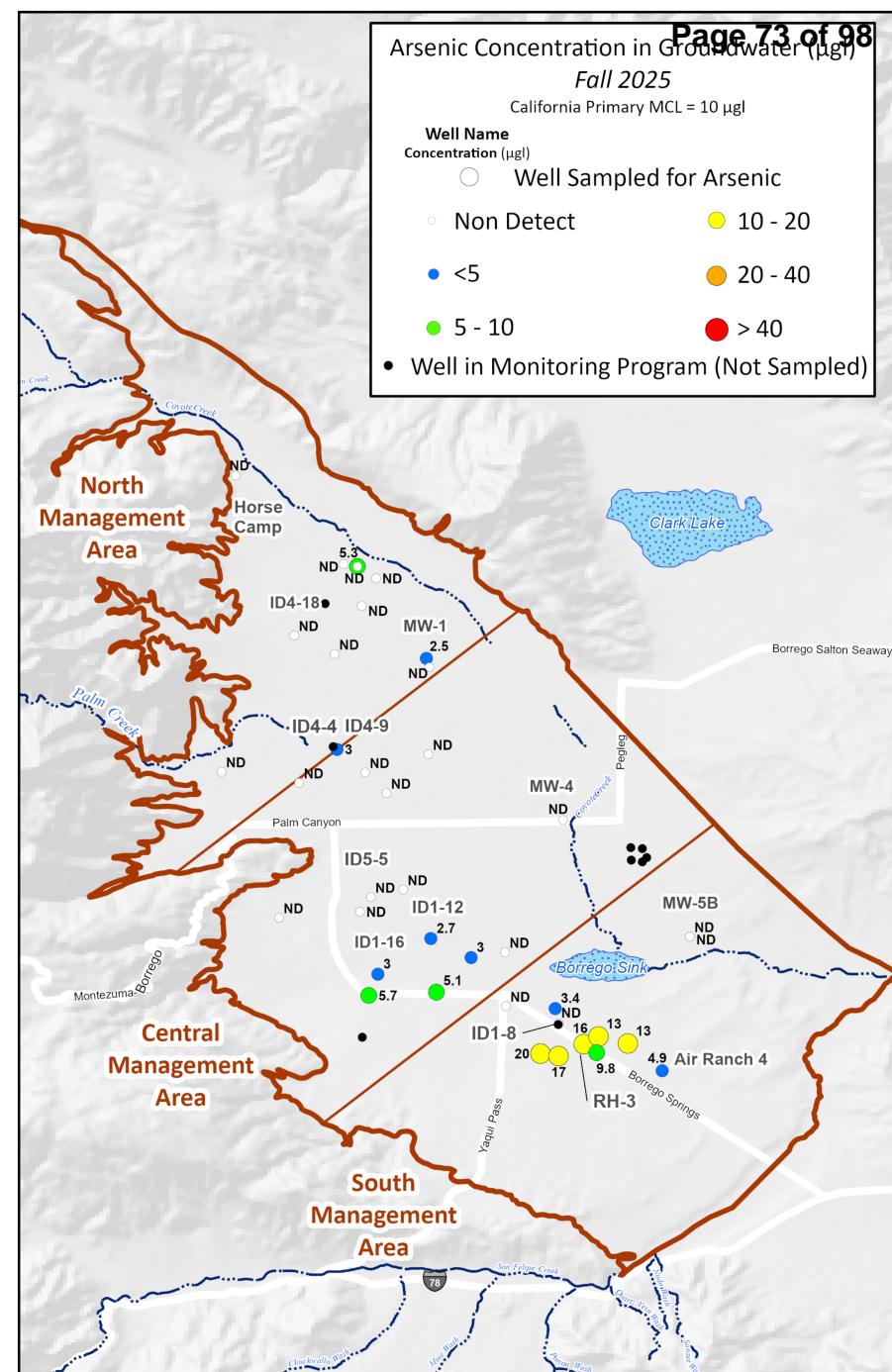
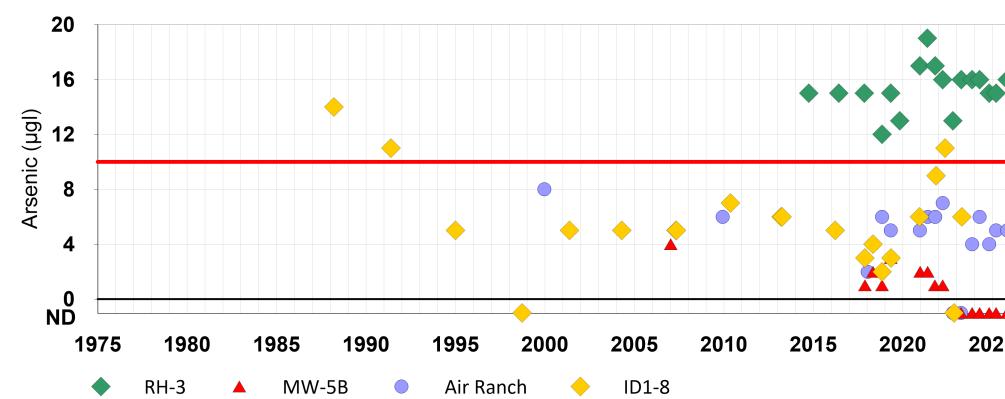
## North Management Area Item IV.D



## Central Management Area



## South Management Area



Wells by Principal Aquifer

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

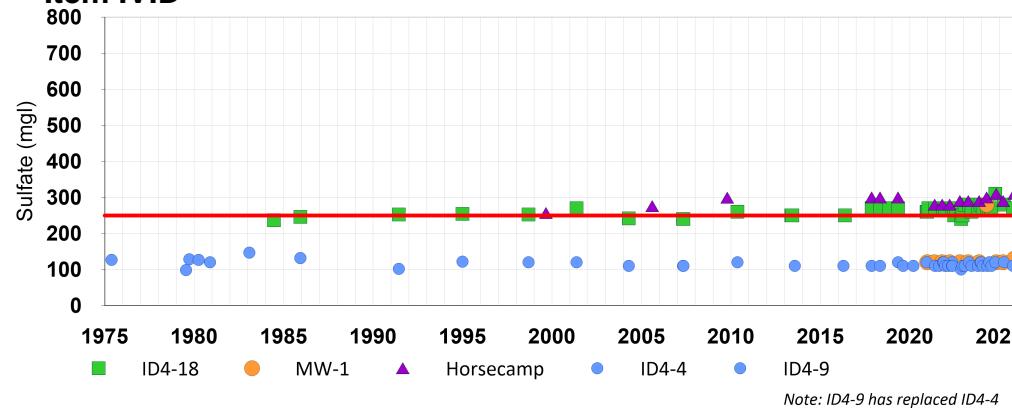
Maximum Contaminant Level

- Primary MCL

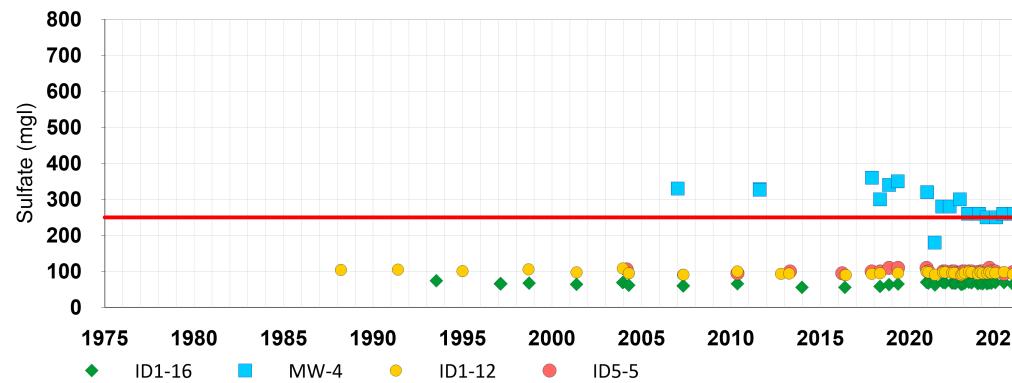
Figure 6

Arsenic in Groundwater

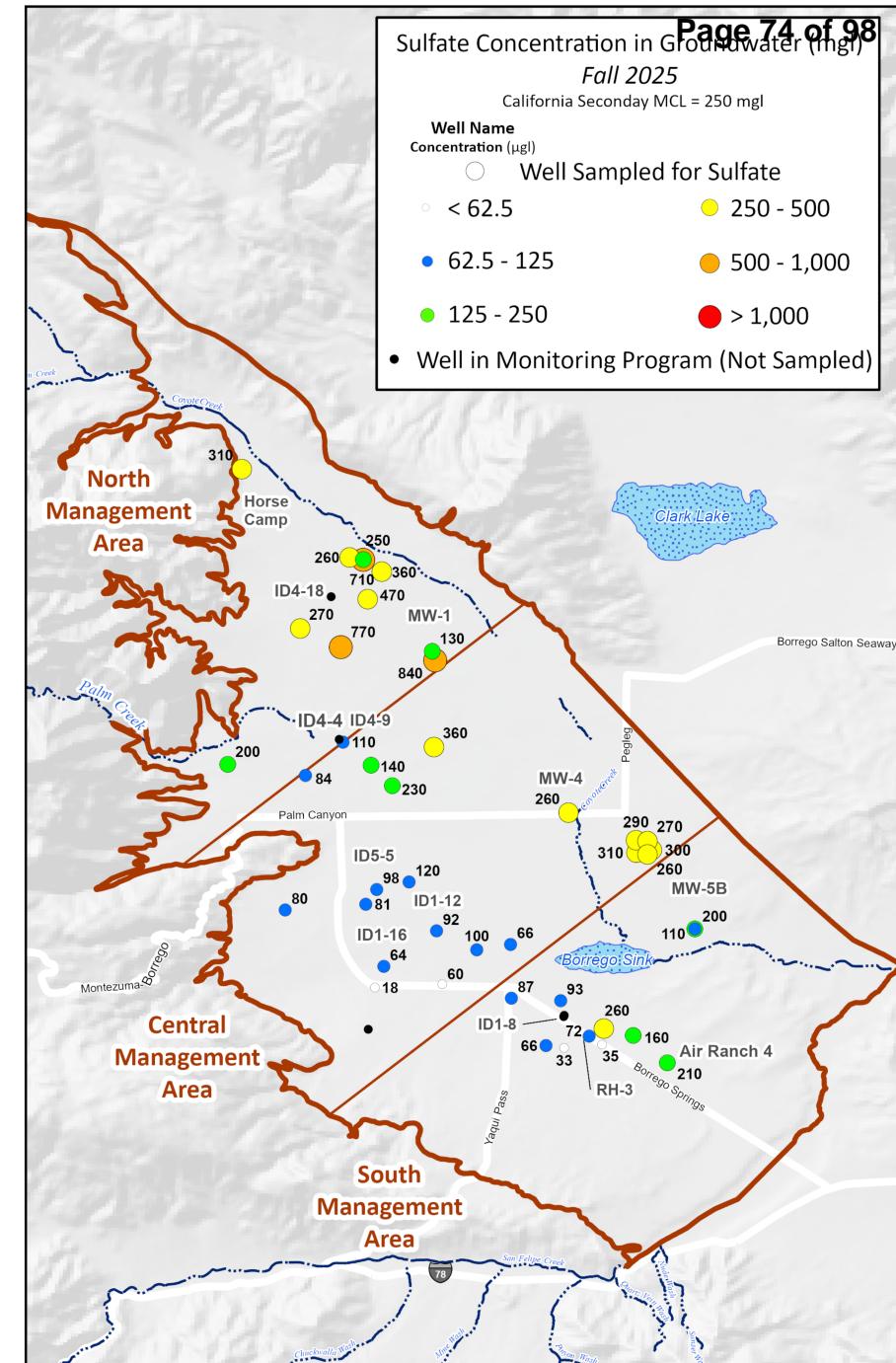
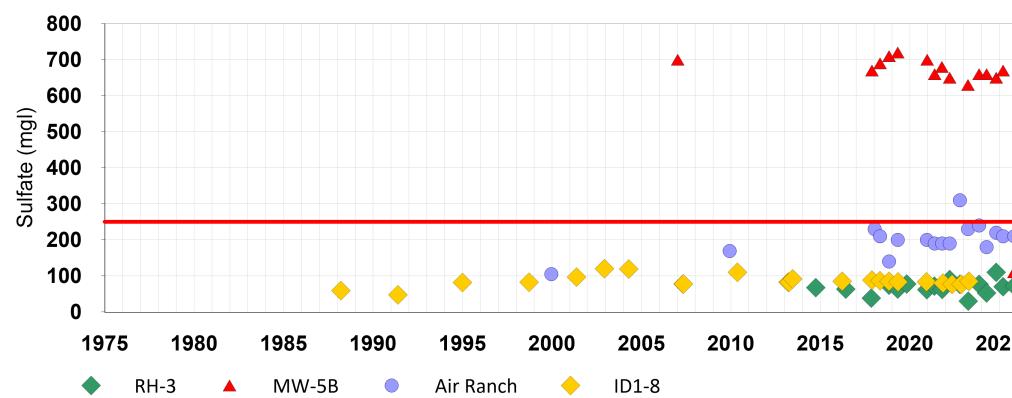
## North Management Area Item IV.D



## Central Management Area

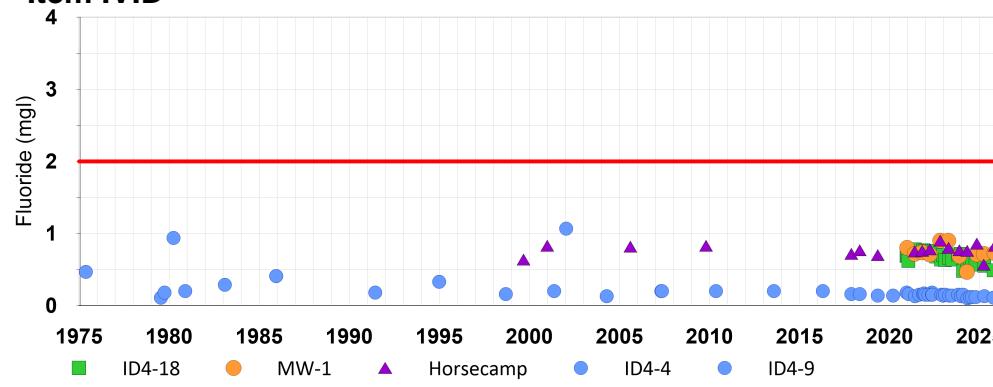


## South Management Area

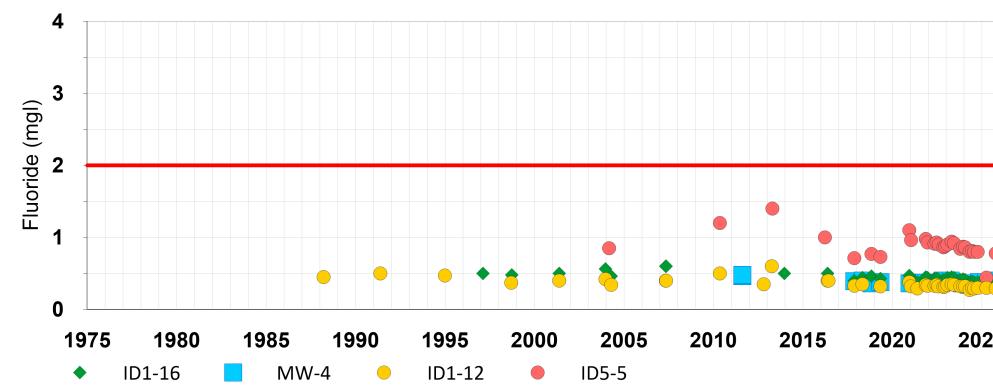


**Figure 7**

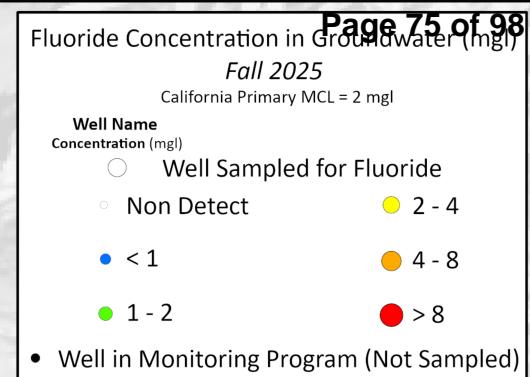
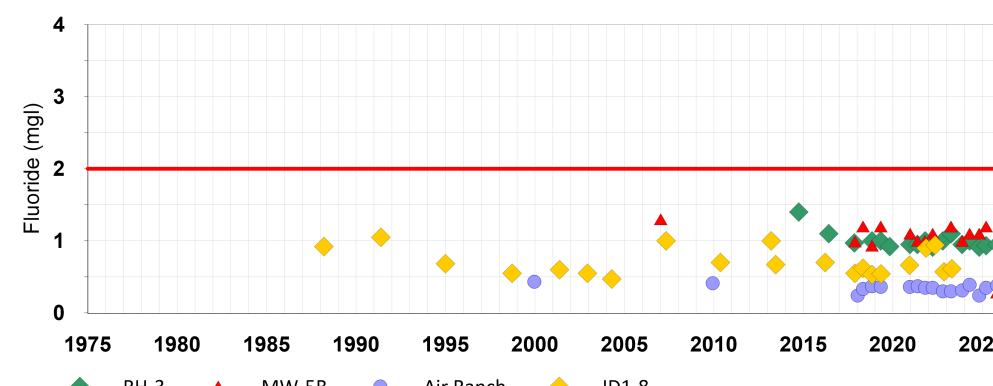
## North Management Area Item IV.D



## Central Management Area



## South Management Area



**Figure 8**

Fluoride in Groundwater

Table 1. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Network and Wells Monitored in Fall 2025								
Local Well Name	State Well ID	Well Use	Groundwater Monitoring Network				Comments	
			Water Level (WL)		Water Quality (WQ)			
			Method if in program <sup>(a)</sup>	Fall 2025	Well in program?	Fall 2025		
<b>North Management Area</b>								
ID4-18*	010S006E18J001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x		
ID4-3*	010S006E18R001S	Observation	transducer	x			Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Fall 2025.	
ID4-4*	010S006E29K002S	Observation	transducer	x			Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Fall 2025.	
ID4-9	010S006E29K003S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x		
MW-1*	010S006E21A002S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x		
Evans	010S006E21E001S	Observation	manual	x				
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			yes	x		
MW-6S	010S06E08A003S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x		
MW-6D	010S06E08A002S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	New tubing installed in Fall 2025.	
Viking Well	010S006E04Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Fall 2025.	
Bauer Monitoring Well		Observation	manual	x				
808 Ghost		Observation	manual	x				
NMA-2	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Domestic	manual	x				
NMA-3	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Observation	manual	x				
NMA-5	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Observation	manual	x				
NMA-6	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Irrigation			yes	x		
NMA-7	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Irrigation			yes	x		
NMA-8	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Irrigation			yes	x	New well added to WQ network.	
NMA-9	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Irrigation			yes	x		
<b>Central Management Area</b>								
Anzio/Yaqui Pass	011S006E22E001S	Observation	manual	x				
Broome Well		Other	manual	x	yes	x	New well added to WL and WQ networks.	
BSR Well 6	011S006E09B002S	Irrigation	manual	x	yes	x		
Cameron 2	011S006E04F001S	Observation	manual	x				
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			Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Fall 2025.	
ID4-11*	010S006E32D001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	Unable to download transducer data in Fall 2025 due to dead battery. Manual GWL was measured.	
ID4-2	011S006E07K003S	Observation	manual	x	yes	x		
ID4-5	010S006E33Q001S	Observation	manual	x				
ID5-5*	011S006E09E001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x		
ID5-15		Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x		
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			Installed new lock on well lid in Fall 2025.	
Terry Well	011S006E20R001S	Irrigation	manual	x				
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 <sup>(c)</sup>		Observation	manual	x	yes	x		
BSMW-2R <sup>(c)</sup>		Observation	manual	x	yes	x		
BSMW-3R <sup>(c)</sup>		Observation	manual	x	yes	x		
BSMW-5R <sup>(c)</sup>		Observation	manual	x	yes	x		
BSMW-6R <sup>(c)</sup>		Observation	manual	x	yes	x		
CMA-2	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Irrigation			yes	x		
CMA-3	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Observation	manual	x				
CMA-4	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Recreation			yes	x		
CMA-5	Private <sup>(b)</sup>	Recreation			yes	x		
<b>South Management Area</b>								
Air Ranch Well 4*	011S007E30L001S	Public Supply	manual	x	yes	x		
Army Well	011S006E34A001S	Observation	transducer	x			Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Fall 2025.	
Hayden (32Q1)	011S007E32Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			Transducer data downloaded for the first time in Fall 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	x	Transducer replaced in Fall 2025.	
RH-5	011S006E26B001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x		
RH-6	011S006E26H001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x		
WWTP	011S006E23H001S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x		
Bing Crosby Well	011S007E20P001S	Observation	manual	x				
<b>Outside Borrego Springs Subbasin</b>								
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 ( <a href="https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=L10003017008">https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=L10003017008</a> ), were measured in June 2025.								

**Table 2. Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells  
Compared to 2020 GMP Minimum Thresholds**

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Fall 2025 Groundwater Elevation <sup>(a)</sup> (ft-msl)	2020 GMP Minimum Threshold <sup>(b, c)</sup> (ft-msl)	Fall 2025 Groundwater Elevation minus 2020 GMP Minimum Threshold (ft)
		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c = a-b</i>
<b>North Management Area</b>				
MW-1	010S006E21A002S	375.3	335.8	39.5
ID4-3	010S006E18R001S	374.3	336.0	38.4
Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	376.7	330.8	45.9
ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	370.2	330.4	39.8
ID4-4	010S006E29K002S	370.8	127.6	243.3
<b>Central Management Area</b>				
ID4-1	010S006E32R001S	388.2	358.7	29.6
Airport 2	010S006E35N001S	<i>398.9</i>	380.6	18.4
ID1-16	011S006E16N001S	386.8	355.4	31.3
ID4-11	010S006E32D001S	372.7	<i>163.7</i>	209.0
ID1-12	011S006E16A002S	384.4	284.7	99.8
ID5-5	011S006E09E001S	384.5	<i>176.4</i>	208.1
<b>South Management Area</b>				
MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	406.8	395.9	10.9
MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	405.5	394.8	10.7
MW-3	011S006E23J002S	443.4	437.7	5.7
Air Ranch	011S007E30L001S	465.7	461.9	3.8
RH-1	011S006E25A001S	466.8	458.9	7.9

(a) If a water level was not measured in Fall 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 Fall 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.

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

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Fall 2019 Groundwater Elevation <sup>(a,b)</sup> (ft-msl)	Fall 2025 Groundwater Elevation <sup>(c)</sup> (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 <sup>(d)</sup> (ft/yr)
		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c = b-a</i>	<i>d = c/(2024 - 2019)</i>	
<b>North Management Area</b>						
MW-1	010S006E21A002S	374.76	375.25	0.5	0.1	-2.14
ID4-3	010S006E18R001S	377.96	374.32	-3.6	-0.6	-2.09
Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	<i>376.82</i>	376.72	-0.1	0.0	-2.48
ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	<i>374.36</i>	370.16	-4.2	-0.7	-2.31
ID4-4	010S006E29K002S	<i>375.06</i>	370.84	-4.2	-0.7	-2.73
<b>Central Management Area</b>						
ID4-1	010S006E32R001S	391.66	388.24	-3.4	-0.6	-1.39
Airport 2	010S006E35N001S	405.60	<i>398.93</i>	-6.7	-1.1	-1.67
ID1-16	011S006E16N001S	<i>388.42</i>	386.75	-1.7	-0.3	-0.95
ID4-11	010S006E32D001S	<i>386.44</i>	372.72	-13.7	-2.3	-2.29
ID1-12	011S006E16A002S	<i>385.94</i>	384.40	-1.5	-0.3	-1.51
ID5-5	011S006E09E001S	387.64	384.50	-3.1	-0.5	-0.85
<b>South Management Area</b>						
MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	409.92	406.77	-3.2	-0.5	-0.74
MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	408.80	405.54	-3.3	-0.5	-0.74
MW-3	011S006E23J002S	451.68	443.40	-8.3	-1.4	-5.84
Air Ranch	011S007E30L001S	470.85	465.65	-5.2	-0.9	-0.5
RH-1	011S006E25A001S	467.87	466.75	-1.1	-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 Fall 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 Fall 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

Fall 2025

Owner	Well Name	State Well ID	Well Use	Analyte (unit)	Date	Result	US EPA Primary MCL <sup>(1)</sup>	US EPA Secondary MCL <sup>(2)</sup>	California Primary MCL <sup>(3)</sup>	California Secondary MCL <sup>(4)</sup>
Borrego Air Ranch	Air Ranch Well 4	011S007E30L001S	Public Supply	TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	590		500		500-1,000
Borrego Water District	ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	Public Supply	Sulfate (mg/L)	10/9/2025	270		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	10/9/2025	620		500		500-1,000
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/27/2025	260		250		250
	MW-4	010S006E35Q001S	Observation	TDS (mg/L)	10/27/2025	1000		500		500-1,000
	MW-5A	011S007E07R001S	Observation	TDS (mg/L)	10/27/2025	1300		500		500-1,000
	MW-5B	011S007E07R002S	Observation	TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	690		500		500-1,000
	WWTP	011S006E23H001S	Observation	TDS (mg/L)	10/28/2025	710		250		250
	MW-6S	010S06E08A002S	Observation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	10/28/2025	24	10		10	
				TDS (mg/L)	10/28/2025	1600		500		500-1,000
				Fluoride (mg/L)	10/28/2025	2.5		2	2	
CWC Casa del Zorro LLC	La Casa	011S006E23E001S	Public Supply	TDS (mg/L)	10/30/2025	620		500		500-1,000
Domestic	Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	Other	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	10/26/2025	21	10		10	
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/26/2025	470		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	10/26/2025	1100		500		500-1,000
Borrego Landfill	BSMW-1R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	6/19/2025	290		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	6/19/2025	610		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-2R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	6/19/2025	260		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	6/19/2025	550		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-3R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	6/19/2025	300		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	6/19/2025	630		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-5R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	6/19/2025	310		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	6/19/2025	660		500		500-1,000
	BSMW-6R	N/A	Observation	Sulfate (mg/L)	6/19/2025	270		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	6/19/2025	600		500		500-1,000
Private	NMA-6	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	10/29/2025	90	10		10	
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/29/2025	840		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	2200		500		500-1,000
	NMA-7	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	10/29/2025	46	10		10	
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/29/2025	770		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	1800		500		500-1,000
	NMA-8	Private	Irrigation	TDS (mg/L)	11/20/2025	760		500		500-1,000
	CMA-2	Private	Irrigation	Sulfate (mg/L)	10/28/2025	360		250		250
				TDS (mg/L)	10/28/2025	680		500		500-1,000
State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation	NMA-4	Private	Irrigation	Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	10/28/2025	13	10		10	
				Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	10/28/2025	38	10		10	
	CMA-5	Private	Irrigation	TDS (mg/L)	10/28/2025	910		500		500-1,000
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/30/2025	310		250		250
	Horse Camp	009S006E31E003S	Other	TDS (mg/L)	10/30/2025	720		500		500-1,000
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/30/2025	550		500		500-1,000
T2 Borrego LLC (Rams Hill)	Auxiliary 2	010S005E25R001S	Other	TDS (mg/L)	10/30/2025	550		500		500-1,000
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/29/2025	520		500		500-1,000
	RH-1	011S006E25A001S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	10/29/2025	0.013	0.01		0.01	
				TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	0.016	0.01		0.01	
	RH-3	011S006E25C002S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	10/29/2025	0.013	0.01		0.01	
				TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	260		250		250
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/29/2025	650		500		500-1,000
T2 Farms	RH-5	011S006E26B001S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	10/29/2025	0.02	0.01		0.01	
				TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	0.017	0.01		0.01	
	RH-6	011S006E26H001S	Irrigation	Arsenic (mg/L)	10/29/2025	360		250		250
				Sulfate (mg/L)	10/29/2025	760		500		500-1,000
				TDS (mg/L)	10/29/2025	650		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 aesthetic 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 Exceedance <sup>1</sup>	Number of Observation Wells with Exceedance
TDS <sup>2</sup>	CA Secondary MCL – lower limit	500 mg/l	3	8	7
TDS <sup>3</sup>	CA Secondary MCL – upper limit	1,000 mg/l	0	4	2
Sulfate	CA and EPA Secondary MCL	250 mg/l	1	7	7
Nitrate (as N)	CA and EPA Primary MCL	10 mg/l	0	5	1
Fluoride	EPA Secondary MCL	2 mg/l	0	0	1
Arsenic	CA Primary MCL	0.01 mg/l	0	5	0

Notes:

mg/l = 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 mg/l, but less than 1,000 mg/l (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 mg/l. This row does not include wells that exceeded the CA Secondary MCL – lower limit.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM IV.E**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Samantha Adams, Executive Director  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** GMP Update Workshop – Projects and Management Actions

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**Recommended Action**       **Provide Direction to Staff**       **Information and Discussion**  
 **Fiscal Impact**       **Cost Estimate: \$**

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**Recommended Action**

Board discussion and feedback on Staff's recommended approach to (1) summarizing the linkage between the PMAs in the GMP and Judgment management actions, (2) reporting on the status of PMA implementation, and (3) clarifying the PMA implementation and adaptation triggers.

**Workshop Objectives**

The purpose of the Board workshop is to discuss recommended updates to the 2020 Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) with respect to the Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). This memo provides an overview of PMAs in the context of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), summarizes the PMAs in the 2020 GMP, maps the 2020 GMP PMAs to provisions of the Judgment, describes DWR comments on the PMAs, and provides a high-level summary of recommended changes to the GMP as part of the 5-Year Assessment and GMP Update.

**SGMA Context**

Under the SGMA, PMAs are the tools a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative management plan uses to avoid undesirable results and achieve the basin's sustainability goal. PMAs encompass both physical projects and regulatory or operational management actions that are implemented, adjusted, or escalated as needed to respond to basin conditions and ensure sustainable groundwater management over time.

**Projects and Management Actions**

The PMAs in the 2020 GMP were developed prior to the Judgment and informed the elements of the Physical Solution, where appropriate. The PMAs were modified to reflect draft Judgment language when the original GSP was converted to the GMP. Pursuant to Judgment Section A (p. 5), the provisions of the Judgment control over and supersede any contrary provisions contained in the 2020 GMP. Thus, the Judgment must be considered together with the GMP when describing PMAs.

A total of six PMAs are described in Chapter 4 of the 2020 GMP and are summarized as follows with respect to the GMP description of the PMA, the associated Judgment Framework relevant to the PMA, and the status of implementation.

#### **PMA No. 1 – Water Trading Program**

- GMP Description: The intent of the water trading program is to create a mechanism for Parties to lease and transfer the water rights needed to maintain economic activities in the Basin and facilitate adjustment to the required Rampdown.
- Judgment Framework: The Judgment directly and immediately implements PMA No. 1 by authorizing and defining procedures for the transfer and lease of Baseline Pumping Allocation (BPA) and pumping allocations and Carryover, including the types of transfers that require Watermaster approval (or not). The relevant procedures are specified in Section III.I of the Judgment and include a provision that allows Watermaster to restrict Permanent Transfers and Leases to specific areas of the Basin based on reasonable, evidenced-based concern that the Permanent Transfer or Lease will cause or exacerbate Undesirable Results, and then only in a manner that is equitable to all affected Pumpers (III.I.5).
- Implementation Status:
  - The Watermaster has established standard forms to facilitate Watermaster review and approval of transfers. Forms are available to the public on Watermaster's website.
  - All transfers, whether they are subject to Watermaster approval or not, are documented as part of the Annual Water Rights Accounting process and reported to the DWR and the Court as part of the Annual Report.
  - Any permanent transfer of BPA is recorded in Exhibit 4 of the Judgment, which is a record of each Party and its associated BPA, BPA parcels, and wells. An updated Exhibit 4 of the Judgment is included in the Annual Report, and the most up to date version is available on Watermaster's website.
  - Through technical work to support the 5-Year Assessment of the GMP, Watermaster Staff recently identified that permanent transfers of BPA that would shift pumping southward from the North Management Area could lead to an imbalance of recharge and discharge in the Basin. Projections from the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BHVM) indicate that such an imbalance may prevent groundwater levels from stabilizing in the southern portion of the Central Management Area and the South Management Area. At a future meeting in WY 2026, the Watermaster Board will discuss potential updates to the transfers approval process to consider the impacts of locational shifts in pumping.

#### **PMA No. 2 – Water Conservation Program**

- GMP Description: The Water Conservation Program described in the GMP consists of separate programmatic components to evaluate and advance water conservation for the three primary water use sectors in the Basin: agricultural, municipal, and recreation. The GMP notes that the ability to implement a programmatic water conservation program by

any sector will be dependent upon securing funding, such as through grants and low interest loan programs.

- Judgment Framework: Regardless of any Pumper's ability to secure funding to implement this PMA, the Judgment requires Rampdown of pumping by all BPA Parties.
- Implementation Status:
  - This PMA has not been pursued or implemented by Watermaster.
  - Parties are complying with requirements to reduce pumping, which may or not be the result of water conservation. How the Parties are achieving reductions in pumping is not formally tracked by the Watermaster. It is not known if any Party relies on the programmatic information in the GMP.

#### **PMA No. 3 – Pumping Reduction Program**

- GMP Description: The Pumping Reduction Program will consist of the following general components: (1) estimation of the Subbasin sustainable yield through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) process based on a future projection scenario analyzed using the BVHM, and (2) pumping allocation reduction recommendations to reach the estimated sustainable yield by 2040. Each non-de minimis groundwater user within the Subbasin has been assigned an allocation based on their historical groundwater use. That allocation will be reduced incrementally as necessary until 2040 such that the total extraction from the Basin will be equal to the estimated sustainable yield at the end of that period.
- Judgment Framework: The Judgment immediately and directly implements this PMA through the required Rampdown provisions contained in sections III.E and III.F, which include implementation and enforcement processes, and provide for the periodic re-evaluation of the Sustainable Yield and Rampdown schedule. Under the Rampdown, except for the fixed water allocations for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP) and Borrego Springs Unified School District (BSUSD), each BPA Party's Annual Allocation is reduced incrementally such that the total extraction from the Basin by 2040 will equal the then-current estimate of Sustainable Yield. The implementation and enforcement mechanisms defined in the Judgement include mandatory water metering and reporting for all non-De Minimis groundwater users (Section VI.A) and monetary penalties for pumping in excess of allowances afforded by the Annual Allocation and Carryover (Section V.2). Additionally, Section III.F.12, provides authority to the Court to adjust the Rampdown Rate up or down, upon a finding that an adjustment to the Rampdown Rate is appropriate, and taking into account the limitations on Pumping necessary to avoid an Undesirable Result.
- Implementation Status:
  - Watermaster has implemented a comprehensive metering program to track pumping by all non de minimis pumpers, including:
    - Achieved 99 percent compliance with the meter reading program as of the end of WY 2024 (only one well remains unmetered).
    - Implemented a monthly meter reading program to assess seasonal pumping trends.

- Improved understanding of pumping in the Basin such that 99 percent of the total pumping reported for WY 2025 is based on meter read data.
  - The Pumpers have achieved pumping reductions in excess of the Pumping Rampdown rate required by the Judgment. The pumping data show that:
    - Groundwater pumping has decreased by 39 percent since the start of GMP implementation in WY 2020.
    - The total pumping by all Parties in WY 2025 was 10,129 acre feet (af), which is about 45 percent less than the Annual Allocation of 18,270 af, demonstrating that reductions in pumping are significantly ahead of the required Rampdown schedule.
    - Through technical work to support the 5-Year Assessment of the GMP, Watermaster Staff have recently spoken to the majority of major Pumpers in the Basin to understand their future plans to either Rampdown or cease pumping. Though plans can change, based on these conversations and the associated pumping projections developed, Staff believe that the Pumpers will likely achieve the level of Rampdown required by the Judgment by 2040.

#### **PMA No. 4 – Voluntary Fallowing of Agricultural Land**

- GMP Description: The intent of the voluntary fallowing program is to create a mechanism to facilitate the responsible conversion of high water use irrigated agriculture to lower water use open space, public land, or other development.
- Judgment Framework: The Judgment specifies minimum fallowing standards that must be implemented in connection with the permanent transfers of BPA or long-term leases of BPA that result in fallowing of agricultural land (Judgment Section III.J and Exhibit 3).
- Implementation Status:
  - To date, no party has fallowed its land as part of a permanent transfer of BPA.
  - To capitalize on available grant funding for SGMA implementation, the Watermaster developed and implemented a scope of work to develop data, information, and criteria to guide the use of biological restoration as a technique to mitigate the potential adverse impacts associated with the fallowing of lands (e.g., airborne dust emissions, introduction of invasive species, etc.) that is expected to occur within the Basin in order to meet the sustainability goal of reducing groundwater pumping. This project, entitled the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands project, included five tasks in the scope of work, which were implemented in WY 2023 - 2025.
    - All project work performed for Tasks 1 through 5 was documented in a final technical report titled *Recommended Retired Farmland Rehabilitation Strategies and Prioritization*, published in March 2025. The report is available on the Watermaster's website.
    - In WY 2026, the EWG will develop recommendations for the Watermaster Board based on the results of the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands

project, including any recommendations to modify the Judgment Exhibit 3 following standards.

#### **PMA No. 5 – Water Quality Optimization**

- GMP Description: The intent of the Water Quality Optimization program described in the GMP is to identify as-needed direct and indirect treatment options for the Borrego Water District (BWD) and other Pumpers to optimize groundwater quality and its use and minimize the need for expensive water treatment to meet drinking water standards.
- Judgment Framework: The Judgment provides that Watermaster will (1) implement a groundwater quality monitoring program to support characterization of water quality and trends over time and (2) determine if changes in water quality are significant and unreasonable following consideration of the cause of impact, the affected beneficial use, potential remedies, input from the TAC, and subject to approval by the Court exercising independent judgment (Section VI.B).
- Implementation Status:
  - Watermaster prepared a comprehensive update to the groundwater monitoring program and developed a Groundwater Monitoring Plan report, with input from the TAC and the public. The report was published in March 2023 and is available on the Watermaster’s website.
  - Through implementation of the 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Plan, and with funding support from the Proposition 64 Sustainable Groundwater Management grant program (SGM grant), the groundwater monitoring program was significantly expanded to achieve near Basin-wide coverage for groundwater level and quality monitoring. A total of 21 wells were added to the monitoring network from WY 2023 - 2025.
  - To address DWR comments related to the groundwater quality monitoring program and PMA No. 5, Staff has proposed a revised framework for implementing the Water Quality Optimization Program to clarify how data will be used to take action, if needed, to address changes in water quality. The proposed framework, was documented in [Agenda Item IV.E of the September 17, 2025](#) Board agenda package (page 12 of 13 of Agenda Item IV.E). The updated framework will be documented in the 5-Year Assessment Report as a means to clarify how the PMA will work, and would serve to either replace or augment the current description of the PMA in the GMP to provide alignment with the Judgment language.

#### **PMA No. 6 – Intra-Subbasin Water Transfers**

- GMP Description: The purpose of an intra-basin transfer program would be to physically mitigate existing and future reductions in groundwater storage and groundwater quality impairment caused by implementation of the Rampdown, through pumping optimization and establishing intra-basin conveyance capability, subject to feasibility and effectiveness evaluations. The GMP describes PMA No. 6 as a mechanism that could relocate groundwater pumping from areas with more stressed conditions (e.g., declining levels or poorer water

quality) to areas where groundwater conditions are more favorable for continued extraction and to optimize basin-wide pumping patterns that would prevent Undesirable Results.

- Judgment Framework: Under Section III.I.5 of the Judgment, in order to protect the Basin against Undesirable Results, the Watermaster, with input from the TAC, may restrict Permanent Transfers and Leases to specific areas of the Basin based on reasonable, evidence-based concern that a Permanent Transfer or Lease will cause or exacerbate Undesirable Results, and then only in a manner that is equitable to all affected Pumpers. The Judgment does not specify that PMA 6 be implemented, though the PMA may be necessitated if transfers need to be restricted to avoid Undesirable Results.
- Implementation Status:
  - As noted above with respect to PMA No. 1, through technical work to support the 5-Year Assessment of the GMP, Watermaster Staff recently identified that permanent transfers of BPA that would shift pumping southward from the North Management Area could lead to an imbalance of recharge and discharge in the Basin, such that groundwater levels do not stabilize in the southern portion of the Central Management Area and the South Management Area.
  - Discussions of this finding have identified the need to evaluate the feasibility of PMA No. 6 to enable pumpers to extract their water rights without causing Undesirable Results.
  - At a future meeting in WY 2026, the Watermaster Board will discuss potential updates to the transfers approval process to consider the impacts of locational shifts in pumping. This would also include discussion on when and how to evaluate the economic and physical feasibility of PMA No. 6.

#### **DWR Comments on PMAs and Proposed Responses/Actions**

In its Alternative Assessment of the Borrego Springs Judgment/GMP, DWR did not identify deficiencies in the substance or sufficiency of the GMP's PMAs nor did it provide Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) directly related to any PMA. That said, the assessment did identify specific areas for improvement and clarity. The DWR's comments focus on clarifying the role, linkage, and documentation of PMAs within the adjudication-based management framework, particularly as implementation proceeds over time. Specifically, DWR noted the following:

1. Unclear Visibility of PMA Implementation Under the Adjudication Framework. DWR noted that because the Court retains discretion to direct basin management under the Judgment, the DWR's evaluation of PMAs is necessarily limited to how those actions are described in the GMP. As a result, DWR acknowledged uncertainty in their understanding of how PMAs functionally translate into implementation under the adjudication-based management framework.
2. PMAs are not explicitly tied to quantified triggers or sustainable management criteria. DWR noted that while the GMP identifies a suite of PMAs, it does not clearly articulate the decision logic by which PMAs would be activated, constrained, or reconsidered in response to

quantified basin conditions, such as exceedances of Minimum Thresholds, failure to meet interim milestones, or other measurable indicators.

3. The GMP does not clearly describe the intended lifecycle of PMAs over the Rampdown period. DWR further observed that the GMP does not explain how the role of PMAs is expected to change over time as pumping reductions proceed, new data are incorporated, and basin conditions evolve—such as whether certain PMAs are transitional, conditional, or expected to become unnecessary if Rampdown alone achieves sustainability.

Though not strictly required to address because these are not presented as RCAs, it is prudent to consider the comments in how the PMAs are described and assessed in the 5-Year Assessment Report. If clarity for DWR can be achieved with minor edits to the GMP, this would improve their future review of the document. Minimal effort beyond what is documented herein is required to address DWR's feedback. The following is Staff's recommended approach to address DWR comments as part of the 5-Year Assessment Report and GMP Update:

- Summarize the GMP/Judgment linkage and implementation status in the 5-Year Assessment Report as documented herein.
- Create a table with the following information to include in the 5-Year Assessment Report and Chapter 4 of the GMP that:
  - Maps the PMAs to the Judgment Framework (as done herein)
  - Summarizes how and when the individual PMAs would be initiated and adapted; and how action is related to basin conditions and SMC (if related)

### **Next Steps**

Staff is seeking Board input on the recommended approach to (1) summarizing the linkage between the PMAs in the GMP and Judgment management actions, (2) reporting on the status of PMA implementation, and (3) clarifying the PMA implementation and adaptation triggers.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM IV.F**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Jim Markman, Legal Counsel  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Review and Discussion of BPA Transfer from D. Bauer to Borrego Water District

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**Recommended Action**       **Provide Direction to Staff**       **Information and Discussion**  
 **Fiscal Impact**       **Cost Estimate: \$**

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**Recommended Action**

Provide direction to legal counsel and staff regarding the Borrego Water District's (BWD) proposed approach to Watermaster approval of the BPA Transfer from D. Bauer to BWD.

Fiscal Impact: None.

**Background and Discussion**

On December 10, 2025, Watermaster received a letter from the BWD with a proposed approach to Watermaster approval of the incremental transfer of the BPA and associated land parcels from David and Juli Bauer, co-trustees of the D&J Bauer Family Trust 11-18-04 (D. Bauer) to the BWD. The enclosed letter describes the unique situation and challenge presented by the incremental transfer of the full BPA and all land parcels over time.

A representative of the BWD will be available to present its ask to the Board and Legal Counsel will facilitate a discussion of the Board to determine next steps with respect to the D. Bauer/BWD transfer.

**Enclosures**

December 10, 2025 Letter – BWD to Watermaster



Via Email to [BorregoSpringsWM@westyost.com](mailto:BorregoSpringsWM@westyost.com) on 12-10-25

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

Dear Ms. Adams and Borrego Springs Watermaster Board of Directors:

In May 2023, Borrego Water District entered into an agreement to purchase 1,826 acre feet of baseline production allocation (BPA) and six parcels of real property from David and Juli Bauer. Under the terms of the agreement, BPA is purchasing these parcels and BPA from the Bauers incrementally, through 2030.

As originally approved by the Court, Exhibit 4 to the Judgment reflected that the 1,826 acre feet of the Bauers' BPA was attached to their six parcels, collectively. That is, the BPA and parcels are aggregated, rather than having a particular amount of BPA assigned to each of the six parcels.

The most current version of Exhibit 4 to the Judgment (Updated as of October 1, 2025) shown on the Watermaster website ([https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Exhibit\\_4\\_BPA\\_202510\\_1.pdf](https://borregospringswatermaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Exhibit_4_BPA_202510_1.pdf)) reflects the Bauer to BWD transfers through early 2025 in the fifth and sixth lines:

**Exhibit "4"**  
BASELINE PUMPING ALLOCATIONS  
UPDATED AS OF October 1, 2025

Owner(s)	Common Property Name	BPA <sup>1</sup> Acre Feet	APN(s) <sup>2</sup>	Well Number(s) <sup>2</sup>
Agri-Empire		574	140-290-10 140-320-19	010S006E23M001S (WM ID 1245906)
Rick and Joan Anson, co-trustees of the Anson Family Trust 08-18-08 <sup>3</sup>		2	Unassigned	Unassigned
Alan & Tracy Asche		5	199-020-04	DEH1980-LWELL-8027 (WM ID 1246354)
Gary D. & Darlis A. Bailey		7	140-130-42	(WM ID 1246355)
David and Juli Bauer, co-trustees of the D&J Bauer Family Trust 11-18-04		1,411	140-070-24 140-070-27 140-110-14 140-070-17 140-010-11	WM ID 1245994 WM ID 1245995 WM ID 1245996 WM ID 1245998 WM ID 1245999
Borrego Water District (purchase from D & J Bauer) <sup>4</sup>		415	140-070-18	WM ID 1245997
Borrego Water District (purchase from W. Bauer) <sup>5</sup>		670	140-010-08	DEH2016-LWELL-001642 (WM ID 1246624)

<sup>1</sup> Parties to the Judgment without BPA rights are not listed. Allocations to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Borrego Unified School District (Borrego Elementary) are separate from BPA, per the terms of the Judgment.

<sup>2</sup> Except for BPA allocated to BWD and mutual water companies, BPA must be assigned to APN(s) and Well Number(s) to be effective per Section III.A of the Judgment. If state well number(s) are not found following a Party's good faith review of DWR's well completion report database, County well files and the Party's available records, the Party shall provide the Watermaster Executive Director with a written summary of such good faith efforts to locate the state well number(s), and the Watermaster Executive Director shall assign local well number(s) (WM ID) in order to account for the Party's exercise of its BPA.

<sup>3</sup> Full amount is water credit to BPA conversion.

<sup>4</sup> In WY 2023, BWD purchased a portion of BPA, including the associated BPA parcel, from David and Juli Bauer, co-trustees of the D&J Bauer Family Trust 11-18-04. The BWD intends to fallow the land in accordance with the Judgment fallowing standards and transfer the BPA rights to its primary BPA rights. Until the land is fallowed, the BPA purchased by BWD remains attached to the BPA Parcel and can only be pumped for use on the subject Parcel. Thus, the BPA assigned to BWD is shown as a stand-alone entry.

As the Watermaster Board is aware, the Judgment directs the Watermaster to review certain types of BPA transfers, such as in cases where BPA is proposed to be transferred separate from the associated real property. However, where a parcel and all of its BPA are being transferred in the same transaction, the Watermaster does not

have discretionary review authority over the BPA transfer. In particular, under Article III(I)(7) of the Judgment, “Except for a Permanent Transfer of BPA concurrently with the transfer of a BPA parcel or a Permanent Transfer of a Party’s BPA to other overlying parcels owned by that Party or its affiliates, all Permanent Transfers must be reviewed and approved by the Watermaster[.]” (See also Judgment, Art. III(9)(b) regarding Watermaster transfer forms.)

The above provision of the Judgment is somewhat difficult to apply in a transaction like the one between the Bauers and BWD because the Bauer water rights and real property assets are being conveyed in full to BWD, but also incrementally. On one hand, BWD will, by 2030, own all of the Bauers’ BPA and parcels. As such, there is an argument that Watermaster approval is not required because the parties are consummating a transaction over time by way of a single purchase and sale agreement that will result in a Permanent Transfer of all the transferor’s BPA and BPA Parcels to the transferee. On the other hand, in acknowledgment of the incremental nature of the BPA and BPA parcel transfers, BWD has submitted its prior incremental transfer forms related to the transaction to the Watermaster for approval.

To avoid the need for each of the incremental BPA transfers in the above-described transaction to have to come before the Watermaster Board through 2030, the Bauers and BWD have agreed to request that the Watermaster Board assign specific amounts of BPA to each of the Bauer BPA parcels, as reflected below. The assignments, if approved, will be consistent with the BPA and real property conveyance schedule in the underlying transaction and reflect, in general terms, relative historic water use on the parcels.

BWD and the Bauers request that Exhibit 4 to the Judgment be modified to reflect the following changes.

- APN 140-070-18 (40 acres) 415 acre feet (this BPA and land has already been purchased by BWD and is already attached to this parcel, per the WM annual report from 2024).
- APN 140-070-17 (40 acres) 400 acre feet
- APN 140-070-27 (20 acres) 200 acre feet
- APN 140-010-11 (140 acres) 500 acre feet
- APN 140-110-14 (75 acres) 311 acre feet

Given that the Watermaster regularly updates Exhibit 4, BWD hopes the above-requested changes could be made during the ordinary Watermaster 2026 update process. BWD understands that Watermaster’s approval of the above changes to Exhibit 4 do not obviate the following requirements described in Article III(I)(7) of the Judgment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about this matter.

Sincerely,



Geoff Poole  
General Manager

cc: Steve Anderson, BWD General Counsel  
Jim Markman, Watermaster General Counsel

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Jim Markman, Legal Counsel  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Legal Counsel Report – January 2026

## Overview

The purpose of the monthly Legal Counsel Report is to share information with the Board on the status of key legal items. Additional details and topics that may arise after publishing this report will be presented during the Board meeting.

At our January 21, 2026, Board meeting, I intend to report out on the following items:

- Request for Declaration of Watermaster Non-Opposition for BPA Intervention

### ***Request for Declaration of Watermaster Non-Opposition for BPA Intervention***

As recently reported as part of the Watermaster's 2025 Water Rights Accounting, the Baseline Production Allocation (BPA) and associated land parcels owned by Borrego Nazareth LLC have been purchased by T2 Tilting T LLC. As required to exercise the water rights, T2 Tilting T LLC has filed to intervene into the Borrego Springs Judgment. T2 Tilting T LLC has requested Watermaster to file a declaration of non-opposition to the intervention.

At the January meeting I will provide an overview of the intervention process and request direction to file the requested declaration of non-opposition.

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Andy Malone, Technical Consultant  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Technical Consultant Report – January 2026

#### OVERVIEW

The purpose of the monthly Technical Consultant Report is to share information with the Board on the status of technical efforts being performed, including those 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 January 21, 2026 Board meeting, I intend to report out on the following topics:

- Status update on the review of the UCI GDE Study Report
- Final Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for groundwater levels for the GMP Assessment Report
- New De Minimis Pumping Well Application

#### REVIEW OF THE UCI GDE STUDY REPORT AS “BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE”

The Board has directed the Technical Consultant to perform an independent technical review of the UCI GDE Study Report, prepare a Recommendation Report, and facilitate the preparation of Recommendation Reports by the TAC and EWG. The schedule and status to complete these tasks is listed below.

Schedule	Activities	Status
November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review UCI GDE Study Report</li> <li>• Review TAC/EWG comments on UCI GDE Study Report</li> <li>• Coordinate with UCI/TAC/EWG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed initial review of the UCI GDE Study Report.</li> <li>• Received and reviewed all comments on the UCI GDE Study Report from TAC/EWG members, which currently include: County of San Diego, Borrego Water District, AWARE, and the Community of Borrego Springs.</li> <li>• Corresponded with the report authors from UCI to ask and answer questions on the report.</li> </ul>
December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin preparation of Draft TC Recommendation Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>
January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Draft TC Recommendation Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress</li> </ul>

Schedule	Activities	Status
February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAC/EWG meeting</b> to review Draft TC Recommendation Report</li> <li>• Receive TAC/EWG feedback on Draft TC Recommendation Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint TAC/EWG meetings are scheduled for February 26 and April 8, 2026</li> </ul>
March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports based on TAC/EWG feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet started</li> </ul>
April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAC/EWG meeting</b> to discuss Draft TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports</li> <li>• Prepare Draft Final TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports based on TAC/EWG feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet started</li> </ul>
May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Final TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports</li> <li>• <b>Board meeting</b> to discuss Final TC and TAC/EWG Recommendation Reports and recommended next steps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet started</li> </ul>
June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board meeting</b> to approve scope of work for next steps in WY 2026 - 2027</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet started</li> </ul>

#### FINAL SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR GROUNDWATER LEVELS IN THE 2025 GMP ASSESSMENT REPORT

Staff has finalized its updates to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for the 2025 GMP Assessment Report based on input received to date from the TAC, Board, and the public. The SMC updates are meant to address the DWR's Recommended Corrective Actions on the current GMP for the Sustainability Indicators of: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reductions in groundwater storage, degradation of water quality, and land subsidence.

Staff has prepared a draft-final proposal for updates to the SMC for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, including updated descriptions of the sustainability goal, undesirable results, list of representative monitoring wells, minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, interim milestones, and the methods to evaluate progress toward sustainability. The TAC has yet to review the final recommended measurable objectives and interim milestones. In lieu of holding a TAC meeting to review the methods and recommended values, the Board directed Staff to provide the information to the TAC in writing for review and comment.

Staff will email the draft-final proposal to the TAC for review the week of 1/19. The TAC will have two weeks to review and recommend edits, which will be considered in finalizing the SMC updates in the draft 5-Year GMP Assessment and Update for Board review in March 2026.

#### NEW DE MINIMIS PUMPING WELL APPLICATION

The Watermaster has received an application for a new de minimis pumping well. The well is proposed for construction on a privately owned parcel on Yaqui Pass Rd in the Old Borrego area. The location is within the southern portion of the Central Management Area in the vicinity of the Mesquite Bosque. It is within the BWD sphere of influence; however, the nearest BWD distribution pipeline is about 0.5 miles away. We are reviewing

the application to determine if the new well could contribute to or threaten to contribute to Undesirable Results or other interests in the Basin.

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Samantha Adams, Executive Director  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Executive Director Report – January 2026

## 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 January 21, 2026, 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 January 2026 ED Report topics include:

- SGM Grant Reimbursement Status
- First Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026
- Budget Subcommittee
- 2025 Annual Report – Schedule for Review and Finalization
- Status Update 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update
- BPA and Party Updates

## Status Updates

### ***SGM Grant Status***

BWD has received notice from DWR that the grant is officially closed out. Watermaster received the final outstanding reimbursement payment the week of January 5<sup>th</sup>, about three months ahead of the assumed payment date in the financial model. No further updates will be needed regarding this topic!

### ***First Installment of Pumping Assessments for WY 2026***

- The first installment invoices for the WY 2026 Pumping Assessments, totaling \$175,024, were issued in November 2025, with payments due by December 31, 2025.
- As of this writing, a total of \$119,716 have been received and the outstanding balance of payments past-due is \$55,307.
- Reminders of past-due payments were sent to Parties the week of January 12, 2026.

### ***Budget Subcommittee***

- The Budget Subcommittee met the first week of January to discuss additional targets for cost savings. The main item discussed was the cost of Watermaster's insurance and potential options to achieve cost savings based on research done by Director Smith. Additional options were discussed in the meeting and the Subcommittee is requesting to present specific options to the Board as part of the February 2026 Board meeting.

***2025 Annual Report – Schedule for Review and Finalization***

Watermaster Staff are on track to deliver the WY 2025 Annual Report pursuant to the schedule presented in October 2025. The upcoming milestones and schedule are as follows:

- January 26, 2026: Publish Draft Annual Report to the Watermaster website and notify of review period and date of hearing to receive comments
- February 18, 2026 Meeting: Hearing to receive comments and recommendations for changes to the Draft report
- February 23, 2026: Written comments on draft Report due to Watermaster staff
- March 4, 2026: Staff releases revised Annual Report, with response to comments document as an appendix
- March 18, 2026 Board Meeting: Board to review and consider adoption of the Final Annual Report
- Not later than April 1, 2026: Staff files Annual Report with the Court and DWR

***Status Update: 2025 5-Yr Assessment and GMP Update***

- A verbal report will be provided at the meeting.

***BPA and Party Updates***

- There remains one Party that 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.
  - The current outstanding balance owed to Watermaster is now \$392.56.
  - The assumed annual pumping by this party is 1.20 acre-feet per year based on water-duty methods performed during the development of the GMP.

**Borrego Springs Watermaster  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 2026  
AGENDA ITEM VI**

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Samantha Adams, Executive Director  
**Date:** January 16, 2026  
**Subject:** Establishing Agenda for February 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

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**Process**

To set the February agenda, the Board will:

1. Review the initial February agenda topics planned by Staff, as listed below.
2. Review the March and April 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 January 2026 Board meeting (such as during public comment).
4. Call on Directors to request additional items for consideration of inclusion on the February 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 February Regular Meeting**

The February 18, 2026 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 February 2026 includes the following business items for consideration and possible action:

1. Hearing to receive comments on the WY 2025 Annual Report
2. Review and Consideration of Watermaster Insurance and Cost Savings Approaches
3. GMP Assessment and Workshop:
  - a. RCA #7 – Integration of Judgment/GMP
  - b. Current Basin Conditions Relative to Updated SMC

**Staff's Tentative Topics for March and April**

***March Special Meeting (IN-PERSON)***

Board Workshop: 5-Yr Assessment Report and GMP Update

***March Agenda Topics (IN-PERSON)***

1. Consideration of Approval of WY 2025 Financial Audit
2. Consideration of Approval of WY 2025 Annual Report
3. Report out from February Joint TAC-EWG meeting
4. Consideration of Approval of April 2026 TAC Meeting Agenda

***April Agenda Topics***

1. 2nd Quarter WY 2026 Budget Status Review
2. WY 2027 Budget Scoping
3. GMP Assessment and Workshop: Addressing Public/TAC Comments on 5-Yr Assessment Report and GMP Update