Borrego Springs Watermaster
Board of Directors Meeting
August 19, 2026
AGENDA ITEM IV.E

To: Board of Directors

From: Lauren Salberg, Associate Geologist, West Yost

Date: August 14, 2026

Subject: Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

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

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

Recommended Action

Board discussion.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Background and Previously Related Actions by the Board

On April 6, 2023, the Watermaster adopted an updated *Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* (GWMP) that defined (1) the wells included groundwater monitoring network and (2) the actions and schedule to fill data gaps and improve monitoring documentation and reporting protocols.

In June 2026, the Watermaster completed the first Five-Year Assessment of the *Groundwater Management Plan for the Borrego Springs Subbasin* (5-Year Assessment), which evaluated implementation of the 2020 Groundwater Management Plan (2020 GMP) during Water Years 2021 through 2025 and addressed Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). This 5-Year Assessment also informed recommended updates to the original Groundwater Management Plan, which were incorporated into the 2026 GMP Update. Chapter 3 – *Sustainable Management Criteria* of the 2026 GMP Update establishes the updated Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) that will be used to assess progress toward sustainability during WY 2026 through 2030. Key updates relevant to the semi-annual groundwater monitoring program include:

- Updates to the groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring networks and Representative Monitoring Wells[1]

[1] The 2026 GMP Update identifies a subset of 17 monitoring wells as representative monitoring wells for groundwater-levels. All wells in the groundwater-quality monitoring network are considered representative for the purpose of evaluating Basin-wide and localized groundwater-quality conditions and trends.

- Revised SMC for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, including updated minimum thresholds[2], measurable objectives, and interim milestones

- Updates to the groundwater-quality constituents evaluated to assess progress toward sustainability, including removal of fluoride as a constituent of concern (COC). The four remaining COCs are: total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrate, sulfate, and arsenic.

- Clarification of the SMC framework for assessing degraded groundwater quality. The 2026 GMP Update clarifies that an exceedance of a minimum threshold alone does not constitute an Undesirable Result. The process to assess for degraded groundwater quality includes performing an annual groundwater-quality trend analysis that will be used to evaluate the potential for Undesirable Results. The groundwater-quality trend analysis will be performed annually to evaluate current conditions and changes in trends. The results will be reviewed with the Watermaster's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)) and any recommendations for further analysis provided to the Board for consideration. The annual analysis will also support implementation of PMA No. 5 - Water Quality Optimization by identifying where additional evaluation or management may be warranted.

The main objectives of the monitoring program remain unchanged. Generally, the objective is to collect the data that can be used to:

- Demonstrate progress toward meeting the Sustainability Goal of the 2026 GMP Update, 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[3]: 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.

To demonstrate progress towards sustainability, the monitoring program data are used evaluate groundwater conditions relative to the SMCs established in the 2026 GMP Update for the relevant Sustainability Indicators in the Basin. The 2026 GMP Update identified a subset of the wells in the monitoring program as representative monitoring wells to assess groundwater conditions.

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

[3] "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)).

Currently, 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). In spring 2026, the wells in the groundwater-quality monitoring network were sampled for the parameters listed in the table below. These parameters, in addition to the four COCs, are analyzed to support source water characterization and general water-quality characterization.

Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program: Water Quality Parameters[4]	
Alkalinity (including bicarbonate and carbonate)	Nitrite
Arsenic	Magnesium
Calcium	Potassium
Chloride	Sodium
Fluoride	Sulfate
Nitrate	Total dissolved solids

This report summarizes the spring 2026 monitoring event and includes:

- A description of the groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring networks as of spring 2026.
- A summary of the activities that occurred during the spring 2026 monitoring event.
- Characterization of the data collected during the spring 2026 monitoring event, including:
  - Comparison of groundwater-level data at the Representative Monitoring Wells against Minimum Thresholds in the 2026 GMP Update.
  - Time-series charts of groundwater-level data at wells monitored in spring 2026 (showing entire period of historical data at each well).
  - Spatial distribution maps of groundwater-quality results for the four COCs at wells sampled in spring 2026.
  - Time-series charts of groundwater-quality at wells monitored in spring 2026 (showing entire period of historical data at each well).
- Annual Groundwater-Quality Trend Analysis. The analysis incorporates monitoring results through spring 2026 to identify changes in groundwater-quality trends since the data was last analyzed in the 5-Year Assessment Report[5]. Statistical trends are evaluated using the Mann-Kendall trend analysis for wells with six or more data points within the applicable periods of analysis. The Mann-Kendall analysis evaluates whether concentrations exhibit a statistically significant trend over time and classifies the results as decreasing, no trend,

[4] Fluoride was sampled in Spring 2026, but will be removed from future sampling events as it is no longer a COC in the 2026 GMP.

[5] Chapter 8.2.6.1 of the 5-Year Assessment Report provides a detailed description of the trend analysis and interpretations of data analyzed in the periods before and after the passage of SGMA. That detail is not repeated herein. This report focuses on observed changes in trends since the last analysis.

or increasing. Comparison of trend classifications over time is used to identify wells where groundwater-quality trends indicate the potential for undesirable groundwater quality results and may warrant further evaluation under the framework established by the Judgment and 2026 GMP Update.[6]

Status of Groundwater Monitoring Network as of Spring 2026

Table 1 lists wells in the groundwater-level and groundwater-quality monitoring programs. It details the local or alias[7] well name, State Well ID, well use (if known), type of monitoring performed, and, if applicable, the reason(s) why a sample or measurement was not collected during spring 2026. 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 75 wells. Of the 75 wells:

- 67 wells are monitored for groundwater-levels. Of these 67 wells:
  - 38 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 for quality assurance.
- 48 wells are monitored for groundwater-quality. Of the 48 wells:
  - 10 wells are wells are potable drinking water supply wells.
  - 21 wells are wells that serve non-potable uses, including agricultural, recreation irrigation, and other purposes.
  - 17 wells are dedicated monitoring wells.

Summary of Activities – Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Event

The spring 2026 groundwater monitoring event took place from April 26 to April 30, 2026, and included the following activities:

- Groundwater-level measurements were taken at 66 of 67 wells, including:
  - Manual measurement of depth-to-groundwater at 37 of 38 wells. Notable outcomes included:

[6] Sections 3.1.3.2 - *Undesirable Results* and Section 3.1.3.7 - *Process for Assessing Groundwater-Quality Conditions and Trends* of the 2026 GMP Update describe how groundwater-quality monitoring data are used to evaluate trends and potential impacts, consistent with Judgment Section VI.B.2 – *Water Quality Monitoring Plan*.

[7] 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.

        - Groundwater-levels were measured at three recently constructed observations wells for the first time (WWTP-2, WWTP-3, and WWTP-4D).
        - A groundwater-level measurement was not collected from the Palleson well because the site was inaccessible. Staff is attempting to contact the property owner to determine future access.
    - Depth-to-groundwater measurements were downloaded from all 29 wells equipped with transducers.[8] No new transducers were installed or replaced during the spring 2026 monitoring event.
- Water-quality grab samples were collected at 46 of 48 wells. Notable outcomes include:
    - Groundwater-quality samples were collected at three new observations wells for the first time (WWTP-2, WWTP-3, and WWTP-4D).
    - Groundwater-quality samples were not collected from NMA-8 and NMA-9 because the well pumps are no longer operational. Staff is evaluating alternative existing wells that could replace these monitoring points in future events.

Results – Spring 2026 Groundwater Monitoring Event

Groundwater-Level Results

The following tables and figures were prepared to summarize the groundwater-level results for spring 2026.

Table 2 – Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to 2026 GMP Minimum Thresholds. For each well, this table lists the groundwater elevation in spring 2026, the Minimum Threshold in the 2026 GMP Update, and the difference between the spring 2026 groundwater elevation and Minimum Threshold. If the difference is positive, current groundwater elevations are above the Minimum Threshold.

Figures 3a – 3q – Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria at Representative Monitoring Wells. For each of the 17 Representative Monitoring Wells, the time-series charts show historical and current groundwater elevations compared to the Minimum Threshold in the 2026 GMP. Note that the data in Figures 3a-3q were screened to only show *static* groundwater elevations, which are groundwater levels in an aquifer under non-pumping conditions.[9] The groundwater elevations that occur while the wells are pumping are not representative of "true static" groundwater conditions and, therefore, are not intended to be compared to Minimum Thresholds.

[8] 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.

[9] 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 ID4-4, ID1-12, and RH-2 and for historical pumping data at Air Ranch 4 (Figures 3-f, 3-k, 3-p, and 3-q), the high-frequency transducer data has been screened to remove groundwater elevations influenced by groundwater pumping at the well.

Appendix A (A-1 through A-67). These figures show time-series charts of the historical groundwater elevation data for all 67 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.

Notable outcomes related to groundwater-levels measured during the spring 2026 monitoring event include:

- Groundwater levels are above their respective Minimum Thresholds at all 17 Representative Monitoring Wells. Groundwater levels at Representative Monitoring Wells range from approximately 40 ft to 242 ft above their respective Minimum Threshold.
- Groundwater levels increased across much of the NMA by one to three feet since the last monitoring event in fall 2025.

Groundwater-Quality Results

The following tables and figures were prepared to summarize and interpret the groundwater-quality results for spring 2026, including results from the groundwater-quality trend analysis.

Table 3 - 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 spring 2026.

Figures 4 and 5 – COC Concentrations in Groundwater – Spring 2026. These figures characterize groundwater-quality for the four COCs constituents of concern identified in the GMP: TDS, nitrate, arsenic, and sulfate. Each figure includes two maps (one for each COC) that illustrates the spatial distribution of water quality concentrations at all wells sampled in spring 2026. TDS and nitrate are shown on Figure 4; Sulfate and arsenic are shown on Figure 5.

Appendix B (B-1 through B-192). This appendix includes time-series charts of the four constituents of concern for all 48 wells in the groundwater-quality monitoring network (arsenic, TDS, sulfate, and nitrate). The primary or secondary MCLs for drinking water quality standards for each constituent are also plotted on each chart (these are the relevant SMC defined in the 2026 GMP Update). 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.

Figures 6a through 6d. These figures present three-panel maps comparing groundwater-quality concentrations and Mann-Kendall trends at wells for each of the four COCs. The three panels show results for:

- Pre-SGMA conditions, representing data from 1950 to 2014
- Post SGMA Conditions through spring 2025 (2015 to spring 2025)
- Post SGMA Conditions through spring 2026 (2015–spring 2026)

For each period, the maps show the average COC concentration and the concentration trend over the analysis period, as determined through the Mann-Kendall trend analysis. For the Pre-SGMA and 2015 to Spring 2025 panels, the symbol color represents the range of the average COC concentration, while

the symbol shape indicates the Mann-Kendall trend classification (increasing, decreasing, no trend, or insufficient data to compute a statistical trend). The 2015 to Spring 2026 panel uses coloring to highlight wells where the trend classification changed since the last trend analysis was performed through spring 2025. Wells with no change in trend classification since the prior analysis are shown in gray while those wells that did have a change in trend are shown in color. Together, the maps illustrate both the spatial distribution of COC concentrations and identify locations where statistically derived groundwater-quality trends have changed based on the most recent (spring 2026) monitoring data.

Table 4 – *Summary of Changes in Groundwater-Quality Trends from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026.* This table summarizes the changes in groundwater quality trends, by Management Area, since the analysis was performed for data through spring 2025.

Overall, groundwater-quality concentrations in spring 2026 were within the ranges observed during previous monitoring events. Notable observations related to groundwater-quality samples collected during the spring 2026 monitoring event include:

- MW-6S, constructed in 2023, has a relatively short monitoring record. Results collected to-date have shown variability in constituent concentrations between monitoring events. The variability is uncharacteristic relative to other wells in the monitoring network. The variability over the three years of sampling to date is characterized as follows for the four COCs:
    - TDS concentrations have ranged from 880 – 1,600 mg/L. In spring 2026, TDS was 960 mg/L. All concentrations have exceeded the lower limit of the secondary MCL of 500 mg/L, and occasionally the upper limit of 1,000 mg/L.
    - Nitrate concentrations have ranged from 4 to 24 mg/L, periodically exceeding the primary drinking water MCL of 10 mg/L. In spring 2026, nitrate was 6 mg/L.
    - Sulfate concentrations have ranged from 400 to 710 mg/L, exceeding the secondary drinking water MCL of 250 mg/L. In spring 2026, sulfate was 400 mg/L.
    - Arsenic concentrations have been stable and below detection limits for the majority of sample events. In spring 2026, arsenic concentration was non-detect.
- No other noteworthy changes in groundwater-quality concentrations were observed based on the spring 2026 data.[10]
- The results of the groundwater-quality trend analysis show that:
    - Overall, changes in trends depicted in the right-most panel of the exhibits are due to additional data points being available at wells rather than a change in the prior computed trend. A minimum of six data points are needed to perform the Mann-Kendall analysis. Of the total 26 changes in trends across the four COCs, 14 of those were newly eligible for statistical analysis and all show no trend in concentration. The other 11 trend changes were a change from the statistical trend reported in the prior

[10] Additional note: Groundwater-quality results from spring 2026 indicate that the elevated nitrate and sulfate concentrations measured at MW-5B in fall 2025 may have been anomalous. Watermaster staff are reviewing sampling conditions between monitoring events to investigate potential causes for the fall 2025 results.

Post-SGMA period through spring 2025, as described in Table 4 by Management Area and COC.

The changes in trend classification provide additional information for evaluating groundwater-quality conditions but do not, by themselves, indicate whether an Undesirable Result under the groundwater-quality SMC has occurred. The wells with newly identified increasing trends, along with spring 2026 concentrations and Minimum Thresholds, will be considered as part of the groundwater-quality evaluation and implementation of Program Management Action No. 5 - Water Quality Optimization, which will be discussed with the TAC at its December 2026 meeting.

Draft Public Outreach Materials

At its June 3, 2026 Special Meeting, the Board directed Watermaster staff to develop a public communication that could be published in local media highlighting the results of Watermaster monitoring and management activities to help keep the community informed of Basin conditions and progress toward sustainability.

The mock-up of the proposed communication is attached for Board review. Staff is currently coordinating with local media outlets to confirm publication specifications and layout requirements; therefore, the final format may differ from the attached mock-up to meet media specifications. The draft is being provided to demonstrate our recommended information and level of detail to solicit Board feedback. Based on the feedback received, Staff will finalize the content and coordinate its publication in local media.

Enclosures

Figure 1. Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network (Spring 2026)

Figure 2. Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network (Spring 2026)

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

Figure 4. TDS and Nitrate in Groundwater – Spring 2026

Figure 5. Arsenic and Sulfate in Groundwater – Spring 2026

Figure 6a. Mann Kendall Trends in TDS – Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

Figure 6b. Mann Kendall Trends in Nitrate – Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

Figure 6c. Mann Kendall Trends in Arsenic – Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

Figure 6d. Mann Kendall Trends in Sulfate – Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

Table 1. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Network and Wells Monitored in Spring 2026

Table 2. Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to 2026 GMP Minimum Thresholds

Table 3. Summary of Exceedances of Water Quality by Standard and Well Type

Table 4. Summary of Changes in Groundwater-Quality Trends from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026 as Depicted in Figures 6a through 6d

Draft Public Outreach Materials

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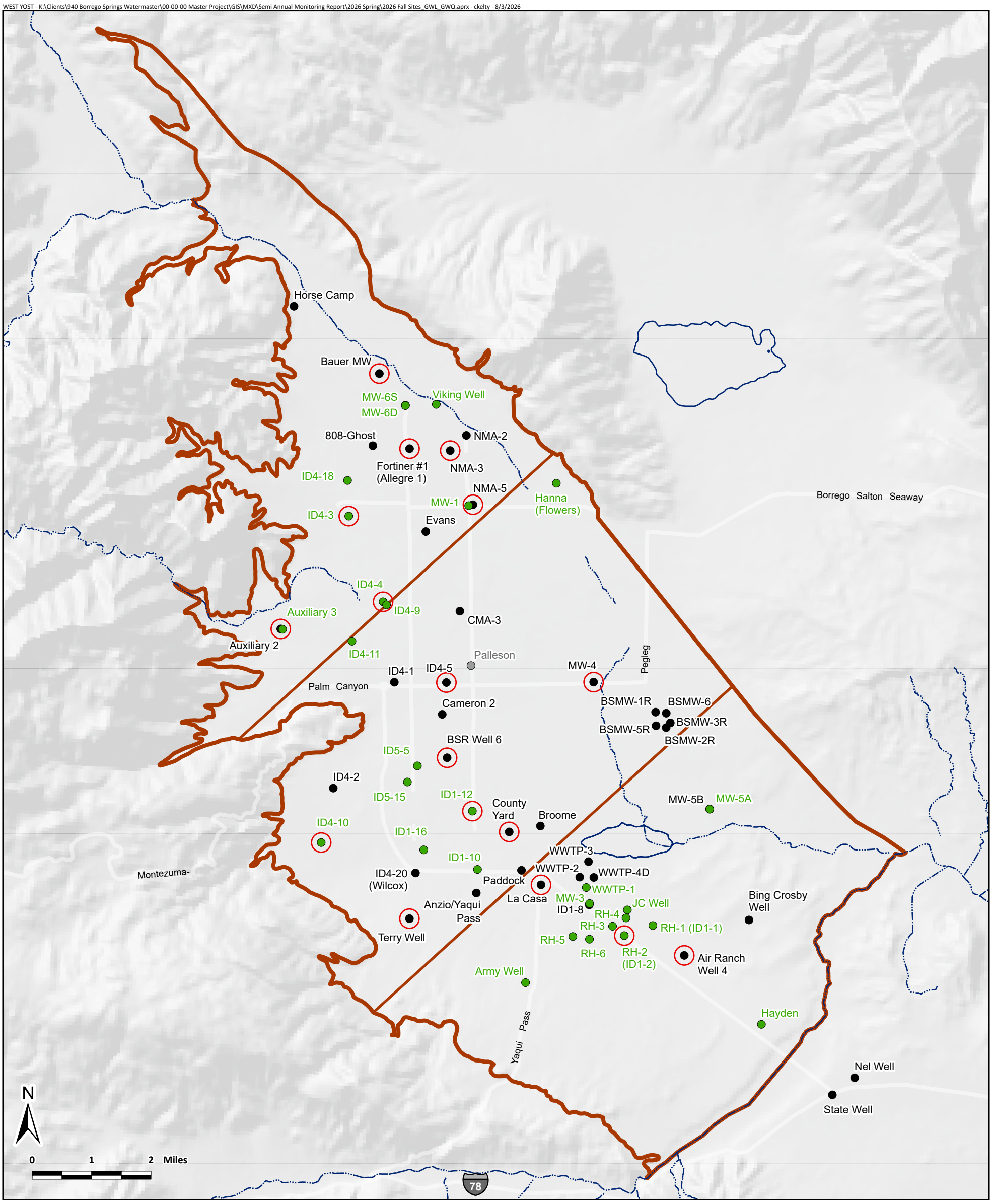


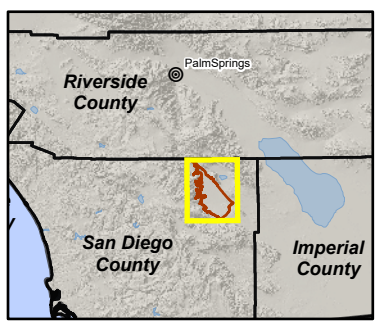
Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network

- Representative Monitoring Site

Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions

Wells Monitored for Groundwater Level - Spring 2026

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



Borrego Springs Watermaster

Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

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Figure 1

Groundwater-Level Monitoring Network
Spring 2026

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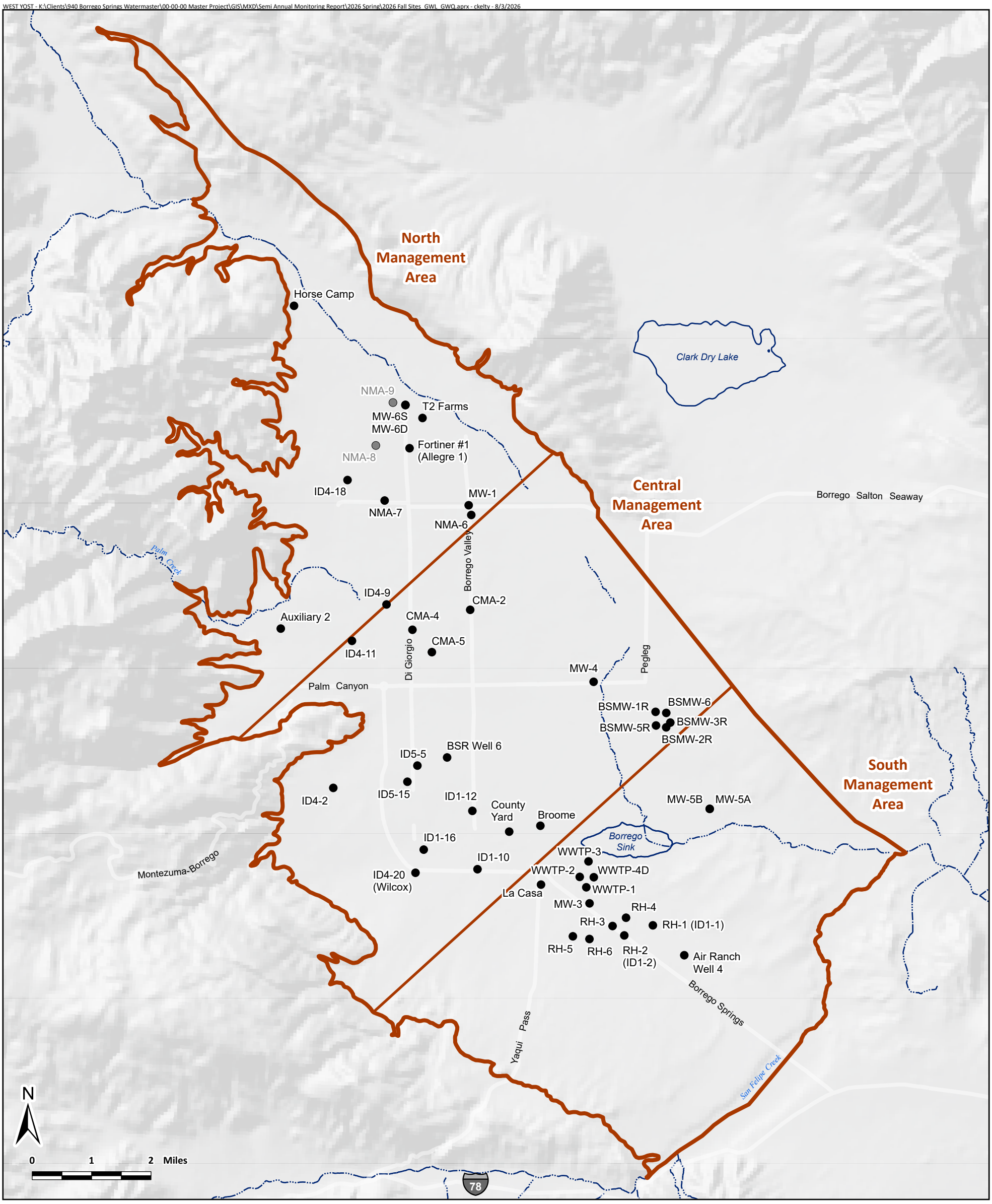

Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network - Spring 2026

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

Borrego Springs Subbasin with Management Area Divisions

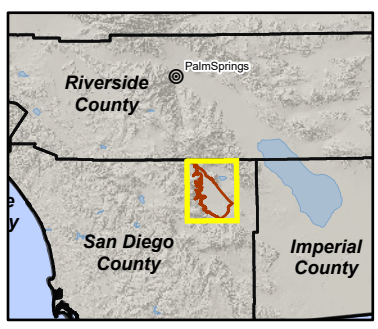

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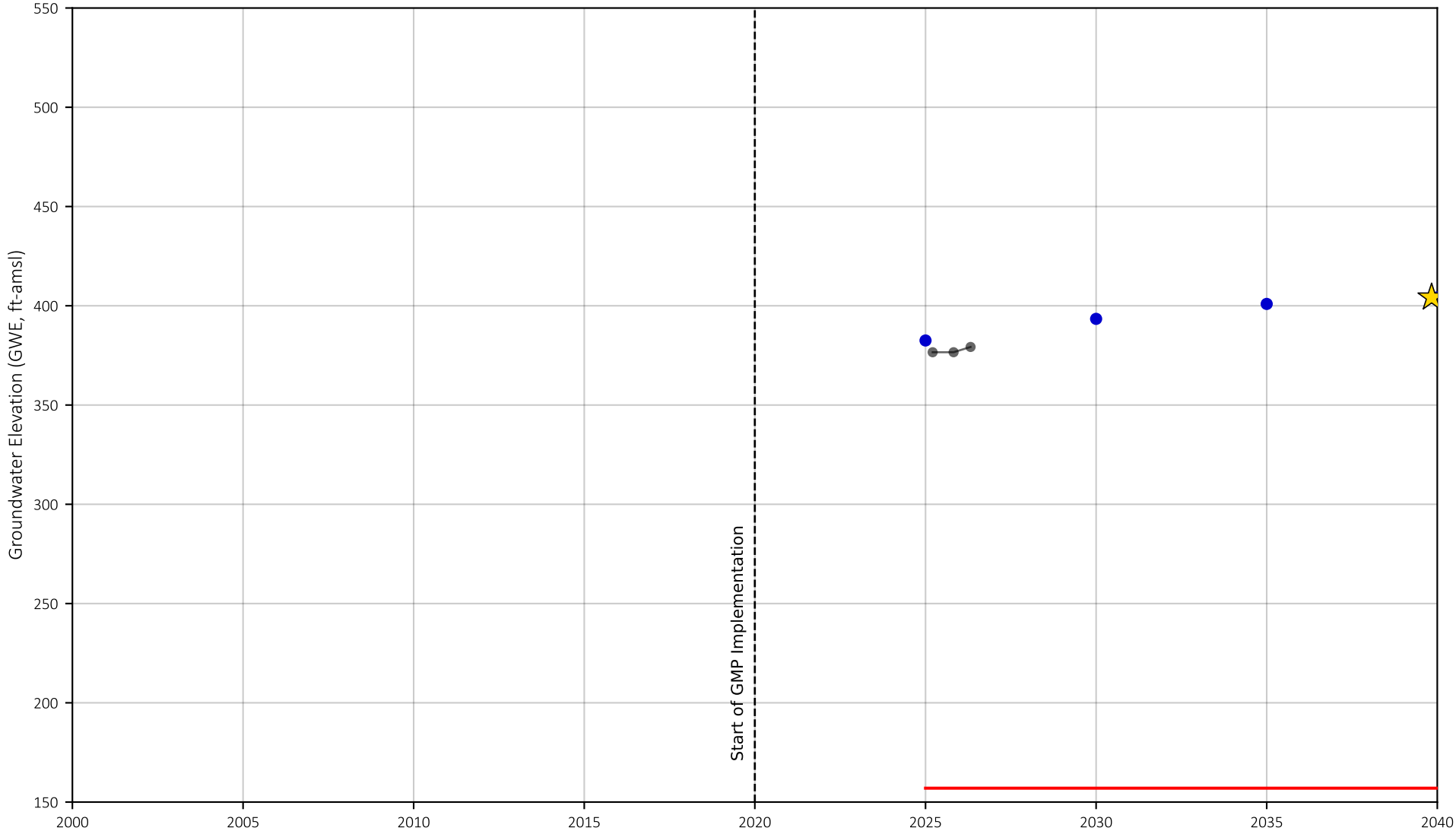
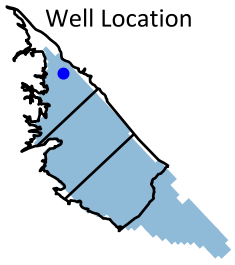
Figure 2

Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network
Spring 2026





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

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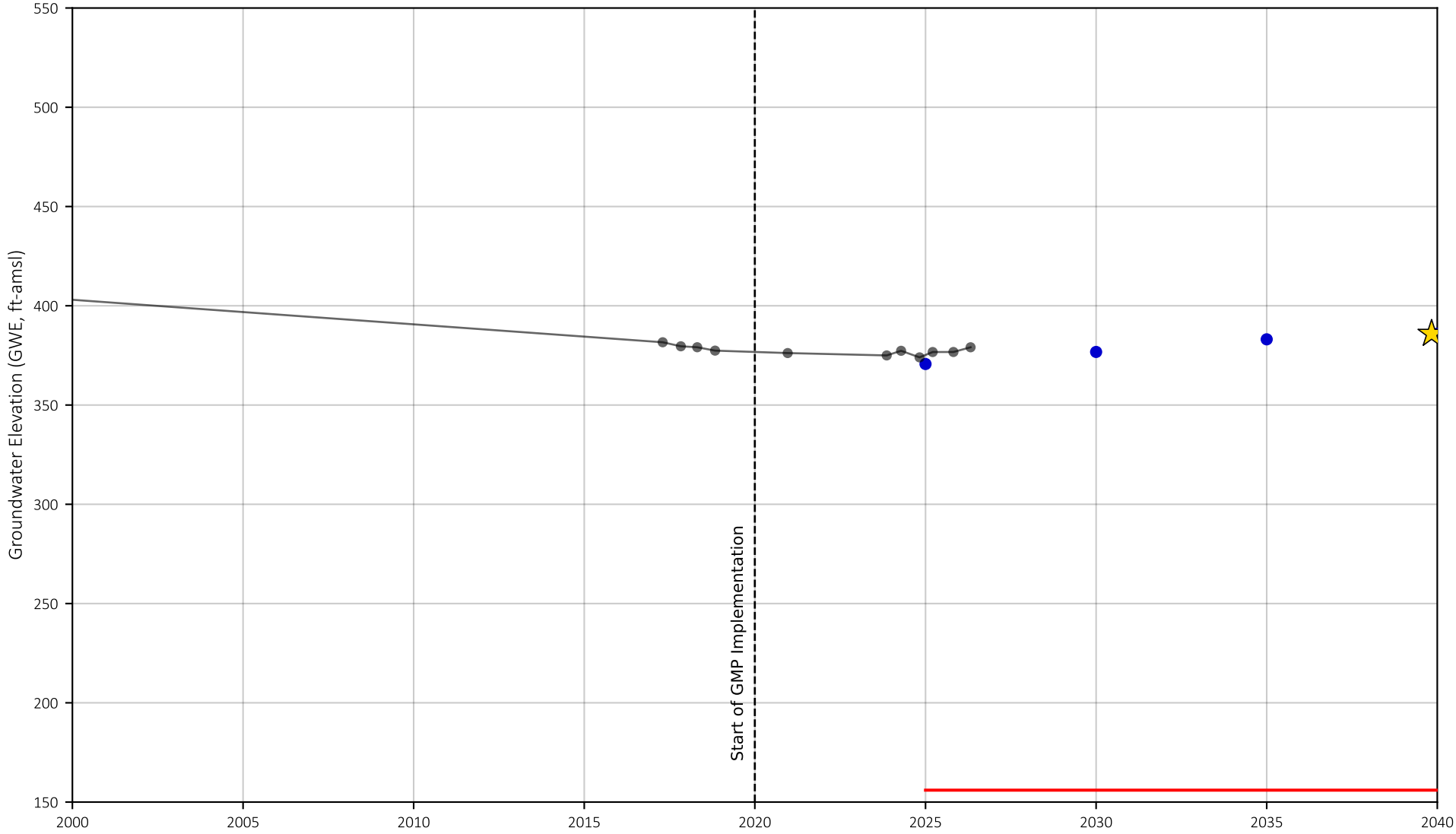
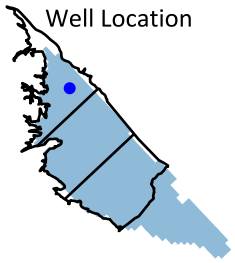
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
Bauer MW

Figure 3-a





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

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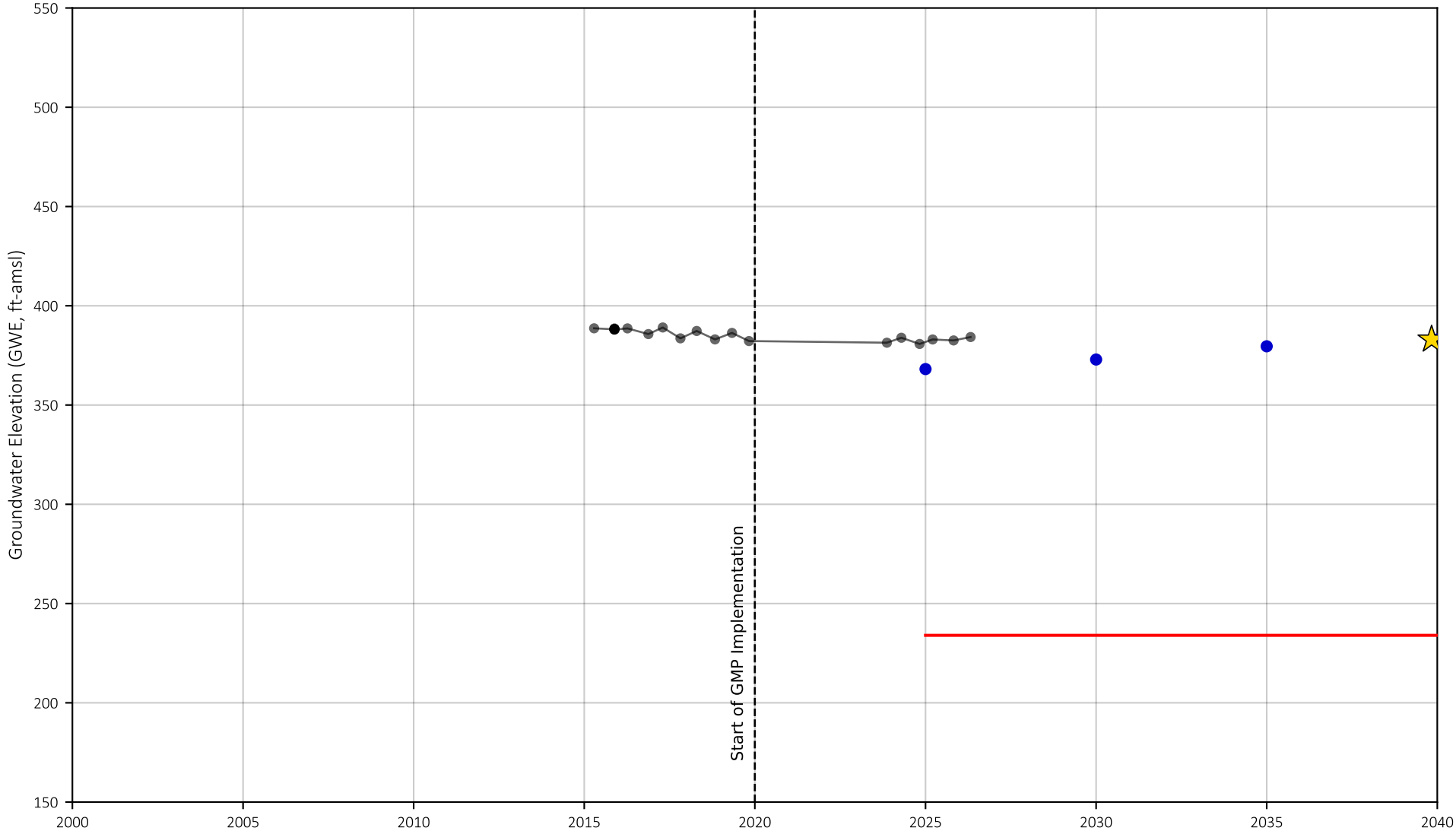
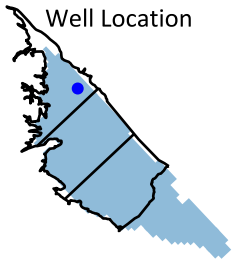
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
Fortiner

Figure 3-b





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

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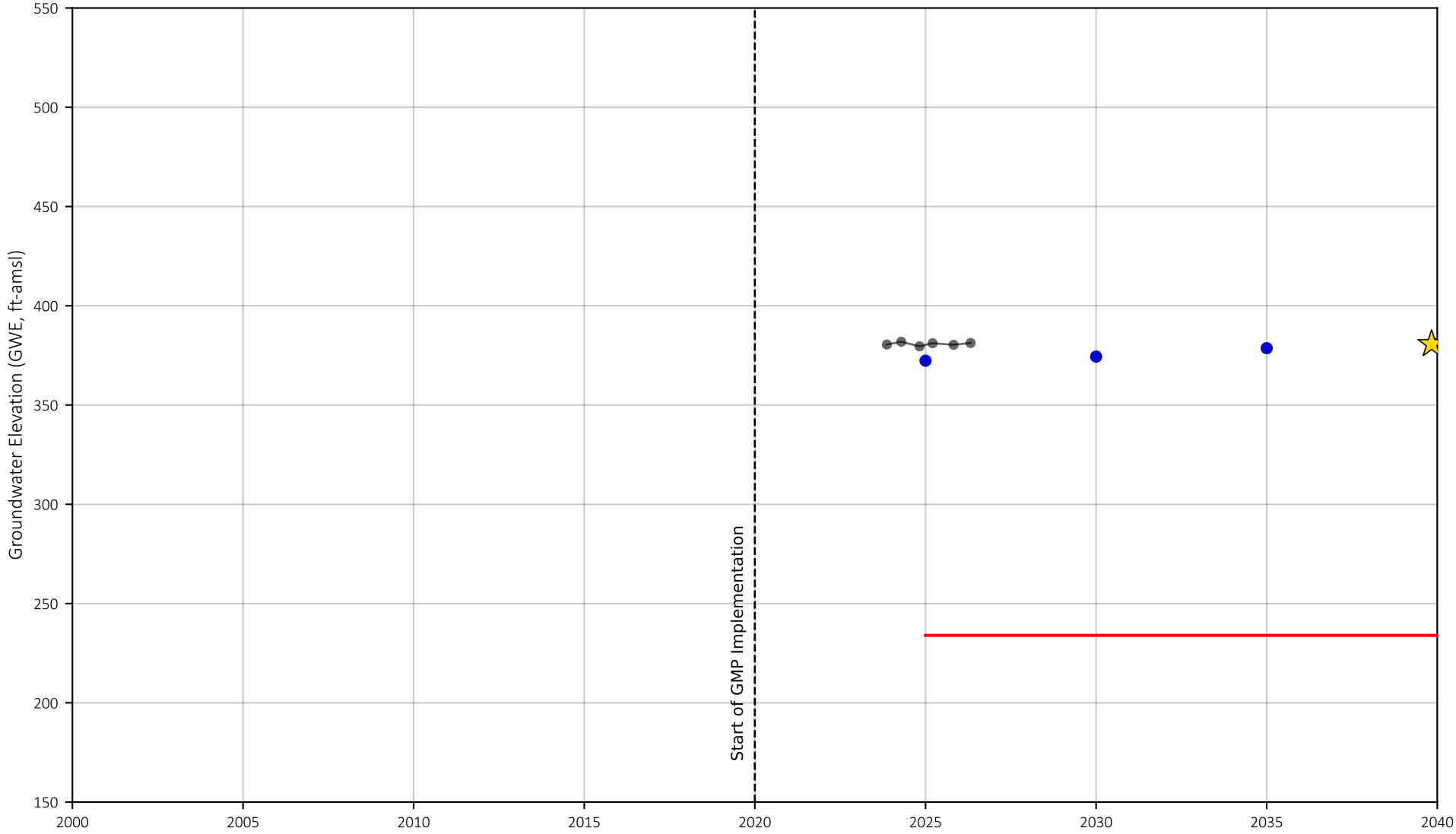
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
NMA-3

Figure 3-c



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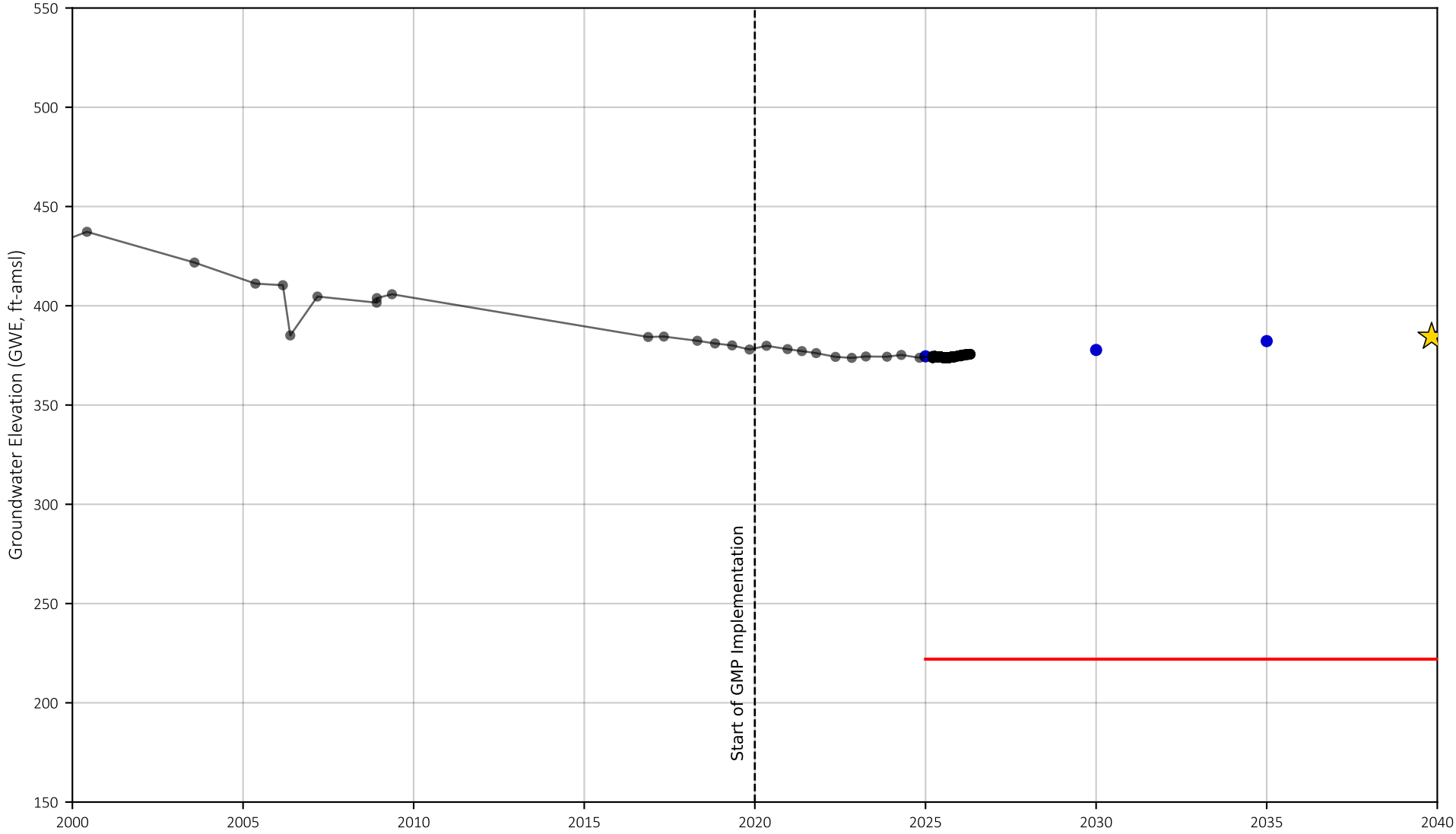
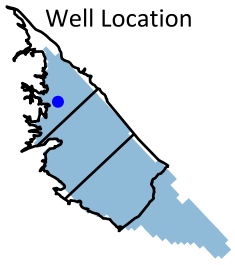
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
NMA-5

Figure 3-d





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

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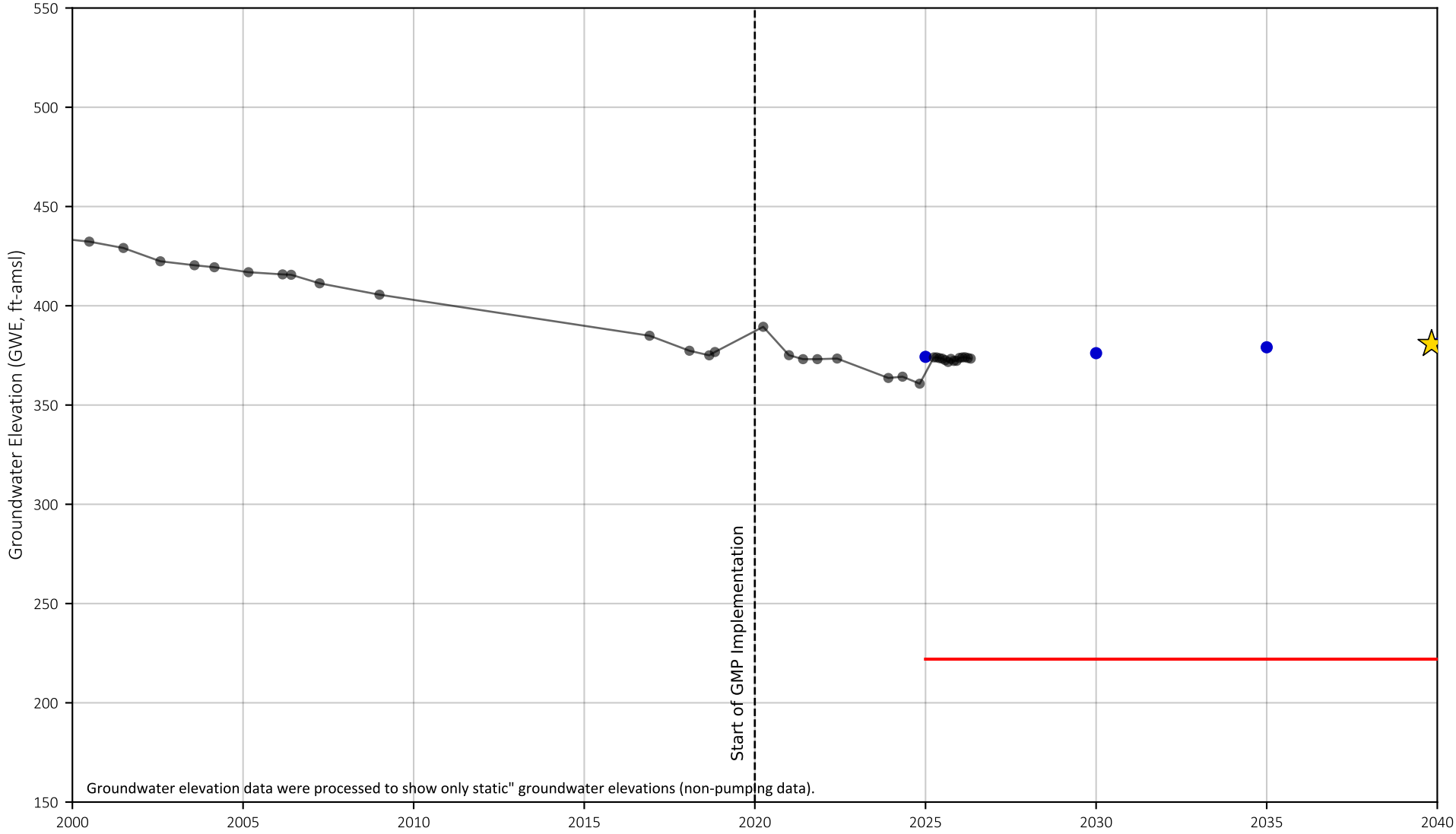
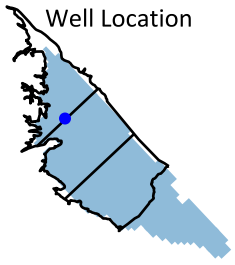
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
ID4-3

Figure 3-e





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

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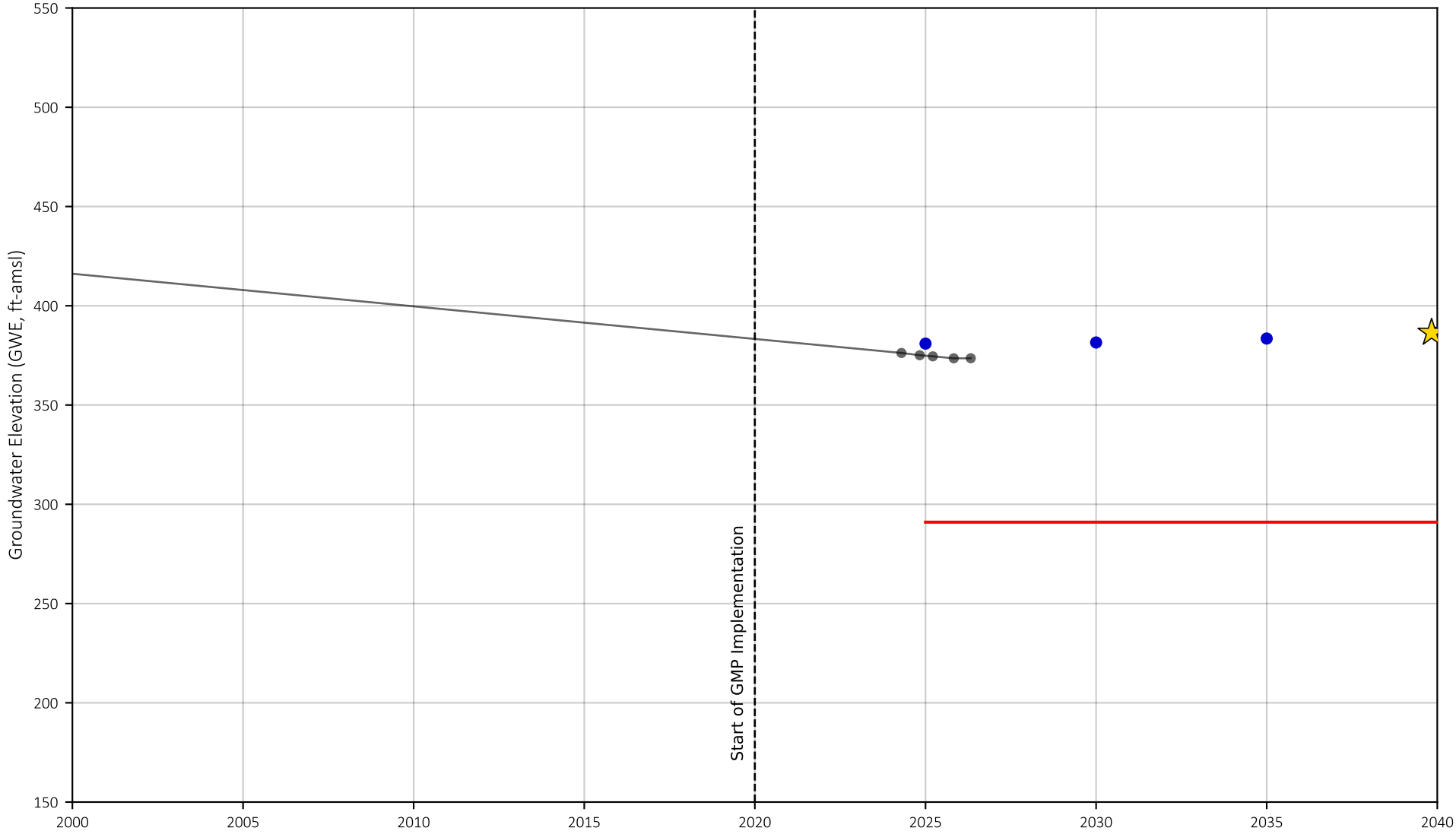
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
ID4-4

Figure 3-f



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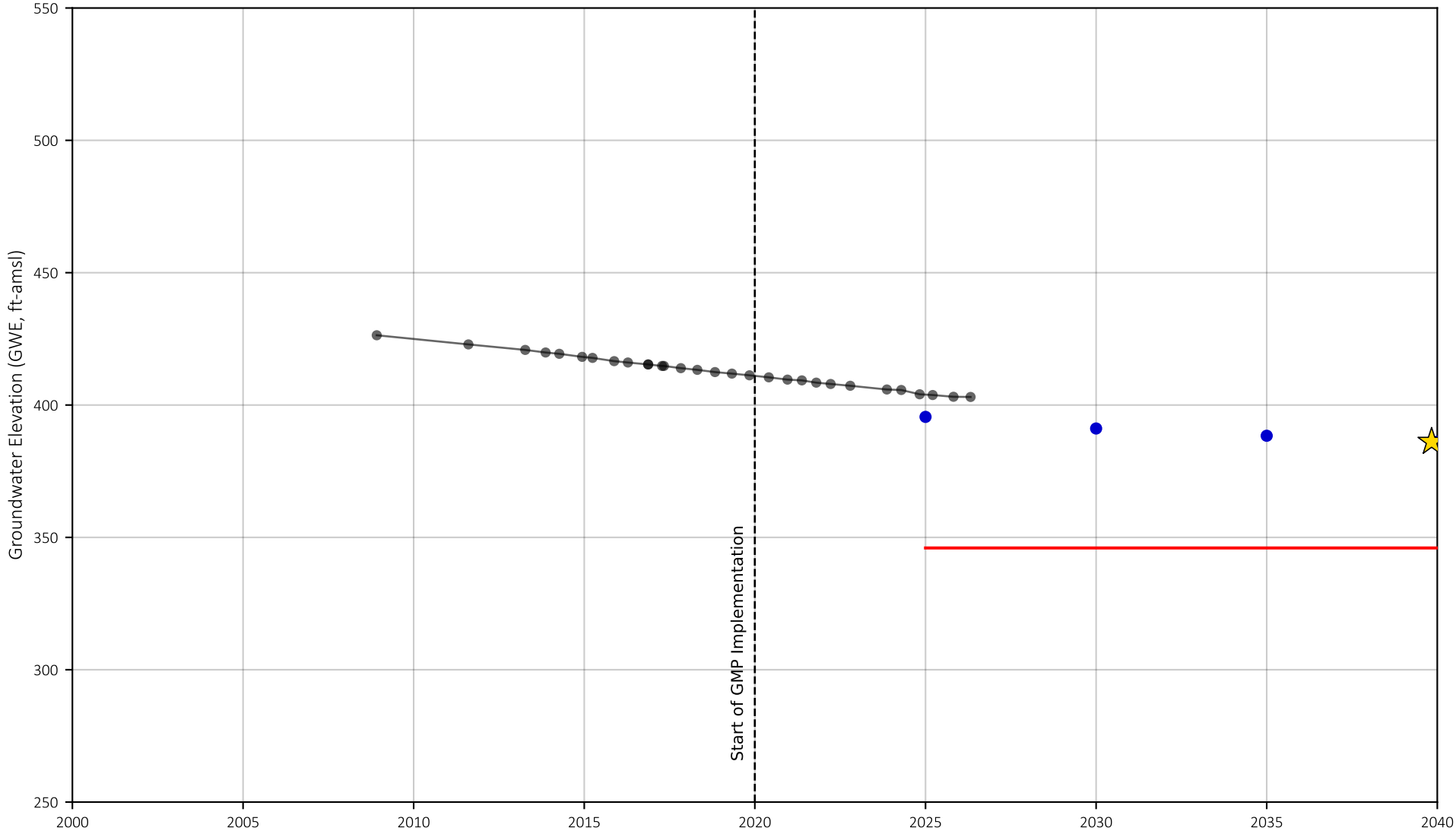
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
Auxiliary 2

Figure 3-g



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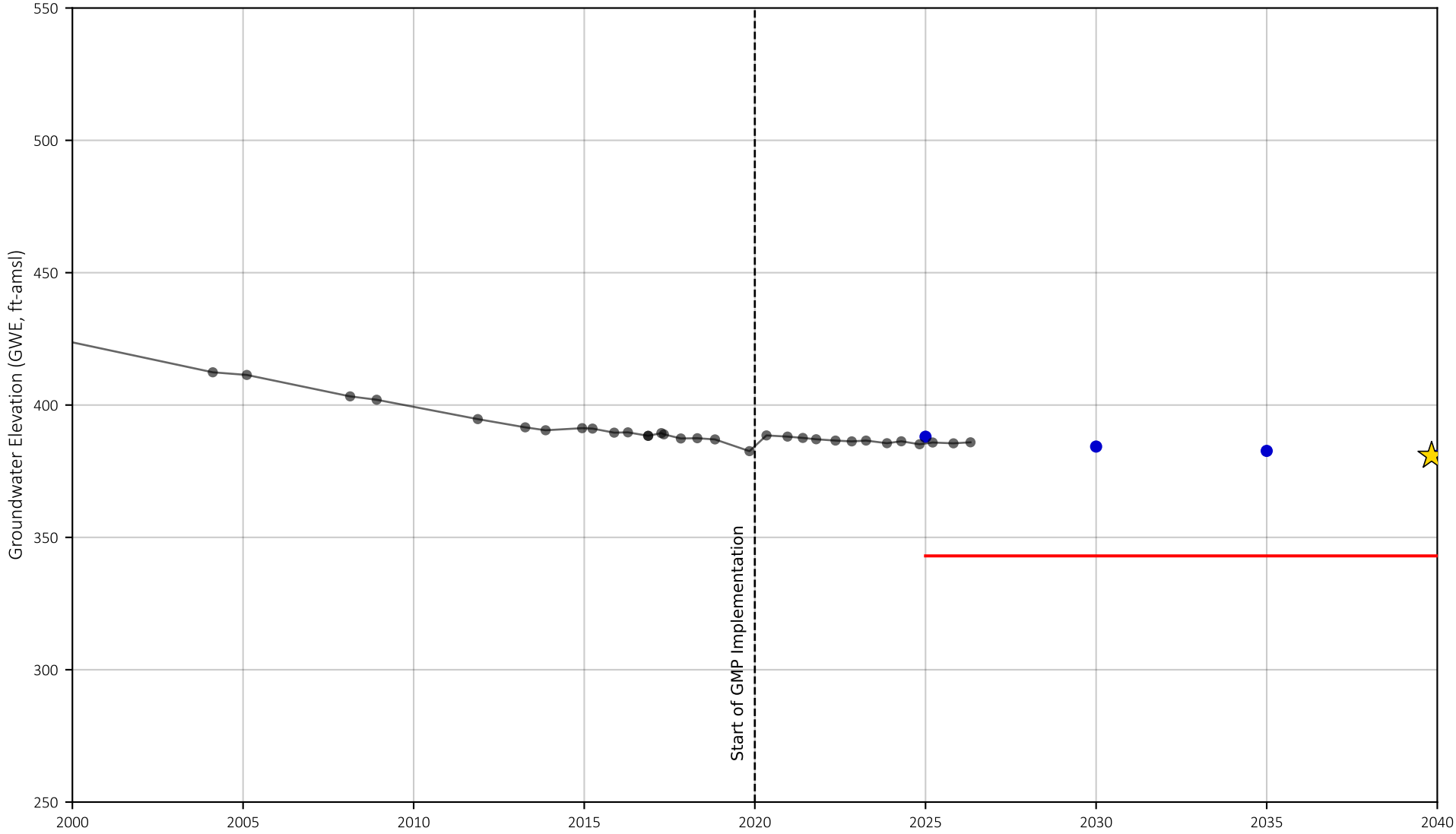
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
MW-4

Figure 3-h



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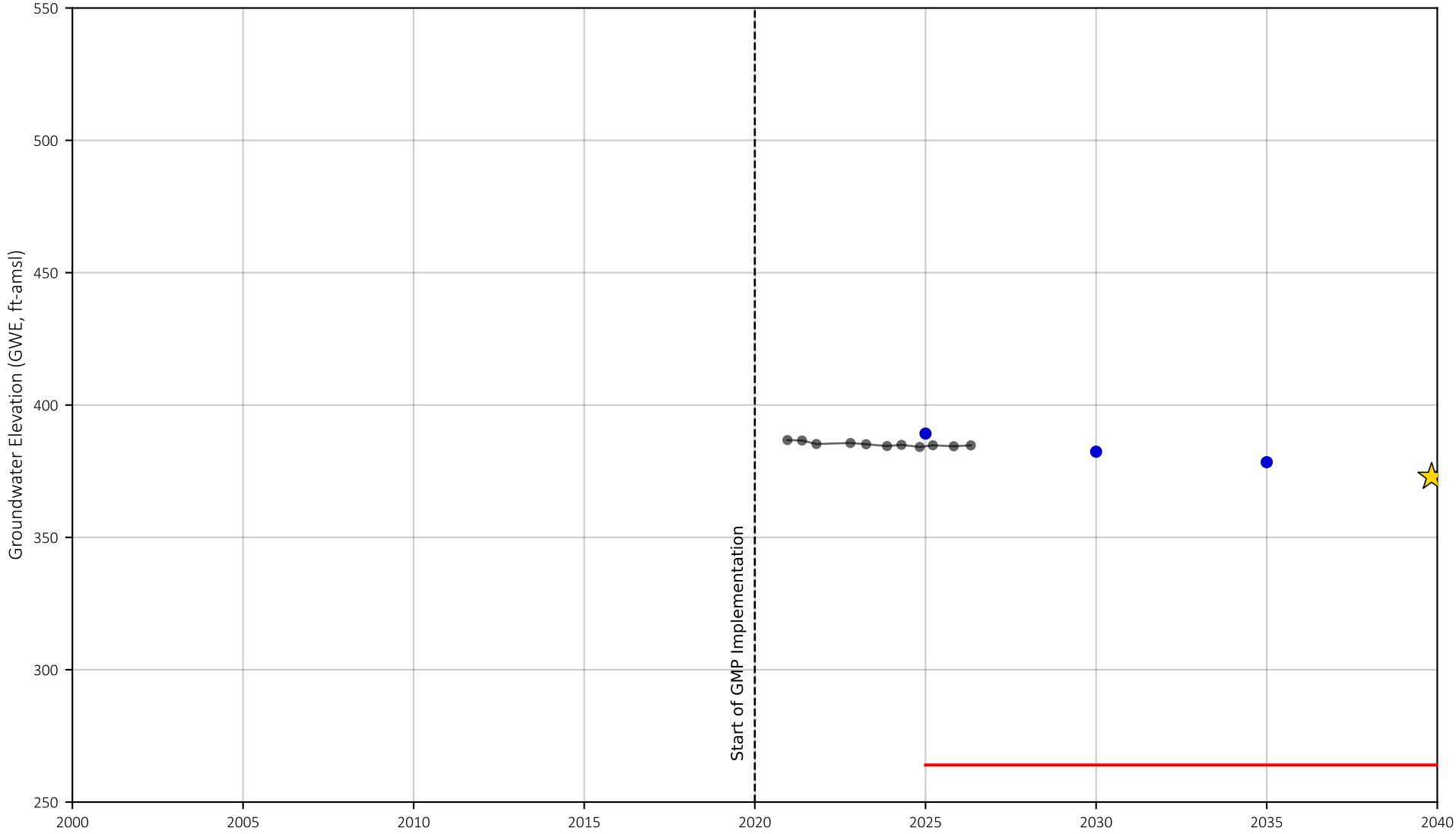
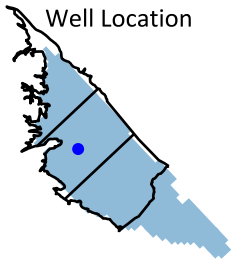
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
ID4-5

Figure 3-i





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

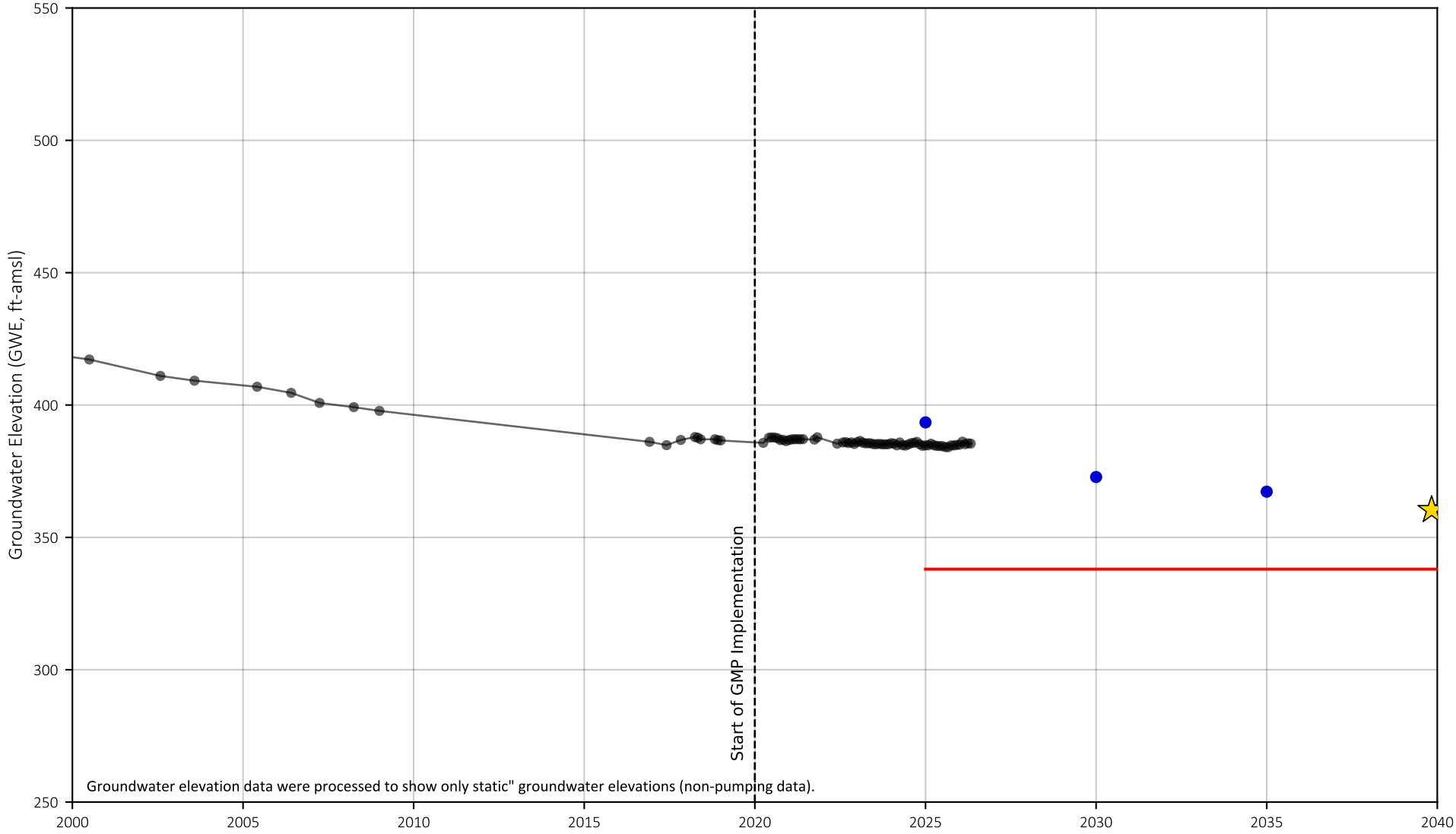
Minimum Threshold

Prepared by:

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
BSR Well 6

Figure 3-j

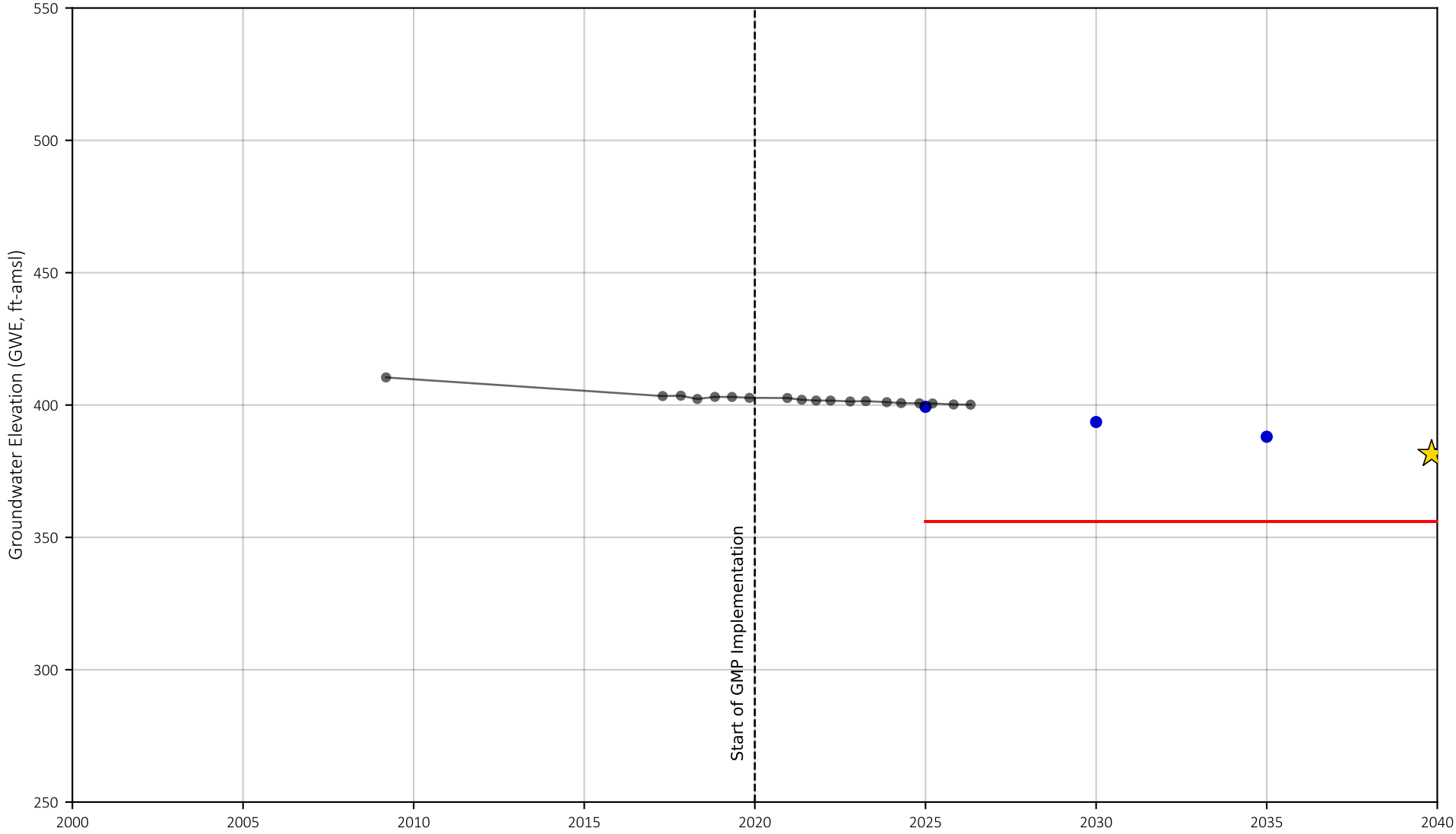


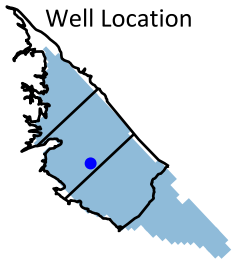
Prepared by:

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

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

Figure 3-k





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

Prepared by:

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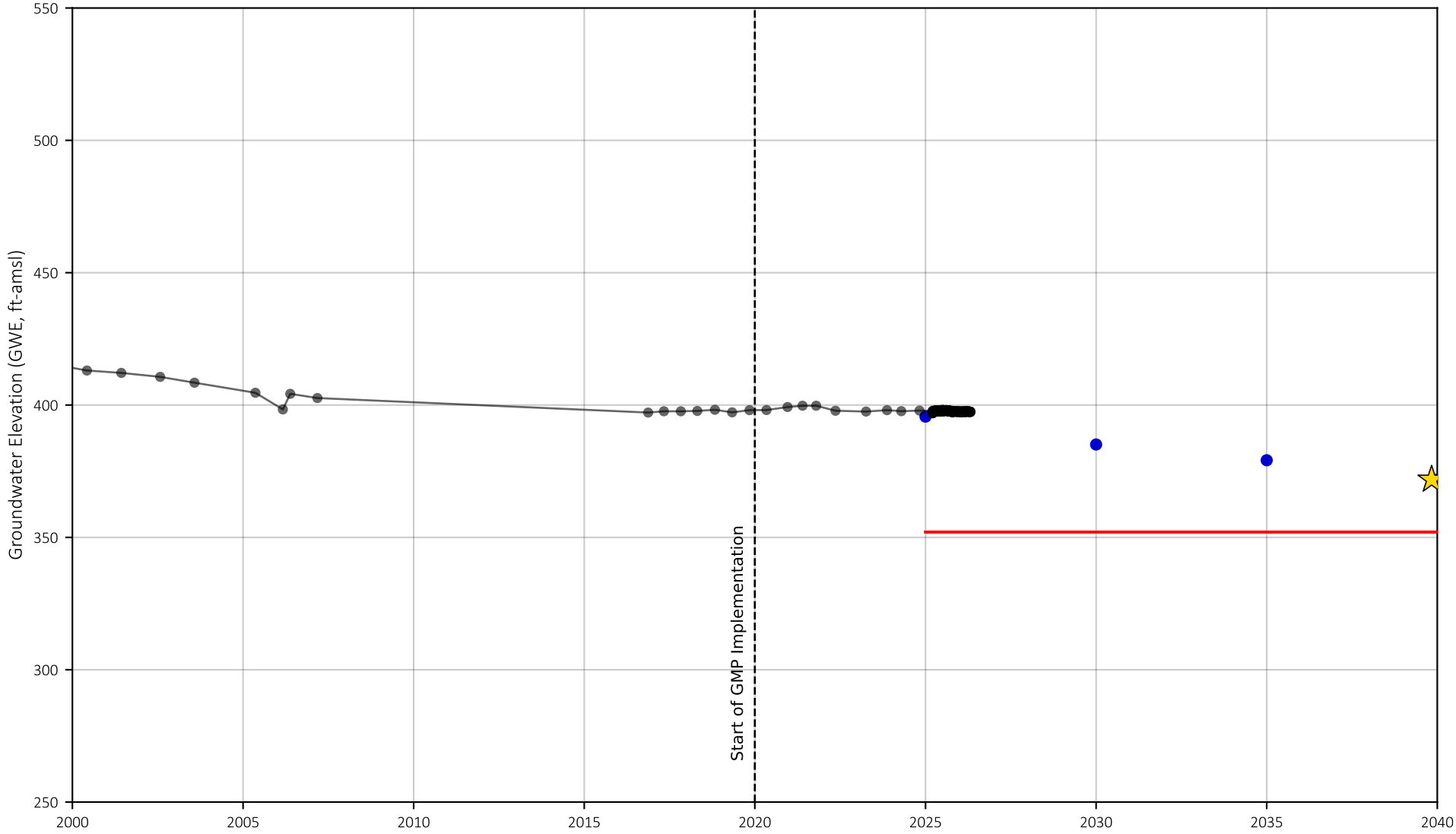
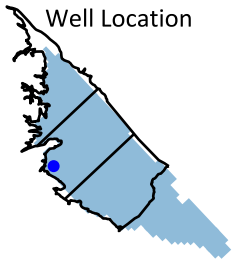
Water. Engineered.

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
County Yard

Figure 3-I





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

Prepared by:

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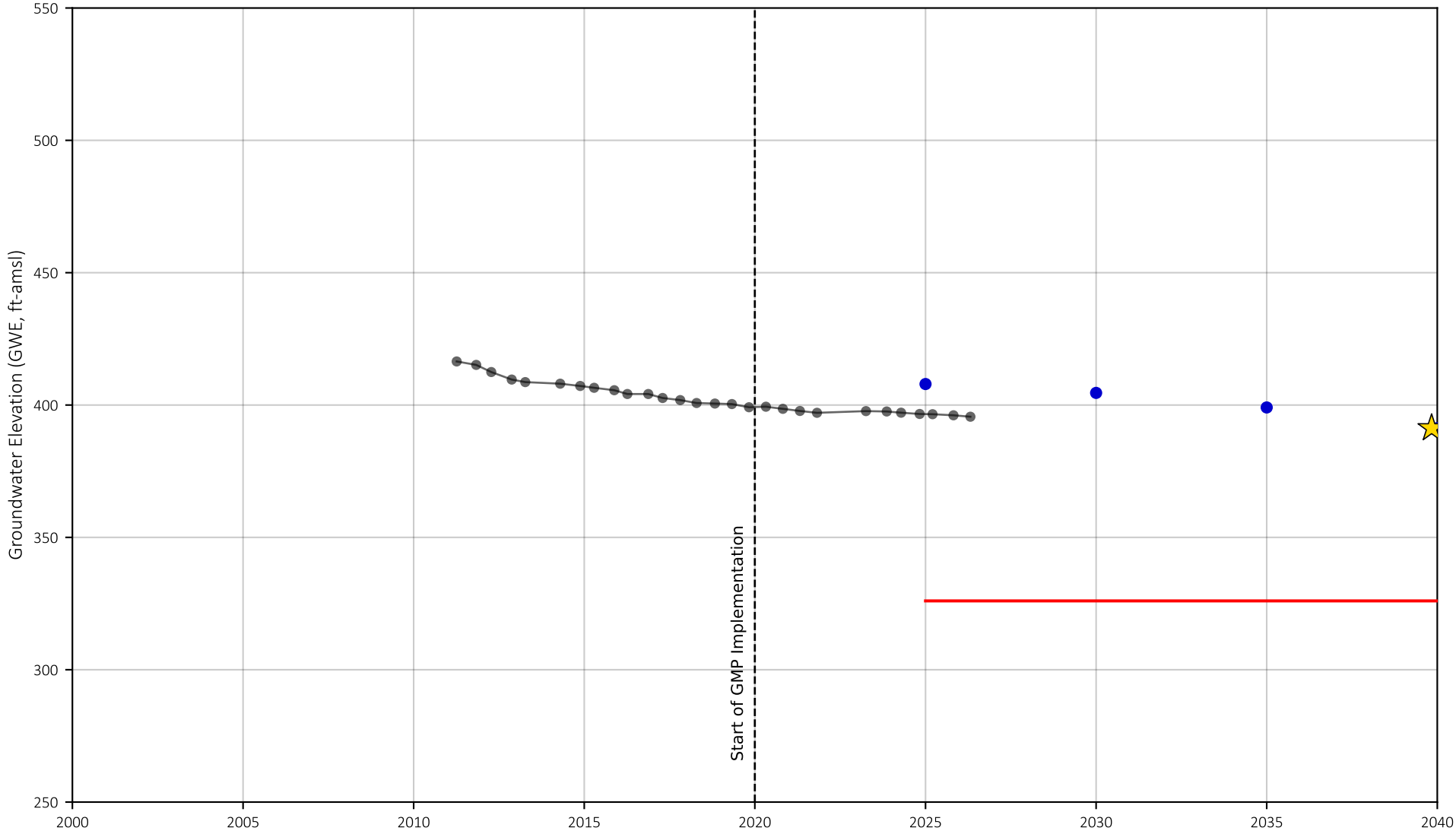
Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
ID4-10

Figure 3-m

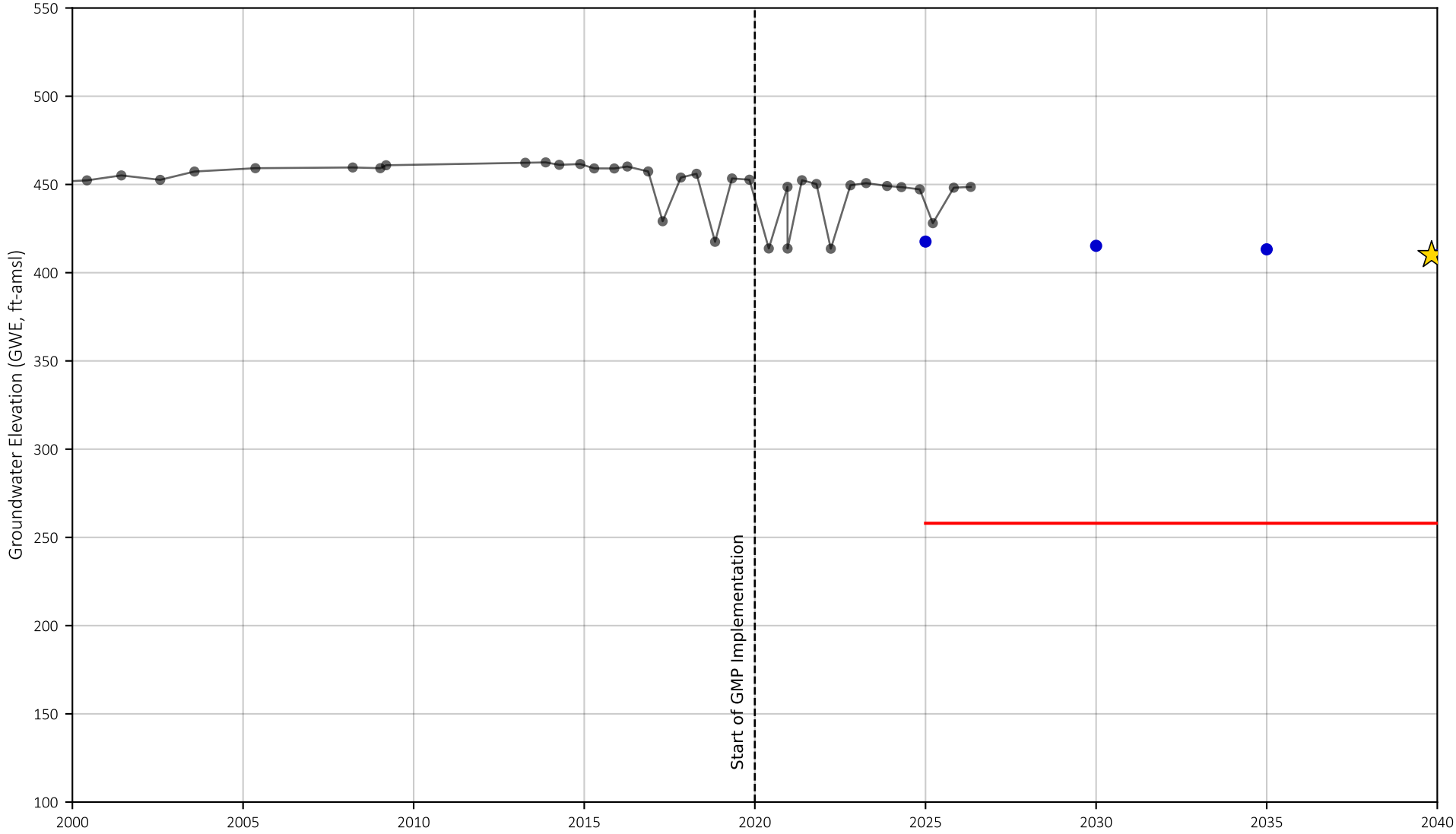


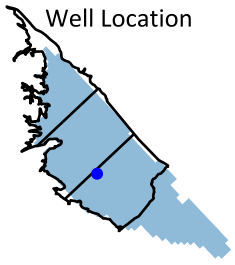
Prepared by:

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
Terry Well

Figure 3-n





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

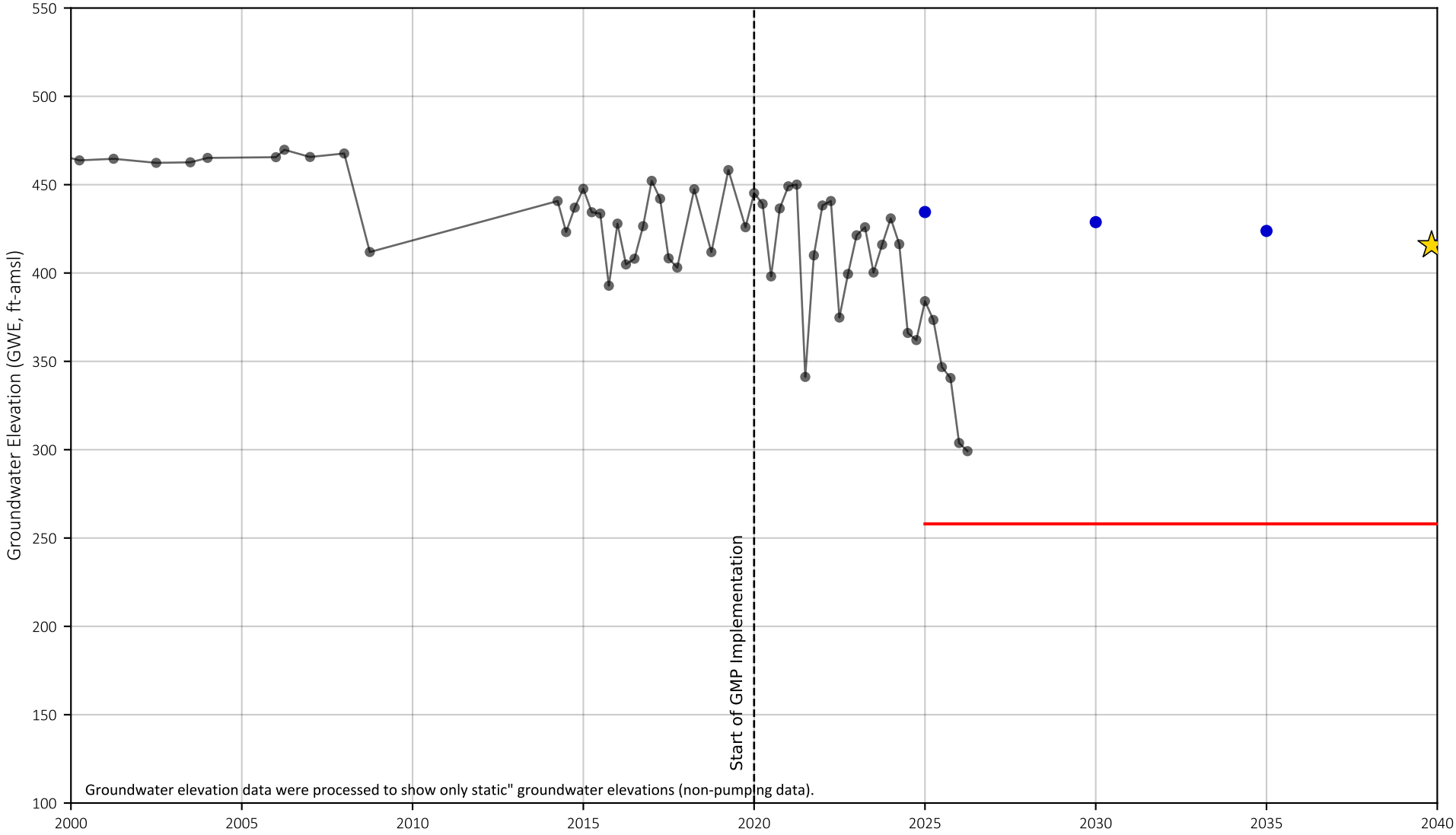
Minimum Threshold

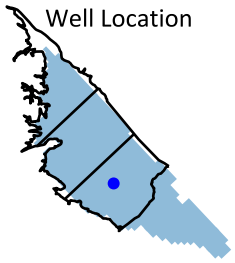
Prepared by:

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
La Casa

Figure 3-o





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

Minimum Threshold

Prepared by:

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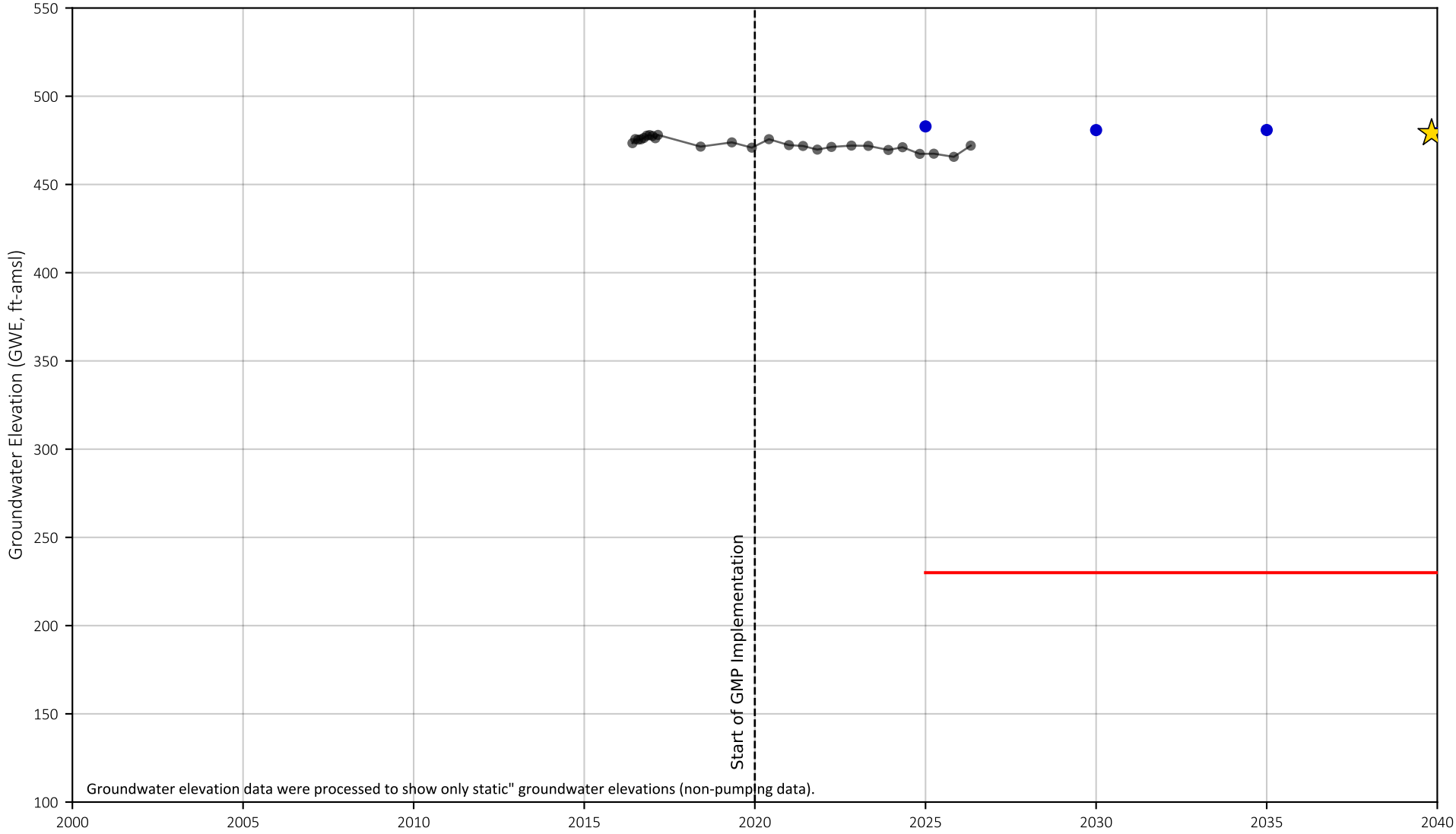
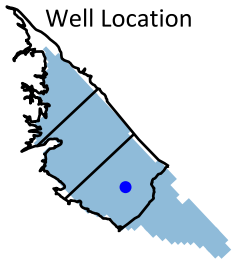
Water. Engineered.

Groundwater Level and Sustainable Management Criteria
at Representative Monitoring Well
RH-2

Figure 3-p





Measured Groundwater Elevation

Sustainable Management Criteria - 2026 GMP

Interim Milestone

Measurable Objective

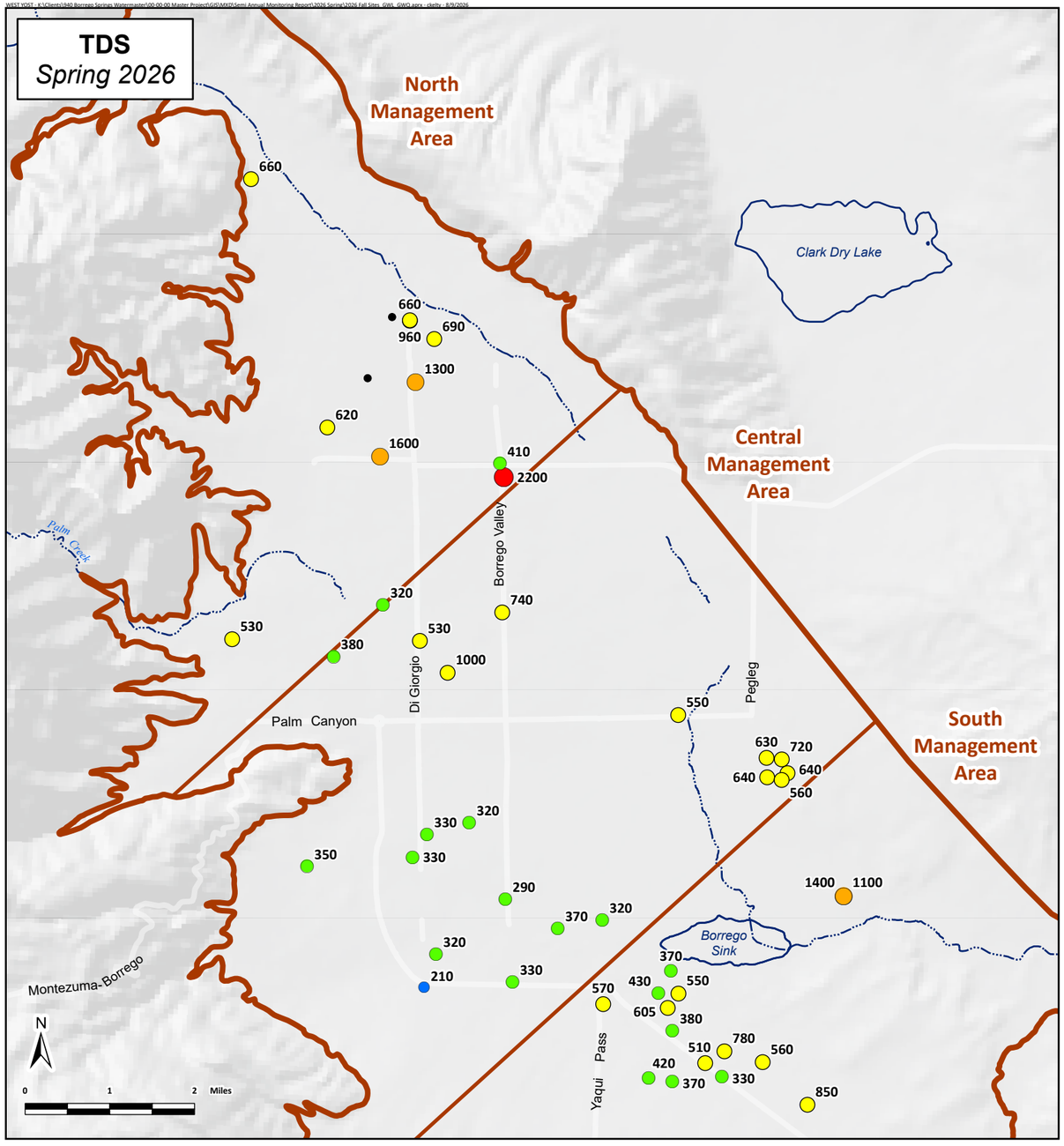
Minimum Threshold

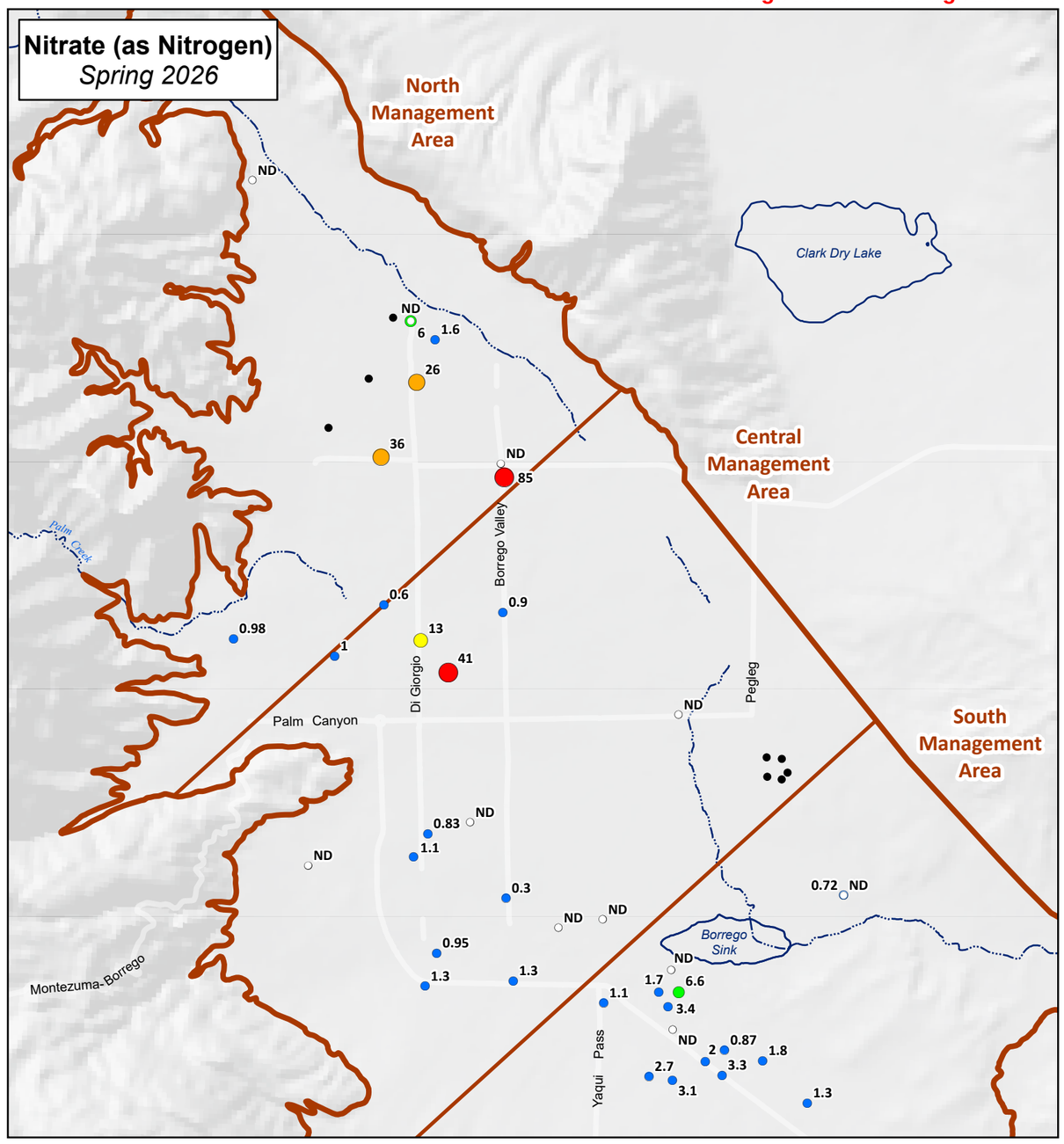
Prepared by:

WEST YOST
Water. Engineered.

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

Figure 3-q





Other Features

- Borrego Subbasin
- Dry Lakes
- Major Flow Paths

TDS Concentration (mgl)

California Secondary MCL = 500 mg/L

- < 125
- 125 - 250
- 250 - 500
- 500 - 1,000
- 1,000 - 1,500
- > 1,500
- Well in Monitoring Program (Not Sampled)

Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Concentration (mgl)

California Primary MCL = 10 mg/L

- Non Detect
- <5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- > 40
- Well in Monitoring Program (Not Sampled)

Prepared by:

WEST YOST

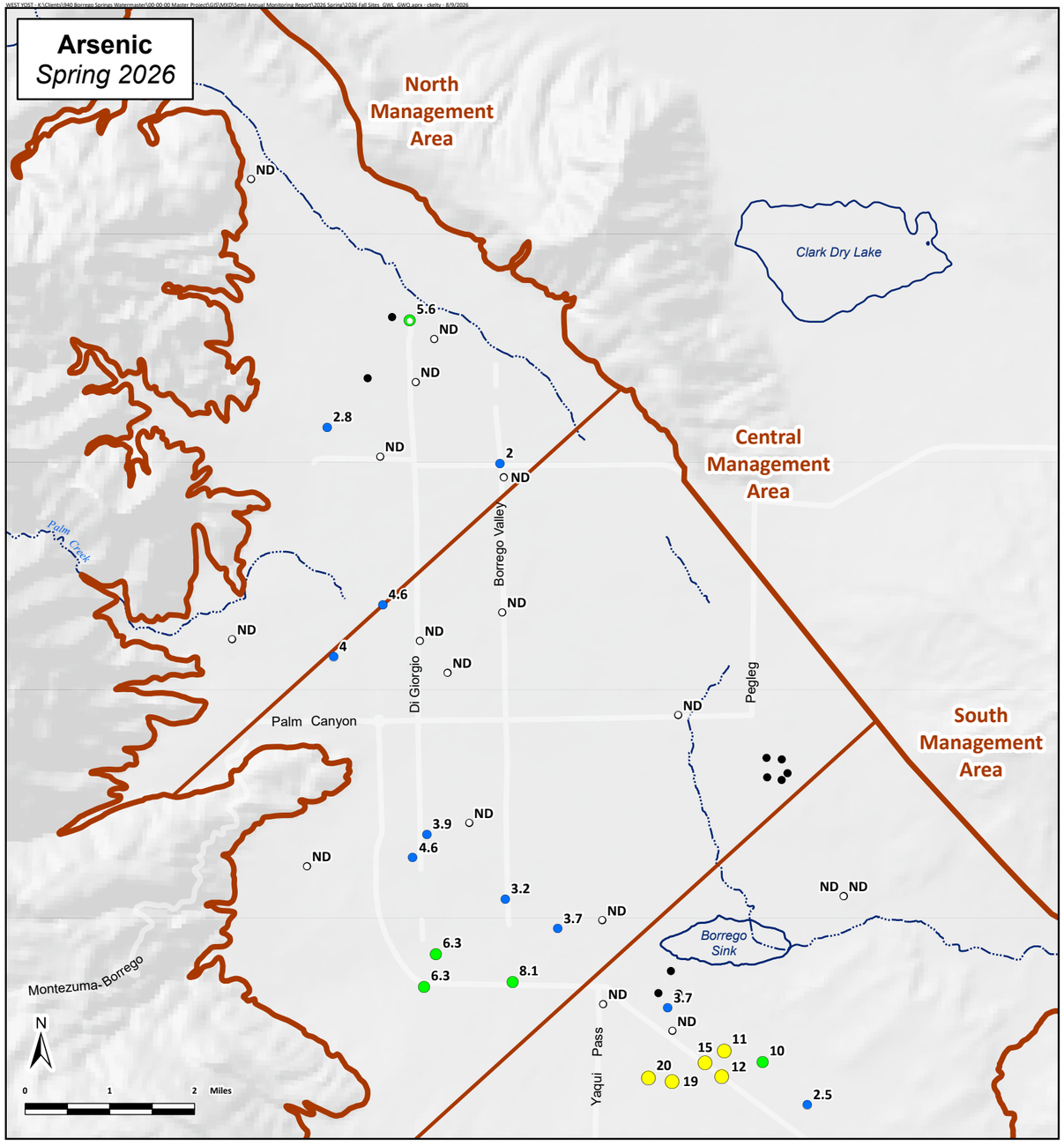
Borrego Springs Watermaster

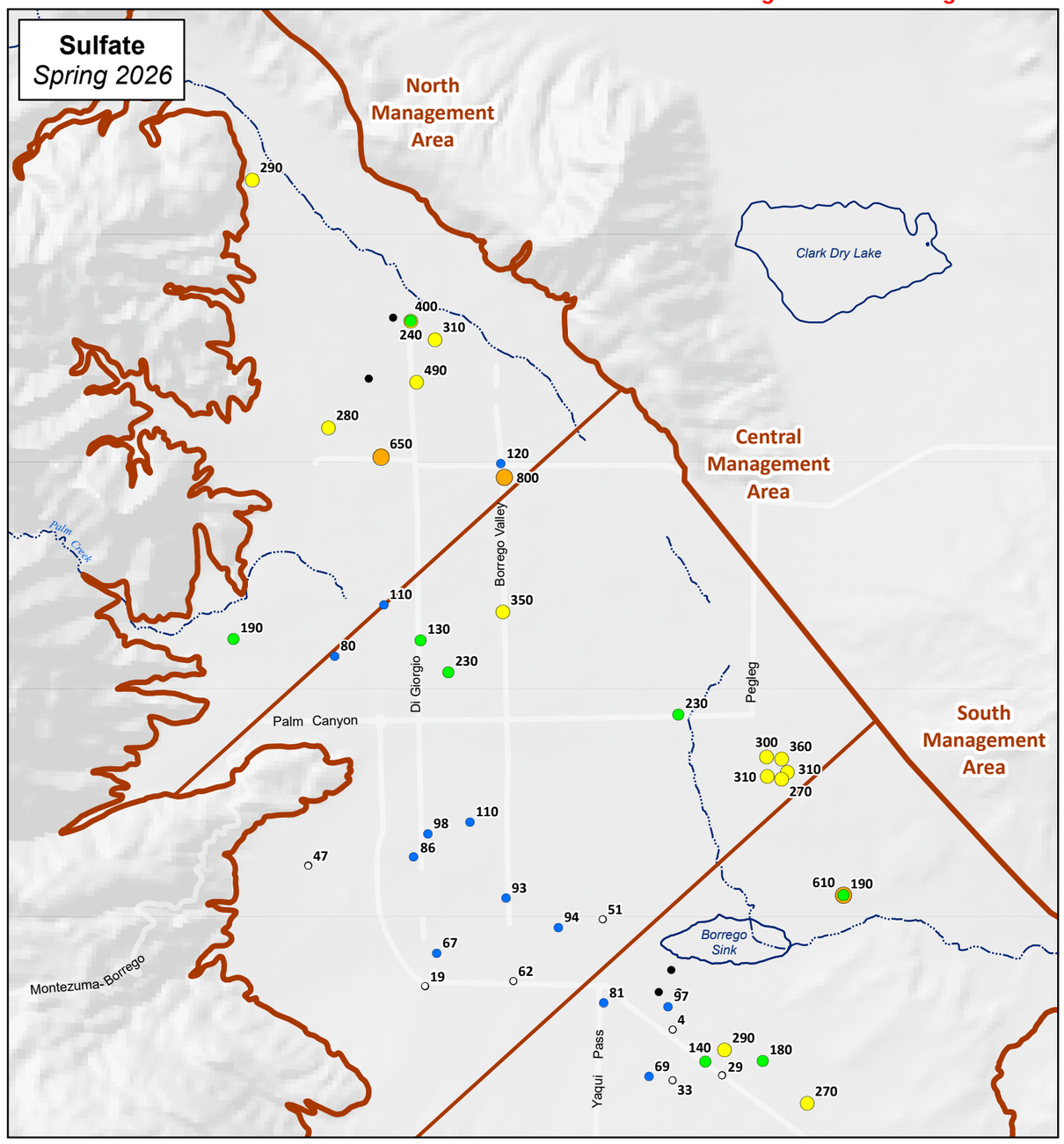
Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 4

TDS and Nitrate (as Nitrogen) in Groundwater

Spring 2026





Other Features

- Borrego Subbasin
- Dry Lakes
- Major Flow Paths

Arsenic Concentration (µgl)

California Primary MCL = 10 µg/L

- Non Detect
- <5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- > 40
- Well in Monitoring Program (Not Sampled)

Sulfate Concentration (mgl)

California Secondary MCL = 250 mg/L

- <62.5
- 62.5 - 125
- 125 - 250
- 250 - 500
- 500 - 1000
- > 1000
- Well in Monitoring Program (Not Sampled)

Prepared by:

WEST YOST

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 5

Arsenic and Sulfate in Groundwater

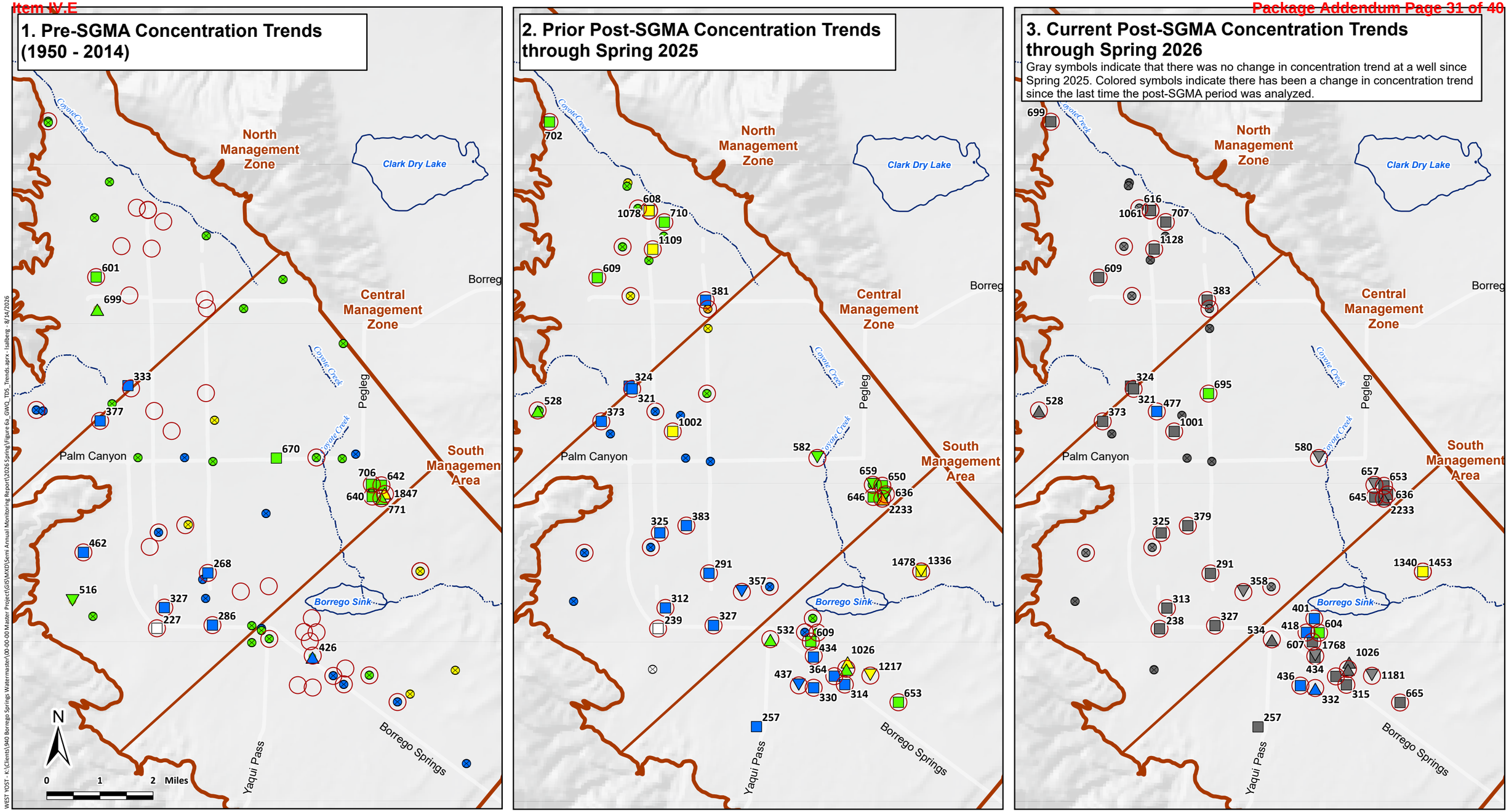
Spring 2026

1. Pre-SGMA Concentration Trends (1950 - 2014)

2. Prior Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2025

3. Current Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2026

Gray symbols indicate that there was no change in concentration trend at a well since Spring 2025. Colored symbols indicate there has been a change in concentration trend since the last time the post-SGMA period was analyzed.



WEST YOST - K:\Clients\940 Borrego Springs Watermaster\00-00-00 Master Project\GIS\MXD\Semi Annual Monitoring Report\2026 Spring\Figure 6a_GWQ_TDS_Trends.aprx - lsalberg - 8/14/2026

Well in the Current (2026) Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network

Average TDS Concentration in Groundwater (mgl)

Symbolized by color relative to the Minimum Threshold of 1,000 mg/L (cool = below MT; warm = above MT)

- < 250
- 250 - 500
- 500 - 1,000
- 1,000 - 2,000
- 2,000 - 4,000
- > 4,000

Mann Kendall Trend in TDS

Symbolized by shape

- Increasing Trend
- Decreasing Trend
- No Trend
- Insufficient Sample Results to Compute Statistical Trend (<6 results)

Other Features

- Borrego Subbasin
- Dry Lakes
- Major Flow Paths

Prepared by:

WEST YOST

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 6a

Mann Kendall Trends in TDS

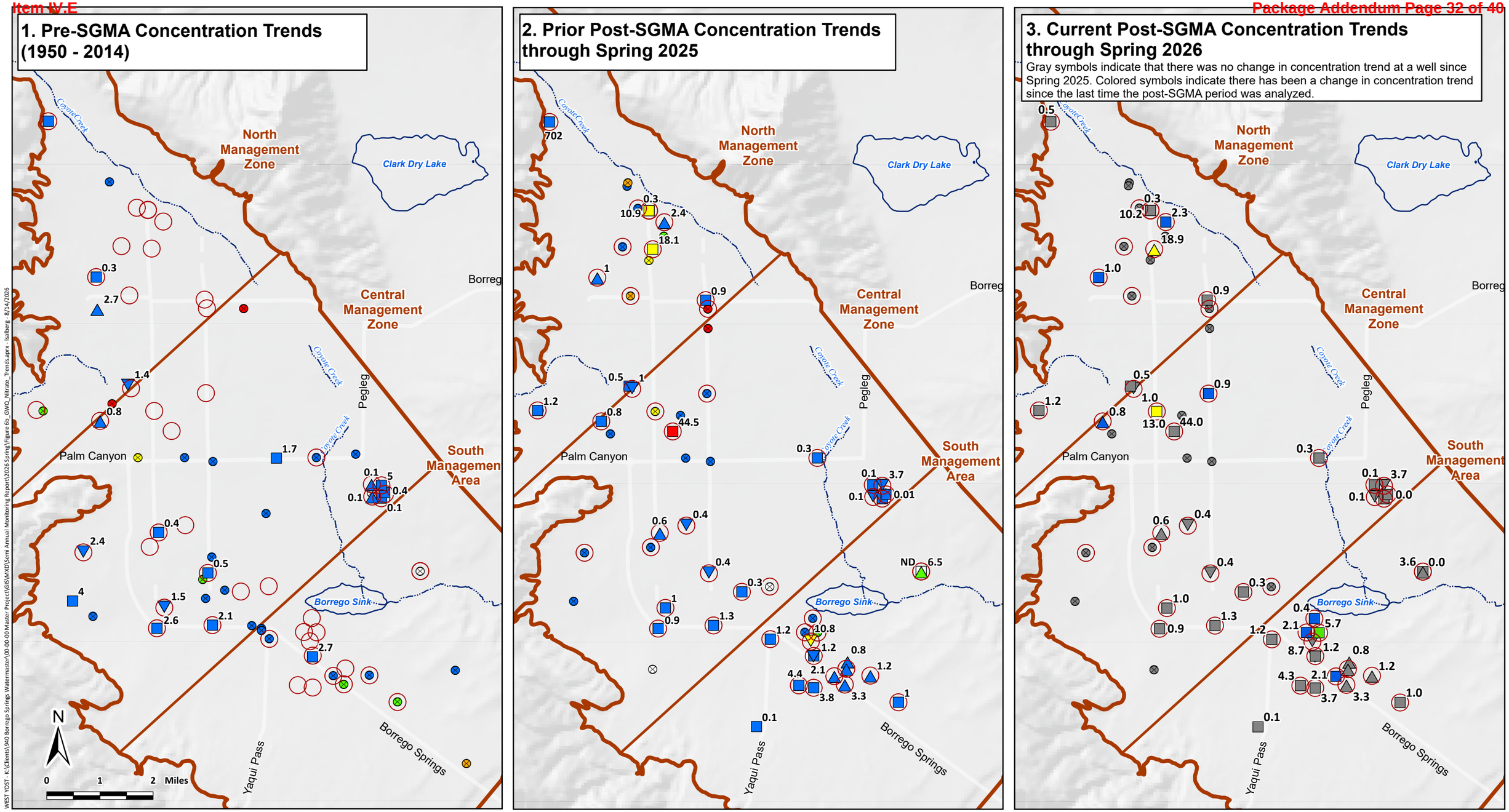
Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

1. Pre-SGMA Concentration Trends (1950 - 2014)

2. Prior Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2025

3. Current Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2026

Gray symbols indicate that there was no change in concentration trend at a well since Spring 2025. Colored symbols indicate there has been a change in concentration trend since the last time the post-SGMA period was analyzed.



WEST YOST - K:\Clients\940 Borrego Springs Watermaster\00-00-00 Master Project\GIS\MXD\Semi Annual Monitoring Report\2026 Spring\Figure 6b_GWQ_Nitrate_Trends.aprx - lsalberg - 8/14/2026

Well in the Current (2026) Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network

Average Nitrate Concentration in Groundwater (mgl)

Symbolized by color relative to the Minimum Threshold of 10 mg/L (cool = below MT; warm = above MT)

- Non Detect
- < 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- > 40

Mann Kendall Trend in TDS

Symbolized by shape

- Increasing Trend
- Decreasing Trend
- No Trend
- Insufficient Sample Results to Compute Statistical Trend (<6 results)

Other Features

- Borrego Subbasin
- Dry Lakes
- Major Flow Paths

Prepared by:

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Borrego Springs Watermaster

Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 6b

Mann Kendall Trends in Nitrate (as Nitrogen)

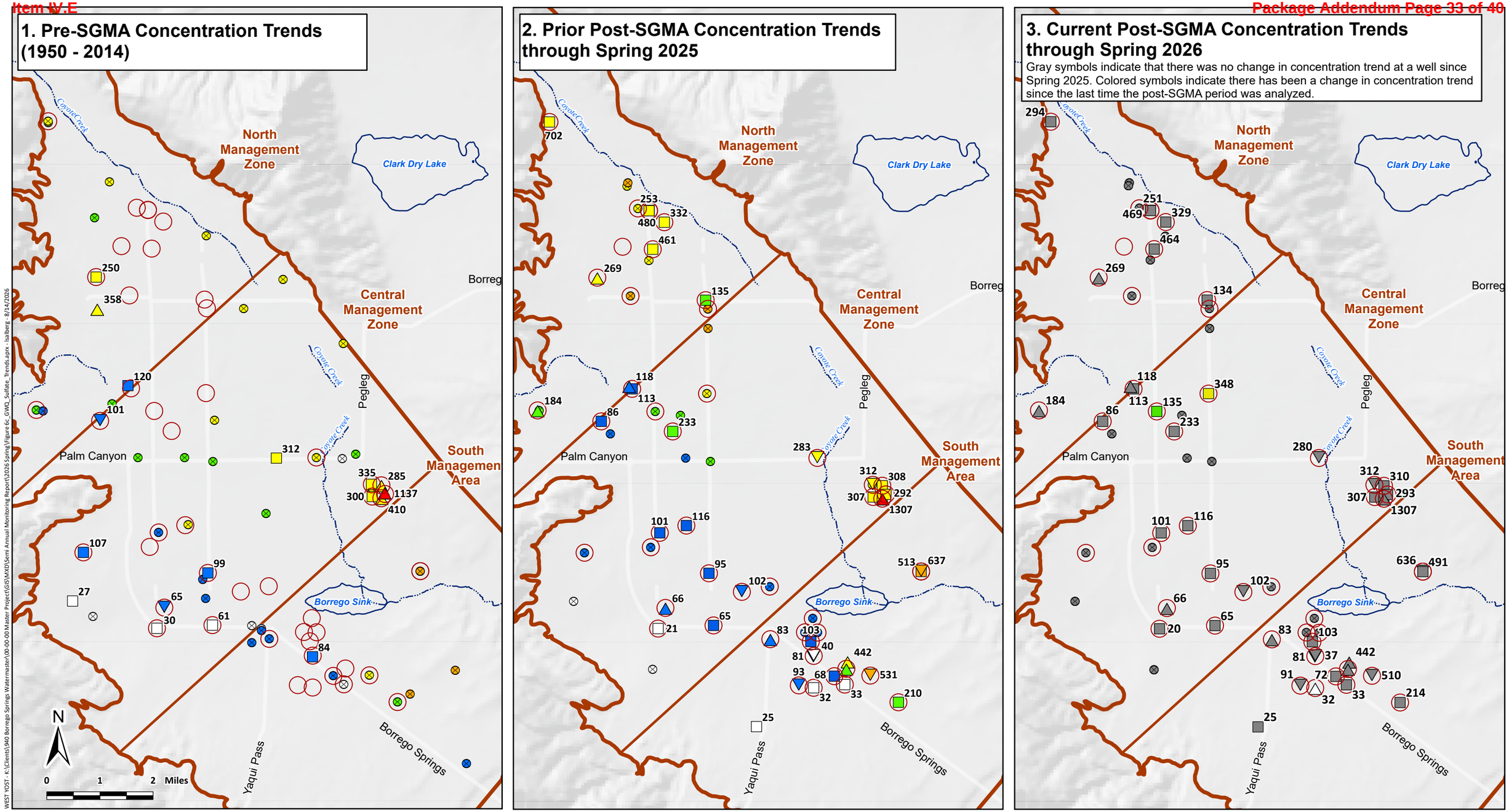
Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

1. Pre-SGMA Concentration Trends (1950 - 2014)

2. Prior Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2025

3. Current Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2026

Gray symbols indicate that there was no change in concentration trend at a well since Spring 2025. Colored symbols indicate there has been a change in concentration trend since the last time the post-SGMA period was analyzed.



WEST YOST - K:\Clients\940 Borrego Springs Watermaster\00-00-00 Master Project\GIS\MXD\Semi Annual Monitoring Report\2026 Spring\Figure 6c_GWQ_Sulfate_Trends.aprx - lsalberg - 8/14/2026

Well in the Current (2026) Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network

Average Sulfate Concentration in Groundwater (mgl)

Symbolized by color relative to the Minimum Threshold of 250 mg/L (cool = below MT; warm = above MT)

- < 62.5
- 62.5- 125
- 125 - 250
- 250 - 500
- 500 - 1,000
- > 1,000

Mann Kendall Trend in TDS

Symbolized by shape

- Increasing Trend
- Decreasing Trend
- No Trend
- Insufficient Sample Results to Compute Statistical Trend (<6 results)

Other Features

- Borrego Subbasin
- Dry Lakes
- Major Flow Paths

Prepared by:

WEST YOST

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 6c

Mann Kendall Trends in Sulfate

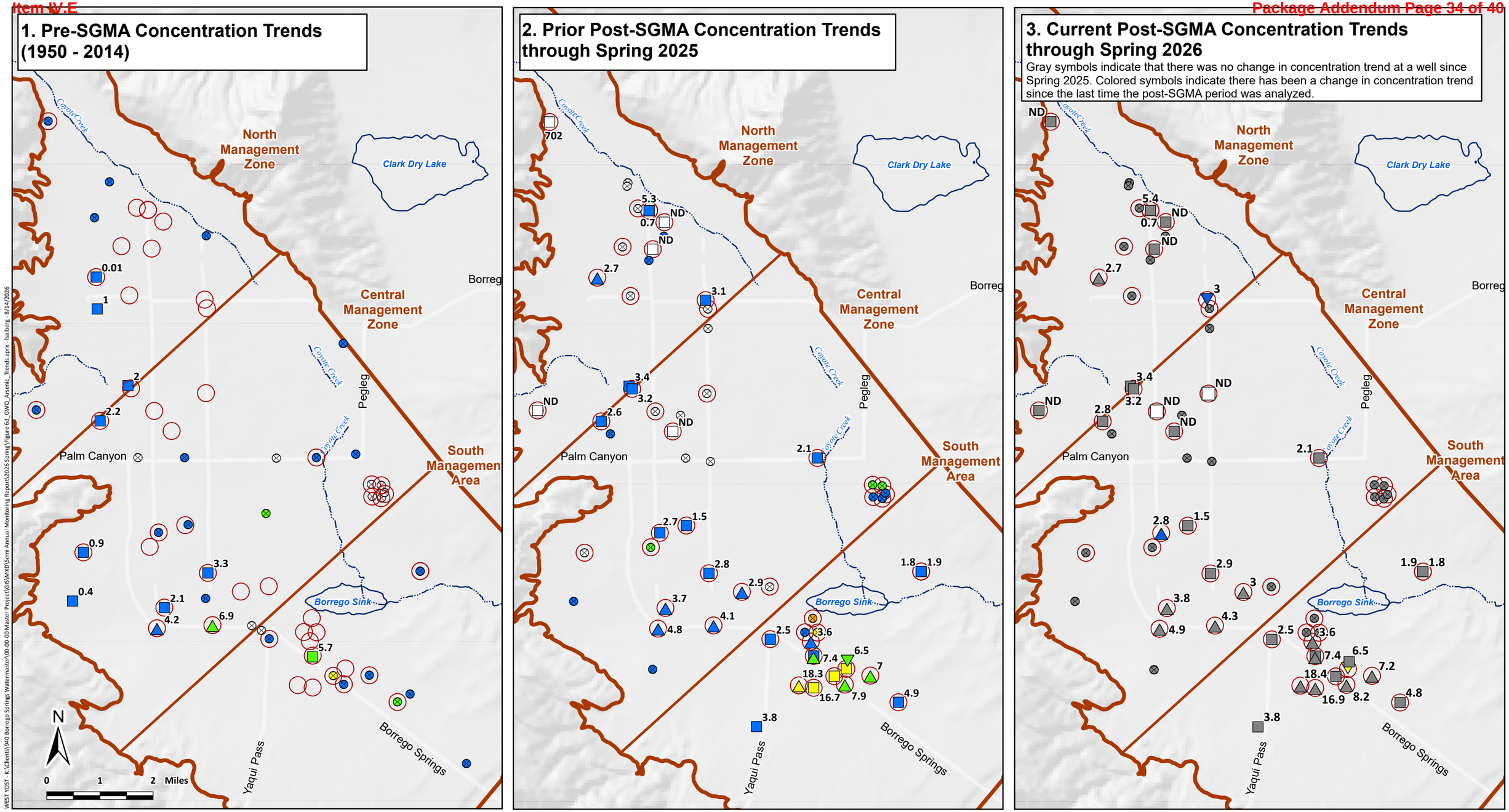
Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

1. Pre-SGMA Concentration Trends (1950 - 2014)

2. Prior Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2025

3. Current Post-SGMA Concentration Trends through Spring 2026

Gray symbols indicate that there was no change in concentration trend at a well since Spring 2025. Colored symbols indicate there has been a change in concentration trend since the last time the post-SGMA period was analyzed.



Well in the Current (2026) Groundwater-Quality Monitoring Network

Average Arsenic Concentration in Groundwater (ugl)

Symbolized by color relative to the Minimum Threshold of 10 ug/L (cool = below MT; warm = above MT)

- Non Detect
- < 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- > 40

Mann Kendall Trend in TDS

Symbolized by shape

- Increasing Trend
- Decreasing Trend
- No Trend
- Insufficient Sample Results to Compute Statistical Trend (<6 results)

Other Features

- Borrego Subbasin
- Dry Lakes
- Major Flow Paths

Prepared by:

WEST YOST

Borrego Springs Watermaster

Spring 2026 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report

Figure 6d

Mann Kendall Trends in Arsenic

Pre- and Post-SGMA Trends

Table 1. Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring Network and Wells Monitored in Spring 2026

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Well Use	Groundwater Monitoring Network				Comments
			Water Level (WL)		Water Quality (WQ)		
			Method if in program[a]	Spring 2026	Well in program?	Spring 2026	
North Management Area							
ID4-18	010S006E18J001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
ID4-3*	010S006E18R001S	Observation	transducer	x			
ID4-4*	010S006E29K002S	Observation	transducer	x			
ID4-9	010S006E29K003S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
MW-1	010S006E21A002S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	*New tubing installed in Spring 2026.*
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 Spring 2026.*
Viking Well	010S006E04Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			
Bauer Monitoring Well*		Observation	manual	x			
808 Ghost		Observation	manual	x			
NMA-2	Private[b]	Domestic	manual	x			
NMA-3*	Private[b]	Observation	manual	x			
NMA-5*	Private[b]	Observation	manual	x			
NMA-6	Private[b]	Irrigation			yes	x	
NMA-7	Private[b]	Irrigation			yes	x	
NMA-8	Private[b]	Irrigation			yes		*Unable to collect a GWQ sample because the well pump is no longer connected to power. Recommend removal from the GWQ monitoring network.*
NMA-9	Private[b]	Irrigation			yes		*Unable to collect a GWQ sample because the well pump is no longer connected to power. Recommend removal from the GWQ monitoring network.*
Central Management Area							
Anzio/Yaqui Pass	011S006E22E001S	Observation	manual	x			
Broome Well		Other	manual	x	yes	x	
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			
ID4-11	010S006E32D001S	Public Supply	transducer	x	yes	x	
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				*Unable to access well to measure a manual GWL.*
Wilcox	011S006E20A001S	Public Supply	manual	x	yes	x	
Hanna (Flowers)	010S006E14G001S	Observation	transducer	x			
Terry Well*	011S006E20R001S	Irrigation	manual	x			
BSMW-1R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
BSMW-2R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
BSMW-3R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
BSMW-5R[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
BSMW-6[c]		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	
CMA-2	Private[b]	Irrigation			yes	x	
CMA-3	Private[b]	Observation	manual	x			
CMA-4	Private[b]	Recreation			yes	x	
CMA-5	Private[b]	Recreation			yes	x	
South Management Area							
Air Ranch Well 4*	011S007E30L001S	Public Supply	manual	x	yes	x	
Army Well	011S006E34A001S	Observation	transducer	x			
Hayden (32Q1)	011S007E32Q001S	Observation	transducer	x			
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	
RH-5	011S006E26B001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	
RH-6	011S006E26H001S	Recreation	transducer	x	yes	x	
WWTP-1	011S006E23H001S	Observation	transducer	x	yes	x	
WWTP-2		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ network.*
WWTP-3		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ network.*
WWTP-4D		Observation	manual	x	yes	x	*New well added to WL and WQ network.*
Bing Crosby Well	011S007E20P001S	Observation	manual	x			
Outside Borrego Springs Subbasin							
State Well	012S007E03L001S	Observation	manual	x			
Nel Well	012S007E04R001S	Observation	manual	x			

Wells not included in the groundwater level or groundwater quality monitoring program are greyed out.

*Representative Monitoring Well with defined Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives, as identified in Table 3-1 and Table 8-5 of the 2026 GMP Update.

(a) Wells denoted with "transducer" have a pressure transducer installed that continuously records water level measurements on a high frequency interval (15-minutes to 1 hour).

(b) Private wells with data confidentiality agreements are denoted by aliases "NMA-#" or "CMA-#" based on their relative location in the Management Area.

(c) The most recent data for WL and WQ at the Borrego Landfill, as reported on GeoTracker (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=L10003017008), were measured in December 2025.

Table 2. Current Groundwater Elevations at Representative Monitoring Wells Compared to 2026 GMP Minimum Thresholds[a]

Local Well Name	State Well ID	Spring 2026 Measured Groundwater Elevation (ft-msl) *a*	Minimum Threshold (ft-msl) *b*	Groundwater Elevation minus Minimum Threshold[b] *c = a-b*
North Management Area				
Bauer MW	010S006E05	379	157	222
ID4-3	010S006E18R001S	376	222	154
Fortiner	010S006E09N001S	379	156	223
NMA-5	unknown	381	234	147
NMA-3	010S006E09	384	234	150
Auxiliary 2	010S005E25R001S	374	291	83
ID4-4	010S006E29K002S	371	222	149
Central Management Area				
BSR Well 6	011S006E09B002S	385	264	121
Terry Well	011S006E20R001S	396	326	70
ID4-10	011S006E18L001S	397	352	45
ID4-5	010S006E33Q001S	386	343	43
ID1-12	011S006E16A002S	385	338	47
County Yard	011S006E15G001S	400	356	44
MW-4	010S006E35Q001S	403	346	57
South Management Area				
RH-2	011S006E25C001S	298	258	40
Air Ranch	011S007E30L001S	472	230	242
La Casa	011S006E23E001S	449	258	191

(a) The Representative Monitoring Wells and Minimum Thresholds reported in this table are the updated SMC based on the discussion in Section 3.4 of the 5-Yr Assessment Report.

(b) If the value is positive, than the groundwater elevation is above the Minimum Threshold. If the value is negative, then the Minimum Threshold has been exceeded, indicating the potential to impact beneficial uses.

Table 3. Summary of Exceedances of Water Quality by Standard and Well Type

Parameter	Standard	Standard Limit (units)	Number of Drinking Water Wells with Exceedance	Number of Non-Potable Water Wells with Exccedance[1]	Number of Observation Wells with Exceedance
TDS[2]	CA Secondary MCL – lower limit	500 mgl	2	9	10
TDS[3]	CA Secondary MCL – upper limit	1,000 mgl	0	4	2
Sulfate	CA and EPA Secondary MCL	250 mgl	2	7	7
Nitrate (as N)	CA and EPA Primary MCL	10 mgl	0	5	0
Arsenic	CA Primary MCL	0.01 mgl	0	5	0

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

Table 4. Summary of Changes in Groundwater-Quality Trends from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026 as Depicted in Figures 6a through 6d

COC	North Management Area	Central Management Area	South Management Area
TDS (Figure 6a)	- No change in trends	- 2 wells changed from Insufficient Data to No Trend	- 2 wells changed from Decreasing to No Trend - 1 well changed from No Trend to Increasing - 3 wells changed from Insufficient Data to No Trend
Nitrate (as N) (Figure 6b)	- 2 wells changed from Increasing to No Trend - 1 well changed from No Trend to Increasing	- 2 wells changed from Insufficient Data to No Trend - 1 well changed from No Trend to Increasing	- 1 well changed from Increasing to No Trend - 3 wells changed from Insufficient Data to No Trend
Sulfate (Figure 6c)	- No change in trends	- 2 wells changed from Insufficient Data to No Trend	- 1 well changed from No Trend to Increasing
Arsenic (Figure 6d)	- 1 well changed from No Trend to Decreasing	- 2 wells changed from Insufficient Data to No Trend - 1 well changed from No Trend to Increasing	- 1 well changed from No Trend to Decreasing

BORREGO SPRINGS SHOWS ENCOURAGING PROGRESS TOWARD GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

Groundwater levels have declined for decades, leading the State of California to designate the Borrego Springs Subbasin (Basin) as critically overdrafted, meaning that more water was taken out of the Basin than is naturally replenished. Being critically overdrafted, the Basin is required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to eliminate chronic overdraft and balance groundwater use with natural recharge to avoid certain Undesirable Results.

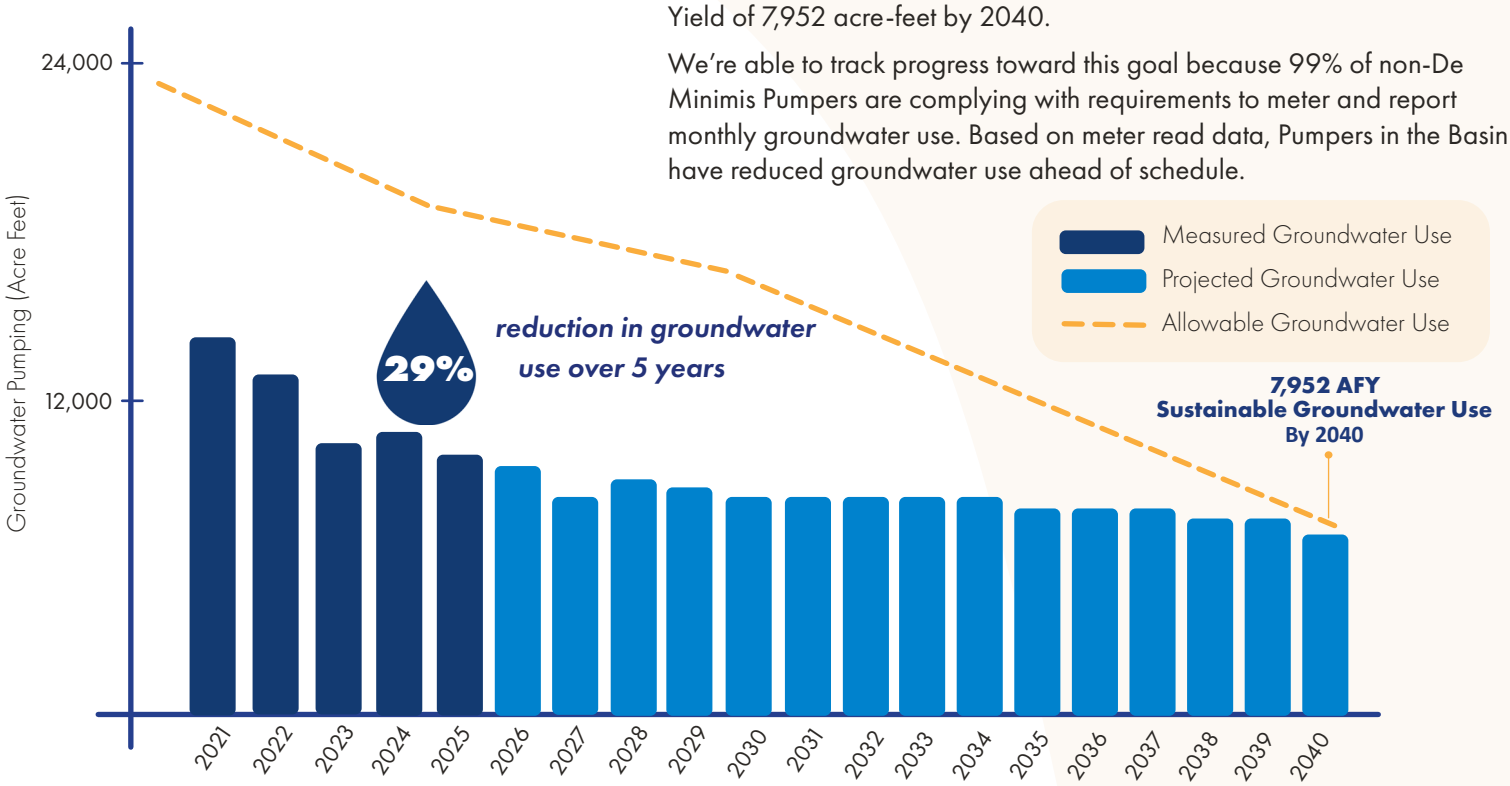
The Borrego Springs Watermaster is the responsible entity for implementing a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) that guides how groundwater is managed, including implementing a gradual reduction in groundwater use (e.g. pumping) over a 20-year period, with the goal of achieving groundwater sustainability by 2040. Five years into the effort, there are encouraging signs that the Basin is moving in the right direction.

The Watermaster just completed a five-year assessment of its GMP to check-in on the progress towards achieving groundwater sustainability. The results are promising: groundwater pumping has declined, groundwater-level declines are slowing, and expanded monitoring has led to better understanding of Basin conditions.

PUMPING REDUCTIONS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The primary goal of the GMP is to reduce groundwater use over time. The court-approved Judgment specifies a schedule in which groundwater use must decline incrementally until annual use reaches the Basin's Sustainable Yield of 7,952 acre-feet by 2040.

We're able to track progress toward this goal because 99% of non-De Minimis Pumpers are complying with requirements to meter and report monthly groundwater use. Based on meter read data, Pumpers in the Basin have reduced groundwater use ahead of schedule.



Since the beginning of required pumping reductions in 2021, groundwater use has declined by more than 4,200 acre-feet. During the past year alone (from 2024-2025), groundwater usage declined 7 percent.

TRACKING GROUNDWATER RESPONSES TO MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Today, Watermaster scientists monitor groundwater levels and groundwater quality throughout the Basin. These measurements help track how groundwater conditions are changing over time and measure progress towards sustainability.

The encouraging news is that many monitoring wells are showing slower rates of groundwater-level decline than in previous years, with some approaching stabilization. Overall, current groundwater level trends indicate the Basin is on track to achieve long-term sustainability if current management efforts continue.

Watermaster is also measuring the quality of the groundwater in the Basin annually. The Watermaster publishes results of each monitoring event on its website. The most recent monitoring results from spring 2026 were published in August.

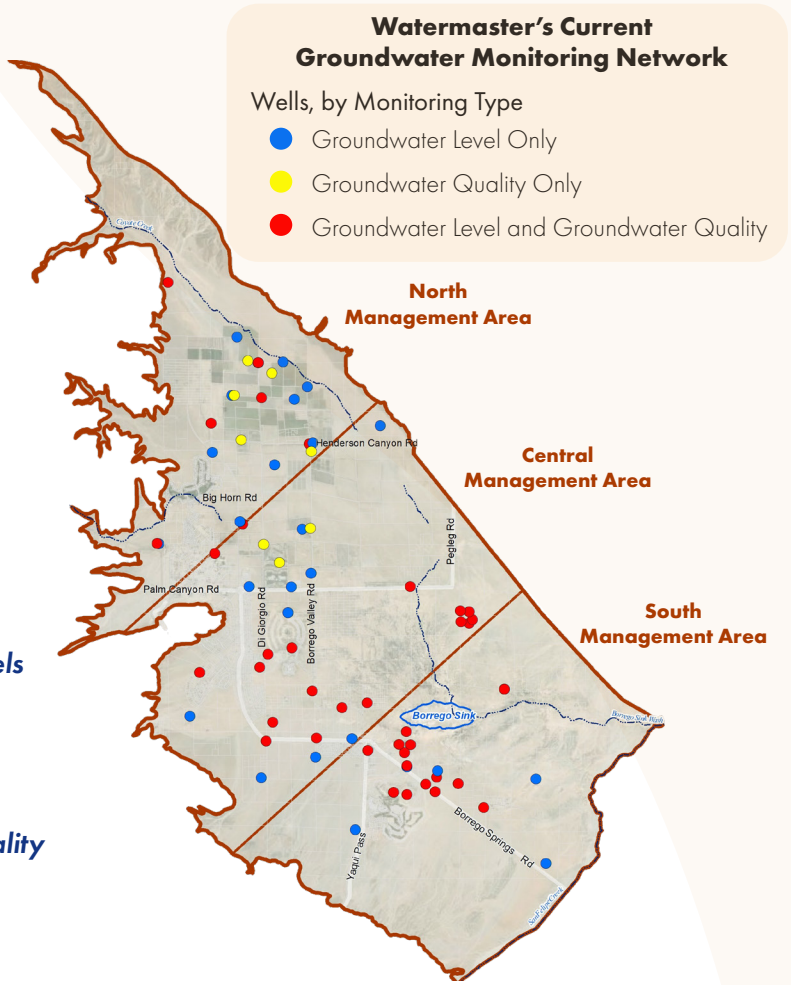
One of Watermaster's most significant accomplishments has been expanding the groundwater monitoring network. Many of the wells added to the network are privately-owned wells that community members have volunteered for monitoring, helping Watermaster better understand groundwater conditions across the Basin.

67 wells

are monitored for changes in groundwater levels

48 wells

are monitored for changes in groundwater quality



MAKING A LONG-TERM IMPACT

The recently completed five-year assessment represents a crucial milestone in documenting the Basin's progress towards sustainability. Similar assessments will continue every five years through 2040, while groundwater monitoring occurs annually to track pumping and groundwater levels, storage, and quality. Our successes to date provide us with the confidence that the management actions are moving the Basin in the right direction.

TO LEARN MORE

Community members interested in learning more are encouraged to visit the Watermaster's website, which contains up-to-date information, monitoring reports, and the schedule for the Watermaster Board meetings. **Watermaster meetings are open to the public**, and community participation remains a vital part of our management process that seeks to provide for the long-term health of Borrego Springs' most valuable natural resource. The Watermaster Board meetings six times a year. Please visit our website to access the schedule of meetings and activities planned for October 2026 through September 2027.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.BORREGOSPRINGSWATERMASTER.COM