

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL  
ENGINEERING AND SURVEY REPORT  
ON  
WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS  
OF THE  
SANTA YNEZ RIVER  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*A Summary of Findings for the  
Previous Water Year (2024-2025), Current Water Year (2025-2026),  
and Ensuing Water Year (2026-2027)*



March 10, 2026

Cover Photograph: View of Lake Cachuma framed by rolling green hills and rugged mountains under a clear blue sky. Image collected by Santa Ynez River Water Conservation staff on January 12, 2026.

**FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL  
ENGINEERING AND SURVEY REPORT ON  
WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS OF THE  
SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**A Summary of Findings for the  
Previous Water Year (2024-2025), Current Water Year (2025-2026),  
and Ensuing Water Year (2026-2027)**

**March 10, 2026**



WATER RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS  
SERVING CLIENTS SINCE 1957

◆ CARLSBAD, COVINA, AND SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA ◆ APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA ◆  
◆ CENTENNIAL, COLORADO ◆ MEDFORD, OREGON ◆

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



1126-13

March 10, 2026

San Rafael

Board of Directors  
Santa Ynez River Water  
Conservation District  
P.O. Box 719  
Santa Ynez, California 93460

Re: Forty-Eighth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, 2025-2026

Dear Board Members:

Transmitted herewith is our Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (District) for 2025-2026. The Water Conservation District Law of 1931 requires the District to annually cause to be made an engineering investigation and report of groundwater conditions of the District (Water Code Section 75560). This Forty-Eighth Annual Report is prepared as required by the Water Conservation District Law of 1931 and presents the required and pertinent information for the District's Board of Directors to make necessary findings and determinations for levying groundwater charges upon the production of groundwater from water-producing facilities (water wells) within the District. As such, it provides information on the status of the groundwater and surface water supplies, and the annual production of groundwater from within the District.

Sincerely,

Allan Richards  
Stetson Engineers Inc.

cc: Amber Thompson, Secretary to the Board of Directors

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

# TABLES OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
<b>1.0 Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Historical Background .....	1
1.2. Description of the District.....	5
1.3. Report Summary .....	8
1.4. Findings.....	11
1.5. Sources of Information.....	12
<b>2.0 Groundwater Charges .....</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1. Zones .....	13
2.2. Revenues .....	16
2.3. Groundwater Production .....	16
2.4. Well Registration .....	24
2.5. Major Producers .....	24
<b>3.0 Precipitation .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4.0 Surface Water Conditions .....</b>	<b>31</b>
4.1. Basin Surface Water Use .....	31
4.2. State Water Project Water Use.....	35
4.3. River System Flow Conditions .....	36
4.4. Water Rights Releases .....	36
4.5. State Water Code Requirements .....	41
<b>5.0 Groundwater Conditions.....</b>	<b>42</b>
5.1. Sources of Groundwater.....	42
5.2. Storage Changes.....	44
5.2.1. Preceding Year (Spring 2024 to Spring 2025) Groundwater Levels .....	44
5.2.2. Preceding Year (2024-25) Storage Update .....	49
5.2.3. Forecasted Change in Storage for the Current Year .....	49
5.3. Change in Storage Trends .....	55
5.4. Safe Yield.....	55
5.5. Historical Groundwater Production .....	61
5.6. Overdraft .....	61
5.7. Groundwater Quality.....	61

## APPENDICES

- A Summary of Provisions in the California Water Code Pertaining to the Implementation of a Groundwater Charge
- B Historical Groundwater Charge Rates
- C Additional Streamflow Records, Santa Ynez River Basin
- D Water Rights Releases – No Water Rights Releases Were Made in 2025
- E General Description of the Hydrogeology of the Sources of Groundwater within the District

**APPENDICES - continued**

- F Water-Level Hydrographs of Selected Wells
- G Well Inventory

**LIST OF TABLES**

		<u>Page Number</u>
Table 1a	Annual Reported Groundwater Production Within the District All District Zones.....	19
Table 1b	Annual Reported Groundwater Production Within the District Agricultural Water .....	21
Table 1c	Annual Reported Groundwater Production Within the District <sup>a, b</sup> Other Water.....	22
Table 1d	Annual Reported Groundwater Production Within the District <sup>a, b</sup> Special Irrigation Water.....	23
Table 2	Monthly Precipitation and Departure From Normal at Bradbury Dam and Lompoc October 2024 through January 2026.....	28
Table 3	Summary of Cachuma Project Operations Water Years 1953 Through 2025.....	32
Table 4	Flow of the Santa Ynez River at the Lompoc Narrows .....	37
Table 5	Flow of Salsipuedes Creek Near Lompoc.....	39
Table 6	Historical Water Rights Releases.....	40
Table 7	Water-Level Changes Lompoc Plain Subarea 2024 to 2025 .....	46
Table 8	Water-Level Changes Lompoc Upland and Lompoc Terrace Subareas 2024 to 2025.....	47
Table 9	Water-Level Changes Santa Rita and Buellton Upland Subareas 2024 to 2025.....	47
Table 10	Water-Level Changes Santa Ynez Upland Subarea 2024 to 2025.....	48
Table 11	Estimated Annual Change of Groundwater in Storage in the Santa Ynez River Alluvium for the Past Ten Years and Current Year (2025-26).....	50
Table 12	Estimated Annual Change of Groundwater in Storage in the Lompoc Plain Subarea for the Past Ten Years and Current Year (2025-26) .....	52
Table 13	Estimated Annual Change of Groundwater in Storage in the Lompoc Upland and Lompoc Terrace Subareas for the Past Ten Years and Current Year (2025-26).....	53
Table 14	Estimated Annual Change of Groundwater in Storage in the Santa Rita Upland Subarea for the Past Ten Years and Current Year (2025-26) .....	54
Table 15	Estimated Annual Change of Groundwater in Storage in the Eastern Portion of the Buellton Upland Subarea for the Past Ten Years and Current Year (2025-26).....	56
Table 16	Estimated Annual Change of Groundwater in Storage in the District Portion of the Santa Ynez Upland Subarea for the Past Ten Years and Current Year (2025-26).....	57
Table 17	Summary of Change in Quantity of Groundwater in Storage Within the District.....	58

## LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page Number</u>
Table 18 Estimated Average Safe Yield of Principal Sources of Groundwater Within the District.....	60
Table 19 Estimated Average Annual Historical Reported Groundwater Production from the Principal Sources of Groundwater Within the District .....	62
Table 20 Average Annual Overdraft of Principal Sources of Groundwater Within the District.....	63
Table 21 Estimated Accumulated Overdraft of Principal Sources of Groundwater Within the District.....	64

## LIST OF FIGURES

1 Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District .....	7
2 Groundwater Charge Zones, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.....	14
3 Annual Groundwater Production Within the District, 5-Year Moving Average .....	23
4 Annual Precipitation and Cumulative Departure from Mean for Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Bradbury Dam, and Gibraltar Dam .....	29
5 Monthly Surface Flow, Santa Ynez River Near Lompoc .....	38
6 Major Groundwater Sources, Santa Ynez River Basin.....	43
7 Accumulated Dewatered Storage.....	59
8 Graphs Showing Total Dissolved Solids, Chloride, and Sodium Concentrations in Groundwater from Selected Wells Located in the Lompoc Plain Subarea .....	65

## LIST OF TERMS

Accumulated Overdraft.....	The amount of water necessary to be replaced in the intake areas of the groundwater basins within the District or any zone or zones thereof to prevent the landward movement of salt water into the fresh groundwater body, or to prevent subsidence of the land within the District or any zone or zones thereof, as determined by the board from time to time. Defined in Water Code Section 75505. See also Dewatered Storage.
Acre-Foot .....	Volume of water to flood one acre to a depth of one foot (325,851 gallons).
Ad Valorem Property Tax..	Property tax that is assessed according to the value of the property.
AF, AC-FT .....	Acre-Foot.
Agricultural water .....	Produced water first used on lands in the production of plant crops or livestock for market. Defined in Water Code Section 75508.

Alluvium .....	Sediments deposited through stream or river action. In Santa Ynez, these sediments are much younger, less consolidated, and have greater hydraulic conductivity than the surrounding marine and non-marine sediments.
ANA .....	Above Narrows Account. Water rights release from Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma) made to replenish the groundwater basin upstream of the Lompoc Narrows area.
Annual Overdraft .....	The amount, determined by the board, by which the production of water from groundwater supplies within the District or any zone or zones thereof during the water year exceeds the natural replenishment of such groundwater supplies in such water year. Defined in Water Code Section 75506.
BNA .....	Below Narrows Account. Water rights release from Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma) made to replenish the groundwater basin downstream of the Lompoc Narrows area, i.e., for the Lompoc Plain subarea.
Board.....	Refers to the five Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.
Bradbury Dam.....	Completed in 1953, the dam impounds the Santa Ynez River to form Lake Cachuma. The dam stores floodwaters of the Santa Ynez River and SWP water. USBR is the agency that operates Bradbury Dam and water rights releases.
Cachuma Member Units ....	Beneficiary organizations of the Cachuma Project. Consists of: Carpinteria Valley Water District City of Santa Barbara Goleta Water District Montecito Water District Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1).
Calendar Year .....	January 1 through December 31.
CCWA.....	Central Coast Water Authority. The public entity which owns and operates pipelines and water treatment facilities enabling deliveries of water from the State Water Project to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.
CFS.....	Cubic Feet per Second. Unit of flow rate commonly used in describing surface water flows.
Contractor.....	Organization contracted to receive State Water Project water. the Department of Water Resources as well as CCWA use this term.
Current Water Year .....	Water Year 2026 (October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026) The water year in which the investigation and report on the groundwater conditions of the District is made, the hearing thereon held, and the determination is made by the board as to whether a zone or zones should be established and a groundwater

- charge levied therein.  
Defined in Water Code Section 75507(b).
- Dewatered Storage ..... Unused and available space in the aquifer available for storing additional groundwater. See also Accumulated Overdraft.
- Deposits..... See Unconsolidated Deposits.
- District..... Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.  
Water conservation district representing the interests of the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys.
- District Fiscal Year ..... July 1 through June 30.
- Drought Buffer ..... A term used to identify a source of supply within the State Water Project (SWP) system that will provide a higher level of reliability during times of drought. For most CCWA water purveyors, the drought buffer equals 10% of Table A amount.
- DWR ..... Department of Water Resources.  
State of California agency acting as a regulator for the implementation of SGMA.
- Ensuing Water Year ..... Water Year 2027 (October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027).  
The water year immediately following the current water year.  
Defined in Water Code Section 75507(d).
- Entitlement ..... A term used formerly to refer to “Table A” amounts. Table A amounts are the maximum amount of State Water Project (SWP) water that the State agreed to make available to each SWP contractor for delivery during the year.
- Forebay..... In the Santa Ynez River Basin, the term is used to refer to the area where most of the percolation occurs from the Santa Ynez River to the Lompoc Plain aquifer, which consists of the eastern four miles of the river beginning at the Robinson Road Bridge and downstream to Floradale Avenue.
- GSA..... Groundwater Sustainability Agency.  
Local agency that implements SGMA.  
Defined in Water Code Section 10721(j).  
The District is within three GSAs, each with its own management area of interest: Western Management Area, Central Management Area, and Eastern Management Area.
- GSP ..... Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The plan for managing the groundwater basin in compliance with the SGMA.  
Defined in Water Code Section 10721(k).
- Groundwater..... All water beneath the earth’s surface, but does not include water which is produced with oil in the production of oil and gas, or in a bona fide mining operation, or during construction operations, or from gravity or artesian springs.  
Defined in Water Code Section 75502.
- ID No.1..... Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District,  
Improvement District No. 1.

	Special improvement district that distributes and serves municipal and irrigation water in the Santa Ynez Uplands.
Lake Cachuma.....	Reservoir formed behind Bradbury Dam.
MOA .....	Memoranda of Agreement. Agreement to organize the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin into local agencies (GSAs) for SGMA implementation.
MG/L.....	Milligrams per Liter. Concentration units of mass per volume. In freshwater, this is equivalent to parts per million (ppm).
NOAA .....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The federal agency organized under the Department of Commerce concerned with oceans, waterways, and the atmosphere.
Operator .....	Public agencies, federal, state, and local, private corporations, firms, partnerships, limited liability companies, individuals, or groups of individuals, whether legally organized or not. Defined in Water Code Section 75501.
Other Water.....	Generally, refers to municipal, industrial, or domestic uses of pumped or produced water. Water used for purposes <u>not</u> including uses for agriculture or irrigation at parks, golf courses, schools, cemeteries, and publicly owned historic sites.
Overdraft .....	Net water loss to the groundwater basin. Calculated as the increase in dewatered storage.
Owner.....	Person to whom a water-producing facility is assessed by the county assessor of an affected county, or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which a water-producing facility is located. Defined in Water Code Section 75501.
Person.....	See Operator.
Preceding Water Year .....	Water Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024) The water year immediately preceding the current water year. Defined in Water Code Section 75507(c).
Precipitation .....	Combination of rainfall, snow, and any other form of water vapor that condenses on the ground.
Producer .....	An entity (person or corporate) that “produces” water by pumping groundwater from a well.
Production .....	The act of extracting groundwater by pumping or otherwise. Defined in Water Code Section 75503.
Project .....	Cachuma Project. Includes Bradbury Dam, Tecolote Tunnel, and all conveyance infrastructure to deliver project water to the South Coast.
Pump Charge.....	Fee for extraction of groundwater from a well.

Purchased Water .....	See definition of Turnback Pool Water. Refers to State Water Project (SWP) water purchased from another SWP Contractor.
Safe Yield.....	The amount of water that can be withdrawn from a groundwater basin without producing an undesired effect.
SBCWA .....	Santa Barbara County Water Agency. The county agency, organized under the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, tasked with providing technical support to other public agencies and manages multiple water supply and public information programs.
SGMA .....	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Statewide framework for protecting groundwater resources. Primarily defined in Water Code 10720 – 10738 and California Code of Regulations Title 23 section 350 - 358.
South Coast .....	Southern Santa Barbara County which includes the communities of Carpinteria and Goleta, and portions of the Gaviota Coast, Montecito, Santa Barbara, and Summerland.
Special Irrigation Water .....	Produced water used for irrigation purposes at parks, golf courses, schools, cemeteries, and publicly owned historic sites.
Streamflow Infiltration.....	Stream or river water that percolates into the subsurface.
Surface Water.....	Water on the ground surface, including lakes, rivers, and canals.
SWP .....	State Water Project. Water storage and delivery system operated by the California Department of Water Resources which transports water from northern California to users located primarily in the San Francisco Bay area and southern California.
SWRCB.....	State of California Water Resources Control Board.
Turnback Pool .....	Turnback Pool Water refers to State Water Project (SWP) water that contractors may choose to offer from their allocated SWP Table A water to other Contractors through two pools in February and March.
Unconsolidated Deposits....	Sedimentary material that is loosely arranged and has not been cemented (through a combination of physical compaction or chemical deposition) into a cohesive whole.
USBR .....	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Federal bureau organized under the Department of the Interior concerned with the construction and operation of dams. Specifically, operates Bradbury Dam at Lake Cachuma.
USGS .....	U.S. Geological Survey. Federal bureau organized under the Department of the Interior concerned with natural science research.
Water Code .....	California state statutory law related to water resources, the SWRCB, and water districts, among other things.

- Water-Producing Facility ... Any device or method, mechanical or otherwise, for the production of water from the groundwater supplies within the District. Defined in Water Code Section 75504.
- Water Year ..... One-year period from October 1 through September 30 of the following year, defined by Water Code Section 75507(a). Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1520 changed the “Water Year,” as defined by Water Code section 75507(a), from the period beginning July 1 of one calendar year and ending June 30 of the following calendar year to the period beginning October one of one calendar year and ending September 30 of the following calendar year. The latter is also the water year for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, as defined by Water Code Section 10721(aa).
- Water Year (county)..... One-year period from September 1 through August 31 of the following year. Used in Santa Barbara County Hydrology reports.
- Water Year (pre AB1520).. July 1 through June 30, same as Fiscal Year. Definition prior to enactment of Assembly Bill (AB) 1520 effective January 1, 2026.
- WR 73-37 ..... SWRCB Order of 1973.  
The order addresses the storage and release of water in Lake Cachuma and the operation of the ANA and BNA accounts.
- WR 89-18..... SWRCB Order of 1973, as amended in 1989.  
Amends the permits regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project.
- WR 94-5 ..... SWRCB Order of 1973, as amended in 1994.  
Amends the permits regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project.
- WR 2019-0148 ..... SWRCB Order of 2019.  
Amends USBR’s water right permits regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project.
- Zones ..... Specific geographic areas of the Santa Ynez Basin within the District with distinct groundwater charge rates:
- Zone A ..... Santa Ynez River alluvium within the Santa Ynez subarea, Buellton subarea, and Santa Rita subarea.
- Zone B ..... Lompoc Area: Lompoc Plain subarea, Lompoc Upland subarea, Lompoc Terrace subarea.
- Zone C ..... Miscellaneous unconsolidated deposits and consolidated rocks.
- Zone D ..... Buellton Upland subarea.
- Zone E ..... Santa Ynez Upland subarea.
- Zone F ..... Santa Rita Upland subarea.

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Forty-Eighth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District for 2025-2026 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Water Conservation District Law of 1931 (Water Code Sections 75560, 75561) and presents the required and pertinent information for the Board of Directors to make the necessary findings and determinations for levying groundwater charges upon the production of groundwater from water-producing facilities within the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (hereinafter called “District”). As such, it provides information on the status of groundwater and surface water supplies, the annual production of groundwater from within the District, and District revenues.

This introduction provides: (1) historical background on the District, inclusive of its purpose and its use of groundwater charges to finance its activities in part; (2) an overview of the boundaries and water resources of the District; (3) a summary of this report; and (4) findings and determinations as set forth in Water Code section 75574 that are required to be made by the District’s Board of Directors before it levies a groundwater charge.

Subsequent chapters provide information on groundwater production and charges (Chapter 2.0), precipitation (Chapter 3.0), surface water conditions (Chapter 4.0), and groundwater conditions (Chapter 5.0). Additional information is found in the Appendices including provisions of the Water Code pertinent to groundwater charges, historical groundwater charge rates, streamflow records, water right releases, a general description of the hydrogeology of groundwater sources, water-level hydrographs of selected wells, and well inventory data.

### **1.1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The District was formed in 1939 for the primary purpose of conserving water supplies and protecting water rights on the lower Santa Ynez River. Reservoirs had been constructed in the upper reaches of the Santa Ynez River by the City of Santa Barbara (Gibraltar Reservoir) and the Montecito Water District (Jameson Lake), and litigation by downstream riparian landowners challenging those projects was not successful. The Federal Reclamation Act of 1939 had administratively authorized the Cachuma Project under Section 9(a) and additional projects, or exportation of water, were being studied. For these reasons, the people of the Santa

Ynez and Lompoc Valleys joined together to form the District. Purposes of the District include protection and, as necessary, augmentation of the water supplies of the District, which are necessary for the public health, welfare, and safety of all residents.

The District's share of ad valorem property taxes is not sufficient to fund its statutory functions or activities. In recent years, the District has received roughly a third of its necessary operating budget from ad valorem property taxes, with the remainder of the budget needed to be funded from charges levied on the production of groundwater and interest on investment accounts. The Water Conservation District Law of 1931 includes a detailed procedure outlined in Part 9 of Division 21 of the Water Code (Water Code Section 75500 through 75642) providing for the levy and collection of a groundwater charge on production of groundwater in the District. Initiated by the District in 1979, these charges are on the production of groundwater from water-producing facilities (e.g., a well). In connection with the levying and collection of such charges, the District gathers data and other information regarding groundwater production through its robust well registration and reporting program applicable to virtually all groundwater producers within the District. Groundwater charges levied by the District are in furtherance of District activities in the protection and augmentation of the water supplies for users within the District or a zone or zones thereof which are necessary for the public health, welfare, and safety of the people of this state (Water Code Section 75521). Such activities include:

- Planning, scheduling, and managing the release of water from and downstream of the Cachuma Project Bradbury Dam for the satisfaction and benefit of downstream water rights, including the timing, volume, and rate of flows to promote recharge in the river alluvium and the Lompoc Plain, as provided in State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order No. WR 2019-0148.
- Determining water volume for replenishment of the dewatered aquifer storage below Bradbury Dam.
- Reporting on Santa Ynez River system conditions, basin surface water use, and water purchased by contract.
- Supporting compliance with agreement(s) and procedures to mitigate downstream flooding because of Cachuma Project storm operations.
- Contributing to the review, preparation, and compliance with applicable biological assessment and opinions, including associated consultations, revisions, and

replacements, for the protection of endangered species in the Santa Ynez River, while assuring that downstream water rights and water quality in the basin and downstream of Bradbury Dam are maintained and protected.

- Registering wells, recording, and reporting groundwater production within the District.
- Monitoring and reporting on groundwater conditions within the District, including through this Annual Engineering and Survey Report.
- Making annual groundwater use estimates and forecasting groundwater storage and overdraft amounts within the District.
- Participation in and providing jurisdictional coverage to the three (3) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) covering the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.
- The District's activities as a party to all three GSAs are in addition to all the conservation district activities it performs in the basin under the Water Code (Section 74500 through 75642) and benefit all pumpers within the District. The District's SGMA activities benefit, among other pumpers in the District, the pumpers in Zone A, who pump from the river alluvium and benefit from the District's investigation and efforts supporting the characterization of those zones as not groundwater subject to SGMA management in the GSPs. The District may need to defend that characterization in administrative or judicial proceedings. Groundwater users outside of Zone A benefit directly from the District's participation in SGMA within their respective management areas, and they also benefit from the District's investigations into groundwater conditions and collection of groundwater data, including this report. Data collected in the context of decades of investigations has been relied upon heavily by the GSAs in the preparation of, among other things, the GSA's respective GSPs, annual SGMA reports that must be submitted to DWR, and rate studies for future groundwater management fees and charges.
- Administering SGMA grant funding at the request and for the benefit of all three GSAs and providing the GSAs with voluntary loan contributions that are subject to reimbursement once the GSAs establish their own revenue source through fees or charges.
- Participating in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan process to promote regional water management strategies to ensure sustainable and reliable water supplies, including the protection of agriculture.

The District is one of the founding members of each of the three GSAs in the basin, consisting of the GSAs for the Western Management Area (“WMA GSA”), the Central Management Area (“CMA GSA”), and the Eastern Management Area (“EMA GSA”). In November of 2023, the WMA GSA and CMA GSA each became separate entity GSA’s pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.6(a)(1) of SGMA and the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Gov. Code Section 6500, et seq.), and are each now governed by a separate Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA). In July 2024, the EMA GSA also became a separate entity GSA pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.6(a)(1) of SGMA and the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Gov. Code Section 6500, et seq.), and is now governed by a separate Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA). The District is a signatory to each of the JPAs. SGMA does not void or supplant the District’s authority over groundwater, including its authority to investigate and report upon groundwater conditions and otherwise manage groundwater through (among other long-standing activities), requiring well registration, reporting of groundwater production, and levying groundwater charges. For example, SGMA expressly states: “[SGMA] is in addition to, and not a limitation on, the authority granted to a local agency under any other law.” (Water Code Section 10726.8 (a).) Notably, as mentioned elsewhere in this report, the District’s authority over groundwater is broader than the GSAs’ authority over groundwater. This is due to the fact that the Water Conservation District Law of 1931’s definition of “groundwater” generally covers “all water beneath the earth’s surface ....,” (Water Code Section 75502), including underflow of the Santa Ynez River in the area of the alluvium above the Lompoc Narrows, and the SGMA’s definition of “groundwater,” applicable to the GSAs, does not include underflow of the Santa Ynez River in such area or other “water that flows in known and definite channels....” (Water Code Section 10721(g).) Also, to the extent the District and GSAs both have authority over groundwater or groundwater extractions, their functions are materially different. For example, the District’s authority is used for water conservation related purposes as authorized by the Water Conservation District Law of 1931, including ensuring that sufficient Santa Ynez River water is conserved and released from the Cachuma Project’s Bradbury Dam to satisfy downstream water rights and replenish and maintain sufficient supplies in the groundwater basin and the alluvium for beneficial uses. On the other hand, the GSAs prepare and administer GSPs, and otherwise implement SGMA, for the purpose of achieving sustainable groundwater management, i.e., ensuring that extractions of groundwater do not result in “undesirable results” as defined by SGMA (Water Code Sections, 10721(g), (x)).

The District's Board of Directors divides the District into six groundwater charge zones (hereafter "zone"). Groundwater charges are incurred by the owners of water producing facilities and are charged at uniform rates within each Zone, based on the amount of groundwater produced. Production is measured by water meters or estimated by various methods acceptable to the District. The District has never required the use of water meters. However, all methods used to estimate production are based on appropriate criteria relating to water use. Various remedies exist for the non-registration of wells, non-payment of groundwater charges, and submittal of fraudulent information, including the conduct of an administrative investigation and filing of a court action and associated interest, penalties and other remedies including the possibility of an injunction prohibiting and restricting groundwater production. Should court action be necessary and a judgment obtained, a lien may be placed against the water-producing facility owner's real property.

## **1.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT**

The District encompasses approximately 180,000 acres including most of the Santa Ynez River watershed from the mouth of the river at Surf Beach to a point about three miles downstream of Bradbury Dam and smaller watershed areas northeast and south of Lake Cachuma. Ground surface elevations vary from sea level at Surf Beach to more than 1,700 feet above sea level along portions of the southern District boundary. The terrain south of the river rises steeply to the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains. North of the river, the rise in elevation is generally gradual over upland terraces and hilly areas. Figure 1 shows the District boundary and various geographic features within or adjacent to the District.

The Santa Ynez River flows westerly, generally parallel to the District's southern boundary until entering the forebay in the Lompoc Plain. Thence, it flows northwesterly and westerly across the Lompoc Plain to the Pacific Ocean. The flow of the river is intermittent throughout the District, carrying flood flows from tributary watershed land downstream of Bradbury Dam and occasional spills and releases of water from Lake Cachuma. During summer months, water may be released from Lake Cachuma if there is a need to meet downstream water rights or replenish the downstream groundwater basin or alluvium.

Groundwater occurs within the District primarily in younger unconsolidated alluvial deposits and in older unconsolidated deposits. In most cases, the older and often deeper deposits



are not in hydrologic continuity with the shallower alluvial deposits. The major occurrences of groundwater, as defined by the Water Code Section 75502, are in the alluvial deposits of the Santa Ynez River and Lompoc Plain, and the older unconsolidated deposits of the Santa Ynez Upland, Lompoc Upland, Buellton Upland, Santa Rita Upland, and the Lompoc Terrace subareas.

Classification of water production within the District by water-use type is seventy-one percent Agricultural, four percent Special, and twenty-five percent Other (which includes domestic, municipal, and industrial water production). Apart from the cities of Lompoc, Solvang, and Buellton, the communities of Santa Ynez and Los Olivos, and two federal installations (Vandenberg Space Force Base and the Lompoc Federal Penitentiary), most of the District land area is a mixture of rural areas with agriculture and suburban development.



Document Path: F:\proj\126\SY.WCD.mxd



-  Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Boundary
-  Santa Ynez River Watershed

## SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

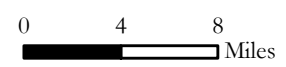


FIGURE 1

### 1.3. REPORT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the information contained in this report.

1. Revenues from groundwater charges collected by the District for production during the entire preceding fiscal year (July 2024 through June 2025), amounted to \$805,909.57. Revenues collected through February 16, 2026, for production during the first half of the current fiscal year (July through December 2025), amounted to \$306,870.63. An additional \$25,474.14 has been received as overdue payments and assessments in connection with production before July 2024.

2. The Board, on June 26, 2025, reaffirmed the following six groundwater charge zones for the District for the current fiscal year, 2025-26.

Zone A - District portion of the Santa Ynez River alluvial channel from San Lucas Bridge downstream to Lompoc Narrows.

Zone B - District portion of the Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Upland, and Lompoc Terrace groundwater subareas.

Zone C - All other portions of the District not included in Zones A, B, D, E, and F.

Zone D - District portion of the Buellton Upland subarea.

Zone E - District portion of the Santa Ynez Upland subarea.

Zone F - District portion of the Santa Rita Upland subarea.

3. The groundwater charge rates per acre-foot of production for the current fiscal year, 2025-26, are as follows:

	Agricultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water
Zone A	22.00	22.00	22.00
Zone B	14.80	14.80	14.80
Zone C	9.20	9.20	9.20
Zone D	9.20	9.20	9.20
Zone E	9.20	9.20	9.20
Zone F	9.20	9.20	9.20

*Fiscal Year 2025-26 Rates, Adopted June 24, 2025, Resolution No. 736*

4. Annual groundwater production for the entire preceding fiscal year, 2024-25, totaled 45,576 acre-feet, reported as of February 16, 2026. This is about 103 percent of the 44,350 acre-feet total water production reported for the entire 2023-24 fiscal year, as of February 7, 2025.
5. Groundwater production for the first half of the current fiscal year, 2025-26, (July through December 2025) totaled 19,144 acre-feet, reported as of February 16, 2026. This is about 96 percent of the 19,967 acre-feet water production reported for the first half of the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25, as of February 7, 2025.
6. Total production of water from the groundwater supplies for the preceding water year 2025 (October 2024 through September 2025) is 44,650 acre-feet, based on reports for fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26.
7. The annual reported groundwater production within the District for the past five years was as follows:

Fiscal Year (July-June)	First Half (Acre-Feet) <sup>A</sup>	Total Production (Acre-Feet)
2020-21	22,697	48,350
2021-22	21,421	47,526
2022-23	22,164	43,702
2023-24	19,156	43,256
2024-25	19,967	45,576
2025-2026	19,144	In Progress

<sup>A</sup> Reported as of the Annual Engineering and Survey Report

8. The projected estimated total annual groundwater production for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 is 45,570 acre-feet per year. For both the current year (2025-26) and the ensuing year (2026-27), projected water use is shown in the following table:

Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F	TOTAL
12,485	21,935	1,000	2,855	5,090	2,205	45,570

9. Groundwater producers have registered 1,338 wells with the District. Of that number, approximately 1,080 wells are active, and 258 wells are inactive.

10. Precipitation at Bradbury Dam and Lompoc during the preceding water year and the partial current water year was as follows:

	Bradbury Dam		Lompoc	
	Precipitation (Inches)	Percent of Normal	Precipitation (Inches)	Percent of Normal
2025 Preceding Water Year (October 2024-September 2025)	9.17	43	8.67	56
2025 Calendar Year (January 2025-December 2025)	30.27	143	18.18	188
Partial 2026 Current Water Year (October 2025-January 2026)	26.57	260	13.94	184

*Source: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).*

11. Annual flow of the Santa Ynez River at the Lompoc Narrows was 10,027 acre-feet during the preceding water year (October 2024 through September 2025). The flow at the Lompoc Narrows for the first quarter of the current water year (October 2025 through December 2025) was 91,469 acre-feet.

12. During calendar year 2025, no water rights releases were made from Lake Cachuma.

13. Water imports of State Water Project water were as follows:

Fiscal Year (July-June)	State Water Project Deliveries (Acre-Feet)			
	Improvement District No. 1	City of Solvang	City of Buellton	Vandenberg SFB
2024-25	2,114	563	230	2,912
2025-26 (First Half)	1,385	334	111	1,503

*Source: Central Coast Water Authority, Improvement District No. 1 includes exchange deliveries.*

14. The estimated change in groundwater quantity in storage within the District and the estimated accumulated dewatered storage are summarized below.

Source of Groundwater	Change in Storage 2025 to 2026 (Acre-Feet)	Accumulated Dewatered Storage Through 2026 (Acre-Feet)
Santa Ynez River Alluvium	7,000	7,600
Lompoc Plain	2,800	8,600
Lompoc Upland	600	34,800
Lompoc Terrace	0	800
Santa Rita Upland	-700	14,500
Buellton Upland (Eastern Portion)	600	1,800
Santa Ynez Upland (District)	2,600	56,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>124,500</b>

#### 1.4. FINDINGS

The findings of this investigation are summarized below so that the Board may make the determinations required by law (Water Code Section 75574) for the current (2025-26) water year (October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026), preceding water year (2024-25), and ensuing water year (2026-27). These findings are based upon historical data and data available about the first quarter of the current water year and apply to the entire District.

- (a) The average annual overdraft for the immediate past ten (10) water years (October 2014- September 2025): 1,060 ± acre-feet;
- (b) The estimated annual overdraft for the current (2026) water year (October 2025-September 2026): 700 ± acre-feet;
- (c) The estimated annual overdraft for the ensuing (2027) water year (October 2026-September 2027): 2,300 ± acre-feet;
- (d) The accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the preceding (2025) water year (September 30, 2025): 137,400 ± acre-feet in terms of accumulated dewatered storage. Accumulated overdraft as defined in Water Code Section 75505 is nominal, at this time;
- (e) The estimated accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the current (2026) water year (September 30, 2026): 124,500 ± acre-feet in terms of accumulated dewatered storage. Accumulated overdraft as defined in Water Code 75505 is nominal, at this time;

- (f) The estimated amount of agricultural and special irrigation water to be withdrawn from the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing (2027) water year (October 2026- September 2027): 31,255 acre-feet of agricultural water and 1,905 acre-feet of special irrigation water;
- (g) The estimated amount of water other than agricultural water or special irrigation water to be withdrawn from the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing (2027) water year (October 2026- September 2027): approximately 12,410 acre-feet;
- (h) The estimated amount of water necessary for surface distribution for the ensuing (2027) water year (October 2026- September 2027): approximately 3,700 acre-feet scheduled to be delivered by the Central Coast Water Agency to contractors within the District;
- (i) The amount of water, which is necessary for the replenishment of the groundwater supplies of the District: 124,500 ± acre-feet to completely replenish accumulated dewatered storage;
- (j) The amount of water the District is obligated by contract to purchase: The District is not obligated by contract to purchase water.

The actual groundwater charge the Board will levy for the ensuing fiscal year, 2026-27, will be based upon the District's anticipated revenue and expenses, including maintenance of a prudent reserve, and consistent with applicable law.

## **1.5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The following is a list of sources where the information and data utilized were obtained:

- Groundwater production, revenue, and well registration – District
- State Water Project use – Central Coast Water Authority
- Water-level measurements – Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA), City of Buellton, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- Precipitation measurements – Santa Barbara County Flood Control District
- Water quality analyses – SBCWA and United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Lake Cachuma operations – USBR
- Surface water flow – USGS

## 2.0 GROUNDWATER CHARGES

Pumped groundwater is charged at uniform rates (for each category of water) within each Zone of the District, based on the amount of groundwater produced. Groundwater charges are based on the costs the District incurs in conducting its activities as described above.

Consistent with applicable law, including Proposition 26, these charges may be set based on the relative burden and on the benefits received from the District's activities, including costs to serve each class of water use. For the current fiscal year, 2025-26, allocation of the District's costs to each class of water users was set as equal on a per acre-foot basis. Appendices A and B present additional information on groundwater charge rates, including a summary of historical rates.

### 2.1. ZONES

Before the beginning of the current fiscal year, 2025-26, the Board reaffirmed the previously established six groundwater charge zones for the District:

Zone A – District portion of the Santa Ynez River alluvial channel from San Lucas Bridge downstream to Lompoc Narrows.<sup>1</sup>

Zone B – District portion of the Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Upland, and Lompoc Terrace groundwater subareas.

Zone C – All other portions of the District not included in Zones A, B, D, E, and F.

Zone D – District portion of the Buellton Upland subarea.

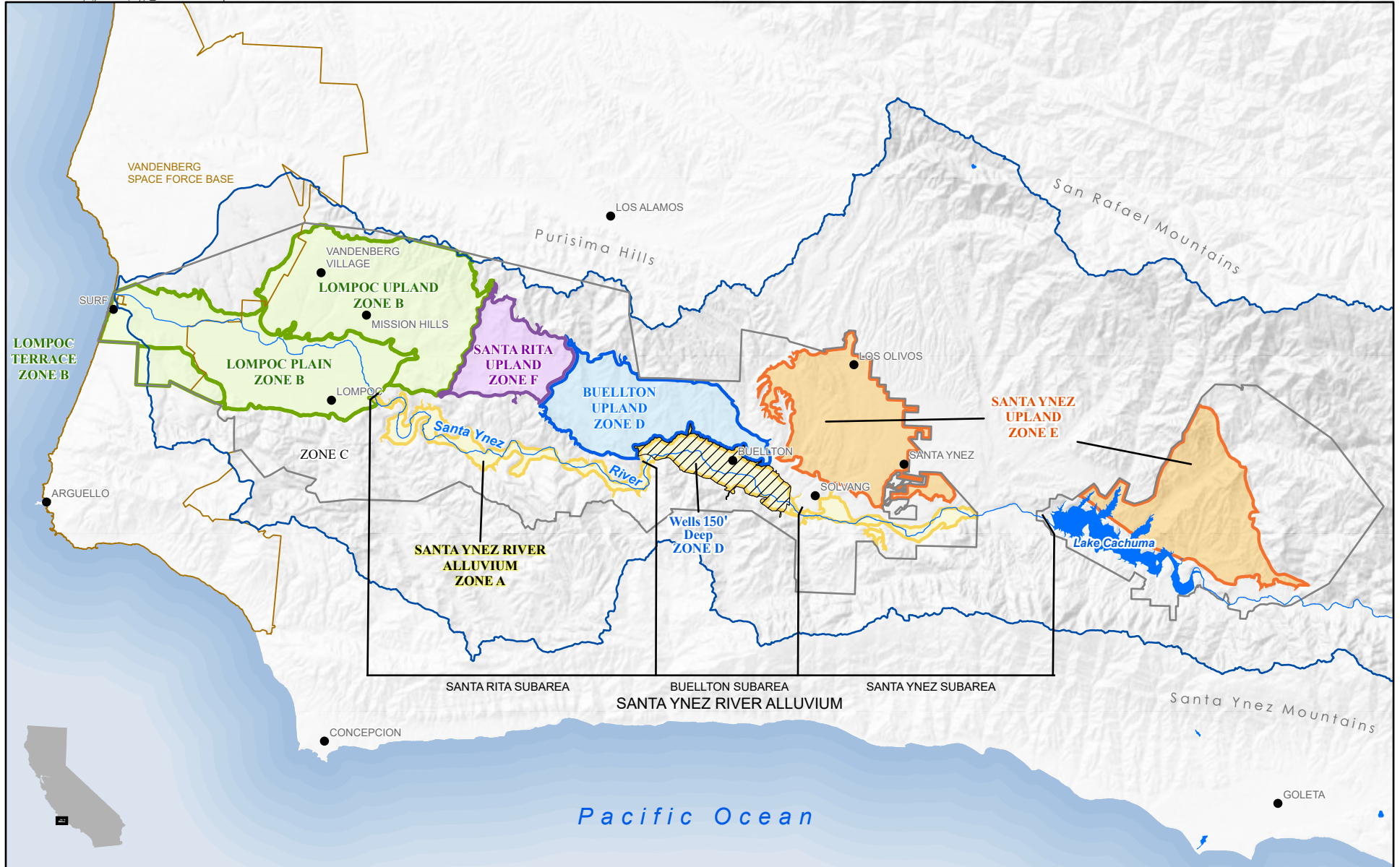
Zone E – District portion of the Santa Ynez Upland subarea.

Zone F – District portion of the Santa Rita Upland subarea.

A map showing the location of these zones is included in Figure 2.

---

<sup>1</sup> For setting, levying and collecting groundwater charges, the District uses the definition of groundwater in Water Code Section 75502: “‘Groundwater’ means all water beneath the earth’s surface, but does not include water which is produced with oil in the production of oil and gas, or in a bona fide mining operation, or during construction operations, or from gravity or artesian springs.”



- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Boundary
- Drainage Basin Boundary

### GROUNDWATER CHARGE ZONES SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

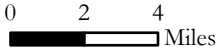


FIGURE 2

For the implementation of SGMA the basin was divided into three management areas: the Western Management Area boundary is nearly coterminous with Zones B and F, the Central Management Area boundary is nearly coterminous with Zone D, and the Eastern Management Area includes Zone E, but extends beyond the District. Zone C is not part of the basin regulated by SGMA. Zone A is the alluvial aquifer (alluvium) along the Santa Ynez River above the Lompoc Narrows, which is water flowing in a known and definite channel (e.g., underflow) and is not “groundwater” subject to SGMA management by the GSAs.<sup>2</sup>

For the current fiscal year, 2025-26, the Board established the following groundwater charge rates, in dollars per acre-foot of production, for each groundwater charge zone.

	Agricultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water
Zone A	22.00	22.00	22.00
Zone B	14.80	14.80	14.80
Zone C	9.20	9.20	9.20
Zone D	9.20	9.20	9.20
Zone E	9.20	9.20	9.20
Zone F	9.20	9.20	9.20

*Fiscal Year 2025-26 Rates, Adopted June 24, 2025, Resolution No. 736*

---

<sup>2</sup> SGMA defines groundwater in Water Code 10721.(g): “‘Groundwater’ means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water, but does not include water that flows in known and definite channels.” Zone A consists of a known and definite channel.

## 2.2. REVENUES

Revenues collected by the District based on groundwater production are presented below for specific periods.

	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
First-Half of Fiscal Year (July through December)	\$306,870.63	\$335,989.21	\$293,177.73	\$317,825.99
Fiscal Year Total (July through June)	In Progress	\$805,909.57	\$681,723.21	\$618,293.48
Years Prior	In Progress	\$25,474.14	\$33,300.09	\$11,913.32

*Reported as of February 16, 2026*

*Historical revenues (fiscal year 2022-23 through fiscal year 2024-25) included overpayments due to overreporting of production. Revenues for fiscal year 2025-26 are reduced due to refunding this overpayment.*

## 2.3. GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION

Summarized below is the water production within the District, in acre-feet, for the complete preceding fiscal year, 2024-25.

	Agricultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water	Total
Zone A	9,349.87	2,436.47	699.43	<b>12,485.77</b>
Zone B	15,255.42	5,616.33	1,065.45	<b>21,937.20</b>
Zone C	25.31	914.98	60.40	<b>1,000.69</b>
Zone D	1,870.26	935.97	49.10	<b>2,855.33</b>
Zone E	2,691.88	2,370.69	28.80	<b>5,091.37</b>
Zone F	2,066.61	139.66	0.00	<b>2,206.27</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,259.35</b>	<b>12,414.10</b>	<b>1,903.18</b>	<b>45,576.63</b>

*Production, in acre-feet, reported for the complete preceding Fiscal Year 2024-25: July 2024-June 2025. Reported as of February 16, 2026.*

The annual water production of 45,576 acre-feet for the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25, is about 103 percent of the 44,351 acre-feet reported for the previous 2023-24 fiscal year, for the last annual report as of February 16, 2026. Water production for the fiscal years 2022-23, 2023-24, and first half of fiscal year 2024-25 has been revised lower to reflect over reported

production. The water production, in acre-feet, for the first half of the current fiscal year, 2025-26, is as follows:

	Agricultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water	Total
Zone A	4,237.84	1,162.88	489.87	<b>5,890.59</b>
Zone B	6,577.54	2,824.89	188.18	<b>9,590.61</b>
Zone C	15.13	103.69	3.88	<b>122.70</b>
Zone D	663.89	455.16	23.60	<b>1,142.65</b>
Zone E	932.10	681.99	1.56	<b>1,615.65</b>
Zone F	752.20	29.89	0.00	<b>782.09</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,178.70</b>	<b>5,258.50</b>	<b>707.09</b>	<b>19,144.29</b>

*Production, in acre-feet, for the first half of the current Fiscal Year 2025-26: July 2025-December 2025. Reported as of February 16, 2026.*

The water production during the first half of the current fiscal year, 2025-26, in the above table is about 96 percent of the production for the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25, as reported for the last annual report by February 7, 2025. The current fiscal year had 19,144 acre-feet for July through December 2025, compared to 19,967 acre-feet reported for July through December 2024.

Total production of water from the groundwater supplies for the preceding water year, water year 2025 (October 2024 through September 2025), is estimated as 44,650 acre-feet. As required by the Water Code, water production statements are filed twice a year for two six-month periods: July through December, and January through June. The water year total includes two partial estimates based on the July through December data.

A small number of groundwater producers were overdue in reporting groundwater production to the District after the previous Engineering and Survey report. This is water production that occurred before July 2024, but groundwater producers reported it after June 2025, during the current fiscal year (2025-26). That late reported production, in acre-feet, is as follows:

	Agricultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water	Total
Zone A	166.12	78.46	0.00	<b>244.58</b>
Zone B	896.52	56.51	0.00	<b>953.03</b>
Zone C	23.69	10.91	0.00	<b>34.60</b>
Zone D	16.73	12.91	0.00	<b>29.64</b>
Zone E	64.54	57.75	0.00	<b>122.29</b>
Zone F	8.27	0.30	0.00	<b>8.57</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,175.87</b>	<b>216.84</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,392.71</b>

*Additional Production, in acre-feet, reported as newly reported pumping before July 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024-25, and previous years). Reported as of February 16, 2026.*

Tables 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D summarize the total annual production for the period 1979-80 through 2024-25. This includes all late reported data as of February 16, 2026. The above late reported production and late reported production in previous years have been posted to the appropriate years. Figure 3 shows the 5-year average annual groundwater production by zone for the same period. The values of production shown in Tables 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, Figure 3, and in this “Groundwater Production” section are subject to future revision as additional late reported production is received by the District.

The projected groundwater production, in acre-feet, within the District for the current fiscal year (2025-26) and ensuing fiscal year (2026-27) is tabulated below. The estimates are based on the reported groundwater production for the preceding fiscal year (2024-25).

	Agricultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water	Total
Zone A	9,350	2,435	700	12,485
Zone B	15,255	5,615	1,065	21,935
Zone C	25	915	60	1,000
Zone D	1,870	935	50	2,855
Zone E	2,690	2,370	30	5,090
Zone F	2,065	140	0	2,205
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,255</b>	<b>12,410</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>45,570</b>

*Projected pumping, in acre-feet, for the Current Fiscal Year 2025-26 (July 2025-June 2026), and the Ensuing Fiscal Year 2026-27 (July 2026-June 2027). Reported as of February 16, 2026.*

**TABLE 1A**  
**ANNUAL REPORTED GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION WITHIN THE DISTRICT<sup>a</sup>**  
**ALL DISTRICT ZONES**  
(Acre-Feet)

<b>Fiscal Year<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Special Irrigation<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Total Production</b>
1979-80	20,918	10,576		31,494
1980-81	24,584	11,531		36,115
1981-82	33,706	14,124		47,830
1982-83	29,010	10,916		39,926
1983-84	30,873	11,476		42,349
1984-85	31,131	12,444		43,575
1985-86	31,130	13,673	872	45,675
1986-87	34,474	12,781	1,546	48,801
1987-88	32,653	13,329	1,433	47,415
1988-89	33,938	11,918	1,780	47,636
1989-90	34,424	13,173	1,712	49,309
1990-91	37,317	12,569	1,691	51,577
1991-92	35,020	11,427	1,936	48,383
1992-93	34,160	11,720	2,507	48,387
1993-94	30,794	13,012	2,121	45,927
1994-95	28,254	13,163	1,821	43,238
1995-96	32,792	15,328	1,842	49,962
1996-97	35,757	14,560	1,955	52,272
1997-98	34,257	12,030	1,368	47,655
1998-99	34,605	12,392	1,736	48,733
1999-00	37,039	13,891	2,164	53,094
2000-01	38,314	26,990	2,004	67,308
2001-02	39,146	13,743	2,071	54,960
2002-03	33,894	12,365	2,107	48,366
2003-04	33,241	13,434	2,160	48,835
2004-05	31,907	12,436	1,764	46,107
2005-06	32,592	12,070	1,632	46,294
2006-07	32,663	13,358	1,893	47,914
2007-08	35,464	14,100	2,117	51,681
2008-09	35,086	13,927	2,075	51,088
2009-10	34,676	12,968	1,914	49,558
2010-11	33,967	12,028	1,557	47,552
2011-12	36,454	11,942	1,570	49,966
2012-13	40,509	13,567	1,900	55,976
2013-14	39,979	14,018	2,063	56,060
2014-15	40,646	12,820	1,615	55,081
2015-16	39,742	11,995	1,457	53,194
2016-17	37,642	11,242	1,609	50,493
2017-18	37,661	12,303	1,835	51,799
2018-19	34,431	11,457	1,598	47,486
2019-20	35,275	11,059	1,734	48,068
2020-21	33,523	12,951	1,876	48,350
2021-22	32,532	12,424	2,570	47,526
2022-23	30,185	12,000	1,517	43,702
2023-24	30,226	11,380	1,650	43,256
2024-25	31,259	12,414	1,903	45,576

<sup>a</sup> Revised February 16, 2026.

<sup>b</sup> July 1 through June 30.

<sup>c</sup> Based upon a 1984 amendment to the California Water Code. First year for reporting special irrigation water production was 1985-86.

**TABLE 1B**  
**ANNUAL REPORTED GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION WITHIN THE DISTRICT <sup>a, b</sup>**  
**AGRICULTURAL WATER**  
(Acre-Feet)

<b>Fiscal Year <sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Zone E</b>	<b>Zone F</b>	<b>Total</b>
1979-80	6,363	7,233	7,322				20,918
1980-81	7,535	9,486	7,563				24,584
1981-82	7,780	18,037	7,889				33,706
1982-83	7,501	13,934	7,575				29,010
1983-84	9,427	14,865	6,581				30,873
1984-85	8,418	15,589	7,124				31,131
1985-86	8,621	15,240	7,269				31,130
1986-87	9,251	19,656	5,567				34,474
1987-88	6,652	19,839	6,162				32,653
1988-89	8,303	19,218	6,417				33,938
1989-90	8,265	17,358	8,801				34,424
1990-91	8,495	18,018	10,804				37,317
1991-92	8,982	18,960	7,078				35,020
1992-93	7,852	19,122	7,186				34,160
1993-94	8,076	16,748	713	1,108	3,505	644	30,794
1994-95	8,173	14,190	1,060	843	3,018	970	28,254
1995-96	8,993	16,327	743	1,158	4,672	899	32,792
1996-97	8,977	19,235	787	970	4,347	1,441	35,757
1997-98	9,627	19,197	429	1,034	2,822	1,148	34,257
1998-99	9,702	18,724	115	1,693	3,088	1,283	34,605
1999-00	10,319	19,832	113	1,739	3,480	1,556	37,039
2000-01	11,169	20,261	121	2,247	3,306	1,210	38,314
2001-02	11,170	21,174	148	2,311	2,897	1,446	39,146
2002-03	10,515	17,559	153	1,549	2,744	1,374	33,894
2003-04	11,193	15,602	189	1,972	3,018	1,267	33,241
2004-05	10,622	15,768	141	1,856	2,439	1,081	31,907
2005-06	10,044	16,854	158	1,965	2,155	1,416	32,592
2006-07	10,756	15,834	172	1,719	2,679	1,503	32,663
2007-08	11,709	15,892	186	2,461	3,309	1,907	35,464
2008-09	11,182	16,004	174	2,823	3,155	1,748	35,086
2009-10	11,072	16,381	152	2,711	2,552	1,808	34,676
2010-11	9,635	17,493	161	2,227	2,660	1,791	33,967
2011-12	10,445	18,276	169	2,631	2,758	2,175	36,454
2012-13	11,498	21,257	145	2,357	3,389	1,863	40,509
2013-14	11,760	19,336	121	3,043	3,645	2,074	39,979
2014-15	12,346	19,511	106	3,468	3,099	2,116	40,646
2015-16	12,687	18,552	76	2,734	3,380	2,313	39,742
2016-17	11,446	18,300	77	2,901	2,966	1,952	37,642
2017-18	11,769	17,972	91	2,665	3,023	2,141	37,661
2018-19	11,098	16,307	53	1,895	2,984	2,094	34,431
2019-20	10,116	17,433	41	2,645	2,832	2,208	35,275
2020-21	11,017	15,022	28	2,141	3,089	2,226	33,523
2021-22	10,198	15,287	36	1,658	3,250	2,103	32,532
2022-23	9,272	14,240	29	1,768	2,995	1,881	30,185
2023-24	8,907	15,412	30	1,714	2,589	1,574	30,226
2024-25	9,350	15,255	25	1,870	2,692	2,067	31,259

<sup>a</sup> Revised February 16, 2026.

<sup>b</sup> Groundwater charge zones for the period 1979-80 through 1992-93 included the District portion of Zone A, Zone B and Zone C. Groundwater charge zones since 1993-94 include the District portion of Zone A, Zone B, Zone C, Zone D, Zone E and Zone F.

<sup>c</sup> July 1 through June 30.

**TABLE 1C**  
**ANNUAL REPORTED GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION WITHIN THE DISTRICT <sup>a, b</sup>**  
**OTHER WATER**  
(Acre-Feet)

<b>Fiscal Year <sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Zone E</b>	<b>Zone F</b>	<b>Total</b>
1979-80	1,815	6,399	2,362				10,576
1980-81	1,940	7,283	2,308				11,531
1981-82	2,471	7,506	4,147				14,124
1982-83	2,111	6,644	2,162				10,916
1983-84	2,381	6,714	2,382				11,476
1984-85	2,381	7,905	2,159				12,444
1985-86	2,120	9,407	2,147				13,673
1986-87	1,795	8,992	1,995				12,781
1987-88	2,359	8,546	2,425				13,329
1988-89	2,751	7,445	1,705				11,918
1989-90	2,517	8,495	2,171				13,173
1990-91	2,435	7,547	2,598				12,569
1991-92	2,763	6,698	1,973				11,427
1992-93	1,995	7,307	2,425				11,720
1993-94	1,664	7,681	1,224	430	1,935	78	13,012
1994-95	2,100	7,777	1,081	431	1,708	66	13,163
1995-96	2,146	8,585	1,079	470	2,998	50	15,328
1996-97	2,067	8,075	958	462	2,929	69	14,560
1997-98	1,583	7,463	978	265	1,663	78	12,030
1998-99	1,999	7,432	995	237	1,642	87	12,392
1999-00	2,264	7,906	1,208	341	2,089	83	13,891
2000-01	2,526	7,395	1,241	460	15,265	103	26,990
2001-02	2,808	7,509	1,476	539	1,289	122	13,743
2002-03	2,050	7,684	1,084	588	850	109	12,365
2003-04	2,262	8,027	1,067	512	1,460	106	13,434
2004-05	2,491	7,285	1,129	352	1,072	107	12,436
2005-06	1,994	7,624	880	269	1,199	104	12,070
2006-07	1,948	8,134	896	591	1,650	139	13,358
2007-08	2,218	8,173	886	817	1,862	144	14,100
2008-09	2,264	7,493	848	988	2,185	149	13,927
2009-10	2,613	7,006	830	1,030	1,335	154	12,968
2010-11	1,359	6,869	1,470	959	1,226	145	12,028
2011-12	1,514	6,859	982	715	1,720	152	11,942
2012-13	2,313	7,084	1,022	712	2,297	139	13,567
2013-14	2,447	7,203	1,121	754	2,347	146	14,018
2014-15	2,615	6,376	771	1,016	1,904	138	12,820
2015-16	2,276	5,994	1,081	915	1,614	115	11,995
2016-17	2,068	5,779	1,099	682	1,504	110	11,242
2017-18	2,451	6,178	1,225	563	1,759	127	12,303
2018-19	2,125	5,864	1,172	598	1,532	166	11,457
2019-20	2,047	5,791	1,020	504	1,522	175	11,059
2020-21	2,747	6,090	1,199	559	2,119	237	12,951
2021-22	2,755	5,815	880	538	2,254	182	12,424
2022-23	2,104	5,446	1,590	732	1,985	143	12,000
2023-24	2,067	5,327	1,022	787	2,023	154	11,380
2024-25	2,436	5,616	915	936	2,371	140	12,414

<sup>a</sup> Revised February 16, 2026.

<sup>b</sup> Groundwater charge zones for the period 1979-80 through 1992-93 included the District portion of Zone A, Zone B and Zone C. Groundwater charge zones since 1993-94 include the District portion of Zone A, Zone B, Zone C, Zone D, Zone E and Zone F.

<sup>c</sup> July 1 through June 30.

**TABLE 1D**  
**ANNUAL REPORTED GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION WITHIN THE DISTRICT <sup>a, b</sup>**  
**SPECIAL IRRIGATION WATER <sup>c</sup>**  
(Acre-Feet)

<b>Fiscal</b> <b>Year <sup>d</sup></b>	<b>Zone A</b>	<b>Zone B</b>	<b>Zone C</b>	<b>Zone D</b>	<b>Zone E</b>	<b>Zone F</b>	<b>Total</b>
1979-80							
1980-81							
1981-82							
1982-83							
1983-84							
1984-85							
1985-86	554	303	15				872
1986-87	523	955	68				1,546
1987-88	594	805	34				1,433
1988-89	738	1,002	40				1,780
1989-90	658	1,028	26				1,712
1990-91	669	981	41				1,691
1991-92	753	1,163	20				1,936
1992-93	1,052	1,205	250				2,507
1993-94	1,059	1,005	0	57	0	0	2,121
1994-95	1,056	729	0	36	0	0	1,821
1995-96	941	839	10	52	0	0	1,842
1996-97	935	988	10	22	0	0	1,955
1997-98	838	445	74	11	0	0	1,368
1998-99	862	836	17	13	8	0	1,736
1999-00	976	1,152	17	19	0	0	2,164
2000-01	906	1,054	12	32	0	0	2,004
2001-02	899	1,132	17	23	0	0	2,071
2002-03	1,012	1,058	10	27	0	0	2,107
2003-04	965	1,161	20	14	0	0	2,160
2004-05	876	861	19	8	0	0	1,764
2005-06	726	883	20	3	0	0	1,632
2006-07	796	1,039	23	35	0	0	1,893
2007-08	870	1,171	30	46	0	0	2,117
2008-09	858	1,126	22	69	0	0	2,075
2009-10	795	1,053	20	46	0	0	1,914
2010-11	568	939	17	33	0	0	1,557
2011-12	620	900	21	29	0	0	1,570
2012-13	762	1,088	18	32	0	0	1,900
2013-14	804	1,203	18	38	0	0	2,063
2014-15	619	939	11	46	0	0	1,615
2015-16	576	830	13	38	0	0	1,457
2016-17	626	937	12	34	0	0	1,609
2017-18	754	1,043	14	24	0	0	1,835
2018-19	639	913	12	27	7	0	1,598
2019-20	691	1,010	11	18	4	0	1,734
2020-21	779	1,057	11	15	14	0	1,876
2021-22	1,055	1,440	15	37	23	0	2,570
2022-23	632	816	9	36	24	0	1,517
2023-24	622	954	11	43	20	0	1,650
2024-25	699	1,066	60	49	29	0	1,903

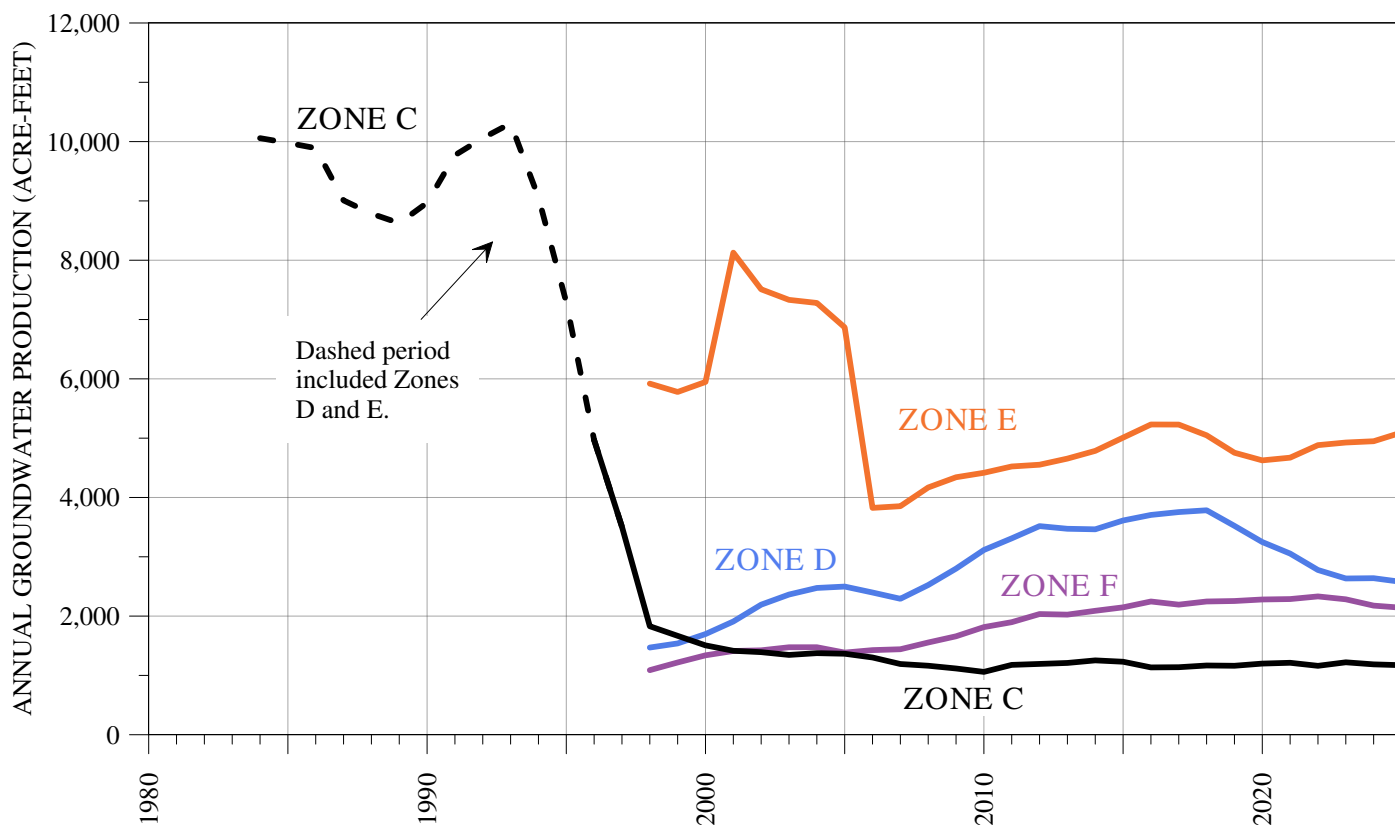
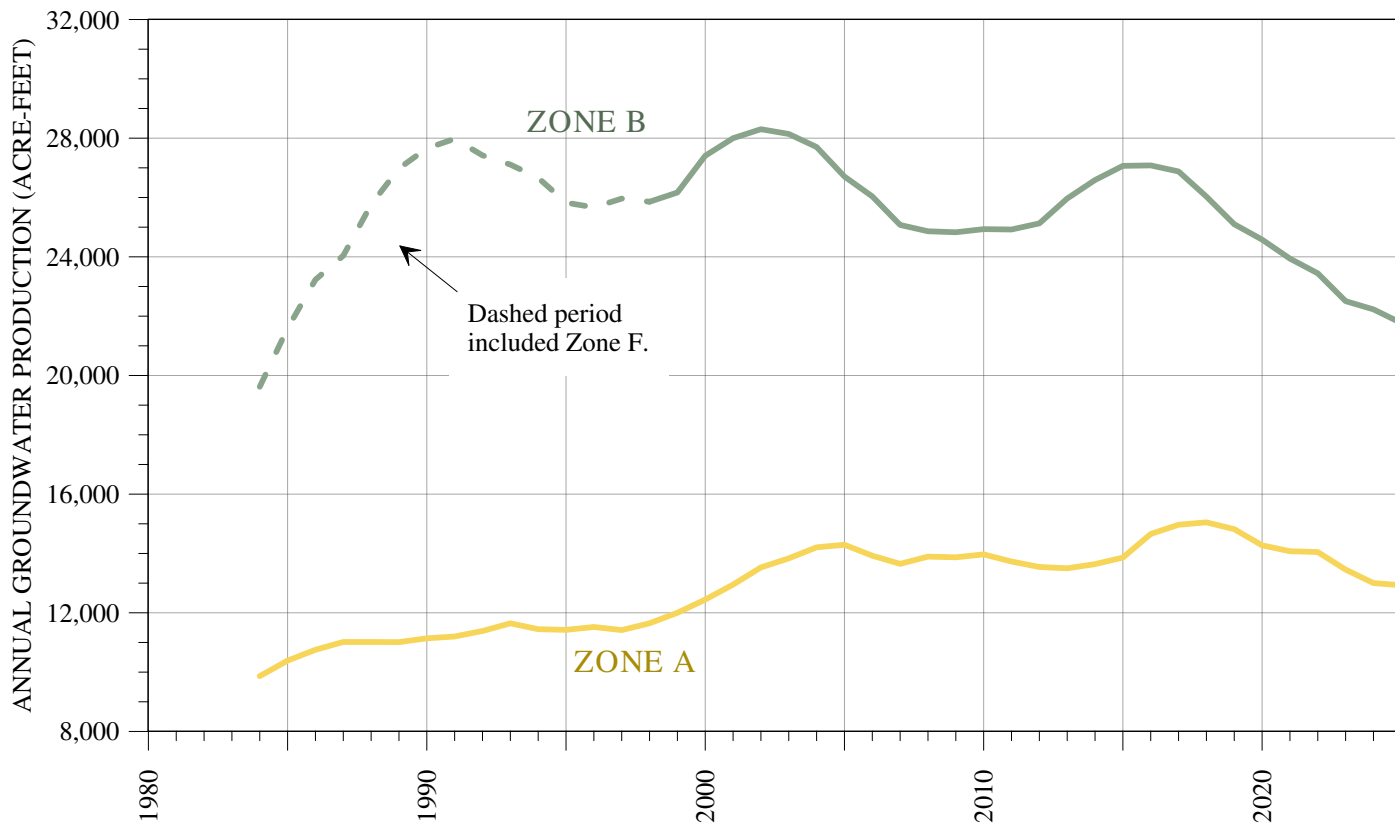
<sup>a</sup> Revised February 16, 2026.

<sup>b</sup> Groundwater charge zones for the period 1979-80 through 1992-93 included the District portion of Zone A, Zone B and Zone C. Groundwater charge zones since 1993-94 include the District portion of Zone A, Zone B, Zone C, Zone D, Zone E and Zone F.

<sup>c</sup> Based upon a 1984 amendment to the California Water Code. First year for reporting special irrigation water production was 1985-86.

<sup>d</sup> July 1 through June 30.

### ANNUAL GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION WITHIN THE DISTRICT 5-YEAR MOVING AVERAGE



## 2.4. WELL REGISTRATION

Groundwater producers have registered 1,338 wells with the District, of that number, approximately 1,080 are active and 258 are inactive. This is an addition of 19 newly registered active wells over the last year, from February 7, 2025, to February 16, 2026.

	Active Wells	Inactive Wells	Total Wells
Zone A	256	70	326
Zone B	311	53	364
Zone C	71	29	100
Zone D	107	18	125
Zone E	258	71	329
Zone F	77	17	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>1,338</b>

*Registered Wells as of February 16, 2026.*

## 2.5. MAJOR PRODUCERS

Major water producers are producers who typically produce more than five hundred acre-feet per year, although inclusion may be a result of production during previous years. Producers may be identified by ownership and/or lease. The following lists the major producers and the volume of production by groundwater charge zone during the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25, as of February 16, 2026:

	Major Water Producer Fiscal Year 2024-25	Production (Acre-Feet)
<b>Zone A</b>	Acin Farms (Also in Zone F)	<b>1,078</b>
	Jackson, Palmer (The Alisal)	<b>604</b>
	S & B Vineyard / Sanford	<b>579</b>
	Laranjo Brothers LLC	<b>556</b>
	City of Solvang (also in Zones C and E)	<b>553</b>
	SYRWCD, ID #1 (also in Zone E)	<b>536</b>
	CB Coastal LLC	<b>495</b>
	Campbell (also in Zone B and F)	<b>404</b>
	City of Buellton (also in Zone D)	<b>361</b>

	Major Water Producer Fiscal Year 2024-25	Production (Acre-Feet)
<b>Zone B</b>	Santa Barbara Farms (includes Witt/Guerra)	<b>4,823</b>
	Lompoc Farming	<b>3,972</b>
	City of Lompoc (Water Div.)	<b>3,932</b>
	Campbell Ranches (also in Zones A and F)	<b>2,123</b>
	Vandenberg Village CSD	<b>1,383</b>
	Sorrento Berry Farms (also in Zone F)	<b>914</b>
	La Purisima Golf Course and The Mission Club	<b>651</b>
	Mission Hills CSD	<b>549</b>
<b>Zone C</b>	Imerys	<b>782</b>
	City of Solvang (also in Zone A and E)	<b>95</b>
<b>Zone D</b>	City of Buellton (also in Zone A)	<b>701</b>
<b>Zone E</b>	SYRWCD, ID No1 (also in Zone A)	<b>965</b>
	City of Solvang (also in Zones A and C)	<b>196</b>
<b>Zone F</b>	Sorrento Berry Farms (also in Zone B)	<b>549</b>
	Campbell Ranches (also in Zone A and B)	<b>3</b>
	Acin Farms (also in Zone A)	<b>1</b>

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

### 3.0 PRECIPITATION

Water supply, water use, and groundwater conditions within the District are partially dependent upon precipitation. Precipitation, either directly or as streamflow infiltration, recharges the groundwater supplies. The quantity and timing of precipitation can indicate future water-level conditions. Based on the 30-year climate normal, a small proportion (less than one percent) of annual precipitation occurs during the summer and fall months of June through September. Slightly above a quarter of precipitation (25 to 28 percent) falls in the autumn and early winter months of October through December, approximately two-thirds (63 to 65 percent) of precipitation falls in the winter and spring months of January through March, and a small proportion (8 to 9 percent) of precipitation falls in the late spring and summer months of April and May.

Table 2 presents the monthly precipitation and departure from normal for two precipitation stations, Bradbury Dam and Lompoc, for the period October 2024 through January 2026. Precipitation during the preceding water year 2025 (October 2024 to September 2025) was 43 and 56 percent of normal at Bradbury Dam and Lompoc, respectively. Precipitation through January of the current water year 2026 (October 2025 to January 2026) is 260 and 184 percent of normal at Bradbury Dam and Lompoc, respectively.

The long-term annual variation in precipitation at Santa Barbara, Gibraltar Dam, Bradbury Dam, and Lompoc is shown graphically in Figure 4. Also shown in Figure 4 is a graph of the accumulated departure from the mean annual precipitation. The analyses represented by these graphs indicate the historical wet and dry periods. An upward trend of the graph for years indicates a wet period in the basin. Conversely, a dry period is indicated where the graph trends downward for years.

**TABLE 2**  
**MONTHLY PRECIPITATION AND DEPARTURE**  
**FROM NORMAL AT BRADBURY DAM AND LOMPOC**  
**OCTOBER 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 2026 <sup>a</sup>**  
(Inches)

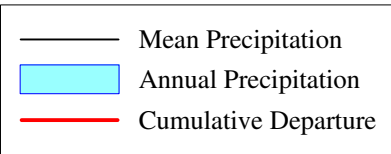
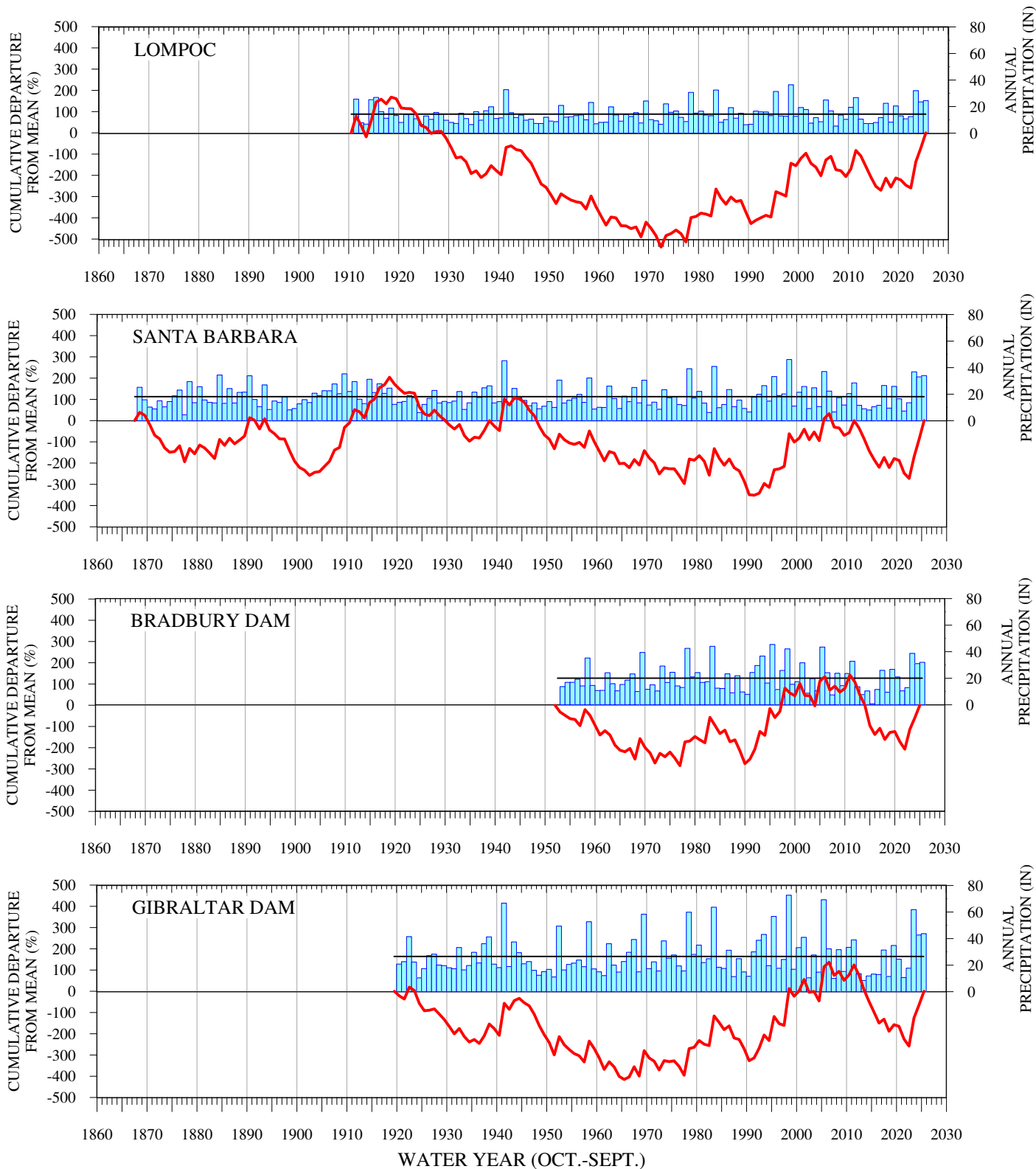
Month	Bradbury Dam		Lompoc	
	Precipitation	Departure <sup>b</sup>	Precipitation	Departure <sup>b</sup>
October 2024	0.03	-0.77	0.11	-0.56
November	0.43	-0.81	0.50	-0.71
December	0.35	-2.95	0.72	-1.68
January 2025	0.43	-4.46	0.16	-3.13
February	3.70	-1.59	3.13	-0.53
March	3.65	0.04	2.89	0.09
April 2025	0.32	-0.99	0.60	-0.30
May	0.05	-0.49	0.01	-0.33
June	0.00	-0.06	0.02	-0.04
July 2025	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.02
August	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06
September	0.21	0.13	0.46	0.41
<b>Proceeding Water Year 2025</b>				
(October 2024-September 2025)	<b>9.17</b>	<b>-11.96</b>	<b>8.67</b>	<b>-6.74</b>
<b>Percent of Normal</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>56</b>	
October 2025	2.12	1.32	1.42	0.75
November	7.89	6.65	4.38	3.17
December	11.90	8.60	5.04	2.64
January 2026	4.66	-0.23	3.10	-0.19
<b>Current Water Year 2026</b>				
<b>Partial / First Quarter + January</b>				
(October 2025-January 2026)	<b>26.57</b>	<b>16.34</b>	<b>13.94</b>	<b>6.37</b>
<b>Percent of Normal</b>	<b>260</b>		<b>184</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Data from Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

<sup>b</sup> Departure from normal is based on an averaging period of 1991 to 2020 as established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Percent of Normal is relative to the months in the specific period.  
Data includes preliminary data subject to verification.

### ANNUAL PRECIPITATION AND CUMULATIVE DEPARTURE FROM MEAN FOR LOMPOC, SANTA BARBARA, BRADBURY DAM, AND GIBRALTAR DAM



Water Year 2025 includes preliminary data.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

## **4.0 SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS**

Surface water supplies potentially available in the watershed include the main stem and tributaries of the Santa Ynez River and imported water from northern California through the State Water Project (SWP). As mentioned in Chapter 1, the upstream diversion works, constructed on the river system by South County interests and the Federal Government, were designed to export all or most of the diverted water out of the watershed. These diversion facilities include Juncal Dam (Jameson Reservoir), Doulton Tunnel, and Fox and Alder Creeks by the Montecito Water District, Gibraltar Dam (Gibraltar Reservoir), Mission Tunnel, and Devil's Canyon by the City of Santa Barbara, and Bradbury Dam (Lake Cachuma), and Tecolote Tunnel by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Drainage areas upstream of these diversion dams are approximately 14 (Juncal), 216 (Gibraltar), and 417 (Bradbury) square miles with the latter representing about 47 percent of the total watershed. These diversions significantly affect the recharge of the groundwater in the Santa Ynez River alluvial aquifer and the Lompoc Plain groundwater subarea.

The Cachuma Project, including Bradbury Dam, is by far the largest of the upstream diversion facilities with a reservoir capacity of 183,751 acre-feet at a water surface elevation of 750 feet (192,978 acre-feet with a fish surcharge of three feet, October 2021 survey) and an annual operational yield of 25,714 acre-feet. Table 3 summarizes the annual operations of this Project, from its start in 1952 through 2025.

### **4.1. BASIN SURFACE WATER USE**

This District contracted with the USBR through the Santa Barbara County Water Agency for 10.3 percent of the annual Cachuma Project yield and in 1959 established the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) to distribute and serve municipal and irrigation water in the Santa Ynez Valley. The service area of ID No. 1 includes the towns of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, and Solvang and surrounding area. With the creation of an independently elected trustee board in 1966, ID No. 1 became essentially a separate entity. In 1993 this District assigned its Cachuma entitlement to ID No. 1. ID No. 1 later exchanged this water (approximately 2,600 acre-feet) for treated SWP water with the other (South Coast) Cachuma Member Units. ID No. 1 continues to use a small portion of its

**TABLE 3**  
**SUMMARY OF CACHUMA PROJECT OPERATIONS**  
**WATER YEARS 1953 THROUGH 2025<sup>a</sup>**  
(Acre-Feet)

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	
Water Year (Oct.-Sept.) <sup>b</sup>	Lake Cachuma End-of-Year Storage	Computed Inflow	CCWA	Precipitation on Reservoir	Reservoir Evaporation	Estimated Spill	Diversion to Tunnel	Park Diversions	SYRWCD ID No.1 Deliveries	Downstream Release <sup>c</sup>	Fish Water Release
1953	9,188	17,942		106	1,319	0				7,541	
1954	21,779	18,955		598	2,327	0				4,635	
1955	19,584	4,941		936	2,540	0				3,922	
1956	36,629	24,330		1,482	4,200	0	2,118			2,449	
1957	30,154	6,150		1,162	4,642	0	5,470			3,674	
1958	196,889	219,129		4,459	11,210	35,738	4,850			5,050	
1959	187,178	15,068		3,629	14,624	3,056	8,432			2,296	
1960	163,149	2,643		2,669	13,613	0	11,410	169	300	3,849	
1961	134,493	795		2,382	12,015	0	17,309	662	239	1,608	
1962	190,475	100,134		4,963	12,446	21,822	11,921	402	890	1,633	
1963	171,736	4,270		3,788	12,157	0	10,595	510	694	2,843	
1964	141,506	2,439		2,378	11,786	0	17,352	447	1,504	3,958	
1965	122,308	12,314		3,043	10,204	0	14,909	182	1,837	7,423	
1966	168,926	79,292		3,707	12,524	0	17,522	345	2,129	3,862	
1967	191,622	208,961		5,774	12,683	153,823	14,155	246	2,575	8,557	
1968	160,871	10,404		2,414	13,524	0	18,199	357	3,669	7,820	
1969	190,181	525,370		9,727	12,305	472,411	15,031	240	2,597	3,199	
1970	176,407	28,740		1,793	13,525	0	21,448	335	4,115	4,888	
1971	161,345	31,045		3,497	12,308	0	22,800	357	3,115	11,028	
1972	121,314	8,754		2,231	11,452	0	28,158	167	4,469	6,769	
1973	185,591	125,804		5,948	12,056	29,300	18,456	129	3,552	3,982	
1974	182,039	33,670		4,112	12,677	5,655	17,805	138	3,469	1,590	
1975	184,467	50,544		5,867	11,866	16,804	20,854	128	3,057	1,275	
1976	145,187	5,310		3,189	11,804	0	26,020	148	4,655	5,152	
1977	112,077	1,520		2,601	10,775	0	18,740	98	4,583	3,035	
1978	193,424	329,219		9,573	13,535	219,295	20,701	114	3,011	790	
1979	183,949	61,692		5,250	13,917	36,385	20,102	147	4,029	1,837	
1980	187,382	153,543		6,003	13,353	116,915	22,057	139	2,483	1,166	
1981	168,871	22,066		4,019	13,811	0	20,856	178	5,007	4,743	
1982	159,528	26,848		3,868	11,479	0	20,956	187	2,963	4,474	
1983	196,347	428,601		10,995	12,630	361,675	22,616	183	1,532	4,142	
1984	171,599	39,074		3,354	14,534	17,217	25,601	193	5,054	4,577	

**TABLE 3 – CONTINUED**  
**SUMMARY OF CACHUMA PROJECT OPERATIONS**  
**WATER YEARS 1953 THROUGH 2025 <sup>a</sup>**  
(Acre-Feet)

Water Year (Oct.-Sept.) <sup>b</sup>	[1] Lake Cachuma End-of-Year Storage	[2] Computed Inflow	[3] CCWA	[4] Precipitation on Reservoir	[5] Reservoir Evaporation	[6] Estimated Spill	[7] Diversion to Tunnel	[8] Park Diversions	[9] ID No.1 Deliveries	[10] Downstream Release <sup>c</sup>	[11] Fish Water Release
1985	135,748	5,057		2,816	12,275	0	22,781	142	2,664	5,862	
1986	171,873	76,571		4,831	12,782	0	21,690	108	2,686	8,010	
1987	128,352	2,374		1,996	12,147	0	27,209	150	3,812	4,573	
1988	99,150	8,732		4,092	10,293	0	23,917	102	2,803	4,911	
1989	66,098	4,044		1,459	8,366	0	20,632	86	2,802	6,670	
1990	34,188	2,627		909	6,019	0	16,384	66	863	4,792	
1991	60,995	53,566		2,057	6,373	0	15,762	43	1,656	4,983	
1992	157,066	135,828		4,022	11,239	0	18,170	52	891	13,427	
1993	177,479	333,387		8,875	13,428	280,698	22,582	79	2,042	1,591	1,429
1994	151,046	16,729		4,144	12,561	0	22,821	73	1,819	9,537	494
1995	134,855	365,092		10,063	10,321	354,402	23,887	64	109	1,823	740
1996	120,503	33,243		2,653	11,627	0	24,721	76	2,109	9,703	2,012
1997	124,771	56,552	148	2,911	11,861	0	26,785	83	1,785	13,205	1,623
1998	185,500	475,175	1,354	12,071	11,350	386,055	24,473	60	0	3,956	1,976
1999	168,772	21,562	323	4,077	12,341	0	26,397	70	0	883	2,999
2000	170,840	51,895	2,156	4,972	12,435	6,067	30,365	79	0	5,972	2,037
2001	173,479	152,773	818	7,712	11,995	112,313	26,089	78	0	3,502	2,157
2002	129,370	5,508	4,627	2,040	11,004	0	30,976	90	0	11,961	2,253
2003	115,449	18,822	6,816	3,707	9,402	0	28,781	99	0	2,292	2,691
2004	71,378	5,750	5,924	1,782	8,829	0	32,269	83	0	14,217	2,131
2005	179,997	401,755	3,137	8,365	11,763	260,078	26,796	62	0	2,894	3,045
2006	180,203	100,562	1,014	6,075	12,354	62,869	24,119	66	0	0	8,037
2007	132,392	4,348	5,204	1,716	11,940	0	32,797	83	0	9,327	4,932
2008	173,280	109,536	4,701	4,712	13,449	22,994	32,591	63	0	2,274	6,689
2009	142,479	13,218	2,602	3,112	12,220	0	27,634	82	0	0	8,688
2010	152,855	56,628	1,736	5,057	11,374	0	27,259	73	0	7,165	7,175
2011	180,986	151,343	1,258	7,226	11,871	85,755	26,866	79	0	1,481	5,642
2012	142,970	6,005	408	2,959	11,724	0	28,682	79	0	0	6,904
2013	91,922	2,982	2,101	1,497	9,943	0	31,039	76	0	12,613	3,956
2014	61,107	3,947	11,522	1,367	8,441	0	29,023	34	0	7,561	2,591

**TABLE 3 – CONTINUED**  
**SUMMARY OF CACHUMA PROJECT OPERATIONS**  
**WATER YEARS 1953 THROUGH 2025 <sup>a</sup>**  
(Acre-Feet)

Water Year (Oct.-Sept.) <sup>b</sup>	[1] Lake Cachuma End-of-Year Storage	[2] Computed Inflow	[3] CCWA	[4] Precipitation on Reservoir	[5] Reservoir Evaporation	[6] Estimated Spill	[7] Diversion to Tunnel	[8] Park Diversions	[9] ID No.1 Deliveries	[10] Downstream Release <sup>c</sup>	[11] Fish Water Release
2015	32,989	4,006	8,316	1,074	7,443	0	17,137	25	0	12,600	2,156
2016	14,222	4,697	10,220	860	5,444	0	15,604	24	0	11,620	1,853
2017	82,459	87,508	14,073	2,196	11,352	0	14,451	25	0	8,612	807
2018	61,273	4,910	13,308	1,269	7,730	0	18,681	23	0	11,654	2,584
2019	144,475	105,371	4,606	3,500	9,467	0	13,867	23	0	0	6,918
2020	135,570	26,207	825	4,309	11,094	0	16,000	22	0	5,861	7,318
2021	95,720	3,536	1,530	2,227	9,634	0	24,741	20	0	8,625	4,123
2022	65,436	4,989	6,090	2,040	7,909	0	20,009	22	0	10,355	5,107
2023	179,435	489,456	572	8,015	10,522	344,903	17,468	20	0	203	9,993
2024	180,594	237,385	481	8,244	12,472	206,171	15,934	20	0	0	10,354
2025	149,715	8,761	458	2,312	12,341	0	18,163	24	0	0	11,881
Average <sup>d</sup>	134,564	85,644	4,011	3,984	10,835	49,485	20,886	134	1,478	5,185	4,342

<sup>a</sup> Source of Information: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

<sup>b</sup> October 1 through September 30.

<sup>c</sup> Includes leakage and water rights releases

<sup>d</sup> For period of record

Water Balance Equation: [1] End of WY Storage = [1] Start of WY Storage + [2] + [3] + [4] - [5] - [6] - [7] - [8] - [9] - [10] - [11]

Water Balance Equation does not balance at the end of Water Year 1955, 1990, 2001, 2009, 2015, 2018, and 2022. New reservoir capacity tables were developed during these years and as a result, the storage capacity was reduced. The amount of unaccounted water equals the reduction in storage volume. End of WY2017 storage corrected by 293 AF due to gage reading error.

Cachuma entitlement water to serve the County Park at Lake Cachuma. Table 3 shows annual deliveries of Cachuma Project water to ID No. 1 before the exchange and direct diversions from the reservoir to the County Park.

Alisal Reservoir is located on Alisal Creek about three miles south of Solvang at the southern boundary of the District. The Permit issued by the SWRCB in 1969 allows for the diversion and storage of 2,342 acre-feet per year for irrigation, stock watering, domestic, and recreational uses. No quantification of actual water use for this reservoir has been done.

**4.2. STATE WATER PROJECT WATER USE**

In 1963, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the DWR executed a Water Supply Contract to supply “Table A” water from the State Water Project (SWP) to Santa Barbara County. A part of this SWP water goes to four water purveyors that serve the Santa Ynez Valley. Since 1997, the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) transports SWP water to Santa Ynez through the California Aqueduct via the Coastal Branch Aqueduct. The following table summarizes SWP deliveries to these purveyors for the preceding fiscal year (July 2024 through June 2025) and the first half of the current fiscal year (July through December 2025).

Fiscal Year (July-June)	ID No. 1 (Acre-Feet)	City of Solvang (Acre-Feet)	City of Buellton (Acre-Feet)	Vandenberg SFB (Acre-Feet)	Total (Acre-Feet)
2024-25	2,114	563	230	2,912	5,819
2025-26 (First Half)	1,385	334	111	1,503	3,333
Table A (Entitlement)	500	1,500	578	5,500	8,078

*Source: Central Coast Water Authority, Improvement District No. 1 includes exchange deliveries. Table A entitlement volumes represent the maximum annual delivery of the SWP water which DWR limits to a total of 4,185,000 acre-feet for all contractors. This is sometimes referred to as the contractors’ total annual Table A amount. Total SWP water supplies often are less than the annual Table A amount, in which case DWR makes SWP deliveries on a proportional basis to the size of the Table A amount. Table A amounts shown do not include drought buffer.*

Deliveries to ID No. 1 include Table A, drought buffer, exchange, and (turnback pool) purchased water.

#### **4.3. RIVER SYSTEM FLOW CONDITIONS**

The Lompoc Narrows are a natural constricting point of the Santa Ynez River where a stream gage measures river flows. For the preceding fiscal year (July 2024 through June 2025), flows at the Lompoc Narrows were 15,139 acre-feet. Flows for the first half of the ongoing 2025-26 fiscal year (July 2025 through December 2025) were 43,887 acre-feet, which is 516 percent of flows during the first half of the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25. Table 4 and the graphs in Figure 5 are summaries of annual and monthly flows by the water year (October-September).

Annual flows of Salsipuedes Creek near Lompoc, a major tributary of the Santa Ynez River, which meets the Santa Ynez River upstream of the Lompoc Narrows, are shown in Table 5. Salsipuedes Creek flows for the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25 (July-June), were 1,656 acre-feet. Flows for the first half of the ongoing 2025-26 fiscal year (July through December 2024) were 4,045 acre-feet which is 512 percent of flows during the first half of the preceding fiscal year, 2024-25. Appendix C includes flow records for additional streams.

#### **4.4. WATER RIGHTS RELEASES**

Water rights releases for users downstream of Lake Cachuma are outlined in the SWRCB Order of 1973 (WR 73-37), as amended in 1989 (WR 89-18) and 2019 (WR 2019-0148). These releases are based on the establishment of two accounts, and the accrual of credits (storing water) in Lake Cachuma for the above and below Narrows areas. Above Narrows Account (ANA) water rights releases are made at Bradbury Dam for the benefit of water users between the dam and the Lompoc Narrows. Releases from the Below Narrows Account (BNA) in Lake Cachuma are for the benefit of water users in the Lompoc Plain subarea and deliveries are measured at the Lompoc Narrows. Combined releases of ANA and BNA water are made to replenish the alluvium and groundwater basin in the above and below Narrows areas.

In calendar year 2025, there were no water rights releases because there was relatively low dewatered storage in the Above Narrows basin. Historical water rights releases are summarized in Table 6.

**TABLE 4**  
**FLOW OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER AT THE LOMPOC NARROWS**  
(Acre-Feet)

Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow
		1930	5,780	1955	2,060	1980	189,100	2005	431,520
		1931	2,390	1956	28,750	1981	20,240	2006	87,730
		1932	142,000	1957	1,460	1982	6,450	2007	6,860
1908	222,000	1933	17,700	1958	139,990	1983	503,620	2008	72,550
1909	681,000	1934	24,170	1959	16,930	1984	34,110	2009	3,750
1910	115,000	1935	56,830	1960	1,570	1985	3,100	2010	31,900
1911	533,000	1936	40,830	1961	330	1986	30,110	2011	135,290
1912	50,400	1937	209,000	1962	87,890	1987	5,210	2012	5,640
1913	47,400	1938	352,400	1963	9,520	1988	3,590	2013	4,030
1914	546,000	1939	32,960	1964	0	1989	30	2014	4,480
1915	395,000	1940	20,610	1965	4,980	1990	0	2015	50
1916	258,000	1941	652,300	1966	29,240	1991	20,900	2016	2,310
1917	137,000	1942	67,310	1967	161,690	1992	62,090	2017	31,920
1918	320,000	1943	231,900	1968	5,700	1993	391,520	2018	4,810
1919	60,300	1944	119,400	1969	617,710	1994	15,610	2019	42,990 +
1920	43,500	1945	50,700	1970	8,500	1995	485,390	2020	11,280
1921	16,800	1946	38,970	1971	7,420	1996	24,820	2021	12,320
1922	190,500	1947	13,940	1972	3,180	1997	34,320	2022	4,040
1923	23,000	1948	50	1973	80,770	1998	681,490	2023	390,870
1924	5,300	1949	2,040	1974	20,400	1999	28,470	2024	254,710
1925	7,300	1950	1,460	1975	61,850	2000	48,830	2025	10,030 *
1926	90,100	1951	0	1976	3,980	2001	250,510	2026	43,880 *
1927	152,000	1952	261,900	1977	270	2002	9,520	(through Dec)	
1928	30,800	1953	19,910	1978	391,550	2003	15,730		
1929	9,770	1954	5,830	1979	70,180	2004	6,710	Average	105,770
								(1908-2025)	
								Average	84,960
								(1953-2025)	

\* indicates provisional data.

2019 flows do not include equipment failure January 14-17, likely totalling less than 400 Acre-Feet.  
Data from U.S. Geological Survey include periods of 1908 through 1918, 1926 through 1950,  
1952 through 1963, and 1965 through March 2015.

Data from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation include periods of 1919 through 1925, 1951, and 1964.

Flow regulated by Lake Cachuma since November 1952.

# MONTHLY SURFACE FLOW, SANTA YNEZ RIVER NEAR LOMPOC

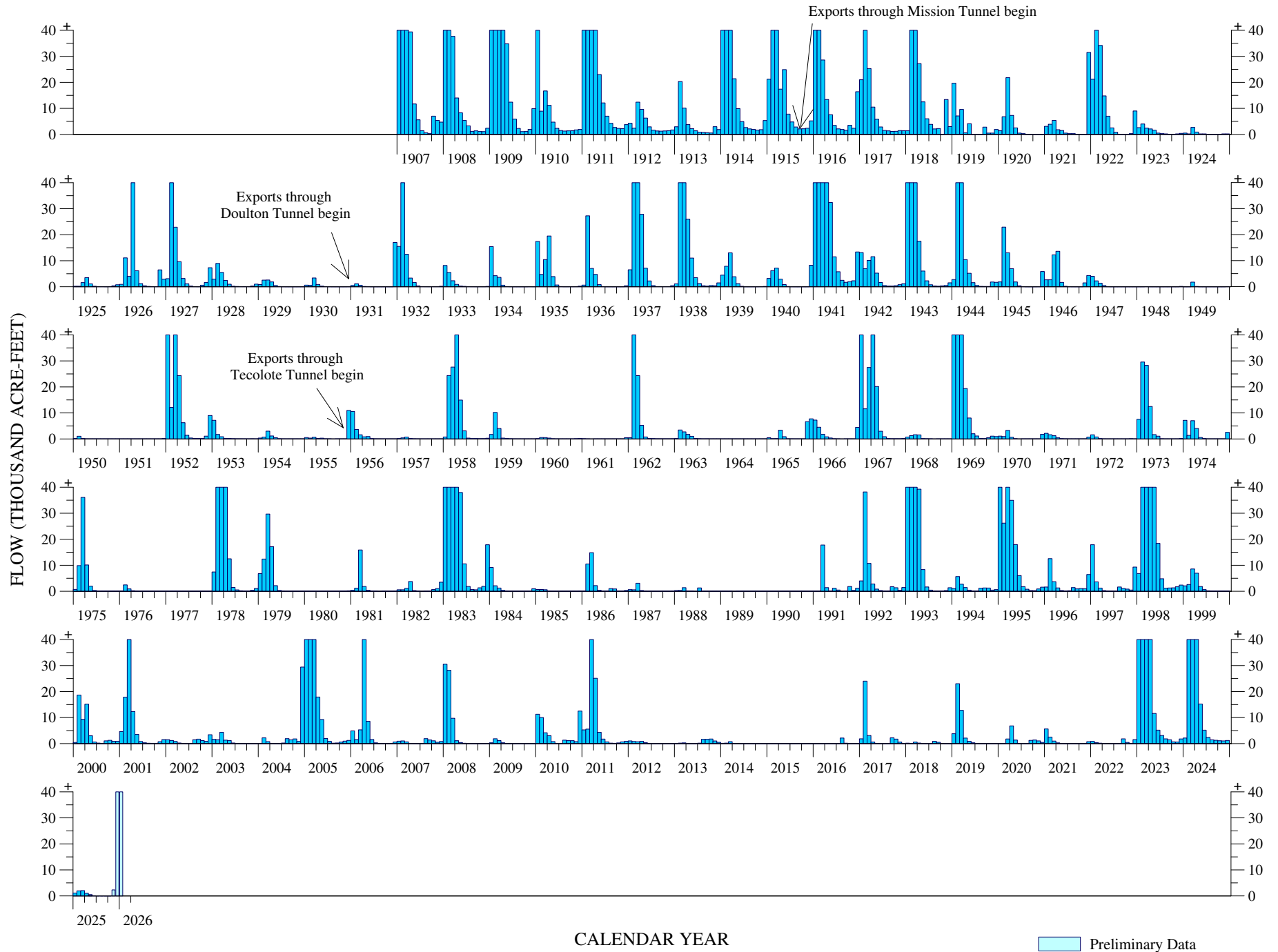


FIGURE 5

**TABLE 5**  
**FLOW OF SALSIPUEDES CREEK NEAR LOMPOC**  
(Acre-Feet)

Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow	Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Flow
		1950	1,280	1975	13,780	2000	10,760	2025	1,200 *
		1951	330	1976	1,520	2001	20,000	2026	4,020 *
		1952	16,870	1977	600	2002	1,650	(through Dec)	
		1953	4,630	1978	36,230	2003	3,620		
		1954	2,410	1979	8,410	2004	1,660		
		1955	1,320	1980	14,980	2005	33,240	Average	8,080
		1956	15,610	1981	5,060	2006	5,620	(1942-2025)	
		1957	1,250	1982	1,610	2007	690		
		1958	23,570	1983	36,850	2008	8,730		
		1959	2,620	1984	3,360	2009	650		
		1960	1,420	1985	1,170	2010	4,840		
		1961	690	1986	10,290	2011	15,020		
		1962	22,200	1987	1,610	2012	1,110		
		1963	5,330	1988	890	2013	370		
		1964	930	1989	210	2014	240		
		1965	2,720	1990	120	2015	110		
		1966	9,480	1991	4,420	2016	170		
1942	10,650	1967	6,710	1992	6,680	2017	9,700		
1943	10,710	1968	780	1993	17,030	2018	240		
1944	8,870	1969	20,520	1994	2,740	2019	12,310		
1945	2,270	1970	1,810	1995	58,360	2020	1,600		
1946	1,790	1971	1,180	1996	3,610	2021	2,970		
1947	870	1972	520	1997	5,480	2022	980		
1948	400	1973	15,660	1998	41,170	2023	33,720		
1949	1,710	1974	5,320	1999	6,160	2024	22,490		

Data from U.S. Geological Survey.

\* indicates provisional data.

**TABLE 6**  
**HISTORICAL WATER RIGHTS RELEASES**

Calendar Year	Releases (Acre-Feet)		Total	Calendar Year	Releases (Acre-Feet)		Total
	Above Narrows Account (ANA)	Below Narrows Account (BNA)			Above Narrows Account (ANA)	Below Narrows Account (BNA)	
<b>Releases under Live Stream</b>				<b>Releases under WR 89-18</b>			
1953	-	-	7,540	1990	4,792	0	4,792
1954	-	-	4,632	1991	7,745	3,638	11,383
1955	-	-	3,921	1992	4,930	3,287	8,217
1956	-	-	2,449	1993	0	0	0
1957	-	-	3,674	1994	6,727	4,012	10,739
1958	-	-	4,142	1995	0	0	0
1959	-	-	1,294	1996	7,319	3,459	10,778
1960	-	-	3,411	1997	9,572	3,438	13,010
1961	-	-	1,365	1998	0	0	0
1962	-	-	380	1999	0	0	0
1963	-	-	2,239	2000	4,360	1,858	6,218
1964	-	-	3,665	2001	0	0	0
1965	-	-	7,251	2002	9,054	4,412	13,466
1966	-	-	6,860	2003	0	0	0
1967	-	-	3,274	2004	11,494	4,512	16,006
1968	-	-	6,705	2005	0	0	0
1969	-	-	1,499	2006	0	0	0
1970	-	-	6,100	2007	6,703	4,897	11,600
1971	-	-	8,095	2008	0	0	0
1972	-	-	6,320	2009	0	0	0
1973	-	-	1,245	2010	5,122	3,524	8,646
<b>Releases under WR 73-37</b>				2011	0	0	0
1974	1,353	0	1,353	2012	0	0	0
1975	1,134	0	1,134	2013	10,694	6,779	17,473
1976	4,237	0	4,237	2014	4,698	0	4,698
1977	2,299	0	2,299	2015	10,603	0	10,603
1978	62	0	62	2016	9,334	2,286	11,620
1979	1,200	0	1,200	2017	7,758	4,454	12,212
1980	0	0	0	2018	6,606	1,448	8,054
1981	4,175	0	4,175	2019	0	0	0
1982	6,655	755	7,410	<b>Releases under WR 2019-0148</b>			
1983	0	0	0	2020	6,379	4,101	10,480
1984	3,162	0	3,162	2021	4,649	0	4,649
1985	5,686	0	5,686	2022	7,912	2,001	9,913
1986	5,317	1,780	7,097	2023	0	0	0
1987	3,887	0	3,887	2024	0	0	0
1988	5,050	1,283	6,333	2025	0	0	0
1989	5,192	0	5,192				

**4.5. STATE WATER CODE REQUIREMENTS**

The Water Code requires the Board to estimate for the ensuing water year: (1) the amount of water necessary for surface distribution, (2) the amount of water necessary for replenishment of groundwater supplies, and (3) the amount of water the District is obligated by contract to purchase (Water Code Sections 75574 (h), (i), and (j)). The amount of water necessary for surface distribution would be scheduled for delivery by ID No. 1, Solvang, Buellton, and Vandenberg SFB. The delivery requests for State Water, according to the schedules submitted to the CCWA by ID No. 1, Solvang, Buellton, and Vandenberg SFB, are shown as follows for the current fiscal year (2025-26) and the first half of the ensuing fiscal year (2026-27). However, the actual delivery amounts would vary depending on changes in the delivery schedule and the availability of SWP water.

Fiscal Year (July-June)	ID No. 1 (Acre-Feet)	City of Solvang (Acre-Feet)	City of Buellton (Acre-Feet)	Vandenberg SFB (Acre-Feet)	Total (Acre-Feet)
2025-26	0	656	168	2,830	3,654
2026-27 (First Half)	0	395	48	1,560	2,003

*State Water Project Water, Scheduled / Requested Deliveries, including drought buffer  
Source: Central Coast Water Authority*

In addition, during the current fiscal year (2025-26), the SWP is scheduled to deliver ID No. 1 its Cachuma entitlement (approximately 2,003 acre-feet) via exchange subject to shortage reductions for surface distribution. The District has no contracts to purchase surface water or the facilities to divert the Santa Ynez River and/or tributary flow.

## **5.0 GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS**

There are two general types of water-bearing deposits within the District. They are: (1) river channel deposits and younger alluvium present along the Santa Ynez River and beneath the Lompoc Plain; and (2) older unconsolidated deposits either underlying the younger alluvial deposits or filling basins generally not in hydrologic continuity with the Santa Ynez River and its associated alluvial deposits.

### **5.1. SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER**

The sources of groundwater comprising each of the District's zones are as follows:

Zone A - Santa Ynez River alluvial deposits

Santa Ynez subarea

Buellton subarea

Santa Rita subarea

Zone B - Lompoc Area

Lompoc Plain subarea

Lompoc Upland subarea

Lompoc Terrace subarea

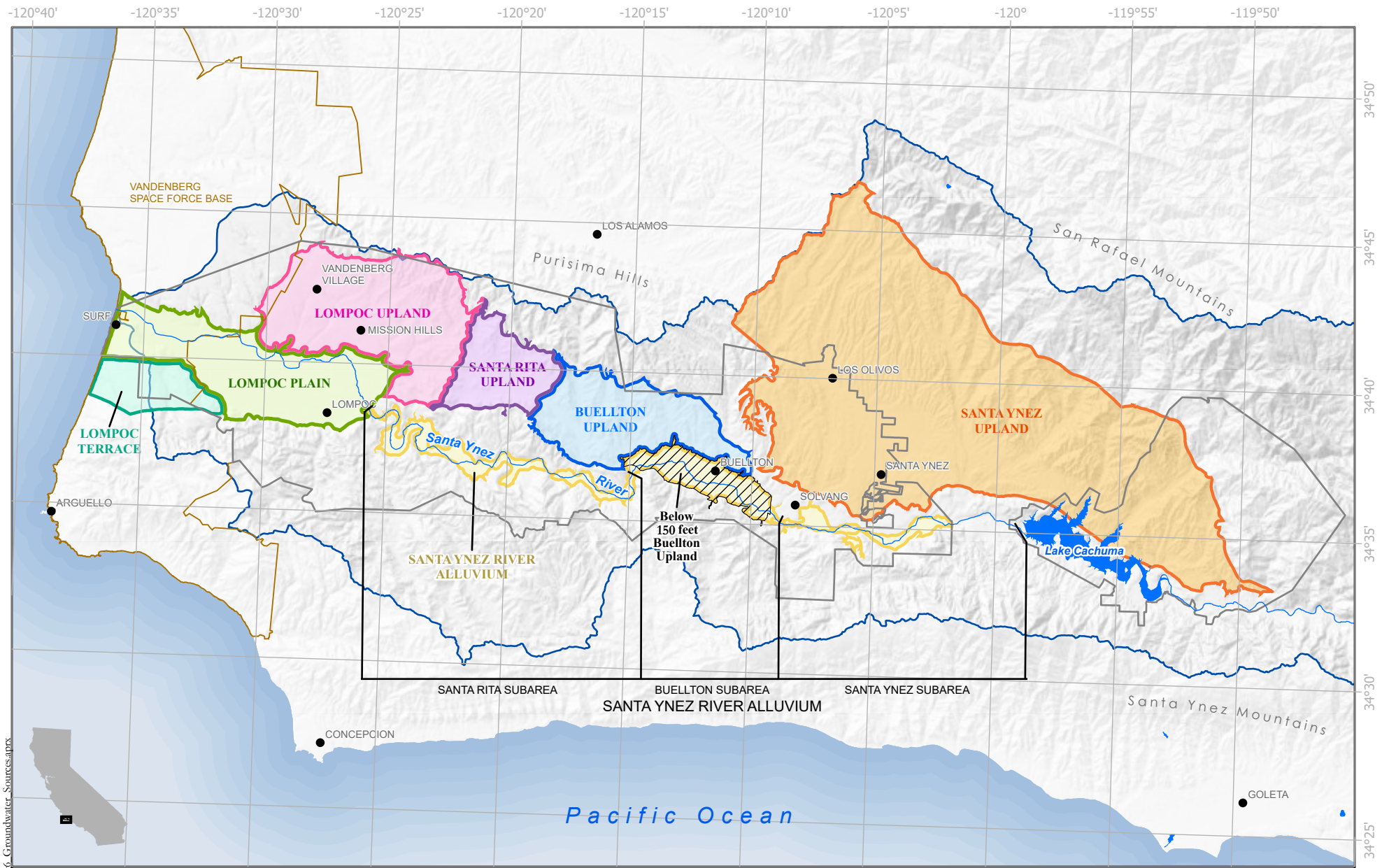
Zone C - Miscellaneous unconsolidated deposits and consolidated rocks

Zone D - Buellton Upland subarea

Zone E - Santa Ynez Upland subarea



Zone F - Santa Rita Upland subarea

The map in Figure 6 shows the extent of the major groundwater sources. A general description of the hydrogeology of the various sources of groundwater within the District is included in Appendix E. Groundwater levels from selected wells throughout the District are included in Appendix F.



Document Path: \\an126\lir66\_Groundwater\_Sources.aprx



-  Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Boundary
-  Drainage Basin Boundary

### MAJOR GROUNDWATER SOURCES SANTA YNEZ RIVER BASIN

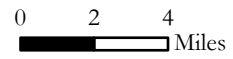


FIGURE 6

## **5.2. STORAGE CHANGES**

Estimates of change in groundwater storage provide the general status of the District's groundwater conditions. For the current year and the ensuing year, the change in groundwater storage is forecasted for future conditions. For previous years, the change in groundwater storage is calculated based on historical groundwater levels.

In March and April, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA), the City of Buellton, and USBR collect and report on spring water level measurements in wells throughout the District. Since spring water levels are unavailable until after the publication date, the change in storage for the current water year (2026) and ensuing water year (2027) is forecasted. The forecast is based on aspects of the water budget where partial data for the year is available, including antecedent conditions, inflows, and outflows. The parameters for prediction include rainfall and streamflow data that have occurred through January 31<sup>st</sup> and additional pumping and groundwater storage trends. While past performance does not guarantee future results, forecasted storage changes provide some insight into the likely range of outcomes. These future groundwater storage change forecasts will be replaced each year based on groundwater level measurements from the previous year.

The change in water levels and storage for the preceding year is based on the water levels for the previous spring. A nodal system is used to calculate the change in storage and overdraft estimate for the preceding year (Water Year 2025). This calculated overdraft for the prior year is then used with the nine preceding years to determine the ten-year average annual overdraft.

### **5.2.1. Preceding Year (Spring 2024 to Spring 2025) Groundwater Levels**

Groundwater level changes from spring to spring provide the best direct indication of groundwater conditions during the year. Groundwater levels in spring 2025 represent the conditions near the end of the fiscal year 2025, and Appendix G lists these groundwater levels. Water levels for Spring 2026 are collected after the publication of this report. Tables 7 through 10 report changes in groundwater levels from spring 2024 to spring 2025. In these tables, a 0.0 reading indicates a change of fewer than 0.1 feet, while a dash is a null value, meaning the change could not be calculated due to one or two years of missing data.

Table 7 presents the water-level changes for nine wells measured by the USBR and SBCWA in the forebay of the Lompoc Plain subarea and 26 additional wells measured by the SBCWA in the central and western portions of the Lompoc Plain. In the forebay, most of the water levels decreased from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 (six of the nine wells' water levels declined). The water levels decreased in 17 of the 26 measured wells located in the central and western portion of the Lompoc Plain, while water levels rose in eight wells. The hydrographs of three wells located in the Lompoc Plain subarea are shown in Figure F-1 (Appendix F).

Water-level changes over the preceding year are shown in Table 8 for eight wells measured by the SBCWA in the Lompoc Upland subarea. The water levels rose from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 in seven wells and declined in the remaining well. Hydrographs for five wells located in the Lompoc Upland subarea are shown in Figure F-2 (Appendix F). The water level in the only well measured in the Lompoc Terrace subarea fell by approximately one foot over the past year (Table 8 and Figure F-3, Appendix F).

In the Santa Rita Upland water levels declined in two wells and increased in one well (Table 9). A hydrograph of Well 7N/33W-27G1 is shown in Figure F-3 (Appendix F).

The change in water levels over the preceding year in all five wells measured in the Buellton Upland subarea is also presented in Table 9. Water levels declined in all five wells. The hydrograph of well 6N/31W-7F1 showing water-level elevations is included in Figure F-3 (Appendix F).

The change in water levels from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 in 23 wells located in the Santa Ynez Upland subarea is shown in Table 10. Ten of these wells are located within the District portion of the Santa Ynez Upland subarea. Within the District portion of the subarea, the water level was observed to rise in one well and the water level declined in nine wells. Hydrographs of two wells located in the Santa Ynez Upland subarea are included in Figure F-4 (Appendix F).

**TABLE 7  
WATER-LEVEL CHANGES  
LOMPOC PLAIN SUBAREA  
2024 TO 2025**

<b>Forebay <sup>a</sup></b>		<b>Central and Western Plain <sup>b</sup></b>	
Well No.	Water-Level Change (Feet)	Well No.	Water-Level Change (Feet)
6N/34W-4G4	-1.2 <sup>b</sup>	6N/34W-6C4	--
7N/34W-22M6	1.1 <sup>b</sup>	7N/34W-20K4	-1.7
7N/34W-25F3	-4.3	7N/34W-27G6	-0.9
7N/34W-26B4	1.0	7N/34W-29E4	-2.2
7N/34W-26H3	1.7	7N/34W-29N6	1.2
7N/34W-26Q5	-1.8	7N/34W-29N7	-0.9
7N/34W-27F9	-2.9 <sup>b</sup>	7N/34W-30L10	0.1
7N/34W-34R1	-4.2	7N/34W-31R2	-0.4
7N/34W-35K9	-1.4	7N/34W-32H2	--
		7N/35W-15M1	-0.2
		7N/35W-17M1	2.8
		7N/35W-17K20	2.7
		7N/35W-18J2	0.5
		7N/35W-21G2	-0.4
		7N/35W-22J1	-1.6
		7N/35W-22M1	-4.3
		7N/35W-23B2	-3.5
		7N/35W-23Q2	--
		7N/35W-23Q3	--
		7N/35W-23Q4	2.6
		7N/35W-24J4	-2.6
		7N/35W-24K5	-4.5
		7N/35W-24N3	-3.1
		7N/35W-25F6	-3.0
		7N/35W-25F7	0.0
		7N/35W-26F4	1.6
		7N/35W-26L1	0.2
		7N/35W-26L2	-1.6
		7N/35W-26L4	-1.6
		7N/35W-27C1	--
		7N/35W-35A3	-0.6

---

<sup>a</sup> Based upon measurements made during March 2025 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

<sup>b</sup> Based upon estimated elevations by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

**TABLE 8**  
**WATER-LEVEL CHANGES**  
**LOMPOC UPLAND AND LOMPOC TERRACE SUBAREAS**  
**2024 TO 2025**

<b>Lompoc Upland Subarea</b>		<b>Lompoc Terrace Subarea</b>	
<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Water-Level Change (Feet)</u>	<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Water-Level Change (Feet)</u>
7N/33W-17M1	1.3	7N/35W-27P1	-1.2
7N/33W-17N2	-0.1		
7N/33W-19D1	--		
7N/33W-20G1	--		
7N/34W-12E1	0.4		
7N/34W-14F4	1.1		
7N/34W-14L1	1.1		
7N/34W-15D3	0.6		
7N/34W-15E1	0.7		
7N/34W-15P2	1.5		

Based upon measurements made during March 2025 by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

**TABLE 9**  
**WATER-LEVEL CHANGES**  
**SANTA RITA AND BUELLTON UPLAND SUBAREAS**  
**2024 TO 2025**

<b>Santa Rita Upland Subarea</b>		<b>Buellton Upland Subarea</b>	
<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Water-Level Change (Feet)</u>	<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Water-Level Change (Feet)</u>
7N/33W-21G2	-2.2	6N/31W-7F1	-1.3
7N/33W-21N1	0.6	6N/32W-2Q1	-3.7
7N/33W-27G1	7.9	6N/32W-12K2	3.0
7N/33W-28D3	-0.5	7N/32W-31M1	-0.9
		7N/33W-36J1	-1.0

Based upon measurements made during March and April 2025 by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the City of Buellton.

**TABLE 10**  
**WATER-LEVEL CHANGES**  
**SANTA YNEZ UPLAND SUBAREA**  
**2024 TO 2025**

District Portion of Subarea		Non-District Portion of Subarea	
Well No.	Water-Level Change (Feet)	Well No.	Water-Level Change (Feet)
6N/30W-7G5	-2.7	6N/29W-6F1	-0.9
6N/30W-7G6	-2.8	6N/29W-6G1	-1.0
6N/31W-1P2	--	6N/29W-7L1	-1.5
6N/31W-1P3	-2.2	6N/29W-8P1	--
6N/31W-2K1	-1.3	6N/29W-8P2	-4.0
6N/31W-3A1	-1.2	6N/30W-1R3	7.7
6N/31W-4A1	-0.9	6N/30W-11G4	-0.7
6N/31W-10F1	-1.4	7N/30W-16B1	1.9
6N/31W-11D4	-1.2	7N/30W-19H1	1.6
6N/31W-13D1	-1.8	7N/30W-22E1	--
7N/31W-23P1	--	7N/30W-24Q1	13.3
7N/31W-36L2	6.8	7N/30W-27H1	--
		7N/30W-29D1	-26.9
		7N/30W-30M1	--
		7N/30W-33M1	-1.6
		8N/30W-30R1	-7.1
		8N/31W-36H1	-25.1

---

Based upon measurements made during March 2025 by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

### **5.2.2. Preceding Year (2024-25) Storage Update**

The general status of groundwater conditions in the District can be shown by estimates of changes in groundwater storage of the major groundwater sources within the District. The USBR, in connection with SWRCB Order No. 89-18 among other orders, determines monthly the quantity of dewatered storage beneath the forebay on the Lompoc Plain and in the Santa Ynez River alluvial deposits. Under normal water supply conditions, the Santa Ynez River alluvial deposits are replenished yearly. During extended drought periods, some shortages in supply may occur in these deposits.

To monitor the groundwater conditions of the District portions of the Lompoc Upland, Santa Ynez Upland, Lompoc Terrace, Santa Rita Upland, and the eastern portion of the Buellton Upland, nodal systems for each source were established. The nodal systems are used to estimate the annual change in the quantity of groundwater in storage and overdraft for the preceding year (2024-25) and for the past ten years (2015-2016 through 2024-25).

### **5.2.3. Forecasted Change in Storage for the Current Year**

The forecasted change in storage for the ongoing current water year (2025-26) is based on aspects of the water budget where partial data for the year is available. For each of the subareas, a statistical regression of measured hydrological data for antecedent conditions, inflows, and outflows was evaluated against the historical period of record.

The estimated annual (Spring to Spring) change in groundwater storage in the alluvium of the Santa Ynez River (Zone A)<sup>3</sup> for the past ten years, 2015-16 through 2024-25, and the current year, 2025-26 (forecasted), are summarized in Table 11. For the data on the past years, the change in groundwater storage is based upon the USBR's 25-node system, which extends from Robinson Bridge near Lompoc to Bradbury Dam at Lake Cachuma. One node and a

---

<sup>3</sup> Subsurface water stored in the alluvium is generally characterized in this report as “groundwater” as that term is defined Water Code Section 75502 and provisions of the Water Code governing the District’s establishment, levying and collection of groundwater charges and preparation of this report (e.g., Water Code Section 75500, et seq.). In contrast, as mentioned elsewhere, the three GSPs for the Basin have characterized this same subsurface water stored in alluvium as not being part of the groundwater system or “groundwater” as defined by Water Code Section 10721(g) of SGMA, and, accordingly, have characterized such subsurface water as being part of the surface water system. The two different characterizations are not inconsistent, but, rather, are necessary to comply with two different divisions or parts of the Water Code that define groundwater differently.

**TABLE 11**  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHANGE OF GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE**  
**IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER ALLUVIUM**  
**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (2025-26)**  
(Acre-Feet)

Year (Spring to Spring)	Santa Ynez Subarea		Buellton Subarea		Santa Rita Subarea		Total Santa Ynez River Alluvium	
	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage
2014-15		5,500		6,600		8,600		20,700
2015-16	500	5,000	-100	6,700	1,800	6,800	2,200	18,500
2016-17	1,400	3,600	600	6,100	3,600	3,200	5,600	12,900
2017-18	-1,000	4,600	-200	6,300	-2,500	5,700	-3,700	16,600
2018-19	600	4,000	-300	6,600	1,000	4,700	1,300	15,300
2019-20	400	3,600	1,300	5,300	-1,100	5,800	600	14,700
2020-21	-500	4,100	100	5,200	-200	6,000	-600	15,300
2021-22	0	4,100	600	4,600	900	5,100	1,500	13,800
2022-23	1,100	3,000	400	4,200	2,000	3,100	3,500	10,300
2023-24	-300	3,300	-700	4,900	500	2,600	-500	10,800
2024-25	-1,200	4,500	-500	5,400	-2,100	4,700	-3,800	14,600
2025-26 <sup>a</sup>	100	4,400	3,500	1,900	3,400	1,300	7,000	7,600

<sup>a</sup> Forecasted storage.

Based upon dewatered storage estimated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Values are rounded.

portion of another node lie outside the District, upstream of San Lucas Bridge. The totals shown in Table 11 for the Santa Ynez subarea reflect changes in the groundwater storage for these nodes. The forecasted accumulated dewatered storage at the end of March 2026 is about 7,600 acre-feet. As of January 31, 2026, the District had 8,155 acre-feet in the Above Narrows Account in Lake Cachuma which is set aside for replenishment of the Santa Ynez River Alluvium.

The estimated annual (Spring to Spring) change in groundwater storage in the Lompoc Plain subarea for the past ten years, 2015-16 through 2024-25, and the current year, 2025-26 (forecasted), are summarized in Table 12. There is a forecast increase in groundwater storage in the Lompoc Plain subarea of 1,400 acre-feet during the current year. Table 12 indicates that the forecast accumulated dewatered storage for March 2026 will be 10,000 acre-feet. As of January 31, 2026, the District had 5,995 acre-feet of water in the Below Narrows Account in Lake Cachuma. This water is retained in Lake Cachuma and is dedicated to the eventual replenishment of the Lompoc Plain alluvium storage.

The estimated annual change in groundwater storage beneath the Lompoc Upland and the Lompoc Terrace subareas is shown in Table 13 for the past ten years, 2015-16 through 2024-25, and the current year, 2025-26 (forecasted). Table 13 indicates an average decline of two hundred and thirty acre-feet per year in the quantity of groundwater in storage in the Lompoc Upland during the past ten years, while the forecast for the current year, 2025-26, is an increase of six hundred acre-feet. The estimated total dewatered storage in the Lompoc Upland subarea through Spring 2026 is 34,800 acre-feet. During the past ten years, Lompoc Terrace groundwater storage has declined twenty acre-feet per year on average, while the forecast for the current year, 2025-26, is no change in storage. The estimated dewatered storage in the Lompoc Terrace subarea through Spring 2026 is eight hundred acre-feet.

The estimated annual change in groundwater storage in the Santa Rita Upland subarea is shown in Table 14 for the past ten years, 2015-16 through 2024-25, and the current year, 2025-26 (forecasted). Table 14 indicates that during those past ten years, there has been an average increase of 40 acre-feet per year in the quantity of groundwater in storage in the Santa Rita Upland subarea. By the end of the current year, 2025-26, there is a forecasted reduction of seven hundred acre-feet of groundwater in storage.

**TABLE 12**  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHANGE OF GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE**  
**IN THE LOMPOC PLAIN SUBAREA**  
**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (2025-26)**  
(Acre-Feet)

Year (Spring to Spring)	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage
2014-15		19,500
2015-16	-2,300	21,800
2016-17	1,100	20,700
2017-18	900	19,800
2018-19	1,800	18,000
2019-20	2,900	15,100
2020-21	-200	15,300
2021-22	-2,800	18,100
2022-23	4,700	13,400
2023-24	3,100	10,300
2024-25	-1,100	11,400
2025-26	<sup>a</sup> 2,800	8,600

Based upon dewatered storage estimated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Values are rounded.

<sup>a</sup> Forecasted storage.

**TABLE 13**  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHANGE OF GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE**  
**IN THE LOMPOC UPLAND AND LOMPOC TERRACE SUBAREAS**  
**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (2025-26)**  
(Acre-Feet)

Year (Spring to Spring)	Lompoc Upland Subarea		Lompoc Terrace Subarea	
	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage
2014-15		33,100		600
2015-16	-400	33,500	-100	700
2016-17	-1,800	35,300	200	500
2017-18	-300	35,600	-500	1,000
2018-19	-200	35,800	400	600
2019-20	-400	36,200	-100	700
2020-21	-500	36,700	-100	800
2021-22	-900	37,600	-100	900
2022-23	600	37,000	300	600
2023-24	900	36,100	0	600
2024-25	700	35,400	-200	800
2025-26	<sup>a</sup> 600	34,800	0	800

---

<sup>a</sup> Forecasted storage.

The accumulated dewatered storage is based upon an estimate of existing dewatered storage of 25,500 acre-feet through 1973 from the Lompoc Upland subarea, and 800 acre-feet from the Lompoc Terrace subarea. The 1973 estimates were based upon review of water-level data and trends, and published USGS investigations.

**TABLE 14**  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHANGE OF GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE**  
**IN THE SANTA RITA UPLAND SUBAREA**  
**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (2025-26)**  
(Acre-Feet)

<u>Year</u> <u>(Spring to Spring)</u>	<u>Change in</u> <u>Storage</u>	<u>Accumulated</u> <u>Dewatered Storage</u>
2014-15		14,200
2015-16	400	13,800
2016-17	100	13,700
2017-18	-700	14,400
2018-19	1,000	13,400
2019-20	-1,000	14,400
2020-21	-2,800	17,200
2021-22	3,000	14,200
2022-23	-400	14,600
2023-24	-500	15,100
2024-25	1,300	13,800
2025-26	<sup>a</sup> -700	14,500

---

<sup>a</sup> Forecasted storage.

The accumulated dewatered storage is based upon an estimate of existing dewatered storage of 7,400 acre-feet through 1973. The 1973 estimate was based upon review of water-level data and trends, and published USGS investigations.

The estimated annual change in groundwater storage in the eastern portion of the Buellton Upland subarea (deeper aquifer in the Buellton area) is shown in Table 15 for the past ten years, 2015-16 through 2024-25 and the current year, 2025-26 (forecasted). Table 15 indicates that there has been an average annual groundwater in storage increase of 140 acre-feet per year during the past ten years. The forecast for the current year, 2025-26, is for the groundwater in storage to increase by 600 acre-feet.

The estimated annual change in groundwater storage within the District portion of the Santa Ynez Upland subarea is summarized in Table 16. The period includes the past ten years, 2015-16 through 2024-25, and the current year, 2025-26 (forecasted). Table 16 indicates that during those past ten years, there has been an average decline of about 810 acre-feet per year in the quantity of groundwater in storage in the District portion of the subarea. The forecast for the District portion of the Santa Ynez Upland is groundwater in storage increases by 2,600 acre-feet during the current water year, 2025-26. The estimated total dewatered storage in the District portion of the subarea through Spring 2026 is 56,400 acre-feet.

Table 17 summarizes the annual change in storage and accumulated dewatered storage for 2024-25 and 2025-26 for the major sources of groundwater in the District.

### **5.3. CHANGE IN STORAGE TRENDS**

There has been a long-term decrease in dewatered storage since 2022 in the Santa Ynez Upland subarea and to a lesser degree in the Lompoc Upland subarea. In the other groundwater subareas, as shown in Figure 7, there appears to be a gradual to no increase in the quantity of accumulated dewatered storage. For the current year, 2026, an overall increase of groundwater in storage (increase in dewatered storage) is forecasted, mostly expected in the Santa Ynez River Alluvium, Lompoc Plain, and Santa Ynez Upland areas.

### **5.4. SAFE YIELD**

Table 18 shows the estimates of the average annual pumping safe yield of the principal groundwater sources within the District.

**TABLE 15**  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHANGE OF GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE**  
**IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE BUELLTON UPLAND SUBAREA**  
**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (2025-26)**  
(Acre-Feet)

Year (Spring to Spring)	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage
2014-15		3,800
2015-16	900	2,900
2016-17	100	2,800
2017-18	1,700	1,100
2018-19	-200	1,300
2019-20	-500	1,800
2020-21	-200	2,000
2021-22	-200	2,200
2022-23	-100	2,300
2023-24	-300	2,600
2024-25	200	2,400
2025-26	a 600	1,800

---

<sup>a</sup> Forecasted storage.

Accumulated dewatered storage was originally estimated as 2,000 acre-feet through 1973 based upon review of water-level data and trends and published USGS investigations. Recent (2006) water-level measurements indicated that the accumulated dewatered storage was more likely on the order of 2,400 acre-feet in 1973.

**TABLE 16**  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL CHANGE OF GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE**  
**IN THE DISTRICT PORTION OF THE SANTA YNEZ UPLAND SUBAREA**  
**FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS AND CURRENT YEAR (2025-26)**  
(Acre-Feet)

Year (Spring to Spring)	Change in Storage	Accumulated Dewatered Storage
2014-15		50,900
2015-16	-3,100	54,000
2016-17	-1,200	55,200
2017-18	-2,300	57,500
2018-19	-1,800	59,300
2019-20	200	59,100
2020-21	-3,600	62,700
2021-22	-3,800	66,500
2022-23	2,100	64,400
2023-24	5,000	59,400
2024-25	400	59,000
2025-26	a 2,600	56,400

---

<sup>a</sup> Forecasted storage.

The accumulated dewatered storage is based upon an estimate of existing dewatered storage of 42,000 acre-feet through 1973. The 1973 estimate was based upon review of water-level data and trends, and published USGS investigations.

**TABLE 17**  
**SUMMARY OF CHANGE IN QUANTITY OF**  
**GROUNDWATER IN STORAGE WITHIN THE DISTRICT**  
(Acre-Feet)

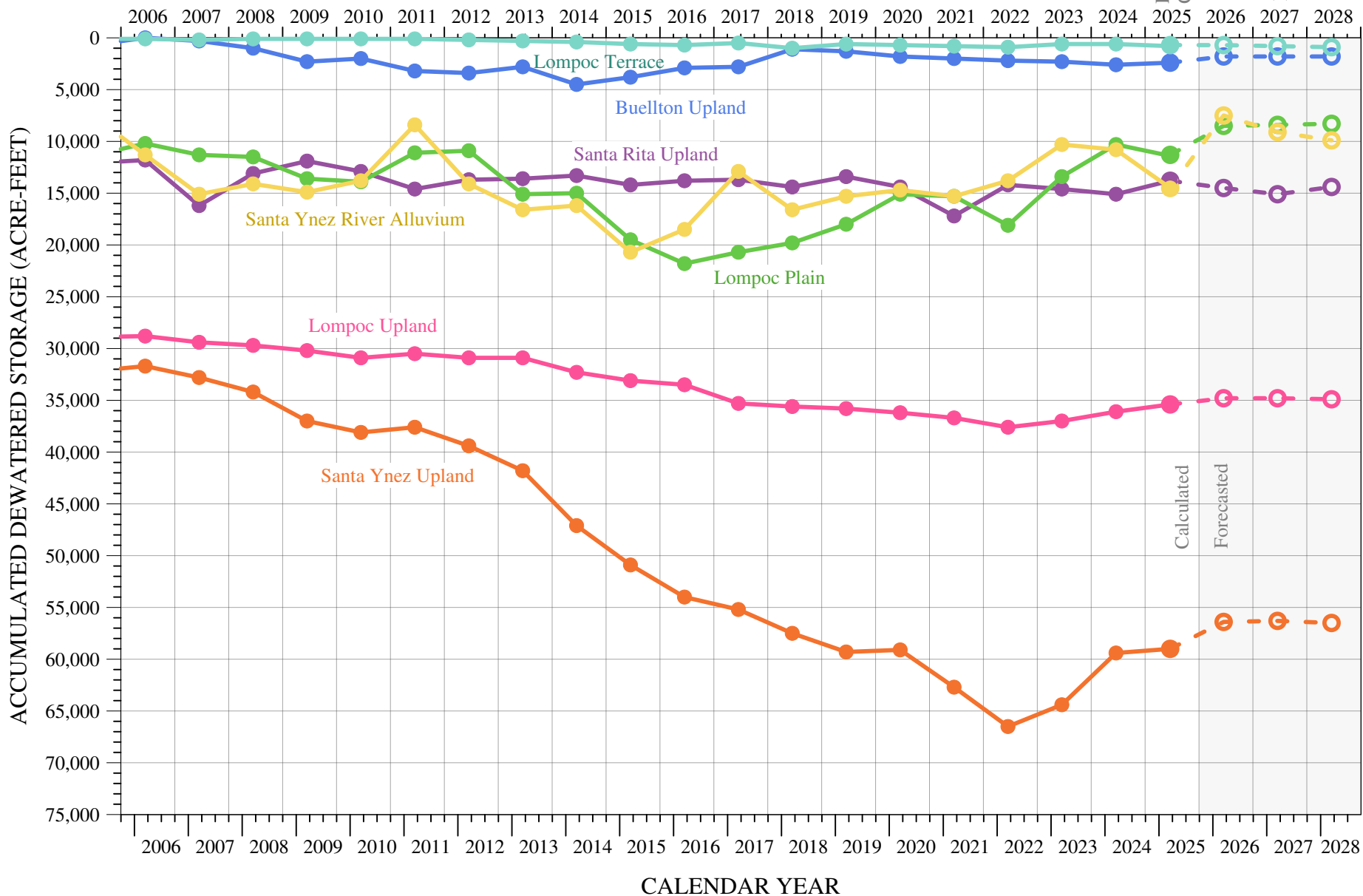
Source of Groundwater	Change in Storage <sup>a</sup>		Accumulated Dewatered Storage	
	2024-25	Forecasted 2025-26	2024-25	Forecasted 2025-26
Santa Ynez River Alluvium	-3,800	7,000	14,600	7,600
Lompoc Plain (Lompoc Forebay)	-1,100	1,400	11,400	10,000
Lompoc Upland	700	600	35,400	34,800
Lompoc Terrace	-200	0	800	800
Santa Rita Upland	1,300	-700	13,800	14,500
Buellton Upland (Eastern Portion)	200	600	2,400	1,800
Santa Ynez Upland (District Portion)	400	2,600	59,000	56,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-2,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>137,400</b>	<b>125,900</b>

---

<sup>a</sup> Spring to Spring.

# ACCUMULATED DEWATERED STORAGE (2006 THROUGH 2028)

WATER YEAR (OCTOBER - SEPTEMBER)



Prior to 2026: Water Year defined as July 1 through June 30.

FIGURE 7

**TABLE 18**  
**ESTIMATED AVERAGE SAFE YIELD OF**  
**PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

Source of Groundwater	Safe Yield (Acre-Feet per Year)
Santa Ynez River Alluvium	Subject to shortages during drought periods.
Lompoc Plain Subarea	22,000 - 24,100
Lompoc Upland Subarea	3,000
Lompoc Terrace Subarea	300
Santa Rita Upland Subarea	1,100 - 1,800
Buellton Upland Subarea <sup>a</sup>	2,800
Santa Ynez Upland Subarea <sup>a b</sup>	9,800 - 12,200
Bedrock and other deposits	Unknown

Does not include return flow from imported water.

<sup>a</sup> Estimated safe yield of entire subarea.

<sup>b</sup> One third of the land area, and estimated one third of the pumping in the Santa Ynez Uplands is within the District.

Sources:

Stetson Engineers, January 18, 2022, Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area.

GSI Water Solutions, January 18, 2022, Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin - Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Stetson Engineers, August 31, 1992, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Water Resource Management Planning. Process, Phase I: Baseline Data and Background Information.

## **5.5. HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION**

Table 19 shows the estimated reported average historical groundwater production from the principal sources for groundwater within the District for the past ten years (2015-16 through 2024-25).

## **5.6. OVERDRAFT**

For the District portion of each subarea, Table 20 shows the average annual overdraft for the past ten years and the estimated annual overdraft for the current (2026) and ensuing (2027) water years. The information shown in Table 20 is based on estimates of change in the quantity of groundwater in storage. When the annual change in storage is greater than zero (an increase in the water supply), the annual overdraft is set to zero. The values of overdraft were determined solely to meet the provisions in the Water Code on the implementation of a groundwater charge and do not necessarily represent the hydrologic status of the groundwater basin. The forecast overdraft for the current water year (2026) is 700 acre-feet, and the forecasted overdraft during the ensuing water year (2027) is 2,300 acre-feet.

Table 21 shows the estimates of accumulated overdraft based on estimated groundwater storage depletion. As of January 31, 2026, there were 5,995 acre-feet of water in the Below Narrows Account in Lake Cachuma to partially off-set accumulated overdraft in the alluvium of the Lompoc Plain and 8,155 acre-feet in the Above Narrows Account in Lake Cachuma to off-set the accumulated overdraft in the Santa Ynez River alluvium.

## **5.7. GROUNDWATER QUALITY**

The USGS has attributed high concentrations of dissolved solids along the coast to the downward leakage of brackish water from the overlying Santa Ynez River estuary. Graphs showing total dissolved solids, chloride, and sodium concentrations of water from two wells located in the Lompoc Plain are presented in Figure 8. One of the wells (7N/35W-17K20) is located about one mile inland from the ocean. The location of this well means that potential seawater intrusion is, in part, monitored by changes in groundwater quality at this well.

**TABLE 19**  
**ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL HISTORICAL**  
**REPORTED GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION FROM THE**  
**PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE DISTRICT**  
(Acre-Feet)

Source of Groundwater	Estimated Average Annual Pumpage for the Past Ten Years (2015-16 through 2024-25)
<b>Zone A</b> Santa Ynez River Alluvium	13,601
<b>Zone B</b> Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Upland, and Lompoc Terrace Subareas	23,175
<b>Zone C</b> All portions of the District not included in other zones	1,186
<b>Zone D</b> Buellton Upland Subarea	2,913
<b>Zone E</b> Santa Ynez Upland Subarea (District Portion)	4,860
<b>Zone F</b> Santa Rita Upland Subarea	2,211
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL</b>	<b>47,946</b>

**TABLE 20**  
**AVERAGE ANNUAL OVERDRAFT OF PRINCIPAL SOURCES**  
**OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE DISTRICT**  
(Acre-Feet)

Source of Groundwater	Average Annual Overdraft for the Past Ten Years (2015-16 through 2024-25)	Annual Overdraft (Forecasted)	
		Current Year 2025-26	Ensuing Year 2026-27
<b>Zone A</b>			
Santa Ynez River Alluvium	0	0	1,600
<b>Zone B</b>			
Lompoc Plain Subarea	0	0	0
Lompoc Upland Subarea	230	0	0
Lompoc Terrace Subarea	20	0	100
<b>Zone C</b>			
Bedrock and other deposits	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Zone D</b>			
Buellton Upland Subarea (Eastern Portion)	0	0	0
<b>Zone E</b>			
Santa Ynez Upland Subarea (District Portion)	810	0	0
<b>Zone F</b>			
Santa Rita Upland Subarea	0	700	600
<b>DISTRICT TOTALS</b>	<b>1,060 ±</b>	<b>700 ±</b>	<b>2,300 ±</b>

Overdraft is based upon annual estimates of change in groundwater storage.

**TABLE 21**  
**ESTIMATED ACCUMULATED OVERDRAFT OF**  
**PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE DISTRICT**  
(Acre-Feet)

Principal Source of Groundwater	Accumulated Overdraft	
	Through Preceding Year (2024-25)	Through Current Year (2025-26)
<b>Zone A</b>		
Santa Ynez River Alluvium (Subarea is replenished annually. Some shortages in supply during drought periods)	14,600	7,600
<b>Zone B</b>		
Lompoc Plain Subarea	11,400	8,600
Lompoc Upland Subarea	35,400	34,800
Lompoc Terrace Subarea	800	800
<b>Zone C</b>		
Bedrock and other deposits	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Zone D</b>		
Buellton Upland Subarea (Eastern Portion)	2,400	1,800
<b>Zone E</b>		
Santa Ynez Upland Subarea (District Portion)	59,000	56,400
<b>Zone F</b>		
Santa Rita Upland Subarea	13,800	14,500
<b>DISTRICT TOTALS</b>	<b>137,400 ±</b>	<b>124,500 ±</b>

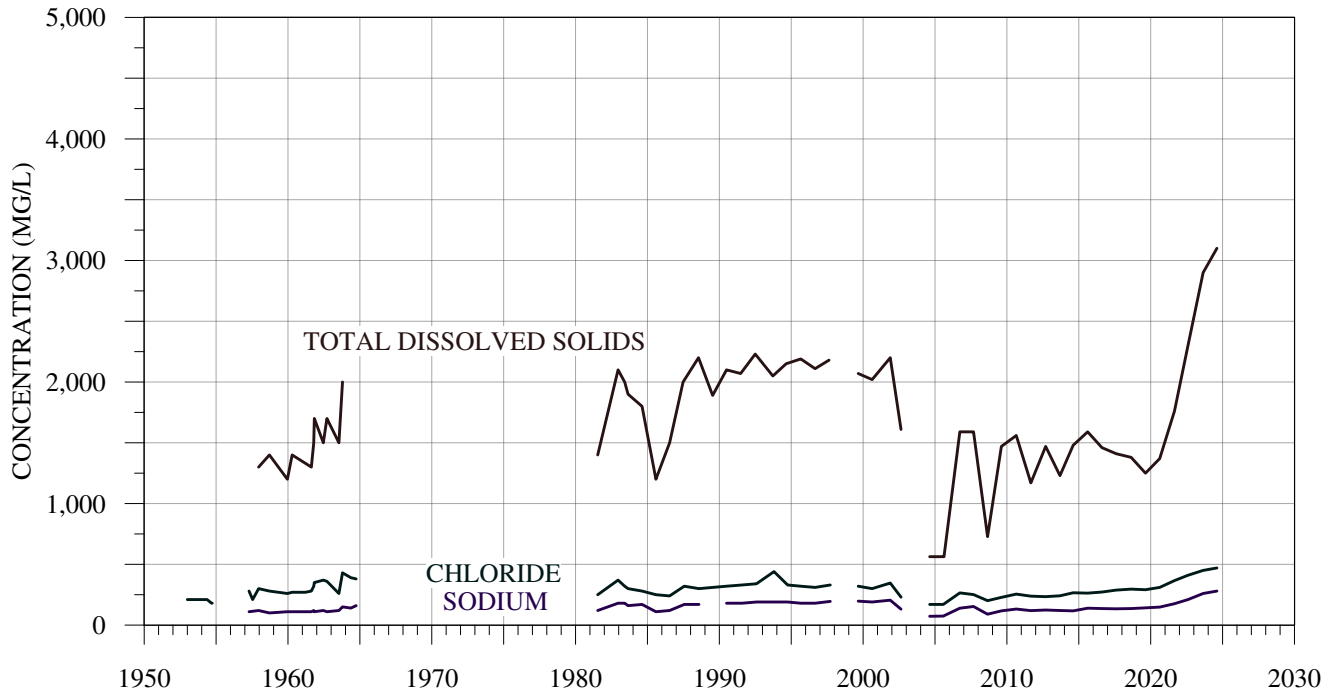
---

Accumulated overdraft is based upon estimates of accumulated dewatered storage (Table 17).

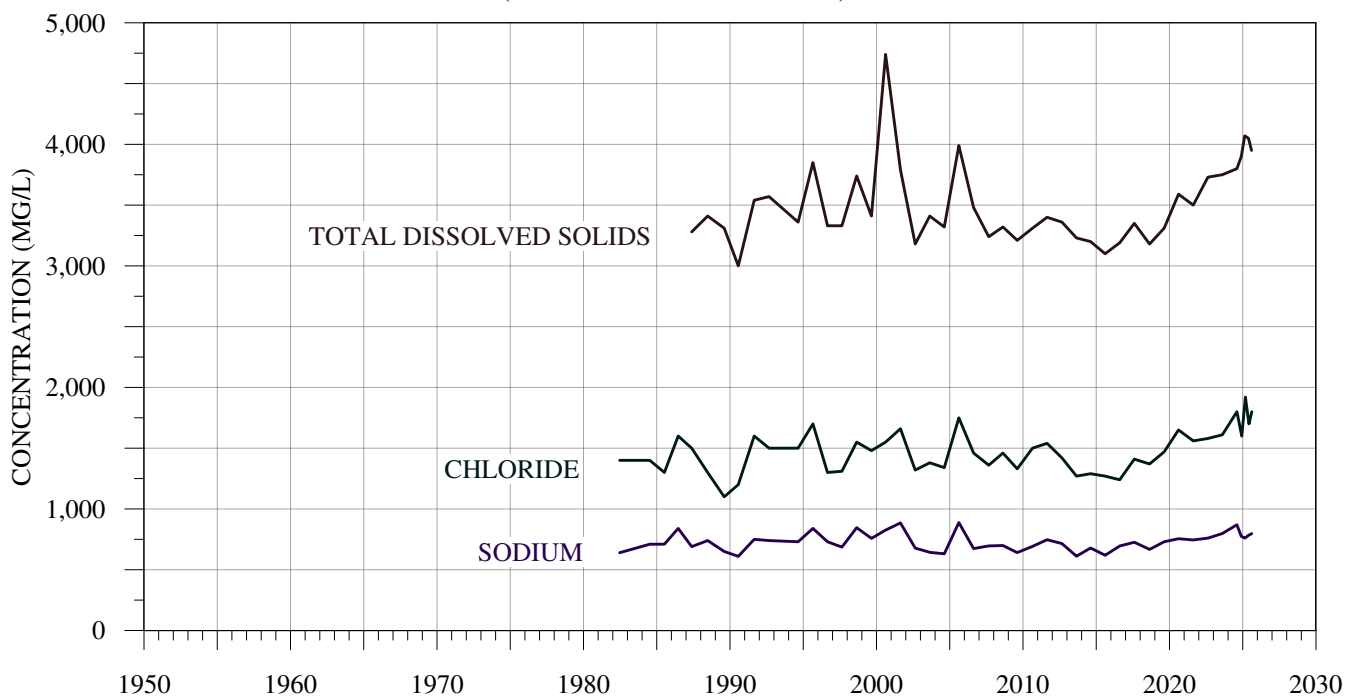
Current Year is forecasted.

GRAPHS SHOWING TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS,  
CHLORIDE AND SODIUM CONCENTRATIONS  
IN GROUNDWATER FROM SELECTED WELLS  
LOCATED IN THE LOMPOC PLAIN SUBAREA

WELL 7N/35W-26F4, 26F5  
(CENTRAL LOMPOC PLAIN)



WELL 7N/35W-17K20  
(WESTERN LOMPOC PLAIN)



INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

## **Appendix A**

### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS IN THE CALIFORNIA WATER CODE PERTAINING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER CHARGE**

Intentionally Left Blank

## **Appendix A**

### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS IN THE CALIFORNIA WATER CODE PERTAINING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER CHARGE**

Implementation of a groundwater charge within the District requires an annual engineering investigation and report on the groundwater conditions of the District. The annual report shall include all the following (Water Code Section 75561).

- a) Information for the consideration of the Board in its determination of the annual overdraft.
- b) Information for the consideration of the Board in its determination of the accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the preceding water year.
- c) A report as to the total production of water from the groundwater supplies of the District for the preceding water year.
- d) An estimate of the annual overdraft for the current water year and for the ensuing water year.
- e) The amount of water the District is obligated to purchase during the ensuing water year, a recommendation as to the quantity of water needed for surface delivery and for replenishment of the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing year.
- f) Such other information as the District desires.

The annual report should contain sufficient data from which the Board of Directors of the District can make the following findings and determinations, which the District shall make before the levy of a groundwater charge (Water Code Section 75574).

- a) The average annual overdraft for the immediate past ten water years;
- b) The estimated annual overdraft for the current water year;
- c) The estimated annual overdraft for the ensuing water year;
- d) The accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the preceding water year;
- e) The estimated accumulated overdraft as of the last day of the current water year;
- f) The estimated amount of agricultural water to be withdrawn from the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing water year;
- g) The amount of water other than agricultural water to be withdrawn from the groundwater supplies of the District for the ensuing water year;
- h) The estimated amount of water necessary for surface distribution for the ensuing water year;

- i) The amount of water which is necessary for the replenishment of the groundwater supplies of the District;
- j) The amount of water the District is obligated by contract to purchase.

Upon completion of the engineering report, the Board is required to call a noticed public hearing at which operators of water producing facilities within the District and any person interested in the condition of the groundwater or surface water supplies of the District are invited to submit evidence concerning the groundwater and surface water supplies of the District. The Board thereafter makes findings and determinations relating to the status of water supplies and groundwater conditions within the District. Prior to the beginning of the water year (October 1 to September 30), the Board determines whether or not it should modify the existing zone or zones in which a groundwater charge is levied.

The Board must then establish the groundwater charge to be levied in any zone or zones and proceed to assess such charge against all persons operating groundwater producing facilities within such zone or zones during the ensuing water year. The charge must be computed at a fixed and uniform rate per acre-foot (Water Code Section 75592) and compliant with California Constitution Article XIII C (Proposition 26) and other provisions of the Water Code, as applicable. Different rates may be established for different zones.

Within six months after establishing the existing zones within the District, all water-producing facilities located within the boundaries of the zones are required to be registered with the District (Water Code Section 75541) and failure to register is a misdemeanor (Water Code Section 75640). As new wells are drilled within the District, they must be registered. The District then annually gives notice to each operator of a water-producing facility of the groundwater charge for each acre-foot of water to be produced during the ensuing year (Water Code Section 75610).

Prior to January 31, and July 31, of each year, each water producer is required to file with the District a statement setting forth his total water production, in acre-feet, for the preceding six month period, excluding the month in which the statement is due, a general description or number locating each water-producing facility and the method or basis of the computation of such water production (Water Code Section 75611). This is to be a verified statement (Water Code Section 75642). The groundwater charge is payable to the District on or before the last date that the water production statement is due, January 31 and July 31.

## **Appendix B**

### **HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER CHARGE RATES**

Intentionally Left Blank

Appendix B

**HISTORICAL GROUND-WATER CHARGES RATES**  
(Dollars per Acre-Foot)

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Agri-cultural Water</b>	<b>Other Water</b>	<b>Special Irrigation Water</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Agri-cultural Water</b>	<b>Other Water</b>	<b>Special Irrigation Water</b>
1979-80	Zone A	0.60	2.40		1992-93	Zone A	2.20	8.80	4.40
	Zone B	0.62	2.48			Zone B	2.20	8.80	4.40
	Zone C	0.50	2.00			Zone C	2.00	8.00	4.00
1980-81	Zone A	0.60	2.40		1993-94	Zone A	3.80	15.20	7.60
	Zone B	0.62	2.48			Zone B	2.70	10.80	5.40
	Zone C	0.50	2.00			Zone C	2.30	9.20	4.60
				Zone D		2.90	11.60	5.80	
1981-82	Zone A	0.45	1.80		Zone E	2.60	10.40	5.20	
	Zone B	0.47	1.88		Zone F	2.50	10.00	5.00	
	Zone C	0.35	1.40						
1982-83	Zone A	0.60	2.40		1994-95	Zone A	4.89	17.10	9.77
	Zone B	0.42	1.68			Zone B	2.74	9.58	5.47
	Zone C	0.40	1.60			Zone C	1.77	6.19	3.54
				Zone D		3.32	11.62	6.64	
				Zone E		2.40	8.41	4.80	
				Zone F		3.31	11.59	6.62	
1983-84	Zone A	0.40	1.60		1995-96	Zone A	3.08	10.78	6.16
	Zone B	0.22	0.88			Zone B	2.73	9.56	5.46
	Zone C	0.20	0.80			Zone C	1.06	3.71	2.12
				Zone D		3.77	13.20	7.54	
				Zone E		3.68	12.88	7.36	
				Zone F		1.06	3.71	2.12	
1984-85	Zone A	0.30	1.20		1996-97	Zone A	3.85	13.48	7.70
	Zone B	0.12	0.48			Zone B	3.26	11.41	6.52
	Zone C	0.10	0.40			Zone C	1.56	5.46	3.12
				Zone D		3.70	12.95	7.40	
				Zone E		3.46	12.11	6.92	
				Zone F		1.56	5.46	3.12	
1985-86	Zone A	0.25	1.00	0.50	1997-98	Zone A	3.85	13.48	7.70
	Zone B	0.10	0.40	0.20		Zone B	3.26	11.41	6.52
	Zone C	0.08	0.32	0.16		Zone C	1.56	5.46	3.12
				Zone D		3.70	12.95	7.40	
				Zone E		2.27	7.95	4.54	
				Zone F		1.56	5.46	3.12	
1986-87	Zone A	0.50	2.00	1.00	1998-99	Zone A	3.85	13.48	7.70
	Zone B	0.35	1.40	0.70		Zone B	3.26	11.41	6.52
	Zone C	0.33	1.32	0.66		Zone C	1.56	5.46	3.12
				Zone D		2.36	8.26	4.72	
				Zone E		1.56	5.46	3.12	
				Zone F		1.56	5.46	3.12	
1987-88	Zone A	0.50	2.00	1.00	1999-00	Zone A	3.80	13.30	7.60
	Zone B	0.35	1.40	0.70		Zone B	3.26	11.41	6.52
	Zone C	0.33	1.32	0.66		Zone C	1.56	5.46	3.12
				Zone D		1.56	5.46	3.12	
				Zone E		1.56	5.46	3.12	
				Zone F		1.56	5.46	3.12	
1988-89	Zone A	0.60	2.40	1.20					
	Zone B	0.50	2.00	1.00					
	Zone C	0.40	1.60	0.80					
1989-90	Zone A	0.80	3.20	1.60					
	Zone B	0.70	2.80	1.40					
	Zone C	0.60	2.40	1.20					
1990-91	Zone A	1.00	4.00	2.00					
	Zone B	1.00	4.00	2.00					
	Zone C	0.80	3.20	1.60					
1991-92	Zone A	1.00	4.00	2.00					
	Zone B	1.00	4.00	2.00					
	Zone C	0.80	3.20	1.60					

Appendix B

**HISTORICAL GROUND-WATER CHARGES RATES**  
(Dollars per Acre-Foot)

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Agri-cultural Water</b>	<b>Other Water</b>	<b>Special Irrigation Water</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Agri-cultural Water</b>	<b>Other Water</b>	<b>Special Irrigation Water</b>
2000-01	Zone A	3.80	13.30	7.60	2007-08	Zone A	2.20	7.70	4.40
	Zone B	3.26	11.41	6.52		Zone B	2.20	7.70	4.40
	Zone C	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone C	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone D	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone D	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone E	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone E	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone F	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone F	1.20	4.20	2.40
2001-02	Zone A	3.50	12.25	7.00	2008-09	Zone A	2.20	7.70	4.40
	Zone B	3.26	11.41	6.52		Zone B	2.20	7.70	4.40
	Zone C	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone C	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone D	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone D	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone E	0.71	2.49	1.42		Zone E	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone F	1.56	5.46	3.12		Zone F	1.20	4.20	2.40
2002-03	Zone A	3.35	11.73	6.70	2009-10	Zone A	2.20	7.70	4.40
	Zone B	3.00	10.50	6.00		Zone B	2.20	7.70	4.40
	Zone C	1.40	4.90	2.80		Zone C	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone D	1.40	4.90	2.80		Zone D	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone E	0.60	2.10	1.20		Zone E	1.20	4.20	2.40
	Zone F	1.40	4.90	2.80		Zone F	1.20	4.20	2.40
2003-04	Zone A	3.20	11.20	6.40	2010-11	Zone A	2.55	8.93	5.10
	Zone B	2.85	9.98	5.70		Zone B	2.55	8.93	5.10
	Zone C	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone C	1.40	4.90	2.80
	Zone D	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone D	1.40	4.90	2.80
	Zone E	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone E	1.40	4.90	2.80
	Zone F	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone F	1.40	4.90	2.80
2004-05	Zone A	3.20	11.20	6.40	2011-12	Zone A	2.70	9.45	5.40
	Zone B	2.85	9.98	5.70		Zone B	2.70	9.45	5.40
	Zone C	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone C	1.48	5.18	2.96
	Zone D	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone D	1.48	5.18	2.96
	Zone E	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone E	1.48	5.18	2.96
	Zone F	1.35	4.73	2.70		Zone F	1.48	5.18	2.96
2005-06	Zone A	2.20	7.70	4.40	2012-13	Zone A	3.00	10.50	6.00
	Zone B	2.20	7.70	4.40		Zone B	3.00	10.50	6.00
	Zone C	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone C	1.65	5.78	3.30
	Zone D	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone D	1.65	5.78	3.30
	Zone E	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone E	1.65	5.78	3.30
	Zone F	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone F	1.65	5.78	3.30
2006-07	Zone A	2.20	7.70	4.40	2013-14	Zone A	3.25	11.40	6.50
	Zone B	2.20	7.70	4.40		Zone B	3.25	11.40	6.50
	Zone C	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone C	1.80	6.30	3.60
	Zone D	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone D	1.80	6.30	3.60
	Zone E	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone E	1.80	6.30	3.60
	Zone F	1.20	4.20	2.40		Zone F	1.80	6.30	3.60

Appendix B

**HISTORICAL GROUND-WATER CHARGES RATES**  
(Dollars per Acre-Foot)

Fiscal Year	Zone	Agri-cultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water	Fiscal Year	Zone	Agri-cultural Water	Other Water	Special Irrigation Water
2014-15	Zone A	3.25	11.40	6.50	2021-22	Zone A	7.40	26.00	14.80
	Zone B	3.25	11.40	6.50		Zone B	7.40	26.00	14.80
	Zone C	1.80	6.30	3.60		Zone C	7.40	26.00	14.80
	Zone D	1.80	6.30	3.60		Zone D	7.40	26.00	14.80
	Zone E	1.80	6.30	3.60		Zone E	7.40	26.00	14.80
	Zone F	1.80	6.30	3.60		Zone F	7.40	26.00	14.80
2015-16	Zone A	3.50	12.25	7.00	2022-23	Zone A	14.14	14.14	14.14
	Zone B	3.50	12.25	7.00		Zone B	14.14	14.14	14.14
	Zone C	2.15	7.53	4.30		Zone C	14.14	14.14	14.14
	Zone D	2.15	7.53	4.30		Zone D	14.14	14.14	14.14
	Zone E	2.15	7.53	4.30		Zone E	14.14	14.14	14.14
	Zone F	2.15	7.53	4.30		Zone F	14.14	14.14	14.14
2016-17	Zone A	3.85	13.48	7.70	2023-24	Zone A	20.42	20.42	20.42
	Zone B	3.85	13.48	7.70		Zone B	14.24	14.24	14.24
	Zone C	3.00	10.50	6.00		Zone C	12.41	12.41	12.41
	Zone D	3.00	10.50	6.00		Zone D	12.41	12.41	12.41
	Zone E	3.00	10.50	6.00		Zone E	12.41	12.41	12.41
	Zone F	3.00	10.50	6.00		Zone F	12.41	12.41	12.41
2017-18	Zone A	4.85	16.98	9.70	2024-25	Zone A	22.60	22.60	22.60
	Zone B	4.85	16.98	9.70		Zone B	15.70	15.70	15.70
	Zone C	4.85	16.98	9.70		Zone C	13.70	13.70	13.70
	Zone D	4.85	16.98	9.70		Zone D	13.70	13.70	13.70
	Zone E	4.85	16.98	9.70		Zone E	13.70	13.70	13.70
	Zone F	4.85	16.98	9.70		Zone F	13.70	13.70	13.70
2018-19	Zone A	7.15	25.00	14.30	2025-26	Zone A	22.0	22.0	22.0
	Zone B	7.15	25.00	14.30		Zone B	14.8	14.8	14.8
	Zone C	7.15	25.00	14.30		Zone C	9.2	9.2	9.2
	Zone D	7.15	25.00	14.30		Zone D	9.2	9.2	9.2
	Zone E	7.15	25.00	14.30		Zone E	9.2	9.2	9.2
	Zone F	7.15	25.00	14.30		Zone F	9.2	9.2	9.2
2019-20	Zone A	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone B	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone C	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone D	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone E	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone F	7.15	25.00	14.30					
2020-21	Zone A	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone B	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone C	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone D	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone E	7.15	25.00	14.30					
	Zone F	7.15	25.00	14.30					

Intentionally Left Blank

## **Appendix C**

### **ADDITIONAL STREAMFLOW RECORDS SANTA YNEZ RIVER BASIN**

Intentionally Left Blank

## Appendix C

### ADDITIONAL STREAMFLOW RECORDS SANTA YNEZ RIVER BASIN

(Acre-Feet)							
Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Alamo Pintado Creek near Solvang	Miguelito Creek at Lompoc	Santa Cruz Creek near Santa Ynez	Santa Ynez River at Jameson Lake near Montecito (Net Inflow)	Santa Ynez River at Solvang	Zaca Creek near Buellton	Santa Ynez River below Gibraltar Dam
1942			8,250	2,490			19,170
1943			28,990	11,320			86,330
1944			17,500	5,230			44,990
1945			11,910	2,570			16,580
1946			6,600	3,550			18,600
1947			3,580	1,360	14,920		6,260
1948			346	258	2,400		24
1949			1,630	310	2,900		23
1950			2,700	498	3,220		38
1951			340	100	1,490		41
1952			29,500	11,585	239,100		85,500
1953			4,250	614	13,430		7,990
1954			5,440	1,300	6,400		9,240
1955			1,890	312	4,200		84
1956			9,410	752	12,140		3,480
1957			2,100	533	3,350		71
1958			43,720	13,442	91,640		123,600
1959			3,880	1,201	10,350		4,500
1960			1,640	99	3,160		16
1961			167		625		
1962			20,520	6,425	49,080		46,260
1963			2,250	76	3,570		74
1964			663	377	1,060	1	53
1965			5,050	1,050	5,890	5	1,480
1966			11,730	8,091	16,930	11	65,320
1967			36,540	9,451	148,700	755	123,470
1968			3,580	1,005	5,190		1,400
1969			97,360	33,112	548,800	6,680	316,400
1970			6,250	1,903	4,410	19	13,610
1971	4	173	7,170	2,302	9,450	6	19,490
1972		108	2,280	915	4,380	2	687
1973	173	1,740	19,910	13,835	48,100	611	69,780
1974	60	833	7,220	3,086	10,700	56	18,330
1975	107	1,640	8,570	3,529	34,490	122	26,270
1976	4	361	992	1,526	2,310	23	481
1977	6	124	587	342	1,010	11	162
1978	2,220	3,670	44,380	24,318	327,500	3,690	195,100
1979	89	1,100	13,040	5,358	54,350	185	34,550
1980	998	1,940	23,750	11,321	196,300	886	86,840
1981	167	916	5,150	1,617	10,690	349	4,870
1982	22	544	7,680	1,559	3,920		11,910
1983	4,510	5,770	54,410	22,594	511,200		236,500
1984	556	974	8,590	3,064	24,860		23,530
1985	390	687	2,920	688	2,680		24
1986			14,180	9,090	12,300		56,160
1987			1,040	652	1,850		70
1988		511	3,430	2,335	4,120		96
1989		142	1,880	551	1,760		

## Appendix C

### ADDITIONAL STREAMFLOW RECORDS SANTA YNEZ RIVER BASIN

(Acre-Feet)							
Water Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Alamo Pintado Creek near Solvang	Miguelito Creek at Lompoc	Santa Cruz Creek near Santa Ynez	Santa Ynez River at Jameson Lake near Montecito (Net Inflow)	Santa Ynez River at Solvang	Zaca Creek near Buellton	Santa Ynez River below Gibraltar Dam
1990		162	48	212	629		
1991	1,080	855	14,030	5,738	12,360	588	31,100
1992	1,690	685	20,780	12,223	40,130	1,760	90,978
1993		1,710	60,660	28,170	364,090		217,980
1994		705	4,261	1,542	9,390		6,588
1995	7,660	9,960	46,454	43,537	533,900	5,600	236,032
1996	2,260	2,140	10,041	2,541	15,890	574	11,463
1997	1,658	677	14,867	2,951	152,940	1,658	29,935
1998	18,300	6,820	89,240	115,212	655,470	8,360	299,400
1999	2,710	1,104	5,450	1,088	10,950	261	6,170
2000	1,978	1,961	8,499	3,426		504	25,269
2001	3,093	1,659	20,266	13,632		1,720	65,659
2002	886	476	1,256	369	6,200	36	595
2003	350	622	5,522	1,369	7,710	47	3,844
2004	112	224	1,216	816	10,150	8	320
2005	3,706	2,194	50,519	21,630	373,556	2,143	212,451
2006	716	745	16,211	7,752	96,498	0	57,008
2007	324	135	992	191	10,885	0	0
2008	986	371	24,809	4,686	49,596	0	68,520
2009	2	71	6,150	348	4,753	0	5,077
2010	160		14,420	2524	18,594	120	41,878
2011	734		27,330	5260	120,436	860	92,241
2012	0		3,064	191	4,862	0	18
2013	0		1,195		11,520	0	0
2014	0		1,113		6,118	0	0
2015	0		389		9,518	0	0
2016	0		379		8,006	0	0
2017	463		20,212		18,652	746	44,664
2018	0		2,078		9,315	0	401
2019	180		21,435		14,179	197	61,195
2020	57		4,536		13,510	1	14,091
2021	0		452		9,139	0	0
2022	0		696		9,638	0	25
2023	3,400		60,024		339,694	9,705	198,469
2024	247		27,830		223,803	863	115,667
2025	110 *		2,308 *		9,152 *	139 *	388 *
2026	483		7,255		39,108	39,108	30,706

(through Dec)

\* indicates provisional data.

Zeros represent annual gaged totals of zero acre-feet. Blanks represent incomplete gaged records.

**Appendix D**

**WATER RIGHTS RELEASES  
NO RELEASES WERE MADE IN 2025**

Intentionally Left Blank

## **Appendix D**

### **WATER RIGHTS RELEASES NO RELEASES WERE MADE IN 2025**

In the calendar year 2025, there were no water right releases because there were low amounts of available dewatered storage space in the Above Narrows area. Water rights releases are made to avoid or mitigate the impacts of the Cachuma Project on local users of Santa Ynez River water downstream of the project, as provided in State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 73-37, as modified by WR 89-18 and Decision 2019-0148. Table 6 of this report summarizes historical water rights releases made pursuant to said orders and decision.

Intentionally Left Blank

## **Appendix E**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HYDROGEOLOGY OF THE SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

Intentionally Left Blank

## Appendix E

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE HYDROGEOLOGY OF THE SOURCES OF GROUNDWATER WITHIN THE DISTRICT

#### Santa Ynez River Alluvial Deposits

Along the Santa Ynez River channel groundwater occurs in the river channel deposits and thin bodies of younger alluvium. The groundwater is generally unconfined and in hydrologic continuity with surface water. In the Santa Ynez subarea, Bradbury Dam to Solvang, these deposits are almost completely bordered and underlain by non-water bearing consolidated rocks. Replenishment is by natural seepage from the river, seepage from tributaries, return flow from applied water, treated wastewater effluent from the City of Solvang wastewater treatment plant, and releases from Lake Cachuma to satisfy downstream water rights.

In the Buellton subarea, Solvang to a point about five miles downstream of Buellton, the river channel deposits and younger alluvium partially overlies and abut on the north side of the river channel, older unconsolidated deposits of the Paso Robles formation and Careaga Sand that fill a northwest-trending structural basin (Buellton Upland subarea). The older deposits probably slowly discharge groundwater to the alluvial deposits. Additional recharge to the river alluvium in the Buellton subarea is primarily from seepage from the Santa Ynez River and tributary creeks. During the irrigation season, some return flow recharges these deposits. Treated wastewater effluent from the City of Buellton wastewater treatment plant also recharges the alluvial groundwater.

The alluvial deposits along the Santa Ynez River in the Santa Rita subarea downstream of the Buellton subarea to the Lompoc Narrows, occur in a very similar condition to those in the Santa Ynez subarea to the extent that they are essentially separated from older unconsolidated deposits by generally non-water bearing consolidated rocks. The alluvial deposits in this subarea are generally unconfined with some local confinement. Recharge is also primarily from the Santa Ynez River, tributary creek seepage and irrigation return flow.

Santa Ynez River alluvial deposits are relatively thin with typical thicknesses of 60 to 80 feet with local thicknesses of more than 100 feet. Wells in these deposits typically yield a few hundred to as high as 1,500 or more gallons per minute (gpm).

The storage capacity of the alluvial deposits under full water conditions as determined in connection with State Water Resources Control Board Order 73-37 is as follows:

Subarea	Acre-Feet
Santa Ynez Subarea	21,000
Buellton Subarea	27,500
Santa Rita Subarea	56,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105,000</b>

### **Santa Ynez Upland Subarea**

The Santa Ynez Upland subarea lies north of the Santa Ynez River and extends westward from about four miles east of Lake Cachuma (Red Rock Canyon) to include the Zaca Creek watershed where the creek crosses the subarea. Relatively non-water bearing rocks separate this subarea from Santa Ynez River alluvium to the south. The northern boundary of the subarea is formed by faulting of consolidated non-water bearing rocks of the San Rafael Mountains against the unconsolidated basin deposits.

The Santa Ynez Upland subarea is comprised of thick unconsolidated deposits primarily of the Paso Robles Formation and the Careaga Sand which are the primary sources of groundwater. Terrace and alluvial deposits are also present in portions of the subarea, but are generally not sources of major groundwater supplies. The thickness of the unconsolidated deposits is generally greater than 1,000 feet with maximum thicknesses of over 3,000 feet at places.

Recharge occurs from the deep percolation of precipitation, seepage from creeks, underflow from consolidated rocks surrounding the subarea and irrigation return flow including return flow from imported State Water Project water and pumped underflow of the Santa Ynez River.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (La Freniere and French, 1968) estimated the groundwater in storage in the Santa Ynez Upland groundwater subarea in 1964 to be ten million acre-feet with about one million acre-feet in the upper 200 saturated feet.

### **Buellton Upland Subarea**

The Buellton Upland subarea generally includes the area north of the Santa Ynez River that extends eastward from the Santa Rita Upland subarea to the east of the City of Buellton. For the most part, this subarea is underlain by the older unconsolidated deposits of the Paso Robles Formation and the Careaga Sand. These deposits fill a synclinal basin which may be an extension of the Santa Rita syncline. If that is the case, this area may be in hydrologic continuity with similar deposits to the west. Recharge to these older deposits is from precipitation falling on the outcrop area and seepage from small creeks that cross the outcrop area.

### **Santa Rita Upland Subarea**

Groundwater supplies are present in the older unconsolidated Orcutt Sand, Paso Robles Formation and Careaga Sand which fill a structural basin formed by the eastern portion of the Santa Rita syncline. The Santa Rita Upland subarea is in hydrologic continuity with the Buellton and Lompoc Upland subareas, but is separated from the Santa Ynez River alluvium by non-water bearing rocks. Groundwater is present in a "shallow" perched condition as well as a deep body. Both bodies appear to contain water under unconfined conditions.

### **Lompoc Area Subareas**

Three groundwater sources are present in the Lompoc area. They include the Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Upland and Lompoc Terrace subareas. The Lompoc Plain subarea is an alluvial filled trough cut into the south limb of the Santa Rita syncline. The principal water-bearing units beneath the Lompoc Plain are the river-channel deposits and younger alluvium that compose the upper aquifer and the Paso Robles Formation and Careaga Sand that comprise the lower aquifer.

The upper aquifer consists of three water-bearing zones: (1) the shallow zone; (2) the middle zone; and (3) the main zone. The main zone of the upper aquifer has been the primary source of water from the Lompoc Plain subarea. The shallow zone includes river-channel deposits

and predominately fine-grained sand, silt and clay deposits of the upper member of the alluvium that confine or partly confine the underlying deposits in the western, central and northeastern portions of the subarea. The base of the upper member of the alluvium includes interbedded lenses of permeable sand and gravel which the USGS (Bright et al., 1992) refer to as the middle zone. The main zone includes the lower member of the alluvium. Medium to coarse sand and gravel comprise this zone. The main zone throughout most of the Lompoc Plain subarea is separated from the middle zone by lenses of silt and clay that result in confined or partially confined conditions in the main zone. However, in the eastern, southern and northern portions of the Lompoc Plain subarea, the confining deposits are less continuous or absent, allowing movement of groundwater between the shallow, middle and main zones.

The central and northern parts of the western end of the Santa Rita syncline comprise the Lompoc Upland subarea which lies north of the Lompoc Plain. The main water bearing deposits in the subarea are the Paso Robles Formation and Careaga Sand. These deposits extend under the Lompoc Plain to form the lower aquifer. Most of the groundwater in storage occurs in these two formations. Perched groundwater occurs locally in the Orcutt Sand.

The Lompoc Terrace subarea, the hilly area adjacent to the southwest part of the Lompoc Plain subarea, is a down-faulted wedge of Careaga Sand overlain by Orcutt Sand.

Recharge to the aquifers beneath the Lompoc Plain subarea includes infiltration of precipitation, seepage from streams, groundwater underflow from tributary streams, underflow through aquifers underlying the Lompoc Upland and Lompoc Terrace subareas which extend under the Plain (lower aquifer beneath the Lompoc Plain subarea), irrigation return flow and wastewater effluent. Recharge to the Lompoc Upland subarea is primarily by infiltration of precipitation, and some seepage from streams. The Lompoc Upland subarea may also receive percolation of treated wastewater effluent from the Mission Hills Community Services District wastewater treatment plant and underflow along the Santa Rita syncline from the Santa Rita Upland subarea. Recharge to the Lompoc Terrace subarea is mainly from infiltration of precipitation.

The USGS (Miller, 1976) estimated the total groundwater in storage in the Lompoc area as follows:

Subarea	Groundwater in Storage (Acre-Feet)
Lompoc Plain	
Main Zone	80,000
Shallow Zone	135,000
Lompoc Upland	400,000
Lompoc Terrace	100,000
TOTAL	715,000

## REFERENCES CITED

- Bright, D.J. et al., 1992, Ground-Water Hydrology and Quality in the Lompoc Area, Santa Barbara County, California, 1987-88: U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Investigations Report 91-4172.
- LaFreniere, G.F., and French, J.J. 1968, Ground-Water Resources of the Santa Ynez Upland Ground-Water Basin, Santa Barbara County, California: U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report.
- Miller, G.A., 1976, Ground-Water Resources in the Lompoc Area, Santa Barbara County, California: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 76-183.

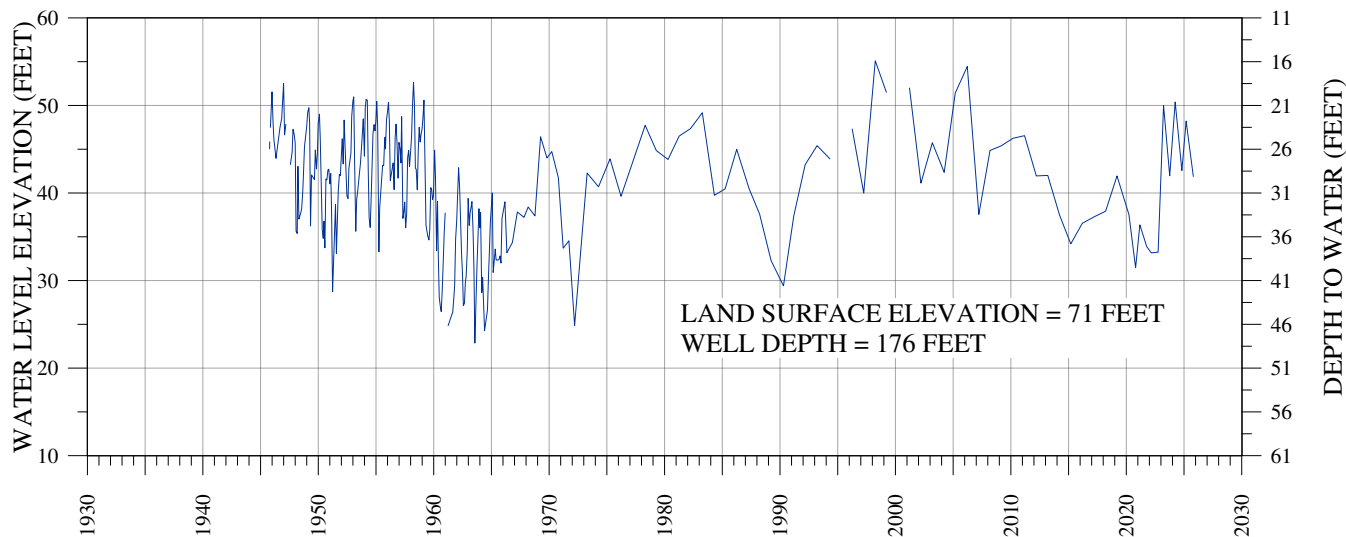
## **Appendix F**

### **WATER-LEVEL HYDROGRAPHS OF SELECTED WELLS**

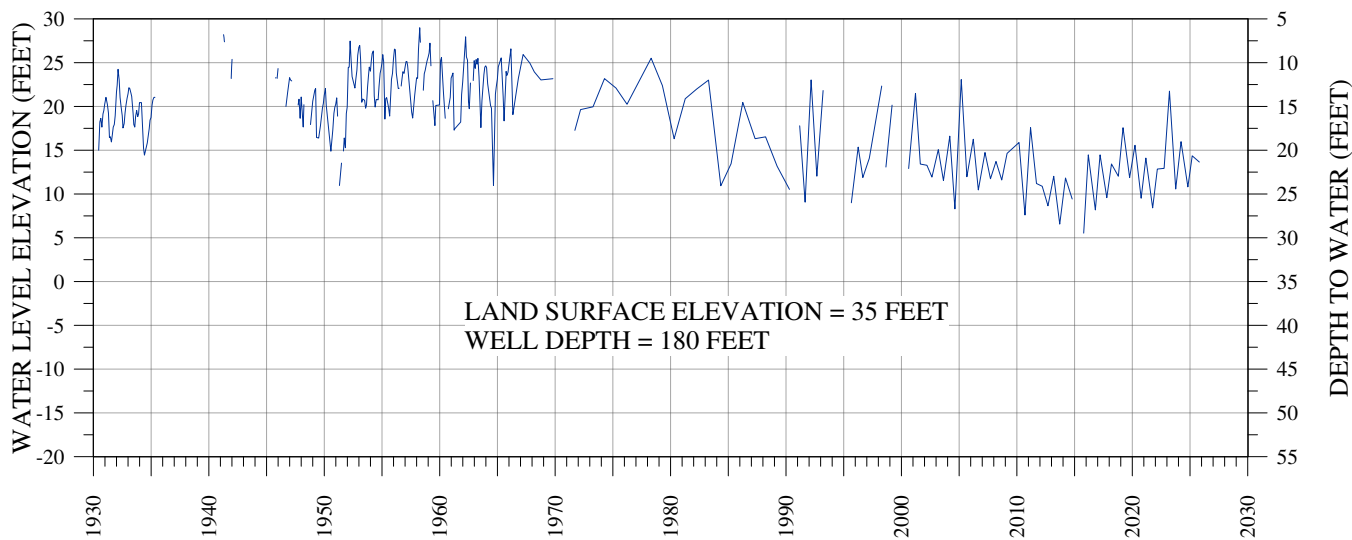
Intentionally Left Blank

HYDROGRAPHS OF WELLS LOCATED IN THE LOMPOC PLAIN SUBAREA

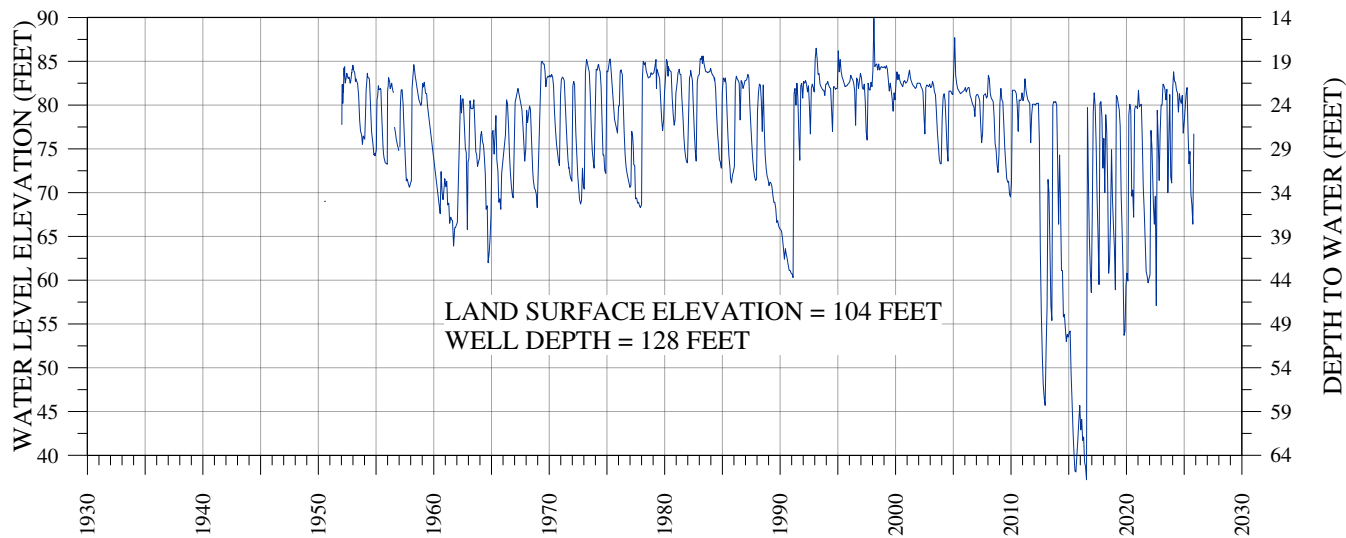
WELL 7N/34W-29E4



WELL 7N/35W-22J 1



WELL 7N/34W-35K9



## HYDROGRAPHS OF WELLS LOCATED IN THE LOMPOC UPLAND SUBAREA

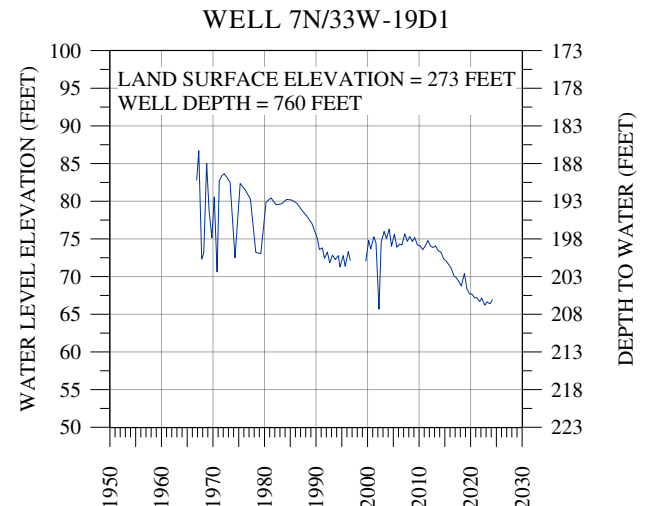
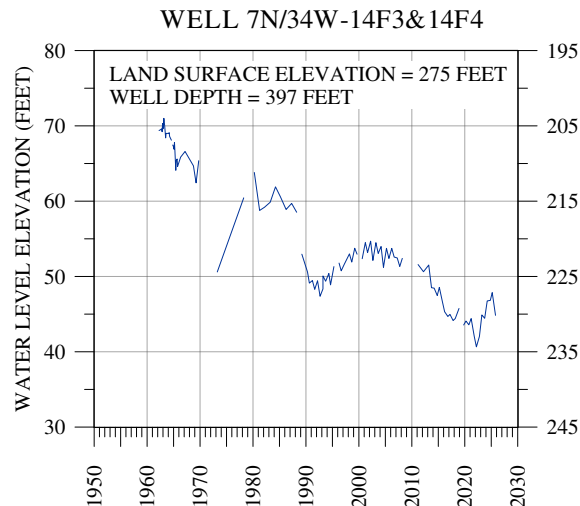
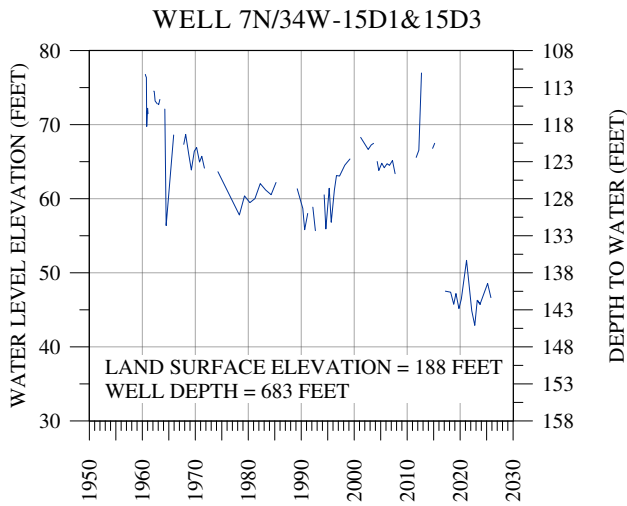
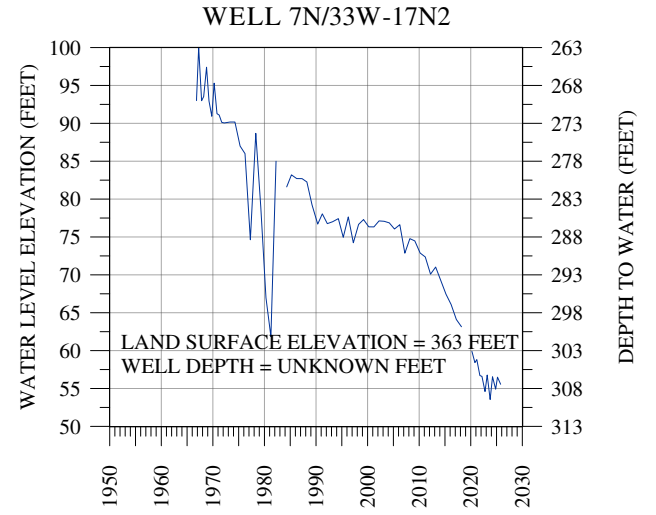
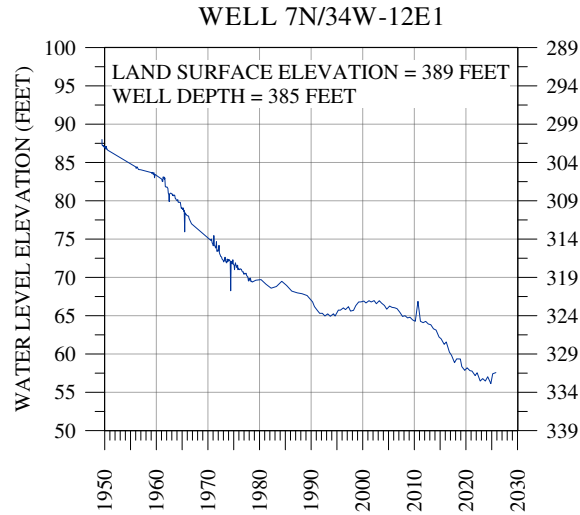
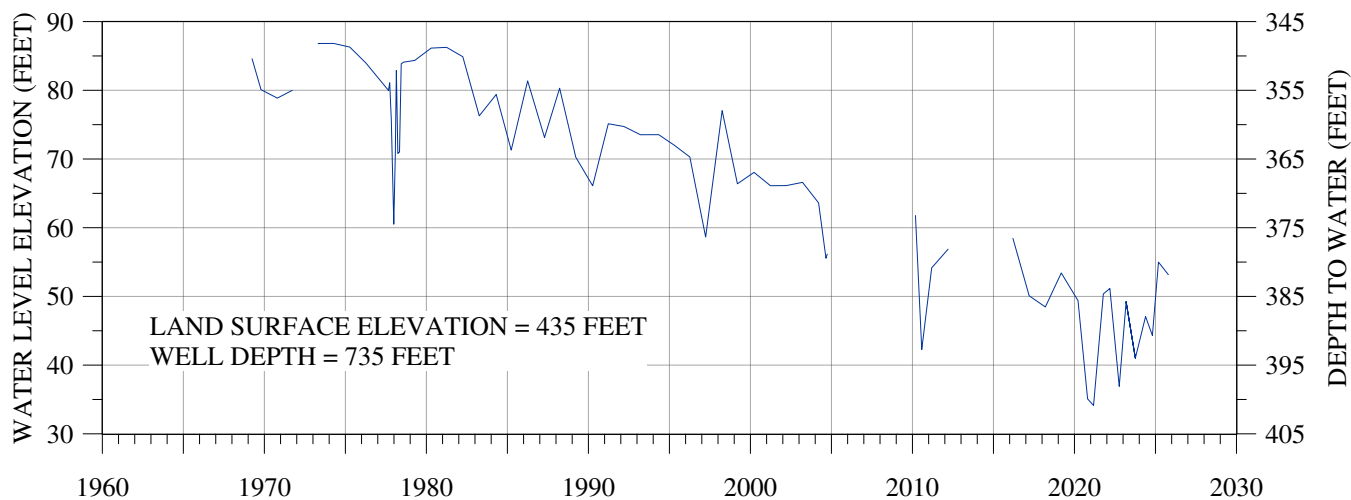


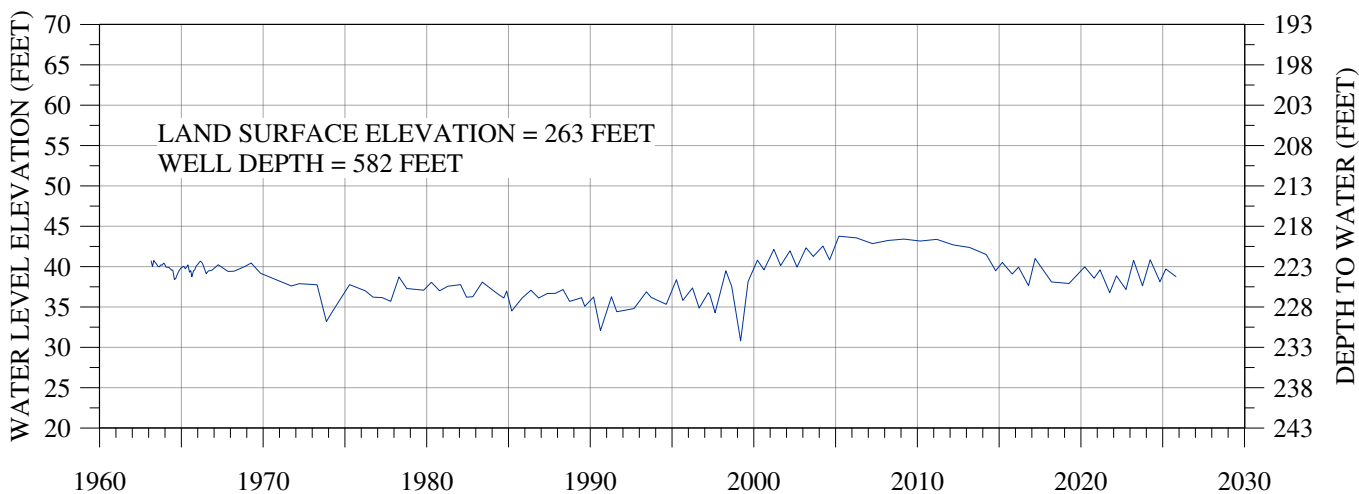
FIGURE F-2

### HYDROGRAPHS OF WELLS LOCATED IN THE SANTA RITA UPLAND, LOMPOC TERRACE, AND BUELLTON UPLAND SUBAREAS

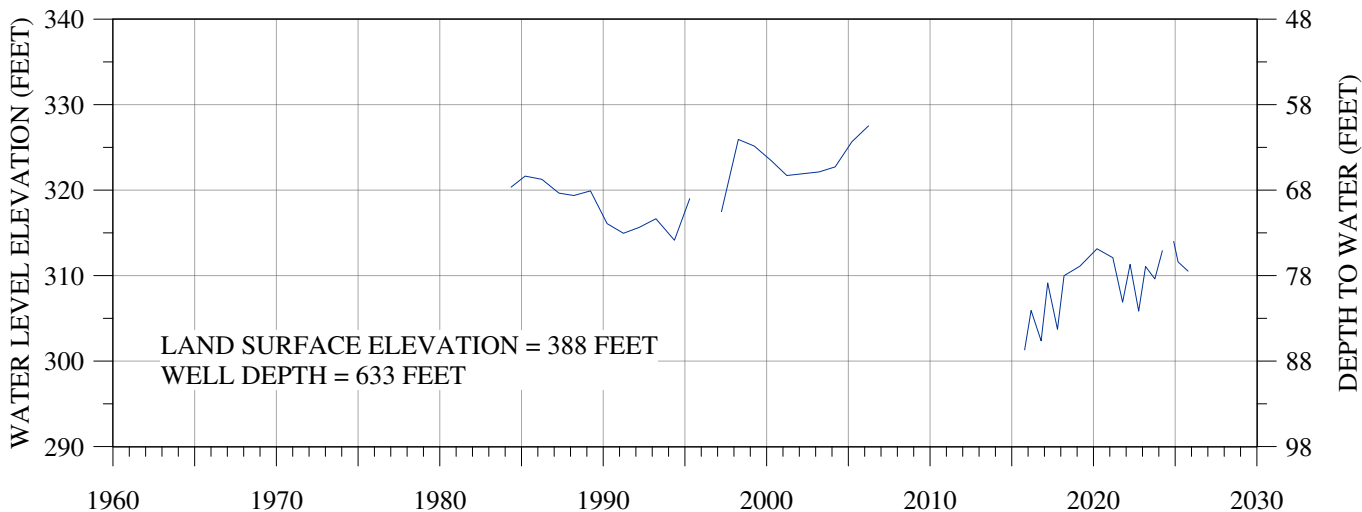
**WELL 7N/33W-27G1  
SANTA RITA UPLAND**



**WELL 7N/35W-27P1  
LOMPOC TERRACE**

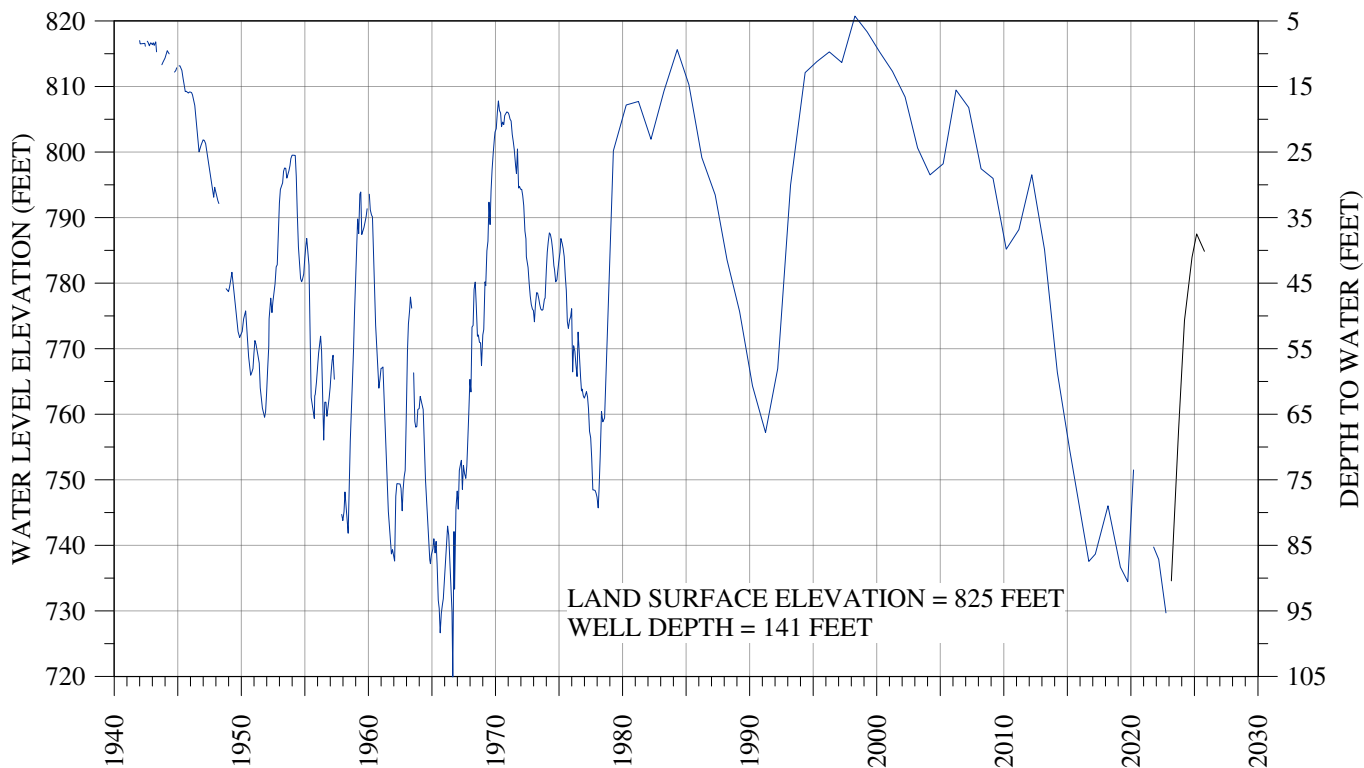


**WELL 6N/31W-7F1  
BUELLTON UPLAND**

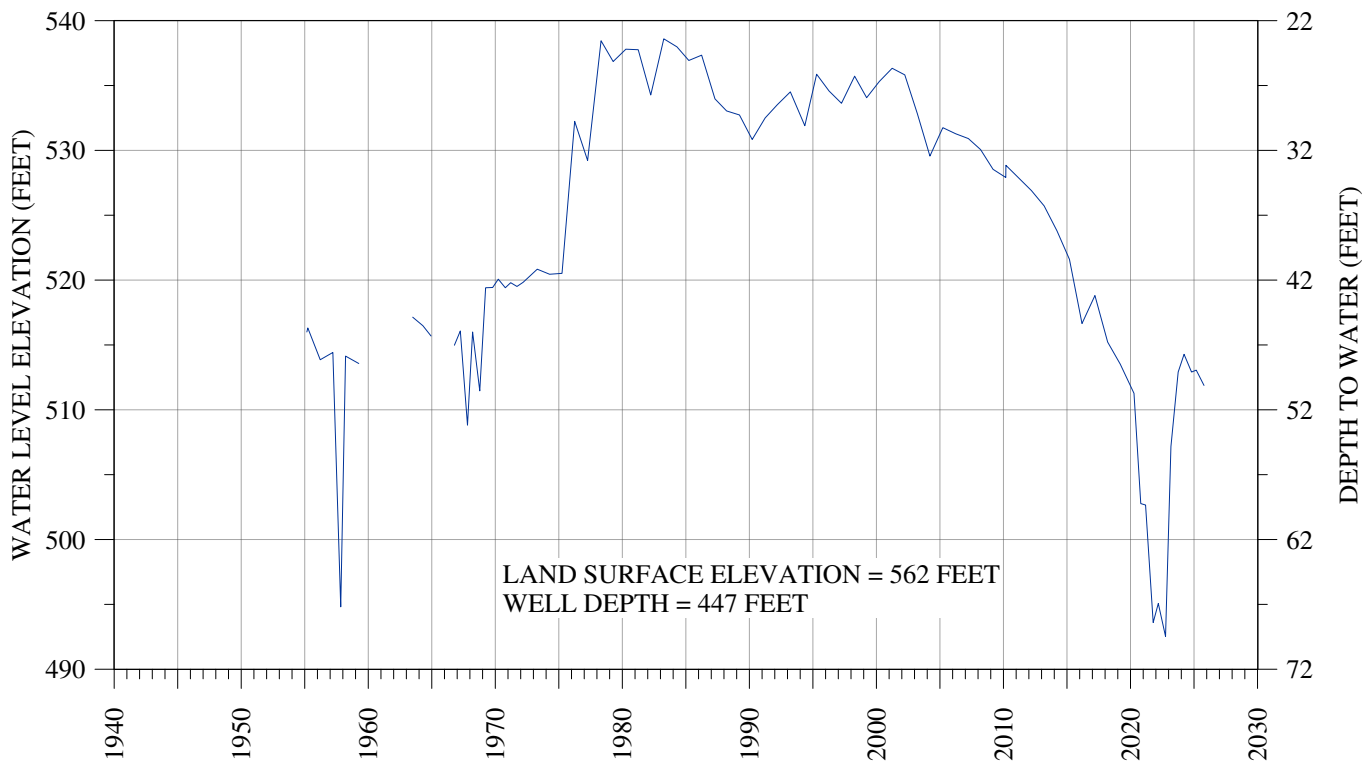


HYDROGRAPHS OF WELLS LOCATED IN THE  
SANTA YNEZ UPLAND SUBAREA

WELL 7N/31W-23P1 and 23P1(R)



WELL 6N/31W-11D4



## **Appendix G**

### **WELL INVENTORY**

Intentionally Left Blank

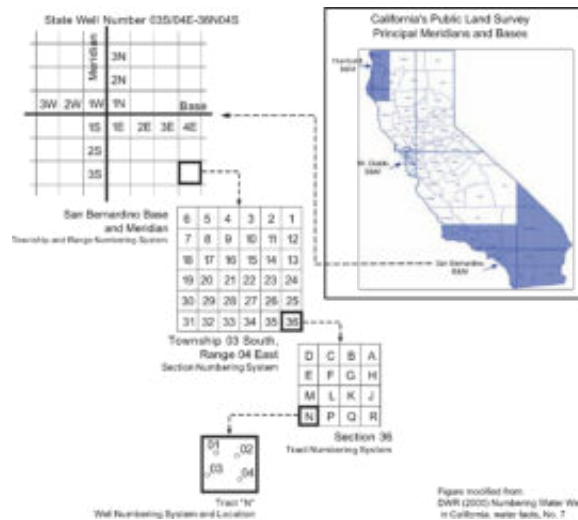
# Appendix G

## WELL INVENTORY

This well inventory includes the most recent last two years of spring water level measurements. The Engineering and Survey Reports are produced in the winter, prior to the measurement of spring water levels. Since water level data is not available, a projection method is used to estimate groundwater in storage for the end of the current water year. Groundwater in storage for previous years is updated using the spring water level measurements are collected.

Wells in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) have a unique State Well Number assigned by the California Department of Water Resources based on the public land grid published by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cadastral survey grid. The State Well Number includes the township, range, and section numbers in which a well is located. Each section is further subdivided into sixteen 40-acre tracts, which are assigned a letter designation. Because all wells in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin use the San Bernardino (“S”) base line and meridian, the reference to base line and meridian is generally omitted from the well numbers identified in this report. Most land within the Basin is former Mexican Land grant, and so the grids are interpolated from sources other than the Bureau of Land Management. In the tables on the following pages, wells in township 8N are highlighted in blue, wells in township 7N are not highlighted, and wells in township 6N are highlighted in gray.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) 15-digit well number based on degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude (6 digits) and longitude (7 digits) and sequential number (2 digits) are also shown on wells that are part of the USGS databases.



### Well Status

Wells may have additional conditions that are noted when water levels were collected, which may influence interpretation of the measurement. The well statuses used in the following tables are indicated by the following letters.

P = pumping;

R = recently pumped;

S = nearby pumping;

T = nearby recently pumped;

O = obstruction;

D = dry;

X = well is destroyed;

Z = other;

EST = estimated water level,  
a blank implies a  
normal water level  
measurement

# Appendix G

## WELL INDEX WELL INDEX RANGE 35W, 34W SPRING 2024 TO SPRING 2025

Report Location	MHP	Well ID #	Locality	SCWA UICID	HECS # Latitude Longitude	CWI Source	Date	2025		2024		change	
								Depth to Water (ft)	SLM	Date	Depth to Water (ft)		SLM
Table 7		7N035W-10M1	W. of Old; N. of SY-Rnr	38	3441241200314401	COSE	3/10	101.61		3/26	101.42	0.19	
Table 7		7N035W-17M1	Surf (near RR crossing)	2	3441141200353501	COSE	3/5	2		3/21	4.77	2.77	
Table 7		7N035W-19Q20	Surf (old Udonr Under)	1	3441121200310001	COSE	3/5	15.31		3/21	15.19	2.60	
Table 7		7N035W-18J2	Surf (E. side of Laguna)	3	3441181200355502	COSE	3/5	0.36		3/21	0.85	0.5	
Table 7		7N035W-21G2	N. of: 3302 NW of 22M1	39	3440411200341101	COSE	3/10	14.39		3/26	14.59	0.4	
Table 7		7N035W-22J1	W Valley: Jordan Farm	4	3440211200374101	COSE	3/10	20.64		3/21	19.07	-1.62	
Table 7		7N035W-22M1	W of VA U entrance N	37	3440261200313401	COSE	3/10	13.22		3/26	8.94	-4.20	
Table 7		7N035W-23Q2	W Valley: Jordan Farm	7	3440291200370402	COSE	---	---		---	---	---	
Table 7		7N035W-23Q2	N of SY-Rnr on VA U	40	3440401200320201	COSE	3/10	29.73		3/26	26.22	-3.51	
Table 7		7N035W-23Q3	W Valley: Jordan Farm	8	3440291200370403	COSE	---	---		---	---	---	
Table 7		7N035W-23Q4	W Valley: Jordan Farm	9	3440291200320501	COSE	3/10	10.70		3/21	21.38	2.6	
Table 7		7N035W-24Q3	N Atkies Ave: Basaltic	11	3440461200371401	COSE	3/7	15.25		3/26	12.14	-3.11	
Table 7		7N035W-24Q4	N. end of Douglas Ave	33	3440211200303104	COSE	3/7	27.66		3/21	25.04	-2.62	
Table 7		7N035W-24Q5	DeWolfe Ave: Henning	10	3440291200310305	COSE	3/7	23.62		3/21	19.1	-4.52	
Table 7		7N035W-25J5	NW of DeWolfe & Central	12	343947120010703	COSE	3/7	11.22		3/21	8.23	-2.99	
Table 7		7N035W-25J7	NW of DeWolfe & Central	13	343947120010702	COSE	3/7	7.34		3/21	7.34	0	
Table 7		7N035W-26L1	W of Union Sugar Ave	15	3439291200321001	COSE	3/5	5.66		3/21	5.02	-0.16	
Table 7		7N035W-26L2	W of Union Sugar Ave	16	3439291200321002	COSE	3/5	6.35		3/21	2.8	-1.55	
Table 7		7N035W-26L4	W Valley: Jordan Farm	14	3439401200320501	COSE	3/10	17.07		3/21	16.69	-1.62	
Table 7		7N035W-26L4	W of Union Sugar Ave	17	3439291200321004	COSE	3/5	9.04		3/21	7.48	-1.56	
Figure 8		7N035W-26L5		61	3439401200320502		3/20			3/20			
Table 7		7N035W-27Q1	Cross Ave & Remick	18	3440211200371401	COSE	---	---		---	---	---	
Table 8		7N034W-27P1	S. VA U (Lam Terrace)	44	3439231200312501	COSE	3/10	223.30		3/26	222.15	-1.15	
Table 7		7N035W-35A3	S Atkies Ave	19	3438591200314003	COSE	3/5	14.14		3/21	13.54	-0.6	
Table 7		8N034W-43A		1121	3439261200275001	USUR	3/20	41.3	LSI	3/20	40.1	LSI	1.2
Table 7		8N034W-46Q1	F of San Diego Rd	20	3438151200306502	COSE	---	---		3/21	---	0	---
Table 8		7N034W-12L1	N of Mission Hills	51	3442191200240501	COSE	3/7	331.10		3/21	331.97	0.29	
Table 8		7N034W-14L1	Mission Hills OSD	53	344171200255001	COSE	3/7	215.58		3/27	215.69	1.11	
Figure 1-2		7N034W-14L3		69	3441201200246201		3/20			3/20			
Table 8		7N034W-14F4	Mission Hills OSD	52	3441261200255201	COSE	3/7	227.14		3/27	228.25	1.11	
Table 8		7N034W-15L1	Vandenberg Village OSD	606	3441241200272201	COSE	3/7	132.26		3/27	132.95	0.73	
Table 8		7N034W-15P2	Hylkiss F of Hwy 1	55	3441011200255301	COSE	3/7	256.59		3/21	258.05	1.5	
Table 8		7N034W-16Q2	Vandenberg Village OSD	602	3441421200272301	COSE	3/7	139.44		3/27	140.03	0.19	
Table 7		7N034W-20Q1	HE Dixon F of Florence	21	3440171200255502	COSE	3/10	23.39		3/21	21.63	-1.7	
Table 7		7N034W-22M5		57	3440211200271301	USUR	3/20	42.1	LSI	3/20	43.2	LSI	1.1
Table 7		7N034W-25F3		61	3439401200345702	USUR	3/20	82.5		3/20	88.2	-4.3	
Table 7		7N034W-26J3	Easton Lompoc Valley	24	3439431200252201	COSE	3/5	60.66		3/21	61.75	1.7	
Table 7		7N034W-26F4		58	3439571200254501	USUR	3/20	62		3/20	63	1	
Table 7		7N034W-26Q5		60	3439241200254101	USUR	3/20	47.1		3/20	46.3	-1.0	
Table 7		7N034W-27Q6	F of North A Street	25	3439491200254501	COSE	3/5	27.77		3/21	26.5	-0.87	
Table 7		7N034W-27J5		1162		USUR	3/20	43.2	LSI	3/20	40.3	LSI	2.9
Table 7		7N034W-29F4	F of Farnside: J Fisher	25	3439481200259202	COSE	3/7	22.79		3/26	20.61	-2.18	
Table 7		7N034W-29J6	L of Farnside: Deb Witt	27	3439261200259301	COSE	3/7	22.0		3/21	24.04	1.24	
Table 7		7N034W-29J7	F of Farnside: Rob Witt	28	3439261200259302	COSE	3/7	23.75		3/21	22.87	-0.88	
Table 7		7N034W-32L10	SW cor Central & Loege	29	3439411200301105	COSE	3/7	21.02		3/21	21.11	0.09	
Table 7		7N034W-31Q2	NW of Florence-Dixon	30	3438281200259301	COSE	3/7	28.39		3/21	27.95	-0.44	
Table 7		7N034W-32J2	L of Daley: Wineman	31	3439211200254201	COSE							
Table 7		7N034W-34Q1		63	3438211200259701	USUR	3/20	50.3		3/20	46.1	-4.2	
Table 7		7N034W-35K9	Easton Lompoc Valley	32	3439401200254701	COSE	3/5	23.02		3/21	21.65	-1.36	
Table 7		7N034W-35K9	Easton Lompoc Valley	32	3438401200254701	USUR	3/20	25.5		3/20	25.1	-1.4	

# Appendix G

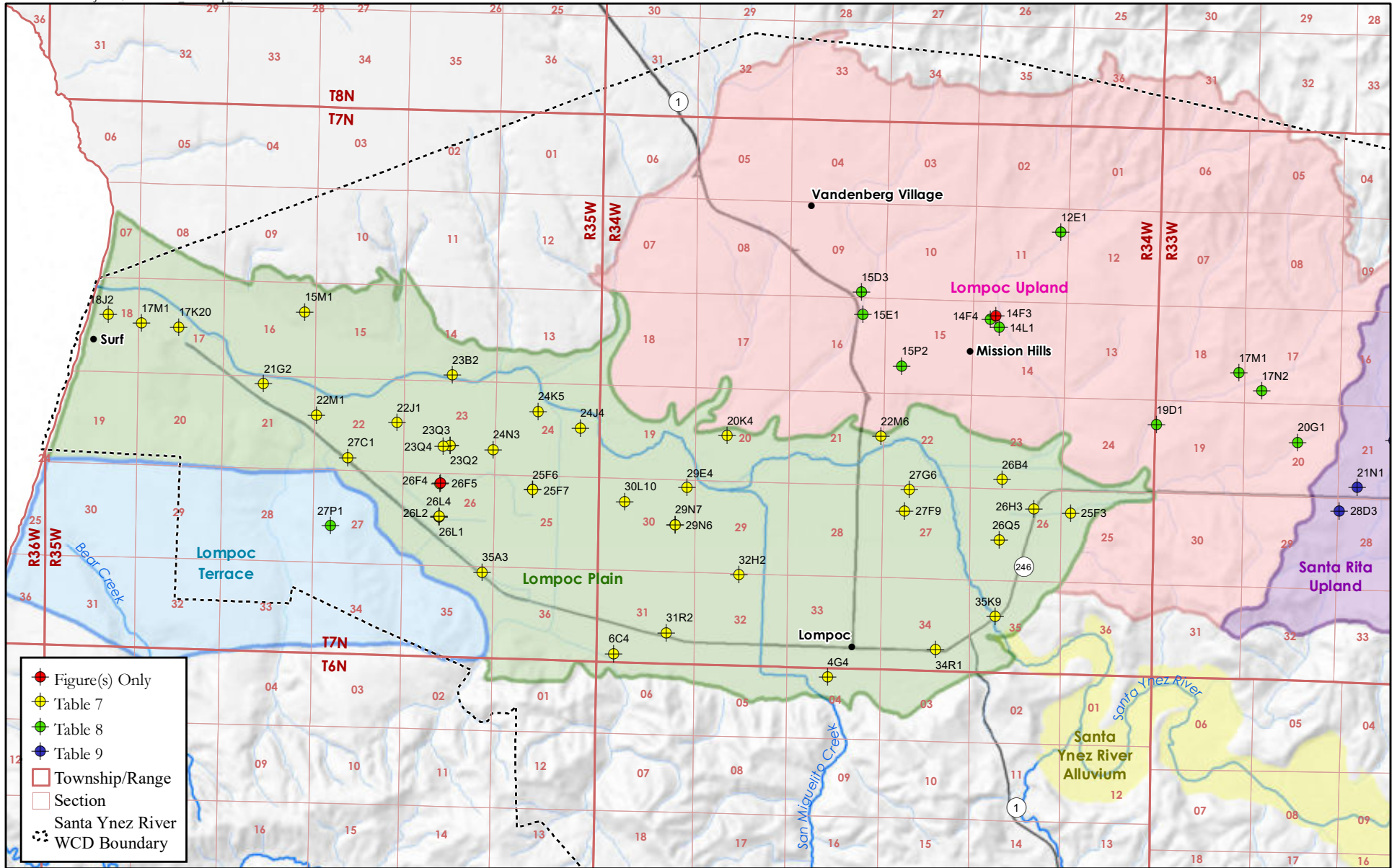
## WELL INDEX WELL INDEX RANGE 33W, 32W SPRING 2024 TO SPRING 2025

Report Location	MFP	Well ID #	Locality	SQWA UICD	HECS # Latitude Longitude	CWI Source	Date	2025		2024	2024		change
								Depth to Water (ft)	ft/mk		Date	Depth to Water (ft)	
Table 8		7N03W-17M1	Upper Cebada Canyon	47	344100120224501	COBU	3/7	282.76		3/21	284.09		1.33
Table 8		7N03W-17S2	Upper Cebada Canyon	48	344051120224501	COBR	3/7	308.5		3/21	308.65		-0.15
Table 8		6N03W-19C1	Lower Cebada Canyon	49	344025120224501	COBU	3/7			3/21	205.05		
Table 8		7N03W-20C1	W of Tinajas Road	50	344025120224501	COBR	---	---		---	---		---
Table 9		6N03W-21N1	W Santa Rita Valley	79	342956120214001	COBU	3/5	320.25		3/20	320.92		0.67
Table 9		7N03W-21C2	Mid Santa Rita Valley	78	344025120214501	COBR	3/5	352.24		3/20	362.03		-9.79
Table 9		6N03W-27S1	L Santa Rita Valley	80	342926120221001	COBU	3/7	379.6		3/20			
Table 9		7N03W-28S3	W Santa Rita Valley	81	343946120215301	COBR	3/5	329.36		3/20	308.85		-20.51
Table 9		6N03W-36S1	Drum Cyn - Santa Rosa	82	343024120175201	COBU	3/5	121.77		3/20	120.73		1.04
Table 9		6N03W-20C1	SYR Abroad, Fuelton	91	343719120124501	COBR	3/5	62.32		3/20	58.67		-3.65
Table 9		6N03W-12K2		909	343649120114401	Luccion	3/11	60.0		3/19	51		9
Table 9		7N03W-31M1	Drum Cyn - Santa Rosa	75	343821120173501	COBR	3/5	78.84		3/20	77.09		-1.75

# Appendix G

## WELL INDEX WELL INDEX RANGE 31W, 30W, 29W SPRING 2024 TO SPRING 2025

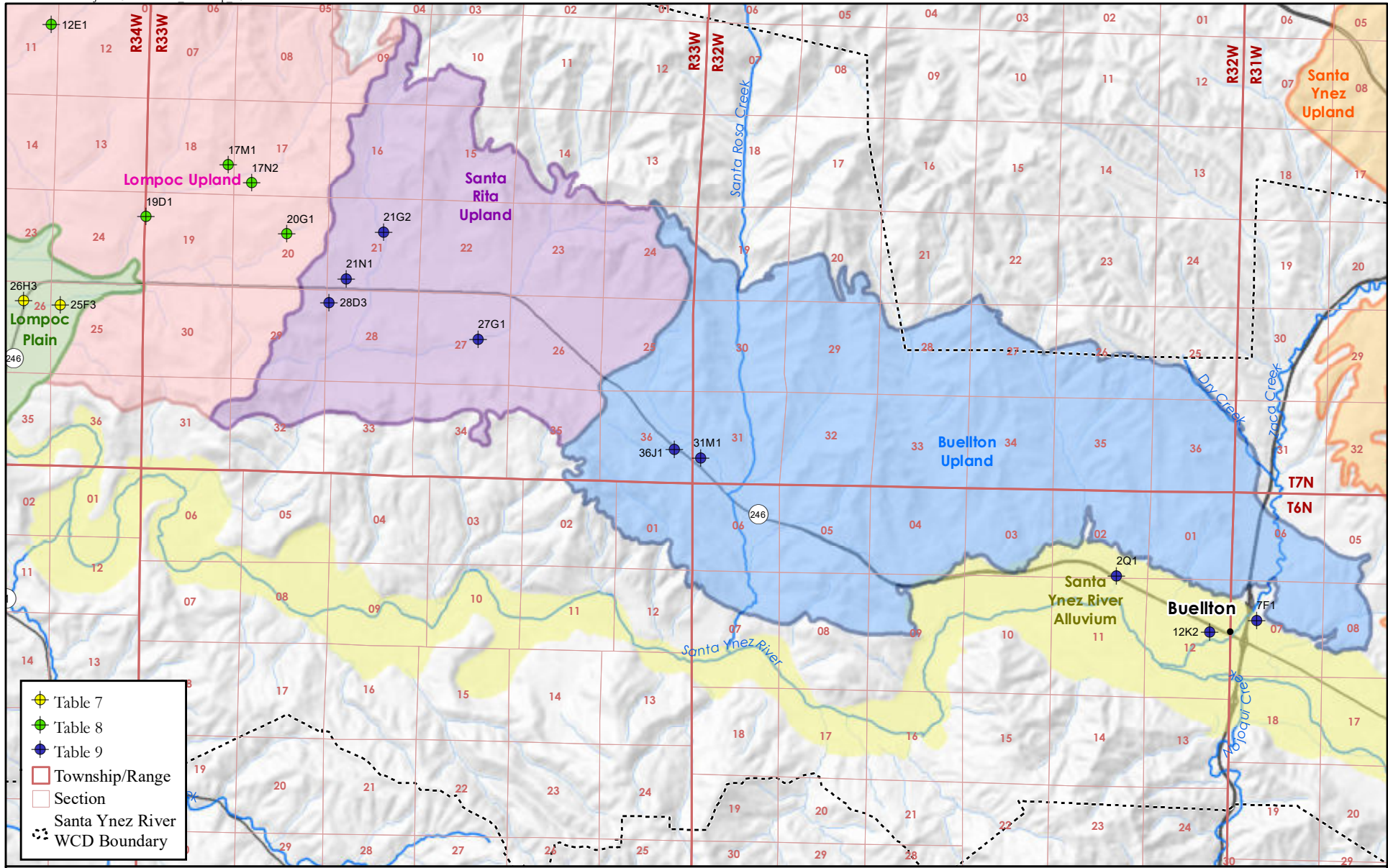
Report Location	Well ID #	Locality	SQWA DEID	HECR #	CWI Source	Date	2025		2024		Change
							Depth to Water (ft)	W	Date	Depth to Water (ft)	
Table 10	6N031W-1P2	West of Kenaga Road	112	343727120016001	CGSU						
Table 10	6N031W-1P3	West of Kenaga Road	113	343728120016101	CGSR	3/5	150.43	3/19	118.25		-0.18
Table 10	6N031W-2K1	Alamo Pintado Road	87	343741120016001	CGSU	3/4	29.79	3/19	38.46		1.23
Table 10	6N031W-3A1	Hilltop West of Redland	88	3437501200179001	CGSR	3/4	159.28	3/19	158.11		-1.17
Table 10	6N031W-4A1	Udall Cyn nr Schweg	89	3438201200193001	CGSU	3/4	116.21	3/19	114.25		0.56
Table 9	6N031W-7F1	Rawdon Upper Well	90	343655120111001	CGSR	3/4	75.4	3/19	75.09		-1.31
Table 10	6N031W-10-1	Frederberg Cyn: Schmo	83	343636120016001	CGSU	3/4	87.29	3/19	86.7		1.29
Table 10	6N031W-11D4	Alamo Pintado Road	81	343755120017001	CGSR	3/4	48.94	3/19	47.72		-1.22
Table 10	6N031W-13D1	Santa Ynez nr Hwy 246	111	343623120016201	CGSU	3/5	114.74	3/19	112.95		1.70
Table 10	7N031W-23D1	Los Olivos - Matlix Tw	93	344029120017001	CGSR	---	---	---	---		---
Table 10	7N031W-26L2	Kenaga Rd N of Uppole	95	343821120016001	CGSU	3/4	90.10	3/19	105.4		6.82
Table 10	8N031W-36H1	Midland School	98	344354120016001	CGSR	3/4	35.54	3/19	10.64		-0.1
Table 10	6N030W-1K3	Happy Canyon	108	343710119582001	CGSU	3/4	147.91	3/20	155.27		7.66
Table 10	6N030W-7G5	S Ynez of Meadowdale	109	343651120013401	CGSR	3/5	94.56	3/19	91.91		-0.65
Table 10	6N030W-7G6	S Ynez of Meadowdale	110	343651120013402	CGSU	3/5	93.0	3/19	91		2.0
Table 10	6N030W-11C4	Happy Cyn - Westside	107	343650120012901	CGSR	3/4	128.82	3/20	127.91		-0.71
Table 10	6N030W-16D1	Sedgewick Ranch	116	344127120023001	CGSU	3/3	13.83	3/19	15.73		1.9
Table 10	7N030W-19H1	SY Hgt Long Cyn Loop	117	344078120011801	CGSR	3/3	175.85	3/19	177.64		1.59
Table 10	6N030W-22L1	Utr Go Ranch	118	344023120016101	CGSU			3/19			
Table 10	7N030W-24C1	Swains Ranch	120	343956119589401	CGSR	3/4	35.38	3/20	48.7		13.32
Table 10	6N030W-26H1	Utr Go Ranch	122	343926120010801	CGSU			3/19			
Table 10	7N030W-29D1	SY Hgt Long Cyn Loop	123	343946120016801	CGSR	3/3	54.91	3/19	28.05		-26.86
Table 10	7N030W-30M1	SY Hgt Long Cyn Loop	124	343921120016001	CGSU						
Table 10	7N030W-33M1	300 ft W of Milk Ave	126	343833120016001	CGSR	3/4	251.14	3/19	249.54		-1.6
Table 10	6N030W-30K1	Midland School	96	344420120014701	CGSU	3/4	23.29	3/19	16.04		7.05
Table 10	6N029W-5F1	Happy Cyn - Keener	101	343746119583101	CGSR	3/4	19.6	3/20	18.7		-0.9
Table 10	6N029W-6G1	Happy Cyn - Keener	102	343746119582201	CGSU	3/4	13.27	3/20	52.28		0.59
Table 10	6N029W-7L1	N of Tal to Phillips Ranch	103	343646119583001	CGSR	3/4	244.15	3/20	242.69		-1.46
Table 10	6N029W-8H1	Phillips Ranch @ House	104	343632119573301	CGSU			3/20			
Table 10	6N029W-8P2	Phillips Ranch @ House	105	343632119573302	CGSR	3/4	263.80	3/20	259.81		-3.99



**LOCATION OF WELLS REFERENCED IN TABLE 7, TABLE 8 AND IN FIGURES, LOMPOC TERRACE, LOMPOC PLAIN AND LOMPOC UPLAND SUBAREAS**

0 0.75 1.5 Miles





**LOCATION OF WELLS REFERENCED IN TABLE 9,  
SANTA RITA UPLAND AND BUELLTON UPLAND SUBAREAS**

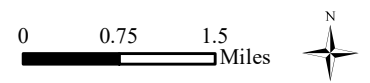
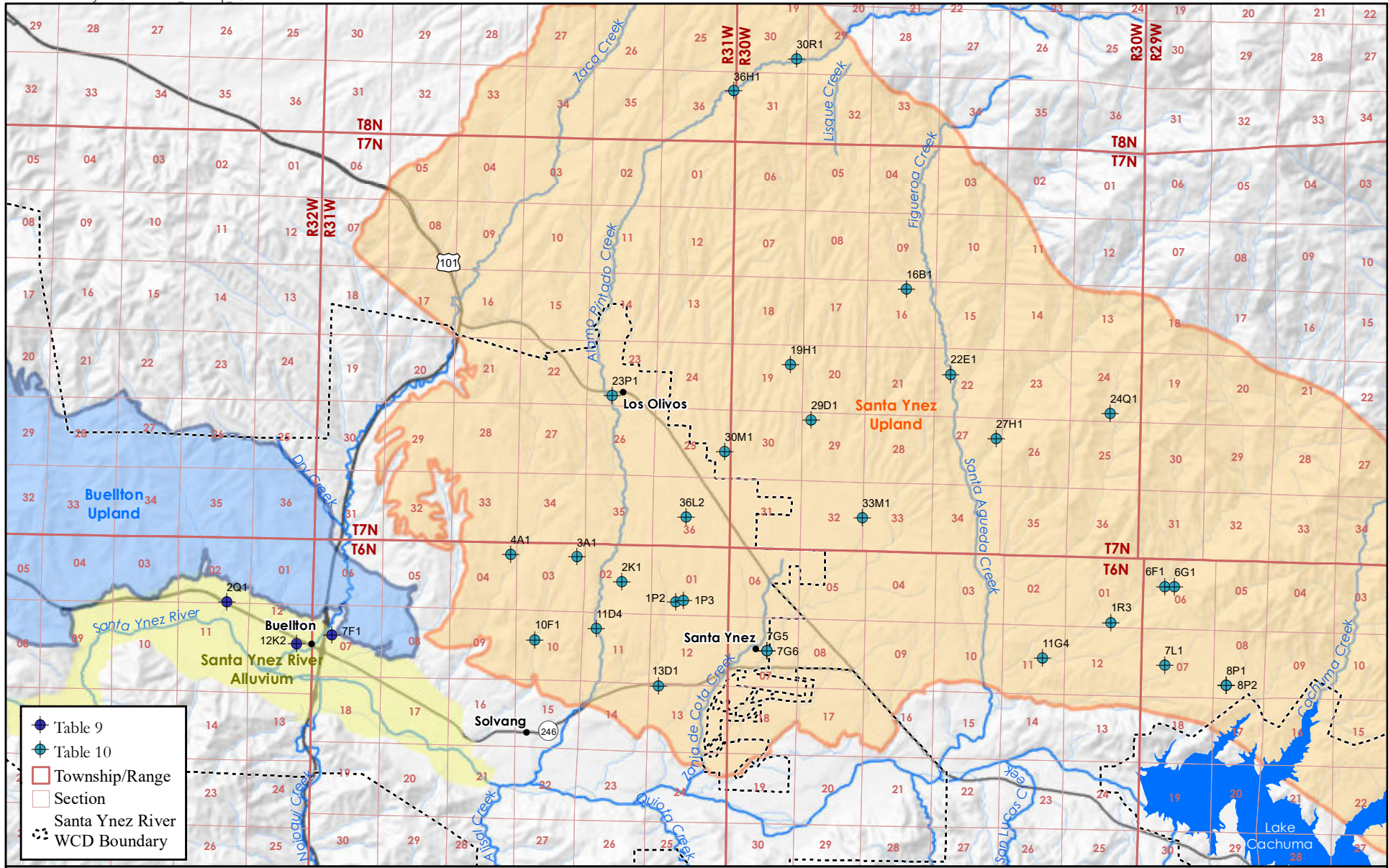


FIGURE G-2



**LOCATION OF WELLS REFERENCED IN TABLE 10,  
SANTA YNEZ UPLAND SUBAREA**

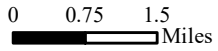


FIGURE G-3

Intentionally Left Blank