



CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board of Directors

Steve Jackson Chair, Cuyama Basin Water District
Arne Anselm Vice Chair, County of Ventura
Matthew Young Secretary, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Cory Bantilan Treasurer, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Derek Yurosek Cuyama Basin Water District
Deborah Williams Cuyama Community Services District

Brian Grant Cuyama Basin Water District
Kyle Richardson Cuyama Basin Water District
Jimmy Paulding County of San Luis Obispo
Katelyn Zenger County of Kern
Mark Ellsworth Cuyama Basin Water District

AGENDA

May 6, 2026

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors to be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the **Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254**. Participate via computer at: <https://shorturl.at/CEXif> or by going to Microsoft Teams, downloading the free application, then entering Meeting ID: 285 525 814 804 96 Passcode: fc2R8yg6 or enter or telephonically at (469) 480-3918 Phone Conference ID: 955 559 561#.

Teleconference Locations:

4689 CA-166 New Cuyama, CA 93254	1087 Santa Rosa Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5 th Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301	3118 Marsala St Bakersfield, CA 93311
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The order in which agenda items are discussed may be changed to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the Board or Committee, the public, or meeting participants. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the commencement of the meeting to ensure that they are present for discussion of all items in which they are interested.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385 by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to this meeting. The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic.

1. Call to Order (Jackson) (1 min)
2. Roll Call (Bianchi) (1 min)
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Jackson) (1 min)
4. Meeting Protocols (Bianchi) (2 min)
5. Introduction of New Legal Counsel (Collins) (3 min)
6. Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Report (Kelly) (3 min)

CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

7. Approve March 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Jackson) (1 min)
8. Approve Payment of Bills for February and March 2026 (Blakslee) (1 min)

9. Approve Financial Reports for February and March 2026 (Blakslee) (1 min)

ACTION ITEMS

All action items require a simple majority vote by default (50% of the vote). Items that require a super majority vote (75% of the weighted total) will be noted as such at the end of the item.

10. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
- a) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on GSA Response to DWR’s Additional Information Request Regarding their Review of the Amended 2025 GSP and Periodic Evaluation (Blakslee/Van Lienden) (60 min)
 - b) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area (Blakslee/Bianchi) (30 min)
 - c) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on FY 2026-2027 Budget and Cash Flow (Blakslee) (60 min) **[Supermajority Vote Required: 75%]**
 - d) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Consultant Task Orders for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (Blakslee) (15 min)

REPORT ITEMS

11. Administrative Updates
- a) Report of the Executive Director (Blakslee) (5 min)
 - i. Report on Final 2025 Basin-wide Groundwater Use, 2025 CMA Allocation Compliance, and CMA Groundwater Allocation Exchanges
 - b) Report of the General Counsel (Collins) (5 min)
12. Technical Updates
- a) Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities (Van Lienden) (5 min)
 - b) Update on Grant-Funded Projects (Van Lienden) (5 min)
13. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (15 min)
- Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1)
- (a) Bolthouse Land Company, LLC, et al v. All Persons Claiming a Right to Extract or Store Groundwater in the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (BCV-21-101927)
14. Report of Ad Hoc Committees (1 min)
15. Directors’ Forum (1 min)
16. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda (5 min)
17. Correspondence (1 min)
18. Adjourn (5:40 p.m.)

Standing Advisory Committee Report

Meeting Date: April 30th, 2026

Submitted to the CBGSA Board of Directors on May 6th, 2026

By Brenton Kelly, SAC Chair

The Standing Advisory Committee met at the Family Resource Center in a hybrid format, with three Committee Members present in-person and one on the conference line, with three members absent. GSA Staff Taylor Blakeslee and Project Coordinator Grace Bianchi were present, and they were joined by Brian Van Lienden on the call. One stakeholder was in the room with many more on the video conference.

The SAC meeting lasted 3 hours with lots of discussion and review of GSP implementation. We approved the response to the DWR review of our new GSP and we took a high level review of the 2026-2027 budget with a couple of recommendations.

The SAC was introduced to Nathan Metcalf of the Hanson Bridgett law firm, the new GSA council for the Adjudication who gave an informative and appreciated update to the current Court actions. The final draft for a Minor Extractor (ME) Order is expected shortly. A list of ~480 property owners in the basin has been prepared to zero out of any groundwater rights into the future. Many of these are in the Cuyama Community Services District. An opt-in form will be used to apply for Minor Extractor rights for almost 200 claimants who have successfully submitted paperwork in the case to access a 400 AFY ME pool that will not be subject to any further reductions or cutbacks unless the Sustainability Yield is determined to be smaller in the future.

During public comment on items not on the agenda, Vice Chair Joe Haslett was disappointed in the accessibility of the Form 700 financial disclosures, in compliance with AB 293, for CBGSA Board of Directors. The online searching tool provided on our web site was of no use.

10. a) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on GSA Response to DWR's Additional Information Request Regarding their Review of the Amended 2025 GSP and Periodic Evaluation

Some general observations and recommendations include the following:

- **Important Descriptive Narrative:** A clear and understandable description of the new process for determining Minimum Thresholds (MTs) is imperative. A majority of basin wide MTs were lowered by enough to eliminate all exceedances from the old plan, while allowing for worsening of the undesirable results of groundwater elevations declines and the loss of groundwater from storage. How is this protective of sensitive beneficial uses, such as shallow domestic wells, small farms and degraded wetland habitats?

- **Water Quality Migration Mitigation:** DWR continues to take issue of how the GSP addresses issues of arsenic and nitrates in the basin. Staff is suggesting that monitoring for the movement or migration of these contaminants would allow for some mitigation measures that could be an alternative to setting Minimum Thresholds with Adaptive Management measures. What would effective migration tracking look like when currently testing is done once in five years? How would the public be made aware of any impacts to domestic wells by potential migrating trends?
- **Plan Implementation and Allocation:** The current GSP allocations are only established to 2029, and are not calculated for the full basin and is not expected to reach the basinwide Sustainable Yield by itself.
- **Water Year vs. Calendar Year:** At the soonest convenient opportunity (probably in 2030) the landowners annual water reporting time line must be synced up with the model calculations time line. For greater accuracy and consistency, the Water Year, from Oct.1st - Sept. 31st, should be used instead of the calendar year.

Along with the above comments and policy questions, the SAC generally approved the recommendation of the Technical Memorandum in response to DWR's review of the 2025 GSP and Periodic Review. A motion by Haslett was seconded by DeBranch and passed unanimously.

10, b) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area

The Initial Assessment process to recognise areas of irrigated acreage outside of the CMA that maybe contributing to basinwide overdraft is being employed for the first time and it revealed the following observations from the Committee and Stakeholders:

- **Better Map Visuals:** The request was made (not for the first time) for clearer landmarks to be included on maps, such as major roads and drainages, rather than just satellite view.
- **Overdraft Needs to be Defined:** A clear and quantitative definition of Overdraft outside the CMA is needed for this Initial Assessment. It was recognised that a single year-on-year comparison is not sufficient to describe a trend and yet the 50 year model simulation is not any better and accurately recognizes potential overdraft. Specific conditions such as well depth, amount of irrigated acreage, seasonality, and land use changes must be part of this definition. An Initial Assessment must be followed by ground truthing.
- **Identify the Overdraft:** If the Model suggests that some amount of pumping outside the CMA that may be contributing to basinwide overdraft then this process must identify and manage that contribution to the overdraft for sustainability. If after ground truthing the Initial Assessment, long term contribution to basinwide overdraft is not found, then the model estimates should be viewed with skepticism. It was felt that without strong guardrails, growers could keep adding wells and irrigating new acres outside the CMA. If changes in land use cause rapid changes in groundwater elevations this must be recognised and managed quickly. The Committee agrees with the next step of ground

truthing the two parcels as indicated in the initial assessment summary (map on page 80 of GSA packet).

10, c) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Fiscal Year 2026-20267 Budget and Cash Flow

The SAC reviewed the draft budget and commented on some of the options including the options for cost savings with the SAC. The SAC did not review the cash flow or fee options. The following comments were made by committee members and stakeholders.

- **Allocations vs. Adjudication:** Some of the biggest price tag options are for model improvements for the purpose of developing allocations outside of the CMA. However the Court is also determining basinwide allocations in the Adjudication. How much money must we spend on duplication of the Court's anticipated allocations?
- **Recalibration vs. Data Updating:** Brian Van Linden suggested that the cost to simply update recent data and recalibrate the Model would be ~\$200K. The cost of these Model Improvements is an additional (optional) ~\$600K. Would this extra expense be of any benefit if the allocations are developed by the Court?
- **Collaboration and Cooperation with the Court:** What is the process for providing this information to the Judge to assist in the Adjudication for the benefit of sustainability in the Basin as a whole? This \$1.8 Million budget is raised from basin stakeholders for a public process that should be vigorously advocated for and represented to the Court and yet technical analysis, pumping data and the GSP has been under-represented to the Judge.
- **Cost Cutting at the SAC:** The Committee understands the need for efficient use of our financial resources. Staff time is valuable and can be viewed as a finite resource. Although we highly value Hallmark's critical meeting facilitation, a three-hour limit to technical support staff can be accommodated without a problem. It was felt that a brief legal update in-person or written, of 15 minutes or less would be reasonable and helpful.

A motion to approve option 5 in attachment 2 with a brief legal update at the start of the meeting when appropriate. The motion was made by Joe Haslett and seconded by Jean Gillard and passed with one dissent from Brad Debranch.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenton Kelly
SAC Chair

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors Meeting

March 4, 2026

Draft Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Directors

Jackson, Steve– Chair
Anselm, Arne – Vice Chair
Bantilan, Cory – Treasurer
Young, Matthew – Secretary
Ellsworth, Mark
Grant, Brian
Reely, Blaine – Alternate
Richardson, Kyle
Williams, Debbie
Yurosek, Derek
Zenger, Katelyn

Staff

Bianchi, Grace – Hallmark Group
Blakslee, Taylor –Executive Director, Hallmark Group
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel
Van Lienden, Brian – Woodard & Curran

1. Call to Order

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Chair Cory Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Bianchi called roll (shown above) and informed Chair Jackson that there was a quorum of the Board.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jackson.

4. Meeting Protocols

Ms. Bianchi provided an overview of the meeting protocols.

5. CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 12:40 p.m. to discuss the following items.

- a. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Public Employment (Gov. Code section 54957)**

Title: General Counsel

b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1)

- a) Bolthouse Land Company, LLC, et al v. All Persons Claiming a Right to Extract or Store Groundwater in the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (BCV-21-101927)

6. Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

Submitted to the CBGSA Board of Directors on January 14, 2026

By: Brenton Kelly, SAC Chair

The Standing Advisory Committee met at the Family Resource Center in a hybrid format, with two Committee Members present in person, three on the conference line, and two members absent. GSA Staff Taylor Blakeslee and Project Coordinator Grace Bianchi were present, and they were joined by Brian Van Lienden on the call. One stakeholder was in the room, with many more on the video conference.

During public comment on items not on the agenda, Committee Member Dave Lewis reiterated his concern that the current Allocation Methodology, which is based exclusively on historic groundwater extraction of a farm, is unfair to small farmers and does not support the best interests of the majority of beneficial users in the basin. The SAC meeting lasted three hours and included discussion and review of GSP implementation. The Committee also conducted a high-level review of the FY 2026–2027 budget and provided recommendations, including approval of the Annual Report.

10.a) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on DWR Review of GSP and Periodic Evaluation

Committee Member Jaffe asked if staff was surprised by any of DWR's comments. Mr. Blakeslee responded that he was surprised by the number of comments and noted that most requested clarification or justification for policy-level items, including changes to minimum thresholds, lack of nitrate and arsenic monitoring, subsidence SMC methodology, and timing of incorporating new dedicated monitoring wells into the model.

Chair Kelly asked about incorporation of metered pumping data into the groundwater model. Mr. Van Lienden responded that the model simulates long-term historical and projected conditions and uses metered data for calibration rather than as direct inputs. Chair Kelly also asked whether the model will better reflect which wells irrigate specific fields. Mr. Van Lienden stated that this information is used when available, but assumptions are required in cases such as farming units.

Committee Member Gaillard asked whether DWR oversees GSA governance or Board composition and expressed concern about lack of local representation. Mr. Blakeslee responded that DWR focuses on SGMA compliance and does not weigh in on Board composition. Concern was expressed regarding reduced local family farm representation and influence from corporate plaintiffs in the adjudication.

Stakeholder Jane Wooster asked whether the model is more accurate for small irrigators. Staff indicated this may be the case. Mr. Van Lienden explained that single-

well fields provide clearer data, while multiple-well operations introduce more uncertainty.

10.b) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area

Mr. Blakeslee stated that land use and well permit data are still being compiled and are not yet available. He noted that groundwater elevation changes indicate slight increased pumping in the Ventucopa and Ozena areas.

Chair Kelly disagreed with this interpretation. He referenced hydrographs showing groundwater levels rising 90 feet and declining 20 feet, and raised concern that the Annual Report map understates issues in some areas while overstating others. He cited Opti Well 99, where groundwater levels declined over 80 feet before partial recovery, resulting in a net decline of about 30 feet. He emphasized the need to evaluate long-term trends rather than short-term seasonal changes.

The Committee acknowledged that seasonal fluctuations are common and not always indicative of overdraft, but long-term declines should be treated as a concern.

10.c) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on FY 2026–2027 Strategic Plan and Budget Components

The SAC reviewed next year’s budget priorities and provided input.

Committee Member Jaffe noted that two-thirds of the budget ad hoc committee are new to the GSA and that budget development would benefit from historical context. She expressed concern about the adjudication line item and emphasized the need to present strong technical data in court. She also prioritized improvements to the allocation exchange policy and evaluation of a variance pool.

Committee Member DeBranch stated that past budgets relied heavily on grant funding and recommended prioritizing essential data collection and regulatory compliance over higher-cost studies.

Chair Kelly asked whether costs could be reduced by using water quality data from the Irrigated Lands Program.

Stakeholder Byron Albano confirmed that agricultural wells already report water quality data through that program and suggested the GSA use this data to supplement monitoring and reduce duplication. He recommended coordination with Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

10.d) Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Water Year 2024–2025 Annual Report

Committee Member Jaffe asked whether a 24,000 AF reduction in groundwater storage is a concern. Mr. Van Lienden stated that dry conditions and increased pumping contributed to the decline, but long-term trends remain within expected variability. Staff noted the challenge of reversing long-term trends. Some SAC members expressed concern that ongoing declines are treated as acceptable.

Chair Kelly stated that the report does not fully reflect ongoing overdraft conditions and declining well levels. The SAC approved the Annual Report following a motion and second.

11.a.i) Report on 2025 Basin-wide Groundwater Use, 2025 CMA Allocation Compliance, and CMA Groundwater Allocation Exchanges

Committee Member DeBranch asked about differences between modeled and reported pumping. Staff clarified that the difference results from water year versus calendar year reporting periods.

Mr. Blakeslee reported that two landowners exceeded their allocations and may face penalties. Committee Member Haslett suggested waiving penalties for one landowner due to prior allocation errors.

Committee Member Jaffe noted that despite a 10 percent reduction in pumping, only 58 percent of allocations were used. She suggested using unused allocations to support a variance pool or exchange program.

Committee Member DeBranch stated that the unused allocation gap will narrow over time.

Chair Kelly stated that available allocations should support exchanges, but current policy limits transactions. The SAC and stakeholders expressed frustration that the GSA is not facilitating allocation exchanges.

CONSENT AGENDA

7-9. Consent Agenda

Chair Jackson asked if any Directors wanted to move any of the consent items out to discuss in more detail.

Mr. Blakslee noted that the payment of bills included costs for CIMIS station installations, which exceeded initial estimates but remained within budget capacity.

MOTION

Director Anselm made a motion to approve the consent agenda item nos. 8-10. The motion was seconded by Director Yurosek. A roll call vote was made and the motion passed unanimously.

- AYES: Anselm, Bantilan, Ellsworth, Grant, Jackson, Richardson, Reely, Williams, Young, Yurosek, Zenger
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: None

ACTION ITEMS

10. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

a. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on DWR Review of GSP and Periodic Evaluation

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the Department of Water Resource’s review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Periodic Evaluation. He explained that staff categorized comments as clarifications, additional information, technical analysis, or policy issues, and that a formal response is due July 31, 2026, with Board approval anticipated in May.

SAC Chair Brenton Kelly provided the SAC report.

Director Anselm asked whether DWR has increased its focus on beneficial users. Mr. Blakslee responded that while this has always been a priority under SGMA, DWR appears to be placing greater emphasis on it in recent reviews.

Director Reely asked about nitrate testing under agricultural programs. Mr. Blakslee responded that data is collected through existing programs but is not comprehensive across all monitoring wells.

Director Yurosek asked if the board will have another opportunity to approve the response to DWR. Mr. Blakslee responded that the response to DWR will be brought to the board for approval in May.

b. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area

Mr. Blakslee reviewed the background regarding the evaluation of potential areas of overdraft outside the Central Management Area (CMA). He reviewed the initial assessment of groundwater pumping, groundwater levels, and land use / well permitting. He noted that staff will return with the evaluation in May.

Mr. Blakslee also requested Board direction on improving timely groundwater use reporting, noting delays in receiving required data.

Director Grant asked whether the Agency has authority to impose late fees. Legal Counsel Hughes confirmed that the Agency has that authority.

Director Williams expressed support for implementing late fees to improve compliance.

Director Young suggested more frequent reporting, such as quarterly submissions, to improve consistency.

Chair Jackson directed staff to prepare options for the board at the upcoming meeting.

Stakeholder Byron Albano commented that more frequent reporting would increase burden on landowners and expressed preference for late fees instead.

Director Anselm noted that increased reporting frequency would also increase staff workload and costs.

SAC Chair Kelly provided the SAC report on this item.

Director Yurosek expressed concern about unmanaged increases in pumping outside the CMA and suggested that this reflects limitations in current management tools.

Stakeholder Casey Walsh noted discrepancies between hydrographs and mapped groundwater level changes and questioned the use of color classifications.

Stakeholder Byron Albano stated that the term "overdraft" may be misleading when

describing short-term groundwater level changes.

The board re-entered closed session at 3:30 p.m. and resumed regular session at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Blakslee reported that a motion was made by Director Yurosek and seconded by Director Williams to retain Hanson Bridgett for General and Adjudication Counsel, subject to clearing any conflicts and negotiating the best fee for that contract.

Stakeholder Byron Albano asked for the lead attorney's name. Mr. Blakslee responded that it is Claire Collins.

Stakeholder Lynn Carlisle asked about the conflict review process. Legal Counsel Hughes explained that conflicts are identified and resolved as part of standard legal procedures.

c. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on FY 2026-2027 Strategic Plan and Budget Components

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the fiscal year 2026-2026 budget components, including the staff and ad hoc recommendations.

SAC Chair Kelly provided the SAC report on this item.

Stakeholder Adam Lovgren asked whether allocation transfers have occurred and whether irrigation efficiency data could be incorporated into modeling.

Mr. Blakslee responded that staff can evaluate potential incorporation.

d. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Water Year 2024-2025 Annual Report

Mr. Van Lienden presented the draft Annual Report, including updates on groundwater conditions and modeling results.

SAC Chair Kelly provided the SAC Report on this item.

Director Reely asked whether increased groundwater pumping is related to dry year conditions. Mr. Van Lienden responded that dry conditions likely contributed to increased pumping.

Stakeholder Byron Albano asked about the timeframe of modeled extractions. Mr. Van Lienden explained that the model reflects defined reporting periods and assumptions.

Stakeholder Adam Lovgren asked whether the model can predict basin storage. Mr. Van Lienden responded that additional analysis would be required to assess storage predictions.

Stakeholder Lynn Carlie asked about methods used to estimate groundwater extraction.

MOTION

Director Ellsworth moved to approve draft Annual Report for Water Year 2024-2025. The motion was seconded by Director Reely. A roll call vote was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Anselm, Bantilan, Ellsworth, Grant, Jackson, Richardson, Reely,
Williams, Young, Yurosek, Zenger

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

e. Report on Central Management Area Allocations and Authorize Penalty Fees

Mr. Blakslee reviewed the allocation policy and recommended authorization of penalty fees for exceedances.

SAC Chair Kelly provided the SAC report on the allocation exceedances.

Director Young suggested considering a threshold-based approach rather than a percentage-based overage.

MOTION

Director Young made a motion to authorize the penalty fees. The motion was seconded by Director Zenger. A roll call vote was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Anselm, Bantilan, Ellsworth, Grant, Jackson, Richardson, Reely,
Williams, Young, Yurosek, Zenger

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Stakeholder Byron Albano stated that upcoming allocations may significantly impact small landowners.

REPORT ITEMS**11. Administrative Updates****a. Report of the Executive Director**

Nothing to report.

b. Report of the General Counsel

Nothing to report.

12. Technical Updates**a. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities**

Mr. Van Lienden noted that these updates are included in the board packet.

b. Update on Grant-Funded Projects

Mr. Van Lienden briefly reported that CIMIS stations are expected to be installed by February.

13. Report of Ad Hoc Committees

Nothing to report.

14. Directors' Forum

Director Young requested consideration of a tiered exceedance structure and volunteered to participate in an ad hoc committee.

15. Public comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Stakeholder Adam Lovgren asked if the board is interested in a true up period to allow the landowners to do allocation exchange.

16. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

17. Adjourn

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair: _____

ATTEST:

Secretary: _____



O: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 8

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Payment of Bills for February and March 2026

Recommended Motion

Approve payment of the bills for February and March 2026 in the amount of \$187,904.

Discussion

Consultant invoices for the months of February and March 2026 are summarized below for consideration of Board approval.

Expense	February	March	Totals
Woodard & Curran – Technical Services	\$63,955	\$26,176	\$ 90,131
Hallmark – Executive Director Services	\$19,741	\$18,328	\$ 38,069
Insurica – Insurance	\$0	\$23,613	\$ 23,613
Klein DeNatale Goldner – Legal Services	\$12,673	\$8,800	\$ 21,473
US Geological Survey – Stream Gauges	\$0	\$13,150	\$ 13,150
Provost & Pritchard – Quarterly groundwater levels	\$1,230	\$238	\$ 1,468
TOTALS	\$97,599	\$ 90,305	\$187,904



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Financial Reports for February and March 2026

Recommended Motion

Approve financial reports for February and March 2026.

Discussion

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's financial report for February 2026 is provided as **Attachment 1** and the financial report for March 2026 is provided as **Attachment 2**.

The reports include:

- Statement of Financial Position
- Receipts and Disbursements
- A/R Aging Summary
- A/P Aging Summary
- Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
- Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Operating Budget



Cuyama Basin GSA

Financial Statements February 2026

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Financial Position
As of February 28, 2026

	Feb 28, 26	Feb 28, 25	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Chase - General Checking	899,475	1,573,388	-673,913	-43%
Total Checking/Savings	899,475	1,573,388	-673,913	-43%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	0	623,687	-623,687	-100%
Total Accounts Receivable	0	623,687	-623,687	-100%
Other Current Assets				
Grant Retention Receivable	760,000	172,527	587,473	341%
Total Other Current Assets	760,000	172,527	587,473	341%
Total Current Assets	1,659,475	2,369,601	-710,126	-30%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,659,475	2,369,601	-710,126	-30%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	352,681	386,615	-33,933	-9%
Total Accounts Payable	352,681	386,615	-33,933	-9%
Other Current Liabilities				
New/Repl Well Deposits	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Total Other Current Liabilities	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Total Current Liabilities	352,681	389,715	-37,033	-10%
Total Liabilities	352,681	389,715	-37,033	-10%
Equity				
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,022,095	2,346,115	-324,020	-14%
Net Income	-715,301	-366,229	-349,072	-95%
Total Equity	1,306,793	1,979,886	-673,093	-34%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,659,475	2,369,601	-710,126	-30%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Receipts and Disbursements
 As of February 28, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Debit	Credit
Chase - General Checking					
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1223	HGCPM, Inc.		41,881.43
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1224	Klein DeNatale Goldner		34,078.41
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1225	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		11,231.19
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1226	Woodard & Curran Inc		86,576.03
Payment	07/18/2025	25335	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Yeguada Trujillo	165.25	
Payment	07/18/2025	542062	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Grimmway Enterprises, Inc	66,896.75	
Payment	07/18/2025	10608	Groundwater Extraction Fees:JHP Global, Inc	1,771.50	
Payment	07/18/2025	2616	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Tri-County Pistachios	5,450.00	
Payment	07/18/2025	53647	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Cuyama Dairy Farm	1,711.65	
Deposit	07/18/2025	*		13.20	
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1227	HGCPM, Inc.		33,724.66
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1228	Klein DeNatale Goldner		18,160.50
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1229	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		12,886.35
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1230	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1231	Woodard & Curran Inc		73,258.46
Bill Pmt -Check	09/22/2025	1232	Campbell Scientific Inc.		20,267.35
Payment	09/24/2025	84963	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Duncan Family Farms	263.40	
Payment	10/22/2025	44177	Groundwater Extraction Fees:El Rancho Espanol	15.84	
Deposit	11/05/2025	*		602.07	
Payment	11/14/2025	864	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Lewis, David	246.64	
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1233	Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock		9,500.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1234	HGCPM, Inc.		54,312.10
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1235	Klein DeNatale Goldner		35,504.59
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1236	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		8,794.77
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1237	Woodard & Curran Inc		87,910.91
Deposit	11/25/2025	*		3.97	
Payment	12/10/2025	26727	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Yeguada Trujillo	4,791.38	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/16/2025	1238	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Payment	01/16/2026	2381	Cambell Scientific Inc	1,239.83	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1239	Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock		1,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1240	HGCPM, Inc.		55,297.75
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1241	Klein DeNatale Goldner		28,598.91
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1242	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		18,537.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1243	Sunridge Nurseries, Inc		54,054.53
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1244	Woodard & Curran Inc		160,133.63
Payment	01/28/2026	1053	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Double H Farming, LLC	567.50	
Total Chase - General Checking				<u>83,738.98</u>	<u>872,008.57</u>
TOTAL				<u>83,738.98</u>	<u>872,008.57</u>

* Miscellaneous deposits consist of interest income from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
A/P Aging Summary
As of February 28, 2026

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	> 90	TOTAL
CA Assoc of Mutual Water Companies	0	0	100	0	0	100
Cuyama Orchards, Inc	0	0	35,425	0	0	35,425
HGCPM, Inc.	19,741	27,642	12,817	0	0	60,200
Klein DeNatale Goldner	12,673	17,081	6,217	0	0	35,971
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group	1,230	9,844	4,876	0	0	15,950
U.S. Geological Survey	0	0	13,150	0	0	13,150
Woodard & Curran Inc	63,955	88,096	39,834	0	0	191,885
TOTAL	97,599	142,664	112,419	0	0	352,681

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
July 2025 through February 2026

	Jul '25 - Feb 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Direct Public Funds				
Groundwater Extraction Fees	184,110	180,000	4,110	102%
Grant Reimbursements	72,336	72,336	-0	100%
GWE Late Fees	1,243	0	1,243	100%
Total Direct Public Funds	257,689	252,336	5,353	102%
Other Income				
Interest Income	619	0	619	100%
Total Other Income	619	0	619	100%
Total Income	258,308	252,336	5,972	102%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Program Expenses				
Technical Consulting				
Adjudication Support	0	25,700	-25,700	0%
GSP Implementation - W&C	158,657	139,332	19,325	114%
Stakeholder Engagement	73,996	64,800	9,196	114%
Technical Support for DWR	0	6,668	-6,668	0%
Outreach	0	14,068	-14,068	0%
Grant Administration	28,260	30,000	-1,740	94%
Improve Basin Water Use Info	18,899	12,668	6,231	149%
Fault Investigation	148,578	0	148,578	100%
Other Technical Tasks	51,316	176,000	-124,684	29%
Total Technical Consulting	479,706	469,236	10,470	102%
Other Technical Consulting				
Monitoring Network	55,572	50,000	5,572	111%
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	26,300	26,600	-300	99%
CIMIS Station	112,877	64,800	48,077	174%
Total Other Technical Consulting	194,749	141,400	53,349	138%
Total Program Expenses	674,455	610,636	63,819	110%
Total COGS	674,455	610,636	63,819	110%
Gross Profit	-416,147	-358,300	-57,847	116%
Expense				
General and Administrative				
Executive Director				
Board Meetings	79,190	91,100	-11,910	87%
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	58,813	33,340	25,473	176%
Financial Information Coor	21,479	31,200	-9,721	69%
Support for DWR/Public Comments	0	9,400	-9,400	0%
Funding - GWE Fees	4,708	1,000	3,708	471%
CMA Policy and Allocations	593	23,500	-22,908	3%
Outreach	6,471	13,668	-7,197	47%
Adjudication Support	3,762	16,068	-12,307	23%
Water Use Enforcement	0	1,332	-1,332	0%
Travel and Direct Costs	3,340	0	3,340	100%
Total Executive Director	178,354	220,608	-42,254	81%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
July 2025 through February 2026

	Jul '25 - Feb 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Other Administrative				
Legal	103,124	166,668	-63,545	62%
Audit Fees	10,500	10,000	500	105%
Printing and Copying	3,782	3,400	382	111%
Other Admin Expense	3,395	4,200	-805	81%
Contingency	0	13,332	-13,332	0%
Total Other Administrative	120,800	197,600	-76,800	61%
Total General and Administrative	299,154	418,208	-119,054	72%
Total Expense	299,154	418,208	-119,054	72%
Net Ordinary Income	-715,301	-776,508	61,207	92%
Net Income	-715,301	-776,508	61,207	92%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
FY 25/26 Budget
 July 2025 - June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Funds	
Groundwater Extraction Fees	180,000
Grant Reimbursements	72,336
Total Direct Public Funds	252,336
Total Income	252,336
Cost of Goods Sold	
Program Expenses	
Technical Consulting	
Adjudication Support	38,500
GSP Implementation - W&C	209,000
Stakeholder Engagement	97,200
Technical Support for DWR	10,000
Outreach	21,100
Grant Proposals	45,100
Grant Administration	30,000
Improve Basin Water Use Info	19,000
Other Technical Tasks	262,100
Total Technical Consulting	732,000
Other Technical Consulting	
Monitoring Network	75,000
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	53,200
CIMIS Station	74,000
Total Other Technical Consulting	202,200
Total Program Expenses	934,200
Total COGS	934,200
Gross Profit	-681,864
Expense	
General and Administrative	
Executive Director	
Board Meetings	136,700
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	50,000
Financial Information Coor	46,800
Support for DWR/Public Comments	14,100
Funding - GWE Fees	12,000
CMA Policy and Allocations	24,500
Outreach	20,500
Adjudication Support	24,100
Water Use Enforcement	2,000
Total Executive Director	330,700
Other Administrative	
Legal	250,000
Insurance Policies	21,400
Audit Fees	10,000
Printing and Copying	5,000
Other Admin Expense	4,200
Contingency	20,000
Total Other Administrative	310,600
Total General and Administrative	641,300
Total Expense	641,300
Net Ordinary Income	-1,323,164
Net Income	-1,323,164



Cuyama Basin GSA

Financial Statements March 2026

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2026

	Mar 31, 26	Mar 31, 25	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Chase - General Checking	644,393	1,270,227	-625,834	-49%
Total Checking/Savings	644,393	1,270,227	-625,834	-49%
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	0	623,687	-623,687	-100%
Total Accounts Receivable	0	623,687	-623,687	-100%
Other Current Assets				
Grant Retention Receivable	760,000	554,810	205,190	37%
Total Other Current Assets	760,000	554,810	205,190	37%
Total Current Assets	1,404,393	2,448,724	-1,044,331	-43%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,404,393	2,448,724	-1,044,331	-43%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	187,904	306,904	-119,000	-39%
Total Accounts Payable	187,904	306,904	-119,000	-39%
Other Current Liabilities				
New/Repl Well Deposits	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Total Other Current Liabilities	0	3,100	-3,100	-100%
Total Current Liabilities	187,904	310,004	-122,100	-39%
Total Liabilities	187,904	310,004	-122,100	-39%
Equity				
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,022,095	2,346,115	-324,020	-14%
Net Income	-805,606	-207,395	-598,211	-288%
Total Equity	1,216,489	2,138,720	-922,231	-43%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,404,393	2,448,724	-1,044,331	-43%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA Receipts and Disbursements

As of March 31, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Debit	Credit
Chase - General Checking					
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1223	HGCPM, Inc.		41,881.43
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1224	Klein DeNatale Goldner		34,078.41
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1225	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		11,231.19
Bill Pmt -Check	07/09/2025	1226	Woodard & Curran Inc		86,576.03
Payment	07/18/2025	25335	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Yeguada Trujillo	165.25	
Payment	07/18/2025	542062	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Grimmway Enterprises, Inc	66,896.75	
Payment	07/18/2025	10608	Groundwater Extraction Fees:JHP Global, Inc	1,771.50	
Payment	07/18/2025	2616	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Tri-County Pistachios	5,450.00	
Payment	07/18/2025	53647	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Cuyama Dairy Farm	1,711.65	
Deposit	07/18/2025	*		13.20	
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1227	HGCPM, Inc.		33,724.66
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1228	Klein DeNatale Goldner		18,160.50
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1229	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		12,886.35
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1230	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	09/05/2025	1231	Woodard & Curran Inc		73,258.46
Bill Pmt -Check	09/22/2025	1232	Campbell Scientific Inc.		20,267.35
Payment	09/24/2025	84963	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Duncan Family Farms	263.40	
Payment	10/22/2025	44177	Groundwater Extraction Fees:El Rancho Espanol	15.84	
Deposit	11/05/2025	*		602.07	
Payment	11/14/2025	864	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Lewis, David	246.64	
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1233	Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock		9,500.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1234	HGCPM, Inc.		54,312.10
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1235	Klein DeNatale Goldner		35,504.59
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1236	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		8,794.77
Bill Pmt -Check	11/18/2025	1237	Woodard & Curran Inc		87,910.91
Deposit	11/25/2025	*		3.97	
Payment	12/10/2025	26727	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Yeguada Trujillo	4,791.38	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/16/2025	1238	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Payment	01/16/2026	2381	Cambell Scientific Inc	1,239.83	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1239	Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock		1,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1240	HGCPM, Inc.		55,297.75
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1241	Klein DeNatale Goldner		28,598.91
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1242	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		18,537.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1243	Sunridge Nurseries, Inc		54,054.53
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2026	1244	Woodard & Curran Inc		160,133.63
Payment	01/28/2026	1053	Groundwater Extraction Fees:Double H Farming, LLC	567.50	
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1245	CA Assoc of Mutual Water Companies		100.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1246	Cuyama Orchards, Inc		35,425.05
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1247	HGCPM, Inc.		40,458.71
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1248	Klein DeNatale Goldner		23,298.20
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1249	Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group		14,720.18
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1250	U.S. Geological Survey		13,150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/10/2026	1251	Woodard & Curran Inc		127,930.00
Total Chase - General Checking				83,738.98	1,127,090.71
TOTAL				83,738.98	1,127,090.71

* Miscellaneous deposits consist of interest income from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
A/P Aging Summary
As of March 31, 2026

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	> 90	TOTAL
HGCPM, Inc.	18,328	0	19,741	0	0	38,069
Insurica	23,613	0	0	0	0	23,613
Klein DeNatale Goldner	8,800	0	12,673	0	0	21,473
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group	238	0	1,230	0	0	1,468
U.S. Geological Survey	13,150	0	0	0	0	13,150
Woodard & Curran Inc	26,176	0	63,955	0	0	90,131
TOTAL	90,305	0	97,599	0	0	187,904

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
July 2025 through March 2026

	Jul '25 - Mar 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Direct Public Funds				
Groundwater Extraction Fees	184,110	180,000	4,110	102%
Grant Reimbursements	72,336	72,336	-0	100%
GWE Late Fees	1,243	0	1,243	100%
Total Direct Public Funds	257,689	252,336	5,353	102%
Other Income				
Interest Income	619	0	619	100%
Total Other Income	619	0	619	100%
Total Income	258,308	252,336	5,972	102%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Program Expenses				
Technical Consulting				
Adjudication Support	813	28,900	-28,088	3%
GSP Implementation - W&C	169,875	156,749	13,126	108%
Stakeholder Engagement	83,238	72,900	10,338	114%
Technical Support for DWR	0	7,501	-7,501	0%
Outreach	0	15,826	-15,826	0%
Grant Administration	29,925	30,000	-75	100%
Improve Basin Water Use Info	18,899	14,251	4,648	133%
Fault Investigation	151,261	0	151,261	100%
Other Technical Tasks	51,871	198,000	-146,129	26%
Total Technical Consulting	505,882	524,127	-18,245	97%
Other Technical Consulting				
Monitoring Network	55,810	56,250	-440	99%
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	39,450	39,900	-450	99%
CIMIS Station	114,693	67,100	47,593	171%
Total Other Technical Consulting	209,952	163,250	46,702	129%
Total Program Expenses	715,834	687,377	28,457	104%
Total COGS	715,834	687,377	28,457	104%
Gross Profit	-457,526	-435,041	-22,485	105%
Expense				
General and Administrative				
Executive Director				
Board Meetings	89,026	102,500	-13,474	87%
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	61,904	37,505	24,399	165%
Financial Information Coor	22,389	35,100	-12,711	64%
Support for DWR/Public Comments	463	10,575	-10,113	4%
Funding - GWE Fees	4,800	3,500	1,300	137%
CMA Policy and Allocations	1,148	24,000	-22,853	5%
Outreach	7,656	15,376	-7,720	50%
Adjudication Support	3,762	18,076	-14,315	21%
Water Use Enforcement	0	1,499	-1,499	0%
Travel and Direct Costs	3,694	0	3,694	100%
Total Executive Director	194,841	248,131	-53,290	79%

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
Statement of Operations with Budget Variance
July 2025 through March 2026

	<u>Jul '25 - Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Other Administrative				
Legal	111,879	187,501	-75,623	60%
Insurance Policies	23,613	21,400	2,213	110%
Audit Fees	10,500	10,000	500	105%
Printing and Copying	3,807	3,800	7	100%
Other Admin Expense	3,440	4,200	-760	82%
Contingency	0	14,999	-14,999	0%
Total Other Administrative	<u>153,239</u>	<u>241,900</u>	<u>-88,661</u>	<u>63%</u>
Total General and Administrative	<u>348,080</u>	<u>490,031</u>	<u>-141,951</u>	<u>71%</u>
Total Expense	<u>348,080</u>	<u>490,031</u>	<u>-141,951</u>	<u>71%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-805,606</u>	<u>-925,072</u>	<u>119,466</u>	<u>87%</u>
Net Income	<u>-805,606</u>	<u>-925,072</u>	<u>119,466</u>	<u>87%</u>

CUYAMA BASIN GSA
FY 25/26 Budget
 July 2025 - June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Funds	
Groundwater Extraction Fees	180,000
Grant Reimbursements	72,336
Total Direct Public Funds	252,336
Total Income	252,336
Cost of Goods Sold	
Program Expenses	
Technical Consulting	
Adjudication Support	38,500
GSP Implementation - W&C	209,000
Stakeholder Engagement	97,200
Technical Support for DWR	10,000
Outreach	21,100
Grant Proposals	45,100
Grant Administration	30,000
Improve Basin Water Use Info	19,000
Other Technical Tasks	262,100
Total Technical Consulting	732,000
Other Technical Consulting	
Monitoring Network	75,000
Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)	53,200
CIMIS Station	74,000
Total Other Technical Consulting	202,200
Total Program Expenses	934,200
Total COGS	934,200
Gross Profit	-681,864
Expense	
General and Administrative	
Executive Director	
Board Meetings	136,700
Consult Mgmt and GSP Devel	50,000
Financial Information Coor	46,800
Support for DWR/Public Comments	14,100
Funding - GWE Fees	12,000
CMA Policy and Allocations	24,500
Outreach	20,500
Adjudication Support	24,100
Water Use Enforcement	2,000
Total Executive Director	330,700
Other Administrative	
Legal	250,000
Insurance Policies	21,400
Audit Fees	10,000
Printing and Copying	5,000
Other Admin Expense	4,200
Contingency	20,000
Total Other Administrative	310,600
Total General and Administrative	641,300
Total Expense	641,300
Net Ordinary Income	-1,323,164
Net Income	-1,323,164



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 10a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee / Brian Van Lienden

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on GSA Response to DWR's Additional Information Request Regarding their Review of the Amended 2025 GSP and Periodic Evaluation

Recommended Motion

Submit the GSP responses to DWR.

Discussion

On January 9, 2026, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued a letter requesting additional information as part of its review of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies' 2025 Periodic Review and amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) with a due date of July 31, 2026.

On February 6, 2026, a board ad hoc (Directors Anselm, Bantilan, Jackson, Yurosek, Williams) met with staff and DWR to review and discuss DWR's information request. Following that meeting, staff developed responses to DWR's questions in the form of a technical memo which was reviewed with the ad hoc. A summary of DWR's questions and the CBGSA response is provided as **Attachment 1**, and the detailed technical memo to be considered for submission to DWR is provided as **Attachment 2**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on GSA Response to DWR's Additional Information Request Regarding their Review of the Amended 2025 GSP and Periodic Evaluation



Background

- On January 9, 2026, the Department of Water Resources issued a letter requesting additional information as part of its 2025 Periodic Review of the Cuyama Valley Basin.
- On February 6, 2026, a board ad hoc (Directors Anselm, Bantilan, Jackson, Yurosek, Williams) met with staff and DWR to review a summary presentation of the letter and additional information requests.
- On April 2, 2026, the board ad hoc met again with DWR to discuss DWR's requests on water quality
- Staff has worked with the ad hoc to develop the draft technical memorandum that includes the requested information
- A final responses from the CBGSA needs to be submitted to DWR by their requested deadline of July 31, 2026.

1. Groundwater Levels SMCs

DWR's Request:

- Explain how undesirable result (UR) definition is protective of beneficial users, what new information was used to update minimum thresholds (MTs), how the well protection method and GDE protection methods were applied to develop updated MTs and how they are protective of GDEs, how changes to MTs will not impact other sustainability indicators, how new information warrants changes to the MTs, and how updated interim milestones (IMs) and measurable objectives (MOs) were developed.

CBGSA Response:

- The UR definition allows the CBGSA the flexibility to identify the cause of MT exceedances and to develop a plan for response per the Adaptive Management approach described in the GSP.
- Previous MT methodology was based on limited data and was overly conservative relative to active well locations and well construction data that is now known and analyzed
- The updated methodology is more reflective of actual Basin conditions
- The TM provides a summary of the updated data available and of the well protection depth and GDE protection depth method and how these were used to develop updated MTs, as well as the methodology for developing IMs and MOs

2. Groundwater Quality: TDS

DWR's Request:

- Explain how undesirable result (UR) definition will not cause significant and unreasonable impacts, how new information warrants changes to the SMCs, and how updated SMCs were developed.

CBGSA Response:

- The UR definition allows the CBGSA the flexibility to identify the cause of MT exceedances and to develop a plan for response per the Adaptive Management approach described in the GSP
- The water quality SMCs in the 2020 GSP were developed based on limited data; additional measurements at each well warranted an update to the SMCs to ensure they are appropriate

3. Groundwater Quality: Nitrate and Arsenic

DWR's Request:

- Provide updates on progress towards development of SMCs for nitrate and arsenic and on the status of the new CCSD well

CBGSA Response:

- Provided a summary of how the CBGSA actively manages for nitrate and arsenic
- Provided an update on the new CCSD well (expected in 2027)
- If there is a significant change in nitrate or arsenic concentrations, the CBGSA will evaluate potential mitigation measures

4. Land Subsidence

DWR's Request:

- Explain impacts related to subsidence, including how the basin will be achieve the measurable objective of zero subsidence, how the amount of total cumulative subsidence which will avoid significant and unreasonable impacts, and how a minimum threshold of 2 inches per year continues to be reasonable.

CBGSA Response:

- The current MT provides an adequate indicator of potential subsidence issues while allowing the Basin operational flexibility
- There is a lack of critical infrastructure in the Basin
- There has been little to no subsidence in recent years
- If measured subsidence increases, the CBGSA will consider additional technical analyses in the future

5. Monitoring

DWR's Request:

- Clarify how missed measurements are factored when determining an undesirable result, reconcile the list of wells and provide the list of TDS water quality RMS wells, and provide a schedule for migrating new wells to become representative monitoring sites

CBGSA Response:

- When developing groundwater conditions reports, if a site is missing a measurement an analysis is performed to assess whether the site has likely exceeded the MT during the missing period.
- An updated list of representative wells was provided to correct for a discrepancy in the GSP.
- A discussion and schedule are provided for the incorporation of new wells into the representative monitoring network.

6. Plan Implementation

DWR's Request:

- Provide target vs. actual allocation data through WY 2024, confirm the baseline, and provide details on annual allocation targets through 2040

CBGSA Response:

- CMA allocations and actual pumping were provided for 2023-2025
- The Baseline for determining allocations was updated due to the model update and re-calibration
- CMA allocations are being implemented on schedule and will bring pumping to the sustainable yield level by 2038

7. Data Reporting

DWR's Request:

- Provide measured extraction data for WY 2020–2024 and justify the use of modeled data over metered data.

CBGSA Response:

- The CBGSA uses both metered landowner-reported data and model estimated data for different purposes
- Landowner-reported data is available from 2022 onwards
- The model is used to estimate extractions for the historical period (1998-2025) and for the future projected period



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Roy Hull, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

CC: Monica Salais, DWR

PREPARED BY: Brian Van Lienden and Micah Eggleton, Woodard & Curran

REVIEWED BY: Jim Blanke, Woodard & Curran and Taylor Blakslee, The Hallmark Group

DATE: April 23, 2026

RE: Additional Information for the Cuyama Valley Basin 2025 Periodic Review - DRAFT

In 2017, in response to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) was formed. The CBGSA is a joint-powers agency that is comprised of Kern, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties, the Cuyama Community Services District and the Cuyama Basin Water District. The CBGSA is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors.

SGMA requires that the CBGSA develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that achieves groundwater sustainability in the Cuyama Basin (Basin) by the year 2040. The Cuyama Basin GSP was adopted on December 4, 2019 by the CBGSA Board and submitted to DWR on January 28, 2020. On January 21, 2021, DWR determined that the GSP was "incomplete" and recommended that the CBGSA amend the GSP to address four corrective actions. To address these corrective actions, CBGSA developed supplemental sections to the GSP and resubmitted to DWR on July 18, 2022. On March 2, 2023, DWR announced that the Revised GSP had been Approved.

Section 355.6 of the SGMA Regulations requires a Periodic Evaluation (PE) every 5 years after submittal of the original GSP. DWR evaluates the PE, annual reports, and latest GSP to assess whether the Plan as implemented remains consistent with the SGMA Regulations and is being implemented in a manner that will likely achieve the sustainability goal for the Basin. In January 2025, the CBGSA adopted and submitted an updated 2025 Cuyama Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (2025 GSP) and an accompanying 2025 PE.

On January 9, 2026, DWR sent a letter to the CBGSA requesting additional information to help in their evaluation of the 2025 GSP and 2025 PE. The information requested includes:

1. *Groundwater Levels (GWL) Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)*
 - **SMC update justification:** Provide justification for the change in minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for groundwater levels.
 - **Minimum thresholds:** Provide a discussion of how the updated minimum thresholds may impact beneficial uses and users.

- **Relationship with other sustainability indicators:** Provide information regarding the relationship or effects the groundwater level minimum thresholds have with other sustainability indicators.
 - **Measurable objectives and interim milestones:** Provide details regarding the process of establishing measurable objectives and interim milestones.
2. *Groundwater Quality: Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)*
 - **Significant and unreasonable effects:** Explain how undesirable result definition of two years will not cause significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users.
 - **SMC update justification:** Provide justification on why it was necessary to update the water quality minimum thresholds.
 - **Minimum thresholds:** Provide a discussion of how the updated minimum thresholds may impact beneficial uses and users.
 3. *Groundwater Quality: Nitrate and Arsenic*
 - **SMC development:** Provide justification for not establishing SMCs.
 4. *Land Subsidence*
 - **Minimum thresholds:** Clarify and justify the current minimum threshold that appears to have an incremental 2 inches per year increase.
 - Identification of critical infrastructure.
 5. *Monitoring*
 - **Coverage and measurements missed:** There are water quality (arsenic and nitrates) monitoring coverage concerns and how the missed measurements for groundwater levels were considered for identifying undesirable results.
 6. *Plan Implementation*
 - **Management Action 2 – pumping allocations:** Clarify the timelines and the specific actions the GSA plans to take if it does not meet its allocation targets.
 7. *Data Reporting*
 - **Extraction reporting:** Clarify and justify the use of modelled data over metered extraction data and reporting periods, i.e., water year, calendar year.

After transmitting the request, DWR held two meetings with the CBGSA to discuss the information request and to provide clarification and context on its questions pertaining to the 2025 GSP and 2025 PE. During these meetings, DWR provided more specific requests for each of the above categories; the more detailed requests are provided at the top of each section below. This memorandum is intended to provide the information requested by DWR in the January 2026 letter and in the subsequent DWR-CBGSA meetings.

1. GROUNDWATER LEVELS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

Request:

- A. Provide a detailed explanation for how the groundwater level (and water quality) quantitative definition is to be used to monitor conditions and determine when an undesirable result has occurred. Explain any differences between two years and 24 months. Clarify and provide assurances that future adaptive management actions include sufficient details of the triggering event(s), investigations and their results, and specific actions that were taken.
- B. Explain how the current quantitative definition for an undesirable result is protective of beneficial uses and users. ^{23 CCR § 354.26(b)(3)}
- C. Clarify what new information was used and provide a detailed explanation on how this new information warranted changes to the sustainable management criteria for groundwater levels.
- D. Provide a detailed explanation of how the well protection minimum threshold method was applied for each RMS. What was the criteria for identifying the well(s) being considered at individual well protection RMS? If there were multiple wells (types) that needed to be protected by a single RMS, how were they processed and what is their relationship to the MT?
- E. Provide a detailed explanation of how the Well and GDE Protection interpolated surface was created and of how the interpolated surface was used to determine the sustainable management criteria (i.e., minimum thresholds). Provide a discussion on any expected impact on beneficial users (i.e., dry wells) because of the updated minimum thresholds.
- F. Explain how the GDE protection wells minimum thresholds were established deeper than the protection depth of 30 feet bgs and explain how these deeper levels are protective of GDEs.
- G. Explain how the individual methods were selected for each RMS and how the different methods may interact with each other across the basin. ^{23 CCR § 354.28(b)(1) and (4)}
- H. Provide a detailed explanation of how the changes to the groundwater level sustainable management criteria will not have an impact on other sustainability indicators (i.e., subsidence, depletion of groundwater storage, water quality, and depletion of interconnected surface water). ^{23 CCR § 354.28(b)(2)}
- I. Provide the metric and associated data used to determine groundwater level interim milestones and measurable objectives. ^{23 CCR § 354.30(b), 23 CCR § 354.30(e)}

1.1 Explain Undesirable Results Definition for GWLs and GWQ (Requests A and B)

Groundwater levels and quality have similar undesirable results definitions. As outlined in the 2025 GSP in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.4, the undesirable result definitions for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels and groundwater quality are intended to reflect Basin conditions that cause significant and unreasonable reduction in the long-term viability of domestic, agricultural, municipal, or environmental uses over the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP.

Groundwater level undesirable results and groundwater quality undesirable results occur during GSP implementation when 30 percent of representative monitoring wells fall below their minimum groundwater elevation thresholds for 24 consecutive months. Note that while the GSP states either two consecutive years or 24 consecutive months in various locations, it is intended to mean 24 consecutive months in all cases for

purposes of Basin management. For both groundwater levels and quality, the 2025 GSP requires a well to exceed the minimum threshold during all measurements that occur during that 24-month period in order to be counted towards an undesirable result.

The 30 percent of wells exceeding their minimum threshold (MT) for 24 consecutive months criteria included in the GSP allows the CBGSA the flexibility to identify the cause of MT exceedances and to develop a plan for response (per the Adaptive Management approach described in GSP Section 7.6). Potential causes of MT exceedances could include:

- Prolonged drought;
- Pumping nearby the representative well; and
- Unreliable and non-representative data used to calculate the MT.

Minimum threshold exceedances for groundwater levels (GWLs) in multiple wells are considered more indicative of a basin-scale decline in groundwater levels and potential adverse impacts on groundwater infrastructure, as opposed to more localized groundwater level declines, which could be associated with nearby pumping. Note that a similar discussion for groundwater quality (GWQ) can be found below in Section 2.1. Furthermore, groundwater levels in areas of the Basin change in response to climatic conditions and therefore sustained exceedances of minimum thresholds are considered to be more significant than short-term exceedances. Setting the Identification of Undesirable Results criteria at 30 percent or more of wells exceeding their MT is intended to reflect undesirable results at the basin-scale and using 24 consecutive months allows the CBGSA time to address issues, perform investigations, and implement projects and management actions as needed.

Four times a year, the CBGSA develops a quarterly Groundwater Levels Conditions Report to track the status of each representative well as compared to minimum thresholds and track the age of each exceedance. It provides summary statistics for the status of the Basin relative to the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) metrics. An annual Groundwater Quality Conditions Reports is developed to report similar information for water quality monitoring. These reports are provided to the CBGSA Board and made publicly available via the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin website (<https://www.cuyamabasin.org/>) and are used to help make management decisions and identify when adaptive management actions may be necessary in response to MT exceedances.

Section 7.6 of the 2025 GSP describes the CBGSA's approach to adaptive management, which is triggered if impacts to beneficial uses or users is reported, if the pumping reductions are more than five percent off the glide path, or if there are trends towards undesirable results conditions. As noted in the Water Year (WY) 2024-2025 Annual Report, the CBGSA has recently established new standard operating procedures for the adaptive management process that outlines steps that the CBGSA would take to investigate the cause of changing conditions and develop adaptive management strategies for Board consideration. The procedures include forming an ad-hoc committee, performing an investigation, developing draft adaptive management response strategies, and implementing potential response strategies to correct the change in Basin conditions. These procedures have recently been applied to evaluate conditions at wells that have exceeded minimum thresholds in the past year. The CBGSA intends to continue to apply its adaptive management procedures when exceedances occur in the future.

1.2 What New Information was Used to Change GWL SMCs (Request C)

At the time that the 2020 GSP was developed, the CBGSA had insufficient information regarding the locations active pumping wells and their associated construction data to adequately identify the appropriate depths needed to protect groundwater pumpers in the Basin. Because of this, the 2020 GSP utilized a simplified approach based largely on historical groundwater elevation data to develop minimum thresholds. Since the 2020 GSP was submitted, the CBGSA has conducted significant data collection efforts that greatly improved the understanding of the inter-relation between groundwater levels in the Basin and their effect on beneficial uses and users. The new information that has been collected since the adoption of the 2020 GSP includes:

1. Groundwater level data - as part of GSP implementation, groundwater levels data has been collected quarterly from Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs) and other monitoring wells by the CBGSA.
2. Groundwater quality data – as part of GSP implementation, groundwater quality data has been collected annually from RMWs by the CBGSA, supplemented by data collected by the Irrigated Lands Program and other programs available through the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) and GeoTracker.
3. Subsidence data – as part of GSP implementation, subsidence data has been collected for RMW sites and neighboring sites to track vertical displacement of the ground surface. In addition, TRE Altamira data is also analyzed on an annual basis for the Annual Report.
4. Faulting and subsurface data – the CBGSA has conducted fault investigation studies to better understand the location and depth of the Russell and Santa Barbara Canyon Faults, has utilized data provided by DWR’s Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey of the Cuyama Basin, and has processed and analyzed bore log data from several wells including several new wells drilled during GSP implementation.
5. Pumping data – Since 2022, the CBGSA has collected metered pumping data from groundwater users in the Basin and has utilized this data to track extractions, monitor compliance with pumping allocations and to validate and update the groundwater model.
6. Active and inactive well information – a comprehensive survey was conducted to categorize all pumping wells in the Basin as active (and therefore part of Basin related analyses) or inactive. This effort incorporated critical stakeholder feedback to develop a list of active wells that was as accurate and comprehensive as possible. This effort also included the solicitation of construction information for all active wells. The CBGSA facilitated collection of data from stakeholders and well operators, who continue to provide information on an ongoing basis. This is described in more detail in the following subsection.
7. Cuyama Basin Water Resources Model (CBWRM) update and re-calibration – the CBGSA performed an update and recalibration of the groundwater model in advance of the 2025 GSP Update that utilized the new data described above. The updated modeling results also included analysis to assess a variety of management approaches including pumping allocations.
8. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) locations and depths – additional analysis was conducted to assess the GDE locations and depths throughout the Basin in the context of groundwater levels minimum thresholds to ensure their protection as a beneficial user of groundwater.

9. Stakeholder feedback and information – the CBGSA continues to engage with Basin stakeholders for feedback, information and data that may be of use to ensure the protection of beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Basin.

1.2.1 Additional Information on Identification of Active and Inactive Pumping Wells

The CBGSA is confident in its ability to protect all beneficial uses and users in the Basin because of recent efforts to identify all active and inactive pumping wells in the Basin. In 2022 and 2023, a survey of active pumping wells was conducted to identify all known wells in the Basin and categorize them as either an active status where they would be protected or an inactive status where they could be removed from analysis processes related to beneficial uses and users.

To determine if a well was inactive or active, the CBGSA evaluated:

- Information provided during the development of the GSP including locations and construction data for many existing wells, collected monitoring data, newly published reports and studies, etc.
- Well metering program information including which wells have been metered and additional construction information about those wells.
- Well survey information from a Basin-wide survey of all Basin landowners to solicit information on Basin pumping wells and to update and correct information available to the CBGSA regarding which wells were active or inactive.
- De minimis user reporting which included active or inactive statuses of these wells and construction information.
- Other miscellaneous information provided to the CBGSA via conversations, email communications, etc.

The resulting active and inactive well list was posted on the CBGSA website here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1AGTzyBEfP-AGvFwyMmZCx-4eoc995mY&usp=sharing>

Landowners and other stakeholders in the Basin were given the opportunity to review and provide feedback to confirm that wells were correctly identified as active or inactive. The CBGSA continues to welcome updates and feedback on the active well list to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date.

This information was utilized by the CBGSA to evaluate the effectiveness of the groundwater level SMCs included in the 2020 GSP. A review of the available data indicated that in most cases the MTs developed by the approach used in the 2020 GSP were more conservative than what is actually required to protect beneficial uses and users in the Basin from a potential loss of groundwater supply. MTs approved and included in the 2020 GSP were often higher (more protective) than the MTs established in the 2025 GSP because during the development of the 2020 GSP the CBGSA wanted to take an overly cautious approach in protecting all beneficial uses and users, and therefore with the limited data available at the time resulted in MTs more conservative than necessary. Therefore, for the 2025 GSP the CBGSA developed a more robust approach for development of groundwater levels minimum thresholds that utilized all of the available data to develop updated SMCs that more accurately represent conditions in the Basin and better reflect the

groundwater levels required to protect beneficial uses and users. The updated approach is described in the following sections.

1.3 Explain Well Protection Depth, How it was Applied to All Wells, and Explain How the Well Protection Depth Interpolated Surface Was Created / Used (Requests D and E)

For the 2025 GSP, the CBGSA developed an updated and improved methodology to develop minimum thresholds at representative monitoring wells that utilizes the additional data and information that was available (as described above) and that better reflects the actual potential impacts to beneficial uses and users in the Cuyama Basin, including domestic and other pumping wells and GDEs. The primary tools used to assess potential impacts to groundwater pumpers and GDEs are the Well Protection Depth and GDE Protection Depth, in which the groundwater level depths required for pumping wells and GDEs are combined into a single interpolated surface to develop a composite protection depth at each representative monitoring well. As part of the method, all representative monitoring wells are assigned a Well Protection Depth (WPD) based on the actual or estimated (estimates are based on regional mean pump depth of known pump depths) pump depth for each nearby pumping well and an assumed need to maintain water levels at 30 ft below ground surface (bgs) in all areas identified as potential GDEs. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) interpolation, these values are combined across the entire Basin to create a single interpolated layer (much like a topographic coverage of the Basin) that represents a combined WPD and GDE protection layer.

The resulting raster of the combined WPD and GDE Protection Depth was reviewed by staff to ensure that there were no unreasonable interpolation surfaces due to drastically different depths at control points that would lead to an inappropriate WPD being estimate at a particular well location. For example, nowhere in the Basin was there a GDE protection depth adjacent to an active well with a WPD of several hundred feet below ground surface that would cause the rasterized surface to produce a “cliff” or steep and unrealistic drop in the raster surface. The raster surface was thoroughly reviewed to ensure that control points did not unrealistically conflict and create an output that would cause unrealistic outputs. The following provides additional details about how the Well Protection Depth and GDE Protection Depth are applied:

1. **Well Protection Depth:** The well protection depth is used to ensure that active production and domestic wells within the Basin are protected from significant and unreasonable harm to their beneficial uses. The well protection depth is a numerical value representing the approximate depth at which, if exceeded, beneficial uses could be impacted in an active pumping well. This value is unique, calculated for each active production and domestic well within the Basin where there is available data. Where data is not available, generalized or regional proxy data is utilized. All wells that are in the vicinity of agricultural or municipal development within the Basin are protected by the RMN; some wells are screened from the analysis because of local conditions (such as geology or topology) or because the wells were determined to be already dry in 2015. The well protection depth is calculated for each pumping well as a four-part stepwise function, with a slight difference in the fourth step between domestic and production wells, as shown in **Figure 1-1**.
2. **GDE Protection Depth:** All potential GDE locations in the Basin were assigned a protection depth of 30 ft bgs via a dense spatial point-cloud within each GDE polygon in GIS. The point-clouds allow

GIS to utilize the same data type (points instead of polygons) in the processing required for the protection depth calculation.

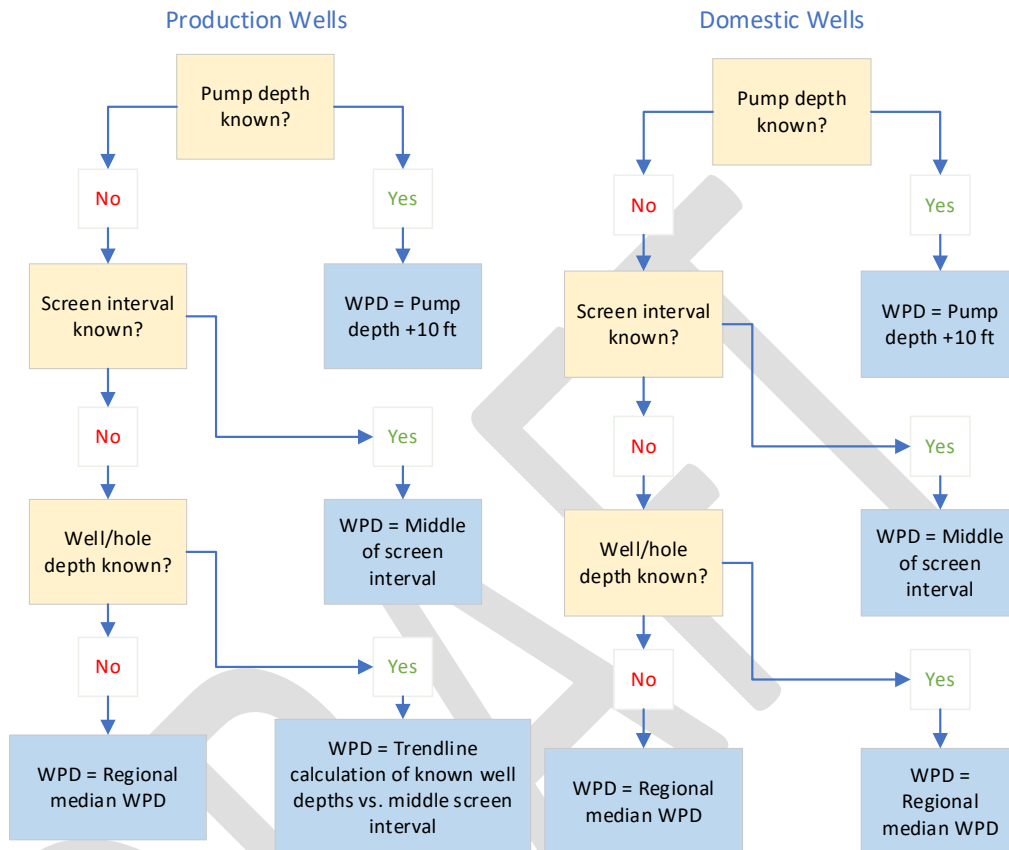


Figure 1-1: Well Protection Depth Computation for Production and Domestic Wells

A simplified hypothetical example of the process to create and apply the WPD and GDE protection GIS surface is presented in **Figure 1-2**. In this example, only active wells are shown along with a potential GDE area. Each blue shaded well is an active production or domestic well, with the green star representing the calculated WPD. Where the potential GDE area is located, a 30-foot depth was established as the GDE protection depth. Using GIS interpolation, a raster surface is generated represented by the dark red dotted line. Where the interpolated surface intersects with RMWs, the WPD is established for those wells. As an example, **Figure 1-3** shows three RMWs (Opti 91, 95, and 610), with the nearby pumping wells and the elevations of their associated estimated pump depths that contributed to development of the GIS raster that determined the WPDs. The resulting WPDs at these wells are 625, 573, and 704 ft below ground surface, respectively.

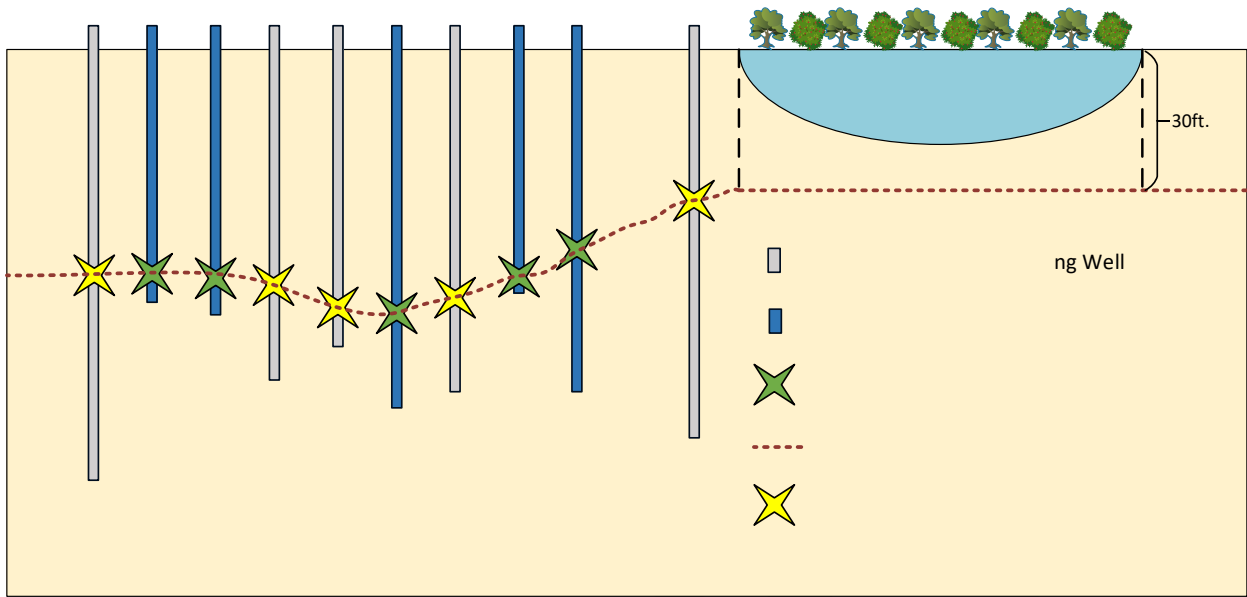


Figure 1-2: Example WPD and GDE Protection Depth Interpolation

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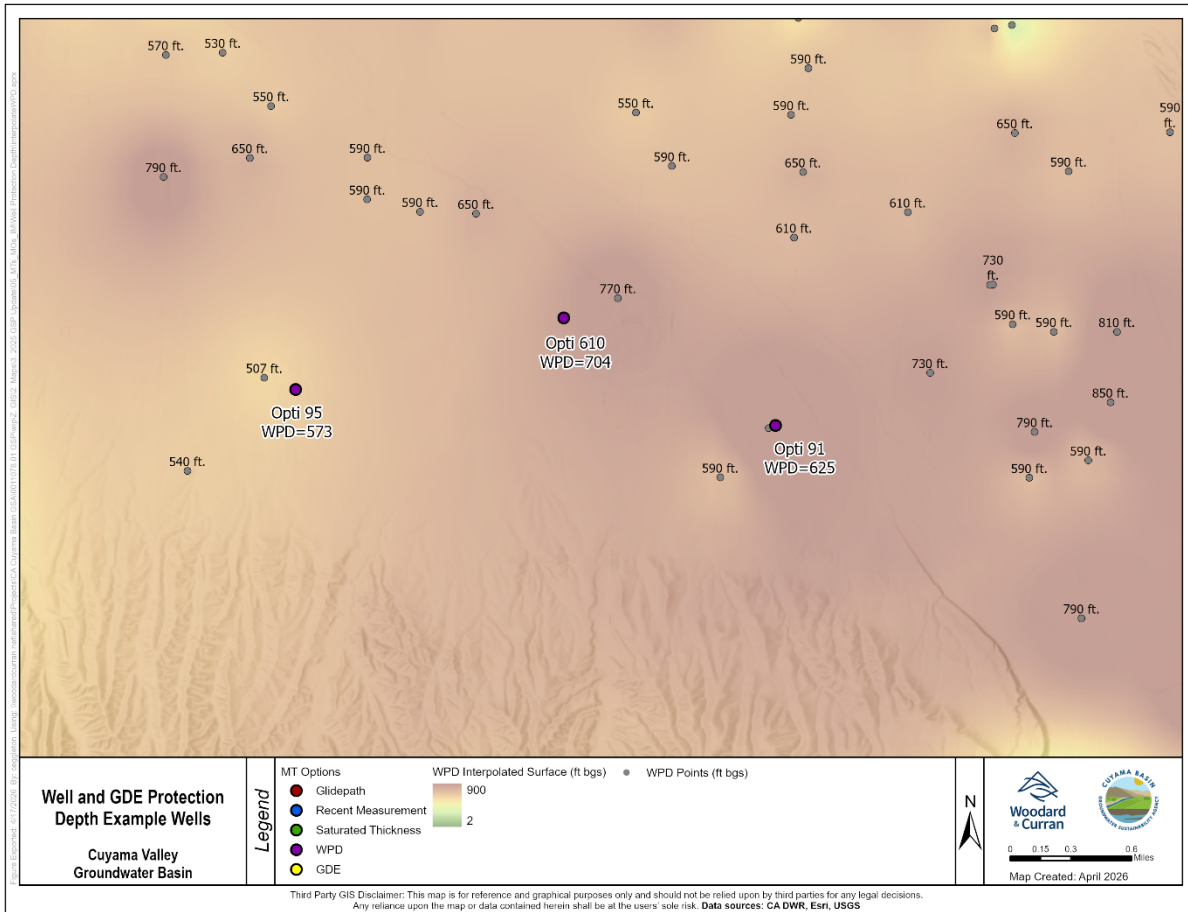


Figure 1-3: Determination of Well Protection Depths at Opti Wells 91, 95 and 610

By utilizing the combined WPD and GDE Protection Depth in the stepwise function (described below) for calculating the MTs, no undesirable results are expected for beneficial uses and users. Because the stepwise function method sets all MTs at levels that are no deeper than the WPD and GDE Protection Depth at each RMW, all known production and domestic wells and GDEs are protected by the final calculated MTs.

1.4 Explain How the GDE Protection Wells MTs Were Established Deeper than 30 ft bgs (Request F)

Because the WPD and GDE protection depth are assessed in a combined technical approach, the CBGSA had to use professional judgment to identify wells classified as “GDE wells” specifically as opposed to those classified as “WPD wells”. For this purpose, all wells that 1) had the resulting MT was based on the WPD and GDE protection depth calculation, and 2) were within 0.5 miles of a GDE were labeled as having the GDE protection depth as its MT methodology. Conversely, any well that had the resulting MT based on the WPD and GDE protection depth calculation and was greater than 0.5 miles from a potential GDE were labeled with the WPD methodology for the calculated. There were five such wells that were designated as GDE wells in the 2025 GSP, which are shown in **Table 1-1**.

The GIS raster that was developed to ensure protection for GDEs at these wells was based on groundwater elevations that were 30 feet below the ground surface elevation at each GDE location. However, the MT was calculated to be greater than 30 feet bgs at all five well locations. These differences occur because subsurface water table elevations are often subdued expressions of topography (and influenced by many other factors) and the interpolated WPD and GDE protection depth is also a horizontally and vertically dynamic surface that takes into account the GDE protection depth of 30 feet and other data input that influence its vertical distribution. In each case, this is because the representative monitoring well is at a higher elevation than the nearby GDEs. As shown in **Table 1-1**, the five GDE wells are between 19 and 29 feet higher than the nearby GDE locations. If these differences in ground surface elevations are subtracted from the MT, the effective depth of the MT relative to the GDEs is less than 30 feet at four of the five GDE wells. The one exception is at well 830, where the difference is 34 feet; however, this well is more than 2,000 feet away from the closest GDE location and it would not be expected that a drawdown to 34 feet bgs would be representative of a 30-foot drawdown at that distance.

Table 1-1. Wells Using the GDE Protection Depth as the Calculated MT Value

Representative Well	Minimum Threshold (feet below ground surface)	Distance from closest GDE (feet)	Difference between GSE at Well and GDE locations (feet)
2	52	1,920	25
568	37	13	19
830	63	2,126	29
832	50	620	22
833	48	500	23

1.5 Explain How MT Methods Were Selected for Each RMW and How They May Interact with One Another Across the Basin (Request G)

As described in the 2025 GSP, the minimum threshold calculation uses a stepwise function that applies a rigorous analytical approach to determine the groundwater depths needed to protect wells (production and domestic) across the Basin while providing flexibility, where needed, to accommodate the CBGSA planned pumping allocations and reductions strategy. The stepwise function has the following four potential calculation outcomes:

1. Combined well protection and GDE protection depth: As discussed in the section above, the well protection depth and GDE protection depth were merged together in a GIS analysis process that interpolated the data into a 3-dimensional coverage across the Basin, in the same process elevation points make a topographic map of the surface elevation. For each RMW's location, the interpolated protection depth was then extracted to get the final Well Protection / GDE protection depth value.
2. Recent deepest measurement plus 10 ft or 5% buffer (whichever is greater): Historical data for the last ten years (2013-2023 based on the timing of the development of this methodology) was analyzed to find the deepest depth to water during that period. A buffer of the greater of either 10 ft or 5% of the depth to water value was then added to the deepest depth. This methodology helps utilize, where appropriate, historical and recently collected data that captures both wet and dry

periods. This criterion allows for the flexibility for regions of the Basin that experience significant drawdown and recovery during dry and wet hydrologic cycles to manage those variations in groundwater elevation.

3. Projected depth to water in 2040 based on modeled glide path: The CBWRM (updated in 2024) was used to project the depth of water in 2040 based on the CBGSA's planned allocation and glidepath pumping reductions. In regions of the Basin where there is significant pumping, this allows for groundwater levels to decline to where the model predicts they will be in 2040 given the anticipated schedule for pumping reductions.
4. Saturated thickness in areas of greater geologic understanding: This strategy is based on a technical analysis¹ performed specifically for the region in the vicinity of the two RMWs in the northwestern portion of the Basin. The method uses an estimated 15 percent of the total average saturated thickness for the primary storage area in the vicinity of the localized region. As discussed in the 2025 GSP, additional analysis has also been conducted by the CBGSA to ensure that the calculated MTs in this area do not impact beneficial uses or uses at any nearby active wells or potential GDEs.

Using these four options above, the stepwise function to determine the appropriate MT for each RMW is as follows:

1. For RMWs that used the saturated thickness approach in the approved 2020 GSP, utilize that same approach.
2. For RMWs that did not utilize the saturated thickness approach in the approved 2020 GSP,
 - a. First find the deeper of these two values:
 - i. Deepest depth to water (DTW) from 2013-2023 + buffer
 - ii. Cuyama Basin groundwater model projected DTW in 2040
 - b. Then find the shallower value between Step 2a, the WPD and the GDE protection depth

As mentioned before – each well utilizes the stepwise function. The four stepwise function outcomes are not assigned to each RMS by independent choice, rather, the data for each well is assembled and then an excel sheet is used to calculate each of the four options, then run through the stepwise algorithm to produce the resulting MT. It should be noted that because the MT is equal to the shallower of the WPD/GDE Protection Depth and the other potential methods, it is ensured by the method that the MT will always be no deeper than the WPD/GDE Protection Depth and therefore the pumpers and GDEs should always be protected by the resulting MTs.

¹ <https://cuyamabasin.org/assets/pdf/Cleath-Harris-Sustainability-Thresholds-for-Northwestern-Region.pdf>

Figure 1-4 shows an example area within the Cuyama Basin showing the categories of MT methodologies that were binding for each representative monitoring network (RMN) wells. Within the map, potential GDE areas and the interpolated WPD surface are also shown.

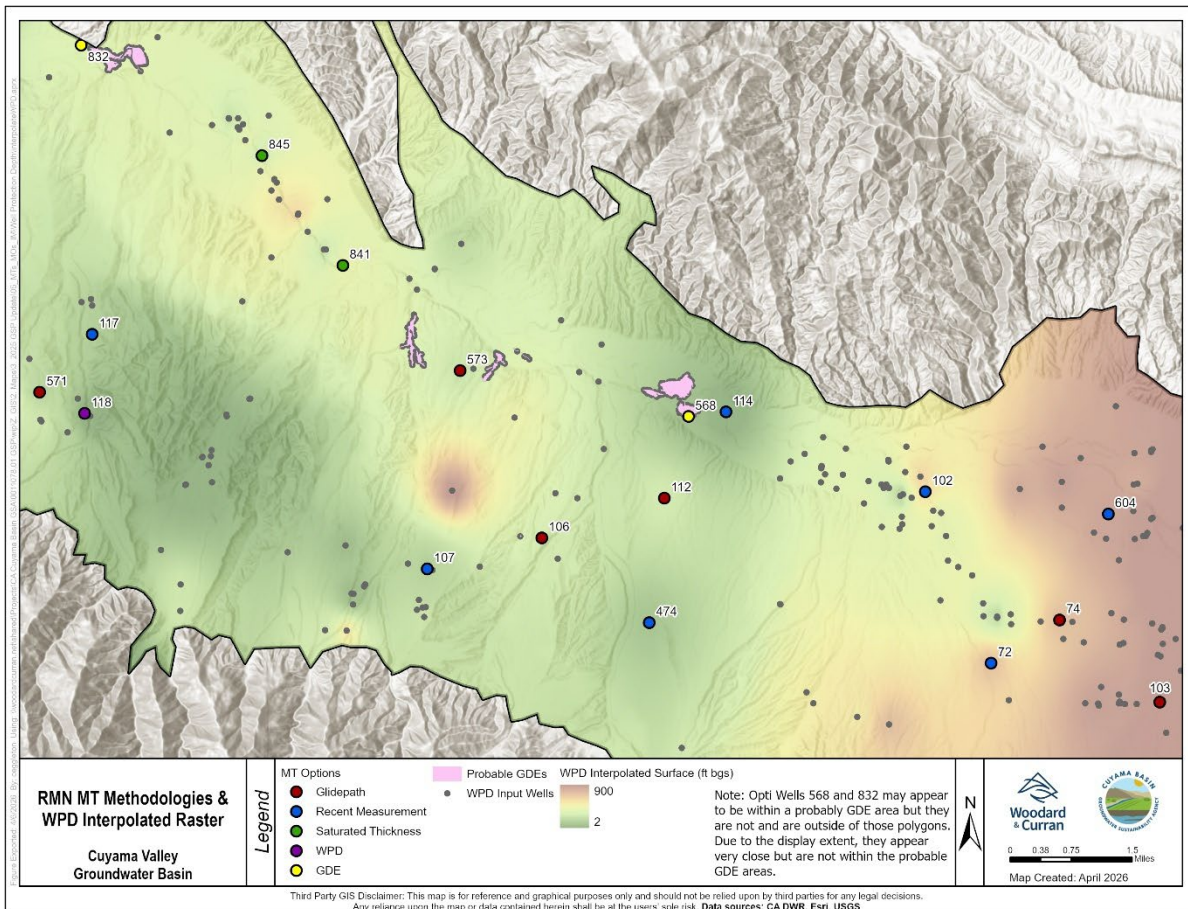


Figure 1-4: Example Area in the Cuyama Basin Showing MT Methodology and WPD Interpolated Surface

1.6 Explain How Changes to GWL SMCs will Not Have an Impact on Other SMCs (Request H)

The previous GWL SMC methodology was based on the best available data that was accessible at the time of the development of the original 2020 GSP. However, as discussed above, through the implementation of the GSP, much more data has been collected and processed which has allowed the CBGSA to improve its understanding of the Basin and its localized conditions. This was the driving factor to the development of

improved SMCs for the adopted 2025 GSP for groundwater levels based on this improved understanding of Basin conditions and their potential impact on beneficial uses and users.

Because the changes in groundwater level SMCs are reflective of better data and an improved understanding of the Basin, they are more appropriate for use in managing the Basin than the previous SMCs, which were developed using a simplified approach based on limited data. The plan for implementation of pumping allocations did not change between the 2020 GSP and 2025 GSP and is currently on schedule, as discussed below. In addition, the monitoring programs and adaptive management approach included in the GSP for the other sustainability indicators remain in place and will continue to allow the CBGSA to detect and respond to any adverse changes. Therefore, because the update in groundwater level SMCs are not expected to result in a substantive change in how the Basin is managed, it is not expected that they will cause any adverse impacts to any of the other sustainability indicators.

1.7 Provide Metrics and Data for Interim Milestones and Measurable Objectives (Request I)

While a detailed description of the new MT methodology is provided in the 2025 GSP, descriptions of the MO and IM calculations were inadvertently left out of the updated document. The method used to calculate measurable objectives (MOs) did not change for the 2025 GSP but there was a slight modification to the development of interim milestones (IMs).

In the 2020 GSP, the MOs were calculated using a Margin of Operational Flexibility (MoOF) for most regions in the Basin, which was calculated using historical data with different methodologies applied for each region. The following describes how the MO or MoOF was calculated for each region:

Southeastern Threshold Region: The MO for the Southeastern Threshold Region's wells was calculated by finding the measurement taken closest to (but not before) January 1, 2015 and not after April 30, 2015. If no measurement was taken during this four-month period, then a linear trendline was applied to the data and the value for January 1, 2015 was extrapolated.

Eastern Threshold Region: MoOFs were calculated by subtracting five years of groundwater storage from the MT. Five years of storage was found by calculating the decline in groundwater levels from 2013 to 2018 (a drought period). If measurements were insufficient for this time period, a linear trendline was used to extrapolate the value.

Central Threshold Region: The MoOFs were calculated by subtracting five years of groundwater storage from the MT. Five years of storage was found by calculating the decline in groundwater levels from 2013 to 2018 (a drought period). If measurements were insufficient for this time period, a linear trendline was used to extrapolate the value.

Western Threshold Region: The MO was calculated by finding the measurement closest to mid-February, 2018, which monitoring indicates is likely a full condition.

Northwestern Threshold Region: The MoOF for this region was calculated using 5 years of storage. Because historical data reflecting new operations in this region are limited, 50 feet was used as 5 years of storage based on local landowner input.

Badlands Threshold Region: This threshold region has no groundwater use or active wells. As a result, no MO, MT, or IM was calculated.

For the 2025 GSP, the same approach was used but where the MoOF was used, it was applied to the updated MT for each well to calculate an updated MO for the well. The only exception was that if the MoOF was previously less than 10 feet, then it was set at 10 feet for the 2025 GSP. Therefore, the Measurable Objectives for each GWL RMWs utilize the same difference between the MT and MO at each well that was used in the original 2020 GSP, except that for those wells where the difference was previously less than 10 feet. There was a slight modification to how the IMs were calculated. Previously in the 2020 GSP the 2025 IM was set to the MT, with the 2030 and 2035 IMs being one-third milestones (i.e. 2030 being 33.3% of the way towards the MO, and 2035 being 66.6% of the way towards the MO). This has now been adjusted in the 2025 GSP so that each IM year (2025, 2030, 2035) is adjusted at 25% increments between the MT and MO.

To provide an example of how the MOs and IMs have changed relative to a changing MT at a well, a well with a hypothetical MT of 300 ft bgs and an MO of 200 ft bgs in 2020 and an updated MT of 320 ft bgs for the 2025 GSP would have a new MO of 220 ft bgs. For the IM the difference between the MT and MO of the hypothetical well is 100 ft. Therefore, the 2025 IM is 25% of 100 ft, or 25 ft, and therefore is 320 ft - 25 ft = 295 ft bgs for 2025. The resulting numbers for the 2020 and 2025 GSP are shown below in **Table 1-2**.

Table 1-2: Hypothetical Representative Well Change in Measurable Objective and Interim Milestone Thresholds

Threshold	2020 GSP	2025 GSP
MT	300	320
2025 IM	300	295
2030 IM	267	270
2035 IM	233	245
MO	200	220

2. GROUNDWATER QUALITY: TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS

Request:

- A. Explain how undesirable result definition of two years will not cause significant and unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses and users.
- B. Provide a detailed explanation on how the new information warrants changes to the sustainable management criteria for TDS groundwater quality. Provide a discussion of how the updated minimum thresholds may impact beneficial uses and users.
- C. Provide the data and criteria relied upon to establish the updated minimum thresholds, interim milestone, and measurable objectives (ref: 2022 GSP Table 5-2).

2.1 Explain How the 2-Year UR Definition is Protective (Request A)

TDS is being monitored by the CBGSA for several reasons. Local stakeholders identified TDS as one of the constituents of concern in the GSP development process, and there have been multiple measurements of TDS with high concentrations near domestic and public supply wells. Although high TDS concentrations are naturally occurring within the Basin, it is believed that management of groundwater levels may help improve TDS concentration levels to align with naturally occurring concentrations.

The undesirable result definition for degraded water quality is intended to reflect Basin conditions stemming from a causal nexus between SGMA-related groundwater quantity management activities and groundwater quality that causes a significant and unreasonable reduction in the long-term viability of domestic, agricultural, municipal, or environmental uses over the planning and implementation horizon of the GSP. This result is considered to occur during GSP implementation when 30 percent of the representative monitoring points (i.e., 9 of 29 sites) exceed the minimum threshold for a constituent for 24 consecutive months.

The 30 percent of wells exceeding their MT for 24 consecutive months criteria included in the GSP allows the CBGSA the flexibility to identify the cause of MT exceedances and to develop a plan for response (per the Adaptive Management approach described in GSP Section 7.6). Potential causes of MT exceedances could include:

- Prolonged drought;
- Pumping nearby the representative well; and
- Unreliable and non-representative data used to calculate the MT.

Minimum threshold exceedances in multiple wells is considered more indicative of a basin-scale decline in groundwater quality and potential adverse impacts on beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as opposed to more localized groundwater quality declines. Setting the Identification of Undesirable Results criteria at 30 percent or more of wells exceeding their MT is intended to reflect undesirable results at the basin-scale and using 24 consecutive months allows the CBGSA time to address issues, perform investigations, and implement projects and management actions as needed.

2.2 Explain How New Information Warranted Changes to SMC for TDS and Explain How Data Drove the TDS Thresholds (Requests B and C)

The sustainable management criteria for TDS were updated as part of the 2025 GSP to incorporate additional monitoring data collected since adoption of the 2020 GSP. At the time the original TDS thresholds were established, the available dataset was limited for several representative monitoring wells. **Figure 2-1** shows the available TDS data at several example wells. As shown in the figure, available data prior to development of the 2020 GSP was scarce for many wells and in some cases was several years out of date. However, the CBGSA has conducted consistent sampling since GSP implementation began in 2020, greatly improving the availability of data. The 2020 GSP acknowledged this data limitation and stated that additional information collected during GSP implementation would be used to improve the understanding of TDS conditions within the Basin and, if appropriate, the groundwater quality thresholds would be updated. The revisions presented in the 2025 GSP are consistent with that stated intent and are based on the best available information currently available.

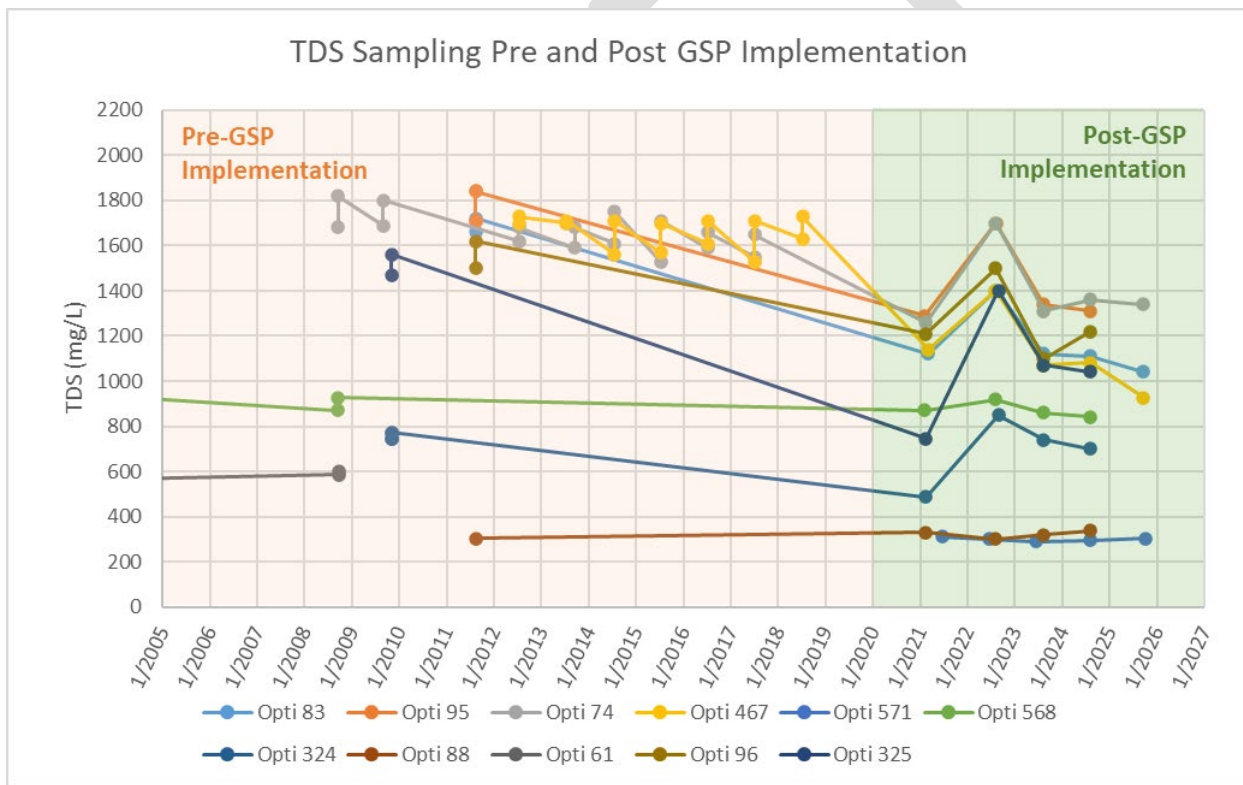


Figure 2-1: Example TDS Monitoring Wells Showing Sampling Data Pre- and Post-GSP Implementation

Following this approach, the minimum thresholds for TDS were recalculated for the 2025 GSP Update using the same methodology applied in the 2020 GSP, but with a larger and more representative dataset. MTs are calculated as 20 percent of the total observed range at each representative monitoring site above the 90th percentile of measurements for that site. For example, Opti Well 72 has a minimum recorded TDS

concentration of 955 mg/L and a maximum of 1,020 mg/L, resulting in a total range of 65 mg/L. Twenty percent of this range is 13 mg/L. The 90th percentile concentration for Opti Well 72 is 1,010 mg/L; therefore, the MT is calculated by adding 13 mg/L to the 90th percentile value, resulting in an MT of 1,023 mg/L. This methodology establishes site-specific thresholds based on observed historical conditions at each representative well.

Measurable Objectives (MOs) were established to provide an appropriate margin of operational flexibility while remaining aligned with applicable water quality benchmarks. For representative wells with the most recent TDS measurements exceeding the short-term secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) of 1,500 mg/L, the MO was set equal to the short-term SMCL. For representative wells where the most recent measurement was below 1,500 mg/L, the MO was set equal to the most recent measured concentration. This approach reflects existing Basin conditions and provides a realistic management target while maintaining consistency across the representative monitoring network.

Consistent with SGMA regulations, the Basin must avoid undesirable results by avoiding MT exceedances. Accordingly, Interim Milestones were set equal to the MTs for the 2025 planning horizon, with projected improvements to one-third of the distance between the MT and MO by 2030 and one-half of the distance between the MT and MO by 2035. This stepped approach is intended to track progress toward long-term groundwater quality objectives while maintaining a clear compliance path with SGMA requirements.

The revised TDS minimum thresholds are directly informed by historical, site-specific groundwater quality data collected within the Basin. This data-driven approach reflects TDS concentrations that have historically supported beneficial uses, including agricultural uses, within the Basin. As documented in the GSP, the types and concentrations of salts present in the Basin are similar to historical levels seen in 2015 and observed TDS concentrations have not historically resulted in widespread impairment of domestic wells or of agricultural productivity. As a result, thresholds derived from observed Basin conditions are considered more representative of locally appropriate groundwater quality conditions than reliance on secondary MCLs alone.

Since the 2025 MTs for TDS are based on an already expanded dataset now available, the CBGSA does not currently anticipate further revisions to TDS thresholds for the existing representative monitoring wells during the next Periodic Evaluation. However, additional wells have been added to the non-representative monitoring network to address data gaps. Once sufficient historical data are available, some of these wells may be considered for inclusion in the representative monitoring network. The methodology for establishing thresholds for any newly designated representative wells has not yet been finalized but is expected to be consistent with the approach used for the current representative network and would be evaluated during a future Periodic Evaluation.

3. GROUNDWATER QUALITY: NITRATE AND ARSENIC

Request:

- A. Provide an explanation for the lack of advancement on the development of sustainable management criteria for nitrate and arsenic.
- B. What is the status of the Improvement Water Supply Reliability for Local Communities project, the baselines establishment for arsenic and nitrates, and the establishment of a monitoring network as mentioned in the 2022 GSP which the Department highlighted in the 2023 Staff Report?
- C. Establish sustainable management criteria and a monitoring network for Nitrates and Arsenic.²³
CCR § 354.26(d)

The CBGSA takes seriously its obligation to effectively monitor for and manage arsenic and nitrates in the Cuyama Basin. The following activities are currently being undertaken to manage these constituents during GSP implementation.

Coordination with Other Regulatory Programs:

The CBGSA coordinates and works with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other responsible regulatory programs on a regular basis for the successful and sustainable management of water resources that protect against undesirable conditions related to nitrates and arsenic. In the event groundwater conditions related to nitrate and arsenic begin to impact the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Basin, the CBGSA will notify the appropriate regulatory program and/or agency and initiate more frequent coordination to address those conditions and support their regulatory actions to address those conditions.

Measurement of Nitrate and Arsenic at CBGSA Wells:

As discussed in Chapter 4 of the 2025 GSP, the CBGSA will take nitrate and arsenic measurements once every five years as part of its monitoring program to establish a baseline understanding of nitrate and arsenic concentrations in the Basin. Nitrate and arsenic measurements were collected by the CBGSA in 2022 and reported in the Annual Report for that year. The CBGSA intends to collect additional measurements in 2027 to provide an updated baseline in advance of the 2030 Periodic Evaluation.

Annual Collection and Evaluation of Available Arsenic and Nitrate Data:

Each year the CBGSA leverages existing monitoring programs for nitrate and arsenic through the USGS for the collection of arsenic data and through the California State Water Resource Control Board Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) and Geotracker Databases, which include data from the Central Coast Regional Water Board's Irrigated Lands Program, for nitrates. Recently collected nitrate and arsenic data were reported in the WY 2024-2025 Annual Report and are shown below in **Figure 3-1** for nitrate and in **Figure 3-2** for arsenic. These recent measurements for nitrate and arsenic were compared to those that were reported in the 2025 GSP for the 2010-2020 period for nitrate (GSP Figure 2-80) and for arsenic (GSP Figure 2-81) to assess what changes may have occurred. The available data indicates that the wells with recent high concentrations of nitrate and arsenic are at

similar locations to the locations of historical measurements of high concentrations of each constituent, which indicates that no migration has occurred.

Mitigate Arsenic Impacts Through Implementation of a Replacement Well for the CCSD (part of the GSP’s Improve Water Supply Reliability for Local Communities project):

The 2020 GSP and 2025 GSP Update included as a project the construction of a new replacement well in the CCSD’s service area to replace Well 2, which had previously been abandoned. Since the abandonment of Well 2, the CCSD has used a single well for water supply, with treatment applied to reduce arsenic levels down to below the state MCL for arsenic. The CCSD received a grant from DWR’s IRWM program in 2020 to develop a second well for its system, and the CCSD has been pursuing completion of the new well since receipt of the grant. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed due to issues with securing a well contractor and with finding an appropriate site for the new well. However, implementation is currently ongoing, with drilling of a test well, water quality sampling, and a preliminary well design completed as of early 2026. Once water quality sampling has been confirmed, the well design will be finalized and the new well will be installed. The CCSD currently anticipates that the new well will be installed by Spring 2027.

Reduce the Application of Nitrates with Pumping Allocations:

GSP implementation of pumping allocations in the Central Management Area will likely have an indirect effect on nitrates in the central portion of the Basin due to the reduction in pumping allocations that were included in the GSP. This should reduce the application of fertilizers in the central part of the Basin as agricultural production in the Basin is reduced over time.

Undertake Additional Actions as Needed to Address Arsenic and Nitrate:

If undesirable groundwater conditions for nitrate and arsenic are found to be the result of Basin management by the CBGSA, the CBGSA will consider developing a process to help mitigate or assist those uses and users by utilizing adaptive management strategies, including pumping management or well rehabilitation or replacement. The CBGSA will rely on and coordinate with the current processes and programs as managed by other responsible agencies to manage nitrate and arsenic in a sustainable manner.

While the CBGSA is actively managing arsenic and nitrates with the above activities, as discussed in the 2025 GSP, the CBGSA Board does not believe that it is appropriate to set sustainable management criteria for these constituents. However, if the CBGSA observes a significant change in levels or locations of high concentrations of nitrates or arsenic, it will evaluate potential mitigation measures including establishing sustainable management criteria, more frequent monitoring, and other potential actions.

In the case of nitrates, the CBGSA does not have the regulatory authority granted through SGMA to regulate the application of fertilizer. The CBGSA can encourage agricultural users in the Basin to use best management practices when using fertilizers but does not have a mechanism to directly control nitrate concentrations.

In the case of arsenic, arsenic is naturally occurring and located in a relatively small area of the Basin south of New Cuyama. There are no active private domestic wells located in this part of the Basin. The only

operational public well that is located in this part of the Basin serves the CCSD. As noted above, the CCSD is currently pursuing the drilling of a new production well, which is expected to be completed in 2027. Once this well is completed, it is not believed that any domestic water users will be using a well that accesses groundwater with known high arsenic concentrations.

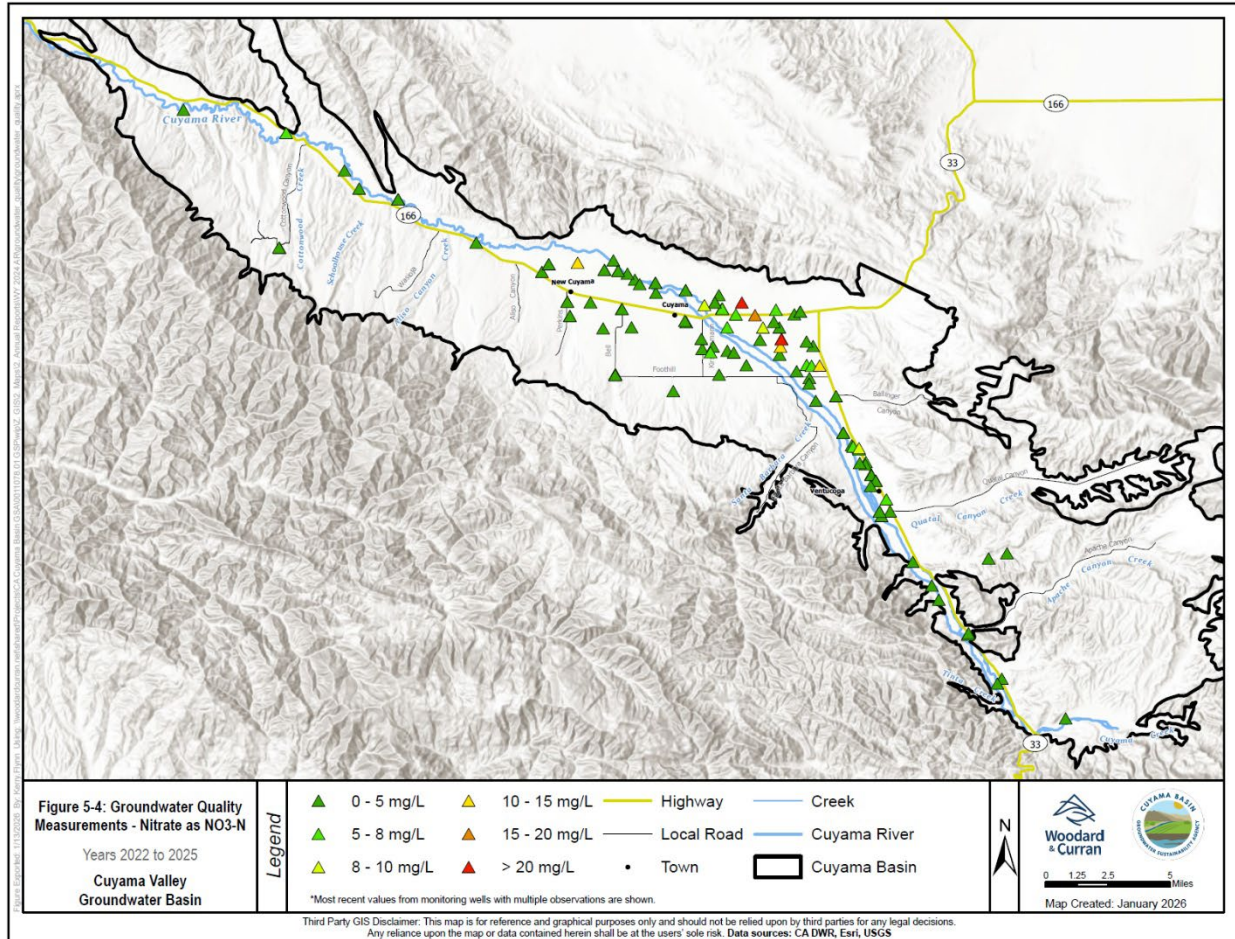


Figure 3-1: Cuyama Basin 2022-2025 Groundwater Quality Measurements – Nitrate

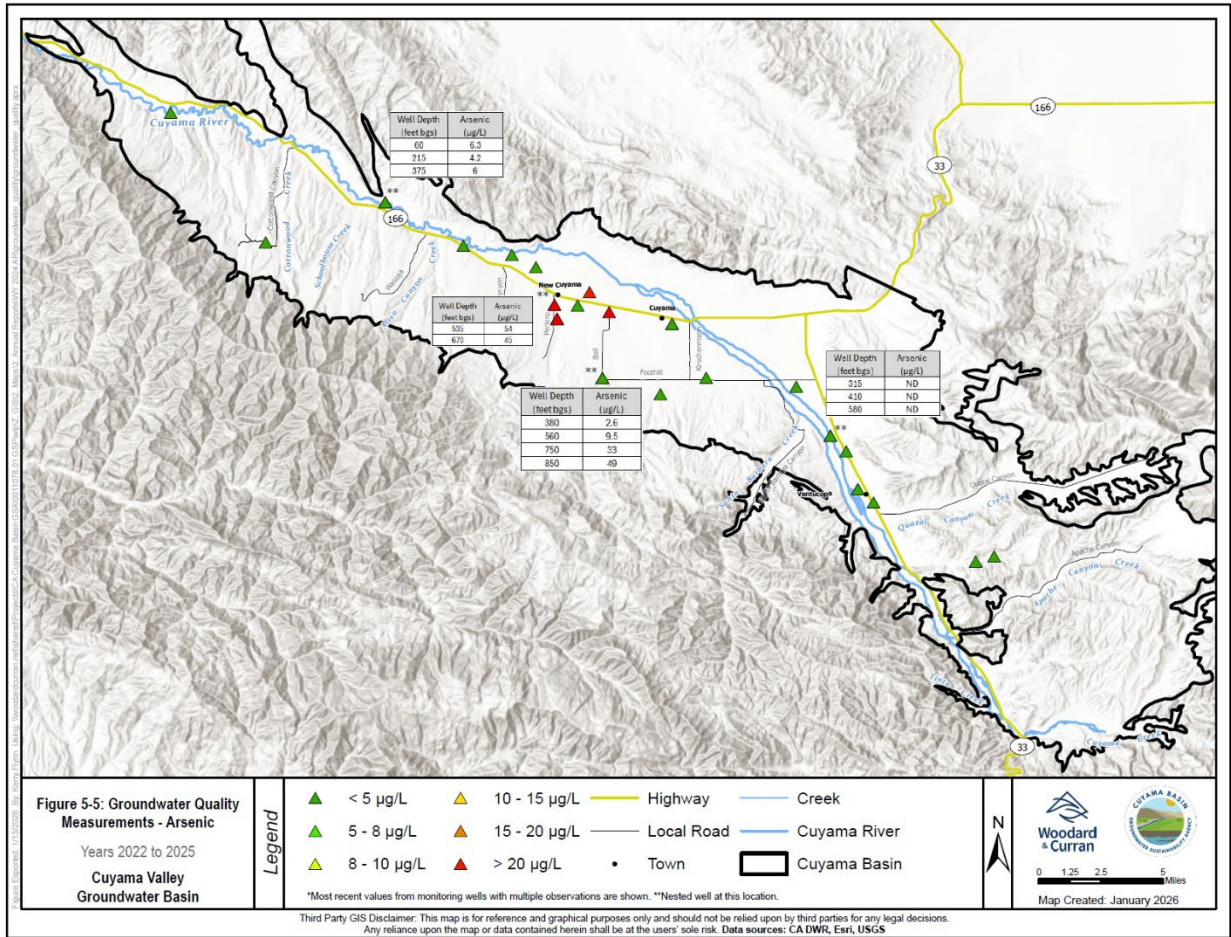


Figure 3-2: Cuyama Basin 2022-2025 Groundwater Quality Measurements – Arsenic

4. LAND SUBSIDENCE

Request: In light of changes to groundwater levels sustainable management criteria, explain impacts to subsidence, including:

- A. How the basin will be able to achieve the measurable objective of zero subsidence,
- B. How the amount total cumulative subsidence which will avoid significant and unreasonable impacts,
- C. How a minimum threshold of 2 inches per year continues to be reasonable.

Section 4.9 of the Cuyama Basin GSP describes the monitoring network for land subsidence in the Basin, which is composed of five continuous geographic positioning system (CGPS) stations in and around the Basin to monitor lateral and vertical ground movements. Two of the five stations, the Cuyama Valley High School (CUHS) and the Ventucopa (VCST) stations, are within the Basin boundary. The other three stations are outside of the Basin and provide comparative data for vertical movements that are more likely related to tectonic displacement rather than land subsidence.

The undesirable result for subsidence, as described in Section 3.2.5 of the GSP, is detected when 30 percent of representative subsidence monitoring sites (i.e., 1 of 2 sites) exceed the minimum threshold for subsidence over two years. The minimum threshold for subsidence, as defined in GSP Section 5.6.3, is 2 inches per year. The UR criteria of 2 inches per year was established in the GSP through historical analysis of data, stakeholder input, professional judgement, and an evaluation of potential critical infrastructure. The CBGSA believes that using a rate of 2 inches per year will provide an adequate indicator of potential subsidence issues while allowing the Basin operational flexibility as it protects beneficial uses and users within the Basin. Furthermore, subsidence is not believed to present a great risk to the Basin because there is a lack of vulnerable infrastructure in the Basin that may be affected by subsidence and because there has been little actual measured subsidence in the Basin in recent years.

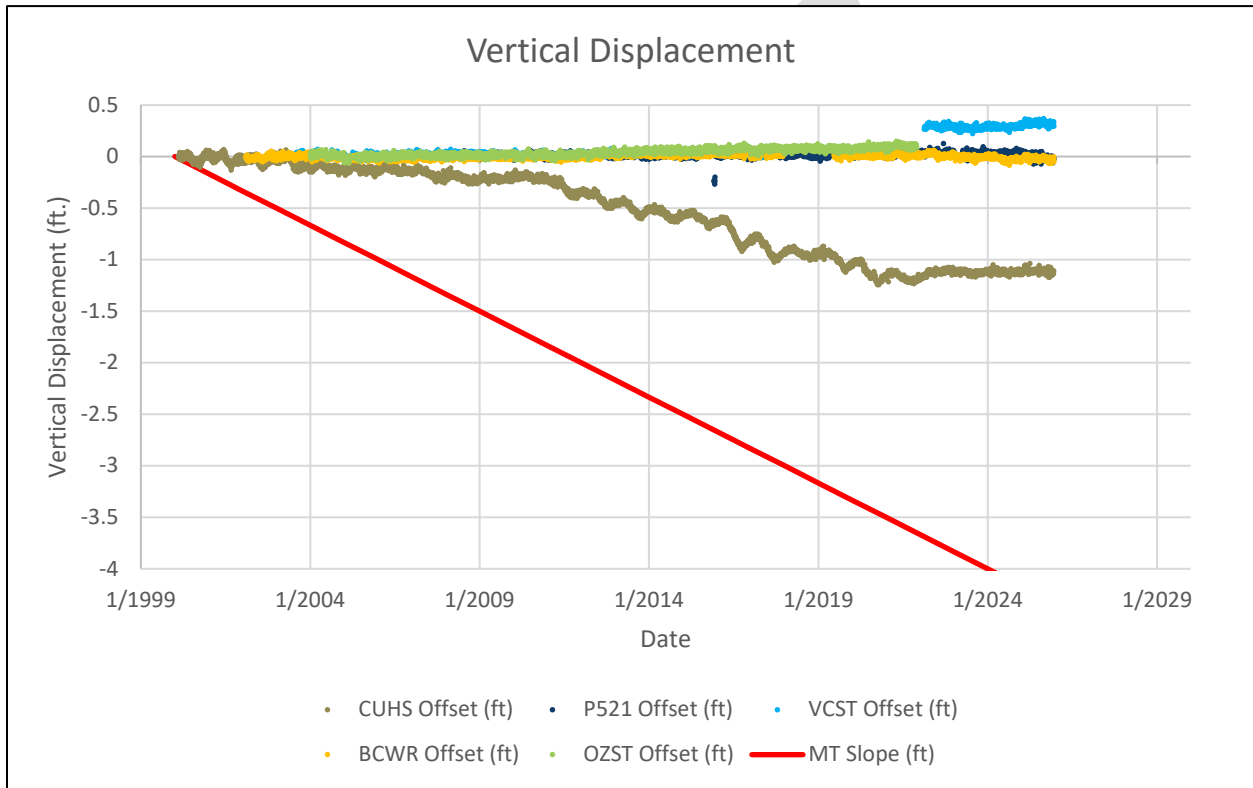
Table 4-1 provides a summary of the infrastructure present in the Cuyama Basin and the potential impacts of subsidence to that infrastructure for each of the categories included in Table 5-1 of DWR's *Draft Best Management Practices of the Sustainable Management of Groundwater* (January 2026). As shown in the table, the communities present in the Cuyama Basin are small, and while there are two major highways in the Basin, there are no significant railroads, canals, or flood control facilities. The primary infrastructure risks that may be caused by subsidence are potential damage to groundwater wells and to the local highways or bridges. However, given the low levels of recently measured subsidence in the Basin, these effects appear unlikely to occur.

Table 4-1: Summary of Infrastructure in the Cuyama Basin

Infrastructure of Land User Type	Infrastructure	Assessment Potential Subsidence Impact
Cities and Communities	Property drainage	Not anticipated to be impacted
	Power Systems	Not anticipated to be impacted
	Municipal water systems	Three small water systems are in the Basin: -CCSD - largest and serves about 1,000 people -Cuyama - smaller system -Ventucopa - smaller system All Municipal water systems were considered during SMC development and not anticipated to be impacted.
	Sewer systems	CCSD - small water and sewer system and serves about 1,000. All Municipal water systems were considered during SMC development and not anticipated to be impacted.
Pipelines and Other Utilities	Natural gas	No known facilities that are anticipated to be impacted
	Water	No large pipelines other than those for the three water system and privately owned irrigation lines
	Underground Cables and overhead powerline utilities	No known facilities that are anticipated to be impacted
Railroads	Private rail	Not applicable
	High-speed rail	Not applicable
Roads	Drainage systems	Not applicable
	Highways	Two Highways (166 & 33)
	Bridges	Two small bridges over Cuyama River on HW 166, one near Cuyama and one at the western edge of the Basin.
Canals	State canals	Not applicable
	Federal canals	Not applicable
	Local canals	Not applicable
Flood Control & Drainage	Federal, State, and Local flood facilities	Not applicable
Groundwater Pumping Facilities	Domestic, agricultural, and public supply wells	There are many wells across the Basin, but all were considered in SMC development. Wells have also been categorized by active or inactive status and categorized by type. Well reporting programs have been implemented to report on impacts to wells.

Based on recent data, GSP implementation and recent reductions in groundwater extractions appear to be stabilizing subsidence and therefore cumulative subsidence is not anticipated to detrimentally impact beneficial uses and users in the Basin over the implementation period. In the years prior to submittal of the

GSP in 2020, subsidence rates for the CUHS station were measured at -0.56 inches per year. However, as shown in **Figure 4-1**, there has been very little subsidence measured at this station (or at any other stations in or near the Basin) since 2020. Recent data indicates that the rate of subsidence over the last two years is actually negative (i.e. the ground surface elevation is increasing) by 0.07 inches in the central portion of the Basin and by 0.31 inches near Ventucopa. This conclusion is supported by subsidence data that is available through TRE Altamira InSAR Dataset from DWR. Raster results for the change over each of the last five water years show no discernable change (between -0.1 and +0.1 feet) in any part of the Basin over that period. As an example, **Figure 4-2** shows the TRE Altamira results for WY 2024-2025.



Note: This figure shows the CUHS data line with the USGS correction in 2024 removed to better see the overall trend of vertical displacement in recent years.

Figure 4-1: Subsidence Monitoring Data WY 2024-2025

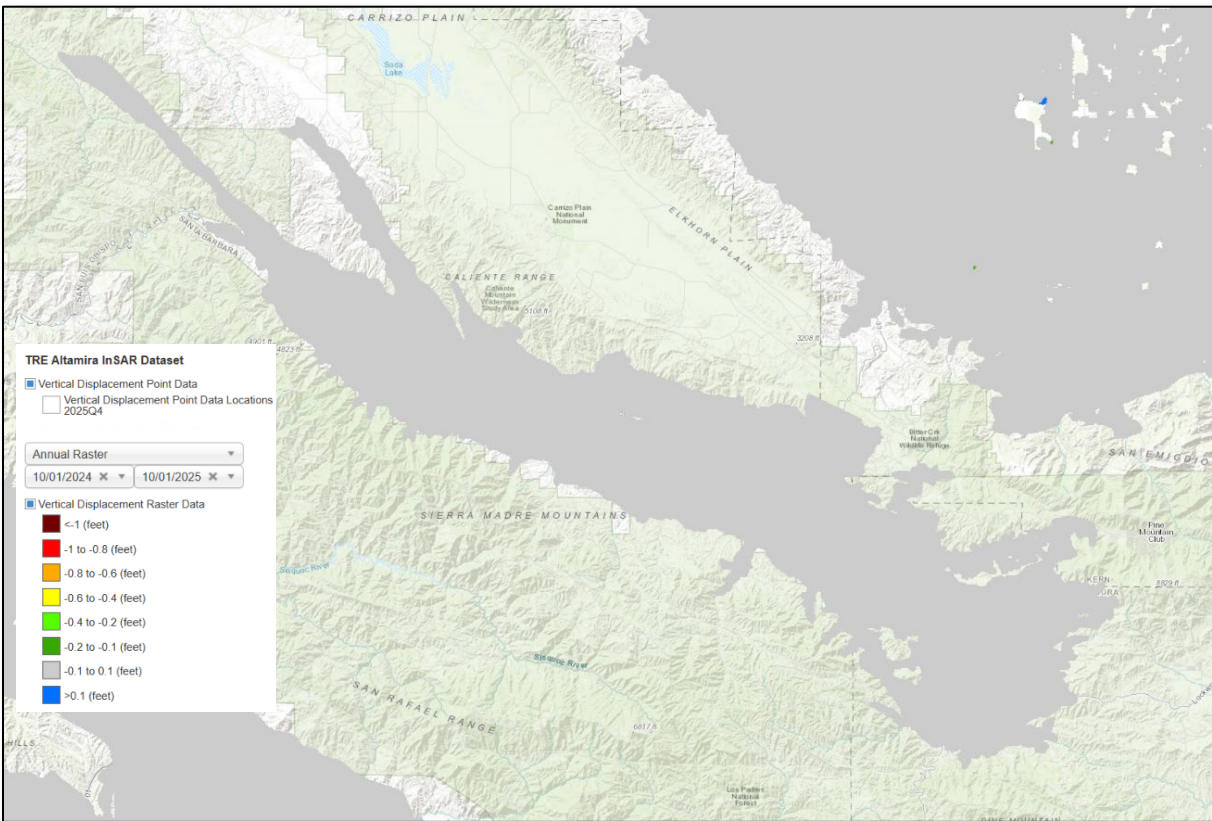


Figure 4-2: Cuyama Subsidence Raster from SGMA Data Viewer – TRE Altamira InSAR Data – WY 2024-2025

Given the lack of critical infrastructure and the lack of significant subsidence in recent years, the CBGSA believes that subsidence is not currently causing significant and unreasonable impacts in the Basin and that the UR definition and SMCs that have been established for subsidence provide the flexibility to respond to any future subsidence that may occur. In addition, with the pumping allocations management action included in the GSP, it is expected that groundwater pumping levels in the Basin will be approximately equal to the Basin's sustainable yield by 2038, which should result in subsidence levels that are maintained at or very close to the measurable objective of zero subsidence in the Basin. If the measured rate of subsidence increases in future years, the CBGSA will consider performing additional technical analyses to diagnose and address the issue, including those recommended in the DWR Subsidence BMP.

5. MONITORING

Request:

- A. Clarify how missed measurements are factored when determining an undesirable result.
- B. Reconcile the list of wells and provide the list of TDS water quality RMS wells; and consistently report on these wells in future periodic evaluations and annual reports.
- C. Provide a schedule for migrating new wells, installed as part of the GSP implementation, to become representative monitoring sites with sustainable management criteria.

5.1 Clarify how Missed Measurements are Factored (Request A)

The CBGSA utilizes regularly groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring reports to monitor the status of those SMCs (and those that use GWL as a proxy). GWL Conditions Reports are published quarterly while groundwater quality reports are published annually. These reports, which are available to the public via the Basin's website, provide the most recent measurements for each representative site, the status of that site related to its thresholds, and how many months, if applicable, that well has exceeded its minimum threshold. If a site is unable to be monitored, is missing data, or has an issue, that information is also provided.

In the event that a site is missing a measurement or multiple measurements and is trending towards an exceedance of its minimum threshold, that is also noted in the conditions report. Trend analysis and professional judgement is used and if a site is already in exceedance or is expected to exceed its minimum threshold during a reporting period but that data is missing, it is assumed that the site has exceeded the MT. This also applies to assessing undesirable results criteria for each SMC.

Groundwater Level and Groundwater Quality Conditions Reports can be accessed at <https://cuyamabasin.org/resources#basin-reports>.

5.2 Reconcile List of GWQ RMN Wells (Request B)

There was an error in a table in the 2025 Adopted GSP. The corrected GWQ RMW table is included in the WY 2024-2025 Annual Report. **Table 5-1** below includes the GWQ RMWs with the water quality sustainable management criteria for each well.

Table 5-1: Groundwater Quality Wells

Opti ID	TDS		
	MO (mg/L)	MT (mg/L)	2025 Interim Milestone (mg/L)
61	585	1000	896
72	900	1106	1055
74	1310	1872	1732
77	1120	1682	1542
79	1500	2318	2114
83	1120	1816	1642
88	320	1000	830
90	1400	1596	1547
91	1020	1558	1424
95	1340	1950	1798
96	1100	1676	1532
99	1140	1658	1529
101	1210	1735	1604
102	1500	2551	2288
157	1360	2468	2191
204	380	1000	845
242	780	1656	1437
316	1060	1524	1408
317	692	1444	1256
322	1140	1504	1413
324	740	1000	935
325	1070	1687	1533
420	1080	1560	1440
421	1280	1761	1640
424	1260	1658	1559
467	1070	1846	1652
568	860	1118	1054
841	561	1000	890
845	1250	1250	1250

5.3 Provide a Schedule for Migrating New Wells into RMN (Request C)

Since submittal of the 2020 GSP, there have been 22 new monitoring wells installed in the Cuyama Basin, including three multi-completion well locations (Well ID 900-908) installed by DWR's Technical Support Services (TSS), and four additional multi-completion well locations and five single-completion wells installed by the CBGSA. The CBGSA intends to integrate these new wells into the RMN, targeting five years of data collection to provide enough historical context for full integration into the RMN and future analysis. **Table 5-2** shows the month and year where a GWL measurement was first taken at each well and the anticipated year when each well will be analyzed and potential incorporation into the RMN will be considered. Since the TSS wells were first measured during July 2022, the CBGSA will perform an analysis of these wells in 2027. The analysis will assess whether the data collected from these wells show consistent, non-erratic results that provide a suitable basis for developing SMCs. The remaining wells were first measured during August 2023 or later; therefore, these wells will be evaluated during the 2028-2030 period.

Table 5-2: Timing of Initial Measurements and SMC Consideration for Newly Installed Wells

Wells	First Measurement Date	Year of SMC Consideration
900, 901, 902	July 2022	2027
903, 904, 905	July 2022	2027
906, 907, 908	July 2022	2027
909	January 2024	2029
910	January 2024	2029
911	January 2024	2029
912, 913	January 2024	2029
914	August 2023	2028
915, 916	October 2024	2029
917, 918	October 2024	2029
919, 920	August 2024	2029
921	April 2025	2030

DRAFT

6. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Request:

- A. Provide what the target and actual allocations through WY 2024 were for Management Action 2: Pumping Allocations and confirm the single baseline for the allocations. In addition, provide details on what the annual targets for reduced pumping will be through 2040. Also, ensure that future annual reports included target and actual allocation reduction results and an explanation for any future adjustments to the baseline.

Implementation of Management Action 2 has proceeded along the same timeline that was introduced in the original 2020 GSP and used in the 2025 GSP. **Figure 6-1** shows the planned pumping reduction schedule that was included in the GSP. The allocation schedule called for reductions in Central Management Area (CMA) pumping of 5 percent in each year in 2023 and 2024 and additional reductions of 6.5 percent annually from 2025 through 2038, so as to achieve sustainability in the CMA in 2038. The CBGSA completed the initial pumping allocation plan in 2022, with pumping reductions beginning in 2023 at 5 percent of the total required reduction to achieve sustainability, and an additional 5 percent reduction in 2024.

In 2024, the CBGSA Board approved additional pumping allocations for 2025 through 2029, which applied reductions of 6.5 percent per year. It should be noted, however, that the CBWRM that is used to estimate pumping within the CMA was re-calibrated in 2024, resulting in a significant reduction in the estimated pumping during the historical period with only small changes in the estimated sustainable yield (i.e. about 11,000 AF). To account for this change while also allowing for a transition period for landowners to adjust, the CBGSA Board voted to continue to use the previous Baseline (i.e. year 2022 starting value; about 50,600 acre-feet per year (AFY)) to develop allocation amounts for 2025 but to develop the allocation amounts for 2026 through 2029 using a revised Baseline based on the updated model (i.e. 39,500 AFY). In each year, the allocation amount is calculated as the relevant Baseline amount for that year reduced by the cumulative percent reduction based on the Glide Path curve shown in **Figure 6-1**. The resulting pumping allocation amounts for the CMA are shown in **Figure 6-2**.

The CBGSA intends to develop additional allocations for the period beyond 2029 that would achieve the overall target reduction volume specified in the GSP to reach sustainable conditions. The specific approaches for determining the allocation amounts for landowners in the CMA will be developed and implemented during 2029 to take advantage of future data improvements and an anticipated update and re-calibration of the CBWRM. **Figure 6-2** shows the projected CMA allocations for the 2030-2040 period based on the current CBWRM, which would bring the CMA pumping in line with the estimated sustainable yield by 2038.

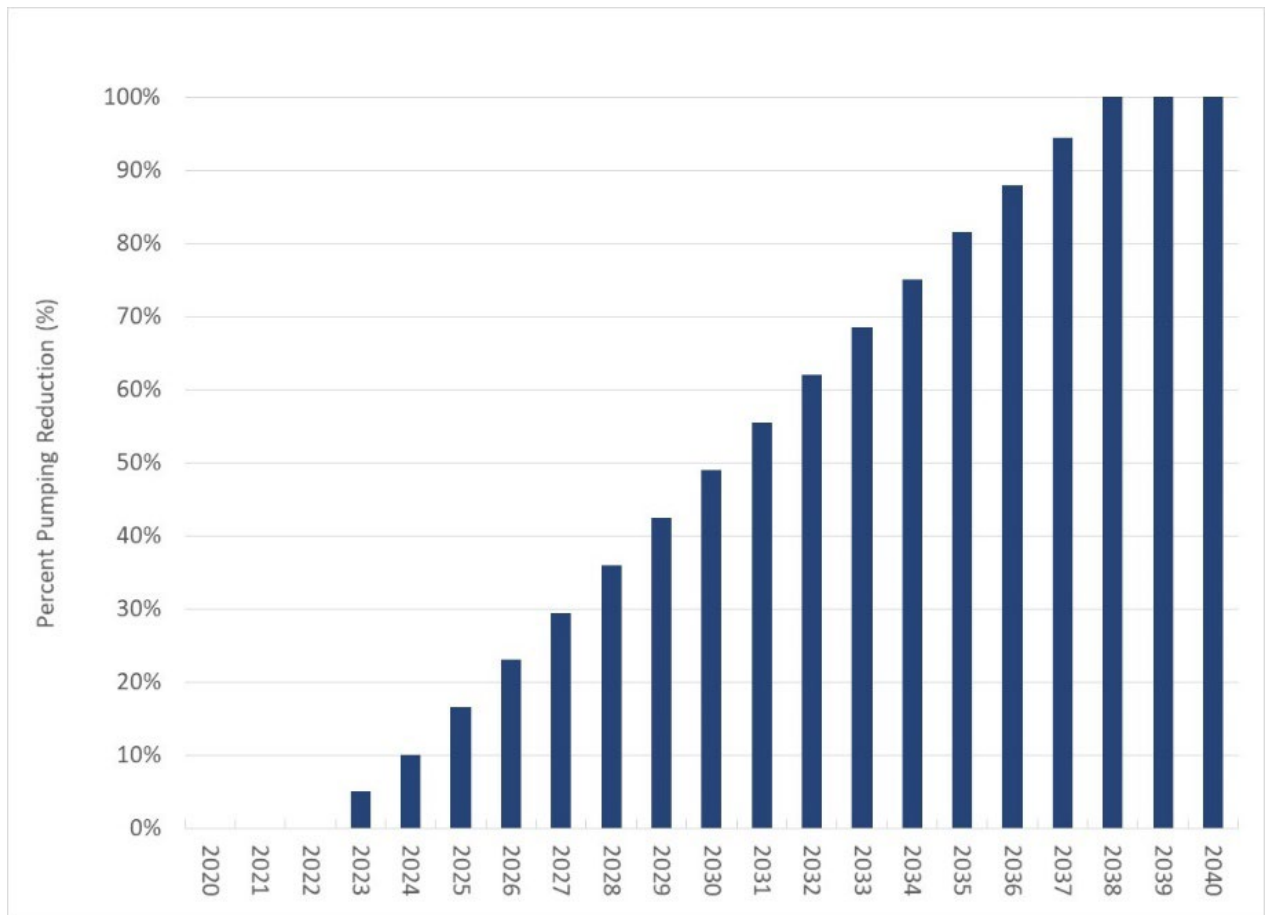


Figure 6-1: Glide Path for CMA Groundwater Pumping Reductions

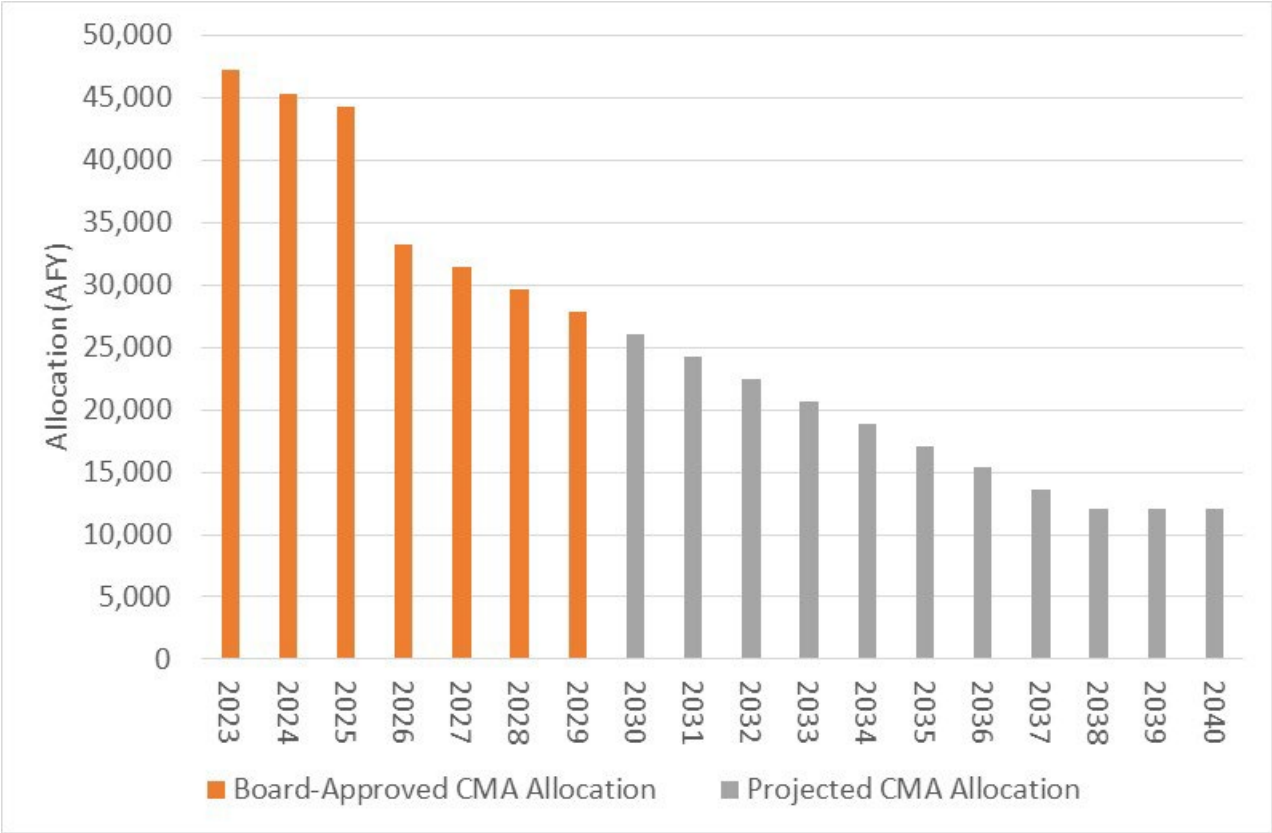


Figure 6-2: CBGSA Board-Approved and Projected CMA Allocations

Table 6-1 compares the total CMA allocation quantities in 2023 through 2025 with actual pumping, which was recorded with pumping meters by water users in the CMA in each calendar year. Total CMA pumping was at or below the total CMA pumping allocation amount in all three years. It was significantly lower than the total allocations because 1) as discussed above, the allocations for these years were based on the previous version of the model which over-estimated historical pumping in the CMA; and 2) landowners have already been reducing their pumping levels in recent years compared to historical levels. As the allocation implementation continues into the future, the annual reductions in allowable allocation amounts will cause overall extractions in the CMA to reduce over time.

Table 6-1: Total CMA Allocations and Extractions

Calendar Year	Allocations (Acre-feet)	Extractions (Acre-feet)
2023	47,246	23,454
2024	45,350	25,940
2025	44,295	25,747

7. DATA REPORTING

Request:

- A. Provide the measured extraction data for water years 2020 through 2024. If modeled data is the best available for the basin, please provide an explanation of how the modeled data is more accurate than measured extraction data).

In the future, the GSA should be providing the consistent accurate data with the best available science via annual reports, periodic evaluations, and any future GSP updates in a manner consistent with GSP Regulations.

For basin management, the CBGSA utilizes both landowner reported and model estimated groundwater extractions. These were both provided in the WY 2024-2025 Annual Report. Landowner reported groundwater extraction volumes (reported on a calendar year basis) are used to set extraction fees, verify landowners are pumping less than or equal to their allocations, and to validate the groundwater model. Modeled extraction estimates (estimated on a water year basis) are used to develop the basin water budgets for the historical period (1998-2025) and for the current and projected condition water budgets included in the GSP (which utilizes the 1968-2017 hydrologic years).

7.1 Landowner Reported Groundwater Extractions

All landowners within the Cuyama Basin with a total water use of 25 AFY or more have been required to install flow meters and report groundwater pumping on a calendar year basis since 2022. The total groundwater extraction volumes reported for each calendar year are shown in **Table 7-1** below. Note that while these quantities are used to calibrate the model, they won't match exactly with the model reported values below because of the differences between calendar and water year reporting and because the model estimation of pumping is based on land use and evapotranspiration assumptions and may not exactly match real-world results in any given year.

Table 7-1: Basin-Wide Extractions Reported by Landowners

Calendar Year	Landowner Reported Extractions (Acre-feet)
2022	44,425
2023	34,391
2024	37,338
2025	34,219

7.2 Model Estimated Groundwater Extractions

Water budgets in the Cuyama Basin GSP are developed using the CBWRM, which is a fully integrated surface and groundwater flow model covering the Basin. The CBWRM was used to develop a historical water budget that evaluated the availability and reliability of past surface water supply deliveries, aquifer response to water supply, and demand trends relative to water year type. For the 2020 GSP, the CBWRM was used to develop water budget estimates for the hydrologic period of 1998 through 2017. An update and recalibration of the model was completed in 2024 for the 2025 GSP Update and was based on the best available data and information as of September 2023. As part of the model update, the pumping estimates

for historical years were re-assessed using the reported pumping estimates for each landowner in 2022 and 2023. This analysis revealed that the previous version of the model had over-estimated pumping during these years and therefore the model re-calibration significantly reduced the quantity of groundwater pumping in the model; for example, for water year 2023 the model estimated pumping was reduced from about 50,000 AFY to about 34,000 AFY. Since the pumping estimates from the updated model are much closer to the reported pumping amounts, the updated model is being used by the CBGSA for basin management.

Table 7-2 shows the total groundwater extraction volumes estimated by the model for each water year from 2020 through 2025. **Figure 7-1** shows the annual time series of groundwater pumping for the water years 1998 through 2025.

Table 7-2: Model Estimated Basin-Wide Extractions

Water Year	Groundwater Extractions (Acre-feet)
2020	42,700
2021	43,200
2022	41,900
2023	34,100
2024	33,700
2025	38,200

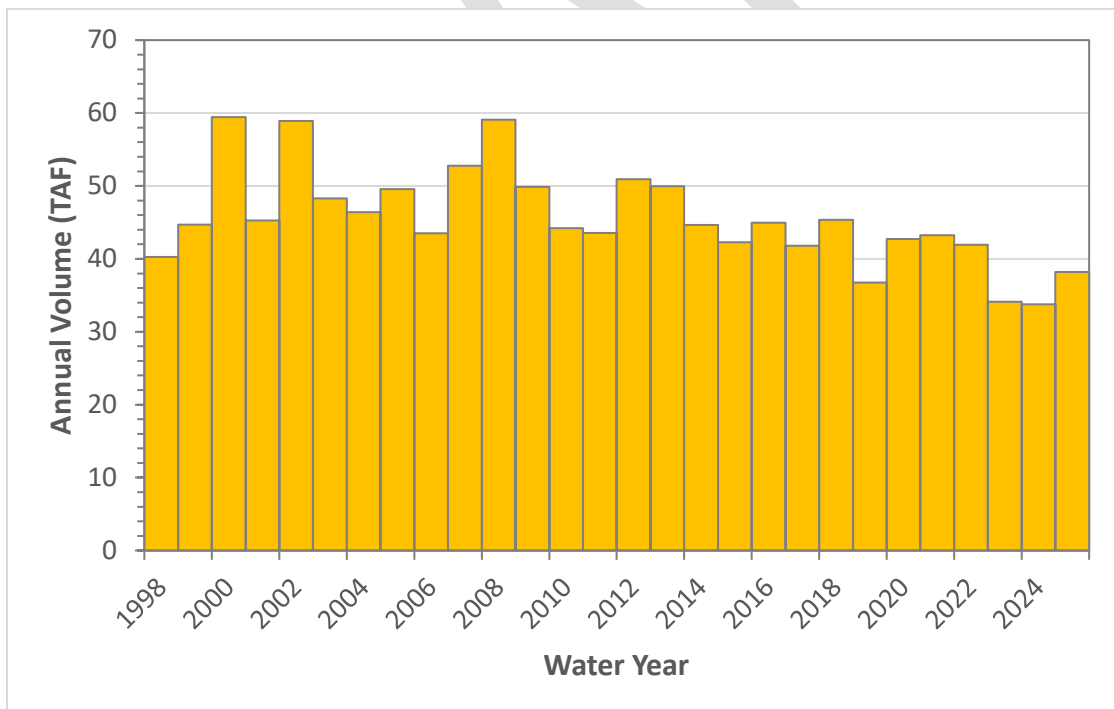


Figure 7-1: Annual Groundwater Extraction in the Cuyama Basin in Water Years 1998-2025



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 10b

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area

Recommended Motion

Board feedback requested.

Discussion

An update on the initial assessment of potential overdraft areas outside the Central Management Area is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Potential Areas of
Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area

Taylor Blakslee



Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area | Background

- On July 9, 2025, the CBGSA Board directed staff to prepare a list of options to address new pumping outside the existing management areas.
- On September 3, 2025, staff presented management approaches and the Board directed staff to continue with basin-wide management while preventing new or expanded pumping outside existing management areas.
- On November 5, 2025, staff provided an overview of the current water use management in the basin according to the GSP and Board policy.
 - Staff provided a reminder of the Board policy that calls for an annual assessment of water use outside the CMA to determine whether further management and potential localized allocations are needed.
- On January 14, 2026, staff presented the approach to for annually evaluating potential increase water use outside the CMA.

Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area | Background

- The Board directed staff to proceed with the initial assessment to evaluate potential areas of overdraft outside the CMA and determine whether a more detailed analysis or potential management actions are warranted.
- The initial assessment evaluates three criteria:
 1. Groundwater Pumping
 2. Groundwater Levels
 3. Land Use and Well Permitting
- An overview of the initial assessment is provided on the following slides.

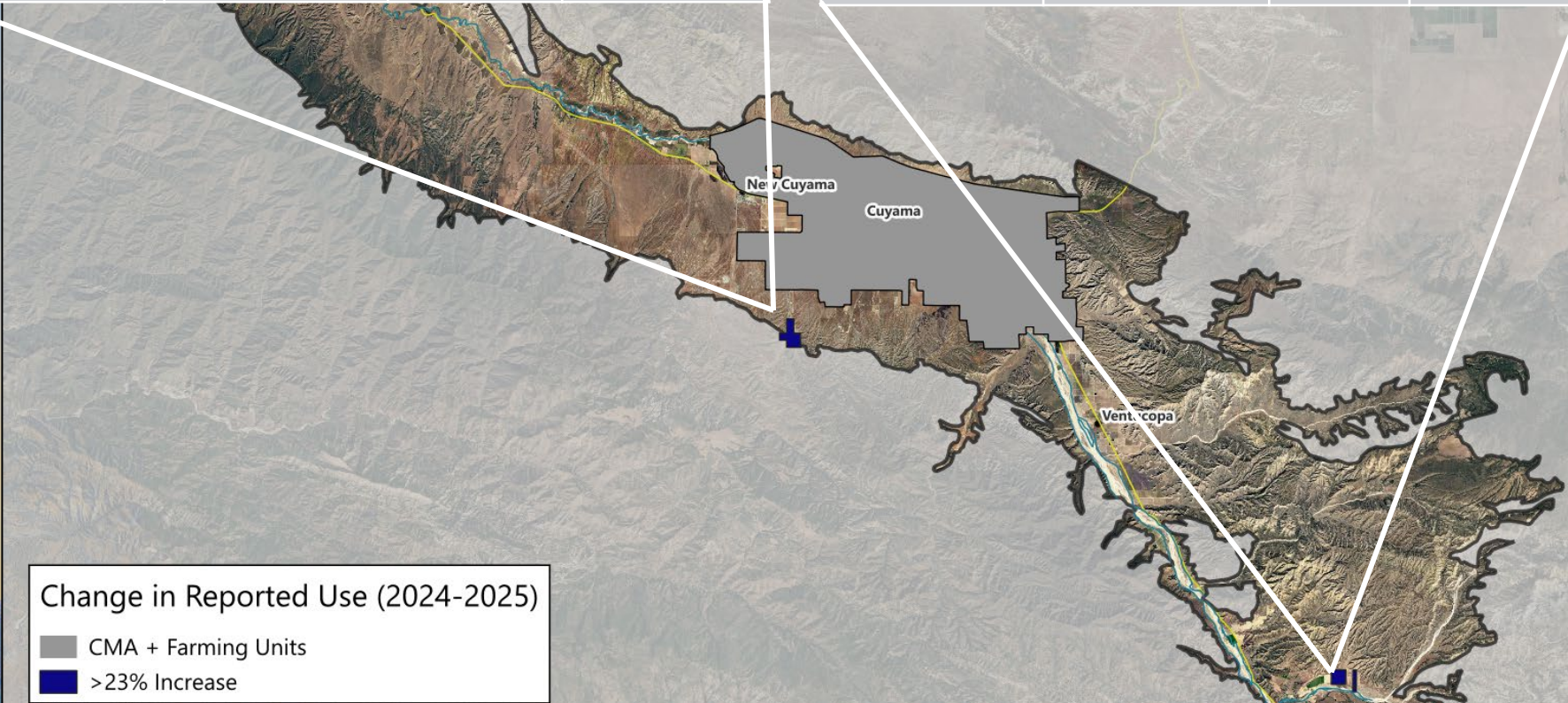
Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area | Initial Assessment

1. Groundwater Pumping:

- An analysis compared reported groundwater use between 2024 and 2025.
- Among non-de minimis users, the average increase in use was 23%.
- A 25 acre-foot threshold was applied to exclude changes with minimal impact on the basin.
- This screening identified two landowners with a significant increase in report use (shown in purple).

2024 Reported Use	2025 Reported Use	% Change	Crop
40.83 AF	233.33 AF	471%	Cannabis (58.8 acres)

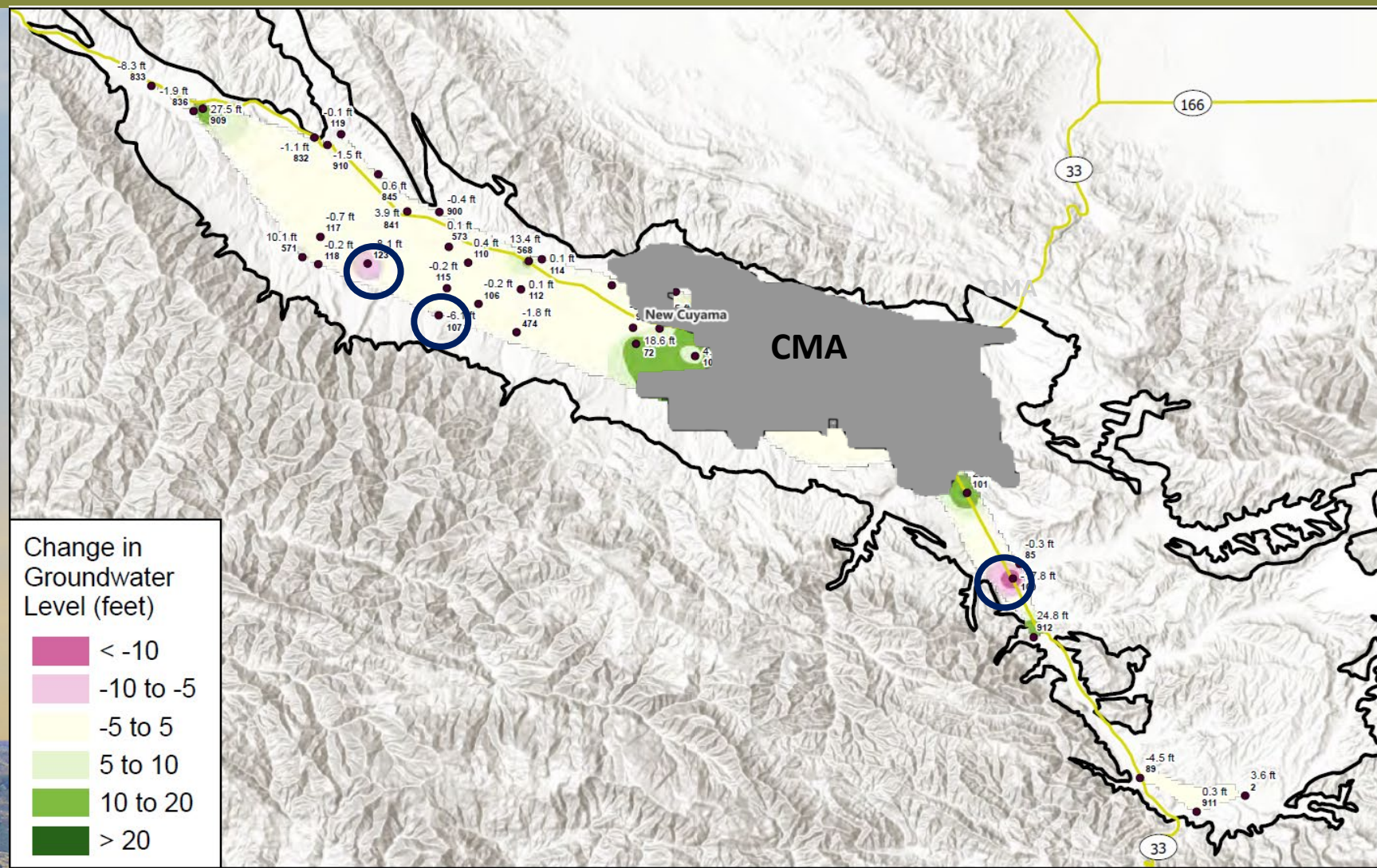
2024 Reported Use	2025 Reported Use	% Change	Crop
544.87 AF	1,079.95 AF	98%	Rye (120 acres)

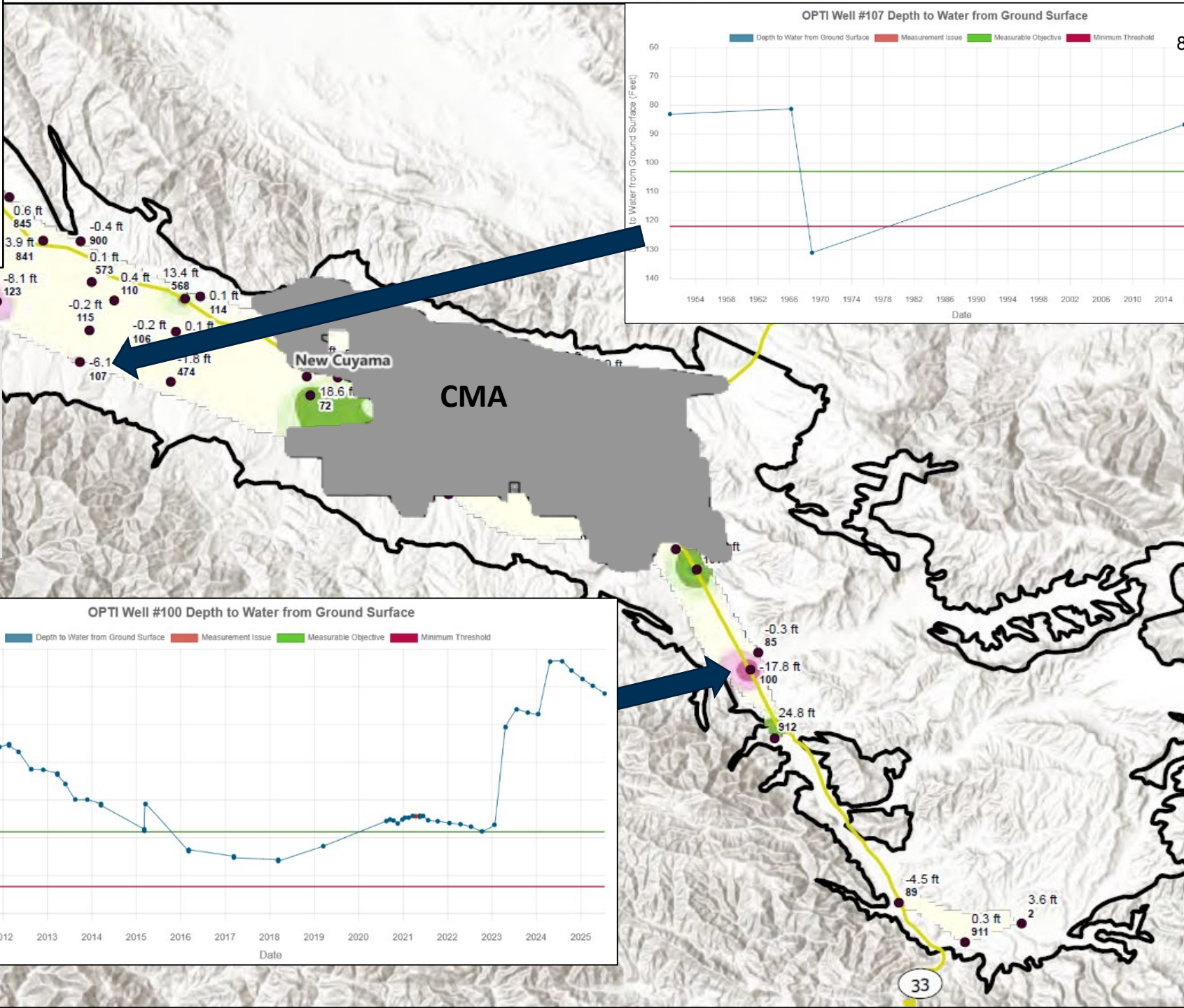
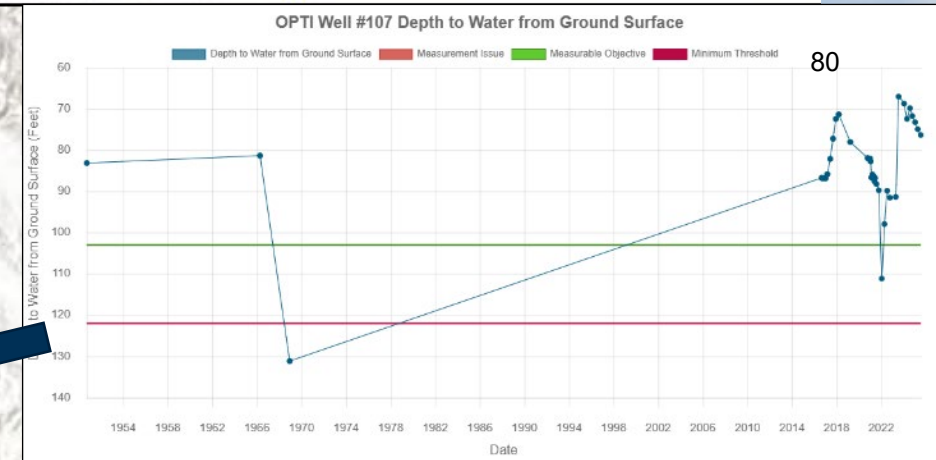
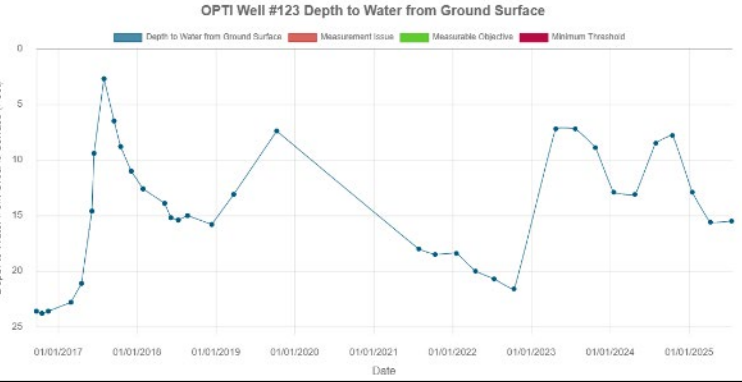


Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area | Initial Assessment

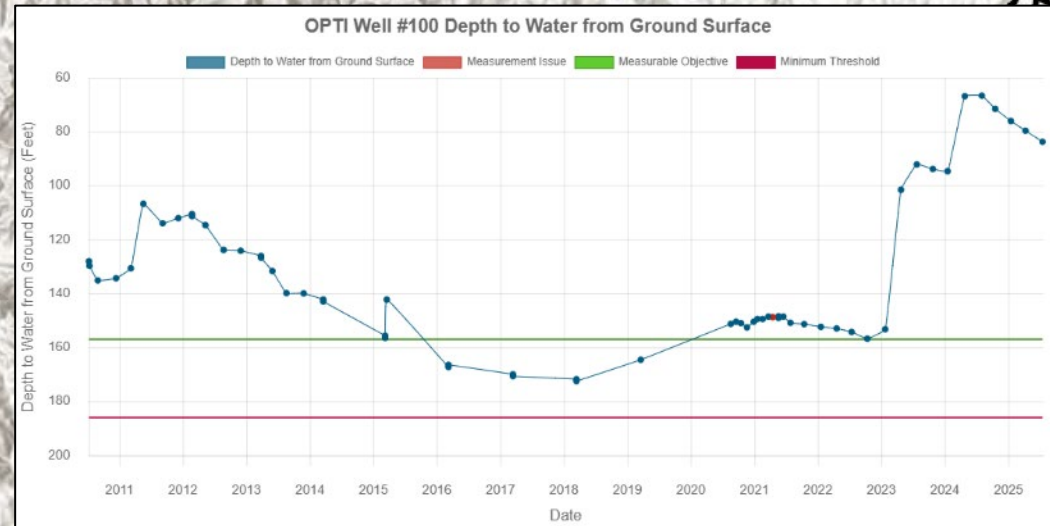
2. Groundwater Levels:

- An analysis compared the groundwater levels between 2024 and 2025.
- There were three areas with GWL declines exceeding 5 ft.





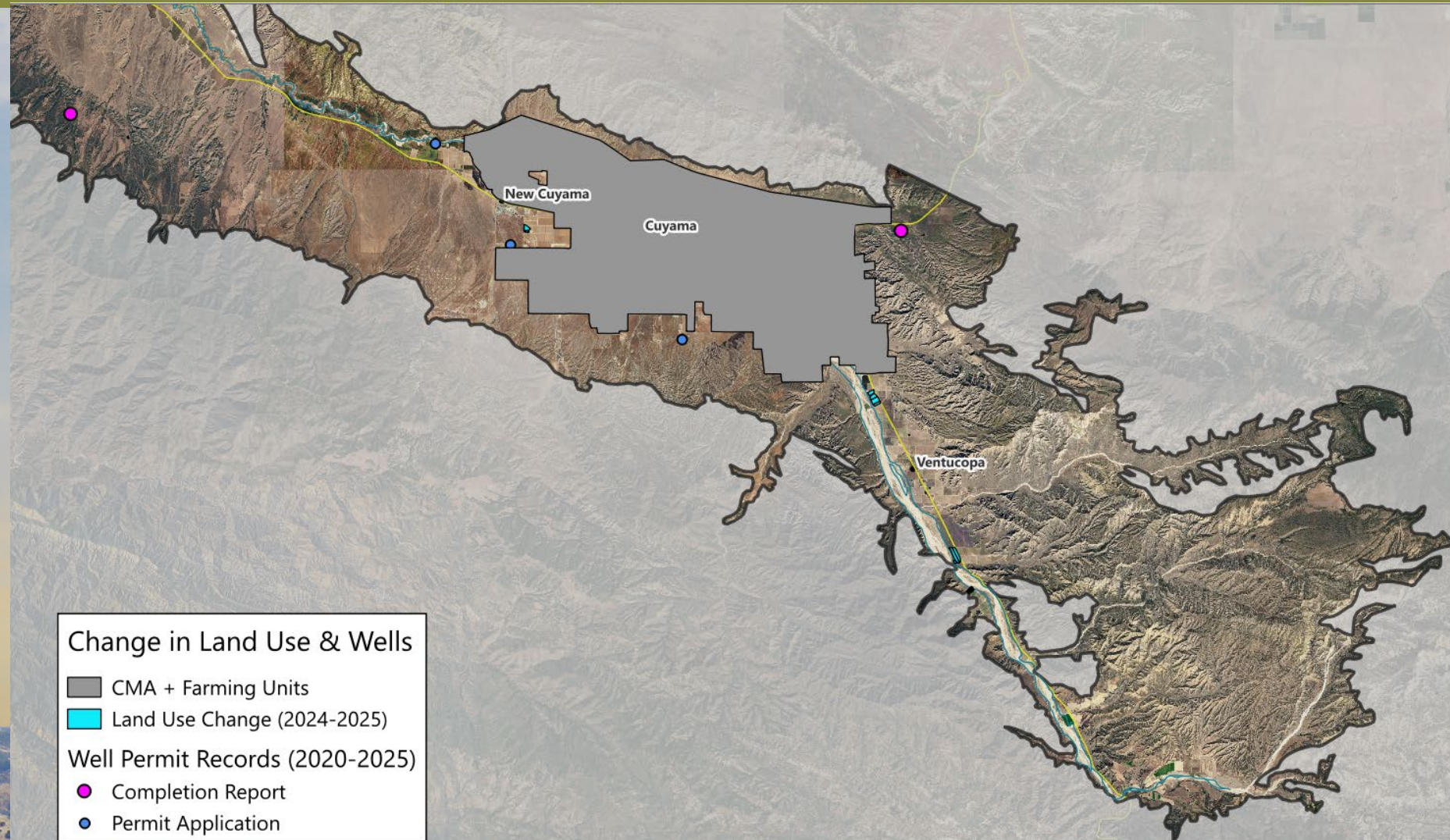
- The hydrographs show levels significantly above the MO or shallow depth to water.
- Staff will continue to monitor the GWL trends.



Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area | Initial Assessment

3. Land Use / Well Permitting

- Staff identified 19 fields outside the CMA that were not irrigated in 2024 and were irrigated in 2025.
- Three (3) well permit applications and two (2) completion reports were reported outside the CMA.
 - All (5) were classified as domestic



Crop	Total Acres
Carrots	119
Misc. Grain & Hay	27

Staff Analysis:

The water use associated with the identified irrigated fields for water year 2025 have been reported to staff and are reflected in the groundwater pumping analysis. Therefore, staff doesn't recommend further analysis on these fields.

Change in Land Use & Wells

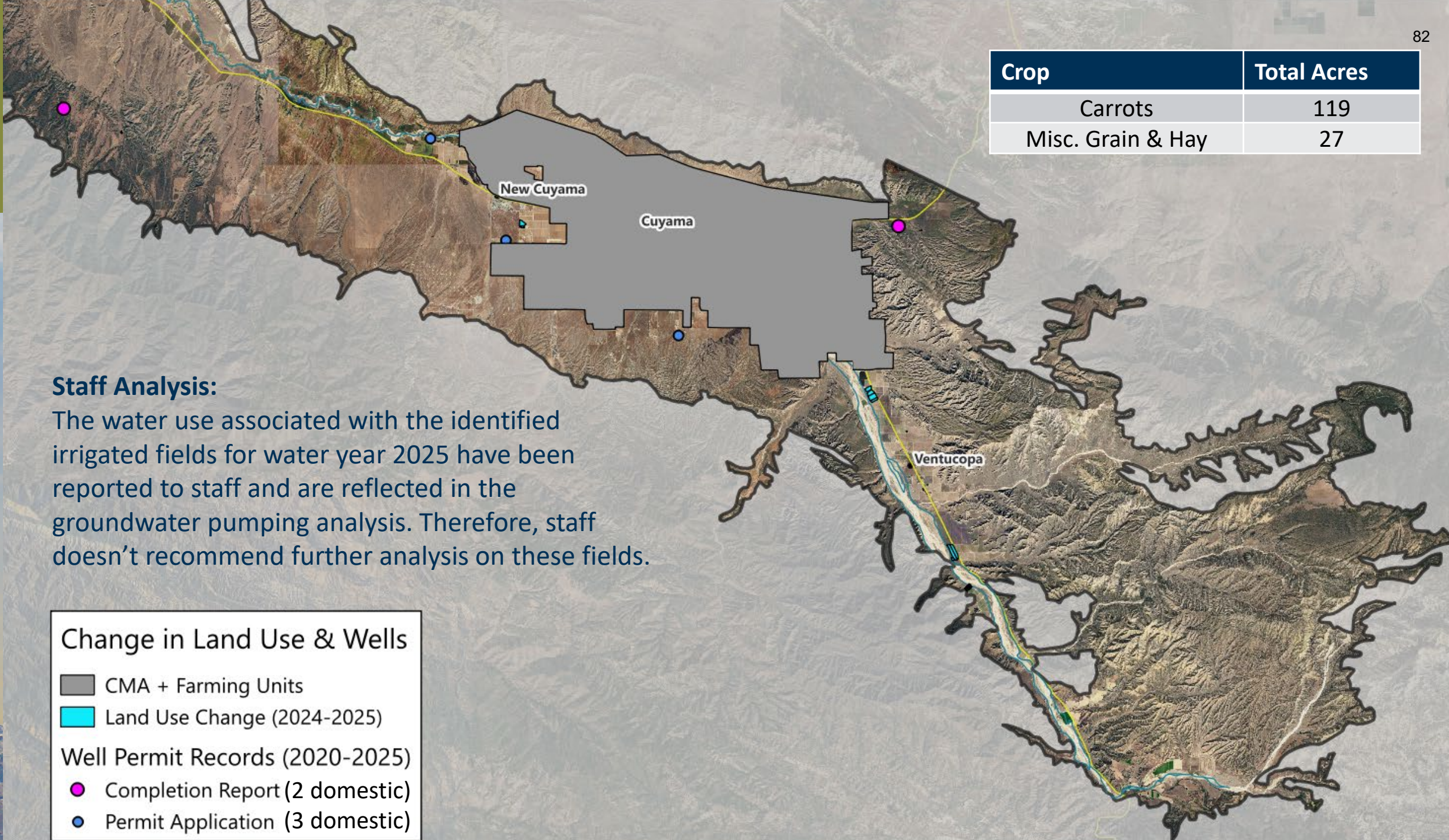
■ CMA + Farming Units

■ Land Use Change (2024-2025)

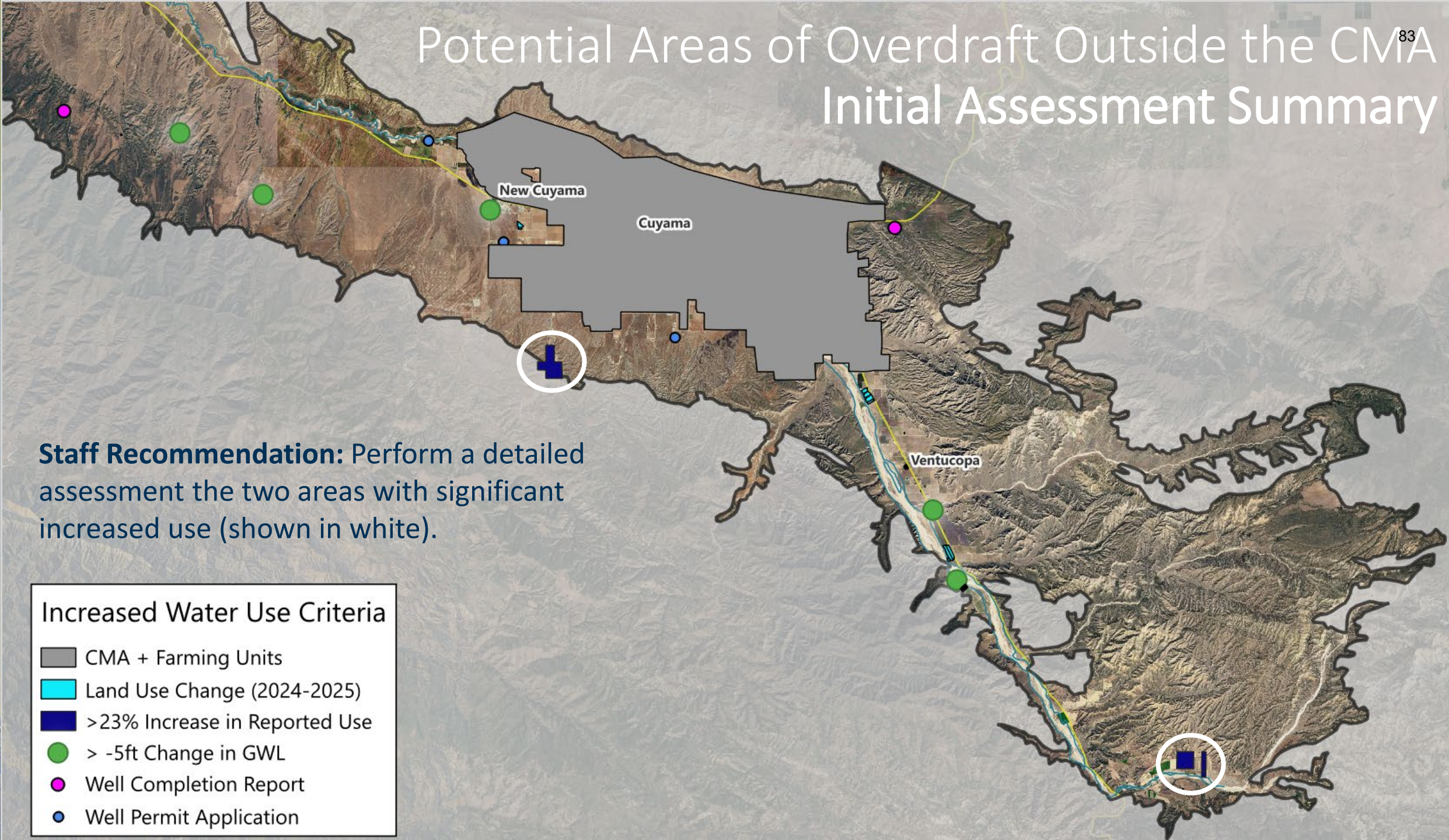
Well Permit Records (2020-2025)

● Completion Report (2 domestic)

● Permit Application (3 domestic)



Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the CMA⁸³ Initial Assessment Summary



Staff Recommendation: Perform a detailed assessment the two areas with significant increased use (shown in white).

Increased Water Use Criteria

- CMA + Farming Units
- Land Use Change (2024-2025)
- >23% Increase in Reported Use
- > -5ft Change in GWL
- Well Completion Report
- Well Permit Application

Potential Areas of Overdraft Outside the Central Management Area | Potential Next Steps

Detailed Assessment (if required)

- If it is determined that increased water use is occurring or likely to occur in the near-term for land outside the CMA, staff will consider the following potential options with an ad hoc and full Board.
 1. Additional ground truthing of analysis and outreach to landowners.
 2. Analyze impact to beneficial uses and users.
 3. Require landowners to develop technical analysis on how their water use will not impact on the GSP and the basin's ability to achieve sustainable conditions by 2040.
 4. Use existing model to determine if localized area is projected to experience groundwater levels decline of >2ft/year.

Implement Management Actions (if required)

- Appropriate management actions will be presented by staff to an ad hoc of the Board and the full Board prior to implementation. Management actions may include, but are not limited to:
 - Establishing a “watch area”.
 - Increased monitoring.
 - Implementing localized allocations.
 - Temporarily restricting pumping from specific wells.



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 10c

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Fiscal Year 2026-20267 Budget and Cash Flow

Recommended Motion

Approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and cash flow.

Discussion

On April 21, 2026, staff reviewed the draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget with the budget ad hoc (Directors Matt Young, Mark Ellsworth, and Brian Grant). The draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget and cash flow are included for Board review/direction and consideration of approval.

Below are the following attachments for the Board's review of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget:

Attachments:

1. Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget
2. SAC Meeting Options with cost estimates
3. Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Cash Flow

DRAFT

CBGSA FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET

CATEGORY	New / Removed	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	% Change	Ad hoc recommendation
A HALLMARK GROUP					
1 CBGSA Board and SAC Meetings		\$ 136,700	\$ 111,700	-18%	No legal and limited technical support
2 GSP Implementation		\$ 50,000	\$ 55,000	10%	
3 Response to DWR on Amended GSP		\$ 14,100	\$ 6,875	-51%	
4 Groundwater Extraction Fee and Allocation Management					
Annual Groundwater Extraction Reporting & Fee		\$ 14,000	\$ 14,100	1%	
CMA Groundwater Allocation Implementation & Management		\$ 13,300	\$ 9,400	-29%	
5 Financial Information Coordination		\$ 46,800	\$ 40,000	-15%	
6 Outreach		\$ 20,500	\$ 16,500	-20%	
7 Adjudication Coordination/Support		\$ 24,100	\$ 15,100	-37%	
Expand Allocations Outside Management Area (Consider During Annual AR)	Removed	\$ 5,600			
Expand Allocations in Ventucopa	Removed	\$ 5,600			
Subtotal		\$ 330,700	\$ 268,675	-19%	
B LEGAL					
1 General Legal Counsel		\$ 150,000	\$ 145,310	-3%	
2 Adjudication Legal Counsel		\$ 100,000	\$ 184,140	84%	
Subtotal		\$ 250,000	\$ 329,450	32%	
C ADMIN					
1 Audit (FY 26-27)		\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	20%	
2 Insurance (D&O, General Liability)		\$ 21,400	\$ 23,600	10%	
3 California Association of Mutual Water Co. Membership		\$ 200	\$ 200	0%	
4 2026 Updated Parcel Data		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0%	
CIMIS Station (Initial Setup)	Removed	\$ 60,000			
5 CIMIS Station (Annual O&M)		\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	0%	
6 Mail house (Noticing)		\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	20%	
7 Contingency		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0%	Keep as is
Subtotal		\$ 134,600	\$ 79,800	-41%	
D WOODARD & CURRAN & TECHNICAL					
1 Stakeholder/Board and Outreach Engagement Support					
1.1 SAC meetings		\$ 24,600	\$ 25,965	6%	Limited technical support
1.2 Board meetings		\$ 44,300	\$ 47,205	7%	
1.3 Tech Forum calls		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,515	5%	
1.4 Public Workshops		\$ 18,300	\$ 19,550	7%	
1.5 General Outreach		\$ 13,700	\$ 9,700	-29%	
1.6 Website Updates - Maintenance / Hosting		\$ 7,400	\$ 7,714	4%	
2 Model Improvements					
Ventucopa Management Area Model Updates					
2.1 Incorporate SBCF Investigation Findings Into Model	New Item		\$ 31,680		
2.2 Develop hydrologic model for foothill areas upstream of SBCF	New Item		\$ 26,640		
2.3 Develop subsurface flows from Quatal Canyon and Ozena	New Item		\$ 21,740		
2.4 Develop hydraulic model of Cuyama River upstream of SB Canyon	New Item		\$ 41,980		
2.5 Perform Evapotranspiration Study	New Item		\$ 70,570		
2.6 Evaluate Irrigation Efficiency/Methods	New Item		\$ 48,145		
2.7 Conduct Infiltration Rate Study	New Item		\$ 44,695		
3 GSP Implementation Support					
3.1 GSP Implementation Program Management		\$ 59,200	\$ 62,830	6%	
3.2 GW Levels and GWQ Monitoring Network Coordination and Data Mgmt		\$ 27,500	\$ 29,350	7%	
3.3 Support for CBGSA response to DWR and public comments on 2025 GSP		\$ 48,500	\$ 51,710	7%	
3.4 Support for Adaptive Management of Groundwater Levels		\$ 25,000	\$ 26,580	6%	
3.5 Prepare Annual Report for Cuyama Basin		\$ 48,800	\$ 55,580	14%	
3.6 Develop Approach for ISW Analysis	New Item		\$ 7,840		
3.7 Assess Water Quality Data Collection Approach	New Item		\$ 7,260		
4 Pumping Allocation and Water Use Analysis Support					
4.1 CMA: Allocation Exchange Support		\$ 1,400	\$ 1,490	6%	
4.2 CMA: Carryover Policy Support		\$ 1,600	\$ 1,730	8%	
4.3 Detailed Assessment of Increased Water Use	New Item		\$ 55,260		
Expand Allocations Outside Management Area (Consider During Annual AR)	Removed	\$ 52,300			
Expand Allocations in Ventucopa	Removed	\$ 39,100			
5 Improve Understanding of Basin Water Use					
5.1 Perform Annual Land Use Survey (Land IQ and Local Reporting)		\$ 14,000	\$ 48,245	245%	
5.2 Develop Opti DMS tool for local landowner use reporting and processing	New Item		\$ 14,290		
5.3 Historical Land Use Update (Land IQ)	New Item		\$ 152,687		
Enhance Existing CIMIS Station & Implement New Stations	Removed	\$ 5,000			
Perform Additional Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation	Removed	\$ 167,700			
6 Install Telemetry for Monitoring Network (W&C + Sub)	New Item		\$ 78,480		
7 As-Needed Technical Tasks					
7.1 Preparation of grant proposal		\$ 45,100	\$ 48,310	7%	
7.2 Support for DWR Technical Services (TSS)		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,760	8%	
Grant Admin (SGM Round 1)	Removed	\$ 30,000			
8 Adjudication Support (if Required)		\$ 38,450	\$ 45,000	17%	
Subtotal		\$ 731,950	\$ 1,103,501	51%	
E OTHER TECHNICAL					
1 Quarterly GW Levels and Piezometer Monitoring (Contractor TBD)		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	0%	
2 Annual WQ Monitoring (Contractor TBD)		\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	20%	
3 Annual Stream Gauge Maintenance (USGS)		\$ 53,200	\$ 53,200	0%	
Subtotal		\$ 128,200	\$ 133,200	4%	
F OTHER LEGAL					
1 Adjudication contingency (subpoenas, depositions, pleadings, etc.)		\$ -	\$ 250,000		
TOTAL		\$ 1,575,500	\$ 2,164,600	37%	

Options to Reduce Costs Related to the Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

SAC Meeting Option	Ad hoc Recommendation	Assumptions	Cost Per Meeting	Cost Per Yr (6 mtgs)
1 Current Cost Estimate		No meeting time limit, GB/TB in person, BVL + legal online	\$ 16,356	\$ 98,135
2 Limited In-person Support		No meeting time limit, GB in-person, TB/BVL online, no legal	\$ 12,497	\$ 74,980
3 Fixed Meeting Time + No Legal		3 hr meeting limit, GB/TB in person, BVL online, no legal	\$ 11,800	\$ 70,797
4 No Legal, But No Time Restrictions		GB/TB in-person, BVL online	\$ 10,861	\$ 65,164
5 No Legal & Limited Technical Support (3 hour limit)	✓	GB/TB in-person, BVL online for up to 3 hours, no legal	\$ 9,694	\$ 58,165
6 Limited In-person + Fixed Meeting Time		3 hr meeting limit, GB in-person, TB/BVL online, no legal	\$ 8,100	\$ 48,602

GB/TB = Grace Bianchi, and Taylor Blakslee (Administration)

BVL = Brian Van Lienden (Technical support)

PROJECTED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 CASH FLOW

Estimated water use: 34000

Month	Beginning Cash	Executive Director	Legal	Admin	Adjudication	Technical	Monitoring	Total Expenses	Cash Disbursements for Expenses	GW Extraction Fee	Total Revenues	Projected Ending Cash Balance	
		Hallmark Group	Hanson Bridget			Woodard & Curran	Provost & Pritchard, USGS						
	1,600,000	Expenses									578,000	Revenues	
July-26	2,178,000	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385	280,000		-	1,898,000	
August-26	1,898,000	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385			-	1,898,000	
September-26	1,898,000	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385	236,702		-	1,661,298	
October-26	1,661,298	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385			-	1,661,298	
November-26	1,661,298	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385	360,771		-	1,300,527	
December-26	1,300,527	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385			-	1,300,527	
January-27	1,300,527	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385	360,771		-	939,756	
February-27	939,756	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385			-	939,756	
March-27	939,756	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385	360,771		-	578,985	
April-27	578,985	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385			-	578,985	
May-27	578,985	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385	360,771		-	218,214	
June-27	218,214	22,390	27,454	6,650	20,833	91,958	11,100	180,385			-	218,214	
Total		268,675	329,450	79,800	250,000	1,103,501	133,200	2,164,626	1,959,786		-		

Fee \$ 17

PROJECTED FISCAL YEAR 2027-2028

July-27	218,214							141,667	360,771	1,802,000	1,802,000	1,659,443
August-27	1,659,443							141,667			-	1,659,443
September-27	1,659,443							141,667	322,052		-	1,337,391
October-27	1,337,391							141,667			-	1,337,391
November-27	1,337,391							141,667	283,333		-	1,054,058
December-27	1,054,058							141,667			-	1,054,058
January-28	1,054,058							141,667	283,333		-	770,725
February-28	770,725							141,667			-	770,725
March-28	770,725							141,667	283,333		-	487,391
April-28	487,391							141,667			-	487,391
May-28	487,391							141,667	283,333		-	204,058
June-28	204,058							141,667			-	204,058
								<u>1,700,000</u>				

Fee \$ 53

PROJECTED FISCAL YEAR 2028-2029

July-28	204,058	141,667	283,333	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,620,725	Fee
August-28	1,620,725	141,667			-	1,620,725	\$ 50
September-28	1,620,725	141,667	283,333		-	1,337,391	
October-28	1,337,391	141,667			-	1,337,391	
November-28	1,337,391	141,667	283,333		-	1,054,058	
December-28	1,054,058	141,667			-	1,054,058	
January-29	1,054,058	141,667	283,333		-	770,725	
February-29	770,725	141,667			-	770,725	
March-29	770,725	141,667	283,333		-	487,391	
April-29	487,391	141,667			-	487,391	
May-29	487,391	141,667	283,333		-	204,058	
June-29	204,058	141,667			-	204,058	
		<u>141,667</u>					
		1,700,000					

PROJECTED FISCAL YEAR 2029-2030

July-29	204,058	141,667	283,333	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,620,725	Fee
August-29	1,620,725	141,667			-	1,620,725	\$ 50
September-29	1,620,725	141,667	283,333		-	1,337,391	
October-29	1,337,391	141,667			-	1,337,391	
November-29	1,337,391	141,667	283,333		-	1,054,058	
December-29	1,054,058	141,667			-	1,054,058	
January-30	1,054,058	141,667	283,333		-	770,725	
February-30	770,725	141,667			-	770,725	
March-30	770,725	141,667	283,333		-	487,391	
April-30	487,391	141,667			-	487,391	
May-30	487,391	141,667	283,333		-	204,058	
June-30	204,058	141,667			-	204,058	
		<u>141,667</u>					
		1,700,000					



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 10d

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Consultant Task Orders for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Recommended Motion

Approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 task orders for the Hallmark Group and Woodard & Curran.

Discussion

Hallmark Group and Woodard & Curran task orders for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 are provided as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. The task orders match the amounts in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget and are provided for consideration of Board approval.

AMENDMENT CB-HG-012

AMENDMENT NO. CB-HG-011

CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Task Order No.:	CB-HG-012
Contractor:	The Hallmark Group
Request for Services:	Executive Director
Agreement Number:	201709-CB-001
Amount:	\$268,875.00
Contract Period:	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

DESCRIPTION OF TASK

The Hallmark Group serves as the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director. For the July 2026 through June 2027 period, the below tasks match the line items and dollar amounts from the adopted FY 2026-2027 budget.

SCOPE OF WORK FOR CBGSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TASK 1 – CBGSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- 1.1 Prepare for and facilitate six Standing Advisory Committee meetings
- 1.2 Prepare for and facilitate six Board meetings
- 1.3 Administer Form 700s and Manage ad hoc development

TASK 2 – CONSULTANT MANAGEMENT AND GSP IMPLEMENTATION

- 2.1 Facilitate biweekly project team calls
- 2.2 Coordinate with Counties and well permit applicants
- 2.3 Assist with facilitation of potential grant proposal
- 2.4 Support for DWR TSS program
- 2.5 Perform GSP implementation program management
- 2.6 Support for adaptive management of groundwater levels

- 2.7 Administration of meter requirement
- 2.8 Review of model updates
- 2.9 Review/management of grant projects
- 2.10 Manage consultant for quarterly groundwater levels and annual water quality

TASK 3 – ADDRESS DWR COMMENTS ON 2024 GSP

- 3.1 Assist in providing responses to DWR comments on the 2024 amended GSP

TASK 4 – ANNUAL GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE AND ALLOCATION MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Determine 2026 water use via meter data and landowner reported ET for small pumpers
- 4.2 Develop groundwater extraction fee report
- 4.3 Facilitate public rate hearing
- 4.4 Develop invoices, notices, field inquiries, process late invoices
- 4.5 Administer pumping reductions
- 4.6 Enforcement of non-reporting pumping
- 4.7 Management of allocation exchange program

TASK 5 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION COORDINATION

- 5.1 Ongoing grant administration
- 5.2 Financial report development and year end close out
- 5.3 Facilitate Fiscal Year audit
- 5.4 Develop the FY 2027-2028 budget and cash flow
- 5.5 Submit State government compensation form and LGRS financial reports

TASK 6 – CUYAMA BASIN GSA OUTREACH

- 6.1 Plan and facilitate two public workshops, if needed
- 6.2 Review and assist in development of newsletter
- 6.3 Coordinate website updates
- 6.4 General stakeholder outreach (interaction with public, etc.)
- 6.5 Facilitate domestic well outreach

TASK 7 – ADJUDICATION COORDINATION / SUPPORT

7.1 Facilitate discussions, if required, and respond to GSA requirements of the adjudication

TASK NUMBER	DELIVERABLE	TARGET DATE
1	Facilitate 6 SAC and 6 Board meetings	Bimonthly
1.3	Facilitate Form 700 Reporting	April
2.1	Facilitate project team calls	Biweekly
5.3	Facilitate the Audit	Aug
5.4	FY 2027-2028 Budget and cash flow	Mar
4.2	Develop fee report	May

TERM

The term of this Task Order is July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

DETAILED COSTS

Contractor shall invoice all services according to the Agreement. The total amount of this Task Order shall not exceed \$268,875.00. Billing rates are provided in Exhibit A.

CONTACT PERSONS

CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY	HALLMARK GROUP
Representative: Steve Jackson	Representative: Charles R. Gardner Jr.
5319 W. Delaware Ave	500 Capitol Mall, Suite 2350
Visalia, CA 93291	Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (559) 804-1878	Phone: (916) 923-1500

Email: steve@next-gen-water.com	Email: cgardner@hgcpm.com
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AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES

Contractor and the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency agree that these services will be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of Standard Agreement Number 201709-CB-001.



Steve Jackson
Board Chairman

Charles R. Gardner Jr.
President

Date

Date

EXHIBIT A

2026 RATE SCHEDULE

CLASSIFICATION	RATE
Principal / Strategic Advisor	\$362 /hr
Vice President / Program Manager	\$362 /hr
Director of Water Resources Development	\$362 /hr
Director of Water Operations and Management	\$362 /hr
Director of Water Supply Management	\$362 /hr
Policy and Agreement Matters	\$500 /hr
Director of Water Policy	\$362 /hr
Senior Project Manager	\$285 /hr
Project Controls Manager	\$260 /hr
Senior Project Controls	\$210 /hr
Project Manager III	\$235 /hr
Project Manager II	\$210 /hr
Project Manager I	\$195 /hr
Project Analyst	\$195 /hr
Senior Project Coordinator and Project Coordinator II	\$185 /hr
Project Coordinator I	\$155 /hr
Project Controls Coordinator	\$155 /hr
Project Administrator	\$130 /hr

Hourly rates are inclusive of all overhead and administrative expenses. Travel and other incidental expenses, not included in the contract, shall be reimbursed at cost. Mileage expenses shall be reimbursed at the current IRS rate. Upon request, Hallmark Group will provide a cost proposal for additional staff that may be required to support the client. Other costs will be determined upon final scope requirements and approved by the client.

This rate schedule shall be escalated annually as mutually agreed to by Hallmark Group and the client and will incorporate year-over-year increases per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Cost Index for Professional and Business Services.



TASK ORDER NUMBER 14

Issued Pursuant to the Consulting Services Agreement Between Woodard & Curran, Inc. and Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, dated as of May 6, 2026.

This Task Order is issued pursuant to, and in accordance with the Agreement, the terms and conditions of which are incorporated herein by this reference. Unless otherwise specified, all capitalized terms used in this Task Order shall have the same meaning as used in the Agreement. This Task Order will not be deemed valid and binding upon the Parties until both Consultant and Client have both signed below.

Scope of Services:

Consultant agrees to provide the Services described in the attached Task Order No. 14 – Scope of Services.

Schedule:

Consultant shall perform the services under this Task Order No. 14 according to the schedule included in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Compensation:

For all Services duly rendered hereunder, Client shall pay Consultant in accordance with the Rate Table; and for Reimbursable Expenses. Compensation for Task Order No. 14 shall not exceed \$1,058,051, as detailed in the attached budget.

Designated Project Representative

Client: Taylor Blakslee

Consultant: Brian Van Lienden

Effective date: May 6, 2026

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have caused this Task Order to be duly executed by their authorized representatives set forth below.

Woodard & Curran, Inc.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Signed _____

Signed _____

Name _____

Name _____

Title _____

Title _____

Table 1. Task Order 14 Deliverables

Task		Deliverables	Deliverable Date
1	Stakeholder and Board Engagement and Outreach Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation materials and other handouts developed for Board and stakeholder meetings • Newsletter and other outreach materials that are developed • Continued maintenance of the CBGSA website 	Jun 2027
2	CBGSA model data improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated model input data for CBWRM • Technical memorandum describing the results of the ET, IE and infiltration work efforts 	Jun 2027
3	GSP Implementation Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly groundwater conditions and annual groundwater quality reports • Updated GSP sections developed in response to DWR comments • Annual Report for the Cuyama Basin • Presentation materials for CBGSA Board and SAC meetings 	Jun 2027
4	Pumping Allocation and Water Use Analysis Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation materials depicting results of the assessment 	Jun 2027
5	Improve Understanding of Basin Water Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly land use data in GIS format • Data form in Opti DMS 	Jun 2027
6	Install Telemetry for Monitoring Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary report documenting telemetry equipment installation 	Jun 2027
7	As-Needed Technical Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and final electronic (Word and PDF) files of the grant application • Completed TSS application forms and other documents required by DWR 	Jun 2027

Table 2. Anticipated Task Order 14 Meetings

Month	Type	Participants	Meeting Topics
July 2026	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates
July 2026	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGBSA Board Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates CBGSA Updates
Sep 2026	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates
Sep 2026	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGBSA Board Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates CBGSA Updates
Oct 2026	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates
Nov 2026	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates
Nov 2026	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGBSA Board Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates CBGSA Updates
Jan 2027	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates
Jan 2027	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGBSA Board Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates CBGSA Updates
Mar 2027	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates GSP Annual Report
Mar 2027	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGBSA Board Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates CBGSA Updates GSP Annual Report
May 2027	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates
May 2027	In-Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGBSA Board Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP Implementation Updates CBGSA Updates

TASK ORDER NO. 14 SCOPE OF SERVICES

This task order includes the following support for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) by the Woodard & Curran (W&C) team:

1. Stakeholder and Board engagement and ongoing outreach support
2. CBGSA model data improvements
3. GSP implementation support
4. Pumping allocation and water use analysis support
5. Improve understanding of basin water use
6. Install telemetry for monitoring network
7. As-needed technical tasks

These activities are described in the scope of work below.

Scope of Work

Task 1: Stakeholder and Board Engagement and Outreach Support

This task includes support for stakeholder and CBGSA Board engagement during the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Under this task, the W&C team will provide the following services for up to six meetings of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and up to six meetings of the CBGSA Board:

- Prepare presentation materials and other handouts and documents needed for each SAC and Board meeting (prepare materials for up to six meetings).
- Participation in each SAC meeting (one consultant team participant, assumed to be via conference call) (participate in up to six meetings).
- Participation in each CBGSA Board meeting (one consultant team participant, either in person or via conference call) (participate in up to six meetings).

In addition, the W&C team will perform the following:

- Participate in up to 3 meetings of the Technical Forum (two consultant team participants, assumed to be via conference call).
- Conduct one public workshop; for which the consultant will prepare presentation materials and conduct facilitation. It is assumed that two consultant team members will participate in the workshops in person.
- As needed stakeholder outreach support, including coordination with CBGSA Board and SAC members, and planning and facilitation for stakeholder outreach meetings.
- Maintenance of the CBGSA website, including hosting services and uploading of website content as needed.

Task 1 Deliverables

- Presentation materials and other handouts developed for Board and stakeholder meetings
- Outreach materials that are developed
- Continued maintenance of the CBGSA website

TASK ORDER NO. 14 SCOPE OF SERVICES

Task 2: CBWRM Model Data Improvements

As part of this task, the W&C team will develop data improvements for the Cuyama Basin Water Resources Model (CBWRM). The budget and schedule for this task assumes that approximately one half of the cost of the activities specified in this task will be completed during fiscal year (FY) 2026-2027, with the remaining work to be completed under a future task order during FY 2027-2028. This scope of work and budget also does not include work required to incorporate the updated data into the CBWRM model input files or to perform a re-calibration of the model with the updated model inputs; it is assumed that this work will also be budgeted and performed in a future task order.

The task includes the following subtasks.

Subtask 2.1 – Incorporate SBCF Investigation Findings Into CBWRM

The findings of the Santa Barbara Canyon Fault (SBCF) investigation will be incorporated into the model data sets, including revisions to the hydrogeological conceptual model (HCM), model grid and stratigraphy upstream of the SBCF.

Subtask 2.2 - Develop Hydrologic Model for Foothill Areas Upstream of SBCF

A hydrologic model will be developed and validated to improve representation of streamflows from the foothill areas and surrounding canyons draining to Cuyama River.

Subtask 2.3 - Improve Subsurface Flows from Quatal Canyon and Ozena

Geochemistry and isotope testing and analysis will be performed in the vicinity of Quatal Canyon and Ozena. The results of the tests will be used to improve the representation of subsurface flows upstream of the SBCF.

Subtask 2.4 - Develop Hydraulic Model of Cuyama River Upstream of Santa Barbara Canyon

A hydraulic model will be developed to simulate flows on the Cuyama River upstream of the SBCF. The outputs from the hydraulic model will be used to develop updated rating tables for Cuyama River flows in CBWRM.

Subtask 2.5 - Analyze and Refine ET of Applied Groundwater Estimates

The evapotranspiration (ET) of applied groundwater estimates currently used in CBWRM will be analyzed and refined. Existing data present in the model will be reviewed and updated to develop conceptual evaluations and improvements to ET estimates and develop updated data sets summarized by crop, soil type and management area.

Subtask 2.6 - Evaluate and Refine Irrigation Efficiency Estimates

The irrigation efficiency (IE) estimates currently used in CBWRM will be evaluated and refined. This will include development of field-scale crop specific IEs and consumptive use fractions (CUFs), conducting grower interviews, and performing trend analysis and comparisons to CBWRM results.

Subtask 2.7 - Investigate and Refine Field-Scale Infiltration Estimates

The field-scale infiltration estimates currently used in CBWRM will be evaluated and refined. This will include development of field-scale crop specific infiltration estimates, and performing trend analysis and comparisons to CBWRM results.

Task 2 Deliverables

- Updated model input data for CBWRM

TASK ORDER NO. 14 SCOPE OF SERVICES

- Technical memorandum describing the results of the ET, IE and infiltration work efforts

Task 3: GSP Implementation Support

The W&C team will support the CBGSA in implementation of the Cuyama Basin GSP as amended and submitted to DWR in January 2025. The task includes the following subtasks.

Subtask 3.1 – GSP Implementation Program Management

The W&C team will perform oversight of project and management action implementation, including coordination among GSA Board, staff and stakeholders, coordination of GSA implementation technical activities, oversight and management of CBGSA consultants and subconsultants, budget tracking, schedule management, and quality assurance/quality control of project implementation activities.

Subtask 3.2 – Monitoring Coordination, Data Management and Reporting

The subtask includes the following activities:

- Quarterly groundwater levels monitoring – the W&C team will support Provost & Pritchard, who will perform monthly monitoring at each monitoring well. W&C will review measurements provided by Provost & Pritchard, will prepare a quarterly groundwater conditions report, and will manage the uploading of data collected into the data management system.
- Annual groundwater quality monitoring – the W&C team will support Provost & Pritchard, who will perform total dissolved solids (TDS) measurements at each water quality monitoring well. W&C will review measurements provided by Provost & Pritchard, will prepare a groundwater quality conditions report, and will manage the uploading of data collected into the data management system.
- Ongoing hosting, maintenance, and technical support for the DMS.

Subtask 3.3 – Support for CBGSA Response to DWR and Public Comments

In this task, the W&C team will assist the CBGSA in reviewing and responding to comments and questions from DWR and the public on the Amended GSP and Periodic Evaluation documents submitted to DWR in January 2025, including the following activities:

- Coordination calls with DWR representatives.
- Completion of documentation and other information requested by DWR to facilitate review of the GSP.
- Assisting in developing written responses to comments on the GSP provided by DWR and the public.
- Assistance in updating GSP document sections in response to DWR comments. It is assumed that document updates can be performed with currently available information and that no additional technical analysis will be required. A draft version of each updated section will be provided to the CBGSA for review prior to submittal to DWR.

Subtask 3.4 – Support for Adaptive Management of Groundwater Levels

In this task, the W&C team will assist the CBGSA in evaluating progress towards meeting its sustainability goals and avoiding undesirable results. The GSP defines adaptive management triggers that would initiate the process for considering implementation of adaptive management and actions. As directed by the CBGSA, the W&C team

TASK ORDER NO. 14 SCOPE OF SERVICES

will assist the CBGSA in evaluating whether groundwater levels and/or quality are trending towards undesirable results, investigating the cause, and recommending appropriate actions.

Subtask 3.5 – Prepare Annual Report for Cuyama Basin

The W&C team will prepare the sections needed to complete the Annual Report. The following sections will be developed:

- Executive Summary – a concise statement of the contents of the Annual Report.
- Introduction – a description of the purpose of the Annual Report, information about CBGSA, and a summarized description of the Cuyama Basin Plan Area.
- Updated Groundwater Conditions - the current, historical, and projected conditions of the Basin will be updated, including updated groundwater elevation contour maps, hydrographs of groundwater elevations and change in groundwater storage.
- Water Supply and Use - descriptions and values (where possible) about groundwater extraction, surface water flows, and total water use for the preceding year.
- Plan Implementation Status - a description of the progress towards implementation of the GSP, including progress towards achieving interim milestone and towards the implementation of projects and management actions.

An Annual Report document will be prepared and submitted to the CBGSA Board for review and approval at a CBGSA Board meeting prior to submittal to DWR.

Subtask 3.6 – Develop Approach for Interconnected Surface Water Analysis

Woodard & Curran will review the technical reports and guidance document provided by DWR and will prepare a proposed approach for future interconnected surface water (ISW) analysis to be performed by the CBGSA. The proposed approach will be presented at meetings of the SAC and Board.

Subtask 3.7 – Assess Water Quality Data Approach

Woodard & Curran will review the available water quality data that is collected through the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) and other programs and assess whether that data could be used for monitoring and comparison to sustainable management criteria in a manner consistent with SGMA. The results of the assessment will be presented at meetings of the SAC and Board.

Task 3 Deliverables

- Monthly groundwater conditions and annual groundwater quality reports
- Updated GSP sections developed in response to DWR comments
- Annual Report for the Cuyama Basin
- Presentation materials for CBGSA Board and SAC meetings

Task 4: Pumping Allocation and Water Use Analysis Support

The task includes the following subtasks.

Subtask 4.1 – Central Management Area Policies Support

In this subtask, Woodard & Curran will support Hallmark to complete the following activities for the Central Management Area:

TASK ORDER NO. 14 SCOPE OF SERVICES

- Develop and implement a water market or exchange policy.
- Develop carryover policy options.
- Participate in ad-hoc calls to discuss the above potential policies.

Subtask 4.2 – Support Detailed Assessment of Increased Water Use

Woodard & Curran will assist as necessary with performing a detailed assessment to evaluate the potential impacts of increased water use outside of the Central Management Area (CMA). This subtask may include the following activities for up to two potential cases:

- Perform an assessment using CBWRM output data based on the existing baseline version of CBWRM.
- Use the existing baseline version of CBWRM to simulate a scenario that includes the increased water use; the results of the CBWRM model scenario will be used to assess potential changes in groundwater levels relative to the Baseline and to identify potential the 2-foot per year line used by the CBGSA to determine the CMA boundary.
- Present the results of the analysis at a meeting of the SAC and of the Board.

Task 4 Deliverables

- Presentation materials depicting results of the assessment

Task 5: Improve Understanding of Basin Water Use

This task includes the following subtasks.

Subtask 5.1 – Develop Land Use Data for Recent Years

Updated land use data reflecting representative Basin-wide land use will be developed on a monthly time scale for the 2025 and 2026 water years. The spatial scale and land use categorization of the developed data will be similar to what was previously developed in the Basin by DWR.

Subtask 5.2 – Develop Land Use Data for Historical Years

Updated land use data reflecting representative Basin-wide land use will be developed on a monthly time scale for the 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 water years. The spatial scale and land use categorization of the developed data will be similar to what was previously developed in the Basin by DWR.

Subtask 5.3 – Develop Processor for Local Land Use Survey Data

A data form will be developed through the Opti DMS site that allows landowners to enter their current year cropping data. The submitted data would be saved into the Opti database and an export format would be developed in a format suitable for the CBWRM model.

Task 5 Deliverables

- Monthly land use data in GIS format
- Data form in Opti DMS

Task 6: Install Telemetry for Monitoring Network

This task includes the following activities:

- Coordinate with In-Situ to obtain a quote for telemetry equipment for 23 wells at 15 well locations. Assist the GSA with direct payment to In-Situ.

TASK ORDER NO. 14 SCOPE OF SERVICES

- Coordinate with private landowners and public agencies to obtain access to install the equipment.
- Prepare subcontract agreement with a contractor to deploy and program the equipment.
- Coordinate with In-Situ to establish/confirm remote operation of the equipment.
- Troubleshoot any problems as necessary.
- Prepare a summary report to document the activities and procedures for downloading data from pressure transducers using the telemetry equipment.

Task 6 Deliverables

- Summary report documenting telemetry equipment installation

Task 7: As Needed Technical Tasks

The following subtasks will be performed under this task.

Subtask 7.1 – Preparation of a Grant Application

As directed by the CBGSA Board, the W&C team will prepare one application for grant funding under the DWR SGM Grant Program or other grant program as directed by the CBGSA Board. The W&C team will coordinate with the CBGSA Board and/or ad-hoc committee to review the work plans, budgets, and schedules to be included in the Grant Application. A draft grant application will be prepared to address the various requirements grant funding as documented in the PSP for the grant opportunity and to track completion of the required attachments. Work items to be conducted in preparing the application could potentially include:

- Review of final grant solicitation materials, including project qualification requirements, authorization and eligibility requirements, and preparation of grant application outline and list of data needs.
- Preparation of required eligibility documentation, including documentation of compliance with the required state programs.
- Preparation of the Work Plan, Budget and Schedule attachments as required by the grant opportunity.
- Preparation of the Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC), Disadvantaged Community (DAC), and Economically Distressed Area (EDA) attachments as required by the grant opportunity.
- Submittal of all required grant application documents.

Subtask 7.2 – DWR Technical Support Services Support

In this task, the W&C team will assist the CBGSA in obtaining support from the DWR Technical Support Services (TSS) as directed by the CBGSA Board. This task may include, but is not limited to:

- Coordination calls with DWR representatives, CBGSA Ad-hoc committee and Cuyama Basin stakeholders.
- Completion of application forms and other documents required by DWR to facilitate the TSS process.
- Working with the CBGSA Ad-hoc committee to contact local landowners to complete necessary permission forms and to obtain information and to facilitate DWR TSS support.

Task 7 Deliverables

- Draft and final electronic (Word and PDF) files of the grant application
- Completed TSS application forms and other documents required by DWR

Cuyama Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Fee Estimate

Woodard & Curran Task Order 14 - Fiscal Year 2026-2027 GSP Implementation Tasks

Tasks		Labor									ODCs		Total	
Task #	Task	Senior Delivery Leader	Senior Engineer/ Hydrogeologist	Outreach	Technical Manager 2	Engineer/ Planner/ Geologist	Junior Engineer/ Geologist	Field Technician	Website Maint.	Admin / Tech Editing	Total Hours	Total Labor Costs (1)	Total ODCs (3)	Total Fee
Task #		\$375	\$370	\$240	\$350	\$315	\$250	\$160	\$210	\$160				
1	Stakeholder/Board and Outreach Engagement Support													
1.1	SAC/Board meeting preparation (assume 6)	6	36	0	6	24	18				90	\$29,730	\$0	\$29,730
1.2	SAC meeting participation (assume 6)		30								30	\$11,100	\$0	\$11,100
1.3	Board meeting participation (assume 6)	6	72								78	\$28,890	\$3,450	\$32,340
1.4	Technical Forum calls (assume 3)	3	12	0	12	0	3				30	\$10,515	\$0	\$10,515
1.5	Public Workshops (assume 1)	24	6	0	0	22	1				53	\$18,400	\$1,150	\$19,550
1.6	General, Newsletter development, etc.		16		0	12					28	\$9,700	\$0	\$9,700
1.7	Website Updates - Maintenance / Hosting		2						32		34	\$7,460	\$254	\$7,714
	Subtotal Task 1:	39	174	0	18	58	22	0	32	0	343	\$115,795	\$4,854	\$120,649
2	Model Improvements (Full Cost - divide by 2 for FY 26-27 budget)													
2.1	Incorporate SBCF Investigation Findings Into Model	4	4		32		70				110	\$31,680	\$0	\$31,680
2.2	Develop hydrologic model for foothill areas upstream of SBCF	4	2		24		64				94	\$26,640	\$0	\$26,640
2.3	Improve subsurface flows from Quatal Canyon and Ozena	4	2		20		50				76	\$21,740	\$0	\$21,740
2.4	Develop hydraulic model of Cuyama River upstream of SB Canyon	4	4		40		100				148	\$41,980	\$0	\$41,980
2.5	Analyze and refine ET of applied groundwater estimates	2	1		12		8				23	\$7,320	\$63,250	\$70,570
2.6	Evaluate and refine irrigation efficiency estimates	2	1		12		8				23	\$7,320	\$40,825	\$48,145
2.7	Investigate and refine field-scale infiltration estimates	2	1		12		8				23	\$7,320	\$37,375	\$44,695
	Subtotal Task 2:	22	15	0	152	0	308	0	0	0	497	\$144,000	\$141,450	\$285,450
3	GSP Implementation Support													
3.1	GSP Implementation program management	6	84		14	72				12	188	\$62,830	\$0	\$62,830
3.2	Monitoring coordination, data management and reporting		26			42	26				94	\$29,350	\$0	\$29,350
3.3	Support for CBGSA response to DWR and public comments on 2025 GSP	2	40	4		80	40				166	\$51,710	\$0	\$51,710
3.4	Support for adaptive management of GW levels	2	24			30	30				86	\$26,580	\$0	\$26,580
3.5	Prepare Annual Report for Cuyama Basin	4	32		36	56	48				176	\$55,580	\$0	\$55,580
3.6	Develop approach for ISW analysis	4	2		16						22	\$7,840	\$0	\$7,840
3.7	Assess water quality data approach		4			12	8				24	\$7,260	\$0	\$7,260
	Subtotal Task 3:	18	212	4	66	292	152	0	0	12	756	\$241,150	\$0	\$241,150
4	Pumping Allocation and Water Use Analysis Support													
4.1	Central Management Area policies support		7			2					9	\$3,220	\$0	\$3,220
4.2	Support detailed assessment of increased water use (assume 2 cases)	8	20		56	4	96				184	\$55,260	\$0	\$55,260
	S	8	27	0	56	6	96	0	0	0	193	\$58,480	\$0	\$58,480
5	Improve Understanding of Basin Water Use													
5.1	Develop land use data (2025 and 2026)		4			12	18				34	\$9,760	\$38,485	\$48,245
5.2	Develop land use data (historical - 14 years)		28			42	64				134	\$39,590	\$113,097	\$152,687
5.3	Develop processor for local land use survey data		1		4	8	40				53	\$14,290	\$0	\$14,290
	Subtotal Task 5:	0	33	0	4	62	122	0	0	0	221	\$63,640	\$151,582	\$215,222
6	Install Telemetry for Monitoring Network													
6.1	Procure and install telemetry (assume 23 wells at 15 locations)		50				64	88			202	\$48,580	\$29,900	\$78,480
	Subtotal Task 6:	0	50	0	0	0	64	88	0	0	202	\$48,580	\$29,900	\$78,480
7	As-Needed Technical Tasks													
7.1	Preparation of grant proposal		42			102				4	148	\$48,310	\$0	\$48,310
7.2	DWR Technical Support Services support		8			20	6				34	\$10,760	\$0	\$10,760
	Subtotal Task 11:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL	87	561	4	296	540	770	88	32	16	2394	\$730,715	\$327,786	\$1,058,501

Rate Schedule

Public 2026

STAFF TYPE	HOURLY RATE
Administrative	\$150
Drafter / Project Assistant / Technician 1	\$160
Designer 1 / Geologist 1 / GIS Analyst 1 / Planner 1 / Scientist 1 / Technician 2	\$165
Graphic Artist / Project Specialist	\$170
Designer 2 / Geologist 2 / GIS Analyst 2 / Scientist 2 / Specifications Manager	\$190
Graphics Manager / Senior Project Assistant	\$200
Engineer 1 / Planner 2 / Technical Specialist 1 / Technician 3	\$225
Contract Document Specialist / Geologist 3 / GIS Analyst 3 / Scientist 3	\$235
Designer 3 / Engineer 2 / Plant Manager / Procurement Specialist / Programmer 1 / Project Geologist 1 / Project Scientist 1 / Technical Specialist 2	\$250
Engineer 3 / GIS Solutions Analyst / Planner 3 / Programmer 2 / Technical Specialist 3	\$270
Programmer 3 / Project Geologist 2 / Project Scientist 2 / Project Tech Specialist 1 / Senior Designer	\$280
Project Electrical Engineer 1 / Project Engineer 1 / Project Planner 1	\$300
Project Engineer 2 / Project Planner 2 / Project Tech Specialist 2 / Senior Project Geologist / Senior Project Scientist / Senior Resident Project Representative	\$315
Senior Cost Estimator / Senior Planner	\$320
GIS Manager / Project Manager 1 / Technical Manager 1	\$330
Construction Manager / Program Manager / Project Manager 2 / Technical Manager 2	\$350
Senior Consultant / Senior Project Manager / Senior Technical Manager	\$370
Senior Delivery Leader / Senior Program Leader / Senior Technical Leader	\$375
Principal in Charge / Senior Technical Consultant	\$380
National Technical Leader / Senior Practice Leader	\$385
EXPENSES	
Travel	\$0.70 / mile
Other Direct Costs	At Cost Plus 15%
Subconsultants/Subcontractors	At Cost Plus 15%

NOTES

Mileage rate will change as the federal allowable rate is modified.



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 11a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Report of the Executive Director

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

An overview of consultant budget-to-actuals are provided as **Attachment 1**.

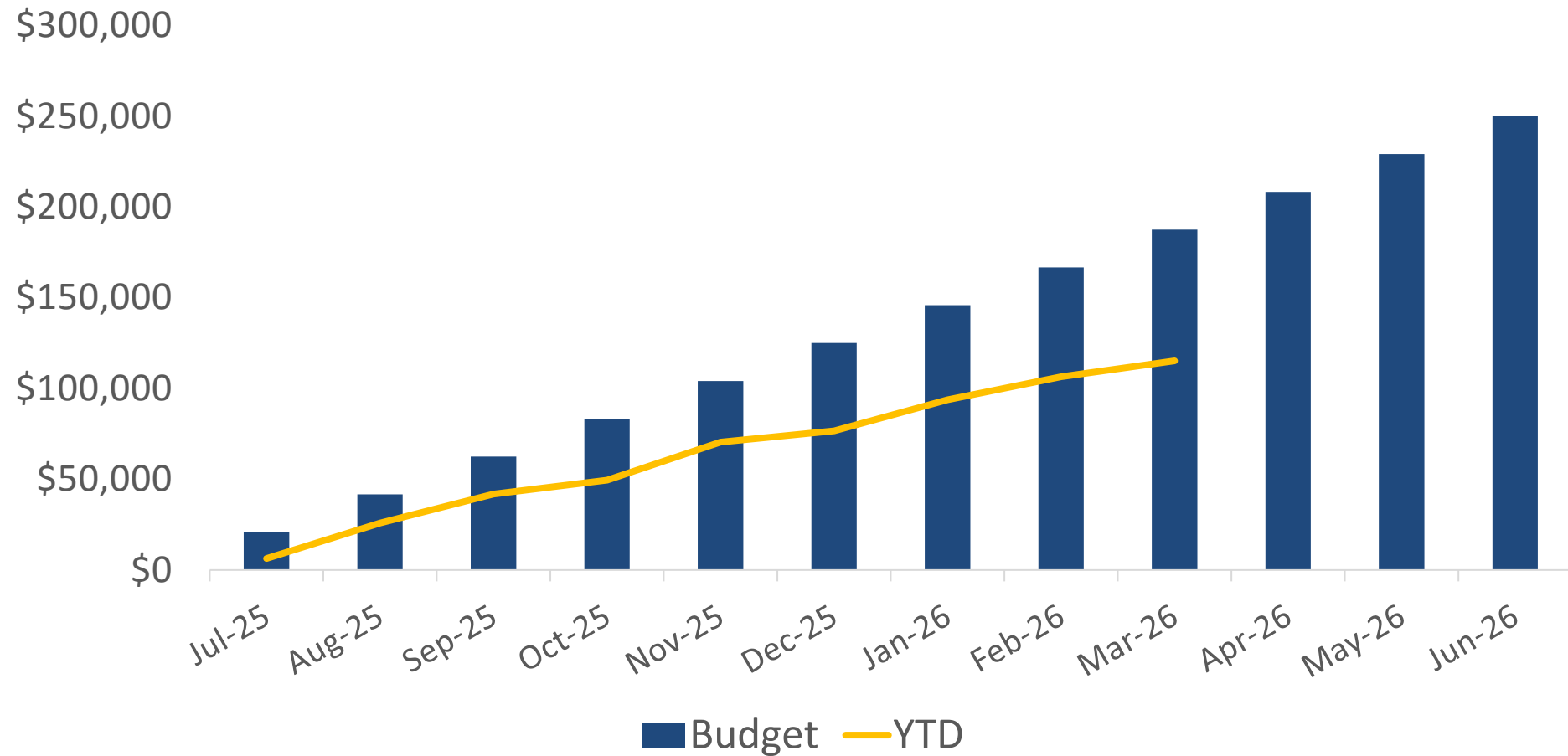
Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Financial Report

May 6, 2026

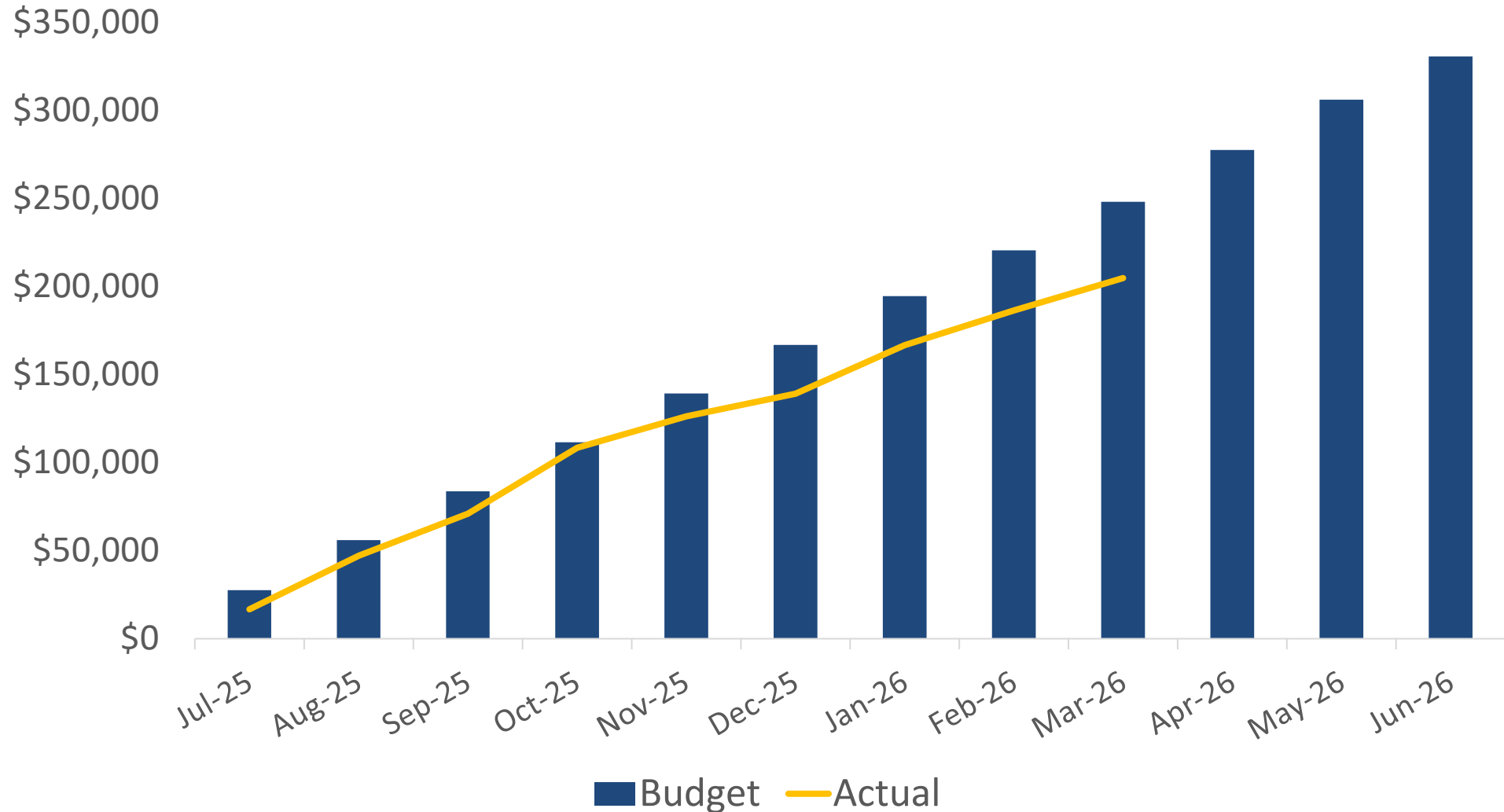
Legal Counsel – Budget-to-Actuals

FY 25/26



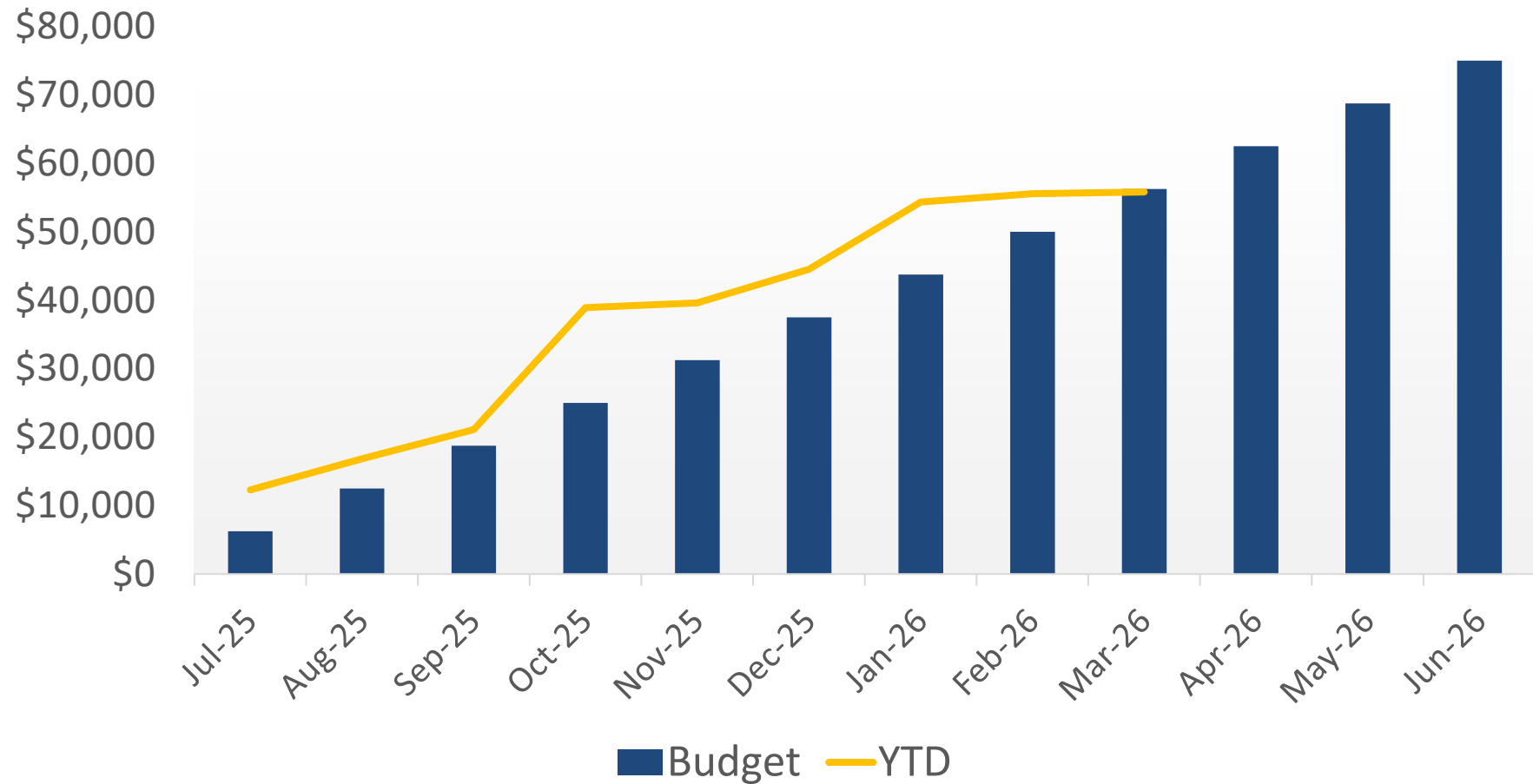
Hallmark Group – Budget-to-Actuals

FY 25/26



Provost & Pritchard – Budget-to-Actuals

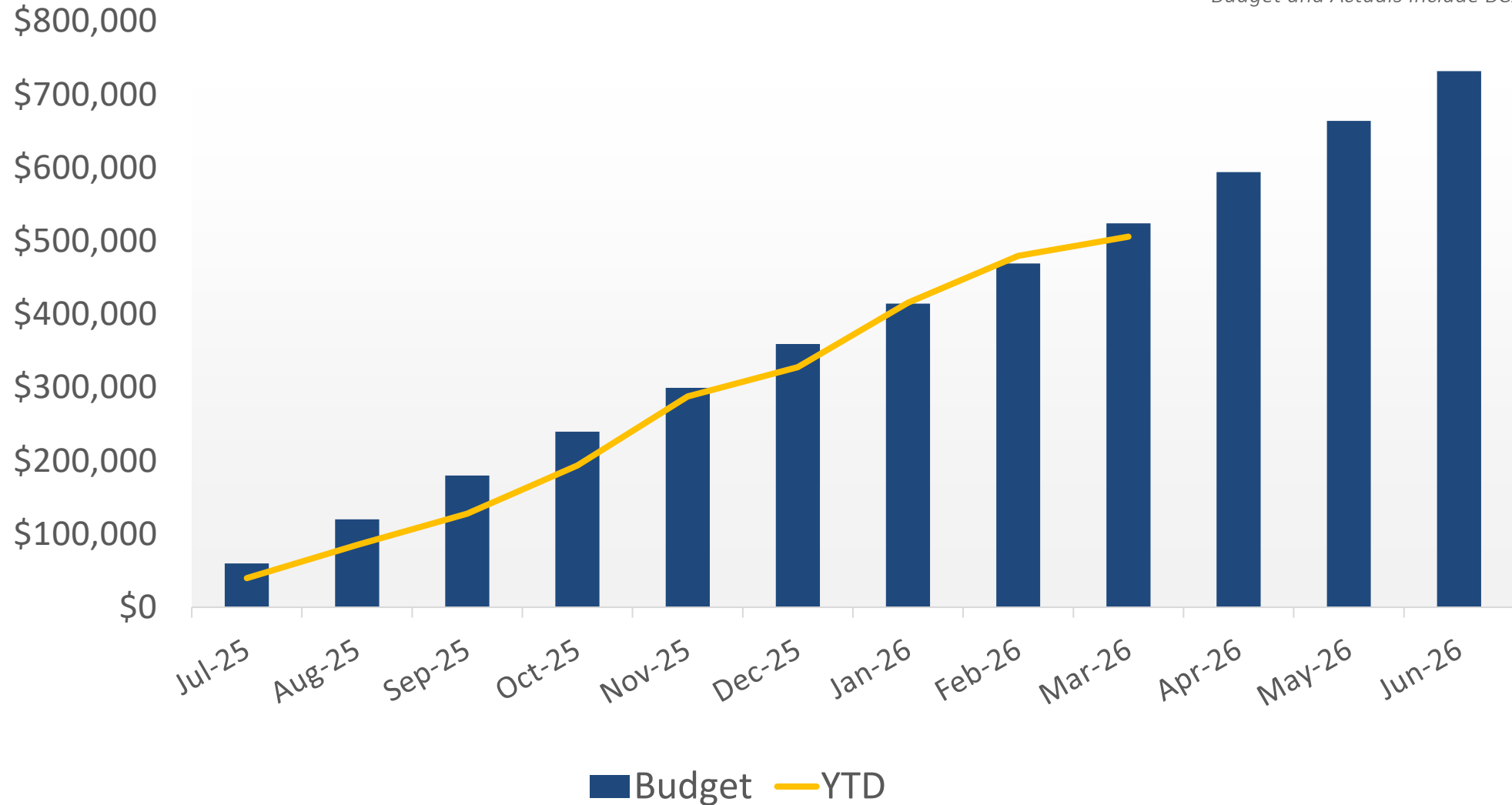
FY 25/26



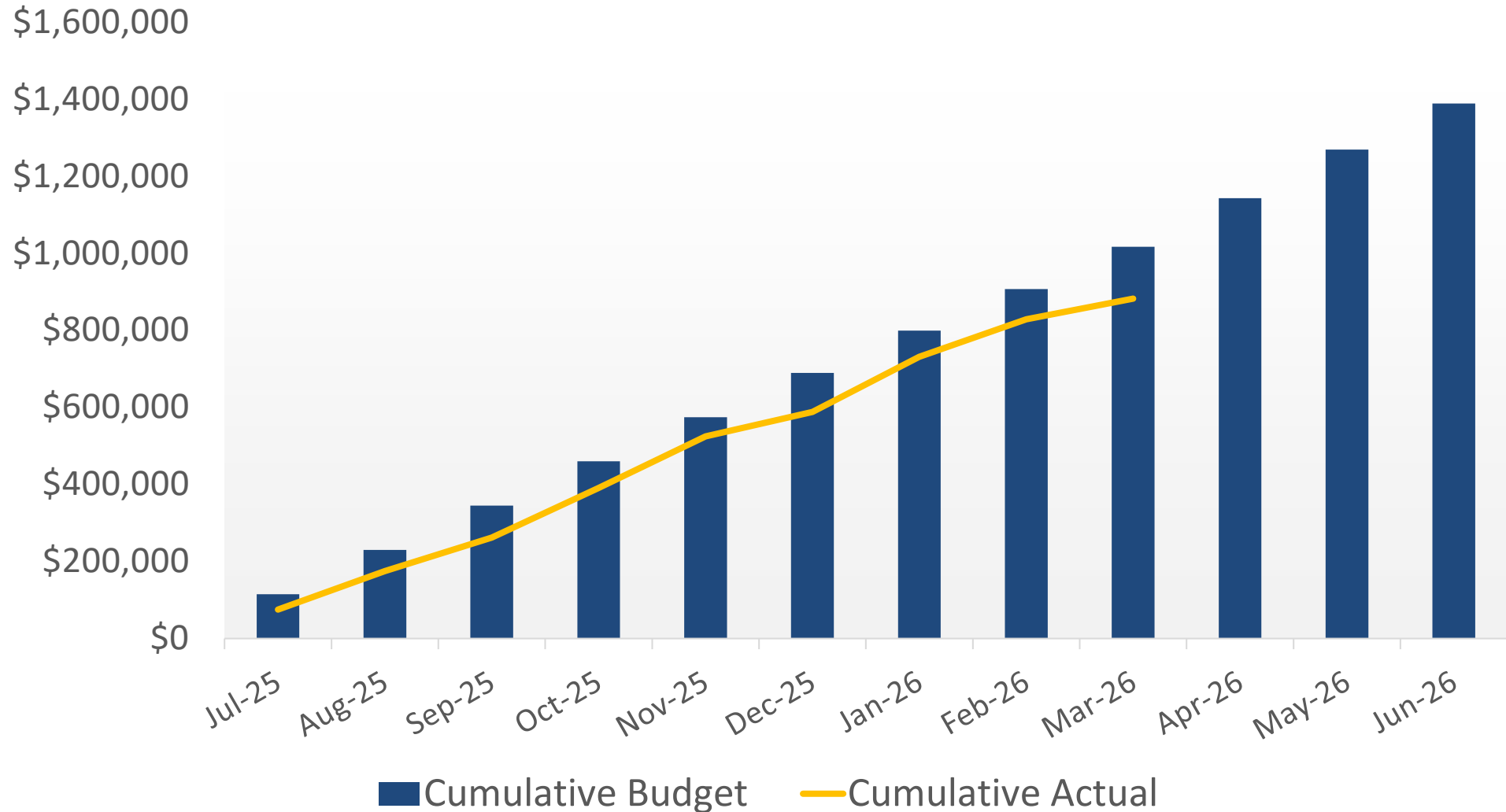
Woodard & Curran – Budget-to-Actuals

FY 25/26

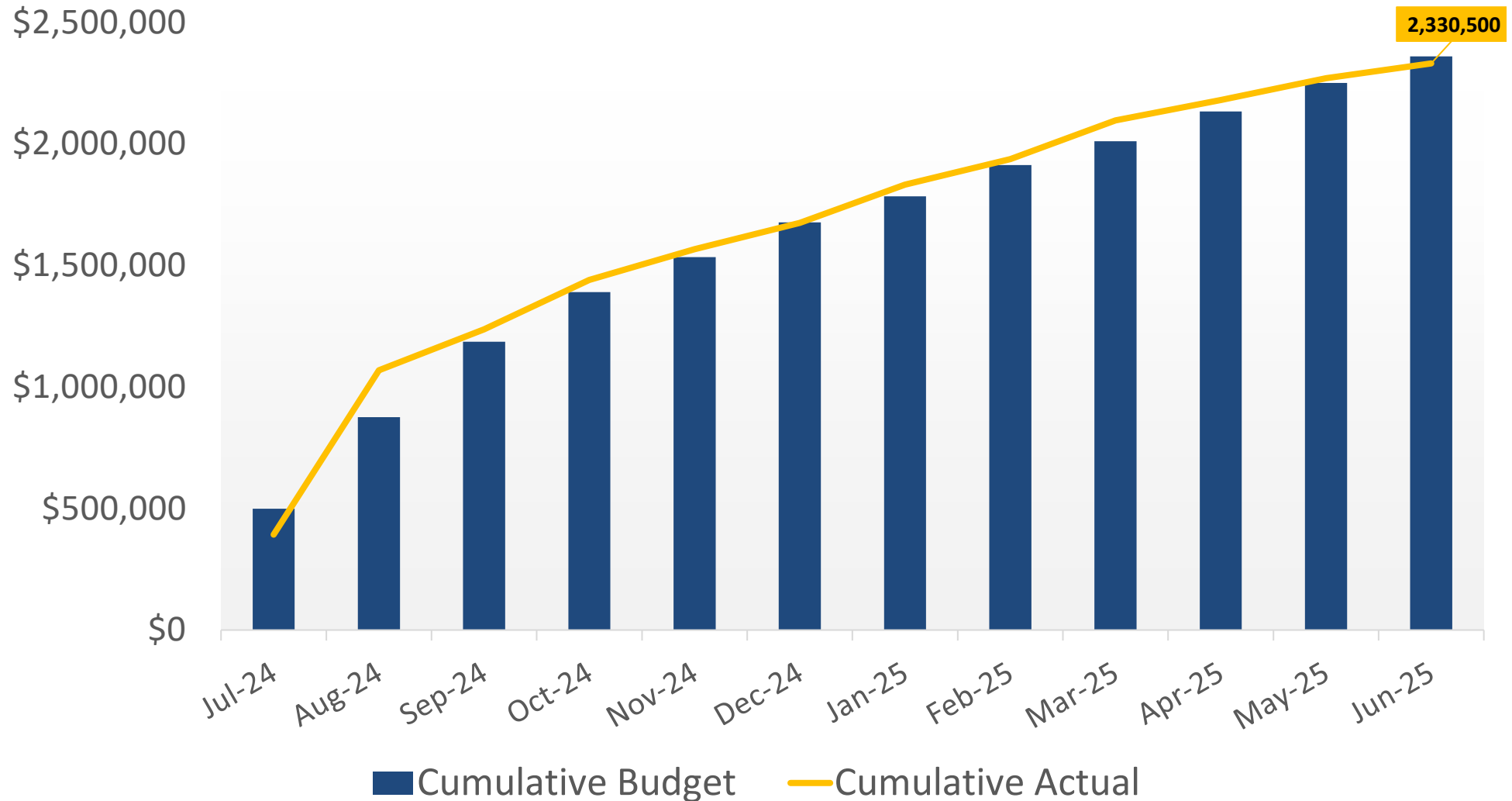
Budget and Actuals Include BC2 Environmental



CBGSA FY 25/26 – Budget-to-Actuals



CBGSA FY 24/25 – Budget-to-Actuals





TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 11ai

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Report on 2025 Basin-wide Groundwater Use, 2025 CMA Allocation Compliance, and CMA Groundwater Allocation Exchanges

Recommendation

None; information only.

Discussion

On March 5, 2025, the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Board of Directors directed staff to present an annual report on reported groundwater pumping and use. The 2025 Basin-Wide Groundwater Use Report is provided as **Attachment 1**.

The CBGSA began collecting water use information in 2019 and Attachment 1 summarizes reported groundwater use by landowners from 2019 through 2025. A key distinction in the datasets is that meters were required and largely installed by 2022. As a result, reported pumping from 2022 through 2025 primarily reflects metered groundwater use (gross extractions). For 2019 through 2021, reported water use was largely based on crop factors or other reporting methods used to determine net water use.

The 2025 Central Management Area Allocation Report is included as **Attachment 2**.

In November 2025, the Board adopted Rules and Regulations for the Transfer of Groundwater Allocations as a one-year pilot program beginning January 1, 2026. Consistent with the adopted policy, staff will provide a report of any allocation exchanges that have occurred. Since January 1, 2026, there have been no requests to transfer groundwater allocations.

Cuyama Basin 2025 Water Use

DM= 2AFY / per well

No.	Reporting Entity	2019 AF	2020 AF	2021 AF	2022 AF	2023 AF	2024 AF	2025 AF
1	Anderson Development					2.07	40.83	233.33
2	Ann Buck					104.40	111.50	116.20
3	Apache Canyon Ranch	323.93	318.65	322.40	357.45	327.96	339.55	346.84
4	Bolthouse Farms, Inc.	6,004.60	8,267.22	6,432.20	11,317.03	7,809.44	9,340.12	9,453.64
5	Bosma and Ricci	DM	-	-	13.62	24.51	24.51	26.51
6	Brodiaea, Inc. (Grapevine/North Fork)	702.79	757.54	790.54	835.97	798.35	953.96	921.78
7	CCSH Farms					99.40	107.00	124.40
8	Ceferino Cheng	-	104.65	110.63	159.24	117.00	131.60	141.20
9	Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD)	94.97	98.71	113.20	119.77	148.34	158.79	175.54
10	Hoekstra Family Trust	495.45	551.41	924.86	632.04	230.73	342.33	300.59
11	Cuyama Orchards	878.47	878.47	966.32	1,056.90	875.22	1,120.60	973.10
12	David Lewis	10.22	10.22	42.74	30.19	34.01	43.27	35.75
13	Double H Farming, LLC (formerly Triple H)	358.80	358.80	358.80	382.16	104.50	113.50	118.70
14	Duncan Family Farms, LLC/Aguila G Boys	2,048.00	2,048.00	2,048.00	18.00	119.83	52.68	4.48
15	E&B Natural Resources	22.04	22.41	23.01	21.44	24.35	24.26	25.99
16	Feinstein Investments/JR Investments	174.25	174.25	78.80	51.33	268.88	544.87	1,079.95
17	Grimmway Enterprises, Inc.	10,184.00	10,454.70	9,401.10	17,213.27	12,251.88	13,379.35	9,774.10
18	Harrington Farms	135.00	135.00	196.94	135.84	111.19	162.68	200.40
19	Highland Vineyard SB, LLC	-	1,180.69	1,004.77	1,675.78	1,832.00	1,546.46	729.13
20	M&A Family Farms	20.93	20.93	20.93	20.93	20.93	31.81	31.87
21	JHP Global/Joo Capital	391.50	391.50	356.40	347.02	365.28	354.30	371.06
22	Karam Pistachio Farm	-	-	-	305.52	480.38	511.82	591.15
23	Kern Ridge Growers, LLC	1,558.04	1,544.00	1,587.08	3,033.23	2,673.37	2,770.28	2,957.29
24	Lear Real Estate Enterprises	-	457.60	290.40	492.91	568.21	460.76	429.65
25	Lucky Dog Ranch	284.05	328.90	287.04	344.25	343.00	350.00	382.60
26	Belden Family Trust	272.80	264.00	237.60	585.35	113.30	349.29	410.74
27	Sunridge Nurseries	364.00	446.40	553.26	1,141.22	1,032.00	462.89	454.62
28	Sunrise Olive Ranch, LLC	1,075.00	1,075.00	1,924.74	1,761.57	1,726.11	1,825.17	2,060.03
29	The Ranch	72.87	18.63	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50
30	Triangle E. Farms	981.90	514.37	358.11	234.27	580.75	527.43	586.18
31	Tri-County Pistachio	941.85	832.70	911.95	1,876.00	1,118.00	1,090.00	999.23
32	Yeguada Trujillo			20.00	220.00	36.00	33.05	110.54
33	El Rancho Espanol	3.99	1.53	0.34	DM	DM	3.17	3.96
	Other (De Minimis)	56.48	14.21	7.92	24.49	30.94	11.81	29.80
Total Base-Wide Reported Pumping		27,456	31,270	29,389	44,425	34,391	37,338	34,219

Cuyama Basin 2025 Allocations vs Reported Use

Grouping	Subgroup/ Farming Unit Components	Area in 2025-2029 CMA + Farming Unit (Acres)	2025 Allocations (AF)	Reported Pumping (AF)	Percent Used	
1	2961 Highway LLC/Yeguada Trujillo	n/a	468.0	792.14	110.54	14%
2	Ann Buck	n/a	40.0	139.88	116.20	83%
3	Bolthouse Farms, Inc.	Total Wm. Bolthouse Farms	13,495.20	19,184.47	10,294.03	54%
		<i>Belden Family</i>		7,323.15	410.74	
		<i>Bolthouse Land Company</i>		10,657.16	9,453.64	
		<i>Bolthouse Properties</i>		501.08		
		<i>Cuyama Solar</i>		124.99		
		<i>Lear Real Estate Enterprises</i>		578.09	429.65	
4	CCSH Farms	n/a	40.0	135.50	124.40	92%
5	David Lewis	n/a	85.1	120.00	35.75	30%
6	Double H Farming, LLC (formerly Triple H)	n/a	38.5	138.89	118.70	85%
7	Duncan Family Farms, LLC/Aguila G Boys	n/a	132.2	185.88	4.48	2%
8	Grimmway Enterprises, Inc	Total Grimmway	13,474.00	16,847.83	9,774.10	58%
		<i>Caliente Ranch Cuyama</i>		1,709.12		
		<i>Diamond Farming Co</i>		3,701.57		
		<i>Lapis Land Company</i>		4,555.19		
		<i>Ruby Land Company</i>		6,881.94		
9	Harrington Family Trust	n/a	151.5	20.22	0.00	0%
10	Hoekstra Family Trust	n/a	460.4	1,061.03	300.59	28%
11	JHP Global/Joo Capital	n/a	892.3	670.64	371.06	55%
12	Kern Ridge Growers, LLC	Total Kern Ridge Growers	1,909.10	2,479.24	1,964.74	79%
		<i>Daria Trust</i>		78.90		
		<i>Farry Michael</i>		382.54		
		<i>Kern Ridge Growers LLC</i>		2,017.81	1,964.74	
13	Sunrise Olive Ranch, LLC	Total Sunrise Olive Ranch	934.20	1,953.22	2,060.03	105%
		<i>Reinhard, Carl Jr. (et al)</i>		22.74		
		<i>Sunrise Ranch Properties</i>		1,930.48		
14	Tri-County Pistachio	n/a	192.0	467.12	472.62	101%
	Other	n/a	n/a	98.52		
	Total		32,312.51	44,294.60	25,747.24	58%



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 12a

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) activities and consultant Woodard & Curran's (W&C) accomplishments are provided as **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities

Brian Van Lienden



Mar-Apr Accomplishments

- ✓ Prepared draft technical memorandum with responses to DWR questions on 2025 GSP Update
- ✓ Participated in coordination meetings with DWR
- ✓ Developed final Annual Report for WY 2024-2025 and submitted to DWR
- ✓ Assisted with budget estimation for FY 2026-27
- ✓ Performed website and DMS updates
- ✓ Prepared final documentation for grant reporting and submitted to DWR for grant close-out



TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 12b

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: May 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Grant-Funded Projects

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

An update on Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) grant-funded projects is provided as **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Grant-Funded Projects

Brian Van Lienden



Update on Grant Funded Projects

- CIMIS stations have been installed at both sites
 - Data is being collected and will be available on DWR's website soon
- Work on all grant components is complete
- All grant documentation is complete and has been submitted to DWR