CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members

Brenton Kelly (Chair)	Jean Gaillard	John Caufield	Roberta Jaffe
Joe Haslett (Vice Chair)	Brad DeBranch	David Lewis	

AGENDA

October 29, 2026

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the **Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254**. Participate via computer at: **https://shorturl.at/wVJUu** or by going to Microsoft Teams, downloading the free application, then entering Meeting ID: 220 650 258 876 88 Passcode: nm2qC2QV, or telephonically at (469) 480-3918, Phone Conference ID: 182 829 294#

The order in which agenda items are discussed may be changed to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the 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 Committee discussion of all items in which they are interested.

Teleconference Locations:

4689 CA-166 New Cuyama, CA 93254	11601 Bolthouse Dr, Suite 200 Bakersfield, CA 93311	112 W Cielo Ave Ridgecrest, CA 93555	295 Atascadero Rd Morro Bay, CA 93442

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 Wednesday 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 (Kelly) (1 min)
2. Roll Call (Bianchi) (1 min)
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Kelly) (2 min)
4. Meeting Protocols (Bianchi) (2 min)
5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda | *At this time, the public may address the Committee on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.*
6. Report of the General Counsel (Metcalf) (5 min) – *Verbal*

ACTION ITEMS

7. Approval of August 27, 2026, Minutes (Kelly) (3 min)
8. Approval of 2027 Meeting Calendar (Bianchi) (3 min)
9. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation
    a) Update on Assessment of Increased Water Use for Areas Outside the Central Management Area

(Blakslee / Van Lienden) (30 min)

b) Adopt the Amended Allocation Exchange Policy (Blakslee/Bianchi) (10 min)

c) Direction on Variance Pool Concept (Blakslee) (15 min)

d) Direction on Allocation Exceedance Penalty Fee (Blakslee/Bianchi) (20 min)

e) Update on Approach for Groundwater Quality Data Collection (Blakslee/Van Lienden) (15 min)

f) Update on Adaptive Management (Blakslee/Bianchi) (15 min)

g) Direction on Priority Projects for Grant Opportunities (Blakslee/Van Lienden) (20 min)

REPORT ITEMS

10. Technical Updates
    a) Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities (Van Lienden) (5 min)
11. Administrative Updates
    a) Executive Director Report (Blakslee) (5 min)
    b) Board of Directors Agenda Review (Bianchi) (3 min)
12. Items for Upcoming Sessions (1 min)
13. Correspondence (1 min)
14. Adjourn (7:20 p.m.)

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

August 27, 2026

Draft Meetings Minutes

PRESENT:
Kelly, Brenton – Chair
Haslett, Joe – Vice Chair
DeBranch, Brad
Gaillard, Jean
Jaffe, Roberta
Caufield, John

Bianchi, Grace – Hallmark Group
Blakslee, Taylor – Executive Director, Hallmark Group
Van Lienden, Brian – Woodard & Curran
Metcalf, Nathan – Legal Counsel, Hanson Bridgett

ABSENT:
Lewis, Dave – *participating as a member of the public*

1. **Call to Order**
   Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**
   Ms. Bianchi called roll of the Committee (shown above).

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Chair Kelly led the pledge of allegiance.

4. **Meeting Protocol**
   Ms. Bianchi provided an overview of the meeting protocols in facilitating a hybrid meeting.

5. **Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**
   Chair Kelly opened the floor public comment.

   Committee Member Haslett asked about the review process for financial disclosure forms. Mr. Blakslee responded that Hallmark Group is responsible for making sure the forms are completed and kept on file, but staff are not required to review or investigate the completeness or accuracy of what filers disclose.

   ----------*Committee Member Caufield joined at 5:09 p.m.*----------

   Stakeholder Dave Lewis commented that the allocation process is inequitable and does not consider small farmers.

6. **Report of the General Counsel**

DRAFT

Legal Counsel Nathan Metcalf provided an update on the recent court orders.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Approval of June 25, 2026, Minutes

Committee Chair Kelly opened the floor for comments on the June 25, 2026, CBGSA SAC meeting minutes. Chair Kelly noted a correction to be made on page 4.

MOTION

Committee Member Jaffe moved to approve June 25, 2026, CBGSA SAC meeting minutes, with the requested correction. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Gaillard. A roll call vote was made, and the motion passed.

AYES:	Caufield, DeBranch, Gaillard, Haslett, Kelly, Jaffe
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Lewis

8. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

a. Increased Water Use Assessment for Areas Outside the Central Management Area

Mr. Blakslee provided a brief update on outreach with the two landowners with significant increased pumping.

Mr. Van Lienden reviewed the proposed 50-year model scenarios for both properties. Staff will add the Anderson Development cannabis use and the increased JR Investments pumping to the model, evaluate projected groundwater-level declines, and present results at the November SAC and Board meetings.

Chair Kelly asked whether Anderson Development plans additional buildout and whether the JR Investments water was used at another location. Staff will confirm the Anderson Development plans and noted that the modeling will focus primarily on the location of groundwater extraction.

b. Direction on Improvements to the Allocation Exchange Pilot Program

Mr. Blakslee reviewed feedback on the pilot program and recommendations from an ad hoc committee (Directors Young and Yurosek and Stakeholder Tristan Zannon).

Identifying and Contacting Sellers:

- The SAC generally supported a staff-maintained seller list.
- Committee Member Jaffe recommended that anyone participating as a seller be required to be on the list, rather than opting in, for transparency.
- Committee Member DeBranch emphasized that participation in the program is voluntary.

Allocation Exchange Deadline:

- The SAC generally supported the ad hoc recommendation allowing trades of a landowner's unused prior-year allocation through mid-February of the following year, before staff reports annual water use to the Board in March.

Farming Units Sign off:

- Committee Member Jaffe expressed concern that requiring all farming units to sign off on exchange could limit some landowners and noted examples seen in other basins

DRAFT

(e.g., Fox Canyon)
- Chair Kelly agreed the requirement is likely to remain a barrier until property rights are resolved through the ongoing adjudication.

Stakeholder Representation in Exchange Policy Development:
- Stakeholder Dave Lewis asked how the ad hoc committee is formed and who selects the stakeholder participant; Mr. Blakslee responded that the Board Chair appoints ad hoc committees, including the stakeholder, and that ad hoc recommendations are not final decisions but are brought to the SAC and Board for further input.

Variance Pool
- Committee Member Jaffe stated that a variance pool is essential to keep small pumpers viable, citing prior analysis showing landowners pumping less than 100 acre-feet have minimal impact on groundwater levels.
- Committee Member Haslett agreed and recommended the Board establish a fixed variance pool volume.

Small Farmers and Ranchers Network Letter:
- Mr. Blakslee stated that the ad hoc felt the concerns raised in the letter were already addressed through the other policy points discussed.
- Committee Member Jaffe agreed that the key components of the letter were reflected in the recommendations presented.

Additional Program Improvements (Penalty Fee Tiers):
- In favor of considering penalty fee tiers: Jaffe, Kelly, Caufield, Kelly, Haslett
- Don't reconsider: DeBranch, Gaillard

c. Direction on Implementing a Carryover Policy for Areas Subject to Allocations

Mr. Blakslee reviewed the carryover policy potential landowner benefits, basin impacts, and costs to implement. He provided an overview of what other basins are doing in terms of a carryover policy.

Committee Member Gaillard noted that under a sustainable-yield-only carryover approach, illustrated in the packet, very little water would be available to carry over, and questioned the need for further work on the policy.

Committee Member Jaffe commented that too much remains uncertain due to the pending adjudication to implement carryover at this time, and that the six-week allocation exchange window functions as a limited, sale-only substitute in the interim.

The SAC agreed with the ad hoc recommendation not to implement a carryover policy for 2027.

d. Direction on Adaptive Management

Mr. Blakslee reviewed the Adaptive Management Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and reported that four wells identified as below the minimum threshold (MT). He noted that staff is asking for SAC feedback on whether to further investigate these wells under the SOP.

There was general support for staff to proceed with further investigation for the wells below the minimum threshold.

9. Technical Updates

a. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities

Mr. Van Lienden reported that GSP activities update is provided in the SAC packet.

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b. July Groundwater Conditions Report

Mr. Van Lienden reviewed the groundwater conditions report from July 2026. He reported that multi-completion wells 77, 420, and 421 were below their minimum thresholds; Well 107 had fallen below its minimum threshold; and Well 573 had entered the adaptive management zone.

Stakeholder Jane Wooster noted that the decline at Well 573 warranted further investigation, because the property's water use had not changed.

10. Administrative Updates

a. Report of the Executive Director

Nothing to report.

b. Board of Directors Agenda Review

Ms. Bianchi briefly reviewed the September 2, 2026, CBGSA Board Meeting agenda, which is provided in the SAC packet.

11. Update on the Community Alliance with Family Farmers Groundwater Report

Chair Kelly summarized findings from the Community Alliance with Family Farmers and University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources report regarding groundwater fees, markets, allocation methods, adjudications, governance, and protections for small farmers and minor extractors.

Committee Member Jaffe commented that the report is relevant to Cuyama because the definition and impacts of small farming vary by region and pumping volume.

Committee Member Haslett encouraged members to review the report's recommendations concerning GSA structure and support for small farmers.

12. Items for Upcoming Sessions

Committee Member Haslett requested a future discussion regarding expectations for in-person SAC attendance.

13. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

14. Adjourn

Chair Kelly adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE
CUYAMA BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Chair Kelly: _____

ATTEST:
Vice Chair Haslett: _____

DRAFT

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 8

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of 2027 Meeting Schedule

Recommended Motion

Approve the 2027 Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee meetings schedule.

Discussion

The proposed Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting calendar for 2027 is provided as **Attachment 1** for consideration of approval.

Staff are looking for feedback on the July SAC/Board meeting date, which is currently proposed for July 1st and July 7th.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
2027 Meeting Calendar

BOD SAC Holiday

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	**7**	8	9
10	11	12	**13**	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	**25**	26	27
28						

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	**29**	30	

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	**7**	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	**26**	27	28
29	30	31				

September

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			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October

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					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	**28**	29	30
31						

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	**3**	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 9a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Increased Water Use Assessment for Areas Outside the Central Management Area

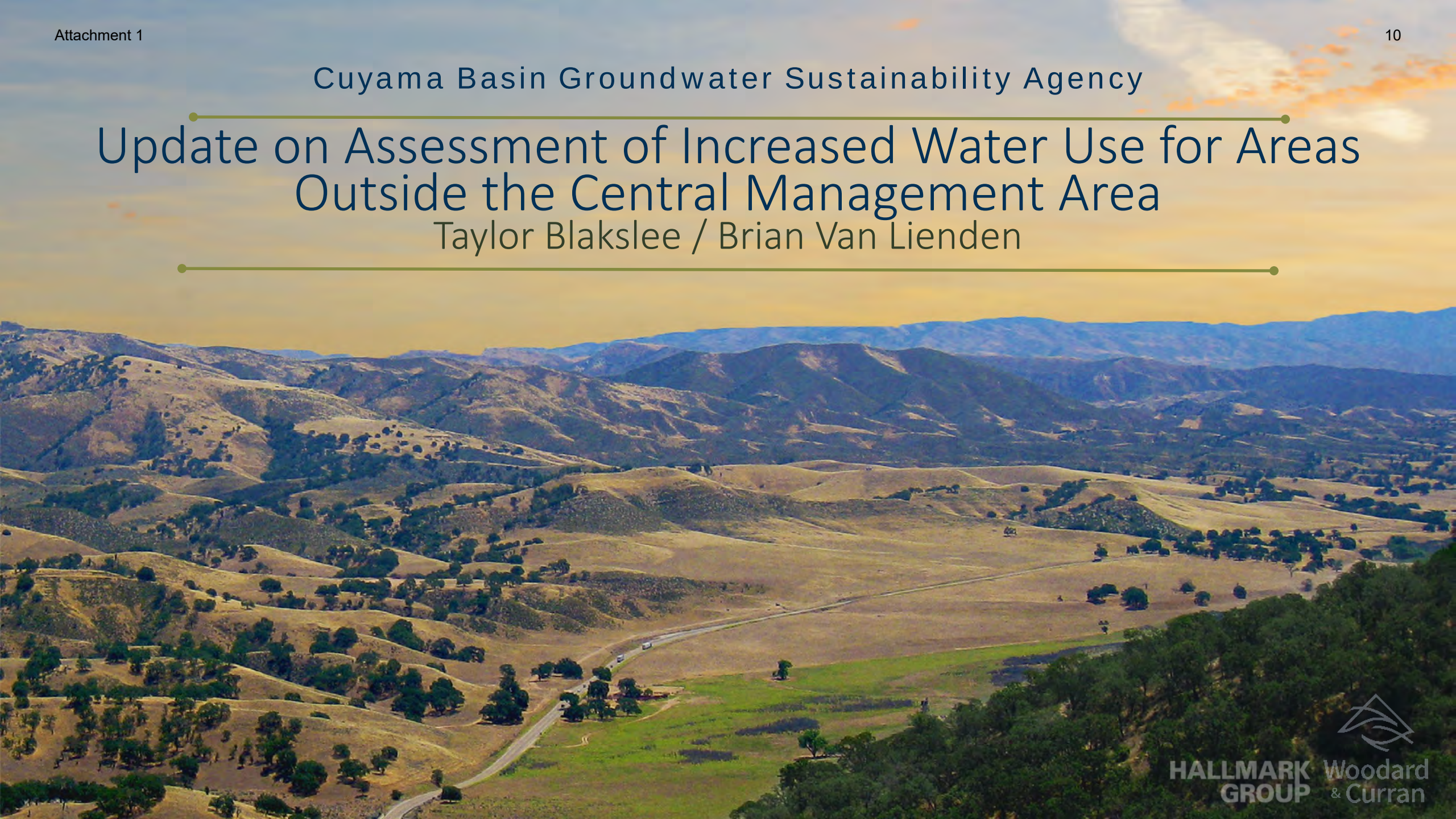
Recommended Motion
SAC feedback requested.

Discussion
An update on increased water use assessment for areas outside the Central Management Area is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Update on Assessment of Increased Water Use for Areas Outside the Central Management Area

Taylor Blakslee / Brian Van Lienden



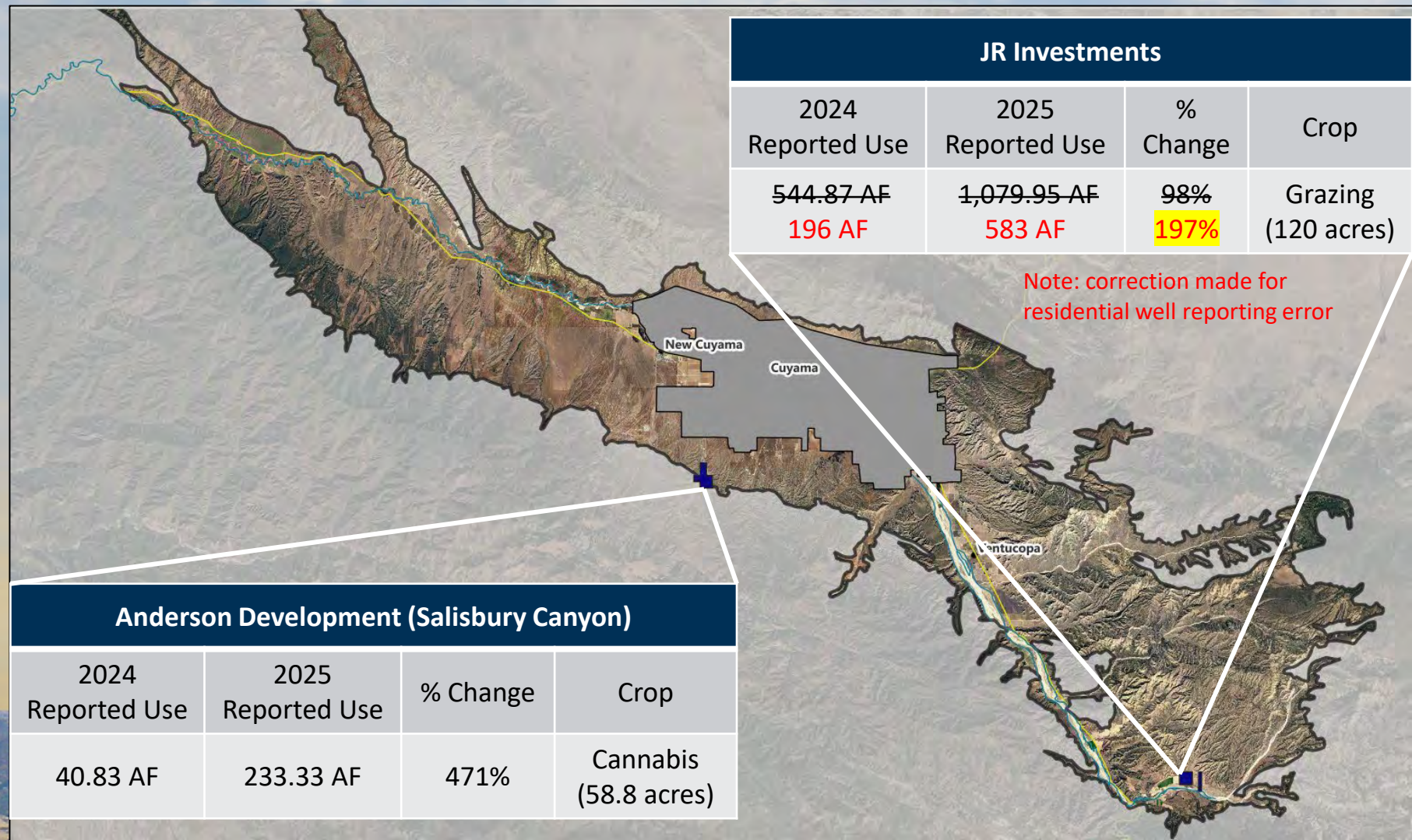
HALLMARK GROUP Woodard & Curran

Assessment of Increased Water Use for Areas 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.
- 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 increased water use outside the CMA.
- On May 6, 2026, staff presented an initial assessment, evaluating groundwater pumping, groundwater levels, and land use and well permitting to identify areas where increased use or changing conditions may warrant further review.

Assessment of Increased Water Use for Areas Outside the Central Management Area| **Background**

- Staff identified two areas with significant increases in reported groundwater use, as shown on the map.
  - The Board directed staff to proceed with the detailed assessment process for these two areas with ongoing updates to the Board.



JR Investments

2024 Reported Use	2025 Reported Use	% Change	Crop
~~544.87 AF~~ 196 AF	~~1,079.95 AF~~ 583 AF	~~98%~~ 197%	Grazing (120 acres)

Note: correction made for residential well reporting error

Anderson Development (Salisbury Canyon)

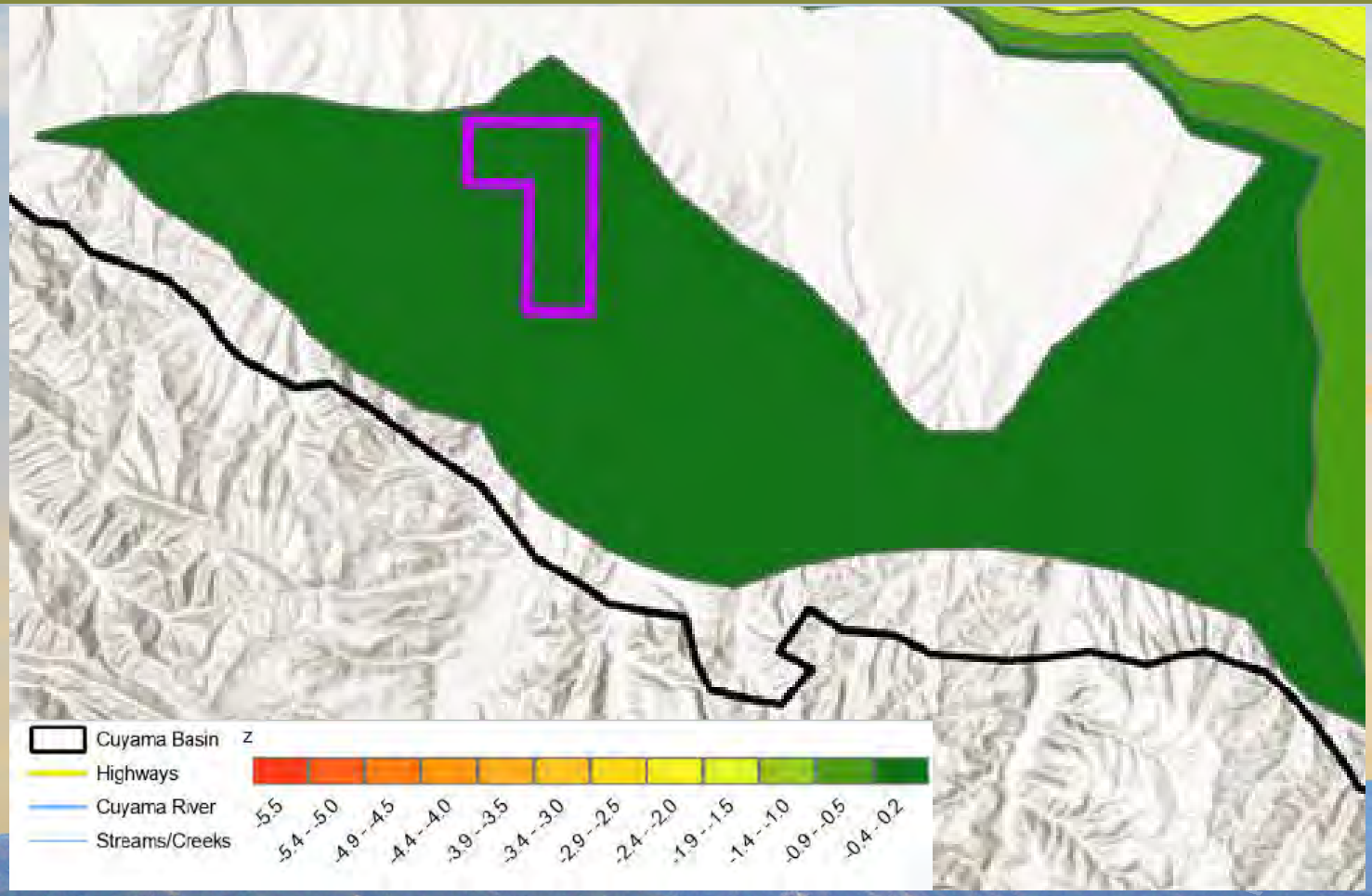
2024 Reported Use	2025 Reported Use	% Change	Crop
40.83 AF	233.33 AF	471%	Cannabis (58.8 acres)

Modeling Assessment of Increased Water Use for Areas Outside the Central Management Area

- A modeling scenario was developed using the existing 50-year Baseline scenario
- Scenario assumptions:
  - **Anderson Development**: added a cannabis crop type with annual ET based on literature value for cannabis, which is consistent with Anderson's reported future water use
  - **JR Investments**: used a proxy crop type for irrigated areas that produces a similar water use to their 2025 reported pumping

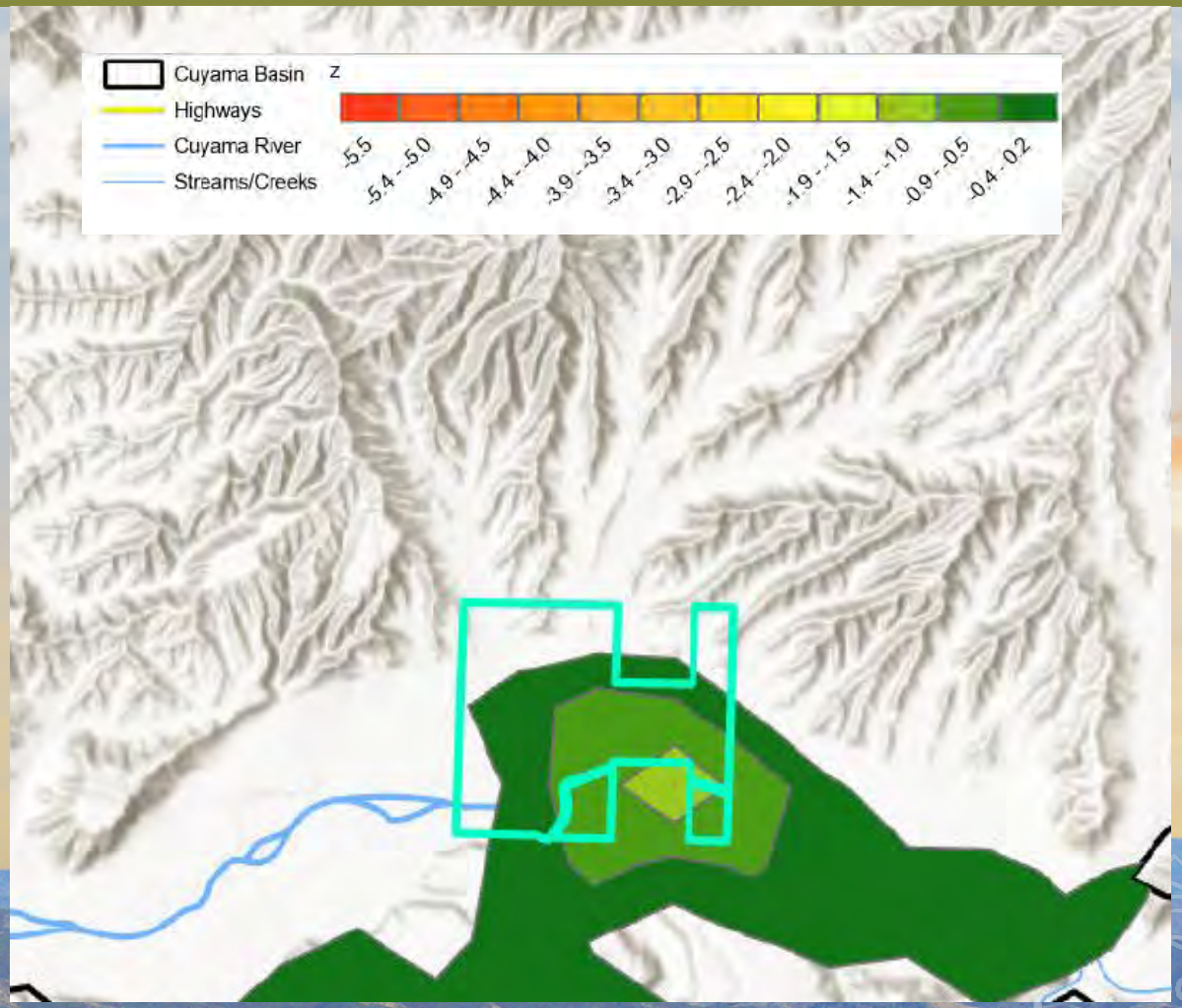
Modeling Results: Anderson Development

- Projected groundwater level declines are less than 1 ft/yr
- There is uncertainty in model results due to limited local data availability and inadequate representation of local geologic heterogeneity



Modeling Results: JR Investments

- Projected groundwater level declines of up to 1.5 ft/yr
- Model in this area reflects limited local data availability but hydrologic and geologic representation seems reasonable



Conclusions and Next Steps

- The current model results do not indicate long-term groundwater level declines of greater than 2 feet/year
- Confidence in model simulation results in vicinity of both properties could be improved with additional local model refinement and calibration
  - Staff recommends future model improvements, potentially with grant funding
- Groundwater levels in these areas should continue to be monitored to identify future changes
- Additionally, interconnected surface water (ISW) analysis will need to be performed throughout the Basin, which may result in other groundwater management actions

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 9b

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Adopt the Amended Allocation Exchange Policy

Recommended Motion

Adopt the Amended Cuyama Basin GSA Rules And Regulations for the Transfer of Groundwater Allocations.

Discussion

An update on the amended allocation exchange policy is included as **Attachment 1**. A redlined and clean version of the amended policy is included as **Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3,** respectively, for consideration of adoption.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

9b. Approve and Adopt the Amended Allocation Exchange Policy

Taylor Blakslee / Grace Bianchi

October 29, 2026



Background

- On November 5, 2025, Board approved the Allocation Exchange Policy as a one-year pilot program.
- On August 7, 2026, the ad hoc (Directors Young, Yurosek, and Stakeholder Tristan Zannon) met to discuss potential allocation exchange program improvements.
- On September 2, 2026, the board reviewed ad hoc recommendations and directed staff to:
  1. Develop opt-in seller list
  2. Revise allocation exchange policy to extend exchange deadline to mid-February
- Staff prepared a draft amended policy incorporating the deadline extension, which was reviewed by the ad hoc on October 14, 2026.
- The redlined policy is included in the Board packet for approval and a summary of the revisions is provided on the following slide.

Amended Allocation Exchange Policy

- The amended allocation exchange policy includes the following revisions:
  - Extend the allocation exchange deadline to mid-February
  - The landowner request form requires landowner to acknowledge compliance with Sustainable Management Criteria
  - Clarify that policy has no impact to water rights **recommended by an ad hoc member**

Staff Recommendation

Approve and adopt the amended Rules And Regulations for the Transfer of Groundwater Allocations.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
THE TRANSFER OF GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS

Adopted: January 1, 2026

Amended: _____

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.01 Authority. The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (**GSA**) may adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (**SGMA**), in compliance with any procedural requirements applicable to the adoption of such rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution by the GSA. (Wat. Code, § 10725.2, subd. (b).)

1.02 Purpose. The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater within the boundaries of the GSA.

1.03 Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The intent of these Rules and Regulations is to implement the provisions of the GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (**GSP**). These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any time, as deemed necessary by the GSA's Board of Directors (**Board**), to achieve consistency with that GSP and groundwater sustainability within the GSA's boundaries.

1.04 Effective Date and Amendments Hereto. These Rules and Regulations shall become effective upon adoption by the Board, and may be added to, amended and/or repealed at any time by later resolution of the Board with any such additions, amendments, and/or repeals becoming effective upon adoption of the resolution, or as otherwise specified by the Board. However, adoption of these Rules and Regulations will not affect the effective date of any of the GSA's policies existing as of the date the Board adopts these Rules and Regulations.

1.05 Actions Against the GSA. Nothing contained in these Rules and Regulations may be deemed a waiver by the GSA or estop the GSA from asserting any defenses or immunities from liability as provided by law, including those provided in Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

1.06 Severability. If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of these Rules and Regulations, and the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

1.07 No Impact on Rights; Temporary Reallocation.

a. **Temporary reallocation.** A transfer under Article II is a temporary reallocation of the transferring landowner's groundwater allocation for the term stated in the approved Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form, which shall not extend beyond December 31, 2029. A transfer is not a sale, conveyance, assignment, forfeiture or abandonment of any water right.

b. **No waiver or impairment.** Nothing in these Rules and Regulations, and no transfer or other participation under them, waives, impairs, reduces, or forfeits any right, claim,

priority, or defense of any landowner, including the transferring landowner, whether asserted in an adjudication or otherwise.

No determination of rights; no admission. Consistent with SGMA, nothing in these Rules and Regulations or participation in the allocation and exchange determines or alters any person's groundwater rights. (Wat. Code, § 10720.5, subd. (b).)

c.

ARTICLE II
TRANFER OF GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION

2.01 Transfer of Groundwater Allocation. A landowner may transfer its groundwater allocation to another landowner, subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. The transferring-landowner and the receiving-landowner shall each hold title to real property located within the 2025 – 2029 Central Management Area (including those parcels of real property made part of the Central Management Area via the creation of a Farming Unit), as that area is depicted in the map attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

b. The transferring-landowner and the receiving-landowner shall each be in good standing with the GSA. "Good standing" means the landowner does not owe any outstanding fee or penalty to the GSA and is up to date with any and all applicable reporting requirements (e.g., groundwater extraction facility registration; groundwater extraction reporting; etc.).

c. The transferred groundwater allocation shall be used solely within the Central Management Area.

d. The transfer shall terminate on or before December 31, 2029.

e. The transfer shall not cause an exceedance of any Minimum Threshold, as that term is defined within the GSP (as may be amended from time to time) as determined by GSA staff.

f. The transfer shall be memorialized in writing using the Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B** and submitted to the GSA. If the transferring-landowner is party to a Farming Unit, as recognized by the GSA, each landowner party to that Farming Unit must execute the previously mentioned Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form.

g. A request to transfer groundwater allocation for a particular calendar year must be submitted to the GSA no later than the second Friday in February of the following calendar

year. A transfer completed during this period applies only to the preceding calendar year and does not constitute carryover of groundwater allocation.

2.02 Process. Upon submission of the Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form, the GSA staff shall review the transfer to ensure compliance with these Rules and Regulations. Within 30 days of submission, the GSA staff shall inform the participating landowners of its findings approving the transfer, denying the transfer, or requesting additional information regarding the transfer. If the GSA staff denies the transfer, the participating landowners may appeal the decision to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final.

2.03 Carryover of Groundwater Allocation Prohibited. If a landowner uses less than its allocation, including any additional amounts received via transfer, during any particular year (i.e., January 1 through December 31), that landowner may not carryover any such unused portion to the next year.

ARTICLE III
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES

3.01 Acknowledgment of the GSA's Ongoing Authority. The Board has the authority to implement adaptive management actions at any time based on changing conditions within the Basin. The GSA will continue to monitor representative wells and Basin conditions. If data indicates that a previously approved transfer is contributing to one or more Undesirable Results including, but not limited to, the exceedance of Minimum Thresholds, the GSA may take corrective action. Such corrective actions include but not limited to restricting pumping, modifying allocations, or suspending future transfers as necessary to protect the sustainability of the Basin.

ARTICLE IV
PENALTIES AND FEES

4.01 Failure to Comply. The GSA shall not recognize or otherwise account for any transfer not memorialized using the GSA's Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form and approved by the GSA, as set forth herein.

4.02 SGMA Penalties. Upon violation of any provision of these Rules and Regulations by a landowner, the GSA shall impose a penalty of $1,000, plus $100 for each additional day upon which the violation continues if the landowner fails to comply within 30 days after being made aware of the violation by the GSA. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the GSA may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those~~,~~ which may be provided elsewhere in these Rules and Regulations or otherwise allowed by law.

EXHIBIT A

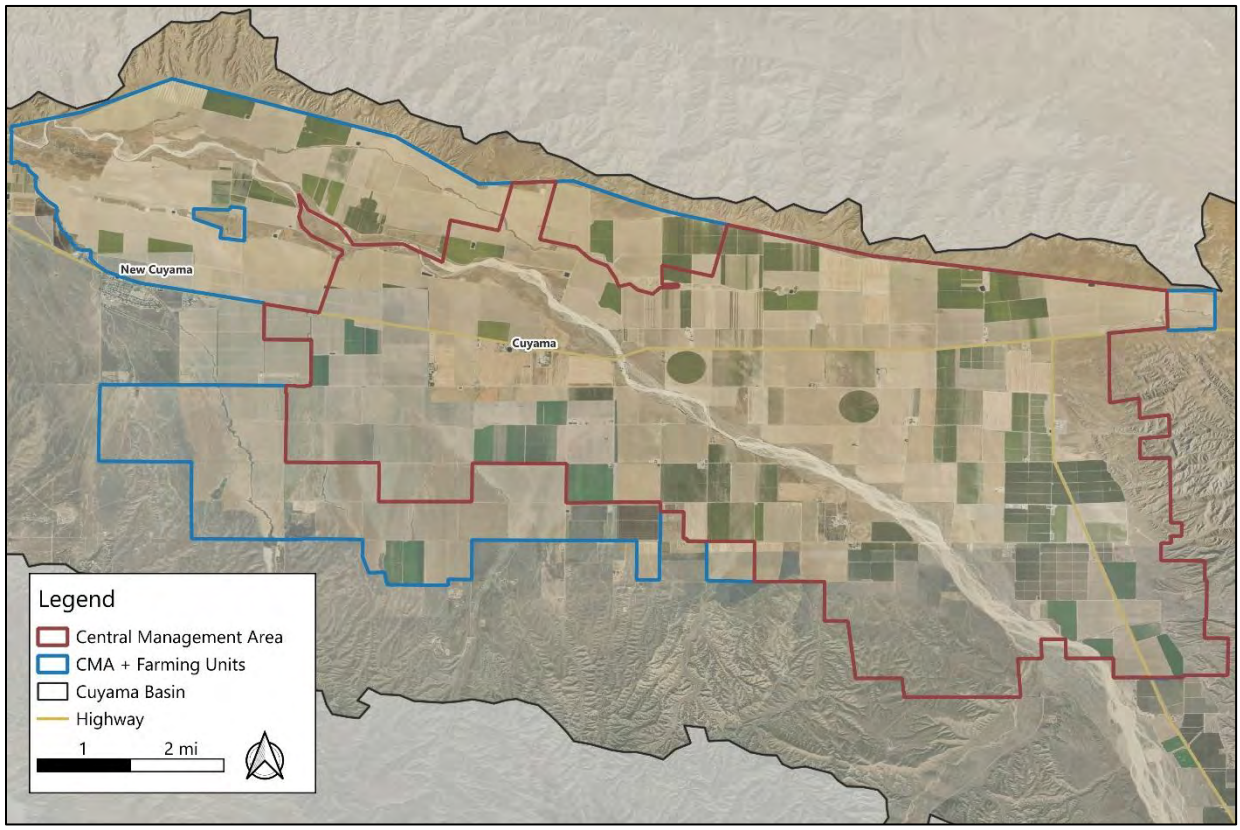

New Cuyama
Cuyama
Legend
Central Management Area
CMA + Farming Units
Cuyama Basin
Highway
1
2 mi

EXHIBIT B

GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION TRANSFER FORM

(For Landowner Use)

Instructions: If you're interested in transferring a groundwater allocation, complete the following form and submit the signed form to tblakslee@hgcpm.com for CBGSA review. GSA Staff will provide a determination regarding transfer requests within 30 days.

Name of Transferring-Landowner: _____

Parcels from which the Allocation is Leaving: _____

_____

_____

_____

Name of Receiving-Landowner: _____

Parcels to which the Allocation is Going: _____

_____

_____

_____

Amount of Water Being Transferred: _____

Term of Transfer: _____

☐ Receiving-Landowner acknowledges that exceedances of Sustainable Management Criteria may result in management actions impacting groundwater use.

Signature of Transferring-Landowner: _____

Signature of Receiving-Landowner: _____

Date: _____

GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION TRANSFER FORM, CONTINUED
(For Cuyama Basin GSA Staff Use)

Name of Transferring-Landowner: _____

Name of Receiving-Landowner: _____

Date Form Received: _____

1. Does the transferring-landowner hold title to real property within the CMA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

2. Does the receiving-landowner hold title to real property within the CMA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

3. Is the transferring-landowner in good standing with the GSA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

   If "NO," what corrective action is needed on part of the transferring-landowner?

   _____

   _____

4. Is the receiving-landowner in good standing with the GSA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

   If "NO," what corrective action is needed on part of the receiving-landowner?

   _____

   _____

5. Is the transferred groundwater allocation proposed for use solely within the CMA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

6. Does the transfer terminate on or before December 31, 2029? ☐ YES ☐ NO

THIS TRANSFER IS HEREBY:

☐ APPROVED

☐ DENIED

☐ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/CORRECTIVE ACTION NEEDED: _____

_____

_____

_____

Signature and Date: _____

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
THE TRANSFER OF GROUNDWATER ALLOCATIONS

Adopted: January 1, 2026

Amended:_____

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.01 Authority. The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (**GSA**) may adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (**SGMA**), in compliance with any procedural requirements applicable to the adoption of such rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution by the GSA. (Wat. Code, § 10725.2, subd. (b).)

1.02 Purpose. The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater within the boundaries of the GSA.

1.03 Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The intent of these Rules and Regulations is to implement the provisions of the GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (**GSP**). These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any time, as deemed necessary by the GSA's Board of Directors (**Board**), to achieve consistency with that GSP and groundwater sustainability within the GSA's boundaries.

1.04 Effective Date and Amendments Hereto. These Rules and Regulations shall become effective upon adoption by the Board, and may be added to, amended and/or repealed at any time by later resolution of the Board with any such additions, amendments, and/or repeals becoming effective upon adoption of the resolution, or as otherwise specified by the Board. However, adoption of these Rules and Regulations will not affect the effective date of any of the GSA's policies existing as of the date the Board adopts these Rules and Regulations.

1.05 Actions Against the GSA. Nothing contained in these Rules and Regulations may be deemed a waiver by the GSA or estop the GSA from asserting any defenses or immunities from liability as provided by law, including those provided in Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

1.06 Severability. If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of these Rules and Regulations, and the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

1.07 No Impact on Rights; Temporary Reallocation.

a. Temporary reallocation. A transfer under Article II is a temporary reallocation of the transferring landowner's groundwater allocation for the term stated in the approved Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form, which shall not extend beyond December 31, 2029. A transfer is not a sale, conveyance, assignment, forfeiture or abandonment of any water right.

b. No waiver or impairment. Nothing in these Rules and Regulations, and no transfer or other participation under them, waives, impairs, reduces, or forfeits any right, claim,

priority, or defense of any landowner, including the transferring landowner, whether asserted in an adjudication or otherwise.

c. No determination of rights; no admission. Consistent with SGMA, nothing in these Rules and Regulations or participation in the allocation and exchange determines or alters any person's groundwater rights. (Wat. Code, § 10720.5, subd. (b).)

ARTICLE II
TRANFER OF GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION

2.01 Transfer of Groundwater Allocation. A landowner may transfer its groundwater allocation to another landowner, subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. The transferring-landowner and the receiving-landowner shall each hold title to real property located within the 2025 – 2029 Central Management Area (including those parcels of real property made part of the Central Management Area via the creation of a Farming Unit), as that area is depicted in the map attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

b. The transferring-landowner and the receiving-landowner shall each be in good standing with the GSA. "Good standing" means the landowner does not owe any outstanding fee or penalty to the GSA and is up to date with any and all applicable reporting requirements (e.g., groundwater extraction facility registration; groundwater extraction reporting; etc.).

c. The transferred groundwater allocation shall be used solely within the Central Management Area.

d. The transfer shall terminate on or before December 31, 2029.

e. The transfer shall not cause an exceedance of any Minimum Threshold, as that term is defined within the GSP (as may be amended from time to time) as determined by GSA staff.

f. The transfer shall be memorialized in writing using the Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B** and submitted to the GSA. If the transferring-landowner is party to a Farming Unit, as recognized by the GSA, each landowner party to that Farming Unit must execute the previously mentioned Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form.

g. A request to transfer groundwater allocation for a particular calendar year must be submitted to the GSA no later than the second Friday in February of the following calendar

year. A transfer completed during this period applies only to the preceding calendar year and does not constitute carryover of groundwater allocation.

2.02 Process. Upon submission of the Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form, the GSA staff shall review the transfer to ensure compliance with these Rules and Regulations. Within 30 days of submission, the GSA staff shall inform the participating landowners of its findings approving the transfer, denying the transfer, or requesting additional information regarding the transfer. If the GSA staff denies the transfer, the participating landowners may appeal the decision to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final.

2.03 Carryover of Groundwater Allocation Prohibited. If a landowner uses less than its allocation, including any additional amounts received via transfer, during any particular year (i.e., January 1 through December 31), that landowner may not carryover any such unused portion to the next year.

ARTICLE III
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES

3.01 Acknowledgment of the GSA's Ongoing Authority. The Board has the authority to implement adaptive management actions at any time based on changing conditions within the Basin. The GSA will continue to monitor representative wells and Basin conditions. If data indicates that a previously approved transfer is contributing to one or more Undesirable Results including, but not limited to, the exceedance of Minimum Thresholds, the GSA may take corrective action. Such corrective actions include but not limited to restricting pumping, modifying allocations, or suspending future transfers as necessary to protect the sustainability of the Basin.

ARTICLE IV
PENALTIES AND FEES

4.01 Failure to Comply. The GSA shall not recognize or otherwise account for any transfer not memorialized using the GSA's Groundwater Allocation Transfer Form and approved by the GSA, as set forth herein.

4.02 SGMA Penalties. Upon violation of any provision of these Rules and Regulations by a landowner, the GSA shall impose a penalty of $1,000, plus $100 for each additional day upon which the violation continues if the landowner fails to comply within 30 days after being made aware of the violation by the GSA. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the GSA may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those which may be provided elsewhere in these Rules and Regulations or otherwise allowed by law.

EXHIBIT A

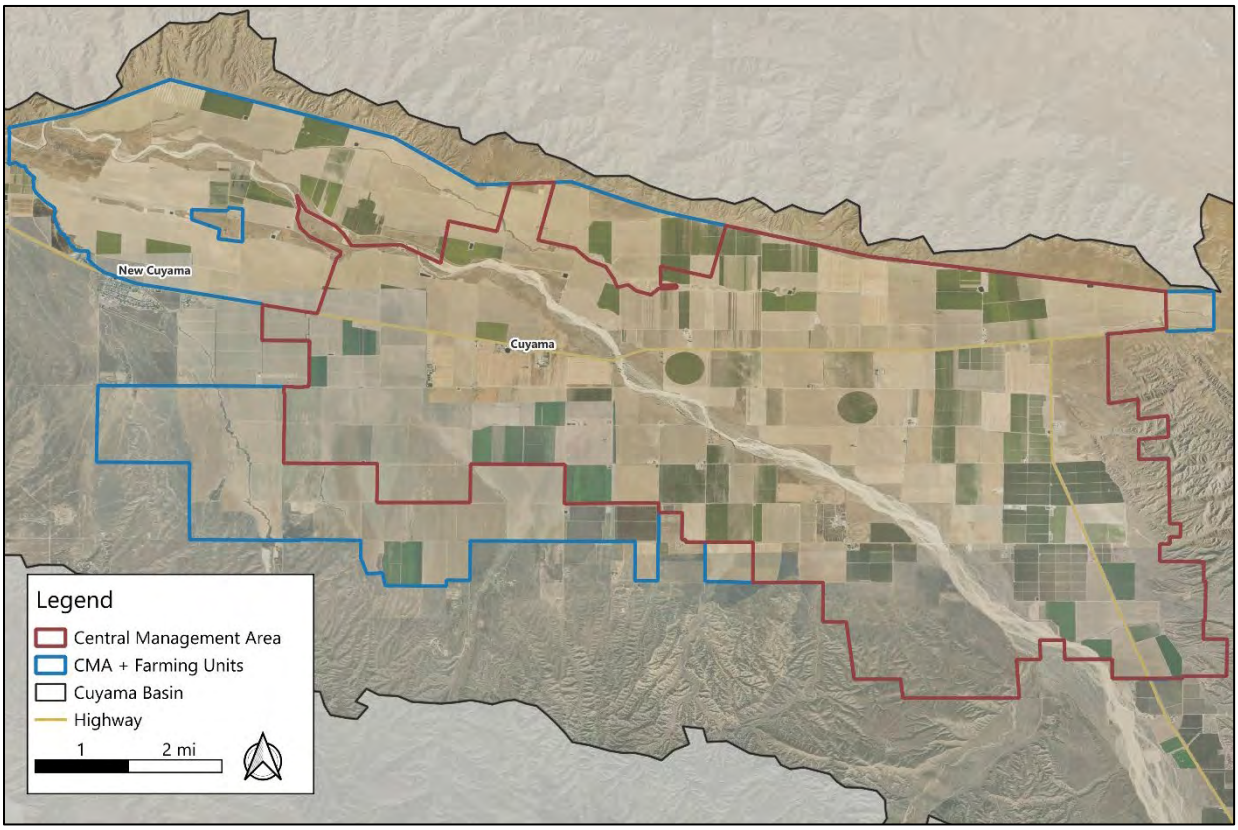

New Cuyama
Cuyama
Legend
Central Management Area
CMA + Farming Units
Cuyama Basin
Highway
1
2 mi

EXHIBIT B

GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION TRANSFER FORM

(For Landowner Use)

Instructions: If you're interested in transferring a groundwater allocation, complete the following form and submit the signed form to tblakslee@hgcpm.com for CBGSA review. GSA Staff will provide a determination regarding transfer requests within 30 days.

Name of Transferring-Landowner: _____

Parcels from which the Allocation is Leaving: _____

_____

_____

_____

Name of Receiving-Landowner: _____

Parcels to which the Allocation is Going: _____

_____

_____

_____

Amount of Water Being Transferred: _____

Term of Transfer: _____

☐ Receiving-Landowner acknowledges that exceedances of Sustainable Management Criteria may result in management actions impacting groundwater use.**Signature of Transferring-Landowner:** _____

Signature of Receiving-Landowner: _____

Date: _____

GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION TRANSFER FORM, CONTINUED

(For Cuyama Basin GSA Staff Use)

Name of Transferring-Landowner: _____

Name of Receiving-Landowner: _____

Date Form Received: _____

1. Does the transferring-landowner hold title to real property within the CMA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

2. Does the receiving-landowner hold title to real property within the CMA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

3. Is the transferring-landowner in good standing with the GSA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

   If "NO," what corrective action is needed on part of the transferring-landowner?

   _____

   _____

4. Is the receiving-landowner in good standing with the GSA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

   If "NO," what corrective action is needed on part of the receiving-landowner?

   _____

   _____

5. Is the transferred groundwater allocation proposed for use solely within the CMA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

6. Does the transfer terminate on or before December 31, 2029? ☐ YES ☐ NO

THIS TRANSFER IS HEREBY:

☐ APPROVED

☐ DENIED

☐ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/CORRECTIVE ACTION NEEDED: _____

_____

_____

_____

Signature and Date: _____

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 9c

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Direction on Variance Pool Concept

Recommended Motion
SAC feedback requested.

Discussion
An overview of the variance pool concept and options is included **Attachment 1** for consideration.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

9c. Direction on Variance Pool Concept

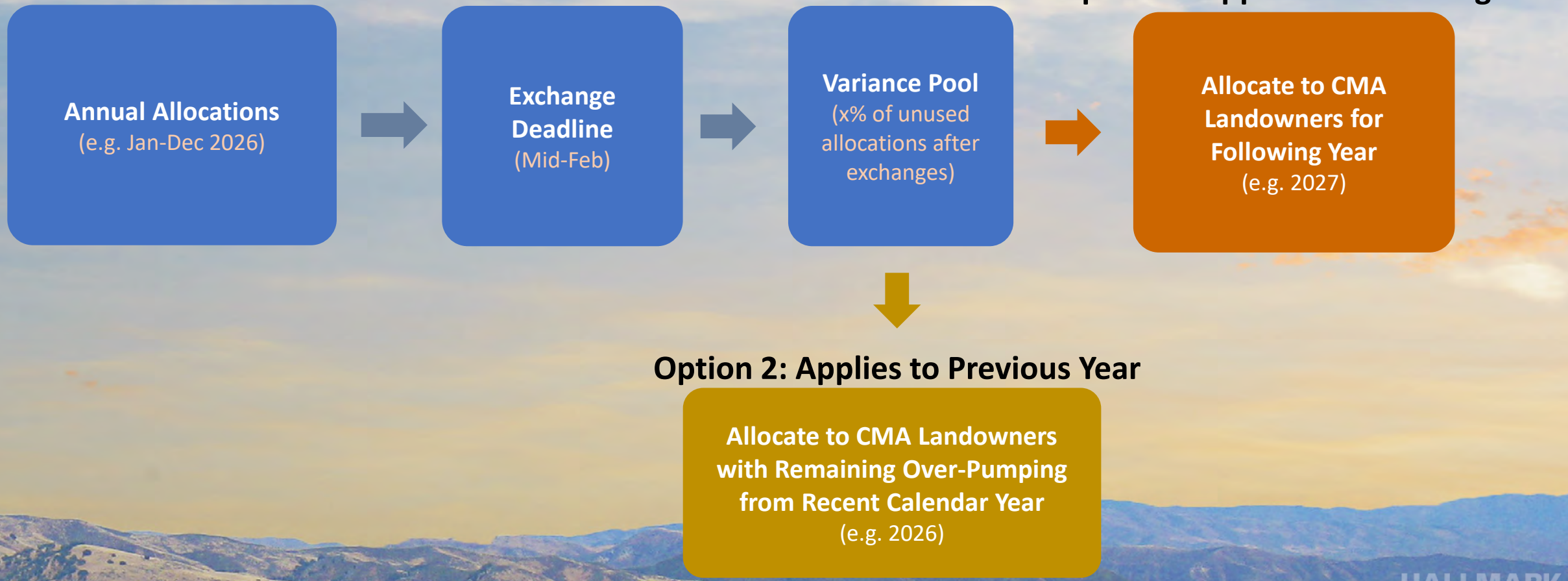
Taylor Blakslee



Background

- On August 7, 2026, the allocation exchange ad hoc (Directors Young, Yurosek, and Stakeholder Tristan Zannon) provided feedback on potential allocation exchange policy improvements, including Variance Pool concept.
- The ad hoc recommended discussing a variance pool concept once the Board made a decision on carryover policy.
- On September 2, 2026, the board decided not to implement a carryover policy now and reconsider once the adjudication is finalized.
- Therefore, staff met with the ad hoc on October 14, 2026, to reconsider the variance pool concept.
- A summary of the potential variance pool options and ad hoc feedback are provided on the following slides.

Variance Pool Concept



Variance Pool Concept

- Ad Hoc Feedback
  - **Two** ad hoc members were in favor of implementing a variance pool, with a recommendation to only use a small percentage of the unused allocation for the following year (e.g. 10%).
  - **One** member expressed that a variance pool is premature until the entire basin is adjudicated and is not in favor of a variance pool at this time. However, if a variance pool is established, then only the unused sustainable yield should be reallocated and not transitional water.

- Does the Board/SAC want to consider implementing a variance pool? If so, should policy be in place by March 2027?

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 9d

FROM: Taylor Blakslee

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Direction on Allocation Exceedance Penalty Fee

Recommended Motion
SAC feedback requested.

Discussion
An overview of the current and alternative allocation exceedance penalty fee structures and ad hoc feedback is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

9d. Direction on Allocation Exceedance Penalty Fee

Taylor Blakslee / Grace Bianchi

October 29, 2026



Background

- On September 2, 2026, the Board directed staff to work with ad hoc to evaluate alternative penalty fee structures due to potential equity concerns.
- On October 14, 2026, the ad hoc reviewed alternative fee options.
  - The following slides outline the penalty fee structures and summarize ad hoc feedback.

Current Penalty Fee Structure

Penalty Tiers	Penalty Fee	Percent Over Allocation
Tier 1	$250/AF	0-5% Pumping over allocation
Tier 2	$500/AF	>5% Pumping over allocation

Allocation Exceedance Penalty Fee Structures

1. Percentage-Based (Current)
   - The same excess pumping volume results in different penalties depending on allocation size.
   - **Illustrative example:** Both landowners exceed allocation by 10 AF but penalties differ by $1,750 under the current fee structure.

	Allocation	Exceedance	Percent Exceeded	Penalty Fee Tier	Penalty Fee (Current Structure)
Landowner A	100 AF	10 AF	10%	$500/AF	$3,750
Landowner B	1,000 AF	10 AF	1%	$250/AF	$2,500

2. Volume-Based (Alternative Option)
   - Applies equal penalties to equal volumes of excess pumping.

Ad Hoc Feedback

- The ad hoc supported the volume-based structure with two penalty tiers: $250/AF for Tier 1 and $500/AF for Tier 2.
- Ad hoc members differed on the volume threshold between tiers:
  - Two members supported 10 AF.
  - One member supported 300 AF.

Penalty Tiers	**Penalty Fee**	**Percent Over Allocation** (Current)	**Volume Over Allocation** (supported by 2 members)	**Volume Over Allocation** (supported by 1 member)
Tier 1	$250/AF	0-5%	0 - 10 AF	0-300 AF
Tier 2	$500/AF	>5%	> 10 AF	> 300 AF

Board/SAC Direction

- Does the Board/SAC want to change allocation exceedance penalty fee tiers from a percentage to a volume-basis?
  - Does the Board/SAC want to continue with a two-tier system?
  - What acre-foot threshold should separate Tier 1 from Tier 2?

Penalty Tiers	Penalty Fee	Ad Hoc Recommendation	
		Volume Over Allocation (2 members in favor)	**Volume Over Allocation** (1 member in favor)
Tier 1	$250/AF	0 - 10 AF	0 - 300 AF
Tier 2	$500/AF	> 10 AF	> 300 AF

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9f

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Adaptive Management

Recommended Motion
SAC feedback requested.

Discussion
An update on the investigation of the five (5) wells that exceeded their minimum thresholds or were within the 10% of the minimum threshold is provided in **Attachment 1.**

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

9f. Update on Adaptive Management

Taylor Blakslee / Grace Bianchi / Louie Poire

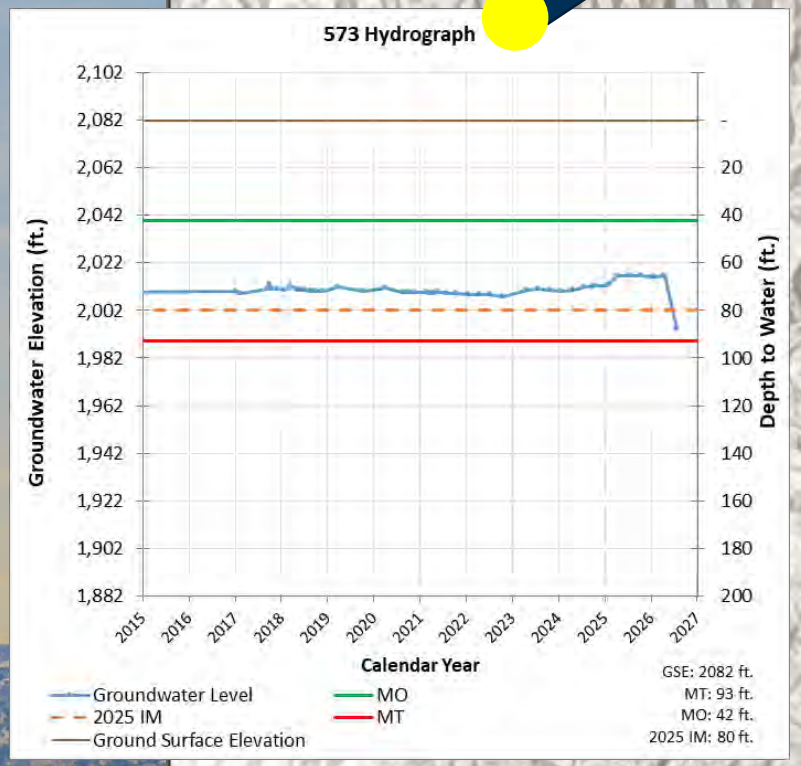
October 29, 2026

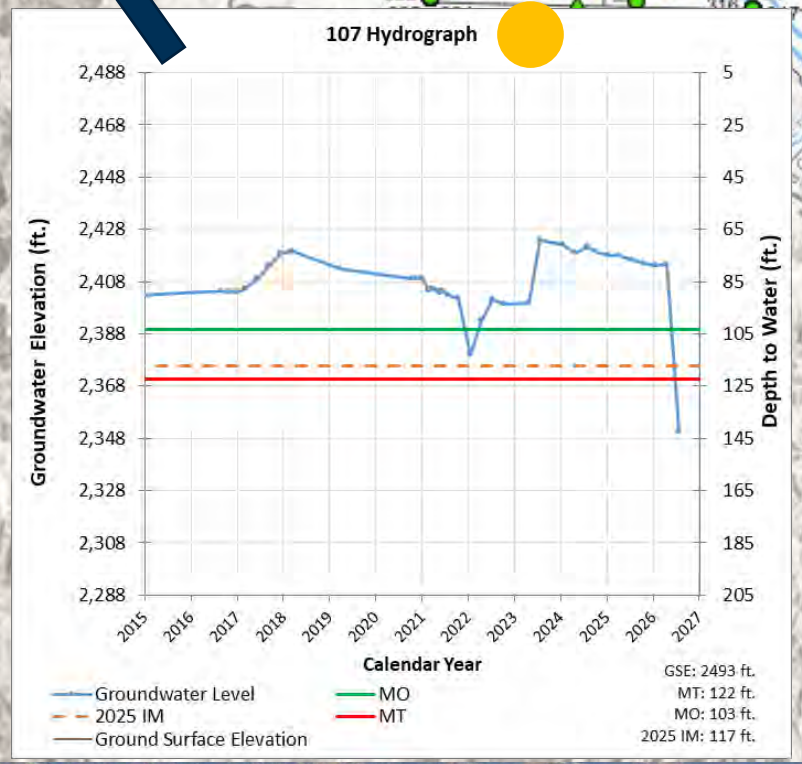


Background

- In September, staff reviewed three wells with minimum threshold exceedances.
  - Two wells had significant groundwater level declines, which raised questions on the in-field QA/QC process.
- Staff met with P&P to review the QA/QC process and requested that the two wells be remeasured during the September monitoring event.
- As a result, both wells were remeasured at levels consistent with past measurements.
- Staff will also provide an update on Well 77-420-421, which still required the adaptive management process.

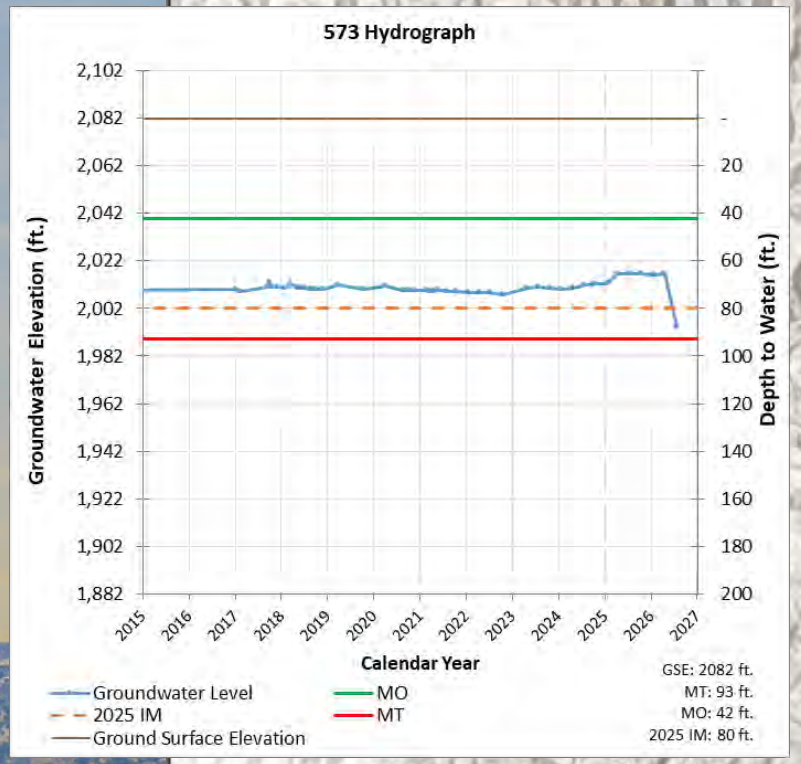
Wells below the MT or in Adaptive Mgmt Zone





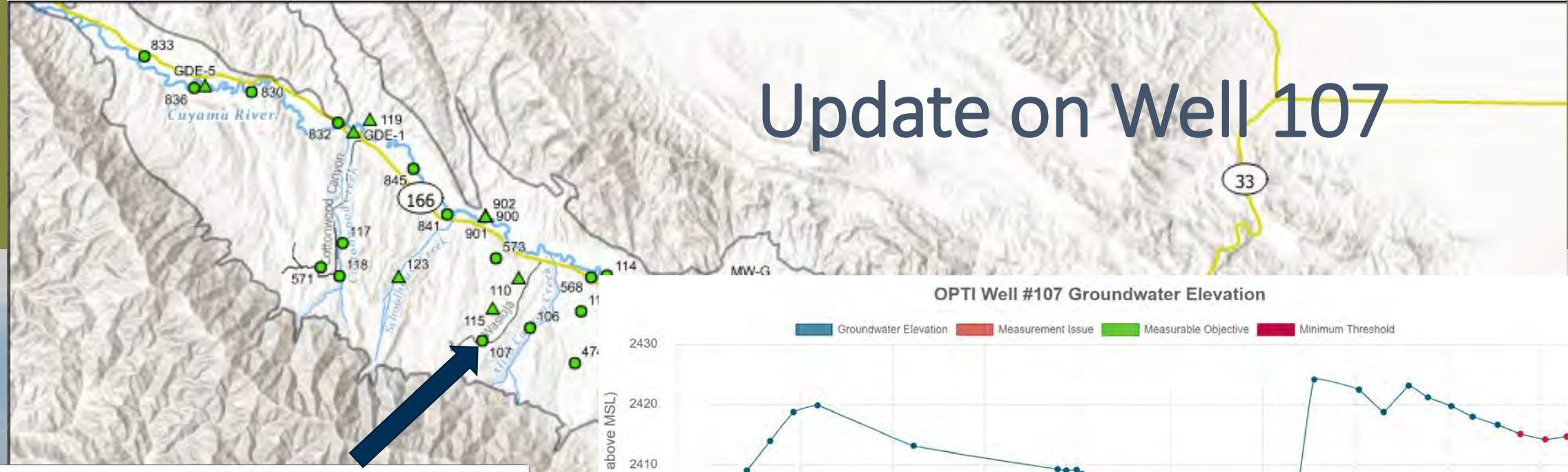
Update on Well 573

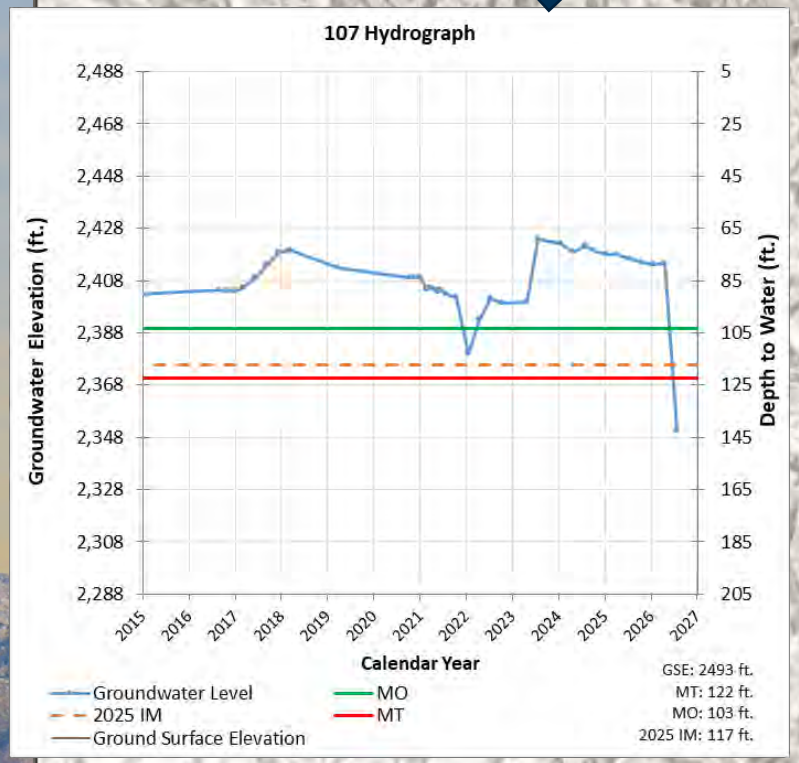
- P&P confirmed that the July groundwater level decline was due to pumping and the levels had not stabilized when the measurement was taken.
- The well was remeasured in September, which showed a groundwater level reading more consistent with past measurements.

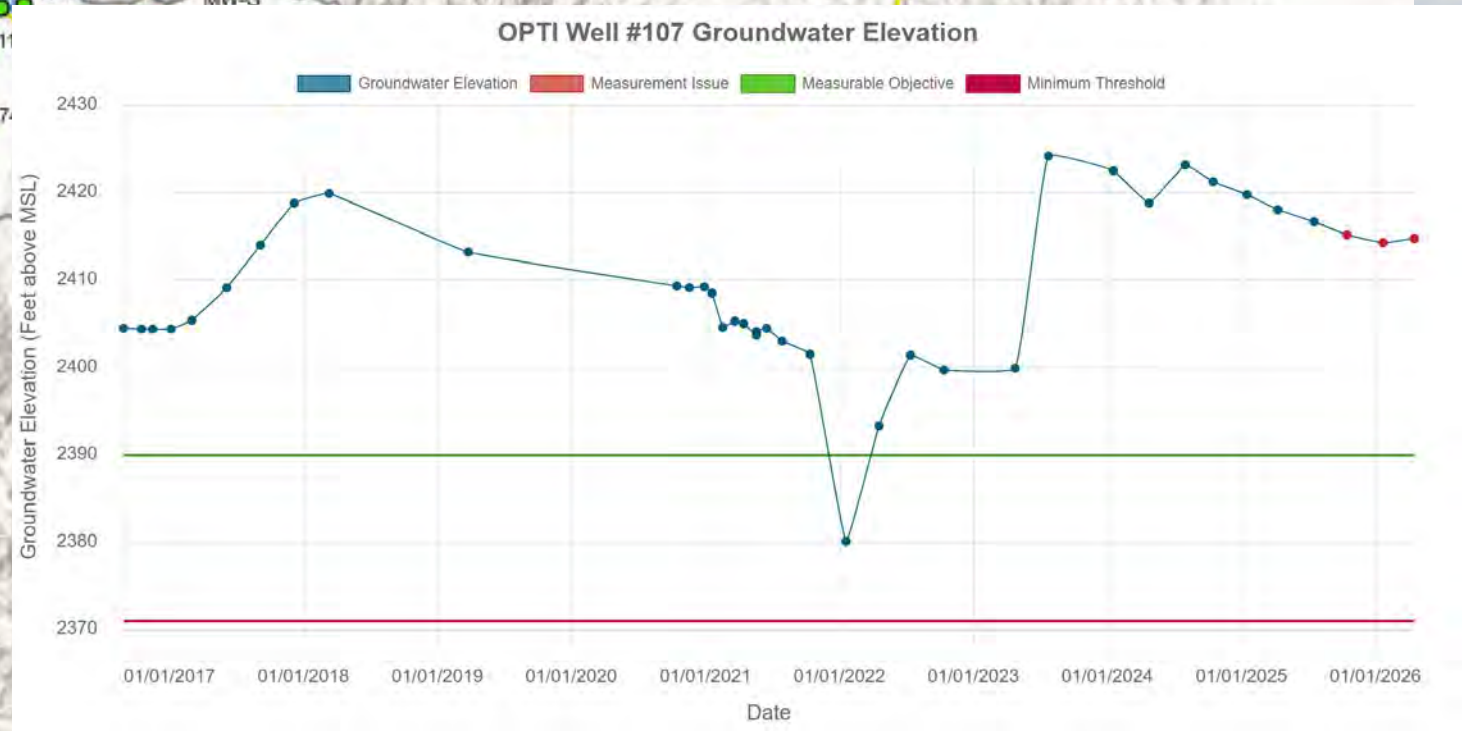




Update on Well 107







- P&P was unable to reach the landowner, so the cause of the initial decline has not been confirmed.
- P&P remeasured Well 107 in September and recorded a groundwater level more consistent with past measurements.

PROVOST&PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP

Cuyama: Depth to Water Measuring

Methods to measure depth to water at a well site

Louie Poire, EIT · OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026



BEFORE WELL SITE VISIT: COORDINATE WELL CONDITIONS

- Weather check prior to on-site days selection.
- All depth-to-water measurement equipment tested prior to site visit.
- Contact landowners that have requested notice before onsite measurements.
- Schedule appointments, as necessary.
- For the most accurate measurement the preference is that the well not run for at least 24 hours, however, we acknowledge that this is a best-case scenario and landowner wells must run when needed but measurements can be affected by shorter downtime.
- Field Records and route planned and mapped before travel to Cuyama area.

POWERS/SOLINST SOUNDER: AT THE WELL

1. Confirm the Site

Identify the well and the sounder access opening. Check the marked point at that opening where the cable will be read.

2. Review Prior Records

Look up the most recent and past year's depth to water. Use the history to anticipate how far to lower the probe and to recognize an unusual result.*

3. Access Opening

Place the probe into the well through the designated sounder access, keeping the cable aligned with the measuring point at the opening.

4. Controlled Descent

Turn the sounder on and feed out the marked cable. Lower the probe until it first reaches the water surface.

5. Listen for the Beep

The contact signal marks the water surface. Hold the cable steady and confirm the first contact.

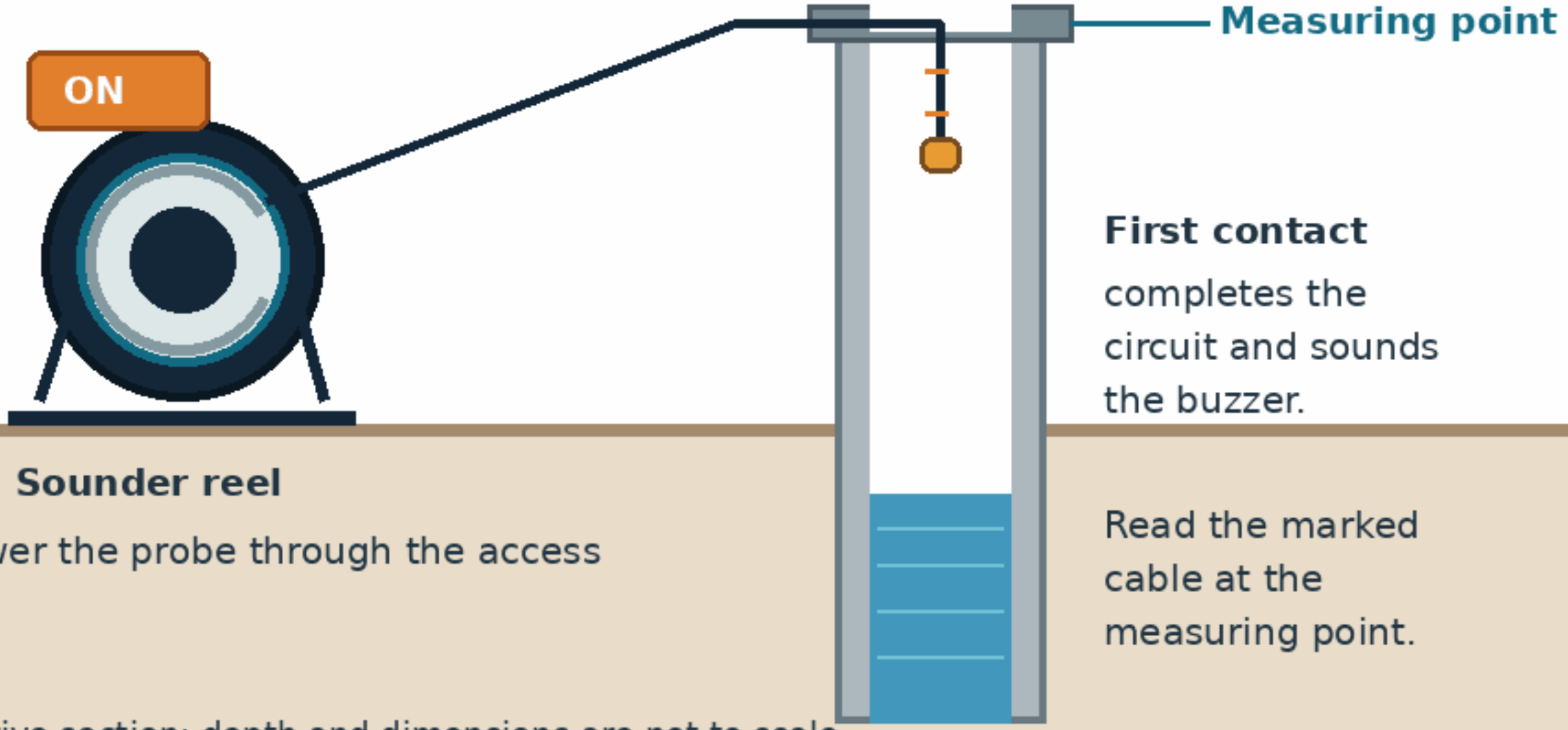
6. Read at the Opening

Read the marked cable at the established measuring point, typically the access opening. That is the depth to water. Record the well, date, time, depth to water, and instrument used. Compare result with prior records and remeasure if result is unusual.**

***The previous reading is a guide; the new measurement stands on its own.**

****Contact landowner for running schedule if anomalous measurement persists.**

Powers/Solinst: contact measurement



Sounder reel

Lower the probe through the access

First contact

completes the circuit and sounds the buzzer.

Read the marked cable at the measuring point.

Illustrative section; depth and dimensions are not to scale.

ENO SCIENTIFIC ACOUSTIC SOUNDER: AT THE WELL

1. Confirm the Site

Identify the well and the sounder access opening. Check the marked point at that opening where the cable will be read.

2. Review Prior Records

Look up the most recent and past year's depth to water. Use the history to anticipate how deep the acoustic should be reading and to recognize an unusual result.*

3. Access Opening

Place the probe end into the well through the designated sounder access.

4. Controlled Measurement

Turn the acoustic sounder on and adjust minimum and maximum settings based upon previous readings.

5. Proper Measurement

Read the display attached to the probe. Some wells will have extra acoustics/noise and require focused adjustments to the minimum and maximum settings.

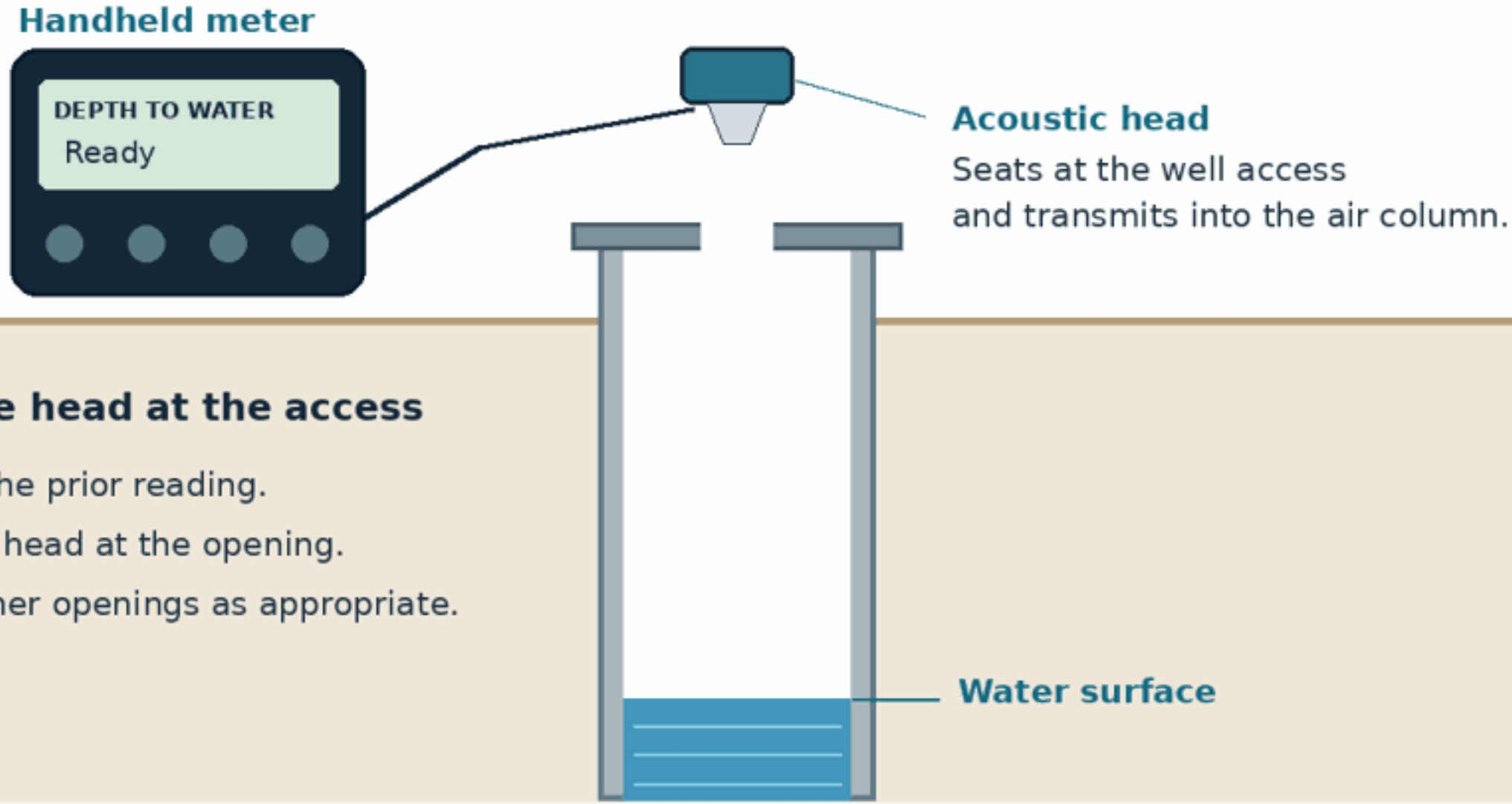
6. Results

When values are "jumping" from value to value a measurement will be the number ±1'. When values are somewhat strong, but slightly jumping around at the tenth place the measurement will be the number ±.1'. At the strongest reading, the values will be solid and will be the number ±.01'.**

The previous reading is a guide; the new measurement stands on its own.

****Contact landowner for running schedule if anomalous measurement persists.**

ENO Scientific acoustic well sounder



1 Place head at the access

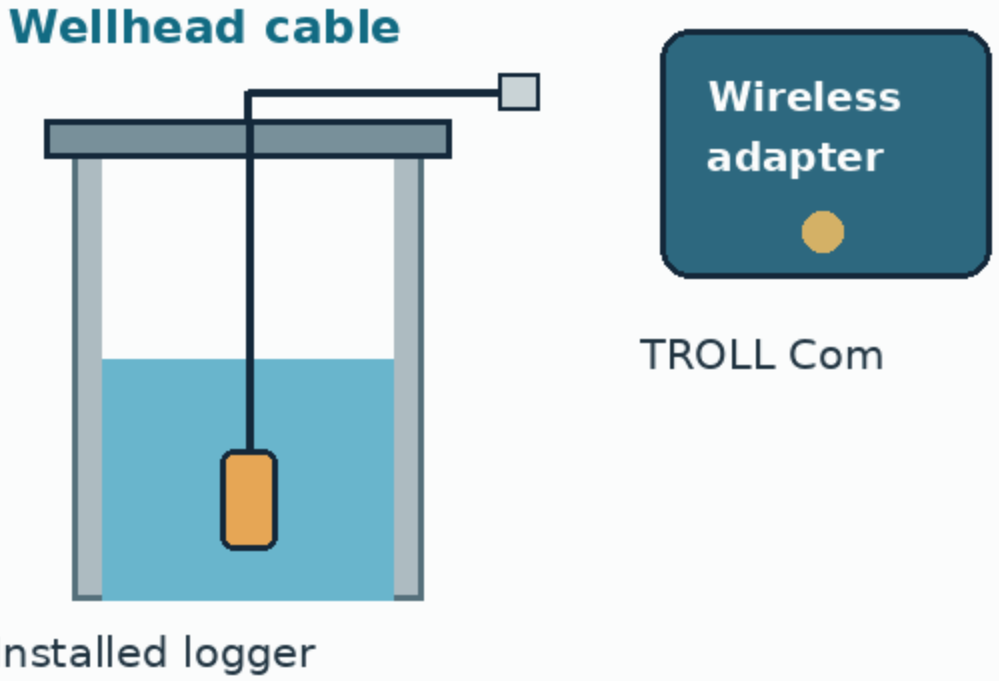
Review the prior reading.

Seat the head at the opening.

Close other openings as appropriate.

Illustrative section and device. Motion slowed; dimensions are not to scale.

Transducer: downloading stored data



Connect at the wellhead

Attach the wireless adapter to the cable.
The sensor stays installed below water.

VuSitu

Connect instrument

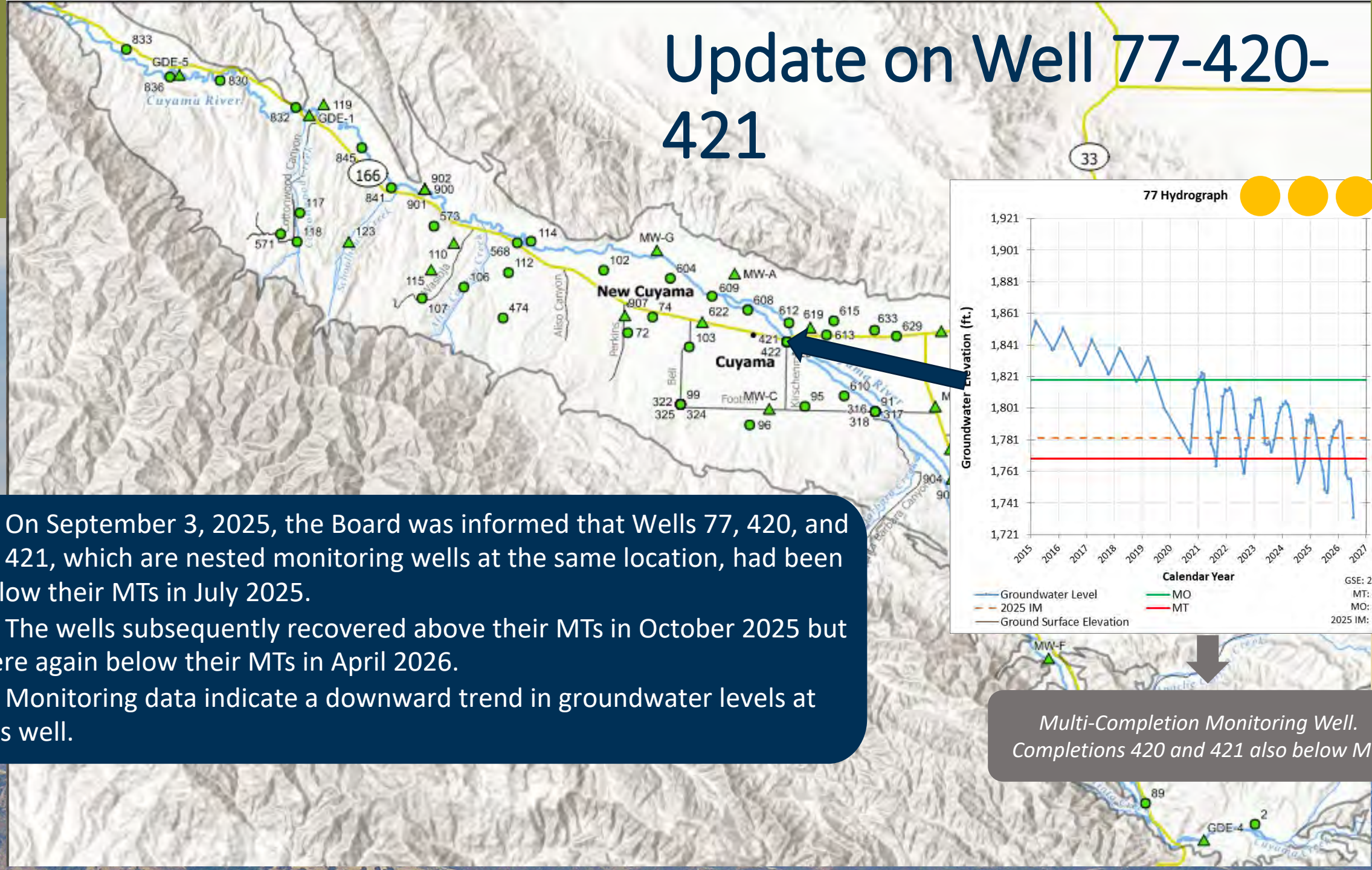
Attach the adapter to the surface cable.

Direct-read cable and wireless adapter shown. Device shapes and app screens are schematic.

Background on Well 77-420-421

- The July 2026 Groundwater Conditions report indicated three (3) minimum threshold exceedances, from the same multi-completion monitoring well.
- On September 2, 2026, the Board directed staff to further investigate these wells, and an update is provided on the following slides.

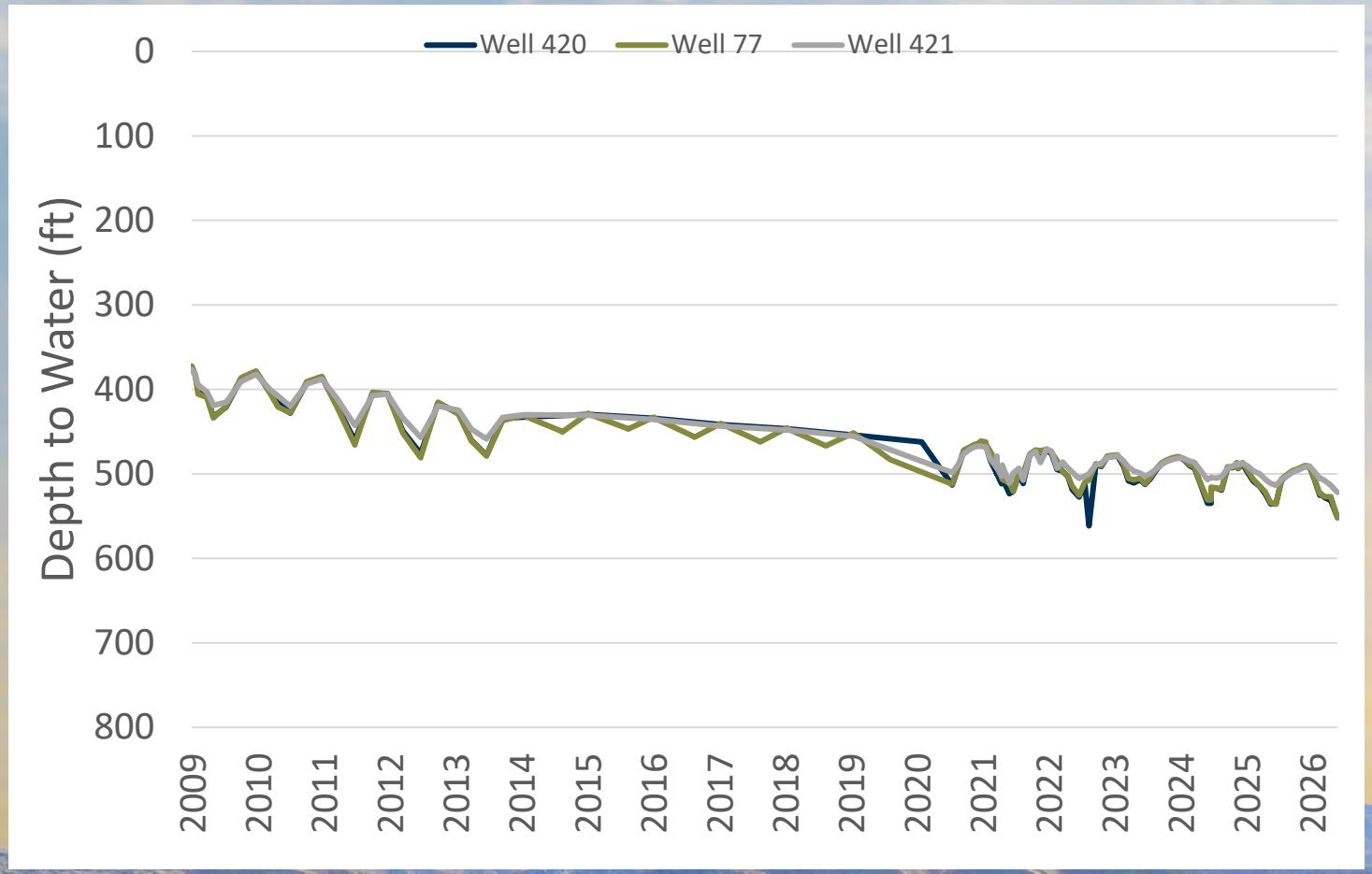
Update on Well 77-420-421



- On September 3, 2025, the Board was informed that Wells 77, 420, and 421, which are nested monitoring wells at the same location, had been below their MTs in July 2025.
- The wells subsequently recovered above their MTs in October 2025 but were again below their MTs in April 2026.
- Monitoring data indicate a downward trend in groundwater levels at this well.

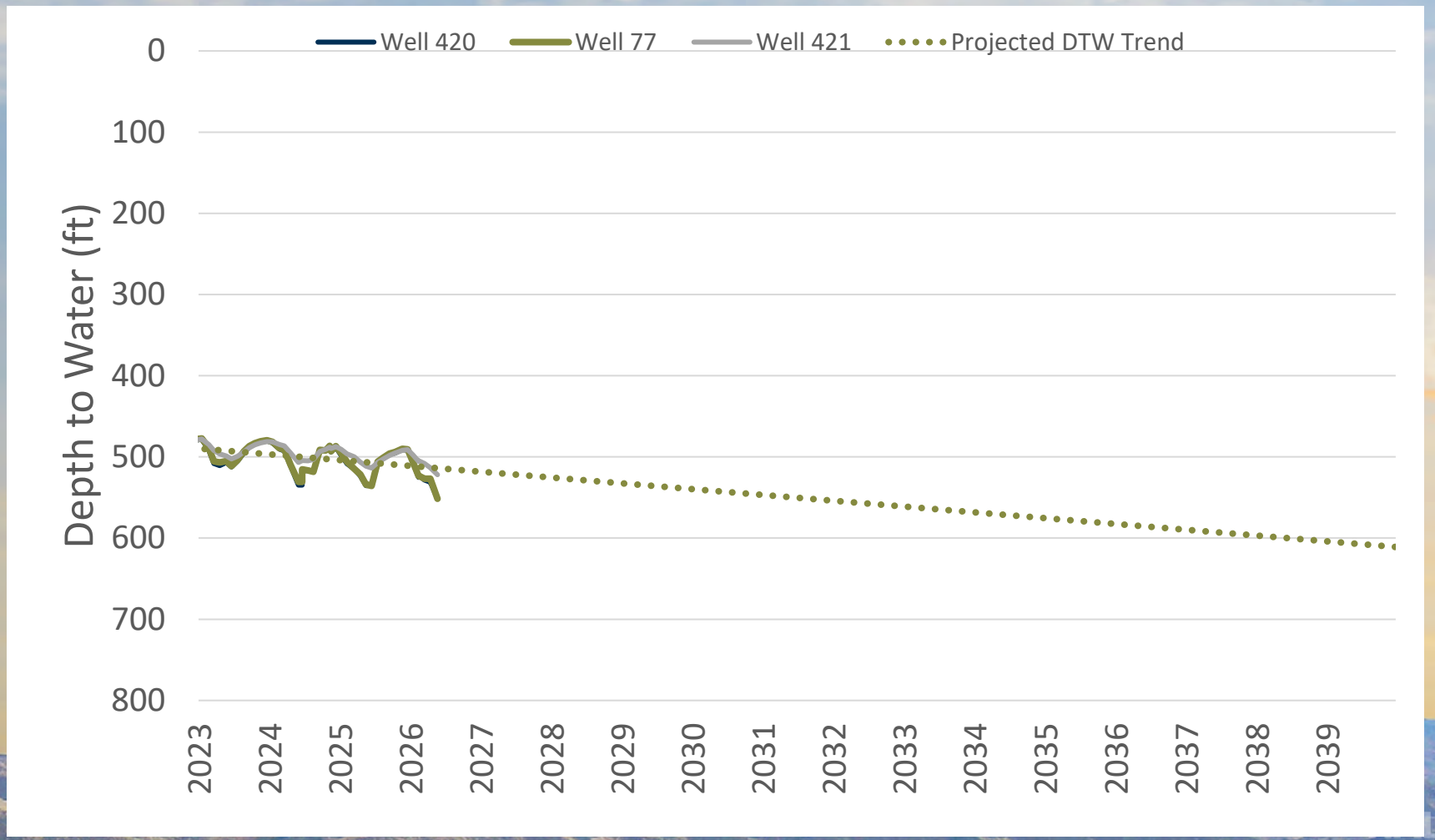
Multi-Completion Monitoring Well. Completions 420 and 421 also below MT.

Well 77-420-421: Historical Depth to Water



HALLMARK GROUP Woodard & Curran

Well 77-420-421: Projected Depth to Water Following CMA Allocation Implementation in 2023



Update on Well 77-420-421

Investigation Completed to Date

- Consistent with the Adaptive Management SOP, staff is investigating potential impacts to nearby wells within the 1-mile radius.
- Staff is working with landowners to provide groundwater level data.
- The Cuyama Elementary School reported that their domestic well pump was lowered approximately 100 feet in July 2026.

Nearby Active Pumping Wells
14 wells w/in 1-mile radius



Well 77-420-421 Investigation: Next Steps

1. **Evaluate potential impact to beneficial users → Current process**
   - Assess whether available information indicates the groundwater-level decline may be affecting the nearby domestic well or other wells within the anticipated radius of influence.
   - Continue evaluation of other beneficial uses identified in the SOP, including nearby groundwater-dependent ecosystems and interconnected surface water, as applicable.
2. **Develop potential adaptive management responses**
   - Based on the findings, staff/ad hoc committee develops potential response strategies for Board consideration.
   - The SOP identifies potential strategies including additional groundwater monitoring, replacement or deepening of wells, localized pumping management, and modification of sustainability criteria.

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 9g

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Direction on Priority Projects for Grant Opportunities

Recommended Motion
SAC/Board feedback requested.

Discussion
The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) staff are evaluating upcoming grant opportunities that could help fund projects supporting sustainable groundwater management in the basin.

Staff distributed a preliminary project list to the Board and SAC and requested additional project suggestions. No additional suggestions were received, and the preliminary list is included as **Attachment 2**.

An overview of the grant opportunities, potential eligible projects, and staff's recommended next steps is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Direction on Priority Projects for Grant Opportunities

Taylor Blakslee / Brian Van Lienden



HALLMARK GROUP Woodard & Curran

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

- California Department of Conservation (DOC) Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)
- DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program
- Department of Water Resources (DWR) Watershed Resilience Grant Program
  - Draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation package expected in 2027
  - Will be evaluated when more information is available in future

DOC Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

- $200 million will be available in Winter 2026
- Draft guidelines released in October 2026
- Eligible project types:
  - Groundwater recharge and floodplain restoration
  - Agricultural land transitions and alternative land uses
  - Re-cropping to less water-intensive crops
  - Habitat restoration and water quality improvements
  - Community resilience and regional implementation strategies
- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - **Do not pursue this round due to lack of viable projects**
  - **If there are interested landowners, this could be considered as part of SGM grant or a future MLRP solicitation**

DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Program

- $386 million available, split into two components:
  - $193 million: projects that support SGMA implementation
  - $193 million: projects that support conjunctive use and GW recharge
- Eligible project types must include one or more of the activities listed below. All projects must be consistent with the subbasin's GSP.
  - Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
  - Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
  - Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
  - Ag Land Adaptation Projects
  - Conveyance Projects
  - Other Implementation Projects



SGM Grant Program: Two-Step Application Process

1 Concept Proposal (early 2027)

- Submit through a web link (to be posted)
- Authorization and self-certification form
- Project descriptions with quantified benefits

2 DWR Review & Invitation

- DWR checks alignment and eligibility
- Invites a full application, asks for a revised concept, or refers elsewhere
- No invitation, no full proposal

3 Full Proposal in GRanTS

- Submitted in DWR's GRanTS system (code P4SGM)
- Six attachments (below)
- Up to $15M per proposal

4 Screening & Scoring

- Completeness and eligibility screen; 5 business days to cure
- Scored out of 36 points
- DAC/SDAC minimums filled first

5 Award & Agreement

- Based on score, judgment, and available funds
- About six months to execute the agreement
- Costs after the Final Award date are reimbursable

Full application attachments

Work Plan	Budget	Schedule	DAC / SDAC documentation (if applicable)	Indirect rate (if claimed)	Supporting documentation

HALLMARK GROUP Woodard & Curran

SGM Grant Program: Potential Cuyama Basin Projects by Category

- Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
  - Stormwater capture pilot project
  - Streambed scarification project
- Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
  - Critical head analysis (if required)
- Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
  - Interconnected surface water analysis
  - Pending DWR corrective actions
- Ag Land Adaptation Projects
  - Pending individual landowner interest
- Conveyance Projects
  - None
- Other Implementation Projects
  - Cuyama Basin Model Updates (to improve GSP project implementation)
    - Small watershed/foothill updates
    - Evapotranspiration/irrigation methods studies
    - Historical land use update
  - Additional investigation of Santa Barbara Canyon fault
  - Monitoring network improvements

SGM Grant Program

- Staff distributed a list of projects to CBGSA Board and SAC members in September
  - The list is included in the packet
  - No comments have been received
- **Staff Recommendation:**
  - **CBGSA should submit a concept proposal (approximate cost of $7,000-9,000)**
  - **Appoint an ad-hoc committee to work with staff to provide guidance on concept proposal development**

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Potential Projects for Grant Funding in 2027-2030

A. Model and Basin Data

1. **Evapotranspiration Study:** Evaluate crop evapotranspiration values used to estimate pumping in the groundwater model.
2. **Model Recalibration and Update:** Recalibrate and update the groundwater model in advance of the 2030 GSP update.
3. **Irrigation Efficiency and Methods Study.** Evaluate irrigation methods and efficiencies to refine model assumptions.
4. **Historical Land Use Update.** Develop land-use estimates for years with missing model data.
5. **Infiltration and Deep Percolation Study.** Evaluate infiltration rates and deep percolation assumptions to improve the model representation of recharge.

B. Ventucopa Management Area Model Updates

1. Develop hydrologic model for foothill areas upstream of SBCF
2. Develop subsurface flows from Quatal Canyon and Ozena
3. Develop hydraulic model of Cuyama River upstream of SB Canyon

C. Fault Investigations

1. **Santa Barbara Canyon Fault Investigation.** Complete additional work to refine the fault location and evaluate its permeability and effect on groundwater flow.
2. **Russell Fault Investigation.** Evaluate salinity and groundwater conditions on both sides of the fault.
3. **Ozena Investigation.** Conduct initial hydrogeologic investigation in the Ozena area.

D. Interconnected Surface Water and Monitoring

1. **Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Study.** Estimate depletion of interconnected surface water caused by groundwater use, consistent with DWR guidance.
2. **Interconnected Surface Water Criteria and Monitoring Network.** Update the monitoring network and sustainable management criteria for interconnected surface water.

E. Monitoring Network

1. **New Monitoring Wells.** Install dedicated monitoring wells to replace or supplement wells affected by active pumping.
2. **Monitoring Well Telemetry.** Install telemetry to increase monitoring frequency and reduce manual data-collection needs.

F. GSP Projects

1. **Ventucopa Community Water Supply Reliability.** Evaluate opportunities to improve the reliability of the Ventucopa Water Supply Company system.
2. **Flood and Stormwater Capture Feasibility Study.** Revisit technical and legal analyses before determining whether to pursue a feasibility study.
3. **Water Supply Transfers or Exchanges.** Evaluate as a potential companion to flood and stormwater capture following legal review.

G. Basin Understanding

1. **Additional Groundwater Geochemistry.** Analyze groundwater chemistry at additional locations to evaluate groundwater sources and connectivity across faulted areas.
2. **Water Age Testing.** Use isotopic testing at selected locations to evaluate groundwater age and movement.
3. **3D Basin Map.** Develop a three-dimensional geologic representation of the basin to support technical analysis and stakeholder understanding.

H. Additional Projects

1. **Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Mapping and Ground-Truthing.** Refine groundwater dependent ecosystem mapping through field verification and additional analysis.
2. **Land Repurposing.** Support planning or implementation for land repurposing that reduces groundwater demand.

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 10a

FROM: Brian Van Lienden, Woodard & Curran

DATE: October 29, 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



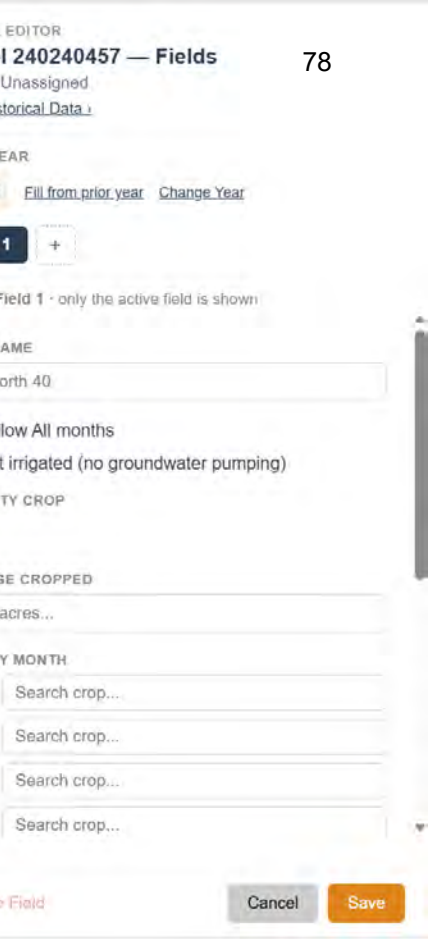
HALLMARK GROUP Woodard & Curran

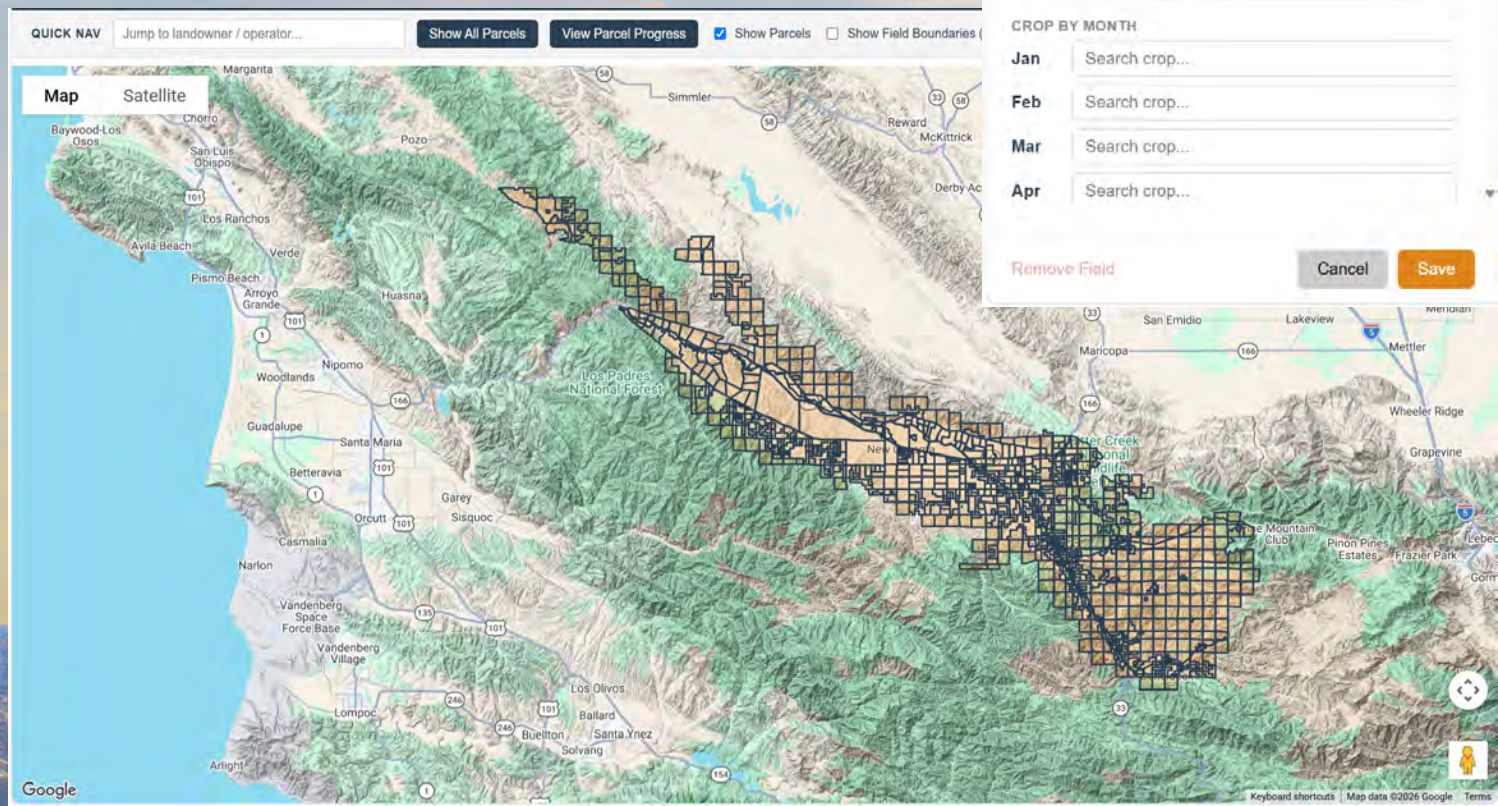
September-October Accomplishments

- ✓ Performed model simulation in CBWRM of locations with increased water use outside the CMA
- ✓ Reviewed and identified potential grant opportunities
- ✓ Performed website and DMS updates
- ✓ Performed additional update to model data to incorporate findings of fault investigations
- ✓ Continued development of land use data entry template for the Cuyama Basin DMS

Update on Processor for Local Land Use Data Reporting

- Processor is being developed through the Opti DMS site
- It will allow landowners to enter their current year cropping data
- Submitted data will be saved and exported for input into the CBWRM model
- A link will be sent out when cropping data is requested for 2026





TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 11b

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: October 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Board of Directors Agenda Review

Recommended Motion
None – informational only.

Discussion
The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors agenda for the November 4, 2026, Board of Directors meeting is provided as **Attachment 1**.

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

November 4, 2026

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors to be held on Wednesday, November 4, 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	10500 NE 8th Street, Suite 1550 Bellevue, WA 98004	15701 Hwy 178 Bakersfield, CA 93306

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 Grace Bianchi at (559) 218-3482 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. Standing Advisory Committee Meeting Report (Kelly) (3 min)
6. **CONSENT AGENDA** (5 min)
   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.
   a. Approve September 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes
   b. Approve Payment of Bills for August and September 2026
   c. Approve Financial Reports for August and September 2026
   d. Adopt 2027 Meeting Calendar

7. **ACTION ITEMS**
   All action items require a simple majority vote by default (50% + 1 of the weighted vote). Items that require a super majority vote (75% of the weighted total) will be noted as such at the end of the item.

   a. Update on Assessment of Increased Water Use for Areas Outside the Central Management Area (Blakslee / Van Lienden) (30 min)

   b. Adopt the Amended Allocation Exchange Policy (Blakslee/Bianchi) (15 min)

   c. Direction on Penalty Fee Structure (Blakslee/Bianchi) (20 min)

   d. Direction on Variance Pool Concept (Blakslee) (20 min)

   e. Update on Approach for Groundwater Quality Data Collection (Blakslee/Van Lienden) (15 min)

   f. Update on Adaptive Management (Blakslee/Bianchi) (15 min)

   g. Update on Priority Projects for Grant Opportunities (Blakslee/Van Lienden) (30 min)

8. **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

   a. Executive Director Report (Blakslee) (5 min)

   b. General Counsel Report (Collins) (5 min)

9. **TECHNICAL UPDATES**

   a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Activities (Van Lienden) (5 min)

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

    a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (15 min)

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

11. Report of Ad Hoc Committees (1 min)

12. Directors' Forum (1 min)

13. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda (5 min)

14. Correspondence (1 min)

15. Adjourn (4:45 p.m.)