



1. AGENCY INFORMATION, PLAN AREA, AND COMMUNICATION

1.1 Introduction and Agency Information

This section describes the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA), its authority in relation to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and the purpose of this Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

This GSP meets regulatory requirements established by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as shown in the completed *Preparation Checklist for GSP Submittal* (Appendix A). The CBGSA's Notification of Intent to Develop a Groundwater Sustainable Plan is in Appendix B.

On June 6, 2016, Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) sent DWR a notice of intent to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Following this submittal, the CBGSA Board of Directors was organized, and now includes the following individuals:

- Derek Yurosek – Chairperson, Cuyama Basin Water District (CBWD)
- Lynn Compton – Vice Chairperson, County of San Luis Obispo
- Byron Albano – CBWD
- Cory Bantilan – SBCWA
- Tom Bracken – CBWD
- George Cappello – CBWD
- Paul Chounet – Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD)
- Zack Scrivner – County of Kern
- Glenn Shephard – County of Ventura
- Das Williams – SBCWA
- Jane Wooster – CBWD

In addition, the following individuals serve as alternatives to regular CBGSA Board members:

- Darcel Elliott – SBCWA
- Steve Lavagnino – SBCWA
- Louise Draucker – CCSD
- Brad DeBranch – CBWD
- Matt Klinchuch – CBWD
- Arne Anselm – County of Ventura
- Debbie Arnold – County of San Luis Obispo
- Alan Christensen – County of Kern



During development of this GSP, board meetings were held on the first Wednesday of every month at 4 pm in the Cuyama Family Resource Center, at 4689 California State Route 166, in New Cuyama, California.

The CBGSA's established boundary corresponds to DWR's *California's Groundwater Bulletin 118 – Update 2003* (Bulletin 118) groundwater basin boundary for the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) (DWR, 2003). No additional areas were incorporated.

1.1.1 Contact Information

Contact information for the CBGSA is shown below.

- Cuyama Basin General Manager/CBGSA Director: Jim Beck
- Phone Number: (661) 447-3385
- Email: tblakslee@hgcpm.com
- Physical and Mailing Address: 4900 California Avenue, Tower B, 2nd Floor, Bakersfield, CA. 93309
- Website: <http://cuyamabasin.org/index.html>

1.1.2 Management Structure

The CBGSA is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that meets monthly. The General Manager manages day-to-day operations of the CBWD, while Board Members vote on actions of the CBGSA; the Board is the CBGSA's decision-making body.

During GSP development, a Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed to act in an advisory capacity to the CBGSA Board of Directors. The SAC includes the following individuals:

- Roberta Jaffe – Chairperson
- Brenton Kelly – Vice Chairperson
- Brad DeBranch
- Louise Draucker
- Jake Furstenfeld
- Joe Haslett
- Mike Post
- Hilda Leticia Valenzuela

The ninth position on the SAC, which would be filled by a person representing the Hispanic community, is currently vacant. The CBGSA is currently in the process of identifying a person to fill this position.



1.1.3 Legal Authority

Per Section 10723.8(a) of the California Water Code, SBCWA gave notice to DWR on behalf of the CBGSA of its decision to form a GSA, which is Basin 3-013, per DWR's Bulletin 118 (Appendix C).

1.2 Plan Area

This section describes the Basin, including major streams and creeks, institutional entities, agricultural and urban land uses locations of groundwater production wells, locations of state lands and geographic boundaries of surface water runoff areas. This section also describes existing surface water and groundwater monitoring programs, existing water management programs, and general plans in the Basin. The information contained in this section reflects information from publicly available sources, and may not reflect all information that will be used for GSP technical analysis.

This section of the GSP satisfies Section 354.8 of the SGMA regulations.

1.2.1 Plan Area Definition

The Basin is in California's Central Coast Hydrologic Region. It is beneath the Cuyama Valley, which is bounded by the Caliente Range to the northwest and the Sierra Madre Mountains to the southeast. The Basin was initially defined in Bulletin 118. The boundaries of the Cuyama Basin were delineated by DWR because they were the boundary between permeable sedimentary materials and impermeable bedrock. DWR defines this boundary as "impermeable bedrock with lower water yielding capacity. These include consolidated rocks of continental and marine origin and crystalline/or metamorphic rock."

1.2.2 Plan Area Setting

Figure 1-1 shows the Basin and its key geographic features. The Basin encompasses an area of about 378 square miles and includes the communities of New Cuyama and Cuyama, which are located along State Route (SR) 166 and Ventucopa, which is located along SR 33. The Basin encompasses an approximately 55-mile stretch of the Cuyama River, which runs through the Basin for much of its extent before leaving the Basin to the northwest and flowing towards the Pacific Ocean. The Basin also encompasses stretches of Wells Creek in its north-central area, Santa Barbara Creek in the south-central area, the Quatal Canyon drainage and Cuyama Creek in the southern area of the Basin. Most of the agriculture in the Basin occurs in the central portion east of New Cuyama, and along the Cuyama River near SR 33 through Ventucopa.



Figure 1-2 shows the CBGSA boundary. The CBGSA boundary covers all of Cuyama Basin. The CBGSA was created by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement among the following agencies:

- Counties of Kern, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura
- SBCWA, representing the County of Santa Barbara
- CBWD
- CCSD

Figure Exported: 7/9/2018, By: mwicks, Using: \\woodardcurran.net\share\Projects\RW\CA\0011078.00 - Cuyama Basin.GSP\C_GIS\MXD\Text\PlanArea\Fig 1-1_Cuyama GV Basin_V2.mxd

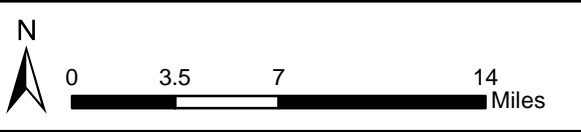
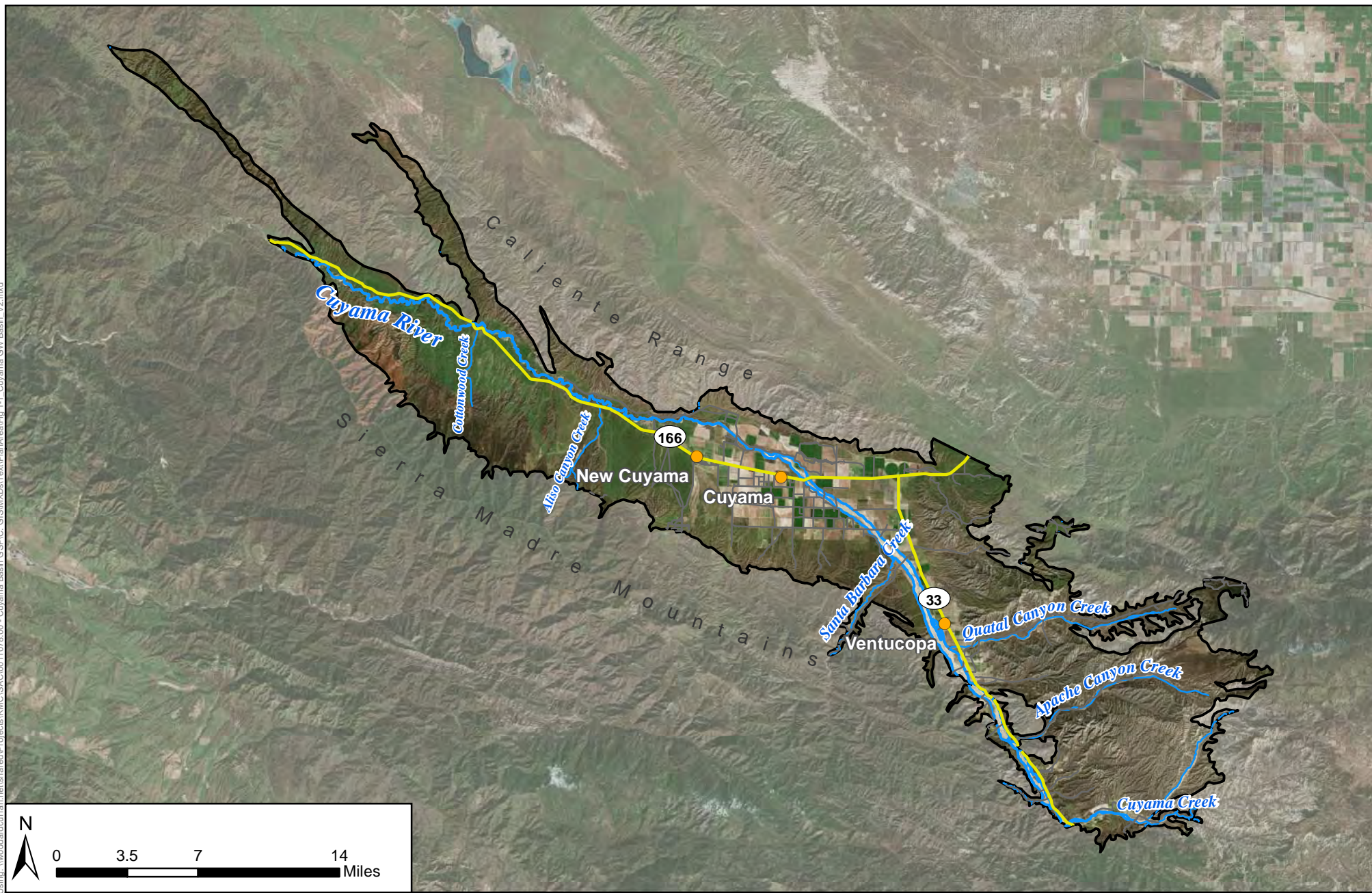


Figure 1-1 - Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin
 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 April 2019



Legend

- Towns
- Local Roads
- ▭ Cuyama Basin
- Cuyama River
- Highways
- Streams/Creeks

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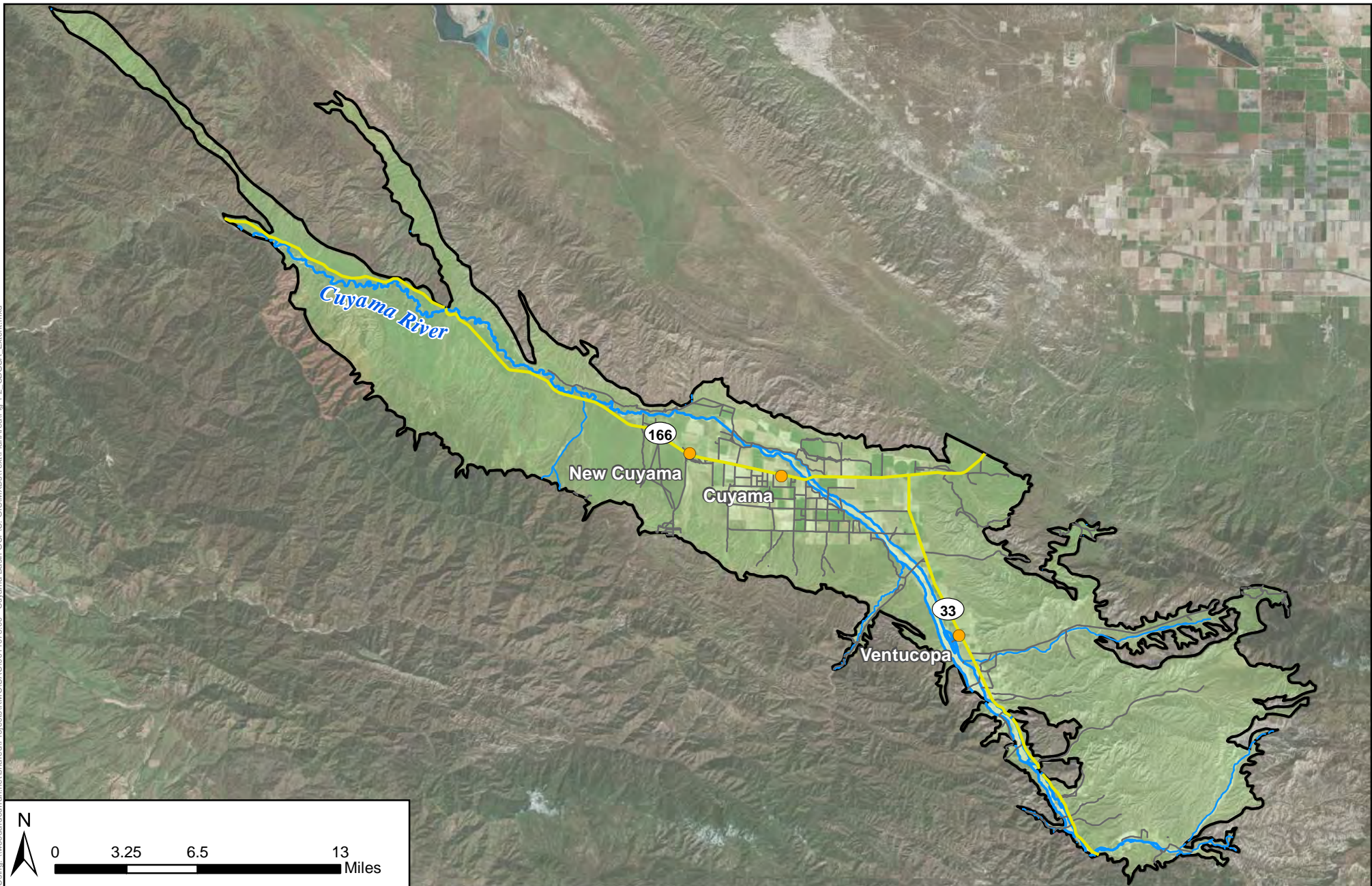


Figure 1-2 - Cuyama Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundary

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019



Legend

- Towns
- Cuyama Basin GSA
- Highways
- Local Roads
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks



Figure 1-3 shows the Basin and neighboring groundwater basins. The Carrizo Plain Basin is located immediately northeast of the Cuyama Basin and they share a boundary at a location about 5 miles east of the intersection of SR 166 and SR 133. The San Joaquin Valley Basin is located just east of the Carrizo Plain Basin. The Basin also shares a boundary with the Mil Potrero Area Basin, which is located just east of one of the Basin's southeastern tips, and the Lockwood Valley Basin is located close to the Basin's southern area but does not share a boundary with it. To the southwest, and more distant from the Basin, are the Santa Maria, San Antonio Creek Valley and Santa Ynez River Valley basins, which are located about 30 to 40 miles southwest of the Cuyama Basin.

Figure 1-4 depicts the Basin's extent relative to the boundaries of the various counties that overlie the Basin. Santa Barbara County has jurisdiction over the largest portion of the Basin (168 square miles), covering most of the area south of the Cuyama River, as well as Ventucopa and a small area to the north of that community. San Luis Obispo County has jurisdiction over areas north of the Cuyama River (covering 77 square miles). The Cuyama River marks the boundary between San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County. Kern County has jurisdiction over the smallest extent of Cuyama Basin area compared to the other counties (13 square miles). Its jurisdictional coverage is located just east of the SR 166 and SR 33 intersection, as well as tips of the Basin in the Quatal Canyon area. Ventura County has jurisdiction over the southeastern area of the Basin (covering 120 square miles), including the area east of Ventucopa.

Figure 1-5 shows the non-county jurisdictional boundaries in the Basin. The CBWD was formed in 2016 and covers a large area of the Basin (about 130 square miles), from a location about 5 miles west of Wells Creek to 2 miles east of the intersection of SR 166 and SR 33, and south of Ventucopa along SR 33. The CCSD was formed in 1977 and covers a small area of the Basin (about 0.5 square miles) located along SR 166 in the community of New Cuyama.

Figures 1-6 through 1-13 show the agricultural and urban land uses in the Cuyama Basin for the years 1996, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2014 and 2016, respectively. The 1996 land use data are from historical DWR county land use surveys¹ while the 2014 and 2016 land use data were developed for DWR using remote sensing data.² Data for the remaining years were developed by the CBGSA using the same remote sensing method that DWR used for 2014 and 2016. Agricultural land is located primarily in the New Cuyama and Ventucopa areas, and along the SR 166 and SR 33 corridors between those communities. There is a regular rotation of crops with between 9,000 and 15,000 acres of agricultural area left idle each year between 2000 and 2016 (the 1996 dataset does not include records of idle land). Areas that are in active agricultural use primarily produce miscellaneous truck crops, carrots, potatoes and sweet potatoes, miscellaneous grains and hay, and grapes. Various other crop types are produced in the Basin as well, such as fruit and nut trees, though at smaller production scales.

¹ <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Land-And-Water-Use/Land-Use-Surveys>

² <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/>



In addition to the crop types shown on the maps, much of the land area in the Basin, particularly in the western and eastern areas, consists of non-irrigated pasture. These are not present on the map because they are not detected by the remote sensing approach. Some recently planted crops are also not shown on the maps because they were either not detected by the remote sensing approach or were planted subsequent to the most recently mapped year of 2016. These include a new vineyard along SR 166 in the western part of the Basin (which the remote sensing approach identifies as “idle” in 2016) and new olive orchards along SR 33. These additional land uses will be accounted for in the numerical modeling used to develop water budgets for the GSP.

Figure 1-14 shows 2016 land use by water source in the Basin. Almost all of the water use in the Basin is served by groundwater. There are 37 surface water rights permits in the Basin that allow up to 116 acre-feet (AF) per year. Much of the surface water use is for stockwatering of pasture land, which may not be included in the land use dataset shown in the figure.

Figure 1-15 shows the number of domestic wells per square mile and the average depth of domestic wells in each square mile in the Basin. Figure 1-15 shows a grid pattern where each block on the grid is a section that covers 1 square mile of land. The number in each square represents the average depth of the well(s) in the section. Most of the sections in the Basin that have domestic wells contain only one well, while twelve sections contain two wells each, three sections contain three wells each, four sections contain four wells each, and one section contains six wells. Wells range in depth broadly across the Basin, from as shallow as 120 feet below ground surface in the southeast portion of the Basin to 1,000 feet below ground surface in the central portion of the Basin.

Figure 1-16 shows the density and average depth of production wells in the Basin per square mile. There is a wide distribution of production well density in the Basin (between 1 and 11 wells per square mile). Depths of production wells range from 50 feet below ground surface (bgs) on the outer edges of the Basin, to over 1,200 feet bgs in the central portion of the Basin.

Figure 1-17 shows the density and average depth of public wells in the Cuyama Basin. The Basin contains three public wells, one just south of New Cuyama, one east of Ventucopa and one at the southern tip of the Basin. These wells have depths of 855, 280 and 800 feet, respectively.

Information presented in Figures 1-15 through 1-17 reflect information contained in DWR’s well completion report database, which contains information about the majority of wells drilled after 1947. However, some wells may not have been reported to DWR (potentially up to 30 percent of the total), and therefore are not included in the database or in these figures. Furthermore, designations of each well as a domestic, production, or public well were developed by DWR based on information contained in the well completion reports and have not been modified for this document.

Figure 1-18 shows the public lands in and around the Basin. Some portions of the land that overlies the Cuyama Basin, and most of the areas immediately surrounding the Basin, have a federal or State jurisdictional designation. The Los Padres National Forest covers most of the Basin’s northwestern arm, then runs just outside the Basin’s western boundary until the Forest boundary turns east at about Ventucopa where it covers the southern part of the Basin. The balance of the northwestern arm consists of



private holdings and the state-owned Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve which extends into the Basin to the Santa Barbara County-San Luis Obispo County line at the Cuyama River. A portion of the Basin north of Ventucopa, as well as an area nearby that is immediately outside the Basin, is designated as the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The Bureau of Land Management has jurisdiction over a large area outside the Basin, and along the Basin's northern boundary, including small parts of the Basin north of the Cuyama River. Most of the northeastern arm of the Basin is designated as State Lands.

Figure 1-19 shows that the Basin is located within the Cuyama Watershed, which lies within the larger Santa Maria watershed, with the Basin occupying roughly the entirety of the Santa Maria Basin's eastern contributing watershed, and a small part of the Cuyama Basin's northeastern arm that flows into the Estrella River Basin due to the topography present in this area. Figure 1-19 illustrates the Cuyama Watershed's location in the Santa Maria Basin, as well as the larger Basin's major receiving water bodies, which include the Santa Maria River, the Cuyama River, Aliso Canyon Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Apache Canyon Creek, Santa Barbara Creek, the Quatal Canyon drainage, and Cuyama Creek.

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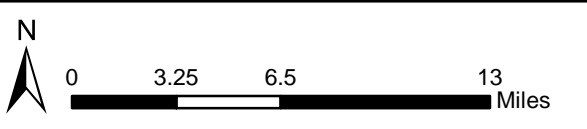
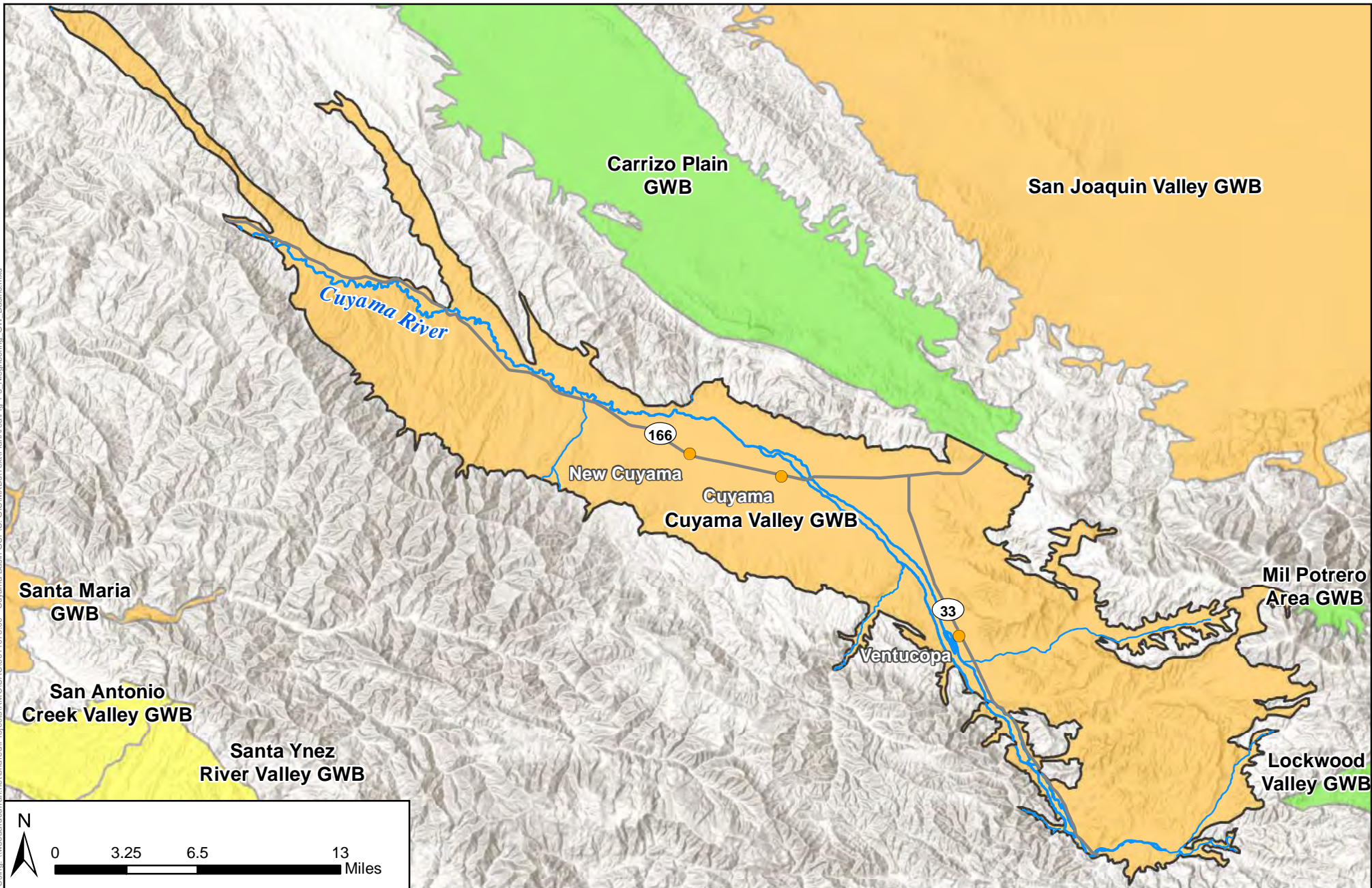


Figure 1-3 - Neighboring Groundwater Basins

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019



Legend

- Towns
- Cuyama Basin
- Highways
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks
- Basin Priority
 - High Priority
 - Medium Priority
 - Low Priority
 - Very Low Priority

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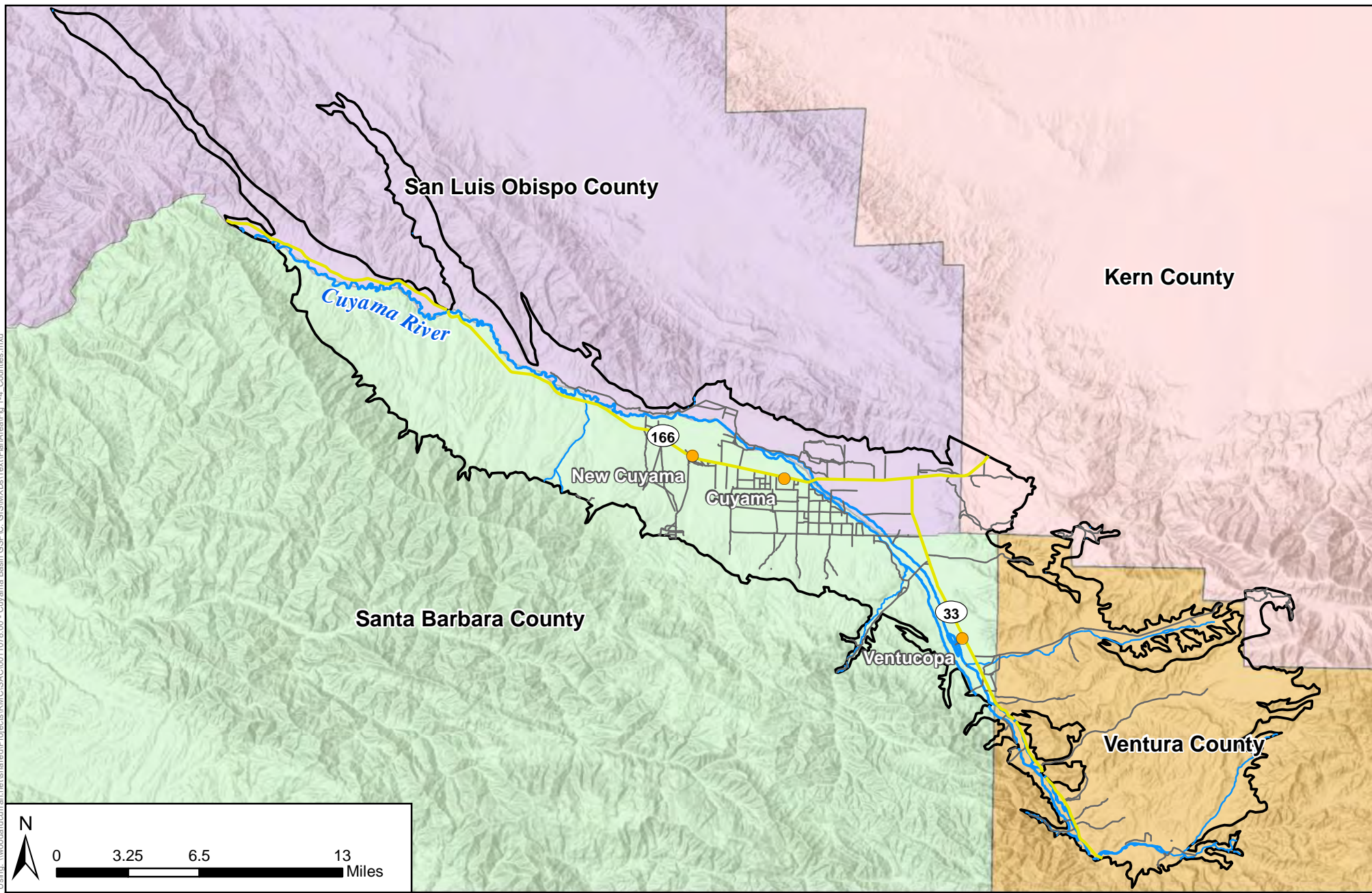


Figure 1-4 - Counties Overlying Cuyama Basin

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019



Legend

- Towns
- Cuyama Basin
- Highways
- Local Roads
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks
- County**
- Kern County
- San Luis Obispo County
- Santa Barbara County
- Ventura County

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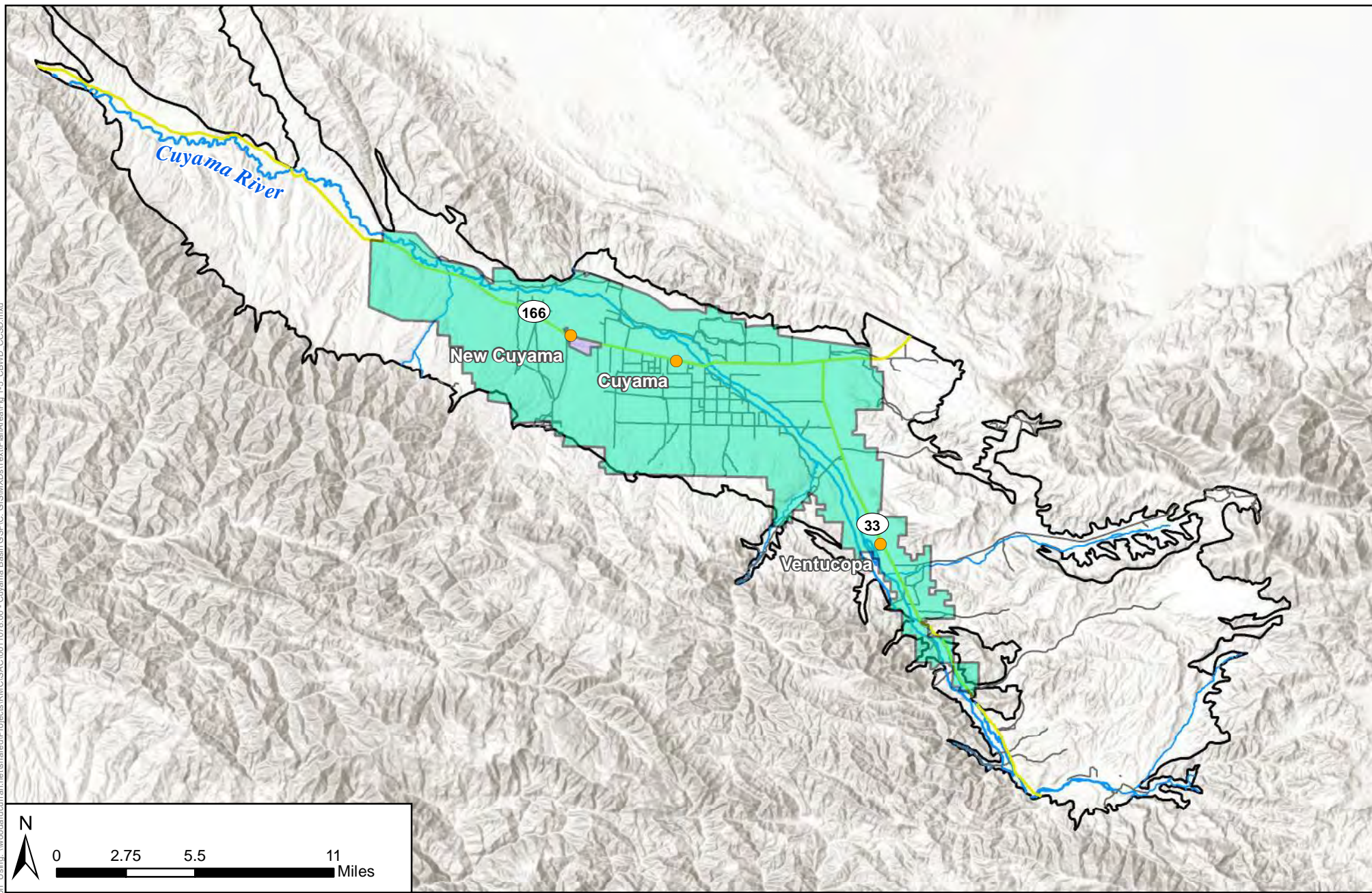


Figure 1-5 - Non-County Jurisdictional Boundaries

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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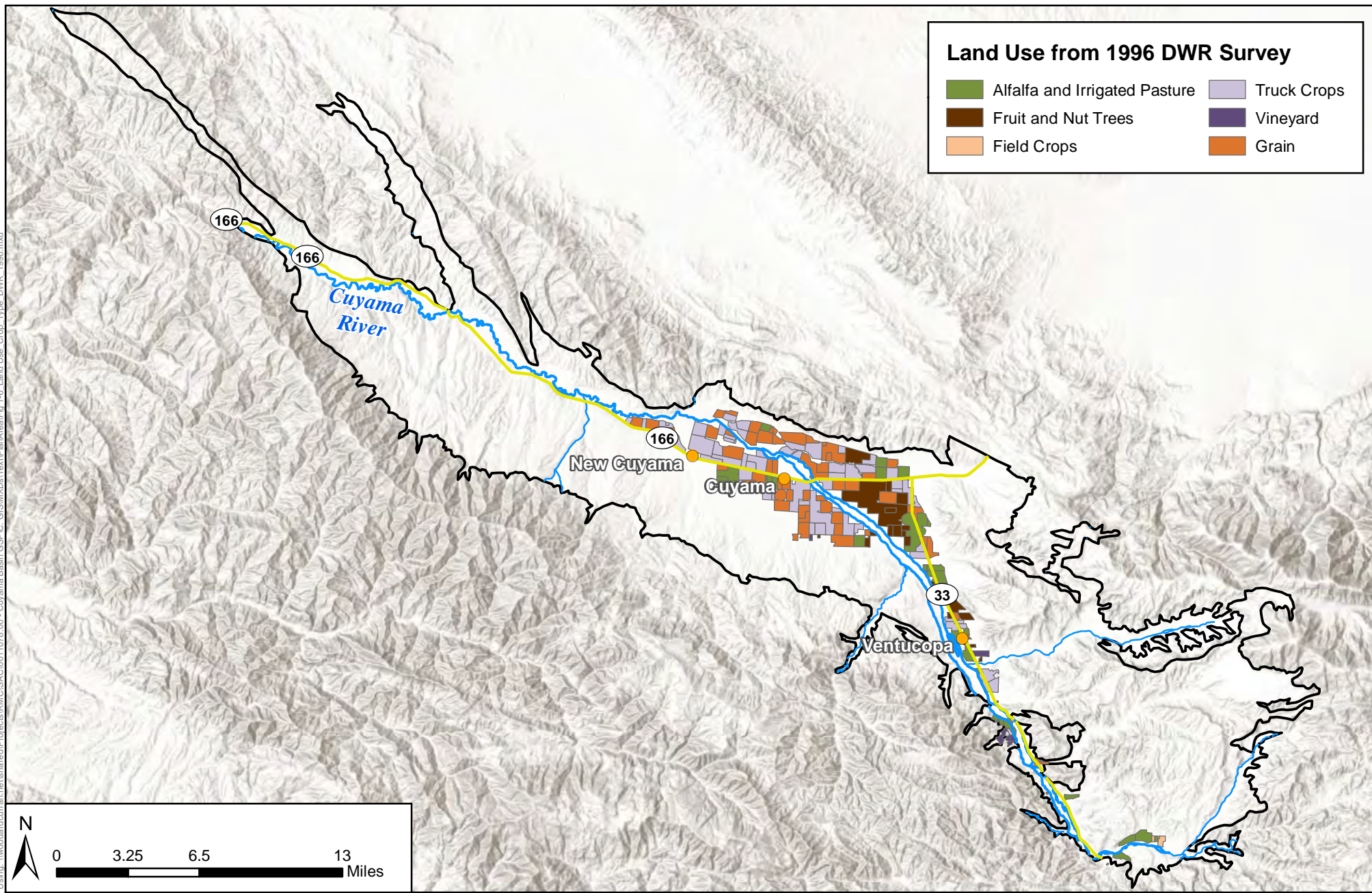
Legend

- Cuyama Basin
- Towns
- Cuyama Community Service District
- Cuyama Basin Water District
- Highways
- Local Roads
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks


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Land Use from 1996 DWR Survey

	Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture		Truck Crops
	Fruit and Nut Trees		Vineyard
	Field Crops		Grain



N



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles




Figure 1-6 - 1996 Land Use






Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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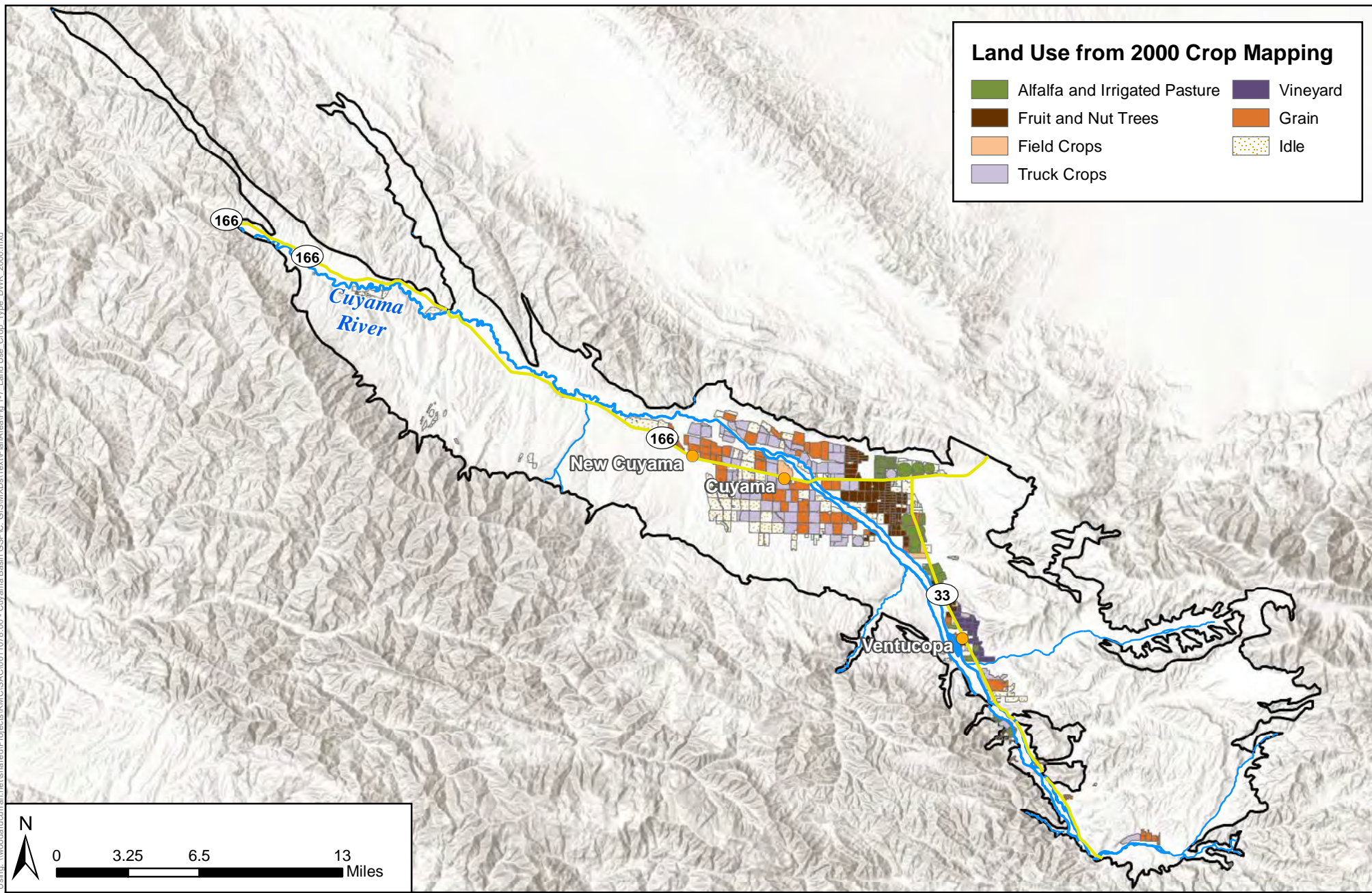


Legend

	Cuyama Basin		Cuyama River
	Towns		Streams/Creeks
	Highways		

Source: California Department of Water Resources County Land Use Surveys, 1996 dataset
<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Land-And-Water-Use/Land-Use-Surveys>

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Land Use from 2000 Crop Mapping

 Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture	 Vineyard
 Fruit and Nut Trees	 Grain
 Field Crops	 Idle
 Truck Crops	

N

0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

Figure 1-7 - 2000 Land Use

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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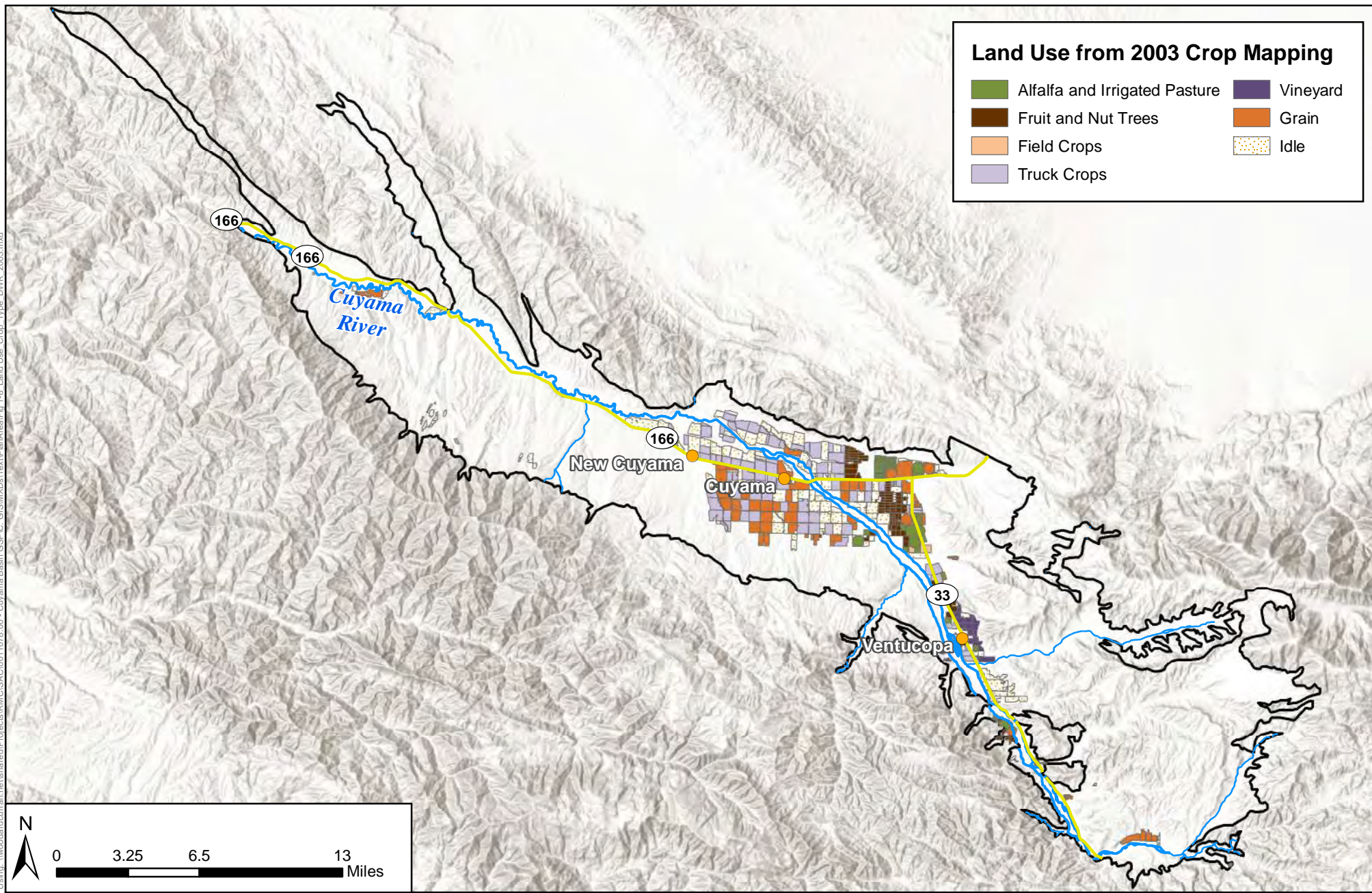


Legend

 Cuyama Basin	 Cuyama River
 Towns	 Streams/Creeks
 Highways	

Source: Crop Mapping developed by LandIQ for the Cuyama Basin GSA, 2000 dataset

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Land Use from 2003 Crop Mapping

Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture	Vineyard
Fruit and Nut Trees	Grain
Field Crops	Idle
Truck Crops	

N

0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

Figure 1-8 - 2003 Land Use

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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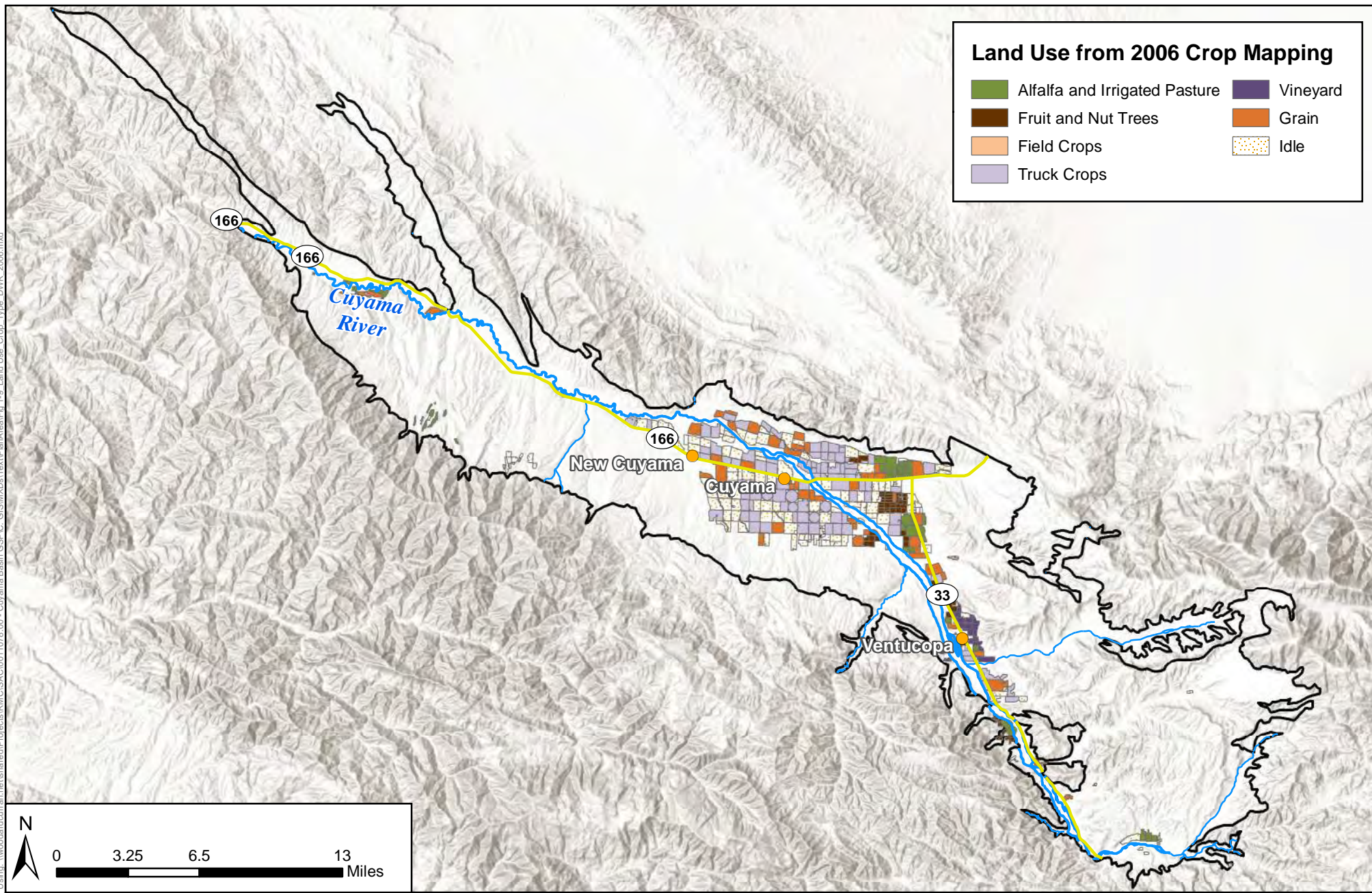


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


Cuyama Basin	Cuyama River
Towns	Streams/Creeks
Highways	

Source: Crop Mapping developed by LandIQ for the Cuyama Basin GSA, 2003 dataset.


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Land Use from 2006 Crop Mapping

 Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture	 Vineyard
 Fruit and Nut Trees	 Grain
 Field Crops	 Idle
 Truck Crops	

N



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles




Figure 1-9 - 2006 Land Use






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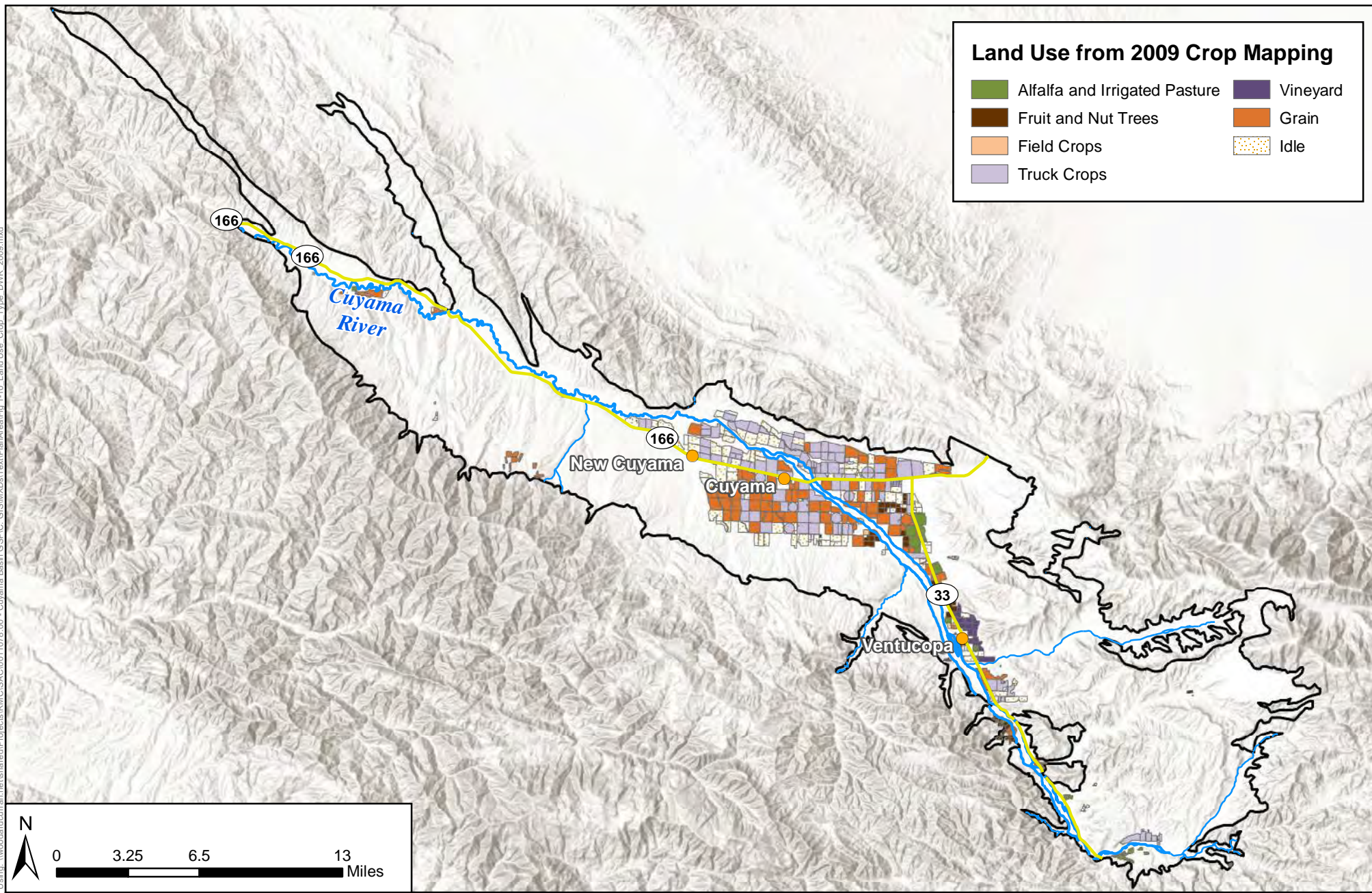


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 Cuyama Basin	 Cuyama River
 Towns	 Streams/Creeks
 Highways	

Source: Crop Mapping developed by LandIQ for the Cuyama Basin GSA, 2006 dataset.

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Land Use from 2009 Crop Mapping

 Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture	 Vineyard
 Fruit and Nut Trees	 Grain
 Field Crops	 Idle
 Truck Crops	

N

0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

Figure 1-10 - 2009 Land Use

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019

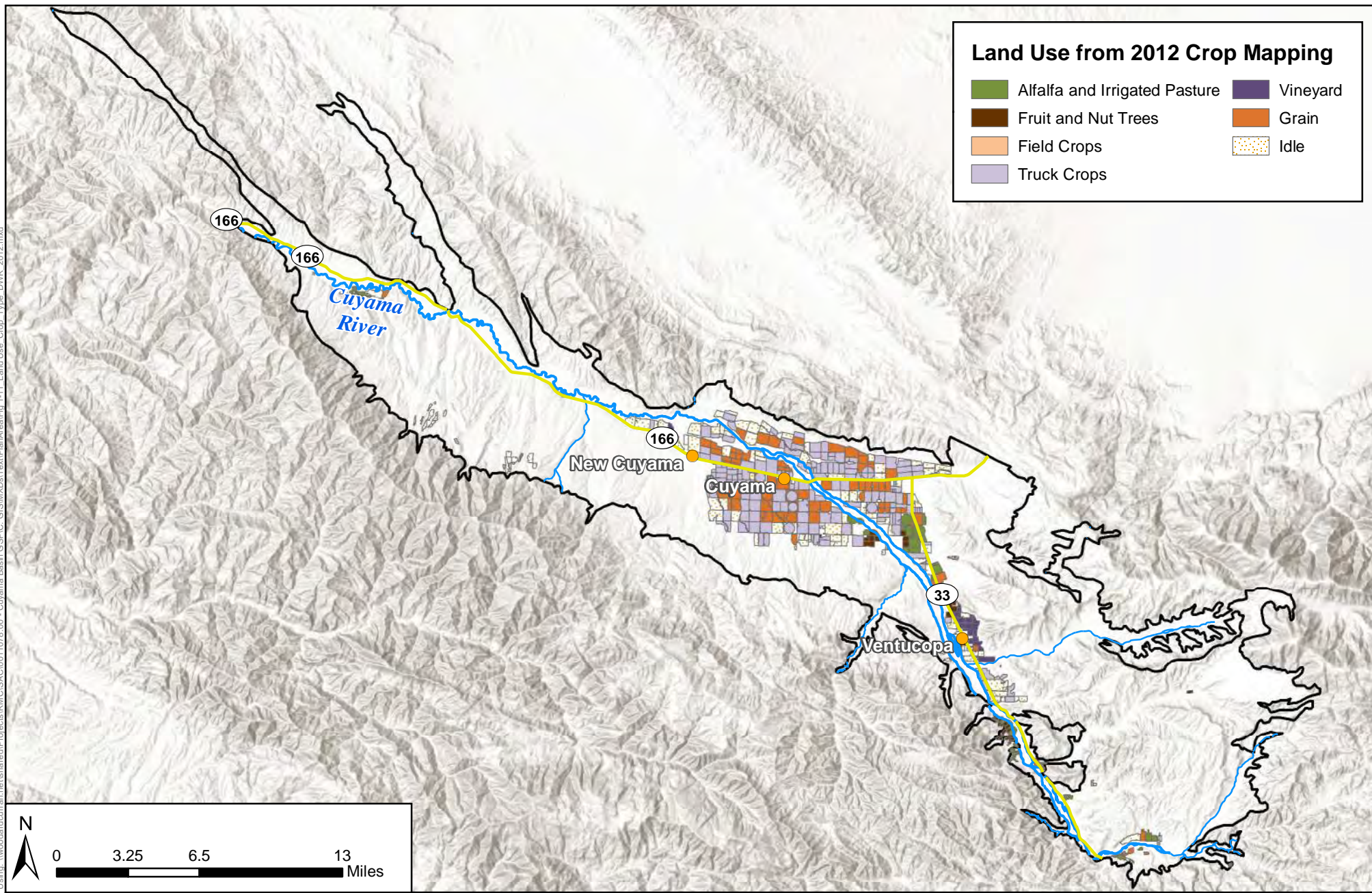


Legend

 Cuyama Basin	 Cuyama River
 Towns	 Streams/Creeks
 Highways	

Source: Crop Mapping developed by LandIQ for the Cuyama Basin GSA, 2009 dataset.

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Land Use from 2012 Crop Mapping

 Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture	 Vineyard
 Fruit and Nut Trees	 Grain
 Field Crops	 Idle
 Truck Crops	

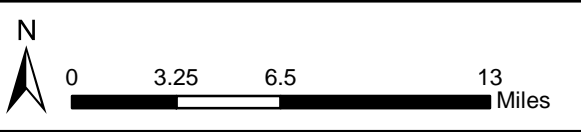


Figure 1-11 - 2012 Land Use

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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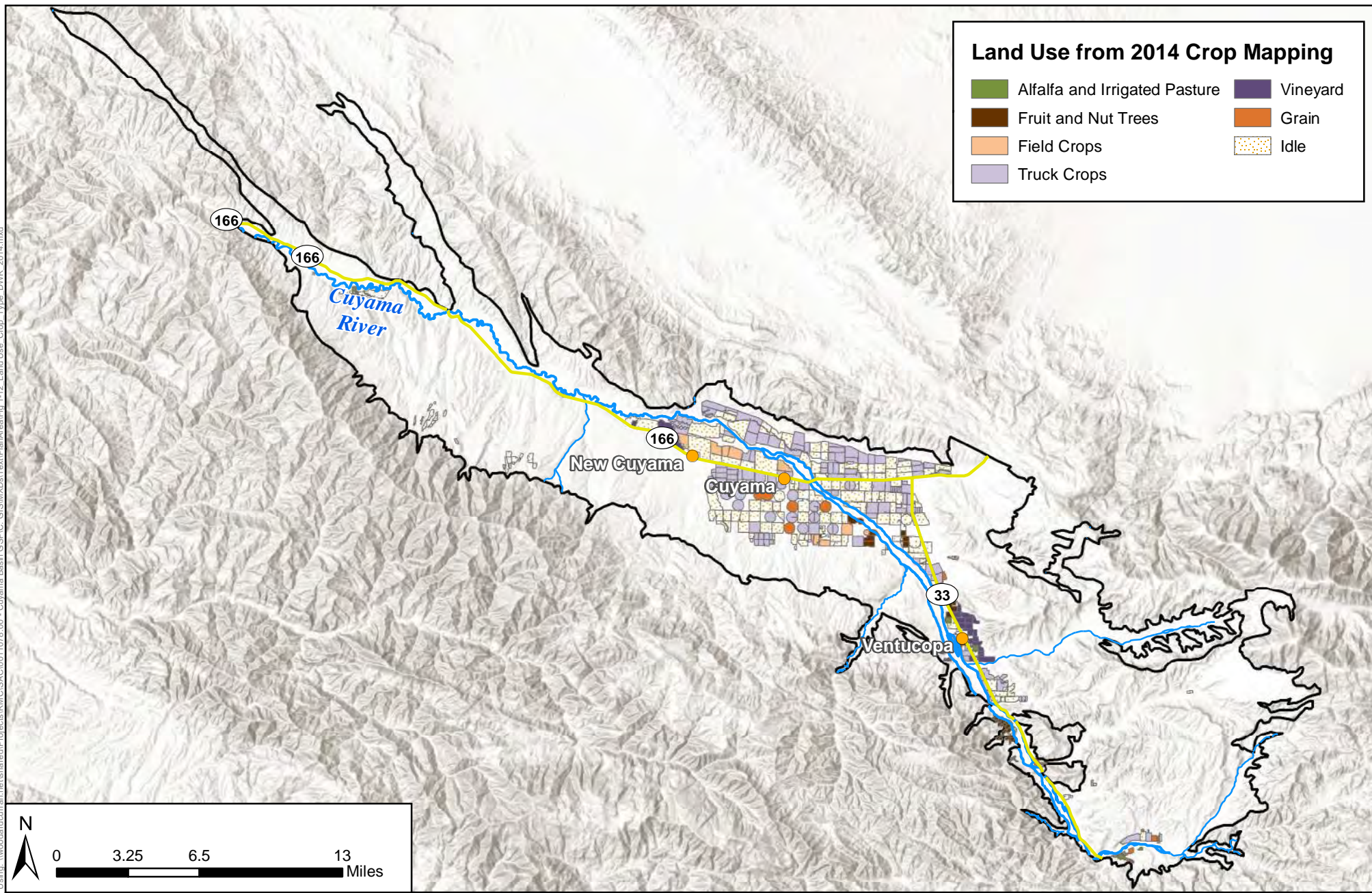


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


 Cuyama Basin	 Cuyama River
 Towns	 Streams/Creeks
 Highways	

Source: Crop Mapping developed by LandIQ for the Cuyama Basin GSA, 2012 dataset.


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Land Use from 2014 Crop Mapping

	Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture		Vineyard
	Fruit and Nut Trees		Grain
	Field Crops		Idle
	Truck Crops		

N



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles




Figure 1-12 - 2014 Land Use






Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019

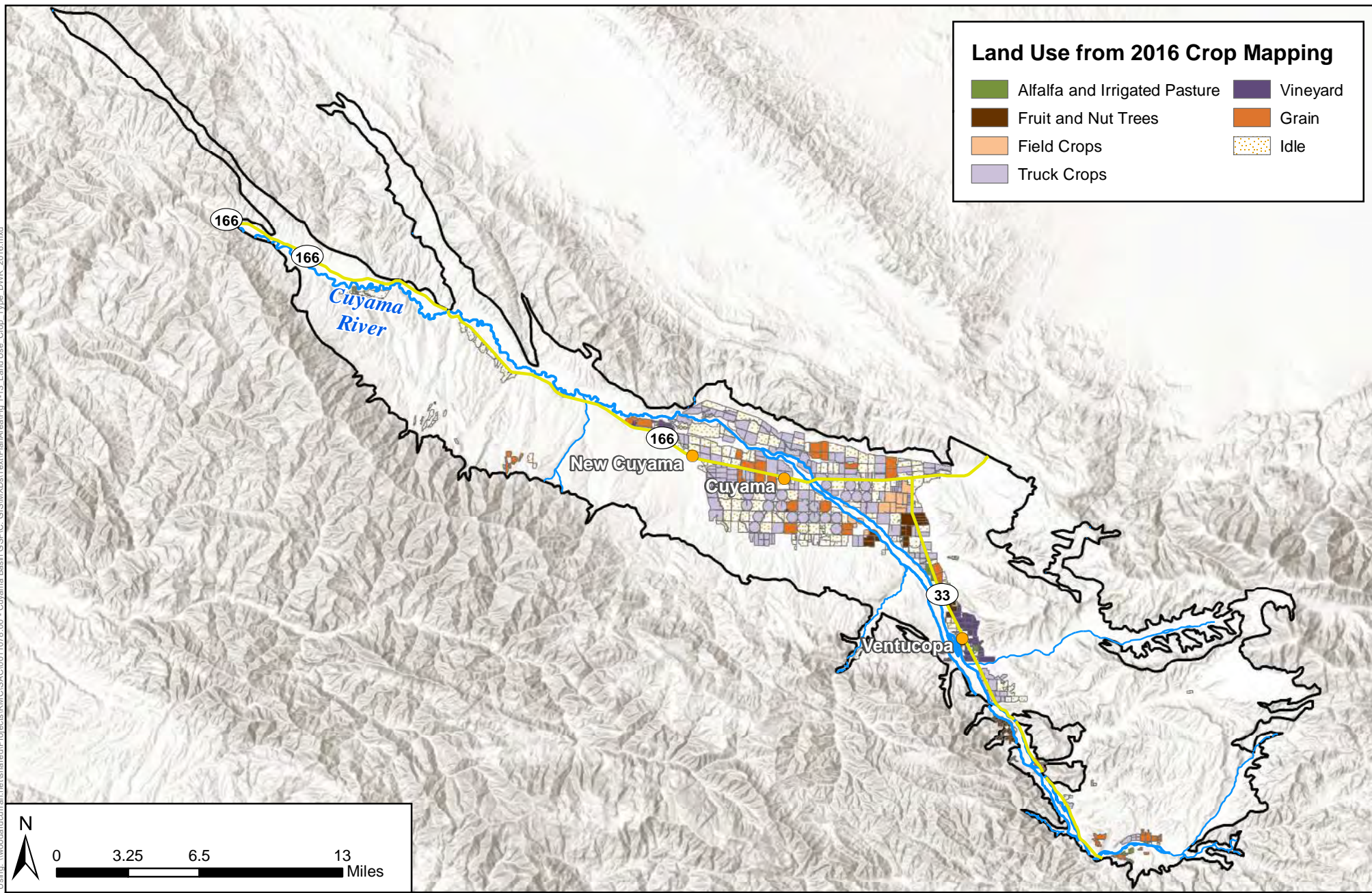


Legend

	Cuyama Basin		Cuyama River
	Towns		Streams/Creeks
	Highways		

Source: California Department of Water Resources County Land Use Surveys, 2014 dataset. <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/>

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Land Use from 2016 Crop Mapping

 Alfalfa and Irrigated Pasture	 Vineyard
 Fruit and Nut Trees	 Grain
 Field Crops	 Idle
 Truck Crops	

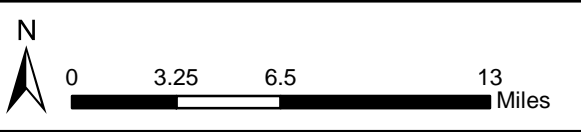


Figure 1-13 - 2016 Land Use

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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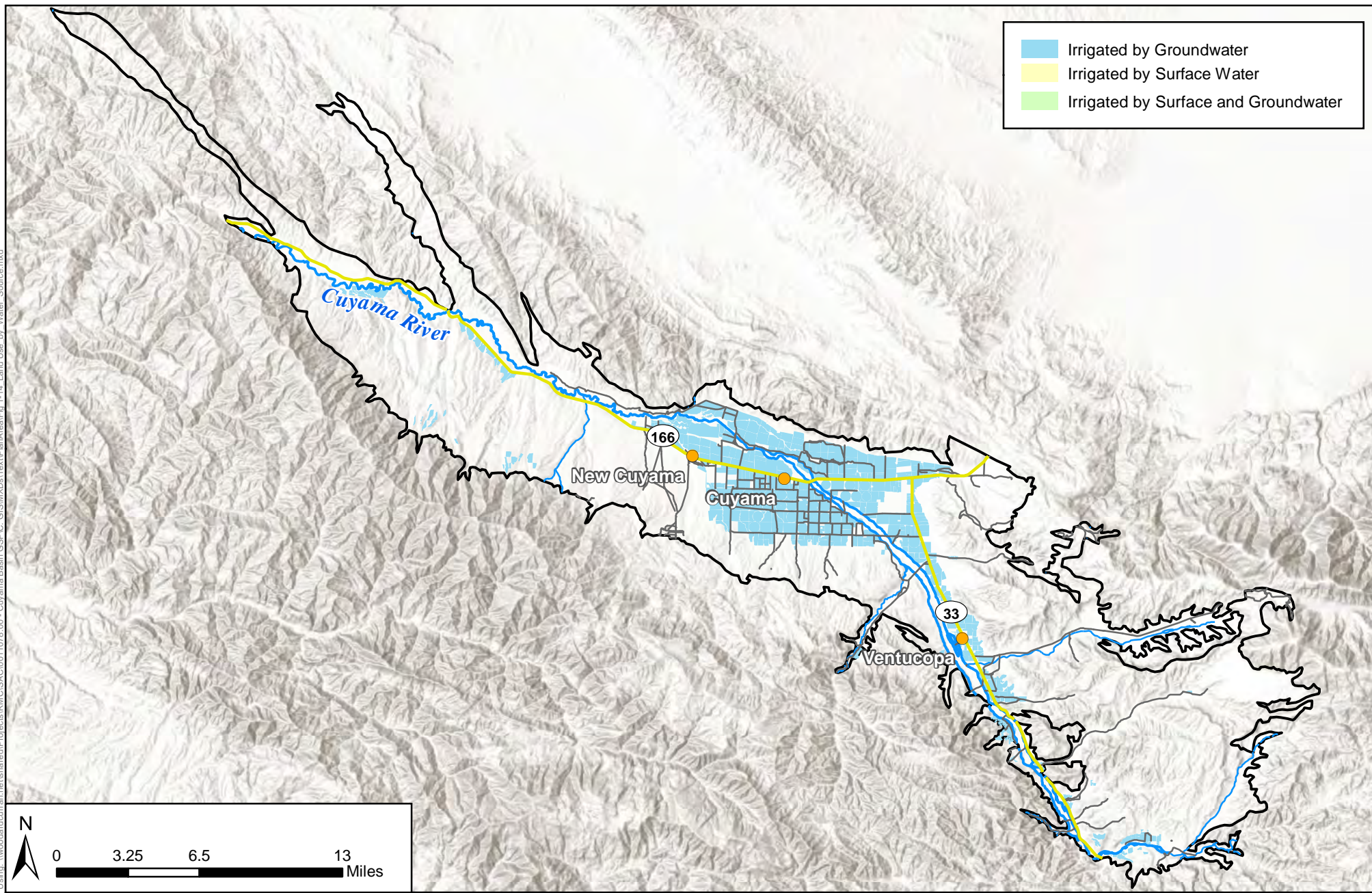





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 Cuyama Basin	 Cuyama River
 Towns	 Streams/Creeks
 Highways	

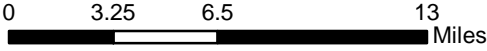
Source: California Department of Water Resources County Land Use Surveys, 2016 dataset. <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/>

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	Irrigated by Groundwater
	Irrigated by Surface Water
	Irrigated by Surface and Groundwater

N



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

Figure 1-14 - Land Use by Water Source







Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019



Legend

	Cuyama Basin		Cuyama River
	Towns		Streams/Creeks
	Highways		
	Local Roads		

Source: California Department of Water Resources Statewide Crop Mapping, 2016 dataset, <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/>

Figure 1-15 - Domestic Well Density and Average Depths. Using: \\woodardcurran.net\share\Projects\RM\GIS\CA\001\078_00 - Cuyama Basin_GSP\C. G:\GIS\MapDocs\TextPlan\Area\Fig_1-15 - Domestic Wells 85x11.mxd

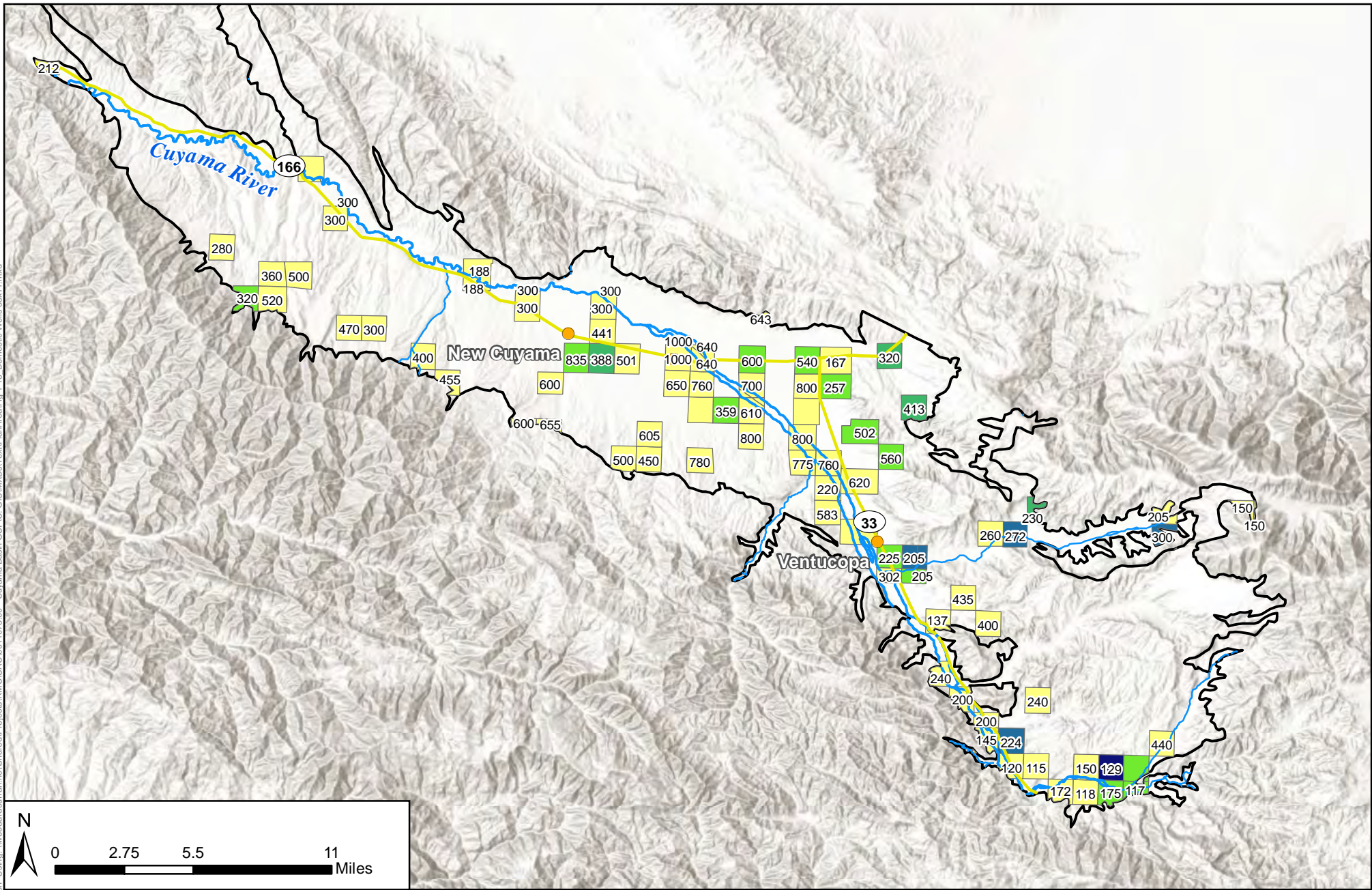


Figure 1-15 - Domestic Well Density and Average Depths

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 April 2019



Legend

- Cuyama Basin
 - Towns
 - Highways
 - Cuyama River
 - Streams/Creeks
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Well | 4 Wells |
| 2 Wells | 6 Wells |
| 3 Wells | |

Number of Domestic Wells by Township & Range

Numbers in the township and range grid correspond to the average depth of the wells within that grid. Grids with no number have no associated well depth data. Average well depth is given in feet below the ground surface.

Figure 1-16: Production Well Density and Average Depths. Using: \\woodardcurran.net\share\Projects\RM\GIS\AC\001\078_00 - Cuyama Basin_GSP\C. G:\M\X\Doc\Text\PlanArea\Fig 1-16 - Production Wells 05x11.mxd

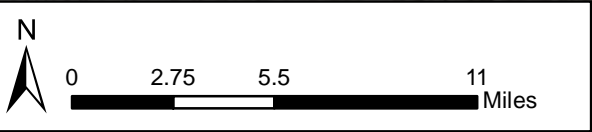
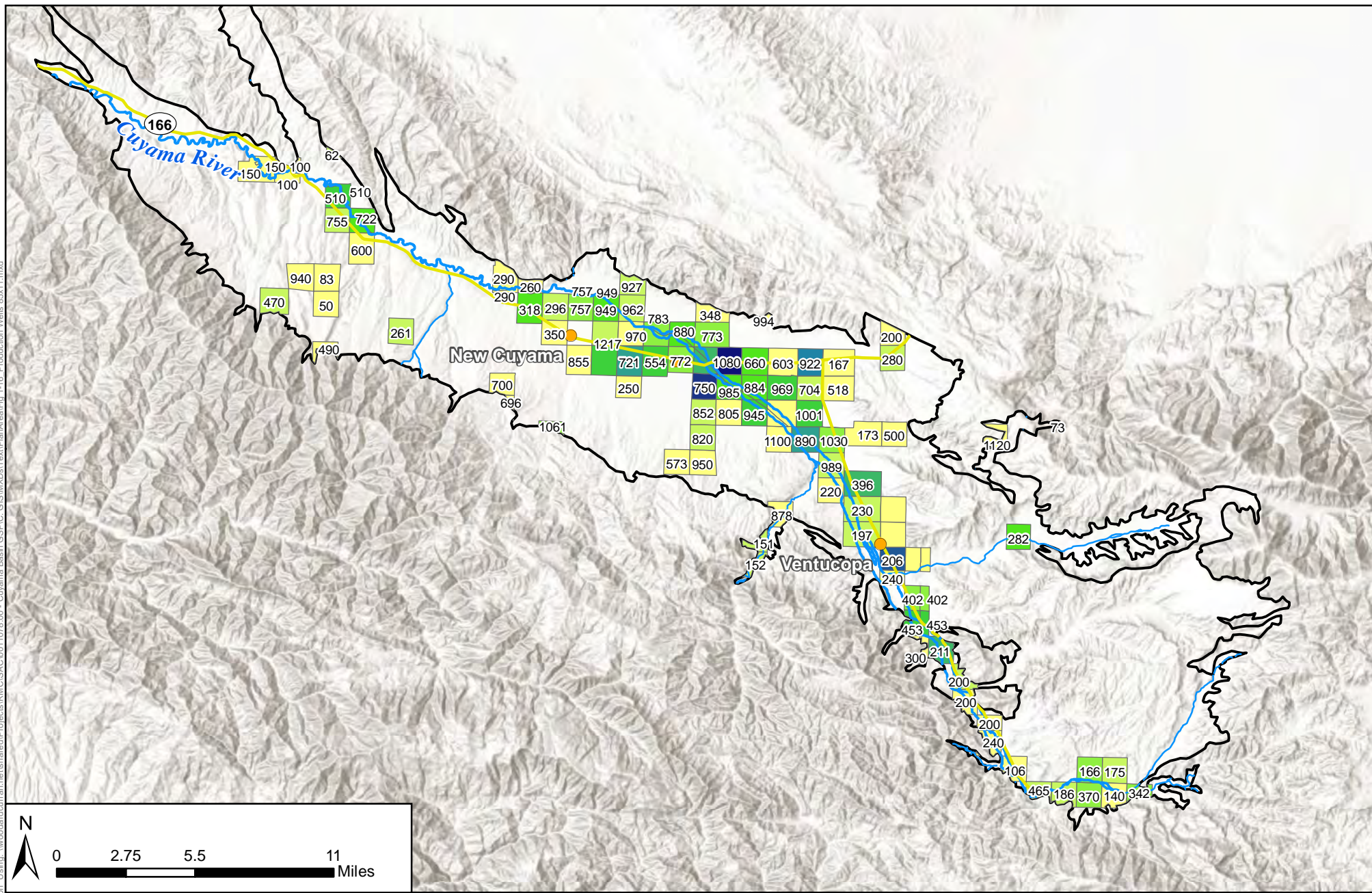


Figure 1-16 - Production Well Density and Average Depths

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019



- Legend**
- Cuyama Basin
 - Towns
 - Highways
 - Cuyama River
 - Streams/Creeks

Number of Production Wells by Township & Range

 1 Well	 2 Wells	 3 Wells	 4 Wells	 5 Wells	 6 Wells	 7 Wells	 8 Wells	 9 Wells	 10 Wells	 11 Wells
--	---	--	--	--	---	---	---	---	--	---

Numbers in the township and range grid correspond to the average depth of the wells within that grid. Grids with no number have no associated well depth data. Average well depth is given in feet below the ground surface.

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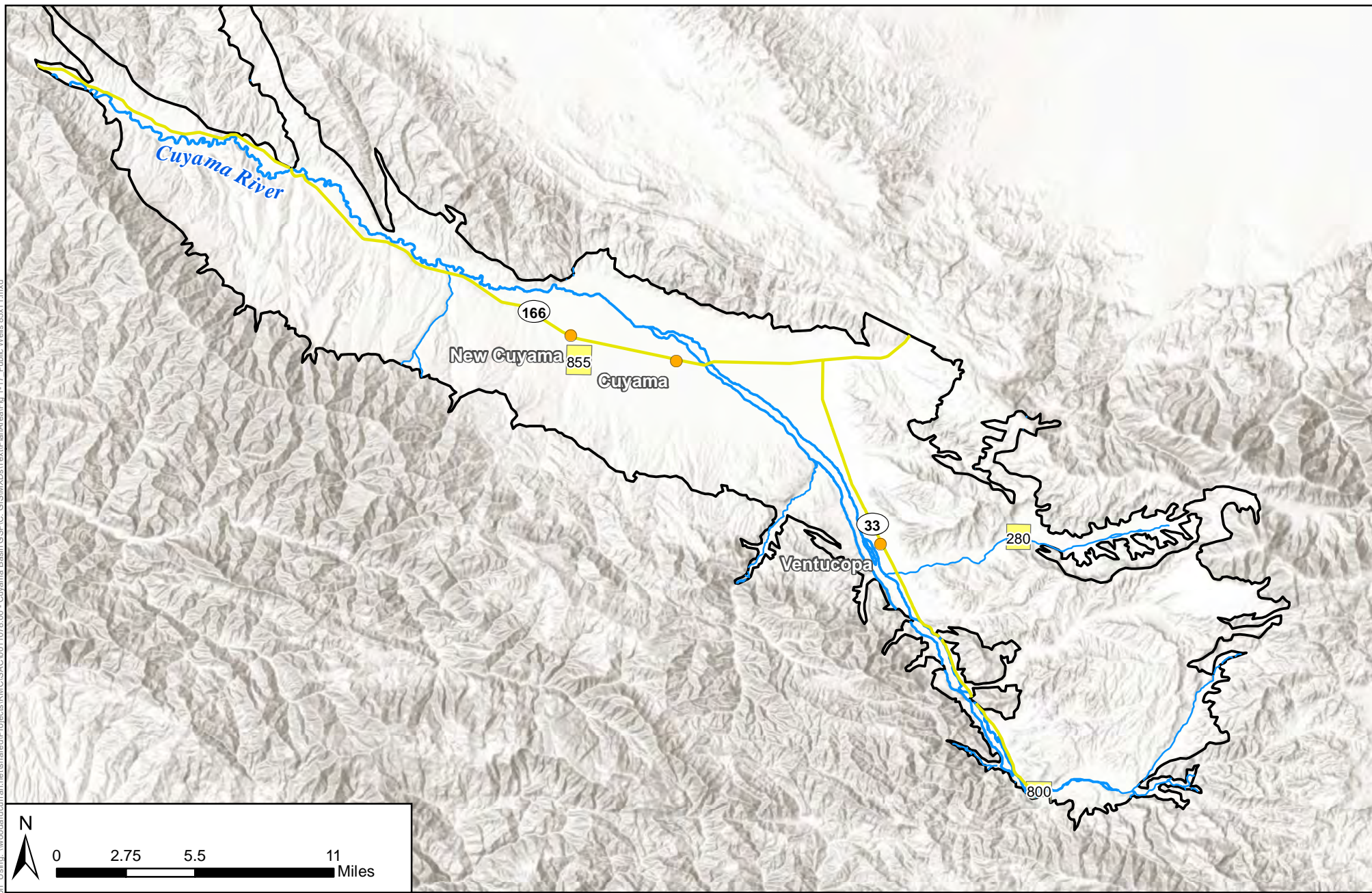


Figure 1-17 - Public Well Density and Average Depths

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 April 2019



Legend

- Cuyama Basin
- Towns
- Highways
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks

Number of Public Wells by Township & Range

1 Well

Numbers in the township and range grid correspond to the average depth of the wells within that grid. Grids with no number have no associated well depth data. Average well depth is given in feet below the ground surface.

Figure 1-18 - Federal and State Lands
 Using: \\woodardcurran.net\share\Projects\RM\GIS\AC\0011078_00 - Cuyama Basin GSP\C. GIS\MXDs\Text\PlanArea\Fig_1-18 - Public Lands.mxd

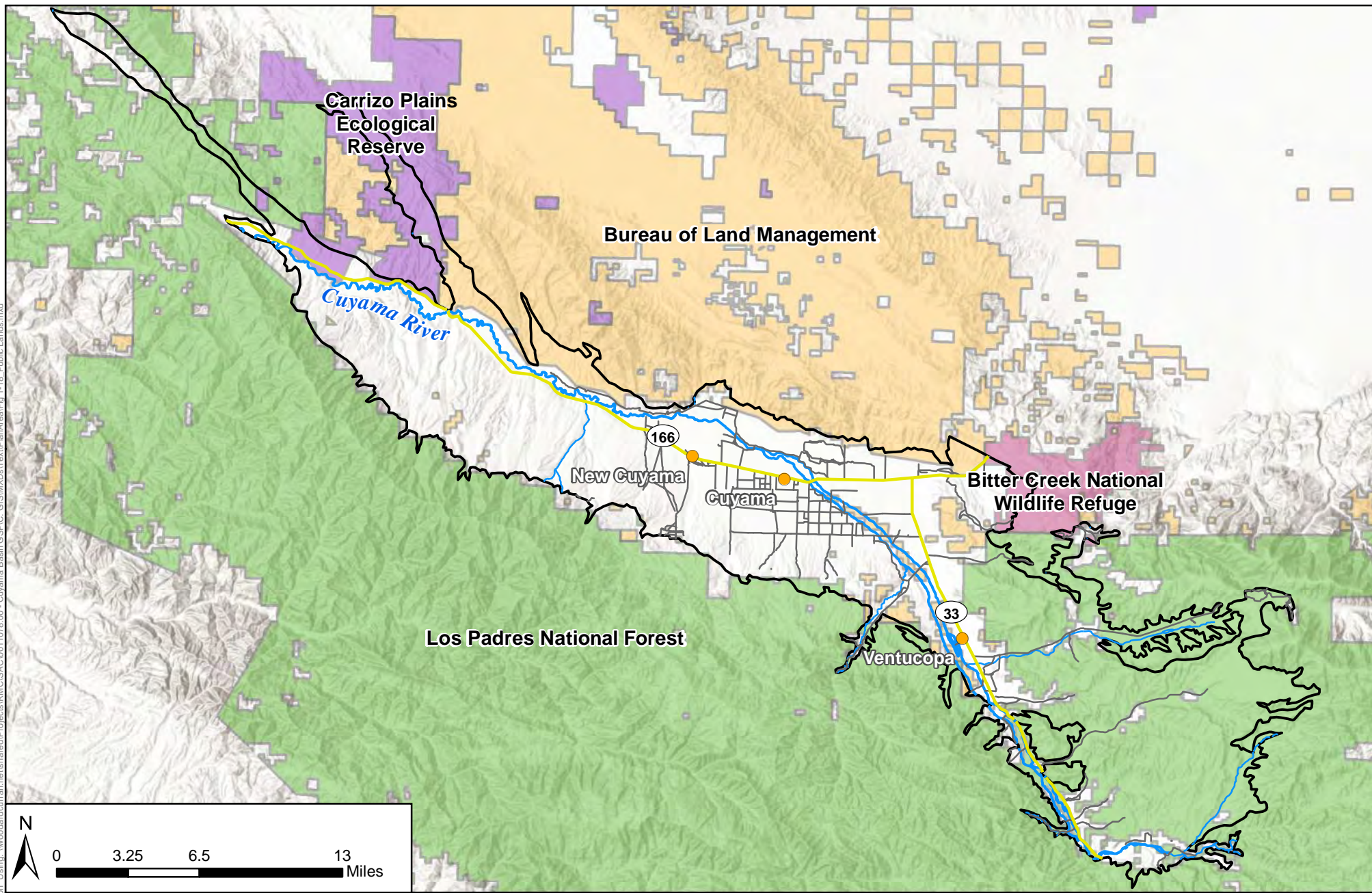


Figure 1-18 - Federal and State Lands
 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
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Legend

- Cuyama Basin
- Towns
- Highways
- Local Roads
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife
- State Lands

Figure_Exported_7/24/2018_8:49:11 AM.mxd Using: \\woodardcurran.net\share\Projects\RM\CA\0011078_00 - Cuyama Basin_GSP\C_GIS\MapData\Text\PlanArea\Fig 1-19 - Watersheds - Streams.mxd

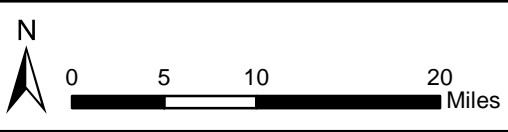
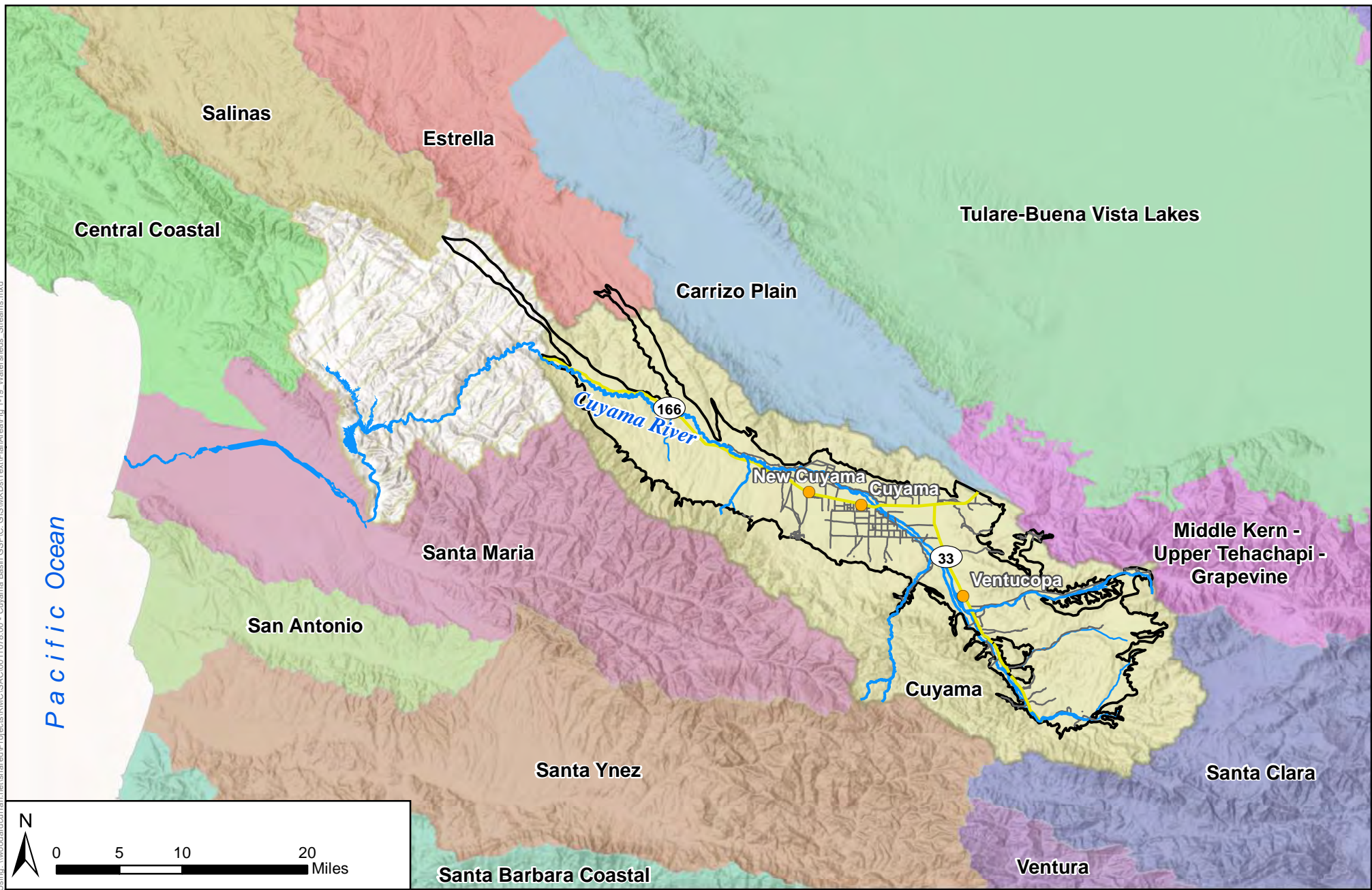


Figure 1-19 - Regional Watersheds

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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Legend

- Cuyama Basin
- Towns
- Highways
- Local Roads
- Cuyama River
- Streams/Creeks
- Contributes to Cuyama GW Basin
- Does Not Contribute to Cuyama GW Basin

Watershed Data Source: USGS TNM Hydrography (WBD),
U.S. Geological Survey - National Geospatial Program
Watersheds are 8-digit Hydrologic Units



1.2.3 Existing Surface Water Monitoring Programs

Existing surface water monitoring in the Cuyama Basin is extremely limited. Surface water monitoring in the Basin is limited to DWR’s California Data Exchange Center program, and monitoring performed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The only California Data Exchange Center gage in the Cuyama River watershed is at Lake Twitchell, which is downstream of the Cuyama Basin. The USGS has two active gages that capture flows in the Cuyama River watershed upstream of Lake Twitchell, as well as four deactivated gages (Figure 1-20). Table 1-1 lists the active and deactivated gages in the Basin.

Table 1-1: USGS Surface Flow Gages in the Cuyama Basin

Gage Number	Location	Status	Years of Record
11136800	Cuyama River below Buckhorn Canyon near Santa Maria	Active	1959-2017
11136650	Aliso Canyon Creek near New Cuyama	Deactivated	1963-1972
11136600	Santa Barbara Canyon Creek near Ventucopa	Active	2009-2017
11136500	Cuyama River near Ventucopa	Deactivated	1945-1958; 2009-2014
11136480	Reyes Creek near Ventucopa	Deactivated	1972-1978
11136400	Wagon Road Creek near Stauffer	Deactivated	1972-1978

The two active gages include one gage on the Cuyama River downstream of the Basin (identification number [ID] 11136800), which is located just upstream of Lake Twitchell. This gage has 58 recorded years of streamflow measurements from 1959 to 2017. The other active gage is south of the city of Ventucopa along Santa Barbara Canyon Creek (ID 11136600) and has seven recorded years of streamflow measurements ranging from 2010 to 2017. Although neither of these stream gages provide a comprehensive picture of surface water flows in the Cuyama Basin, they provide some information about the inflow and outflow of surface water through the Basin.

The need for surface water gages to measure flow on the Cuyama River is recognized as a data gap for this GSP. The CBGSA is working to identify optimal locations for new gages; new gages installations will be funded by the current SGMA Category 1 grant from DWR, or may be funded by the DWR Technical Support Services program.

Figure Exported: 7/10/2018 8: By: mwicks Using: \\woodardcurran.net\shared\Projects\RM\O\SAC\001\078_00 - Cuyama Basin GSP\C. GIS\MXDs\TextPlanArea\Fig_1-20_Flow_Gages.mxd

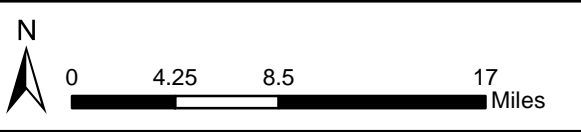
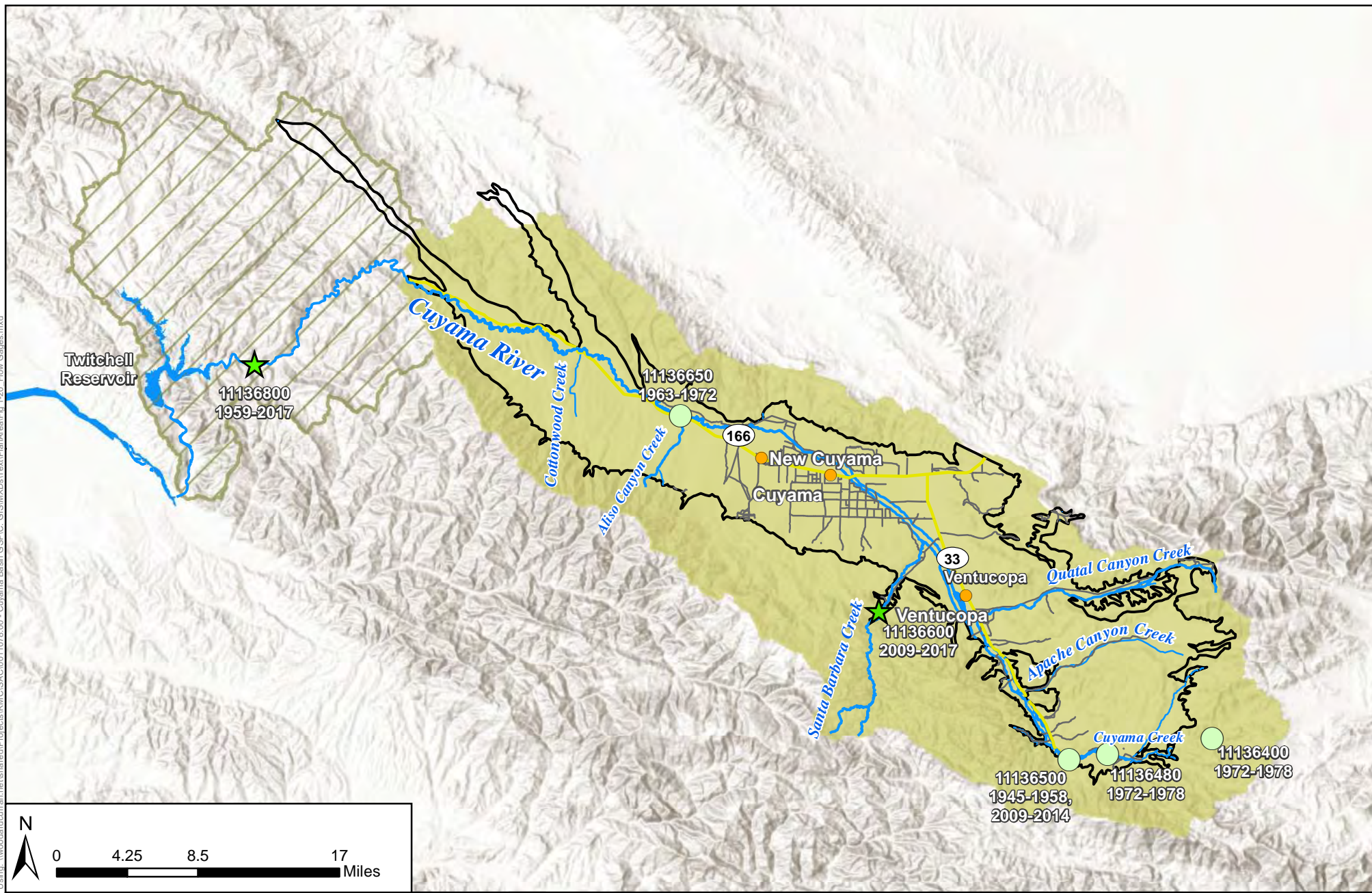












Figure 1-20 - Surface Stream Flow Gages

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

April 2019

	Legend	 Cuyama Basin	 Inactive Flow Gages	
		 Towns	 Active Flow Gages	
		 Highways	Cuyama Watershed  Contributes to Cuyama GW Basin  Does Not Contribute to Cuyama GW Basin	
		 Local Roads  Cuyama River		



1.2.4 Existing Groundwater Monitoring Programs

Existing groundwater monitoring programs in the Basin are primarily operated by regional, state and federal agencies. Existing groundwater monitoring programs in the Basin collect data on groundwater elevation, groundwater quality and subsidence at varying temporal frequencies. Each groundwater monitoring program in the Basin is described below, and additional information is provided in Chapter 4.

Groundwater Elevation Monitoring

DWR Water Data Library

DWR's Water Data Library (WDL) is a database that stores groundwater elevation measurements from wells in the Basin measured from 1946 through the present. Data contained in the WDL are from several different monitoring entities, including the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD), SBCWA, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOCFC&WCD).

USGS – National Water Information System

The USGS's National Water Information System contains extensive water data, including manual measurements of depth to water in wells throughout California. Wells are monitored by the USGS in the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's jurisdictional area. Most of the wells that were monitored in 2017 have been monitored since 2008, although a few have measurements dating back to 1983. Groundwater level measurements at these wells are taken approximately once per quarter.

California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program

The California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program monitors seasonal and long-term groundwater elevation trends in dedicated groundwater basins throughout California. Monitoring entities establish CASGEM Program-dedicated monitoring wells and report seasonal groundwater levels to the CASGEM Program's database. The information below describes sources where CASGEM Program data can be retrieved.

DWR Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map

DWR's Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map Application is a database that collects and stores groundwater elevations and depth-to-water measurements. Groundwater elevations are measured biannually in the spring and fall by local monitoring agencies. Depth-to-water and groundwater elevation data are submitted to the Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map Application by the various monitoring entities including the SLOCFC&WCD, SBCWA, and VCWPD.

SBCWA CASGEM Program Monitoring Plan

The SBCWA's CASGEM Program Monitoring Plan discusses the SBCWA's 19-well monitoring network, which includes 16 actively monitored wells and three inactive wells no longer monitored due to



accessibility and permission issues. Initially, SBCWA was the sole monitoring entity for the entire Basin, but in 2014 SBCWA reapplied to the CASGEM Program as a partial monitoring entity to reduce their monitoring activities and grant permission for neighboring counties (San Luis Obispo and Ventura) to monitor their portions of the Basin.

Of the 16 active wells in SBCWA's monitoring network, three are CASGEM Program-dedicated monitoring wells and 13 are voluntary. Wells are monitored by either SBCWA staff or USGS staff. The three CASGEM Program-dedicated monitoring wells are measured biannually in April and October, whereas the 13 voluntary wells are measured annually. All wells are single completion. CASGEM Program-dedicated wells have known Well Completion Reports and perforated intervals.

SLOCFC&WCD CASGEM Monitoring Plan

The SLOCFC&WCD's CASGEM Program Monitoring Plan identifies two wells in their CASGEM Program monitoring network. Upon recognition as a CASGEM monitoring entity in 2014, San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works staff monitored these wells biannually. Static water level measurements are obtained biannually in April and October (corresponding to seasonal highs and low groundwater elevations).

VCWPD CASGEM Program Monitoring Plan

The VCWPD CASGEM Program Monitoring Plan identifies the two wells in their CASGEM Program monitoring network. Upon recognition as a CASGEM Program monitoring entity in 2014, VCWPD staff have monitored the two wells biannually. Static water level measurements are obtained biannually, due to the remoteness of the area, in April and October (corresponding to seasonal highs and low groundwater elevations). The two wells are in the southernmost portion of the Basin.

VCWPD does not have information beyond location and water elevation measurements for the two wells. There are no well completion reports for either well, and the perforation intervals are unknown. VCWPD identifies the southeastern portion of the Basin as a spatial data gap, given that the area contains no monitoring wells.

Groundwater Quality Monitoring

DWR WDL

DWR's WDL monitors groundwater quality data. Samples are collected from a variety of well types including irrigation, stock, domestic, and some public supply wells. Wells are not regularly sampled, and most wells have only one- or two-days' worth of sampling measurements and large temporal gaps between the results. Constituents most frequently monitored include dissolved chloride, sodium, calcium, boron, magnesium, and sulfate. Measurements taken include conductance, pH, total alkalinity and hardness (more than 1,000 total samples per parameter). Additional dissolved nutrients, metals, and total dissolved solids (TDS) are also sampled but have fewer sample results available (one to 1,000 samples per parameter).



GeoTracker Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program

Established in 2000, the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program monitors groundwater quality throughout the state of California. The GAMA Program will create a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program throughout California and increase public availability and access to groundwater quality and contamination information. The GAMA Program receives data from a variety of monitoring entities including DWR, USGS, and the State Water Resources Control Board. In the Basin, three agencies submit data from monitoring wells for a suite of constituents including TDS, nitrates and nitrites, arsenic, and manganese.

National Water Information System

The USGS's National Water Information System monitors groundwater for chemical, physical, and biological properties in water supply wells throughout the Basin and data are updated to GeoTracker on a quarterly basis. The majority of wells with groundwater quality data were monitored prior to 2015.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, established in 2003, regulates discharges from irrigated agriculture to surface and ground waters and establishes waste discharge orders for selected regions. The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program focuses on priority water quality issues, such as pesticides and toxicity, nutrients, and sediments. Wells are sampled biannually, once between March and June, and once between September and December.

Division of Drinking Water

The State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water, (formerly the Department of Health Services) monitors public water system wells per the requirements of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations relative to levels of organic and inorganic compounds such as metals, microbial compounds and radiological analytes. Data are available for active and inactive drinking water sources, for water systems that serve the public, and wells defined as serving 15 or more connections, or more than 25 people per day. In the Basin, Division of Drinking Water wells were monitored for Title 22 requirements, including pH, alkalinity, bicarbonate, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sulfate, barium, copper, iron, zinc, and nitrate.

Subsidence Monitoring

In the Basin, subsidence monitoring is performed using continuous global positioning system (CGPS) stations monitored by the University NAVSTAR Consortium's (UNAVCO) Plate Boundary Observatory (PBO) program. There are no known extensometers in the Basin.



UNAVCO PBO

The UNAVCO PBO network consists of a network of about 1,100 CGPS and meteorology stations in the western United States used to monitor multiple pieces of information, including subsidence. There are two stations in the Cuyama Basin: CUHS, located near the city of New Cuyama, and VCST, located south of the city of Ventucopa. The CUHS station has subsidence data from 2000 through 2017, and the VCST station has subsidence data from 2001 through 2017.

1.2.5 Existing Water Management Programs

Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan 2013

The *Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan 2013* (IRWM Plan 2013) is the main integrated regional water management (IRWM) planning document for the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region (County of Santa Barbara, 2013). IRWM Plan 2013 emphasizes multi-agency collaboration, stakeholder involvement and collaboration, regional approaches to water management, water management involvement in land use decisions, and project monitoring to evaluate results of current practices. IRWM Plan 2013 identifies regionally and locally focused projects that help achieve regional objectives and targets while working to address water-related challenges in the region.

The following IRWM Plan 2013 objectives related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies
- Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies
- Practice balanced natural resource stewardship
- Protect and improve water quality
- Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability

IRWM Plan 2013 provides valuable resources related to potential concepts, projects and monitoring strategies that can be incorporated into the CBGSA GSP.

San Luis Obispo County 2014 IRWM Plan

The San Luis Obispo 2014 IRWM Plan presents a comprehensive water resources management approach to managing the region's water resources, focusing on strategies to improve the sustainability of current and future needs of San Luis Obispo County (County of San Luis Obispo, 2014). Much of the IRWM Plan was based on the San Luis Obispo County Water Master Report (SLOCFC&WCD, 2012)



The following 2014 IRWM Plan goals related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Water Supply Goal:** Maintain or improve water supply quantity and quality for potable water, fire protection, ecosystem health, and agricultural production needs; as well as to cooperatively address limitations, vulnerabilities, conjunctive-use, and water-use efficiency.
- **Ecosystem and Watershed Goal:** Maintain or improve the health of the Region's watersheds, ecosystems, and natural resources through collaborative and cooperative actions, with a focus on assessment, protection, and restoration/enhancement of ecosystem and resource needs and vulnerabilities.
- **Groundwater Monitoring and Management (Groundwater) Goal:** Achieve sustainable use of the region's water supply in groundwater basins through collaborative and cooperative actions.
- **Water Resources Management and Communications (Water Management) Goal:** Promote open communications and regional cooperation in the protection and management of water resources, including education and outreach related to water resources conditions, conservation/water use efficiency, water rights, water allocations, and other regional water resource management efforts.

The 2014 IRWM Plan provides valuable resources related to potential concepts, projects, and monitoring strategies that can be incorporated into the CBGSA GSP.

Ventura County 2014 IRWM Plan

The Ventura County 2014 IRWM Plan reflects the unique needs of a diverse region in Ventura County, which encompasses three major watersheds, 10 cities, portions of the Los Padres National Forest, a thriving agricultural economy, and is home to more than 823,000 people (County of Ventura, 2014). The 2014 IRWM Plan is a comprehensive document that primarily addresses region-wide water management and related issues.

The following 2014 IRWM Plan goals related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- Reduce dependence on imported water and protect, conserve and augment water supplies
- Protect and improve water quality
- Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds

The 2014 IRWM Plan provides valuable resources related to potential concepts, projects and monitoring strategies that can be incorporated into the CBGSA GSP.



Kern County 2011 IRWM Plan

The Kern County 2011 IRWM Plan covers most of Kern County but does not include the portion of the county that includes the Cuyama Basin (Kern County Water Agency, 2011). Therefore, the IRWM Plan is not relevant to the Cuyama GSP and is not addressed here.

1.2.6 General Plans in Plan Area

As illustrated in Figure 1-4, the Cuyama Basin is located within the geographic boundaries of four counties, including Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. Each of these counties have an existing process for permitting new or replacement groundwater wells, which would continue after implementation of this GSP. In addition, implementation of the CBGSA GSP would be affected by the policies and regulations outlined in the General Plans of these counties, given that the Cuyama Basin, and long-term land use planning decisions that would affect the Basin, are under the jurisdiction of these counties.

This section describes how implementation of the various General Plans may change water demands in the Basin, for example due to population growth and development of the built environment, how the General Plans may influence the GSP's ability to achieve sustainable groundwater use, and how the GSP may affect implementation of General Plan land use policies.

Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan

The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan is a means by which more orderly development and consistent decision making in the county can be accomplished. The Plan involves a continuing process of research, analysis, goal-setting and citizen participation, the major purpose of which is to enable the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission to more effectively determine matters of priority in the allocation of resources, and to achieve the physical, social and economic goals of the communities in the county (County of Santa Barbara, 2016).

Relevant Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Principles and Policies

The following Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Land Use Development Policy 4:** Prior to issuance of a development permit, the County shall make the finding, based on information provided by environmental documents, staff analysis, and the applicant, that adequate public or private services and resources (i.e., water, sewer, roads, etc.) are available to serve the proposed development.
- **Hillside and Watershed Protection Policy 7:** Degradation of the water quality of groundwater basins, nearby streams, or wetlands shall not result from development of the site. Pollutants, such as chemicals, fuels, lubricants, raw sewage, and other harmful waste, shall not be discharged into or alongside coastal streams or wetlands either during or after construction.



The following Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, Groundwater Resources Section goals and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal 1:** To ensure adequate quality and quantity of groundwater for present and future county residents, and to eliminate prolonged overdraft of any groundwater basins.
- **Policy 1.1:** The County shall encourage and assist all of the county's water purveyors and other groundwater users in the conservation and management, on a perennial yield basis, of all groundwater resources.
- **Policy 1.2:** The County shall encourage innovative and/or appropriate, voluntary water conservation activities for increasing the efficiency of agricultural water use in the county.
- **Policy 1.3:** The County shall act within its powers and financial abilities to promote and achieve the enhancement of groundwater basin yield.
- **Goal 2:** To improve existing groundwater quality, where feasible, and to preclude further permanent or long-term degradation in groundwater quality.
- **Policy 2.1:** Where feasible, in cooperation with local purveyors and other groundwater users, the County shall act to protect groundwater quality where quality is acceptable, improve quality where degraded, and discourage degradation of quality below acceptable levels.
- **Policy 2.2:** The County shall support the study of adverse groundwater quality effects which may be due to agricultural, domestic, environmental and industrial uses and practices.
- **Goal 3:** To coordinate County land use planning decisions and water resources planning and supply availability.
- **Policy 3.1:** The County shall support the efforts of the local water purveyors to adopt and implement groundwater management plans pursuant to the Groundwater Management Act and other applicable law.
- **Policy 3.2:** The County shall conduct its land use planning and permitting activities in a manner which promotes and encourages the cooperative management of groundwater resources by local agencies and other affected parties, consistent with the Groundwater Management Act and other applicable law.
- **Policy 3.3:** The County shall use groundwater management plans, as accepted by the Board of Supervisors, in its land use planning and permitting decisions and other relevant activities.
- **Policy 3.4:** The County's land use planning decisions shall be consistent with the ability of any affected water purveyor(s) to provide adequate services and resources to their existing customers, in coordination with any applicable groundwater management plan.
- **Policy 3.5:** In coordination with any applicable groundwater management plan(s), the County shall not allow, through its land use permitting decisions, any basin to become seriously over drafted on a prolonged basis.
- **Policy 3.6:** The County shall not make land use decisions which would lead to the substantial over commitment of any groundwater basin.



- **Policy 3.7:** New urban development shall maximize the use of effective and appropriate natural and engineered recharge measures in project design, as defined in design guidelines to be prepared by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in cooperation with P&D.
- **Policy 3.8:** Water-conserving plumbing, as well as water-conserving landscaping, shall be incorporated into all new development projects, where appropriate, effective, and consistent with applicable law.
- **Policy 3.9:** The County shall support and encourage private and public efforts to maximize efficiency in the pre-existing consumptive M&I use of groundwater resources.
- **Policy 3.10:** The County, in consultation with the cities, affected water purveyors, and other interested parties, shall promote the use of consistent "significance thresholds" by all appropriate agencies with regard to groundwater resource impact analysis.
- **Goal 4:** To maintain accurate and current information on groundwater conditions throughout the county.
- **Policy 4.1:** The County shall act within its powers and financial abilities to collect, update, refine, and disseminate information on local groundwater conditions.

The following Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Agricultural Element goal and policy related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal 1:** Santa Barbara County shall assure and enhance the continuation of agriculture as a major viable production industry in Santa Barbara County. Agriculture shall be encouraged. Where conditions allow, (taking into account environmental impacts) expansion and intensification shall be supported.
- **Policy 1F:** The quality and availability of water, air, and soil resources shall be protected through provisions including but not limited to, the stability of Urban/Rural Boundary Lines, maintenance of buffer areas around agricultural areas, and the promotion of conservation practices.

Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan's Influence on Water Demand and Groundwater Sustainability Plan's Goals

Review of relevant *Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan* goals and policies reveals that the County's goals and policies relative to future land use development and conservation complement the use and conservation of groundwater resources goals anticipated to be included in the CBGSA GSP. The Comprehensive Plan explicitly states as a goal ensuring that adequate quality and quantity of groundwater will be available for present and future county residents, as well as the elimination of prolonged overdraft of any groundwater basins through land use planning decisions and water resources planning.

The county is expected to grow from 428,600 to 520,000 residents between 2015 and 2040 (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, 2012). These growth estimates are County-wide, and the General Plan does not specify how much growth, if any, is expected to occur within the Basin. Ensuring sustainable management of the Basin through implementation of the GSP will be critical in terms of



supporting projected population growth in the county while maintaining sustainable groundwater levels in the Basin.

GSP's Influence on Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan's Goals and Policies

Successful implementation of the GSP will help to ensure that the Cuyama Basin's groundwater supply is managed in a sustainable manner. Given the amount of population growth projected in the county in the coming years, it is possible that changes in groundwater management by the GSP will result in changes to the pace, location and type of development that will occur in the county in the future. It is anticipated that GSP implementation will be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's goals related to sustainable land use development in the county.

San Luis Obispo County General Plan

The *San Luis Obispo County General Plan* describes official County policy on the location of land uses and their orderly growth and development. It is the foundation upon which all land use decisions are based, guides action the County takes to assure a vital economy, ensures a sufficient and adequate housing supply, and protects agricultural and natural resources (County of San Luis Obispo, 2015).

Relevant San Luis Obispo General Plan Principles and Policies

The following San Luis Obispo General Plan Land Use Element principles and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Principle 1:** Preserve open space, scenic natural beauty and natural resources. Conserve energy resources. Protect agricultural land and resources.
- **Policy 1.2:** Keep the amount, location and rate of growth allowed by the Land Use Element within the sustainable capacity of resources, public services and facilities.
- **Policy 1.3:** Preserve and sustain important water resources, watersheds and riparian habitats.

The following San Luis Obispo General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element goals and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal WR 1:** The county will have a reliable and secure regional water supply.
- **Policy WR 1.2:** Conserve Water Resources. Water conservation is acknowledged to be the primary method to serve the county's increasing population. Water conservation programs should be implemented countywide before more expensive and environmentally costly forms of new water are secured.
- **Policy WR 1.3:** New Water Supply. Development of new water supplies should focus on efficient use of our existing resources. Use of reclaimed water, interagency cooperative projects, desalination of contaminated groundwater supplies, and groundwater recharge projects should be considered prior to using imported sources of water or seawater desalination, or dams and on-stream reservoirs.



- **Policy WR 1.7: Agricultural Operations.** Groundwater management strategies will give priority to agricultural operations. Protect agricultural water supplies from competition by incompatible development through land use controls.
- **Policy WR 1.12: Impacts of New Development.** Accurately assess and mitigate the impacts of new development on water supply. At a minimum, comply with the provisions of Senate Bills 610 and 221.
- **Policy WR 1.14: Avoid Net Increase in Water Use.** Avoid a net increase in non-agricultural water use in groundwater basins that are recommended or certified as Level of Severity II or III for water supply. Place limitations on further land divisions in these areas until plans are in place and funded to ensure that the safe yield will not be exceeded.
- **Goal WR 2:** The County will collaboratively manage groundwater resources to ensure sustainable supplies for all beneficial uses.
- **Policy WR 2.1: Groundwater quality assessments** Prepare groundwater quality assessments, including recommended monitoring, and management measures.
- **Policy WR 2.2: Groundwater Basin Reporting Programs.** Support monitoring and reporting programs for groundwater basins in the region.
- **Policy WR 2.3: Well Permits.** Require all well permits to be consistent with the adopted groundwater management plans.
- **Policy WR 2.4: Groundwater Recharge.** Where conditions are appropriate, promote groundwater recharge with high-quality water.
- **Policy WR 2.5: Groundwater Banking Programs.** Encourage groundwater-banking programs.
- **Goal WR 3:** Excellent water quality will be maintained for the health of the people and natural communities.
- **Policy WR 3.2: Protect Watersheds.** Protect watersheds, groundwater and aquifer recharge areas, and natural drainage systems from potential adverse impacts of development projects.
- **Policy WR 3.3: Improve Groundwater Quality.** Protect and improve groundwater quality from point and non-point source pollution, including nitrate contamination; MTBE and other industrial, agricultural, and commercial sources of contamination; naturally occurring mineralization, boron, radionuclides, geothermal contamination; and seawater intrusion and salts.
- **Policy WR 3.4: Water Quality Restoration.** Pursue opportunities to participate in programs or projects for water quality restoration and remediation with agencies and organizations such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in areas where water quality is impaired.
- **Goal 4:** Per capita water use in the county will decline by 20% by 2020.
- **Policy WR 4.1: Reduce Water Use.** Employ water conservation programs to achieve an overall 20% reduction in per capita residential and commercial water use in the unincorporated area by 2020. Continue to improve agricultural water use efficiency consistent with Policy AGP 10 in the Agricultural Element.



- **Policy WR 4.2:** Water Pricing Structures. Support water-pricing structures to encourage conservation by individual water users and seek to expand the use of conservation rate structures in areas with Levels of Severity II and III for water supply.
- **Policy WR 4.3:** Water conservation The County will be a leader in water conservation efforts.
- **Policy WR 4.5:** Water for Recharge. Promote the use of supplemental water such as reclaimed sewage effluent and water from existing impoundments to prevent overdraft of groundwater. Consider new ways to recharge underground basins and to expand the use of reclaimed water. Encourage the eventual abandonment of ocean outfalls.
- **Policy WR 4.6:** Graywater. Encourage the use of graywater systems, rainwater catchments, and other water reuse methods in new development and renovation projects, consistent with state and local water quality regulations.
- **Policy WR 4.7:** Low Impact Development. Require Low Impact Development (LID) practices in all discretionary and land division projects and public projects to reduce, treat, infiltrate, and manage urban runoff.
- **Policy WR 4.8:** Efficient Irrigation. Support efforts of the resource conservation districts, California Polytechnic State University, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and others to research, develop, and implement more efficient irrigation techniques.
- **Goal 5:** The best possible tools and methods available will be used to manage water resources.
- **Policy WR 5.1:** Watershed Approach. The County will consider watersheds and groundwater basins in its approach to managing water resources in order to include ecological values and economic factors in water resources development.

The following San Luis Obispo General Plan Agriculture Element goals and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Policy AGP10a:** Encourage water conservation through feasible and appropriate “best management practices.” Emphasize efficient water application techniques; the use of properly designed irrigation systems; and the control of runoff from croplands, rangelands, and agricultural roads.
- **Policy AGP10b:** Encourage the U.C. Cooperative Extension to continue its public information and research program describing water conservation techniques that may be appropriate for agricultural practices in this county. Encourage landowners to participate in programs that conserve water.
- **Policy AGP11b:** Do not approve proposed general plan amendments or re-zonings that result in increased residential density or urban expansion if the subsequent development would adversely affect: (1) water supplies and quality, or (2) groundwater recharge capability needed for agricultural use.
- **Policy AGP11c:** Do not approve facilities to move groundwater from areas of overdraft to any other area, as determined by the Resource Management System in the Land Use Element.



San Luis Obispo County General Plan's Influence on Water Demand and Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The semi-arid climate in the county is subject to limited amounts of rainfall and recharge of groundwater basins and surface reservoirs. A focus of the County General Plan is that future development should take place recognizing that the dependable supply of some county groundwater basins is already being exceeded. If mining of groundwater continues in those areas without allowing aquifers to recharge, water supply and water quality problems will eventually result, which may be costly to correct and could become irreversible.

The General Plan explicitly encourages preservation of the county's natural resources, and states that future growth should be accommodated only while ensuring that this growth occurs within the sustainable capacity of these resources.

The county was expected to grow between 0.44 and 1 percent per year from 2013 through 2018, an increase of approximately 12,000 persons over the five-year period and is expected to grow by over 41,000 from 2010 to 2030 (County of San Luis Obispo, 2014). These growth estimates are County-wide and the General Plan does not specify how much growth, if any, is expected to occur within the Basin. Ensuring sustainable management of the Basin through implementation of the GSP will be critical in terms of supporting projected population growth in the county while maintaining sustainable groundwater levels in the Basin.

GSP's Influence on San Luis Obispo County General Plan's Goals and Policies

Successful implementation of the GSP will help to ensure that the Cuyama Basin's groundwater supply is managed in a sustainable manner. Given the amount of population growth projected in the county in the coming years, it is possible that changes in groundwater management by the GSP will impact the location and type of development that will occur in the Basin in the future. It is anticipated that GSP implementation will reinforce the General Plan's goals related to sustainable land use development in the county.

Ventura County General Plan

The Ventura County General Plan consists of the following:

- County-wide Goals, Policies and Programs containing four chapters (Resources, Hazards, Land Use, and Public Facilities and Services)
- Four appendices (Resources, Hazards, Land Use, and Public Facilities and Services), which contain background information and data in support of the Countywide Goals, Policies and Programs
- Several Area Plans which contain specific goals, policies and programs for specific geographical areas of the county



Relevant Ventura County General Plan Principles and Policies

The following Ventura County General Plan (Resources Chapter, Water Resources Section, 1.3.1 Goals, 1.3.2 Policies) goals and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal 1:** Inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the county's water resources.
- **Goal 2:** Effectively manage the water resources of the county by adequately planning for the development, conservation and protection of water resources for present and future generations.
- **Goal 3:** Maintain and, where feasible, restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of surface and groundwater resources.
- **Goal 4:** Ensure that the demand for water does not exceed available water resources.
- **Goal 5:** Protect and, where feasible, enhance watersheds and aquifer recharge areas.
- **Goal 6:** Promote reclamation and reuse of wastewater for recreation, irrigation and to recharge aquifers.
- **Goal 7:** Promote efficient use of water resources through water conservation.
- **Policy 1:** Discretionary development which is inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Water Management Plan (WMP) shall be prohibited, unless overriding considerations are cited by the decision-making body.
- **Policy 2:** Discretionary development shall comply with all applicable County and State water regulations.
- **Policy 3:** The installation of on-site septic systems shall meet all applicable State and County regulations.
- **Policy 4:** Discretionary development shall not significantly impact the quantity or quality of water resources in watersheds, groundwater recharge areas or groundwater basins.
- **Policy 5:** Landscape plans for discretionary development shall incorporate water conservation measures as prescribed by the County's Guide to Landscape Plans, including use of low water usage landscape plants and irrigation systems and/or low water usage plumbing fixtures and other measures designed to reduce water usage.
- **Policy 10:** All new golf courses shall be conditioned to prohibit landscape irrigation with water from groundwater basins or inland surface waters identified as Municipal and Domestic Supply or Agricultural Supply in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Water Quality Control Plan unless either: a) the existing and planned water supplies for a Hydrologic Area, including interrelated Hydrologic Areas and Subareas, are shown to be adequate to meet the projected demands for existing uses as well as reasonably foreseeable probable future uses in the area, or b) it is demonstrated that the total groundwater extraction/recharge for the golf course will be equal to or less than the historic groundwater extraction/recharge (as defined in the Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines) for the site. Where feasible, reclaimed water shall be utilized for new golf courses.



The following Ventura County General Plan (Land Use Chapter, 3.1.1 Goals) goal related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal 1:** Ensure that the county can accommodate anticipated future growth and development while maintaining a safe and healthful environment by preserving valuable natural resources, guiding development away from hazardous areas, and planning for adequate public facilities and services. Promote planned, well-ordered and efficient land use and development patterns.

The following Ventura County General Plan (Public Facilities Chapter, Water Supply Facilities section 4.3.1 Goals and 4.3.2 Policies) goals and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal 1:** Ensure the provision of water in quantities sufficient to satisfy current and projected demand.
- **Goal 2:** Encourage the employment of water conservation measures in new and existing development.
- **Goal 3:** Encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county in meeting the water needs of the county as a whole.
- **Policy 1:** Development that requires potable water shall be provided a permanent potable water supply of adequate quantity and quality that complies with applicable County and State water regulations. Water systems operated by or receiving water from Casitas Municipal Water District, the Calleguas Municipal Water District or the United Water Conservation District will be considered permanent supplies unless an Urban Water Management Plan (prepared pursuant to Part 2.6 of Division 6 of the Water Code) or a water supply and demand assessment (prepared pursuant to Part 2.10 of Division 6 of the Water Code) demonstrates that there is insufficient water supply to serve cumulative development in the district's service area. When the proposed water supply is to be drawn exclusively from wells in areas where groundwater supplies have been determined by the Environmental Health Division or the Public Works Agency to be questionable or inadequate, the developer shall be required to demonstrate the availability of a permanent potable water supply for the life of the project.
- **Policy 2:** Discretionary development as defined in section 10912 of the Water Code shall comply with the water supply and demand assessment requirements of Part 2.10 of Division 6 of the Water Code.
- **Policy 3:** Discretionary development shall be conditioned to incorporate water conservation techniques and the use of drought resistant native plants pursuant to the County's Guide to Landscape Plans.

Ventura County Plan's Influence on Water Demand and Groundwater Sustainability Plan's Goals

Review of relevant Ventura County General Plan goals and policies reveals that the County's goals and policies relative to future land use development and conservation complement the use and conservation of groundwater resources goals included in the CBGSA GSP. The General Plan explicitly states as a goal



ensuring that adequate quality and quantity of groundwater will be available for present and future county residents, as well as accommodating anticipated future growth and development while maintaining a safe and healthful environment by preserving valuable natural resources, including groundwater.

The county is expected to grow from 865,090 to 969,271 residents between 2018 and 2040 (Caltrans, 2015). These growth estimates are County-wide and the General Plan does not specify how much growth, if any, is expected to occur within the Basin. Ensuring sustainable management of the Basin through implementation of the GSP will be critical in terms of supporting projected population growth in the county while maintaining sustainable groundwater levels in the Basin.

GSP's Influence on Ventura County General Plan's Goals and Policies

Successful implementation of the GSP will help to ensure that the Cuyama Basin's groundwater supply is managed in a sustainable manner. Given the amount of population growth projected in the county in the coming years, it is possible that changes in groundwater management by the GSP will result in changes to the pace, location and type of development that will occur in the county in the future. It is anticipated that GSP implementation will reinforce the General Plan's goals related to sustainable land use development in the county.

Kern County General Plan

Because of the close interrelationship between water supplies, land use, conservation, and open space issues, the Land Use, Conservation, and Open Space Element sections of the Kern County General Plan are the most relevant elements for development of the GSP. These elements provide for a variety of land uses for future economic growth while also assuring the conservation of Kern County's agricultural, natural, and resource attributes (County of Kern, 2009).

Relevant Kern County General Plan Goals and Policies

The following Land Use, Conservation, and Open Space Element goals and policies related to groundwater use would potentially influence implementation of the GSP:

- **Goal 1.4.5:** Ensure that adequate supplies of quality water (appropriate for intended use) are available to residential, industrial, and agricultural users in Kern County.
- **Policy 1.4.2:** The efficient and cost-effective delivery of public services and facilities will be promoted by designating areas for urban development which occur in or adjacent to areas with adequate public service and facility capacity.
- **Policy 1.4.2.a:** Ensure that water quality standards are met for existing users and future development.
- **Goal 1.6.6:** Promote the conservation of water quantity and quality in Kern County.
- **Goal 1.6.7:** Minimize land use conflicts between residential and resource, commercial, and industrial land uses.



- **Policy 1.6.11:** Provide for an orderly outward expansion of new urban development so that it maintains continuity of existing development, allows for the incremental expansion of infrastructure and public service, minimizes impacts on natural environmental resources, and provides a high-quality environment for residents and businesses.
- **Policy 1.9.10:** To encourage effective groundwater resource management for the long-term economic benefit of the county, the following shall be considered:
 - **Policy 1.9.10.a:** Promote groundwater recharge activities in various zone districts.
 - **Policy 1.9.10.c:** Support the development of groundwater management plans.
 - **Policy 1.9.10.d:** Support the development of future sources of additional surface water and groundwater, including conjunctive use, recycled water, conservation, additional storage of surface water and groundwater and desalination.
- **Goal 1.10.1:** Ensure that the county can accommodate anticipated future growth and development while maintaining a safe and healthful environment and a prosperous economy by preserving valuable natural resources, guiding development away from hazardous areas, and assuring the provision of adequate public services.
- **Policy 1.10.6.39:** Encourage the development of the county's groundwater supply to sustain and ensure water quality and quantity for existing users, planned growth, and maintenance of the natural environment.
- **Policy 1.10.6.40:** Encourage utilization of community water systems rather than the reliance on individual wells.
- **Policy 1.10.6.41:** Review development proposals to ensure adequate water is available to accommodate projected growth.

Kern County General Plan's Influence on Water Demand and Groundwater Sustainability Plan's Goals

Review of relevant Kern County General Plan goals and policies reveals that the County's goals and policies relative to future land use development and conservation complement the use and conservation of groundwater resources goals that are anticipated to be included in the CBGSA GSP. The General Plan explicitly encourages development of the county's groundwater supply to ensure that existing users have access to high quality water, and states that future growth should be accommodated only while ensuring that adequate high-quality water supplies are available to existing and future users.

GSP's Influence on Kern County General Plan's Goals and Policies

Successful implementation of the GSP will help to ensure that the Cuyama Basin's groundwater supply is managed in a sustainable manner. Given the small portion of the Cuyama Basin that lies in Kern County, it is anticipated that GSP implementation will have little to no effects on the General Plan's goals related to sustainable land use development in the county.



1.2.7 Plan Elements from CWC Section 10727.4

The plan elements from California Water Code Section 10727.4 require GSPs to address or coordinate the addressing of the components listed in Table 1-1. As noted in the table, several components of California Water Code Section 10727.4 address issues that are not within the CBGSA’s authority, and are coordinated with local agencies.

Table 1-2: Plan Elements from CWC Section 10727.4

Element	Location
(a) Control of saline water intrusion	Not applicable
(b) Wellhead protection areas and recharge areas.	To be coordinated with counties
(c) Migration of contaminated groundwater.	Coordinated with RWQCB
(d) A well abandonment and well destruction program.	To be coordinated with counties
(e) Replenishment of groundwater extractions.	Chapter 7, Projects and Management Actions
(f) Activities implementing, opportunities for, and removing impediments to, conjunctive use or underground storage.	Chapter 7, Projects and Management Actions
(g) Well construction policies.	To be coordinated with counties
(h) Measures addressing groundwater contamination cleanup, groundwater recharge, in-lieu use, diversions to storage, conservation, water recycling, conveyance, and extraction projects.	Chapter 7, Projects and Management Actions, and coordinated with RWQCB
(i) Efficient water management practices, as defined in Section 10902, for the delivery of water and water conservation methods to improve the efficiency of water use.	Coordinated with Cuyama Basin Water District
(j) Efforts to develop relationships with state and federal regulatory agencies.	Chapter 8, Plan Implementation
(k) Processes to review land use plans and efforts to coordinate with land use planning agencies to assess activities that potentially create risks to groundwater quality or quantity.	To be coordinated with counties
(l) Impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems.	Chapter 2, Basin Settings, Section 2.2. Groundwater Conditions



1.3 Notice and Communication

In accordance with the SGMA regulations in Section 354.10, Notice and Communication, this section provides the following information:

- Description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the Basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.
- List of public meetings at which the GSP was discussed or considered by the CBGSA.
- Comments regarding the GSP received by the CBGSA and a summary of any responses made by the CBGSA (Appendix D).
- Explanation of the CBGSAs decision-making process.
- Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.
- Description of how the CBGSA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Basin.
- Methods the CBGSA used to inform the public about progress implementing the GSP, including the status of projects and actions.

1.3.1 Description of Beneficial Uses and Users of Groundwater

Beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Basin include the following interests (as listed in California Water Code Section 10723.2):

- Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including agricultural users and domestic well owners. There are approximately 475 agricultural and domestic wells identified to date in the Basin.
- Public water systems/municipal well operators are CCSD, the Cuyama Mutual Water Company, and the Ventucopa Water Supply Company.
- Disadvantaged communities; there are three disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities in the Cuyama Basin: Cuyama, New Cuyama, and Ventucopa. The census block groups for the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo county portions of the Basin are considered disadvantaged.
- Local land use planning agencies are San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern counties.
- Entities that monitor and report groundwater elevations are CCSD, San Luis Obispo County, SBCWA, and Ventura County.
- Environmental users of groundwater, including groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)



Potential interests (listed in California Water Code Section 10723.2) that are not present in the Cuyama Basin include the following:

- Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies
- Federal government, including, the military and managers of federal lands
- California Native American tribes

The types of parties representing Cuyama Basin interests and the nature of consultations with these parties are summarized below.

Standing Advisory Committee

The SAC was established in September 2017 to encourage active involvement from diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Basin. The SAC membership reflects this diversity. The members represent large and small landowners and growers from different geographic locations in the Basin, longtime residents of New Cuyama including Hispanic community members, and a manager of an environmentally-centric non-profit organization. SAC's role is described in Section 1.3.4.

Technical Forum

A technical forum was established to allow for technical input from interested parties within the Cuyama Basin. The forum had no decision-making authority. Monthly conference calls were held with representatives from the following organizations to review and seek input on technical matters:

- CBWD and consultants EKI Environment & Water, Inc. (EKI) and Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Provost & Pritchard)
- CCSD and consultants Dudek
- Grapevine Capital Partners, North Fork Vineyard and consultants Cleath-Harris Geologists
- San Luis Obispo County
- Santa Barbara Pistachio Company
- SBCWA

Additional Consultations

The GSP team conducted additional consultations regarding GSP matters via email, telephone, or via in-person meetings with representatives from the following groups:

- Bolthouse Farms
- Community representatives from the Family Resource Center and Blue Sky Center
- Duncan Family Farms
- DWR



- Grimmway Farms
- Individual landowners in the Cuyama Basin
- Kern County
- Santa Barbara County Fire Department, New Cuyama Station
- Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
- Santa Barbara IRWM Program
- United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Mount Pinos Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest
- University of California at Santa Barbara
- USGS
- Ventura County
- WellIntel Network

The following agencies and organizations were notified by mail about CBGSA-hosted community workshops:

- Cachuma Resource Conservation District in Santa Maria, California
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Headquarters in Sacramento, California
- California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento, California
- California Wildlife Conservation Board in Sacramento, California
- Kern County, Cooperative Extension in Bakersfield, California
- Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability in Bakersfield, California
- Los Padres Forest Watch in Santa Barbara, California
- Morro Coast Audubon Society in Morro Bay, California
- San Luis Obispo County, Cooperative Extension in San Luis Obispo, California
- United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service in Fresno, California
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Ventura, California
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention Friends of California Condors Wild and Free in Ventura, California
- United States Forest Service, Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Manager, Debora Kirkland in Ventura, California
- United States Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, Headquarters in Goleta, California
- Ventura County Audubon Society Chapter in Ventura, California
- Ventura County, Cooperative Extension in Ventura, California



The CBGSA developed a stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure that the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Basin were considered. Multi-organization planning processes can be complex. It can be challenging for community members to understand required decision-making steps, and where and how stakeholder issues and concerns are considered. Groundwater management as a practice is also complex. Educating and engaging groundwater stakeholders and the community about complex issues while simultaneously meeting deadlines established by SGMA, required an organized stakeholder engagement strategy.

An additional challenge to the engagement strategy is that the Basin area is rural, and has no news media outlets serving the area. The combined population per the 2010 Census of the three disadvantaged communities is 666 (Ventucopa 92, Cuyama 57, and New Cuyama 517). The engagement strategy relied primarily on mail and email communications about community workshop and CBGSA meetings. Mailings were sent to 675 parcel owners. Additionally, the CBGSA sent 185 emails stakeholders, engaged with counters who distributed notices, and word of mouth.

In January 2018, and to inform development of stakeholder engagement strategy, the CBGSA conducted 22 phone interviews with members of the CBGSA Board of Directors, SAC, CBGSA staff, staff from each of the four counties, and community representatives from the New Cuyama Family Resource Center and the Blue Sky Center, which are both located in New Cuyama. Several common themes emerged, which were used to form the basis for constructive stakeholder engagement and planning for the GSP. The prevailing ideas expressed included the following outreach and planning objectives:

- Provide a fair, balanced, and transparent public process that builds trust and understanding towards the common goal of a GSP that can best benefit everyone in the Basin.
- Provide a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all perspectives and all stakeholders.
- Provide education on a range of topics, at key milestones throughout the planning process, beginning with education about SGMA and what a GSP includes.
- Provide education and outreach specifically inclusive of smaller farmers/ranchers and the Hispanic community.
- Develop a GSP that is fair for all stakeholders in the Basin.

The stakeholder engagement strategy was developed to support the themes listed above, and in March 2018, the strategy was approved by the CBGSA Board. The strategy can be found online at: http://cuyamabasin.org/assets/pdf/CBGSP-Engagement-Strategy_May2018.pdf



1.3.2 List of Public Meetings Where the GSP was Discussed

Below is a list of the public meetings where the GSP was discussed. The following includes the public meetings held from June 2017 through July 2019.

CBGSA Board Meetings

In 2017, meetings were held on June 30, August 2, September 6, September 27, October 4, October 9, November 1, and December 6.

In 2018, meetings were held on January 3, January 10, April 4, May 2, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3, and November 7.

In 2019, meetings were held on January 9, February 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, and July 10.

Joint Meetings of CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee

In 2018, joint meetings were held on February 7, March 7, June 6, September 5, and December 3.

In 2019, joint meetings were held on March 6 and May 1.

CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee Meetings

In 2017, standing Advisory Committee meetings were held on October 16, and November 30.

In 2018, standing Advisory Committee meetings were held on January 4, February 1, March 1, March 29, April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27, November 1, and November 29.

In 2019, standing Advisory Committee meetings were held on January 8, January 31, February 28, and March 28, April 25, May 30 and Jun 27.

Community Workshops

In 2018, community workshops conducted in both English and Spanish were held on March 7, June 6, September 5, and December 3.

In 2019, community workshops were also conducted in English and in Spanish on March 6 and May 1.

1.3.3 Comments Regarding the GSP Received by the CBGSA, Response Summary

Public comments received and CBGSA responses provided are in Appendix D.



1.3.4 GSA Decision Making Process

On June 30, 2017, the CBGSA Board of Directors met for the first time. The 11-member board is the designated decision-making entity for GSP development, and is subject to the Brown Act.¹ According to the requirements of the act, all meetings were noticed 72 hours in advance, were open to the public and included a public comment period. Board membership and meeting agendas, minutes, and materials are available online at <http://cuyamabasin.org/cuyama-gsa-board.html>. Meeting agendas were also posted at the meeting location, the Family Resource Center, in New Cuyama.

The Board of Director votes are made on the basis of one vote for each Director, with Directors representing CBWD weighted at 6.7 percent and Directors representing other entities weighted at 11.1 percent. A weighted vote total of at least 75 percent is required for approval of the following:

- Annual budget
- GSP for the Basin and any substantive amendment
- Any stipulation to resolve litigation
- Adding new Board members
- Establishing and levying any fee, charge or assessment
- Adopting or amendmending bylaws
- Selecting a consultant to prepare the GSP

A weighted vote total of at least 50 percent is required for approval of all other decisions.

In September 2017, the CBGSA Board appointed the seven-member SAC to provide advice and input to the CBGSA Board on GSP development and implementation, and to assist with stakeholder engagement throughout the Cuyama Basin. In March 2018, the CBGSA Board expanded the SAC membership to nine members, including representatives from the Hispanic community in the Basin. One member resigned in March 2019, and the CBGSA Board of Directors is currently considering a replacement process. According to the requirements of the Brown Act, all SAC meetings were noticed 72 hours in advance and were open to the public. SAC membership, agendas, minutes, and meeting materials are available at <http://cuyamabasin.org/standing-advisory-committee.html>.

The CBGSA decision-making process included developing agenda for each meeting of the CBGSA Board and for each SAC meeting. The CBGSA Executive Director developed the agendas in concert with the technical team, outreach team, and the respective chairs of the CBGSA Board and SAC. Agenda items were either educational, informational, or required direction or decision. Agenda items were presented to the SAC, and then the SAC chair would provide an overview of SAC discussion and recommendations at

¹ http://ag.ca.gov/publications/2003_Intro_BrownAct.pdf

the subsequent CBGSA Board meeting. Figure 1-21 depicts the overall topics and decision process for developing the GSP.



Figure 1-21: Topics and Decision Process for GSP Development

1.3.5 Opportunities for Public Engagement and How Public Input was Used

Community input was encouraged and received at CBGSA Board meetings, SAC meetings, and community workshops. This GSP was shaped by community input, SAC input, and CBGSA Board direction and decisions.

Opportunities for Public Engagement

Regular opportunities for public engagement were available throughout GSP development. The CBGSA Board, SAC, and CBGSA staff encouraged public input throughout the development of the GSP in the following ways described below.

Meetings and Direct Engagement

- Public meetings and community workshops (detailed in Section 1.3.2)
- Direct contact with CBGSA staff. The public was encouraged to contact the CBGSA staff by phone, email, or mail with questions and comments. CBGSA contact information was distributed at all meetings and is available on the CBGSA website at <http://cuyamabasin.org/contact-us.html>.



- An informal briefing was hosted by the technical team at The Place, a restaurant in Ventucopa. The technical team met with interested growers and residents to update them and answer questions about the GSP.

GSP Section Review and Comment Periods

When draft sections of the GSP section became available for review and comment, the CBGSA Board, SAC members, stakeholders were notified. A list of the dates drafts were available online are listed below. Draft GSP sections are available online at: <http://cuyamabasin.org/resources.html#gsp>.

- February 21, 2019: Chapter 5, Sustainability
- February 21, 2019: Chapter 2, Water Budget
- November 28, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft
- November 28, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft: Appendix X Hydrographs
- November 28, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft: Appendix Y – Groundwater Contours
- November 28, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft: Appendix Z – Subsidence White Paper
- November 16, 2018: Chapter 6, Data Management System Chapter Draft
- October 3, 2018: Chapter 2, Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Draft
- September 24, 2018: Chapter 4, Monitoring Networks Section Draft
- September 24, 2018: Chapter 4, Monitoring Networks Section - Appendices
- September 21, 2018: Chapter 2, Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Draft
- August 24, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft
- August 24, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft: Appendix X – Hydrographs
- August 24, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft: Appendix Y – Groundwater Contours
- August 24, 2018: Chapter 2, Groundwater Conditions Draft: Appendix Z – Subsidence White Paper
- July 27, 2018: Draft Undesirable Results Narrative
- July 27, 2018: Management Framework Matrix
- June 22, 2018: Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
- April 20, 2018: Draft Description of Plan Area

How Public Input and Response was Used in the Development of the GSP

Public input was used to help shape the GSP development. The input was also used to develop context and content for CBGSA meetings, SAC meetings, community workshops, CBGSA newsletters, and for content posted to the CBGSA website.

CBGSA-hosted public meetings were designed to encourage input, discussion, and questions from both the CBGSA Board of Directors and SAC members as well as public audience members. The minutes of



CBGSA Board and SAC meetings reflect the questions and comments raised by members and the general public. For each community workshop, public comments were summarized and provided to the CBGSA staff and technical team, the CBGSA Board of Directors, and SAC for further consideration.

Examples of how public input helped shape the GSP are described below.

During the development of the GSP, community input was valuable in identifying and closing groundwater data gaps. Residents and agricultural businesses provided additional data about groundwater levels, historical pumping, and cropping patterns.

During discussion of projects and management actions, several community members and CBGSA Board members expressed concern about unreliable community water supplies in New Cuyama, Cuyama, and Ventucopa. The GSP's list of projects was revised to include construction of new wells for these communities.

Community input also shaped other actions carried forward for further analysis in the GSP. Two projects to improve water resources in the basin came from public input: cloud seeding and rangeland management. The technical team evaluated each approach and discussed benefits and impacts with the CBGSA Board, SAC, and the community. Cloud seeding as a project is included in the GSP for further evaluation. Rangeland management was not carried forward in the GSP due to concerns about the potential impacts of vegetation management, and institutional concerns about coordination with the United States Forest Service.

Appendix D includes a summary of public comments and responses.

1.3.6 How CBGSA Encourages Active Involvement

Establishment of the SAC in September 2017 was intended to encourage active involvement from diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population in the Basin. All meetings of the CBGSA Board and SAC were open to the public and included a public comment period. Community members participated in the public meetings. Community workshops were held in both English and Spanish, provided time for discussion of each topic presented, and provided comment forms for written comments. Workshop materials were also available in English and Spanish. The quarterly CBGSA newsletter was available in English and Spanish and described GSP planning status and opportunities for participation. Notices for community workshops were available in both English and Spanish. Distribution channels included email, hand-delivered postings throughout the Cuyama Valley, and postcard mailings to parcel owners within Basin boundaries. A website (www.cuyamabasin.org) was designed and made available early in the GSP process to assist in keeping stakeholders informed and up to date.



1.3.7 Method of Informing the Public

To inform the public about GSP progress and to seek public input, the following methods were used:

- Notice of public meetings, including CBGSA Board meetings, SAC meetings, and community workshops (in both English and Spanish)
- Website (www.cuyamabasin.org)
- Email distribution via a stakeholder email list was maintained throughout the process and grew to 185 contacts
- Postcards were mailed to 675 parcel owners in the Basin to announce community workshops and provide a link to the website to follow the progress of GSP development
- A quarterly, four-page CBGSA newsletter was mailed to all New Cuyama, CA post office box holders as a part of the Cuyama Recreation District Newsletter. The newsletter was also distributed via the stakeholder email list.
- Volunteers at the Family Resource Center distributed community workshop notices to locations throughout the Cuyama Basin.
- A member of the SAC posted community workshop notices in some of the finger areas in the west part of the Cuyama Basin.

The development of the mailing list and email list was informed by SGMA Section 10723.2, which calls for consideration of interests for all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. The initial email list of approximately 80 stakeholders grew to 185 stakeholders by March 2019. Additionally, a conventional mailing list was used that included 675 parcel owners in the Cuyama Basin identified by each of the four counties and the 17 agencies and organizations listed above in Section 1.3.1.

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