



**Fillmore and Piru Basins**  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**March 21, 2019 - 5:00 p.m.**

**City of Fillmore City Hall, City Council Chambers**  
**250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93015**

**MINUTES**

**Directors Present**

Director Kelly Long, Chair (arrived at 5:12p.m.)  
Director Ed McFadden, Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer  
Director Gordon Kimball  
Director Candice Meneghin  
Director Glen Pace

**Directors Absent**

Director Lynn Edmonds

**Staff Present**

Anthony Emmert, executive director  
Steve O'Neill, legal counsel  
Kris Sofley, clerk of the board

**Public Present**

Matt Carpenter, Fivepoint NLF  
Emilio Cervantes, Jr., Fivepoint NLF  
Dan Detmer, United Water Conservation District (UWCD)  
Rachael Laenen, Kimball Ranches/Fillmore & Piru Pumpers Associations  
Tim Moore, DBS&A  
Tony Morgan, DBS&A  
George Reid  
Steve Zimmer

**1. Call to Order - First Open Session**

Vice Chair McFadden called the meeting to order at 5:10p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair McFadden led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Directors Roll Call**

Directors Kimball, McFadden, Meneghin and Pace are present. Chair Long and Director Edmonds are absent.

**4. Public Comments**

Vice Chair McFadden asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Pace; Second, Director Meneghin. Voice vote: four ayes (Kimball, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed; two absent (Edmonds, Long). Motion carries unanimously 4/0/2.

Chair Long arrives at 5:12p.m. and apologized for being late.

**6. Director Announcements/Board Communications**

**Information Item**

Director Kimball reported his attendance at the Association of Water Agencies – Ventura County (AWA) WaterWise Breakfast. He said he listened to attorneys speak about the lawsuits they were involved with regarding groundwater sustainability agencies and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). He said it was entertaining and may be worrisome. He stressed the importance of outreach and engagement and wanted to make sure that everyone is well informed and that good outreach is provided.

Director Meneghin reported that she is now working part-time with Supervisor Linda Parks on environmental issues.

Chair Long welcomed Director Meneghin back to the Board and said she wanted to make sure everyone knew that Director Meneghin was working with Supervisor Parks.

**7. Executive Director Update**

**Information Item**

Executive Director Emmert reported that it had been an active period for agency staff. He said the kick off meeting with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant manager Eduardo Pech was very productive and lasted about three hours. Mr. Pech dove right into grant reporting details, clarifying how reports and invoicing needs to be submitted. The

meeting also included the consultants from Daniel B Stephens & Associates. Mr. Emmert reported that Mr. Pech provided many tips to keep the Agency out of trouble with its reporting and cash flow.

Mr. Emmert reported that UWCD's staff is continuing to work with the GSP consultants on data and documents sharing.

Mr. Emmert also reported that the UWCD's finance staff had prepared Agency invoices for the period of July 1 through December 31, 2018 but was holding off mailing the invoices until staff received further clarification regarding credits.

Vice Chair McFadden asked if the DWR meeting was more positive than not. Mr. Emmert responded that DWR is bureaucratic, and requires both the Agency and its staff to follow rigid grant reporting requirements; however, DWR staff is helpful. Rules for reporting have changed and Mr. Pech has shared all that he's learned about tracking the work effort and financial reporting.

Chair Long asked if there are set meetings with the DWR. Mr. Emmert said that there are minimum quarterly progress reports, with the first report reaching back to capture the activities and expenses from the beginning of the grant-eligible period to present, which would be the most difficult to complete. Essentially, staff will submit a draft First Quarter report and the first invoice to DWR for review by Mr. Pech. If everything is good, staff will submit a final draft by uploading the report and invoice to the DWR grants web portal. Then, DWR will go thoroughly review the documents and process a reimbursement check to the Agency several months later.

**8. Legal Counsel Update**  
**Information Item**

Legal Counsel said that its update would be given during Executive (Closed) session.

**9. Groundwater Sustainability Plans Development Update**  
**Information Item**

Tony Morgan, project manager for Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBS&A), said the meeting with DWR's grant manager reinforced that they like paper. He added that DBS&A has shuffled its task names and schedules to match the final grant contract, which will help with processing the grant paperwork. He stated that the invoice in the Board's packet tonight has been updated for that reason. He also reported that his staff and the UWCD's staff have been involved in a data transfer, which will be an ongoing effort. He also thanked Chair Long for provided a letter supporting DBS&A's request for copies of well completion reports which the County had compiled – 710 records to be precise. He added

that DBS&A continues to work on stakeholder engagement with the Executive Director and is looking to get more information on a future agenda for Board update and review.

## 10. CONSENT CALENDAR

### 10A Approval of Minutes

Director Kimball recommended a small change be made to the Minutes from the Board's February 21, 2019 meeting – requesting the word unanimously be changed to mostly in the first paragraph of item 8.

### 10B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving the following invoices for payment:

OMLO Legal Services for February 2019	\$1,094.50
DBS&A GSP Consulting Services for February 2019	\$2,683.56

### 10C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive a monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the FPB GSA from UWCD's accounting staff.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar items, with the minor change to the Minutes, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Pace. Voice vote: four ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Pace); one abstained (Meneghin); one absent (Edmonds). Motion carries 4/1/1.

## 11. ACTION ITEMS

### 11A Request for Proposal for Joint Audit Services

#### Motion

Mr. Emmert reported that the Agency did not receive any proposals for Auditing Services, most likely because the total job was too small to interest most accounting firms. Mr. Emmert suggested that, since UWCD provides the billing and accounting services for both the Agency and the Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Mound Basin GSA), perhaps both auditing services requests for proposals could be combined into one request, making the award of contract appear more lucrative. Motion to approve joining with the Mound Basin GSA on requesting proposals for auditing services with an amended deadline of April 24, 2019, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Kimball. Voice vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed; one absent (Edmonds). Motion carries 5/0/1.

## 12. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 12A **State Water Purchases through United Water Conservation District** **Informational Item**

Executive Director Emmert provided an update on UWCD's recent State Water Article 21 water purchases (see attached slide presentation). Mr. Emmert reported that Fillmore and Piru Basins have recovered significantly following recent rains, and when UWCD releases the Article 21 water plus accumulated flood flows water from the Santa Felicia Dam in late summer or fall 2019, it will fill the basins further, with some underflow between basins toward the Oxnard Plain. He stated that UWCD's 20 cubic feet per second habitat flow releases from the Santa Felicia Dam will keep lower Piru Creek wet for the rest of the season. DWR is also currently releasing water from Castaic Dam, which is flowing down Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River, also contributing to recharge in the Fillmore and Piru Basins.

Mr. Emmert also reported that UWCD staff made an incredible effort in managing debris and silt at the Freeman Diversion facility, manually clearing the fish screens with hand rakes to keep the operation going 24 hours a day during the storms. The goal was to divert as much of the sediment laden water as possible in an effort to recharge the coastal basins. He reminded everyone of the connection between the various basins and that when Piru basin fills up, that's also good for Fillmore basin, and on down the line toward the coastal basins.

Mr. Emmert also recounted how, in 2017, the District had ordered Article 21 water in February, but DWR was unable to deliver it until April and May, due to damage it had sustained at Castaic Dam. He noted that the 2017 releases greatly benefitted the Piru and then the Fillmore Basins, causing water levels to rise 30 to 40 feet. He expects that the fall 2019 releases will have a similar benefit to the Fillmore and Piru Basins.

Director Pace asked about the cost of Article 21 water and Mr. Emmert responded that it is approximately \$200 per acre-foot, mainly energy costs for the conveyance of the water. He also said that the UWCD has to be ready, both from a technology and financial perspective when the Article 21 water is available. He added that although the state says California is out of drought, the District contends that groundwater levels are still pretty low and it isn't until those levels increase that the drought should be declared over locally.

Chair Long shared information from her meetings in Sacramento the day before and stated that whether it's a discussion of funding affordable housing or how to grow the work force, water is always a critical component of the discussion as it has a critical impact on the economy for both municipal and agricultural interests.

Director Meneghin asked if there was a cap to how much water UWCD could purchase. Mr. Emmert said there isn't a water cap, but that the financial mechanism available to UWCD presents the limitation, allowing only a maximum of 5,000 acre-feet per year to be purchased and delivered, over the long-term average. He stated that UWCD, in years that limited water is available, sets aside the funds, in order to purchase more water when it is available, such as Article 21 water. Mr. Emmert said UWCD has not historically used pump fees for State Water purchases, just a property tax assessment. The State Water allocation for Ventura County is divided between Casitas (5,000 AF), Ventura (10,000 AF) and United (5,000 AF), but 1,850 acre-feet of United's portion is for the Port Hueneme Water Agency area, and is delivered via Metropolitan Water District, the Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the City of Oxnard. UWCD's property tax assessment builds up over time, but it certainly isn't enough to buy large amounts of water every year.

Chair Long mentioned the letter that the Fillmore and Piru Pumpers Associations had received from Bartels Ranch after Mauricio Guardado, Jr., General Manager, UWCD, made a presentation on State Water and asked Mr. Emmert about the questions raised in that letter and how UWCD is addressing rates and the price of energy.

Mr. Emmert replied that for the last four years, UWCD had about a three percent increase on pump fees, but that was many to adjust for inflation, but that the it will likely need a larger increase this coming year. There was continued discussion among the Board members and Mr. Emmert regarding the price of Article 21 water and funding mechanisms. Mr. Emmert said his suggestion was for United to set up a reserve fund and that could be part of the District's budget process. He said that the District was nearing the end of a rate litigation, and hopes to be finished with that soon, which will facilitate starting a reserve fund. He said the District hopes to at least set up the fund this year and then explore various ways to fund it going forward, and mentioned the possibility of creating a surcharge for the FPB GSA to fund the reserve.

Director Kimball said that a discussion came out of the pumpers' membership meeting a year ago when one or two members said if water is available, let's buy it, which resulted in the presentation from Mr. Guardado. In the interim, people approached Director Kimball and said the pumpers should get involved with this. Ms. Bartels' letter showed some of the misunderstandings pumpers have about State Water purchases and is indicative of the communication problems when speaking out and trying to engage stakeholders. He said he asked for a show of

hands of those that would support including such a provision as part of the GSP process, at a rate of between \$5 and \$15 per acre-foot, and all except Ms. Bartels raised their hands. Director Kimball continued, stating that part of what the Board will face is fears about water, but most pumpers are willing to put money in if it gives them an opportunity to get more water and most of the pumpers have indicated that they want to participate.

Director Pace agreed with Director Kimball and added that at the last meeting of the pumpers, there was no price confirmed, but just asking if they would consider approving such an effort and both the Fillmore pumpers and the Piru pumpers indicated that they are interested in at least discussing the possibility. What needs to be determined is the best mechanism for funding.

Chair Long added that the Bartels Ranch letter was a great opportunity to learn what questions the pumpers have and how to address them as well as how to structure presentations that will help determine the cost of obtaining the water and how the GSA would share that cost among its constituents.

Vice Chair McFadden said that during the one hour meeting, the problems and concerns were discussed and when all was said and done, it was clear the pumpers wanted to do this.

Director Pace said that clearly the pipeline did not interest the pumpers, and that United had a bigger group of stakeholders with a lot of varied interests and this project may appeal to some of them.

Mr. Emmert concluded by saying that United staff is cognizant of how to operate and administer a revenue fund and it was a matter of identifying beneficiaries who would be willing to pay for that water.

Chair Long thanked Mr. Emmert for the presentation and added that it is all good news.

## **FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

None were offered

### **13. EXECUTIVE (Closed) SESSION 6:20 p.m.**

#### **13A Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation**

Conference with legal counsel; Government Code sec 54956.9; potential litigation: one cases.


### **14. Second Open Session 6:45 p.m.**

**14A Oral Report Regarding Executive (Closed) Session  
Information Item**

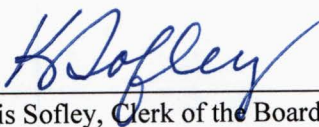
Legal Counsel reported that, in accordance with Government Code sec 54956.9, a report was given to the Board, and after review of that report, the Board gave direction to staff but took no reportable action in accordance with the Brown Act.

**ADJOURNMENT 6:48 p.m.**

At 6:48 p.m., Chair Long adjourned to the next Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2019, or call of the Chair.

ATTEST:   
Kelly Long, Chair, FPB GSA Board of Directors

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of March 21, 2019.

ATTEST:   
Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board





**BOARD MEETING**

**March 21, 2019 @ 5:00pm**

**City Council Chambers, Fillmore City Hall**

250 Central Avenue, Fillmore, CA 93015

Name: Don Detmer

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: RACHAEL LAENEN

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Tom Moran

Organization: DBS&A

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: George Reed

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: TIM MOORE

Organization: DBS&A

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: EMILIO CERVANTES JR.

Organization: NLF

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: MATT CARPENTER

Organization: NLF

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Steve Zimmer

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

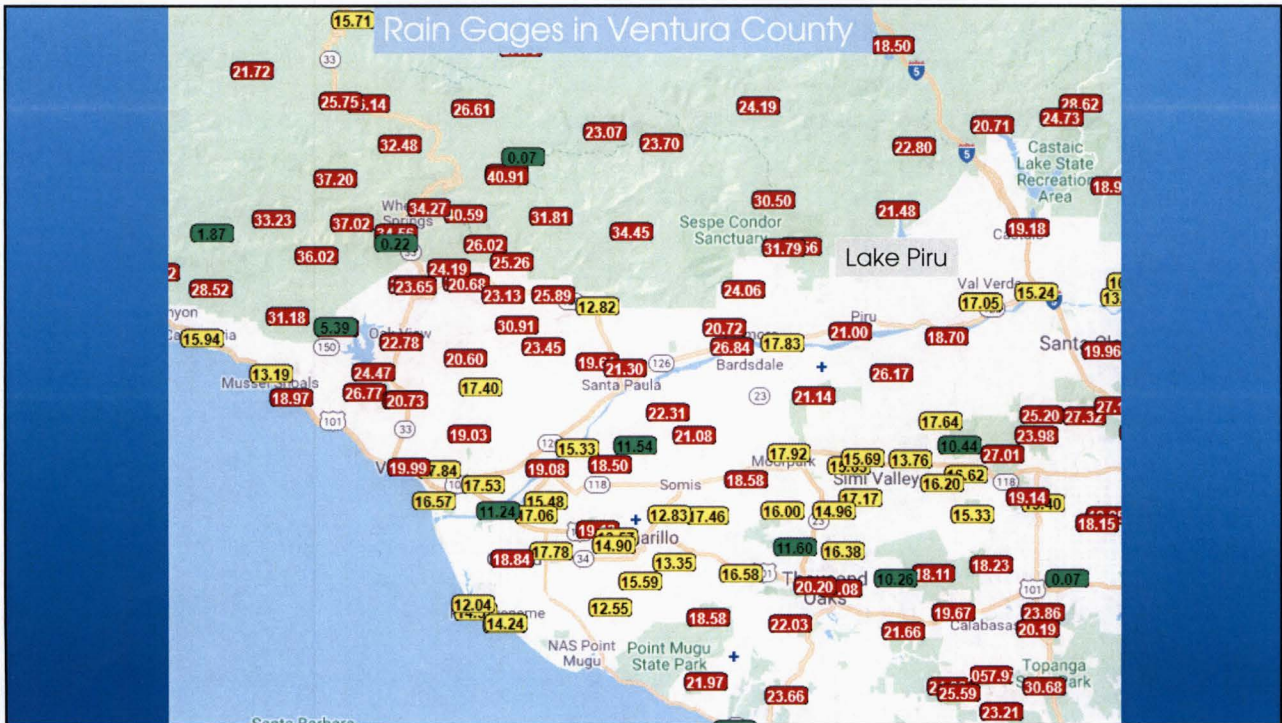
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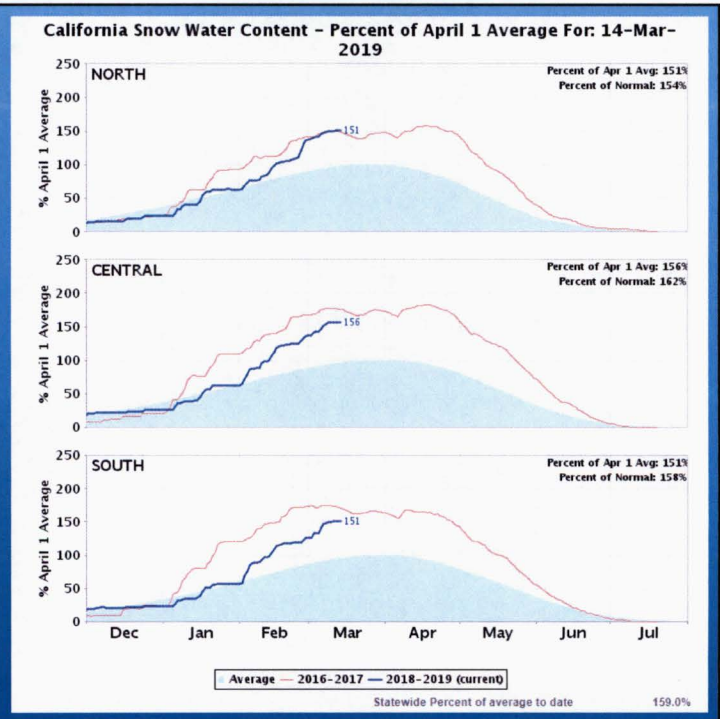
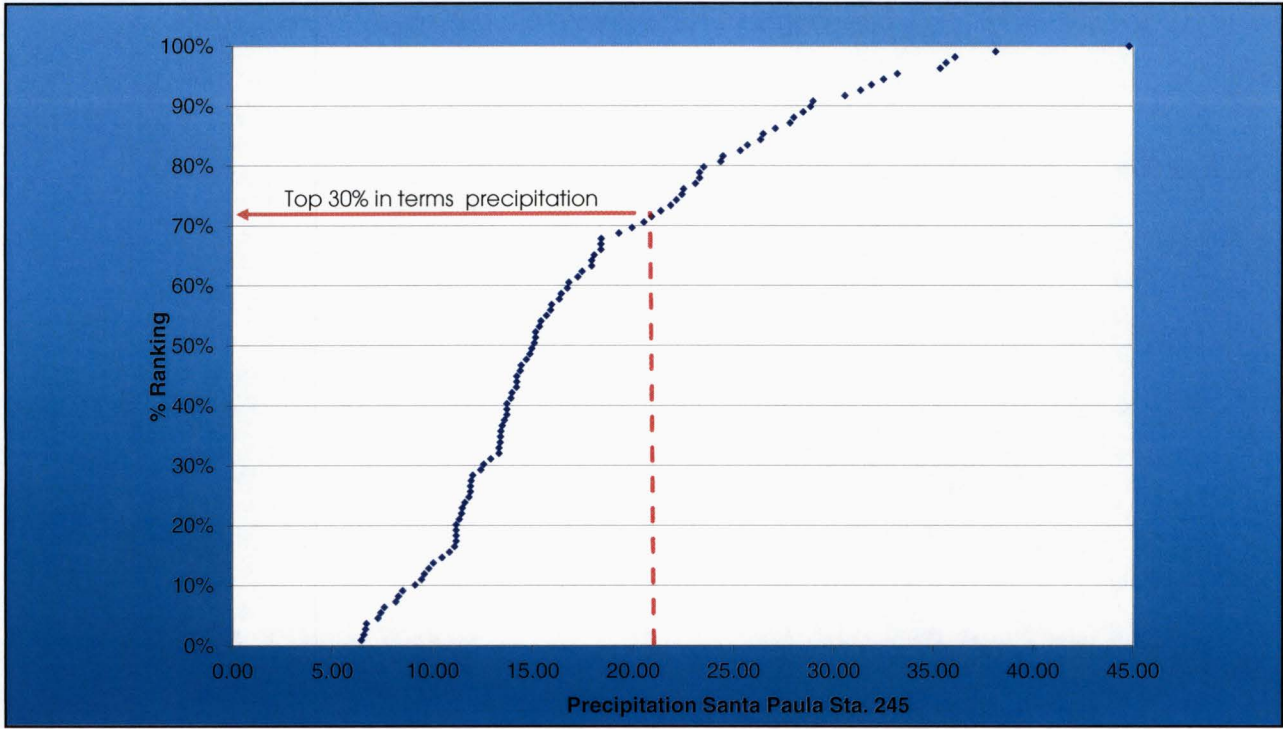
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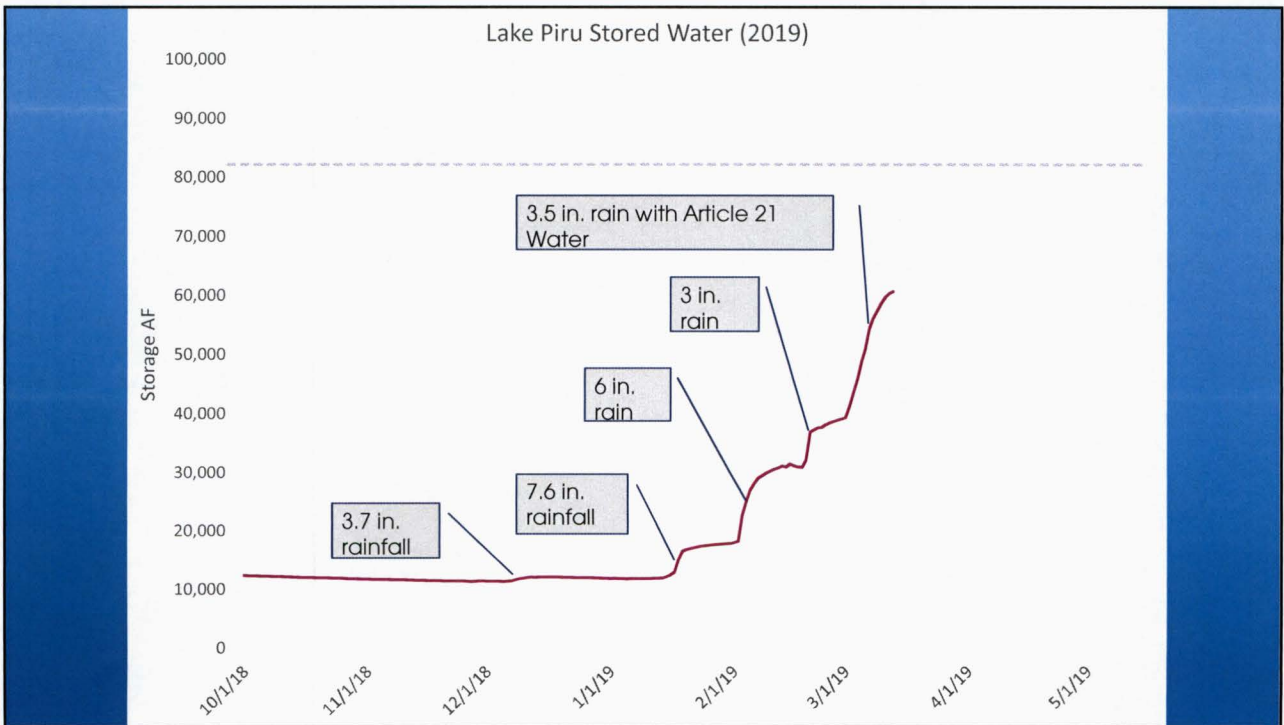
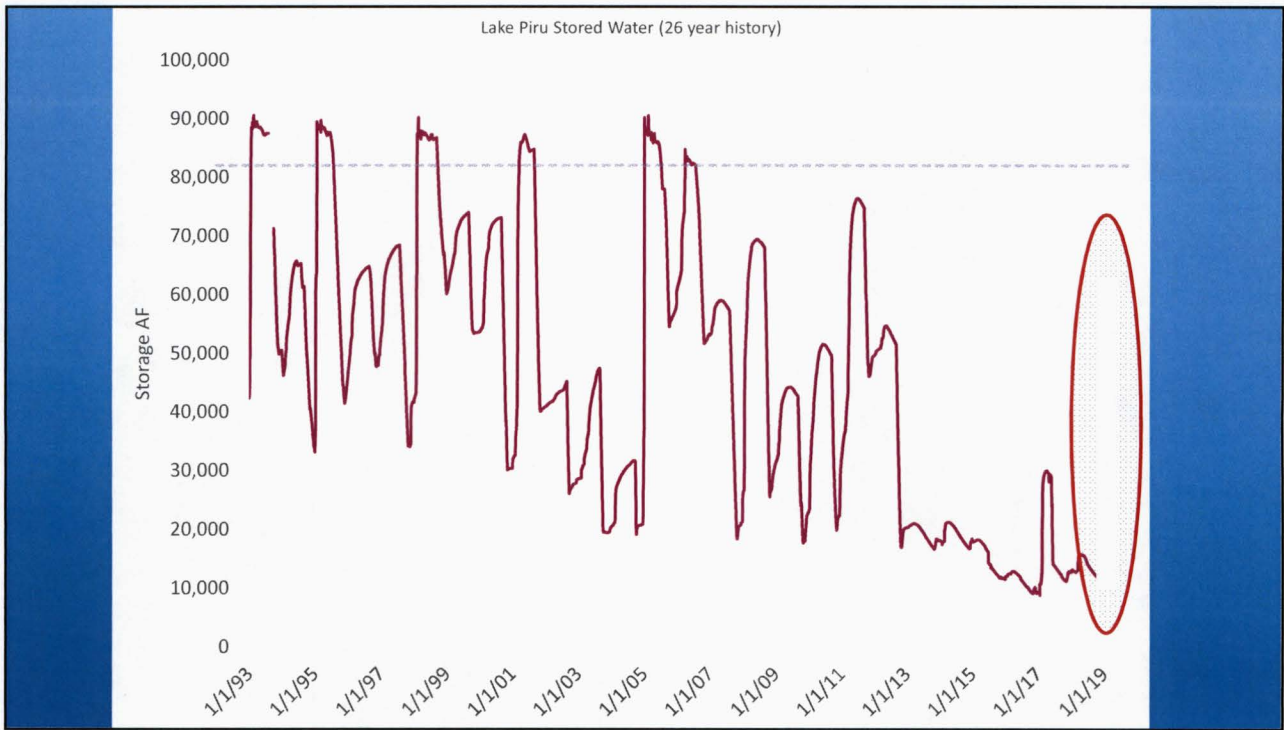
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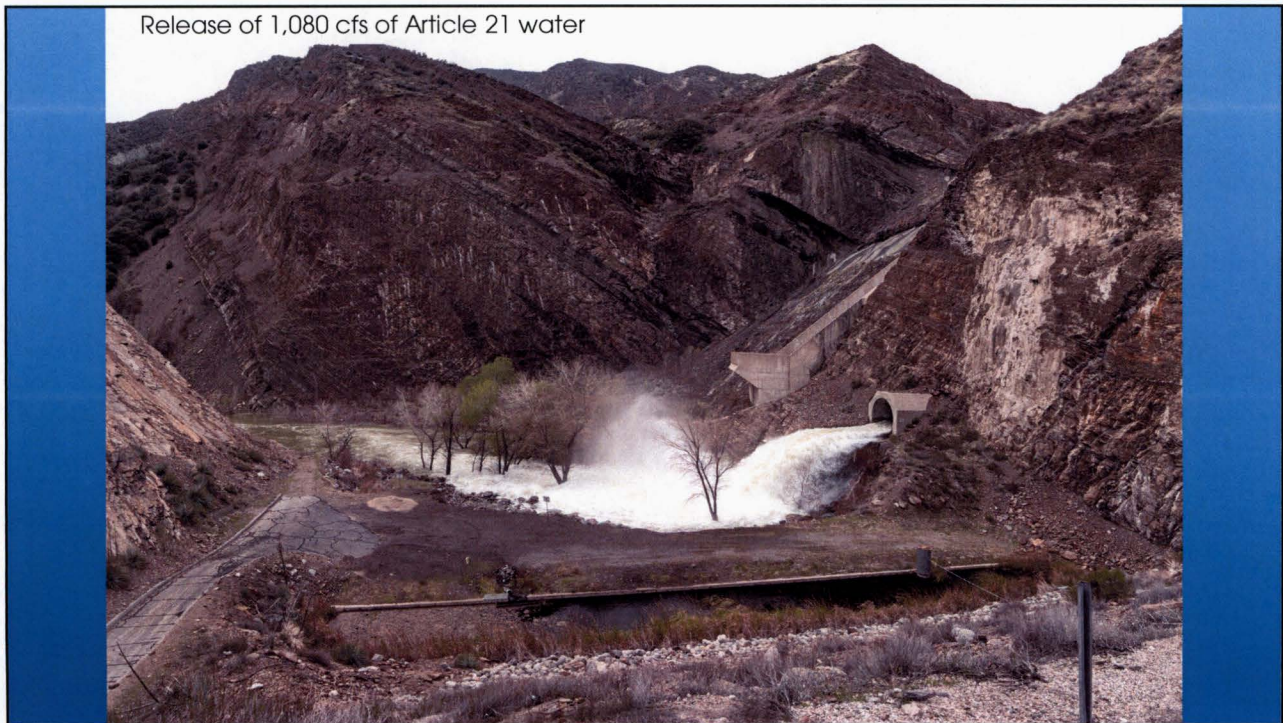
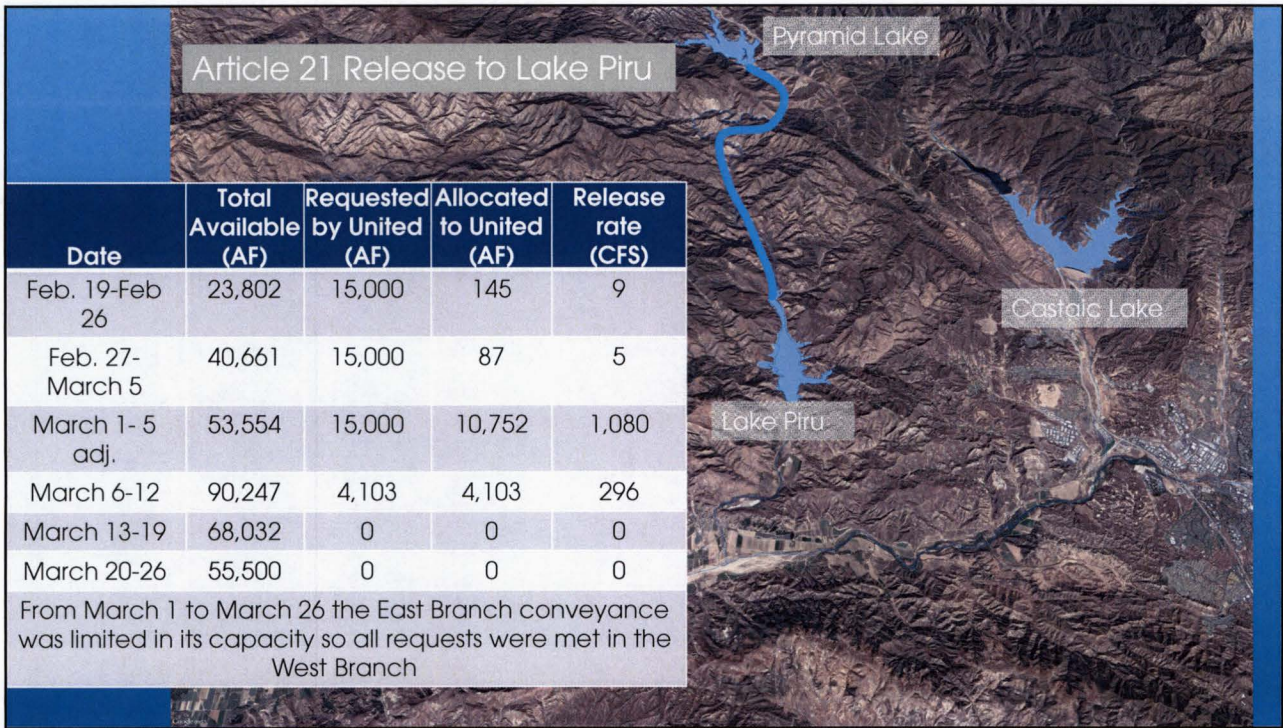
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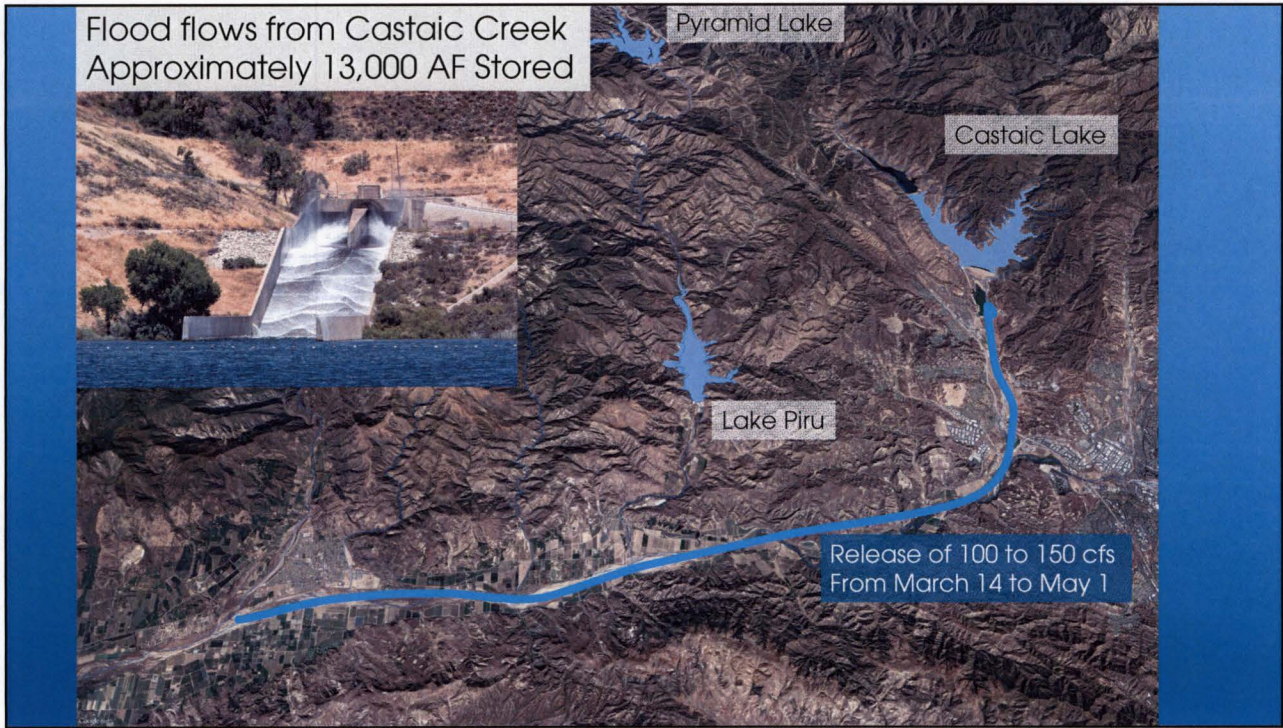
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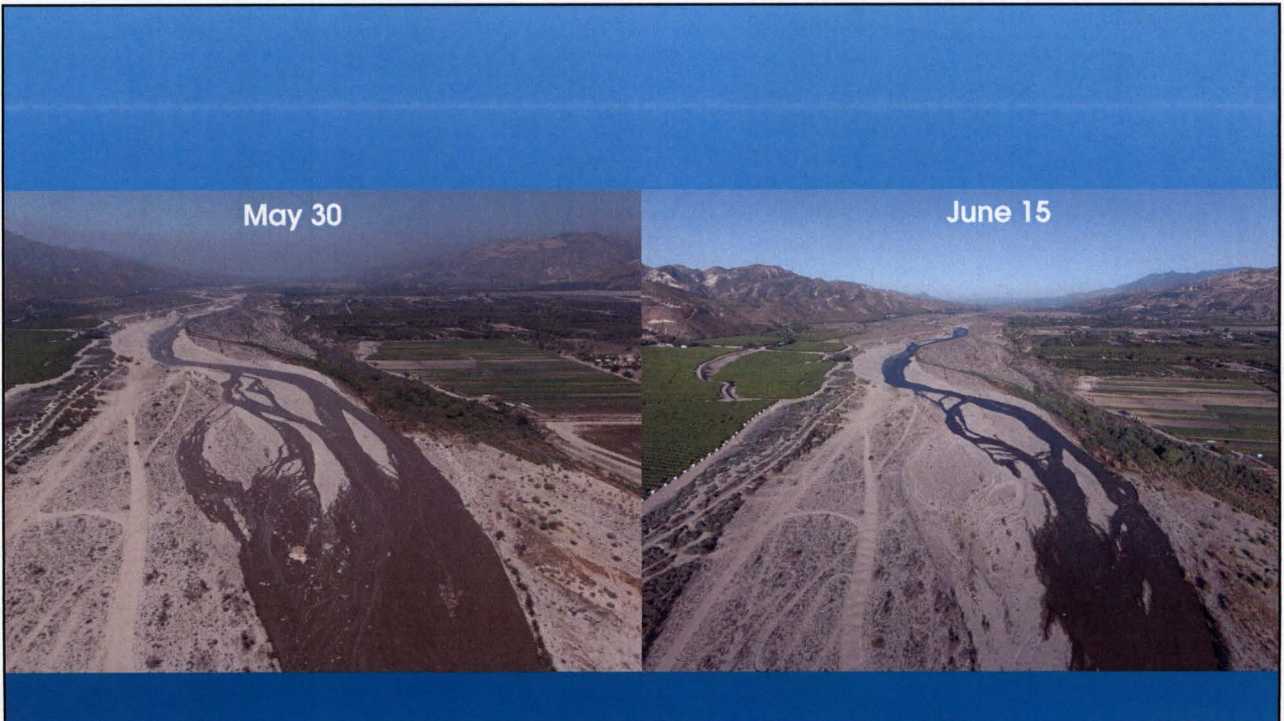




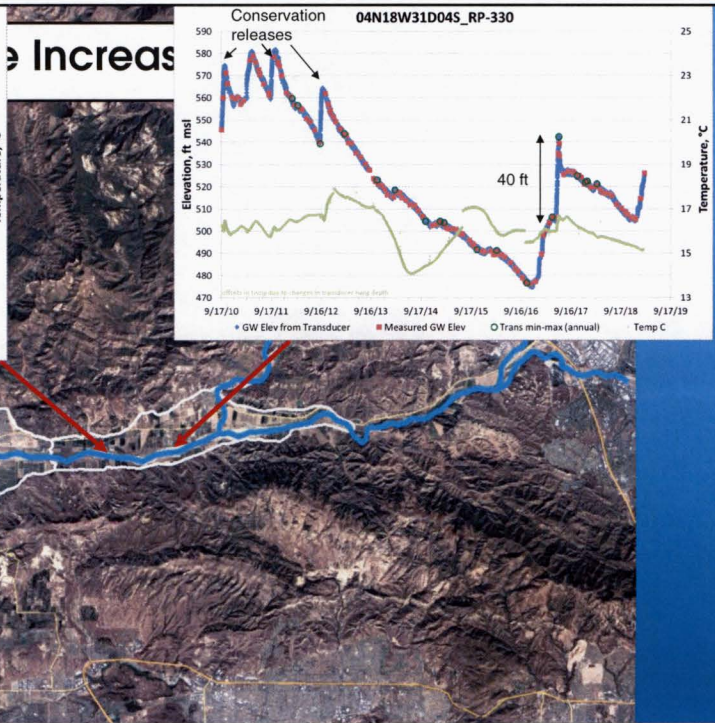
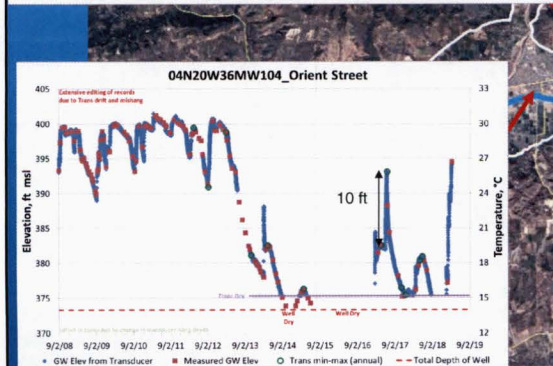
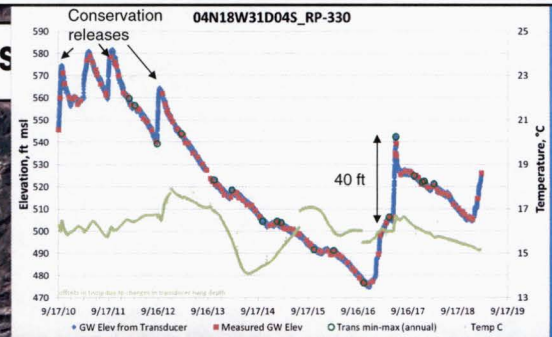
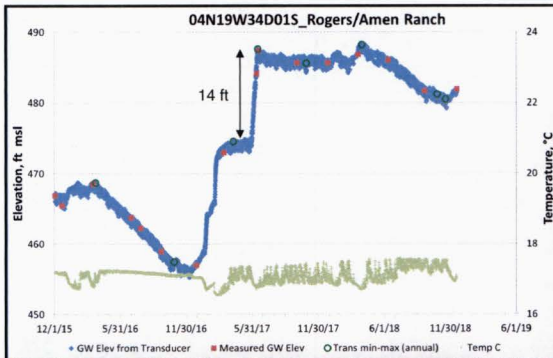
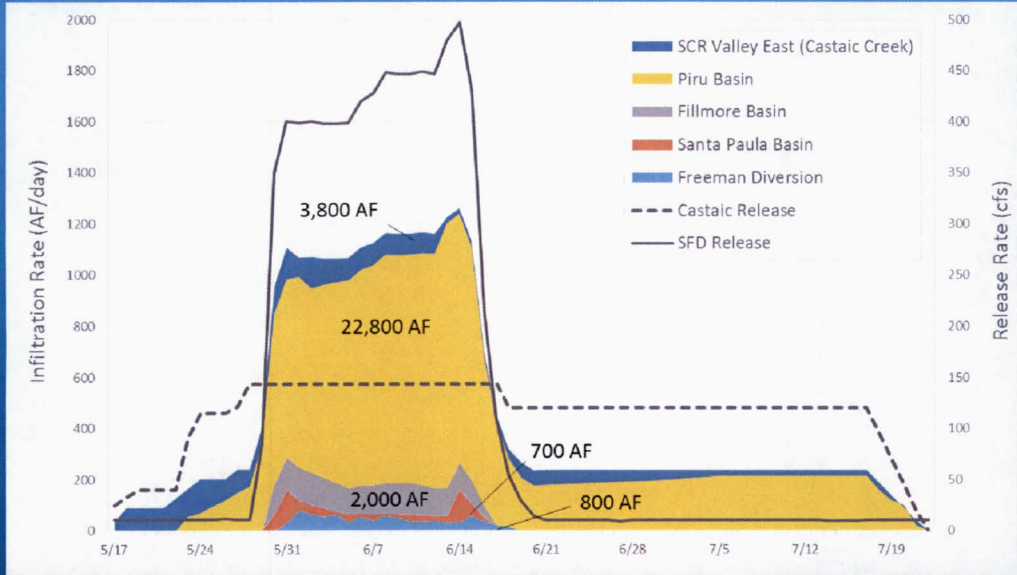




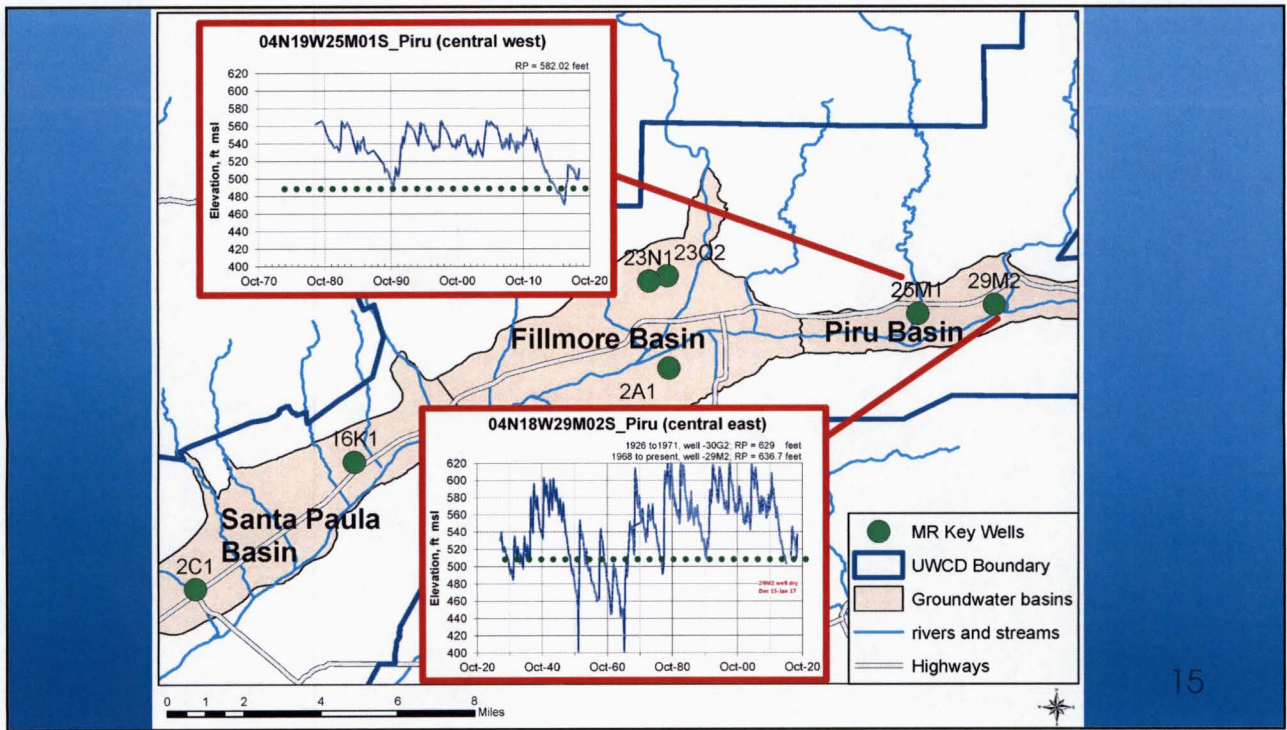
# PIRU CREEK CONFLUENT (JUNE 15)



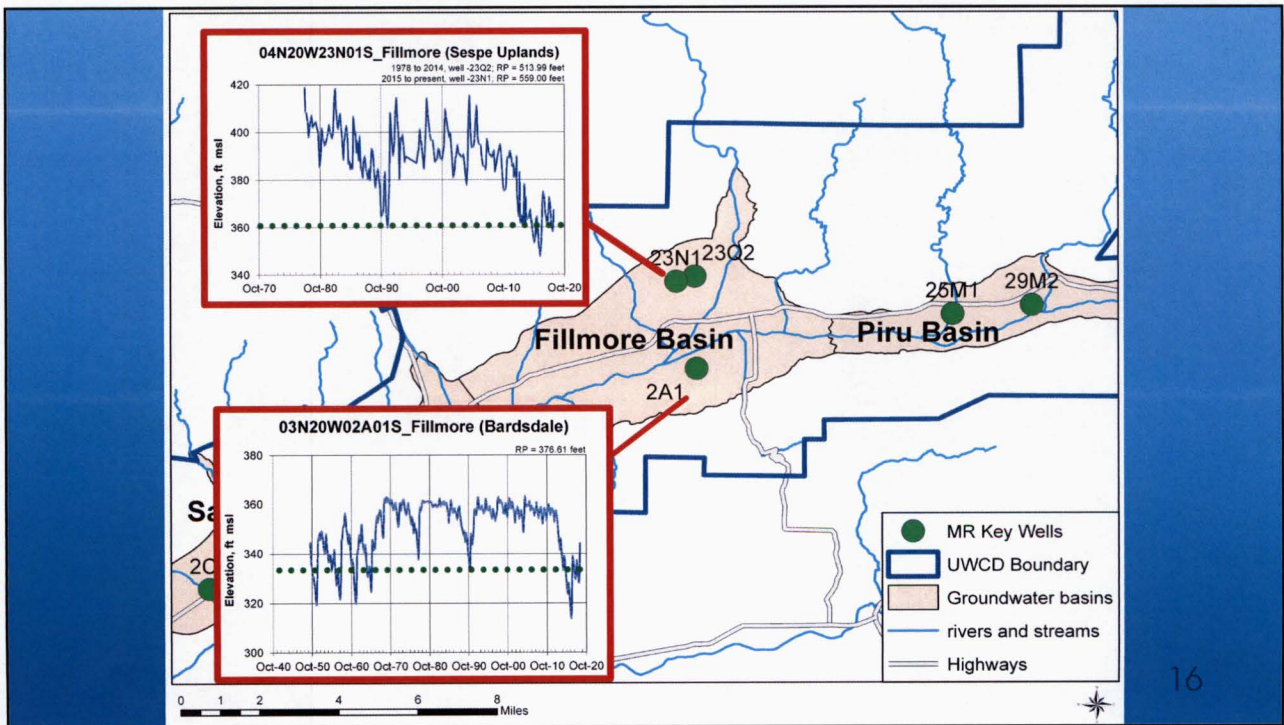
# DIRECT BENEFITS TO GROUNDWATER BASINS







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