



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday
March 17, 2022
5:00 p.m.

In accordance with the California Governor's Executive Stay at Home Order and the County of Ventura Health Officer Declared Local Health Emergency and Be Well at Home Order resulting from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Fillmore City Hall is closed to the public. Therefore, the FPB GSA will be holding its Regular Board of Directors meeting virtually using the ZOOM video conferencing application.

To participate in the Board of Directors meeting via Zoom, please access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480305580?pwd=ZnFBWGhtVU05dXd3REFkM255c0h6UT09>

Meeting ID: 854 8030 5580

Password: FPBGSA

To hear just the audio portion of the meeting, phone into the toll-free number 877 853 5247

Meeting ID: **854 8030 5580**

All participants are asked to join the meeting at least five minutes in advance of the 5pm start time and be aware that all participants will be "muted" until recognized by the host. If your computer has a camera, please enable it so we can ensure better engagement between participants.

If you would like to address the Board with a question or offer a comment, please follow these simple instructions to engage the host (Clerk of the Board):

1. During a meeting, click on the icon labeled "Participants" at the bottom center of your computer screen.
2. At the bottom of the window on the right side of the screen, click the button labeled "Raise Hand."
3. Once you've been recognized by the Chair, please click on "Raise Hand" again to remove the signal.

Audio Settings ^



Chat



Raise Hand



Q&A

Similarly, if you have a comment or question for the Board, you can use the "Chat" button to convey your question or comment to the HOST, who will put you in line to address the Board.

The Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA Board of Directors appreciates your participation and patience in using Zoom to conduct its public meeting.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

1A Pledge of Allegiance

1B Directors Roll Call

1C Public Comments

Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) will accept public comment concerning agenda items at the time the item is considered and on any non-agenda item within the jurisdiction of the Board during the agendaized Public Comment period. No action will be taken by the Board on any non-agenda item. In accordance with Government Code § 54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per issue.

1D Approval of Agenda Motion

2. UPDATES

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications: Oral Reports from the Board

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

County of Ventura Member Director Update

2B Executive Director Update Information Item

The Executive Director will provide an informational update on Agency activities since the previous Board meeting of February 17, 2022.

2C Legal Counsel Update Information Item

Legal Counsel will provide an informational update on Agency's legal issues and concerns since the previous Board of Directors meeting of February 17, 2022.

2D GSP Consultant Update Information Item

Representatives from Daniel B Stephens & Associates will provide an informational update on Agency's groundwater sustainability planning and reporting activities since the previous Board meeting of February 17, 2022.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the regular Board Meeting of February 17, 2022.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving payment of outstanding vendor invoices

- DBS&A Consultants \$13,016.76

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive the Agency's monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

3D Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2022-04 continuing findings that the requisite conditions exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e).

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Annual Reports to Department of Water Resources

Motion

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on the Annual Reports to the Department of Water Resources and provide comments and direction to staff.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5A Governmental Advocacy Platform Development

Information

The Board will receive and consider governmental advocacy platform documents from other regional agencies to inform the Board's future discussions regarding potential development of an Agency Governmental Advocacy Platform.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on Thursday, **April 21, 2022**, or call of the Chair.

Materials, which are non-exempt public records and are provided to the Board of Directors to be used in consideration of the above agenda items, including any documents provided subsequent to the publishing of this agenda, are available for inspection at UWCD's offices at 1701 N. Lombard Street in Oxnard during normal business hours.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the UWCD Office at (805) 525-4431 or the City of Fillmore at (805) 524- 1500. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Approved: 
Board Chair Kelly Long

Posted: (date) March 11, 2022 (time) 5:30pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: <https://www.FPBGSA.org>

Posted: (date) March 11, 2022 (time) 5:45pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: <https://www.facebook.com/FPBGSA/>

Posted: (date) March 11, 2022 (time) 6:00 pm (attest) Eva Ibarra
At: UWCD, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030



Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2022
5 p.m.
MINUTES

Directors Present

Director Kelly Long, chair
Director Ed McFadden, vice chair/secretary/treasurer director
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Candice Meneghin
Director Glen Pace
Director Christina Villaseñor

Staff Present

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Steve O'Neill, legal counsel
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the board

Public Present

Lisa Ballin, DBS&A, consultant
Dan Detmer, UWCD
Carole Fornoff
Zachary Hanson, UWCD
Logan Hardison
Rachel Laenen, FBPA and PBPA
Heather Merenda, City of Santa Clarita
Tony Morgan, DBS&A, consultant
James Thurber
Gus Tolley, DBS&A, consultant
Steve Zimmer, Five Points

1. CALL TO ORDER 5:00pm

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

1A Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Director Anthony Emmert asked everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1B Directors Roll Call

Chair Long asked the clerk to conduct roll call. Directors Kimball, Chair Long, Vice Chair McFadden, Director Meneghin, Director Pace, and Director Villaseñor were present.

1C Public Comments

Chair Long asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

1D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Motion to approve the agenda, Director McFadden; Second, Director Villaseñor.
Roll call vote: six ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor);
none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

2. UPDATES

**2A Director Announcements/Board Communications:
Information Item**

Oral Reports from the Board

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Kimball stated the Fillmore Pumpers Associations Board of Directors had its monthly board meeting on February 8, and the big topic of discussion was when will the GSA go to quarterly meeting, and what is the next step for the GSA. He then said he would have Director Pace fill-in on other items that were discussed

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Pace reported on behalf of the Piru Basin Pumpers Association, by stating the group is interested in learning what is next now that the GSA has gone over the first hurdle of submitting the GSPs and what does that mean to the GSA? What will the GSA be doing going forward and, how may the pumpers support that and what will be needed. He reiterated the pumpers' desire to reduce the number of GSA meetings.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin stated Friends of the Santa Clara River participated in the next round of Water Talks on February 1, with a webinar for disadvantage community engagement, and mentioned the group has been asked to submit a grant to help support capacity building. She also mentioned Friends of the Santa Clara River spoke in favor of the CalTrout petition to list southern California steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Director Meneghin also mentioned on February 19, there will be a tree planting volunteer day at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery, and on March 6, there will be another tree planting event at Hedrick Ranch, and an opportunity to do some hands-on restoration for the community.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Villaseñor stated the City Council now meets on the second and fourth

Tuesday of every month and said the City received Federal funding of a little under \$4 million dollars and listed a few of the improvements City of Fillmore plans for the funding.

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Vice Chair McFadden had nothing to report.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long stated that the County of Ventura mask mandate for indoors has now been lifted as of February 15. She also mentioned grant applications are in progress and thanked everyone for all the hard work in preparing these grant applications.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

Executive Director Emmert reported the GSA has received notice from Department of Water Resources that its GSPs are now posted on the SGMA portal and are available for public review and comment for 75 days. He also stated the GSA has submitted grant progress report 11 and invoice 11 to DWR, on February 15. He also provided an update on past due receivables, with a total of approximately \$166,000. He said statements for groundwater pumping during the period of July through December 2021 are currently being prepared and will be mailed in late February or early March 2022. Mr. Emmert also said the County of Ventura has sent a letter informing the agency that the County ordinance code Section 4826.1 no longer prohibits the construction of new wells in the Fillmore and Piru basins, as the agency has adopted and submitted its GSPs to DWR. Staff has recommended the agency develop well construction requirements and permitting process in line with its GSPs. To finalize his update, he reminded all required members to file their CFPPC Form 700, and said he hopes we can soon celebrate the submittal of the agency's GSPs, after the Omicron wave passes.

Tony Morgan raised his hand and stated that with regard to the well ordinance, there have been some recent lawsuits about what parts of well ordinances are ministerial and which are not. If the GSA makes decisions on well permitting, it can easily cross the legal threshold into something where CEQA is now involved. He suggested that the GSA work with its legal team to ensure the GSA does not have any issues. Legal Counsel Steve O'Neill stated he will look into the Agency's authorities in this area and report back at a future meeting.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Legal Counsel Steve O'Neill stated he prepared continuation for AB361, reviewed, and executed agreement for DBS&A and reminded all to complete their Form 700s.

2D GSP Consultant Update
Information Item

Mr. Tony Morgan said the annual reports are underway, the latest pumping and water quality data has been uploaded to the Agency's database, and a template has been created for the GSA's annual reports, based upon what DBS&A thinks DWR wants. He also stated the GSPs are upload to DWRs website and the GSA's website and are now in the comment period. He stated he will be delivering hardcopies of the final GSPs on Monday to Directors, Legal Counsel, and libraries.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the Minutes from the regular Board Meeting of January 17, 2022.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board approved payment of outstanding vendor invoices:

- Roger, Anderson, Malody & Scott LLP \$ 950.00
- United Water Conservation District \$28,277.90
- DBS&A Consultants \$28,530.28

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board received the Agency's monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet.

3D Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

The Board adopted Resolution 2022-03 continuing findings that the requisite conditions exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e).

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar items; Director McFadden; Second, Director Pace. Roll call vote: Six ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace, Villaseñor); none opposed; motion carries unanimously 6/0.

4. MOTION ITEMS

4A Governmental Advocacy Platform Development

Motion

The Board provided comments and direction to staff on the development of an Agency Governmental Advocacy Platform.

Director Meneghin stated the primary reason for requesting an advocacy platform is to position the agency to influence funding toward projects, for example, projects that would benefit the groundwater dependent ecosystem areas, and multi-benefit projects.

Director McFadden asked if the GSA needed more than the guiding principles that it already has in place.

Chair Long said the County has a legislative platform that includes positions on water issues and is sure United also has some as well. She agreed that the GSA should support funding opportunities and said she just signed a multiple-agency letter prepared by Metropolitan Water requesting state funding for infrastructure to protect against drought, which is something the GSA can also support. She asked if each bill needs to be presented to this Board for approval and asked if the GSA is going to be engaging that much on legislation. She then asked the each of the Directors to share their point of view.

Director Meneghin said the County's legislative platform would be helpful to review especially for the infrastructure funding coming from the federal government. She also stated that the environmental stakeholders group has been contacted from various agencies regarding identifying the GSA's priority projects, and which ones would be eligible for the next one to five year timeframe with regards to restoration efforts. She added, it would be a worthwhile exercise once the GSA starts having project development discussions, and the Board can then look at the projects to see how they fit into the funding that is available and advocate for that.

Chair Long asked the Directors what their sense of advocating is. Director Kimball asked that legal ensure that both the SGMA legislation and the GSA's JPA do not impact what the Board can do with regard to advocating, and make sure the GSA stays within the laws of SGMA and not become a legislative activist.

Legal Counsel O'Neill said he will investigate this and report back to Executive Director Emmert.

Director Pace asked if the Board does not take action, and does not create a document, does that hurt the GSA in any way? He also asked if the Board does take action, then he recommends putting together a document a little more detailed than the guiding principles and use that as a guide for the future. When the Board holds a discussion, it can go back to these guidelines. He asked what the pros or cons would be if the Board did this? As of now, the Board brings up issues and discusses them to determine if the Board needs to take some kind of action. Director Pace asked if there was a benefit or negative of going down the path of developing a platform.

Executive Director Emmert replied stating Director Pace is correct that this is not a requirement. Some agencies have this because they have a legislative advocacy program and may have a lobbyist and/or may have someone in Sacramento or D.C. and they can provide a two-page list of bills to support or oppose. He continued, stating that he does not believe this agency would pay for a lobbyist or legislative advocate, although there are some things the Board can discuss in advance and provided an example. He concluded his comments by saying an advocacy list should be simple and stick with things that are within the GSA's bylaws and SGMA.

Director Meneghin stated that she recommends that the Board discuss and adopt a platform, so that it can respond quickly to meet deadlines in the legislative process or funding without having to have a Board meeting to decide, as an opportunity can pass the agency by.

Executive Director Emmert agreed with Director Meneghin, as funding may have short deadlines and it will be more important when the GSA switches over to bimonthly meetings.

Director McFadden said he is curious to see what Legal Counsel has to say about this and wants the GSA to be careful that it does not go beyond its responsibilities by putting together a platform, as he does not see any issues where the Board cannot talk about an item before the Board has to act. He reiterated that he would not be able to support a platform but would not mind ongoing discussions.

Director Meneghin said she would like to review the County's legislative platform, maybe even the City of Fillmore's platform, since it is such a large member of the Board. She also mentioned having some language about preauthorization through funding.

Chair Long said she would share the County's information with Executive Director Emmert, and he can share with the other Board members. She also mentioned other items she could share that may benefit the Agency.

Director Villaseñor said she likes the idea of a document if there is a need for preauthorization for seeking funding, so as to be ready for a quick turnaround on funding requests, or even give allowance to Executive Director Emmert to represent the best interest of the Board.

Director Kimball asked if United has a legislative platform, and if it does, would Executive Director Emmert share that with the Board as United is so like our agency. Executive Director Emmert said yes, United does have one and he would share along with the County's and the City of Fillmore's platform.

Director Meneghin stated the objective is so the GSA can take advantage of the opportunities to leverage funding when it arises, and that bringing in state or federal government funding avoids raising rates for the pumpers.

The Board decided to table this motion.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

None mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT 5:48 p.m.

Chair Long adjourned the Board meeting at 5:48pm to the next Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2022, 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 February 17, 2022.

ATTEST: _____
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Check Detail
February 1 - 8, 2022

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Original Amount
Bill Pmt -Check	11148	02/08/2022	Daniel B Stephens & Associates, Inc.	10000 · Bank of the Sierra	-28,530.28
Bill Pmt -Check	11149	02/08/2022	Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott, LLP	10000 · Bank of the Sierra	-950.00
Bill Pmt -Check	11150	02/08/2022	United Water Conservation District	10000 · Bank of the Sierra	-28,277.90
					<hr/> -57,758.18



Fillmore and Piru Basins
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Item No. **3C Consent Calendar**

DATE: **March 3, 2022**

TO: **Board of Directors**

SUBJECT: **Monthly Financial Report**

SUMMARY

The Board will receive the monthly financial report for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).

BACKGROUND

UWCD accounting staff has prepared financial reports based on the Agency revenue and expenses for the month of February 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Attachments: February 28, 2022 P/L Budget Performance
 February 28, 2022 Balance Sheet

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2021 through February 2022

	<u>Jul '21 -Feb '22</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income			
40001 · Groundwater Extraction Charge	0.00	540,000.00	0.00%
41000 · Grant Revenue			
41001 · State Grants	0.00	537,970.00	0.00%
Total 41000 · Grant Revenue	0.00	537,970.00	
47000 · Other Revenue			
47001 · Late Fees	21,985.31	0.00	
47012 · Returned Check Charges	0.00	0.00	
Total 47000 · Other Revenue	21,985.31	0.00	
Total Income	21,985.31	1,077,970.00	2.04%
Gross Profit	21,985.31	1,077,970.00	2.04%
Expense			
52200 · Professional Services			
52240 · Prof Svcs - IT Consulting	509.44	1,700.00	29.97%
52250 · Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep			
52251 · Prof Svcs - UWCD GW Services	12,149.19	0.00	
52252 · Prof Svcs - GSP Consultant	223,333.19	430,000.00	51.94%
Total 52250 · Prof Svcs - Groundwtr/GSP Prep	235,482.38	430,000.00	54.76%
52270 · Prof Svcs - Accounting	16,548.16	24,200.00	68.38%
52275 · Prof Svcs - Admin/Clerk of Bd	8,261.37	25,000.00	33.05%
52280 · Prof Svcs - Executive Director	37,491.48	40,000.00	93.73%
52290 · Prof Svcs - Other	0.00	0.00	
Total 52200 · Professional Services	298,292.83	520,900.00	57.26%
52500 · Legal Fees			
52501 · Legal Counsel	9,460.50	30,000.00	31.54%
Total 52500 · Legal Fees	9,460.50	30,000.00	31.54%
53000 · Office Expenses			
53010 · Public Information	574.04	1,000.00	57.40%
53020 · Office Supplies	510.52	500.00	102.10%
53026 · Postage & Mailing	315.87	2,000.00	15.79%
53040 · Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	
53060 · Computer Software	0.00	0.00	
53110 · Travel & Training	58.70	4,000.00	1.47%
Total 53000 · Office Expenses	1,459.13	7,500.00	19.46%
53500 · Insurance			
53510 · Liability Insurance	2,287.12	2,500.00	91.48%
Total 53500 · Insurance	2,287.12	2,500.00	91.48%
70130 · Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	
81000 · Capital Expenditures	0.00	505,000.00	0.00%
Total Expense	311,499.58	1,065,900.00	29.22%
Net Income	-289,514.27	12,070.00	-2398.63%

Fillmore and Piru Basins GSA
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2022

	<u>Feb 28, 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Bank of the Sierra	812,794.22
Total Checking/Savings	<u>812,794.22</u>
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	226,962.66
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>226,962.66</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,039,756.88</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,039,756.88</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	13,026.74
Total Accounts Payable	<u>13,026.74</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>13,026.74</u>
Total Liabilities	13,026.74
Equity	
32000 · Retained Earnings	1,316,244.41
Net Income	-289,514.27
Total Equity	<u>1,026,730.14</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,039,756.88</u></u>



Item No. **3D Motion**

DATE: March 9, 2022 (for March 17, 2022 meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony A. Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements**

SUMMARY

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Governor signed Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) on September 16, 2021, that temporarily exempts agencies from certain requirements of the Brown Act and adds additional requirements for public meetings held by teleconference. This staff report provides an analysis of the changes to the Brown Act per AB 361. During its October 21, 2021 meeting, the Agency's Board adopted Resolution 2021-06 authorizing the use of the AB 361 provisions for its meetings. Adoption of Resolution 2022-04 continues the authorization of the use of AB 361 provisions for the coming 30 days.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2022-04 continuing findings that the requisite conditions exist for remote teleconference meetings of the Agency's legislative bodies without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e).

BACKGROUND

In March of 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N-29-20, which waived Brown Act requirements found in Gov. Code § 54953(b)(3) for teleconference participation in public meetings. In particular, this Order waived:

- a) The requirement that state and local bodies notice each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting;
- b) The requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public;
- c) The requirement that members of the public may address the body at each teleconference location;
- d) The requirement that state and local bodies post agendas at all teleconference locations; and
- e) The requirement that, during teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local body exercises jurisdiction.

Executive Order N-29-20 expired on September 30, 2021. However, AB 361 was signed by the Governor to extend the provisions of N-29-20, subject to certain conditions to be met by the local legislative body utilizing its exemptions. AB 361 also imposes certain new requirements, detailed below.

Item No: 3D: Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

ANALYSIS

AB 361 exempts local legislative bodies from certain Brown Act requirements currently governing teleconferencing. These exemptions may be used only in one of the following circumstances:

- a) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- b) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for purposes of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.
- c) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined by majority vote pursuant to b) above that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Currently, the Governor's state of emergency regarding COVID-19 is still in effect, and the Ventura County Health Officer has recommended that legislative bodies in the County continue to follow social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID.

Further, AB 361 requires the Agency to reconsider the state of emergency and make such determination every 30 days after commencing use of its exemptions. However, if during the 30-day period the Agency wishes to meet in person, they may choose to do so despite adopting the proposed Resolution. The intent of the Resolution is merely to allow the Board members to avail themselves of the AB 361 teleconferencing conveniences if they so choose.

Finally, in addition to allowing for the above exemptions, AB 361 adds the following requirements:

- a) The legislative body must give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by the Brown Act.
- b) The legislative body must allow members of the public to access the meeting, and the agenda must provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Brown Act requirements. In each instance where notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body must also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda must identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via call-in option or an internet-based service option. The legislative body need not provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.
- c) The legislative body must conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body.
- d) In the event of a disruption that prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in or internet-based service options, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in or internet-based service options, the legislative body must take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption preventing the broadcast of the meeting may be challenged as provided in the Brown Act.
- e) The legislative body may not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting, and it must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

Item No: 3D: Subsequent Finding Regarding Continuation of AB 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements

- f) The legislative body may use an online third-party system for individuals to provide public comment that requires an individual to register with the system prior to providing comment.
- g) If a legislative body provides a timed public comment period, it may not close the comment period or the time to register to provide comment under f) until the timed period has elapsed. If the legislative body does not provide a time-limited comment period, it must allow a reasonable time for the public to comment on each agenda item and to register as necessary under f).

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 2022-04. Doing so will enable the Agency's continued use of the AB 361 exemptions to Brown Act teleconferencing requirements, while allowing the Board to hold in person meetings at its discretion.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 2022-04

Proposed Motion: Adoption of Resolution 2022-04.

1st: Director _____

2nd: Director _____

Voice/Roll call vote: Director Kimball:

Director Long:

Director McFadden:

Director Meneghin:

Director Pace:

Director Villasenor:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FILLMORE & PIRU
BASINS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE
USE OF TELECONFERENCING FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FILLMORE & PIRU BASINS
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY** as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California (“Governor”) proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist as a result of the threat of COVID-19. (Governor’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency (Mar. 4, 2020).)

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); and Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-08-21 (Jun. 11, 2021) provided that local legislative bodies may hold public meetings via teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body and waived the Brown Act provisions found in Govt. Code section 54953(b)(3) which require the physical presence of the members, the clerk, or other personnel of the body, or the public, as a condition of participation in, or quorum for, a public meeting, including:

- a) The requirement that state and local bodies notice each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting.
- b) The requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public.
- c) The requirement that members of the public may address the body at each teleconference location.
- d) The requirement that state and local bodies post agendas at all teleconference locations.
- e) The requirement that, during teleconference meetings, at least a quorum of the members of the local body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local body exercises jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, the provisions of Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-25-20 (Mar. 12, 2020); Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-29-20 (Mar. 17, 2020); and Governor’s Exec. Order No. N-08-21 (Jun. 11, 2021) expired on September 30, 2021 and are no longer in effect thereafter;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control is currently contending with the Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus and anticipates the development of potential other strains which may further impede public agency operations and prolong the need for social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation (A.B. 361) authorizes a local legislative body to use teleconferencing for a public meeting without complying with the Brown Act’s teleconferencing quorum, meeting notice, and agenda requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953(b)(3), in any of the following circumstances:

- a) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

- b) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for purposes of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.
- c) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined by majority vote pursuant to b) above that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Fillmore & Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. All of the foregoing Recitals are true and correct, and the Board so finds and determines. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and made an operative part of this Resolution.

Section 2. Adoption of AB 361. The Board has determined by majority vote that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Section 3. Continued Implementation of AB-361. If the state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed measures to promote social distancing, the Board of Directors of the Fillmore & Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall, in order to continue meeting subject to this exemption to the Brown Act, no later than 30 days after it commences using the exemption, and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

- a) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; *and*
- b) Either (1) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or (2) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Section 4. Applicability. The health and safety findings and determination that teleconference meetings are appropriate applies to all District committees and legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on March 17, 2022.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Scott Nave, General Counsel



Item No. 4A Information

DATE: March 10, 2022 (for March 17, 2022 meeting)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anthony Emmert, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Annual Reports to Department of Water Resources

RECCOMENDATION:

The Board will receive a presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on the Annual Reports to the Department of Water Resources and provide comments and direction to staff.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that groundwater sustainability agencies such as the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) produce and submit annual reports for each groundwater basin to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year. SGMA also requires that groundwater sustainability agencies update and keep current their public databases of groundwater information. The Agency’s groundwater sustainability consultant Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBS&A) has prepared annual reports for both the Fillmore basin and the Piru basin that conform to the requirements of SGMA and has updated the Agency’s database of groundwater information. DBS&A will provide the Board with an overview of the two reports. Prior to April 1, 2022, the Agency will upload the reports to the DWR SGMA portal.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Fillmore Basin Annual Report

Piru Basin Annual Report not available at the time of agenda distribution, and will be distributed when available.

Proposed Motion:

Provide comments and direction to staff and consultants on the Annual Reports to the Department of Water Resources.

1 st : Director _____	2 nd : Director _____
Voice/Roll call vote: Director Kimball:	Director Long: Director McFadden
Director Meneghin:	Director Pace: Director Villasenor:

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DRAFT

Executive Summary

[Exec summary here.]

1. Introduction

The Fillmore Subbasin (the Basin) is managed with the adjacent Piru Subbasin by the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the Agency). Following the submittal of the Fillmore Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) on January 31, 2020, the Agency is required to submit an annual report for the preceding Water Year (October 1 through September 30) to DWR by April 1 (23 C.C.R 356.2). These annual reports provide a summary of hydrologic conditions and water use in the Basin (Figure 1) using observed data from monitoring networks and/or estimated using best available methods. This annual report provides a brief summary of Basin water use and changes in groundwater storage during the period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, and provides context for Basin conditions relative to the sustainable management criteria developed for the Basin. This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements for annual reports as identified in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). More detailed analysis and discussion of long-term hydrologic trends will be included in the periodic evaluation of the GSP the Agency is required to perform at least every five years (23 C.C.R 356.2).

For additional clarification or more detailed information on the basin plan area or conditions, please refer to the Fillmore Subbasin GSP. As acknowledged by the Department of Water Resources, it is important to note that there are still some data gaps and missing information as the Agency continues to gather information for better analysis and decisions.

2. Groundwater Elevations

Groundwater elevation contour maps for the spring and fall of 2021 are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively. These maps depict the seasonal high (spring) and low (fall) water level elevations in the Basin. Spring and fall water level elevations are defined as observations within a four week period centered on April 1st or October 1st. If a well has multiple observations within this period, then the value collected nearest to April 1st or October 1st is used. The Basin is conceptualized as a single aquifer, and therefore subsetting water level data by well screen depth was not required.

Observed spring groundwater elevations (Figure 2) ranged from 259.11 to 697.16 ft above mean sea level (amsl), with an average elevation of 393.32 ft amsl. Fall groundwater elevations (Figure 3) ranged from 253 to 680.42 ft above mean sea level (amsl), with an average elevation of 377.18 ft amsl. Flow is generally from east to west, but is influenced by recharge along the margins of the

valley and drawdown in the vicinity of high-capacity irrigation wells. Average observed groundwater elevation change from October 2020 to October 2021 was -4.10 ft.

Hydrographs for representative monitoring points (RMPs) in the Basin are shown in Figure 4. With the exception of well 04N20W36MW104 located to the south of Fillmore, groundwater levels at RMPs are near their respective measureable objectives. Although well 04N20W36MW104 has shown declines in water levels since March 2021, recent observations show that this decline had slowed. The most recent groundwater elevation measured in the well was 381.27 ft amsl on December 7th, 2021. If the current trend continues, then well 04N20W36MW104 is not expected to reach the minimum threshold elevation of 376 ft amsl.

3. Groundwater Extractions

Groundwater pumpers that produce groundwater from the Basin pay United Water Conservation District (UWCD) an extraction fee based on the number of acre-ft they pump. Prior to 2022, this was reported on a 6-month basis (reporting to UWCD twice per calendar year). Period 1 covered January through June and period 2 covered July through December of each year. A description of the historical groundwater extraction monitoring in Fillmore Basin is provided in Section 3.5.1.4 of the Fillmore Subbasin GSP. In order to better comply with SGMA reporting requirements, pumping will be reported to the Agency on a quarterly (3-month) basis from 2022 onwards.

Groundwater pumpers are required to self-report groundwater extractions by well to UWCD using of three methods: domestic multiplier, electrical meter (based on Southern California Edison efficiency testing), or water flow meter. For non-reporters, an estimate from historical usage is entered in the groundwater production database for accounting and basin volume calculation purposes. For wells with water meters, reporting typically involves filing out a form and submitting an accompanying photograph of the digital totalizer reading. The extent to which "smart meters" or automated (advanced) metering infrastructure (AMI) technology is used by individual well owners to quantify their groundwater production is unknown in the Fillmore Basin. There is not currently a mechanism by which well owners can automatically report groundwater production from their water meters to UWCD or the Agency. De minimis domestic pumping can be reported to UWCD using a multiplier of 0.2 AF per person per 6-month period with a minimum of 0.5 AF (e.g., if there are 1 or 2 people reporting domestic usage on a well, then 0.5 AF minimum is assessed). De minimis pumpers (extractors) that have a meter on their well discharge have the option of calculating their usage based on the meter reading which may show less than 0.5 AF usage, and are billed based on actual usage.

Estimated groundwater extractions for WY 2021 grouped by water use sector and measurement method are shown in Table 1. Due to the timing of the 6-month measurement and billing cycle

Table 1. Groundwater Extractions

Sector	Method	GW Extraction Volume (AF)	Accuracy (%)	Range (AF)
Agriculture	Domestic	8	± 20	7 - 10
	Electrical			14,437 -
	Efficiency	18,046	± 20	21,655
	Water Meter	36,107	± 5	34,302 - 37,912
Agriculture Subtotal		54,161		48,746 - 59,577
Municipal and Industrial	Domestic	102	± 20	81 - 122
	Electrical			
	Efficiency	88	± 20	70 - 105
	Water Meter	2,436	± 5	2,314 - 2,557
Municipal and Industrial Subtotal		2,626		2,465 - 2,784
Total		56,787		51,211 - 62,361

described above, reported extractions for period 2 (July - December) of 2021 were not available at the time this annual report was developed. Since this is the only annual report that will have this issue as the billing cycle is now quarterly, development of a detailed approach for filling this data gap was deemed unnecessary. Instead, a simple approach that assumed groundwater extractions for period 2 of 2021 were equal to those in period 1 of 2021 was used. Groundwater pumping within each public land survey (PLSS) section (1 mi²) shows the spatial distribution of agricultural (Figure 5), municipal & industrial (Figure 6) and total (Figure 7) groundwater extractions within the Basin. Groundwater pumping totaled approximately 56,787 AF for agricultural beneficial uses accounted for about 95% of total groundwater extractions for WY 2021.

4. Surface Water Supply

Surface water used in the Basin grouped by source and measurement method is summarized in Table 2. All surface water diversions are used beneficially for agricultural irrigation. Not all diversions for WY 2021 were reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) at the time this report was written. Data gaps were filled by using average historical diversion records that corresponded with the same water year type as WY 2021 (Critical). Total surface water used in the Basin during WY 2021 was estimated to be 3,276 AF.

Table 2. Surface Water Use

Surface Water Source	Method	Annual Volume Used (AF)	Accuracy	Range (AF)
Local Supplies (AF)	Estimated from previously reported diversions	1,794	± 33 %	1,202 - 2,386
	Water Meter	988	± 5 %	939 - 1,037
	Weir	494	± 5 %	469 - 519
Total		3,276		2,610 - 3,942

5. Total Water Use

Total water use in the Basin grouped by water use sector and measurement method is shown in Table 3. Total water volume used in the Basin during WY 2021 was estimated to be 60,063 AF.

Table 3. Total Water Use

Sector	Method	Total Annual Volume (AF)	Accuracy	Range (AF)
Agriculture	Domestic	8	± 20 %	7 - 10
	Electrical Efficiency	18046	± 20 %	14,437 - 21,655
	Estimated from previously reported diversions	1794	± 33 %	1,202 - 2,386
	Water Meter	37095	± 5 %	35,241 - 38,949
	Weir	494	± 5 %	469 - 519
Agriculture Subtotal		57437	-	63,519
Municipal and Industrial	Domestic	102	± 20 %	81 - 122
	Electrical Efficiency	88	± 20 %	70 - 105
Municipal and Industrial	Water Meter	2436	± 5 %	2,314 - 2,557
Municipal and Industrial Subtotal		2626	-	2,465 - 2,784
Total		60063		53,821 - 66,303

6. Change in Groundwater Storage

Change in groundwater storage for WY 2021 was estimated using differences in water level elevations from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021. Observed differences in water levels were interpolated to a 65x65 ft (20x20 m) grid using the universal kriging method. Volume was calculated by multiplying the area of each cell by the estimated change in water level and vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient for each respective cell. The vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficients were calculated as the thickness weighted average of each model grid cell in the UWCD groundwater model. Vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficients ranged from 0.08 to 0.13. The total change in storage for the Basin was calculated by summing estimated change in volume for all cells. Since the interpolation area does not cover the entire basin due to the location of the monitoring wells, the total change in storage was scaled by the ratio of the interpolation area to the basin area. This assumes that water level changes in areas on the basin with no observations are similar to those with observations.

A map of the change in storage for WY 2021 with contour lines showing water level differences is shown in Figure 8. Estimated total change in storage for WY 2021 is -8000 AF. Figure 9 shows annual groundwater pumping and change in storage, along with cumulative storage since WY 2000. Current storage condition relative to WY 1988 is -55000 AF. Negative change in storage is expected due to critically dry conditions for WY 2021.

7. Progress Towards GSP Implementation

The Fillmore Subbasin GSP provided seven Projects or Management Actions that the FPBGSA Board of Directors would implement or consider implementing to facilitate the maintenance of sustainable conditions in the basin (see Section 4 of the GSP). Below is a description of activities related to each project that occurred during WY 2021. The FPBGSA has focused its attention on Projects #1-#3 in the two month period since the GSP was submitted to DWR. The remaining Project or Management Actions (Projects #4 - #7 detailed in the GSP) have yet to be discussed by the FPBGSA Board of Directors. These projects or management actions will be considered by the Board of Directors over the next year and it is anticipated that more substantive updates will be included in future Annual Reports.

7.1 Project #1: Supporting The Cienega Springs Restoration Project as a Drought Refuge

Post submittal of the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), staff and the consultant team for the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (FPBGSA) have

had additional discussions/meetings with representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and researchers from University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) to further explore how the mitigative actions proposed in the GSP might be implemented.

As stated in the GSP, *"The primary action being considered by the FPBGSA is to provide supplemental groundwater to the restoration program during multiyear droughts when the shallow groundwater levels decline to below the critical water level. The groundwater would be supplied from an existing production well (if a suitable well can be found or alternatively a newly constructed well) that is extracting water from the deeper hydrostratigraphic units (i.e., not the shallow aquifers). CDFW and the restoration management team would use the water in the manner they deem most beneficial to their restoration program."*

The discussions with CDFW to date have focused on:

- Refining the mitigative project description
- Identifying which land parcels in the restoration project area would most benefit from receiving supplemental waters during a drought
- Exploring possible existing deep groundwater wells in proximity to the site that could be used as a water source; and
- Discussing the practicality and potential benefits of including adjacent land parcels owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) into the mitigation plan.

Ongoing action items with respect to this management action include:

- Establish communication with TNC to determine their interest in participating in the mitigation program
- Field verification of the operational condition of potential existing wells that are candidates to supply the supplement water
- Contact well/land owners to determine their willingness to allow access to their well(s) and establish terms of an access agreement
- Preparation of a Mitigation Plan that will detail, for example:
 - Triggers for starting and stopping the delivery of the supplemental waters
 - Quantities of supplemental water to be supplied
 - Source(s) of the supplemental water
 - Parties responsible for conveyance of the supplemental water from the source to the desired land parcel
 - Responsible parties for making decisions regarding the beneficial use of the water
 - Cost reimbursement and extraction fee waiver mechanisms for use of existing wells owned by others

- Vegetative monitoring protocols to document the success of the mitigation program.

In addition, the Mitigation Plan will estimate the cost to the FPBGSA for the implementation of the mitigative actions.

7.2 Project #2: Construction of Shallow Monitor Wells at the Cienega Springs Restoration Project Site

The FPBGSA staff and consultant team have discussed possible locations for the shallow monitor wells on the project site with CDFW personnel. Siting considerations have included access to the desired location(s), future construction/land modification plans associated with the restoration program, proximity of the monitor wells to existing or proposed groundwater extraction wells, and the need or practicality of telemetry on the wells.

Ongoing action items with respect to this management action include:

- Continued discussions with CDFW to refine the monitor well locations in relationship to the land modification plans included in the restoration plan;
- Identification of well drilling contractors and soliciting bids;
- Coordination of well drilling activities with CDFW restoration managers; and
- Establishing a funding mechanism to support the collection and analysis of water level measurements and water quality data from the monitor wells.

7.3 Project #3: Construction of Shallow Monitor Wells

The FPBGSA staff and consultant team have discussed possible locations for the shallow monitor wells. Siting considerations have included access to the desired location(s), future construction/land modification plans, proximity existing or proposed groundwater extraction wells, and the terms of the land access agreements and easements.

Ongoing action items with respect to this management action include:

- Continued discussions with land owners to refine the monitor well locations in relationship to the land modification plans (if any)
- Identification of well drilling contractors and soliciting bids
- Coordination of well drilling activities with land owners
- Establishing a funding mechanism to support the collection and analysis of water level measurements and water quality data from the monitor wells

The FPBGSA has focused its attention on Projects #1-#3 in the two month timeframe since the submittal of the GSP to DWR. The remaining Project or Management Actions (Projects #4 - #7 detailed in the GSP) have yet to be discussed by the FPBGSA Board of Directors. These projects or management actions will be considered by the Board of Directors over the next year and it is anticipated that more substantive updates will be included in future Annual Reports.

8. References

[References]

DRAFT

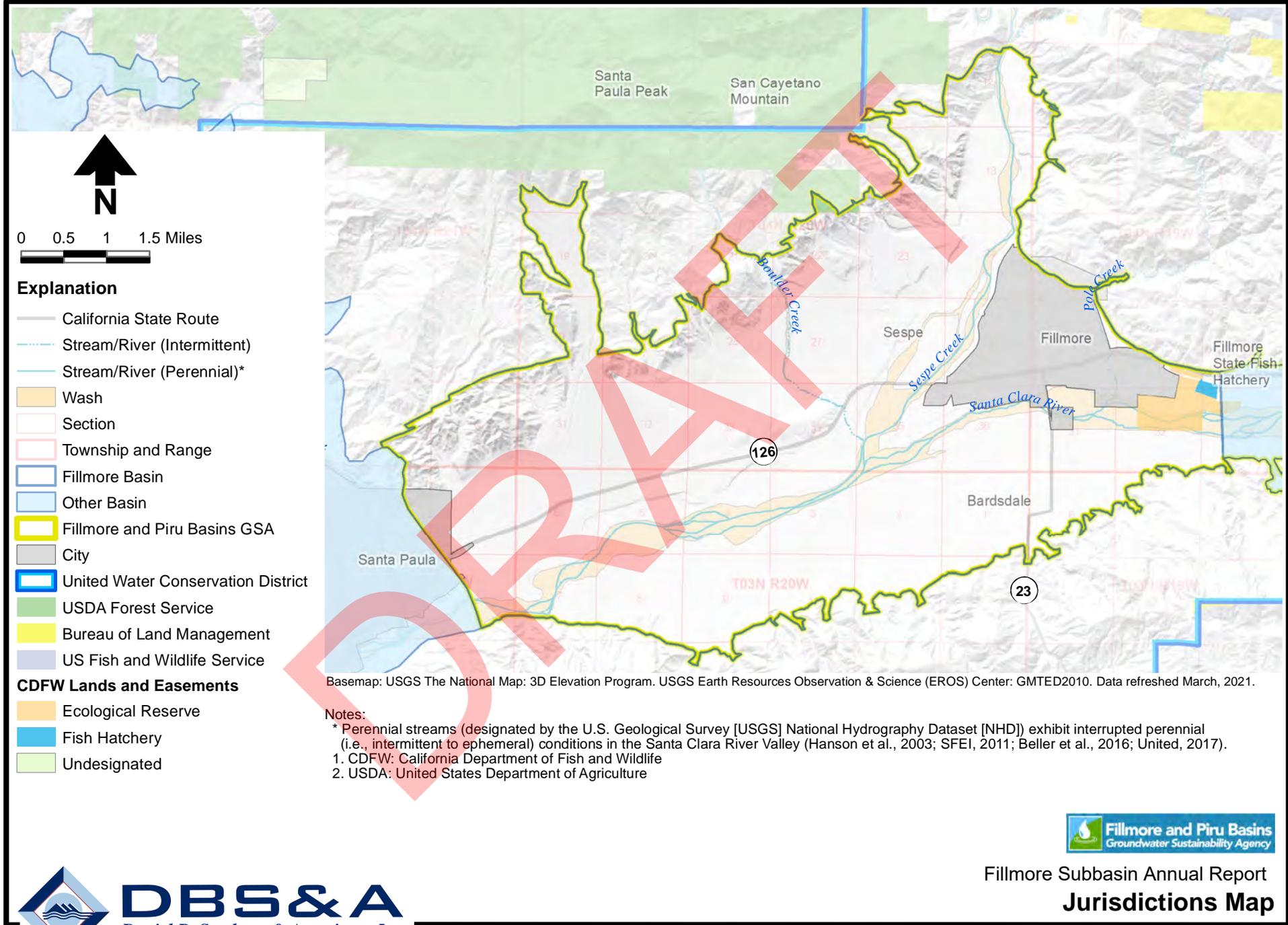


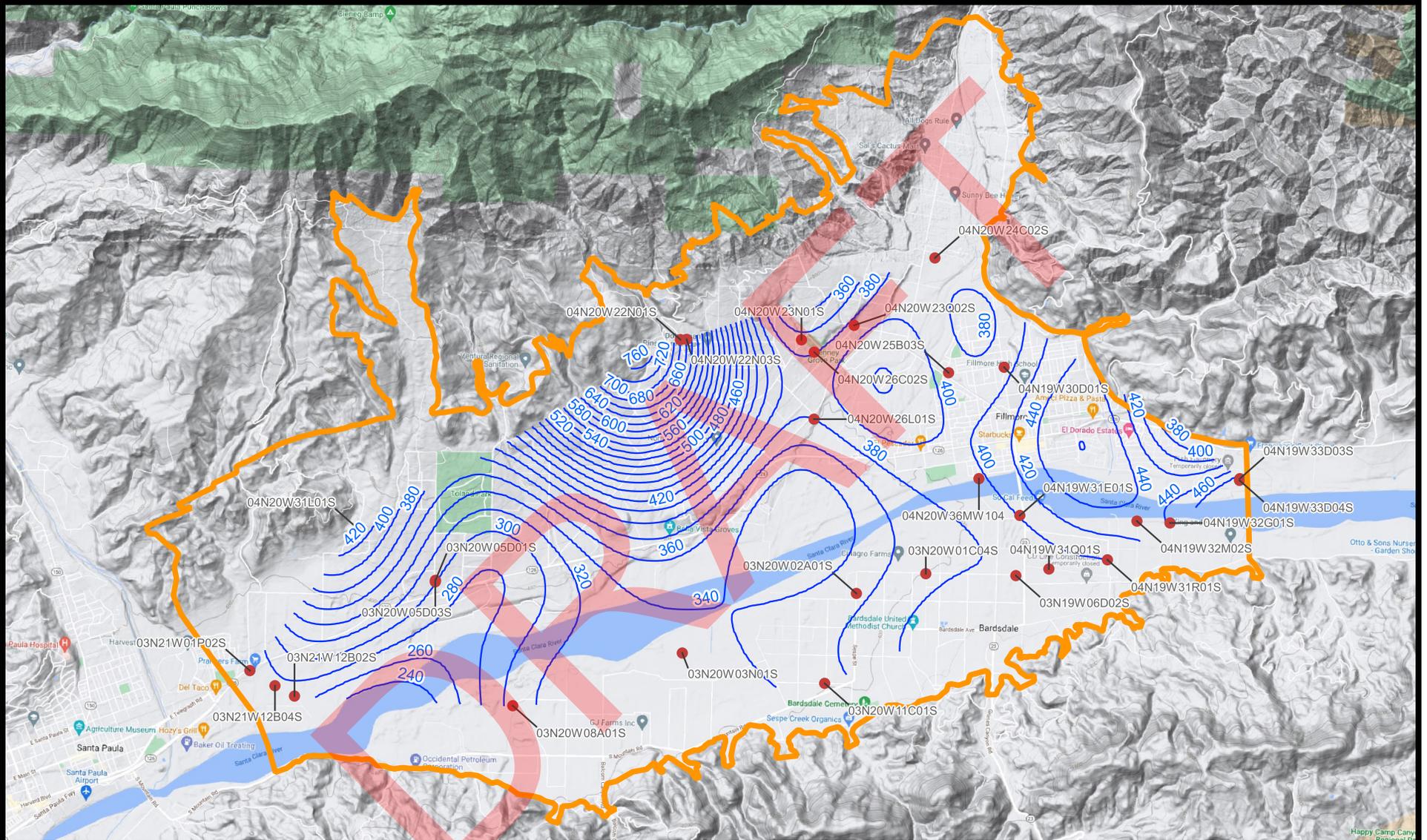
Figure 1



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 12/16/2021 DB19.1084



Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
Jurisdictions Map



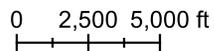
Explanation

- Monitoring Well
- Water Level Contour (ft amsl)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

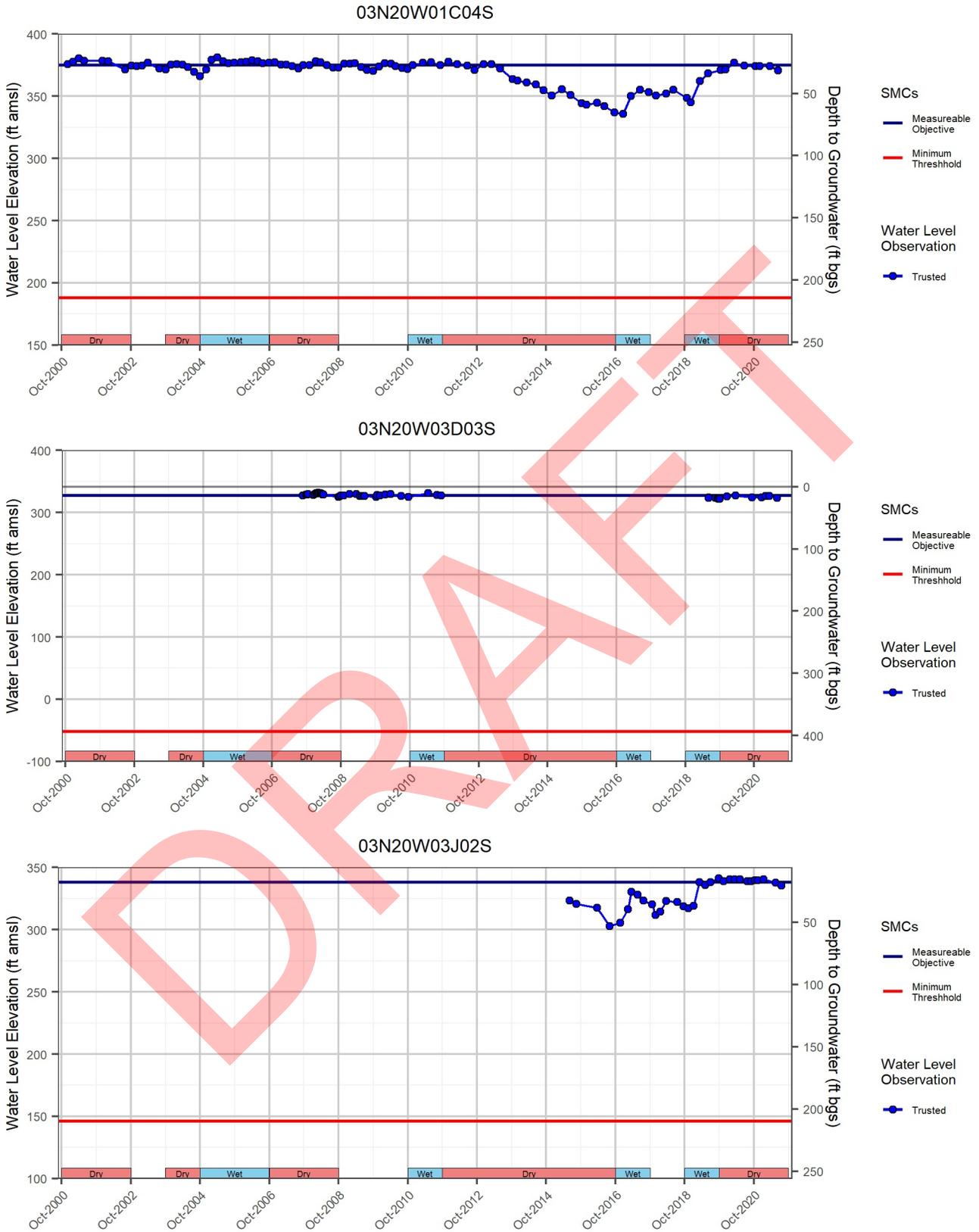
Figure 2



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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
Groundwater Elevations
Spring 2021



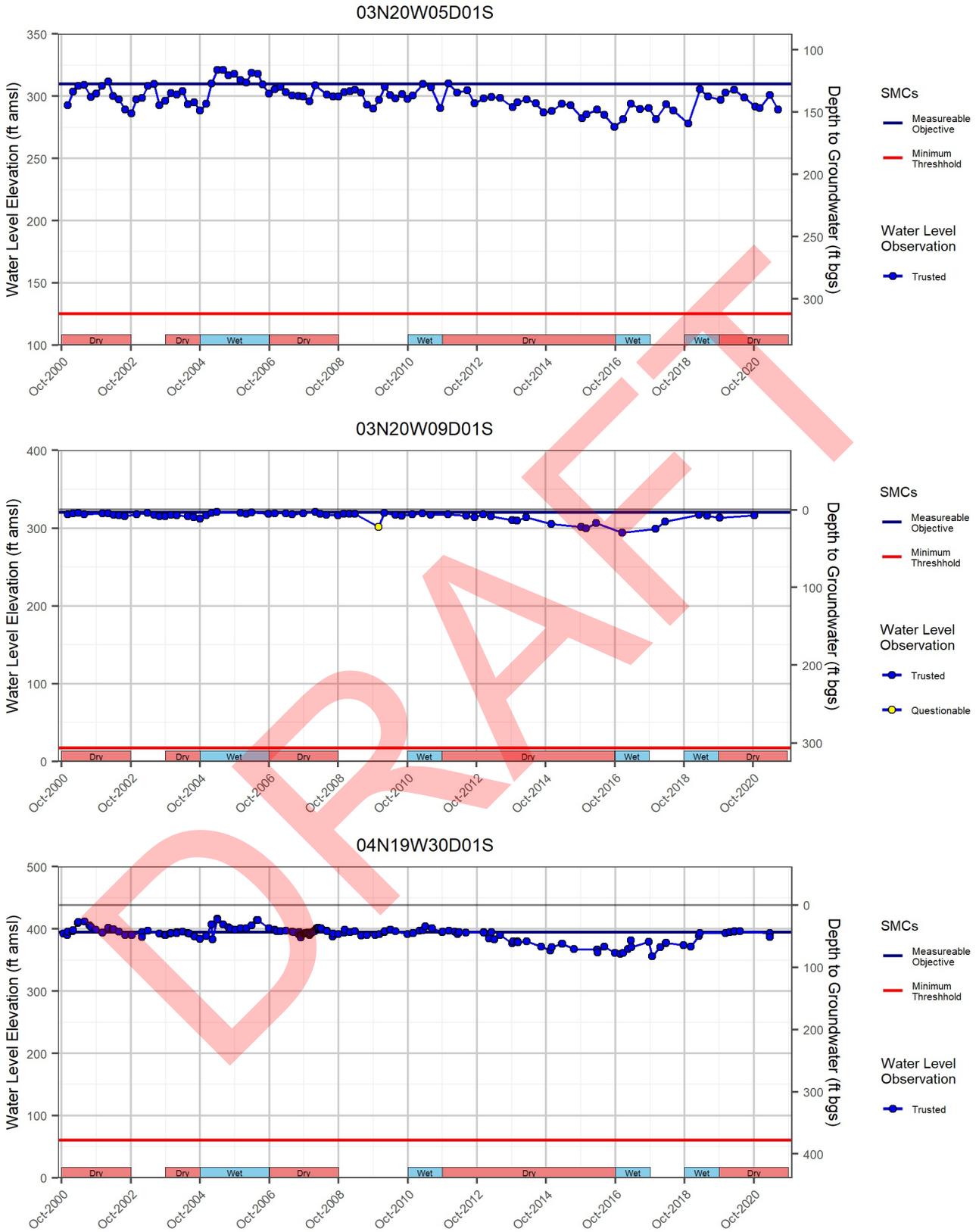
Notes:
 1. See Figure 2 for well locations



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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
 Representative Monitoring Points
 Hydrographs

Figure 4a



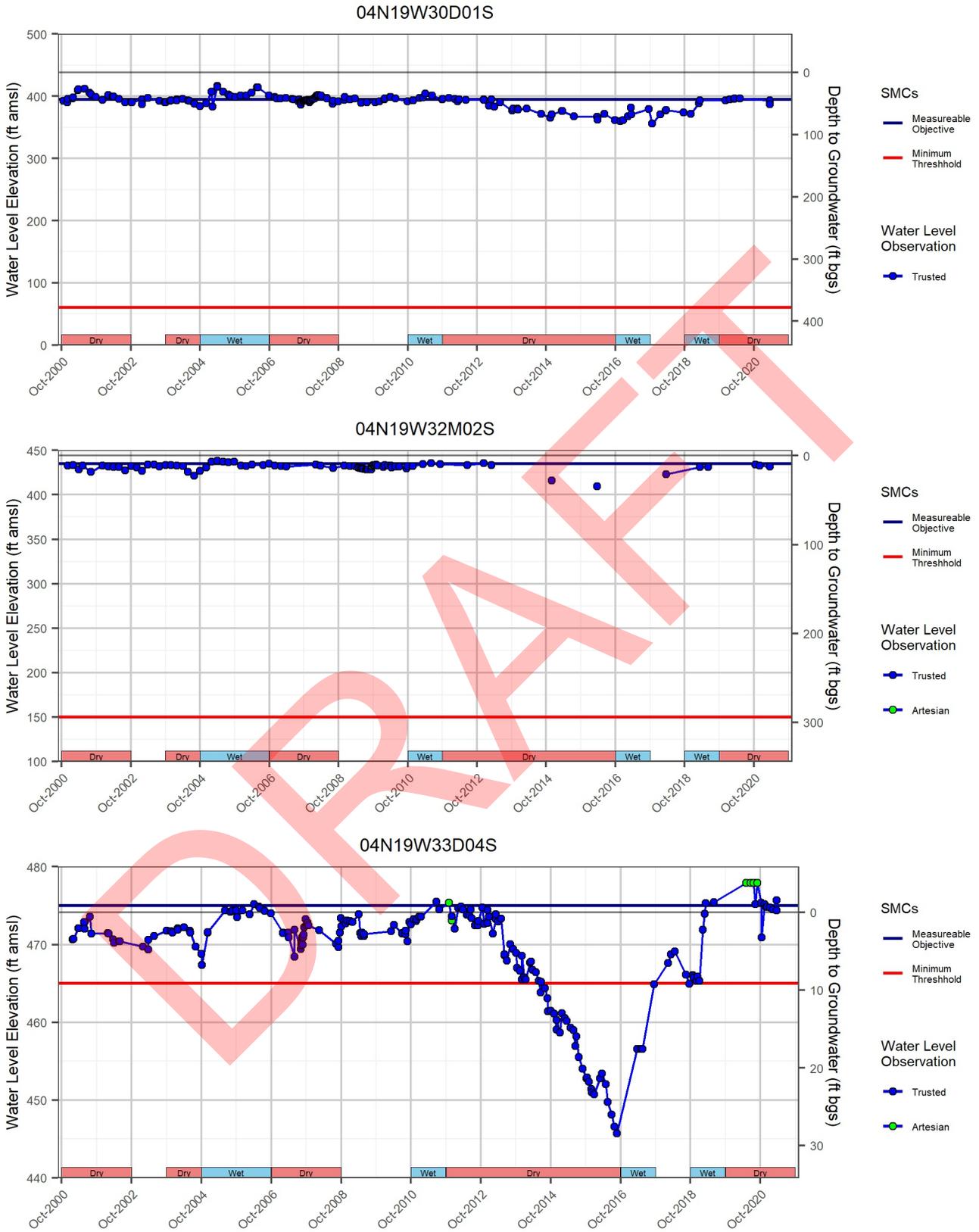
Notes:
 1. See Figure 2 for well locations



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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
 Representative Monitoring Points
 Hydrographs

Figure 4b



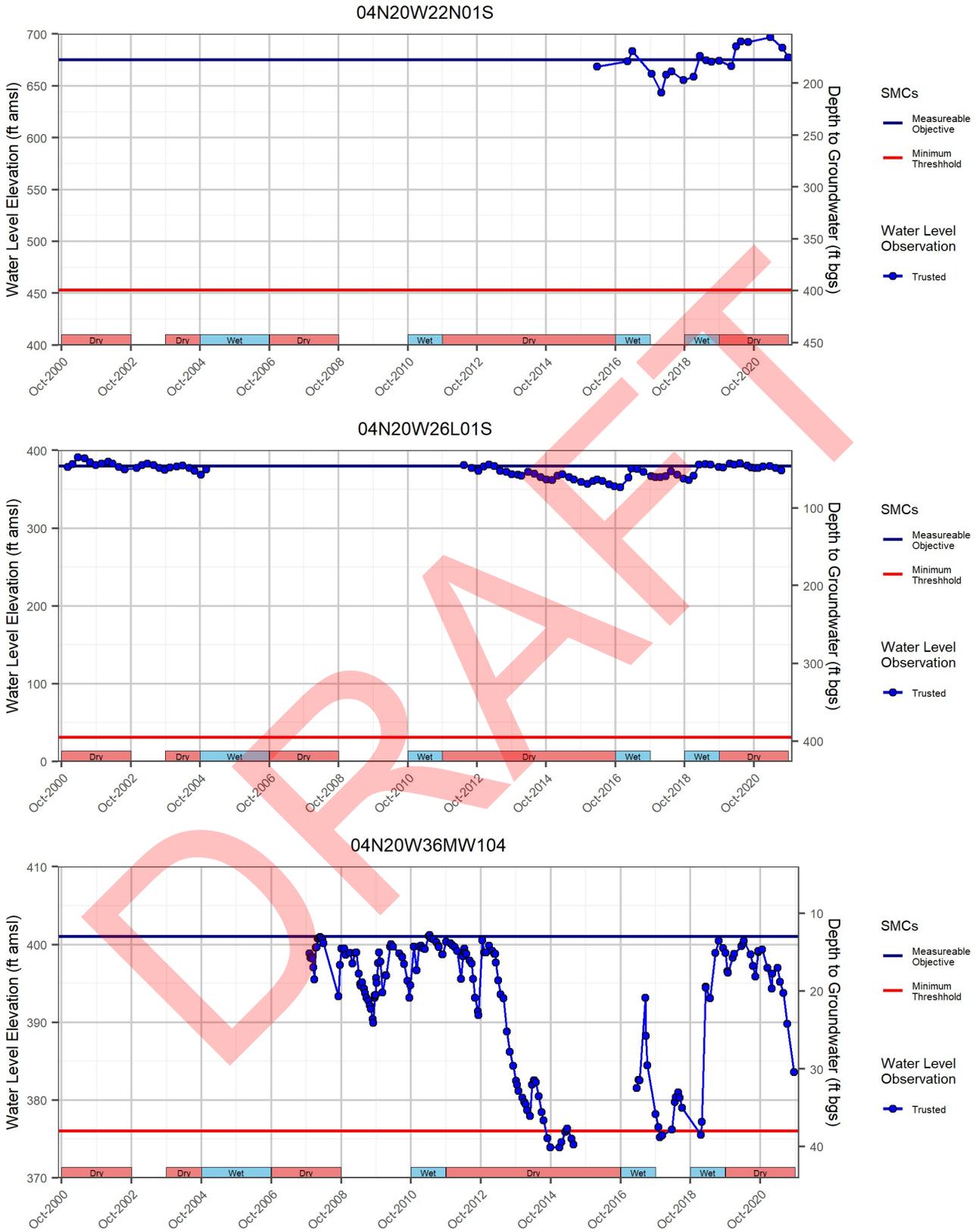
Notes:
 1. See Figure 2 for well locations



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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
 Representative Monitoring Points
 Hydrographs

Figure 4c



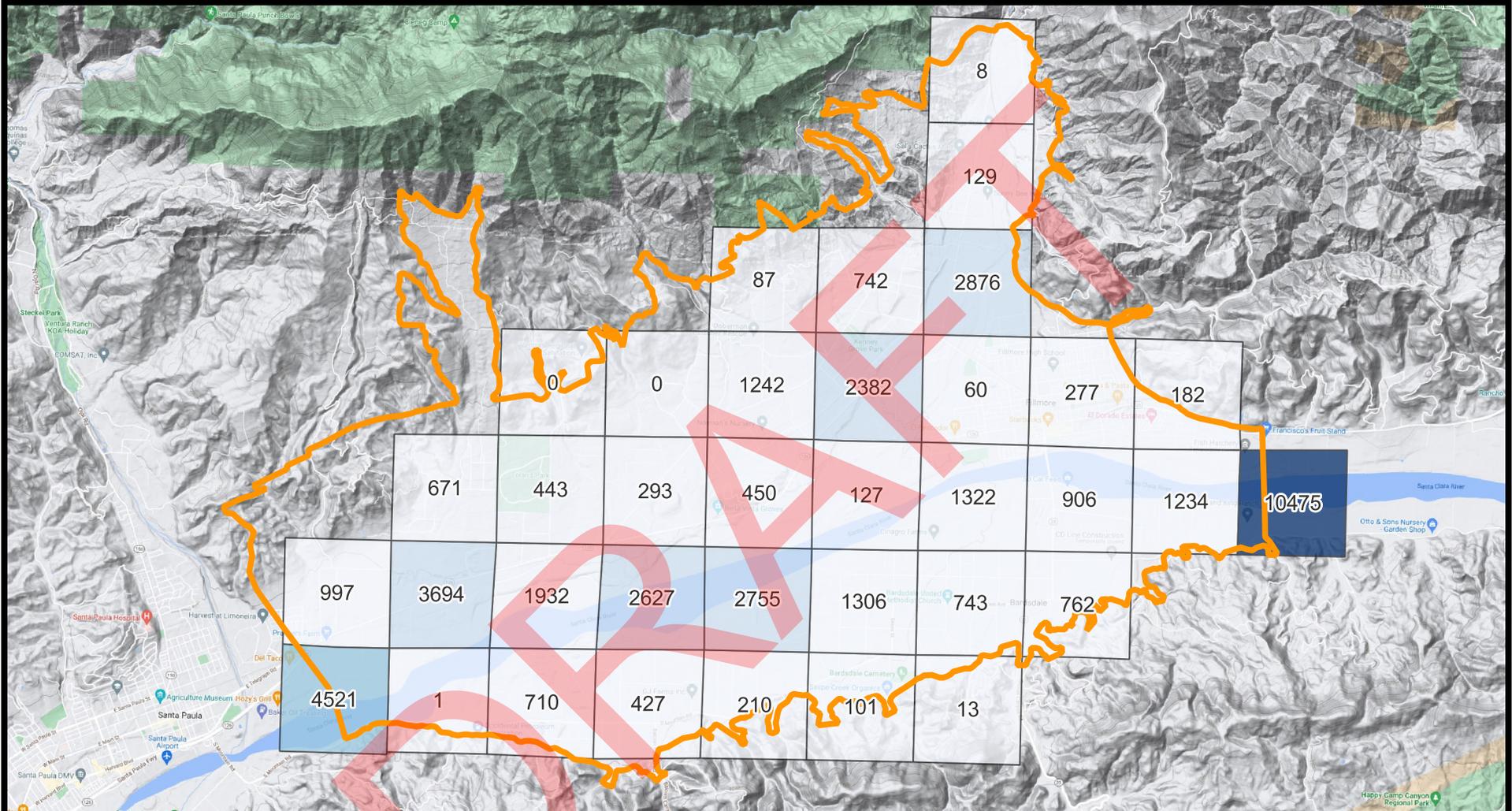
Notes:
1. See Figure 2 for well locations



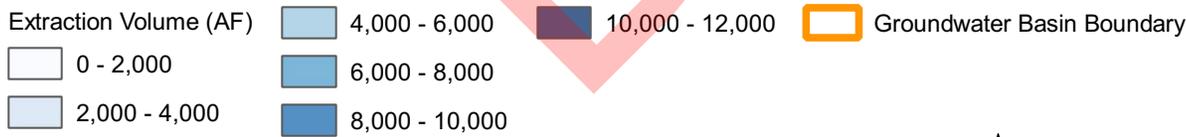
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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
Representative Monitoring Points
Hydrographs

Figure 4d

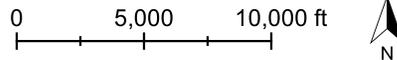


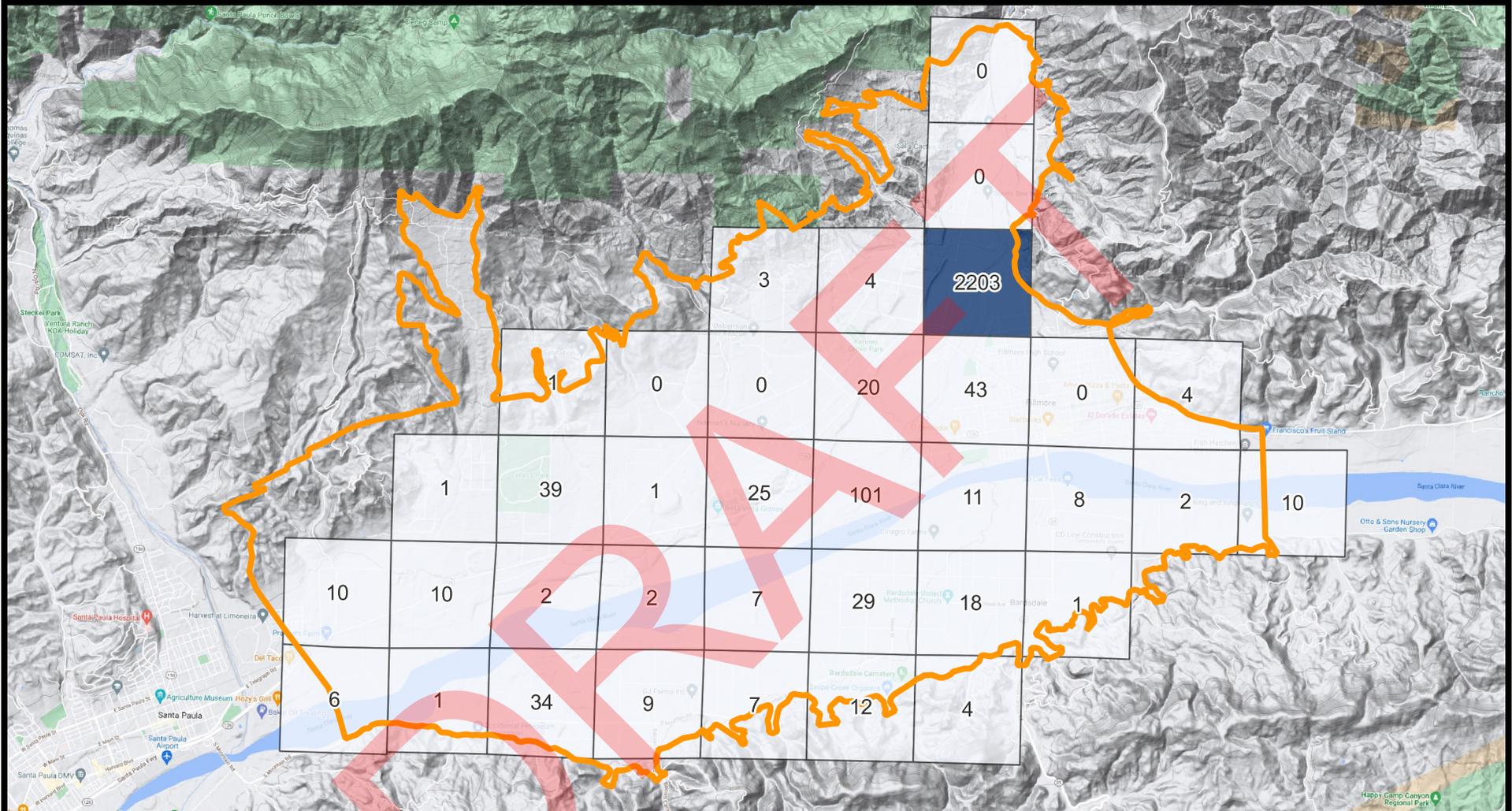
Explanation



Notes:

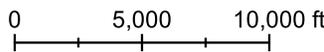
1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Values estimated from January - July 2021 pumping records.





Explanation

- Extraction Volume (AF)
 - 0 - 500
 - 500 - 1,000
 - 1,000 - 1,500
 - 1,500 - 2,000
 - 2,000 - 3,000
- Groundwater Basin Boundary



Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Values estimated from January - July 2021 pumping records.

Figure 6



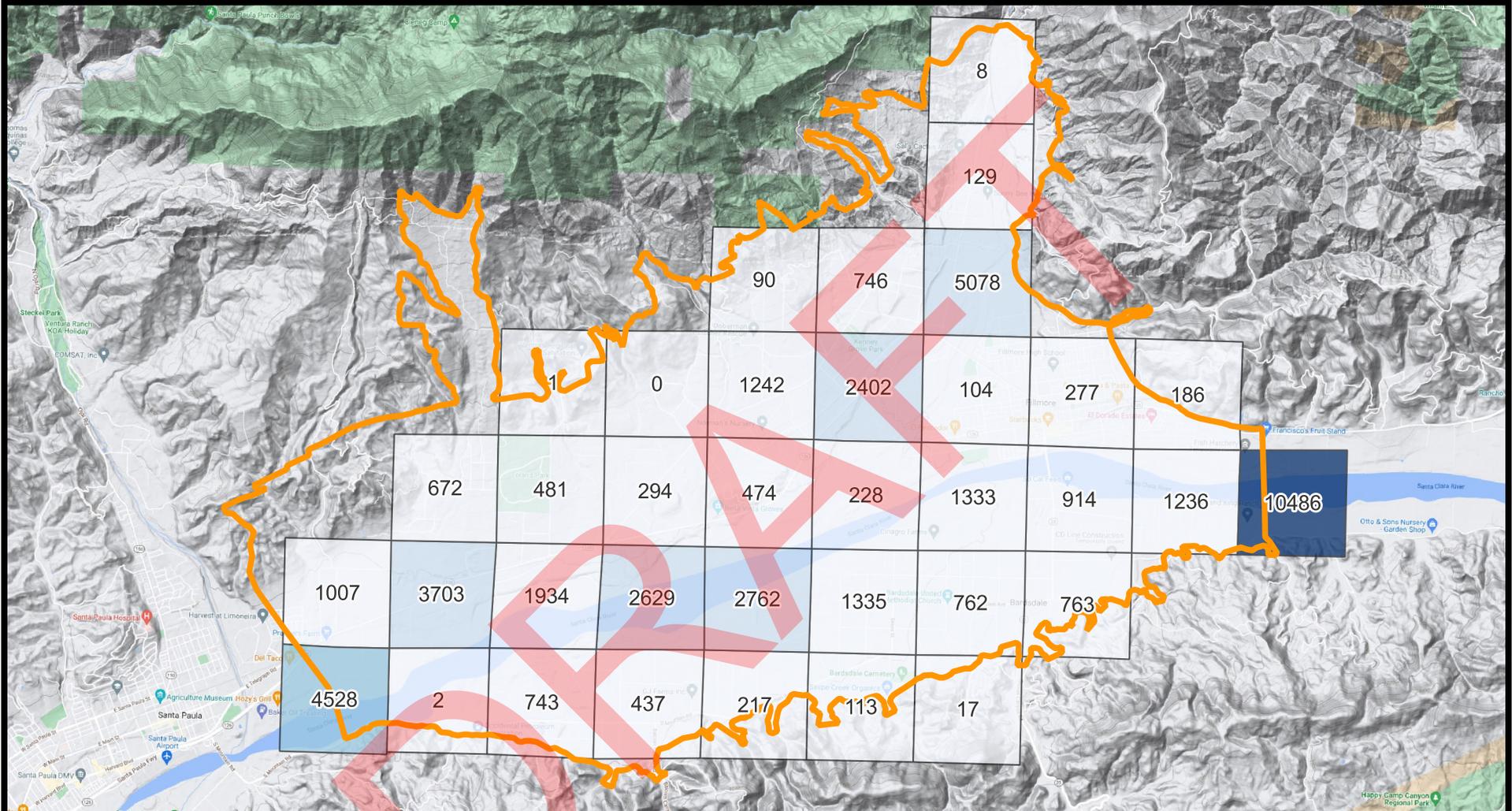
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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
Estimated Municipal and Industrial Groundwater Extractions
WY 2021

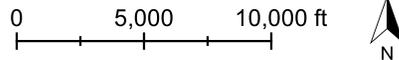


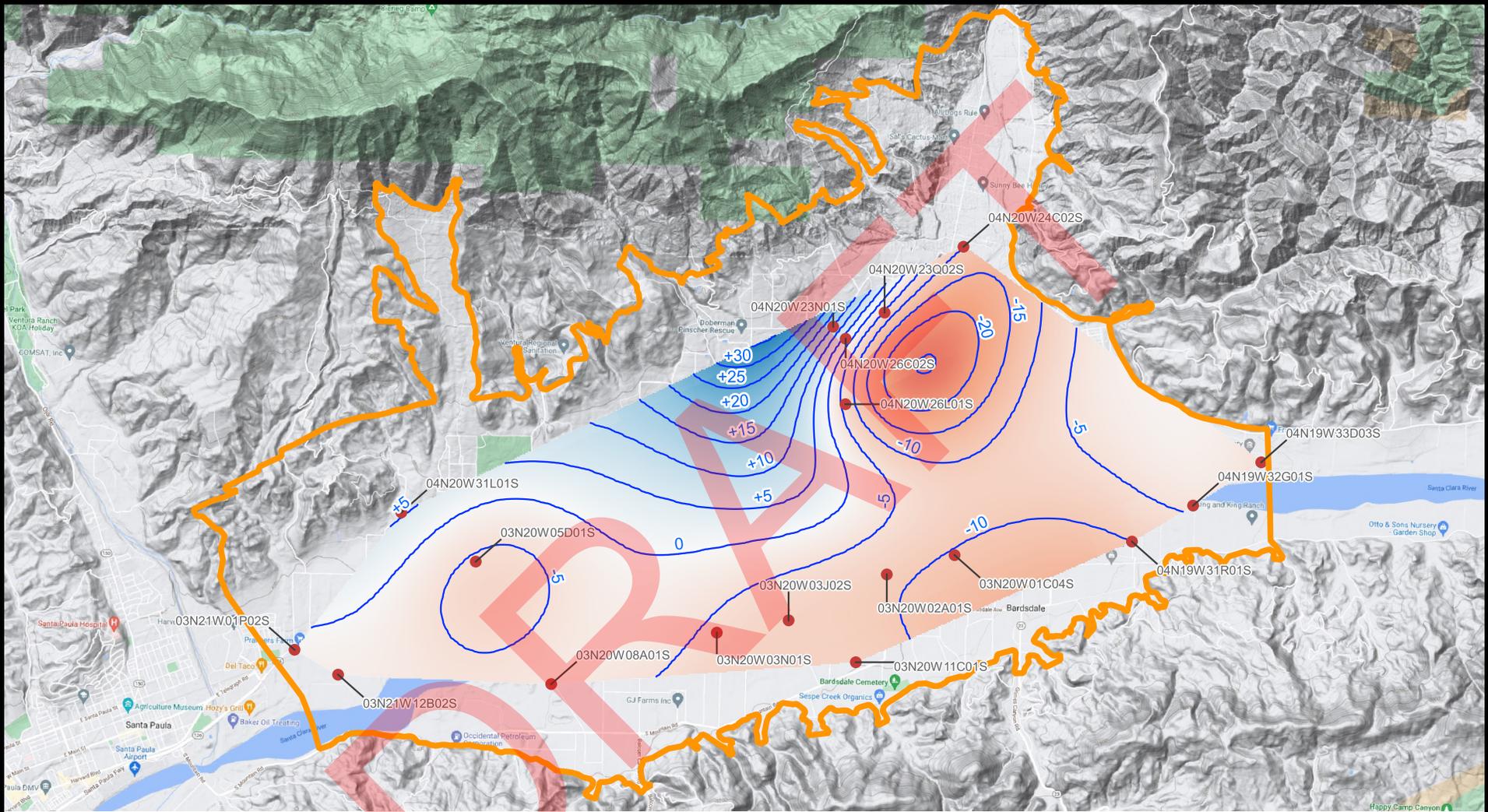
Explanation

- Extraction Volume (AF)
 - 0 - 2,000
 - 2,000 - 4,000
 - 4,000 - 6,000
 - 6,000 - 8,000
 - 8,000 - 10,000
 - 10,000 - 12,000
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

Notes:

1. Estimated extraction volumes aggregated by public land survey system section.
2. Labels indicate estimated extraction volume in acre-ft (AF).
3. Values estimated from January - July 2021 pumping records.





Explanation

- Estimated Groundwater Storage Change (AF)
 - +0.4
 - 0.4
- Monitoring Well
- Water Level Elevation Change Contour (ft)
- Groundwater Basin Boundary

Notes:

1. Storage change estimated by interpolating changes in observed water levels to a 65 x 65 ft grid and multiplying by the vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient for each grid cell.
2. Vertically integrated aquifer storage coefficient calculated as the thickness weighted average of aquifer storage coefficients for each model layer used in the UWCD groundwater model.
3. Estimated WY 2021 total groundwater storage change is - 8,000 AF.

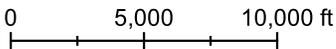


Figure 8



DBS&A

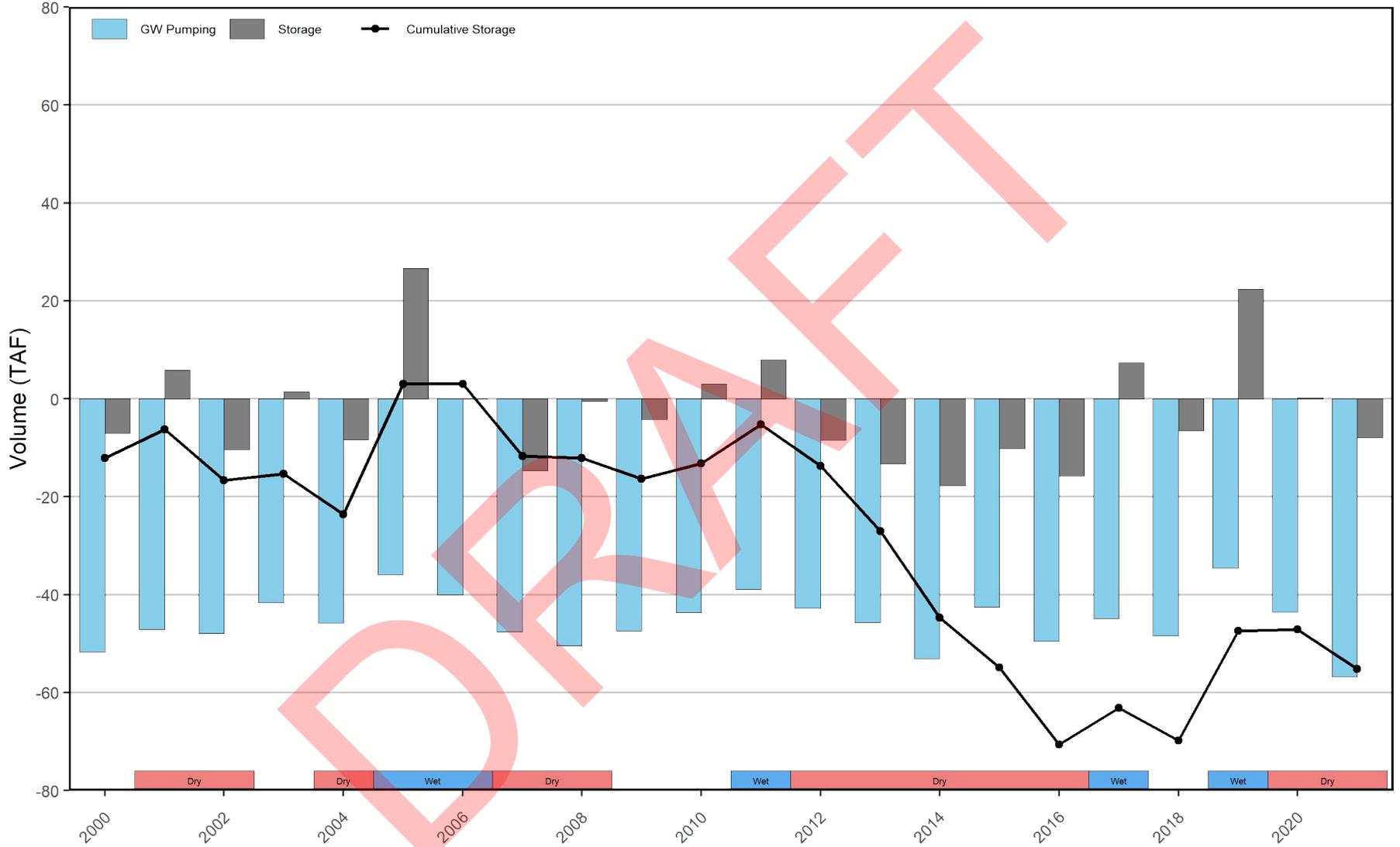
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03/10/2022

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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
Change in Groundwater Storage
WY 2021

Annual Groundwater Pumping and Change in Storage



Notes:

1. Negative GW pumping values indicate extractions from groundwater aquifer.
2. Positive storage values indicate increasing groundwater levels.
3. GW pumping volume estimated for WY 2021.

Figure 9



DBS&A

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03/11/2022

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Fillmore Subbasin Annual Report
Groundwater Pumping and Change in Storage
WY 2000-2021



Item No. 5A Information
DATE: March 10, 2022 (for March 17, 2022 meeting)
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Anthony Emmert, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Governmental Advocacy Platform Development

RECCOMENDATION:

The Board will receive and consider governmental advocacy platform documents from other regional agencies to inform the Board’s future discussions regarding potential development of an Agency Governmental Advocacy Platform.

BACKGROUND

The California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provides the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) with certain regulatory authority to establish and enforce policies within its boundaries that support its groundwater sustainability plans. It is likely that future actions and activities of other governmental entities may either contribute toward sustainability or detract from sustainability of the basins under the Agency’s authority. Although the Agency does not have authority to enforce its policies outside of its boundaries, it may desire to influence the policies and actions of others governmental entities when the actions of those entities may affect the sustainability of the basins. Additionally, the Agency may desire to advocate for funding opportunities for projects and programs that would enhance the sustainability of the basins. As opportunities to advocate regarding governmental policies or funding opportunities often arise with little advance notice, the Agency is considering whether it should develop a Governmental Advocacy Platform (Platform) that would facilitate quicker responses by the Agency.

During its February 17, 2022, meeting, the Agency Board reviewed its November 2019 Guiding Principles document and a draft list of potential Platform statements, discussed potential advocacy for funding future multi-benefit projects, and questioned whether a platform is even needed for the Agency. The Board requested that staff provide example advocacy platforms from other agencies and schedule a future discussion agenda item. Attached are example advocacy platform documents from the County of Ventura, City of Fillmore, United Water Conservation District, and the Urban Counties of California for review by the Board and stakeholders. After the Board and stakeholders have time to review and consider the example documents, staff will schedule a future agenda item to discuss the issue further.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – County of Ventura 2022 State Legislative Agenda and Platform and 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda and Platform

Attachment 2 – City of Fillmore Legislative Platform 2021

Attachment 3 – United Water Conservation District Legislative Policy & Platform, Nov 2018

Attachment 4 – Urban Counties of California Water Policy Principles and Policy Statements, Jan 2022

County of Ventura

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND PLATFORM

I. OVERALL STATE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

1. The County is fully committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion both internally and externally. To accomplish this, we must pursue direct and sustainable institutional change that acknowledges systemic racism and addresses it as a public health crisis in order to ensure equitable outcomes for all communities.
2. The County supports a constitutional guarantee of an equitable, dependable, and predictable revenue stream to support local governments that, to the extent possible, links programs to their source of funding and achieves fiscal neutrality for Counties.
3. The County supports all legislative and administrative efforts to maximize and expedite access to Federal and State resources to address health emergency and disaster preparation, response and recovery needs.
4. The County pledges to be an active partner with the State in contributing to thoughtful, informed policy development that benefits all communities and encourages the State to seek and rely on the input of County governments.
5. The County supports efforts to ensure local discretionary control over governance issues and delivery of services.
6. The County supports legislation that allows local Boards of Supervisors the authority to conduct public meetings in a manner that ensures public access and safety.
7. The County supports efforts to preserve the financial resources of local governments by requiring the State to fully reimburse the County for all costs related to State-mandated programs.
8. The County opposes any effort by the State to redirect existing revenue streams away from mandated programs provided by Counties or to require additional service provisions without commensurate additional revenue.
9. The County opposes proposals that would divert single-purpose funds away from their targeted programs.

10. The County supports the elimination of State-mandated caps or restrictions on local fees, thereby allowing the County to set local fees in order to achieve cost recovery to the extent approved by the Board of Supervisors.
11. The County supports additional mandate relief including elimination of unnecessary, redundant or overlapping eligibility, funding, maintenance of effort, monitoring, permitting, or reporting requirements.
12. The County supports proposals that would permit the County to decline provision of service if funds have not been provided or to discontinue a service once all State and Federal funds have been exhausted.
13. The County opposes State budget actions that result in disproportionate fiscal impacts on Ventura County.
14. The County opposes efforts to impose sanctions on the County because of the State's failure to comply with Federal regulations.
15. The County opposes State expansion of Federal mandates without commensurate funding.
16. The County supports efforts to obtain consent of California's voters before allowing the State of California to transfer control of local financial resources from local governments to State government.
17. The County supports workers' compensation reform that protects financial resources for self-insureds, reasonable benefits for injured workers, and protects employers against workers' compensation fraud.
18. The County supports proposals that maintain the fiscal stability of the County's retirement system while opposing legislation that would increase the County's financial obligation for retirement benefits.
19. The County supports proposals that would designate the Board of Supervisors as the sole authority to grant retirement benefits.
20. The County supports legislation that would refine circumstances under which employees are entitled to disability retirement.
21. The County supports legislation that would limit or minimize the County's exposure to tort/liability claims.
22. The County opposes legislation that would erode the land use authority of local elected officials.

23. The County supports State investment in administering elections, including decennial redistricting processes and formation of local independent redistricting commissions.
24. The County opposes statewide ballot initiatives that directly impact County operations and lack an identified, new long-term funding source.
25. The County supports constitutional protections that guarantee a dedicated ongoing revenue stream for programs realigned from State to local control.
26. The County supports the hazardous materials clean-up of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory per the adopted Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) and support the actions, partnerships, and legislation to promptly implement the clean-up per the AOC.

II. NEW BILL REQUESTS

1. The County supports sponsoring legislation to maintain the privacy of individuals after death by protecting medical examiner/coroner records from public disclosure.
2. The County supports sponsoring legislation to clarify that the County's flexible benefit allowance may continue to be included as pensionable compensation for the purposes of retirement benefit calculations for legacy members and may consider alternative approaches to ensure Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association members retain retirement benefits without additional costs to the County.
3. The County supports sponsoring legislation to allow the Free Clinic of Simi Valley to lease the County-owned facility located at 2003 Royal Avenue in Simi Valley for a period exceeding 10 years without requiring a public bidding procedure.

III. PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

1. The County supports new and ongoing investment in a diverse set of services and supports to provide needed assistance to our communities as part of a comprehensive pandemic response and recovery.

IV. STATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project. The proposed project would assist in the removal of Matilija Dam and the restoration of the Ventura River Watershed.

2. New Animal Shelter Phase 1. The Ventura County Animal Shelter serves residents in the unincorporated area and eight of the county's ten cities. Phase 1 of the project would fund the expansion of the existing footprint of the property and construct several new structures in preparation for Phase 2.
3. Nyeland Acres Community Center. Project scope includes demolition of the antiquated 2300 square-foot facility and replacement with a 5000 square-foot multi-use community center.
4. Family Justice Center, Located in Oxnard, Funding for Acquisition and Improvements. In 2021 Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin secured \$1 million in funding for a Family Justice Center in Oxnard. County and City staff have partnered to identify opportunities to acquire property to house the facility.
5. Family Justice Center-Emergency Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter Housing, Located in Ventura. The project would establish on-site at the Ventura County Family Justice Center in Ventura administrative services and emergency shelter beds for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who have been displaced as a result of their victimization.
6. Harvest Medical Pavilion. The proposed project would construct a new rural-based acute care 49-bed hospital and accompanying ambulatory medical and specialty clinics in the Heritage Valley.
7. East County Crisis Stabilization Unit and Psychiatric Hospital Facility. The proposed project is a dual-use, 23-hour Crisis Stabilization Unit and a longer-term Psychiatric Hospital Facility, which will provide acute short-term treatment in a non-hospital setting.
8. Multiple Projects at 1728 South Lewis Road in Camarillo. The 55-acre site is home to several important services and housing for Ventura County's most vulnerable populations. The proposed projects include the following.
 - Barn Remodel and Repurpose – Master Gardner's Workshop/Training Center. Restore and remodel the deteriorating historic barn structure for multiple uses including a community center, activities for mental health clients, and a county-affiliated program with the UC Agricultural Advisor's Master Gardener program.
 - Rehabilitation of RAIN Transitional Housing Facility for Homeless Families, Veterans, and CSUCI Students. The proposed project would make significant improvements to the 70-year-old building to expand services to include homeless veterans and homeless CSUCI students.
 - Water Tower Environmental Cleanup. The proposed project would include cleanup of lead paint and other hazardous material potentially impacting the

surrounding soil; this would include repainting and providing graphic identity for the Lewis Road Community.

- Community Connectivity. The proposed project would consist of construction of a connecting interior road and path system to facilitate internal connectivity for emergency services access, pedestrian walking paths, transit shelter, and entryway monuments.
 - Growing Works Park with Healing Gardens. The proposed project consists of the design and construction of irrigation lines, solar facilities, purchasing plants of different biomes, recycled water filtration, ADA access paths, and picnic pavilion. The outcome will benefit both behavioral health clients participating in the Growing Works program and onsite disadvantaged vulnerable residents.
9. Conversion of County-owned Building in Oxnard into a Homeless Transition Center/Permanent Supportive Housing. The proposed project would convert a large County-owned building located on Vanguard Street in Oxnard from an administrative use to a shelter/residential use, a Homeless Transition Center and Permanent Supportive Housing complex.
 10. Teen Center at Saticoy Park. The proposed project scope includes necessary improvements needed to design and construct an addition to the Saticoy Boys and Girls Club facility for a teen center.
 11. Staircase Construction/Public Access Crosswalk at Mondos Beach near Rincon Beach. The proposed project consists of public access construction of a floating staircase with accessible landing pad to access Mondos Beach in the County of Ventura. The current environment is a safety concern for the public trying to access the beach.
 12. Jose Flores Community Center Expansion in Saticoy. The proposed project consists of acquisition and development of a neighboring parcel to be converted to a gathering space with a passive-use park with picnic tables and benches.
 13. Prueter Library Improvements in Port Hueneme. The proposed project scope includes necessary improvements needed to modernize existing infrastructure and upgrade the building's exterior in partnership with the City of Port Hueneme.
 14. 2323 Knoll Drive Second Floor Community Resilience Center/Emergency Use Homeless Shelter. The proposed project consists of design and construction of a Community Resiliency Center at an existing County site where the first floor operates as a year-round permanent supportive housing shelter for homeless individuals in Ventura County.

15. Dentistry and Optometry Services for Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities. The proposed project would establish and expand needed services for dentistry and optometry for disadvantaged and underserved communities.
16. Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System Upgrade. The County of Ventura currently operates its Integrated Justice Information System on a platform that was built more than 20 years ago. This new integrated justice system would seek to leverage new software functionality to ensure that information is appropriately shared between 39 local, State, and Federal agencies.
17. Radio Communication Upgrade. The proposed project would implement a 700Mhz frequency radio system that would serve the County and other city-based public safety entities with enhanced mobile apparatus, facility equipment, and expanded digital communication channels.

V. MAJOR POLICY ISSUES – BY DEPARTMENT

Agricultural Commissioner

1. The County supports proposals that would fully fund the California High Risk Pest Exclusion, detection, eradication, and management programs to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests in California by inspection of materials shipped into and out of Ventura County at locations such as U.S. Postal Distribution Centers and plant nurseries.
2. The County supports efforts to promote the implementation of integrated pest management strategies to reduce reliance on the most toxic pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides and to promote programs to educate the public on safe pesticide use and their impacts.
3. The County supports methods that would fully fund County pesticide regulatory activities, including proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee for regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public, and the environment and provide funding for education, outreach, and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.
4. The County supports legislation that would increase the environmental review of new school site proposals similar to other developments. When schools must be sited in agricultural areas, mitigations such as buffers, setbacks, and pick-up/drop-off locations should be incorporated onto the new school footprint and designed to minimize interference with agricultural operations.
5. The County supports legislation and regulations that preserve and enhance funding resources and authority for weights and measures, fruit and vegetable

quality control, food safety, direct marketing, and organic inspection activities that provide consumer protection, equity, and environmental justice in the marketplace.

6. The County opposes legislation that would weaken existing consumer protection laws and regulations.
7. The County supports legislation to eliminate the sunset provision and fee limits in State law that will prohibit the County from collecting fees to cover the cost of its State-mandated weights and measures program.
8. The County opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide 100 percent funding, authority, security, and resources for cannabis and industrial hemp regulatory activities conducted by County agricultural commissioners.
9. The County supports efforts to fully fund programs for the control of invasive weeds and woodboring pests. Funding for these efforts will facilitate and promote soil carbon sequestration/health that supports water retention ability to enhance fire resiliency, land productivity, and biodiversity conservation/regenerative ecosystems.
10. The County supports efforts to promote agritourism to provide access to locally grown fresh and healthy foods for the County's residents and supports local farms and ranches, community and school gardens, and farmers markets.
11. The County supports the adoption of a statewide policy limiting the number of roosters a private individual can possess, with exemptions for legitimate agricultural and educational uses such as 4H, Grange, Future Farmers of America, and others who exhibit their roosters at fairs and other similar public events. A new statewide policy would enhance enforcement of our existing statewide anti-cockfighting law.

Airports

1. The County supports maintaining dedicated State funding and restricting the use of the Aviation Trust Fund only for its intended purpose.
2. The County supports State programs and funding to assist non-hub airports in developing and sustaining viable air service.
3. The County supports legislation that ensures compatible land use and development in the vicinity of the County airports.

4. The County supports proposals that would provide more flexibility for State agencies, such as Cal Trans Division of Aeronautics, to administer grant funds.
5. The County supports amending the California Public Utilities Code (PUC) to include the Federal Aviation Administration Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) protected surfaces within the PUC, Section 21659, *Hazards Near Airports Prohibited*.
6. The County supports the development and transition to alternative piston engine aviation fuels in a manner that does not negatively impact general aviation.

Animal Services

1. The County supports proposals and funding that would lead to: a reduction in the current overpopulation of pets through pet sterilization; innovative re-homing of lost pets from local shelters; the close regulation of “puppy mills” to ensure that animals have basic humane care; mandatory rabies vaccination for cats; clearer legislation related to lost/found animals and transfer of ownership.

Area Agency on Aging

1. The County supports proposals that would increase awareness of and prevent elder and dependent adult abuse to include the following: increase funding for elder abuse prosecution and prevention programs; expedite reimbursement or restitution to seniors victimized by financial crimes; increase the penalties for those convicted of crimes against seniors; and supports legislation that includes money transmitters in the definition of mandated reporters of suspected elder abuse and require licensed persons to report the known or suspected instance of financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult immediately, or as soon as possible, to the local adult protective services agency or local law enforcement.
2. The County supports legislation to expand the existing Assisted Living Waiver and Adult Family Homes for Older Adults to Ventura County to enable eligible seniors and adults with disabilities to reside in a community setting to support aging with dignity.
3. The County supports the California Master Plan for Aging and initiatives that increase services and supports to allow people to continue living in the community, provides opportunities for engagement, addresses equity and inclusion in service delivery, allows individuals to maintain their health and wellbeing, and provides for economic security. This includes supporting increases in funding for existing programs that is commensurate with cost of living and population increases.

4. The County supports funding and efforts to move towards community-based services and age-in-place programs as opposed to nursing home placement to include supporting legislation that fully funds the Older Californians Act (Linkages, Respite, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, and Brown Bag Programs) as well as modernizes and updates it to respond to the changing and growing needs of the senior population; provides State funding for the Family Caregiver Support Program, the senior nutrition program, funding for in-home care (and respite) for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia; and funding to help strengthen and expand Aging and Disability Resource Center's ability to help seniors and people with disabilities access resources and services.
5. The County supports funding for senior adult education programs specializing in technology, training, access, and resources.
6. The County supports efforts to increase the monthly spending allowance for Medi-Cal Medically Needy Only beneficiaries without impacting Medi-Cal payment rates.

Child Support Services

1. The County supports efforts to adequately fund local child support services programming.

County Executive Office

1. The County supports changes to the mechanism for allocating housing credits in Housing Elements and/or how jurisdictions report units in Annual Housing Production Reports that facilitate sustainable development, smart growth, and the provision of affordable housing.
2. The County supports efforts to expand financial resources for the development and preservation of affordable housing.
3. The County supports funding for the development, acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of housing/shelters for persons who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or those who are disabled.
4. The County supports efforts and funding that would promote the development of a crisis stabilization unit in the east county.
5. The County supports investment in economic development, building prosperous communities, and competitive industries.

6. The County supports sustainable, long-term funding for early childhood development programs.
7. The County supports programs and funding to assist businesses directly impacted by COVID-19.
8. The County supports efforts to identify a location along State Route 118 in Moorpark that would convert the “mini-site” weigh station to a full-service California Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility.
9. The County supports gun control legislation that reduces the likelihood of accidental or intentional homicides, in particular mass homicides, and that limits access to firearms for individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others.
10. The County supports efforts by the Ventura County Fair Board to cease the practice of contracting for gun shows at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.
11. The County supports efforts that would lead to the implementation of BEACON’s (Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Ocean and Nourishment) beach nourishment projects.
12. The County supports efforts at the State level to reinstate the Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act.
13. The County supports all efforts to protect our local military bases from closure and encroachment, supports funding for infrastructure, and the work of the community coalition known as Regional Defense Partnership 21st Century (RDP-21).
14. The County supports improved communication between local governments and investor-owned utilities regarding the timing, customer notification, and deployment of enforced power shutoffs.
15. The County supports exploration of, funding for, and deployment of alternative energy storage technologies to provide temporary power supply during enforced shutoffs.
16. The County supports cost-effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the use of grants, loans, and incentives to assist local governments in the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction programs.
17. The County supports measures that further the goals of choice, clean energy, and affordable rates; limits the increase of the Power Charge Indifference

Adjustment (PCIA) charge; increases local control over the purchase and development of renewable energy resources; and increases the ability for Ventura County residents and businesses to achieve a 100 percent renewable energy supply.

18. The County supports legislation that incentivizes local renewable energy production and local energy sustainability, including protection of local autonomy to administer energy efficiency programs, and install and utilize integrated distributed energy resources.
19. The County supports complete transparency of all energy procurement practices, fair competition in statewide energy markets for community choice aggregators, and legislation and regulatory policies that protect community choice aggregation customers from improper cost allocations.
20. The County supports legislation that promotes energy efficiency of buildings, appliances, and indoor and outdoor lighting products; and funding and incentives for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, including for transit vehicles and trucks.
21. The County supports legislative efforts and regulatory rule-making that promote the use of renewable fuels and forms of energy and streamlining the process for implementing projects.
22. The County supports legislation that provides financial and operational incentives for emerging technologies in renewable energy production and recycling to support local government efforts to minimize costs and environmental impacts.
23. The County supports legislation that would require public notification by the owner when any natural gas leak occurs.
24. The County supports funding for wildfire prevention efforts, including undergrounding utilities and the removal of dead trees and other nonfire-resistant species.
25. The County supports efforts to ensure Californians have access to reasonably priced fire insurance.

District Attorney

1. The County supports the introduction of legislation that would authorize District Attorneys to seek prolonged gun violence restraining orders and forfeitures from persons whose possession of a weapon represents a risk to the community.

2. The County supports legislation that would ensure adequate funding for Crime Victim's Assistance Programs.
3. The County supports funding to investigate and prosecute computer network intrusion crimes.
4. The County supports efforts to address organized retail theft including, but not limited to, re-establishing a state law that expands prosecutorial authority and promotes law enforcement collaboration.
5. The County supports funding for local agencies, including Behavioral Health, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender, to implement Mental Health Diversion pursuant to SB 215 (Statutes of 2018, Chapter 1005).
6. The County supports funding to develop and staff an Intelligence Driven Prosecution program in Ventura County.
7. The County supports legislation that establishes a permanent State funding stream for the 26 Family Justice Centers in 17 Counties in California.

Fire District

1. The County supports initiatives to ensure the financial viability of the Fire District as well as the public safety services it provides. Specific focus is on forward planning, prevention measures and response enhancements to "all-hazard" emergency incidents, local, State, and Federal.
2. The County supports efforts to bring insurance companies and the industry into mitigating the wildland fire problem.
3. The County supports a vibrant statewide fire response system and opposes any negative actions that may impede its operational effectiveness.

Harbor Department

1. The County supports dedicated State staffing for management of boating infrastructure funds and restricting the use of the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund only for its intended purpose.

Health Care Agency

1. The County supports timely reimbursement from the State and Federal payors for services provided by the County.

2. The County supports construction funding to permit compliance with State earthquake retrofit requirements for acute care hospital facilities. Additionally, the County supports proposals that would extend the deadline for hospital earthquake retrofitting.
3. The County supports additional funding for the health care system, including the County Medical System, health services for homeless individuals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, telehealth, electronic medical records and other health infrastructure, Medicare waivers, Medicaid waivers, Disproportionate Share Hospital funding, the 340B program, and enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding.
4. The County supports legislation that will provide or maintain the funding for preventative health care for all ages which include proposals for women's health services that encourage early prenatal care, continued funding of Family Pact which provides access to health care for low-income women, and Children's Medical Services (CMS) Programs which include the preventive health strategies embedded into California Children Services (CCS) and all Child Health Disability Prevention Programs (CHDP).
5. The County supports full funding for public health departments to prevent, control, and treat communicable disease, prevent and control chronic diseases, and prevent health inequities.
6. The County supports full funding of uncompensated health care services.
7. The County supports the preservation of the medical control of the Medical Director of the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency.
8. The County supports the preservation of County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency authority and governing role to plan, implement, and evaluate a countywide EMS system.
9. The County opposes efforts which would limit the authority of the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency Medical Director in taking disciplinary action against a holder of an Emergency Medical Technician certificate.
10. The County supports efforts to maintain an independent State Emergency Medical Services Authority aligned with the Department of Health and Human Services.
11. The County supports efforts to increase the number of qualified essential health care professionals through programs that support education for undergraduate

and graduate students to enter the fields of Public Health, Laboratory Sciences, Primary Care, Specialty Care, and other professional fields supporting the health care industry.

12. The County supports efforts to expand access to dental health services for low-income and Medi-Cal eligible clients, including increasing the Denti-Cal reimbursement fees for providers, and supporting school-based dental disease prevention programs.
13. The County supports State legislation or budget actions that will raise Medi-Cal hospital rates.
14. The County opposes any diversion or supplantation of any County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding, while preserving the County's ability to flexibly serve individuals with mental health conditions.
15. The County supports local determination of prioritization of MHSA funded projects.
16. The County supports funding to help address housing and residential treatment services for people with mental illness as well as increased funding for local inpatient psychiatric units, residential treatment, and hospitals.
17. The County supports efforts and funding that would promote the development of a full continuum of care model for mental health treatment including additional crisis stabilization units in Ventura County.
18. The County supports increased funding for all populations served by the local behavioral health system.
19. The County supports increased funding for education, intervention, and treatment programs related to the opioid and fentanyl epidemic.
20. The County seeks funding and legislative support for the expansion of Family Medicine Residency Training programs to further improve the availability and access of primary care physicians at the local, state, and national level.
21. The County supports a State solution to address the financing model and financial shortfall for Safety Net Health Systems.

Human Services Agency

1. The County supports efforts that increase system integration and allow for more streamlined data sharing in order to better support vulnerable populations.

2. The County supports eligibility modifications and program enhancements that reduce barriers to access, improve service to clients, promote administrative simplification, and improve the equity and efficiency of public social services programs.
3. The County supports new programs and services, accompanied by new funding or additional flexibilities in existing funding, that expand the County's ability to provide services to vulnerable residents throughout the continuum of need, including prevention, early intervention, and after-care services.
4. The County supports additional funding to support the true costs of implementing state-mandated programs that serve vulnerable individuals. This includes the adoption of funding policies that minimize the County's share of cost or supplement Realignment funding for programs like In-Home Supportive Services and the Public Authority, Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, and the Public Administrator and Public Guardian. The County also supports funding to reimburse counties for increased annual costs associated with the administration of Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and CalFresh.
5. The County supports legislation, program enhancements, and policies that reinforce work and workforce support programs that help to lift families out of poverty and provide pathways to self-sufficiency.
6. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, aimed at reducing the number of families and individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, particularly those initiatives aimed at expanding housing options and comprehensive support services that lead to self-sufficiency.
7. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, that allow the provision of existing services and resources to individuals who are underrepresented and disproportionately impacted by economic downturns.
8. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, that equitably address the digital divide and provide access to the most vulnerable residents of the County.
9. The County supports legislation that addresses any challenges related to the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, including redefining housing options for foster youth, adding options for transitional housing for foster youth, and ensuring funding is available for continued service provision to youth as they age out of foster care.

Information Technology Services

1. The County supports efforts that would provide for the improvement of broadband availability, accessibility, competition, and performance in Ventura County.
2. The County supports legislation and technology enhancement efforts that will strengthen and improve cybersecurity for the public, businesses, and government.
3. The County supports efforts to enhance the privacy of sensitive data concerning individuals but does not place burdensome regulations on businesses and the free flow of information.
4. The County supports funding and initiatives to modernize public safety technology and infrastructure.
5. The County supports funding and initiatives to enhance science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) programs.
6. The County supports legislation that stimulates interoperability, innovation, fosters competition, reduces barriers to entry, and facilitates growth for hi-tech entrepreneurs and technology businesses.
7. The County supports legislation that facilitates open data and transparency while opposing legislation that will burden County operations.

Library

1. The County supports ongoing funding for the California Library Services Act (CLSA) that fosters resource sharing among libraries, particularly in rural areas where funding challenges persist.
2. The County supports an increase in funding for the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), which provides high-speed broadband for public libraries.

Probation

1. The County supports community prevention and early intervention programming to address juvenile gang involvement, truancy, substance abuse, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and delinquency.
2. The County supports proposals that would provide funding of juvenile and adult programs to suppress the addiction to controlled substances and facilitate the

treatment of severe chemical dependency, including medically assisted treatment.

3. The County supports revenue opportunities for local jurisdictions to establish evidence-based programs targeting mentally ill and domestic violence offenders.
4. The County supports revenue opportunities for local jurisdictions to establish evidence-based programming in the community (community-based organizations) targeting criminogenic risk factors for both adult and juvenile offenders. Revenue support to include training for community providers to deliver programs supported by research, for organizations to operate utilizing continuous improvement plans and program evaluations using outcomes, and for subsidized treatment for offenders.
5. The County supports funding to provide services for the emerging adult population, ages 18 to 25, in the areas of transitional housing and placement, intensive case management and mentoring, advanced independent living skills, and vocational training and job placement.
6. The County supports funding to enhance the creation of community-based interventions and approaches aimed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities within the local juvenile justice system.
7. The County supports funding to expand the use of jail alternative programs and approaches that are proven to have success in lowering recidivism rates among adult and juvenile offenders. This would include funding for pretrial assessments and monitoring services for adult offenders.
8. The County supports funding for facility modifications to repurpose vacant juvenile detention buildings to be used for other types of youthful offenders in need of residential services and treatments.

Public Defender

1. The County supports funding for the office of the Public Defender so that indigent defendants receive the required constitutional level of representation.
2. The County supports the establishment of a State sentencing/overcrowding commission.
3. The County supports a multi-agency approach to implementing the Stepping Up Initiative in order to reduce the number of adults with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in county jails.

4. The County supports the development and funding of community-based, non-jail alternatives that enhance community trust, public safety, lower rates of recidivism, and preserve taxpayer resources.

Public Works Agency

1. The County supports legislative efforts to develop funding policies and incentives that will ensure adequate funding for the maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of aging vital public works infrastructure in Ventura County.
2. The County supports funding for the repair and replacement of aging flood protection infrastructure including channels, dams, and levees.
3. The County supports funding for expansion of local pedestrian and bicycle usage and alternate transportation modes.
4. The County supports funding and incentives for multi-modal transportation and complete streets, including flexible design requirements for State highways serving as local roads, and installation and repair of sidewalks, particularly in low-income areas.
5. The County supports and encourages the development of State regulations and procedures that promote the common sense implementation of both State and Federal resource protection laws and ensure that both State and Federal agencies work together in a coordinated, uniform, and predictable fashion in order to enable efficient, consistent, and cost-effective compliance with these resource protection laws.
6. The County encourages and supports enhanced communication, collaboration and coordination between State and Federal regulatory agencies in order to expedite the delivery of vital public works projects and minimize regulatory redundancy, process inefficiencies, and agency conflicts.
7. The County supports legislation that provides greater accuracy in tracking and reporting the jurisdiction, source or origin, and content of wastewater for disposal.
8. The County supports efforts to require the disposal of wastewater, including produced water, through wastewater treatment plants where available as opposed to groundwater injection wells.
9. The County supports legislative efforts and regulatory rulemaking at the State level promoting environmental sustainability by incentivizing manufacturer's

incorporation of design elements using nontoxic products which increase the recyclability of a product at the end of its useful life.

10. The County supports funding for programs which divert all recyclables or reusable materials from landfills.
11. The County supports legislative efforts to provide financial and technical assistance, and permit streamlining, for the development of local water supply enhancement projects which promote resource sustainability including but not limited to groundwater and seawater desalination, underground water storage facilities, recycled water, rainwater capture, and distribution system interconnection projects designed to reduce dependence on imported water.
12. The County supports legislative efforts that focus water quality improvements on pollutant source control versus treatment control methods.
13. The County supports efforts that would include iron and manganese as a constituent that would qualify for grant funding for remediation for tap water.

Resource Management Agency

1. The County supports proposals that encourage and provide financial assistance to local governments to preserve and enhance the environment through energy conservation, development of renewable energy sources, restrictions on offshore development, coastal, wetlands and waterways protection, farmland and habitat preservation, and development of alternative transportation modes.
2. The County supports efforts to fund programs that encourage additional parkland and open space.
3. The County opposes the erosion of existing and future local land use controls or the creation of multiple, uncoordinated or conflicting regulations in the area of State and local permitting and resource protection.
4. The County supports legislation that will enable local governments to balance preservation of agriculture and open space, water supply, and other physical constraints with housing production in meeting state housing element goals; allow units produced through inclusionary housing policies and shared units through Homeshare to count toward meeting housing goals ; and recognize local land use initiatives and smart growth policies such as the Guidelines for Orderly Development in the establishment of housing needs assessment.

5. The County supports legislation that streamlines the environmental review process for development without compromising environmental quality standards or the public's ability to review and comment.
6. The County supports legislation to provide financial assistance to local governments to update their Local Coastal Programs (LCPs), as well as legislation that brings greater clarity and predictability to the Coastal Commission's policies, processes and schedules for reviewing and acting on LCP amendments.
7. The County supports legislation that specifies Sea Level Rise (SLR) is a regional issue and acknowledges the limitations of local governments to resolve the complexities of SLR on a County, City or project level basis. The County supports a consistent and regional approach to this multi-jurisdictional issue to ensure not only the continued existence of critical coastal infrastructure but the health, safety and welfare of California coastal communities for generations to come.
8. The County supports funding to address/mitigate the impacts of Sea Level Rise and to protect our coastal resources and communities including Naval Base Ventura County.
9. The County supports full State funding of the ocean water quality monitoring program.
10. The County supports the continued adoption and implementation of State requirements for oil and gas production to ensure that oil and gas development activities, including the disposal of wastewater, do not pose a significant risk to water supplies, people, or natural resources.
11. The County supports legislation that develops a clear plan, timeline, and funding mechanism to adequately assure the reclamation of all oil sites and infrastructure; in addition, the County supports legislation that sets a finite time limit on the maintenance of oil wells in idle status.
12. The County supports legislation or regulatory changes that clarifies a local Housing Element "Site Inventory" which contains excess properties shall not be presumed an unacceptable site in the next Housing Element update solely because no housing was constructed on the site.
13. The County supports legislation and funding to facilitate and streamline the issuance of Building Permits for new construction, especially for new housing.

14. The County supports legislation that helps fund the retrofitting of existing homes in vulnerable Fire Hazard areas/communities so that existing older buildings can be made more resistant to ignition during wildfires thereby making these older communities more resilient.

Sheriff's Department

1. The County supports sustained funding for programs such as the tri-Counties Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) and the Enhanced Law Enforcement Activities Subaccount (ELEAS).
2. The County supports continued funding for gang violence reduction that utilizes evidence-based programs to help high-risk youth develop problem solving, decision-making and communication skills, and that encourage partnerships with community-based organizations.
3. The County supports funding for programs that support Intelligence Led Policing strategies.
4. The County supports funding for the purchase of equipment and training for law enforcement.
5. The County supports continued funding for programs to enforce statutes regulating the use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV).
6. The County supports continued funding to allow the Sheriff to support United States Forest Service public safety personnel.
7. The County supports funding to backfill lost revenue for inmate welfare programs.
8. The County supports continued funding for the Office of Traffic Safety Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training program grants to reduce traffic collisions as well as alcohol, drug, and marijuana impaired driving.
9. The County supports funding to track, combat, and treat opioid and methamphetamine addiction.
10. The County supports funding for jail construction and front-line law enforcement, as well as funding for Standards and Training for Corrections officers.
11. The County supports funding for regional multi-disciplinary targeted gang suppression and prevention programs.

12. The County supports efforts that acknowledge the costs of and provide appropriate resources for the storage, retrieval, and, where required, editing of video and audio recordings captured by County personnel.
13. The County supports funding to address the treatment needs of those with serious mental illness who are detained in County facilities.
14. The County supports funding for vocational training for incarcerated individuals.
15. The County supports funding to address discharge planning activities that take into account the needs of homeless and mentally ill individuals as they transition back into the community following release from a local detention facility.
16. The County opposes efforts to prevent local participation in State Asset Forfeiture Programs.
17. The County supports funding for the investigation, mitigation, and dismantling of human trafficking organizations.
18. The County supports programs that fund prevention, investigation, and enforcement strategies for combating organized retail theft.

County of Ventura

2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND PLATFORM

I. OVERALL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

1. The County is fully committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion both internally and externally. To accomplish this, we must pursue direct and sustainable institutional change that acknowledges systemic racism and addresses it as a public health crisis in order to ensure equitable outcomes for all communities.
2. The County supports proposals that would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to California and opposes proposals that would reduce the State's share of total funding.
3. The County supports all legislative and administrative efforts to maximize and expedite access to Federal and State resources to address health emergency and disaster preparation, response, and recovery needs.
4. The County supports proposals that would provide Counties with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations.
5. The County supports efforts to reduce or eliminate the many cumbersome, contradictory regulatory/administrative/oversight requirements of Federal programs.
6. The County opposes proposals that would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.
7. The County supports legislation that would limit or minimize the County's exposure to tort/liability claims.

II. NEW BILL REQUESTS

None.

III. PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

1. The County supports new and ongoing investment in a diverse set of services and supports to provide needed assistance to our communities as part of a comprehensive pandemic response and recovery.

IV. FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Public Works Projects. The County supports funding for the repair and replacement of aging flood protection infrastructure, including the following projects:
 - a. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project
 - b. Santa Paula Creek Storm Damage Restoration Project
 - c. Santa Clara River Watershed Protection Plan/Capital Facilities Plan
 - d. Santa Clara River Levee (SCR-1) Improvements Project
 - e. Ventura River Levee (VR-1) Improvements Project
2. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Support is sought for funding for County watershed projects under the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service PL-566 watersheds program.
3. Channel Islands Harbor. Support is sought for funding in the amount of \$8 million in the US Army Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance/Navigation account for maintenance dredging to clear the Channel Islands Harbor sand trap for fiscal year 2023.
4. Ventura County Backlogged Violent Case DNA Analysis and Prosecution Project. Support is requested for funding for the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Forensic Service Bureau, Major Crimes Unit, and the Ventura County District Attorney's Office to continue a joint specialized unit that is dedicated to the investigation, laboratory analysis, and prosecution of backlogged violent cases that hold the promise of being solved through DNA technology.
6. Ventura County Computer Incident Response Team. Support is requested for funding for Ventura County District Attorney's office to implement the three-year Computer Incident Response Team program to investigate and prosecute computer network intrusion crimes
7. Harvest Medical Pavilion. Support is requested for funding for the construction of a rural-based acute care 49-bed hospital and accompanying ambulatory medical and specialty clinics in the Heritage Valley to provide critical medical and health care services to disadvantaged and underserved families and individuals residing in small rural communities geographically separated from the more urban areas of the county.
8. Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System Upgrade. Support is requested for funding for an Integrated Justice Information System upgrade. The current platform that was built more than 20 years ago. This new integrated justice system would seek to leverage new software functionality to ensure that

information is appropriately shared between 39 local, State, and Federal agencies.

9. Radio Communication Upgrade. Support is requested for funding to implement a 700Mhz frequency radio system that would serve the County and other city-based public safety entities with enhanced mobile apparatus, facility equipment, and expanded digital communication channels.

V. MAJOR POLICY ISSUES – BY DEPARTMENT

Agricultural Commissioner

1. The County supports proposals that would fully fund: the inspection of incoming and outgoing shipments of any materials capable of harboring pests and diseases detrimental to Ventura County's agricultural industry; the eradication of newly discovered pest populations; and pest management efforts.
2. The County supports enactment of and full funding for food safety programs.
3. The County supports efforts to promote the implementation of integrated pest management strategies to reduce reliance on the most toxic pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides and to promote programs to educate the public on safe pesticide use and their impacts.
4. The County supports legislation that would allow growers of specialty crops to participate in crop insurance programs, including legislation that would treat plant pest and disease quarantines as disasters and provide eligibility for economic relief to growers of specialty crops in declared disaster areas.
5. The County supports full funding for early pest and disease detection and surveillance improvements which would provide Federal support for pest exclusion and pest detection programs.
6. The County supports legislation providing for full funding for cooperative U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and local Agricultural Commissioner pesticide programs providing scientific risk assessments and evaluations of the most toxic pesticides.
7. The County supports legislation that encourages and provides financial assistance to agricultural operations to conserve and enhance the environment through conservation of prime farmland, energy conservation, and the development of renewable energy sources.

Airports

1. The County supports the FAA fully funding the reconstruction of runways and taxiways to ensure existing infrastructure meets the needs of the community.
2. The County supports Federal programs and funding to assist non-hub airports in developing and sustaining viable air service.
3. The County supports reauthorization and increased funding of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which provides funding for safety, security, noise abatement, and capacity enhancement programs.
4. The County opposes the privatization of the Camarillo Air Traffic Control Tower facility.
5. The County supports the Federal Contract Tower Program including full funding of the program at the Oxnard Airport.
6. The County supports the development and transition to alternative piston engine aviation fuels in a manner that does not negatively impact general aviation.
7. The County supports raising the Federal cap on local Passenger Facility Charges to assist in funding airport infrastructure.
8. The County supports alternative programs for pilot training that will address the pilot shortage issue that is impeding the County's ability to restore airline service.
9. The County supports the expansion of eligibility for use of federal grant funds.
10. The County supports reducing unnecessary Federal regulatory burdens on airport operators.

Area Agency on Aging

1. The County supports improving and expanding the Older American's Act (OAA), keeping pace with inflation and the growing number of older adults; preserve the OAA's flexibility and person-centered commitment; capitalize on the existing aging network to coordinate long-term care services; and increase appropriations under the OAA including expanding the OAA to include funding for Adult Protective Services and funding to help strengthen and expand Aging and Disability Resource Center's ability to help seniors and people with disabilities access resources and services.
2. The County supports legislation that preserves the Federal funding for the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy program that provides counseling regarding

Medicare. The County also supports legislation that provides funding for fall prevention, veterans' services including the Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Program, and funding that provides in-home care and respite for persons with dementia.

3. The County supports legislation that would allow dignity in death that includes privacy in nursing home rooms for those with less than five days to live, as well as additional services for the terminally ill.
4. The County supports efforts to fully fund the Elder Justice Act and legislation to increase the funding provided for elder abuse prosecution and prevention programs and increases the penalties for those convicted of crimes against seniors. The County also supports increasing the penalties for those convicted of crimes against seniors or those with disabilities.
5. The County supports legislation that requires the Federal government to negotiate for the lowest available prices for prescription drugs under the Medicare Part D program and expands Medicare coverage of dental and hearing and visual aids for seniors.
6. The County supports funding and efforts to move towards community-based services and age-in-place programs as opposed to nursing home placement.
7. The County supports legislation to add low-income older adults to the list of specified groups for whom employers may claim a work opportunity tax credit.

County Executive Office

1. The County supports legislation that would allow for the interception of Federal tax refunds as a means to recover fees and judgments owed to the County of Ventura.
2. The County supports full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and authorization of mandatory payments to provide stability to the program.
3. The County supports the repeal of the caps on the amount of State and Local Taxes (SALT) that can be deducted on individual tax returns.
4. The County supports improvements to Federal housing assistance programs that promote housing stability therefore allowing more people in need to participate in those programs.
5. The County supports efforts to obtain additional housing vouchers to support local collaborative efforts to house chronically homeless individuals and families.

6. The County supports investment in economic development, building prosperous communities, and competitive industries.
7. The County supports programs and funding to assist businesses directly impacted by COVID-19.
8. The County supports efforts to expand financial resources for the development and preservation of affordable housing.
9. The County supports legislation protecting participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program from deportation and that provides a pathway for permanent status.
10. The County supports efforts to address comprehensive immigration reform.
11. The County supports repeal of provisions included in the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016 that make it nearly impossible for the Drug Enforcement Agency to freeze suspicious narcotic shipments.
12. The County supports efforts to reclassify cannabis from a Schedule 1 substance to make it easier for ill patients and scientific and medical researchers to obtain marijuana.
13. The County supports stronger gun control legislation including: a ban on modifications that make a semi-automatic gun work like an automatic; strict restrictions on the size of magazines and the sale of guns like the AR-15; background checks for all gun buyers; prohibition of gun shows at state-owned fairgrounds; prevention of the mentally ill from buying guns; a ban on the sale of guns to people convicted of violent crimes, including domestic violence; and implementation of a mandatory waiting period on all gun purchases.
14. The County supports all efforts to protect our local military bases from closure and encroachment, supports funding for infrastructure, and the work of the community coalition known as Regional Defense Partnership 21st Century (RDP-21).
15. The County supports efforts to require NASA and Boeing, the owners of land at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, and the Department of Energy, which leases land at the site, to clean up the site to the most protective standards, equivalent to background, and opposes the transfer and/or development of the property until the clean-up of the site is deemed complete.

16. The County supports efforts to increase funding to the Federal EPA Superfund Account for work currently underway at the Halaco site as well as funding for future clean-up and removal actions.
17. The County supports the establishment of a Federal Authority that will fund Regional Sediment Management projects on the California coast that are consistent with the US Army Corps of Engineers' mission of coastal risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation.
18. The County supports efforts that would achieve the sediment management goals of the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) in Ventura County and Coastal California.
19. The County opposes legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law until a federally funded, full analysis is completed outlining what impacts any increases may have on the national transportation system, including the added cost to State and local governments.
20. The County supports legislation that would reinstate the 2022-2025 Federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) vehicle fuel economy standards and provide further fuel efficiency requirements.
21. The County supports funding for wildfire prevention efforts, including undergrounding utilities and the removal of dead trees and other nonfire-resistant species.
22. The County supports cost-effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the use of grants, loans, and incentives to assist local governments in the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction programs.
23. The County supports legislative efforts which would provide financial assistance and operations and economic incentives that promote the use of renewable energy.
24. The County supports legislative efforts and regulatory rule-making that promote the use of renewable fuels and forms of energy and streamlining the process for implementing projects.
25. The County supports legislation that provides financial and operational incentives for emerging technologies in renewable energy production and recycling to support local government efforts to minimize costs and environmental impacts.
26. The County supports legislation that would establish a Federal revenue neutral carbon tax.

27. The County supports legislation that recognizes shipping companies for voluntarily reducing speeds in the Santa Barbara Channel region to reduce air pollution and the risk of fatal ship strikes on whales.

District Attorney

1. The County supports funding to develop and staff an Intelligence Driven Prosecution program in Ventura County.
2. The County supports the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with provisions that continue to hold perpetrators accountable and preserves the rights of crime victims.
3. The County supports legislation that established a permanent Federal funding stream for Family Justice Centers across the nation.

Fire District

1. The County supports initiatives to ensure the financial viability of the Fire District as well as the public safety services it provides. Specific focus is on forward planning, local government reimbursement, and prevention measures and response enhancements to “all-hazard” emergency incidents, local, State and Federal.
2. The County supports efforts to bring insurance companies and the industry into mitigating the wildland fire problem.

Harbor Department

1. The County supports funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for activities related to dredging of Federally authorized channels and sand deposition areas, jetty maintenance and repair, and environmental enhancement.
2. The County supports efforts to ensure that funds collected under the Harbor Maintenance Tax are targeted for navigation projects.
3. The County supports the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and regulatory versions that ensure that local issues and concerns are addressed.
4. The County supports the appropriation of funding needed to reach authorized depths.

Health Care Agency

1. The County supports efforts to protect, maximize, and provide funding for the County Medical System (inpatient and outpatient), including, but not limited to Safety Net Hospitals and Health Systems, Health Care for the Homeless, Federally Qualified Health Centers, telemedicine/e-consult services, maintenance and enhancement of electronic health care infrastructure, Medicare and Medicaid Waivers, Disproportionate Share Hospital Funding, Coverage Initiatives, 340b Programs, Outpatient Reimbursement rules, Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) enhancement, formulas, and initiatives.
2. The County seeks expanded funding support for publicly operated health care safety-net services. Continuation and expansion are sought for the federally funded State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Continued expansion and funding support is also sought for development and expansion of locally sponsored safety-net programs to provide health services, such as Oral and Optometry Health, the Medical Home Model, Integrated Medical & Mental Health Services, Whole Person Care, and Case/Care Management Services.
3. The County supports legislation that would allow for the inclusion of a Marriage and Family Therapist in the list of health care professionals covered to bill Medicaid/Medicare through Federally Qualified Health Centers.
4. The County supports expansion and continued funding of both behavioral health and health care services for the homeless.
5. The County supports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's efforts to ensure that manufacturers provide safe and effective mobile medical digital devices for home use.
6. The County supports reauthorization and full funding of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program in order to improve the infrastructure for data collection, delivery of service, and full implementation.
7. The County supports public policies and services that strengthen our public health system, expands health insurance coverage, and provides resources to better serve Maternal Child Adolescent Health populations, including children with special health care needs.
8. The County supports full funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
9. The County supports reauthorization and full funding of the Ryan White CARE Act.

10. The County supports proposals which allow for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for individuals who are excluded from participation in the Medicaid program as a result of their mental health placements, such as patients at Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs), which are hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions with more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in the diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases.
11. The County supports opioid substance misuse prevention policies, including State rules, which maintain peace officers' access to prescription drug monitoring program data during possible criminal investigations, and expanded Federal funding for overdose prevention education and rescue efforts.
12. The County supports efforts to provide additional funding for residential treatment, recovery housing, and all other costs associated with substance use and misuse.
13. The County supports legislation or budget actions that will raise Medi-Cal hospital rates through hospital provider fees with the appropriate model that will provide additional funding for public hospitals and expansion of coverage for children.
14. The County seeks funding and legislative support for the expansion of Family Medicine Residency Training programs to further improve the availability and access of primary care physicians at the local, state, and national level.
15. The County supports efforts to seek funding and legislative action that would improve opportunities for physicians that work in public health care safety-net systems to reduce or forgive student loan obligations.
16. The County supports an increase in Graduate Medical Education funding for the training of primary care doctors.
17. The County supports efforts to fund and incentivize health care delivery systems that achieve national accreditation, certification, and/or recognition.
18. The County supports construction funding to permit compliance with State earthquake retrofit requirements for acute care hospital and outpatient facilities, including replacement facilities as appropriate.

Human Services Agency

1. The County supports efforts that increase system integration and allow for more streamlined data sharing, such as Homeless Management Information System and the Child Welfare Continuum of Care.

2. The County supports changes that are designed to improve overall program administration and encourage flexibility and simplification for more equitable and effective service delivery.
3. The County supports increased and flexible funding to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations. Such funding sources should provide families in crisis with the support, culturally competent services, evidence-based early intervention, and prevention programs needed to keep children safely at home and out of foster care.
4. The County supports increased funding and support across the continuum of need for all foster youth. This includes support of modifications to Federal law that allows flexibility to ease transitions for foster youth across various programs and systems of support. The County supports the ability to utilize funding from a wider array of funding streams to maximize resources for these vulnerable individuals.
5. The County supports efforts to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and increase Federal funding levels for TANF and related programs that address factors contributing to poverty.
6. The County supports the goals of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and increased funding for the workforce network and collaborative.
7. The County supports funding, programs, and initiatives aimed at reducing the number of families and individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, particularly those initiatives aimed at expanding affordable housing resources and comprehensive support services that lead to self-sufficiency.
8. The County supports policies, funding, and legislation that support age-friendly programs that provide equitable support for aging populations.
9. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, that equitably address the digital divide and provide access to the most vulnerable residents of the County.

Information Technology Services

1. The County supports efforts that would provide for the improvement of broadband availability, accessibility, competition, and performance in Ventura County.
2. The County supports legislation and technology enhancement efforts that will strengthen and improve cybersecurity for the public, businesses, and government.

3. The County supports efforts to enhance the privacy of sensitive data concerning individuals but does not place burdensome regulations on businesses and the free flow of information.
4. The County supports funding and initiatives to modernize public safety technology and infrastructure.
5. The County supports funding and initiatives to enhance science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) programs.
6. The County encourages support for legislation that stimulates innovation, fosters competition, reduces barriers to entry, and facilitates growth for hi-tech entrepreneurs and technology businesses.
7. The County supports legislation that facilitates open data and transparency while opposing legislation that will burden County operations.

Library

1. The County supports the Museum and Library Services Act and the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and increasing appropriations for its library grant programs through the Library Services and Technology Act.

Probation

1. The County supports proposals that would provide funding of juvenile and adult programs to suppress the addiction to controlled substances and facilitate the treatment of severe chemical dependency, including medically assisted treatment.
2. The County supports proposals that would provide funding for the purposes of establishing collaborative re-entry programs and services for those adult and juvenile offenders returning to their communities from State prisons and local custodial facilities.
3. The County supports funding opportunities designated to assist local agencies who have the responsibility of managing youth in the foster care system and those reintegrating into their communities.

Public Defender

1. The County supports increased funding of the John R. Justice Prosecution and Defender Incentive Act, which provides repayment of educational loans for attorneys who provide legal services in public interest areas of law such as criminal prosecution and defense.

2. The County supports a multi-agency approach to implementing the Stepping Up Initiative in order to reduce the number of adults with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in county jails.
3. The County supports the development and funding of community-based, non-jail alternatives that enhance community trust, public safety, lower rates of recidivism, and preserve taxpayer resources.

Public Works Agency

1. The County supports legislative efforts to develop funding policies and incentives that will ensure adequate funding for the maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of aging vital public works infrastructure in Ventura County.
2. The County seeks funding in support of local efforts to complete levee rehabilitation and/or reconstruction projects that are required in order to obtain FEMA's Levee Certification Requirements (i.e., 44 CFR 65.10).
3. The County supports legislative efforts that would require FEMA to give all newly mapped areas an amortization period before mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and higher insurance rates go into full effect.
4. The County supports multi-year authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.
5. The County supports transportation legislation that would include maximum funding support for maintenance and operation of local roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure; maximum flexibility to use Federal highway funding for expansion of local pedestrian and bicycle usage and alternate transportation modes; and reduction of redundant and cumbersome administrative regulations that hinder usage of Federal highway funds.
6. The County supports and encourages the development of Federal regulations and procedures that promote the common-sense implementation of both Federal and State resource protection laws and ensure that both Federal and State agencies work together in a coordinated, uniform, and predictable fashion in order to enable efficient, consistent, and cost-effective compliance with these resource protection laws.
7. The County encourages and supports enhanced communication, collaboration, and coordination between Federal and State regulatory agencies in order to expedite the delivery of vital public works projects and minimize regulatory redundancy, process inefficiencies, and agency conflicts.

8. The County supports Federal initiatives and funding assistance for the planning, design, construction, and/or land acquisition associated with the protection of Ventura County's natural resources, including but not limited to natural floodplain management, habitat protection, and water resources protection.
9. The County supports legislative efforts to provide financial and technical assistance for the development of local water supply enhancement projects which promote resource sustainability including but not limited to groundwater and seawater desalination, underground water storage facilities, rainwater capture, recycled water, and distribution system interconnection projects.
10. The County supports legislative efforts that focus water quality improvements on pollutant source control versus treatment control methods.

Resource Management Agency

1. The County supports legislation which encourages and provides financial assistance to local governments to preserve and enhance the environment through energy conservation, development of renewable energy sources, restrictions on offshore development, farmland and habitat preservation, and alternative transportation modes.
2. The County supports continued funding of research and State/local monitoring efforts in the furtherance of the goals of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000.
3. The County opposes new oil and gas leases off the Pacific Coast.

Sheriff's Department

1. The County supports reauthorization and increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to address the substantial impact illegal immigration has on the County.
2. The County supports continued or increased funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. As a result of past EMPG funding, local emergency responders are prepared to respond to human-caused and natural disaster.
3. The County supports continued or increased funding for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. The PDM grants, awarded through FEMA, provide funds to States, territories, native tribes, communities, and universities for mitigation planning and the implementation of those plans before a disaster occurs.

4. The County supports funding for enforcement and eradication programs designed to combat street to high-level drug sales, manufacturing, and distribution.
5. The County supports continued funding to allow the Sheriff to support the U.S. Forest Service in law enforcement activity on Federal forest land.
6. The County supports funding to backfill lost revenue for inmate welfare programs.
7. The County supports legislation and regulations that would amend the Federal Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP) and allow non-convicted individuals to have continued access to necessary treatment through Federal health benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, and VA health benefits.
8. The County supports funding to track, combat, and treat opioid and methamphetamine addiction.
9. The County supports funding for traffic safety and driving under the influence with grants provided by the Office of Traffic Safety, through a partnership with the National Transportation Safety Board.
10. The County supports efforts to ensure adequate funding to be used to decrease the backlog awaiting DNA and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) analysis.
11. The County opposes efforts to prevent local participation in Federal Asset Forfeiture Programs.
12. The County supports funding for the investigation, mitigation, and dismantling of human trafficking organizations.
13. The County supports continued access to and participation in the Defense Logistics Agency's Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 program, which allows for the transfer of Department of Defense property that might otherwise be destroyed, to law enforcement agencies across the U.S.
14. The County supports legislation to cap attorneys' fees in civil rights lawsuits.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2021



**2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
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Adopted April 13, 2021

Overview

The City of Fillmore has adopted this Legislative Platform to facilitate the City's quick response to county, state, and federal legislation in a proactive manner, since legislation can often move quickly through legislative bodies, with insufficient time for the City Council to take a formal action on a particular piece of legislation. The Legislative Platform further serves as a guide for the City Council to consider legislative affairs on an ad hoc basis.

The Legislative Platform promotes the City's interest on legislative matters. It is reviewed and adopted by the City Council annually. The Platform will guide the Council and staff in considering appropriate action on legislative proposals introduced at the County, State and Federal levels.

Approval of the legislative platform also streamlines the City's process and allows the City Manager and the City Executive team to effectively respond and take immediate action on pressing legislation under City Council direction. Whenever possible, the Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem or City Manager, in the Mayor's absence) is authorized to sign correspondence expressing the City's position on pending legislation, consistent with the City's Legislative Platform and/or other positions on pending legislation consistent with the Legislative Program or prior City Council actions. If the City Manager cannot discern the City's position after consulting the Platform, the legislative proposal will be brought to the City Council.

City staff monitors state and county legislation for potential impacts to the City. State or federal legislation may also be brought to staff's attention by the League of California Cities, Ventura Council of Governments, or other professional organizations for engineering, legislative, finance, community development, public safety, and other professions.

The policies established within the platform do not preclude City Council consideration of additional legislative matters arising throughout the year that may be brought forward for City Council action. If warranted due to complexity, the City Manager may also present pending legislation to other standing committees as appropriate for the topic, for a recommendation prior to City Council consideration.

Nothing in the Legislative Platform is intended to preclude consideration of any legislation by the City Council, regardless of whether it is included in the Legislative Platform.

City positions in support of legislation on a specified topic shall be construed to include opposition to something that shall do the opposite, and the reverse is also true. For example, if the Legislative Platform supports increased funding for libraries, it also inherently opposes decreased funding for libraries.

General Government

1. Oppose legislation that increases Workers' Compensation benefits that will result in additional employer costs.
2. Support legislation that reforms the Workers' Compensation system to eliminate system abuse, limit presumptive eligibility claims for benefits, and reduce employer costs.
3. Oppose legislation that increases employer liability for employment compensation or that would reduce local discretion.
4. Support efforts to increase State resources for parks, recreation, local arts, cultural events, senior and library programs, including performing and visual arts programs.
5. Support legislation for pension reform that will reduce long-term costs for participating agencies, provide long-term financial stability and sustainability.
6. Support legislation that provides funding to support operation and maintenance of community recreation and park facilities.
7. Support legislation that enables Cities and local school districts to work towards the goal of universal pre-school.
8. Support legislation for funding the establishment and expansion of community adult schools and adult education programs.

Local Control

1. Support legislation that preserves local control.
2. Support legislation that protects local control over urban planning.
3. Oppose State legislation that supersedes a jurisdiction's adopted zoning ordinances.
4. Oppose County, State, or Federal mandates without the direct or indirect reimbursement for the costs associated with complying with new and/or modified laws, regulations, policies, procedures, permits and/or programs.

Local Economic Recovery

1. Support legislation that extends and/or expands eviction protections for all residents during a pandemic and other natural and man-made catastrophic event.
2. Support legislation that extends recovery benefits (such as stimulus payments, paid family leave, etc, including to undocumented families) during a pandemic and other natural and man-made catastrophic event.
3. Support legislation that will help small businesses recover from the economic impacts of a pandemic and other natural and man-made catastrophic event.
4. Support legislation that provides additional resources to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

Local Government Finance

1. Oppose legislation that makes local government more dependent on the State for financial stability.
2. Oppose legislation that shifts or diverts revenue from local government to the State for any purpose or reduces local discretion in the use of local government revenues.
3. Support legislation that further protects local government revenue from being taken, confiscation, shifted, diverted or otherwise used to fund State government operations and responsibilities.
4. Support legislation that guarantees ongoing revenue sources for local government.
5. Oppose legislation that changes the property tax collection method or formula that would result in less property tax to local governments.
6. Support legislation that provides State and local authority for cities to collect their fair allocation of sales tax on catalog and Internet or other remote transactions.
7. Oppose legislation that threatens a local government's right to receive compensation for use of its public right-of-way, including but not limited to gas, electricity, solid waste, and cable and video providers.
8. Support legislation to secure State and Federal funding for pandemics or major health events.

Public Safety

1. Support legislation that enhances public safety, protects the public from crime, provides local law enforcement agencies with technology, training, and funding to create a standard to detect cannabis DWI/DUI.
2. Support legislation that provides additional tools and resources to address community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehab, sex-offender re-entry, and human trafficking.
3. Oppose legislation that mandates unfunded local government response to addressing community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehab, sex-offender re-entry, and human trafficking.
4. Support the development and use of new firefighting technology in order to produce higher levels of health and safety.
5. Support legislation that provides funding to local agencies for emergency planning, disaster training, preparedness, prevention, protection, mitigation, response, recovery, and resiliency to disasters and environmental threats.
6. Support a statewide, dedicated funding source for 211 dispatch services, designed to provide 24/7 support to meet public health and human service's needs.
7. Support legislation that provides funding for traffic enforcement.
8. Support legislation that funds collaboration between local law enforcement and local services such as mental and behavioral health agencies to work toward innovative approaches to public safety and crisis intervention.

Transportation

1. Oppose legislation that directs local transportation funds away from cities.
2. Support legislation that appropriates State and Federal funds to city and regional governments for transportation projects, including funds for the construction, preservation and maintenance of streets, roads, bike paths and pedestrian lanes.
3. Support legislation or grant opportunities that provide funding for developing or enhancing alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure.
4. Support legislation that provides funding for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles for local government.
5. Support legislation, which would repeal or modify existing law regarding how a local jurisdiction makes findings on setting a speed limit for a street.
6. Support legislation that provides funding for developing or enhancing mass transit plans and projects, including bus, bike lanes and rail systems.
7. Support legislation that provides increased State and Federal resources for critical and sustainable local transportation infrastructure projects.
8. Support legislation supporting Active Transportation Planning and infrastructure.

Housing and Land Use

1. Oppose legislation that restricts local discretion in the use of housing funds or meeting local housing needs. Discussion item.
2. Support legislation that addresses occupancy levels and strengthens a local government's ability to explore residential housing numbers while ensuring that affordable housing is available when needed.
3. Support legislation to develop State and Federal financial support and incentives for programs that provide adequate affordable housing for the elderly, disabled, homeless, veterans, very-low and low-income persons throughout the community.
4. Oppose legislation or regulations that threaten or usurp local control of land use decision-making.
5. Oppose legislation that imposes State mandates or procedures that are contrary to local development standards.
6. Support legislation that protects local zoning as a function of cities.
7. Support legislation to secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and resources to assist individuals at risk of – or already experiencing – homelessness while preserving local decision making.

Mental Health and Homelessness

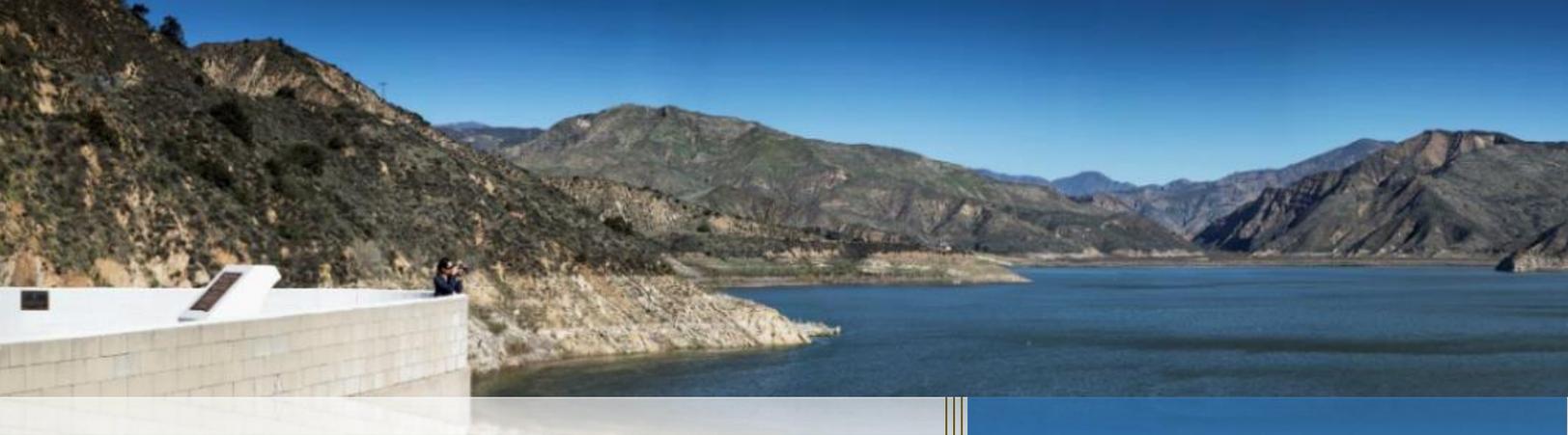
1. Support legislation that provides local government with additional tools and resources to address homelessness.

2. Support legislation that supports mental health care – access to bilingual individual and family counseling, psychiatric facilities, behavioral health care treatment, and local services.
3. Support legislation that expands the treatment of and community-driven or community-level response to mentally ill persons.
4. Support legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at-risk populations – seniors, youth, including transitional age youth and homeless.

Environmental

1. Support Community Choice Aggregation and measures that further the goals of choice (100%, 50%, 25% renewable), clean energy, and affordable rates.
2. Support legislation that streamlines the state’s environmental review process and maintains public participation without compromising environmental quality standards.
3. Support legislation and/or programs that provide money to local governments for energy efficiency and conservation programs.
4. Support legislation that makes funds available to acquire, maintain refurbish and improve parks, and open space.
5. Support funding and legislation for the designation and preservation of open space and preservation, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources.
6. Support legislation that exempts from property taxes any City-owned property outside city limits (but within the same County) that is used for open space preservation purposes.
7. Support legislation that reimburses cities for revenue losses stemming from environmental decisions made without city participation.
8. Support funding and other incentives for local government and private industry projects and planning strategies to promote sustainability in infrastructure and operations, greater energy efficiency, lower energy usage, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Support legislation to ban all anticoagulant rodenticides statewide, with exceptions for emergencies.
10. Support legislation that reduces or eliminates local government’s owner/operator Superfund liability.
11. Support legislation to either consolidate or streamline the federal and state Clean Air Acts without reducing air quality standards.
12. Support air quality efforts that emphasize use of advanced technologies and market incentives, including use of alternative fuels and development of an infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles and inter-jurisdictional mass transit planning and project implementation.
13. Support legislation and science-based regulation of herbicides, rodenticides, and similarly used chemically based compounds.
14. Support legislation and programs to promote water recycling to better safeguard water supplies.
15. Support legislation that protects ground water quality.
16. Support legislation that provides funding and/or incentives for green building.
17. Support legislation that provides funding/local incentives for green and safe street designs.
18. Support legislation that provides funding for safe routes to schools, car, bus, shared vehicle, pedestrian, maintenance, and expansion of bike and walking paths, and parks.

19. Support legislation that promotes access to healthy food; provides incentives to retailers with healthy food alternatives.
20. Support funding and legislation for food waste diversion and food recovery - that facilitates compliance with SB 1383 and/or retain local benefits of waste diversion and composting by keeping these operations local when possible.



United Water Conservation District Legislative Policy & Platform



*Adopted by the Board of Directors on
November 14, 2018*

POLICY PURPOSE

United Water Conservation District has adopted a Legislative Platform intended to guide staff and contract lobbyists when evaluating legislative proposals introduced at both the federal, state, and local levels. Maintaining an updated platform provides for directed action and strategy development to address the most critical issues facing the organization in a timely and proactive manner. The platform will be updated every two years through the Executive Committee to reflect changes in priority issue areas but shall not prohibit advocacy on additional matters which may arise later in the year.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The District's General Manager may take a position of support, opposition, or support/oppose unless amended on proposed legislation or regulation on behalf of the District **in accordance with the adopted Legislative Policy & Platform**. Authority to provide letters of support or opposition to elected officials or committees and/or join coalitions as appropriate is afforded to the General Manager for matters addressed in the Legislative Policy and Platform.

If there are mitigating factors where the Board may want to take a position that varies from the approved Policy & Platform, or, if it is a matter that is not inherent in the Policy & Platform, the measure shall go to the full Board for direction.

Staff, with assistance from State and Federal lobbyists, will analyze the effects of proposed legislation or regulations on current and potential future District affairs, research positions of other similar professional organizations, and provide recommendations for District positions.

The Board of Directors shall adopt the Legislative Policy and Platform and testify on behalf of the District at the State and Federal level as needed, including, but not limited to, participating in meetings with legislators or public officials.

TRANSPARENCY

In the interest of transparency, the District shall provide periodic updates on positions taken in accordance with the Legislative platform via the following methods:

- Provide the public with updates on United's website www.unitedwater.org.
- Update the Board of Directors monthly at its regular Board meeting.
- Track results and present to the Board on an annual basis of which bills failed or were chaptered, in comparison to the District position.

POLICY UPDATE

The Legislative Policy and Platform shall be amended every two years or sooner if District goals change.

UWCD MISSION STATEMENT

United Water Conservation District shall manage, protect, conserve and enhance the water resources of the Santa Clara River, its tributaries and associated aquifers.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to achieve the District's Mission statement, the following guidelines have been adopted for the 18-19 Fiscal Year. These principles serve as a guide for the Legislative Platform, which provide direction in staff's development of positions on forthcoming federal and state legislation.

- Fight overdraft of the hydrologically connected aquifers and the manifested seawater intrusion while working to enhance the water quality of the aquifers through the use of District programs/facilities.
- Maximize District operations while complying with Federal/State environmental laws to protect the availability and use of the region's limited water resources.
- Conduct District affairs in a business-like manner that promotes transparency for all financial activities and protects the District's assets, promotes sound internal controls that result in positive independent financial audits, and maintains professional and financial integrity.
- Construct, operate, and maintain facilities needed now and in the future to put local and imported water resources to optimum beneficial use by people while complying with environmental laws.
- Monitor groundwater conditions to detect and guard against problems and to report those conditions to the Board of Directors and the public.
- Seek opportunities to develop cooperative programs with other agencies in order to maximize use of District resources and promote mutually beneficial projects.
- Participate in activities that promote public awareness about the District and its primary function of water conservation, partake in community involvement projects to enhance the relationships within the areas the District serves, and have strong involvement in county, state and national issues related to the District's mission.
- Protect and augment groundwater supplies necessary for the public health, welfare and safety of the people of the State of California.
- Provide recreational facilities and opportunities for the public in the most cost efficient manner possible, in order to comply with the District's FERC license requirements.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – Local Control

Support legislation that would:

- Maintain the authority and fiduciary role of the Board of Directors to manage the water supply, public contracts, procurement, financial administration, public records, and human resources practices, as well as regular operations.
- Require that the federal and/or state governments provide reimbursement to local governments for the implementation of newly-mandated federal/state regulations.
- Further protect local government revenue and rights from being taken, confiscated, diverted or otherwise used to aid state government operations and responsibilities.
- Advance the District’s ongoing mission and goals with respect to all District facilities, including but not limited to Santa Felicia Dam, Lake Piru, and Freeman Diversion.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – Water Supply and Sustainability

Support legislation that would:

- Enhance stormwater capture, sediment management, and water conservation.
- Promote the District’s ability to manage groundwater and surface water.
- Recognize groundwater recharge as a beneficial use of water supply and allow flexibility to manage groundwater at the local level by agencies that have the technical expertise to ensure the health of the aquifer is maintained and competing uses are balanced.
- Address localized drought impacts, protect water supply, and strengthen the District’s water rights and water right priorities.
- Through the use of advanced technologies in power generation, generate a direct and quantifiable benefit to District operations.
- Fund and expedite the construction of groundwater (for example, Aquifer Storage and Recover, or “ASR”) and surface water storage projects that will enhance the opportunities to use additional water resources for future water supplies in Ventura County.
- Allow for additional state and local funding for sustainable water management programs that improve sustainability, drought resiliency, and water quality.
- Add to the reliability and security of water supplies.
- Promote and expand opportunities for new potential water supply sources such as water recycling (including both direct and indirect potable reuse), groundwater recharge, water storage, brackish and ocean water desalination, and surface water recharge as new potential sources of water supply, including the treatment, storage and distribution of said water sources.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – Increased Efficiency

Support legislation that would:

- Streamline and modernize District water rights modification attempts.
- Streamline and modernize the application process for permits related to California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act, as well as Lake and Streambed Alterations Agreements and the California Fish and Game Code.
- Encourage innovative and cooperative water resources projects that will be of regional benefit.

- Provide funding for data collection in the Santa Clara River watershed which would allow the District to make sound science based decisions and avoid regulatory decisions based on assumptions or outdated information, including but not limited to updating species listing status based on the most current data preferably using the most modern technology, and working towards realistic and updated recovery goals based on this best available science.
- Promote transparency and public participation in local government, while preserving procedures that continue to foster efficient government proceedings.
- Address redundancy and conflicting regulations between regulatory agencies.
- Provide resources needed at state agencies and avoid understaffing/underfunding.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – Health, Safety and Security

Support legislation that would:

- Rely on science-based drinking water regulations to maintain or improve water quality.
- Promote the District’s ability to meet primary and secondary drinking water standards.
- Create incentives, financial and other, for water treatment projects.
- Support invasive species prevention, containment and control efforts, including but not limited to Dreissenid mussels (quagga and zebra mussels).
- Promote and maintain the ability of UWCD to protect and secure critical infrastructure from cyber or physical threats and damages.
- Fight overdraft of the hydrologically connected aquifers and the seawater intrusion.
- Protect the quality of water resources to the maximum extent practicable.
- Support watershed-based management and point source pollution control programs that protect and improve surface and groundwater water quality for urban and agricultural uses, as well as for the environment as appropriate.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – Administrative and Fiscal Responsibility

Support legislation that would:

- Mitigate external operational costs to UWCD and/or its ratepayers, thereby enhancing water affordability.
- Oppose the imposition of unreasonable or unfunded state mandated programs, or increased fees and charges/taxes on UWCD customers.
- Ensure regulatory actions provide funding to local governments for implementation and ongoing monitoring/operations.
- Have employee benefits include local government input and properly negotiated at the bargaining table, rather than imposed on by government mandate, thereby impeding on local administration of labor relations.

UCC Water Policy Principles and Policy Statements

Approved by UCC Board of Directors – 1/12/2022

PRINCIPLES

- The UCC Water Policy should represent a **consensus-based work product** that acknowledges and/or mitigates differences among member counties.
- The UCC Water Policy should reflect a **uniquely urban perspective** that differentiates and elevates the urban voice in state water policy conversations and advocacy.
- The UCC Water Policy should acknowledge where and to what extent we can have **substantive influence** in the policymaking arena.

POLICY STATEMENTS

#1 – Funding

- UCC supports a combination of state and federal resources to increase and support sustainable water supply and conservation statewide as well as to sustain our state’s agricultural economy and address food insecurity.
- UCC recognizes the need – and will explore an array of potential options – for an ongoing revenue source dedicated to water availability, reliability, conservation, and delivery.
- UCC acknowledges that additional investments in water supply, storage, and delivery are necessary to ensure water remains accessible and affordable in all communities, including those that are disadvantaged.

#2 – Drought Response and Mitigation

- To successfully respond to the state’s geographic water needs as well as to mitigate the increasingly challenging drought conditions, UCC supports the following actions:
 - Additional water storage achieved through public works projects to ensure adequate water supply; and
 - An extended moratorium on permitting challenges to create a pathway to construction and completion of agreed-upon water projects.
- UCC supports regional and/or local assessment of the state’s drought needs to appropriately reflect differing geographic and drought conditions across our state’s diverse topographies.



#3 – Clean and Safe Drinking Water

- UCC supports efforts to expand and protect water supplies by:
 - Modernizing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure; and
 - Supporting programs and funding to expand the use of reclaimed water, water recycling, ecosystem restoration, and groundwater supply projects.