



Butte Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday April 26, 2023

Call to Order, Introductions

Don Bowen (Vice Chair), Residential

Steve Burton, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Refuge

Don Crawford, Private Pumper

Greg Herman, Private Pumper

Randy Jertberg, Private Pumper

Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District

Richard Nelson (Chair), Private Pumper

VACANT, City of Dorris

VACANT, Environmental/Conservation

VACANT, Tribal Representative

Agenda

- 3:05 Approval of Past Meeting Summary, Notice of 2023 Meeting Schedule and Format
- 3:10 Public Comment Period – Non-Agenda Items and Updates from Other Agencies
- 3:15 District Staff Updates
- 3:25 DWR Updates
- 3:30 **Receive Input on Draft County Well Permitting Guidelines**
- 4:40 Break
- 4:50 **Highlights from the Annual Report**
- 5:10 **Receive Input on Multi-Basin Management Strategy Document**
- 5:40 **Committee Member Updates and Discussion**
- 5:55 Closing, Next Steps
- 6:00 Meeting Adjourns

Approval of Past Meeting Summary

- A copy of the January Meeting Summary was included in the meeting packet posted online.
 - Are there any revisions to offer?
 - Facilitate vote to approve and post summary.

Siskiyou County Sustainable Groundwater Management
Scott Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary

January 24, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Held online via Zoom

Action Items:

- The September meeting minutes will be revised per Charnna Gilmore's comment and Matt will upload to the Siskiyou County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) website. Matt will also include the PowerPoint presentation slides from the meeting.
- Larry Walker and Associates (LWA) will share a draft version of the Annual Report by the end of February, for Advisory Committee members to review and provide comments.
- Matt Parker will make the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) data factsheets prepared by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) available to those interested in accessing them.
- Crystal Robinson and Janae Scruggs will follow up with others at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) about the high priority spawning survey.

Attachments/Links:

- PowerPoint Presentation Slides (attached)

Attendees: see last page

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Agenda Review, and Virtual Meeting Structure

Facilitator Marisa Perez-Reyes reviewed virtual meeting guidelines. Chair Tom Menne convened the meeting and conducted a roll call of Advisory Committee (AC) Members, establishing quorum (see Attendance on last page). Tom also reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. Approval of Past Meeting Summary, Notice of 2023 Meeting Schedule and Formats

Charnna Gilmore requested adding a note on page 8 of the September 2022 meeting minutes to clarify that no action was taken in response to her question about establishing a Watermaster for the entirety of the Scott Valley basin.

Charnna motioned to accept the previous meeting minutes pending the correction and Michael Stapleton seconded. The September 2022 Meeting Summary was approved and will be posted to the [Siskiyou County SGMA Website](#).

Marisa shared the dates and format for Scott Valley Advisory Committee meetings anticipated to be held in 2023 which include:

- April 25 – in person only
- July 25 – online only
- October 24 – in person only

Marisa explained that the reason for the alternating in-person/virtual format is to save on staff budget and reduce travel time for AC members. Tom Menne solicited input from the Committee about their preferred meeting format.

- Tom, Michael, Charnna, and Theo Johnson all requested that meetings continue to be held fully in-person without a virtual option.
- Amanda Cooper noted that she will not be able to attend the April meeting in person and expressed interest in a hybrid option for in-person meetings.
- Matt Parker (Distract staff) shared his perspective that hybrid meetings are the least desirable of the three options.

District staff will take Committee responses into consideration when planning the April AC meeting.

3. Public Comment Period

Members of the public were invited to provide comments unrelated to meeting agenda items. No public comments were shared.

4. District Staff Updates

Matt Parker shared updates from the GSA on the following items:

- Advisory Committee Terms and Roles:

Considerations on Future Meeting Formats

- AB 361 no longer applies because there is no state of emergency, therefore, any remote options need to be under the traditional Brown Act or under AB 2449.
 - The Advisory Committee was created and its members are appointed by an elected body subject to the Brown Act, therefore the Committee is also subject to the Brown Act (Gov't Code Section 54953).
- Under the Brown Act, any Committee Member who wishes to join via teleconference in their full capacity as a voting member must identify their teleconference location on the posted agenda, make each teleconference location accessible to the public, and post the agenda there.
- Assembly Bill 2449 offers additional conditions for teleconferencing by Committee Members that doesn't require posting their location, however, there are strict conditions under which it may be applied.
 - Committee Members need "just cause" (care-giving, contagious illness, disability, travel on official business for Committee or public agency) or must be experiencing "emergency circumstances" (physical or family medical)
 - Committee Members participating remotely must maintain a stable audio AND video connection.
 - Committee Members can only participate remotely twice per calendar year.

Discussion on Potential Hybrid Options

Options include:

1. No teleconferencing option is provided. Committee Members and members of the public all participate in-person.
2. A teleconferencing option is provided. Members of the public have the option to participate in-person or remotely. Committee Members participate in-person.
 - The Flood Control District Board of Directors currently meets under this option
3. A teleconferencing option is provided. Members of the public have the option to participate in-person or remotely. Committee Members could choose to participate remotely:
 - Under the Brown Act, at a publicly accessible and noticed teleconference location within the basin boundary
 - Under AB 2449, if they meet the “just cause” or “emergency” conditions
 - As members of the public, without their voting authority

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items and Updates from Other Agencies

This time is to receive public comments on items not on the consent agenda. If your comment concerns an agenda item, please address the Committee after that item is covered.

This time is also reserved for staff from other agencies to provide updates to the Committee on activities related to groundwater, which may include the State or Regional Water Board, CDFW, and others.

District Staff Updates

DWR Updates

Siskiyou County Groundwater Well Application Process Guidelines

GSA Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee
meetings

April 25-27th, 2023

Why we're here – Executive Orders

N-7-22 - Section 9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

- a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or
- b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

Why we're here – Executive Orders

N-3-23 - Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 is withdrawn and replaced with the following text:

To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

- a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or
- b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This Paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells (i) that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, (ii) that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or (iii) that are replacing existing, currently permitted wells with new wells that will produce an equivalent quantity of water as the well being replaced when the existing well is being replaced because it has been acquired by eminent domain or acquired while under threat of condemnation.

N-3-23 Exemptions

- This Paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells (i) that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, (ii) that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or (iii) that are replacing existing, currently permitted wells with new wells that will produce an equivalent quantity of water as the well being replaced when the existing well is being replaced because it has been acquired by eminent domain or acquired while under threat of condemnation.

Why we're here – Public Trust/CEQA

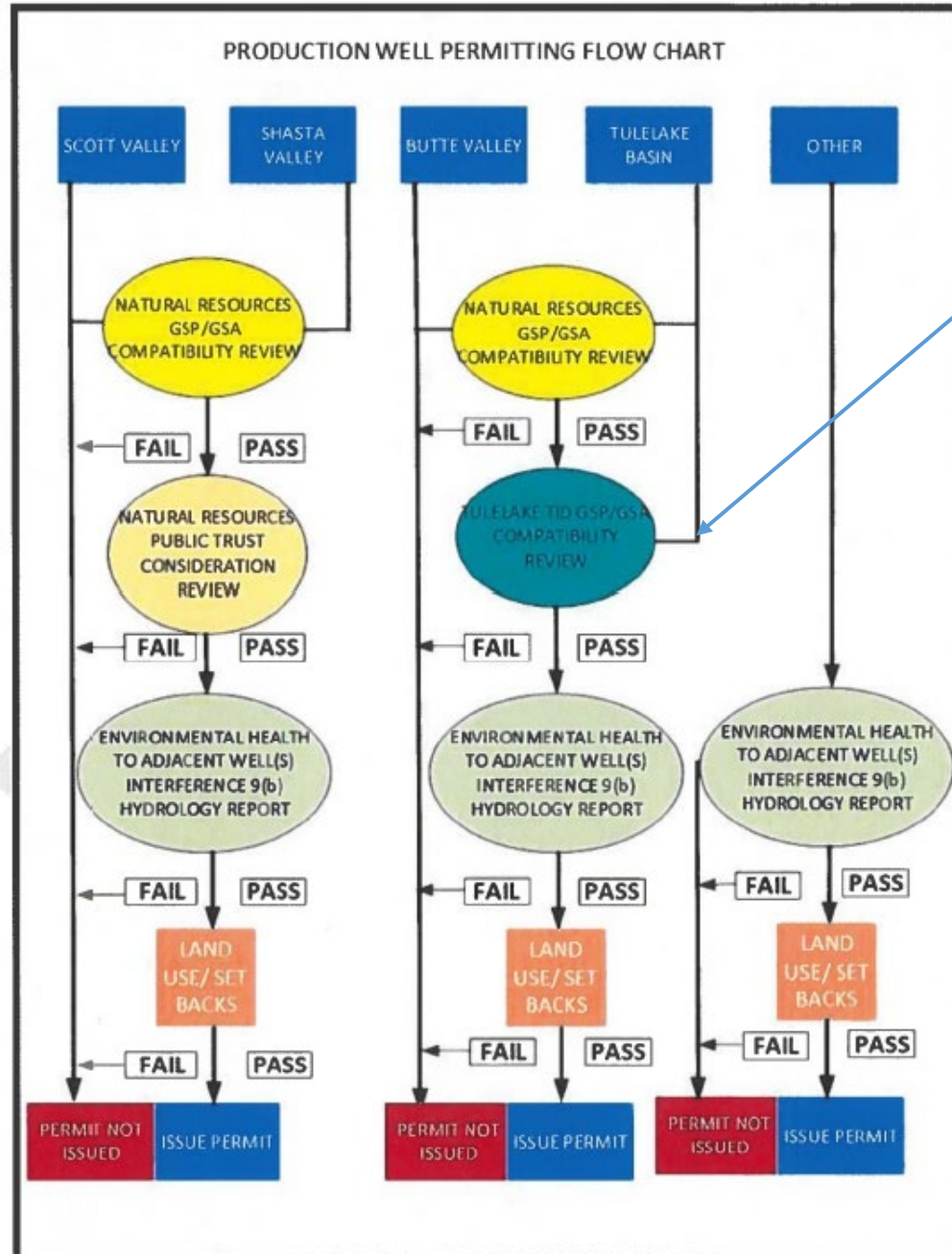
- Public Trust Doctrine – Scott and Shasta Valleys
- CEQA
- *Eventual State Legislation?*

Proposed Process Includes

- Well applicants, except for domestic well and public well applicants, provide a report signed by a California licensed Professional Geologist with a Certified Hydrogeologist specialty certification that concludes the extraction of groundwater from the well (1) “is not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells” and (2) “is not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.” (See Paragraph 9(b) of Executive Order N-7-22).
- If a proposed well is located in one of Siskiyou County’s medium-priority groundwater basins, requiring written verification from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management program established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by the agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin. (See Paragraph 9(a) of Executive Order N-7-22).
- If a proposed well is for a production well in the Shasta Valley or Scott Valley, use modeling tools to inform individual well permitting decisions in regard to whether there would be any potential impacts on interconnected navigable surface waters.
- Well applicants, except for domestic well and public well applicants, sign the standard indemnity agreements currently used in other land use approval contexts.
- Domestic well and public well applicants provide a declaration regarding the intended use of the proposed wells.

Groundwater Well Permitting Guidelines

Application Processing Flowchart



Tulelake will follow it's own path

Timeline

- First Draft presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 7, 2023
- Discussion item at Tulelake GSA Core Team meeting on March 24, 2023
- Discussion item at Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater advisory committee meetings on April 25-27
- County staff with assistance from Stantec will summarize feedback and bring back to the Board of Supervisors.

Feedback

Break

We'll reconvene in 10 minutes, at approximately 4:50.

APRIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Butte Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee Meeting



LARRY WALKER
ASSOCIATES
science | policy | solutions

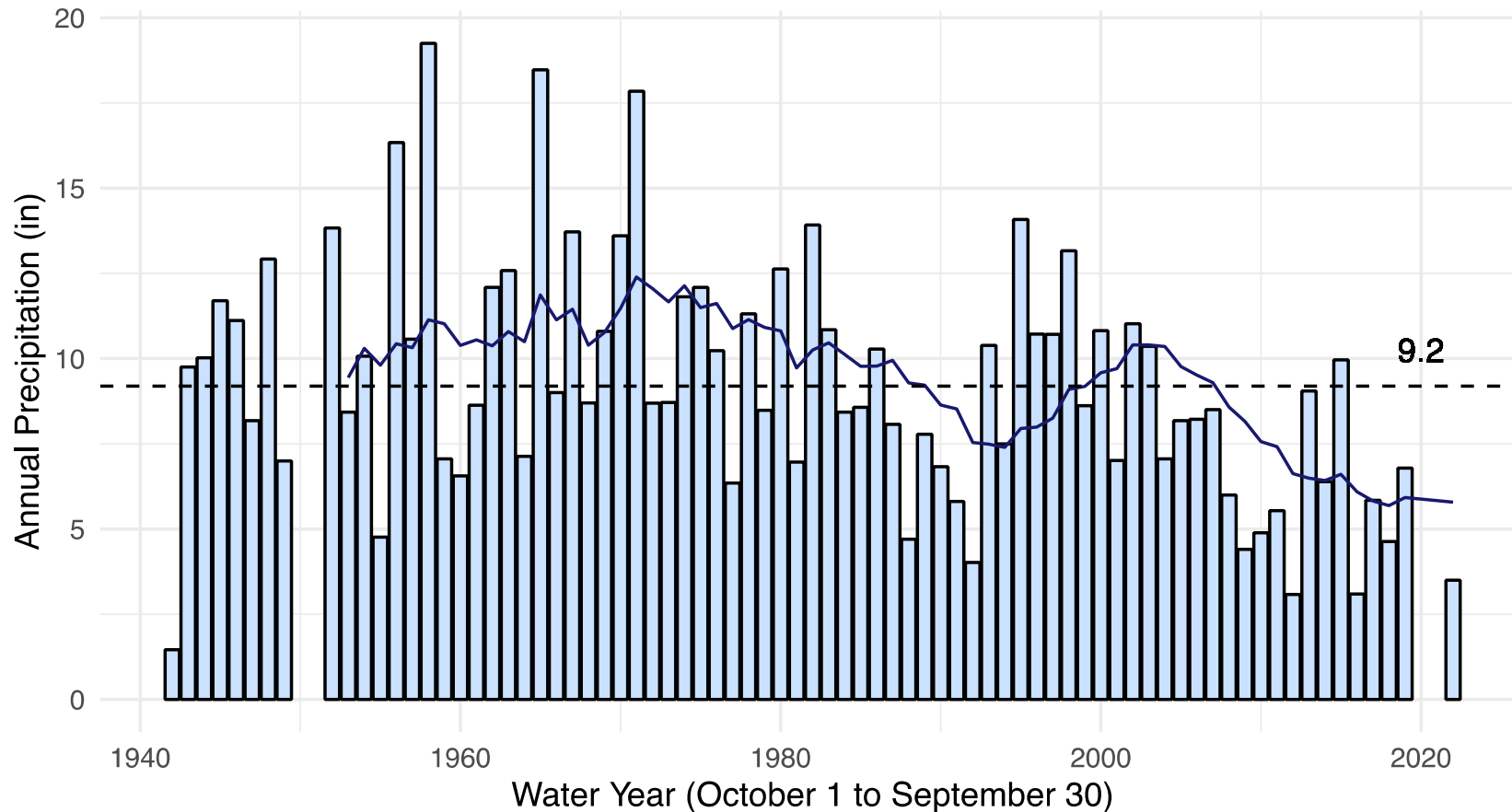


Annual Report- Key Takeaways

- Annual reports for Water Year 2022 covers October 2021 through September 2022
- Continued drought conditions
- Overall decrease in groundwater storage

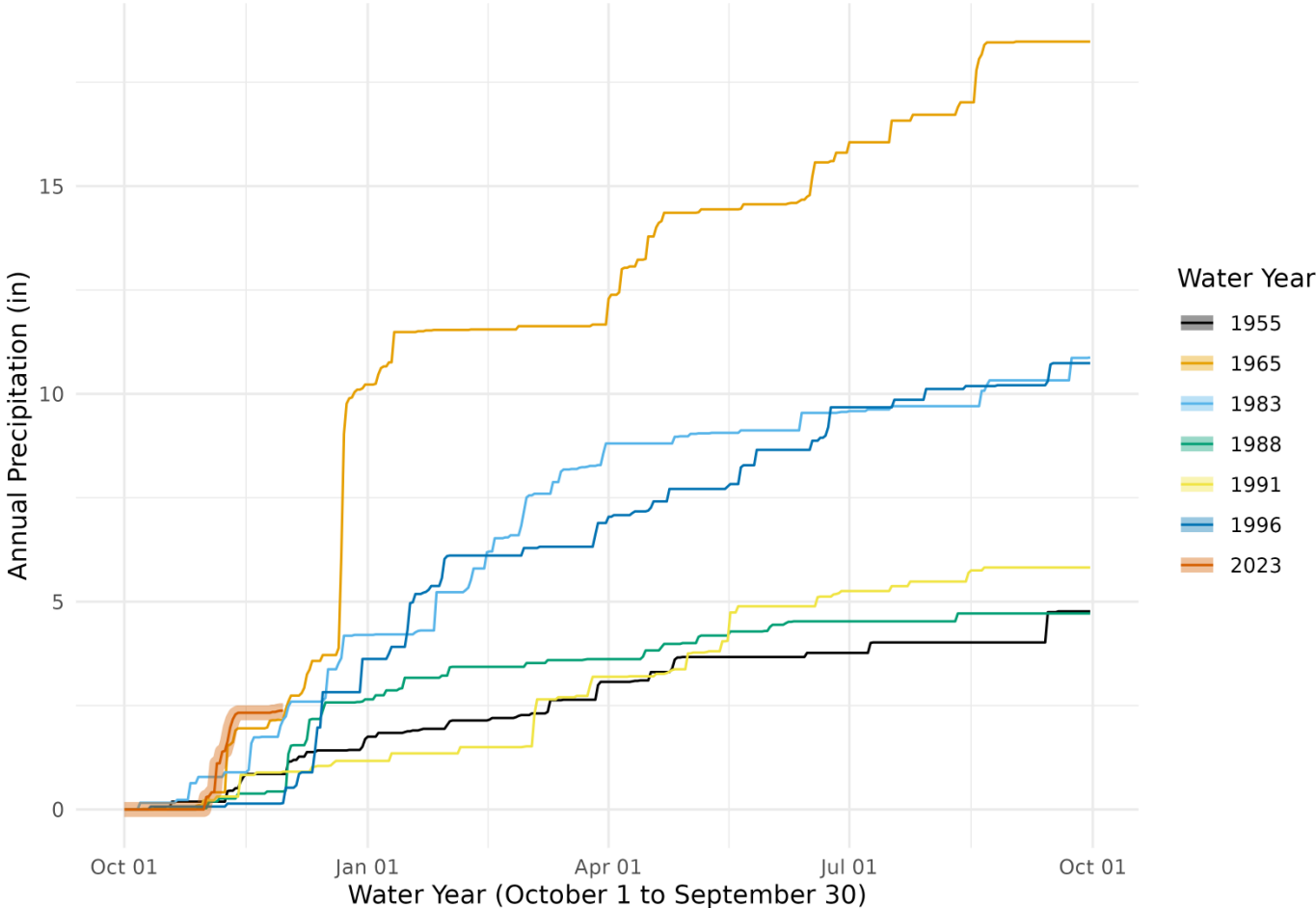
Update on Hydrologic Conditions-Precipitation

A Annual water year precipitation with 10-year rolling and long-term means
MOUNT HEBRON RANGER STATION, CA US



Update on Hydrologic Conditions-Precipitation

Current Water Year: 2023
MT HEBRON RS: USC00045941



Update on Groundwater Levels

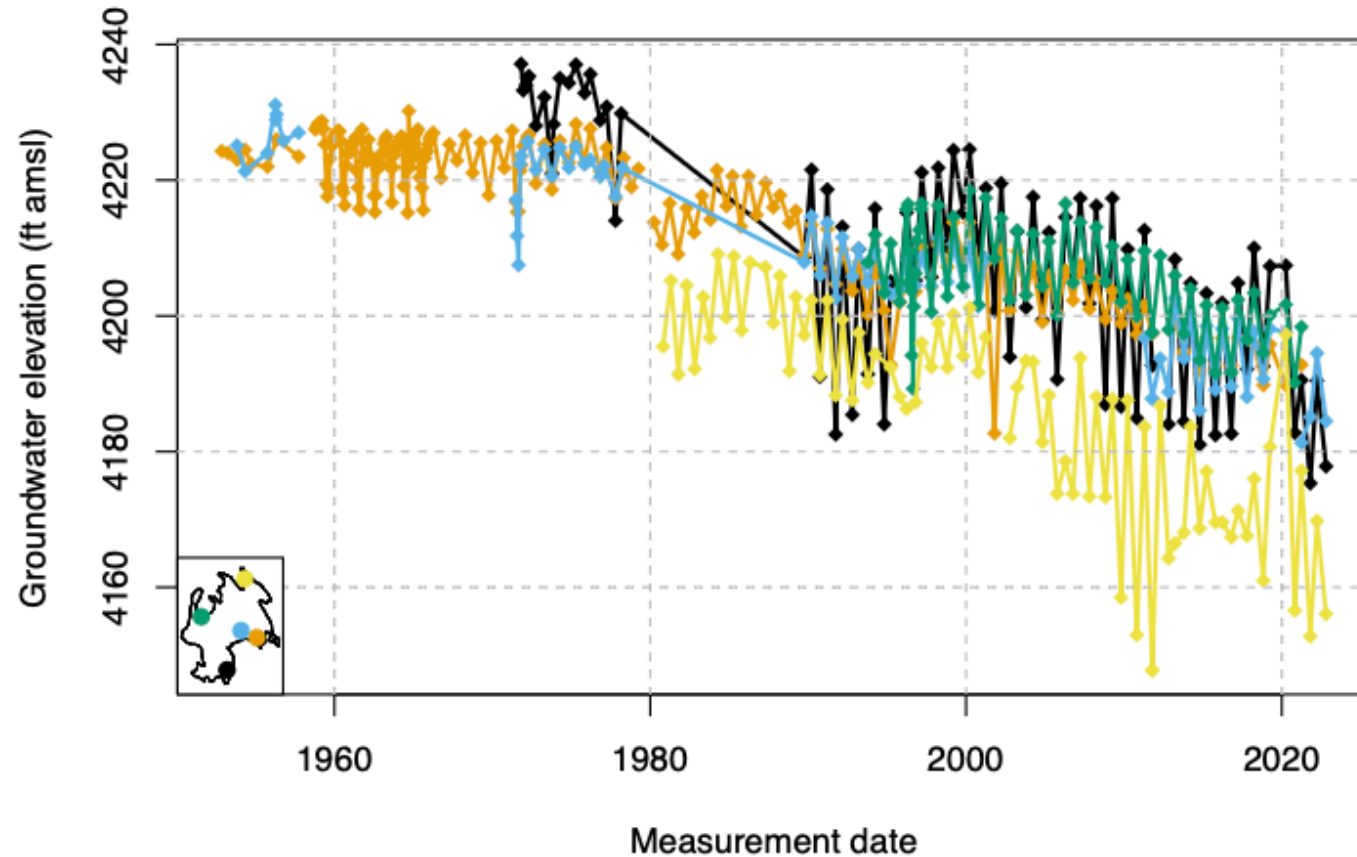
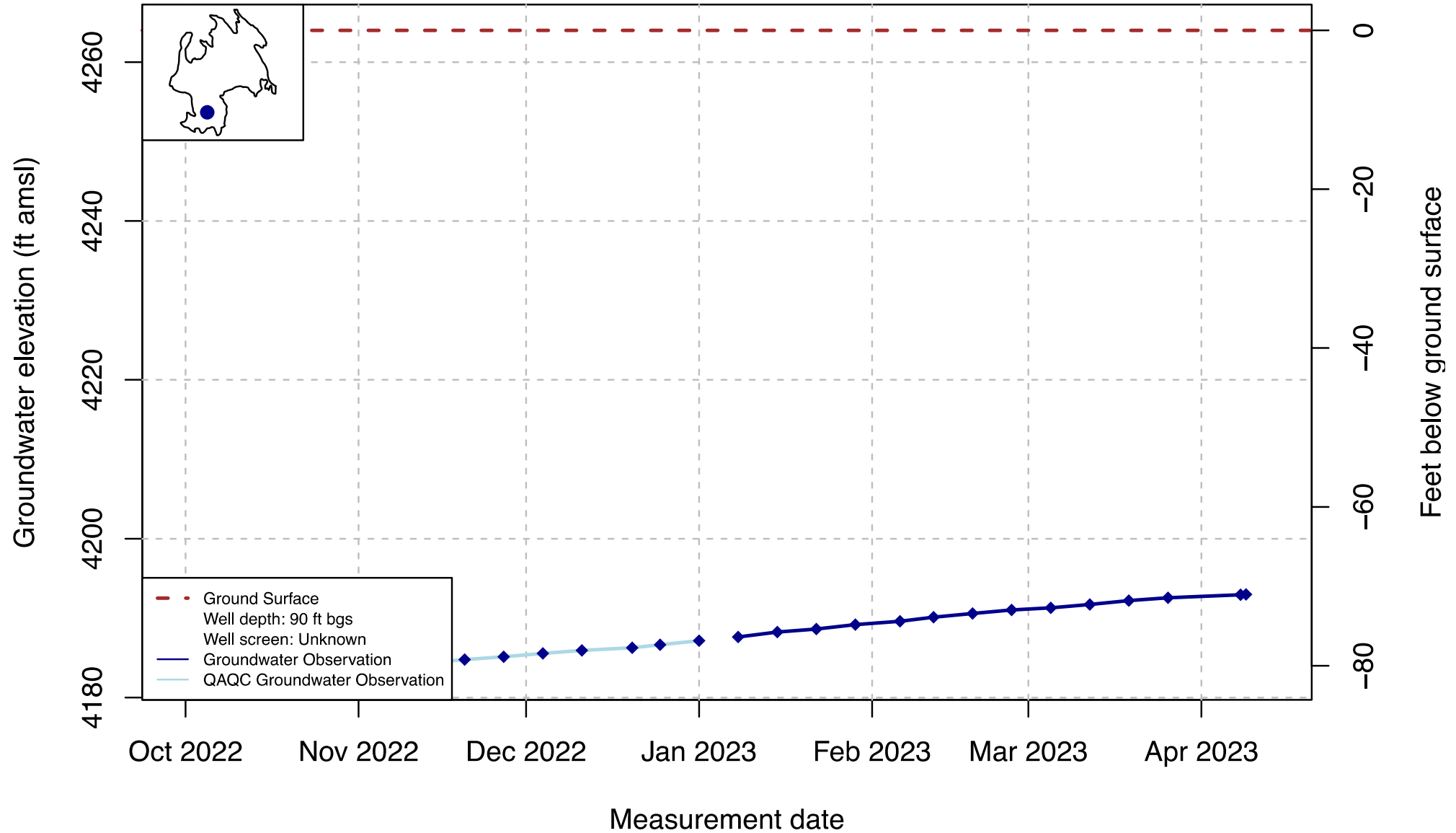
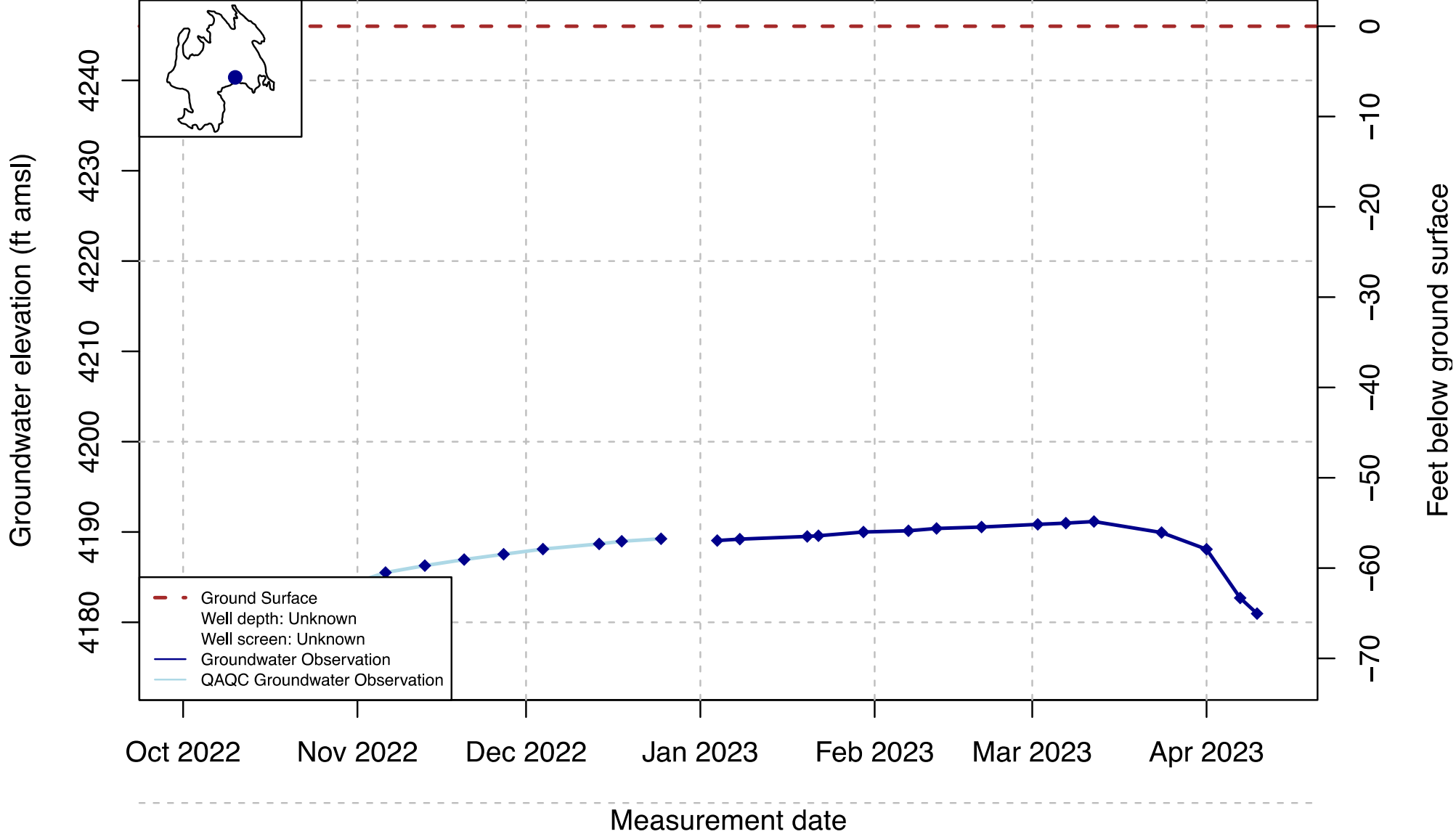


Figure 5: Groundwater elevation measurements over time in five wells, one located in each hydro-geologic zone.

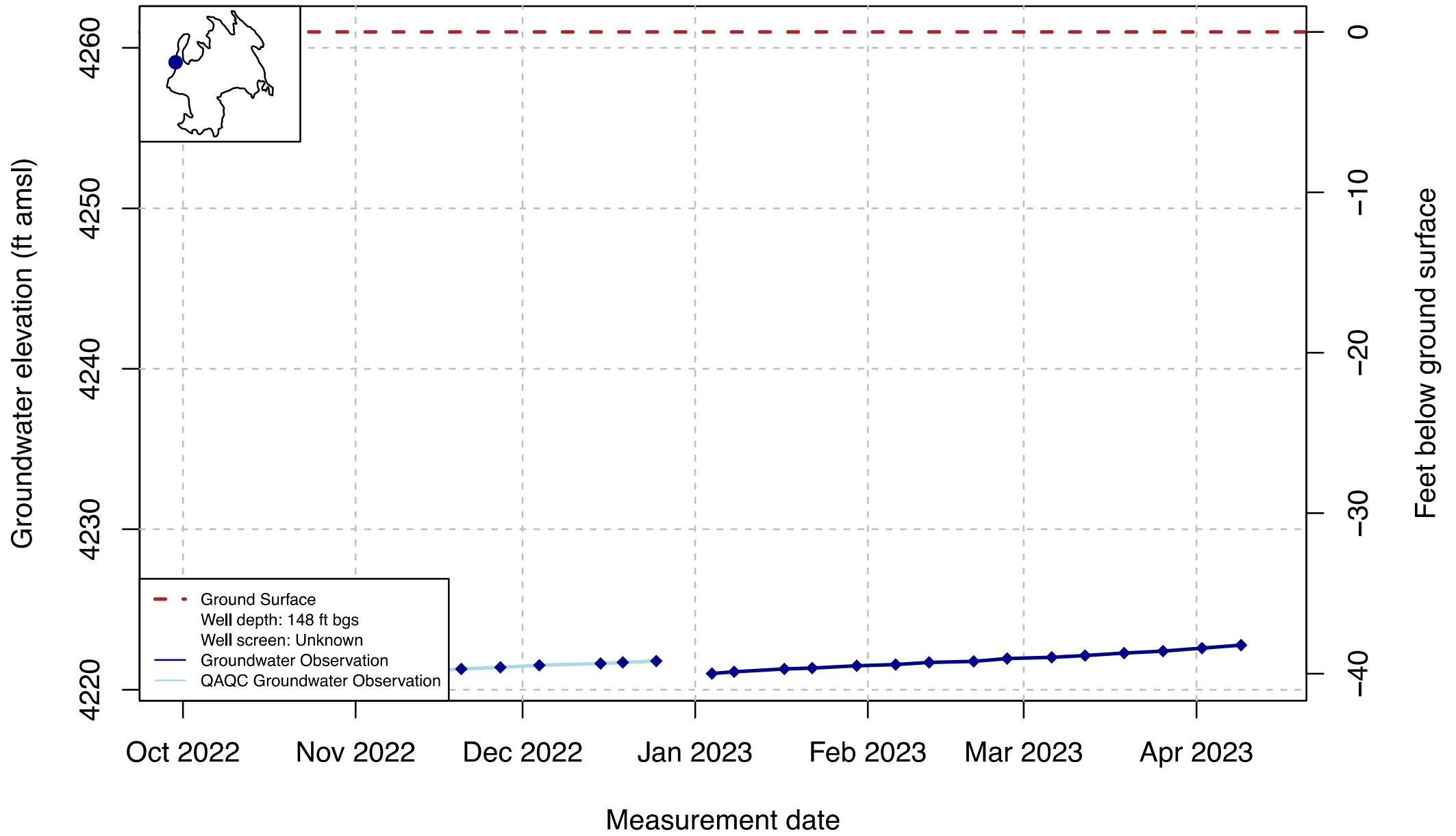
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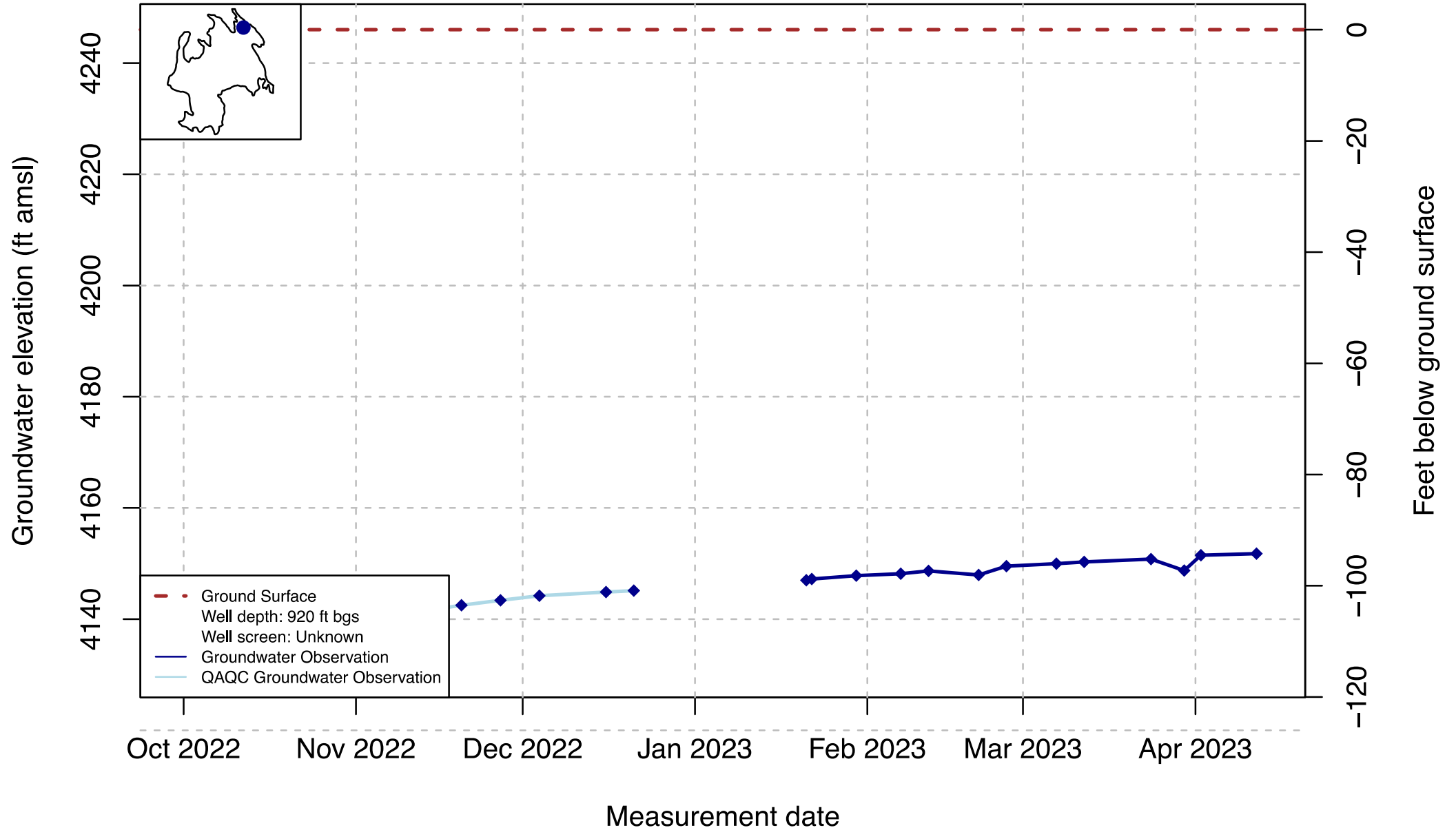
Well Code: BUT_176; SWN: NA



Well Code: BUT_19; SWN: NA



Well Code: BUT_168; SWN: NA





Thank You

Multi-Basin Management Strategy Document

- Purpose and Process
- Stakeholder Assessment Findings
- Strategy Document Vision Statement
- Goals and Strategies
- Next Steps

Purpose and Process

- The Strategy Document helps the GSA achieve SGMA compliance by **identifying, cataloging, and prioritizing near- and long-term goals and strategies** to successfully implement the Scott Valley, Butte Valley, and Shasta Valley GSPs.
- Last fall, Stantec conducted 14 interviews, with:
 - 5 District Board of Supervisors (Board)
 - 3 Advisory Committee Chairs
 - GSA staff
 - Agricultural, environmental, and residential beneficial users
 - Note: the Karuk Tribe was contacted but declined to be interviewed

Purpose and Process

- Interview participants were asked to:
 - Identify potential organizational, managerial, financial, and institutional goals the GSA should consider,
 - Describe how the GSA would measure success in those goals, and
 - Elaborate on what changes would be required for the GSA to achieve those goals.
- A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis was completed.

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Strengths:

- Shared interest in collaborating on SGMA implementation
- High degree of consensus around groundwater recharge and getting projects started sooner rather than later
- Robust collective knowledge of local issues and priorities among Advisory Committee members and local stakeholders

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Weaknesses:

- Additional staffing capacity, particularly for:
 - technical topics
 - pursuit and management of grants
- Need for defined processes among Advisory Committee, staff, and Board members for making recommendations and decisions in GSP implementation

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Opportunities:

- Proactive management of groundwater resources
- Defining how the GSA can be better supported by other agencies and institutions.
- Increased engagement with Advisory Committee members to leverage their combined wealth of knowledge
- Increased public engagement and education throughout GSP implementation

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Threats:

- Unknown impacts of SGMA on agriculture, economic revenue, and property values
- Unknown long-term cost of GSP implementation and the as-yet-to-be-developed financing plan
- Unknown effects of future changes to state regulations and curtailment orders

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Do any of the Stakeholder Assessment Findings surprise you?

Is there anything to be clarified or augmented?

Strategy Document Elements

The Strategy Document is guided by a Vision Statement and organized by three Goals, with corresponding Strategies and Tactics:

Vision Statement - a description of the region's future end state that will result from proactive, strategic activities

Goal - the desired end state of activities; foundation of planning process, supports the overall vision

Strategy - a general approach or method for achieving a goal

Tactic - a specific action that will be taken to fulfill a strategy

Vision Statement

The GSA Board confirmed the following Vision Statement at their February 7 meeting:

The District will collaboratively work towards effective groundwater management to achieve and maintain the sustainability of the Shasta Valley, Butte Valley, and Scott Valley Basins, consistent with SGMA and the near- and long-term goals defined in the GSPs, with fair consideration given to all beneficial groundwater users.

Goals and Strategies

Based on the interviews, three goals have been identified:

Decision-Making (DM):

Clarify GSA decision-making roles and responsibilities and the decision-making support processes that inform GSP implementation.

Funding and Resources (FR):

Develop and implement a sustainable funding and resourcing strategy for GSP implementation and GSA administration that minimizes impacts to residents and ensures adequate GSA staff resourcing to effectively implement the GSPs.

Communications and Engagement (CE):

Demonstrate the value of SGMA, the GSA, and GSP implementation to the public through regular engagement, education, and communication activities related to GSP implementation.

Decision-Making Strategies

Goal: Clarify GSA decision-making roles and responsibilities and the decision-making support processes that inform GSP implementation.

Strategy 1: Better define the decision-making roles and responsibilities of GSA Board members, GSA staff, and Advisory Committee members and identify where additional staffing resources may be needed.

Strategy 2: Establish regular communications and strengthen partnerships and projects with public agencies and basin stakeholders.

Discussion Question: What are some specific tactics or actions the GSA could implement to achieve these strategies?

Funding and Resources Strategies

Goal: Develop and implement a sustainable funding and resourcing strategy for GSP implementation and GSA administration that minimizes impacts to residents and ensures adequate GSA staff resourcing to effectively implement the GSPs.

Strategy 1: Catalog short- and long-term GSP implementation and administration costs, determine what additional funding and staff resources may be needed, and identify how those remaining costs will be covered, with a priority on minimizing impacts to residents and identifying sustainable funding sources.

Strategy 2: Secure grant and other external funding sources to support groundwater sustainability efforts within and across the basins.

Discussion Question: What are some specific tactics or actions the GSA could implement to achieve these strategies?

Communications and Engagement Strategies

Goal: Demonstrate the value of SGMA, the GSA, and GSP implementation to the public through regular engagement, education, and communication activities related to GSP implementation.

Strategy 1: Increase transparency and the accessibility of data and information to the public (e.g., on the GSA website) so that groundwater users in the basin can clearly understand the status of the basin and monitoring efforts.

Strategy 2: Increase education and engagement of stakeholders and other interested parties on GSP implementation activities, with a focus on communicating information related to projects and management actions and GSP funding and fees.

Discussion Question: What are some specific tactics or actions the GSA could implement to achieve these strategies?

Next Steps for the Strategy Document

- Develop potential tactics and actions associated with each goal and begin drafting the Strategy Document.
- Host a second GSA Board Workshop in mid-May or early June to get direction and consensus on the tactics and actions and prioritize goals.
- Finalize the Strategy Document.

Are there any lingering questions, comments, or recommendations related to the short- and long-term goals, strategies, and tactics/actions?

Committee Member Updates and Discussion

Committee Members to provide updates on current groundwater conditions and groundwater-related projects and management actions, respond to content presented today, and/or propose next steps.

Closing, Next Steps, Future Agenda Items

Topics for the July Agenda include:

- Modeling Updates
- SGM Grant Awards
- PMA Deep-Dive
- Others?

Adjournment

Thanks for your participation! We'll see you in July.