SANTA MARGARITA Groundwater Agency

Annual Report Water Year 2025

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2026

Agenda Item 4.1

MONTGOMERY & ASSOCIATES
Water Resource Consultants

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION
a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County

Report Organization

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. Water Year Conditions and Water Use
3. Progress Toward Implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
4. Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Evaluation

Appendix A-E


MONTGOMERY & ASSOCIATES
Water Resource Consultants

February 19, 2026

DRAFT Santa Margarita Basin Water Year 2025 Annual Report

DRAFT

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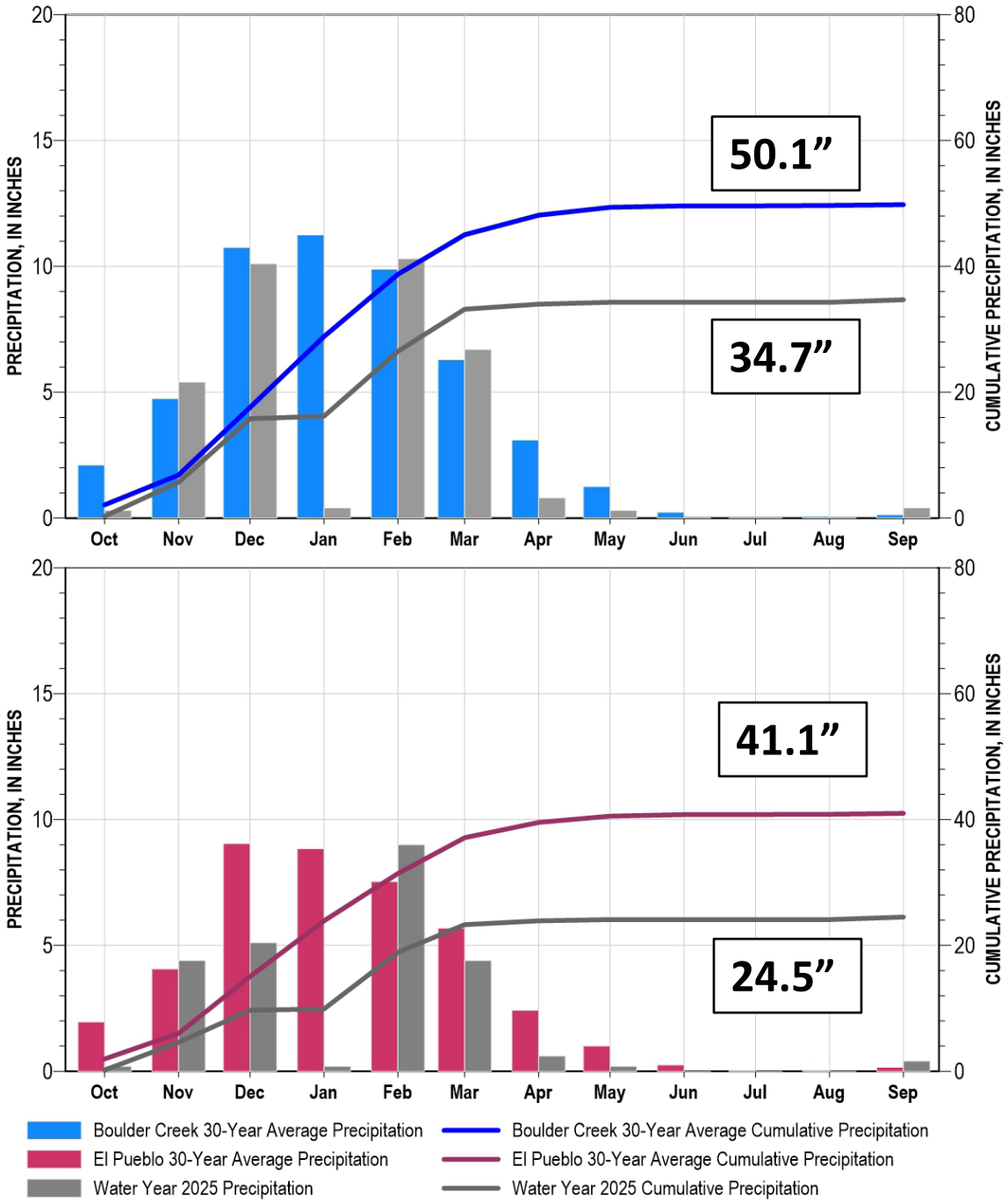
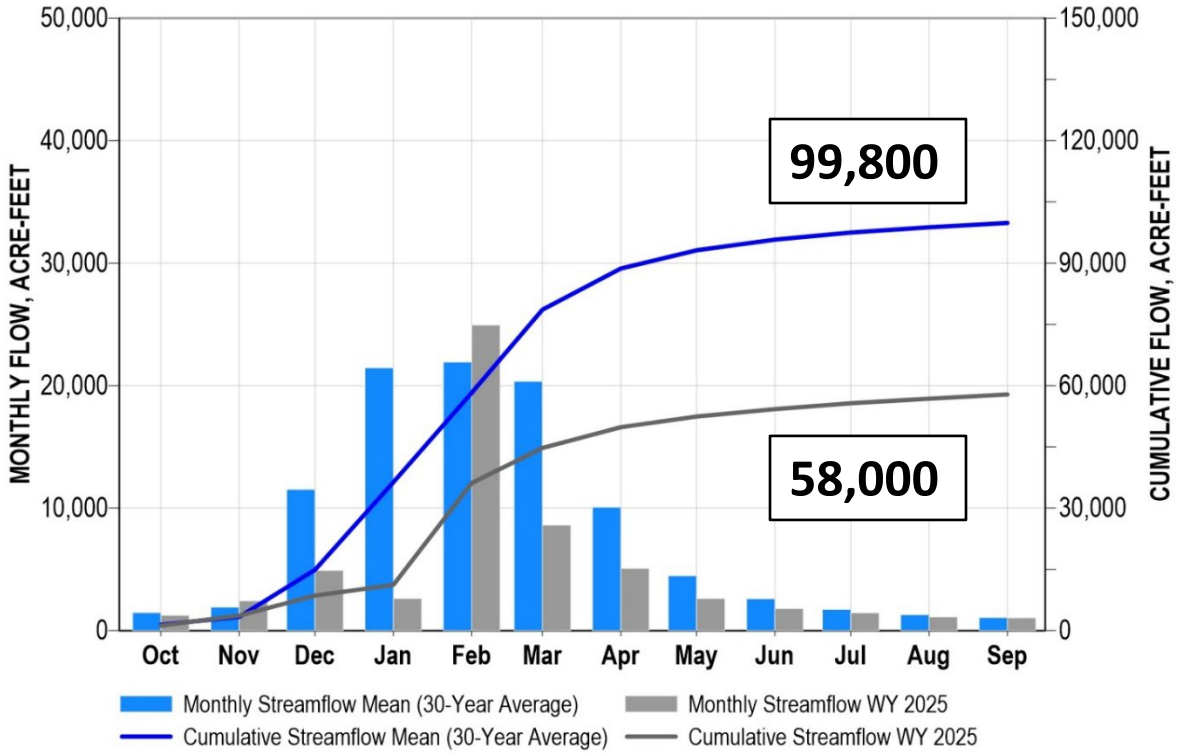
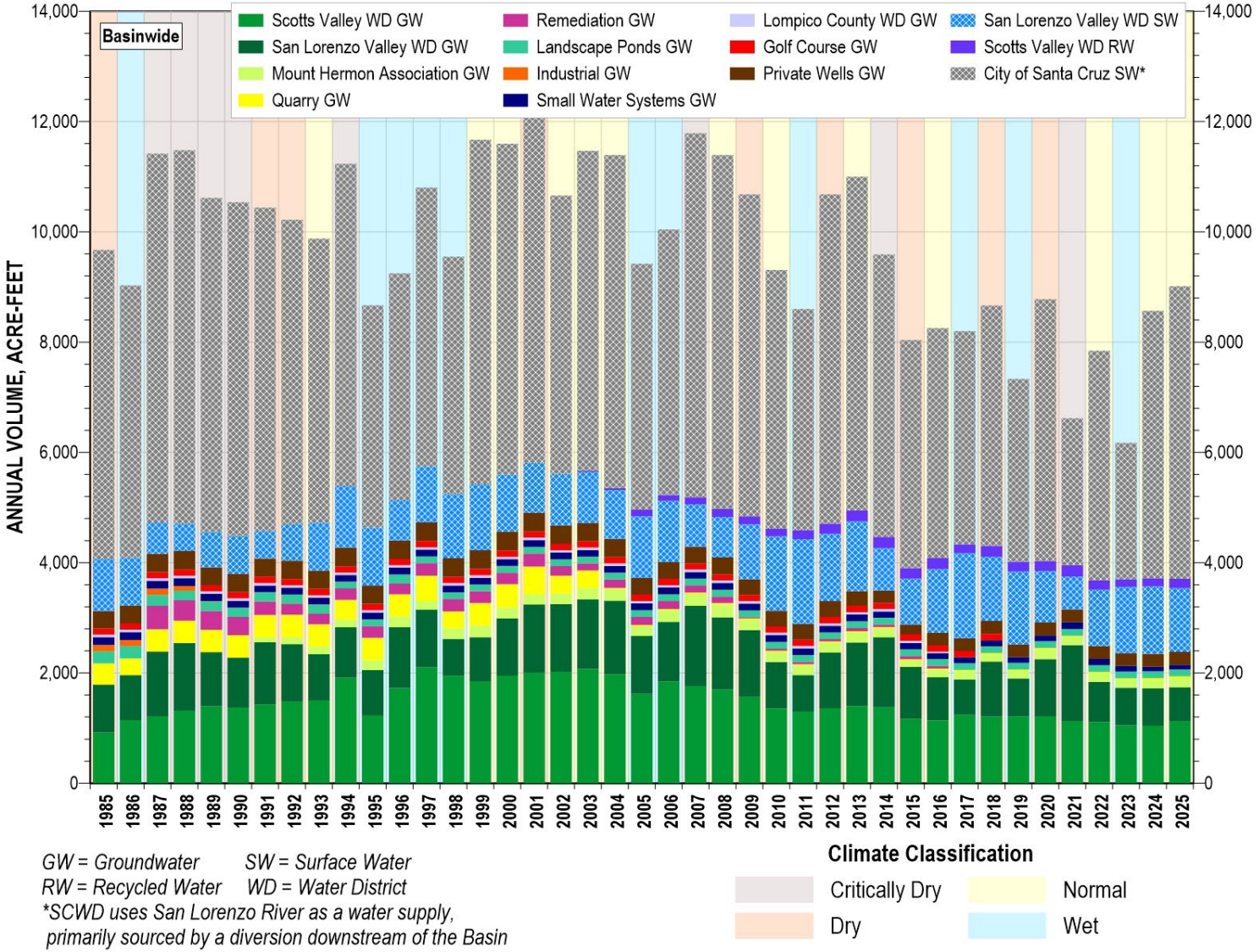
Water Year Hydrology





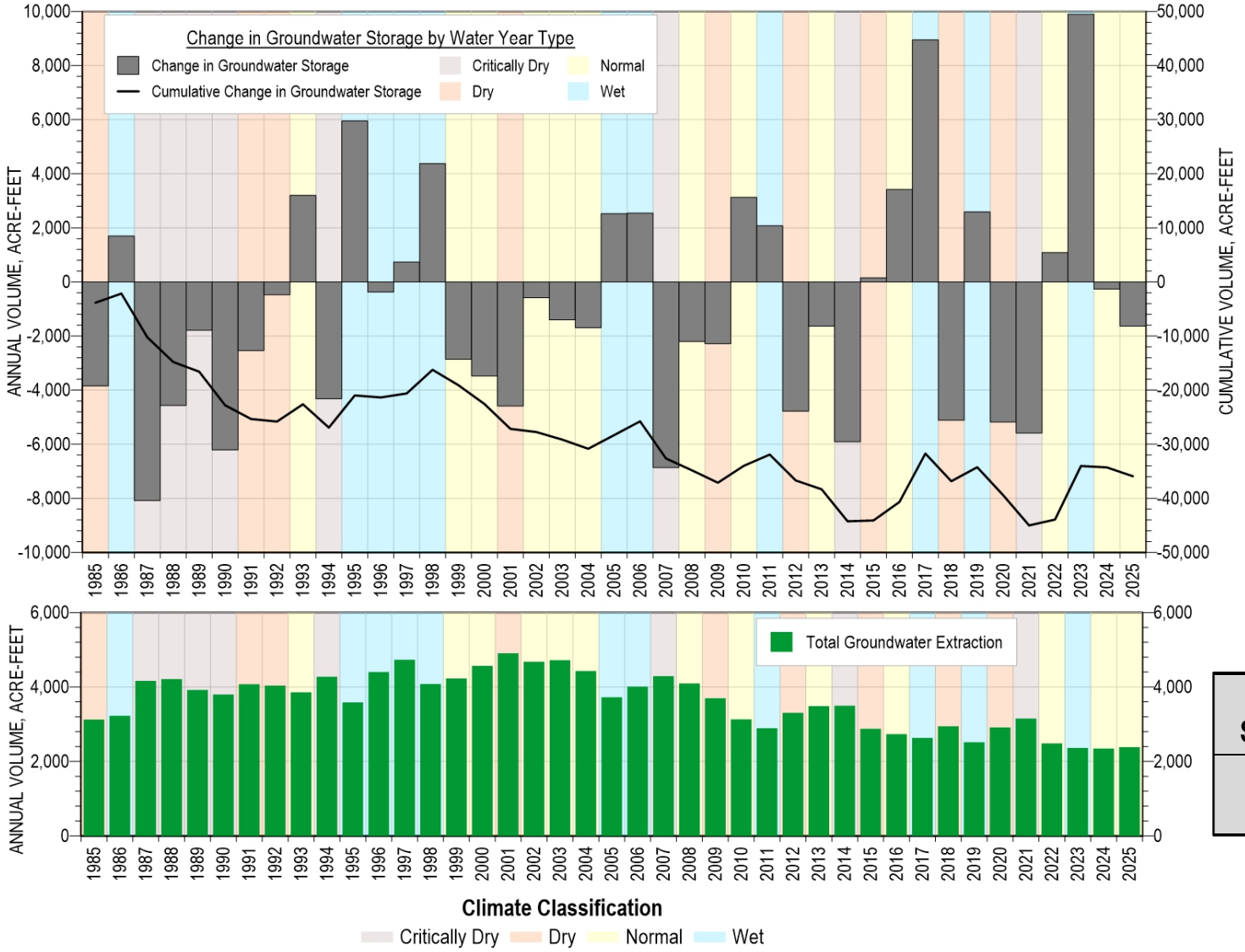
Flow on Santa Lorenzo River at Big Trees Gage

Water Year 2025 Water Use



- Total use – 3,709 acre-feet (AF)
- Third lowest groundwater use in period of record – 2,383 AF
  - Long-term average 3,686 AF/year
- Surface water use – 1,157 AF
  - Long term average – 871 AF/year

Change in Groundwater Storage



- Average annual change in storage estimated at -850 AF/yr back to 1985
- Average annual change in storage estimated at -300 AF/yr since 2001
- Model calculated decrease in storage of 1,640 AF

Change in Storage (AF)	Santa Margarita	Monterey	Lompico	Butano	TOTAL
WY2025	-880	-140	-150	-470	-1,640

GSP Implementation- Projects and Management Actions

Group 1 – Existing

Project	Description
Scotts Valley Water District (SVWD) Water Efficiency Rebates	Issued 8 rebates for turf replacement resulting in an estimated 0.42 AF/yr (137,054 gallons per year (GPY)) savings, and additional 9 rebates for toilet and smart irrigation controller replacements saving an additional 0.02 AF/yr (7,118 GPY) for a total of **0.44 AF/yr** (144,172 GPY)
San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) Water Efficiency Rebates	Issued 9 clothes washer rebates, 16 toilet rebates, and 2 irrigation controllers, resulting in an estimated savings of **0.64 AF/yr** (or 208,545 GPY)
SVWD Low Impact Development (LID)	Captured and recharged **23.8 AF** of stormwater at 3 LID facilities in Scotts Valley
SVWD Recycled Water	Distributed **169 AF** of recycled water to non-potable water users in Scotts Valley
SLVWD Conjunctive Use	Used more surface water to reduce groundwater extraction in the SLVWD System resulting in an estimated **283 AF** of in-lieu groundwater recharge

Group 2

- SLVWD conjunctive use – work associated with expansion continuing
- SVWD/City of Santa Cruz intertie – intertie completed in 2025 with remaining improvements to be completed in 2026

SMC #1 – Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

Groundwater Elevations Compared to Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2021-2025

Aquifer	Well Name		Annual Minimum Groundwater Elevation (feet amsl)						
		Minimum Threshold	Interim Milestone #1 (2027)	Measurable Objective	WY2021*	WY2022	WY2023	WY2024	WY2025
Water Year Type					Critically Dry	Normal	Wet	Normal	Normal
Santa Margarita	SLVWD Quail MW-B	449	472	472	455.8	451.8	451.0	458.4	458.6
	SLVWD Olympia #3	302	307	307	335.9	330.1	327.3	354.5	359.7
	SLVWD Pasatiempo MW-2	498	514	514	512.7	516.3	516.2	528.1	523.6
	SVWD TW-18	462	471	471	471.8	470.9	470.4	470.1	471.2
Monterey	SVWD #9	301	340	358	351.0	354.0	356.0	360.6	365.1
Lompico	SLVWD Pasatiempo MW-1	334	339	372	340.4	335.4	337.0	343.9	361.5
	SVWD #10	286	302	322	330.3	338.1	338.7	337.2	342.0
	SVWD #11A	288	299	317	308.0	312.6	320.2	324.7	333.7
	SVWD TW-19	314	357	376	370.4	370.0	378.4	378.1	389.3
Lompico/Butano	SVWD #15 Monitoring Well	291	310	333	307.1	307.9	306.5	307.2	290.6
Butano	SVWD Stonewood Well	836	844	844	845.0	845.8	847.6	847.7	847.4
	SVWD Canham Well	427	447	467	441.7	441.2	440.7	441.0	440.4

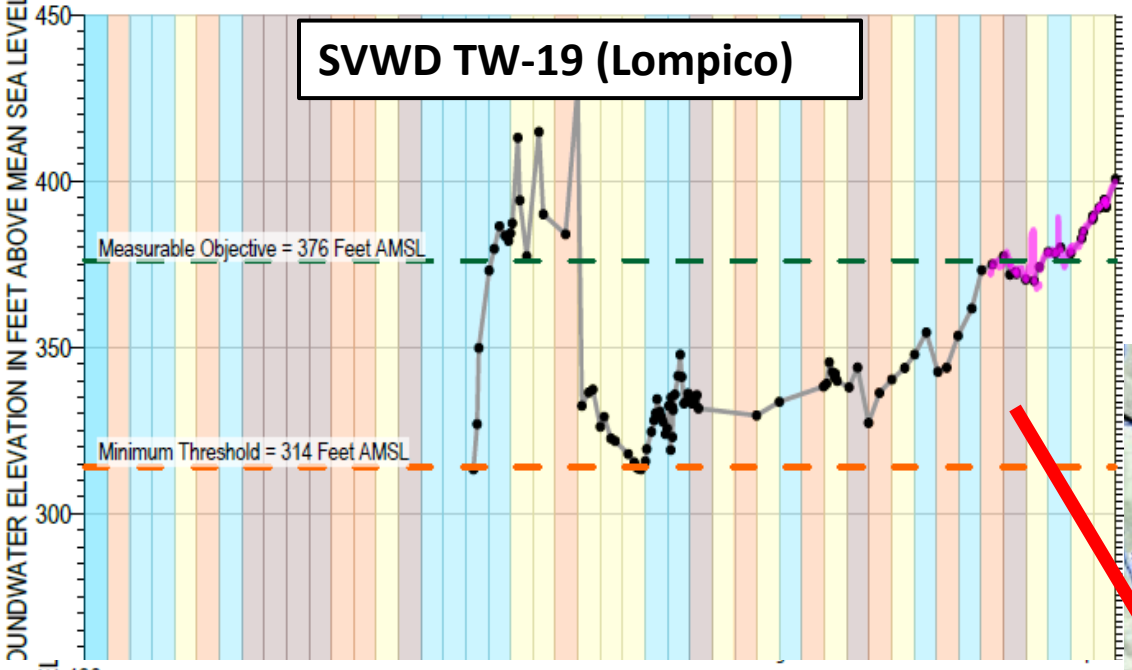
Minimum threshold not met

Minimum threshold met but 2027 interim milestone and measurable objective not met

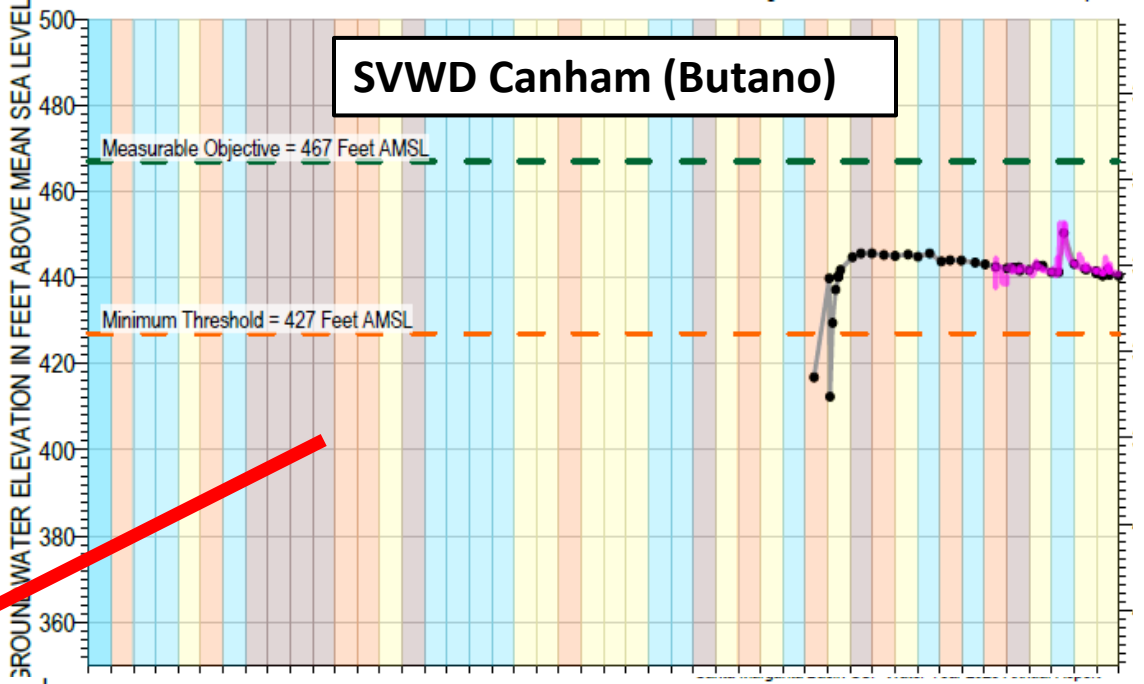
Minimum threshold and 2027 interim milestone met, but measurable objective not met

Measurable objective met

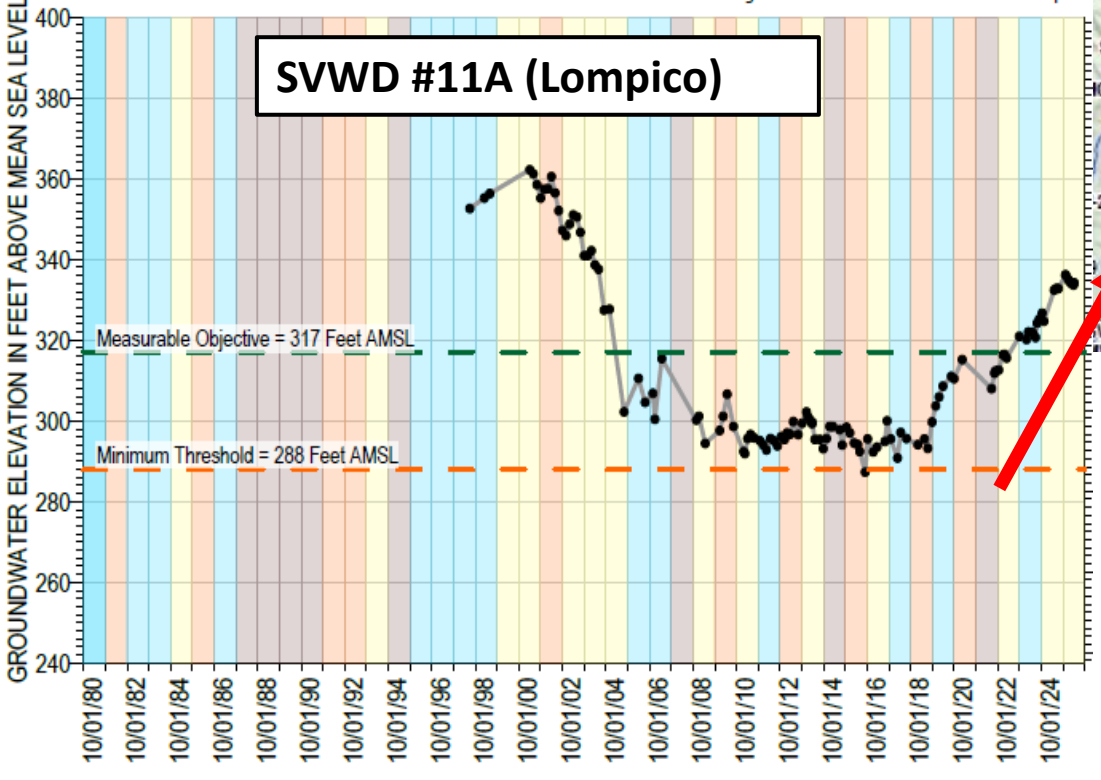
SVWD TW-19 (Lompico)

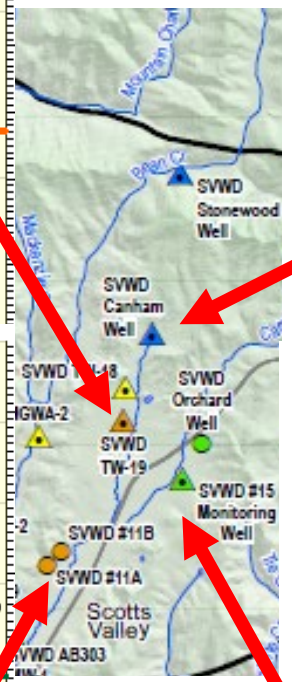


SVWD Canham (Butano)

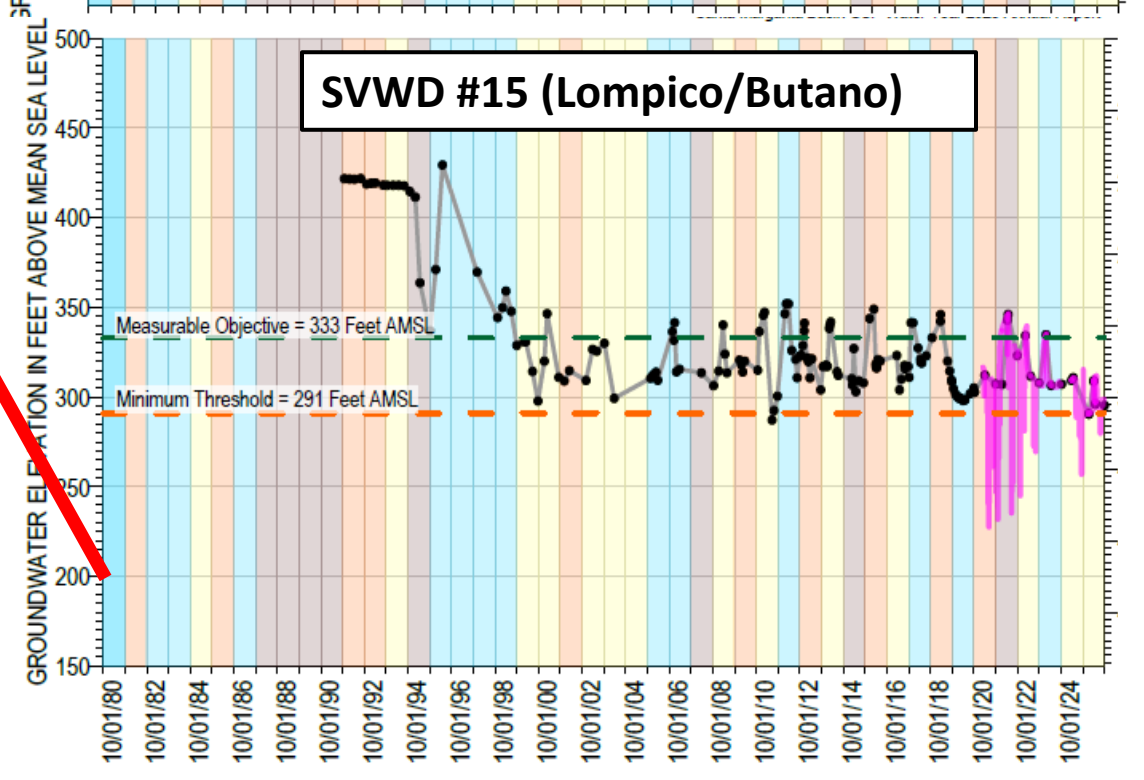


SVWD #11A (Lompico)





SVWD #15 (Lompico/Butano)



SMC #2 – Reduction of Groundwater in Storage

Table 8. Groundwater Extractions Compared to Reduction inGroundwater in Storage Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2025

Aquifer	Groundwater Extraction, AF/year		
	Minimum Threshold*	Measurable Objective	WY2025
Santa Margarita	850	615	578
Monterey	140	130	91
Lompico**	1,290	1,000	1,336
Butano**	540	380	347
TOTAL	**2,820**	**2,125**	**2,352**

*The first interim milestone in 2027 is equal to the minimum threshold.

**In WY2025, SVWD had 2 wells that extracted groundwater exclusively from the Lompico aquifer and 1 well that extracted from both the Lompico and Butano aquifers. For the SVWD extraction well screened in both aquifers, it is estimated that 40% of the water is from the Lompico aquifer and 60% is from the Butano aquifer.

Minimum threshold not met

Minimum threshold and 2027 interim milestone met, but measurable objective not met

Measurable objective met

SMC #3 - Groundwater Quality Degradation

Table 9. Groundwater Quality Compared to Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2025

Aquifer	Well Name	Concentration milligrams per Liter (mg/L)										
		TDS	Chloride	Iron	Manganese	Arsenic	Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	Methyl-tert-butyl-ether	Chlorobenzene	Trichloroethylene	Tetrachloroethylene	1,2-Dichloroethylene
Minimum Threshold		***1,000***	***250***	***0.3***	***0.05***	***0.01***	***5***	***0.013***	***0.07***	***0.005***	***0.005***	***0.07***
Santa Margarita	SLVWD Quail Hollow #5A	110	8.5	ND	ND	0.0015	2.3	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SLVWD Olympia #3	740	8.9	0.30	0.150	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Monterey	SVWD Well #9	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Lompico	SLVWD Pasatiempo #7	150	7.3	0.76	0.110	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #10A	300	33	1.6	0.120	ND	ND	ND	NS	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #11A	540	27	0.32	0.120	0.002	ND	ND	0.0009	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #11B	360	21	0.59	0.065	0.0098	ND	ND	NS	ND	ND	ND
Lompico / Butano	SVWD Orchard Well	530	64	ND	0.0029	ND	ND	ND	NS	ND	ND	ND

Minimum threshold not met

Minimum threshold met, but measurable objective not met (see Appendix D for MO)

Minimum threshold and measurable objective met, or analyte not detected (ND)

NS – not sampled because well was not actively pumped for water supply

SMC #4 – Surface Water Depletion

Table 11. Groundwater Elevations Compared to Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2021-2025

Aquifer	Well Name	Minimum Groundwater Elevation (feet amsl)						
		Minimum Threshold	Measurable Objective*	WY2021	WY2022	WY2023	WY2024	WY2025
Water Year Type				Critically Dry	Normal	Wet	Normal	Normal
Santa Margarita	SLVWD Quail MW-A	413	416	413.3	413.1	413.3	414.5	413.9
	SVWD SV4-MW	381	387	404.1	405.7	408.7	404.2	401.1

*2027 interim milestones are equal to the measurable objective

Minimum threshold not met

Minimum threshold met, but measurable objective not met

Measurable objective met

Key Takeaways

- WY2025 experienced an MT exceedance for 1 well in groundwater elevations, but not currently an undesirable result
- Experienced an undesirable result for reduction in storage, but that is not expected to continue
- WY2025 results will be very helpful in our periodic evaluation and GSP amendment process

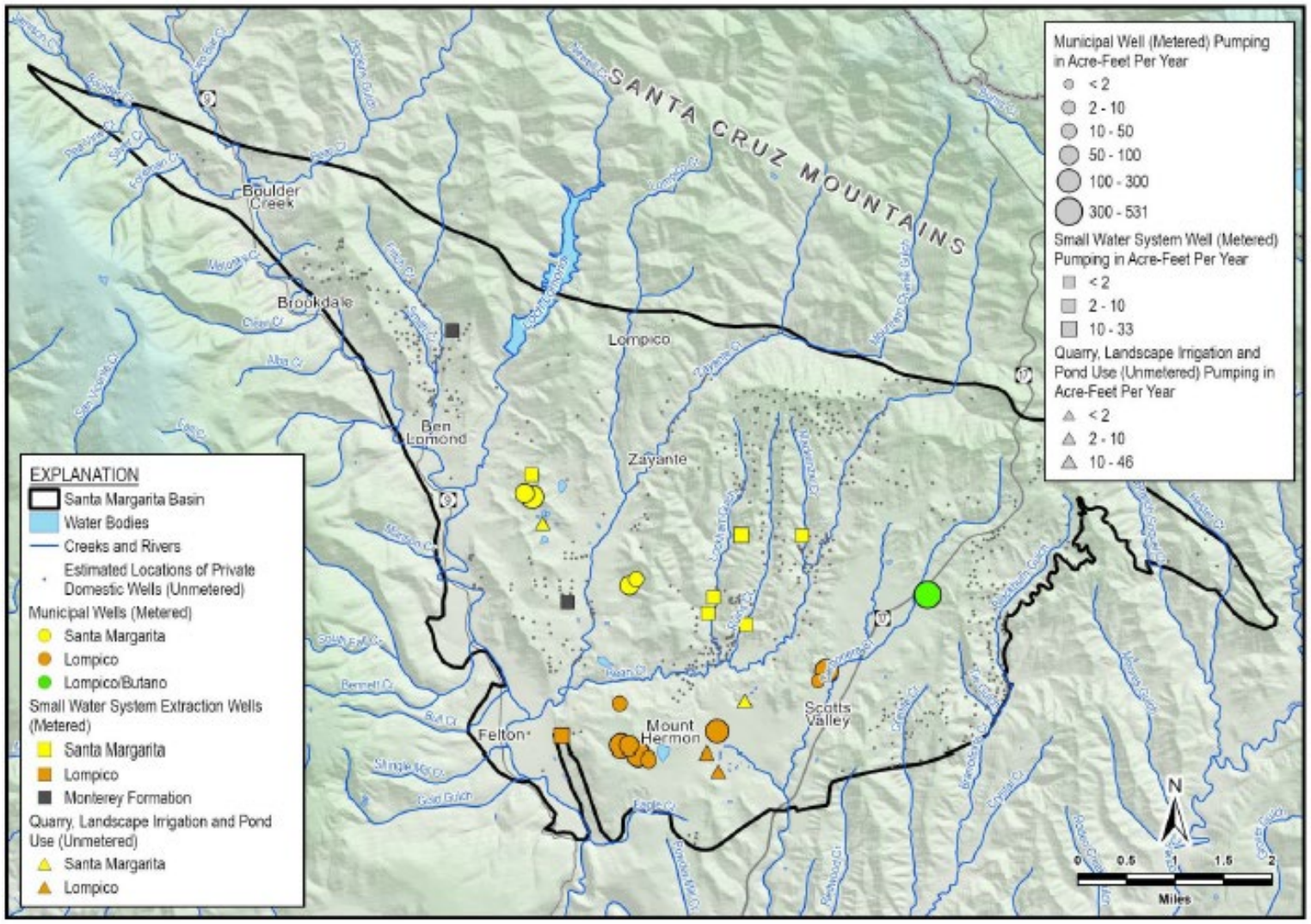


Figure 8. Groundwater Extraction Across the Santa Margarita Basin, WY2025