



Periodic Evaluation Update

Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2026

Agenda Item 4.2

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

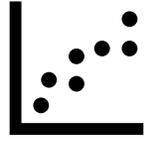
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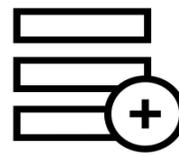
**MONTGOMERY
& ASSOCIATES**

Water Resource Consultants

Periodic Evaluation Overview



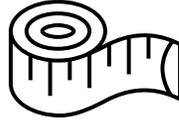
Groundwater Conditions
Relative to Sustainable
Management Criteria (SMC)



New information
collected



Status of Projects and
Management Actions



Review of Monitoring
Network



Groundwater Sustainability
Plan (GSP) Implementation,
Outreach, etc.



Address Recommended
Corrective Actions (RCA)



Need to Amend the GSP?

	2025							2026												2027	
	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Current Schedule:																					
Address Recommended Corrective Actions																					
Prepare Periodic Evaluation																					
WY2025 Annual Report																					
Prepare Amended GSP																					
Board Meetings			◆		◆				◆			◆			◆		◆				
SGMA Portal Upload by Jan 3, 2027																					

Board Meetings / Milestones

- Feb 26, 2026:** Board to Receive Update on PE Progress and Make Determination for GSP Amendment
- May 28, 2026:** Update on Draft PE & Provide Direction on GSP Amendment
- Jul 24, 2026:** Board Draft PE and GSP Amendment Posted to Website and City/County Notice (90-days required by SGMA)
- Aug 27, 2026:** Board/Public Comment on Draft PE and GSP Amendment
- Oct 22, 2026:** Draft Final PE and GSP Amendment
- Jan 3, 2027:** PE and GSP Amendment Due

In Preparing a GSP Amendment

- Have February and May Board meetings to make decisions on relevant amendment areas
- Use ad hoc March to May to recommend those Board decisions in May, then continue to use ad hoc to get to August GSP draft



Projects and Management Actions – currently have 20 in 3 “groups”



Review of Monitoring Network – groundwater, stream, GDEs



GSP Implementation (meters, fees)



Recommended Corrective Actions (RCA) – mostly around revising SMC

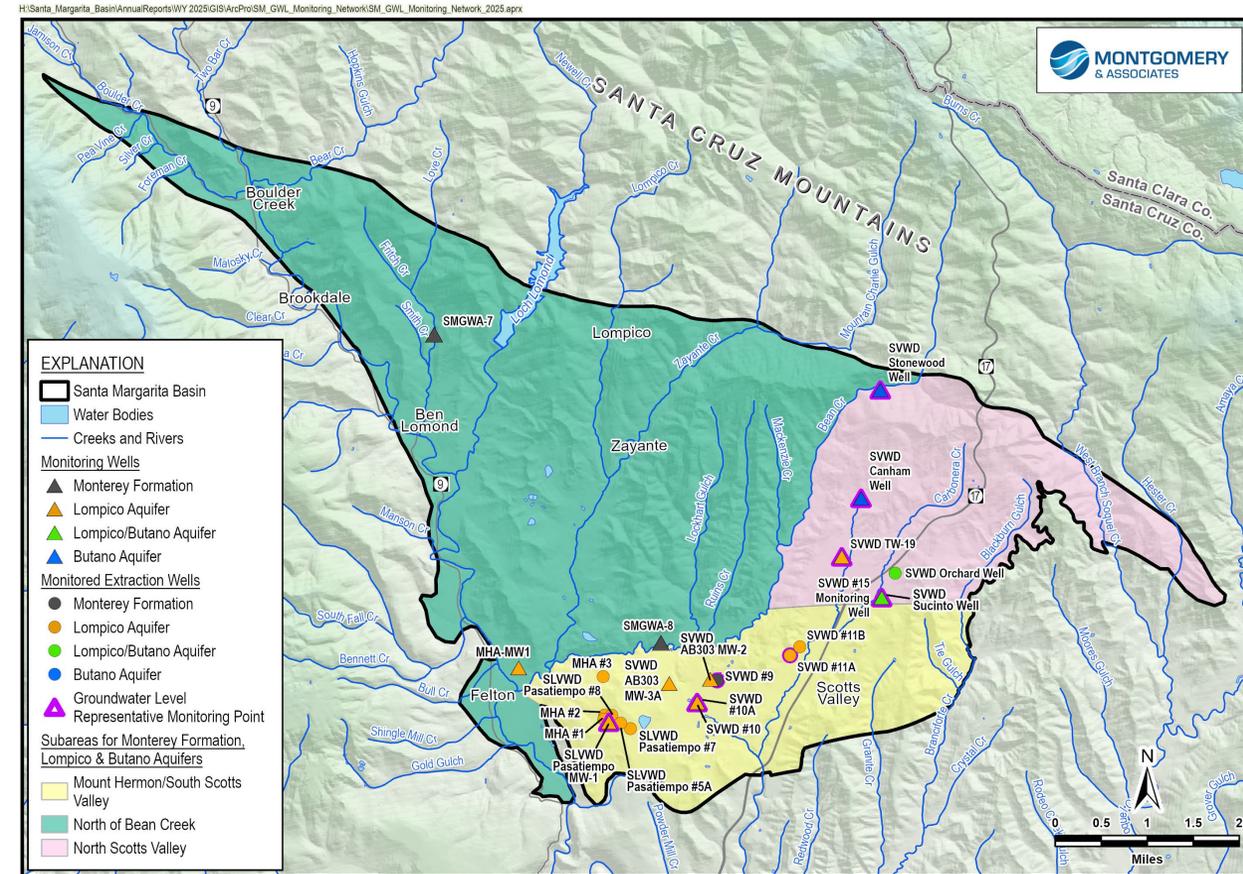
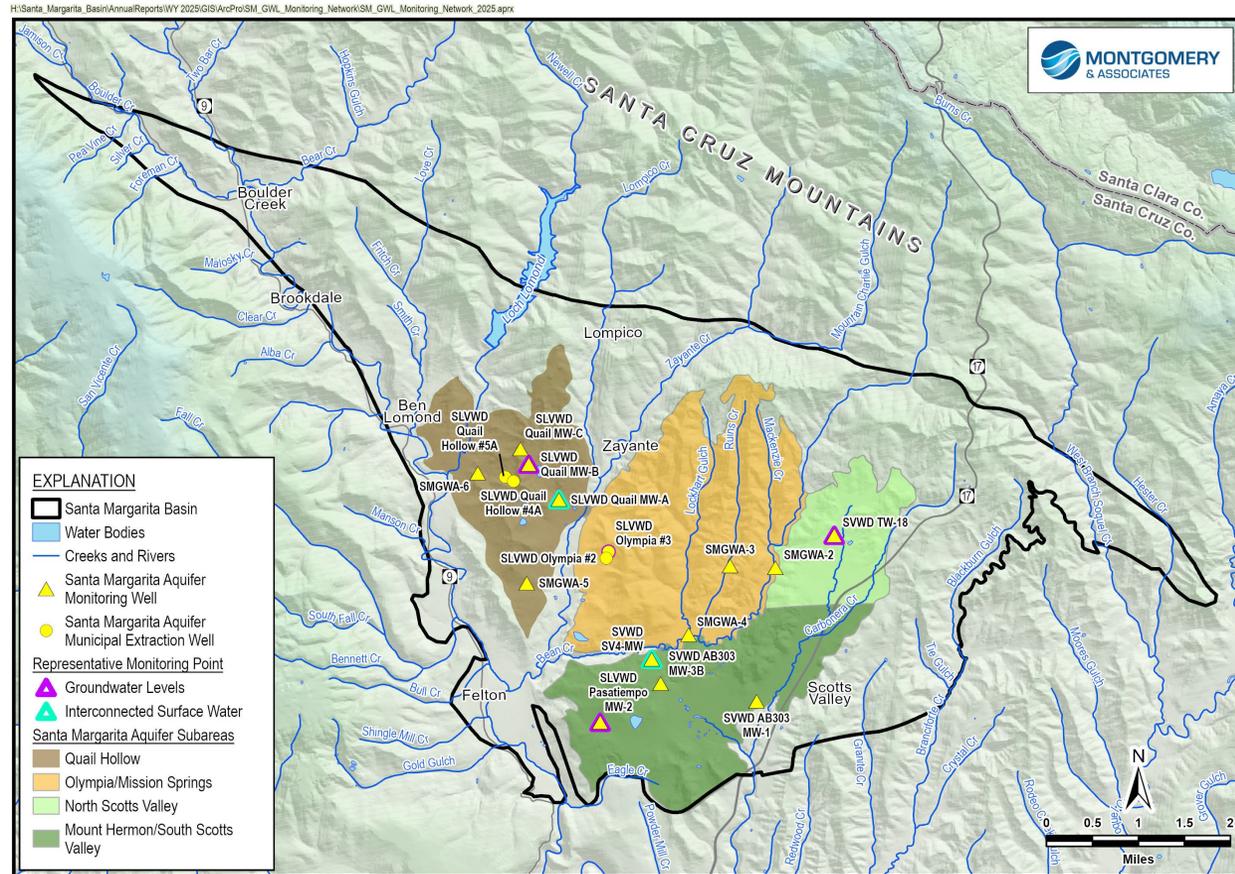
RCA #1

The GSA should evaluate beneficial uses and users of the Monterey Formation and consider how changes in groundwater levels in the Monterey Formation may affect domestic well users and GDEs. The GSA should evaluate monitoring in the Monterey Formation and fill any data gaps in areas where beneficial uses are present and monitoring is not present.

RCA #2

Revise the definition of undesirable results to remove the drought year condition or discuss how extractions and recharge will be managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods within the SMC for chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

Groundwater level datapoints in shallow (unconfined) and deeper (confined) aquifer systems



We are Considering a new Groundwater Level SMC UR Definition

Sustainability Indicator	Current Undesirable Result Definition (Based on 12 RMPs basin-wide)	Potential Undesirable Result Definition (Based on 12 RMPs in shallow/unconfined aquifer and 11 RMPs in deeper/confined aquifers)
Chronic lowering of groundwater levels	Groundwater elevation in <u>any</u> Representative Monitoring Point (RMP) falls below the minimum threshold in 2 or more consecutive <u>non-drought years</u> . If an RMP groundwater elevation below its minimum threshold is caused by emergency operational issues or extended droughts, it is not considered an undesirable result.	A. Groundwater elevations in 3 or more RMPs fall below the minimum threshold in 2 consecutive years in the shallow/unconfined aquifer system. B. Groundwater elevations in 3 or more RMPs fall below the minimum threshold in 2 consecutive years in the deeper/confined aquifer system.

RCA #3

Revise SMC for degraded groundwater quality:

- A. Revise the definition of undesirable results for degraded groundwater quality so that exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater extraction, whether the GSA has implemented pumping regulations or not, are considered in the assessment of undesirable results in the Basin.*
- B. Revise the sustainable management criteria for degraded water quality to include undesirable results for constituents of concern in the basin identified in the GSP.*

We Want to Reduce the Number of Defined Constituents that We are Tracking

Table 9. Groundwater Quality Compared to Sustainable Management Criteria, WY2024

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	120	5.8	ND	ND	0.0026	3.4	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SLVWD Olympia #3	690	8.3	0.32	0.140	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	140	7.6	0.36	0.060	0.0018	0.40	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #10A	320	35	1.40	0.170	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #11A	540	28	0.31	0.110	ND	ND	ND	0.0011	ND	ND	ND
	SVWD #11B	330	21	0.64	0.070	0.0085	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Lompico / Butano	SVWD Orchard Well	510	58	ND	0.0027	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

- Chloride is not a problem
- Iron and Manganese are aesthetic issues
- Organic compounds have only seen a single detection

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

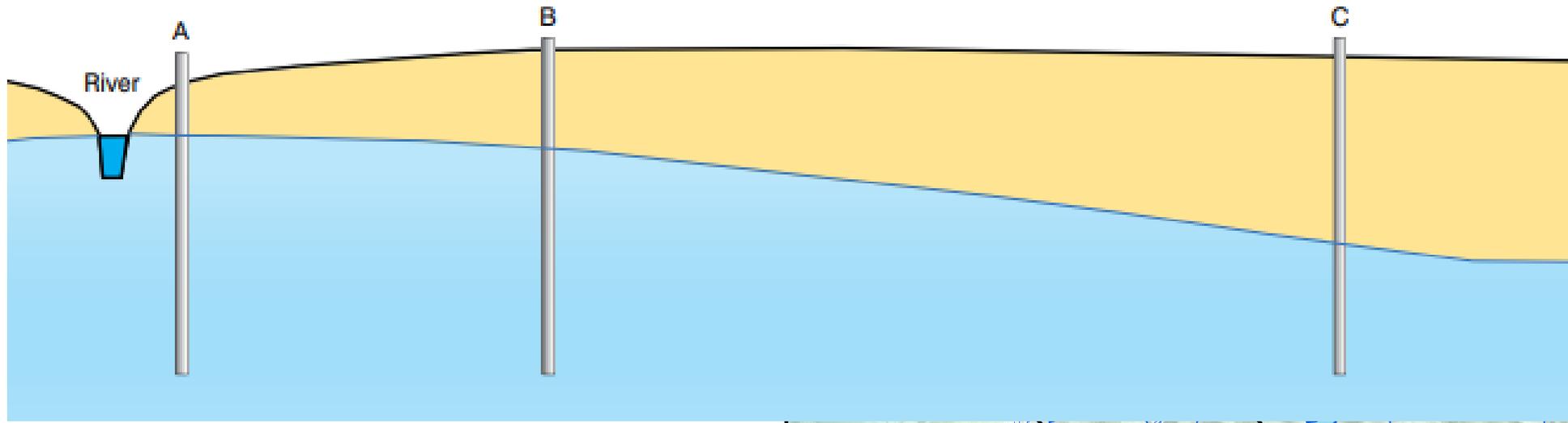
Proposed Alternative Approach for Water Quality

- Keep TDS, Arsenic, Nitrate as Basin Constituents of Concern
- Redefine SMC values based on the concept of degradation from a baseline value (e.g., % increase from current average)
- Redefine Undesirable Results (example):
 - 3 or more RMPs experience an MT Exceedance for 2 consecutive years
- Additional process:
 - Review all water quality results each year for VOC detections or any constituent MCL exceedance
 - Standing annual meeting with County Site Mitigation Program to share information on public supply results and active site investigations/remediation

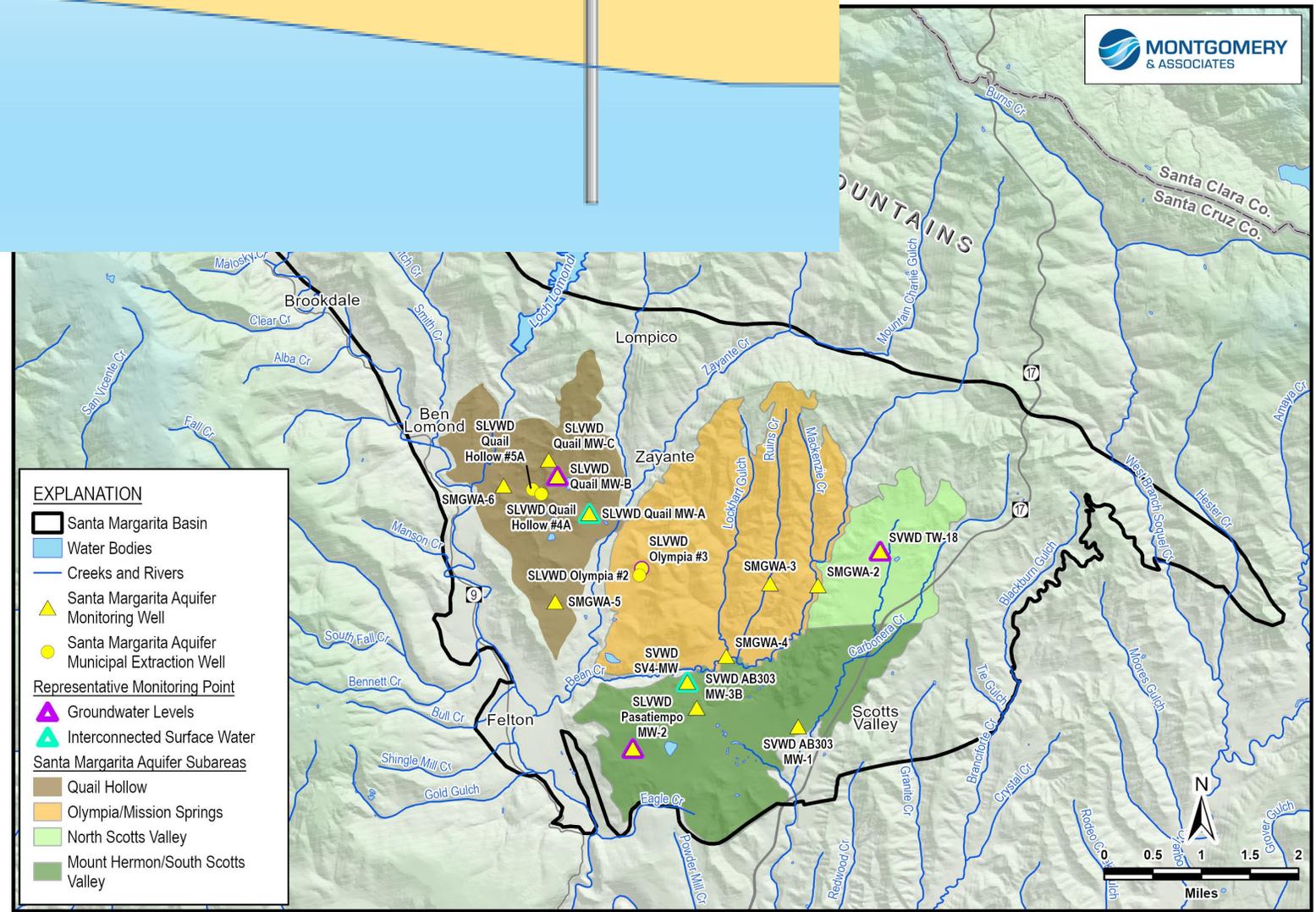
RCA #4

Evaluate Interconnected Surface Water SMC

- Address the following items by the first periodic evaluation:
 - Revise sustainable management criteria with the removal of the exemption for undesirable results in drought years.
 - **Consider using the interconnected surface water guidance as appropriate when issued by DWR to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.**

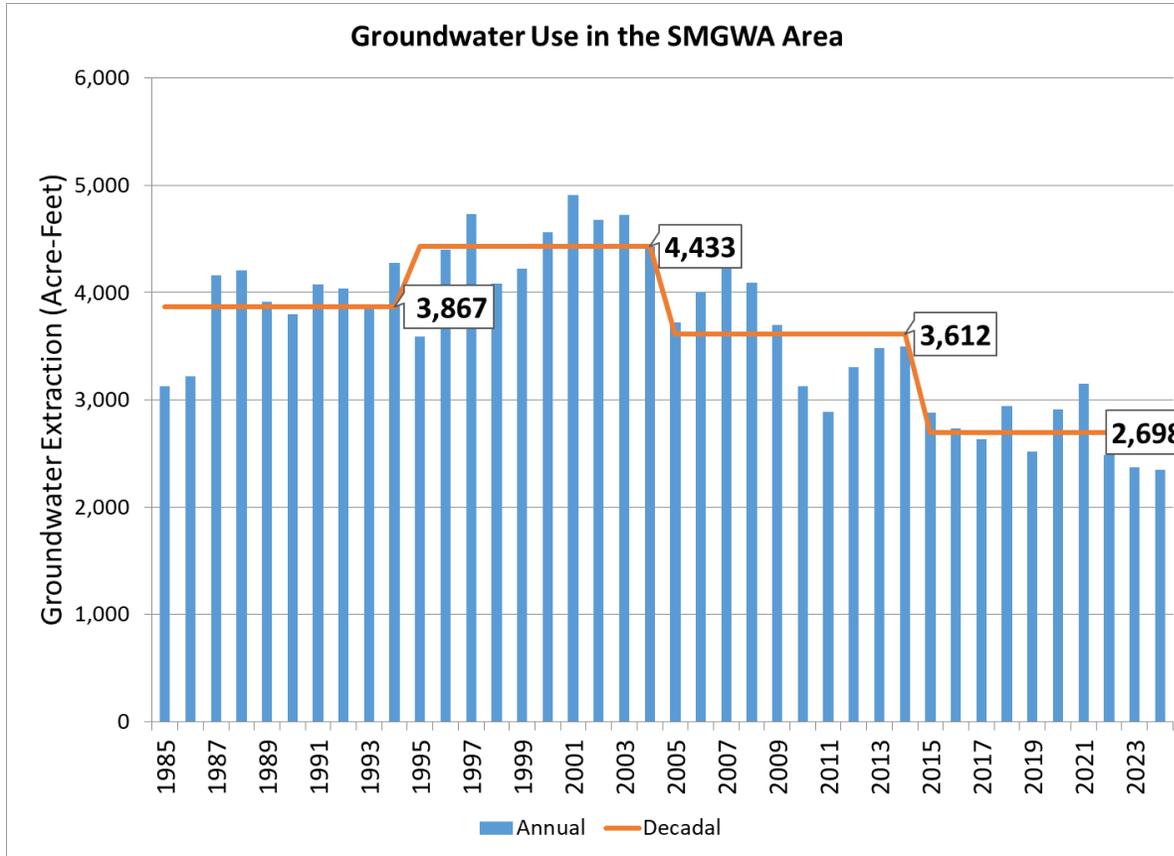


Adapted from Environmental Defense Fund (2018)



EXPLANATION

- Santa Margarita Basin
- Water Bodies
- Creeks and Rivers
- ▲ Santa Margarita Aquifer Monitoring Well
- Santa Margarita Aquifer Municipal Extraction Well
- Representative Monitoring Point
- ▲ Groundwater Levels
- ▲ Interconnected Surface Water
- Santa Margarita Aquifer Subareas
- Quail Hollow
- Olympia/Mission Springs
- North Scotts Valley
- Mount Hermon/South Scotts Valley



- Minimum thresholds are:
- equivalent to aquifer-specific sustainable yield volumes.
 - derived from model simulation incorporating climate change and projected pumping that predicts URs will not occur over the GSP planning and implementation horizon of 50 years.

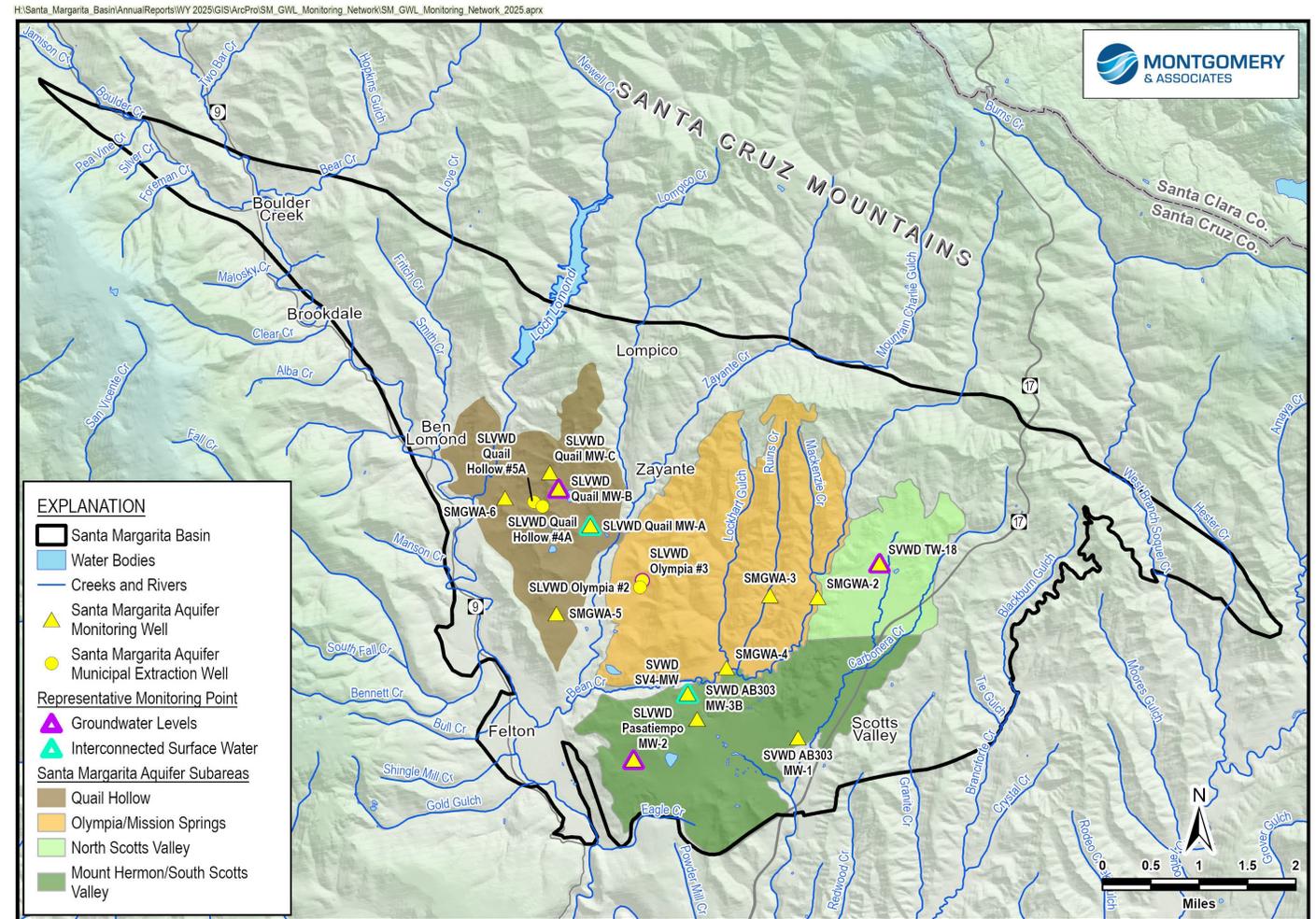
Aquifer	Groundwater Extraction, AF/year		
	Minimum Threshold*	Measurable Objective	WY2025
Santa Margarita	850	615	578
Monterey	140	130	91
Lompico**	1,290	1,000	1,336
Butano**	540	380	347
TOTAL	2,820	2,125	2,352

Potential Interconnected Surface Water UR Definition

- Groundwater elevations in 5 or more RMPs (23 current) fall below the MT in 2 consecutive years

Or

- Groundwater extraction from 1 or more aquifers exceeds its MT for 2 consecutive years



Questions/Discussion

