



Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
1231 11th Street | Modesto, CA 95354
Email: strgba@mid.org

AGENDA

March 25, 2026 (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86336622508>

By phone: 1-669-900-9128

Webinar ID: 863 3662 2508

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public may participate in this meeting in the three ways described below.

Instructions for Participating in STRGBA GSA & Technical Advisory Meeting via Zoom Webinar or Phone

On your desktop/iPad or tablet/laptop:

1. To join the webinar, click the link published in the Agenda for the current meeting about 5 minutes before the webinar begins.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to install and/or launch the Zoom application.
3. If prompted, enter the Webinar ID published in the Agenda.
4. All public attendees will enter the meeting muted.
5. If you wish to speak under Business from the Public, or after the Chairman calls for Public Comment, click on the “Raise Hand” button to request to speak.

On your phone:

1. To attend the meeting by phone, call the number published in the Agenda for the meeting.
2. Enter the Webinar ID published in the Agenda, then hit the # symbol.
3. All public attendees will enter the meeting muted.
4. If you wish to speak under Business from the Public, or after the Chairman calls for Public Comment, press *9 on your phone to “Raise Hand” or simply request to speak.

In person: Oakdale Irrigation District 1205 E. F Street, Oakdale

To view a physical copy of the agenda, please visit the Oakdale Irrigation District office at 1205 East F Street, Oakdale. A complete copy of the agenda packet is also available on www.strgba.org.



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1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions
(Four agencies are needed for a quorum)

2. Business from the Public
Who: Public
Expected Outcome: Interested persons are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. Matters presented under this heading may be discussed but no action will be taken by the Agency at this meeting. It is not required, but speakers may provide their name and address. Public Comments will be limited to five minutes per speaker.

3. Topic: Approve 3/11/2026 Meeting Minutes [Action Item]
Who: Eric Thorburn, Committee
Expected Outcome: Approval

4. Topic: Approve Water Year 2025 Annual Report [Action Item]
Who: Woodard & Curran/ Todd Groundwater, Committee
Expected Outcome: Approval
**Final draft can be found at www.strgba.org/plans-projects-reports/.*

5. Topic: Fall 2025 Groundwater Level Analysis
Who: Todd Groundwater, Committee
Expected Outcome: Discussion

6. Topic: Stanislaus County Update on Third-Party Review of the Groundwater Model, Action Plan Development in the Non-District East, and Coordination with the Non-District West/City of Riverbank
Who: Christy McKinnon/Robert Kostlivi, Committee
Expected Outcome: Discussion



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7. Topic: Modesto Irrigation District Resolution Recommending and Requesting the STRGBA GSA Develop a Budget for 5-Years or More and Establish a Fee Structure, Including Groundwater Extraction Fees, Necessary to Fund Such a Budget
Who: Jesse Franco, Committee
Expected Outcome: Discussion
8. Next Meeting
April 8, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
In-person offered at Oakdale Irrigation District
9. Committee Comments/Reports



Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026 (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) attended either in-person or via Zoom.

In-Person Member Agency Attendees:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID):	Jesse Franco
Oakdale Irrigation District (OID):	Eric Thorburn
Stanislaus County:	Robert Kostlivi
City of Oakdale:	Jeff Roberts
City of Modesto:	Tim Barahona
City of Riverbank:	Darin Smallen
City of Waterford:	Mike Pitcock

2. Business from the Public

Bill Lyons and Wrangler Wheeler provided public comment about Stanislaus County's outreach to the NDW. Louie Bricetto provided comments about OID & SSJID's consideration of a water transfer.

3. Approve 1/28/2026 Meeting Minutes

Pitcock moved, and Barahona seconded, to approve the 1/28/2026 meeting minutes.

4. Elect 2026 STRGBA GSA Chairman and Vice Chairman

Roberts moved, and Pitcock seconded, to elect STRGBA GSA Chairman and Vice Chairman.

5. Approve Domestic Well Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises

Roberts moved, and Smallen seconded, to approve the Domestic Well Agreement with Self-Help Enterprises.



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6. Water Year 2025 Annual Report Draft Results

Woodard & Curran and Todd Groundwater gave a presentation on the 2025 Annual Report draft results. The presentation can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/5PH6PGL7PBw?si=SBXkEdqGj1yFcD3e>

7. Next Meeting

March 25, 2026, Special STRGBA GSA Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Lyons suggested adding an agenda item to discuss Stanislaus County's review of the groundwater model and action plan in the Non-District East.

8. Committee Comments/Reports

Thorburn reminded the committee that the Form 700 is due by April 1 and provided an update on the Paulsell project. Franco informed the committee that Modesto Irrigation District approved a resolution to develop a budget covering five or more years and to establish a five-year fee structure, including permit fees and groundwater extraction fees. The resolution also calls for other GSA member agencies to consider the request and adopt similar resolutions. Pitcock suggested adding this item as a discussion topic for the next meeting. McKinnon informed the committee that Stanislaus County is developing a drought plan that is now available for review on the County's website.



MODESTO SUBBASIN GSP

FALL 2025 GROUNDWATER LEVEL ANALYSIS

STRGBA GSA Meeting
March 25, 2026



TODD
GROUNDWATER

AGENDA

- Fall 2025 GSP Monitoring Event
- Draft Results – Water Level Analysis
 - Sustainable Management Criteria
 - Hydrographs
- Summary and perspective



MW-7

FALL 2025 GSP MONITORING EVENT

- Eighth GSP Monitoring Event
- Groundwater elevations measured in early to mid-November 2025 in 59 representative monitoring wells (RMWs)
- 2 RMWs not measured due to casing obstructions (Wood and Quesenberry).
- Starting during Spring 2026 GSP monitoring event: Wood and Quesenberry removed from the monitoring network and replaced with New Naegle and Lehmkuhl.

DEFINITION OF UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels



An undesirable result will occur when at least 33% of representative monitoring wells exceed the MT for a principal aquifer in three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events.

Interconnected Surface Water



An undesirable result will occur on one of the rivers when 33% to 50% of the representative monitoring wells for that river exceed the MT in three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events.

(33% on Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers, 50% on San Joaquin River)

FALL 2025 MINIMUM THRESHOLDS (MTs)

Chronic Lowering of Water Levels

	Fall 2025
Western Upper Principal Aquifer	
Above	17
Below	0
Not Measured	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	0%
Western Lower Principal Aquifer	
Above	5
Below	0
Not Measured	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	0%
Eastern Principal Aquifer	
Above	24
Below	13
Not Measured	2
% Below (includes measured wells)	35%

Interconnected Surface Water

	Fall 2025
San Joaquin River	
Above	2
Below	0
Not Measured	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	0%
Stanislaus River	
Above	5
Below	3
Not Measured	0
% Below (includes measured wells)	38%
Tuolumne River	
Above	8
Below	1
Not Measured	1
% Below (includes measured wells)	11%

SUMMARY OF GSP MONITORING EVENTS

Undesirable Results Definition	Principal Aquifer/River	Percent of Measured RMWs Below MT								
		WY 2022	WY 2023		WY 2024		WY 2025		WY 2026	
		Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels										
At least 33% of RMWs exceed the MT for that Principal Aquifer in three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events.	Western Upper	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Western Lower	20%	20%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Eastern	28%	57%	32%	30%	19%	27%	27%	35%	
Interconnected Surface Waters										
At least 33% (Stanislaus and Tuolumne) or 50% (San Joaquin) of RMWs for a river exceed the MT in three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events	San Joaquin River	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Stanislaus River	25%	75%	25%	25%	13%	25%	0%	38%	
	Tuolumne River	11%	56%	22%	11%	0%	11%	22%	11%	

Fall GSP Monitoring Event - below threshold
 Fall GSP Monitoring Event - above threshold

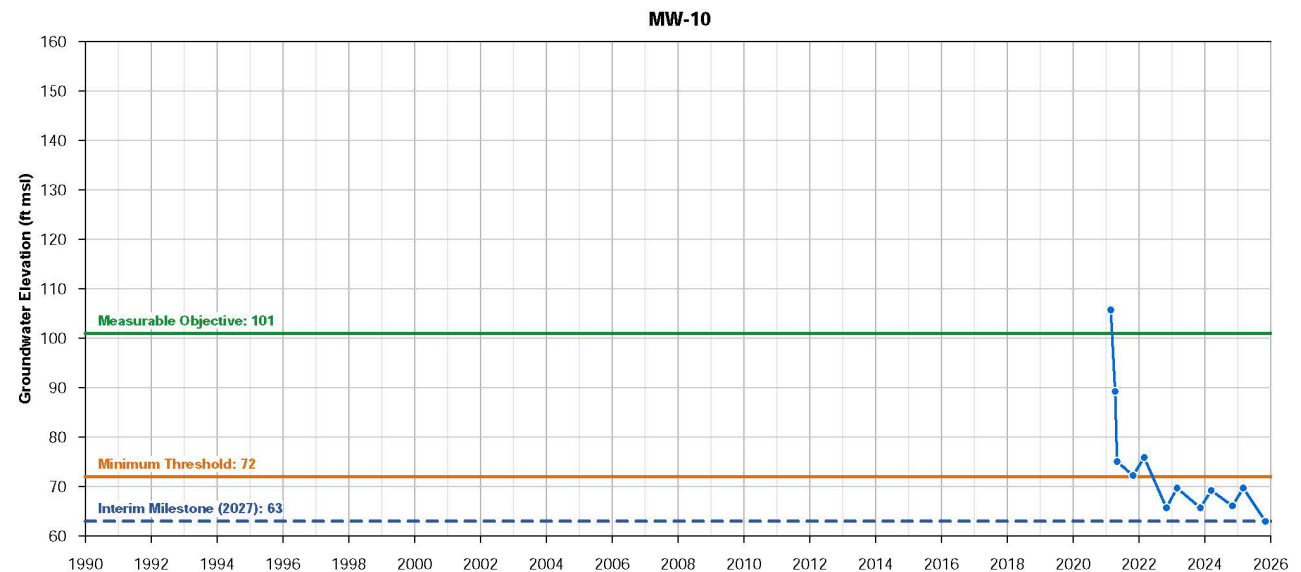
INTERIM MILESTONES (IMs)

■ Chronic Lowering of Water Levels

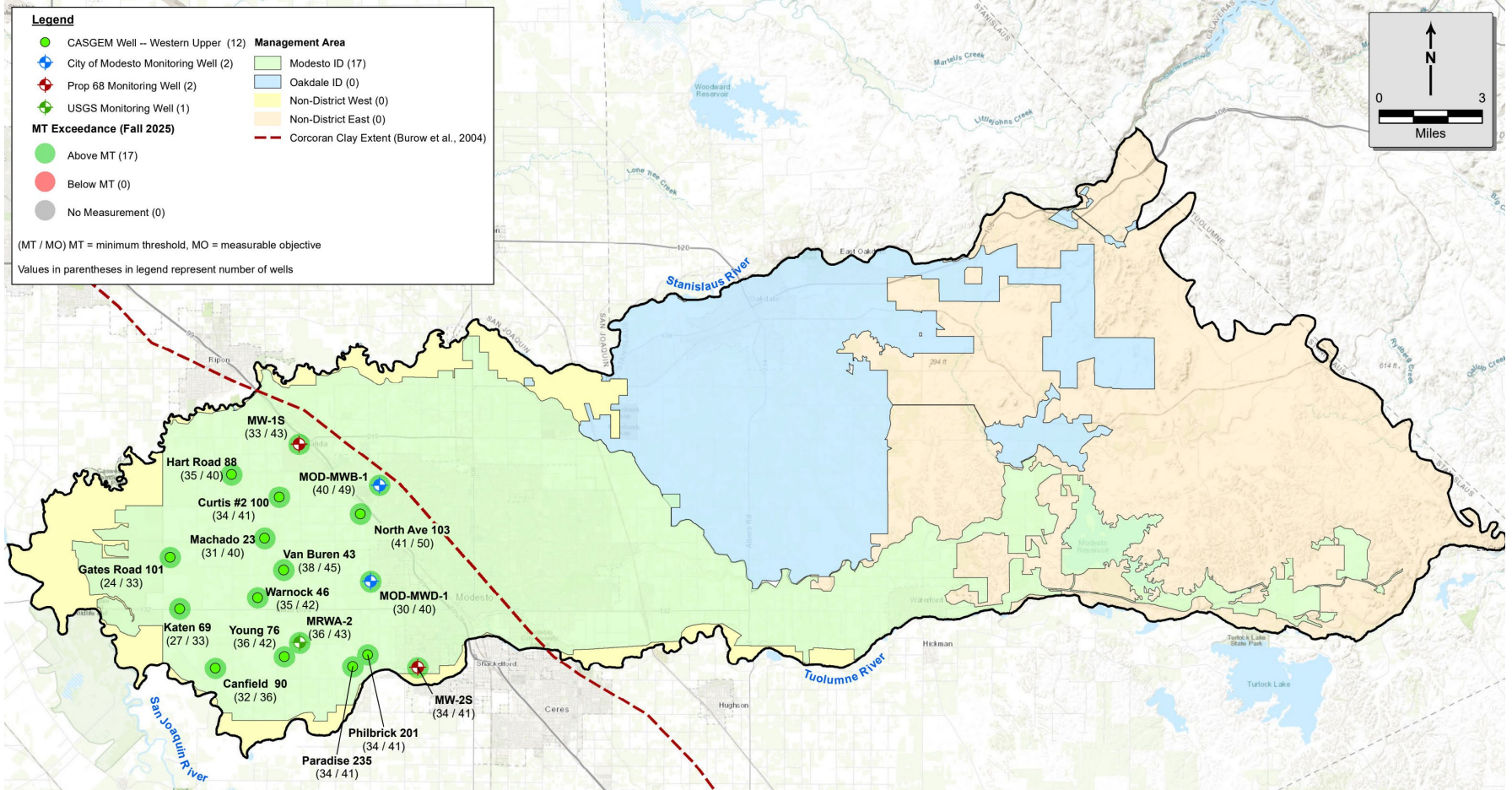
- 14 wells with IMs
- 1 well (MW-10) barely below its IM during Fall 2025 (by 0.05 feet)
- 1 well (Quesenberry) with IM had no measurement

■ Interconnected Surface Water

- 5 wells with IMs
- No wells below their IM during Fall 2025
- 1 well with IM (Quesenberry) had no measurement



FALL 2025 WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

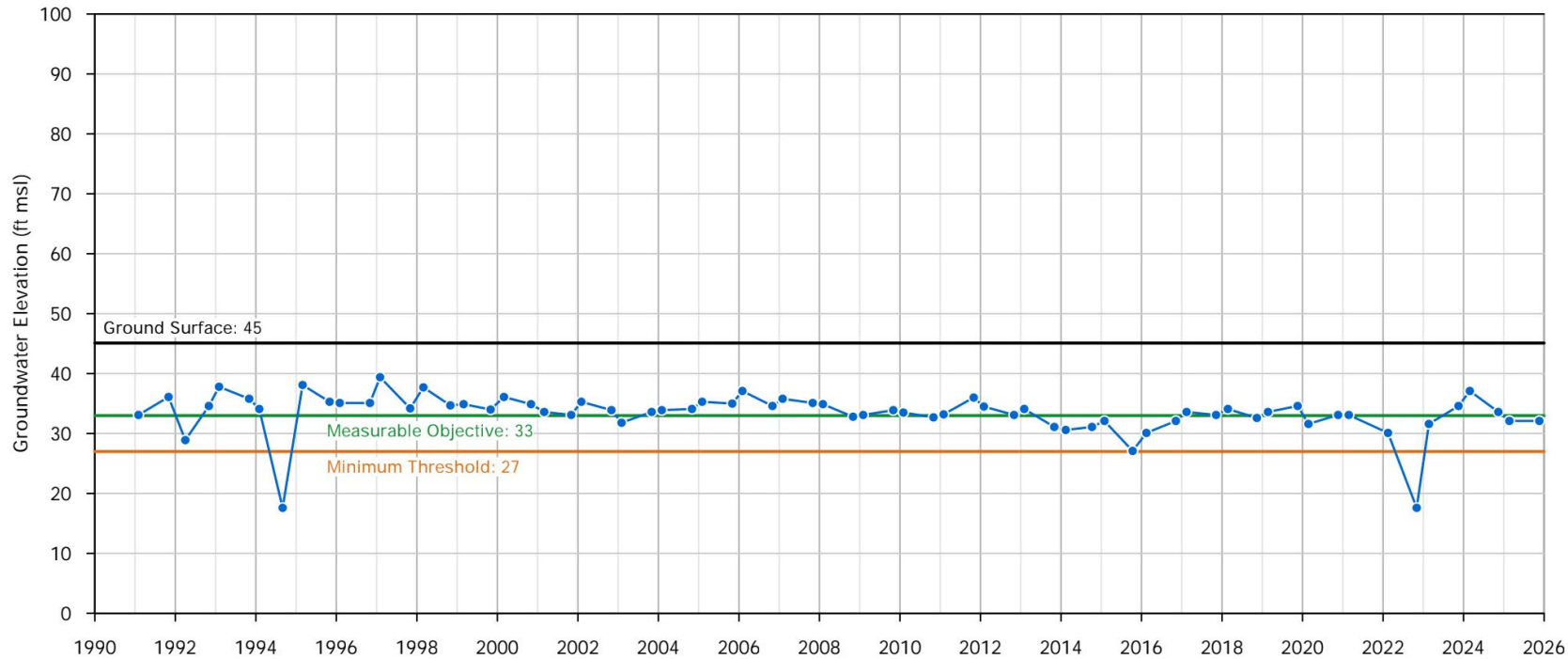


- No RMWs below MT
- Most wells over MOs
- Spring 2025:
No RMWs below MT

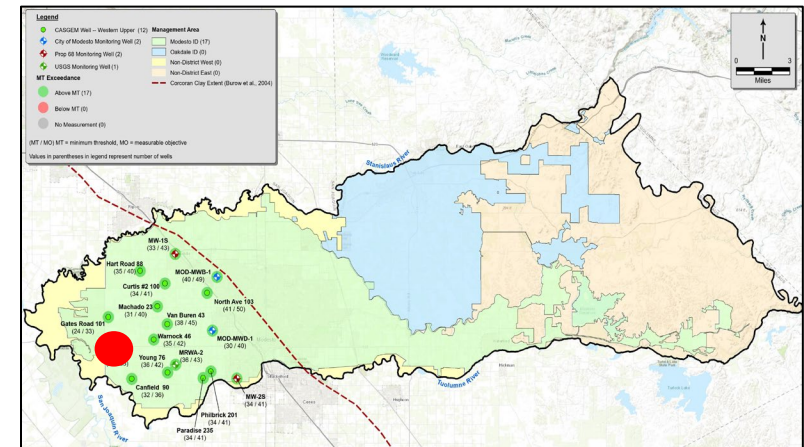
HYDROGRAPHS

WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

Katen 69



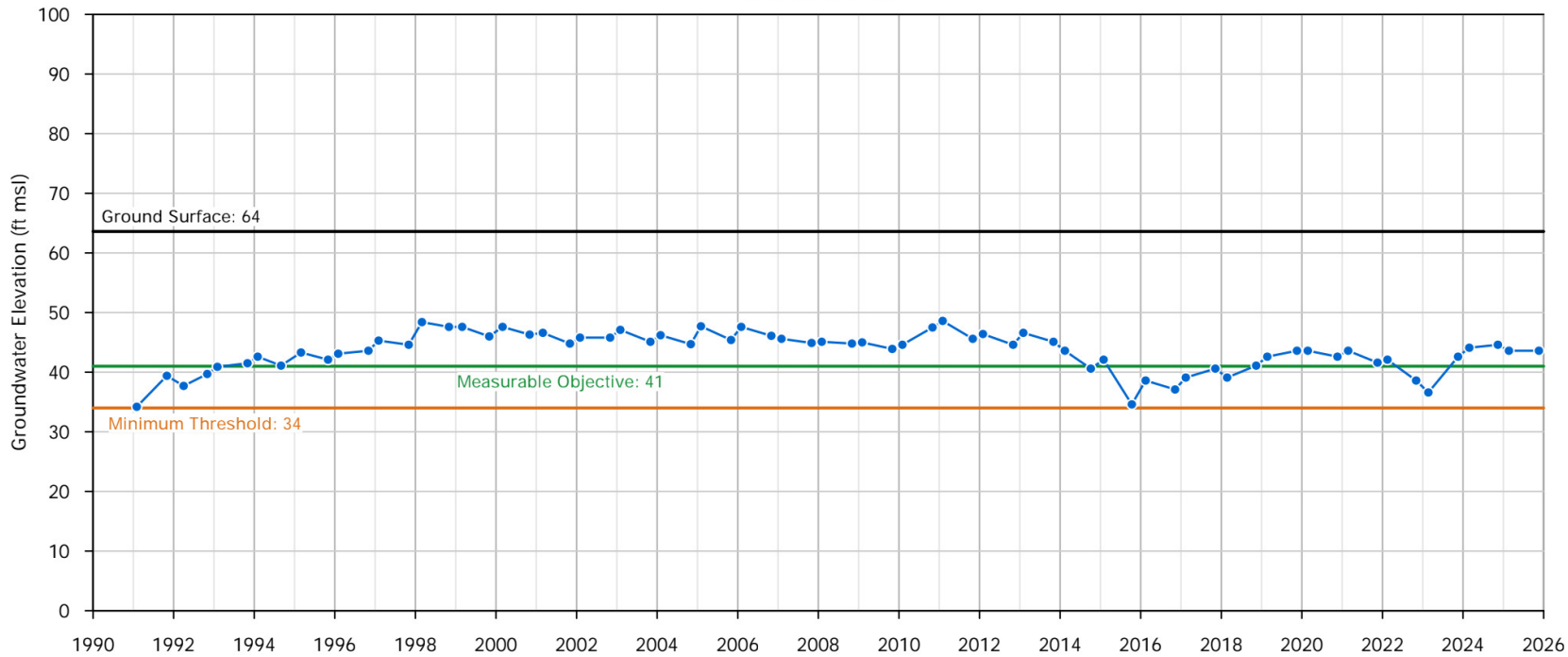
- Water level has recovered since Fall 2022 and is relatively stable over the last three years.



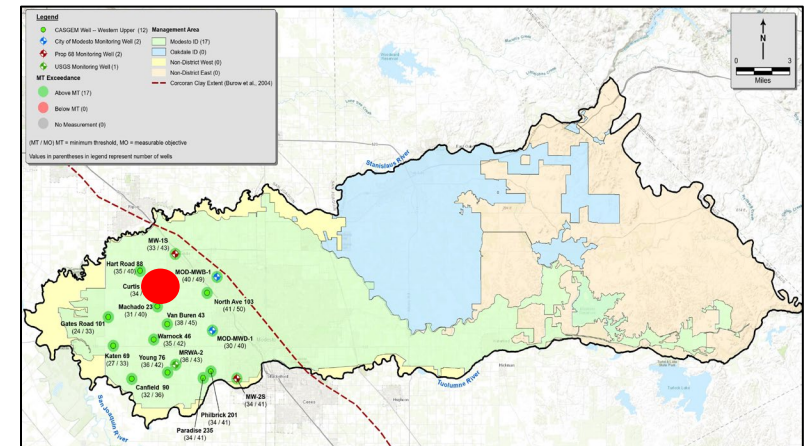
HYDROGRAPHS

WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

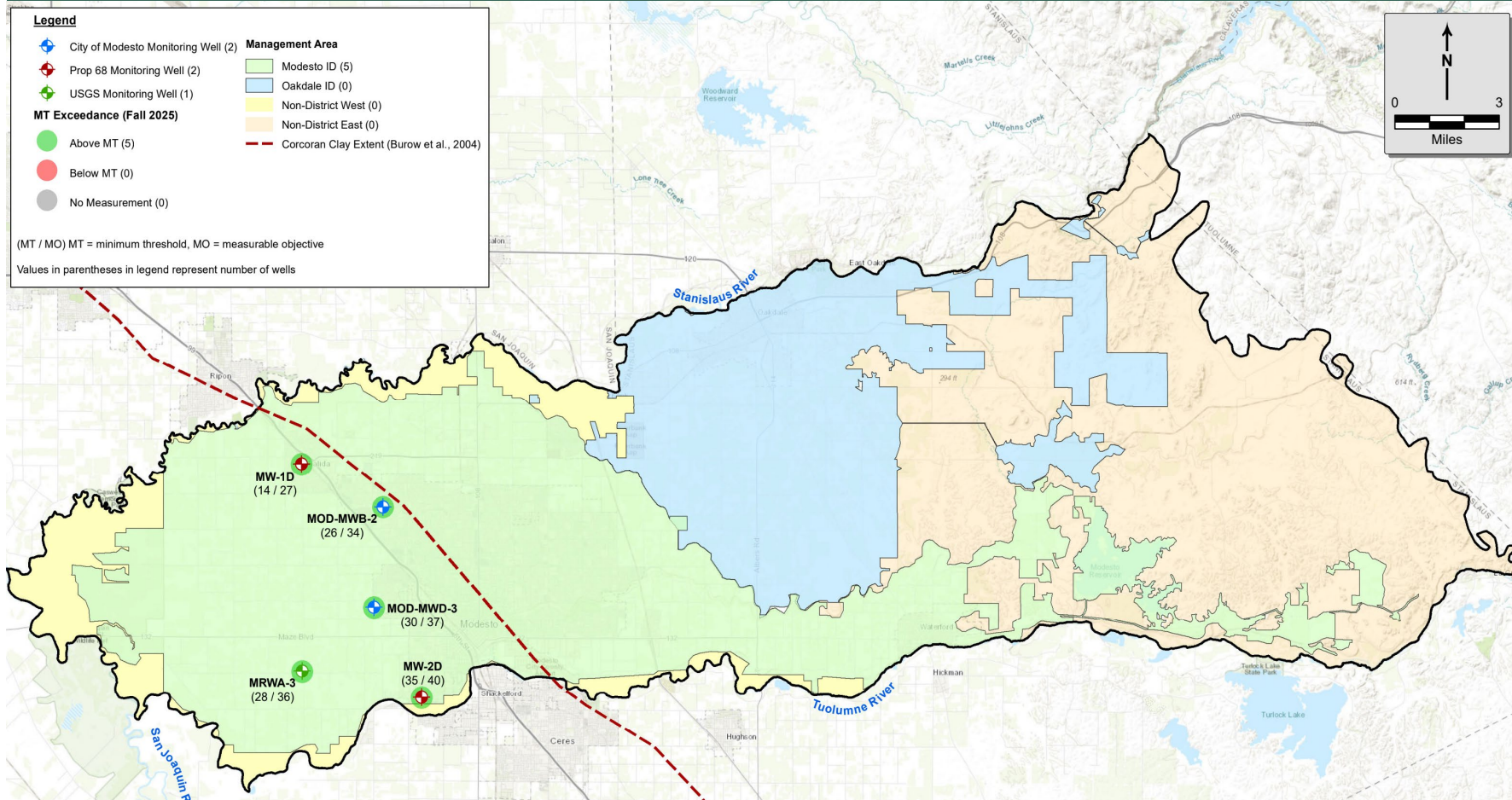
Curtis #2 100



- Water level is above the MO.
- Water level recovered and is stable in 2024 and 2025.



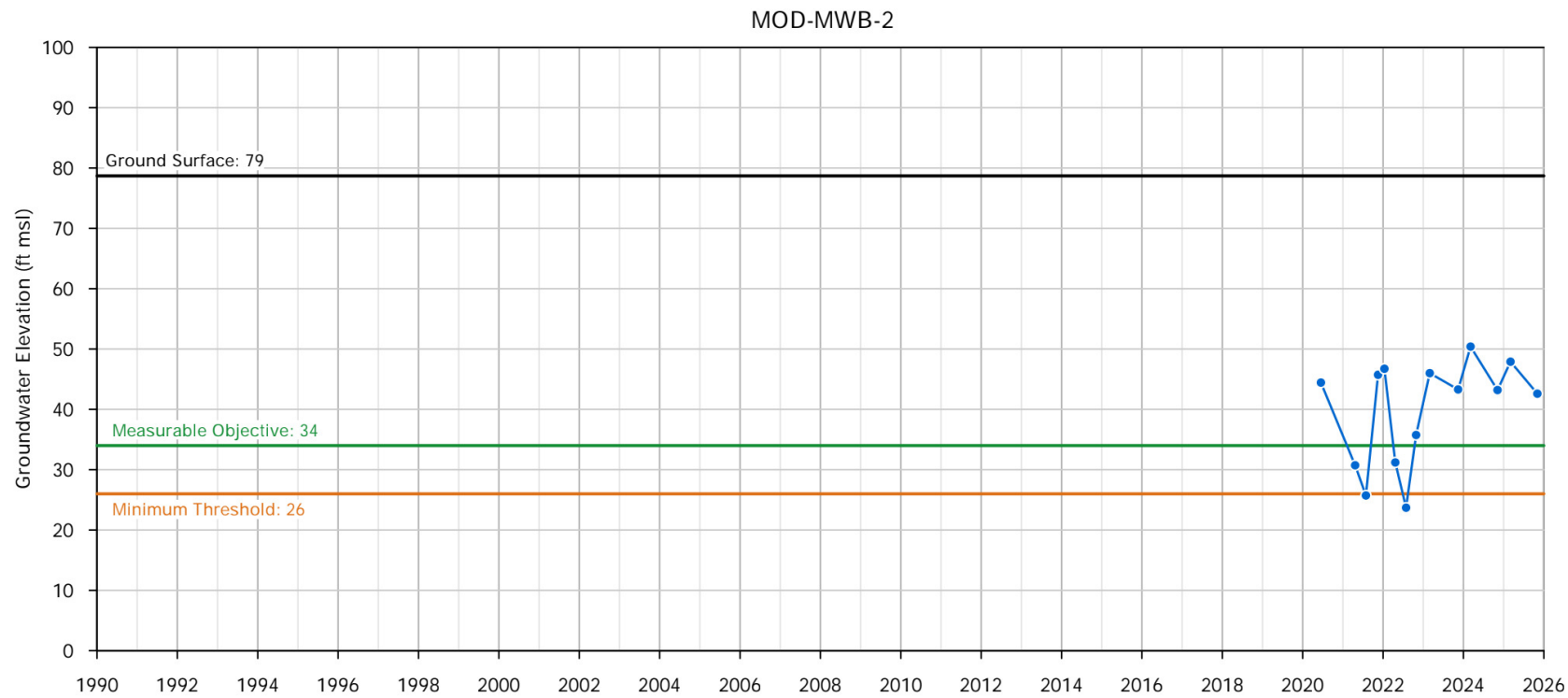
FALL 2025 WESTERN LOWER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



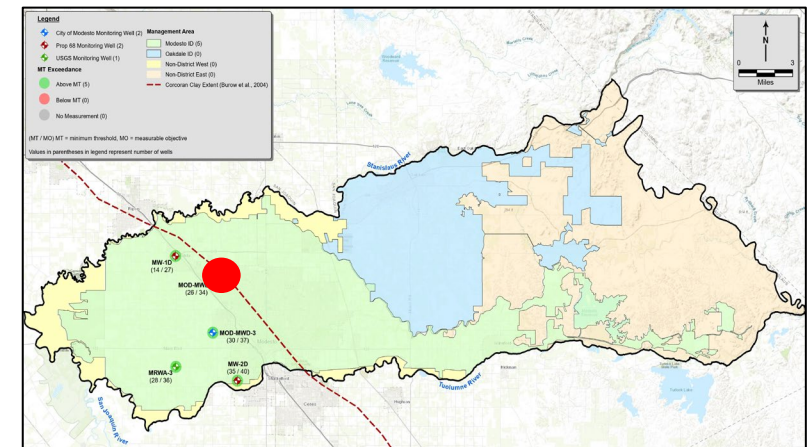
- No RMWs below MT
- Most are above the MO
- Spring 2025: No RMWs below MT

HYDROGRAPHS

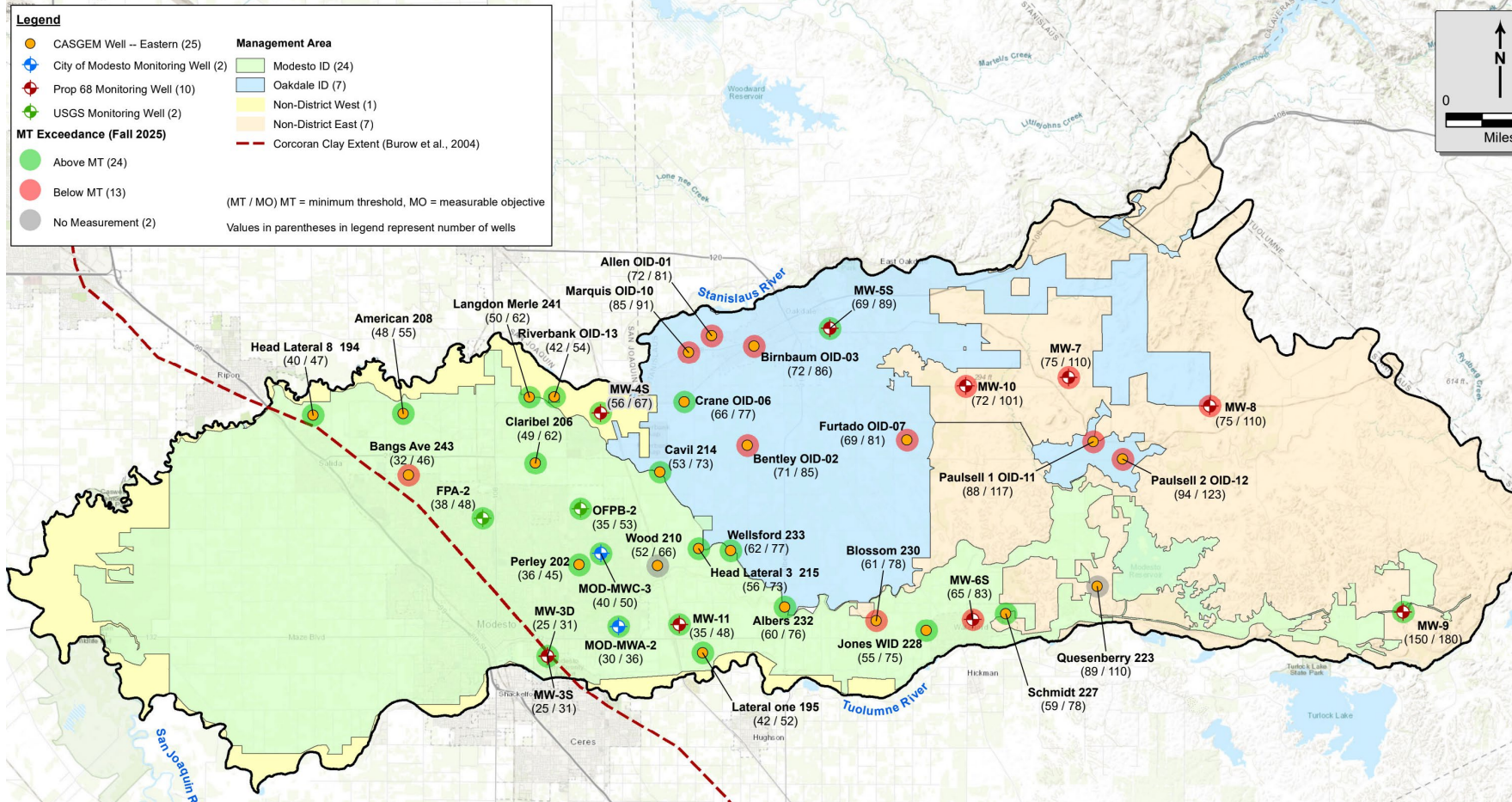
WESTERN LOWER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



- Water levels are above the MO
- Seasonal fluctuations less pronounced since 2023



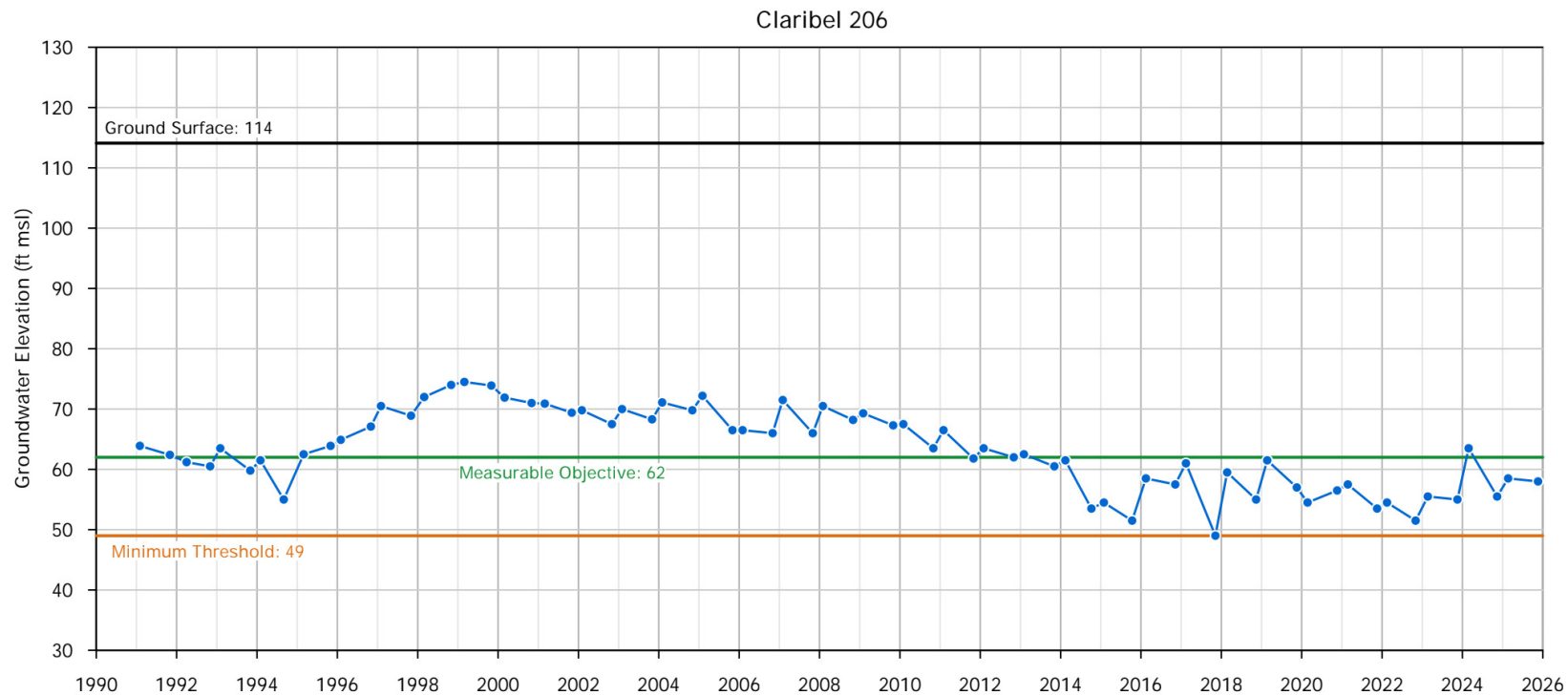
FALL 2025 EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



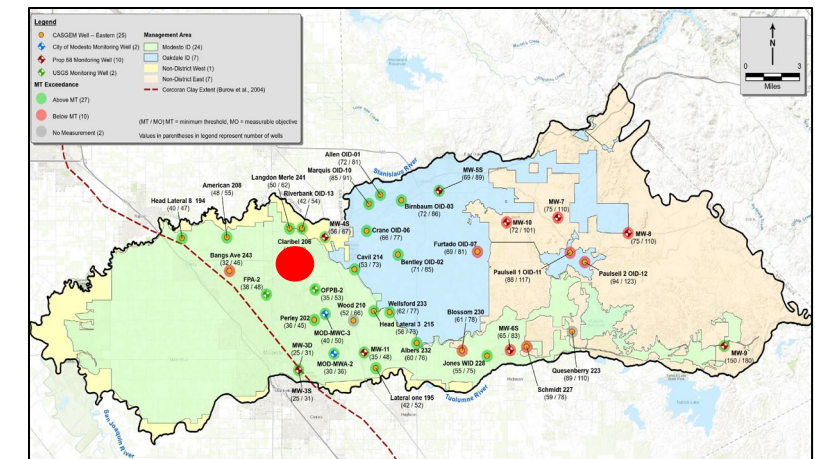
- 35% of RMWs below MT
 - 24 wells > MT
 - 13 wells < MT
 - 2 wells not measured
- 14 RMWs have IMs (12 above, 1 below and 1 NM)
- Spring 2025: 10 wells (27%) were below MT

HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

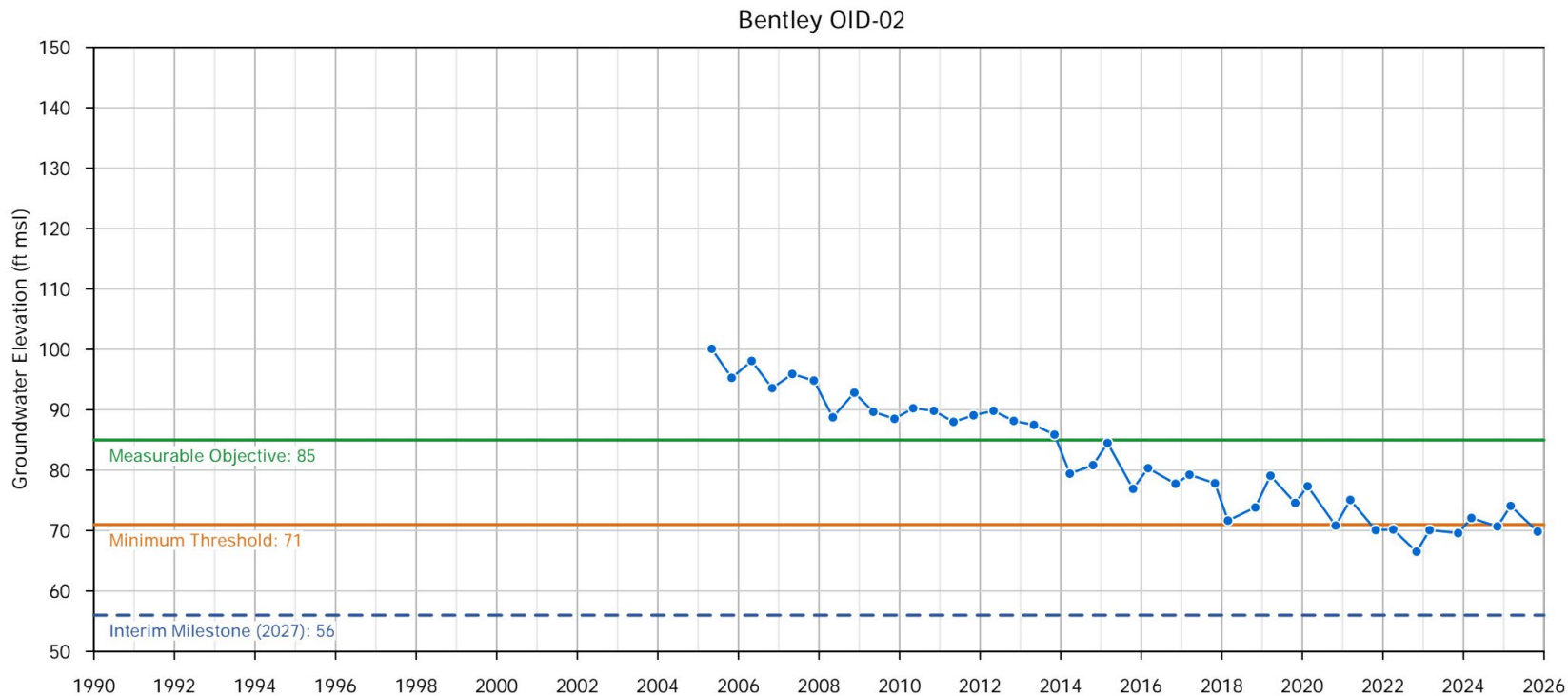


- Water levels are above the MT
- Seasonal fluctuations, but relatively stable since Fall 2014

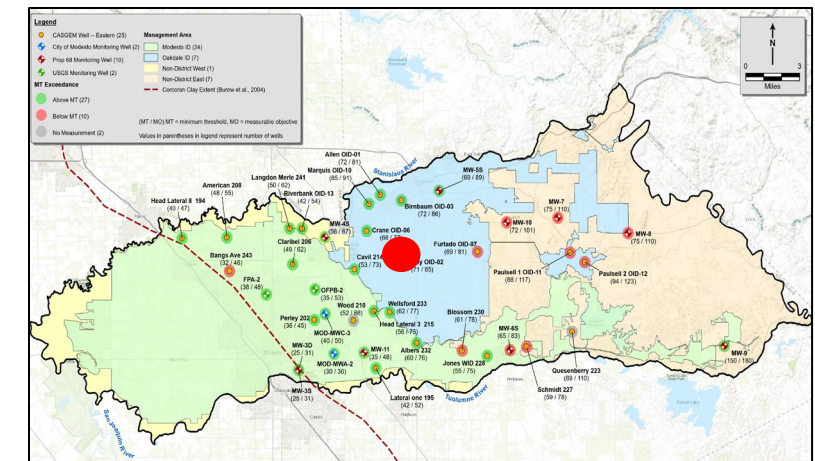


HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

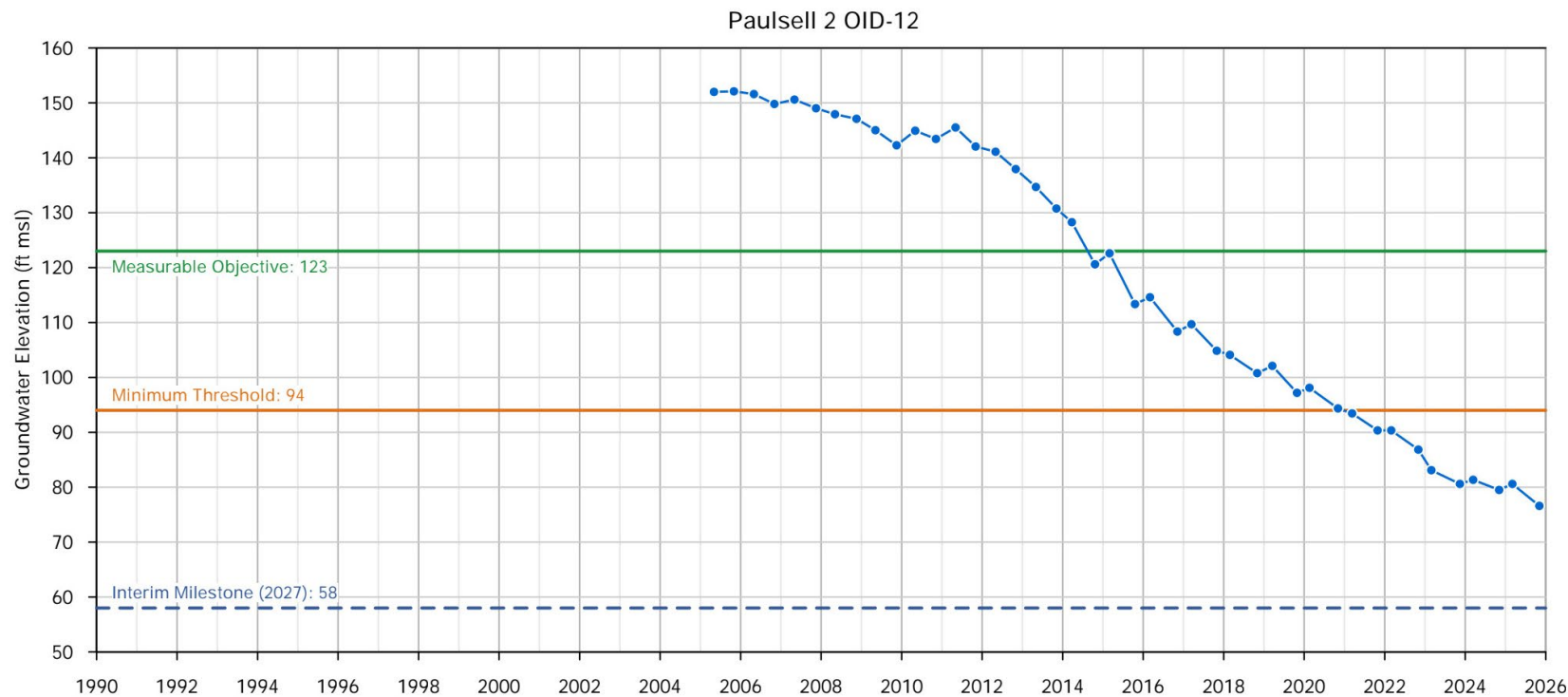


- Water level in Fall 2025 is slightly below the MT.
- Overall declining trend, but relatively stable over the last three years.

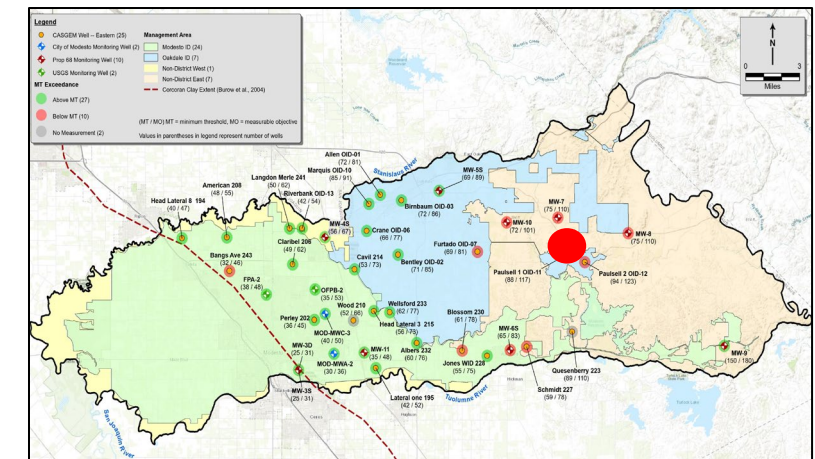


HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

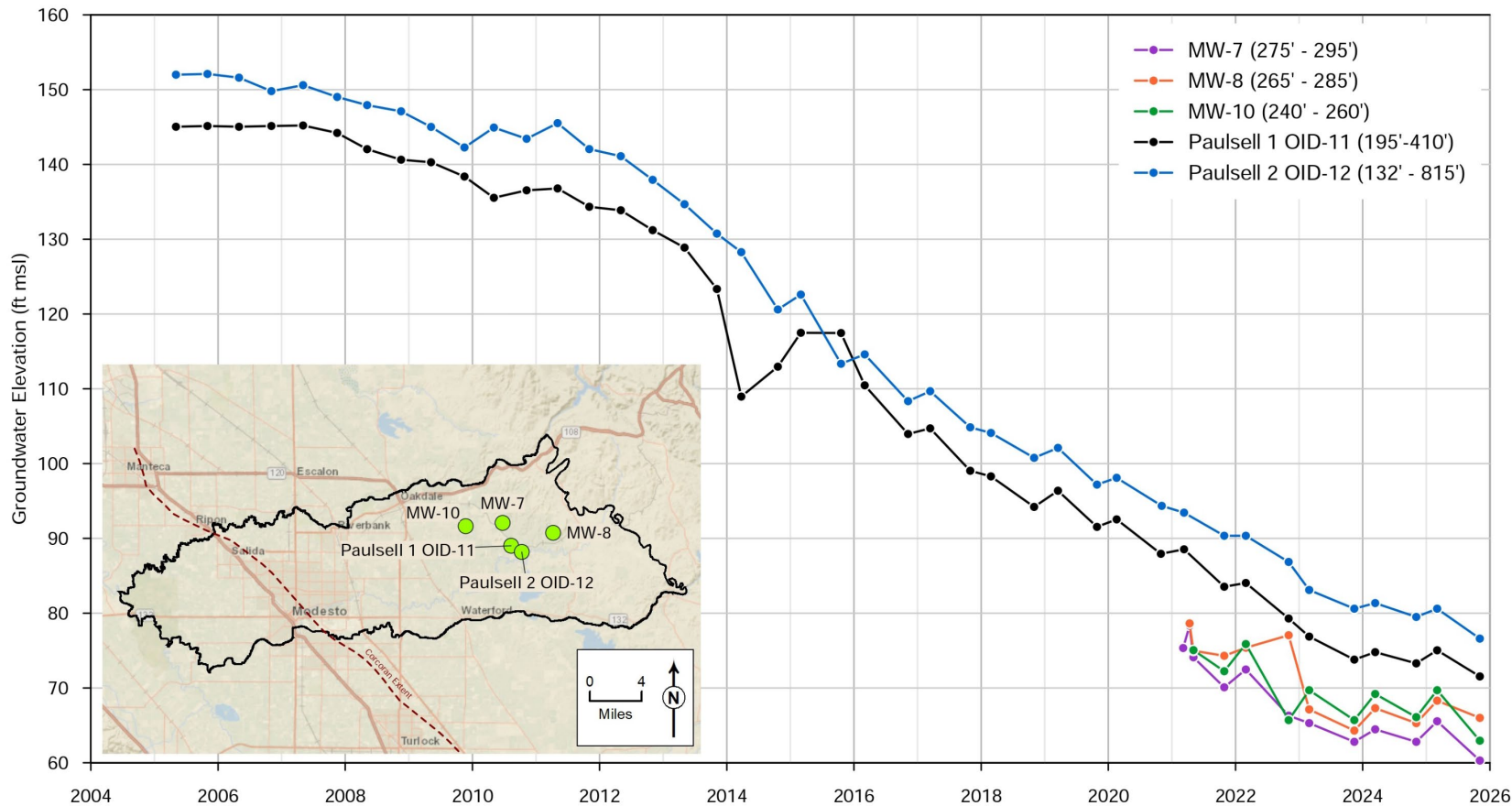


- Water level is below the MT in Fall 2025
- Eastern wells have highest rates of water level declines
- Stable in WY 2024 and WY 2025 but decreased in Fall 2025



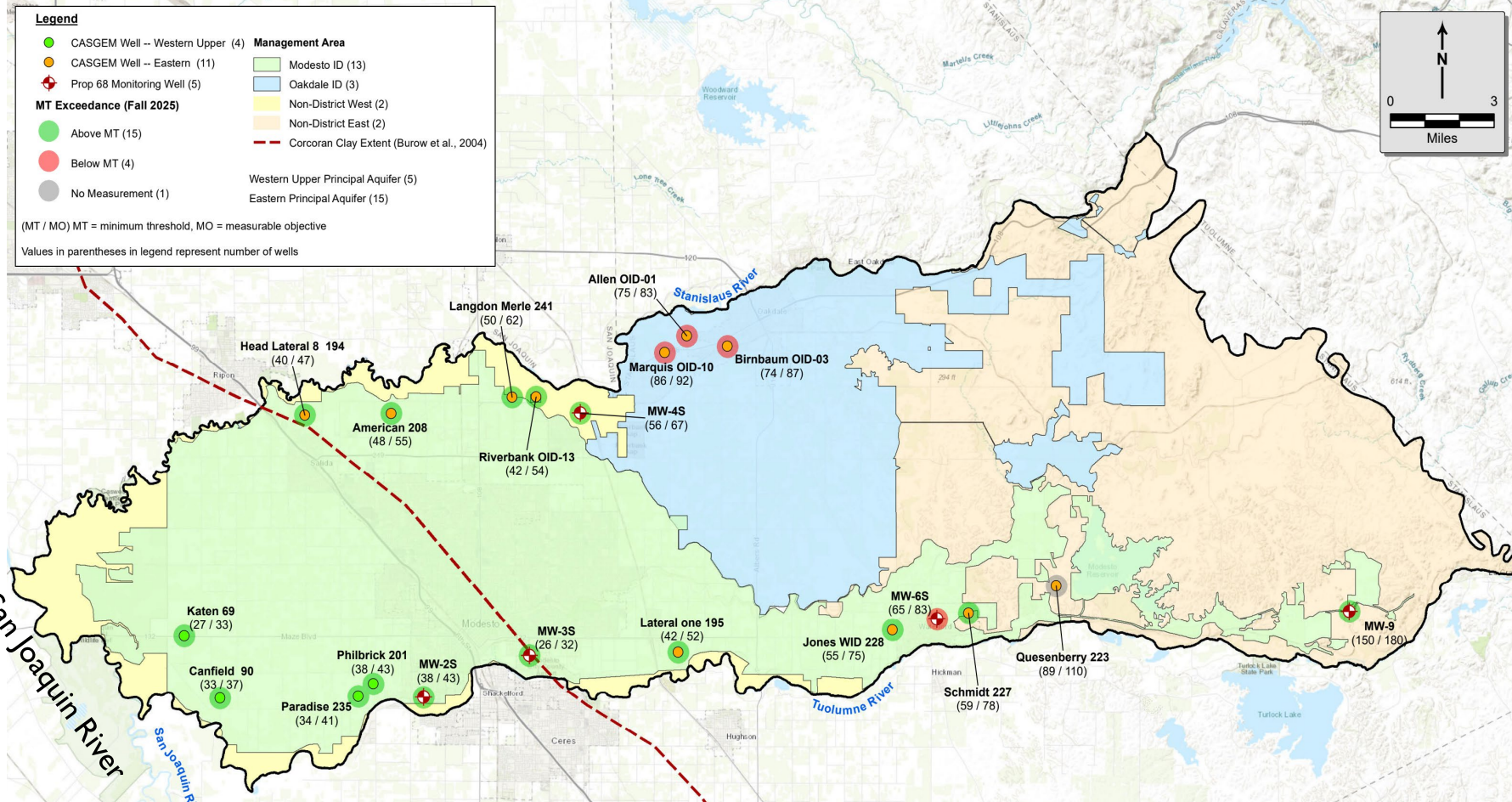
HYDROGRAPHS

EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



- Water level trends at Paulsell wells and monitoring wells are consistent.
- Spring 2021 to Fall 2025: water levels declined between 12 and 17 feet at each well
- More variability in monitoring wells due to shorter screened intervals.

FALL 2025 INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



San Joaquin River

- 0 of 2 below MT (0% below MT)

Stanislaus River

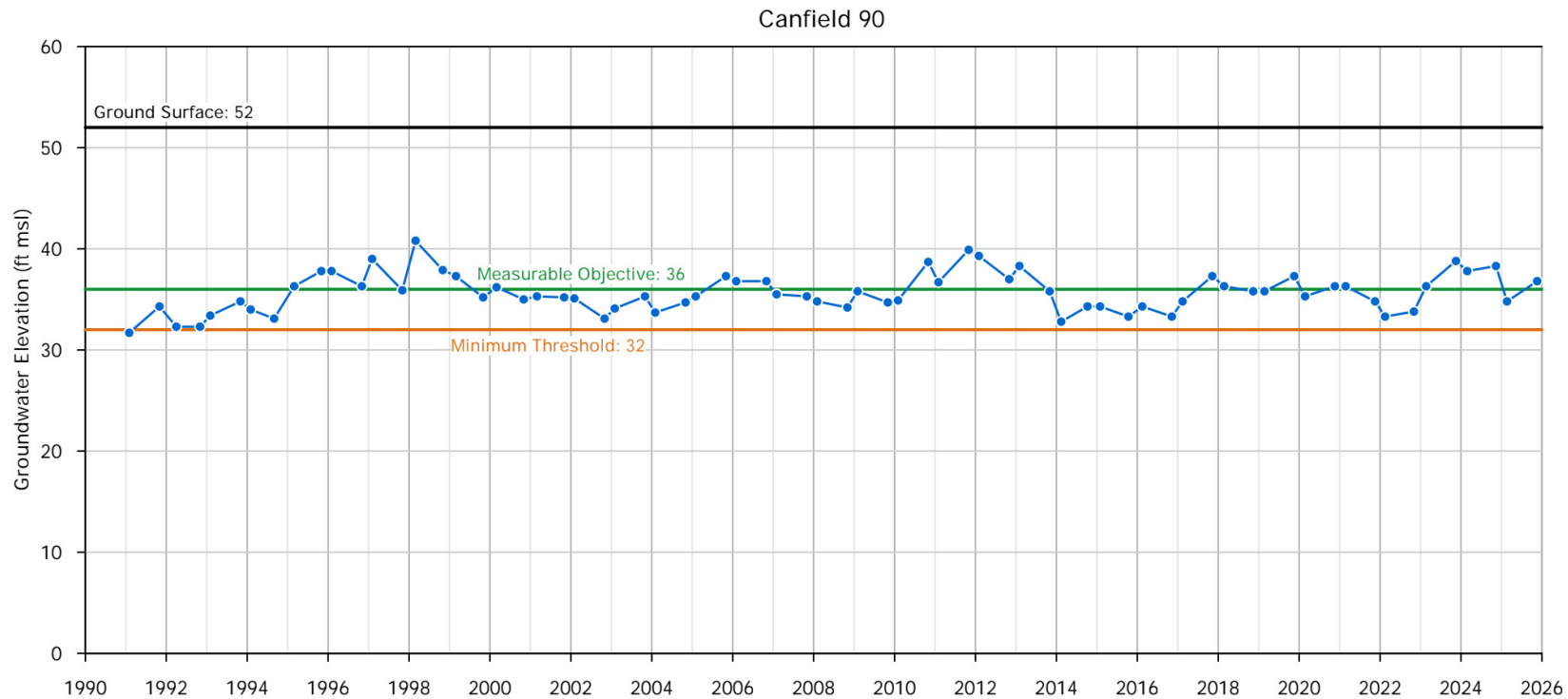
- 3 of 8 below MT (38% below MT)

Tuolumne River

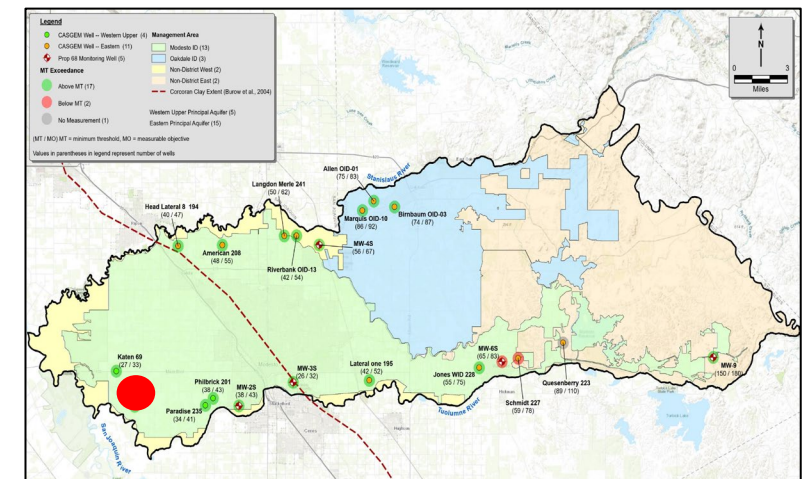
- 1 of 8 below MT, 1 NM (11% below MT)

HYDROGRAPHS

INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



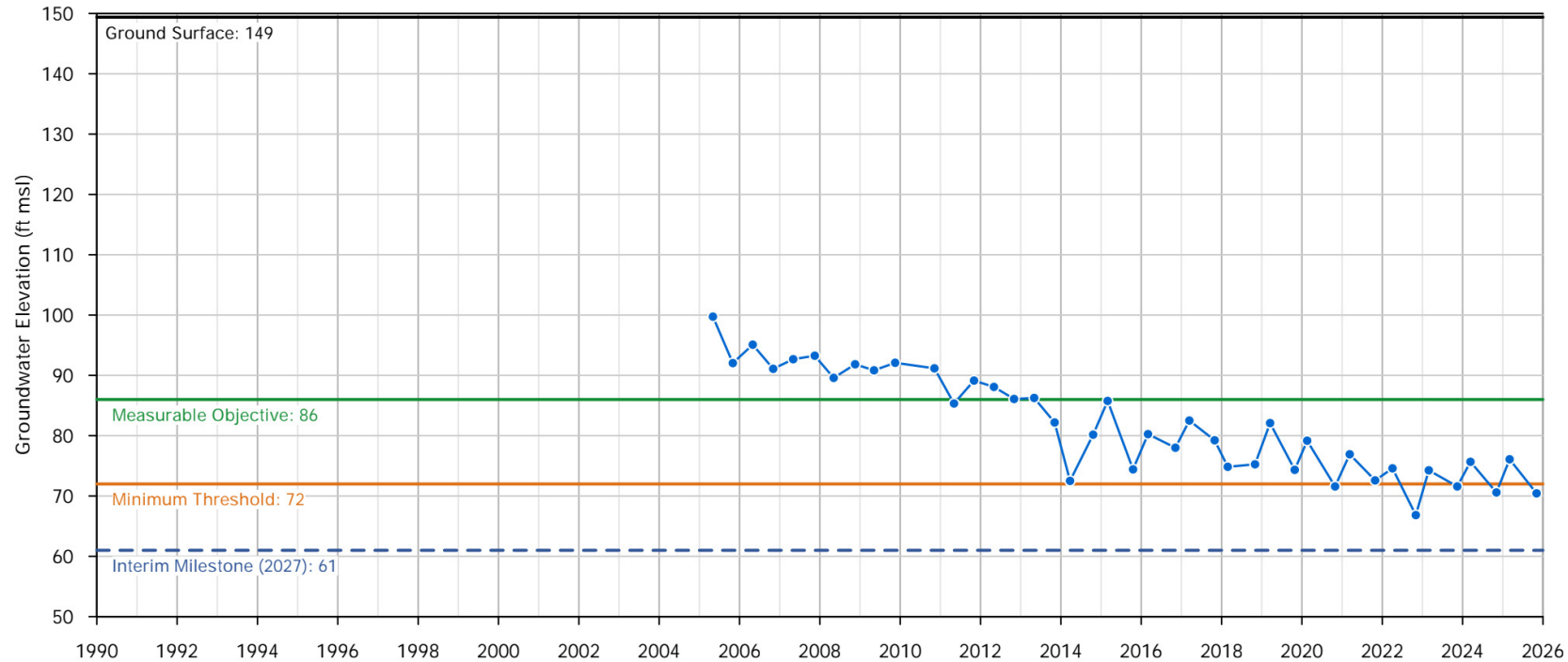
- Water level increased since Spring 2025
- Water level is slightly above the MO



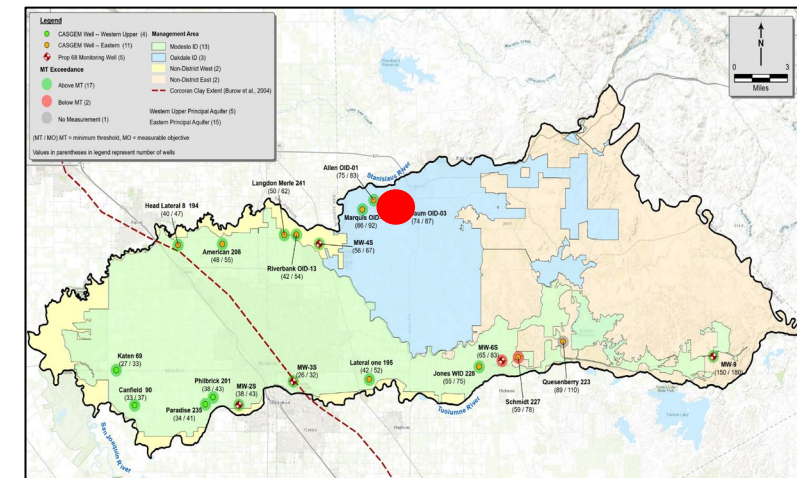
HYDROGRAPHS

INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER

Birnbaum OID-03



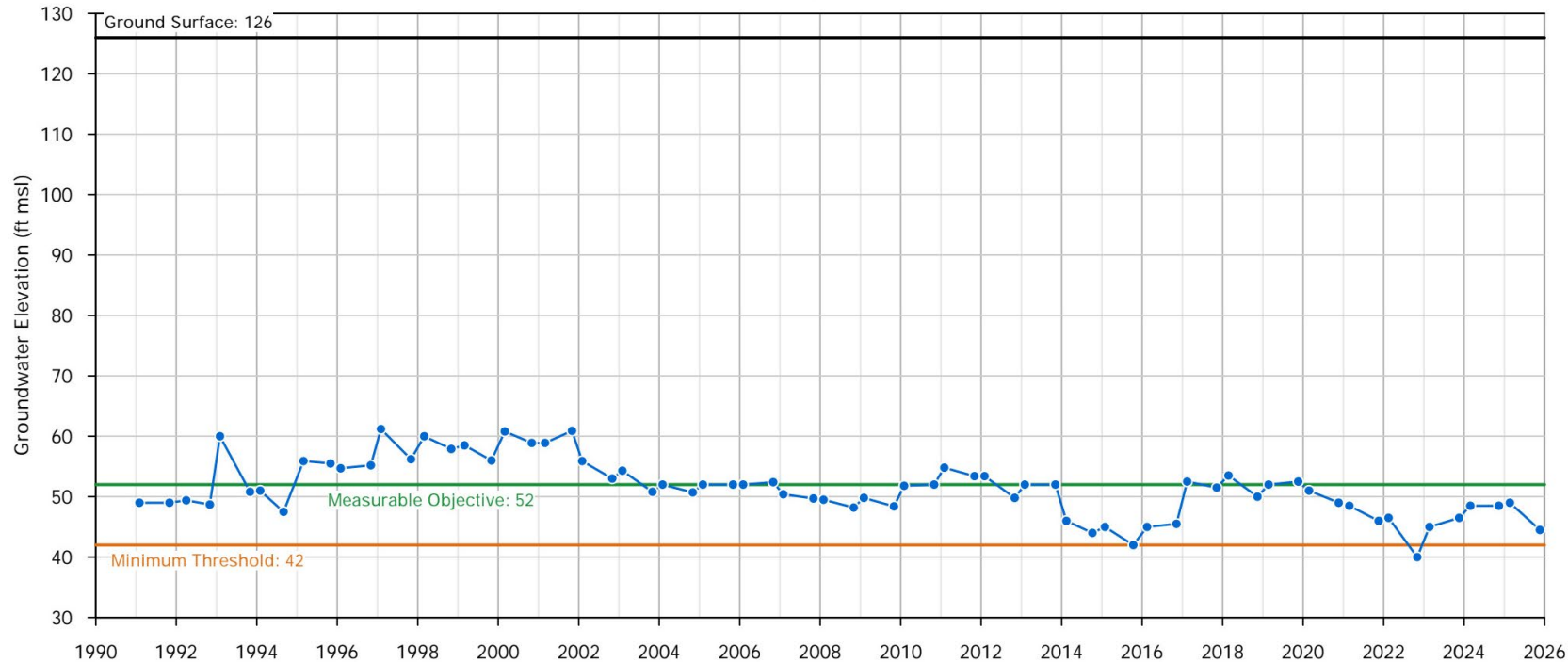
- Water level is slightly below the MT
- Seasonal fluctuations over the last three years are similar



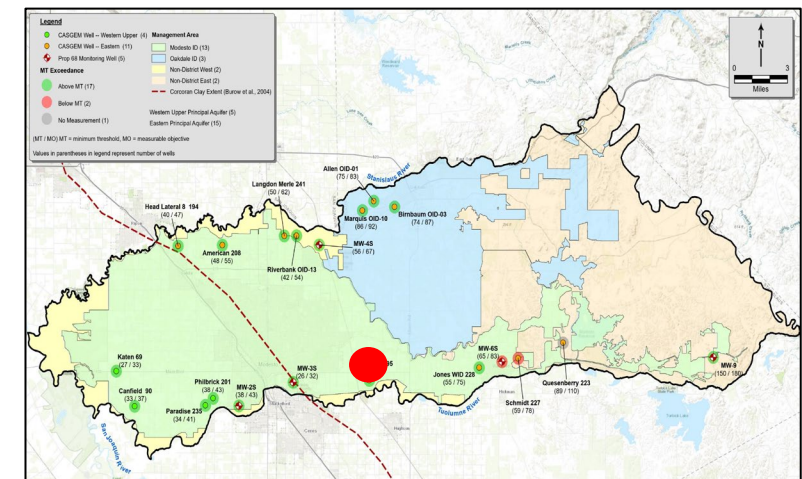
HYDROGRAPHS

INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER

Lateral one 195



- Water level is above the MT
- Relatively stable water levels since Fall 2023



SUMMARY OF FALL 2025 MONITORING EVENT

- Groundwater levels exhibited seasonal fluctuations throughout most of the Modesto Subbasin.
- However, after a below normal year, groundwater level declines in the easternmost Subbasin were greater than they have been in a couple of years.
- No MT exceedances occurred in the western principal aquifers.
- MT exceedances were above threshold in the Eastern Principal Aquifer and along the Stanislaus River but did not meet the three-year standard for undesirable results.
- One IM exceedance at MW-10 (very slightly below the IM), in the easternmost Subbasin. This is the first ever IM exceedance.

DRAFT

A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

- After a below normal hydrologic year, MT exceedances crossed the 33% threshold for the first time since Fall 2022 in the Eastern Principal Aquifer and along the Stanislaus River.
- The STRGBA GSA adopted a Groundwater Use Management Program and a Well Mitigation Plan on January 28, 2026.
- No dry wells were reported to DWR in 2025.
- The Non-District East Management Area will develop an Action Plan in 2026 and will implement Management Actions by January 2027.



QUESTIONS?

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-XX

RECOMMENDING AND REQUESTING THAT THE STRGBA GSA IMMEDIATELY TAKE ALL REASONABLE ACTION TO DEVELOP A BUDGET FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS AND ESTABLISH A FEE STRUCTURE, INCLUDING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEES, NECESSARY TO FUND SUCH BUDGET

WHEREAS, Board Resolution No. 89-77 establishes the District's strong and effective conjunctive use program and reaffirms the District's commitment to the public to continue to make reasonable and beneficial use of groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, Board Resolution No. 89-77 confirms the District's intent to cooperate with the other users of groundwater resources in and around the District's water service area in the interest of preserving and protecting such groundwater resources and making them available for use in dry periods when surface water is in short supply; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the District reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable management of groundwater resources by executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Modesto, City of Oakdale, Oakdale Irrigation District, City of Riverbank and Stanislaus County to form the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association (STRGBA); and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was adopted with the purpose of sustainable groundwater management by local agencies and therefore, replenishing groundwater supplies to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Modesto Subbasin is in the best interests of Modesto Irrigation District and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Modesto Irrigation District entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with other STRGBA member agencies to form the STRBA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), and the Modesto Irrigation District have taken an active leadership role in the STRGBA GSA and its subsequent Groundwater Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2021, the Modesto Irrigation District adopted Resolution 2021-68 which resolved that the Board approved and adopted the final staff version of the Modesto Subbasin GSP. The GSP included and relies upon the Modesto Irrigation District adopting an "In-Lieu and Direct Recharge Project" whose purpose is to allow MID to facilitate groundwater recharge within the Modesto Subbasin during times and conditions that will not impact the District's existing agricultural and urban customers; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2024, in response to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Incomplete Determination, the STRGBA GSA submitted a revised GSP to DWR; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2025, DWR notified the STRGBA GSA that it had evaluated the revised 2024 GSP for the Subbasin and determined that the GSP was approved; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2026, the Modesto Irrigation District adopted Resolution 2026-XX, adopting the Well Mitigation Plan (WMP) and the Groundwater Use Management Program (GWUMP) in the Modesto Groundwater Subbasin and authorizing the STRGBA GSA Plan Manager and consultants to take such actions as may be reasonably necessary to finalize the documents, barring any substantive changes to the documents, and submitting to Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, as part of the WMP, the STRGBA GSA committed to initial funding of \$300,000 to replace affected wells, with such funding being provided by the STRGBA GSA member agencies; and

WHEREAS, the STRGBA GSA member agencies, including the Modesto Irrigation District, agreed to meet and confer in good faith to determine the appropriate mechanism for funding STRGBA GSA's activities, including administration, studies, investigations, enforcement, compliance assistance, and establishment of a prudent reserve; and

WHEREAS, Water Code sections 10730 and 10730.2 grant a groundwater sustainability agency the authority to impose fees, pursuant to Proposition 218's proportionality requirements for property-related fees and charges (i.e., that such fees shall not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel), to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including permit fees and fees on groundwater extraction and other regulated activities. Such fees may be used, without limitation, for the preparation, adoption, and amendment of a groundwater sustainability plan, and investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration, and establishing a prudent reserve.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Modesto Irrigation District:

1. Recommends and requests that the STRGBA GSA immediately take all reasonable actions to develop a budget for five or more years and establish a fee structure, including groundwater extraction fees, necessary to fund such budget.
2. Authorizes its STRGBA GSA representative to take all reasonable steps to advocate, encourage, and participate in the development of said budget and fee structure.
3. Recommends and requests that the other STRGBA GSA members – the Oakdale Irrigation District, Stanislaus County, City of Modesto, City of Oakdale, City of Riverbank, and City of Waterford – adopt similar resolutions.