

Date: November 16, 2023
To: YSGA Board of Directors
From: Kristin Sicke, Executive Officer
Subject: Report of the Executive Officer

Recommendation

For informational purposes only. No Board action required.

Background

Following is an update to the Board of Directors of the YSGA on activities and issues related to the ongoing implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This report should be considered as a summary document so that Board members and other interested parties can quickly read about the general activities taking place between YSGA Board meetings. Board members should feel free to contact me at any time for more detail or with ideas and/or questions that they might have regarding the program.

Since the September 18, 2023 meeting of the YSGA Board of Directors the following activities have taken place.

Program Administration

Three meetings were held by the YSGA Executive Committee (EC) on September 28, October 19, and November 14, 2023. The EC, consisting of Lee Smith, David Schaad, Kurt Balasek, Mary Vixie Sandy, and Executive Officer Kristin Sicke, discussed logistical issues related to YSGA administration and the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Committee discussed administrative items along with the ongoing development of the Focus Areas map and Hydrogeologist Report requirements, potential approaches to the YSGA fee study and how it may impact YSGA governance, and grant funding opportunities.

The YSGA *Ad Hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee* met on September 28 and October 19, 2023 to review progress made by YSGA staff and West Yost to develop the Focus Areas map and discuss the hydrogeologist report requirements. Additionally, YSGA staff participated in the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meetings on September 26 and November 7 to communicate the YSGA's progress on updating procedures for written verification letters to the County's Environmental Health Division and to present the draft Focus Areas map to the Board of Supervisors.

YSGA staff continue to coordinate with stakeholders and to schedule and participate in community meetings for ensuring successful outreach during GSP implementation. Staff also continue to communicate with Solano Subbasin GSA, N. American Subbasin, Sutter Subbasin, and Colusa Groundwater Authority on data/information sharing and project opportunities, as well as other GSAs and Counties on their well permitting activities.

The Yolo Groundwater website <http://yologroundwater.org> was updated as needed. A calendar of current events is posted to the website.

Program Implementation

- GSP Public Outreach
 - Ongoing correspondence with concerned stakeholders, well drillers, and well applicants to answer questions about SGMA and the revised well permitting process.
- Projects and Management Actions
 - Coordinated with Yolo County in the well permitting process in accordance with Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23
 - Received approved well permits not subject to the County's 45-day temporary well moratorium and reviewed pending well permits from Yolo County's Environmental Health Division
- Data Management/Website Updates
 - Met with Websoft developers to discuss feasibility of potential updates to the WRID and yologroundwater.org websites
- Monitoring Network
 - YSGA staff sent out letters to landowners in data gap areas to gauge interest in joining the YSGA's voluntary monitoring network. Staff have visited four of these wells thus far and hope to continue to hear back from more landowners.
 - Three new monitoring wells have been added to the monitoring network, all of which are within the draft Focus Areas delineation:
 - 08N01E04D500M, a 500-foot real-time monitoring well located off County Road 95 near the Yolo County Airport
 - 11N01W12F500M, a 280-foot domestic well located near Zamora
 - 09N01W30Q500M, a 700-foot ag well located off County Road 29 at the base of the foothills, with groundwater level data going back to when it was drilled in 2015.
 - Continued to provide water level readings for domestic well owners
 - Continued implementation of citizen science program for individual well monitoring
- Areas of Special Concern
 - Participated in various meetings with West Yost to review the process for developing the draft map of the Focus Areas and the draft hydrogeologist report guidelines.
 - The draft Focus Areas map was approved by the YSGA Board of Directors at a special meeting on October 27, 2023. The public comment period for the Focus Areas map opened on October 31 and ran for two weeks until closing on November 14, 2023.
 - Developing work plan with [DIG IN](#) to assist with Hungry Hollow Area outreach and communication using the [facilitation support services from DWR](#)
- Drought Response
 - Worked with Yolo County OES to continue coordinated water delivery to households with dry wells

Program Outreach

Staff participated in a number of meetings/workshops/discussions related to SGMA and groundwater recharge and protection, which include the following:

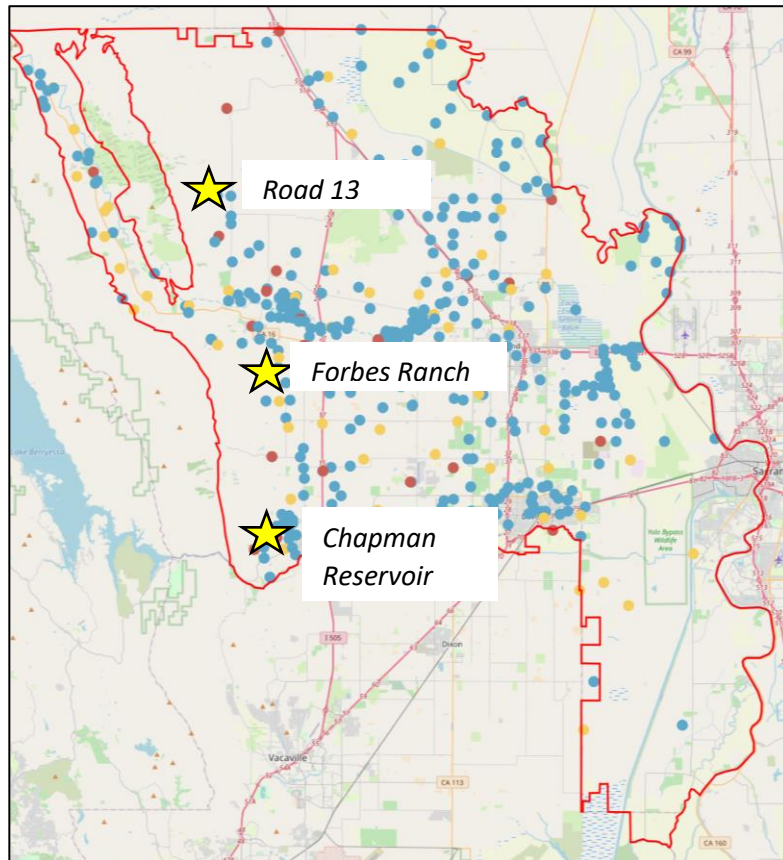
1. Meeting with Dunnigan Water District to Coordinate on Monitoring Network Enhancements (September 20; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
2. Meeting with Yolo County to Discuss the Drought Resilience Plan (SB 552) (September 20; Sicke and Leicht; Sabatini)

3. Well Moratorium Briefings with County Supervisors (September 21 and 25, October 27, November 1 and 6; Sicke; Sabatini)
4. Participated in ACWA Board Meetings (September 29 and November 17; Sicke)
5. Participated in Coordination Meetings with Yolo County Staff to Discuss Well Permitting (September 22, September 29, October 6, October 13, October 27, and November 3; Sicke)
6. Participated in the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Meetings (September 26 and November 7; Sicke)
7. Participated in Steering Committee Meetings with Yolo RCD, Center for Land-Based Learning, CAFF, and Bright Coast Productions for the Farming for Our Future video series (September 28 and October 18; Fisher)
8. Hosted YSGA Executive Committee Meetings (September 28, October 19, and November 14; Directors Balasek, Schaad, Vixie Sandy, and Smith; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher; Sabatini)
9. Hosted YSGA Ad Hoc Drought Contingency Planning Committee (September 28, October 19; Committee members; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher; Sabatini)
10. Participated in Groundwater Accounting & Data Reporting Pilot meetings (October 3, November 16; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
11. Meeting with City of Winters to Discuss Grant Opportunities (October 10; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
12. Meetings with The Nature Conservancy to explore methodology to improve monitoring of groundwater dependent ecosystems and interconnected surface water (October 13, November 9; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
13. Meeting with Annie Main to Discuss Well Permitting Procedures (October 18; Sicke)
14. Participated in NCWA Sacramento Valley Celebration (October 19; Directors Barth, Cornwell, Reinhard, Smith, and Vanderwaal; Sicke)
15. Represented Yolo County in Westside Sacramento IRWM Coordinating Committee Meetings (October 19 and November 8; Leicht)
16. Participated in ACWA State Legislative Committee (October 20; Sicke)
17. Hosted YSGA Ad Hoc Committee for Reconsideration of Voting Structure and Expense Allocation Meeting (October 25; Committee Members; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
18. Participated in Lake County Judges Breakfast (October 26; Sicke)
19. Participated in Inter-basin Coordination Meeting with Solano Subbasin GSA (November 1; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
20. YSGA staff and West Yost met with County staff and LSCE to communicate progress made on defining areas of special concern (November 1; Sicke, Leicht, and Fisher)
21. Met with SWRCB to discuss Clean/Drinking Water SRF funding opportunities (November 2; Fisher)
22. Staff participated in a preliminary meeting for the formation of a Cache Creek Watershed Group (November 2; Director Fawns; Sicke and Fisher)
23. Meeting with Eaton Drilling to Discuss YSGA's Draft Focus Areas Map (November 2; Sicke)
24. Participated in the 2023 Flood-MAR Forum (November 7; Sicke)
25. Participated in DWR'S 2023 Fall GSA Forum to Discuss Well Permitting Compliance with Governor's Executive Orders (November 9; Sicke)
26. Participated in Central Valley Regional Water Board and NCWA Meeting to Discuss Yolo Subbasin (pre-2016 Bulletin 118 Revisions) Nitrate Notice to Comply in State's Nitrate Control Program (November 14; Director Sagara; Sicke)
27. Participated in Coordination Meeting with Sustainable Conservation to Discuss Groundwater Recharge Technical Support Available (November 15; Sicke)
28. Staff completed the Stanford Online Course: Harnessing the Power of Geophysical Imaging to Recharge California's Groundwater (Leicht and Fisher)

Other Items of Note

On Thursday, October 26, the Department of Water Resources released its [determination for the Yolo Subbasin GSP](#), approving the plan and recommending corrective actions to be implemented prior to the 2027 GSP update. The recommended corrective actions mainly focus on revisions to the sustainable management criteria for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, degradation of water quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water. There were also recommended corrections for the groundwater level and water quality monitoring networks. Staff will work to address these comments and incorporate the necessary revisions in the 2027 GSP update.

The three multi-completion monitoring wells requested through DWR's Technical Support Services have been drilled along the western side of the Subbasin. The wells have a total of 11 completions at different depths between them (with a total well depth of 1,000 feet). Staff are working with DWR to procure real-time monitoring equipment and expect to have the wells online (at sgma.yologroundwater.org) by the end of the year.



The State Water Board released the Draft 2023 Bay-Delta Staff Report for public comments until January 19, 2024, which can be accessed at the following link:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/staff_report.html.

The Sites Reservoir Project has been certified as an infrastructure project by the Governor under Senate Bill No. 149, which requires Sites Project Authority as the lead agency under CEQA to issues a public notice of the certification: <https://sitesproject.org/environmental-review/>.

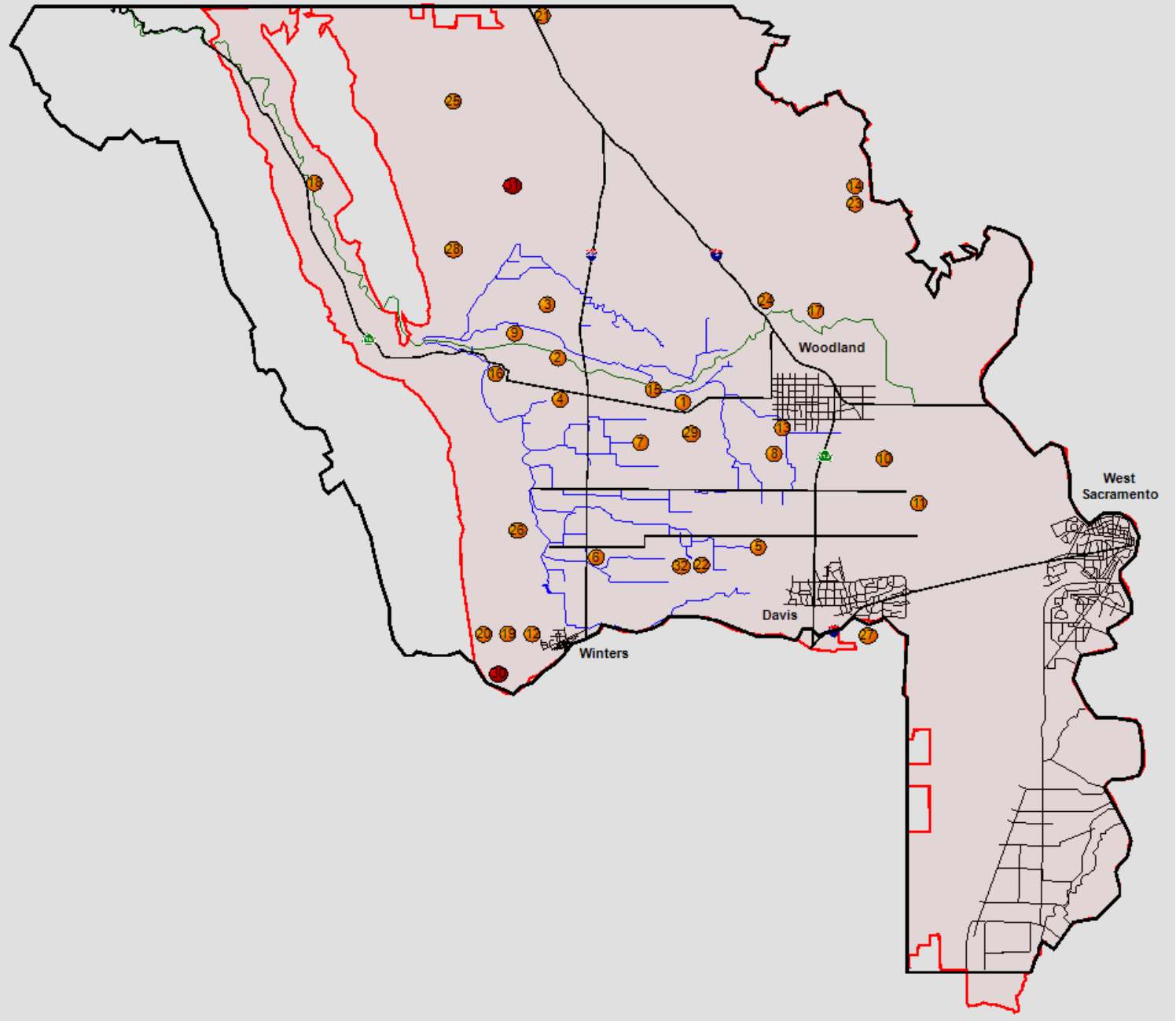
Current Groundwater Conditions

Groundwater levels are continuing to level out as harvest season wraps up. When compared to last year's elevations (as shown on the historical depth to water table below), this November's water levels are on average 20 feet higher. When compared to 2015 elevations, this November's groundwater levels are on average 15 feet higher.

Included below are the following graphics that illustrate the current groundwater conditions and monitoring efforts.





1. A location map of the 31 real-time monitoring locations currently operating in the Yolo Subbasin (Well 30 is continuous datalogger sites).
2. A table showing historical groundwater elevations on a specific date (November 15, 2023 in this example).
3. A tiled hydrograph of the real-time monitoring wells illustrating depth to water for November 15, 2022 to November 15, 2023.
4. The fall 2023 hydrograph of average groundwater levels based on 62 monitored wells throughout the Yolo Subbasin (the Representative Monitoring Wells). These measurements are normally taken twice annually, once in the spring when groundwater levels are at their highest and again in the fall when groundwater levels are at their lowest.

Well Monitoring
Continuous



- SCADA Links
- Comparison Trends
- Comparison Table

Legend

- Real-Time Site 
- Data Logger Site 
- YSGA 
- County 

Well Monitoring
 Depth to Water Historical Comparison
 (Daily Average DTW in feet)

SCADA Links

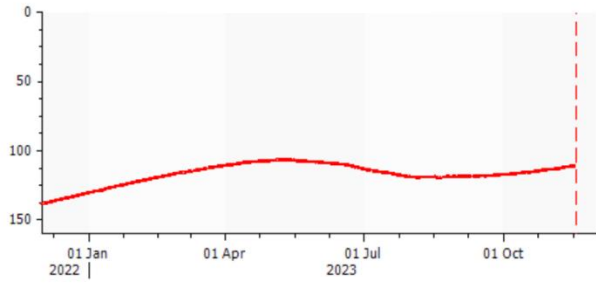
Well Map

Select Date

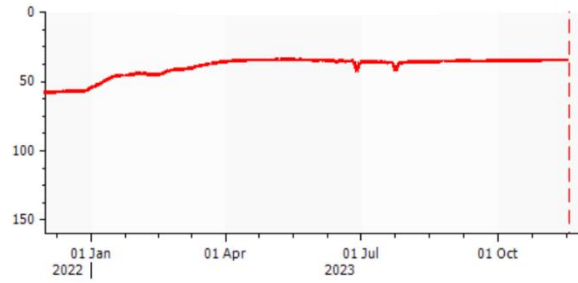
11/15

Well	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Δ 2022 - 2023	Δ 2015 - 2023
1.	89.3	85.4	90.9	101.8	123.6	127.3	113.1	103.6	112.8	103.2	112.2	137.5	142.8	112.4	30.4	14.9
2.	33.9	29.9	46.9	37.4	52.9	50.7	39.2	30.8	32.6	31.5	32.6	44.7	57.8	34.2	23.7	16.5
3.	46.0	38.4	43.5	51.1	74.7	70.5	56.1	39.7	43.5	39.7	43.6	65.7	82.3	51.3	31.1	19.3
4.	31.3	26.9	28.1	33.5	49.0	48.4	35.9	27.3	29.4	27.9	32.2	43.8	54.2	33.3	21.0	15.2
5.		19.6		27.4	36.2	39.3	37.2	24.8	26.6	20.7	28.8	37.4	44.5	34.1	10.4	5.3
6.		31.2	38.7	44.9	55.1	57.0	43.0	31.0	39.3	33.7	39.3	51.9	64.9	44.0	20.9	13.0
7.				40.0	40.0	44.1	28.0	21.8	24.8	21.7	29.9	41.1	46.2	26.8	19.4	17.2
8.				51.9	72.4	73.3	66.4	49.5	54.3	43.0	52.5	68.5	76.3	56.4	19.9	16.9
9.					76.3	72.5	56.5	41.1	44.7	43.9	45.9	67.0	81.0	48.1	32.8	24.4
10.					48.8	55.3	38.3	24.7	44.2	25.8	42.2	41.5	47.9	31.6	16.3	23.7
11.					22.7	22.4	16.6	12.9	18.2	14.5	19.9	19.6	23.3	16.8	6.5	5.6
12.										118.6	128.9	138.6	150.0	138.7	11.2	
13.								67.1	70.1	57.8	75.8	83.2	95.2	71.8	23.4	
14.									12.5	12.0	14.5	14.1	17.7	12.5	5.2	
15s.									41.9	38.5	47.6	48.8	50.0	39.3	10.6	
15d.									146.3	136.0	160.7	191.0	212.1	157.2	54.9	
16.									41.9	39.2	38.0	45.2	56.7	41.0	15.7	
17.										21.3	25.6	33.7	38.2	25.8	12.4	
18.										49.3	59.0	65.9	69.8	35.4	34.4	
19.										176.1	185.0	197.8	209.3	196.1	13.1	
20.														241.0		
21.											128.6	138.3	141.8	134.4	7.4	
22.												78.3	92.7	68.8	23.9	
23.												41.0	47.6	31.4	16.2	
24.													71.8	51.6	20.2	
25.													102.9	103.5	-.5	
26.													120.4	86.9	32.4	
27.													60.1	52.9	7.1	
28.													155.0	150.3	4.7	
29.													130.0	84.3	45.7	
30.													119.4	117.0	2.4	
31.													263.8	211.8	52.0	
32.														132.4		

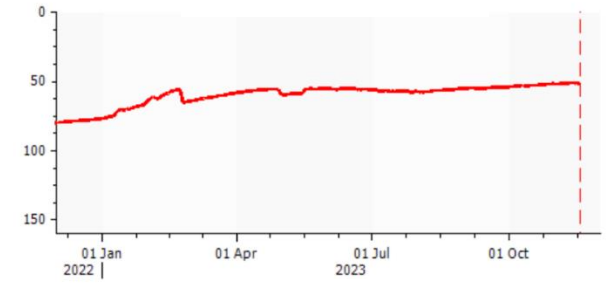
Well #1



Well #2



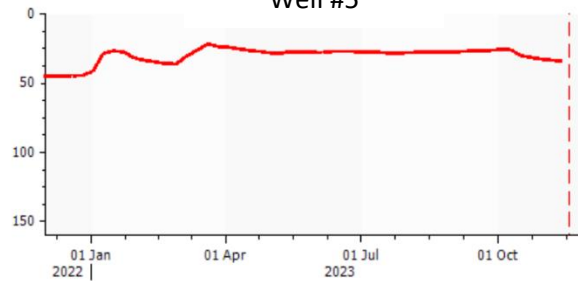
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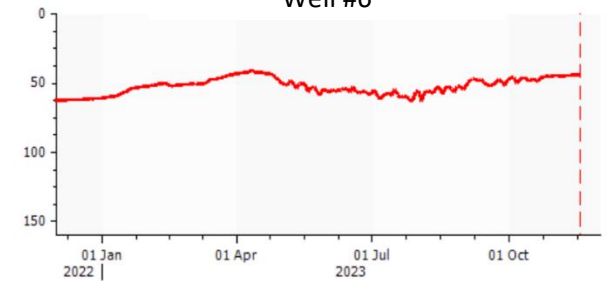
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Well #5



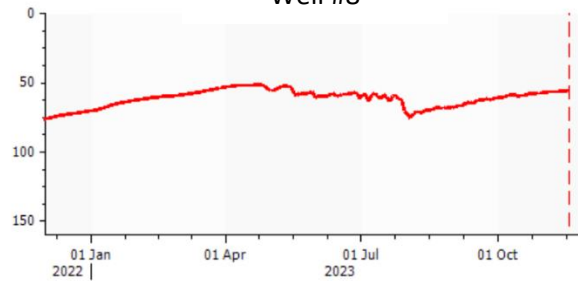
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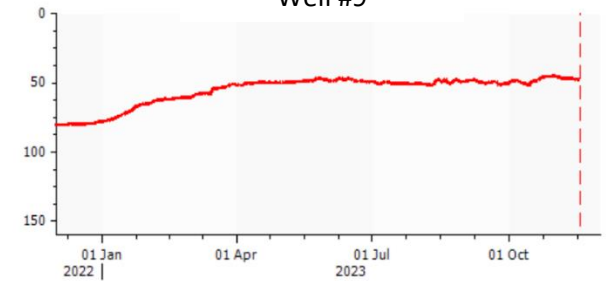
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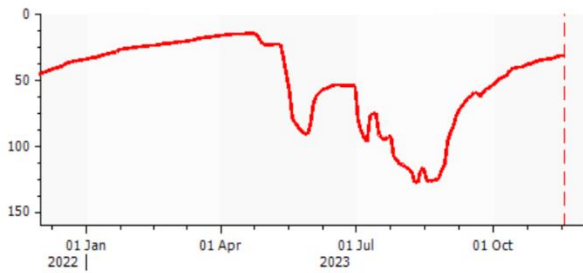
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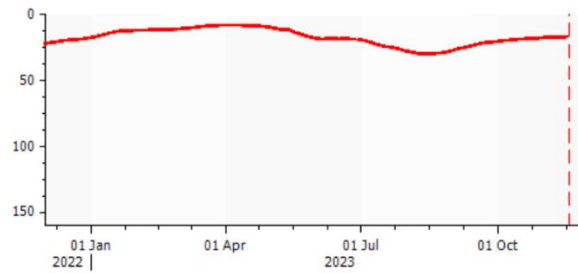
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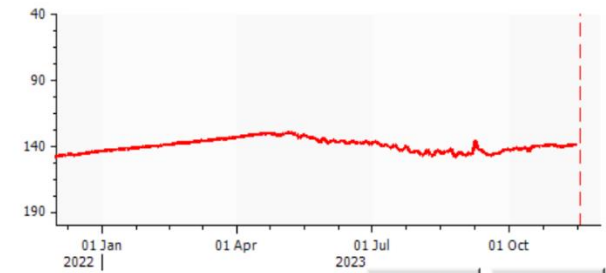
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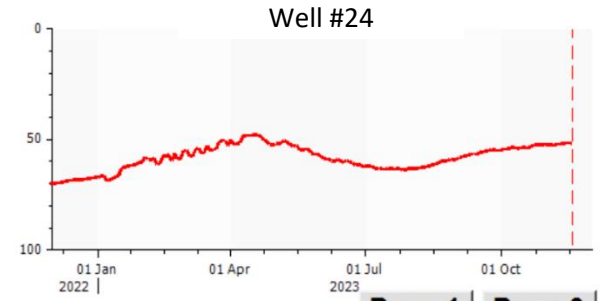
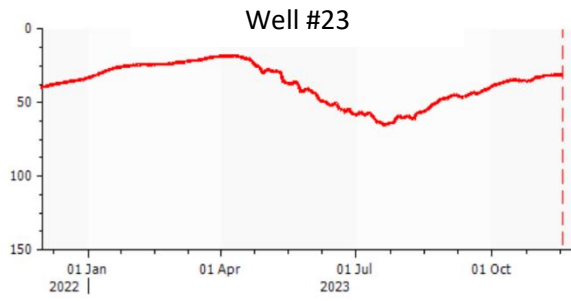
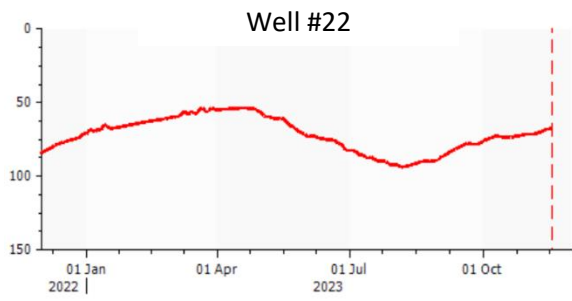
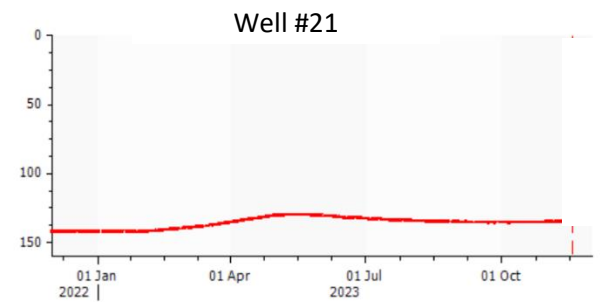
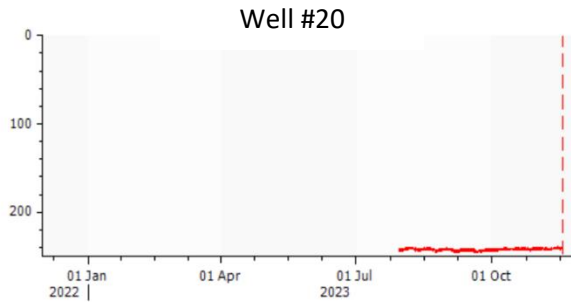
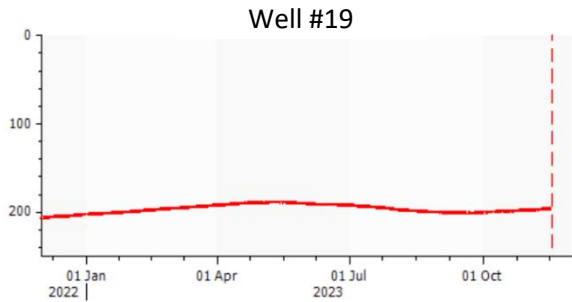
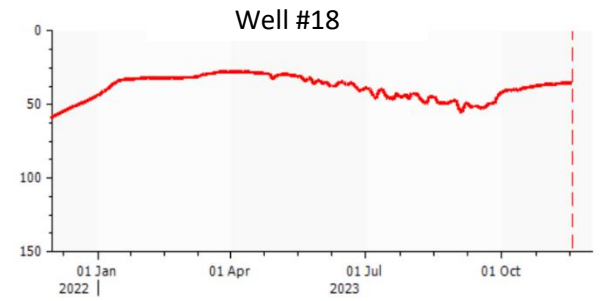
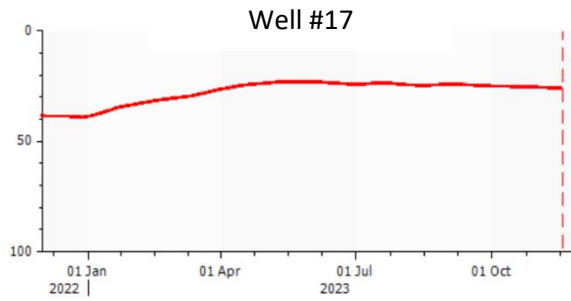
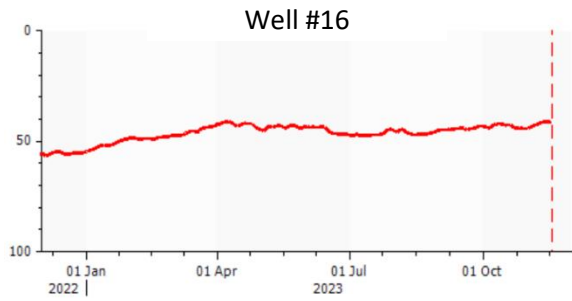
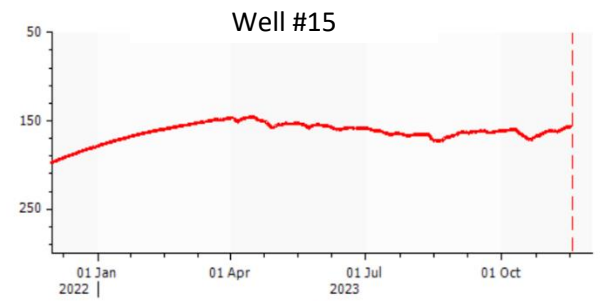
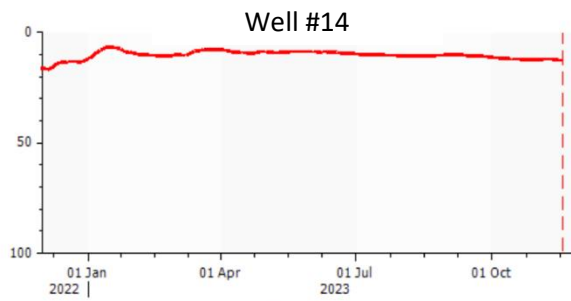
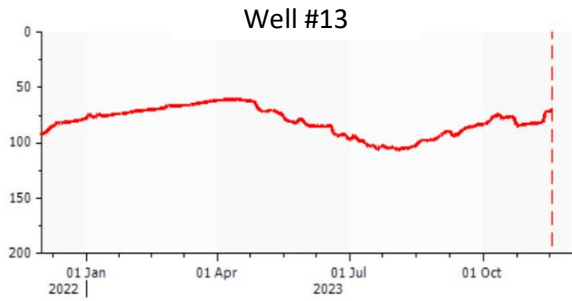


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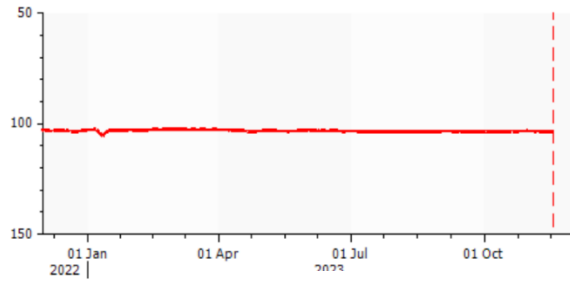


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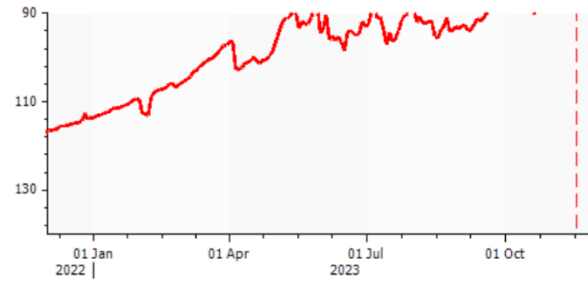




Well #25



Well #26



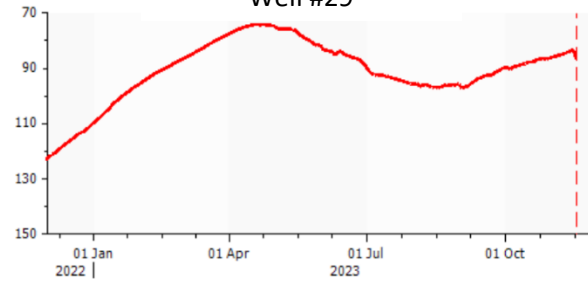
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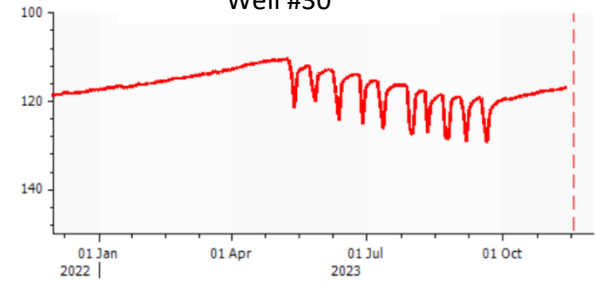
Well #28



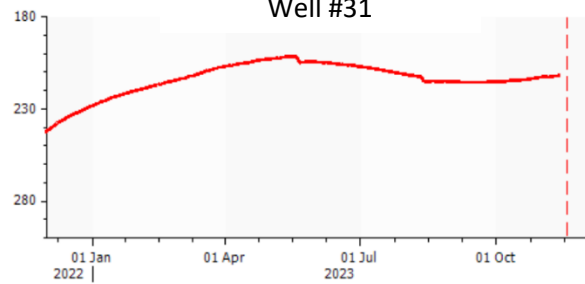
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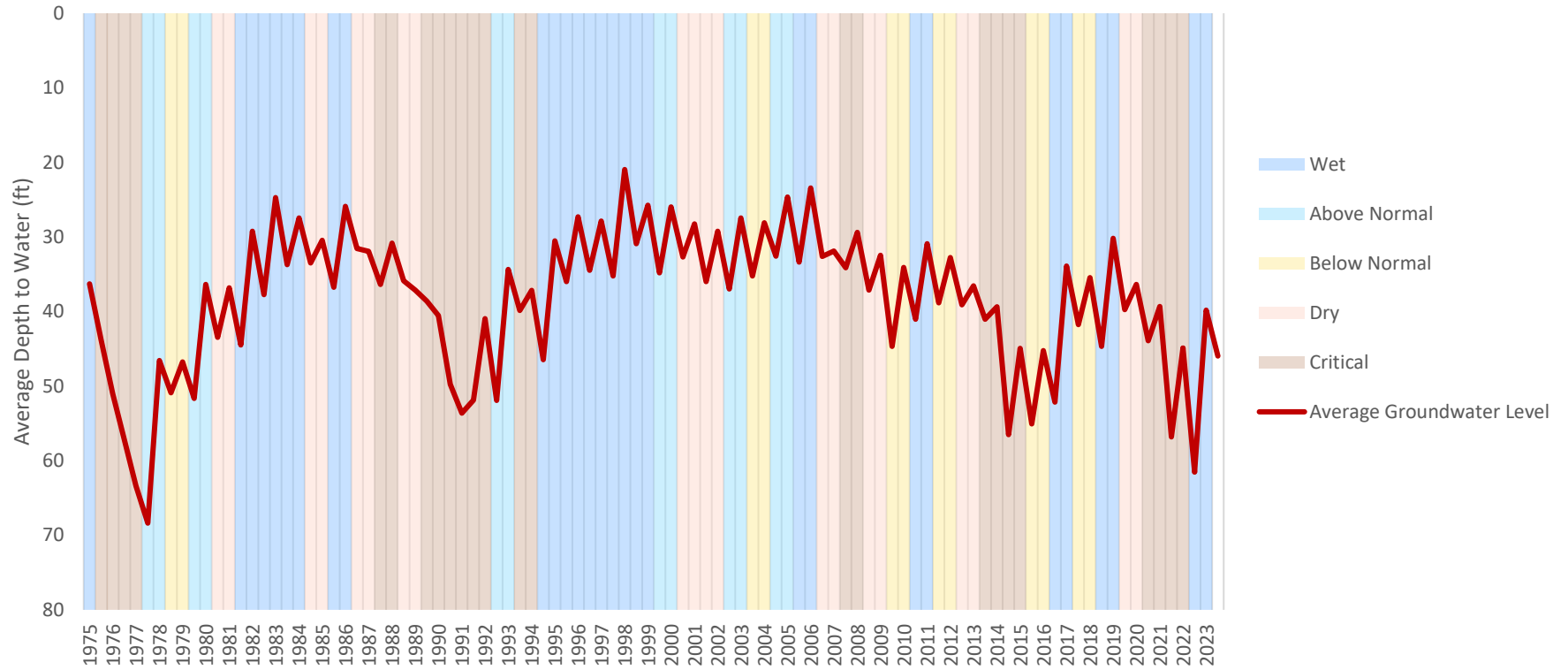
Well #30



Well #31



Yolo Subbasin Average Groundwater Representative Wells - Depth by Season (62 Wells)



September 2022 Average Depth to Water ~ 62 feet
October 2023 Average Depth to Water ~ 46 feet

Of Note:

- Fall 1975 to Fall 1977 Drawdown ~ 25 feet
- 2014 Drawdown from Spring to Fall ~ 17 feet
- 2019 Drawdown from Spring to Fall ~ 9.5 ft
- 2022 Drawdown from Spring to Fall ~ 17 feet
- 2023 Drawdown from Spring to Fall ~ 6 feet

Executive Order N-7-22 and N-3-23 Well Permitting Update

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of [Executive Order N-7-22](#) and [Executive Order N-3-23](#), YSGA must review certain well permit applications covered by the Executive Orders, and provide written verification to the County's Environmental Health Division that the proposed well application is consistent with the Yolo Subbasin GSP before the County may issue a permit.

YSGA staff has continued to work with Yolo County's Environmental Health (YCEH) Division and assisted in the development of a questionnaire form requesting additional data and information from the permit applicant to ensure appropriate evaluation consistent paragraph 9 requirements. YSGA staff reviewed YCEH's draft Technical Memorandum for implementing a temporary agricultural well permitting procedure that considers the appropriate setbacks to ensure nearby wells are not impacted. The final YCEH Technical Memorandum was released on December 14, 2022 and can be reviewed [here](#).

As of November 15, 2023 and since April 1, 2022:

- 80 well permit applications have been transferred from YCEH for YSGA written verification
- 3 applications were revised to Domestic Wells
- 1 well permit application was technically located in the Solano Subbasin (outside of the Yolo Subbasin, but in the County boundaries)
- Of the 76 relevant well permit applications
 - ✓ 23 replacement well permits have received YSGA written verification
 - 1 replacement well was then revised to a new well and re-introduced into the queue
 - ✓ 29 new well permit applications have received YSGA written verification
 - ✓ 23 new well permit applications are currently in the queue
 - 8 applications pending receipt of a completed questionnaire from the applicant
 - 15 applicants submitted completed questionnaires and are currently under review
 - Of the permits under review, 10 are located within a proposed Focus Area