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9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

12 **CITY OF BARSTOW, et al.,**

13 Plaintiffs,

14 v.

16 **CITY OF ADELANTO, et al.,**

17 Defendants.

18 **And All Related Cross Actions**

Case No. CIV 208568/JCCP 5265

**DECLARATION OF JAMES BLANKE
IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE'S RESPONSE
TO WATERMASTER'S MOTION TO
ADJUST FREE PRODUCTION
ALLOWANCE FOR THE 2025-2026
WATER YEAR**

19 Date: August 4, 2025
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Dept: 1
Judge: Honorable Craig G. Riemer
20 Action Filed: November 21, 1990

22 **DECLARATION OF JAMES BLANKE**

23 I, James Blanke, hereby declare:

24 1. I am presently employed by Woodard & Curran, Inc. ("Woodard & Curran") as a
25 Senior Technical Leader and have been employed by Woodard & Curran for 22 years. My current
26 duties as a consulting hydrogeologist are to provide hydrogeologic assessments and
27 recommendations to clients, which include local and state agencies in California.
28

1 2. I have Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Geological and
2 Environmental Sciences from Stanford University. I have worked for 25 years as a
3 hydrogeologist. I hold licenses in California as a Professional Geologist (PG 7397), Certified
4 Hydrogeologist (HG 803), and Professional Civil Engineer (CE 86098). A copy of my resume is
5 attached as Attachment 1.

6 3. I have led or performed hydrogeologic analyses related to sustainable groundwater
7 use for areas in the following California groundwater basins or subbasins: Cosumnes, Cuyama,
8 Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, North American, North Yuba, San Jacinto, San Pasqual, South
9 American, South Yuba, Sutter, and Westside.

10 4. I am providing the following information and opinions in support of the
11 Department of Fish and Wildlife's Response to Watermaster's Motion to Adjust Free Production
12 Allowance For Water Year 2025-2026 ("2025-2026 FPA Motion") and the declaration of
13 Watermaster Engineer Robert C. Wagner ("Watermaster Engineer") in support thereof ("2025
14 Wagner Declaration").

15 5. The following facts are true and correct to the best of my belief and if called to
16 testify, I could and would testify completely thereto. Except where otherwise indicated below, I
17 make this declaration on personal knowledge.

18 6. I have been asked by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to review
19 the judgment in *City of Barstow, et al., v. City of Adelanto, et al.*, Riverside County Superior
20 Court Case No. 208568 ("Judgment"), including Exhibit H to the Judgment ("Exhibit H"), and
21 reports, studies, and recommendations regarding the annual adjustment of Production Safe Yield
22 ("PSY") and Free Production Allowance ("FPA") for the Alto, Centro, and Baja subareas
23 (hereinafter "Alto," "Centro," and "Baja") and render an opinion on whether the
24 recommendations for changes in PSY and FPA and associated data collection and analysis in the
25 2025-2026 FPA Motion negatively impact the water needs of the habitat and species protected
26 under the Judgment.

27 7. In addition to the documents I reference herein, I also reviewed the following
28 documents to prepare my declaration:

1 A. My June 16, 2025, memorandum titled “Approach for Redefining
2 ‘Maximum Depth Below Ground’ at the New H1-2 Well” (Attachment 2)

3 B. The July 2013, Todd Engineers with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants report on
4 the Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model and Assessment of Water Supply and Demand for
5 the Centro and Baja Management Subareas Mojave River Groundwater Basin” (July
6 2013), 291 pages, available at <https://www.mojavewater.org/data-maps/regional-studies/>.

7 C. The March 13, 2003, URS Corporation report on the Mojave River
8 Transition Zone Recharge Project, Phase I Report, Transition Zone Hydrogeology, 3
9 Plates, Appendices A to H, 112 pages, available at: [https://www.mojavewater.org/data-](https://www.mojavewater.org/data-maps/regional-studies/)
10 [maps/regional-studies/](https://www.mojavewater.org/data-maps/regional-studies/).

11 8. Paragraph 2a in Exhibit H reads: “In considering whether to increase or decrease the
12 Free Production Allowance in a Subarea, Watermaster shall, among other factors, take into
13 consideration for the areas shown on Figure H-1, the Consumptive Use of water by riparian
14 habitat, the protection of public trust resources, including the species listed in Table H-1 and the
15 riparian habitat areas shown on Figure H-1, and whether an increase would be detrimental to the
16 protection of public trust resources.”¹

17 9. While, as noted by Aaron Johnson, in his Declaration in Support of the Department
18 of Fish and Wildlife’s Response to Watermaster’s Motion to Adjust Free Production Allowance
19 for the 2025-2026 Water Year (“2025 Johnson Declaration”), the Department supports the
20 Watermaster’s recommendation regarding FPA, the process presented in 2025 Wagner
21 Declaration does not adequately address the Exhibit H wells, rather the analysis relies primarily
22 on identification of stabilization of groundwater levels. As previously noted, paragraph 2a in
23 Exhibit H reads: “In considering whether to increase or decrease the Free Production Allowance
24 in a Subarea, Watermaster shall, among other factors, take into consideration for the areas shown
25 on Figure H-1, the Consumptive Use of water by riparian habitat, the protection of public trust
26 resources, including the species listed in Table H-1 and the riparian habitat areas shown on Figure

27 _____
28 ¹ Exhibit H is attached as Attachment C to the Declaration of Aaron Johnson in Support of
the Department’s Response to the Watermaster’s 2025-2026 FPA Motion.

1 H-1, and whether an increase would be detrimental to the protection of public trust resources.”
2 Exhibit H further defines water table standards in Table H-2. To show how public trust resources
3 are considered in the process of developing FPA values, I recommend that a comparison of
4 measured water levels and water table standards be incorporated into future analyses, along with
5 how that comparison relates to the recommended FPA.

6 10. Comparison of observed groundwater levels at the Table H-2 wells to the water table
7 standards is important as these standards have typically not been met. Analysis of available
8 groundwater level data through October 2024 shows the standards were met at the following
9 rates: H1-1: 1%, H1-2 (original location, through February 2005): 100%, H1-2 (current location,
10 assuming a 2,762.3’ threshold): 53%, H2-1: 64%, H3-1: 0%, H3-2, 0%. Only the pre-February-
11 2005 portion of one of the sites consistently met the criteria, and the zero percent compliance rate
12 in Baja (H3-1 and H3-2) is noteworthy due to the associated significant losses of riparian habitat
13 in this area. Not only do groundwater levels at H3-1 not meet the standards, but the well has been
14 dry since November 2007, except for one measurement at a depth of 44.33 feet below ground
15 surface on September 16, 2021, substantially below the 7 feet standard.

16 11. Although the Annual Report indicates uncertainty in the water table standard at Well
17 H1-2, through my review of the relevant documents referenced herein and my analysis of ground
18 surface elevation and reference point elevations in and adjacent to the H1-2 monitoring well and
19 the historical location of the H1-2 monitoring well, I have concluded that 18.23 feet below ground
20 (an elevation of 2,762.3 ft NAVD88) should be the threshold value for the H1-2 well at its current
21 location. Formalizing this threshold at the current location will reduce confusion about the
22 compliance point and improve the ability to manage the resource. The following facts have
23 informed my conclusion:

24 A. Exhibit H of the Judgment sets water table standards that are necessary to
25 maintain and conserve the riparian resources. This includes a water table standard for
26 Well H1-2, a “maximum depth below ground” of 7 feet.

27 B. The Well H1-2 described in Exhibit H was located within the floodplain in
28 an area of riparian vegetation.

1 C. The Well H1-2 described in Exhibit H was destroyed in a flood and replaced
2 by a new Well H1-2, located outside the floodplain at an elevation higher than the nearby
3 riparian vegetation.

4 D. Riparian vegetation near the new Well H1-2 is at an elevation of 2,769.3
5 feet, based on the 2010 survey by Wagner & Bonsignore. Seven feet below this elevation
6 is 2,762.3 feet. The difference in elevation between the ground surface elevation of new
7 Well H1-2 and seven feet below the nearby riparian forest is 18.23 feet.

8 E. Attachment 2 to my declaration is a technical memorandum titled
9 “Approach for Redefining ‘Maximum Depth Below Ground’ at the New H1-2 Well,”
10 which contains more detail.

11 12. The 2025 Wagner Declaration at p. 17 mischaracterizes groundwater conditions in
12 Baja. Despite the progress achieved through pumping reductions, groundwater levels remain
13 depressed and continue to decline in many areas, notably in areas along the Mojave River. While
14 the 2025 Wagner Declaration states that “water levels are recovering,” data shows that
15 groundwater trends are mixed depending on the area and groundwater levels continue to decline
16 in portions of Baja. Notably, wells south and east of the Manix Fault and closer to the Mojave
17 River show continuation of the long-term decline in groundwater levels. This decline is likely due
18 to reduced recharge from the Mojave River as discussed in prior responses. Portions of Baja do
19 show stable or improving conditions, as shown in hydrographs of selected wells north and west of
20 the Manix Fault. However, Baja as a whole has not stabilized or recovered. This is shown in the
21 multi-completion well 10N03E27J (including well H3-1, 10N03E27J005S) where groundwater
22 levels have declined approximately 25-50 feet since the early 1990s and remain approximately 60
23 feet below H3-1’s 7-foot Maximum Depth Below Ground water level standard. This is further
24 supported by conditions at 10N04E19M02 where groundwater levels have declined
25 approximately 25 feet since the early 1990s. The rate of decline in both 10N03E27J and
26 10N04E19M02 has slowed, likely due to a combination of pumping reduction and hydrology, but
27 both continue to show long-term decline and neither has stabilized or recovered. Groundwater
28

1 levels at H3-2 (10N04E19N004S) continue to decline at a rate consistent with the long-term
2 record, approximately 0.4 feet per year.

3 13. In addition to the Department's opinion regarding the proposed changes to FPA in
4 the WY 2025-2026 FPA, I have the following recommendations and conclusions regarding the
5 Regional Mojave Basin Area Model ("RMBM") that must be put in place before the model can
6 be used to change the current approach to the Mojave River Basin:

7 A. Transparency and coordination is critical to development of the RMBM. The
8 California Department of Water Resources (CDWR), in their December 2016 report titled
9 "Best Management Practices for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater,
10 Groundwater Modeling BMP" details the importance of this for groundwater management
11 in all phases of model development. Transparency and coordination improves model
12 results through incorporation of data and knowledge held by others. Further, early and
13 frequent coordination can identify model issues early, allowing for model refinements.
14 Early identification and correction of issues in the RMBM is important as the 2025
15 Wagner Declaration indicates that the RMBM is "expected to be used for the next
16 Watermaster cycle for determining PSY in Alto, Centro, Oeste and Baja." As such, I
17 recommend a transparent, cooperative process in model development to create a model
18 that can support the technical needs for the Judgment in the future, consistent with the
19 process described in DWR (2016).

20 B. Given the importance of the RMBM in its intended future use, I recommend
21 allowing for a complete review of the RMBM by the Department and other stakeholders,
22 with at least a six month review period. To support this review, all model input and output
23 files along with associated reports detailing the model development and calibration
24 process should be provided.

25 C. The RMBM should use the best available data. The 2025 Wagner
26 Declaration indicates that "(i)n Baja, the best available data, and the only reliable data we
27 have is water level measurements and pumping data. As noted, the quality of USGS
28 streamflow data at Barstow, located about 5 miles upstream from the Baja boundary, bas

1 been rated by USGS as ‘poor’ during several years, and only ‘fair’ in other years.”
2 Streamflow data is subject to uncertainty at all gage locations, and the Barstow gauge is
3 no exception. It is, however, important to understand the uncertainty. According to the
4 USGS’s 2006 Flow Data Quality document
5 ([https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5036/section7.html#:~:text=The%20rating%20the%20US](https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5036/section7.html#:~:text=The%20rating%20the%20USGS%20uses,are%20shown%20in%20table%208)
6 [GS%20uses,are%20shown%20in%20table%208](https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2006/5036/section7.html#:~:text=The%20rating%20the%20USGS%20uses,are%20shown%20in%20table%208)) a “fair” rating indicates that about 95%
7 of the daily discharges are within 15% of the true value. Records that are considered to be
8 less accurate are rated “poor.” Given that there are no other stream gauges in the area, data
9 from this gauge remains the best available data for streamflow, even with the level of
10 uncertainty indicated by the USGS. A more thorough understanding of potential issues
11 with the data from the gauge can inform how to best use the data in the calibration of the
12 RMBM. For instance, the gauge may be more accurate at identifying periods of no flow,
13 low flow, or high flow. I recommend the Watermaster use data from the Barstow gauge in
14 the development of the RMBM, taking uncertainty into consideration; improve the
15 understanding of the sources of uncertainty in the data at the Barstow gauge; and work to
16 improve the conditions at the gauge, as the data is critical to understanding conditions in
17 Baja.

18 D. The hydrologic base period should be consistent with management across the
19 different subareas. The proposed hydrologic base period (2001-2020) in the 2025 Wagner
20 Declaration, is likely more representative of present climatic and cultural conditions than
21 the current hydrologic base period. The 2025 Wagner Declaration indicates that the 2001-
22 2020 period is approximately 6% drier than the existing 1931-1990 base period, based on
23 flow at the Forks. While it is important for the hydrologic base period to have flow at the
24 Forks that is reflective of recent long-term averages, flows downstream of the Forks under
25 the proposed 2001-2020 differs from the existing 1931-1990 base period due to stream
26 depletions caused by groundwater extraction. Attachment 3 to my declaration is Table 3.4
27 taken from pdf page 92 in the July 2013 report by Todd Engineers with Kennedy/Jenks
28 Consultants, titled “Final Report Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model and Assessment of

1 Water Supply and Demand for the Centro and Baja Management Subareas Mojave River
2 Groundwater Basin.” Table 3.4 shows the average annual discharges at the four USGS
3 Mojave River gauges within the Mojave River Basin Adjudication area, with statistics on
4 the changes in flow and recharge from 1931 through 2010. The table has been modified
5 by highlighting two time periods, the 1931-1990 base period and the 1991-2010 post-base
6 period. The table gives the measured values of flow and recharge (i.e., the difference
7 between gauges) and the relative percentage of change for each gauge through time and as
8 a percentage of the inflow at the Forks gauge. This table clearly shows that, while there
9 has been an increase in the 1991-2010 post-period flow at the Forks over the base period,
10 there has been a decline in flow at and downstream of the Lower Narrows. The table
11 shows upper Alto experienced an increase in recharge of 246% between 1991 and 2010,
12 relative to the base period, while Centro and Baja experienced less recharge than the base
13 period amount. It is likely that lower groundwater levels have resulted in increased
14 recharge in the upper Alto, resulting in reduced streamflow reaching Lower Narrows and
15 farther downstream.

16 This is further supported by a long-term trend of reduced streamflow at the
17 Barstow gauge. Attachment 4 to my declaration is a bar graph plotting the historical
18 flows at the USGS Barstow Gauge #10262500 between 1931 and 2023. The graph shows
19 the total annual flow at the gauge and a 20-year running average starting in 1951. Two
20 horizontal dashed lines are drawn at the approximate values of 16,406 acre-feet per year
21 (afy) and 7,500 afy. These two lines are the average annual surface water inflows
22 evaluated in the proposed 2024-2025 PSY calculation for Baja.² Flow data were
23 downloaded from the USGS website: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov>. Again, this reduction is
24 occurring even without reduced flows at the Forks, suggesting that recharge driven by
25 groundwater recharge is reducing downstream flows.

26 While supportive of updating the hydrologic base period, as part of moving to the

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28 ² Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix E in Exhibit 5 to Exhibit C (Wagner’s Declaration) in 2024-
2025 FPA Motion, pdf pp. 267-268.

1 new base period, I recommend the Watermaster take into consideration changes in
2 streamflow due to recharge induced by lowered groundwater levels. Absent this
3 consideration, the proposed base period will increase PSY within upper Alto due to
4 increased recharge occurring due to lower groundwater levels. It will also reduce PSY
5 within Centro and Baja as the proposed base period reduces recharge in these areas due to
6 the additional streamflow losses in upper Alto. The RMBM may provide a tool to quantify
7 these impacts, supporting associated adjustments.

8 E. The hydrologic base period should be consistent with protection of riparian
9 habitat. As previously noted, the proposed hydrologic base period (2001-2020) in the
10 2025 Wagner Declaration, is likely more representative of present climatic and cultural
11 conditions. However, more recent cultural conditions include a decline in the acreage and
12 health of riparian habitat. This decline in acreage and health of riparian systems results in
13 less consumptive water use by vegetation. However, the Judgment is intended to be
14 protective of these systems, and this loss should not be considered permanent or available
15 for other uses.

16 I declare, under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the
17 foregoing is true and correct.

18 Executed on July 22, 2025 at Sacramento, California.

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20 
21 JAMES BLANKE
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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Curriculum Vitae of James Blanke

Attachment 2: Woodard & Curran, June 2025, “Approach for Redefining ‘Maximum Depth Below Ground’ at the New H1-2 Well.””

Attachment 3: Todd Engineers with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, July 2013, Table 3.4, Average Annual Mojave River Discharge and Net Recharge for Selected Periods, from the Final Report Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model and Assessment of Water Supply and Demand for the Centro and Baja Management Subareas Mojave River Groundwater Basin.

Attachment 4: A bar graph plotting the historical flows and a running 20-year average at the USGS Barstow Gauge #10262500 between 1931 and 2023.

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ATTACHMENT 1



JAMES BLANKE, PE, PG, CHG, PMP

SENIOR TECHNICAL LEADER

Professional Profile

Jim is a registered professional engineer, professional geologist, and certified hydrogeologist with over 20 years of comprehensive groundwater management experience across California. His results-focused approach incorporates technical knowledge and the ability to relate complex situations to stakeholders and decision-makers to drive water supply solutions. His work includes authoring and providing technical guidance for multiple groundwater sustainability plans; developing technical guidance for groundwater substitution transfers, groundwater recharge projects, and groundwater banks; developing scientifically based pumping allocations to achieve sustainability; developing and implementing groundwater ordinances; developing and expanding monitoring networks; and supporting CEQA and permitting activities. His work incorporates groundwater modeling and advanced techniques to improve efficiency, accuracy, and ultimately gain wider public acceptance.

Jim has an in-depth understanding of Groundwater Sustainability Plan development. He has managed, served as technical lead or senior reviewer for nine GSPs (Cosumnes, Cuyama, Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, North American, North Yuba, San Pasqual, South American, South Yuba, and Sutter).

Related Experience

Butte County, CA - Northern Sacramento Valley Interbasin Groundwater Flow Evaluation. Technical Lead who led the technical work on a project to understand interbasin groundwater flows in the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) in the context of SGMA. Integrated hydrological models, their associated input data and results including water budget outputs and calibration status in the NSV Area were analyzed and compared. Specifically, the California Department of Water Resources' California Central Valley Simulation Model (C2VSim), the United States Geological Survey's Central Valley Hydrologic Model (CVHM) were analyzed and compared in detail.

Yuba Water Agency, CA - Yuba Groundwater Model (YGM). Principal-in-Charge responsible for the development and calibration of an integrated water resources model capable of simulating the historical flow of surface and groundwater in the valley floor of Yuba County. The model is using data from regional models where appropriate and drawing from work completed for prior groundwater and agricultural water management planning efforts. It is currently being used for development of water budgets for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), assessment of stream aquifer interaction as a result of groundwater substitution transfers and informing Yuba Water for annual planning of groundwater substitution transfer program.

Education

- Masters, Geological and Environmental Sciences, Stanford University
- Bachelors, Geological and Environmental Sciences, Stanford University

Registrations

- Professional Engineer - CA, 86098
 - Professional Geologist - CA, 7397
 - Certified Hydrogeologist - CA, 803
 - Project Management Professional - PMI, 1605950
-

Yuba Water Agency – Groundwater Sustainability Plan. As Project Manager and lead author, Jim prepared the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the North Yuba and South Yuba Groundwater Subbasins. The GSP was unique in that it was completed 2 years ahead of the regulatory deadline. As such, it was the first GSP completed for the Sacramento Valley. Jim led work related to this first-in-the-valley status to develop approaches to GSP concepts that are specifically important in the Sacramento Valley, including groundwater dependent ecosystems, interconnected surface waters, and development of minimum thresholds for groundwater levels in an area with historically sustainable conditions, but with future threats to water supplies. The GSP was ultimately adopted by the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, Yuba Water Agency, Cordua Irrigation District, and the City of Marysville. Jim continues to support the GSP during implementation.

Yuba Water Agency – Groundwater Substitution Transfer Program. As Project Manager, Jim provides technical and policy support for the groundwater substitution program run by Yuba Water Agency and its eight member units. Support includes development of a transparent, science-based process to recommend the annual volume of water to be pumped in a given year. This process is supported by the Yuba Groundwater Model which provides estimates of pumping volumes based on an iterative process to meet defined groundwater level thresholds in the following spring. Jim serves as lead hydrogeologist for the Yuba Groundwater Model. Further, Jim provides hydrologic support for the transfer program, including development of allocation agreements between the member units, data reporting, and coordination of responses to potential third-party impacts.

California Department of Water Resources, CA – Stream Depletion Guidance Documents. As technical advisor, Jim supported a team developing a series of three papers and a guidance document to provide direction to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies seeking to comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act related to depletions of interconnected surface water. Jim led the development of the first paper, which provided an introduction to interconnected surface water and the depletions of interconnected surface water, developing graphics and text to develop a common understanding for GSAs and the public on the subject and how it relates to SGMA requirements. He provided technical advice for the subsequent two papers, which discussed modeling and analytical approaches and examples to develop the necessary information to comply with SGMA. In this role, he interfaced with DWR and consultant staff to build technically defensible, understandable, and implementable approaches for SGMA compliance.

Yuba Water Agency, CA – Lower Yuba River Accord Extension. Jim provided technical and policy guidance to Yuba Water Agency to support the extension of the Lower Yuba River Accord (Yuba Accord). The Yuba Accord is a settlement agreement that provides benefits for both fish and wildlife purposes, and water supply reliability for irrigation, hydropower generation and recreation. Having supported Yuba Water for many years in implementing groundwater substitution transfers under the Yuba Accord and having analyzed stream-aquifer interaction and stream depletions in the region, Jim worked with agency staff, agency consultants, and DWR staff to refine the language in the Yuba Accord to align with current needs and current technical understanding to support an extension of this successful agreement.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency -CoSANA Model Development. Project manager for the development of CoSANA, an integrated water resources model of the Cosumnes, South American, and North American Subbasins. CoSANA was developed in support of SGMA applications, regional groundwater management, and groundwater banking applications. The project included coordination with the technical teams developing the GSPs for the three subbasins to allow the CoSANA Model to serve as a common platform across all three

subbasins. This common platform improves regional consistency and provides a standardized analysis platform for water management activities.

Merced Irrigation District, CA – Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. As technical lead, Jim provided guidance for a small team at Woodard & Curran addressing water supply needs in a critically-over drafted groundwater subbasin in the Central Valley. The effort included identifying the level of overdraft in the subbasin in a way that could be accepted by the stakeholders and public and that could drive an allocation process to ultimately reduce groundwater use and increase groundwater recharge. After submission of the GSP, Jim has been responsible for managing and coordinating ongoing implementation of the GSP.

Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin Authority (GBA), CA - Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. As technical lead, Jim provided guidance to address sustainability in a critically-over drafted groundwater subbasin in the Central Valley. The effort included supporting a complex and comprehensive stakeholder process, with 16 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies involved in the development of the GSP. Among other technical challenges, the plan addressed complex salinity issues in the region and incorporated supply-side projects to achieve sustainability while limiting impacts to the community.

City of Poway and City of San Diego, CA – Poway Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. Project Manager for the SNMP for the Poway Valley Groundwater Basin (PVGB). The SNMP was led by the City of Poway in partnership with the City of San Diego in collaborative process with local and regional stakeholders to assist the agencies to comply with the Recycled Water Policy regarding the future use of recycled water while managing salt and nutrient from potential sources on a sustainable basis. The project included several challenges, including very limited data, high historical and existing salt concentrations, and limited existing and planned groundwater use. The effort included coordination of additional data collection and interfacing with the RWQCB to develop a SNMP that met the unique needs of the PVGB.

City of San Bruno, CA - South Westside Basin Shallow Groundwater Study. Project Manager leading the study of the shallow groundwater system San Mateo County's South Westside Basin to meet two main objectives: (1) improve the understanding of recharge, allowing for improved modeling of the basin and improved decision making with regards to land use decisions, basin operations, and recharge projects and (2) improve the understanding of the sources of nitrogen, to allow for management activities to reduce loading or remove nitrogen from the aquifer for non-potable use. The project includes the following six major technical areas: (1) defining lithology of the upper subsurface, (2) collecting, analyzing, and mapping groundwater elevation data, (3) assessing groundwater quality using existing and supplemental data collected as part of this study, (4) collecting, sampling, and analyzing stable isotope data, (5) performing age dating, and (6) estimating groundwater recharge and modeling groundwater transport. Together, these technical analyses provide an improved understanding of water table conditions, the shallow groundwater system, and the relationships between recharge and deep-water supply aquifer quantity and quality. With this information, San Bruno and other communities in the South Westside Basin will be better able to develop recharge projects, including low impact development techniques; guide future land use and water use decisions; more reliably model and analyze groundwater conditions; and address nitrate and other water quality concerns in the basin.

California Department of Water Resources, CA - Groundwater Basin Assessment and Groundwater Budget Framework. As Project Manager, led an effort working with DWR groundwater staff in developing draft frameworks for the development of groundwater basin assessment reports and

groundwater budgets, allowing for improved management of groundwater resources at the local level and assisting broader regional and statewide water planning efforts. Information developed included the goals and needs for groundwater basin assessments and groundwater budgets, a summary of DWR's role in existing statewide and regional water planning, a summary of recent implementations of groundwater basin assessments and groundwater budgets, and a step-by-step approach to developing groundwater basin assessment reports and groundwater budgets. In addition to managing the effort, Jim was the author of the first of three volumes developed for the draft frameworks.

The Nature Conservancy, CA - Cosumnes Area Reclaimed Water In-Lieu Recharge Assessment, Phase II. Project Manager and Lead Hydrogeologist for an effort focused on improving the health of the Cosumnes River and the associated riparian corridor through analysis of benefits and/or impacts of a potential recycled water banking program being promoted by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San): the South County Ag Project. The effort incorporates additional analysis important to The Nature Conservancy to ensure that the unique characteristics and needs of the Cosumnes River and Cosumnes Preserve are fully incorporated into the South County Ag Project. This includes analysis of different recharge and recovery scenarios to better understand project impacts and benefits as well as alternative project configurations that could increase benefits to the Cosumnes River and the Cosumnes River Preserve. As project manager and lead hydrogeologist, Jim coordinated with major stakeholders, led meetings, developed conceptual scenarios, directed modeling staff, and developed technical memoranda.

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, CA - Engineering Services for the Harvest Water Project. As Hydrogeologist, provided coordination and modeling assistance for the in-lieu recharge project, which has the potential to provide up to 50,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year to irrigate farmlands and improve habitat, and has several environmental benefits including reducing the overdraft of local groundwater supplies and improving riparian forest conditions along the lower Cosumnes River. With related ongoing efforts with Regional San, The Nature Conservancy, and Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, Jim coordinated the stakeholders, along with Sacramento County Water Agency, to identify common needs and avoid redundant work. The coordination effort resulted in a more cohesive and cost-effective work product. Additional efforts included supporting the successful Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) grant application, petition for change process, establishment of a monitoring network, and addressing other groundwater needs.

Wood Rodgers, CA - E&J Gallo Winery Groundwater Impact Assessment. As Project Manager, led an effort as a subcontractor to Wood Rodgers to estimate the impact of different alternatives for new vineyard plantings on local and regional groundwater and surface water resources. Impacts were simulated using the Sacramento Area Integrated Water Resources Model (SaciWRM). Work included conceptualizing model scenarios; modifying land use, cropping, and groundwater extraction model inputs to develop the model scenarios; and displaying results as maps of changes in groundwater elevation, groundwater hydrographs, and streamflow hydrographs.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority, CA - Recharge Mapping. As Project Manager, led development of a map of areal recharge and an accounting of groundwater inflows for the SGA area. The effort utilized results from the Sacramento Area Integrated Water Resources Model (SaciWRM) which were presented in an integrated figure to display the overall sources of inflows with the areal recharge. Sources of recharge included precipitation, applied water, American River, Sacramento River, other surface water sources, and subsurface flows from neighboring subbasins. The information supported the update of SGA's Groundwater Management Plan to bring the plan into compliance with the Water Code requirements

resulting from the passage of AB359 (Huffman) and also positioned SGA with a resource that could assist in the development of a future Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority, CA - Basin Management Objective Threshold Development and Recharge Mapping. Project Manager/Project Hydrogeologist responsible for addressing two primary needs within the SCGA area: (1) developing water level thresholds that define the safe operating range for groundwater according to Basin Management Objective (BMO) and (2) improving the conceptual understanding of groundwater recharge. The BMO is being developed using historical data and integrated hydrologic model simulations to set a measurable “bandwidth” of groundwater levels based on the maximum and minimum simulated groundwater elevations shown through the Sacramento Area Integrated Water Resource Model Future Conditions Baseline, which is being updated as part of the project. The conceptual understanding of recharge is being improved through two processes. The first process merges available data from the SacIWRM to map the spatial distribution of recharge sources to the Central Basin. Additionally, a field study analyzing primarily stable isotopes, cations, and anions is being used to identify the portions of the Central Basin that are recharged from surface water courses, allowing for improved understanding of the importance of surface water recharge as compared to aerial recharge and recharge from the foothills to the east.

California Water Foundation, CA - Groundwater Management Plan Review. As Project Manager/Primary Author, led a study to independently evaluate groundwater management plans to develop a general assessment of the effectiveness of the plans in improving the condition of the groundwater basins throughout California. Conducted meetings with several water management agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Water Resources, to obtain input and collect information. He also developed a defined set of criteria, gained approval from outside experts, and led the review, assessment, and ranking of the plans based on the criteria. At the conclusion of the project, a final report which documented the findings and identified key successes and challenges associated with California groundwater management.

California Water Foundation, CA - Central Valley Groundwater Recharge Opportunities. As Project Hydrogeologist/Project Manager, Jim analyzed the potential regional opportunities and benefits of recharging groundwater through on-farm capture of excess winter flows. This would involve diverting excess flows onto large acreages of active agricultural land in excess of evapotranspiration to allow recharge of the aquifer system. Developed an assessment of lands suitable for recharge based on available spatial data. He further led the estimation of the availability of winter surface water supplies in excess of existing demands; assessment of the capacity of existing water delivery infrastructure to carry excess water to cropland; and consideration of crop compatibility with flooding active farmland and land suitability for recharge to the aquifer system. The results were developed using GIS and the C2VSim integrated hydrologic model and include estimates of the potential volume of water that could be recharged through on-farm capture of excess winter flows, as well as the fate of the water within the hydrologic system over time.

Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI), CA - Merced Water Resources Model. As Project Hydrogeologist, provided support for the development of the model layering for a new county-wide integrated hydrologic model based on the Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM). The work incorporated information from a USGS textural model together with a conceptual understanding of the basin and well characteristics to identify layers. The texture model was then used together with aquifer test results to identify initial aquifer characteristics before model calibration.

Merced County, CA - Groundwater Ordinance Support. Project Manager/Project Hydrogeologist responsible for assisting Merced County in the development and implementation of a groundwater ordinance to improve groundwater management in the county in response to continued drought, reduced surface water supplies, increased groundwater use, increased acreage of irrigated agriculture, and the onset of relatively rapid land subsidence. Provided technical analysis, process assistance, and managed CEQA assistance to support Merced County in the development and implementation of the groundwater ordinance. This support was provided under tight timelines to meet necessary milestones that would allow for stakeholder buy-in and implementation in a timely manner. The technical support included identification of areas with increasing intensity of agricultural use, high rates of land subsidence, and high declines in groundwater elevation. Also led the development of visual representations of these areas and attended meetings to convey issues and opportunities to stakeholders. To support the well permit and groundwater export permit process, Jim assisted in identifying information needs from the applicant and in developing the process of approval or denial of the applications, including coordinating with CEQA experts to develop recommendations for the CEQA process.

Eastern Municipal Water District, Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, and the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, CA - Canyon Operating Plan. As Project Engineer/Project Hydrogeologist/Primary Author, developed an operating plan that guides and supports responsible water management of the Canyon Basin to facilitate continued long-term beneficial use. The Canyon Operating Plan is related to a settlement agreement between the Soboba Tribe and the local municipal agencies and seeks to meet the Soboba Tribe's annual production allocation from the Canyon Basin, thus avoiding EMWD and LHMWD having to provide a supplemental water supply directly to the Soboba Tribe. The Canyon Operating Plan was generated to meet the following six goals: (1) guide and support responsible and sustainable water management, (2) facilitate beneficial use of the basin and avoid shortages, (3) document and analyze historical trends, (4) provide trigger points and potential responses to low water levels in the basin, (5) provide safe yield and storage curves, (6) create a forum for open exchange of data between participants. Jim was the primary author and led the coordination activities, including seven meetings between the project participants to cooperatively develop the document.

Santa Barbara County Water Agency, CA - Long Term Supplemental Water Supply Alternatives Report. As Project Hydrogeologist supported a county-wide study to identify long-term water supply alternatives, characterized by potential volume, cost, and feasibility including institutional, legal, and political implementation considerations. Analyzed existing reports to prioritize areas for further study for siting of subsurface desalination intakes and also assisted in the development of an approach to identify areas likely to be more suitable to artificial recharge activities.

The Nature Conservancy, CA - California Central Valley Surface Water and Groundwater Assessment. As Project Hydrogeologist assisted in conceptualization of modeling scenarios and review and interpretation of modeling results for an evaluation and assessment of the hydrology, interaction of surface water and groundwater, and impacts of historical and future development on the surface water and groundwater resources in the Central Valley. Woodard & Curran has been working with the TNC to use the C2VSim integrated hydrologic model to assess historical conditions and potential impacts of groundwater substitution transfers. The study results included impacts from and sustainability of groundwater substitution transfers, and have been presented at several key conferences, as well as to the DWR and SWRCB managers and other policy makers.

Cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero; Templeton, San Miguel and Heritage Ranch Community Services Districts; Camp Roberts; and San Luis Obispo County, CA - Paso Robles Salt and Nutrient

Management Plan. Hydrogeologist for development of assimilative capacity estimates for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero, Templeton, San Miguel and Heritage Ranch Community Services Districts (CSDs), Camp Roberts, and San Luis Obispo County. The results of these analyses were used to develop basin management strategies and a groundwater monitoring plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

City of San Bruno, CA - Westside Basin Groundwater and Conjunctive Use Investigation. As Project Hydrogeologist provided technical and policy support to the City of San Bruno in consideration of participation in a proposed conjunctive use program with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The City of San Bruno uses groundwater for approximately half of its water supply. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) proposed the use of available space in the Westside Groundwater Basin of northern San Mateo County to store imported water for use in dry years. This regional conjunctive use project has significant implications on regional and local municipal water supplies. Woodard & Curran was the lead technical consultant representing City of San Bruno in negotiations. Woodard & Curran's services included technical analysis of impacts of the conjunctive use program, groundwater well investigations, groundwater modeling analyses, developing solutions to project-related constraints and issues, and supporting the City with modifications to the groundwater operations and well pumping plans.

Eastern Municipal Water District, CA - 2014/2015 Groundwater Model Update. As Project Hydrogeologist, updated EMWD's existing MODFLOW-based groundwater model to support groundwater management projects and analyses within the EMWD water service area. The model area consists of a 300 square-mile study area broken into over 70,000 model cells for evaluation and consideration. Jim developed the conceptual geology through analysis of boring logs, cross sections, and existing geologic reports. This effort provided the hydrogeologic basis for the definition of model layers and the development of calibration targets.

Sacramento Area Integrated Water Resources Model (SACIWRM), CA. Project Geologist/Project Manager responsible for a series of projects for multiple clients, assisted in refinements to the SacIWRM to reflect changed conditions or improved data. Also studied the impacts of proposed development projects on regional water resources. Specifically, this involved the refinement of rice water use to better model conditions in the Natomas area; adjustment of the thalweg elevation of the Sacramento River to reflect newly available data from flood control efforts; update assistance of land use data for the development of a model baseline, including incorporation of the latest data from Zone 40 and other areas; and analysis of the impact of development in northern Sacramento County and in the Sunrise-Douglas area, including impacts to the Cosumnes River, Vineyard wellfield, and nearby contaminated sites.

Western Municipal Water District and City of Riverside, CA - Riverside Basin and Arlington Basin Groundwater Model. As Project Geologist assisted in the conceptualization of geologic conditions of the Riverside-Arlington Basin and incorporated available geologic information into a three-dimensional model of subsurface conditions. Worked with modelers to incorporate this information into model layers for use in the groundwater model. He also worked within the framework of the adjudicated Riverside Basin to help define model output needs. Also led the development of groundwater management plans for the two basins concurrent with the groundwater model. The plans included details on the basins and water use within the basins, including details on the existing adjudication, to create robust groundwater management documents.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority, CA - Hydrologic Database Management System (HydroDMS).

As Project Geologist assisted with the collection and presentation of data in the HydroDMS, a comprehensive web-based, GIS-enabled data management system that provides a user-friendly interface for water agencies to manage and control their water resources and hydrologic data. Work included quality control efforts to check that data was being properly outputted from the system as well as checking usability of the system for meeting data management needs.

California Department of Water Resources, CA - Regional Coordination Program Management

Plan. Project Geologist responsible for working with DWR to develop a Program Management Plan (PMP) for its regional coordination program. This PMP was developed in response to the increased public attention on DWR and the need for providing a seamless customer interface, independent of traditional program and organizational boundaries that allows interested parties to establish contact with DWR, solicit information and guidance, and participate in programs without undue burden. Work included (1) developing a program charter with goals and objectives; (2) identifying specific tools and technology needs to achieve the goals of the Regional Coordination Program, and (3) developing a handbook as a reference for regional coordinators.

United States Bureau of Reclamation, CA - Arroyo Canal Fish Screen & Sack Dam Fish Passage

Improvements. Project EIS and Technical Support for the Arroyo Canal project is part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program and is intended to allow fish passage under a variety of conditions through a screen or fish bypass. The project involved the completion of the NEPA and CEQA process including the development an EIS/EIR, permitting and other technical assistance, and related support for the project. Jim was Project Geologist and Subconsultant Coordinator responsible for coordinating with the project subconsultants, with Reclamation, and with the project owner and its consultant to keep the complex project moving forward in a timely manner.

Anza-Terwilliger Data Compilation, CA. As Project Manager led the compilation and display of relevant groundwater data in the Anza-Terwilliger area of Riverside County as part of a Capacity Building Grant through the Department of Water Resources' Local Groundwater Assistance program. The compilation and presentation of groundwater level, groundwater quality, and other spatial and temporal data supported a stakeholder process to prepare the Anza Terwilliger for more detailed planning and management of its groundwater resources.

Rancho California Water District (RCWD), CA - Temecula Valley Basin Salt and Nutrient

Management Plan (SNMP). As Lead Author/Project Hydrogeologist prepared the Temecula Valley Basin SNMP to increase recycled water, streamline water recycling project permitting, and provide direction to the Regional Boards regarding recycled water project permitting. Performed salt and nutrient loading calculations using an existing groundwater model and a vast amount of existing data and information collected by RCWD and other stakeholders. Using this approach has further expanded the use of RCWD's existing groundwater model for other uses and has provided a robust analysis of the basin in identifying existing loading and future projects of salt and nutrients in the basin as part of SNMP process. Provided analysis of irrigation practices, fertilization practices, delivered water quality, recycled water use, and septic system use. Services also included use and refinement of the existing groundwater model to provide a firm technical basis for management decisions. Jim authored the plan and worked with the client, regulators, and stakeholders to incorporate comments into the final product.

City of Santa Rosa, CA - Santa Rosa Plain Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. As Project Hydrogeologist performed the analysis associated with and developed the Santa Rosa Plain Salt and

Nutrient Management Plan. The work involved collection and analysis of existing data to develop an understanding of the current state of the basin, potential sources of salts and nutrients and how they might affect the basin, and creating a set of goals, objectives, and implementation measures for the basin to base future decisions and actions upon. Responsible for leading the interpretation and presentation of existing water quality, analyzing the potential impacts from salt and nutrient loading on the aquifer in an anti-degradation framework, revision of the existing groundwater monitoring plan to improve groundwater quality monitoring, and completion of the plan document. All work was done in a collaborative way so that the final plan reflected the input of the basin stakeholders.

Sonoma County Water Agency, CA - Sonoma Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. As Project Hydrogeologist developed a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Sonoma Valley that incorporated a technical analysis to identify salt and nutrient sources within the sub-basin, analyzed salt and nitrogen loading, summarized relevant groundwater quality and monitoring data, and conducted an anti-degradation analysis. Assisted in the development of the anti-degradation analysis, bringing together work from throughout the project, including existing water quality, goals, loading, fate and transport, BMPs, basin objectives, and economics. All work was done through a stakeholder process established by the Basin Advisory Panel and Technical Advisory Panel.

South Sutter Water District, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Palmdale Water District, San Bernardino Mutual Water Agency, and City of Napa, CA - Garden Bar Water Supply Project Feasibility Analysis. Deputy Project Manager responsible for supporting ongoing efforts to determine the feasibility analysis for development of a new \$450 million water supply project in Northern California. If implemented, the project would develop up to 120,000 AFY of new water supplies. The work included evaluation of a new dam upstream of an existing dam to develop additional water supply and hydroelectric power generation capacity. Provided subcontractor management to assist in moving the project forward, including development of materials for future FERC applications and coordination with project partners.

City of San Bruno, CA - Well Siting. As Project Manager and Lead Geologist developed and implemented ranking criteria to assist in the siting of a replacement well for the City of San Bruno. The criteria included depth to bedrock, groundwater elevation, subsurface materials, distance to other wells, manganese concentrations, proximity to contaminated sites, and potential for seawater intrusion. A weighted total was developed and the sites were ranked. The ranking was used by the city to screen wells before moving forward with discussions with the Department of Public Health and the drilling of test wells.

Eastern Municipal Water District, CA - Local Groundwater Banking Feasibility Study. Project Hydrogeologist responsible for assisting in identification of potential recharge basins to augment and bank water supplies. This will accommodate banking of low cost supplies when available; increase local supply reliability during droughts and emergencies; create sustainable long-term local supplies; mitigate salt loading associated with recycled water use; and reduce groundwater pumping costs through reduction in well pumping lifts. The goal of the feasibility study was to identify water banking opportunities in the Upper Pressure and Canyon Subbasins and determine the facilities needed for conveyance, recharge, and extraction of banked water. The work includes development of a suite of recharge and extraction scenarios to form banking alternatives.

United States Bureau of Reclamation, CA - Semitropic Stored Water Recovery Unit, Phase 2. As Deputy Project Manager and Lead Geologist studied potential federal involvement in the Semitropic Stored Water Recovery Unit, an expansion of the existing water bank operated by Semitropic Water

Storage District in Kern County. The project included analysis of management measures and potential options for federal participation, an economic analysis, and an Environmental Assessment. Geologic work focused on projections of changes in water levels and land subsidence as a result of the project. The geologic analysis was used as part of the Environmental Assessment.

Upper Kings Basin ISI Project Participants, CA - Conjunctive Use Project Assessment. As Project Geologist prepared a pre-feasibility analysis of a potential recharge project site located in Consolidated Irrigation District in Fresno County. The analysis included conceptual design of the recharge basin and project operations, review of the available water supply for recharge, and analysis of the local hydrogeologic conditions to determine the site suitability. Analysis of the groundwater impacts included the height and extent of the potential groundwater mound beneath the recharge basin. The analysis was also calibrated to available recharge data at other nearby recharge basins.

Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) ISI Participants, CA - Conjunctive Use Project Assessment. Project Geologist responsible for developing a pre-feasibility analysis of potential recharge project sites in Merced County. The analysis included selection of potential sites that could provide benefits to the most stakeholders while still selecting a site with appropriate site conditions. The investigation centered on data collection of information on important clay layers, soil conditions, and aquifer parameters in Merced County.

City of San Bruno, CA - South Westside Basin Groundwater Management Plan. Project Manager/Lead Author for the development of a Groundwater Management Plan for the South Westside Basin, which covers northern San Mateo County. The plan covers several municipalities, a private water company, and large irrigators of golf courses and cemeteries. Development of the plan included stakeholder outreach, development of an advisory committee, public and advisory committee meetings, development of common understanding of basin conditions, development of Basin Management Objectives, and development of an implementation plan.

City of San Bruno, CA - Review of Westside Basin Model. Project Geologist for review of the Westside Basin Model. Supported a detailed modeling review of the MODFLOW groundwater flow model to ensure that groundwater conditions were accurately reflected in and around the City of San Bruno. Reviewed city data and hydrologic conditions for the local and regional area and provided input to the modeling team in the form of technical memoranda to improve the simulation.

City of San Bruno, CA - Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Wells. Project Manager for the planning, installation, and monitoring of seawater intrusion monitoring wells for the City of San Bruno. Prepared a grant proposal on behalf of San Bruno for a Department of Water Resources Local Groundwater Assistance Fund (AB303) grant. After the city received the grant, two well sites were selected and access was gained through negotiations with San Francisco International Airport (SFIA) and the City of Burlingame. Permits were obtained, contractors selected, and wells were installed. A three-well cluster was installed in Burlingame and a two-well cluster was installed at SFIA. Soil and bedrock conditions were logged during the drilling process. Groundwater samples were taken from the wells and analyzed for seawater intrusion indicators.

City of Riverside and Western Municipal Water District, CA - Riverside Basin and Arlington Basin Groundwater Management Plans. As Project Manager led the development of two Groundwater Management Plans for the Riverside Basin and Arlington Basin, in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The plans cover several municipalities and agricultural irrigators. Additionally, the Riverside Plan was

designed to work with the existing groundwater adjudication in the basin to provide broader groundwater management while adhering to the existing 1969 Western Judgment. Development of the plans was coordinated with the development of a numerical groundwater model, which was used to analyze the impacts of different management alternatives on the basin.

City of Rancho Cordova, CA - SunCreek Hydrologic Impacts Analysis. Served as Project Manager, as a subconsultant, supporting the development of an Environmental Impact Report, managed the modeling of the groundwater and surface water impacts of a proposed development in the Sunrise-Douglas area of Rancho Cordova. The modeling included extensive analysis of impacts to the groundwater system and surface water system, including potential impacts to regional contamination plumes (Mather Field, Aerojet, Boeing, and Kiefer Landfill) and to streamflow in the Cosumnes River. The Sacramento County Integrated Water Resources Model was used to model scenarios consisting of different development options at buildout and immediately prior to the anticipated delivery of surface water to the area. Development of the modeling scenarios included extensive updates to the model with respect to anticipated development in Zone 40 and associated water supplies from the Vineyard Wellfield.

California-American Water, CA - Monterey Regional Water Supply Project. Project Manager for the modeling of desalination of brackish groundwater and increases in recycled water for agriculture to meet growing water demands in the Salinas and Monterey Peninsula areas. The Salinas Valley Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model was used to model scenarios consisting of variations in well siting and recycled water quantities. Model output was analyzed to determine regional impacts to groundwater and surface water resources in the Salinas Valley. Additionally, model output was repackaged for use as input and time-series data in a separate MODFLOW model which provided detailed local impacts from the desalination wells. Coordinated the transfer of information to the MODFLOW model and reviewed the results for consistency. Results of the modeling effort were developed for incorporation into an EIR.

Confidential Client, CA - Site Assessment and Feasibility Study. Project Geologist responsible for the site assessment and feasibility study at a 190-acre former chemical facility on the margin of San Francisco Bay, with the ultimate goal of site closure via capping, wetlands construction, or development. Prepared sampling plans, including monitoring well design; coordinated procurement of subcontractors; provided contractor oversight and geologic field support for monitoring well installation, lithologic logging and interpretation, well development, and direct push soil sampling; performed groundwater sampling, sediment sampling, and surface water sampling; and studied effects of tides on groundwater levels and streamflow.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, CA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigations and Corrective Measures Studies for the Environmental Restoration Program. As Project Geologist worked at the client's facility with its staff to continue ongoing studies of groundwater contamination at the site. Responsibilities included lithologic logging and interpretation, drilling and monitoring well installation oversight, and preparation of quarterly monitoring reports. Site contaminants included CVOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, and tritium.

Confidential Client, CA - RI/FS and RD/RA Project. As Project Geologist provided contractor oversight and geologic field support for monitoring well installation, lithologic logging and interpretation, well development, and direct push sampling for a CVOC DNAPL Impacted RCRA Site in Belmont, California. Also performed slug tests, groundwater sampling, and surface water sampling; coordinated waste disposal; and prepared a remedial investigation addendum report.

Hemet San Jacinto ISI Participants, CA – Basin Assessment Report and Integrated Water Management Plan. As Project Hydrogeologist aided in the development of principles of water management and governance for use and operation of the management area. Key responsibilities included collection of information on water management conditions and identification of suitable locations for conjunctive use in the area. The data collected included the operation of the groundwater sub-basins and existing and potential facilities and the historical and projected demands and water needs. Also helped in reconciling differences in data between different participating agencies. Further data collection centered on near-surface and hydrologic conditions at seven potential recharge basins and on operational details of two potential in-lieu projects. The data collection efforts were compiled into reports to support continuing water planning activities that aim to develop a long-term groundwater management plan, develop governance principles, and minimize overdraft. The information also supported ongoing modeling efforts to determine the efficacy of the potential conjunctive use projects.

Hemet/San Jacinto ISI Participants, CA - San Jacinto River Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan. As Project Manager led the development of the water supply sections of an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan developed for the San Jacinto River area. Coordinated the IRWMP with the Water Management Plan being developed in a similar timeframe, ensuring the need for continued or increased usage of groundwater, imported water, recycled water, and desalted water were balanced with other needs in the watershed related to flood control, habitat, recreation, environmental justice, and others. Synergies were sought to identify multi-benefit projects.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority, CA - Well Protection Program. As Project Manager for the development of a GIS-based analysis of model results and well and parcel data. Model results were extracted from selected scenarios of the Sacramento County Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model. Modeled groundwater elevations during dry periods were compared, using GIS, to typical well depths throughout the SCGA area. The comparison was tied to parcel data, allowing estimation of the number of wells impacted by the selected modeled scenarios. This information was used by decision makers to estimate the potential financial impact as a result of implementing the scenarios.

City of San Bruno, CA - Well Performance Evaluation. Project Manager for the analysis of historical water quality and well performance conditions, along with new data from samples of semi-solid materials on the well casing. The project identified data gaps and made recommendations for filling those gaps; provided a preliminary discussion on the potential causes of well performance issues; and discussed next steps for developing a better understanding of the issue and for developing a plan to reduce well performance declines.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency, CA - Salinas Valley Water Project Biological Opinion Support. As Project Geologist modeled the differences in Salinas River streamflows under past, current, and proposed project conditions. Numerical modeling was performed using IGSM. Results were presented in reports and in presentations to NOAA Fisheries. An iterative modeling and discussion process with NOAA Fisheries and Monterey County Water Resources Agency resulted in adjustments to proposed project operations to meet water supply and fisheries needs.

Private Client, Sutter County, CA - Expert Witness. Project Manager and expert witness for a study of groundwater levels and site conditions in a dispute regarding waterlogging of adjacent field and tree crops due to rice flooding. Designed and performed monitoring of groundwater and surface water, prepared exhibits, provided a deposition, and testified in trial as an expert witness.

Merced Irrigation District, CA - Merced IRWM Plan Development. Project Hydrogeologist responsible for working with the Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) group to develop the Merced Region's IRWM Plan. MAGPI is comprised of 15 municipal and agricultural water purveyors and special districts operating within the Merced Groundwater Basin in eastern Merced County. The core group includes Merced County, the City of Merced, and the Merced Irrigation District. Woodard & Curran assisted the Region in identifying a vision, goals and objectives for water resources management at the regional level and prepared the Region in meeting the requirements of the Department of Water Resources' IRWM funding program. The IRWM Plan will provide a roadmap for present and future regional planning activities while meeting the requirements of Proposition 84. As part of the Merced IRWM program, developed a Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study. This study defined areas with high potential for recharge by evaluating physical characteristics (e.g., soil type, depth to water, hydrogeology) and anthropogenic (human-influenced) conditions. The information developed was designed to be used to identify potential locations for artificial recharge facilities or to define where additional management practices should be considered as part of the overall groundwater management and protection program.

ATTACHMENT 2



MEMORANDUM

TO: Aaron Johnson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CC: Noah Golden-Krasner, California Department of Justice
Kit Custis, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
FROM: Jim Blanke
DATE: June 16, 2025
RE: Approach for Redefining "Maximum Depth Below Ground" at the New H1-2 Well

Background

Exhibit H of the Judgment addresses biological resource mitigation, focused on protection of riparian vegetation. The exhibit includes Table H-2 (see Figure 1), which sets water table standards that are necessary to maintain and conserve the riparian resources. The exhibit further states that the Watermaster shall take into consideration riparian habitat and the protection of public trust resources. This is best performed through comparison of measured groundwater levels with the Table H-2 values, together with comparison with vegetative health. While Table H-2 includes values for 5 wells, the focus of this memorandum is Well H1-2 as the original well was destroyed in a flood. A replacement well cluster was installed at a new location out of the floodplain, but the corresponding riverbed location to interpret the Table H-2 "maximum depth below ground" value of seven feet was never adjusted to reflect the fact that the new well site was moved to a higher ground elevation relative to the river and associated groundwater dependent vegetation that the maximum depth water table standards are intended to protect. These maximum depth standards are supported by localized research conducted on the Mojave River and a significant body of scientific literature that highlights the importance of maintaining shallow groundwater levels within these depth criteria to meet the water needs of groundwater dependent natural communities such as riparian forests dominated by cottonwoods, willows, as well as mesquite bosques. The lack of an appropriate, agreed-upon, defined value at this location creates confusion, hindering effective water and ecosystem management.

Despite a lack of an appropriate, agreed-upon, defined value at this location, the Watermaster continues to present a maximum depth to groundwater trigger value in its annual reporting (see Figure 3-11 in Mojave Basin Area Watermaster, 2025). While the associated text addresses CDFW's approach to defining the trigger level consistent with Exhibit H, the text also references a previous, undocumented agreement between "the Watermaster Engineer and the CDFW consultant at the time." There is no record of such an agreement and, as described here, CDFW does not support the interpretation of the maximum depth to groundwater criteria at the compliance point now in use by the Watermaster. This purported agreement is the basis presented for the use a compliance point of "point #4", a location at the thalweg that CDFW considers inappropriate for monitoring the groundwater-related health of riparian forests.



This memorandum provides an approach and subsequent recommendation for that new value along with associated recommendations related to Well H1-2 and nearby vegetation.

History of the Replacement of the Previous Well

The previous H1-2 well (05N04W23B01) used for monitoring was washed out in early 2005, necessitating the use of a new well at a different location and elevation. Groundwater level data are generally available from 1996 through 2000 (with one additional measurement in 2005) and were within approximately 1 foot and 5 feet of the ground surface. The previous well was located within the riparian habitat within the river channel, on a floodplain terrace, upgradient of the thalweg approximately 5 feet, in an area representative of where established riparian forest vegetation typically occurs in arid river systems.

The new (and current) H1-2 well (05N04W23R07) is situated substantially above the floor of the riparian habitat area, which affects the relationship between depth-to-groundwater measurements at the well and conditions in the root zone of the nearby riparian vegetation. Further, the reference point and the surrounding ground surface were modified when fill dirt and pavement were added for road and bike path construction in 2014, and the well extended vertically in response (Merrell Johnson, 2023).

It is widely agreed that the seven foot maximum depth below ground threshold is not appropriate at this new well site since the reference point is substantially higher than the floor of the riparian habitat area.

The locations of the previous H1-2 well (05N04W23B01) and the new (and current) H1-2 well (05N04W23R07) are shown in Figure 2.

Approach for redefining "maximum depth below ground" at the new H1-2 well

The approach for redefining the "maximum depth below ground" at the new H1-2 well (05N04W23R07) is based on the following:

- The maximum depth below ground should be protective of the riparian ecosystem. Thus, the depth should be relative to the ground surface where groundwater-dependent plants are located or previously occurred.
- The nature of the riparian habitat near the new H1-2 well (05N04W23R07) was similar to riparian habitat at the previous H1-2 well (05N04W23B01) prior to flooding and declines in the groundwater table. Thus, a maximum depth below ground of seven feet in the riparian habitat area remains appropriate.
- The previous H1-2 well (05N04W23B01) was located a substantial distance away from the thalweg of the river, approximately 2/3 of the distance from the thalweg to the edge of Pelican Lake. As such, and with consideration that wells are usually constructed in higher elevation areas where possible in floodplain environments, it is likely that the



elevation at 05N04W23B01 is more similar to the elevation of the upland edge of the riparian habitat than the thalweg elevations of the river.

- For consistency with the site of the previous H1-2 well (05N04W23B01), the compliance point for the seven-foot depth should be in a more upland area of riparian habitat near the new H1-2 well (05N04W23R07)
- Exhibit H of the Judgment includes a proposed H1-2 location (see Figure 3) that is consistent with the location of the compliance point described in the previous bullet. That is, it is located towards the upland edge of the riparian habitat.
- The elevation of this seven-foot depth at the compliance point can be extended¹ to the new H1-2 well, assuming a flat water table, to establish a new maximum depth below ground at that location.

Recommended "maximum depth below ground" at the new H1-2 well

Data developed by Wagner & Bonsignore dated March 2010 shows an upland ground surface elevation within the riparian habitat of 2769.3 feet (see Point 2 on Figure 4). The Table H-2 maximum depth below ground would be equivalent to a groundwater surface elevation of 2769.3 feet minus 7 feet, which equals 2762.3 feet, as shown on the March 2010 cross section in Figure 4.

Depth to groundwater is measured at the new well H1-2 (05N04W23R07) relative to a point on the north side of the steel stovepipe. The monitoring well is inside the steel stovepipe, and the steel stovepipe is inside a larger, manhole-covered vault (see Figure 5). Data from a survey performed by Merrell Johnson in 2023 did not include elevation for this stovepipe. However, the survey did include an elevation of "Well North Point": 2780.18 ft NAVD88. Based on the measurements in Figure 1, the elevation of the top of the stovepipe is 0.35 feet higher than the well, or 2780.53 ft NAVD88.

The reference point has an elevation of 2780.53 feet NAVD88. The depth below the reference point that is equivalent to the 2762.3 feet elevation is $2780.53 - 2762.3$, which equals 18.23 feet², measured relative to the top of the existing stovepipe at the new well H1-2 (05N04W23R07).

Thus, 18.23 feet becomes the maximum depth below reference point at the new H1-2 well (05N04W23R07) that maintains the Judgment Table H-2 maximum depth to groundwater of

¹ Note that this approach assumes there is little influence from Spring Valley Lake on the groundwater system and that there no substantial gradient in the water table from the site of the new H1-2 to the riparian zone. If there is substantial recharge from Spring Valley Lake, then the groundwater surface may be higher at the new H1-2 well than at the compliance point. This may be considered in the future if additional data are collected through new monitoring wells.

² Note that measurements will be taken relative to the reference point, and depth from ground surface will be a calculated value. Depth below reference point is used here rather than depth below ground surface because the former is a directly measured value.



7 feet below the ground needed to support the protection of riparian habits areas and public trust resources.

Further Recommendations

Given the complex history of the new H1-2 well, particularly with the change in the grade at the site, additional detail is needed to fully document conditions. This additional information includes:

- Consistent and accurate use of survey data of the elevation of the reference point used to measure depth to groundwater and compliance with Table H-2 in the Judgment, top of casing, and ground surface, as a time series to reflect changes due to construction.
- Consistent and accurate data across platforms, including DWR's Water Data Library, which currently shows values of 2774.575 ft NAVD88 for both reference point elevation and ground surface elevation. Provide detailed backup information if interface limitations (e.g., changes in reference point elevation over time) complicate proper entry into DWR's Water Data Library.

The following additional recommendations are made to support the goal of maintaining and conserving riparian resources:

- Maintain the pressure transducer in the new H1-2 well with readings on at least an hourly basis to support better understanding groundwater conditions and response to various nearby and regional conditions. Verify transducer measurements on a monthly basis through manual depth to water measurements. Share data on at least a monthly basis.
- Improve the monitoring of nearby vegetative health, through field-based methods, remote-sensed methods, or a combination. The methods should be developed in a manner to allow for future analysis of the relationship between groundwater levels at H1-2 and vegetative health.
- Install a shallow monitoring well within the riparian habitat near the Exhibit H proposed site for the new H1-2 (05N04W23R07). After several years of data collection, this new well would provide additional detail on the relationship between the groundwater elevations in the new H1-2 and the groundwater elevations in the riparian habitat. This is useful given the location of H1-2 outside of the riparian habitat and its proximity to the lake.
- Re-survey the elevation of the riverbed ground surface relative to the well elevation at the well H1-2 surface read location following significant flood events, construction, or other major disturbance events.
- Promptly share additional relevant data collected, including survey data.



References

- Merrell Johnson. 2023. *Well Survey Exhibit, Yucca Loma Rd.* Prepared for Mojave Water Agency. September 22.
- Mojave Basin Area Watermaster. 2025. *Thirty-First Annual Report of the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster, Water Year 2023-24.* Accessed online on June 10, 2025 at <https://www.mojavewater.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/31AR2324.pdf>.

Figures



TABLE H-2

**RIPARIAN HABITAT MONITORING WELL
WATER LEVEL CRITERIA**

ZONE	WELL NUMBER	MAXIMUM DEPTH BELOW GROUND
Victorville/Alto	H1-1	Seven (7) Feet
Victorville/Alto	H1-2	Seven (7) Feet
Lower Narrows/Transition	H2-1	Ten (10) Feet
Harvard/Eastern Baja Riparian Forest Habitat	H3-1	Seven (7) Feet
Harvard/Eastern Baja Surface Water Habitat	H3-2	Plus One (1) Foot (1705 Ft msl)*

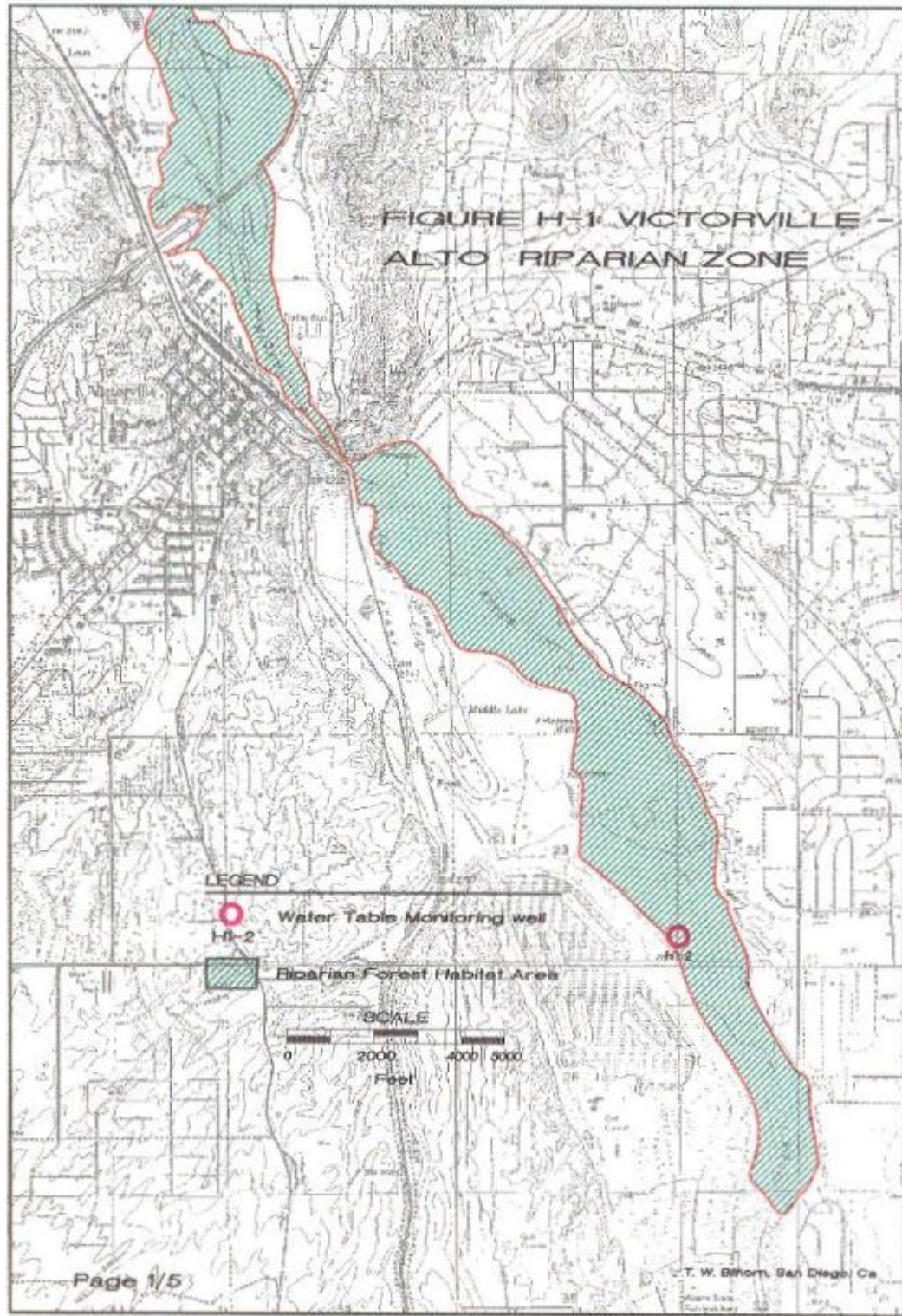
* Surface Water Habitat water surface elevation of 1705 ft. msl is approximate pending ground elevation survey.

(source: Barstow et al., v. City of Adelanto, et al. (case number 208568). 1996. Judgment After Trial. Mojave Basin Area Adjudication. January 10, 1996.

Figure 1: Table H-2 from Exhibit H of the Judgment, showing the Maximum Depth Below Ground for Each Well



Figure 2: Location of the Exhibit H Proposed H1-2 Location, the previous H1-2 Location (05N04W23B01), and the Current H1-2 Location (05N04W23R07)



(source: Barstow et al., v. City of Adelanto, et al. (case number 208568). 1996. Judgment After Trial. Mojave Basin Area Adjudication. January 10, 1996.

Figure 3: Proposed Location of Well H1-2, as Shown in Exhibit H

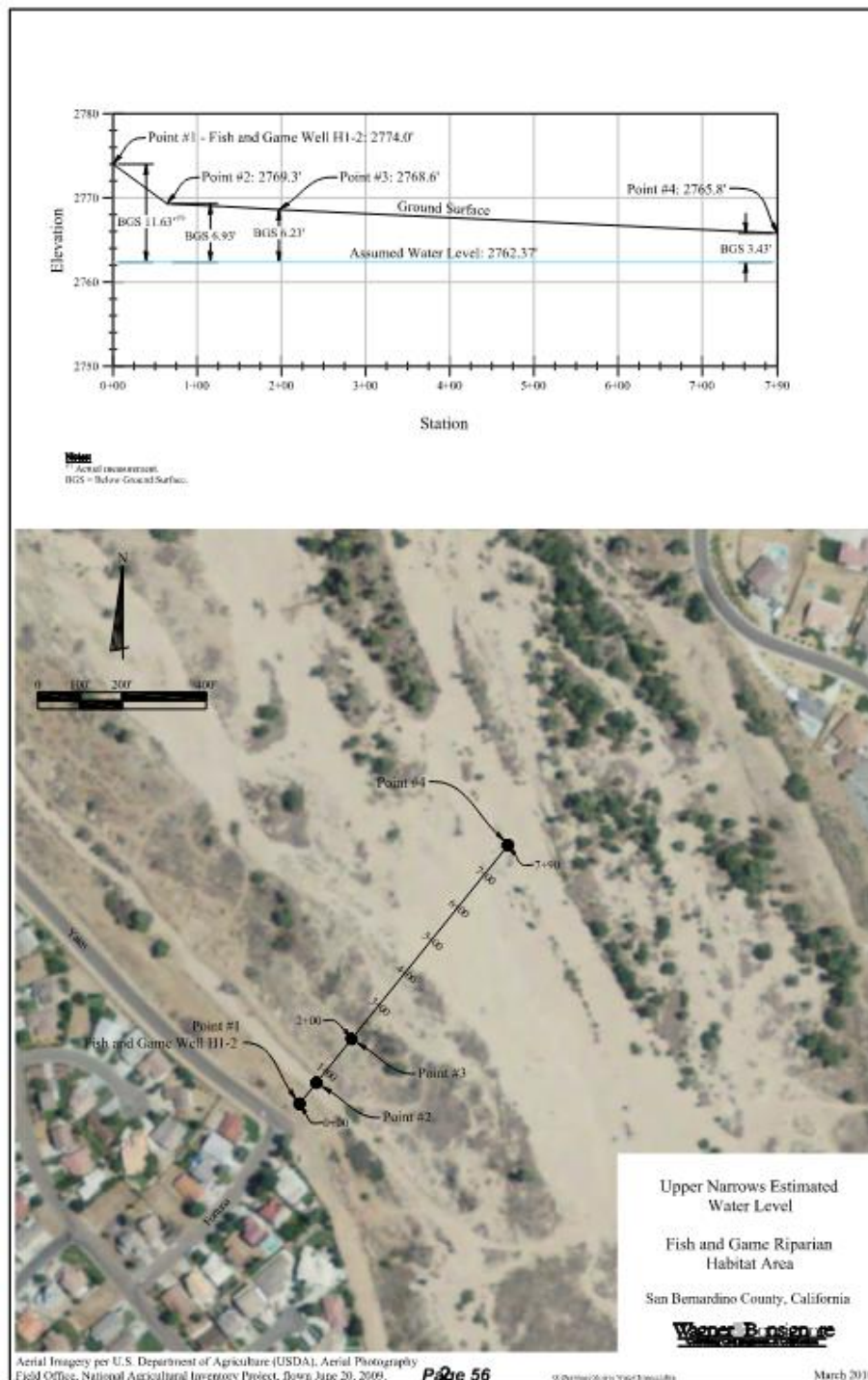


Figure 4: Surveyed Elevation Data at the Current H1-2 Location and within the Riparian Habitat.

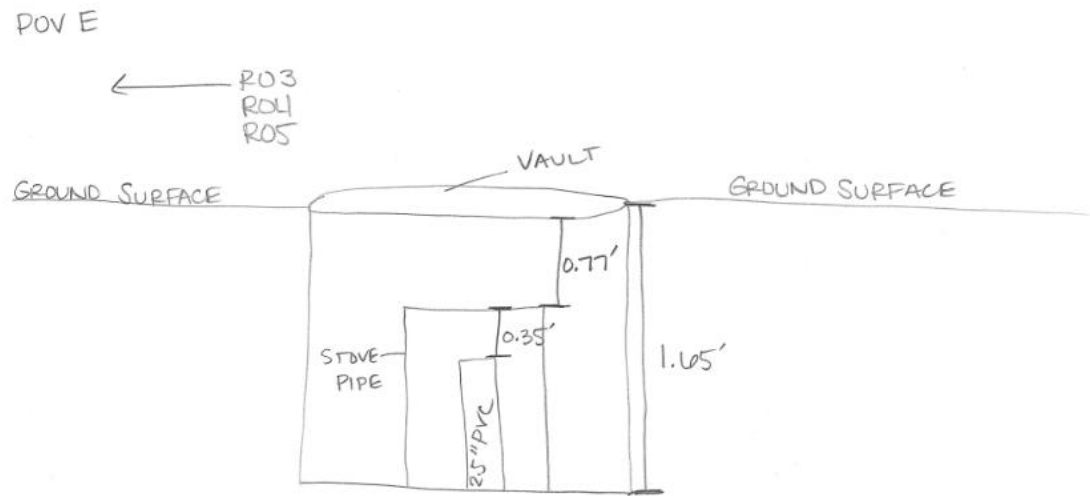


Figure 5: Sketch of Relative Depths of Ground Surface, Stovepipe, and Well Casing at the Current Well H1-2

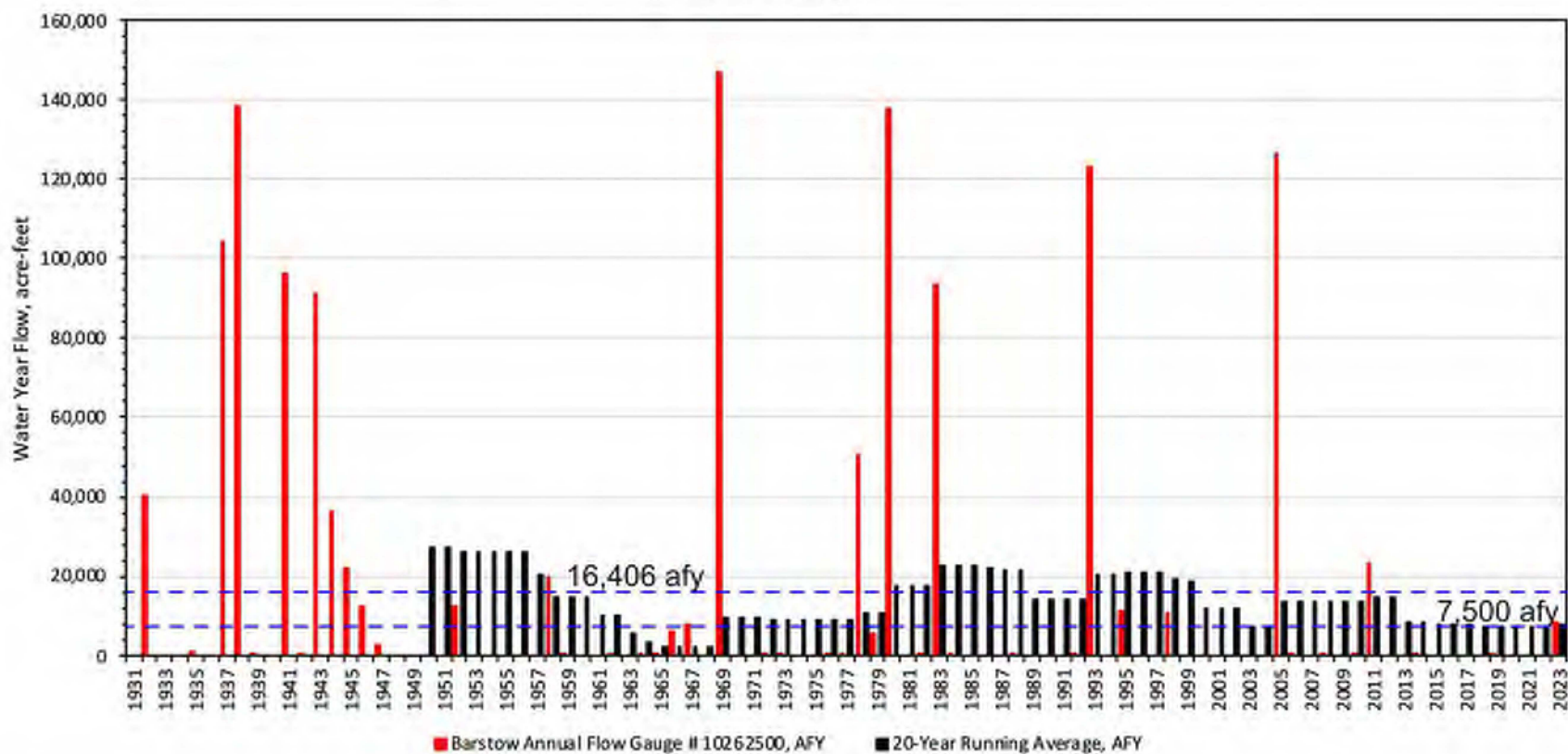
ATTACHMENT 3

Table 3.4
Average Annual Mojave River Discharge and Net Recharge for Selected Periods

Time Period (Water Year to Water Year)	Stream Discharge				Net Recharge (Leakage less Baseflow)			
	The Forks	Lower Narrows	Barstow	Afton	The Forks To Lower Narrows	Lower Narrows To Barstow	Barstow to Afton	Total (The Forks to Afton)
	Average (AFY)				Average (AFY)			
base period (1931-90)	65,589	51,956	17,050	8,247	13,633	34,907	8,802	57,342
early base period (1931-45)	79,435	68,849	35,107	16,662	10,587	33,742	18,445	62,773
middle base period (1946-68)	40,565	31,956	2,733	1,214	8,608	29,223	1,519	39,350
late base period (1969-90)	79,802	59,497	18,848	9,449	20,304	40,649	9,399	70,353
post base period (1991-10)	89,293	42,176	13,558	5,948	47,117	28,618	7,610	83,345
post Judgment (1996-10)	67,225	26,561	9,150	3,339	40,664	17,411	5,811	63,885
recent wet period (1993-05)	105,774	57,163	20,813	8,984	48,612	36,349	11,829	96,790
	% of Average Discharge for Base Period				% of Average Net Recharge for Base Period			
base period (1931-90)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
early base period (1931-45)	121%	133%	206%	202%	78%	97%	210%	109%
middle base period (1946-68)	62%	62%	16%	15%	63%	84%	17%	69%
late base period (1969-90)	122%	115%	111%	115%	149%	116%	107%	123%
post base period (1991-10)	136%	81%	80%	72%	346%	82%	86%	145%
post Judgment (1996-10)	102%	51%	54%	40%	298%	50%	66%	111%
recent wet period (1993-05)	161%	110%	122%	109%	357%	104%	134%	169%
	% of Discharge at The Forks							
base period (1931-90)	100%	79%	26%	13%				
early base period (1931-45)	100%	87%	44%	21%				
middle base period (1946-68)	100%	79%	7%	3%				
late base period (1969-90)	100%	75%	24%	12%				
post base period (1991-10)	100%	47%	15%	7%				
post Judgment (1996-10)	100%	40%	14%	5%				
recent wet period (1993-05)	100%	54%	20%	8%				

ATTACHMENT 4

Historical Flows at Barstow Gauge USGS #10262500
WYs 1931 to 2023



DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT COURIER

Case Name: **City of Barstow v. City of Adelanto, et al.**

Case No.: **CIV208568 (Lead)**

I declare: I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter; my business address is: 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1230. I am familiar with the business practice at the Office of the Attorney General for collection and processing of correspondence for overnight mail with the **Federal Express** courier service. In accordance with that practice, correspondence placed in the internal mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General is deposited with the overnight courier that same day in the ordinary course of business.

On July 22, 2025, I served the **DECLARATION OF JAMES BLANKE IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE'S RESPONSE TO WATERMASTER'S MOTION TO ADJUST FREE PRODUCTION ALLOWANCE FOR THE 2025-2026 WATER YEAR** by transmitting a true copy via electronic mail. In addition, I placed a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope, in the internal mail system of the Office of the Attorney General, for overnight delivery, addressed as follows:

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America, the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on July 22, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

Beatriz Davalos
Declarant


Signature

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO}

I am employed in the County of the San Bernardino, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, California 92307.

On July 22, 2025, the document(s) described below were served pursuant to the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster's Rules and Regulations paragraph 8.B.2 which provides for service by electronic mail upon election by the Party or paragraph 10.D, which provides that Watermaster shall mail a postcard describing each document being served, to each Party or its designee according to the official service list, a copy of which is attached hereto, and which shall be maintained by the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster pursuant to Paragraph 37 of the Judgment. Served documents will be posted to and maintained on the Mojave Water Agency's internet website for printing and/or download by Parties wishing to do so.

Document(s) filed with the court and served herein are described as follows:

- **Declaration of James Blanke in Support of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Response to Watermaster's Motion to Adjust Free Production Allowance for the 2025-2026 Water Year**

 X (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on July 22, 2025 at Apple Valley, California.



Jeffrey D. Ruesch

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Gabrych Family Trust dated October 9, 2007
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Gabrych Family Trust dated Octobner 9, 2007
2006 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92028-8816

Gaeta, Miguel and Maria
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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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Attn: Brian C. Vail (bvail@river-west.com)
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Mojave Basin Area Watermaster Service List as of July 22, 2025

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