SCV GSA

MEMBER AGENCIES

SCV WATER

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT of REGIONAL PLANNING

LACWD

Draft Response to Public Comments on Draft GSP

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Jeff Barry/GSI Water Solutions

November 23, 2021

Public Comment On Draft GSP

Common Themes	Comment Ideas
Monitoring Wells	well condition and replacement
Arundo Removal	support
Climate Change Models	Use extreme wet and dry models
Public Trust*	interconnected streams
Human Right to Water*	depths, extraction, water quality
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems *	historical conditions, trigger, upland, oaks, water reclamation plant flows
Disadvantaged Communities *	Outreach, population, private well use
Domestic Wells *	depths, extraction, water quality
Conservation Easement *	Request from CDFW to include its Conservation Easements
Subsidence *	past and future monitoring

* Special Slides

Public Trust Doctrine
Summary of Comment Consideration

- Key Themes: The GSP should consider effects on the Public Trust
- Comment Consideration:
  - The GSP considers and protects Public Trust uses, namely environmental beneficial uses and users of groundwater, including GDEs and interconnected surface water, against adverse impacts caused by pumping.

Human Right to Water
Summary of Comment Consideration

- Comment consideration
  - The human right to water is generally agreed to encompass disadvantaged communities, domestic wells, and drinking water
  - Comments in each of those areas have led to expanded consideration in the plan
  - Data gathered during plan implementation will lead to more specific actions

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Key Themes and Comment Consideration

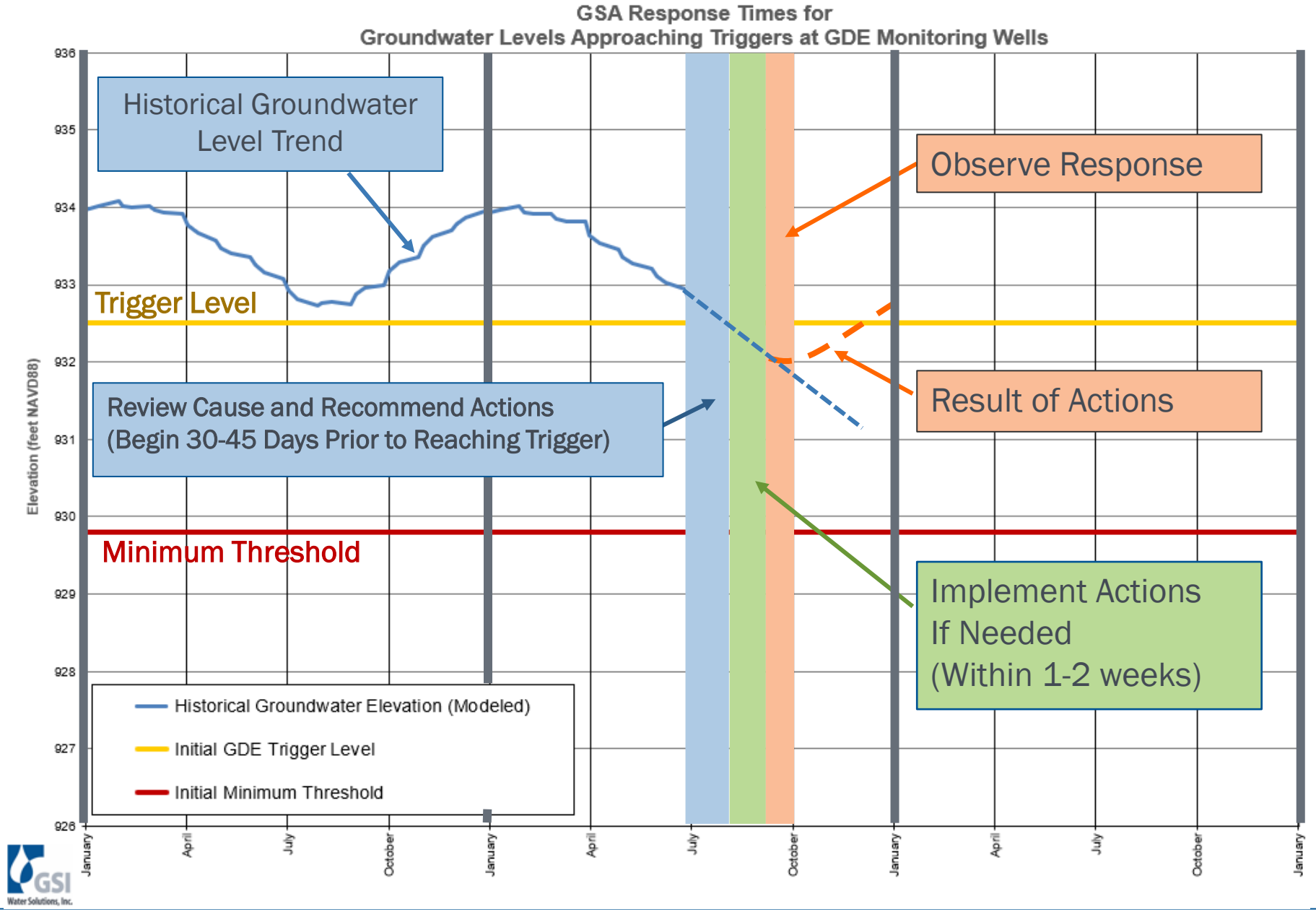
- Key Themes: *Historical Condition and Undesirable Results, Triggers, Upland GDEs, Water Reclamation Plant Flows*
- Comment Consideration:
  - High level- the river corridor is affected by drought and flood, but it's overall a resilient system
  - Triggers reflect past resilience to drought
  - What do we know about historical conditions?
    - Long term groundwater elevation data and numerical model simulations
    - Enhanced Vegetative Index (EVI) satellite data

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Comment Consideration

How are we going to monitor GDEs?

GDE Monitoring Location	Important Observations
Groundwater Levels (monthly during summer months at GDE wells)	Where are water levels relative to GDE triggers and what are trends
Surface water flow (monthly in summer)	Where is surface water flow (observations and gauges)
Periodic biological monitoring	Documentation of plant and habitat health at monitoring locations
Enhanced Vegetative Index (EVI, monthly in summer)	Satellite imagery analysis that considers relative "greenness" light frequencies

Process Example



Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Summary of Comment Consideration

- Historically resilient river corridor
- Ongoing monitoring and analysis utilizes EVI and other data from GDE Evaluation Process during implementation
- Minimum Thresholds designed to avoid unacceptable surface water depletion
- GDE Triggers are higher than Minimum Thresholds.
- Overall approach is to avoid undesirable results from pumping while also filling data gaps, refining criteria, and optimizing basin operation

Disadvantaged Communities
Key Themes and Comment Consideration

- Key Themes: *Clarify outreach to DACs, conduct more DAC outreach*
- Comment Consideration:
  - We have conducted additional detailed evaluations of DAC areas
    - Analysis of DAC private well use
    - Opportunities for focused outreach

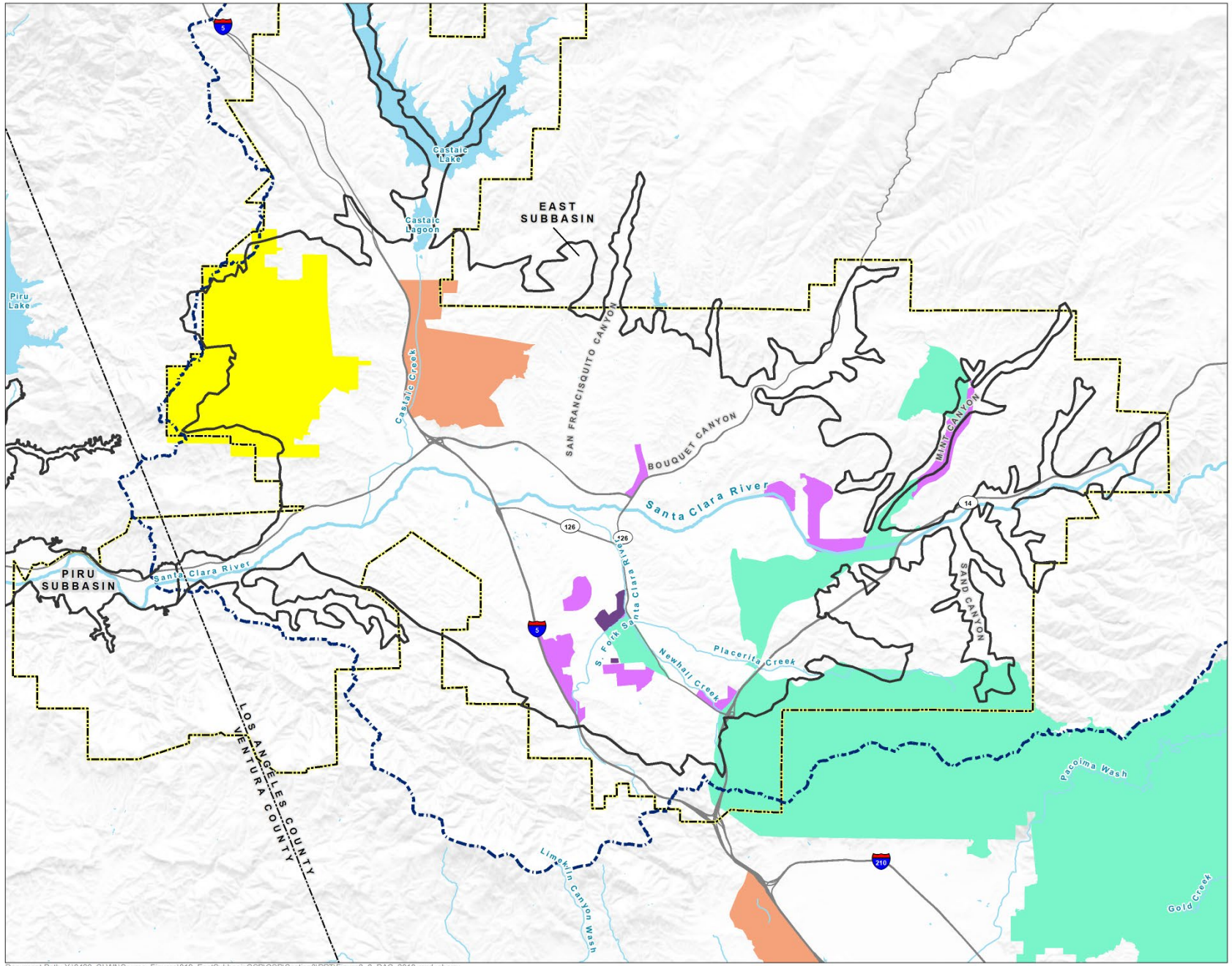


FIGURE 3-6

Disadvantaged Community Census Block Groups and Municipal Water Supply Area

Santa Clara River Valley
East Groundwater Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Plan

DRAFT

LEGEND

- LACWWD36

Disadvantaged Communities Block Groups

- Severely Disadvantaged Communities (MHI < $42,737)
- Severely Disadvantaged Communities (MHI <= $56,982)

Disadvantaged Communities Tract

- Data Not Available
- Severely Disadvantaged Communities ($42,737 <= MHI < $56,982)

All Other Features

- Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin
- Watershed Boundary
- Service Boundary Area for SCV Water
- Major Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

NOTES:
MHI: median household income
SCV Water: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

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Feet

Date: November 23, 2021
Data Sources: USGS, Southern California Association of Governments, 2008, LA County and City of Santa Clarita, 2012, DWR Bulletin 118, SCV Water, 2021.

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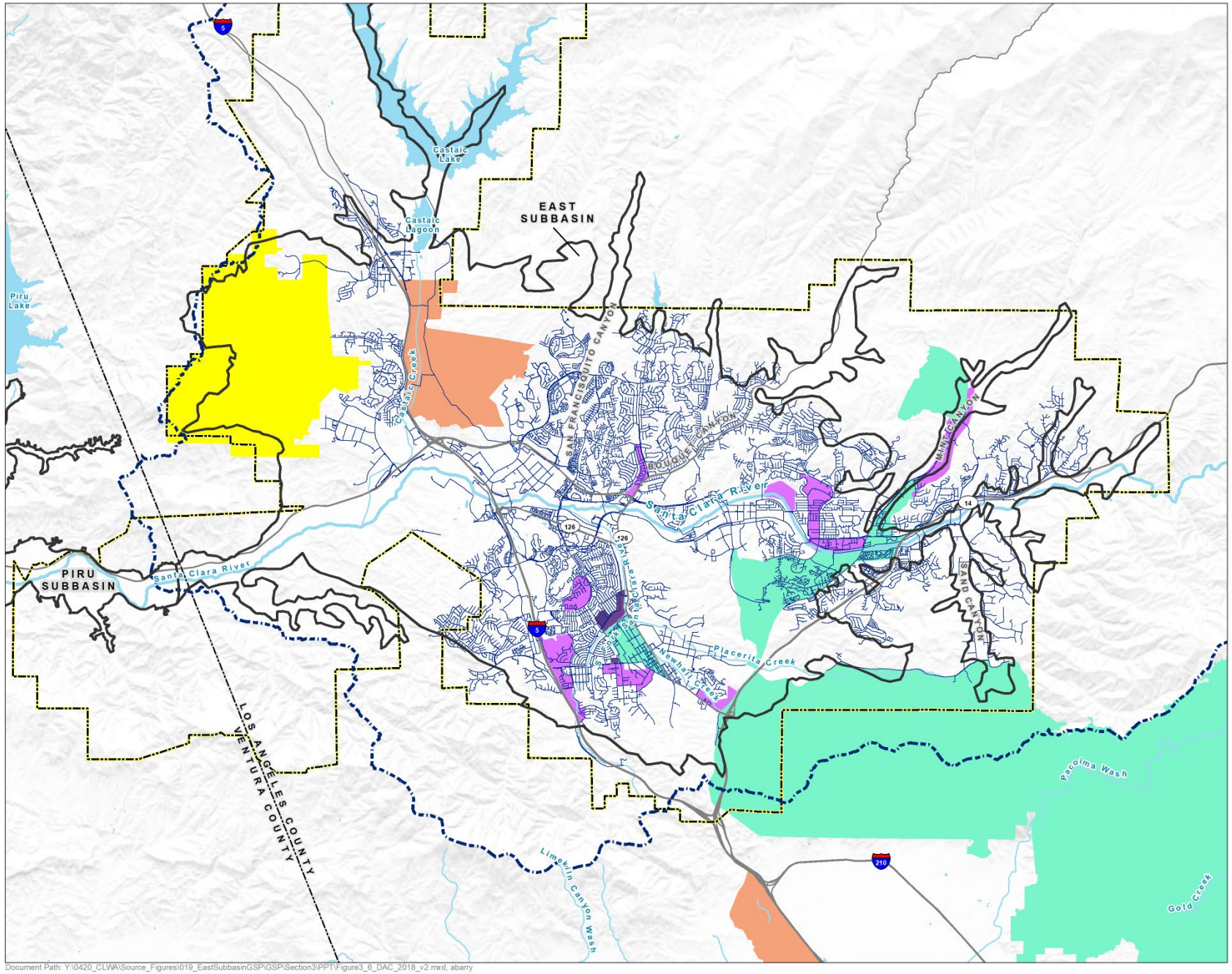

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Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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Disadvantaged Communities Comment Consideration

DAC POPULATION TABLES

DAC GEOID10	292	293	311	313	336	351	38	381	30200	382	37	342	31	372	33	373
Population within GSA	1431	633	1077	906	6554	1837	2219	2258	5	650	8050	790	5543	4306	97	1700
Water Supplier	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA

DAC GEOID10	362	20200	1121	3122	3132	3304	3313	3341	3362	3363	3364	3371	3223	Val Verde	LARC Ranch	Lily of the Valley
Population within GSA	609	5243	1167	1724	977	1498	895	647	1240	2593	1626	2869	288	2734	100	600
Water Supplier	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	SCVWA	LAWWD36	Private Well	Private Well

- Population estimates derived from the Department of Water Resources DAC Mapping Tool Website

Disadvantaged Communities Comment Consideration

Communications Channel	Target Audience
Facebook / Instagram / Twitter / Website	General Public with Computer Access
E-Blast (Constant Contact)	Key Stakeholders, including pumpers, environmental groups and businesses
Press Release	Media - Distributed to 40 Outlets including local news, SCV Chamber, VIA and water industry publications
The Signal - Print Ad	General Public without Computer Access
The Signal - Digital Ad	General Public with Computer Access
Handout	DACs - Distributed to the Library and other local businesses

FLYER DISTRIBUTION

1. Von's, 24160 Lyons Avenue
2. Newhall Library
3. Polynesian Mobile Home Park
4. Stater Bros, 26900 Sierra Hwy
5. Cordova Estates
6. Canyon View Estates
7. Canyon Palms Mobile Home Park
8. Sierra Heights Mobile Home Park
9. Canyon Country Mobile Home Estates
10. Val Verde Park
11. Lily of the Valley Mobile Home Comm.
12. LARK Ranch
13. Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library
14. Bodhi Leaf, 26910 Sierra Hwy
15. Canyon Country Community Center, 18410 Sierra Hwy

Disadvantaged Communities Summary of Comment Consideration

- Additional outreach to DACs made ahead of and for today's meeting
- Additional focus will be made in the future for DAC outreach
- With two exceptions mentioned (in draft GSP), we do not find evidence of DACs reliant on domestic wells

Domestic Wells
Key Themes and Comment Consideration

- Key Themes: *Domestic Well Depths, Extraction Amounts, Water Quality Data, Undesirable Results for Chronic Decline in Water Levels*
- Comment Consideration
  - Expanded on Draft GSP Discussion
    - Well density
    - Average Well depth
    - Extraction Volumes from de minimis wells estimated at 500 AF/year
    - DAC population reliant on private wells conservatively estimated at 700 in Bouquet Canyon

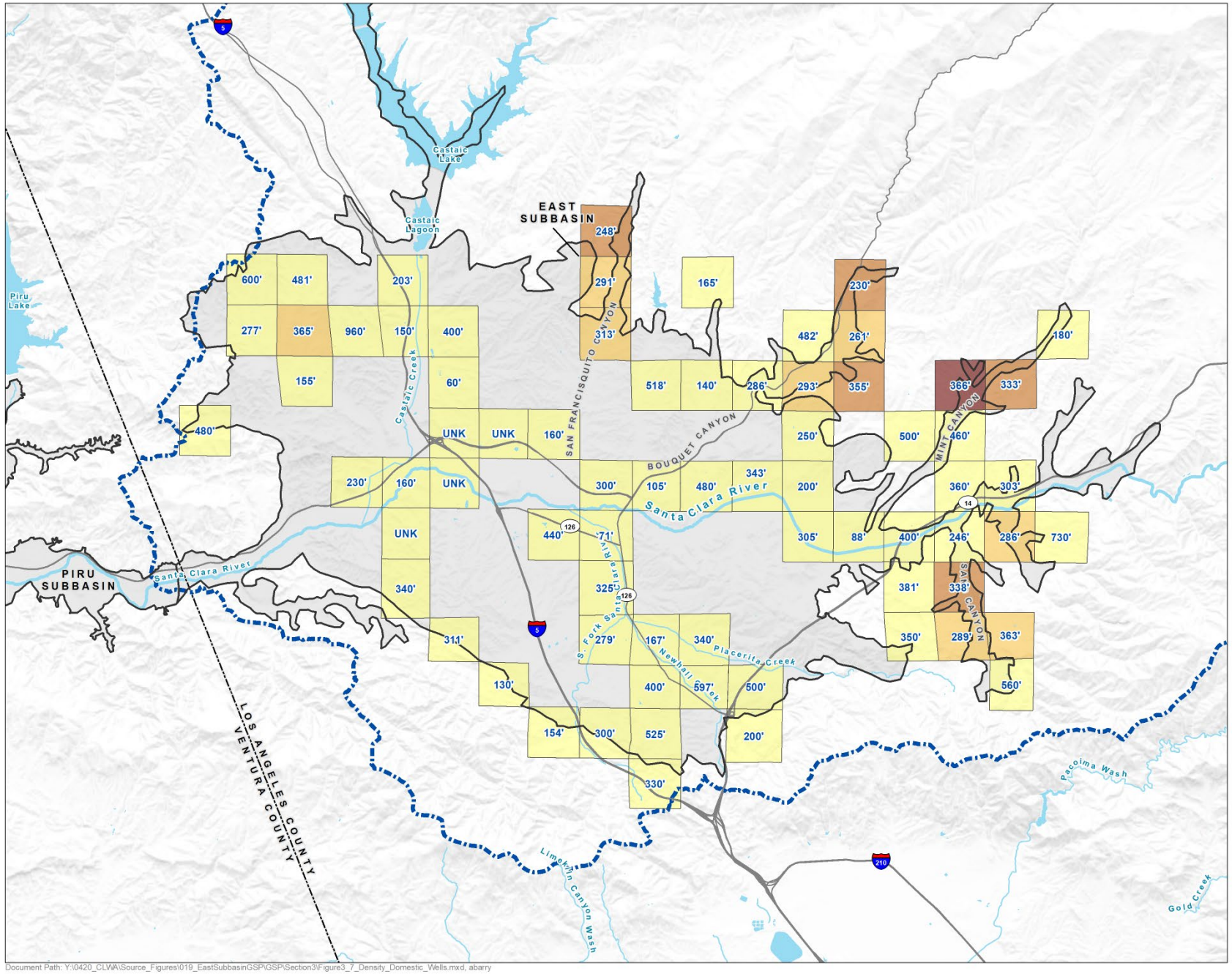

FIGURE 3-7

Density and Average Well Depth of Domestic Wells per Square Mile

Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin

LEGEND

481' Average Well Depth (feet)

Domestic Well Count

- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 15
- 16 - 24

All Other Features

- Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin
- Watershed Boundary
- Major Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

NOTE
UNK: unknown

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Feet

Date: November 18, 2021
Data Sources: USGS, DWR Bulletin 118, Luhdorff & Scalmanini, 2021.

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

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Domestic Wells
Summary of Comment Consideration

- The Draft GSP will expand on what is known about domestic well use serving Disadvantaged Communities.
- GSP Implementation already includes outreach task to domestic well owners for water quality and water level monitoring.
- Outreach for future domestic well monitoring will include DACs

CDFW Conservation Easement
Key Themes and Comment Consideration

- Key Theme: *CDFW commented that it would like its Conservation Easements included in Figure 3-3.*
- Comment Consideration:
  - Conservation easements put in place over time as development took place in the valley. Much of the conservation easement land has been donated to the City of Santa Clarita, but CDFW holds the easements.
  - Figure has been modified

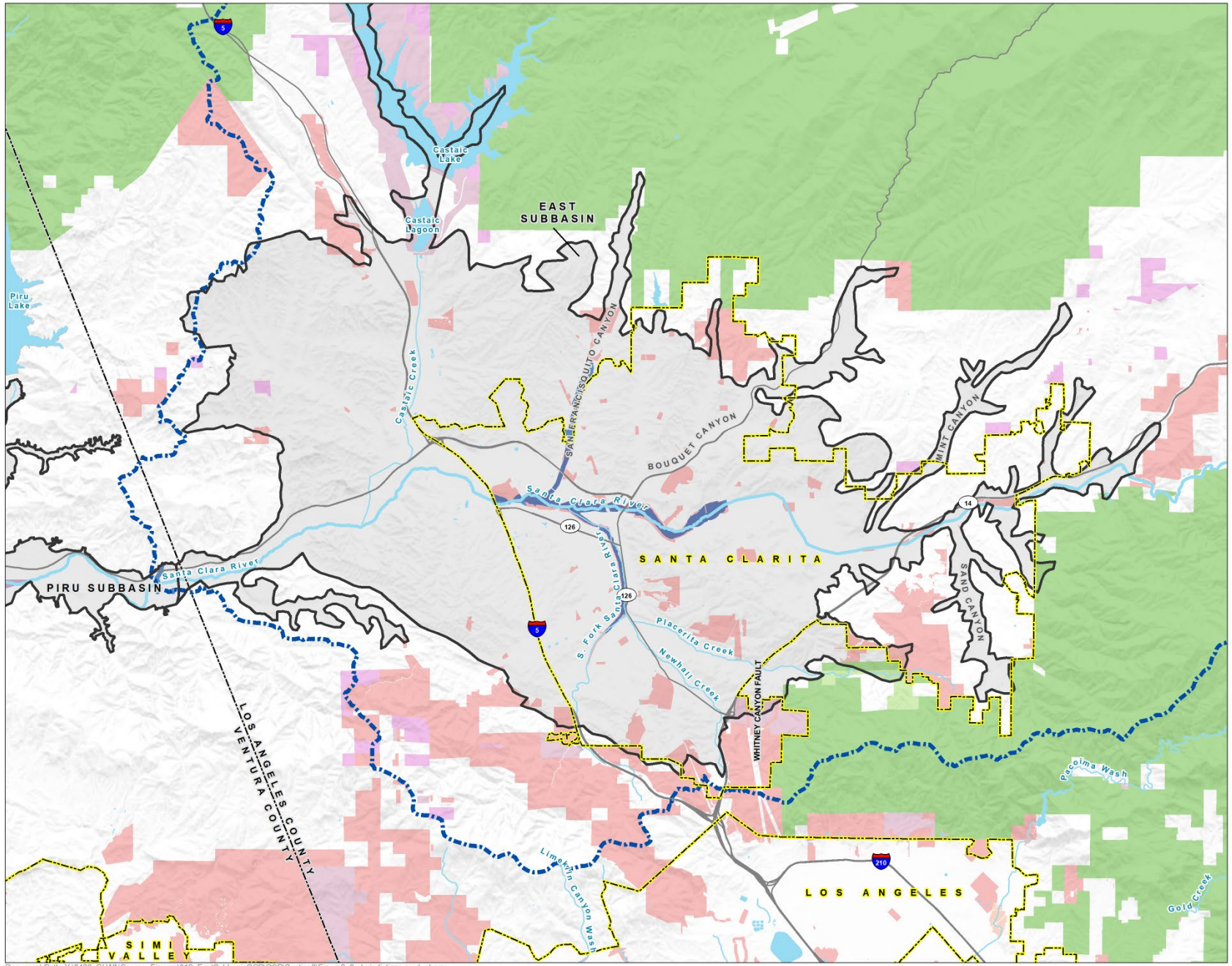

FIGURE 3-3

Federal, State, and County Jurisdictions in the Subbasin

Santa Clara River Valley
East Groundwater Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Defense
- Local Government
- Non-Profit Conservancies and Trusts
- Other Federal Lands
- Other State Lands
- USDA Forest Service
- CDFW Conservation Easement

All Other Features

- City Boundary
- Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin
- Watershed Boundary
- Major Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

NOTE:
CDFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Feet

Date: November 18, 2021
Data Sources: USGS, DWR Bulletin 118, CA.gov

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

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Subsidence
Key Themes and Comment Consideration

- Key Themes: *nature of past study and future evaluation*
- Comment Consideration:
  - Data on land surface elevations has been collected historically, but not for the specific purpose of evaluating land subsidence
  - Data first collected in 1978, roughly every 7 years since
  - GSP team reviewed past data and made a number of observations

Subsidence
Key Themes and Comment Consideration

- Comment Consideration:
  - Average long term rates of land subsidence based on County benchmark data on the order of 0.001 foot per year
  - Tectonically active basin
  - No clear evidence of land subsidence caused by groundwater extraction
  - Future monitoring will be implemented to measure County benchmarks in the spring and fall
    - Elevation monitoring 2X per year will inform seasonal changes, if present

Other anticipated revisions

- In addition to the public comment summarized, there are other clarifications planned for the Draft GSP, including
  - Section 7 Monitoring Networks
    - Additional description on implementation LA County benchmark monitoring
  - Section 8 Sustainable Management Criteria
    - Clarify second bullet on Page 8-42 to reference pools for consistency
    - Clarify additional native fish are present
    - More consistency regarding land owner consultation text

Other anticipated revisions

- In addition to the public comment summarized, there are other clarifications planned for the Draft GSP, including
  - Section 9.6 Other Groundwater Management Actions and Projects
    - Add discussion about support of Bouquet Canyon Creek restoration
  - Section 10 GSP Implementation
    - Budget regarding GDE Evaluation Process may undergo revision to account for additional field time and other measures (under evaluation)

Timing and Outreach Considerations

Communications Channel	Target Audience	Date
Facebook / Instagram / Twitter / Website	General Public with Computer Access	Dec 28
E-Blast (Constant Contact)	Key Stakeholders, including pumpers, environmental groups and businesses	Dec 13 and Dec 28
Press Release	Media - Distributed to 40 Outlets including local news, SCV Chamber, VIA and water industry publications	Dec 28
The Signal - Print Ad	General Public without Computer Access	Dec 20 – Jan 2
The Signal - Digital Ad	General Public with Computer Access	Dec 20 – Jan 2
Handout	DACs - Distributed to the Library and other local businesses	Dec 28

Recommendation

- That the Board of Directors consider the material provided by staff in this report and provide staff direction in preparation of the final draft to be considered for adoption at the January 3, 2022 Board meeting.