Consideration to Adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report

SCV GSA Board Meeting
March 23, 2026
Item No. 3.1

OVERVIEW

- Annual reports are required by the State's GSP Regulations.

- This year's Annual Report for water year 2025 (Oct 1-Sep 30), will be the fifth submitted to DWR.

- 2024 Annual Report – submitted to DWR
  - DWR Comment letter (July 11, 2025) on the 2024 Annual Report:
    - DWR found last year's report met the State's requirements.

    - "Following review of the 2024 annual report, the Department has determined that the GSP continues to be implemented in a manner consistent with achieving the Subbasin's sustainability goal as described in the GSP. "

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KEY FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Basin was operated in a sustainable manner in 2025

- No Undesirable Results

Some minimum thresholds were exceeded (including those known to require revision). But no undesirable results

- Annual Report describes where revisions of undesirable results needed, and why revisions are necessary

Total municipal groundwater use in 2025 (18,734 AF)

- Ranged from 13,613 AF in 2024 to 24,969 AF in 2021

Imported water use in 2025 was higher over 2024,

- 45,203 AF, v 44,035 AF respectively

Report describes other ongoing activities

Report briefly describes GSP Periodic Evaluation

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SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA CONDITIONS

Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels (8.2.1)

Twenty-Five Representative Monitoring Wells used (seven of these wells are currently used for GDE monitoring)

Except for three GDE Wells, water levels were above the *minimum thresholds* in 2025.

Chronic Reduction of Groundwater in Storage (8.2.2)

Precipitation was 9.84 inches greater than the 1930-2025 average

Groundwater storage decreased compared to last year

Lower precipitation together with slightly higher pumping, caused a decrease in the volume of water in storage. However, on a cumulative basis, the volume of groundwater in storage remains higher than existed on January 1, 2015.

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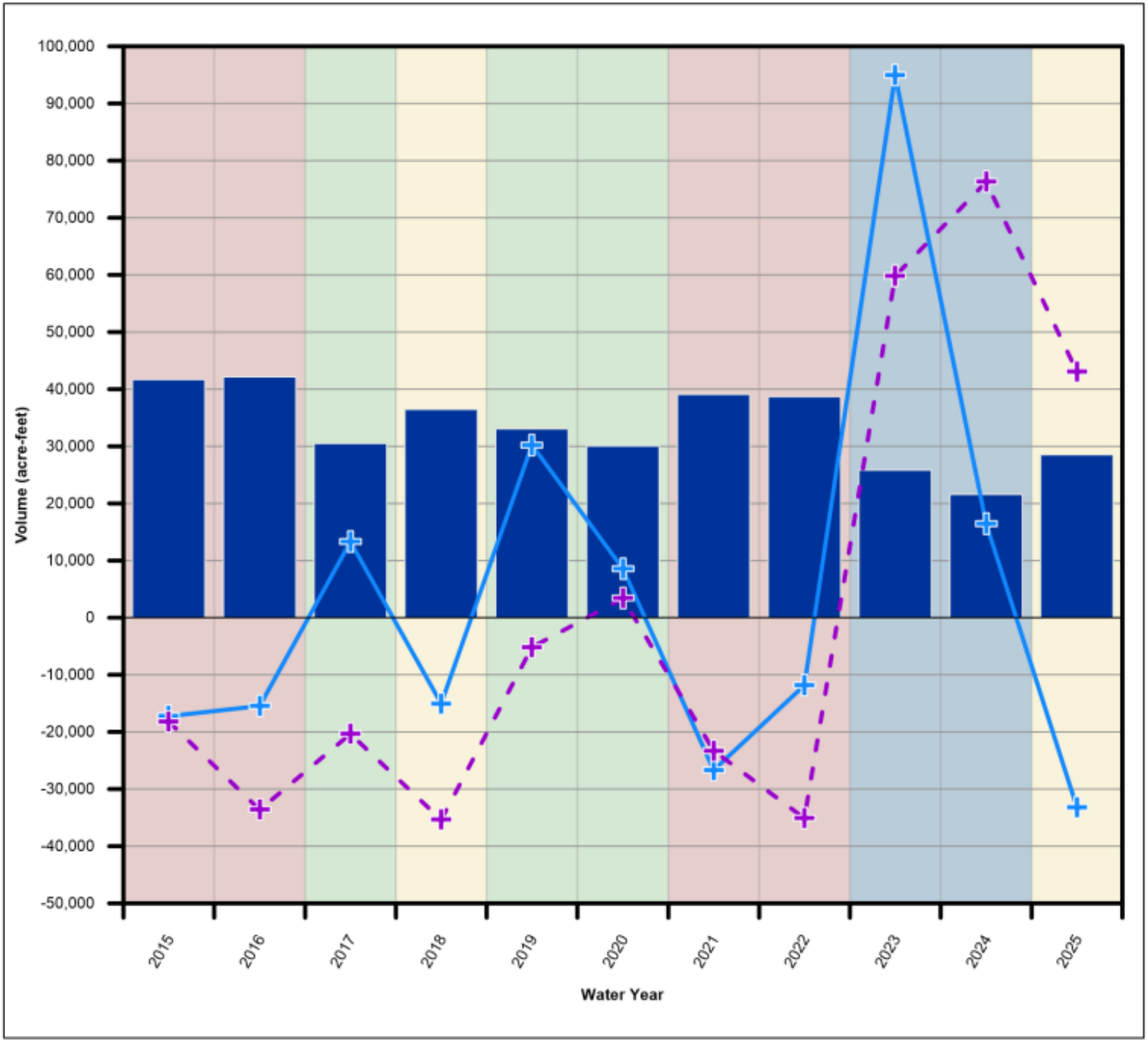

FIGURE 16

Annual and Cumulative Changes in Groundwater in Storage, Water Years 2015-2025

2025 Annual Report for the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

LEGEND

- Annual Change in Groundwater in Storage
- Cumulative Change in Groundwater in Storage
- Total Annual Groundwater Pumping

Water Year Type

- Wet
- Above Normal
- Below Normal
- Dry
- Critical

SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA CONDITIONS

Seawater Intrusion (8.2.3)- not applicable

Degraded Groundwater Quality in Storage (8.2.4)

Minimum thresholds for salts and nutrients are measured in two different tests

Test 1

Water quality objectives for TDS, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate

If 20% of the wells in a management zone, exceed WQOs, then the minimum threshold has been exceeded in that management zone

No exceedances at RMS wells (2021–2025) → no undesirable result

The minimum threshold for sulfate was exceeded in SNMP Management Zone 1 and 3 during 2021-2025.

Minimum threshold exceedance for TDS in SNMP Management Zone 3 during 2021-2025

Test 2

If ambient water quality exceeds the WQO, then the ambient water quality established in the 2016 SNMP is the minimum threshold

The minimum threshold for sulfate and TDS *were not exceeded* during 2021-2025.

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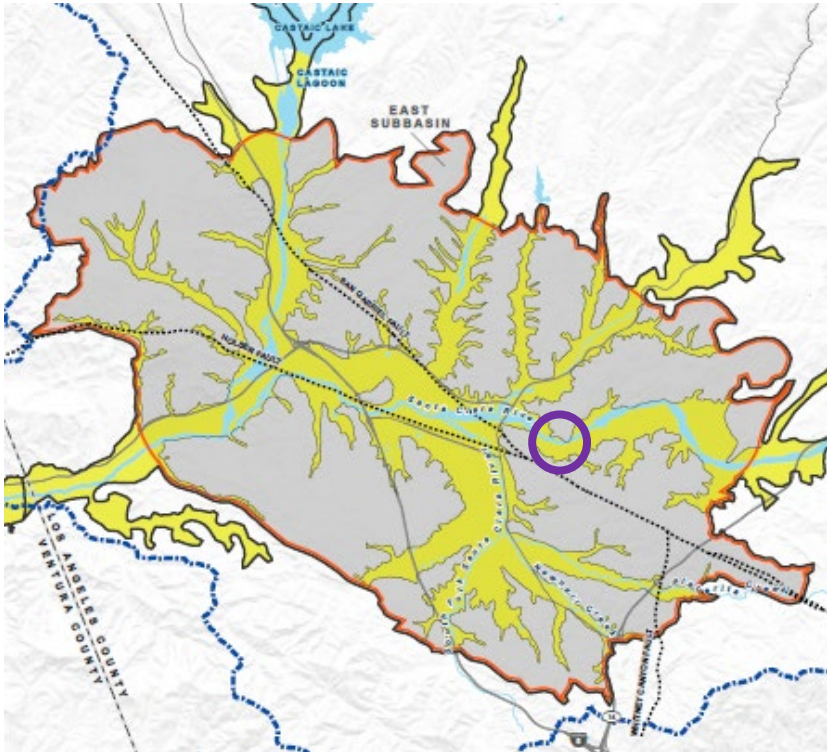
SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA CONDITIONS



Evaluation of the Minimum Threshold Exceedance (Test 1)

Locally high TDS and Sulfate known issue (2016).

Groundwater extraction not likely to cause increase in salts.

No Undesirable Result.

The Sustainable Management Criteria should be clarified/simplified as part of the GSP Periodic Evaluation.

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SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA CONDITIONS

Land Subsidence (8.2.5)

Minimum thresholds for land subsidence is no more than an average of 0.1 foot in any single year and a cumulative 0.5 foot in any 5-year period as observed at 10 percent or more monitoring locations.

Land surface elevations measured by different methods

Satellite Monitoring

- InSAR (SGMA Data Viewer)
- UNAVCO (SKYB station)

Land Survey

- Semiannual topographic survey of 12 benchmark stations

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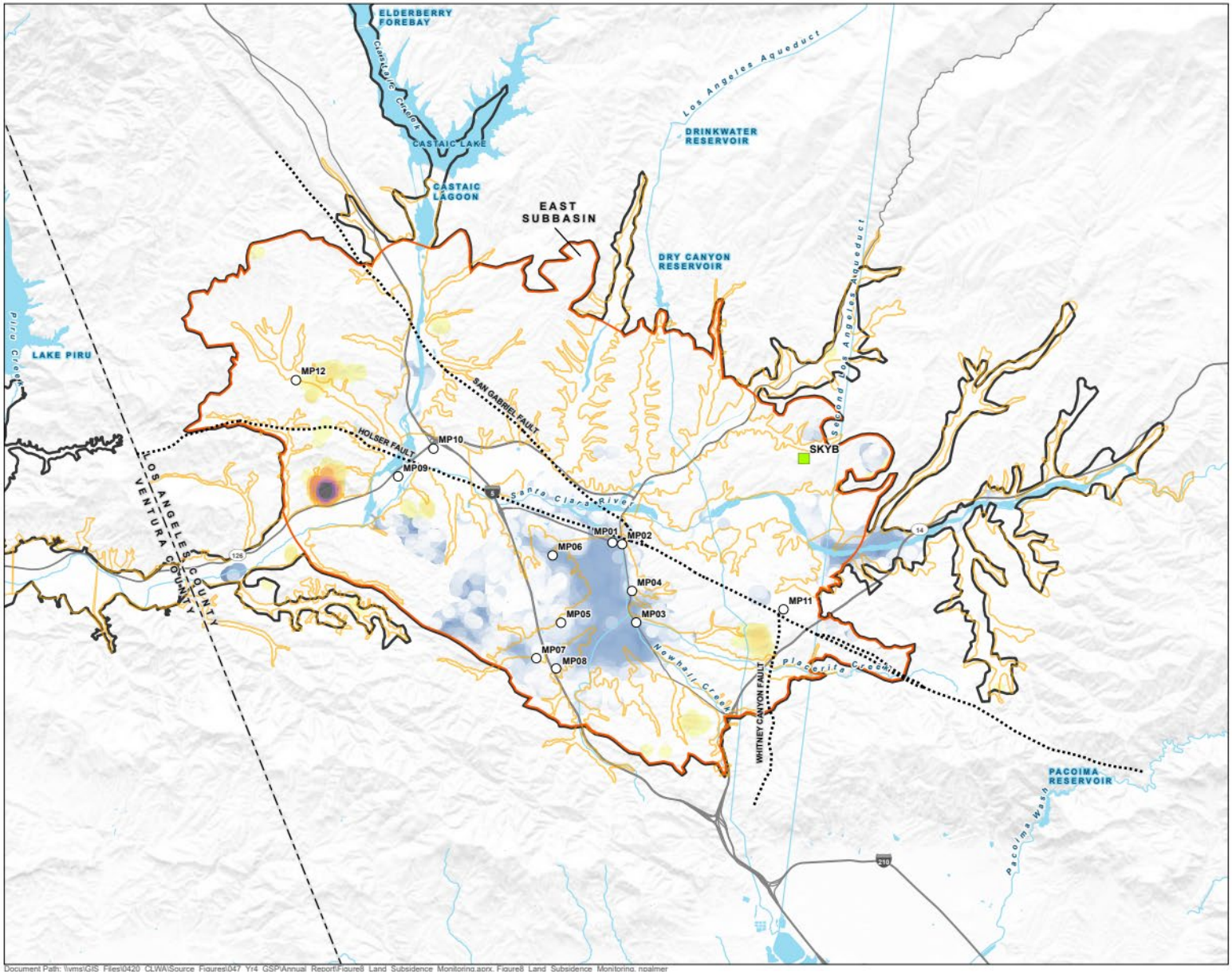

FIGURE 8

Satellite-Observed Vertical Displacement (June 2015 through July 2025) and Benchmark Locations for Ground-Based Land Subsidence Monitoring

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LEGEND

- LADPW Benchmark
- UNAVCO Plate Boundary Station
- Santa Clara River Valley Groundwater Basin
- Outer Margin of Saugus Formation
- Alluvial Aquifer

Total Land Subsidence (InSAR)

Uplift feet

0.12

0.06

Subsidence feet

-0.06

-0.80

All Other Features

- County Boundary
- Fault
- Major Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

NOTES

InSAR: Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar
LADPW: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
UNAVCO: University NAVSTAR Consortium

N

0 5,000 10,000 15,000
FEET

Date: January 28, 2026
Data Sources: BLM, ESRI, USGS, Imagery (2022)

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Document Path: \\vms\GIS Files\0420 CLWA\Source Figures\047 Yr4 GSP\Annual Report\Figure8 Land Subsidence Monitoring.aprx, Figure8 Land Subsidence Monitoring, pgalmer

SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA CONDITIONS

Land Subsidence (8.2.5)

InSAR: Single Year land surface elevation changes were between -.01 to +.01 foot across the basin.

InSAR: 2015-2024 cumulative subsidence generally < -0.2 ft (with some exceptions where land surface elevation changed)

Unavco SKYB is a background point in the basin and, comparing it to InSAR can be used as a check. Both reflect average positive displacement from 2001-2024.

Land Survey two survey events took place in WY 2025. Changes were in the hundredths of feet (+/-) which is less than the 0.1 ft. threshold

No data exceeded 0.1 foot in Water Year 2025

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SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA CONDITIONS

Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (8.2.6)

- Seven wells are currently used to monitor for exceedances of *Minimum Thresholds and GDE Triggers* (MTs and Triggers are set too high in some GDE wells-known issue)
- **In 2025, the minimum thresholds and GDE triggers were *exceeded* at GDE B, C, and D.**

Evaluation of the Minimum Threshold Exceedance

Known issue- need correction. GDE Evals confirm absence of undesirable results too.

No Undesirable Results. The Sustainable Management Criteria will be revised as part of the GSP Periodic Evaluation.

Graphic next page (adopted v tentative revisions)

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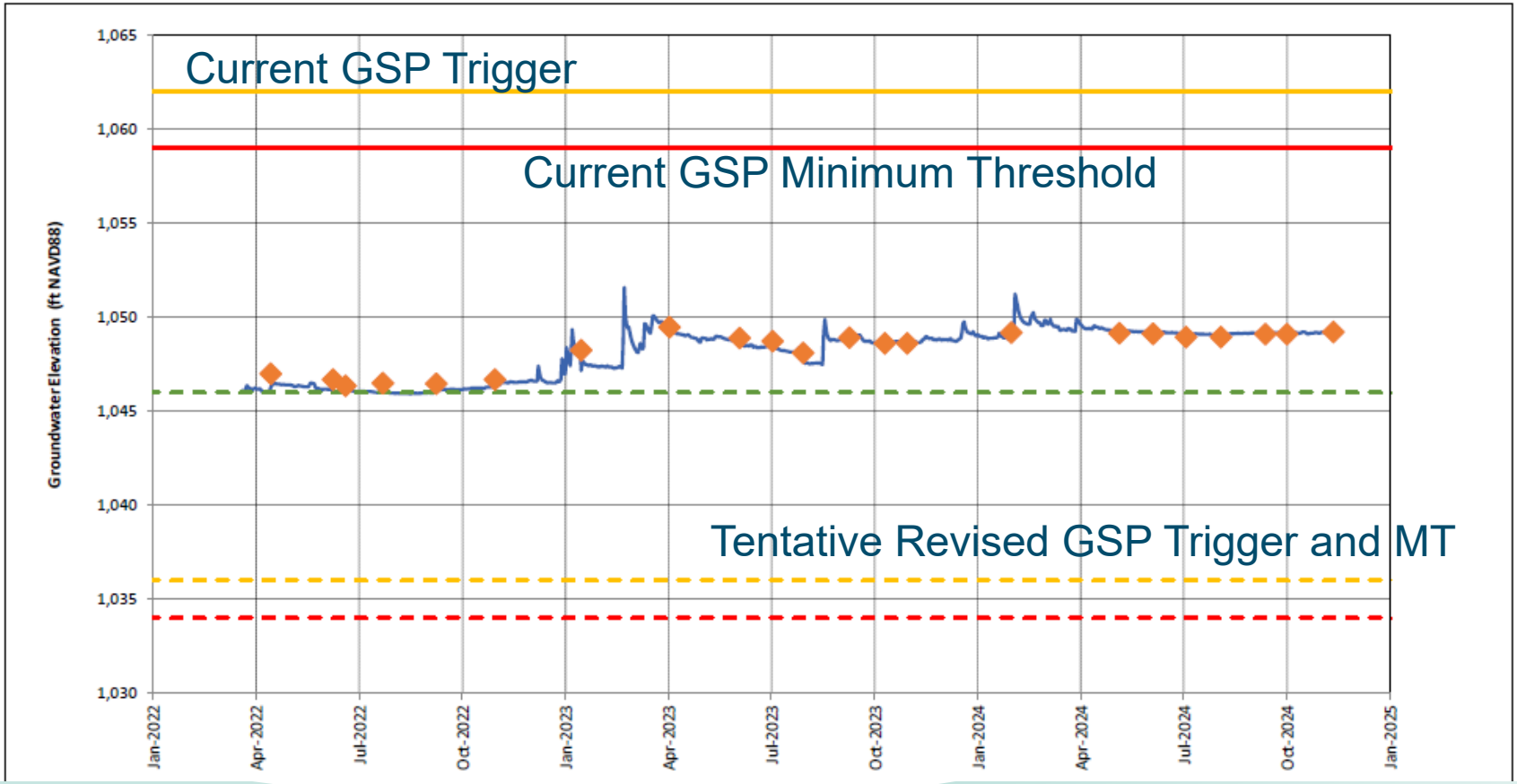
EXAMPLE GDE PLOT (GDE B) OLD VS. TENTATIVE REVISED MT AND TRIGGER



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CONCLUSIONS

- **Existing Monitoring networks are in reasonably good order**
- **The Basin was operated sustainably in water year 2025 and no undesirable results for any sustainable management criteria took place**
- **Some exceedances of minimum thresholds took place, which do not reflect undesirable results, but *reflect* the need for clarification**
- **Other GSP implementation steps regarding outreach to private well owners (de-minimis wells, and non de-minimis wells) have substantially been completed**
- **With the GSP Periodic Evaluation, we are conducting public workshops, revising SMC as necessary to align with DWR's recommended corrective action.**

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the SCV-GSA Board of Directors adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report

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