

County of Monterey

Schilling Government Center
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final

Saffron Room - 1441 Schilling Pl, Salinas CA 93901 or Via Zoom

Thursday, March 26, 2026

1:30 PM

**SLO County Chair location: Old Courthouse Room 207
976 Osos St. San Luis Obispo Ca. 93408**

Water Resources Advisory Committee

For information on The Ralph M. Brown Act: Open Meetings, please click the link below:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

John Baillie, Chair

Jason Smith, Vice Chair

Ken Ekelund

Jon Conatser

Doug Scattini

David Bunn

Steve McIntyre

Grant Cremers

Dennis Lebow

Robin Lee

Patrick Breen

Nathan Merkel

Anna McKenna

Douglas Blois

Salinas Valley City - Vacant

How to participate in this meeting:

Via Zoom: Members of the public may participate in this meeting virtually via computer or smart device. To Join the Zoom Meeting, copy and paste the link into your browser: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/94660417478?pwd=tPGpV3BHvH3Z9ikayGJjfmaIifAT.1>

Meeting ID: 946 6041 7478 Password: 414544

To Participate via phone, you can call the number below and enter the webinar ID number and password when prompted:
Phone Number: (669) 219 2599 Meeting ID: 946 6041 7478 Password: 414544

In-Person at the address listed above.

Public Comments: The following options are available to any member of the public participating virtually or in person who wishes to make any comments to the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

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The Chair and/or Secretary may set reasonable rules as needed to conduct the meeting in an orderly manner

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El Presidente y/o el Secretario podrán establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para conducir la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comments

Committee Member Comments

Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Minutes of the Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting held on February 26, 2026.

Attachments: [draft WRAC Minutes Feb 26th 2026](#)

Presentations

2. Review of the 2025 August Trough Groundwater Contours. (Staff Presenting: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno.)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Attachment A: August Trough 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 180-Ft, and East Side Shallow Aquifers](#)
[Attachment B: August Trough 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 400-Ft, and East Side Deep Aquifers](#)

3. Review of the 2025 Seawater Intrusion Maps.(Staff Presenting: Amy Woodrow.)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Attachment 1: Historical Seawater Intrusion Map – 2025 – 180-Foot Aquifer](#)
[Attachment 2: Seawater Intrusion Phases 2025 – 180-Foot Aquifer](#)
[Attachment 3: One-Year Chloride Concentration Changes in the 180-Foot Aquifer](#)
[Attachment 4: Historical Seawater Intrusion Map – 2025 – 400-Foot Aquifer](#)
[Attachment 5: Historical Seawater Intrusion Map with Review Area – 400-Foot Aquifer](#)
[Attachment 6: Seawater Intrusion Phases 2025 – 400-Foot Aquifer](#)
[Attachment 7: One-Year Chloride Concentration Changes in the 400-Foot Aquifer](#)

4. Review of the Annual Groundwater Level Contours.(Staff Presenting: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno.)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Attachment A: Annual 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 180-Ft and East Side Shallow, Forebay and Upper Valley Aquifers](#)
[Attachment B: Annual 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 400-Ft and East Side Deep Aquifers](#)
[Attachment C: Cumulative Groundwater Level Change Chart, 1944-2025](#)
[Attachment D: Summary of Annual Groundwater Level Changes, 2024 to 2025](#)

5. Overview of Salinas River Flow Prescription and Water Year Type Forecast.(Staff Presenting: Jason Demers.)

Scheduled Items

6. 2026 Reservoir Release Schedule.(Staff Presenting: Joey Klein.)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
 [Draft 2026 Reservoir Release Schedule](#)

Staff Reports

7. Current Reservoir Conditions, Releases, and Downstream Flows. (Staff Presenting:Casey DeLay.)

Attachments: [Reservoir Storage Release Update Report Mar 26](#)
 [Reservoir Elevation and Storage Mar 26](#)

8. Invasive Mussel Prevention Activities.(Staff Presenting: Amy Woodrow.)

Status Reports

9. • Reservoir Recreation and Parks Activities
 • County of San Luis Obispo Activities

Calendar

10. Set the next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

Adjournment



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-078

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/12/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Approve the Minutes of the Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting held on February 26, 2026.

County of Monterey

*Schilling Government Center
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 26, 2026

1:30 PM

**SLO County Chair location: Old Courthouse Room 207
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Water Resources Advisory Committee

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Jason Smith, Vice Chair
Ken Ekelund
Jon Conatser
Doug Scattini
David Bunn
Steve McIntyre
Grant Cremers
Dennis Lebow
Robin Lee
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Nathan Merkel
Anna McKenna
NRWMAC - Vacant
Salinas Valley City - Vacant

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PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, ZOOM ACCESS IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND NOT LEGALLY REQUIRED. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST, THE MEETING MAY PAUSE BRIEFLY BUT CAN CONTINUE AT THE CHAIRPERSON'S DISCRETION

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POR FAVOR TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, EL ACCESO POR ZOOM ES SOLO POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES LEGALMENTE REQUERIDO. SI SE PIERDE LA SEÑAL DE ZOOM, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE BREVE PERO PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

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El Presidente y/o el Secretario podrán establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para conducir la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: John Baillie, Jason Smith, Ken Ekelund, Doug Scatinni, David Bunn, Steve McIntyre, Grant Cremers, Dennis Lebow, Robin Lee, Patrick Breen, Anna McKenna

Absent: Jon Conatser, Nathan Merkle

Public Comments

Bill Lipe.

Committee Member Comments

None.

Presentations

- 1. New Committee Orientation and Introductions. (Staff Presenting: Jason Demers.)**

Committee Member Comments: Robin Lee, David Bunn, Grant Cremers, Dennis Lebow, Patrick Breen, Ken Ekelund
Staff Comments: Jason Demers
Public Comments: Bill Lipe

Staff Reports

2. Overview of 2025 Reservoir Release Schedule. (Staff Presenting: Joey Klein.)

Attachments: [2025 Release Schedule Final](#)
 [2025 Release Schedule Adopted](#)

Committee Member Comments: Robin Lee, David Bunn, Grant Cremers, Dennis Lebow, Patrick Breen, Ken Ekelund
Staff Comments: Jason Demers
Public Comments: Bill Lipe

3. Current Reservoir Conditions, Releases, and Downstream Flows. (Staff Presenting: Joey Klein, Casey DeLay.)

Attachments: [Reservoir Storage Release Report](#)

Committee Member Comments: Ken Ekelund, John Baillie, Grant Cremers, Dennis Lebow, Patrick Breen, Robin Lee
Staff Comments: None.
Public Comments: Bill Lipe, John Worth

4. Reservoir Data and Resources. (Staff Presenting: Casey DeLay.)

Attachments: [WRAC Reservoir Data & Resources Feb 2026](#)

Committee Member Comments: None.
Staff Comments: None.
Public Comments: Bill Lipe

Status Reports

5.
 - Reservoir Recreation and Parks Activities
 - County of San Luis Obispo Activities

Committee Comments: John Baillie
Staff Comments: None.
Public Comments: Bill Lipe

Information Items

6. Water Year 2026 Quarter One Salinas Valley Water Conditions Report

Attachments: [Salinas Valley Water Conditions WY2026 Q1](#)

Calendar

7. Set the next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

Committee Comments: Dennis Lebow, Doug Scattini, Patrick Breen

Staff Comments: None.

Public Comments: Bill Lipe, Nancy Isakson

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm.



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-085

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/18/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Review of the 2025 August Trough Groundwater Contours. (Staff Presenting: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno.)



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-087

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/19/2026

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Review of the 2025 August Trough Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) is responsible for data collection and analysis of groundwater data throughout the Salinas Valley to support the ongoing groundwater level contouring, seawater intrusion mapping, and other programs related to current groundwater conditions. Conditions are assessed throughout the year to better understand how aquifers are responding during different hydrologic conditions as well as the relative groundwater storage fluctuations that occur on an annual basis.

These activities align with Strategic Plan Goals B7, *Use of data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science* and E1, *improve public outreach to increase transparency, communication, education and information about Agency projects and programs*. Activities associated with this program are included in Fund 111 (1501) as part of the Groundwater Monitoring Program in the Agency's Adopted FY 25-26 budget.

OVERVIEW OF 2025 DATA

August Trough Groundwater Level Survey

On a single day in August, Agency staff conducts an intensive groundwater level survey of the northern Salinas Valley referred to as August Trough. Groundwater levels (GWLs) are sampled at around 140 wells from Chualar to the coast, to obtain a snapshot of conditions within and beyond the seawater intrusion fronts. This is done during a time of the year when aquifers are most stressed by pumping. One of the key purposes of the August Trough survey is to monitor and assess the forces driving seawater intrusion, in particular groundwater level gradients sloping inland from the coast, which are most pronounced when pumping is at its seasonal peak.

The 2025 August Trough groundwater elevation contours for the 180-Foot and East Side Shallow Aquifers are included as Attachment A. Compared to the 2024 survey, groundwater elevations adjacent to the coast generally increased by 0 to 1 foot, with localized declines of up to 3 feet observed in areas slightly inland of the coastline. The groundwater elevations at the coast remain just above sea level.

In the East Side Trough, groundwater elevations north of Salinas decreased by approximately 2 to 9 feet. These declines are largely influenced by a single well, and its interpretation is limited due to data

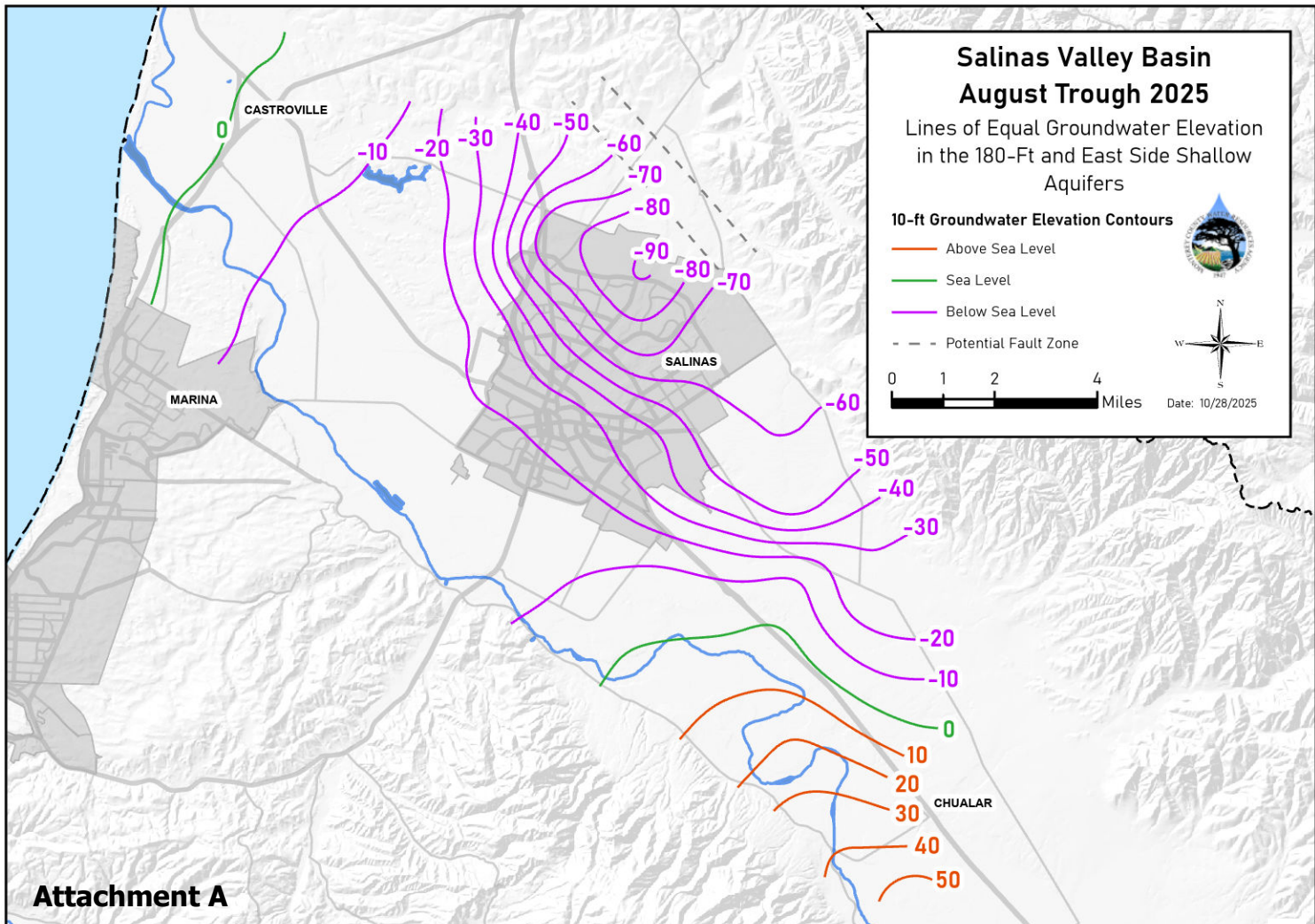
gaps in this area. However, the area towards the southeast experienced increases of 7 to 12 feet. Similarly, the region south of Salinas towards Chualar saw decreases between 1 and 2 feet from last year.

The 2025 August Trough groundwater elevation contours for the 400-Foot and East Side Deep Aquifers are included as Attachment B. Groundwater levels near the coast increased 3-10 feet. In the Espinosa Lake area, groundwater elevations rose between 3 and 5 feet. The absence of the 0-foot elevation contour near the coast indicates that the groundwater elevations in the 400-Foot Aquifer remained around 10 feet below sea level at the coast.

Groundwater elevations in the East Side trough decreased in the area north of Salinas by 5 to 10 feet, with some individual wells showing greater decreases. Meanwhile, the southeastern area saw increases of 8 to 14 feet, however, data availability in this area was limited during the previous year. South of Salinas, towards Chualar, groundwater elevations decreased by 0 to 1 foot compared to last year, while a smaller area towards Spreckels experienced increases of 1 to 3 feet.

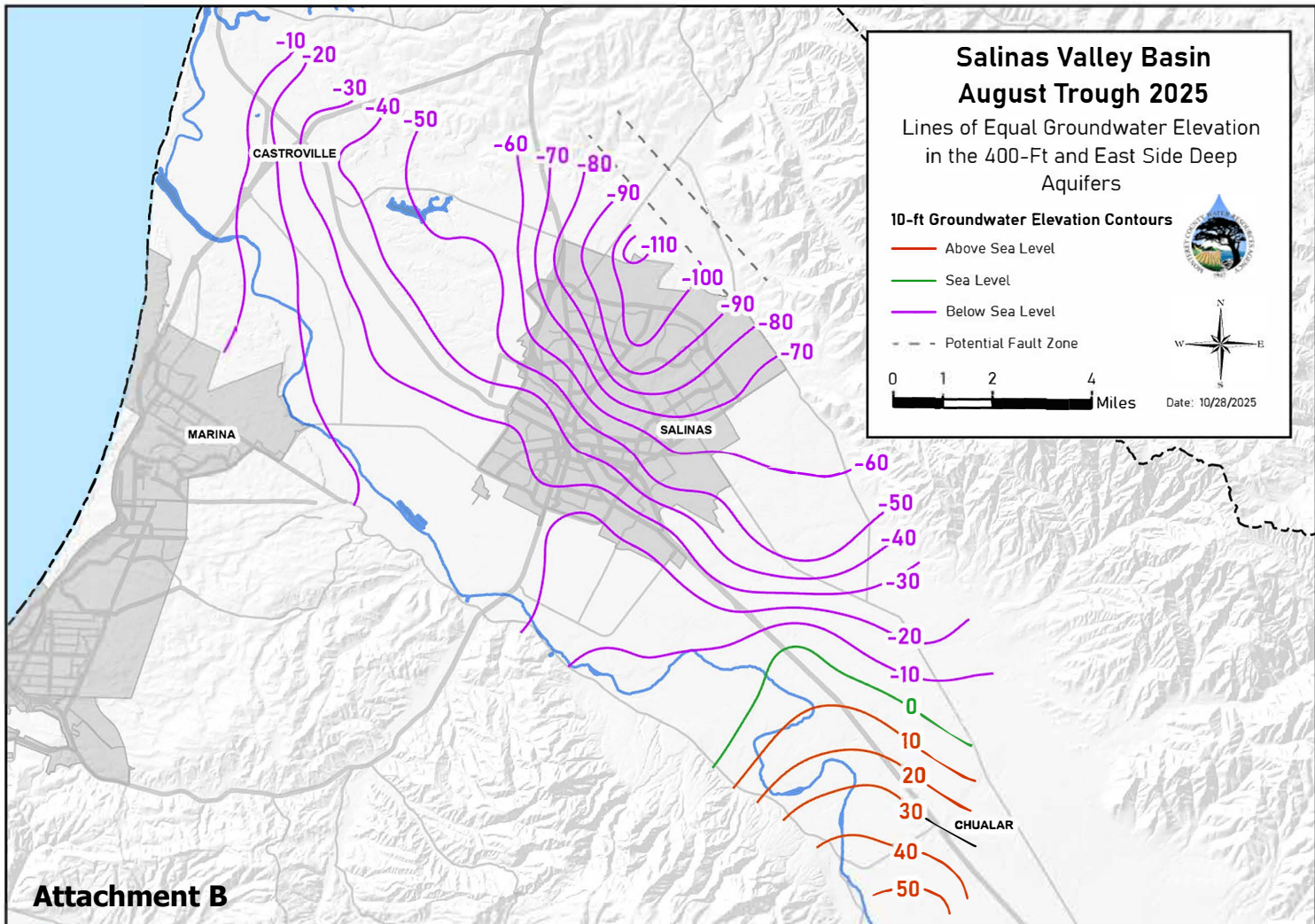
Prepared by: Guillermo Diaz Moreno, Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860
Amy Woodrow, Senior Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

Attachments: Attachment A: August Trough 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 180-Ft, and East Side Shallow Aquifers
Attachment B: August Trough 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 400-Ft, and East Side Deep Aquifers



Attachment A

Note: These groundwater contours represent a regional-scale approximation of the groundwater surface, based on available hydrogeological data, illustrating general groundwater flow patterns: **16**
They should not be interpreted as precise or localized features.



Attachment B

Note: These groundwater contours represent a regional-scale approximation of the groundwater surface, based on available hydrogeological data, illustrating general groundwater flow patterns. They should not be interpreted as precise or localized features.



County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-092

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/20/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Review of the 2025 Seawater Intrusion Maps.(Staff Presenting: Amy Woodrow.)



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-091

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/20/2026

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Review of the 2025 Seawater Intrusion Contour Maps

Overview

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) is responsible for the Groundwater Monitoring Program (GMP) which includes data collection and analysis of data throughout the Salinas Valley to support ongoing groundwater level contouring, seawater intrusion mapping, and other programs related to current groundwater conditions. Conditions are assessed throughout the year to better understand how aquifers are responding during different hydrologic conditions as well as the relative groundwater storage fluctuations that occur on an annual basis.

These activities align with Agency Strategic Plan Goal B, Strategy 2 (*Collaborate with local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, define MCWRA's role, and implement at GSA integration plan*); Goal B, Strategy 7 (*Use of data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science*); and Goal E, Strategy 1 (*Improve public outreach to increase transparency, communication, education and information about Agency projects and programs*). Activities associated with the GMP are included in Fund 111 (1501) of the adopted Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget.

Program Background

Seawater intrusion was first detected in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin in 1933. As seawater intrudes into an aquifer there is a transition zone where seawater and freshwater mix. In the Salinas Valley, the chloride concentrations in this transition zone are between 50 milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is the native water quality of the 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers, and 19,000 mg/L, which is the concentration of chloride in Pacific Ocean water.

The Agency uses the 500 mg/L chloride isocontour as the threshold for determining seawater intrusion into the coastal aquifers. This definition of "seawater intruded" is described in Agency Ordinance No. 03790, Section 1.01.13. A chloride concentration of 500 mg/L is roughly ten times the native concentration of chloride in these aquifers, two times the regulatory limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (250 mg/L), and exceeds the U.S. Department of Agriculture concentration (350 mg/L) for water considered to be of "Class III - injurious or unsatisfactory" quality for agricultural irrigation.

Data Collection and Analysis

Each summer, Agency staff samples approximately 120 agricultural, urban purveyor, and small diameter monitoring wells in the coastal area of the northern Salinas Valley, both in and adjacent to areas that have been impacted by seawater intrusion. Water quality samples are collected from the agricultural and urban wells twice, once in June and again in August. In 2025, the Agency's network of small diameter monitoring wells was sampled in September.

The water quality samples are analyzed by the County of Monterey's Consolidated Chemistry Lab (Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program #1395). The data are then evaluated with several geochemical tools, resulting in 500 mg/L chloride isocontours that map the approximate location of the seawater intrusion front. Supporting data from the groundwater level and groundwater extraction monitoring programs are used to provide additional validation of the chloride isocontour locations. The new polygons depicting the areas that increased above the seawater intrusion threshold are then added to the Historical Seawater Intrusion maps, which illustrate the current seawater intrusion front while highlighting the changes observed over the period of record. As in prior years, the 250 mg/L isocontour is also included on both the 180-Foot Aquifer and 400-Foot Aquifer Historical Seawater Intrusion maps as an indicator of areas where chloride concentrations are approaching, but have not yet surpassed, the 500 mg/L threshold.

The result of an evaluation of the geochemical composition of each groundwater sample is also represented in an additional map showing each well's seawater intrusion phase - categorized as Not Intruded, Phase I or Phase II - alongside the associated chloride value for the current year. By depicting each well's seawater intrusion phase and chloride concentration, this version of the seawater intrusion map illustrates the variability of current conditions relative to where the 500 mg/L chloride isocontour has been delineated over time, acknowledging that conditions may change at well sites as well operation or groundwater conditions evolve.

In 2025, the Agency added four existing wells to the monitoring network in the 180-Foot Aquifer and three existing wells to the monitoring network in the 400-Foot Aquifer, with the goal of filling data gaps and refining the geographic distribution seawater intrusion monitoring data.

For the first time in 2025, the Agency also depicted the "intruded zone" defined by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PV Water), which is delineated using a 250 mg/L chloride isocontour. The PV Water data replaces what was previously shown as a "no data" area north of Elkhorn Slough on the Agency's maps. This information was added to reflect that seawater intrusion is being monitored in the area north of Elkhorn Slough. Details of PV Water's monitoring are available at <https://www.pvwater.org/basin-monitoring>.

2025 Seawater Intrusion Maps - 180-Foot Aquifer

In 2025, the 500 mg/L contour within the 180-Foot Aquifer advanced slightly in two areas: south of Blanco Road and on the northern edge of the main lobe, toward Rodgers Road. The 250 mg/L contour at the leading edge of the main lobe also advanced towards the western city limit of Salinas (Attachment 1).

Groundwater samples collected from wells screened in the 180-Foot Aquifer did not indicate a significant change in the geochemical composition relative to 2024, so none of wells were advanced in their seawater intrusion phase designation (i.e., from Not Intruded to Phase 1, or from Phase 1 to Phase 2) (Attachment 2).

The Agency also reviewed and mapped the one-year percent change in chloride concentration at each of the sampled wells to evaluate variations in the groundwater mass both west (or behind) and east (or ahead) of the 500 mg/L chloride isocontour within the monitored area (Attachment 3). There are 17 wells throughout the monitored area that showed one-year increases in chloride concentration ranging from 1% to 20%, and 15 wells that showed one-year decreases in chloride concentration ranging from 1% to 13%. Two wells showed no change from 2024, and four could not be evaluated because 2025 was the first year of data collection at the well. Percent changes in chloride concentration are not necessarily linear and can be the result of one or more factors including, but not limited to: amount pumped from a well, pumping from nearby wells, the depth of a well's screened interval(s), and local geology. It is also possible that, if pumping changes at or near a well, the percent change in chloride concentration could oscillate between an increase and a decrease from year-to-year. The one-year percent change in chloride concentration, whether a decrease or increase, does not solely determine the phase designation based on the geochemical signature of groundwater sampled from the well, meaning that a well that shows a one-year decrease in chloride concentration could still be considered to be experiencing Phase I or Phase II seawater intrusion.

2025 Seawater Intrusion Maps - 400-Foot Aquifer

In 2025, there was no advancement of the 500 mg/L chloride isocontour in the 400-Foot Aquifer (Attachment 4). However, the Agency has identified an area extending approximately from Cooper Road, on the east, to the Salinas River, on the west, that warrants additional focus in the coming year (Attachment 5). Labeled as a "seawater intrusion review area," the Agency has identified this as an approximate area where, based on verbal information from well owners and limited data obtained from the California State Water Resources Control Board, seawater intrusion could be occurring. There are not sufficient data to make such a determination at this time, but the Agency will be pursuing additional monitoring points in this area for 2026. There was a slight expansion of the 250 mg/L chloride line in 2025, specifically within the "seawater intrusion review area."

Within the 400-Foot Aquifer, one groundwater sample from a well located ahead of the eastern edge of the 250 mg/L contour, north of Espinosa Lake, progressed from Not Intruded in 2024 to Phase 1 in 2025 (Attachment 6).

The Agency mapped the one-year percent change in chloride concentration at each of the sampled wells within the monitored area that are constructed in the 400-Foot Aquifer (Attachment 7). Based on this evaluation, there are 30 wells throughout the monitored area that showed one-year increases in chloride concentration ranging from 1% to 140%, and 20 wells that showed one-year decreases in chloride concentration ranging from 1% to 68%. Seventeen wells showed no change from 2024, and four wells could not be evaluated because there was not a 2024 chloride value to compare to. Attachment 7 designates the wells used to provide a

supplemental groundwater supply for the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project by using a purple border around the well symbol.

As stated previously, the one-year percent change in chloride is one way of looking at variability in water quality conditions between sites, but it is an indicator that can be influenced by multiple factors and is not necessarily suggestive of a long-term trend at the well or in the aquifer as a whole. The change in chloride metric is also not a substitute for a robust evaluation of geochemistry that captures the phase of seawater intrusion a well may be experiencing, which can be separate from the numerical chloride concentration or one-year percent change thereof.

Prepared by: Amy Woodrow, Senior Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

Approved by: Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachments:

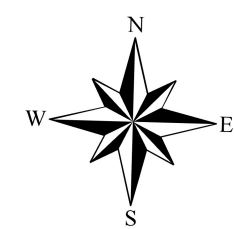
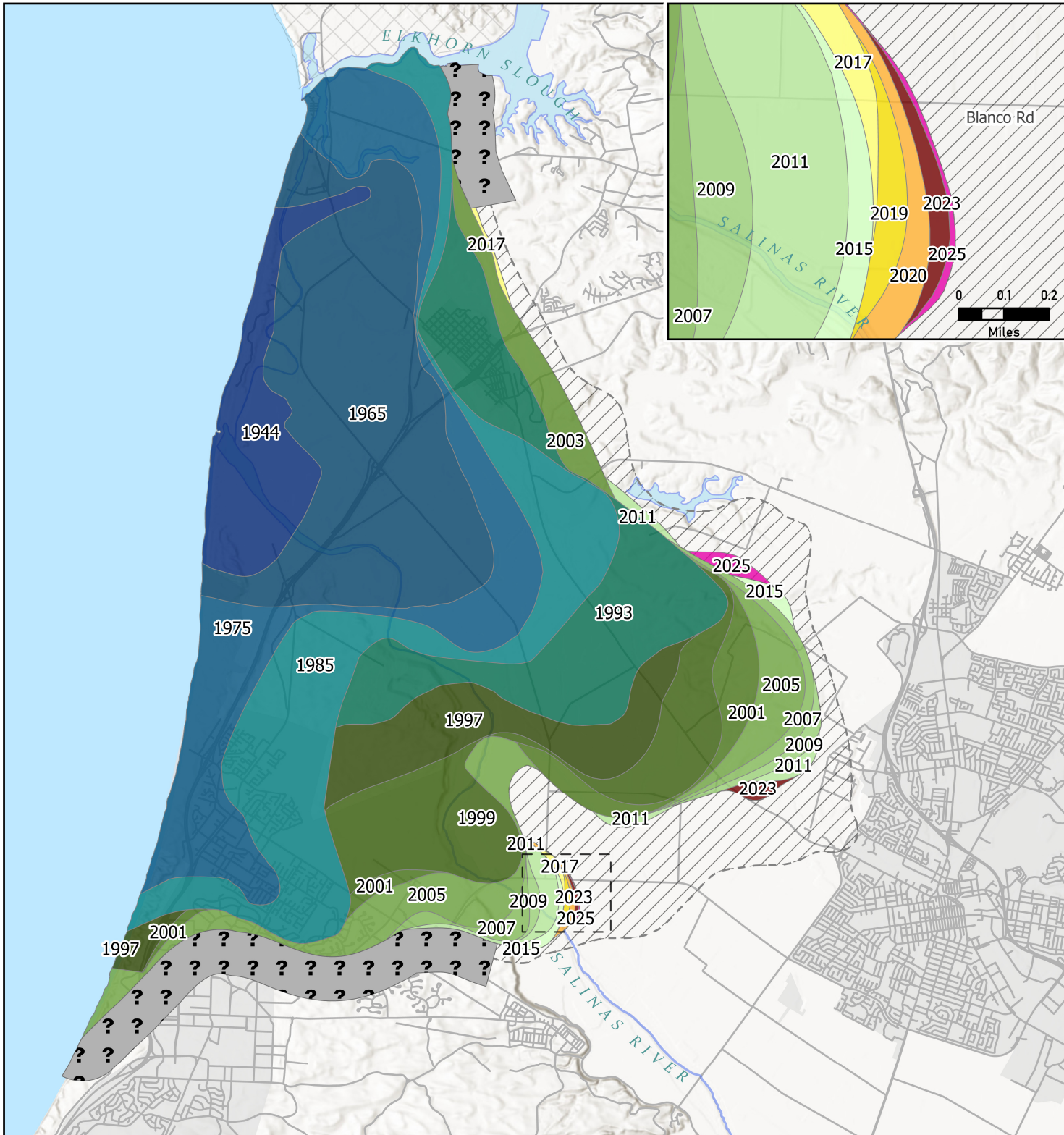
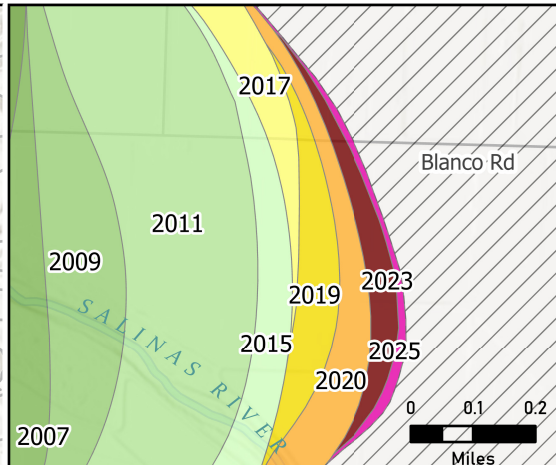
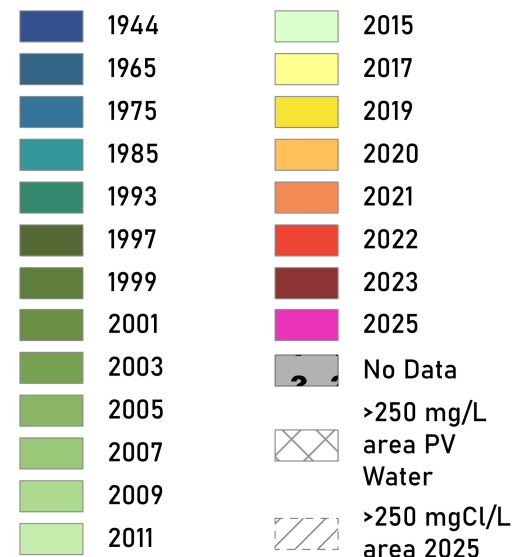
1. Attachment 1: Historical Seawater Intrusion Map - 2025 - 180-Foot Aquifer
2. Attachment 2: Seawater Intrusion Phases 2025 - 180-Foot Aquifer
3. Attachment 3: One-Year Chloride Concentration Changes in the 180-Foot Aquifer
4. Attachment 4: Historical Seawater Intrusion Map - 2025 - 400-Foot Aquifer
5. Attachment 5: Historical Seawater Intrusion Map with Review Area - 400-Foot Aquifer
6. Attachment 6: Seawater Intrusion Phases 2025 - 400-Foot Aquifer
7. Attachment 7: One-Year Chloride Concentration Changes in the 400-Foot Aquifer

Historical Seawater Intrusion Map 2025

180-Foot Aquifer

Areas with 500 mg/L or greater concentration of Chloride in groundwater

Seawater Intruded Area, by Year



Monterey County
Water Resources Agency
Date : 02/20/2026

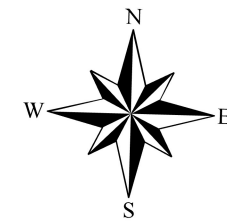
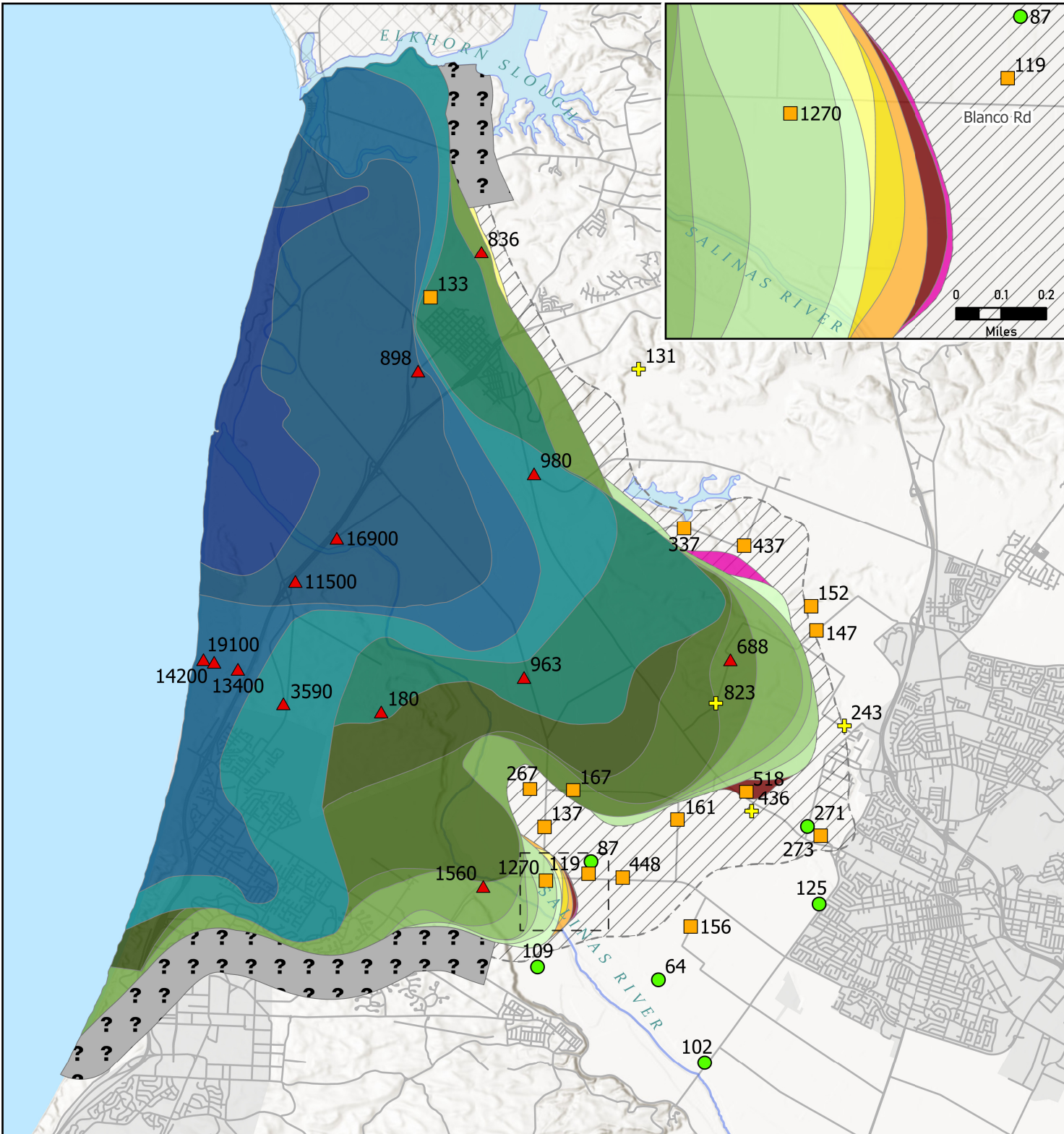
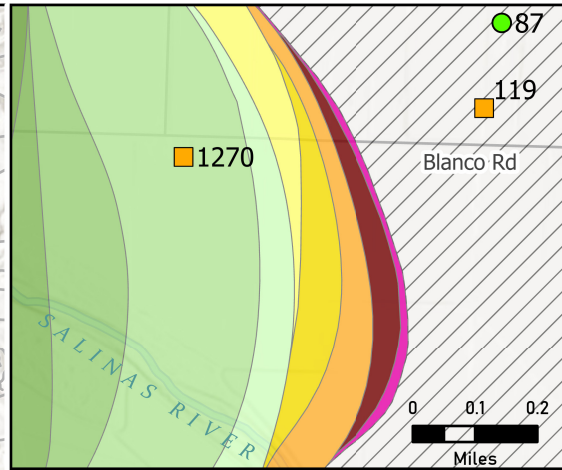
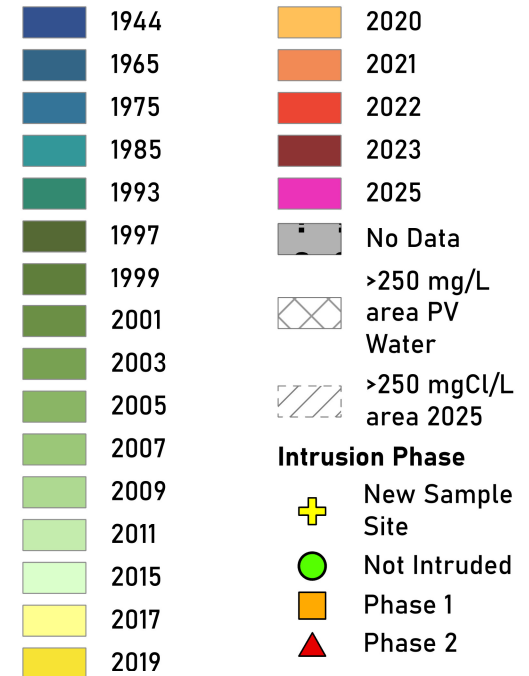


Seawater Intrusion Phases 2025

180-Foot Aquifer

Areas with 500 mg/L or greater concentration of Chloride in groundwater

Seawater Intruded Area, by Year



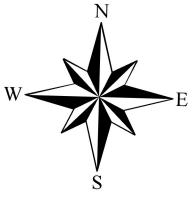
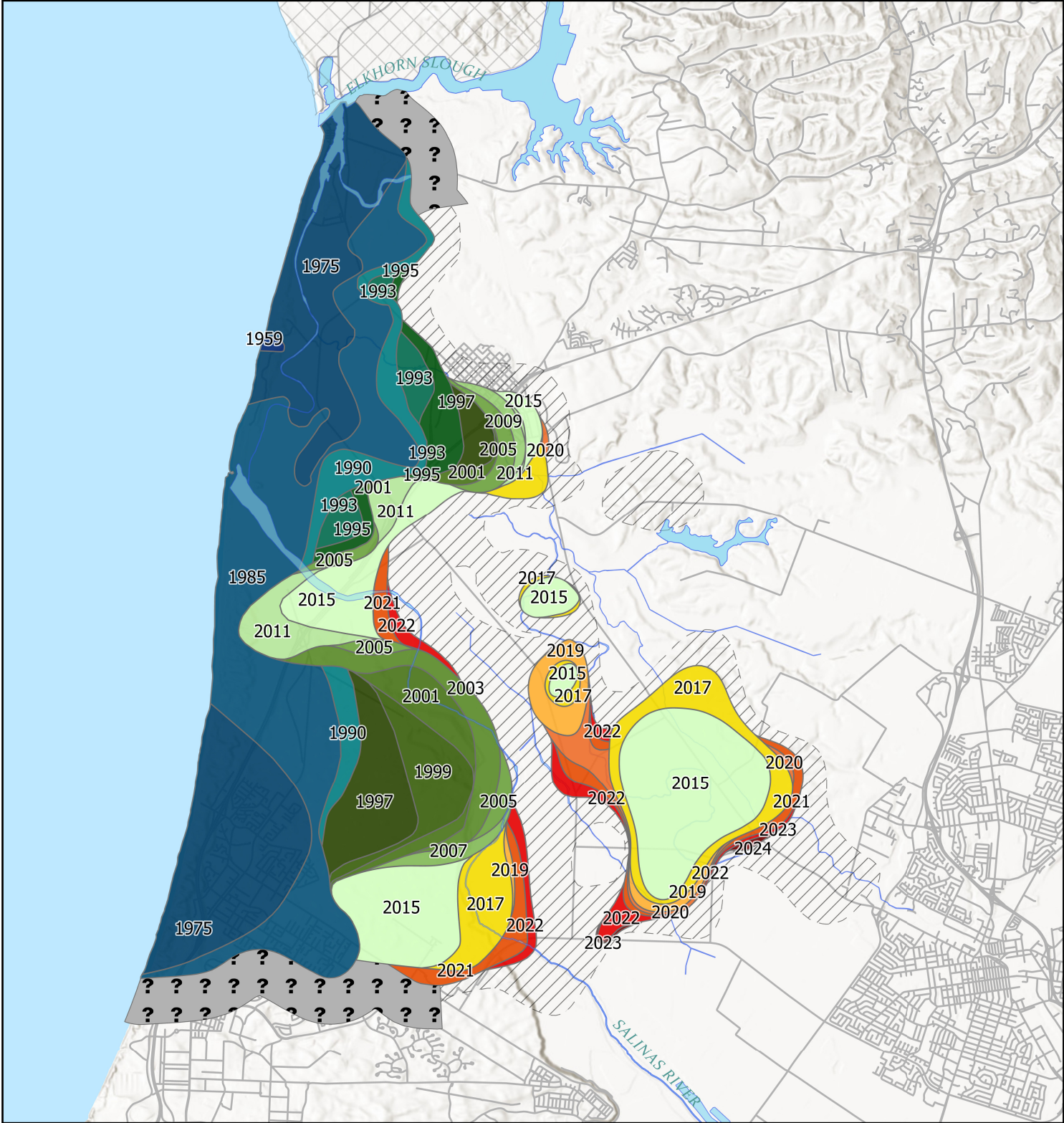
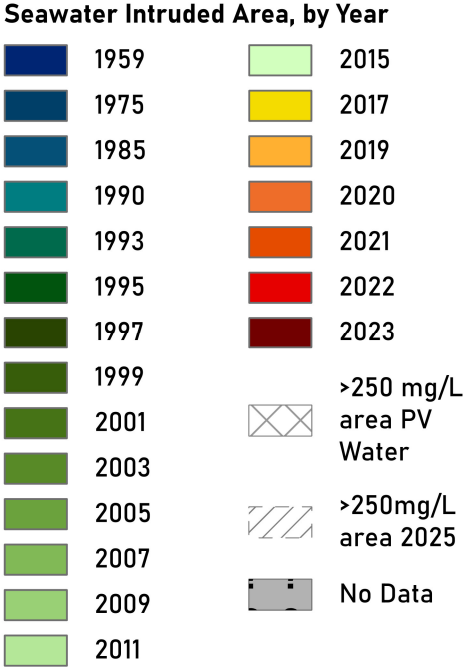
Monterey County
Water Resources Agency
Date : 02/20/2026



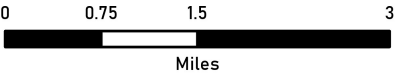
Historical Seawater Intrusion Map 2025

400-Foot Aquifer

Areas with 500 mg/L or greater concentration of Chloride in groundwater



Monterey County
Water Resources Agency
Date : 01/20/2026

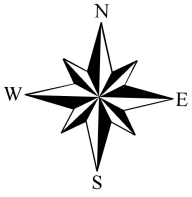
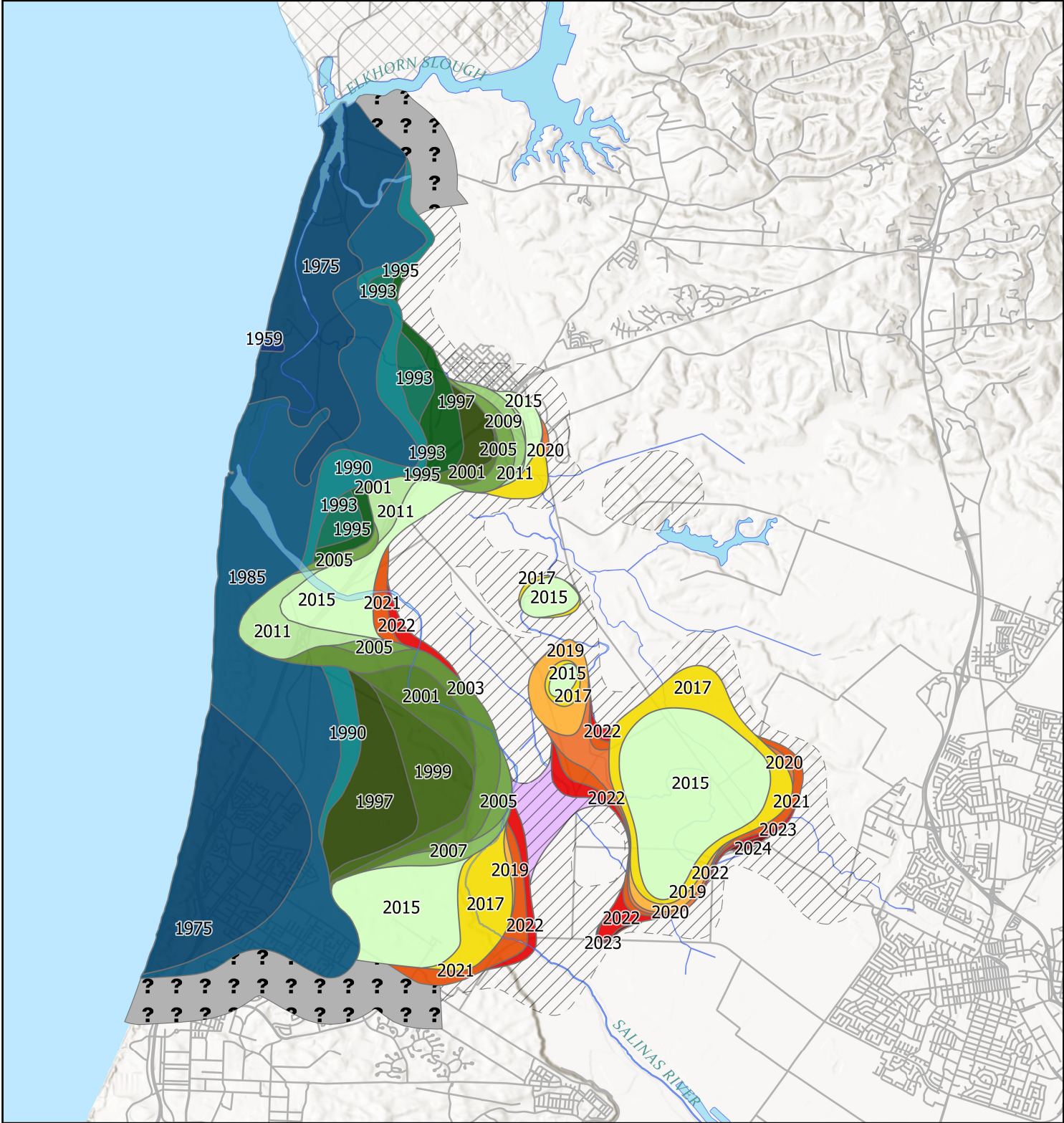
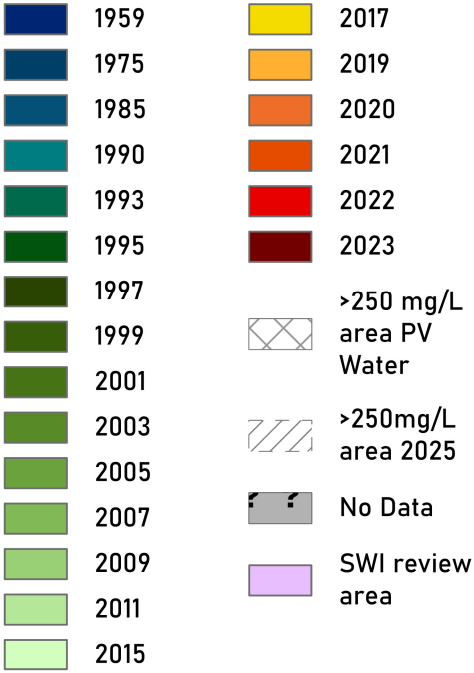


Historical Seawater Intrusion Map 2025

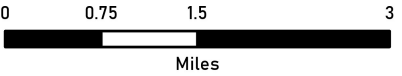
400-Foot Aquifer

Areas with 500 mg/L or greater concentration of Chloride in groundwater

Seawater Intruded Area, by Year



Monterey County
Water Resources Agency
Date : 01/20/2026

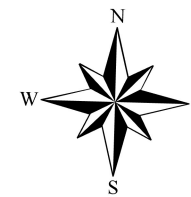
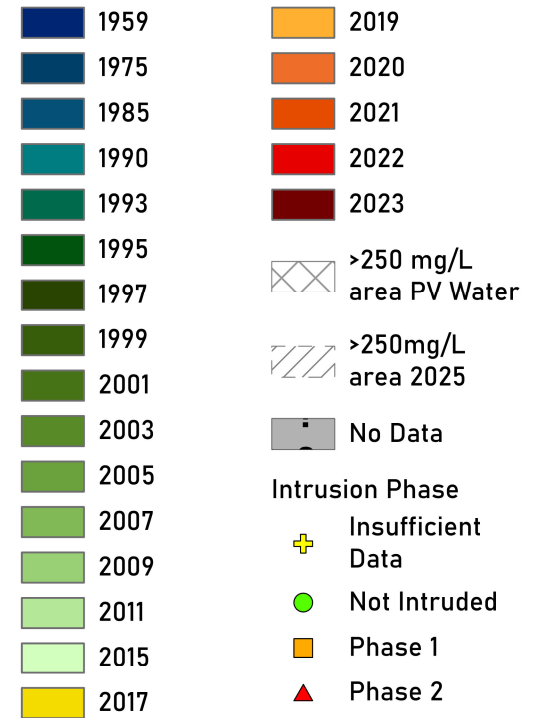


Seawater Intrusion Phases 2025

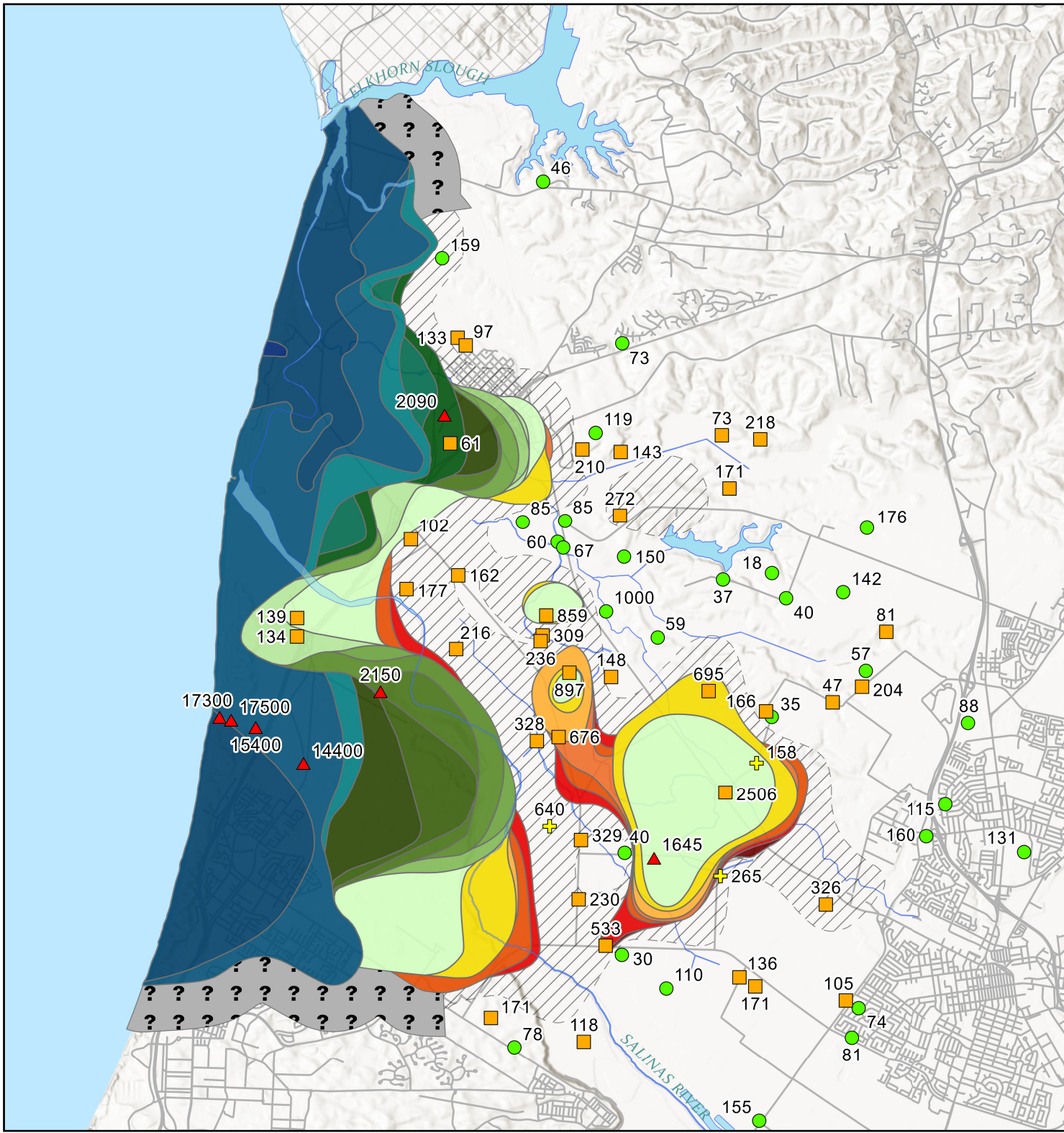
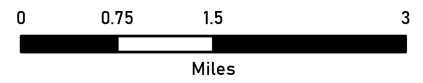
400-Foot Aquifer

Areas with 500 mg/L or greater concentration of Chloride in groundwater

Seawater Intruded Area, by Year







Monterey County
Water Resources Agency
Date : 02/20/2026








One-Year Chloride Concentration Changes in the 400-Foot Aquifer

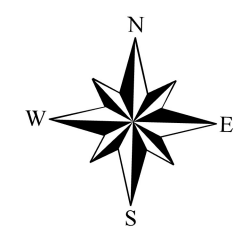
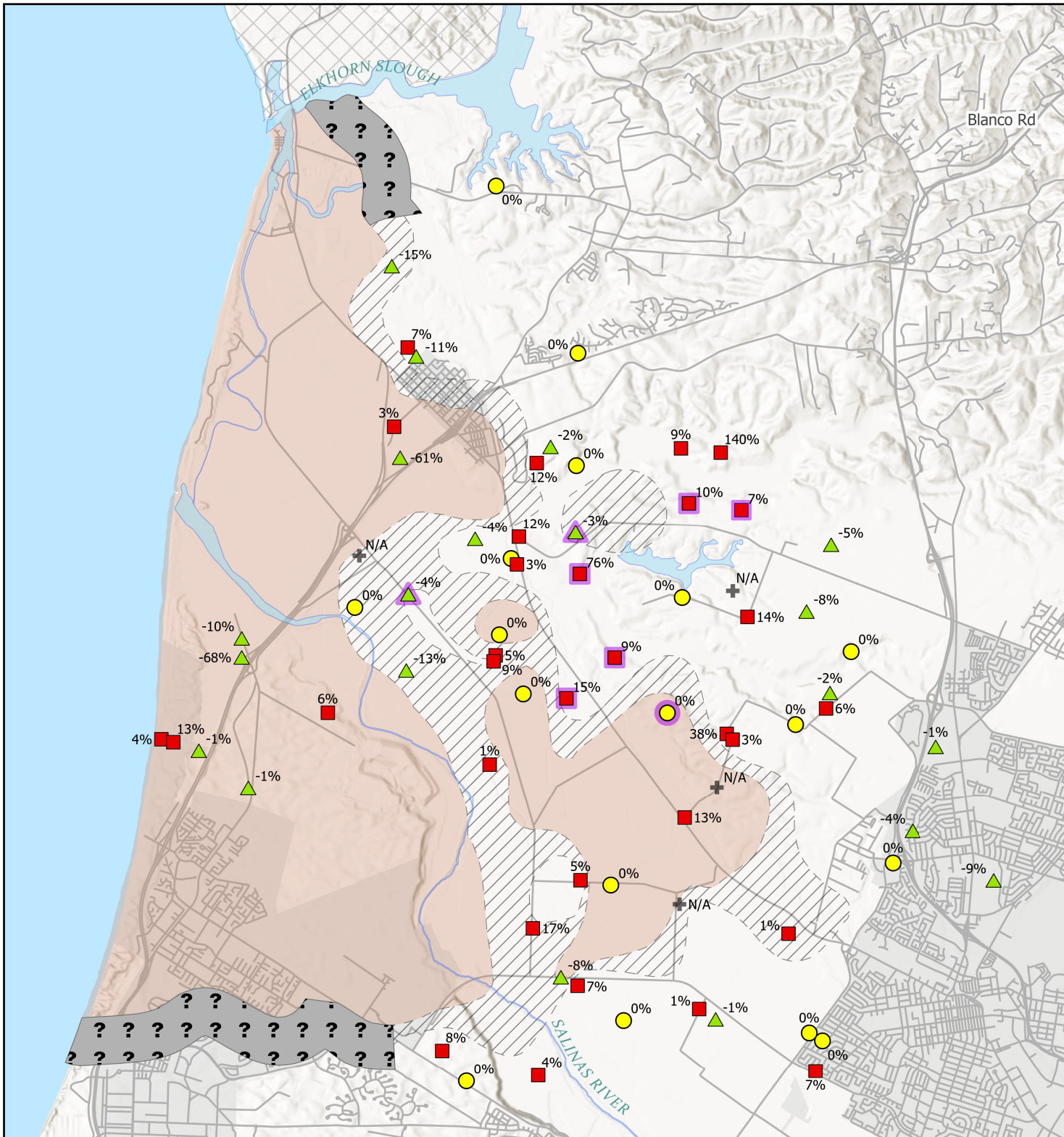
Year 2025

Areas with 500 mg/L or greater concentration of Chloride in groundwater

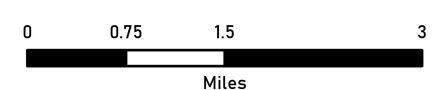
-  Seawater Intruded Area
-  No Data
-  >250 mg/L area PV Water
-  >250mg/L area 2025

Percent of Change from 2025 vs. 2024

-  Decreasing Chloride levels
-  No change
-  Increasing chloride levels
-  Inapplicable
-  CSIP Supplemental Wells



Monterey County
Water Resources Agency
Date : 02/20/2026





County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-082

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/18/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Review of the Annual Groundwater Level Contours.(Staff Presenting: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno.)



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-088

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/19/2026

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Review of the 2025 Annual Groundwater Level Contours and Cumulative Change Chart

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) is responsible for data collection and analysis of groundwater data throughout the Salinas Valley to support the ongoing groundwater level contouring, seawater intrusion mapping, and other programs related to current groundwater conditions. Conditions are assessed throughout the year to better understand how aquifers are responding during different hydrologic conditions as well as the relative groundwater storage fluctuations that occur on an annual basis.

These activities align with Strategic Plan Goals B7, *Use of data and analysis to make informed decisions based on science* and E1, *improve public outreach to increase transparency, communication, education and information about Agency projects and programs*. Activities related to groundwater level monitoring are part of the Groundwater Monitoring Program, which is included in Fund 111 (1501) of the Agency's FY 25/26 Adopted Budget.

OVERVIEW OF 2025 DATA

Annual Groundwater Elevation Survey

In the latter part of each fall, from mid-November through December, the Agency measures groundwater levels in approximately 450 wells throughout the Salinas Valley, from the San Ardo oilfields to the coast. The timing of this sampling survey allows the Agency to capture conditions in the groundwater basin at a time when a relative lull in agricultural pumping causes groundwater level troughs to relax, prior to the influence of seasonal recharge in response to winter/spring precipitation. In this way, the Annual survey of groundwater level data is an assessment of the relative, year-to-year change in groundwater storage throughout the valley.

The 2025 Annual contours for the 180-Foot, East Side Shallow, Forebay and Upper Valley Aquifers are included as Attachment A. Compared to the 2024 survey, there was an increase in groundwater elevations between 0 and 1 foot near the coast, with groundwater elevations remaining approximately at sea level. In the East Side Trough, groundwater elevations north of Salinas increased by 3 to 10 feet. Groundwater elevations in the area south of Salinas to Greenfield changed between -1 to 2 feet, and by 0 to 1 foot from Greenfield to the north of San Lucas. South of San Lucas, groundwater elevations were generally within a foot of where they were last year.

The 2025 Annual contours for the 400-Foot and East Side Deep Aquifers are included as Attachment B. Near the coast, groundwater elevations increased by 0 to 4 feet and are just above sea level at the coast. The East Side trough and groundwater elevations in the area north of Salinas generally increased 4 to 10 feet, with some localized decreases in the southeastern area. Groundwater elevations in the area south of Salinas to Gonzales increased by 1 to 5 feet, with some localized areas experiencing higher increases.

Cumulative Groundwater Level Change Chart

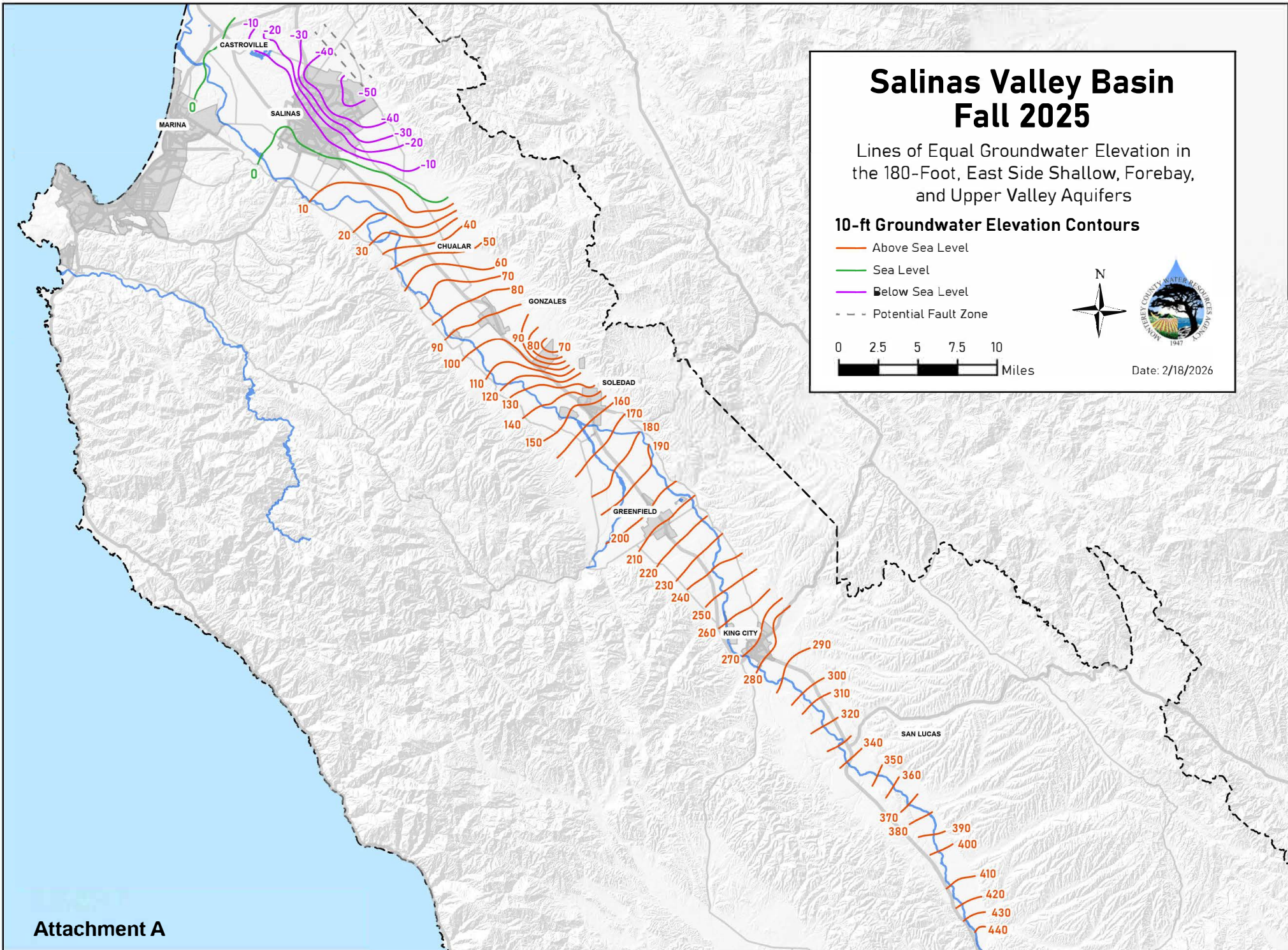
The Cumulative Change Chart is an additional product produced using data from the Annual Groundwater Level Survey. This is a cumulative summary of the average change in groundwater elevations between each annual survey, calculated for each subarea, which helps to give an idea of the groundwater storage changes and trends over time.

For 2025, three of the four subareas showed an increase in groundwater elevations from the previous survey, while the Forebay subarea showed no change. The East Side and Pressure subareas experienced increases of 6.5 feet and 4 feet, respectively, while the Upper Valley subarea increased slightly by 0.3 feet. These trends are similar to last year. The Cumulative Change Chart for 1944-2025 is included as Attachment C with a more detailed summary of the changes in Attachment D.

Prepared by: Guillermo Diaz Moreno, Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860
Amy Woodrow, Senior Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

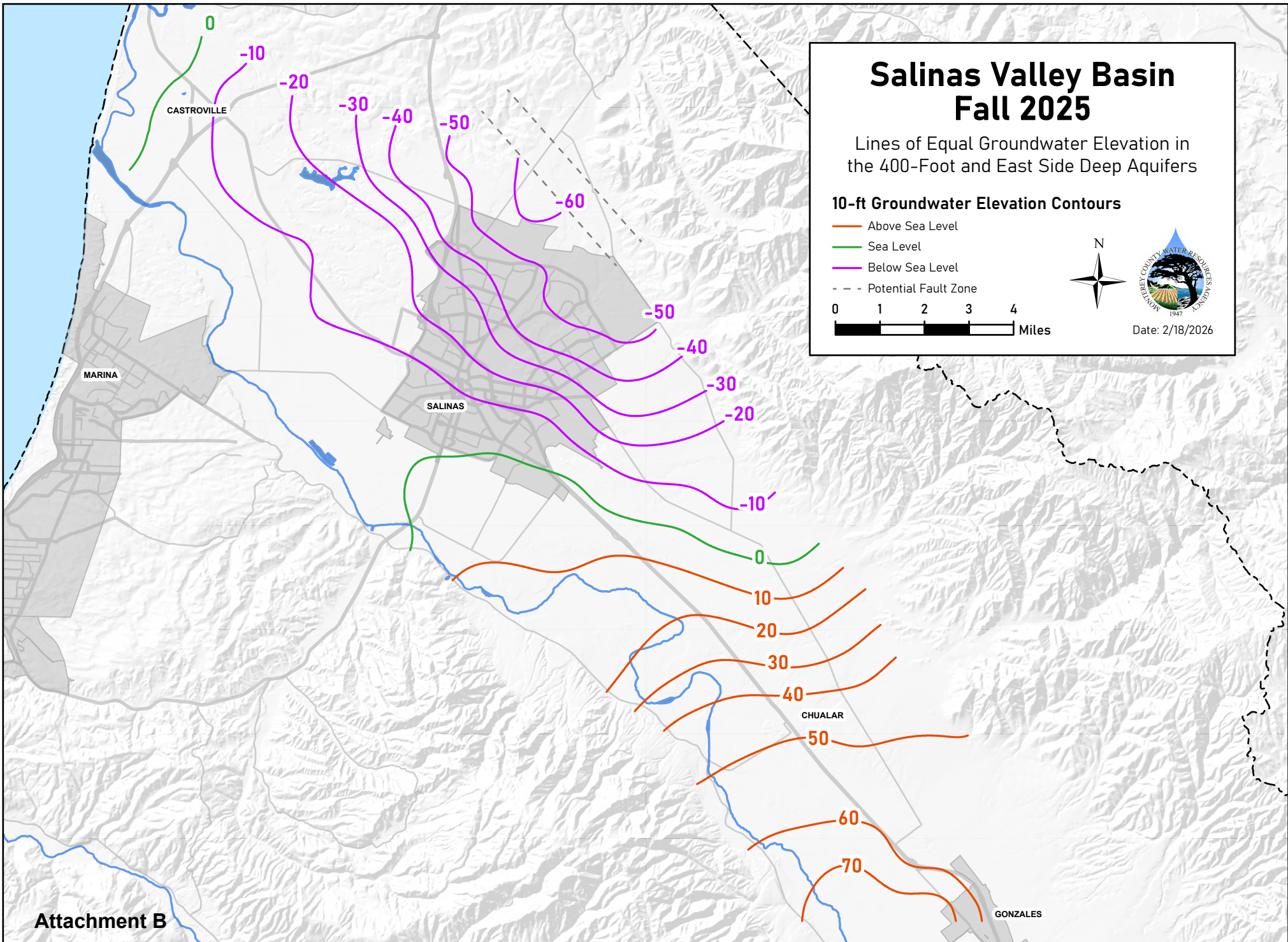
Attachments:

1. Attachment A: Annual 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 180-Ft and East Side Shallow, Forebay and Upper Valley Aquifers
2. Attachment B: Annual 2025 Groundwater Elevation Contours, 400-Ft and East Side Deep Aquifers
3. Attachment C: Cumulative Groundwater Level Change Chart, 1944-2025
4. Attachment D: Summary of Annual Groundwater Level Changes, 2024 to 2025



Attachment A

Note: These groundwater contours represent a regional-scale approximation of the groundwater surface, based on available hydrogeological data, illustrating general groundwater flow patterns. They should not be interpreted as precise or localized features.

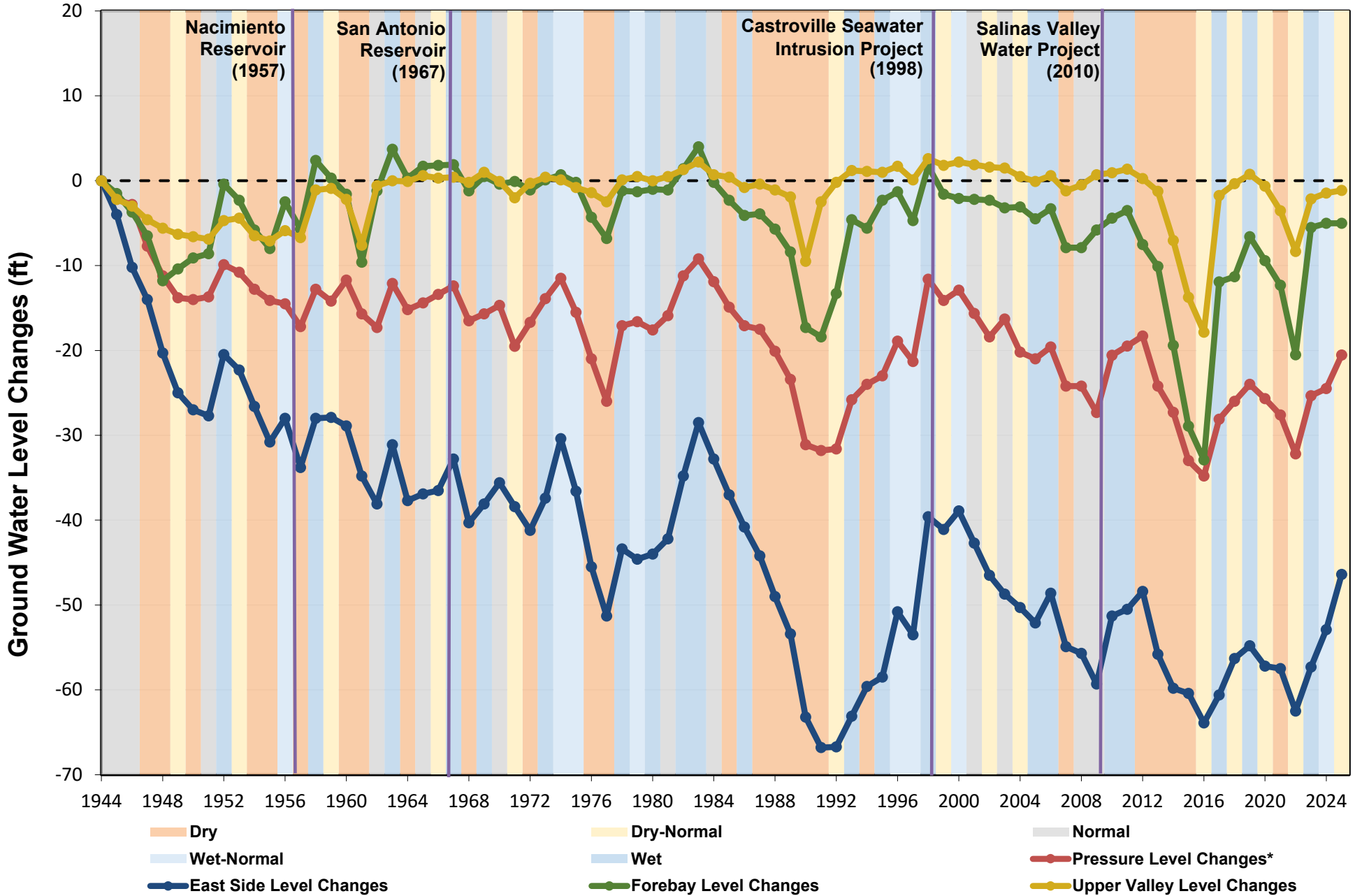


Attachment B

Note: These groundwater contours represent a regional-scale approximation of the groundwater surface, based on available hydrogeological data, illustrating general groundwater flow patterns. They should not be interpreted as precise or localized features.

Salinas Valley Groundwater Level Changes

1944 - 2024 Average Annual Groundwater Level Changes



*Level Changes for the Pressure subarea are calculated using a weighted average between the 180-Ft and the 400-Ft Aquifers.

**SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FALL WELL MEASUREMENTS
SALINAS VALLEY BASIN**

Change in Elevation of Ground Water from Fall 2024 to
Fall 2025

Area and Quadrant	No of Wells	Average Change (ft.)
<u>EAST SIDE</u>		
13S/02E	2	2.0
13S/03E	3	13.1
14S/02E	1	16.8
14S/03E	30	6.7
14S/04E	4	6.7
15S/03E	3	5.4
15S/04E	21	7.9
16S/04E	1	0.8
16S/05E	9	1.5
TOTAL	74	6.5

<u>FOREBAY</u>		
16S/05E	4	0.1
17S/05E	19	2.2
17S/06E	14	0.7
18S/06E	26	-1.5
18S/07E	8	-0.1
19S/06E	2	-5.3
19S/07E	4	-0.1
TOTAL	77	0.0

<u>PRESSURE 180</u>		
13S/02E	3	0.5
14S/02E	18	2.8
14S/03E	7	5.6
15S/02E	2	7.6
15S/03E	9	3.9
15S/04E	1	1.6
16S/04E	13	-0.2
16S/05E	6	0.0
17S/04E	1	-0.3
TOTAL	60	2.3

Area and Quadrant	No of Wells	Average Change (ft.)
<u>PRESSURE 400</u>		
12S/02E	1	3.0
13S/02E	11	3.2
14S/02E	28	4.8
14S/03E	11	10.3
15S/02E	5	3.9
15S/03E	25	5.7
15S/04E	3	4.0
16S/04E	8	0.3
16S/05E	2	5.9
TOTAL	94	5.0

<u>PRESSURE BOTH</u>		
16S/04E	1	-0.4
TOTAL	1	-0.4

<u>PRESSURE DEEP ZONE</u>		
13S/01E	2	1.0
13S/02E	4	1.5
14S/01E	4	0.3
14S/02E	12	3.6
14S/03E	1	-6.6
15S/02E	2	1.9
15S/03E	3	0.8
16S/05E	1	5.2
TOTAL	29	1.9

<u>UPPER VALLEY</u>		
19S/07E	7	0.7
19S/08E	3	0.1
20S/08E	7	0.8
21S/08E	1	2.4
21S/09E	6	0.4
21S/10E	1	0.1
22S/10E	7	-0.6
23S/10E	2	-0.3
TOTAL	34	0.3

TOTAL VALLEY WELLS COMPARED: 369
AVERAGE CHANGE FOR THE SALINAS VALLEY (FT.): 3.2

Printed on: 3/19/2026



County of Monterey

Item No.5

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-083

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/18/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Overview of Salinas River Flow Prescription and Water Year Type Forecast.(Staff Presenting: Jason Demers.)



County of Monterey

Item No.6

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-086

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/18/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

2026 Reservoir Release Schedule.(Staff Presenting: Joey Klein.)



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-089

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/19/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Consider recommending a release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs for 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Water Resources Advisory Committee:

Recommend that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors Consider Adopting a Release Schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for 2026.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

In most years, continuous reservoir releases are made during the “conservation season” (April-October) to optimize Salinas Valley groundwater recharge as well as Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) operations. These conservation releases are guided by a schedule developed each year in late winter to early spring by staff to approximate the expected sequence of reservoir withdrawals that fully accounts for a complex set of obligations, constraints and, to the extent possible, hydrologic conditions.

Key obligations include annual withdrawal limits and conditions-based flow prescriptions supportive of federally listed species. Both are stipulated in the water rights that authorize the Agency to store, withdraw and re-divert waters of the state within the Nacimiento, San Antonio and Salinas River watersheds. Constraints are of physical, administrative and environmental nature. Physical constraints include elevation-dependent limits on methods and rates of releases as well as safe operating limits of release outlets; administrative constraints include guaranteed water allotments established by contractual agreements. Minimum required releases, required lagoon bypass flows, as well as limits on release rate changes are among the environmental constraints accounted for in the development of the annual release schedule.

The Agency has made releases during 13 of the 17 summer conservation seasons since the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) began operating in 2010. Two extended droughts resulted in insufficient reservoir levels to operate from 2014-2016 and in 2022. More recently, 2023-2025 marked a return to wet conditions providing large storage increases at both Reservoirs and enough water to fully operate in all years since 2023. Combined storage as of March 19, 2026 is sufficient to plan a fourth consecutive full SRDF diversion season this year.

The attached proposed 2026 release schedule accounts for current reservoir inflow rates but assumes

no new inflow events for the remainder of the calendar year. The proposed schedule limits releases from Nacimiento Reservoir to below 280 cfs due to planned maintenance activities expected to be complete by July 1. Releases from Nacimiento Reservoir may exceed 280 cfs once maintenance activities are complete.

SRDF startup is expected to occur as early as the first week of April. The proposed schedule reflects an assumed April 1 start date and maintains conservation flows to recharge the Salinas Valley groundwater basin and operate the SRDF into mid-October while meeting the operational requirements of State Water Resources Control Board appropriative water rights held by the Agency for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers.

As is the standard procedure each year, the release schedule will be updated monthly based on actual weather and river conditions, changing SRDF demands, and other reservoir operational considerations as may be necessary subsequent to the development of this draft release schedule.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING:

None

Prepared by: Joseph Klein, Water Resources Hydrologist (831) 755-4860

Attachments: Reservoir Release Schedule For 2026

DRAFT RESERVOIR RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16														
																	NACIMIENTO							SAN ANTONIO						
																	Combined Releases (cfs) ¹	Combined Releases (ac-ft)	Evap. Losses (ac-ft)	Reservoir Releases (cfs) ¹	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	NWP Orders (ac-ft)	NWP Diversions (ac-ft)	Beginning of Month Storage		Evap. Losses (ac-ft)	Reservoir Releases (cfs) ¹	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	Beginning of Month Storage	
							(ac-ft)	(%)	Elev. (ft)				(ac-ft)	(%)	Elev. (ft)															
Jan	70	4,328	350	60	3,713	600	54	146,210	39%	748.6	520	10	615	171,473	51%	743.1														
Feb	72	4,129	464	62	3,554	553	72	189,290	50%	760.6	441	10	575	185,898	55%	747.2														
Mar	85	5,217	977	75	4,602	696		248,200	66%	774.7	853	10	615	209,065	62%	753.4														
Apr	260	15,491	1,458	220	13,111	677		248,754	66%	774.8	1,840	40	2,380	212,884	64%	754.3														
May	429	26,400	2,580	260	15,987	1,616		233,240	62%	771.3	2,806	169	10,413	208,453	62%	753.2														
Jun	510	30,348	3,288	260	15,471	2,129		212,977	56%	766.6	3,109	250	14,876	194,887	58%	749.6														
Jul	564	34,691	2,550	320	19,676	2,188		192,005	51%	761.3	2,370	244	15,015	177,048	53%	744.7														
Aug	623	38,321	2,252	320	19,676	2,188		167,593	44%	754.7	2,008	303	18,645	159,522	48%	739.5														
Sep	467	27,769	1,713	320	19,042	2,144		143,488	38%	747.8	1,536	147	8,727	138,959	41%	732.9														
Oct	212	13,012	1,125	181	11,108	1,369		120,636	32%	740.4	1,064	31	1,904	129,053	39%	729.5														
Nov	70	4,165	566	60	3,570	996		107,581	28%	735.8	556	10	595	126,202	38%	728.5														
Dec	70	4,304	349	60	3,689	594		102,476	27%	734.0	359	10	615	125,061	37%	728.1														
Jan 2026								97,994	26%	732.3				124,120	37%	727.8														
Totals		208,176	17,671		133,200	15,750	127				17,462		74,976																	

Draft Date: 3/18/2026

Notes:

1. Mean daily flow for the month in cubic feet per second.
2. Shaded areas denote actual values. Non-shaded areas are projected values.
3. Nacimiento Reservoir storage capacity: 377,900 acre feet; San Antonio Reservoir storage capacity: 335,000 acre feet.
4. Water Resources Advisory Committee may make release considerations for holiday periods to benefit recreation.
5. Schedule assumes no additional storm events that provide inflow to reservoirs. Actual elevations and or releases may be influenced by inflow.
6. "NWP Diversions" are San Luis Obispo County - Nacimiento Water Project conveyance facilities diversions. Max. allowable water year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) diversions: 15,750 ac-ft.
7. Nacimiento "NWP Diversions" do not include lakeside water use which is estimated at approximately 1,750 acre feet per year.
8. Releases from Nacimiento Reservoir will be limited to less than 280 cfs due to planned maintenance activities expected to be completed by July 1st. Nacimiento releases may exceed 280 cfs once maintenance activities are complete.





County of Monterey

Item No.7

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 26-080

March 26, 2026

Introduced: 3/18/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Current Reservoir Conditions, Releases, and Downstream Flows. (Staff Presenting: Casey DeLay.)

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Board of Directors receives monthly updates on the status of Agency reservoirs.

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of March 19, 2026, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 754.15 feet (NGVD 29), with 212,193 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 775.35 feet, with 251,160 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 63% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 66% of capacity.

RAINFALL: A series of storms throughout the month of February brought inflow to the reservoirs and created natural flow along the entire Salinas River. On February 18, 2026, inflow to Nacimiento Reservoir peaked at 7,751 cfs at the Nacimiento River below Sapaque gage, and San Antonio Reservoir inflow peaked at 5,791 cfs at the San Antonio River near Lockwood gage. No significant precipitation has been observed since mid-February.

SALINAS RIVER LAGOON: Following storms in late December and early January, the Agency facilitated a breach of the lagoon to alleviate localized flooding in accordance with the Agency's Low Effect Habitat Conservation Plan on January 4, 2026. Water surface elevation in the lagoon reached a peak of 6.82 ft on January 4, 2026 and began fluctuating with tides on January 5, 2026. The Salinas Lagoon remains open to the ocean.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Minimum releases are being made from both reservoirs for maintenance of habitat below the dams. Conservation season releases concluded on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from San Antonio Reservoir, and Friday, September 26, 2025 from Nacimiento Reservoir.

Releases as of March 19, 2026:

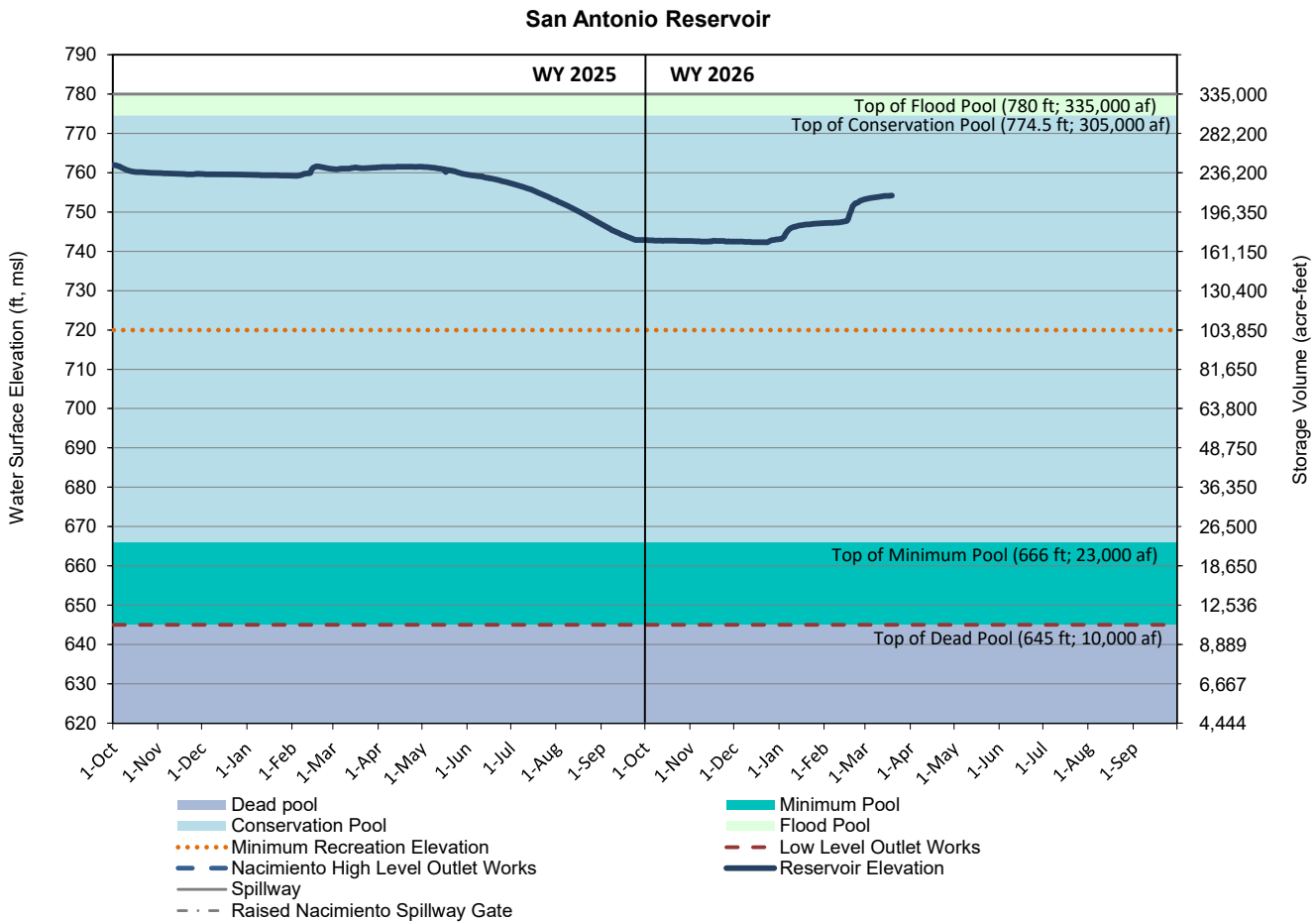
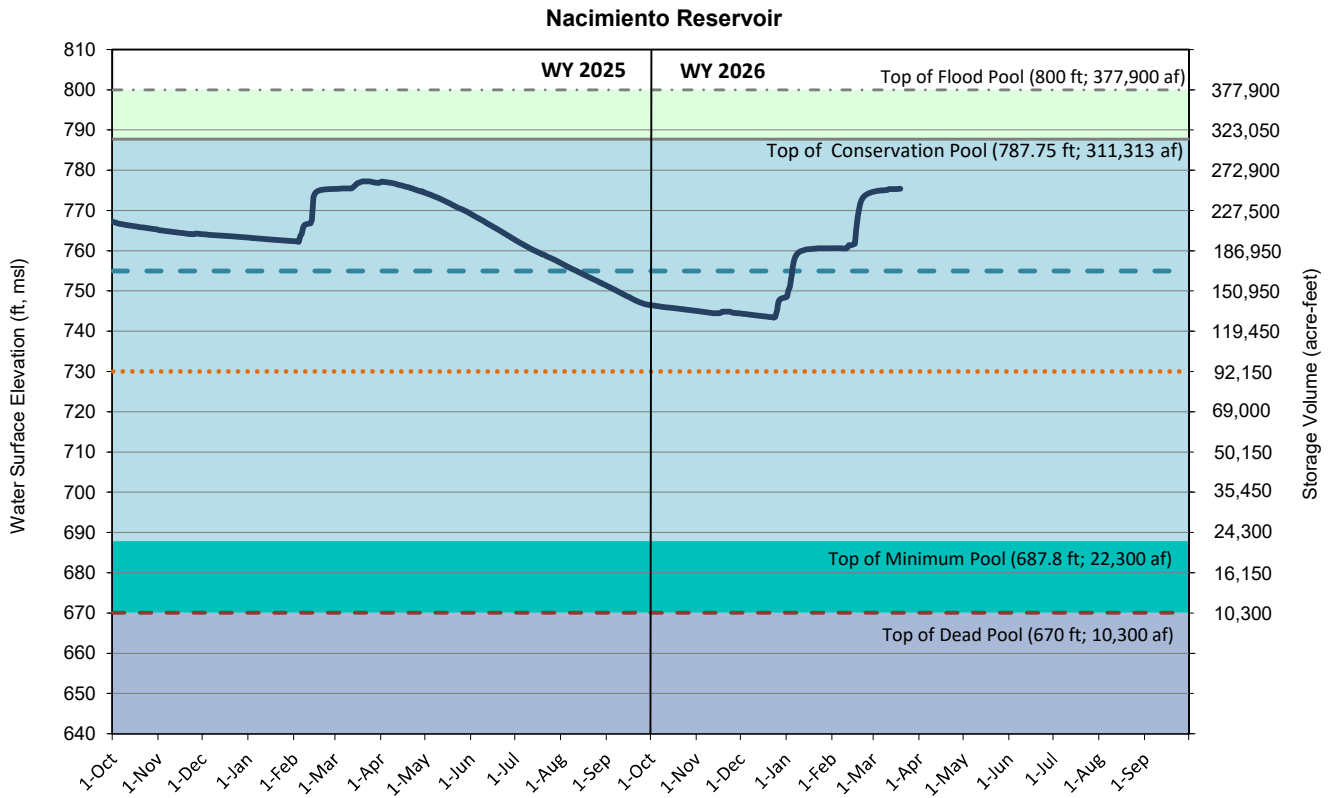
- Nacimiento Reservoir: 69 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 79 cfs. The following "provisional" flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam: 69 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 171 cfs
- Salinas River near King City: 167 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 163 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 165 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 131 cfs

Prepared by: Casey DeLay, Hydrologist (831) 755-4860

Reservoir Elevation and Storage



- Dead pool
- Conservation Pool
- Minimum Recreation Elevation
- Nacimiento High Level Outlet Works
- Spillway
- Raised Nacimiento Spillway Gate
- Minimum Pool
- Flood Pool
- Low Level Outlet Works
- Reservoir Elevation



County of Monterey

Item No.8

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

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March 26, 2026

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Invasive Mussel Prevention Activities.(Staff Presenting: Amy Woodrow.)



County of Monterey

Item No.9

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

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- Reservoir Recreation and Parks Activities
- County of San Luis Obispo Activities



County of Monterey

Item No.10

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

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Set the next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.