



County of Monterey

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

Board Report

File #: WRAG 20-076, **Version:** 1

Consider receiving the 2019 Groundwater Level Contour Maps

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors:

Receive the 2019 Groundwater Level Contour Maps.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

August Trough Groundwater Level Survey

Each summer, Agency staff conducts an intensive groundwater level survey of the northern Salinas Valley. Groundwater levels (GWLs) are sampled at approximately 160 wells from Chualar to the coast, to obtain a “snapshot” survey of conditions within and beyond the Seawater Intrusion Front. This is done during a time of the year when aquifers are most stressed by pumping. One of the key purposes of the 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.

Fall Groundwater Level Survey

In the latter part of each fall, from mid-November to mid-December, the Agency samples GWLs in approximately 460 wells throughout the Salinas Valley, from the San Ardo Oilfields to Moss Landing. The timing of this sampling survey allows us 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 Fall survey of groundwater levels is an assessment of the relative, year-to-year change in groundwater storage throughout the valley.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING:

There is no financial impact in receiving this report.

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