

Community Groundwater Monitoring Program

Partnering with communities to build groundwater knowledge and resilience

South American Subbasin Pilot Community Meeting

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025

South American Subbasin Boundary



<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b3886b33b49c4fa8a-df2ae8bdd8f16c3>



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Today's Agenda

5:30PM	Welcome & Introductions
5:40PM	Local Groundwater Conditions
5:50PM	Pilot Overview & Participation Options
6:00PM	Data, Equipment, Well Suitability
6:10PM	Community Feedback & Discussion
6:25PM	Closing & Sign-ups
6:30 - 7:30PM	Open House

Welcome

Austin Miller

Sacramento County Department of Water Resources
Groundwater Sustainability Office



Introductions

Meet the Team

California Department of Water Resources



Julie
Ekstrom



Zoe
Kanavas



Jeremiah
Shaffer



Mackenzie
Dughi



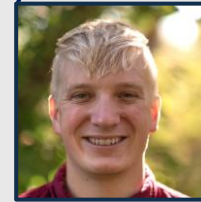
Steven
Springhorn



Tad
Bedegrew



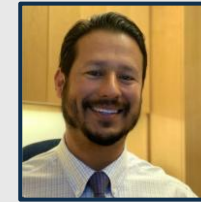
Bryce
Russell



Austin
Miller



Lisa
Beutler



Chris
Hunley

Sacramento County
Department of Water Resources

Who's here today? By show of hands...

- Where in the South American Subbasin are you?
- How long have you owned your well for?



Local Groundwater Conditions

Jeremiah Shaffer, P.E.

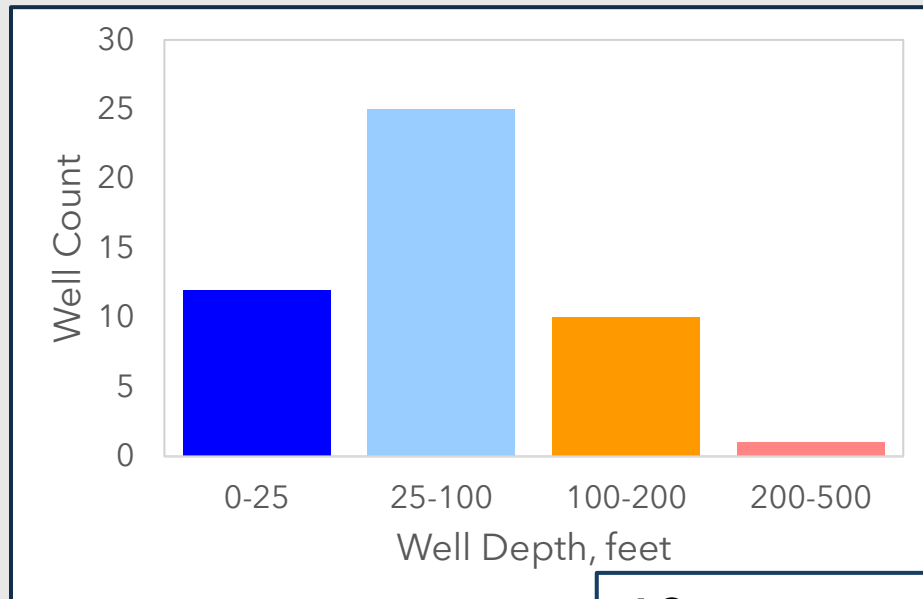
California Department of Water Resources

North Central Region Office



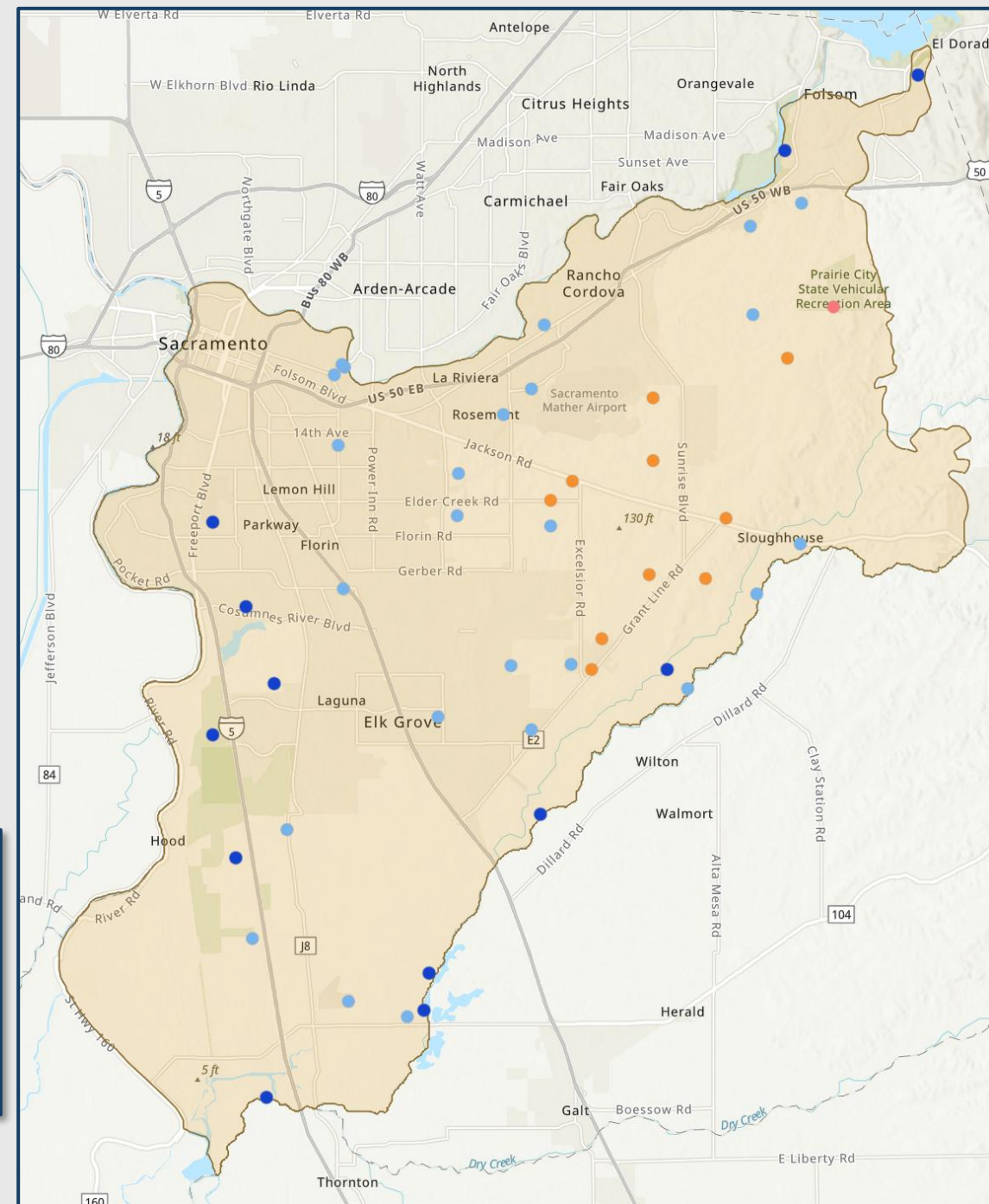
Monitoring in the South American Subbasin

Depth of wells

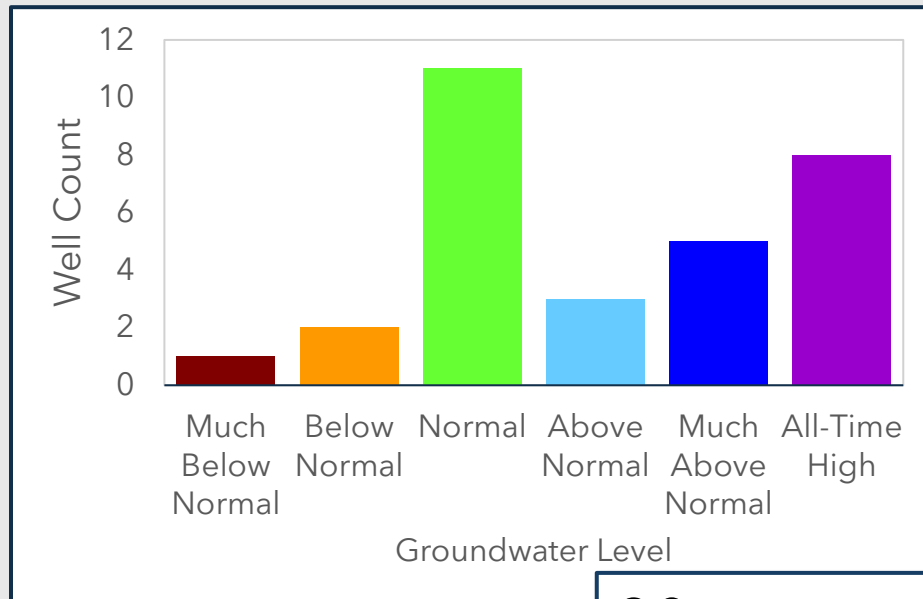


48 monitoring wells

- 12 between 0-25 ft
- 25 between 25-100 ft
- 10 between 100-200ft
- 1 between 200-500ft

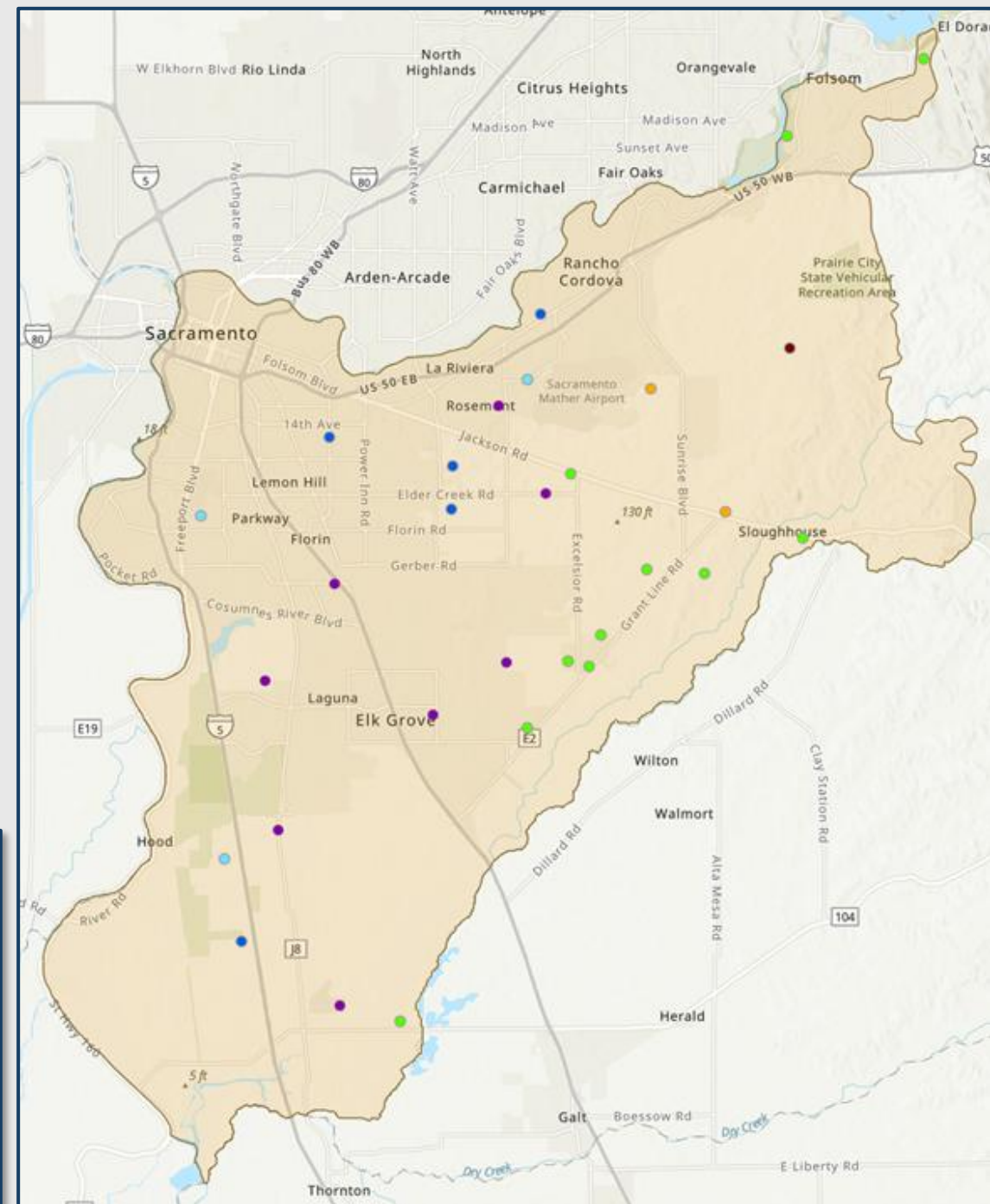


Monitoring in the South American Subbasin: Current Levels

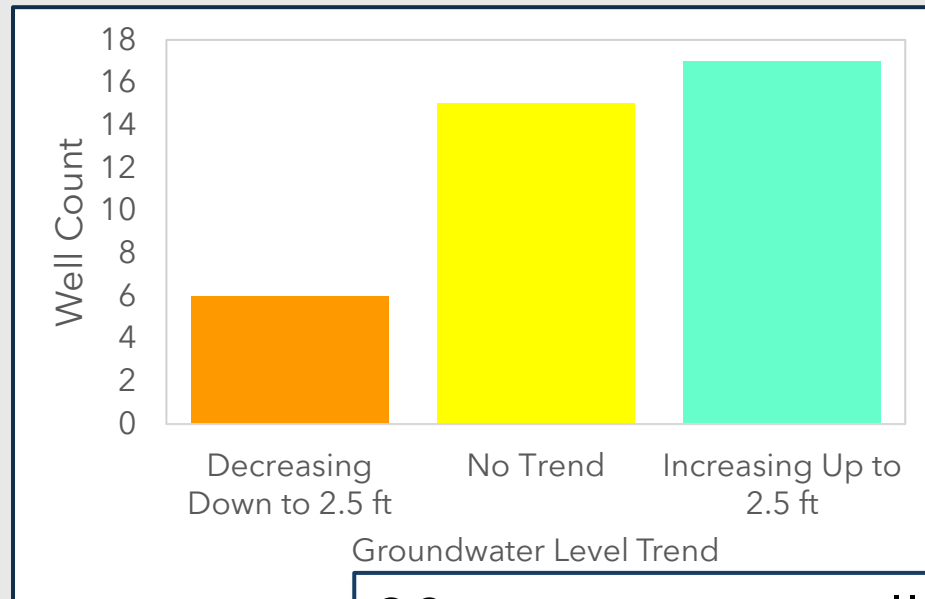


30 monitoring wells

- 1 Much Below Normal
- 2 Below Normal
- 11 Normal
- 3 Above Normal
- 5 Much Above Normal
- 8 All-Time High



Monitoring in the South American Subbasin: 20-Year Trends

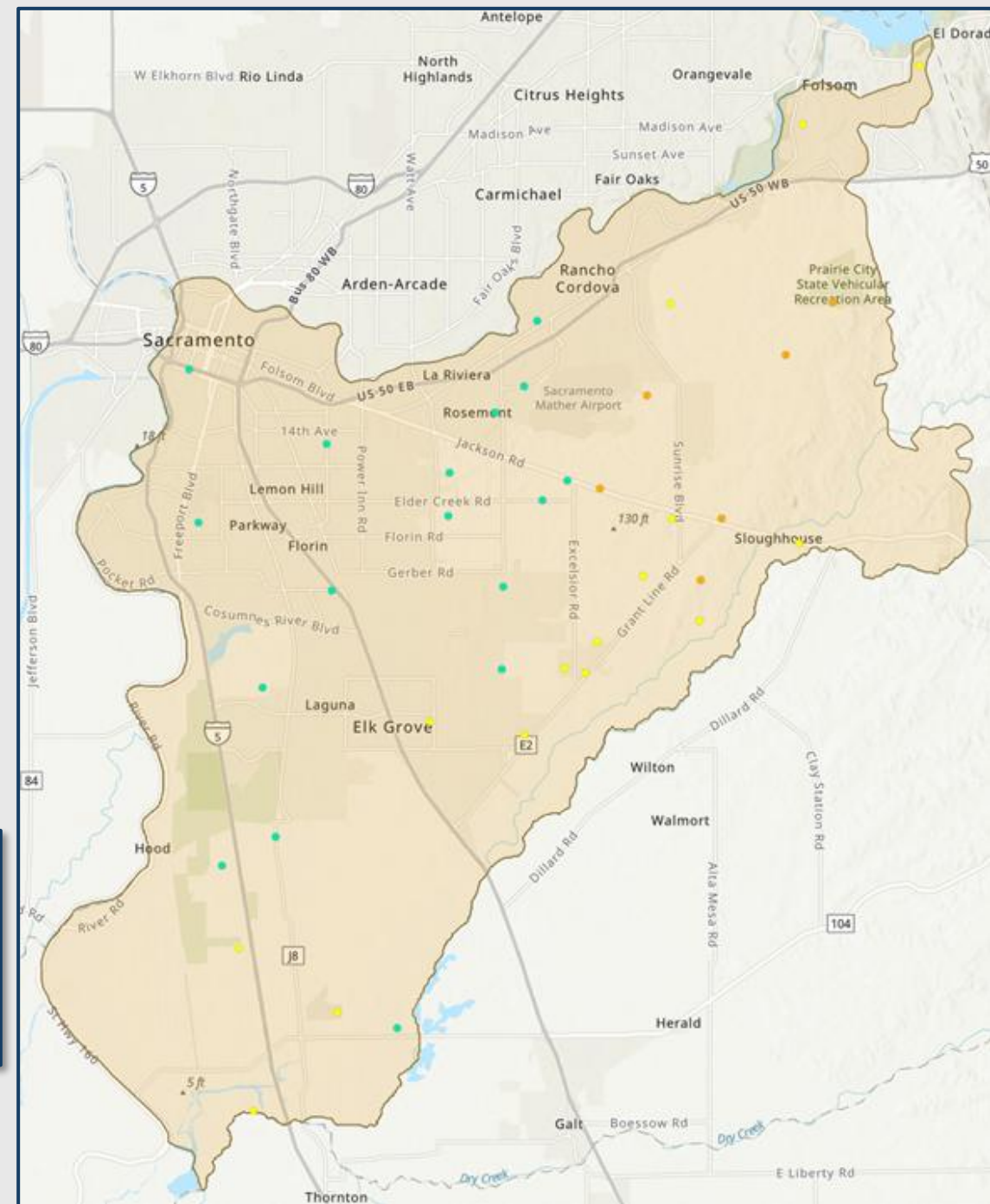


38 monitoring wells

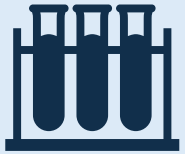
→ 6 Decreasing Trend Down to 2.5 ft

→ 15 No Trend

→ 17 Increasing Trend Up to 2.5 ft



Why Groundwater Monitoring Matters



Science-Based Decision Making

→ Local data can result in solutions tailored to real, local conditions



Safe, Reliable Water Access

→ Spot problems early and keep wells running



Long-Term Groundwater Sustainability

→ Track trends and protect future supply



Stronger Community Drought Resilience

→ Prepare, respond, recover from shortages faster – together

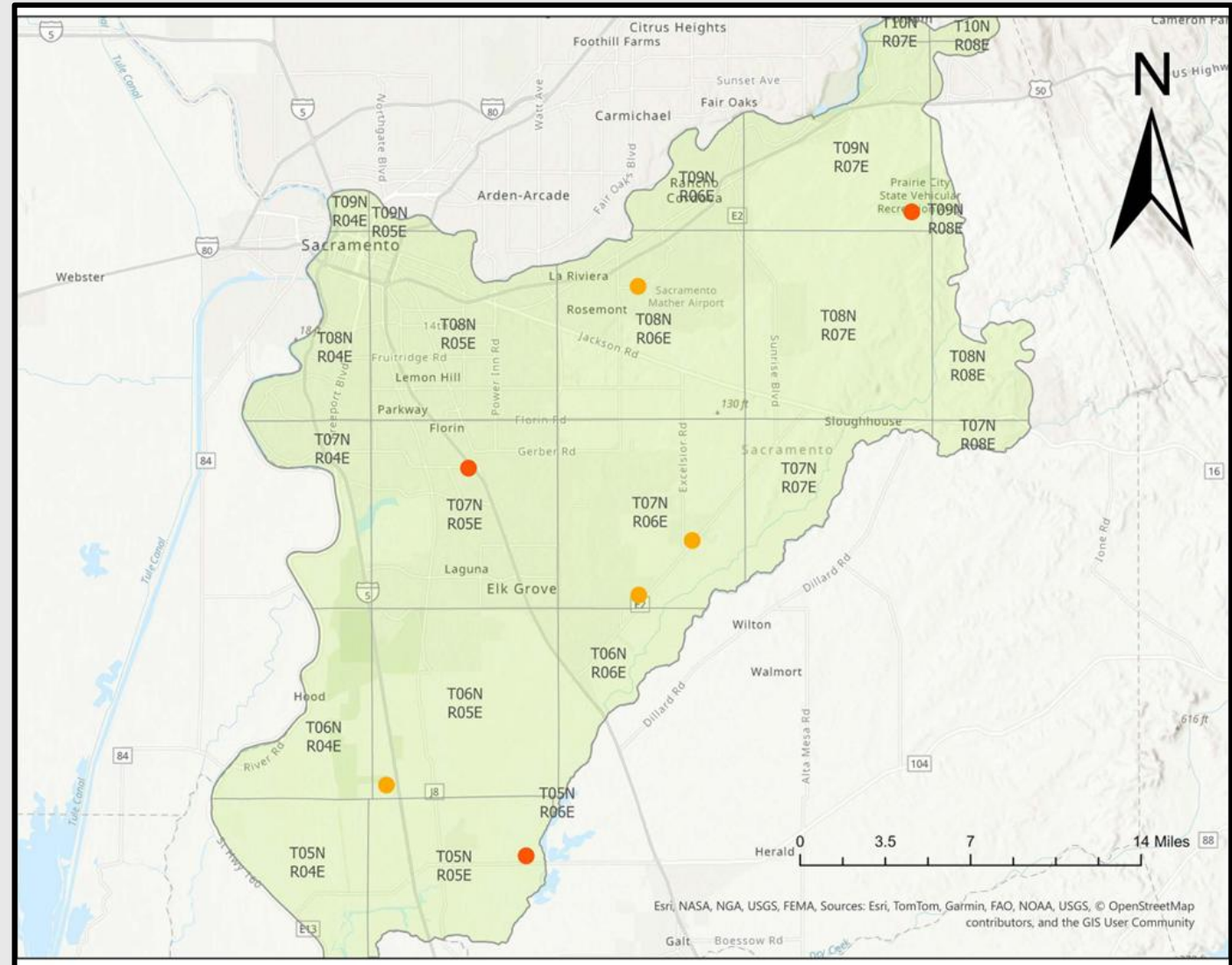


Current DWR Monitoring in the South American Subbasin:

7 wells in network

→ 4 between 100-200ft

→ 3 between 200-500ft



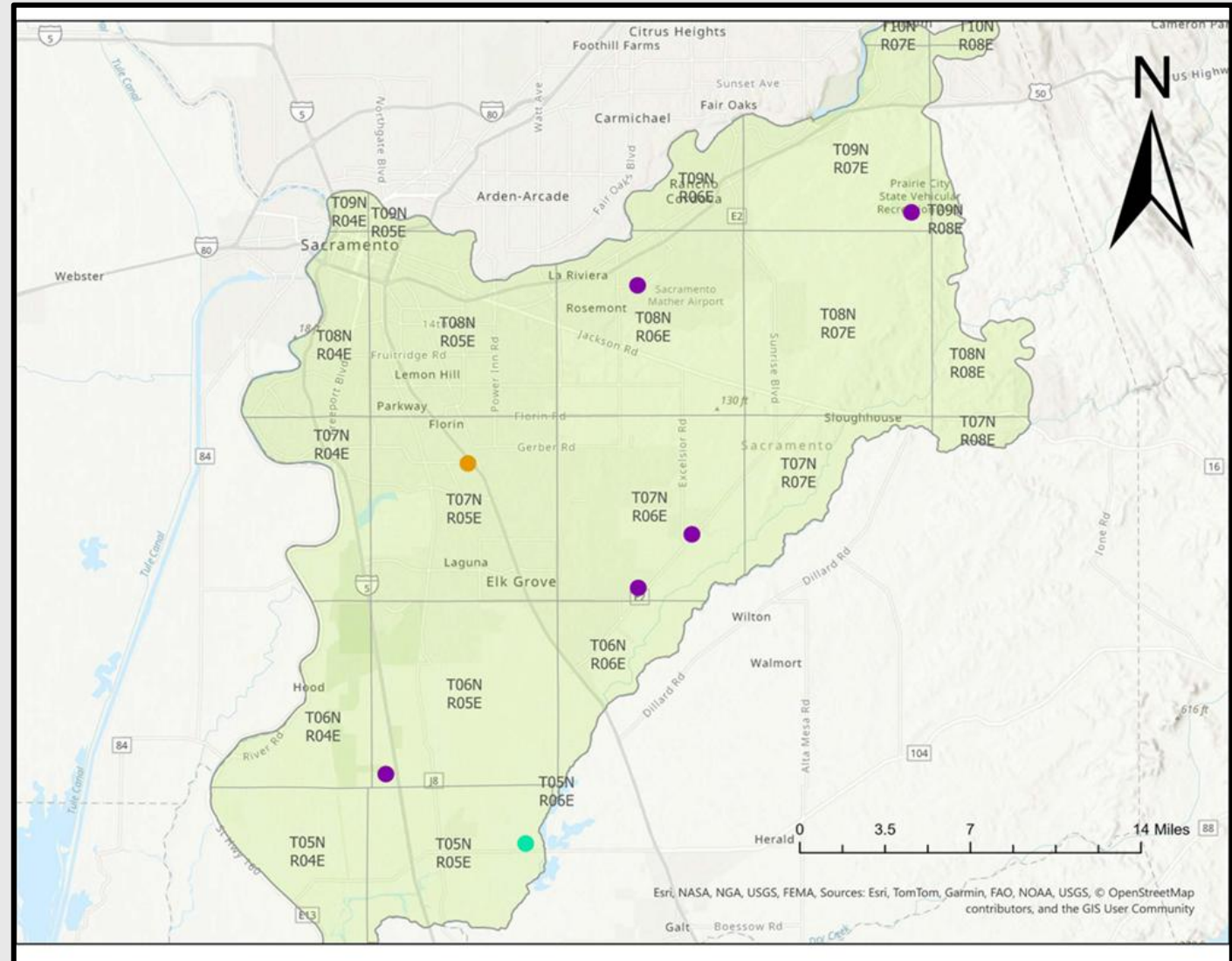
Current DWR Monitoring in the South American Subbasin:

7 wells in network

→ 5 Domestic Wells

→ 1 Irrigation Well

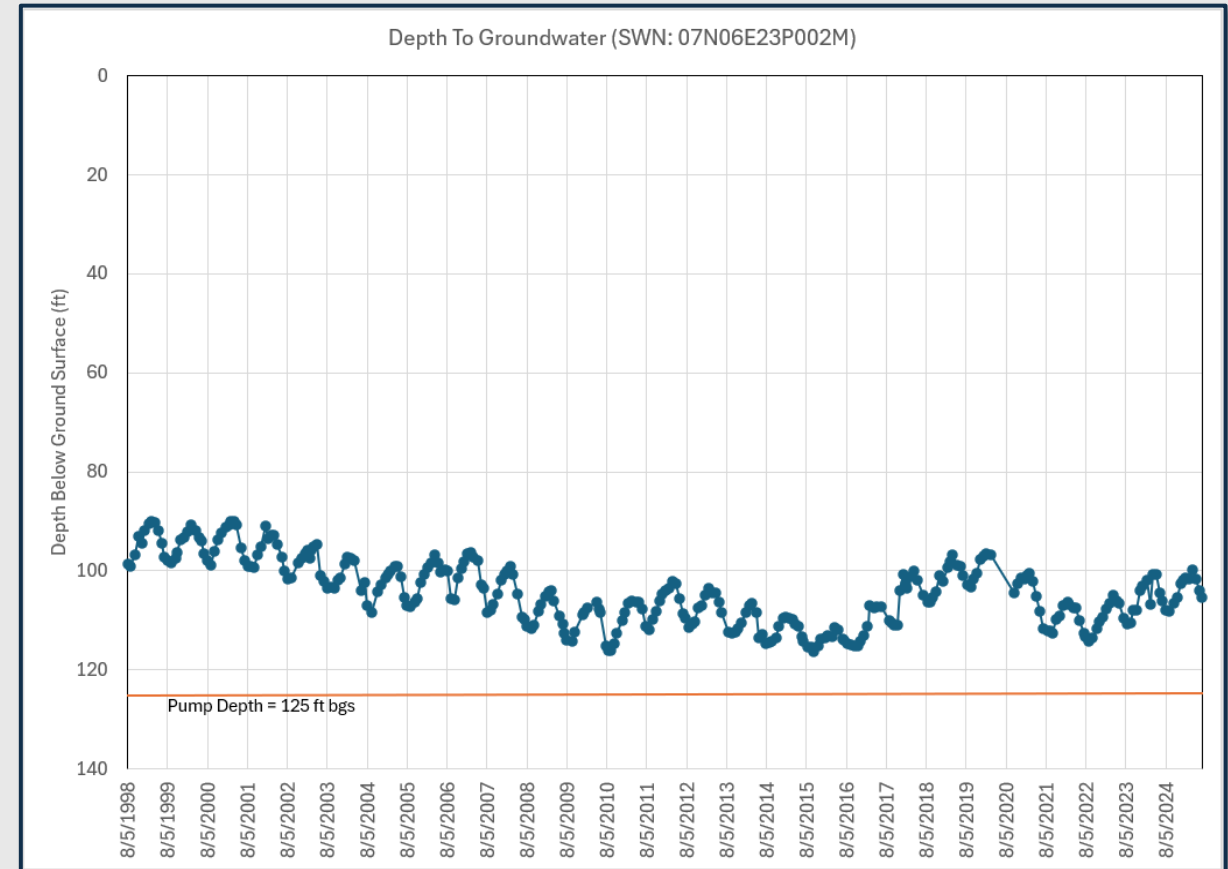
→ 1 Monitoring Well



Making Monitoring Data Actionable

Local Project Example: Using monitoring data to support domestic wells

- Goal: Understand the depth of domestic well pumps in the community
- Approach: Compare pump depths with groundwater data from monitoring wells
- Outcome: Identify and notify wells at risk of going dry



Program Overview & Participation Options

Zoe Kanavas, PhD

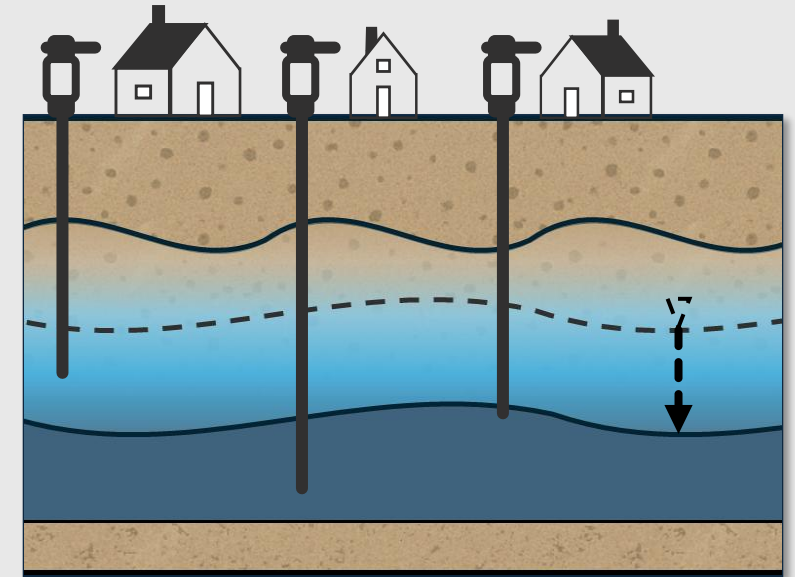
California Department of Water Resources

Water Justice Office

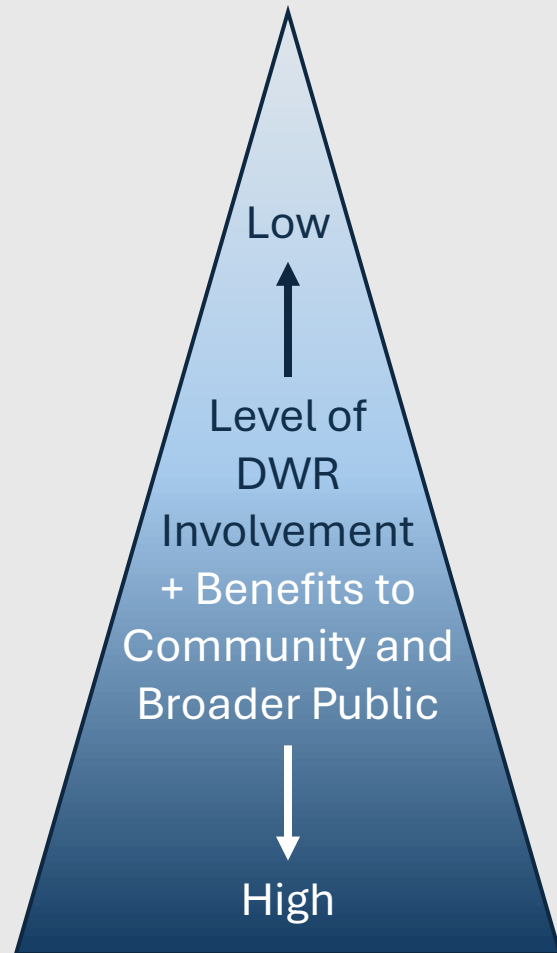


What is the Community Groundwater Monitoring Program?

- Part of DWR's statewide groundwater monitoring enhancement effort
- Voluntary program for **domestic well owners**, schools, and small water systems
→ Offers training, equipment, and support
- Monitor groundwater *levels* – **not use**
- Builds **community knowledge** and statewide monitoring coverage
- Flexible to meet **local needs** and **interest**



How it works - Levels of Participation



Level A: Learn

- Receive training and educational materials
- Understand your well & local groundwater conditions

Level B: Contribute

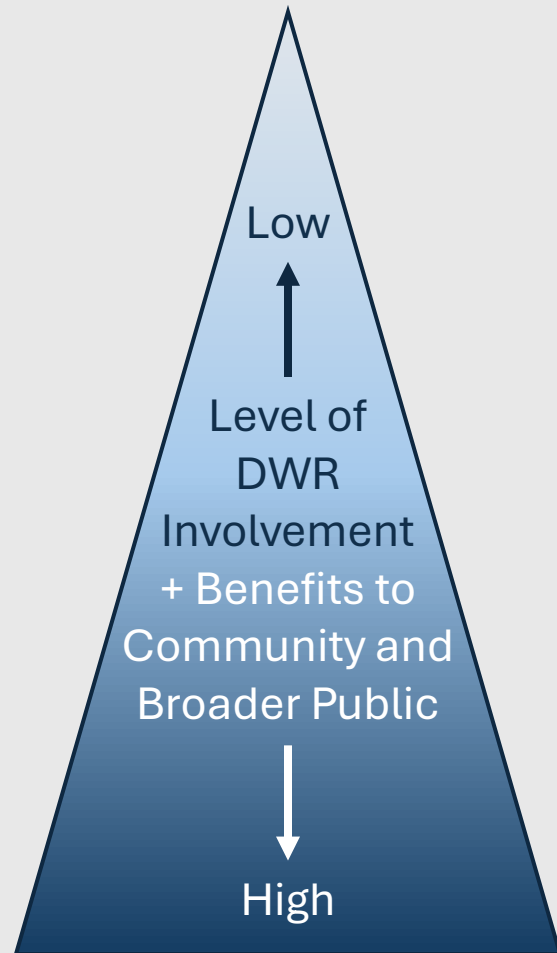
- Receive training and educational materials
- Long-term monitoring equipment loan
- Collect data and share with DWR

Level C: Collaborate

- Receive training and educational material
- Access agreement
- DWR collects and manages data



How it works - Levels of Participation

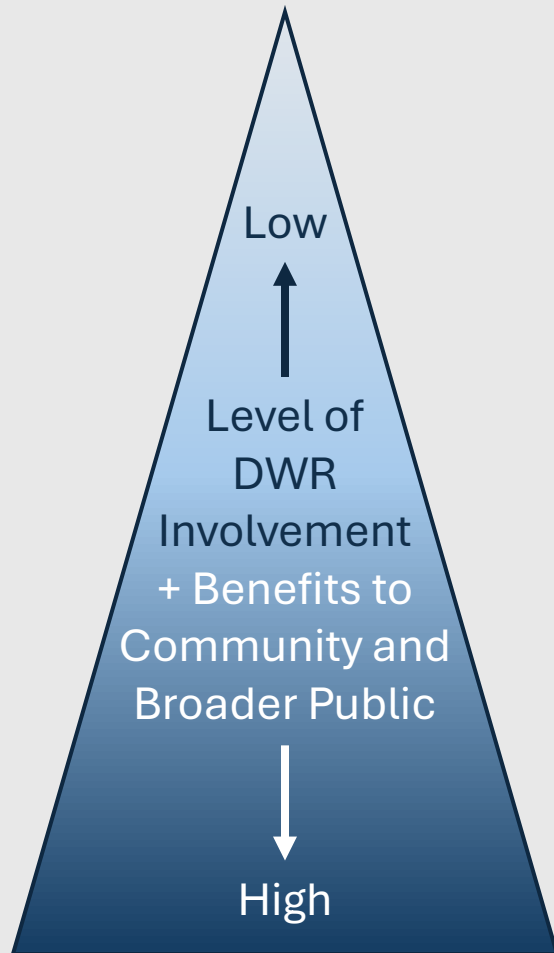


Level A: Learn

- Receive training and educational materials
 - Materials: brochures, explainer videos, FAQs
- Understand your well & local groundwater conditions
 - Topics: groundwater basics, well construction & maintenance, drought impacts, data uses
- What to expect after signup:
 - Follow-up group call
 - Receive training materials
 - Invites to training events



How it works - Levels of Participation

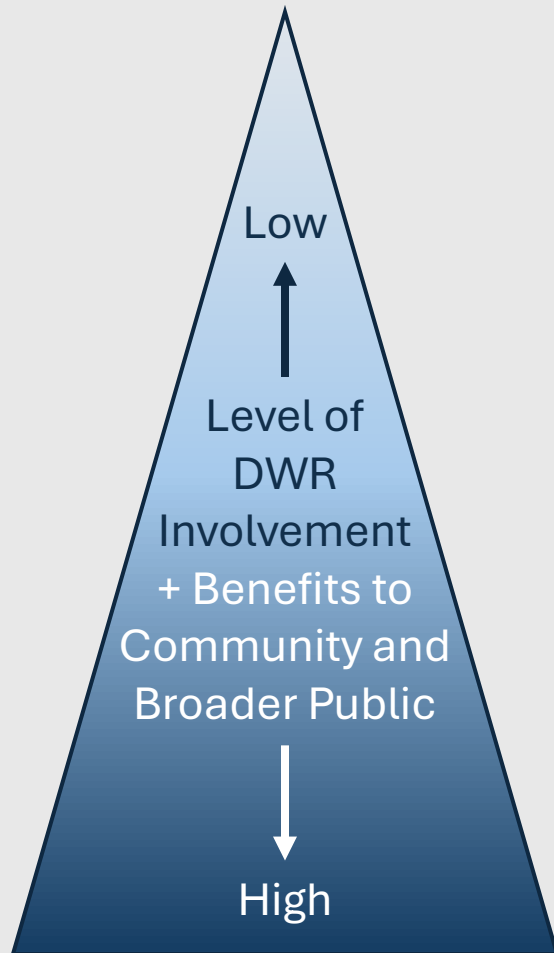


Level B: Contribute

- Receive training and educational materials
- Long-term monitoring equipment loan
 - Dedicated monitoring equipment for each well
 - Loan agreement to track equipment
- Collect data and share with DWR
 - Training on how to use the equipment and submit data to DWR
- What to expect after signup:
 - Follow-up group call
 - Site visit
 - Equipment & data training



How it works - Levels of Participation



Level C: Collaborate

- Receive training and educational materials
- Access agreement
- DWR installs & manages the equipment
- DWR collects and manages data
- What to expect after signup:
 - Follow-up group call
 - Site visit
 - DWR begins monitoring
 - DWR regularly provides data back to well owner



Data, Equipment, and Well Suitability

Bryce Russell, P.G.

California Department of Water Resources

Sustainable Groundwater Management Office



How Your Data is Protected

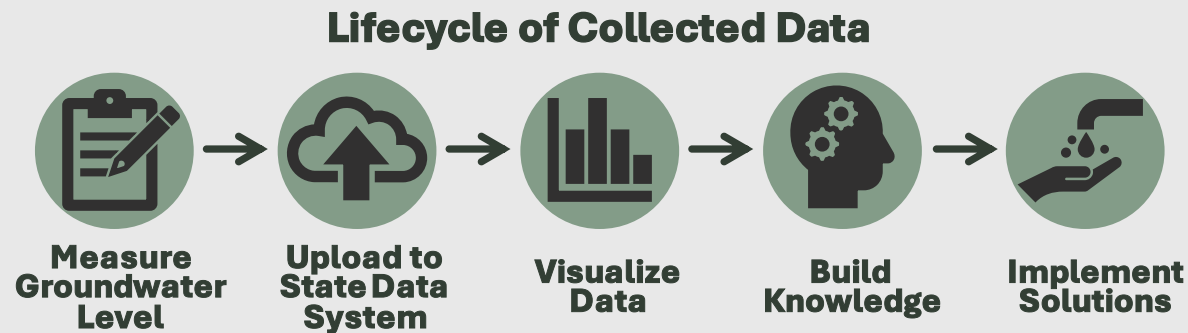
- We don't measure *water use*
- We measure **groundwater levels**
- Participation is **completely voluntary**

Shared Publicly	Kept Private - <i>never shared</i>
Well location & construction details	Well owner name
Depth to water measurements	Well owner contact information
Measurement date and time	Resident address



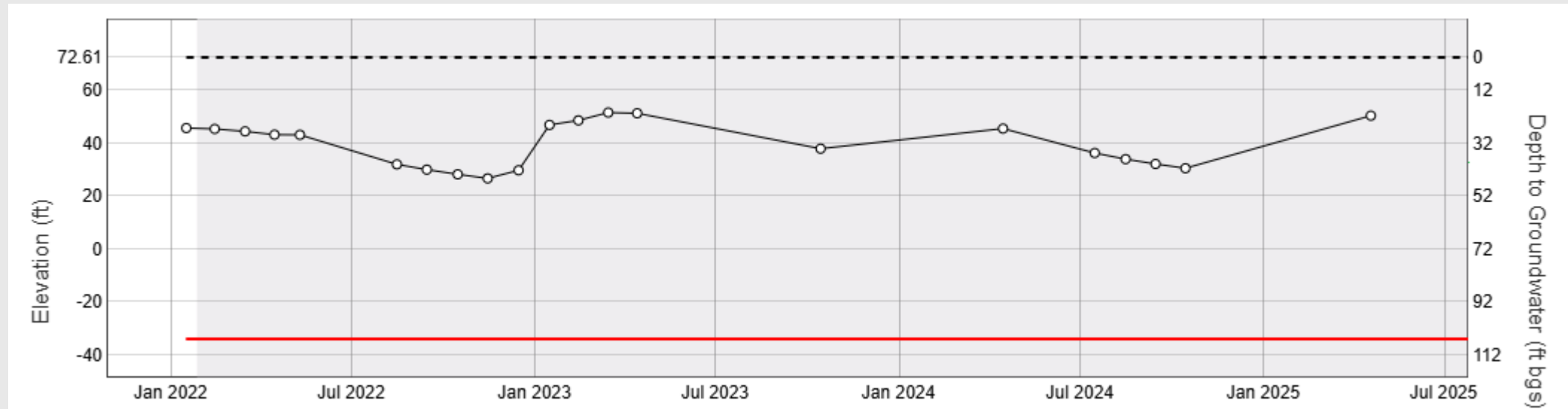
How Your Data is Used

- Submitted to DWR's SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module
- Understand **your** own water supply
- May be used by GSAs and DWR to fill data gaps and better understand the drinking water aquifer



Data Visualization

- Publicly viewable on SGMA Data Viewer Map Application
- Visualize changes over time



Equipment Options



Electronic sounder: Easy-to-use device for quick depth-to-water measurements



Pressure transducer: Records continuous water level data over time – *not suitable for all wells*



Support from DWR

- Well & site suitability
- Long-term equipment loan
- Training on how to measure & submit data
- Technical support and troubleshooting



Community Feedback

Lisa Beutler

Stantec

Domestic Well Advisory Group Facilitator



Community feedback

We'd like to hear from you...



What would you want to learn through this pilot?



What would make it easier for you to participate?

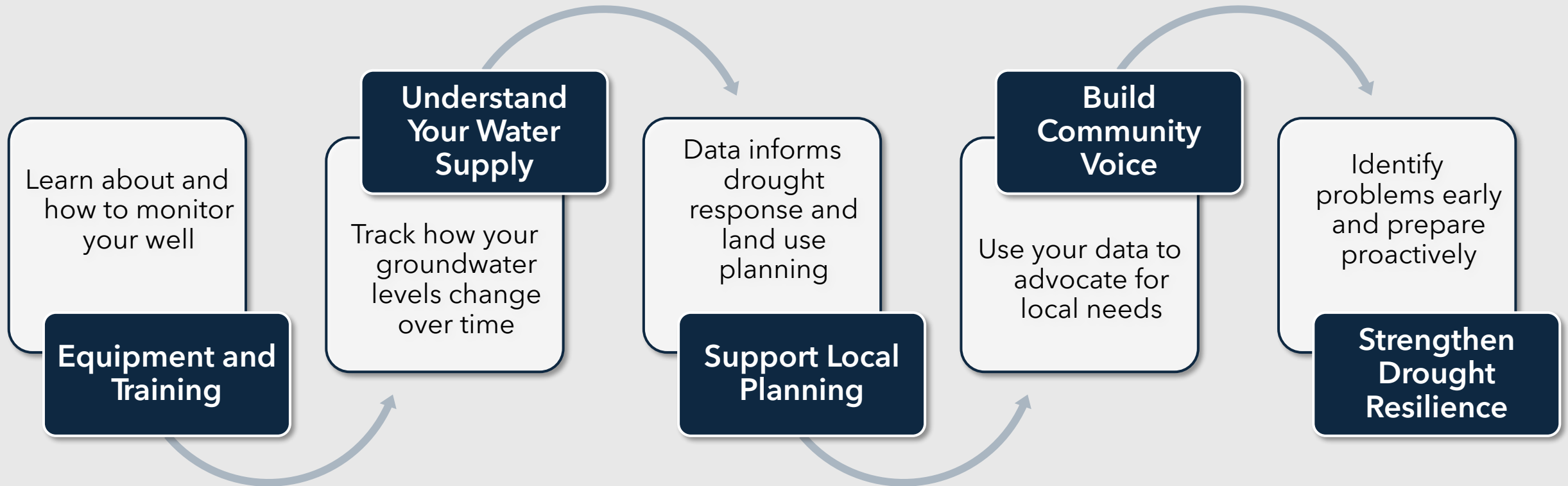


Do you have any hesitations or concerns?

Other ideas to improve the pilot?



What's in it for the Community?



Recap & How to Sign Up

- **Voluntary opportunity** to learn about your well and groundwater levels
- All shared data is **anonymized** – no personal information is public
- **Sign up** today and choose your level of participation
- Next step: Follow-up group calls with participants at each level

Interested? Fill out a sign-up card before you leave!

Sign-Up Cards

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check the level(s) you are interested in:

Level A:

Learn

☐

Level B

Contribute

☐

Level C

Collaborate

☐

If you check Levels B or C, please provide:

Address: _____



Want to learn more?

Connect with us!



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Zoe.Kanavas@water.ca.gov



Bryce Russell
916-291-2999

Bryce.Russell@water.ca.gov



Open House

Talk with program staff to ask questions, learn more about the program, and provide feedback.

