

Red River GCD

Well Spacing Evaluation

November 20, 2025

Mark Nickels and James Beach P.G.

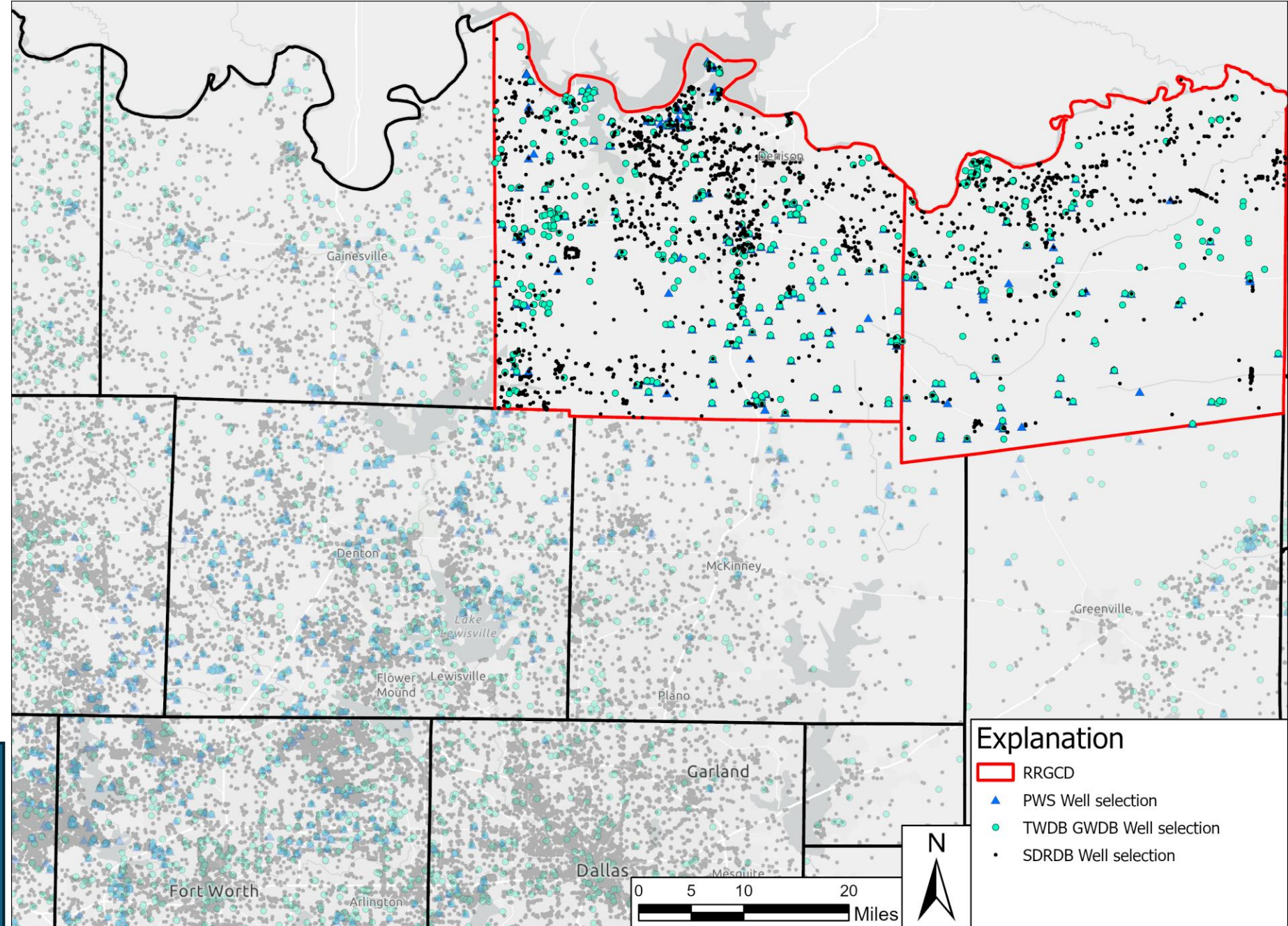
Purpose of Well Spacing Regulations

- Historically, well spacing rules limit a pumping well's impact on other wells
- Well spacing rules are allowed as a management tool under Chapter 36
- Policy decision to increase spacing to limit overall production
- ****Policy Decision****

The main point of the slide...

Wells in RRGCD

There are a lot of wells in RRGCD, and there will be more coming...



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

10/27/2025

Well Spacing Rule Update

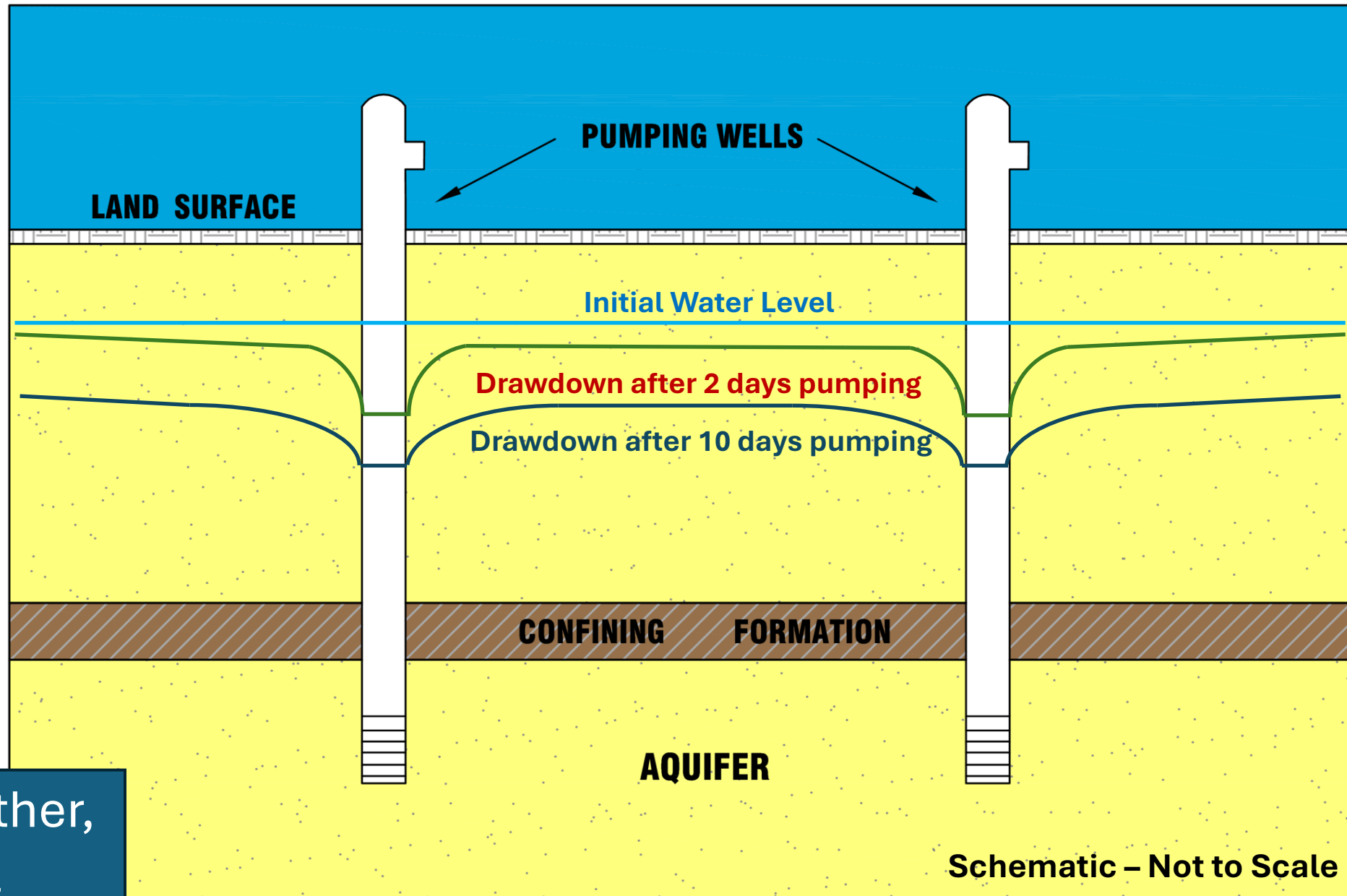
Minimum Spacing Requirements for All New Wells in the District
Applies to all aquifers

Maximum Capacity of Well	Spacing from Property Line	Spacing from Existing Wells Completed in the Same Aquifer (in feet)
17.36 gpm or less	50 feet	100 feet
Greater than 17.36 gpm	50 feet	889 feet + $[2.5 \times (\text{gpm of proposed well})]$

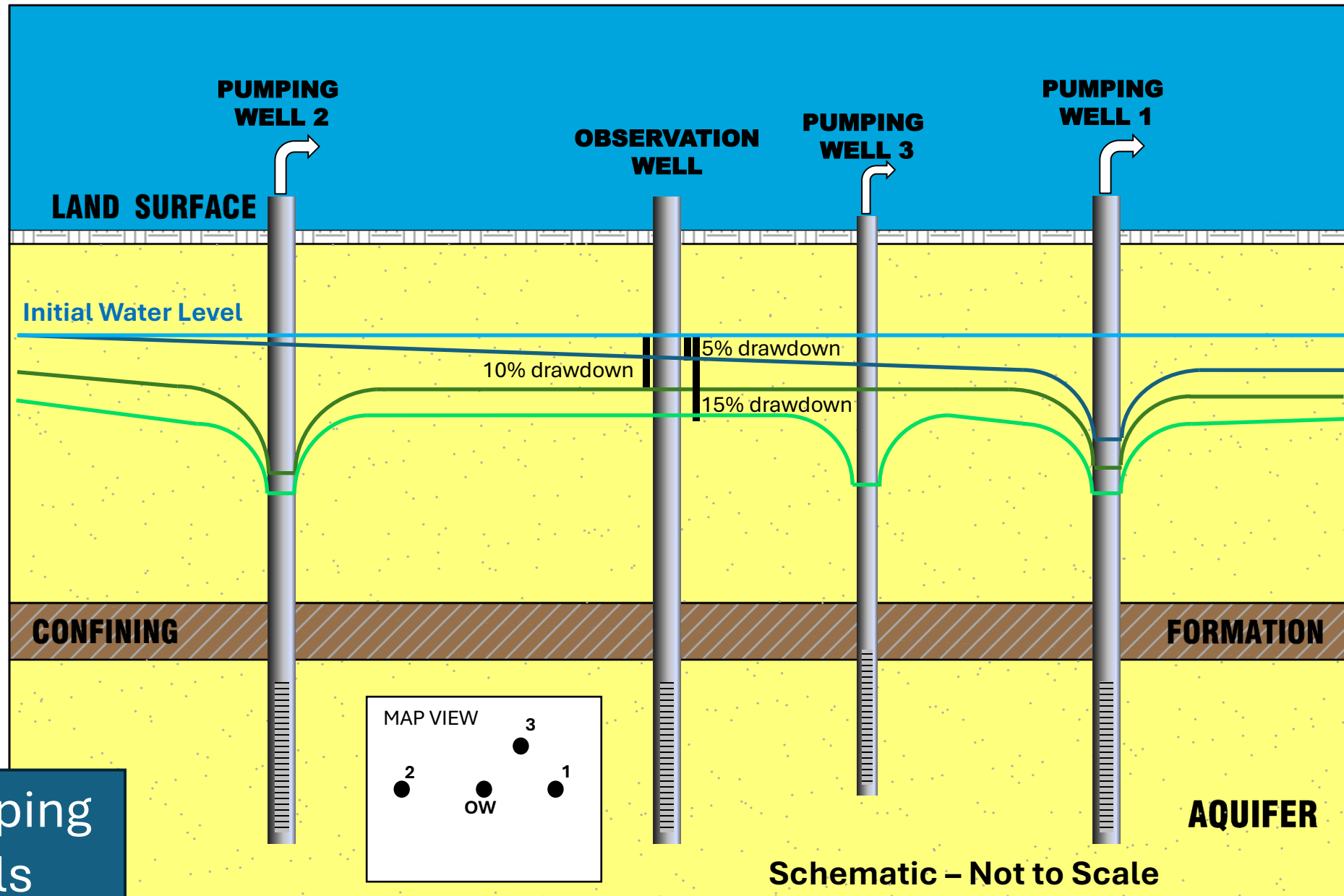


**Updated Well
Spacing
Rules**

We are considering refining the current well spacing rules using a similar method, but with a greater volume of data.



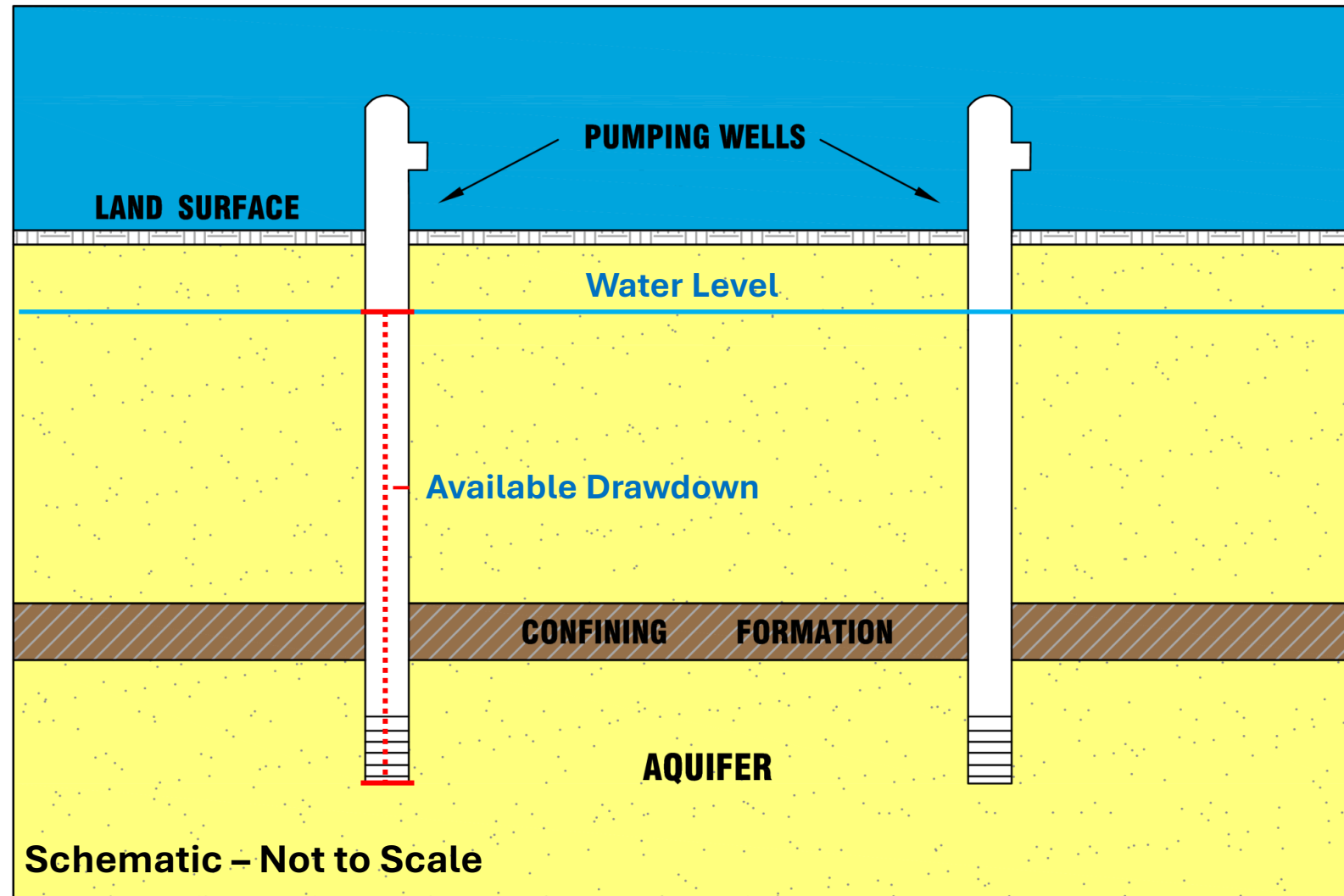
Wells impact each other, the longer that a well pumps, the more impact it has



The impact of a pumping is additive, more wells pumping causes more impact

Available Drawdown

- Calculated different ways
- A factor in how much water can be pumped
- Decreases with declining water level



Cooper-Jacob Method

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{\frac{sT}{264*Q}}}}$$

r = Distance from pumping well (feet)

T = Aquifer transmissivity (gpd/ft)

S = Aquifer storativity

s = Drawdown in impact well (feet)

Q = Pumping rate (gpm)

t = Pumping duration (days)

Assumptions

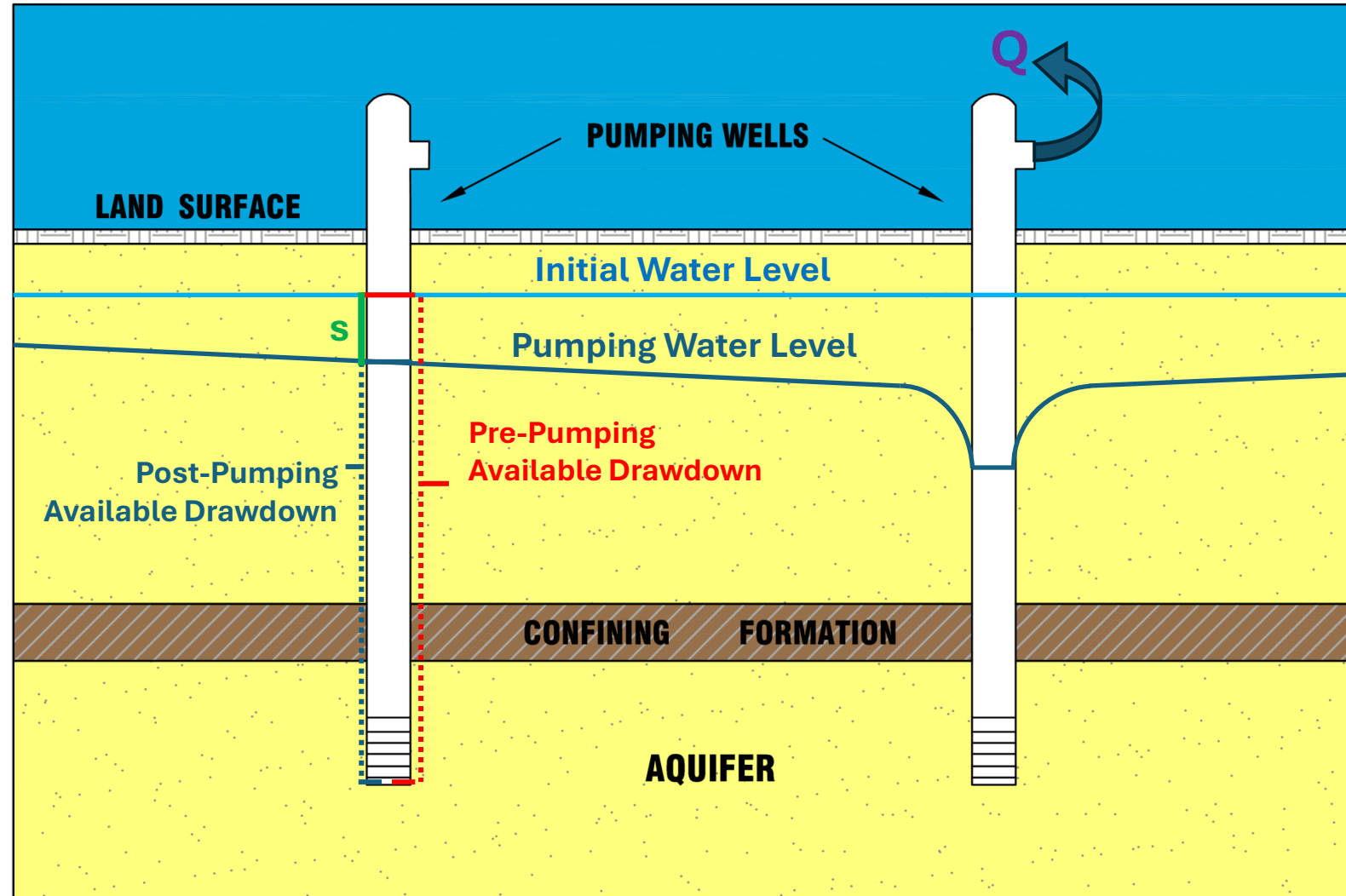
- Assumes confined conditions
- Assumes impacted well is constructed the same as pumping well



- **T** = Pump Rate/drawdown * 2000
- **S** = 0.001 or 10×10^{-4}
- **t** = 2 days
- **s** = Available Drawdown * 2% Impact
 - Explained later

Cooper-Jacob Method

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{264} * Q}}$$

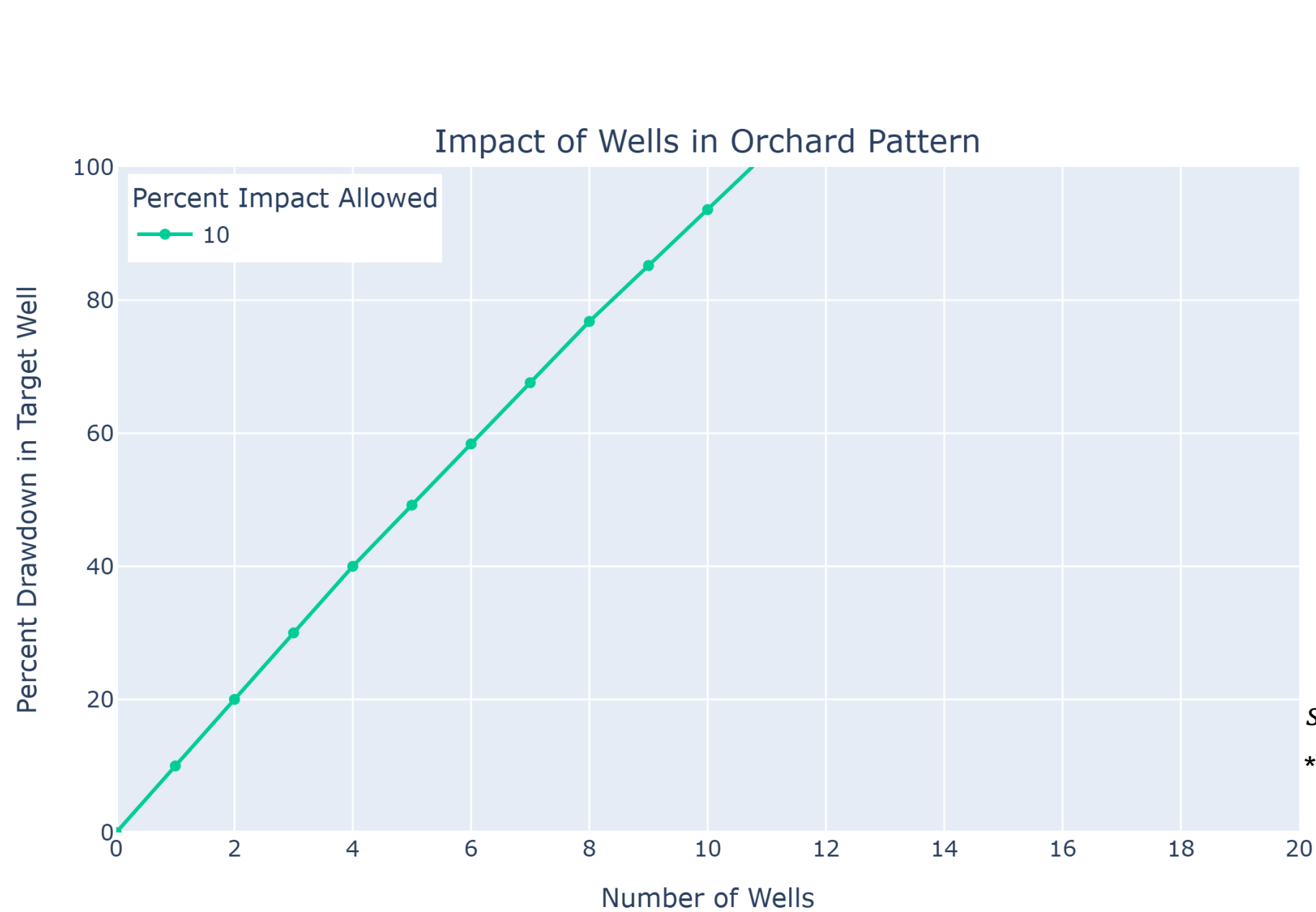


Cumulative Impact of overlapping drawdown

- Set assumed well properties
- Simulate the impact of adding new pumping wells around a central well
- New wells fill in in the pattern below in 4 levels (for the first 20)

- **Level 1:** Wells 1-4
- **Level 2:** Wells 5-8
- **Level 3:** Wells 9-12
- **Level 4:** Wells 12-20

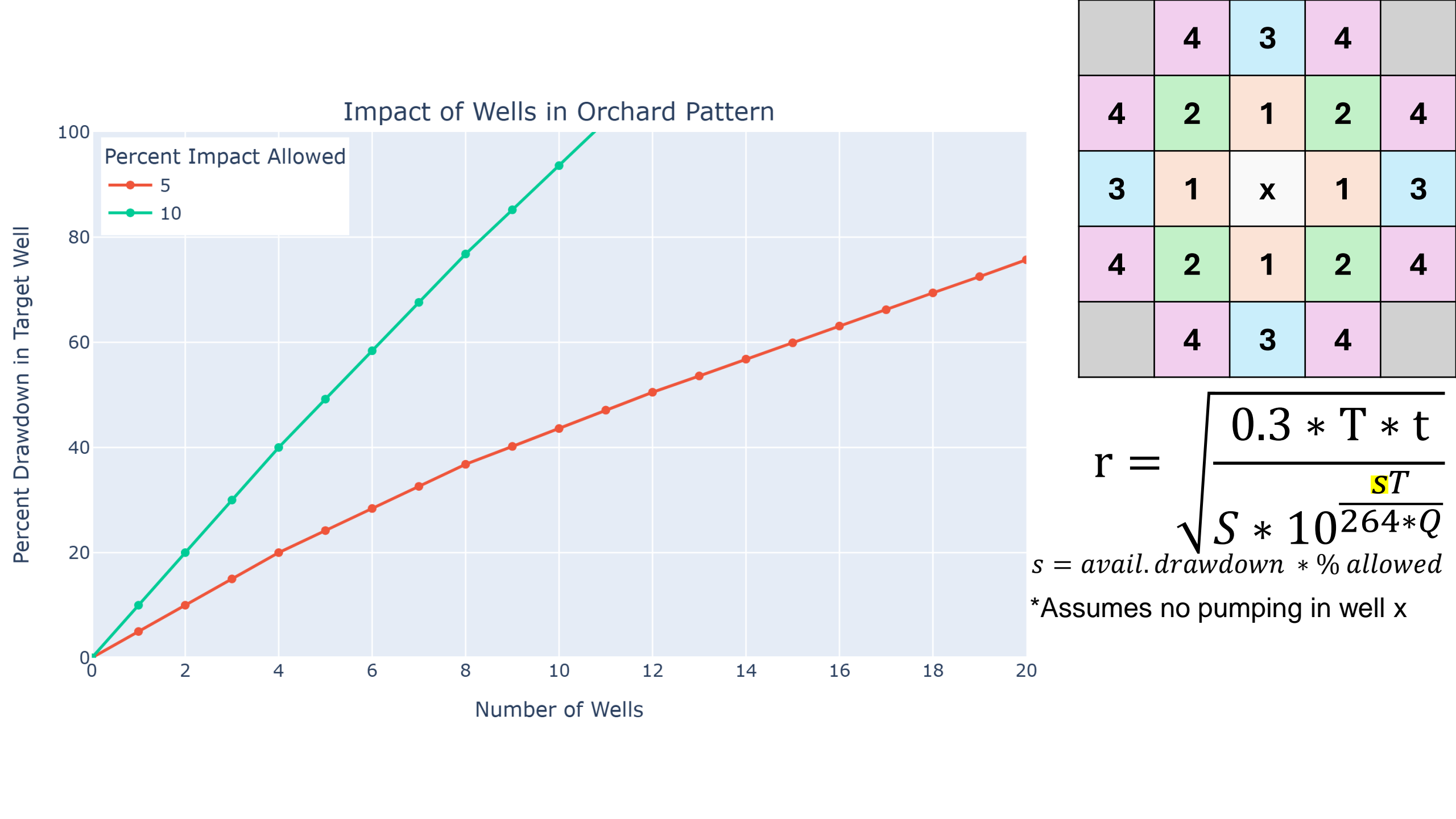
	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	



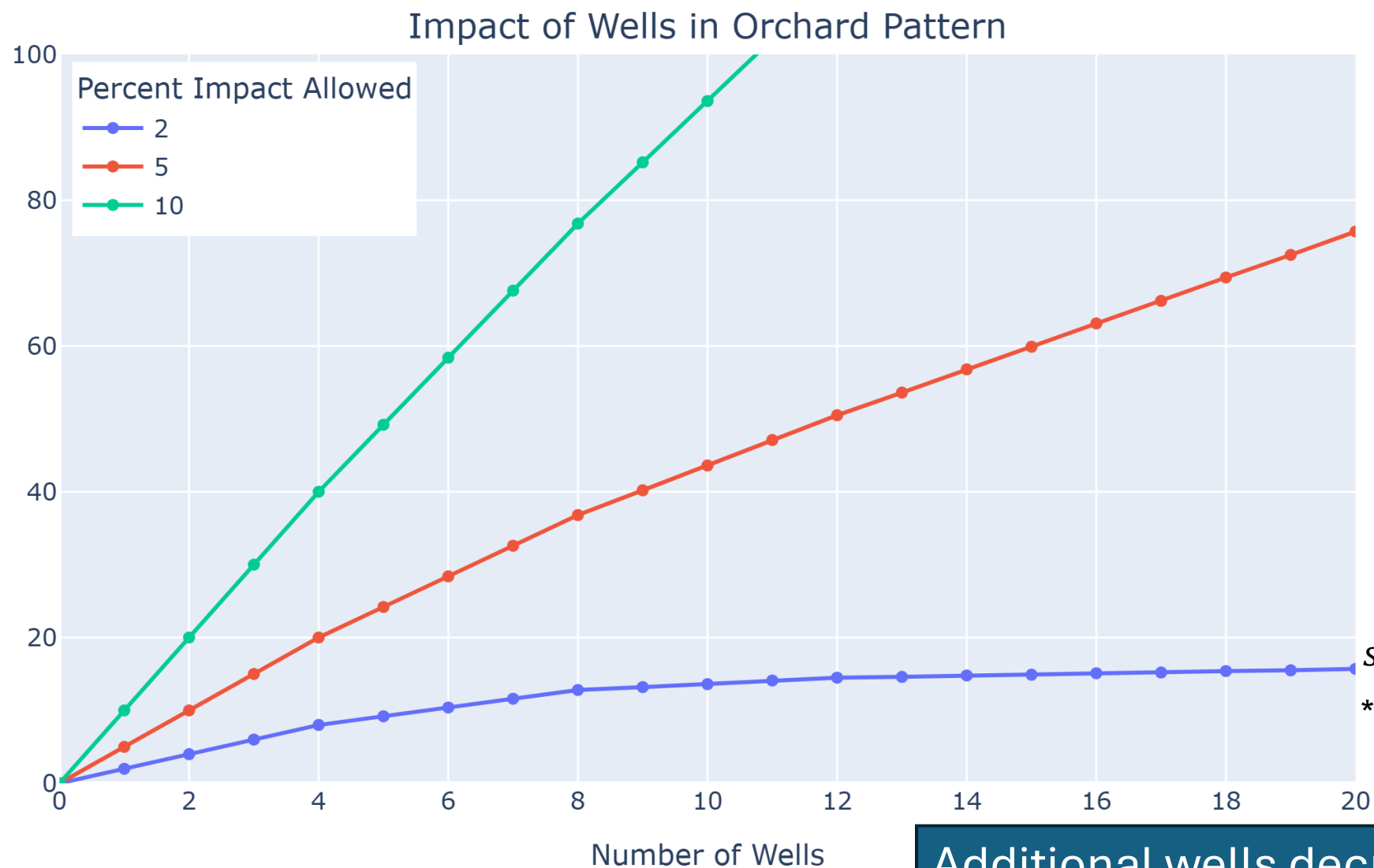
	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{264 * Q} * T}}$$

$s = avail. drawdown * \% allowed$
 *Assumes no pumping in well x



Percent Drawdown in Target Well



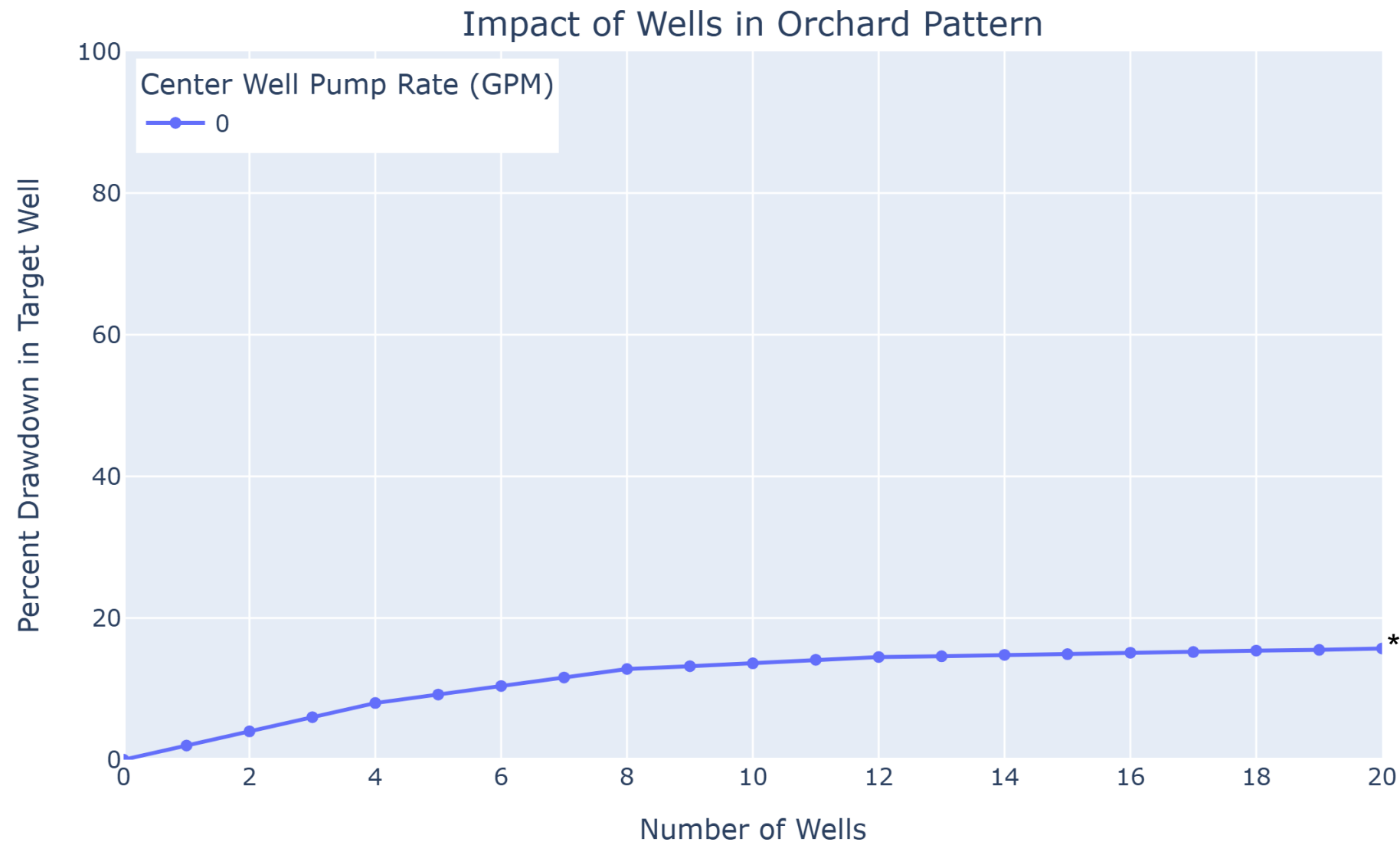
	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{264 * Q}}}$$

$s = \text{avail. drawdown} * \% \text{ allowed}$

*Assumes no pumping in well x

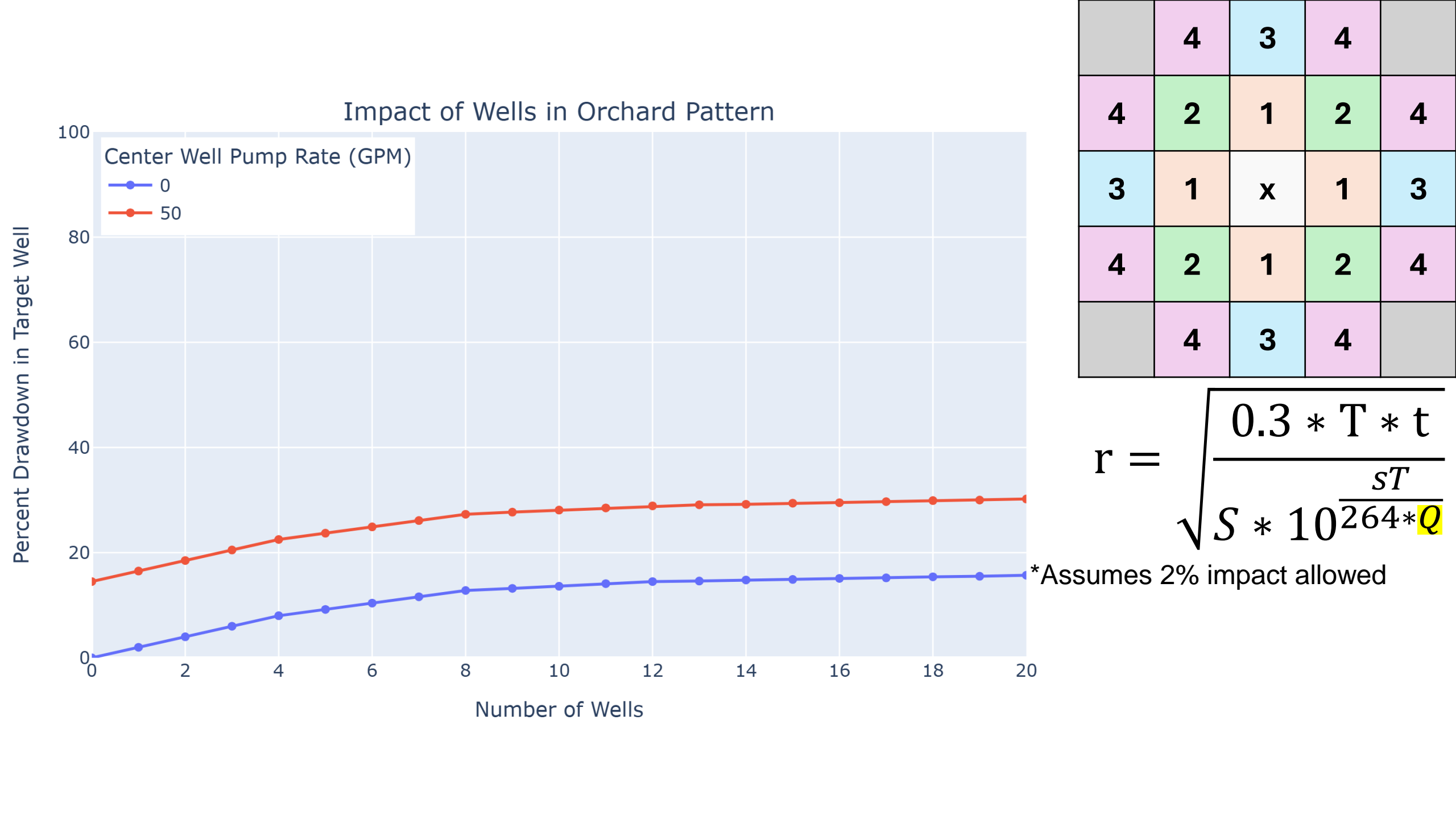
Additional wells decrease avail. drawdown.
2% impact levels off & maxes out at ~20%



	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{sT}}$$
$$S * 10^{264 * Q}$$

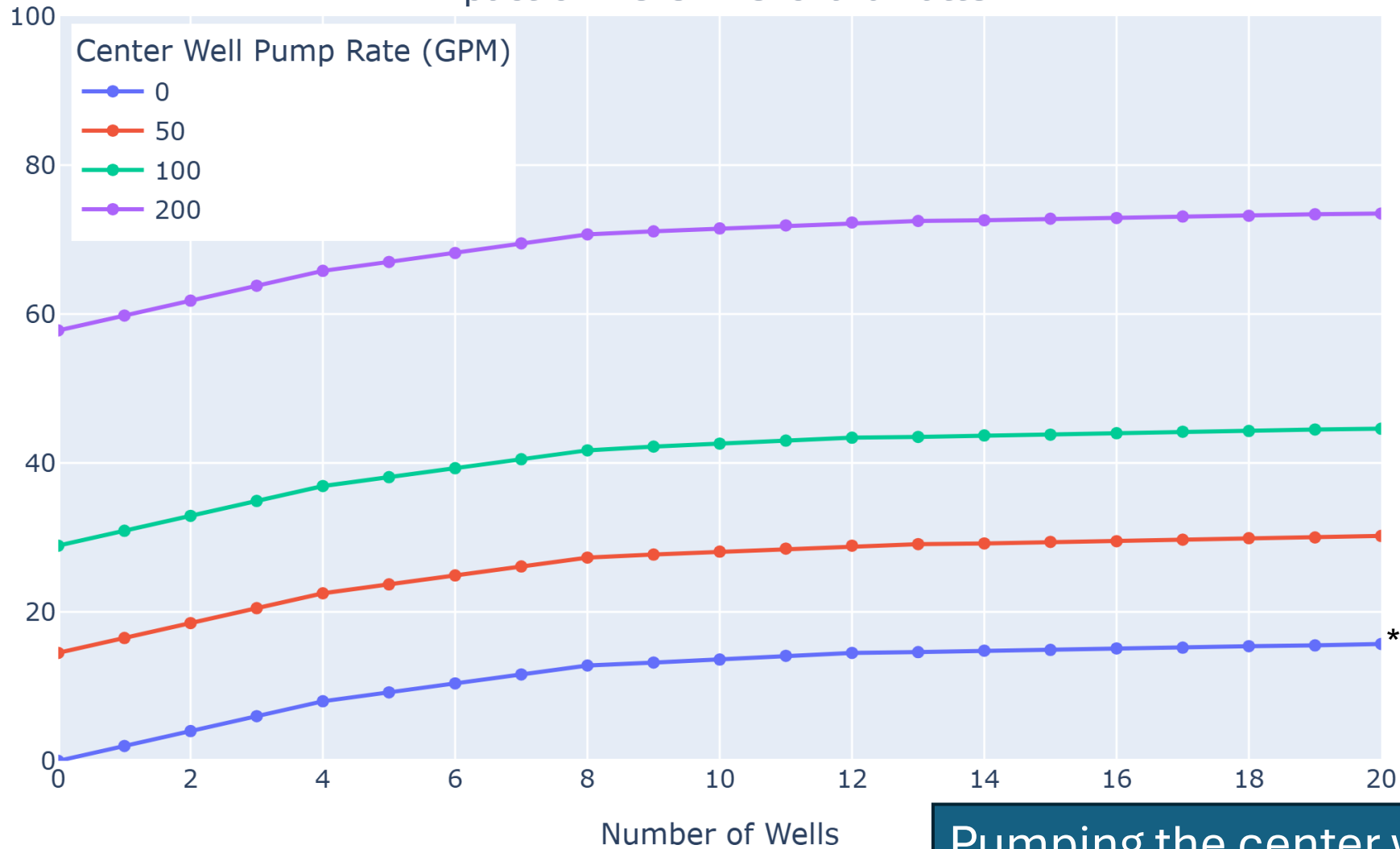
*Assumes 2% impact allowed



	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{264 * Q} * T}}$$

Impact of Wells in Orchard Pattern



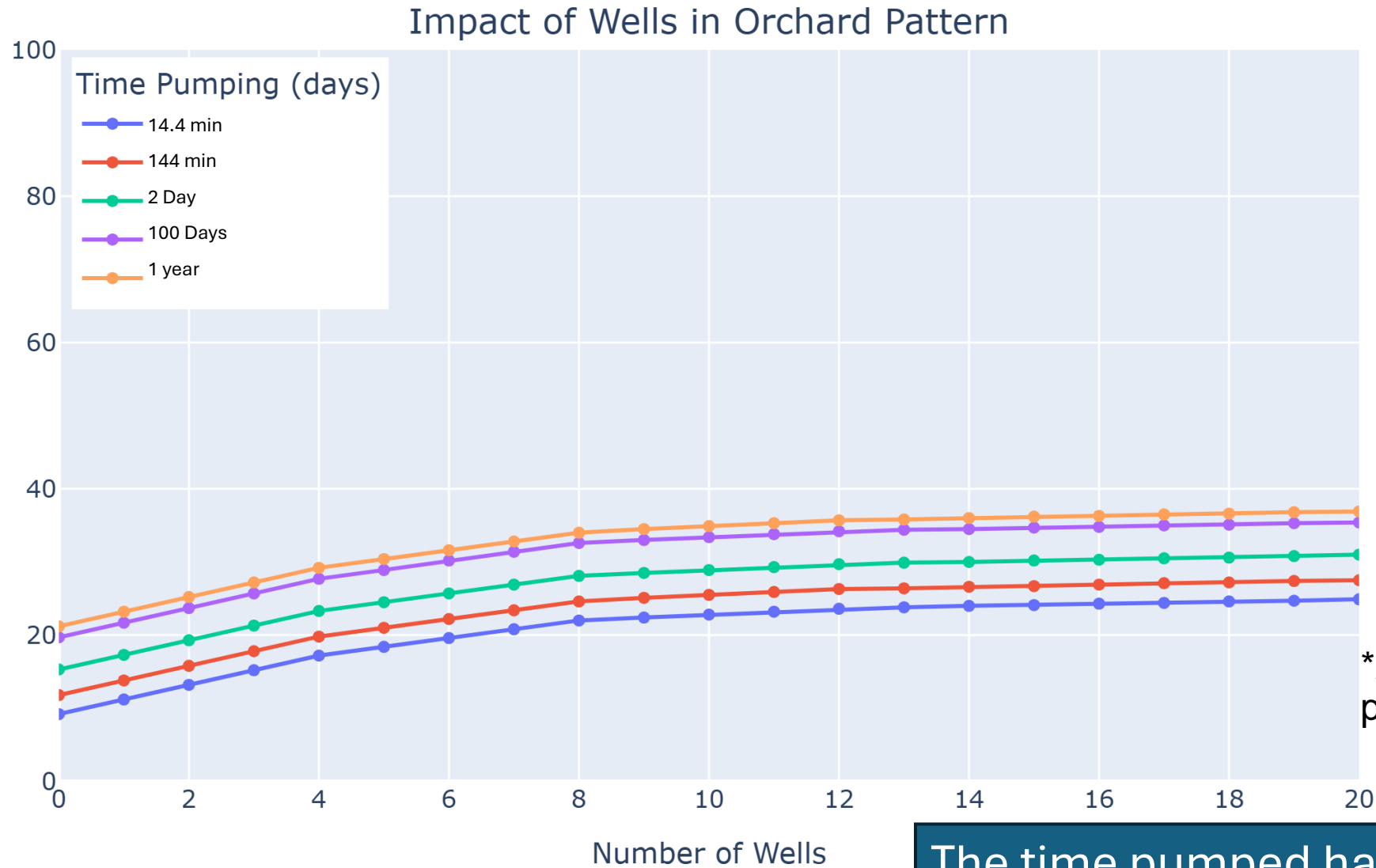
	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{264 * Q}}}$$

*Assumes 2% impact allowed

Pumping the center well decreases the remaining avail. drawdown

Percent Drawdown in Target Well



*Assumes 2% impact and 50 gpm pumping

	4	3	4	
4	2	1	2	4
3	1	x	1	3
4	2	1	2	4
	4	3	4	

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{264 * Q} * sT}}$$

The time pumped has minimal impact on avail drawdown, with low pump rates

Compiled Data Sources

TWDB

- Groundwater Database
- Submitted Driller's Reports (TDLR)
- Aquifer Properties data from TWDB
- Aquifer tests and related well information from public supply wells in Groundwater Management Area 8 (Intera)

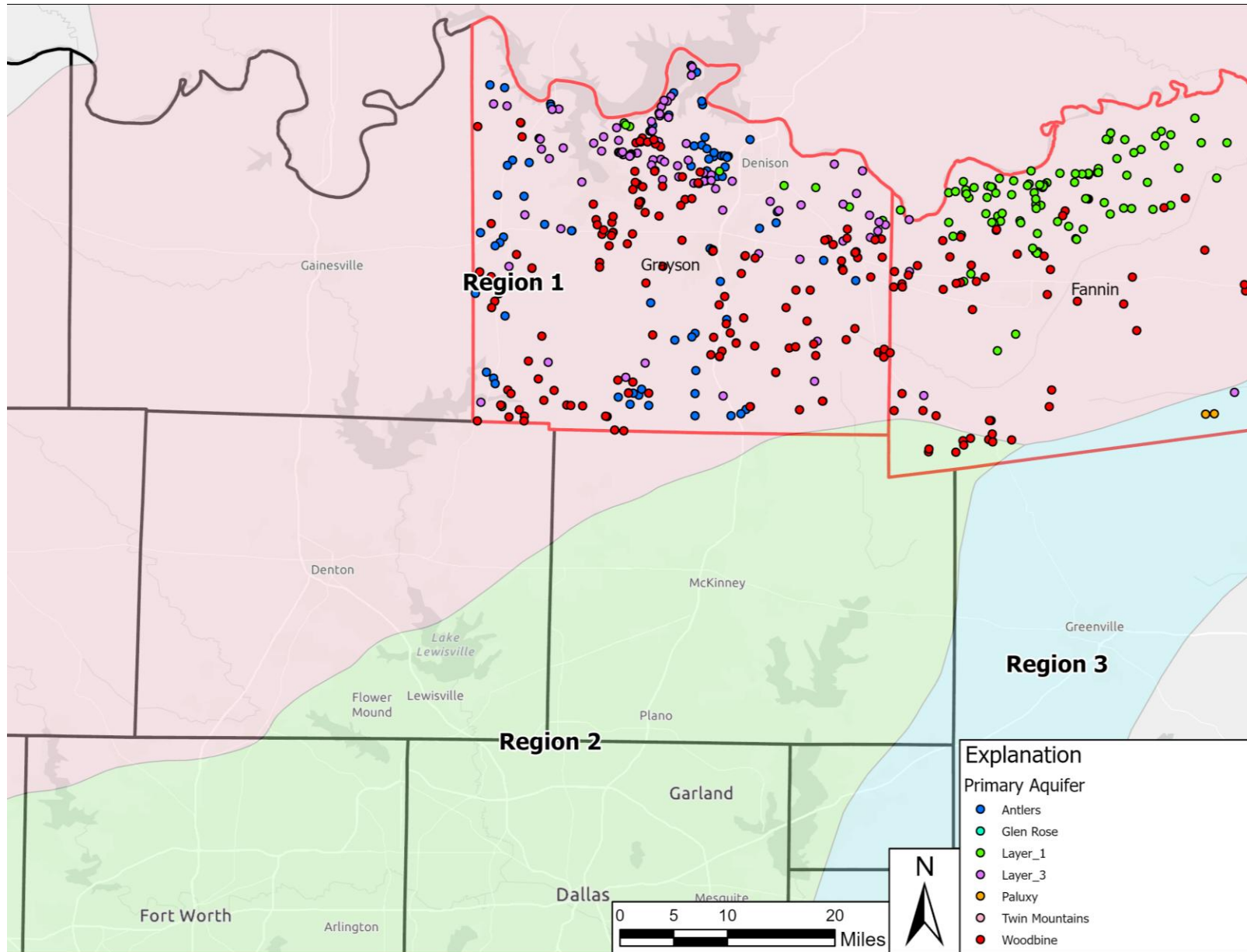
TCEQ (Scanned PDFs)

- TCEQ Public water system completion pump tests

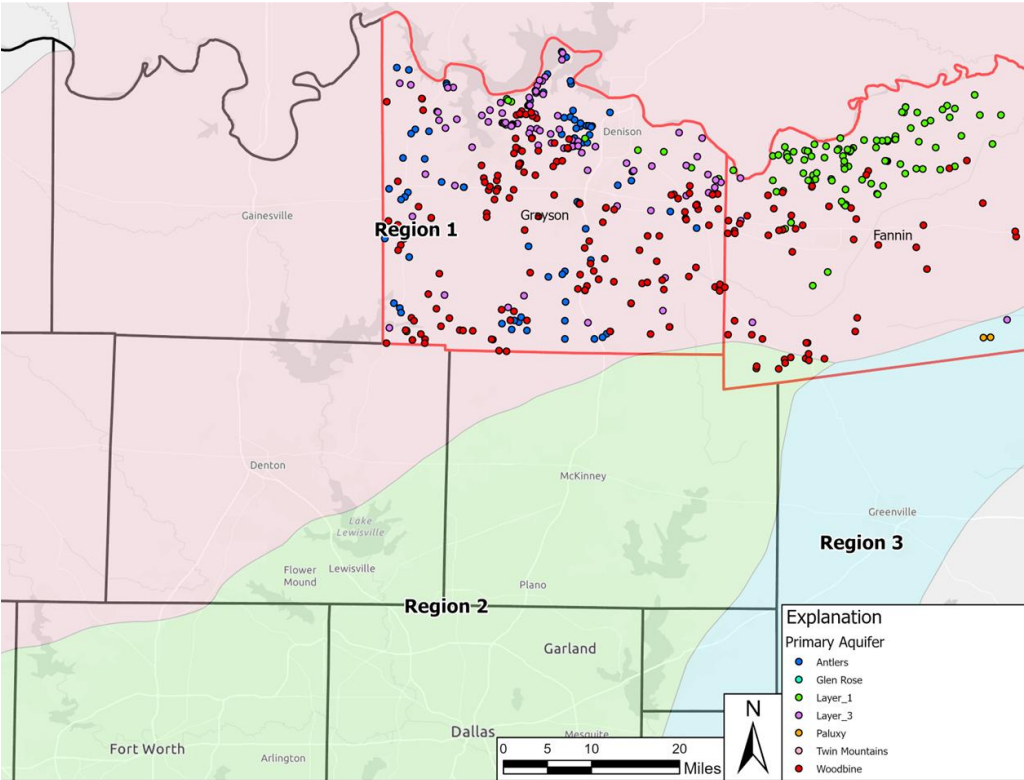
Northern Trinity GAM

- Public Supply Well pump test data

Plotted Wells in RRGCD



Plotted Wells in RRGCD



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. 10/27/2021

County/Aquifer	# of Wells	Max Capacity (GPM)	Avg. Capacity (GPM)
Grayson (326)			
Layer 1	13	25	15
Woodbine	138	708	86
Antlers	94	640	193
Layer 3	81	200	30
Fannin (167)			
Layer 1	101	200	20
Woodbine	56	752	197
Antlers	1	90	90
Layer 3	6	350	137
Paluxy	3	278	249

Distribution of wells in each county by aquifer.

Current Well Spacing Rules

Minimum Spacing Requirements for All New Wells in the District <i>Applies to all aquifers</i>		
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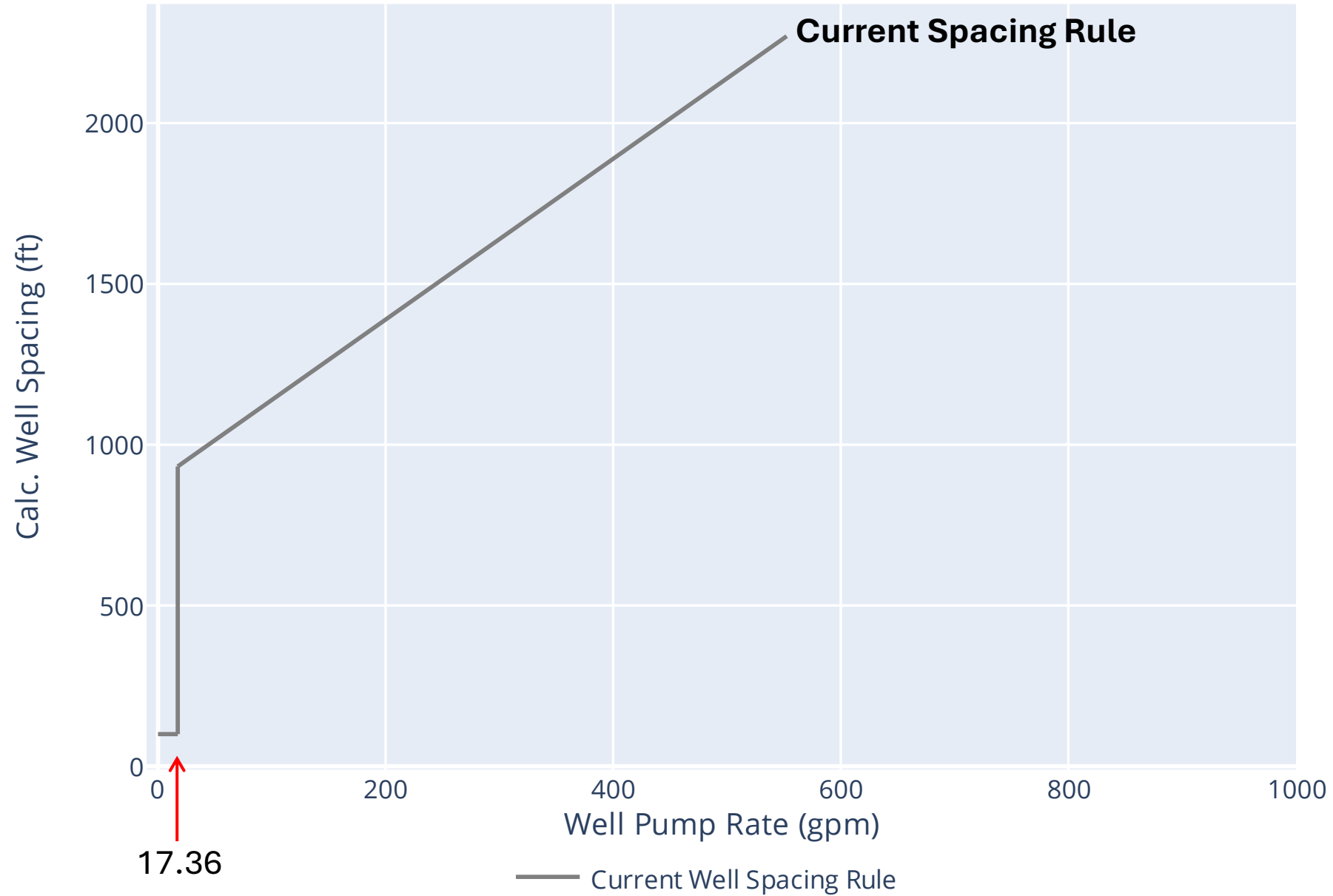
Review of Assumptions

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{0.3 * T * t}{S * 10^{\frac{sT}{264*Q}}}}$$

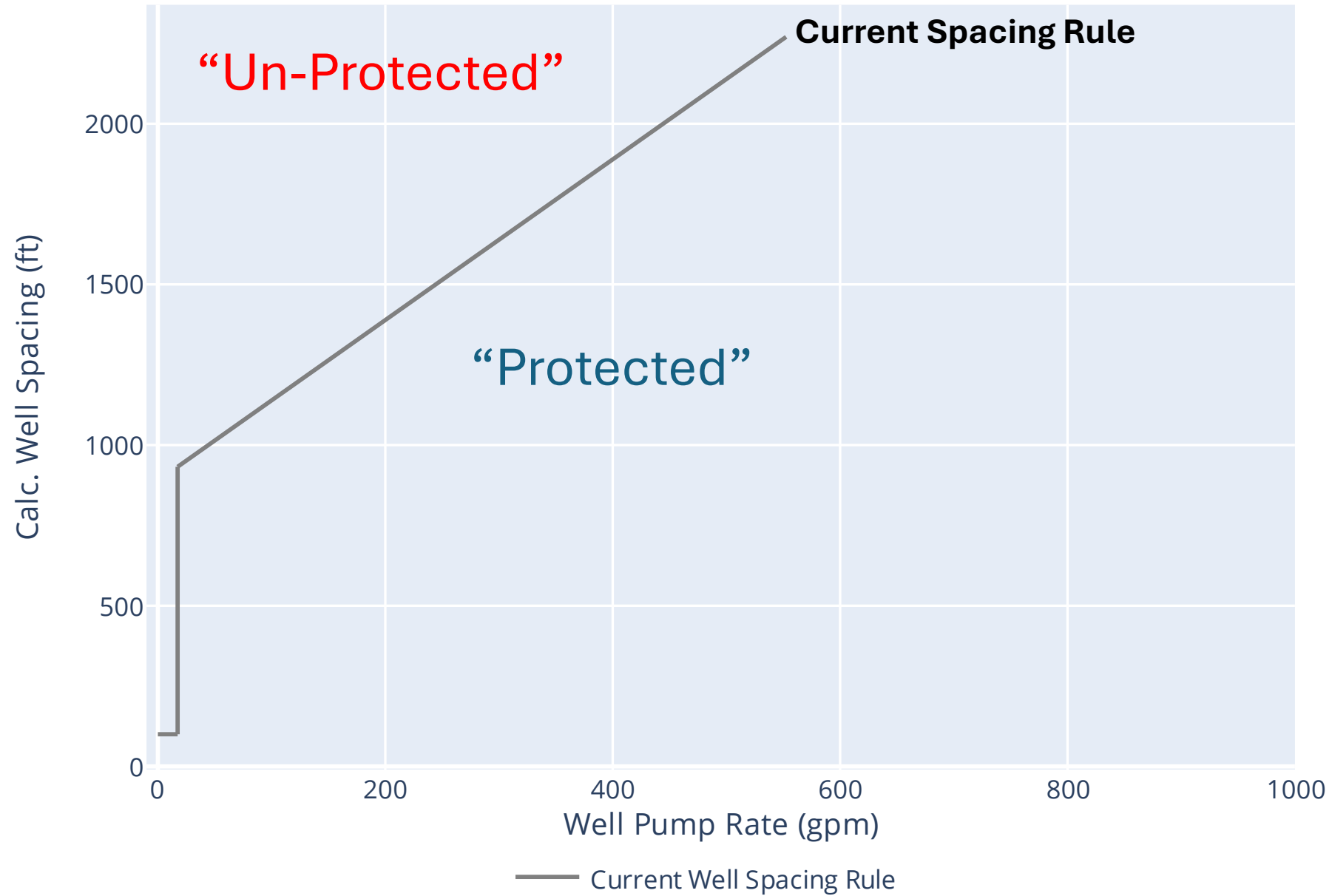
- 2% of available drawdown
- Calculated with average screen depth
- 2 days of pumping
- $S = 0.001$
- $T = Q/b * 2000$

Well Spacing for RRGCD

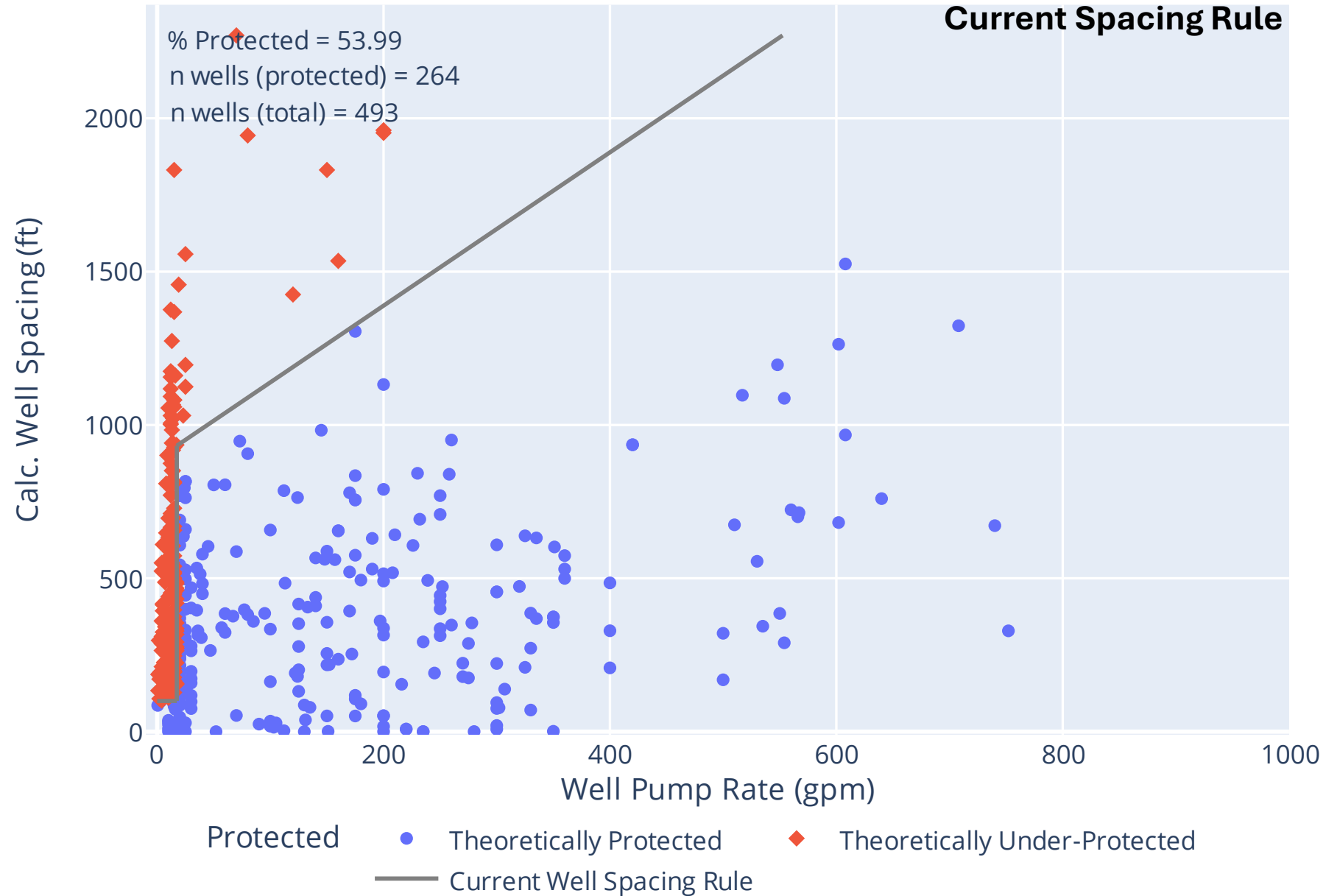
Current Well Spacing Rule
 $= 889 + 2.5 * Q$



Well Spacing for RRGCD

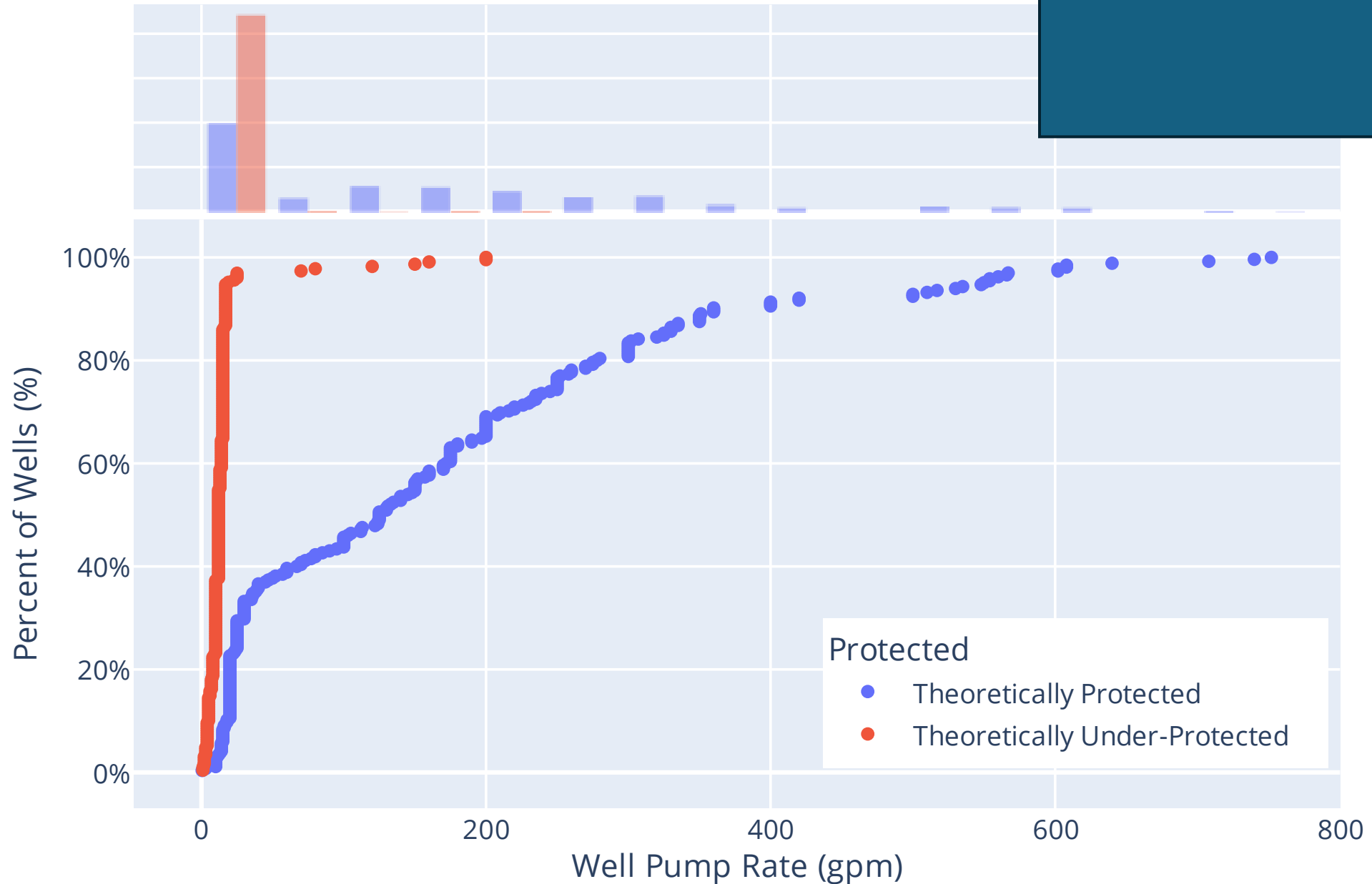


Well Spacing for RRGCD



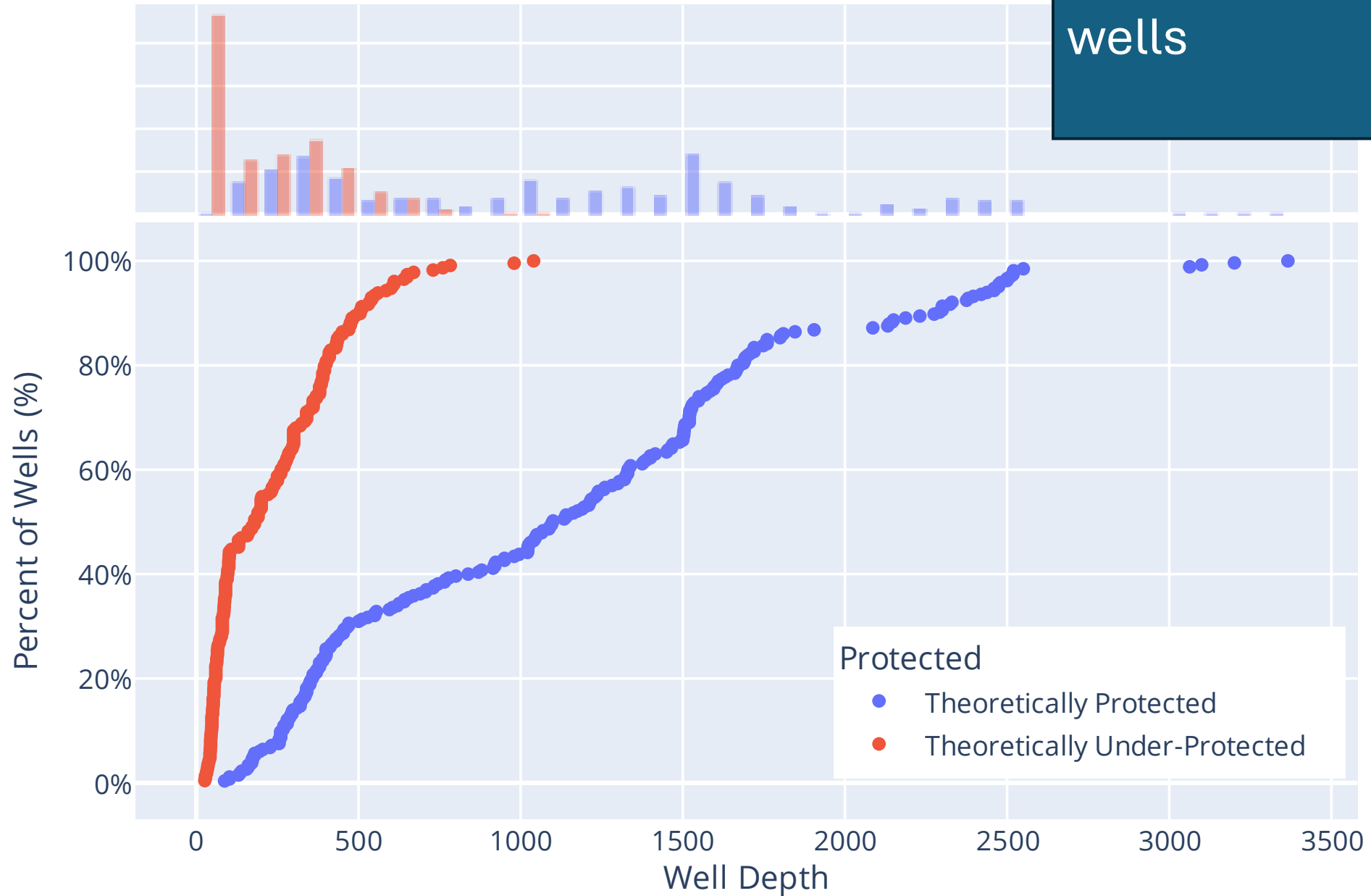
All Wells in RRGCD

Most of the unprotected wells are low Q



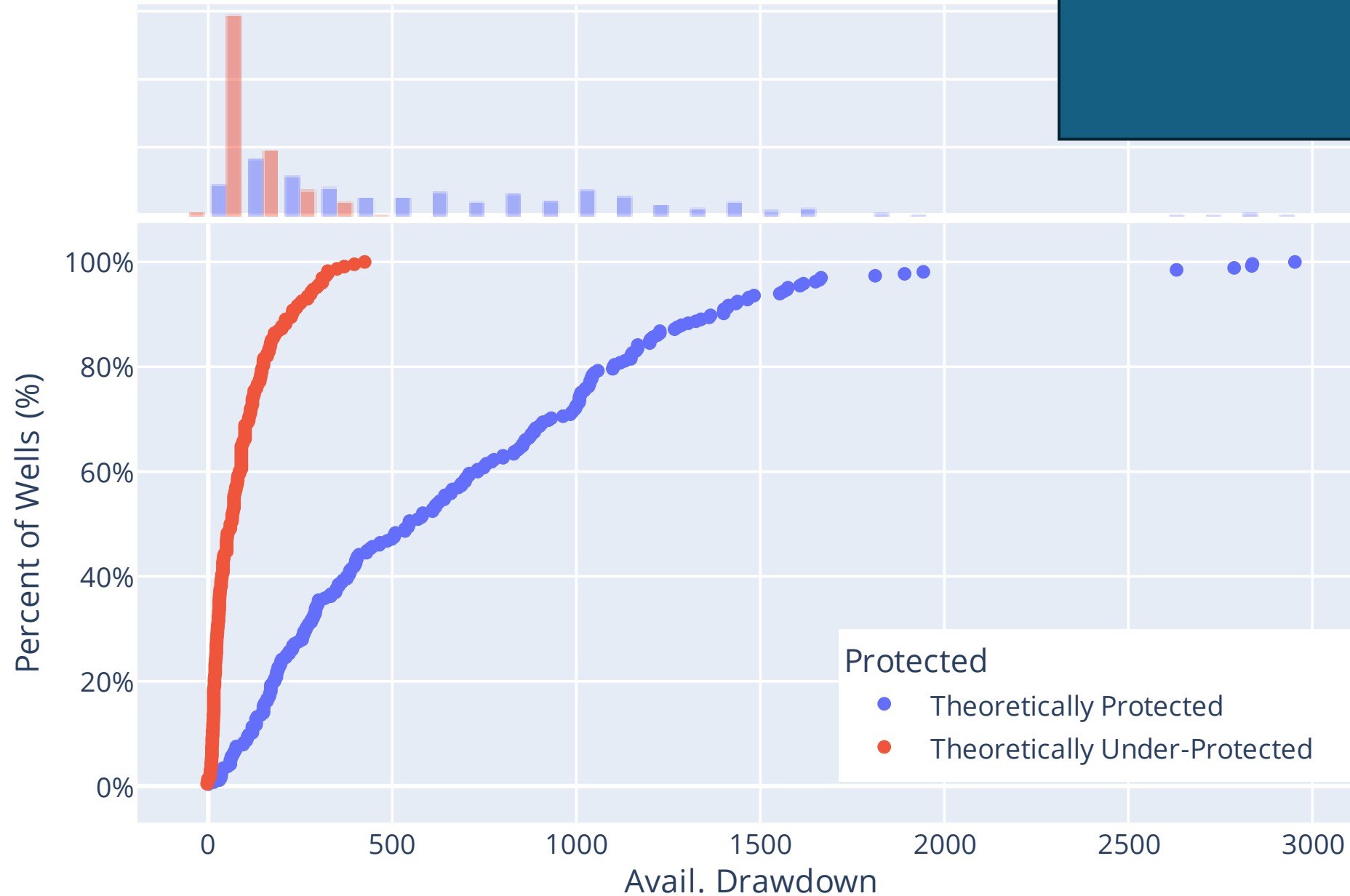
All Wells in RRGCD

Protected wells are deeper than unprotected wells

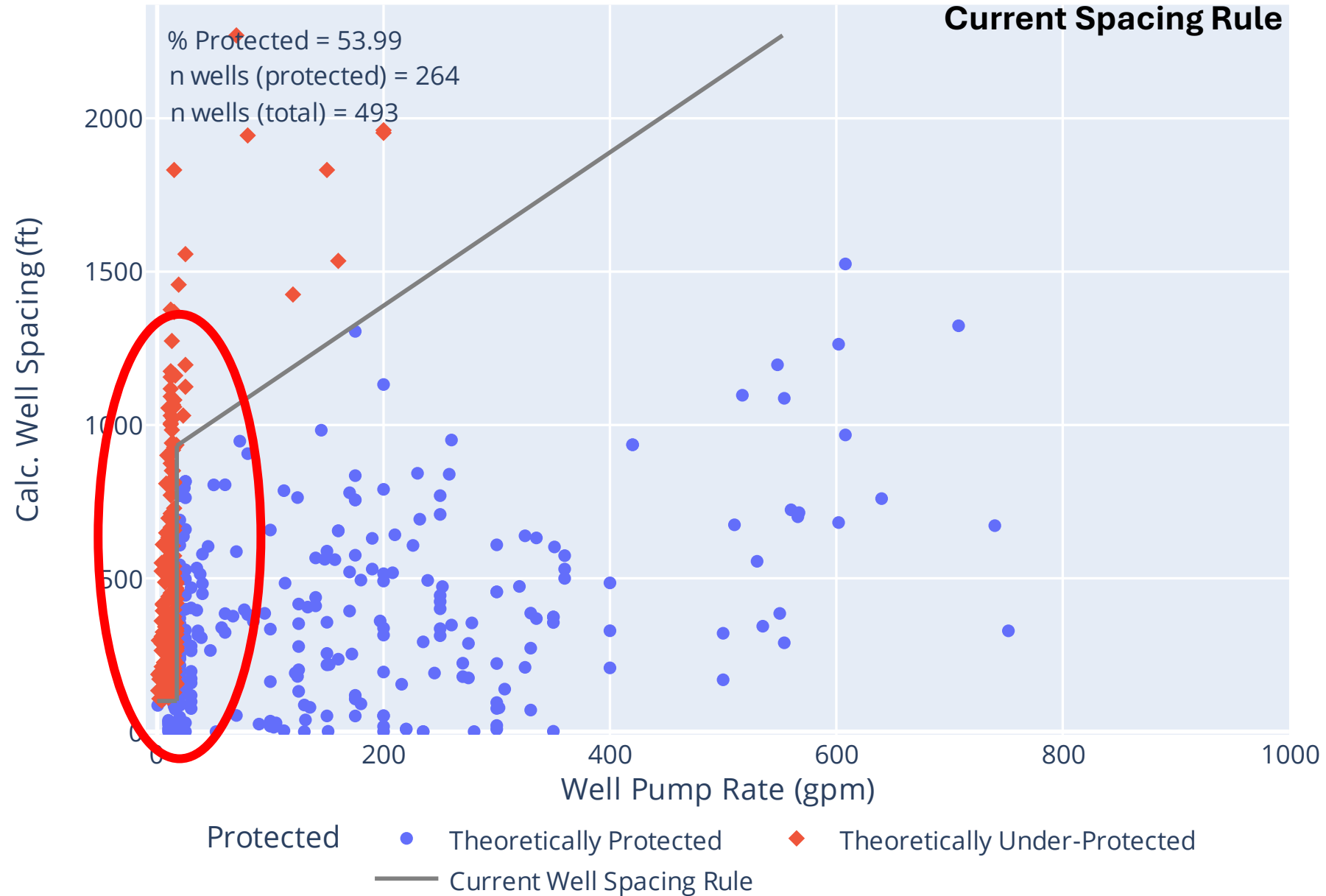


All Wells in RRGCD

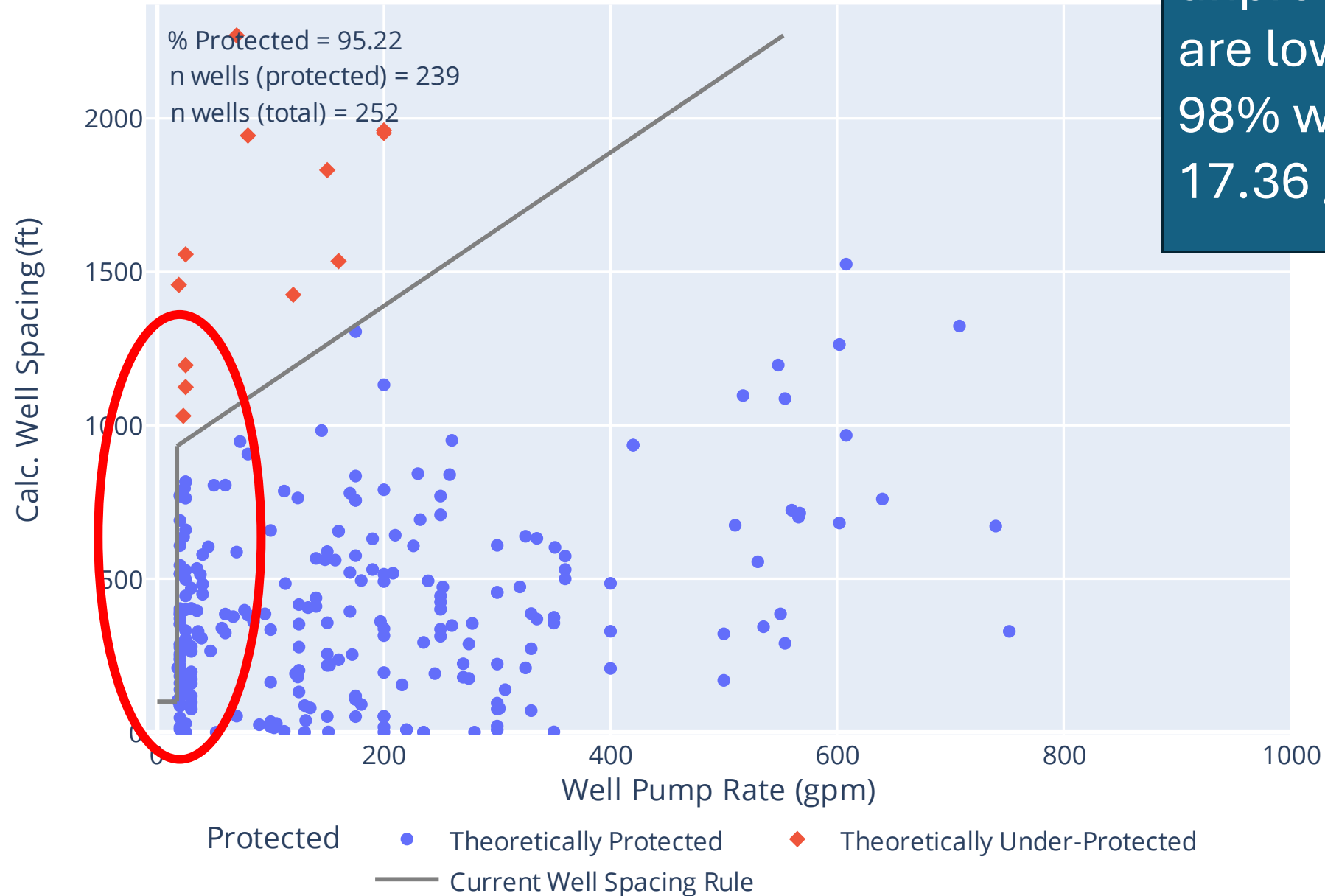
Unprotected wells have
low avail. drawdown

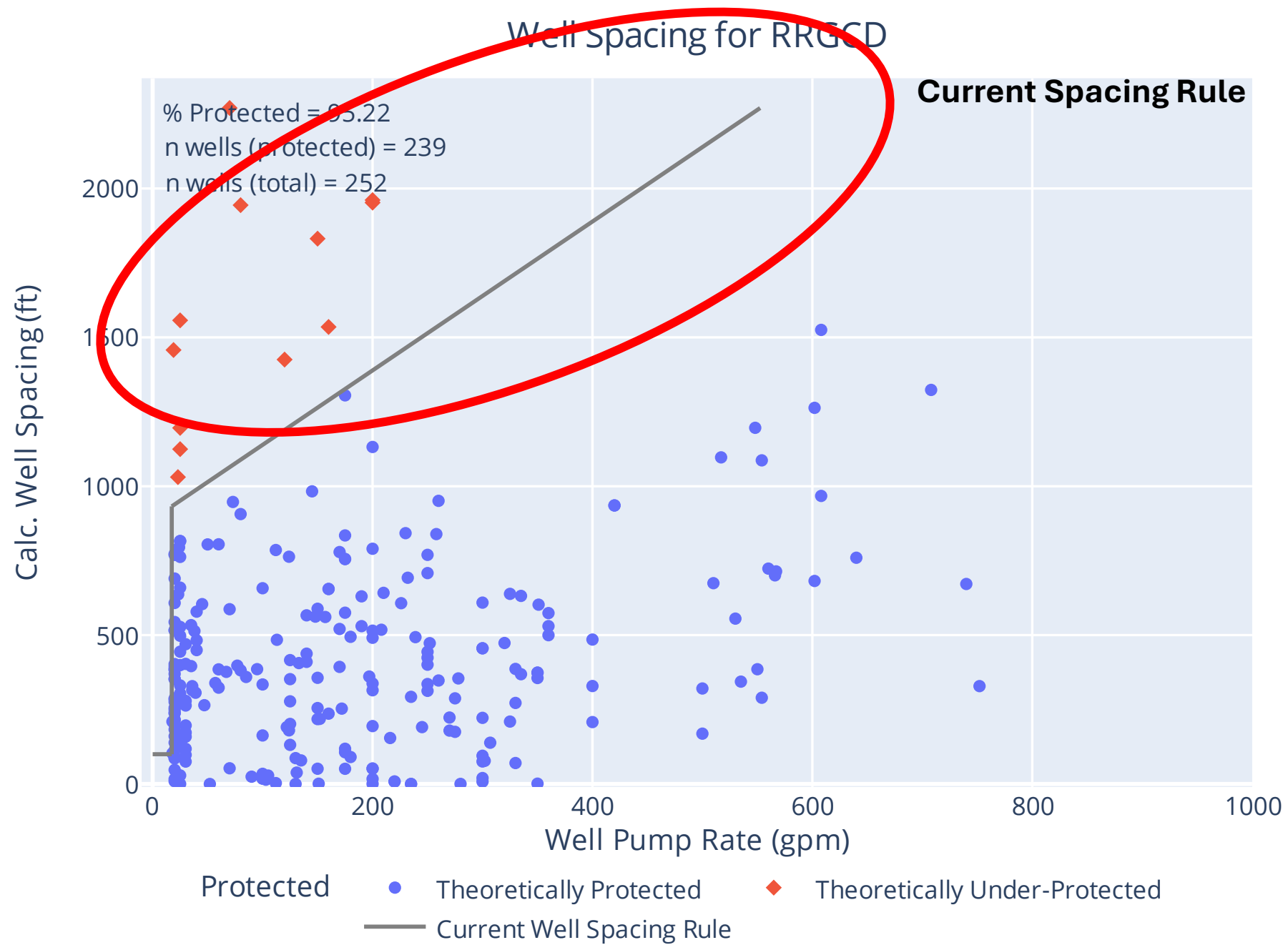


Well Spacing for RRGCD



Well Spacing for RRGCD





Unprotected Wells Q > 17.36 (GPM)

The high Q wells that are unprotected have low Avail. Drawdown

Well Depth	Well Use	Primary Production Layer	Aquifer Designation	Pump Rate	Transmissivity	Avail. Drawdown	Spacing Required	Rule Spacing
95	Irrigation	1	Layer_1	120	4800	50	1425	1189
90	Public Supply	1	Layer_1	23	2300	15	1031	947
97	Irrigation	1	Layer_1	150	10000	50	1832	1264
96	Irrigation	1	Layer_1	200	10000	51	1961	1389
97	Irrigation	1	Layer_1	200	10000	52	1952	1389
95	Irrigation	1	Layer_1	160	64000	40	1535	1289
32	Domestic	1	Layer_1	19	6333	10	1458	937
80	Stock	1	Layer_1	80	8000	14	1944	1089
100	Other	1	Layer_1	25	5555	25	1125	952
80	Irrigation	1	Layer_1	70	14000	14	2270	1064
54	Domestic	1	Layer_1	25	12500	19	1196	952
48	Domestic	1	Layer_1	25	6250	10	1557	952

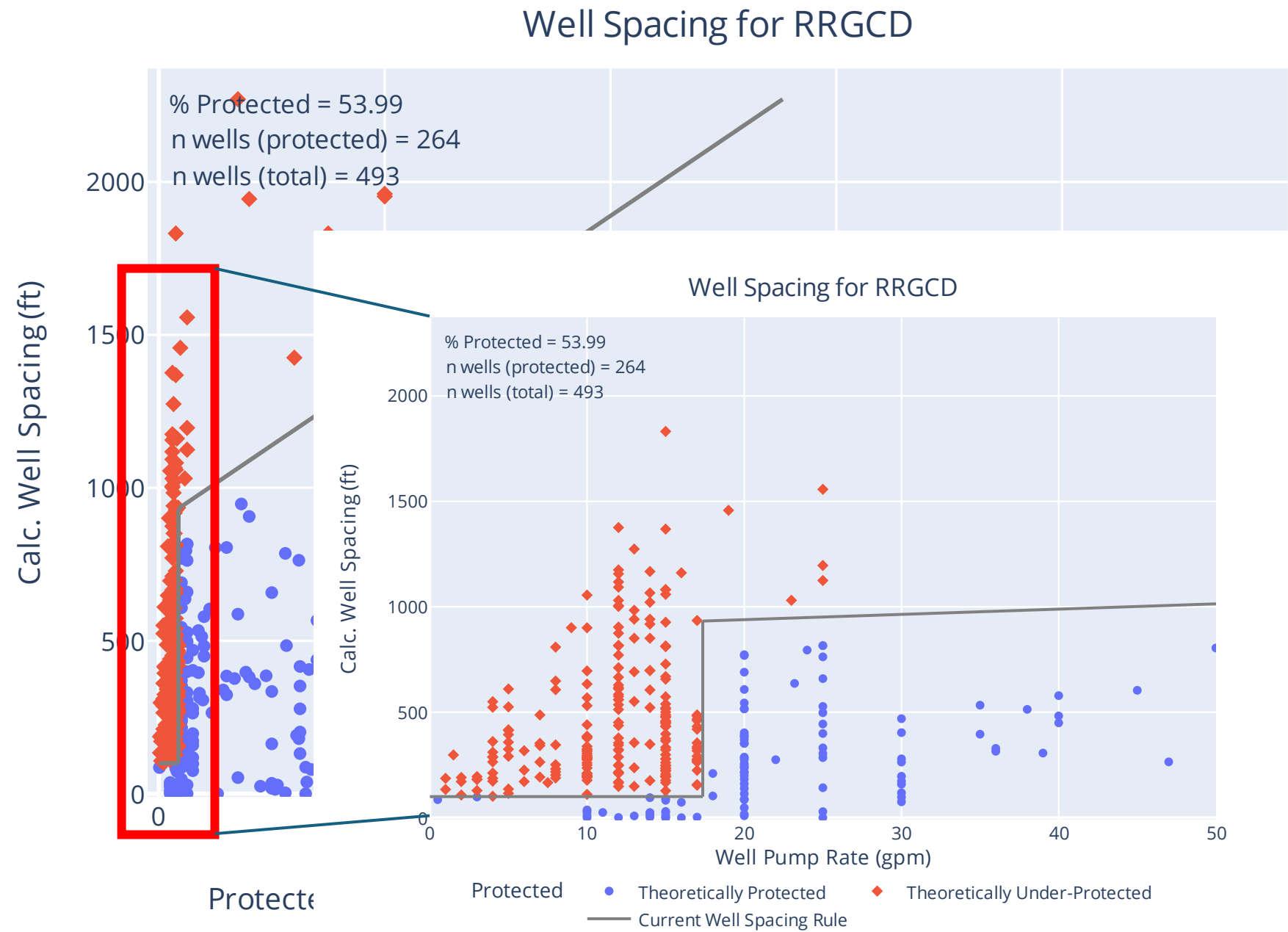
Observations

- Most of the unprotected wells are low Q (<17.36 gpm)
- Most of the wells that are unprotected are shallow outcrop wells with limited available drawdown
- An important factor to the analysis is available drawdown and the % impact that allowed, therefore the method and assumptions are important

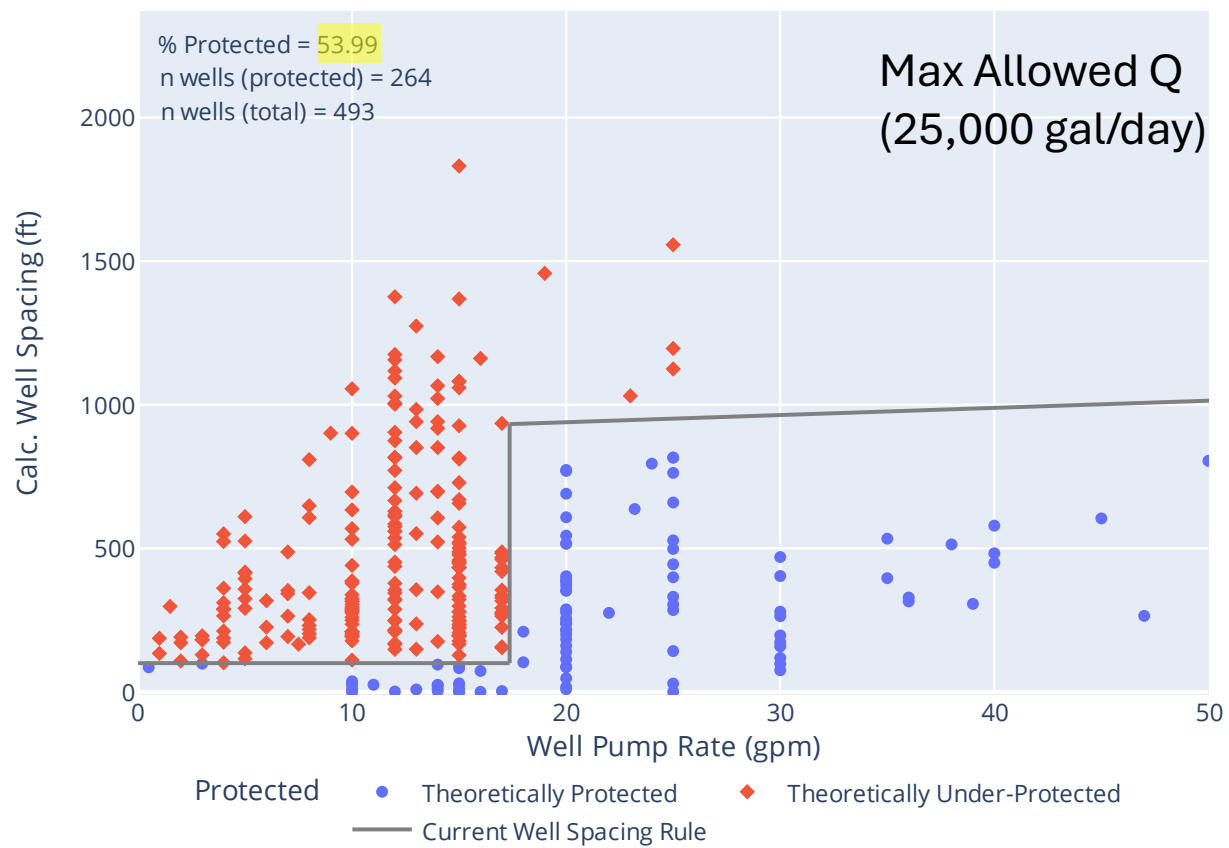
Further Discussion of Exempt Wells

- 17.36 GPM is derived from 25,000 gal/day
- Most domestic wells pump much less, generally less than 500 gallons
- How does lower pumping rates (Q) change the proportion of wells protected?

- Source T
- Source DTW
- All wells



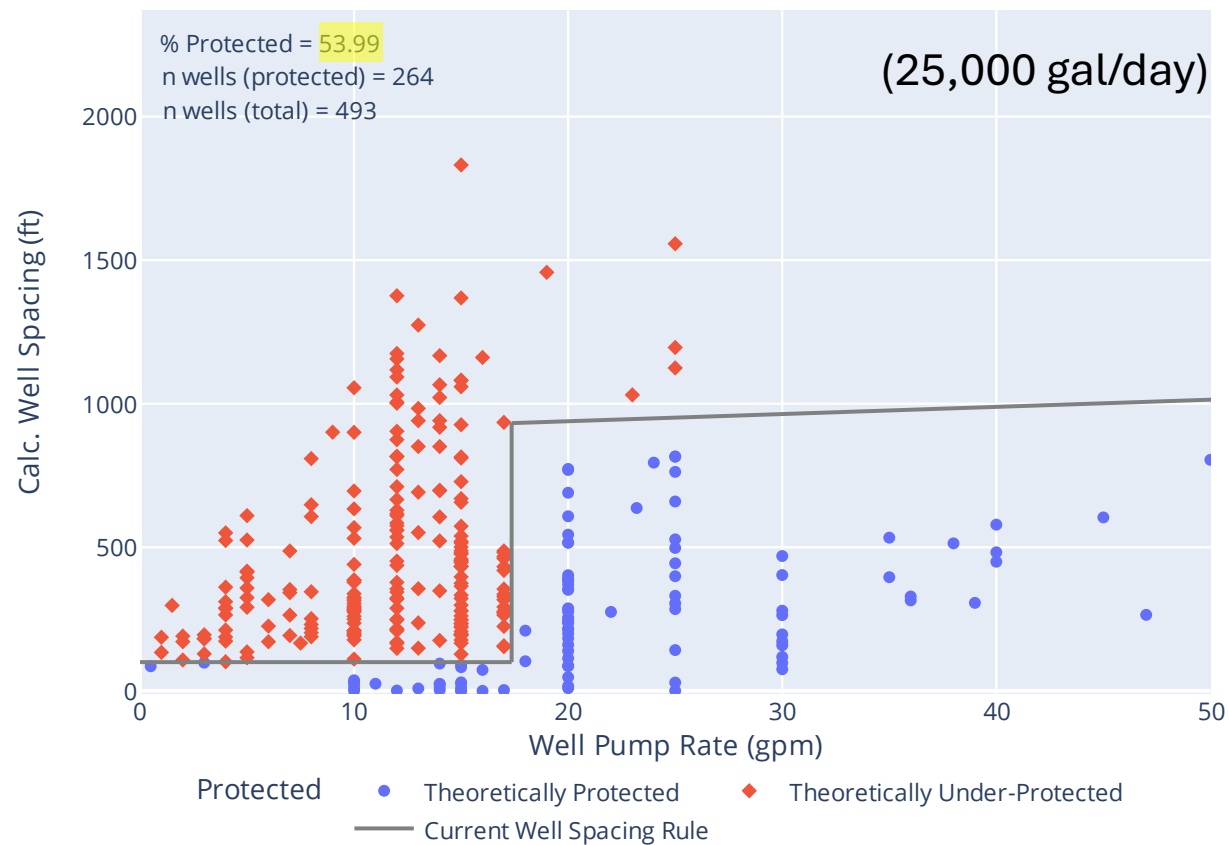
Well Spacing for RRGCD



Well Spacing for RRGCD

(25,000 gal/day)

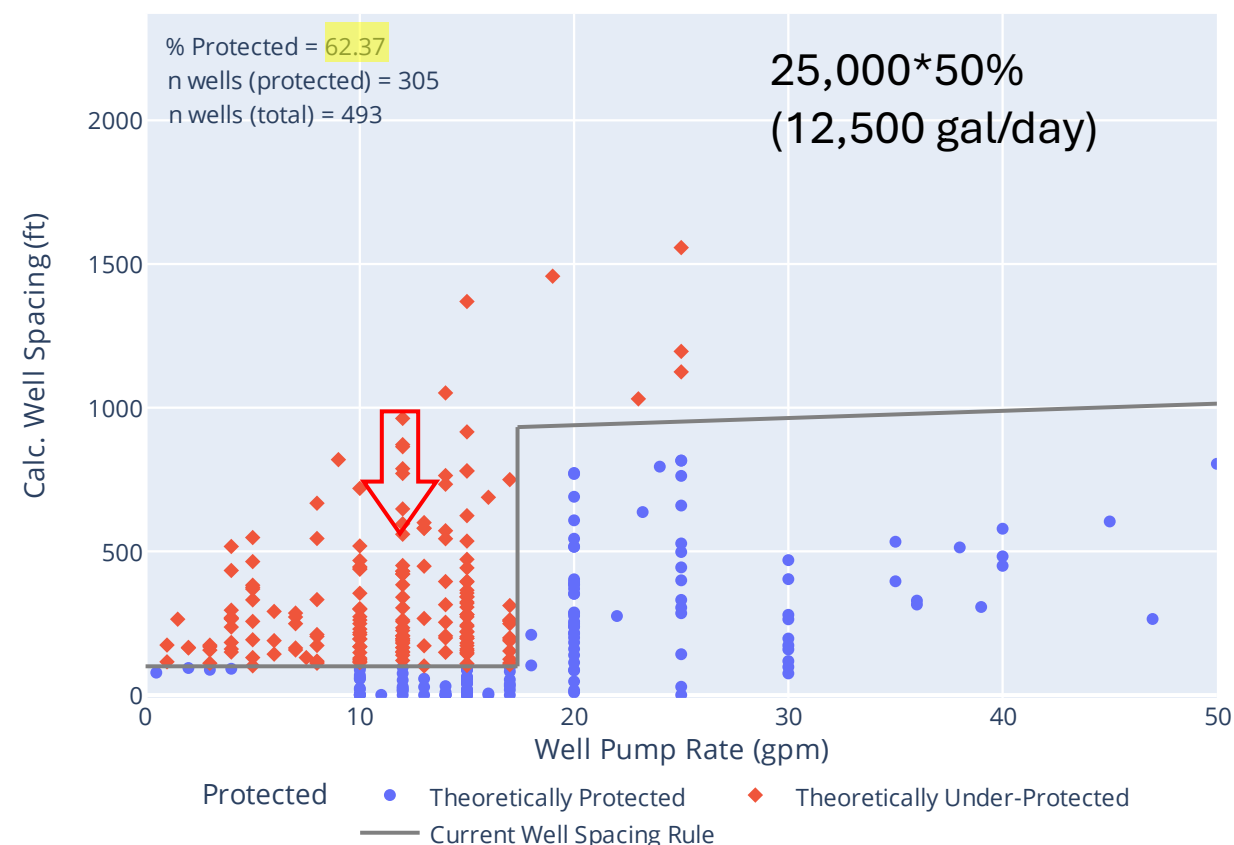
% Protected = 53.99
n wells (protected) = 264
n wells (total) = 493



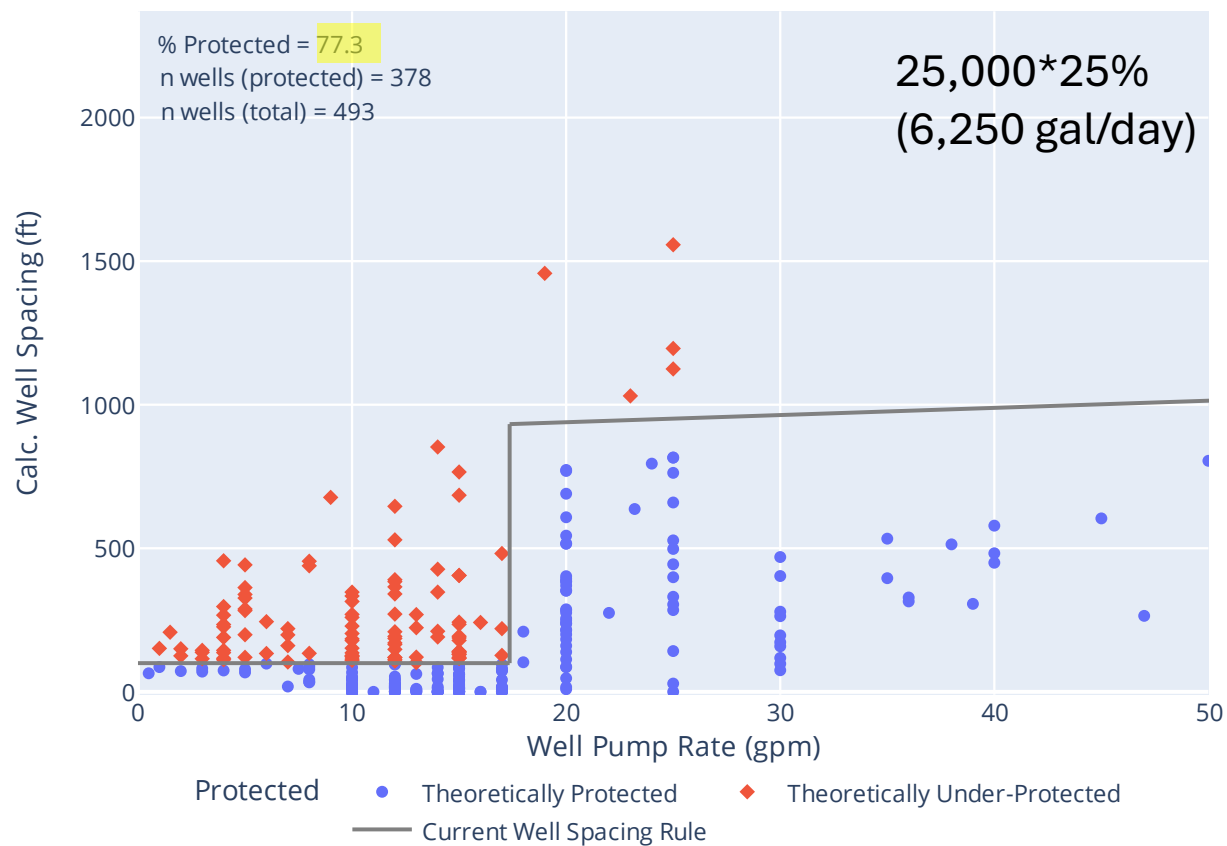
Well Spacing for RRGCD

25,000*50%
(12,500 gal/day)

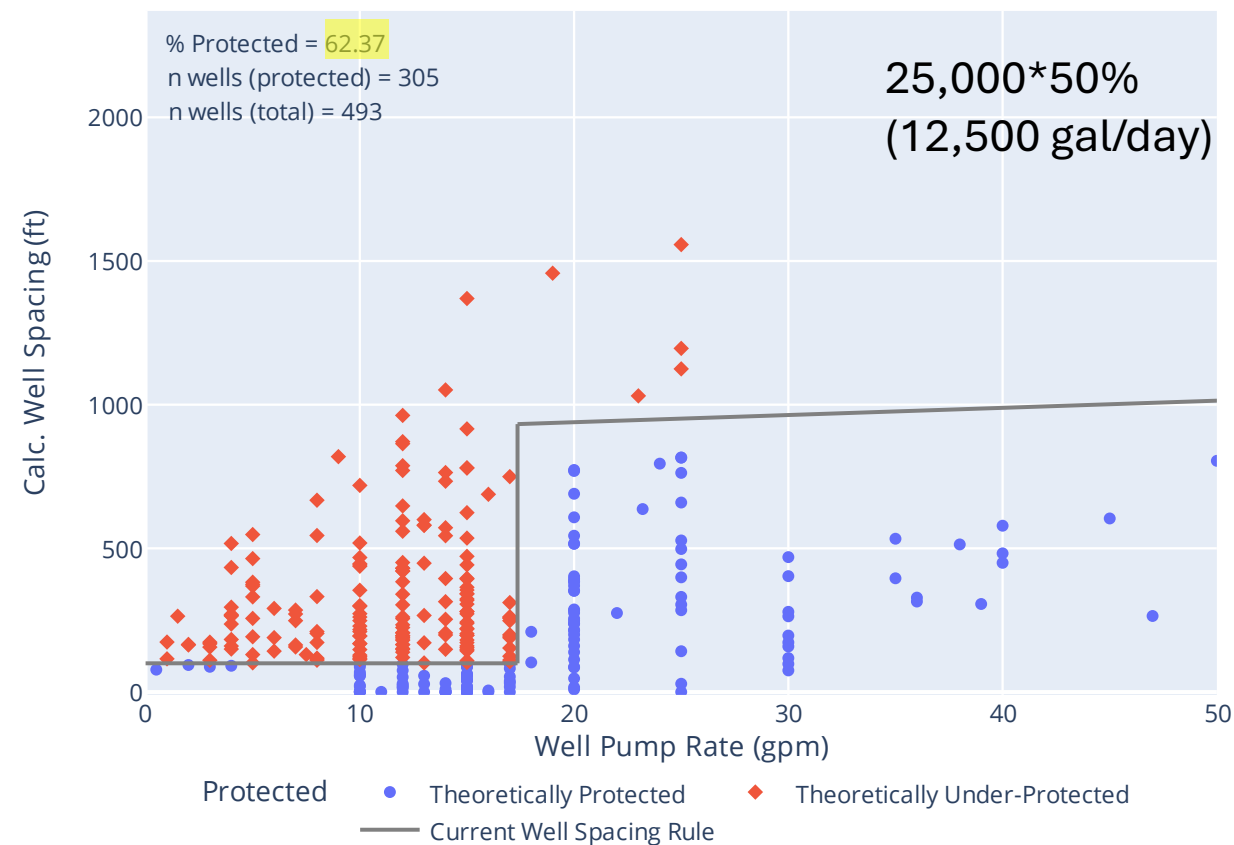
% Protected = 62.37
n wells (protected) = 305
n wells (total) = 493



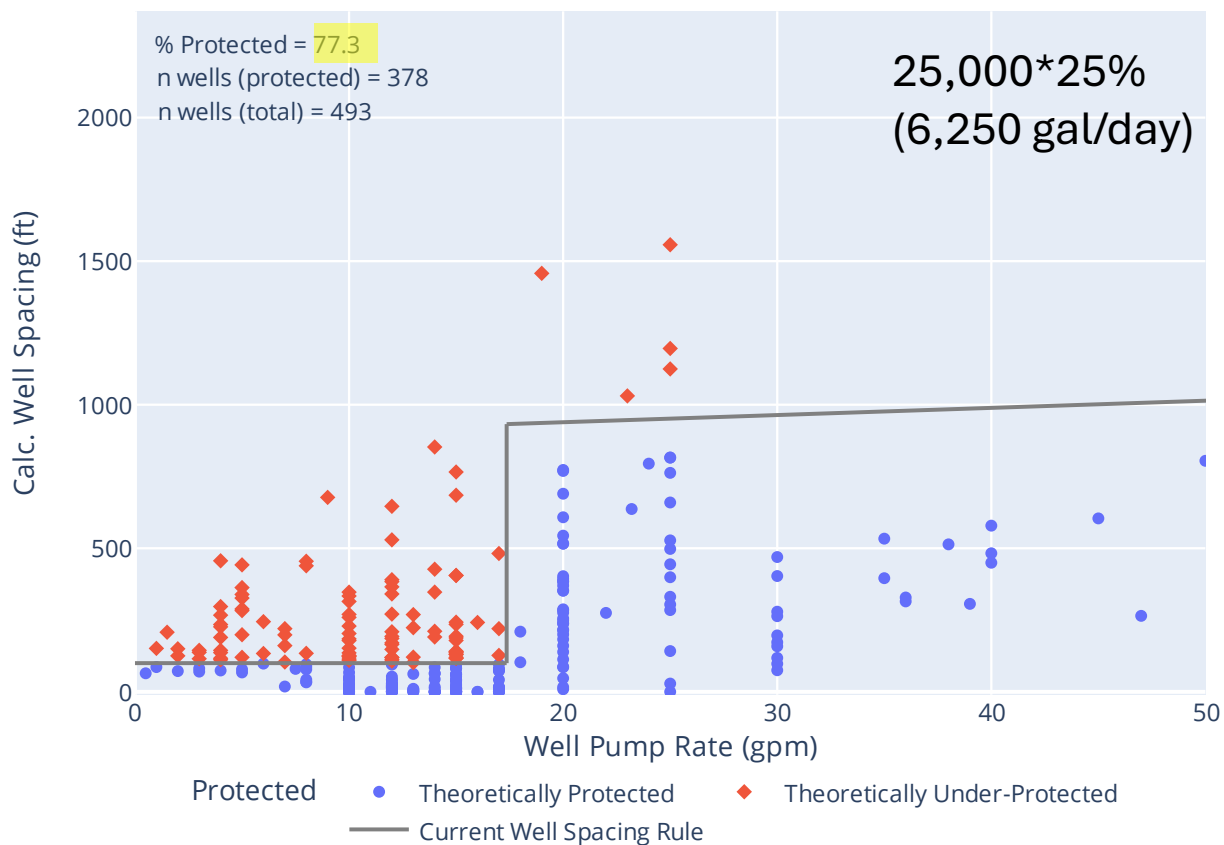
Well Spacing for RRGCD



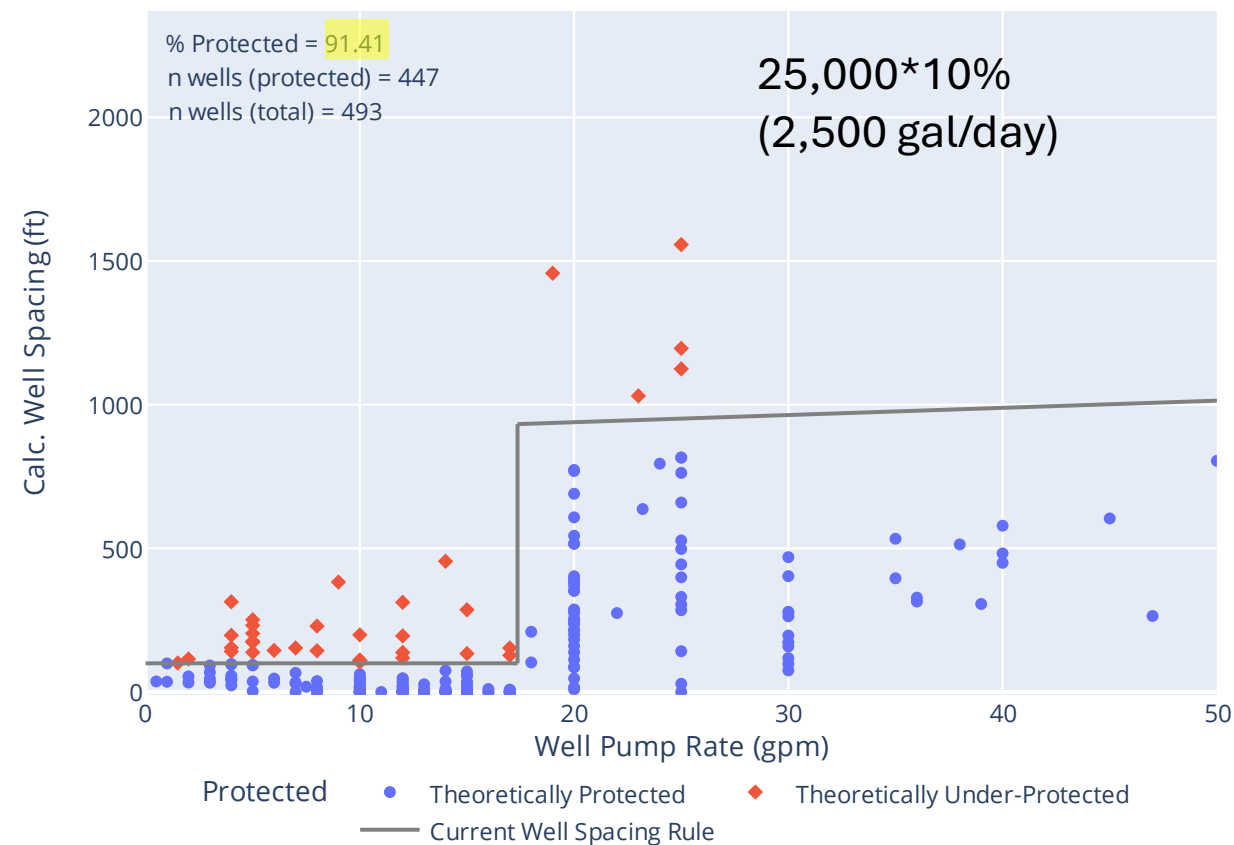
Well Spacing for RRGCD



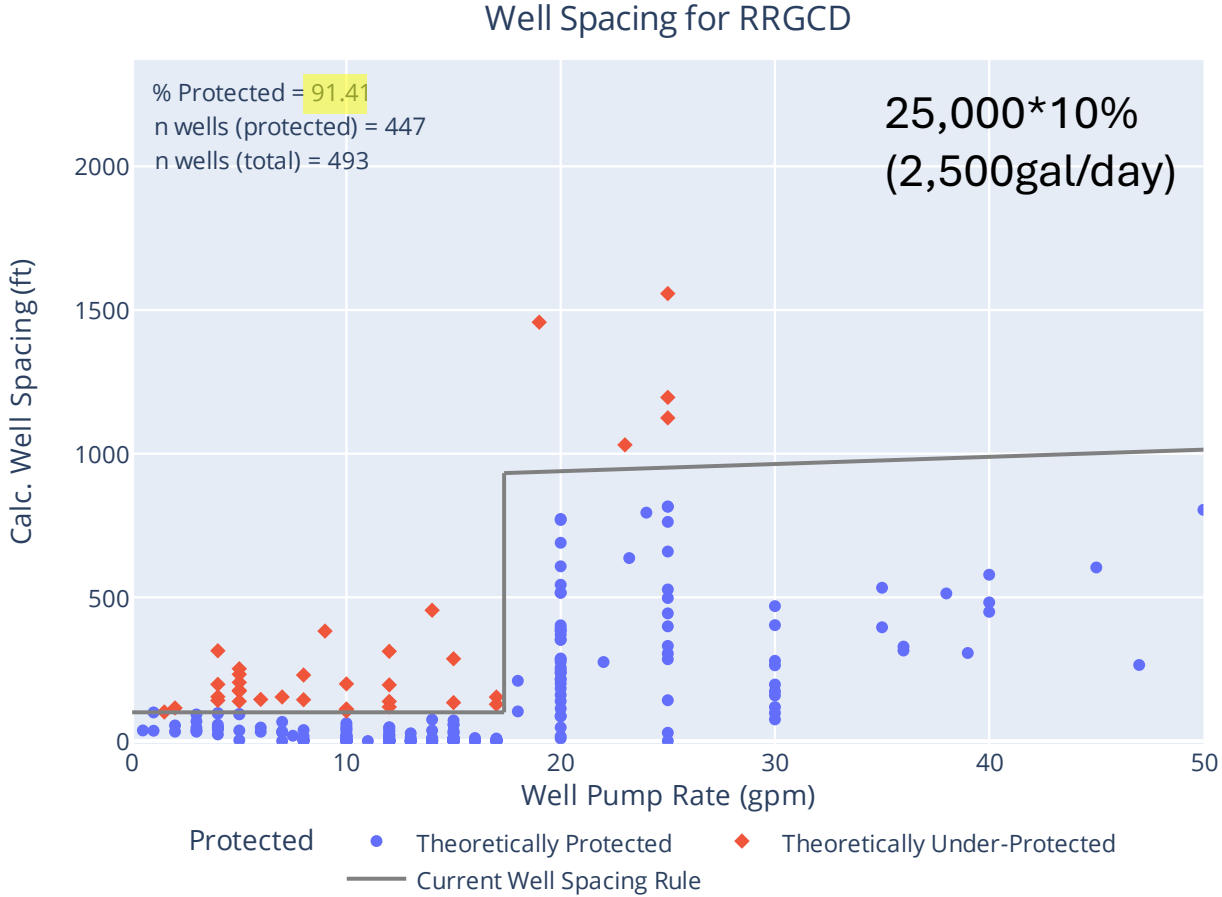
Well Spacing for RRGCD



Well Spacing for RRGCD



- At 5x the average household usage, most wells are compliant with spacing
- Remaining wells that are under-protected generally have low available drawdown (<100ft)



Some limitations of approach

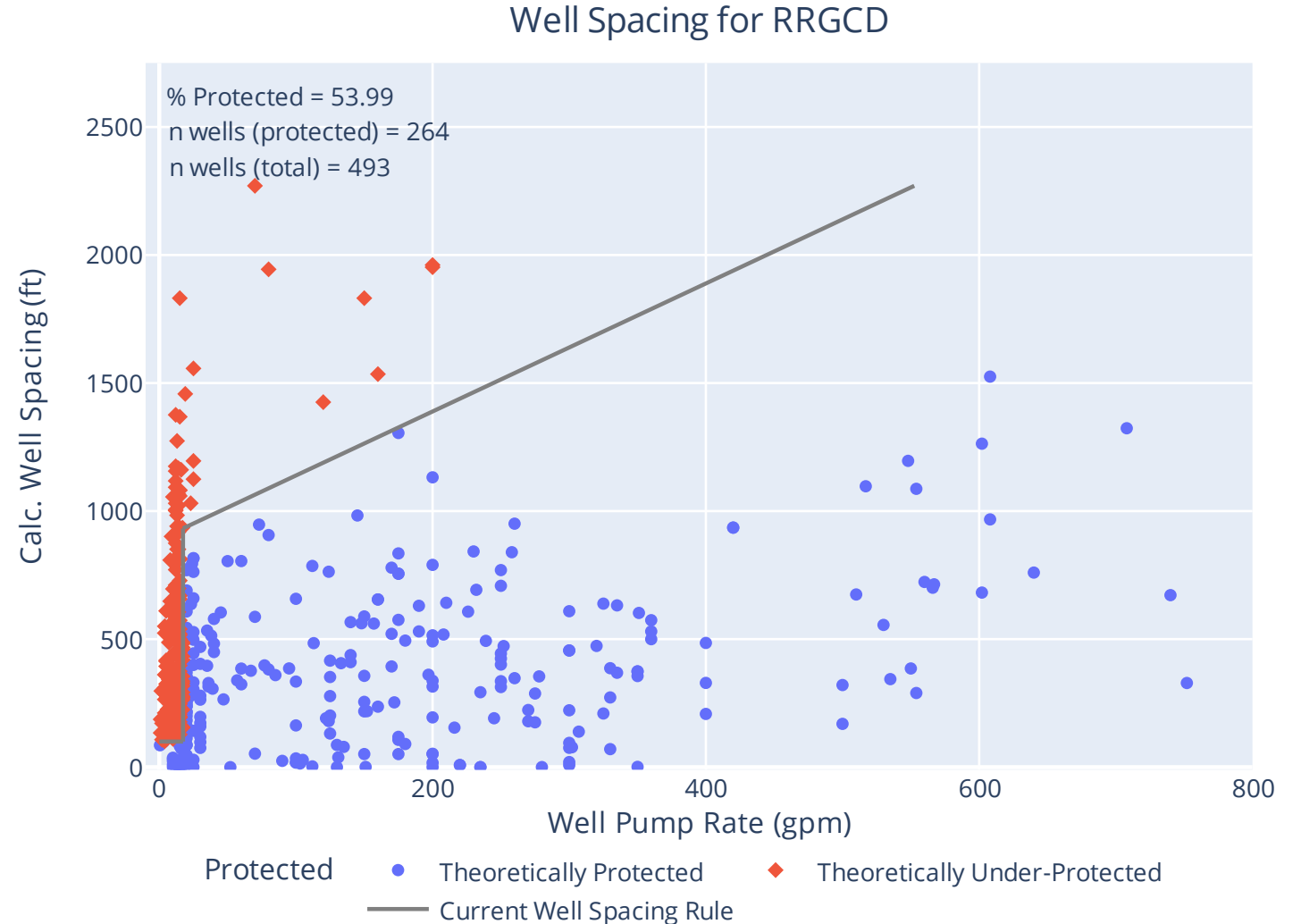
- assumes that the impacted well is identical to the pumping well
- Potential bias in available data
- Transmissivity estimates for small wells (and poorly completed wells) are more uncertain
- Assumes that only one well is pumping
- Older wells with significant water level decline may not be well represented due to limited data

Some limitations of approach

- assumes that the impacted well is identical to the pumping well
- Potential bias in available data
- **Transmissivity estimates for small wells (and poorly completed wells) are more uncertain**
- Assumes that only one well is pumping
- Older wells with significant water level decline may not be well represented due to limited data

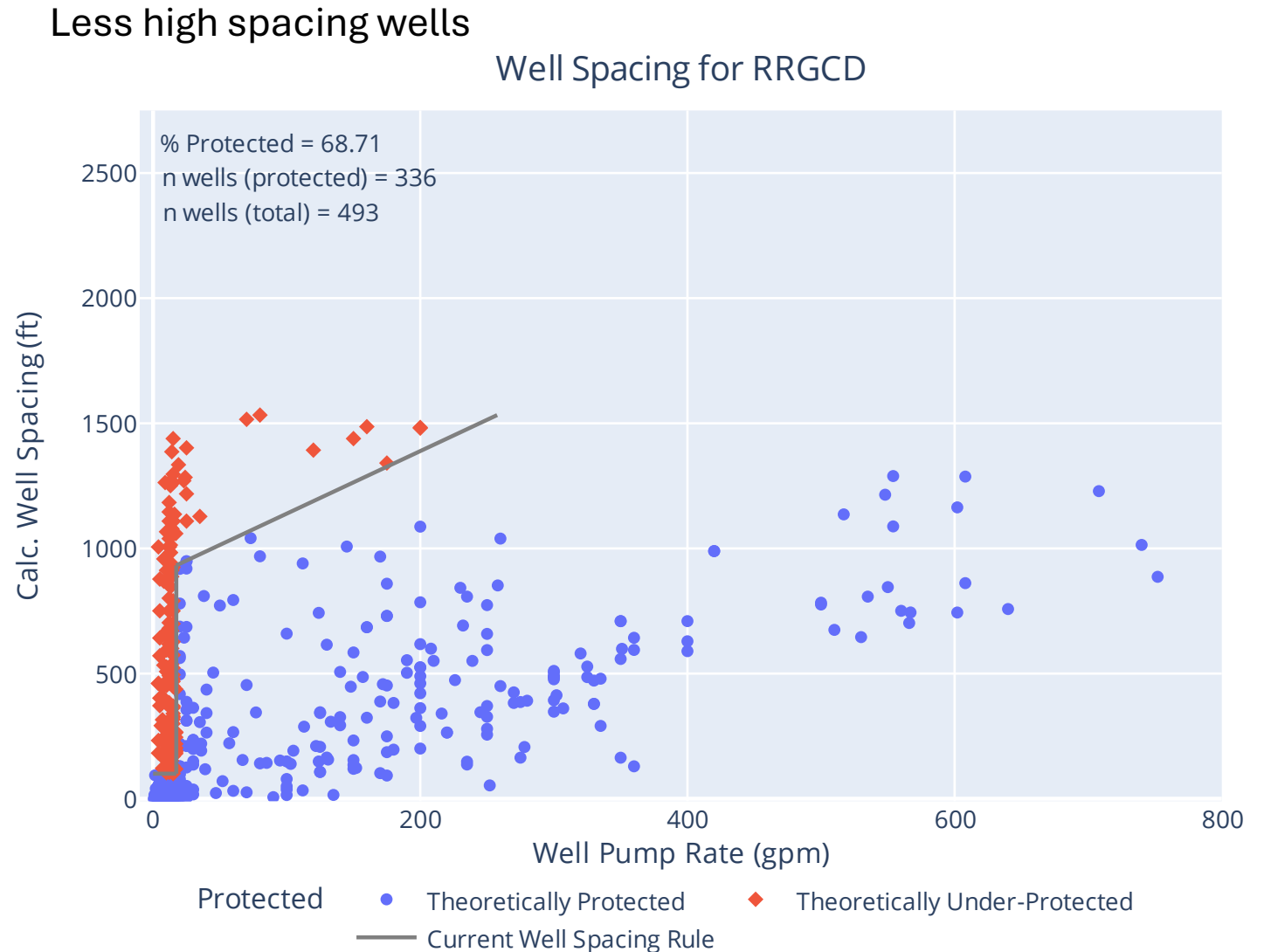
Various Transmissivity Sources

- **Source pump test**
- Layer average
- GAM



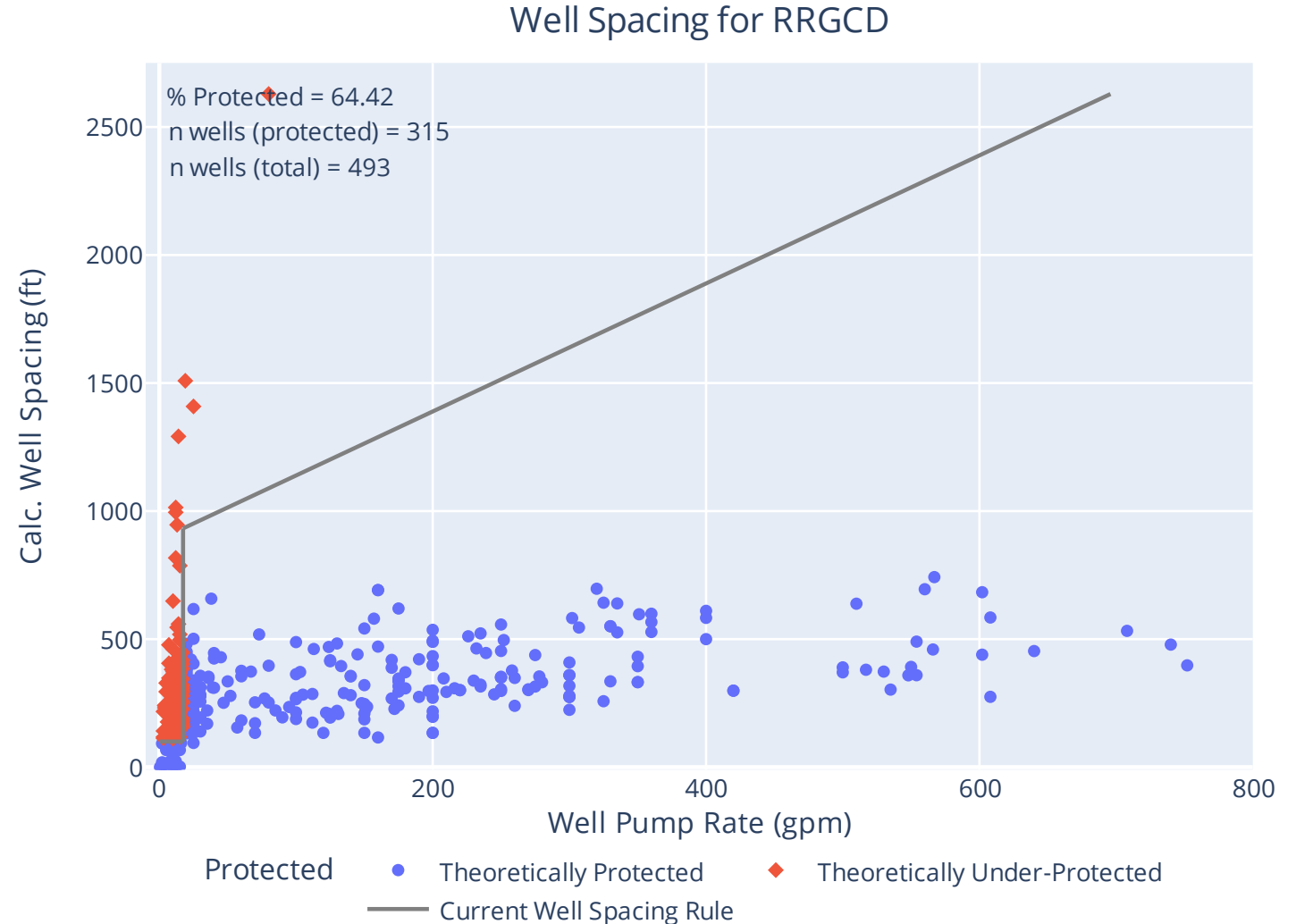
Various Transmissivity Sources

- Source pump test
- **Layer average**
 - Average of T from pump tests in the pumping layer
- GAM



Various Transmissivity Sources

- Source pump test
- Layer average
- **GAM**



Various Transmissivity Sources Conclusions

- Source pump tests that have low T yield high spacing
- Average T values decrease spacing

Limitations of approach

- This approach assumes that the impacted well is identical to the pumping well
- Data availability (so bias in the data that are available)
- Transmissivity estimates for small wells (and poorly completed wells) are more uncertain
- This analysis assumes that only one well is pumping
- **Older wells with significant water level decline may not be well represented**

Declining Water Levels

- Water levels have declined and will continue to decline
- Available drawdown will continue to decrease

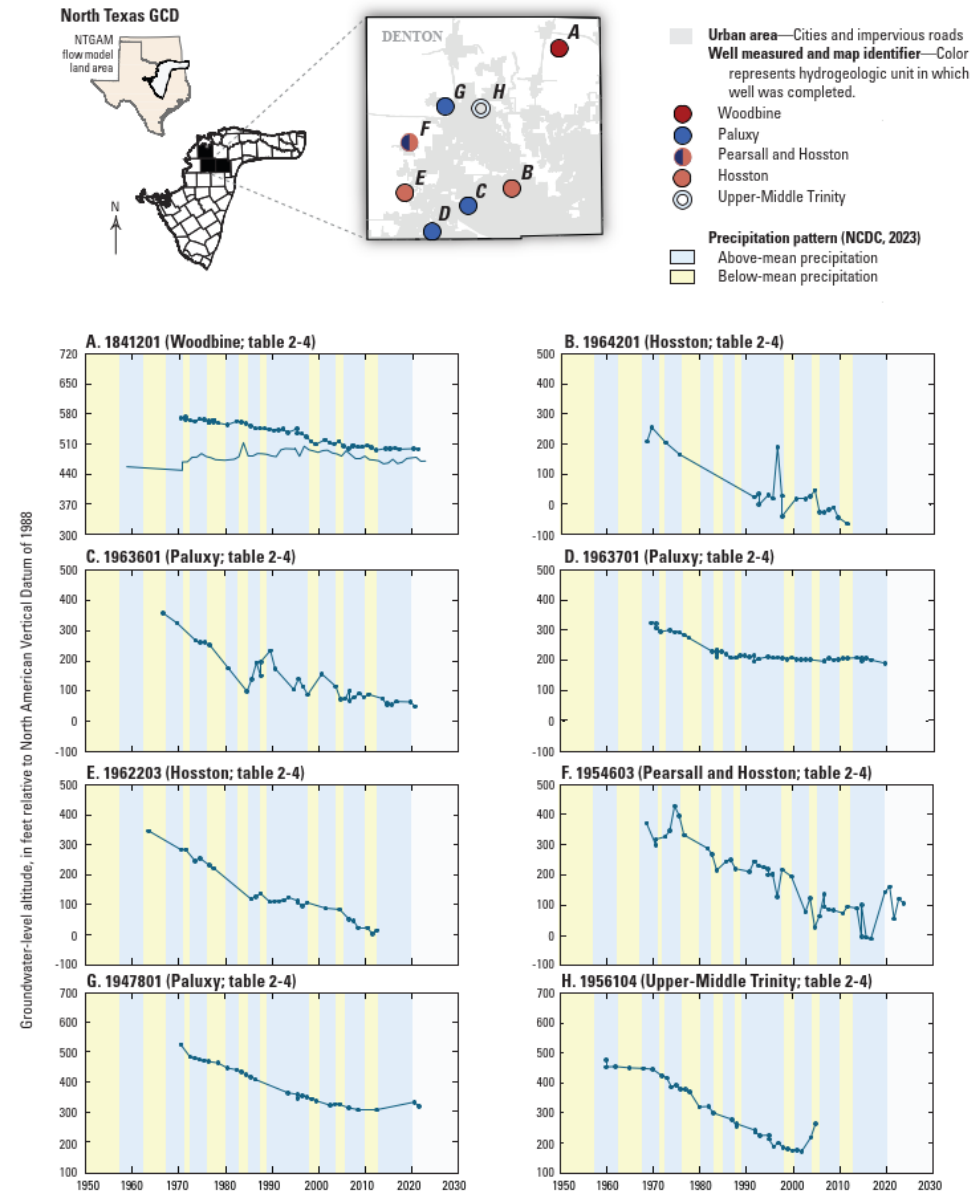
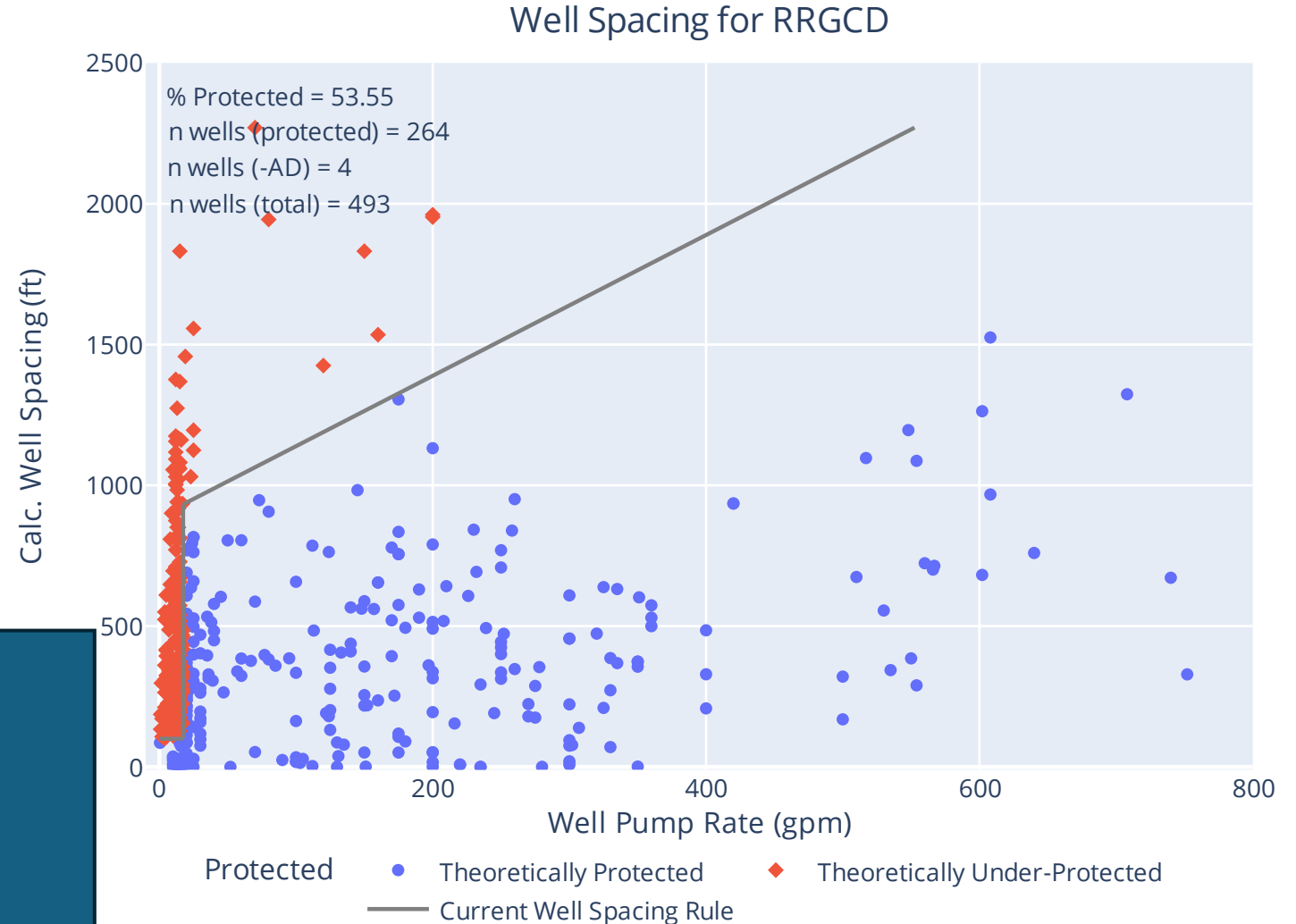


Figure 2-25 Locations and hydrographs of groundwater levels for selected wells in the North Texas Groundwater Conservation District in Denton County from 1950 to 2024.

Declining Water Levels

- Using drilling water levels

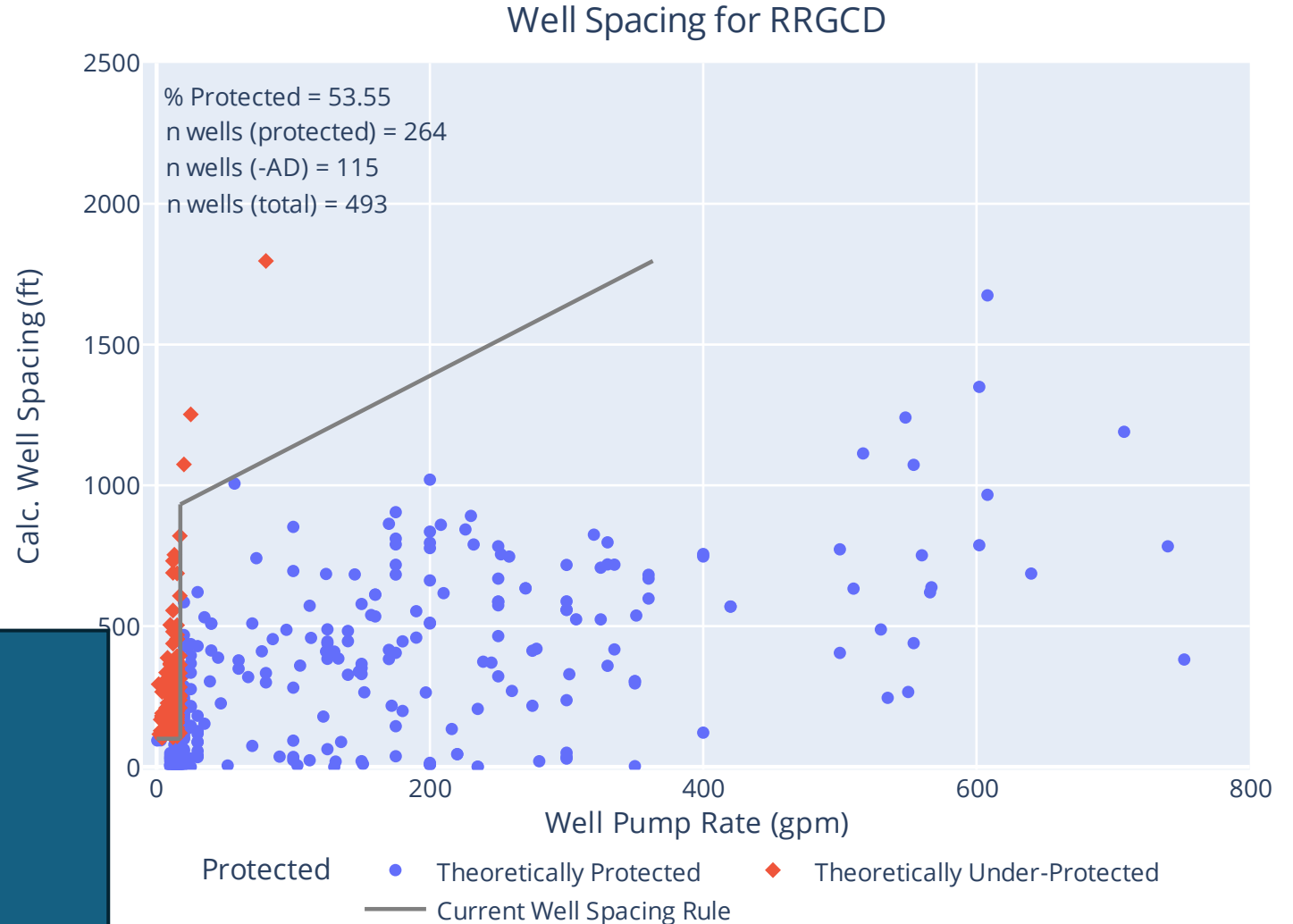
4 negative avail. drawdown
54% protected



Declining Water Levels

- Using 2020 GAM water levels

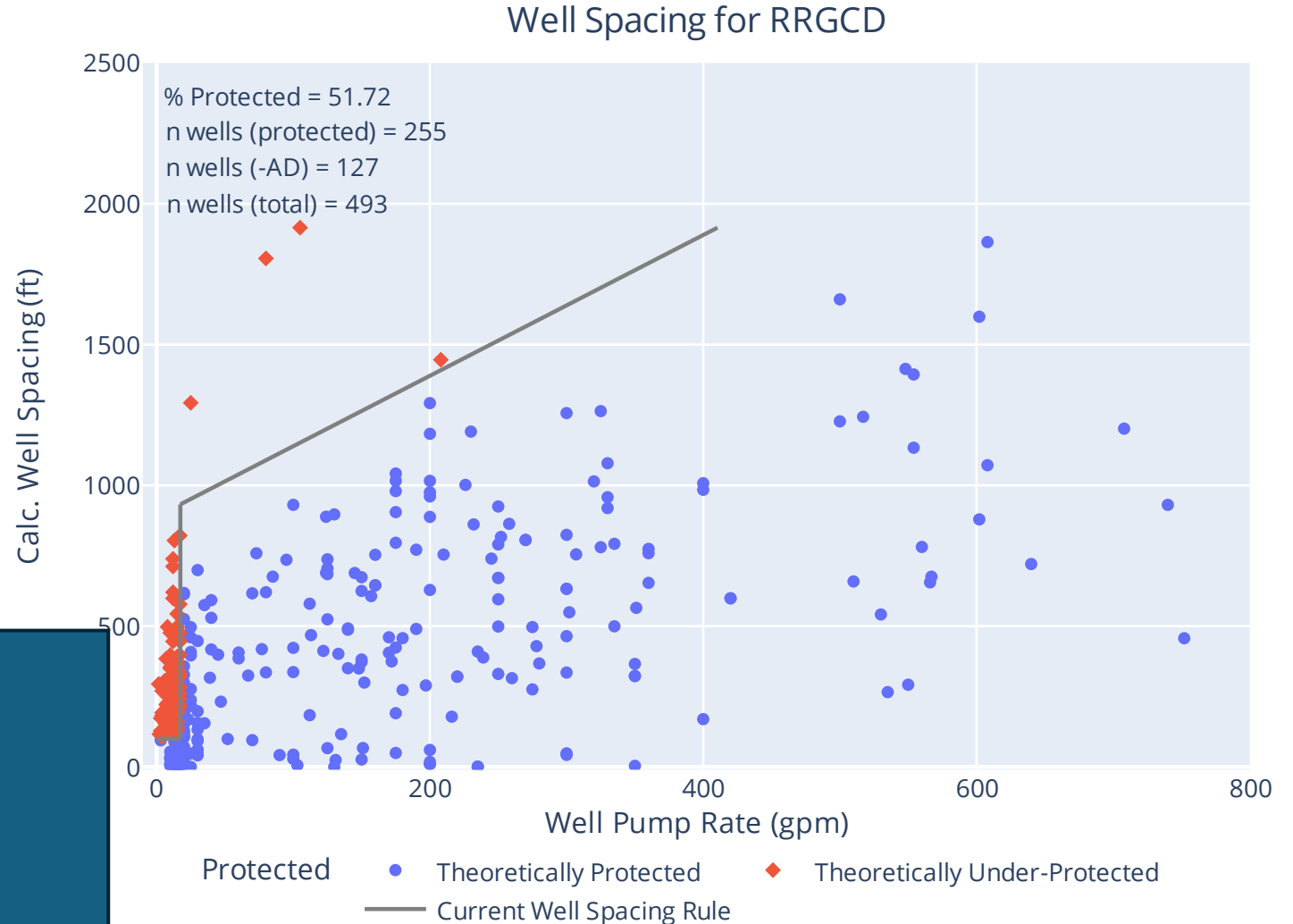
115 negative avail. drawdown
(increasing)
54% protected (Similar)



Declining Water Levels

- Using 2050 GAM water levels

127 negative avail. drawdown (increasing)
52% protected (Similar)

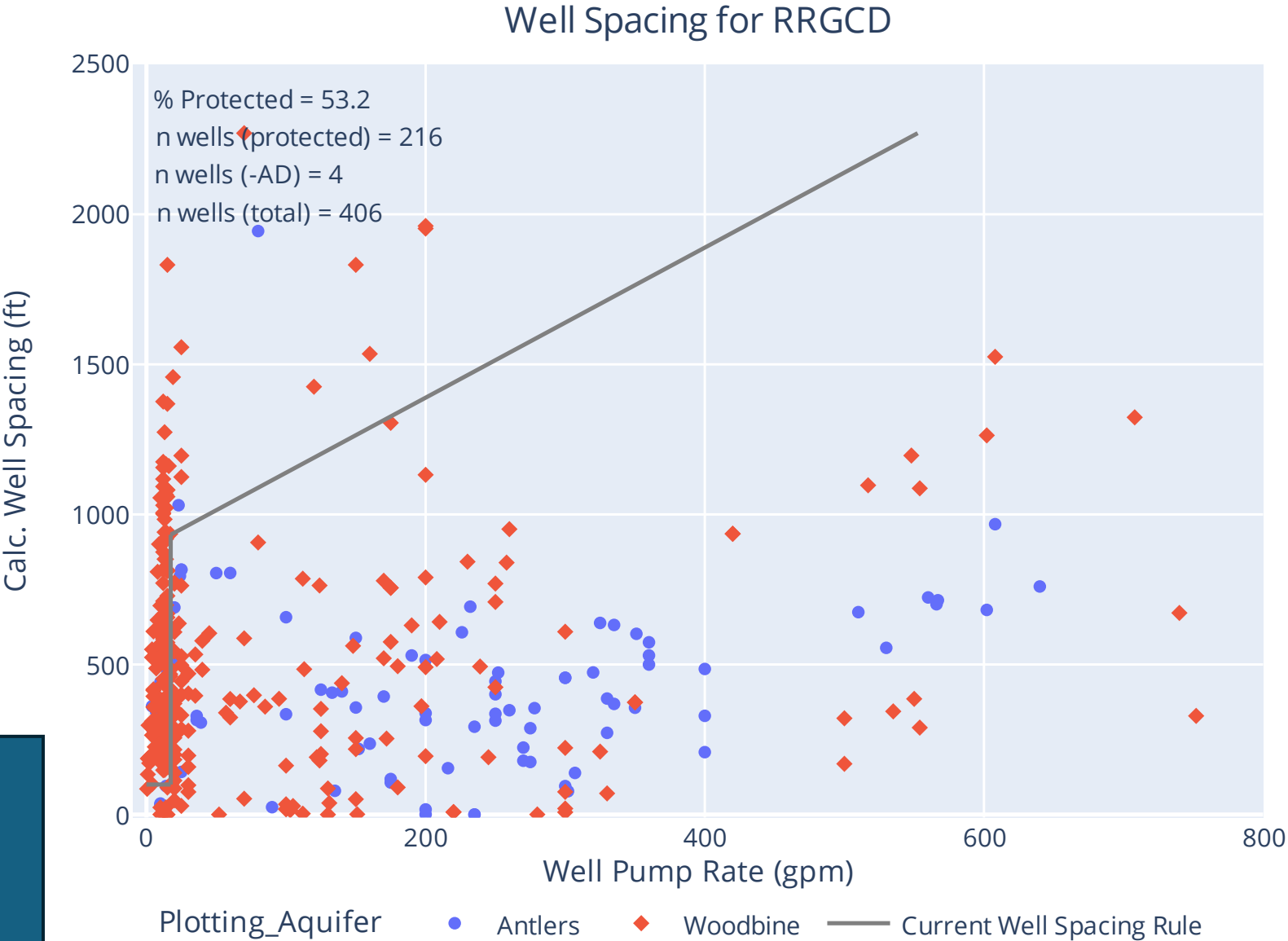


Separated by Aquifer

Model Terminology	Region 1
Woodbine Aquifer	Woodbine
Washita/Fredericksburg Groups	Washita/Fredericksburg
Paluxy Aquifer	Antlers
Glen Rose Formation	Antlers
Hensell Aquifer	Antlers
Pearsall Formation	Antlers
Hosston Aquifer	Antlers

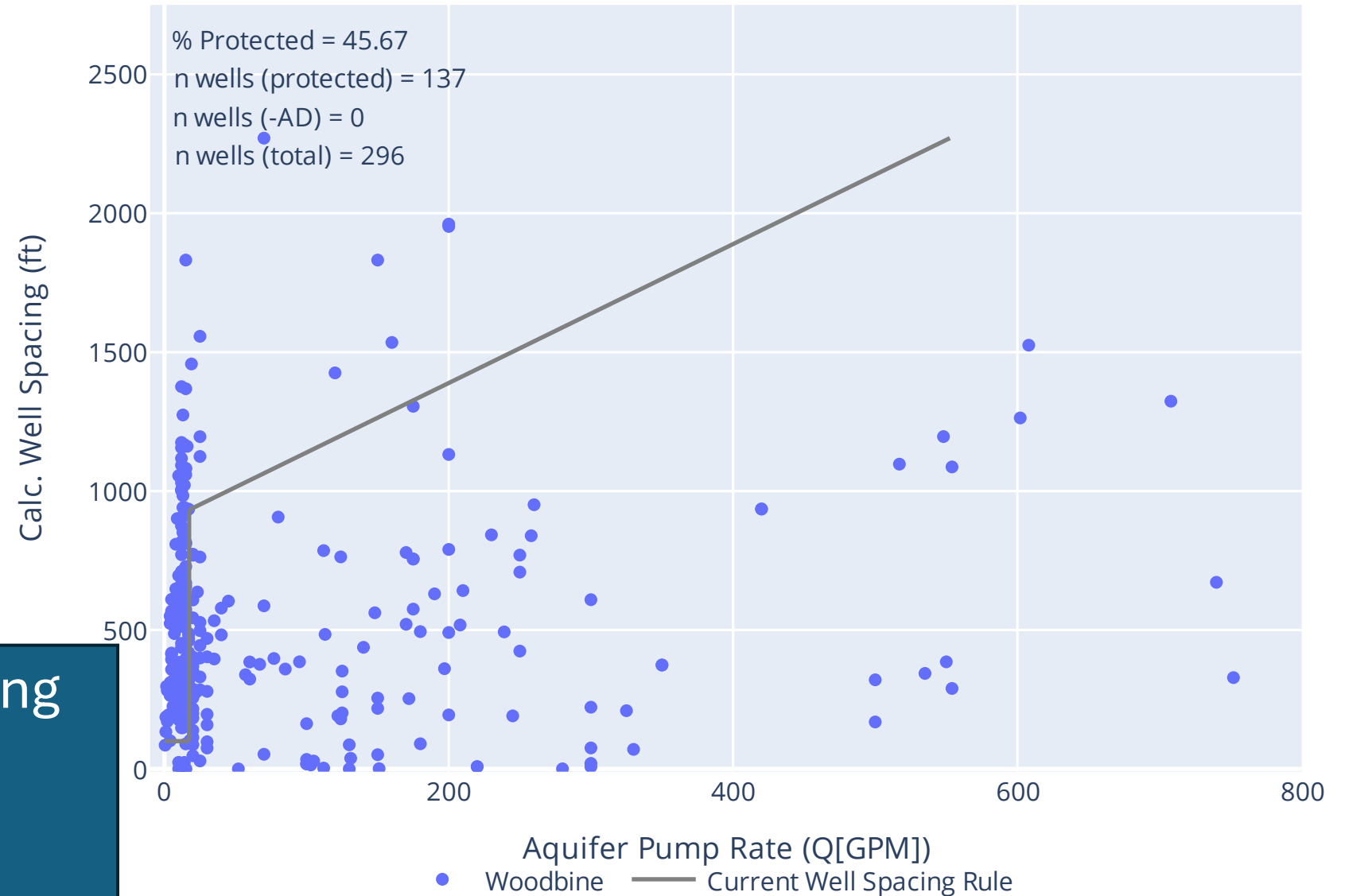
Kelly and Ewing, 2014

Most unprotected wells are Woodbine (and outcrop)



Separated by Aquifer: Woodbine

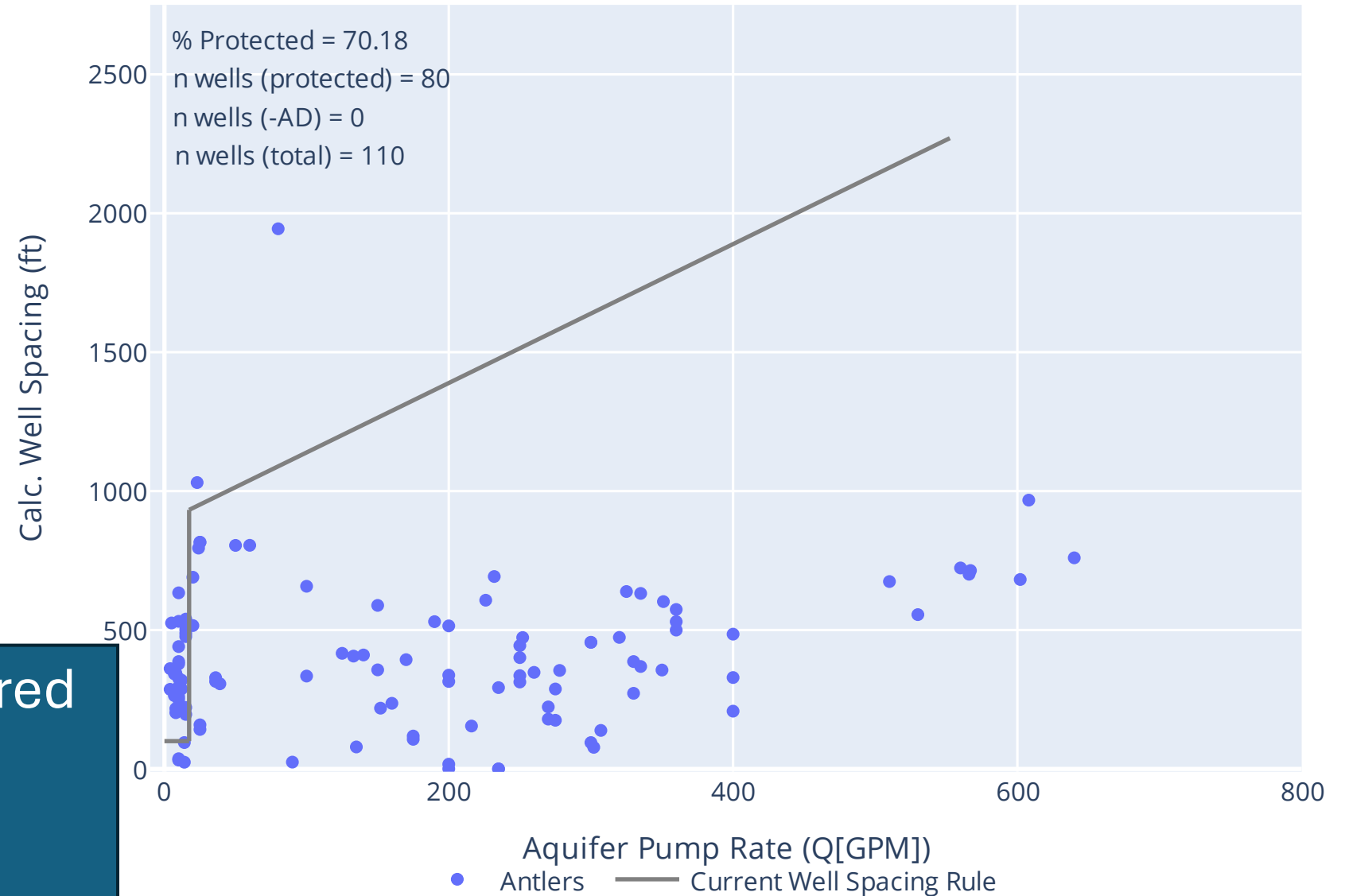
Well Spacing for RRGCD: Woodbine



Higher required spacing
in the woodbine

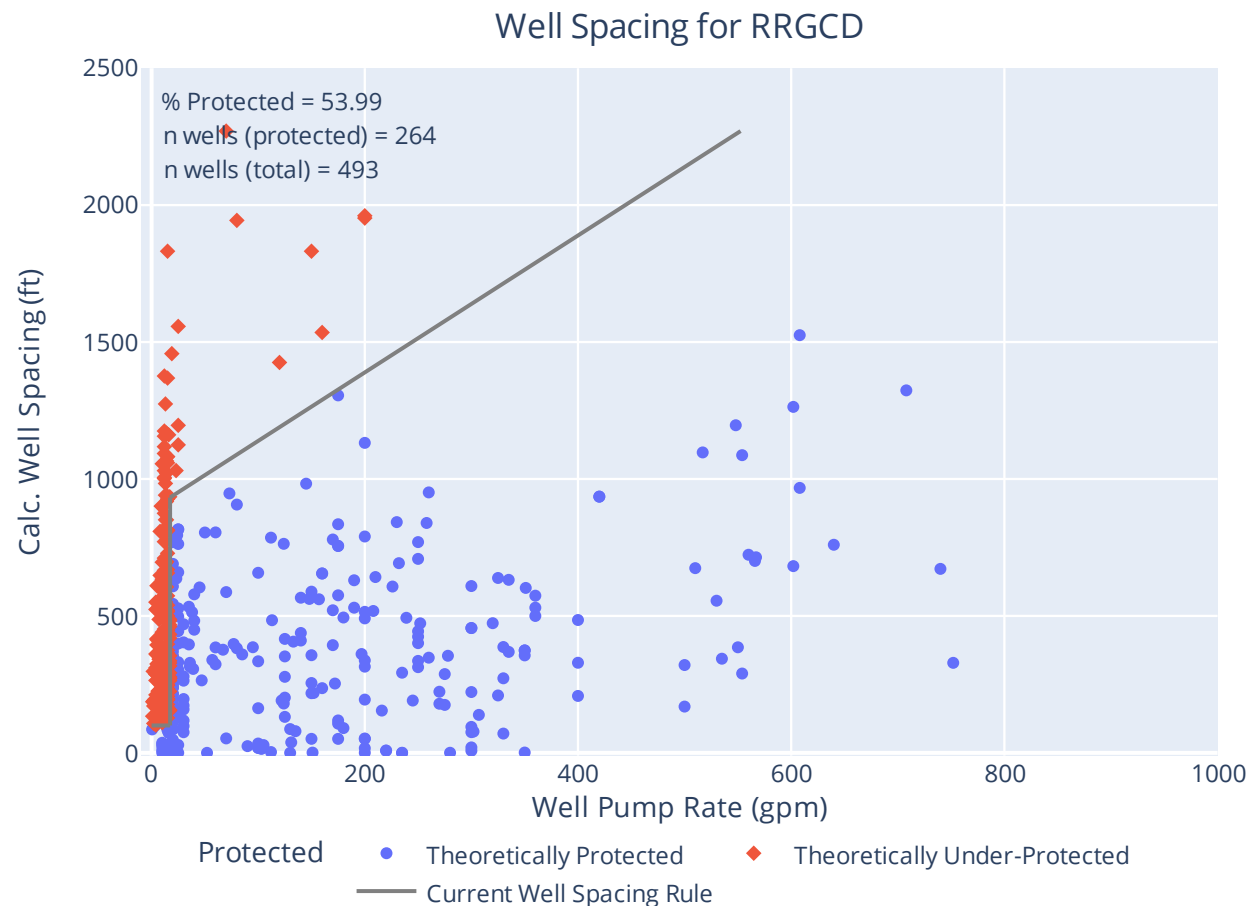
Separated by Aquifer: Antlers

Well Spacing for RRGCD: Antlers



Generally lower required spacing

Impact of Policy Decisions

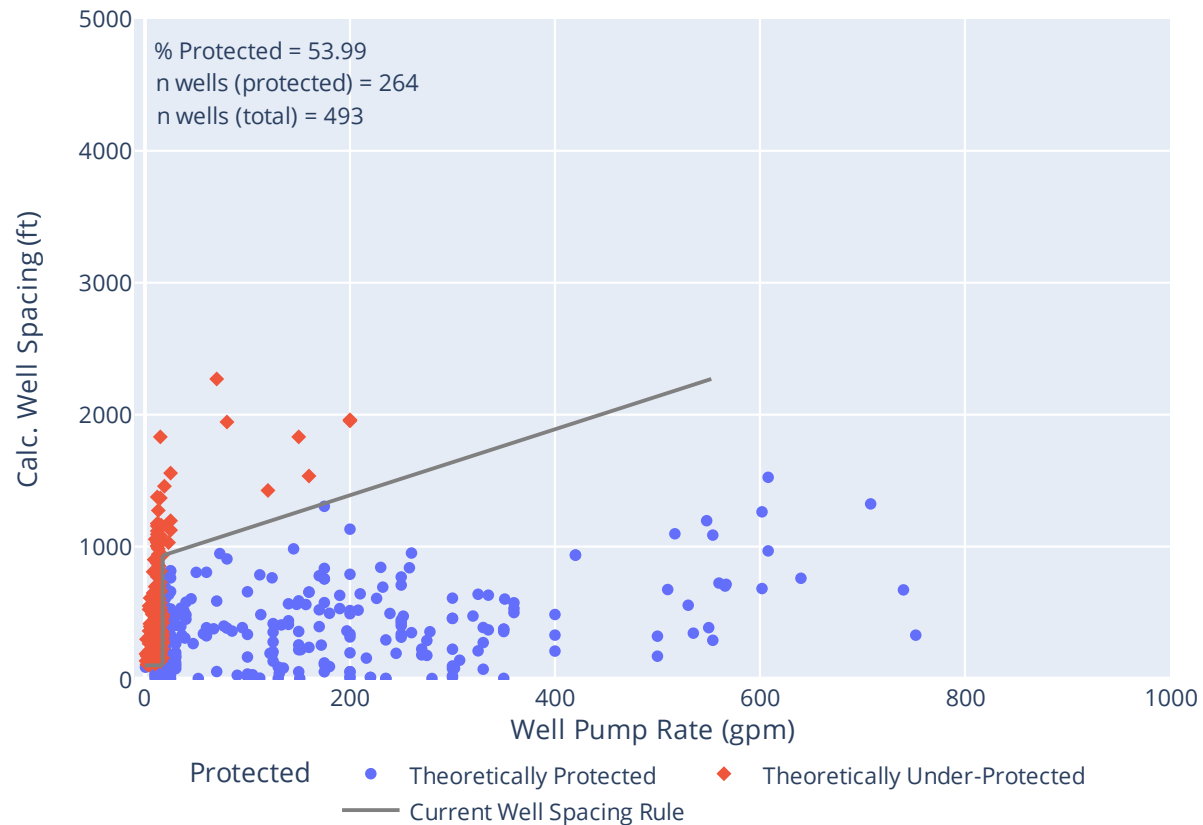


- **% Impact**
- Time pumped
- Avail. Drawdown method
- **Scale will change, left is always this graph**

Impact of Policy Decisions

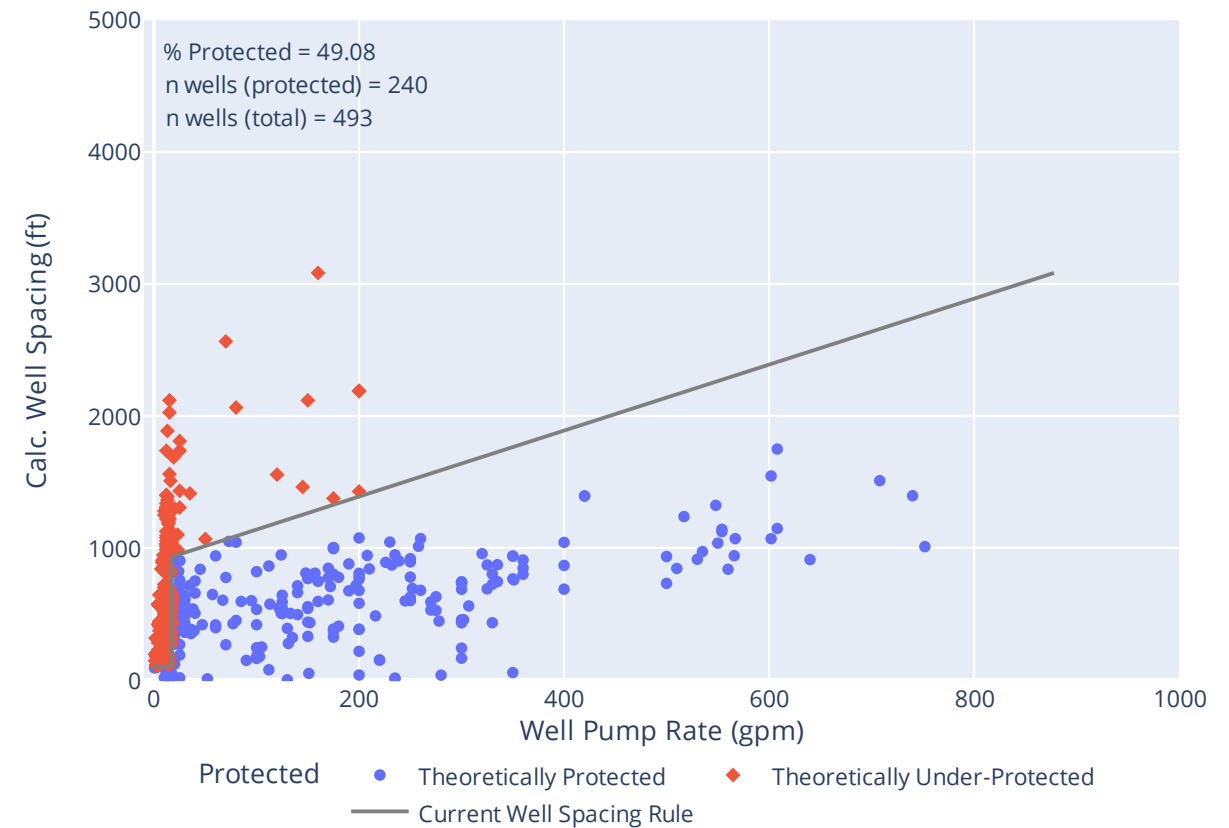
2% allowed

Well Spacing for RRGCD



1% allowed

Well Spacing for RRGCD

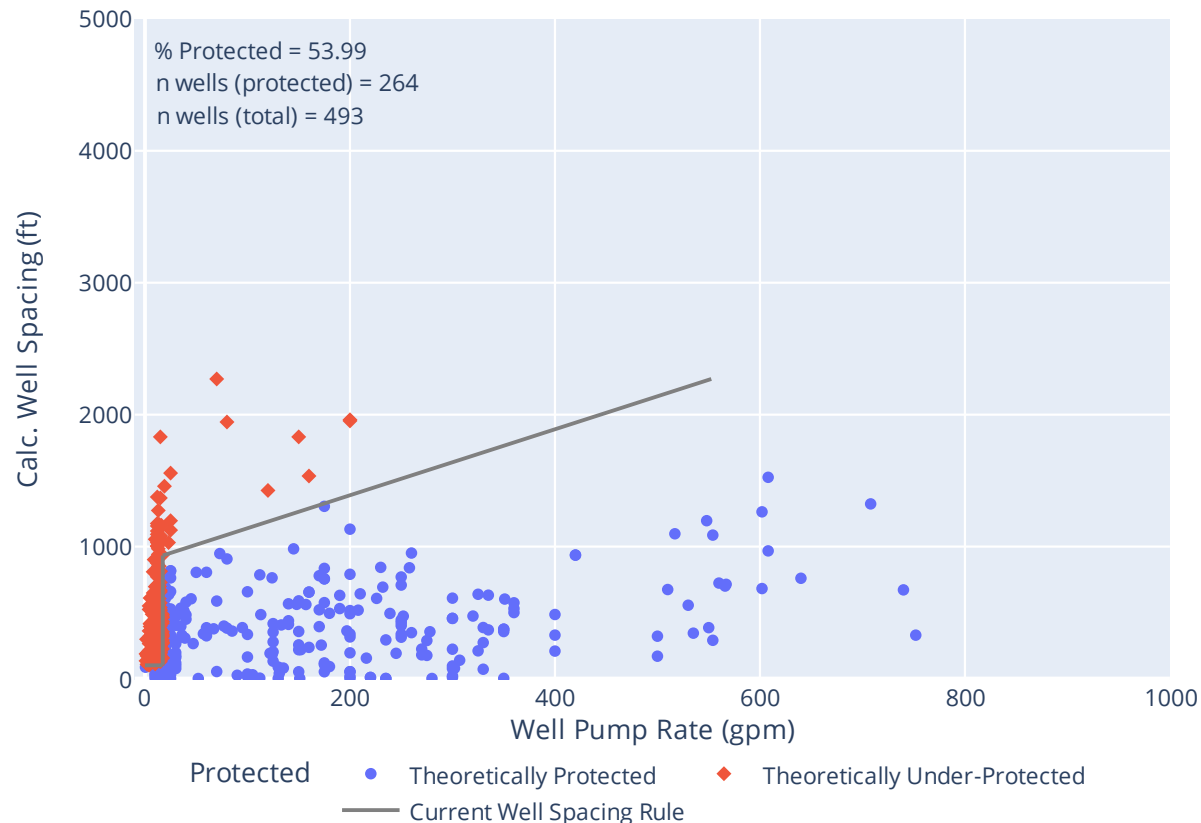


Impact of Policy Decisions

If less impact is allowed
→ less wells are protected
under current rule

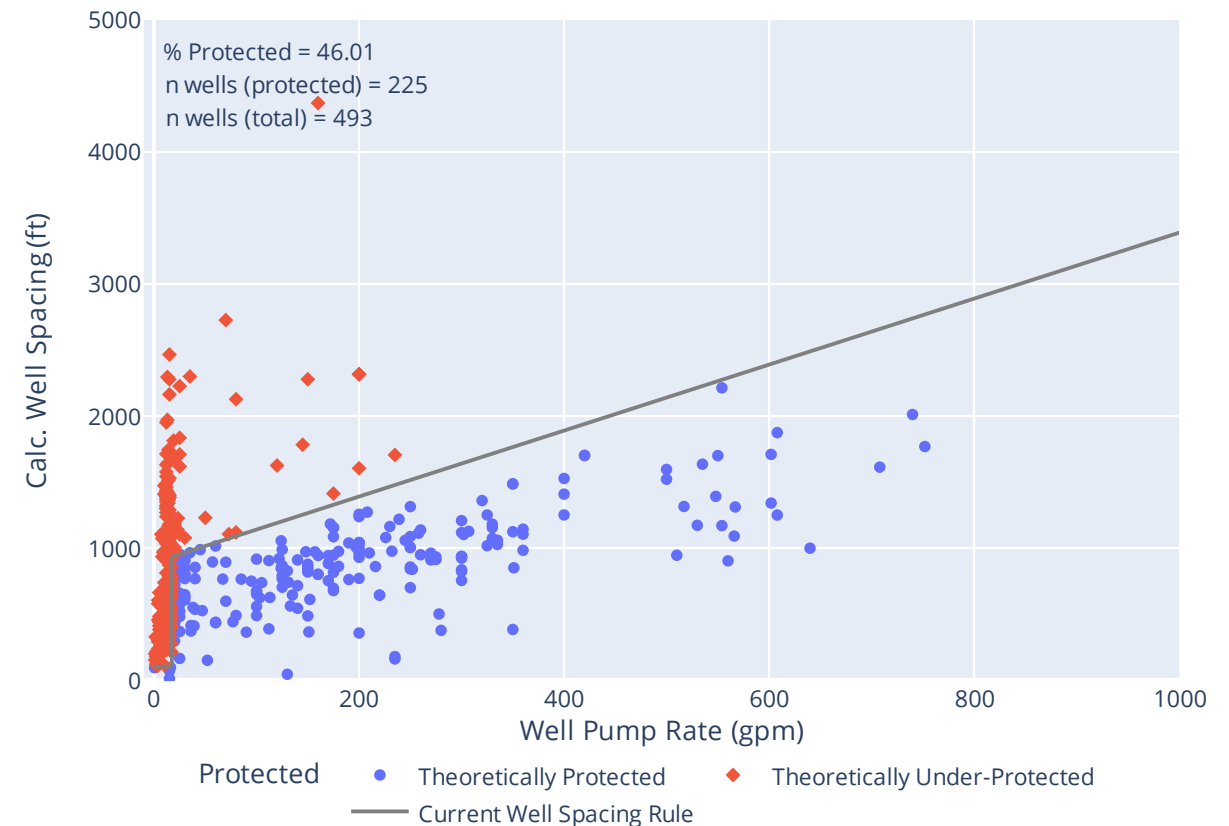
2% allowed

Well Spacing for RRGCD

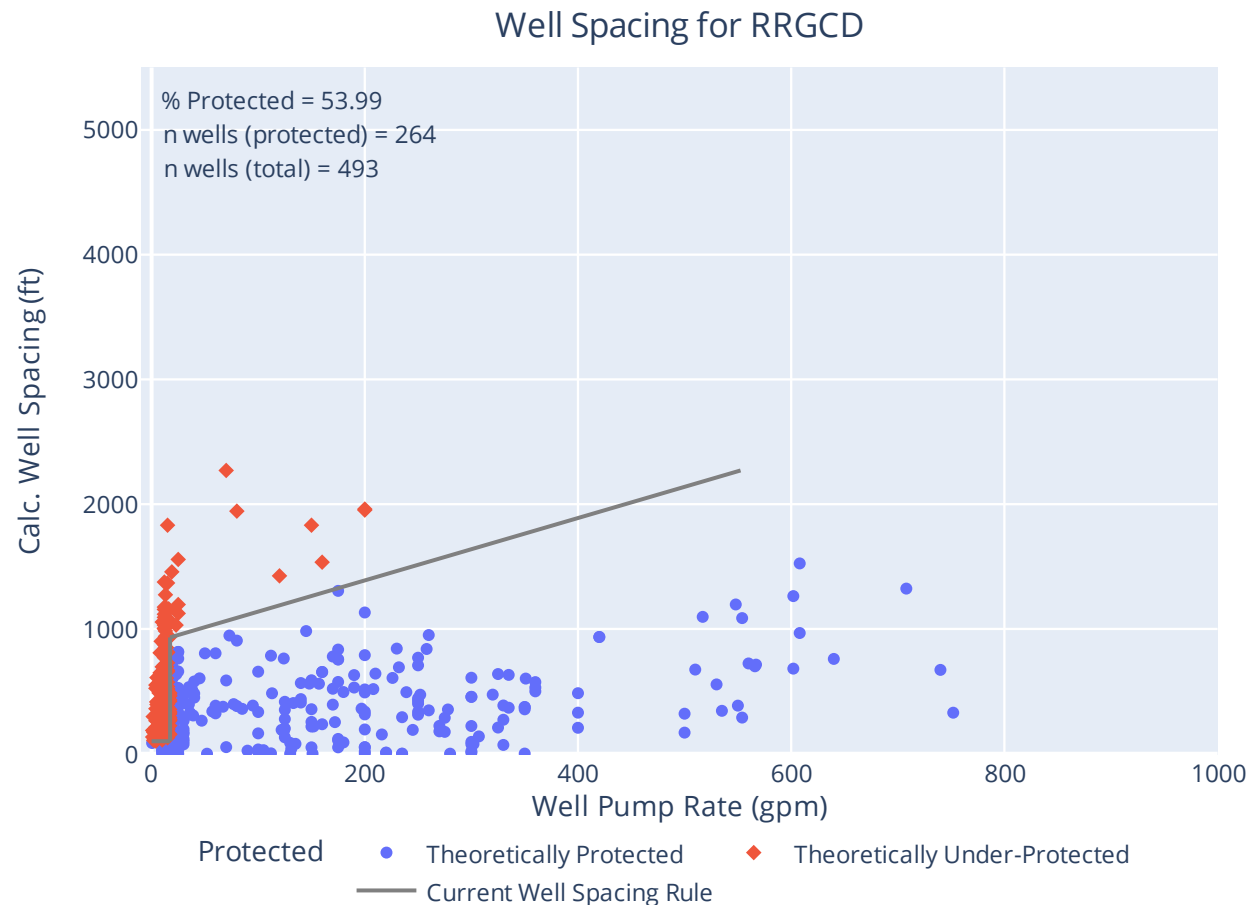


0.5% allowed

Well Spacing for RRGCD



Impact of Policy Decisions

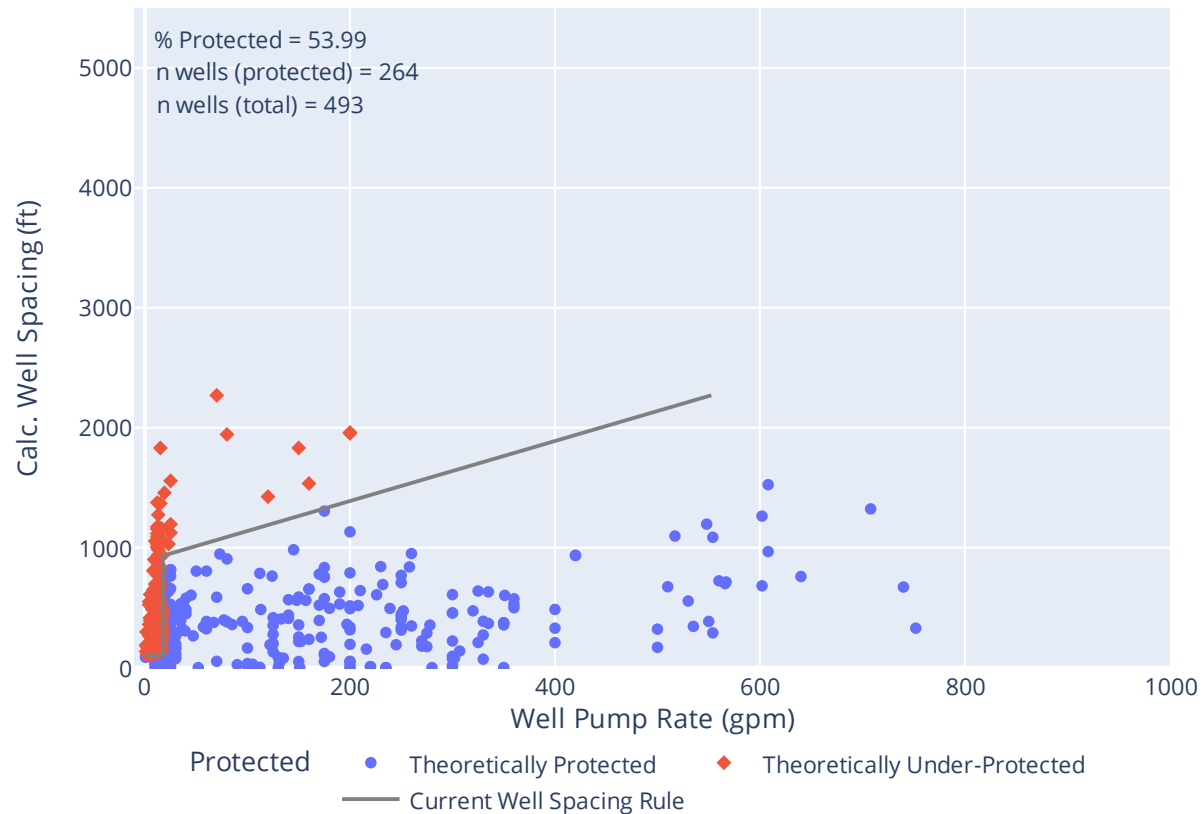


- % Impact
- **Time pumped**
- Avail. Drawdown method

Impact of Policy Decisions

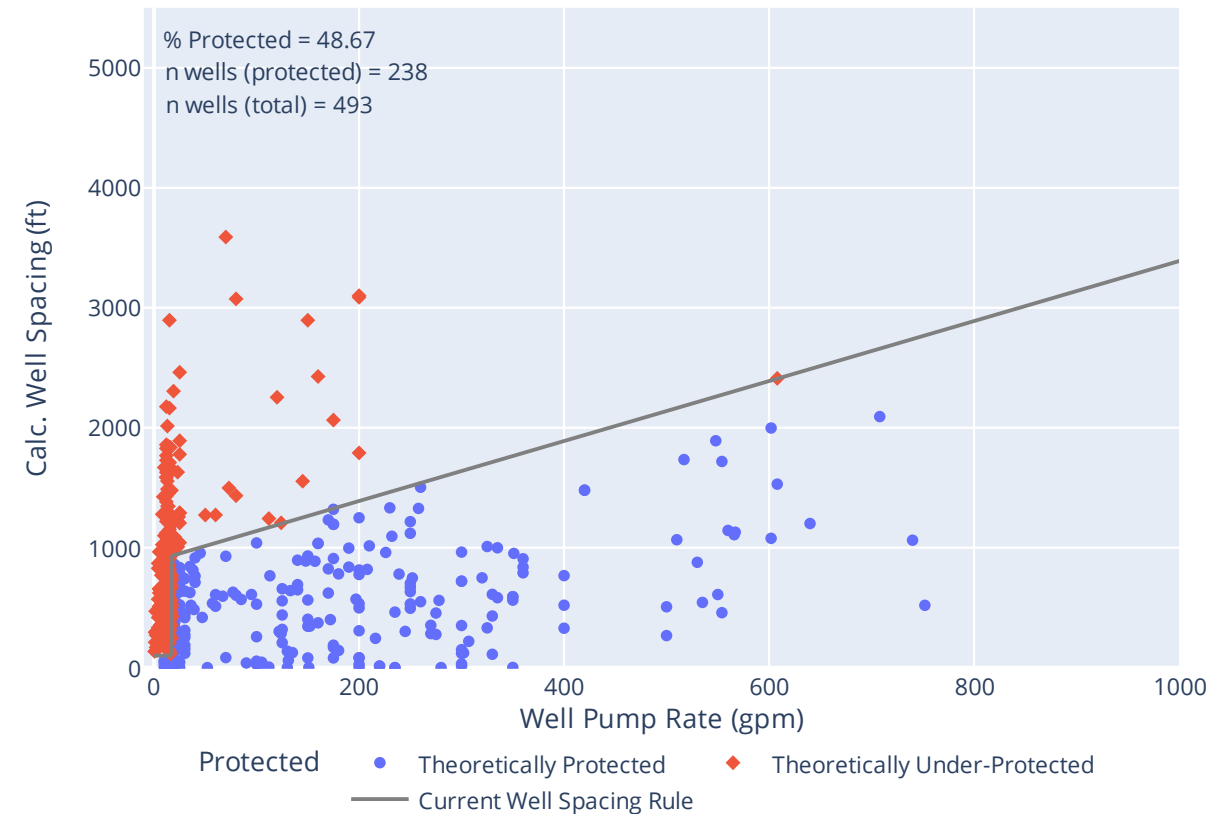
2 days of pumping

Well Spacing for RRGCD



5 days of pumping

Well Spacing for RRGCD

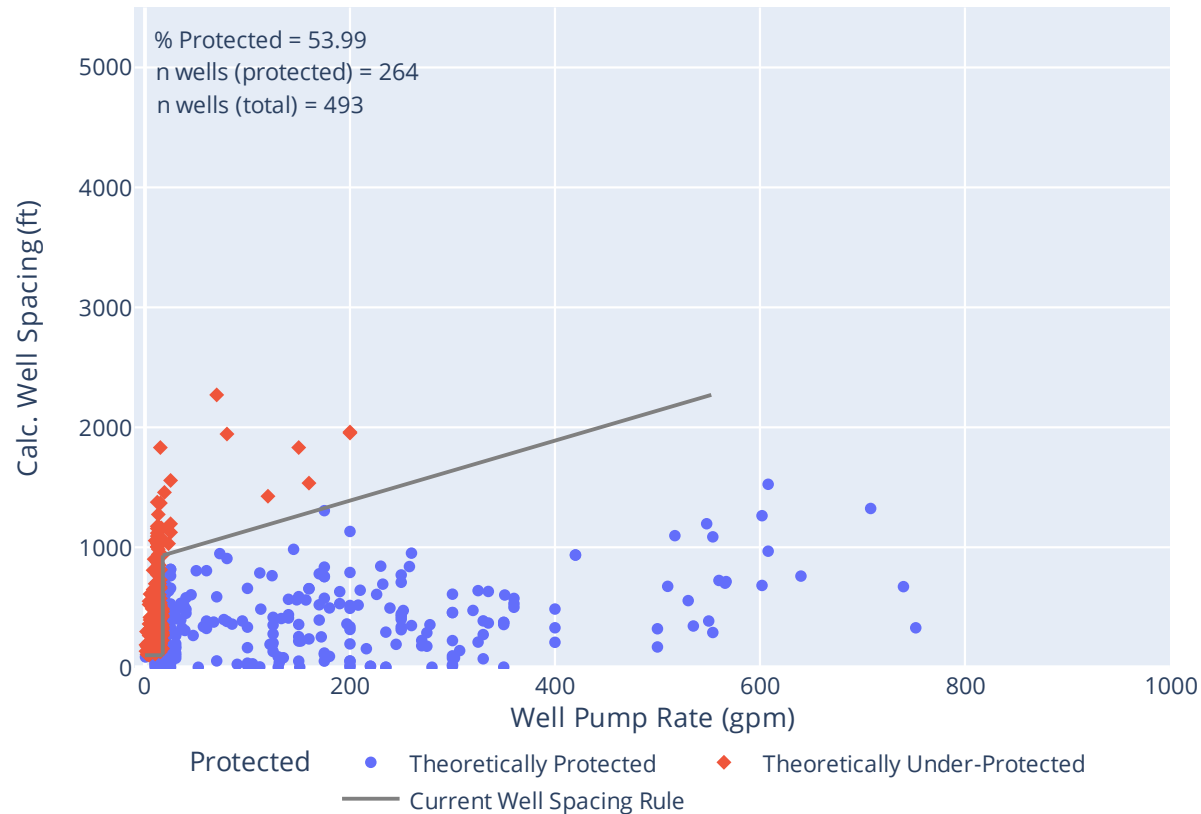


Impact of Policy Decisions

As pumping time increases
→ less wells are protected
under current rule

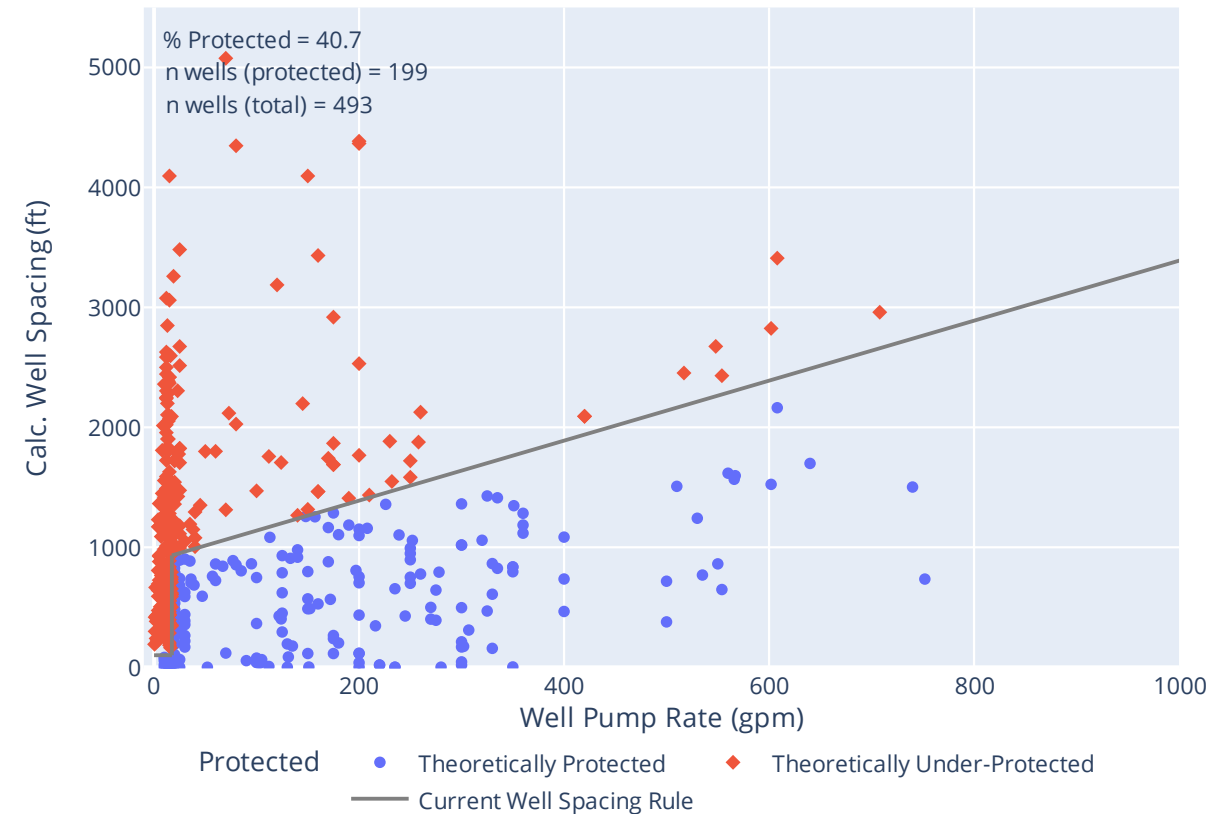
2 days of pumping

Well Spacing for RRGCD

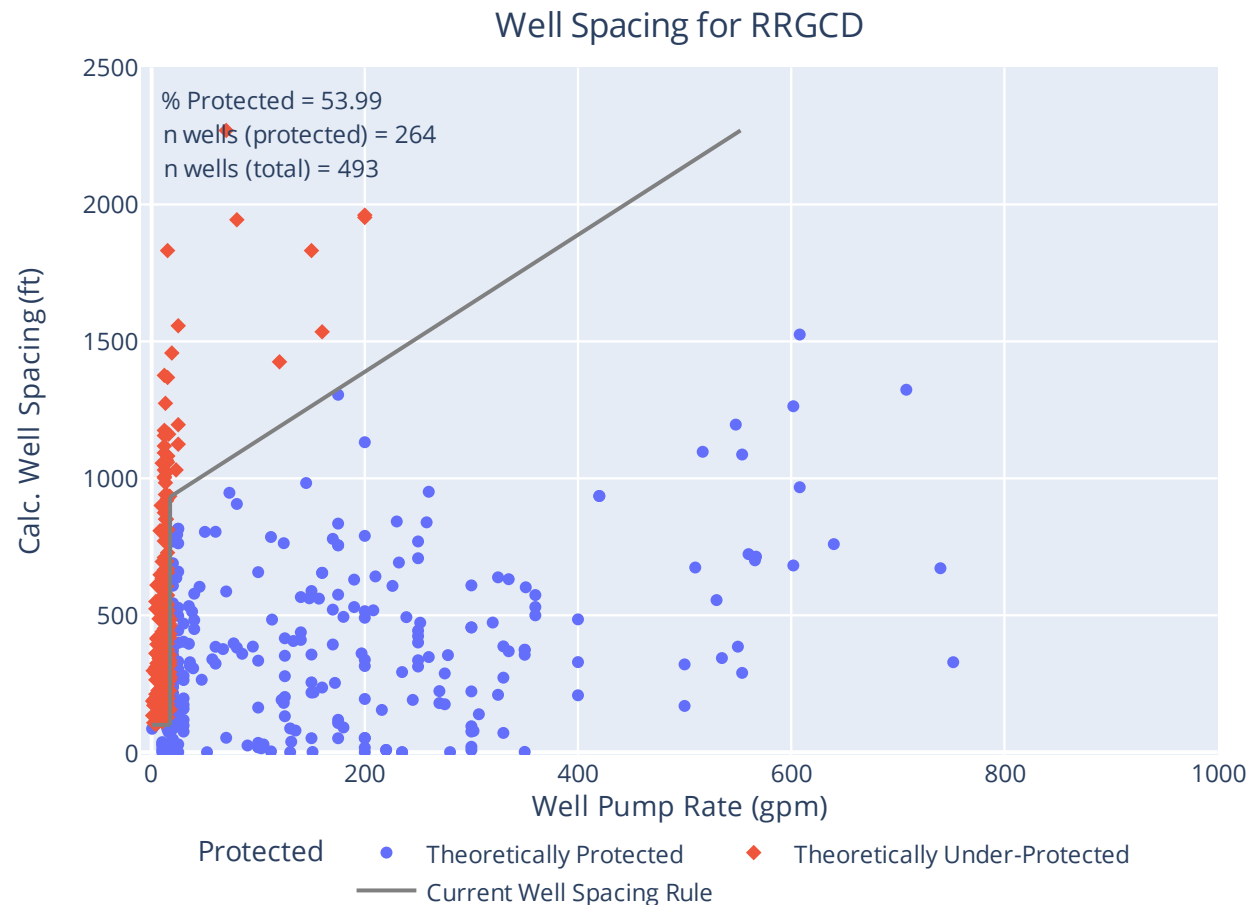


10 days of pumping

Well Spacing for RRGCD



Impact of Policy Decisions



- % Impact
- Time pumped
- **Avail. Drawdown method**

Impact of Policy Decisions

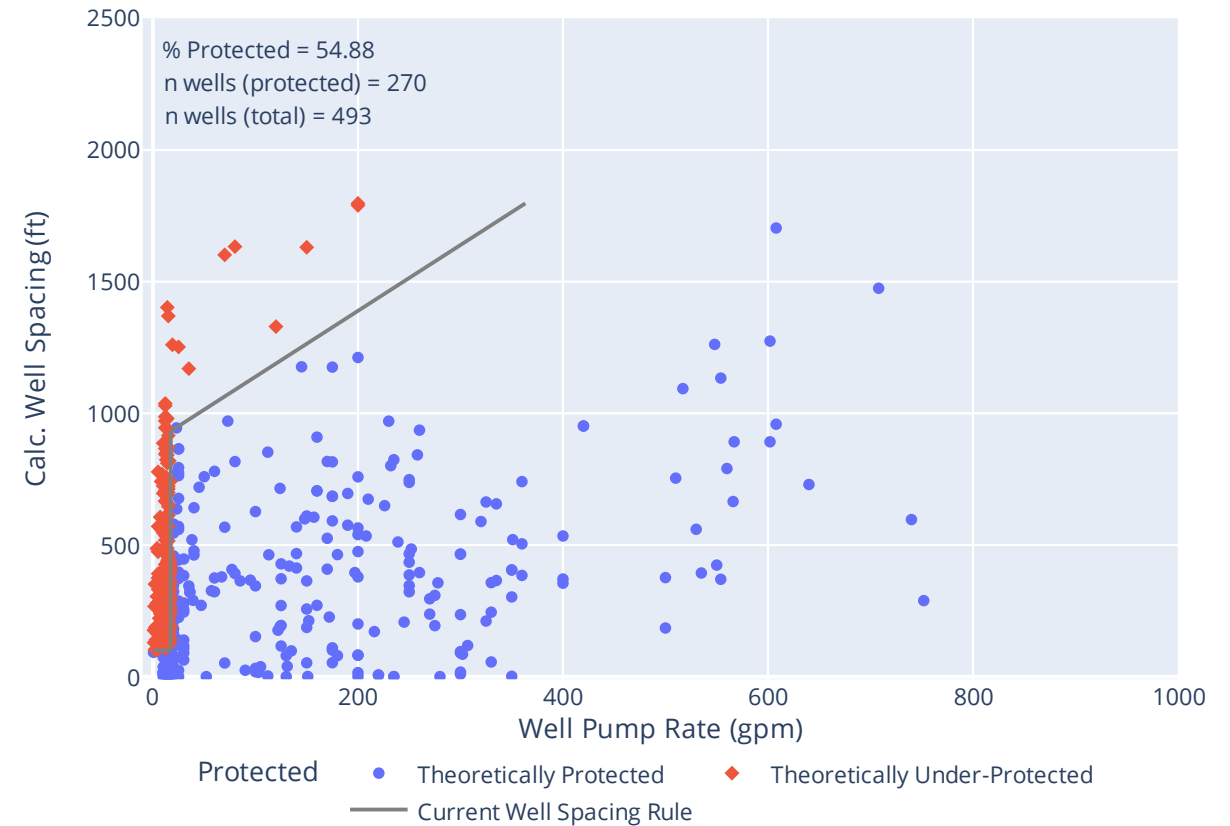
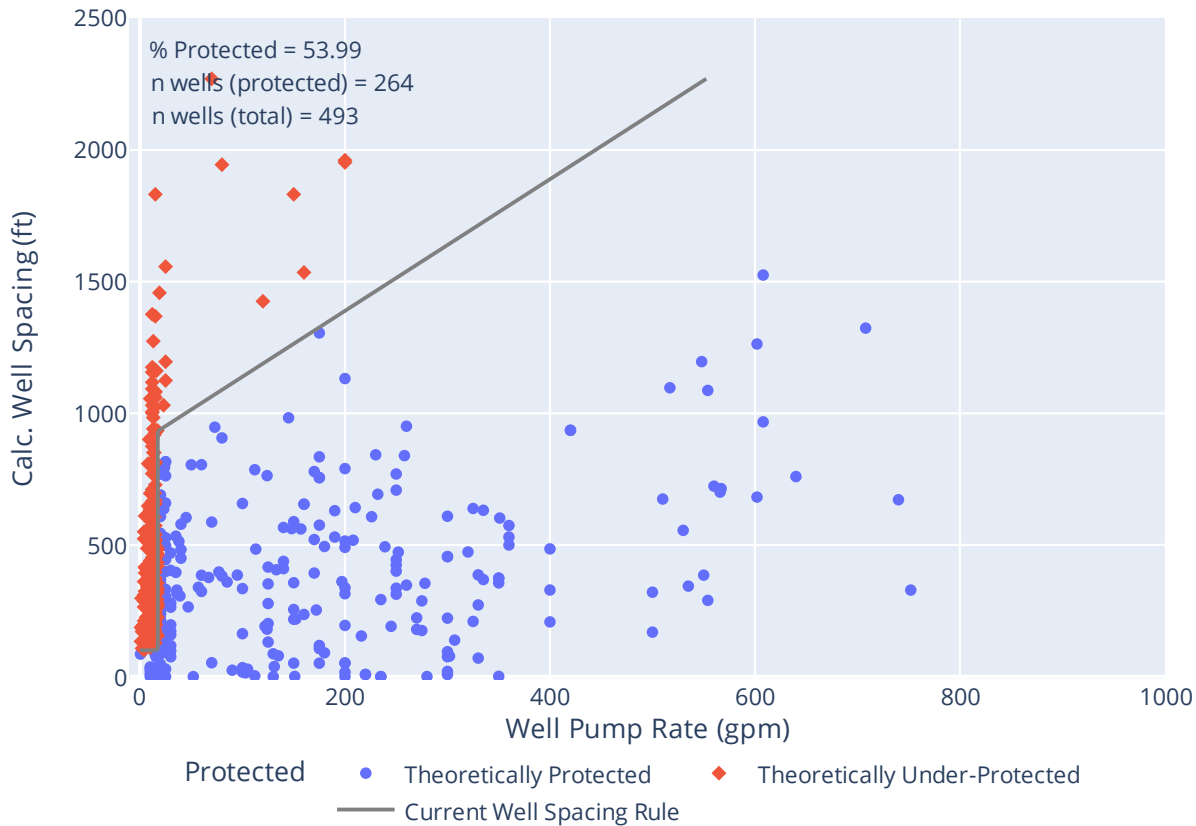
Minimal changes - mostly
single screen wells/tight
interval

Avg. Screen Interval

First Screen

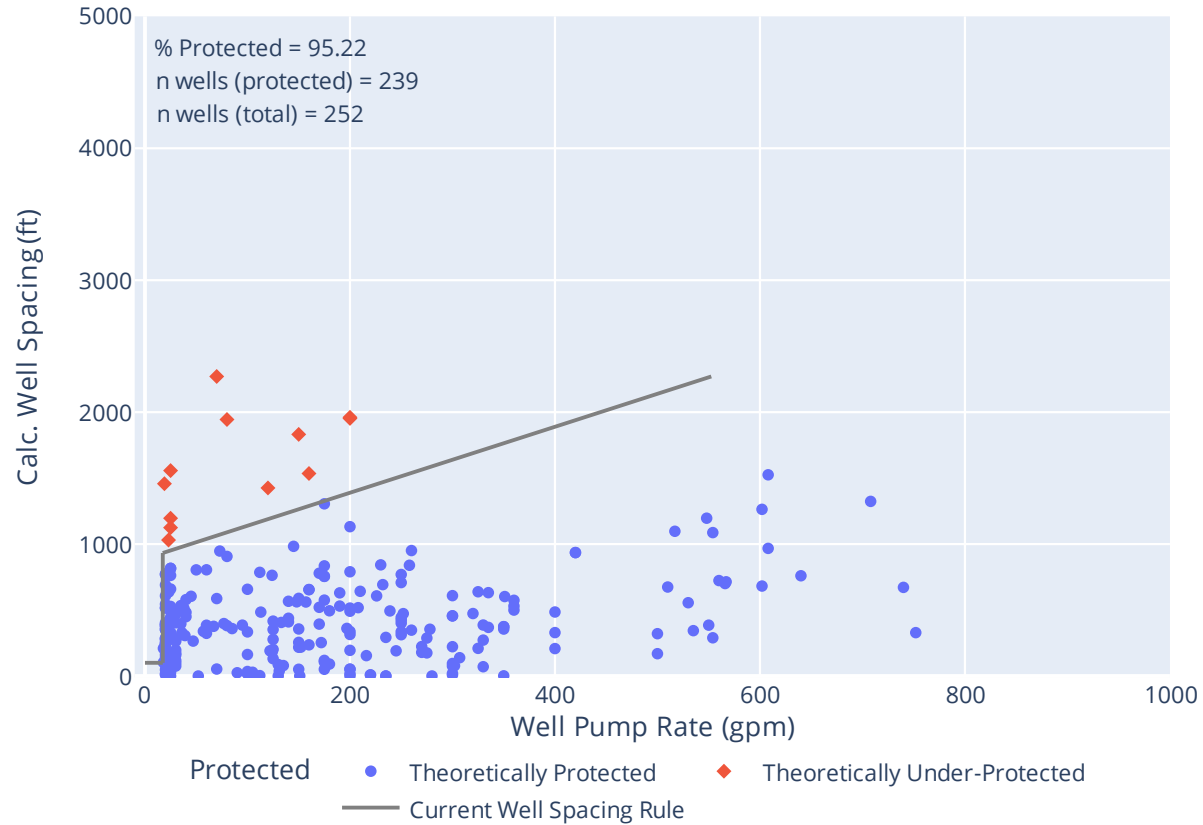
Well Spacing for RRGCD

Well Spacing for RRGCD



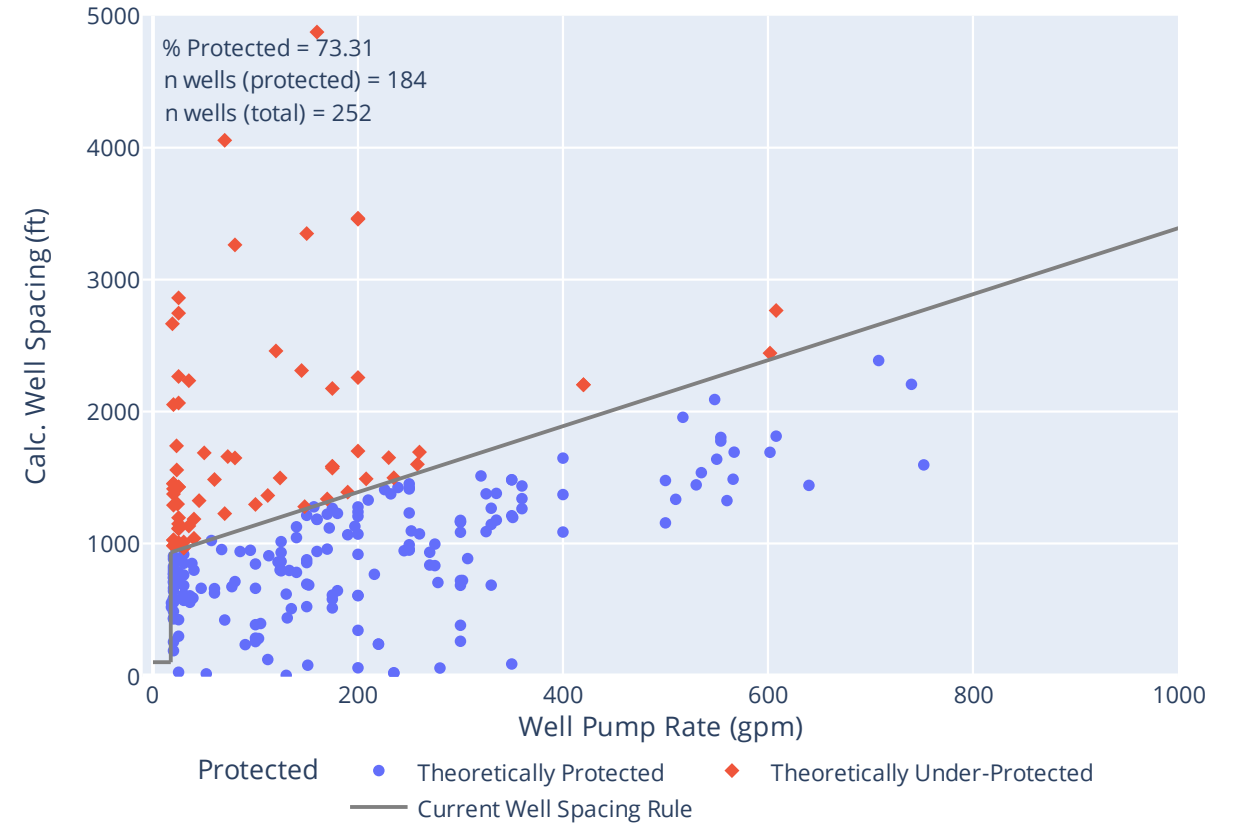
Possible Rules

Current Rule
Well Spacing for RRGCD



- 2%
 - 2 days
 - Avg. Screen
 - Pump Test T
 - $Q > 17.36$
- $889 + 2.5 * \text{GPM}$

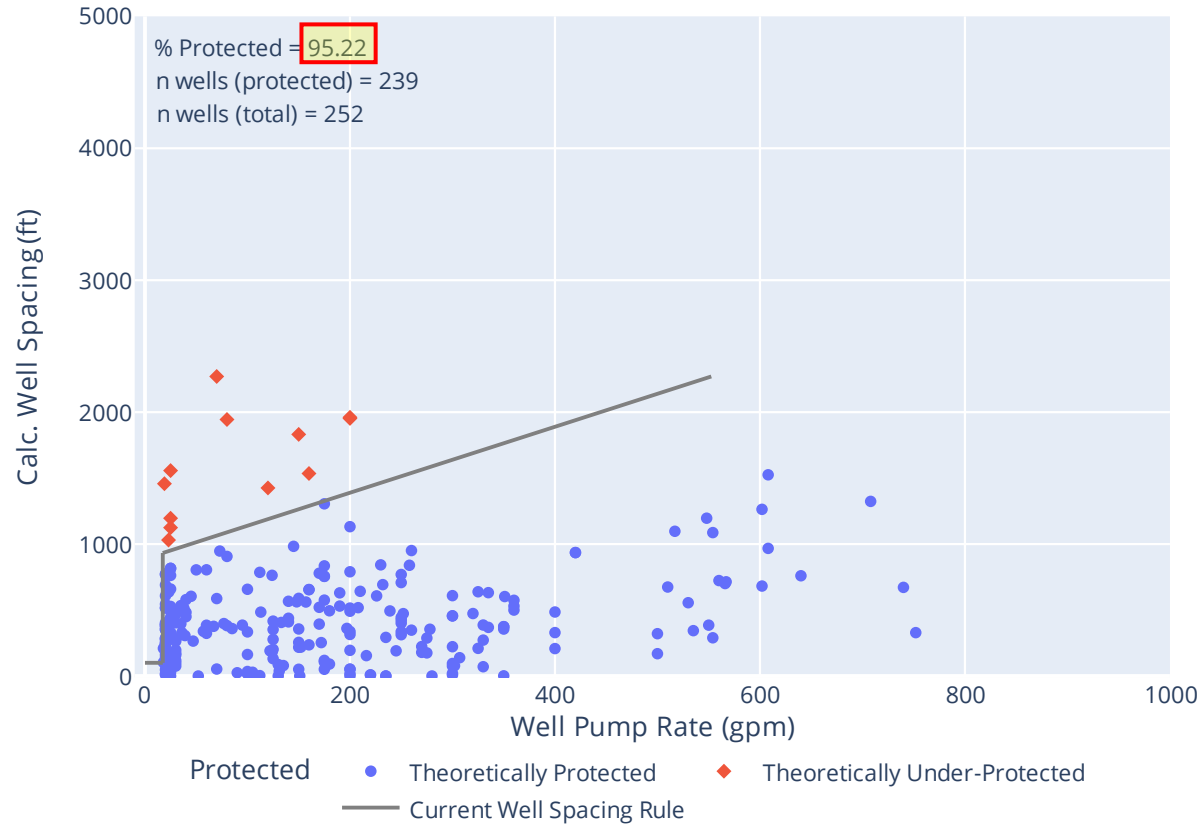
Possible New Rule
Well Spacing for RRGCD



- 1%
 - 5 days
 - Avg. Screen
 - Pump Test T
 - $Q > 17.36$
- $889 + 2.5 * \text{GPM}$

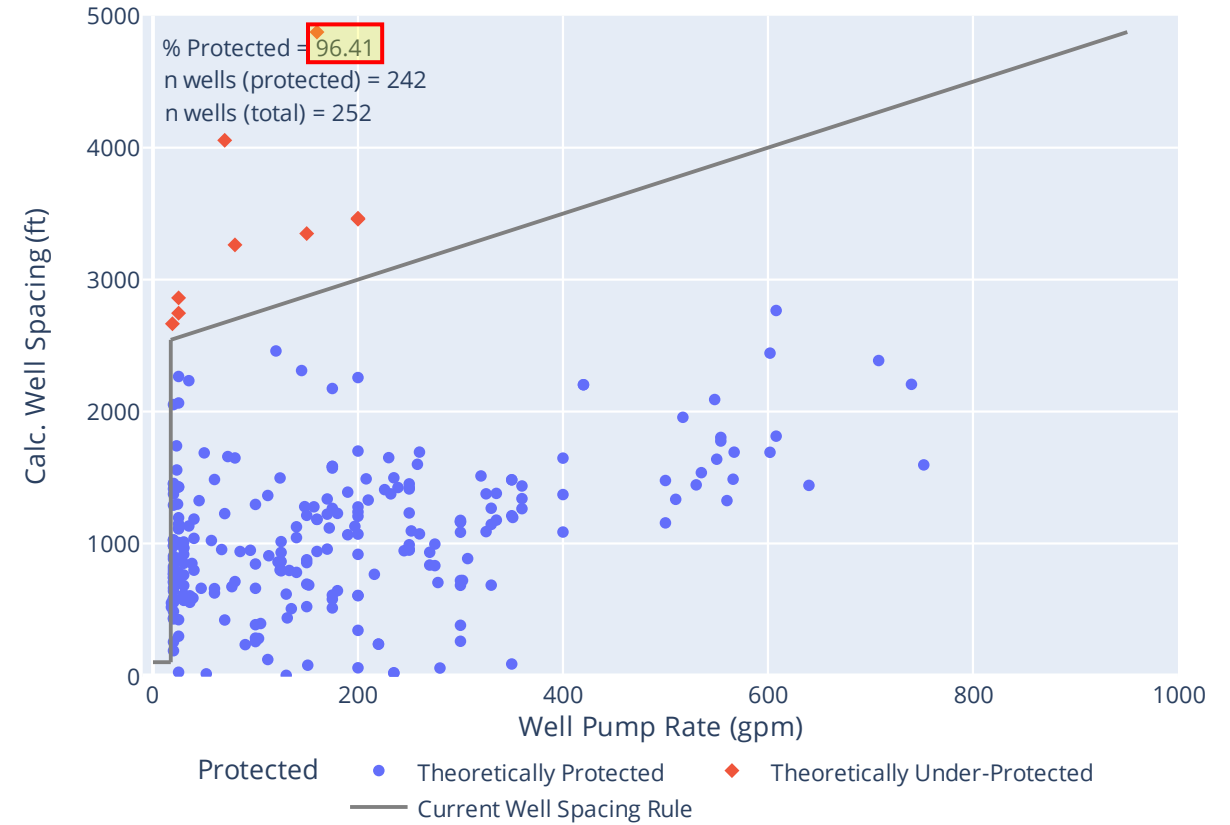
Possible Rules

Current Rule
Well Spacing for RRGCD



- 2%
- 2 days
- Avg. Screen
- Pump Test T
- $Q > 17.36$
- $889 + 2.5 * \text{GPM}$

Possible New Rule
Well Spacing for RRGCD



- 1%
- 5 days
- Avg. Screen
- Pump Test T
- $Q > 17.36$
- $2500 + 2.5 * \text{GPM}$

Findings

- Technical assessment
 - Illustrates and quantifies hydrogeologic principles
 - Provides a basis for policy decisions
 - Has limitations
- Policy decisions are also critical in spacing rules

Support Slides

Acquiring TCEQ Public Supply Well Pump Test Data

We contacted the TCEQ to request any pump test data available for public supply wells to ensure that they were accounted for.

We received 123 scanned documents in RRGCD.

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WELL SCHEDULE

Aquifer(s) _____ Project No. _____ State Well No. 18-20-901
Field No./Owner's Well No. 2 County Grayson

1. Location: _____, Section _____, Block _____, Survey _____, Lat. 33-30-03, Long. 96-30-13

2. Owner: Pink Hill W.S.C. Address: 2007 Hwy 75 N. Suite 5-4, Sherman, TX 75091
Tenant (other): _____ Address: _____
Driller: J.L. Myers Co. Address: 8325 Forney Rd. Dallas, TX 75227

3. Land Surface Elevation: 620 ft. above msl determined by Topo

4. Drilled: MAY 19 83; Dug, Cable Tool, Rotary, Air, _____

5. Depth: Rept. 950 ft. Meas. _____ ft.

6. Borehole Completion: Open Hole, Straight Well, Underreamed, Gravel Packed

7. Pump: Mfr. Crown SMC125 Type Subm.
No. Stages 21, Borehole Diam. _____ in., Setting 565 ft.
Column Diam. 3 in., Length Tailpipe 557 ft.

8. Motor: Mfr. Franklin Fuel elec. HP. _____

9. Yield: Flow _____ gpm, Pump _____ gpm, Meas., Rept., Est. _____ Date _____

10. Performance Test: Date _____ Length of Test 36 hr. Made by Myers
Static Level 287 ft. Pumping Level 327 ft. Drawdown 40 ft.
Production 125 gpm Specific Capacity _____ gpm/ft.

11. Quality: (Remarks on taste, odor, color, etc.) _____

Analyses:
Date 6-24-83 Laboratory Pope Lake TDS 317 Sp Cond 420
Date _____ Laboratory _____ TDS _____ Sp Cond _____

12. Other data available (as circled): Pumping Test, Power & Yield Test, Drillers Log
Formation Samples, Geophysical Log, E-Log (type) _____

13. Water Level(s): 287 ft. 6-24 19 83 ESP which is _____ ft. above/below Land Surface
ft. Meas. _____ ft. Rept. _____ 19 _____ above/below which is _____ ft. above/below Land Surface

14. Use: Dom., Stock, Public Supply, Ind., Irr., Observation, Other (Test Hole, Oil Test, etc.)

15. Recorded by: F. Wilkerry Source of data: obs./D.L. Date: 9-30-87

16. Remarks: _____

17. Location or Sketch: _____

Diam. (in.)	Type	Setting (feet) From	to
<u>7</u>	<u>Steel</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>867</u>
<u>3 1/2</u>	<u>Blank</u>	<u>814</u>	<u>940</u>
<u>3 1/2</u>	<u>Screen</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>932</u>

Acquiring TCEQ Public Supply Well Pump Test Data

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF
1	Drilling Date	Plugging Date	GCD	County	Driller	Well Depth	Multi Section	Top Section	Bottom Section	Pump Rate	Drawdown	T_gpd_ft	DTW	Surf	Well Use	Aquifer Repd	Scanned Aqu
123	10/15/1955		RRGCD	Fannin	Sharp & Bradley	1640	N	1200	1640	30			355	1	PS	Y	Woodbine
124	10/17/2009		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1630	N	1470	1566	180	65	5538	399		PS	N	
125	7/25/2010		RRGCD	Fannin	Brian K. Hillard	1905	N	1601	1760	752	94	16000	461		PS	Y	Woodbine
126	6/1/1957		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1690	N	1523	1673	330	56	11786	432	1	PS	Y	Woodbine
127	6/23/1975		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1720	Y	1464	1606	300	80	7500	500		PS	Y	Woodbine
128	7/27/2000		RRGCD	Fannin	JJ Biffle	1664	N	1620	1644	500	81	12346	539		PS	Y	Woodbine
129	10/13/1959		RRGCD	Fannin	Orin Witherspoon	533	N	513	531	50			273	2	PS	Y	Woodbine
130	1/1/1936		RRGCD	Fannin	ML Witherspoon	528	N	508	528	57	45	2533	185		PS	Y	Woodbine
131	7/20/2007		RRGCD	Fannin	Utility Construction	670	N	420	670	170	242	1405	318		PS	N	
132	12/1/2002		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	920	N	846	898	200	112	3571	476		PS	N	
133	10/3/1988		RRGCD	Fannin	th Texas Water Works	1602	Y	1508	1598	200	80	5000	550		PS	N	
134	1/1/1966		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1693	N	1480	1564	100	105	1905	390		PS	Y	Woodbine
135	5/1/1965		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	3063	Y	2949	3002	90	138	1304	140		PS	Y	Paluxy
136	4/1/1962		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1454	Y	1368	1432	150	124	2419	296		PS	Y	Woodbine
137	8/1/1967		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1585	Y	1486	1581	175	50	7000	475		PS	N	
138	3/18/1982		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1530	N	1444	1510	201					PS	N	
139	1/14/1987		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1260	Y	1060	1246	175	30	11667			PS	N	
140	7/23/1997		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1100	Y	924	1076	157	139	2259	395		PS	N	
141	5/7/2001		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1200	N	1030	1168	160	67	4776			PS	N	
142	11/24/2004		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1687	Y	1490	1596	325	76	8553	506		PS	N	
143	8/21/2007		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1215	Y	1020	1215	80	342	468	463		PS	N	
144	3/10/2009		RRGCD	Fannin	ler Irrigation and	1272	Y	882	980	270	90	6000			PS	N	
145	9/13/2006		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1760	N	1610	1734	220	35	12571	505		PS	N	
146	12/23/1964		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1237	Y	1100	1152	70	47	2979	255		PS	Y	Woodbine
147	2/1/1995		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1062	Y	990	1046	226	53	8528			PS	N	
148	2/4/2002		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1097	N	990	1078	250	82	6098	326		PS	N	
149	5/25/2009		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1095	N	970	1094	239	106	4509	300		PS	N	
150	6/2/1966		RRGCD	Fannin	e Pump and Supply	734	Y	644	734	67	86	1558	224		PS	N	
151	7/24/2018		RRGCD	Fannin	C Miller Drilling	1065	N	878	1032	113	294	769	385		PS	N	
152	4/27/1956		RRGCD	Fannin	th Texas Water Works	1596	N	1530	1580	151	25	12080	406		PS	Y	Woodbine
153	12/10/2003		RRGCD	Fannin	J L Myers	1504	N	1322	1495	535	85	12588	395		PS	N	
154	10/20/2011		RRGCD	Fannin	Powell Drilling	1502	Y	1278	1454	550	85	12941	402		PS	N	
155	4/17/2020		RRGCD	Fannin	Powell Drilling	1503	Y	1020	1130	350	76	9211	274		PS	N	
156	2/1/1981		RRGCD	Grayson	J L Myers	2150	Y	1934	2096	150	625	480	550		PS	N	
157	7/25/2006		RRGCD	Grayson	Utility Construction	800	Y	685	785	135	97	2784	595		PS	N	

Data Source Distribution

Data Source	RRGCD Well Tests	
	Available	Used
TWDB Groundwater Database	39	23
TWDB Submitted Drillers Reports	993	330
TWDB Aquifer Properties Data	59	30
TCEQ Public Supply Well Pump Test Data	123	110
Total Number of Well Tests Considered	1,214	493

*counts subject to change

Data Sources

Almost all of the low Q wells are from the SDR

