

HECA Water Workshop

California Energy Commission
Sacramento, CA

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

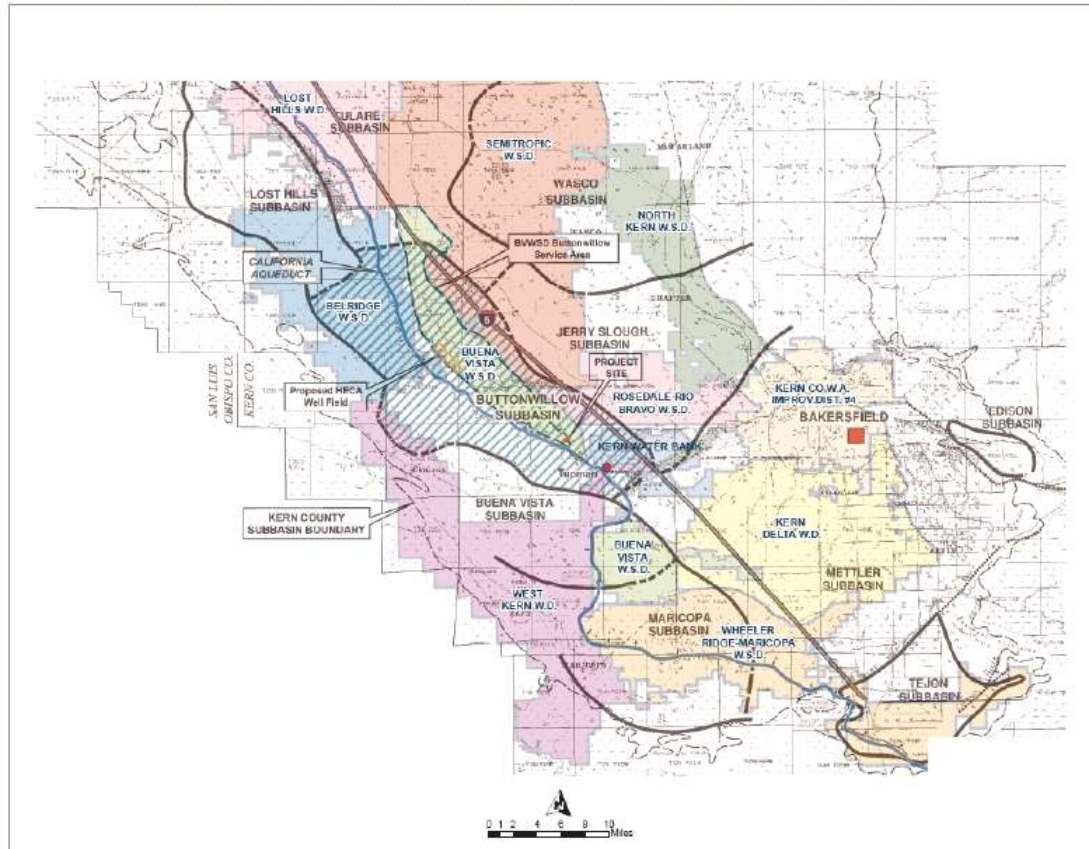
08-AFC-8A

TN # 69646

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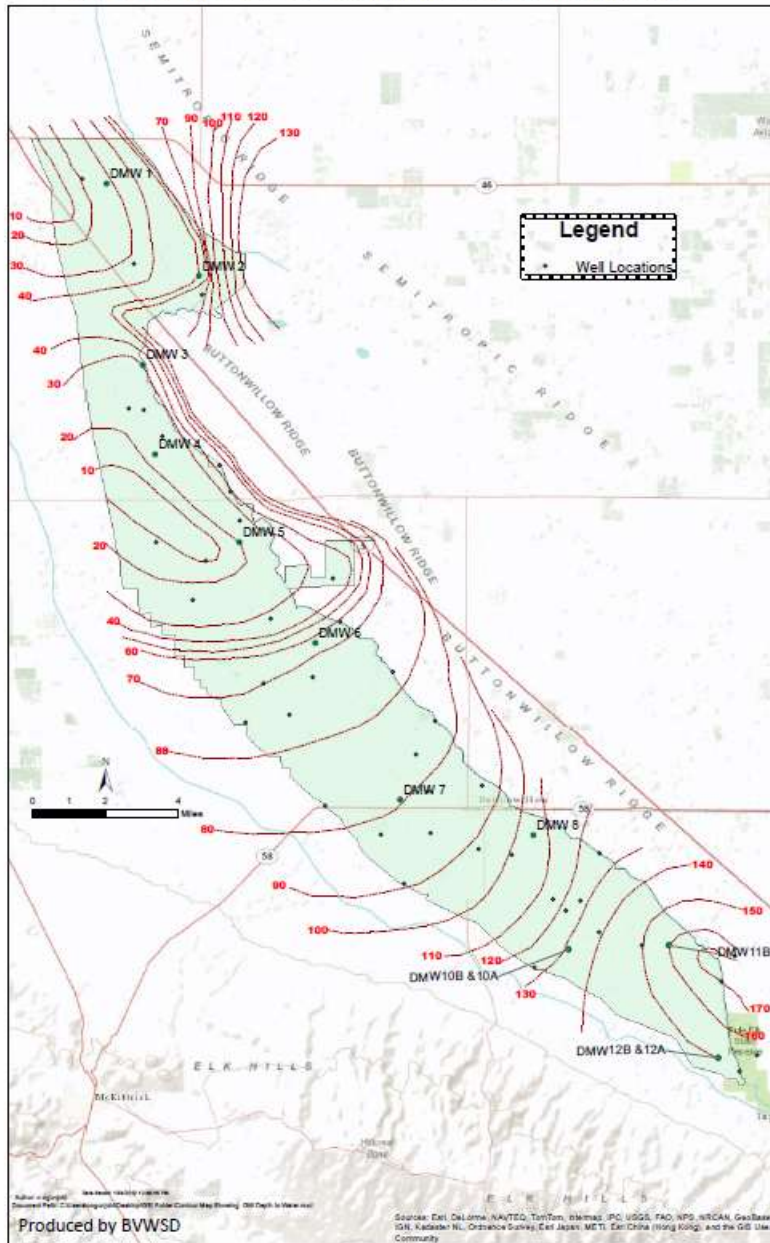
February 20, 2013

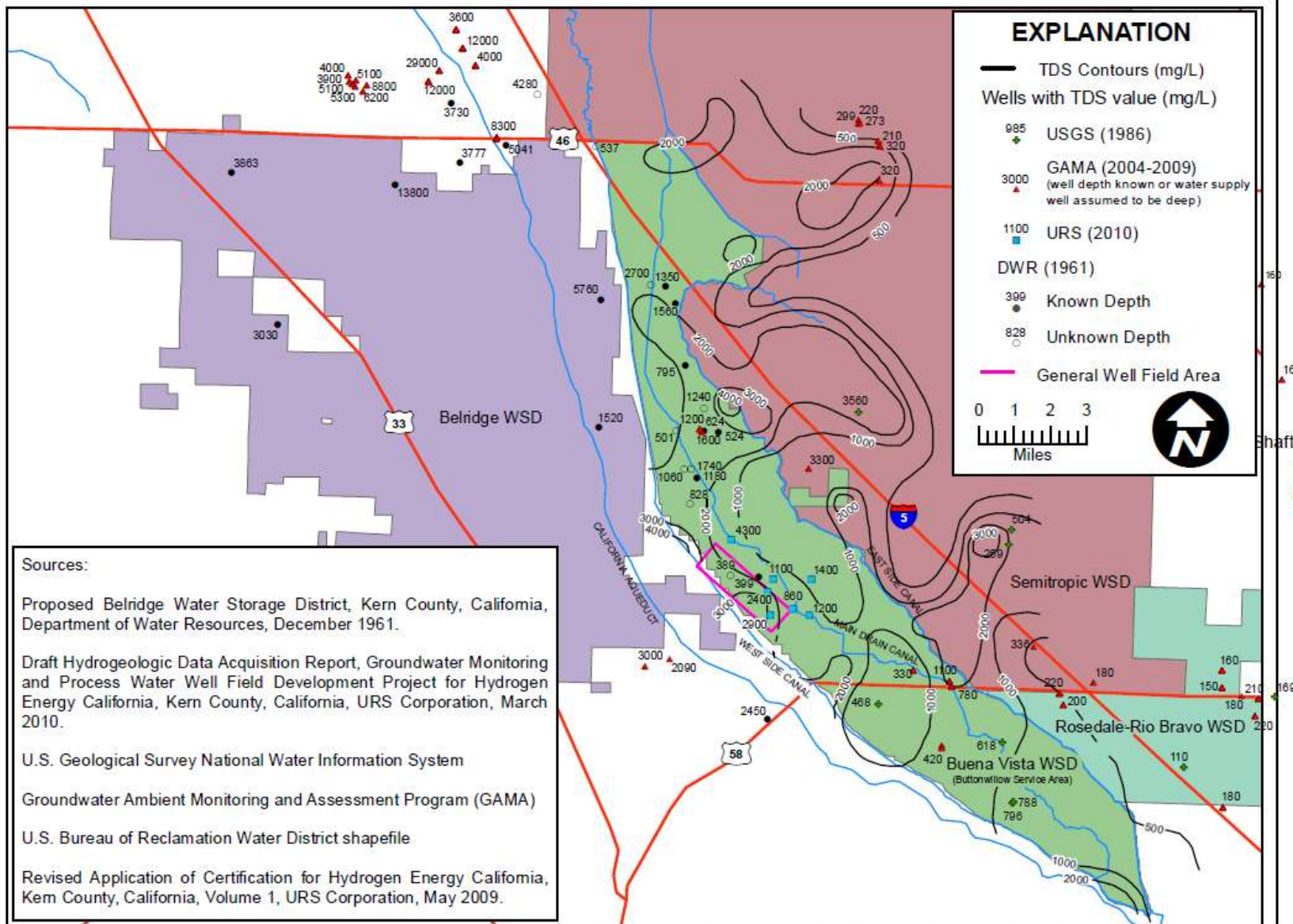
SOIL&WATER Figure 1: Kern Water Districts and Subbasins



Source: FEIR 2009

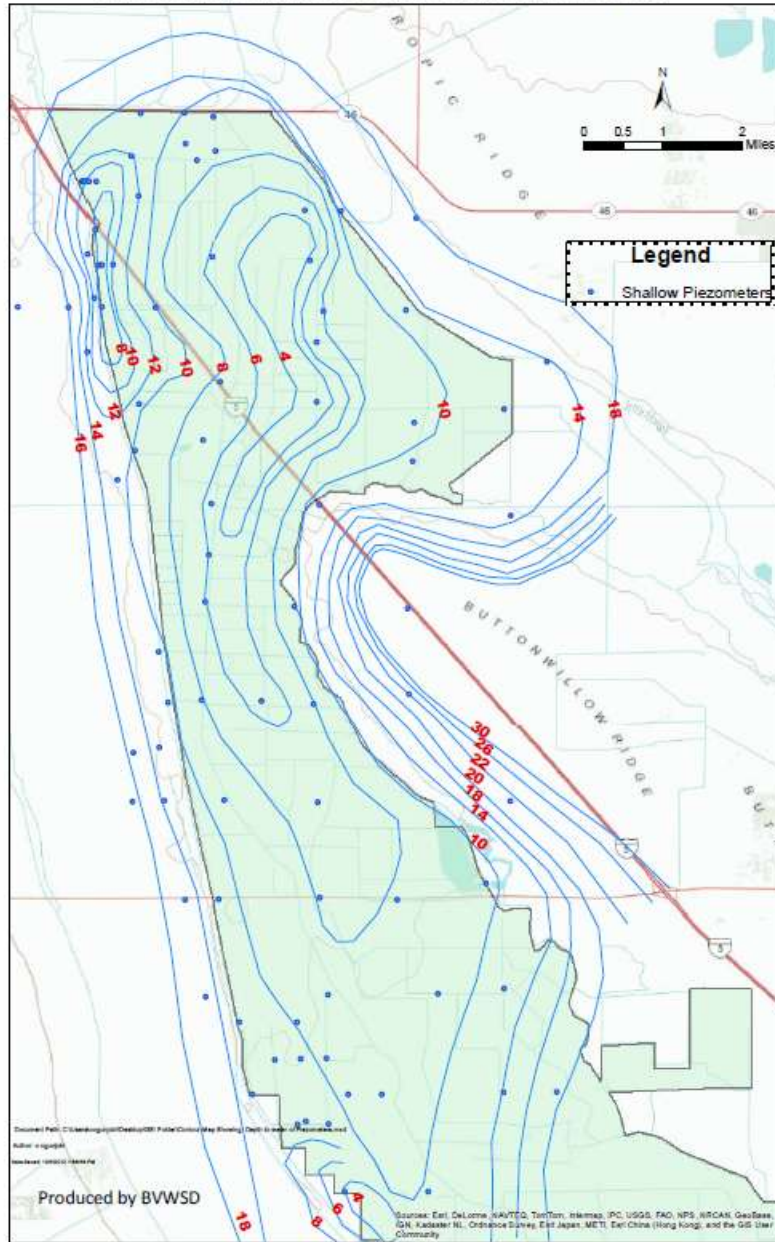
Map Showing Contours of Depth to Water Level- Pumping Zone (Ft.)

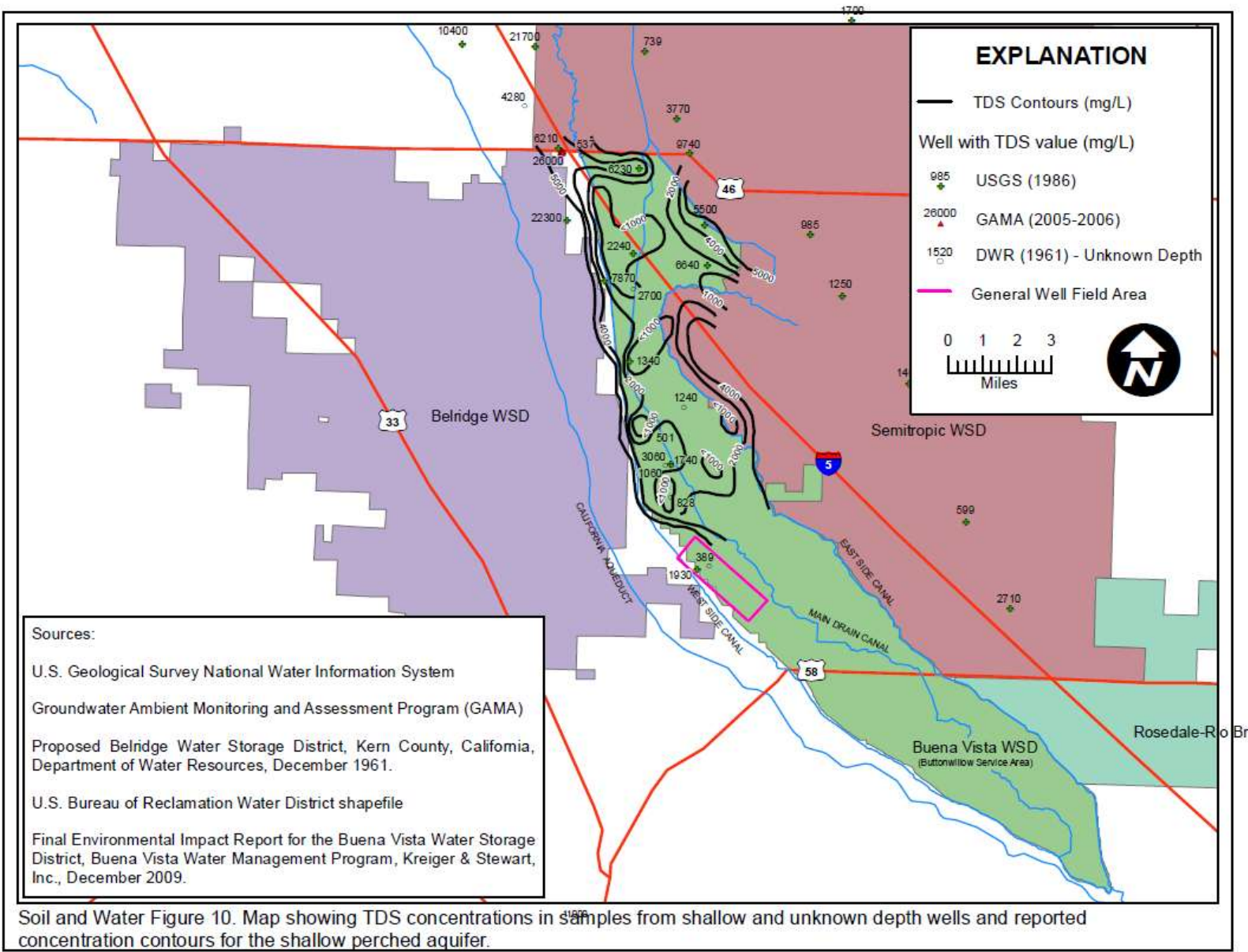




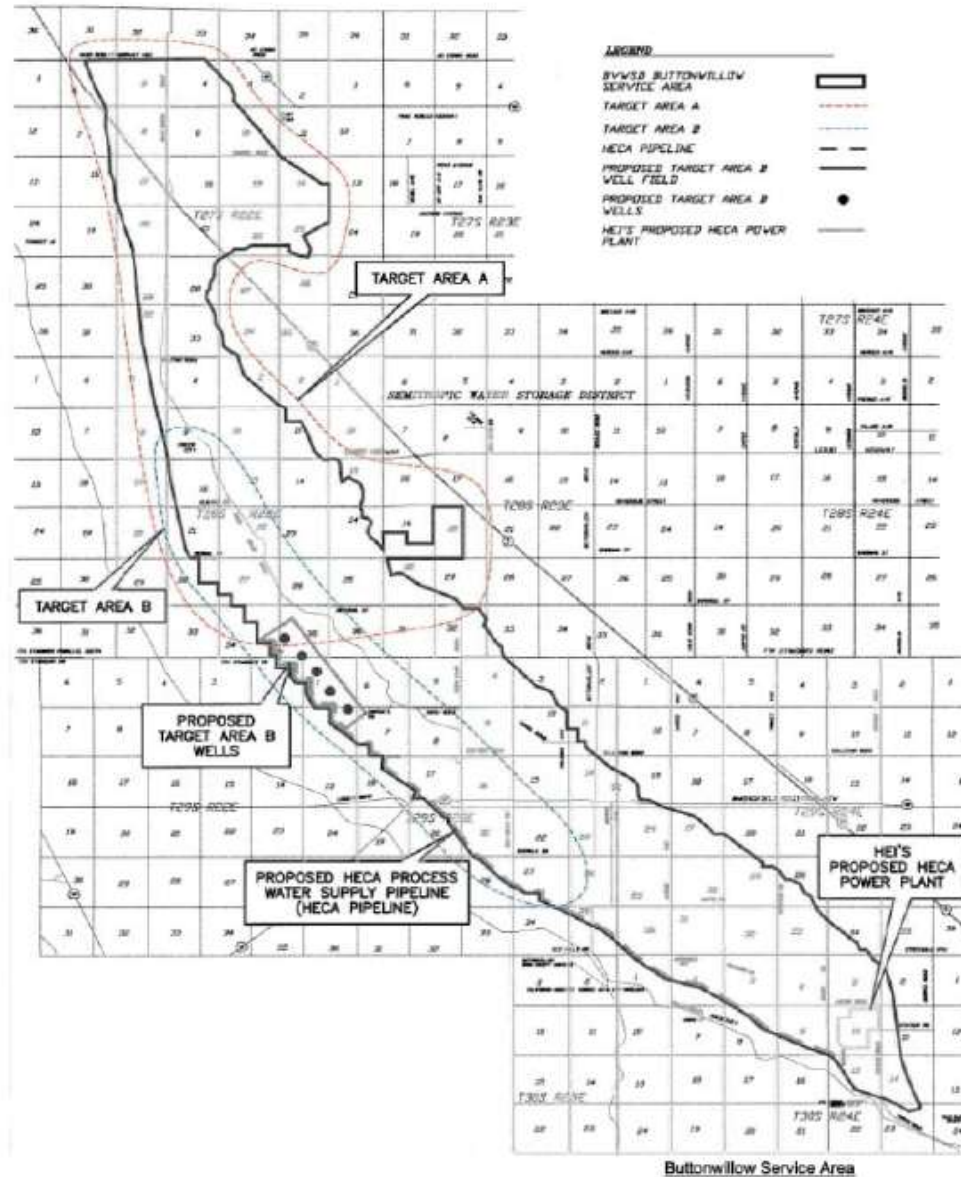
Soil and Water Figure 8. Map showing deep TDS concentrations in samples from deep and unknown depth wells and reported 1970-2007 composite TDS concentration contours for the pumped groundwater zone.

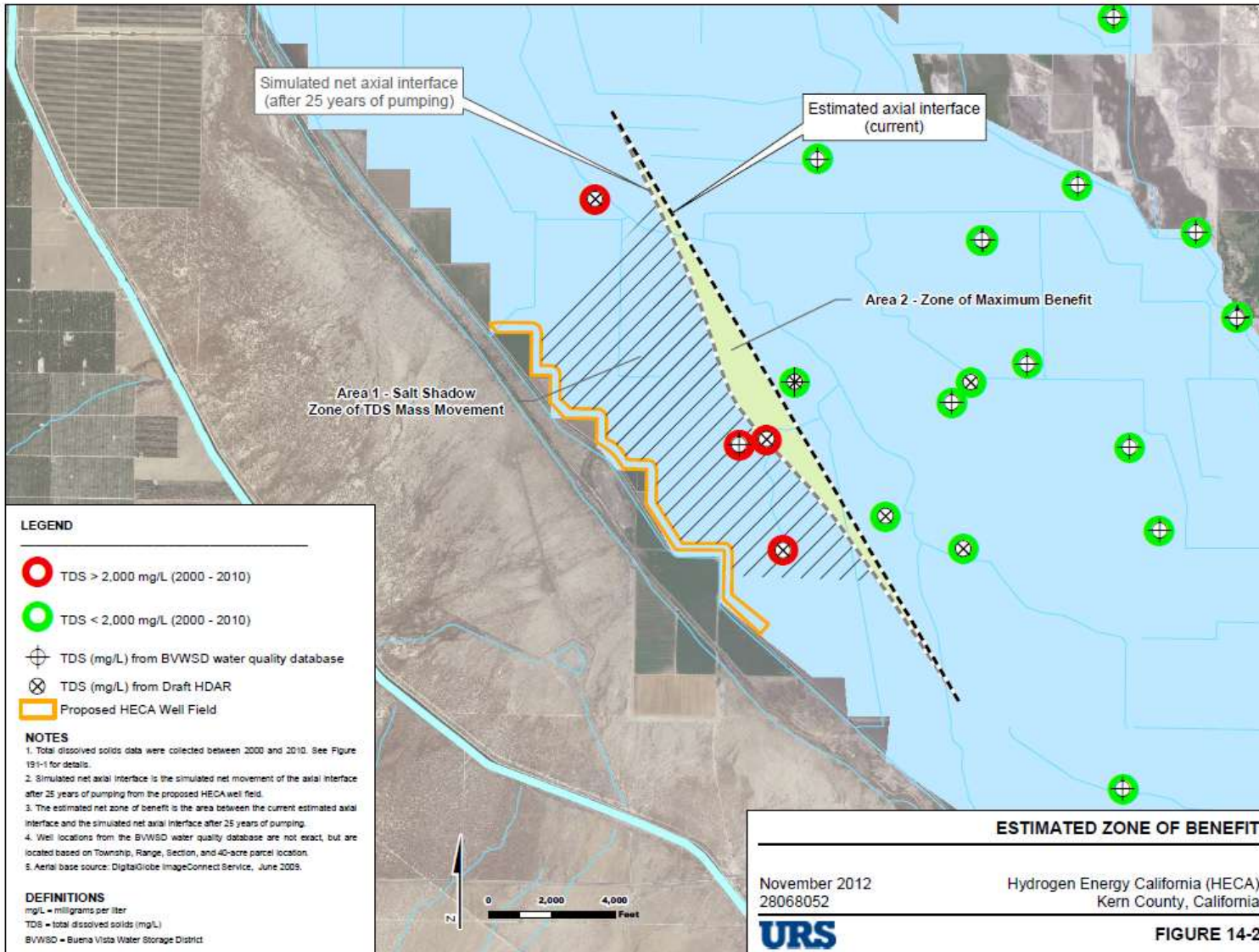
Map Showing Contours of Depth to GW in Perched Zone (Ft.)





SOIL&WATER Figure 2: Brackish Groundwater Remediation Project





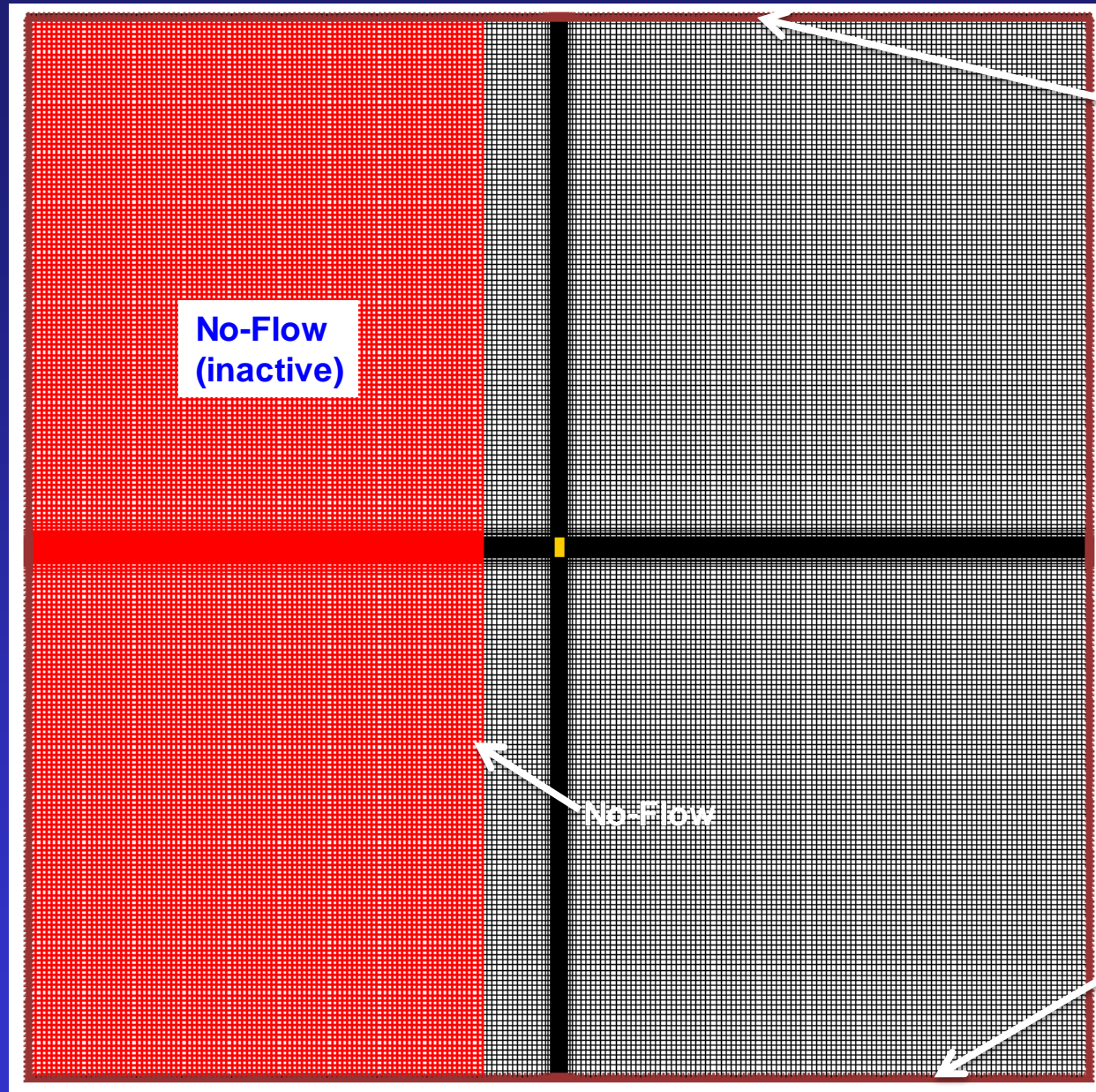
Groundwater Flow Model Discussion Technical Points

- Boundary Conditions
- Groundwater Recharge
- Specific Yield & Specific Storage
- Anisotropy

Boundary Conditions

	URS	CEC
Model Value	General Head (all 4 sides)	No Flow (Western Boundary)
Rationale	<p>Model domain is 100 x 100 miles, which far exceeds the project well field pumping influence. Therefore, the model boundary does not have an effect on groundwater response in the project area.</p>	<p>To represent the contact between the water bearing alluvium and essentially non-water bearing marine rocks of the Coast Ranges. Contact is ~6 miles west of the project well field.</p>

CEC



No-Flow
(inactive)

General-Head

Grid Size:
Min: 20 by 20 ft (at wells)
Max: 2500 by 2500 ft (edges)

Rows: 329
Columns: 247
Layers: 3

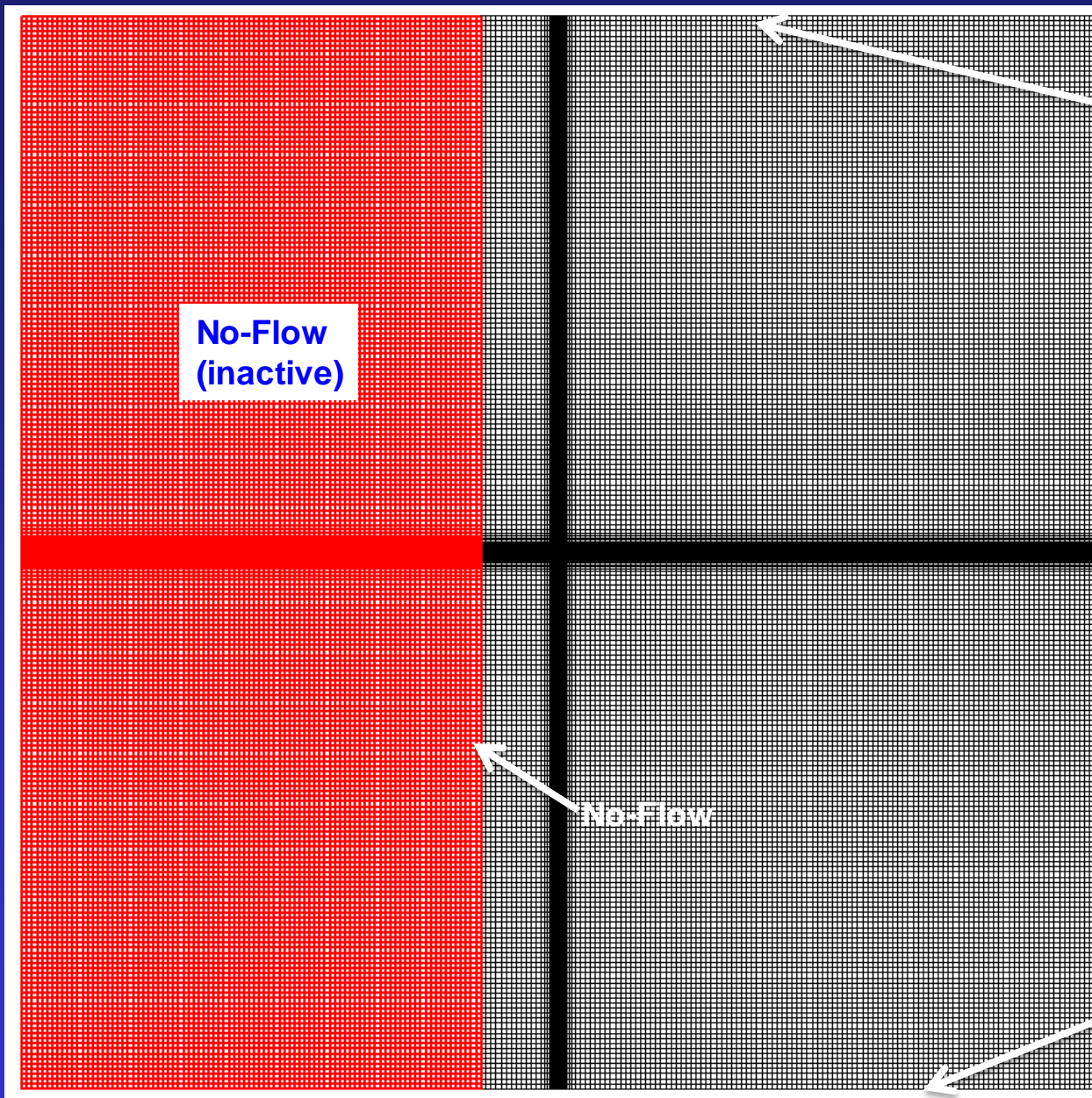
No-Flow

General-Head

General-Head

Model domain (100 by 100 Miles), finite-difference discretization, and BC
(in Model Layer 1 – Unconfined 0 to 300' bgs)

CEC



No-Flow
(inactive)

No-Flow

Grid Size:
Min: 20 by 20 ft (at wells)
Max: 2500 by 2500 ft (edges)

Rows: 329
Columns: 247
Layers: 3

No-Flow

No-Flow

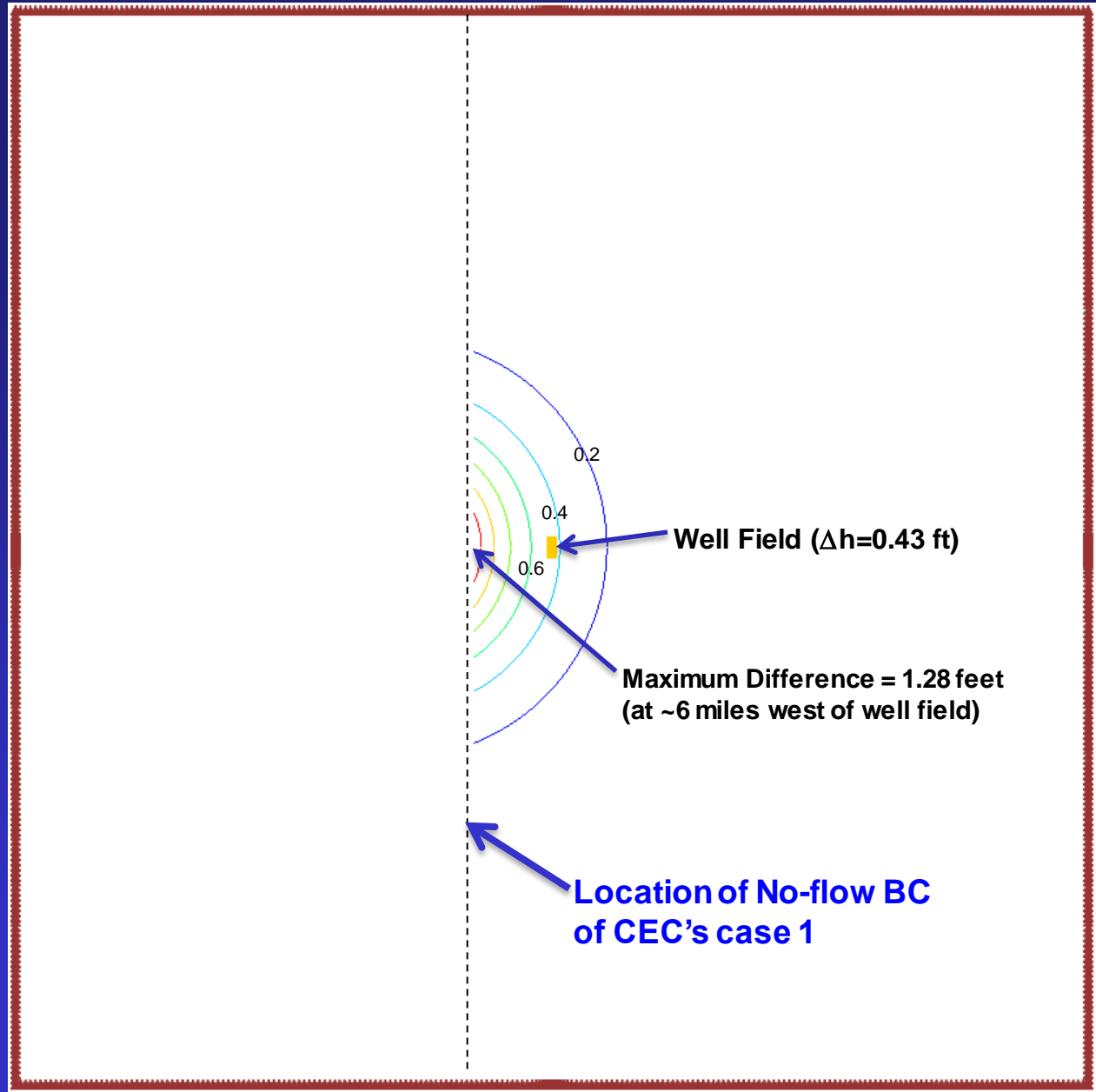
No-Flow

Model domain (100 by 100 Miles), finite-difference discretization, and BC (in Model Layers 2 [300 to 600' bgs] and 3 [600 to 2,000' bgs])



Comparison of CEC's & URS' Model results:

CEC's: No-flow BC
URS': GHB



Difference of modeled drawdown between with and without no-flow BC in the west
(T=25 years) (Difference between model results of CEC and URS case of no-recharge)

Boundary Conditions

Conclusions:

- **No difference between no flow and general head boundary condition in the eastern, northern, and southern edges of the model domain.**
- **Difference in drawdown between general head and no flow boundary condition in the western edge of the model domain is small (max diff. is 1.23 feet at ~6 miles west of pumping wells).**

Groundwater Recharge

	URS	CEC
Model Value	Included (7,500 afy)	Not Included
Rationale	The model simulates 7,500 afy recharge based on BVWSD's positive water balance. BVWSD projects 25,000 afy recharge in excess of overall BSA GW pumping. With BGRP/HECA, GW pumping increases by 7,500 afy and the recharge projection would drop by 7,500 afy (resulting in new projected recharge over the BSA of 17,500 afy). BVWSD Water Management Plan (WMP) would apply it's positive water balance over total GW pumping with implementation of the BGRP/HECA Area B component.	Recharge is not consistent with the superposition model approach. The project will add 7,500 afy pumping. But, the project does not add 7,500 afy recharge.

Comparison of Modeled Drawdowns at Selected Locations and Distances from Well Field without and with recharge of 7,500 afy

Results	Model Simulation								
	Base Case	Sensitivity Simulation							
		Sand %		Anisotropy		Specific Yield		Specific Storage	
		Lower End	Upper End	Lower End	Upper End	Lower End	Upper End	Lower End	Upper End
Drawdown (ft)									
Pumping Wells (without recharge)	40.6	51.6	33.6	35.7	43.2	40.7	40.5	40.7	40.5
With Recharge	36.9	47.0	30.5	32.3	39.2	36.9	36.9	36.9	36.9
Difference in drawdown (ft)	3.7	4.6	3.1	3.4	4	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6
200 feet east of pumping wells (w/out recharge)	21.9	27.3	18.3	17.5	24.3	22.0	21.8	22.0	21.8
With Recharge	18.5	23.2	15.4	14.3	20.6	18.5	18.4	18.5	18.5
Difference in drawdown (ft)	3.4	4.1	2.9	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.3
1/2 mile east of pumping wells (w/out recharge)	8.7	10.6	7.4	6.8	9.9	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.6
With Recharge	5.5	6.5	4.4	3.6	6.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Difference in drawdown (ft)	3.2	4.1	3	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.4
1 mile east of pumping wells (w/out recharge)	5.5	6.7	4.8	4.8	6.2	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5
With Recharge	2.0	2.4	1.7	1.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Difference in drawdown (ft)	3.5	4.3	3.1	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5
Distance from well field (miles) without recharge									
2.0 ft drawdown contour line	4.67	5.34	4.02	4.71	4.67	4.95	4.50	4.91	4.47
1.0 ft drawdown contour line	9.05	9.45	8.63	9.15	9.05	9.65	8.77	9.52	8.68

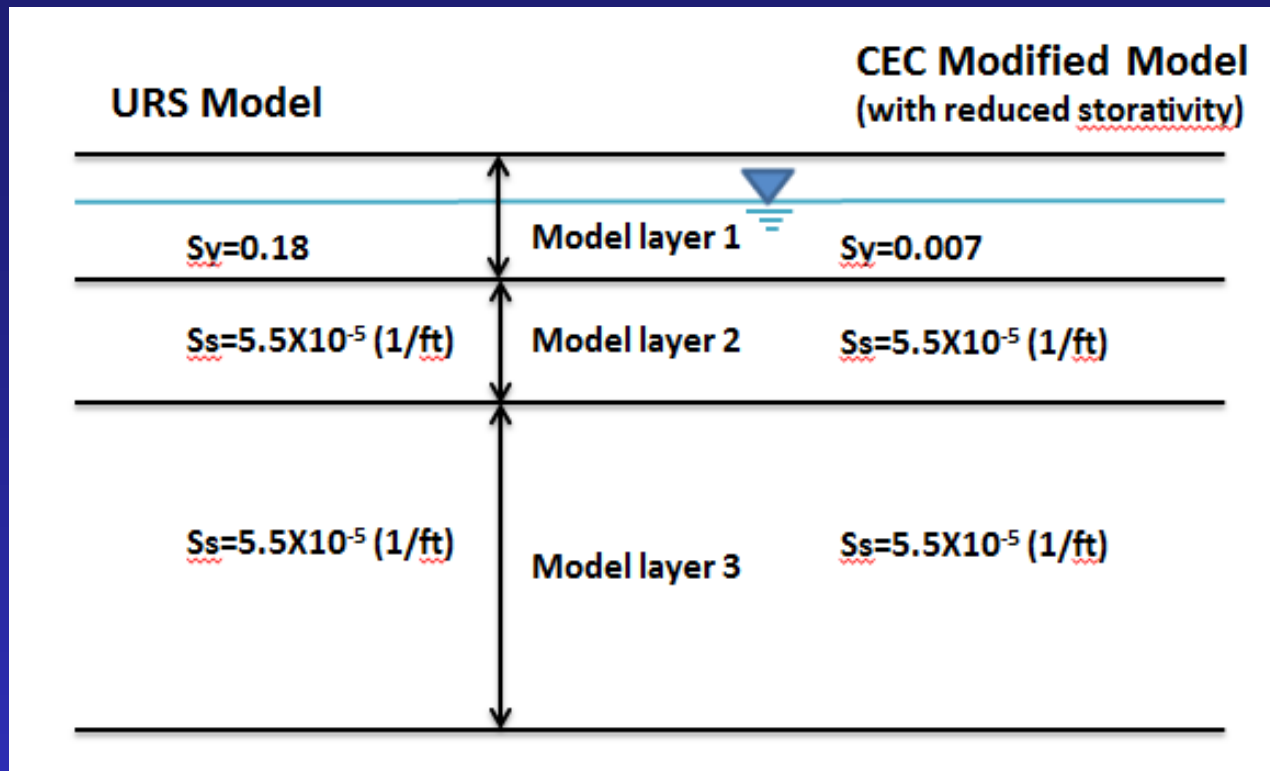
Notes:

The table is a comparison of model results without recharge to those with recharge (7,500 afy) as presented in the HECA May 2009 AFC Appendix O Table 2. Model results with recharge indicated that times to maximum drawdown occurred in a range of between 5 and 23 years depending on location and sensitivity simulation. Model results without recharge are all at the end of pumping year 25 (maximum drawdown from pumping) since none of the drawdowns reach steady state w/only drawdowns near the pumping well approaching steady state. Without recharge the 2.0 and 1.0 foot contours keep expanding through the end of the 25 year simulation.

Specific Yield

Specific Yield

	URS	CEC
Model Value	0.18	0.007
Rationale	<p>Based on information from Sierra Scientific Services, specific yield of the local aquifer system ranges from 0.15 to 0.20. This is typical for an unconfined aquifer. A mid-range value was used in the model for the Base Case, noting that sensitivity analysis were also run and provided in the AFC GW Model Appendix (N-2 in May 2012 and O in May 2009)</p>	<p>Geometric mean of storage coefficients from URS' aquifer test analyses.</p>



- In MODFLOW, specific yield (S_y) is always used in the model layer containing the water table (unconfined). It is not appropriate to apply as S_s value to an unconfined condition.
- In MODFLOW, specific storage (S_s) is always used for model layer where water table is above the layer's top elevations (confined).

Specific Yield

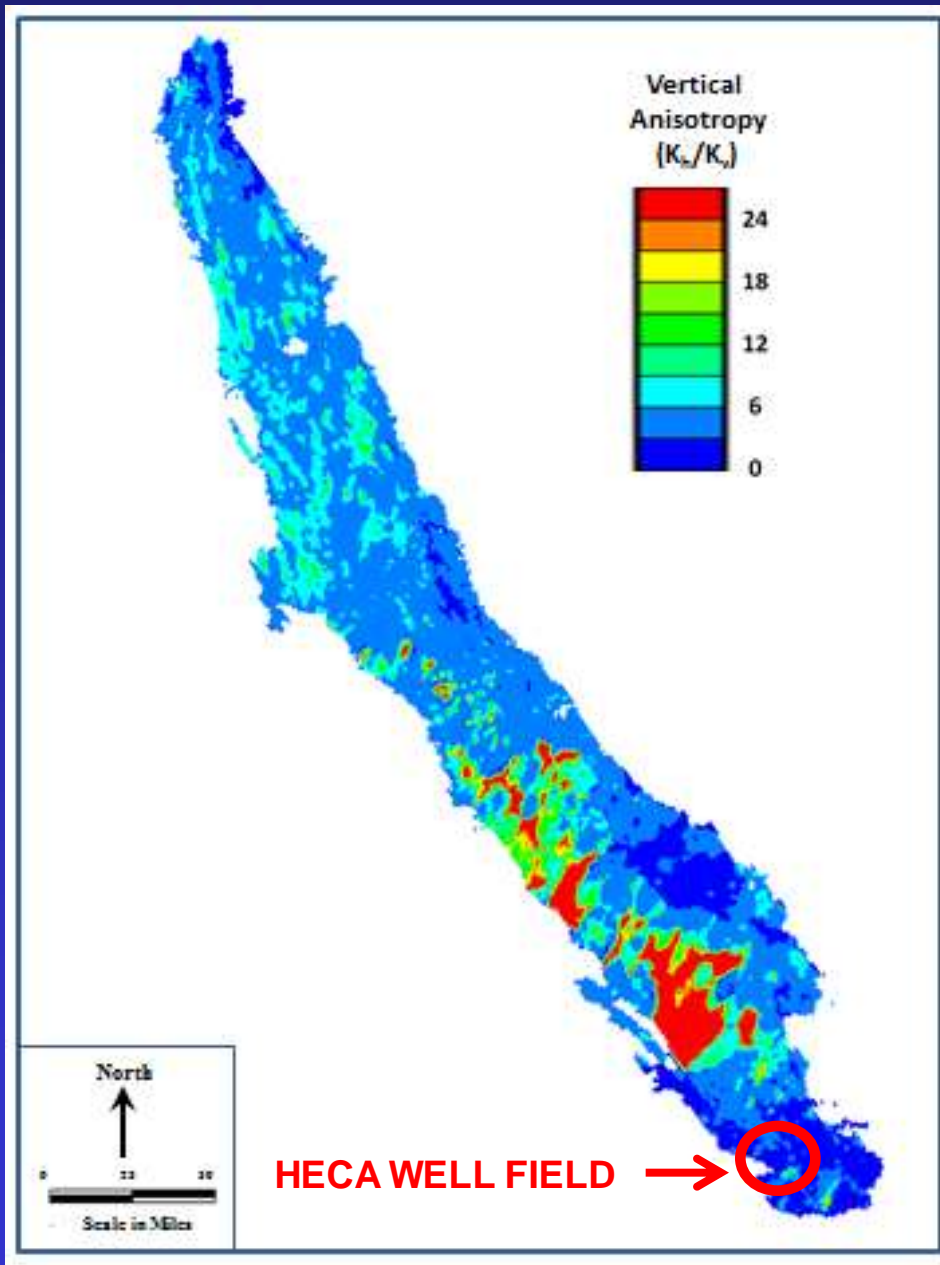
Conclusions:

- CEC's use of 0.007 is inappropriate for the top, unconfined, model layer (0 to 300' bgs with water table ~50' bgs).
- As stated in HDAR findings, the distribution of storativity values is bimodal: some wells had lower values some wells had higher values. Therefore, use of 0.007 to represent top model layer (unconfined) is inappropriate.
- Sy of 0.007 is not supported by what BVWSD has observed with long term agricultural well pumping. If it were 0.007, the aquifer system would have been dried out by now. As such the CEC modification is not realistic or usable when trying to approximate local aquifer conditions.

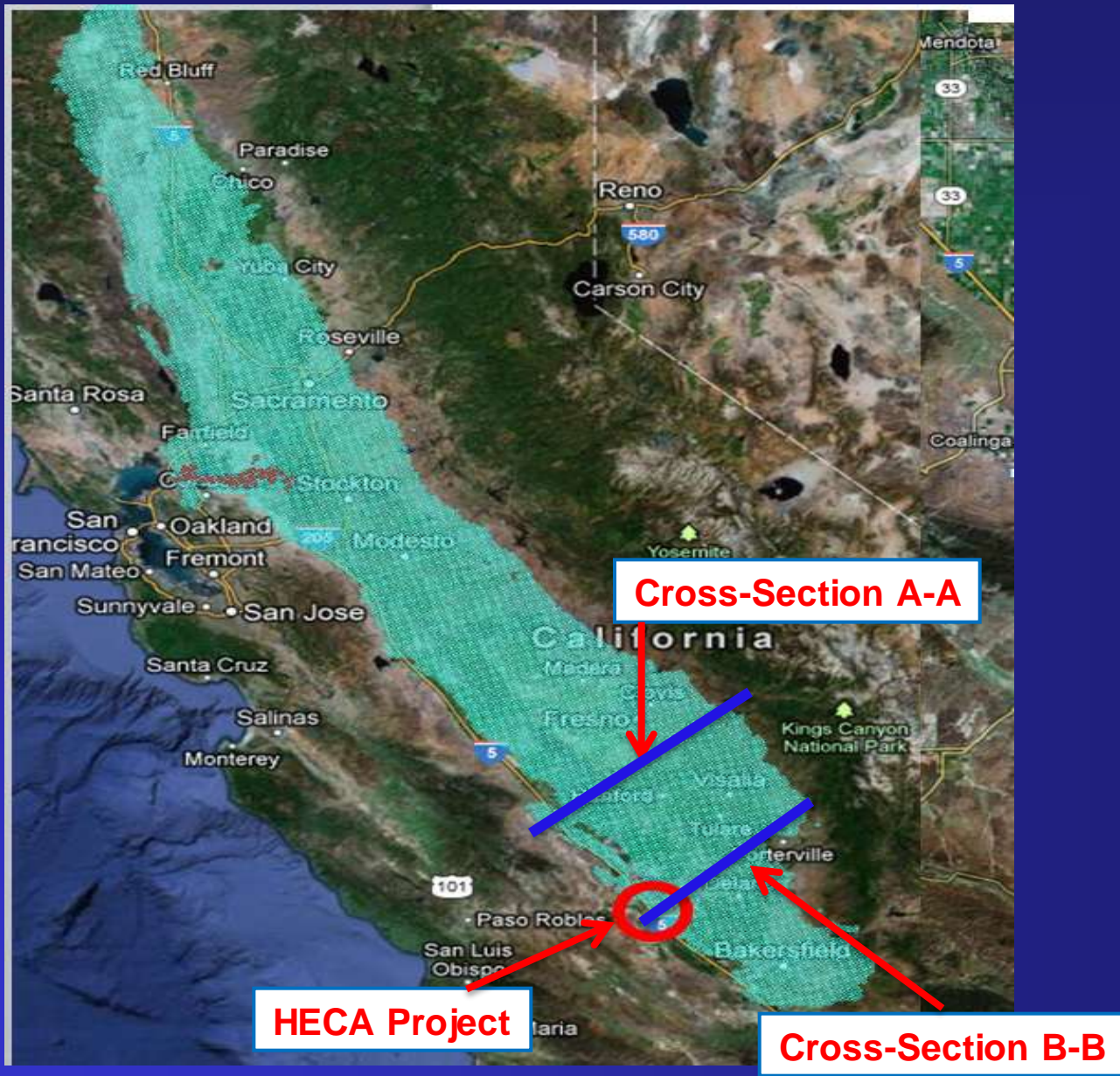
Anisotropy

	URS	CEC
Model Value	30	1,000
Rationale	Typical range is 10 to 50. A mid-range value was used for the Base Case.	Based on Belitz and others (1993)

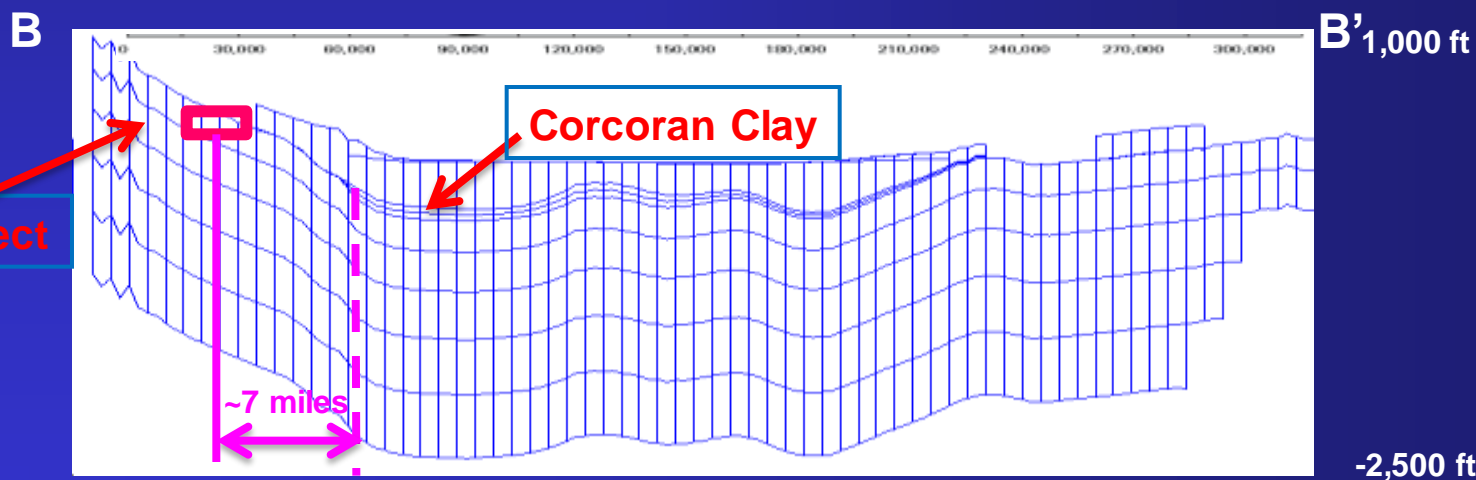
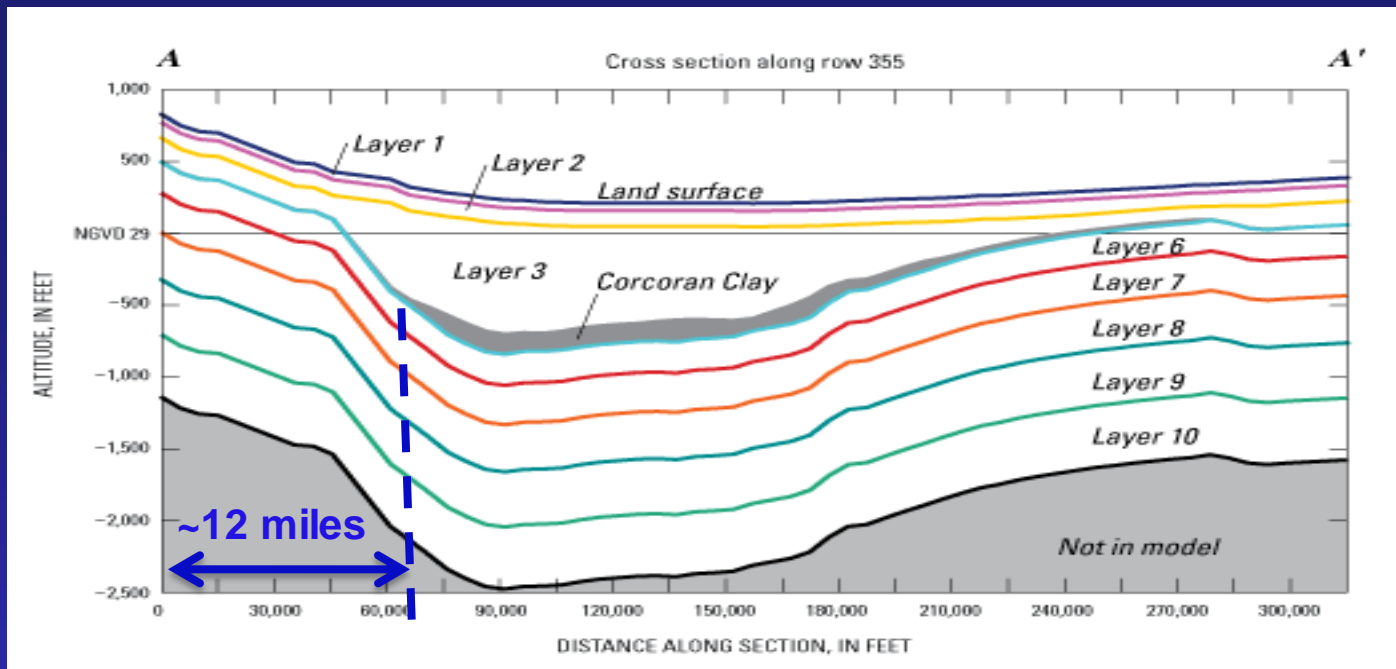
- Belitz and others (1993)
 - Study area is in northern Fresno County, ~150 miles north of the project site, thus is not necessarily correlatable to the BGRP/HECA study area.
 - The CEC model modification assumes the presence of a Corcoran Clay equivalent (CCE). Local geologic and geophysical logs do not support CCE presence. When observed clay lenses appeared to be of limited extent (not laterally continuous) and thicknesses most a depths of ~600 to 700 feet bgs.



- USGS CVHM Model (2009)
- Maximum Anisotropy ~27
- Anisotropy in the vicinity of the HECA well field <10



Model grid and locations of cross-sections A-A' and B-B'



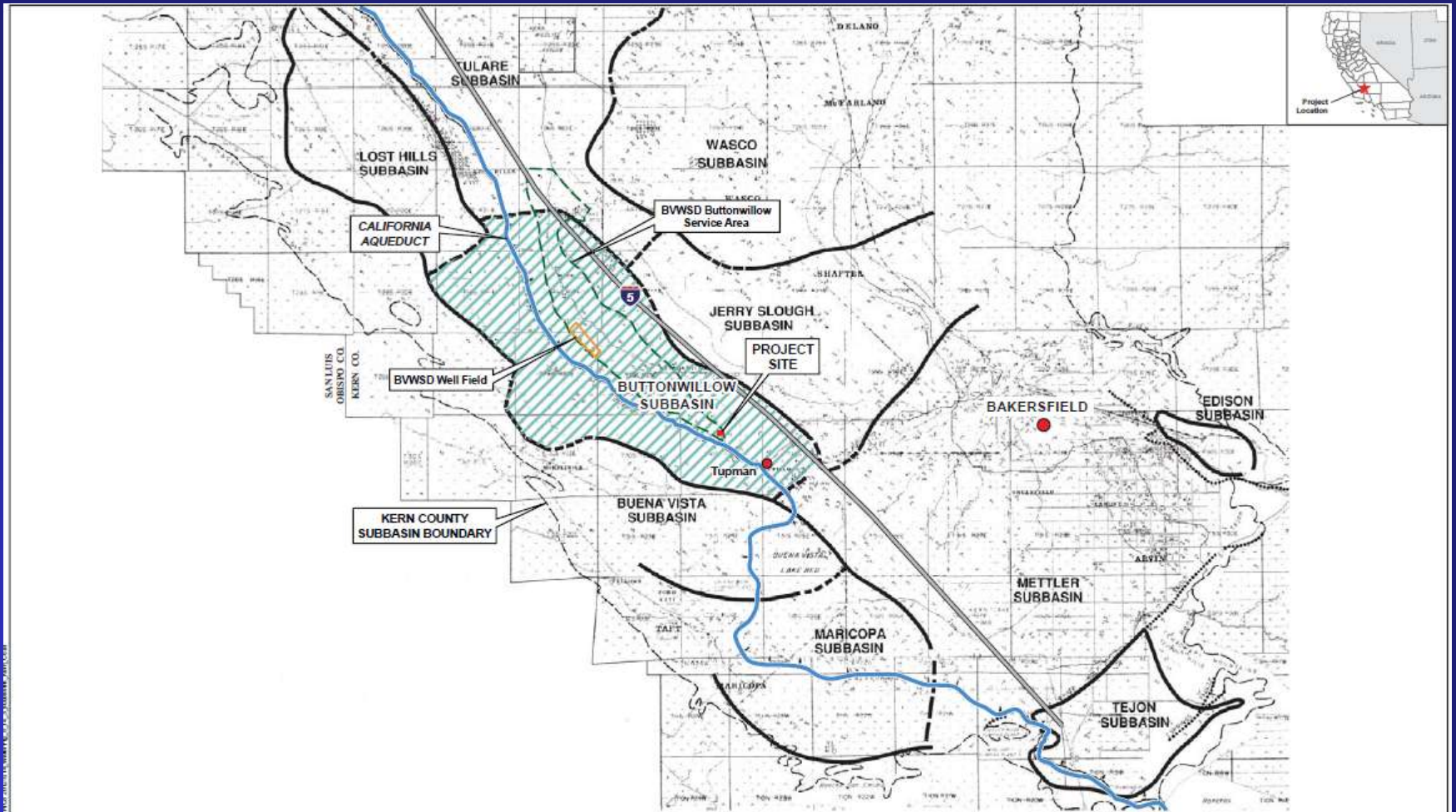
Model layers at cross-sections A-A' and B-B'

Note:
Corcoran clay is absent underneath HECA project (~7 mile away)

Anisotropy

Conclusions:

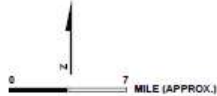
- CECs selection of an anisotropic ratio of 1,000 is poorly justified and not remotely close to the hydrogeologic conditions in the study area.
- The CEC suggested anisotropic ratio forces an extreme condition simulating drawdown and drawdown geometry that is erroneous and misleading . This led to incorrect calculated impacts.
- BVWSD observations on how their GW system has responded to agricultural pumping (volumes far greater than BGRP 7,500 afy) verify that CEC selection of an anisotropic ratio of 1,000 is not valid.



Note:
The subbasins shown are bounded by distinct structural highs due to folding and faulting as developed by KCWA (1991). These subbasins may contain isolated or partially isolated hydrogeologic systems.

- BVWSD Buttonwillow Service Area
- Kern County Subbasin Boundary

- Subbasin Boundaries:
- Prominent, continuous structural highs
 - - - Low areas, along boundaries (where communication between subbasins is more likely)



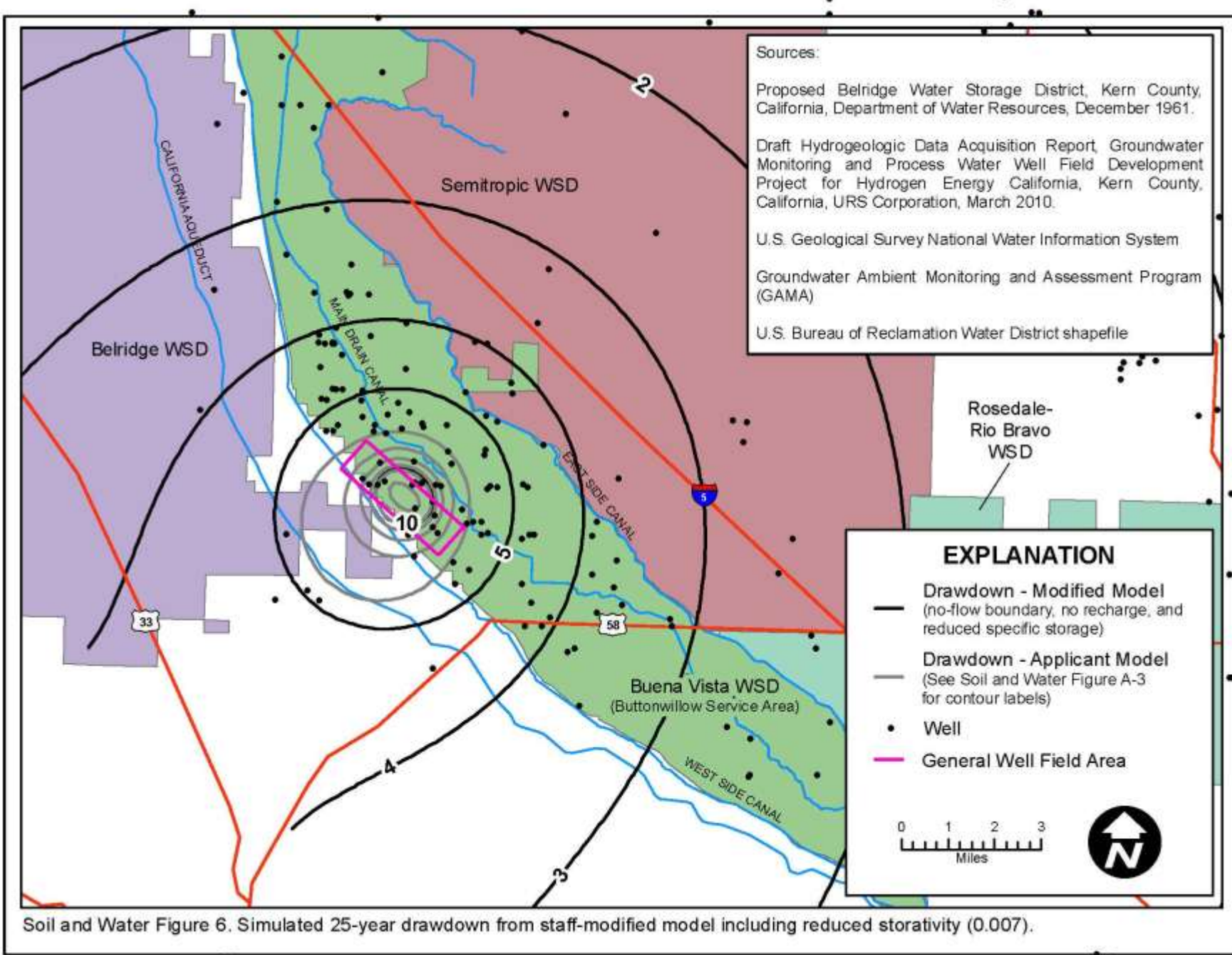
**GROUNDWATER SUBBASINS
IN KERN COUNTY**

April 2012 Hydrogen Energy California (HECA)
28068052 Kern County, California

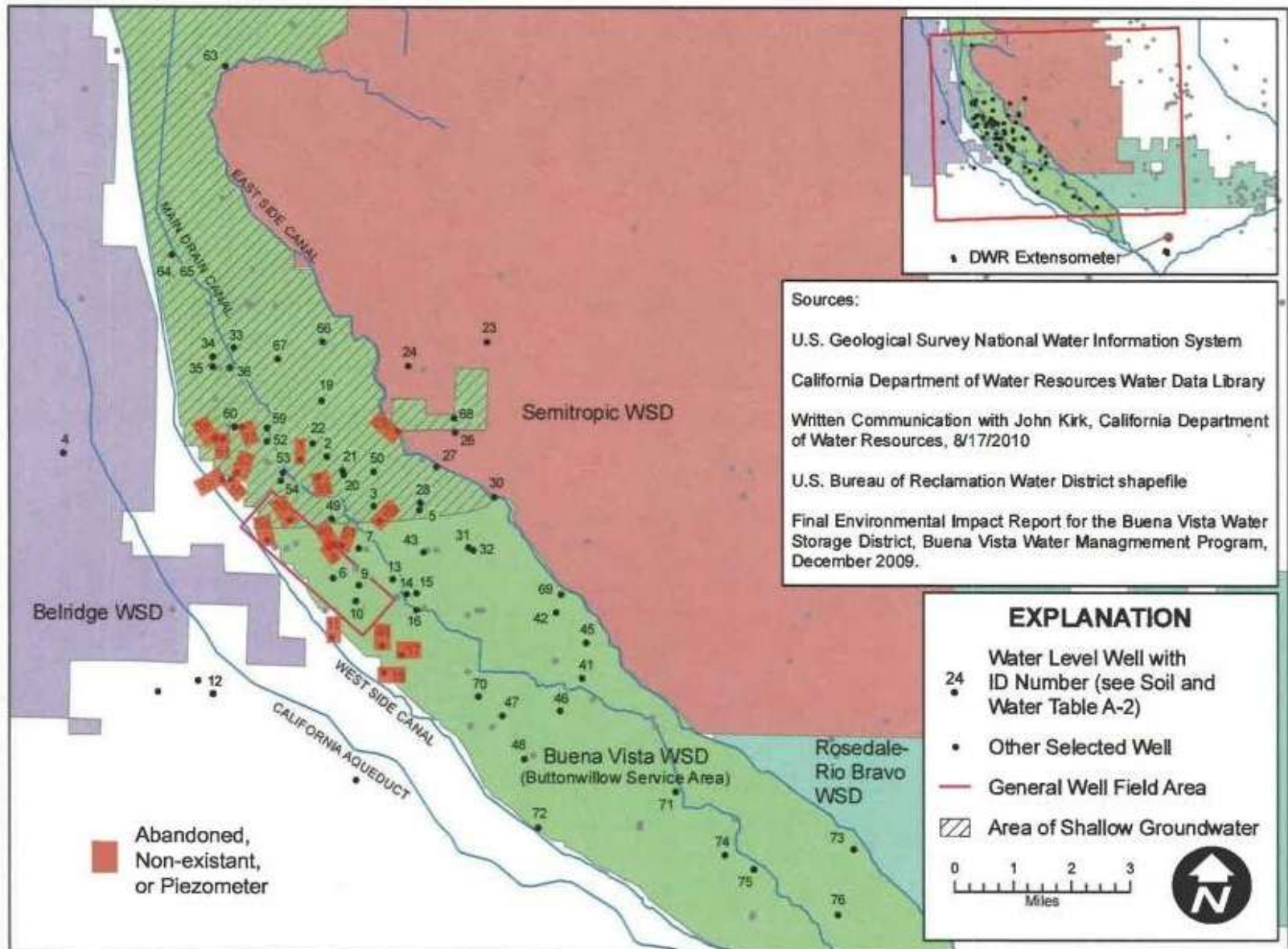


FIGURE 5.14-3

Source: Kern County Water Agency, 1991



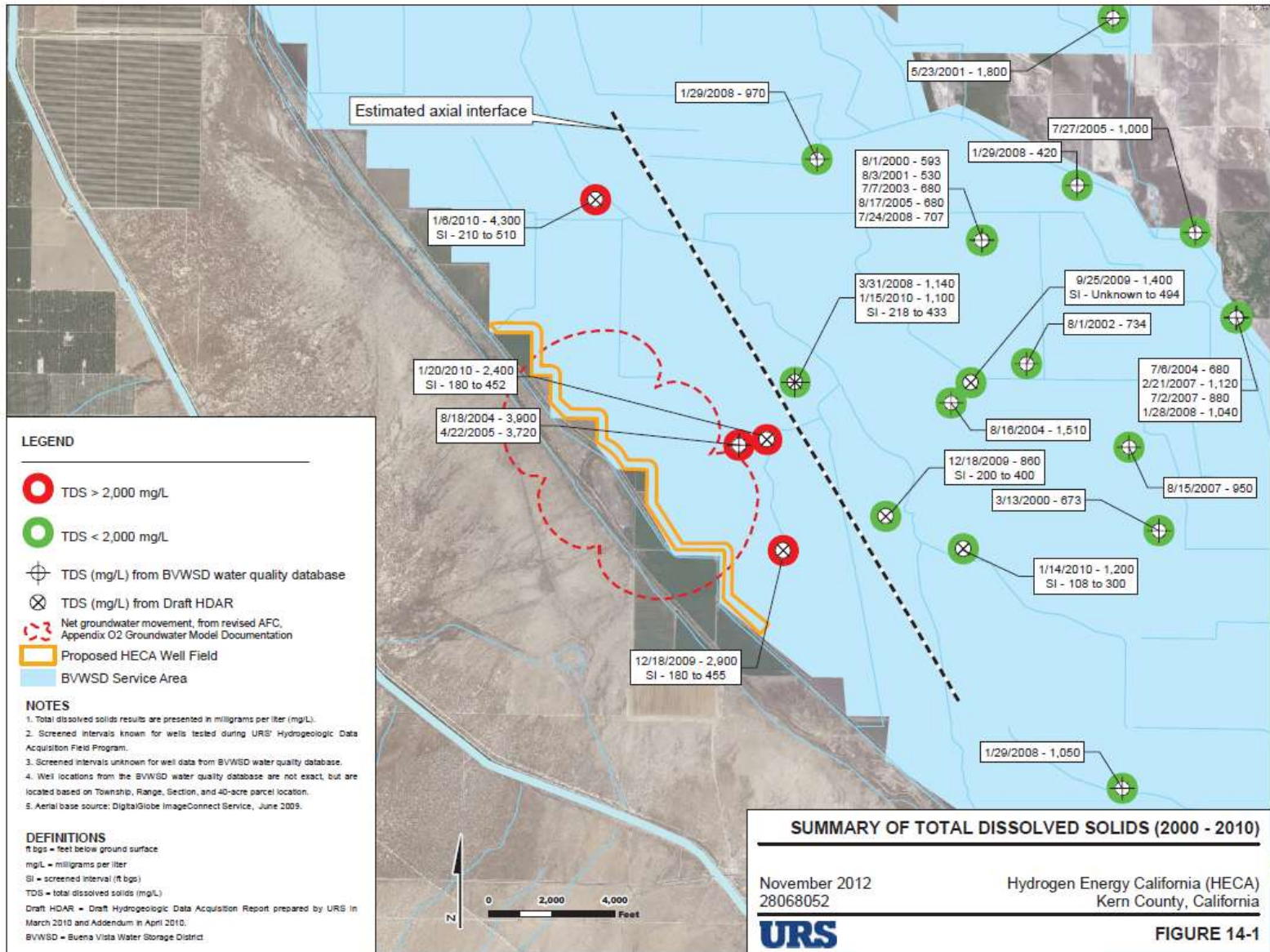
Soil and Water Figure 6. Simulated 25-year drawdown from staff-modified model including reduced storativity (0.007).



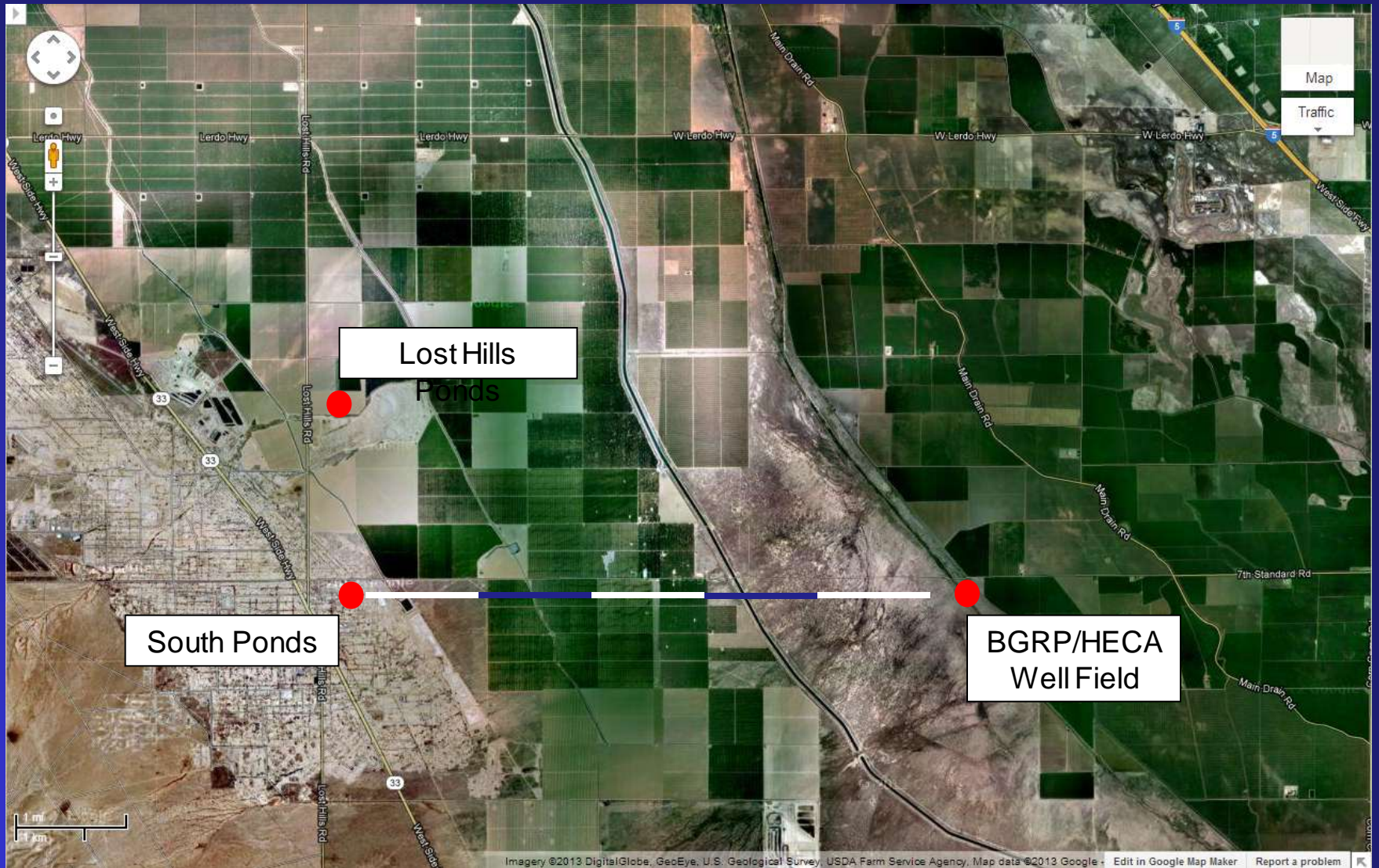
Soil and Water Figure 3. Selected existing wells and proposed well field, Buttonwillow Service Area, Buena Vista Water Storage District.

Map Number	Applicant's Model		Modified Model BC and Recharge		Modified Model with Reduced Storativity		Modified Model with Reduced Storativity and Vertical Conductivity	
	simulated drawdown, in feet							
	original	spatial correction	original	spatial correction	original	spatial correction	original	spatial correction
1	3.1		4.1		5.6		11.3	
2	0.9	0.0	4.1	3.9	5.3	5.8	11.3	10.3
3	-0.4	0.0	4.7	4.3	6.1	6.2	13.1	12.3
4	0.1	0.0	2.4	2.7	3.9	4.2	5.4	6.3
5	-0.4	0.0	3.9	3.6	5.3	4.9	10.7	9.3
6	6.8	3.3	15.8	5.7	17.3	9.8	34.2	21.0
7	-0.7	1.2	7.7	5.2	9.1	8.2	21.3	16.5
8	0.1		12.0		13.3		29.7	
9	1.0	1.4	7.5	5.2	9.1	8.6	21.0	17.5
10	-0.6	1.5	6.8	5.2	8.3	8.4	19.0	17.0
11	-0.2		3.4		6.9		15.9	
12	-0.1	1.0	3.6	3.9	5.1	6.0	8.8	9.8
13	3.3	0.0	5.3	4.3	6.8	7.0	15.0	13.0
14	0.1	0.0	4.6	4.0	6.1	6.0	12.9	11.0
15	0.7	0.0	4.2	3.8	5.6	5.6	11.4	10.0
16	0.9	0.0	4.3	3.8	5.8	5.4	11.9	9.8
17	0.3	0.0	4.0	3.7	5.3	5.4	10.9	9.7
18	0.3		3.9		5.4		10.3	
19	12.0	0.0	3.1	3.2	4.3	4.6	7.6	8.3
20	8.1		4.4		5.8		12.3	
21	3.9	0.0	4.4	4.0	5.8	6.2	12.2	11.3
22	2.1	0.0	3.9	3.8	5.3	5.4	10.4	9.9
23	1.3	0.0	2.2	2.1	3.3	3.4	5.1	4.8
24	-0.6	0.0	2.6	2.6	3.9	3.9	6.1	6.3
25	-0.3		3.2		4.6		8.0	
26	-0.3	0.0	3.2	2.7	4.6	4.0	8.1	7.2
27	-0.3	0.0	3.2	3.0	4.6	4.5	8.1	7.8
28	-0.4		4.0		5.4		10.8	
29	-0.3		5.3		6.7		15.1	
30	-0.1	0.0	3.0	2.7	4.4	4.0	7.4	7.1
31	-0.1	0.0	3.4	3.1	4.9	4.5	8.9	8.4
32	2.9	0.0	3.3	3.0	4.7	4.5	8.4	8.1
33	0.3	0.0	2.5	2.7	3.9	4.0	5.9	7.0
34	0.3	0.0	2.6	2.8	4.0	4.1	6.1	7.0
35	0.7	0.0	2.7	2.8	4.1	4.2	6.2	7.3
36	0.2	0.0	2.8	2.8	4.2	4.2	6.7	7.7
37	0.1		3.3		4.9		8.9	
38	0.7		3.3		4.7		8.3	
39	-0.4		6.6		8.1		18.6	
40	-0.4		10.7		12.2		27.4	
41	-0.2	0.0	2.3	2.2	3.6	3.5	5.1	4.8
42	2.8	0.0	2.4	2.4	3.8	3.7	5.6	6.3
43	0.2	0.0	4.0	3.7	5.4	5.0	10.9	9.7
44	0.7		4.4		5.9		12.4	
45	1.6	0.0	2.3	2.2	3.7	3.5	5.4	4.8
46	-0.2	0.0	2.3	2.2	3.7	3.6	5.3	4.9
47	-0.1	0.0	2.6	2.6	4.0	3.9	6.0	6.3
48	0.3	0.0	2.4	2.3	3.8	3.7	5.5	5.1
49	-0.4	1.6	6.7	5.2	8.2	8.4	19.0	17.3
50	3.8	0.0	4.0	3.8	5.3	5.3	11.0	9.9
51	-0.4	1.9	9.3	7.2	10.8	9.0	24.9	16.3
52	0.3	0.0	3.8	3.8	5.2	5.3	10.0	9.9
53	1.3		4.5		5.9		12.3	
54	0.8		4.6		6.1		12.9	
55	0.4		4.6		6.1		12.9	
56	0.1		4.0		5.3		10.9	
57	-0.3		3.7		5.1		9.6	
58	-0.3		6.1		7.6		17.3	
59	0.6	0.0	3.4	3.6	4.8	4.9	8.6	9.3
60	0.6		3.2		4.7		8.1	
61	-0.3		3.3		4.7		8.2	
62	0.3		4.0		5.3		10.8	
Maximum	12.0	3.3	15.8	7.2	17.3	9.8	34.2	21.0
Minimum	-0.7	0.0	2.2	2.1	3.3	3.4	5.1	4.8
Average	1.0	0.3	4.5	3.5	5.9	5.3	11.7	9.7
# > 15 FT	0	0	1	0	1	0	13	3

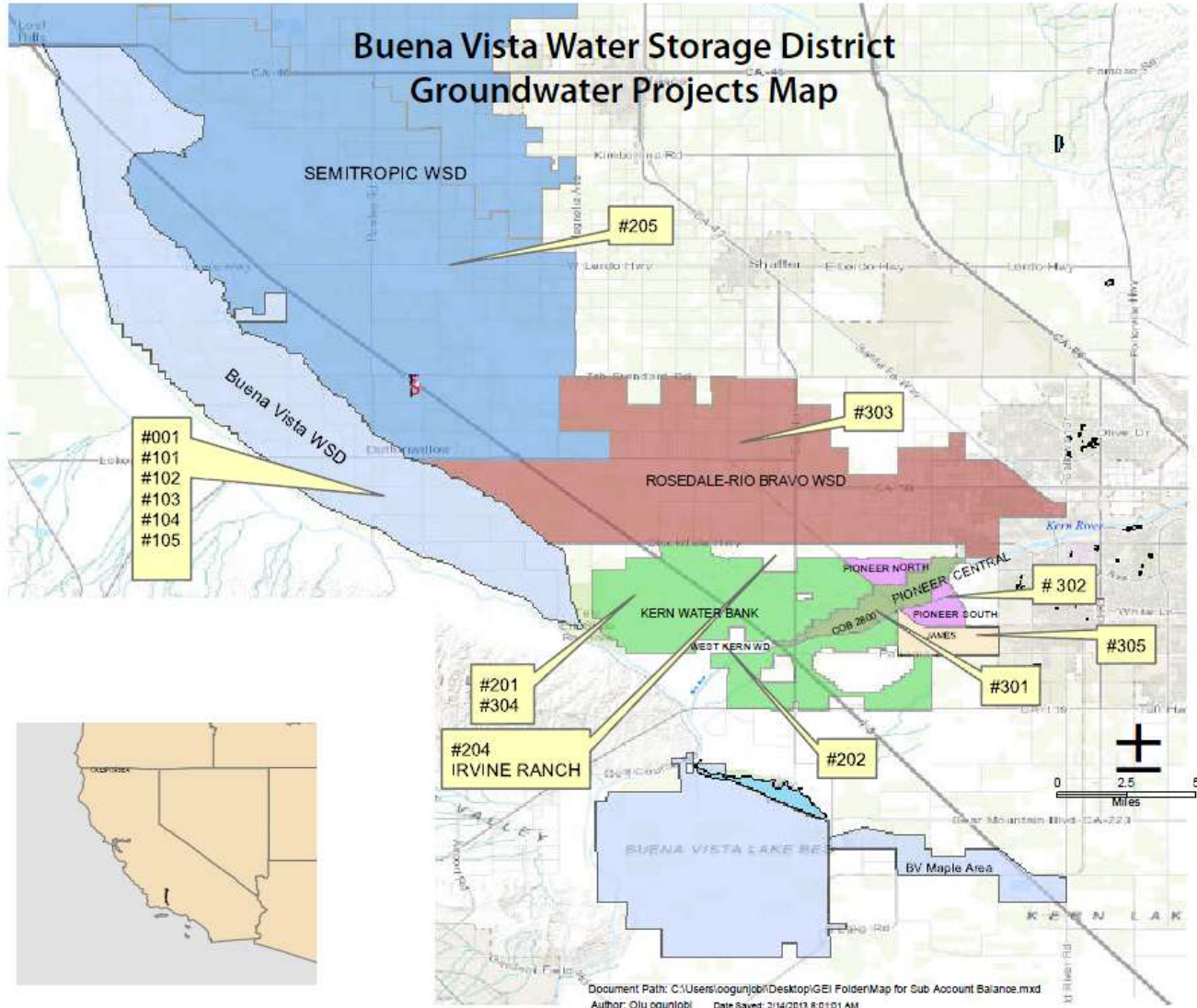
(REVISED) SOIL&WATER Table 3: drawdown at select well locations simulated by applicant's model and three modified models



AERA Location
(~5 miles west of the
BGRP/HECA Well Field)



Buena Vista Water Storage District Groundwater Projects Map





**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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**AMENDED APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE HYDROGEN ENERGY
CALIFORNIA PROJECT**

**Docket No. 08-AFC-08A
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 2/11/13)**

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Adviser to Associate Member

Patrick Saxton
Adviser to Associate Member

Eileen Allen
Commissioners' Technical
Adviser for Facility Siting

