

WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY GSA

Well Extraction Volume Reporting within Proximity to Critical Infrastructure Management Action

Purpose:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires Westside District Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“WDWA GSA”) to implement measures to prevent significant and unreasonable impacts caused by subsidence related to groundwater extraction, particularly when such impacts threaten critical infrastructure. WDWA GSA identified the California Aqueduct (“Aqueduct”) as a regional piece of critical infrastructure that must be protected from subsidence impacts. Specifically, the area between Mileposts 195 to 215 of the California Aqueduct, has experienced impacts from subsidence since 2015, leading to a reduction in available freeboard—the vertical distance between the water surface and the top of the Aqueduct structure. This reduction directly compromises the Aqueduct’s operational capacity, affecting water conveyance efficiencies and potentially risking the integrity of this piece of critical infrastructure.

In consultation with the California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (“CASP”), WDWA GSA and the Kern Groundwater Authority (“KGA”) have completed six technical studies that lay the foundation for our current understanding of subsidence dynamics in the area between Mileposts 195 to 215 of the California Aqueduct. While these technical studies have not indicated that agricultural groundwater extraction is currently a factor contributing to this subsidence, WDWA GSA is committed to working in close consultation with CASP and adjacent GSAs to monitor and collect additional data to further refine our current understanding of the causes and rate of subsidence. In furtherance of this end and achieving overall groundwater sustainability within its boundaries, the WDWA GSA Board of Directors (“Board”) adopted the following Well Drilling Moratorium within Proximity to Critical Infrastructure Impacted by Subsidence Management Action (“Management Action”) on February 20, 2024.

1. Scope and Applicability

This policy shall apply to all owners of one or more groundwater extraction facility(ies) (i.e., a groundwater well) (“Owner”) within the area extending 2.5 miles outward from Mileposts 195 to 215 of the California Aqueduct (total width of 5 miles) (“CASP Buffer Zone”) depicted in Figure 1.

2. Historical Pumping Volume Data Submission

Each Owner shall provide, to the best of their ability, historical groundwater pumping volumes for each groundwater extraction facility owned and located within the CASP Buffer Zone by calendar year for the period beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2023. For historical data submissions, if actual extraction volume data is not available, an Owner may provide the GSA with a written self-certification of estimated annual volume of groundwater extracted for the requested period.

3. Annual Pumping Volume Data Submission

Beginning in Calendar Year 2024, each Owner shall maintain a record of all groundwater extracted for each groundwater extraction facility owned and located within the CASP Buffer Zone. Groundwater extraction must be measured using flowmeters or totalizing meters. Each Owner shall submit an annual report to WDWA GSA of the total volume of groundwater extracted for each groundwater extraction facility owned and located within the CASP Buffer Zone by February 1 of the following calendar year (ex., annual reports for Calendar Year 2024 will be due by February 1, 2025).

4. Amendment of this Policy

The Board reserves the right to amend this policy, including the boundaries of the CASP Buffer Zone, at any duly noticed meeting of the WDWA GSA Board of Directors.

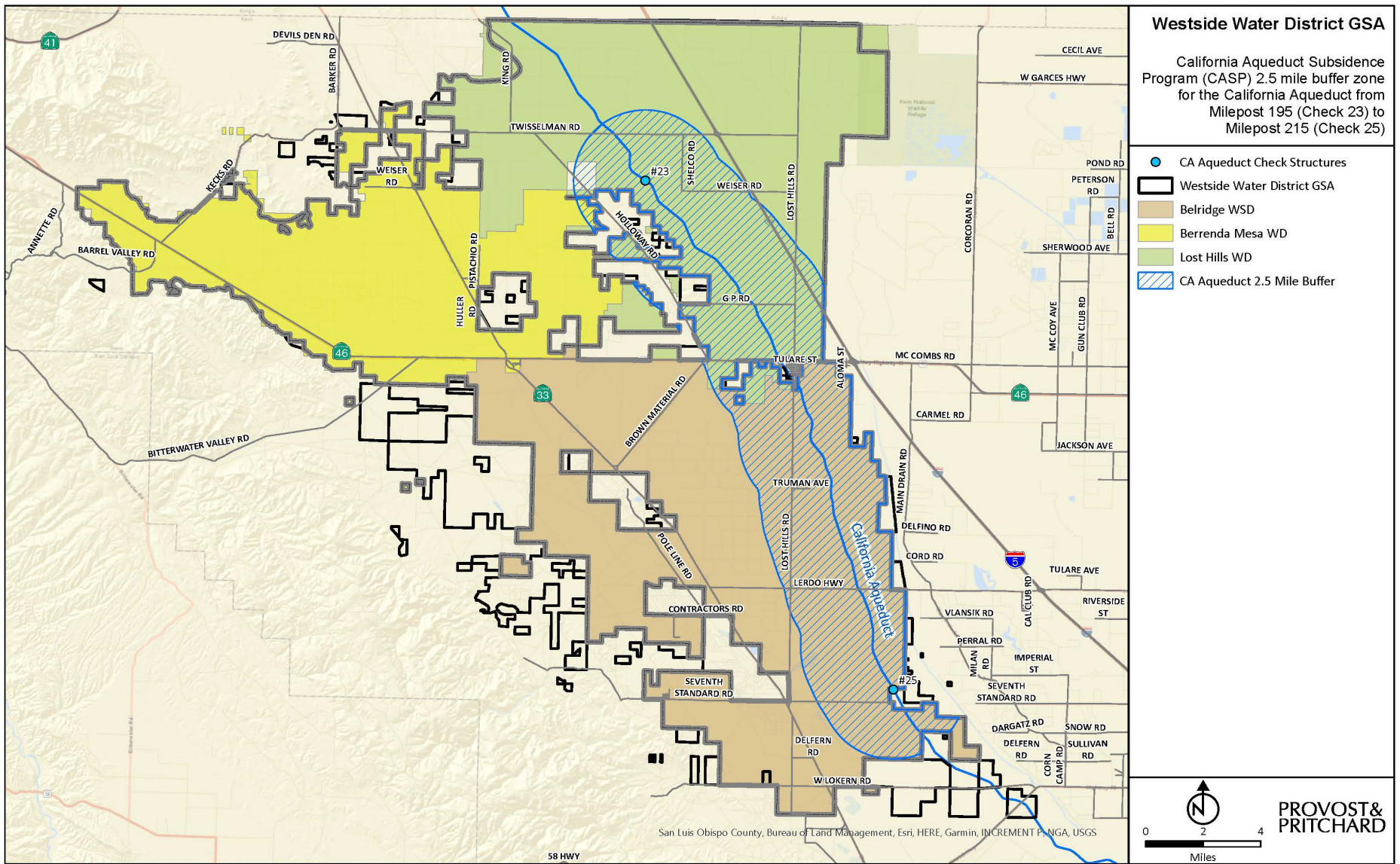


Figure 1. California Aqueduct Subsidence Program (CASP) 2.5 Mile Buffer Zone for Milepost 195 (~Check 23) to Milepost 215 (~Check 25)