

The CVCA and
Santa Barbara County
1st District & 5th District Offices
Welcome You

Informational Meeting On:

An Overview of Groundwater Management in
the Cuyama Valley and

The Proposed *Cuyama Basin Water District*

August 24, 2016

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center

Local, County & State Representatives

Santa Barbara County 1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal

Cory Bantilan, Chief of Staff for Santa Barbara County 5th District **Supervisor Steve Lavagnino**

***Anita Regmi**, PG, Engineering Geologist, California Department of Water Resources

***Sam Boland-Brien**, Groundwater Management Program, State Water Resources Control Board

Thomas D. Fayram, PE, CFM, Deputy Public Works Director, Water Resources Division

Fray A. Crease, Santa Barbara County Water Agency Manager

***Matt Young**, P.H., Water Resources Program Manager, Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Carolyn Berg, Senior Water Resources Engineer , San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Division

***Local Representatives** of the Cuyama Basin Water District Proposal

***John Coats**, Cuyama Community Services District Board Member

Darcel Elliot, District Director for **Assemblymember Das Williams**

Allison Maginot, District Representative of **Senator Hannah Beth Jackson**

Agenda & Format

6:00pm Welcome, Purpose of the Meeting & Introduction of Presenters

6:15pm Presentation

- SGMA Overview & State's Role in SGMA Implementation
- GSA Overview
- California Water District Overview
- Cuyama Basin Water District Proposal Overview
- Cuyama Community Services District Overview

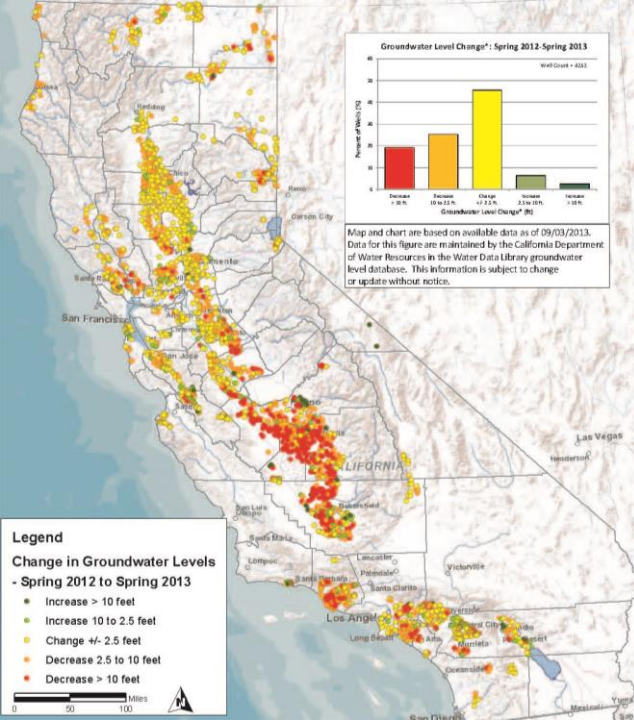
7:00-7:30pm Moderated Question & Answer Session

- Review key content, see Q&A handout of answers to submitted questions
- Index cards for participant panel

7:30-8:00pm Meet & Greet/Open House Reception

- Meet, greet, follow up as needed

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act



August 24, 2016

Anita Regmi, Engineering Geologist
Southern Region Office
CA Department of Water Resources



Central Feature of SGMA

- Groundwater is best managed at **local level**
- Gives **local agencies*** the authorities, technical and financial assistance to to manage groundwater
- Timetable, if not met may involve state intervention temporarily

*Local public agency that has water supply, water management or landuse responsibilities within a groundwater basin.



SGMA

- SGMA applies to ALL non adjudicated **medium** and **high** priority basins (no waivers)
- 20 year timeline for implementation
- Participation will require commitment of resources
- Grants will be available for planning and projects
- DWR will provide facilitation and technical assistance



Role of Local Agency

- Formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
- Prepare and submit Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- Meet the deadlines and implement GSP



Empowers GSA to

- Conduct investigation
- Measure and limit extractions
- Require registration of wells
- Impose fees for groundwater management
- Must consider interest of stakeholders including
 - Beneficial users of water
 - Environmental interest
 - Disadvantaged communities
 - Tribal community



Department of Water Resources Role



- Develop regulations
- Technical and financial assistance
- Evaluate GSP and implementation



Timetable for SGMA

Completion of GSP

(Basins in Critical Overdraft)

**Basins must
Achieve
Sustainability**

SGMA

2014

2017

2020

2022

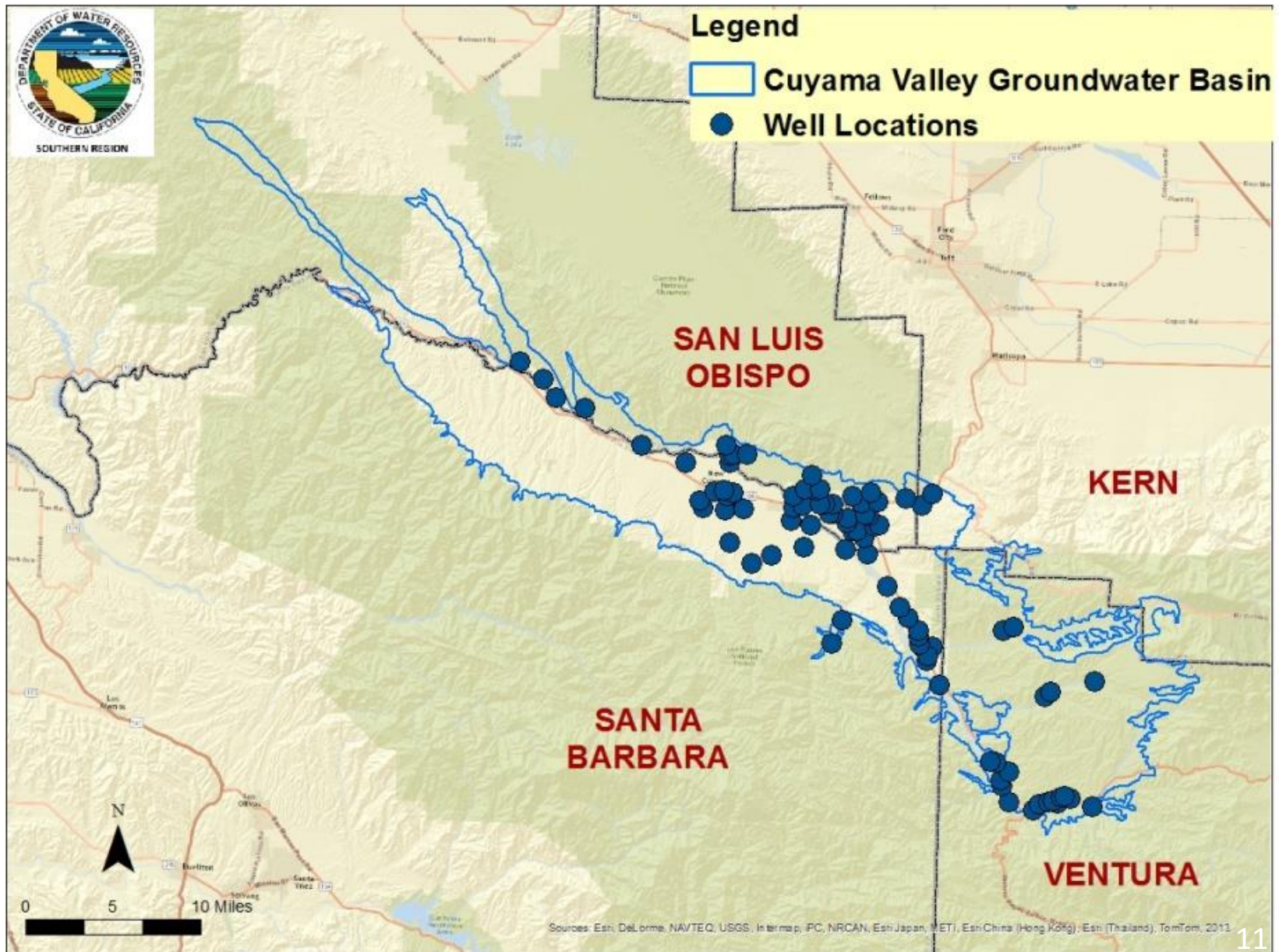
2040-42

Formation of GSA

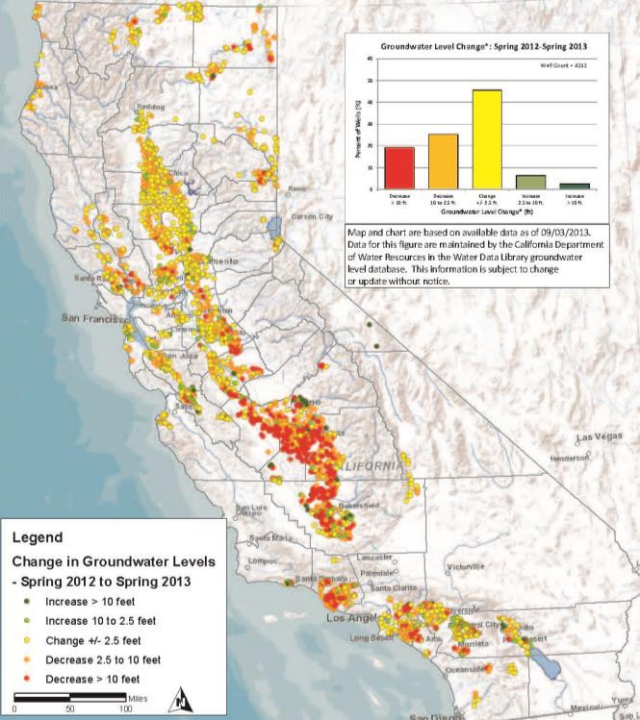
Completion of GSP

(Basins not in Critical Overdraft)

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin



The State Water Board Role

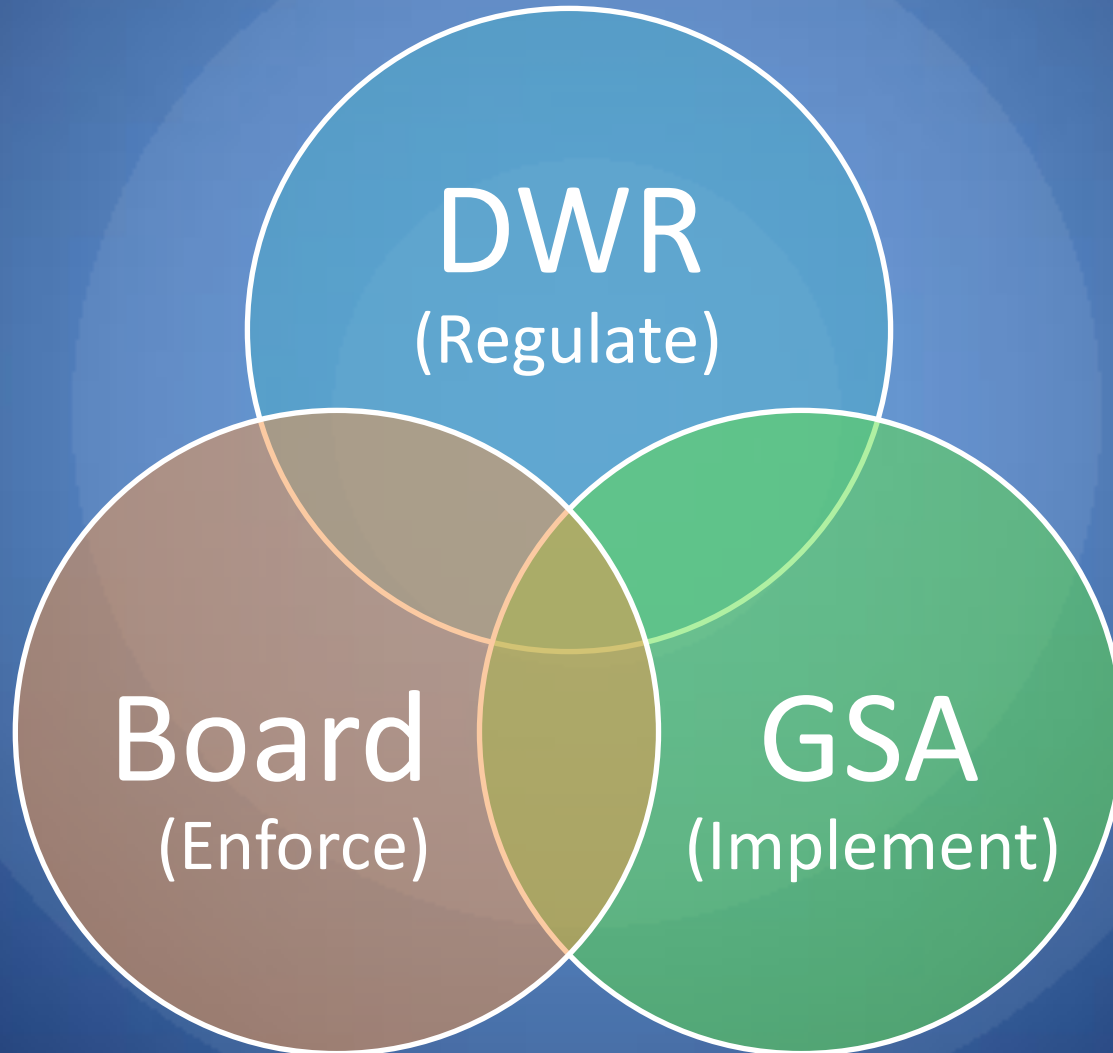


Sam Boland-Brien

Groundwater Management Program

State Water Resources Control Board

SGMA gives important role separation



State Water Board Role

- The State Backstop:
 - Data Manager – Unmanaged areas
 - Report water use to State Board
 - State Board collects and interprets that data
 - Basin Manager
 - Interim plans
 - Directly manage groundwater resources
- Coordination with DWR:
 - Communication, Outreach, Data, Implementation

The “Backstop” Triggers

After	Intervention Trigger
June 30, 2017	Unmanaged Areas
Jan. 31, 2020	Basin in critical overdraft and either: 1) No plan 2) Inadequate plan
Jan. 31, 2022	1) No plan, or 2) Basin in long-term overdraft and inadequate plan
Jan. 31, 2025	Significant depletions of interconnected surface waters and inadequate plan

In all triggering events, intervention is the result of failure by locals to create a GSA or adopt and implement a GSP

Progression of State Backstop



All of these activities will result in costs the State Water Board must recover through fees.

Finishing thoughts



Reporting

Probationary

Interim Plan

Fees

- Intervention only occurs where local efforts fail
- Local opportunities to remedy causes of intervention triggers
- Board will enforce where necessary and appropriate

Thank you

Questions?

State: groundwater.ca.gov

DWR: water.ca.gov/groundwater

SWRCB: waterboards.ca.gov/gmp



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

19

- Signed into law September, 2014
- Applies to medium and high priority basins defined by DWR
 - Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin listed as medium priority
 - Also listed as “Critically Overdrafted” with accelerated timeline
- Counties are ultimately responsible for SGMA compliance
- Goal is to maintain local management of groundwater
- SGMA requires formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) by **June 30, 2017**

Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin GSA

20

- GSA may be formed by a local agency, or combination of agencies, with water supply, water management, or land use authority within the basin
- Eligible agencies in Cuyama Valley include:
 - Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD)
 - Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Kern
 - Proposed Cuyama Basin Water District (if approved)
- Each agency has voting rights on the GSA

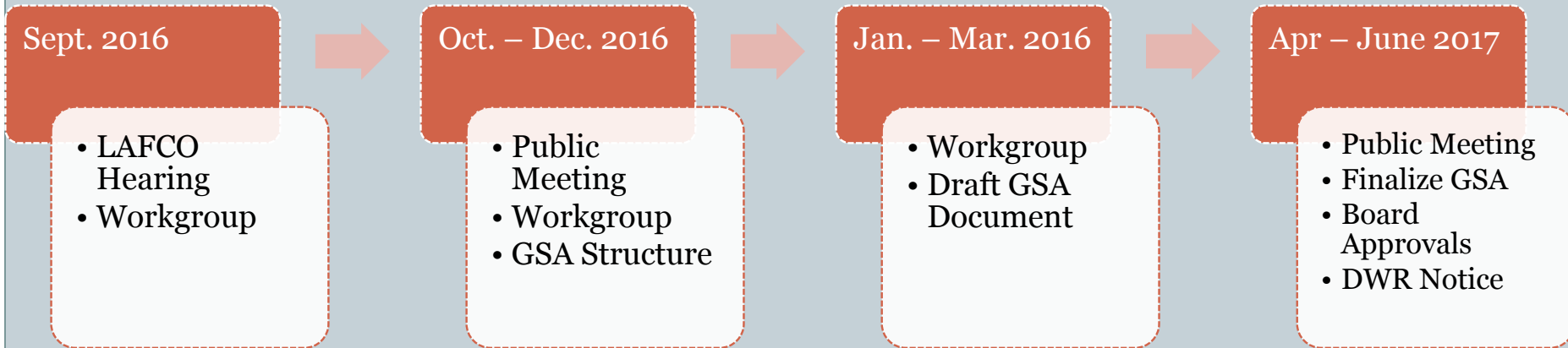


Proposed Cuyama Basin Water District

- If approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO):
 - Would participate in GSA as one of several voting members
 - Would not have sole control over groundwater management
 - Would need to successfully establish an assessment to fund the district and join the GSA by May 2017 or be terminated
- If denied by LAFCO:
 - Counties and Cuyama CSD would form a GSA (or multiple GSAs); explore potential funding mechanisms
 - Difficult to add District after GSA formation
- GSA process on hold for LAFCO determination

GSA Formation Timeline

22



- **If GSA Not Formed by Deadline:**
 - State Water Resources Control Board is enforcement agency
 - May designate basin as probationary
 - Subject to groundwater extraction reporting
 - Subject to fees to recover costs of enforcement

After GSA Formation

23

- GSA responsible for developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2020
 - GSP must include technical information on basin
 - Must receive State approval (DWR)
 - Consistent with County General Plan
- Assessment/service district must be formed for properties not covered by Water District (if formed)
- If GSP not approved:
 - Enforcement by Water Resources Control Board
 - Basin probationary
 - Loss of local control



Opportunities for Public Participation

24

- Transparent process
- Interested parties list
- At least two public meetings regarding GSA Formation
- Workgroup of local agencies to meet September 16th
 - Meeting materials & minutes public record; available on website
 - <http://cosb.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx?id=51867>
- Contact the Santa Barbara County Water Agency:
 - Matt Young - mcyoung@cosbpw.net
 - Fray Crease - fcrease@cosbpw.net
 - Tom Fayram - tfayram@cosbpw.net

California Water District

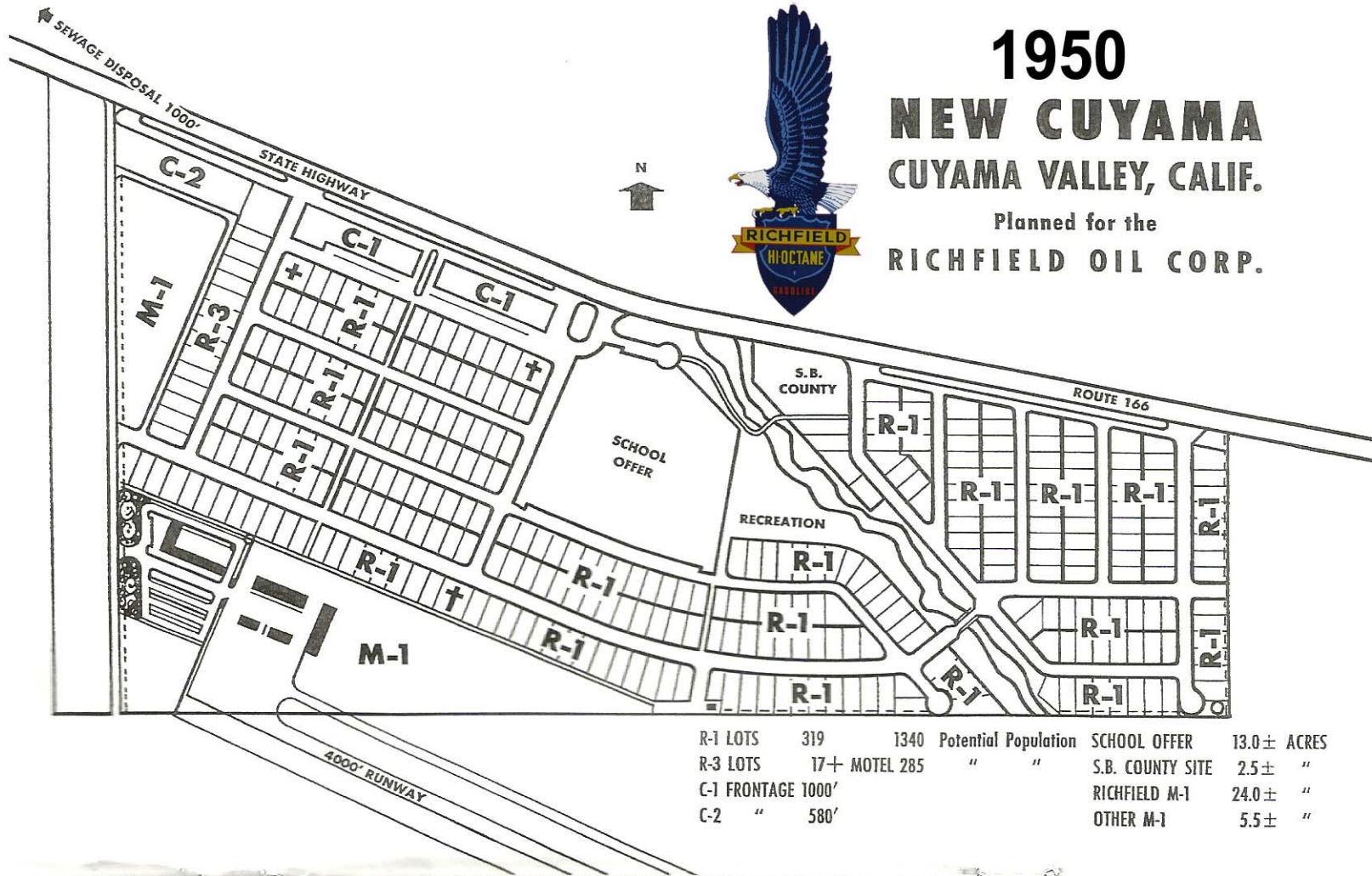
- Defined by California Water Code
 - Sections 3400-38501
- Defined by California law
- Upheld by US Supreme Court
 - Salyer Land Co. vs. Tulare Water District, 1973
- California Water District or Special Act District

A photograph of a water tower and water treatment facility. The water tower is a tall, white, conical structure with a spherical top. In the background, there are several large, cylindrical water storage tanks and other industrial structures. The scene is set in a rural area with green fields in the foreground and mountains in the distance under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

CUYAMA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Formation and Operation

Town site planned and constructed by Richfield Oil Corporation to house workers at plant



CUYAMA VALLEY COMMUNITY INC. a subsidiary of Richfield

provides water and sewer services as a public utility

1972

I Sold the Whole Town



by Norman Hahn
Realtor
Santa Ana

FOUNDATION FOR AIRBORNE RELIEF



1975

Santa Barbara News Press October 16, 1975

PUBLIC TRANSFER SOUGHT

ARCO repossesses New Cuyama holdings

By Mike Raphael
Santa Maria Bureau

borne emergency relief organi-
zation.

Harrell Fletcher, supervisor
of the Fifth District which

opment of the area that have
failed to materialize, in part

1977

Cuyama Valley News

Serving the Cuyama Valley
New Cuyama, California 93254

Volume 10 Number 46

10¢ Per Copy

Wednesday, November 16, 1977

New board elected Community Services District passes

1978

Cuyama Valley News

Serving the Cuyama Valley
New Cuyama, California 93254

Volume 11 Number 20

10¢ Per Copy

Wed., May 17, 1978

Estado Corporation to retain Cuyama property

On May 5, 1978, a check for \$500,000 was presented to the

Richfield assigned to the new district the water revenue the

1. How to improve and maintain the present water

company will drill at its own

Heavy equipment contractors needed

1979

DEVELOPMENT FIRM CLAIMS DISCOVERY

New water find in Cuyama?

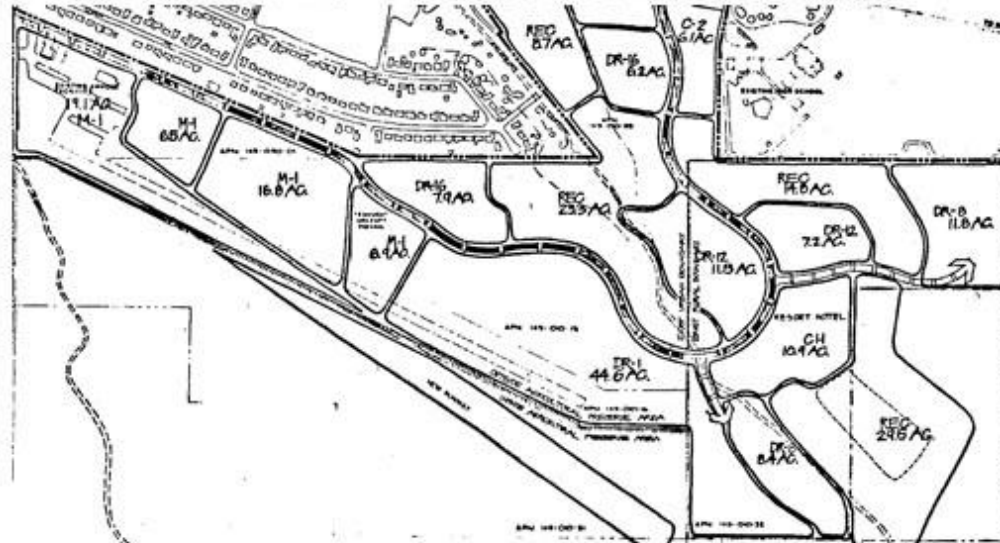
By Ted McKown
News-Press Staff Writer

A development company claims to have discovered enough high-quality water in the Cuyama Valley to allow for substan-

water. A state-imposed water moratorium holds new building at a standstill.

Gilman Hill, a Denver geologist, thinks he may have the answer. His company, Rehoboth Farms, bought 640 acres at New Cuyama and employed hydrologists in a search for water.

PROPOSED ZONING RANCHO NEW CUYAMA REHOBETH FARMS • TRANS STATES DEV CORP



Well # 1 Drilled in 1980 Well #2 Drilled in 1982 by Rehobeth Farms Trans States Dev Corp
CCSD attempts to gain control of water and sewer system through eminent domain suit.

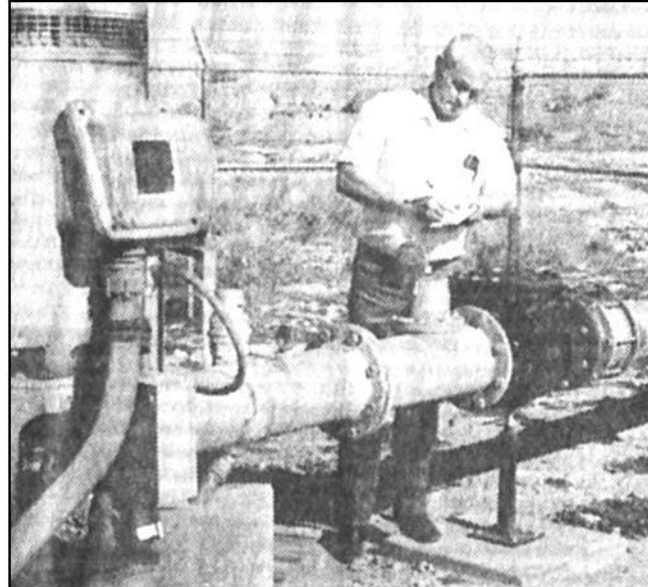
**CCSD acquires water system for \$350,000 in 1988
and dissolves Cuyama Valley Community Inc.**

1991 to 2001

Hamlet Bucks Trend; 2 Wells Point to Boom

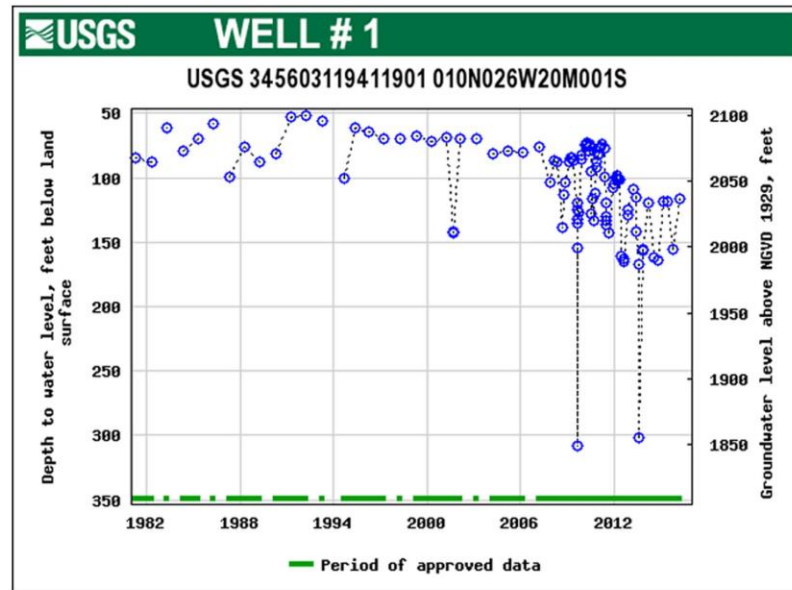
By CHARLES HILLINGER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEW CUYAMA, Calif.— While much of the rest of the country hunkers through these recession-like times and the state copes with

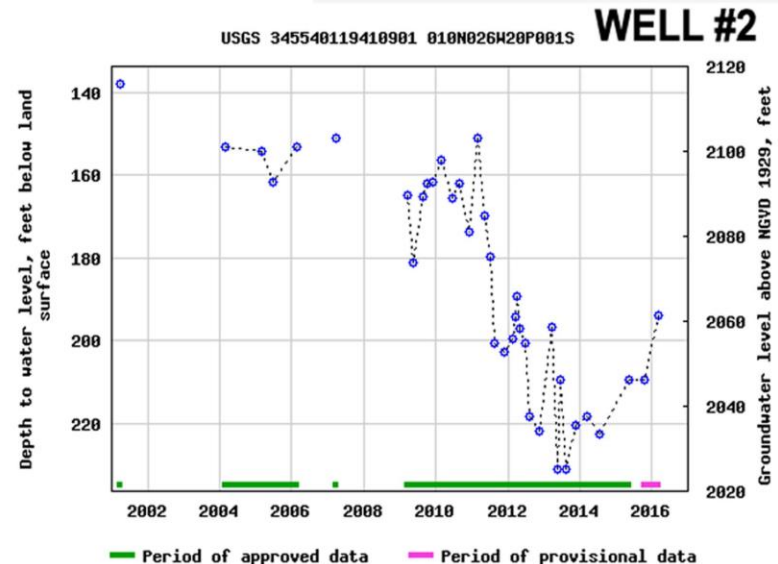


**NEW PIPELINE FROM WELL TO TANKS
DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENTS
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

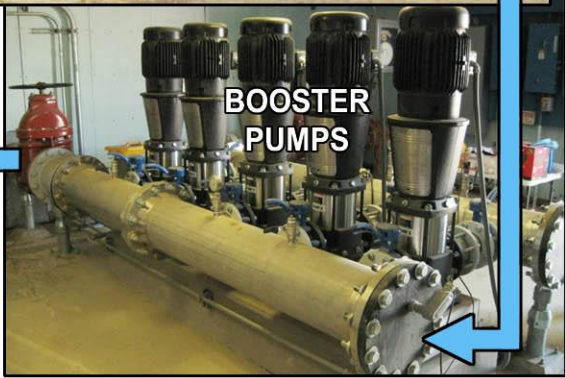
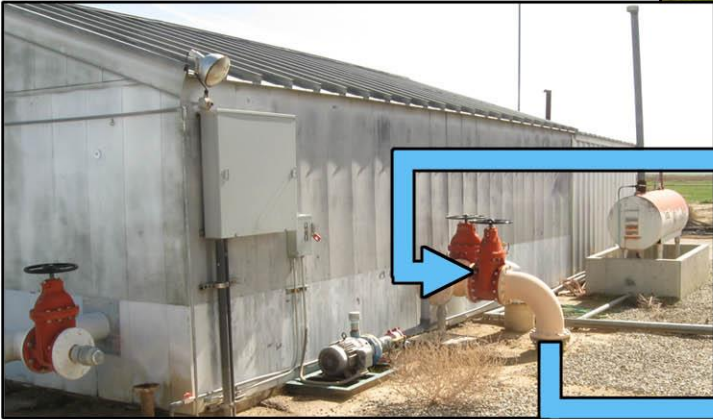
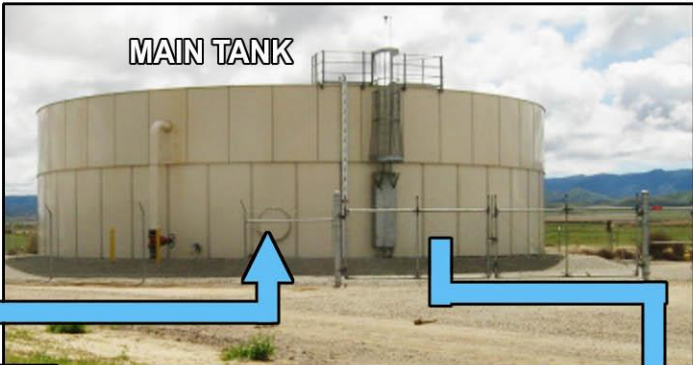
Wells have been stable over last 25 years but have shown recent drop of about 30 feet in water level since 2012. DAC grant funded hydrological study will help to identify the aquifer characteristics



Well #2 suffered significant damage while pump and motor were being removed. Plan to drill new larger diameter well over damaged casing and to either retrieve motor or force it to the bottom of the well.

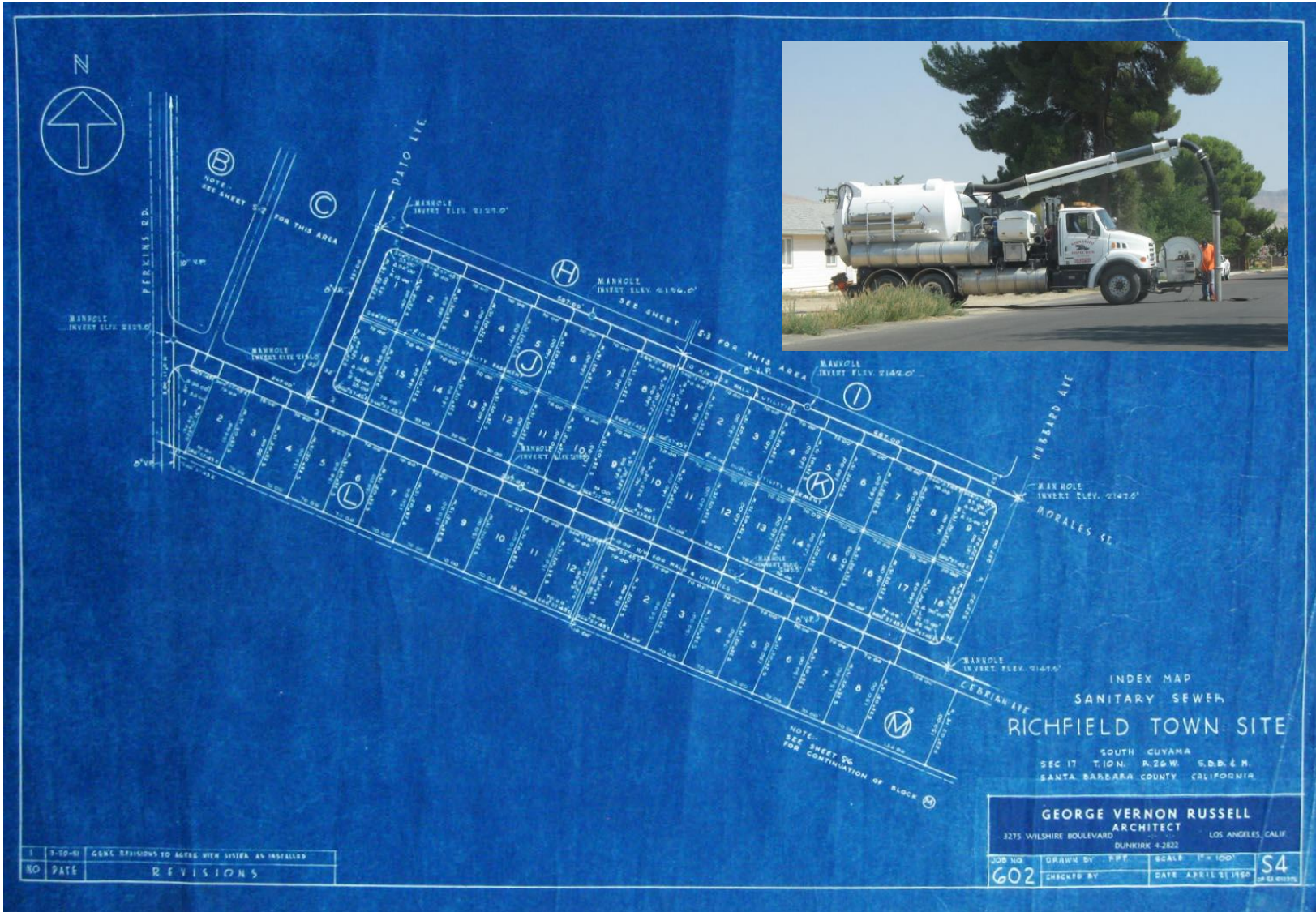


WATER TREATMENT PLANT



TO HOMES

Original Supply and Sewer Lines Installed in 1950 Hydro Flush Now in Process



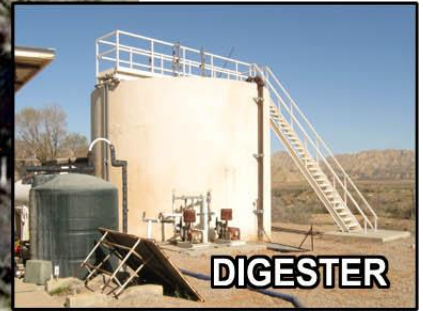
1	7-10-51	66% REVISIONS TO AGREE WITH SYSTEM AS INSTALLED
NO.	DATE	REVISIONS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



ULTRA VIOLET SYSTEM

to evaporation pond

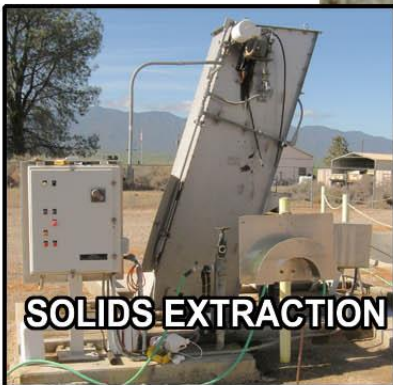


DIGESTER

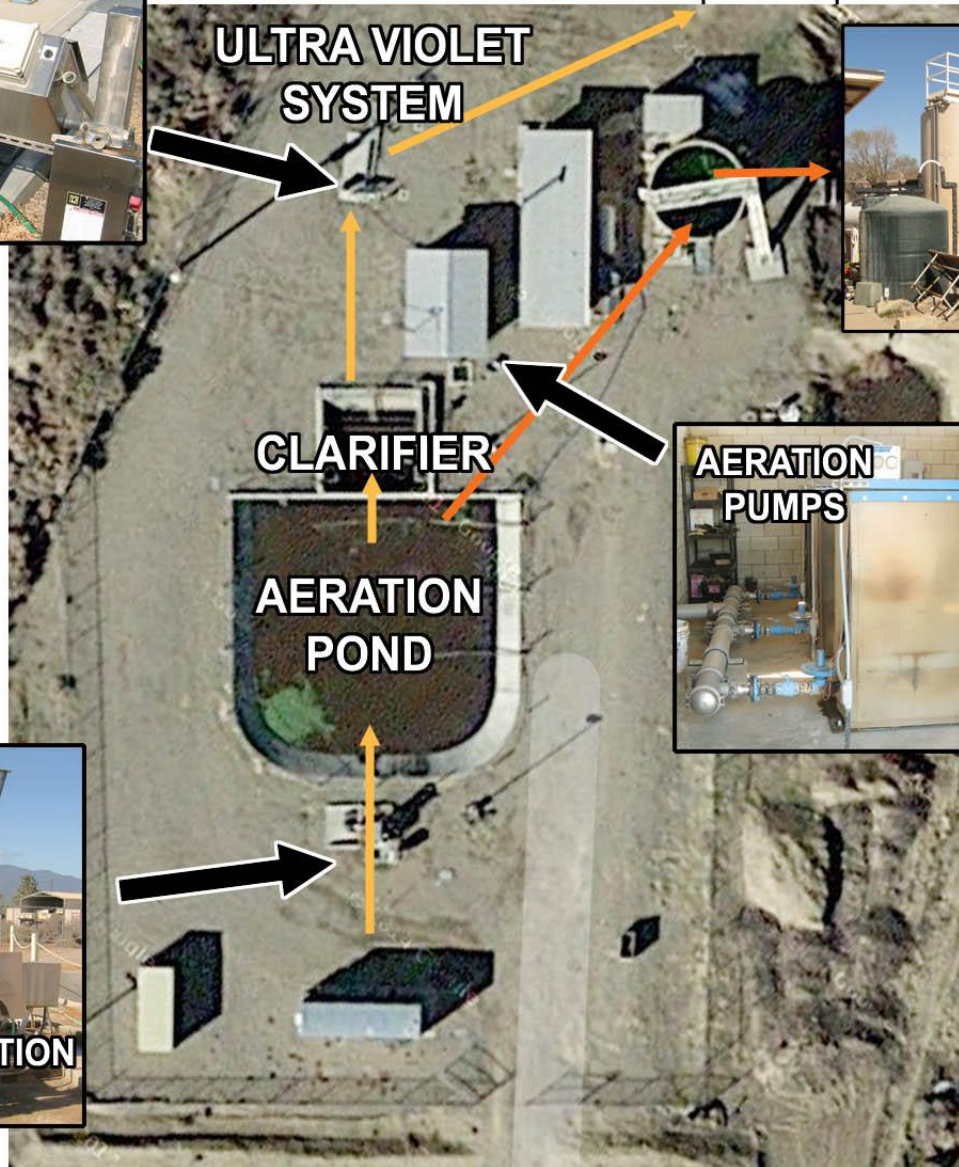
CLARIFIER

AERATION POND

AERATION PUMPS



SOLIDS EXTRACTION



CUYAMA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

- Operates as a Special Services District
- \$400,000 annual operations budget
- Complies with all state regulations
- Requires certified operators
- Provides for maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure

CCSD POSITION REGARDING WATER DISTRICT FORMATION

- Following advice of legal counsel
- Most direct way to retain control of existing water rights
- Not endorsing or opposing formation
- Not a referendum of community opinion
- Recognizes concerns of some community members on voting rights

Agenda & Format

6:00pm Welcome, Purpose of the Meeting & Introduction of Presenters

6:15pm Presentation

- SGMA Overview & State's Role in SGMA Implementation
- GSA Overview
- California Water District Overview
- Cuyama Basin Water District Proposal Overview
- Cuyama Community Services District Overview

7:00-7:30pm Moderated Question & Answer Session

- Review key content, see Q&A handout of answers to submitted questions
- Index cards for participant panel

7:30-8:00pm Meet & Greet/Open House Reception

- Meet, greet, follow up as needed

Questions & Answers

- **Q&A handout**
 - Thank you for submitting questions in advance.
- **Still have a question?**
 - Write it on an index card and hand it in.
 - Will be answered as time allows.

**Thank you for your participation
tonight.**

**We hope this information is
helpful for the local SGMA
implementation process that
follows in the months and years
ahead.**