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Agenda

Meeting No. 4

Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group

Monday, April 25, 2016

1:00 – 2:15 pm

Humboldt County Agricultural Center

1. Introduction

- Review agenda, personal introductions

2. Brief updates (10 min.)

- Estimate of total irrigated acreage (NRCS/UC-Cooperative Extension)
- Recent DWR groundwater monitoring data
- Development of DWR regulations for implementing SGMA

3. Proposition 1 grant for technical study and planning (10 min.)

- Grant update and timeline
- Contracting for professional services, formation of proposal review committee

4. GSA formation and governance (30 min.)

- Current role of County
- Future role of GSA
- Open discussion of ideas, concerns, suggestions
- Refine questions and issues for further consideration

5. Update on Humboldt County RCD's Irrigation Water / Fertigation Management Planning Project (20 min.)

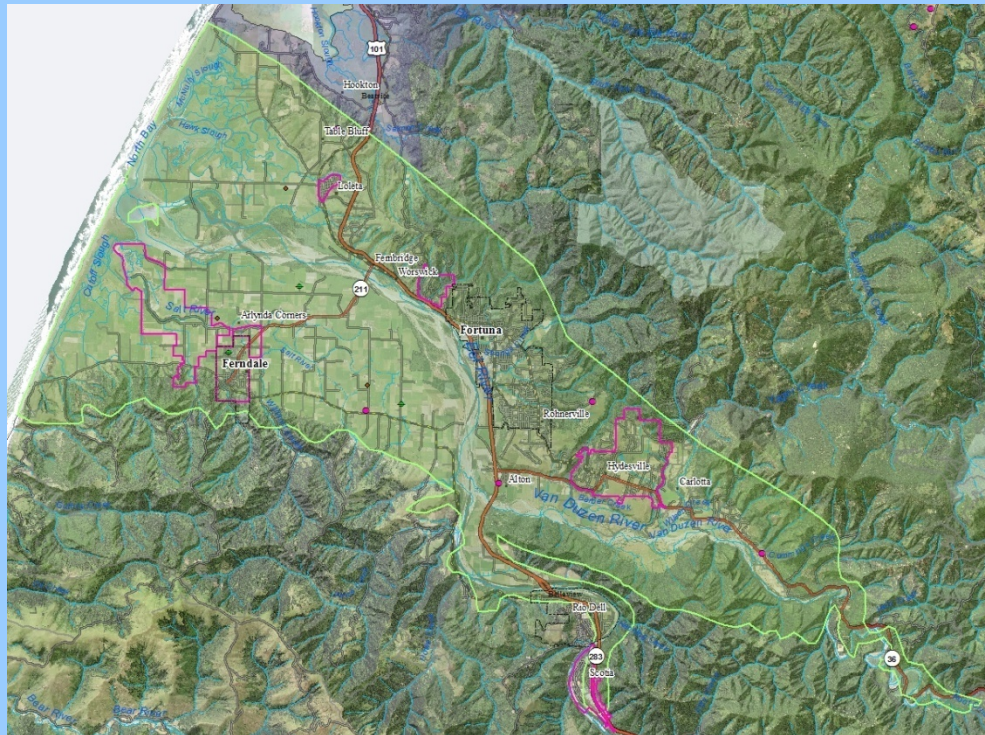
6. Review action items and set next meeting date

DWR – California Department of Water Resources
SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
RCD – Resource Conservation District

Eel River Valley Groundwater Working Group

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State groundwater policy established by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014)

Water Code Section 113

It is the policy of the state that groundwater resources be managed sustainably for long-term reliability and multiple economic, social, and environmental benefits for current and future beneficial uses. Sustainable groundwater management is best achieved locally through the development, implementation, and updating of plans and programs based on the best available science.



April 25, 2016

Working Group ground rules

1. Use people's time wisely; make comments concise
2. Stay on topic, follow the agenda
3. Be respectful of other speakers, refrain from talking over others
4. Continuity of members and regular attendance at meetings is important
5. Set goals or desired outcomes for meeting
6. Meeting dates should be scheduled in advance



April 25, 2016

Today's agenda

1. Introduction (review agenda and personal introductions)
2. Brief updates (10 min.)
3. Proposition 1 grant for technical studies and planning (10 min.)
4. Groundwater Sustainability Agency - formation and governance (30 min.)
5. Update on RCD's Irrigation/Fertigation Planning Project (20 min.)
6. Review action items and set next meeting date



April 25, 2016

2. Brief updates

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(NRCS/UC-Cooperative Extension)
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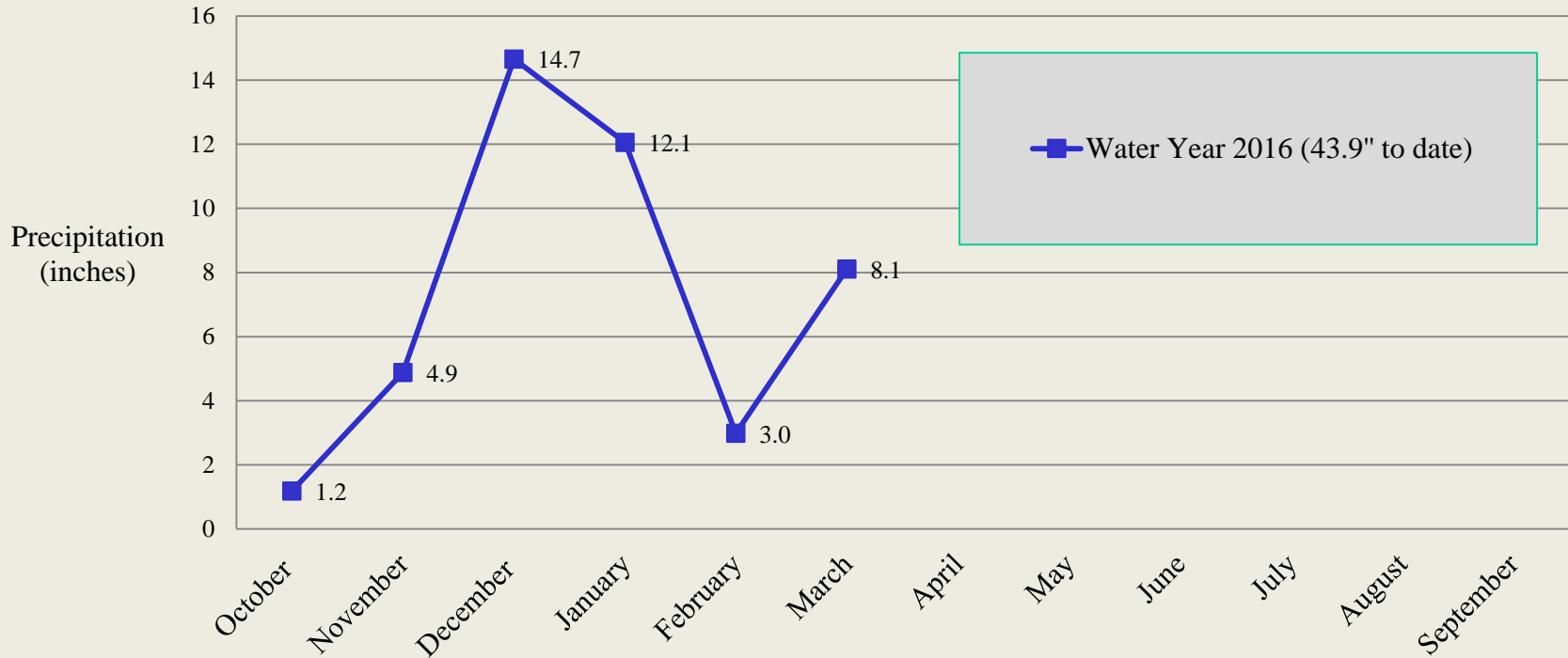
April 25, 2016

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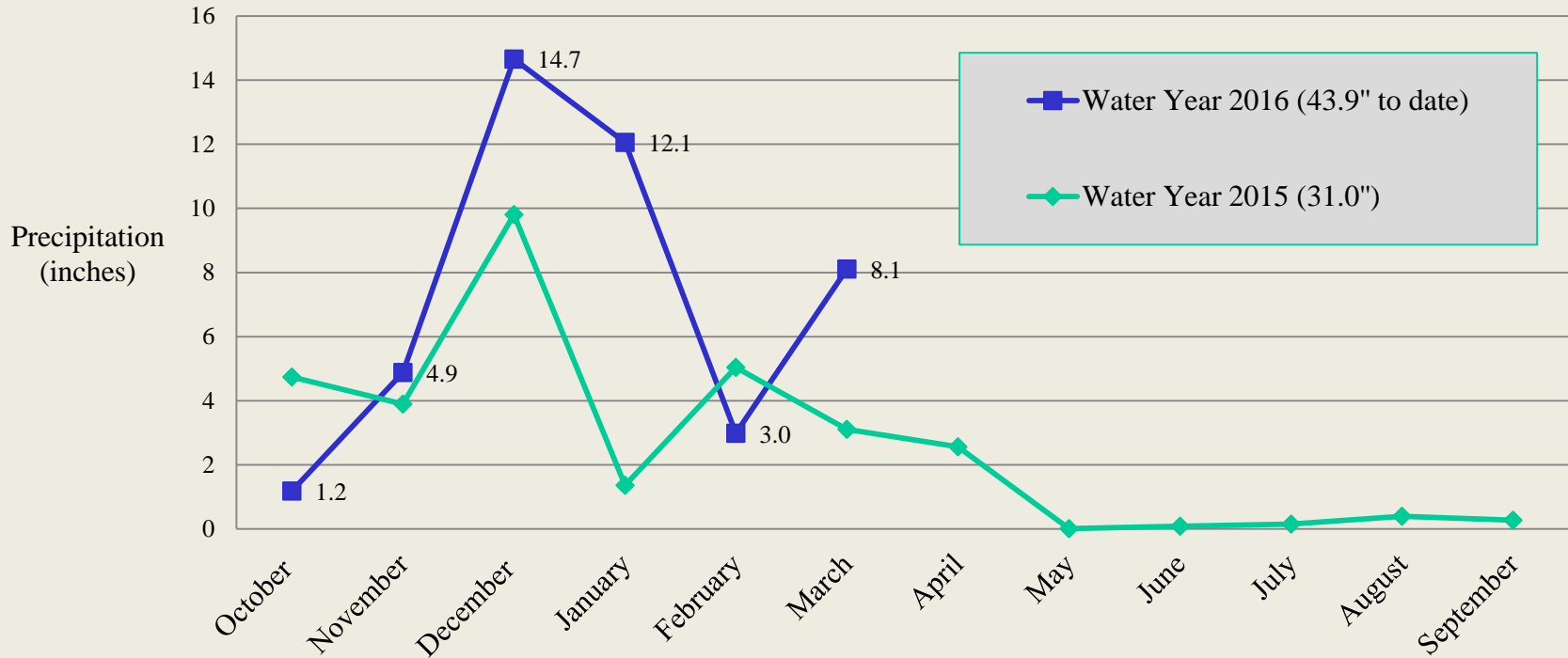


Monthly Precipitation at Eureka Woodley Island



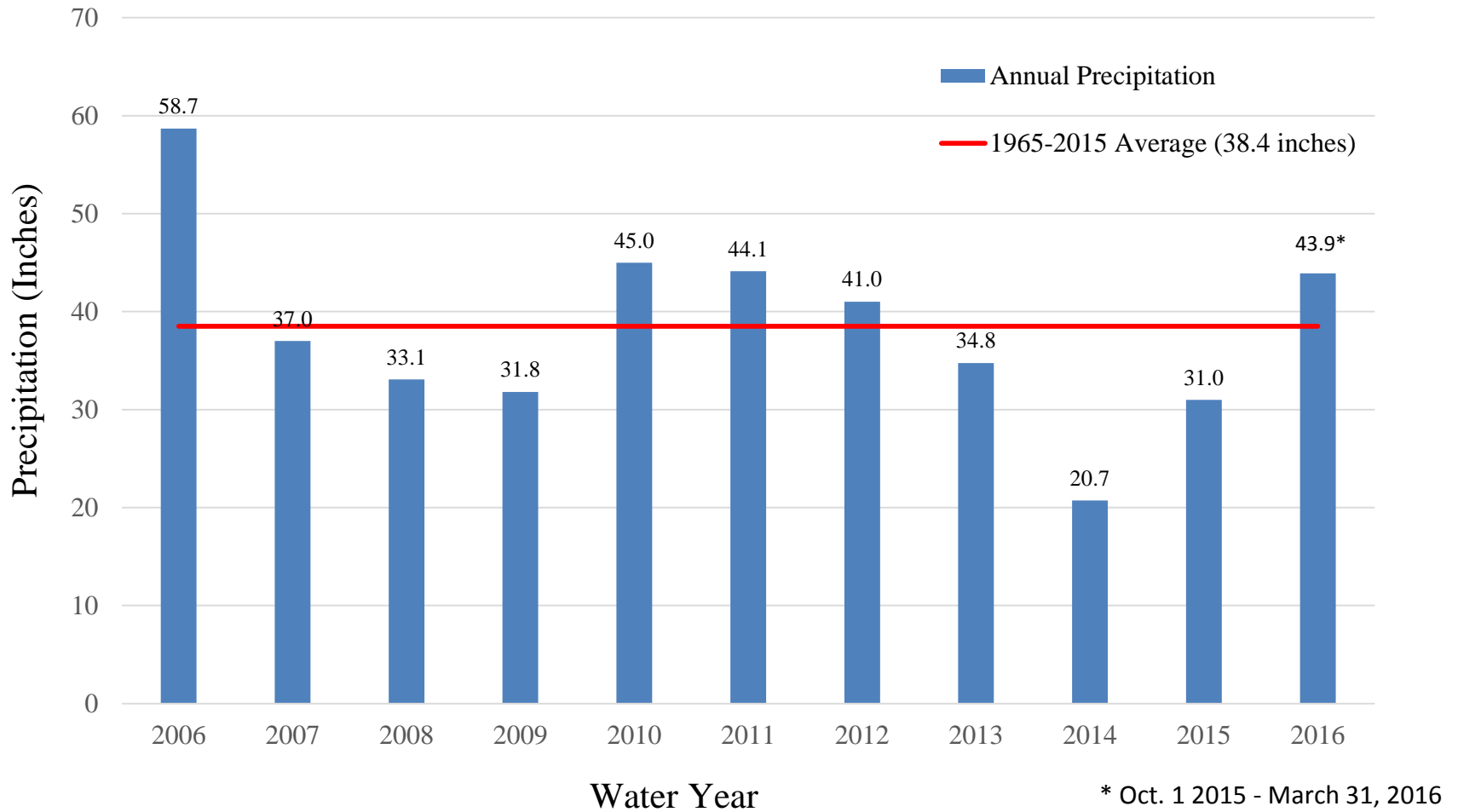
April 25, 2016

Monthly Precipitation at Eureka Woodley Island



April 25, 2016

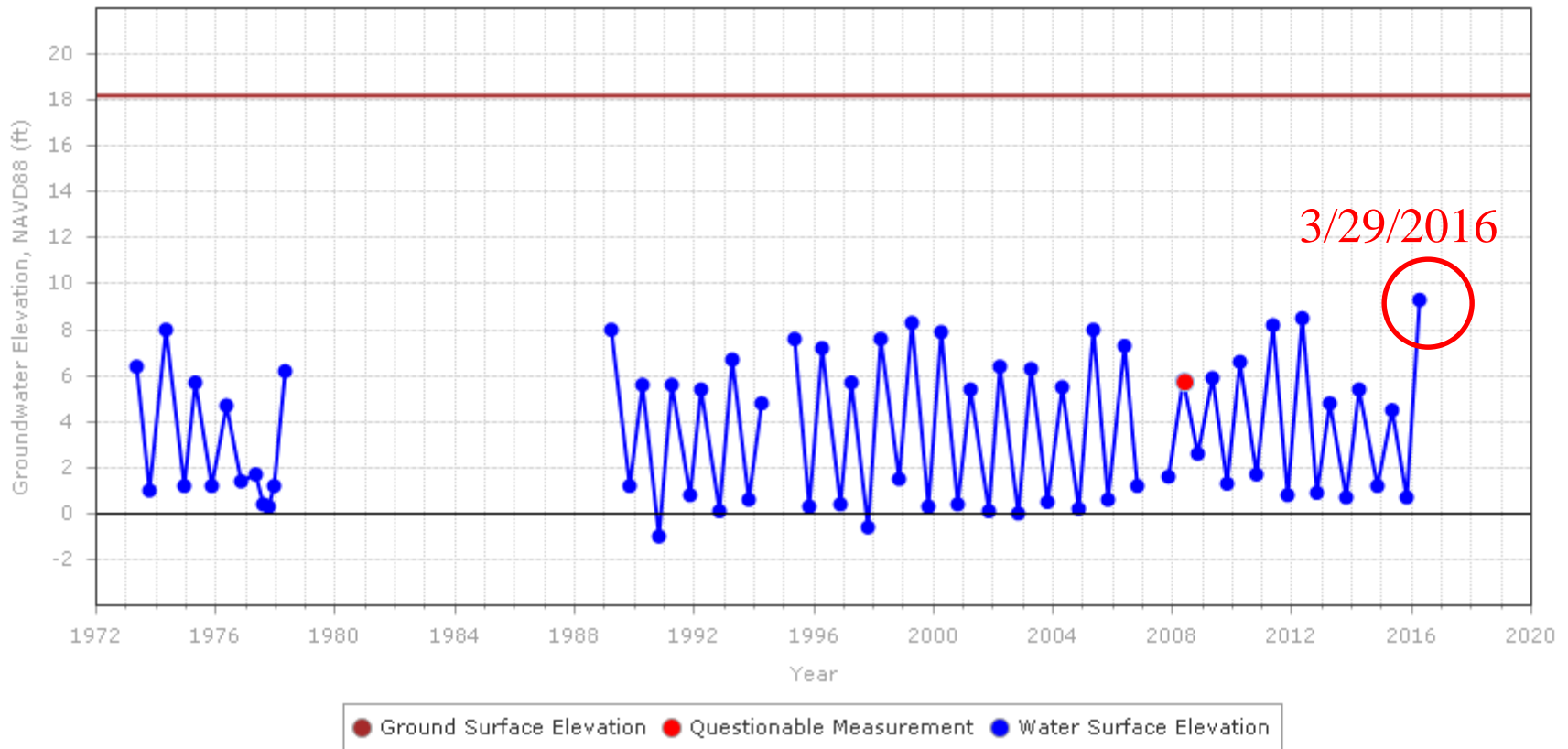
Total Annual Precipitation at Eureka Woodley Island



April 25, 2016

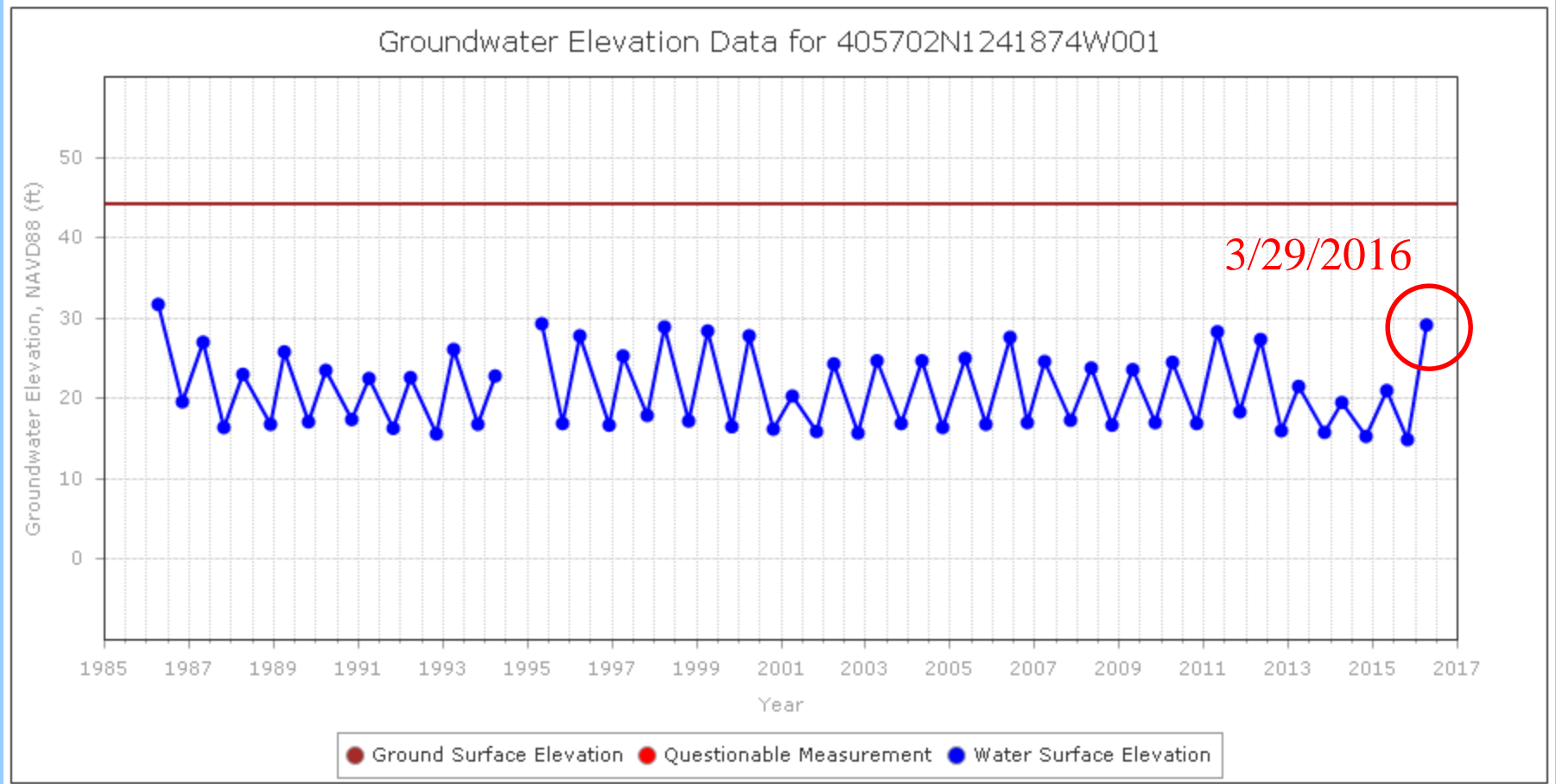
Goble Lane, Ferndale

Groundwater Elevation Data for 406087N1242335W001



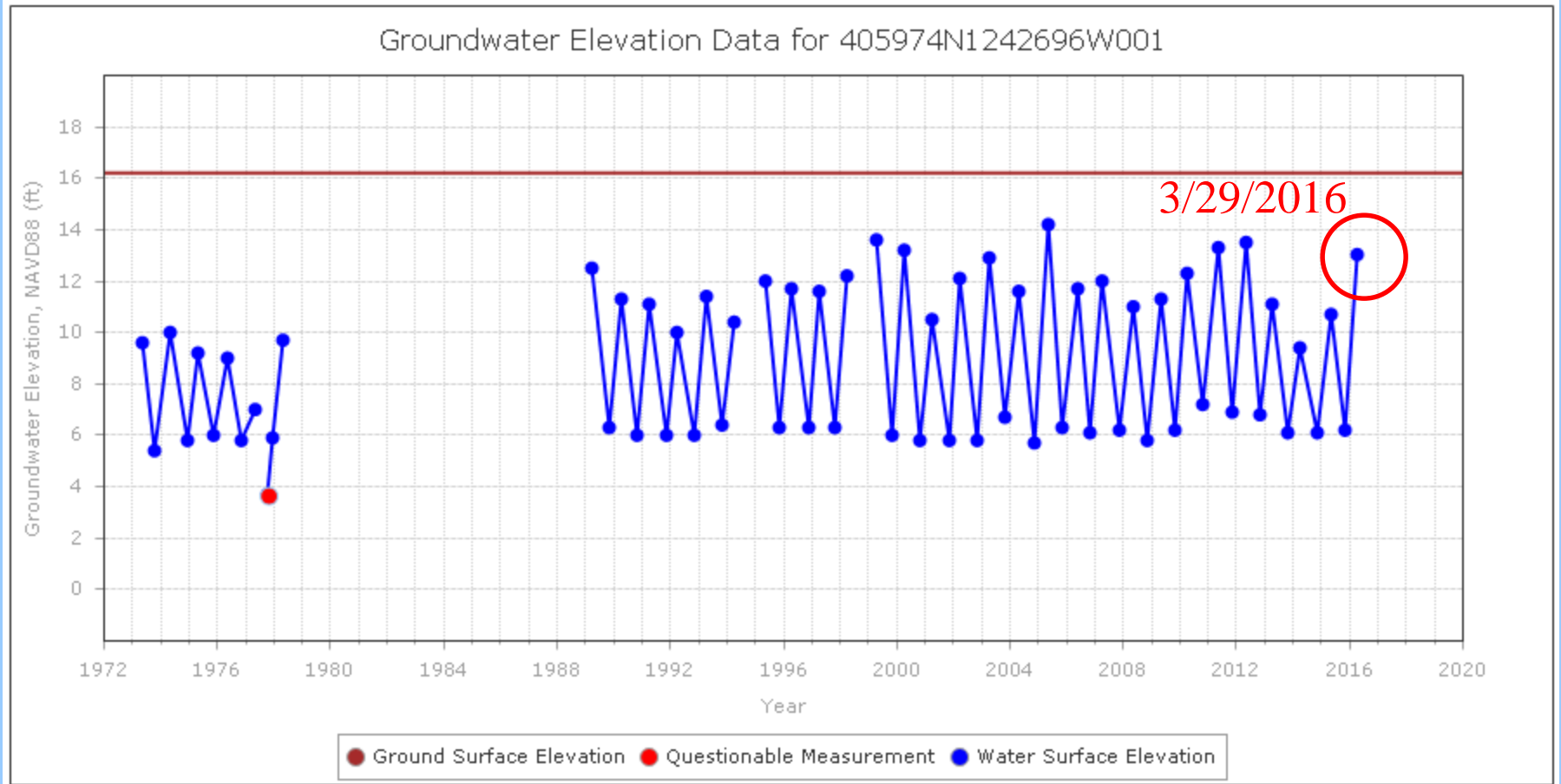
April 25, 2016

Pleasant Point Road, Ferndale



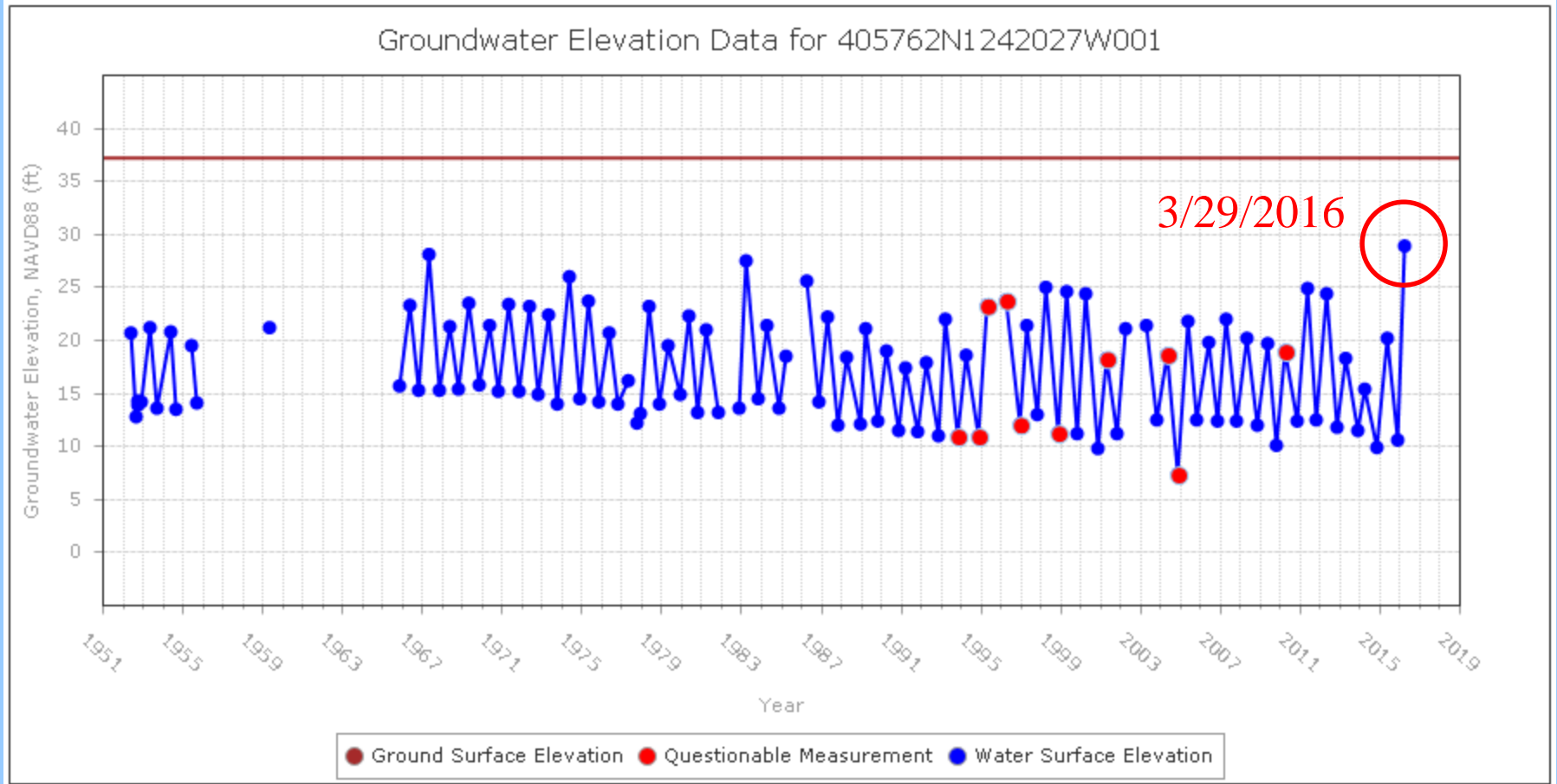
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Dillon Road, Ferndale



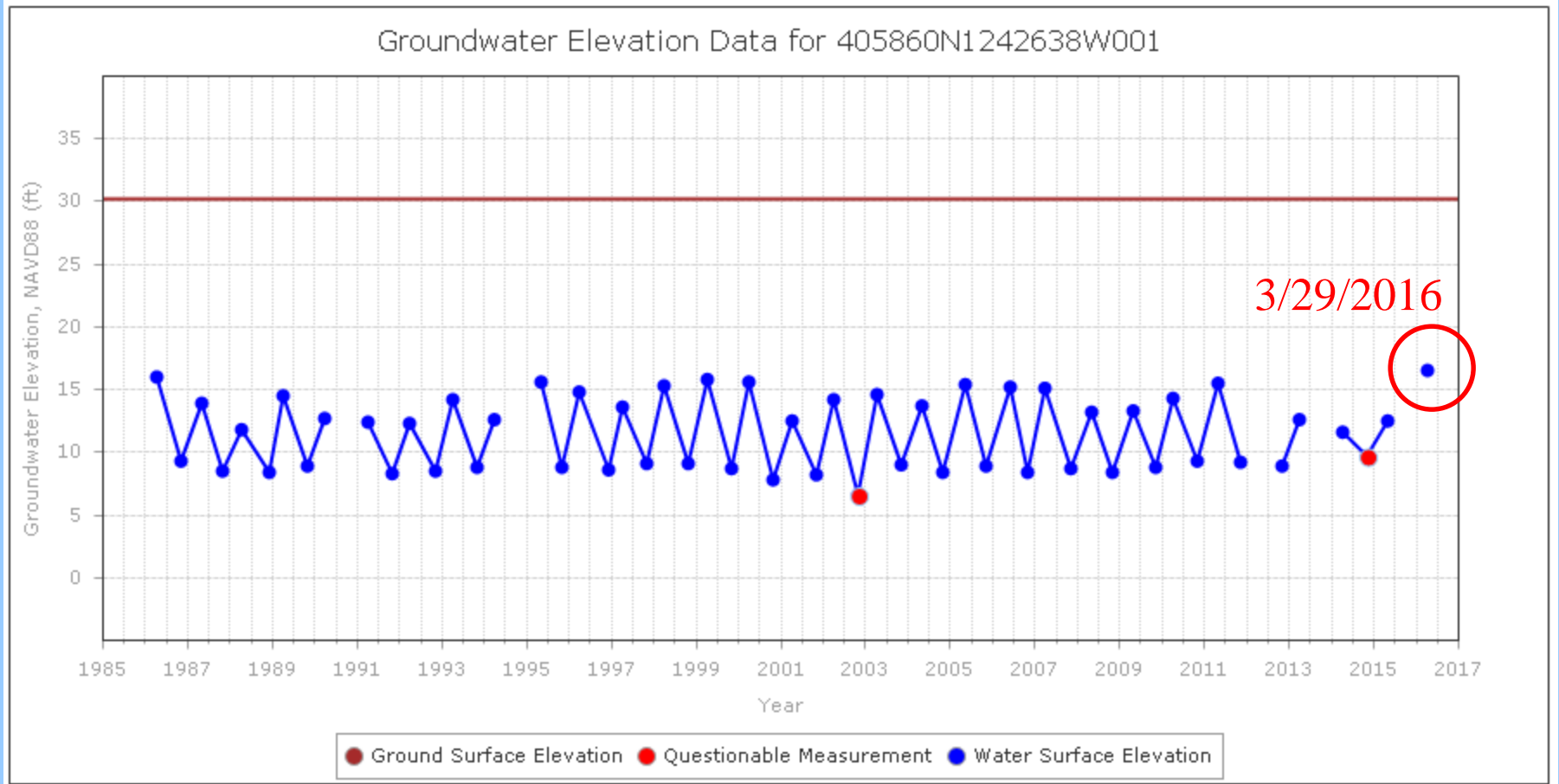
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Waddington Road, Ferndale



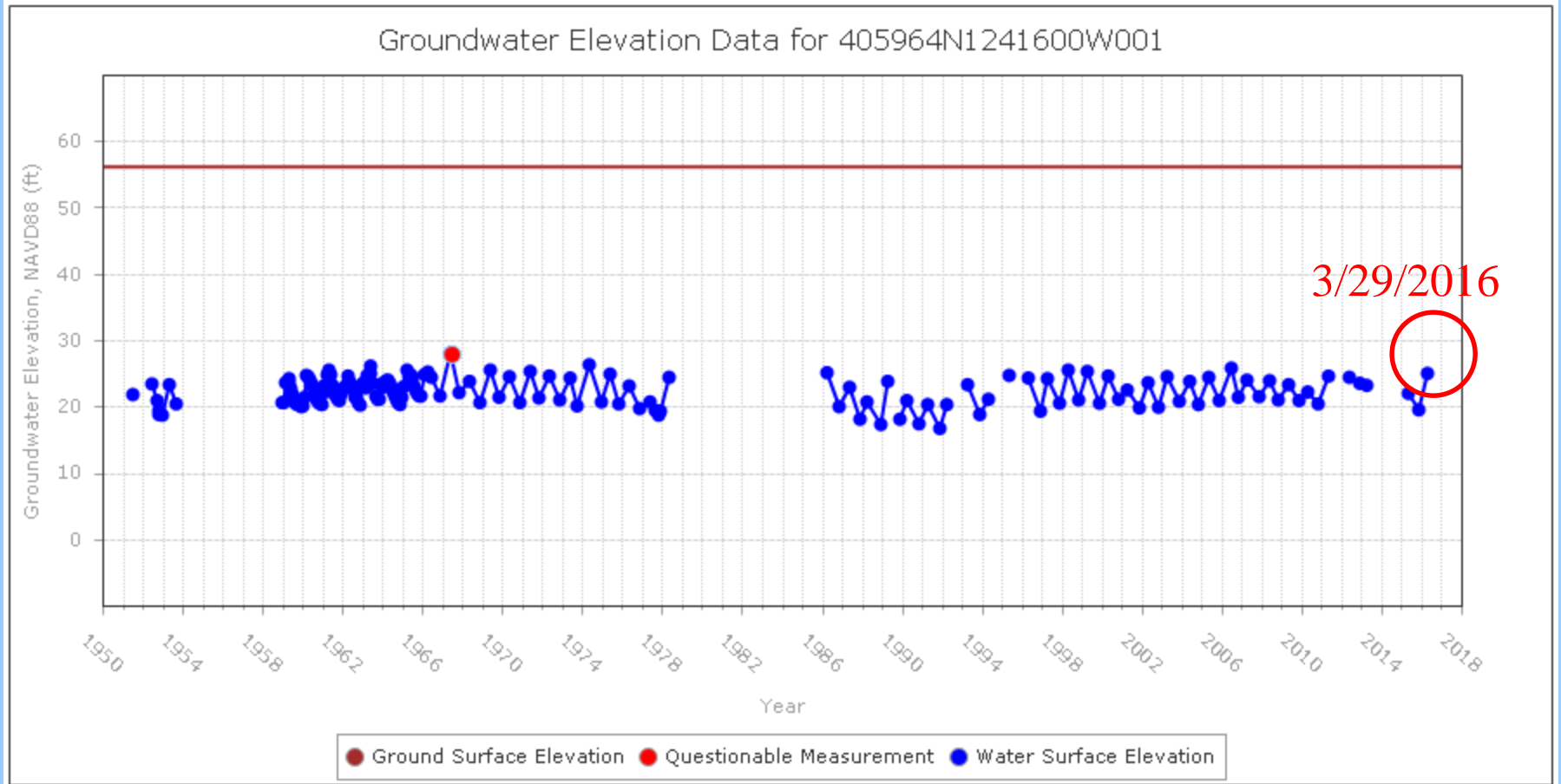
April 25, 2016

County Fairgrounds, Ferndale



April 25, 2016

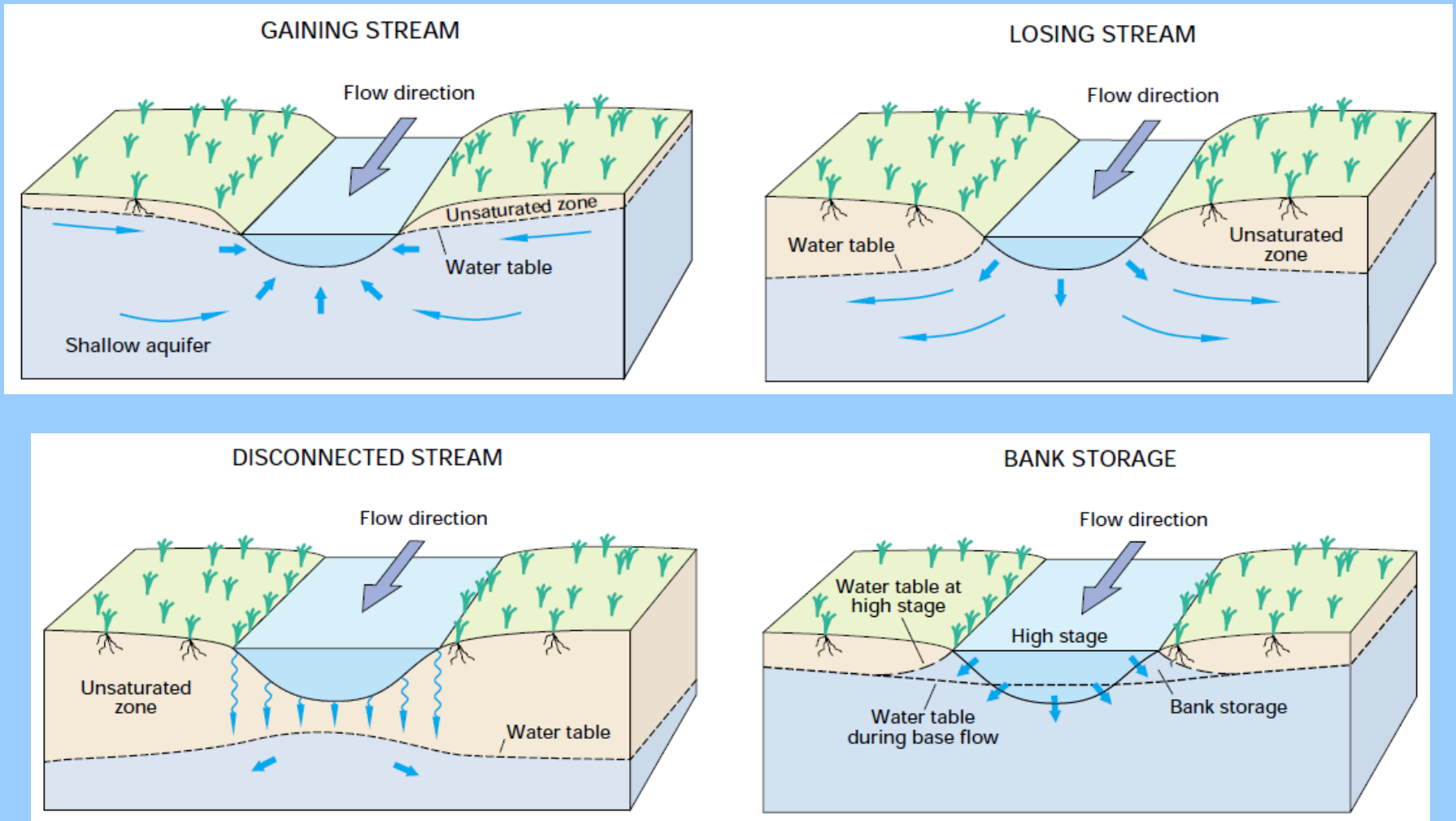
7th and K Streets, Fortuna



3/29/2016



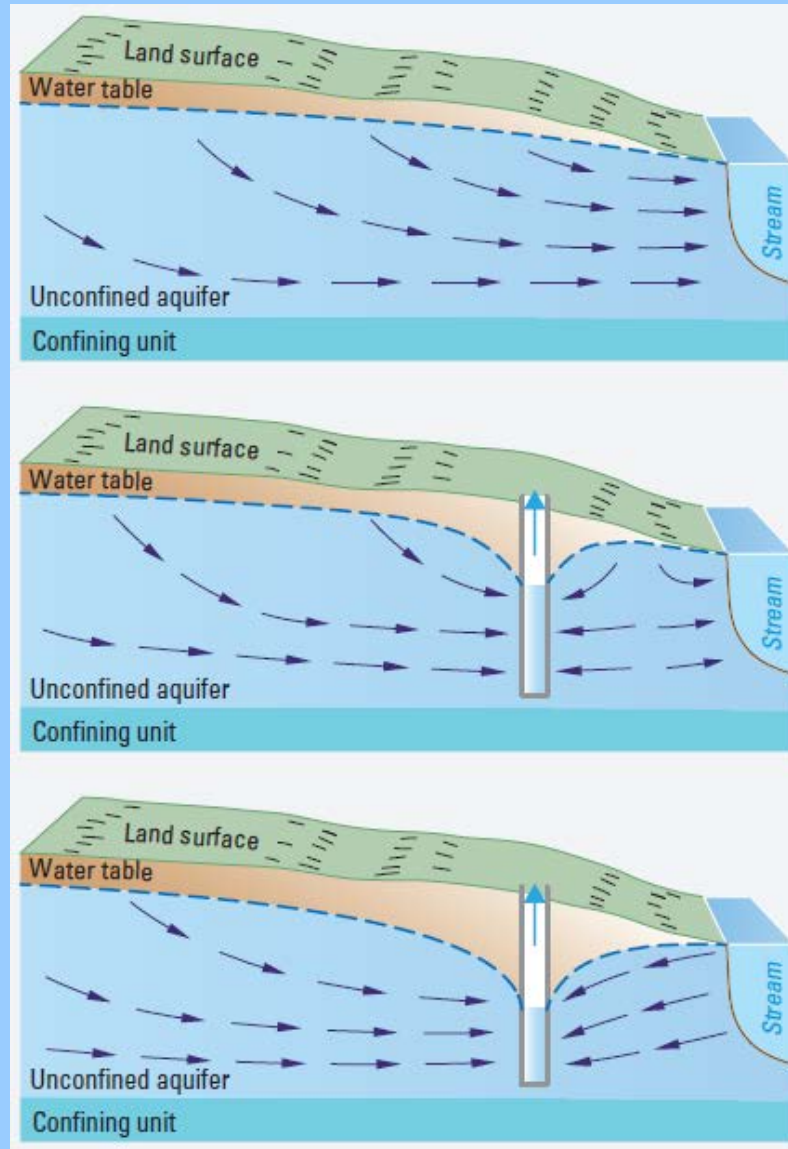
Current unknown: groundwater/surface water interactions



Source: USGS Circular 1139



Current unknown: effects of groundwater pumping on Eel River flows



Source: USGS Circular 1139



April 25, 2016

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(NRCS/UC-Cooperative Extension)
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General timeline for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

	State	Local
2016	<p><u>Feb. 18</u>: DWR released draft guidelines for content of local groundwater plans and review criteria</p> <p><u>June 1</u>: Deadline for DWR to adopt final regulations</p>	
2017	DWR to publish Bulletin 118 – Interim Update (boundaries, prioritization)	<p><u>Jan. 1</u>: Due date for “alternative submittals”</p> <p><u>June 30</u>: Groundwater sustainability agencies established for all high- and medium-priority basins</p>
2018		
2019		
2020		
2021		
2022		<u>Jan 31</u> : Groundwater sustainability plans adopted for high- and medium-priority basins not in critical overdraft
2042		Achieve sustainability goal

General timeline for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

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3. Prop. 1 grant for technical studies and planning

- a) Grant update and timeline
- b) Contracting for professional services, formation of proposal review committee



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3. Prop. 1 grant for technical studies and planning

Task 1: Compilation of existing data and previous studies

Task 2: New data collection

Task 3: Conceptualization of basin hydrogeology and river-aquifer exchange

Task 4: Water balance

Task 5: Stakeholder involvement and initial management planning

Task 6: Grant administration



3. Prop. 1 grant for technical studies and planning

SCHEDULE

Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin Assessment and Planning Project

Task	2016								2017			
	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
1 Compilation of Existing Data and Previous Studies	■	■										
2 New Data Collection												
2.1 Exploratory borings			■	■								
2.2 Surface water/groundwater monitoring			■	■	■	■	■	■				
2.3 Pump tests			■	■								
2.4 Surface water flow measurements			■	■	■	■						
2.5 Irrigation pump estimation			■	■	■	■						
2.6 Water levels and chloride testing	■	■					■					
3 Conceptualization of Hydrogeology and River-Aquifer Exchange				■	■	■	■	■	■			
4 Water Balance				■	■	■	■	■	■			
5 Stakeholder Involvement / Initial Management Planning	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
6 Grant Administration	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



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- Qualifications-based selection process
- Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to be released in late May/early June
- Public Works requests three volunteers from Working Group to participate on selection committee



4. Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) – formation and governance

- a) Current role of County
- b) Future role of GSA
- c) Open discussion of ideas, concerns, suggestions
- d) Refine questions and issues for further consideration



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SGMA compliance – three potential pathways

1. DWR changes prioritization level of groundwater basin from Medium to Low
 - DWR’s ranking system discussed at December 14, 2015 meeting
 - 8 criteria; currently 2.82 points above medium-priority threshold
 - Improved data to be collected on irrigated acreage, groundwater reliance
2. Alternative Submittal
 - Need to demonstrate basin has been managed sustainably for last 10 years (no undesirable results)
 - Prop. 1 technical studies will determine if evidence supports finding
 - Due January 1, 2017; would require five-year updates
 - “Local agency” can make submittal; GSA not required (*to be confirmed*)
3. Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 - GSA required to prepare, adopt, implement the Plan
 - GSAs need to be established by June 30, 2017 (Plans due January 2022)

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) basics

1. GSA must be local agency (or combination of local agencies) with water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities
2. GSA is decision-maker
3. GSA will have flexibility in defining sustainability criteria, management objectives, minimum thresholds, and choice of projects and actions
4. GSA are encouraged to use adaptive management techniques
5. GSAs will have a range of powers and authorities, which they may elect to exercise:
 - Registration
 - Fees
 - Inspections
 - Measuring devices
 - (not de minimis extractors)
 - Spacing
 - Control extractions (regulate/limit/suspend)
 - Reporting
 - Enforcement
 - Capital projects (supply enhancement, conservation)



Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) basics

6. GSA shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. These interests include, but are not limited to:
 - Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including agricultural users and domestic well owners
 - Municipal well operators and public water systems
 - Local land use planning agencies
 - Environmental users of groundwater
 - Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies
 - Federal and tribal lands
 - Economically disadvantaged communities

7. State can intervene if local agency is not managing its groundwater sustainably or not complying with the Act



Options for Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

1. One GSA / One GSP
 - a) County
 - b) County with MOU (cities, districts, tribes)
 - c) Joint Powers Authority
 - d) New special purpose district
2. Multiple GSAs / One GSP
3. Multiple GSAs / Multiple GSPs, with coordination agreement



GSA discussion

Fundamental Charge (if GSA is required):

To design an organizational structure that is the best fit for local needs and resources and complies with SGMA

1. What tasks would the GSA need to perform?
2. What would be the important attributes of a successful GSA?
3. What would be needed to ensure effectiveness and fairness?
4. How would the GSA balance representation with independence?
5. What resources would be needed?
6. What are the Working Group's concerns and suggestions?



5. Update on Humboldt County RCD's Irrigation Water / Fertigation Management Planning Project



April 25, 2016

6. Review action items and set next meeting date

Information will be posted at

www.humboldt.gov.org/groundwater



April 25, 2016

Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin

