

Merced GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

February 27, 2023

Meeting will begin at 1 pm or a few minutes after – thank you
for joining us!

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Merced Subbasin GSA
Turner Island Water District GSA-1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

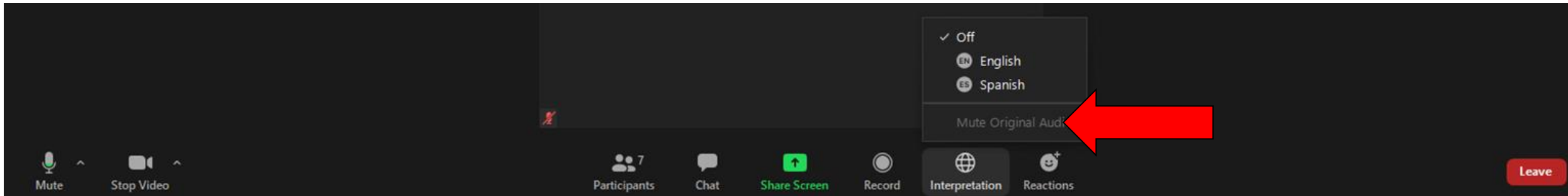
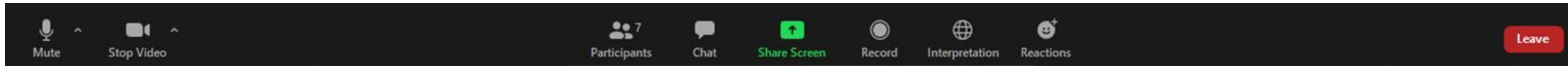


Welcome, Instructions for Zoom

Bienvenidos, Instrucciones para Zoom

We have two language audio channels available. English only speakers, please select English.

Si solamente habla español, debe seleccionar un canal de idioma



The meeting will have simultaneous interpreting, so you are welcome to comment in your native language.
La junta será interpretada simultáneamente, así que le invitamos a que haga comentarios en su lenguaje nativo.

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. State of Emergency Teleconference Findings
4. Approval of October 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. Reports
7. Water Year 2022 Annual Report Preview
8. Demand Reduction Discussion
9. Grant Updates
10. Next steps and adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Roll Call

Representative	GSA
Hicham ElTal	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Daniel Chavez	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Ken Elwin (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Mike Gallo	Merced Subbasin GSA
Nic Marchini	Merced Subbasin GSA
Eric Swenson	Merced Subbasin GSA
George Park (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Subbasin GSA
Kel Mitchel	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
Tim Allan (<i>alternate</i>)	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

- All meetings of the Coordination Committee’s legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the Coordination Committee’s legislative bodies conduct their business
- The Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions
- Those conditions exist per the continuing **State of Emergency due to the impacts of COVID-19.** *Expires 2/28/2023*
- The Coordination Committee will consider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine whether to make the following findings that any of the circumstances exist per AB 361:
 - The State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or
 - State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Per AB 2449, for future CC meetings, all members expected to attend in person unless they have “just cause” or “emergency circumstances” and notify the rest of the Committee.



Approval of Meeting Minutes

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- October 19, 2022

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Questions/Comments from Public:

If you would like to make a comment, please type the comment in the chat or raise your hand to request to be taken off mute



Reports

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



GSA Reports

- Updates from each GSA on activities they are undertaking in their own jurisdiction:
 - Merced Subbasin GSA
 - Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
 - Turner Island Water District GSA #1

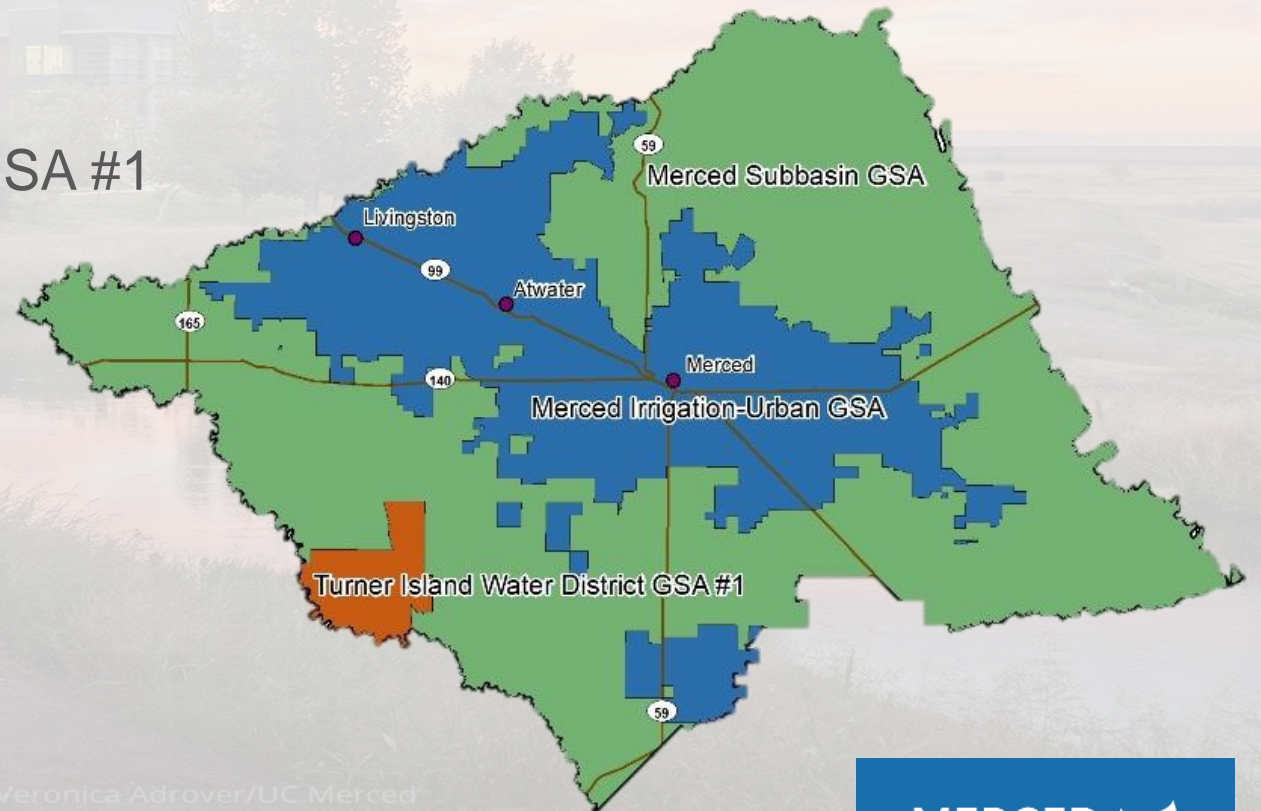
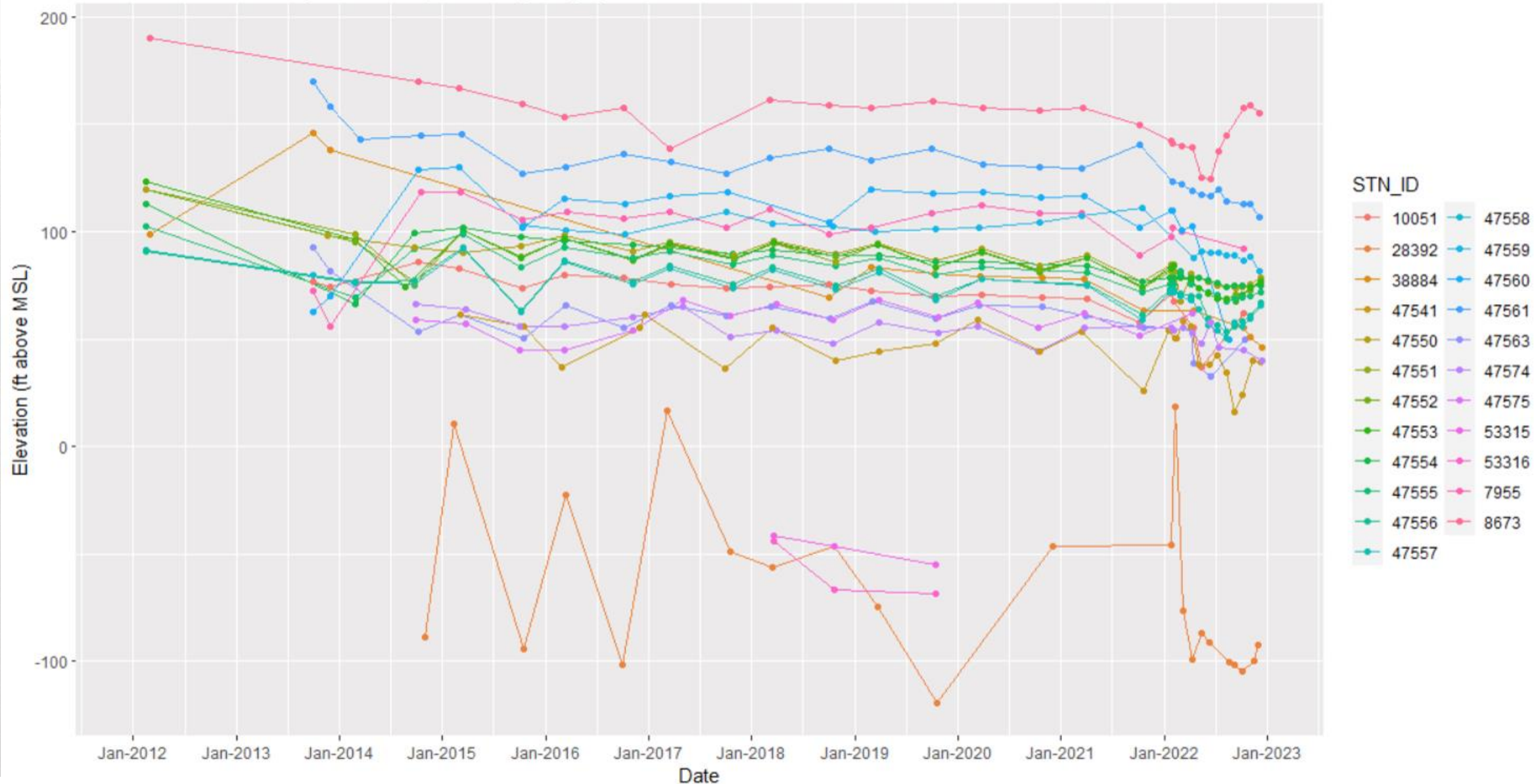


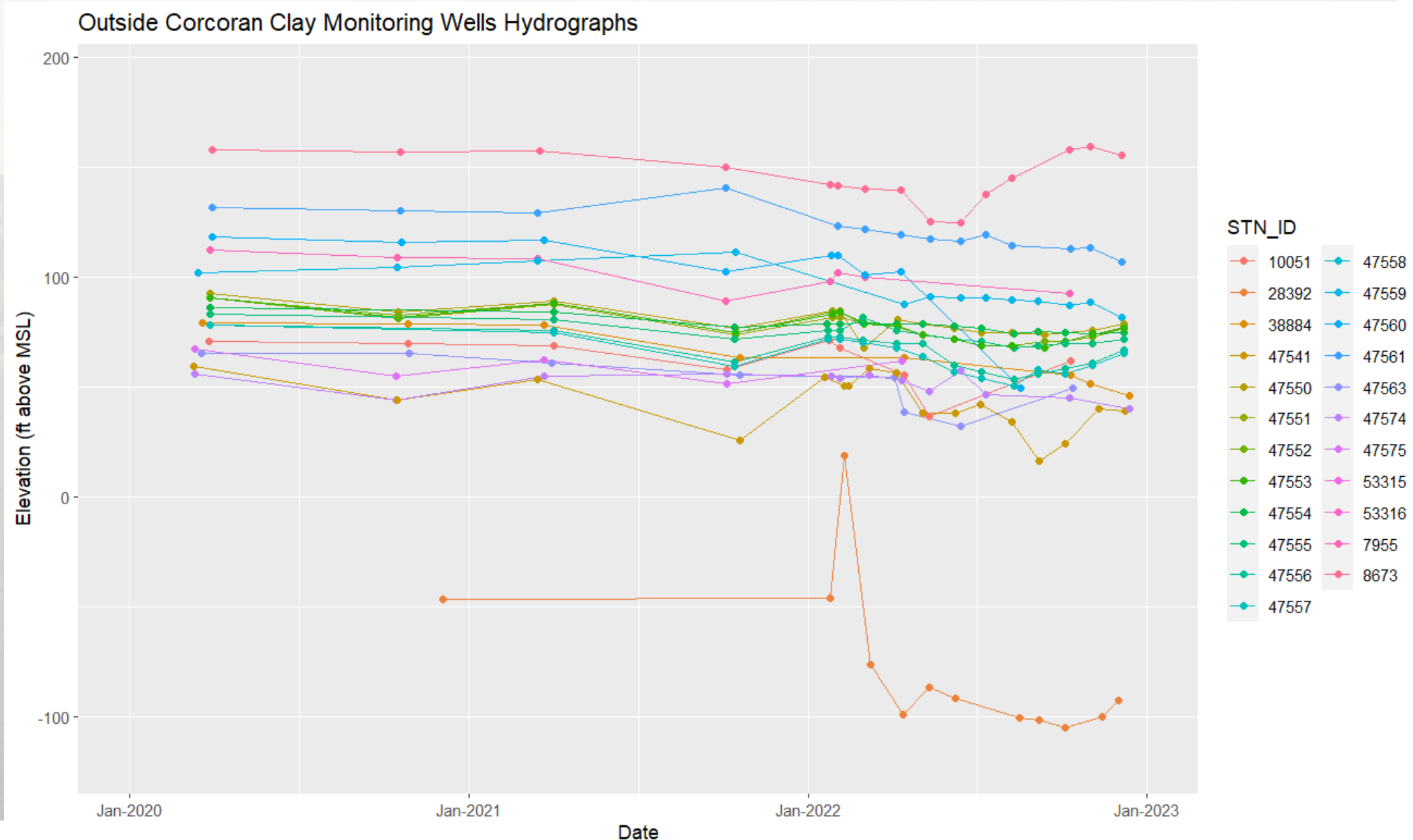
Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Current Basin Conditions

Outside Corcoran Clay Monitoring Wells Hydrographs

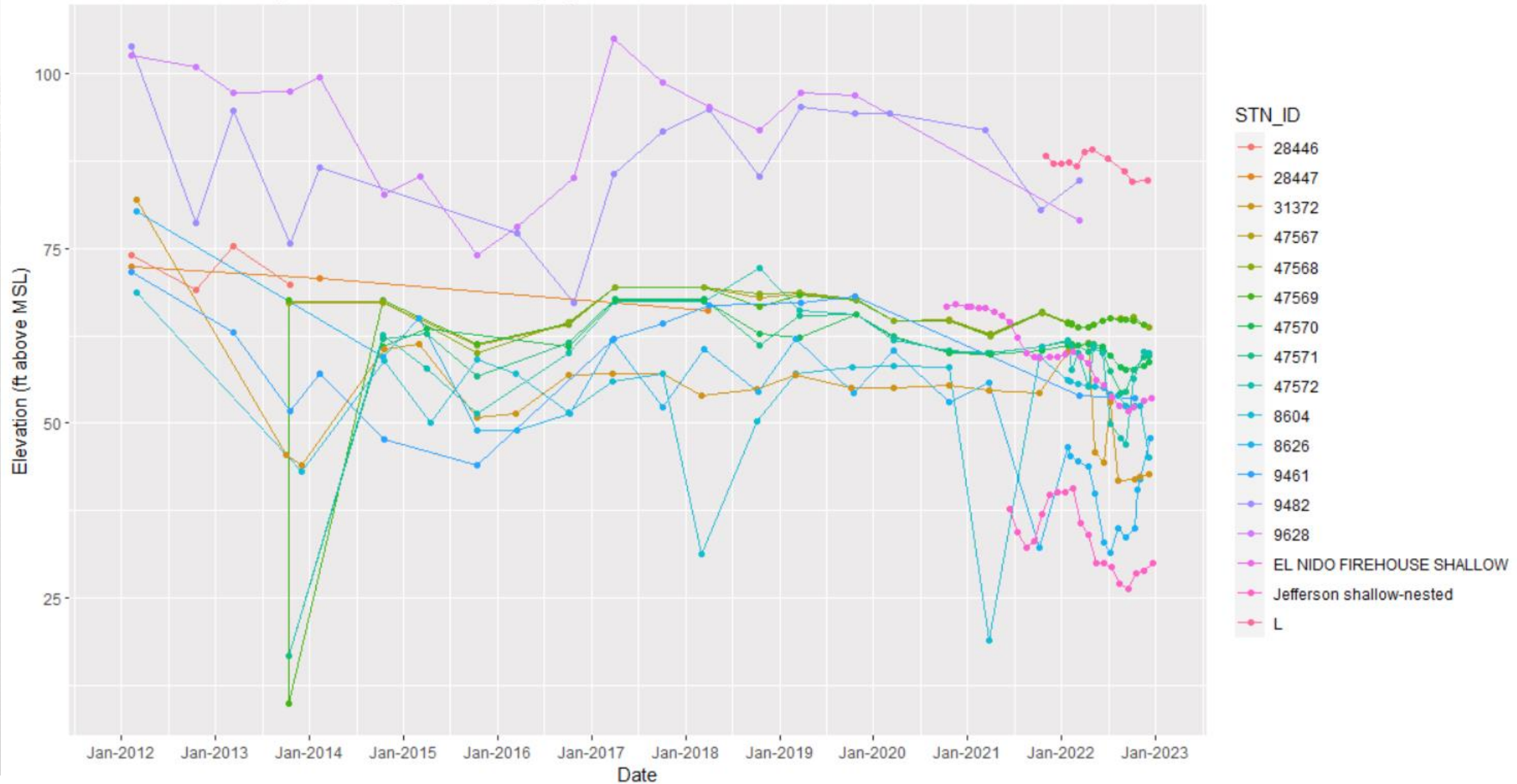


Current Basin Conditions

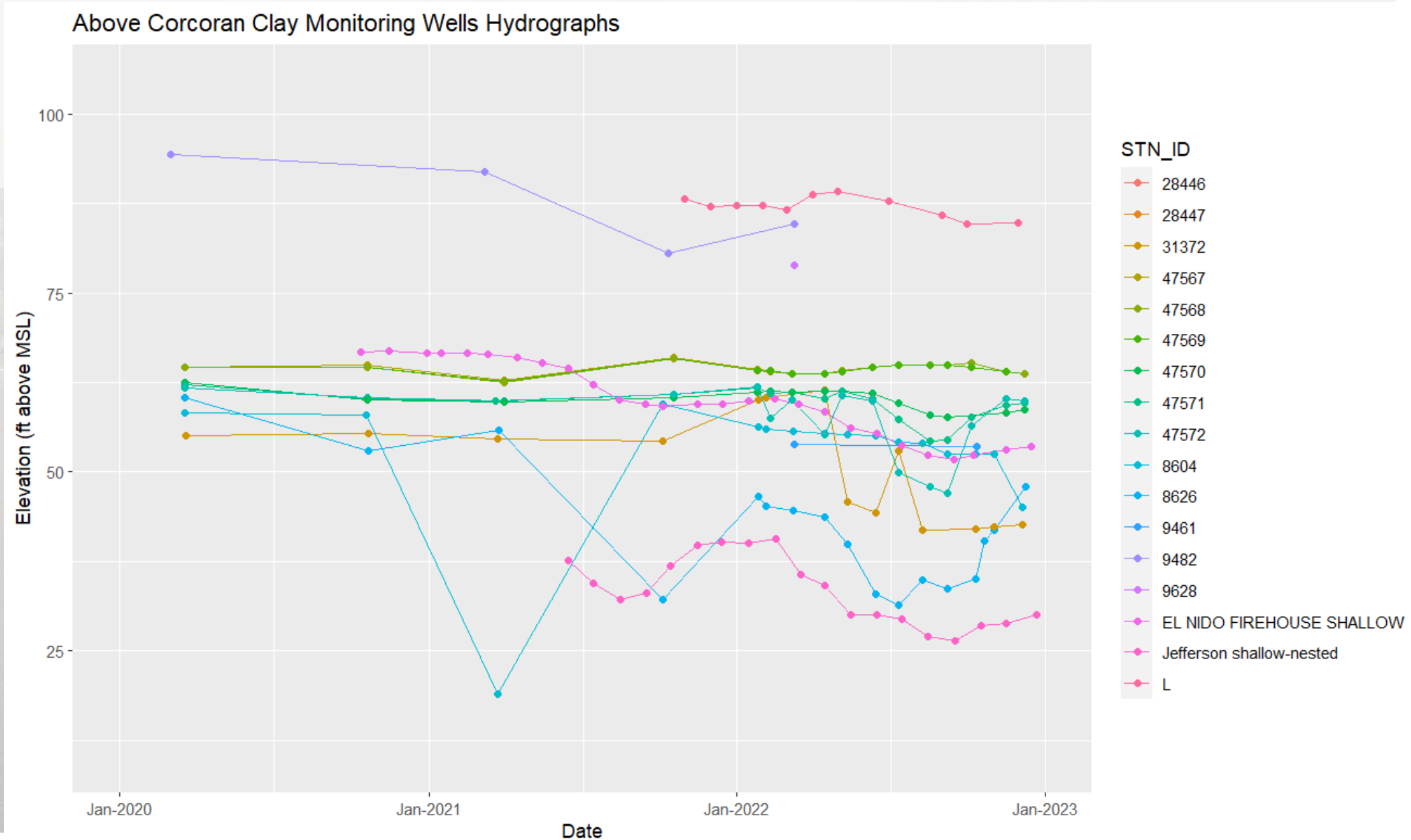


Current Basin Conditions

Above Corcoran Clay Monitoring Wells Hydrographs

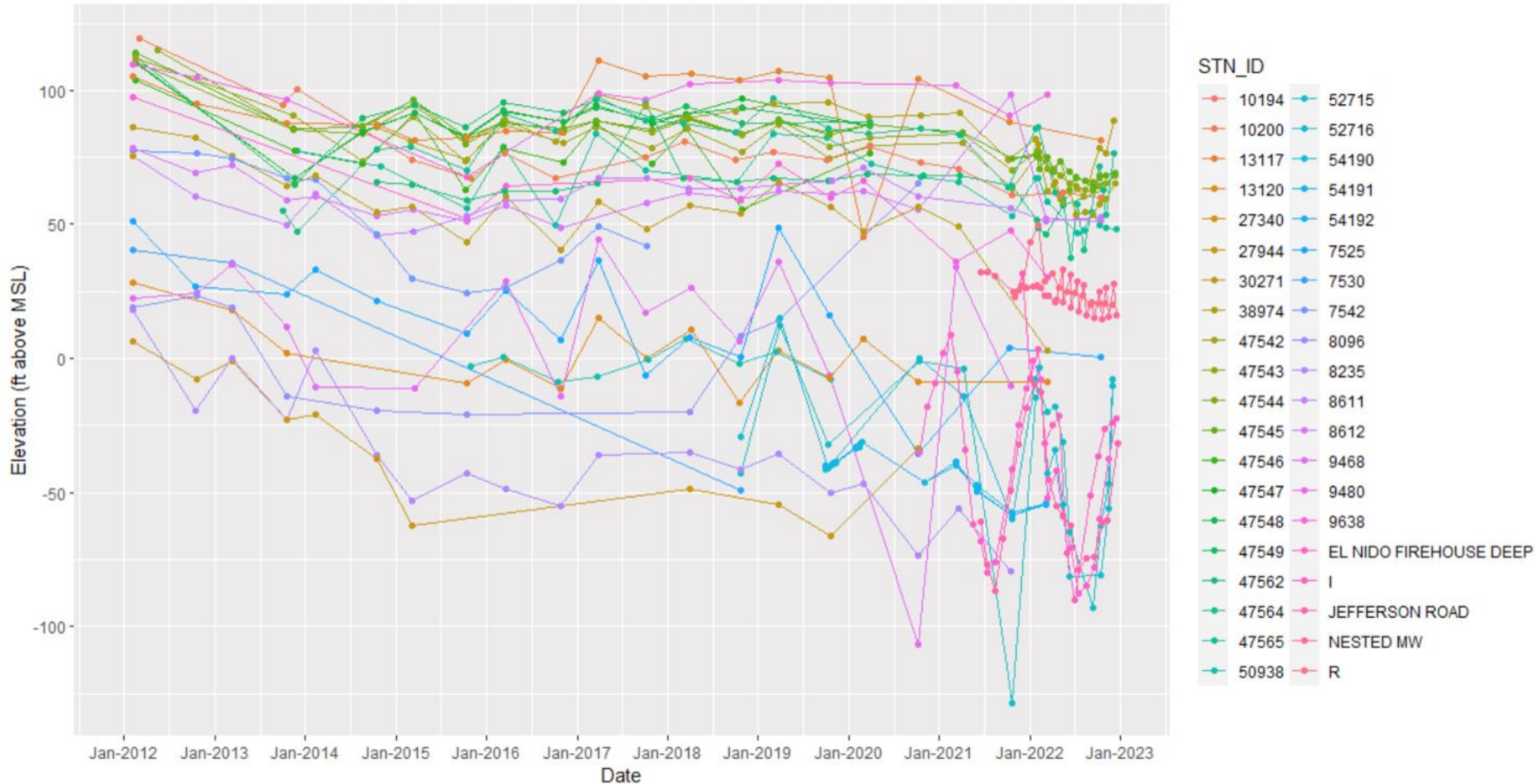


Current Basin Conditions



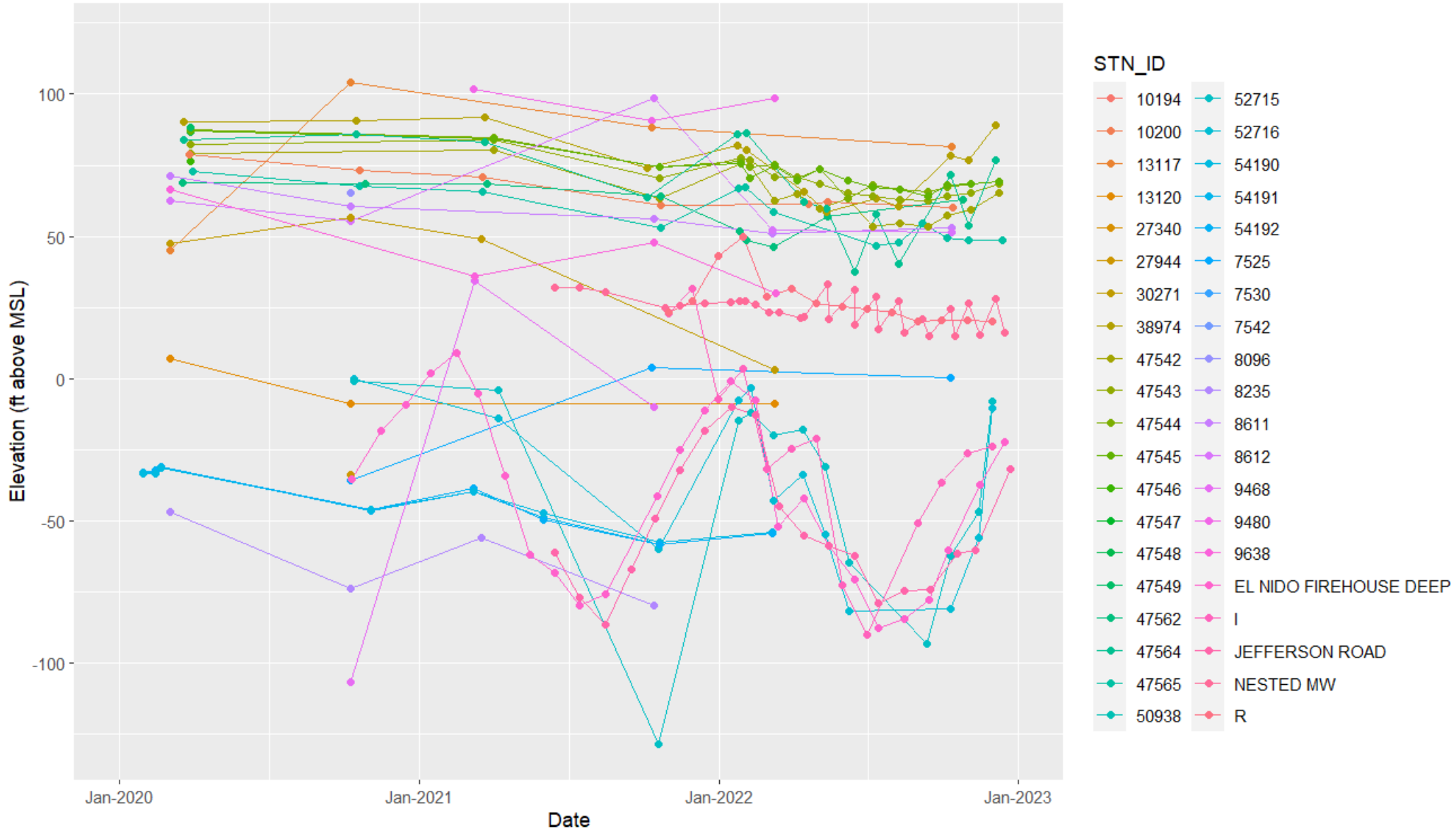
Current Basin Conditions

Below Corcoran Clay Monitoring Wells Hydrographs



Current Basin Conditions

Below Corcoran Clay Monitoring Wells Hydrographs





Water Year 2022 Annual Report Preview

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



The Water Year 2022 GSP Annual Report is being drafted

- SGMA requires annual reports on basin conditions and the status of plan implementation every April 1
- Completed independent of DWR's "incomplete" determination
- Have to report both on:
 - **Basin Conditions**
 - Model update
 - Pumping and surface water diversions
 - Levels, storage, quality, subsidence
 - **Implementation Status**
 - Projects & Management Actions
 - Grant funding
 - Other support activities

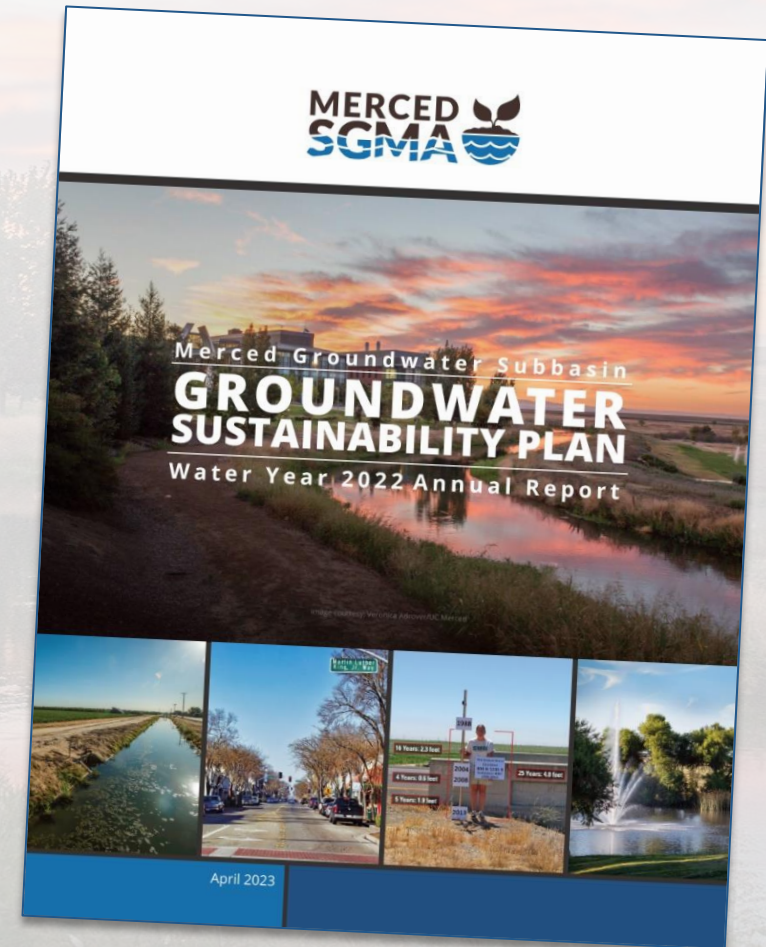








Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Sustainable Management Criteria Status

Sustainability Indicator	Minimum Threshold (MT)	Interim Milestone (MT)	Measurable Objective (MO)	Undesirable Result	WY 2022 Annual Report Status
 Groundwater Levels	Fall 2015 groundwater elevation	Based on range of projected values that account for hydrologic uncertainty	November or October 2011 groundwater elevation (measured, or estimation if historical record not available)	Greater than 25% of representative wells fall below MT in 2 consecutive years	16/20 wells fell below MT. 20 of 20 wells fell below MO. 1 well not measured.
 Groundwater Storage	Not applicable - not present and not likely to occur in the Subbasin due to the significant volumes of freshwater in storage				
 Seawater Intrusion	Not applicable - not present and not likely to occur due to the distance between the Subbasin and the Pacific Ocean (and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta)				
 Degraded Water Quality	1,000 mg/L TDS	1,000 mg/L TDS	500 mg/L TDS	At least 25% representative wells exceed MT for 2 consecutive years	No wells exceeded MT. 3 wells exceeded MO.
 Land Subsidence	0 ft/year, subject to uncertainty of +/-0.16 ft/year	2025: -0.75 ft/year 2030: -0.5 ft/year 2035: -0.25 ft/year	0 ft/year	Exceedance of MT at 3 or more representative sites for 2 consecutive years	December 2022 data not available yet.
 Depletions of Interconnected Surface Waters	Groundwater levels used as a proxy for this sustainability indicator				

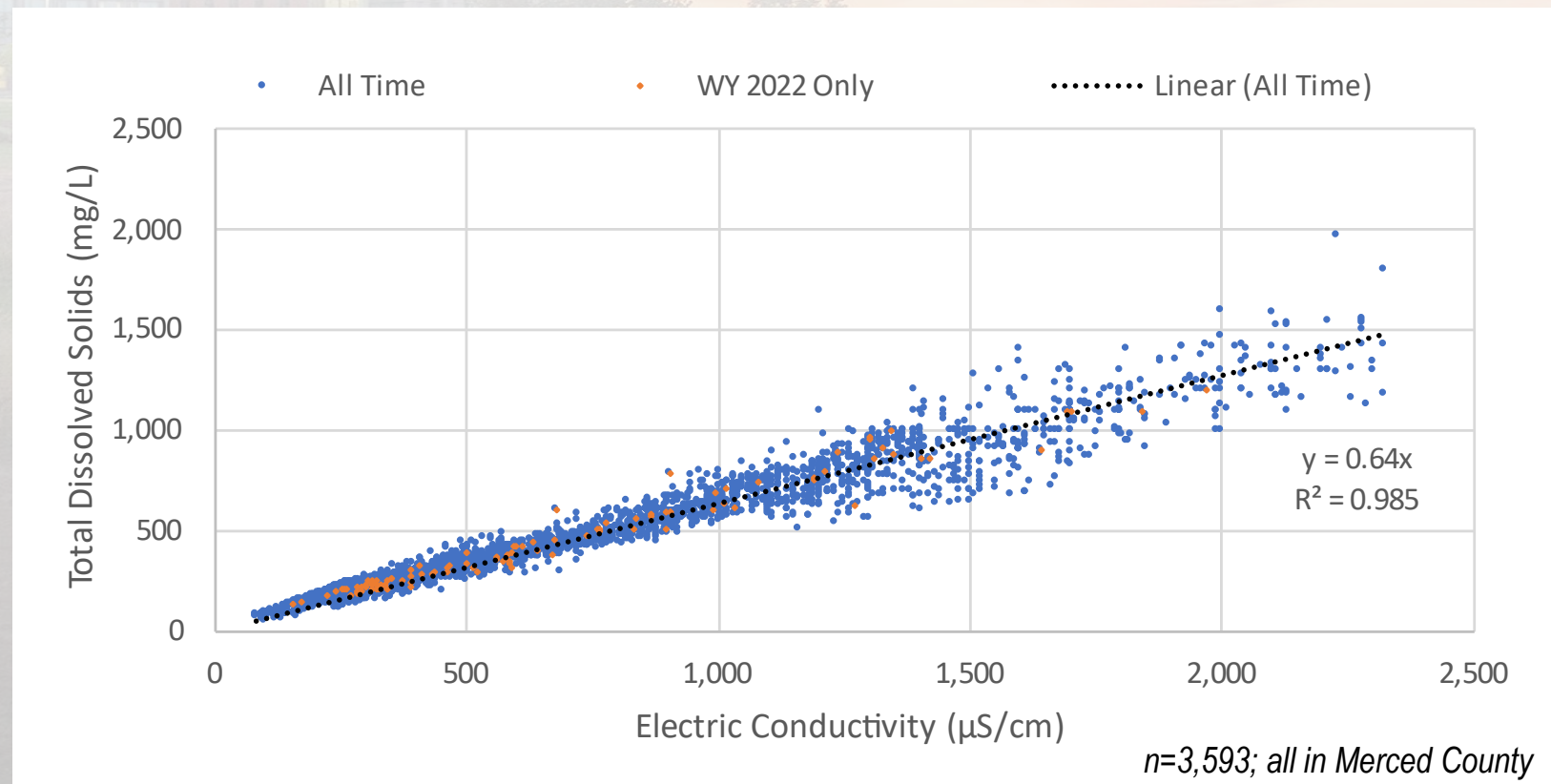
1st year (of 2) with new thresholds where >25% are below MT.
All but one well still above 2025 IM.

7 wells (out of 22 representative wells) sampled in WY 2022.

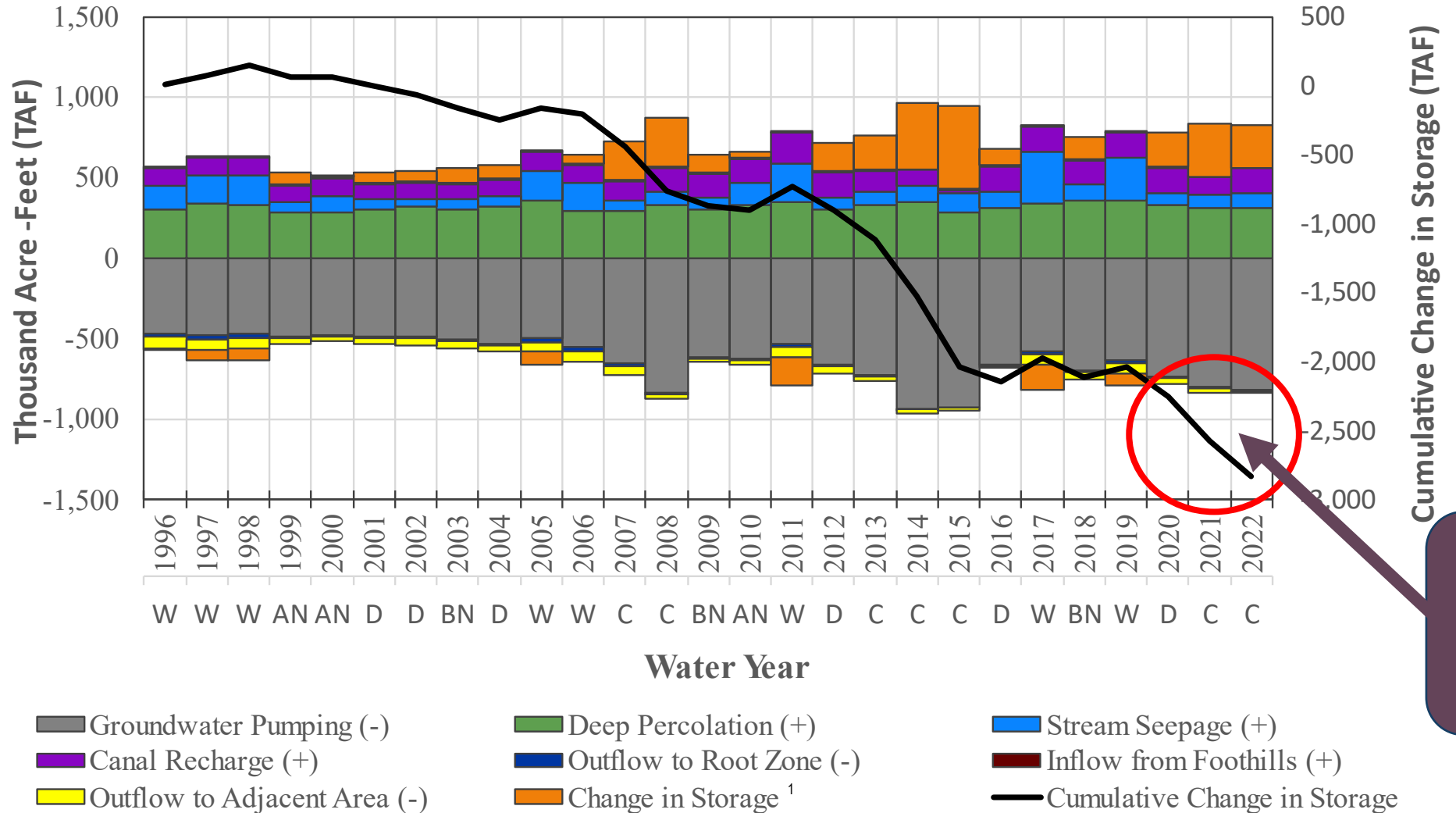
All likely to exceed MT, but be within 2025 IM.

Water Quality Update

- Correlation exists between Electrical Conductivity (EC) and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
- Conversion factor developed to estimate TDS based on EC using local data
- WY 2022 Annual Report describes that TDS estimated via EC will be used in GSP reports when TDS is not available



Change in Storage



Third year of storage decrease



Demand Reduction Discussion

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

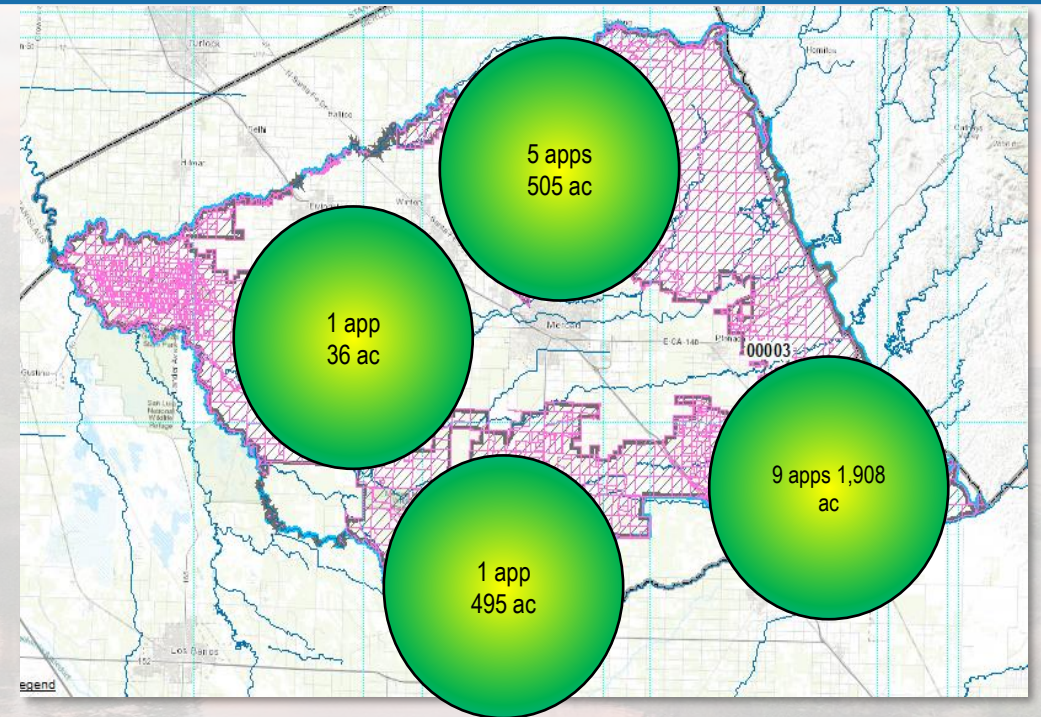
MSGSA Two Phased GSP Implementation Approach Update

- Phase 1 – 2021-2025
 - Land Repurposing Program
 - Increased surface water usage
 - Parcel Based Water Budgets
- Phase 2 – 2026 and beyond
 - Groundwater Allocation Program

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Phase 1 – Land Repurposing Program

- MSGSA Land Repurposing
 - Program developed in 2022
 - First round applications selected and contracts in process of execution
 - 16 applications selected
 - Range of 3-5 year projects
 - Cumulative water saved: 7,263 AFY
 - Total annual cost: \$1,438,002
 - Avg. cost of savings: \$198/AFY



Summary of accepted LRP applications, by area within MSGSA

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Phase 1 – Other items

- Additional Surface Water Usage
 - MSGSA Water Year 2023 Recharge Framework and Registration Form
 - Available at www.mercedsubbasingsa.org
- Parcel Based Water Budgets
 - EDF/Water Data Consortium Water Accounting Platform Pilot Project

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Phase 2 – Groundwater Allocation Program

- Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee created to make recommendations to the Board
- Recommendations communicated at the monthly GSA meetings to the Board and public
 - Written recommendations posted on the GSA website (www.MercedSubbasinGSA.org)
- Public outreach
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Public workshops
 - Feedback can be in person in meetings or communicated via email at contact@mercedsubbasingsa.org

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

TIWD GSA-1

TIWD GSA-1 is utilizing the following strategies for demand reduction...

- Shifting cropping patterns for about 20% of the district acreage from summer to winter crops (tomatoes and cotton to onions and garlic, for instance)
- More efficient utilization of storage and pump infrastructure to minimize system losses of applied water
- Design of and planning for upgraded and new infrastructure to curtail applied water needs

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Grant Updates

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Prop 68 Planning Grant (May 2020 – Mar 2023)

Merced Subbasin GSP Development Project for Addressing Critical Data Gaps

- New well being installed...Matt to provide info

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Prop 68 Implementation Grant (Aug 2021 – Apr 2024)

- El Nido Conveyance System Improvements Project
- LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie and Recharge Project (Phase 1)

- Matt to provide

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Prop 68 Implementation Planning & Projects Grant Round 1 (Jun 2022 – Jun 2025)

- Matt to provide status update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Prop 68 Implementation Planning & Projects Grant Round 2

- Application submitted December 2022 for \$18.4M across 7 projects
- Draft award list expected June 2023

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA Pilot, Small-Scale Recharge Projects	\$1,850,000 requested; involves investigating, designing, and implementing four types of small-scale recharge projects in collaboration with private landowners. The tasks involve environmental and permitting, siting and design, construction of pilot projects, developing a monitoring plan, and outreach and engagement.
Lone Tree Mutual Water Company Storage and Recharge Reservoir	\$5,308,500 requested; will construct a regulating reservoir and recharge spreading ground. Tasks include environmental compliance, contract services, site preparation and construction of the reservoir and recharge grounds, monitoring, and public outreach.
Merced Subbasin GSA Water Platform Development	\$340,000 requested; will consist of designing a platform and water accounting system including incorporating evapotranspiration data and creating a portal for landowner use. The platform will be enhanced based on user feedback.
Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA Well Registration and Extraction Measurement Program	\$5,134,000 requested; will consist of environmental compliance and design, bidding, and construction of up to 400 flow meters and up to 400 telemetry units throughout MIUGSA. A Well Registration Portal will be developed. The Component also includes stakeholder outreach for landowners interested in installing flow meters and monitoring to identify areas of improvement.
La Paloma Mutual Water Company G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement, and Floodplain Expansion – Phase II (Construction)	\$2,610,000 requested; involves constructing groundwater recharge ponds on the G Ranch property. Tasks involve contract services, construction administration, construction, monitoring, and outreach. Construction will be based on design and environmental compliance previously completed.
La Paloma Mutual Water Company Bear Creek Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement, and Floodplain Expansion – Phase I (Planning)	\$750,000 requested; involves planning for the groundwater recharge ponds on Bear Creek Ranch. Tasks include obtaining long-term access agreements, preparing CEQA documentation, acquiring permits, preparing complete design and specifications, monitoring groundwater levels, and conducting public outreach meetings.
Lone Tree Mutual Water Company and Sandy Mush Mutual Water Company Shallow Well Investigation and Construction in the Subsidence Area	\$2,195,000 requested; involves conducting a geotechnical investigation to determine the best locations to drill shallow monitoring and production wells, followed by obtaining access agreements and preparing environmental compliance and permitting documentation. Well drilling tasks include contract services, construction administration, and implementation. Component 8 also includes developing a monitoring plan and outreach.

SDAC Grant

- Matt to provide update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Next Steps

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



What's coming up next?

- Adjourn to next meeting: expected May 2023

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced