Groundwater Condition

REPORT | SANTA CLARA COUNTY

January 2026

SUMMARY

This report summarizes December 2025 groundwater storage, recharge, pumping, and level conditions for the Santa Clara Subbasin (the Santa Clara Plain and Coyote Valley groundwater management areas) and the Llagas Subbasin.

Groundwater conditions remain healthy throughout the county. Groundwater levels in most of the regional monitoring wells are higher than last month. While most of the water levels are lower relative to December 2024, all except one are the same as, or higher than, the prior five-year average for December. The end of 2025 groundwater storage is estimated to be in Stage 1 (Normal) of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

- December 2025 managed recharge is 108% to 126% of the five-year average.
- November 2025 pumping is 103% to 111% of the five-year average.
- Groundwater levels in index wells for December 2025 range from 11 feet lower to 1 foot higher compared to December levels of 2024.

Table 1. Summary of Current Groundwater Conditions

	Santa Clara Subbasin		Llagas Subbasin
	Santa Clara Plain	Coyote Valley	
December 2025 managed recharge estimate	5,100	1,500	2,000
YTD managed recharge estimate	63,600	18,900	23,300
YTD managed recharge as % of five-year average	108%	126%	113%
November 2025 pumping estimate	6,400	1,100	3,400
YTD pumping estimate	67,000	13,300	40,400
YTD pumping as % of five-year average	103%	111%	104%
Current index well groundwater levels compared to December 2024	6 feet lower	1 foot higher	11 feet lower

All volumes are in acre-feet. All data is for 2025 except where noted. YTD = Year-to-date.

Contact Us For questions, contact **Scott Elkins** at **(408) 630-2885**

Valley Water
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Groundwater Recharge

- Figures 1, 2, and 3 show the cumulative managed recharge for 2025 compared to the average of the previous five years (2020 – 2024).
- Compared to the average of the previous five years, managed recharge for December 2025 was higher in the Santa Clara Plain, Coyote Valley, and the Llagas Subbasin.
- Managed recharge depends on many factors, including water demand and availability, regulatory needs, groundwater storage, and facility maintenance.

Figure 1. Estimated Cumulative Managed Recharge in the Santa Clara Plain

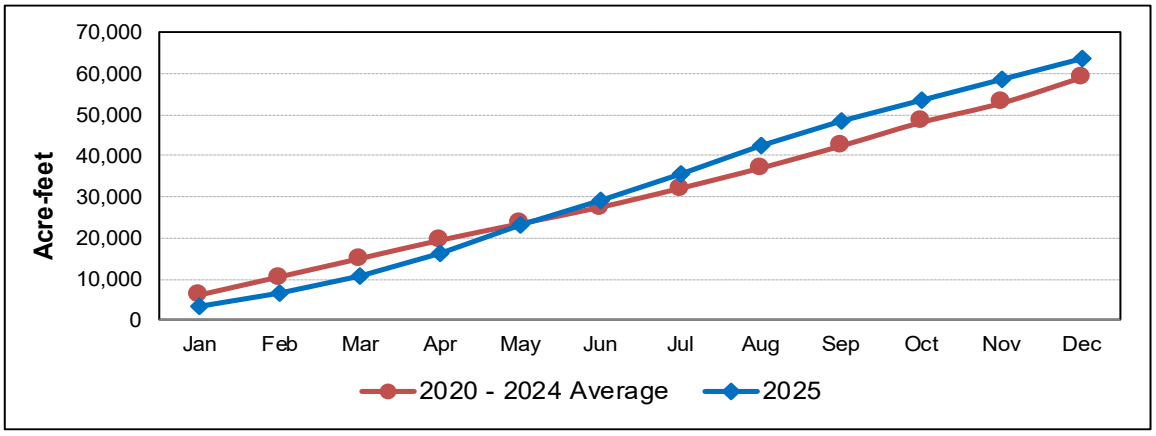


Figure 2. Estimated Cumulative Managed Recharge in the Coyote Valley

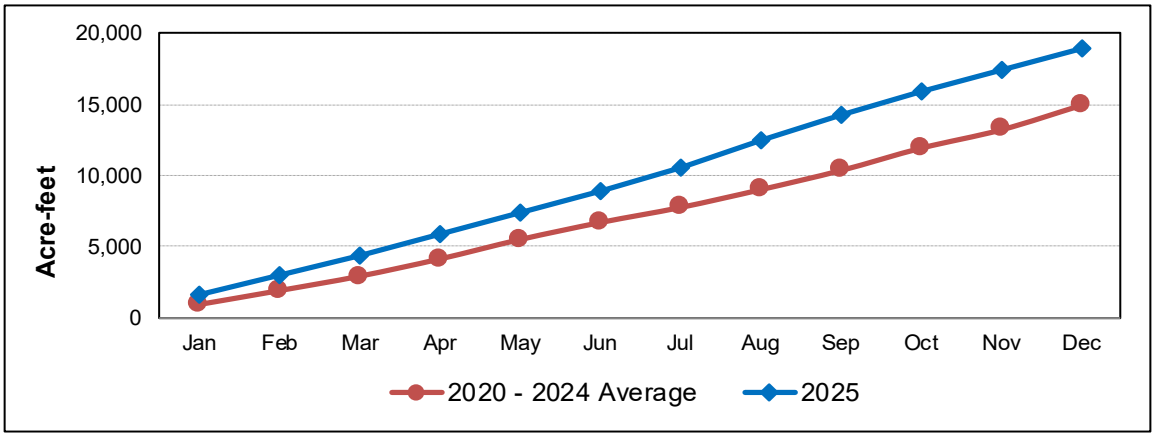
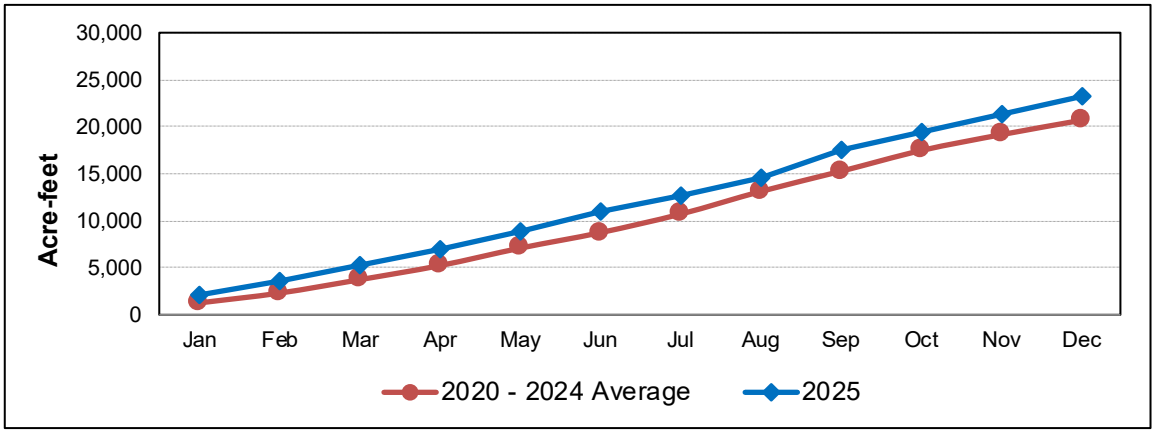


Figure 3. Estimated Cumulative Managed Recharge in the Llagas Subbasin



Groundwater Pumping

- Figures 4, 5, and 6 show the cumulative groundwater pumping for 2025 compared to the average of the previous five years (2020 – 2024).
- Pumping estimates for November 2025 include monthly pumping data reported by water retailers and non-monthly pumping, primarily from domestic and agricultural uses.
- Compared to the average of the previous five years, pumping for November 2025 was higher in Coyote Valley, and slightly higher in the Santa Clara Plain and Llagas Subbasin.

Figure 4. Estimated Cumulative Santa Clara Plain Pumping

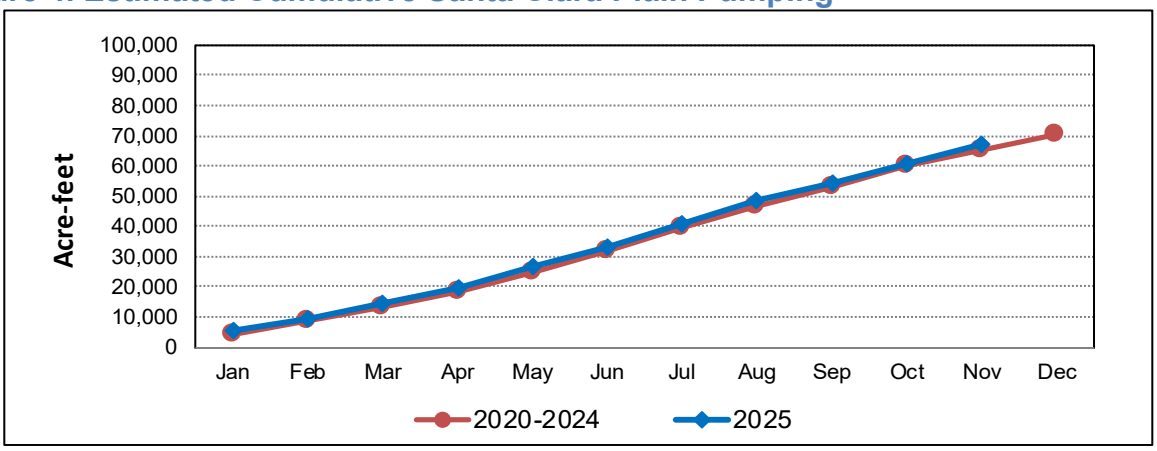


Figure 5. Estimated Cumulative Coyote Valley Pumping

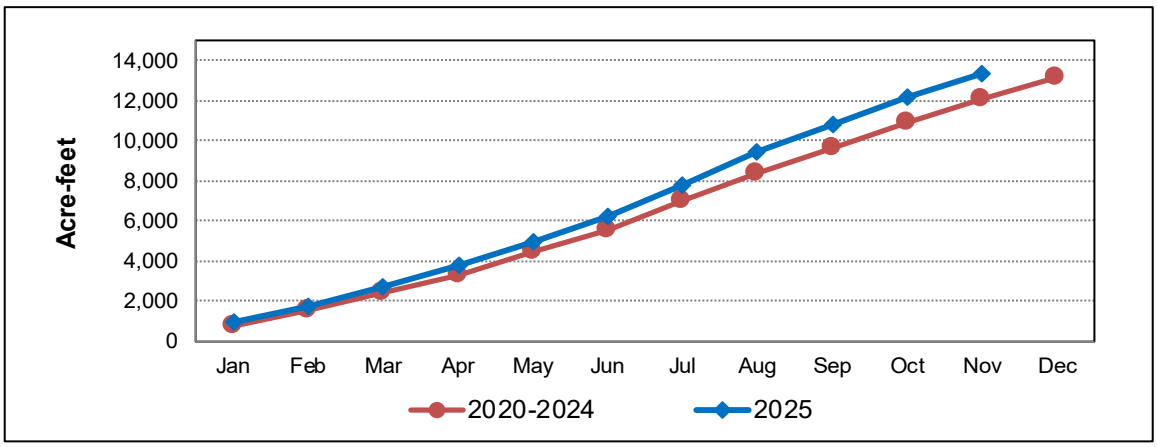
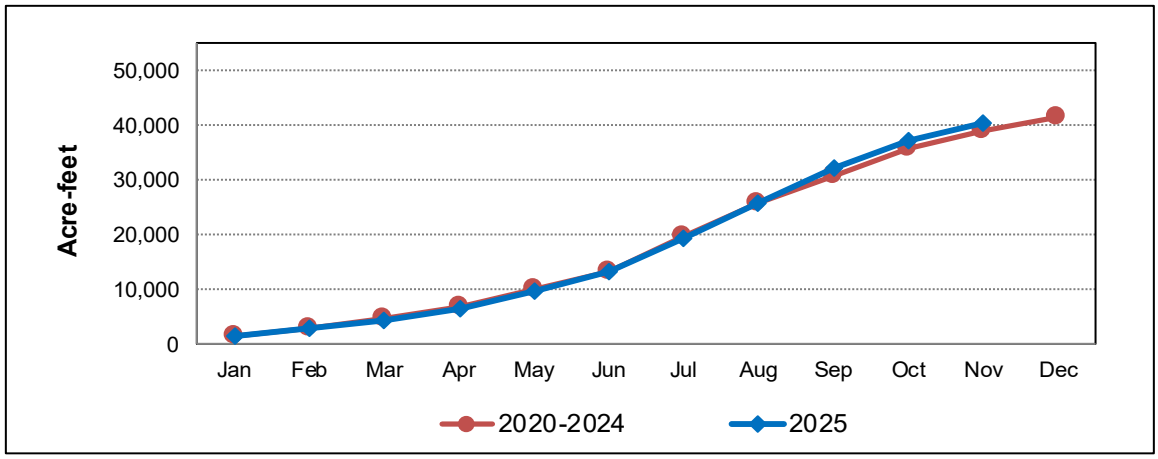


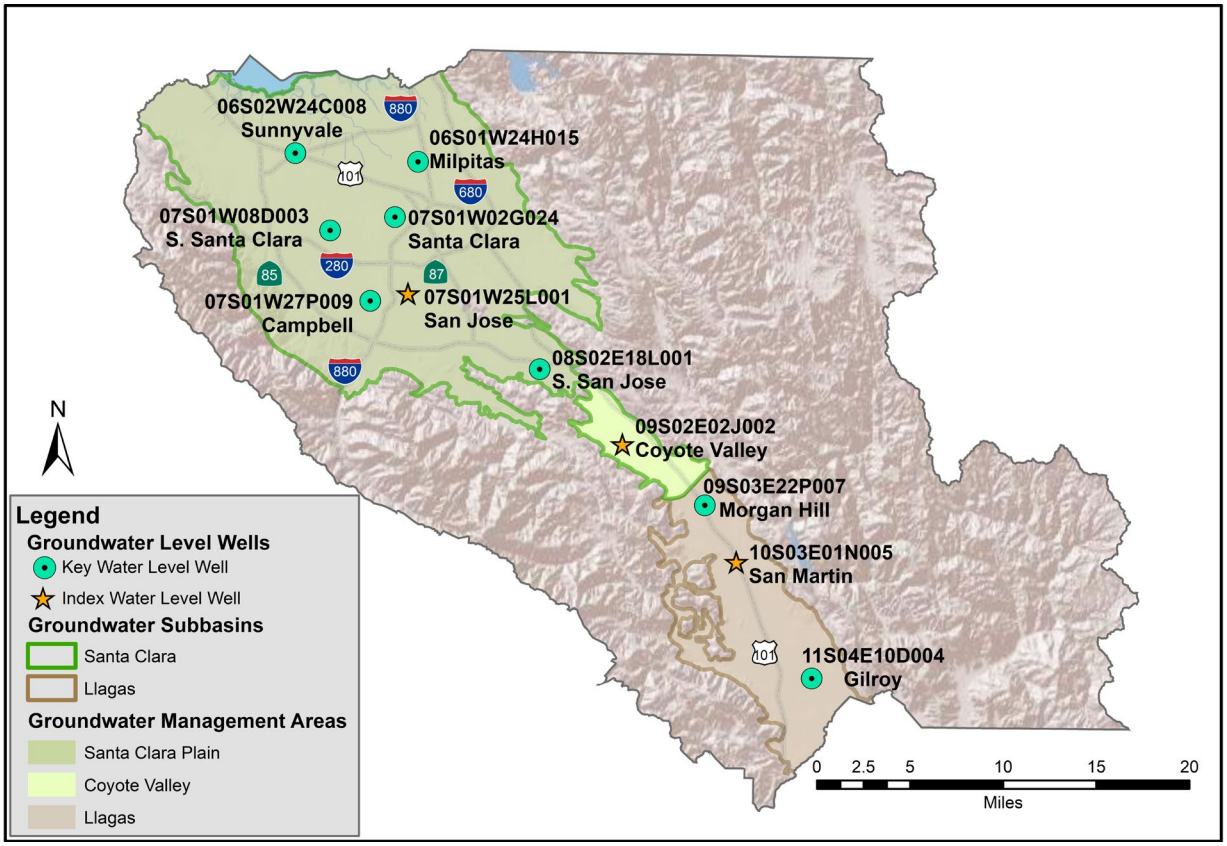
Figure 6. Estimated Cumulative Llagas Subbasin Pumping



Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels in most regional monitoring wells[1] have increased since last month. While most regional groundwater levels are lower compared to December 2024, most are above the prior five-year average for December. Table 2 summarizes current groundwater levels with historical comparisons for 11 regional monitoring wells that are distributed across the three management areas, as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Locations of Regional Water Level Monitoring Wells



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[1] **Note:** While this report summarizes water levels from the 11 combined key and index wells of the regional network (Figure 7), Valley Water monitors groundwater levels from over 230 wells each month and these levels are publicly available at https://gis.valleywater.org/Wells.html.

Table 2. Comparisons to December 2025 Depth to Water (DTW) in Regional Wells

Location	State Well ID	December 2025 DTW (feet)	Difference in December 2025 DTW (feet) Compared to:			
			November 2025	December 2024	Prior 5-year Average for December	Maximum DTW during 2012–2016 drought
Milpitas	06S01W24H015	-18 (artesian)	-1	-7	0	39
Sunnyvale	06S02W24C008	-38 (artesian)	-2	-3	5	17
San Jose	07S01W25L001	83	1	-6	3	54
Santa Clara	07S01W02G024	17	8	-8	4	74
S. Santa Clara	07S01W08D003	79	1	-13	-4	66
Campbell	07S01W27P009	121	1	-5	3	76
S. San Jose	08S02E18L001	23	1	3	7	47
Coyote Valley	09S02E02J002	23	1	1	0	15
Morgan Hill	09S03E22P007	53	4	-5	0	43
San Martin	10S03E01N005	44	3	-11	7	37
Gilroy	11S04E10D004	15	2	-2	6	48

Notes: Depth to water is measured to the hundredth of a foot but data shown here are rounded to the nearest foot. Negative values in the last 4 columns indicate current groundwater levels are lower than the comparison time. Well 09S03E22P005 was replaced with well 09S03E22P007; water level data from well 09S03E22P005 were used for historical comparison calculations. The (artesian) indicates aquifer pressure conditions that push water level elevations higher than land surface. The maximum DTW during the 2012–2016 drought occurred between July 2014 and December 2015, depending on the well, and reflect some of the lowest water levels over the past 25 years.

Figures 8 through 18 show ten-year hydrographs for each of the eleven regional monitoring wells.

Figure 8. Milpitas Well Hydrograph

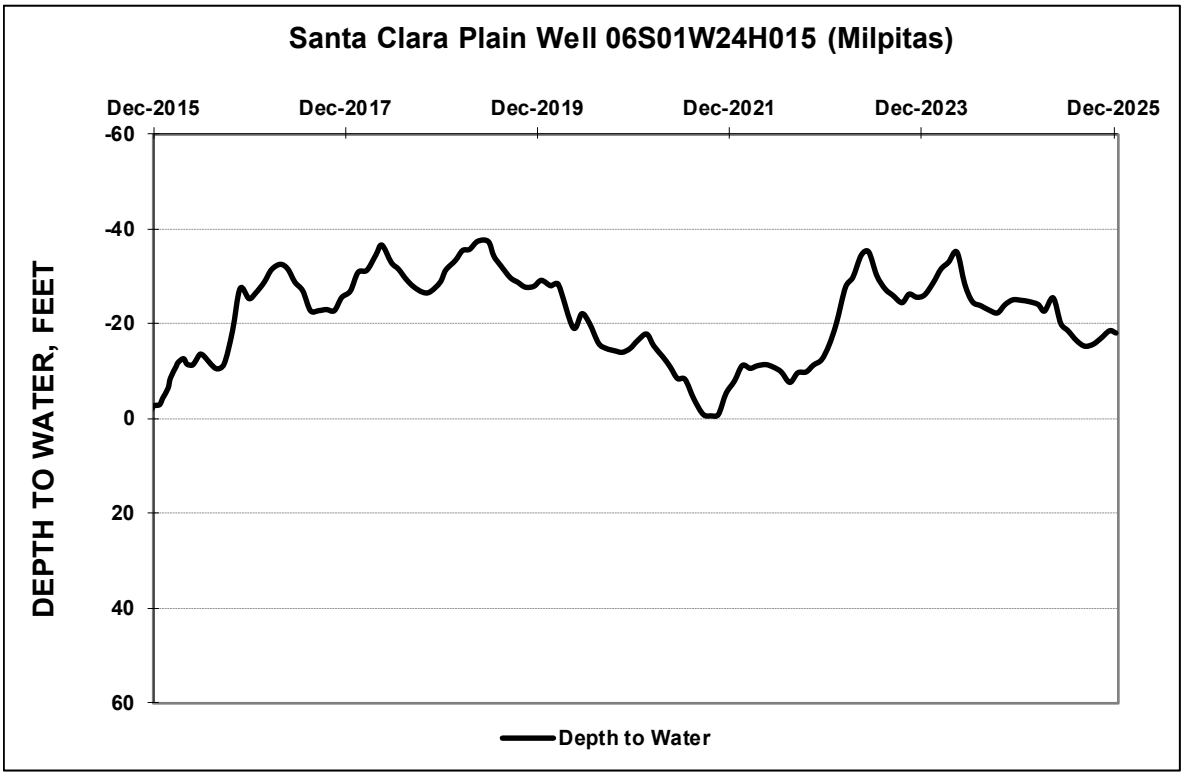


Figure 9. Sunnyvale Well Hydrograph

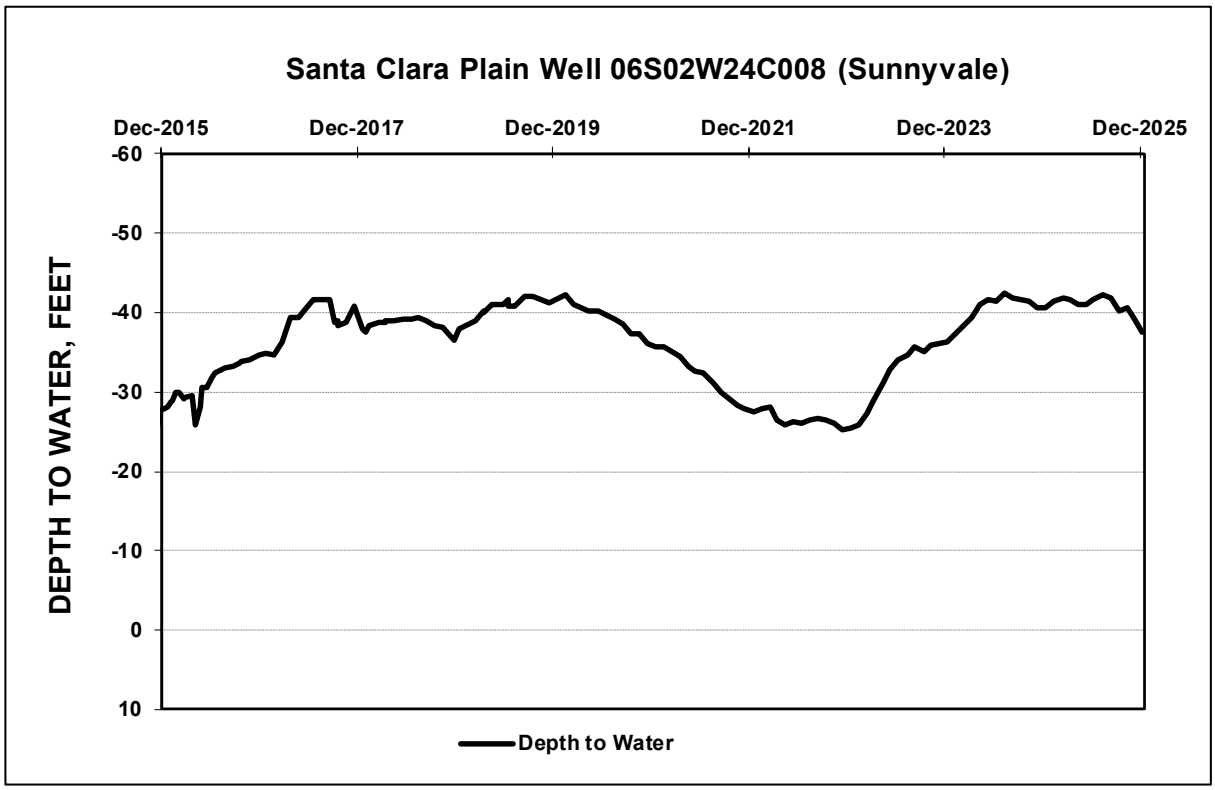


Figure 10. San Jose Well Hydrograph (Index Well for the Santa Clara Plain)

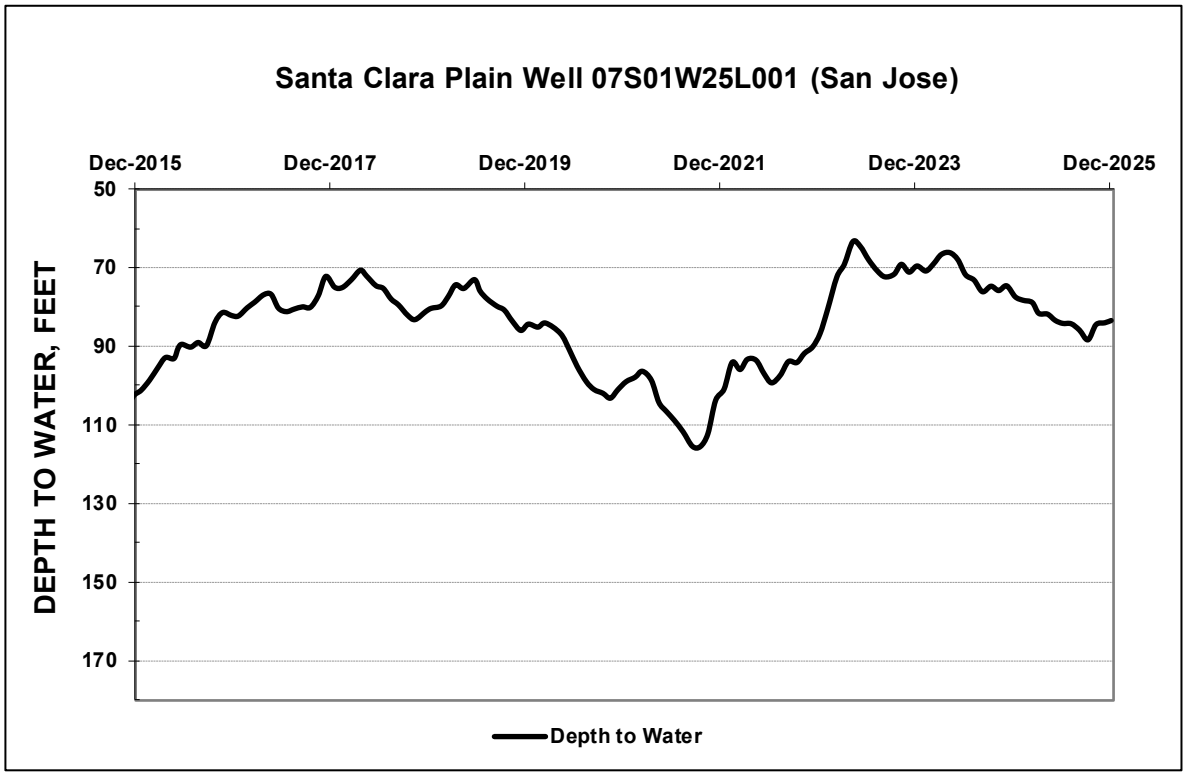


Figure 11. Santa Clara Well Hydrograph

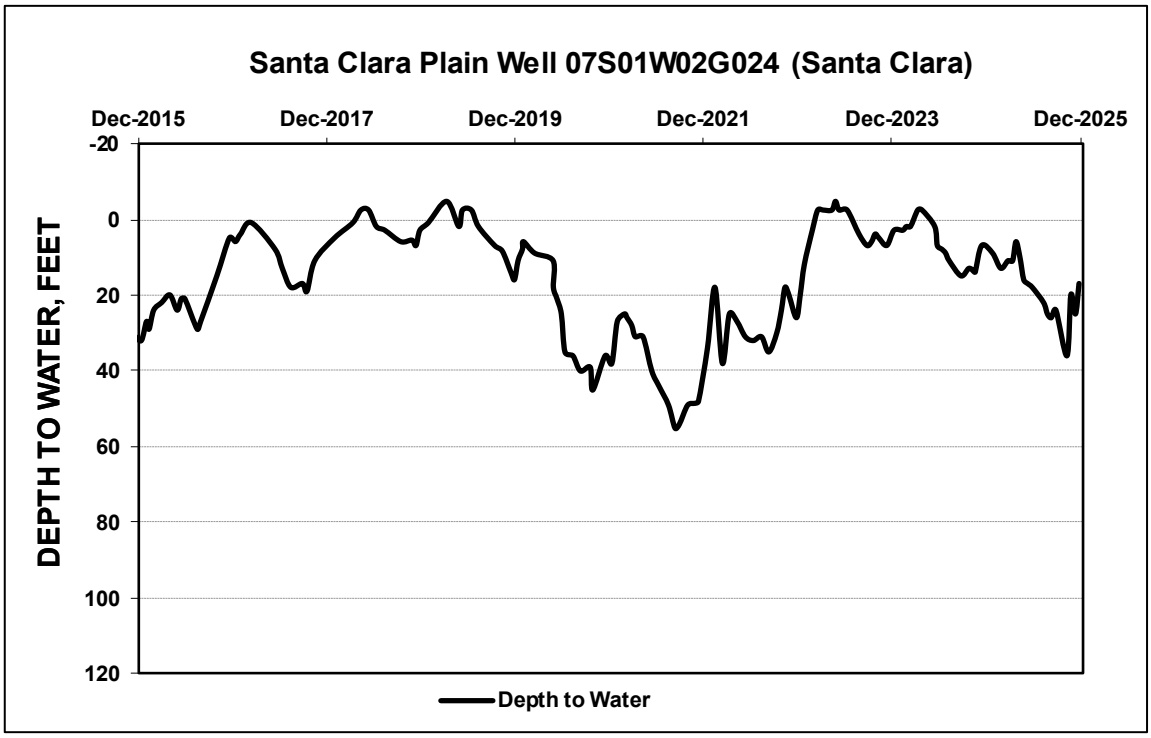


Figure 12. South Santa Clara Well Hydrograph

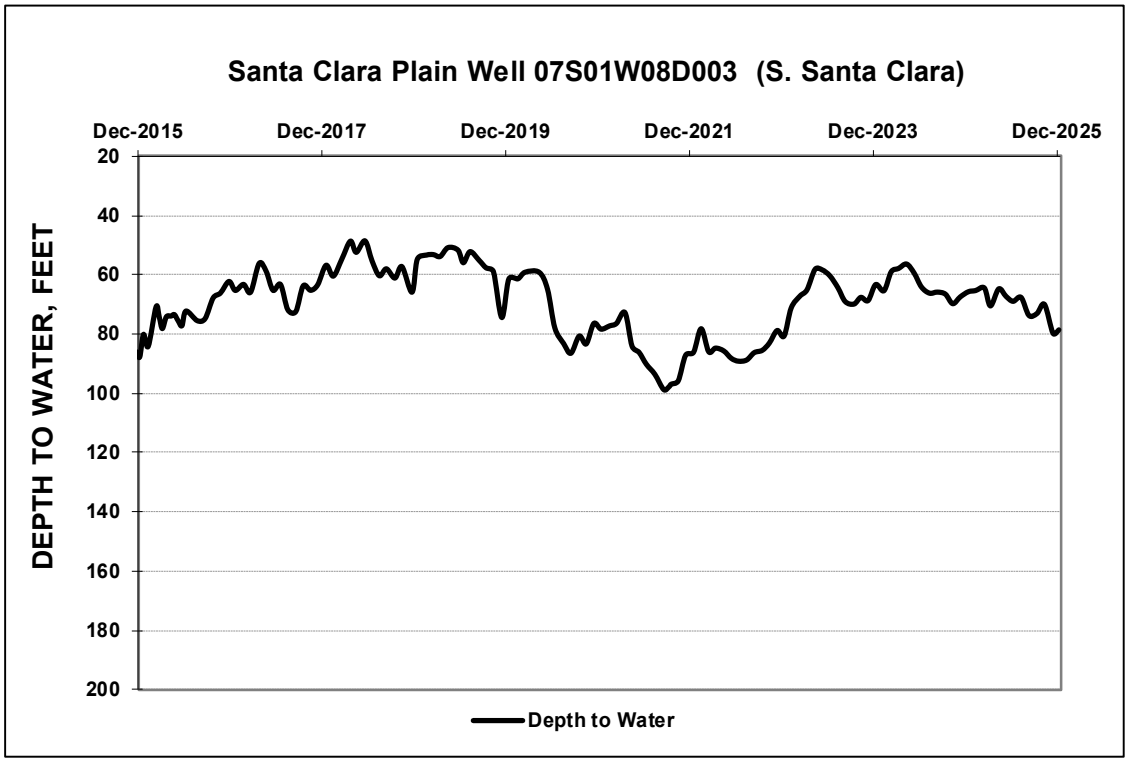
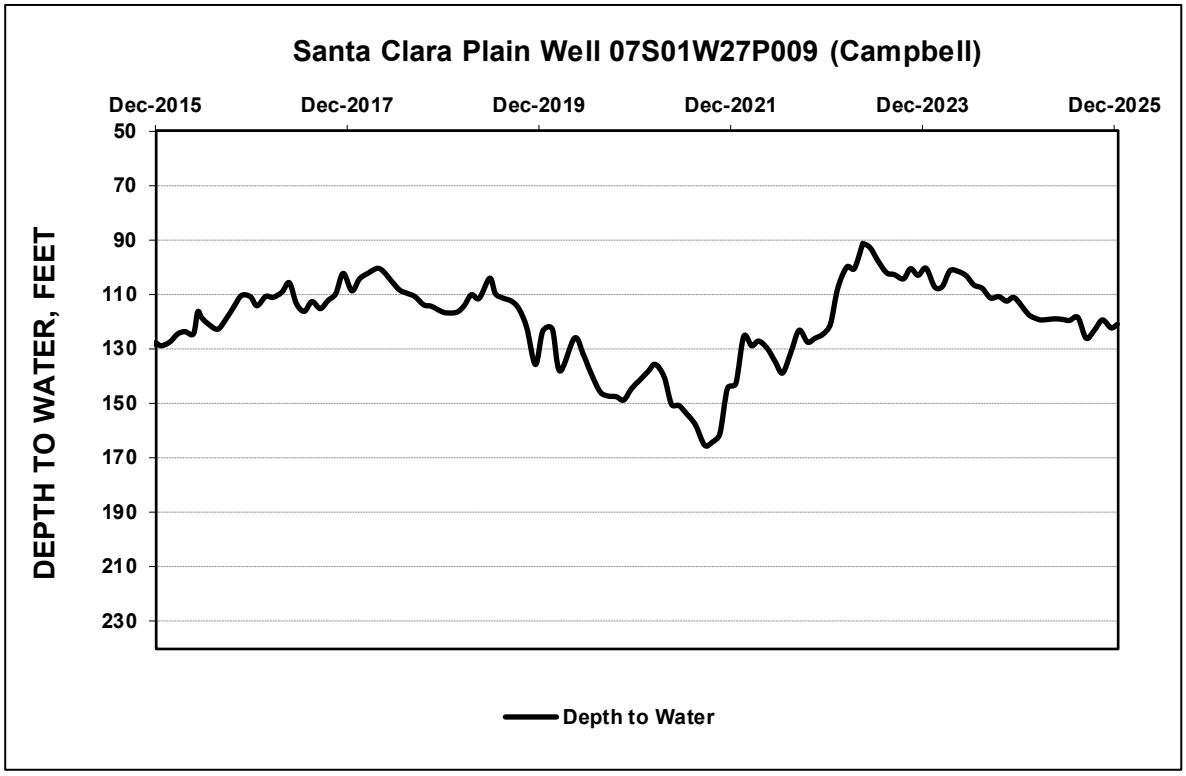


Figure 13. Campbell Well Hydrograph



The Campbell index well was replaced in August 2015 with a nearby well with similar water levels.

Figure 14. South San Jose Well Hydrograph

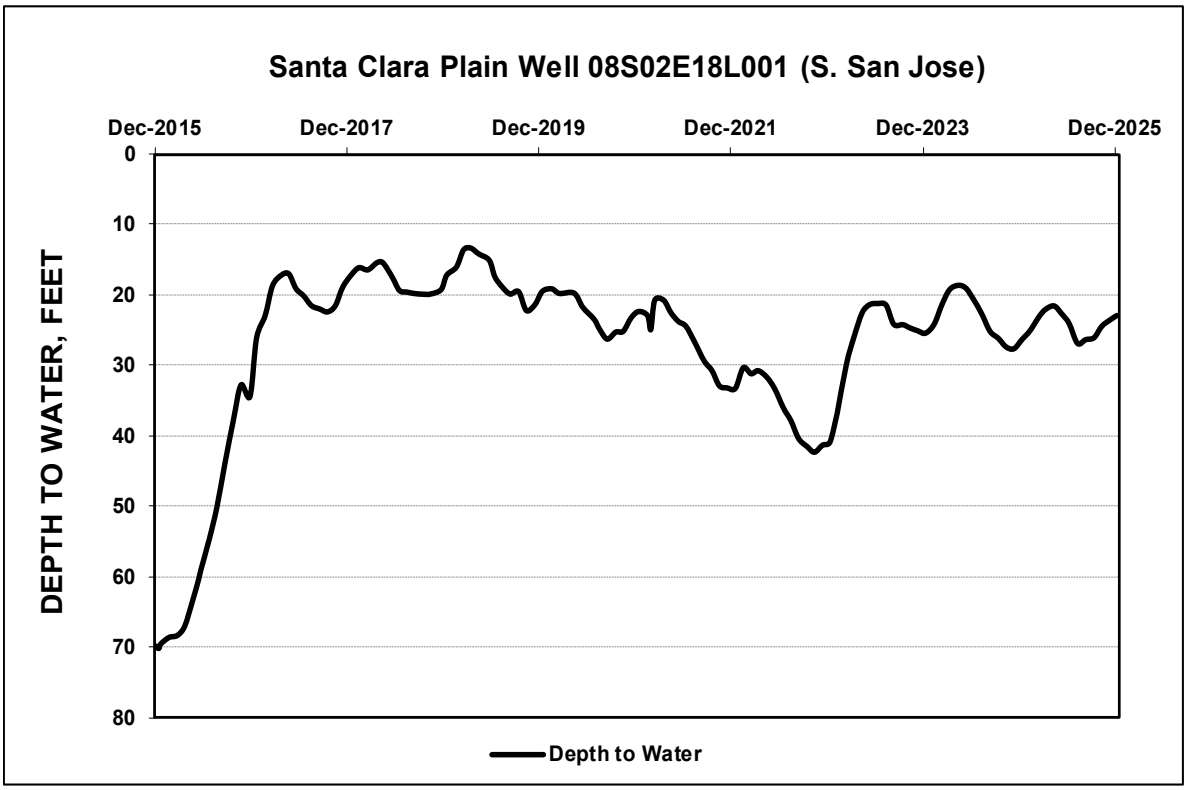


Figure 15. Coyote Valley Well Hydrograph (Index Well for the Coyote Valley)

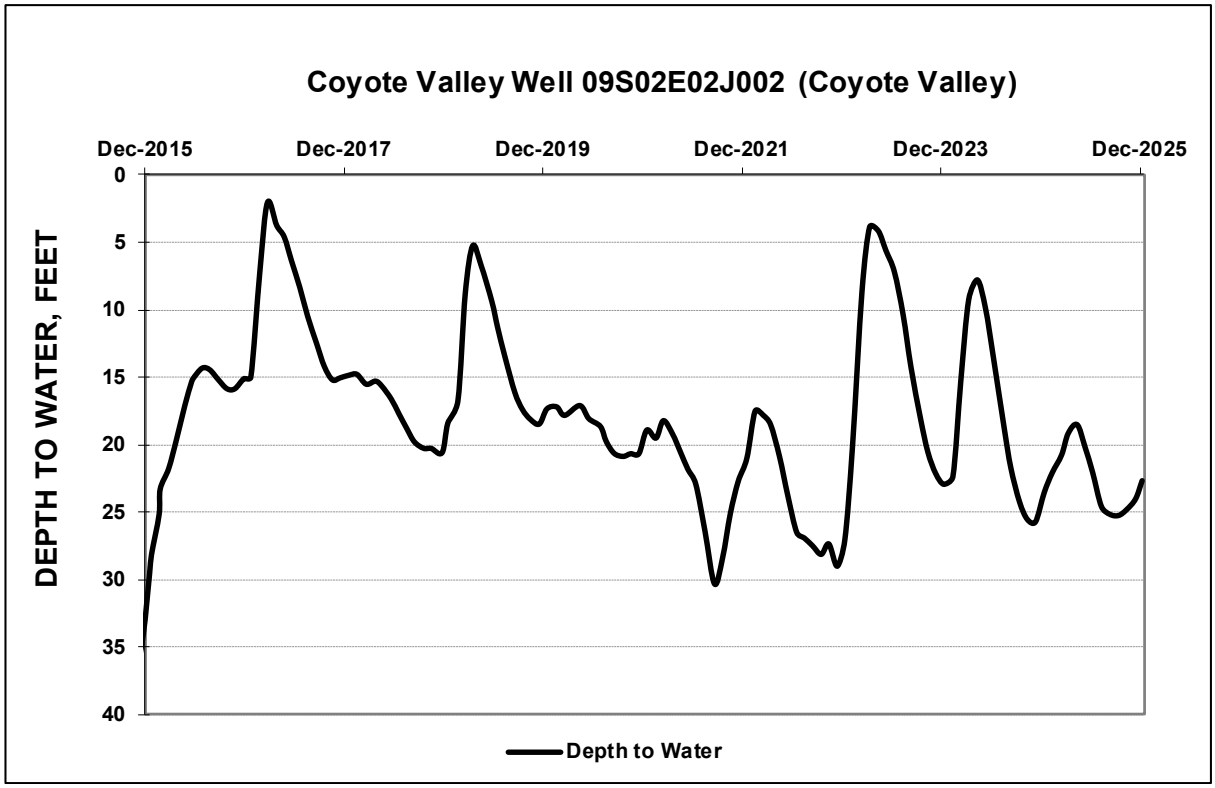
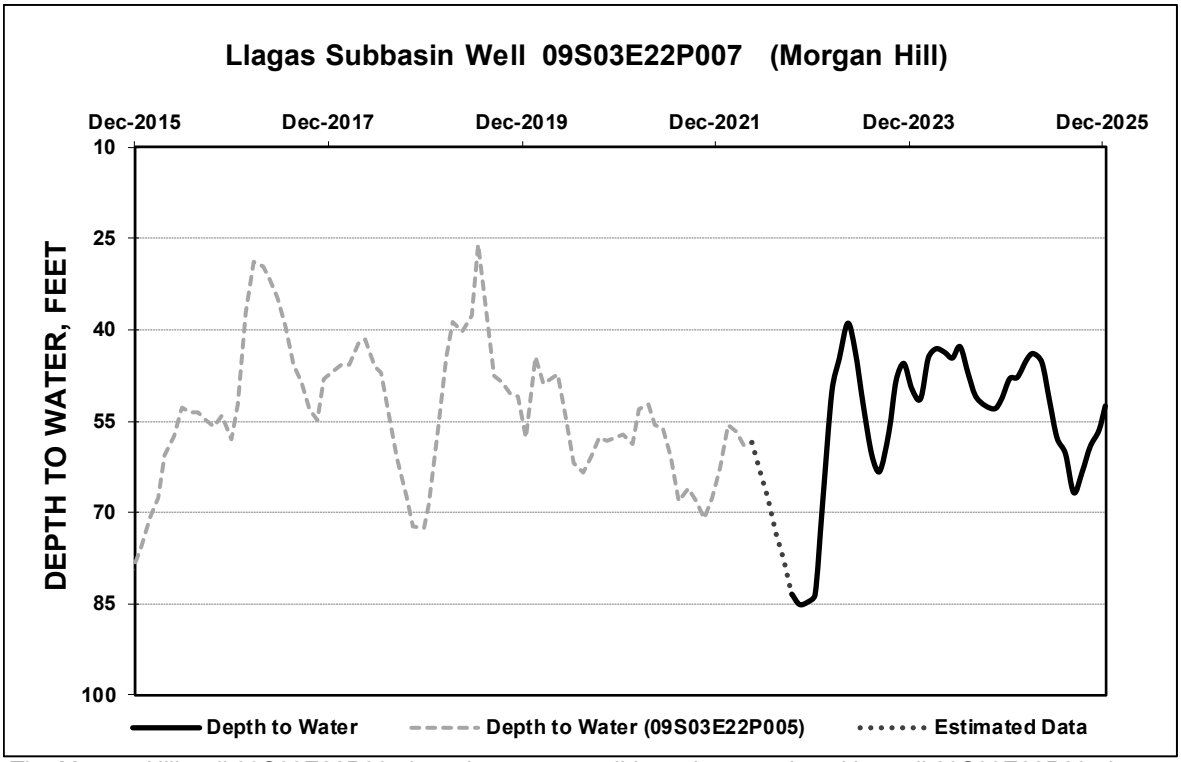


Figure 16. Morgan Hill Well Hydrograph



The Morgan Hill well 09S03E22P005 is no longer accessible and was replaced by well 09S03E22P007 in September 2022. Water levels from May 2022 to September 2022, represented by the dotted line, are estimated.

Figure 17. San Martin Well Hydrograph (Index Well for the Llagas Subbasin)

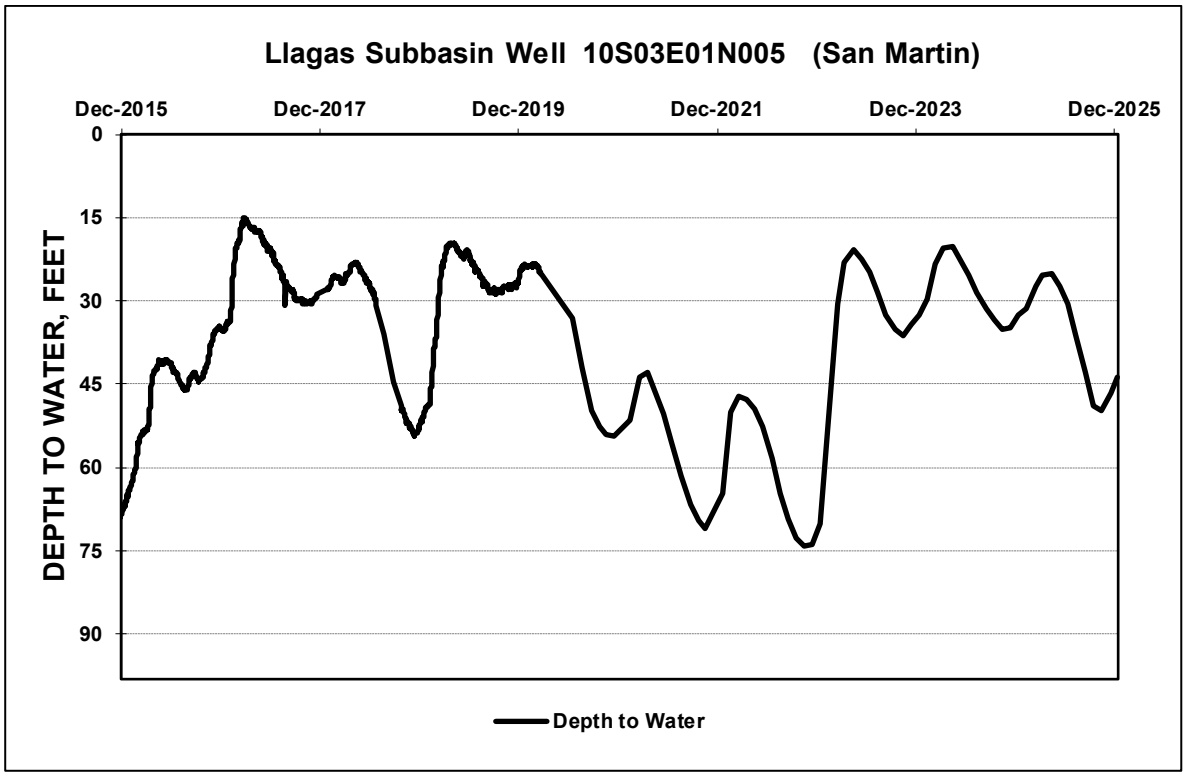


Figure 18. Gilroy Well Hydrograph