Westlands Water District

Groundwater Management Plan

1996

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Introduction....4

Authority....4

Plan Objective and Goals....5

Area to Be Included in the Groundwater Management Plan....6

District Background....6

Westside Groundwater Basin....11

Groundwater Monitoring Program....15

Groundwater Conditions....16

Safe Yield....26

Proposed Programs....27

Appendix A: Resolution No. 107-195 - Intent to Prepare a Groundwater Management Plan

Appendix B: Resolution No. 112-96 - Adoption of Groundwater Management Plan

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

It is the mission of Westlands Water District to provide a timely, reliable, and affordable water supply to its landowners and water users, and to provide drainage service to those lands that need it. To this end, Westlands is committed to the preservation of its federal contract, which includes water and drainage service, and to the acquisition of additional water necessary to meet the needs of its landowners and water users.

In recognition of the vital nature of the District's groundwater resources as part of the total water supply available to landowners and water users, and in light of federal, state, and local issues impacting, or potentially impacting, those resources, the District's Board of Directors has authorized by Resolution (attached hereto as Appendix A), the preparation of a Groundwater Management Plan (Plan).

AUTHORITY

AB 3030, the Groundwater Management Act, authored by Assemblyman Jim Costa, became law on January 1, 1993, and was codified as Part 2.75, commencing with Section 10750 of Division 6 of the Water Code. AB 3030 permits local agencies to adopt programs to manage groundwater. The Central Valley Project Improvement Act's criteria for evaluating water conservation plans, require all water suppliers overlying a usable groundwater basin to initiate development of a groundwater management plan pursuant to AB 3030.

AB 3030 allows any local public agency which provides water service to all or a portion of its service area and whose service area includes all or a portion of a groundwater basin to adopt a groundwater management program. The law contains 12 components which may be included in a groundwater management plan. Each component may play some role in evaluating or operating a groundwater basin so that groundwater can be managed to maximize the total water supply while protecting groundwater quality.

The District is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to implement and enforce the Groundwater Management Program. The District may not limit or suspend extractions unless the District has determined through study and investigation that groundwater replenishment programs or other alternative sources of water supply have proved insufficient or infeasible to lessen groundwater demand. In adopting the rules and regulations, the District must consider the potential impact of those rules and regulations on business activities, including agricultural operations. In addition, to the extent practicable and consistent with groundwater resource protection, the District must minimize any adverse impacts on these business activities.

Before the District may levy a water management assessment or otherwise fix and collect fees for the replenishment or extraction of groundwater the District must hold an election on the proposition of whether or not the District shall be authorized to levy a groundwater management assessment or fix and collect fees for the replenishment or extraction of groundwater. The District shall be so authorized if a majority of the votes cast at the election is in favor of the proposition.

PLAN OBJECTIVE AND GOALS

The District's farmers, being good stewards of their land, are concerned about managing and protecting their resources, including groundwater. Therefore, the objective of this Plan is to preserve and enhance the long-term viability of the groundwater resources within the District with respect to both quantity and quality. To accomplish this objective the District intends to evaluate and/or implement programs which are consistent with the mission statement of the District and will meet the following goals:

Primary Goals

- Preserve and enhance the reliability of groundwater resources of the District.
- Ensure the long-term availability of high quality groundwater.
- Maintain local control of groundwater resources within the District.
- Minimize the cost and impacts of groundwater use.

Secondary Goals

- Prohibit unrestricted export of groundwater from the District and use of groundwater to replace surface water removed from the District as a result of a transfer.
- Minimize impacts of groundwater pumping, including subsidence, overdraft, and soil productivity.
- Prevent unnecessary restrictions on the private use of the District's groundwater resources.
- Ensure coordination between District, local, and regional groundwater management activities.
- Optimize use of groundwater storage conjunctively with surface water.
- Ensure efficient use of the District's groundwater resources and minimize deep percolation and its contribution to the shallow groundwater problem through use of an effective water conservation and management program.
- Ensure that District water users understand the steps they can take to protect and enhance their groundwater supply.

AREA TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Groundwater Program shall be effective throughout the entire District. It shall be the District's policy to work cooperatively with all other agencies within the Westside Basin in order to facilitate protection and enhancement of the groundwater resources within the District and to avoid whenever possible duplicative or inconsistent groundwater management efforts. To that end, as a part of its Program, the District may enter into joint powers agreements or memoranda of understanding with public or private entities overlying all or a portion of the same groundwater basins as the District's service area for the purpose of implementing or coordinating groundwater management activities.

Excluded from this Program will be the small domestic wells within the District boundaries which pump groundwater for single-unit residences.

DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Westlands consists of nearly 1,000 square miles of prime farmland between the Diablo Range of the California Coast Range mountains and the trough, or lowest point, of the San Joaquin Valley in western Fresno and Kings Counties. Westlands averages 15 miles in width and stretches 70 miles from Mendota on the north to Kettleman City on the south. Figure 1 shows the general location of Westlands. Figure 2 is a map of Westlands in the western portion of the San Joaquin Valley.

Westlands was formed under California Water District Law in 1952 upon petition of landowners located within the District's proposed boundaries. Nearly all land within the current Westlands' boundaries was at one time farmed using groundwater.

Negotiations between Westlands and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation began on a contract to provide a dependable, supplemental supply of surface water through the Bureau's Central Valley Project (CVP) shortly after the District's formation. At that time, the federal government was considering the development and construction of the CVP's San Luis Unit (SLU). This involved cooperation between the federal and state governments with regard to shared water storage facilities and conveyance systems.

When the original Westlands was organized, it included approximately 376,000 acres. In 1965 it merged with its western neighbor, Westplains Water Storage District, adding 210,000 acres. Additionally, lands comprising about 18,000 acres were annexed to the District after the merger to form the current 604,000-acre District. The original Westlands is referred to as Priority Area I and Westplains is referred to as Priority Area II, each under a separate CVP agricultural water service contract with the Bureau. Priority Area III currently does not have a firm surface water supply and receives water only when available from other sources including surplus CVP water transfers from within and outside the District.

Climate

Annual precipitation in Westlands averages about seven inches, the majority of which falls during the months of December through March. Summer maximum temperatures frequently exceed 100 degrees F and winter temperatures occasionally fall below freezing. With a mean annual temperature of 62 degrees F, the area has an average frost-free growing season of 280 days.

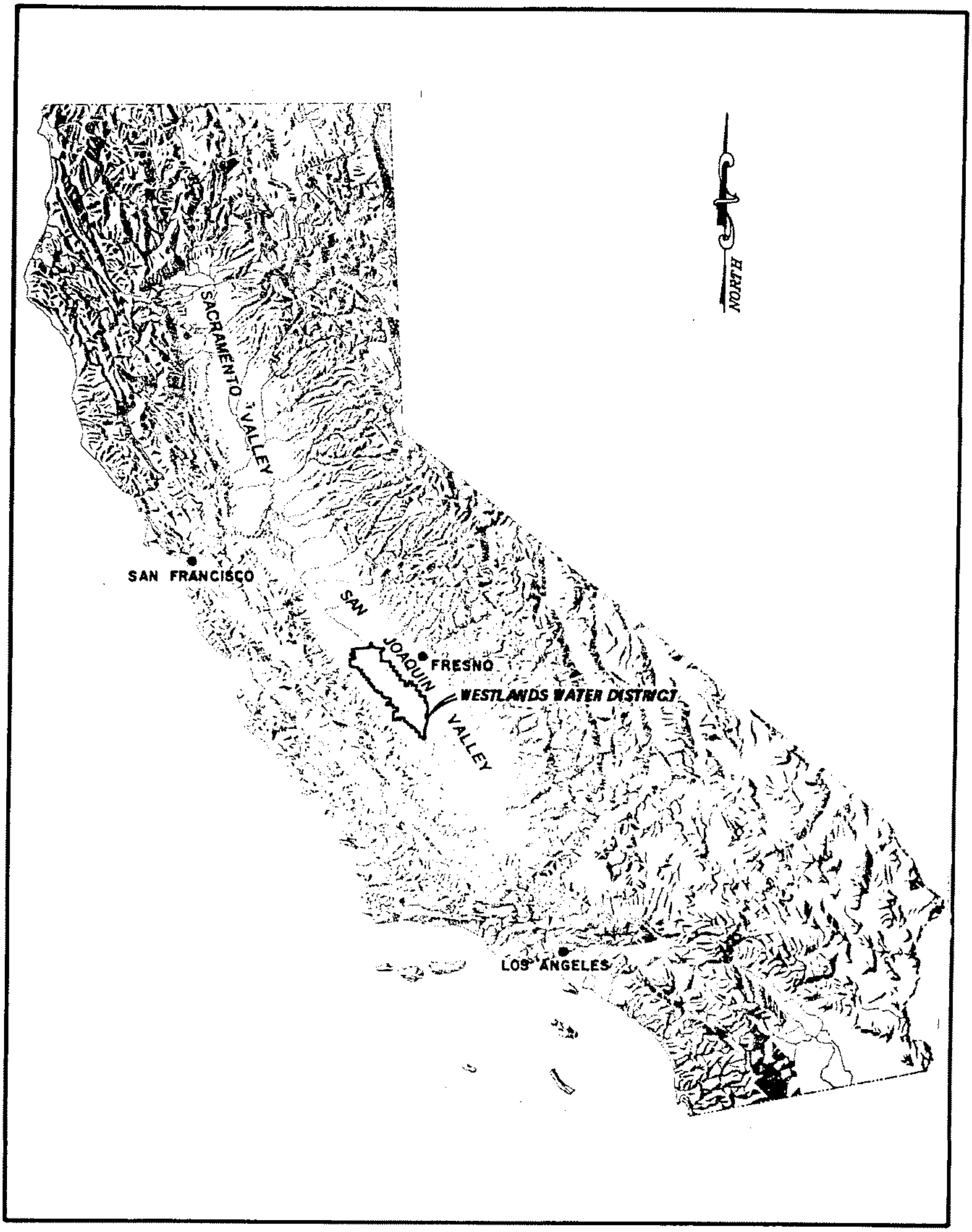

Figure 1. Location of Westlands Water District in California

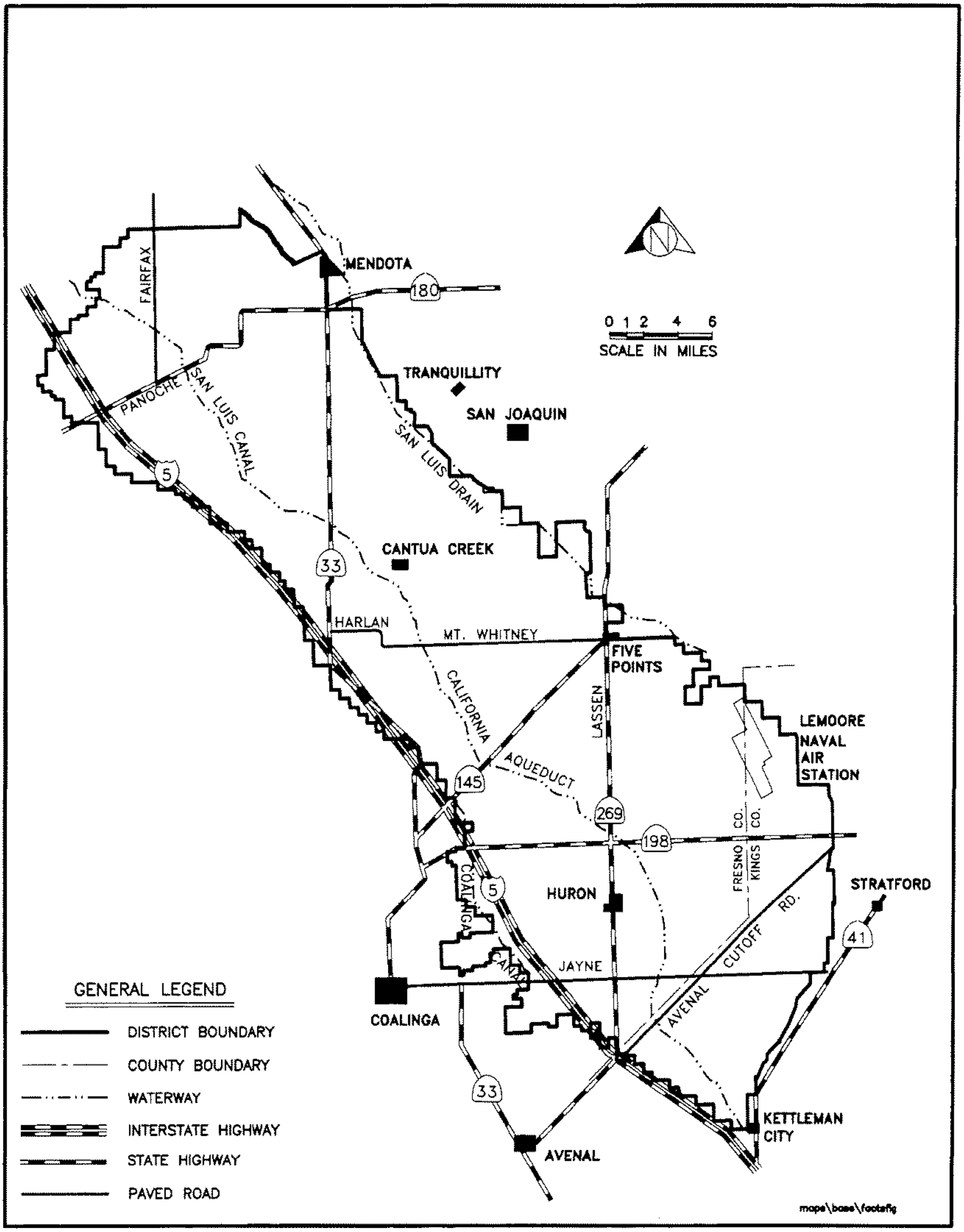

Figure 2. Westlands Water District

Geology

The San Joaquin Valley is a wide bedrock basin filled with thousands of feet of alluvial sediment deposited by streams and rivers flowing out of the adjacent mountains on both the east and the west. Westlands is located near the centerline of this basin, bordered on the east by the Fresno Slough and on the west by the Diablo Range of the California Coast Ranges.

The Diablo Range consists of complex, folded, and uplifted mountains which are composed predominantly of sandstones and shales of marine origin. Eroded by creeks flowing from the Diablo Range, sediments form gentle sloping alluvial fans. The texture of the Diablo Range deposits depends on the relative position on the alluvial fan and ranges from coarse sand and gravel to fine silt and clay. Generally, those portions of Westlands lying high on the alluvial fans have permeable, medium-textured soils. With decreasing elevation from the west to east, soil textures become finer. These fine textured soils are characterized by low permeability and increased concentrations of water soluble solids, primarily salts and trace elements.

The Sierra Nevada on the east side of the Valley is predominately comprised of uplifted granitic rock overlaid in areas by sedimentary and metamorphic rock. Sierran alluvial deposits in the District consist primarily of well-sorted sands, with minor amounts of clay. The Sierran alluvium decreases in thickness and increases in depth below the surface toward the west. These coarse-textured sediments are characterized by high permeability and a low concentration of water soluble solids.

One of the principal subsurface geological features of the San Joaquin Valley is the Corcoran Clay formation. Formed as a lake bed about 600,000 years ago, this clay layer ranges in thickness from 20 to 200 feet and underlies most of the District. Varying in depths from 200 to 500 feet in the Valley trough to 850 feet along the Diablo Range, the Corcoran Clay divides the groundwater system into two major aquifers--a confined aquifer below and a semiconfined system above.

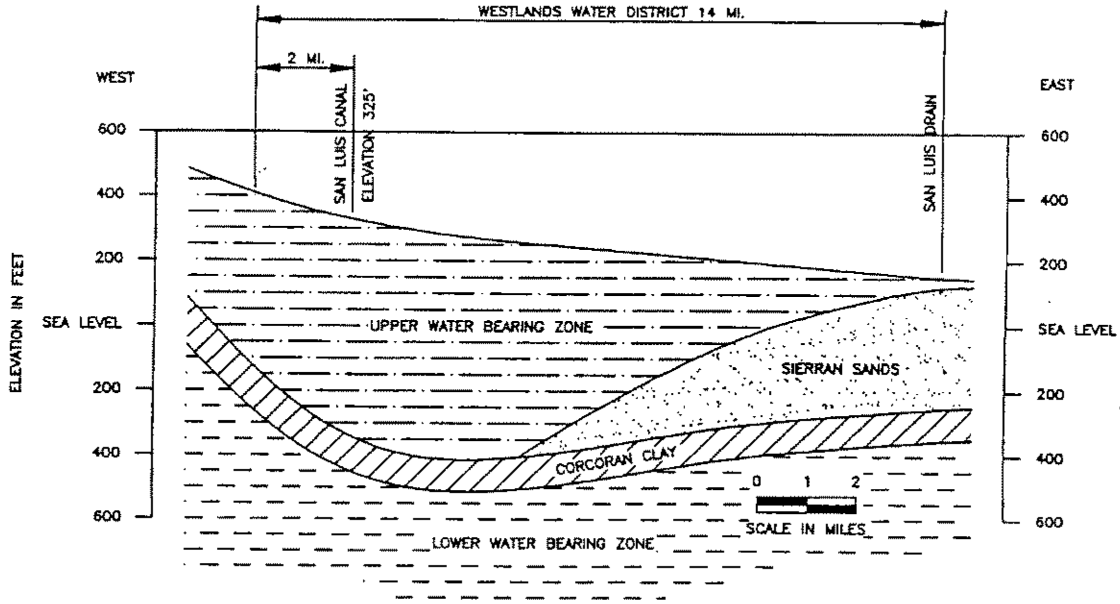

Figure 3. Generalized Hydrogeological Cross Section of Westlands

WESTSIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN

The groundwater basin underlying Westlands is comprised generally of two water-bearing zones: (1) an upper zone above a nearly impervious Corcoran Clay layer containing the Coastal and Sierran aquifers and (2) a lower zone below the Corcoran Clay containing the Sub-Corcoran aquifer. These water-bearing zones are recharged by subsurface inflow from the east and northeast, percolation of groundwater, and imported and local surface water. A generalized cross section of the District depicting the location of the Corcoran Clay and these water-bearing zones is shown in Figure 3.

The Corcoran Clay separates the upper and lower water-bearing zones in the majority of the District. The Corcoran Clay is not continuous west of Huron. The elevation of the base of the Corcoran Clay is shown in Figure 4.

Groundwater quality in the lower water-bearing zone varies throughout the District as shown in Figure 5. Typically, water quality varies with depth; the poorest quality occurring at the upper and lower limits of the aquifer and the optimum quality somewhere between. The upper limit of the aquifer is the base of the Corcoran Clay. The USGS identified the lower limit as the base of the fresh groundwater. The quality of the groundwater below the base of fresh water exceeds 2,000 parts per million total dissolved solids. The elevation of the base of the fresh groundwater is shown in Figure 6.

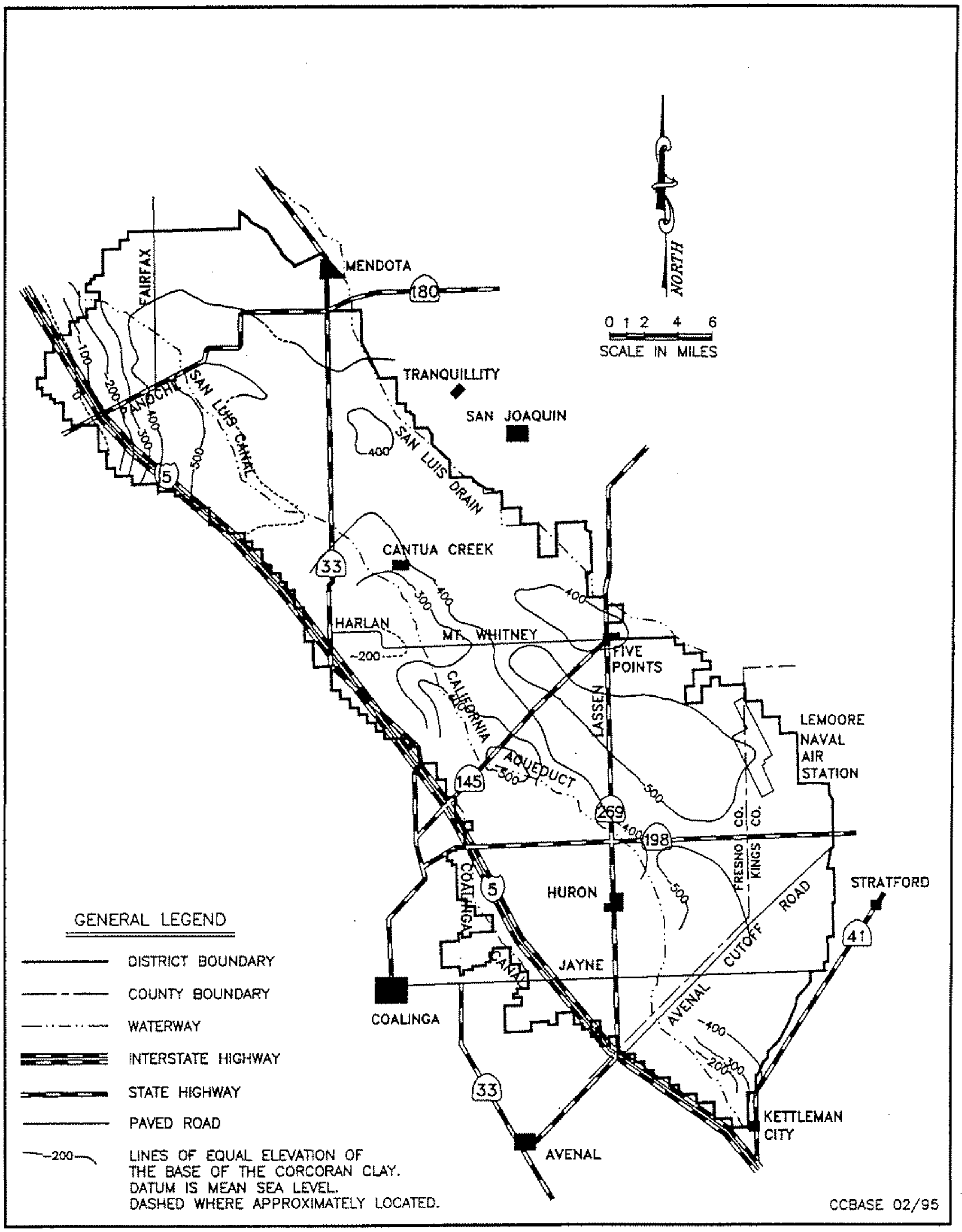

Figure 4. Elevation of Base of the Corcoran Clay

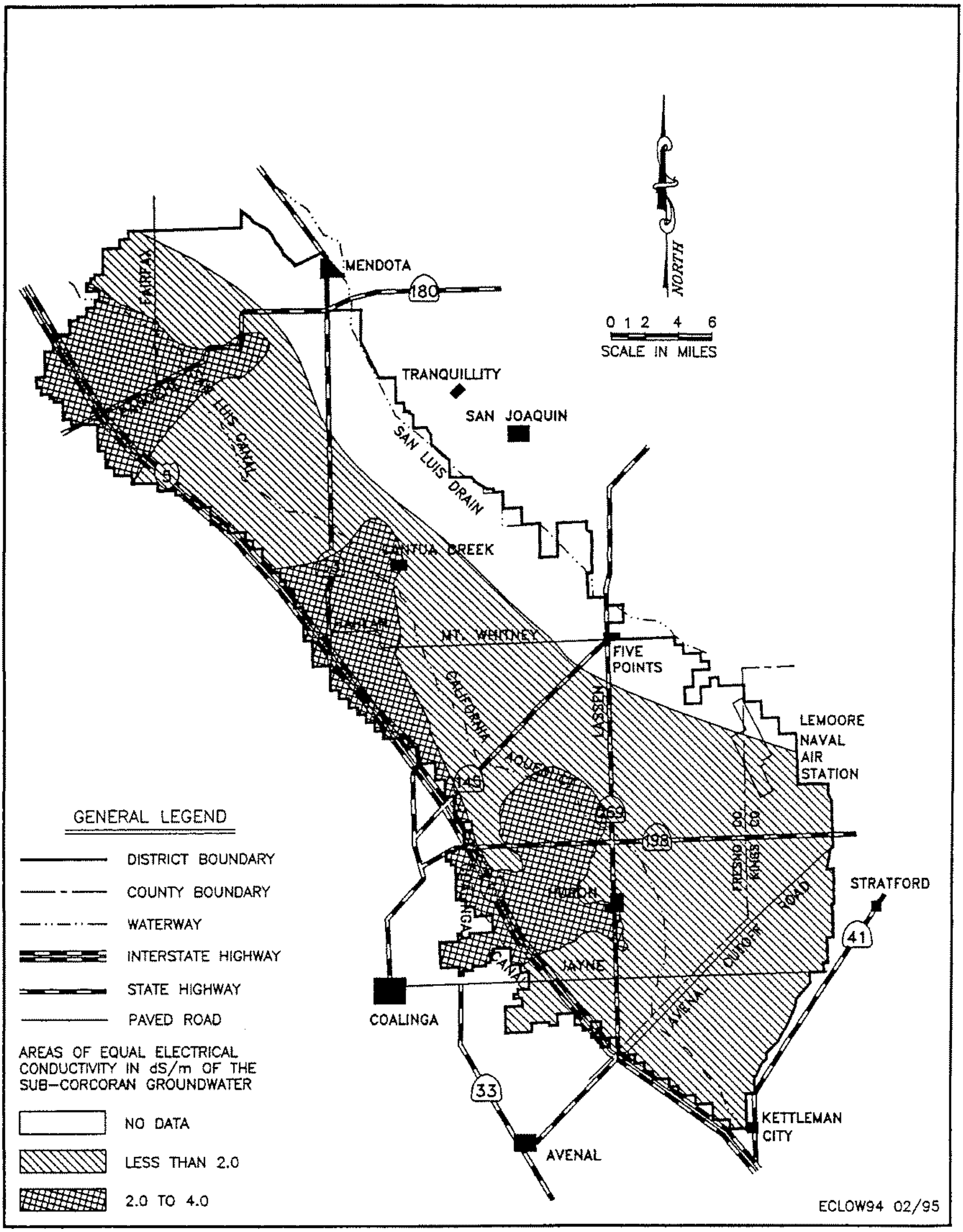

Figure 5. Electrical Conductivity of Sub-Corcoran Groundwater, December 1994

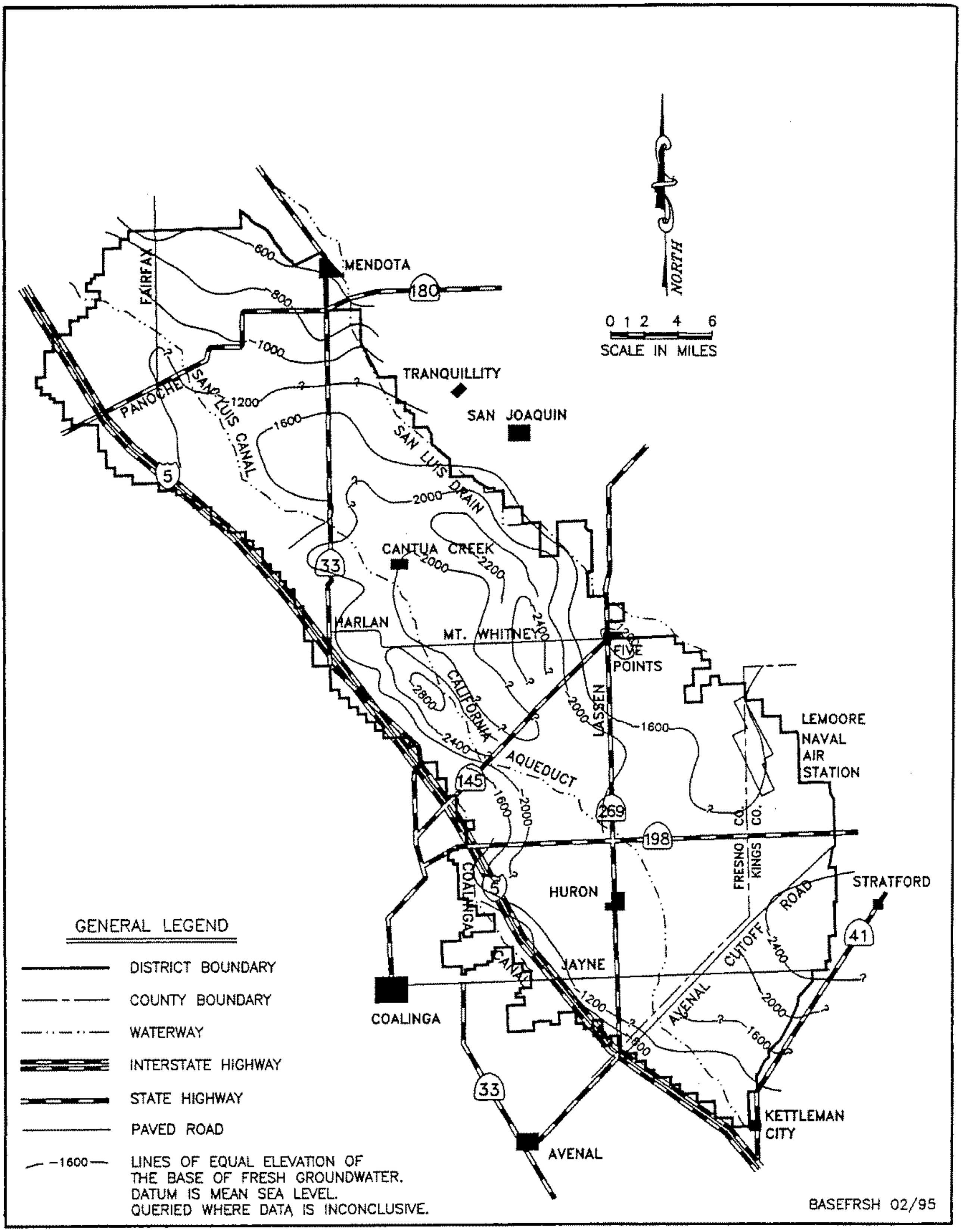

Figure 6. Elevation of Base of Fresh Groundwater

GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Project water supplies are carefully allocated and all surface deliveries are metered, yielding accurate water use data with which to manage the supply and recoup water delivery costs. Surface water quality is monitored by state and federal agencies and the District. On the other hand, pumping from private wells is at the discretion of the landowners.

Groundwater measurement and quality testing have proved useful to individual farmers to help them better manage water supplies, facilitate more accurate irrigation scheduling, monitor pump efficiency, and participate in District groundwater programs. Such measurement and testing also enable the District to better monitor groundwater supplies, calculate drought effects, and determine water needs.

The shortage of Project water since 1990 has necessitated the construction of many new wells so that groundwater could be used to help supplement surface supplies. More than 150 wells were drilled during the 1990-1995 period, bringing the total number of operational wells within the District to about 750. About 60 percent of the operational wells were metered in 1995. Many farmers participated in District Groundwater Exchange and Integration Programs during the 1990-94 period. These programs were implemented to increase the District's available water supply and enhance the flexibility in the use of groundwater in terms of timing and location.

Groundwater monitoring is an essential part of managing any conjunctive use program. This information is vital to determine the effect of groundwater pumping on (1) groundwater overdraft, (2) water quality, (3) pumping costs, and (4) subsidence. Without effective monitoring, the short- and long-term impacts of conjunctive use programs cannot be assessed.

The wells in Westlands are monitored annually for water level and quality by District staff. This is done by sounding each well while in a static condition and measuring the electrical conductivity of the water while the well is operating. The results appear in various District reports and maps. This information enables the District to monitor groundwater trends, report the results to farmers, and estimate District-wide pumped groundwater quantities. This also enables the District to calculate seasonal application efficiency more accurately.

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

Prior to the delivery of CVP water to Westlands, the annual groundwater pumpage ranged from 800,000 to 1,000,000 acre-feet (AF) during the period of 1950-1968. The majority of this pumping was from the aquifer below the Corcoran Clay causing the sub-Corcoran piezometric groundwater surface to reach the lowest recorded average elevation of more than 150 feet below mean sea level by 1968. The large quantity of groundwater pumped prior to delivery of CVP water compacted water bearing sediments and caused land subsidence which ranged from 1 to 24 feet between 1926 and 1970 (U.S. Geological Survey, 1988).

With the beginning of CVP water deliveries in 1968, the groundwater surface rose steadily until reaching 89 feet above mean sea level in 1987, the highest average elevation of record dating back to the early 1940s. The only exception during this period was the increase in pumping and accompanying drop in the groundwater surface elevation due to the 1977 drought and reduced CVP water supply. An increase in pumping to approximately 472,000 AF during 1977 caused a dramatic drop in the groundwater surface elevation of approximately 97 feet.

During the 1990s, groundwater pumpage quantities have increased tremendously because of the reduced CVP water supplies caused by the extended drought and regulatory actions related to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, and Bay/Delta water quality. Groundwater pumpage quantities are estimated to have reached 600,000 AF annually during 1991 and 1992 when the District received only 25 percent of its contractual entitlement of CVP water. This increased pumping caused the groundwater surface to decline to 62 feet below mean sea level, the lowest elevation since 1977.

An abundant surface water supply due to record precipitation in 1995 reduced the estimated quantity of groundwater pumped to 150,000 AF, allowing the average groundwater surface elevation to increase 78 feet to an average elevation of 27 feet above mean sea level. Overall, due to the mostly water-short years since 1990, the average piezometric water surface elevation has declined approximately 36 feet from December 1989 to December 1995. Another impact of reduced surface water deliveries is an increase in subsidence in areas of the Central

Valley. The Department of Water Resources estimates the amount of subsidence since 1983 has been up to two feet in some areas of the District with the majority occurring since 1989. The estimated amount of groundwater pumpage from 1976 through 1995 is shown in Table 1. Table 1 also shows the average elevation of the groundwater in the lower water bearing zone and the average change in elevation from the prior year.

The average elevation of the Sub-Corcoran piezometric groundwater surface and the estimated amount of groundwater pumped in Westlands are shown in Figure 7.

Table 1
Groundwater Pumpage

Crop Year[1/]	Pumpage AF	Elevation FT	Elevation Change FT	Crop Year[1/]	Pumpage AF	Elevation FT	Elevation Change FT
1976	97,000	-2	9	1986	145,000	71	8
1977	472,000	-99	-97	1987	159,000	89	18
1978	159,000	-4	95	1988	160,000[2/]	64	-25
1979	140,000	-13	-9	1989	175,000[2/]	63	-1
1980	106,000	4	17	1990	300,000[2/]	9	-54
1981	99,000	11	7	1991	600,000[2/]	-32	-41
1982	105,000	32	21	1992	600,000[2/]	-62	-30
1983	31,000	56	24	1993	225,000[2/]	1	63
1984	73,000	61	5	1994	325,000[2/]	-51	-52
1985	228,000	63	2	1995	150,000[2/]	27	78

[1/] October 1 to September 30
[2/] District Estimate

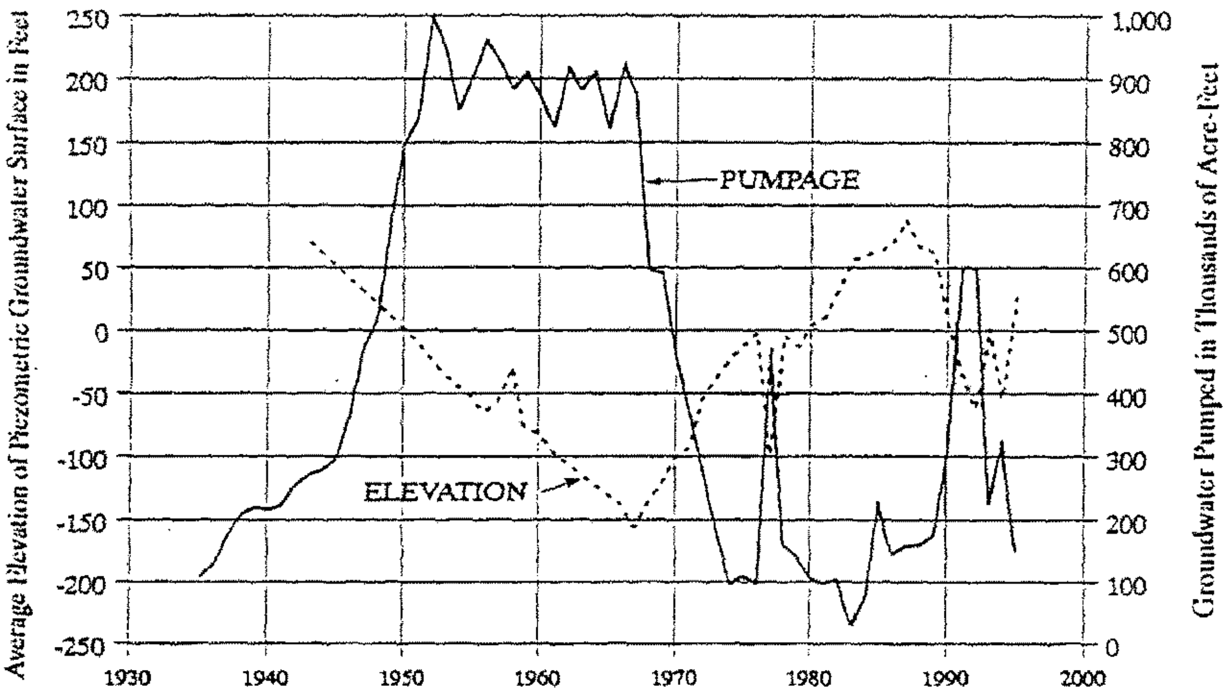

Figure 7. Historical Average Elevation of Sub-Corcoran Piezometric Groundwater Surface and Groundwater Pumpage

The depth to the piezometric groundwater surface in the lower water-bearing zone during December 1989, December 1994, and December 1995 is shown in Figures 8, 9, and 10 respectively. The change in depth to the piezometric groundwater surface from December 1989 to December 1994 is shown in Figure 11. The change in depth to the piezometric groundwater surface from December 1994 to December 1995 is shown in Figure 12.

In addition to monitoring the water levels of wells pumping from the lower aquifer, the wells pumping from the upper aquifer are also monitored. The majority of the wells pumping from the upper aquifer had groundwater surface levels 100 to 200 feet below ground surface during December 1995 as shown in Figure 13.

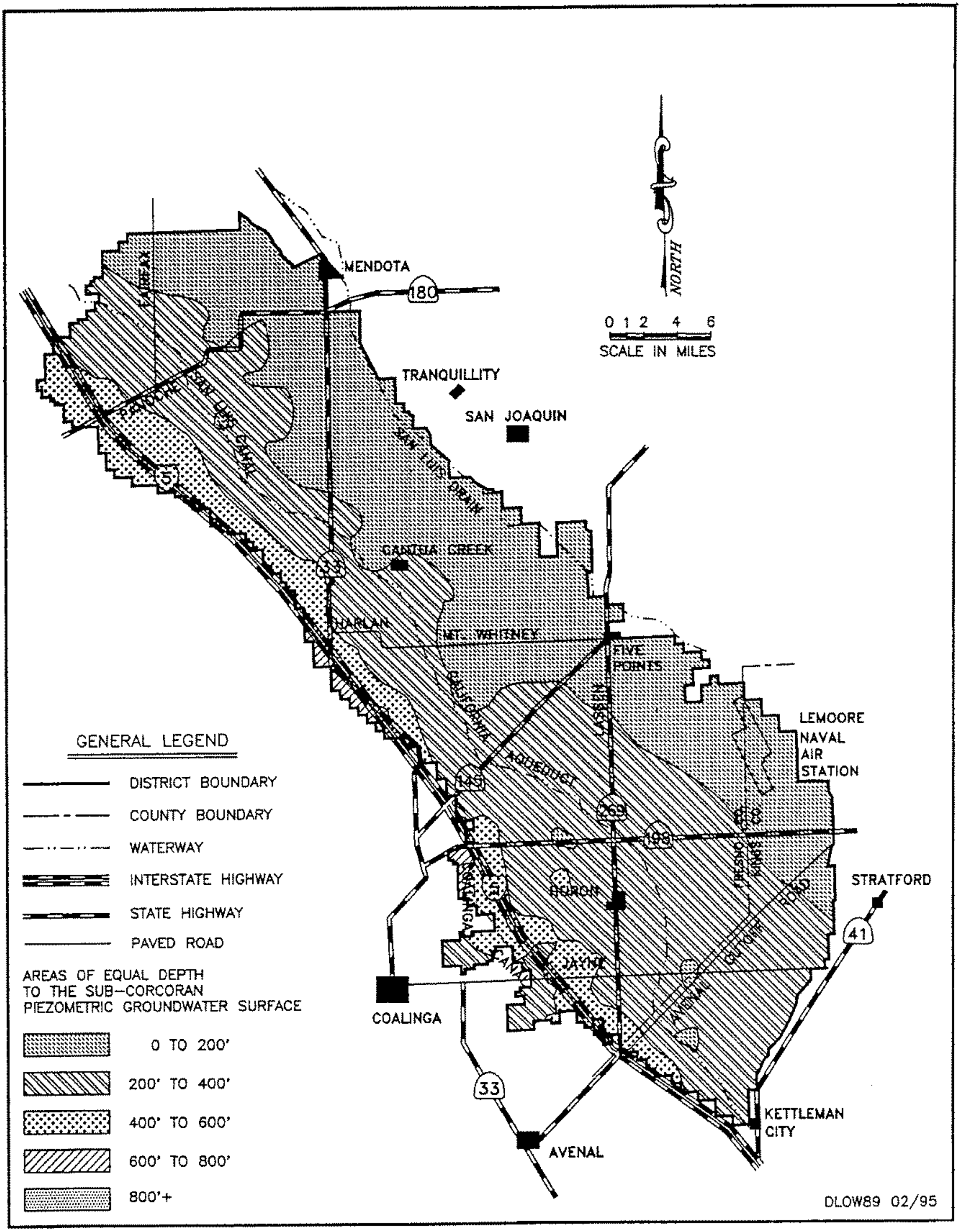

Figure 8. Depth to Sub-Corcoran Piezometric Groundwater Surface, December 1989

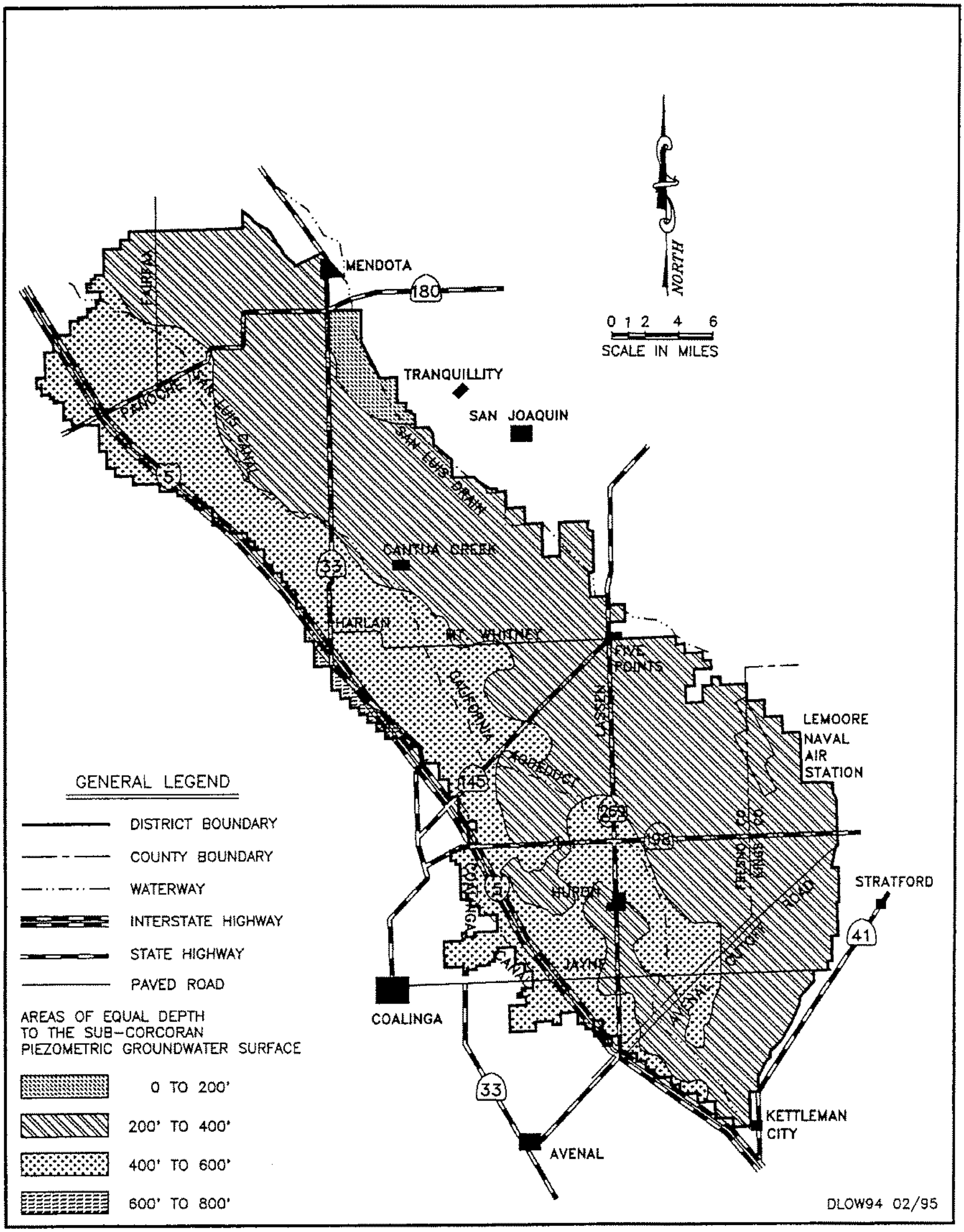

Figure 9. Depth to Sub-Corcoran Piezometric Groundwater Surface, December 1994

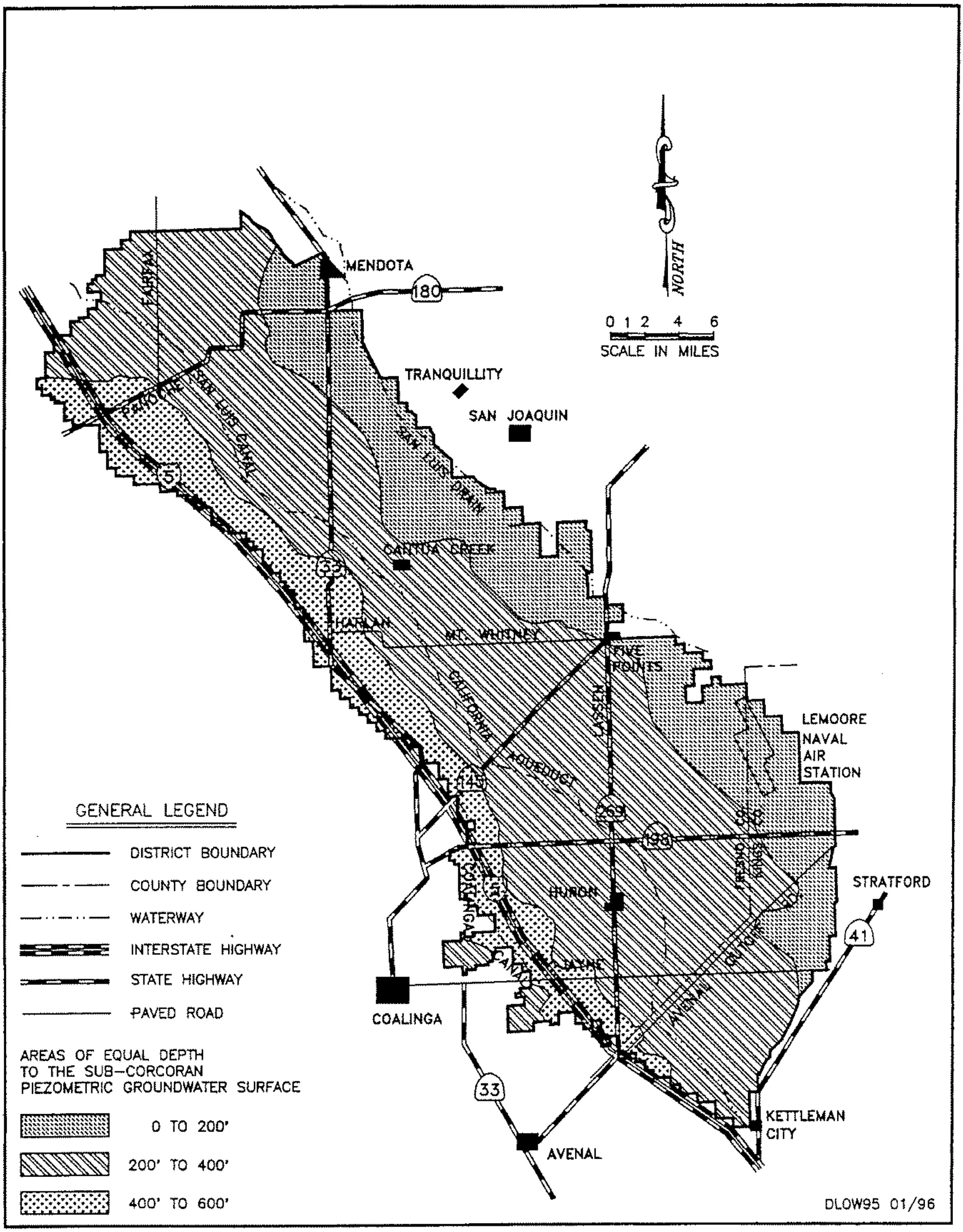

Figure 10. Depth to Sub-Corcoran Piezometric Groundwater Surface, December 1995

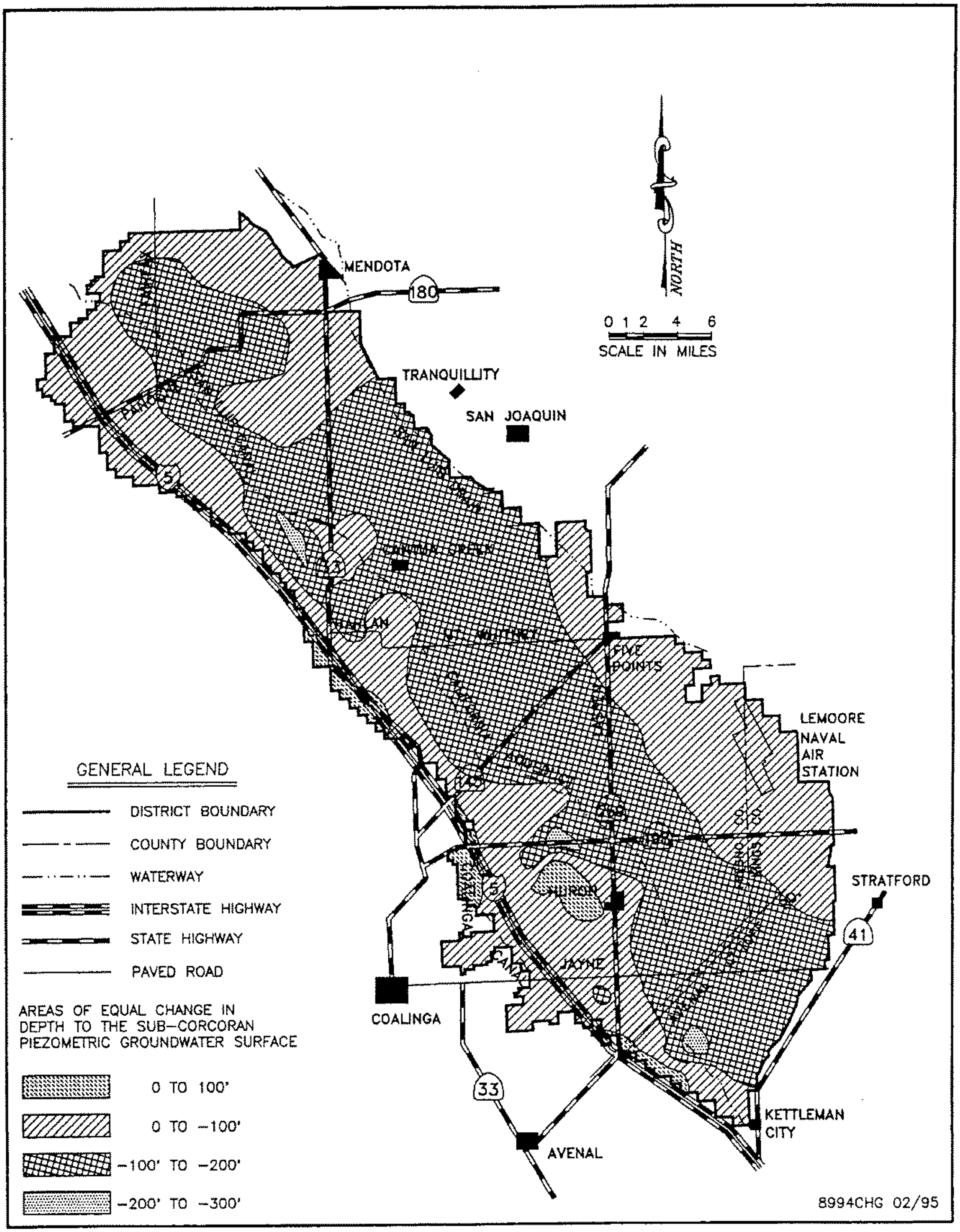

Figure 11. Change in Depth to Sub-Corcoran Groundwater, December 1989 to December 1994

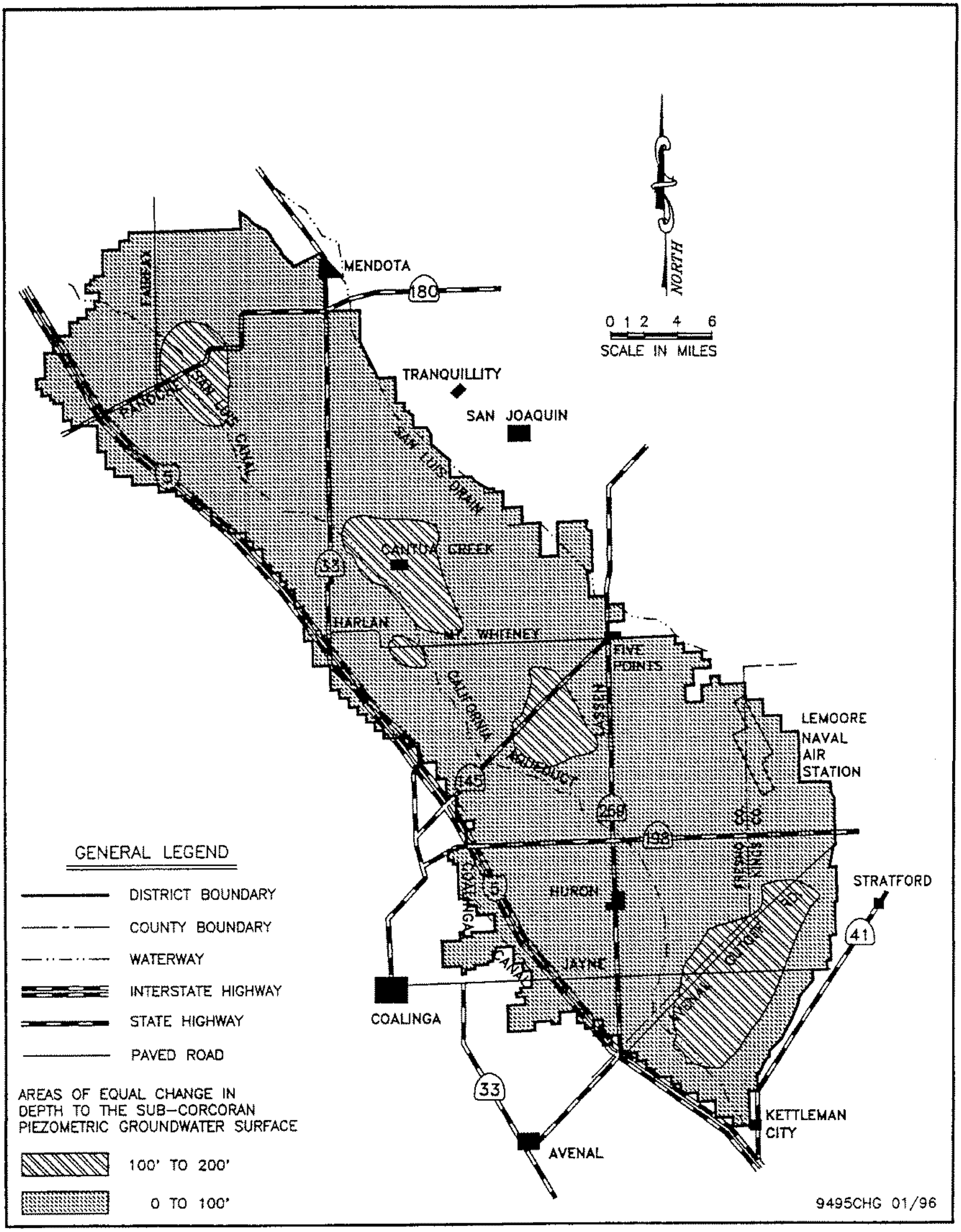

Figure 12. Change in Depth to Sub-Corcoran Groundwater, December 1994 to December 1995

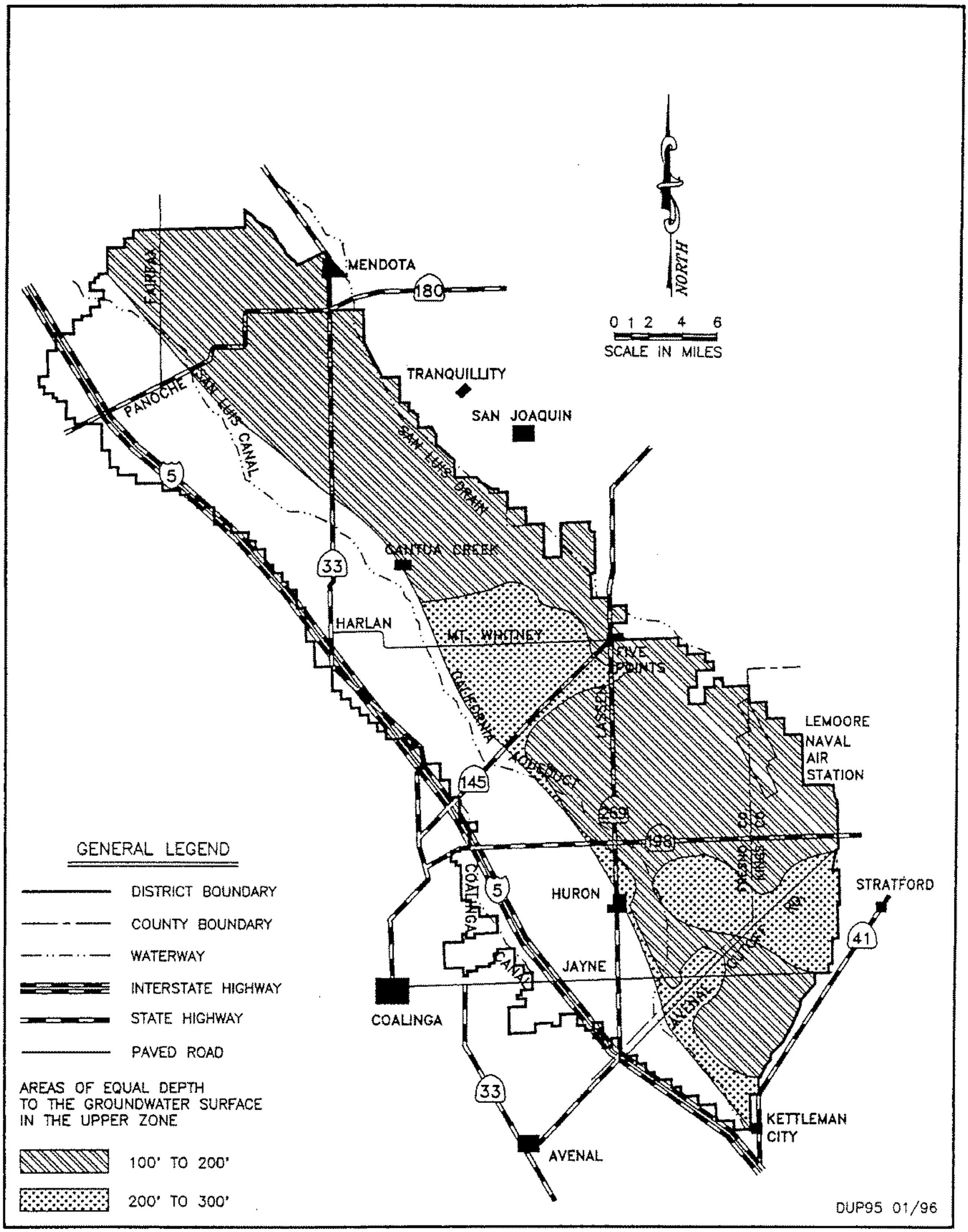

Figure 13. Depth to Groundwater in the Upper Zone, December 1995

SAFE YIELD

Safe yield or current perennial yield is the maximum quantity of water that can be annually withdrawn from a groundwater basin over a long period of time (during which water supply conditions approximate average conditions) without developing an overdraft condition. Annual amounts of water extracted will vary below and above the prennial yield with water levels declining during times of increased pumping due to poor water supply conditions and water levels increasing or recovering during periods of decreased pumping, above normal precipitation, and good water supply conditions.

Current perennial yield can be estimated by plotting the amount of groundwater pumped in one year versus the average change in groundwater level in the basin for that year. Data for 1974 to present were plotted and a "best fit line" was drawn. The intersection of the best fit line with the line showing zero groundwater level change as shown in Figure 14 indicates the current perennial yield of groundwater to be approximately 200,000 AF.

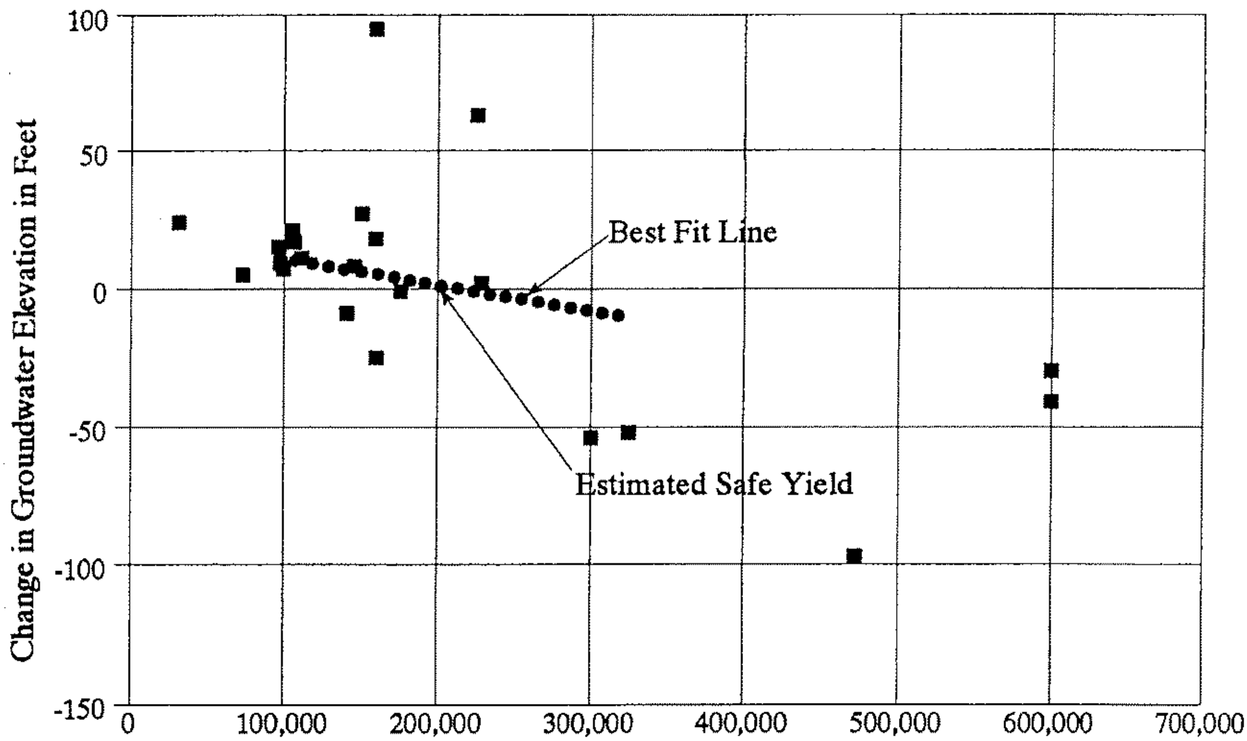

Figure 14. Change in Groundwater Elevation Versus Pumpage - Estimate of Safe Yield

PROPOSED PROGRAMS

Westlands Water District's Groundwater Management Plan includes, but is not limited to, the following items. Each item below contains a brief description of past and present District programs and potential future policies and projects.

1. Monitoring and Analysis: The District has monitored groundwater conditions for over 20 years. District staff will continue to monitor and analyze groundwater conditions in Westlands. Water user wells will be monitored each winter to determine static groundwater elevations and salinity monitoring will be performed during the periods of high groundwater pumpage to ensure a representative sampling. The data will be analyzed by District staff to determine trends in groundwater elevation and quality. In addition, pumping estimates will be made along with estimates of the change in groundwater storage. Also, the District will recommend to the landowners and water users that all new wells be equipped with an access tube to accommodate sounding of the well to monitor groundwater elevations.

2. Development and Importation of New Surface Supplies: Westlands will continue to explore opportunities to increase the importation of surface water to stabilize water supplies and reduce the demand for water users to pump groundwater to satisfy their irrigation needs. District staff will seek both short-term and long-term agreements with other agencies which have temporary or sustainable surpluses in water supply. This includes exploring opportunities to negotiate exchange agreements with other agricultural and urban water suppliers in which the District would provide a portion of its allocation during drought years in exchange for a like or greater amount of surface water in normal or wet years.

Finally, Westlands will continue to encourage and facilitate wherever possible the importation of surface water by District water users. The District realizes that in addition to benefiting the individual water user, transfers into the District will reduce the need for groundwater extractions.

3. Restriction in the Exportation of Groundwater: The District will oppose increased levels of groundwater exportation from the District unless the exportation is mitigated by the importation of an equal or greater amount of non-Project water into the District. Those water

users who have historically exported pumped groundwater outside the District's boundaries shall within two years of the adoption of this plan, submit an operational plan to the District. This plan shall include the location of the water user's existing wells in Westlands and an estimate of the amount of groundwater which the water user has exported outside the District boundaries from 1986-1995. The water user shall also identify any non-Project surface water supplies which they have imported into the District during that time. Also, the District will oppose any export of surface water from the District which will result in a net increase in the amount of groundwater pumped.

4. Water Conservation: Westlands will continue to have an active water conservation program designed to maximize efficient use of water in the District. District staff will continue to provide District specific information that water users need to effectively manage their irrigations.

This includes providing real-time crop water use information and information on water management techniques such as irrigation scheduling and evaluations. The District's water conservation coordinator will continue to be available to provide water users with technical assistance to meet their irrigation needs.

In addition, the District will continue to maintain its distribution system through preventive maintenance of District pumping facilities, pipelines, and water meters. The District will also maintain a flexible water ordering system to ensure that water users can best manage their water resources.

Westlands implemented the Irrigation System Improvement Program which provided low interest loans to District water users for irrigation system improvements. Funds for this program were provided by the State Water Resources Control Board. This program is intended to reduce the amount of deep percolation losses in the District by increasing irrigation efficiencies. The District will evaluate the Program to determine whether or not to provide funding for additional irrigation system improvements.

5. Water Management Information Program: The District will continue to conduct a program to provide water users with information on groundwater conditions and conservation

activities. This information will be contained in the *Irrigator* newsletter through special reports and through water user workshops.

The District's Water Conservation Department developed an Irrigation Handbook in 1985 and continues to distribute copies to new District water users. Water Conservation staff also will continue to make available to District water users an in-house computer with irrigation management software. This software provides water users with an opportunity to explore various irrigation practices and schedules to learn their effects on irrigation efficiency and timing.

In addition, maps and reports on groundwater conditions and trends will continue to be made available to District water users. Workshops will also be conducted periodically to inform District water users on changes in the groundwater conditions and the status of the Groundwater Management Program.

6. Cooperation with Other Agencies: Westlands will work with other state and local agencies to better identify groundwater conditions and to exchange information. Data collected through the District's monitoring efforts will be provided to others so that conditions in the basin and other basins can be tracked. The District will also facilitate studies by agency and university personnel to model groundwater conditions in the basin. District will continue to participate on local and state committees which focus on groundwater conditions, issues, and policies which oversee local groundwater modeling efforts.

In addition, the District will work with other state and local agencies to more precisely identify the location and magnitude of subsidence. To the extent possible, the District will determine if specific actions in addition to those identified in this plan would have positive impacts on subsidence.

7. Groundwater Meters: The District will recommend to landowners and water users that all groundwater wells extracting groundwater within the District boundaries be equipped with a water meter. The District may develop and implement a program to maintain groundwater meters similar to the program which already exists for the District's surface water meters.

8. Well Construction and Abandonment: The administration of a well construction and well abandonment or destruction program has been delegated to the Counties by the California State Legislature. Fresno and Kings Counties have adopted programs consistent with Department of Water Resources Bulletin 74-81 and administer permit programs to assure proper construction, abandonment, or destruction of groundwater wells within the Counties. The District will continue to support Fresno and Kings Counties' policies regarding construction and abandonment of groundwater wells. The District will continue to work with these counties to make information on well construction and abandonment policies available to its water users.

9. Conjunctive Use: The District will explore potential conjunctive use projects within and outside of Westlands. This may include identifying possible recharge sites within the District boundaries or purchasing or leasing lands adjacent to the District. Other options may include entering into a long-term arrangement to bank water with another agency or district which would be extracted during times of water shortages.

In addition, the District will continue to operate its Distribution System Integration Program (DIP). This program allows water users to use the District's water distribution system to convey groundwater to other points of use within the District. This program allows for the improved use of groundwater resources.

Westlands will continue to work with local, state, and federal authorities to provide for the long-term use of the San Luis Canal/California Aqueduct to store and transport ground-water pumped from within and outside the District. This program has been authorized on a year-to-year basis in the past by the state as a drought relief measure. As with the DIP program, this program would allow for much greater flexibility in both the timing and location of groundwater use.

APPENDIX A

RESOLUTION NO. 107-95

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

INTENT TO PREPARE A GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, groundwater resources are an important component of the District's overall water supply and vital to the viability of farming in Westlands Water district; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Sections 10753, et seq., (AB 3030) provide that any local agency whose service area includes a groundwater management pursuant to other provisions of law or a court judgment or decree, may be ordinance or by resolution adopt and implement a groundwater management plan for all or a portion of its service area; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has developed and adopted "Criteria for Evaluating Water Conservation Plans," pursuant to Public Law 102-575 Section 3405(e) which require districts receiving federal water in California to develop a groundwater management plan pursuant to California Water Code Section 10750 (AB 3030): and

WHEREAS, to satisfy this requirement, Westlands Water District in its Water Conservation Plan Update, December 1993, has committed to the development of a groundwater management plan subject to the landowners' decision on whether to adopt such a plan; and

WHEREAS, there has been no public objection to the District preparing a groundwater management plan for approval by the Board of directors.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Westlands Water District intends to prepare a groundwater management plan for the purpose of implementing the plan and establishing a groundwater management program, in accordance with Water Code Section 10750, et seq., subject to final approval by the Board of Directors and the landowner protest provision of Water Code Section 10753.6.

AYES: Directors Dingle, Borba, Coelho, Devine, Errotabere, Gardner, Hurlbutt, Schmiederer, and Souza

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: March 20, 1995

APPENDIX B

RESOLUTION NO. 112-96

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

ADOPTION OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution of intent to prepare a groundwater management plan on March 20, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the District has prepared a draft groundwater management plan entitled "Westlands Water District Groundwater Management Plan;" and

WHEREAS, the District has made copies of the plan available to the public and notice of the public hearing on whether to adopt the draft Groundwater Management Plan was given in the manner prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, all persons desiring to be heard at the public hearing were given the opportunity to present their views to the Board of Directors and any written communications received by the District concerning adoption of the plan were publicly presented at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the District has considered all protests to the adoption of the plan and has determined that a majority protest under Section 10753.6 of the Water Code does not exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Westlands Water District that it is in the best interest of the District to adopt the Groundwater Management Plan pursuant to Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750) of Division 6 of the Water Code and that the General Manager is authorized to take all actions reasonably necessary to carry out the intent of Westlands Water District Groundwater Management Plan.

AYES: Directors Dingle, Borba, Coelho, Devine, Errotabere, Gardner, Hurlbutt, Schmiederer, and Souza

NOES: None

ABSENT: None ADOPTED: September 16, 1996