



WATER MANAGEMENT &
LONG RANGE PLANNING
COMMITTEE
AGENDA LETTER

Secretary of the Board of
Directors

4699 Hollister Avenue,
Goleta, CA 93110
(805) 879-4621

Department Name: Water Supply &
Conservation

For Agenda Of: October 28, 2014

Estimated Time 30 minutes

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

TO: Committee Members

FROM: Department: Water Supply & Conservation
Contact Info: Ryan Drake, Water Supply & Conservation Manager

SUBJECT: Slippery Rock Ranch Proposal

Legal Concurrence

Yes.

Recommended Actions:

- a) Receive an update on a proposal by the Slippery Rock Ranch to sell water to the Goleta Water District and other South Coast water agencies; and
- b) Recommend that the Board direct the General Manager to send letters to the Slippery Rock Ranch, County of Santa Barbara, City of Santa Barbara and Montecito Water istrict conveying the District's concerns over Slippery Rock Ranch's proposal and water exportation.

Summary Text:

The Slippery Rock Ranch (Slippery Rock) is located to the north-east of the Goleta Groundwater Basin (Goleta North-Central Basin (Goleta Basin, or Basin)). Slippery Rock representatives submitted a proposal to the District recently which provided for water to be delivered from the "Chalice Basin," located adjacent to the Goleta Basin, via wells located on Slippery Rock property.

Slippery Rock claims that Basin pump testing to date indicates that the basin is hydrogeologically isolated from surrounding basins, as Slippery Rock's consultants do not believe that the groundwater within the Chalice Basin provides a source of groundwater to any down-gradient groundwater basin, including the Goleta Basin. Slippery Rock representatives claim that no significant amount of groundwater naturally exits the Chalice Basin to recharge the Goleta Basin, and points to prior studies to support this claim.

Slippery Rock has proposed to engage in extended test pumping and delivery of the water produced to local water districts. Negotiations on the proposal between the District and Slippery Rock have reached an impasse, and District staff is concerned that the water proposed to be pumped by Slippery Rock is hydrologically connected to the Goleta Basin, thus affecting an adjudicated Basin and the rightsholders within the Basin. Given the current drought, the District must increasingly rely on its groundwater supplies as entitlement deliveries from Lake Cachuma and the State Water Project are increasingly unreliable. Recognizing the dynamic conditions and connections in the local watershed, District staff believes that the Slippery Rock proposal to pump water for ultimate sale to South Coast water agencies may have substantial impacts to the Goleta Basin and thus the District's supplies. District staff seeks direction from the Committee regarding a response to the proposal, as well as communicating to the County and other South Coast agencies to inform them of the District's concerns over the proposed pumping and exportation of water by Slippery Rock.

Background:

History of Prior Dealings and Proposals on Schulte Ranch and Environmental Impacts

The District has a long history with the Slippery Rock Ranch property and its water supplies. After much negotiation in September 1989, the District and the prior owner of Slippery Rock Ranch, Mr. Rudolf Schulte entered into a Water Purchase Agreement whereby the District purchased water from two wells on what was known as the Schulte Ranch property.

Two wells, which were then referred to as Schulte Well Nos. 1 and 2, were considered as standby sources by the District in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Slippery Rock now designates these wells as "Big Artesian" and "Little Artesian" Wells, which remain in use on the ranch. The District entered into a two-year contract to purchase surplus water from the Schulte Ranch, anticipating 200-600 AFY to be purchased from three wells, including Big Artesian and Little Artesian Wells. The District's Negative Declaration for the project, issued September 15, 1989 (89-ND-2504) (attached hereto as Attachment A), required on-going monitoring to measure environmental impacts of the pumping and stipulated that the District discontinue accepting water from the project if any potentially significant environmental impacts were observed. The project was highly controversial and generated numerous comment letters and press coverage (see Attachment B).

In November of 1990, District staff produced a study entitled "Evaluation of the Schulte Well Project Monitoring Program," (attached hereto as Attachment C), which evaluated the impacts of the project, and determined that results suggested "significant, long-term environmental damage associated with continued unrestricted pumping of the Schulte Wells may be imminent, if not already occurring." (Evaluation of Shulte Well Project Monitoring Program, Exh. C, p. 7). The report also noted a reduction of groundwater recharge and storage, and cones of depression expanding in the area. The report also indicated that all of the springs that were being monitored exhibited some decline in flows, the natural spring flows in the area of the La Patera Ranch appeared to be declining at a faster rate. (Exh. C, p. 9) Accordingly, the report recommended reduction in pumping during the then-prevalent drought.

The District Board then conducted public hearings on the project to review the report and staff concerns, and at the conclusion of the hearings adopted Resolution 91-01 (attached as Attachment D), in which it determined "based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result of the well testing and production being conducted." One of the many findings cited in the Resolution was that the U.S. Forest Service representative indicated that "...there is

substantial evidence that the project is having a significant adverse impact on adjacent national forest lands.”

More recently, Slippery Rock responded to potential environmental impact issues raised by the District in a series of technical memoranda, attempting to refute any claims that the test pumping could impact the environment, and asserting that the Ranch does not anticipate any significant environmental impacts to groundwater or surface water resources as a result of the production of groundwater from the Chalice Basin in the quantities proposed.

Prior Indications of Potential Impacts to the Goleta Basin

Many commenters on the original Schulte project, including District staff, observed that the rocks adjacent to the faults through the bedrock are highly fractured, and that there was apparent hydrologic communication across the San Jose fault. This conclusion was supported by a Report of Groundwater Investigation for Mr. Ralph Philbrick, by Dames & Moore, from September 19, 1975. Under the report, major artesian wells were determined not to exist on the Schulte property, and production from the property was anticipated to reduce recharge to surrounding springs. In addition, the issue of potential connectivity to the Goleta Basin was raised. While Slippery Rock consultants refute potential impacts, it is clear that the District must, in the interests of the adjudicated Goleta Basin, maintain the sole discretionary authority to terminate any future pumping activities related to exportation of water.

Current Modeling Work Implications

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI) is currently performing modeling of the Goleta Groundwater Basin on behalf of the District. A June 13, 2014 Technical Memorandum documented GSI’s update of the Goleta Groundwater Basin Numerical Model (Model) for the period 2008 through 2013 and its Model calibration assessment. The District’s groundwater Model versions implement two very different conceptualizations of groundwater recharge components in terms of timing and mechanisms. In the original Model version, over 70% of the recharge is derived from inflow along the basin perimeter from alluvial canyons, bedrock, and leakage across bounding faults, while areal recharge and stream percolation make up only 29%. The implementation of the groundwater recharge components in the alternate Model version is essentially the opposite.

Notably for purposes of the Slippery Rock proposal, GSI recommended further tests to determine whether or not increased pumping along the northern perimeter of the Basin is capturing inflows and thereby reducing the Basin yield. GSI stated that such an investigation would help improve the District’s understanding of the relative importance of bedrock inflow to the Basin and, hence, improve the Model. This may be accomplished by comparing Basin groundwater chemistry and isotopic signatures to those of bedrock groundwater and surface water to determine the relative sources of recharge. Groundwater levels in bedrock wells could also be compared to basin groundwater levels as part of the investigation.

GSI is conducting further study on the Goleta Basin’s perennial yield, which means the maximum amount of annual pumping that can take place under a given set of conditions (pumping distribution, surface water management, etc.) without causing an undesirable result (long-term groundwater elevation declines, subsidence, water quality degradation, unacceptable levels of surface water depletion, etc.). GSI noted that the perennial yield study figures suggest that the yield has decreased since the late 1990s, and stated that a possible partial explanation for the lower perennial yield during more recent times is increased pumping along the northern perimeter of the Basin.

According to GSI:

“...[E]ight wells have been drilled since 2008 at locations just north of the basin boundary. Coincidentally, we know that pumping has increased along the northern perimeter of the Basin. As mentioned above, eight wells have been drilled since 2008 at locations just north of the basin boundary. These wells may be capturing groundwater that might otherwise recharge the basin. Further investigation would be needed to confirm whether the Basin yield is being decreased by pumping along the northern perimeter of the Basin.”

At least one of the wells proposed to be put to use by Slippery Rock was drilled in 2009. In accordance with these recommendations and findings, the District intends to further evaluate the perennial yield of the Goleta Basin and the potential impacts from wells in the northern part of the Basin.

Summary of Currently Proposed Deal Points

Slippery Rock has proposed a testing period in order to determine sustainable yield. Under the current proposal (September 2014), an initial testing phase (Phase I), would involve six months or more of basin pumping, which Slippery Rock claims is expected to generate water flows at a rate between 500 to 1000 acre feet per year. Under the proposal, the first testing would be followed by a Phase II pump test, in which pumping rates are increased to determine the full sustainable safe yield capacity of the “Chalice Basin.” With this determination, Slippery Rock proposes to establish empirical data that substantiates the “Chalice Basin’s” capacity, which would then lead the District and other South Coast water agencies to decide whether they want to enter into negotiations with the Ranch owners for a long-term water supply agreement.

According to Slippery Rock, other South Coast water agencies have expressed an interest to use the Phase I and II test water as an “emergency water supply” by connecting existing pipeline infrastructure on the owner’s property to the agencies’ distribution system, including the USBR South Coast Conduit (SCC). For agencies to the east of the Basin, the test water would be conveyed through the SCC to the Lauro Reservoir for treatment and distribution to the agencies’ distribution system. The owner has constructed a 10” pipeline fed by various on-Ranch groundwater wells. That pipeline terminates at the southerly property line of the Ranch. An existing 10” turnout at the SCC is located about 1200 linear feet southerly from the termination of the Ranch’s 10” pipeline. The proposed 1200 linear foot 10” pipeline would link the existing Ranch pipeline to the SCC turnout (1200-foot Connector), and require USBR approval. The 1200-foot Connector can be constructed in one of three locations as follows: (a) Existing USBR easement. This alignment would require permission from USBR. (b) Existing private road. This alignment would require acquisition of easement rights from two private property owners. (c) New alignment (apart from A and B above). This alignment would require acquisition of easement rights from a private property owner.

Water Hauling Operations

The District received documentation that water pumped from the Slippery Rock Ranch is currently being transported by truck and sold off-site, and that such activity has been ongoing for several months. County records indicate that the parcels comprising the Slippery Rock Ranch are all zoned either Agricultural II (AG II) or Mountainous Goleta (MT-GOL). A Conditional Use Permit is required for commercial water extraction under both of those designations. Water Extraction, Commercial is defined in the County Land Use Code as “the pumping and processing of natural, carbonated or mineral water from a well for commercial purposes, including bottling, shipping, storage and trucking.” Extracting water that is trucked and sold clearly fits within this broad definition.

It does not appear from County records that the required Conditional Use Permit permit has been obtained. Although it is not clear how the on-going payments for water from Slippery Rock Ranch are structured, the fact that the water is being transported and ultimately sold to end users off the Ranch

clearly indicates that the pumping for trucking off the property is a commercial enterprise meeting the definition set forth above.

Conclusions and Next Steps

District staff and its consultants have determined that additional evidence is needed to determine potential hydrologic connectivity between the “Chalice Basin” and the Goleta Basin. As a precondition to further negotiations, the District would require an agreement with Slippery Rock that provides the District with discretion to terminate all exportations of groundwater if such exportations would impact the Goleta Basin.

District staff believes that Slippery Rock must complete environmental analysis under CEQA to determine the potential impacts to the environment from the pumping and sale of water off the property, and Slippery Rock needs to obtain the necessary Conditional Use Permit for commercial water extraction activities on the Ranch. Finally, all water hauling operations that export water from Slippery Rock to other territories throughout the South Coast must cease until such operations are properly permitted.

District staff proposes sending the attached draft letters to Slippery Rock, the County of Santa Barbara, City of Santa Barbara, and Montecito Water District (Attachments E through H), conveying the District’s concerns over Slippery Rock’s proposal and unauthorized exportations. The letters will be presented to the Board if so directed by the Committee.

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A- Negative Declaration, issued September 15, 1989 (89-ND-2504)

Attachment B-Schulte Ranch Proposal Comments and Press Coverage

Attachment C-“Evaluation of the Schulte Well Project Monitoring Program,” (Nov. 1990)

Attachment D-District Resolution 91-01

Attachment E-Draft Letter to Glenn Russell, Director, Department of Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara

Attachment F-Draft Letter to Tom Mosby, General Manager, Montecito Water District

Attachment G-Draft Letter to Rebecca Bjork, Public Works Director, City of Santa Barbara

Attachment H-Draft Letter to Mark Lloyd

Authored by: Ryan Drake, Water Supply & Conservation Manager

Attachment A

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DATE: September 15, 1989
APPLICANT: Goleta Water District
PROJECT: Schulte Well
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS: 153-170-06, -07, -14, -16,
-20, -50, -54, -55, and -56.
LAND USE DESIGNATIONS:
ZONING: AG-I-5
GENERAL PLAN: Agriculture

NEGATIVE DECLARATION: 89-ND-2504

This Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared pursuant to Section 15070 and 15071 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Goleta Water District Policy. The ND is a written document which briefly describes the potential adverse impacts of a proposed project and why those impacts would not have a significant effect on the physical environment. The issuance of a Negative Declaration indicates that there are no significantly adverse impacts associated with the proposed project and therefore the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project involves the receipt of water by the Goleta Water District (GWD) from wells located on the Schulte property in the San Pedro Creek Valley, within the unincorporated Goleta area of Santa Barbara County (See Figure 1). The property owner, Mr. Rudolph Schulte, proposes to conduct a two year pump-test program of several water wells located on his property; Mr. Schulte has approached the GWD to purchase water produced during the test period. Under a proposed agreement, water from the Schulte Wells would be piped to the southern property boundary by a private on-site pipeline, at which point the GWD would construct a 60-80 foot pipeline to connect the Schulte pipeline to an existing GWD water distribution main (See Figure 2). In the absence of any involvement on the part of the GWD, Mr. Schulte indicates that he would conduct the test program and discharge water to San Pedro Creek.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The Schulte property is comprised of approximately 768.4 acres of land, situated north of the terminus of Fairview Avenue in the unincorporated Goleta area of Santa Barbara County. The property is bounded by U.S. Forestry Service lands (Los Padres National Forest) to the north, and is therefore in a predominantly rural area. Agricultural lands abut the property to the east and west, while agriculture and residential development of a limited urban nature are adjacent to the southern property boundary. Currently, the Schulte property is predominantly operated as a commercial avocado orchard. San Pedro Creek originates in the northern reaches of the property, and continues southwesterly beyond the property. Las Vegas Creek also crosses the property in the southeastern portion of the property. In addition, there are several natural water springs on the property, which provide sufficient water for localized wetland areas on-site. Riparian corridors are associated with both of the above-referenced creeks, and natural oak woodland and chaparral plant communities are represented on some portions of the property not under avocado production.

The area to the south of the property, in which the Goleta Water District proposes to construct a short pipeline (60-80 feet), is currently undeveloped. There are no plant species of concern known to exist within this intended pipeline route; grasses and annual herbs are the primary ground cover in this vicinity. The location for the proposed GWD pipeline is west of San Pedro Creek, and construction of the pipeline would not require encroachment into across the creek corridor.

INITIAL STUDY SUMMARY:

The staff of the Goleta Water District (GWD) has determined that with the incorporation of project conditions, there are no potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the project. The areas below were analyzed in a report entitled "Environmental Assessment of the Goleta Water District Schulte Well Project" (August 1989, incorporated herein by reference) and the Initial Study for the project. These studies and background information are kept on file in the GWD office, are available for public review and are part of these findings.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Flooding | ___ | Risk of Upset | ___ | Geology/ Minerals/Soils | ___ |
| Air Quality | ___ | Land Use | ___ | Fire Hazards | ___ |
| Groundwater Resources | <u>X</u> | Public Services | <u>X</u> | Recreation | ___ |
| Flora | <u>X</u> | Utilities/ Private Systems | <u>X</u> | Housing | ___ |
| Fauna | <u>X</u> | Transportation/ Circulation | ___ | Economics | ___ |
| Noise | ___ | Aesthetics | ___ | Archaeological Resources | ___ |
| Polluting Sources | ___ | Energy | ___ | Cultural Resources | ___ |
| Schools | ___ | Agricultural Resources | ___ | | |

The checks indicate areas of potential impacts which were further investigated and are summarized in the following section:

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: It is the finding of the GWD that this project does not have the potential to cause significant adverse environmental impacts for the following reasons:

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES:

The proposed well test program would result in the withdrawal of water from the bedrock aquifer, which could affect the quantity of water stored in the aquifer and the availability of water for area residents with wells supplied by the bedrock aquifer. In addition, extraction of water from the bedrock aquifer could affect discharge rates of natural springs in the area, reducing the availability of spring water for residents, plants and animals. In order to avoid potentially significant water resource impacts associated with the proposed agreement to accept water from the Schulte Wells, a properly designed and implemented hydrologic monitoring program would be mandated, and the District would be required to discontinue acceptance of water if significant impacts are detected. The Goleta Water District (GWD) has incorporated the above mitigation measure into the proposed pipeline project, and therefore potentially significant water resources impacts have been pre-mitigated to acceptable levels.

FLORA/FAUNA:

As mentioned in the Water Resources Section immediately above, extraction of water during the well test program could have the potential to affect the discharge rates of vicinity natural springs, which could lead to a reduction in the availability of spring water for residents, animals and plants in the area. Currently, the natural springs in the project vicinity support wetland plant communities which contain plants and animals of biologic concern. Reduction in the size of wetland habitat areas on-site would therefore be considered a potentially significant impact. In order to avoid potentially significant biological resource impacts associated with the proposed agreement to accept water from the Schulte Wells, a properly designed and implemented biologic monitoring program would be mandated, and the District would be required to discontinue acceptance of water if significant impacts are detected. The Goleta Water District (GWD) has incorporated the above mitigation measure into the proposed pipeline project, and therefore potentially significant biological resources impacts have been pre-mitigated to acceptable levels.

PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES:

The proposed GWD/Schulte water acceptance agreement would necessitate the construction of a limited pipeline (approximately 60-80 feet in length) by the GWD to connect the Schulte Well pipeline to an existing GWD water distribution main. The construction and maintenance of this limited GWD pipeline would not be anticipated to create adverse impacts upon the GWD or other public services. However, the acceptance of water by the GWD over the two-year test program would represent a supplemental temporary water supply for the District and its customers during an existing drought, which would be considered a beneficial impact.

CHANGES IN "PROJECT DESCRIPTION":

Substantial changes in the Project Description from that which is currently described shall constitute an action not considered as part of the Initial Study for this ND. In this case, additional environmental review may be required to assess any such proposed alterations.

REQUIRED MITIGATION MEASURES:

The following mitigation measures either have been or shall be included in the Project Description. These measures would insure that impacts from the Project would not reach significant levels. These measures must be included as conditions of approval for the proposed project.

1. The District shall monitor selected wells on the Schulte property (indicated on Figure 3) for the duration of the test pumping program, at a frequency of not less than once per month. Monitoring of each well shall include:
 - a. Static water level.
 - b. Flow rate, cumulative discharge.

2. The District shall solicit participation in a well and surface flow spring monitoring program from the property owners and/or well operators located in areas potentially affected by the project. The District will review the location, groundwater condition, and other pertinent data to determine whether or not to include each well, stream segment and/or spring in the monitoring network. The District shall devise a method of monitoring to be employed at each site, and shall either conduct such monitoring or provide any necessary assistance to the well operator for their completion of the monitoring. At a minimum the monitoring should include:
 - a. Static water level.
 - b. Flow rate, cumulative discharge.

3. Monitoring records from all participating wells shall be carefully maintained, and shall be reviewed by the GWD General Manager, GWD Hydrologist and landowner after each monitoring session. Monitoring records shall be permanently archived in an appropriate file maintained by the District. The contents of the file shall be available to members of the public upon request. Immediate action shall be taken if either of the following conditions occurs:
 - a. Water levels decline below the effective depth of the well (i.e., below the level at which the well is screened); or
 - b. Discharge rates from the well fall to a level which precludes further effective use of the well.

For the purposes of this mitigation, immediate action shall include the following:

- i. Reduction in test pumping rates, with monitoring on a weekly basis until the effected well returns to acceptable production; and maintenance of the reduced pumping rate for the duration of the test program.
Or,
- ii. A refusal by the District to accept any further waters from the Schulte Well testing program, and the disconnection or closure by valve and lock of the pipeline from the Schulte property to the GWD water distribution system.

The impacts described above have been selected to represent a definitive end-point or "worst-case" that can be recognized without difficulty in the field. However, the District acknowledges that it would be undesirable to reach this level of impact during the testing program. Unfortunately, lesser adverse impacts are not as easily defined or described on a uniform basis which could be applicable to every well or spring in the monitoring program. Therefore, the monitoring program shall also include the following provisions:


4. Monitoring records or reports from the monitoring program shall be carefully maintained, and shall be reviewed by the GWD General Manager and GWD Hydrologist upon receipt or after each monitoring session. Monitoring records shall be permanently archived in an appropriate file maintained by the District. The contents of the file shall be available to members of the public upon request. Water level declines in the monitor wells that depart substantially from background variations, and that reasonable coincide in time, space, and magnitude with pumpage of the Schulte Wells would be assessed on a case-by-case basis by District staff to determine the existence of potential impacts. If potentially significant impacts are identified at any point during monitoring, immediate action shall be taken by the District.

For the purposes of this mitigation, immediate action shall include the following:

- i. If District analysis indicates that the significant adverse effects have been produced by the well test program, the District shall discontinue further acceptance of water from the Schulte Well testing program, and disconnect or close by valve and lock the pipeline from the Schulte property to the GWD water distribution system.

5. The District shall conduct monitoring at established check points on specified natural springs on the Schulte property for the duration of the test pumping program, at a frequency of not less than once per month. Several check points have been identified at this time, and are indicated on Figure 3. Additional checkpoints would be established as a part of baseline hydrologic and biologic information collection, which will be completed prior to adoption of the mitigation monitoring program and approval of the project. Monitoring of each spring shall include:
 - a. Flow rate.
 - b. Size and areal extent of surface water associated with the spring.
6. The District shall supply (to appropriate landowners) an application to provide equivalent monitoring of natural springs and perennial stream segments on properties in the area potentially affected by the project; applications shall be evaluated by the District and accepted where they would provide useful information through practical means.
7. The District shall retain a qualified, independent, professional biologist to provide baseline documentation of the condition, areal extent, and general composition of the plant and animal communities at each natural spring or perennial stream segment within the likely sphere of project influence. The design of the baseline study will be developed in consultation with recognized regional experts. The documentation (i.e., field notes, observations, reports, etc.) shall be sufficiently detailed and precise to enable subsequent changes in the community to be identified, analyzed and documented.
8. The District shall retain a qualified, independent, professional biologist to make scheduled visits to appropriate monitoring check points, at a frequency of not less than once per quarter (i.e., three month period). These visits would be in addition to the measurements of spring flow rates and the size and extent of surface water. Additional biological monitoring visits would be conducted if periodic hydrologic monitoring indicates that potentially significant affects could occur, or if special circumstances arise at one or more sites pertaining to biologic conditions. Each visit shall include the following observations:

- a. Areal extent of saturated surface soil.
 - b. Examination of indicator species for signs of potential current drought stress.
 - c. Videocamera documentation of spring and perennial stream check points including open water habitat and representative herbaceous, shrubby and tree vegetation at the margins of the habitat and within the habitat.
 - d. General field observations.
 - e. Other measurements, examinations, or observations that may reasonably be recommended as a result of previous observations or by regional experts reviewing the initial design.
9. Monitoring records shall be reviewed by the GWD General Manager, GWD Hydrologist and affected landowner(s). After commencement of pumping, immediate remedial action shall be taken if:
- a. the area of saturated soils decreases significantly (i.e., the soil moisture decrease may be detected through measurement or physical inspection) and plants exhibit one or more symptoms attributable to drought stress; or
 - b. spring or surface flows decline:
 - 1) to a level 25 percent below the annual baseline flow; or
 - 2) decline suddenly by 25 percent or more of their current flow, unless the decline is determined to be caused by forces other than operation of the project wells.
 - c. significant degradation of the habitat value of the site are observed by the monitoring biologist and are determined to be attributable to changes in water quality or changes in flow potentially caused by the project.

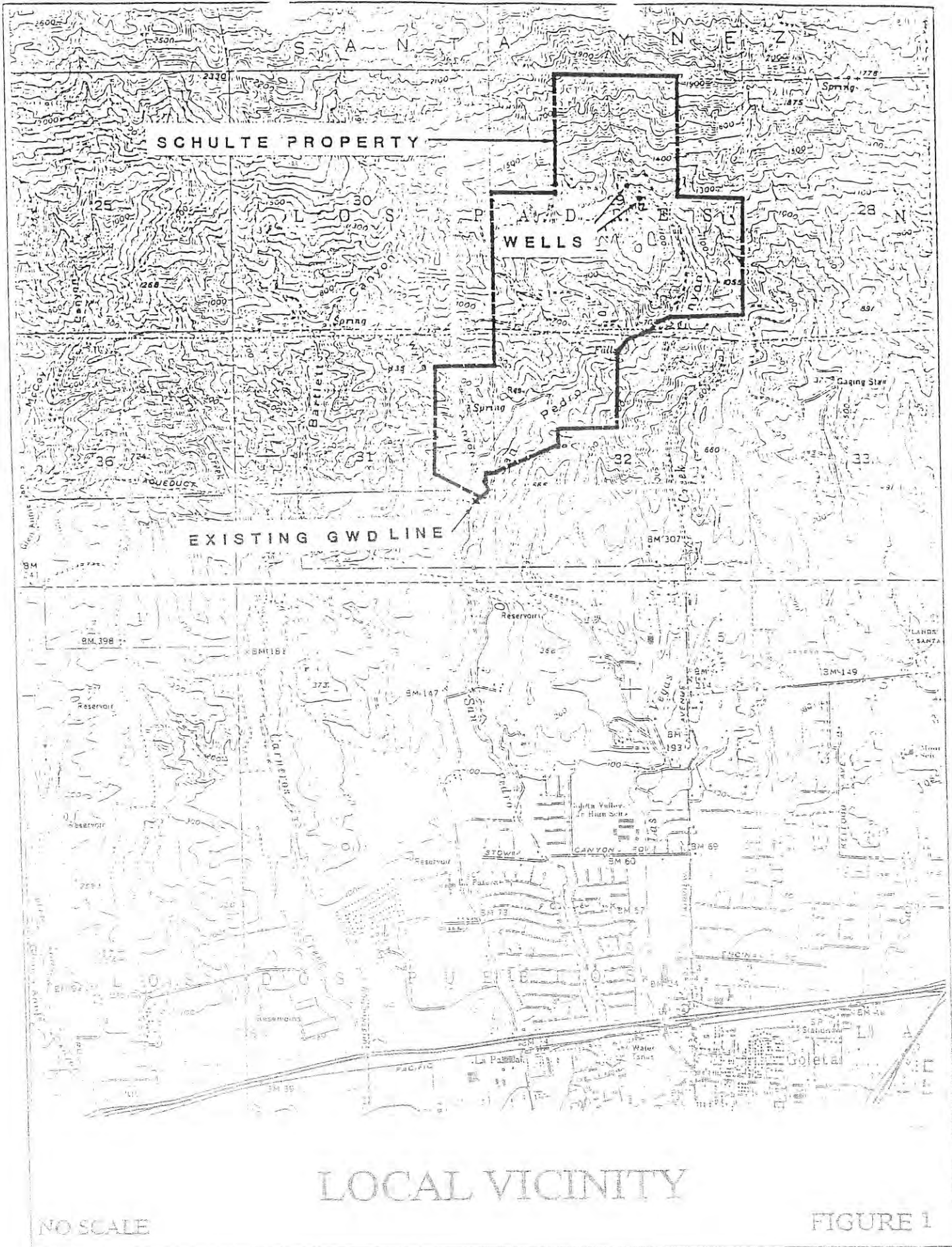


The baseline reference measurements shall be taken during July or August of each year. If potentially significant impacts are identified at any point during the record review period, immediate action shall be taken by the District. In the event that District staff and any affected property owner or other concerned person(s) are unable to agree whether a significant impact has been caused by the project or whether adequate mitigation has taken place, the District staff or the interested parties may request a hearing before the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District. Upon written request, a hearing shall be held and a decision made within 30 days.

For the purposes of this mitigation, immediate action shall include the following:

- i. Reduction in test pumping rates, with monitoring on a weekly basis until the affected habitat returns to previously measured extent and habitat characteristics; or,
 - ii. District withdrawal from the contract.
10. The District shall conduct a final biological monitoring visit and analysis in the quarter following the close of District participation in the testing program, to ensure the absence of test-related impacts after project completion. If biological monitoring during the test program indicates a longer lag time between hydrologic fluctuations and plant response, longer-term post-project monitoring shall be conducted by the District as appropriate.
11. The U.S. Forestry Service, Los Padres Office, shall review all notes, reports and data developed from the above programs. The Goleta Water District shall consult with the Forestry Service concerning the design and location of monitoring sites on Forestry Service property. The Goleta Water District shall avoid using drought impacted baseline data to the extent feasible. A significant adverse impact will be found to exist in accordance with CEQA. The Forestry Service will be consulted concerning such determination.

GWD Schulte/GWDND



NO SCALE

FIGURE 1

SCHULTE P PERY

POINT OF CONNECTION FOR
SCHULTE WELL PIPELINE

3 - 2" 072-000
ANODE BED

EXISTING
GWD LATERAL

LATERAL 2

CREEK

4" STEEL

CHANGE 3-08

PEDRO

5 AN

6" STEEL

ANODE BED
A/C INSULATOR

4" 072-000

SFA 153-20
CATHODIC TEST BOX
WATER SAMPLE SFA

SOUTH COAST CONDUIT

INSITE NO 1988-02110

30" 6" STEEL

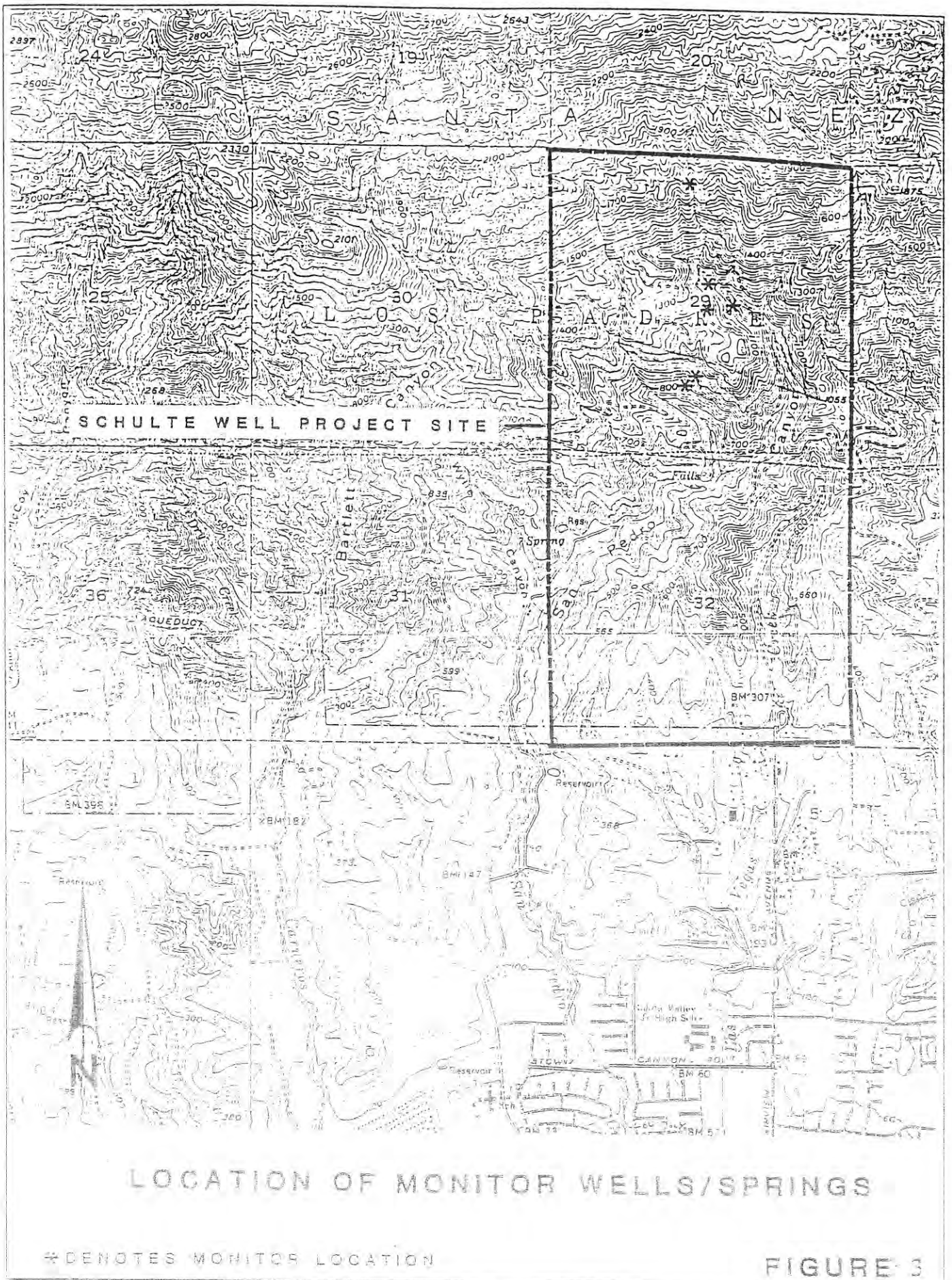
INSITE NO 1988-02110

INSITE NO 1988-02110

SITE PLAN

SCALE 1" = 800'

FIGURE 2



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814Daniel Wendell
Goleta Water District
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, CA 93117

September 5, 1989

Subject: Schulte Well test Program / SCH# 89081617

Dear Mr. Wendell:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental document to selected state agencies for review. The review period is now closed and none of the state agencies have comments. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call Garrett Ashley at 916/445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. When contacting the Clearinghouse in this matter, please use the eight-digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David C. Nunenkamp".

David C. Nunenkamp
Chief
Office of Permit Assistance

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



Golden Shore, Suite 50
P.O. Box 90802
San Diego, CA 92161
(619) 590-5113

September 5, 1969

Daniel Wendell
Goleta Water District
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, CA 93117

Dear Mr. Wendell:

We have reviewed the Negative Declaration for Schulte Well Test Program, State Clearinghouse No. 89081617. The project involves the acceptance of water by the Goleta Water District (GWD) from wells presently located on the Schulte property when Mr. Schulte conducts a two year test pumping program. ~~IF GWD does not accept~~ the water, Mr. Schulte will apparently go forward with the test and discharge the water to San Pedro Creek.

Curtailling of the review period to 20 days was done without demonstration of urgency and without describing the existence of an exceptional circumstance. This appears to be contrary to CEQA, Section 15073 (d). Additionally, this short review period has deprived us of the opportunity for a thorough review of the project and has damaged our role as Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources.

We have been unable to complete our review quickly enough to comply with the shortened review schedule and submit our comments through the standard State Clearinghouse routing. Our preliminary comments on this project are therefore submitted directly as follows:

Some of the impacts that are likely to occur, and which have been identified by GWD in the Biological Resources Section of the Environmental Assessment, included lowering of the groundwater table in the vicinity. This might affect the flow rate of natural springs and/or streams in the area. This in turn has the potential to impact riparian habitat and wildlife associated with that habitat.

The GWD, as part of the mitigation measures identified, has proposed a monitoring program to demonstrate the magnitude of these adverse impacts, if any. If impacts as outlined in the monitoring program occur, GWD proposes immediate reduction of test pumping rates. Otherwise the GWD will withdraw from the contract with Mr. Schulte. However, this implies that Mr. Schulte may continue to test pump at the rate causing the impacts if he does not wish to reduce the pumping rate at that time. Apparently, GWD would have no control regarding Mr. Schulte's pumping rates other than the contract terms for accepting the water.

1. As stated in the Environmental Assessment and Negative Declaration for the project, Santa Barbara County is currently experiencing a drought situation. The Goleta Water District has imposed water rationing on its customers, and is actively seeking additional temporary water sources in order to be able to continue serving its customers. Therefore, it is imperative that the Schulte Well project be implemented as soon as possible, to provide some alleviation to drought-induced water shortages.
2. The monitoring program required by the Negative Declaration currently contains a provision to monitor selected checkpoints on local springs and perennial stream segments to address this issue.
3. Comment is acknowledged; as a private landowner, Mr. Schulte has the right to pump water from a well located on his property. The test pumping or actual long-term operation of the well by Mr. Schulte himself would require no permits or approvals from any discretionary body. Therefore, the operation of the well by Mr. Schulte in the absence of involvement by the GWD would be considered a separate project, which would not come under the purview of CEQA (it is not discretionary, CEQA only covers discretionary projects). If the District terminates their water acceptance contract due to the presence of adverse impacts, they would advise Mr. Schulte not to continue the test. However, Mr. Schulte's actions in the absence of GWD participation are beyond the responsibility or authority of the District or any other discretionary agency.

①

②

③

Daniel Wendell

-2-

September 5, 1989

The proposed Negative Declaration is unacceptable because of the lack of certainty as to impacts and mitigations and because impacts to riparian vegetation may not be discerned within a year or two. To make it acceptable, monitoring of vegetation on a long-term basis will be necessary and the Monitoring Program must be subject to Department of Fish and Game approval. Also Mr. Schulte must be required to discontinue or suspend pumping operations in the event adverse impacts to riparian vegetation are found during the test period.

(4)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Kris Lal of our Environmental Services staff at (213) 590-5137.

Sincerely,

Fred Worthley
Regional Manager
Region 5

cc: Saaki

- 4. Comment is acknowledged, see responses above. The Negative declaration has been revised to require that the District conduct a final monitoring visit and analysis after completion of the testing program. The adopted mitigation monitoring program would be sent to the Fish and Game Department for their review and comment.

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SEP 11 11:36
DISTRICT REGION 5

9. Quality of ground water, chemical, bacterial, and trends, corrosivity of water and soils.
10. Suitability of aquifers for proposed development or use.
11. Relationship to existing water supplies and uses within water basin.

II. The Hydrologic monitoring program at a minimum needs to be modified to include:

1. The program should run for at least 5 years in order to determine the short as well as long term impacts from the project.
2. Define - "monitoring session", "acceptable production", "baseline flow",
- significant adverse effect.
3. Change ambiguous words like could, should to will, shall.
4. Streamflow above and within project must be measured.
5. Must establish baseline flow for each month in a normal rain fall year and not in the summer months of a 3-year drought.
6. It is not a sound hydrologic practice to set a 25% reduction on a spring in the summer as a base line.
7. Will the 25% decline also be used for wells and surface flows?
8. How was the 25% decline determined?
9. Must define for monitoring wells what "potential significant impacts" are.
10. As discussed in the EA, will the monitoring plan be able to determine safe yields, recharge rates, sources of water, "hydrologic communication"?

III. The Forest Service requests participation in the design of the well, spring and surface flow monitoring program. The draft of the program is as follows:

1. Forest Service and GWD should agree on what wells, spring and channels will be used in the monitoring program.
2. GWD will conduct the monitoring.
3. Sita will be measured not less than once per month.
4. Forest Service will be sent copies of reports on a monthly basis.
5. Forest Service and GWD will meet periodically to discuss results of the monitoring work.
6. Average flow rate will be determined from three separate measurements.

Comment is acknowledged; the monitoring program is being finalized with consideration for these comments. The Final Negative Declaration requires that the Goleta Water District allow the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to participate in the design and implementation of the monitoring program, whereby the USFS could review the monitoring program to see that it meets the stated concerns.

Comment is acknowledged; As stated above, the Final Negative Declaration requires that the Goleta Water District allow the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to participate in the design and implementation of the monitoring program. While it is not a guarantee that the draft outline which is proposed in this comment would be adopted by the GWD, the USFS has ample opportunity to review the monitor program and provide recommendations and input regarding the final design and content of program.

7. Monitoring of each spring, stream and well shall include: flow rate, cumulative discharge, static water level (well).

The Forest Service supports a monitoring program that will protect the forest resources while providing for safe water production for adjacent communities. Our forest hydrologist, Bob Blecker, is the contact for the hydrologic monitoring program for Forest lands.

Sincerely,

D. J. H. Eplin

for ARTHUR J. CARROLL
Forest Supervisor

cc: Santa Barbara District Ranger

RECEIVED

SEP 16 1989

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

Philip A. Seymour
Box 223 Painted Cave Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 683-0521

September 13, 1989

Chairman Patrick Mylod and Honorable Boardmembers
Board of Directors
Goleta Water District
P.O. Box 788
Goleta, CA 93116

Re: Comments on Schulte Well Negative Declaration

Dear Chairman Mylod and Honorable Members of the Board of Directors:

The following comments are prepared on behalf of the Wildland Residents Association and mountain community generally, as well as reflecting my personal views.

ADEQUACY OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The revised Negative Declaration continues to provide no meaningful description of the project or background information. As expressed in the first public hearing, this is a disappointment. Since the mitigated Negative Declaration was originally proposed as a compromise for a full EIR, we had hoped that the District would make a more substantial effort to disclose as much information as possible about the project through the Negative Declaration. Moreover, we know that a substantial amount of work was done and funds expended to investigate the project and background conditions. In this respect we think that the District acted very responsibly and made a sincere effort to investigate and satisfy the concerns of the mountain community. However, there is no reason that the results of these efforts could not have been shared with the general public. As it is, the Negative Declaration in my opinion does not even meet minimum legal standards in this area. ①

Rather ironically, the District's consultant for this project prepared an "Environmental Assessment" of the project which provides a very adequate summary of most or all of the information which should be in the Negative Declaration. This document, however, was not to my knowledge made available to the general public. I obtained purely by chance from Dan Wendell when I was at

1. Comment is acknowledged; however, the level of detail presented in the Negative Declaration is consistent with the Santa Barbara County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA. As stated in the introduction to the Negative Declaration, an ND is intended by CEQA to be "...a written document which briefly describes the potential adverse impacts of a project and why those impacts would not have a significant effect on the physical environment." The commentor is correct that the District has conducted extensive environmental analysis on the proposed project, and this information is contained in the Environmental Assessment prepared for the project. However, the inference that all project research results need to be contained in the body of the Negative Declaration is incorrect. CEQA legally allows, and actually encourages, the use of "incorporation by reference" to limit the length of environmental review documents and avoid repetition of information in a variety of different documents. In this regard, the District and Consultant are of the opinion that the Negative Declaration is adequate under CEQA, and the approach which has been employed is reasonable and appropriate. The Environmental Assessment has always been available for public review at the Goleta Water District office.

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|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Forest Service | Los Padres National Forest | Santa Barbara Ranger District Star Route Santa Barbara, CA 93105 805-967-3481 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|

Reply to: 2600
Date: September 12, 1989

Goleta Water District
P.O. Box 788
Goleta, CA 93116

Dear Mr. Daniel Wendell,

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the adequacy and completeness of the draft document, Environmental Assessment, Goleta Water District Schulte Well Project and the Negative Declaration dated August 28, 1989. Our general concerns on the impacts of groundwater withdrawal on the Forest subsurface and surface water resources were expressed in a letter to the Goleta Water District, dated May 31, 1989. This letter addresses more specific concerns with your monitoring procedures and potential impacts on surface flows and associated wildlife and riparian resources.

Water sources, whether perennial or intermittent, are the single most important and irreplaceable resource in maintaining native wildlife, fish and riparian plant communities on the Los Padres National Forest. Our objective is that no further reduction of surface flow occur that would impact wildlife, fish and riparian resources and we feel that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address this concern. We find problems with the adequacy and completeness of the document as discussed below:

1. No streamflow or riparian vegetation monitoring was proposed for National Forest Land or within the project. Spring monitoring on the Schulte property cannot be expected to accurately reflect impact on surface flow on National Forest Land. Mr. Schulte currently holds a special permit for three 6-inch cased horizontal wells and one 3-inch cased horizontal well on National Forest Land. These wells could be used for monitoring impacts of the proposed project on Forest groundwater. The Forest Service needs to be included in the monitoring design to insure that data gathered is useful in evaluating impacts that could occur as a result of this project on National Forest Lands.
2. The baseline flow and vegetation standards should not be established during the summer months of a drought period but should be established during a year of normal precipitation. In addition, a monitoring period of two years is not adequate to document changes in groundwater levels. Vegetative, surface water area and flow data taken during drought years cannot be expected to provide a standard for subsequent comparisons. After a three year drought, even measurements taken after one season of normal

1. Comment is acknowledged; However, the Final Negative Declaration includes provisions for monitoring wells, springs and stream segments, both on the Schulte property and on surrounding lands. The Negative Declaration also requires that the Goleta Water District approach surrounding landowners (including the U.S. Forest Service) and solicit their participation in the monitoring of wells, springs and stream segments on their properties. The Forest Service may request that wells on their property be monitored as a part of this program. Lastly, the Final Negative Declaration requires that the Goleta Water District allow the Forest Service to participate in the design and implementation of the monitoring program.

2. Comment is acknowledged; However, the baseline flow and vegetation standards would be reviewed and adjusted annually throughout the monitoring program, to determine a "normal condition baseline" and to ensure that overall project effects are not measured against a below average baseline condition. The monitoring program has a duration of two years simply because the duration of the well test program is initially for two years. Nonetheless, the Negative Declaration provides for the conductance of a final monitoring visit after the conclusion of the well testing program, at a time to be determined through the monitoring program results.

Goleta Water Board
September 13, 1989
page 2

the District office for a committee meeting. No-one else in the mountain community was apparently provided with a copy.

Apparently there has simply been some misunderstanding about what was expected, and apparently a certain lack of coordination in ensuring that the available information was fully noticed and distributed to interested members of the public. Since substantial District effort was expended in doing adequate environmental review, I hope that next time the District will go the extra mile in ensuring that the information is provided to the public and does not simply sit idle in District filing cabinets. This could be accomplished by attaching a copy of the "Environmental Assessment" or equivalent report to future Negative Declarations, or, better, by incorporating all the information into the Negative Declaration itself.¹

MITIGATION PROGRAM

As indicated at the previous public hearing, the mitigation program appears generally to be a good faith effort which is greatly appreciated. The revised Negative Declaration also incorporates some improvements on the language of the original conditions which is also appreciated. We offer the following comments and recommendations for the sake of providing some final clarifications and modifications which will help assure that the mitigation program is fully effective at protecting the environment:

1. (Monitoring of wells on Schulte property.)
Comment: This appears adequate when considered with # 2, which provides for monitoring of other wells at the request of the property owner. ②
2. (District will solicit participation of adjacent property owners.)
Comment: The intent of this condition - that of securing voluntary cooperation of concerned and potentially affected landowners is good. The current wording of the condition, however, is too limited. There is no guarantee that the impacts of the project will necessarily be limited to "adjacent" property owners. It is in the District's interest as well as that of mountain and foothill residents generally to secure as widespread participation in any monitoring program as possible. Information gathered may be useful in future projects as well as this one. The program should ③

2. Comment is acknowledged, no response necessary.

3. Comment is acknowledged, recommendations have been incorporated. Please see revised ND text.

1. Page 2 of the revised Negative Declaration references the Environmental Assessment and even purports to incorporate the EA into the Negative Declaration. This reference was not included in the original Negative Declaration. This tact is not an acceptable substitute for actually disclosing the information in the Negative Declaration itself or attach a copy of the relevant material.

Goleta Water Board
September 13, 1989
page 3

also include selected surface-water sites other than springs where appropriate. [Apparently this is intended; monitoring of stream segments is referenced in conditions 6-8.] This may be particularly useful where access to the main springs feeding a live stream stretch or other surface water feature is unavailable or difficult. We note that the language of the condition leaves discretion as to which sites to actually include in the monitor program to the District. We expect that the District will err on the side of caution in approving sites for monitoring.

Recommendation: Modify the condition as follows:

a. The District shall solicit participation in a well and spring surface flow monitoring program from the all property owners and/or well operators located on the properties owned by other individuals ~~in the~~ surrounding properties owned by other individuals in areas potentially affected by the project. The District will review the location, groundwater or surfacewater condition, and other pertinent data to determine whether or not to include the each well, stream segment and/or spring in the monitoring network. The District shall devise a method of monitoring to be employed at each well, stream segment and/or spring in the monitoring network. The District shall devise a method of monitoring to be employed at each well site, and shall either conduct such monitoring or provide any necessary assistance to the well operator for their completion of the monitoring. At a minimum the monitoring should include:

- a. Static water level.
- b. Flow rate, cumulative discharge.

3. (Maintaining records; immediate action to be taken if specified events occur).

Comment: This condition is the heart (along with condition # 9) of the mitigation program, as it specifies what remedial action will be taken if the monitoring reveals impacts, and when this action will be triggered. The following condition # 4 appropriately provides for an additional layer of discretionary staff review of impacts which are not so drastic that they automatically trigger mitigation, but which may nevertheless warrant remedial action due to the particular circumstances of the well in question. We recognize that drafting detailed language to cover all possible situations and eventualities is difficult at best. The two conditions taken together appear to be a worthwhile experimental approach to resolving this difficult problem. This approach depends heavily on the good faith, diligence and responsiveness of the District if problems occur. A successful completion of this project and the mitigation program will thus likely do a great deal to pave the way for a permanent cooperative relationship between the mountain community and the District.

The first sentence of this condition addresses record-keeping. Public availability of these records is a paramount concern with the mountain community. We believe that an additional provision should be added to ensure that the monitoring data is

(4)

4. Comment is acknowledged, recommendations have been incorporated. Please see revised ND text.

Goleta Water Board
September 13, 1989
page 4

systematically retained for future reference and is readily available for public review. Attempting to retrieve such information from unorganized or scattered files is burdensome on staff and greatly impedes public review.

Recommendation: Add the following two sentences after the first sentence of the condition.

Monitoring records shall be permanently maintained in an appropriate file maintained by the District. The contents of this file shall be available to members of the public upon request.

4. See comments on condition # 3 above.

5

5. Comment is acknowledged, see revised text.

5. (Monitoring of spring sites on Schulte property.)
Comment: The "specified natural springs" to be monitored should be specified in the condition, either by description or reference to a marked map. We presume that the sites have already been selected. If not, they must be before the Negative Declaration is complete.

6

6. Comment is acknowledged, see revised text.

Recommendation: Identify actual spring sites to be monitored by description or map reference.

6. (Applications for monitoring of springs and natural stream segments to adjacent landowners.)

Comment: This condition provides implementation for Condition # 2. We greatly endorse and support the District's efforts to enlist landowners in the area in a voluntary monitoring program. As indicated in comments on condition # 2, this program should not be limited to "adjacent" landowners only. This condition also reinforces the discretion of District staff to pick and choose monitoring sites. The manner in which this discretion is exercised will be one of the chief indicators as to whether the mitigation plan is living up to expectations.

7

7. Comment is acknowledged, recommendations have been incorporated. Please see revised ND text.

Recommendation: Change "on properties adjacent-to-the-Schulte property" to "on properties in the area potentially affected by the project."

7. (Baseline studies by qualified expert.)
Comment: Excellent.

8

8. Comment is acknowledged, the District has made a concerted effort to formulate creative and feasible mitigation measures for the project.

8. (On-site visits by biologist.)
Comment: This condition is excellent except that it fails to specify the interval for on-site visits by the biologist.

9

9. Comment is acknowledged; however, the consultant biologist for the Negative Declaration has indicated that quarterly monitoring visits to the site would be sufficient to ensure success of the mitigation monitoring program. Likely, a month would be too short a time to discern changes in plant health and biologic conditions. However, any time during the monitoring program, if adverse biological impacts are identified, monitoring would continue with a greater frequency. These revisions have been incorporated into the ND.

Recommendation: Add the following sentence to the end of the condition.

Visits shall be scheduled not less than once per month. Additional visits will occur if justified by special circumstances arising at one or more sites.

Goleta Water Board
September 13, 1989
page 5

9. (Mitigation triggering for biological impacts.)
Comment: The triggering criteria are geared exclusively to physical assessments of flow and area of saturated soil. This may be adequate in some situations, but is not responsive to biological impacts which could conceivably occur by reason of adverse impacts on water quality or other unforeseen consequences.

In addition, it is unclear whether the reference to a "25% reduction in stream flow" in criteria (b) means 1) a sudden decline of 25% over the then-existing stream flow; 2) a decline to 25 % less than the base flow, as established by August/July 1989 conditions; or 3) something else. Use of the July/August 1989 baseline establishes an artificially low baseline; there has already been substantial testimony from Mr. Schulte and at least one other individual at hearings and committee meetings that spring flows in many areas are the lowest ever. Assuming normal rainfalls return this year or next, the baseline should be adjusted accordingly to provide a more realistic frame of reference.

At previous meetings it was suggested that affected property or well owners and the mountain community should be permitted to seek the intervention of the Board if disputes arose as to whether significant impacts were being caused by the project, or whether mitigation measures should be applied. This condition is an appropriate place to add a provision for referring such matters to the board.

Recommendation: Amend criteria (b) and add a third triggering criteria (c) as follows. Redetermine the baseline flow annually. Add a provision for review by the Board of any disputes arising over impacts between staff and affected property owners or representatives of the mountain community.

10

10. Comment is acknowledged, recommendations have been incorporated. Please see revised ND text.

- b. spring or surface flows decline:
 - (1) to a level 25 % below the annual baseline flow, or
 - (2) decline suddenly by 25 % or more of their current flow, unless the decline is determined to be caused by forces other than operation of the project wells;
- c. significant degradation of the habitat value of the site are observed by the monitoring biologist and are determined to be attributable to changes in water quality or changes in flow potentially caused by the project.

The baseline reference measurements would shall be taken during July or August, 1989-which-should-represent-an-extreme low-flow-episode of each year. If potentially significant impacts are identified at any point during the record review period, immediate action shall be taken by the District. In the event that District staff and any affected property owner or other concerned person(s) are unable to agree whether a significant impact has been caused by the project or whether adequate mitigation has taken place, the District staff or the interested parties may request a hearing before the Board of

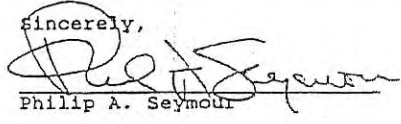
Goleta Water Board
September 13, 1989
page 6

Directors. Upon written request, a hearing shall be held and a decision made within 30 days.

* * *

Thank you for your attention to these comments and proposals. I hope that you will adopt the proposed changes to the conditions to ensure that the mitigation and monitoring program gets off to a good start.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Seymour

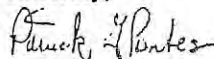
precipitation will not reflect the normal productivity of riparian communities. Maintaining a professional biologist to conduct a multitude of observations means little if comparisons are made from drought conditions. We do not believe that setting a baseline of a 25% reduction on a spring in summer drought is a sound decision nor does it reflect the impacts on stream flow; strassing resources on a yearly basis due to water diversion is not an acceptable management practice.

3. "Significant adverse effects" that would discontinue the well testing program have not been sufficiently defined. We do not consider the document's criteria for immediate remedial action ("spring flows decline by more than 25 percent", "area of saturated soils decreases significantly" and plants exhibit drought stress on the Schulte property) as adequate criteria to gauge impacts caused by the proposed testing.

4. The document does not address impacts upon wildlife and wildlife habitat sufficiently, including the occurrence of state and federal threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Though the responsibility of managing populations and species on private lands lies with other agencies, we wish to express our concern as most wildlife is not static and travels over boundaries of land regardless of affiliation. There is a good possibility that there are several species on the Schulte property and Forest land that are proposed for federal threatened and endangered species listing. We feel that potential impacts on the riparian community and wildlife dependent on streamflow on National Forest Land should be addressed.

We would appreciate coordination with you on these concerns before your final document is issued. Thank you for soliciting our comments.

Sincerely,



Patrick G. Pontes
District Ranger

3. Comment is acknowledged; the Negative Declaration contains a very clear definition of at least one significant impact which would cause automatic and immediate remedial action by the District. In addition, lesser impacts, which are difficult to discern and describe, have been outlined in the ND and a framework for significance determination by the GWD, USFS and landowners has been provided. If through monitoring any of the preceding parties determines that the potential exists for significant impacts, the GWD Board will hold a hearing on the matter and decide what actions may be necessary to avoid such impacts.

4. Comment is acknowledged; the Environmental Assessment for the project includes a list of species found in the vicinity of the Schulte property, including a discussion of endangered and threatened species. The impacts to wildlife resources were examined as a part of the analysis conducted for the proposed testing program, as described in the Environmental Assessment and Negative Declaration.

cc: Jeffrey Harris, Santa Barbara County Resources Management

cc: California Department of Fish and Game, Long Beach

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Forest
Service

Los Padres National Forest
6144 Calle Real Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 683-2711 (Emergency call 911)

Reply to: 2540

Date: September 14, 1989

Goleta Water District
Attn: Dan Wendell
P.O. Box 788
Goleta, CA 93116

Dear Mr. Wendell:

I am writing to comment on the adequacy and completeness of the draft document ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT GOLETA WATER DISTRICT SCHULTE WELL PROJECT and the Goleta Water District Negative Declaration 89-ND-2504 for the Schulte Well project. We also sent you a letter on May 31, 1989, concerning this same project. This project is immediately downstream from Forest land and could have a significant impact on surface flow and the underground water reservoir. The proposed hydrologic monitoring program needs to be modified in order to protect the water resource on the forest.

I. The EA and Negative Declaration needs to be modified with the following:

1. How much water on a monthly basis from well #2 would be pumped in excess of ranch needs?
2. What is location (map) of Strawberry Spring?
3. The assumption that initial pumping will only impact the Schulte property is incorrect. You do not have any data beyond his property that supports your statement.
4. Location, depth, thickness, lithology, areal extent, and type of aquifer or aquifers present.
5. Water table and piezometric surface gradients, direction of flow, recharge and discharge areas, areas of artesian pressure, contributing areas.
6. Seasonal and annual fluctuations in ground-water levels, extremes, and long term trends.
7. Present ground-water development, including: number of wells, location, depths, screen diameters, settings, lengths and types; casing diameter, type and weights; yields, drawdowns; pumping lifts, and annual pumpage.
8. Transmissivity and storativity of aquifers.

Comment is acknowledged; the proposed Schulte Well testing program is intended as a research effort, to obtain information relative to the bedrock aquifer of the foothill terrane. The information referenced by these comments and requested for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Negative Declaration (ND) would be collected and analyzed as a result of the well testing program and monitoring plan. While preliminary testing results indicate that the Schulte Well test program would not effect wells off-site of the Schulte property, the monitoring program includes provision for monitoring off-site wells, springs and stream segments.

Attachment B

District may buy water from rancher

By BOB CANE
SCCN staff writer

Rudolph Schulte has a lot of water he wants to sell to the Goleta Water District. But he already thinks GWD is all wet, and hopes that on Monday, district directors will agree.

If they don't, he says, it could cost him \$13,000 to \$25,000 a month.

The district is slated to decide Monday if it will go back to purchasing well water from the area rancher. If it does, experts say it might be getting significantly less than the 1.4 million gallons a week it has been getting from two wells on Schulte's La Patria Ranch.

GWD directors last week put a two-week hold on purchasing any more water from Schulte, after experts told them ground water withdrawals on the Schulte land were endangering the environment and—combined with the drought—had caused at least a 25 percent reduction in water levels of

springs and wells in Schulte's area.

But his two wells aren't the culprits, says Schulte. The drought is causing the lowered water levels, not his wells, he said. What's more, hydrologists were taking their measurements in the wrong kind of weather. Because weather affects water use by plants, he said, "I've seen times when the flow will almost double on a foggy day."

"They just don't want the water, that's what I think," he said. If the board doesn't take the water, it could either back out of its contract with Schulte completely, or—with the rancher's permission—continue their hiatus on taking it until periodic monitoring shows surrounding springs and wells restored to their normal levels.

If they don't start buying again next week "I'm just going to allow that water to run down the creeks and measure it myself, and see what I come up with," Schulte said.

He has seen wells and springs drying up all over, he told GWD directors last week. The base line

on which they determine if there is a reduction are not realistic, he added.

But he promised to cooperate with any testing GWD wants to do during the two-week hold. What happens after that, and whether he would allow GWD to stop taking his water, but continue to monitor his wells is something "we'll sit down and discuss," he said.

To date GWD has spent about \$108,500 for 60 million gallons of Schulte's water, which has accounted for about three percent of its total supply over the past six months. During the two weeks staff and district legal council have been studying both the contract with the rancher and the trigger number the contract uses for determining when water levels are too low for continued withdrawal. The district needs a percentage that Schulte will accept, but will still be "low enough to help us with the environment up there," said Board Chairwoman Katy Crawford.

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LOCAL NEWS

Today

Tuesday, November 27, 1990

Santa Barbara News-Press

B 1

C

Goleta halts purchase of rancher's well water

By Chuck Schultz
News-Press Staff Writer

For at least the next two weeks, the Goleta Water District will cease all purchases of well water from rancher Rudolph Schulte, which had amounted to about 1.5 million gallons weekly.

District directors haven't decided yet what to do after the two weeks are up. But it appears likely from their discussions Monday night that the district will be getting a lot less — if any — water from Schulte until the drought is over.

The water board's action was prompted by concerns that extractions from his La Patera Ranch wells may be causing water levels to decline in nearby springs and wells.

Schulte attributes those declines entirely to the ongoing drought. "I've seen springs totally dry up and wells totally dry up" recently elsewhere on the South Coast, he told the water board.

Several experts who spoke Monday night acknowledged the drought is taking its toll on wells and springs in the region. But they also said at least some of the lowered water levels recorded at monitoring points on and around Schulte's ranch probably are caused by two wells' extractions, from which he has supplied the district water. Those wells also are used to irrigate avocado orchards on the ranch.

The district has been buying Schulte's water under a two-year agreement, for \$600 per acre-foot. An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons. That well water has accounted for about 3 percent of the dis-

See GOLETA, Page B 3

Goleta

Continued from Page B 1

trict's total supplies during the past six months.

However, a condition of the agreement requires the district to either reduce or discontinue its water purchases from Schulte if water flows in any springs near his wells decline 25 percent or more from September 1989 rates.

According to Chris Conway, a district hydrogeologist, three of 12 springs being monitored by the water district have declined more than that. "Only the springs closest to the Schulte wells have shown a decline of 25 percent or more," Conway said.

In a written report to the board, he concluded that the monitoring data "suggests that significant, long-term environmental damage associated with the continued unrestricted pumping of the Schulte wells may be imminent, if not already occurring."

As of Nov. 1, the district had spent about \$108,500 to buy 181 acre-feet, or about 60 million gal-

lons of water from Schulte. Currently, it is getting about 1.4 million gallons weekly from his wells.

This is the second time since the district began buying water from Schulte on Jan. 8 that it has ceased those deliveries because of environmental concerns.

Salt marsh
addition eyed
B 3

B

LOCAL NEWS

Sunday, November 25, 1990

Santa Barbara  News-Press

C

B 1

La Patera well debate running deep

By Chuck Schultz
News-Press Staff Writer



News-Press file photo

Rudolph Schulte:
'Everybody's springs are
running dry.'

Goleta's newest water source will be on trial again Monday night as Goleta Water District directors decide whether to keep buying millions of gallons of water monthly from rancher Rudolph Schulte.

At issue is whether extractions from two foothill wells on Schulte's La Patera Ranch are causing water levels in surrounding springs and wells to decline. It's a question with no clear-cut answer, officials say, because springs have drying up and well levels have been dropping in most mountain areas of the South Coast during the drought.

"That's pretty much the case throughout the Santa Ynez Mountains," said Chris Conway, a Goleta Water District hydrogeologist. But, he added, "it does appear that springs in the area of the Schulte wells are declining at a faster rate than those in other

areas."

Flows in two nearby springs have declined 25 to 30 percent since the district began buying water from Schulte earlier this year, Conway said. "There's no convincing evidence whether that's due to the Schulte wells or the continuing drought," or both, he said.

The district is buying water from Schulte under a two-year agreement, for \$600 per acre-foot. An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons. That well water has accounted for about 3 percent of the district's total supplies during the past six months.

However, a condition of the agreement requires the district to either reduce or discontinue its Schulte water purchases if flows in any springs near his wells decline 25 percent or more, Conway said.

It's not the first time that the water-sales arrangement has been hindered by concerns that Schulte's wells may be sucking

other properties dry. In late January, about two weeks after the district began buying his water, residents of the Rosario Park area, a few miles north of his ranch, complained that several wells in their mountaintop enclave suddenly had dried up.

While experts searched for the cause of those well failures, the district stopped purchasing water from Schulte — and his two wells went unused for months. However, the district began buying water from him again May 1 after no direct geological tie could be found between use of the ranch wells and the problems occurring with Rosario Park wells.

During the months the ranch wells were dormant, none of the springs or wells on surrounding levels showed any increased water levels, Schulte said. He said there are no data that prove that his wells have been adversely affecting any other springs or wells since he began supplying water to

the district again in May.

"You can go up and down the coast and visit other ranches where the springs are totally dry. Everybody's springs are running dry" or are declining because of the drought, he said. It has nothing to do with the use of his wells, Schulte said.

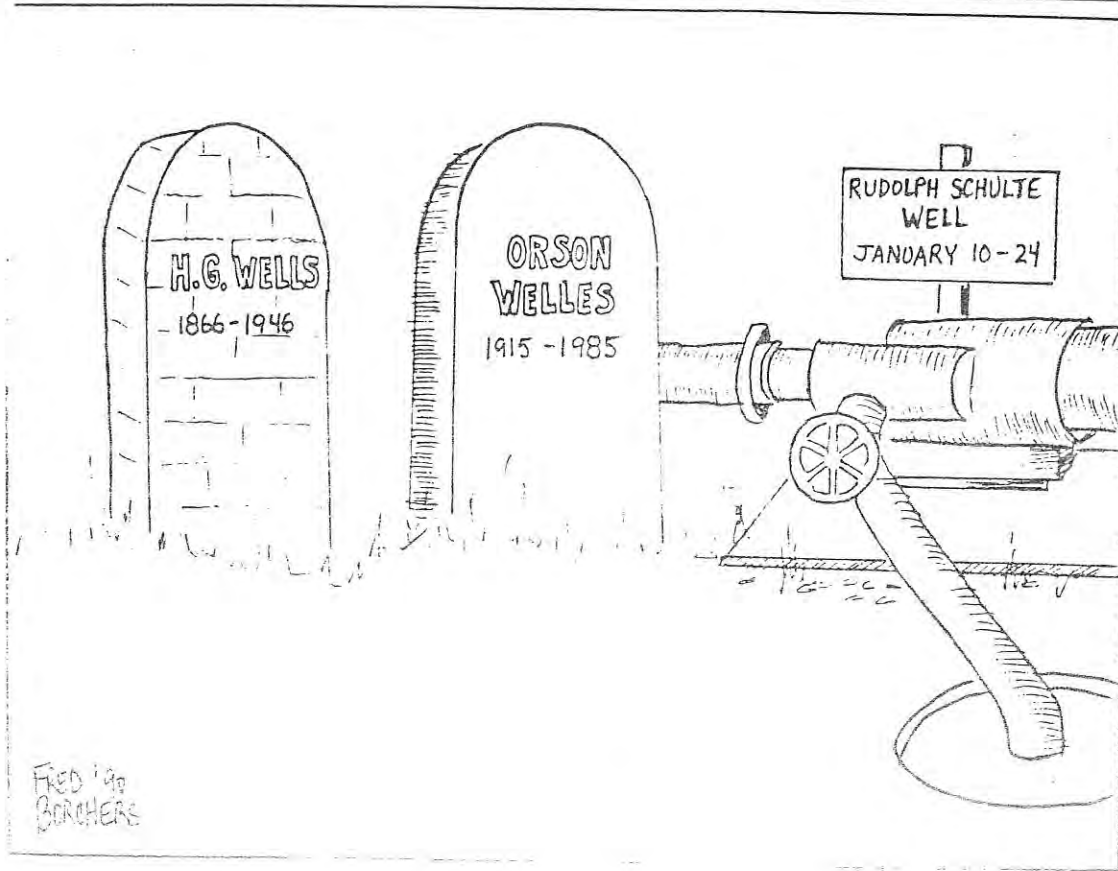
As of Nov. 1, the district had spent about \$108,500 to buy 181 acre-feet or about 60 million gallons, of water from Schulte. Currently, it is receiving about 4.3 acre-feet, or 1.4 million gallons, weekly from his wells.

The hearing on whether to continue those purchases is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday at the district board room, 4699 Hollister Ave., in Goleta.

Conway said he will recommend buying less water from Schulte until the drought is over.

How much the cutback will be is an open question, he said.

Bob P.



Editorial



Attachment C

EVALUATION OF THE
SCHULTE WELL PROJECT MONITORING PROGRAM

SANTA YNEZ MOUNTAINS NORTH OF GOLETA VALLEY

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

23 NOVEMBER 1990

Prepared by: _____
Chris Conway
Hydrogeologist

Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____
Robert A. Paul
General Manager
Chief Engineer

Date: _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| DISCUSSION | |
| The Schulte Wells | 4 |
| Natural Springs | 6 |
| SUMMARY | 10 |
| REFERENCES | 11 |
| APPENDIX A | |
| BEDROCK MONITORING PROGRAM | |
| 1990 Natural Spring Monitoring Locations | |

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure

- 1 Location of the Schulte Wells
- 2 Location of Wells and Springs in the Schulte Ranch Vicinity
- 3 Interpretive Geologic Cross Section - Schulte Wells to Rosario Park Area
- 4 Interpretive Geologic Cross Section - Schulte Well Area
- 5 Schulte Well Area - Grapefruit Spring, West (0 - 200 gpm scale)
- 6 Schulte Well Area - Grapefruit Spring, West (0 - 30 gpm scale)
- 7 Schulte Well Area - Schulte Well SW-1 Artesian Flow Rates (Q)
- 8 Schulte Well Area - Schulte Well SW-2 Flow Rates
- 9 SW-1 and SW-2 Combined Discharge vs San Pedro Creek
- 10 Marchiando Spring (Upper Weir)

LIST OF TABLES

Table

- 1 Bedrock Monitoring Program: Monitoring Locations
- 2 Natural Spring and Surface Flows in the Schulte Well Project Area
- 4 Natural Spring and Surface Flows in the BRTW Monitoring Program

EVALUATION OF THE SCHULTE WELL PROJECT MONITORING PROGRAM

23 November 1990

This report provides a summary of the Schulte Well Project, including hydrologic and biologic observations by Goleta Water District (District) staff and qualified biologists from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

INTRODUCTION

Schulte Wells SW-1, -2, and -3 were completed on the La Patera Ranch (Figs. 1 and 2) in December 1987, February 1988, and November 1988, respectively. These wells were all completed at depths of approximately 500 feet within the Coldwater Sandstone Formation. All three wells flowed artesian before being capped.

A geologic cross section extending from the San Jose Fault in the south to the Rosario Park area in the north is provided in Figure 3. Figure 4 provides a more detailed geologic cross section of the Schulte Well Project area extending from the San Jose Fault in the south to the Marchiando Spring in the north. These cross sections indicate that the Schulte Wells are located in the northern limb of a faulted syncline. The southern limb of the syncline is truncated by the San Jose Fault which appears to have effectively created a barrier to downgradient ground-water flow. Supporting lines of evidence for a barrier to downgradient ground-water flow are: 1) the high artesian pressure levels and flow rates observed during the construction of wells SW-1 and -2; and 2) the occurrence of several natural springs along the San Jose Fault. This type of geologic structure is capable of providing storage for a significant volume of groundwater.

SW-1 was particularly productive during well construction, with a reported initial artesian flow rate of approximately 1,000 gpm. Available hydrogeologic data suggest that the Schulte wells intersected several highly productive bedding plane fracture systems (Figs. 3 and 4). Water movement in this area appears to be controlled by fractures, rather than permeable beds. At least a portion of these fracture systems appear to be hydrologically interconnected to natural springs in the area. Evidence of this interconnection was observed during the construction of well SW-3 when flow rates of a nearby spring, Grapefruit spring, West, dramatically increased from approximately 25 gpm to approximately 180 gpm (Figure 5). This increase reportedly occurred at the same time a significant amount of water was observed being lost through a series of fractures in the side of the borehole of SW-3. In order to remediate this problem, a smaller diameter casing and a packer was installed inside

the borehole by the La Patera Ranch. The annulus was then sealed off by pumping in cement. This apparently sealed off the fracture systems in that portion of the borehole which were hydrologically connected SW-3 to Grapefruit spring, West, and the flow rates at this spring started to decline immediately (Figs 5 and 6). The flow rates at Grapefruit spring, West have continued to decline since November 1988; only temporarily increasing in apparent response to the rainfall which occurred between October 1989 and May 1990 (Figure 6).

As noted above, currently available hydrogeologic data suggest that the Schulte wells intersected several highly productive bedding plane fracture systems and that water movement in this area is apparently controlled by fractures, rather than permeable beds. When fracture systems control the flow and storage of water within a system they often create an aquifer that is strongly non-uniform (heterogeneous). Directional differences and variations in aquifer properties (transmissivity and storativity) often occur in fracture flow controlled aquifers. Drawdowns around a pumping well, which often form a cone-shaped depression in homogeneous aquifers, may largely be limited to the transmissive fracture zones. Therefore, depending on the complexity and extent of fracture zones and boundary conditions such as faults, the zone of influence produced by a pumping well or a well flowing under artesian conditions may form an asymmetric-shaped depression and cover a substantially large area. Although this heterogeneity can make aquifer analysis and determination of interference problems more difficult, interference drawdowns causing static water levels in wells and flow rates in natural springs to decline, should still coincide in time, space and magnitude with pumpage or artesian flow rates.

In June 1989, the District carried out a two-week long aquifer test on Schulte Wells SW-1, -2, and -3. SW-1 was allowed to flow artesian at about 380 gpm while observing water level responses in all three wells. Modeling from the test pump results assumed SW-1 would be used for extraction while SW-2 and -3 would be used as monitoring wells. The results indicated that allowing well SW-1 to flow artesian at 380 gpm for 2 years would cause a decline in artesian pressure of approximately 80 feet in SW-1 and approximately 60 feet in both wells SW-2 and -3. All 3 wells were anticipated to remain artesian throughout the 2 year test period (Refer to the Schulte Well Project EA for further details).

In an effort to augment its water supply during the current drought, the District entered into a two year contract to purchase surplus water from the La Patera Ranch. Under terms of the agreement, the District anticipated receiving about 200-600 Acre-Feet/Year (AFY) of surplus water from three water wells (SW-1, 2, and 3). Mr. Schulte, the property owner, planned on test pumping these wells for two years in order to evaluate their long-term production capacity. Per the Schulte Well Project Environmental Assessment and the Negative Declaration, Mr. Schulte stated that he intended to conduct this test regardless of whether or not the District accepted his surplus water, and indicated that he would discharge the water into San Pedro Creek if the District did not accept it. Water produced during this test in excess of that needed to meet the demands of the Schulte Ranch ("surplus water"), would be delivered to the District's distribution system via a ranch pipeline.

The water purchase agreement became effective when the District received approval from the California State Department of Health Services in January 1990. As part of its water purchase agreement and in response to the requirements set forth in the Schulte Well Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (ND), the District established a monitoring program in and around the Schulte Ranch. The monitoring program was established to monitor the effects of pumping the Schulte Wells and to protect against potential adverse impacts on surrounding water supplies and riparian habitats.

As stated above, the Schulte Well Project ND requires the District to conduct hydrologic and biologic monitoring in areas potentially affected by the project. The ND states that immediate action shall be taken if any of the following conditions occur:

- static water levels in a well decline below the well screen; or,
- discharge rates from a well fall to a rate that precludes further effective use of the well; or,
- flow rates from a natural spring decline by more than 25 percent below from baseline reference measurements taken in July or August of each year; or,
- areas of saturated soil decrease significantly and plants exhibit one or more symptoms attributable to drought stress.

If adverse effects such as these occur, in an area that could be potentially affected by the Schulte Wells, then immediate action shall be taken by the District and may include either:

- reduction in test pumping rates, with monitoring on a weekly basis until the affected well, spring or area of saturated soil returns to its previously measured rate and/or extent, and maintenance of the reduced pumping rate for the duration of the test; or,
- District withdrawal from the contract.

In the event that District staff and any affected property owner or other concerned person(s) are unable to agree whether a significant impact has been caused by the project, the ND states that District staff or interested parties may request a hearing before the District Board of Directors. Upon written request, a hearing shall be held and a decision made within 30 days.

The District established a water level and spring-discharge measurement program in 1983 with the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the long term behavior of the bedrock system. Several of the monitoring locations originally established for the District's Bedrock Test Well (BRTW) Monitoring Program were actually closer to the Schulte wells than the BRTW. Therefore, the monitoring program for the Schulte Well Project was integrated into a larger monitoring program named the Bedrock Monitoring Program (BMP). The BMP

now encompasses monthly water level and spring-discharge measurements at approximately 55 well and spring locations in the bedrock terrane (Table 1).

The monitoring program for the Schulte Well Project area presently consists of monitoring the discharge rates and water levels of Schulte Wells SW-1, -2 and -3, the water levels in 7 nearby wells, and the discharge rates at 5 nearby spring locations (Figure 2). Surface flow of the segment of San Pedro creek adjacent to well SW-1 is also monitored. Table 2 lists the discharge rates of natural spring and surface flow locations in the Schulte Well Project area. These monitoring locations are the most proximal locations to Schulte Wells SW-1 and -2 and should be the first to indicate potential adverse water level declines. In addition to protecting against environmental damage, the monitoring program will provide information regarding the perennial yield of the system, areal and vertical extent of the aquifer, and recharge rates and sources. Therefore, the District's involvement in the test pumping of the Schulte Wells will help better define this water resource.

The District retained a qualified, independent, professional biologist from SAIC to provide baseline documentation of the condition, areal extent, and general composition of the plant community at each natural spring and perennial stream segment within the likely sphere of project influence. In addition to the baseline study, SAIC was required to make quarterly visits to natural spring and perennial stream monitoring check points established during the baseline study. Each monitoring visit included general field observations, and 35-mm slide and videocamera documentation of the established check points.

SAIC completed the baseline documentation study of the Schulte Well Project area in September 1989. Three subsequent quarterly biological monitoring visits have also been completed and a report from SAIC on the findings was published 24 August 1990. This report, as well as the 35-mm slide and videocamera documentation, is available at the District office for public review.

DISCUSSION

The Schulte Wells

During the period between well completion and District acceptance of surplus water, wells SW-1 and -2 reportedly operated on a regular basis flowing under artesian conditions at about 300 gpm. Production from these wells increased to about 500 gpm artesian flow when the District began to receive water on 10 January 1990. On 25 January 1990, several mountain residents from the Rosario Park area expressed concern that District use of the Schulte wells was causing their wells to "dry up". The District discontinued acceptance of water from the Schulte Wells the same day and immediately began collecting data and monitoring several wells in the Rosario Park area. The Rosario Park area is located approximately 2 miles north of the Schulte wells. Available hydrogeologic data indicated that it was highly unlikely that pumping the Schulte Wells had impacted the Rosario Park

area. Two ground-water drainage divides and an anticline occur between the Rosario Park area and the Schulte Wells (Figure 3). Several wells located more proximal to the Schulte Wells were also unaffected. Construction and increased pumping of new private wells located near the Rosario Park area and/or the unprecedented drought appear to be responsible for the reported well failures in that area. Therefore, after review of available information, the District decided to resume receiving water from the Schulte Wells on 1 May 1990.

A limited amount of water, about 30-40 gpm artesian flow, was produced from wells SW-1, -2 and -3 from 25 January 1990 to 1 May 1990. The combined production from Schulte Wells SW-1 and -2 increased to about 580 gpm artesian flow when the District began to reaccept water from the Schulte wells in May 1990. The Schulte wells are currently producing a combined total artesian/pumped discharge of about 280 gpm (14 November 1990), with the District receiving about 50% as surplus water, and the remainder being used to irrigate avocado trees on the ranch.

Currently, SW-1 is flowing under artesian conditions at about 120 gpm (14 November 1990). The artesian flow rate for SW-1 was about 400 gpm when the District began to reaccept water from the Schulte Wells in May 1990 (Figure 7). SW-2 declined in artesian flow to about 10 gpm (20 July 1990) from an initial artesian flow rate of 160 gpm on 3 May 1990 (Figure 8). A pump was installed in SW-2 in July 1990 and began pumping at about 185 gpm. SW-2 was recently observed pumping at about 160 gpm on 14 November 1990 (Figure 8). Artesian flow rates from SW-1 and -2 have reportedly not been regulated by La Patera Ranch personnel since 1 May 1990. Therefore the observed artesian flow rates since May 1990, prior to pump installation in SW-2 in July 1990, apparently represent maximum unrestricted values. SW-3, which had occasionally been used to water newly planted avocado trees nearby, ceased to flow artesian approximately 7 days after the District began to reaccept water from the Schulte Wells in May 1990. This well is presently inactive and does not have a pump installed. Therefore, between 3 May 1990 and 14 November 1990, the artesian flow rates of well SW-1 declined approximately 280 gpm while well SW-2 displayed approximately a 150 gpm decline in artesian flow rates and a 25 gpm decline in pumping production rates. If the present rate of decline in discharge rates continues, SW-1 may cease to flow artesian before February 1991 (Figure 7).

Between 27 April and 27 July 1990 and prior to pump installation in well SW-2, the total loss in artesian pressure heads observed in Schulte Wells SW-1, -2 and -3, was approximately 178, 106 and 78 feet, respectively. The loss in artesian pressure heads observed in wells SW-1 and -2 occurred within 24 hours after the wells were allowed to flow under unrestricted artesian conditions on 1 May 1990. Between 27 July and 14 November 1990, no further decline in artesian pressure was observed at well SW-1. During this same period the water levels within wells SW-2 and -3 were drawdown an additional 132 feet and 30 feet, respectively. As noted previously, modeling results of the two-week long pump test in June 1989 indicated that allowing SW-1 to flow artesian at 380 gpm for 2 years, would cause an estimated total loss in artesian pressure head or drawdown of approximately

80 feet in SW-1 and approximately 60 feet in both SW-2 and -3. Contrary to pump test modeling assumptions, Schulte Wells SW-1, -2 and -3 have all been used for ground-water extraction. The additional artesian flow and pumping of well SW-2 probably account for a significant portion of the observed increased losses in artesian head pressure and drawdowns.

Natural Springs

During the period between 25 January 1990 and 1 May 1990 water production from the Schulte Wells was essentially discontinued (only 30-40 gpm artesian flow was produced for use on the ranch). Use of the Schulte Water Supply had been terminated by the District in response to complaints from residents of the Rosario Park area. Use was resumed after a Public Hearing before the Board of Directors on 23 April 1990. The Schulte Wells had reportedly operated on a continuous basis prior to this period (about 300 gpm artesian flow). Therefore, the period between 25 January 1990 and 1 May 1990 allowed District staff the opportunity to observe the potential recharge and recovery rates of natural springs and wells in the Schulte Well Project area.

Almost all the natural springs in the Bedrock Monitoring Program increased in flow rates during this period (Appendix A). This observed increase in flow rates appears to have occurred in response to the rainfall which also occurred during this period (Figs 6 and 10). The water levels within several private wells also increased during this period, although this also probably occurred in response recharge from rainfall and reduced pumping due to reduced demand. Therefore, it is difficult to determine whether the temporary increase in flow rates which occurred in several springs, occurred as a result of reduced artesian flow rates at the Schulte Wells, or in response to rainfall.

The Schulte Well Project ND implies that the baseline reference measurements for natural spring flows will be redetermined in July or August each year. This revision to the Environmental Assessment was incorporated into the ND due to the concerns of the mountain residents that the 1989 baseline reference measurements might be artificially low due to the drought. The assumption that normal rainfall would return in the winter of 1990 and that natural spring flows would increase was incorrect. The ND also states that the District will avoid using drought impacted baseline data to the extent feasible. Therefore, District staff did not redetermine the 1990 baseline reference measurements, but rather used the measurements obtained at the beginning of the monitoring program in 1989. It was also not possible to obtain baseline reference measurements in July or August, 1989 for most of the spring and surface flow monitoring locations in the Schulte Well Project area because the ND was not completed until 15 September 1989. After this date, District staff began studying the Schulte Well Project area and located several additional monitoring locations in areas potentially affected by the project. Therefore, several of the locations were also added to the monitoring program after 15 September 1989 and the baseline reference measurements were assumed to be the first measurements taken by the District (Table 2).

In order to simplify the following discussion, the term "Action Level", refers to the flow rates of natural springs that are 25 percent below the 1989 baseline reference measurements.

The flow rates of 2 springs (Marchiando Spring (Upper Weir), and Lower Ranch Spring), both on the La Patera Ranch, declined below action levels sometime in June 1990 (Table 2, Appendix A). The live stream segment of San Pedro Creek near SW-1 also ceased to flow and dried up at this time (Figure 9). It is unclear whether this segment of San Pedro Creek is a perennial stream. No surface flow data was apparently collected on this section of the creek prior to the Districts involvement in the project. However, the observed decline in surface flow rates along the section of San Pedro Creek adjacent to SW-1 appears to correspond to the increased artesian flow rates of SW-1 (Figure 9). District staff immediately informed the General Manager that two springs had declined below "Action Levels" and began weekly monitoring of the La Patera Ranch. Although production from wells SW-1 and -2 declined from a total of about 580 gpm artesian flow in May 1990 to about 280 gpm combined artesian flow/pumping rates, no reduction in artesian flow or test pumping rates was requested during that time.

As noted previously, a report on biological monitoring of the La Patera Ranch area entitled "Results of Biological Monitoring: Schulte Well Project", was completed by SAIC on 24 August 1990. This report noted that a substantial number of dead and dying alder trees were observed along a segment of San Pedro Creek located between about 0.1 and 0.4 miles downstream of Schulte Well SW-1. It was also noted that during the monitoring period, improvements to existing structures and substantial new structures had been installed at the Grapefruit Spring and Marchiando Spring areas. These structures effectively increased the amounts of water captured and diverted for agricultural and domestic uses, and dramatically reduced or eliminated the natural flow of water downstream. Although the death of alder trees in San Pedro Creek could not directly be attributed to the test pumping of the Schulte Wells, the report noted that increased spring diversions and hydrologic monitoring results indicating declining spring flows, well yields, and ground-water levels, suggested that long-term environmental damage associated with continued District purchase of water from the Schulte Wells may be imminent, if not already occurring.

A public meeting was held 18 September 1990 to discuss potential mitigation measures at the La Patera Ranch. During this meeting, the District Board of Directors approved the following mitigation measures;

- Release of about 10 gpm of water was from Schulte Well SW-2 into San Pedro Creek and the release of the total flow of water produced from the Grapefruit spring, West, past the present diversion structures into the creek channel. These releases were intended to provide supplemental water to the downstream riparian vegetation in those areas. Four shallow piezometer tubes were installed in the stream channels below these areas to monitor the progression of subsurface water flow in the stream channel sediments.

District staff was authorized to continue weekly hydrological monitoring of wells and springs on the La Patera Ranch until the springs recovered to discharge rates above action levels, with weekly visits resuming anytime spring discharge measurements decline below action levels.

Weekly biological monitoring by SAIC on the La Patera Ranch was also authorized by the District Board of Directors. After several biological monitoring visits, SAIC biologist and District staff decided that monthly visits would be sufficient in addition to weekly review of District hydrological monitoring results.

A reduction in the amount of deliveries from Schulte Wells SW-1 and -2 to the La Patera Ranch and the Goleta Water District occurred in an amount equivalent to the amount released to the local riparian habitats described above.

Water releases from well SW-2 and Grapefruit spring, West began 25 September 1990. As of 4 October 1990, the water being released from well SW-2 into San Pedro had progressed to approximately 200 ft downstream of well SW-1. Between 4 October and 14 November 1990, the extent of surface flow in San Pedro Creek did not appear to progress any further downstream and the piezometer tubes located downstream of piezometer SPT-1 remained dry.

The water currently being released from Schulte Well SW-2 appears to be insufficient and does not appear to be providing supplemental water to downstream riparian vegetation such as the area of dead, dying and stressed alders downstream of the road crossing below SW-1. Water being released from this location is probably not reaching its intended destination due to a combination of the following factors; 1) Percolation of surface flows into porous stream channel sediments, permeable rock units, and fractures allowing the water to return to the Coldwater sandstone aquifer, and 2) Evapotranspiration soil and riparian vegetation. Although the water released from SW-2 is apparently not reaching its intended location, the riparian vegetation which is receiving this water near wells SW-1 and -2 has benefitted and appears healthy.

Water released from Grapefruit spring, West appears to be slowly progressing downstream. Recently water was observed for the first time in downstream piezometer SPT-4 (14 November 1990). The release of water from this area has restored flow to a large fern "meadow" and has averted damage to several sensitive species. Recent biological visits by SAIC indicate that areas of saturated soils near the source of Grapefruit spring, West appear to be declining and that several sensitive indicator species are exhibiting symptoms of drought stress. This reduction in wetted area is most likely attributable to continued drought and possibly exacerbated by continued extraction of groundwater by the Schulte Wells.

Recent hydrological monitoring of wells and springs on the La Patera Ranch indicates that the discharge rates of Marchiando spring (Upper Weir), Lower Ranch spring, and now

Grapefruit spring, West, have all declined below action levels (Table 2, Appendix A). The discharge rates of Grapefruit spring, West declined below the action levels in early October. The flow rates of these springs are continuing to decline although the flow rates of all other spring monitored by the District on the La Patera Ranch, do not appear to be declining. Marchiando spring (Upper Weir) and Grapefruit spring, West, have shown the greatest decline in flow rates and appear to be the most sensitive springs to continued drought and the continued extraction of groundwater by the Schulte Wells. The overall recorded flow history for Marchiando Spring (Upper Weir) reveals an approximate decline in discharge rates of 4.4 gpm since ranch personnel began taking measurements in February 1989 (Figure 10). If the present rate of decline continues, Marchiando Spring (Upper Weir) may cease to flow sometime in the Spring of 1991. However, a wet winter may increase the flow significantly.

In comparison to the Schulte Well Project area, only one of the eight springs monitored in the BMP, the Trout Club spring, exhibited a similar decline in flow rate during the same period (Table 3, Appendix A). The 25% decline in flow at the Trout Club spring occurred 13 October 1989, about 8 months prior to the declines observed in the Schulte Well Project area. This spring recovered above the action level mark (2.3 gpm) when rainfall occurred in November 1989, and has remained above 2.3 gpm since this time.

Recent Biological monitoring visits of several stream channel locations approximately 1 to 2 miles east and west of the Schulte Wells indicated that riparian vegetation, such as alders and giant chain ferns, are also dead and dying on adjacent properties. It is unlikely that use of the Schulte wells is responsible for the declines in riparian vegetation observed in these areas. Increased pumping of private wells located closer to natural springs in these areas and/or the unprecedented drought are more likely responsible. Therefore, these visits indicate that there is a regional trend of decline in riparian vegetation, which is not restricted to the La Patera Ranch. The only potential difference between these areas, is that natural spring flows on the La Patera Ranch appear to be declining at a higher rate.

SAIC has proposed to conduct several future periodic biological visits to the off-site stream channel locations mentioned above. This task has the objective of finding sites that have relatively comparable biological and hydrological characteristics to assist in identification of distribution patterns of riparian vegetation and help document regional trends.

SUMMARY

The District Board of Directors will hold a Special Meeting and Public Hearing on 26 November 1990 to discuss the potential modification of mitigation measures involving the Schulte Well Project water supply. Although the results of the District's monitoring study have been confounded by the current drought, they suggest that significant, long-term environmental damage associated with continued unrestricted pumping of the Schulte Wells may be imminent, if not already occurring. The continuing drought has significantly reduced the natural ground-water recharge and storage in the Coldwater Sandstone Formation. The cones of depression or zones of influence created by the Schulte Wells and other private wells, which withdraw water from the Coldwater Sandstone Formation, will continue to expand until discharge from the system reaches equilibrium with recharge to the system. In a drought situation, with below average rainfall conditions, the expansion of zones of influence may continue and could potentially exhaust the water supplies of some fracture zones. Declining flow rates at natural springs located near the Schulte Wells, which have demonstrated significantly greater declines in flow rates than other springs, are likely to continue until a significant amount of recharge occurs. Recharge to this system will probably occur in the future in the form of rainfall. Therefore, during the current drought, a reduction in pumping and water deliveries to the District, consistent with the conditions set forth in the Schulte Well Project ND, is recommended until such recharge occurs.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Further information on the Bedrock Monitoring Program and the Schulte Well Project is contained in the following documents, available for public review at the District.
- Goleta Water District, 5 October 1990, Current Status of Schulte Well Project Approved Mitigation Measures.
- Goleta Water District, 19 September 1990, Schulte Well Project, Approved Mitigation Measures.
- Goleta Water District, 18 September 1990, Schulte Well Project, Potential Mitigation Measures.
- Goleta Water District, 14 September 1990, Current Status of the Bedrock Monitoring Program, Santa Ynez Mountains North of Goleta Valley.
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- Schramm & Raddue, Attorneys at Law, April 5, 1989, Schulte Well Water Purchase Agreement.
- Todd, David Keith, Consulting Engineers, Inc., July 1983, Groundwater Monitoring Program For The Proposed Goleta Water District Bedrock Water Well.
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The following is a partial list of standard reference material which provide an excellent introduction to hydrogeology and the principles of ground-water flow.

Fetter, C.W., 1988, Applied Hydrogeology, Second Edition, Merrill Publishing Co., Columbus, Ohio.

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Heath, R.C., 1983, Basic Ground-Water Hydrology, U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2220.

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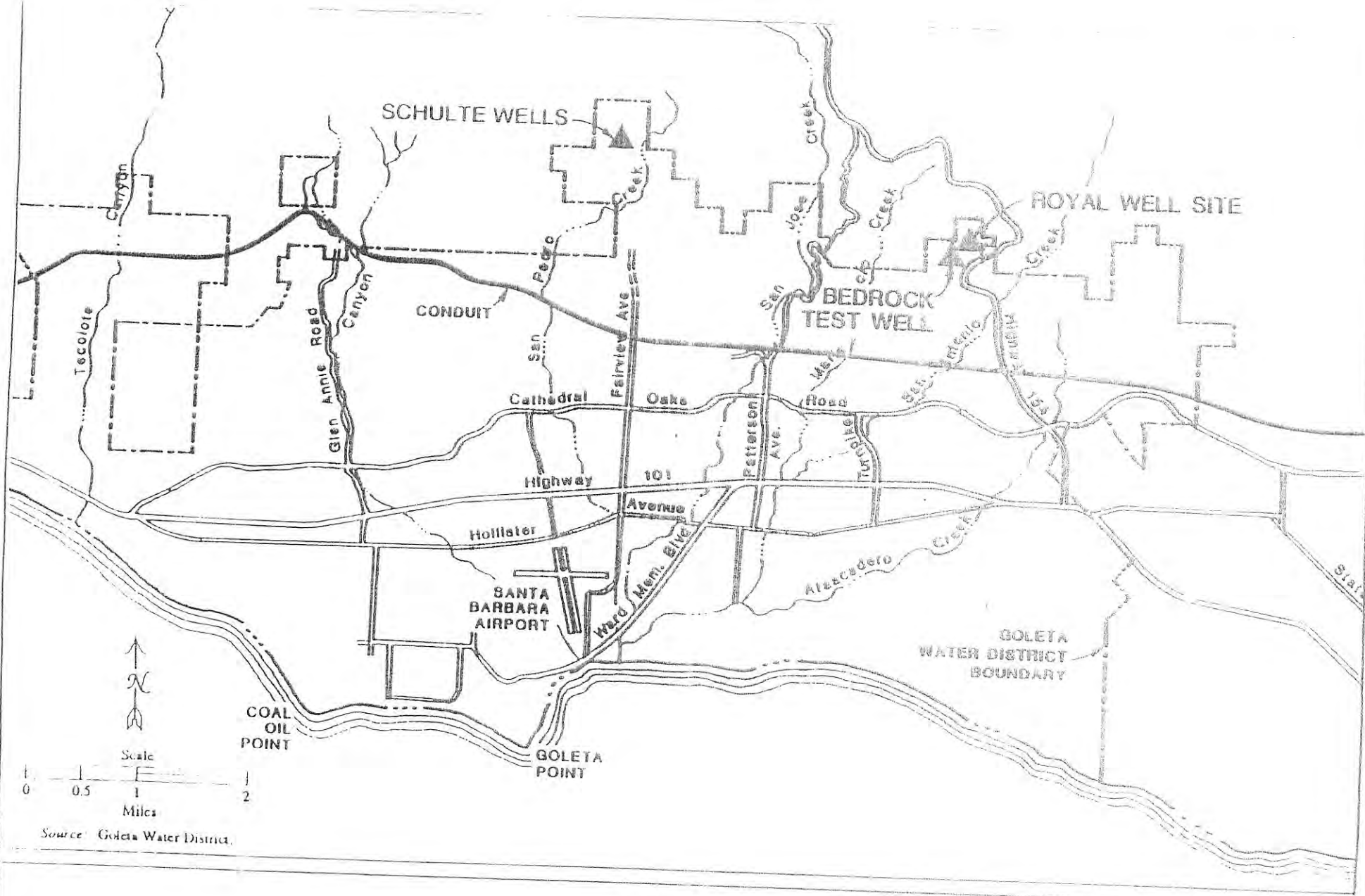


Figure 1

LOCATION OF THE SCHULTE WELLS

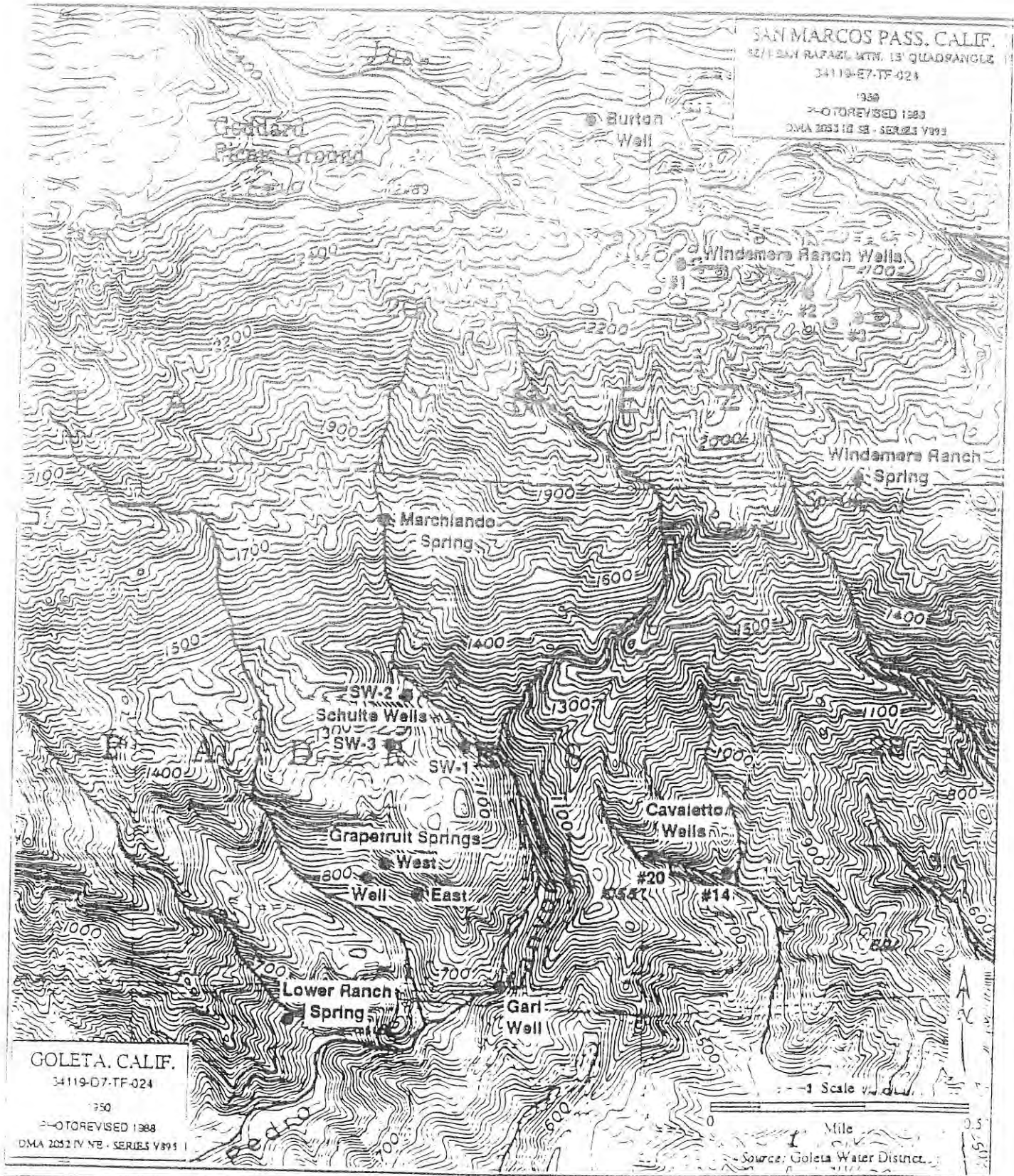
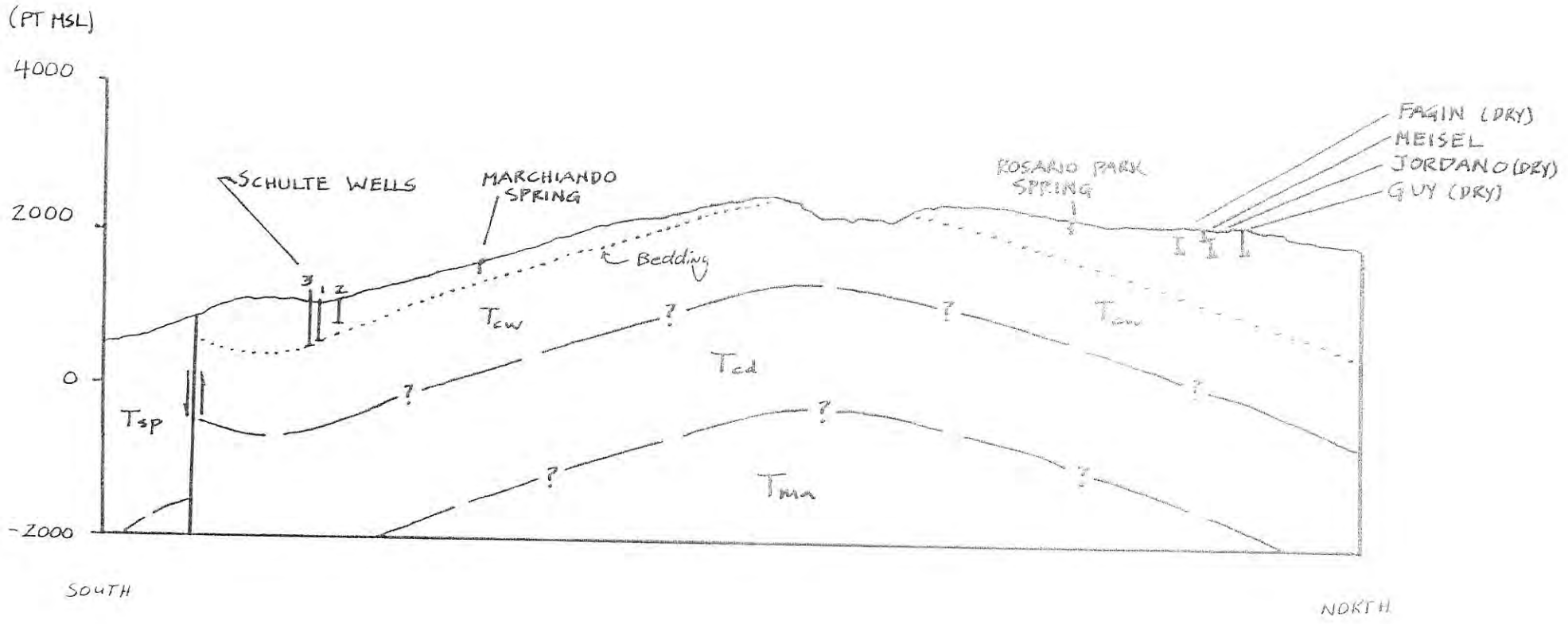


Figure 2

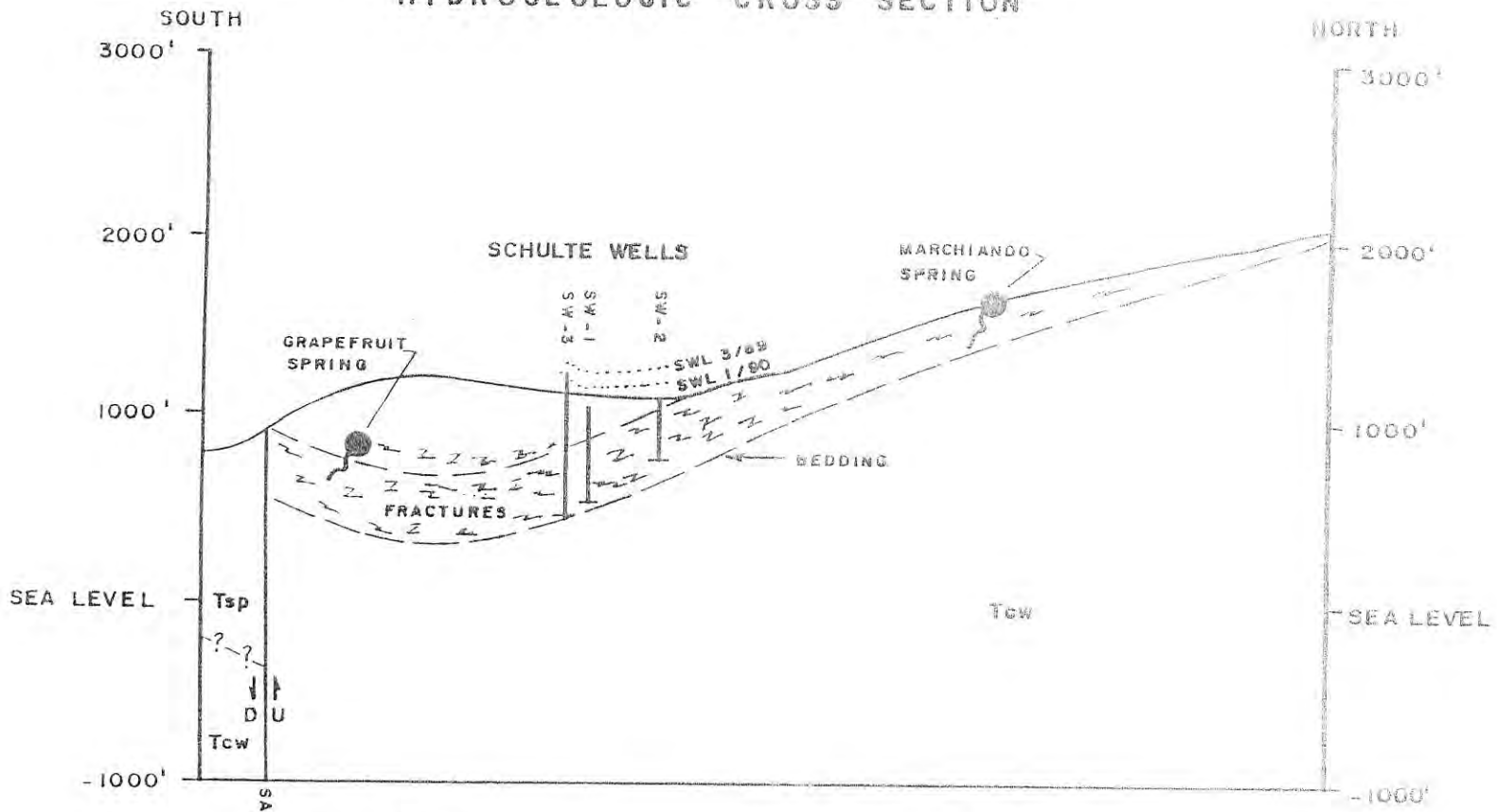
LOCATION OF WELLS AND SPRINGS IN THE SCHULTE RANCH VICINITY



SCALE 1 in = 2000 ft

| |
|-----------------------|
| Goleta Water District |
| INTERPRETIVE GEOLOGIC |
| CROSS SECTION |
| SCHULTE WELL AREA |
| Figure 3 |

SCHULTE WELLS HYDROGEOLOGIC CROSS SECTION



LEGEND

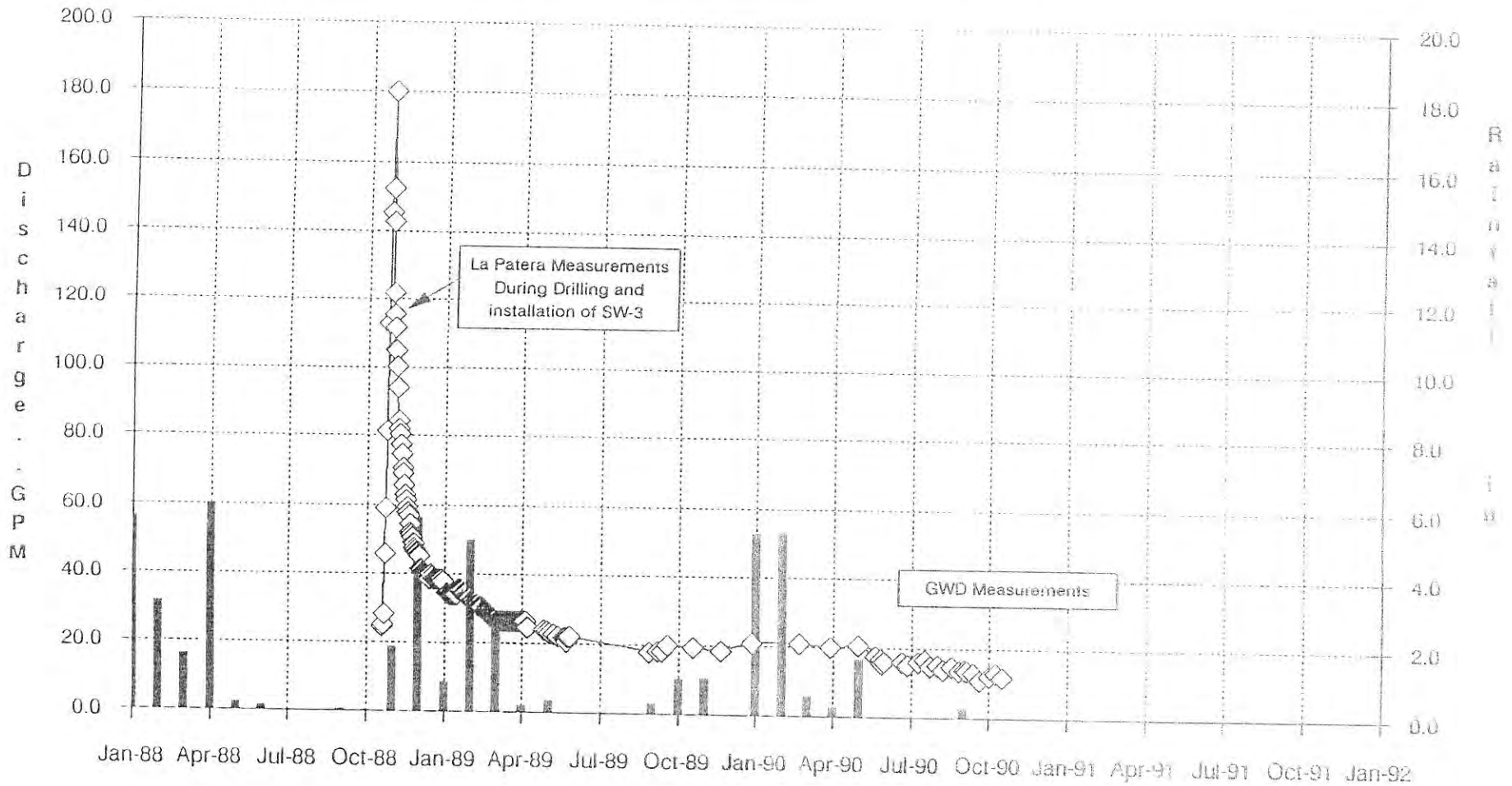
- Tcw = Coldwater Sandstone (Marine; late Eocene age)
- Tsp = Sespe Formation (Nonmarine; Oligocene age)
- ||| = Fault (D= downthrown side, U = upthrown side)
- SWL = Static Water Level

SCALE 1 in = 1000 ft

| |
|--|
| Golera Water District |
| INTERPRETIVE GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTION |
| SCHULTE WELL AREA |
| Figure 4 |

BEDROCK MONITORING PROGRAM Grapefruit Spring, West

Note Scale

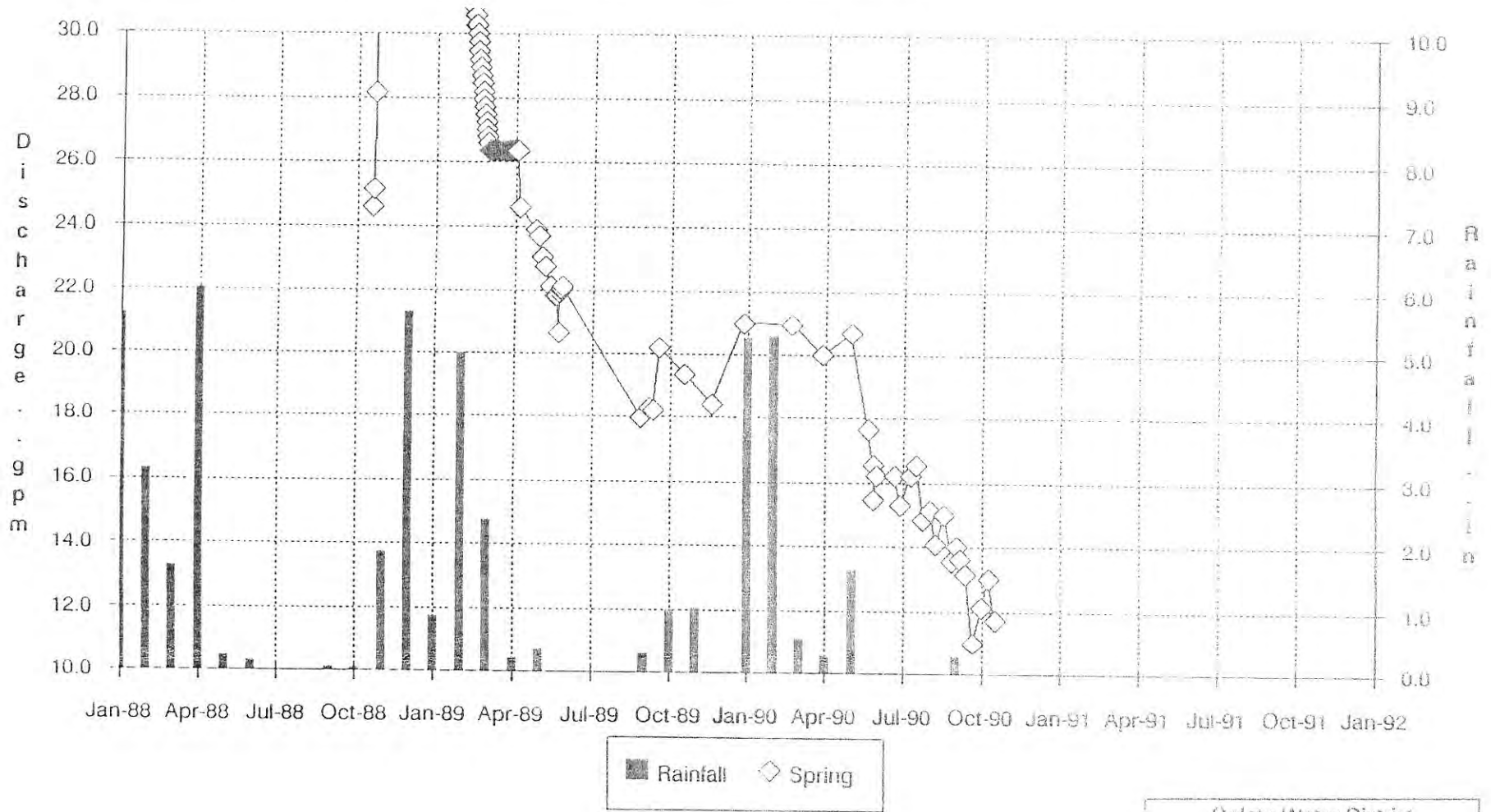


■ Rainfall ◇ Spring

Goleta Water District
SCHULTE WELL AREA
Figure 5

Printed: 11/20/90

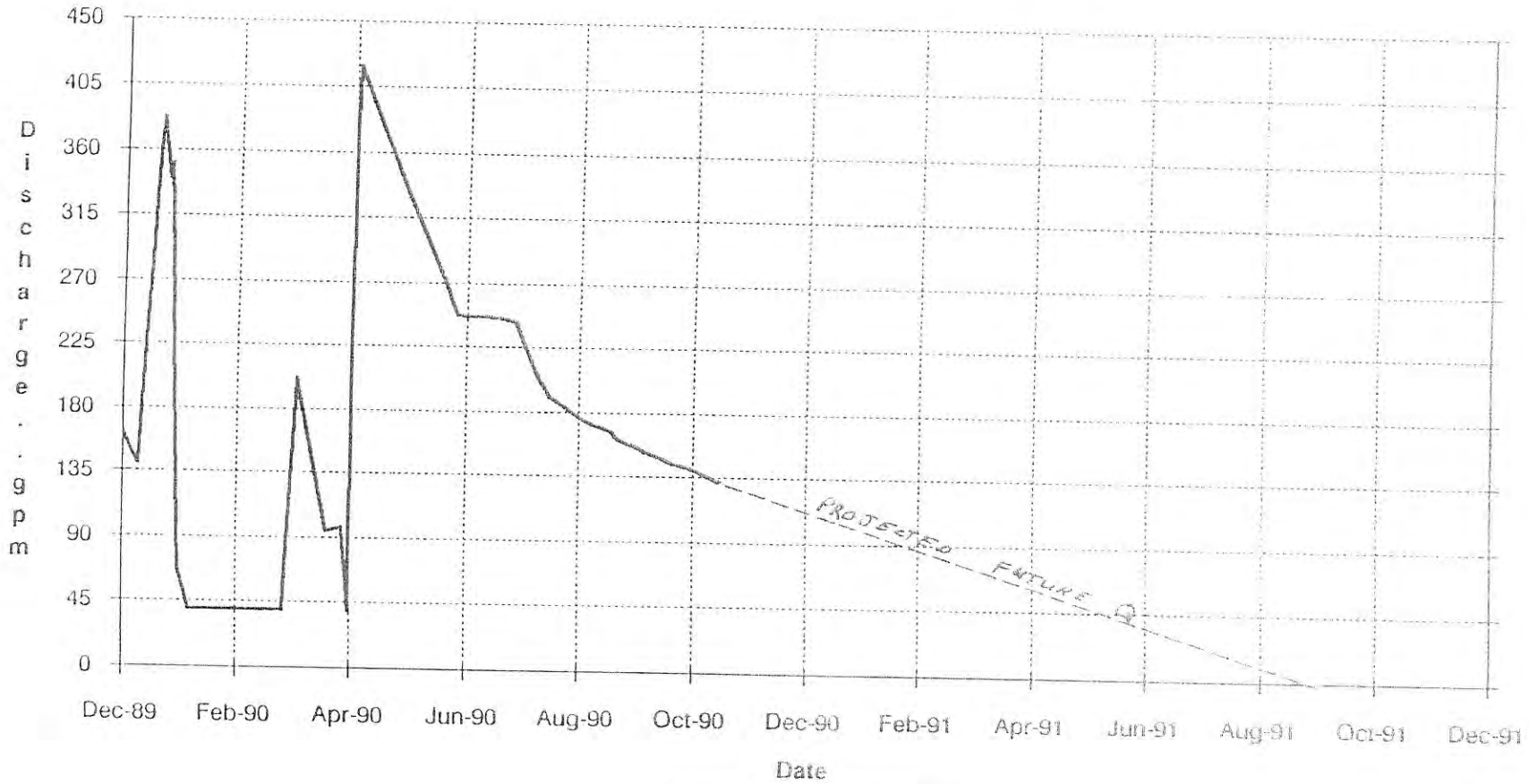
Bedrock Monitoring Program
Grapefruit Spring, West



Goleta Water District
SCHULTE WELL AREA
Figure 6

SW1_C 3

Bedrock Monitoring Program (Schulte Ranch)
Schulte Well SW-1 Artesian Flow Rates (Q)



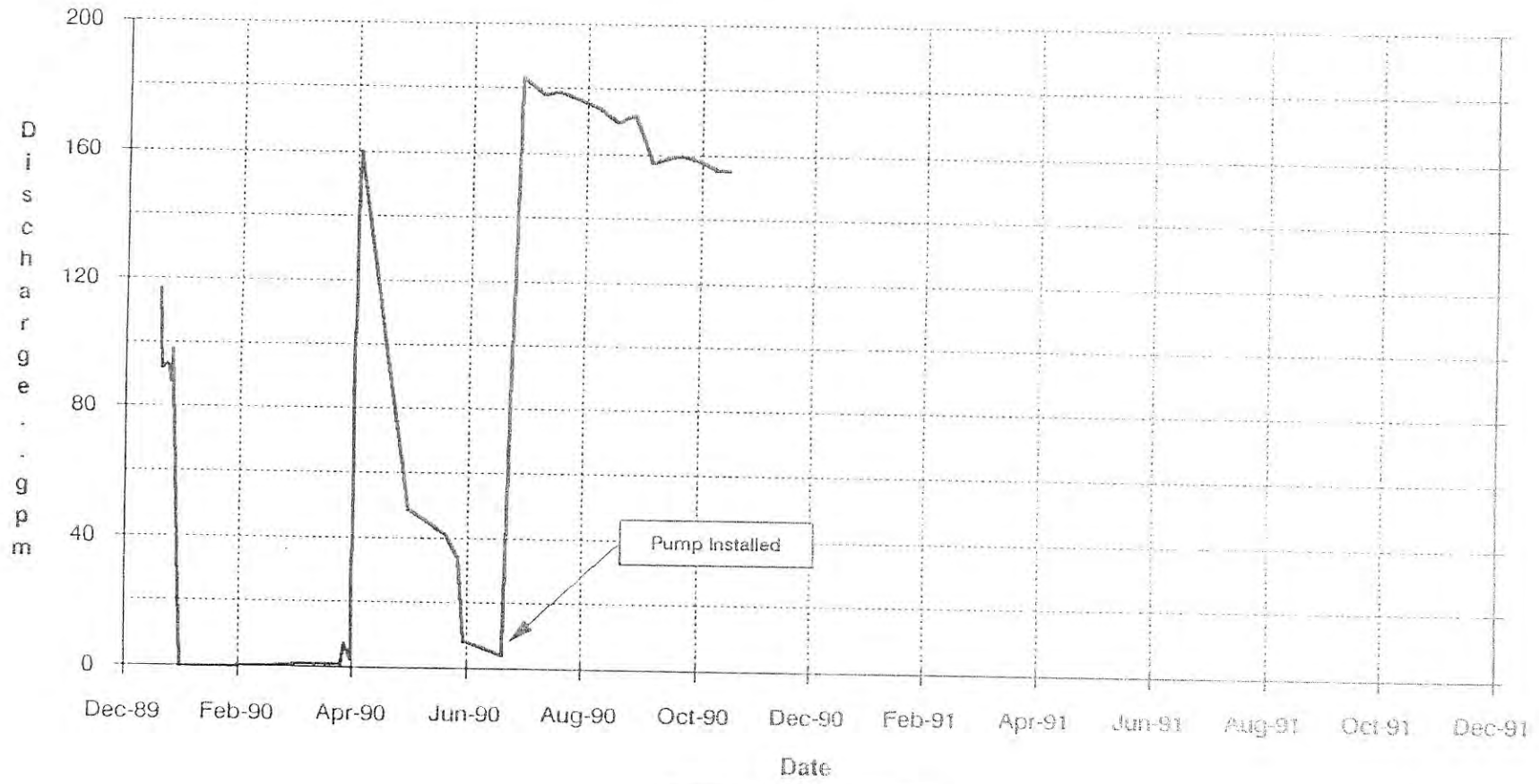
— Well Q

Goleta Water District
SCHULTE WELL AREA
Figure 7

Printed: 11/22/90

SW2 ()

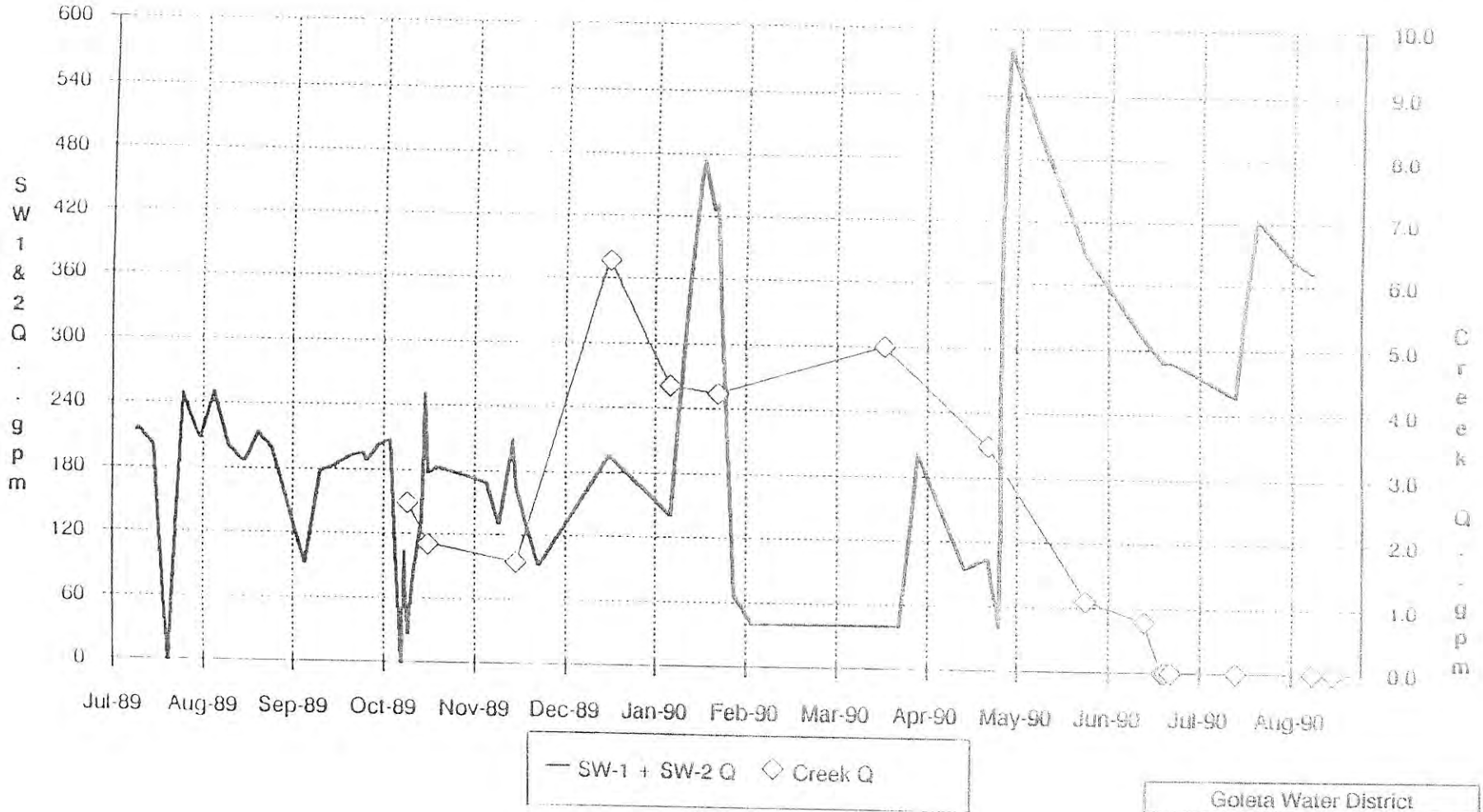
**Bedrock Monitoring Program (Schulte Ranch)
Schulte Well SW-2 Flow Rates (Q)**



— Well Q

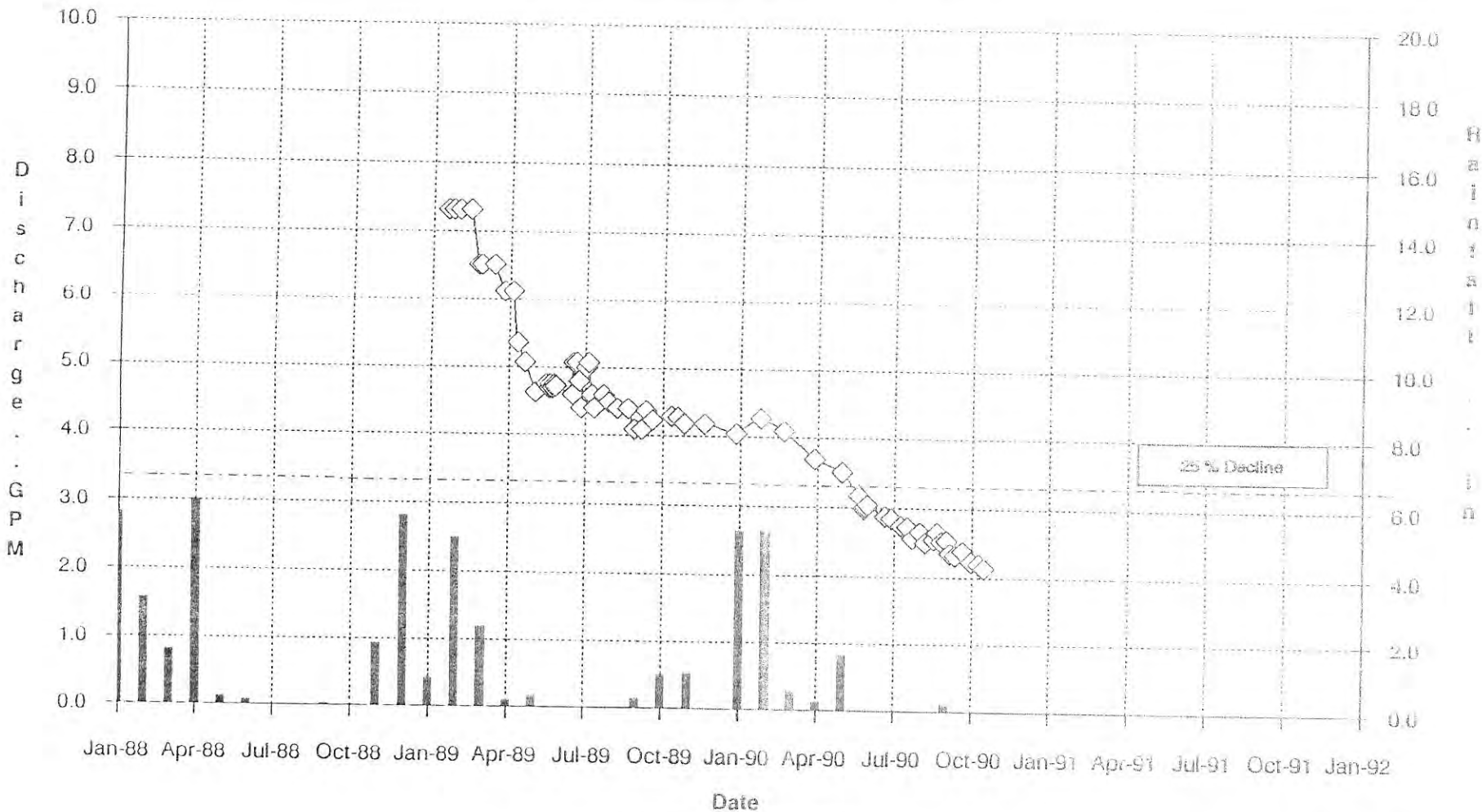
Goleta Water District
SCHULTE WELL AREA
Figure 8

**Bedrock Monitoring Program (Schulte Ranch)
SW-1 and SW-2 Combined Discharge vs San Pedro Creek**



Goleta Water District
SCHULTE WELL AREA
Figure 9

BEDROCK MONITORING PROGRAM Marchiando Spring (Upper Weir)



■ Rainfall ◇ Spring

Goleta Water District
SCHULTE WELL AREA
Figure 10

Printed: 11/22/90

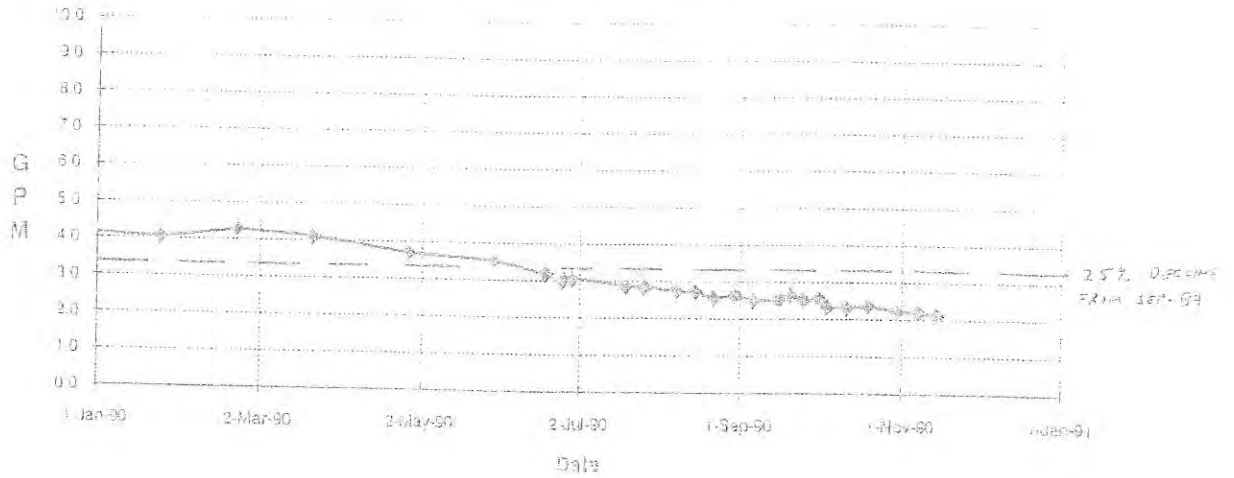
GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

APPENDIX A

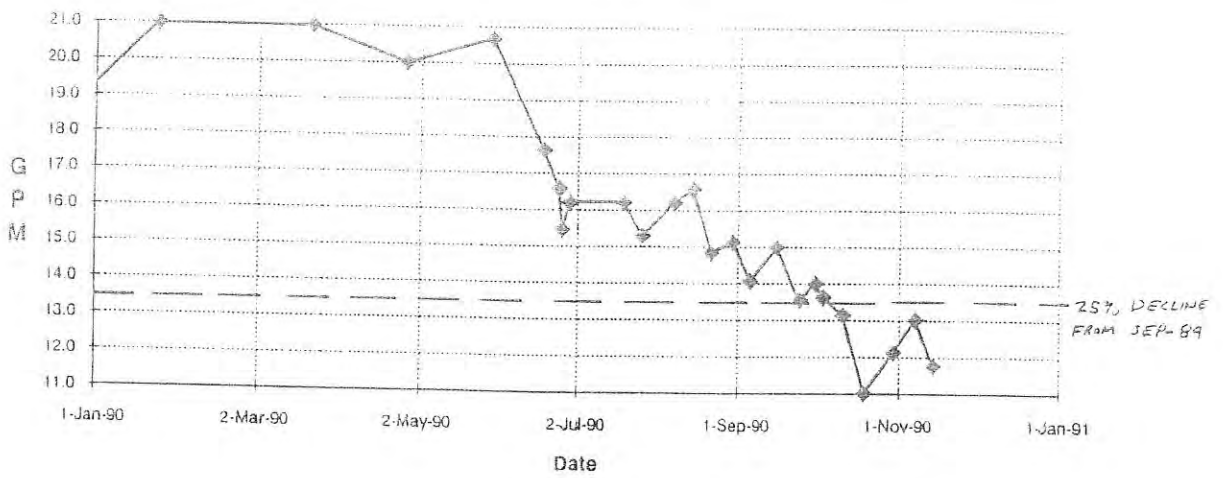
BEDROCK MONITORING PROGRAM
1990 Natural Spring Monitoring Locations

November 1990

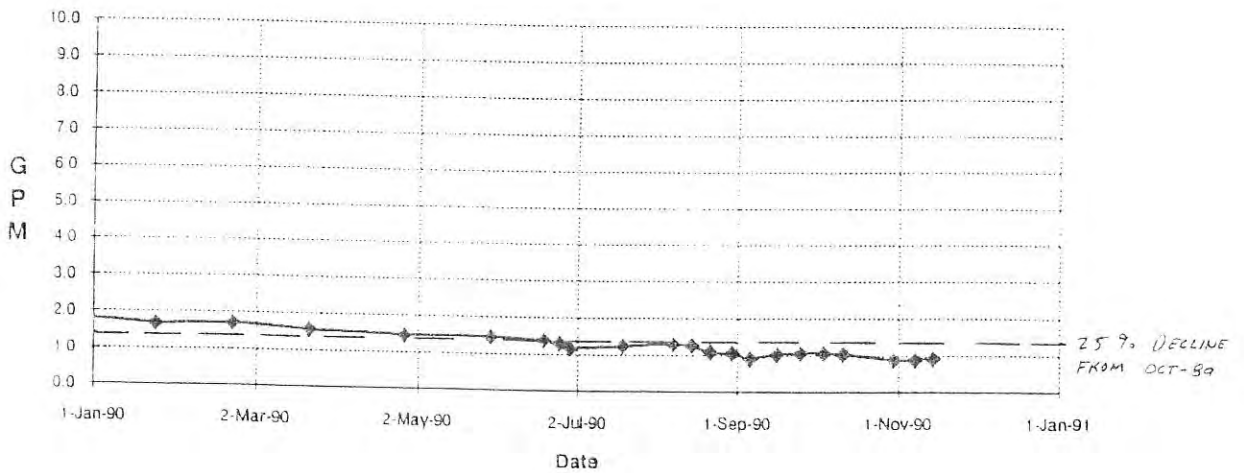
Marchiando Spring (Upper Weir)



Grapefruit Spring, West



Lower Ranch Spring



Attachment D

RESOLUTION NO. 91-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING FINDINGS AND ESTABLISHING REVISED CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FROM THE SCHULTE WATER SUPPLY

WHEREAS, this Board has adopted an Environmental Negative Declaration concerning the two year purchase of water and the testing of the Schulte Wells, and

WHEREAS ON September 14, 1989 the Goleta Water District and Rudolf R. Schulte executed a Water Purchase Agreement providing for the temporary purchase of water by this District from the Schulte Water Supply, and

WHEREAS, said Negative Declaration and Agreement establish the requirements under which this District's purchases can be made, and

WHEREAS, those conditions require that this District design and implement a hydrologic monitoring program for the area potentially impacted by District purchases of water from the Schulte Water Supply

WHEREAS, the results of that monitoring program indicate the possibility that the operation of the Schulte Water Supply is accompanied by significant adverse environmental impacts, and

WHEREAS, as required by Article 5.3 of its Water Purchase Agreement with Rudolf R. Schulte, this Board has conducted a Public Hearing on November 26, 1990, continued to December 10, 1990 and January 7, 1991, to determine if there is substantial evidence now on the record indicating that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring, and

WHEREAS, during that continued Public Hearing this Board has considered the Findings - Schulte Water Supply, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and

WHEREAS, Rudolf R. Schulte, and his representative George Wilson, have been provided the opportunity to review and comment on this Board's proceedings, including said Findings - Schulte Water Supply, and

WHEREAS, this Board may, - if it determines, at a Public Hearing, based on substantial evidence in the record that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring - elect to decline to receive further deliveries from the Schulte Water Supply

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GOLETA WATER DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:


1. This Board hereby adopts as true and correct statements of fact the Findings - Schulte Water Supply attached hereto as Exhibit A.
2. Based on those Findings, the Board determines, based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environment impacts are occurring as a result of the well testing and production being conducted by Schulte.
3. In lieu of suspending further deliveries of water as authorized by Article 5.3 of the Water Purchase Agreement, this Board now establishes the following revised conditions of service from the Schulte Water Supply:
 - a. Effective immediately, purchase of water by this District from the Schulte Water Supply is hereby temporarily terminated.
 - b. During such temporary termination, and so long as access is allowed by Rudolf R. Schulte, this District will continue its hydrologic monitoring program for the area potentially impacted by District's previous purchases of water.
 - c. Based upon the results of that continuing District monitoring program, when natural spring flows all return to within 25% of the base line flows, this District will initiate additional purchases from the Schulte Water Supply, subject to:
 - A Declaration by Schulte that surplus water is available for purchase by the District
 - Confirmation that the current two year term of the present Agreement is still running
 - d. If allowed by Rudolf R. Schulte, this District will continue its monitoring program for the entire remaining term of the present Agreement.

4. If additional purchases are initiated by this District in conformance with Paragraph 3c, hereinabove such purchases will continue so long as all of the environmental standards applicable to this project are satisfied.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Goleta Water District, this 7th day of January 1991, on the motion of Director Mylod, seconded by Director Crawford, on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Directors Bearman, Crawford, Fulks, Mylod
NAY: Director DeLoreto
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

ATTEST:


ROBERT A. PAUL, SECRETARY

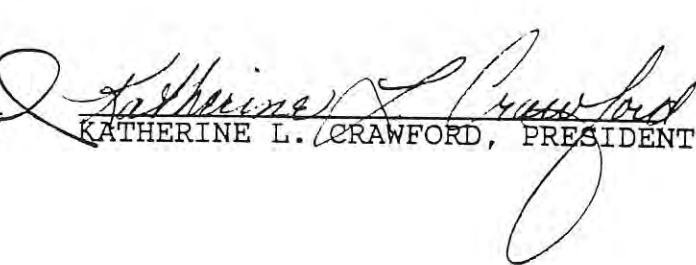

KATHERINE L. CRAWFORD, PRESIDENT

EXHIBIT A

FINDINGS

SCHULTE WATER SUPPLY

1. Before participating in the purchase of water from the Schulte water supply, the Goleta Water District adopted an Environmental Assessment Negative Declaration concerning the two year purchase of water and the testing of the Schulte wells.

That negative declaration requires that in order to avoid potentially significant water resource and biological resource impacts associated with using the Schulte water supply, properly designed and implemented monitoring programs will be mandated, and the District will be required to discontinue acceptance of water if significant impacts are detected.

2. In its environmental assessment of the Schulte Well Project, the Goleta Water District defines indications of potential significant impacts to include, but not be limited to the following:

Declines of local spring flows by more than 25% from baseline reference measurements.

Decreases in the area of saturated soils and the exhibition by plants of one or more symptoms attributable to drought stress.

3. On September 14, 1989 the Goleta Water District and Rudolf R. Schulte executed a Water Purchase Agreement providing for the temporary purchase of water by the Goleta Water District from the Schulte water supply.

That Agreement requires that the Goleta Water District shall be solely responsible for compliance by Goleta Water District with any applicable environmental laws pertaining to the performance by the District of its obligations pursuant to the Water Purchase Agreement. And, the Agreement provides that if the Goleta Water District Board of Directors determines that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result of the Schulte well testing and production, the Board of Directors may, at its option, elect to decline to receive further deliveries of water pursuant to the Agreement.

4. As a part of its Bedrock Test Well Monitoring Program, and consistent with its obligations under the Negative

Declaration, the Goleta Water District has been monitoring springs and wells since at least 1989 in the vicinity of the Schulte Wells. During that period, additional wells and springs have been added to the Goleta Water District's monitoring programs specifically to provide information about the Schulte Well Project operation.

5. As a part of its monitoring program, the Goleta Water District Board of Directors, at its meeting on September 10, 1989, reviewed a report titled Results of Biological Monitoring: Schulte Well Project, prepared by Science Applications International, Inc. on August 24, 1990.

That report concludes in part that significant, long-term environmental damage associated with continued Goleta Water District purchase from the Schulte Ranch may be imminent, if it has not occurred already.

6. In an ongoing effort to mitigate that imminent or actual environmental damage, on September 18, 1990, the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District approved additional mitigation measures in an attempt to provide supplemental water for selected local stream channels, and to increase the level and frequency of monitoring.

In cooperation with Rudolf Schulte, those additional mitigation measures have been carried out. But, testimony received by the Board of Directors from the District's staff Hydrologist and independent Biologist at public meetings on November 26 and December 10, 1990 indicate that those measures have not accomplished their intended purposes.

7. As a part of its monitoring program, the Goleta Water District, Board of Directors, at its meeting on November 26, 1990, received a draft report titled "Evaluation of the Schulte Well Project Monitoring Program", prepared by Goleta Water District staff on November 21, 1990.

That report confirms that recent hydrological monitoring of wells and springs on the La Patera Ranch indicates that the discharge rates of the Marchiando Spring (upper wier), Lower Ranch Spring, and now Gradefruit Spring, West, have all declined by more than 25% from baseline reference levels.

8. On November 26, 1990, continued to December 10, 1990 and January 7, 1991, the Board of Directors of the Goleta Water District conducted a public hearing to consider potential mitigation measures involving the Schulte water supply, including a possible reduction in water deliveries to the Goleta Water District.

During those meetings the Board of Directors considered testimony from its staff and consultants, interested private citizens, and a representative of the U.S. Forest Service.

The U.S. Forest Service representative indicated that there is substantial evidence that the project is having a significant adverse environmental impact on adjacent national forest lands, and that the Schulte Well pumping rate needs to be sufficiently reduced to allow the Marchiando Spring to return to the previously established baseline reference flow rate...the Marchiando Spring is hydrologically connected to national forest land and measuring the flow from the spring is our best source for determining this project's impacts upon national forest land.

9. At the meetings on November 26, December 10, 1990, and January 7, 1991 property owner Rudolf Schulte was noticed, represented and afforded an unrestricted opportunity to provide information, conclusions and recommendations--to the Goleta Water District Board of Directors.
10. After consideration of the written and oral testimony presented to the Goleta Water District at public meetings on November 26, December 10, 1990, and January 7, 1991, the District Board of Directors finds, based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result of the well testing and production being conducted by Schulte.

Attachment E



4699 HOLLISTER AVENUE
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA 93110-1999
PHONE 805-964-6761

October ___, 2014

Glenn Russell,
Director
Department of Planning and Development
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara 93101

RE: Slippery Rock Ranch (Assessor Parcel Numbers, 153-170-051; 153-170-054; 153-170-074;
153-170-077; 153-170-081; 153-170-093; 153-170-094; 153-170-095; 153-170-096)

Dear Mr. Russell:

The Goleta Water District would like express its concerns regarding existing and proposed water extraction activities at the above-referenced property, commonly known as Slippery Rock Ranch. It has come to the attention of the District that water extracted from Slippery Rock Ranch is being trucked and sold at locations outside of the Goleta Valley. In addition, representatives of Slippery Rock Ranch have approached Goleta Water District and other water purveyors regarding the possibility of large-scale extraction and sale of water from the Ranch.

This is of great concern to Goleta Water District because recent data collected by the District suggests that pumping in the vicinity of Slippery Rock Ranch may be impacting the Goleta Groundwater Basin, which is a primary source of stored water for the residents of the Goleta Valley.

In addition, increased pumping at Slippery Rock Ranch may have significant adverse impacts on the local environment. The District was involved in a prior groundwater extraction project in the vicinity of Slippery Rock in the late 1980s and early 1990s, involving two of the same wells on Slippery Rock, then known as Schulte Wells 1 and 2, now known as Big and Little Artesian Wells. The District served as the lead agency on the project for purposes of CEQA and determining potential environmental impacts, and the project was highly controversial at the time. The project was terminated after the District determined that "...based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result

of the well testing and production being conducted.” One of the many findings cited in the Resolution of the Goleta Water District Board of Directors terminating that project was that the U.S. Forest Service representative indicated that “...there is substantial evidence that the project is having a significant adverse impact on adjacent national forest lands.” (Goleta Water District Resolution 91-01). Evidence that was collected in relation to the prior pumping showed flow rates to nearby creeks increased when pumping was decreased, (Goleta Water District Memorandum, December 10, 1990 Re: Current status of Schulte Well Monitoring Program), indicating the likelihood of connection between underground pumping and creek flows.

While Slippery Rock consultants have presented some evidence supporting the argument that there may be no recharge from the Chalice Basin to the Goleta Basin, the District continues to have concerns based on a recent report from the District’s consultant indicating potential connectivity to the Goleta Basin.

The District received documentation that water pumped from the Slippery Rock Ranch is currently being transported by truck and sold off-site, and that such activity has been ongoing for several months. District staff would be happy to share evidence of such activity with the County.

County records indicate that the parcels comprising the Slippery Rock Ranch are all zoned either Agricultural II (AG II) or Mountainous Goleta (MT-GOL). As you are well aware, a Conditional Use Permit is required for commercial water extraction under both of those designations. Water Extraction, Commercial is defined in the County Land Use Code as “the pumping and processing of natural, carbonated or mineral water from a well for commercial purposes, including bottling, shipping, storage and trucking.” Extracting water that is trucked and sold clearly fits within this broad definition.

It does not appear from County records that the required Conditional Use Permit permit has been obtained. Although it is not clear how the on-going payments for water from Slippery Rock Ranch are structured, the fact that the water is being transported and ultimately sold to end users off the Ranch clearly indicates that the pumping for trucking off the property is a commercial enterprise meeting the definition set forth above.

Given the fact that the wells are seemingly being operated in violation of zoning requirements, the District asks that the County issue a notice of zoning violation and order the off-site transport and sale of water halted.

When and if the owners of the Slippery Rock Ranch apply for permits to extract and sell water off its property, we ask that the County take into account the likelihood of significant

environmental impacts of water extraction on, and transport off of, the Ranch. In light of the evidence showing the likelihood of significant adverse impacts the environment from increased pumping at the Slippery Rock Ranch, particularly in relation to sensitive lands in the Los Padres National Forest, we believe that a full environmental impact report should be prepared before any extraction of water for off site use is allowed.

One of the major issues that must be studied in such environmental impact report is the likelihood that water proposed for extraction may otherwise flow into the Goleta Groundwater Basin where it would serve to recharge the water supply that is relied upon by residents of the Goleta Valley. This must be clearly demonstrated before any pumping of water beyond that necessary for reasonable and beneficial use on the Ranch takes place.

The Goleta Water District looks forward to working with the County to ensure that water supplies and environment of the residents Goleta are protected. If you or your staff have further questions, please contact Ryan Drake, at (805) 879-4627.

Sincerely,

John McInnes
General Manager

cc: Supervisor Doreen Farr, County of Santa Barbara
Supervisor Janet Wolf, County of Santa Barbara
Mona Miyasato, Chief Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara
Lawrence Fay Jr., Director of Environmental Health Services, County of Santa Barbara
Goleta Water District Board of Directors

Attachment F



4699 HOLLISTER AVENUE
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA 93110-1999
PHONE 805-964-6761

October ____, 2014

Thomas Mosby
General Manager
Montecito Water District
583 San Ysidro Road
Montecito, CA 93108

RE: Slippery Rock Ranch

Dear Mr. Mosby;

Representatives of the Slippery Rock Ranch (Slippery Rock), located in the Goleta Foothills, have indicated to the Goleta Water District (District) that they have discussed with the Montecito Water District (MWD) the possibility of large scale extraction and transportation of water from Slippery Rock to the MWD.

The District is extremely concerned about this proposal because recent data collected by the District suggests that pumping in the vicinity of Slippery Rock may be impacting the court-adjudicated Goleta Groundwater Basin, which is a primary source of stored water for the residents of the Goleta Valley. It is imperative that the relationship between the water source proposed for extraction and the adjudicated Goleta Groundwater Basin be determined *before* any water from the Slippery Rock Ranch is transported for use off site.

In addition, increased pumping at Slippery Rock Ranch may have significant adverse impacts on the local environment. The District was involved in a prior groundwater extraction project in the vicinity of Slippery Rock in the late 1980s and early 1990s, involving two of the same wells on Slippery Rock, then known as Schulte Wells 1 and 2, now known as Big and Little Artesian Wells. The District served as the lead agency on the project for purposes of CEQA and determining potential environmental impacts, and the project was highly controversial at the time. The project was terminated after the District determined that "...based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result of the well testing and production being conducted." One of the many findings cited in the Resolution of the Goleta Water District Board of Directors terminating that project was that the U.S. Forest Service representative indicated that "...there is substantial evidence that the

project is having a significant adverse impact on adjacent national forest lands.” (Goleta Water District Resolution 91-01). Evidence that was collected in relation to the prior pumping showed flow rates to nearby creeks increased when pumping was decreased, (Goleta Water District Memorandum, December 10, 1990 Re: Current status of Schulte Well Monitoring Program), indicating the likelihood of connection between underground pumping and creek flows.

While Slippery Rock consultants have presented some evidence indicating that there may be no recharge from the Chalice Basin to the Goleta Basin, the District continues to have concerns based on a recent report from the District’s consultant indicating potential connectivity to the Goleta Basin.

Representatives of Slippery Rock have asserted that water could be pumped and transported during an initial “testing” phase under a CEQA exemption. However, the District believes such a course of action would not withstand judicial scrutiny.

Section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines provides an exemption for:

“basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.” 14 CCR §15306.

The activities contemplated by Slippery Rock, including the acquisition of right-of-way, construction of pipelines and transport of 500 to 1000 AFY is clearly well in excess of “basic data collection.”

In addition, even if it could be determined that the activities by Slippery Rock could be considered “basic data collection,” Section 15306 contains a proviso that the activities exempted under it may not “result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.” Clearly, any demonstrated significant adverse impacts of pumping in the vicinity of Slippery Rock Ranch, including adverse impacts to U.S. Forest Service Lands, constitute a serious disturbance to an environmental resource. Further, CEQA Guideline Section 15300.2(c) prohibits the use of exemptions where “there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. “ Here, the prior demonstrated significant adverse impacts to national forest land habitat from a nearby similar operation clearly show that, even if the proposed project were to fit within the definition of the exemption, the exemption can not legally be utilized for the proposed project.

In light of the evidence showing the likelihood of significant adverse impacts the environment from increased pumping at the Slippery Rock Ranch, particularly in relation to sensitive lands in the Los Padres National Forest, a full environmental impact report must be prepared before any extraction of water for use off of the Ranch can be allowed. In addition, it is also likely that any connection to the South Coast Conduit would require NEPA review.

In a separate letter to the County of Santa Barbara, the District has also raised serious questions about the need for a conditional use permit for activities defined as commercial water extraction, as it appears that water from Slippery Rock is currently being extracted for ultimate sale without a permit.

Given the potential for environmental damage to result from export of water from Slippery Rock and the possibility that such diversion could impact recharge to the Goleta Groundwater Basin, the District requests that the Montecito Water District decline to engage in importing water from that water source until the appropriate studies and permits are completed.

The District appreciates your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John McInnes
General Manager

Attachment G



4699 HOLLISTER AVENUE
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA 93110-1999
PHONE 805-964-6761

October ____, 2014

Rebecca Bjork
Public Works Director
City of Santa Barbara
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Slippery Rock Ranch

Dear Ms. Bjork:

Representatives of the Slippery Rock Ranch (Slippery Rock), located in the Goleta Foothills, have indicated to the Goleta Water District (District) that they have discussed with the City of Santa Barbara (City) the possibility of large scale extraction and transportation of water from Slippery Rock to the City.

The District is extremely concerned about this proposal because recent data collected by the District suggests that pumping in the vicinity of Slippery Rock may be impacting the court-adjudicated Goleta Groundwater Basin, which is a primary source of stored water for the residents of the Goleta Valley. It is imperative that the relationship between the water source proposed for extraction and the adjudicated Goleta Groundwater Basin be determined *before* any water from the Slippery Rock Ranch is transported for use off site.

In addition, increased pumping at Slippery Rock Ranch may have significant adverse impacts on the local environment. The District was involved in a prior groundwater extraction project in the vicinity of Slippery Rock in the late 1980s and early 1990s, involving two of the same wells on Slippery Rock, then known as Schulte Wells 1 and 2, now known as Big and Little Artesian Wells. The District served as the lead agency on the project for purposes of CEQA and determining potential environmental impacts, and the project was highly controversial at the time. The project was terminated after the District determined that "...based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result of the well testing and production being conducted." One of the many findings cited in the Resolution of the Goleta Water District Board of Directors terminating that project was that the U.S. Forest Service representative indicated that "...there is substantial evidence that the

project is having a significant adverse impact on adjacent national forest lands.” (Goleta Water District Resolution 91-01). Evidence that was collected in relation to the prior pumping showed flow rates to nearby creeks increased when pumping was decreased, (Goleta Water District Memorandum, December 10, 1990 Re: Current status of Schulte Well Monitoring Program), indicating the likelihood of connection between underground pumping and creek flows.

While Slippery Rock consultants have presented evidence indicating that there may be no recharge from the Chalice Basin to the Goleta Basin, the District continues to have concerns based on a recent report from the District’s consultant indicating potential connectivity to the Goleta Basin.

Representatives of Slippery Rock have asserted that water could be pumped and transported during an initial “testing” phase under a CEQA exemption. However, the District believes such a course of action would not withstand judicial scrutiny.

Section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines provides an exemption for:

“basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.” 14 CCR §15306.

The activities contemplated by Slippery Rock, including the acquisition of right-of-way, construction of pipelines and transport of 500 to 1000 AFY is clearly well in excess of “basic data collection.”

In addition, even if it could be determined that the activities by Slippery Rock could be considered “basic data collection,” Section 15306 contains a proviso that the activities exempted under it may not “result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.” Clearly, any demonstrated significant adverse impacts of pumping in the vicinity of Slippery Rock Ranch, including adverse impacts to U.S. Forest Service Lands, constitute a serious disturbance to an environmental resource. Further, CEQA Guideline Section 15300.2(c) prohibits the use of exemptions where “there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. “ Here, the prior demonstrated significant adverse impacts to national forest land habitat from a nearby similar operation clearly show that, even if the proposed project were to fit within the definition of the exemption, the exemption can not legally be utilized for the proposed project.

In light of the evidence showing the likelihood of significant adverse impacts the environment from increased pumping at the Slippery Rock Ranch, particularly in relation to sensitive lands in the Los Padres National Forest, a full environmental impact report must be prepared before any extraction of water for use off of the Ranch can be allowed. In addition, it is also likely that any connection to the South Coast Conduit would require NEPA review.

In a separate letter to the County of Santa Barbara, the District has also raised serious questions about the need for a conditional use permit for activities defined as commercial water extraction, as it appears that water from Slippery Rock is currently being extracting for ultimate sale without a permit.

Given the potential for environmental damage to result from export of water from Slippery Rock and the possibility that such diversion could impact recharge to the Goleta Groundwater Basin, the District requests that the City of Santa Barbara decline to engage in importing water from that water source until the appropriate studies and permits are secured.

The District appreciates your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John McInnes
General Manager

Attachment H



4699 HOLLISTER AVENUE
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA 93110-1999
PHONE 805-964-6761

October ___, 2014

Mark Lloyd
L&P Consultants
3 West Carrillo St # 205
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Slippery Rock Ranch

Dear Mr. Lloyd;

Thank you for meeting with me and other Goleta Water District staff over the past year regarding your plans to export water from Slippery Rock Ranch (Slippery Rock) and notifying the Goleta Water District of the opportunity to participate in your supply program as set forth in your proposal dated September 11, 2014.

As we have expressed to you and other members of your team in our meetings over the past year, the District is very concerned that pumping water for export at Slippery Rock may have serious negative impacts to the adjudicated Goleta Groundwater Basin. The District is particularly concerned about this because recent data collected by the District suggests that pumping in the vicinity of Slippery Rock Ranch may be impacting the Basin. As you are aware, the Goleta Groundwater Basin is a primary source of stored water for the residents of the Goleta Valley.

In addition, the District continues to be concerned that increased pumping at Slippery Rock may have significant adverse impacts on the local environment. As you know, the District was involved in the prior groundwater extraction project in the vicinity of Slippery Rock in the late 1980s and early 1990s, involving two of the same wells on Slippery Rock, then known as Schulte Wells 1 and 2, now known as Big and Little Artesian Wells. The District served as the lead agency on the project for purposes of CEQA and determining potential environmental impacts, and the project was highly controversial at the time. The project was terminated after the District determined that "...based upon substantial evidence in the record, that significant adverse environmental impacts are occurring as a result of the well testing and production being conducted." (Goleta Water District Resolution 91-01).

In light of our concerns regarding the potential impacts of increased pumping on the Goleta Ground Water Basin and on the environment, throughout the time we met with you and other representatives of Slippery Rock, District Staff has maintained that any agreement to export water from Slippery Rock would need to: 1) be structured such that any export of water occur only after full environmental analysis and 2) be predicated on the District having the ability to terminate the exportation in the event that it was determined by the District that the Goleta Groundwater Basin was being impacted. Since your proposal of September 11, 2014 does not include those necessary protections, the District must reject it in the interests of protecting the water supply and environment of District customers.

The District has also received recent complaints from community members that stream flows in San Pedro Creek coming out of Slippery Rock have increased significantly lately. This would seem to indicate that water is possibly being pumped at Slippery Rock and released down the creek. If such is in fact taking place, we ask that it be discontinued until it can be conclusively determined that it will not impact the Basin.

Additionally, the District received documentation that water pumped from the Slippery Rock Ranch is currently being transported by truck and sold off-site, and that such activity has been ongoing for several months. County records indicate that the parcels comprising the Slippery Rock Ranch are all zoned either Agricultural II (AG II) or Mountainous Goleta (MT-GOL). As you are well aware, a Conditional Use Permit is required for commercial water extraction under both of those designations. Water Extraction, Commercial is defined in the County Land Use Code as “the pumping and processing of natural, carbonated or mineral water from a well for commercial purposes, including bottling, shipping, storage and trucking.” Extracting water that is trucked and sold clearly fits within this broad definition. It does not appear from County records that Slippery Rock has obtained the required Conditional Use Permit.

The District takes its role as a steward over the Goleta Groundwater Basin very seriously. Given the importance of the Basin as the major source of water for Goleta residents in times of drought, the adjudication of the Basin in the Wright Judgment and recent state legislation recognizing the importance of protecting ground water basins, it is particularly imperative that the District do all that it can to protect the Basin. In light of the strong possibility that your proposal will negatively impact both the Basin and the surrounding environment, we ask that you discontinue efforts to export water from Slippery Rock Ranch outside of the terms proposed previously by the District.

Sincerely,

John McInnes
General Manager,

DRAFT