SEASIDE GROUNDWATER BASIN

Informational Presentation to the Watermaster Board:

What is the Problem?

April 2, 2025

EXHIBIT 19-B

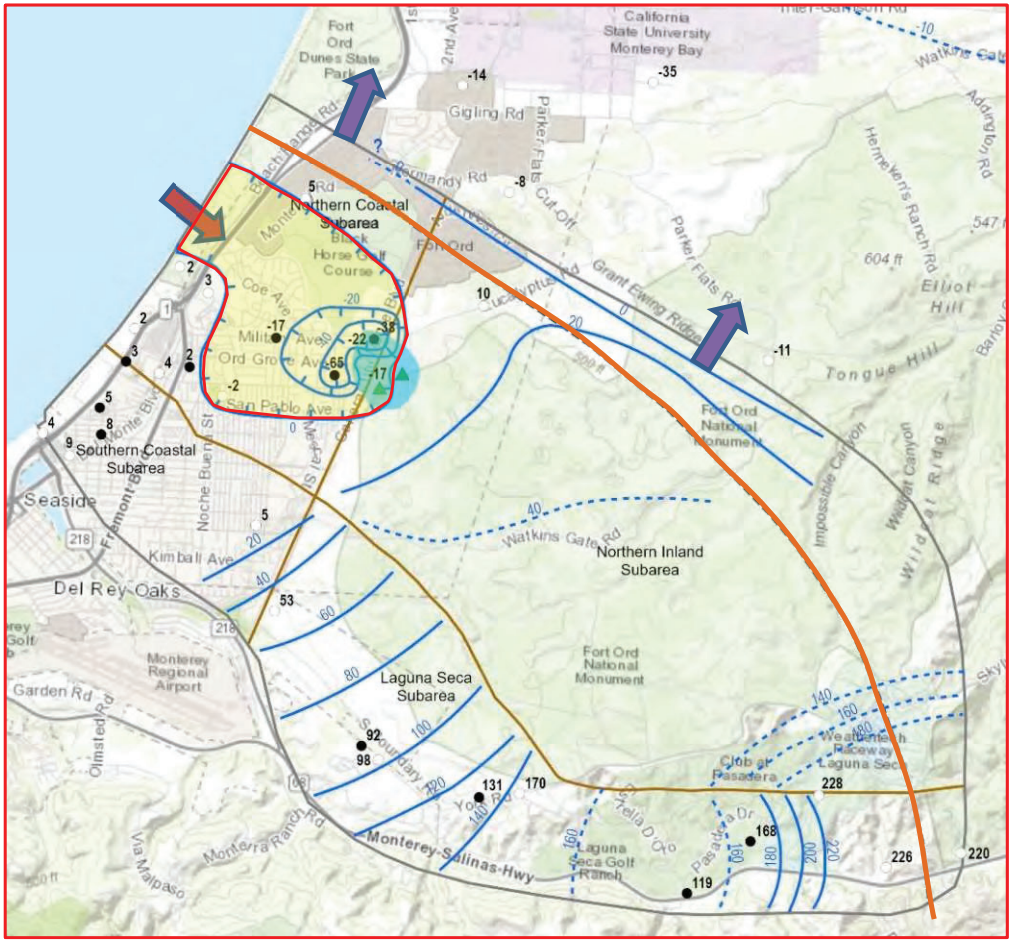
THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES OF PROBLEMS

- Physical Problems
- Institutional Problems with MPWMD

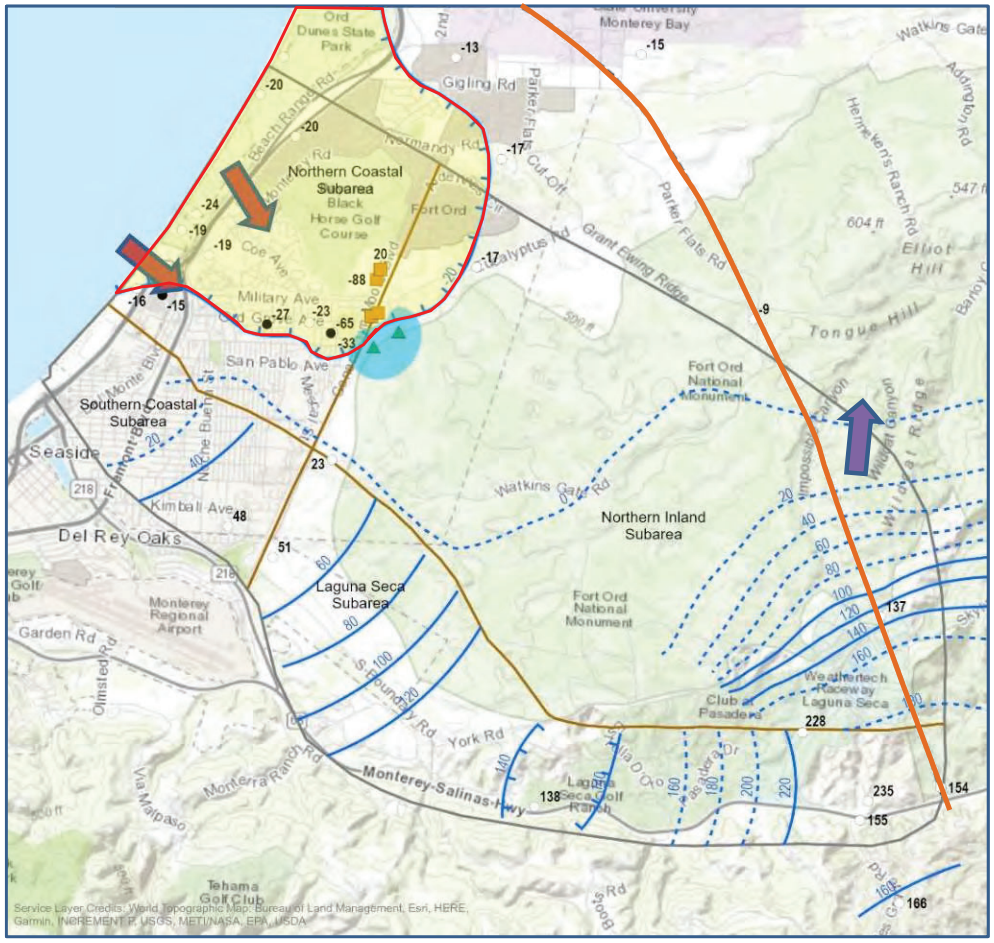
PHYSICAL PROBLEMS

- Portions of the Basin have groundwater levels below sea level
- Pumping and groundwater losses from the Basin keep groundwater levels from being raised to Protective Elevations without adding replenishment water

RISK OF SEWATER INTRUSION AND LOSS OF GROUNDWATER

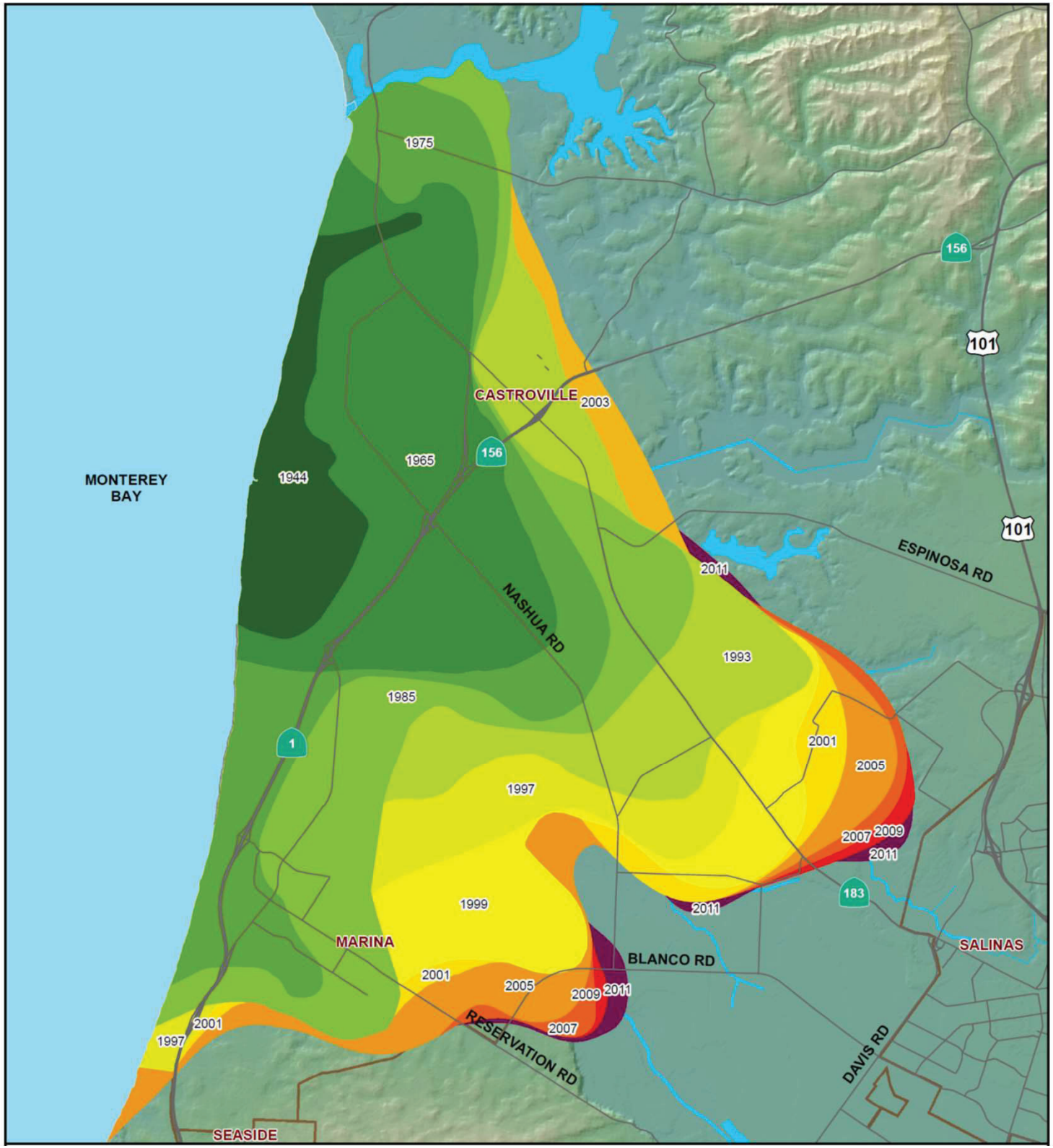


Paso Robles (Shallow) Aquifer



Santa Margarita (Deep) Aquifer

Adapted from 2024 SIAR Presentation



Seawater Intrusion map of the 180- foot aquifer in the Salinas Valley as prepared by MCWRA in 2012

INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS WITH MPWMD

- Discounting the risk of seawater intrusion
- Questioning the importance of achieving Protective groundwater elevations
- Questioning the loss of groundwater from the Basin
- Questioning the need for, or the amount of, replenishment water needed to protect the Basin

WHAT IS THE MPWMD STAFF TELLING ITS BOARD ABOUT GROUNDWATER LOSSES, REPLENISHMENT WATER, AND PROTECTIVE ELEVATIONS?

- **These are verbatim excerpts from Mr. Stoldt's statements in his agenda Transmittals:**

- ***This new technical memorandum effectively calls into question the entire concept of "Net Flows from the Deep Aquifer "***

- *Several of the principal conclusions of the Watermaster cannot be substantiated. Specifically, groundwater is not predictably "lost" to the Monterey Subbasin.*

- ***Therefore, the replenishment "target" adopted by the Watermaster is based upon an unproven assumption of leakage or outflow*** *and should be revisited with additional groundwater modeling analyses.*

- **Also, at the March 3 meeting an attorney advising the Committee referred to the Watermaster's Protective Elevations as "alleged."**

WHAT DID THE AUTHOR OF THE MEMORANDUM HAVE TO SAY AFTER LEARNING OF MR. STOLDT'S STATEMENTS?

- There has not been any new data or modeling results that would revise or change the modeling results in the BMAP update or as presented in the 2022 replenishment modeling
  - Those values were calculated based on the simulated net flow across the Adjudication Decision boundary line
  - Even the additional particle tracking analysis that MPWMD has asked him to perform to better understand the fate of the water that crosses the Adjudication boundary, and to evaluate the position of the flow divide, would not change those numbers

- What could change is our understanding and ability to differentiate where those net outflows across the adjudication boundary end up going. As shown in the earlier slides:
  - Does it all actually stay within the previously mapped deep aquifer flow divide boundary and then end up just flowing offshore?
  - Or is it really flowing further north into the Monterey Subbasin "proper"?
  - Or some combination?

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEASIDE BASIN BOUNDARY?

- The boundary of the Basin is set forth in the Adjudication Decision
  - The Watermaster is bound by the Decision to manage groundwater resources within this boundary
  - This is the same boundary shown on the Department of Water Resources Statewide Basin Maps in their Bulletin 118
  - This is the same boundary that the Monterey Subbasin used in its Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- It is the net amount of flow crossing that boundary that is important to the Watermaster in terms of Basin management decision-making.

WHY DOES THE WATERMASTER STAFF CONSIDER THIS TO BE A PROBLEM?

- A source of revenue will be needed in order to obtain replenishment water
- One method of generating this revenue would be to:
  - Request that MPWMD form a "zone" overlying the Basin and
  - Levy a groundwater extraction fee within that zone
  - Use this revenue to purchase replenishment water
- Alternatively a basinwide water supply protective charge could be collected from all rate-payers for this same purpose
- It will be a problem to gain MPWMD agreement to levy a fee to purchase replenishment water if MPWMD does not believe that is necessary

QUESTIONS?