Groundwater Condition

REPORT | SANTA CLARA COUNTY

April 2022

SUMMARY

This report summarizes March 2022 groundwater storage, recharge, pumping, and level conditions for the Santa Clara Subbasin (the Santa Clara Plain and Coyote Valley groundwater management areas) and the Llagas Subbasin.

Groundwater conditions have continued to improve this month in most of North County while conditions in South County have started their seasonal declines. Additionally, current groundwater levels in many wells remain lower than March 2021 levels. Groundwater levels and storage are expected to decline this year with continued dry conditions, and projected 2022 end-of-year groundwater storage is in the upper range of Stage 2 (Alert) of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

- March managed recharge is 85% to 143% of the five-year average.
- February pumping is 96% to 101% of the five-year average.
- Groundwater levels in index wells for March 2022 range from 5 feet higher to 5 feet lower than the March levels of 2021.

Table 1. Summary of Current Groundwater Conditions

	Santa Clara Subbasin		Llagas Subbasin
	Santa Clara Plain	Coyote Valley	
March 2022 managed recharge estimate	2,700	1,500	1,800
YTD managed recharge estimate	11,500	3,100	5,000
YTD managed recharge as % of five-year average	108%	85%	143%
February 2022 pumping estimate	5,000	700	1,600
YTD pumping estimate	8,500	1,500	3,200
February 2022 pumping as % of five-year average	100%	101%	96%
Current index well groundwater levels compared to March of 2021	5 feet higher	1 foot higher	5 feet lower

All volumes are in acre-feet; YTD = Year-to-date.

Contact Us For questions, contact **Roger Pierno** at **(408) 630-2738**

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Groundwater Recharge

- Figures 1, 2, and 3 show the cumulative managed recharge for 2022 compared to the average of the previous five years (2017 – 2021).
- For March, managed recharge was higher in the Santa Clara Plain and the Llagas Subbasin, but lower in the Coyote Valley than the average of the previous five years.
- Managed recharge depends on many factors, including water demand and availability, regulatory needs, groundwater storage, and facility maintenance.

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

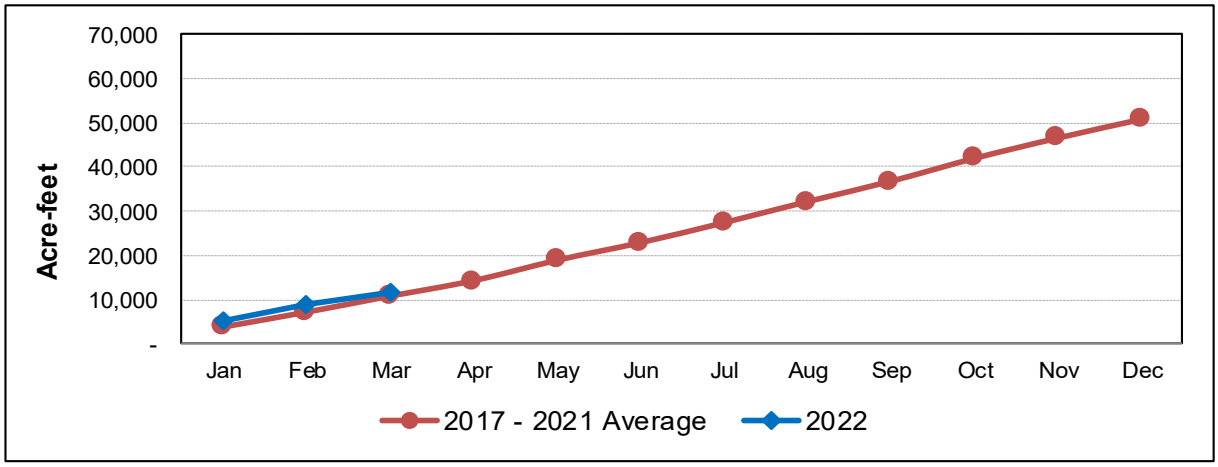


Figure 2. Estimated Cumulative Managed Recharge in the Coyote Valley

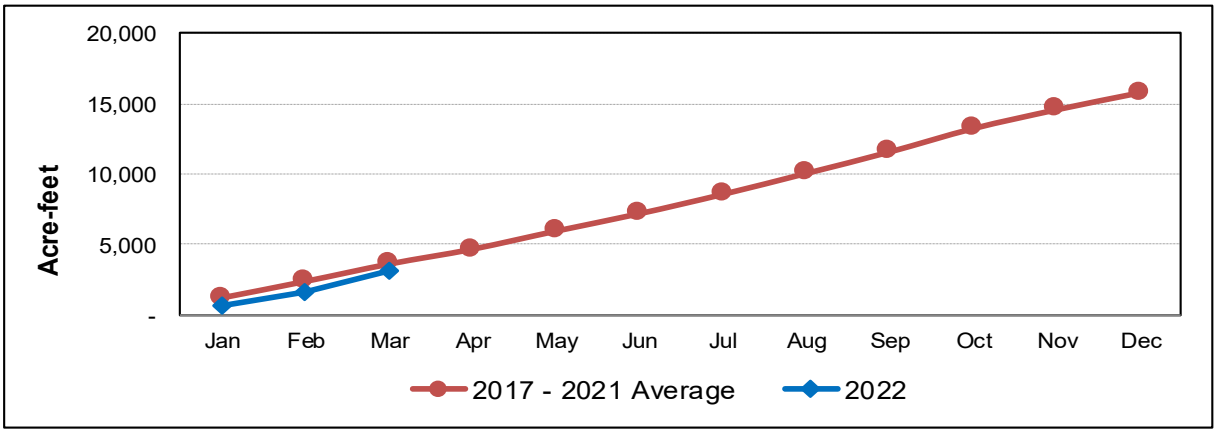
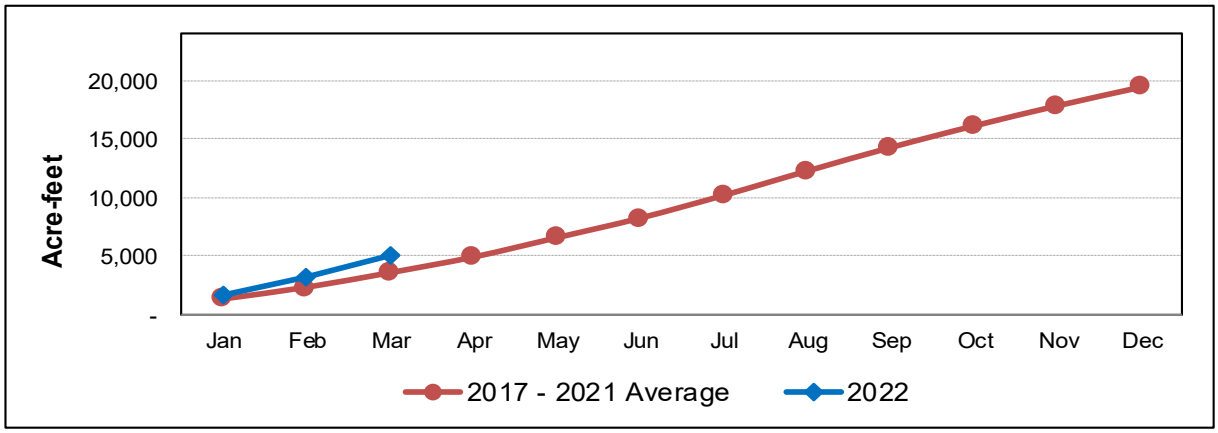


Figure 3. Estimated Cumulative Managed Recharge in the Llagas Subbasin



Groundwater Pumping

- Figures 4, 5, and 6 show the cumulative groundwater pumping for 2022 compared to the average of the previous five years (2017 – 2021).
- Pumping estimates for February 2022 are based on monthly reporting pumping data and pumping data from water retailers. February is most recent available pumping.
- Compared to the average of the previous five years, pumping for February 2022 was essentially the same in the Santa Clara Plain and Coyote Valley and lower in the Llagas Subbasin.

Figure 4. Estimated Cumulative Santa Clara Plain Pumping

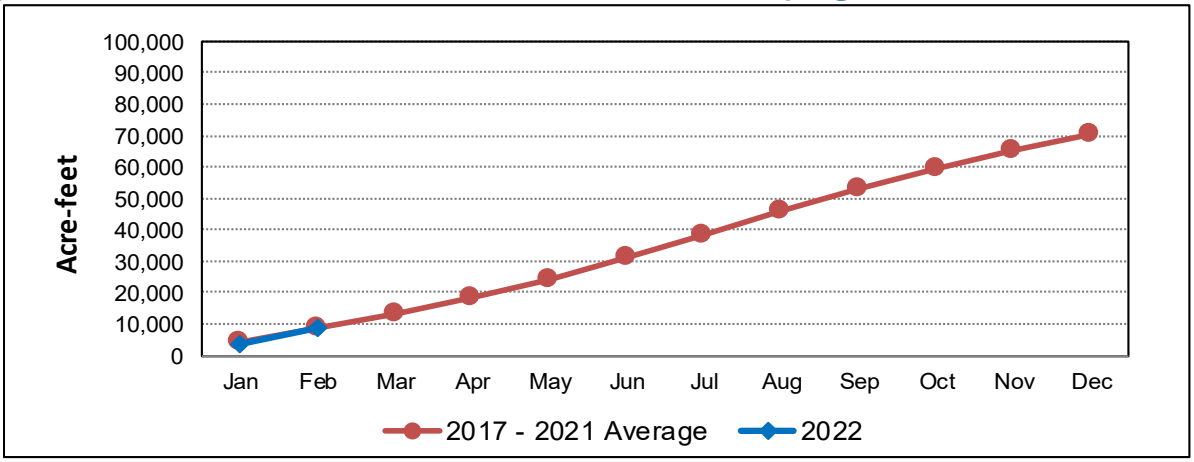


Figure 5. Estimated Cumulative Coyote Valley Pumping

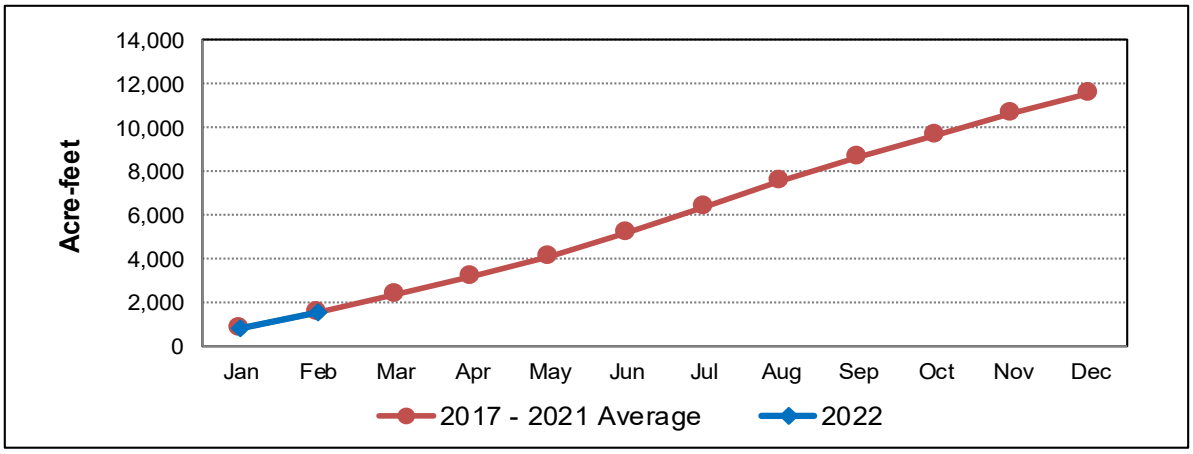
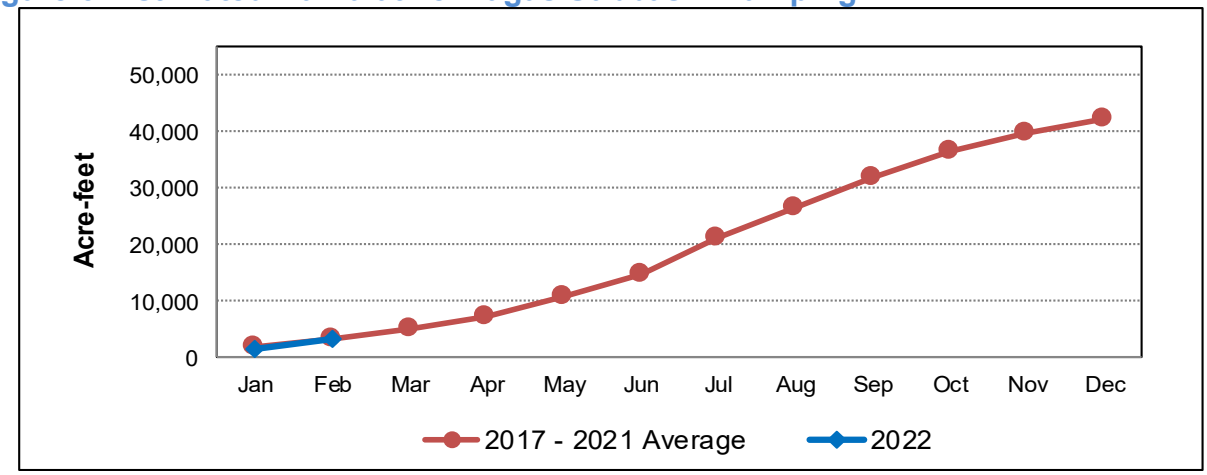


Figure 6. Estimated Cumulative Llagas Subbasin Pumping



Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels in regional monitoring wells throughout the county have increased over the last several months but now appear to have begun their seasonal declines. Most current water levels are lower than at this time last year and all are lower than the average of March for the previous 5 years. However, they are all higher than the lowest levels during the previous drought. Table 2 summarizes current groundwater levels with historical comparisons for eleven regional monitoring wells that are distributed across the three management areas, as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Locations of Regional Water Level Monitoring Wells

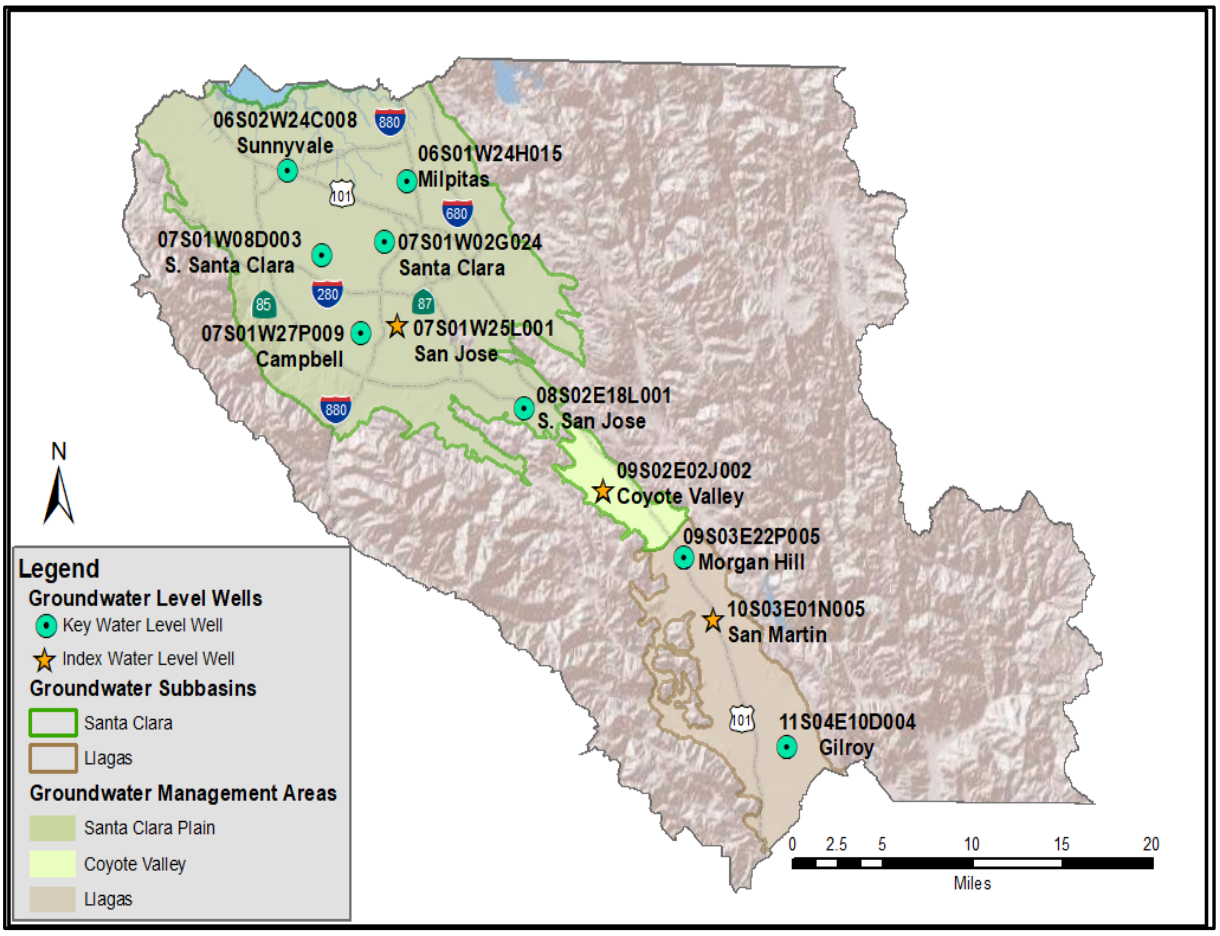


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Table 2. Comparisons to March 2022 Depth to Water (DTW) in Regional Wells

Location	State Well ID	March 2022 DTW (feet)	March 2022 DTW (feet) Compared to:			
			February 2022	March 2021	Prior 5-year Average for March	Maximum DTW during 2012–2016 drought
Milpitas	06S01W24H015	-11 (artesian)	1	-2	-17	32
Sunnyvale	06S02W24C008	-27 (artesian)	-2	-8	-13	6
San Jose	07S01W25L001	93	3	5	-12	44
Santa Clara	07S01W02G024	25	13	6	-15	66
S. Santa Clara	07S01W08D003	85	1	-12	-23	60
Campbell	07S01W27P009	127	2	13	-8	70
S. San Jose	08S02E18L001	31	0	-10	-13	39
Coyote Valley	09S02E02J002	19	-1	1	-6	19
Morgan Hill	09S03E22P005	59	-2	-7	-16	36
San Martin	10S03E01N005	48	-1	-5	-21	32
Gilroy	11S04E10D004	No Read	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes: Negative values in the last 4 columns indicate current groundwater levels are lower than the comparison time. The maximum DTW during the 2012–2016 drought occurred between July 2014 and December 2015, depending on the well. Well 11S04E10D004 was pumping so no static reading was possible.

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

Figure 8. Milpitas Well Hydrograph

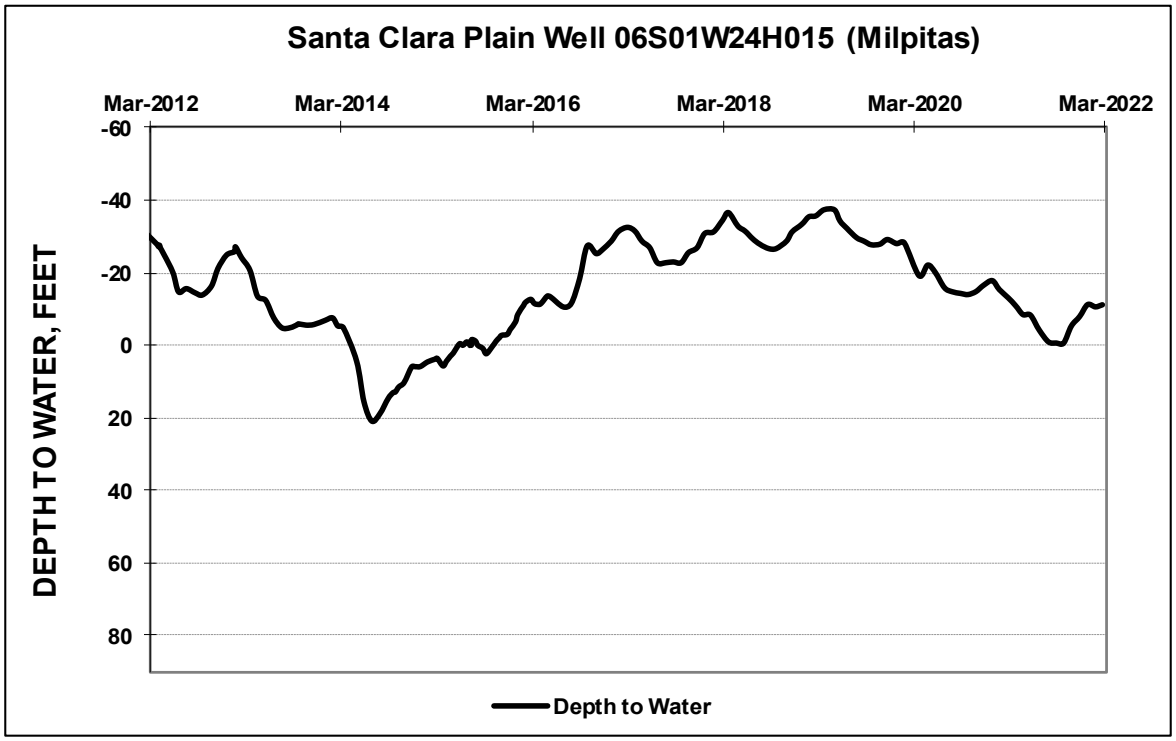


Figure 9. Sunnyvale Well Hydrograph

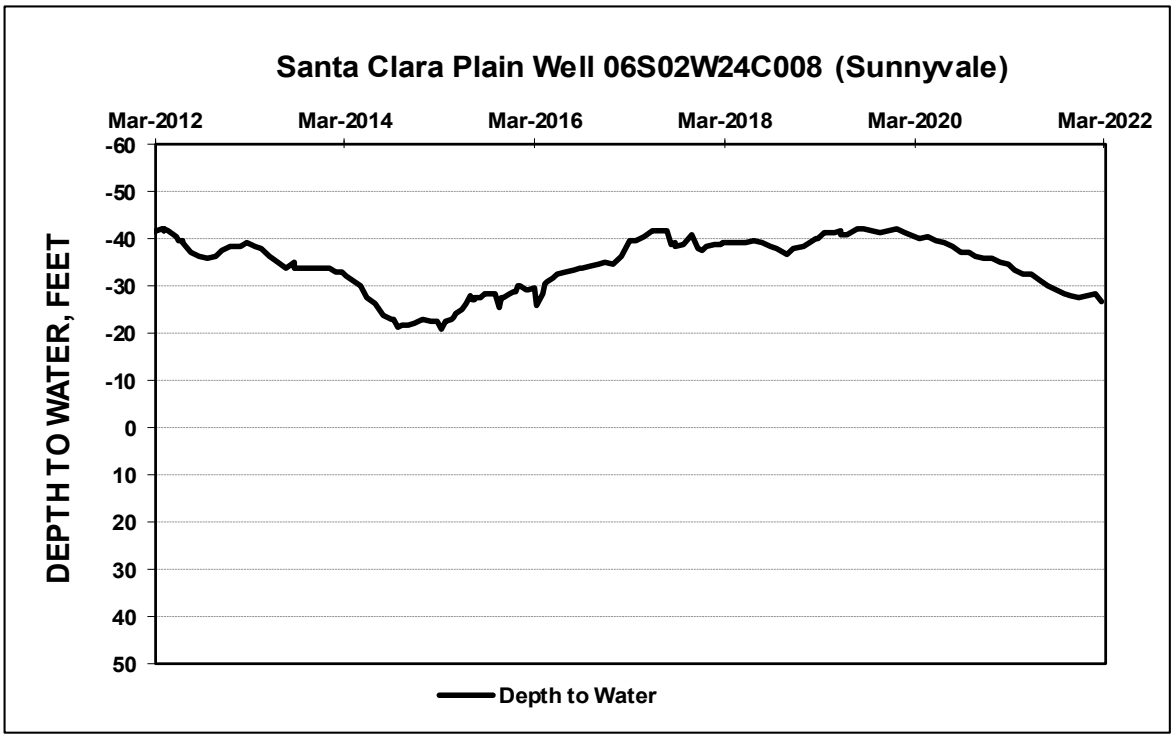


Figure 10. San Jose Well Hydrograph (Index Well for the Santa Clara Plain)

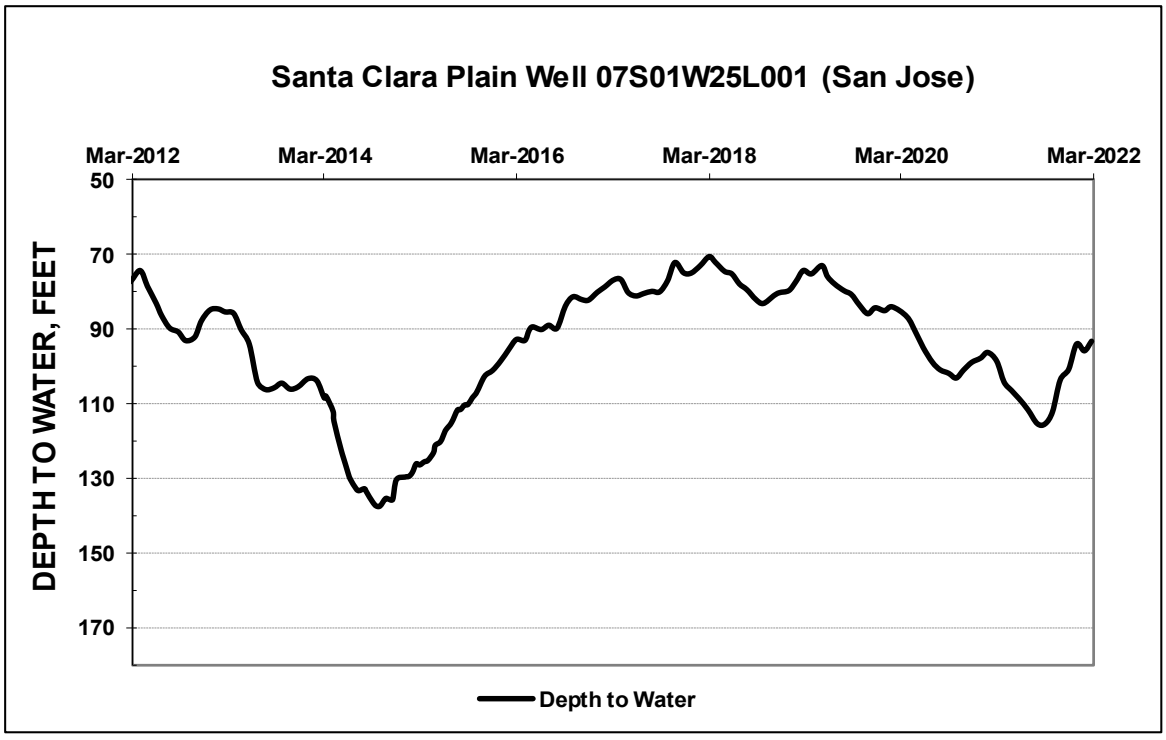


Figure 11. Santa Clara Well Hydrograph

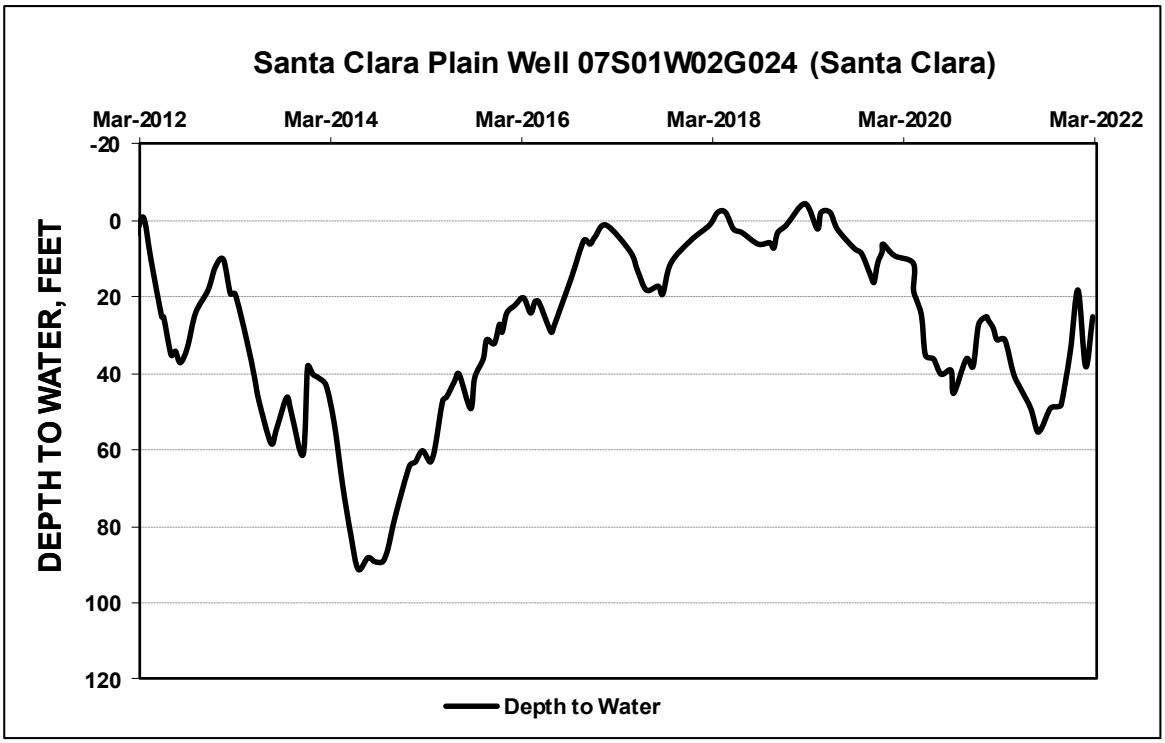


Figure 12. South Santa Clara Well Hydrograph

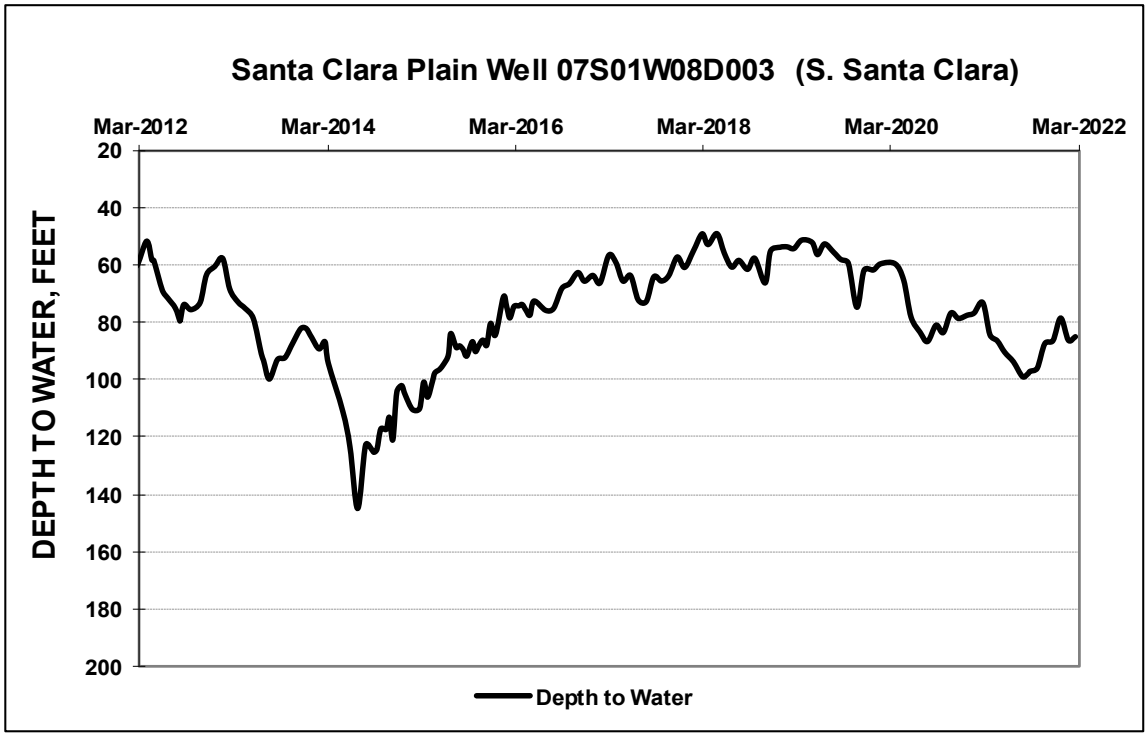
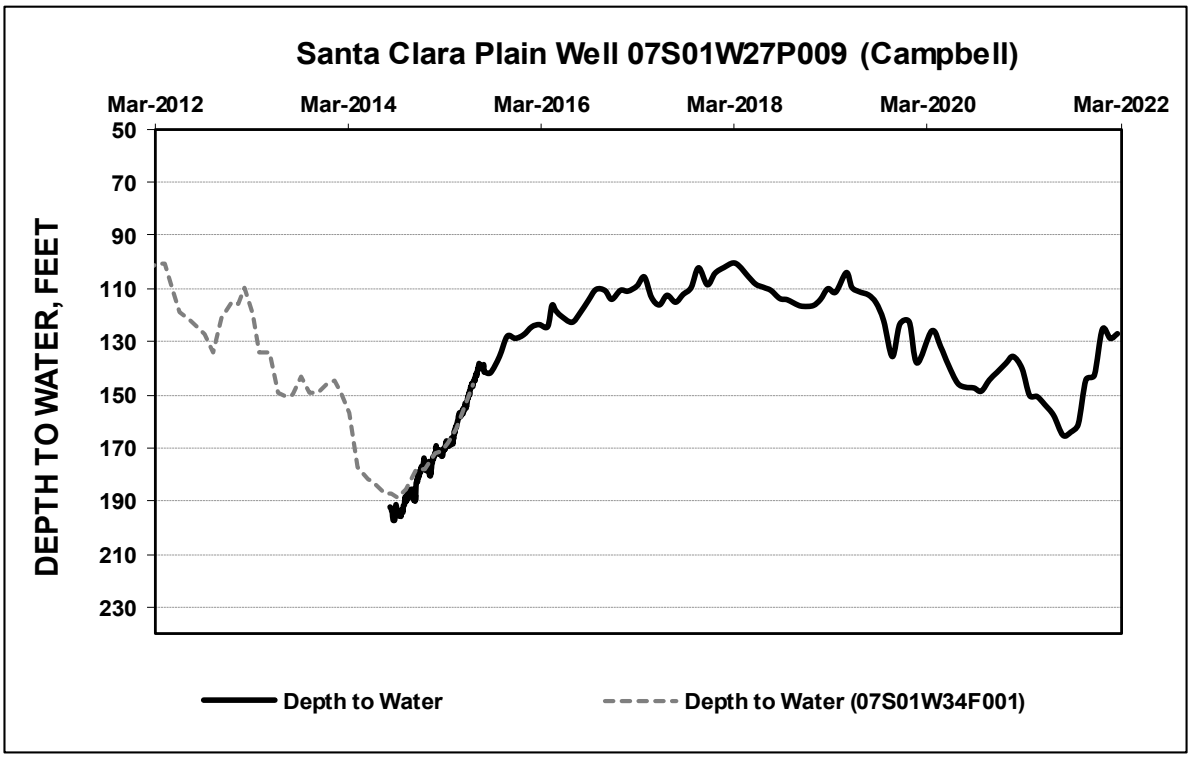


Figure 13. Campbell Well Hydrograph



The Campbell index well was replaced in August 2015 with a nearby well with similar water levels. Data in the chart prior to September 2014 is from the former index well (07S01W34F001).

Figure 14. South San Jose Well Hydrograph

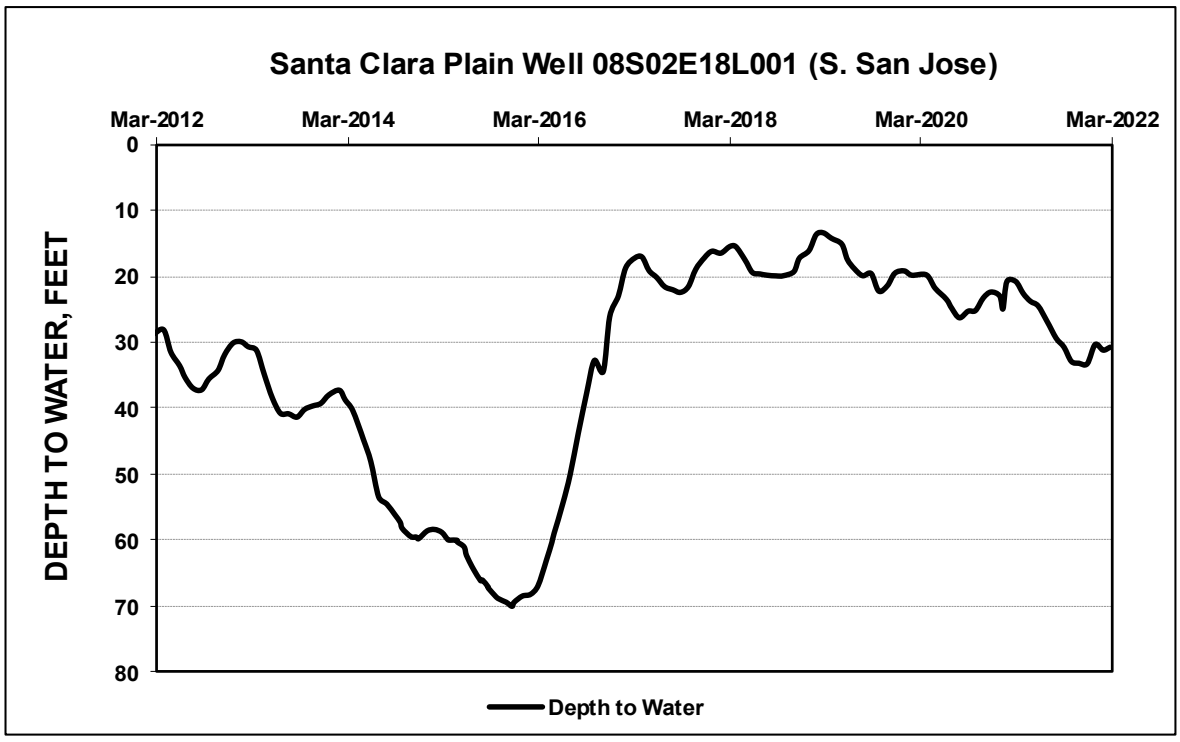


Figure 15. Coyote Valley Well Hydrograph (Index Well for the Coyote Valley)

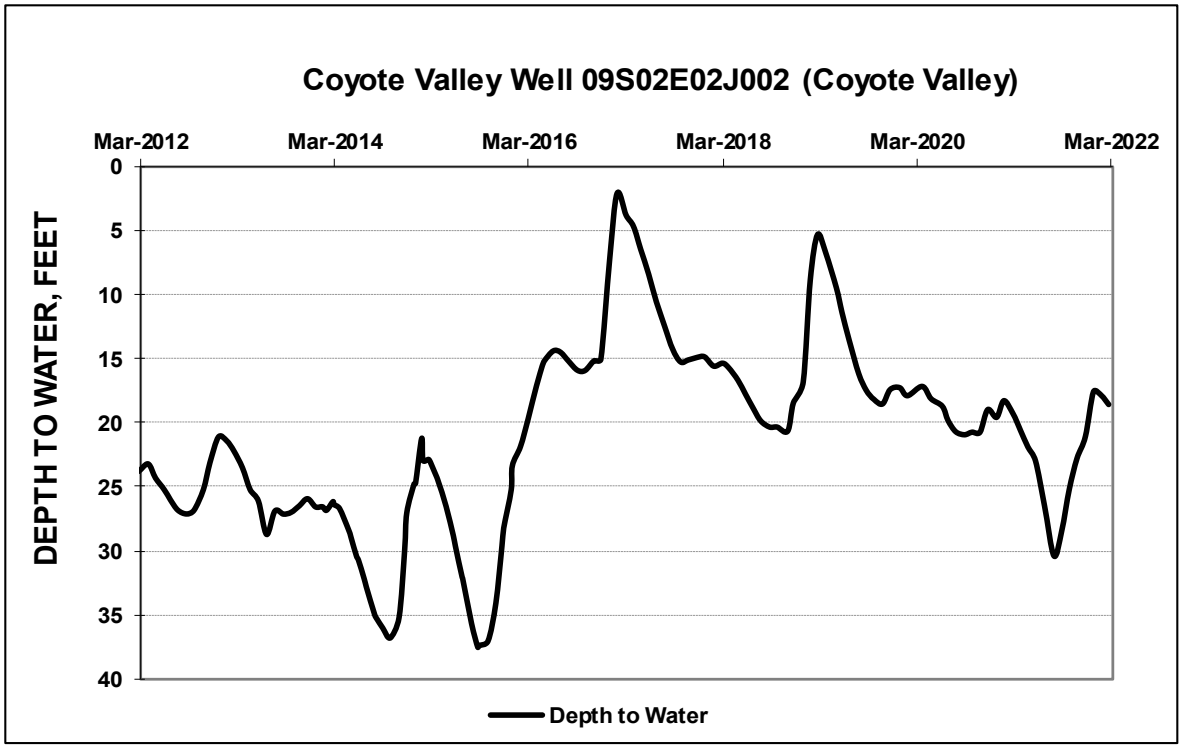


Figure 16. Morgan Hill Well Hydrograph

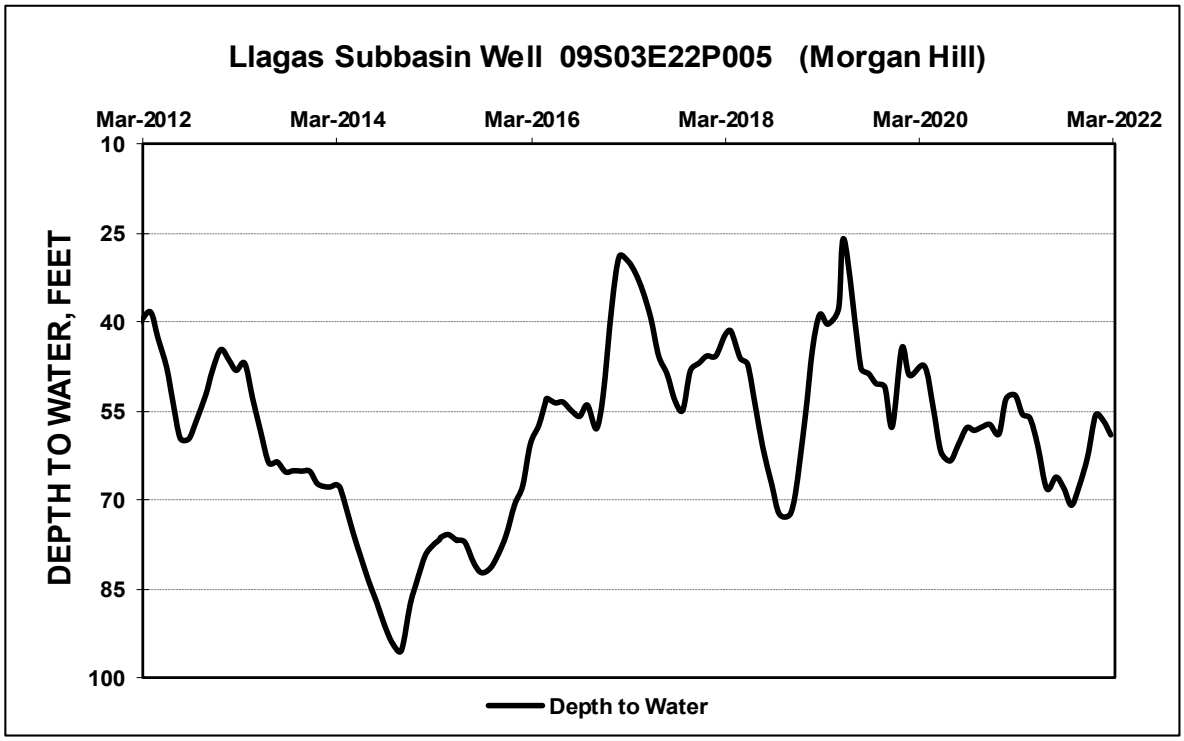


Figure 17. San Martin Well Hydrograph (Index Well for the Llagas Subbasin)

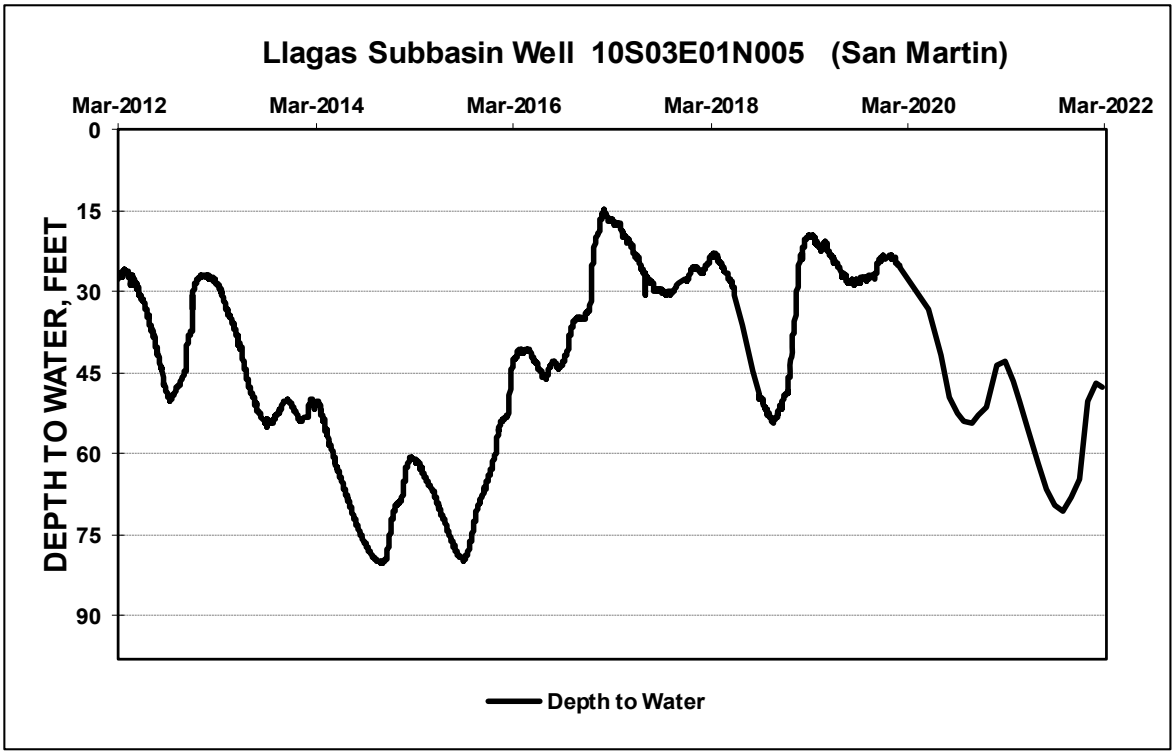
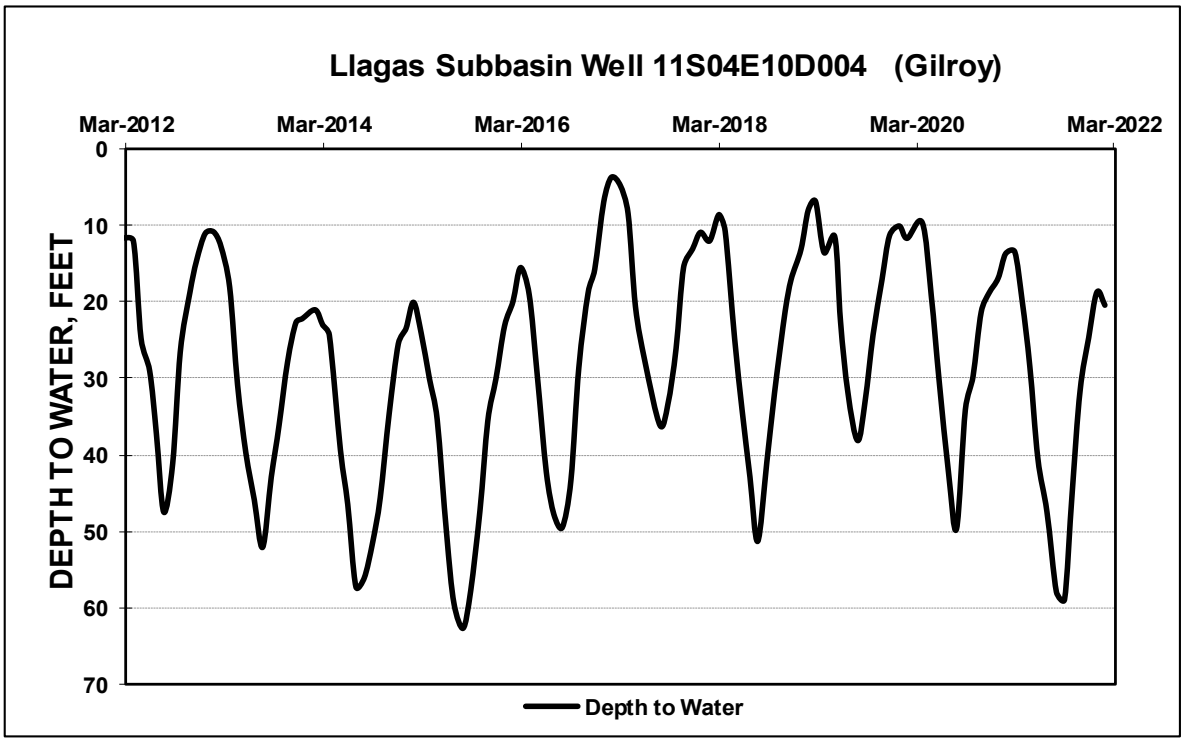


Figure 18. Gilroy Well Hydrograph



Well 11S04E10D004 was pumping so no static reading was possible for March 2022.