

## Notice of Exemption

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Sacramento Groundwater Authority  
2295 Gateway Oaks Dr, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95833

County Clerk-Recorder  
County of Sutter  
433 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

**Project Title:** Advancing NASb Sustainable Groundwater Management – Component 4 & 5:  
Groundwater Monitoring Wells Construction

**Project Location – Specific:** Eight locations for monitoring wells located within Placer, Sacramento, and Sutter Counties (**Figures 1-9**).

CLGWL MW-100 near Brewer Road (38.918825, -121.451789), CLGWL MW-101 near Pleasant Grove Road (38.765712, -121.490482), GDE MW-100 near Rio Grande Drive (38.738483, -121.593223), GDE MW-101 near Railroad Drive (38.604761, -121.469338), GDE MW-102 near Scheiber Road (38.916134, -121.569725), GDE MW-103 near Vernon Road (38.794053, -121.606539), SWD MW-100 near Duckhorn Drive (38.633978, -121.525676) and WPMW-14 near Sunset Boulevard (38.824214, -121.404938).

**Project Location – City:** Counsman, Lincoln, Natomas, Nicolaus, Roseville, Sacramento

**Project Location – County:** Placer, Sacramento, Sutter

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** In 2014, the State of California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to help manage its groundwater. The SGMA established the framework for managing groundwater resources in medium and high priority groundwater basins. Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) were tasked to manage their groundwater resources in accordance with a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The North American Subbasin (NASb or Subbasin) is a high priority basin established under SGMA and is managed under the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved GSP. A critical component of groundwater management under the GSP is having and maintaining a monitoring network to track groundwater conditions.

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), as the lead GSA, received funding for this project through the SGMA Implementation Grant agreement (Agreement No.4600015622) with the DWR. Components 4 and 5 (Proposed Project) of this grant agreement included funds for siting, drilling, and constructing monitoring wells to supplement the NASb's monitoring network. These wells will support monitoring of groundwater levels, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and interconnected groundwater and surface water.

SGA, at the request of West Placer, Sutter County, South Sutter Water District, and Reclamation District 1001 (RD 1001) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, is planning to construct four deep monitoring wells and four shallow monitoring wells to further characterize groundwater conditions in the Subbasin. The NASb covers the area from the Bear River to the American River and from the foothills to the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, which extends over three counties. The Proposed Project would improve the NASb GSA's monitoring networks.

The deep groundwater levels monitoring wells will be completed using a drill rig, portable drilling fluid tank, trailer used to transport drill rods, water truck, and support truck. The drilling and construction of each monitoring well is expected to be completed within ten working days, with all four wells expected to

be completed in two months' time. Final well construction details are determined based on site conditions, but expected designs are single to triple completion 2.5" diameter schedule 80 PVC wells constructed to depths up to 400 feet. The final footprint of the monitoring wells will be either: 1) a 12" diameter steel vault, elevated above ground surface and surrounded by a 4x4 foot concrete pad and bollards or 2) a 12" diameter traffic rated flush grade vault.

The shallow monitoring well work will be completed using a drill rig, trailer used to transport augers, and support truck. The drilling and construction of each monitoring well is expected to be completed within three working days, with all four wells expected to be completed within a months' time. Each well will be a single completion monitoring well constructed to depths up to 60 feet, although final well depths are determined based on site conditions. The final footprint of the shallow monitoring wells will be either : 1) an 6" diameter steel vault, elevated above ground surface and surrounded by a 4x4 foot concrete pad and bollards or 2) a 5" diameter traffic rated flush grade vault.

The monitoring wells will provide groundwater information to support and implement long-term sustainable groundwater planning and management and inform projects to help the GSP meet the sustainable groundwater management goals of the Subbasin under the GSP.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sacramento Groundwater Authority

**Name of Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sacramento Groundwater Authority

**Exempt Status:** Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines 15306: Information Collection; 15304: Minor Alternations to Land; and 15307: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This project is exempt as defined in Section 15306 of CEQA Guidelines which states that a project may be exempt from CEQA as a Class 6 exemption if it "consists of ... 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." Also applicable is Section and 15304 (Class 4 – minor alterations to land). These Exemption classes allow for the construction of small new facilities or structures and minor alterations in the condition of land, water or vegetation.

In the identification of monitoring well sites, consideration has been given to potential sensitive habitats and locations, and these areas have been avoided. During the development of this Notice of Exemption, a desktop survey, site visit, and cultural database review were conducted. The desktop survey and cultural database review included information from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), National Wetland Inventory, Cortese list of hazardous materials sites, and a records search from the North Central Information Center. Following the results of these investigations, it was determined that the proposed wells will be installed in already developed or disturbed areas that do not contain sensitive resources or result in minor, temporary alterations to the land but would not have a significant effect on the environment and for these reasons Categorical Exemptions apply.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:**

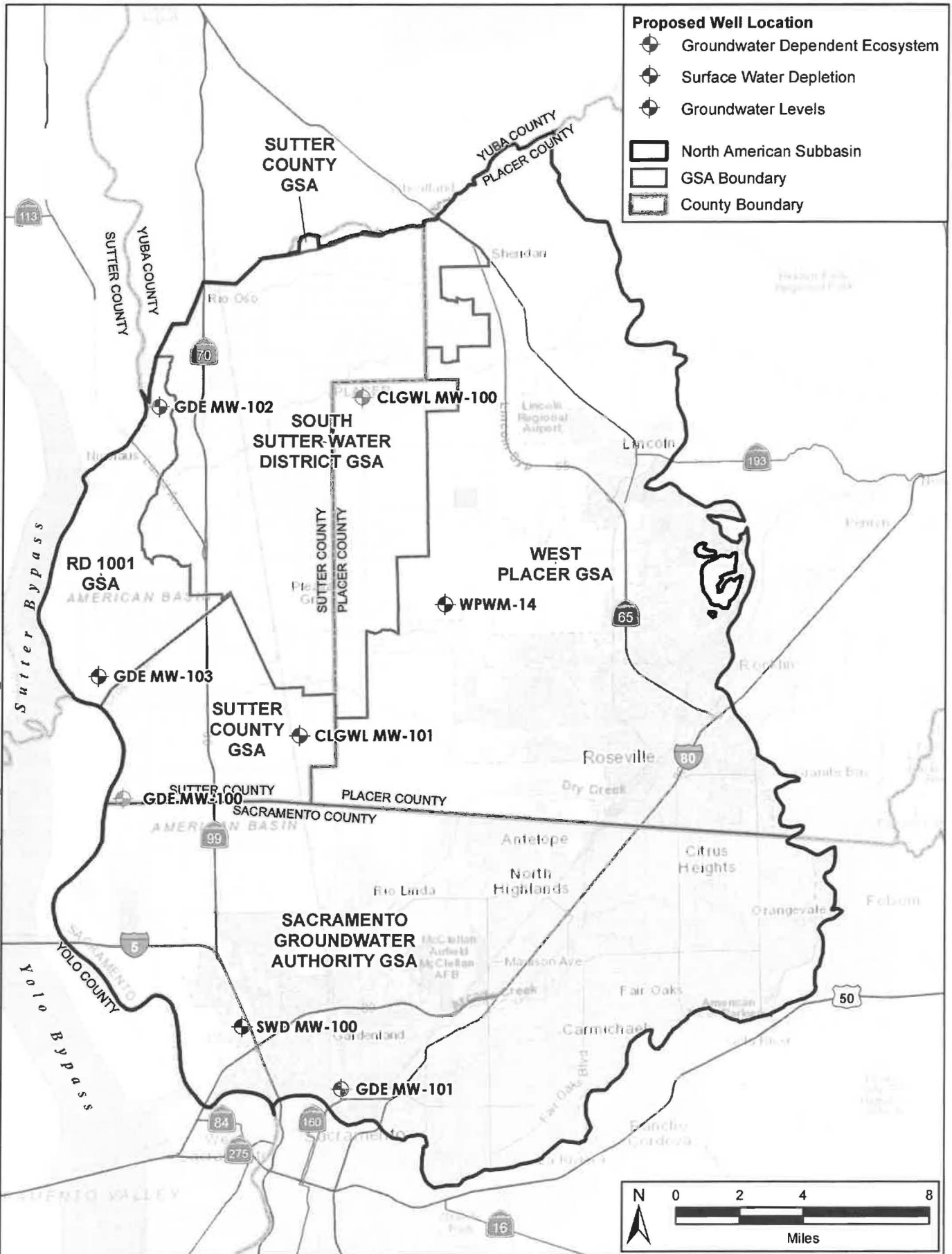
**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Raiyna Villasenor  
**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 967-7692 ext. 2008

**Signature:**  **Date:** 4-16-25 **Title:** Manager of Technical Services  
Trevor Joseph

**Signed by the Lead Agency**

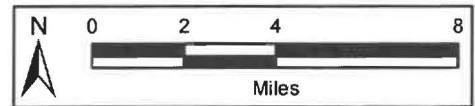
**Date received for filing at OPR:**

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 26-Mar-2025



**Proposed Well Location**

- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
- Surface Water Depletion
- Groundwater Levels
- North American Subbasin
- GSA Boundary
- County Boundary



North American Subbasin  
 Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties

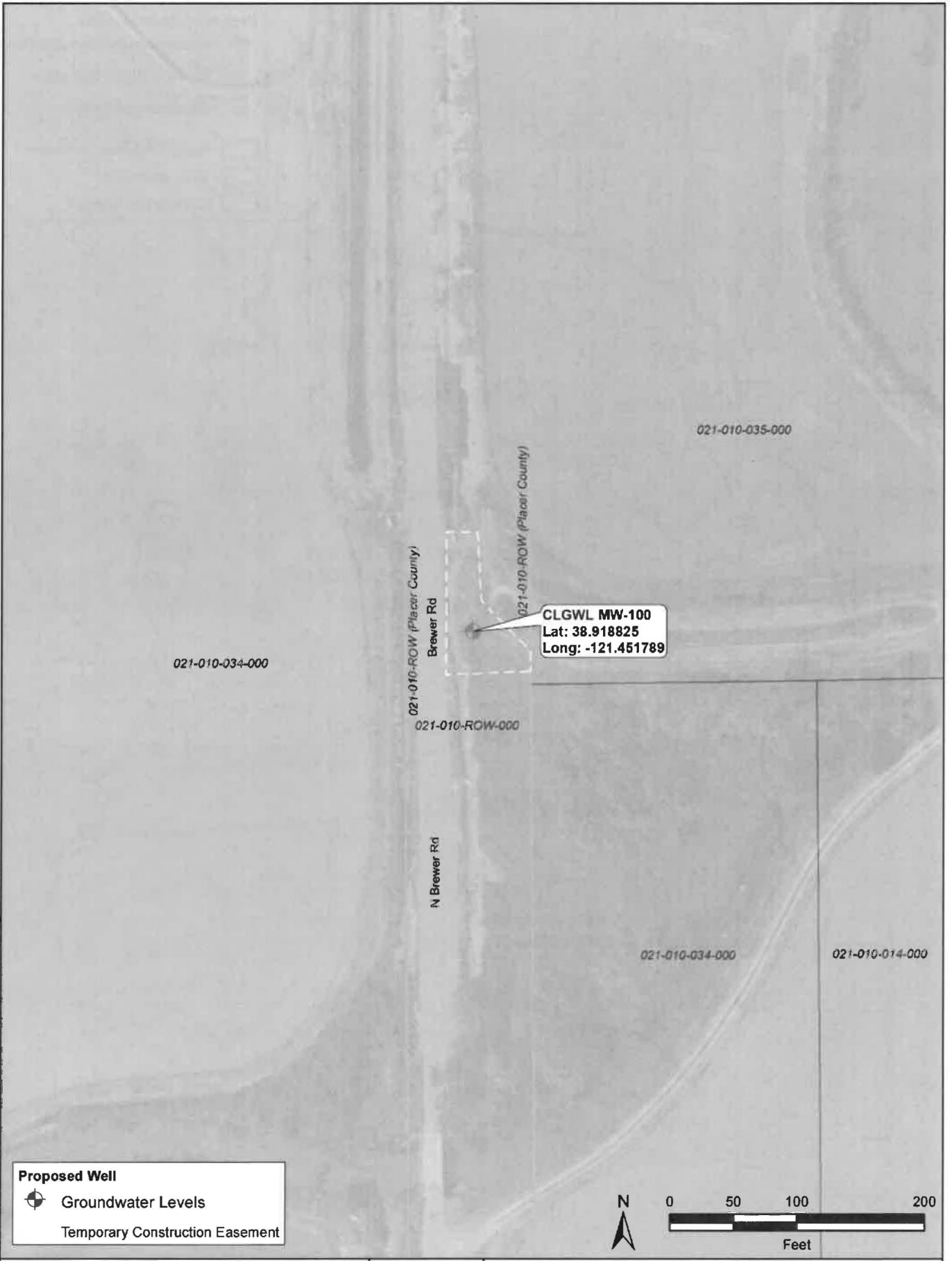
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North American Subbasin



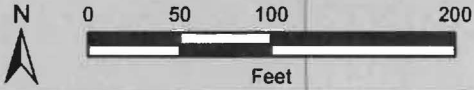
**WELL LOCATIONS**

APRIL 2025      DRAFT      FIGURE 1

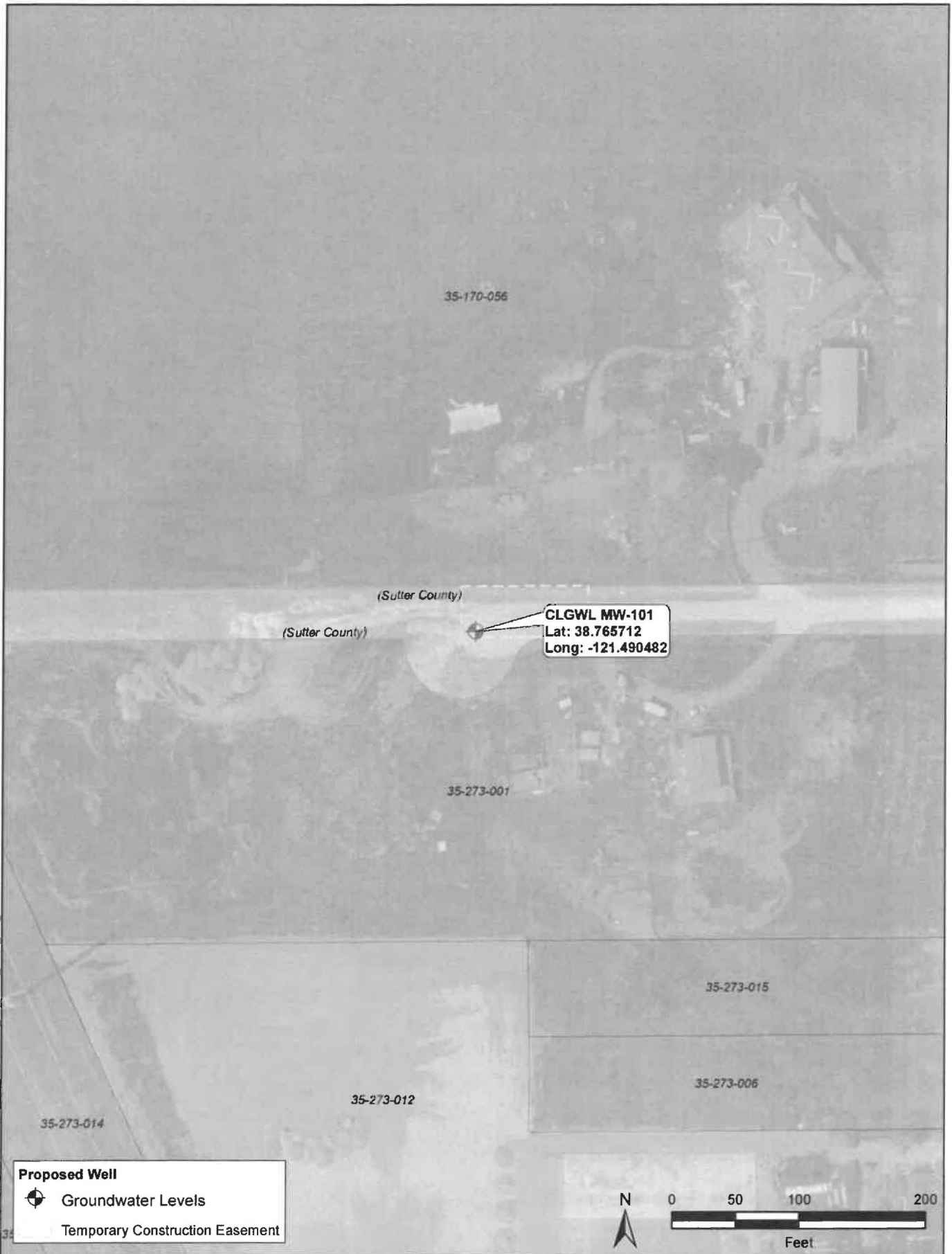


**Proposed Well**

- Groundwater Levels
- Temporary Construction Easement

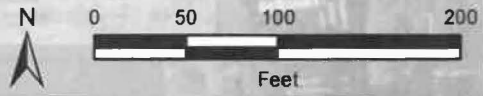


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**Proposed Well**

-  Groundwater Levels
-  Temporary Construction Easement



North American Subbasin  
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties

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North American Subbasin

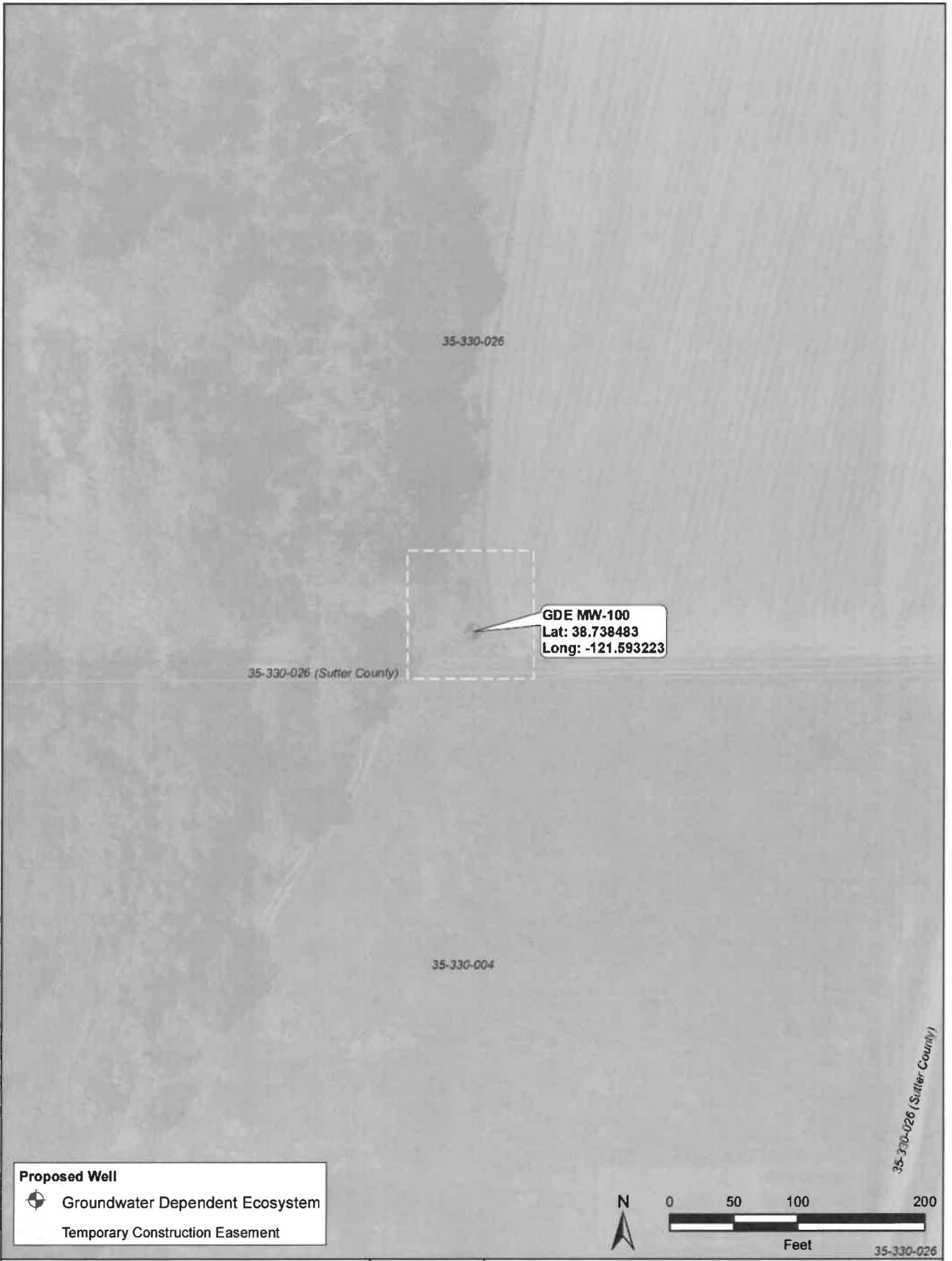


Potential Well Location  
CLGWL MW-101

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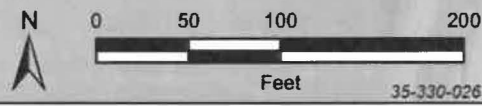
APRIL 2025 FIGURE 3

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**Proposed Well**

- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
- Temporary Construction Easement



North American Subbasin  
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties

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North American Subbasin



Potential Well Location  
GDE MW-100

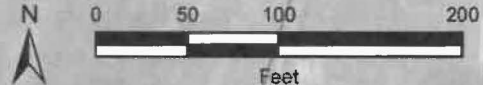
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|---------------------------------|
| <b>Proposed Well</b>            |
| Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem |
| Temporary Construction Easement |

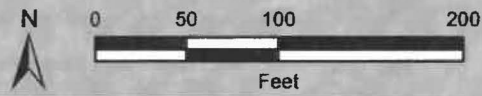


|   |            |   |
|---|------------|---|
| North American Subbasin<br>Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties |            | <b>Potential Well Location</b><br><b>GDE MW-101</b> |
| North American Subbasin   | APRIL 2025 | FIGURE 5  |



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**Proposed Well**  
 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem  
 Temporary Construction Easement



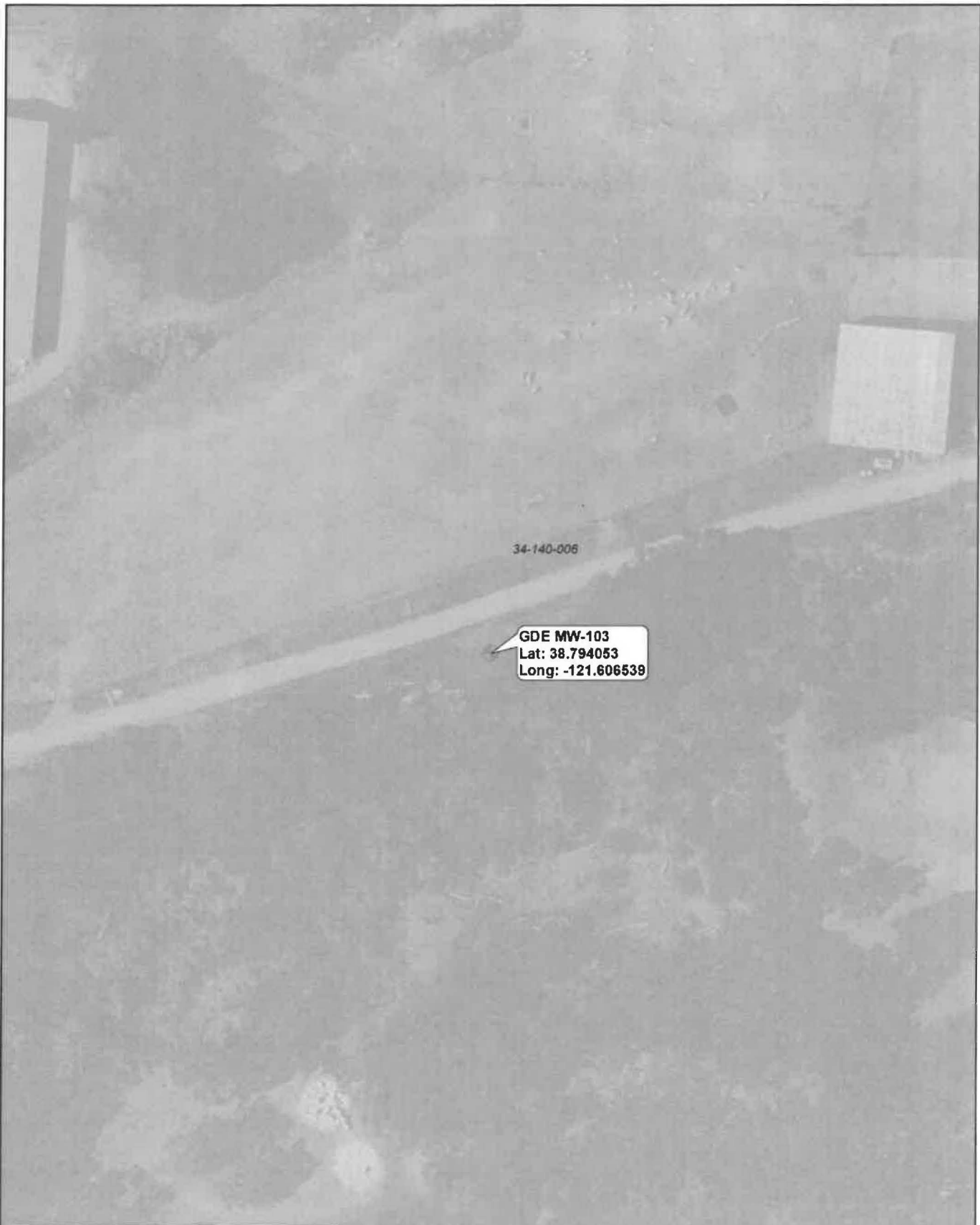
North American Subbasin  
 Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties  
 North American Subbasin



Potential Well Location  
 GDE MW-102  
 APRIL 2025  
 FIGURE 6

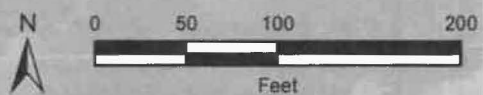


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**Proposed Well**  
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem

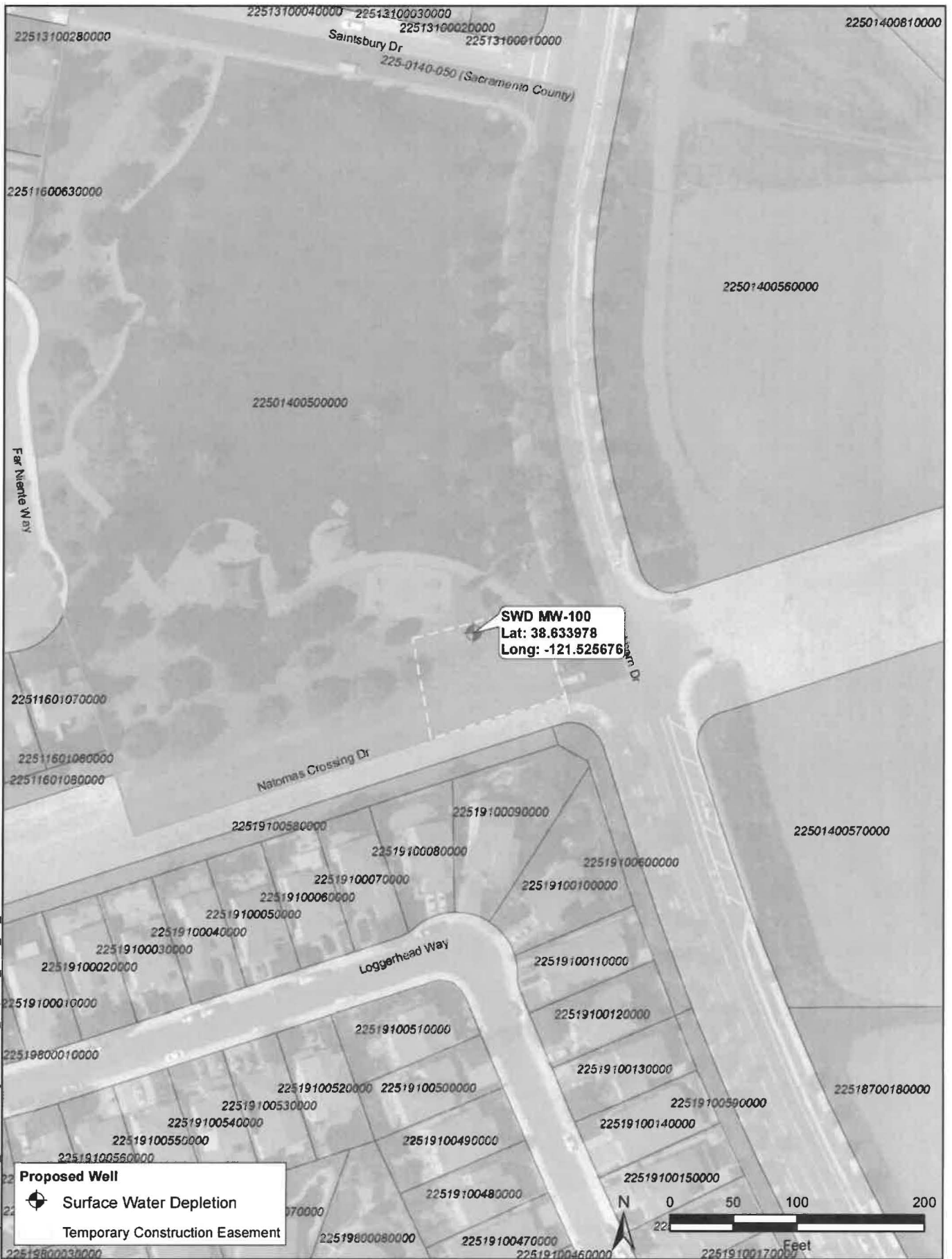
34-140-006 (Sutter County)  
34-190-007



North American Subbasin  
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties  
North American Subbasin



Potential Well Location  
GDE MW-103  
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FIGURE 7



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**Proposed Well**

- Surface Water Depletion
- Temporary Construction Easement

North American Subbasin  
 Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties

North American Subbasin

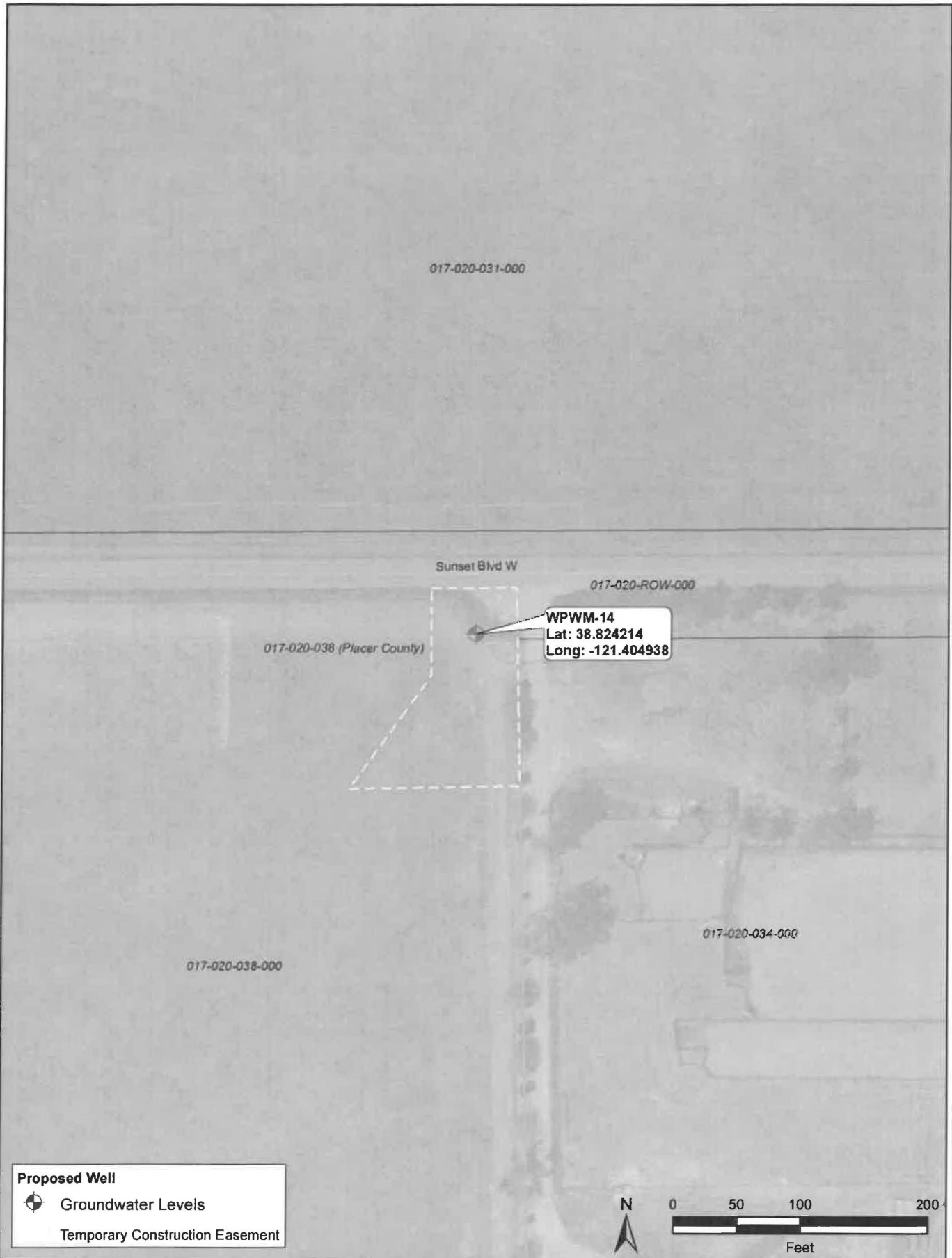


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Potential Well Location  
 SWD MW-100

FIGURE 8

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North American Subbasin  
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties



Potential Well Location  
WPWM-14

North American Subbasin

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FIGURE 9

