

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 Placer
3715 Atherton Road
Rocklin, CA 95765

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 (CNDDB), 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

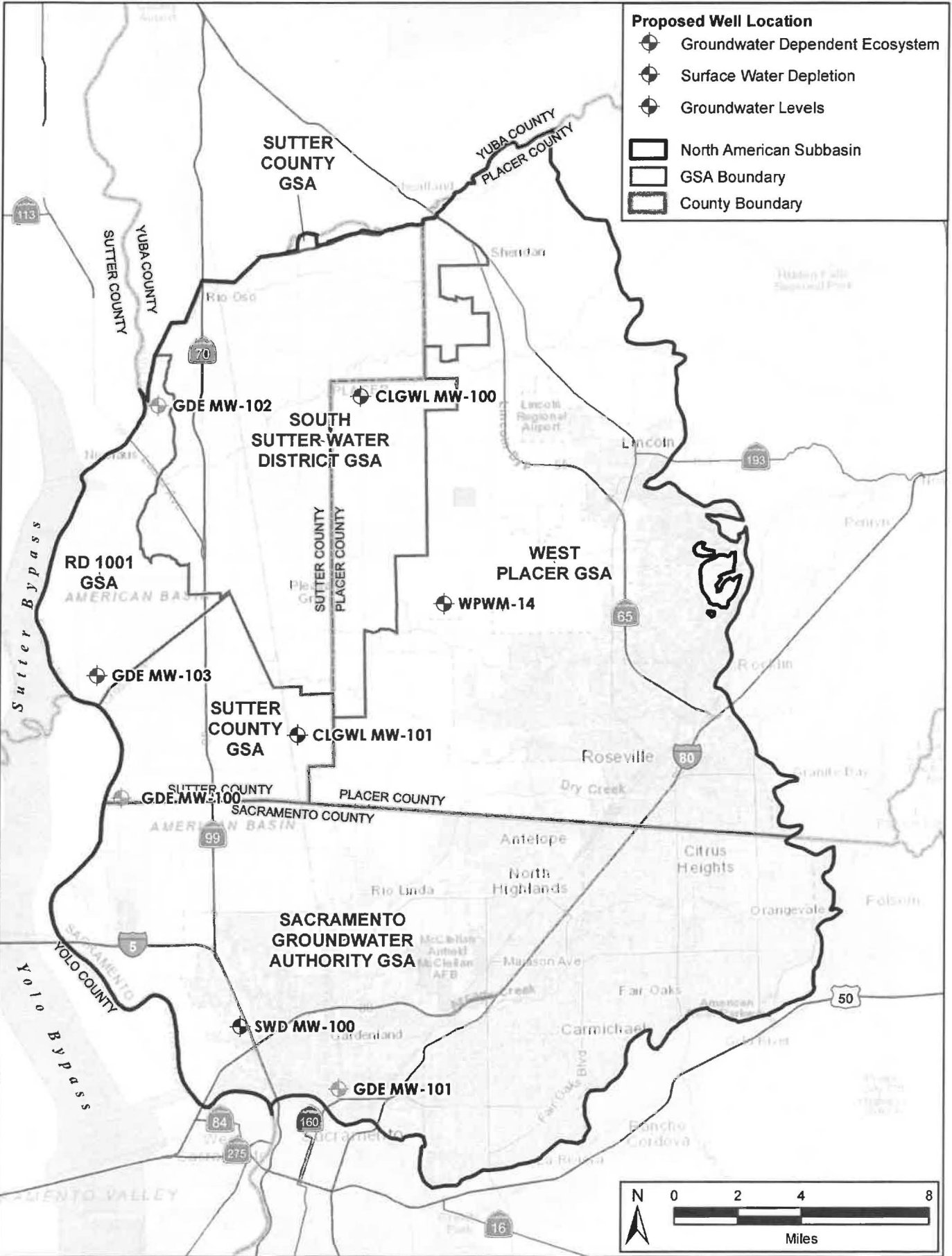
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 967-7692 ext. 2008

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

Signed by the Lead Agency

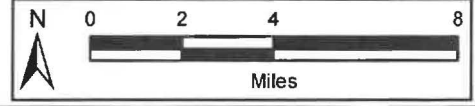
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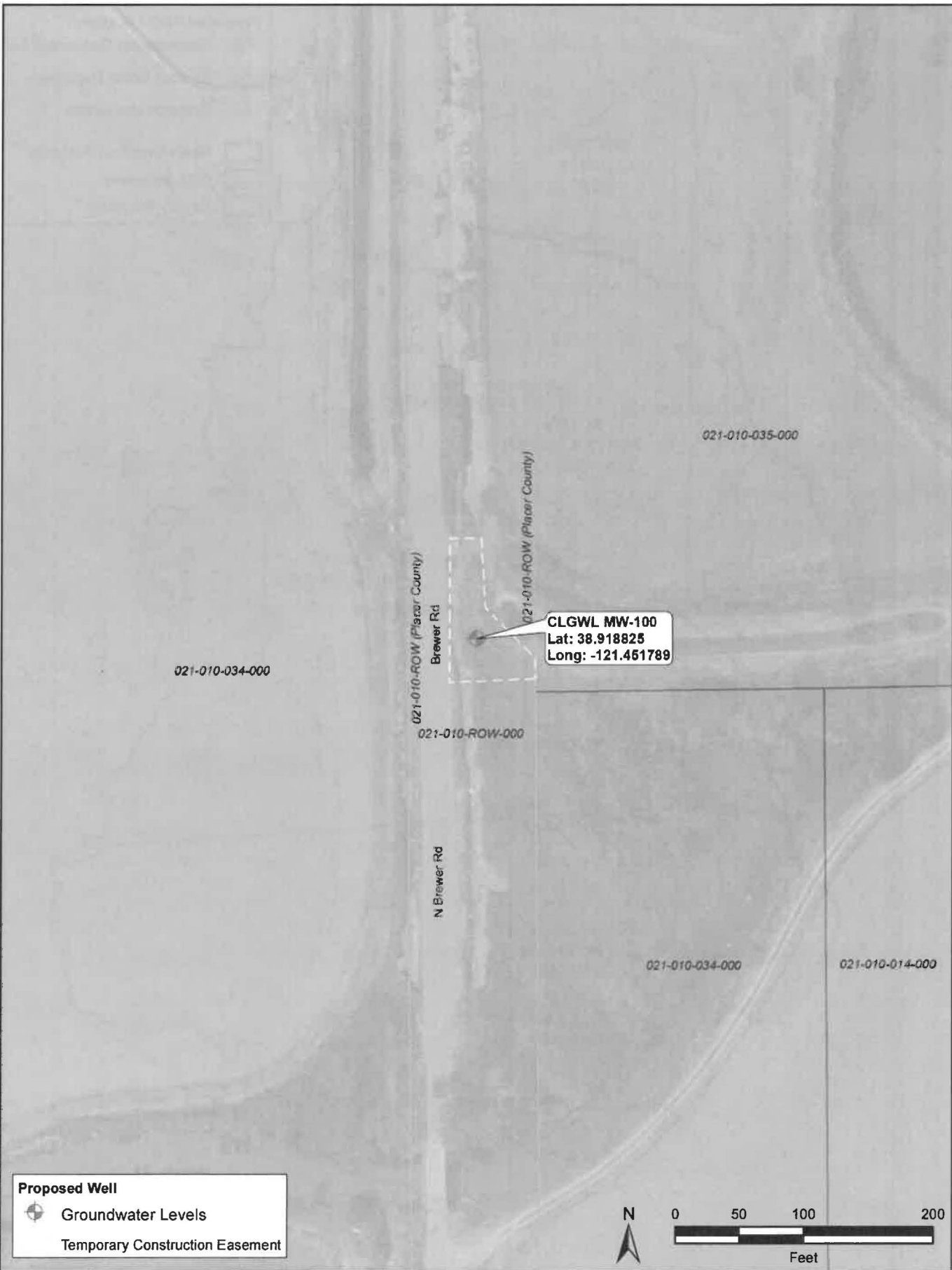
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 26-Mar-2025





Proposed Well Location

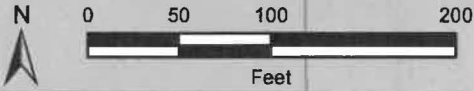
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
- Surface Water Depletion
- Groundwater Levels
- North American Subbasin
- GSA Boundary
- County Boundary





Proposed Well

-  Groundwater Levels
-  Temporary Construction Easement



North American Subbasin
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties



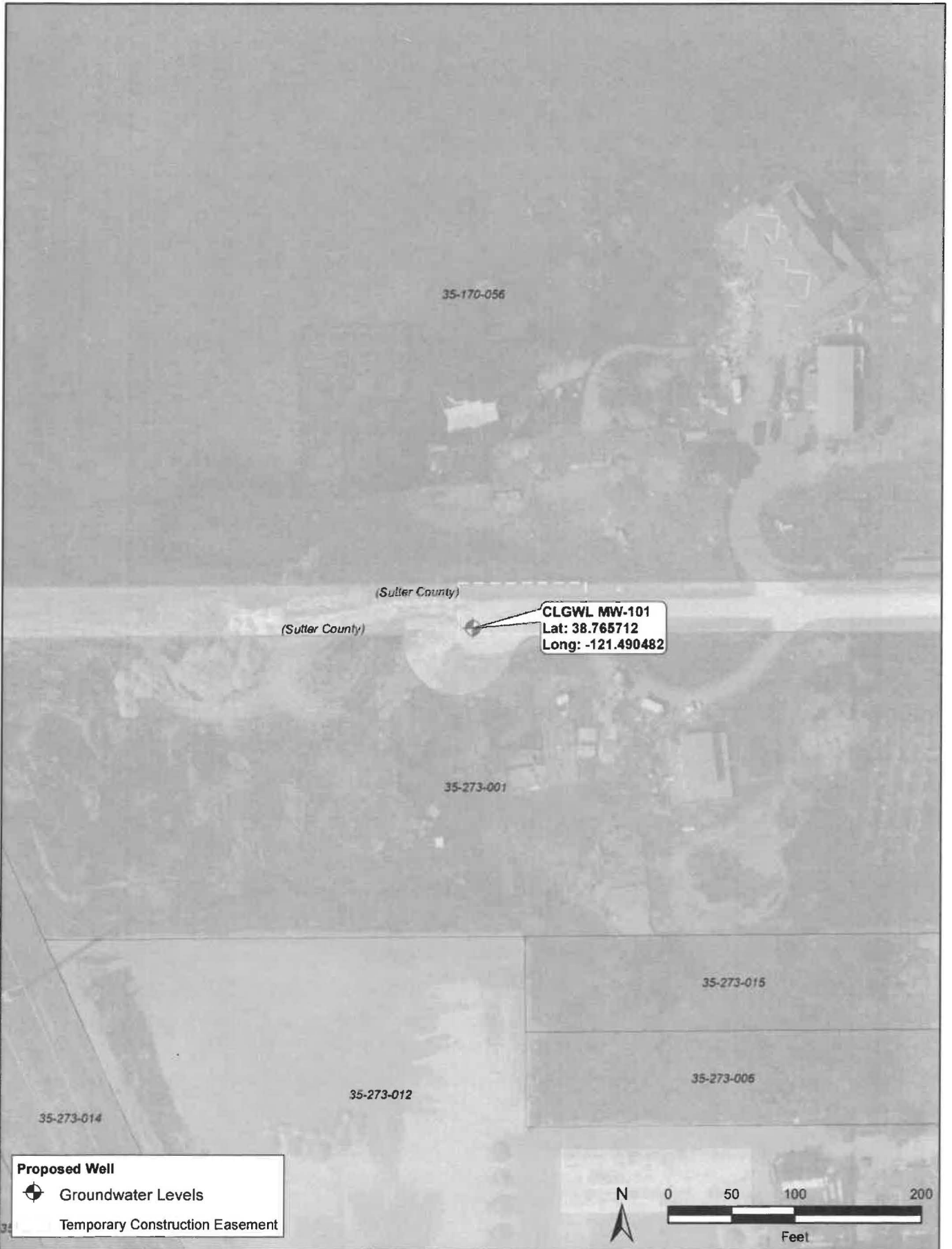
Potential Well Location
CLGWL MW-100

North American Subbasin

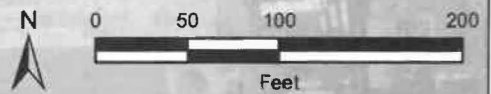
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FIGURE 2

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Proposed Well	
	Groundwater Levels
	Temporary Construction Easement

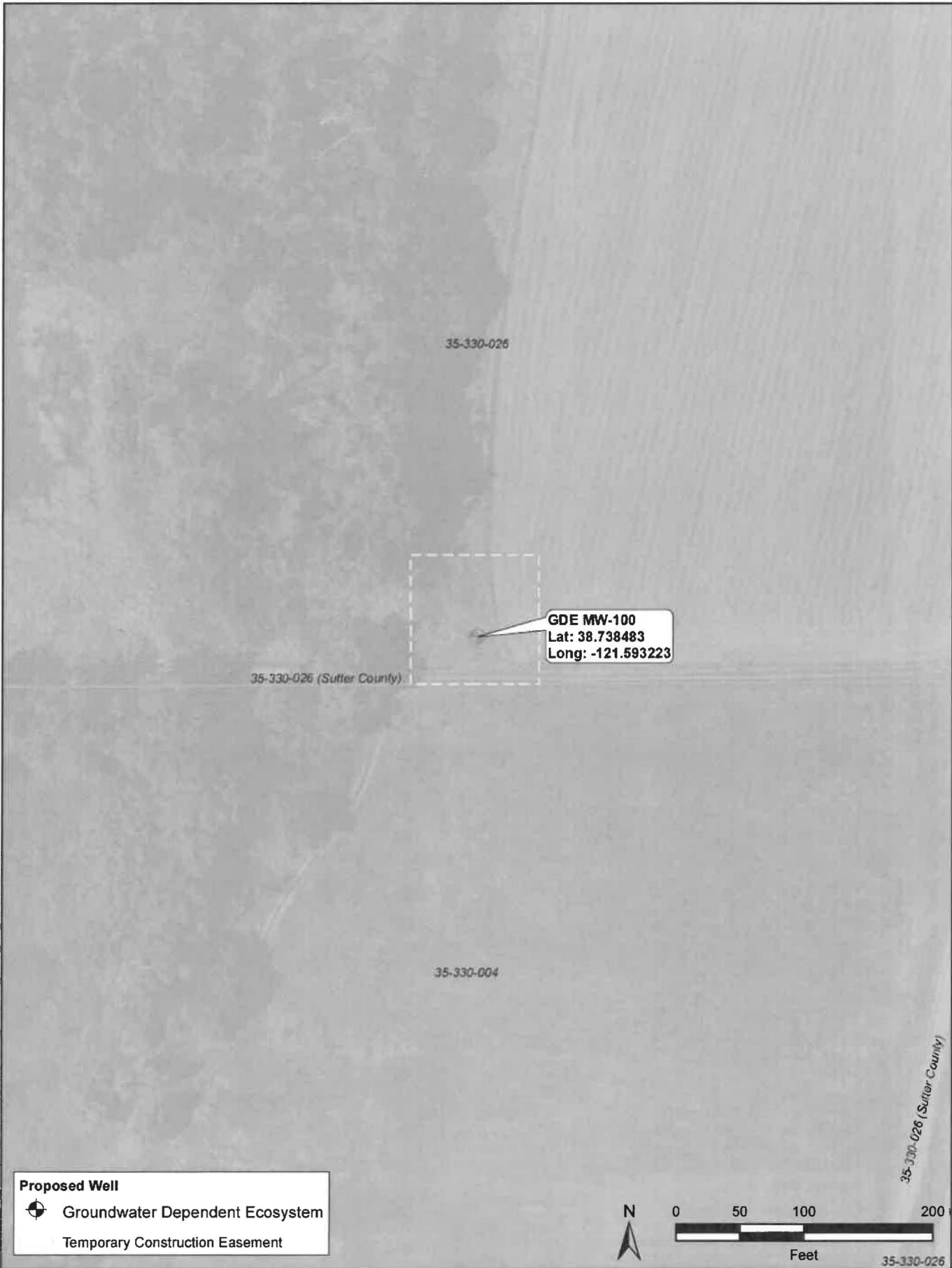


North American Subbasin Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties
North American Subbasin





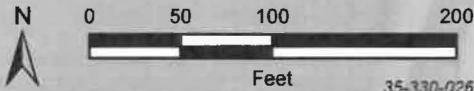
Potential Well Location CLGWL MW-101
APRIL 2025
FIGURE 3

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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-100

APRIL 2025



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

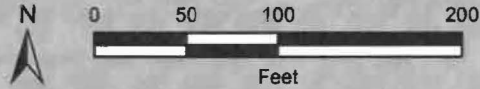


Potential Well Location
 GDE MW-101
 APRIL 2025
 FIGURE 5



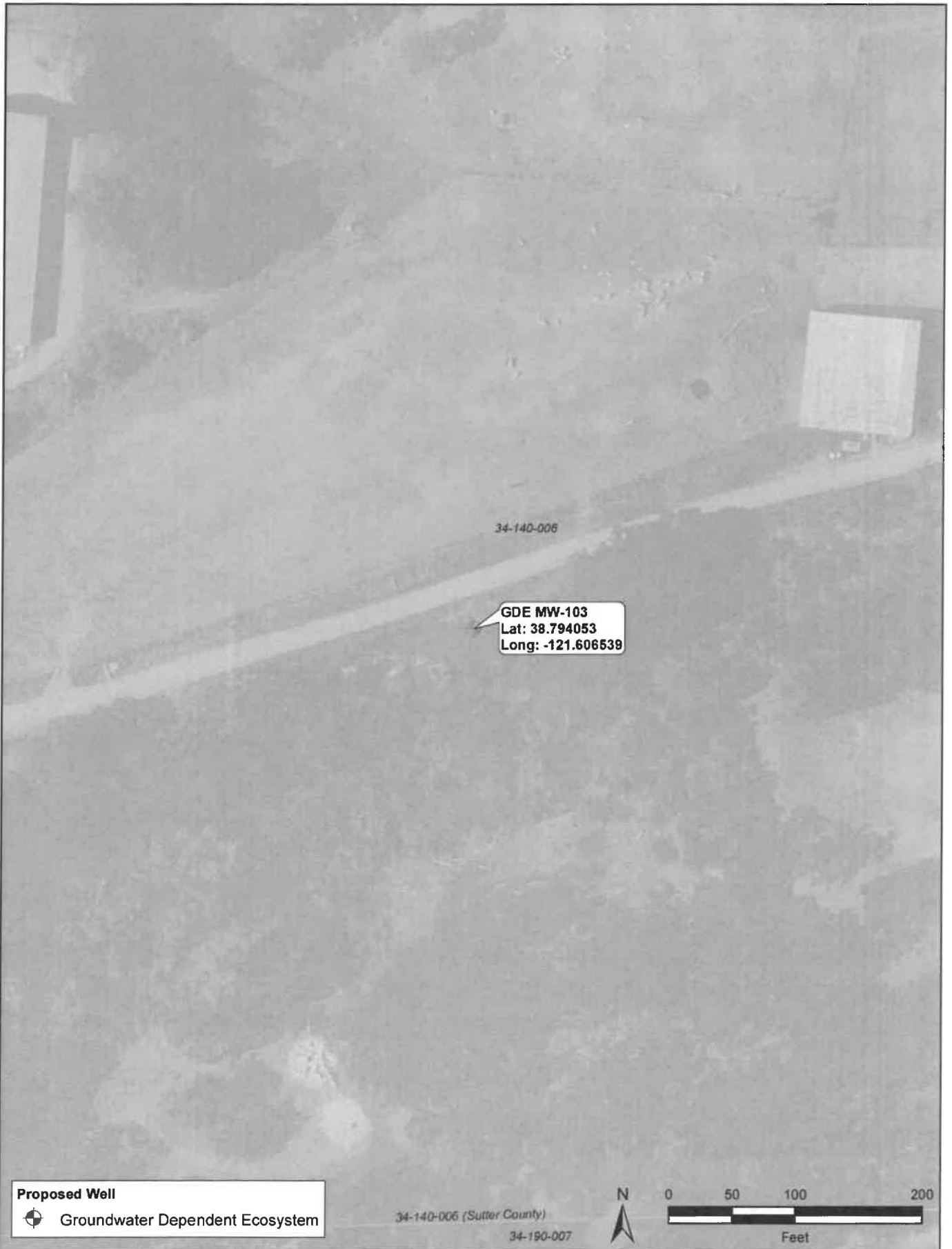
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Proposed Well
 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
 Temporary Construction Easement




North American Subbasin Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties		Potential Well Location GDE MW-102
North American Subbasin	APRIL 2025	FIGURE 6

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Proposed Well

 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem

North American Subbasin
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties

North American Subbasin



Potential Well Location
GDE MW-103

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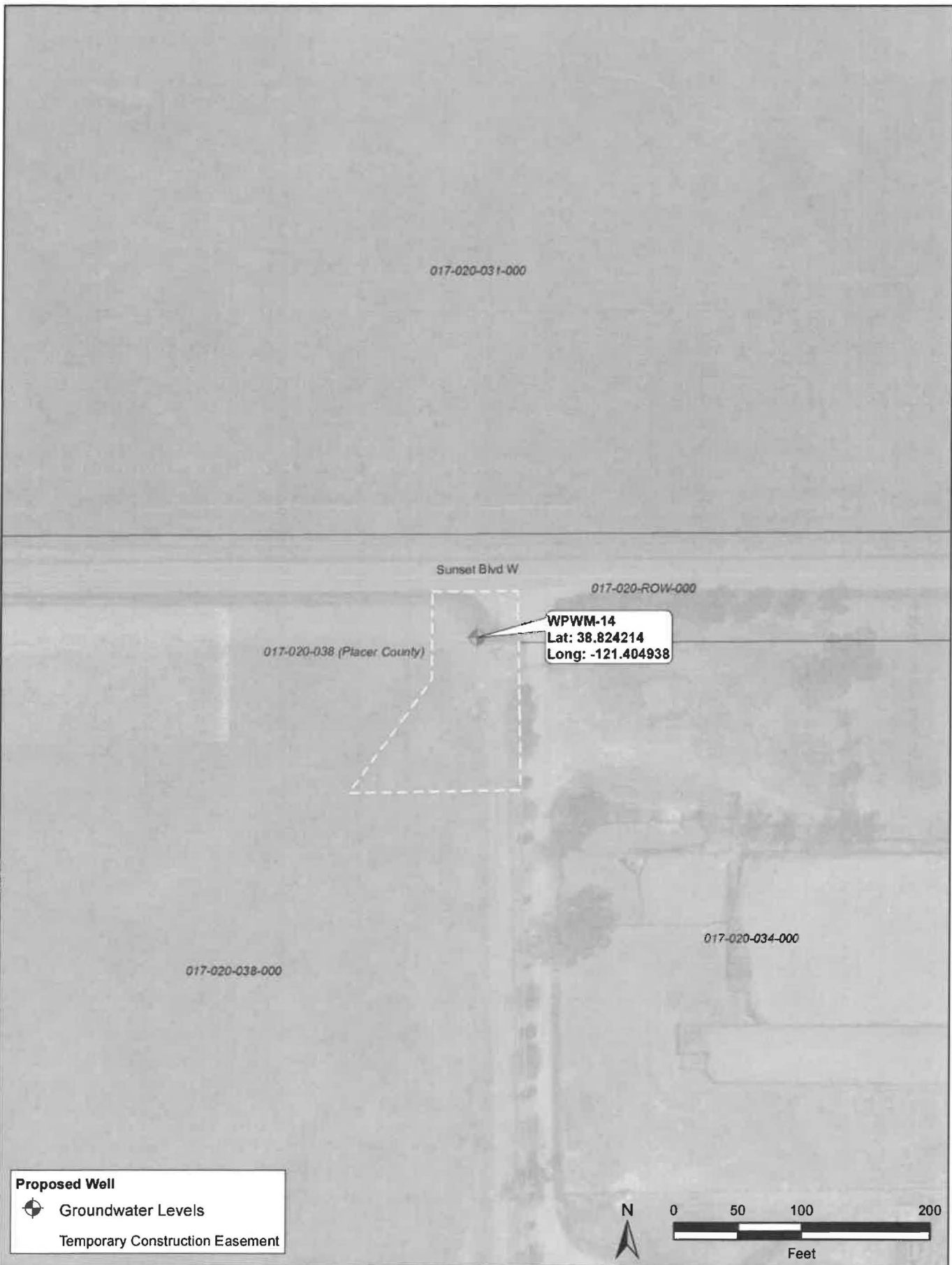
FIGURE 7





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<p>North American Subbasin Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties</p>		<p>Potential Well Location SWD MW-100</p>
<p>North American Subbasin</p>	<p>APRIL 2025</p>	<p>FIGURE 8</p>

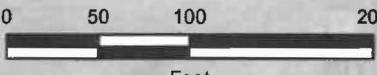
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Proposed Well

-  Groundwater Levels
-  Temporary Construction Easement

N



0 50 100 200
Feet

North American Subbasin
Sutter, Placer and Sacramento Counties

North American Subbasin



Potential Well Location
WPWM-14

APRIL 2025

FIGURE 9

