

Nipomo Mesa Management Area 2024 Key Wells Index

Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions

The Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group ("NMMA TG") established groundwater level and groundwater quality criteria to track overall basin conditions within the NMMA. The criteria include the Key Wells Index ("KWI"), which combines groundwater level data from eight selected wells distributed throughout the inland portion of the Management Area. Water level measurements made in these NMMA groundwater wells are used to compute the KWI during the spring of each year.

The NMMA TG uses the KWI to help identify trends in basin groundwater levels and has compiled KWI data for the period from 1975 to the present. The 2024 KWI value of 26.9 ft msl designates a Potentially Severe Water Condition (Figure 1).

One of the NMMA TG's court-required duties is to determine when conditions of "Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions" or "Severe Water Shortage Conditions" have been reached. The 2024 KWI value of 26.9 ft msl is a significant increase from the previous year (17.3 ft msl) and now meets the criterion of 10 ft above the Severe Water Shortage Condition threshold (16.5 ft msl) to designate Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions set forth in the NMMA Water Shortage Conditions and Response Plan (April 13, 2009). Correspondingly, the NMMA Water Shortage Response Stage is reduced to Stage II.

Details of the KWI, as well as the established responses to Water Shortage Conditions, are explained in the NMMA TG's annual report of groundwater conditions. The report's appendices include a Water Shortage Conditions and Response Plan (Appendix B), and the NMMA Well Management Plan and the NMMA Water Shortage Response Stages (Appendix C). The NMMA annual report for calendar year 2023, including appendices, is available as a digital document at <http://ncsd.ca.gov/resources/reports-by-subject/#nmma>.

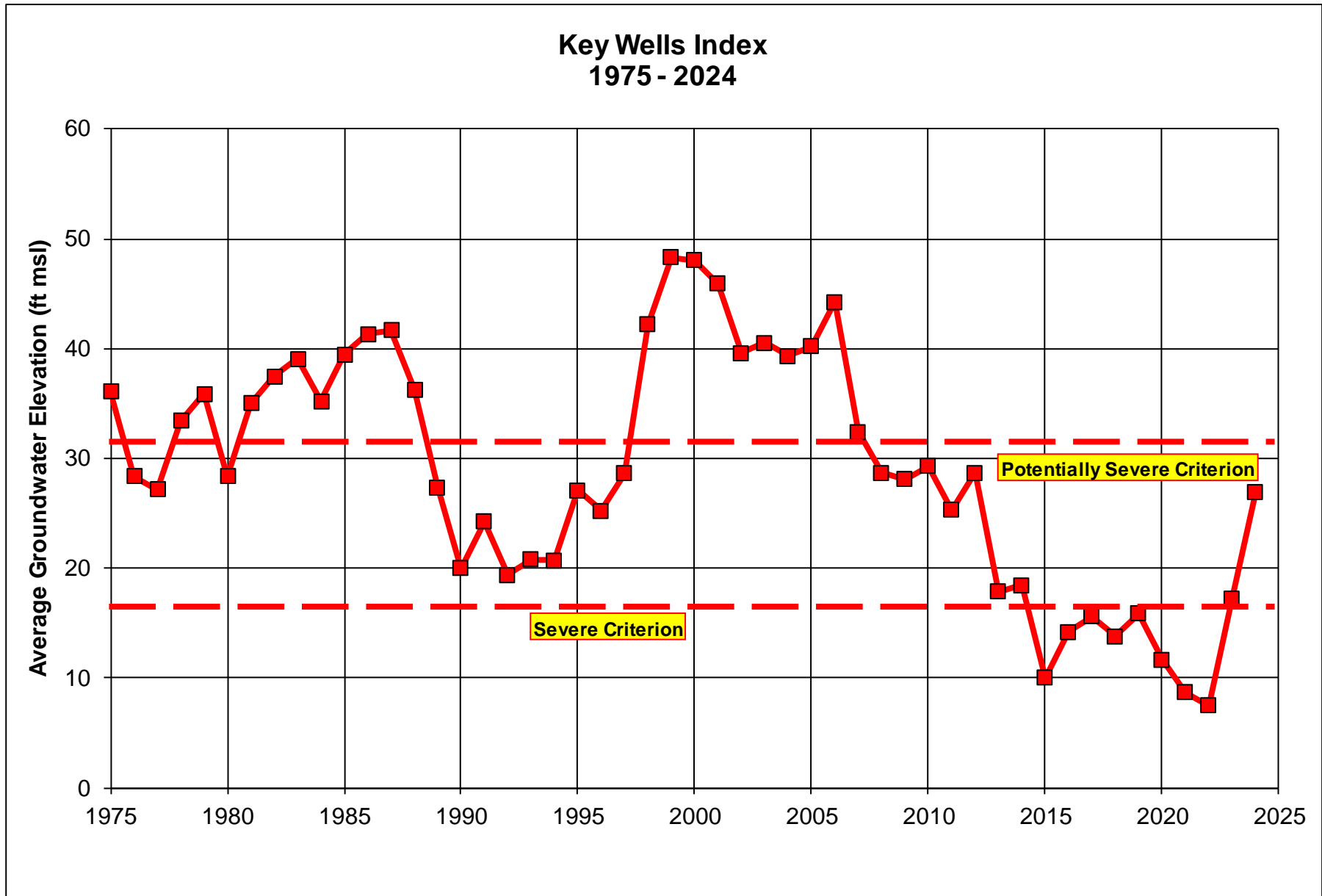


Figure 1