

IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** September 13, 2023

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 10 – Request from Byerly for Shallow Well Mitigation Funding**

BACKGROUND

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) has been in overdraft for several decades, resulting in a significant lowering of groundwater levels and reduction in the amount of useable groundwater in storage. Most of the wells impacted by the chronic decline in groundwater levels have been shallow wells (domestic and rural).

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Basin sustainability must be achieved by 2040. Groundwater levels will continue to decline until the management actions and projects in the California Department of Water Resources approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Basin are fully implemented. The GSP includes a program to help mitigate impacts to shallow wells during implementation of the GSP.

The Shallow Well Mitigation Program (Program) was approved by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Board at its February 10, 2021 meeting. The Program is implemented and managed by the Authority staff, under the direction of the Authority Board, on a “case-by-case” basis. The Program is essentially an “evaluation and potential mitigation reimbursement” process. The Program is dependent upon well owners voluntarily submitting information on their impacted wells for Authority consideration.

IWVGA has received two applications since the start of the program. One application was authorized funding of \$31,821 based on the “market value” of the original well plus the incremental cost of drilling a deeper well.

Another impacted well owner recently contacted the IWVGA regarding the Program.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Byerly has contacted the IWVGA with interest in the Program and has provided some information on his well, which he says went dry. An application for assistance from the Program has not been submitted. The well is located on Welcome Avenue and was drilled in March of 2004. Figure 1, attached, shows the well location. Mr. Byerly reported that the pump was replaced and lowered a few feet and has been providing water. The cost for lowering the pump was \$8,788.97, which also included a new pump, flow restrictor, and a pump saver controller. Garrison Brothers Well Services has advised Mr. Byerly that how long the lowered pump will continue to produce

water is unknown and recommended that the existing well be replaced. The estimated cost for a new well is \$61,156.46. A permit for replacing the well was filed and drilling has started.

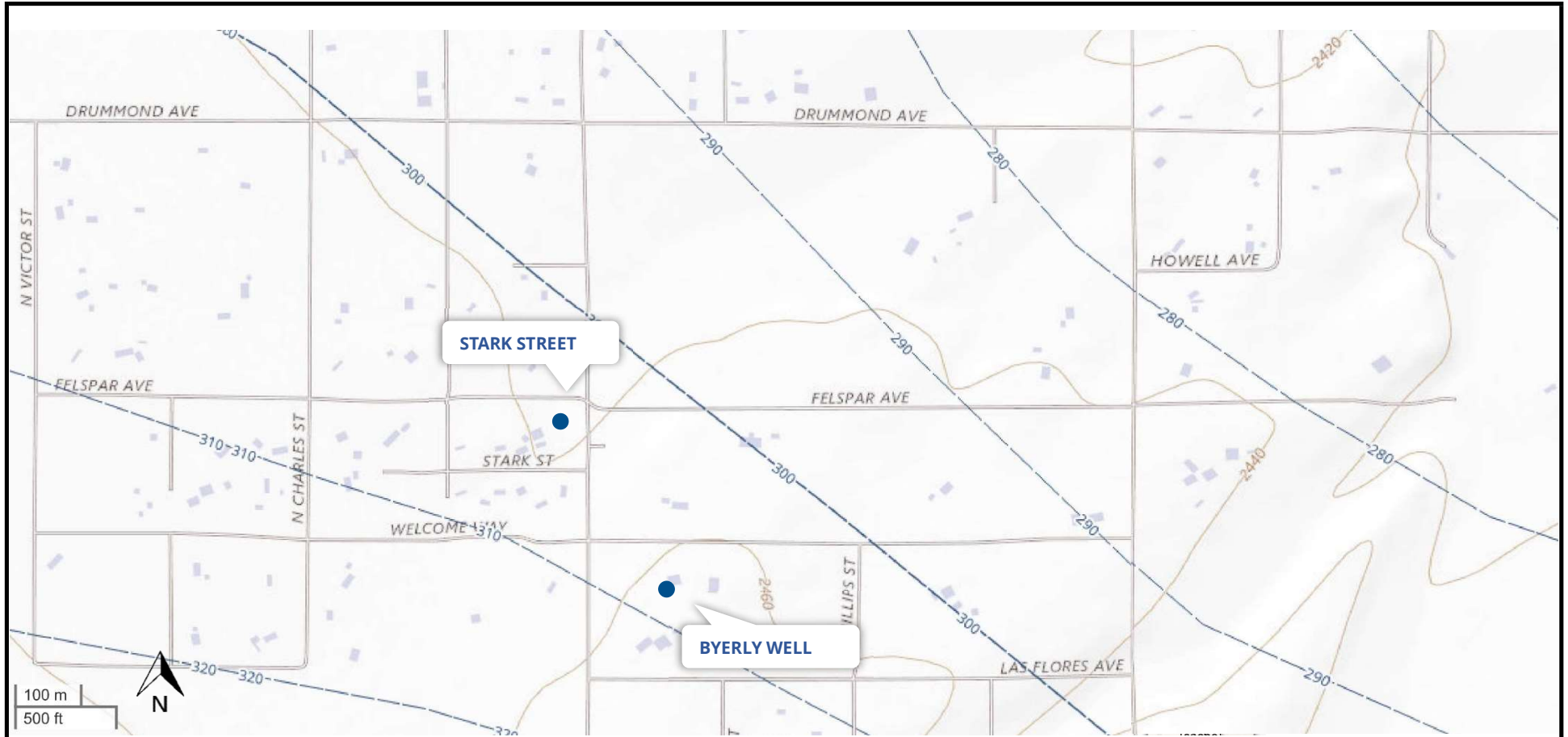
Historical groundwater level data from the area is available from Well 26S/39E-34D01, located approximately 1,200 meters northeast of Mr. Byerly's well. The groundwater level data from Well 26S/39E-34D01, shown in Figure 2, indicates historically declining groundwater levels. The locations of Well 26S/39E-34D01 and Mr. Byerly's well, along with surface elevation contours of groundwater from the Spring of 2023 for the area, are shown in Figure 3.

IWVGA staff informed Mr. Byerly that to be considered for assistance from the Program, an application must be submitted. Staff will evaluate the application when it is submitted and report the results of the evaluation to the Board.

Figure 4 shows that Mr. Byerly's well is near the service area of the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD). Figure 4 also shows the location of the Stark Street Well, which was also recently impacted by declining groundwater levels. Staff will investigate the feasibility of the IWVWD providing water service to Mr. Byerly during evaluation of the application for shallow well mitigation for Mr. Byerly's well.

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

This is an informational item. No Board action is required.



Source: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Data Management System.



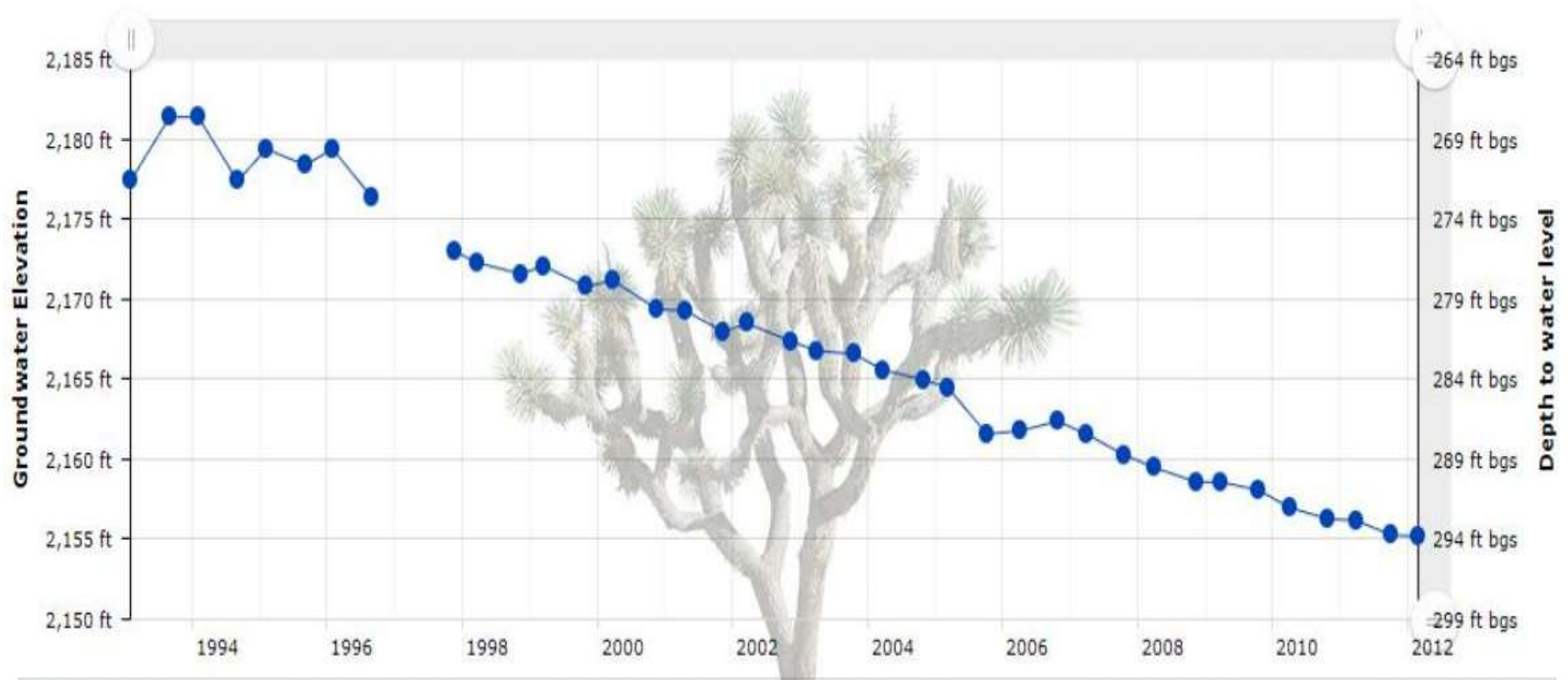
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GROUNDWATER SURFACE DEPTH MAP

FIGURE 1



Land Surface Elevation = 2,288 feet above mean sea level.
 Source: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Data Management System.



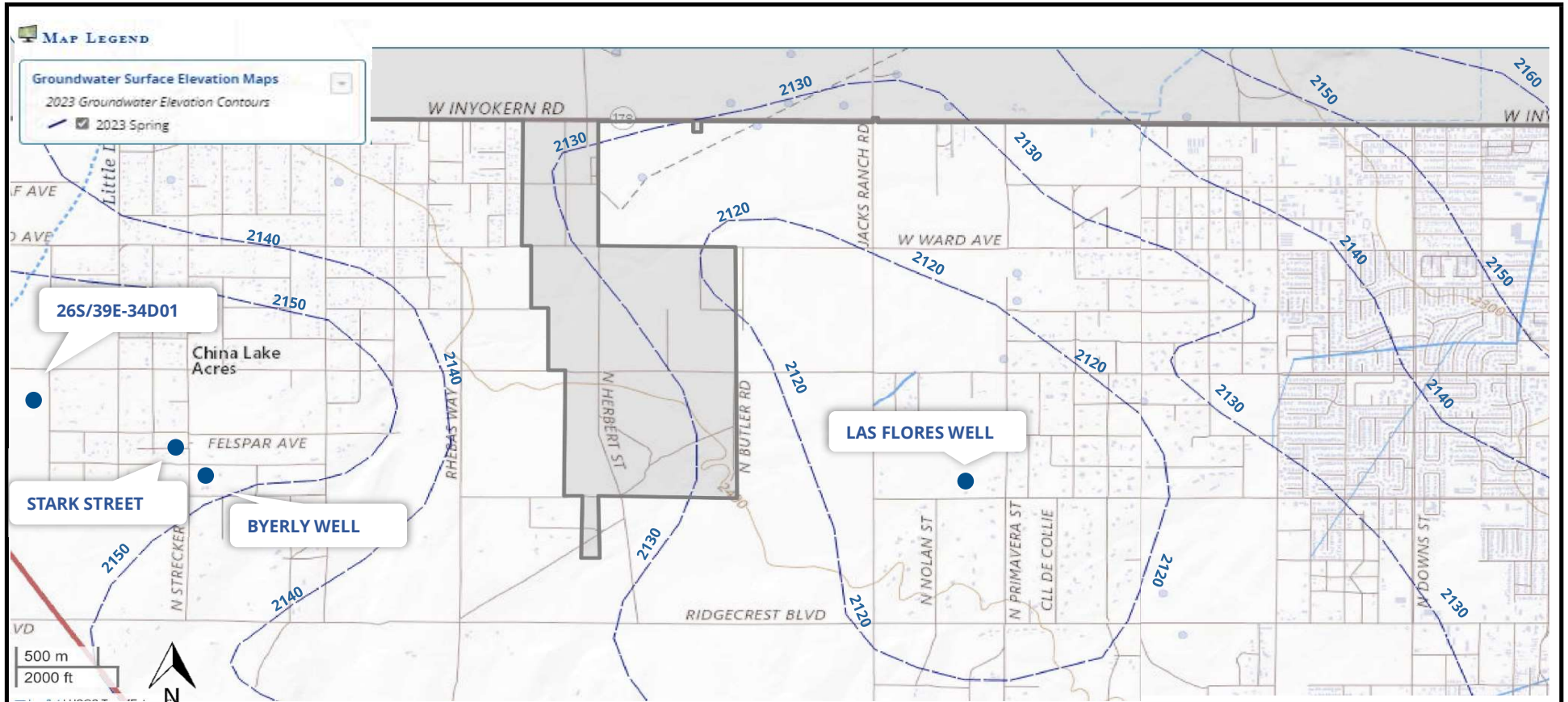
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HYDROGRAPH FOR WELL 26S39E-34D01

FIGURE 2



Source: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Data Management System.



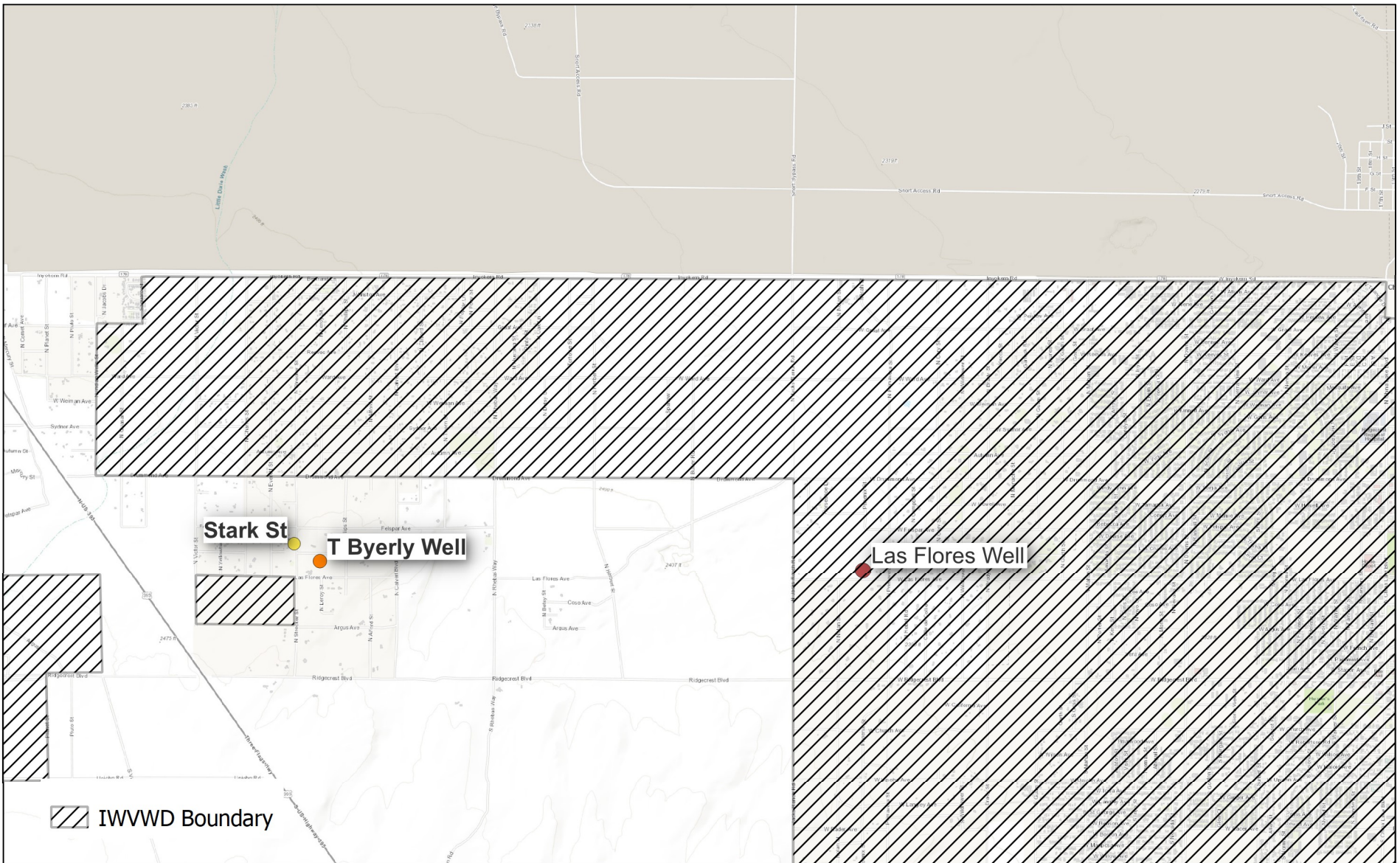
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GROUNDWATER SURFACE ELEVATION CONTOUR

FIGURE 3



BYERLY WELL AND IWWVD BOUNDARY

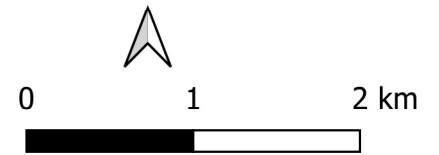


FIGURE 4