



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Through Existing Basin Adjudication – Four ULARA Groundwater Basins

Presented at:  
The Forum on Groundwater Management  
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The Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles  
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# Key Topics

1. ULARA Defined
2. Key Components of ULARA Judgment
3. Basic Data for ULARA Groundwater Basins
4. Active Groundwater Management Items



## Topic No. 1

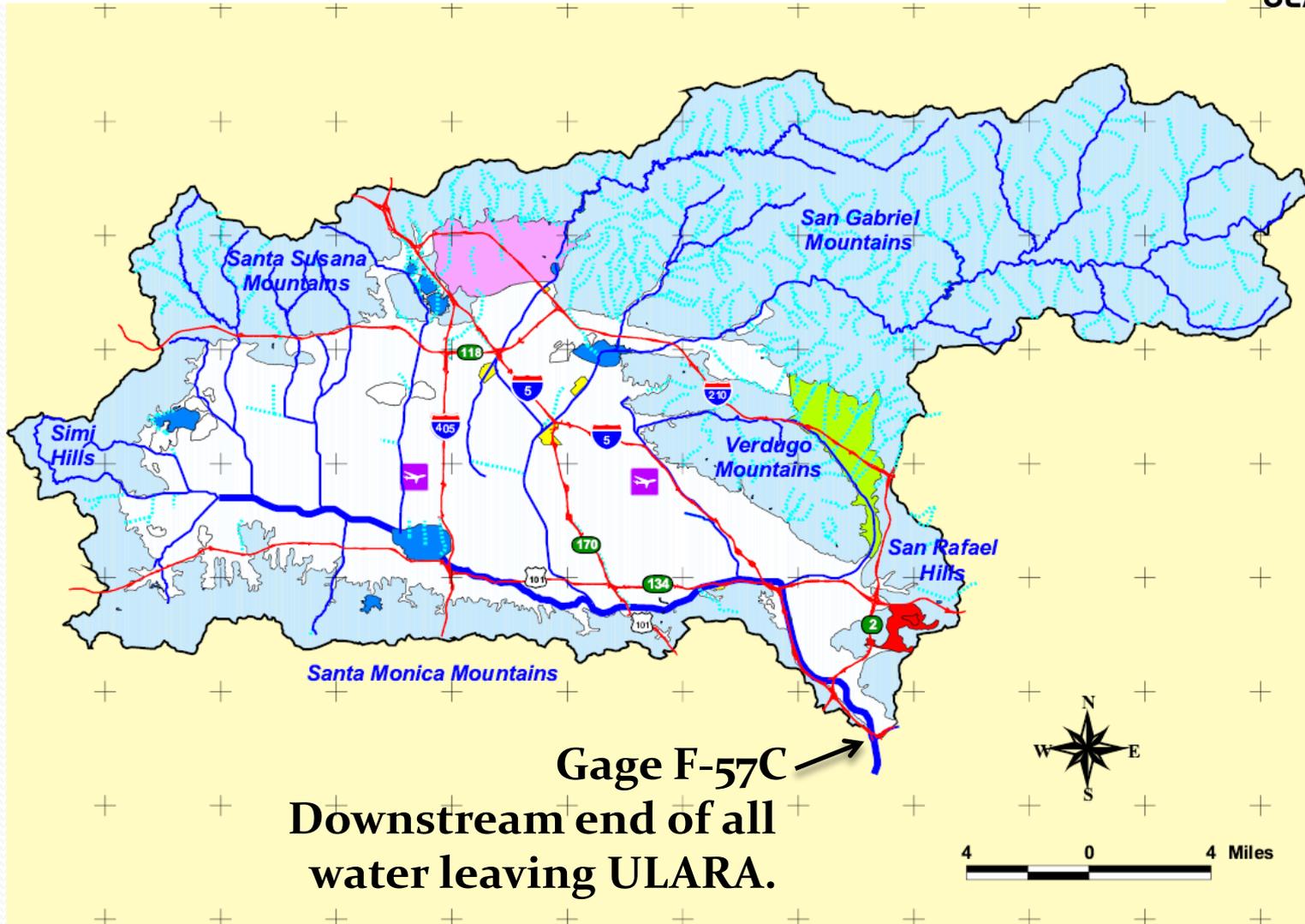
# ULARA Defined

- A. An area created by adjudication in the case of City of Los Angeles vs. City of San Fernando, et al; Final Judgment, 1/26/79
- B. Watershed & Basins in the upper portion of the Los Angeles River and its Tributaries, above Gage F-57C
- C. Four ULARA Groundwater Basins (Valley Fill Areas)
  - San Fernando
  - Sylmar
  - Verdugo
  - Eagle Rock

Total Area of ULARA = 328,500 ac (513 mi<sup>2</sup>)

Total Area of Hills/Mountains = 205,700 ac (321 mi<sup>2</sup>)

Total Area of Valley Fill (VF) = 122,800 ac (192 mi<sup>2</sup>)





## Topic No. 2

# Key Components of ULARA Judgment

- Final Superior Court Judgment dated 1/26/79
- Created 5 Principal Parties to Judgment:
  - City of Burbank, pumping from San Fernando Basin (SFB) only
  - City of Glendale, SFB & Verdugo Basin (VB)
  - City of Los Angeles, SFB & Sylmar Basin (SB)
  - City of San Fernando, SB only
  - Crescenta Valley Water District, VB only
- Created 4 Distinct Groundwater Basins
- Defined Safe Yields for Annual Pumping by Parties
- Established a Court-appointed Watermaster



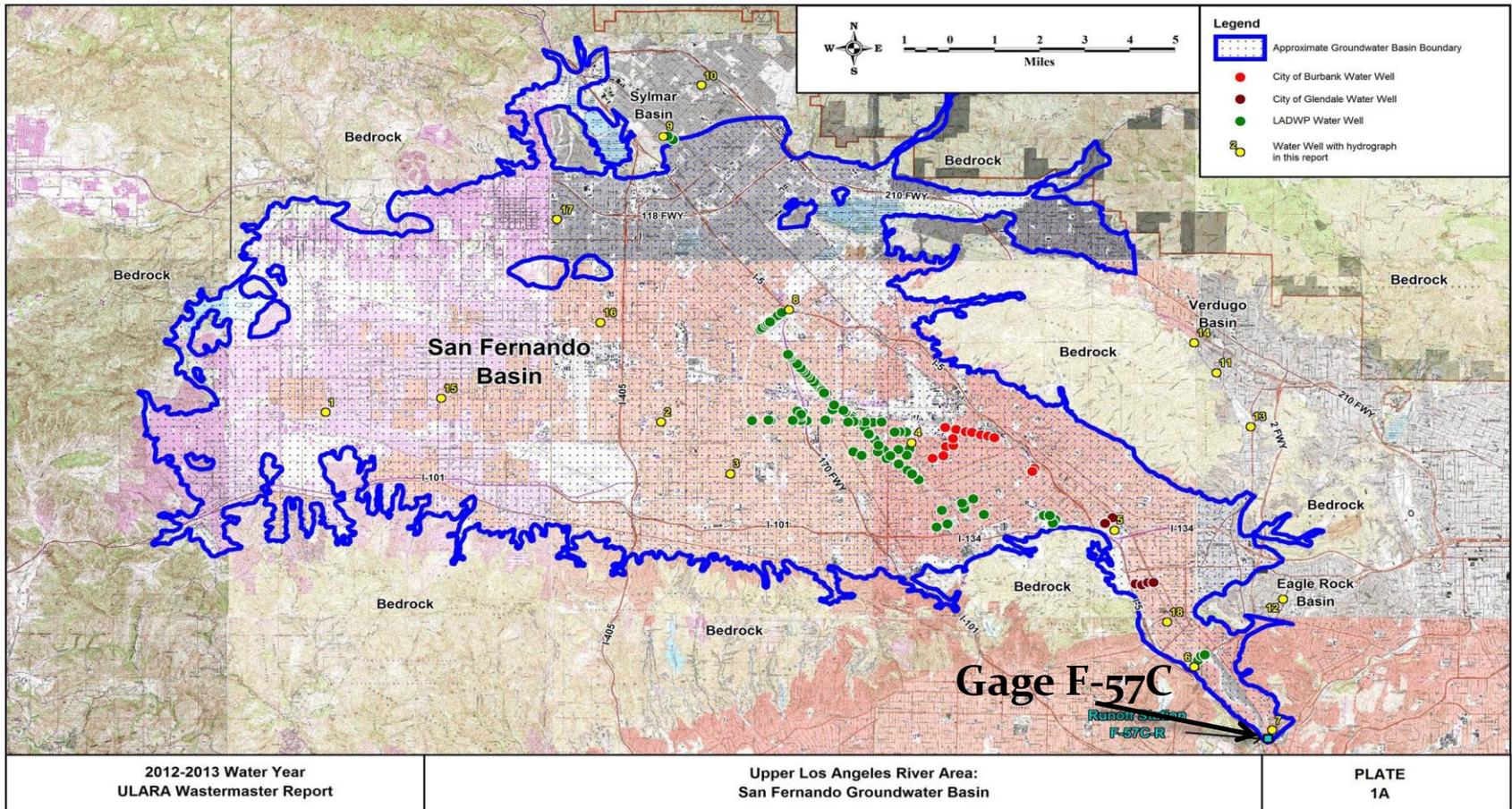
## Topic No. 3

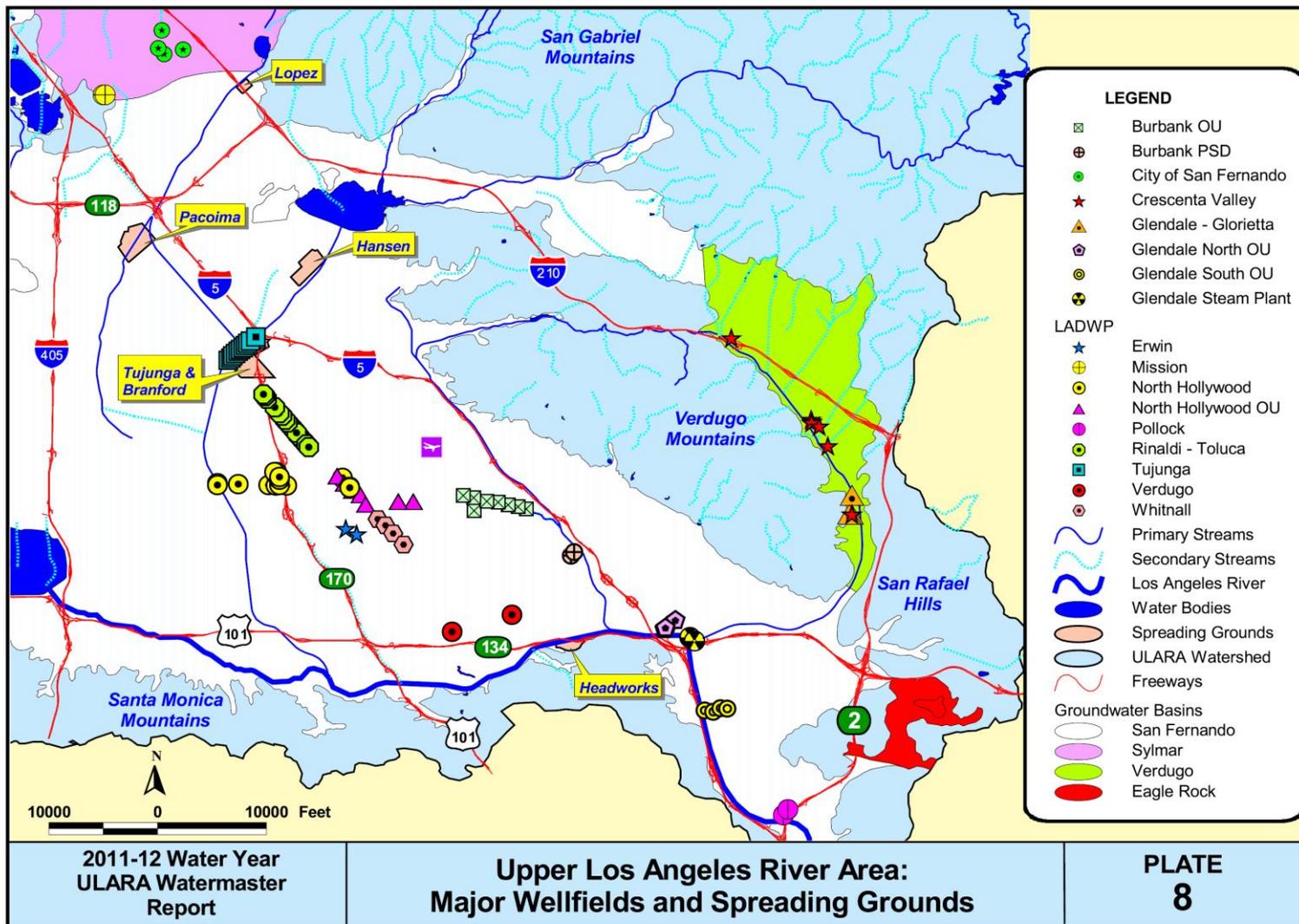
# Basic Information for ULARA Groundwater Basins

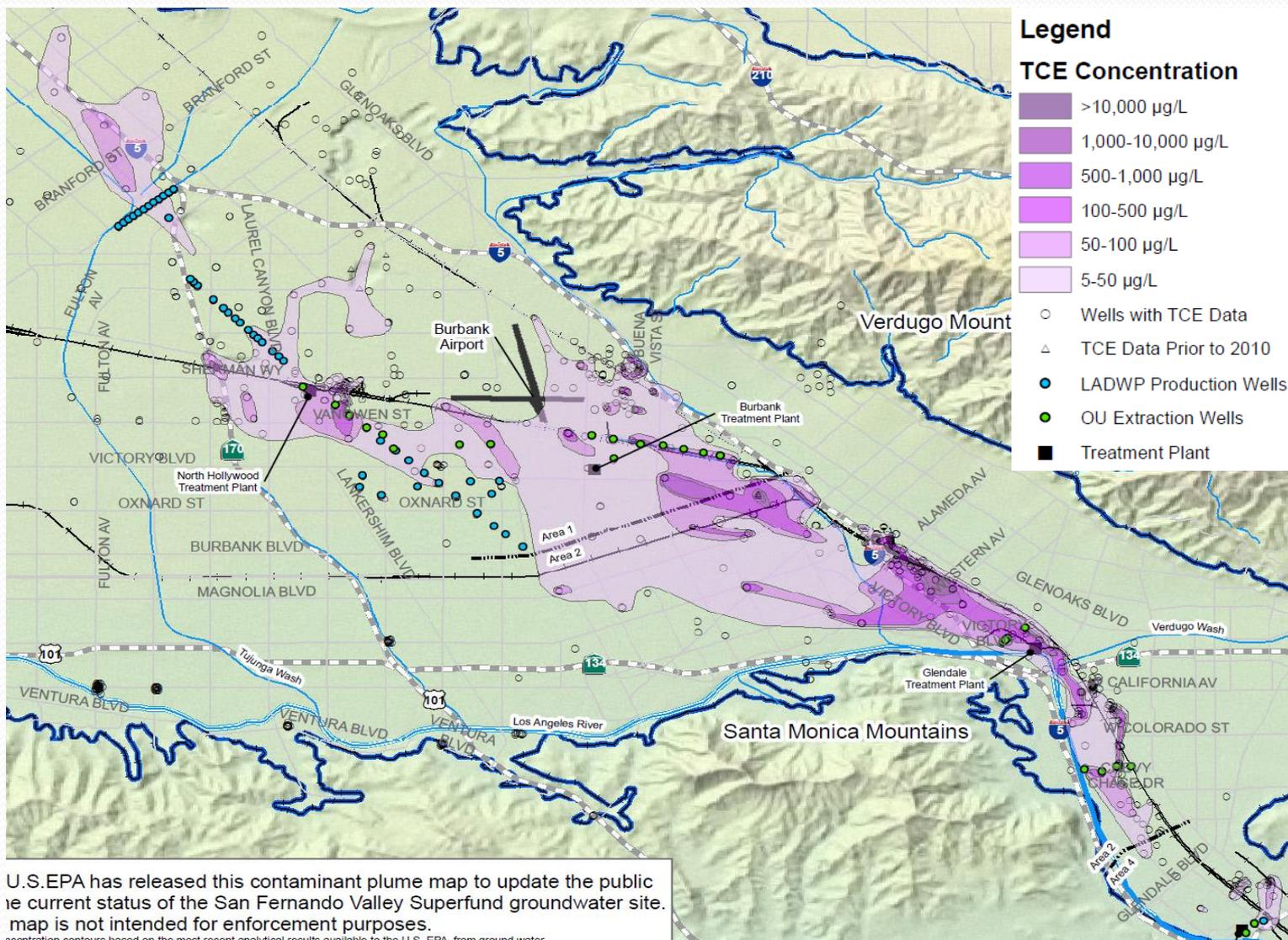
- San Fernando Basin
- Sylmar Basin
- Verdugo Basin
- Eagle Rock Basin

# San Fernando Basin

- 112,800 acres (91.2% of total VF) = 175 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Burbank, Glendale & Los Angeles wellfields
- Safe Yield Value (90,680 AF/yr)
- VOCs (1979); Cr6; 1,4-Dioxane; NO<sub>3</sub>
- EPA Involvement and Superfund sites





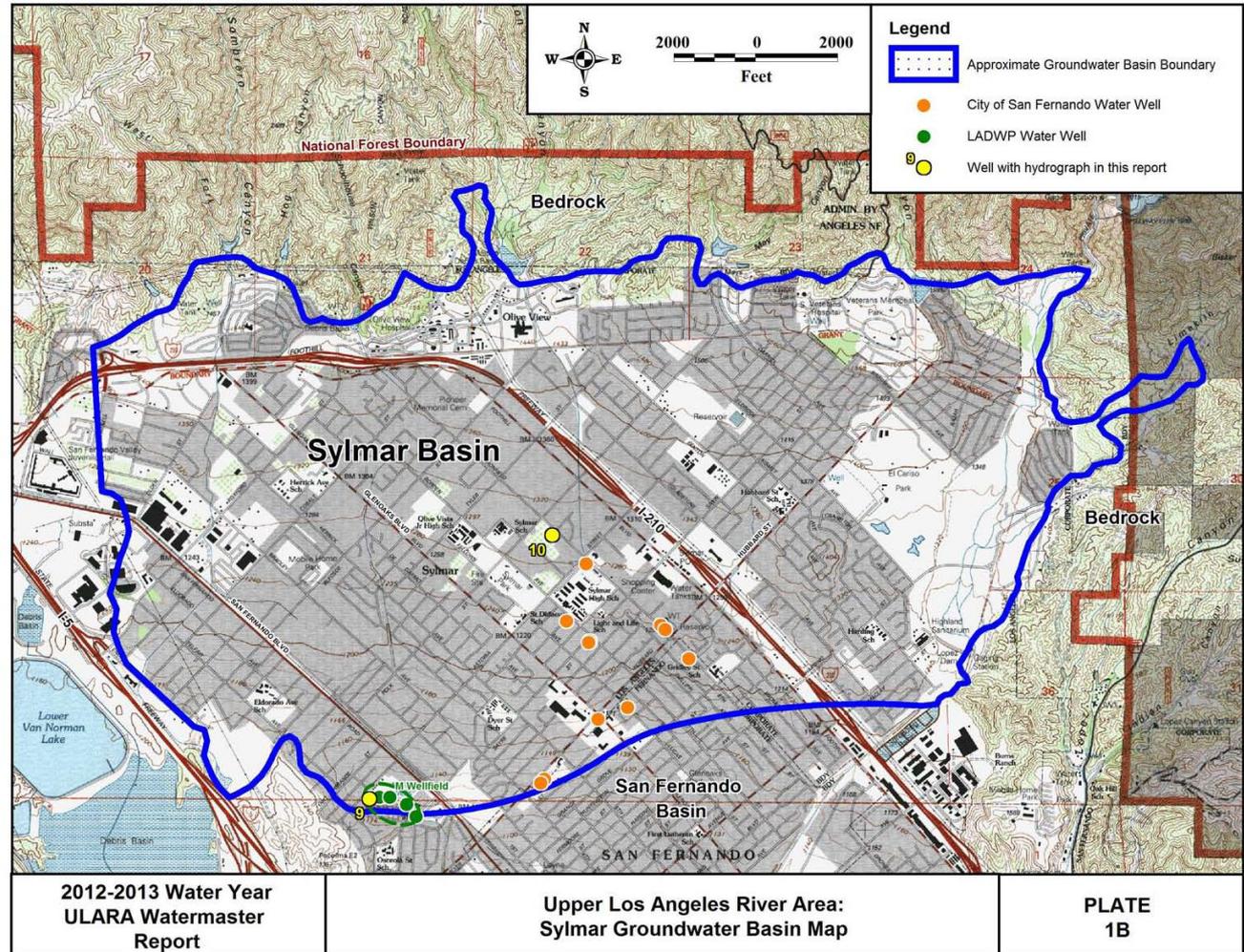


U.S. EPA has released this contaminant plume map to update the public on the current status of the San Fernando Valley Superfund groundwater site. This map is not intended for enforcement purposes.

Concentration contours based on the most recent analytical results available to the U.S. EPA from ground water

## Sylmar Basin

- 5,600 Acres (4.6% of Total VF) = 8.7 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Los Angeles & San Fernando wellfields
- Ongoing safe yield evaluations (6210 → 7140 AF/yr, 50:50 split)
- VOCs & NO<sub>3</sub>

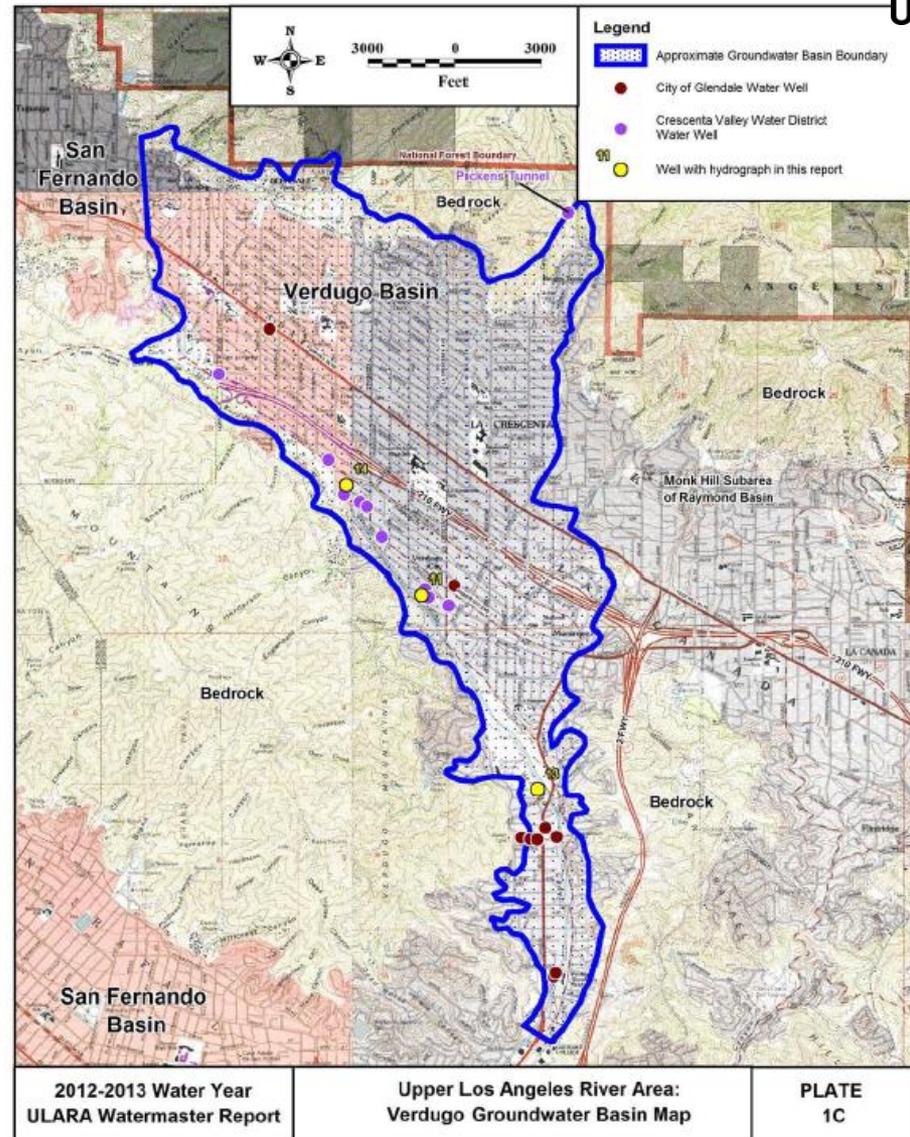




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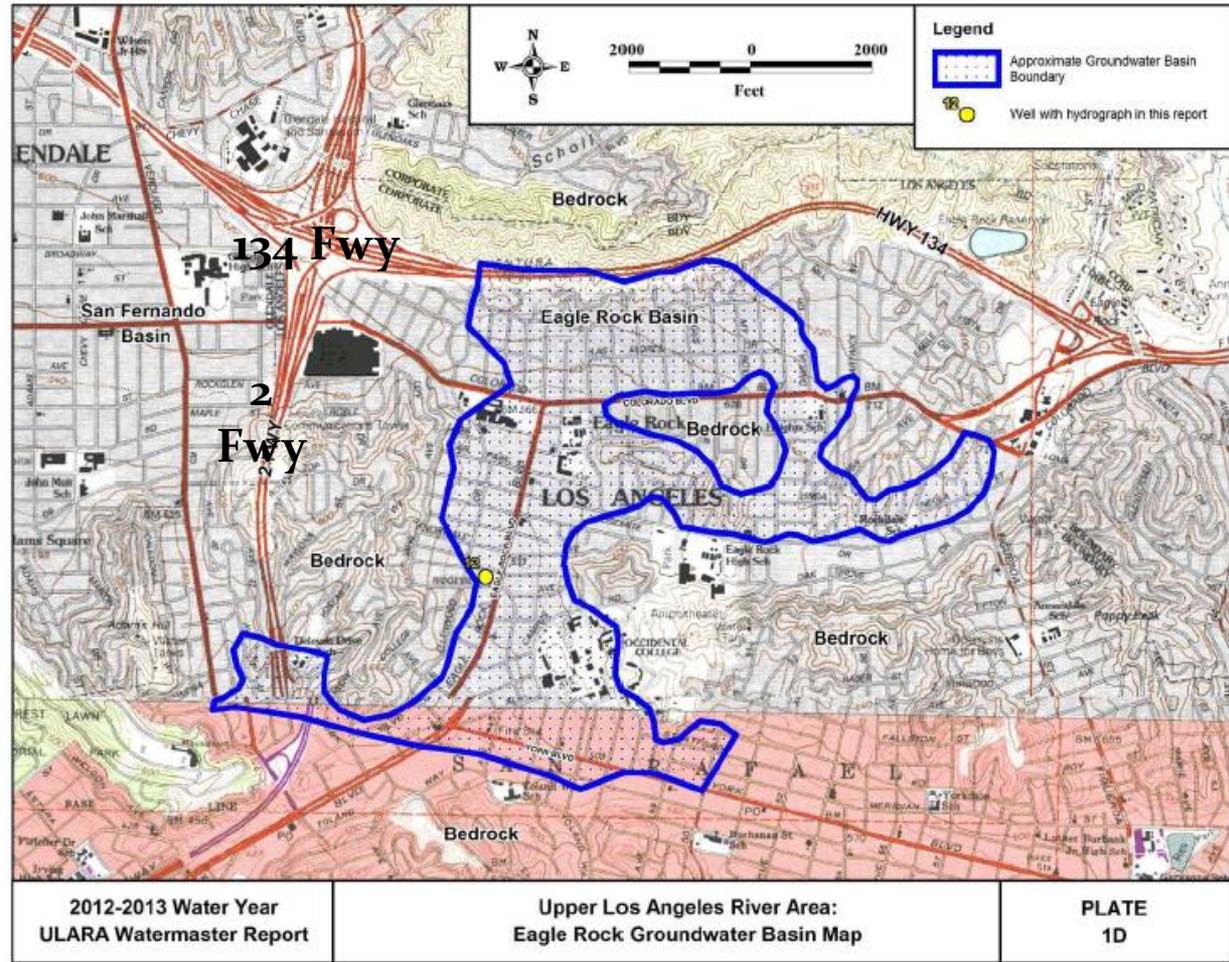
# Verdugo Basin

- 4,400 Acres (3.6% of total VF) = 6.9 mi<sup>2</sup>
- CVWD & Glendale wells; No Los Angeles wells
- Safe Yield Value per Judgment (7150 AF/yr; split 50:50)
- NO<sub>3</sub> & MTBE



# Eagle Rock Basin

- 800 Acres (0.6% of total VF) = 1.2 mi<sup>2</sup>
- No municipal-supply water wells
- No measurable native Safe Yield Value per Judgment
- No major water quality problems





## Topic No. 4

# Active Groundwater Management Items

- Create Annual Watermaster Report
  - Plot Water Levels in Key Wells
  - Tabulate Total Pumping by Each Party
  - Calculate Annual Change in Groundwater in Storage
  - Account for Basin Imports/Exports and Recycled Water Use
- Attend Regular Hearings with Superior Court Judge
- Hold Regular A/C Meetings with the 5 Parties
- Track Water Levels & Serve as M.E. for CASGEM
- Prepare Annual 5-year Pumping & Spreading Plan

## Topic No. 4 (cont)

# Active Groundwater Management Items

- Work with EPA OUs & RWQCB (e.g., SNMP)
- Evaluate data from numerous new multiport groundwater monitoring wells in SFB, by LADWP & others
- Support artificial recharge activities by LADWP & LAPWD
- Assess LIDs in LA
- Develop electronic database for subsurface data (e.g., Elogs)
- Develop ULARA Website (all prior Watermaster reports, Report of Referee, SNMP updates, etc)



# Contact Information

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