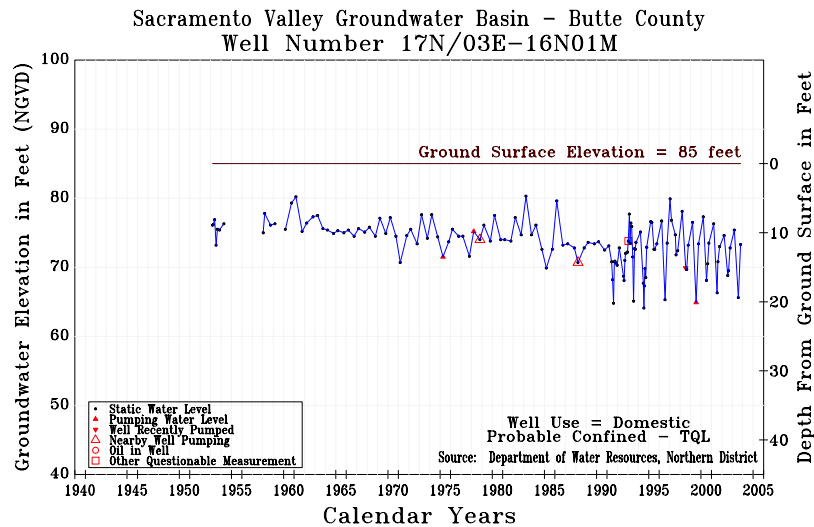


Butte Sub-Area (Well Number 17N/03E-16N01M):

The figure below is a hydrograph for well 17N/03E-16N01M, in the southeastern portion of the Butte Sub-area. The area surrounding this well is characterized as rural agricultural. Agricultural cultivation in this area consists primarily of orchard crops supported by groundwater. The well is an active domestic well constructed over the upper and middle portions of the aquifer, with a groundwater level measurement record dating back to the mid-1950s. The groundwater levels in this well were monitored on a semi-annual basis until approximately 1991, on a monthly basis from approximately 1991 to 1995, and are currently monitored four times a year during March, July, August and October.

The figure shows that the spring to summer fluctuation of groundwater levels in the unconfined portion of the aquifer system averages only 3 to 6 feet during years of normal precipitation and 5 to 10 feet during years of drought. Long-term comparisons of spring-to-spring groundwater levels show a small drop in spring groundwater levels associated with the 1976-77 and the 1986-94 droughts, followed by recovery to normal levels. Further long-term analysis of spring-to-spring groundwater levels indicates very little change in groundwater levels since the 1950s.



Hydrograph for Well 17N/03E-16N01M

Successive spring groundwater levels have declined steadily in this well by about 0.8 feet per-year since 1998. Fall and summer groundwater levels, however, have remained relatively constant throughout this same time period. The decline in the spring groundwater levels is probably climate related and not the result of over utilization of the groundwater resource. An examination of the overall record reveals that long-term depletion of groundwater in storage is probably not occurring at this time. It is anticipated that when annual precipitation returns to a more normal pattern that groundwater levels will fully recover.