

## Basin Technical Advisory Committee

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Mailing Address:  
380 East Vanderbilt Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

# 2024 Regional Water Management Plan

December 2023  
(Revised May 2024)

# 2024 Regional Water Management Plan

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## Executive Summary

In December 2007, fourteen agencies adopted the Upper Santa Ana Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Integrated Plan). This comprehensive water resources plan identifies various management strategies that will help ensure a reliable water supply for the San Bernardino, Yucaipa, Big Bear Valleys, and San Gorgonio Pass area. The Plan covers all, or portions of the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Riverside, Fontana, Rialto, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Highland, Redlands, Mentone, Yucaipa, Big Bear Lake, the San Timoteo Watershed, Beaumont, Banning, Cherry Valley and a large portion of the San Bernardino National Forest. Most of the planning area is within the boundaries of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District). The Integrated Plan was updated in 2020 as the Upper Santa Ana Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP).

The Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC), made up of water agency staff and other stakeholders, was formed to implement the Integrated Plan. Each year, the BTAC prepares its Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP) for consideration by the two Boards that make up the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster: Western Municipal Water District and Valley District. The goal of the RWMP is to evaluate the three, general water management goals based on the Integrated Plan and the underlying agreements and judgments.

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Management Action(s)</u>	<u>Status</u>
	<b>Manage Water Levels.</b> Water levels that are too high can cause liquefaction in an earthquake.	Recharge thresholds are set to maximize recharge while avoiding high groundwater	
	<b>Manage Santa Ana River Diversions.</b> Mitigate for Valley District and Western Municipal Water District diversions that would have recharged the SBB and the Riverside North Basin.	A minimum of 17% of diversions shall be recharged in the SBB.  Recharge in Riverside North tracked by Watermaster Table 17-C.	  
	<b>Manage Contaminant Plumes.</b> We do not want management actions to cause additional spread of the existing contaminant plumes.	Recharge thresholds are set to reduce, or eliminate, any impacts to contaminant plumes.	

# 2024 Regional Water Management Plan

## WATER RESOURCES AND FORECAST:

	Dec. 2023	May 2024
<b>State Water Project (SWP) Allocation</b>	<b>Initial; 10%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>SBVMWD/WMWD Santa Ana River Diversions for WY2023-24 (acre-feet)</b>	<b>Low</b>	
<b>San Bernardino Basin Conditions:</b>		
Liquefaction Potential:	<b>Low</b>	
Leakage across the San Jacinto Fault:	<b>Low</b>	
Total Storage, 2022 (acre-feet)	<b>4,658,475</b>	<b>4,881,235</b>
Estimated Storage Space Available, Fall 2022 (acre-feet)	<b>(1,031,525)</b>	<b>(808,765)</b>
Artificial recharge threshold in SBBA (no high groundwater or plume movement) (acre-feet)	<b>625,000</b>	<b>402,000</b>
Total Change in Storage Trend	<b>Down/Stable</b>	<b>Gaining</b>
Subsidence Risk?	<b>Appendix H</b>	
<b>Riverside North Basin Condition</b>	<b>Appendix C</b>	
<b>Water Levels</b>	<b>Appendix D</b>	
<b>Precipitation Trend</b>	<b>Down; Appendix E</b>	
<b>Rialto-Colton Basin Condition</b>	<b>Appendix G</b>	
<b>Yucaipa Basin Condition</b>	<b>Appendix J</b>	

## BTAC RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Dec. 2023	May 2024
<b>SBVMWD/WMWD Santa Ana River Diversions:</b>		
Direct delivery	None	
Artificial Recharge (17% required by Riverside Agreement unless credits)	All	
Exchange (long-term storage/banking, 40 cfs max)	None	
<b>Additional San Bernardino Basin pumping to lower water levels:</b>	No	
<b>State Water Project Water:</b>		
<b>Available (estimate as of Dec. 1, 2023):</b>		
Carryover (acre-feet) from 2023	49,500	<b>51,300</b>
Kern-Delta Water Bank (5,000 af/yr maximum)	2,907	<b>2,907</b>
Big Bear Lake (Table A <= 40%)	-	
Entitlement (acre-feet) - 10% Initial Table A allocation	10,260	<b>41,040</b>
Yuba Accord (acre-feet)		
<b>TOTAL STATE WATER PROJECT SUPPLIES</b>	<b>62,667</b>	<b>95,247</b>
<b>Demands:</b>		
Estimated Direct Deliveries	21,725	<b>26,500</b>
CLAWA Sale (acre-feet)	200	
<b>Recommended uses for available State Water Project Water:</b>		
Short-term (carryover) storage into 2025 for direct deliveries (acre-feet)	11,132	<b>21,246</b>
SBB Groundwater Council (acre-feet) and other recharge	29,610	<b>44,594</b>
Long-term storage/banking (acre-feet)	TBD	<b>2,907</b>
Sale	TBD	
<b>TOTAL USE</b>	<b>62,667</b>	<b>95,247</b>



# 2024 Regional Water Management Plan (continued)

## BTAC RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued):

### Artificial Recharge Targets (Local and Imported Water)

<b>San Bernardino Basin</b> <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>Recommended Maximum (AF)</b>	<b>Estimated Recharge Capacity (AFY)*</b>
1. Waterman Basins & 9. East Twin Creek Spreading Basin	54,625	29,160
2. Santa Ana Basins	71,250	81,000
3. Mill Creek Basins	42,750	54,000
4. City of Redlands Spreading Basins	-	
5. Bear Valley Spreading Basin	-	
6. Santa Ana River Bottom	-	Variable
7. Patton Basin	-	
8. EVWD Turnout	-	
10. Badger Basins	8,313	2,025
11. Wiggins Basin	-	
12. Devil Canyon & Sweetwater Basins	13,063	12,150
13. Gravel Pits	-	
14. Others, including City Creek and streambeds	-	Variable
<b>Sub-total SBBA</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>178,335</b>

<sup>1</sup> Suggested maximum recharge values. See Appendix F.

<sup>2</sup> Due to shallow groundwater levels in this area, exceeding this value may result in rejected recharge at this location.

\*Assumes 75% firm capacity based on percolation rate and monthly capacity; equivalent to nine (9) months of continuous recharge

	<b>Recommended Maximum (AF)</b>	<b>Estimated Recharge Capacity (AFY)</b>
<b>Rialto-Colton Basin</b>	7,000	-
<b>Yucaipa Basin</b>	5,000	8,000
<b>Riverside North Basin</b>		
SBVMWD Recharge in Riverside North (Watermaster Table No. 17C)	7,543	-
<u>Other</u>	-	-

## Other Requirements

<b>Water Level Requirements of Agreements met?</b>	Yes	
<b>Triennial water quality report provided to RWQCB?</b>	Submitted to RWQCB in December 2021	

## New for 2024

The following is the list of new content or changes made to the Regional Water Management Plan since last year:

1. **Pages 4 (Water Resources & Forecast, and BTAC Recommendations):** Few changes made to the Water Resources & Forecast table including a column for current conditions/estimate as of November 2023 and a column for May 2024 where updated numbers will be added next year.
2. **Page 5 (BTAC Recommendations):** Estimated artificial recharge capacity column was added to show a realistic amount that can be recharged at each location relative to what is plausible.

## Definitions

Artificial recharge: Intentionally introducing water into the groundwater system by **man-made** means such as pouring water into pits and allowing it to percolate into the ground.

BTAC: Basin Technical Advisory Committee

Direct delivery: Any delivery that is made to benefit one single agency. Examples include deliveries to surface water treatment plants and for artificial recharge projects that recharge a specific well field owned by one agency.

SBB: San Bernardino Basin

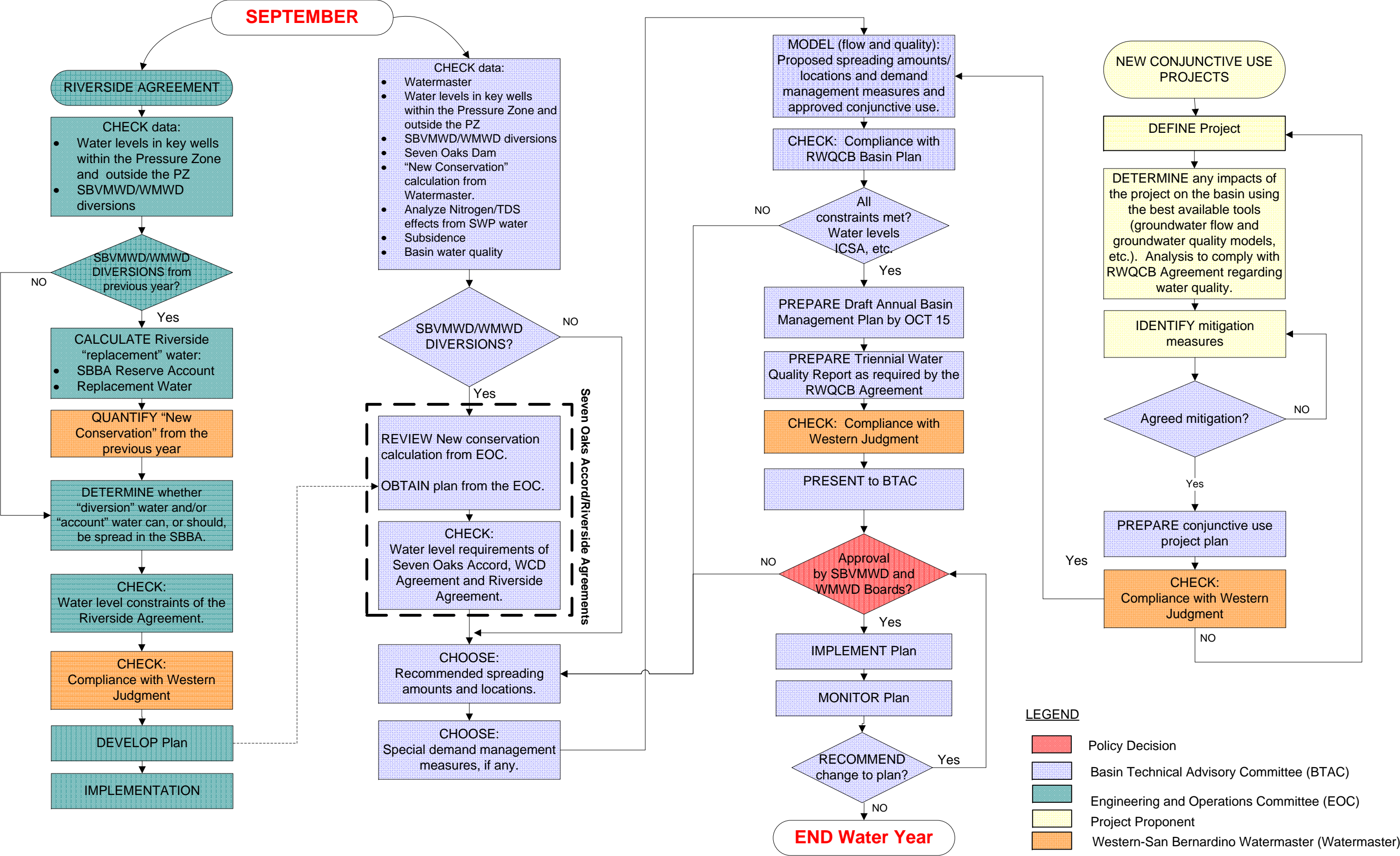
Western Judgment: Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County, et al. vs. East San Bernardino County Water District, et al., 1969.

# APPENDIX

## **A. PROCESS FLOW CHART FOR MANAGING THE SBB**

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
Process for Managing the San Bernardino Basin Area

- Sources:
- o Western Judgment – April 1969
  - o Seven Oaks Accord – July 2004
  - o Settlement Agreement Among SBVMWD, SBVMWD, and WMWD – August 2005
  - o MOU Among City of Riverside, SBVMWD, and WMWD – September 2005
  - o Agreement Among City of Riverside, SBVMWD and WMWD – March 2007
  - o Institutional Controls Settlement Agreement (ICSA)
  - o DRAFT RWQCB Cooperative Agreement (RWQCB Agreement) – July 2007



## **B. SBB RECOMMENDATIONS**

BTAC ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: SHOULD WE ARTIFICIALLY RECHARGE? DO WE NEED EXTRA PRODUCTION?

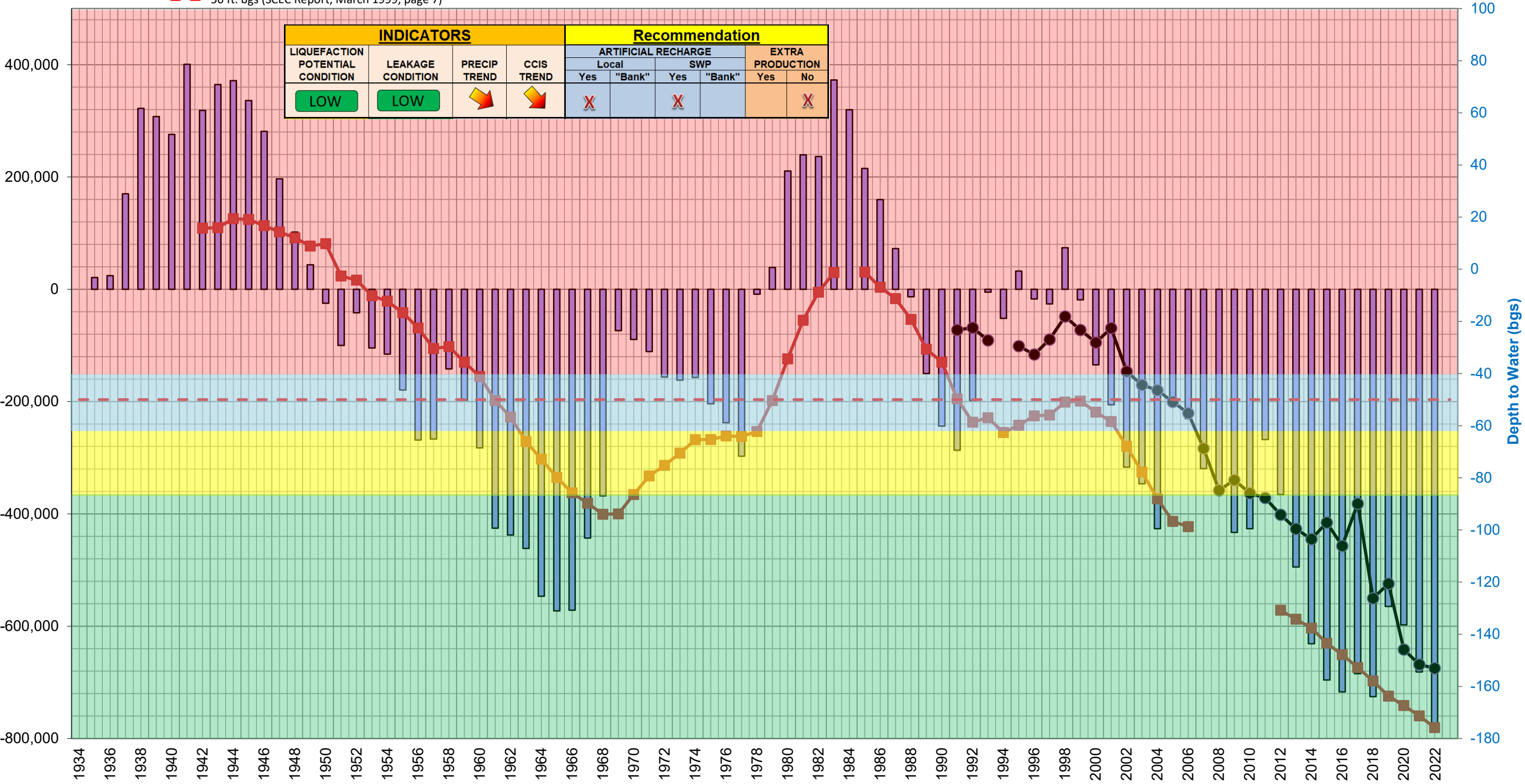
INDICATORS

- RELATIVE STORAGE (Cumulative Change in Storage)
- LEAKAGE FROM SBBA (Heap Well)
- LIQUEFACTION POTENTIAL (Avg. Backyard Well , D4, 5 and 6)
- 50 ft. bgs (SCEC Report, March 1999, page 7)

LIQUEFACTION AND LEAKAGE CONDITION (use with indicator wells)

- Liquefaction potential high/leakage high (surface and subsurface)
- Liquefaction potential high/Leakage moderate (mostly subsurface)
- Liquefaction potential low/Leakage moderate (subsurface only)
- Liquefaction potential low/Leakage low

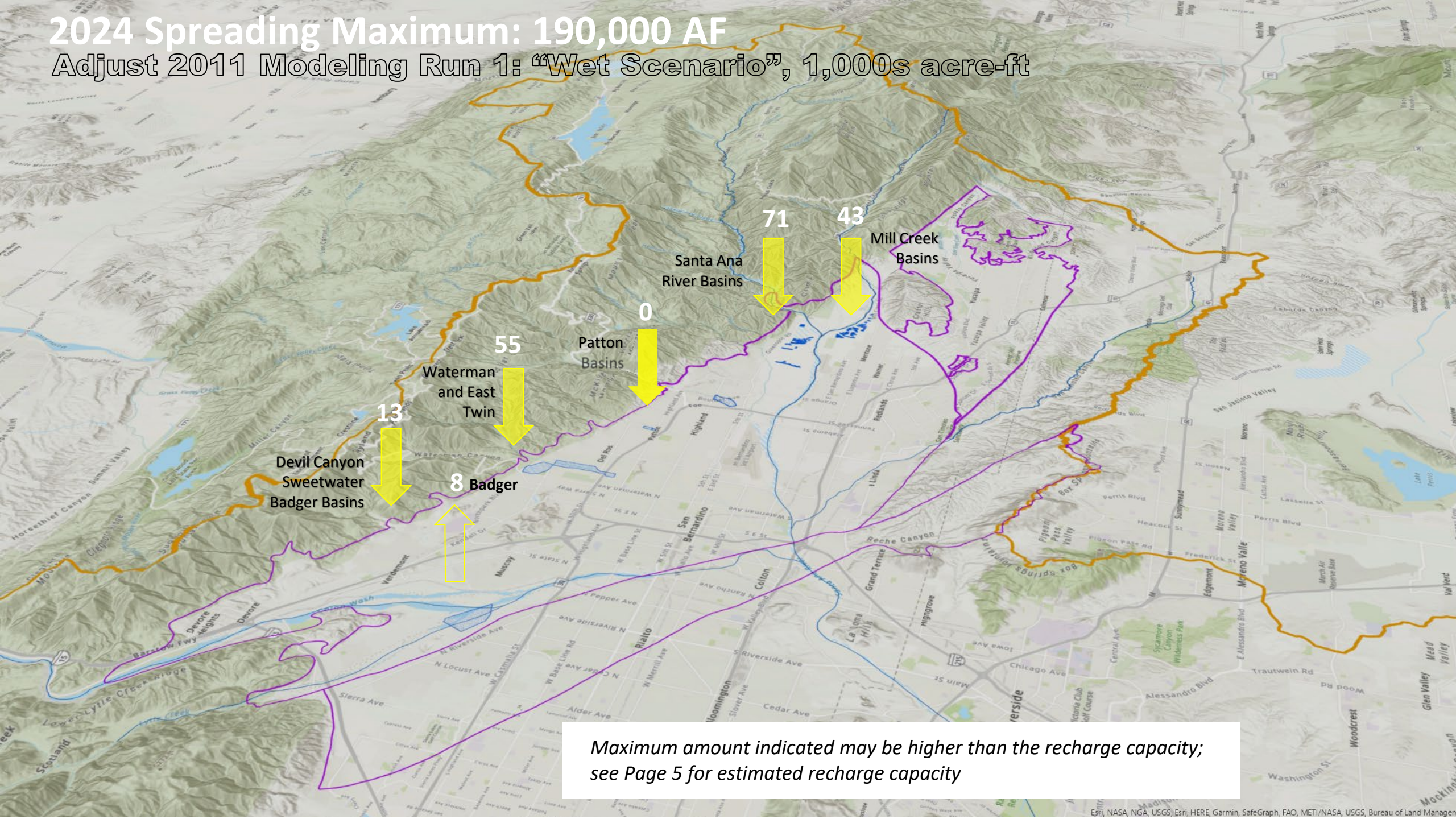
Cumulative Change in Storage SBBA (acre-feet)





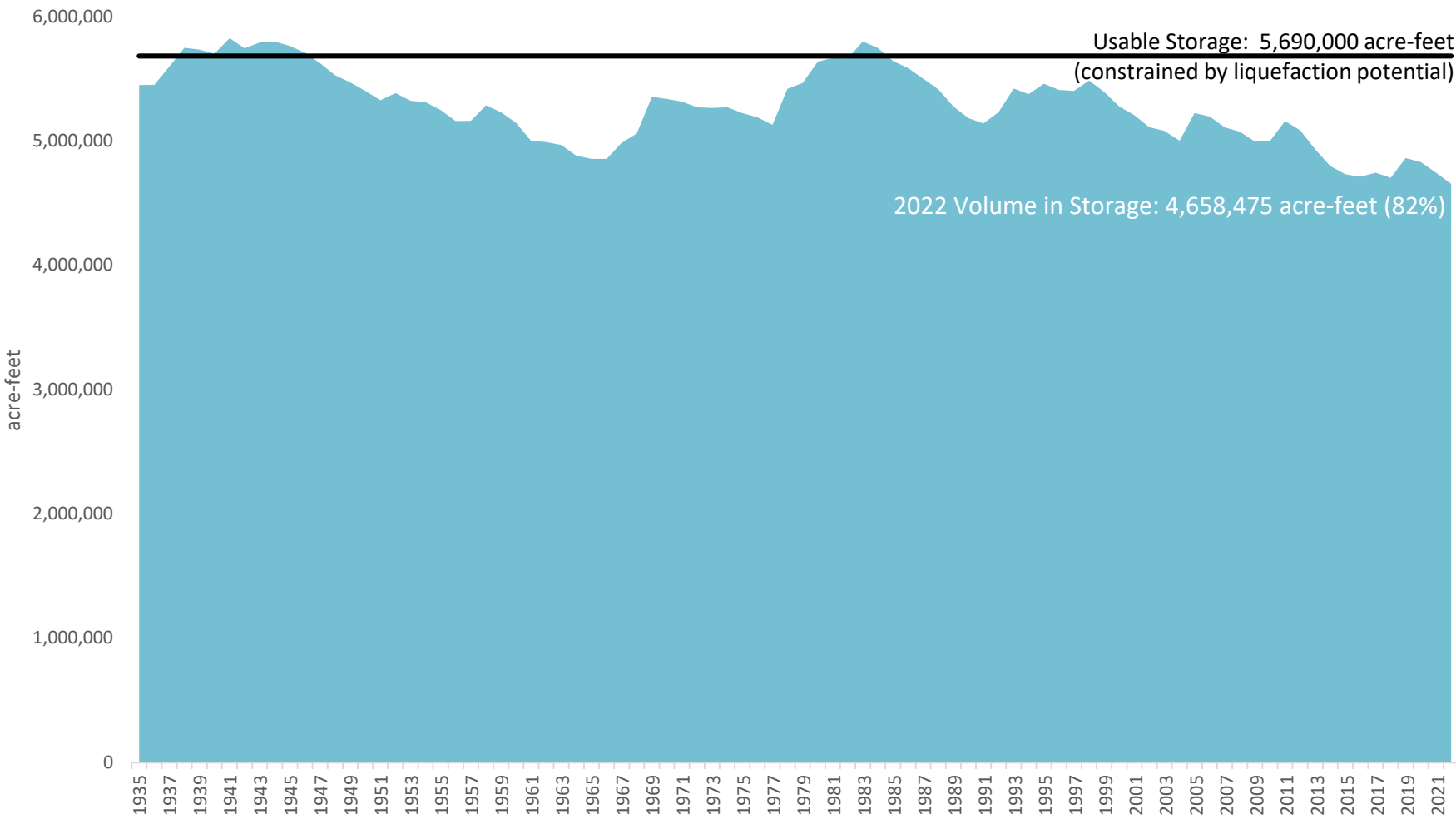
# 2024 Spreading Maximum: 190,000 AF

## Adjust 2011 Modeling Run 1: "Wet Scenario", 1,000s acre-ft



*Maximum amount indicated may be higher than the recharge capacity;  
see Page 5 for estimated recharge capacity*

San Bernardino Basin Change in Storage  
Results (in acre feet)



## **C. RIVERSIDE AGREEMENT SUMMARY**



March 7, 2016

Todd Jorgenson  
Utilities Assistant General Manager  
Riverside Public Utilities  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92522

**SUBJECT:** Calculations Required by the Riverside Agreement

Dear Todd,

In March 20, 2007, Riverside Public Utilities (Riverside), Western Municipal Water District (Western) and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) entered into an agreement titled Agreement Relating to the Diversion of Water from the Santa Ana River System Among Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and City of Riverside (Riverside Agreement). The main purpose of the Riverside Agreement was to mitigate for any reduction in natural recharge in the river bottom within the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA) and the Riverside North Basin that may be caused by the upstream diversion of SAR water by Valley District/Western. To mitigate the impacts of these upstream diversions on groundwater recharge, the agreement establishes a procedure for calculating the portion of the upstream diversions by Valley District/Western that would have recharged in the SBBA and the Riverside North Basin (reduced recharge). These reduced recharge calculations are performed each year by the Seven Oaks Dam Water Diversions Engineering and Operations Committee (EOC), formed by the Riverside Agreement, and the results are tracked in two "accounts". The "Reserve Account" tracks the amount of reduced recharge in the SBBA and the "Riverside North Basin Recharge Account" tracks the amount of reduced recharge in the Riverside North Basin (collectively referred to hereafter as "Riverside Agreement calculations").

Western, Riverside and Valley District worked to develop a methodology for calculating "new conservation", as defined in the 1969 Western-San Bernardino Judgment. This analysis used existing computer models to determine how much of the Valley District/Western diversions are "new" to the basin, first considering the amount of stormwater that would have historically recharged the river bottom. While this analysis was being performed, Riverside and Valley District agreed to postpone the annual calculations required under the Riverside Agreement. Once the analysis was complete, the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster (Watermaster) decided to track the portion of water that would have recharged in the Riverside North basin, absent the Valley District/Western diversions downstream of Seven Oaks Dam, in Table No. 17C of the annual Watermaster Report. Recently, the EOC updated the calculations for the

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General Manager

Riverside North Basin Recharge Account per the methodology in the Riverside Agreement and the river bottom recharge rate determined in the new conservation analysis. The balance calculated by the EOC was within 2% of the amount calculated by the Watermaster in Table No. 17C. For this reason, the EOC is recommending that Watermaster Table No. 17C be used to track the balance in the Riverside North Basin Recharge Account. The balance in this table will also be published in the Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) each year.

The Reserve Account tracks the percentage of Valley District/Western diversions that are recharged in the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA). Under the Riverside Agreement, a minimum of 17% of the Valley District/Western diversions are to be recharged in the SBBA. To date, 100% of the diversions have been recharged into the SBBA resulting in a 83% "credit" (credits expire after 5 years) in this account. The BTAC Plan already includes a recommendation for the Valley District/Western diversions. The EOC is recommending that the Reserve Account requirement be tracked using the recommendation in the BTAC Plan, which will be shown as a percentage.

The EOC is recommending that the above-mentioned methodology be used as the Riverside Agreement Calculations. The EOC will continue to meet annually, as required under the Riverside Agreement, to review the results of the Riverside Agreement Calculations. This decision to change the methodology is considered "administrative" and may be changed, at any time, by Riverside and/or Valley District.

This letter is intended to document this decision.

Sincerely,



**Douglas Headrick, P.E.**  
General Manager  
and Chief Engineer

cc: Bob Tincher  
Michael Plinski, RPU  
John Rossi, WMWD  
Tim Barr, WMWD

Attachments:  
Watermaster Table No. 17C  
Riverside Agreement 2015 Statement  
2016 BTAC Plan showing Riverside Agreement Calculations

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FOR  
RIVERSIDE BASIN MITIGATION ACCOUNT  
RELATED TO SEVEN OAKS WATER CONSERVED  
IN SAN BERNARDINO BASIN AREA

(All Values in Acre-Feet)

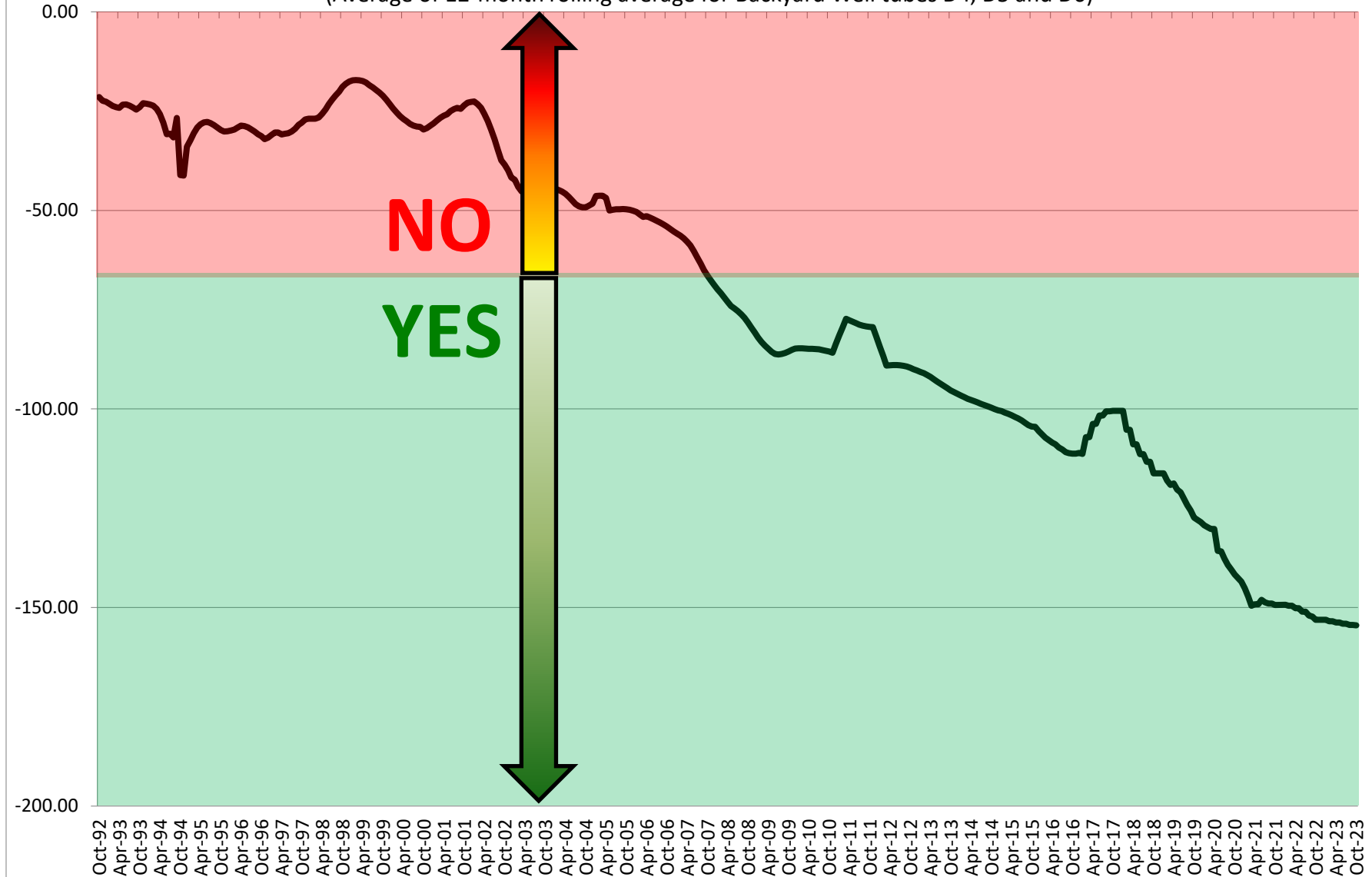
		Calendar Years									
		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
<u>MITIGATION ACCOUNT ADDITIONS</u>	<u>1</u>										
Long Term Forecast Annual Average Amounts Included Pursuant to Footnote	2	483	12	483	12	483	12	483	12	483	12
Specific Year Amounts Included Pursuant to Footnote	3, 13	0		0		0		0		0	
Total Mitigation Account Additions	4	483		483		483		483		483	
ACCUMULATED MITIGATION ACCOUNT ADDITIONS	5	5,611		6,094		6,577		7,060		7,543	
<u>MITIGATION ACCOUNT EXTRACTIONS</u>	<u>6</u>										
Extractions by City of Riverside	7	0		0		0		0		0	
Extractions by Other Than Plaintiffs	8	0		0		0		0		0	
Total Mitigation Account Extractions	9	0		0		0		0		0	
ACCUMULATED MITIGATION ACCOUNT EXTRACTIONS	10	0		0		0		0		0	
MITIGATION ACCOUNT BALANCE	11	5,611		6,094		6,577		7,060		7,543	

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING FOR  
RIVERSIDE BASIN MITIGATION ACCOUNT  
RELATED TO SEVEN OAKS WATER CONSERVED  
IN SAN BERNARDINO BASIN AREA

- 1 Pursuant to the 2013 Agreement Regarding Additional Extractions of New Conservation Water From the San Bernardino Basin Area (Basin) (2013 Agreement), any amount of replenishment in the Basin resulting from operation of Seven Oaks Dam and related diversion and spreading facilities that, in the absence of such operation, would have been replenished in the Riverside Basin, shall be included in a Riverside Basin Mitigation Account. Such water is referred to herein as Mitigation Water.
- 2 Equal annual average amounts of Mitigation Water determined on the basis of a long term forecast of Seven Oaks related conservation at the Santa Ana River Spreading Grounds. Pursuant to the 2013 Agreement, such forecasts are subject to periodic change and hence the otherwise equal annual amounts may change periodically.
- 3 Specific amounts of Mitigation Water resulting from a determination of prior years (1998-2012) new conservation and any determination of new conservation resulting from conservation through direct use, recharge in the Basin in areas other than the Santa Ana River Spreading Grounds and/or export from the Basin and subsequent return for direct use or recharge.
- 4 Long Term Forecast Annual Average Amounts plus Specific Year Amounts.
- 5 Accumulated amount of Mitigation Account Additions includes amounts accumulated prior to the current five-year period.
- 6 Pursuant to the 2013 Agreement, the City of Riverside may be required to extract San Bernardino Basin Area water that is included in the Mitigation Account and reduce extractions in its Flume Tract wells in the Riverside Basin by the same amount. Similarly, San Bernardino Valley may choose to extract water that is included in the Mitigation Account and deliver it for recharge in the Riverside Basin.
- 7 Amounts of Mitigation Water extracted by City of Riverside pursuant to the 2013 Agreement.
- 8 Amounts of Mitigation Water extracted by any producer other than Plaintiffs for delivery and recharge in the Riverside Basin.
- 9 Extractions by City of Riverside plus Extractions by Other Than Plaintiffs.
- 10 Accumulated amount of Mitigation Account Extractions includes amounts accumulated from 1971 to the current five-year period.
- 11 The amount of Mitigation Water Additions to the Mitigation Account minus the amount of Mitigation Water Extractions from the Mitigation Account by City of Riverside and by Other Than Plaintiffs in San Bernardino County.
- 12 Based on calculations by GEOSCIENCE/SAIC in an August 1, 2013 Technical Memorandum to Western and San Bernardino Valley, Watermaster determined that 483 acre-feet/year of Mitigation Water should be included in the Riverside Basin Mitigation Account based on the current maximum spreading grounds diversion rate of 195 cfs. Inclusion of such annual average amount of Mitigation Water continues annually until another long term forecast results in a change.
- 13 Based on calculations by GEOSCIENCE/SAIC in an August 1, 2013 Technical Memorandum to Western and San Bernardino Valley, Watermaster determined that during prior years 1998-2012, 2,713 acre-feet of Mitigation Water should be included in the Riverside Basin Mitigation Account.

## Reserve Account Water - Spread in San Bernardino Basin Area

(Average of 12-month rolling average for Backyard Well tubes D4, D5 and D6)

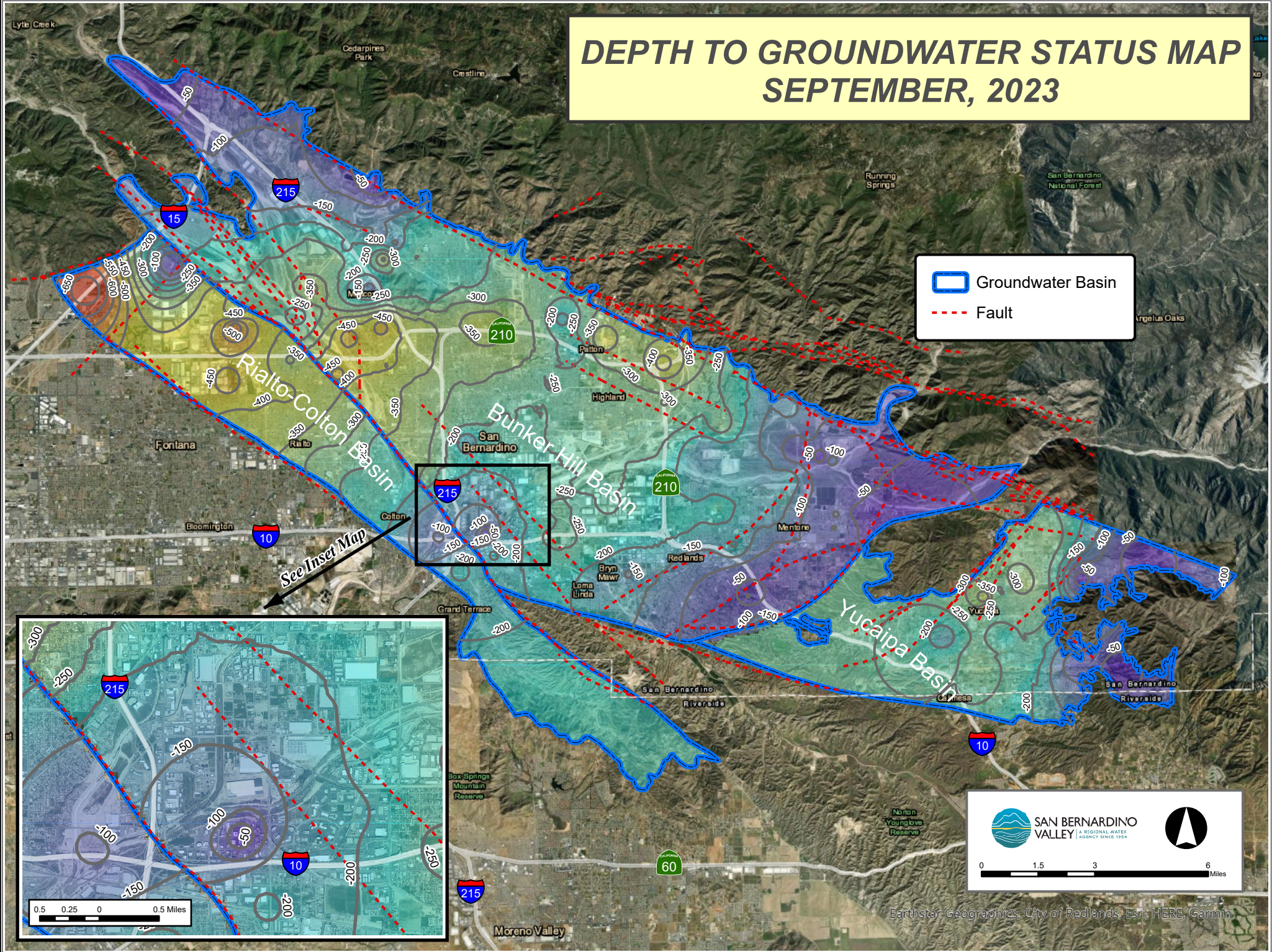




## **D. WATER LEVEL DATA**

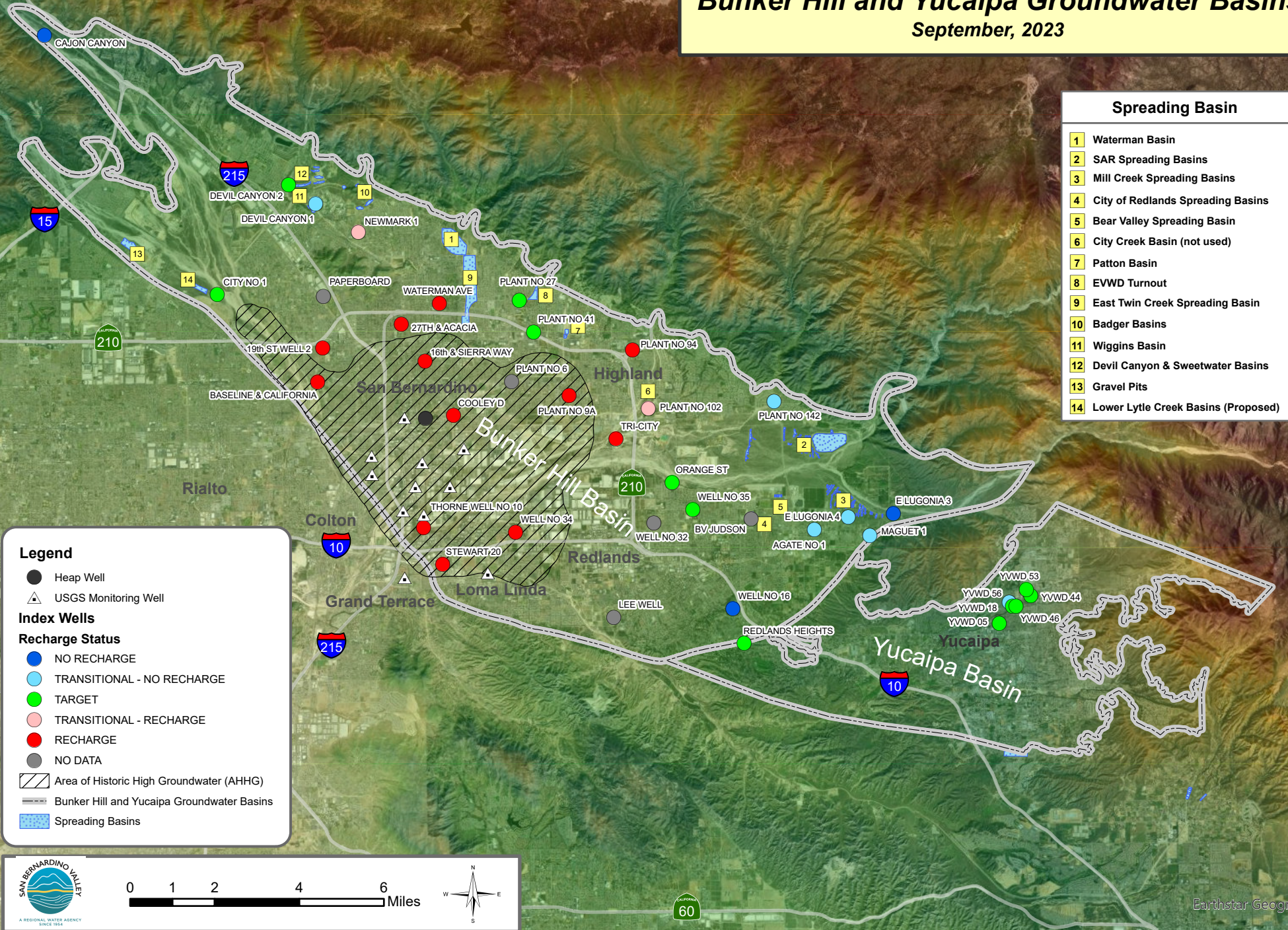


# DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER STATUS MAP SEPTEMBER, 2023





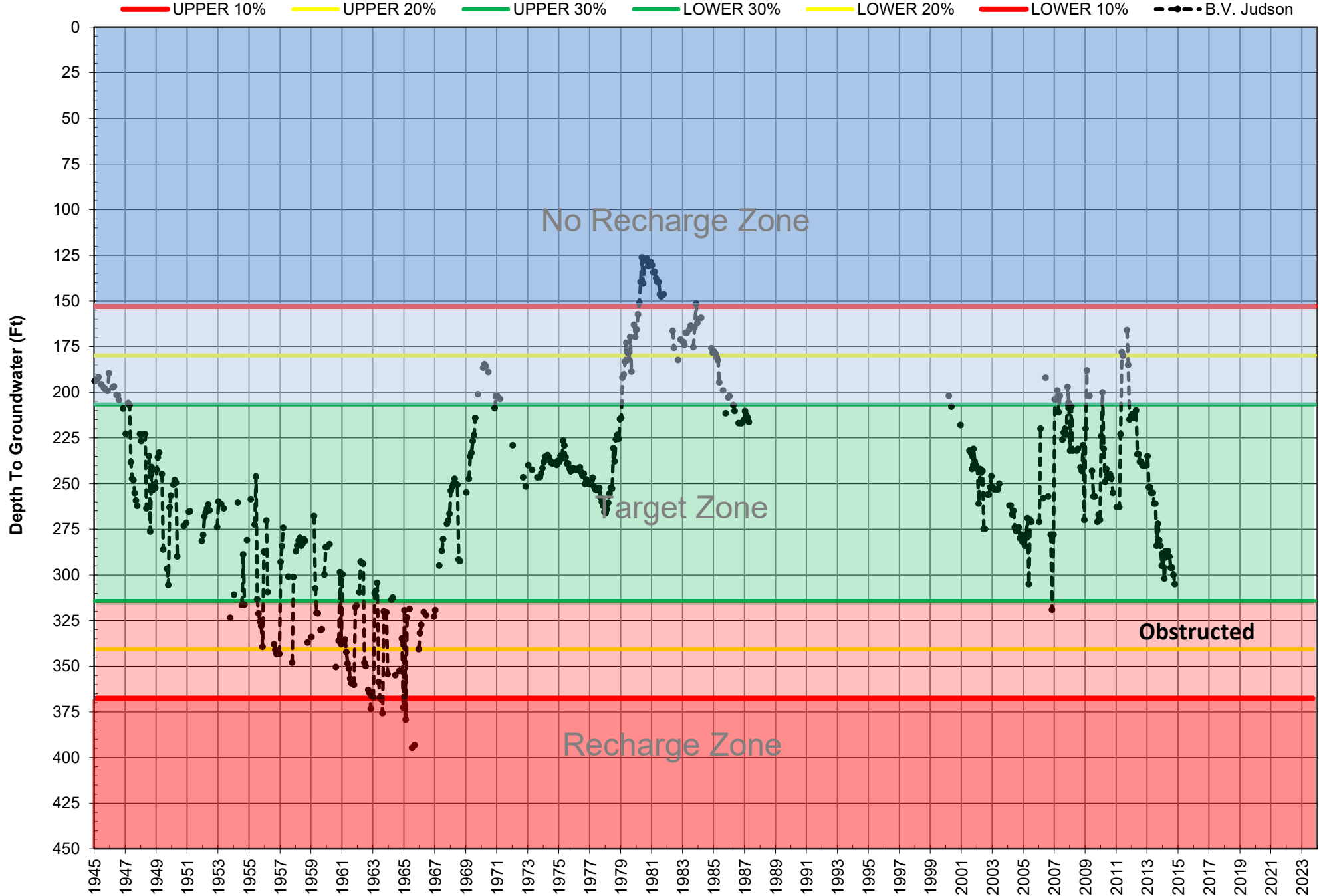
***Summary Of Index Well Hydrographs  
Bunker Hill and Yucaipa Groundwater Basins  
September, 2023***





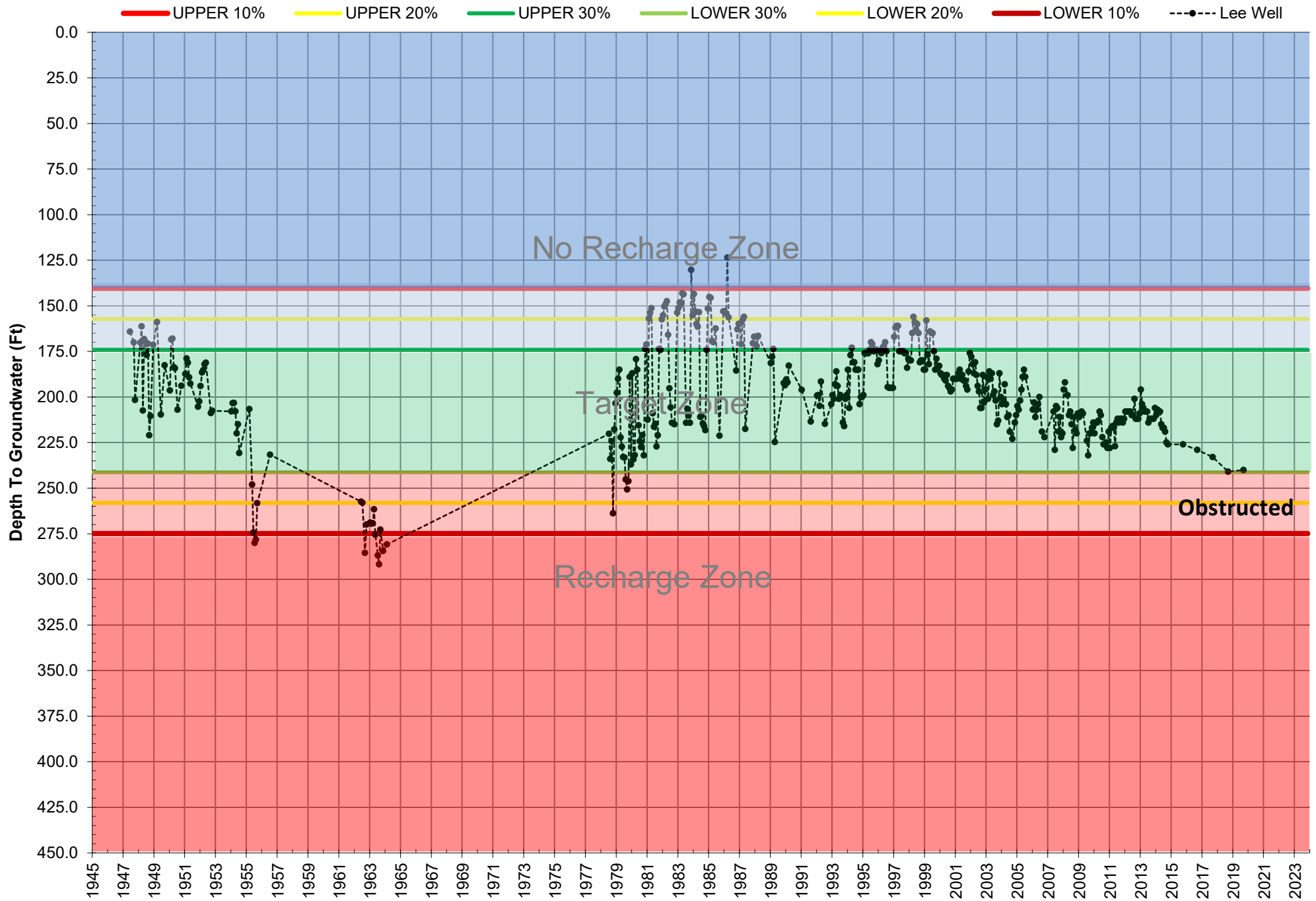
**B.V. Judson**  
Index Well Hydrograph

**Bear Valley Mutual Water Co.**



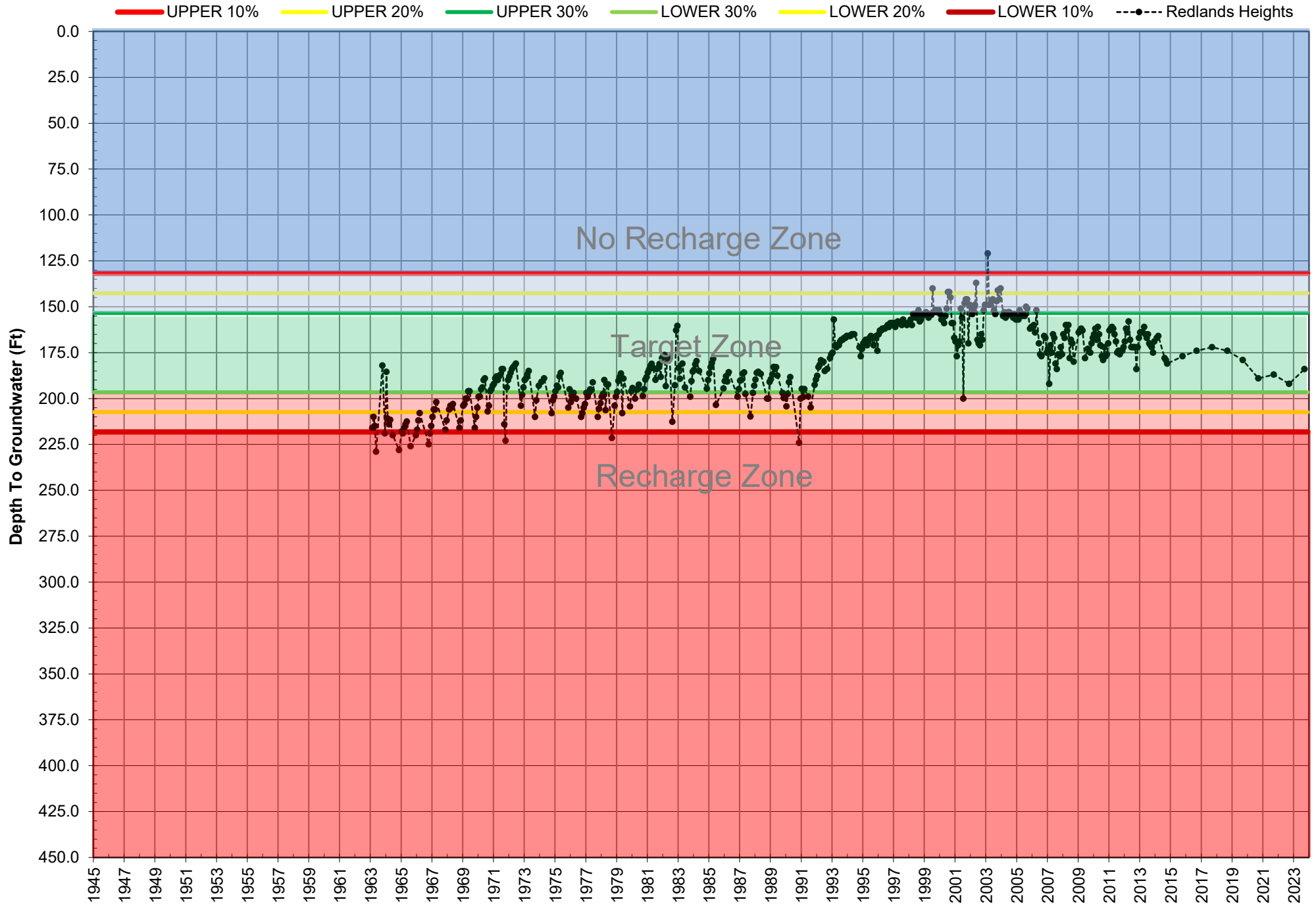
# Lee Well Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



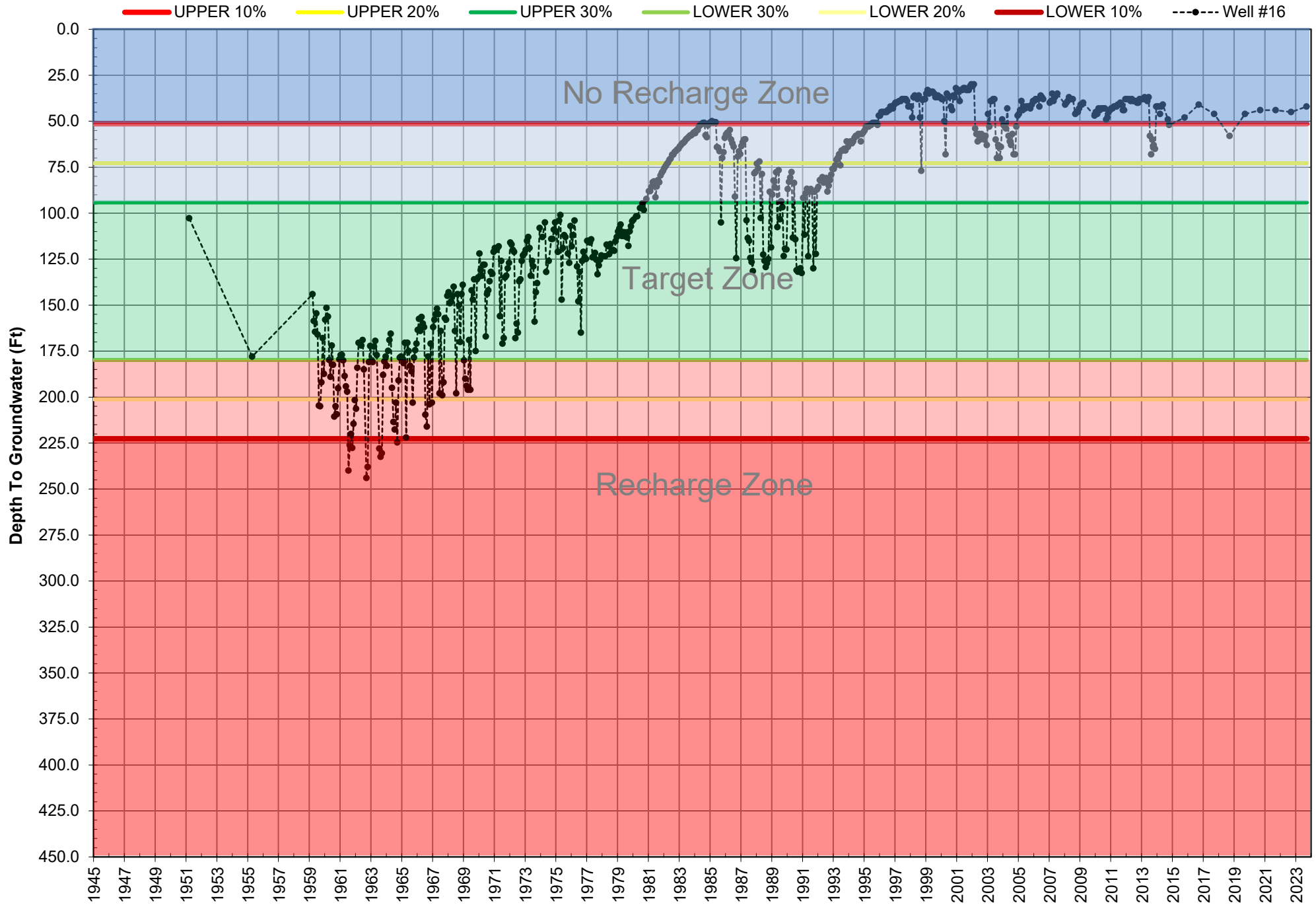
# Redlands Heights Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



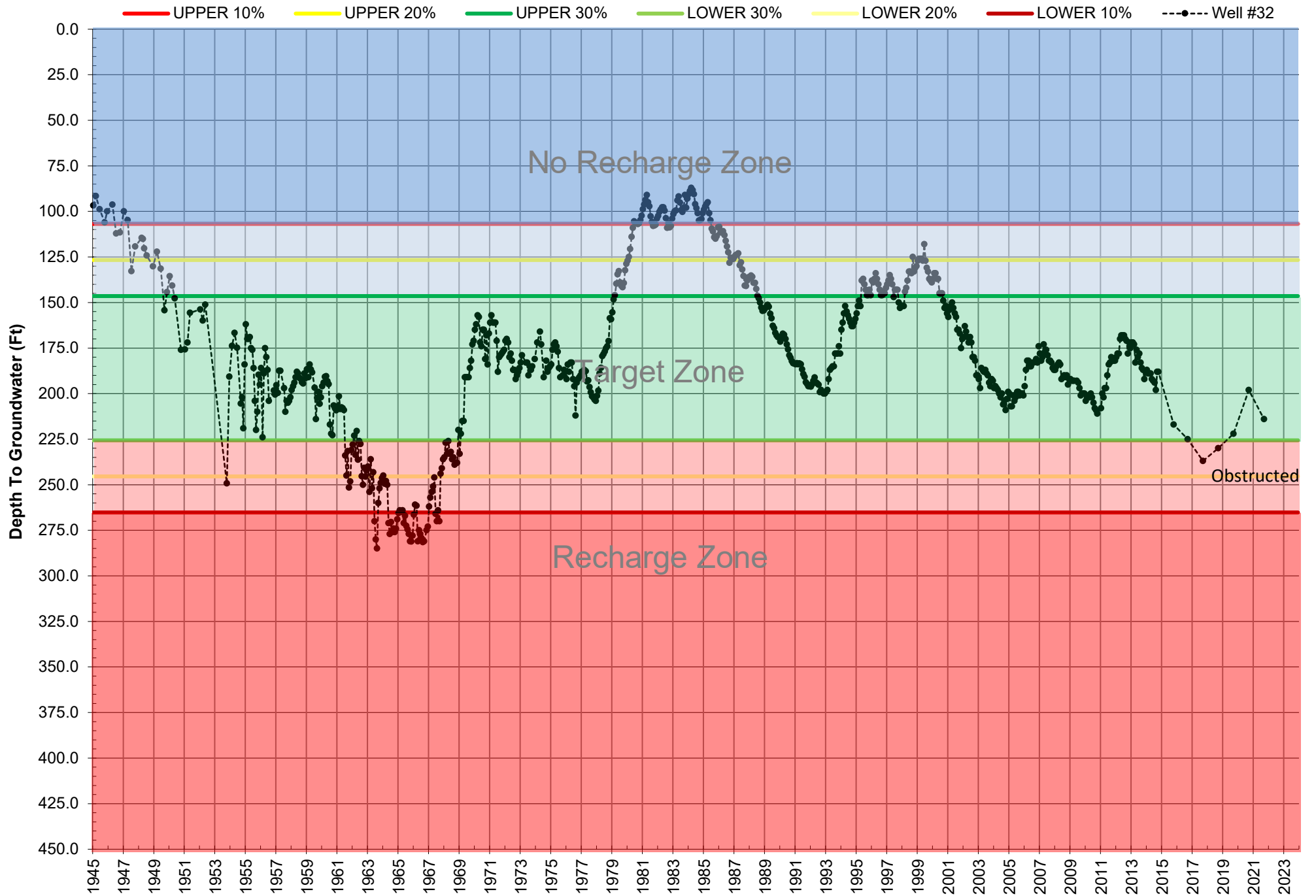
# Well #16 Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



# Well #32 Index Well Hydrograph

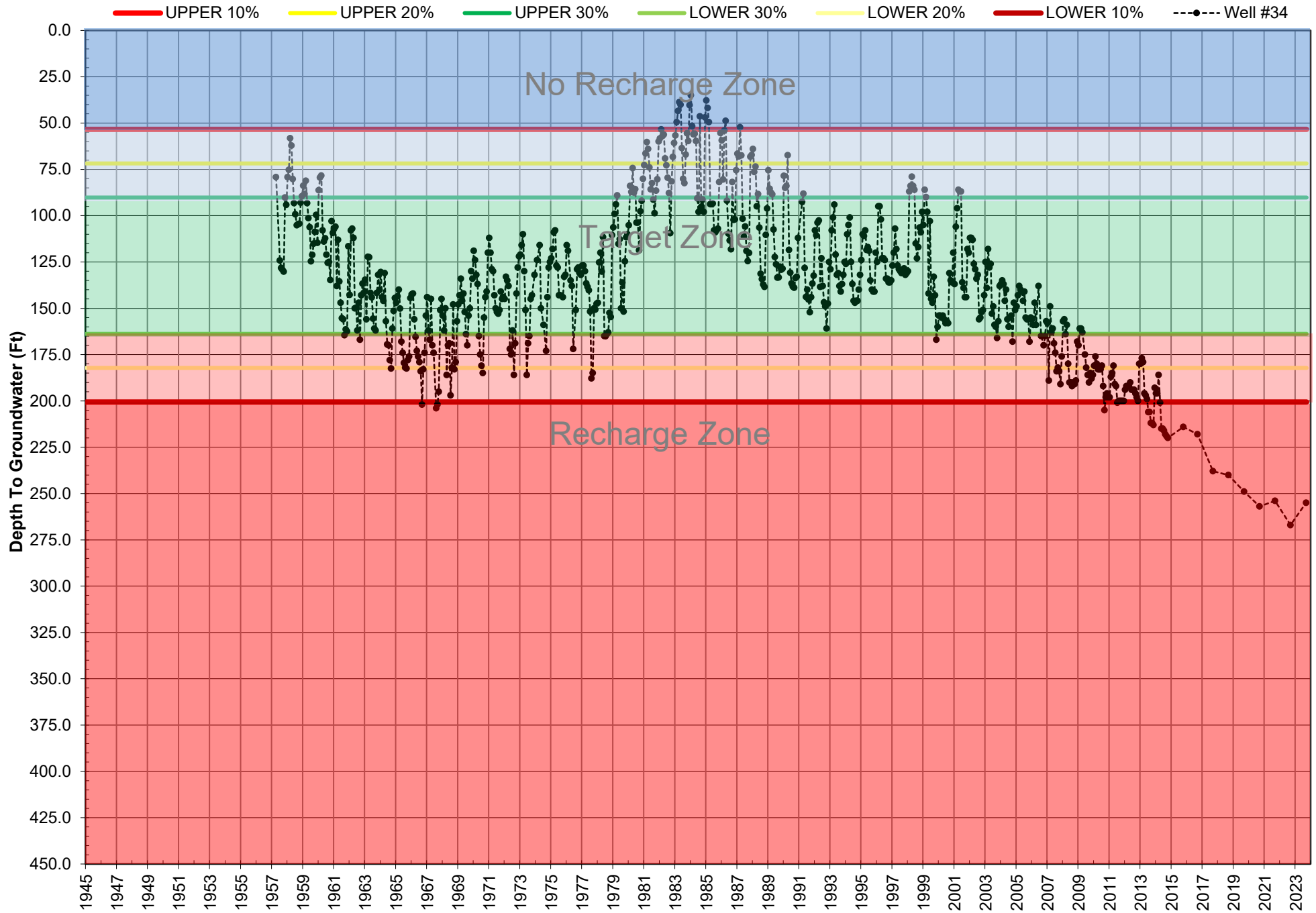
**City of Redlands**





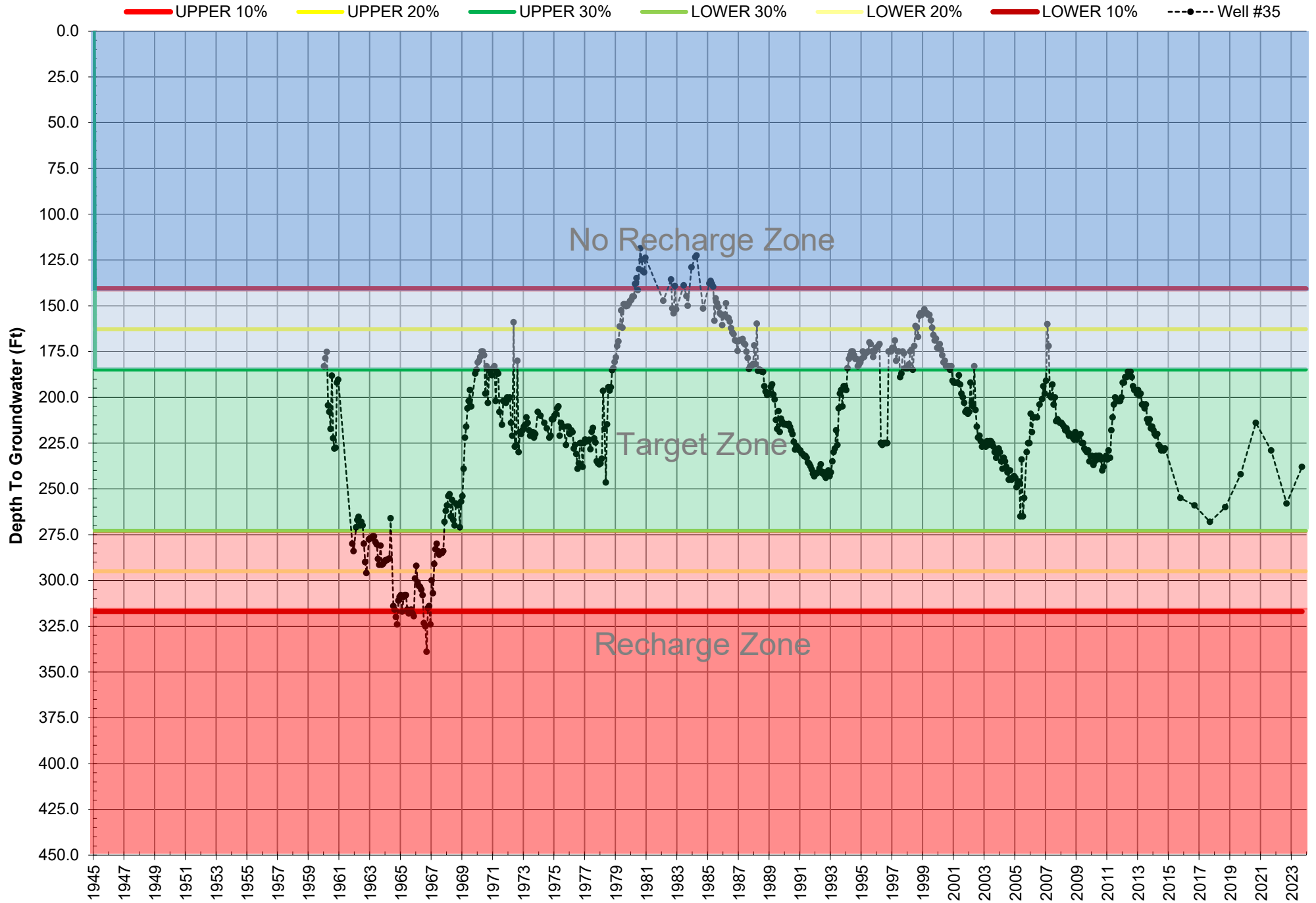
# Well #34 Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



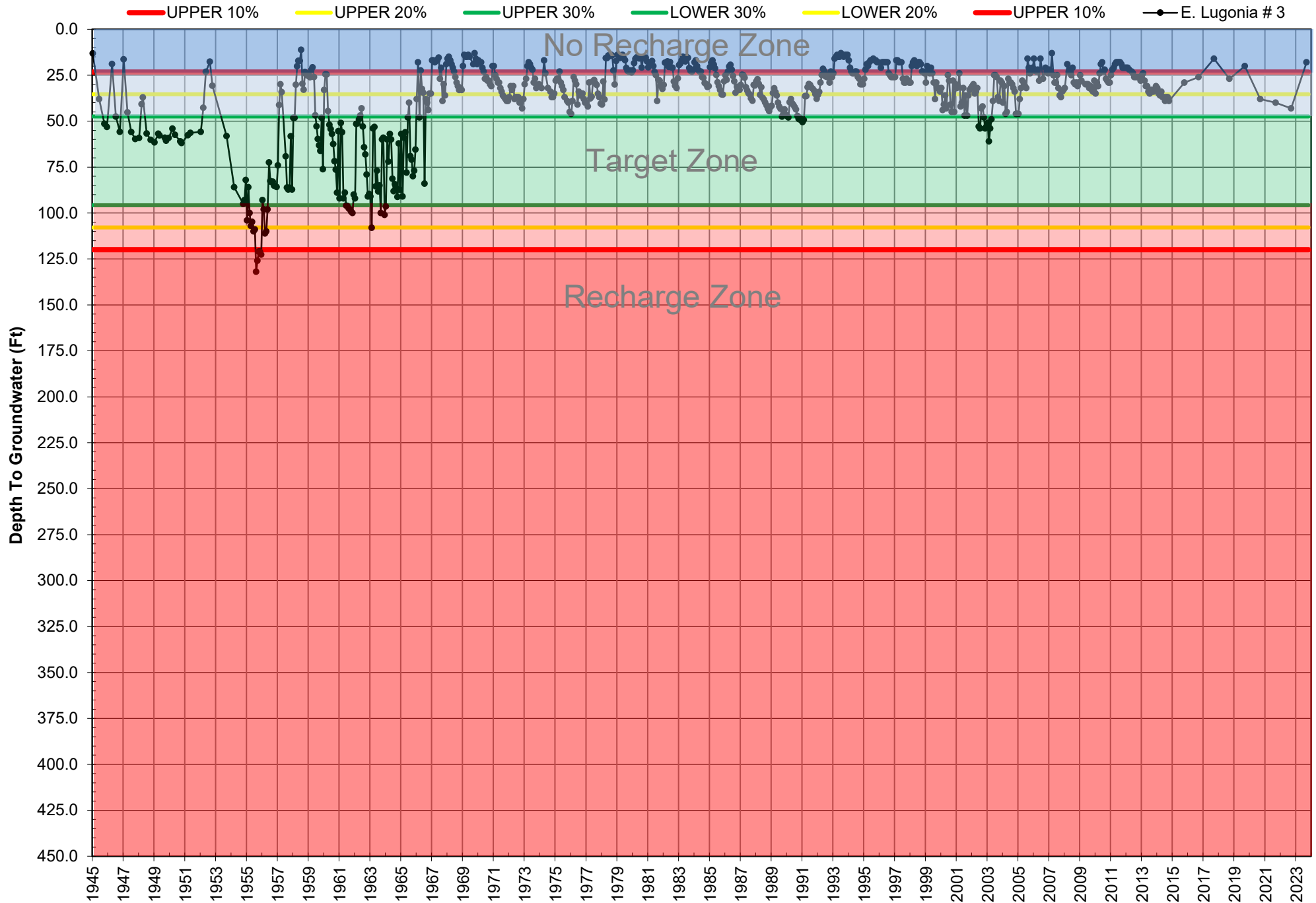
# Well #35 Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



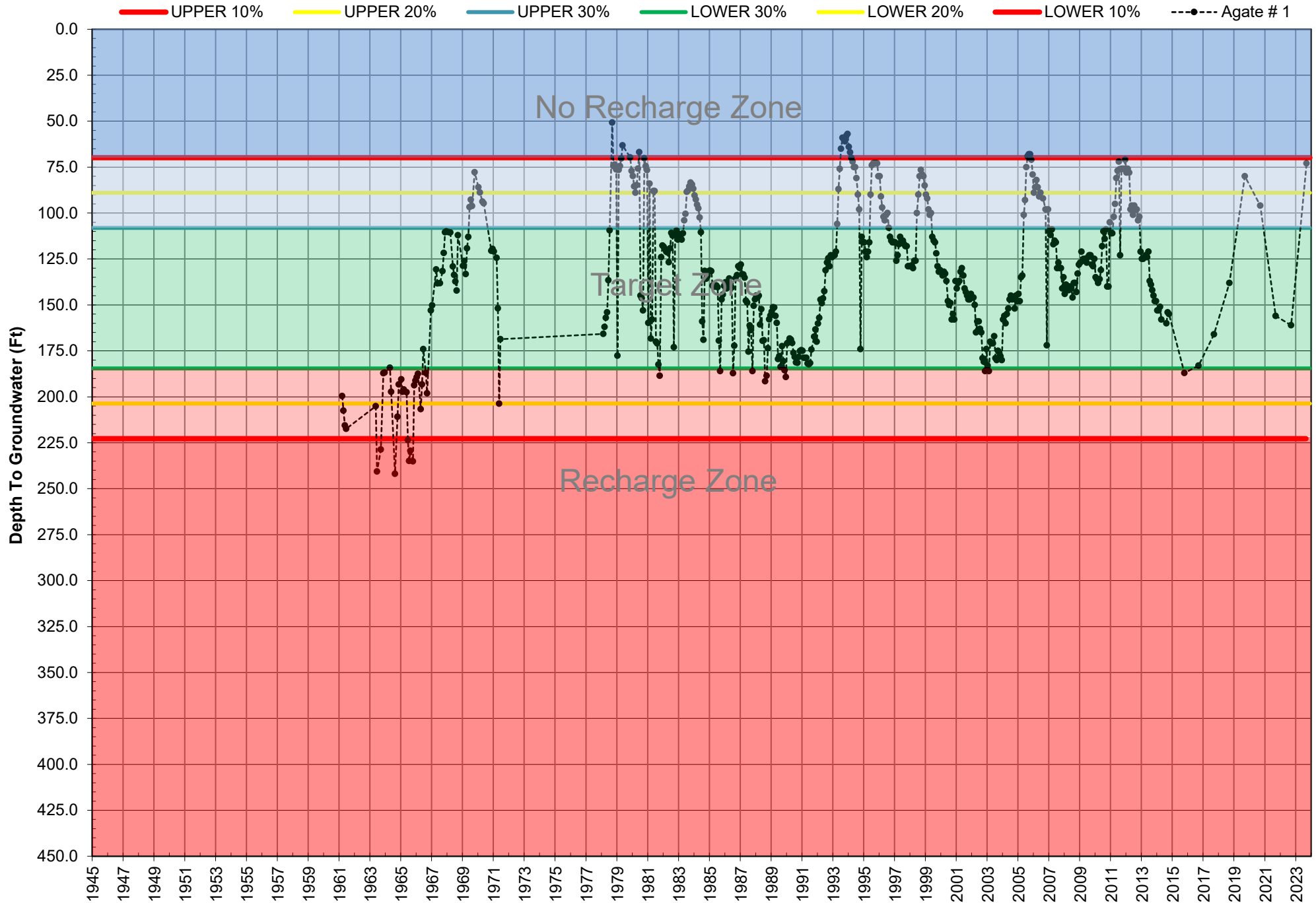
## East Lugonia #3 Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



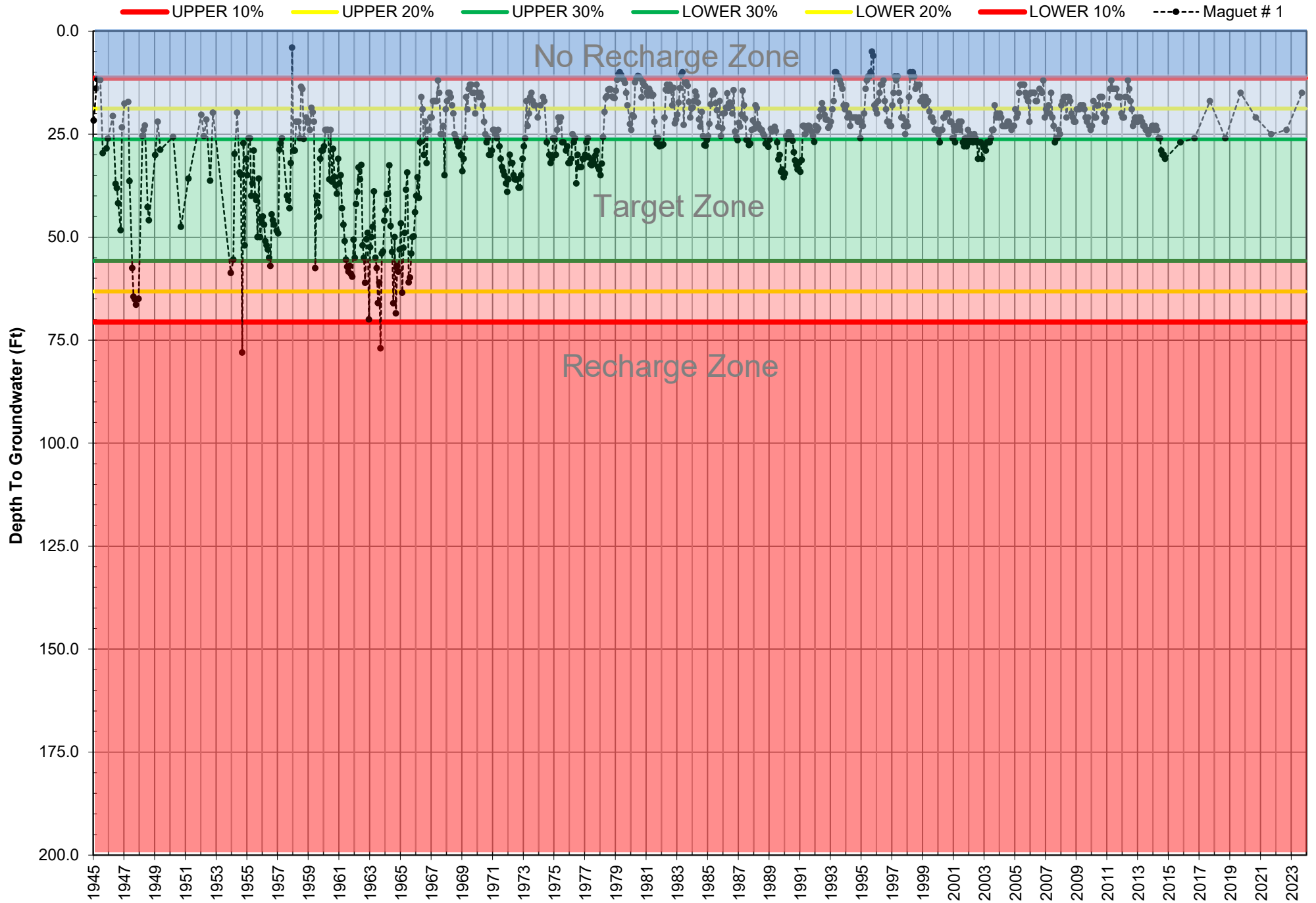
# Agate #1 Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



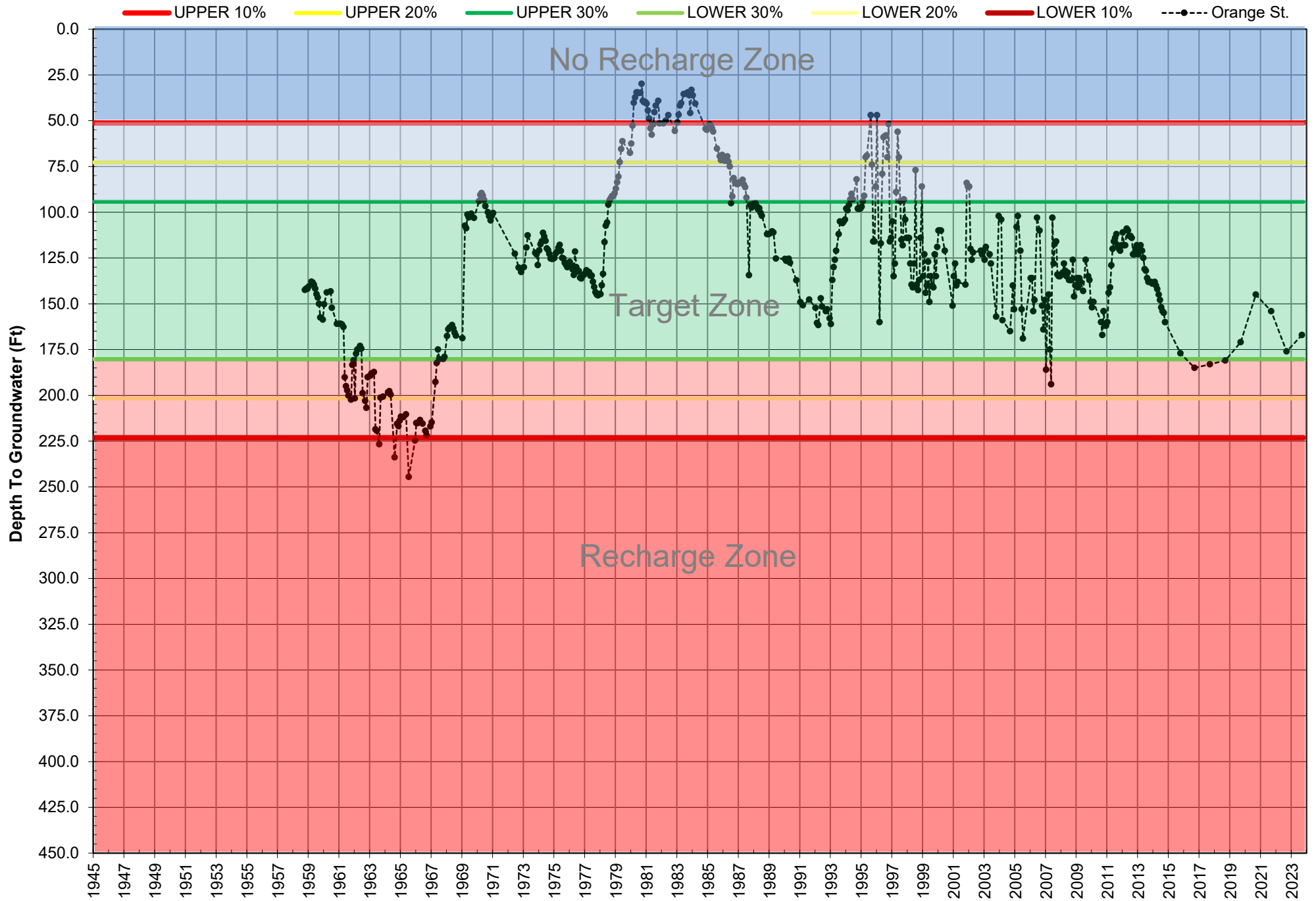
# Maguet #1 Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



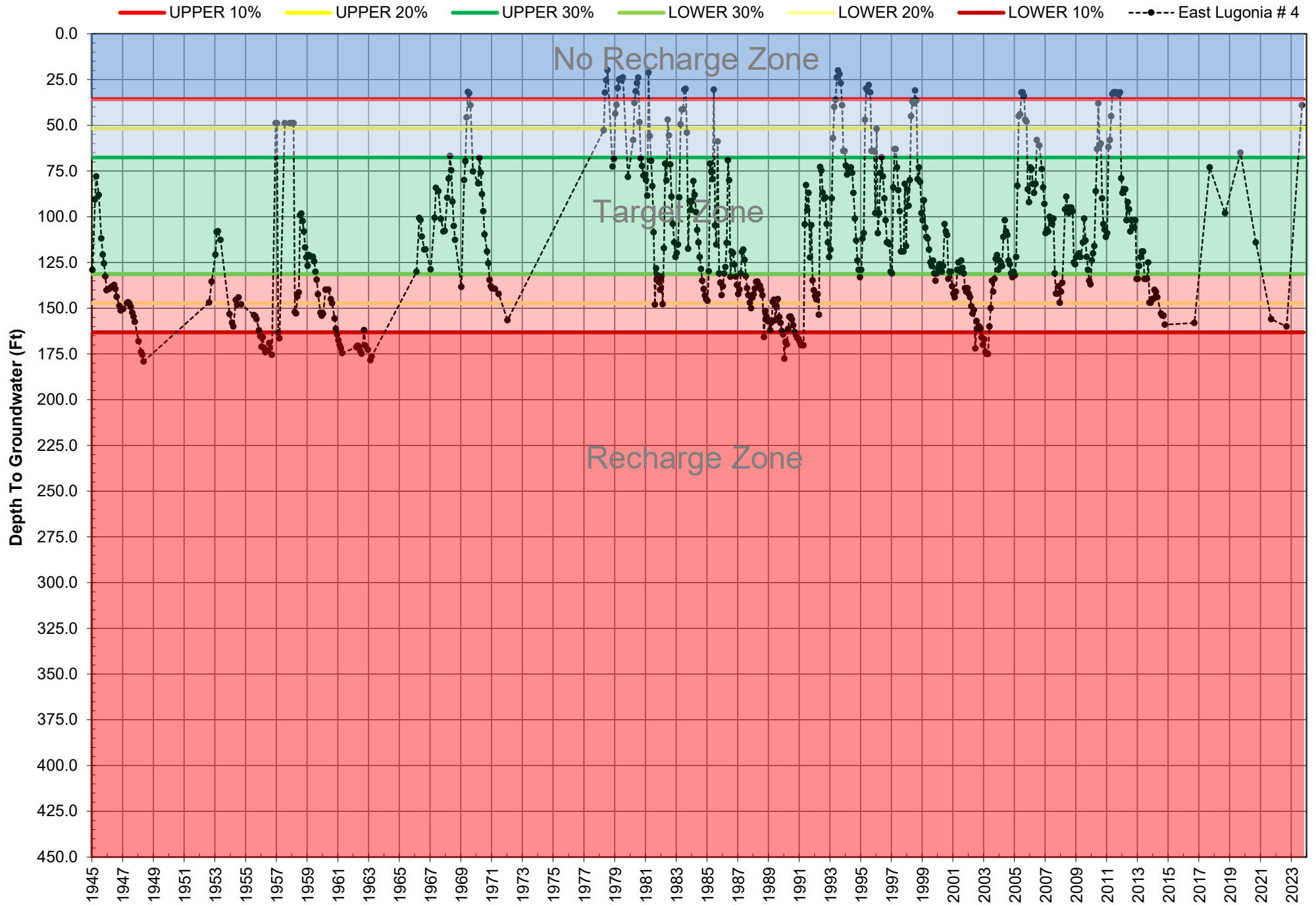
# Orange St. Index Well Hydrograph

**City of Redlands**



# East Lugonia #4 Index Well Hydrograph

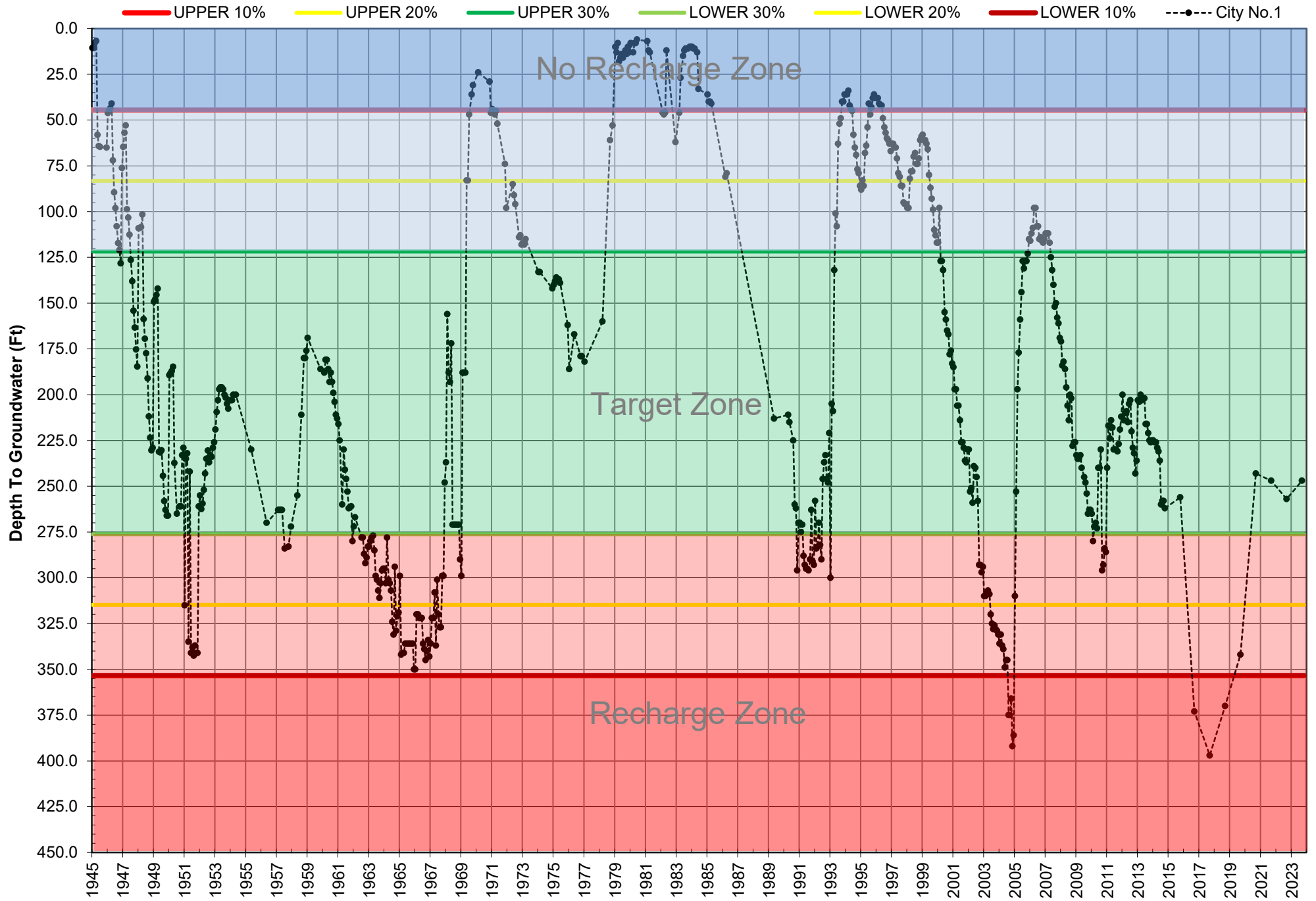
City of Redlands





# City No. 1 Index Well Hydrograph

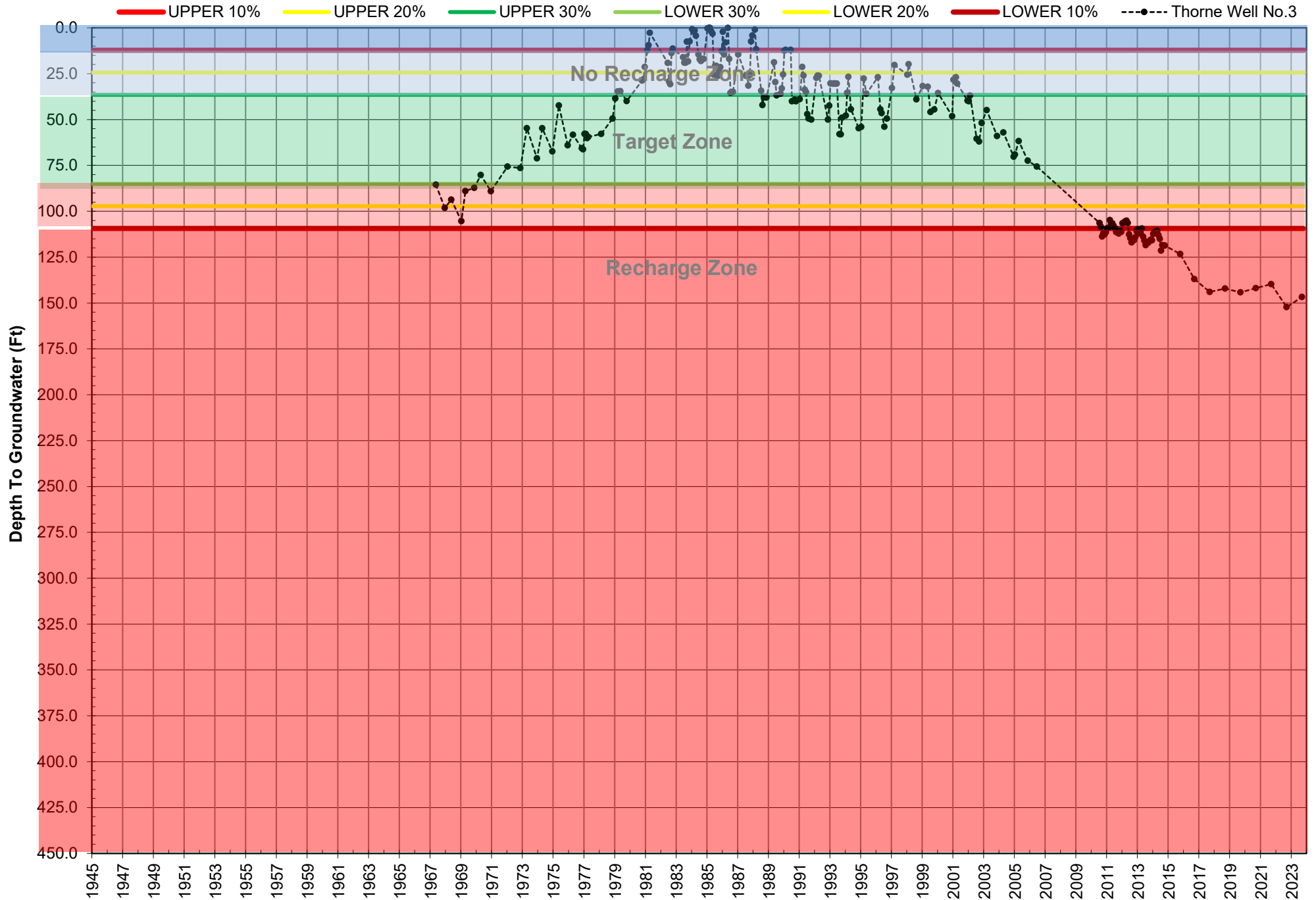
City of Rialto





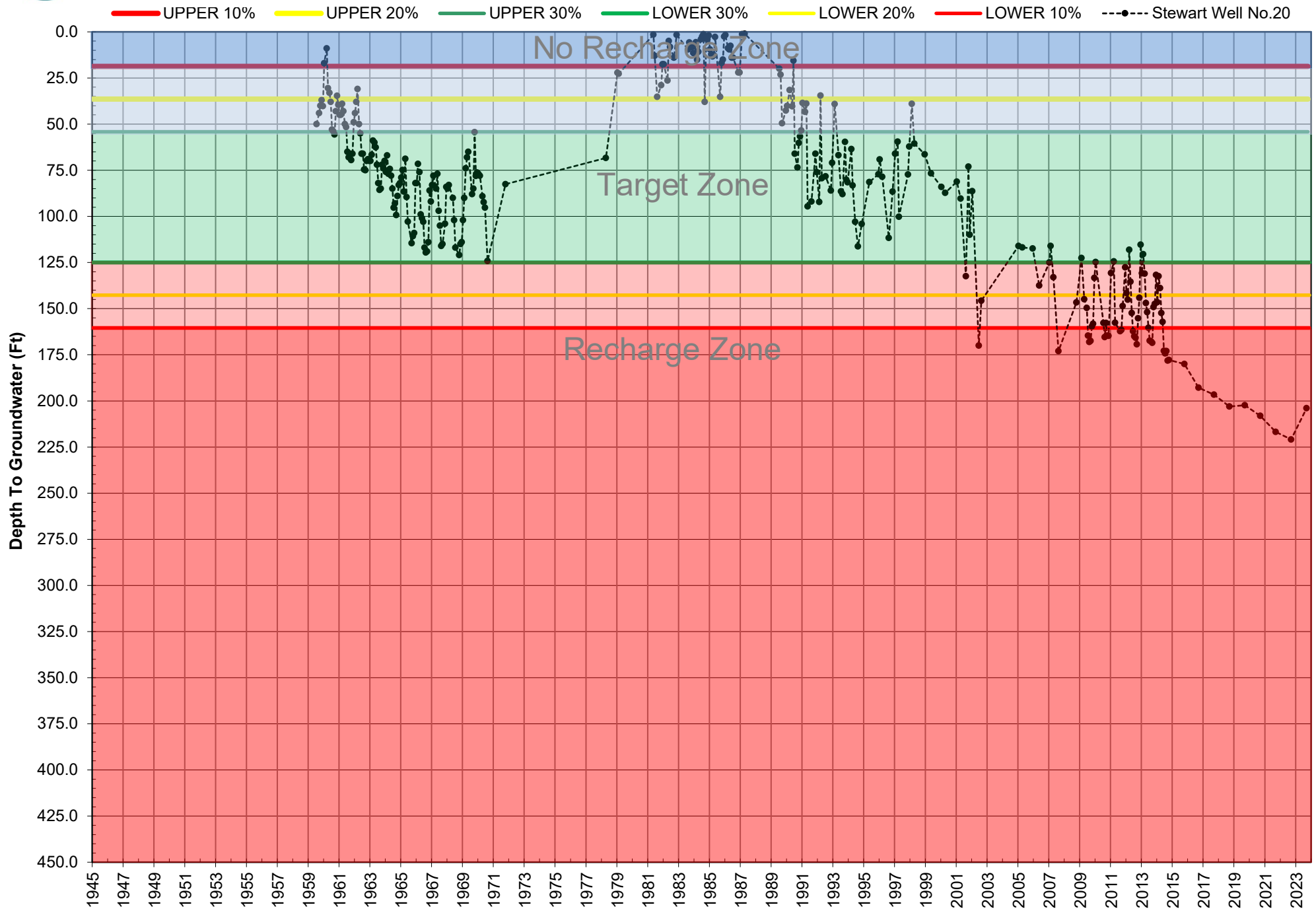


# Thorne No. 9/3 Index Well Hydrograph



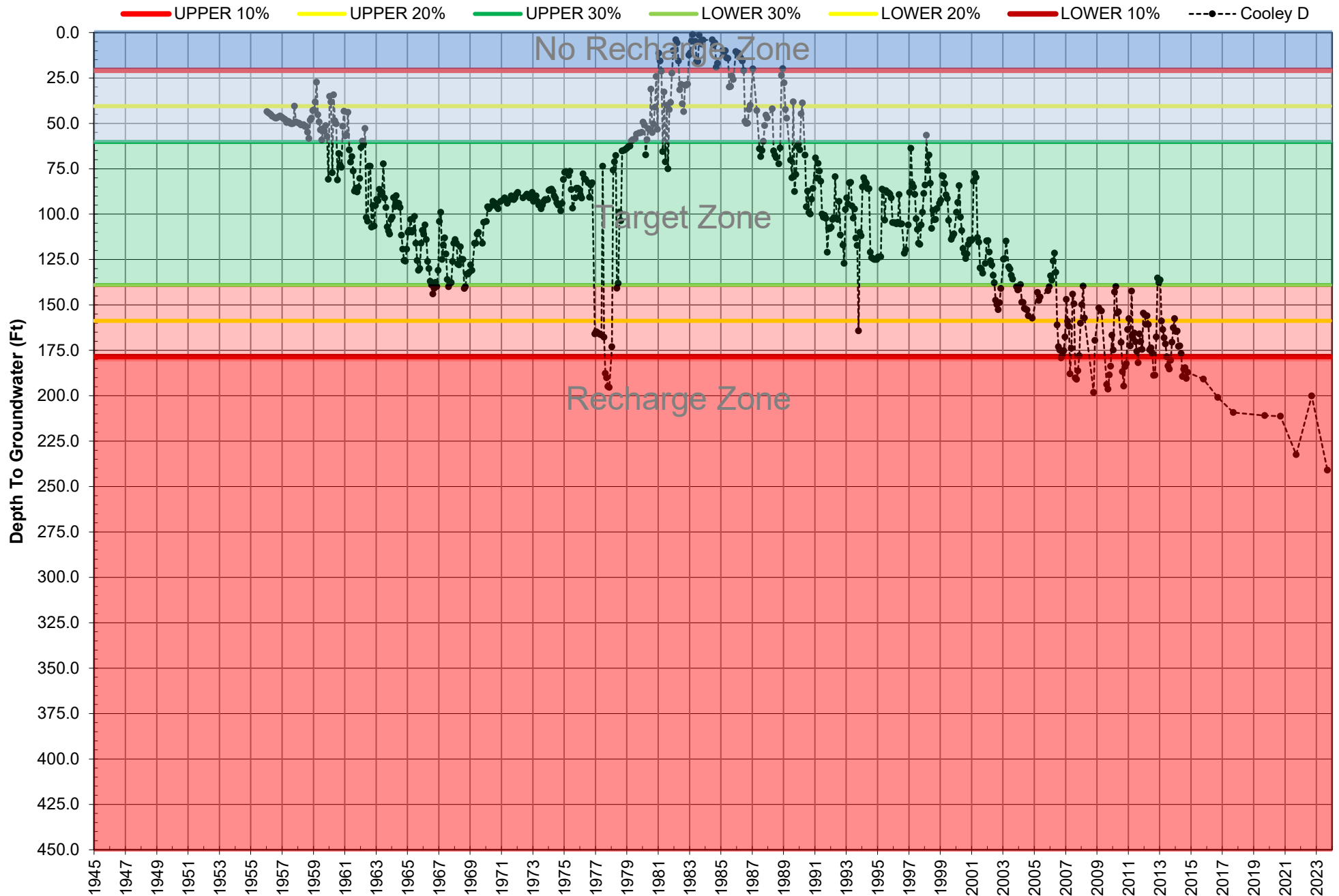


# Stewart No. 20 Index Well Hydrograph



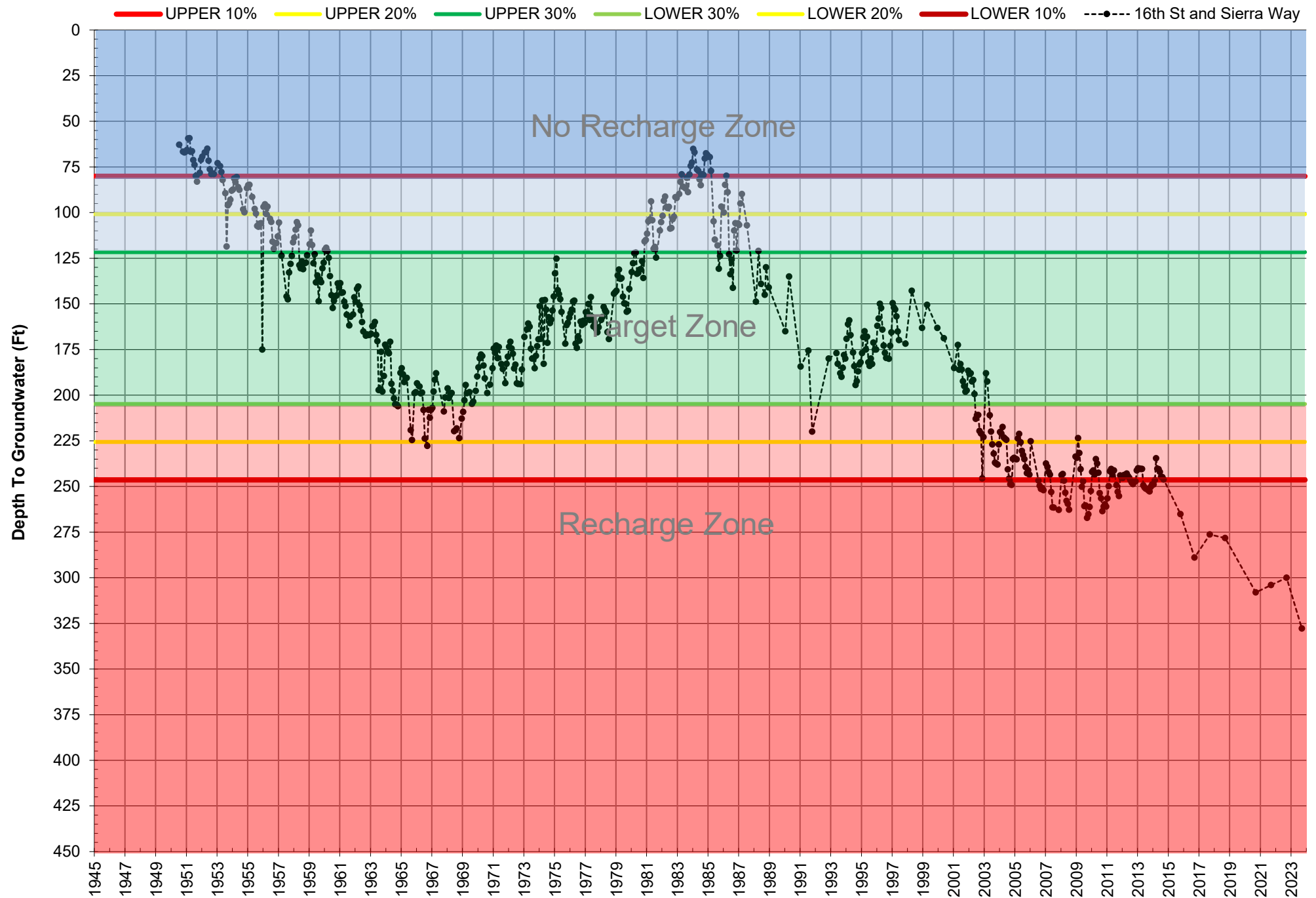


# Cooley D Index Well Hydrograph



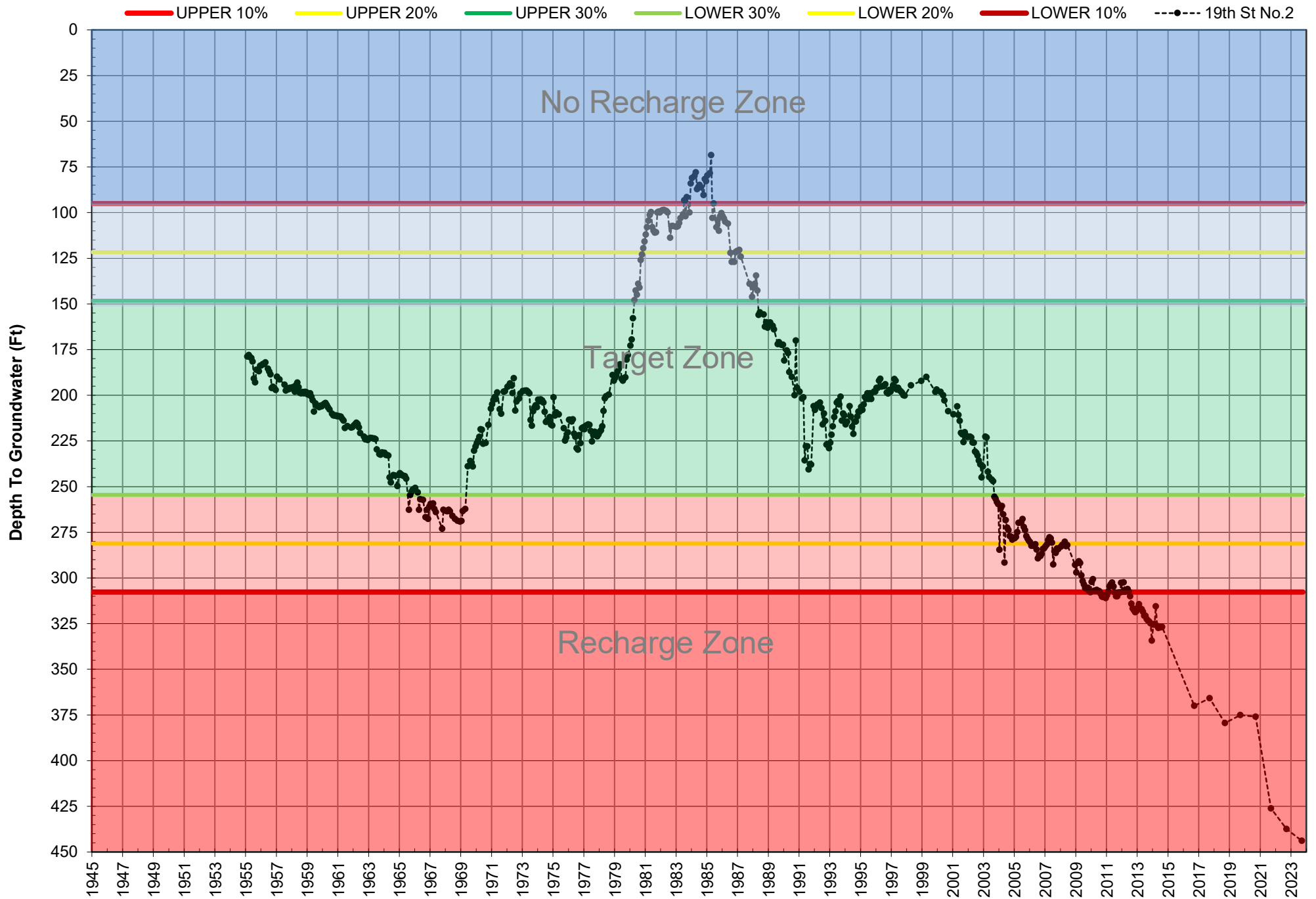


# 16th St. Index Well Hydrograph



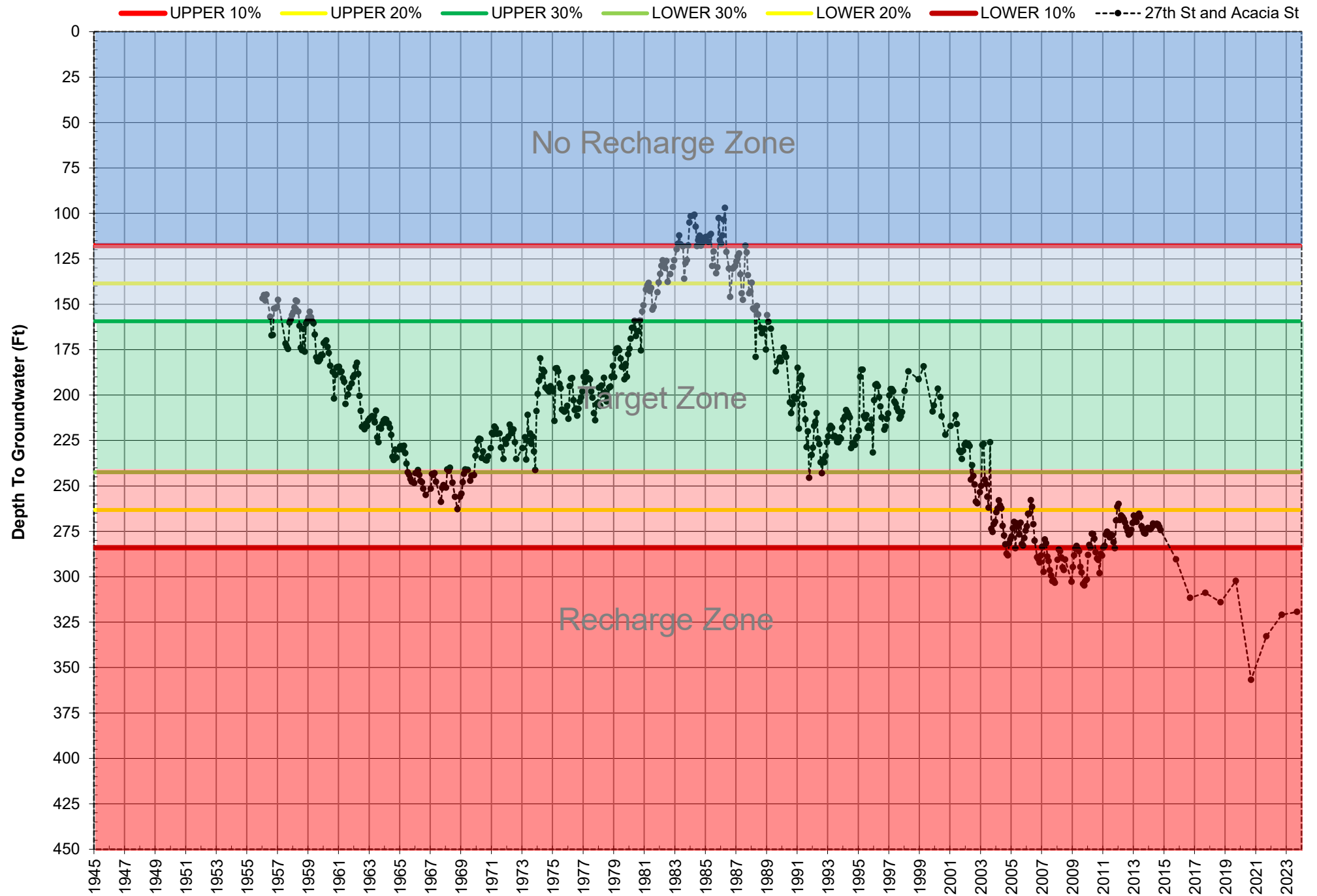


# 19th St. No. 2 Index Well Hydrograph





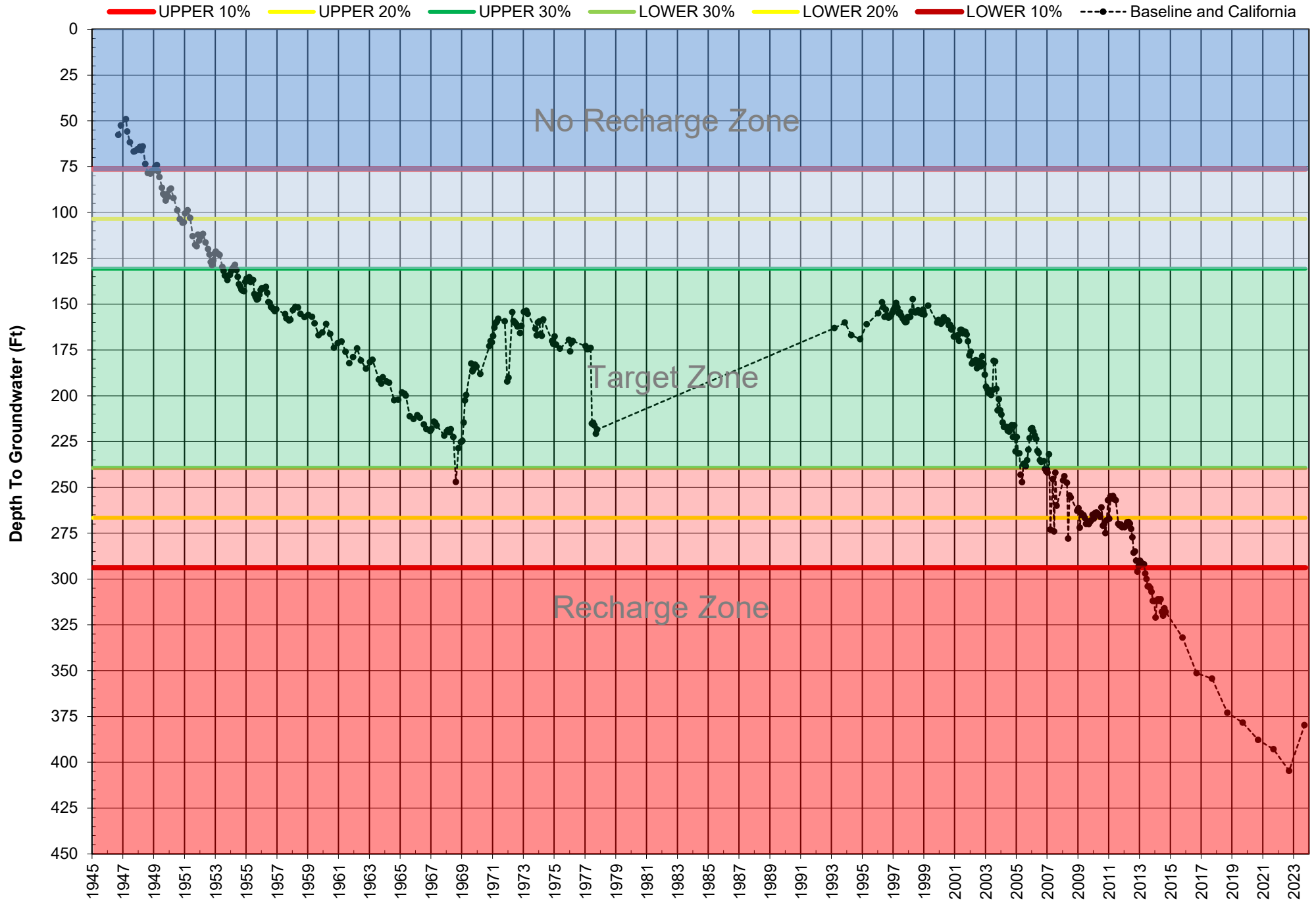
# 27th St. Index Well Hydrograph





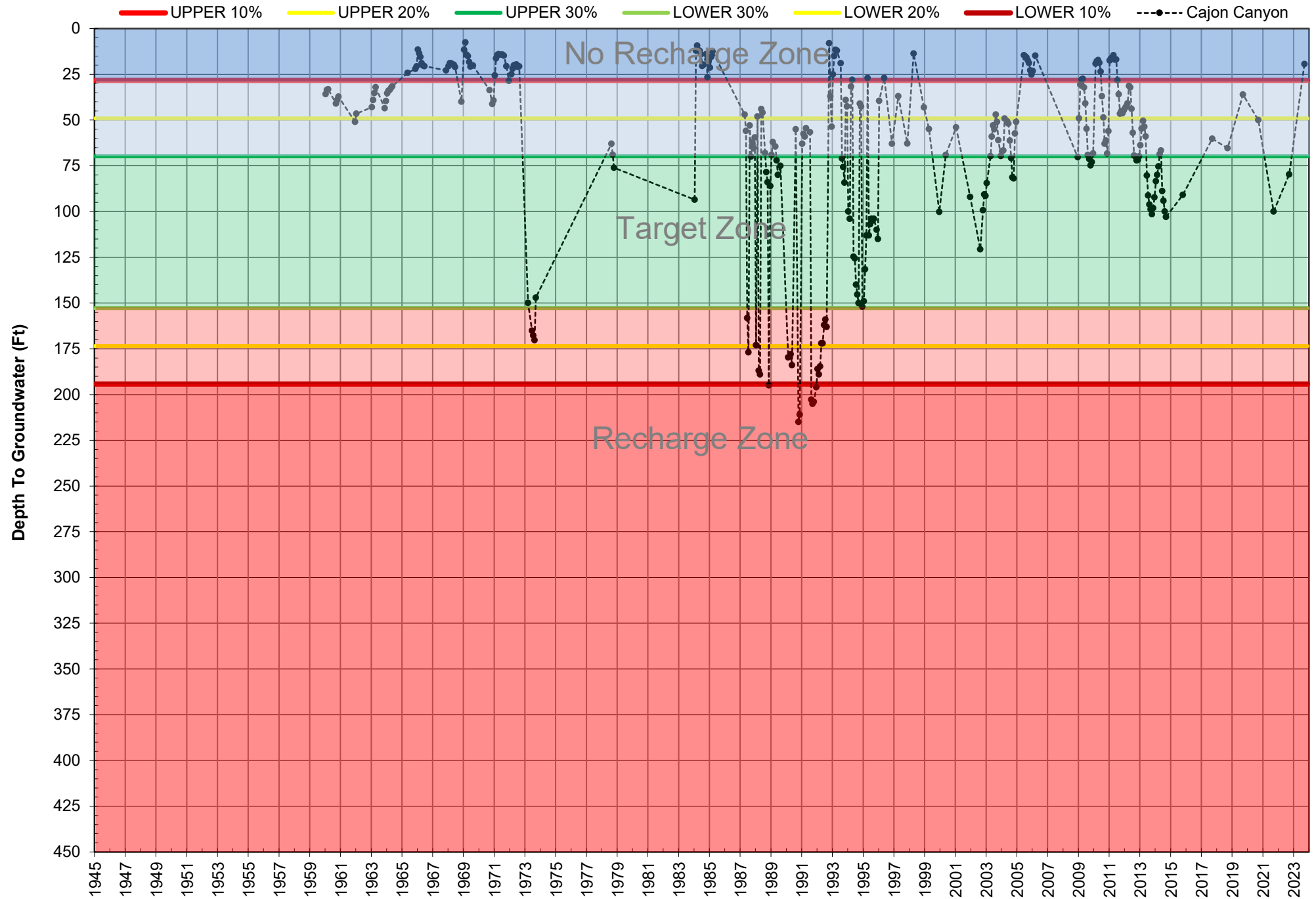
# Baseline & California Index Well Hydrograph

**City of San Bernardino**



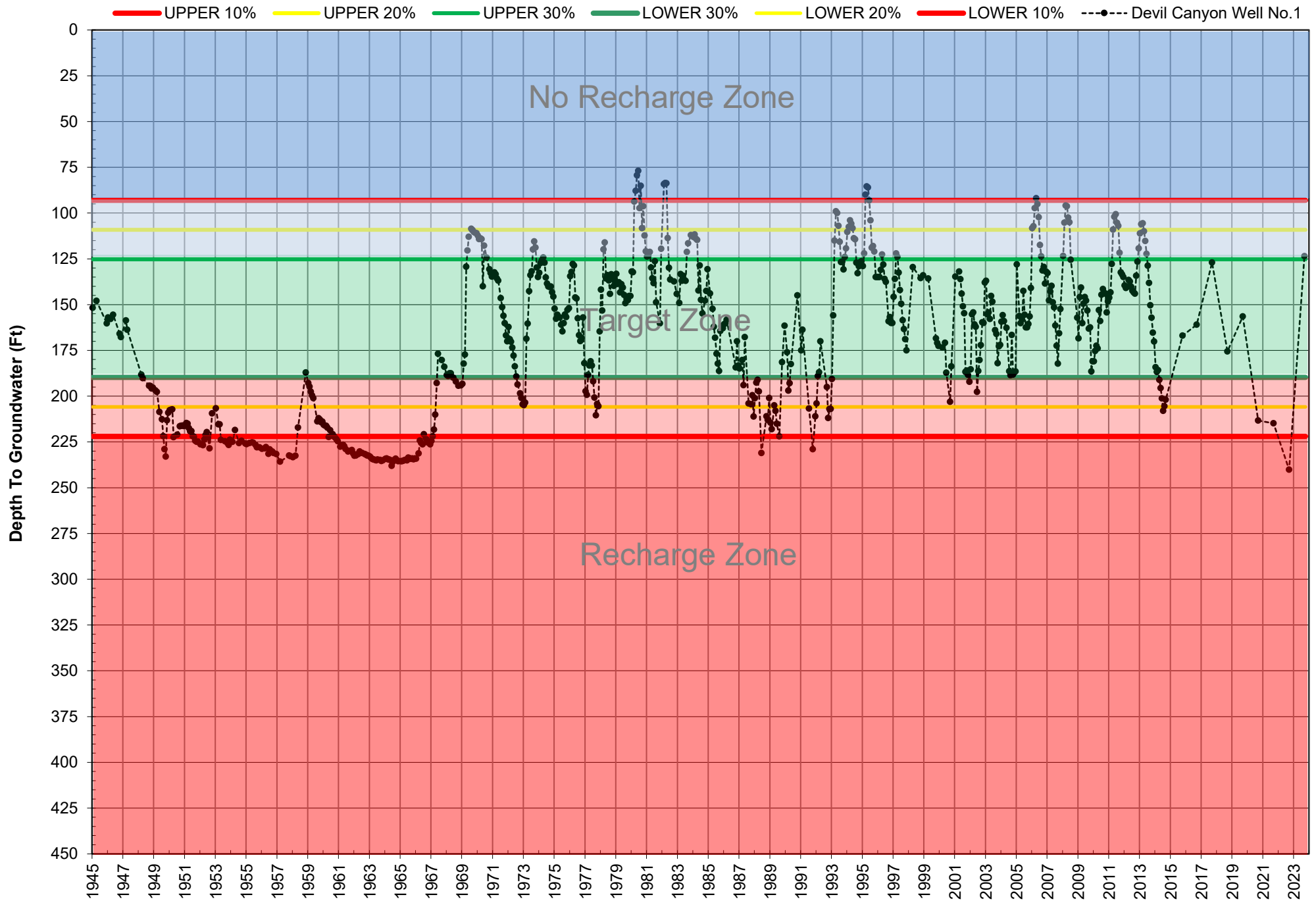


# Cajon Canyon Index Well Hydrograph



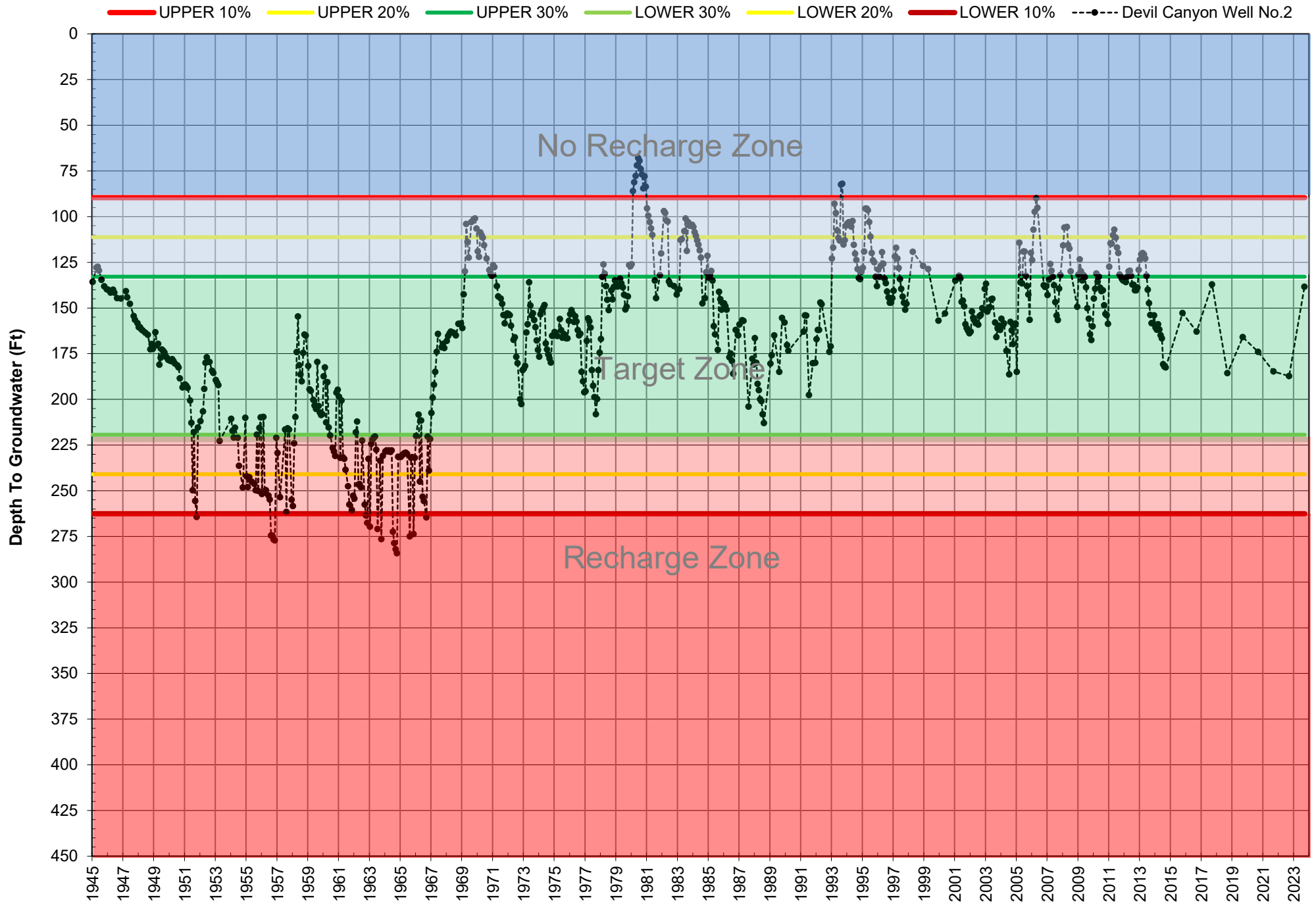
# Devil Canyon No. 1 Index Well Hydrograph

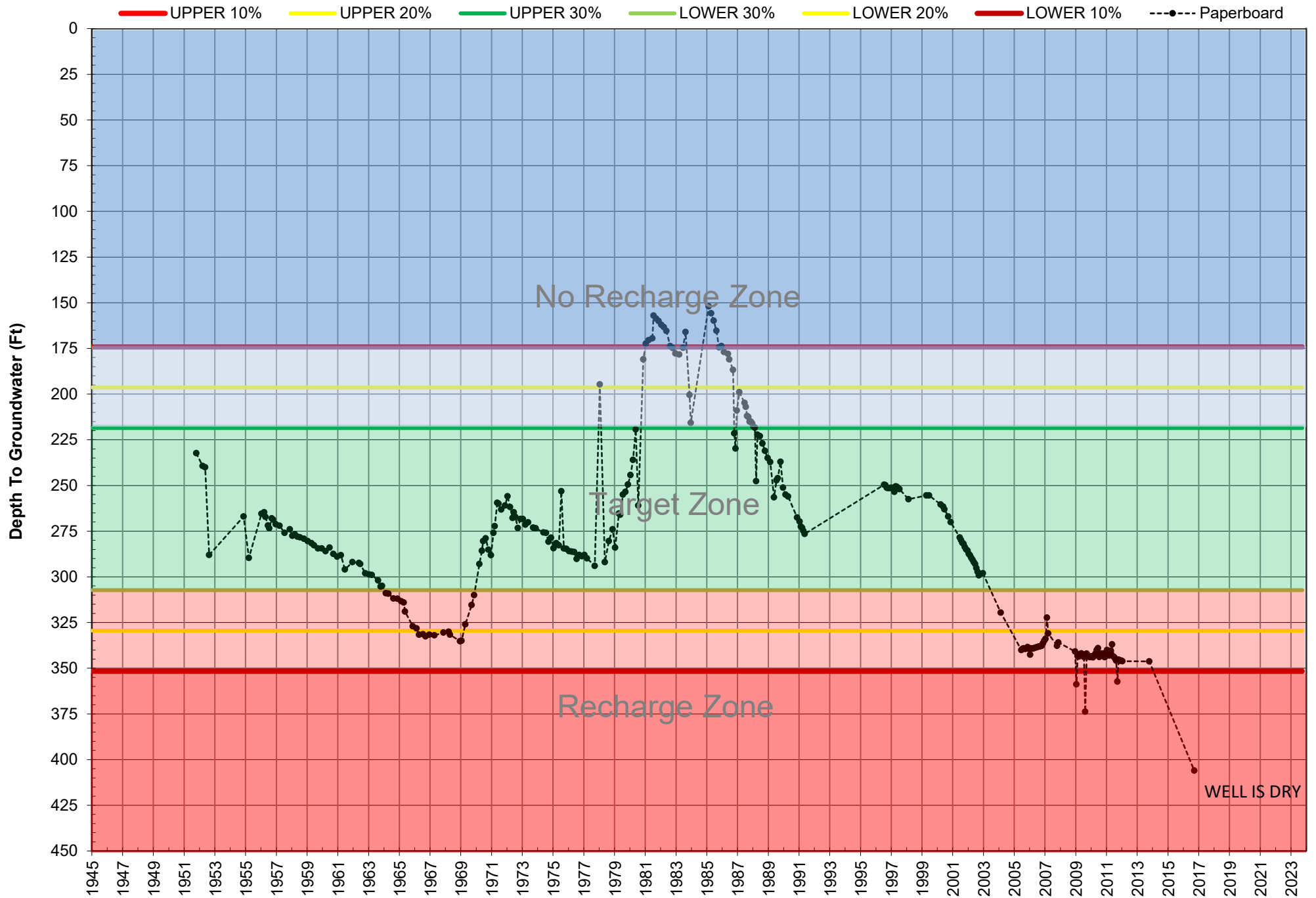
**City of San Bernardino**





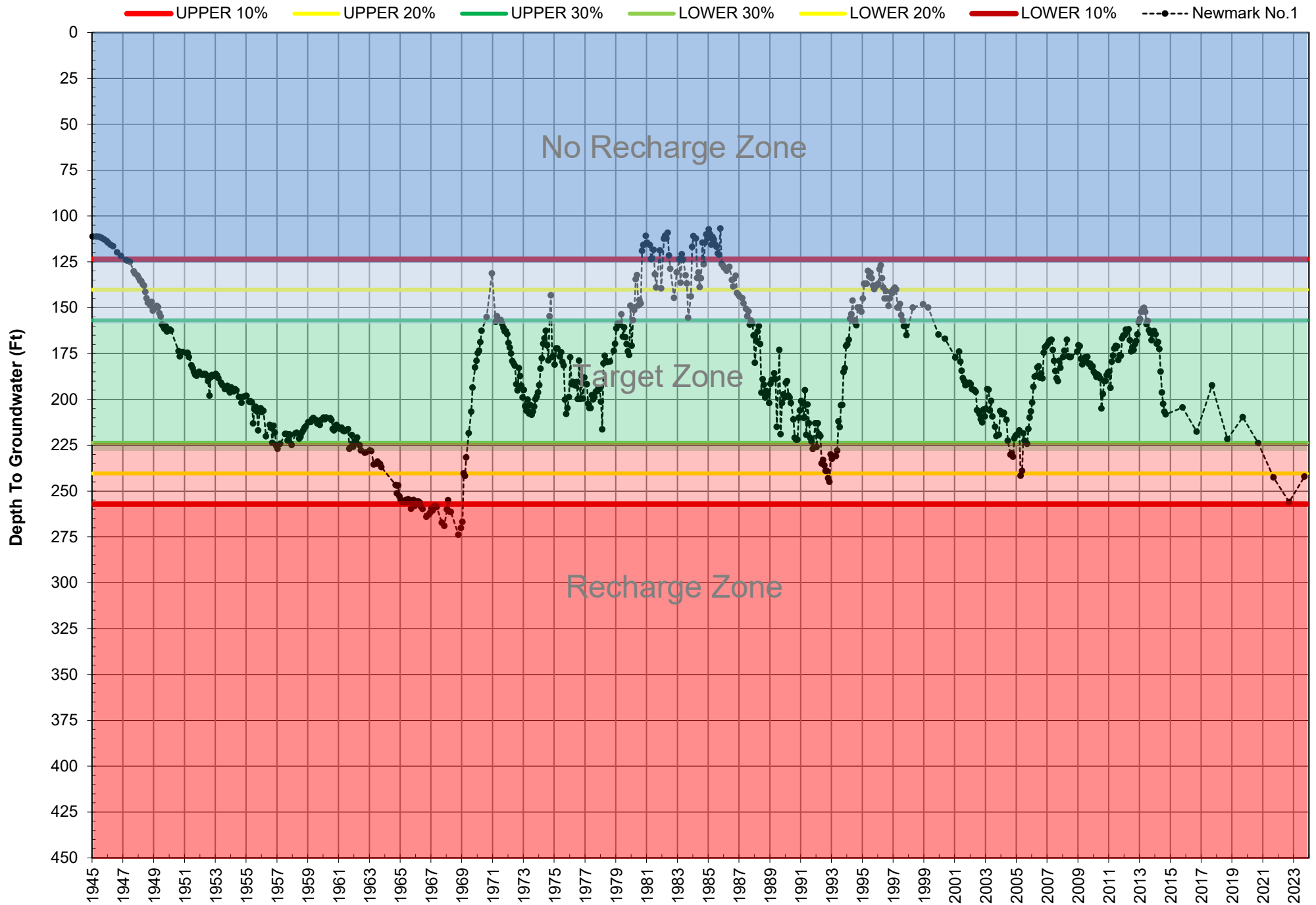
# Devil Canyon No. 2 Index Well Hydrograph







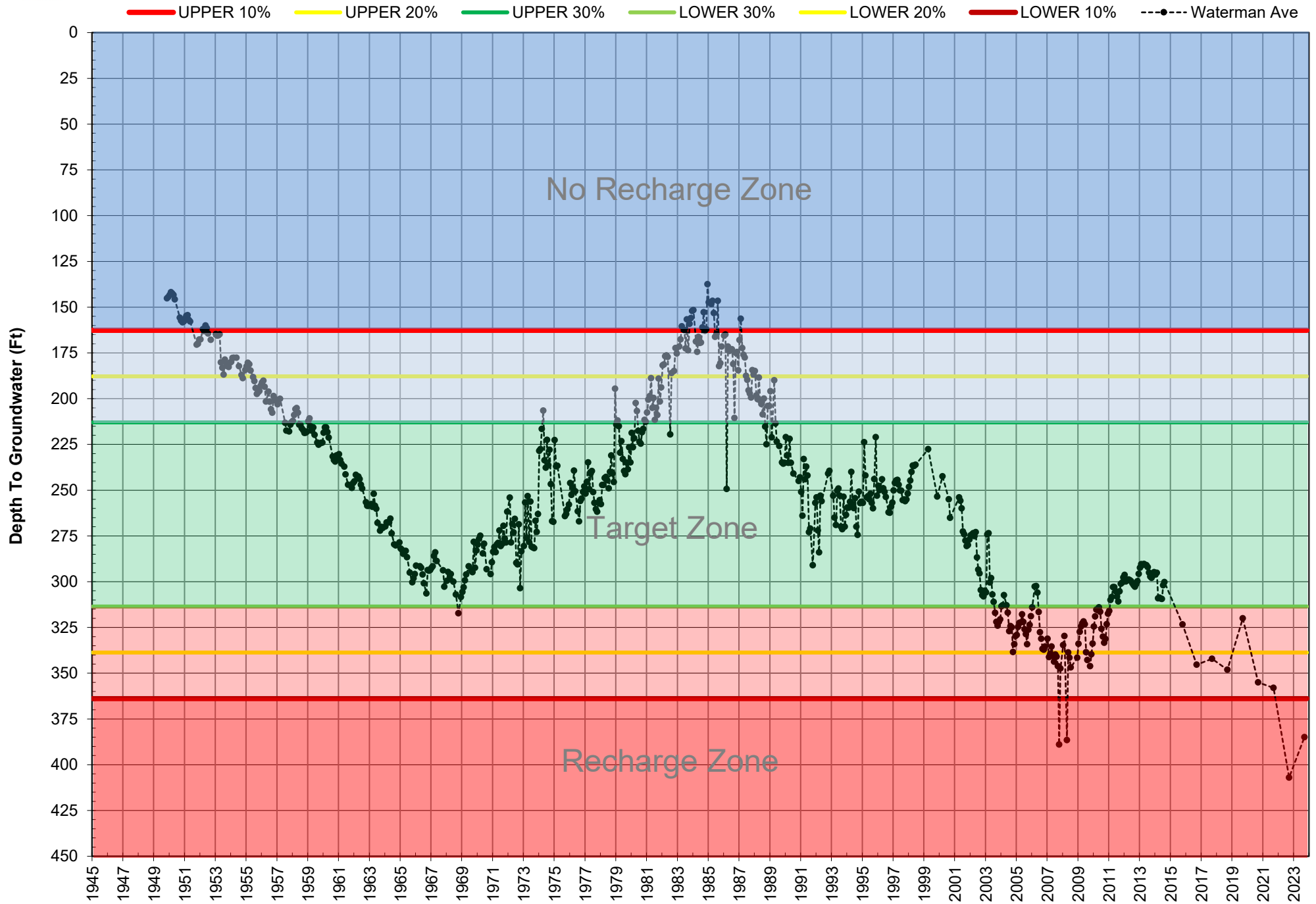
# Newmark No. 1 Index Well Hydrograph





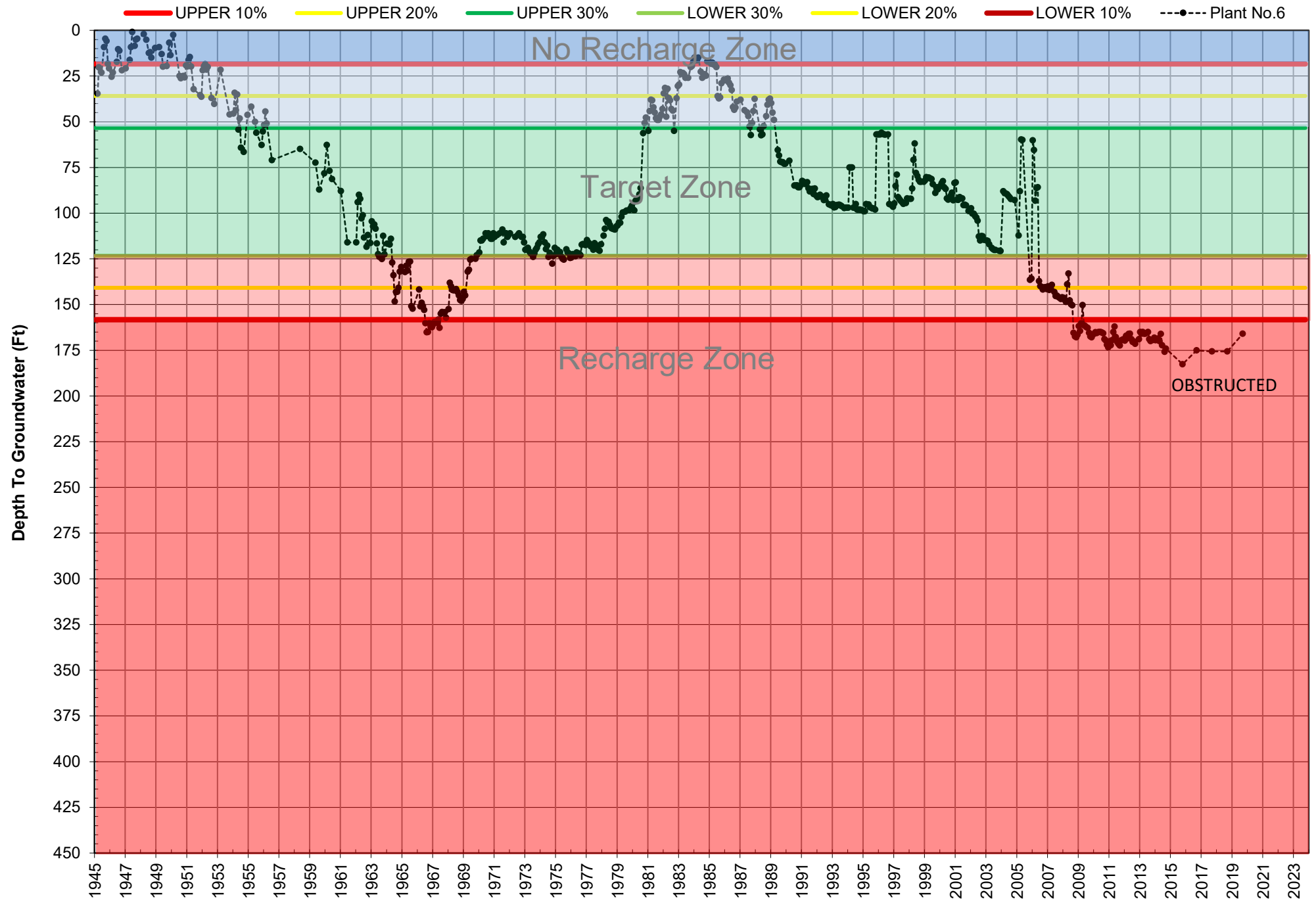


# Waterman Ave. Index Well Hydrograph



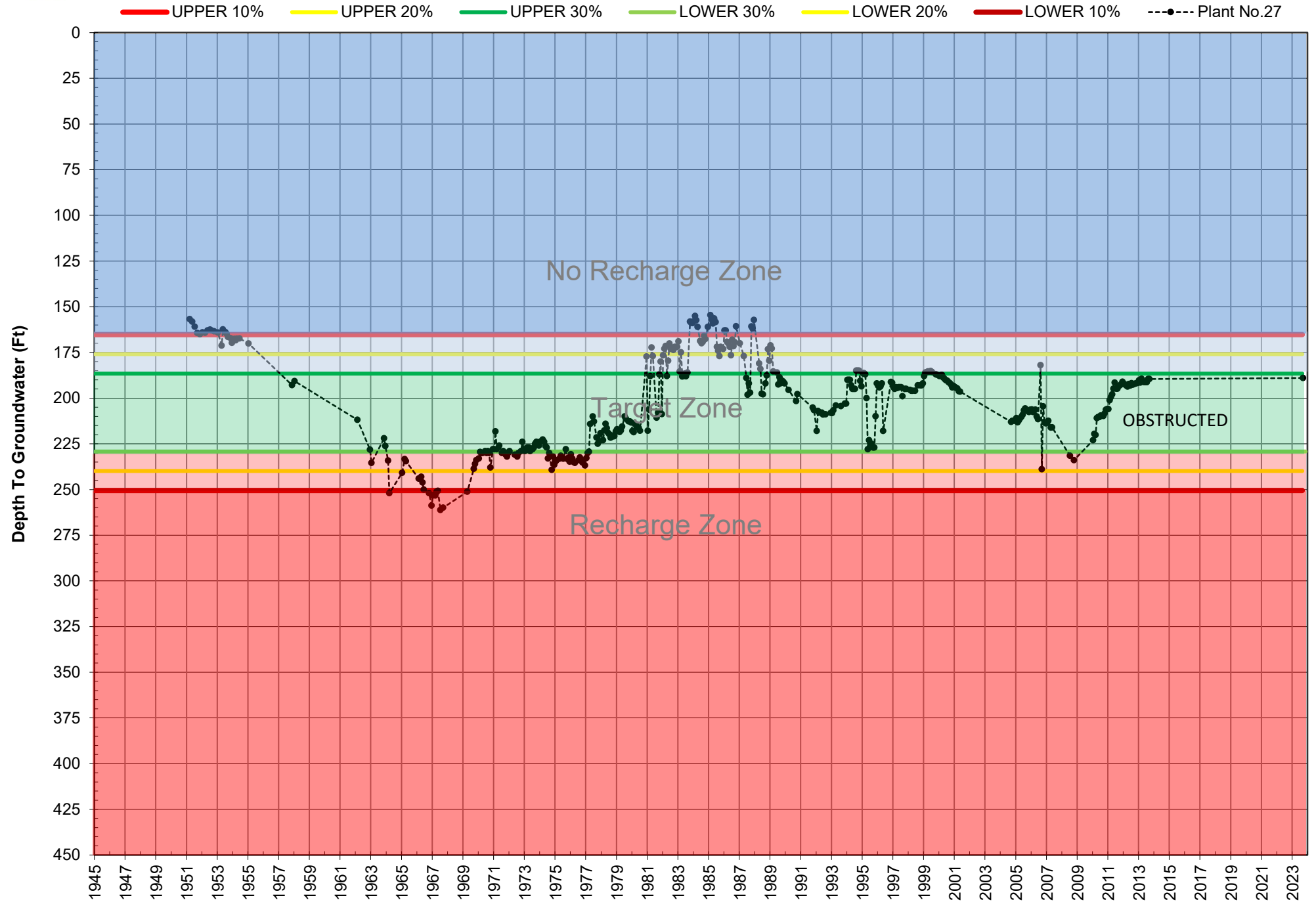


# Plant No. 6 Index Well Hydrograph



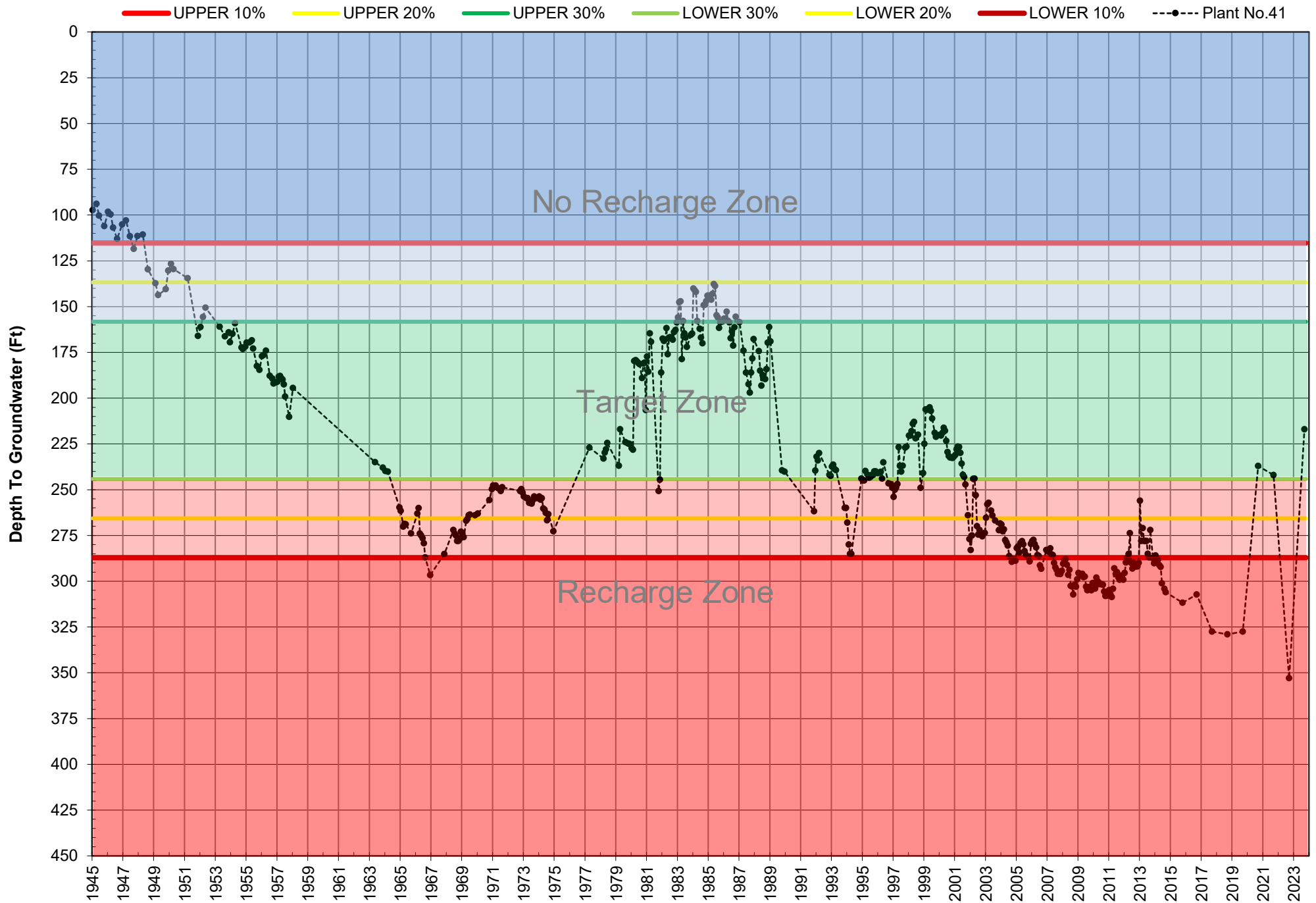


# Plant No. 27 Index Well Hydrograph



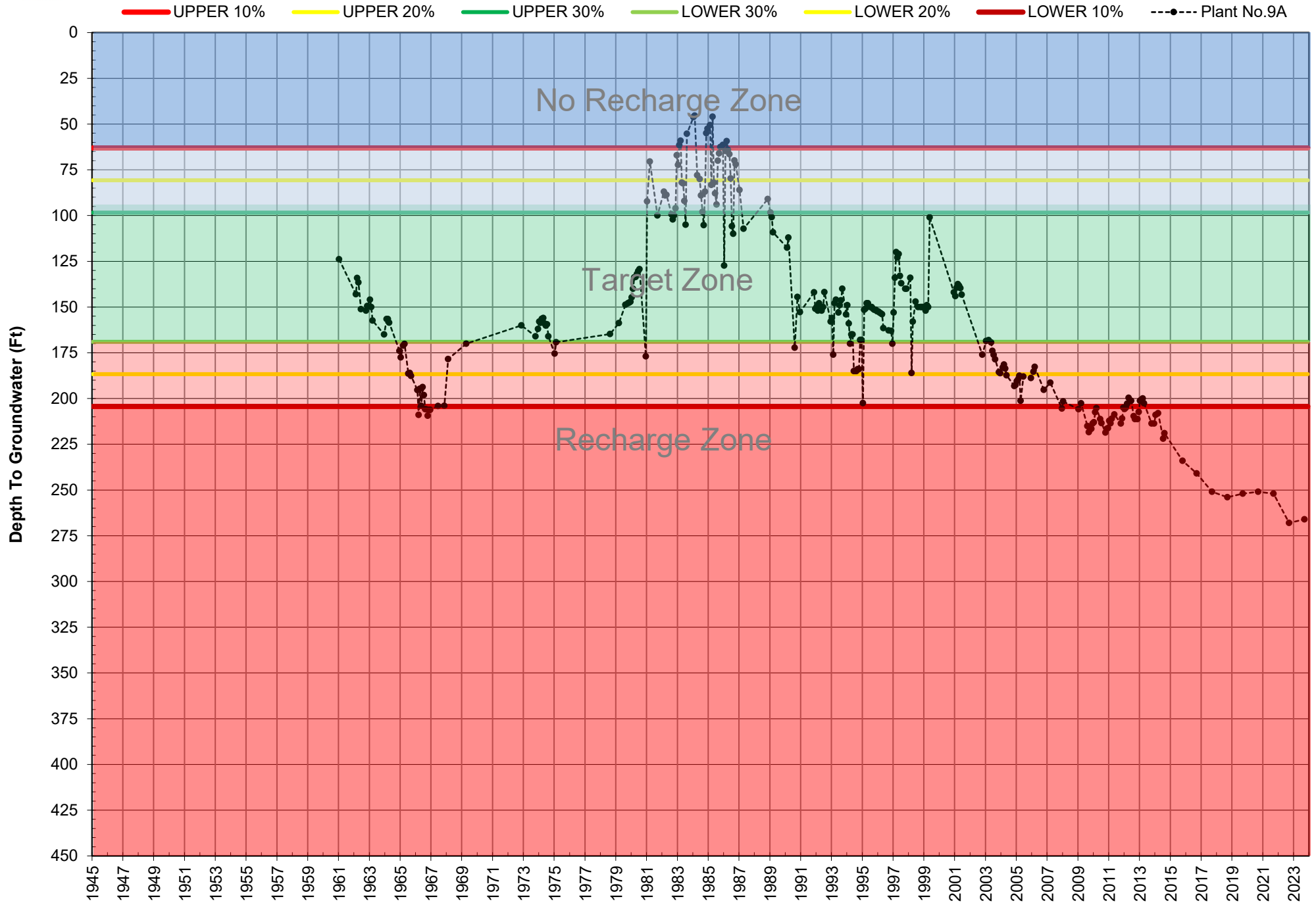


# Plant No. 41 Index Well Hydrograph



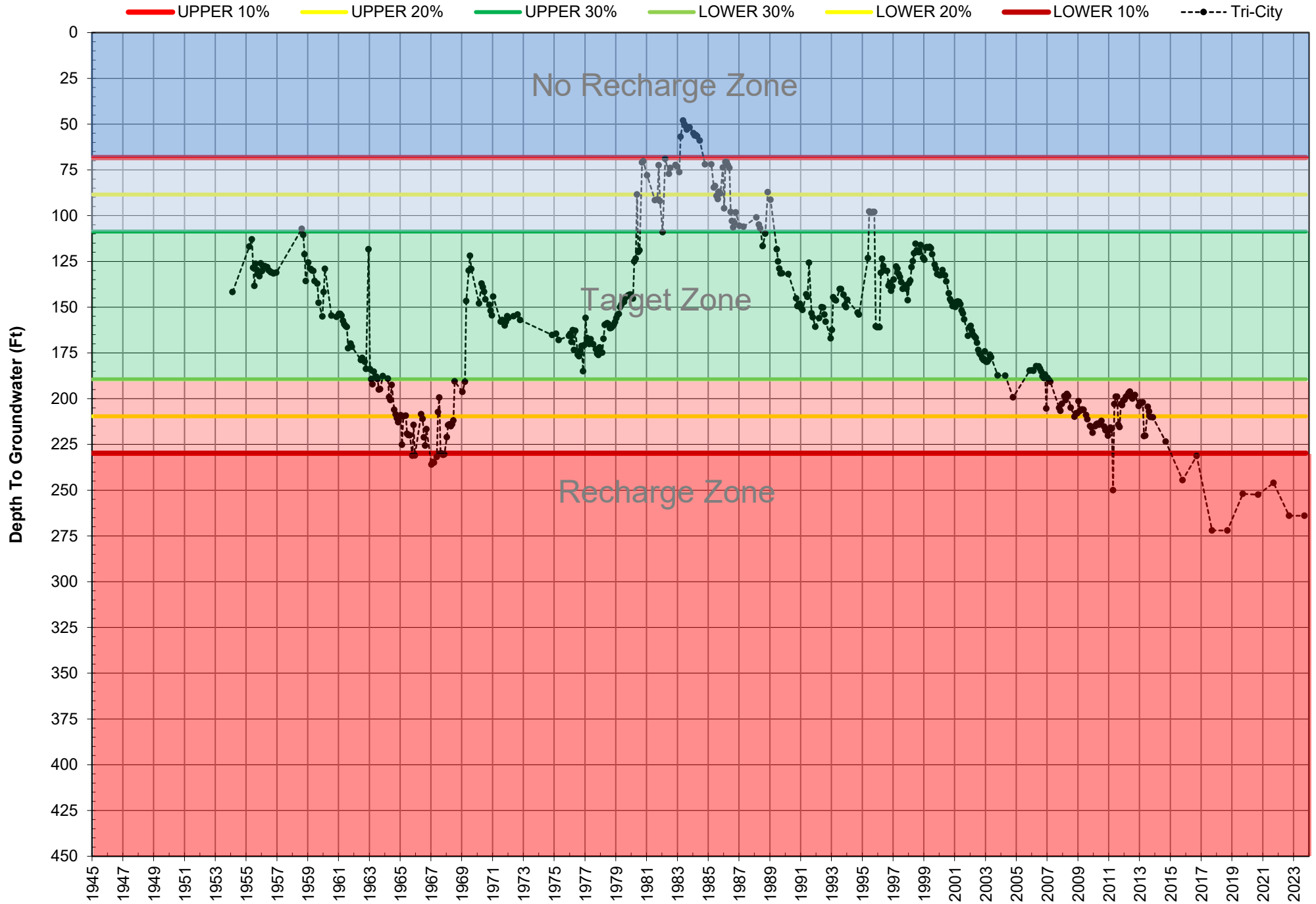


# Plant No. 9A Index Well Hydrograph



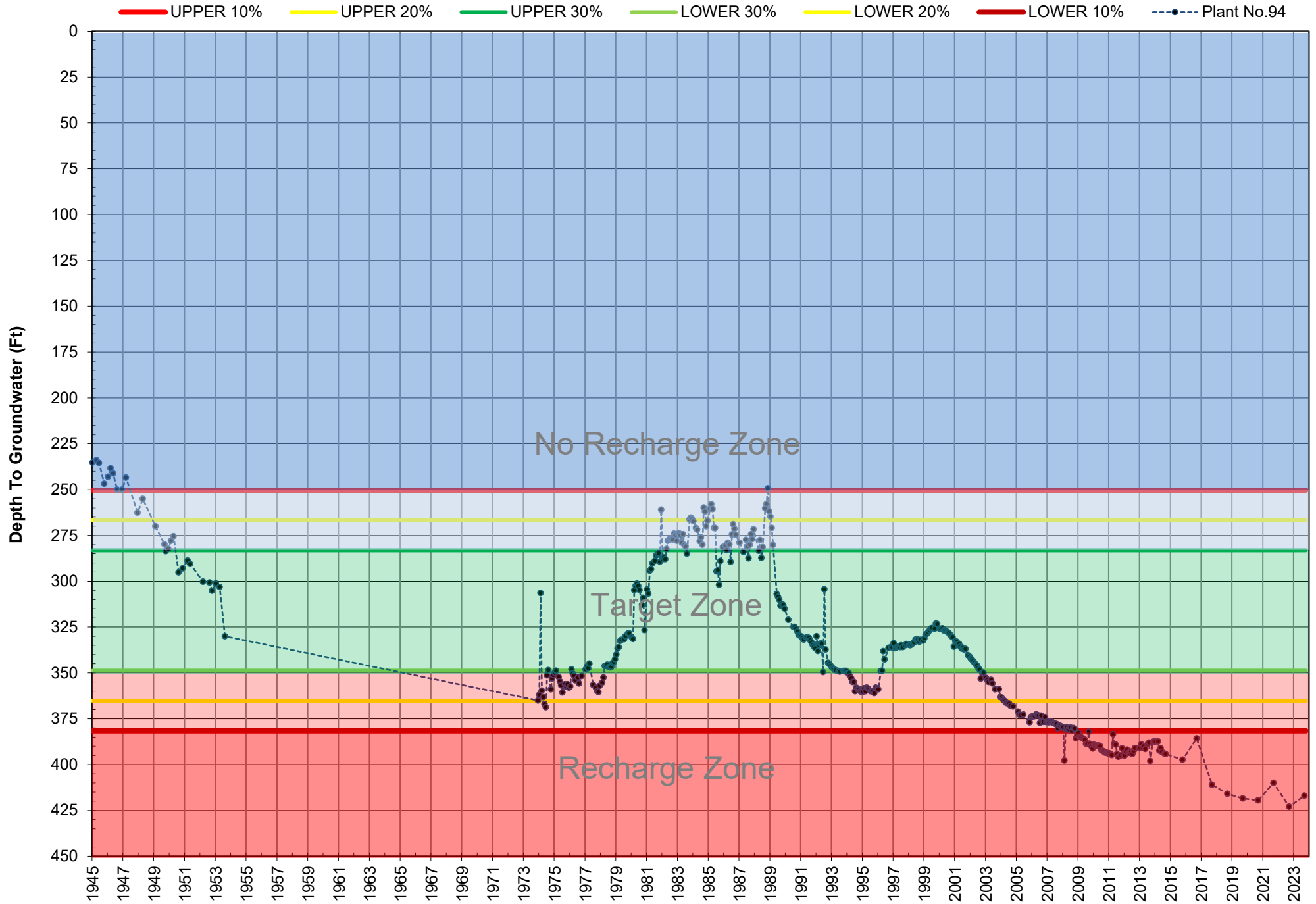


# Tri City Index Well Hydrograph



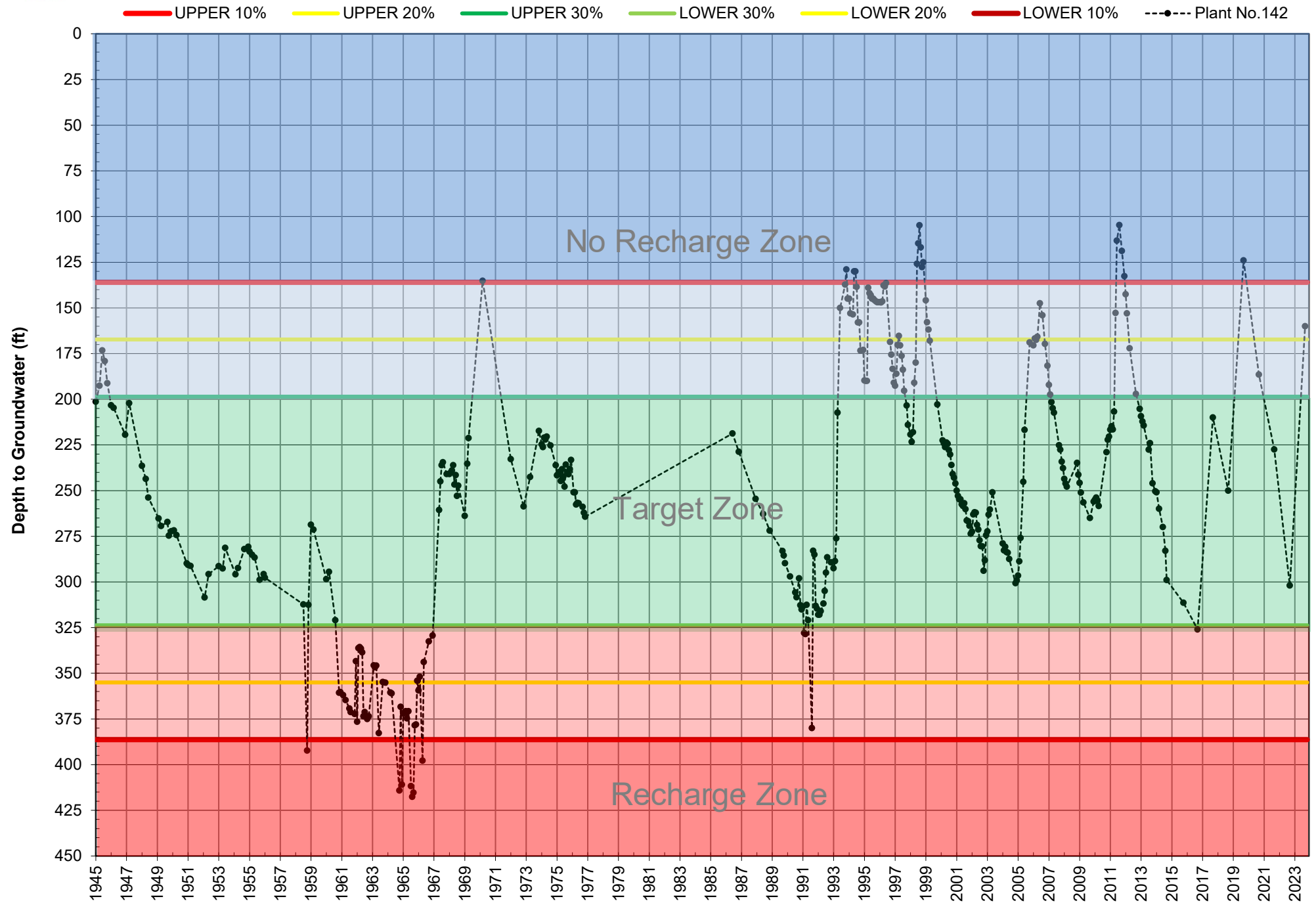


# Plant No. 94 Index Well Hydrograph



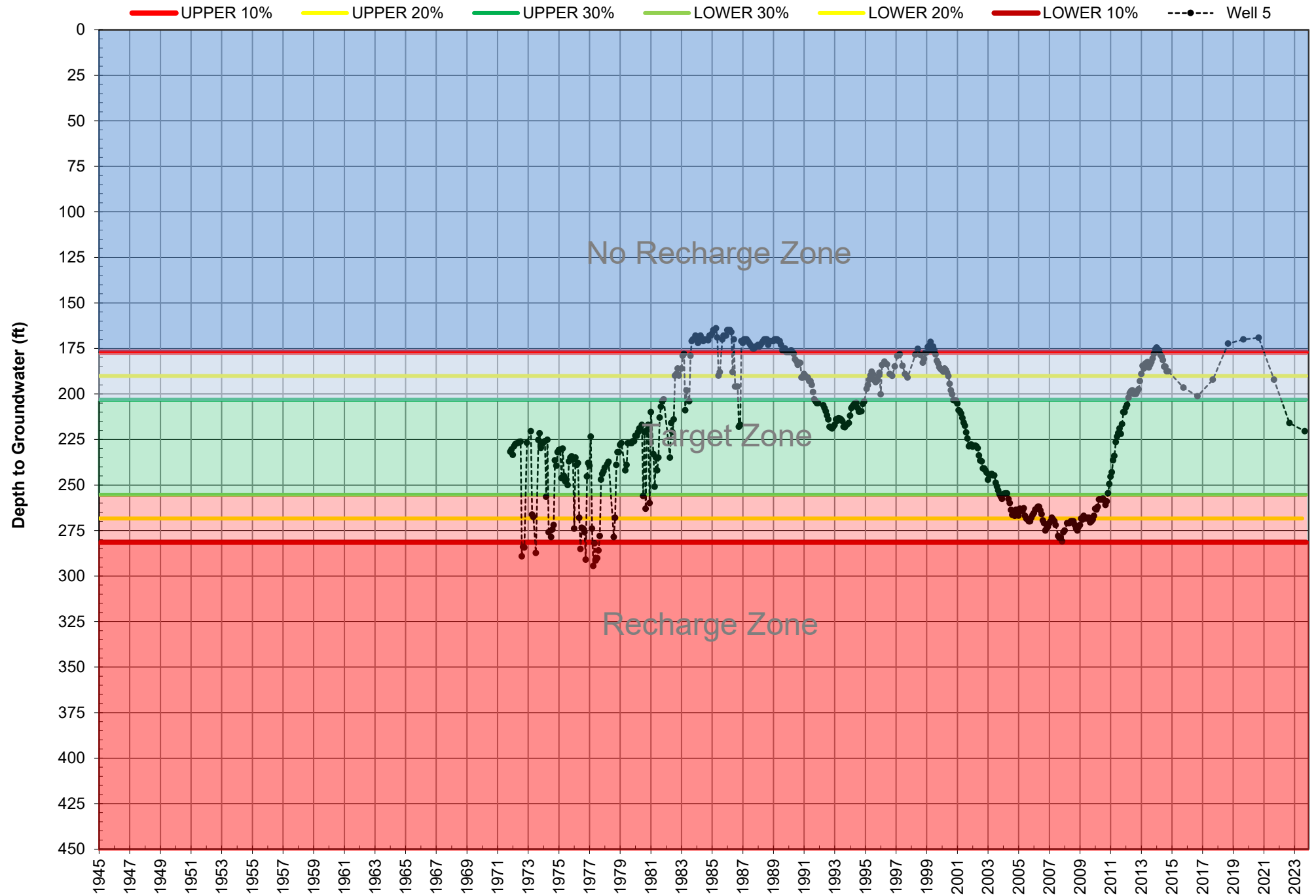






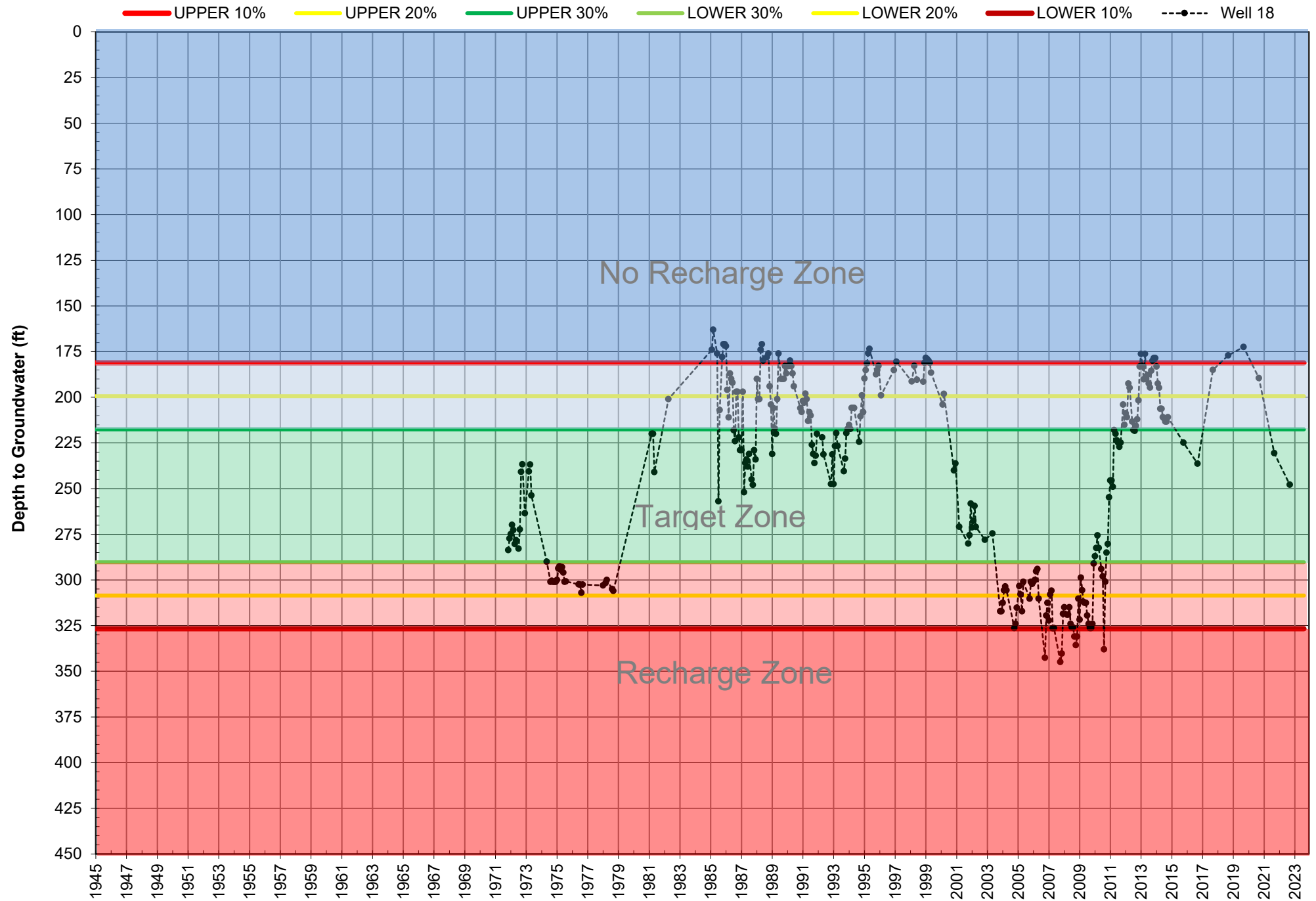


# Well #5 Index Well Hydrograph



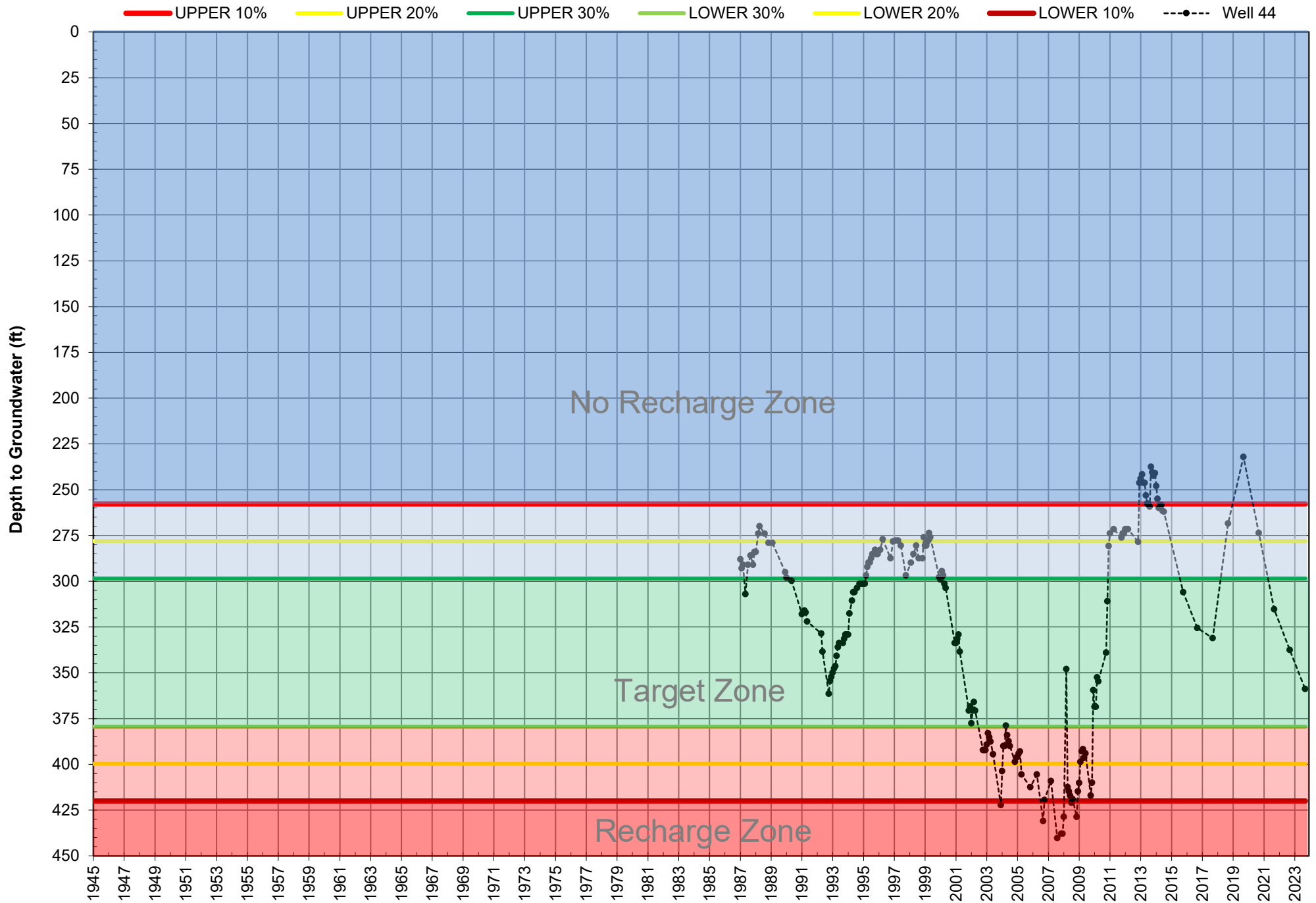


# Well #18 Index Well Hydrograph



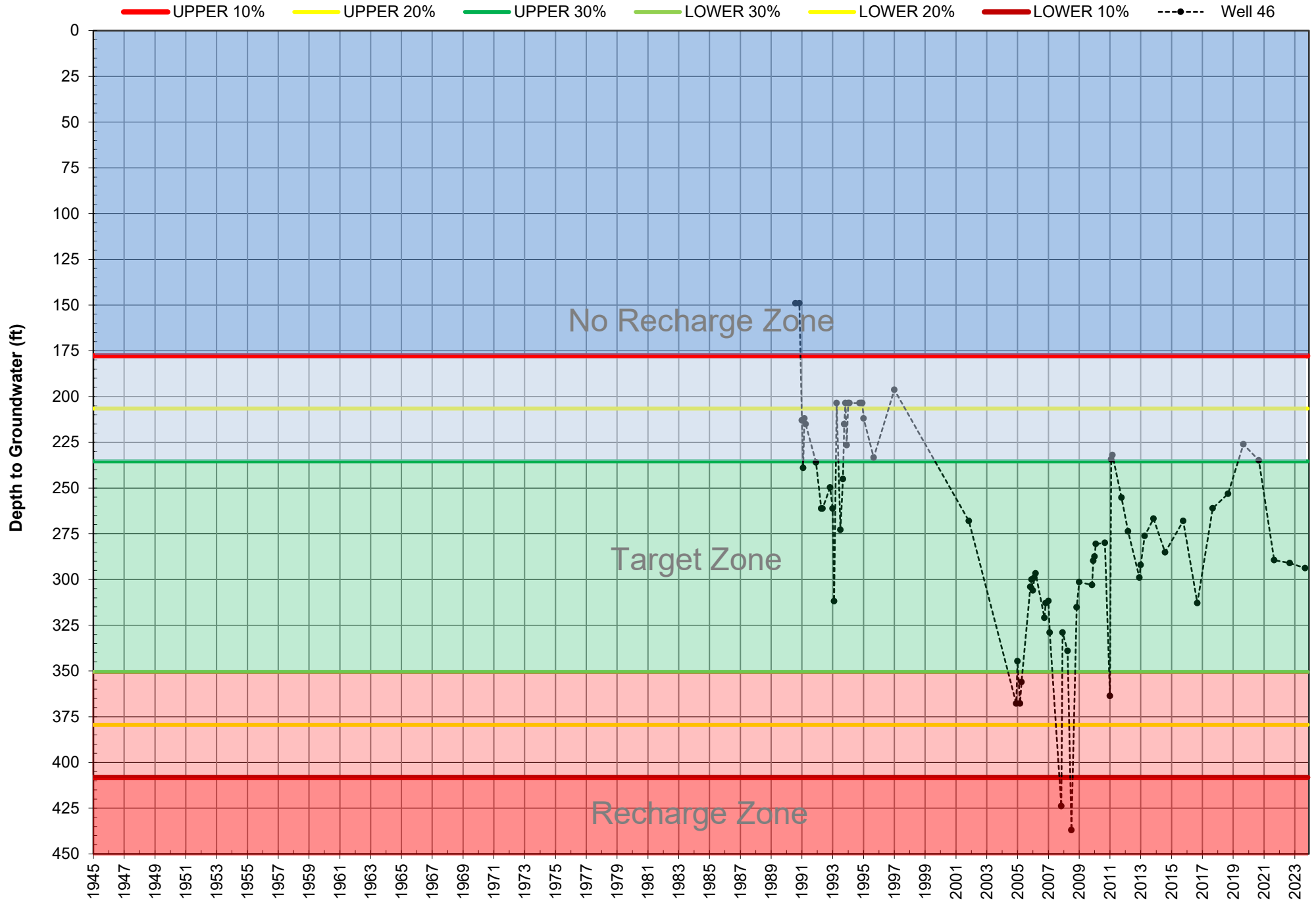


# Well #44 Index Well Hydrograph



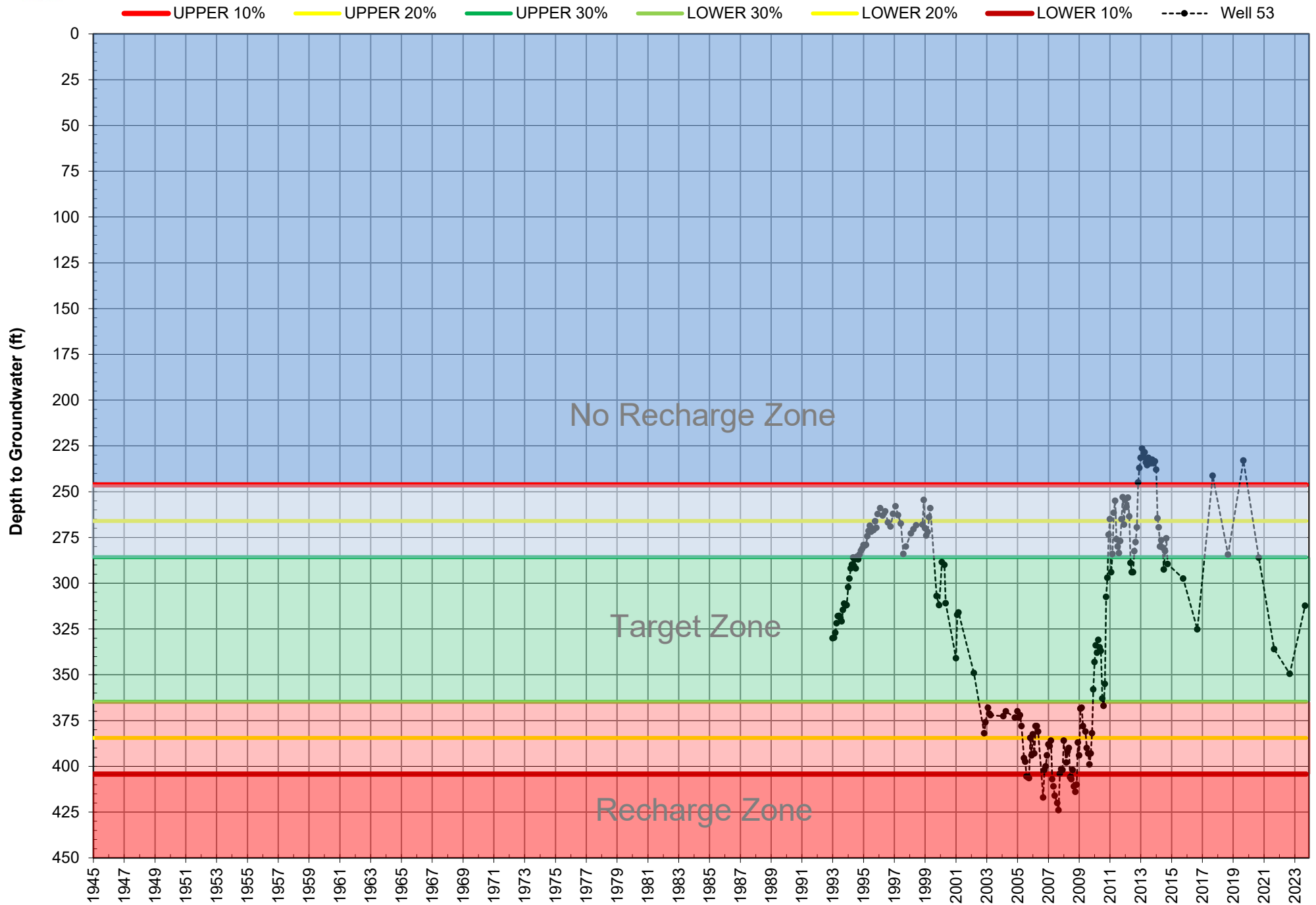


# Well #46 Index Well Hydrograph



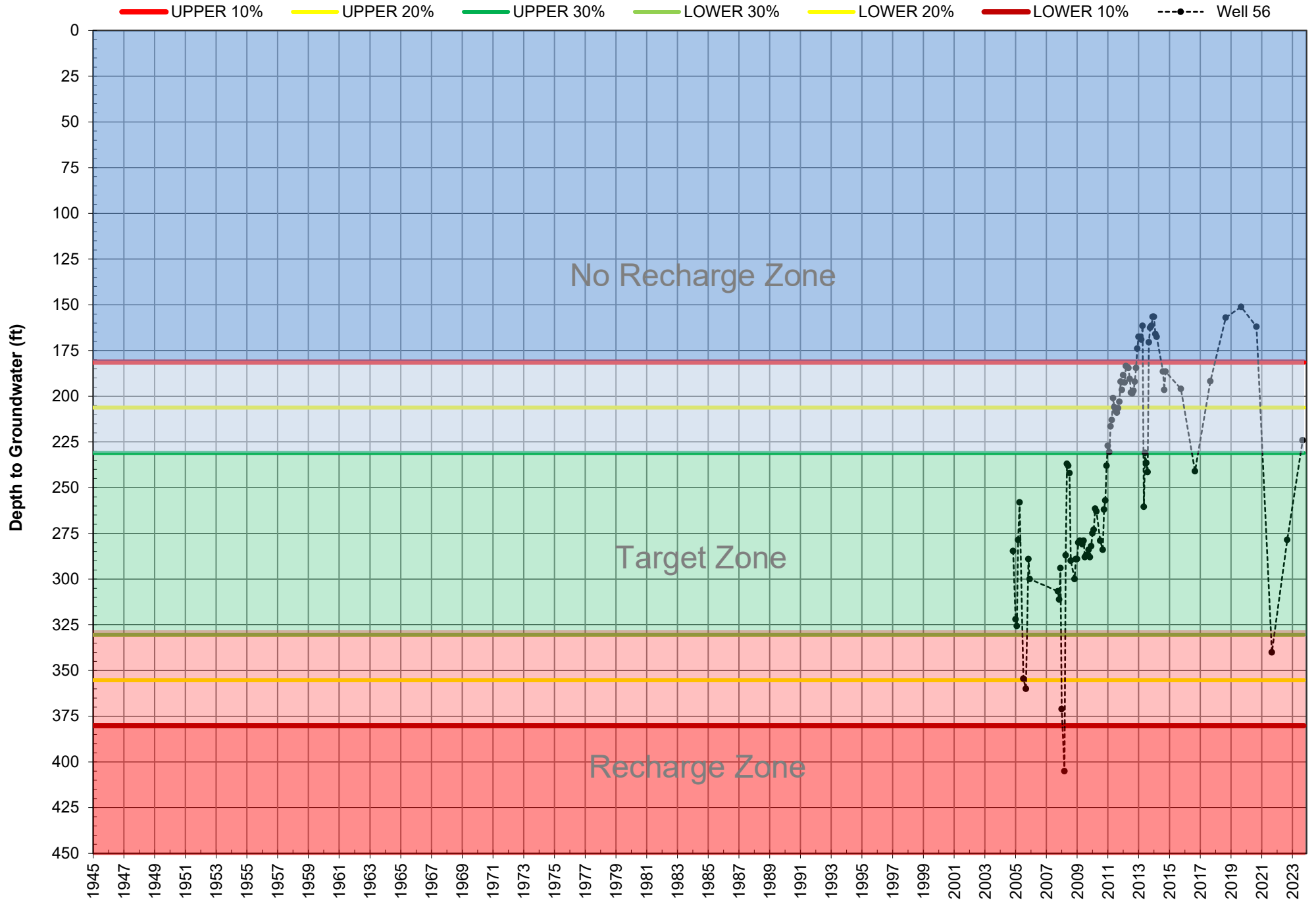


# Well #53 Index Well Hydrograph





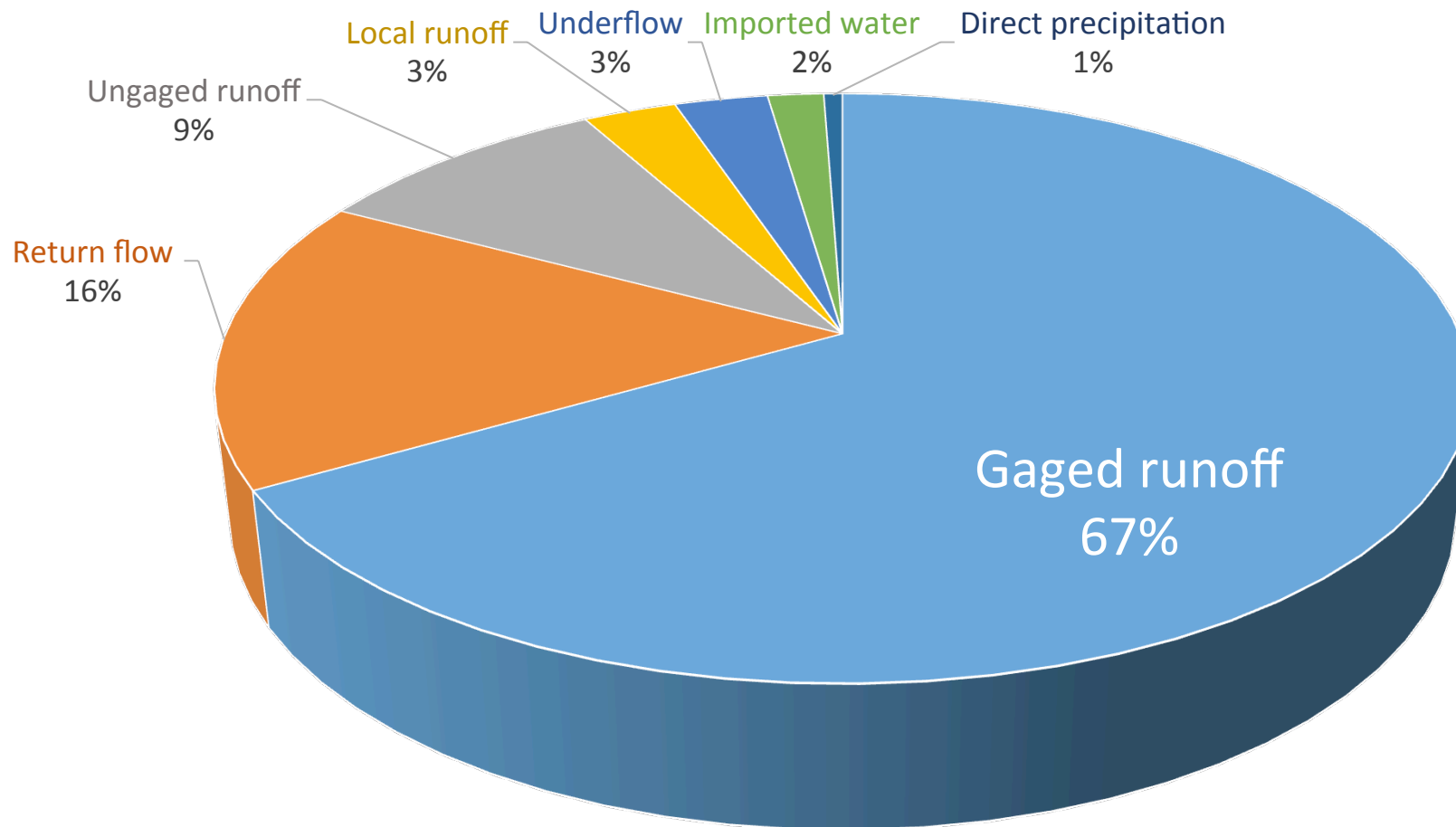
# Well #56 Index Well Hydrograph





## **E. PRECIPITATION DATA**

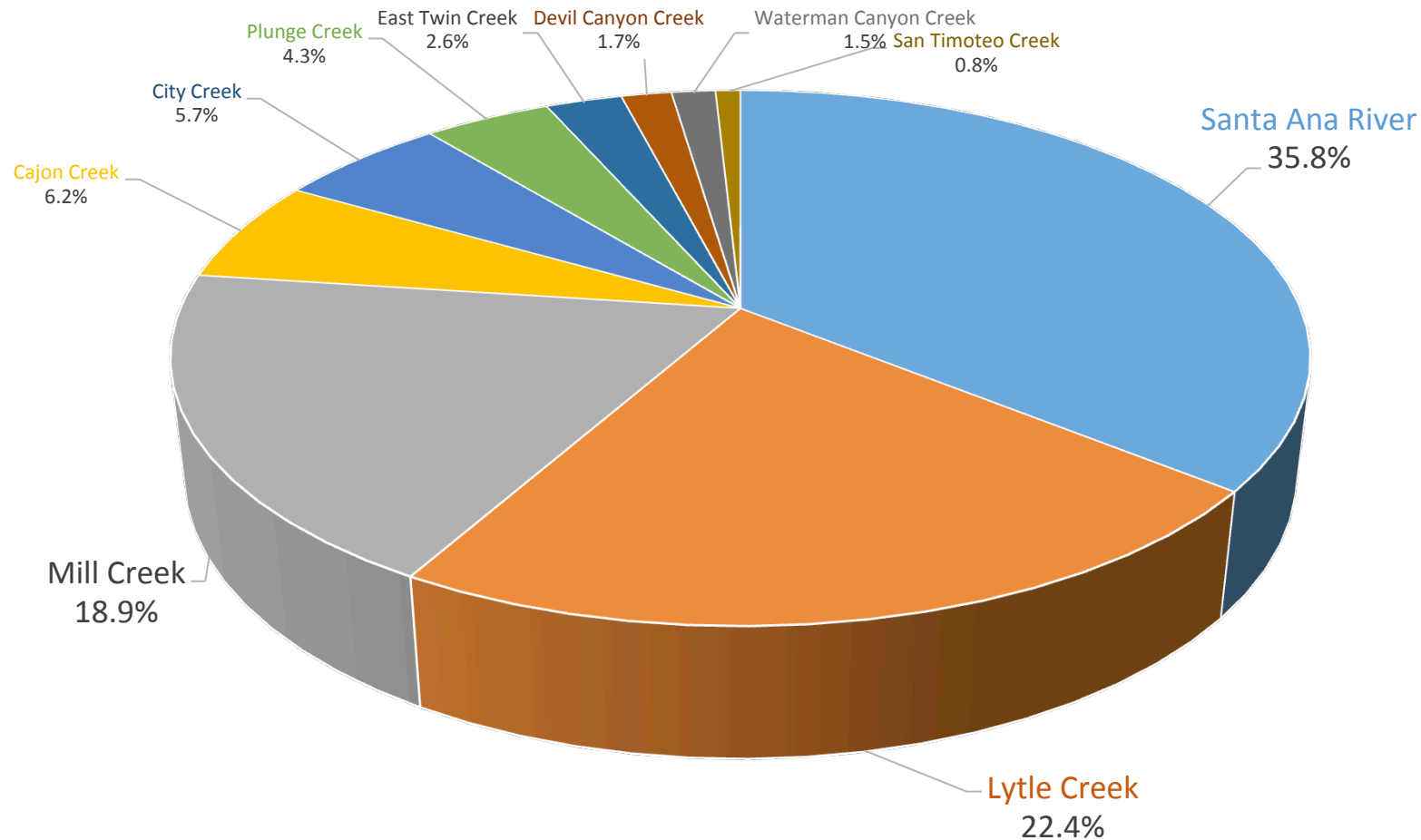
## Average Recharge for the SBB (1945-1998)



Most (67%) of the recharge is from gaged runoff.

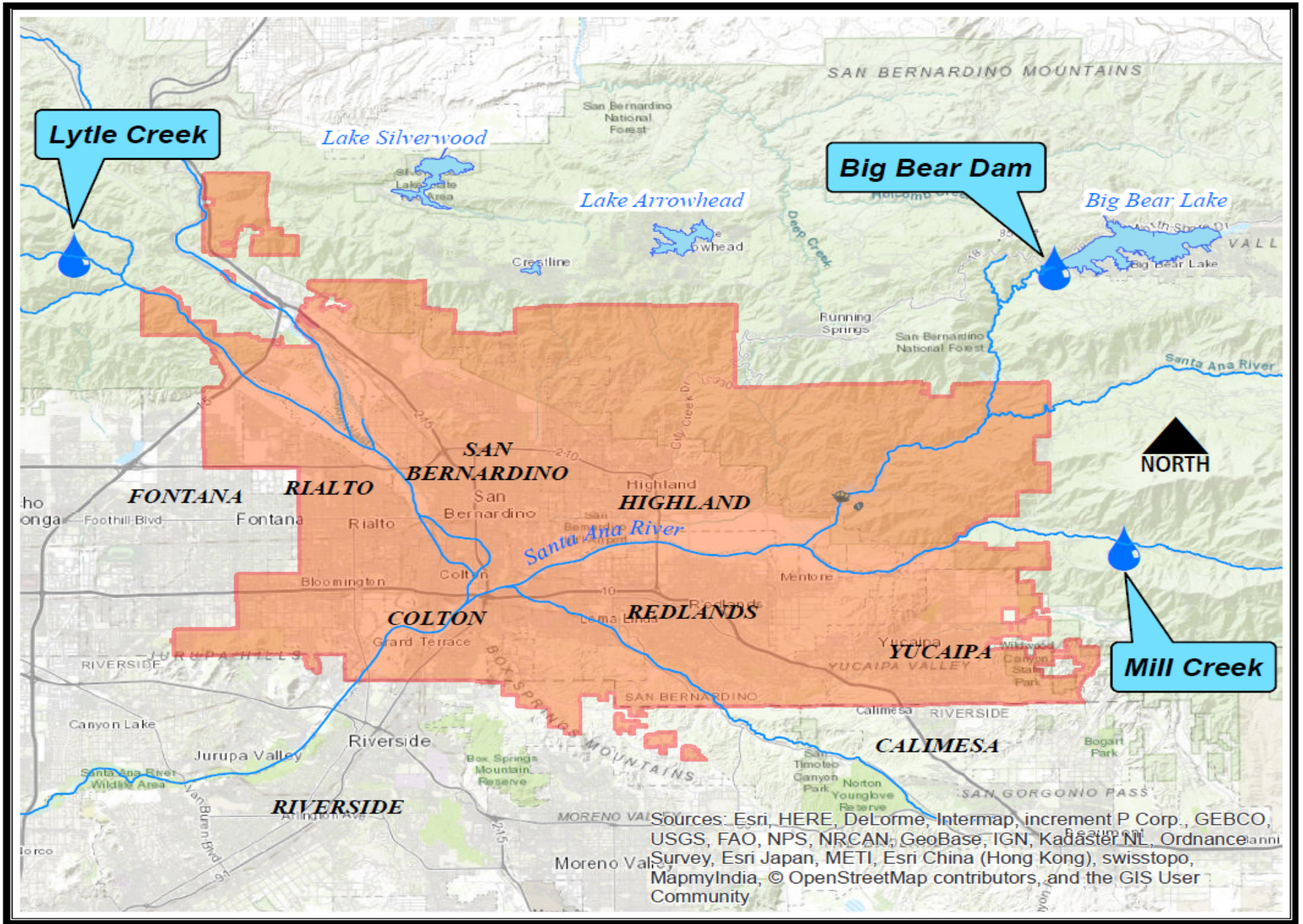
Source: USGS Professional Paper 1734

# Average Annual Discharge of Gaged Streams Flowing into the SBB (1945-1998)



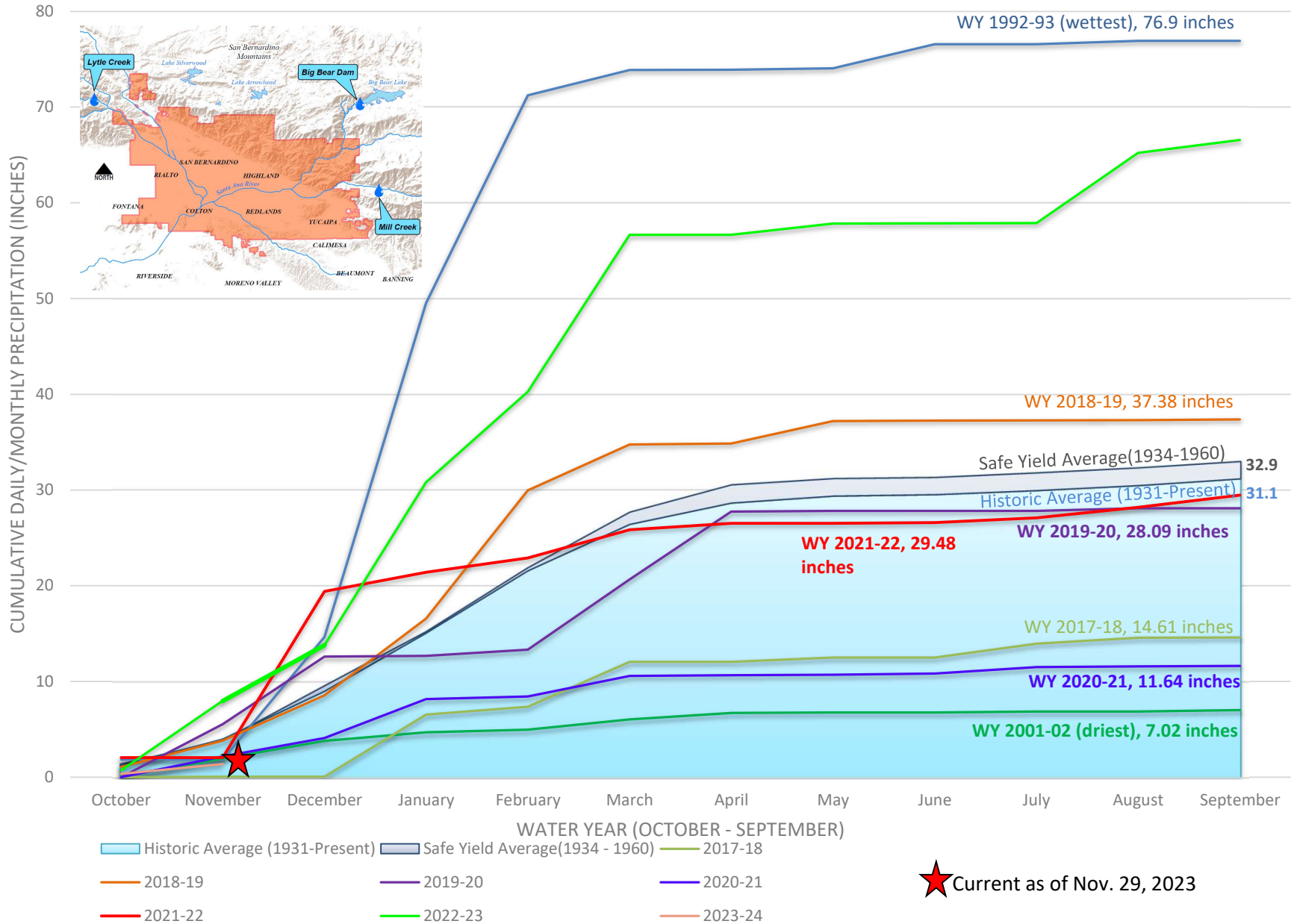
The Santa Ana River, Lytle Creek and Mill Creek contribute approximately 50% of the recharge (77% x 67%).

## Precipitation Index: Average of Gages in Lytle, Santa Ana and Mill Creek Watersheds



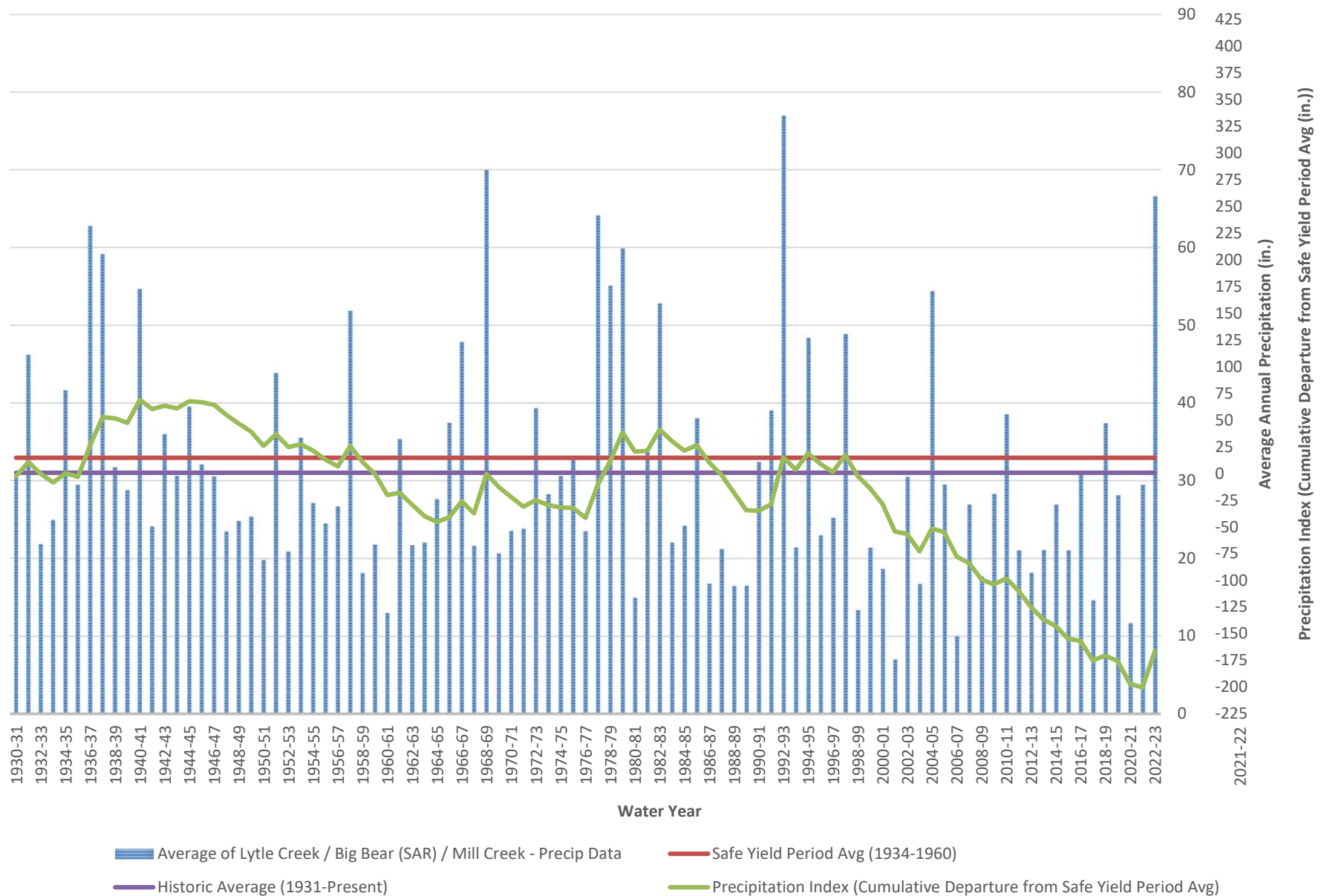


# San Bernardino Basin Three Station Precipitation Index



★ Current as of Nov. 29, 2023

# SAN BERNARDINO BASIN PRECIPITATION INDEX



## **F. ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE THRESHOLD FOR THE SAN BERNARDINO BASIN**

# Artificial Recharge Threshold in the San Bernardino Basin, 2024

Usable Storage	5,690,000
Water in Storage, 2022 Change in Storage Report	4,658,475
Space Available for Recharge	1,031,525

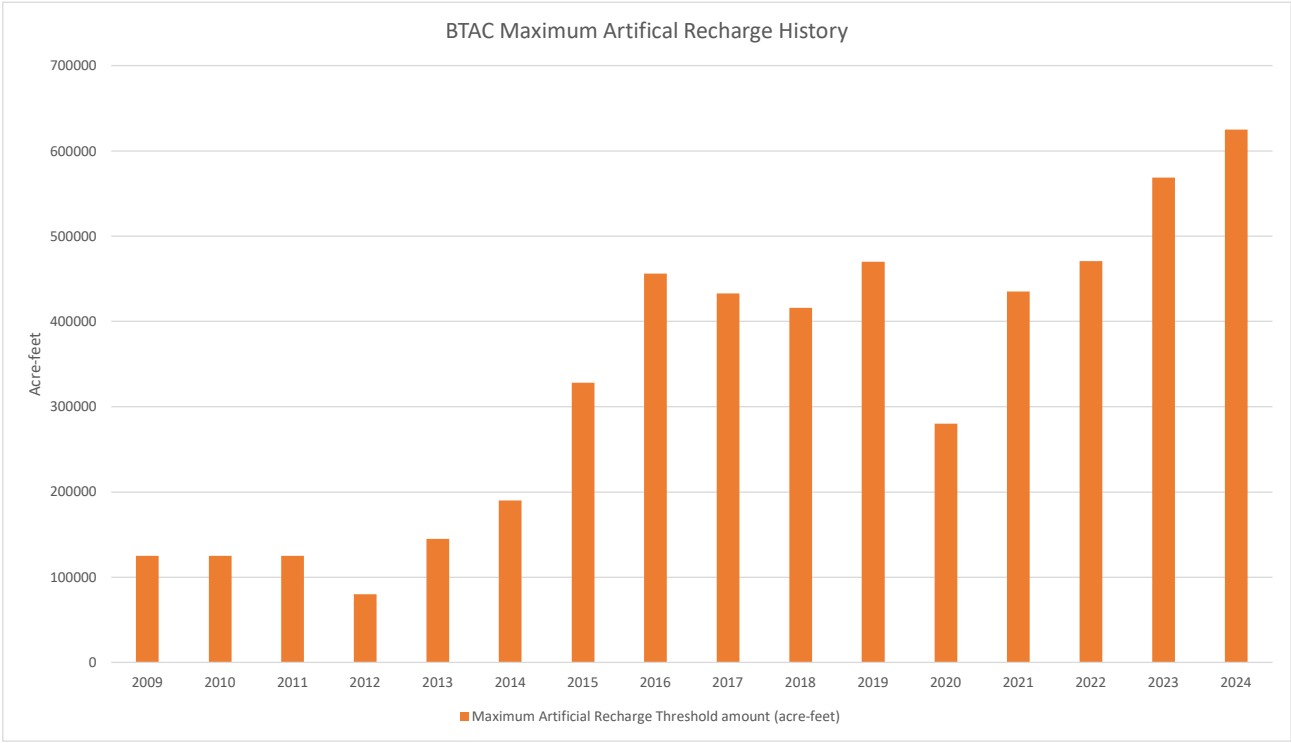
<u>Preserve space for local rainfall</u>	
Assume average year 2024	72,000
Assume wet year 2025 (1969)	295,000
	367,000

<u>Anticipated imported water in 2024 for SBB Recharge</u>	40,000
	40,000

ESTIMATED SPACE FOR ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE	624,525
---	---------

<b>Artificial Recharge Threshold*</b>	<b>625,000 A/F</b>
---------------------------------------	--------------------

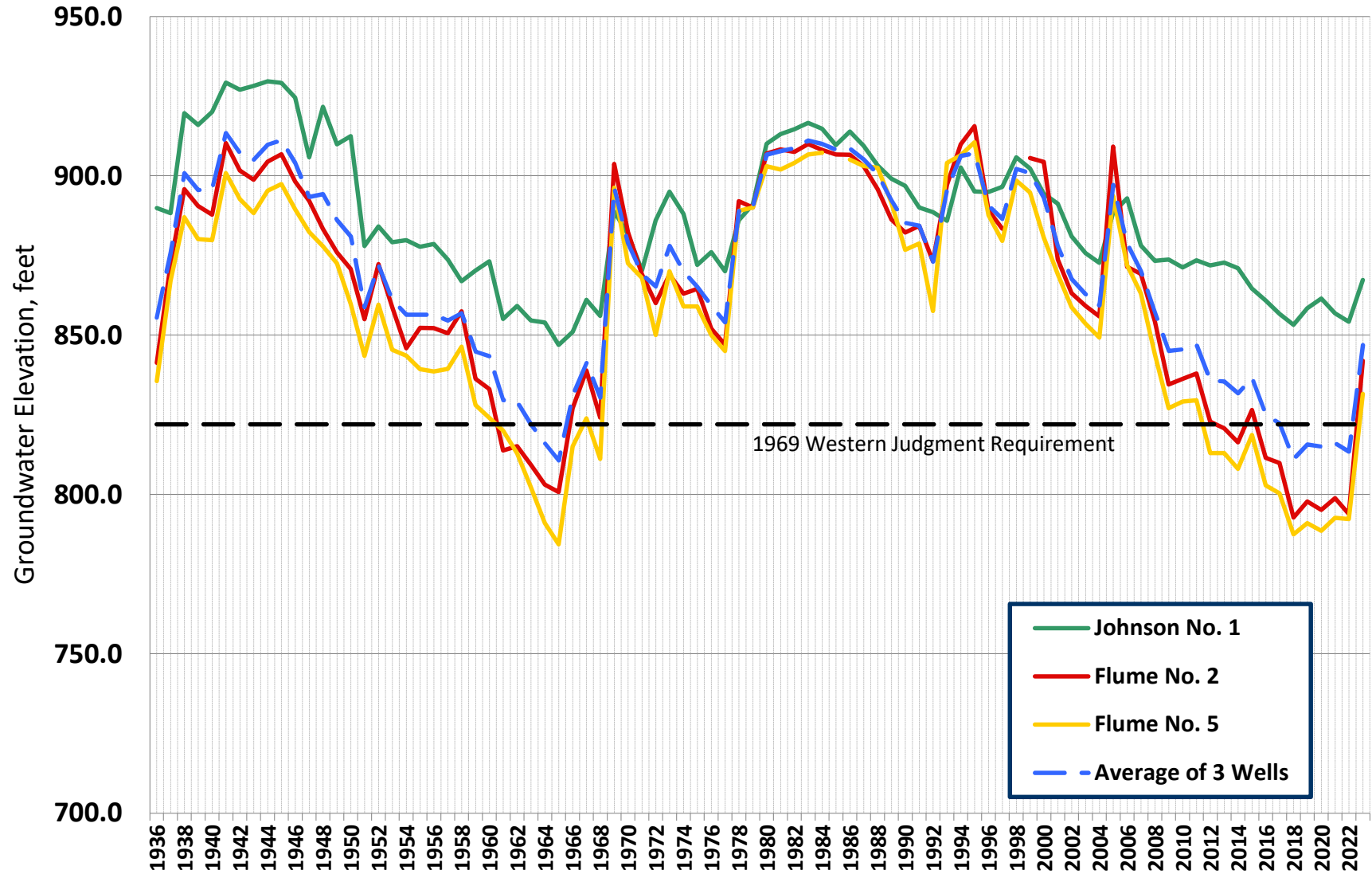
Original modeling result from 2009 varies from 125,000 to 190,000 AF





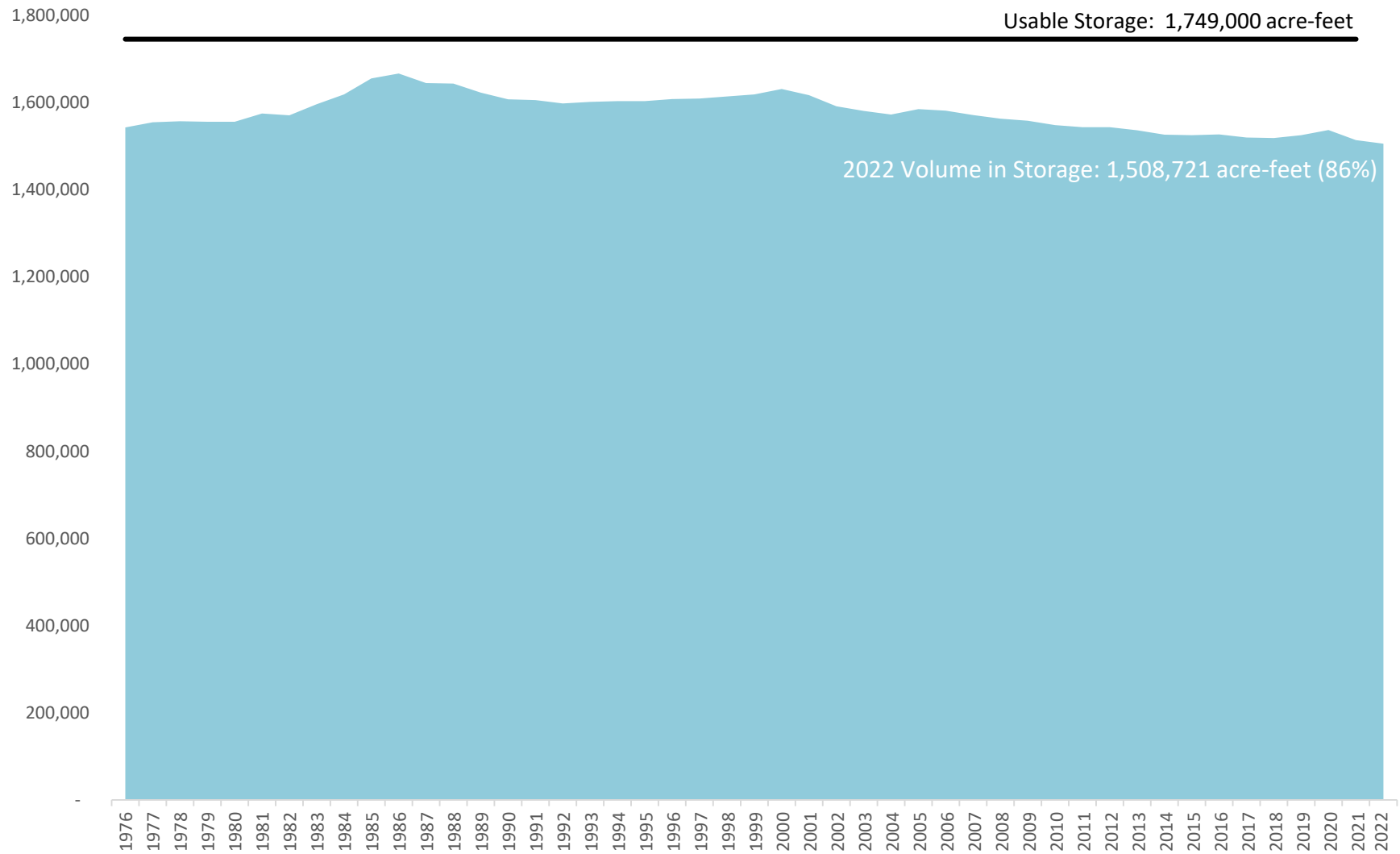
# **G. COLTON BASIN AND RIVERSIDE BASIN**

SBVMWD Rialto-Colton Basin Compliance Hydrograph  
1969 Western Judgment



Measurement between Nov 6 and 10, 2023

Figure 5: Rialto-Colton Basin Change in  
Storage Results (in acre-feet)



## **H. SUBSIDENCE**

**To:** Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC)

**From:** Management Tools Subcommittee

**Subject:** Subsidence

References:

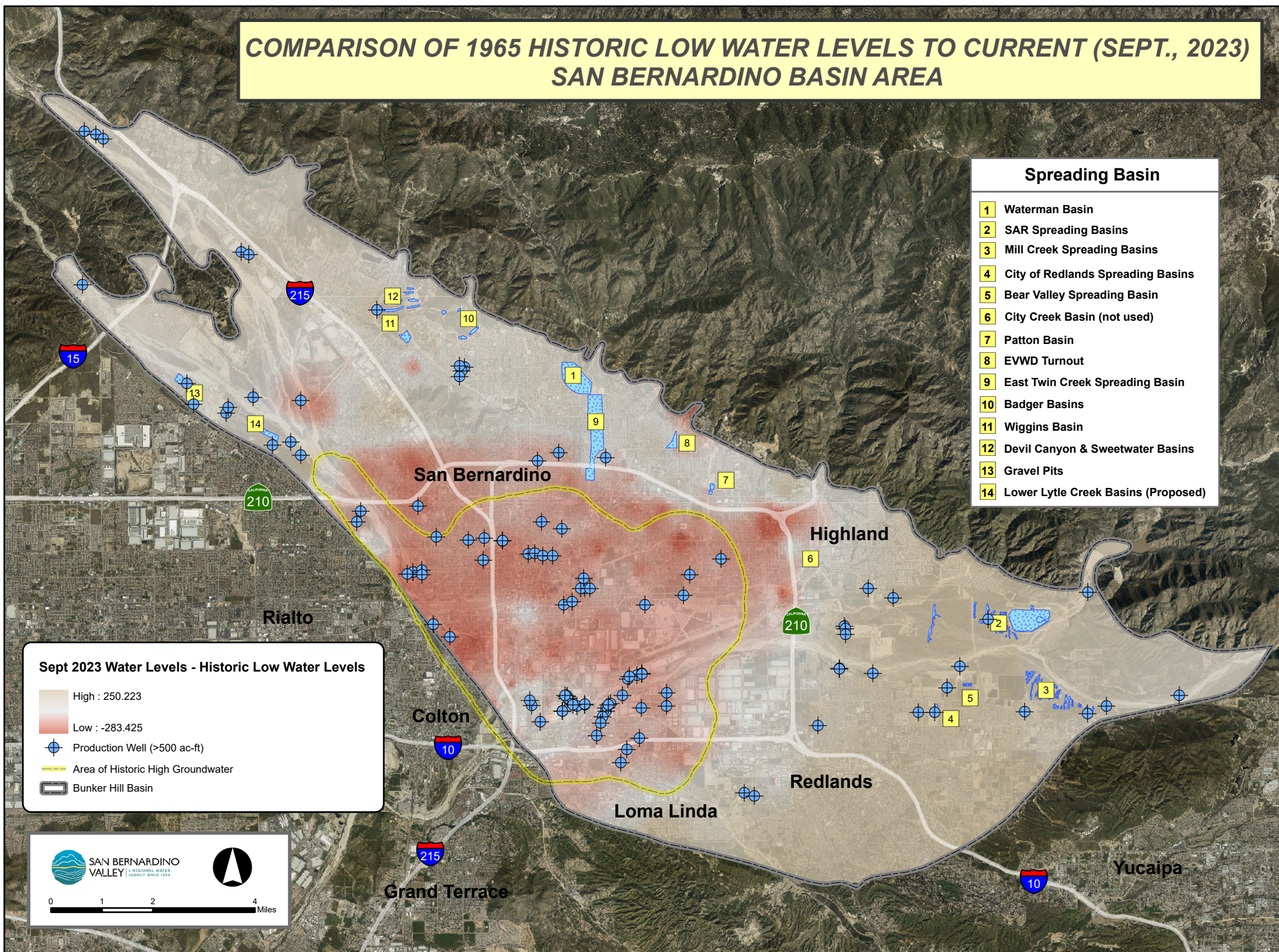
- a. USGS Fact Sheet 165-00, December 2000
- b. Evaluation and Prediction of Subsidence, ASCE Conference, January 1978.
- c. USGS Land Subsidence in the United States, Circular 1182, 1999.

The Management Tools Subcommittee (Subcommittee) references the above-mentioned documents regarding subsidence. According to these documents, most land subsidence occurs in clay layers that have been “newly” dewatered. Therefore, the “at risk areas” for subsidence in the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA) would generally be classified as any area where a clay layer has been dewatered below the lowest recorded water level.

The attached map shows any areas that are newly dewatered (experienced water levels below 1965 levels). Also attached is a cross-section through a portion of the newly dewatered area showing the anticipated geology. Since there is no one on the BTAC that feels qualified to make a determination regarding subsidence risk, it is left to the reader to draw their own conclusions from the provided data.



# COMPARISON OF 1965 HISTORIC LOW WATER LEVELS TO CURRENT (SEPT., 2023) SAN BERNARDINO BASIN AREA





# REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2023 Subsidence Risk Areas

### Wells used in Cross Section A-A'

- 0 Meadowbrook Park
- 1 30th and Mt View
- 2 27th St and Acacia St
- 3 Hanford No 1
- 4 Lynwood Well
- 5 Waterman Avenue
- 6 Gilbert Street
- 7 Mill and D
- 8 Perris Hill No 5
- 9 31st and Mt View
- 10 23rd St and E St
- 11 7th St
- 12 10th and J St
- 13 17th and Sierra Way No 2
- 14 40th St
- 15 EPA Well No 1
- 16 EPA Well No 3
- 17 EPA Well No 5
- 18 Chandler
- 19 Backyard
- 20 East Twin (Inactive)
- 21 Sierra High School
- 22 Century Well

### Subsidence Indicator Wells

- No Subsidence Risk
- Subsidence Risk
- Shallow Monitoring Wells
- Section Line A-A'
- - - AHHG Boundary
- Spreading Basins
- SBBA Boundary



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles





# **I. DEWATERING CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE AREA OF HISTORIC HIGH GROUNDWATER**

**To:** Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC)

**From:** Engineering Subcommittee

**Date:** November 2014

**Subject:** Dewatering Contingency Plan for  
the Area of Historic High Groundwater

Reference:

1. Appendix B – BTAC Management Plan: Should we artificially recharge? Do we need extra production?
2. Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

In the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA) on the northeast side of the San Jacinto fault, there are approximately 1,200 feet of unconsolidated and partly consolidated water-bearing deposits. In the area between Warm Creek and the Santa Ana River, the upper confining member of this aquifer acts to restrict vertical flow, causing semi-confined conditions in the upper 50 to 100 feet of saturated materials (Dutcher and Garrett 1963). This area is considered the Pressure Zone of and is also referred to as the Area of Historic High Groundwater (AHHG). Historically, this area has experienced very shallow groundwater conditions, flowing artesian at times. Water levels this shallow have damaged building foundations, flooded basements and utility structures and increased the potential for liquefaction during an earthquake in this seismically active region.



*The San Bernardino Basin area has unusually high groundwater levels in its history. This photo shows an artesian well.*

High groundwater in the AHHG is further aggravated by the direction of groundwater flow in the San Bernardino Basin Area, which is generally in a southwesterly direction from the San Bernardino Mountains to the San Jacinto fault. The fault zone generally runs perpendicular to the groundwater flow and acts as a barrier, or partial barrier, causing the groundwater to “pool up” behind the fault and rise upward toward the land surface.

One of the objectives of the *Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* was to develop tools that might be used by water agencies to manage the groundwater levels in the Pressure Zone to reduce the risk of liquefaction. The regional groundwater flow model, the BTAC annual water management plan which establishes a threshold for artificial recharge to help prevent high groundwater (levels shallower than 50 feet from ground surface) from recurring and the BTAC monthly statement that reviews water levels in the AHHG are examples of these types of tools.

During the high groundwater conditions in the 1980s, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, in partnership with the retail water agencies, developed the *Pilot Dewatering Program* (Program). This Program primarily involved the use of existing wells to pump water from the AHHG for delivery to the Santa Ana River and, ultimately, to Orange County Water District (OCWD). The water was delivered to OCWD because, at the time, there was not enough demand in the upper watershed.

In 2013, the BTAC Engineering Subcommittee developed the next iteration of the Pilot Dewatering Program, the *Dewatering Contingency Plan for the Area of Historic High Groundwater* (Contingency Plan). Like its predecessor, the goal of the Contingency Plan is to identify existing wells that could be utilized during high groundwater conditions to pump additional water from the AHHG and to identify agencies that could take delivery of this water. The City of San Bernardino and the City of Riverside have identified existing facilities in the AHHG that could collectively produce an additional 45,000 acre-feet over what the facilities need to produce for their own customers. Three of the retail water agencies indicated they could take delivery of high groundwater as follows:

West Valley Water District: 3,700 (currently) – 12,000 (2035)

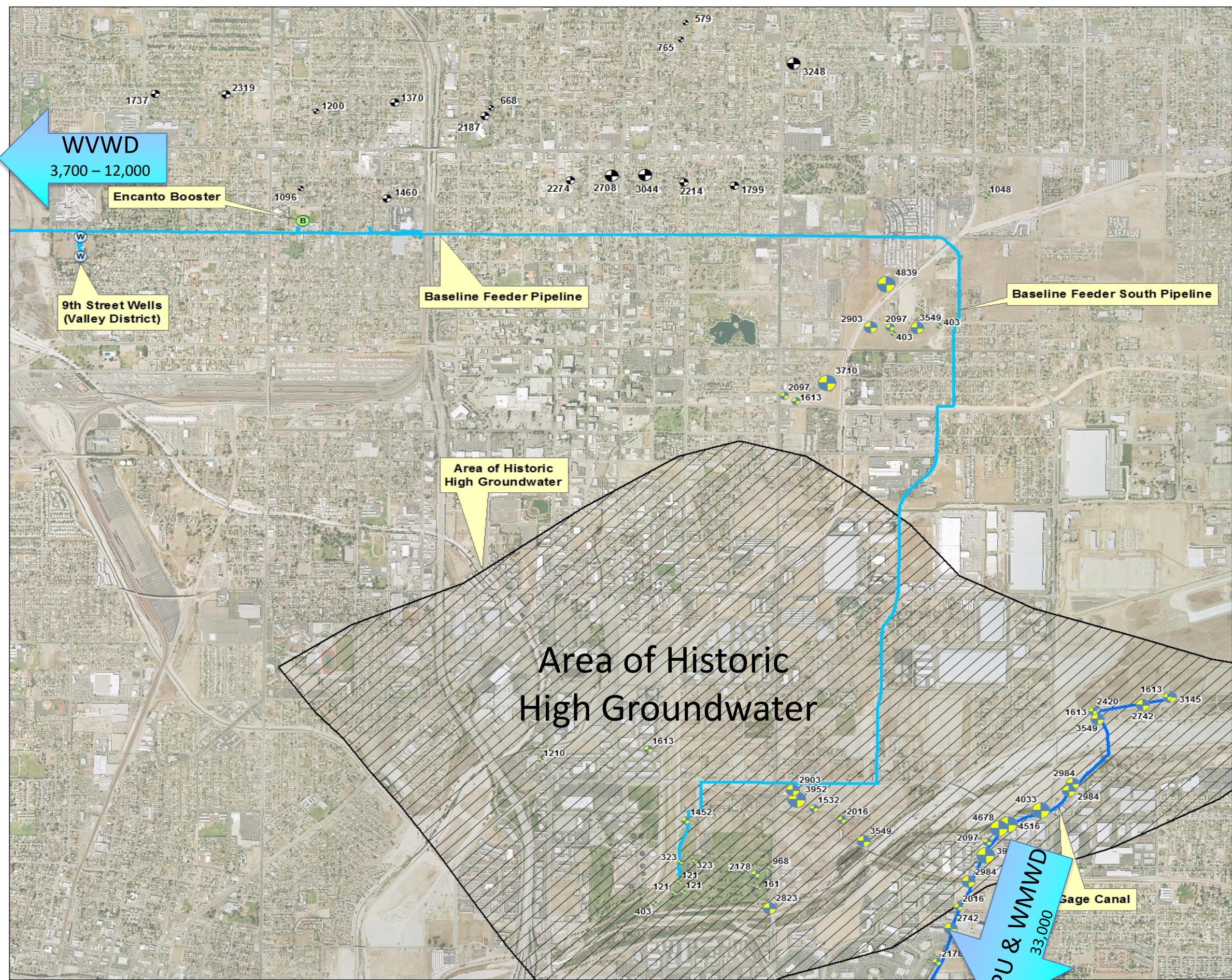
Riverside Public Utilities: 25,000

Western Municipal Water District: 8,000

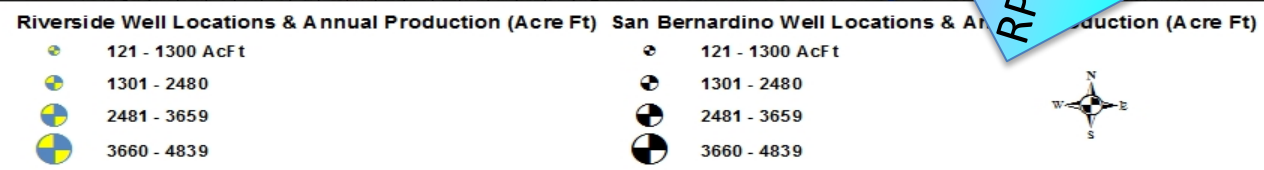
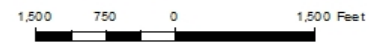
TOTAL: 36,700 (currently) – 45,000 (2035)

The attached figure summarizes the dewatering contingency plan.





## BTAC Dewatering Contingency Plan



## Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) Dewatering Contingency Plan Area of Historic High Groundwater San Bernardino Wells

Available wet year capacity: 12,000 AF  
Wet year customer: WVWD  
Customer "shifted" wet year demand:  
3,700 (2015) to 12,000 AF (2035)  
Demand shifted from: Rialto-Colton Basin

## Riverside Wells

Available wet year capacity: 33,000 AF  
Wet year customer: RPU & WMWD  
Customer "shifted" wet year demand:  
RPU 25,000 AF  
WMWD 8,000 AF  
TOTAL 33,000 AF  
Demand shifted from: Other  
groundwater supplies, imported water



## **J. YUCAIPA BASIN**

## **J. YUCAIPA BASIN**

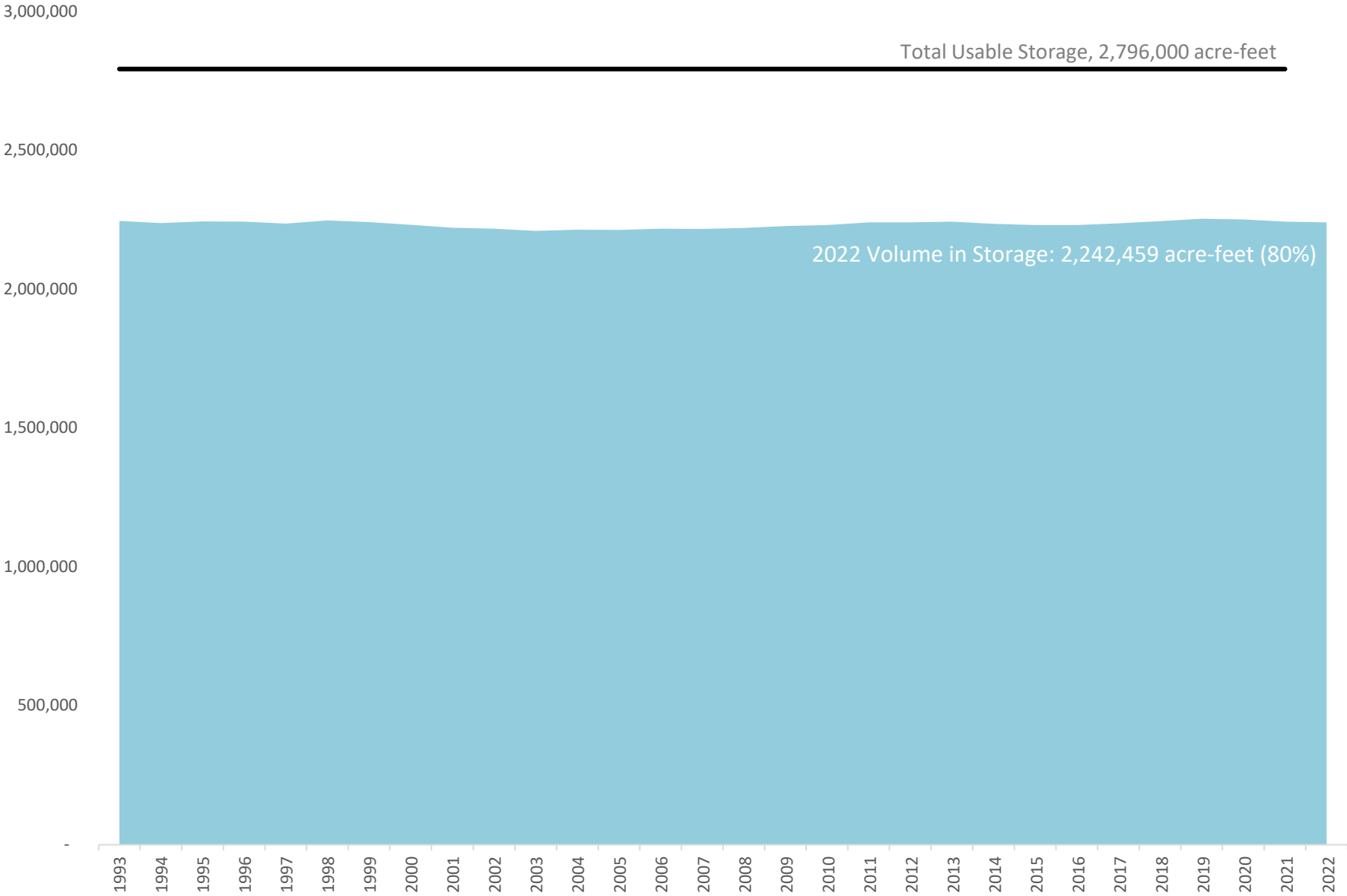
## **J. YUCAIPA BASIN**

## **J. YUCAIPA BASIN**

## **J. YUCAIPA BASIN**



Figure 6: Yucaipa Basin Change in Storage Results (in acre-feet)



## **K. SUMMARIES OF VARIOUS LEGAL AGREEMENTS AND JUDGEMENTS**

## **San Bernardino Basin Area Governance**

The Western Judgment identifies regional representative agencies to be responsible, on behalf of the numerous parties bound thereby, for implementing the replenishment obligations and other requirements of the judgment. The representative entities for the Western Judgment are Valley District and Western. Valley District is solely responsible for providing replenishment of the SBBA if extractions exceed the safe yield of the basin. The court-appointed Watermaster includes representatives from Valley District and Western. The proposed basin management process could be under the authority of the Valley District and Western Boards of Directors with inputs from other significant producers.

## **Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC)**

The Integrated Plan established the BTAC membership as the staff representatives from plaintiffs and non-plaintiffs of the Western Judgment. Since the Integrated Plan was adopted, the BTAC has unanimously decided to include any other agencies that wish to participate in the development of the regional water management plan. The BTAC will meet as often as needed to effectively “operate” the regional water resources within Valley District on a real-time basis and to address any other technical issues related to basin management. The BTAC strives to make decisions by consensus.

## **SBBA Basin Management Strategy**

The Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) formulated for the SBBA are the driving force in developing strategies for the basin management plan. The BMOs are as follows:

- Improve water supply reliability during droughts,
- Protect water quality,
- Reduce risk of liquefaction, and
- Avoid impact from and to the contaminant plumes.

To ensure adequate reliable water supply for the communities in the Upper Santa Ana River (SAR) watershed during a prolonged drought, the overall basin management strategy will be to operate the basin under the “Tilted Basin Concept” such that the basin would begin a drought period in “as full as possible” condition. Keeping the basin relatively full and operating a conjunctive management program according to the “Tilted Basin Concept” also provides the added flexibility to reduce imports from the SWP when water quality is less desirable. This overarching management strategy will be followed by the BTAC as they draft the basin management plan. Some of the specific management strategies that could contribute to improving water supply reliability during a drought are as follows:

- Retailers could take direct deliveries of SWP water when available instead of producing water from their wells. This reduces the amount of water withdrawn from the groundwater basin, which is equivalent to recharging the basin. This strategy will

require participation by the water agencies and may require the construction of new water treatment plants or upgrades to existing plants.

- Recharge as much SWP water as possible when available. This will likely result in spreading water in wet years, which has not occurred as much in the past. It may also require upgrading the existing spreading grounds.
- Prepare, to the extent possible, for the high groundwater condition that may be created by maintaining a “full basin” when a wet year arrives.
  - Implement an agreement(s) with groundwater producers within the AHHG, or Area of Historic High Groundwater (AHHG, see “Summary of Index Well Hydrographs, Bunker Hill and Yucaipa Groundwater Basins” map in Appendix D), to maximize production from the AHHG as much as practicable during unacceptably high groundwater level conditions.
  - Construct additional facilities to pump and convey large quantities of water from the AHHG for use outside the AHHG.

The San Bernardino Basin Area Management Plan will be developed in consideration of this overall management strategy and the BMOs.

#### **SBBA Basin Management Requirements (Legal Agreements)**

The annual basin management plan for the SBBA will meet the requirements identified in the following legal documents:

1. Western Judgment – April 1969
2. Seven Oaks Accord – July 2004
3. Settlement Agreement between SBVWCD, Valley District, and Western – August 2005
4. MOU between City of Riverside, Valley District, and Western – September 2005
5. Agreement between City of Riverside, Valley District, and Western – March 2007
6. Cooperative Agreement to Protect Water Quality and Encourage the Conjunctive Uses of Imported Water in the Santa Ana River Basin, June 2007
7. Consent Decree, City of San Bernardino v. United States of America, CV 96-8867 and CV 96-5205 (Consolidated).

A summary of the pertinent basin management information from each of these documents is provided below.

#### **1) Western Judgment**

- a) **Natural Safe Yield** - established at 232,100 acre-feet per year. The Plaintiffs’ (Western entities) rights are capped at 27.95 percent of the natural safe yield, or 64,862 acre-feet, notwithstanding any Additional Extraction Agreements or “new conservation,” as defined

in the judgment. The Non-Plaintiffs' (Valley District entities) rights are unlimited provided that an equal amount of basin replenishment occurs to offset any amount that the Non-Plaintiff production exceeds—72.05 percent of the natural safe yield, or 167,238 acre-feet. An annual report, entitled *Annual Report of the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster*, provides an “accounting” of basin extractions.

- b) **Replenishment** – Valley District is responsible for replenishing the SBBA for that amount of Non-Plaintiff extractions exceeding safe yield. The replenishment obligation may be met by any of the following means:
  - i) Return flow from excess extractions;
  - ii) Replenishment provided in excess of that required;
  - iii) Amounts extracted without replenishment obligations (i.e., Additional Production Agreement);
  - iv) That amount of water extracted below the natural safe yield; and
  - v) Return flow from imported water.
- c) **New Conservation** is defined in the 1969 Judgment as “any increase in replenishment from natural precipitation which results from operation of works and facilities not now in existence.” The judgment contemplated that the parties would develop facilities that would result in the capture of more natural runoff. Construction of the Seven Oaks Dam within the SAR has provided such an opportunity, and Valley District and Western have obtained a water right from the SWRCB and are working to construct the facilities necessary to capture SAR water that was not historically captured. The parties under the Western Judgment had their adjusted extraction rights increased to include a proportionate share of the New Conservation made available by the construction of Seven Oaks Dam.

## 2) Seven Oaks Accord

- a) **Groundwater Spreading/Management Program (GMP)** – Requires Valley District and Western to develop and manage a groundwater spreading program in cooperation with other parties, “That is intended to maintain groundwater levels at the specified wells at relatively constant levels, in spite of the inevitable fluctuations due to hydrologic variation.” Specific requirements of the Seven Oaks Accord are as follows:
  - i) GMP shall identify target water-level ranges in the specified “index wells” subject to the requirement that such spreading will not worsen high groundwater levels in the AHHG.
  - ii) Thresholds of significance in terms of SAR water diverted by Valley District and Western and spreading by all parties should be observed (see sidebar). See Appendix I of the Accord.

- iii) The determination as to whether a certain groundwater management action will “worsen” high groundwater levels in the AHHG is made through the use of the integrated surface and groundwater models.
- iv) GMP must be “adopted” within five years of the date the SWRCB grants a permit to Valley District/Western. To date, Valley District and Western have not received the permit.
- v) Redlands, East Valley, and Bear Valley Mutual agree to limit spreading to conform to the annual GMP.

### **3) San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Settlement Agreement**

- a) Annual Groundwater Management Plan – Valley District and Western will consult with SBVWCD in the development of the GMP.
- b) An interim GMP could be developed prior to the completion of the model being developed for the San Bernardino Basin Area.
- c) GMP objectives to be achieved simultaneously include:
  - i) Maximize the quantity of water spread in the SAR spreading grounds.
  - ii) Establish and maintain a shallowest target of 50 feet depth to water within the AHHG.
  - iii) Maintain groundwater levels in the Forebay Area within 10 feet of the levels that would have occurred in the absence of SAR diversions by Valley District and Western. Quantifying the difference between diversions and no diversions will be accomplished using the groundwater flow model developed for the SBBA.
  - iv) Otherwise avoid significant impacts on the environment.
- d) Set as a goal to coordinate the San Bernardino Consent Decree management plan with the GMP.
- e) No spreading will take place without authorization by the GMP.

### **4) Riverside MOU**

- a) Basin Management Account – Established with funds and future revenues from the SBVWCD “to fund recharge efforts in the basin.”
- b) Valley District and Western are required to exercise SBVWCD water rights in a manner that:
  - i) Maintains groundwater levels for the benefit of the production wells in the geographic area historically served by the SBVWCD at relatively constant levels.
  - ii) Maximizes the use of native water supplies to replenish the SBBA without causing high groundwater problems in the artesian zone and without causing the migration of contaminant plumes that would result in significant degradation of the water quality in any domestic well.

- c) Valley District will spread sufficient water to ensure that groundwater supplies necessary to support the safe yield of the SBBA are maintained pursuant to the Western Judgment.

## **5) Riverside Agreement**

- a) This agreement establishes the Seven Oaks Dam Water Diversions Engineering and Operations Committee (EOC) to develop and implement procedures to:
  - i) Maintain the groundwater levels in the Index Wells at relatively constant levels, in spite of fluctuations due to hydrologic variation.
  - ii) Minimize such fluctuations (reduce highs and lows).
  - iii) Provide water “accounts” to Riverside to offset the loss of recharge to the SBBA and/or Riverside North due to Western/Valley District SAR water diversions.
    - (1) “Reserve Account” is initially established as 38 percent of the total volume of water diverted from the SAR by Valley District and Western pursuant to the SWRCB water right permit. To be recharged in the SBBA either directly or through an exchange.
    - (2) “Replacement water” varies from 0 to 6 percent of the flow at the E Street Bridge. Water to be recharged into the Riverside North basin.
  - iv) Develop recommendations to the Western Judgment Watermaster regarding the classification of diverted SAR water as either New Conservation or existing safe yield of the SBBA.
- b) EOC will meet no later than six months after the SWRCB grants permits to Valley District and Western to develop the initial procedures. Ongoing, the EOC will meet no later than October 1 of each year. The EOC shall meet on a regular basis to effectively operate, on a real-time basis, a program to achieve the objectives listed above. EOC decisions will be implemented once approved by the EOC and will be provided to the BTAC for inclusion in the Annual San Bernardino Basin Area Management Plan. The tasks of the EOC could be covered at the BTAC meetings, realizing that most of the members of the BTAC have no standing in this agreement and the decisions of the EOC are not subject to review by BTAC or any of the BTAC members.
- c) Water levels at the index wells outside the AHHG must be maintained at no lower than 10 feet, on average, during a repeat of the 39-year base period. Valley District will commence spreading to maintain these levels.
- d) If the 12-month rolling averages of the Backyard Well ports D4, D5, and D6 are 50 feet bgs or greater, Valley District and Western will recharge water from the Reserve Account.

## **6) Consent Decree, City of San Bernardino March 23, 2005**

- a) The City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) is a party to a consent decree entered in March 2005. The Consent Decree obligates the SBMWD to



operate and maintain a system of wells and treatment plants known as the Newmark Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site (Newmark Site). The Newmark Site specifically treats groundwater contaminated with TCE and perchloroethylene (PCE).

- b) The SBMWD is required by the terms of the Consent Decree, entered on March 23, 2005, to enact institutional controls and implement an ordinance providing for the protection and management of the Interim Remedy set forth in the Record of Decisions and Explanation of Significant Differences prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**7) City of San Bernardino Ordinance No. MC-1221 and Institutional Controls Settlement Agreement (ICSA)**

- a) Ordinance No. MC-1221 – This ordinance establishes the management zone boundaries within the City of San Bernardino for water spreading and water extraction activities.
  - i) The Consent Decree requires that the City of San Bernardino adopt and enforce an ordinance to ensure that activities occurring in the management zone, including, but not limited to, development, digging, drilling, boring or reconstruction of wells, extraction of groundwater from wells, and spreading of recharge water, do not interfere or cause pass-through of contaminants from the Newmark and Muscoy Operable Units. The ordinance was approved on March 20, 2006, by the Mayor and City Council.
  - ii) The Interim Remedy requires the extraction of contaminated groundwater from the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin and within the Newmark and Muscoy Operable Units, and treatment of the groundwater to meet all State of California (State) and federal permits and requirements for drinking water.
  - iii) Unless a permit issued by the SBMWD pursuant to the provisions outlined in the ordinance is first obtained, it shall be unlawful for any person, as principal, agent, or employee to spread (artificial recharge) or extract (well pumping) within the Management Zones as defined in the ordinance.
- b) Institutional Controls Settlement Agreement (ICSA)
  - i) An agreement (ICSA) has been executed to develop and adopt a successor agreement, titled Institutional Controls Groundwater Management Program (ICGMP), between the following parties:
    - (1) City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department
    - (2) San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
    - (3) Western Municipal Water District
    - (4) City of Riverside
    - (5) West Valley Water District
    - (6) East Valley Water District

(7) City of Colton

(8) Riverside Highland Water Company

- ii) The parties identified above will not be subject to the provisions of City of San Bernardino Ordinance No. MC-1221 as long as each is a party to the ICSA and, subsequently, the ICGMP Agreement.

**8) Cooperative Agreement to Protect Water Quality and Encourage the Conjunctive Uses of Imported Water in the Santa Ana River Basin**

- a) Requires the preparation of a triennial water quality report, limited to nitrogen and total dissolved solids (TDS), which analyzes whether the recharge of imported water had any adverse impact on compliance with Salinity Objectives established in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin. The first report is due August 2009 and then every three years thereafter.
- b) Requires any party that is serving as a lead agency for a project involving the recharge of imported water to analyze any adverse impacts on Salinity Objectives as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process. Said analysis must be made with a groundwater quality model listed in the agreement.

**Development of Annual Management Plan for the SBBA**

Considering the provisions of the above judgments and agreements, a process was developed for managing the SBBA (see Appendix A). This process is intended to be flexible and will be modified, as needed. The main purpose in developing a process is to ensure that management of the SBBA is in compliance with the provisions of the applicable judgment and agreements and to provide a cooperative forum among the water agencies to engage in developing solutions.