


Agenda Report Reviewed by:  
City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM

**Meeting Date:** July 6, 2021  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Public Works Superintendent, Dante Del Prete  
Water Committee (Mayor Glass; Vice Mayor Gurney and City Administration)  
**Subject:** Discussion of Consideration of Adoption of Resolution for Water Conservation  
**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Sebastopol City Council adopt the Resolution Implementing Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Conservation Measures: Stage 2 – Mandatory Compliance Water Alert  
**Funding:** Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X  N/A

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable)  AK  (verified by Administrative Services Department)

**INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:**

The item tonight is to request Council adopt a Resolution Implementing Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Conservation Measures: Stage 2 – Mandatory Compliance – Water Alert Conservation Measures in response to the drought emergency in the region.

**BACKGROUND:**

Water is a precious and limited resource, especially in drought-prone California, On May 4, 2021, city council adopted Resolution Number 6346-2021 implementing Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Conservation Measures: Stage 1 - Voluntary Conservation in response to the Governor’s proclamation stating a regional drought emergency for the Russian River watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino counties, where reservoirs are at record lows following two critically dry years and accelerated action may be needed to protect public health, safety and the environment as issued on April 21, 2021.

Sebastopol residents have embraced the City’s goals of water conservation, but the water future in our region remains uncertain due to precipitation variability and a changing climate. It is more critical than ever that we stress the importance of water conservation as the duration of current drought conditions are unknown.

**DISCUSSION:**

City of Sebastopol established a City water shortage contingency plan in 2014 by ordinance 1070 which contains Water Conservation Stages to achieve responsible management of City’s water resources. In this ordinance, the City has various stages that the City and Council can enact. Although the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a drought emergency, he did not require any mandatory stages at this point.

On May 4, 2021, the City Council authorized a resolution implementing Stage 1 of the City ordinance. State 1 - Voluntary Conservation to achieve a 10 percent reduction in usage.

This initial step in public notification directly coincided with the City’s Partner Bay-Ren on bill financing for water conservation improvements for Sebastopol residents. The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is a

collaboration of the nine counties that make up the San Francisco Bay Area. Led by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), BayREN provides regional-scale energy efficiency programs, services, and resources.

In accordance with the City of Sebastopol water conservation goals staff recommends proactively moving from **Stage 1 Voluntary Conservation** to **Stage 2 Mandatory Compliance Water Alert** immediately in anticipation of further water conservation stages being implemented by the state within the coming months.

The City of Sebastopol Stage 2 Mandatory Compliance Water Alert of the Water Conservation Stages as found in Municipal Code 13.06.070. overall system-wide reduction of 25 percent, the following activities shall be prohibited:

1. Nonessential uses of water, including the following:
  - a. Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week.
  - b. Refilling or initial filling of a swimming pool.
  - c. Noncommercial washing of privately owned motor vehicles, trailers, and boats except from a bucket and except that a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle may be used to rinse the vehicle.
  - d. Any use of water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fires or essential construction needs.
2. The City Council shall have the authority to prohibit other activities and water uses upon the recommendation of the City Manager that such additional measures are necessary to achieve an overall system-wide reduction of 25 percent in water usage.

Beyond the steps in the ordinance, residents will be encouraged to take the following critical water saving steps:

- Fix leaks, including leaky toilets
- Install high-efficiency toilets, aerators on bathroom faucets, and water-efficient shower heads
- Take shorter (5 minute) showers
- Track your water bill and meter to curtail water use
- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving
- Use dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only
- Filling up your bathtub halfway or less can save 12 gallons of water per bath
- Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks, and steps not the hose
- Plant drought-resistant trees and plants

The simplest changes to daily routines can have a significant impact. By making conservation a way of life in Sebastopol, we save water, minimize water waste, rebuild our underground aquifers, prepare for the uncertainties of climate change, and minimize the harmful effects of drought.

**GROUNDWATER LEVEL STABILITY AND & CITY PRODUCTION IN REVIEW:**

Unlike other municipalities in the region, which face mandatory restrictions set forth by Sonoma County Water, the City of Sebastopol water system is independent and reliant on groundwater production from four active water wells to satisfy customer demand.

The City has monitored rainfall, groundwater levels and annual production, along with the growth in population and water supply demand over a long period of time and believe it to be operating within a sustainable yield. The groundwater levels have remained static (normal/consistent) historically, including through the 2013-2016 drought and our current drought conditions. The City is currently, and has been previously, operating within a sustainable yield of groundwater production. However, the City of Sebastopol recognizes the significance of the water resource and is acting now to implement conservation measures to ensure sustainability of this resource through any future climatic conditions.

**GOALS:**

This action supports the following City Council Goals and General Plan Actions:

Council Goal 1.3.2 – To continue to inform and educate the community on water conservation efforts.

Action CSF 3d: Regularly review and update the City’s water conservation strategy to be consistent with current best management practices for water conservation, considering measures recommended by the State Department of Water Resources, and the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

Action COS 5g: Continue to initiate and support a range of educational and public outreach programs to inform residents, agriculture, businesses, and other groundwater users of best management practices in the areas of efficient water use, water conservation, and increasing groundwater recharge. Continue to make these resources available to the public through the City’s website.

Policy COS 9-9: Promote water conservation among water users.

Action COS 9m: Continue to monitor local water conservation efforts and periodically review and revise the range of local programs and resources available to reduce water consumption.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report. Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to schedule meeting date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

City of Sebastopol customers have practiced water conservation. However, because Sebastopol customers do practice water conservation the city has been and during a drought will expect to experience reduction in revenue from water use.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Sebastopol City Council adopt a Resolution Implementing Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Conservation Measures: Stage 2 – Mandatory Compliance – Water Alert Conservation Measures in response to the drought emergency in the region.

**Attachments:**

- Water Conservation Stage 2 – Mandatory Compliance Resolution
- Water Usage by Class 2020 and 2021
- Groundwater Level Hydrographs 2018-2021
- Water Level Monitoring Preliminary Review of Available Data for 2021

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution of the City Council  
Implementing Water Waste Prohibitions  
Conservation Stage 2 Mandatory Compliance – Water Alert**

**WHEREAS**, On April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsome issued a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency to exist in California due to severe drought conditions and calling on Californians to reduce their water usage; and.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sebastopol municipal code requires that the water resources available to the City be put to the maximum beneficial use to the extent to which they are capable, to promote water conservation and the efficient use of potable water furnished by the City, by eliminating intentional or unintentional water waste when a reasonable alternative solution is available, and by prohibiting use of equipment which is wasteful; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sebastopol established a City water shortage contingency plan in 2014 by ordinance 1070 which contains Water Conservation Stages to achieve responsible management of City's water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the length and severity of climate and drought conditions are uncertain, and water resources are limited; the City of Sebastopol wants to proactively prevent future water shortages.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

The City of Sebastopol enter *Stage 2 Mandatory Compliance- Water Alert* as found in Municipal Code 13.06.070. To achieve an overall system-wide reduction goal of 25 percent. The following activities shall be prohibited:

1. Nonessential uses of water, including the following:
  - a. Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week.
  - b. Refilling or initial filling of a swimming pool.
  - c. Noncommercial washing of privately owned motor vehicles, trailers, and boats except from a bucket and except that a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle may be used to rinse the vehicle.
  - d. Any use of water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fires or essential construction needs.
2. The City Council shall have the authority to prohibit other activities and water uses upon the recommendation of the City Manager that such additional measures are necessary to achieve an overall system-wide reduction of 25 percent in water usage.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 6th day of July, 2021.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City of Sebastopol City Council by the following vote:

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Una Glass  
Mayor, City of Sebastopol

**VOTE:**

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABTAIN:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

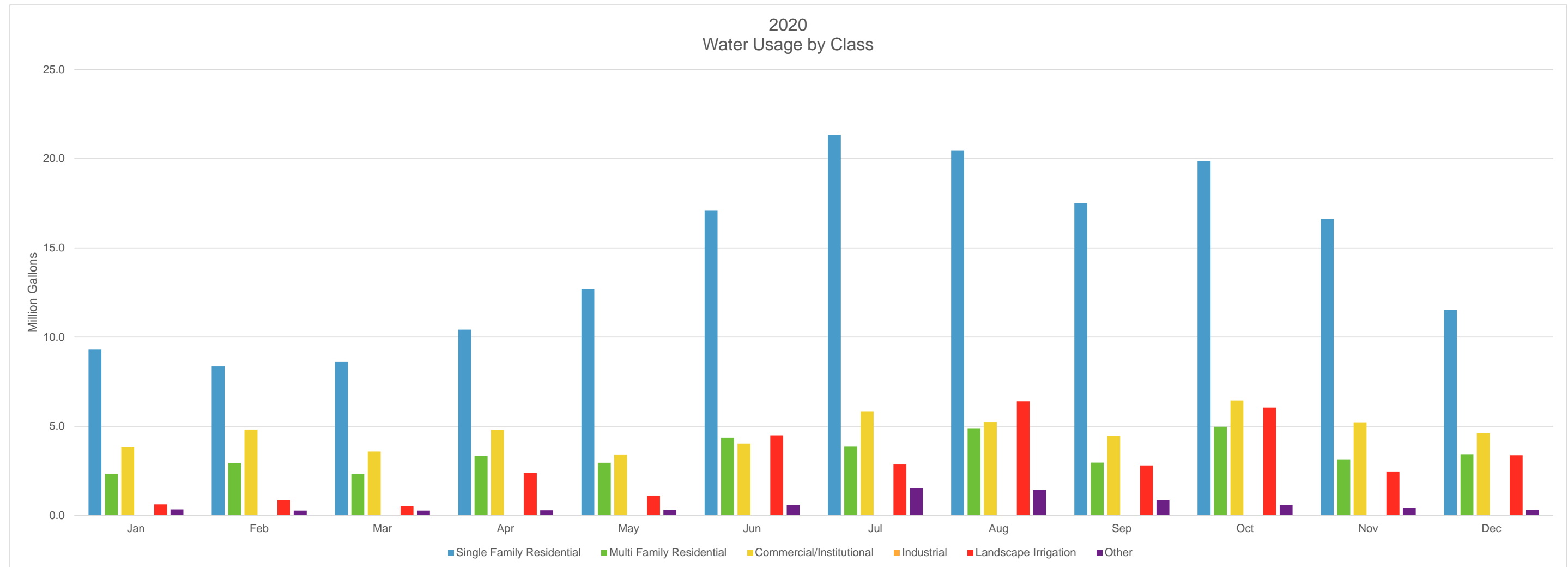
Mary Gourley, MMC, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney

2020 Water Usage by Class

|                                  | Jan         | Feb         | Mar         | Apr         | May         | Jun         | Jul         | Aug         | Sep         | Oct         | Nov         | Dec         |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Single Family Residential</b> | 9.3         | 8.4         | 8.6         | 10.4        | 12.7        | 17.1        | 21.3        | 20.4        | 17.5        | 19.9        | 16.6        | 11.5        |
| <b>Multi Family Residential</b>  | 2.3         | 3.0         | 2.3         | 3.4         | 3.0         | 4.4         | 3.9         | 4.9         | 3.0         | 5.0         | 3.1         | 3.4         |
| <b>Commercial/Institutional</b>  | 3.9         | 4.8         | 3.6         | 4.8         | 3.4         | 4.0         | 5.8         | 5.2         | 4.5         | 6.4         | 5.2         | 4.6         |
| <b>Industrial</b>                | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| <b>Landscape Irrigation</b>      | 0.6         | 0.9         | 0.5         | 2.4         | 1.1         | 4.5         | 2.9         | 6.4         | 2.8         | 6.0         | 2.5         | 3.4         |
| <b>Other</b>                     | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.6         | 1.5         | 1.4         | 0.9         | 0.6         | 0.4         | 0.3         |
| <b>Total in MG</b>               | <b>16.5</b> | <b>17.3</b> | <b>15.3</b> | <b>21.2</b> | <b>20.5</b> | <b>30.6</b> | <b>35.5</b> | <b>38.4</b> | <b>28.6</b> | <b>37.9</b> | <b>27.9</b> | <b>23.2</b> |



2021 Water Usage by Class

|                                  | Jan         | Feb         | Mar         | Apr         | May         |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Single Family Residential</b> | 9.5         | 10.1        | 7.9         | 9.8         | 13.0        |
| <b>Multi Family Residential</b>  | 2.9         | 3.9         | 2.1         | 3.2         | 2.8         |
| <b>Commercial/Institutional</b>  | 4.2         | 4.2         | 3.9         | 4.4         | 5.3         |
| <b>Industrial</b>                | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| <b>Landscape Irrigation</b>      | 0.5         | 1.4         | 0.2         | 1.4         | 1.4         |
| <b>Other</b>                     | 0.3         | 0.2         | 0.3         | 0.5         | 0.6         |
| <b>Total in MG</b>               | <b>17.3</b> | <b>19.8</b> | <b>14.4</b> | <b>19.3</b> | <b>23.0</b> |

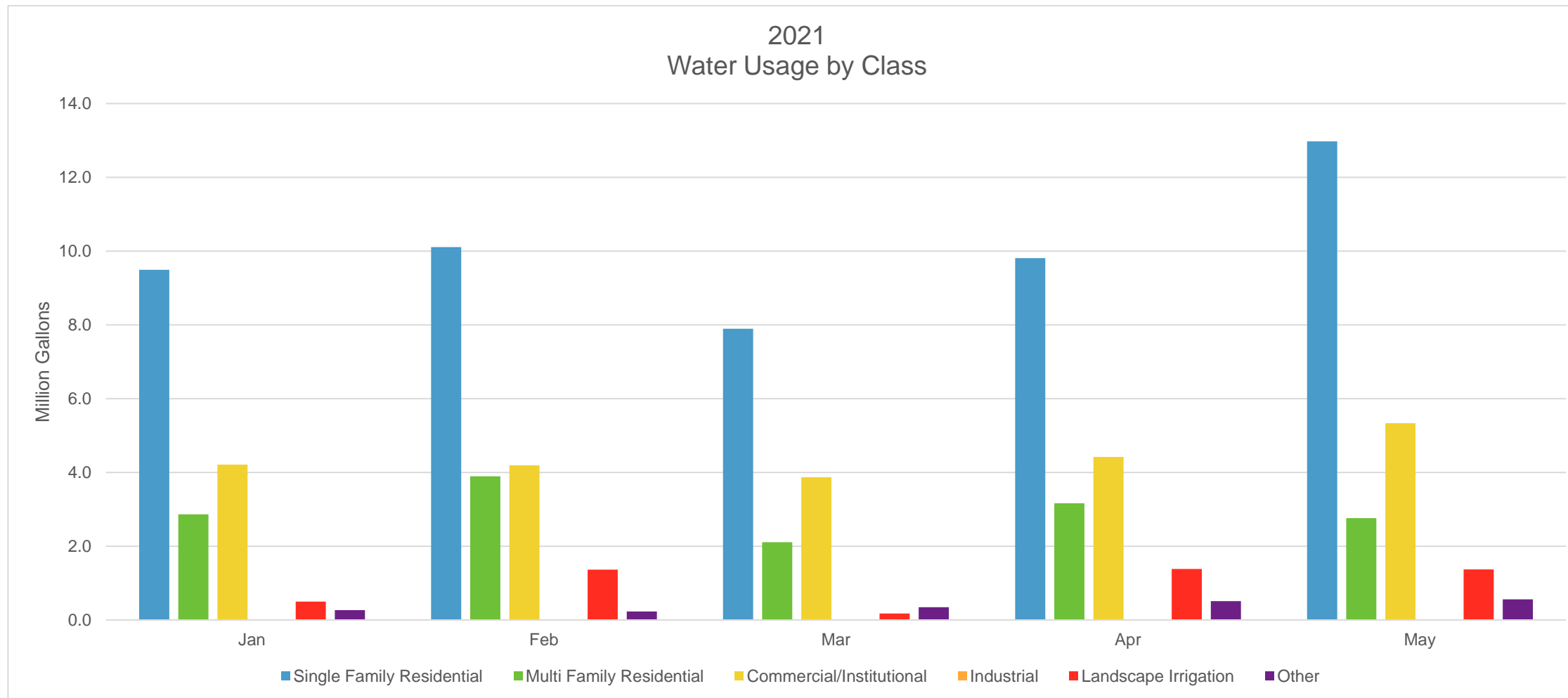


Plate 1  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #4  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

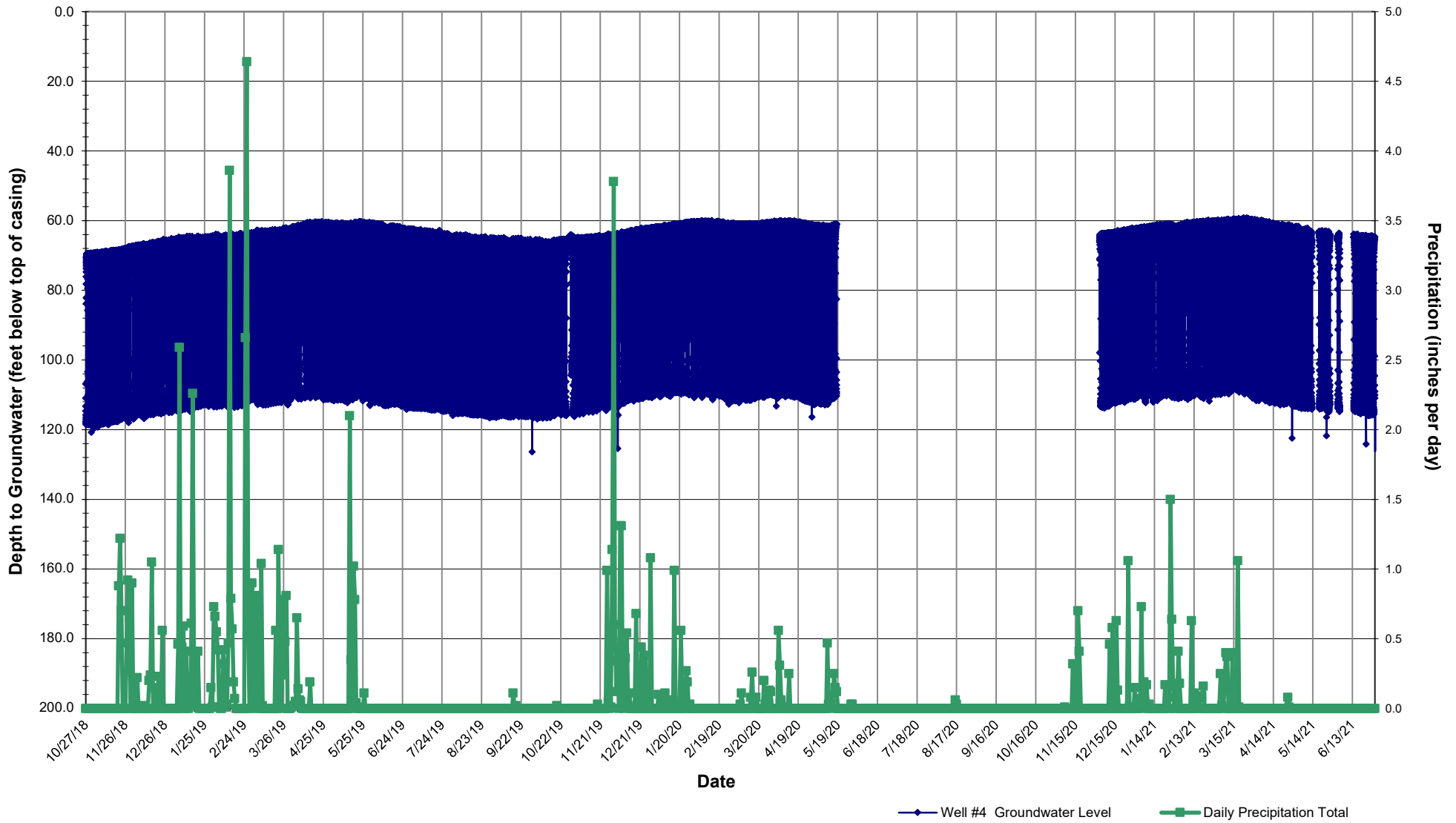




Plate 2  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #5  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

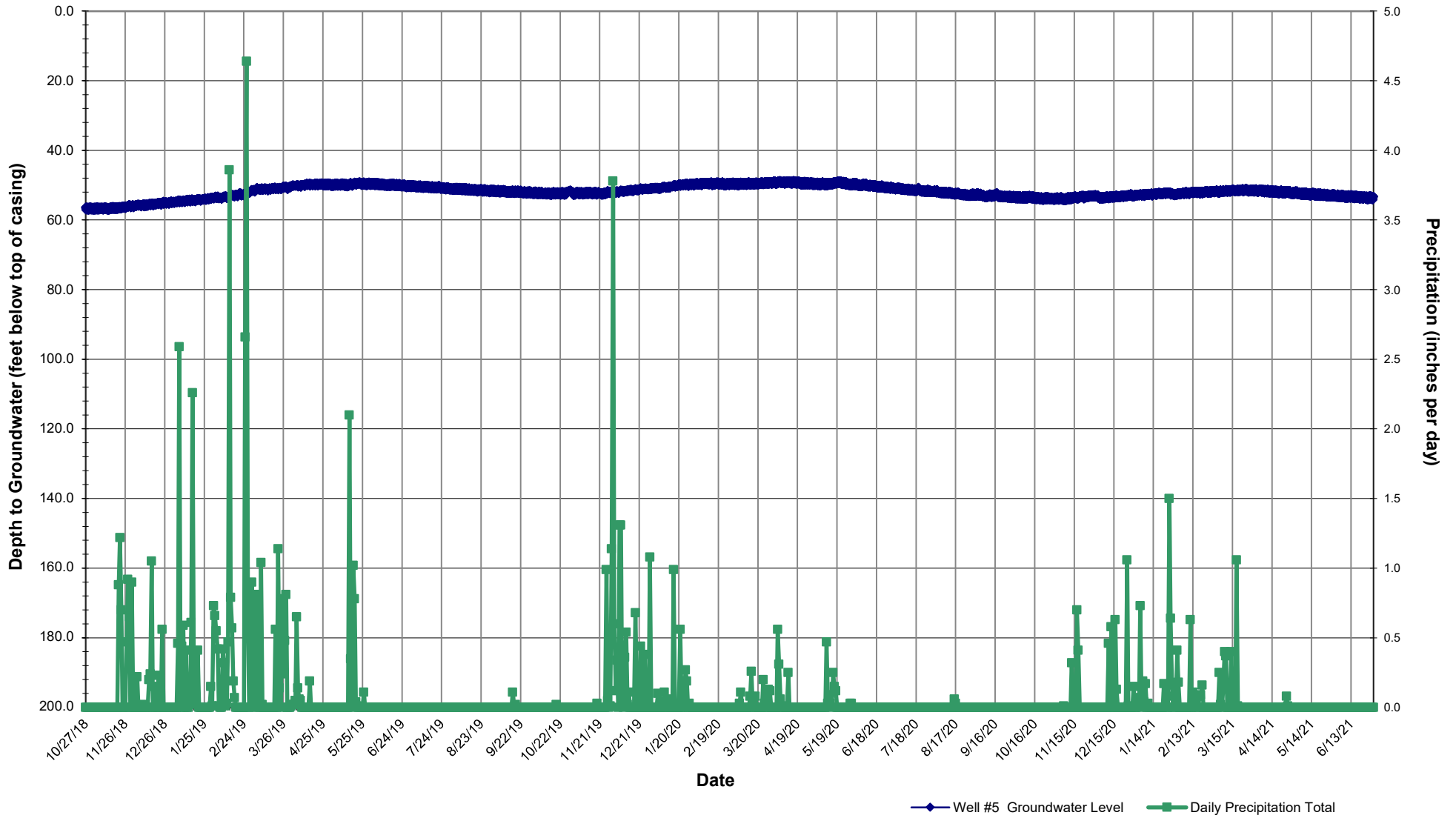


Plate 3  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #6  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

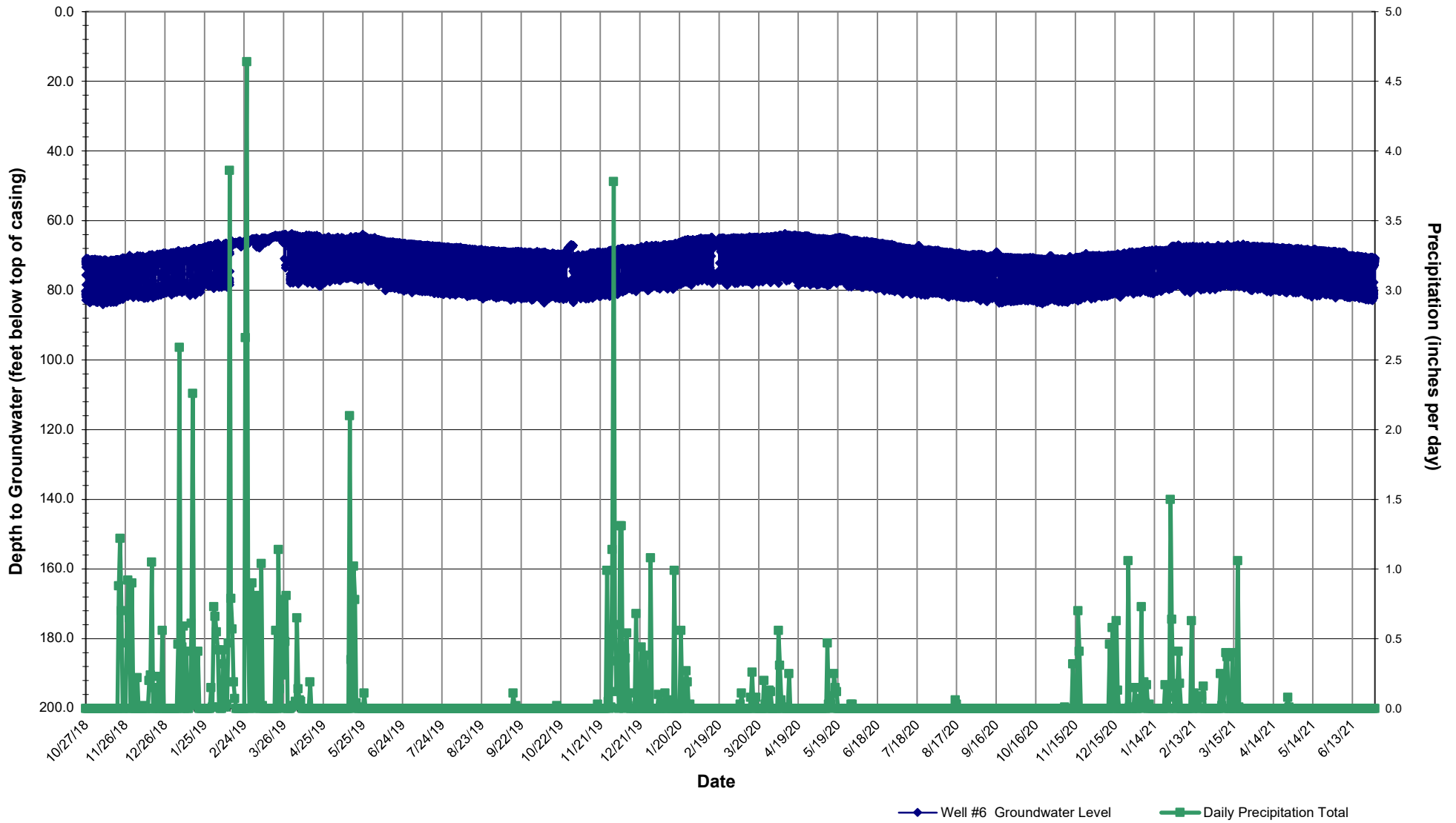
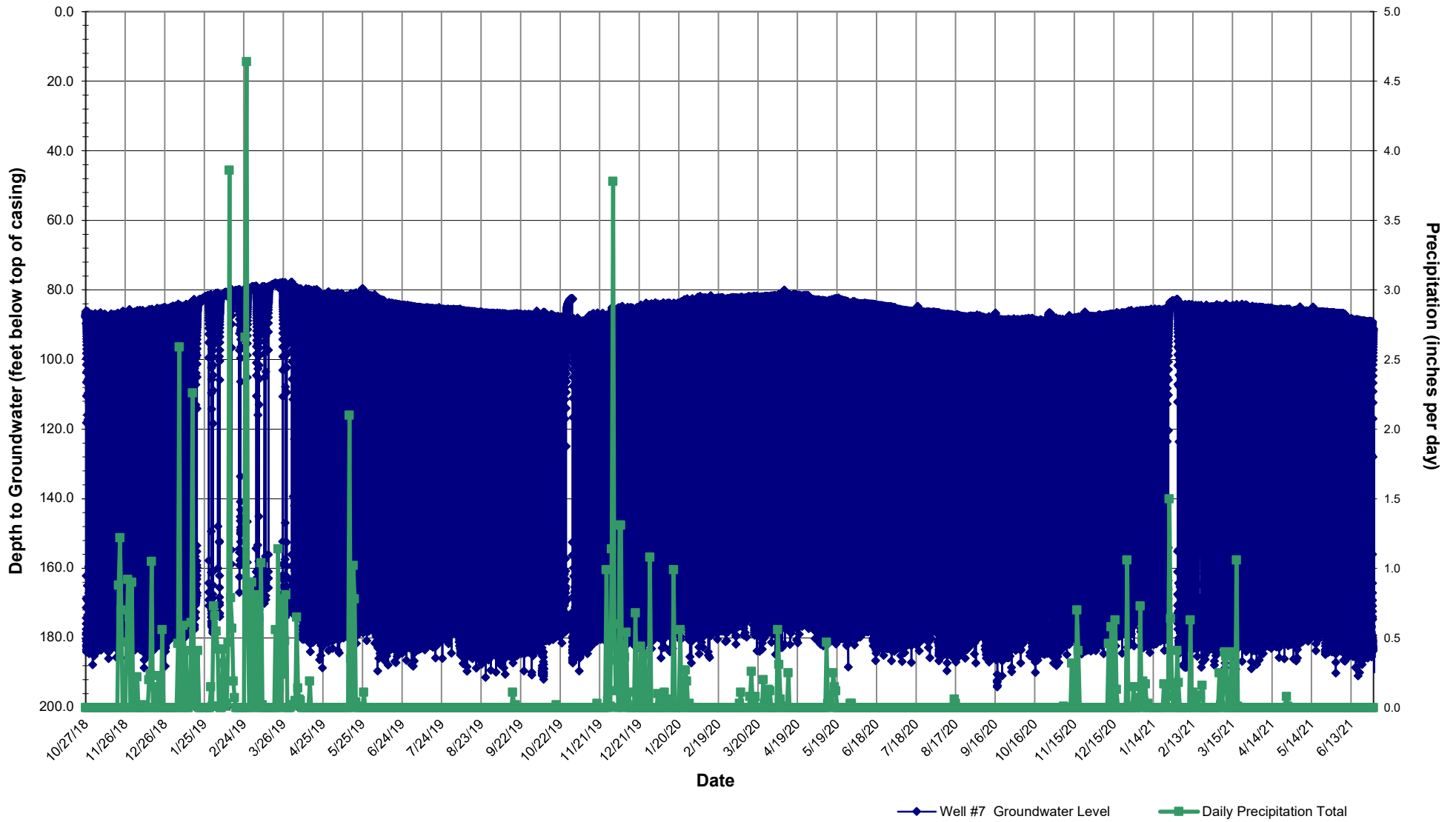


Plate 4  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #7  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California



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Plate 5  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #8  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

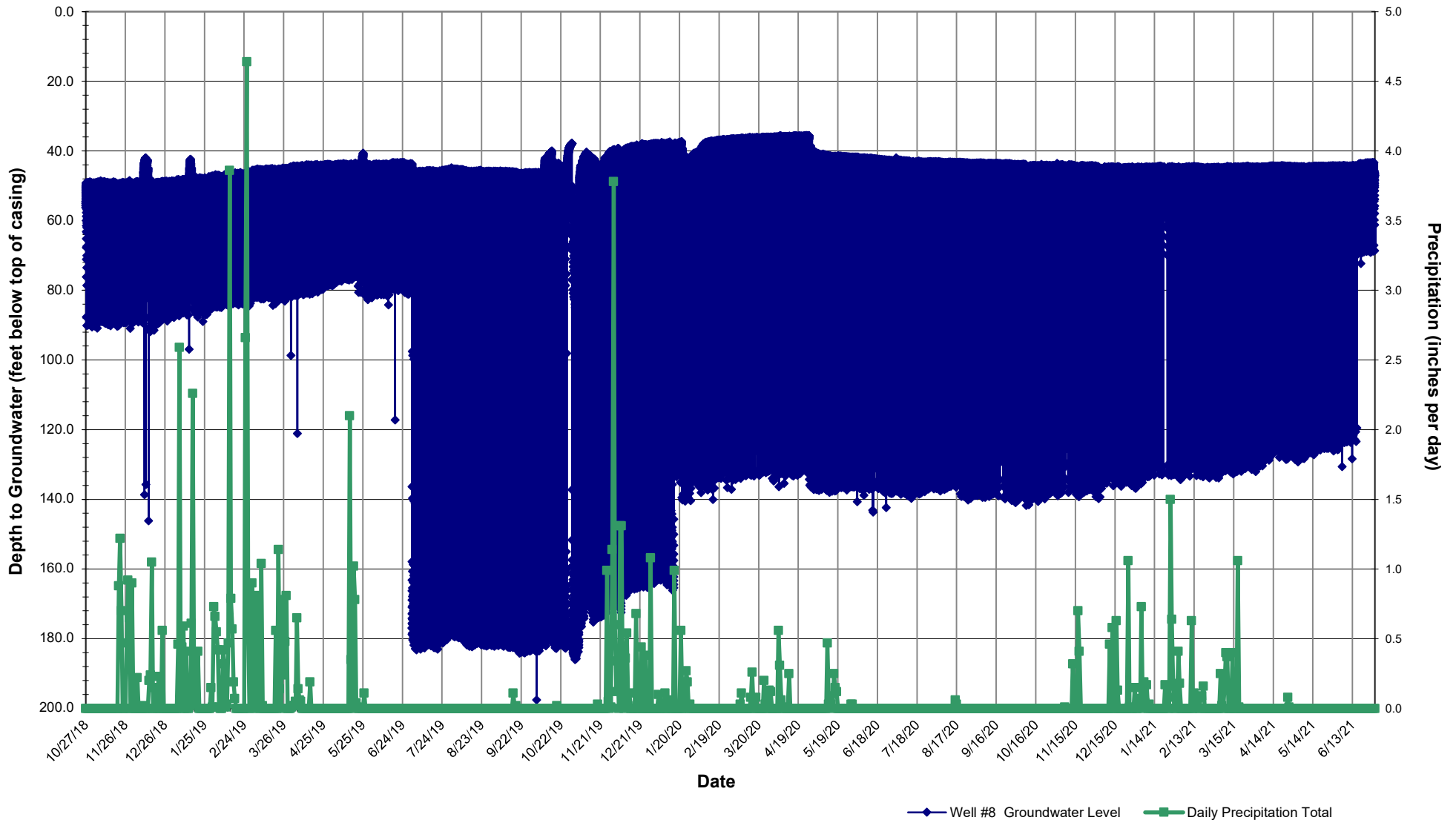


Plate 1  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #4  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

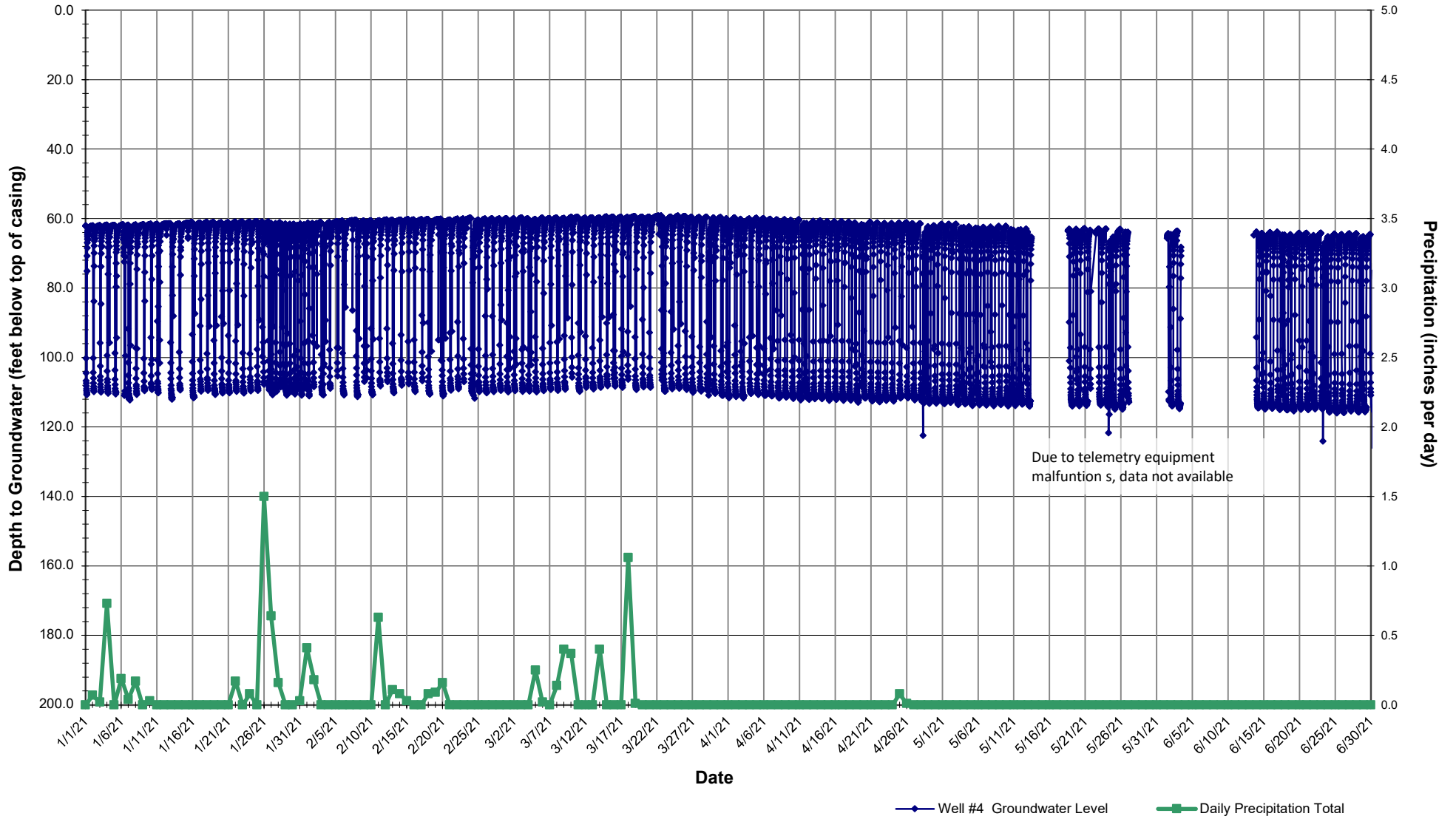


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City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

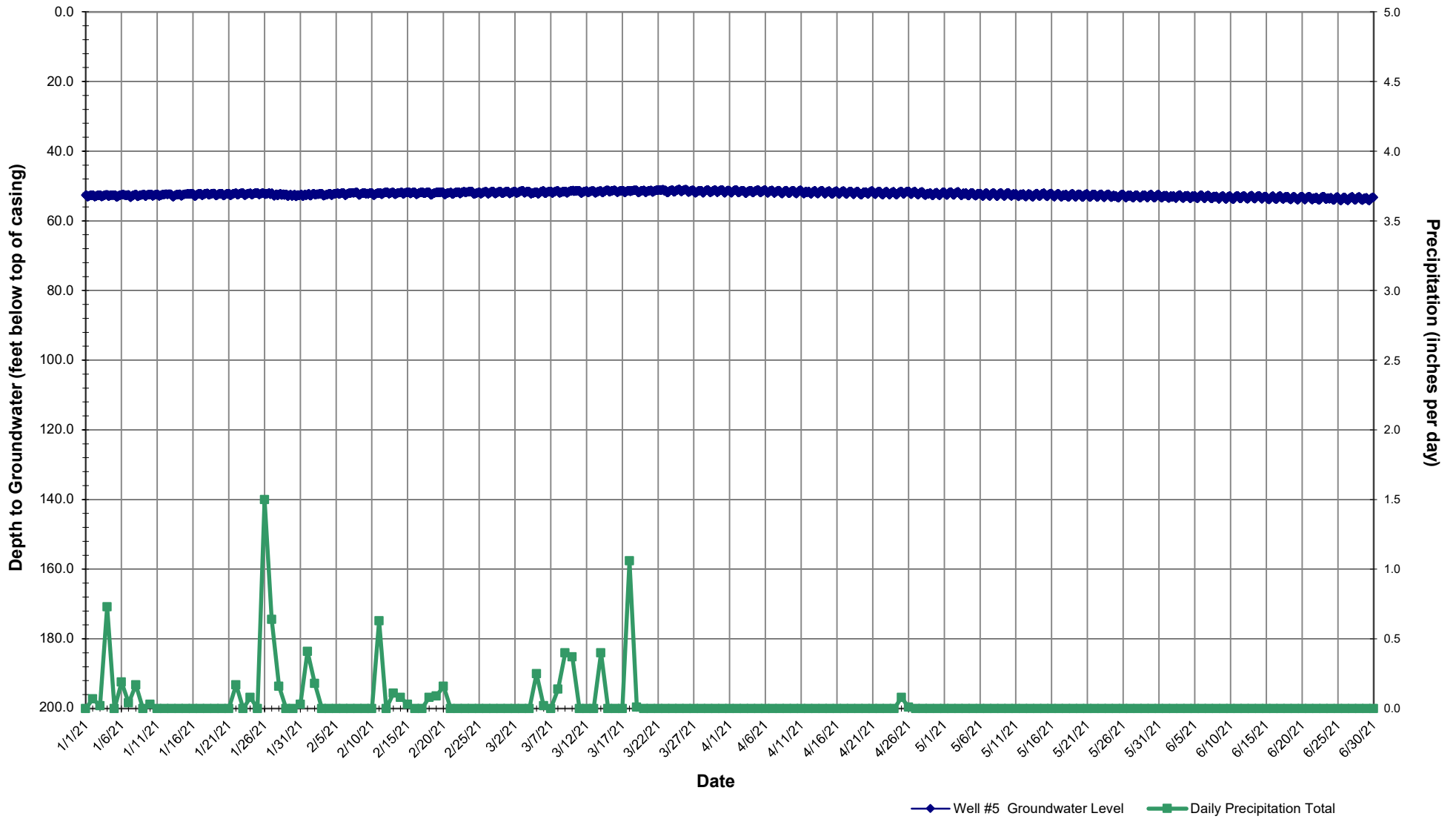


Plate 3  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #6  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

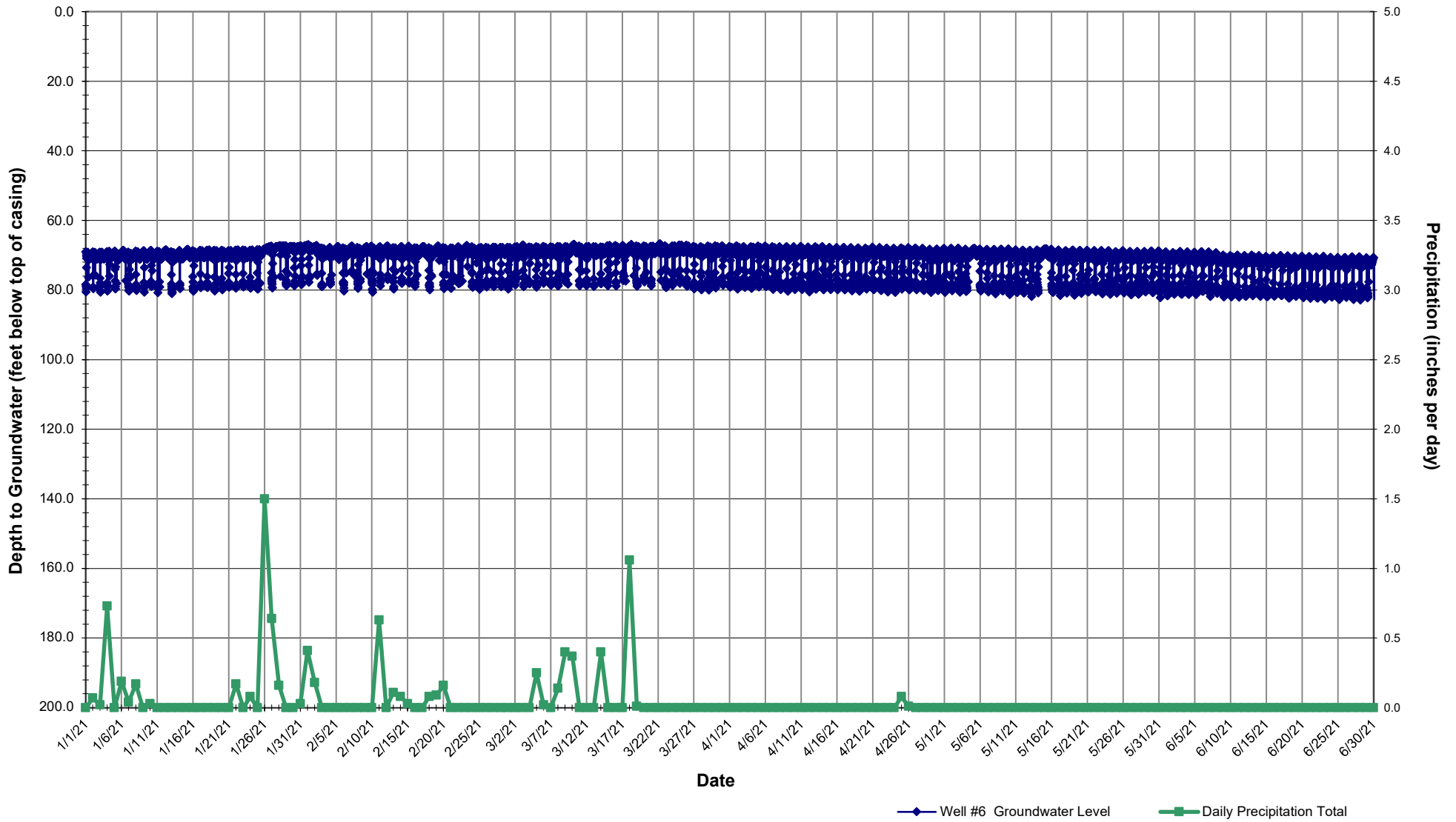


Plate 4  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #7  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California

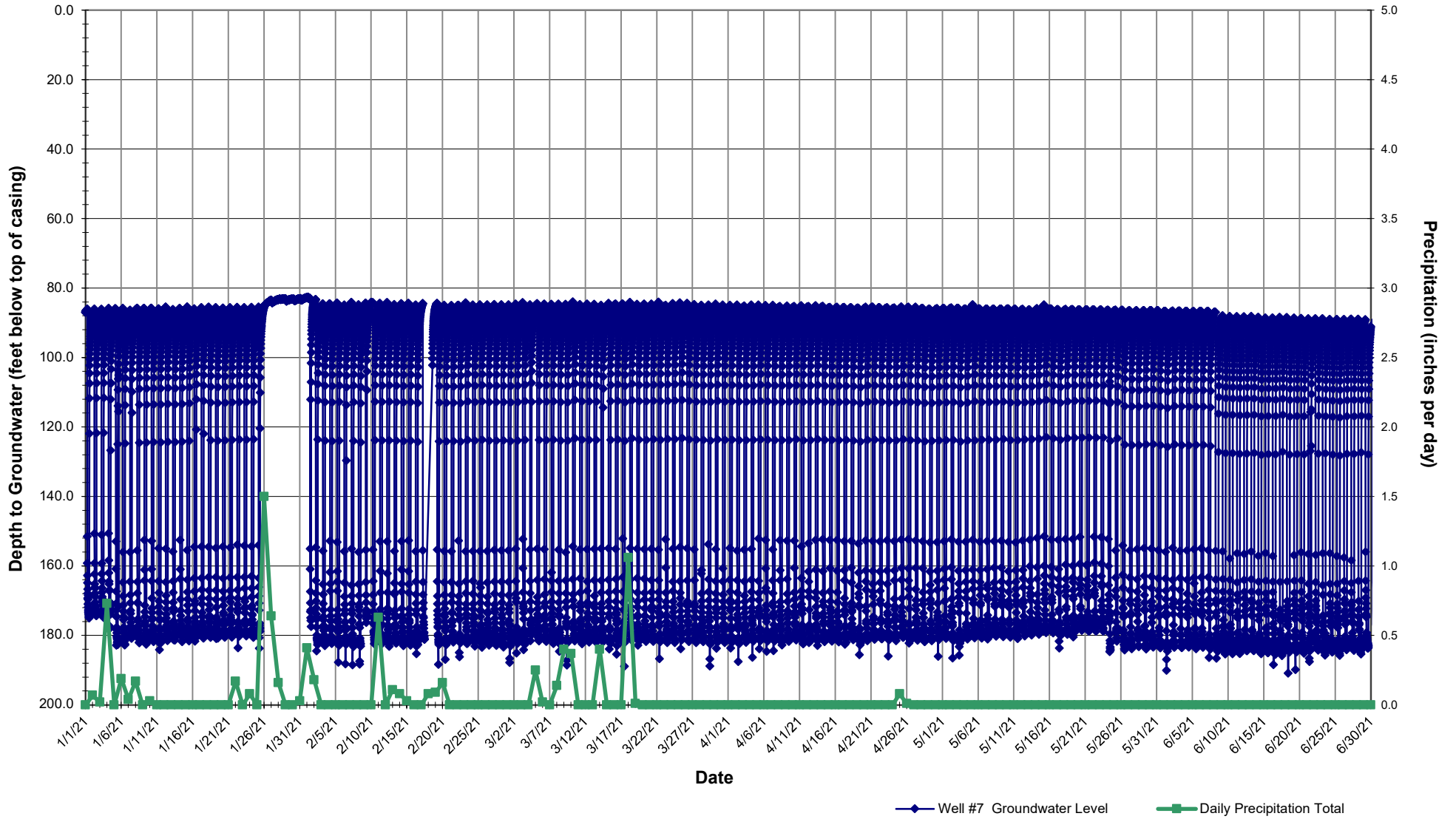
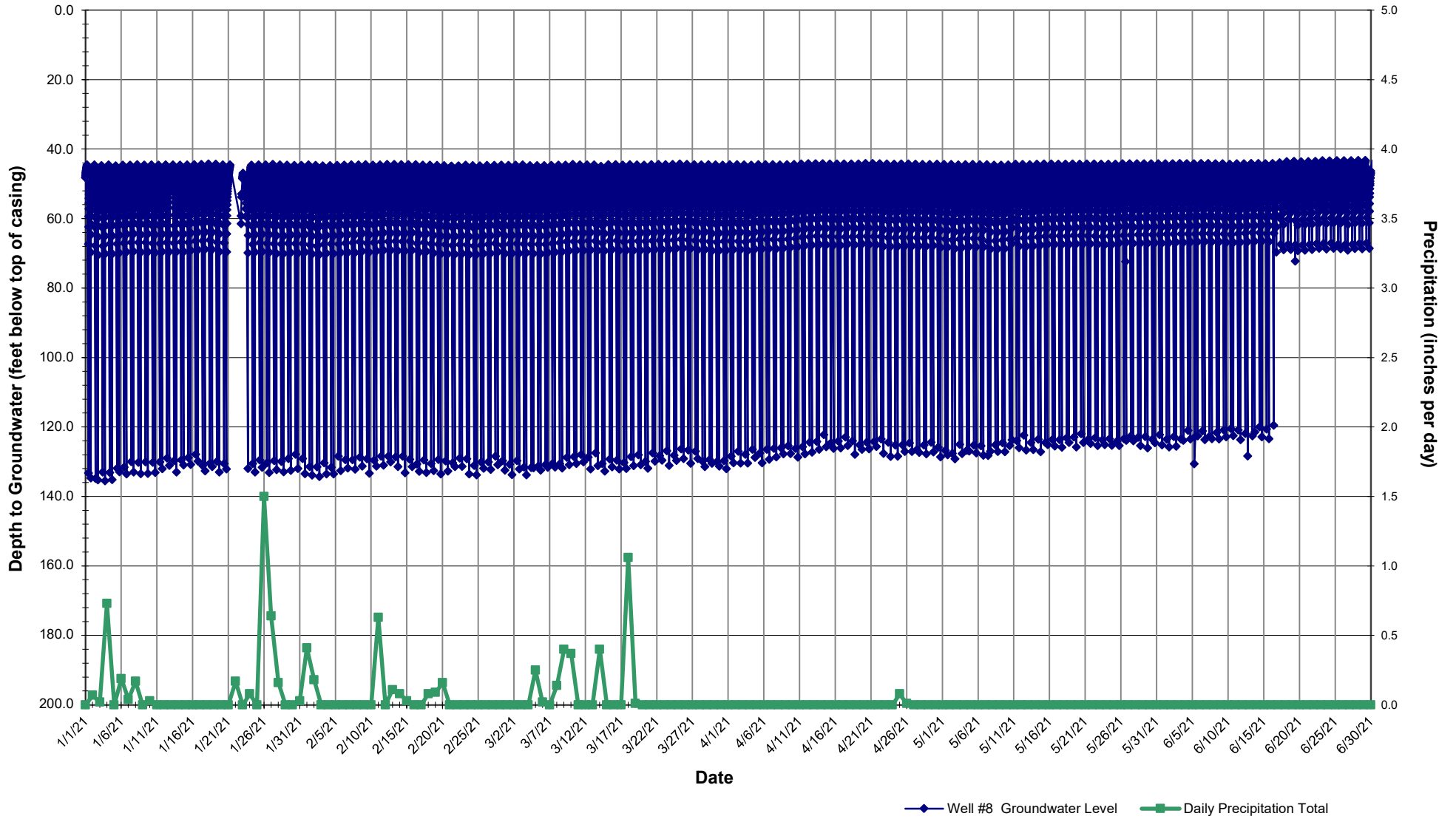




Plate 5  
Groundwater Level Hydrograph - Well #8  
City of Sebastopol Municipal Wellfield  
Sebastopol, California



Based on preliminary review of available data:

- **Well #4:** Water levels declined approximately 4.5 feet since March 24, 2021  
(A direct comparison to Summer 2020 water levels is not available due to telemetry equipment failure. The estimated decline since 6/30/2020 is 4.0 feet)
- **Well #5:** Water levels declined approximately 2.5 feet since March 24, 2021  
Water levels are approximately 2.0 feet lower than this time last year (6/30/2020)  
\*Note, Well 5 is not utilized as a production well but is monitored for groundwater sustainability data
- **Well #6:** Water levels declined approximately 3.0 feet since March 24, 2021.  
Water levels are approximately 3.5 feet lower than this time last year (6/30/2020)
- **Well #7:** Water levels declined approximately 4.0 feet since March 24, 2021.  
Water levels are approximately 5.0 feet lower than this time last year (6/30/2020)
- **Well #8:** Water levels rose approximately 1.5 feet since March 24, 2021.  
Water levels are approximately 1.5 feet lower than this time last year (6/30/2020)