

Water Resources Level of Severity for the Nipomo Mesa Area

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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Resource Management System Defines Three Levels of Alert for Water Supply

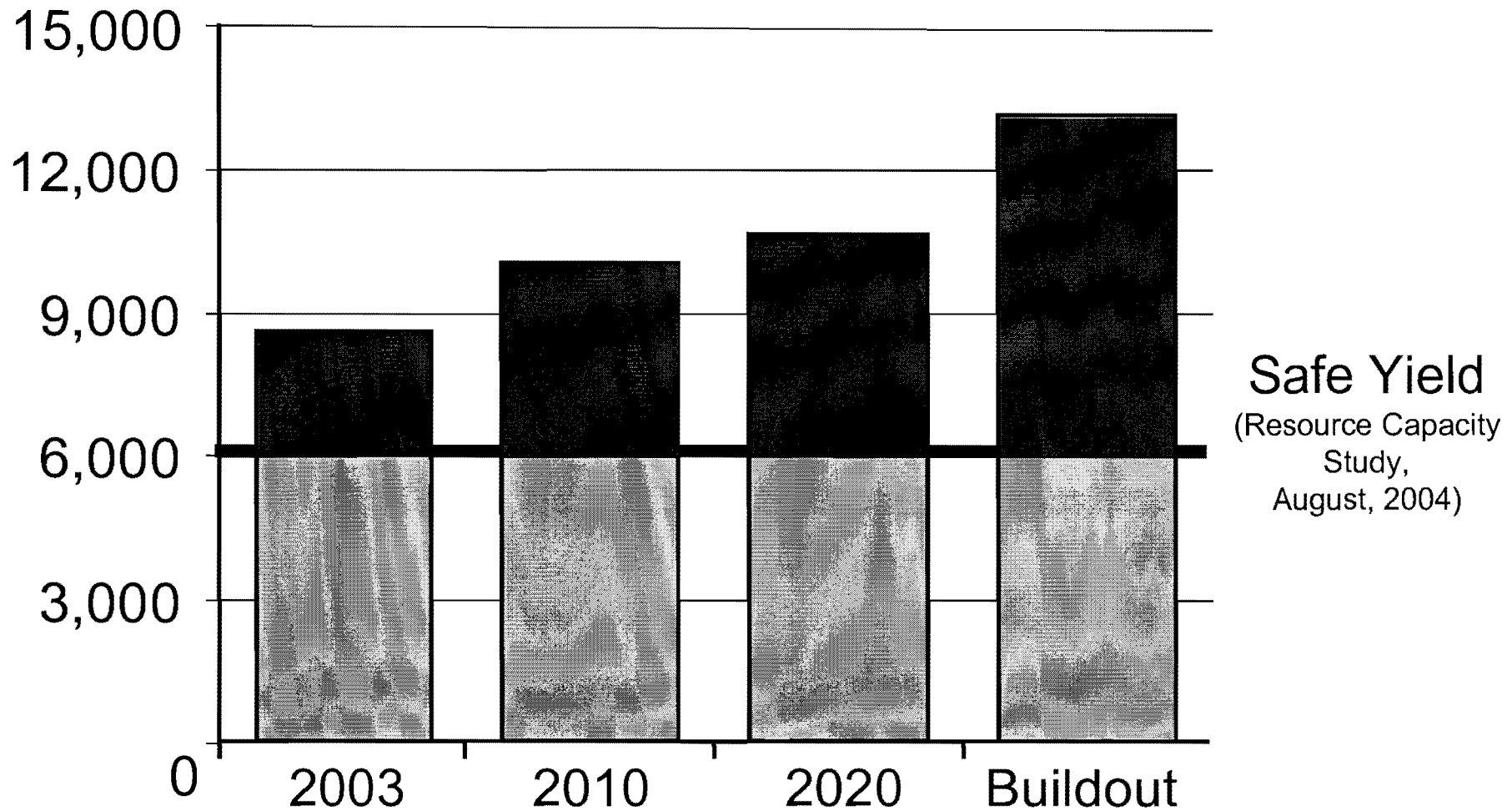
Level 1 – Water demand over the next 9 years equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply

Level 2 – Water demand over the next 7 years equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply

Level 3 – Existing water demand equals or exceeds the dependable supply - NOW!

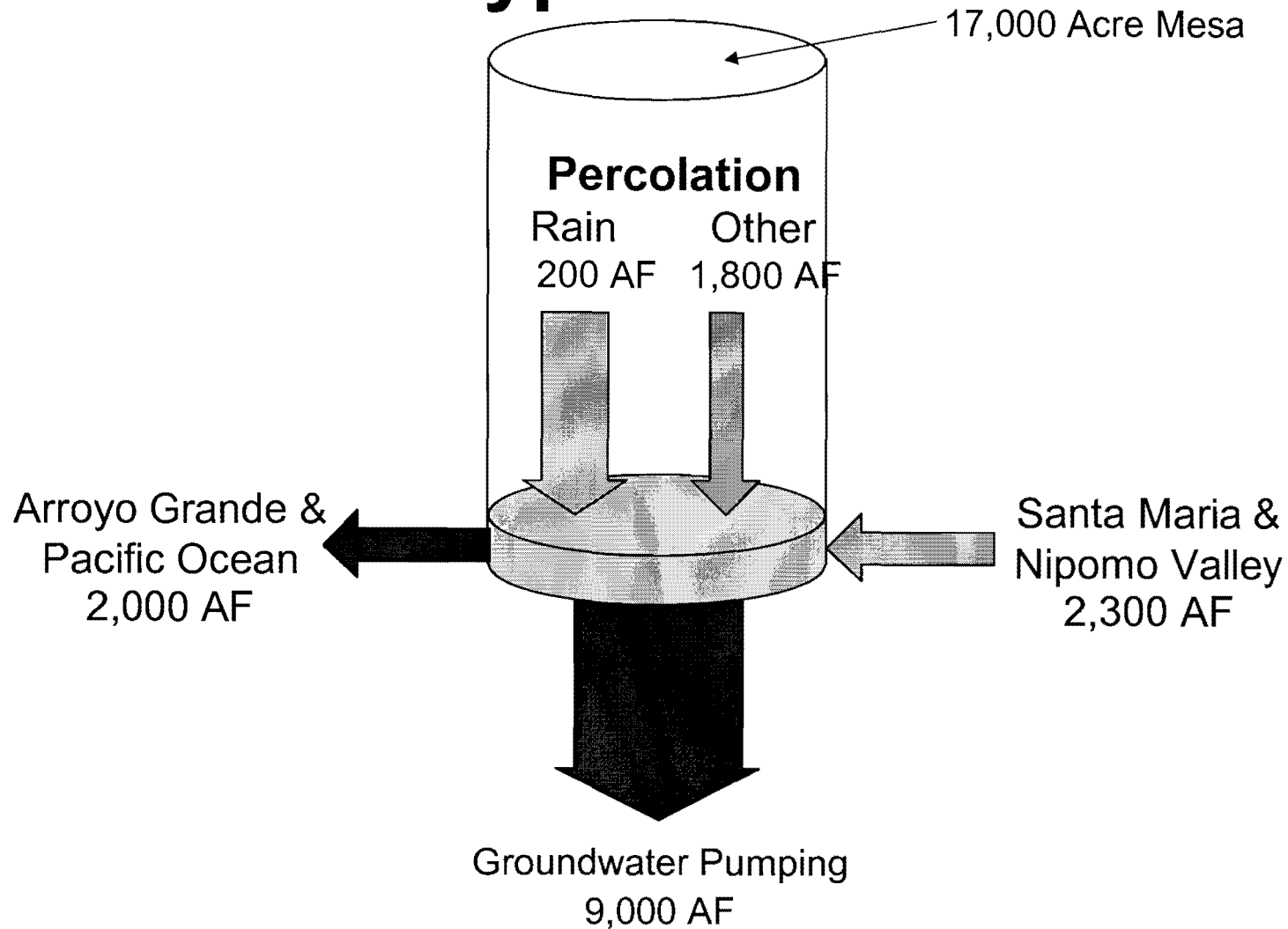
Nipomo Mesa Water Consumption

(Acre-Feet)

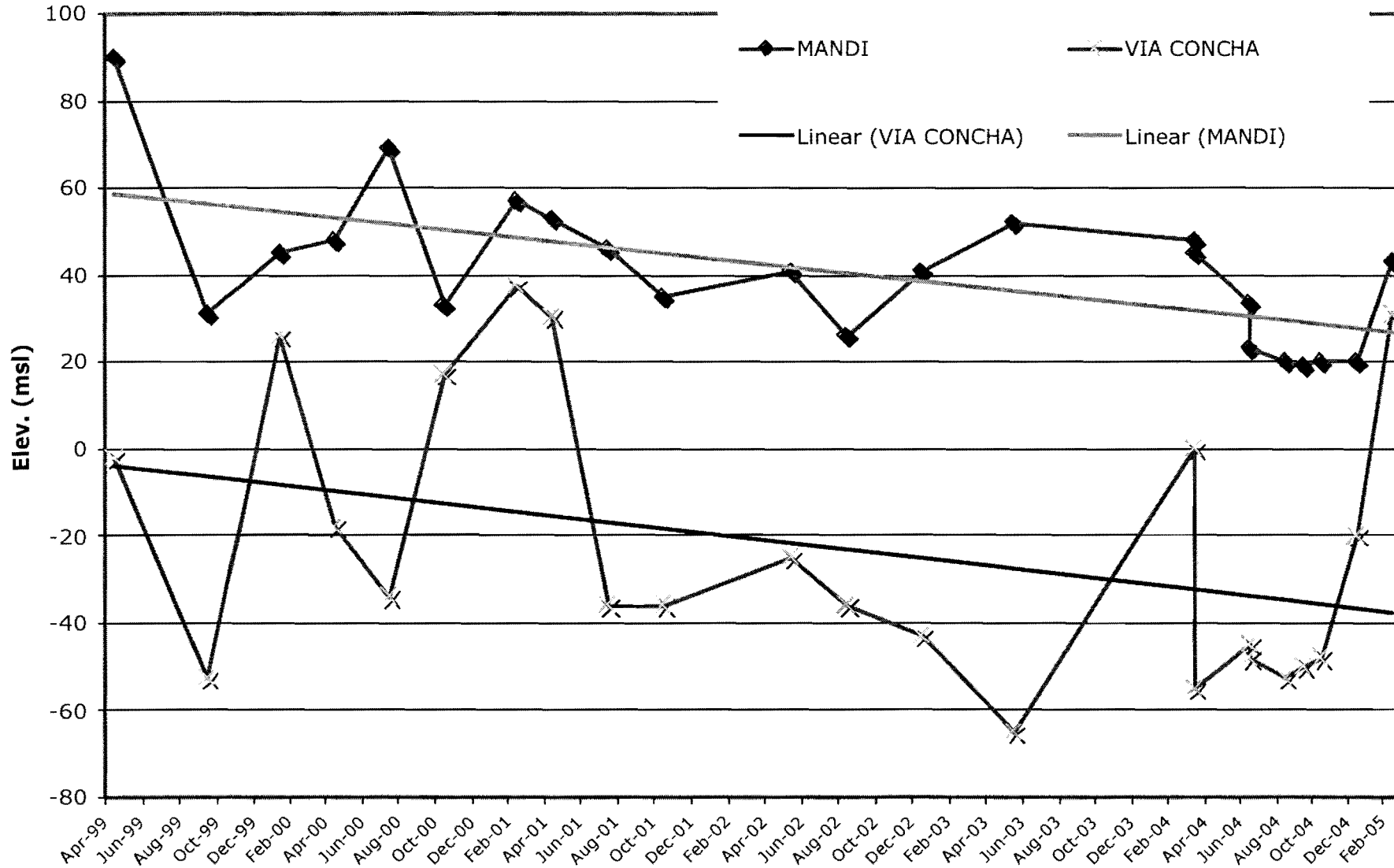


Nipomo Mesa Water Balance

Typical Year



NCSD WELLS



Level of Severity III Acknowledgements

•County Building and Planning

May & August 2004

“The Resource Capacity Study confirms that, for the Nipomo Mesa area, demand presently equals or exceeds the dependable yield. Therefore, Level of Severity III is recommended for the water resources on the Nipomo Mesa area.”
(August, 2004 RCS, p. 17)

•Water Resources Advisory Council (WRAC)

May, 2004 & May 4, 2005

•LAFCO

May, 2004

•County Planning Commission

September 23, 2004

•Nipomo Community Advisory Council (NCAC)

April 25, 2005

•Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD)

March 3, 2005

Jon Seitz
District Legal Counsel

Options When Level III Certified

The Framework for Planning (Inland) calls for

“A moratorium on land development

OR

other appropriate measures shall be enacted. . . .”

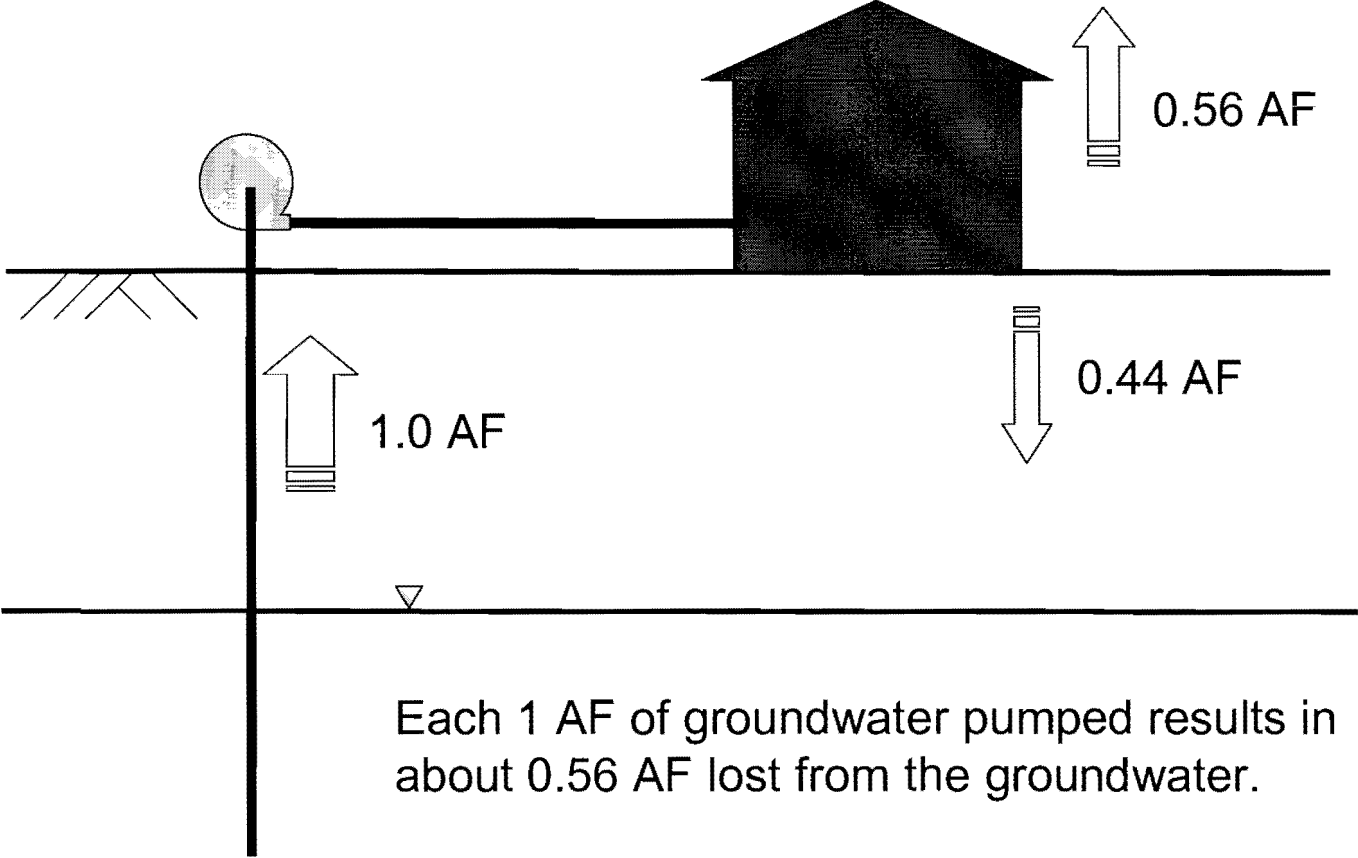
Michael LeBrun
General Manager

NCSD Goals and Action

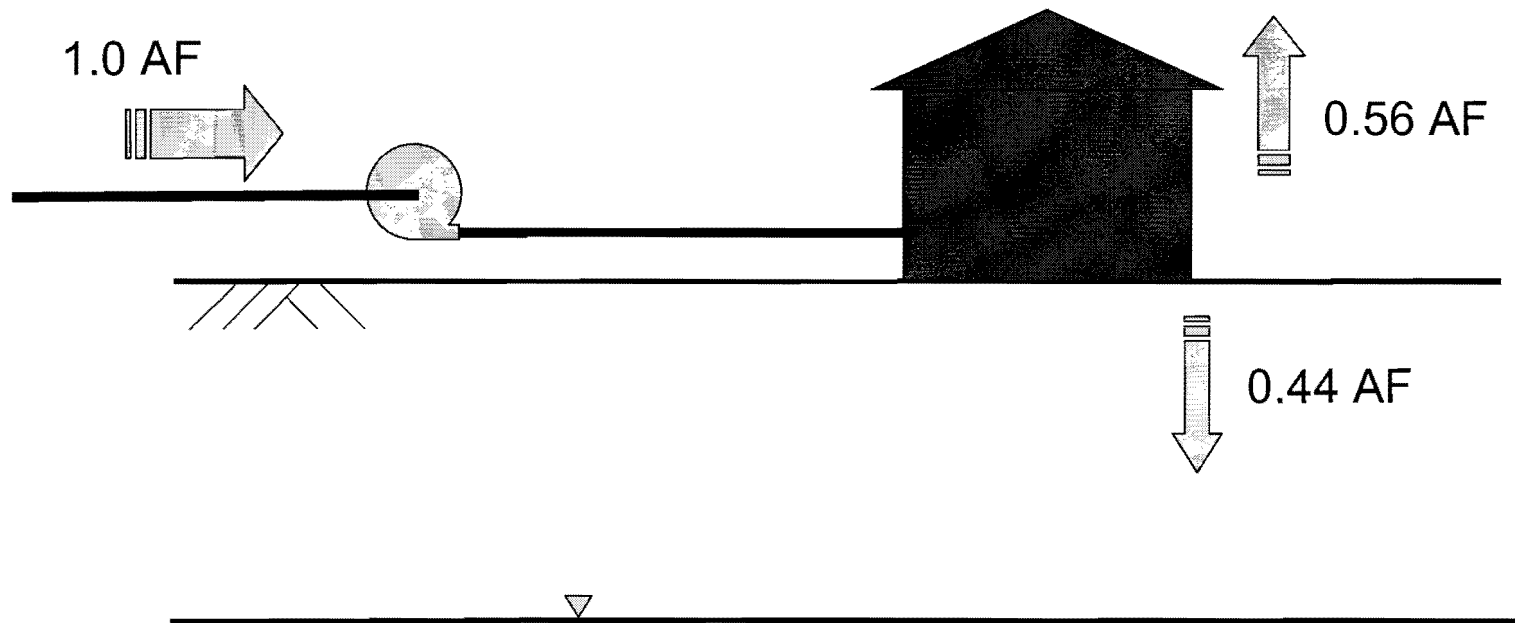
Goals

- Multi-generational stable water supply for District customers
- Equitable sharing of responsibility for managing Nipomo Mesa groundwater
- A “No-Impact” water balance

Consumptive Use of Groundwater

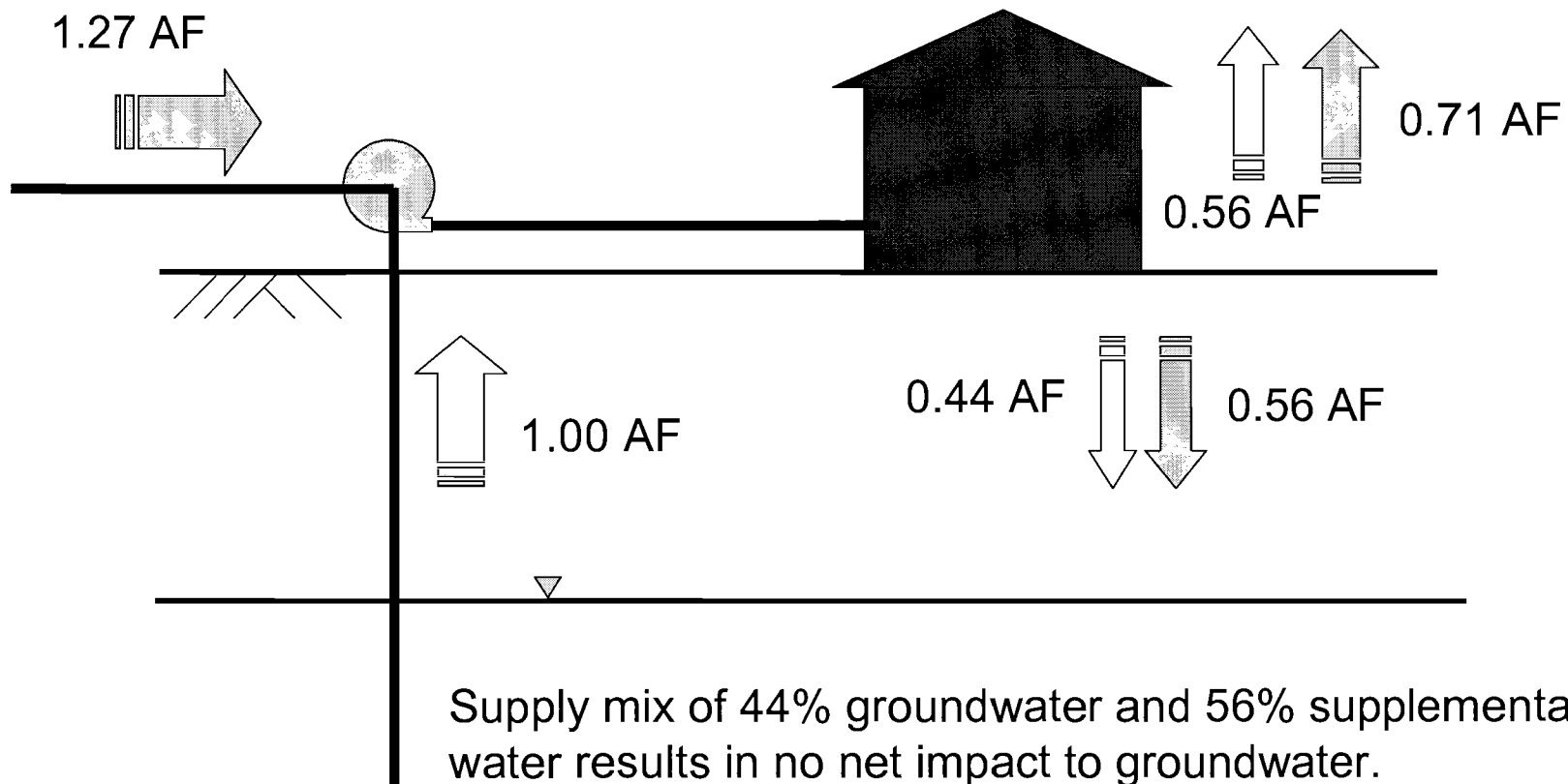


Benefit of Supplemental Water



Each 1 AF of supplemental water imported results in about 0.44 AF added to the groundwater.

“No Impact” Supply Mix



NCSD Goals and Action

Supplemental Water

Santa Maria -

- MOU September 7, 2004
- \$175,000.00 committed expenditure
- Environmental Review in process.
- Rate structure adopted in support*

Deep Well Exploration

- \$375,000.00 expended, return unsure/limited

NCSD Goals and Action

Allocation Ordinance -

- Enacted October 13, 2004
- Limits on residential water allocation annually
- Basis is County growth ordinance and RMS

Retrofit Program

- Requires annexations to retrofit 8 homes to 1

Tiered Rate

- Higher rate for higher use
- Reflects costs of Supplemental Water

NCSD Goals and Action

Telemetry upgrades - \$250,000.00

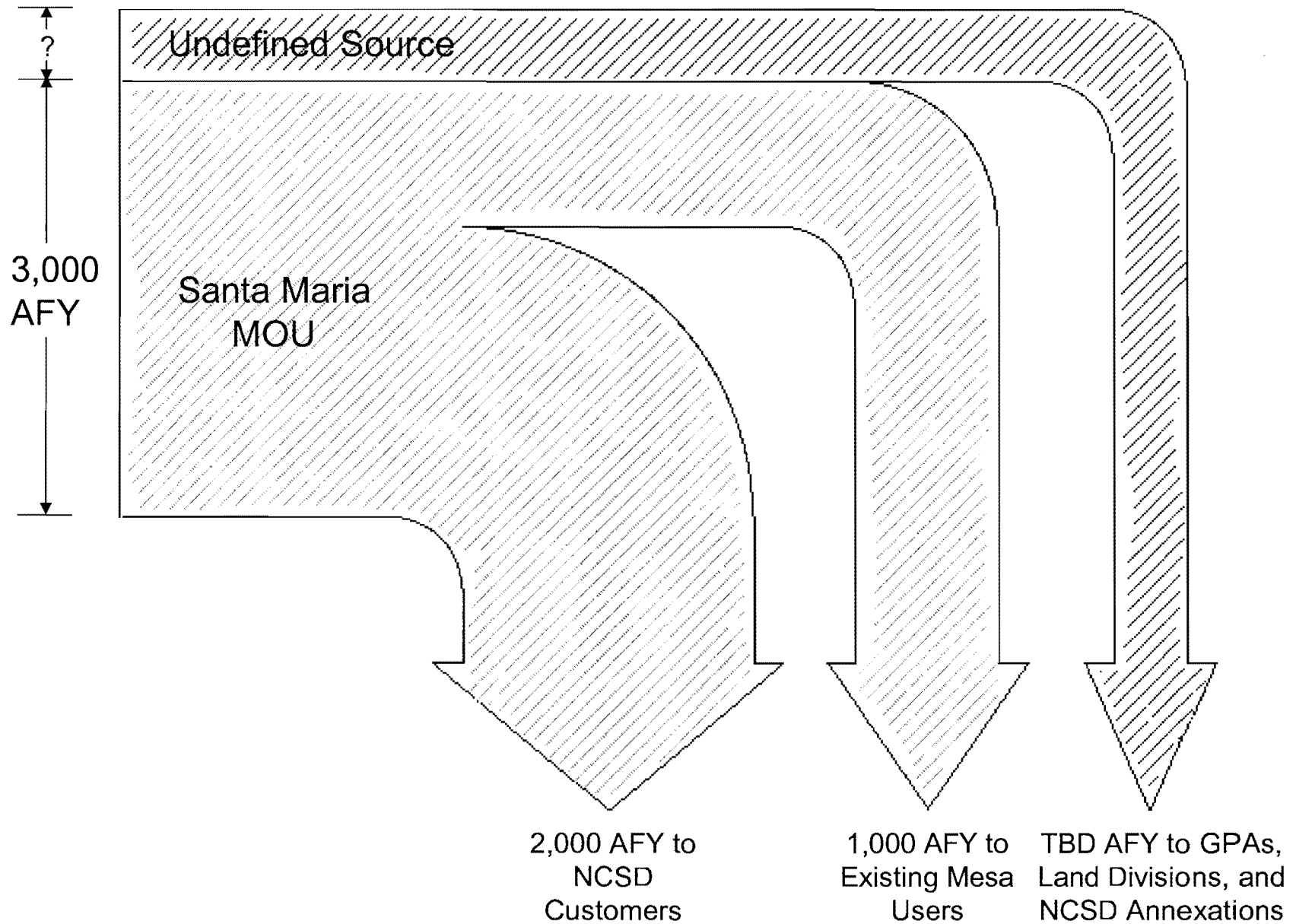
Planned Actions

- Conservation Staff Position (proposed for 2005/2006)
- Comprehensive Urban Water Management Plan Update

NCSD “No-Impact” Goal

Water Source	2004	2020 (buildout)
Mesa Groundwater	2,900	1,800
Off-Mesa Groundwater	--	200
Santa Maria	--	2,000
Total Required	2,900	4,000

Opportunity for Supplemental Water



Larry Vierheilig
President, Board of Directors

Risks of Certifying Level II When Level III Conditions Prevail

- Corrupts Resource Management System (RMS) meant to protect resources
- Creates a cynical attitude towards the RMS
- Diminishes importance of Level III condition - lessens urgency to correct deficiency
- Opens challenges to mitigation conditions

Level II implies problems are 7 years away

Level III recognizes they exist now

Resource Depletion Should Drive Decision

A Cooperative Solution

- Opportunities for balancing Nipomo Mesa groundwater are greatly improved with a Level III certification and appropriate governmental measures.

- The NCSD will do its part, but since we only use 30% of the Mesa's water, we cannot be effective alone.

Summary

- A Level III Water Severity exists and should be certified
- Level III does not mandate a building moratorium
- A Level III Water Severity will facilitate and expedite cooperative groundwater solutions among the purveyors and the County.