

## Preliminary Findings

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- Continuous lithologic boundaries to vertical groundwater flow unlikely
- Deeper site groundwater (i.e., 60 to 65 ft) is in transition zone from poor-to-better quality groundwater
- Deeper site groundwater historically used for domestic and irrigation supply

## Regional Hydrologic Setting

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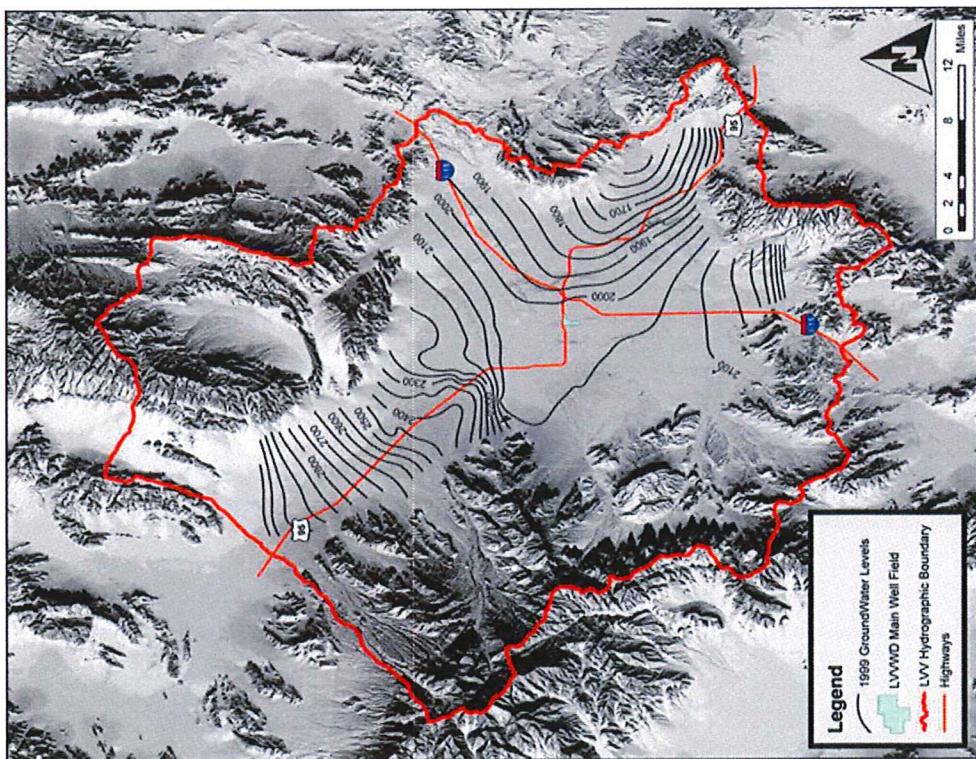


- Very low rainfall of 3 to 4 inches per year
- Recharge from Spring Mountain runoff on upper portion of alluvial fans
- Las Vegas Valley Main Well Field located north of the site
- Imported Lake Mead water recharged in 1990s near MWD
- Groundwater discharges to Las Vegas Wash
- LV Wash flows out of basin

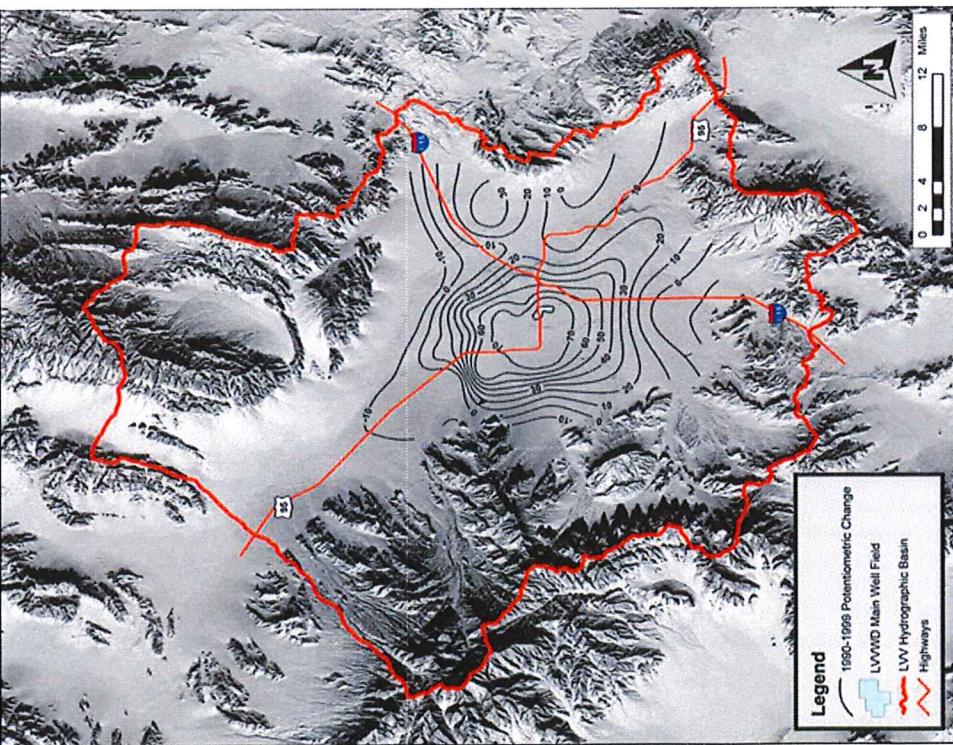
## Map of Groundwater Elevations in Deeper Aquifers



- Site is located near 2,000 ft contour line on the 1999 map
- GW elevations at the site ranged from 2,010 to 2,050 ft above msl, during Fourth Quarter 2012 monitoring event

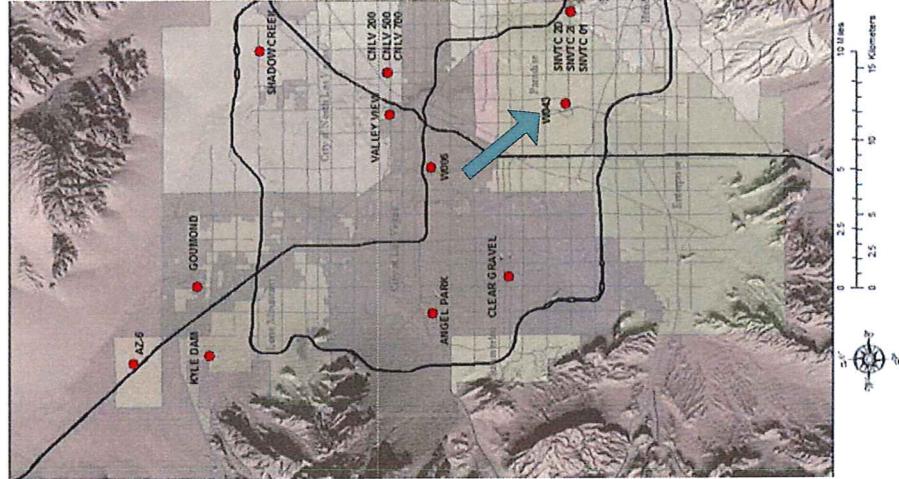
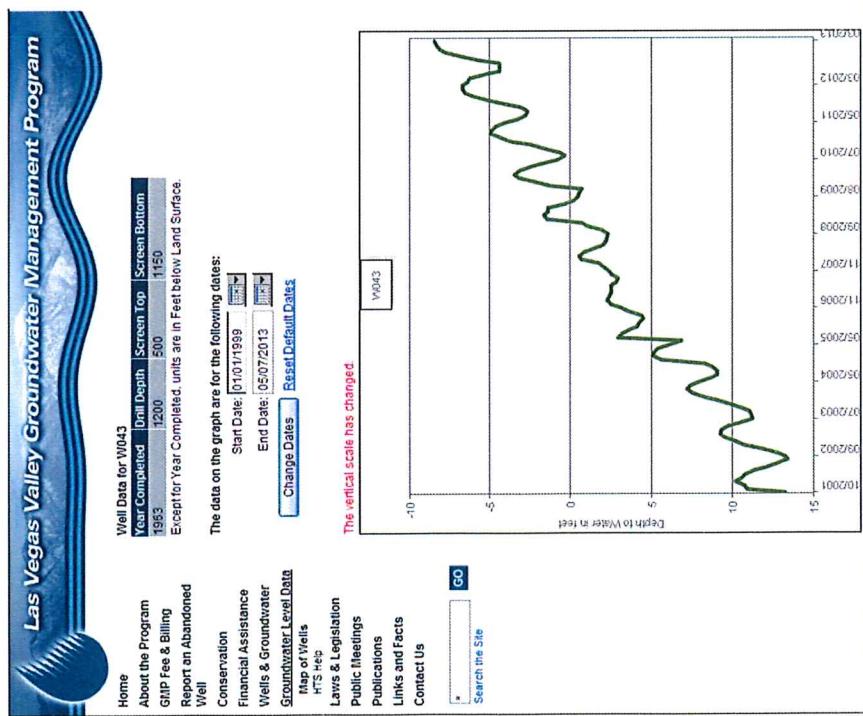


## Map of Potentiometric Surface Elevation Changes 1990 to 1999



- Water imported to the basin
- Injected near the Main Well Field
- Approximate 30-foot increase from 1991 to 1999 in Primary Producing Aquifers beneath the Rental Car Sites

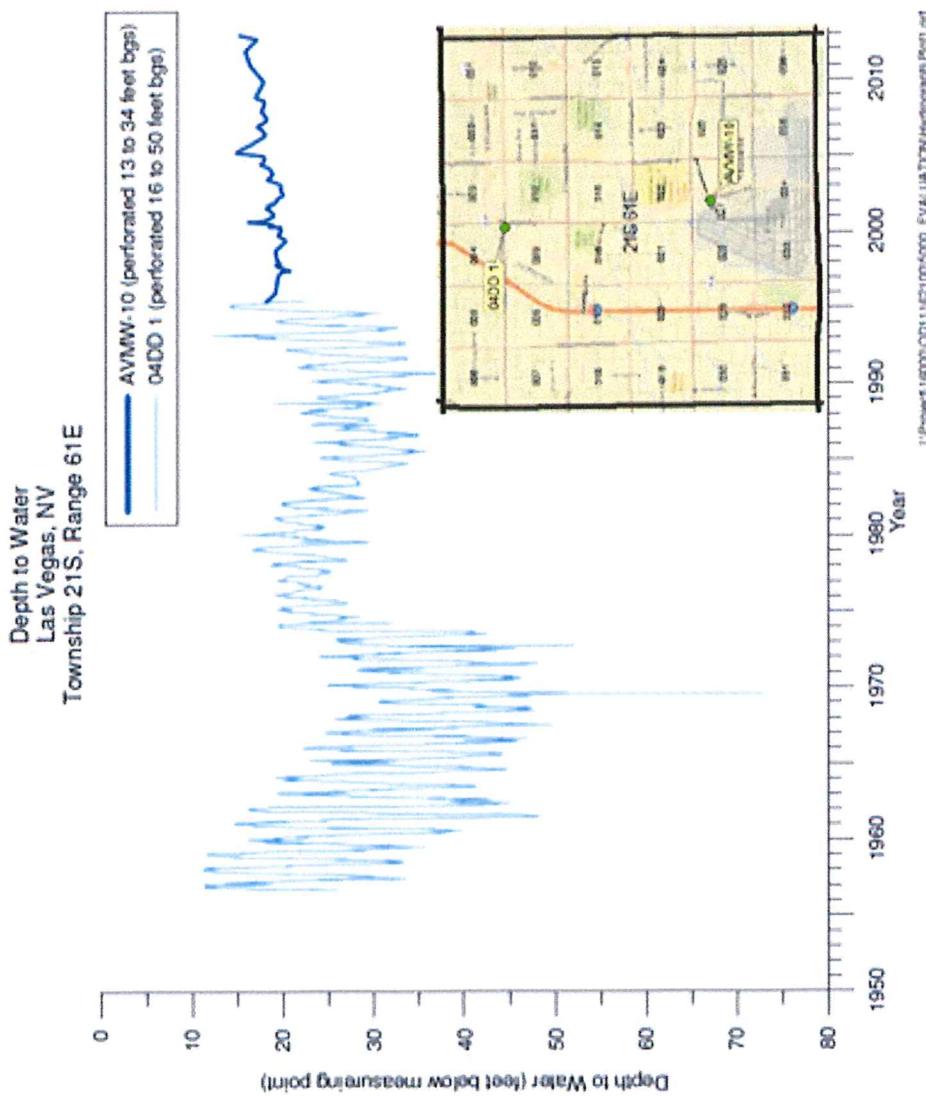
## Well Data for Deeper Well W043



# Shallow Groundwater Hydrograph McCarran Airport Area - North



- North of the site water level increased about 10 ft from 1991 through 1995
  - Water levels at the site have increased by 3 to 4 ft from 1995 to 2012
  - 2005 event is visible in the hydrograph



## Site Characterization: Key Findings

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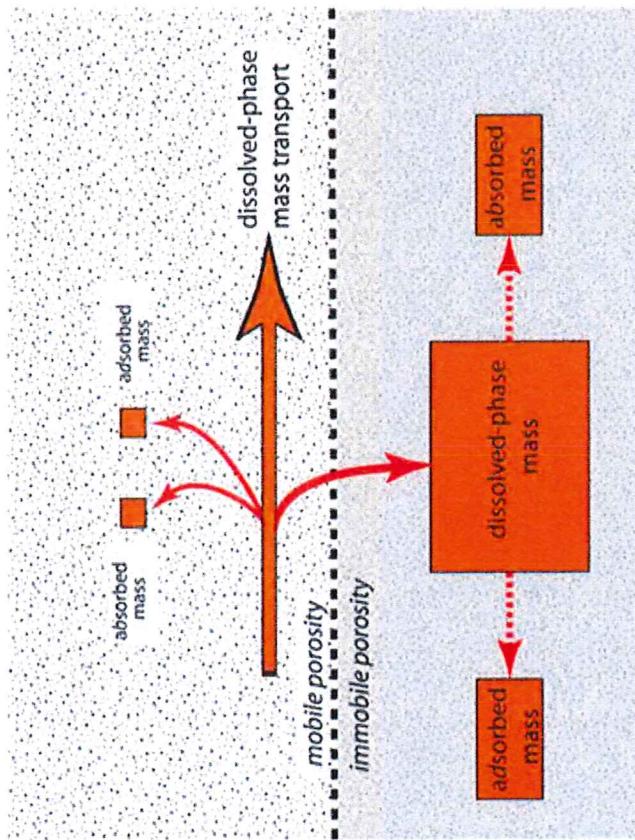
- Narrow, straight plume
- Highest MTBE concentrations are 10 to 15 ft beneath the water table
- Heterogeneous mixture of silts, clays, sands, and gravels

## Hypotheses for MTBE Fate & Transport Initial Phase Following Releases



### Multi-Domain Transport and Storage

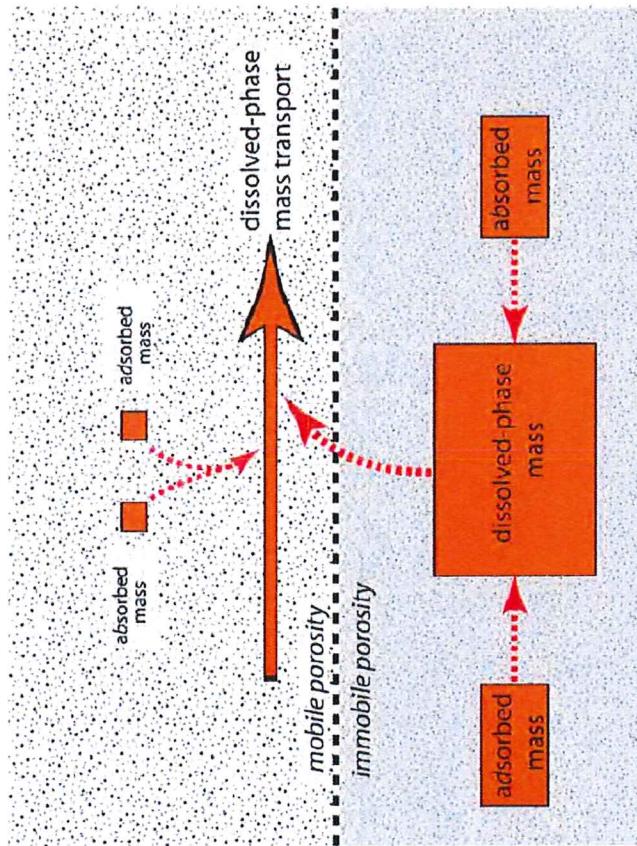
- Migration via sandier units
- Storage in siltier units



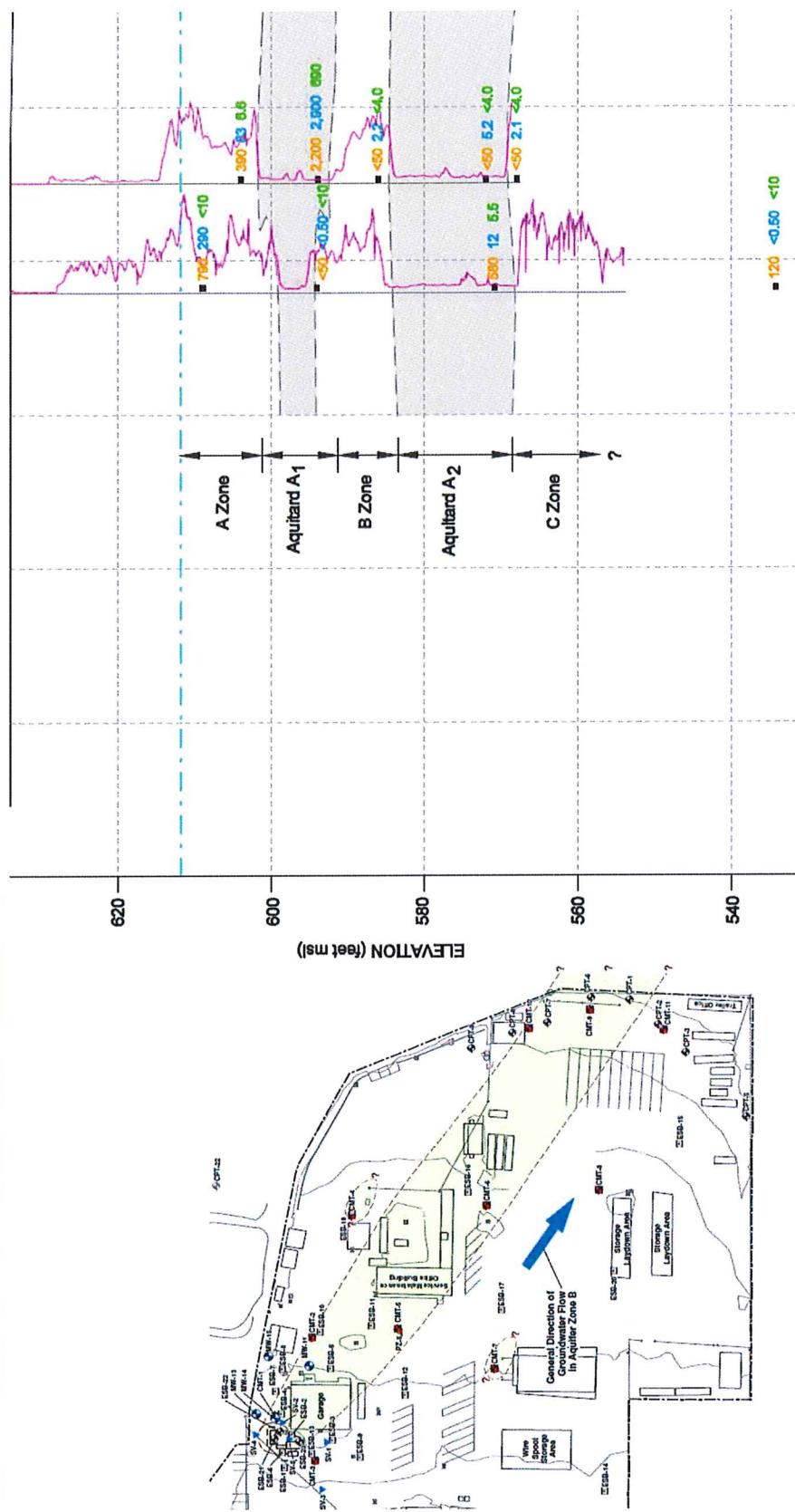
## Hypotheses for MTBE Fate & Transport Later Phase, Following Source Removal

### Multi-Domain Transport and Storage

- Residual mass mostly dissolved and within fine-grained units
- Back-diffusion from silts may continue for an extended time period
- Degradation to TBA...?



## Example Site: Remediation Determined Unnecessary Following Characterization



## Assumptions in CSM Developed To-Date

- Source area cleanup and downgradient natural attenuation will be sufficient remedies.
- MTBE & TBA will not migrate past Maryland Parkway (>200 ug/L)
- MTBE & TBA will not migrate vertically to the primary producing aquifers (>200 ug/L)
- More...?

## Next Steps

- Verify assumptions in current CSM (i.e., know and predict the extent of MTBE and TBA in groundwater)
- Determine needed degree of source remediation
- Other...?

## Potential Future Efforts

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- Develop cross-sections and delineate three-dimensional extent of MTBE and TBA.
- Identify data gaps.
  - Evaluate the hydraulic gradients and assess groundwater flow between shallow and deeper groundwater (including via conduits).
  - In the locations where elevated MTBE/TBA are detected, is the lithology high- or low-K?
- Optimize remedial efforts.
  - Estimate hydraulic conductivities for finer-grained and coarser units.
  - Is active cleanup of MTBE sequestered in low-K units needed?

# References and Bibliography



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- Brothers, Kay and Katzer, Terry, 1988, Ground-water chemistry changes resulting from stressed aquifer systems in Las Vegas Valley, Clark County, Nevada. Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada.
- Johnson, Michael, et al., (Southern Nevada Water Authority), 1998, Hydrogeology and Geology of the Las Vegas Valley, Clark County, Nevada, Field Trip Guide Book, December 16.
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- Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1991, The Shallow Aquifer System in Las Vegas Valley, Nevada, August.
- Leising, Joseph F., 2004, Chemical Conditions in the Primary Producing Aquifers and Portions of the Shallow Groundwater System of the Las Vegas Valley in 2000. Southern Nevada Water Authority. March 7.
- Morgan, D.S., and Dettinger, M.D., 1996, Ground-water conditions in Las Vegas Valley, Clark County, Nevada; Part 2, Hydrogeology and simulation of ground-water flow: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2320-B, 124 p.
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- Payne, Fred (Arcadis), 2011, California The Continuing Evolution of Groundwater Remediation Hydrogeology, Groundwater Resources Association Webcast, May 23.
- Plume, R.W., 1989, Ground-water conditions in Las Vegas Valley, Clark County, Nevada—Part I, Hydrogeologic framework: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2320-A, 15 p.
- Wood, D.B., 2000, Water use and associated effects on ground-water levels, Las Vegas Valley and vicinity, Clark County, Nevada, 1980–95: Nevada Division of Water Resources, Water-Resources Information Report 35, 101 p.
- Zikmund, 1996, Extent and Potential Use of the Shallow Aquifer and Wash Flow in Las Vegas Valley, Nevada: Southern Nevada Water Authority.



# Preliminary Conceptual Site Model

Prepared for the February 4, 2014 Former Rental Car  
Facilities Meeting

## CSM Efforts Since May 2013 Meeting



NDEP 00379

- Reviewed and integrated surficial geology
- Inclusion of new geologic and water quality data
- Review of completeness and accuracy of data posted on section
- Review of interpreted geology
- Evaluation of sediment trends vs. depth from NDWR well databases and logs
- Plotted concentration trends over time and over distance

# Outline of Presentation

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- Regional Geology
- Site Geology
- Hydrostratigraphy
- Regional Hydrology
- Regional Groundwater Flow and Gradients
- Results of Additional Analysis and Data Collection

# Las Vegas Valley Basin

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NDEP 00381

MGWA, 1998

- > 1,500 ft of unconsolidated sediments

- Alluvial fan deposits (coarser) interfingered with playa deposits (finer)

- Water table intersects surface at the Las Vegas Wash

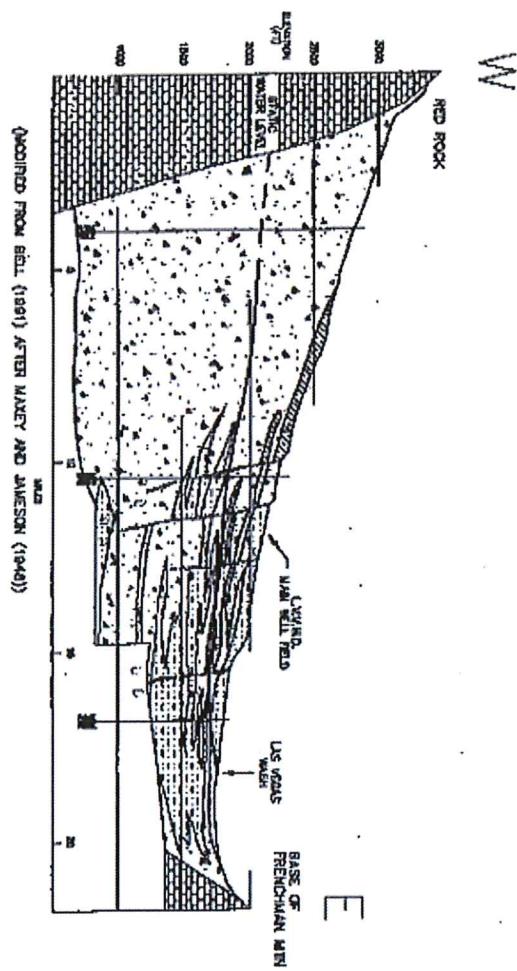
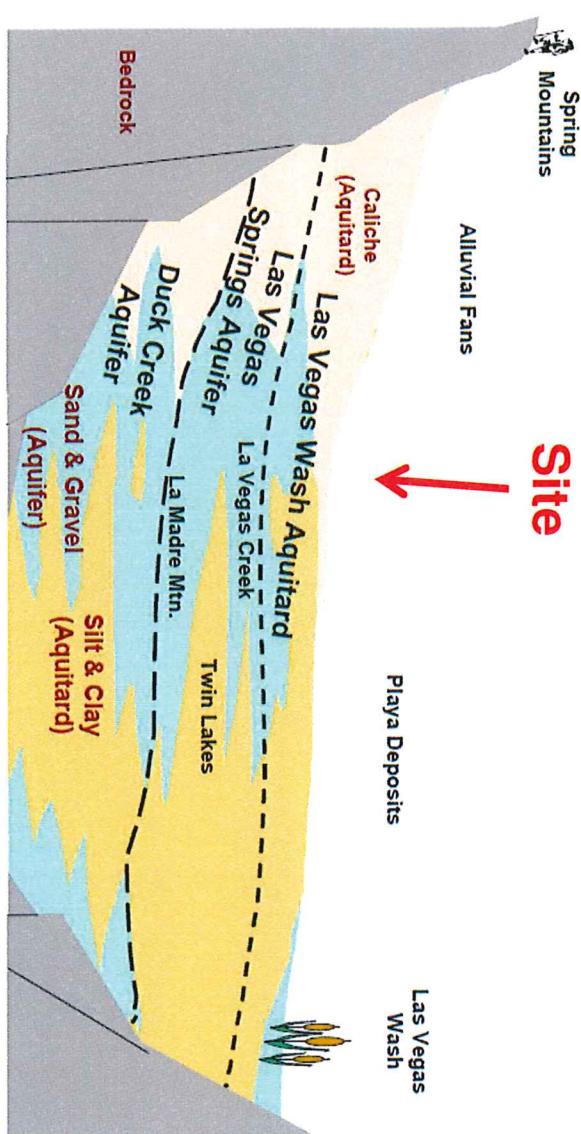
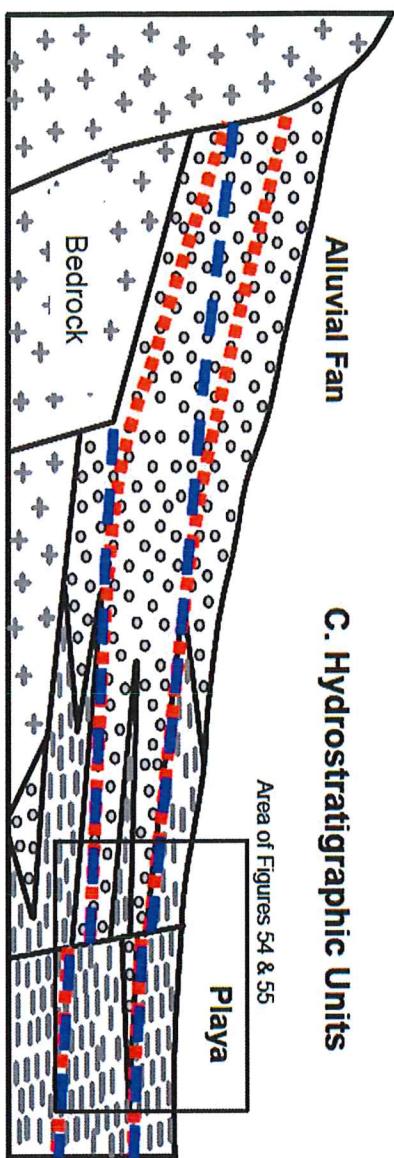


Figure 1-7. -- Generalized Geologic Cross Section of the Las Vegas Valley.

# Major Stratigraphic Units (Leising, 2004)



NDEP 00382



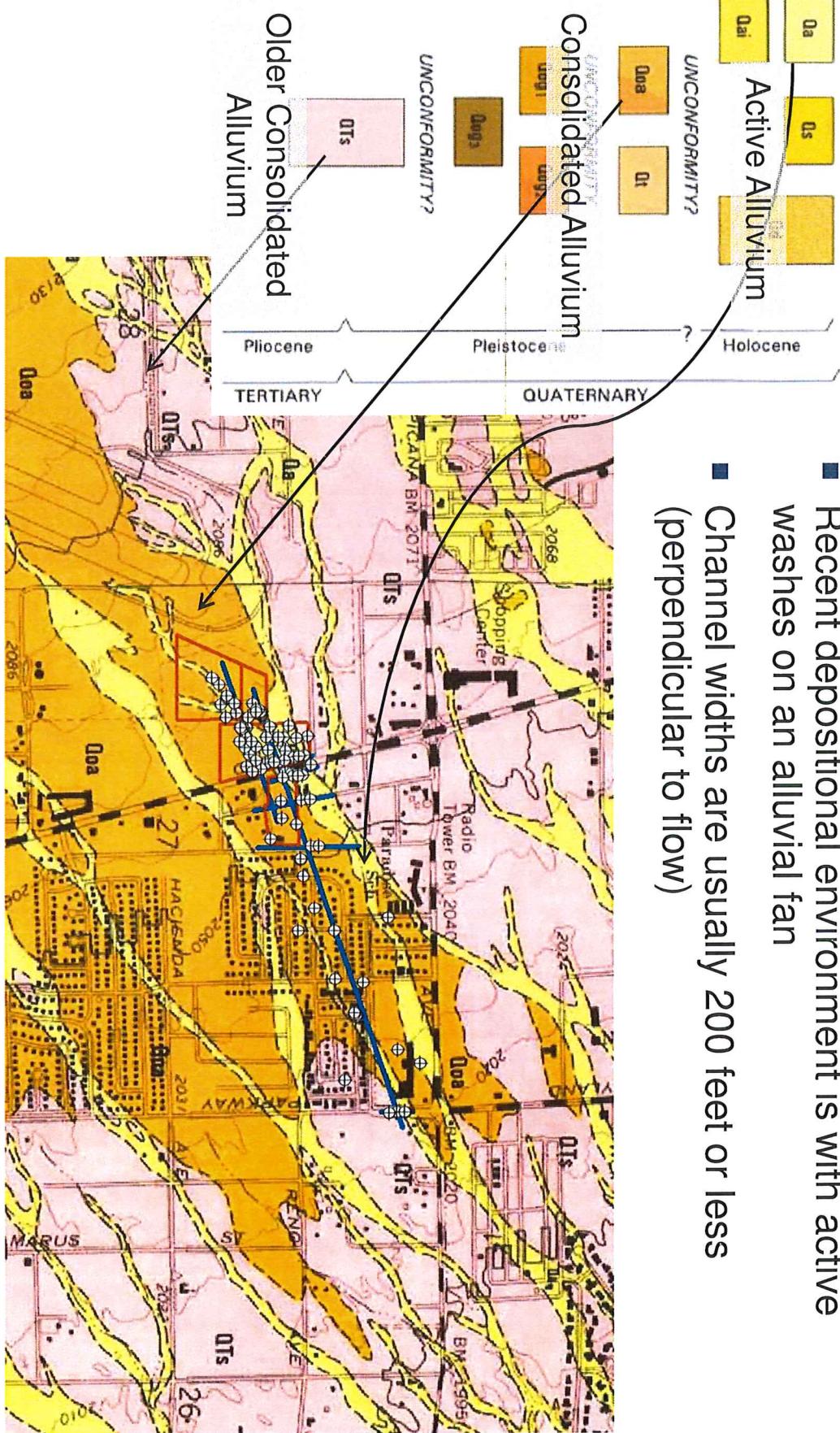
- No distinct lithologic boundaries
- Hydrostratigraphic definitions include:
  - Age of sediments
  - Water quality (TDS)
- Site located near transition from alluvial fan to playa deposits

# Surficial Geology

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NDEP 00383

- Recent depositional environment is with active washes on an alluvial fan
- Channel widths are usually 200 feet or less (perpendicular to flow)



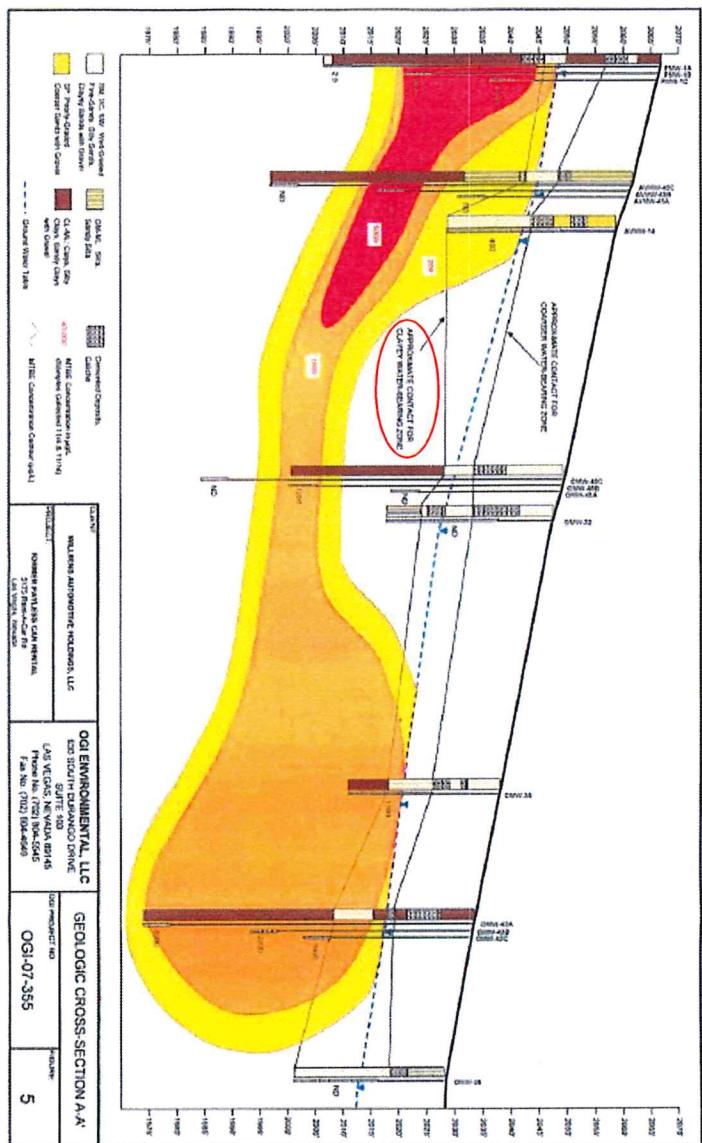
# Site Geology & Hydrostratigraphy (1 of 3)



NDEP 00384

- OGI (2009)  
interpreted finer unit  
starting at about 30ft  
bgs

- Note, "Clayey water  
bearing zone," is  
highly conductive

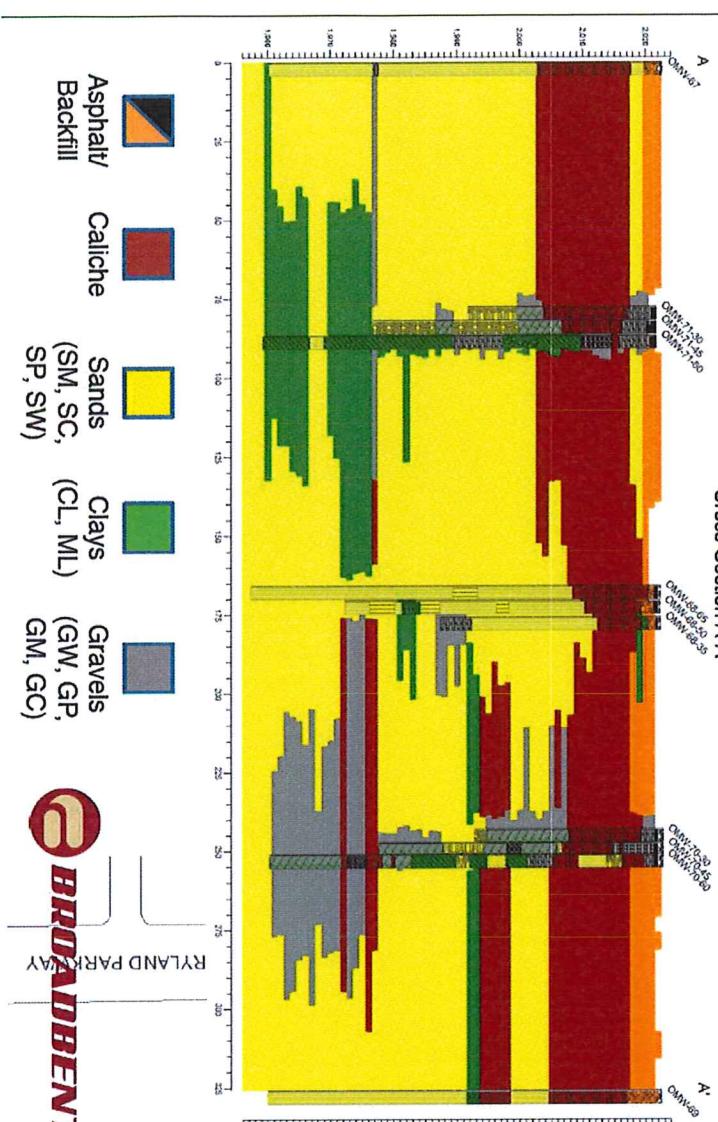


## Site Geology & Hydrostratigraphy (2 of 3)



NDEP 00385

### Far Downgradient Investigation



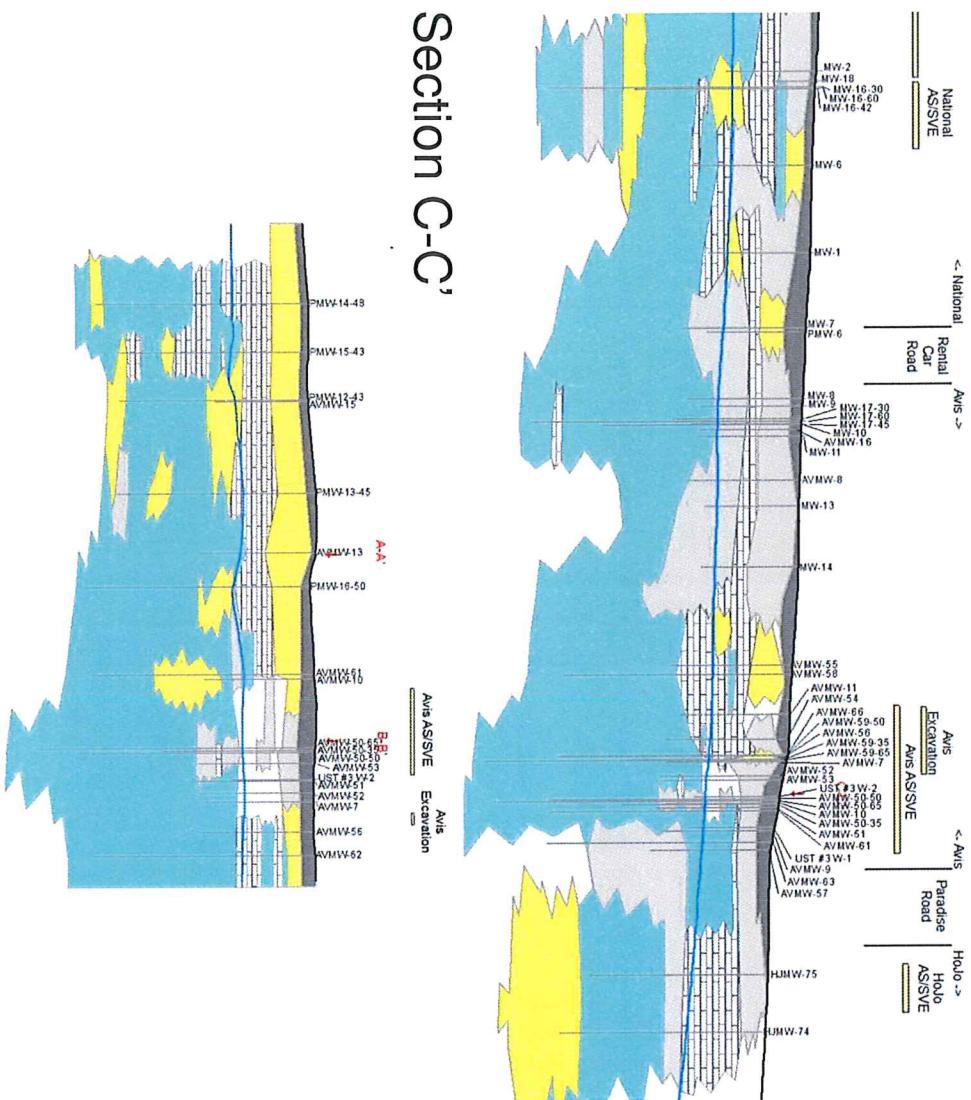
- Many boring logs show silts and clays (some reddish brown) at about 30 ft
- Caliche is common but not at predictable depths
- Not all borings greater than 30 ft deep terminate in silt or clay

## Site Geology & Hydrostratigraphy (3 of 3)



NDEP 00386

Section B-B'



Section C-C'

- “Shallow” Geology – upper 30 feet is predominantly coarser material (Silty Sand).
- “Deeper” Geology – below 30 feet is predominantly fine grained with lenses of coarser material

# OGI Slug Test Results (2009)



NDEP 00387

Table 6. Summary of Hydraulic Testing Results.

Well	Screened Interval (ft bgs)	Test Phase	Hydraulic conductivity (cm/sec)	Hydraulic conductivity (ft/d)	Comments
PMW-1a	55-60	Slug in	1.11E-04	0.31	Excellent curve match
PMW-1a	55-60	Slug out	9.51E-05	0.27	Excellent curve match
PMW-1b	45-50	Slug in	2.54E-04	0.72	Excellent curve match
PMW-1b	45-50	Slug out	2.61E-04	0.74	Excellent curve match
PMW-1c	25-30	Slug in	2.34E-04	0.66	Fair curve match
PMW-1c	25-30	Slug out	2.00E-04	0.57	Good curve match
OMW-43a	55-60	Slug in	9.58E-04	2.71	Excellent curve match
OMW-43a	55-60	Slug out	1.02E-03	2.90	Excellent curve match
OMW-43b	45-50	Slug in	2.93E-03	8.30	Excellent curve match
OMW-43b	45-50	Slug out	2.76E-03	7.83	Excellent curve match
OMW-43c	25-30	Slug in	No solution	No solution	Poor curve match <sup>1</sup>
OMW-43c	25-30	Slug out	1.33E-02	37.78	Poor curve match <sup>1</sup>

Notes:

- (1) The water level recovery rate for well OMW-43A was too rapid to allow sufficient data to be collected for a reliable estimate of hydraulic conductivity. Data indicate a very high conductivity.

## Comparison of Slug Test Results



NDEP 00388

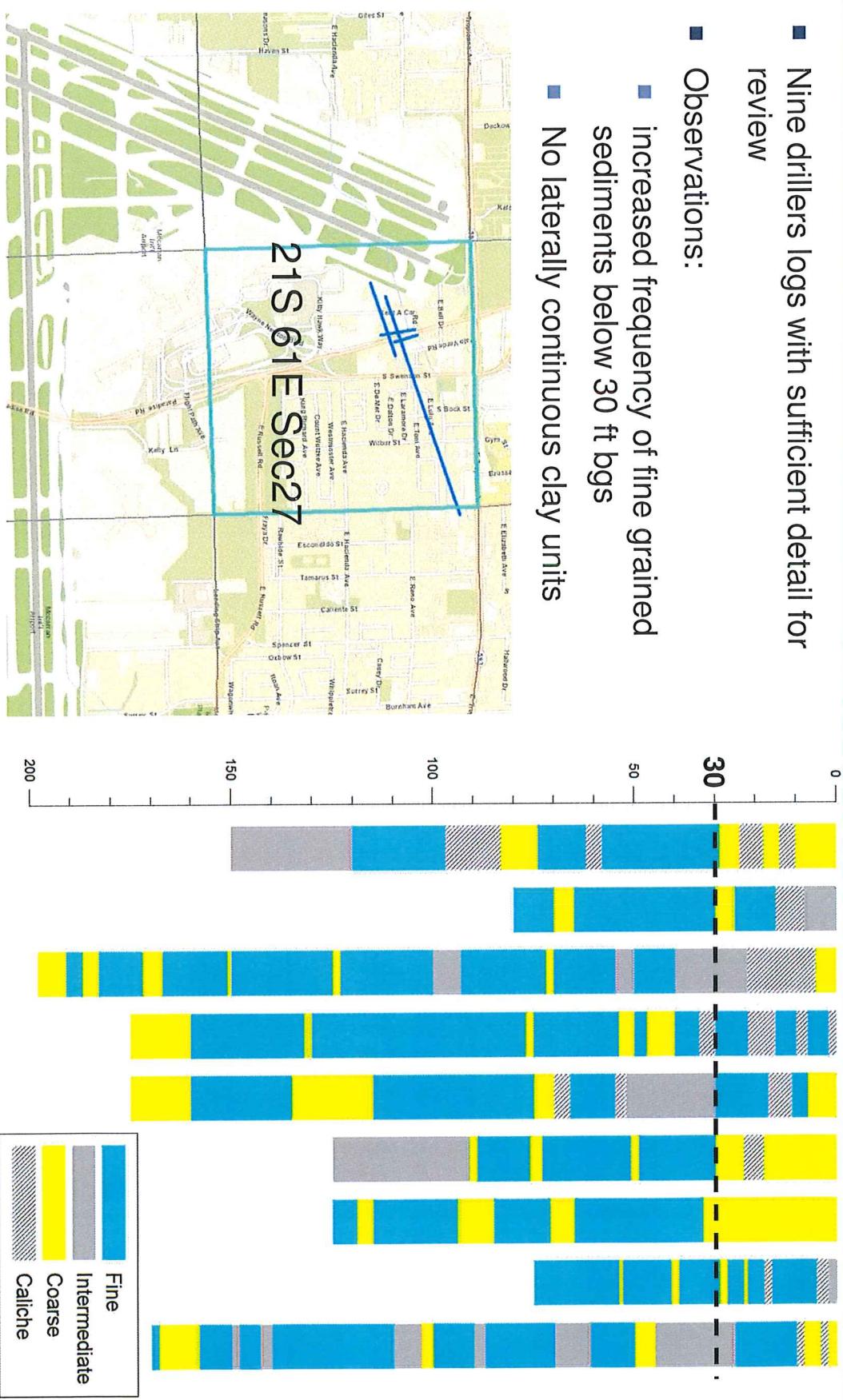
- K in the two clusters ranges from approximately  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-5}$  cm/s
- The highest K was measured in shallow wells in the offsite cluster well
- The lowest K was measured in the deepest screened wells, in both the on-site and off-site cluster wells
- The observed lithology corresponds to the slug test data:
  - The deeper aquifer has fine grained clays and lower K values.
  - The shallower wells are set in fine-grained sand and silty sand and have higher K values.
- Upper HSU: range of hydraulic conductivity (K) estimates is higher.
- Lower HSU: range of K estimates is lower.

# Analysis of Deeper Geologic Site Data

amec

NDEP 00389

- Nine drillers logs with sufficient detail for review
- Observations:
  - increased frequency of fine grained sediments below 30 ft bgs
  - No laterally continuous clay units



## Regional Hydrologic Setting



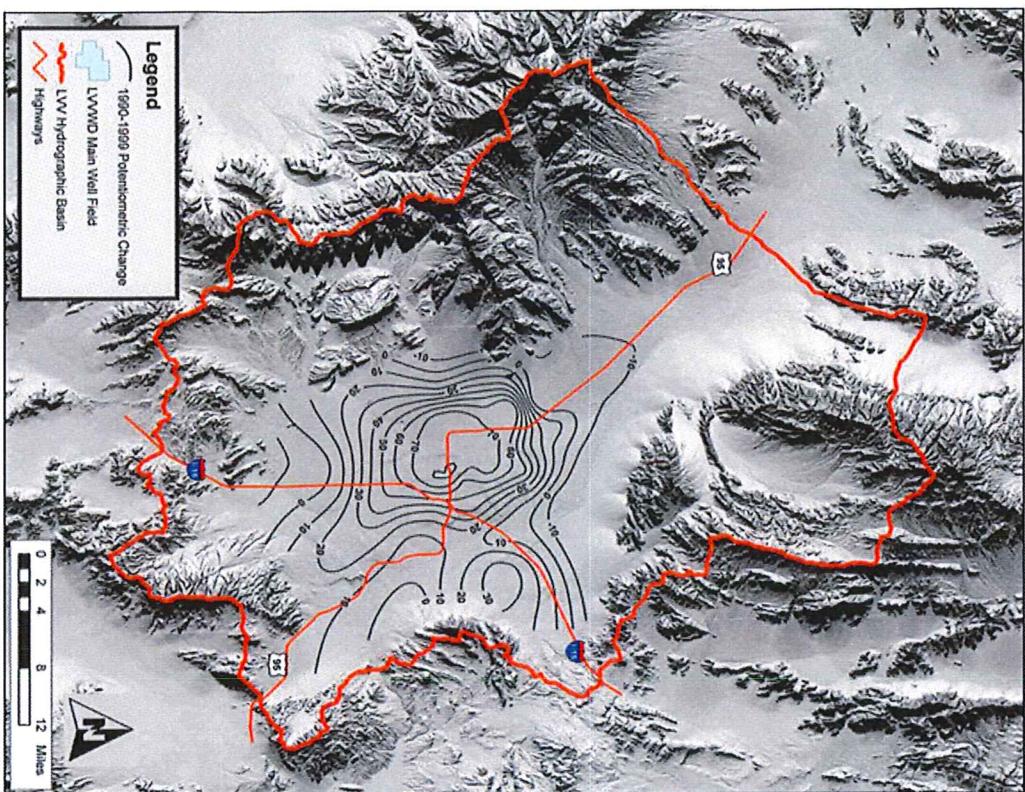
NDEP 00390

- Very low rainfall of 3 to 4 inches per year
- Recharge from Spring Mountain runoff on upper portion of alluvial fans
- Las Vegas Valley Main Well Field located north of the site
- Imported Lake Mead water recharged in 1990s near MWD
- Groundwater discharges to Las Vegas Wash
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# Map of Potentiometric Surface Elevation Changes 1990 to 1999

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NDEP 00391

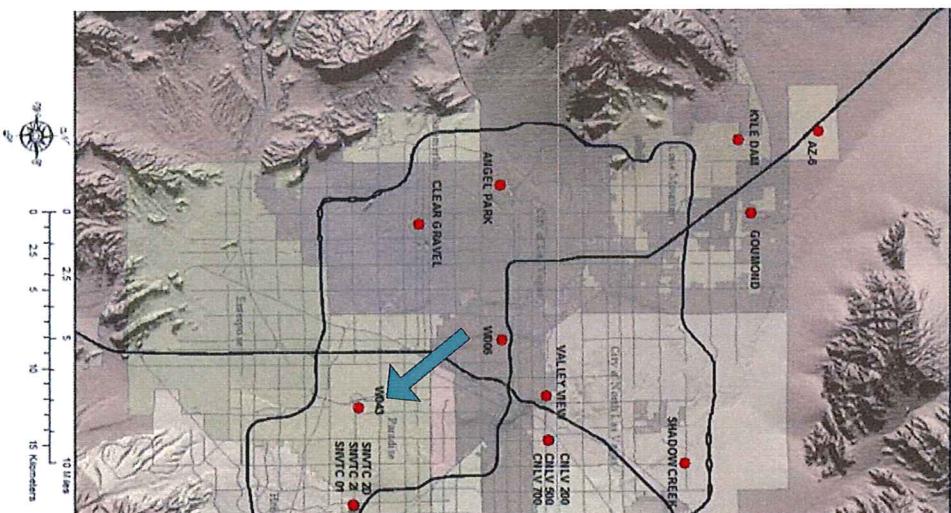
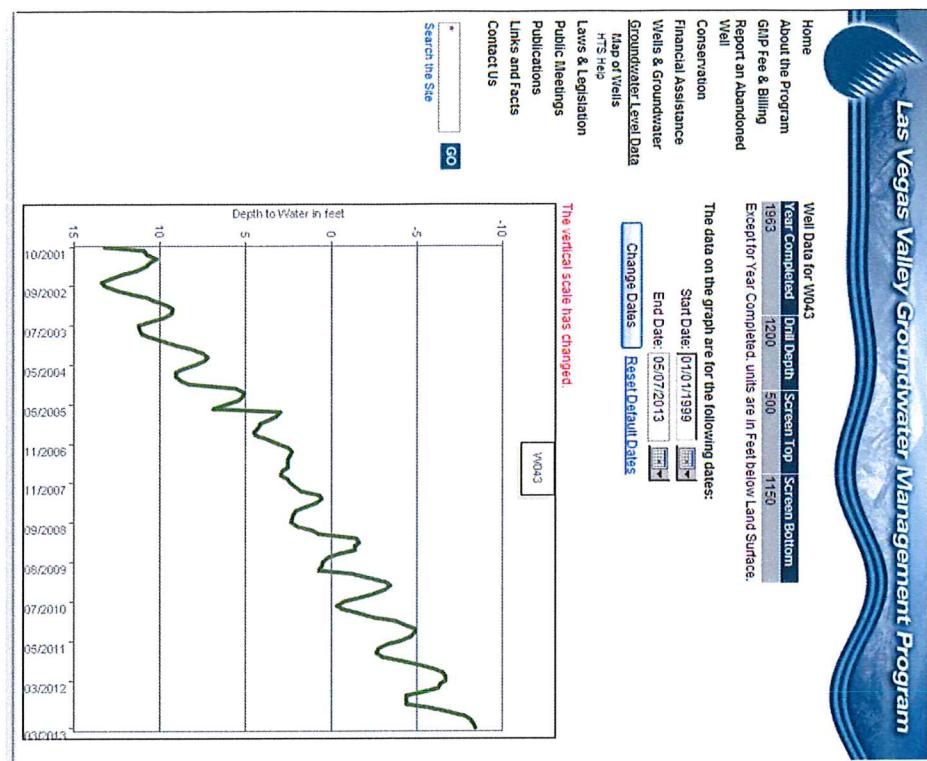


- Water imported to the basin
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# Well Data for Deeper Well W043

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NDEP 00392



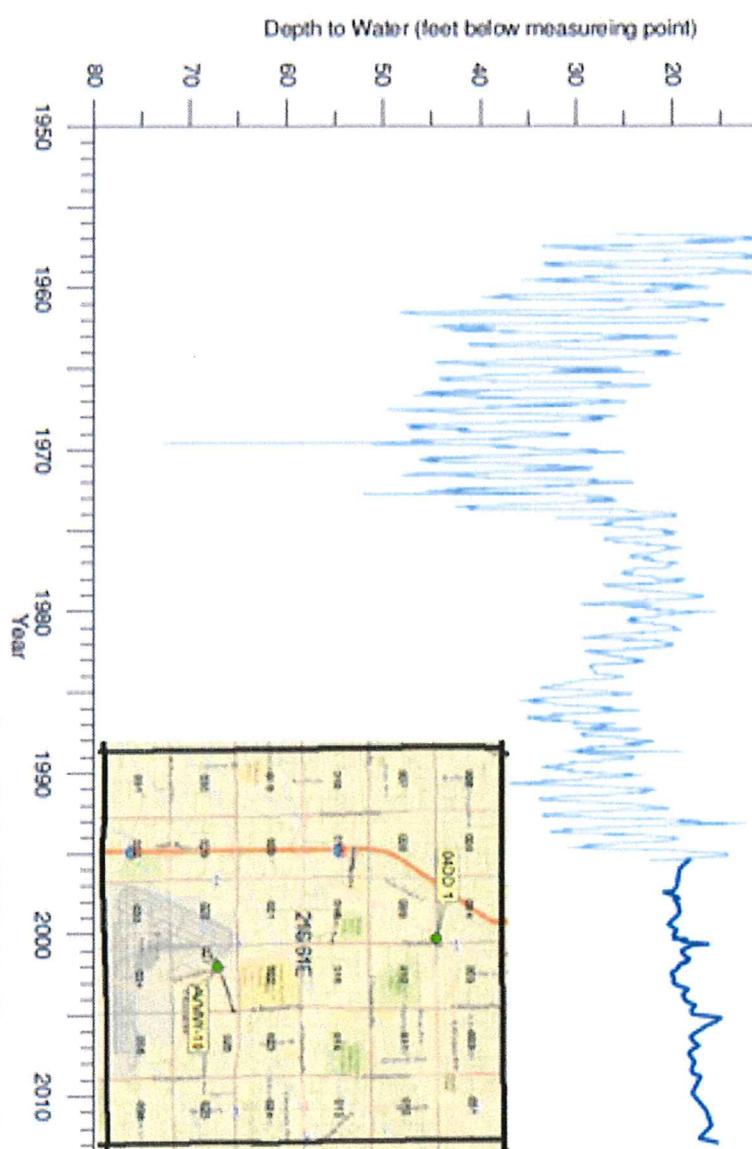
# Shallow Groundwater Hydrograph McCarran Airport Area - North



NDEP 00393

Depth to Water  
Las Vegas, NV  
Township 21S, Range 61E

AV/MW 10 (perforated 13 to 34 feet bgs)  
04DD 1 (perforated 16 to 50 feet bgs)



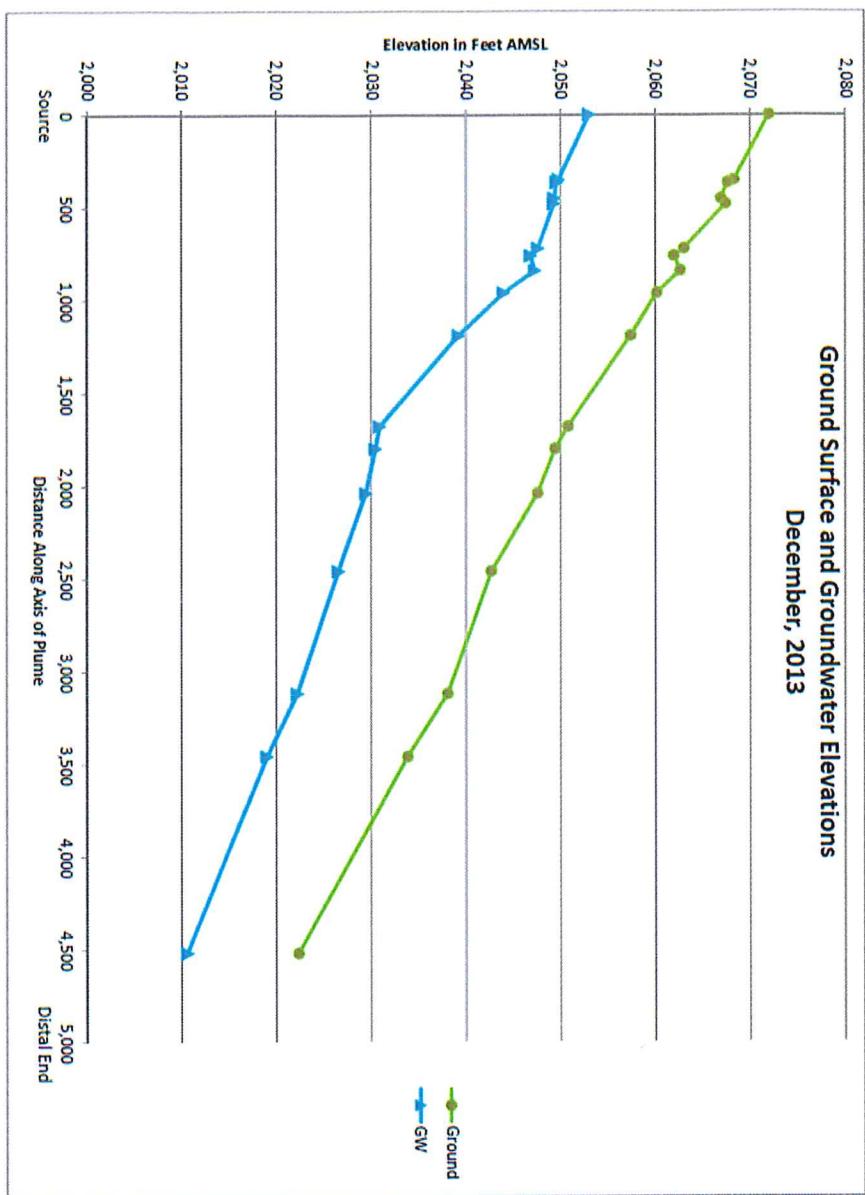
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- North of the site water level increased about 10 ft from 1991 through 1995
- Water levels at the site have increased by 3 to 4 ft from 1995 to 2012
- 2005 event is visible in the hydrograph

# Groundwater Gradient

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NDEP 00394



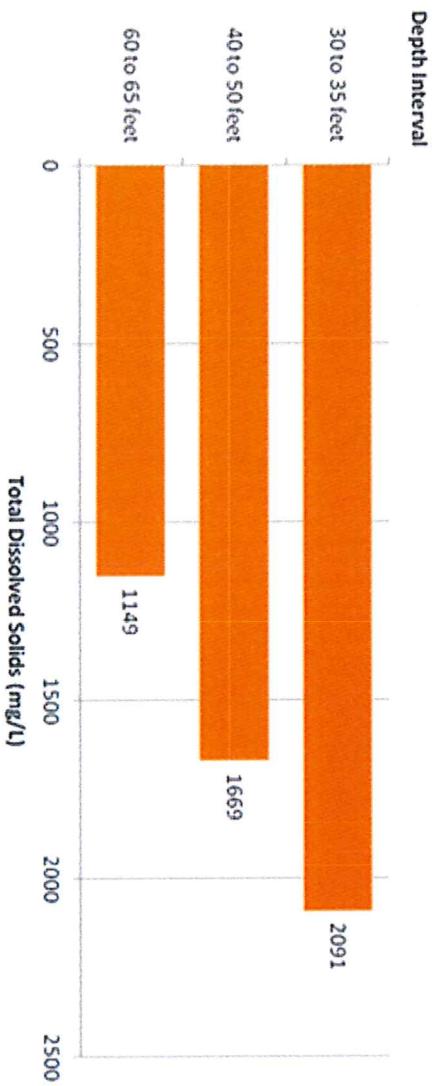
- Depth to water table decreases downgradient
- Steepened water table downgradient of source areas

## Site "Hydro-Chemi-Stratigraphy"



NDEP 00395

### Average TDS vs Depth



- Water quality improves with depth
- Two of the eleven deeper samples < 500 mg/L TDS
- Producing aquifer TDS in this area is between 400 and 800 mg/L

## Summary of Findings

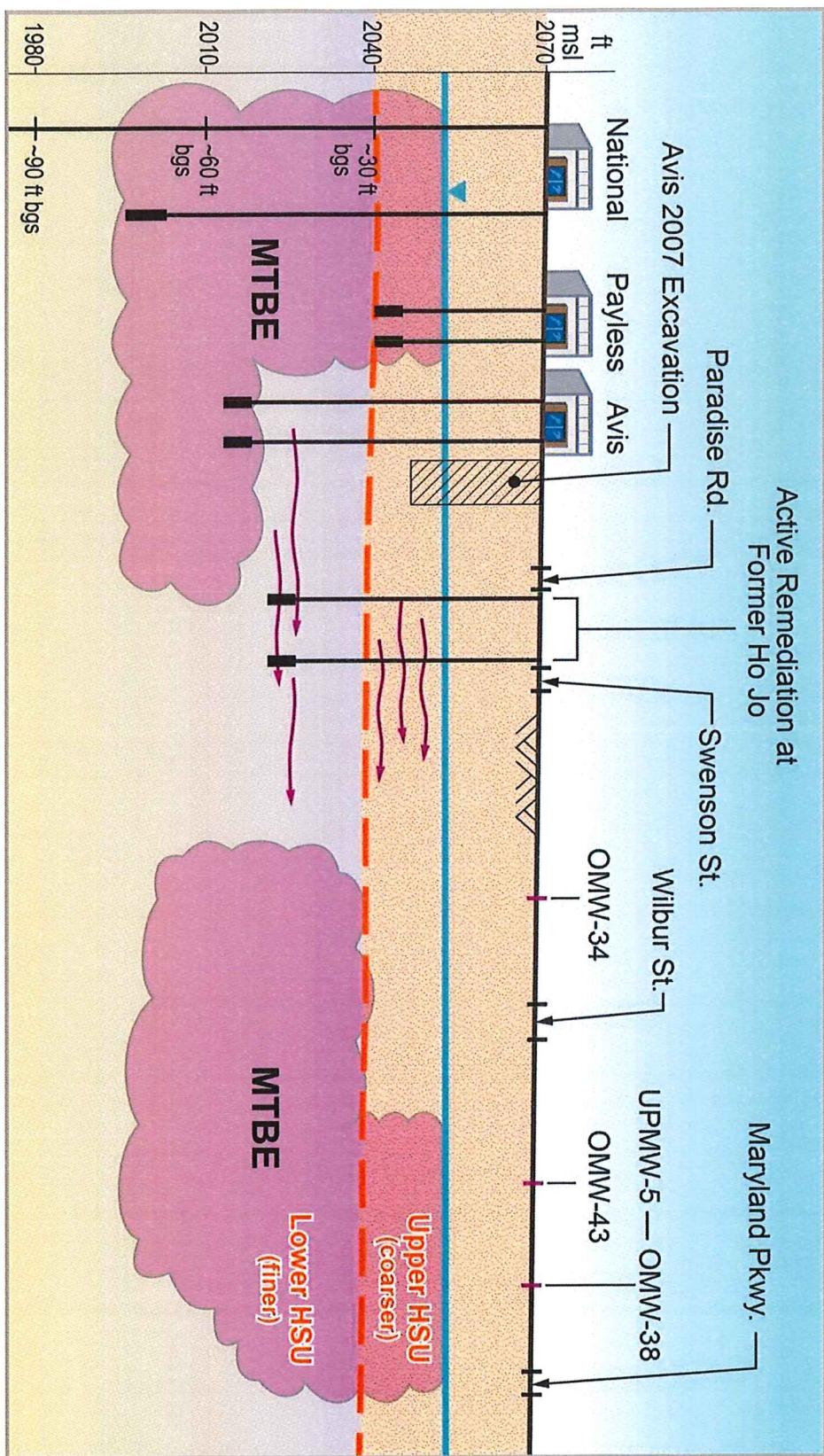


- Continuous lithologic boundaries to vertical groundwater flow unlikely
- Deeper site groundwater (i.e., 60 to 65 ft) is in transition zone from poor-to-better quality groundwater
- Deeper site groundwater historically used for domestic and irrigation supply

# Conceptual Site Model

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NDEP 00397



## Potential Mechanisms For Vertical Distribution of MTBE

- Vertical Flow
- Conduits
- Historically lower water table

# Normal Faults Perpendicular to GW Flow



NGWA, 1998

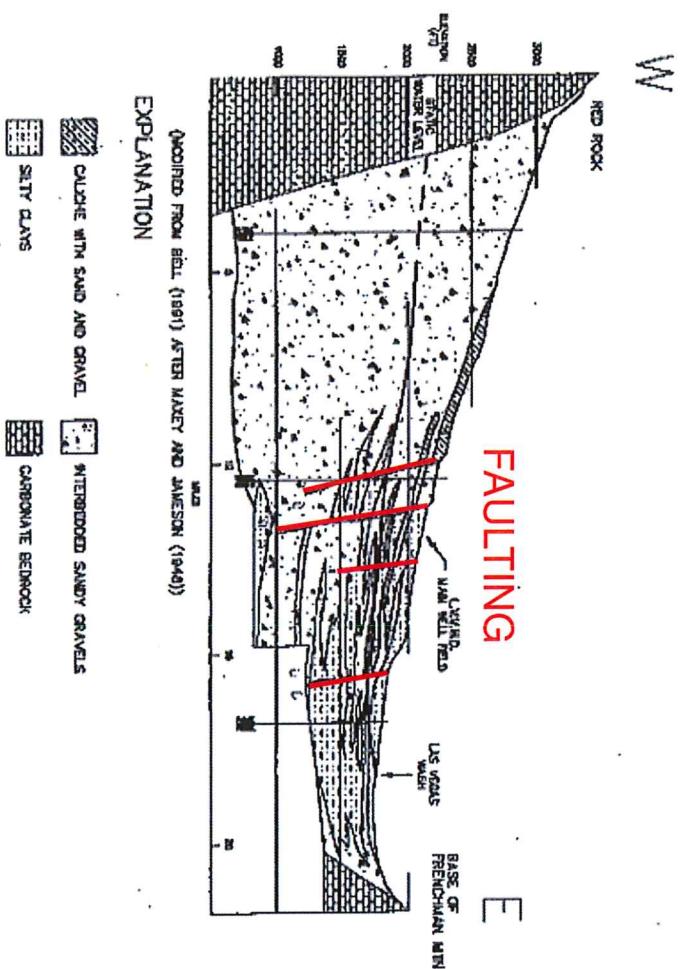
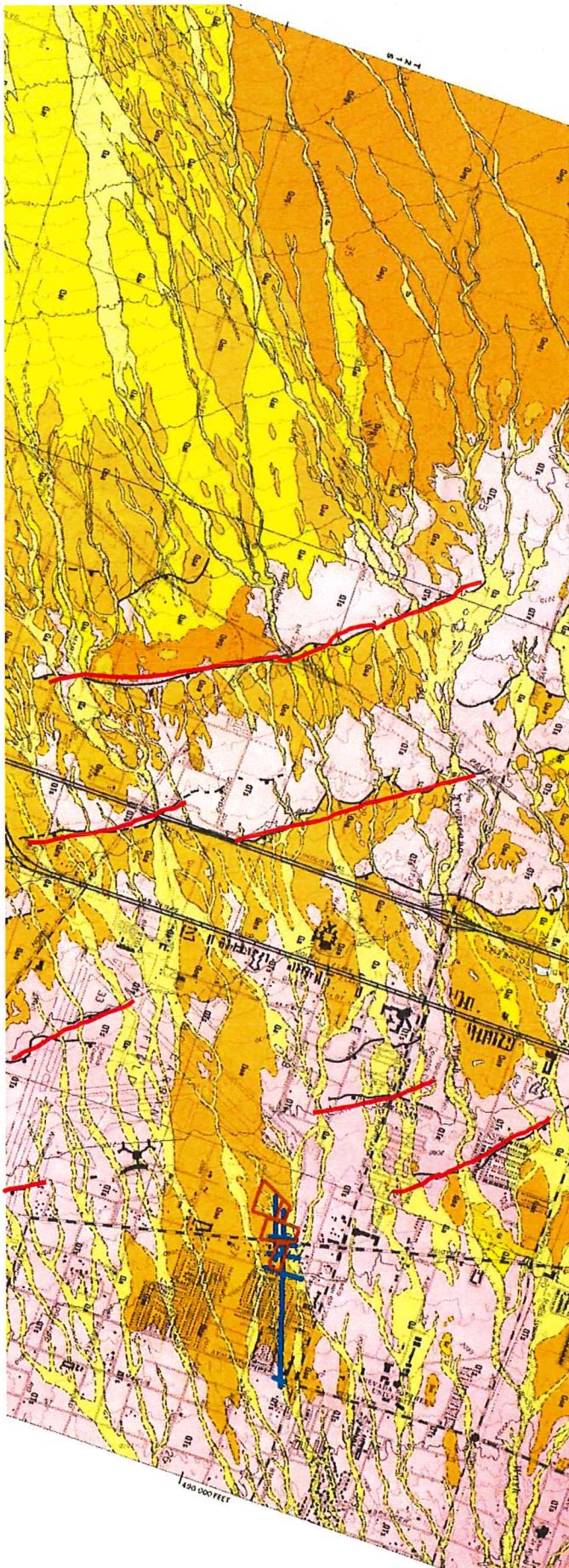


Figure 1-7. -- Generalized Geologic Cross Section of the Las Vegas Valley.

# Projection of Regional Fault Traces

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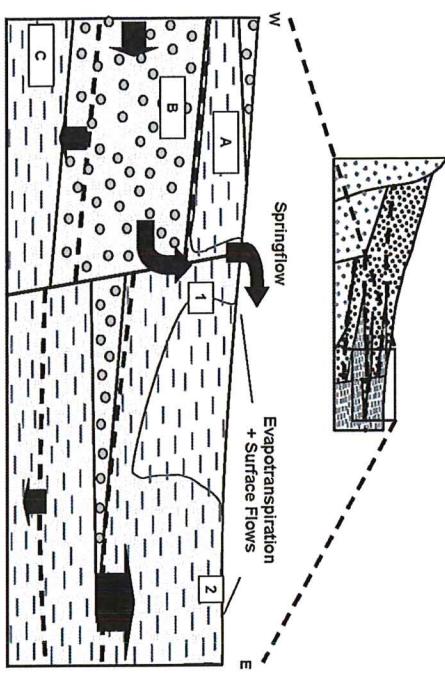
NDEP 00400



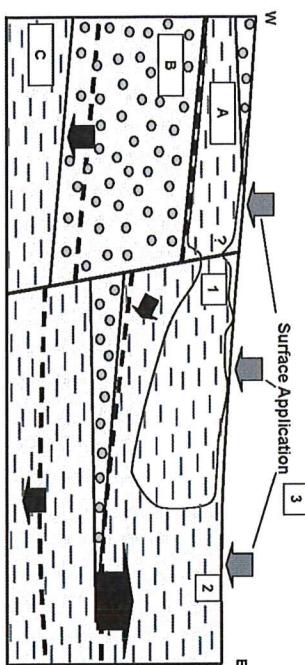
# Las Vegas Valley Basin

**amec** 

NDEP 00401



**Figure 54. Schematic Cross-Section of the Shallow Groundwater System in Pre-Development Times.**  
Pre-development groundwater input to the near surface occurred (1) along faults and (2) from the Las Vegas Springs Aquifer (Unit B) through the Las Vegas Wash Aquitard (Unit A). Arrows indicate flow direction and approximate relative magnitudes. Hatching indicates saturation. The Duck Creek Aquifer (Unit C) may also have received water from the Las Vegas Springs Aquifer.



**Figure 55. Schematic Cross-Section of the Present Shallow Groundwater System.**  
The present shallow system originates from (3) surface application and (2) continued slow upward migration of groundwater through the Las Vegas Wash Aquitard in the eastern portion of the Valley. Note that upward movement along the fault at (1) has ceased due to reduced heads in the Las Vegas Springs Aquifer, and that shallow groundwater may not be continuous from place to place.

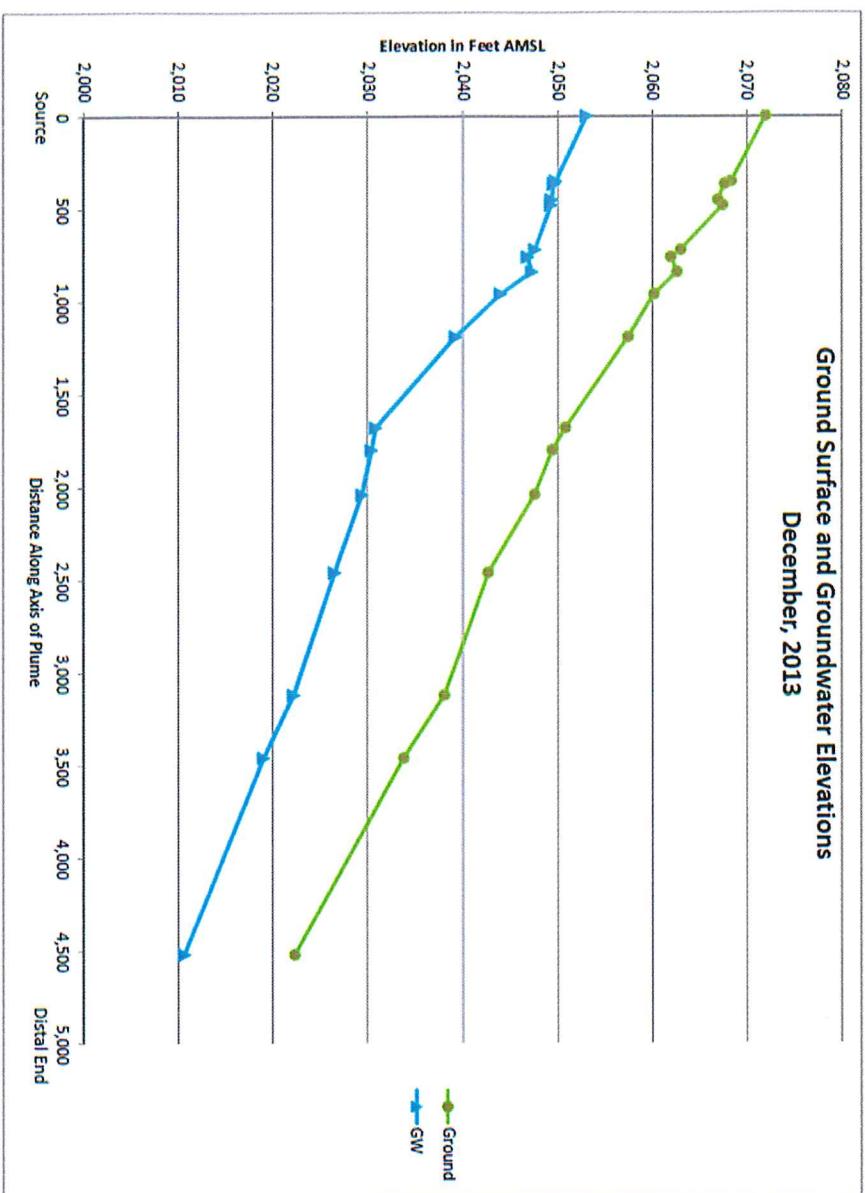
- Historically shallow groundwater was fed by
  - upward flow along faults,
  - upward vertical flow,
  - surface water recharge
- By 1990
  - Over pumping in deeper aquifers had reduced upward flow along faults
  - Surface application of water is more significant
- By 1999 artificial recharge had helped water levels recover
  - Has flow along faults resumed?
  - Has upward vertical flow increased?

# Groundwater Gradient Profile



NDEP 00402

- Steepened water table downgradient of source areas
- Impediment to horizontal flow?
- Upward flow below source areas?



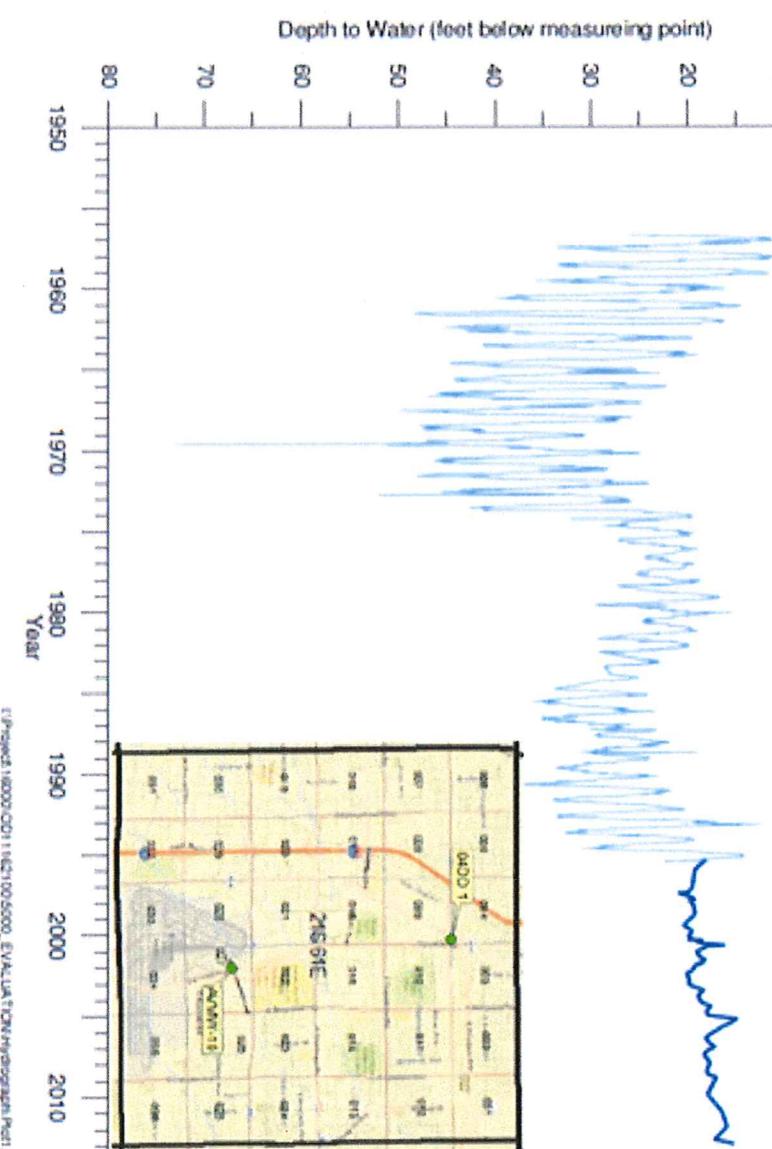
# Shallow Groundwater Hydrograph McCarran Airport Area - North

amec

NDEP 00403

Depth to Water  
Las Vegas, NV  
Township 21S, Range 61E

AVMW.10 (perforated 13 to 34 feet bgs)  
04DD 1 (perforated 16 to 50 feet bgs)



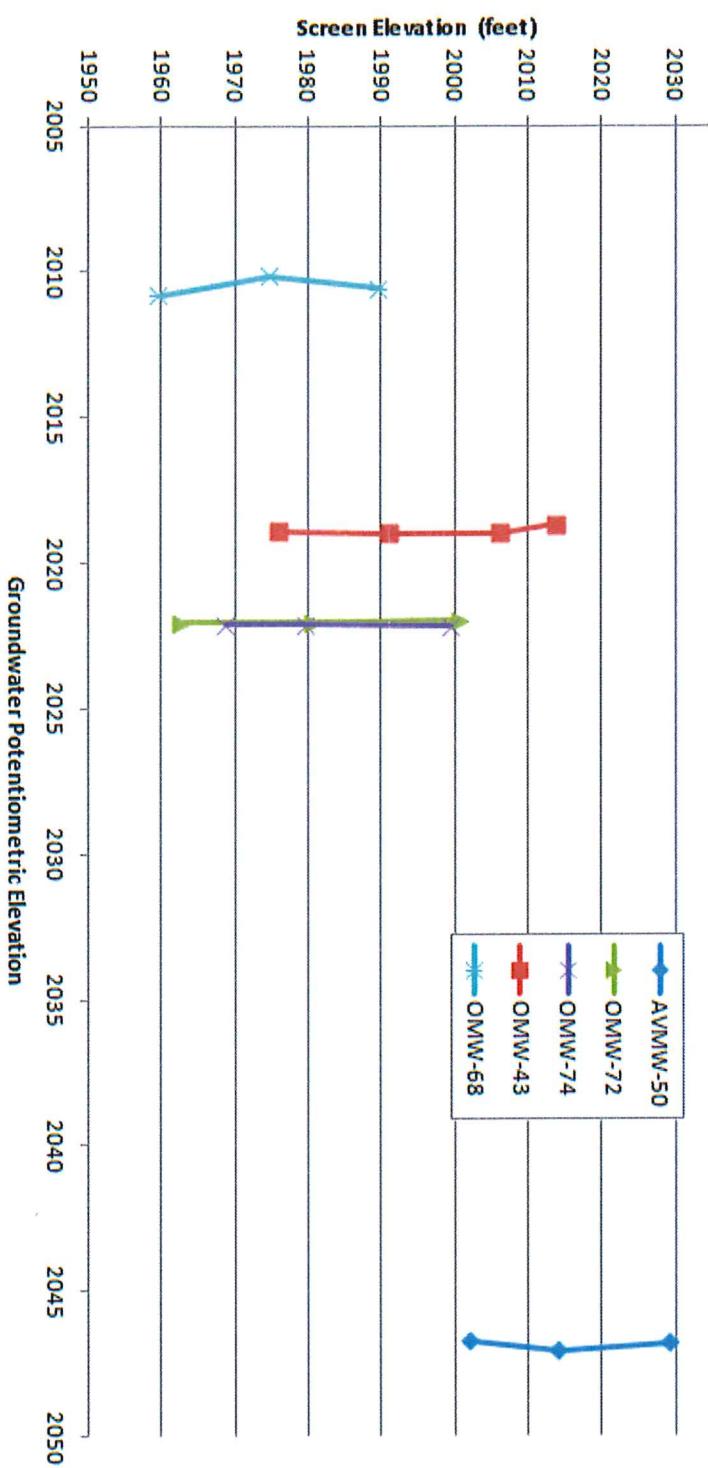
- North of the site water level increased about 10 ft from 1991 through 1995
- Water levels at the site have increased by 3 to 4 ft from 1995 to 2012
- 2005 event is visible in the hydrograph

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# Groundwater Levels in Multi-Depth Wells

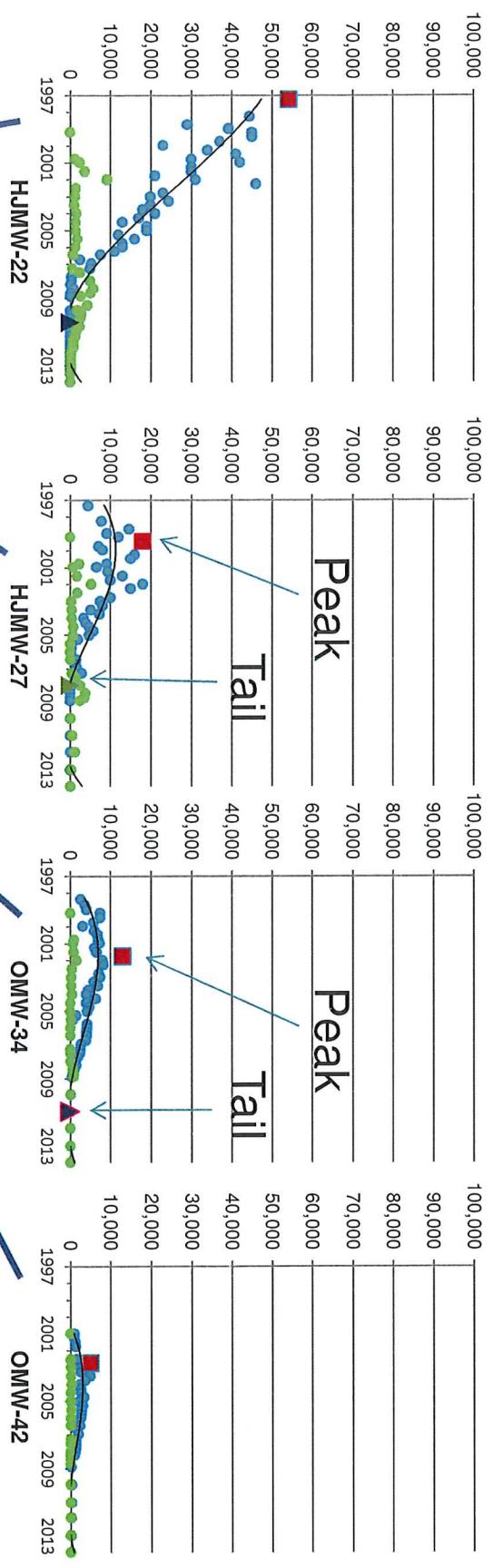
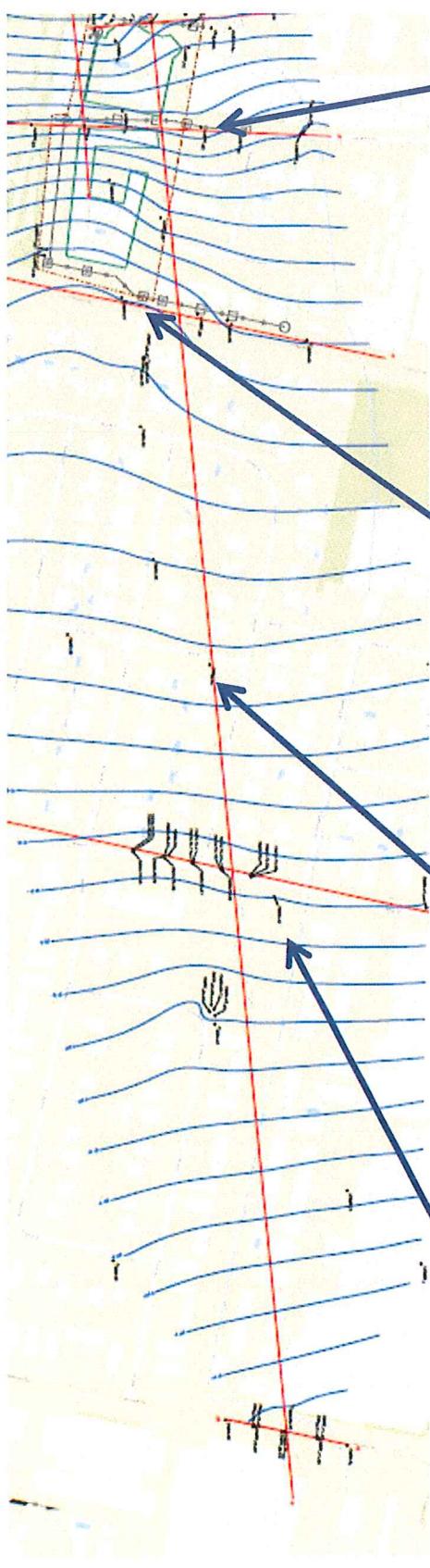


NDEP 00404



## Concentration Trends with Distance and Time

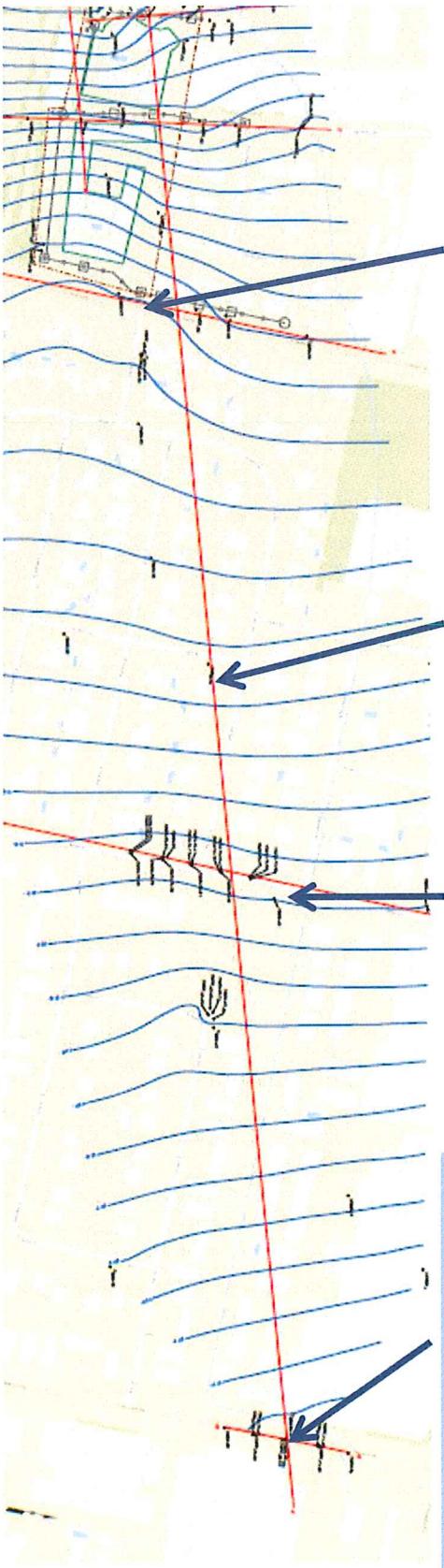
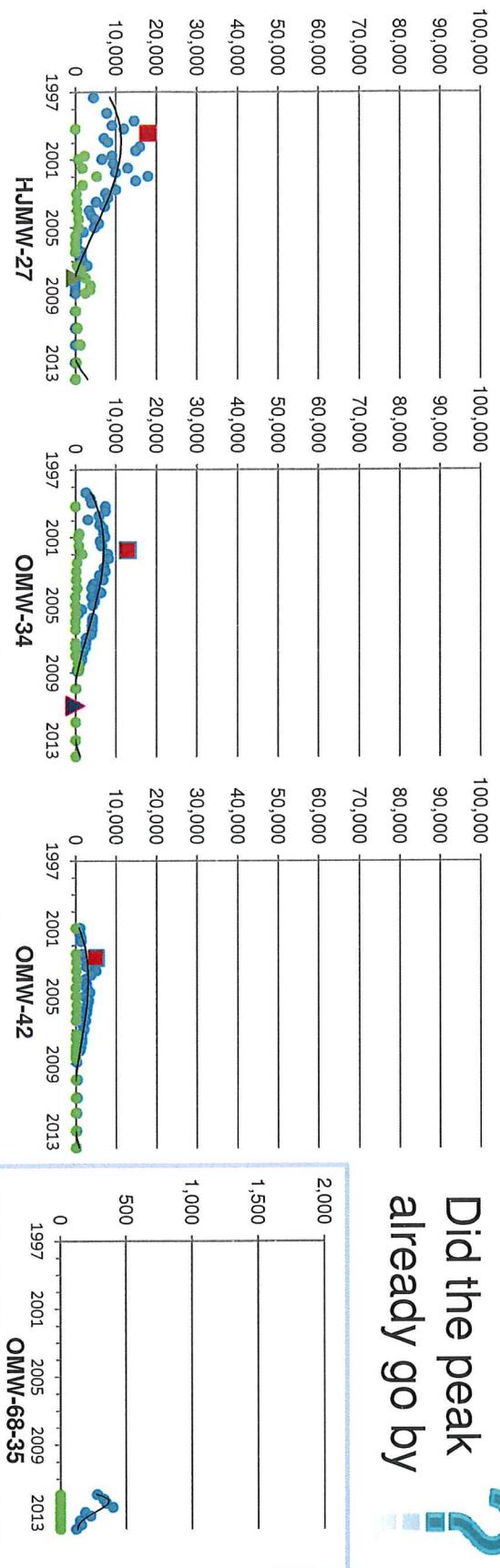
## Upper HSU: Palo Verde to Wilbur



# Upper HSU: Swenson to Maryland

amec

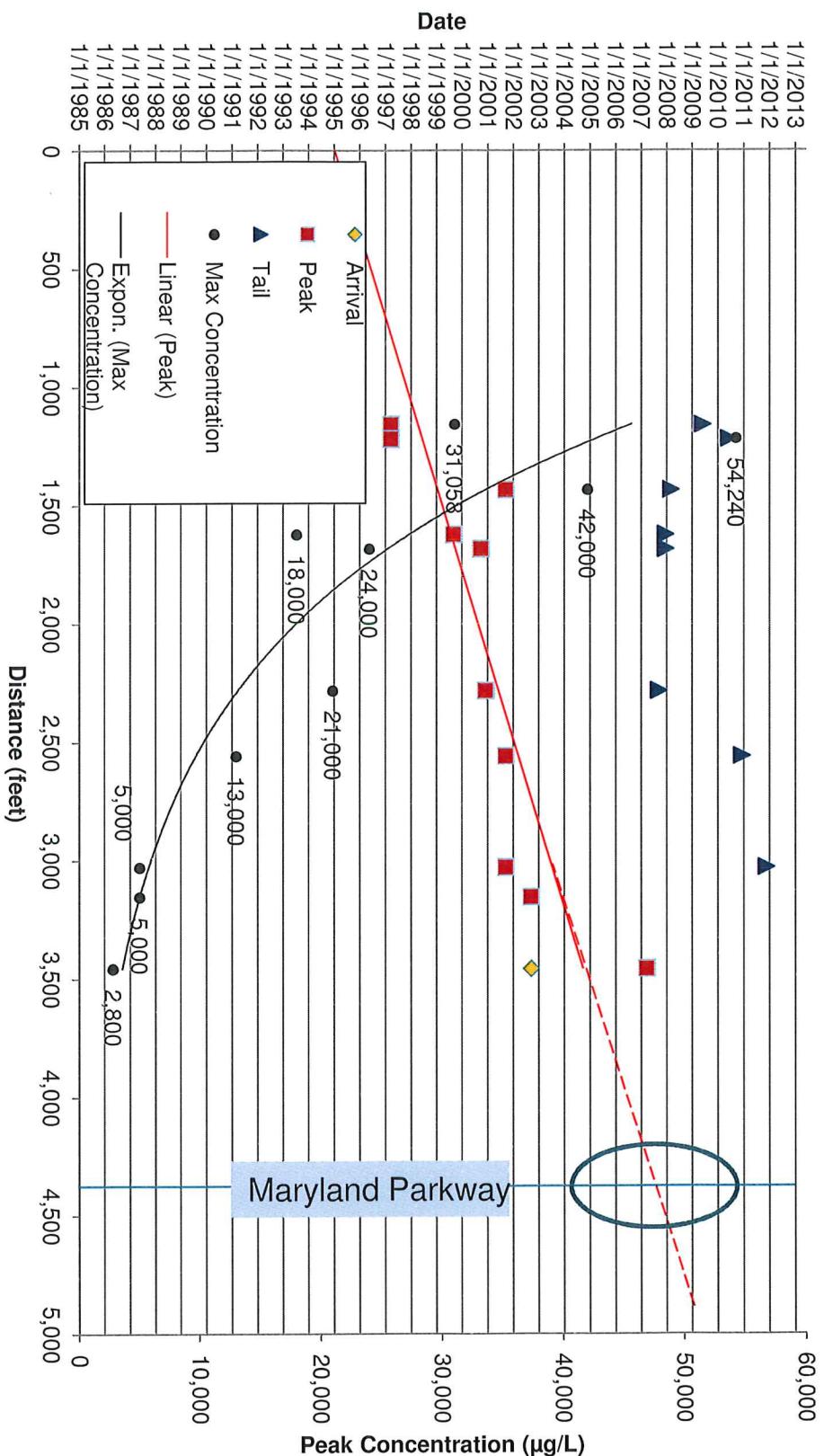
Did the peak  
already go by?



# Upper HSU: MTBE Arrival Times and Concentration-Distance Curve

**amec** 

NDEP 00408



## Lower HSU: MTBE Trends

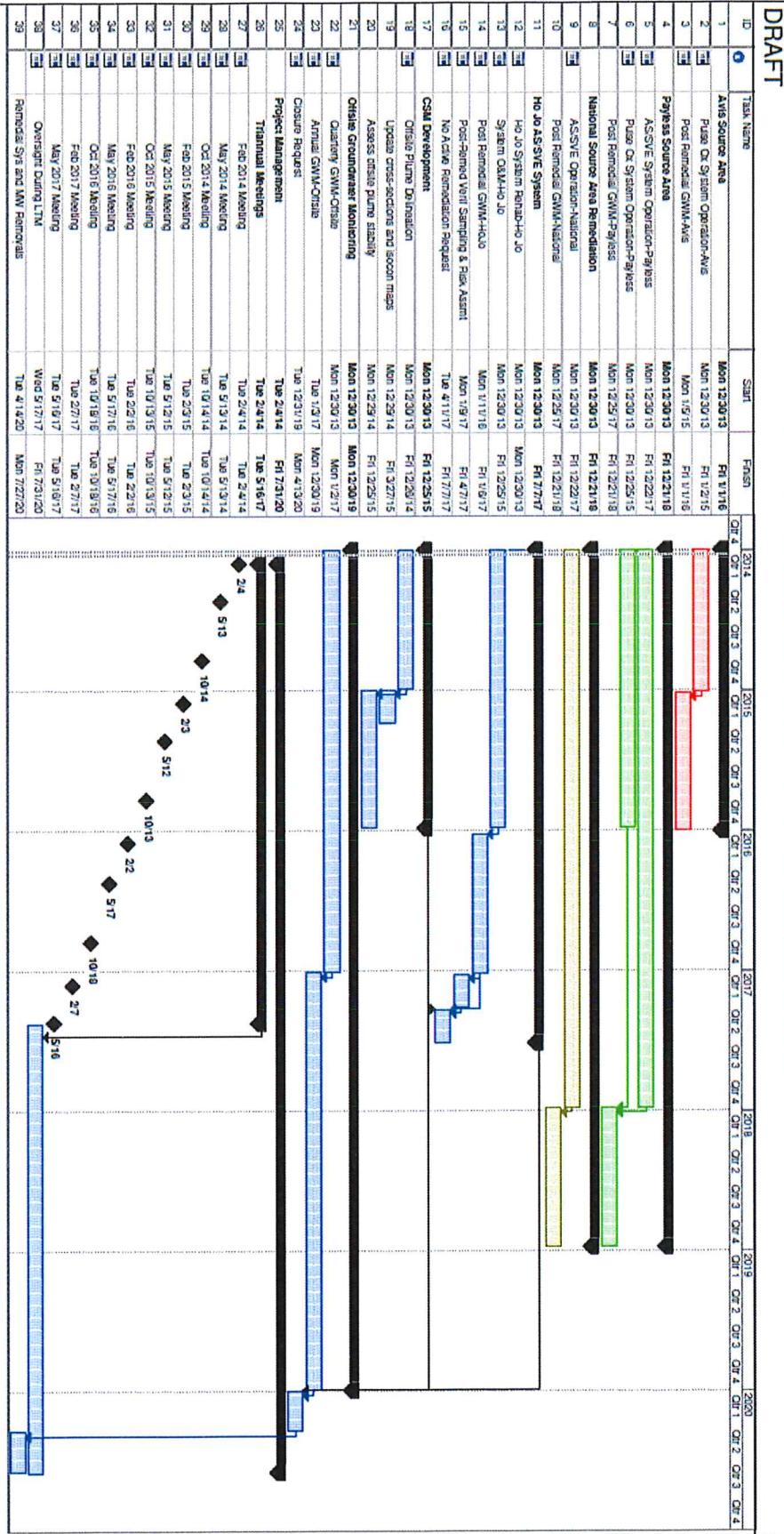
- TBA is detected
- Rate of migration appears slower

# Project Lifecycle Schedule Forecast



NDEP 00410

## DRAFT

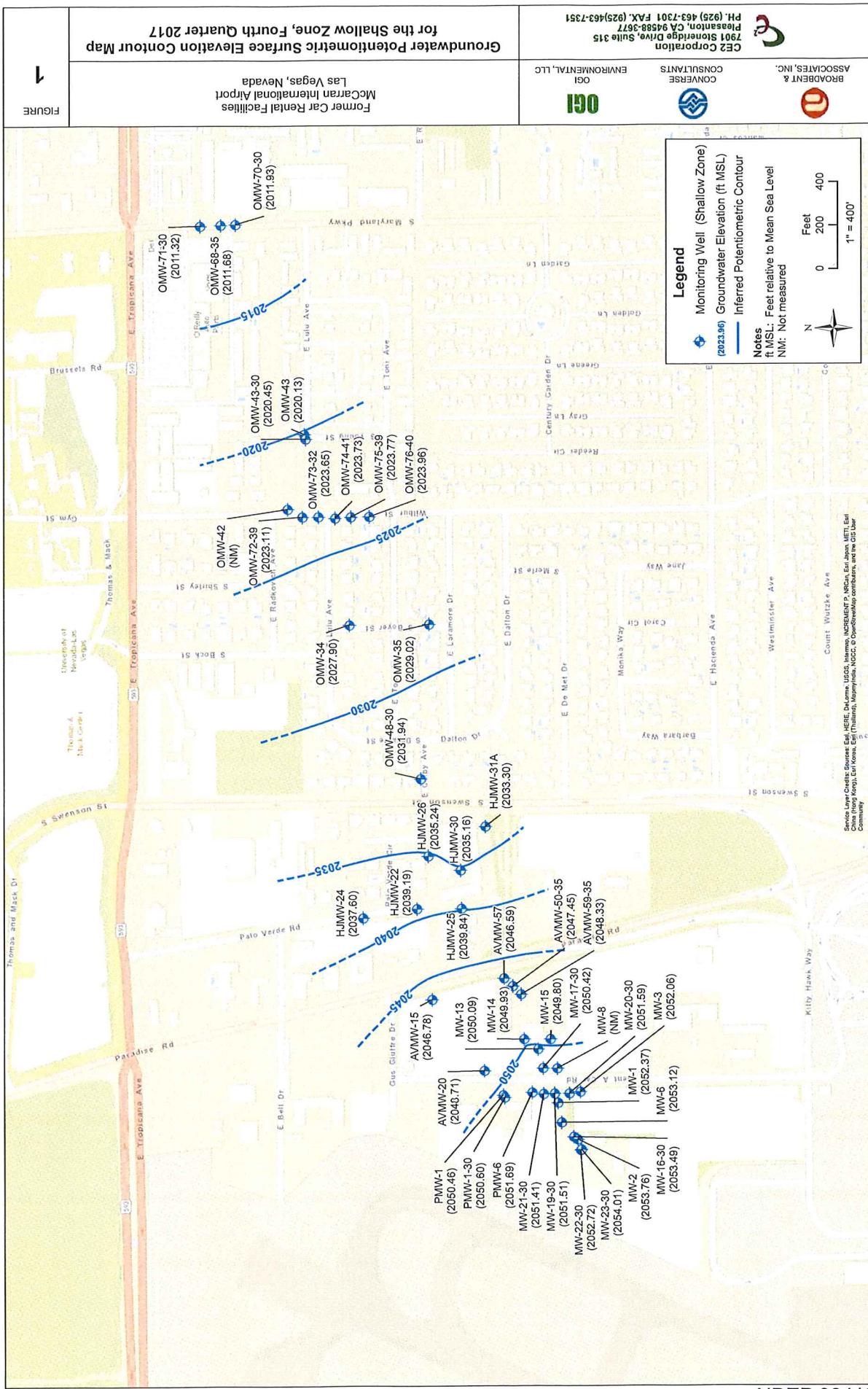


End of Presentation

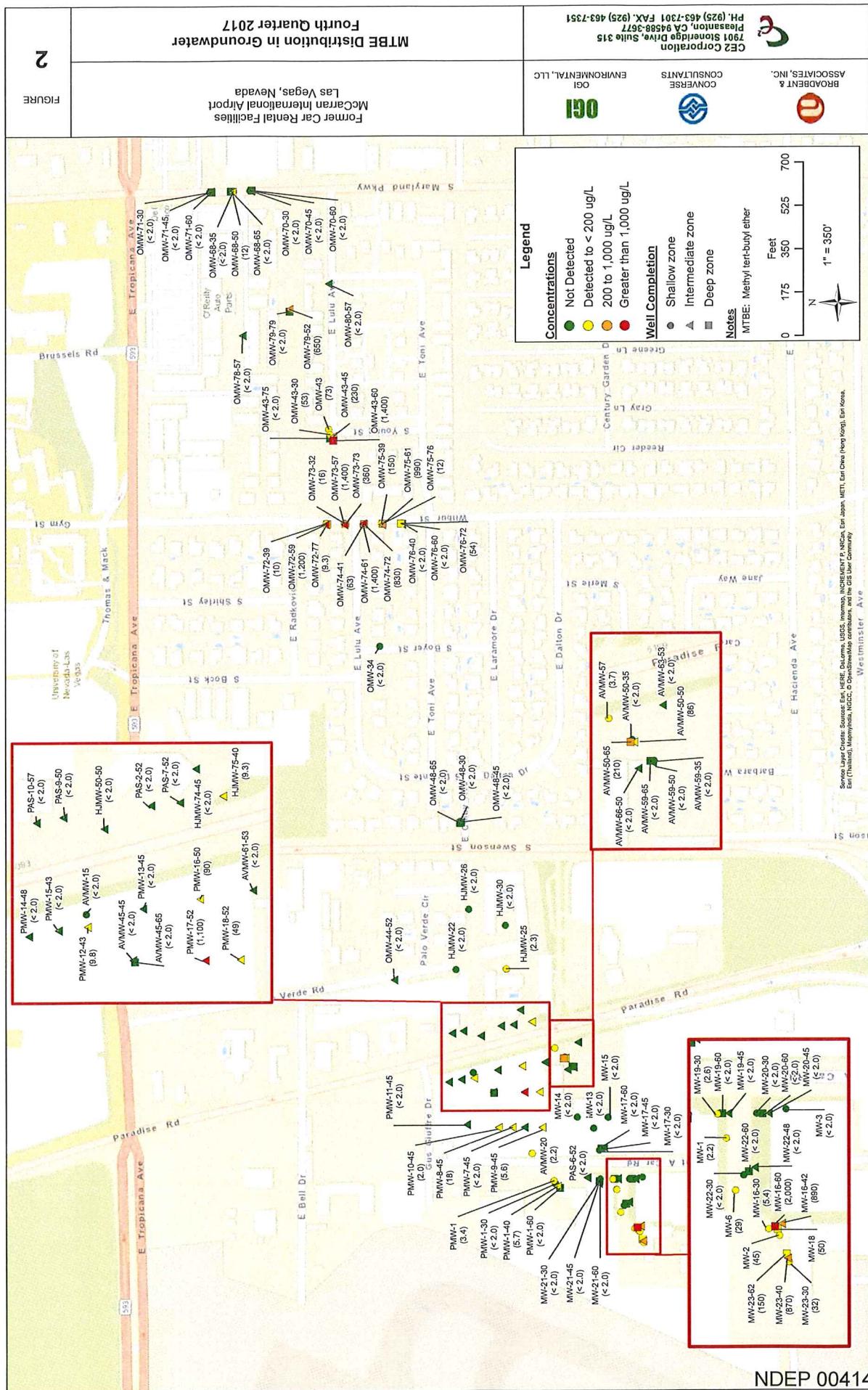


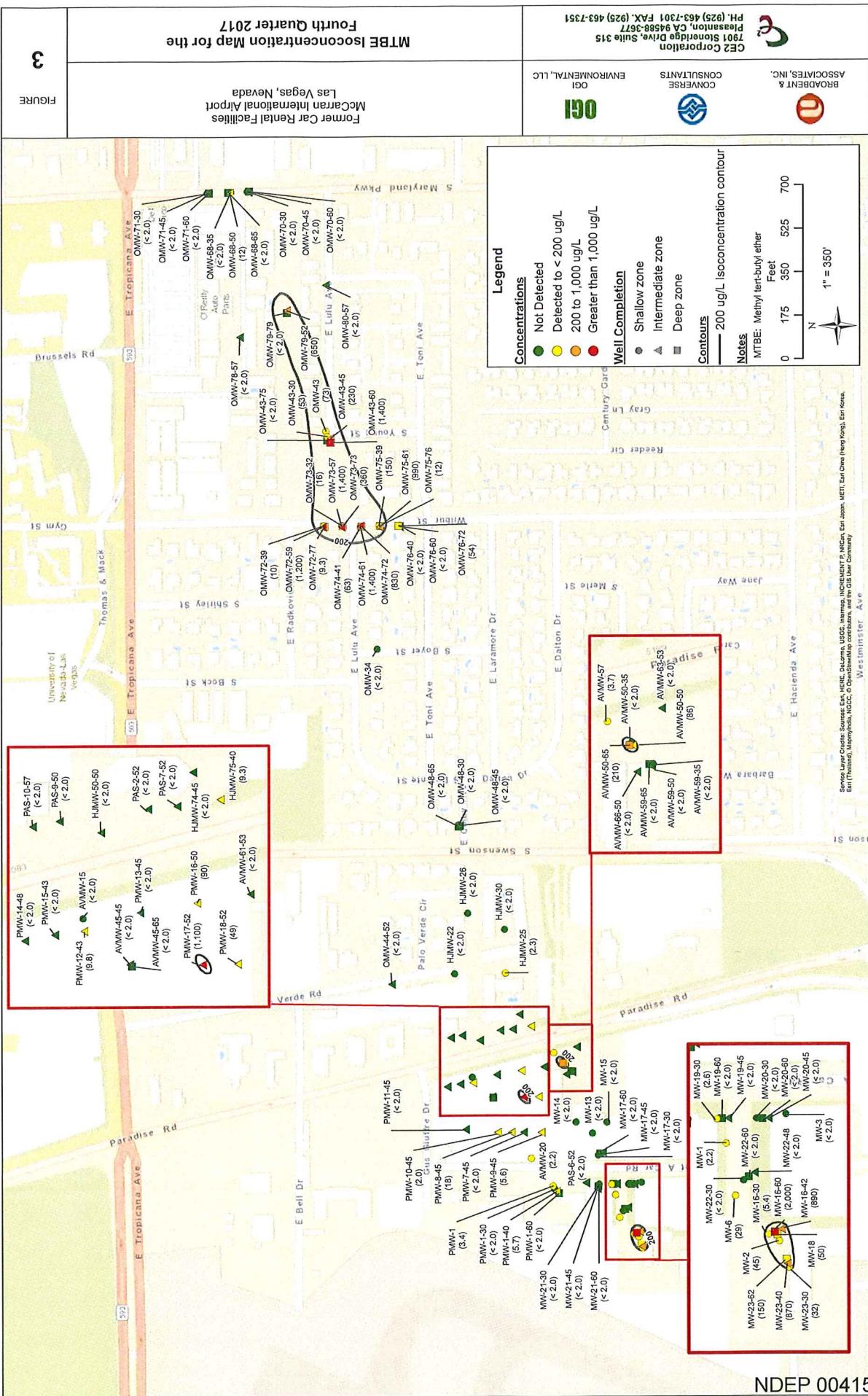
## **APPENDIX C**

### **GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS AND PLOTTED MTBE AND TBA CONCENTRATIONS IN MONITORING WELLS**

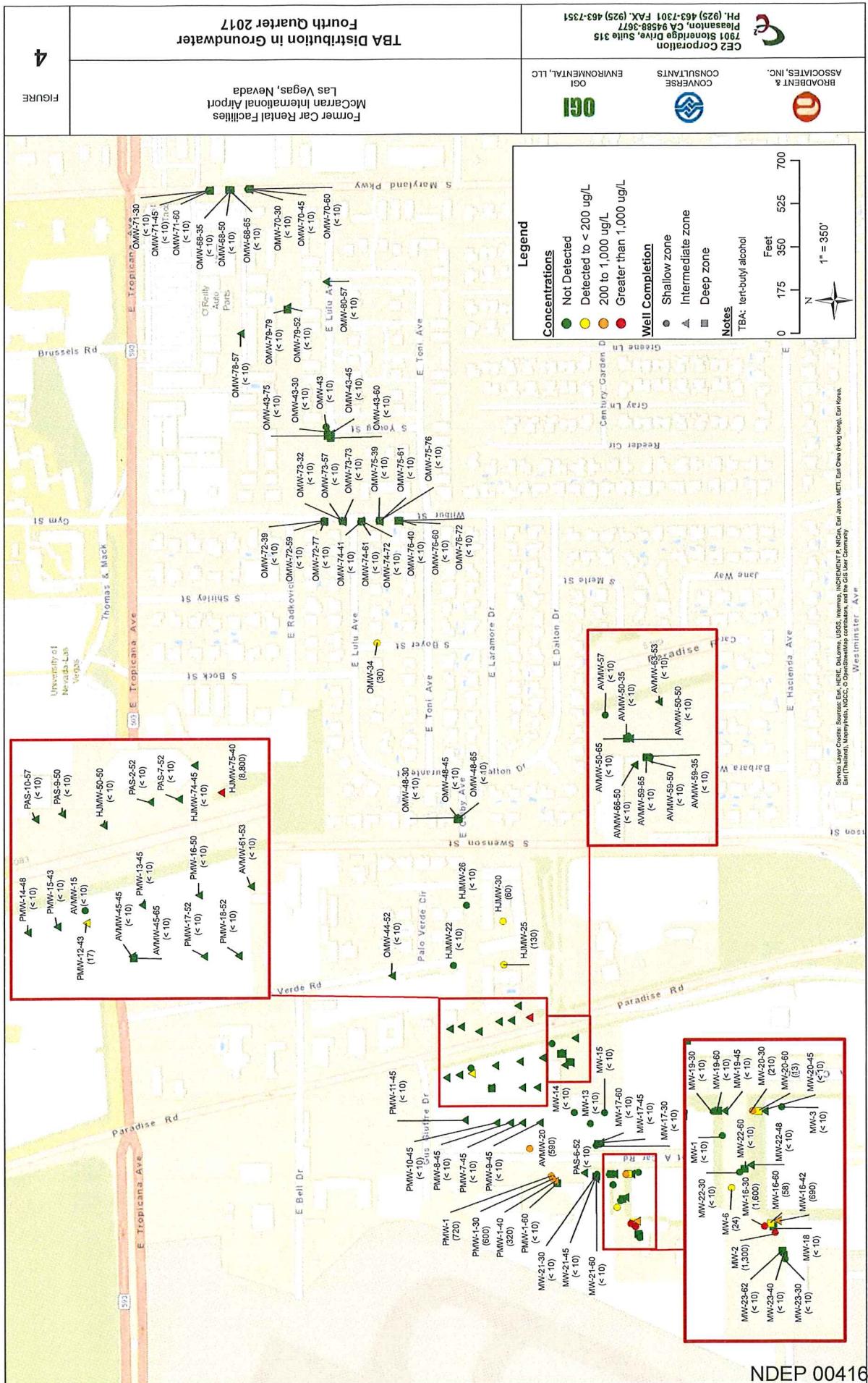


NDEP 00413

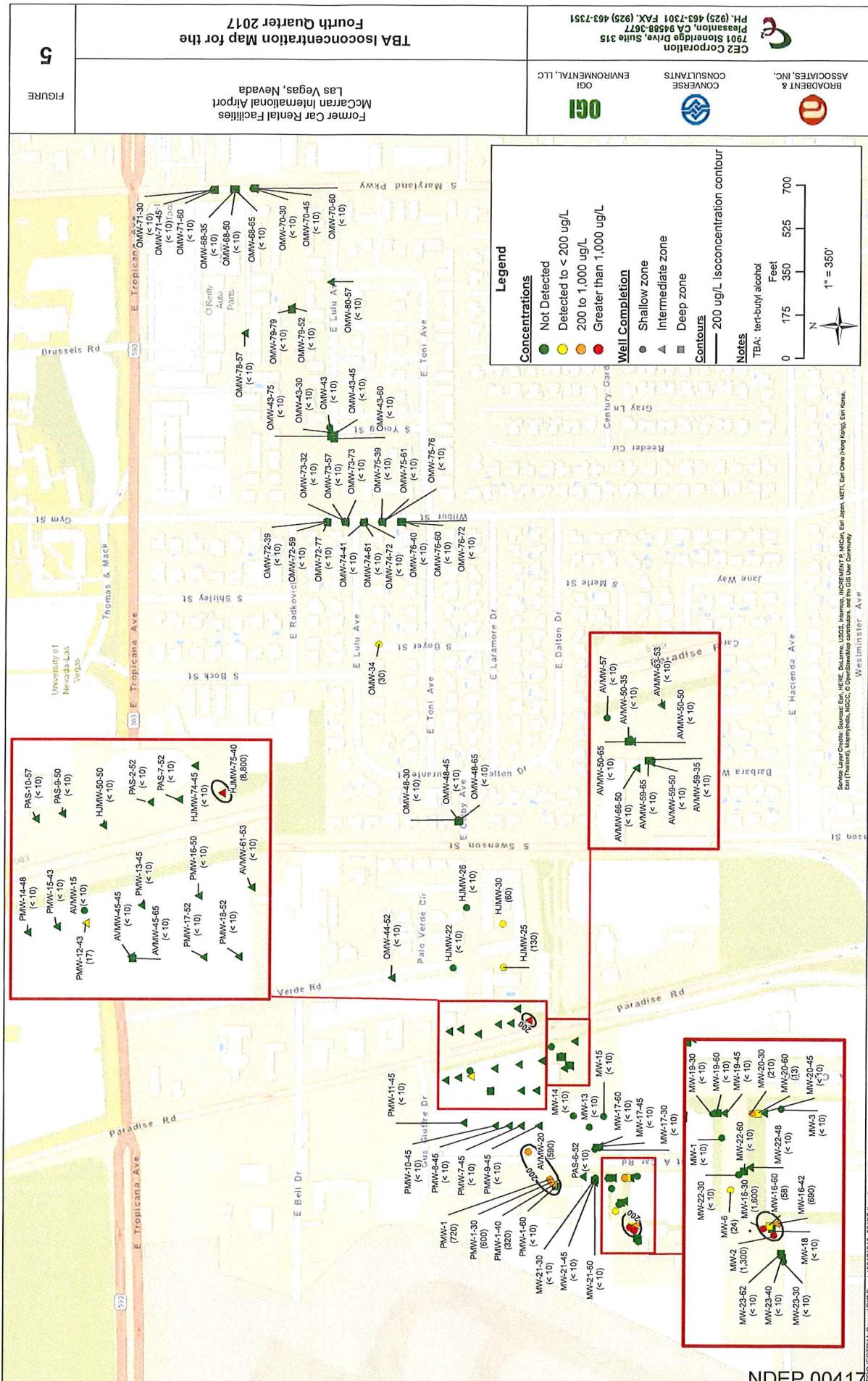




NDEP 00415



NDEP 00416



NDEP 00417