Preliminary Results Of ADWR's Survey of Well Conditions In the Willcox Basin Area, Cochise County Arizona October – December 3, 2014

Over the last two months the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has conducted a survey of well owners (mainly domestic well owners) in the Willcox Basin of Cochise County concerning impacts that they have experienced in recent years due to long-term groundwater overdraft, groundwater level decline and land subsidence. The survey was focused on determining the locations of wells that may have gone dry, the nature of any damage incurred and what actions may have been taken to mitigate the damage (re-drilling or deepening wells, set pumps deeper, hauling water etc.). Some wells mentioned in the survey will also be monitored in ADWR's ongoing groundwater level sweep of the area, which began on December 1.

To date, over 60 responses to the survey have been received from well owners and concerned citizens. The results of the survey indicate that many domestic wells have been impacted by declining water levels in the Willcox, Cochise and Pearce areas (see map). Many wells have been deepened or re-drilled (see table), and there has been almost universal concern expressed about the situation from survey participants.

During the next few months ADWR field personnel will be measuring water levels in the Willcox, Douglas and San Simon Basins. The results of their monitoring work will be included in a monitoring report that will be published in the summer of 2015. The information from monitoring activities will provide a comprehensive update of water level decline rates and groundwater conditions throughout the area that will help provide a solid database for future decision making and water planning in the region.

ADWR appreciates the cooperation of everyone who has already responded to the survey.

http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/eforms/Forms/WS/DWR_Well_Survey.aspx.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to contact ADWR further about groundwater conditions in your area please contact Michelle Moreno at 602-771-8530 or Frank Corkhill at 602-771-8537.

Area	Number or Responses	Average Time on Property (Years)	Median Time on Property (Years)	Map Code 1	Map Code 2
				Well Has Gone Dry Since 2008	Declining Water Level and/or Declining Well Production
Willcox	15	21	16	5	4
Cochise	17	11	9	5	2
Pearce	16	12	12	8	3
Dragoon	3	13	14	0	0
Other areas (Hereford, McNeal, Naco, Portal)	5	9	8	0	0
Total Survey Area	56	13	12	18	9

Map Codes:

Map Code 1 - Well has Gone Dry Since 2008. Well may have been deepened or replaced. Some well owners now get water from a different so

Map Code 2 - Declining water level and/or declining well production. Well may have been deepened or replaced, or pump set deeper.

Map Code 3 - Reporting nearby wells going dry and/or concern about current conditions.

Map Code 4 - No current well problems.

Additional Notes about Table and Survey Data

* Responses From Well Owners Who Own Multiple Wells Were Counted As a Single Response

** Some Responses Were From Non-Well Owners

*** Several growers and vintners who own many wells in the area have expressed concern over conditions. However, their well data are not inc

**** A few responses provided insufficient information and were not counted

***** Well construction and depth-to-water data were not available for all wells. Statistics shown are based only on available data.

Map Code 3	Map Code 4								
Reporting Nearby Wells Going Dry and/or Concern About Current Conditions	No Current Well Problems	Average Depth of Wells (Feet)	Median Depth of Wells (Feet)	Average Diameter of Wells (Inches)	Median Diameter of Wells (Inches)	Average Depth-to-Water When Well Was Drilled (Feet)	Median Depth-to-Water When Well Was Drilled (Feet)	Average Parcel Size of Person Reporting (Acres)	Median Parcel Size of Person Reporting (Acres)
5	1	351	390	9	8	221	240	30	5
10	0	380	340	8	7	231	160	7	5
4	1	501	501	6	6	360	353	8	5
3	0	610	620	6	6	438	470	27	20
5	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27	2	413	425	7	7	267	282	15	5

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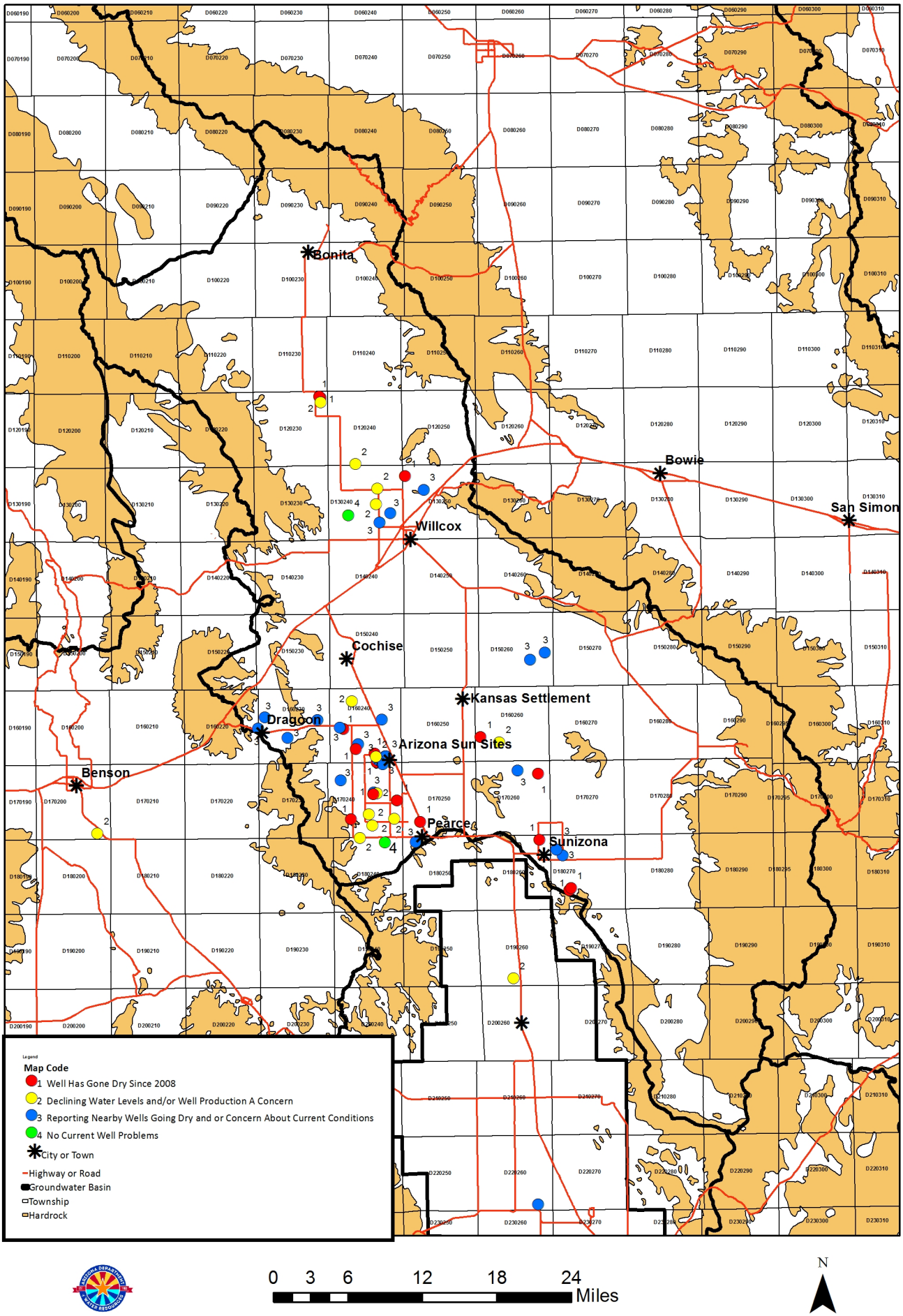
cluded in this summary.

General Well Owner Responses to ADWR Well Owner Survey of the Willcox Area (As of 1/2/2015)