



District Court Order, White Bear Lake Water Levels, & the East Metro Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan

Jess Richards, Assistant Commissioner MN DNR

Jason Moeckel, Section Manager MN DNR Ecological and Water Resources

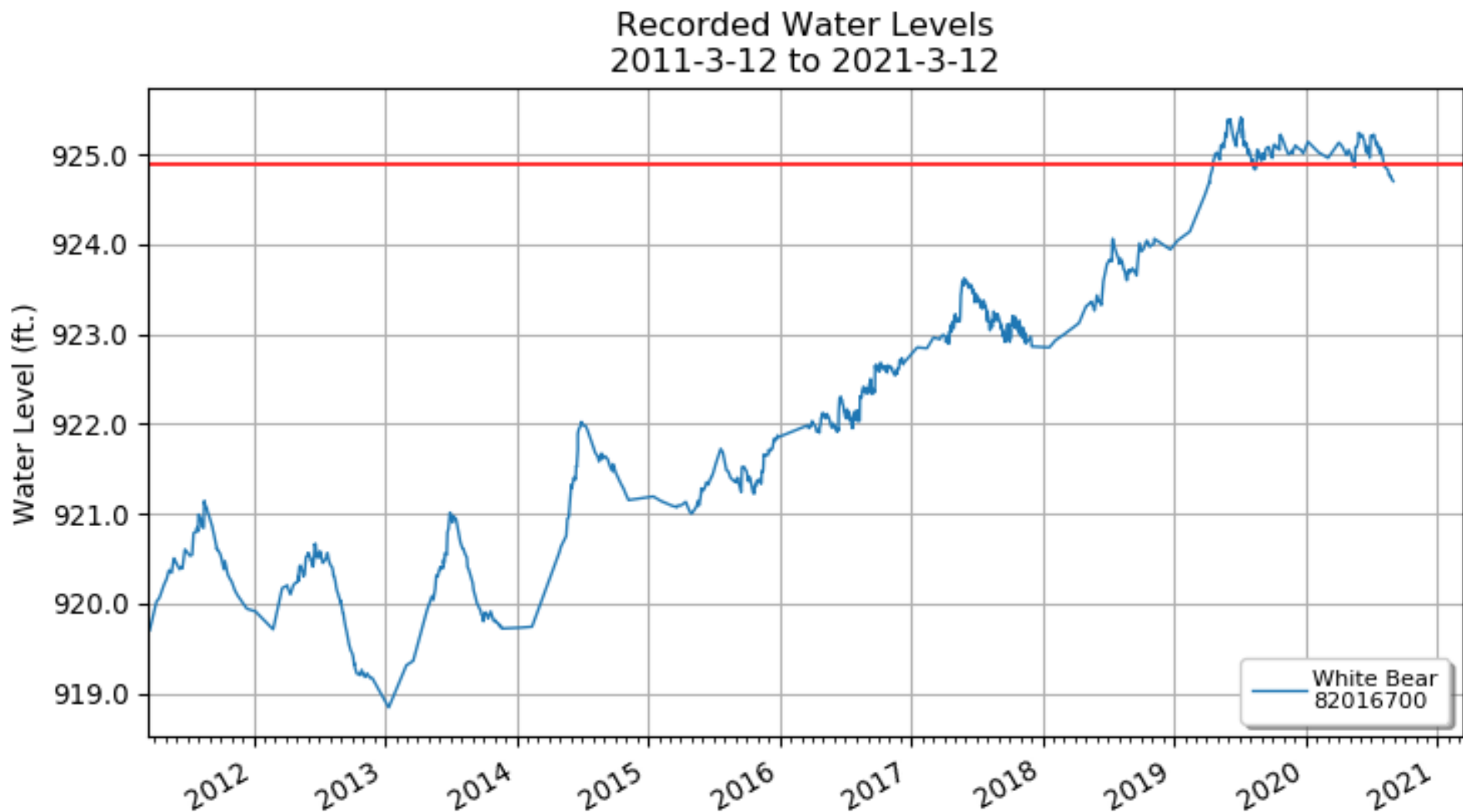
White Bear Lake – Court Timeline

- In November 2012, the White Bear Lake Homeowners Association and White Bear Lake Restoration Association filed a suit in Ramsey County District Court alleging the DNR permitted too much groundwater use near White Bear Lake, causing the lake water levels to drop unacceptably.
- 2017 District Court ruled in favor of Plaintiffs, the DNR appealed.
- December 2020 Court of Appeals affirmed 6 of 7 issues in the District Court ruling and remanded for administrative proceedings
- 2021 - Implementation of the Court Order

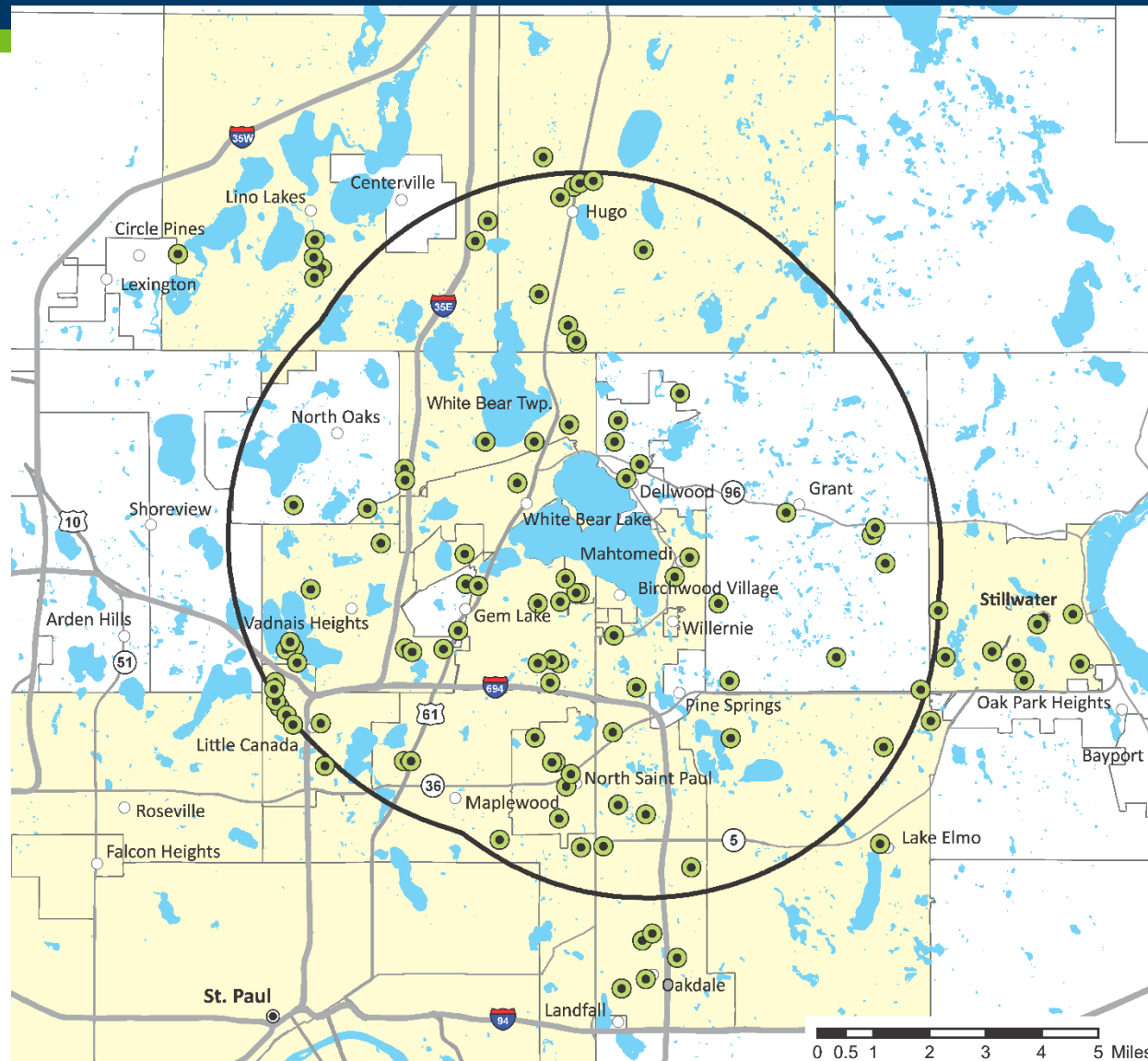
Key Elements of Court Order

- DNR prohibited from issuing new permits or increases within 5 miles
- Residential irrigation ban at 923.5 lake elevation
- Residential per capita water use to 75 gpd and total per capita water use to 90 gpd
- Requires public water suppliers to develop a contingency plan to shift their source of water from groundwater to surface water
- No groundwater permits can be issued unless the DNR has sufficient hydrologic data to understand the impact on White Bear Lake and the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer
- DNR to set a collective annual withdrawal limit for White Bear Lake

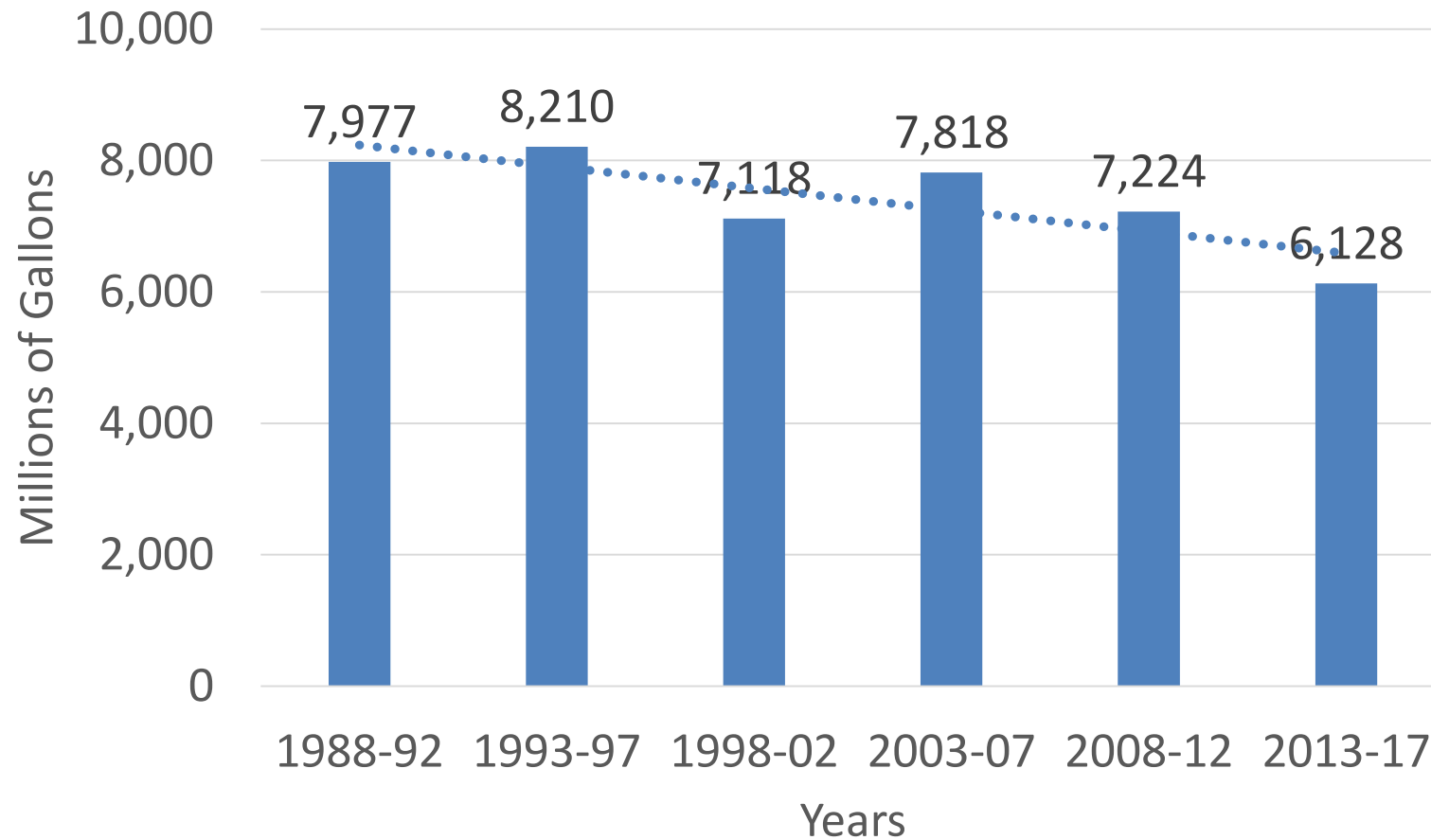
White Bear Lake



Permits and Wells w/in 5 Mile Area

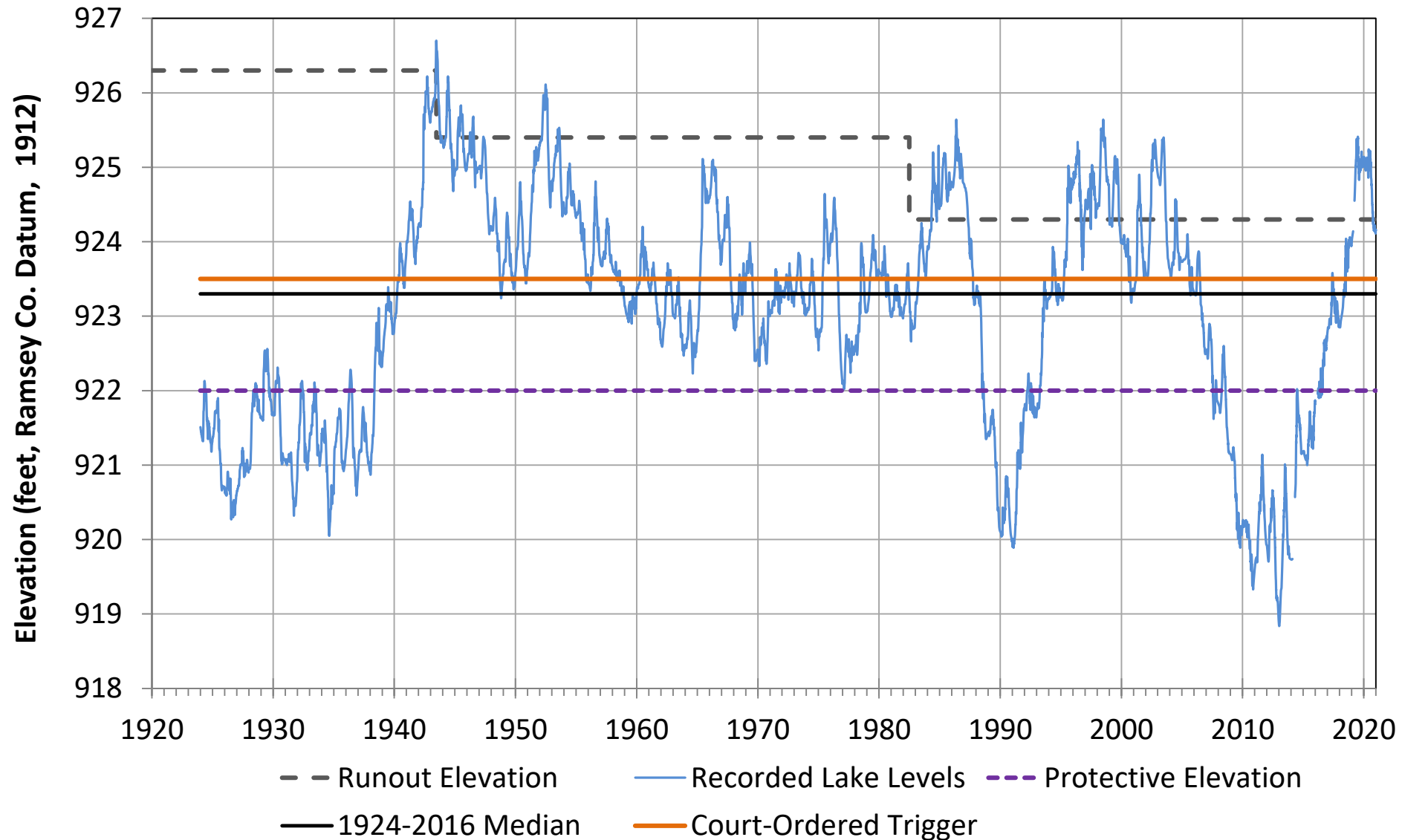


5 Yr Annual Avg Groundwater Use Within 5 Miles of WBL

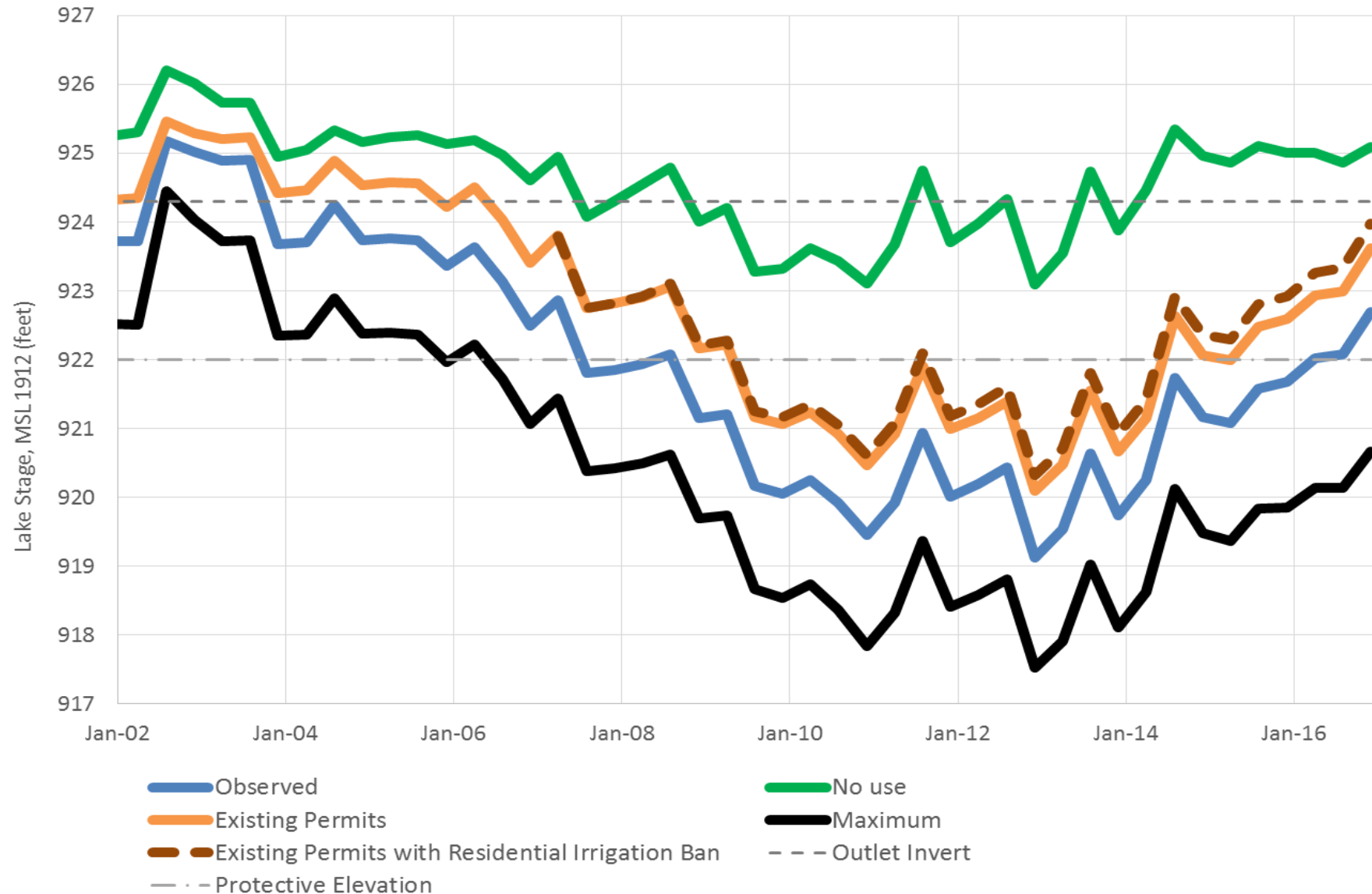


Note: St. Paul Regional Water Services no longer relying on groundwater

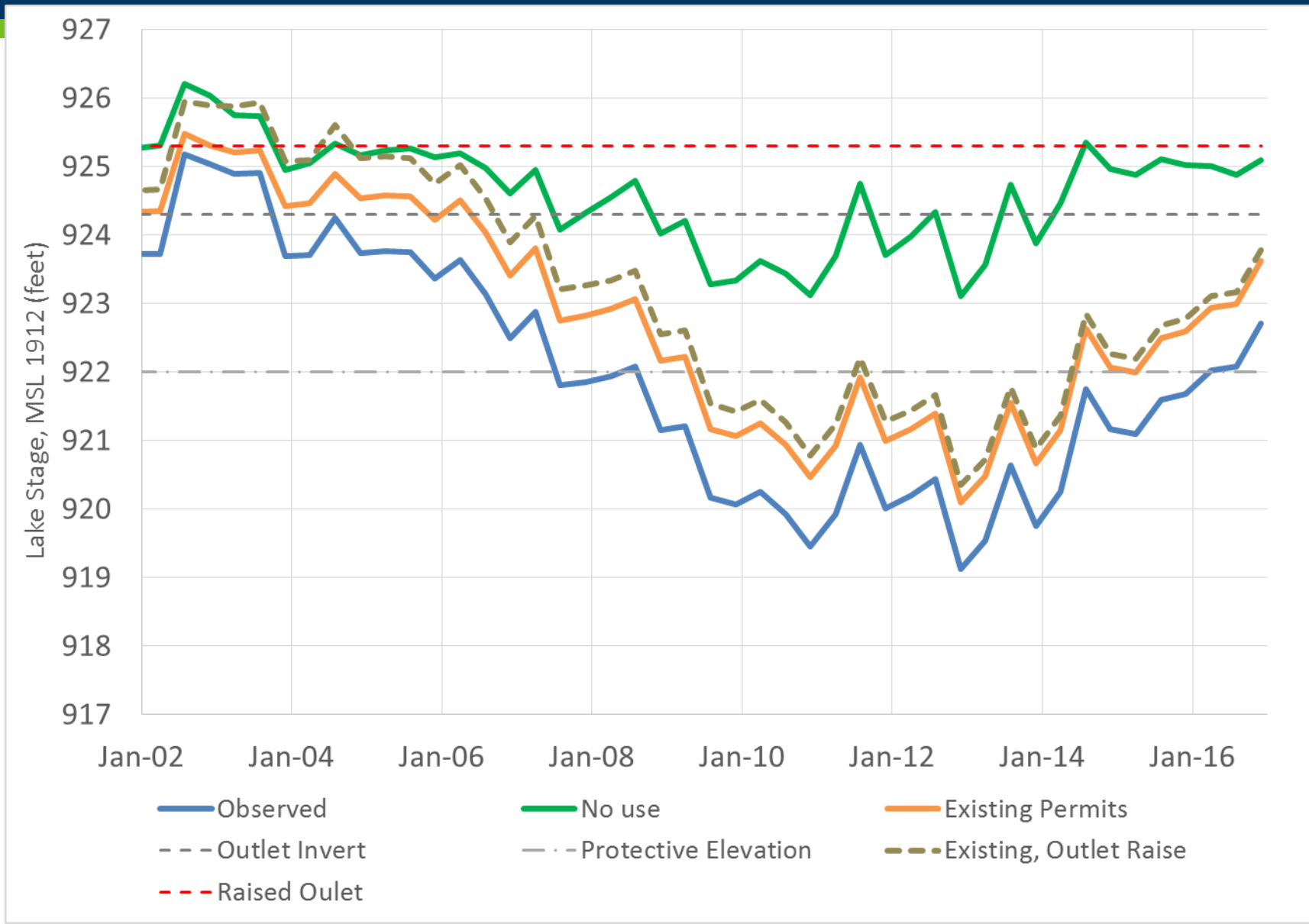
White Bear Lake - Long-term Record



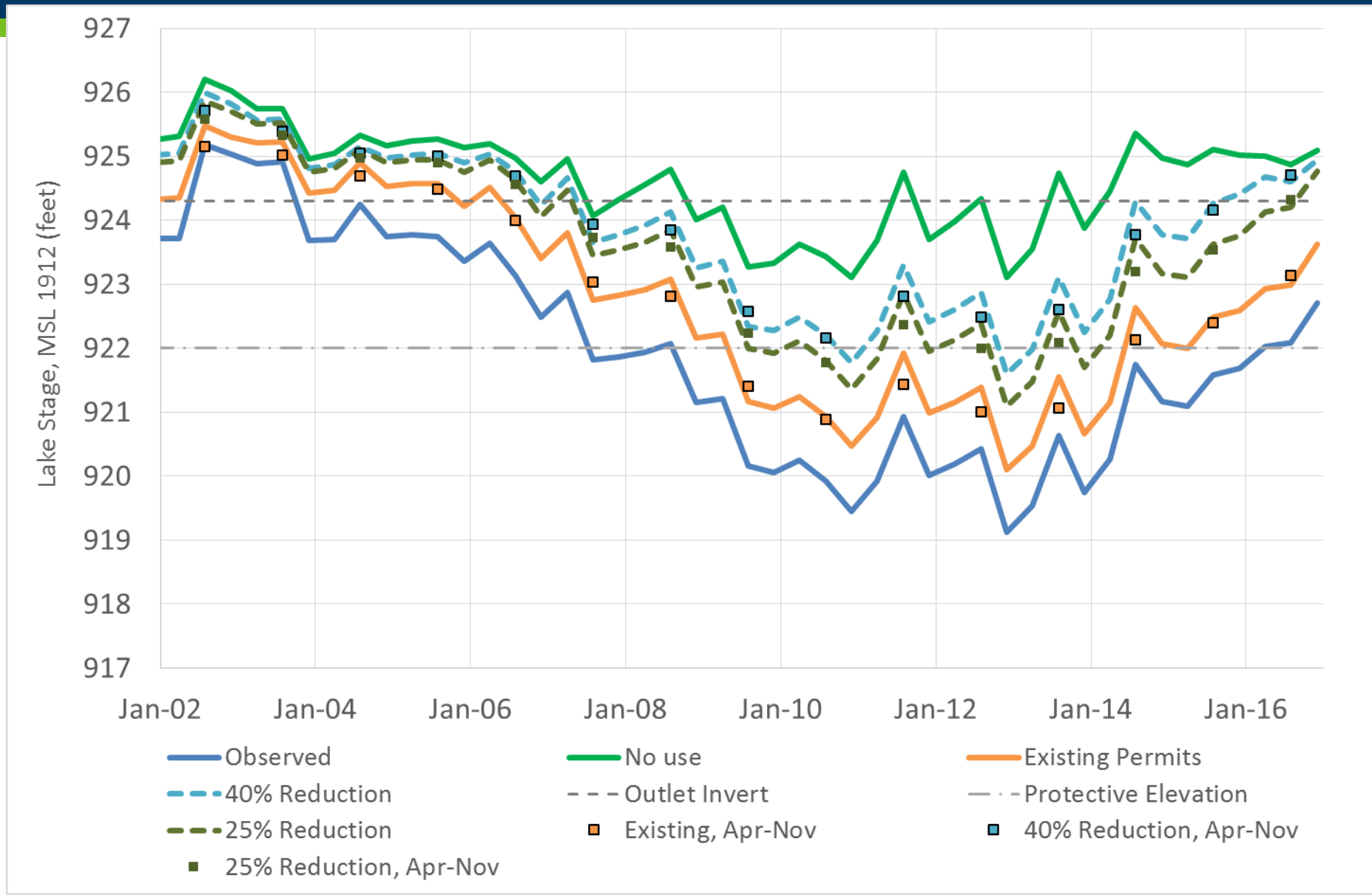
White Bear Lake – Groundwater Model Results for Permits Within 5 miles of White Bear Lake



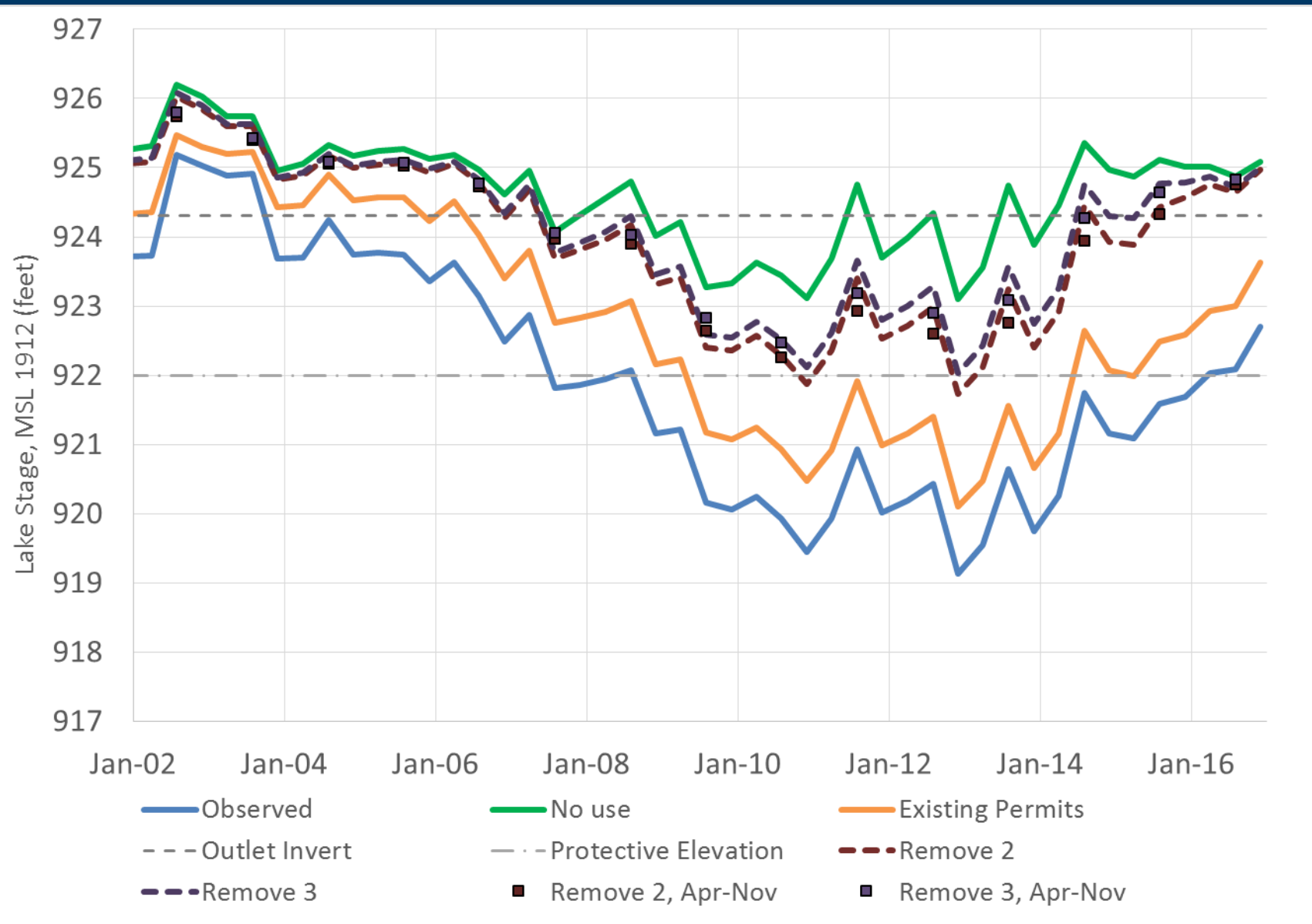
White Bear Lake – Results of Raising the Lake Outlet Elevation One Foot



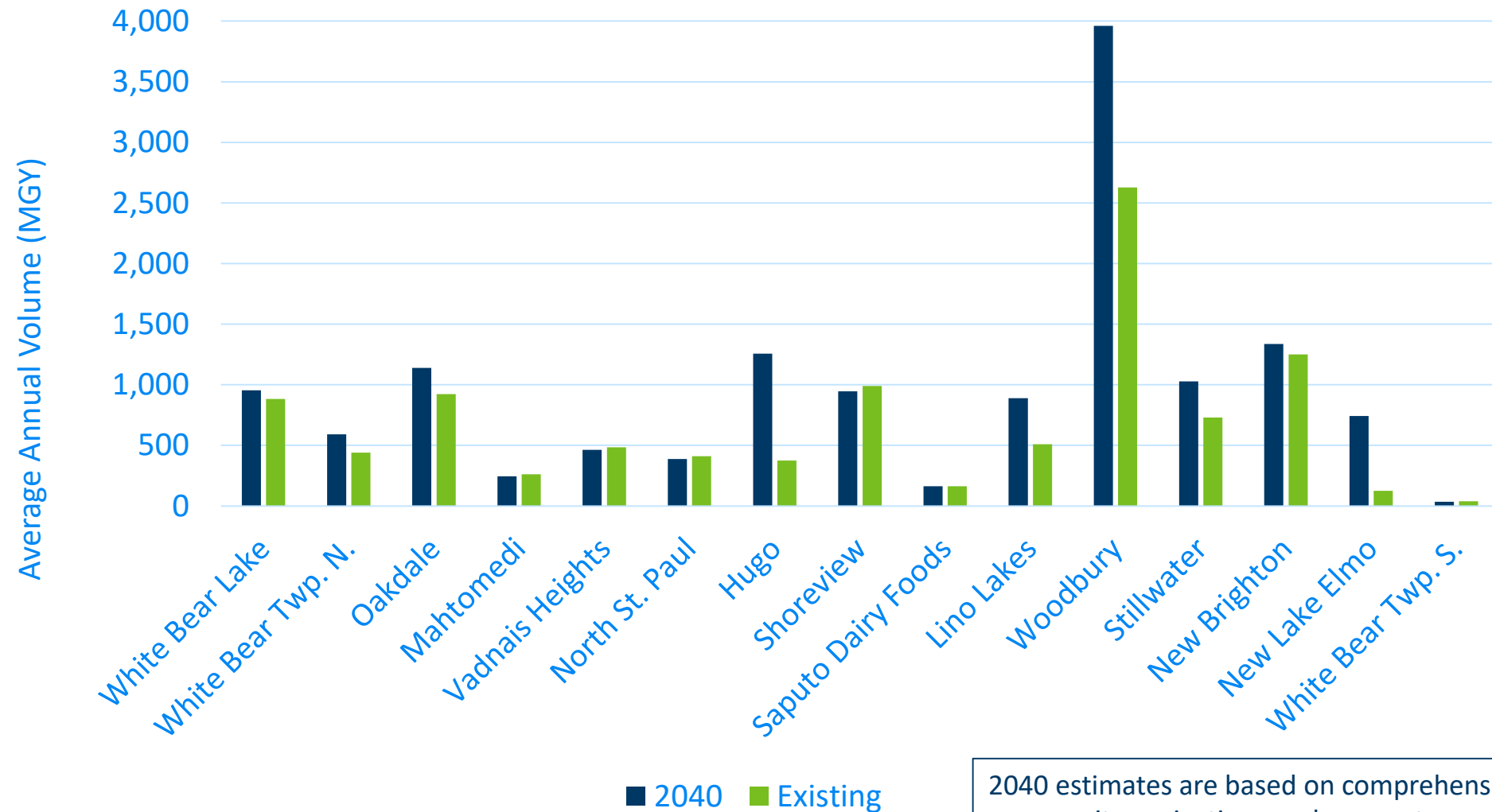
White Bear Lake – Results of Uniform % Reduction of All Permits Within 5 Miles



White Bear Lake – Results of Using an Alternate Source of Water for Several Public Water Suppliers

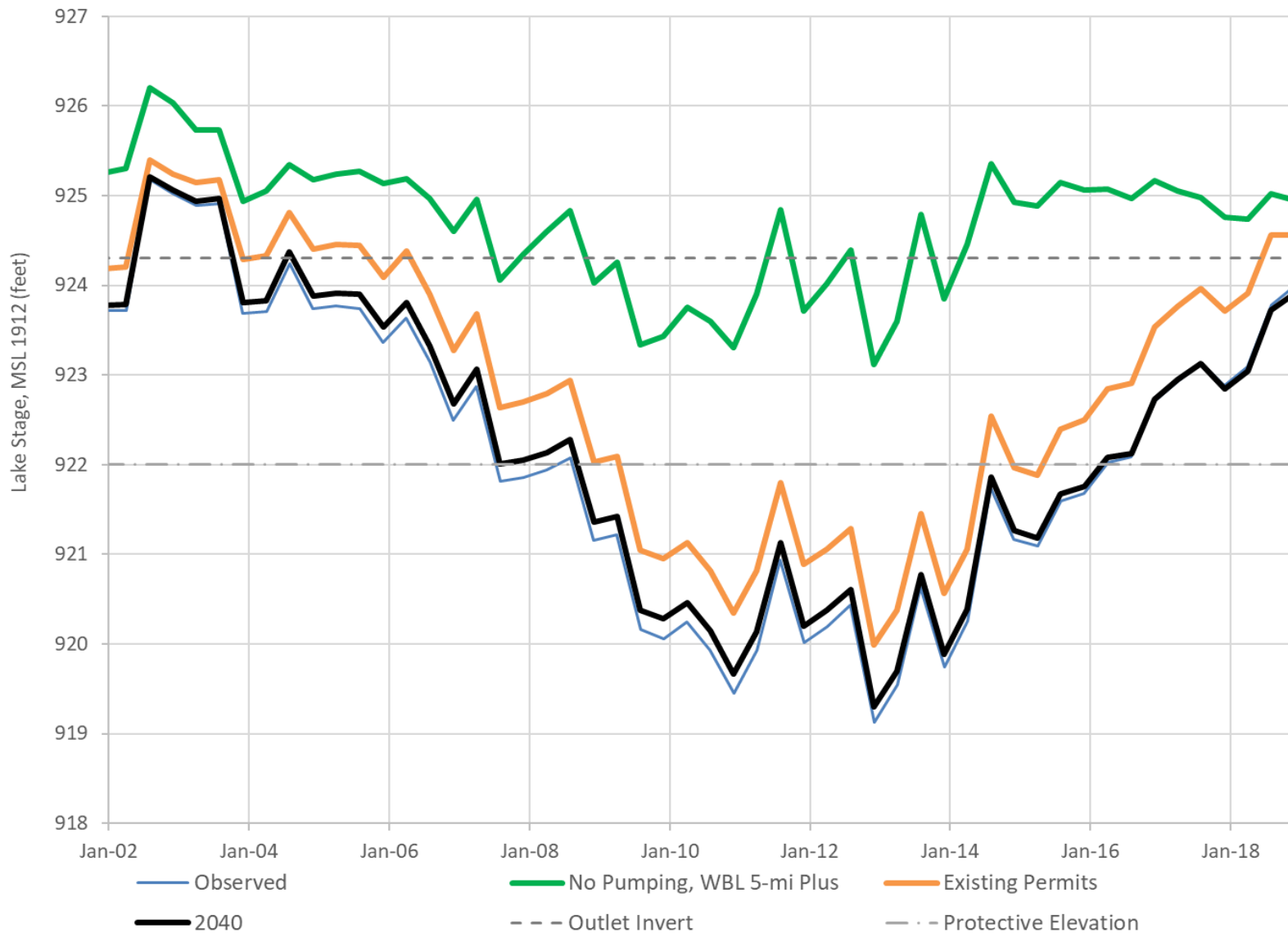


Average Annual Volume of Water Use – Existing and Projected for 2040

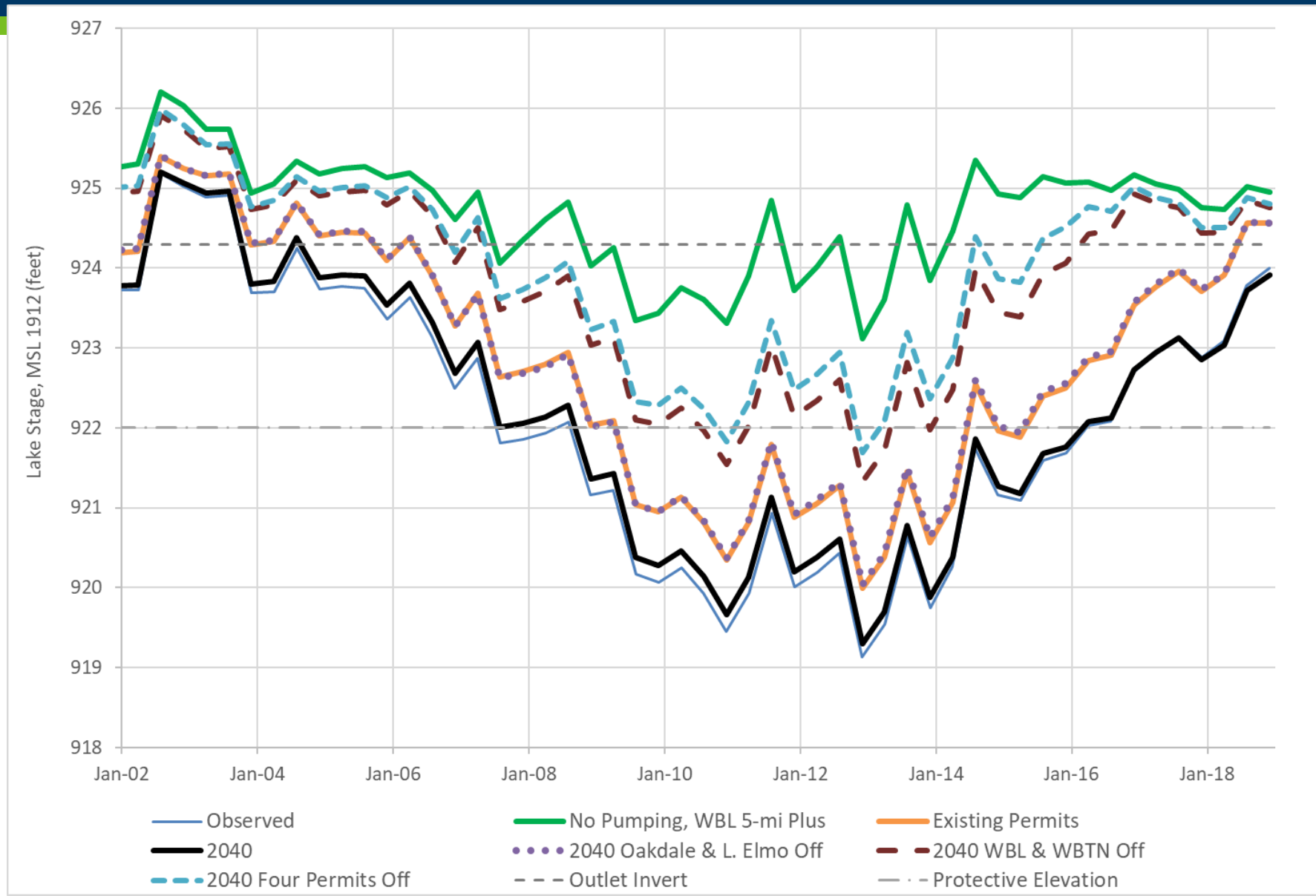


2040 estimates are based on comprehensive plans and community projections and may not necessarily reflect ongoing efforts at water conservation

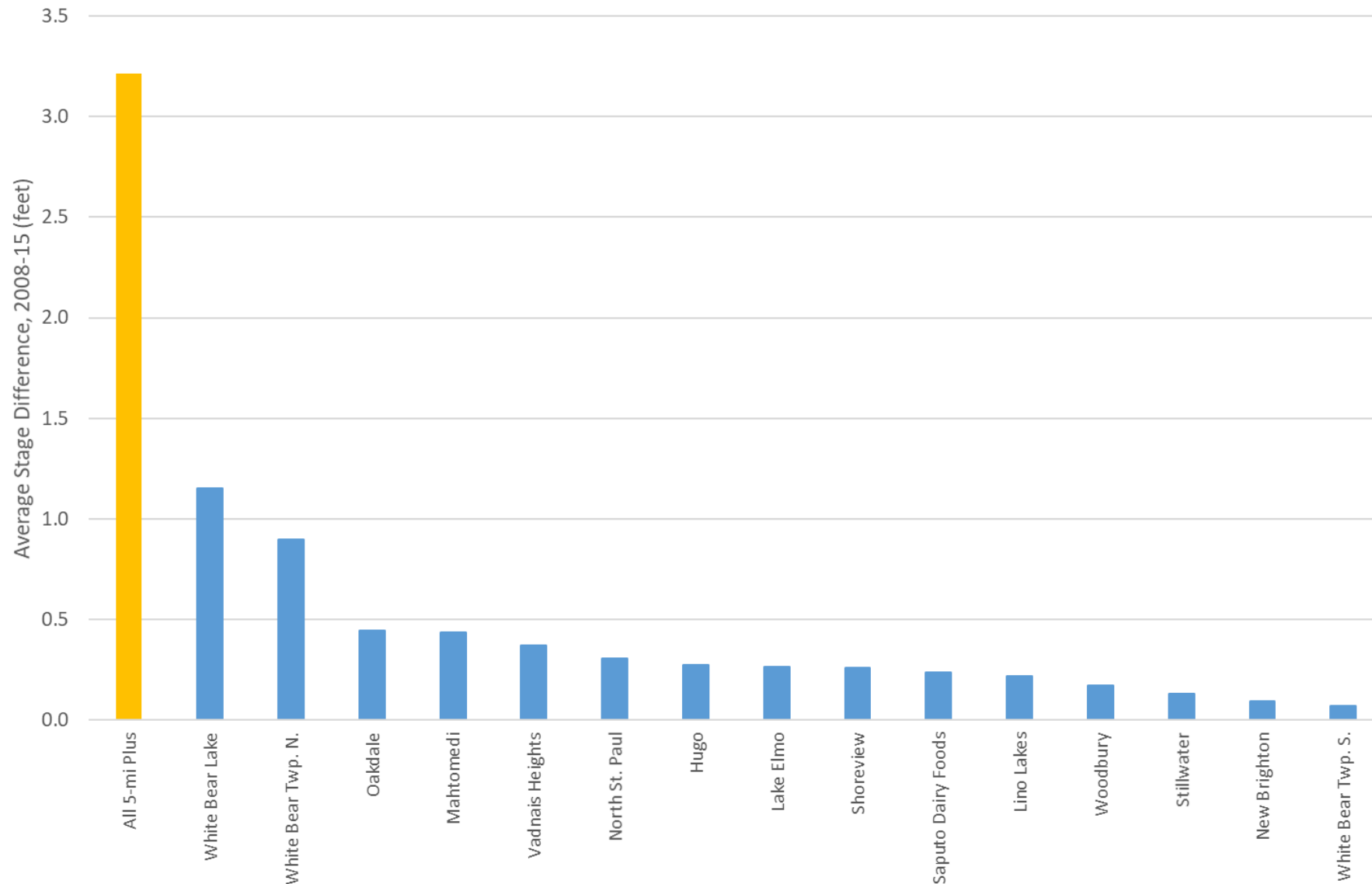
White Bear Lake – Projected Lake Levels Under Average 2040 Water Use in North and East Metro Area



White Bear Lake – Projected Lake Levels Under Average 2040 Water Use in North and East Metro Area with Alternate Source for Several Communities



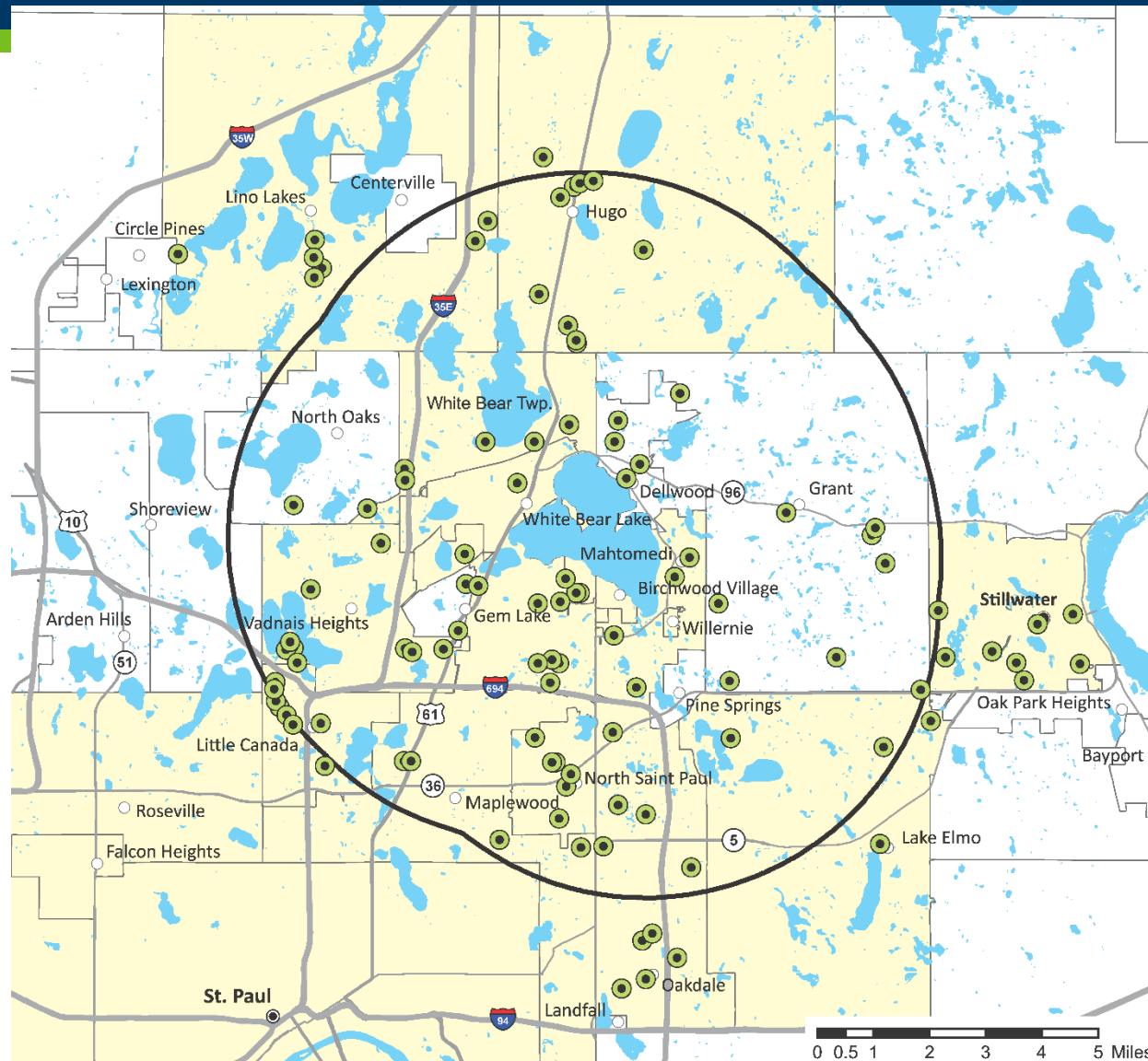
Relative Influence of Individual Permits on Lake Levels Under 2040 Water Use Projections - Top 15 Influencers

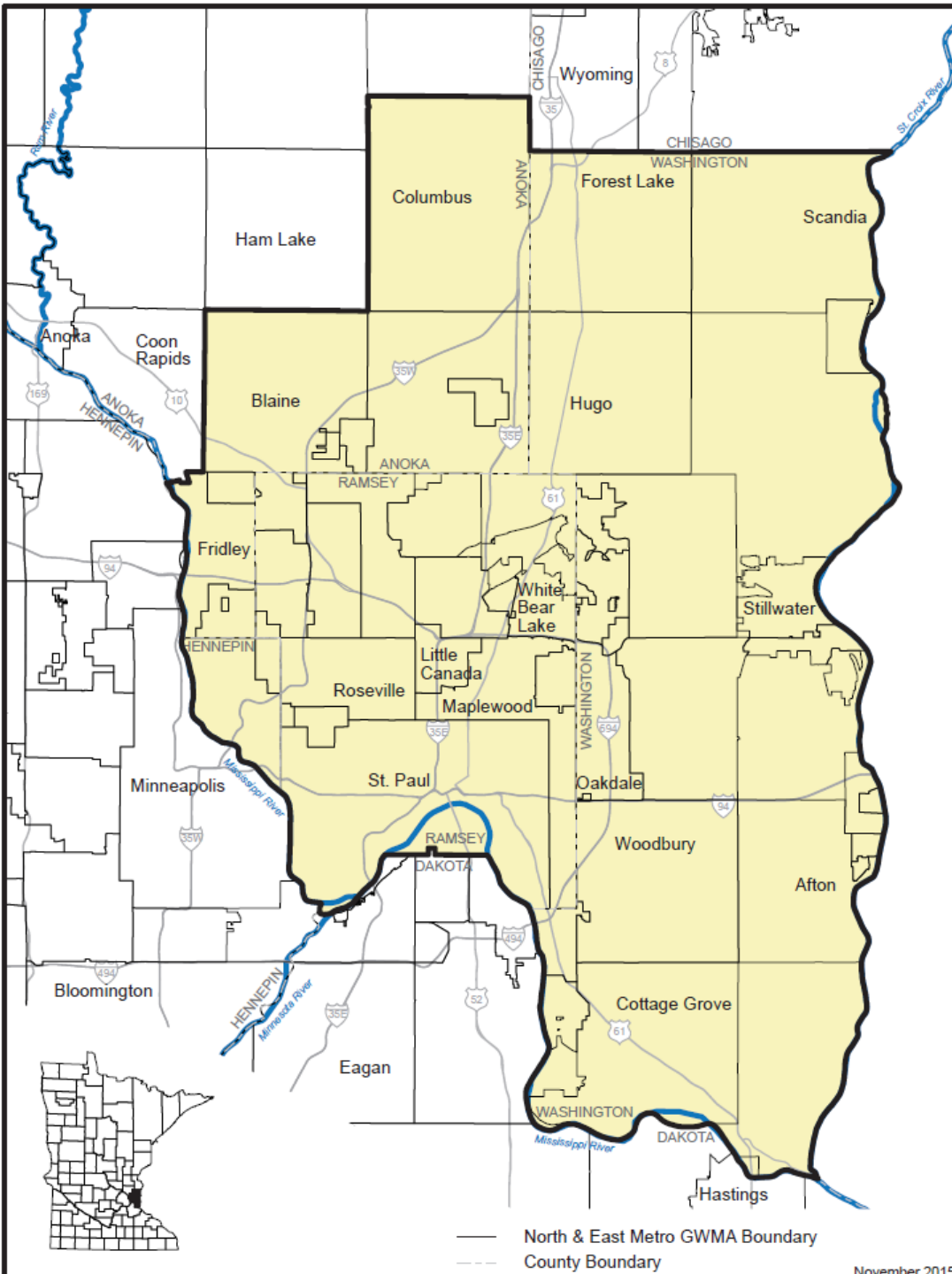


What does this mean for the Conceptual Plan?

- The three options are based on some cities water plans that are in flux or may not be possible
 - Do not want to build projects that may not be used in the future
- Priority one is about safe and sustainable drinking water for East Metro communities
 - Projects need to address quality and quantity issues at same time
- Moving forward with Conceptual Plan that provides flexibility to adjust as needed based on WBL process
- DNR is scheduling meetings with affected communities and legislators to work on the White Bear Lake water challenges

1 Permits and Wells w/in 5 Mile Area





North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area