



# **Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for the Water Year 2022 - 2023**

Prepared for Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, and Mission Springs Water District

February 2024



# **Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year 2022-2023**

**February 29, 2024**

**For Submittal to:**

**California Department of Water Resources  
in Accordance with  
the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

**Prepared for:**

**Coachella Valley Water District  
Desert Water Agency  
Mission Springs Water District**

**Prepared by:**

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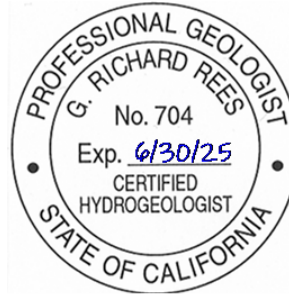
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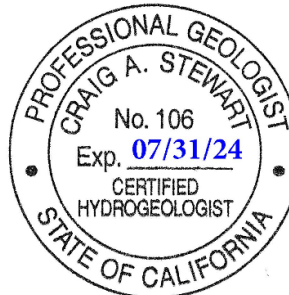


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## Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Glossary

Acronym	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
AD	Assessment District
AF	Acre-Feet
AFY	Acre-Feet per Year
AOB	Area of Benefit
BCM	Basin Characterization Model
Bgs	Below ground surface
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program
CDFM	Cumulative Deviation from the Mean
CDWR	California Department of Water Resources
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
COC	Constituent of Concern
CRA	Colorado River Aqueduct
CVCC	Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
CVMC	Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
CVRWVG	Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
CV-SNMP	Coachella Valley – Salt and Nutrient Management Program
CV-RUWMP	Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan
CWA	Coachella Water Authority
DCA	Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority
DCP	Delta Conveyance Project
DEH	Department of Environmental Health
DHSB	Desert Hot Springs Subbasin
DHS	Desert Hot Springs
DMM	Demand Management Measures
DWA	Desert Water Agency
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ET	Evapotranspiration
Ft	Feet
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRF	Groundwater Replenishment Facility
GRP	Groundwater Replenishment Program
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GQPP	Groundwater Quality Protection Program
I-Bank	California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank
InSAR	Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar

Acronym	Definition
IWA	Indio Water Authority
MC-GH WMP	Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
Mgd	million gallons per day
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MNM	Monitoring Network Module
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Msl	mean sea level
MSWD	Mission Springs Water District
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
MWH	MWH Americas, Inc. now Stantec
NAVD88	North American Vertical Datum of 1988
NGVD29	National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
pCi/L	picocuries per liter
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PRISM	Parameter-elevation Relationships on Independent Slopes Model
PMAs	Project and Management Actions
QSA	Quantification Settlement Agreement
RAC	Replenishment Assessment Charge
RCDEH	Riverside County Department of Environmental Health
RCDWR	Riverside County Department of Waste Resources
RCFCWCD	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
RWRF	Regional Water Reclamation Facility
RWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Region
ROA	Result Oriented Activities
SB	Senate Bill
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
SNMP	Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
SWP	State Water Project
SWR	Storm Water Resources
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWRCB-DDW	State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TDS/N	Total Dissolved Solids/ Nitrogen (nitrogen occurring primarily as nitrate in groundwater)
TSS	Technical Support Services
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation

Acronym	Definition
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VOC	volatile organic compound
WIFIA	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
WIIN	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation
WMP	Water Management Plan
Wood	Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plans
WSP	WSP Environment & Infrastructure Inc.
WVWRF	West Valley Water Reclamation Facility
WY	Water Year



## Executive Summary

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (collectively the Agencies), WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. (WSP) has prepared this Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023 (Annual Report) in accordance with the annual reporting requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) designated the Mission Creek Subbasin as Basin No. 7-21.02 (CDWR, 2003). This Annual Report summarizes groundwater conditions and the implementation status of projects and management actions in the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin) for WY 2022-2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023). This executive summary is organized by headings that parallel those in the body of the report.

### ES.1 Background

The Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin has been divided into four separate subbasins by the CDWR; these include the Indio, Mission Creek, San Geronio Pass, and Desert Hot Springs Subbasins. The Indio,<sup>1</sup> Mission Creek, and San Geronio Pass Subbasins have been designated medium-priority subbasins under the SGMA and the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin has been designated a very-low-priority subbasin.

On December 29, 2016, the Agencies collaboratively submitted the 2013 Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (2013 MC-GH WMP [MWH, 2013]) and a bridge document (Stantec, 2016; 2016 Bridge Document) to the CDWR. Together, those documents described how the 2013 MC-GH WMP and supporting documents met the requirements of the SGMA and thus could be considered an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative Plan) under the SGMA. The 2013 MC-GH WMP, 2016 Bridge Document, and supporting documents were provided to the CDWR for review and evaluation as the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan. On July 17, 2019, the CDWR approved the Alternative Plan, finding it functionally equivalent to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The Agencies initiated the five-year update, also known as a periodic evaluation, to the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan in 2019 and completed the five-year update entitled, "Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan Update" (2022 Alternative Plan Update; [Wood<sup>2</sup> and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]) in November 2021. The 2022 Alternative Plan Update was submitted to the CDWR in December 2021.

In accordance with the SGMA GSP Emergency Regulations (CDWR, 2016), annual reports are to be submitted to the CDWR by April 1 of each year following adoption of a GSP, or in this case, following submission of an Alternative Plan to the CDWR. This Annual Report contains a discussion of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin in general followed by sections describing each of the Annual Report elements for the Mission Creek Subbasin required by the SGMA.

### ES.2 Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin and Subbasins

The Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin extends approximately 45 miles southeast from the San Bernardino Mountains to the northern shore of the Salton Sea. Cities within the Coachella Valley include

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<sup>1</sup> The Indio Subbasin is also identified as the Whitewater River Subbasin by the United States Geological Survey, 1980. However, the subbasin is identified as the Indio Subbasin in CDWR Bulletin 108 (1964) and Bulletin 118 (2003). For continuity, this Annual Report will identify the subbasin as the Indio Subbasin.

<sup>2</sup> WSP Global Inc. acquired Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) in September 2022.

Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and the unincorporated communities of Thousand Palms, Thermal, Bermuda Dunes, Oasis, and Mecca. The Coachella Valley is bordered by the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains on the southwest, the San Bernardino Mountains on the northwest, the Little San Bernardino Mountains and the Mecca Hills on the northeast, and the Salton Sea on the southeast. The Coachella Valley lies within the northwesterly portion of California's Colorado Desert, an extension of the Sonoran Desert. The San Bernardino, San Jacinto, and Santa Rosa Mountains impede the eastward movement of storms and create a rain shadow, which results in an arid climate and greatly reduces the contribution of direct precipitation as a source of recharge to groundwater in the Coachella Valley.

Although there is interflow of groundwater throughout the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, fault barriers, constrictions in the groundwater basin profile, and areas of low permeability limit and control movement of groundwater. Based on these factors, the groundwater basin has been divided into subbasins including the Indio, Mission Creek, Desert Hot Springs, and San Geronio Pass Subbasins. The subbasins are defined without regard to water quantity or quality. They delineate areas underlain by formations which readily yield stored groundwater through water wells and offer natural reservoirs for the regulation of water supplies. The Mission Creek Subbasin has a groundwater storage capacity of 2.6 million acre-feet (AF) (CDWR, 1964).

The Mission Creek Subbasin extends from the active river channels of the upper reaches of the Whitewater River in the Coachella Valley southeast through the western portion of the Indio Hills and terminates approximately three miles north of the community of Bermuda Dunes. Much of the Mission Creek Subbasin is undeveloped and supports sparse desert vegetation. The City of Desert Hot Springs and the community of North Palm Springs (an unincorporated area not associated with the City of Palm Springs) are located in the central part of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The City of Palm Springs also extends into the Mission Creek Subbasin. Individual homes and smaller communities are scattered across the northwestern region and other portions of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The portions of the Indio Hills within the Mission Creek Subbasin are undeveloped.



View northwest near intersection of Banning Fault and Mountain View Avenue. Mesquite hummocks in left foreground and San Bernardino Mountains in background.

Average high temperatures exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in the months of June, July, August, and September. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) records from 1991 to 2020, average high temperatures in May and October are in the low to mid 90s°F and average high temperatures in the months of November through April range from 69°F to 87°F. Average low temperatures range from 46°F in December to 80°F in August.

**Figure ES-1** provides a summary of precipitation at the Desert Hot Springs precipitation station located approximately 1 mile north of the northern boundary of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The figure shows the variability in precipitation over time with wet and dry cycles of precipitation indicated by the upward and downward slope of the plot. The plot shows a relatively flat cumulative deviation from the mean since WY 2016-2017, indicating generally average precipitation for the period of WY 2016-2017 to WY 2021-2022. Less than average precipitation in WY 2020-2021 (2.1 inches) and WY 2021-2022 (3.33 inches) resulted in a slight downward trend. The annual precipitation total for WY 2022-2023 was 8.05 inches, which is greater than the mean annual precipitation of 5.1 inches.

The Mission Creek Subbasin is bounded by relatively impermeable bedrock of the San Bernardino Mountains and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the west/northwest and north/northeast, respectively.

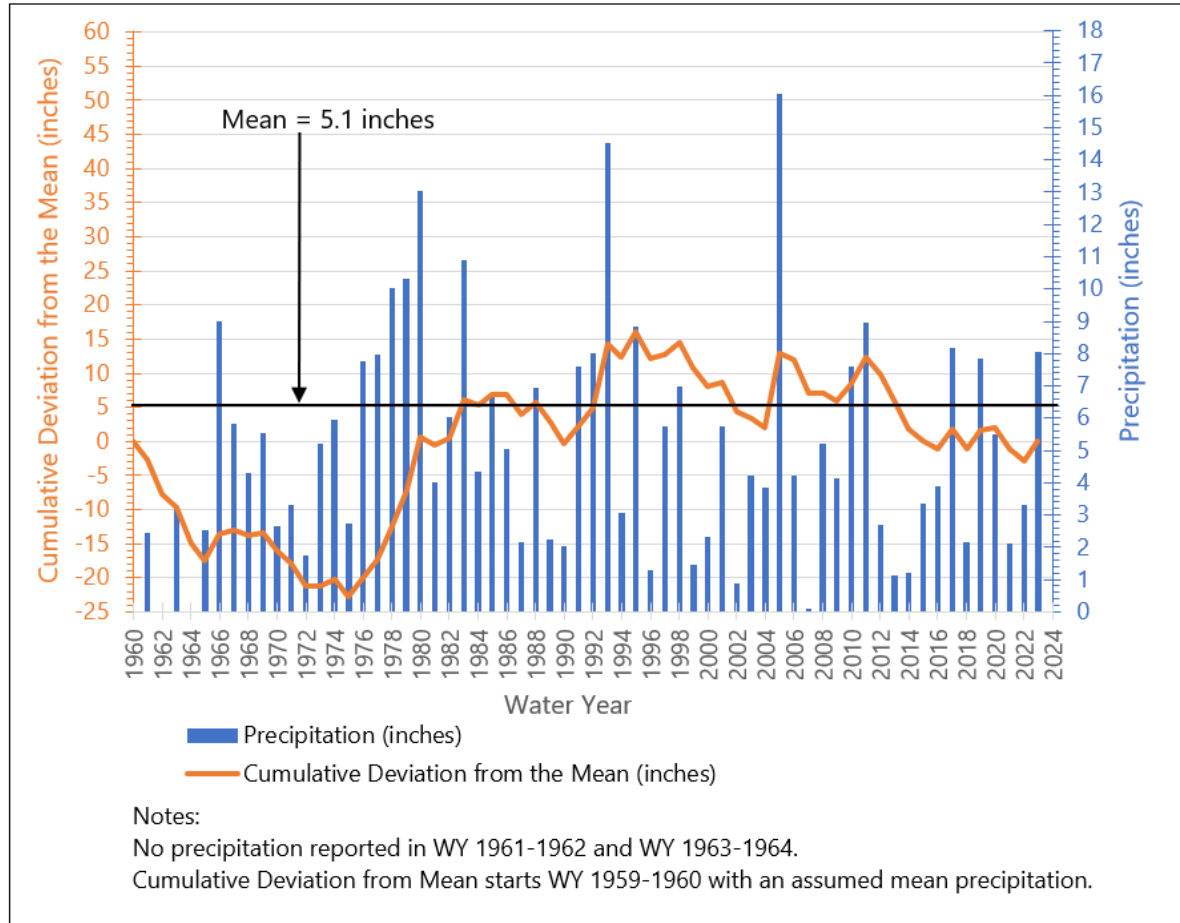
The Mission Creek fault separates the Mission Creek Subbasin from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin to the northeast, while the Banning fault separates the Mission Creek Subbasin from the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin to the south. Southeast of the Garnet Hill Subarea where the Garnet Hill fault appears to terminate into the Indio Hills, the Banning fault separates the southeastern portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin from the Indio Subbasin.

Groundwater within the Mission Creek Subbasin and adjacent subbasins is stored in unconsolidated alluvial sediments, which extend to a depth as great as 3,000 feet below ground surface (bgs) and are underlain by semi-consolidated and semi-permeable sediments (GCI, 1979). These alluvial sediments comprise the only aquifer identified in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Faults bounding the Mission Creek Subbasin are partial barriers to groundwater flow, resulting in groundwater elevation differences across the faults. Because these faults are only partial barriers to groundwater flow, steep hydraulic gradients across the faults result in subsurface outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin to the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin, and subsurface inflow from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin into the Mission Creek Subbasin.



View west with flow in Mission Creek near northwest corner of the Mission Creek Groundwater Recharge Facility.

**Figure ES-1**  
**Annual Precipitation and Cumulative Deviation from the Mean, Desert Hot Springs**



The primary inflows to the Mission Creek Subbasin include infiltration of natural runoff in the creeks and washes fed by highland precipitation, subsurface mountain front recharge, and subsurface inflow from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin. Precipitation on the valley floor is a relatively minor source of infiltration due to the arid climate. Additional sources of recharge include wastewater percolation, septic tank percolation, and return flow infiltration from water applied for municipal, agricultural, recreational (such as golf course irrigation), and industrial uses.<sup>3</sup> When available, a significant source of recharge to the Mission Creek Subbasin is artificial recharge of imported water that is infiltrated at the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (Mission Creek GRF), located in the northwestern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

The primary outflow of groundwater from the Mission Creek Subbasin is through groundwater production for urban, agricultural, and industrial uses. The Agencies produce groundwater in the Mission Creek

<sup>3</sup> In this report, the category "urban use" includes municipal and recreational uses unless those uses are identified separately.



Subbasin for delivery to their customers in the Mission Creek Subbasin and in the adjacent Desert Hot Springs Subbasin. In WY 2022-2023, some production from the Mission Creek Subbasin was delivered to customers in the adjacent Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin. Private wells that supply water for golf course irrigation, agricultural, and industrial use are metered to assess replenishment assessment charges to cover the costs of importing water and replenishing the basin. Additionally, there are private wells located in the Mission Creek Subbasin that, due to low levels of use, are not required to report their well production to CVWD or DWA, and some of these wells may produce groundwater on a regular basis. Other outflows of groundwater from the Mission Creek Subbasin include evapotranspiration from plants with deep roots that draw water at or near the groundwater surface (phreatophytes) in shallow groundwater areas and previously mentioned subsurface outflow to the Indio Subbasin including the Garnet Hill Subarea.

### ES.3 Groundwater Elevation and Monitoring Wells

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update established nine Key Wells for monitoring of groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin. **Table ES-1** identifies the Key Wells and the rationale for the selection of these wells. In addition to monitoring groundwater levels in the nine Key Wells for SGMA compliance, CVWD, DWA, and MSWD monitor groundwater levels in 15 additional wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Groundwater level data from nine of these wells were used to supplement the data from the Key Wells for contouring of groundwater elevations and changes in storage.

**Table ES-1**  
**Key Wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

State Well Number	Local Name	Map Name	Rationale for Selection as a Key Well
<b>02S04E23N002S</b>	Well No. 30	23N02	Long monitoring history. Northern portion of the northwestern Subbasin
<b>02S04E28J001S</b>	Well No. 35	28J01	Spatial coverage of the northwestern Subbasin
<b>02S04E36D001S</b>	Well No. 22	36D01	Long monitoring history. North central portion of the Subbasin
<b>02S04E36K001S</b>	Well No. 29	36K01	Long monitoring history. North central portion of the Subbasin
<b>03S04E04P001S</b>	PW2	4P01	Spatial coverage of the south portion of the northwestern Subbasin
<b>03S04E11L004S</b>	Well No. 31	11L04	South central part of the main Subbasin
<b>03S04E12C001S</b>	Well 3405	12C01	Long monitoring history. Near the center of the main Subbasin
<b>03S05E15R001S</b>	15R01	15R01	Southern end of the main Subbasin
<b>03S05E17J001S</b>	17J01	17J01	Long monitoring history. South central part of the main Subbasin

As of January 2022, the SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module (MNM) replaced the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program as the database for the SGMA groundwater well data and water level data. Data upload to CASGEM is no longer required for subbasins reporting to the SGMA Portal MNM. Key Well data were migrated or uploaded to the MNM. New water level data are uploaded to the MNM each year. For compliance with the SGMA, the well reference point elevations and ground surface elevations were converted from National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) using the software program VDatum, published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).<sup>4</sup> The Agencies plan to resurvey all of the Key Wells relative to NAVD88 prior to the end of WY 2023-2024. The groundwater elevations presented in this Annual Report represent the single aquifer identified as the Mission Creek Subbasin. Average groundwater levels for the water year (rather than groundwater levels from seasonal measurements) are presented because groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin do not exhibit strong seasonal trends. Significant groundwater level fluctuations, however, are observed near the Mission Creek GRF as groundwater levels respond directly to replenishment water deliveries and have varied by more than 100 feet during periods of high replenishment. Groundwater levels also vary due to groundwater extraction near North Palm Springs. The remainder of the Mission Creek Subbasin typically experiences very little seasonal variation in groundwater levels.



View northwest from Skyline Drive in the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin across the northwestern portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin, with older alluvium incised by the Mission Creek in the mid-background.

Hydrographs of the Key Wells indicate that groundwater levels throughout the Mission Creek Subbasin have either increased, stabilized, or remained relatively constant since the commencement of the Groundwater Replenishment Program (GRP). The GRP, combined with other water management elements, including water conservation, is helping to control groundwater overdraft and maintain sustainable groundwater levels within the Mission Creek Subbasin.

## ES.4 Groundwater Extraction

During WY 2022-2023, 13,489 AF of groundwater were extracted from 24 metered wells and minimal pumpers<sup>5</sup> in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Because CVWD and DWA are authorized to collect replenishment assessment charges from groundwater producers, their respective legislations mandate the installation of water volume measuring devices on the wells of well owners that produce more than 25 acre-feet per year (AFY) in CVWD's service area and more than 10 AFY in DWA's service area. Approximately 90 percent of groundwater produced in the Mission Creek Subbasin is produced for urban

<sup>4</sup> <https://vdatum.noaa.gov/about/currentevents.html>

<sup>5</sup> Minimal pumpers are groundwater pumpers who are not required to report production to CVWD (<25 AFY) or DWA (<10 AFY). As reported in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, the amount of unmetered private well pumping in the Mission Creek Subbasin was estimated at approximately 480 AFY. This estimate agrees with previous estimates of approximately 500 AFY. Given the uncertainty in estimating this pumping, it is rounded to 500 AFY for WY 2022-2023.

water use, and the remaining approximately 10 percent of groundwater is produced for agricultural or industrial purposes or is unmetered with unknown use.

## **ES.5 Surface Water Use**

Precipitation in the Mission Creek Subbasin during WY 2022-2023 was estimated based on three precipitation stations within or near the Mission Creek Subbasin. Recorded precipitation included 6.05 inches (Edom Hill station), 8.05 inches (Desert Hot Springs station), and 30.86 inches (Whitewater North station). The 8.05 inches of recorded precipitation at the Desert Hot Springs station in WY 2022-2023 is greater than the 63-year (water year) mean of 5.1 inches at that station (data from the Desert Hot Springs station are used for long-term comparisons because it has a substantially longer period of record than other stations in the area).

Mission Creek is the only surface water body in the Mission Creek Subbasin that has been equipped with a stream gauge. There is no direct use of this stream flow or any other stream flow in the Mission Creek Subbasin. In WY 2022-2023, the stream gauge recorded 1,158 AF of stream flow through August 19, 2023. On August 20, 2023, the stream gauge was damaged by flooding resulting from Tropical Storm Hilary and no additional measurements of Mission Creek stream flow are available for the remainder of the water year. Because the period of measurement ended during a flood event, the actual Mission Creek stream flow for WY 2022 – 2023 was greater than the measured total by an unknown but likely significant amount.

In addition to natural replenishment from precipitation and stream flow, the Mission Creek Subbasin receives artificial replenishment from imported water. CVWD and DWA have contracts with the CDWR for State Water Project (SWP) water that is exchanged with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for a like amount of Colorado River water from MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (SWP Exchange Water). CVWD and DWA have a combined Table A amount of 194,100 AFY, which includes 100,000 AFY transfer from MWD under the Agreement for Exchange and Advance Delivery of Water. This imported water has been used to recharge the Mission Creek Subbasin at the Mission Creek GRF since 2002. For WY 2022-2023, 5,276 AF of SWP Exchange Water was delivered to the Mission Creek GRF and recharged to the Mission Creek Subbasin.

There is no recycled water use in the Mission Creek Subbasin. However, the municipal wastewater generated in the Mission Creek Subbasin is treated and disposed of within the Mission Creek Subbasin by percolation/evaporation. In WY 2022-2023, a total of 2,254 AF of wastewater was treated, all of which was disposed by percolation/evaporation.

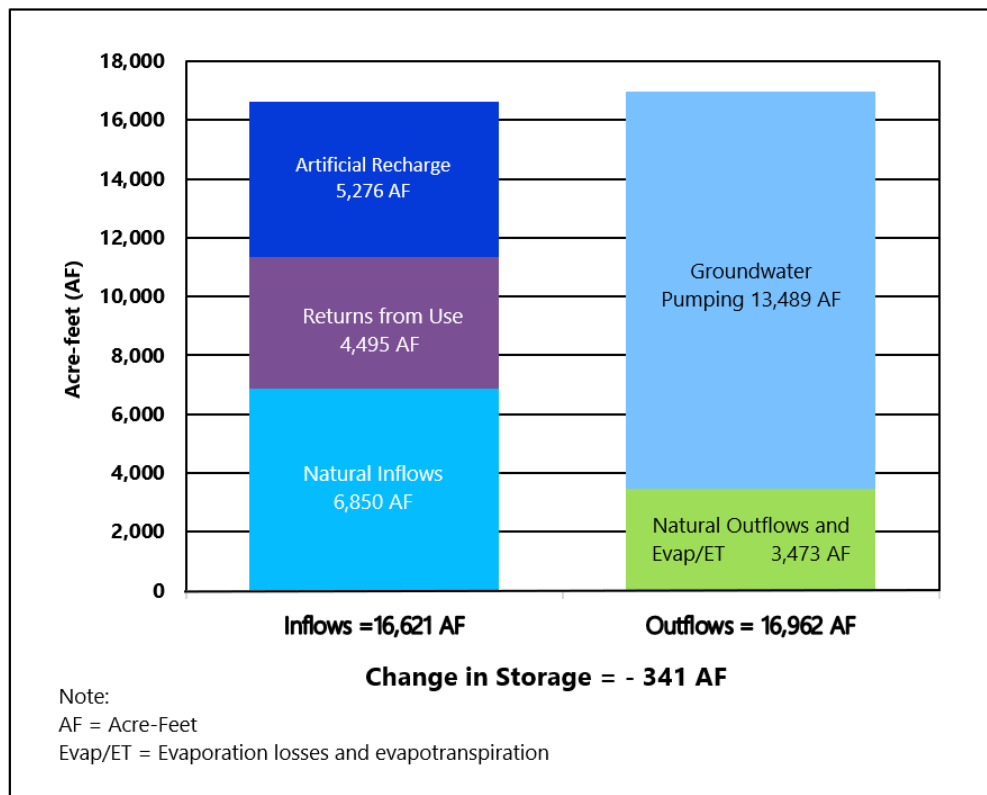
## **ES.6 Total Water Use**

Total water use for this Annual Report is direct use of water in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Local surface water is not used in the Mission Creek Subbasin and SWP Exchange Water is only used to replenish the aquifer. Wastewater is not currently recycled for direct use, but a portion percolates as return flow. Groundwater production within the Mission Creek Subbasin amounted to 13,489 AF in WY 2022-2023. A combined 6,194 AF of groundwater was exported from the Mission Creek Subbasin. Exports included 6,146 AF of groundwater to the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin by CVWD and MSWD to meet demands. An additional 48 AF of groundwater was exported to the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin by MSWD to partially meet demands in the Indio Subbasin. Accounting for these exports, the total direct use for WY 2022-2023 in the Mission Creek Subbasin was 7,295 AF.

## ES.7 Groundwater Balance and Change in Groundwater Storage

A groundwater balance for the Mission Creek Subbasin is a budget comparing inflows of groundwater into the Mission Creek Subbasin against outflows of groundwater out of the Mission Creek Subbasin during a specified period (typically one year). The difference between inflows and outflows for a given period is defined as the change in storage for that period. The groundwater balance for WY 2022-2023 is summarized on **Figure ES-2**.

**Figure ES-2**  
**Annual Groundwater Balance in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**



The procedure for estimating natural recharge resulting from runoff and subsurface recharge at the mountain front, referred to as mountain front recharge, was modified for the WY 2020-2021 Annual Report and subsequent annual reports. In previous Annual Reports, mountain front recharge was based on a long-term average of mountain front recharge calculated using results from a groundwater model (Psomas, 2013). For the WY 2020-2021, WY 2021-2022, and this Annual Report, mountain front recharge was estimated using the updated groundwater model for the Mission Creek Subbasin as documented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update. The 25-year period from 1995 through 2019 was used to derive an average natural recharge for use in the groundwater balance. In addition, this Annual Report uses the updated groundwater model to estimate evapotranspiration and underflow into and out of the Mission Creek Subbasin from adjacent subbasins based on the most recent year modeled (2019). Data from 2019



were used as estimates for evapotranspiration and outflow water balance components for this Annual Report because they are considered more representative of current conditions than long-term averages.

As shown on **Figure ES-2**, Mission Creek Subbasin inflows included 6,850 AF of natural inflows (e.g., mountain front recharge, infiltration of surface water, and subsurface inflow from other basins), 4,495 AF of return flow from use (e.g., return from urban/ agriculture applications, percolation from septic tanks and wastewater treatment facilities), and 5,276 AF from artificial recharge of SWP Exchange Water at the Mission Creek GRF. The total inflow to the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 was 16,621 AF.

The Mission Creek Subbasin outflows included 13,489 AF of groundwater pumping and 3,473 AF of natural outflows (i.e., subsurface outflow to adjacent subbasins, evapotranspiration, and evaporative losses). The total outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 was 16,962 AF. A comparison of the Mission Creek Subbasin inflows and outflows for WY 2022-2023 indicates an annual decrease in groundwater storage of 341 AF.

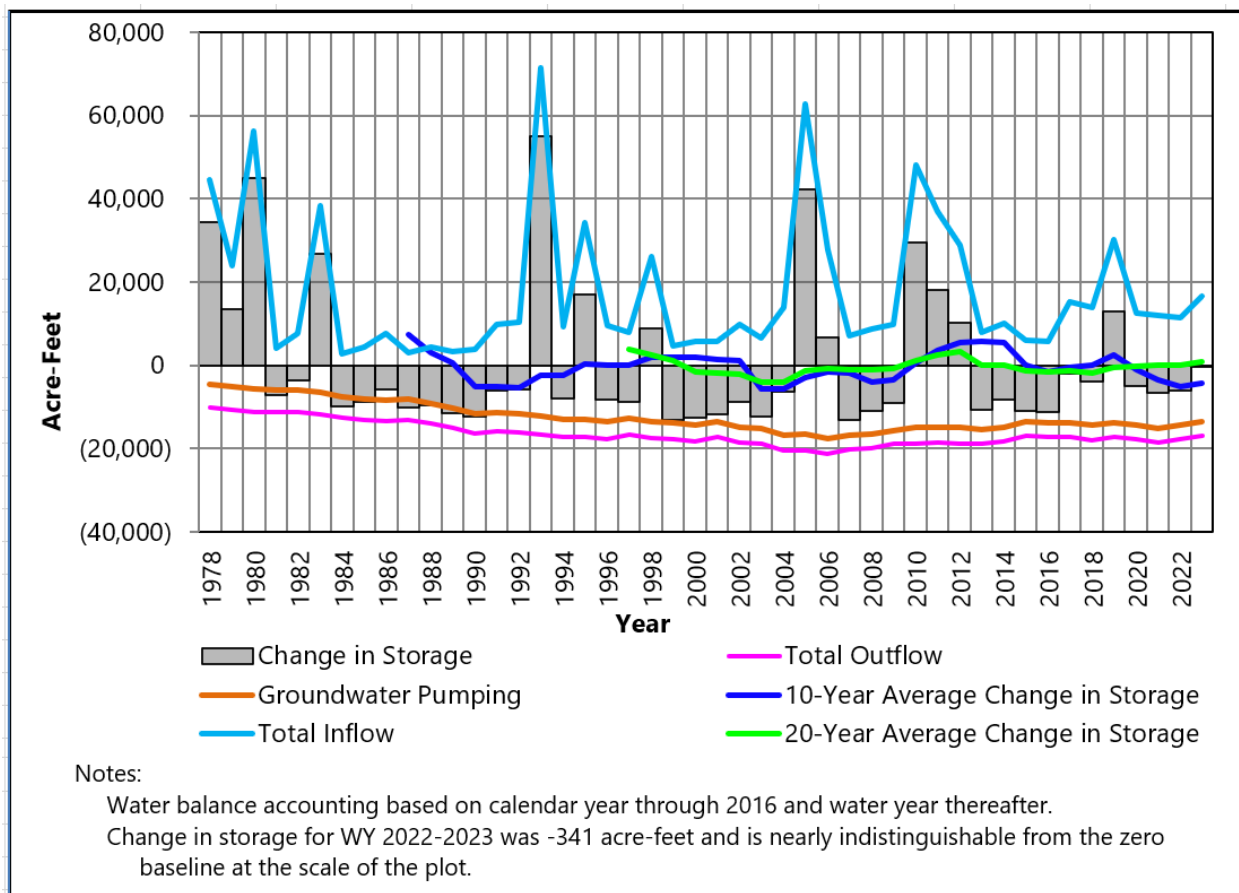
Based on the nine Key Wells and nine supplemental agency monitoring wells with water level data from both WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023, change in water levels ranged from 0.1 feet of increase in the southeastern part of the Subbasin to 10.1 feet of decrease immediately south of the Mission Creek GRF. Decline in groundwater levels near the Mission Creek GRF, ranging from 8.7 to 10.1 feet, appears to result from the decrease in recharge at the Mission Creek GRF since WY 2017-2018. The most recent groundwater levels near the Mission Creek GRF show a rebound of approximately 18 feet between July and October 2023, attributed to recharge to Mission Creek GRF beginning in April and continuing into August 2023. Excluding the area near the Mission Creek GRF and the area showing a slight increase in the southeastern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin, average annual groundwater levels decreased slightly. Generally, water levels indicated declines ranging from 0.1 to 2.6 feet from the previous water year. Overall, average annual groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 show a slight average decrease of approximately 2.2 feet compared to WY 2021-2022 levels.

Beginning with the WY 2021-2022 Annual Report, a 10-year change in groundwater levels was replaced with a change in groundwater levels since WY 2008-2009. This comparison of current water levels to WY 2008-2009 is directly relevant to the SGMA sustainable management criteria described in Section 8. The change in groundwater levels observed in the 14 wells with groundwater level data in both WY 2008-2009 and WY 2022-2023 in the Mission Creek Subbasin ranged from approximately 19.4 feet of increase in the north-central part of the Subbasin, 36.8 feet of decrease in the Mission Creek GRF area of the Subbasin, and an overall average increase of 4.9 feet across the Mission Creek Subbasin. Eliminating the localized declines near the Mission Creek GRF that result from temporarily elevated water levels resulting from artificial recharge in 2005 and 2006, the average increase in groundwater levels since WY 2008-2009 in the remaining 12 wells across the Mission Creek Subbasin is approximately 10.7 feet. The increase in groundwater levels through much of the Mission Creek Subbasin has resulted from a reduction in groundwater pumping and from groundwater replenishment that began in 2002.

**Figure ES-3** shows annual inflows, outflows, groundwater production, and 10-year and 20-year running average changes in groundwater storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin based on the updated Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater model water balance documented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update and water balance information provided in the Mission Creek Subbasin annual reports starting in WY 2019-2020. The Mission Creek Subbasin inflows vary significantly from year to year due to the variability in

mountain front recharge and imported water replenishment deliveries. Replenishment activities vary annually in response to imported water availability. During the last five years (WY 2018-2019 through WY 2022-2023), replenishment ranged from approximately 0 AFY in WY 2021-2022 to 5,276 AFY in WY 2022-2023 and averaged approximately 2,433 AFY. Years of high inflows correspond to wet years and high mountain front recharge and/or when increased SWP deliveries occurred. Both the 10- and 20-year running average changes in groundwater storage have been relatively stable. In recent years, the trend in the 10-year average shows small declines in storage because this shorter-term view does not include years of higher-than-average inflow in the early 2010s. The longer-term 20-year running average shows that the Mission Creek Subbasin has been in balance (i.e., no appreciable net change in storage) since 2013 and in balance or slightly positive since 2006.

**Figure ES-3**  
**Historical Annual Change in Groundwater Storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin**



## ES.8 Sustainable Management Criteria

The SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results. The Agencies recognize that establishing metrics to avoid undesirable results and

maintain sustainability is a valuable tool in groundwater management, and incorporated SGMA Sustainable Management Criteria into the 2022 Alternative Plan Update to guide water resources management in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The four Sustainability Indicators considered relevant to the Mission Creek Subbasin include: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, degraded water quality, and land subsidence.

### **Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels**

The Mission Creek Subbasin has met its sustainability objective for WY 2022-2023 groundwater levels. A review of WY 2022-2023 Key Well water levels and the sustainability criteria for chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicated that all the Key Wells were above the thresholds established for sustainability (i.e., the Minimum Threshold). All but one well was above the level established as the desired objective for maintaining groundwater levels (i.e., the Measurable Objective) at or above 2009 groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Well 03S04E04P001S (4P01) experienced the third year of decline in water levels below the Measurable Objective. This well fell below the Measurable Objective in WY 2020-2021 and WY 2021-2022 by 0.6 feet and 2.6 feet (based on the lowest water level measurement in this well during the water year). For WY 2022-2023, the lowest water level measurement was 5.4 feet below the Measurable Objective for Well 4P01. Water levels in this well remained above the Minimum Threshold. As described in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, the Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold for Well 4P01 are considered provisional because of limited historical groundwater level data for this well. Current and historical groundwater level data for this and other wells will be reviewed, and an adjustment for the provisional Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold for this well will be considered in future 5-year Alternative Plan Updates or Annual Reports, if appropriate.

### **Reduction of Groundwater in Storage**

The Mission Creek Subbasin has met its sustainability objective for groundwater storage for WY 2022-2023. Because the Mission Creek Subbasin consists of a single aquifer laterally and vertically, groundwater storage is directly related to groundwater levels for the Subbasin. The Measurable Objective (703.1 feet NAVD88)<sup>6</sup> and Minimum Threshold (694.5 feet NAVD88) for groundwater storage are based on the average of the groundwater level Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for the nine Key Wells. The average water level in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 was 712.1 feet NGVD88, which is 9 feet above the Measurable Objective for groundwater storage and 17.6 feet above the Minimum Threshold for groundwater storage.

### **Land Subsidence**

Neither land subsidence nor impacts to structures potentially caused by subsidence have been identified historically in the Mission Creek Subbasin. There are no indications that ground level subsidence occurred in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 and water levels remain above the level where subsidence may be considered a potential concern (i.e., groundwater level Minimum Thresholds). Geologic conditions of generally coarse-grained sediments and lack of thick, laterally extensive fine-grained sediments in the Mission Creek Subbasin aquifer reduce the likelihood of land subsidence. Although land subsidence has not been observed in the Mission Creek Subbasin, it can potentially result in significant and unreasonable conditions. Land subsidence is most likely to occur if groundwater levels

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<sup>6</sup> NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum of 1988.

are lowered significantly below their historically low levels (i.e., under conditions of maximum reconsolidation stress). Consequently, Minimum Thresholds for groundwater levels in the Key Wells are used as a screening level for the potential of land subsidence. Groundwater levels are well above their Minimum Thresholds and, therefore, do not indicate a likely risk of land subsidence.

To further assess the potential presence of land subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin, ground-level displacement monitoring by the CDWR was reviewed for the full length of the approximately eight-year monitoring period available for this technology (June 2015 to October 2023) and the most recent annual record of vertical ground-level displacement (October 2022 to October 2023). With the exception of a localized area of ground level decline in the vicinity of the former Edom Hill Landfill from the settlement of the landfill, only a relatively small magnitude of downward vertical ground level change (up to a potential maximum of 0.1 feet) was observed. Based on this and a lack of a clear trend of increasing vertical downward displacement over the period of monitoring, permanent land subsidence attributed to groundwater withdrawal is not apparent in the Mission Creek Subbasin.

In addition to reviewing the CDWR information on subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin, the Agencies have engaged the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to study land subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The USGS initiated this study in 2021. In WY 2022-2023, three new benchmarks were constructed in the Mission Creek Subbasin and high-precision global positioning system (GPS) measurements were taken at the new benchmarks. The USGS continued to work on analyzing measurements and groundwater levels, with a final study report expected by June 30, 2025.

### **Degraded Water Quality**

The Mission Creek Subbasin has met its sustainability objectives for water quality for WY 2022-2023. The 2022 Alternative Plan Update identified two constituents of concern (COCs) for water quality degradation based on historical water quality and the potential for future water quality degradation. These constituents include naturally occurring uranium and nitrate. The Minimum Thresholds for uranium and nitrate were set at the California drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water supply wells established by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). A review of water quality data for water supply wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin did not identify any exceedances of the MCL for nitrate (ten wells were tested during the water year) or for uranium (four wells were tested during the water year). Uranium has not been detected above its MCL in active water supply wells in more than five years.

Total dissolved solids (TDS) were also identified as a potential COC. TDS is currently being evaluated through the update of the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV-SNMP). The CV-SNMP Agencies – which include CVWD, Coachella Water Authority (CWA)/Coachella Sanitary District, City of Palm Springs, DWA, Indio Water Authority (IWA), MSWD, Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company, and Valley Sanitary District – prepared a workplan entitled “*Workplan to Develop the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan*” (Development Workplan, West Yost, 2021) that was submitted to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in September 2021 and approved in October 2021. The Development Workplan outlines the steps and schedule to update the CV-SNMP, with scheduled completion by October 2026. The objective of the CV-SNMP is to sustainably manage salt and nutrient loading in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin in a manner that protects beneficial uses of groundwater. When completed, the update to the CV-SNMP will provide a basis for establishing Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for TDS within the Mission Creek Subbasin.

The Development Workplan was required to include a groundwater monitoring workplan with an enhanced monitoring network, identification of data gaps, and a plan to fill the gaps. The CV-SNMP Agencies submitted this workplan entitled “*Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan*” (Groundwater Monitoring Workplan) to the RWQCB in December 2020 (West Yost, 2020), and the RWQCB approved this workplan in February 2021. The Groundwater Monitoring Workplan outlines an expanded groundwater monitoring program that will sufficiently determine whether concentrations of TDS and nitrogen (nitrogen occurring primarily as nitrate) (collectively TDS/N) in groundwater are consistent with water quality objectives. The CV-SNMP Agencies initiated work on the CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Workplan in 2021. A general application for the California Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services (DWR TSS) program to construct wells to fill monitoring data gaps identified in the Groundwater Monitoring Workplan was approved. Well service request forms were submitted to the TSS program and approved for monitoring wells at several sites in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Agencies continue to coordinate with CDWR on finalizing program agreements and anticipate monitoring well construction to begin in 2024. The second progress report for the Groundwater Monitoring Workplan was submitted to the RWQCB in March 2023. In addition, the CV-SNMP Agencies’ consultant held the first Community Workshop on March 22, 2023, to kickoff the CV-SNMP update effort. The CV-SNMP Agencies’ consultant prepared the draft Technical Memorandum (TM), Task 1, Characterize TDS/N Mass Loading in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin (West Yost, 2023). The document was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and issued for public comment in October 2023. The consultant has initiated work to characterize current groundwater quality and to prepare a TM summarizing this effort.

## **ES.9 Summary of Project and Management Actions and Description of Progress**

Progress in achieving the sustainability goals described in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update for the Mission Creek Subbasin is summarized below for selected project and management actions (PMAs).

### **Water Conservation**

- The Agencies continue to collaborate on regional conservation messaging through CV Water Counts ([www.CVWaterCounts.com](http://www.CVWaterCounts.com)), originally funded with California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) Proposition 84 grant funding and currently sustained by local water agencies. The group has a web and social media presence in addition to an ongoing advertising campaign. The group also holds an annual Water Counts Academy to educate community members and leaders about key water issues. The Agencies continued education and outreach to encourage water use efficiency by urban water users, indoor and outdoor incentive programs, ordinances and conservation pricing, water loss management, and conservation staff support. In WY 2022-2023, Agencies invested drought penalty revenue into conservation, increased rebate incentives by creating turf conversion cost-share programs with three local cities, increased messaging regarding drought water efficiency, and awarded a contract to begin construction on a new demonstration garden.
- CVWD, DWA, and MSWD (along with Coachella Water Authority [CWA], Indio Water Authority [IWA], and Myoma Dunes Water Company) participated in preparing the 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan (2020 CV-RUWMP) that was submitted to and approved by CDWR. The CV-RUWMP provides detailed descriptions of the Agencies’ water conservation programs and demonstrates that each agency achieved greater than 20 percent reduction in urban water use by 2020, in compliance with the Water Conservation Act of 2009 Senate Bill X7-7

(SB X7-7). The Agencies continue to implement demand management measures (DMMs) and will track the effectiveness of water conservation efforts during future updates of the 2020 CV-RUWMP.

- The 2020 CV-RUWMP that was recently completed and adopted includes standalone Water Shortage Contingency Plans (WSCPs) for each of the Agencies. The WSCPs contain Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment procedures, define six standard shortage levels from less than 10 percent shortage up to greater than 50 percent shortage, and identify shortage response actions including demand reduction actions and mandatory use restrictions and supply augmentation as well as communication protocols for implementing the WSCPs. The Agencies rescinded implementing all Shortage Level 2 demand reduction actions and returned to Level 1. The Agencies continued monitoring water supplies and operational changes that could alleviate future water shortages.
- The Agencies have initiated planning and have a grant funding award to conduct a water conservation study specific to the unique climate, soil, and occupancy conditions of the Coachella Valley. The regional conservation study will take an econometric approach to estimating water savings for grass removal rebate programs and may be used to evaluate incentive amounts and seek grant funding. In 2022, the Agencies were awarded grant funding to complete the study through Proposition 1, Round 2. The study identified as the Regional Conservation Study is in progress with completion of the study anticipated in summer 2024.

### **Water Supply**

- CVWD and DWA have the authority to operate imported water replenishment in the Coachella Valley. Imported water replenishment operations will deliver as much imported water to the Coachella Valley as possible, given the constraints of the SWP contracts and delivery and MWD Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) operations. During WY 2022-2023, 5,276 AF of recharge occurred at the Mission Creek GRF.
- MSWD is working on planning, designing, and constructing tertiary treatment at MSWD's Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF), where the recycled water can be used for groundwater recharge or for non-potable reuse for irrigation of parks, golf courses, schools, resorts, homeowners' associations, agricultural uses, etc. Using recycled water for non-potable uses would provide in-lieu groundwater replenishment by source substitution. MWSD continued construction of the RWRF with operations scheduled to begin in early 2024.
- CVWD and DWA continue to invest in long-term, statewide water projects. CVWD and DWA approved continuing participation in the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). In 2022, CVWD's and DWA's Board of Directors authorized funding for planning and design costs for 2023 and 2024. The DCP will modernize SWP conveyance facilities in the Delta and increase future long-term supply reliability. The planning process for the proposed DCP is moving forward. In 2023, soil investigations, including data collection, soil samples and surveys, were underway in the Delta as part of the planning and design phase of the DCP. Also, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) continued with community benefit programs and educational workshops. On December 8, 2023, the CDWR released the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the DCP to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CDWR approved the project and certified the Final EIR on December 21, 2023.



- CVWD and DWA are participating in the Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project led by MWD. This project will collect and distribute SWP water seeping under the Lake Perris Dam for delivery to MWD in addition to its current allocated Table A water. The project consists of installing an integrated recovery well system that would include up to six new seepage recovery wells downgradient from the face of the Lake Perris Dam and a conveyance pipeline connecting the wells to MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). CVWD and DWA were invited to partner in the project with MWD, and the parties signed an agreement with CDWR in 2021 to fund environmental analysis, planning, and preliminary design. The project is estimated to recover approximately 7,500 AFY, with approximately 2,750 AFY for delivery to CVWD and DWA, and a portion of this water will be allocated to the Mission Creek Subbasin. This project is estimated to deliver of 233 AFY of water to the Mission Creek GRF in 2025 increasing to approximately 268 AFY by 2045. The project is proceeding as planned, and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released in May 2021 for public comments. Currently, the CDWR is continuing to perform geotechnical modeling for the project.
- The Sites Project Authority is developing the Sites Reservoir Project to capture and store excess water from snowmelt and winter runoff from the Sacramento River for use during dry periods. The Sites Reservoir will be in the Sacramento Valley. The project is considered "off-stream," i.e., it will not dam or impede the Sacramento River or other streams. The Sites Reservoir will operate with other California reservoirs to increase water supply reliability and resiliency. In 2019, CVWD and DWA entered into an agreement with the Sites Project Authority for the next phase of planning for the Sites Reservoir (Sites Project Authority 2019; 2020). In 2022, CVWD's and DWA's Board of Directors authorized funding for Phase 2 Amendment 3 to the 2019 Sites Reservoir Project Agreement for 2022, 2023, and 2024. CVWD and DWA are participating members at 10,000 AFY (5.2%) and 6,500 AFY (3.4%) levels, respectively. Assuming a 30 percent conveyance loss, CVWD and DWA anticipate a total delivery of 11,550 AFY of Sites Reservoir water beginning in 2035. The portion of the Sites Reservoir Project estimated to be delivered to MCSB is 1,124 AFY beginning in 2035. In January 2023, the Sites Project Authority submitted an amended water rights application, and in May the State Water Board deemed the amended application sufficient to proceed with public notice. Also, in 2023, other permit applications and a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan application were submitted. In November 2023, the Sites Project Authority, as the lead agency under the CEQA, certified the Final EIR and approved the project. The project was certified by Governor Newsom under Senate Bill 149.

### **Water Quality Protection**

- MSWD's Groundwater Quality Protection Program (GQPP), a septic to sewer program, is ongoing and completion is subject to available funding. MSWD Assessment District (AD) 15 and AD-18 will support septic to sewer conversions by providing local funding to match with grant funding opportunities. MSWD has completed the conversion of septic to sewer in five previous ADs. MSWD plans to begin construction of the AD-15 project in 2024. Additionally, MSWD has begun design for the final two subareas in AD-18, Subareas A and G. Finally, MSWD was awarded grant funding to complete the construction of AD-18 Subarea D3 through Proposition 1, Round 2. MSWD plans to begin construction of the Subarea D3 project in 2024.

- In anticipation of meeting future treatment and recharge needs, MSWD began constructing the Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF) in 2022. The RWRF will treat wastewater flows to secondary levels including nitrification and denitrification. Located in the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin, the RWRF will divert some wastewater flows from existing wastewater treatment plants in the Mission Creek Subbasin, nearing their permitted capacity. The RWRF will start receiving flow in 2024 and is projected to reach 1.50 million gallons per day (mgd) treatment capacity by approximately 2030. Wastewater flows will be from existing sewer customers and from the septic to sewer conversions in the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin, the Mission Creek Subbasin, and the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin.
- In WY 2022-2023, the Agencies commented on California's proposed hexavalent chromium regulation. Hexavalent chromium is naturally occurring at low levels in the Coachella Valley, but many wells will exceed the proposed California maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium in drinking water of 10 micrograms per liter.
- The RWQCB approved the CV-SNMP Development Workplan in October 2021. The Development Workplan outlines the steps and schedule to update the CV-SNMP, with scheduled completion by October 2026. CVWD, DWA, and MSWD, along with the other CV-SNMP Agencies, began implementing the Development Workplan in 2022. The steps in the Development Workplan include conducting public outreach and creating a technical advisory committee, characterizing current groundwater quality and salt loading, developing TDS/N forecasting methodologies, completing forecasting for multiple scenarios, selecting a preferred scenario, establishing management zones, and recommending TDS objectives. During WY 2022-2023, the CV-SNMP Agencies initiated Development Workplan tasks to establish the CV-SNMP stakeholder group and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Agencies established a project website (cvsnmp.com) and completed a Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan. The TAC was established, and regular meetings were scheduled with RWQCB staff. Agencies completed work on Technical Memorandum (TM) #1 to characterize TDS/N loading to the groundwater basin. Work was initiated on TM#2 to characterize current groundwater quality. CVWD, on behalf of the CV-SNMP Agencies, contracted with USBR for a \$200,000 WaterSMART Applied Science grant to help develop the Mission Creek Subbasin fate and transport model. The Groundwater Monitoring Workplan was designed to gather data in support of the CV-SNMP and includes the installation of new monitoring wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin to address data gaps in the SNMP monitoring program. The new wells will be installed and sampled by December 31, 2026. The CV-SNMP Agencies submitted the second annual progress report and data to the RWQCB in March 2023 and continued monitoring of the network wells. The Agencies signed a data sharing memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to monitor three wells on Trust land. The final report of the first triennial monitoring cycle will be submitted by March 2024.
- MSWD plans to initiate a study in the near term to evaluate uranium's potential sources and migration risk. The study is also intended to evaluate whether the uranium source is associated with specific alluvial sediments so that future wells can be designed to avoid those sediments if necessary.

## **SGMA Implementation**

- The Agencies have engaged the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a more detailed evaluation of the potential for subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The status of existing benchmarks in the Mission Creek Subbasin and the locations for three additional benchmarks were identified. In WY 2022-2023, three new benchmarks were constructed, and high precision global positioning system (GPS) measurements were taken at the new benchmarks. The USGS continued to work on analyzing measurements and groundwater levels with a final study report expected by June 30, 2025.
- The first 5-year Alternative Plan Update was completed in November 2021 and was submitted to the CDWR in December 2021. The next 5-year Alternative Plan Update is due to the CDWR on January 1, 2027. Future Alternative Plan Updates will evaluate groundwater conditions and the status of PMAs to determine whether the Sustainable Management Criteria and the project and management actions are meeting the sustainability goals of the Mission Creek Subbasin. In addition to meeting the SGMA requirements, the Agencies identified some other key areas requiring periodic review including evaluation of demand projections, imported water supply reliability, and update of the groundwater model and model forecasts.

## **Well Management**

- The Agencies continue to work with Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (RCDEH) so that any new wells are constructed to current standards, artesian flow management policies are followed, and any existing wells that could be negatively impacting groundwater quality are retrofitted, properly capped, or destroyed. In WY 2022-2023, the Agencies continued to review permit applications for new wells and alteration of existing wells for compliance with the Governor's Executive Order N-3-23. This order requires verification from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that the proposed well location is generally consistent (not inconsistent) with the Alternative Plan Update and will not decrease the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goals that the GSAs have developed under the SGMA.
- The Agencies may develop a well inventory for the Mission Creek Subbasin that will identify and compile information about de minimis production wells located within the Subbasin. CVWD is evaluating this effort, with DWA participating at its discretion. The well inventory would involve the development of a well registry. The well inventory would support any expansion or refinement of the monitoring network, allow improvement of groundwater extraction estimates, and improve the understanding of how private wells may affect Mission Creek Subbasin conditions and how basin management may affect private wells in the future.
- CVWD and DWA may consider expansion of groundwater extraction reporting to include groundwater pumpers that produce less than the current assessment thresholds but more than the de minimis threshold of 2 AFY or less established by the SGMA. CVWD is evaluating this effort within its Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) boundary; DWA may require reporting within their GSA boundary at their discretion.

### **Adaptive Management**

- CVWD, DWA, and MSWD identified a management strategy in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update that continues the existing Mission Creek Subbasin Management Committee structure, consisting of quarterly meetings with the General Managers from each agency.
- The Agencies have developed an adaptive management approach that includes monitoring management progress towards maintaining sustainability and adjusting these management procedures as needed. The adaptive management process consists of the following steps: 1) Planning, 2) Implementation, 3) Monitoring, 4) Analysis, and 5) Modification.

## Section 1 - Introduction

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (collectively the Agencies), WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. (WSP) has prepared this Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023 (Annual Report) in accordance with the annual reporting requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This report summarizes groundwater conditions and the status of implementation of projects and management actions in the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin) for WY 2022-2023 (October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023).

### 1.1 Report Organization

**Section 1 – Introduction**, summarizes the report organization, background as related to the SGMA, and the approach the Agencies are taking to comply with the SGMA.

**Section 2 – Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin Setting**, provides an overview of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, its component subbasins and subareas, and the regional geology of the Mission Creek Subbasin. In addition, this section provides information on the physiography, climate, geology, hydrogeologic conceptual model, and groundwater management of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

**Section 3 – Groundwater Elevation Data**, describes the sources of groundwater level data and provides a groundwater elevation contour map and hydrographs of groundwater levels over time.

**Section 4 – Groundwater Extraction**, summarizes groundwater extraction by volume, area, and water use sectors.

**Section 5 – Surface Water**, summarizes the various surface water and surface water-related components in the Mission Creek Subbasin, including precipitation, stream flow, imported water delivery for direct groundwater replenishment, and wastewater treatment and disposal during the water year. This section also includes a description of contracts with the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for access and availability of imported water for replenishment of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

**Section 6 – Total Water Use**, provides a summary of the total water use by water use sector and source.

**Section 7 – Groundwater Balance and Change in Groundwater Storage**, provides the estimated groundwater balance and change in storage for the Mission Creek Subbasin.

**Section 8 – Sustainable Management Criteria**, provides a summary of the Sustainable Management Criteria for groundwater levels, groundwater storage, subsidence, and groundwater quality identified in the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan Update (2022 Alternative Plan Update [Wood<sup>7</sup> and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]), and compares the WY 2022-2023 conditions to these criteria.

**Section 9 – Summary of Projects and Management Actions and Description of Progress**, provides a summary of objectives met, and progress towards achieving the water management objectives outlined in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update.

**Section 10 – References**, provides references for this report.

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<sup>7</sup> WSP Global Inc. acquired Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) in September 2022.

## 1.2 Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

In 2014, faced with declining groundwater levels (most notably in California's Central Valley), the California Legislature enacted the SGMA, which was intended to provide a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources throughout California, primarily by local authorities. The SGMA consisted of three bills, Assembly Bill (AB) 1739 (Dickinson), Senate Bill (SB) 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley), and was signed into law by Governor Brown on September 16, 2014.

The SGMA required local authorities to form local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by June 30, 2017, to evaluate conditions in local groundwater basins and adopt locally-based Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) tailored to their regional economic and environmental needs. The SGMA allows a 20-year time frame for GSAs to implement their GSPs and achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. It protects existing water rights and does not affect current drought response measures. The SGMA provides local GSAs with tools and authority to:

- Monitor and manage groundwater levels and quality.
- Monitor and manage inelastic land subsidence and changes in surface water flow and surface water quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater extraction.
- Require registration of groundwater wells.
- Require reporting of annual groundwater extractions.
- Require reporting of surface water diversions to underground storage.
- Impose limits on extractions from individual wells.
- Assess fees to implement local GSPs or Alternative Plans.
- Request revisions of basin boundaries, including establishing new subbasins.

The CDWR developed the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program to track seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations in California's groundwater basins. Through its CASGEM program, the CDWR ranked the priority of all 515 groundwater basins and subbasins in California as very low, low, medium, or high.

In addition, the CDWR, as required by the SGMA, identified the basins and subbasins that are in conditions of critical overdraft. Twenty-one basins and subbasins in California were identified as critically overdrafted basins. None of the subbasins in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin (including the Mission Creek Subbasin) were listed as critically overdrafted.

The Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin has been divided into four (4) subbasins by the CDWR in California Bulletin 108 (1964) and Bulletin 118 (2003): they are the Indio, Mission Creek, San Geronio Pass, and Desert Hot Springs Subbasins. The Indio,<sup>8</sup> Mission Creek, and San Geronio Pass Subbasins have been designated medium-priority subbasins under the SGMA, and the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin has been designated a very low-priority subbasin.

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<sup>8</sup> The Indio Subbasin is also identified as the Whitewater River Subbasin by the United States Geological Survey (USGS, 1980). However, the subbasin is identified as the Indio Subbasin in CDWR Bulletin 108 (1964) and Bulletin 118 (2003). For continuity, this Annual Report will identify the subbasin as the Indio Subbasin.



GSAs responsible for high-priority and medium-priority basins and subbasins were required to have adopted GSPs by January 31, 2020, for critically overdrafted basins, and by January 31, 2022, for those not currently in critical overdraft. GSAs may adopt a single GSP covering an entire basin or combine several GSPs created by multiple GSAs. Sustainability must be achieved within 20 years after the adoption of the GSP for all high-priority and medium-priority basins. GSAs that elect to submit an Alternative to a GSP (Alternative Plan), rather than prepare a GSP in accordance with Water Code §10727 et seq., were required to do so by January 1, 2017, with updates every five years thereafter. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is empowered to intervene if local agencies fail to form GSAs or adopt their GSPs or Alternative Plans on schedule.

### 1.2.1 Formation of GSAs by Local Agencies

Three separate entities filed Notices of Election with the CDWR to become GSAs to manage the Mission Creek Subbasin of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin within their respective service areas:

- **CVWD** – submitted its notice of election for the portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin within its boundaries (CVWD, 2015) and was approved by the CDWR as an exclusive GSA to manage the Mission Creek Subbasin within that area of the Mission Creek Subbasin.
- **DWA** – submitted its notice of election for a large portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin, which includes a large area also located within the boundaries of MSWD. The CDWR designated DWA as an exclusive GSA for all portions of the Mission Creek Subbasin located within DWA's boundaries, including those portions also located within MSWD boundaries.
- **MSWD** – submitted a notice of election for the portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin located within its boundaries, and this notice of election was rejected by the CDWR because it included areas also located within DWA's boundaries. MSWD later filed an amended notice of election for a three-square mile area included by DWA in its notice of election but not within DWA's boundaries. MSWD's amended notice of election was filed without prejudice to its initial notice of election (MSWD, 2016). The CDWR designated the three-square mile area as "overlap" with DWA and MSWD. The overlap status of the three-square-mile area has not been resolved. MSWD's initial notice of election, and DWA's claim of "exclusive" status over MSWD's service area are the subject of pending litigation, known as *Mission Springs Water District v. Desert Water Agency, et al.*, Riverside County Superior Court, Case No. PSC 1600676. The trial court ruled in favor of DWA on the writ of mandate, and MSWD filed its Notice of Appeal on June 24, 2022. The case is pending in the Fourth District, Division 2 of the Court of Appeal, App. Case No. E079256.

Several small portions of the Mission Creek Subbasin lie outside the boundaries of the GSAs. These fringe areas are located in San Bernardino County and are not included within the boundaries of a local water district. Portions of this fringe area are located within designated U. S. Forest Service or U. S. Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas with less than one square mile being privately owned. With the exception of the relatively small privately-owned portion, the fringe areas fall within the recently designated Sand to Snow National Monument. Discussions with the County of San Bernardino indicate it has no interest in being a GSA for this area. It was excluded from GSA coverage because development in this fringe area is restricted by land ownership and wilderness/national monument designation. Additionally, these lands are owned by the federal government.

### **1.2.2 Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

The SGMA recognizes the efforts many areas, such as the Coachella Valley, have made in developing and implementing groundwater management by allowing existing groundwater management plans to be submitted as an alternative to preparing a GSP.

On December 29, 2016, CVWD, DWA, and MSWD submitted the 2013 Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (2013 MC-GH WMP [MWH, 2013]) and a bridge document (Stantec, 2016; 2016 Bridge Document) to the CDWR as an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative Plan). The Alternative Plan described how the 2013 MC-GH WMP and supporting documents met the requirements of the SGMA and thus could be considered an Alternative Plan under the SGMA.

On July 17, 2019, the CDWR issued a SGMA Alternative Assessment Staff Report (CDWR, 2019a) and a Statement of Findings Regarding the Approval of the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan (CDWR, 2019b). As summarized by the CDWR (2019c), the Alternative Plan:

- Satisfied the objectives of the SGMA by successfully demonstrating that implementation of the Agencies' existing water management plan is likely to lead to groundwater sustainability for the Mission Creek Subbasin within the statutory timelines identified in the SGMA.
- Demonstrated an acceptable understanding of the hydrogeology, groundwater conditions, and water budget for the basin.
- Established goals for the basin, including maintaining groundwater levels above 2009 conditions, meeting water demands, and managing and protecting groundwater quality.
- Stated that while utilizing supplies from the Colorado River has assisted in correcting historical overdraft, it is also contributing to salt loading in the basin. The Alternative Plan stated that the region has developed a salt and nutrient management plan and is working to have that plan approved by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Region (RWQCB).

Based on these findings, the CDWR provided recommendations to address the first five-year update to the Alternative Plan, which was due by January 1, 2022. The recommendations clarified how progress toward achieving the sustainability goal will be measured, incorporating an approved salt and nutrient management plan, and enhancing descriptions of groundwater conditions.

The Agencies initiated the five-year update to the Alternative Plan in 2019. The 2022 Alternative Plan Update was completed in November 2021 and submitted to the CDWR in December 2021.

### **1.2.3 2022 Alternative Plan Update**

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update was prepared to meet specific requirements of the SGMA as it applies to the Mission Creek Subbasin and to support water management planning for a Planning Area that includes the Mission Creek Subbasin, the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin, and the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin. The SGMA requirements for the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin are addressed in the 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update prepared by Todd Groundwater and Woodard & Curran (Todd and Woodard & Curran, 2021). The Desert Hot Springs Subbasin does not have SGMA reporting requirements because it is classified as a very low-priority basin.

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update was prepared to:

- Ensure that the region's most current projections for population growth, land use, imported water supply, and other future conditions are incorporated into water management planning.
- Update the groundwater flow model for the Planning Area for use as a tool in evaluating potential groundwater management actions.
- Provide an analysis of future projected groundwater demand based on population growth and other factors and estimate future projected supplies available for groundwater replenishment.
- Develop scenarios for forecasting groundwater conditions based on future demands and supplies, assuming future hydrologic conditions are drier than the long-term historical average (climate change assumptions).
- Review historical information along with current and projected future environmental and demographic conditions to define undesirable results and develop objectives and thresholds to maintain groundwater sustainability.
- Address specific actions recommended in the CDWR's 2019 SGMA Alternative Assessment Staff Report and Statement of Findings (CDWR, 2019a; CDWR, 2019b).

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update findings confirmed that the Mission Creek Subbasin is, and is projected to be, sustainably managed. Based on predicted future water demands, the 2022 Alternative Plan Update identified that additional groundwater production will be needed through the planning period of 2045. As identified in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update and summarized in Section 9 of this Annual Report, the Agencies have identified options for obtaining additional imported water supplies and increasing water supply reliability through 2045. The additional imported water supplies will address potential future conditions that are outside of the Agencies' control, including climate change and regulatory changes.

To evaluate future conditions, the groundwater model for the Mission Creek Subbasin was updated and used to assess a range of water management and hydrologic scenarios. The results of these forecast scenarios were compared with the Sustainable Management Criteria developed in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update and described in Section 8 of this Annual Report. The water management forecast modeling showed that the Agencies could maintain sustainable groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin under assumed drier climate change conditions through the planning period by continuing Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) already in progress and implementing additional PMAs as currently planned.

Groundwater quality was evaluated in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update and is now reviewed in the Annual Reports (Section 8 of this Annual Report). The 2022 Alternative Plan Update included a review and reorganization of PMAs. Section 9 of this Annual Report includes a description of the PMAs and any updates since the 2022 Alternative Plan Update was completed in November 2021.

### **1.2.4 Annual Reporting**

Annual reporting of groundwater conditions in the Mission Creek Subbasin has been performed by the CVWD and DWA since 2003. CVWD and DWA both publish annual Engineer's Reports on Water Supply and Replenishment Assessment for the Mission Creek Subbasin for their respective Areas of Benefit (AOBs). The Engineer's Reports have described the groundwater levels, annual water balance, artificial and natural recharge, and groundwater pumping for the previous calendar year, and established the

replenishment assessment charged for production in the following fiscal year. Many of these goals are now achieved through the Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Reports prepared by the Agencies since WY 2016-2017 in accordance with the SGMA. In addition, CVWD, DWA, and MSWD prepare annual Consumer Confidence Reports on the water quality of their urban water systems.

In accordance with the SGMA (Water Code Section 10728), on April 1, following the adoption of a GSP or submission of an Alternative Plan, and annually thereafter, a GSA shall submit an annual report to the CDWR containing the following information about the managed basin:

- Groundwater elevation data.
- Aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction.
- Surface water supply used for or available for groundwater replenishment or in-lieu use.
- Total water use.
- Change in groundwater storage.
- Progress toward implementing the GSP or Alternative Plan.

This Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for WY 2022-2023 (Annual Report) was prepared for the Mission Creek Subbasin in response to the SGMA requirements and follows the general format of the previous Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report (WSP, 2023). This Annual Report contains a general discussion of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin setting followed by sections describing each of the annual report elements required for the Mission Creek Subbasin by the SGMA and a report section on Sustainable Management Criteria identified for the Mission Creek Subbasin in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update. The Mission Creek Subbasin has met its sustainable management objective yearly since the Alternative Plan was submitted to the CDWR in December 2016. Consequently, no interim milestones need to be reached for compliance with the SGMA. The Sustainable Management Criteria review is provided to document current conditions in the Subbasin relative to the established management criteria.

## Section 2 – Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin Setting

The Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin extends approximately 45 miles southeast from the San Bernardino Mountains to the northern shore of the Salton Sea. **Figure 2-1** shows the location of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin and its subbasins, including the Mission Creek Subbasin.

The Coachella Valley lies within the northwesterly portion of California's Colorado Desert, an extension of the Sonoran Desert. Cities within the Coachella Valley include Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage, and the unincorporated communities of North Palm Springs, Thousand Palms, Thermal, Bermuda Dunes, Oasis, and Mecca. The Coachella Valley is bordered by the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains on the southwest, the San Bernardino Mountains on the northwest, the Little San Bernardino Mountains and the Mecca Hills on the northeast, and the Salton Sea on the southeast. The San Bernardino, San Jacinto, and Santa Rosa Mountains impede the eastward movement of storms and create a rain shadow, which results in an arid climate and greatly reduces the contribution of direct precipitation as a source of recharge to the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin.

The bulk of natural groundwater replenishment comes in the form of runoff from the adjacent mountains. Climate in the Coachella Valley is characterized by low humidity, high summer temperatures, and mild dry winters.

### 2.1 Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin

The geographic boundaries of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin correspond roughly with the Coachella Valley boundaries described above. At the west end of the San Geronio Pass, between the Cities of Beaumont and Banning, the basin boundary is defined by a surface drainage divide separating the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin from the Beaumont Groundwater Basin of the Upper Santa Ana Drainage Area.

The southern boundary is formed primarily by the watershed of the Mecca Hills and by the northwest shoreline of the Salton Sea, running between the Santa Rosa Mountains and Mortmar. Between the Salton Sea and Travertine Rock, at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, the southern boundary crosses the Riverside County line into Imperial and San Diego counties.

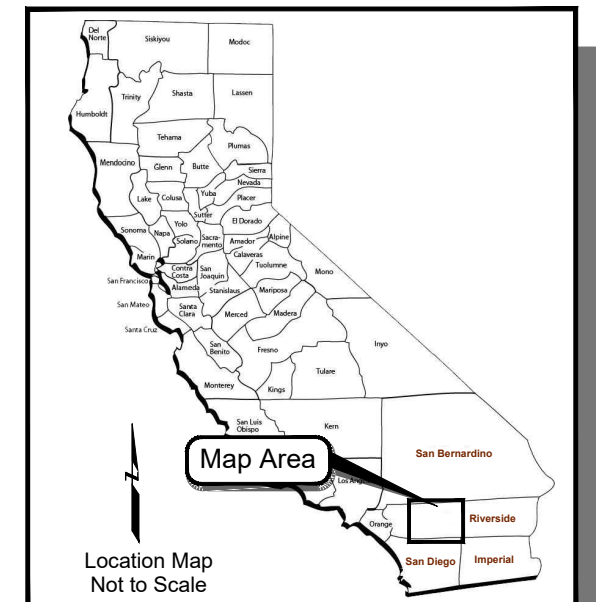
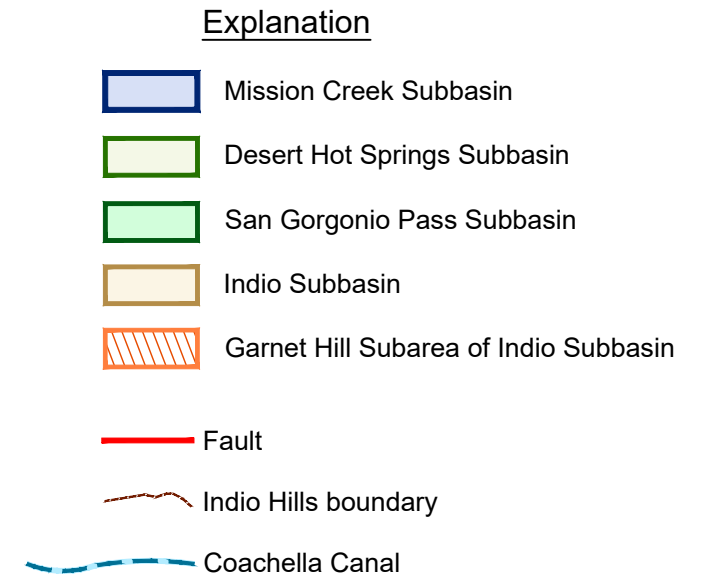
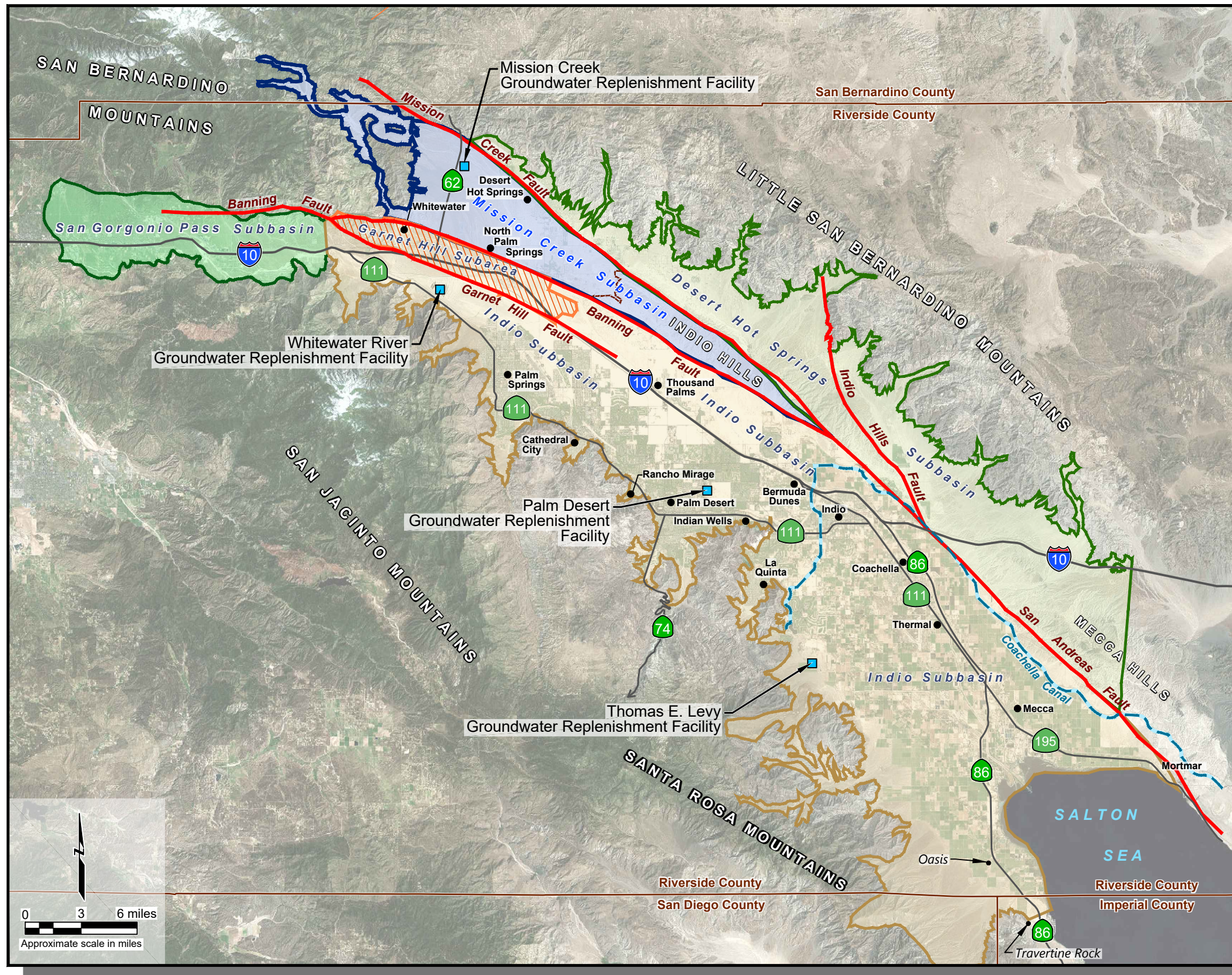
Although there is interflow of groundwater throughout the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, fault barriers, constrictions in the basin profile, and areas of low permeability materials limit and control groundwater movement. Based on these factors, the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin has been divided into subbasins and subareas, described by the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) in 1964 and 2003, and by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in 1974, as described below.

#### 2.1.1 Subbasins and Subareas

As shown on **Figure 2-1**, the subbasins of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin are the Mission Creek, Desert Hot Springs, San Geronio Pass, and Indio Subbasins. The Garnet Hill Subarea shown on **Figure 2-1**, is identified as a subbasin by the USGS and as a subarea of the Indio Subbasin by the CDWR.



Plot Date: 12/18/2023 9:28:05 AM. Plotted by: USJW720210  
Drawing Path: (Y:\F)\ncorp.ph\wan.net\jb-a&U\SUSCZM1100-CZM01\CM23168050 (MissionCreek\_2022-2023)\acad\Tb\_CV Basin-Subbasins.dwg Subbasins



Basemap modified from an undated drawing by Krieger & Stewart Engineering, subbasin boundaries from "Mission Creek and Garnet Hill Subbasins Water Management Plan Final Report", January 2013, and an aerial photo from Esri World Imagery- Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, dated 10-15-2017.

**COACHELLA VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN  
SUBBASIN and SUBAREA MAP**  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: jrw Date: 12/18/2023 Project No. CM23168050



Figure **2-1**

**Note:**

All locations are approximate.



The subbasins are defined without regard to water quantity or quality. They delineate areas underlain by formations which readily yield stored groundwater through water wells and offer natural reservoirs for regulating water supplies.

The boundaries between subbasins within the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin are generally defined by faults that impede the lateral movement of groundwater. Minor subareas have also been delineated, based on one or more of the following geologic or hydrologic characteristics: type(s) of water-bearing formations, water quality, areas of confined groundwater, forebay areas, groundwater divides, and surface drainage divides.

The following is a list of the subbasins and associated subareas in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin as designated by the CDWR in Bulletin 108 (1964) and Bulletin 118 (2003), with subbasin numbers as identified by CDWR (2003):

- Indio Subbasin (Subbasin 7-21.01)
  - Palm Springs Subarea
  - Thermal Subarea
  - Thousand Palms Subarea
  - Oasis Subarea
  - Garnet Hill Subarea<sup>9</sup>
- Mission Creek Subbasin (Subbasin 7-21.02)
- Desert Hot Springs Subbasin (Subbasin 7-21.03)
  - Miracle Hill Subarea
  - Sky Valley Subarea
  - Fargo Canyon Subarea
- San Geronio Pass Subbasin (Subbasin 7-21.04)

The location of each subbasin is shown on **Figure 2-1**.

## 2.1.2 Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin: Subbasin Storage Capacities

In 1964, the CDWR estimated that the subbasins in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin contained, in the first 1,000 feet below the ground surface, approximately 39,200,000 acre-feet (AF) of water. The capacities of the subbasins are shown in **Table 2-1**.

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<sup>9</sup> The Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin is identified as a separate subbasin, Garnet Hill Subbasin, by the USGS (1980). However, it is identified as the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin in CDWR Bulletin 108 (1964) and CDWR Bulletin 118 (2003).

**Table 2-1**  
**Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin**  
**Groundwater Storage Capacity**

Subbasin/Subarea	Groundwater Storage Capacity (AF) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Indio Subbasin</b>	
Palm Springs Subarea	4,600,000
Thousand Palms Subarea	1,800,000
Oasis Subarea	3,000,000
Thermal Subarea	19,400,000
Garnet Hill Subarea	1,000,000
<b>Subtotal Indio Subbasin</b>	<b>29,800,000</b>
San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin	2,700,000
Mission Creek Subbasin	2,600,000
Desert Hot Springs Subbasin	4,100,000
<b>Total All Subbasins</b>	<b>39,200,000</b>

**Notes:**

1. First 1,000 feet below ground surface. Capacities estimated by the CDWR (CDWR, 1964).

### 2.1.3 Regional Geology

The Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin encompasses much of the Coachella Valley floor area. The Coachella Valley itself trends northwest to southeast; its surface slopes generally to the southeast and it is bounded on its northern, northwestern, northeastern, southwestern, and southern margins by uplifted mountains of granitic and metamorphic rocks and indurated sedimentary rocks that form the bedrock surrounding and underlying the valley floor. The basin is bounded on the southeast by the Salton Sea. As shown on **Figure 2-2**, the floor of Coachella Valley in the Mission Creek Subbasin area (and in other areas) is underlain by Quaternary alluvium (Q) and dune sand (Qs). Coachella Valley sedimentary fill consists of thick sand and gravel sedimentary sequences eroded from the surrounding mountains (USGS, 2007). These sediments thicken from north to south and, depending on location within the basin, are at least several thousand and as much as 12,000 feet in thickness in the southern Indio Subbasin. Older semi-consolidated sediments units (Qpc) are also exposed on the valley floor and occur at the surface, partly due to movement on several major fault zones in the area (**Figure 2-2**).

**Figure 2-2** shows the major fault system crossing the Coachella Valley, the seismically active San Andreas fault system. This fault system includes the Banning, Garnet Hill, Mission Creek, and Indio Hills faults. Numerous other faults are located within the tectonically active basin. The Banning and Mission Creek faults form the southwestern and northeastern boundaries of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

Slight discrepancies between the fault locations and the basin boundaries, as shown on the figures in this report, are due to the integration of different sources of information, each reported in different presentation styles, map scales, and time periods (e.g., USGS, 2007 for fault locations and CDWR, 2003 for basin boundary locations). More detailed information on the geology of the Mission Creek Subbasin is presented in Section 2.2.2 of this report.

## **2.2 Mission Creek Subbasin Description**

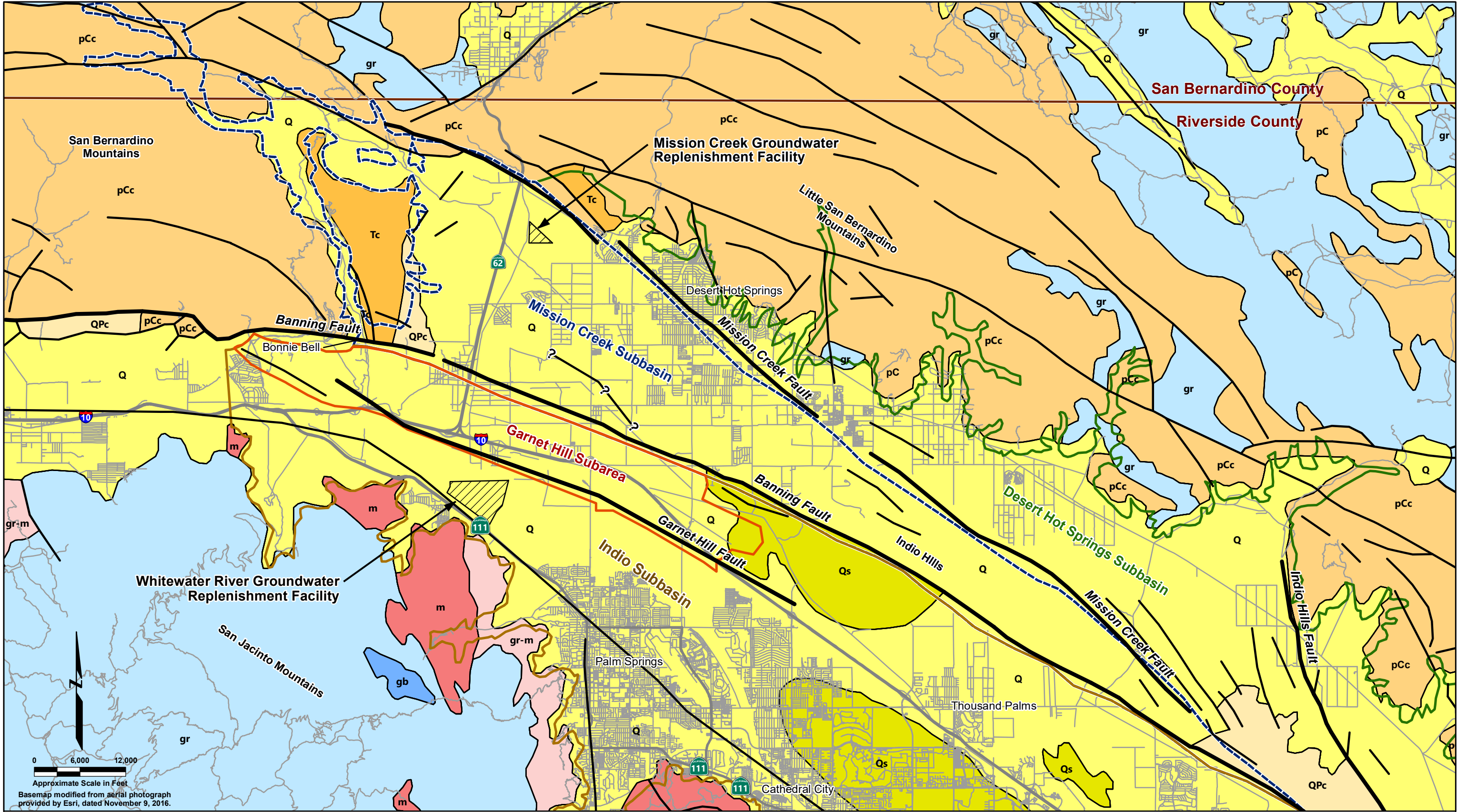
The Mission Creek Subbasin boundary is shown on **Figure 2-3**. The physiography and climate, geology, hydrogeology, hydrogeologic conceptual model, and the management areas overlying the Mission Creek Subbasin are described below.

### **2.2.1 Physiography and Climate**

The northwestern end of the Mission Creek Subbasin includes the active and paleo stream channel of the Whitewater River, which has cut a broad canyon with steep sides along the foothills of the eastern flank of the San Bernardino Mountains. The northwestern extent of the Mission Creek Subbasin lies within the active Whitewater River channel at an elevation of approximately 5,000 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Whitewater River channel and northern paleo channel area are largely uninhabited, with the exception of the small community of Bonnie Bell.

The main Mission Creek Subbasin (outside of the Whitewater River channel and northern paleo channel) extends from the base of the San Bernardino Mountain foothills and into the western portion of the Indio Hills. Much of the Mission Creek Subbasin is undeveloped and supports sparse desert vegetation. The City of Desert Hot Springs and the community of North Palm Springs are located in the central part of the Mission Creek Subbasin. Palm Springs city limits also extend into the Mission Creek Subbasin and the city limit ends just south of the community of North Palm Springs (**Figure 2-3**). Individual homes and smaller communities are scattered across the northwestern and other parts of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The Indio Hills are not inhabited within the Mission Creek Subbasin. Numerous wind turbines for generating electricity have been constructed in the western part of the Mission Creek Subbasin and near the Indio Hills.

Ground surface elevation is approximately 2,000 feet above msl in the northwest part of the Mission Creek Subbasin, and the ground surface slopes gently toward the south-southeast and south to an elevation of approximately 700 feet above msl near the western boundary of the Indio Hills, northwest of Seven Palms Ridge (**Figure 2-3**). Ground surface elevation then increases to the southeast toward the uninhabited Indio Hills. The Indio Hills are incised and eroded highlands that rise to more than 1,600 feet above msl. The western Indio Hills are located within the Mission Creek Subbasin but, as described in report Section 2.2.2, comprise semi-consolidated sediments of low permeability in the groundwater-saturated zone and are not considered part of the main Mission Creek Subbasin area for groundwater resources. Ground surface slopes downward toward the southeast from the Edom Hill area to an elevation of approximately 200 feet above msl at the southeastern end of the Mission Creek Subbasin.



**Explanation**

- Fault, ? where uncertain
- Facility
- Highway/road

**Site Features**

- Desert Hot Springs Subbasin
- Indio Subbasin
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Garnet Hill Subarea of Indio Subbasin

**Geology**

- Qs:** dune sand (Quaternary)
- Q:** alluvium (Quaternary)
- QPc:** sandstone (Tertiary-Quaternary)
- Tc:** sandstone conglomerate (Tertiary)
- gb:** gabbro (Triassic)
- gr:** diorite (Permian)
- pC/pCc:** gneiss (Paleozoic)
- gr-m:** plutonic rock (Early Proterozoic to Late Cretaceous)
- m:** schist (Early Proterozoic to Cretaceous)

**Sources:**

- USGS Open File Report 2005-1305, 2007.
- Geotechnical Consultants, 1979.

**Note:**

Fault and groundwater basin boundary alignments differ due to different sources.

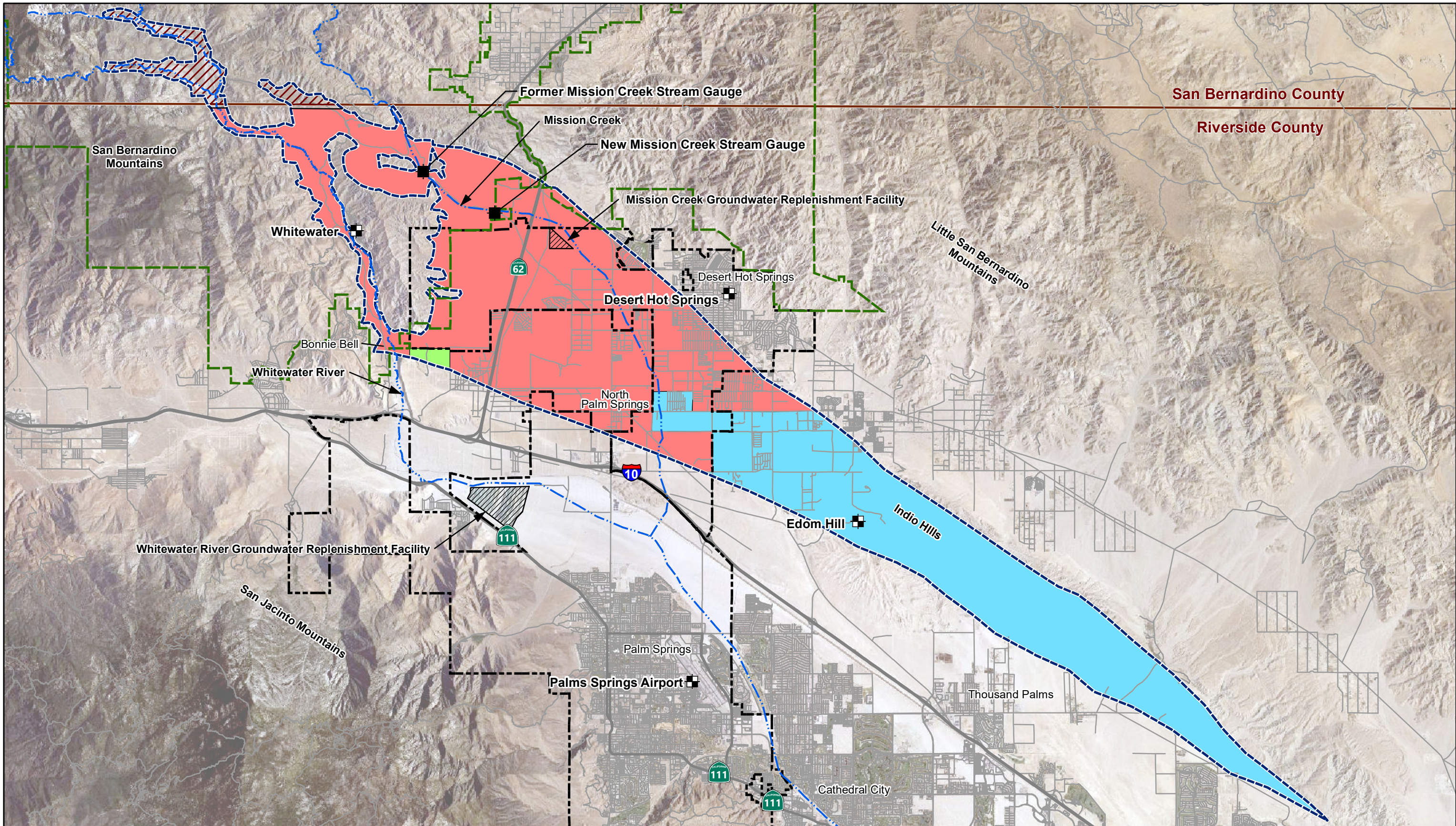
REGIONAL GEOLOGY IN THE  
MISSION CREEK SUBBASIN AREA  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050





Date: 2/28/2024 Printed by: USMW719917  
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#### Explanation

- Rain gauge location
- Stream gauge location
- Sand to Snow National Monument (Bureau of Land Management)
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Mission Creek Subbasin fringe area
- Highway/road

Stream

#### Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Areas

- Coachella Valley Water District (GSA Exclusive Area)
- Desert Water Agency (GSA Exclusive Area)
- Overlap area

Note:  
Overlap area of GSA Notices by  
Desert Water Agency and Mission  
Springs Water District.

0 6,000 12,000  
Feet

Basemap modified from aerial  
photograph provided by Esri, dated  
November 9, 2016. GSA areas from  
SGMA. Water.CA.gov.



MISSION CREEK SUBBASIN  
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By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050



Figure **2-3**



The Whitewater River is the major drainage in the Mission Creek Subbasin. It flows between the eastern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains and the elevated impermeable bedrock and low permeability sediments on the western side of the Mission Creek Subbasin before flowing south into the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin. The Whitewater River is perennial in its upper reaches but flows intermittently in its lower reaches. Mission Creek, Morongo Wash, Little Morongo Wash, and other washes have intermittent flows in the Mission Creek Subbasin that occur only during or following heavy precipitation events. These washes flow out of the canyons located northwest and north of the Mission Creek Subbasin and flow south and southeast across the Mission Creek Subbasin. The location of Mission Creek is shown on **Figure 2-3**.

**Table 2-2** summarizes climate statistics based on 30 years of temperature and precipitation data at the Palm Springs Airport, approximately 2 miles south of the Mission Creek Subbasin's southern boundary (**Figure 2-3**). Average high temperatures exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in the months of June, July, August, and September. Average high temperatures in May and October are in the low to mid 90s°F and average high temperatures in the months of November through April range from about 69°F to 87°F. Average low temperatures range from 46°F in December to 80°F in August. Most of the precipitation occurs during December through February, with an average precipitation of 0.68 inches in December, 1.14 inches in January, and 1.11 inches in February. Brief, but heavy rains occur in the summer (desert monsoons), resulting in an average monthly precipitation of 0.25 inches in July, 0.14 inches in August, and 0.24 inches in September.

Annual precipitation from Water Year (WY) 1960-1961 to WY 2022-2023 for the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District station at Desert Hot Springs is shown on **Figure 2-4**. The station is located approximately one-mile northeast of the northeast boundary of the Mission Creek Subbasin in the adjoining Desert Hot Springs Subbasin (**Figure 2-3**). This station is used for the plot of annual precipitation because it has the longest record (63 years) of the three stations located within or near the Mission Creek Subbasin. The other two stations, Whitewater and Edom Hill, have shorter periods of record (extending back to WY 1975-1976 and WY 2008-2009, respectively).

The mean annual precipitation for the water year over the period of record was 5.1 inches, with a standard deviation of 3.5 inches. The maximum precipitation was just over 16 inches in WY 2004-2005. No precipitation was recorded at the station in WY 1961-1962 and WY 1963-1964.



**Table 2-2**  
**Climate Summary 1991 to 2020, Palm Springs Airport**

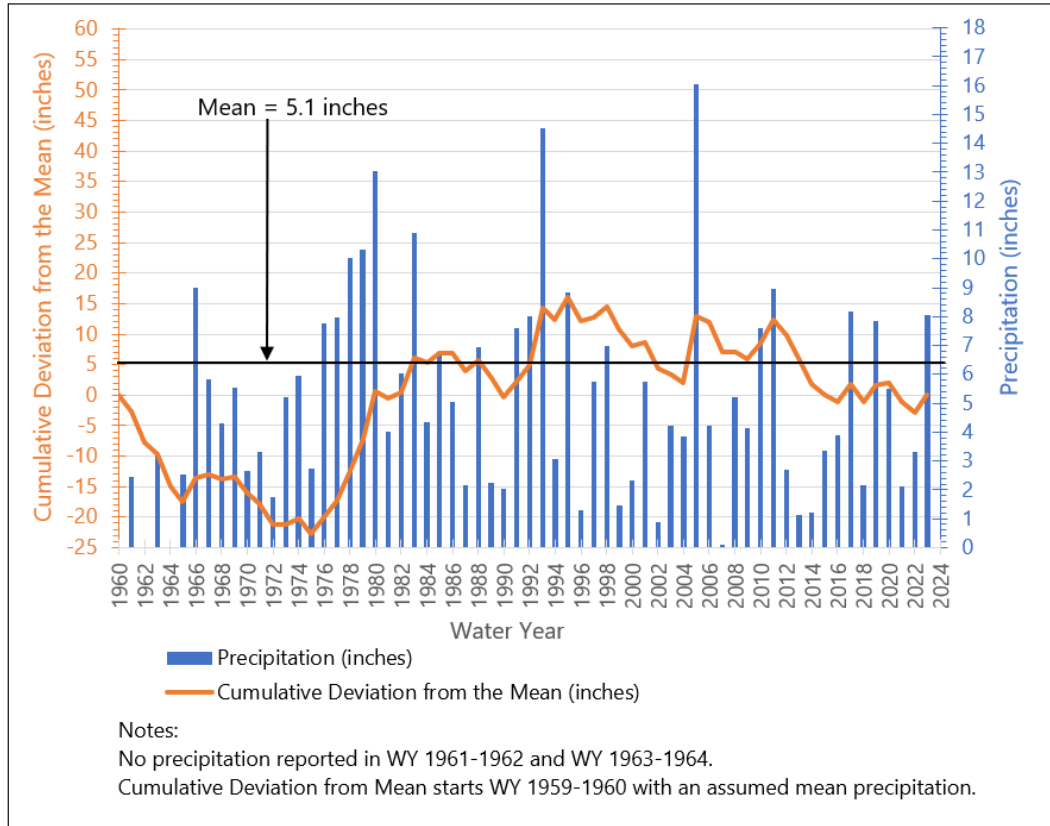
	January	February	March	April	May	June
<b>Average Maximum Temperature (°F)</b>	70.5	73.7	80.6	86.7	94.7	103.6
<b>Average Minimum Temperature (°F)</b>	47.6	49.7	54.4	59.1	65.9	72.7
<b>Average Temperature (°F)</b>	59.0	61.7	67.5	72.9	80.3	88.2
<b>Average Precipitation (inches)</b>	1.14	1.11	0.51	0.09	0.02	0.00
	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>Average Maximum Temperature (°F)</b>	108.6	108.1	101.8	91.1	78.7	69.2
<b>Average Minimum Temperature (°F)</b>	79.4	79.8	74.4	64.5	53.4	46.2
<b>Average Temperature (°F)</b>	94.0	94.0	88.1	77.6	66.0	57.7
<b>Average Precipitation (inches)</b>	0.25	0.14	0.24	0.20	0.23	0.68
	<b>Average Temperature (°F)</b>					<b>75.6</b>
	<b>Average Annual Precipitation (inches)</b>					<b>4.61</b>

**Notes:**

Temperature and precipitation based on data collected from the Palm Springs Airport from 1991 through 2020, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/us-climate-normals>.

**Figure 2-4** includes a plot of the cumulative deviation from the mean (CDFM) that shows general wet and dry periods over time based on increasing or decreasing trends of the CDFM plot line. For example, a generally dry period is observed from WY 1960-1961 through WY 1974-1975, when precipitation exceeded the average or mean precipitation in only two of fourteen years, and only one of those years (WY 1965-1966) included substantial precipitation above the mean. The CDFM plot line shows a downward trend over this period. Conversely, this dry period is followed by a wet period extending from WY 1975-1976 to WY 1982-1983. During this wet period, below average precipitation was observed in only one year (WY 1980-1981) and three of the eight years received precipitation that approached or exceeded twice the average annual precipitation. The CDFM plot line for this period shows a steep upward trend. WY 2016-2017 ended five consecutive years of below average precipitation in the Mission Creek Subbasin area. From WY 2016-2017 to WY 2019-2020, cumulative deviation from the mean was relatively flat, indicating a generally average precipitation for this period. Less than average precipitation in WY 2020-2021 (2.1 inches) and WY 2021-2022 (3.33 inches) resulted in a slight downward trend. The precipitation total of 8.05 inches for WY 2022-2023 was above the mean annual precipitation of 5.1 inches.

**Figure 2-4**  
**Annual Precipitation and Cumulative Deviation from the Mean, Desert Hot Springs**



## 2.2.2 Subbasin Geology

**Figure 2-5** shows the geology of the Mission Creek Subbasin within the confines of the bounding, relatively impermeable bedrock of the San Bernardino Mountains and Little San Bernardino Mountains, and the relatively low permeability resulting from faulting along the Mission Creek fault and the Banning fault. The bedrock and faults define the Mission Creek Subbasin on the Regional Geologic Map (**Figure 2-2**). Geologic materials/units within the Mission Creek Subbasin (not all differentiated on the Regional Geologic Map, **Figure 2-2**) include relatively impermeable Precambrian metamorphic and Tertiary volcanic rocks; relatively impermeable massive, consolidated conglomerate of the Coachella fanglomerate (Tc); relatively impermeable shale, sandstone, and siltstone of the Imperial Formation (Ti); semi-consolidated Quaternary/Tertiary sediments of the Painted Hill (TQph) and Palm Springs (TQps) formations; unconsolidated and relatively unconsolidated sediments of the Quaternary Ocotillo conglomerate (Qa); Cabezon fanglomerate (Qc); recent and older alluvial fan deposits (Qf); and active channel and stream wash deposits (Qr) (CDWR, 1964). The consolidated Coachella fanglomerate, metamorphic rocks, and semi-consolidated rocks are located in the northwestern portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin between the Whitewater River channel deposits and the main Mission Creek Subbasin

(east of the Whitewater River channel). Although the relatively permeable Quaternary sediments are mapped as the surface geology through much of the Indio Hills, limited surface exposures of the Palm Springs Formation and Imperial Formation in the Indio Hills suggests that semi-consolidated sediments and consolidated sediments occur at relatively shallow depths in this area.

### 2.2.3 Subbasin Hydrogeology

The Mission Creek Subbasin is designated Number 7-21.02 in the CDWR's Bulletin 118 (2003).

The wedge-shaped Mission Creek Subbasin is bounded by relatively impermeable rocks of the San Bernardino Mountains and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the west/northwest and north/northeast, respectively, and by faults that represent partial barriers to groundwater flow including the Banning fault to the southwest and the Mission Creek fault to the northeast. These two faults trend subparallel to each other along a northwest to southeast transect and intersect to form the southeastern end of the Mission Creek Subbasin. Groundwater level differences across the Banning fault, between the Mission Creek Subbasin and the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin, are on the order of 200 feet to 250 feet. Similar groundwater level differences exist across the Mission Creek fault between the Mission Creek Subbasin and Desert Hot Springs Subbasin (MWH, 2013). The groundwater level differences indicate that the faults form partial barriers to groundwater flow in and out of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

Measured depths to groundwater in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 ranged from more than 595 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the northwest part of the Mission Creek Subbasin where ground surface elevations are more than 1,300 feet above msl to less than 5 feet bgs within the southern portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin west of the Indio Hills where ground surface elevations are approximately 700 feet above msl.

The Whitewater River and Mission Creek are the only perennial surface water features in the Mission Creek Subbasin (perennial only at the higher elevation reaches). Under low-flow conditions along the Whitewater River, surface water infiltrates into the channel after crossing south of the Banning fault (i.e., outside of the Mission Creek Subbasin).

As described in Section 2.2.2 and shown on **Figure 2-5**, relatively impermeable bedrock, a fault, and semi-permeable sediments are found east of the Whitewater River, and most of the Whitewater River area is hydraulically isolated from the main portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin. However, the very northern portion of the Whitewater River's recent channel deposits may be hydraulically connected with alluvial sediments of the main Mission Creek Subbasin through older paleo channels of the Whitewater River as indicated by Pleistocene-age deformed gravels (CDWR, 1964). These Pleistocene-age deformed gravels are found in the older alluvium in the northwest corner of the Mission Creek Subbasin, indicating that an ancestral Whitewater River flowed through the gap north of the non-marine Tertiary sediments. Subsurface mountain front recharge may flow through permeable sediments in this gap into the main part of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

In the southeastern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin, consolidated and semi-consolidated low-permeability sediments are exposed in the Indio Hills. In the area of the Indio Hills, these low-permeability sediments occur at much shallower depths than in other portions of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The structure of the semi-consolidated sediments is depicted by Geotechnical Consultants Inc., (GCI, 1979) as rising steeply toward the surface approaching the Indio Hills. Geologic maps that include the Indio Hills area show exposures of these Tertiary, semi-consolidated sediments (CDWR, 1964 and

USGS, 2007). Although alluvial sediments considered to be permeable are mapped as surficial deposits through much of the Indio Hills, these sediments are likely thin and much of the Indio Hills is composed of semi-consolidated sediments at the depths of regional groundwater occurrence; thus, the Indio Hills are described by the USGS (1974) as “semi-consolidated deposits that yield little water” and by the CDWR (1964) as “essentially semi-water-bearing rocks.” Low permeability sediments and non-water bearing rocks within the Mission Creek Subbasin are identified on **Figure 2-5** and are included on the Mission Creek Subbasin maps to supplement the CDWR Mission Creek Subbasin boundary geometry.

The area of the Mission Creek Subbasin between the bedrock exposures to the northwest and the Indio Hills to the southeast reflects the estimated geographic limit of effective groundwater storage within the Mission Creek Subbasin (CDWR 1964).

## 2.2.4 Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

A hydrogeologic conceptual model is a working interpretation of the characteristics and dynamics of the physical hydrogeologic system. Hydrogeologic conceptual models for the Mission Creek Subbasin are described in the 2016 Bridge Document, in the 2013 Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (2013 MC-GH WMP), by Psomas (2010), and in the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan Update (2022 Alternative Plan Update [Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]). **Figure 2-6** is a graphical presentation of the hydrogeologic conceptual model for the Mission Creek Subbasin.

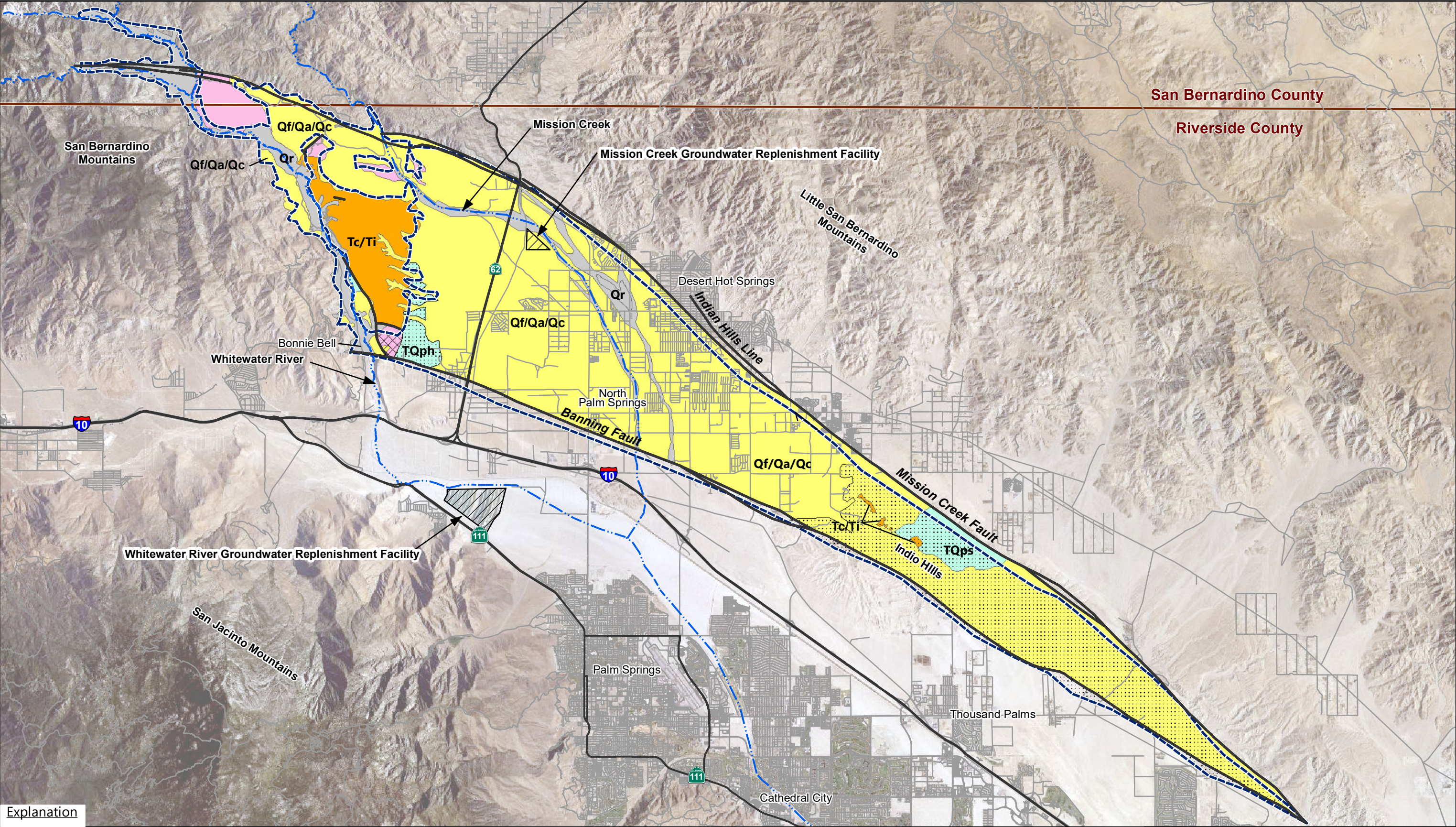
The following paragraphs summarize the main components of the hydrogeologic conceptual model for the Mission Creek Subbasin.

Groundwater is stored in the alluvial sediments, which extend to a depth as great as 3,000 feet bgs and are underlain by semi-consolidated, semi-permeable sediments (GCI, 1979).

Faults bounding the Mission Creek Subbasin are partial barriers to groundwater flow resulting in a steep drop in groundwater levels from the Mission Creek Subbasin into the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin across the Banning fault, and a steep drop in groundwater levels from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin into the Mission Creek Subbasin across the Mission Creek fault. Because these faults are only partial barriers to groundwater flow, the steep hydraulic gradients across the faults result in subsurface outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin to the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin and subsurface inflow from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin into the Mission Creek Subbasin. Bedrock, semipermeable sediments, and a fault at the north end of the main Mission Creek Subbasin restrict inflow from the Whitewater River channel portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin to the main Mission Creek Subbasin. Alluvial sediments in a gap between bedrock and low permeability sediments provide a potential source of subsurface inflow from the northern part of the Whitewater River channel area and mountain front recharge that occurs along the west side of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

The primary natural inflows to the Mission Creek Subbasin include infiltration of runoff in the creeks and washes fed by highland precipitation, subsurface mountain front recharge, and subsurface inflow from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin. A significant source of recharge to the Mission Creek Subbasin is the artificial recharge of imported water at the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (GRF). Additional sources of recharge include wastewater percolation, septic tank percolation, and return flow infiltration from water applied for municipal, recreational (such as golf course irrigation), agricultural, and industrial uses. In this document, municipal and recreational uses are combined into the category of urban water use unless identified separately.





**Explanation**

- Fault
- - - Stream
- - - Mission Creek Subbasin
- Highway/road

**Hydrostratigraphic Characteristic Unit/Materials**

- Low permeability
- Non-water bearing

**Geologic Unit/Materials**

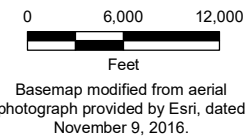
- Qr:** active channel and stream wash deposits (Recent)
- Qf/Qa/Qc:** unconsolidated sediments (Quaternary)
- TQps/TQph:** semi-consolidated sediments (Tertiary-Quaternary, low permeability)
- Tc/Ti:** consolidated sediments (Tertiary, non-waterbearing)
- Metamorphic and volcanic rocks, non-waterbearing

**Source:**

California Department of Water Resources  
Bulletin No. 108, 1964.

**Note:**

Fault and groundwater basin boundary alignments differ due to different sources. Geologic unit/material names differ from Figure 2-2 due to different sources.



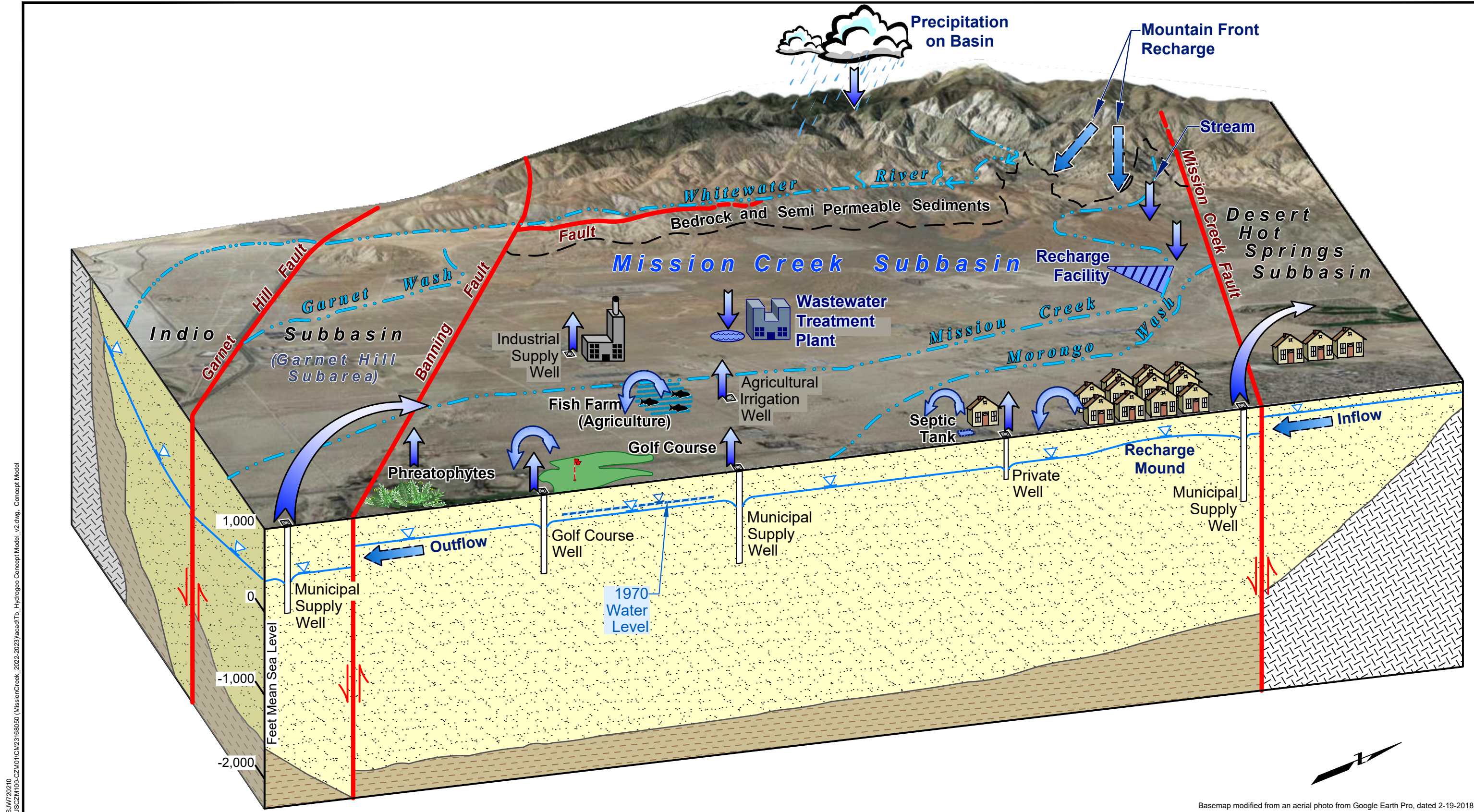
**GEOLOGY OF MISSION CREEK SUBBASIN**  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050



Figure **2-5**





Plot Date: 12/18/2023 9:33:41 AM. Plotted by: USJW/20210  
 Drawing Path: (Y) Prj\corp\phwan.net\gib-a&USJSCZM100-CZM01\CM23168050 (MissionCreek\_2022-2023)\acadi\Tb\_Hydrogeo Concept Model\_v2.dwg, Concept Model

Basemap modified from an aerial photo from Google Earth Pro, dated 2-19-2018.

<b>Explanation</b> Subsurface flow Recharge Discharge Return flow Import/Export		Groundwater surface Sand Semi-permeable Sediments Bedrock	<b>Notes:</b> 1. Land use features are shown for conceptual purposes and do not indicate land use activity in a specific portion of the subbasin. 2. Geology and structure conceptualized from GCI, 1979, and CDWR, 1964. 3. All locations are approximate.	<b>HYDROGEOLOGIC CONCEPTUAL MODEL</b> Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report Water Year 2022-2023 Coachella Valley, California	
By: jrw		Date: 12/18/2023	Project No. CM23168050		
		Figure <b>2-6</b>			



The primary outflow of groundwater from the Mission Creek Subbasin is through groundwater production for urban, agricultural, and industrial use. The Agencies produce most of the groundwater for delivery to their customers in the Mission Creek Subbasin or for customers in the adjacent Desert Hot Springs Subbasin. Typically, a portion of the groundwater produced from the adjacent Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin is used in the Mission Creek Subbasin because production in the Garnet Hill Subarea exceeds demand in the Subarea. However, when production is reduced in the Garnet Hill Subarea (e.g., for well maintenance), some of the groundwater produced in the Mission Creek Subbasin is used in the Garnet Hill Subarea. Private wells that supply water for golf course irrigation, agricultural, and industrial use are metered to assess replenishment assessment charges to cover the costs of importing water and replenishing the basin. Additionally, there are private wells located in the Mission Creek Subbasin that, due to low levels of use, are not required to report their well production to the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) or Desert Water Agency (DWA), and some of these wells may produce groundwater on a regular basis.<sup>10</sup> Other outflows of groundwater from the Mission Creek Subbasin include evapotranspiration from plants with deep roots that draw water at or near the groundwater surface (phreatophytes) in shallow groundwater areas and previously mentioned subsurface outflow to the Indio Subbasin including the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin.

The updated groundwater model for the Mission Creek Subbasin developed as part of the 2022 Alternative Plan Update enhanced and expanded the understanding of groundwater recharge, groundwater flow, and groundwater storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The updated groundwater model included more of the northwestern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin where the Whitewater River paleochannel and Mission Creek stream channel are located. This area is remote and topographically and hydraulically upgradient of the main Mission Creek Subbasin, where groundwater production wells are located. Conceptually, groundwater in this area will continue to drain into the main Mission Creek Subbasin during periods of drought and will be replenished during wet periods. This natural condition occurs with or without groundwater production in the main Mission Creek Subbasin. However, the updated groundwater model storage calculations incorporate this area and, therefore, will have greater fluctuation in groundwater storage over drought and wet periods than calculations based on previous groundwater models or presented in annual reports prior to WY 2020-2021.

### **2.3 Mission Creek Subbasin Groundwater Management**

In December 2004, CVWD, DWA, and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) signed the Mission Creek Settlement Agreement (2004 Settlement Agreement). The parties to the 2004 Settlement Agreement created a Mission Creek Subbasin Management Committee (Management Committee) made up of the General Managers from CVWD, DWA, and MSWD that meets quarterly to discuss on-going topics regarding management of the Mission Creek Subbasin and the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin.

CVWD and DWA executed the Mission Creek Groundwater Management Agreement in 2014 to replace the previous 2003 Management Agreement. The 2014 Management Agreement provides for replenishing the Mission Creek Subbasin and sharing the costs of replenishment between CVWD and DWA. The 2004 Settlement Agreement and the 2014 Management Agreement specify that the available State Water

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<sup>10</sup> Minimal pumpers are groundwater pumpers who are not required to report production to CVWD (<25 AFY) or DWA (<10 AFY). As reported in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, the amount of unmetered private well pumping in the Mission Creek Subbasin was estimated at approximately 480 AFY. This estimate agrees with previous estimates of approximately 500 AFY. Given the uncertainty in estimating this pumping, it is rounded to 500 AFY for WY 2022-2023.

Project water will be allocated between the Mission Creek Subbasin and the western portion of the Indio Subbasin in proportion to the amount of water produced or diverted from each subbasin.

Cumulative replenishment water deliveries between the Mission Creek and Indio Subbasins will be balanced as determined by the Management Committee but no later than 20 years from December 7, 2004.

Under the authority of their enabling legislation, the CVWD and DWA have each designated an "Area of Benefit" for the purpose of assessing groundwater replenishment charges on groundwater production from their respective management areas of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The funds derived from these charges recover costs of recharging State Water Project (SWP) water that is exchanged with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for Colorado River water from MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (SWP Exchange Water) at the Mission Creek GRF.

## Section 3 – Groundwater Elevation Data

Section 356.2(b) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Emergency Regulations requires:

*A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan:*

*(1) Groundwater elevation data from monitoring wells identified in the monitoring network shall be analyzed and displayed as follows:*

*(A) Groundwater elevation contour maps for each principal aquifer in the basin illustrating, at a minimum, the seasonal high and seasonal low groundwater conditions.*

*(B) Hydrographs of groundwater elevations and water year type using historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to current reporting year.*

### 3.1 Monitoring Wells

The 2022 Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan Update, (2022 Alternative Plan Update [Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]), established nine Key Wells for monitoring groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin). Additional agency monitoring well data are also used to assist in groundwater contouring and in preparing change in groundwater storage maps. **Table 3-1** identifies the Key Wells and the rationale for selecting these wells. The location of and construction information for the Key Wells are provided on **Figure 3-1**.

As of the beginning of 2022, the SGMA Portal Monitoring Network Module (MNM) replaced the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program as the database for the SGMA groundwater well data and water level data. Data upload to CASGEM is no longer required for subbasins reporting to the SGMA Portal MNM. Data from Key Wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin were either migrated from CASGEM or uploaded to the MNM by January 2022. For compliance with the SGMA, the well reference point elevations and ground surface elevations were converted from National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) using the software program VDatum, published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).<sup>11</sup> The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (collectively the Agencies), plan to resurvey all of the Key Wells relative to NAVD88 in the current year.

In addition to monitoring groundwater levels in the nine Key Wells for SGMA compliance, the Agencies monitor groundwater levels in 15 additional wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Nine of these wells were used to supplement the Key Well data for groundwater contouring and change in storage maps. These supplemental wells are shown as “other agency wells” on **Figure 3-1**.

MSWD monitors groundwater levels in its wells monthly, while CVWD monitors groundwater levels three times per year. DWA monitors groundwater levels monthly in its monitoring well located near the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (GRF) and in two private production wells. Groundwater level

<sup>11</sup> <https://vdatum.noaa.gov/about/currentevents.html>

data utilized for this Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023 (Annual Report) are provided in **Appendix A**.

**Table 3-1**  
**Key Wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

State Well Number	Local Name	Map Name	Rationale for Selection as a Key Well
<b>02S04E23N002S</b>	Well No. 30	23N02	Long monitoring history. Northern portion of the northwestern Subbasin
<b>02S04E28J001S</b>	Well No. 35	28J01	Spatial coverage of the northwestern Subbasin
<b>02S04E36D001S</b>	Well No. 22	36D01	Long monitoring history. North central portion of the Subbasin
<b>02S04E36K001S</b>	Well No. 29	36K01	Long monitoring history. North central portion of the Subbasin
<b>03S04E04P001S</b>	PW2	4P01	Spatial coverage of the south portion of the northwestern Subbasin
<b>03S04E11L004S</b>	Well No. 31	11L04	South central part of the main Subbasin
<b>03S04E12C001S</b>	Well 3405	12C01	Long monitoring history. Near the center of the main Subbasin
<b>03S05E15R001S</b>	15R01	15R01	Southern end of the main Subbasin
<b>03S05E17J001S</b>	17J01	17J01	Long monitoring history. South central part of the main Subbasin

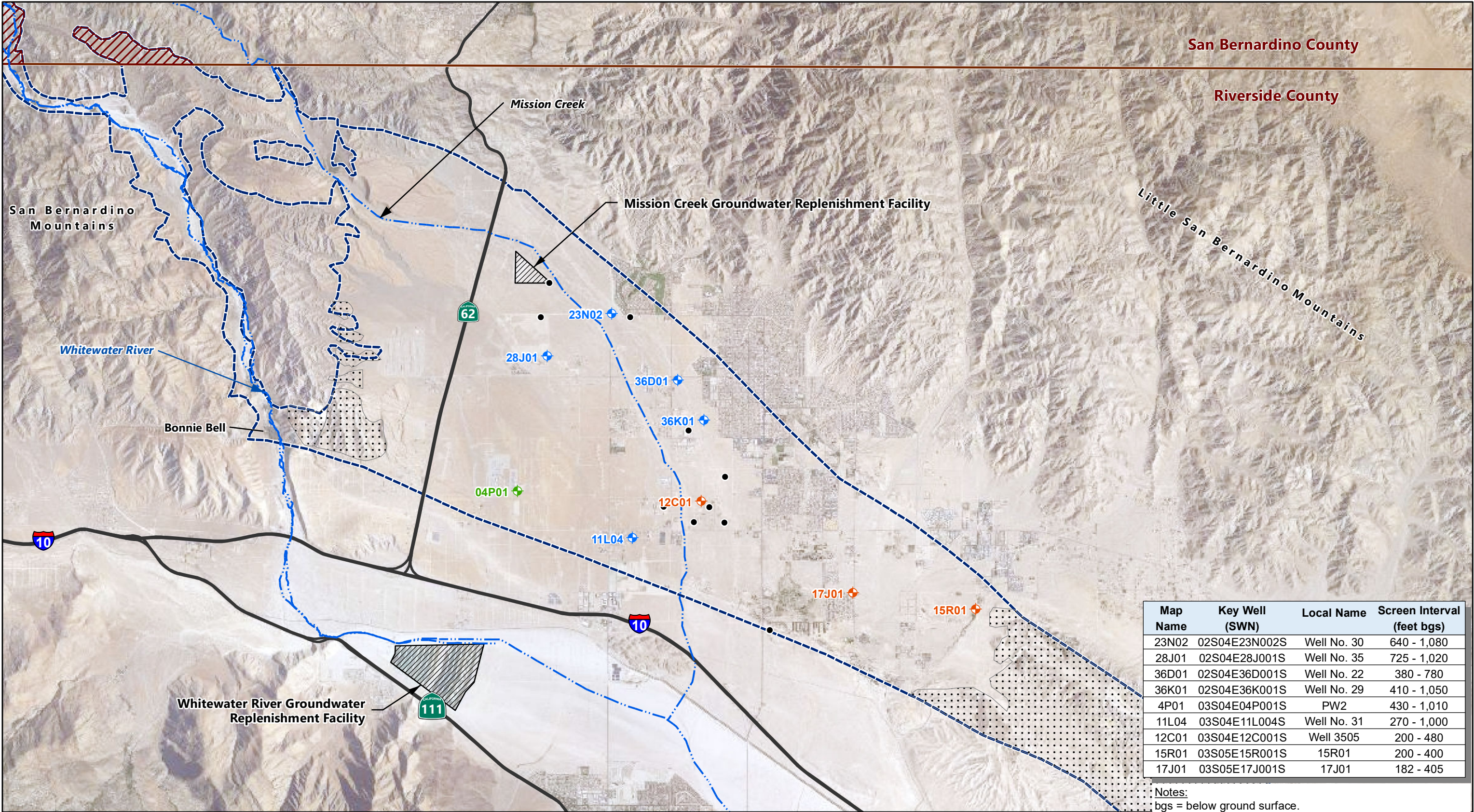
## 3.2 Groundwater Levels

**Figure 3-2** presents the average groundwater elevations in the Mission Creek Subbasin based on WY 2022-2023 monitoring data. The extreme northwestern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin and the southeastern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin (Indio Hills) lack sufficient data to contour groundwater levels and these areas are delineated by a "Water level data boundary" on the figure. The Indio Hills area is underlain by low permeability sediments, and the northwestern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin is sparsely populated and wells in this area are scarce and privately owned.

Note that non-uniform groundwater contour intervals are used on **Figure 3-2**; a 100-foot contour interval is used to show the relatively steep hydraulic gradient in the northwest around the Mission Creek GRF, 20-foot contour intervals are used to show the hydraulic gradient west, east, and south of the Mission Creek GRF, and 10-foot contour intervals are used for contours in the remainder of the Mission Creek Subbasin.



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Map Name	Key Well (SWN)	Local Name	Screen Interval (feet bgs)
23N02	02S04E23N002S	Well No. 30	640 - 1,080
28J01	02S04E28J001S	Well No. 35	725 - 1,020
36D01	02S04E36D001S	Well No. 22	380 - 780
36K01	02S04E36K001S	Well No. 29	410 - 1,050
4P01	03S04E04P001S	PW2	430 - 1,010
11L04	03S04E11L004S	Well No. 31	270 - 1,000
12C01	03S04E12C001S	Well 3505	200 - 480
15R01	03S05E15R001S	15R01	200 - 400
17J01	03S05E17J001S	17J01	182 - 405

Notes:  
bgs = below ground surface.  
SWN=State Well Number

Explanation

- Other Agency Well
- ⬮

Coachella Valley Water District - Key Well
- ⬮

Mission Springs Water District - Key Well
- ⬮

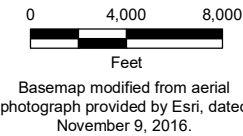
Desert Water Agency - Key Well
- Stream
- Highway/road
- ▨

Facility
- ▨

Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock
- ▨

Mission Creek Subbasin fringe area
- ▨

Mission Creek Subbasin



Basemap modified from aerial photograph provided by Esri, dated November 9, 2016.

KEY WELLS AND OTHER AGENCY WELLS WITH WATER LEVEL DATA  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW

Date: 2/28/2024

Project No.: CM23168050

Figure 3-1



Average groundwater levels for the water year are presented because the Mission Creek Subbasin does not exhibit strong seasonal trends. Significant groundwater level fluctuations, however, are observed near the groundwater replenishment facility as groundwater levels respond directly to replenishment water deliveries and have varied by more than 100 feet during periods of high replenishment. Greater variability is also observed in areas of greater groundwater pumping. Throughout the remainder of the Mission Creek Subbasin, groundwater level variations in wells monitored during WY 2022-2023 were about 3.7 feet or less during the year. In addition to averaging groundwater elevations, the groundwater level data used for contouring are subject to other factors such as well construction, dates of measurement, spatial distribution, proximity to pumping wells, etc. Therefore, the contours shown on **Figure 3-2** reflect generalized conditions for the water year rather than a precise snapshot of groundwater elevations at a specific time.

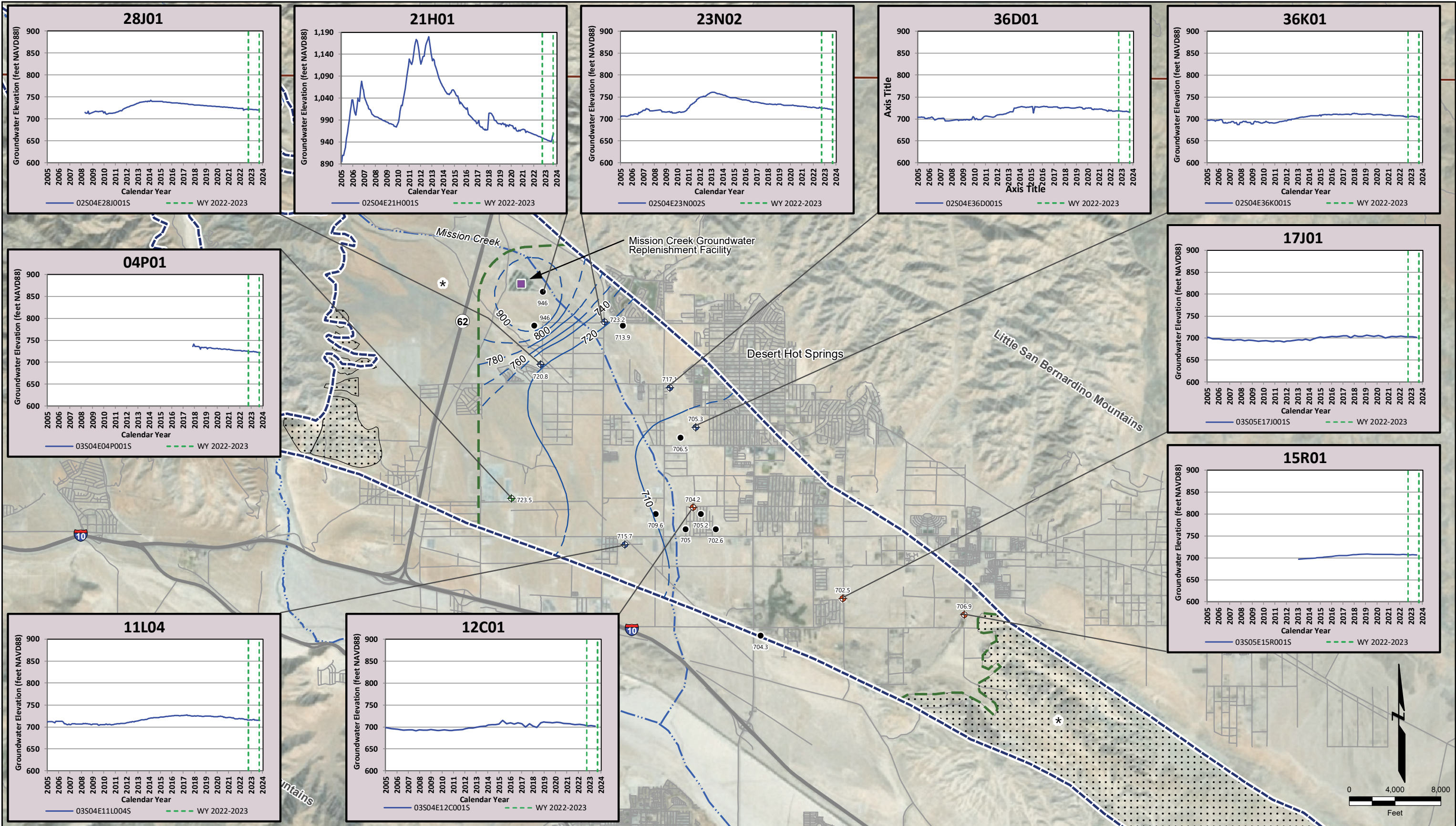
Groundwater level trend plots for the nine Key Wells and well 02S04E21H001S (21H01) are shown as insets on **Figure 3-2** to provide historical context of groundwater elevation fluctuations over time. Although 21H01 is not a Key Well, it is shown to illustrate that historically high groundwater levels occurred near the Mission Creek GRF because of groundwater replenishment. Groundwater elevation contours were developed using professional hydrogeological judgment. For example, groundwater contours are terminated roughly perpendicular to faults that impede groundwater flow, and high groundwater elevations in the northwestern portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin are contoured to represent a recharge mound at the Mission Creek GRF superimposed on a natural steepening of the groundwater gradient toward the northwestern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin (MWH, 2013).

Groundwater elevation contours interpreted for WY 2022-2023 are similar to the contours interpreted previously for WY 2021-2022 (WSP, 2023). Similarities were expected based on comparable water management activities in the Subbasin, including moderate recharge at the Mission Creek GRF that occurred only during the latter half of the water year and similar groundwater pumping as the previous water year.

### 3.3 Hydrographs

**Figure 3-3** presents a hydrograph of groundwater levels at well 21H01 near the Mission Creek GRF, alongside the annual recharge at the Mission Creek GRF. This figure shows long-term changes in the groundwater level near the facility. Hydrographs for the Key Wells are provided in **Appendix B**. Each hydrograph in **Appendix B** is marked with a vertical blue dashed line indicating the commencement of replenishment activities in the Mission Creek Subbasin at the Mission Creek GRF in 2002. The hydrographs indicate that groundwater levels throughout the Mission Creek Subbasin have either increased, stabilized, or remained relatively constant since the commencement of groundwater replenishment activities and conservation efforts (described in Section 9).





### Explanation

- Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Monitored Well
- Coachella Valley Water District - Key Well
- Mission Springs Water District - Key Well
- Desert Water Agency - Key Well
- Other - Non Key Well
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Water level data boundary line
- Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock
- Groundwater elevation contour (feet NAVD88)
- Stream
- Highway/road
- Water level hydrograph for well indicated
- Water year (WY) 2022-2023
- Water level data not available

Basemap modified from aerial photograph provided by Esri, dated November 9, 2016.

### Notes

- Groundwater elevation in feet above North American Vertical Datum (NAVD88). Multiple contour intervals are used to accommodate groundwater gradient variation across the Subbasin. 100-foot contour interval for elevations greater than 800 feet NAVD88, 20-foot contour interval between 720 and 800 feet NAVD88, and 10-foot contour below 740 feet NAVD88. Contours dashed where projected.
- Water level boundary lines based on a lack of water level data. The eastern water level boundary line also corresponds to the boundary of low permeability sediments of the Indio Hills.

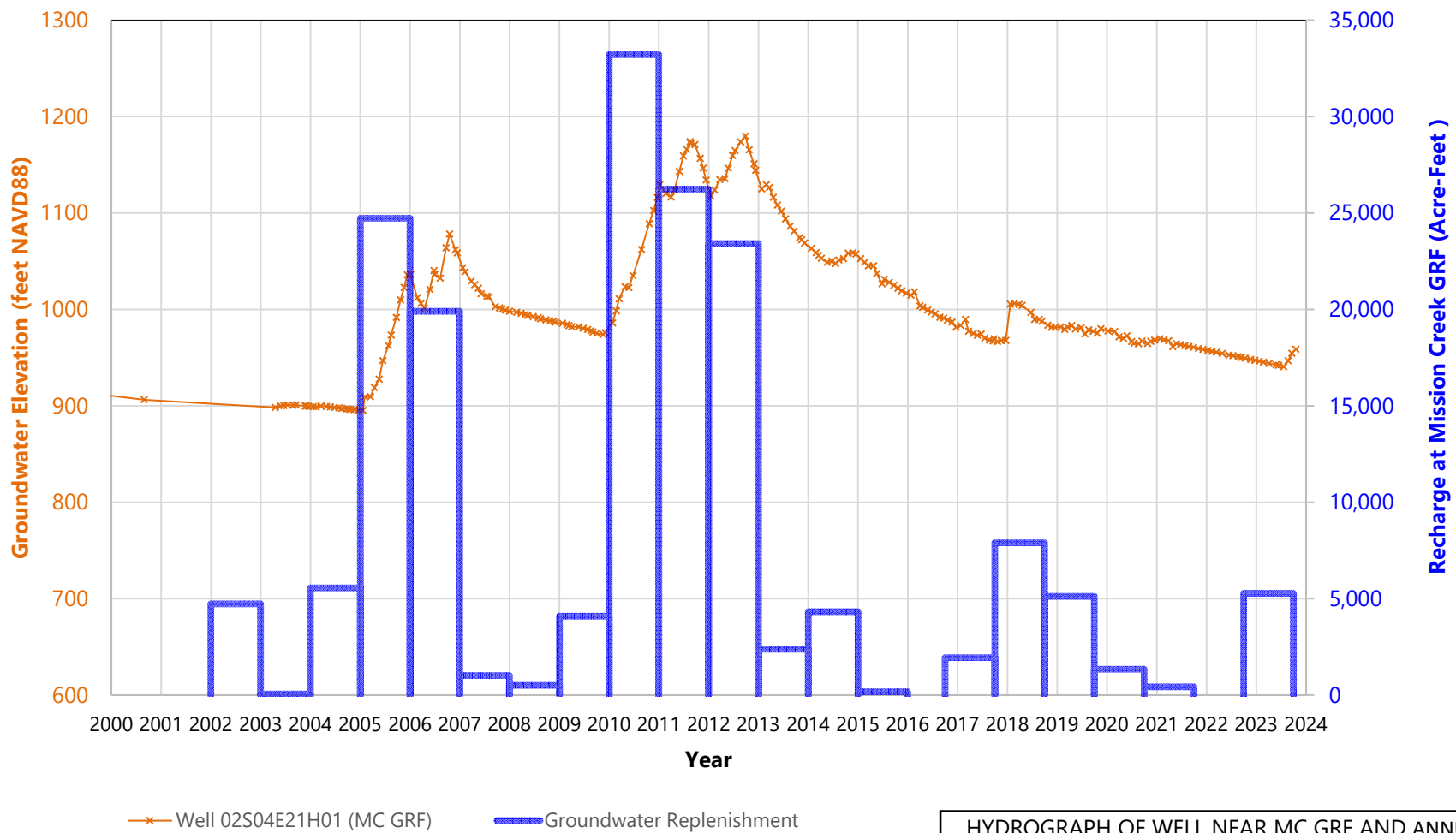
### AVERAGE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION CONTOURS - WY 2022-2023 Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report Water Year 2022-2023 Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW | Date: 2/5/2024 | Project No.: CM23168050



Figure **3-2**





**Notes:**

Replenishment by calendar year through 2015 and water year thereafter  
 No recharge occurred from January 2016 to October 2016  
 No recharge occurred in water year 2021-2022  
 MC GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
 NGVD88 = National Geodetic Vertical Datum 1988

HYDROGRAPH OF WELL NEAR MC GRF AND ANNUAL  
 GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT AT THE MC GRF  
 Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
 Water Year 2022-2023  
 Coachella Valley, California

By: grr	Date: 12/12/2023	Project No.: CM23168050
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Figure **3-3**

## Section 4 – Groundwater Extraction

Section 356.2(b) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Emergency Regulations requires:

*A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan: ...*

*(2) Groundwater extraction for the preceding water year. Data shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be presented in a table that summarizes groundwater extractions by water use sector and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements, and a map that illustrates the general location and volume of groundwater extractions.*

This section presents the groundwater extraction monitoring program results for the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin) for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023.

During WY 2022-2023, 12,989 acre-feet (AF) of groundwater was extracted from 24 metered wells, and an estimated 500 AF from minimal pumpers,<sup>12</sup> for a total of 13,489 AF of groundwater production in the Mission Creek Subbasin. WY 2022-2023 total production was less than WY 2021-2022 production (14,234 AF) and the five-year average of total groundwater production (14,174 AF). Because the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency (DWA) are authorized to collect replenishment assessments from groundwater producers, their respective legislations mandate the installation of water meters on all wells when the collective production for a producer's wells exceeds 25 acre-feet per year (AFY) in CVWD's service area, and 10 AFY in DWA's service area. **Table 4-1** summarizes groundwater pumping by water use sector. Approximately 90 percent of the metered groundwater produced in the Mission Creek Subbasin is produced for urban water use (as noted previously, municipal and recreational use are combined into the category of urban water use). The remaining approximately 10 percent of groundwater is produced for agricultural (metered), industrial (metered), or undetermined (estimated) purposes.

As indicated in **Table 4-1**, all production wells participating in the replenishment assessment programs are metered. As described above, an estimated 500 AFY of unreported groundwater pumping by minimal pumpers (less than 25 AFY in CVWD and 10 AFY in DWA) occurs in the Subbasin from unmetered wells.

**Figure 4-1** presents a map showing the general locations of groundwater production in the Mission Creek Subbasin. This map summarizes the total WY 2022-2023 production within the Public Land Survey System sections (i.e., township, range, and sections). Sections are arranged in a grid and each section overlies an area of approximately one square mile. Where township sections extend beyond the Mission Creek Subbasin boundary, the sections have been trimmed to show only that part of the township section that overlies the Mission Creek Subbasin. Total groundwater production for each section is indicated by a color representing a range of production.

<sup>12</sup> As reported in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, the amount of unmetered private well pumping in the Mission Creek Subbasin was estimated at approximately 480 AFY. This estimate agrees with previous estimates of approximately 500 AFY. Given the uncertainty in estimating this pumping, it is rounded to 500 AFY for WY 2022-2023.

**Table 4-1**  
**Groundwater Extractions by**  
**Water Use Sector in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

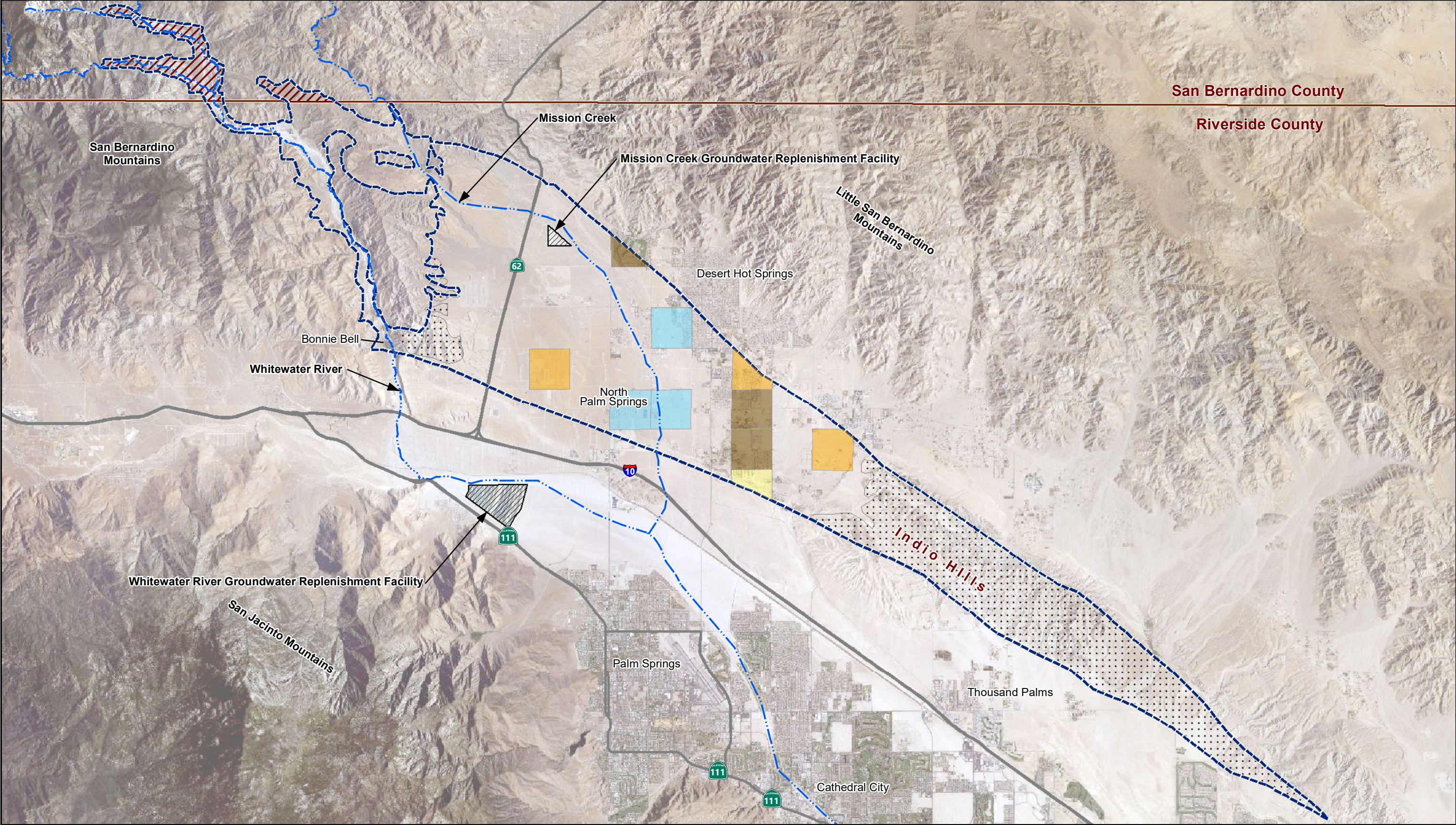
<b>Water Use Sector</b>	<b>Groundwater Extractions (AF)</b>	<b>Method of Measurement</b>	<b>Accuracy of Measurement<sup>4</sup></b>
Agriculture <sup>1</sup>	596	100% metered	±2%
Industrial	316	100% metered	±2%
Urban <sup>2</sup>	12,077	100% metered	±2%
Environmental	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Undetermined <sup>3</sup>	500	100% estimated	±25%
<b>Total Production</b>	<b>13,489</b>		

**Notes:**

1. Includes fish farms.
2. Includes municipal and recreational uses.
3. Estimated production by minimal pumpers who are not required to report production to CVWD (<25 AFY) or DWA (<10 AFY).
4. Percent values are approximate.



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**Explanation**

- Stream
- Facility
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock
- Mission Creek Subbasin fringe area

Highway/road

**Groundwater Production by Area (Acre-Feet per Year)**

10 - 100	1,001 - 2,500
101 - 500	2,501 - 4,000
501 - 1,000	

**Note:**

Grid squares are based on township section and are approximately one square mile except where truncated by subbasin boundary. Total pumping is shown in sections where recent historical pumping exceeded minimal producer thresholds.

0 6,000 12,000  
Feet

Basemap modified from aerial photograph provided by Esri, dated November 9, 2016.

**GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION  
WY 2022-2023  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California**

By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050





## Section 5 – Surface Water

Section 356.2(b)(3) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Emergency Regulations requires:

*A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan: ...*

*(3) Surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use shall be reported based on quantitative data that describes the annual volume and sources for the preceding water year.*

This section presents the surface water availability and use for the Mission Creek Subbasin for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023. For purposes of this report, surface water supplies consist of local surface water, imported water consisting of State Water Project (SWP) water exchanged for Colorado River water (SWP Exchange Water), and treated wastewater produced by publicly owned wastewater treatment plants.

### 5.1 Precipitation

**Table 5-1** presents the monthly and annual precipitation data for areas in or near the Mission Creek Subbasin with rain gauge stations monitored by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD) for WY 2022-2023. Precipitation on the local mountain watersheds generates runoff that infiltrates and contributes to groundwater recharge. The arid climate greatly reduces the contribution of direct precipitation as a source of recharge in general. Precipitation that occurred in the Mission Creek Subbasin during WY 2022-2023 based on three precipitation stations within or near the Mission Creek Subbasin included 6.05 inches (Edom Hill station), 8.05 inches (Desert Hot Springs station), and 30.86 inches (Whitewater North station). Among these precipitation stations, the Desert Hot Springs station is the only one with a sufficient record for comparison of annual values with its long-term average. The 8.05 inches of recorded precipitation at the Desert Hot Springs station in WY 2022-2023 is greater than the 63-year (water year) mean of 5.1 inches for this station.

### 5.2 Streamflow

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) measures streamflow at one gauging station in the Mission Creek Subbasin. This gauging station is located on Mission Creek, as shown on **Figure 2-3**. On February 14, 2019, runoff generated by a storm event altered the channel of Mission Creek at the gauging station to a degree that the USGS was no longer able to gauge streamflow at the former stream gauge location and relocated the stream gauge to its current location approximately 1.4 miles downstream to the southeast of the old location (see Figure 2-3) in December 2019 (Wood, 2021). **Figure 5-1** shows stream gauge flow by water year from WY 1967-1968 to WY 2021-2022 and the average stream flow for this period was 1,776 acre-feet per year (AFY). Figure 5-1 also shows the stream gauge flow of approximately 1,158 AF for a portion of the WY 2022-2023 through August 19, 2023. On August 20, 2023, the stream gauge was damaged by flooding resulting from Tropical Storm Hilary and no additional measurements of Mission Creek stream flow are available for the remainder of the water year. Because the period of measurement ended during a flood event, the actual Mission Creek stream flow for WY 2022 – 2023 was greater than the measured total by an unknown but likely significant amount. Alternative methods for estimating stream flow for WY 2022-2023 are being considered. The Agencies are aware that RCFCWCD is in discussions with the USGS to restore the stream gauge.

**Table 5-1**  
**Mission Creek Subbasin Area, Monthly and Annual**  
**Precipitation (Inches) - WY 2022-2023**

<b>Station Name: Location:</b>	<b>Whitewater North Mission Creek Subbasin (inches)</b>	<b>Desert Hot Springs Desert Hot Springs Subbasin (inches)</b>	<b>Edom Hill Mission Creek Subbasin (inches)</b>
October	0.3	0.17	0.42
November	1.67	0.19	0.10
December	2.60	0.77	0.47
January	7.59	1.11	0.53
February	5.75	1.01	0.76
March	5.15	0.93	0.76
April	0.01	0.00	0.00
May	0.18	0.00	0.00
June	0.00	0.00	0.00
July	0.20	0.03	0.00
August	6.77	3.42	2.96
September	0.64	0.42	0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.86</b>	<b>8.05</b>	<b>6.05</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>14.99</b>		

**Note:**

Data provided by RCFCWCD.

**Table 5-2** presents the total estimated runoff through August 19, 2023, of 1,158 acre-feet (AF) for WY 2022-2023. In WY 2022-2023, CVWD began collecting flow readings at the previous USGS gauging station for comparison with the USGS reported flow at the current downstream gauging station. A comparison of flow data from the two locations suggests they are not directly comparable. Flows ranging from 0.9 cubic feet per second (cfs) on October 11, 2022, to 10.3 cfs on April 5, 2023, were measured by CVWD staff near the former gauging station with no or very low flow (0.01 cfs on April 5, 2023)<sup>13</sup> reported by the USGS at the current gauging station approximately 1.4 miles downstream (Figure 2-3). Although lower flow farther downstream is expected due to infiltration of the streamflow into the alluvial sediments along the stream path, the Agencies want to understand how the historical record may be compared to data collected at the new gauging location. The Agencies plan to discuss monitoring the surface flow in Mission Creek with the USGS in WY 2023-2024.

Stream flow in the Mission Creek stream channel naturally replenishes the Mission Creek Subbasin. Although Mission Creek streamflow runoff is quantified in this Annual Report, it is not used in the water balance (Section 7). It is included as part of the natural recharge component simulated in the updated groundwater model for the Mission Creek Subbasin, which includes mountain front recharge (surface and

<sup>13</sup> USGS data from [https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/inventory/?site\\_no=10257600](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ca/nwis/inventory/?site_no=10257600).

subsurface inflow) from all watersheds with inflow to the Mission Creek Subbasin. There is no direct use of local surface water in the Mission Creek Subbasin.

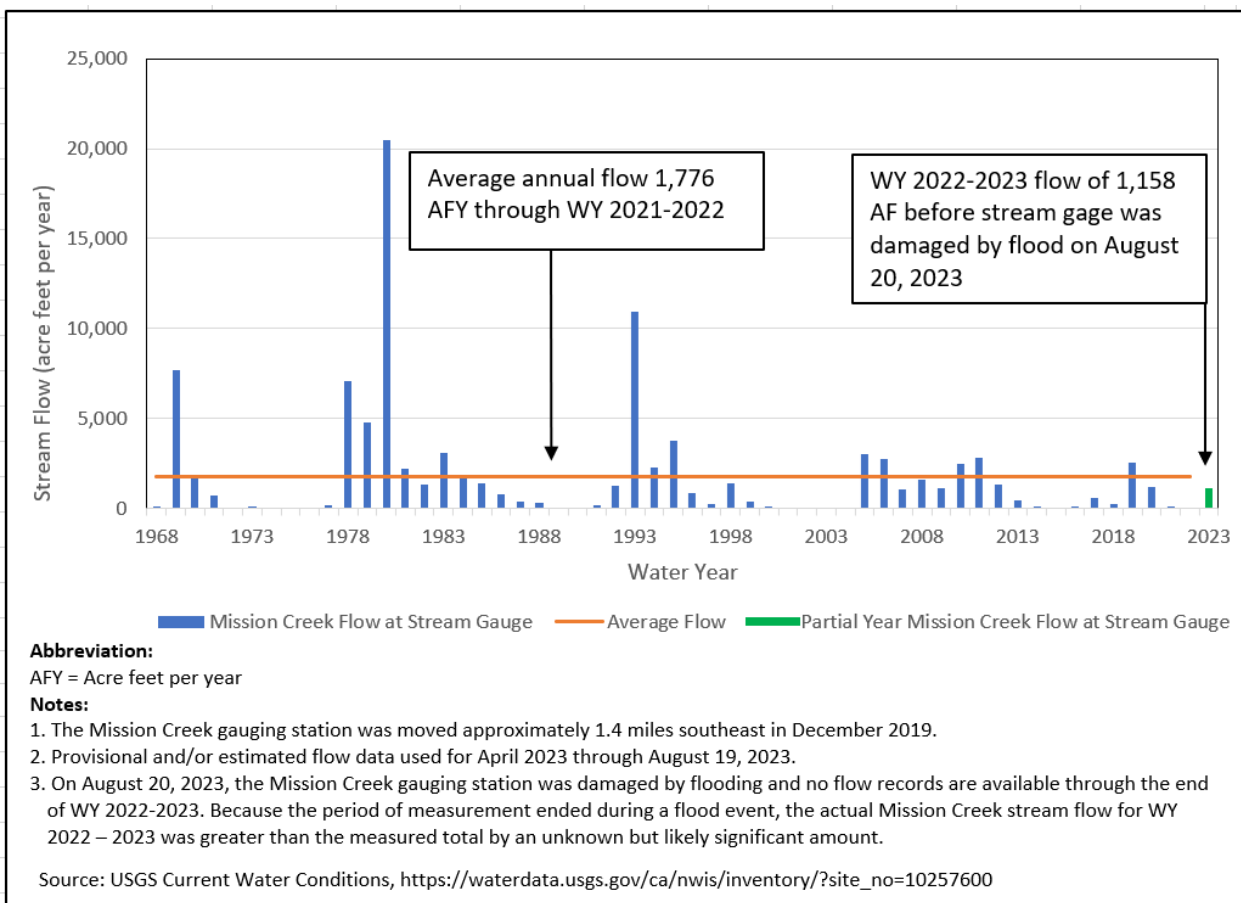
**Table 5-2**  
**Local Streamflow Data in the Mission Creek Subbasin – WY 2022-2023**

Gauge Number	Gauge Name	Stream Flow (AF)
10257600	Mission C Nr Desert Hot Springs CA	1,158 <sup>1</sup>

**Notes:**

1. Gauged stream flow through August 19, 2023. Gauging station was damaged on August 20, 2023 by flooding and no additional data are available for stream gauge flow through the remainder of the water year. Because the period of measurement ended during a flood event, the actual Mission Creek stream flow for WY 2022 – 2023 was greater than the measured total by an unknown but likely significant amount.

**Figure 5-1**  
**Measured Stream Flow at the Mission Creek Gauge Station**



### 5.3 Imported Water Deliveries

In addition to natural replenishment from precipitation and stream flow, the Mission Creek Subbasin receives artificial replenishment from the importation of State Water Project (SWP) Exchange Water. The Desert Water Agency (DWA) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) provide artificial replenishment of the Mission Creek Subbasin through their Groundwater Replenishment Programs (GRPs). Groundwater replenishment is accomplished through direct replenishment, in which imported surface water is infiltrated directly into the aquifer.

The CVWD and DWA each have a Water Supply Contract with the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) for SWP water with a combined Table A Amount<sup>14</sup> of 194,100 acre-feet per year (AFY) as shown in **Table 5-3**, which includes 100,000 AFY transfer from MWD under the Agreement for Exchange and Advance Delivery of Water. There are no physical facilities to deliver SWP water to the Coachella Valley. Rather than construct physical connections to the SWP, CVWD, and DWA entered into separate agreements in 1967 with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), under which CVWD and DWA deliver their SWP water to MWD, and in exchange, MWD delivers an equal amount of Colorado River water to CVWD and DWA. The original 1967 Exchange Agreements have been updated over the years, most recently in 2019. CVWD's and DWA's SWP Exchange Water is delivered at the Whitewater River and Mission Creek turnouts from MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), which extends from Lake Havasu through the Coachella Valley to MWD's Lake Mathews.

SWP Exchange Water has been used to recharge the Mission Creek Subbasin at the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (GRF) since 2002. The MWD, DWA, and CVWD executed an Advance Delivery Agreement in 1984 that allows the MWD to pre-deliver up to 600,000 acre-feet (AF) of SWP water into the Coachella Valley. The MWD then has the option to deliver CVWD's and DWA's SWP allocation either from the CRA or from previously stored groundwater in the basin (i.e., credit from advance deliveries). This agreement was subsequently amended to increase the pre-delivery amount to a maximum of 800,000 AF.

**Table 5-3**  
**State Water Project Table A Amounts**

Agency	Acre Feet Per Year					Total
	Original SWP Table A	Tulare Lake Basin Transfer #1	Tulare Lake Basin Transfer #2	Metropolitan Transfer	Berrenda Mesa Transfer	
<b>CVWD</b>	23,100	9,900	5,250	88,100	12,000	138,350
<b>DWA</b>	38,100	--	1,750	11,900	4,000	55,750
<b>Total</b>	61,200	9,900	7,000	100,000	16,000	194,100

<sup>14</sup> Each SWP contract contains a "Table A" exhibit which defines the maximum annual amount of water each contractor can receive excluding certain interruptible deliveries. Table A amounts are used by the CDWR to allocate available SWP supplies and some of the SWP project costs among the contractors.



Each year, the CDWR determines the amount of water available for delivery to SWP contractors based on hydrology, reservoir storage, the requirements of water rights licenses and permits, water quality, and environmental requirements for protected species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The available supply is then allocated according to each SWP contractor's Table A Amount. For 2023, the CDWR initially allocated 5 percent of Table A amounts to contractors. The allocation increased to 30 percent in January 2023, 35 percent in February 2023, 75 percent in March 2023, and then to 100 percent in April 2023 (CDWR, 2024).

During WY 2022-2023, as shown in **Table 5-4**, the MWD received, on behalf of CVWD and DWA, 35,625 AF of SWP water. On behalf of CVWD, the MWD received 2,500 AF of Rosedale-Rio Bravo water. MWD also received, on behalf of CVWD, 104,994 AF of MWD Table A water transferred to CVWD under the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) provided as SWP Exchange Water. The total deliveries of SWP Exchange Water to the MWD for WY 2022-2023 were 156,718 AF. The 2019 Second Amendment to the Delivery and Exchange Agreement (CVWD, 2019) states CVWD will receive 15,000 AFY of the 20,000 AFY from the 1988 MWD/IID Approval Agreement at the Whitewater River GRF from calendar year 2020 through calendar year 2026; MWD retains 5,000 AFY. Additional water may be delivered at the discretion of MWD, which was the case in WY 2022-2023, with MWD's delivery of 36,371 AF from the 1988 MWD/IID Approval Agreement. Including this transfer, the total exchanged with MWD in WY 2022-2023 was 193,089 AF.

The provisions of the Advance Delivery agreement allow CVWD and DWA to receive direct deliveries of SWP Exchange Water or water delivered from the Advance Delivery Account. As shown in **Table 5-4**, the Advance Delivery Account was deducted 19,219 AF that had been pre-delivered to CVWD and DWA. Of the 173,870 AF of exchanged water remaining after deduction from the Advance Delivery Account, 168,594 AF were delivered to the Whitewater River GRF, and 5,276 AF were delivered to the Mission Creek GRF.

**Table 5-4**  
**Deliveries of CVWD and DWA State Water Project Water**  
**to Metropolitan Water District - WY 2022-2023**

Description	CVWD (AF)	DWA (AF)	Total (AF)
Table A	25,389	10,236	35,625
Article 21 "Interruptible"	9,693	3,906	13,599
Turnback Pool A and B	0	0	0
Multi-Year Pool	0	0	0
Dry Year (Yuba)	0	0	0
Flex Storage Payback	0	0	0
Article 56 (c) "Carryover" from 2019 delivered in 2020	0	0	0
Rosedale-Rio Bravo	2,500	0	2,500
CVWD QSA Transfer	104,994	0	104,994
<b>Total Delivered to MWD</b>	<b>142,576</b>	<b>14,142</b>	<b>156,718</b>
1988 MWD/IID Approval Agreement Exchange	36,371	--	36,371
<b>Total Exchanged</b>			<b>193,089</b>
Water Delivered to CVWD and DWA at Whitewater River GRF	--	--	168,594
Water Delivered to CVWD and DWA at Mission Creek GRF	--	--	5,276
<b>Total Water Delivered to Coachella Valley</b>			<b>173,870</b>
<b>Credit to/from Advance Delivery Account<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>-19,219</b>

**Notes:**

1. Credit to/from Advance Delivery Account is the difference between Total Water Delivered to Coachella Valley and Total Exchanged.

**Table 5-5** summarizes the imported water deliveries to the Mission Creek Subbasin for replenishment in WY 2022-2023. Total imported water deliveries were 5,276 AF, all for aquifer recharge. Historically, the Mission Creek GRF has recharged an average of about 7,830 AFY with as much as 33,200 AFY as a part of advance deliveries.

**Table 5-5**  
**Imported Water Use in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

Water Use Sector	Water Source	Imported Water Use (AF)	Method of Measurement	Accuracy of Measurement <sup>1</sup>
Aquifer Recharge	SWP Exchange Water	5,276	100% metered	±2%
<b>Total Imported Water</b>		<b>5,276</b>		

**Notes:**

1. Percent values are approximate.

## 5.4 Recycled Water

There is no recycled water use in the Mission Creek Subbasin. However, the municipal wastewater treated in the Mission Creek Subbasin is disposed of through percolation/evaporation ponds at the treatment plants. The disposal volumes in WY 2022-2023 are listed in **Table 5-6**. In WY 2022-2023, a total of 2,254 AF of wastewater was treated, all of which was disposed through percolation/evaporation.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 5-6**  
**Wastewater Treatment and Disposal in the**  
**Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

Water Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment and Disposal (AF)
MSWD – Horton WWTP	2,204
MSWD – Desert Crest WWTP	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,254</b>

<sup>15</sup> The evaporation component is calculated based on volume of total percolated effluent as described in Section 7.

## Section 6 – Total Water Use

Section 356.2(b)(4) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Emergency Regulations requires:

*A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan:*

*Total water use shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be reported in a table that summarizes total water use by water use sector, water source type, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements. Existing water use data from the most recent Urban Water Management Plans or Agricultural Water Management Plans within the basin may be used, as long as the data are reported by water year.*

This section presents the total water use for the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin) for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023. For purposes of this report, water use is only direct water use (i.e., consumptive use). There is no direct use of surface water in the Mission Creek Subbasin.

**Table 6-1** lists the net water use by sector, the source type of the water, the method of measurement, and the estimated accuracy of the measurements. The information presented in this table is derived from the tables in Sections 4 and 5. No groundwater was imported to the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023. Water was exported from the Mission Creek Subbasin for use in the adjacent Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin and in communities of the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin. The Garnet Hill Subarea and the communities of the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin are in the planning area defined in the Mission Creek Alternative Plan Update (2022 Alternative Plan Update [Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]). The quantity exported is shown in a separate column as a negative value in **Table 6-1** indicating that it is deducted out of the total water use in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Note that aquifer recharge is not included in this table because it is not a direct use of water in the Mission Creek Subbasin. In the Mission Creek Subbasin, imported water consists of State Water Project (SWP) water that is exchanged with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for Colorado River water from MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (SWP Exchange Water). SWP Exchange Water is only used for aquifer recharge and treated wastewater is not recycled for direct use; however, the disposal of wastewater in the Mission Creek Subbasin results in return flow through percolation.

**Table 6-1** shows that groundwater production amounted to 13,489 acre-feet (AF) for direct use in WY 2022-2023. **Table 6-1** also shows 6,194 AF of groundwater were exported from the Mission Creek Subbasin by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD). Exports included 6,146 AF to the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin by CVWD and MSWD to meet water demands and 48 AF to the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin by MSWD to partially meet demands. Total direct use for WY 2022-2023 in the Mission Creek Subbasin was 7,295 AF.



**Table 6-1**  
**Total Direct Water Use by Sector and Source in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

Water Use Sector	Water Source		Exported for Use Outside Subbasin <sup>2</sup> (AF)	Total Water Use Within Subbasin <sup>3</sup> (AF)	Method of Measurement	Accuracy of Measurement <sup>4</sup>
	Groundwater Production (AF)	Groundwater from Adjacent Subbasins <sup>1</sup> (AF)				
<b>Agriculture<sup>5</sup></b>	596	0	0	596	100% metered	±2%
<b>Industrial</b>	316	0	0	316	100% metered	±2%
<b>Urban<sup>6</sup></b>	12,077	0	-6,194	5,883	See note 6	See note 6
<b>Environmental</b>	0	0	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Undetermined<sup>7</sup></b>	500	0	0	500	100% estimated	±25%
<b>Total</b>	13,489	0	-6,194	7,295		

**Notes:**

1. No groundwater was imported from adjacent Subbasins to the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023.
2. Exported water is delivered to customers overlying the adjacent Desert Hot Springs Subbasin, which is part of the 2022 Alternative Plan Update planning area and is estimated based on customer billing records and non-revenue water values from annual water distribution system audits. Groundwater was also exported to the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin based on customer billing records.
3. Total Water Use within the Mission Creek Subbasin is the sum of Groundwater Production in the Mission Creek Subbasin and Imported from Adjacent Subbasins (zero in WY 2022-2023) less Water Exported for Use Outside the Mission Creek Subbasin.
4. Percent values are approximate.
5. Includes fish farms.
6. Includes municipal and recreational uses. Measurement is based on urban pumping that is 100% metered and on metered consumption in communities outside the Subbasin corrected for system water loss. The accuracy of metered groundwater production is ±2%. See note 2 regarding the measurement of exported water.
7. Estimated production by minimal pumpers who are not required to report production to CVWD (<25 AFY) or DWA (<10 AFY).

## Section 7 – Groundwater Balance and Change in Groundwater Storage

Section 356.2(b)(4) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Emergency Regulations requires:

*A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan: ...*

*(5) Change in groundwater in storage shall include the following:*

*(A) Change in groundwater in storage maps for each principal aquifer in the basin.*

*(B) A graph depicting water year type, groundwater use, the annual change in groundwater in storage, and the cumulative change in groundwater in storage for the basin based on historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to the current reporting year.*

This section presents the groundwater balance and change in storage for the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin) for Water Year (WY) 2022-2023. A groundwater balance is a budget comparing inflows of groundwater into a basin/subbasin against outflows of groundwater from the basin/subbasin. The difference between inflows and outflows for a given period (typically one year) is defined as the change in storage for that period.

### 7.1 Groundwater Inflows

Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater inflows consist of:

- Mountain front inflow and infiltration.
- Inflows from adjacent subbasins.
- Infiltration of return flows from use (e.g., urban and agricultural use).
- Artificial recharge.

Groundwater inflows are described by category in the following subsections.

#### 7.1.1 Mountain Front Recharge

Precipitation in the bordering San Bernardino Mountains produces surface runoff and subsurface inflow, which are the principal natural sources of recharge to the Mission Creek Subbasin. The volume of this natural recharge referred to as mountain front recharge varies dramatically annually due to wide variations in precipitation. Outside of the Whitewater River channel area, where there is a potentially limited hydrogeologic connection with the main part of the Mission Creek Subbasin, the only perennial flow is limited to Mission Creek, and this perennial flow only occurs at the upper reaches of the creek outside of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

In Annual Reports prior to the Annual Report for WY 2020-2021, the annual natural recharge estimates were 7,500 acre-feet per year (AFY).<sup>16</sup> An update to the Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater model in the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan Update (2022 Alternative Plan Update; [Wood and Kennedy

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<sup>16</sup> Based on groundwater modeling and analyses performed for the Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (MWH, 2013; Psomas, 2013).

Jenks, 2021)) included a new methodology for calculating mountain front recharge using the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Basin Characterization Model (BCM). The BCM is a grid-based model that utilizes the Parameter-elevation Relationships on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) monthly 800 x 800-meter grid precipitation data set compiled by the PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University. BCM calculates the monthly water balance for California watersheds using climate inputs including local stream gauge data and PRISM precipitation, minimum and maximum air temperature, evapotranspiration, and topography (USGS, 2021). Natural recharge estimates beginning in the Annual Report for WY 2020-2021 are based on the BCM-calculated average mountain front recharge of 5,700 AFY for the 25-year period 1995 through 2019 as documented in the updated groundwater model for the Mission Creek Subbasin. The decrease in the average natural recharge results from using a shorter, more recent period that has been dominated by hydrologic conditions that are drier than the long-term average of years since 1978.

Although direct precipitation occurs across the surface of the Mission Creek Subbasin, the arid conditions and the significant depth to groundwater across most of the Subbasin preclude substantial deep direct percolation of precipitation to groundwater under typical conditions. The limited precipitation that falls on the Subbasin floor is readily absorbed into the dry near-surface soils and is subject to evaporation. Under rare wet precipitation years, sustained precipitation events and multiple precipitation events result in the ponding of water on the valley floor and provide more substantial recharge contributions.

### 7.1.2 Inflows from Adjacent Subbasins

Inflow from outside the Mission Creek Subbasin consists of natural underflow from the adjacent Desert Hot Springs Subbasin across the Mission Creek fault. This inflow was estimated using the updated groundwater model documented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update. The value was estimated using model results for simulated underflow from 2019 and rounded to the nearest 50 AFY. The period 2019 is the most recent simulation in the updated groundwater model and the most representative of current conditions. Underflow from the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin into the Mission Creek Subbasin for WY 2022-2023 is estimated to have been about 1,150 AFY (**Table 7-1**). This is a relatively small component of the water balance (less than 3 percent) and is relatively stable. From 2009 to 2019, the underflow ranged from 1,128 AFY to 1,291 AFY and averaged 1,178 AFY.

**Table 7-1**  
**Estimated Subsurface Inflow from Adjacent Subbasins into the**  
**Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

Mission Creek Subbasin Boundary	Estimated Subsurface Inflow (AF)
Desert Hot Springs Subbasin to Mission Creek Subbasin	1,150 <sup>1</sup>

**Notes:**

1. Based on the simulated subsurface underflow in 2019 (Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021) and rounded to the nearest 50 AF.

### 7.1.3 Return Flows from Use

Return flow for water use in the Mission Creek Subbasin is the difference between the amount of water applied for irrigation (agricultural, golf course, or urban) and the amount consumed by plants to satisfy their evapotranspiration requirement. Water is also returned to the Mission Creek Subbasin through percolation of treated wastewater and septic tank return flows. For this report, a relatively rigorous calculation of return flows<sup>17</sup> for the infiltration of applied irrigation water was used that considers types of water use, irrigation efficiency, and water conservation impacts. For WY 2022-2023, the irrigation component of the return flow for overlying use with the Mission Creek Subbasin (i.e., excluding water exported to the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin) was 1,341 AF.

Other components of return flows are wastewater disposal and septic return flow. Portions of the Mission Creek Subbasin and Desert Hot Springs Subbasin are served by municipal sewer systems that convey wastewater to municipal treatment plants operated by the Mission Springs Water District (MSWD). All treated wastewater is disposed of in percolation/evaporation ponds located within the Mission Creek Subbasin, as described in Section 5. Wastewater disposal to percolation/evaporation ponds was 2,254 AF in WY 2022-2023 (evaporation is accounted for based on an evaporation factor applied to the total amount of wastewater disposal by percolation; see Section 7.2.2). Portions of the Mission Creek Subbasin that do not currently have access to the sewer systems use septic tank/leachfield systems to treat and dispose of wastewater. It is estimated that about 900 AF of septic effluent was discharged to the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 based on the estimated number of water users with septic tanks, including unmetered minimal pumpers. For WY 2022-2023, the total return flows to the Mission Creek Subbasin, including infiltration of applied irrigation water (1,341 AF), wastewater percolation (2,254 AF), and septic tank percolation (900 AF), was 4,495 AF, or approximately 40 percent of the total inflow budget for WY 2022-2023 (not including inflow from groundwater replenishment).

Both return flows and wastewater disposal are affected by water use efficiency and overall demands. As conservation efforts increase, groundwater production and the amount of return flow will decrease, reducing groundwater outflows from pumping and return inflows to the Mission Creek Subbasin.

### 7.1.4 Artificial Recharge

Artificial recharge is performed at the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (Mission Creek GRF) using State Water Project (SWP) Exchange Water as described in Section 5. Recharge at the Mission Creek GRF is variable based on the availability of SWP Exchange Water and deliveries by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). During WY 2022-2023, a total of 5,276 AF of imported water was recharged at the Mission Creek GRF.

### 7.1.5 Summary of Groundwater Inflows

Mountain front recharge in the amount of 5,700 AF is based on a 25-year average of mountain front recharge for the period 1995 through 2019 using the BCM documented in the updated Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater model. Subsurface inflows from adjacent subbasins (1,150 AF) are based on 2019 inflow as derived from the updated Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater model presented in the 2022

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<sup>17</sup> Return flow calculations are documented in Appendix B, Computation of Non-Consumptive Return, in: Engineer's Report on Water Supply and Replenishment Assessment 2018-2019, prepared by Krieger & Stewart Engineering Consultants (K&SEC) and Stantec (K&SEC and Stantec, 2018) and in K&SEC and Stantec, 2017.



Alternative Plan Update. Combined, these inflows are considered natural inflows, totaling 6,850 AF for WY 2022-2023. Return flows from use are based on WY 2022-2023 data and include an irrigation return component of 1,341 AF, a wastewater treatment management component of 2,254 AF, and a septic system component of 900 AF. The combined inflow for return flows from these uses for the water year is 4,495 AF. Artificial recharge for WY 2022-2023 totaled 5,276 AF. The estimated total WY 2022-2023 groundwater inflow to the Mission Creek Subbasin based on natural recharge, returns from use, and artificial recharge is 16,621 AF.

## **7.2 Groundwater Outflows**

Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater outflows consist of:

- Groundwater pumping to meet customer demands.
- Evaporative losses from recharge and percolation facilities.<sup>18</sup>
- Evapotranspiration from vegetation in shallow groundwater areas.
- Natural subsurface outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin into the adjacent subbasins.

Groundwater outflows are described by category in the following subsections.

### **7.2.1 Groundwater Pumping**

Groundwater pumping refers to the amount of groundwater pumped for agricultural, industrial, urban, and other uses. Groundwater pumping is the largest component of outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin. During WY 2022-2023, a total of 13,489 AF of groundwater was pumped for beneficial uses within the Mission Creek Subbasin or for beneficial use in the adjacent Desert Hot Springs Subbasin and Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin.

### **7.2.2 Evapotranspiration and Evaporation**

Native vegetation on undeveloped land receives its water supply from precipitation and shallow groundwater. Prior to the WY 2020-2021 Annual Report, evapotranspiration from vegetation was estimated at 900 AFY using a long-term average modeled evapotranspiration (Psomas, 2013). Beginning for WY 2020-2021 and for WY 2022-2023, the evapotranspiration was estimated at 950 AF using the evapotranspiration derived from the updated Mission Creek Subbasin model for 2019 (presented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update) and rounded to the nearest 50 AF. The year 2019 was selected because it is the most recent year simulated by the updated groundwater model and is most representative of current conditions.

In addition to evapotranspiration, a portion of the imported water used for recharge (2 percent) is estimated to be lost to evaporation. Similarly, a portion of the wastewater disposal (3 percent) is estimated to be lost to evaporation. The basin outflows from evaporation of these two operations are estimated at approximately 173 AF for WY 2022-2023.

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<sup>18</sup> Evaporative losses from recharge and percolation facilities are shown as groundwater outflows for the purpose of these calculations. They are outflows from the subbasin.

### 7.2.3 Subsurface Outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin

Subsurface outflows from the Mission Creek Subbasin occur primarily across the Banning fault and through semi-permeable sediments of the Indio Hills. Combined, these outflows were estimated to have been 5,100 AFY during previous years based on the long-term average modeled outflow (Psomas, 2013). For WY 2022-2023, the total outflow was estimated based on the outflows for 2019 in the updated Mission Creek groundwater model described in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update rounded to the nearest 50 AF. The combined subsurface outflow across the Banning fault and Indio Hills for WY 2022-2023 is estimated to be 2,350 AF. A breakdown of this outflow is provided by area in the following paragraph.

The Banning fault, separating the Mission Creek Subbasin from the Indio Subbasin (and Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin), is not impermeable to groundwater flow. Groundwater elevation differences ranging from 100 to 300 feet across the Banning fault result in subsurface outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin to the Indio Subbasin. The updated groundwater model in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update indicates that the estimated subsurface outflow across the fault in 2019 was about 2,000 AF. For this same period, the updated model estimates an outflow into the semi-permeable sediments of the Indio Hills of about 350 AF.

**Table 7-2**  
**Estimated Subsurface Outflows from the**  
**Mission Creek Subbasin – WY 2022-2023**

<b>Mission Creek Subbasin Boundary</b>	<b>Estimated Subsurface Outflow (AF)</b>
Mission Creek Subbasin to Indio Subbasin/Garnet Hill Subarea	2,000 <sup>1</sup>
Mission Creek Subbasin to Indio Hills	350 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total Boundary Outflow</b>	<b>2,350</b>

**Notes:**

1. Based on the subsurface underflow from 2019, derived from the updated Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater model in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update rounded to the nearest 50 AF.

### 7.2.4 Summary of Groundwater Outflows

Pumping records for the water year and estimates of unreported groundwater pumping indicate groundwater outflow from pumping was 13,489 AF. Outflows from evaporation associated with facilities for wastewater treatment and artificial recharge are 173 AF based on WY 2022-2023 operation data. Evapotranspiration was estimated at 950 AF. Outflows resulting from subsurface flow out of the Mission Creek Subbasin into adjacent subbasins and into the semi-permeable sediments in the Indio Hills portion of the Mission Creek Subbasin were estimated at 2,350 AF. Both evapotranspiration and subsurface flow are based on estimates for 2019 using the updated groundwater model documented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update. The total outflow from subsurface outflow, evapotranspiration, and evaporation from wastewater treatment and imported water recharge is 3,473 AF. With groundwater pumping added, the total WY 2022-2023 groundwater outflow from the Mission Creek Subbasin is 16,962 AF.

### 7.3 Annual Change in Groundwater Storage

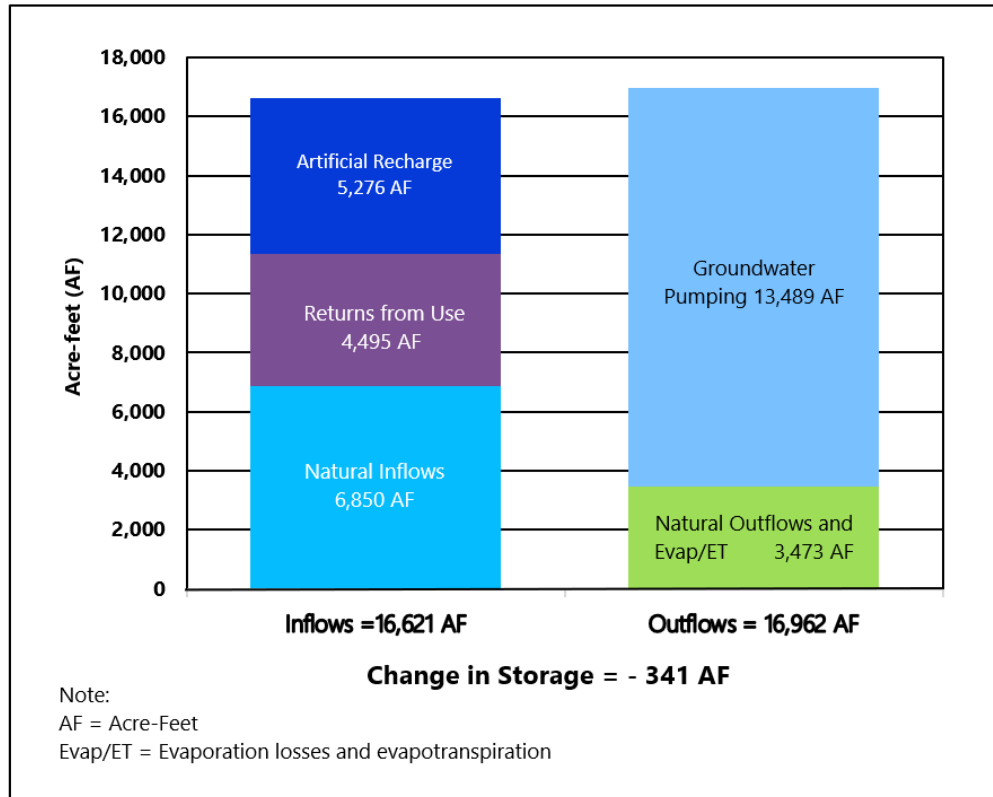
The annual change in groundwater storage represents the difference between inflows and outflows in the Mission Creek Subbasin. During wet years or periods of high artificial recharge, the change in storage is positive (water in storage increases). In dry years or periods of lower artificial recharge, the change in storage is often negative (storage decreases). The calculated change in groundwater storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin for WY 2022-2023 is a decrease of 341 AF. As described in Section 7.1.1, the long-term average of mountain front recharge is used for the water balance and change in storage calculations in the annual reports. Therefore, the natural recharge that occurred as a result of very heavy precipitation and runoff late in WY 2022 -2023 is not reflected in this calculated change in storage. A breakdown of the water balance components for WY 2022-2023 is provided in **Table 7-3**. A generalized graphical representation of the water balance components is provided on **Figure 7-1**.

**Table 7-3**  
**Groundwater Balance in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**

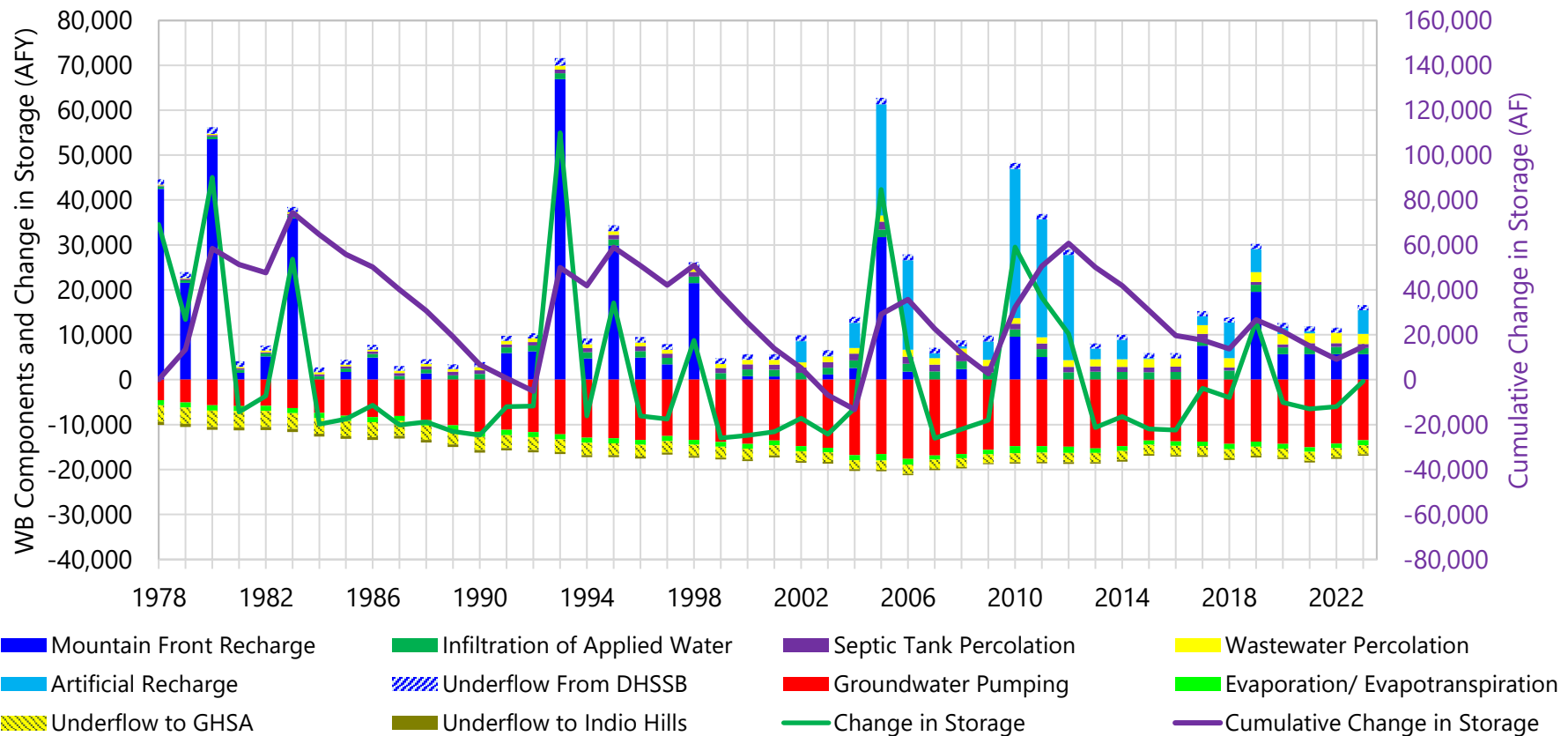
Component	WY 2021-2022 (AF)
<b>Inflows</b>	
Natural inflows - mountain front recharge	5,700
Subsurface inflows from adjacent subbasins	1,150
Infiltration of applied irrigation water	1,341
Wastewater percolation	2,254
Septic tank percolation	900
Artificial recharge	5,276
<b>Total Inflow</b>	<b>+16,621</b>
<b>Outflows</b>	
Groundwater pumping	13,489
Evaporative losses	173
Evapotranspiration from the shallow aquifer	950
Subsurface outflow to adjacent subbasins	2,350
<b>Total Outflow</b>	<b>-16,962</b>
<b>Change in Groundwater Storage</b>	<b>-341</b>



**Figure 7-1**  
**Annual Groundwater Balance in the Mission Creek Subbasin - WY 2022-2023**



**Figure 7-2** shows the water balance components, change in groundwater storage, and cumulative change in storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin from 1978 to the present. The chart begins in 1978 because relatively complete and reliable groundwater production records were available for the Mission Creek Subbasin from that point forward. Mountain front recharge into the Mission Creek Subbasin was estimated for each year through and including 2019 using USGS BCM, and the BCM data, were in turn, used in the updated Mission Creek Subbasin groundwater model, documented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, to derive subsurface flow each year into and out of the Mission Creek Subbasin. This approach to displaying the groundwater balance components, change in groundwater storage and cumulative change in groundwater storage using annual estimates derived from the updated groundwater model for 1978 through 2019 is based on estimated values rather than long-term averages and, therefore, shows greater fluctuations for mountain front recharge, change in storage, and cumulative change in storage. Water balance data after 2019 were estimated using the information provided in the Mission Creek Subbasin annual reports starting with the Annual Report for WY 2019-2020 (Wood, 2021).



Abbreviations:

AF= Acre feet; AFY = Acre feet per year

DHSSB = Desert Hot Springs Subbasin

GHSA = Garnet Hill Subarea

WB = Water Balance

Notes:

- Water balance inflows and outflows for 1978 to 2019 are as described in the Alternative Plan Update (Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021).
- Starting in 2020, mountain front recharge is based on a 25-year average (1995 to 2019), and the subsurface inflows and outflows are based on the most recent modeled inflows and outflows (see text).
- Water balance accounting based on calendar year through 2016 and water year thereafter.

HISTORICAL WATER BALANCE AND CUMULATIVE  
CHANGE IN GROUNDWATER STORAGE  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: grr

Date: 02/06/2024

Project No.: CM23168050



Figure 7-2

**Figure 7-2** shows groundwater pumping peaked in 2006 during the development boom and has decreased since 2006 due to conservation. In WY 2022-2023, groundwater pumping was lower than the 2006 peak pumping by approximately 22 percent. **Figure 7-2** shows that the groundwater storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin is currently more than 6,000 AF above groundwater storage levels in 2009 due to groundwater replenishment efforts.

**Figure 7-3** shows annual inflows, outflows, groundwater production, and 10-year and 20-year running average changes in groundwater storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The Mission Creek Subbasin inflows vary significantly from year to year due to the variability in mountain front recharge and imported water replenishment deliveries. Replenishment activities vary annually in response to imported water availability. In the last five water years, replenishment ranged from 0 AF in WY 2021-2022 to 5,276 AF in WY 2022-2023 and averaging approximately 2,433 AFY (WY 2018-2019 through WY 2022-2023). Years of high inflows correspond to wet years and high mountain front recharge and/or when increased SWP deliveries occurred. The 10- and 20-year running average change in groundwater storage have been relatively stable. In recent years, the trend in the 10-year average shows small declines in storage because this shorter-term view does not include years of higher-than-average inflow in the early 2010s and includes recent years of lower-than-average SWP water availability. The 20-year running average shows that the Mission Creek Subbasin has been in balance (i.e., no appreciable net change in storage) since 2013 and in balance or positive since 2006.

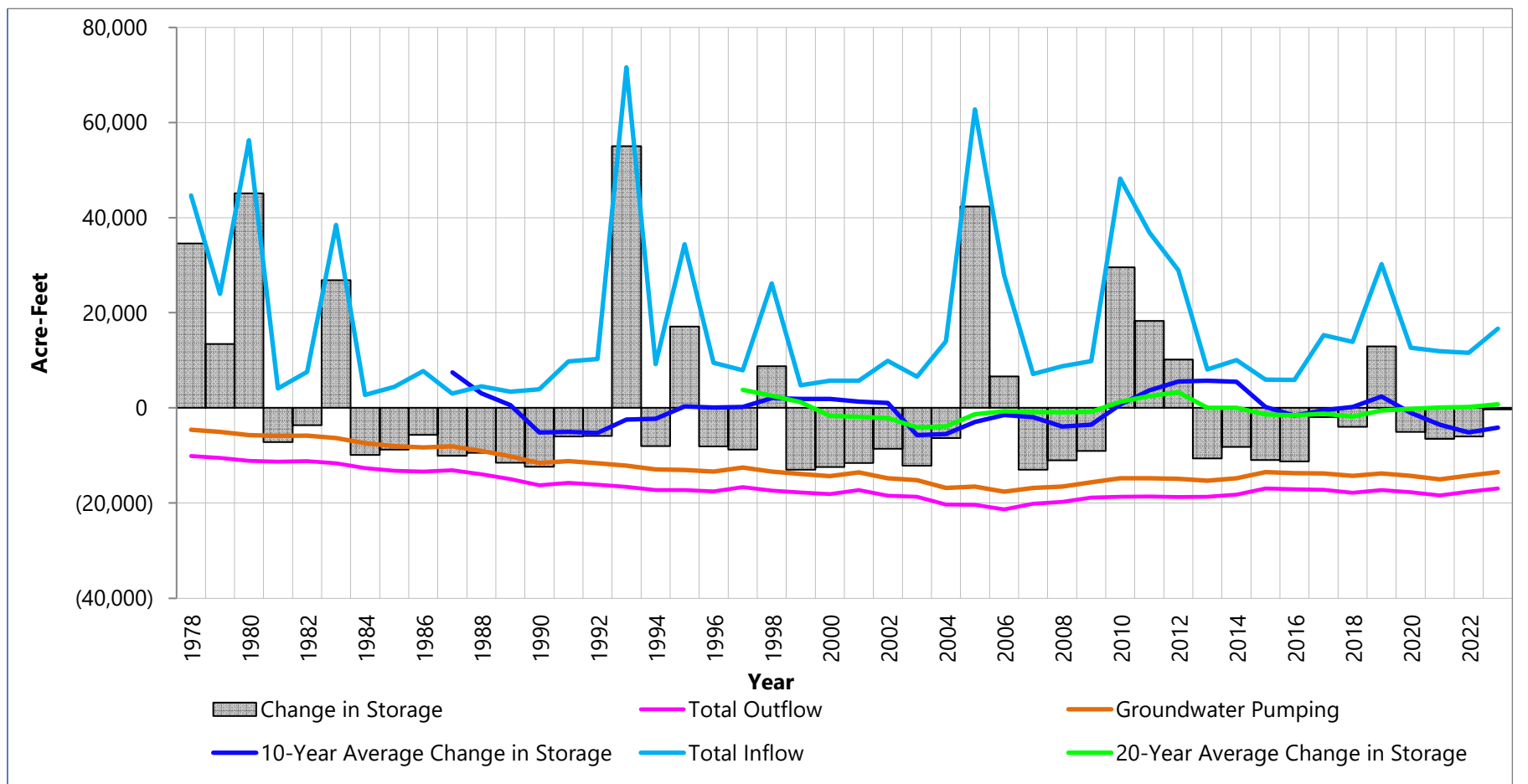
**Figure 7-4** shows the one-year change in groundwater storage and **Figure 7-5** shows the change in groundwater storage since WY 2008-2009. Both changes in storage are represented by changes in groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The maps show the differences in average groundwater elevations for wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin monitored by The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (collectively the Agencies). Hydrographs for Key Wells and well 02S04E21H001S (21H01), located adjacent to the Mission Creek GRF, are provided on the maps for the context of water level trends over time. Cool colors (green and blue) depict increases in groundwater storage, while warm colors (yellow, orange, pink, purple, and brown) depict decreases in groundwater storage.

**Figure 7-4** depicts the change in average groundwater storage from WY 2021-2022 to WY 2022-2023 in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Based on the Key Wells and supplemental monitoring data from nine additional agency wells, the change in groundwater levels observed in 18 wells monitored with data in both WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023 ranged from 0.1 feet of increase in the southeastern part of the Mission Creek Subbasin to 10.1 feet of decrease south of the Mission Creek GRF. The declines in water levels near the Mission Creek GRF ranging from 8.7 to 10.1 feet of decline appear to result from the decrease in recharge at the Mission Creek GRF since WY 2017-2018 (see **Figure 3-3** for recharge and hydrograph of well 21H01). Note that the average water levels for the water year described above do not reflect the most recent increasing trend in water levels in well 21H01 nearest the MC Creek GRF. The increasing trend is observed in the embedded hydrograph for well 21H01 in **Figure 7-4** and in the hydrograph for this well in Appendix B. Groundwater levels in this well increased sharply beginning in August 2023, with a total increase of approximately 18 feet between July 21, 2023 and October 18, 2023. This increase in water levels is attributed to groundwater replenishment at the Mission Creek GRF, where no recharge has occurred since October 2022. Recharge began at the facility in April 2023 and continued each month into August 2023. Excluding the area near the Mission Creek GRF and the area showing a



slight increase in the southeast part of the Mission Creek Subbasin, average annual groundwater levels decreased slightly. Generally, water levels indicated declines ranging from 0.1 to 2.6 feet from the previous water year. Overall, groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 show a slight average decrease of approximately 2.2 feet compared to WY 2021-2022 based on the 18 monitored wells representing the contouring shown on **Figure 7-4**.


**Figure 7-5** depicts the change in average groundwater storage from WY 2008-2009 to WY 2022-2023 in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Beginning with the WY 2021-2022 Annual Report, a 10-year change in groundwater levels was replaced with a change in groundwater levels since WY 2008-2009. This comparison of current water levels to WY 2008-2009 is directly relevant to the SGMA sustainable management criteria described in Section 8. The change in groundwater levels observed in the 14 wells with groundwater level data in both WY 2008-2009 and WY 2022-2023 in the Mission Creek Subbasin ranged from approximately 19.4 feet of increase in the north-central part of the Subbasin, 36.8 feet of decrease in the Mission Creek GRF area of the Subbasin, and an overall average increase of 4.9 feet across the Mission Creek Subbasin. Eliminating the localized declines near the Mission Creek GRF that result from temporary elevated water levels associated with artificial recharge in 2005 and 2006, the average change in groundwater levels since WY 2008-2009 in the remaining 12 wells across the Mission Creek Subbasin is an increase of approximately 10.7 feet. The rise in groundwater levels through much of the Mission Creek Subbasin results from a reduction in groundwater pumping and the initiation of groundwater replenishment in 2002. Two wells with substantial water level decreases near the Mission Creek GRF (36.8 feet and 23.9 feet) represent a localized condition explained in the hydrograph for well 21H01 shown on **Figure 7-5**. Groundwater levels at these wells in WY 2008-2009 appear to have been influenced by the initial round of intense recharge at the Mission Creek GRF that began in the calendar year 2005 (see **Figure 3-3** for groundwater levels and annual recharge volumes near the recharge facility). Groundwater replenishment volumes approaching 20,000 AF or more occurred in calendar years 2005 and 2006, followed by recharge of approximately 33,000 AF in 2010 and more than 20,000 AF in 2011 and 2012. These recharge efforts resulted in significant groundwater mounding near the Mission Creek GRF as shown in hydrograph 21H01 on **Figure 7-5**. This localized mounding has dissipated over time. The long-term effect of this recharge and reductions in groundwater pumping has resulted in rising groundwater levels throughout the remainder of the Mission Creek Subbasin since WY 2008-2009.



**Notes:**

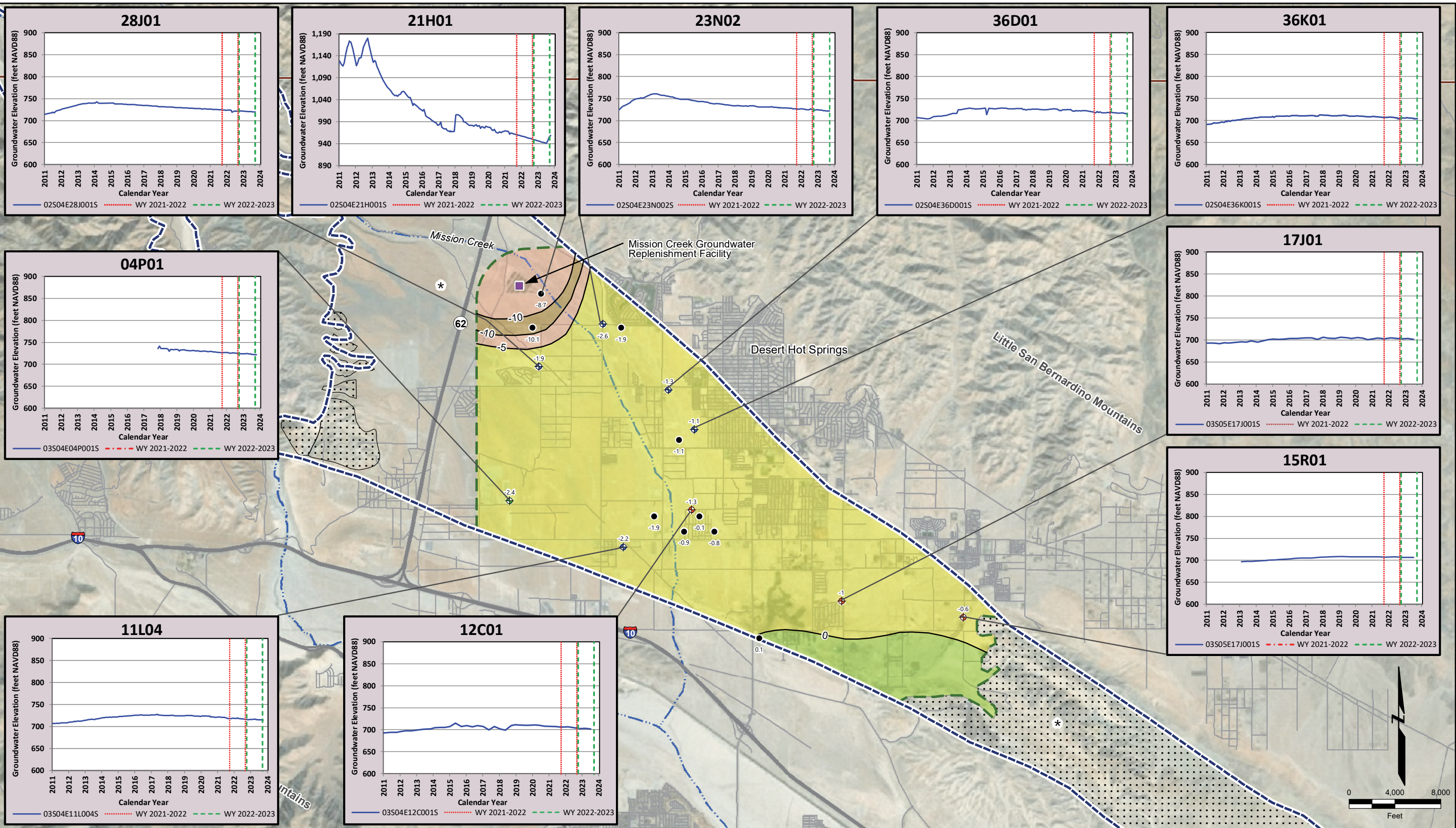
Water balance accounting based on calendar year through 2016 and water year thereafter.  
 Change in storage for WY 2022-2023 was -341 acre-feet and is nearly indistinguishable from the zero baseline at the scale of the plot.

**HISTORICAL ANNUAL CHANGE IN  
 GROUNDWATER STORAGE**  
 Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
 Water Year 2022-2023  
 Coachella Valley, California

By: grr	Date: 2/29/2024	Project No.: CM23168050
		Figure <b>7-3</b>



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**Explanation**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Groundwater Replenishment Facility         | Mission Creek Subbasin                               |
| <b>Monitored Well</b>                      | Water level data boundary line                       |
| Coachella Valley Water District - Key Well | Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock |
| Mission Springs Water District - Key Well  | Change in average water level (feet)                 |
| Desert Water Agency - Key Well             | Stream   |
| Other - Non Key Well                       | Highway/road   |
| 0 to 5 foot increase                       | 0 to 5 foot decrease                                 |
| >5 to 10 foot decrease                     | >10 to 15 foot decrease                              |
| * Water level data not available           | Water level hydrograph for well indicated            |

**Notes**

- Groundwater storage based on change in average water levels between the respective Water Years.
- Groundwater elevation in feet above North American Vertical Datum (NAVD88).

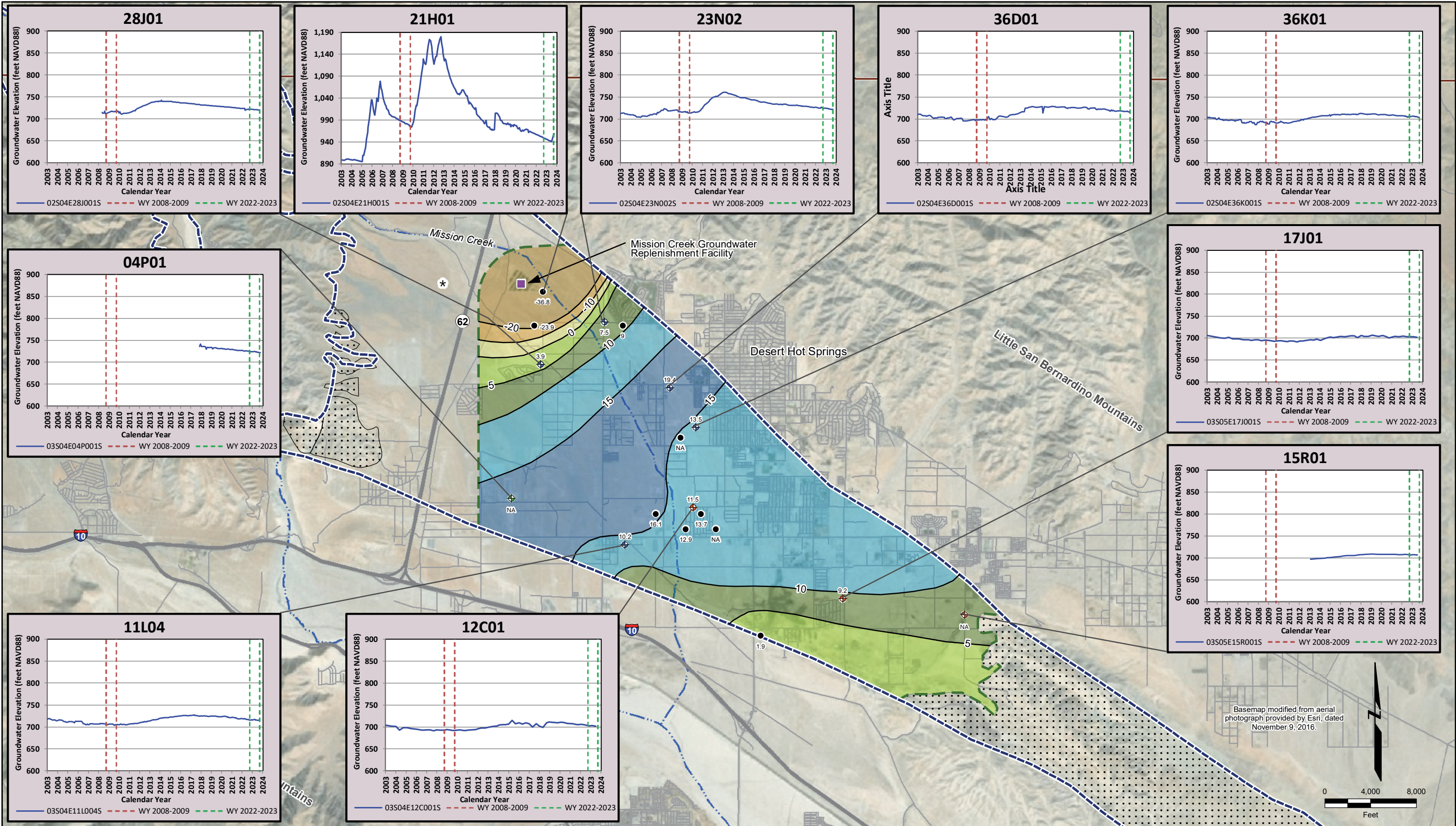
Basemap modified from aerial photograph provided by Esri, dated November 9, 2016.

**ONE YEAR CHANGE IN GROUNDWATER STORAGE WY 2021-2022 TO WY 2022-2023**  
**Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report**  
**Water Year 2022-2023**  
**Coachella Valley, California**

By: MWW	Date: 2/28/2024	Project No.: CM23168050
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#### Explanation

- |  |  |   |                                  |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Groundwater Replenishment Facility         | Mission Creek Subbasin                               | >15 to 20 foot increase                   | 0 to 10 foot decrease            |
| <b>Monitored Well</b>                      | Water level data boundary line                       | >10 to 15 foot increase                   | >10 to 20 foot decrease          |
| Coachella Valley Water District - Key Well | Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock | >5 to 10 foot increase                    | > 20 foot decrease               |
| Mission Springs Water District - Key Well  | Change in average water level (feet)                 | 0 to 5 foot increase                      |                                  |
| Desert Water Agency - Key Well             | Stream   | Water Level hydrograph for well indicated |                                  |
| Other - Non Key Well                       | Highway/road   | Water year (WY) 2022-2023                 |                                  |
| Change in average water level (feet)       |  | Water year (WY) 2008-2009                 | * Water level data not available |

#### Notes

- Groundwater storage based on change in average water levels between the respective Water Years.
- Five-foot change in water level intervals shown except near the groundwater recharge facility where ten-foot intervals are shown.
- Groundwater elevation in feet above North American Vertical Datum (NAVD88).
- NA = Water level unavailable in Water Year 2009.

### CHANGE IN GROUNDWATER STORAGE WY 2008-2009 TO WY 2022-2023

#### Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report

#### Water Year 2022-2023

#### Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050



Figure **7-5**



## Section 8 – Sustainable Management Criteria

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) defines sustainable groundwater management as the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) (collectively the Agencies) recognize that establishing metrics to avoid undesirable results and to maintain sustainability is a valuable tool in groundwater management, and incorporated SGMA Sustainable Management Criteria into the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Update (2022 Alternative Plan Update [Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]) to guide water resources management in the Mission Creek Subbasin (also referred to as the Subbasin).

### 8.1 Sustainable Management Criteria Overview

Sustainability Indicators are the effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the Subbasin that, when significant and unreasonable, cause undesirable results, as described in Water Code Section 107211(x). The 2022 Alternative Plan Update identified four Sustainability Indicators relevant to the Mission Creek Subbasin based on historical or current conditions as described below:

- **Chronic lowering of groundwater levels** – Historically, groundwater levels declined by up to approximately 60 feet in the Mission Creek Subbasin between 1970 and 2009 but have since rebounded as a result of management actions.
- **Reduction of groundwater storage** – Declining groundwater levels between 1970 and 2009 resulted in a reduction in groundwater storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin, but groundwater storage has since increased due to the recharge of imported water and reduced groundwater pumping.
- **Land subsidence** – No evidence of land subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin has been documented. The Subbasin is an alluvial basin with some fine-grained sediments at depth. Therefore, the potential for subsidence cannot be eliminated without gathering additional information.
- **Degraded water quality** – No water quality issues have been identified in active groundwater supply wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin. However, sustainability criteria for degraded water quality have been identified based on the potential for future degraded water quality. Naturally occurring uranium historically exceeded drinking water regulatory thresholds in two municipal water supply wells that were removed from use. Nitrate concentrations are below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) at all municipal wells but have the potential to increase over time due to fertilizer use and wastewater percolation in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Total dissolved solids (TDS) have increased in the Subbasin over time due to groundwater use and return flow, fertilizer use, wastewater percolation, and recharge of higher TDS imported water.

The SGMA allows for a Sustainability Indicator to not apply in a subbasin if there is evidence that the indicator does not exist and could not occur. In the Mission Creek Subbasin, there is sufficient evidence to eliminate two of the Sustainability Indicators from further consideration:

- **Depletion of interconnected surface waters** – The SGMA defines interconnected surface waters as water that is hydraulically connected at any point by a continuous saturated zone to the underlying aquifer and the overlying surface water is not entirely depleted. Although surface

water flows occur in the upper reaches of the Whitewater River in the Mission Creek Subbasin, the surface waters and groundwaters in this area are hydraulically isolated from the main Mission Creek Subbasin. Because there are no interconnected surface waters in the Mission Creek Subbasin that groundwater management activities could impact, this Sustainability Indicator is not considered relevant for the Mission Creek Subbasin.

- **Seawater intrusion** – There are no saltwater bodies in the vicinity of the Mission Creek Subbasin. This Sustainability Indicator is not considered further.

**Table 8-1** summarizes the Sustainable Management Criteria for each of the four relevant Sustainability Indicators identified in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update. The following subsections describe the current water year monitoring under these criteria.



**Table 8-1**  
**Sustainable Management Criteria Summary**

Sustainability Indicator	Minimum Thresholds	Measurement	Measurable Objectives	Undesirable Result
<b>Chronic lowering of groundwater levels</b>	Set to one standard deviation of water levels in the well between 2002 and 2019 below the known or estimated 2009 water level of the well	Measured through nine Key Wells (see <b>Table 3-1</b> ) spatially distributed throughout the main Mission Creek Subbasin	Set to 2009 low groundwater elevations in Key Wells	Four Key Wells (~45%) each exceed their Minimum Threshold for three consecutive years
<b>Reduction in groundwater storage</b>	Set at the storage volume represented by the Average Minimum Threshold for groundwater levels in the nine Key Wells. (i.e., the average of the Minimum Thresholds in all nine Key Wells is 694.5 feet NAVD88).	Comparison of average annual groundwater levels in Key Wells with the average of Key Well water level Minimum Thresholds (694.5 feet NAVD88)	Set to 2009 subbasin groundwater storage as indicated by the average Measurable Objective of levels in Key Wells	The average groundwater level in the Key Wells falls below the average Minimum Threshold for three consecutive years
<b>Subsidence</b>	To be evaluated based on results of a USGS study currently in progress (see Section 8.3.2)	To be evaluated based on results of a USGS study. In the interim, review CDWR ground level vertical displacement data and use the groundwater minimum thresholds as a proxy for subsidence potential	To be evaluated based on USGS study (see Section 8.3.2)	To be evaluated based on USGS Study (see Section 8.3.2)
<b>Degraded groundwater quality</b>	For constituents of concern (COCs; currently only nitrate and naturally occurring uranium), the Minimum Threshold will be no exceedances of California MCLs for drinking water. Exceedances only apply to drinking water supply wells that regularly test for the parameters. A Minimum Threshold for TDS will be determined based on the findings of the CV-SNMP Update (in progress, see Section 8.4.2).	Groundwater quality data provided by the Agencies and downloaded annually from state and local sources	Same as the Minimum Threshold	For the COCs identified, the concentration/activity of the constituent shall not exceed the MCL. If there is an exceedance, the exceedance will be investigated. Undesirable results for TDS will be determined based on the findings of the CV-SNMP Update (in progress, see Section 8.4.2).

## 8.2 Groundwater Levels

In the 1990s, the Agencies recognized that the continued lowering of groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin was not sustainable and, if continued, could have undesirable results ranging from increased energy costs for groundwater pumping to the need to deepen existing private and public wells. As a result, CVWD and DWA developed and implemented plans to recharge imported water into the Mission Creek Subbasin. Groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin began to increase after an imported water recharge program began in 2002 at the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (GRF).

The Agencies further understand that although groundwater level declines may not be avoidable during recurring below normal precipitation periods when imported water deliveries and mountain front recharge are reduced, they intend to manage the Subbasin to maintain long-term average groundwater levels at or above 2009 conditions, which are generally considered to be the historically low groundwater levels throughout much of the Mission Creek Subbasin. During the 2009 period of historically low groundwater levels, no incidents of groundwater production wells going dry or losing production capacity due to low groundwater levels were observed by or reported to the Agencies. In addition, no dry wells are identified in the Mission Creek Subbasin in the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) "Reported Dry Water Sources" database that was initiated in 2014.<sup>19</sup>

In 2013, the Agencies identified the need to maintain average groundwater levels in the Mission Creek Subbasin above 2009 levels and made this one of the objectives of the 2013 Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (2013 MC-GH WMP). The 2013 MC-GH WMP became the basis for the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan for groundwater sustainability submitted to the CDWR in 2016, as described in Section 1.2.2.

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update identified groundwater level criteria for specific monitoring wells that will be used to demonstrate compliance with the 2009 groundwater level threshold. These levels were established as the SGMA Measurable Objectives. Minimum Thresholds, set slightly below the Measurable Objectives (from 2.5 to 16.3 feet below the Measurable Objective, with greater values near the groundwater replenishment facility), were established based on groundwater level variability. Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for the Key Wells are summarized in **Table 8-2**. Elevation data for this Annual Report were reported in or converted to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) as discussed in Section 3.1. **Table 8-2** shows Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds relative to NAVD88 and National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29).

**Table 8-3** shows a comparison of the Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds with the low water levels for the Key Wells in Water Year (WY) 2022-2023. All of the Key Wells are above the Measurable Objectives with the exception of well 03S04E04P01S (4P01) located in the southwesterly part of the Mission Creek Subbasin. Water levels in this well remained above the Minimum Threshold. Historical data from this well are limited and the Measurable Objective was estimated based on 2009 groundwater levels extracted from the updated groundwater model presented in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update. Consequently, the Measurable Objective for this well was identified as provisional and subject to revision based on groundwater level trends and comparison with other wells.

<sup>19</sup> <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer#qwlevels>, site visited December 12, 2023

**Table 8-2**  
**Key Wells Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold**

State Well Number	Map Name	Measurable Objective <sup>1</sup> (feet NGVD29)	Minimum Threshold <sup>2</sup> (feet NGVD29)	Measurable Objective <sup>1</sup> (feet NAVD88)	Minimum Threshold <sup>2</sup> (feet NAVD88)	Comments
02S04E23N002S	23N02	711.3	695.0	713.9	697.5	
02S04E28J001S	28J01	709.5	700.3	712.1	702.9	
02S04E36D001S	36D01	694.6	683.1	697.1	685.6	
02S04E36K001S	36K01	686.1	678.8	688.6	681.3	
03S04E04P001S	4P01	NA	NA	727.4	719.5	Original survey was in NAVD88. Model estimated provisional 2009 water levels <sup>3</sup>
03S04E11L004S	11L04	701.3	693.8	703.8	696.3	
03S04E12C001S	12C01	689.6	682.9	692.1	685.4	
03S05E15R001S	15R01	698.0	691.3	700.5	693.8	Model estimated provisional 2009 water levels <sup>3</sup>
03S05E17J001S	17J01	689.8	686.1	692.2	688.5	

**Notes:**

1. Measurable Objectives are based on the minimum groundwater level at the well in 2009 or the estimated groundwater level in 2009 (see note 3).
2. Minimum Thresholds are based on the Measurable Objective less one standard deviation of water levels for the well between 2002 and 2019 except for well 4P01. Well 4P01 has limited data to estimate variability and the average standard deviation for all Key Wells (7.9 feet) was used to set the Minimum Threshold.
3. Wells 4P01 and 15R01 have limited groundwater monitoring histories that do not extend back to 2009 water level conditions. The Measurable Objective for these wells was derived using groundwater model simulation fit to the available data and extracting the minimum simulated groundwater level in 2009. These Measurable Objectives are considered provisional and may be adjusted based on groundwater level response in these wells relative to other wells in the basin.



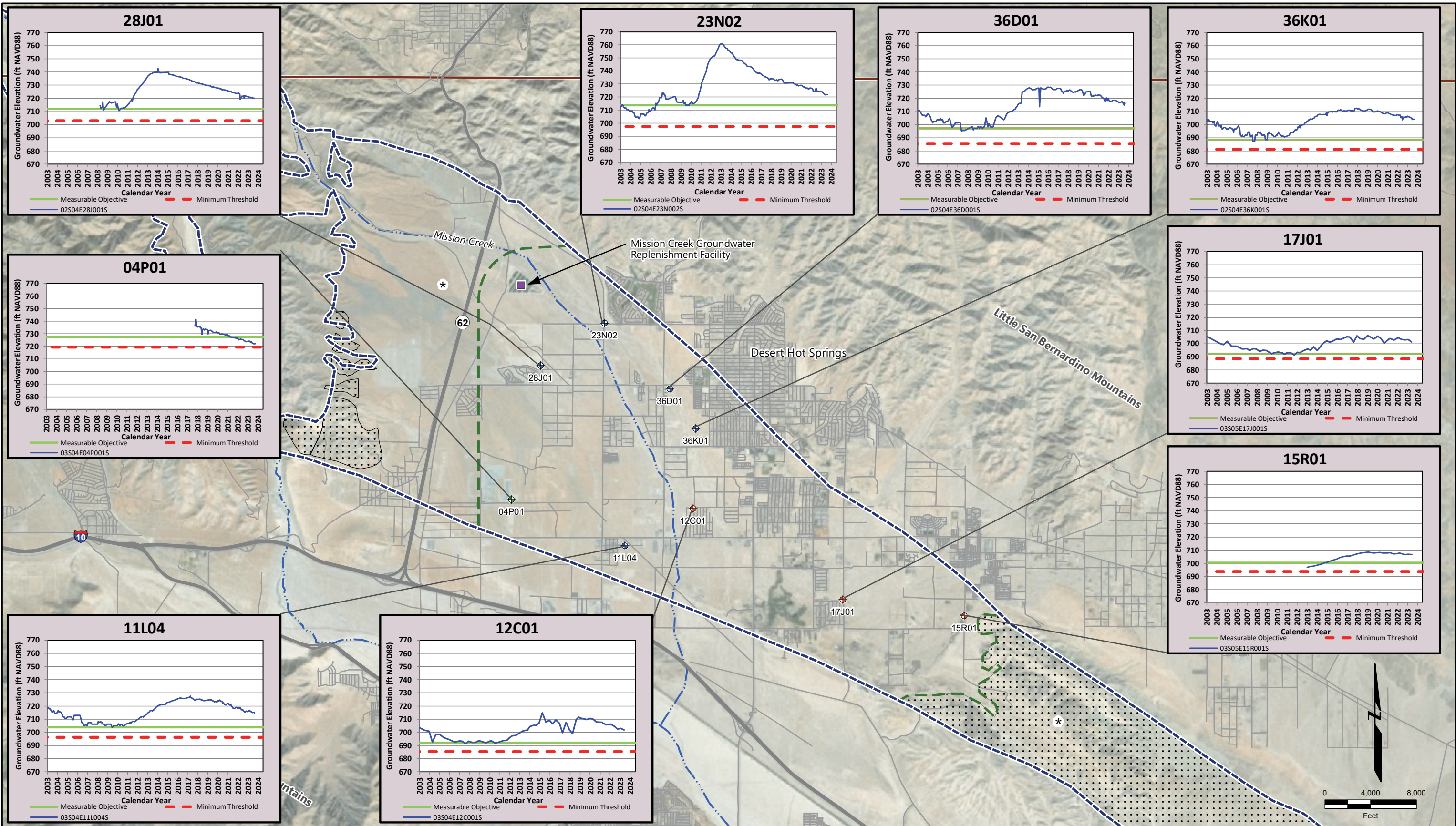
**Table 8-3**  
**Average Groundwater Levels in Key Wells Compared to**  
**Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds**

State Well Number	Map Name	Measurable Objective (feet NAVD88)	Minimum Threshold (feet NAVD88)	WY 2022-2023 Low Water Level (feet NAVD88)	Difference Between WY 2022-2023 and Measurable Objective (feet)	Difference Between WY 2022-2023 and Minimum Threshold (feet)
02S04E23N002S	23N02	713.9	697.5	721.7	7.8	24.2
02S04E28J001S	28J01	712.1	702.9	719.8	7.7	16.9
02S04E36D001S	36D01	697.1	685.6	714.8	17.7	29.2
02S04E36K001S	36K01	688.6	681.3	703.9	15.3	22.6
03S04E04P001S	4P01	727.4	719.5	722.0	-5.4	2.5
03S04E11L004S	11L04	703.8	696.3	714.8	11.0	18.5
03S04E12C001S	12C01	692.1	685.4	703.7	11.6	18.3
03S05E15R001S	15R01	700.5	693.8	706.8	6.3	13.0
03S05E17J001S	17J01	692.2	688.5	701.3	9.1	12.8
<b>Average</b>		<b>703.1</b>	<b>694.5</b>	<b>712.1</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>17.6</b>

**Figure 8-1** shows the hydrographs for each of the nine Key Wells along with their Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds. The figure shows that water levels at each of the Key Wells are above Measurable Objectives except for 04P01. Water levels dropped below the Measurable Objective for this well beginning in July of WY 2020-2021 when water levels were measured below the Measurable Objective by 0.6 feet (Wood, 2022). In WY 2021-2022, water levels dropped to 2.6 feet below the Measurable Objective (WSP, 2023). In WY 2022-2023, water levels dropped to 5.4 feet below the Measurable Objective. As described above, 2009 groundwater levels for this well were estimated to determine its provisional Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold. Historical groundwater level trends in the Mission Creek Subbasin in general, and water level in the Key Well to the north (02S04E28J001S) and to the east (03S04E11L004S) in particular, suggest that the provisional Measurable Objective for well 04P01 may have been set approximately 10 to 15 feet too high. An adjustment to the provisional Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold for this well will be considered in future 5-year Alternative Plan Updates.



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### Explanation

- Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Monitored Well
- Coachella Valley Water District - Key Well
- Mission Springs Water District - Key Well
- Desert Water Agency - Key Well
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Water level data boundary line
- Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock
- Stream
- Highway/road
- Water Level hydrograph for well indicated
- Measurable objective
- Minimum threshold
- Water level data not available

### Notes

- Groundwater elevation in feet above North American Vertical Datum (NAVD88).
- Water level boundary lines based on a lack of water level data. The eastern water level boundary line also corresponds to the boundary of low permeability sediments of the Indio Hills.

Basemap modified from aerial photograph provided by Esri, dated November 9, 2016.

### KEY WELL HYDROGRAPHS WITH MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES AND MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW | Date: 2/28/2024 | Project No.: CM23168050



Figure 8-1



### 8.3 Groundwater Storage

The storage capacity of the Mission Creek Subbasin has been estimated at 2,600,000 acre-feet (AF) (CDWR, 1964). The storage capacity is based on the thickness and lateral extent of alluvial sediments that extend to depths as great as 3,000 feet below ground surface in the Mission Creek Subbasin (GCI, 1979). Available groundwater in storage, however, is limited by the level to which groundwater levels may be lowered without causing undesirable results. The Mission Creek Subbasin consists of a single aquifer laterally and vertically. Groundwater storage is directly related to groundwater levels for the Subbasin. Groundwater storage Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds were based on the average of the groundwater levels Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for the nine Key Wells shown in **Table 8-3**. **Table 8-4** summarizes groundwater storage for WY 2022-2023 based on Key Well minimum water levels, Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold for groundwater storage, and the differences between WY 2022-2023 groundwater storage and the Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold. The average water level in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 was 712.1 feet NGVD88, which is 9.0 feet above the Measurable Objective for groundwater storage and 17.6 feet above the Minimum Threshold for groundwater storage.

**Table 8-4**  
**Groundwater Storage Compared to the**  
**Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold**

Key Well Average Minimum Water Levels WY 2022-2023 (feet NAVD88)	Measurable Objective (feet NAVD88)	Minimum Threshold (feet NAVD88)	Difference Between WY 2022-2023 Storage and Measurable Objective (feet)	Difference Between WY 2022-2023 Storage and Minimum Threshold (feet)
712.1	703.1	694.5	9.0	17.6

**Figure 7-5** shows change in water levels between WY 2008-2009 and WY 2022-2023. Change in water levels is a proxy for storage in the Mission Creek Subbasin because the Subbasin comprises a single aquifer system. As described in Section 7-3, **Figure 7-5** shows a decrease in water levels in the immediate vicinity of the Mission Creek GRF with the remainder of the main Subbasin showing groundwater level increases ranging from 19.4 feet in the north-central part of the main Subbasin to 1.9 feet in the south part of the main Subbasin. Lower water levels near the Mission Creek GRF are due to the dissipation of groundwater mounding that resulted from historical recharge at the Mission Creek GRF. Overall, the Mission Creek Subbasin shows higher WY 2022-2023 groundwater levels compared to WY 2008-2009 groundwater levels and thus greater groundwater storage.

### 8.4 Land Subsidence

Neither subsidence nor impacts to structures potentially caused by subsidence have been identified historically in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Geologic conditions of generally coarse-grained sediments and lack of thick, laterally extensive fine-grained sediments in the Mission Creek Subbasin aquifer reduce the likelihood of subsidence. In addition, ground-level displacement monitoring using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (Instar) data available from CDWR has not shown evidence of subsidence during the period this technology has been available for monitoring in the Mission Creek Subbasin (beginning in



June 2015). Although subsidence has not been observed, it is considered to have a potential to result in significant and unreasonable conditions. Subsidence is most likely to occur if groundwater levels are lowered significantly below their historically low levels (i.e., under conditions of maximum reconsolidation stress). Consequently, Minimum Thresholds for groundwater levels in the Key Wells are used as a screening level for the potential of subsidence. Currently, groundwater levels in the Key Wells are above the water level Minimum Thresholds.

In addition to using Minimum Thresholds for water levels in the Key Wells as a screening level for potential subsidence, available ground-level displacement monitoring data available through the CDWR were reviewed and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is conducting an evaluation of potential subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin. These are described in the following subsections.

#### **8.4.1 Ground-Level Displacement Monitoring**

**Figure 8-2** shows the estimated vertical displacement of ground level as derived from InSAR data collected by the European Space Agency Sentinel-1A satellite and processed by TRE ALTAMIRA Inc., under contract with the CDWR. The vertical displacement data were obtained from CDWR (CDWR, 2023) for the approximately eight-year monitoring period available for this technology (June 2015 to October 2023) and also for the most recent annual record of vertical ground-level displacement (October 2022 to October 2023). The raster images were modified for vertical ground-level displacement ranges displayed on the CDWR SGMA Data Viewer website. The SGMA Data Viewer is set up for viewing data on a regional scale. **Figure 8-2** shows that, with the exception of the former Edom Hill Landfill area in the northwestern part of the Indio Hills for the period from October 2015 to October 2023, ground level change in the Mission Creek Subbasin has exhibited less than an absolute vertical displacement of 0.1 feet. Vertical ground-level displacement at the former Edom Hill Landfill area over the eight-year period October 2015 to October 2023 was up to 0.4 feet downward (-0.4 feet). This is likely due to settlement at the former landfill. Vertical displacement in the former landfill area over the one-year period from October 2022 to October 2023 was no more than 0.1 feet. These findings are consistent with the previous annual report and the general finding of no systematic downward permanent vertical displacement of ground levels caused by groundwater withdrawal.

#### **8.4.2 Additional Land Subsidence Study**

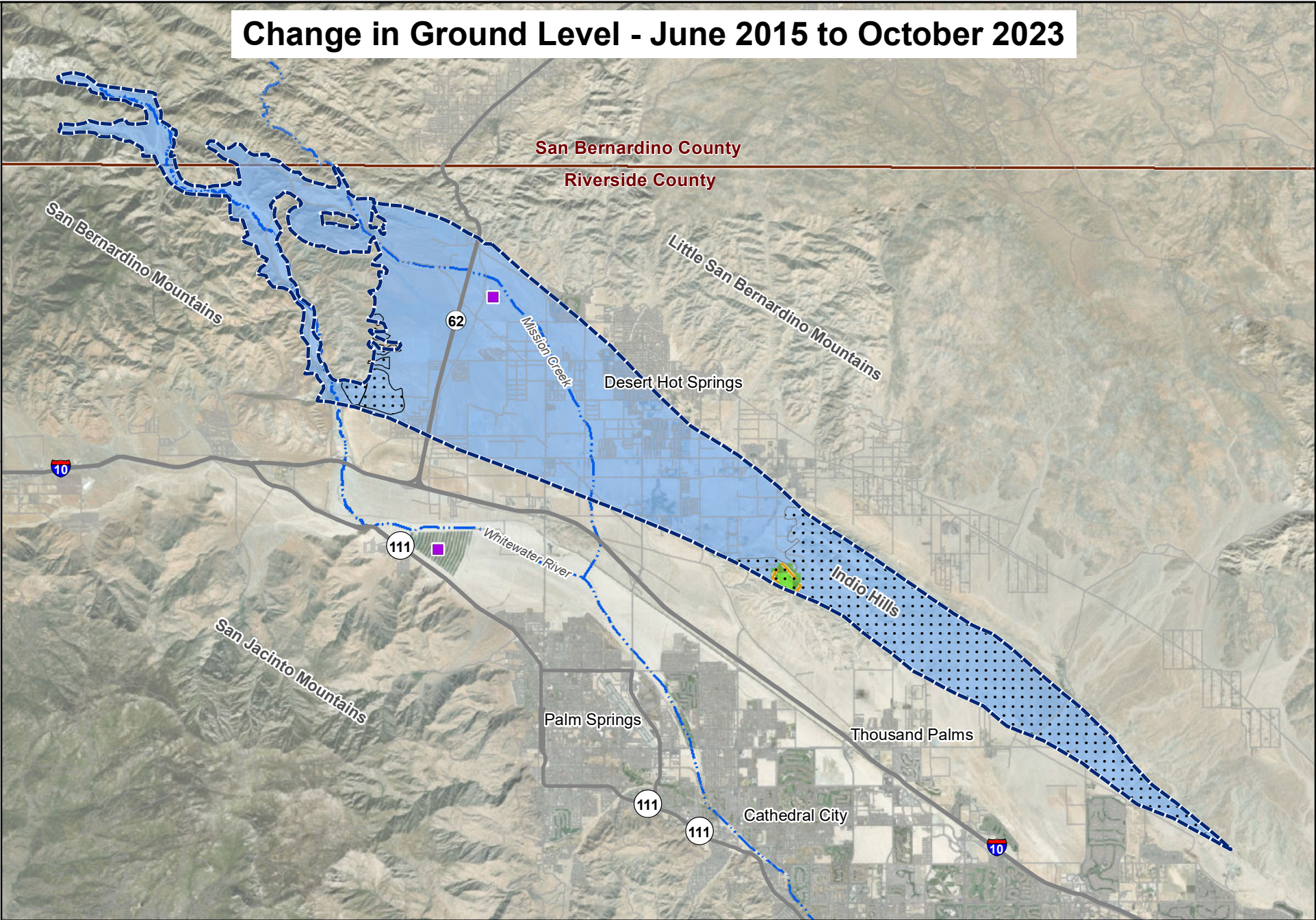
CVWD, in collaboration with the other Agencies, has engaged the USGS to study land subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin. The USGS initiated this study in 2021, and has evaluated groundwater level data, evaluated the status of existing benchmarks, and identified locations for three additional benchmarks. In WY 2022-2023, three new benchmarks were completed in the Mission Creek Subbasin and high precision global positioning system (GPS) measurements were taken at the new benchmarks. The USGS continued to work on analysis of measurements and groundwater levels with a final study report expected by June 30, 2025.

### **8.5 Groundwater Quality**

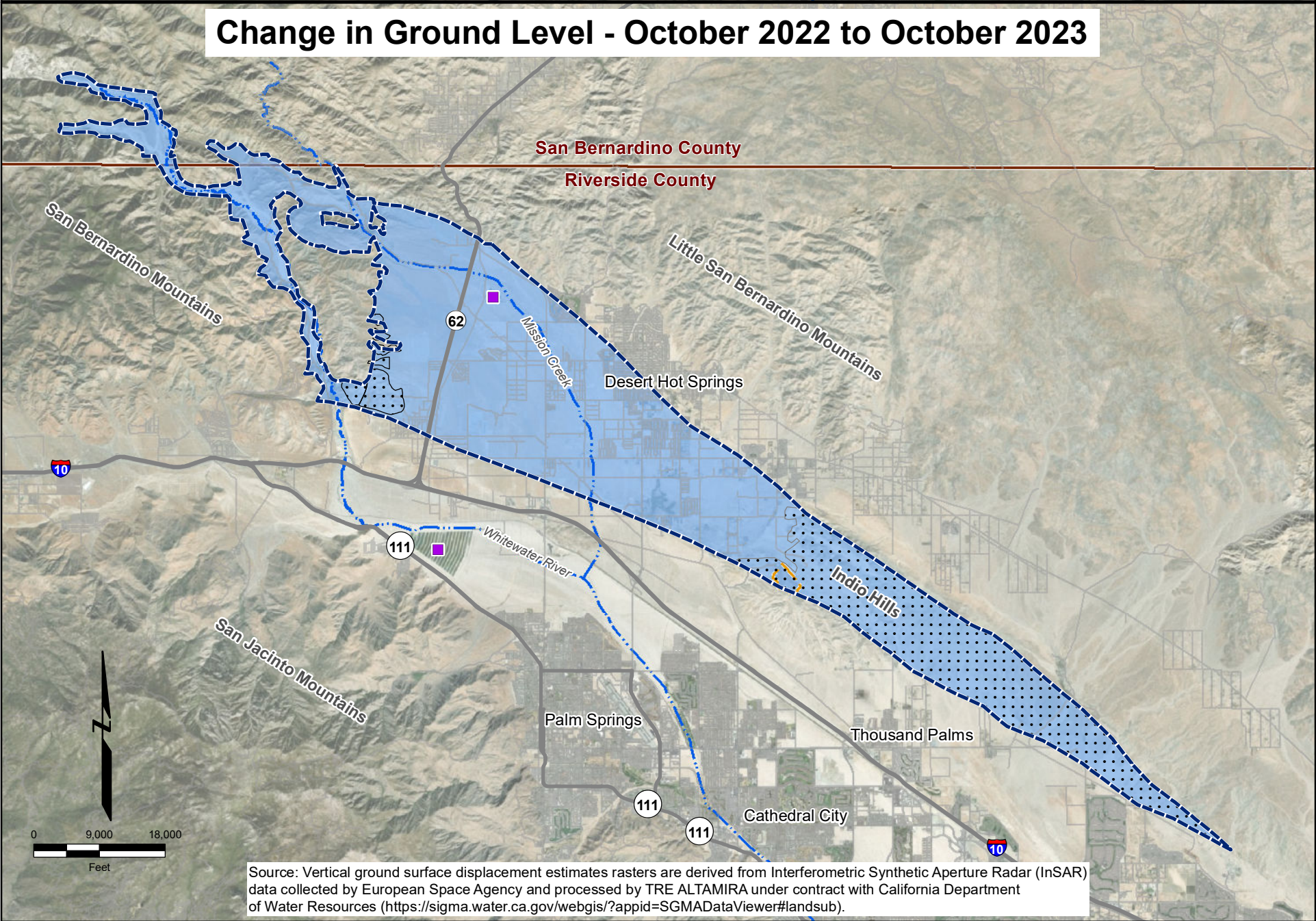
The 2022 Alternative Plan Update identified two categories of water quality criteria to be used for establishing Minimum Thresholds. These include: (1) water quality based on California drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), and (2) total dissolved solids (TDS), which will be evaluated through the update to the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV-SNMP). These two categories are described in the following subsections.



### Change in Ground Level - June 2015 to October 2023



### Change in Ground Level - October 2022 to October 2023



Source: Vertical ground surface displacement estimates rasters are derived from Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) data collected by European Space Agency and processed by TRE ALTAMIRA under contract with California Department of Water Resources (<https://sigma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADDataViewer#landsub>).

#### Explanation

- Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock
- Stream
- Highway/road
- Former Edom Hill Sanitary Landfill

- Vertical displacement raster (feet)
- 0.1 to 0.1
  - 0.2 to -0.1
  - 0.4 to -0.2

CHANGE IN GROUND LEVEL  
2015 TO 2023  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050



Figure

8-2

Basemap modified from aerial photograph provided by Esri, dated November 9, 2016.



### 8.5.1 Water Quality for Constituents with Primary MCLs

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update identified uranium and nitrate as constituents of concern (COCs). Naturally occurring uranium was identified because it historically exceeded its MCL in two municipal water supply wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin that were removed from use. Nitrate was identified as a COC based on ongoing sources for this constituent, including wastewater infiltration to the groundwater system (through septic systems and disposal of treated wastewater effluent), and fertilizer application for agriculture and at golf courses. Nitrate has not exceeded its MCL in any municipal supply well.

The Minimum Threshold for groundwater quality was established as no drinking water supply wells exceeding the primary MCLs for drinking water. Water quality data provided by the Agencies and obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) database for water supply (SWRCB, 2022) were reviewed to determine if any COC exceeded its primary MCL in any municipal water supply well. **Table 8-5** summarizes the results of this review. A total of ten wells were sampled for the COC nitrate during the water year and no wells reported nitrate as nitrogen above the MCL of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for this COC. Uranium was sampled in four water supply wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin in WY 2022-2023 and none of these wells exceeded the MCL of 20 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). **Figure 8-3** shows the locations of wells with water quality analyses including the analyses for nitrate (all wells) and uranium in wells 02S04E36D02S (36D02), 02S04E36K01S (3K01), 02S04E1136P01 (36P01) and 03S04E11L04S (11L04).

**Table 8-5**  
**Minimum Thresholds for Groundwater Quality – COCs with MCLs**

Constituent of Concern (COC)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)/ Minimum Threshold	Standard Units	Number of Wells Sampled for COC in WY 2021-2022	Number of Wells Exceeding MCL in WY 2021-2022
Uranium	20	pCi/L	4	0
Nitrate (N)	10	mg/L	10	0

Water quality data were also reviewed for constituents other than uranium or nitrate exceeding their primary MCL in municipal water supply wells to identify potential new COCs. None were identified.

**Figure 8-3** identifies the locations of wells that were reviewed for water quality data.

In addition, the GeoTracker and EnviroStor website databases were reviewed for potential environmental sites that may impact groundwater and specifically municipal water supply wells. Within the Mission Creek Subbasin, the only open regulatory site identified with environmental impacts to groundwater was the former Edom Hill Class III landfill (GeoTracker Global ID L10009373801), located in the Indio Hills within the Mission Creek Subbasin (see Figure 8-4). The Indio Hills consist of consolidated sediments that are not directly connected to the alluvial aquifer in the main Mission Creek Subbasin. Groundwater sampling at this site for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrate, by the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources (RCDWR) in 2022 indicated that none of these parameters exceeded primary MCLs (RCDWR, 2023). The semi volatile organic compound bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate was detected at a concentration above its MCL in groundwater in one monitoring well. Fluoride, total chromium, and total lead exceeded their respective primary MCLs but at concentrations similar to historical results. In addition to being located outside the main alluvial aquifer of the Mission Creek



Subbasin, the site is also located hydraulically downgradient from any drinking water production wells in the main alluvial aquifer of the Mission Creek Subbasin.

### 8.5.2 Total Dissolved Solids

Sources of TDS in the Mission Creek Subbasin include groundwater used for irrigation (with evaporative concentration of dissolved constituents), wastewater infiltration to the groundwater system (through septic systems and disposal of treated wastewater effluent), fertilizer application for agriculture and at golf courses, and recharge of Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) water at the Mission Creek GRF.

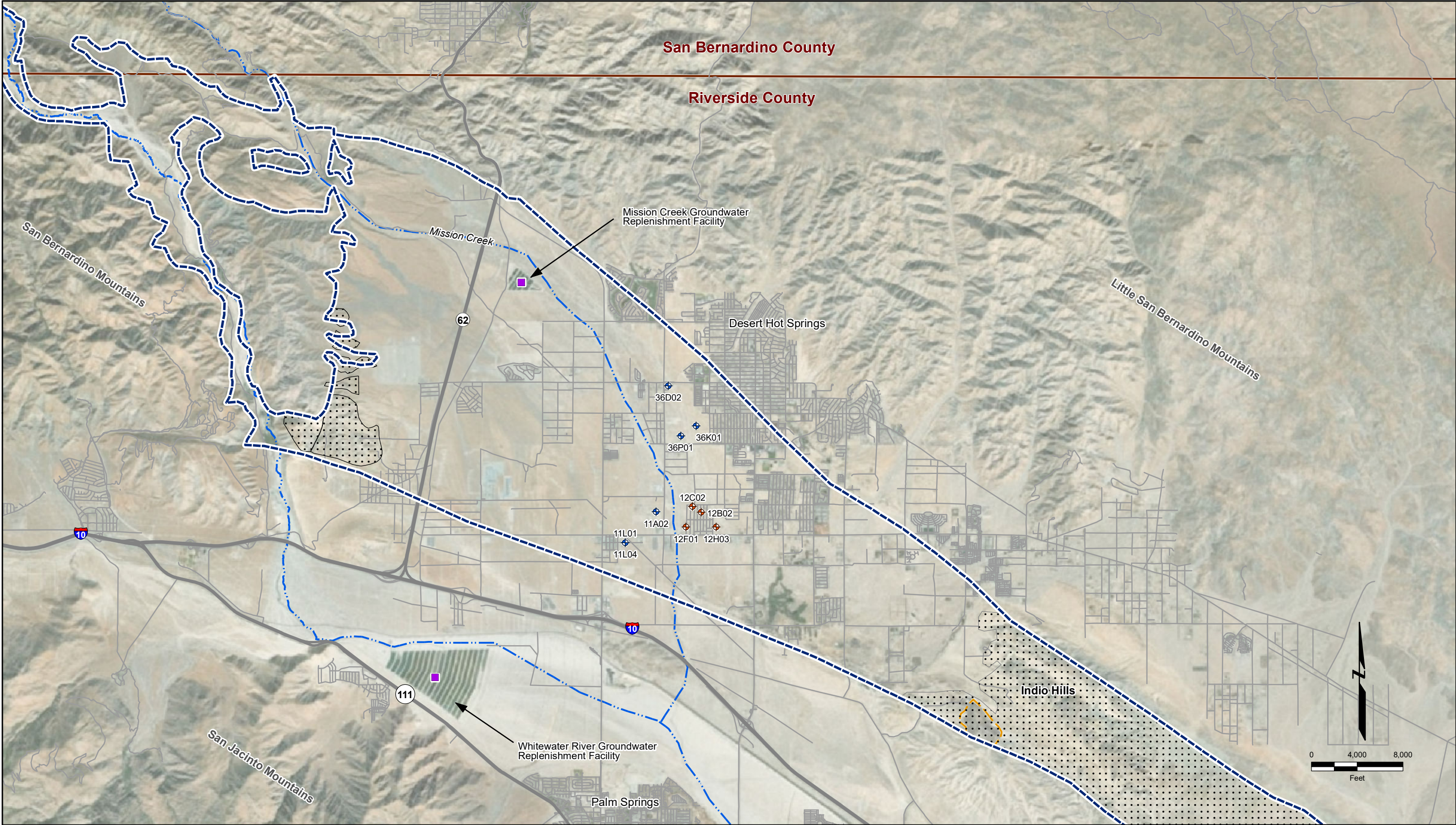
TDS is currently being evaluated through the update of the CV-SNMP. The CV-SNMP Agencies – which include CVWD, Coachella Water Authority (CWA)/Coachella Sanitary District, City of Palm Springs, DWA, Indio Water Authority (IWA), MSWD, Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company, and Valley Sanitary District – prepared a workplan entitled *“Workplan to Develop the Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan”* (Development Workplan, West Yost, 2021) that was submitted to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in September 2021 and accepted in October 2021. The Development Workplan outlines the steps and schedule to update the CV-SNMP, targeting scheduled completion by October 2026. The objective of the CV-SNMP is to sustainably manage salt and nutrient loading in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin in a manner that protects beneficial uses. When completed, the update to the CV-SNMP will provide a basis for establishing Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for TDS within the Mission Creek Subbasin. During WY 2022-2023, the CV-SNMP Agencies initiated Development Workplan tasks to establish the CV-SNMP stakeholder group and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Agencies established a project website (cvsnmp.com) and completed a Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan. The TAC was established, and regular meetings were scheduled with RWQCB staff. Agencies completed work on Technical Memorandum (TM) #1 to characterize TDS/N loading to the groundwater basin. Work was initiated on TM #2 to characterize current groundwater quality. CVWD, on behalf of the CV-SNMP Agencies, contracted with USBR for a \$200,000 WaterSMART Applied Science grant to help develop the Mission Creek Subbasin fate and transport model.

The Development Workplan was required to include a groundwater monitoring workplan with an enhanced monitoring network, identification of data gaps, and a plan to fill the gaps. The CV-SNMP Agencies submitted this workplan entitled *“Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan”* (Groundwater Monitoring Workplan) to the RWQCB in December 2020 (West Yost, 2020), and the RWQCB accepted this workplan in February 2021. The Groundwater Monitoring Workplan outlines an expanded groundwater monitoring program that will sufficiently determine whether concentrations of TDS and nitrogen (nitrogen occurring primarily as nitrate) (collectively TDS/N) in groundwater are consistent with water quality objectives. The CV-SNMP Agencies initiated work on the CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Workplan in 2021. The CV-SNMP Agencies completed and received approval for a general application for the California Department of Water Resources Technical Support Services (CDWR TSS) program to construct wells to fill monitoring data gaps identified in the Groundwater Monitoring Workplan. Well service request forms were submitted to the TSS program and approved for monitoring wells at several sites in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Agencies continue coordinating with CDWR to finalize program agreements and anticipate monitoring well construction to begin in 2024. The CV-SNMP Agencies submitted the second annual progress report and data to the RWQCB in March 2023 and continued monitoring of the network wells. Subsequent progress reports will be due in March of each year through the anticipated completion of the workplan in 2026 and the completion of the final progress report in 2027. The

Agencies signed a data sharing memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to monitor three wells on Trust lands. The final report of the first triennial monitoring cycle will be submitted by March 2024.



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**Explanation**

- Groundwater Replenishment Facility
- Monitored Well
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Mission Springs Water District
- Mission Creek Subbasin
- Low permeability/non-water bearing sediments/bedrock
- Stream
- Highway/road
- Former Edom Hill Sanitary Landfill

**Note**

Only wells with water quality for Water Year 2022- 2023 are shown.

WATER SUPPLY WELLS WITH  
GROUNDWATER QUALITY DATA - WY 2022-2023  
Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

By: MWW Date: 2/28/2024 Project No.: CM23168050

Basemap modified from aerial  
photograph provided by Esri, dated  
November 9, 2016.





## Section 9 – Summary of Projects and Management Actions and Description of Progress

This report section provides an update on Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) that are identified in the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan Update (2022 Alternative Plan Update [Wood and Kennedy Jenks, 2021]) and are currently being implemented or that will be implemented in the future, collectively referred to as Active Projects.

The 2022 Alternative Plan Update modified the designations for PMA categories to incorporate a more descriptive letter combination, listed below, followed by a sequential number (e.g., WC indicates a water conservation PMA and WC-1 is the first water conservation project listed).

- WC: Water Conservation
- WS: Water Supply
- WQ: Water Quality Protection, including Coachella Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (CV-SNMP) activities
- SGMA: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation
- WELL: Well Management

The following sections summarize PMAs in each category and provide an update or description of progress, where relevant.

### 9.1 Water Conservation

Active water conservation activities have supported the water management achievements in the Mission Creek Subbasin and are important to continue. The ongoing and future water conservation projects include:

- Project WC-1: Continue to implement urban water conservation and education programs,
- Project WC-2: Track water conservation effectiveness through the Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan (CV-RUWMP),
- Project WC-3: Regional conservation study, and
- Project WC-4: Implement water shortage contingency plans.

#### 9.1.1 Project WC-1: Continue to Implement Urban Water Conservation and Education Programs

The Agencies continue to collaborate on regional conservation messaging through CV Water Counts ([www.CVWaterCounts.com](http://www.CVWaterCounts.com)), originally funded with California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) Proposition 84 grant funding and currently sustained by local water agencies and additional grants including Proposition 1 funding. The group has a web and social media presence in addition to an ongoing advertising campaign. The group also holds an annual Water Counts Academy to educate community members and leaders about key water issues.

The Agencies continued education and outreach to encourage water use efficiency by urban water users, indoor and outdoor incentive programs, ordinances and conservation pricing, water loss management, and conservation staff support. In WY 2022-2023, Agencies invested drought penalty revenue into conservation, increased rebate incentives, created turf conversion cost-share programs with three local cities, increased messaging regarding drought water efficiency, and awarded a contract to begin construction on a new demonstration garden.

### **9.1.2 Project WC-2: Track Water Conservation Effectiveness Through the RUWMP**

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) were participants (along with Coachella Water Authority [CWA], Indio Water Authority [IWA], and Myoma Dunes Water Company) in the 2020 Coachella Valley RUWMP that provides detailed descriptions of each of the Agencies' water conservation programs (2020 CV-RUWMP [WSC, 2021]). The effectiveness of the water conservation efforts is documented in the Water Conservation Act of 2009 Senate Bill X7-7 (SB X7-7) compliance for each agency.

As described in the 2020 CV-RUWMP, the Agencies continue to implement demand management measures (DMMs) to maintain these savings and to encourage additional conservation; these DMMs include:

- Water waste and landscape ordinances;
- Metering;
- Conservation pricing including water budget-based tiered billing;
- Public education and outreach including conservation kits, workshops/seminars on water use efficiency, water audits, and water waste patrols;
- Programs to assess and manage distribution system losses;
- Landscape conservation and incentive programs including irrigation system upgrades, grass replacement, drought tolerant landscape installations, and conservation demonstration gardens;
- Rebate programs for high efficiency appliances including toilets, washers, and dishwashers; and
- Staff support for water conservation activities.

The Agencies will continue to implement DMMs and track the effectiveness of water conservation efforts during future updates of the 2020 CV-RUWMP. Project WC-2 also includes tracking new conservation standards that are currently under development and will include updates to conservation programs, if needed, to implement those standards.

### **9.1.3 Project WC-3: Regional Conservation Study**

As a supplement to existing Project WC-1, the Agencies have initiated planning to conduct a study specific to the unique climate, soil, and occupancy conditions of the Coachella Valley. Project WC-3: Regional conservation study, will take an econometric approach to estimating water savings for grass removal rebate programs and may be used to evaluate incentive amounts for residents and businesses.

The study will likely focus on outdoor irrigation to refine estimates of water savings per square foot if grass were replaced by alternative landscapes such as artificial turf or desert-scape. The water savings study will analyze information from ongoing programs and may include:

- Analysis of historical grass replacement rebate data from the Agencies from 2014-present including consideration of square foot grass replaced and water usage before and after the replacement;
- Validation of low-water use landscape maintenance by surveying customers and spot-checking grass replacement sites;
- Consideration of customers that removed grass without receiving a rebate and/or replaced grass with private patios, side yards, and/or backyards;
- Potential for additional grass replacement among existing customers (i.e., percent saturation achieved by existing conservation programs); and
- Preparation of a report to document the analyses.

In 2022, the Agencies submitted a request and were awarded grant funding to complete the study. The study, identified as The Regional Conservation Study, is in progress with completion anticipated in summer 2024.

#### **9.1.4 Project WC-4: Implement Water Shortage Contingency Plans**

The 2020 CV-RUWMP adopted in 2021 includes standalone Water Shortage Contingency Plans (WSCPs) for each Agency. The WSCPs contain Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment procedures, define six standard shortage levels from less than 10 percent shortage up to greater than 50 percent shortage, and identify shortage response actions including demand reduction actions and mandatory use restrictions and supply augmentation as well as communication protocols for implementing the WSCP. The WSCPs are another tool to be implemented by the Agencies.

The Agencies rescinded the implementation of all Shortage Level 2 demand reduction actions and returned to Level 1 in WY 2022-2023. The Agencies continued monitoring water supplies and operational changes that could alleviate any future water shortages.

### **9.2 Water Supply**

Imported water is critical to groundwater sustainability in the Mission Creek Subbasin. CVWD and DWA continue to invest in long-term, statewide water projects and are working with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the CDWR to improve the reliability of State Water Project (SWP) water and acquire additional supplies. Ongoing and future water supply projects are listed below and described in the sections that follow.

- Project WS-1: Continue existing imported water replenishment programs,
- Project WS-2: Recycled water for reuse in the Mission Creek Subbasin,
- Project WS-3: SWP-Delta Conveyance Project (DCP),



- Project WS-4: SWP Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project, and
- Project WS-5: SWP- Sites Reservoir Project.

SWP supplies to the region are expected to increase by approximately 14,300 acre-feet (AF), along with increased SWP reliability of 26,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) following construction of the DCP. A portion of these supplies and increased SWP reliability will be provided to the Mission Creek Subbasin for groundwater replenishment.

### **9.2.1 Project WS-1: Continue Existing Imported Water Replenishment Program**

CVWD and DWA have the authority to operate imported water replenishment in the Coachella Valley. Imported water replenishment operations will deliver as much imported water to the Coachella Valley as possible given the constraints of the SWP contract and delivery and MWD Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) operations.

CVWD and DWA continued recharge activities at the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (GRF) to maintain sustainable groundwater levels. A total of 5,276 AF of recharge occurred at the Mission Creek GRF in WY 2022-2023.

CVWD, DWA, and MSWD periodically and as part of the 5-year Alternative Plan Updates review local and imported water supply availability and needs as part of the routine Mission Creek Subbasin Management Committee (Management Committee) activities per the 2004 Settlement Agreement.

### **9.2.2 Project WS-2: Recycled Water for Reuse in Mission Creek Subbasin**

Project WS-2 will be to plan, design and construct tertiary treatment at MSWD's Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF), where the recycled water can be used for groundwater recharge or for non-potable reuse for irrigation of parks, golf courses, schools, resorts, homeowner's associations, agricultural uses, etc. Project WS-2 is directly related to Project WQ-1: Convert from septic to sewer in MSWD area and Project WQ-2: Construct RWRF with nitrogen removal. MSWD continued construction of the RWRF, with plant operations beginning in early 2024. Implementation of Projects WQ-1 and WQ-2 will result in wastewater treatment and evaporation/percolation ponds in the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin.

As identified in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, recharge of treated effluent in the Mission Creek Subbasin could be important to groundwater sustainability by returning treated wastewater that would otherwise be evaporated/percolated in the Garnet Hill Subarea. Project WS-2 may be implemented in phases with the need for initiation of additional planning in the near future. Project WS-2 also has the advantage of being a water supply project that could be implemented locally.

### **9.2.3 Project WS-3: SWP – Delta Conveyance Project**

The DCP project is led by the CDWR to improve SWP reliability. CVWD and DWA agreed to continue to participate in the DCP and advance funds for planning costs during 2021 and 2022. In 2022, CVWD's and DWA's Board of Directors authorized funding for planning and design costs for 2023 and 2024. The DCP will modernize SWP conveyance facilities in the Delta and increase future long-term reliability. Existing natural channels currently used for SWP conveyance are vulnerable to earthquakes, rising sea level, and pumping restrictions. The DCP will construct and operate a new tunnel to bypass these vulnerable natural

channels. The new facilities will convey water from the north Delta to the south Delta operating in coordination with the existing south Delta pumping facilities. The planning process for the proposed DCP is moving forward. In 2023, soil investigations, including data collection, soil samples and surveys, were underway in the Delta as part of the planning and design phase of the DCP. Also, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) continued with community benefit programs and educational workshops. On December 8, 2023, the CDWR released the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the DCP to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CDWR approved the project and certified the Final EIR on December 21, 2023.

#### **9.2.4 Project WS-4: SWP – Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project**

CVWD and DWA are participating in the Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project, which is being led by the CDWR and MWD. This project will collect and distribute SWP water seeping under the Lake Perris Dam for delivery to MWD in addition to its current allocated Table A water. The project consists of installing an integrated recovery well system that would include up to six new seepage recovery wells downgradient from the face of the Lake Perris Dam and a conveyance pipeline connecting the wells to MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). CVWD and DWA were invited to partner in the project with MWD, and the parties signed an agreement with CDWR in 2021 to fund environmental analysis, planning, and preliminary design. The project is estimated to recover approximately 7,500 AFY, with approximately 2,750 AFY for delivery to CVWD and DWA, and will allocate a portion of this water to the Mission Creek Subbasin. This project is estimated to result in the delivery of 233 AFY of water to the Mission Creek GRF in 2025 increasing to approximately 268 AFY by 2045. The project is proceeding as planned. Currently, the CDWR is continuing to perform geotechnical modeling for the project.

#### **9.2.5 Project WS-5: SWP – Sites Reservoir Project**

The Sites Project Authority is developing the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is considered "off-stream," i.e., it will not dam or impede the Sacramento River or other streams. The Sites Reservoir will operate in conjunction with other California reservoirs to increase water supply reliability and resiliency. Project implementation will increase water storage capacity in Northern California by up to 15 percent. Water supply and storage capacity will be available to water purveyors throughout California who want to purchase water supply from the Sites Reservoir Project. The project is in the early planning and permitting stages. The Sites Project Authority is currently negotiating agreements to secure funding and financing for the design, construction, and operation of the project.

In 2019, CVWD and DWA entered into an agreement with the Sites Project Authority for the next phase of planning for the Sites Reservoir (Sites Project Authority 2019; 2020). In 2022, CVWD's and DWA's Board of Directors authorized funding for Phase 2 Amendment 3 to the 2019 Sites Reservoir Project Agreement for 2022, 2023, and 2024. CVWD and DWA are participating members at 10,000 AFY (5.2%) and 6,500 AFY (3.4%) levels, respectively. Assuming a 30 percent conveyance loss, CVWD and DWA anticipate an average delivery of 11,550 AFY of Sites Reservoir water beginning in 2035. The portion of the Sites Reservoir Project estimated to be delivered to MCSB is 1,124 AFY beginning in 2035.

In January 2023, the Sites Project Authority submitted an amended water rights application, and in May, the State Water Board deemed the amended application sufficient to proceed with public notice. Also, in 2023, other permit applications, and a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan

application were submitted. In November 2023, the Sites Project Authority, as the lead agency under the CEQA, certified the Final EIR and approved the project. The project was certified by Governor Newsom under Senate Bill 149.

### **9.3 Water Quality Protection**

There is a broad suite of active water quality protection programs that are implemented by local agencies, and collaboratively in the Planning Area. Several of these projects are related to updating the CV-SNMP, including the implementation of the CV-SNMP groundwater monitoring program, new wells for monitoring, and the development of the CV-SNMP. Water Quality Protection projects include:

- Project WQ-1: Convert from septic to sewer in MSWD area,
- Project WQ-2: Construct RWRF with nitrogen removal,
- Project WQ-3: Track water quality regulatory actions,
- Project WQ-4: Well source assessment and protection coordination,
- Project WQ-5: Engage in planning processes to protect water quality,
- Project WQ-6: Educate the public on groundwater quality issues,
- Project WQ-7: Implement CV-SNMP Development Workplan,
- Project WQ-8: Implement CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan,
- Project WQ-9: Install water quality monitoring wells, and
- Project WQ-10: Evaluate the occurrence and risk of uranium migration.

The water quality protection projects are described below.

#### **9.3.1 Project WQ-1: Convert from Septic to Sewer in MSWD Area**

Project WQ-1 is MSWD's ongoing Groundwater Quality Protection Program (GQPP) to convert residences from septic to community sewers and wastewater treatment facilities. MSWD Assessment District (AD) 15 and AD-18 will support septic to sewer conversions by providing local funding to match with grant funding opportunities. MSWD has completed the conversion of septic to sewer in five previous ADs to date. MSWD plans to begin construction of the AD-15 project in 2024. Additionally, MSWD continued the design for the final two subareas in AD-18. Finally, MSWD was awarded grant funding to complete the construction of AD-18 Subarea D3 through Proposition 1, Round 2. MSWD plans to begin construction on the project in 2024.

#### **9.3.2 Project WQ-2: Construct RWRF With Nitrogen Removal**

In anticipation of meeting future treatment and recharge needs, MSWD began construction of the RWRF (Project WQ-2), which will treat wastewater flows to secondary levels including nitrification and denitrification. Located in the Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin, the RWRF will divert some wastewater flows from existing wastewater treatment plants in the Mission Creek Subbasin that are nearing capacity. The RWRF will have an initial capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The RWRF project construction continued through 2023, with operations scheduled to begin in early 2024. The



project is expected to reach 1.5 mgd treatment capacity by approximately 2030. The RWRF is designed to be readily expanded to 3.0 mgd capacity by converting from a sequence batch reactor treatment process to a membrane bioreactor treatment process within the same footprint. Wastewater flows will be from existing sewer customers and from the septic to sewer conversions in the Desert Hot Springs Subbasin, Mission Creek Subbasin, and Garnet Hill Subarea of the Indio Subbasin.

Treated wastewater will be discharged to evaporation/percolation ponds in the Garnet Hill Subarea and will show a measurable reduction in nitrogen in the effluent water quality samples compared to the existing septic system dischargers. The benefits of a treated RWRF effluent rather than septic discharges are reduced contributions of nitrates and ammonia to the aquifer, which results in improved groundwater quality. Upon completion of the RWRF construction, treated effluent from Project WQ-2 can be conveyed and reused in Project WS-2 with the construction of additional treatment, recycled water distribution systems, and groundwater recharge facilities.

### **9.3.3 Project WQ-3: Track Water Quality Regulatory Actions**

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) periodically update drinking water constituent lists for potential regulation. These updated lists need to be tracked and shared as they could affect the ability of CVWD, DWA, and MSWD to comply with drinking water regulations. This PMA continues the ongoing effort to track potential regulatory actions of SWRCB-DDW and USEPA and to share information during Management Committee meetings, including information on hexavalent chromium and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). As water quality can vary across the Planning Area, each agency will evaluate its data to assess the impact of regulations within its boundaries. In WY 2022-2023, the Agencies provided comments on California's proposed hexavalent chromium regulation. Hexavalent chromium is naturally occurring at low levels in the Coachella Valley, but many wells will exceed the proposed California maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium in drinking water of 10 micrograms per liter, requiring treatment or other actions to meet the proposed MCL.

### **9.3.4 Project WQ-4: Well Source Assessment and Protection Coordination**

Project WQ-4 provides information for source water assessment and wellhead protection to protect sources of drinking water. Information includes the potential for contaminating activities that may impact both individual wells and managed and natural recharge areas. Potential contaminating activities can include spills, landfills, and underground tank leaks which are regulated by the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (RCDEH), the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and/or California Department of Toxic Substance Control. The Agencies will continue to coordinate as necessary with the appropriate regulatory agencies responsible for monitoring and regulating potentially contaminating activities, especially if the activity occurs within well capture zones and/or principal recharge zones. Information gathered can be shared during Management Committee meetings and appropriate follow-up actions can be discussed and pursued. This is an ongoing activity with no specific updates in WY 2022-2023.

### **9.3.5 Project WQ-5: Engage in Planning Processes to Protect Water Quality**

Project WQ-5 involves assessing development proposals during the entitlement process for potential water quality and other impacts. This activity is the responsibility of each agency. Agencies are notified of

new projects in the incorporated cities of Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs and unincorporated Riverside County through receipt of the notice of preparation of environmental documents, requests for water supply assessments for larger developments, and other means. Agencies can review and comment on the documents and identify water quality and other potential impacts to the Mission Creek Subbasin. This is an ongoing activity with no specific updates in WY 2022-2023.

### **9.3.6 Project WQ-6: Educate the Public on Groundwater Quality Issues**

Project WQ-6 provides public education on groundwater quality. This project is ongoing through participation in the Groundwater Guardian program, a community educational program developed by the non-profit Groundwater Foundation. MSWD activities under the program included class field trips to the Mission Creek Preserve and the Alan L. Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Water 101 educational workshops held at the local library. Other ongoing planning activities such as the CV-SNMP, Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and CV Water Counts provide opportunities for additional public education regarding groundwater quality.

### **9.3.7 Project WQ-7: Implement CV-SNMP Development Workplan**

In 2015, the CV-SNMP was developed for the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin in accordance with the Recycled Water Policy. The CV-SNMP was prepared to manage salts and nutrients on a Subbasin-wide basis, while encouraging recycled water use. However, the RWQCB made recommendations for improvements to the CV-SNMP in 2020. In 2021 and 2022, the CV-SNMP Agencies – which include CVWD, CWA/Coachella Sanitary District, City of Palm Springs, DWA, IWA, MSWD, Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company, and Valley Sanitary District – prepared a CV-SNMP Development Workplan (Development Workplan), which is the focus of this project, and a CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan (Groundwater Monitoring Workplan), which is Project WQ-8, to guide revisions to the plan.

The CV-SNMP Agencies submitted the Development Workplan to the RWQCB in September 2021 and it was accepted by the RWQCB in October 2021. The goal of the Development Workplan was to outline the steps necessary to revise the 2015 CV-SNMP considering RWQCB review comments and in accordance with the 2018 Recycled Water Policy.

CVWD, DWA, and MSWD, along with the other CV-SNMP Agencies, are implementing the Development Workplan, which includes conducting public outreach and creating a technical advisory committee, characterizing current groundwater quality and salt loading, developing total dissolved solids/nitrogen (TDS/N) forecasting methodologies, completing forecasting for multiple scenarios, selecting a preferred scenario, establishing management zones, and recommending TDS objectives. The implementation schedule for the Development Workplan concludes with a final CV-SNMP submitted to the RWQCB in October 2026. The CV-SNMP Agencies initiated Development Workplan tasks to establish the CV-SNMP stakeholder group and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Agencies established a project website (cvsnmp.com) and completed a Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan. The TAC was established as well as regular meetings with RWQCB staff. Agencies completed work on Technical Memorandum (TM) #1 to characterize TDS/N loading to the groundwater basin including coordination and review of assumptions from the agriculture and golf sector. Work was initiated on TM #2 to characterize current groundwater quality. CVWD, on behalf of the CV-SNMP Agencies, contracted with USBR for a \$200,000

WaterSMART Applied Science grant to help develop the Mission Creek Subbasin fate and transport model.

### **9.3.8 Project WQ-8: Implement CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan**

With the other CV-SNMP Agencies, CVWD, DWA, and MSWD are implementing the Groundwater Monitoring Workplan approved by the RWQCB in February 2021. The Groundwater Monitoring Workplan outlines an expanded groundwater monitoring program to sufficiently characterize nitrogen and TDS concentrations in groundwater. The Groundwater Monitoring Workplan covers all subbasins within the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, including Mission Creek Subbasin; includes sampling from the deep, shallow, and perched zones of the aquifer; focuses on critical areas near large water reclamation plants, Groundwater Replenishment Facilities (GRFs), and other potential sources of salt and nutrient loading; and emphasizes areas near production wells. The Groundwater Monitoring Workplan establishes the monitoring network, sampling frequency, and reporting of monitoring results, and identifies data gaps to be filled in the monitoring network. Efforts to install water quality monitoring wells under this workplan are described in Project WQ-9. The CV-SNMP Agencies submitted the second annual progress report and data to the RWQCB in March 2023 and continued monitoring of the network wells. The Agencies signed a data sharing memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to monitor three wells on Trust land. The final report of the first triennial monitoring cycle will be submitted by March 2024.

### **9.3.9 Project WQ-9: Install Water Quality Monitoring Wells**

The CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Workplan identified locations in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, including Mission Creek Subbasin, at which monitoring wells will be constructed and sampled to address data gaps. Wells will be constructed in accordance with the schedule provided in the Groundwater Monitoring Workplan to support water quality data collection. The schedule requires that wells be installed to collect at least one sample from each well by December 31, 2026. CVWD, on behalf of the Agencies, submitted and received approval for an individual application to the CDWR Technical Support Services (TSS) to construct proposed water quality monitoring wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Well service request forms were submitted to the TSS program and approved for monitoring wells at several sites in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Agencies continue to coordinate with CDWR on finalizing program agreements and anticipate monitoring well construction to begin in 2024.

### **9.3.10 Project WQ-10: Evaluate Occurrence and Risk of Uranium Migration**

MSWD plans to initiate a study in the near term to evaluate the potential sources and migration risk of uranium. The study is also intended to evaluate whether the uranium source is associated with specific alluvial sediments so that future wells can be designed to avoid those sediments if necessary. There are no specific updates for this project in WY 2022-2023.

## **9.4 SGMA Implementation**

SGMA implementation will require continuing a range of monitoring, data management and reporting activities that have been an integral part of water management since the preparation of the 2013 Mission Creek-Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (2013 MC-GH WMP). The SGMA Implementation projects are:



- Project SGMA-1: Continue existing subbasin Management Committee structure,
- Project SGMA-2: Conduct subsidence evaluation,
- Project SGMA-3: Maintain and manage water related data,
- Project SGMA-4: SGMA Annual Reports,
- Project SGMA-5: Five-Year Alternative Plan Updates, and
- Project SGMA-6: Pursue funding opportunities.

The projects below are either required by the SGMA or otherwise support meeting the SGMA requirements.

#### **9.4.1 Project SGMA-1: Continue Existing Subbasin Management Committee Structure**

This project was initiated during the preparation of the 2013 MC-GH WMP and satisfies CDWR's guidelines for a groundwater management planning committee. The Management Committee is a requirement of the 2004 Settlement Agreement and meetings between General Managers and staff occur quarterly. In addition, staff have periodic coordination meetings for items like Alternative Plan Updates, Annual Reports, or other relevant topics that may arise and will meet at least once per year to specifically discuss the Annual Report. In WY 2022-2023, the Management Committee met quarterly, and staff held regular coordination meetings to discuss the Alternative Plan Update and Annual Report.

#### **9.4.2 Project SGMA-2: Conduct Subsidence Evaluation**

The Agencies have engaged the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a more detailed evaluation of the potential for subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin. As part of this evaluation, the Agencies provided USGS groundwater level data in December 2021 and based on their initial review, the USGS decided to move forward with the evaluation. In WY 2022-2023, three new benchmarks were constructed and high precision global positioning system (GPS) measurements were taken at the new benchmarks. The USGS continued to work on analysis of measurements and groundwater levels with a final study report expected by June 30, 2025.

#### **9.4.3 Project SGMA-3: Maintain and Manage Water Related Data**

Each agency maintains a broad range of groundwater information such as groundwater pumping, water levels, and water quality. Project SGMA-3 continues the Agencies' current practice of compiling and validating this information. The data will be used to evaluate groundwater management needs such as trends relative to Sustainable Management Criteria including water levels, basin storage, subsidence, and water quality to be reported in Project SGMA-4: SGMA Annual Reports and Project SGMA-5: Five-Year Alternative Plan Updates. This is an ongoing activity with no specific updates in WY 2022-2023.

#### **9.4.4 Project SGMA-4: SGMA Annual Reports**

The Management Committee will prepare and submit an Annual Report to the CDWR by the April 1 deadline each year. The Annual Report is a comprehensive evaluation of water data that have been

collected by each agency, per Project SGMA-3: Maintain and manage water related data. Annual reports are required to include the following components for the preceding water year:

- General information, including an executive summary and a location map depicting the basin covered by the report.
- A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin: groundwater elevation contour maps for each aquifer showing seasonal highs and low water levels; hydrographs of groundwater elevations; groundwater extraction by water use sector that identifies the method of measurement, the accuracy of measurement and a map that illustrates the general location and volume of groundwater extractions; surface water supply used or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use; total water use reported by water use sector and water source type; change in groundwater storage map for each principal aquifer; and a graph depicting water year type groundwater use, annual change in groundwater storage, and the cumulative change in groundwater storage for the basin based on historical data.
- A description of progress towards implementing the Alternative Plan, including achieving interim milestones, and implementing of PMAs since the previous annual report.

#### **9.4.5 Project SGMA-5: Five-Year Alternative Plan Updates**

The 2013 MC-GH WMP identified the need for periodic review and update of the water management plan. As required by the SGMA, the Alternative Plan Update (in this section also referred to as the “Plan”) will be reviewed every five years to assess changing conditions in the Mission Creek Subbasin that may warrant modification of the Plan or management objectives.

The Alternative Plan Updates will evaluate groundwater conditions and the status of PMAs to determine whether the Sustainable Management Criteria and management objectives are meeting the sustainability goals of the Mission Creek Subbasin. In addition to meeting the SGMA requirements, the Agencies identified some other key areas requiring periodic review including evaluation of demand projections, imported water supply reliability, and update of the groundwater model and model forecasts. The first 5-year Alternative Plan Update was completed in November 2021 and was submitted to the CDWR in December 2021. The next 5-year Alternative Plan Update is due to the CDWR on January 1, 2027.

#### **9.4.6 Project SGMA-6: Pursue Funding Opportunities**

Development of the 2022 Alternative Plan Update was partially funded through a Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant. Additional outside grants will be sought to reduce the cost of implementing the project and management actions for the participating agencies and the communities that rely on the Mission Creek Subbasin. Financing options under consideration include loans and grants for projects and management actions, as well as monitoring network improvements and other planning/feasibility analyses needed to support Plan implementation. Funding through grants or loans has varying levels of certainty and may be available for some implementation activities (including capital projects). The Agencies will continue to identify and pursue funding opportunities for PMAs as funding opportunities become available.

## 9.5 Well Management

Well management activities will facilitate maintaining water quality in the Mission Creek Subbasin in addition to improving data collection regarding well locations and pumping. The well management projects are:

- Project WELL-1: Well construction, abandonment, and destruction management;
- Project WELL-2: Subbasin well inventory; and
- Project WELL-3: Expand groundwater production reporting.

These projects are described below.

### 9.5.1 Project WELL-1: Well Construction, Abandonment, and Destruction Management

This project is an important management tool as RCDEH has regulatory authority over well construction and destruction. RCDEH has a permitting process for new or replacement wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin, encompassed in Riverside County Ordinance 682.4. In addition, the Riverside County General Plan and the City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan include policies related to wellhead protection and sustainable groundwater pumping. The Agencies will continue to work with RCDEH so that any new wells are constructed to current standards, artesian flow management policies are followed, and any existing wells that could negatively impact groundwater quality are retrofitted, properly capped, or destroyed. In WY 2022-2023, the Agencies continued to review permit applications for new wells and alteration of existing wells for compliance with the Governor's Executive Order N-3-23. This order requires verification from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that the proposed well location is generally consistent (not inconsistent) with the Alternative Plan Update and will not decrease the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goals that the GSAs have developed under the SGMA. No permit applications for new wells or alteration of existing wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin were received by CVWD or DWA in WY 2022-2023.

### 9.5.2 Project WELL-2: Subbasin Well Inventory

The Mission Creek Subbasin has a well inventory compiled by CVWD and DWA to implement the Replenishment Assessment Charge (RAC) Programs for assessable groundwater production. CVWD levies and collects the RAC from groundwater producers that benefit from the Groundwater Replenishment Programs (GRPs) and extract more than 25 AFY within the CVWD Mission Creek Subbasin Area of Benefit (AOB). DWA levies and collects the RAC from groundwater producers that benefit from the GRPs and extract more than 10 AFY within DWA's Mission Creek Subbasin AOB. However, data on minimal pumpers who do not meet these criteria are incomplete. It is unclear how many wells producing less than the RAC criteria exist, and approximations of unreported production are best estimates.

The Agencies may develop a well inventory for the Mission Creek Subbasin that will identify and compile information about all production wells located in the Mission Creek Subbasin. CVWD is evaluating this effort, with DWA participating at its discretion. The well inventory would involve development of a well registry. The well inventory would support any expansion or refinement of the monitoring network, allow improvement of groundwater extraction estimates, and improve the understanding of how private



wells may affect Mission Creek Subbasin conditions and how Mission Creek Subbasin management may affect private wells. Compilation of the well inventory may include the following:

- Review and organize data management systems to incorporate well inventory component;
- Gather water well drillers' reports with well construction information;
- Coordinate with well owners to identify wells and obtain relevant information on location, construction, use, status, and monitoring, if any;
- Conduct as-needed field visits to verify well location, use, and status; and
- Input well inventory information into the data management system.

The Agencies will collaborate with the CDWR, local agencies, water users, landowners, and leaseholders to identify and locate wells and compile information on construction, status, and use. This is an ongoing activity with no specific updates in WY 2022-2023.

### 9.5.3 Project WELL-3: Expand Groundwater Production Reporting

SGMA (Section 10725.8) authorizes GSAs to require that the use of every groundwater extraction facility (production well) be measured with a water-measuring device (meter) except for de minimis extractors (domestic users extracting 2 AFY or less). CVWD and DWA already require metering and extraction reporting by groundwater producers pumping more than 25 and 10 AFY, respectively, based on their respective water management authorities. CVWD and DWA separately author an Engineer's Report on Water Supply and Replenishment Assessment annually to assess the groundwater supply conditions and the need for continued replenishment within their AOBs, to provide a description of the current GRF operations, and to recommend adjustments to the RACs that are levied on groundwater production (see CVWD's website: <https://cvwd.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=43> and DWA's website: <https://dwa.org/about-us/documents/library/>).

CVWD and DWA may consider expansion of groundwater extraction reporting to include groundwater pumpers that produce less than the current assessment thresholds but more than the de minimis threshold established by the SGMA. CVWD would evaluate this effort with a Cost-of-Service Study for a SGMA fee within its AOB; DWA may require reporting within their service areas at their discretion. This project remains under consideration as of WY 2022-2023.

## 9.6 Adaptive Management

The Agencies have developed an adaptive management process to monitor management progress and adjust management plans and procedures as needed. The adaptive management process consists of the following steps: 1) Planning, 2) Implementation, 3) Monitoring, 4) Analysis, and 5) Modification. The key to the adaptive management process is continual evaluation and program adjustment to meet the overall Mission Creek Subbasin management objectives.

## 9.7 Summary of Active Projects

The sections above describe PMAs identified in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update that are currently being implemented (ongoing) or PMAs that will be implemented in the future (collectively Active PMAs).

**Table 9-1** provides a summary of the Active PMAs and any updates that occurred in WY 2022-2023.

**Table 9-1**  
**Summary of Active Projects and Management Actions**

Project No.	Project/Program	Project/Program Description and Update for WY 2022-2023	Ongoing/Planned
<b>Water Conservation (WC)</b>			
<b>WC-1</b>	Continue to implement urban water conservation and education programs	The Agencies continued education and outreach to encourage water use efficiency by urban water users, indoor and outdoor incentive programs, ordinances and conservation pricing, water loss management, and conservation staff support. In WY 2022-2023, Agencies invested drought penalty revenue into conservation, increased rebate incentives, creating turf conversion cost-share programs with three local cities, increased messaging regarding drought water efficiency, and awarded a contract to begin construction on a new demonstration garden.	Ongoing
<b>WC-2</b>	Track water conservation effectiveness through the Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs)	CVWD, DWA and MSWD continued to track the effectiveness of their urban water conservation programs and the progress towards achieving their water conservation goals in the UWMPs prepared at 5-year intervals.	Ongoing
<b>WC-3</b>	Regional water savings study	Agencies continued progress toward a regional conservation study specific to the conditions of Coachella Valley. In 2023, the Agencies submitted a request and received grant funding. The study, identified as The Regional Conservation Study, is in progress. Completion of the study is anticipated in summer 2024.	Planned
<b>WC-4</b>	Implement Water Shortage Contingency Plan	CVWD, DWA, and MSWD rescinded the implementation of all Shortage Level 2 demand reduction actions and returned to Level 1 during WY 2022-2023. Agencies continued to monitor water supplies and operational changes that could alleviate any future water shortages.	Ongoing
<b>Water Supply (WS) Including Reliability and New Supply Development</b>			

**Table 9-1**  
**Summary of Active Projects and Management Actions**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Project/Program</b>	<b>Project/Program Description and Update for WY 2022-2023</b>	<b>Ongoing/Planned</b>
<b>WS-1</b>	Continue existing imported water replenishment program	CVWD and DWA to continue recharge activities at the Mission Creek GRF based on SWP Exchange water availability. In WY 2022-2023, 5,275 AF of recharge occurred at the Mission Creek GRF.	Ongoing
<b>WS-2</b>	Recycled water for reuse in Mission Creek Subbasin	MSWD continued construction of the RWRF, with plant operations beginning in early 2024.	Planned
<b>WS-3</b>	State Water Project (SWP) – Delta Conveyance Project	CVWD and DWA are participants in the DCP which will develop new facilities to modernize the SWP. In 2023, soil investigations, including data collection, soil samples and surveys, were underway in the Delta as part of the planning and design phase of the DCP. Also, the DWR and DCA continued with the community benefit programs and educational workshops. On December 8 <sup>th</sup> , the DWR released the Final EIR for the DCP to comply with the requirements of CEQA. CDWR approved the project and certified the Final EIR on December 21, 2023.	Planned
<b>WS-4</b>	SWP – Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project	CVWD and DWA are participants in the Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project, which consists of installing an integrated recovery well system to collect SWP water that is currently seeping beneath Perris Dam. Currently, the CDWR is continuing to perform geotechnical modeling for the project.	Planned
<b>WS-5</b>	SWP – Sites Reservoir Project	CVWD and DWA are participants in the Sites Reservoir Project, an off-stream reservoir designed to capture winter runoff from uncontrolled streams below the existing reservoirs in the Sacramento Valley. In January 2023, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) submitted an amended water rights application, and in May the State Water Board deemed the amended application sufficient to proceed with public	Planned



**Table 9-1**  
**Summary of Active Projects and Management Actions**

Project No.	Project/Program	Project/Program Description and Update for WY 2022-2023	Ongoing/Planned
		<p>notice. Also, in 2023, other permit applications as well as a WIFIA loan application were submitted.</p> <p>In November 2023, the Authority, as the lead agency under the CEQA, certified the Final EIR and approved the Project. The Project was certified by Governor Newsom under Senate Bill 149.</p>	
<b>Water Quality Protection (WQ)</b>			
<b>WQ-1</b>	Convert from septic to sewer in MSWD's service area	Continued septic to sewer conversions within MSWD service area as a part of wastewater and groundwater management.	Ongoing
<b>WQ-2</b>	Construct Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF) with nitrogen removal	Construction continued through 2023 with operations scheduled to begin in early 2024.	Ongoing: construction completion in 2024
<b>WQ-3</b>	Track water quality regulatory actions	Agencies continued to track potential regulatory actions of SWRCB-DDW and USEPA that could affect ability to comply with drinking water regulations including hexavalent chromium and PFAS. The Agencies provided comments on California's proposed hexavalent chromium regulation. Hexavalent chromium is naturally occurring at low levels in the Coachella Valley, but many wells will exceed the proposed California maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium in drinking water of 10 micrograms per liter.	Ongoing
<b>WQ-4</b>	Well source assessment and protection coordination	Agencies continued to coordinate with the appropriate local, state, and federal regulatory agencies regarding potentially contaminating activities within well capture zones and principal recharge zones.	Ongoing

**Table 9-1**  
**Summary of Active Projects and Management Actions**

Project No.	Project/Program	Project/Program Description and Update for WY 2022-2023	Ongoing/Planned
<b>WQ-5</b>	Engage in planning processes to protect water quality	Agencies continued to review and comment on proposed land developments, environmental documents and land use plans developed by local planning agencies.	Ongoing
<b>WQ-6</b>	Educate public on groundwater quality issues	Continued to support the Groundwater Guardian program, a community educational program developed by the non-profit Groundwater Foundation.	Ongoing
<b>WQ: Salt and Nutrient Management Planning</b>			
<b>WQ-7</b>	Participate in Implementation of CV-SNMP Development Workplan	CV-SNMP Agencies continued to implement the Development Workplan tasks including establishing the CV-SNMP stakeholder group and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Agencies established a project website (cvsnmp.com) and completed a Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan. The TAC was established, and regular meetings were scheduled with RWQCB staff. Agencies completed work on TM #1 to characterize TDS/N loading to the groundwater basin including coordination and review of assumptions from the Agriculture and Golf sector. Work was initiated on TM #2 to characterize current groundwater quality. CVWD on behalf of the CV-SNMP Agencies, contracted with USBR for a \$200,000 WaterSMART Applied Science grant to help develop the Mission Creek Subbasin fate and transport model.	Ongoing: completion in October 2026
<b>WQ-8</b>	Implement CV-SNMP Groundwater Monitoring Program Workplan	CV-SNMP Agencies submitted the second annual progress report and data to the RWQCB in March 2023 and continued monitoring of the network wells. The Agencies signed a data sharing MOU with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for monitoring of three wells on Trust	Ongoing

**Table 9-1**  
**Summary of Active Projects and Management Actions**

Project No.	Project/Program	Project/Program Description and Update for WY 2022-2023	Ongoing/Planned
		land. The final report of the first triennial monitoring cycle will be submitted by March 2024.	
<b>WQ-9</b>	Install water quality monitoring wells	CVWD, on behalf of the Agencies, submitted and received approval for an individual application to the CDWR Technical Support Services (TSS) to construct proposed water quality monitoring wells in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Well service request forms were submitted to the TSS program and approved for monitoring wells at several sites in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Agencies continue to coordinate with CDWR on finalizing program agreements and anticipate monitoring well construction to begin in 2024.	Ongoing
<b>WQ-10</b>	Evaluate Occurrence and Risk of Uranium Migration	MSWD plans to initiate a study in the near term to evaluate the potential sources and migration risk of uranium.	Ongoing
<b>SGMA Implementation (SGMA)</b>			
<b>SGMA-1</b>	Continue existing subbasin management committee structure	The Agencies continued to maintain the existing Mission Creek Subbasin Management Committee structure.	Ongoing
<b>SGMA-2</b>	Conduct subsidence evaluation	Three new benchmarks were constructed in the Mission Creek Subbasin and high precision GPS measurements were taken at the new benchmarks. USGS continued to work on analysis of measurements and groundwater levels with a final study report expected by June 30, 2025.	Ongoing
<b>SGMA-3</b>	Maintain and manage water related data	The Agencies continued to maintain existing agency-specific data management systems to be combined annually to prepare SGMA Annual Reports.	Ongoing



**Table 9-1**  
**Summary of Active Projects and Management Actions**

Project No.	Project/Program	Project/Program Description and Update for WY 2022-2023	Ongoing/Planned
<b>SGMA-4</b>	SGMA Annual Reports	The Agencies assembled, processed, and evaluated water data for the Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for SGMA compliance for WY 2022-2023.	Ongoing
<b>SGMA-5</b>	Five-Year Alternative Plan Updates	The Agencies prepared and submitted the first five-year Alternative Plan Update to the CDWR in December 2021. The next Alternative Plan Update is due to the CDWR on January 1, 2027.	Ongoing: due January 1, 2027
<b>SGMA-6</b>	Pursue funding opportunities	The Agencies continued to identify and will pursue funding opportunities for PMAs as funding opportunities become available. The Agencies applied for the CDWR Sustainable Groundwater Management SGMA Implementation Round 2 funding but were not awarded the funding.	Ongoing
<b>Well Management (WELL)</b>			
<b>WELL-1</b>	Well construction, abandonment, and destruction management	Agencies continued cooperative efforts with RCDEH regarding well management programs.	Ongoing
<b>WELL-2</b>	Subbasin Well Inventory	The Agencies continued to develop a well inventory system.	Ongoing
<b>WELL-3</b>	Expand Groundwater Production Reporting	The Agencies continued to consider expansion of requirements for reporting of groundwater extraction to any pumpers that extracts more than the de minimis user threshold of 2 AFY or less established by the SGMA.	Ongoing

## 9.8 Summary of Progress

The Agencies continue to implement the goals and programs of the 2022 Alternative Plan Update and have made significant progress in maintaining the sustainability of groundwater supplies in the Mission Creek Subbasin. For WY 2022-2023, groundwater production was approximately 23 percent less than the historical highs in the mid-2000s. The ongoing basin monitoring program result demonstrates that long-term overdraft (i.e., the average overdraft over a generally 20-year period or more) in the Mission Creek Subbasin has been eliminated.

Groundwater level monitoring demonstrates increased groundwater levels since 2009 in most of the Mission Creek Subbasin. The rise in groundwater levels and the resulting increase in groundwater storage is due to the continued implementation of the water management elements described above, including the delivery of imported water for groundwater replenishment. All but one of the Key Wells showed groundwater levels higher than the Measurable Objective (i.e., maintaining water levels at or above 2009 levels) for the water level sustainability criteria identified in the 2022 Alternative Plan Update, and consequently, substantially above the Minimum Thresholds. The well with a water level below the Measurable Objective was 5.4 feet below the objective, but above the Minimum Threshold. The Measurable Objective for this well had been identified as provisional and may be adjusted based on overall water level trends in the Mission Creek Subbasin. Maintaining water levels above the sustainability criteria also resulted in maintaining groundwater storage above its Measurable Objective and Minimum Threshold. Monitoring ground levels using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) data from CDWR continued to confirm that subsidence is not occurring in the Mission Creek Subbasin. A review of water quality data for the water year did not indicate any water quality exceedances above the Minimum Thresholds.

Continued implementation of the 2022 Alternative Plan Update is critical to meeting the goals of the Plan. The Agencies will also continue to evaluate the effectiveness of their groundwater monitoring program, and additional wells will be added to the program as the need and opportunity arise. The Agencies will continue to gather information on the potential for subsidence in the Mission Creek Subbasin and update the sustainability criteria for this Sustainability Indicator, if needed. In addition, the CV-SNMP development will include information gathering and analyses that will enhance the regional understanding of water quality in the Mission Creek Subbasin.

## Section 10 – References

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# APPENDIX

**A**

GROUNDWATER  
ELEVATION DATA  
WY 2021-2022 AND  
WY 2022-2023



**Table A-1**

**Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report

Water Year 2022-2023

Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	11/3/2021	1449.84	490.4	959.44	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	12/6/2021	1449.84	491.3	958.54	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	1/11/2022	1449.84	492.6	957.24	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	2/10/2022	1449.84	493.3	956.54	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	3/15/2022	1449.84	494.3	955.54	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	4/26/2022	1449.84	495.5	954.34	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	6/15/2022	1449.84	497.2	952.64	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	7/13/2022	1449.84	497.8	952.04	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	8/23/2022	1449.84	498.95	950.89	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	9/15/2022	1449.84	499.75	950.09	2022
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	10/11/2022	1449.84	500.45	949.39	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	11/21/2022	1449.84	501.8	948.04	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	12/21/2022	1449.84	502.7	947.14	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	1/23/2023	1449.84	503.55	946.29	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	2/23/2023	1449.84	504.65	945.19	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	4/5/2023	1449.84	506	943.84	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	5/26/2023	1449.84	507.3	942.54	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	6/14/2023	1449.84	507.83	942.01	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	7/21/2023	1449.84	509.33	940.51	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	8/23/2023	1449.84	503.16	946.68	2023
02S04E21H001S	Other	DWA	9/19/2023	1449.84	495.42	954.42	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	10/6/2021	1286.05	555.6	730.45	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	11/2/2021	1286.05	555.6	730.45	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	12/1/2021	1286.05	555.6	730.45	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	1/5/2022	1286.05	555.1	730.95	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	2/1/2022	1286.05	555.2	730.85	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	3/23/2022	1286.05	556.4	729.65	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	4/20/2022	1286.05	556.9	729.15	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	5/4/2022	1286.05	565	721.05	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	6/1/2022	1286.05	565	721.05	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	7/12/2022	1286.05	558	728.05	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	8/9/2022	1286.05	558	728.05	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	9/20/2022	1286.05	558	728.05	2022
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	10/4/2022	1286.05	559	727.05	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	11/1/2022	1286.05	559	727.05	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	12/21/2022	1286.05	557.6	728.45	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	1/20/2023	1286.05	557.7	728.35	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	2/7/2023	1286.05	557.9	728.15	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	3/7/2023	1286.05	557.9	728.15	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	4/6/2023	1286.05	558.1	727.95	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	5/10/2023	1286.05	559	727.05	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	6/23/2023	1286.05	559.8	726.25	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	8/1/2023	1286.05	560.2	725.85	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	9/12/2023	1286.05	560	726.05	2023
02S04E23N002S	Key	MSWD	10/2/2023	1286.05	560	726.05	2023

**Table A-1**

**Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report

Water Year 2022-2023

Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	10/6/2021	1243.55	526.33	717.22	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	11/2/2021	1243.55	527.76	715.79	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	12/1/2021	1243.55	526.84	716.71	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	1/10/2022	1243.55	526.44	717.11	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	2/1/2022	1243.55	526.28	717.27	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	3/16/2022	1243.55	526.86	716.69	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	4/13/2022	1243.55	527.6	715.95	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	5/4/2022	1243.55	528.99	714.56	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	6/1/2022	1243.55	528.13	715.42	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	7/14/2022	1243.55	528.89	714.66	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	8/9/2022	1243.55	530.42	713.13	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	9/20/2022	1243.55	528.8	714.75	2022
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	10/3/2022	1243.55	528.45	715.1	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	11/1/2022	1243.55	529.01	714.54	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	12/22/2022	1243.55	528.69	714.86	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	1/24/2023	1243.55	528.71	714.84	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	2/21/2023	1243.55	528.48	715.07	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	3/22/2023	1243.55	528.96	714.59	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	4/6/2023	1243.55	528.96	714.59	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	5/10/2023	1243.55	529.93	713.62	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	6/23/2023	1243.55	531.27	712.28	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	7/17/2023	1243.55	530.86	712.69	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	8/1/2023	1243.55	531.02	712.53	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	9/12/2023	1243.55	530.76	712.79	2023
02S04E26C001S	Other	MSWD	10/2/2023	1243.55	530.67	712.88	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	10/5/2021	1393.84	433.3	960.54	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	11/2/2021	1393.84	434.3	959.54	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	12/1/2021	1393.84	435.3	958.54	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	1/3/2022	1393.84	436.2	957.64	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	2/1/2022	1393.84	436.8	957.04	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	3/16/2022	1393.84	438.2	955.64	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	4/19/2022	1393.84	438.8	955.04	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	5/4/2022	1393.84	439.3	954.54	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	6/7/2022	1393.84	438.1	955.74	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	7/14/2022	1393.84	437	956.84	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	8/16/2022	1393.84	442	951.84	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	9/20/2022	1393.84	444	949.84	2022
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	10/3/2022	1393.84	444	949.84	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	11/17/2022	1393.84	445.3	948.54	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	12/21/2022	1393.84	446	947.84	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	1/24/2023	1393.84	447.5	946.34	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	2/14/2023	1393.84	447.7	946.14	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	3/8/2023	1393.84	448.1	945.74	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	4/6/2023	1393.84	449.1	944.74	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	5/10/2023	1393.84	450	943.84	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	6/23/2023	1393.84	451.3	942.54	2023

**Table A-1**

**Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023**

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Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	7/18/2023	1393.84	451.9	941.94	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	8/1/2023	1393.84	452	941.84	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	9/12/2023	1393.84	446.4	947.44	2023
02S04E28A001S	Other	MSWD	10/2/2023	1393.84	442.8	951.04	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	10/5/2021	1319.59	595.26	724.33	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	11/2/2021	1319.59	595.73	723.86	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	12/1/2021	1319.59	595.73	723.86	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	1/3/2022	1319.59	595.96	723.63	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	2/1/2022	1319.59	595.73	723.86	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	3/16/2022	1319.59	595.61	723.98	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	4/20/2022	1319.59	596.35	723.24	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	5/4/2022	1319.59	600.32	719.27	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	6/8/2022	1319.59	598.91	720.68	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	7/14/2022	1319.59	597.76	721.83	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	8/9/2022	1319.59	598.27	721.32	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	9/15/2022	1319.59	597.34	722.25	2022
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	10/3/2022	1319.59	599.79	719.8	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	11/1/2022	1319.59	597.53	722.06	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	12/21/2022	1319.59	598.04	721.55	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	1/20/2023	1319.59	598.36	721.23	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	2/8/2023	1319.59	598.27	721.32	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	3/7/2023	1319.59	598.41	721.18	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	4/6/2023	1319.59	598.71	720.88	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	5/10/2023	1319.59	598.75	720.84	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	6/23/2023	1319.59	598.96	720.63	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	7/17/2023	1319.59	599.14	720.45	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	8/1/2023	1319.59	599.38	720.21	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	9/11/2023	1319.59	599.51	720.08	2023
02S04E28J001S	Key	MSWD	10/2/2023	1319.59	599.56	720.03	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	10/12/2021	1108.53	390.5	718.02	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	11/3/2021	1108.53	390.6	717.92	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	12/1/2021	1108.53	388.2	720.32	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	1/5/2022	1108.53	390.4	718.12	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	2/1/2022	1108.53	388.5	720.02	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	3/23/2022	1108.53	390.8	717.72	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	4/19/2022	1108.53	390.9	717.62	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	5/4/2022	1108.53	391	717.52	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	6/8/2022	1108.53	391	717.52	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	7/13/2022	1108.53	390	718.52	2022
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	10/19/2022	1108.53	390	718.52	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	11/2/2022	1108.53	390	718.52	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	12/22/2022	1108.53	390.7	717.82	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	1/24/2023	1108.53	390.7	717.82	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	2/16/2023	1108.53	391.7	716.82	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	3/24/2023	1108.53	391.7	716.82	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	4/25/2023	1108.53	391.7	716.82	2023



**Table A-1**

**Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023**

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Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	6/21/2023	1108.53	390.85	717.68	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	7/26/2023	1108.53	392.2	716.32	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	8/29/2023	1108.53	392.2	716.32	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	9/14/2023	1108.53	393.7	714.82	2023
02S04E36D001S	Key	MSWD	10/2/2023	1108.53	392.1	716.42	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	10/6/2021	1016.5	309.54	706.96	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	11/2/2021	1016.5	309.35	707.15	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	12/2/2021	1016.5	309.59	706.91	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	2/2/2022	1016.5	308.96	707.54	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	3/28/2022	1016.5	[286.46] <sup>3</sup>	[730.04] <sup>3</sup>	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	4/27/2022	1016.5	309.68	706.82	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	5/6/2022	1016.5	309.1	707.4	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	6/17/2022	1016.5	311.18	705.32	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	7/14/2022	1016.5	310.32	706.18	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	8/9/2022	1016.5	312.8	703.7	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	9/20/2022	1016.5	310.76	705.74	2022
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	10/5/2022	1016.5	310.83	705.67	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	11/2/2022	1016.5	311.13	705.37	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	12/20/2022	1016.5	310.51	705.99	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	1/24/2023	1016.5	310.67	705.83	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	2/16/2023	1016.5	310.46	706.04	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	3/24/2023	1016.5	310.56	705.94	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	4/25/2023	1016.5	310.74	705.76	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	5/3/2023	1016.5	310.83	705.67	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	6/26/2023	1016.5	311.46	705.04	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	7/17/2023	1016.5	311.64	704.86	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	8/1/2023	1016.5	312.56	703.94	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	9/11/2023	1016.5	312.26	704.24	2023
02S04E36K001S	Key	MSWD	10/6/2023	1016.5	312.36	704.14	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	10/6/2021	1012	304.01	707.99	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	11/9/2021	1012	303.96	708.04	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	12/1/2021	1012	304.08	707.92	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	1/12/2022	1012	303.69	708.31	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	2/2/2022	1012	303.62	708.38	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	3/28/2022	1012	303.85	708.15	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	4/19/2022	1012	303.99	708.01	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	5/11/2022	1012	304.66	707.34	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	6/17/2022	1012	305.49	706.51	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	7/14/2022	1012	304.98	707.02	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	8/16/2022	1012	305	707	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	9/20/2022	1012	305.12	706.88	2022
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	10/6/2022	1012	303.09	708.91	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	11/4/2022	1012	305.7	706.3	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	12/20/2022	1012	305.21	706.79	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	1/12/2023	1012	305.26	706.74	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	2/16/2023	1012	305.03	706.97	2023

**Table A-1**

**Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023**

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Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	3/24/2023	1012	304.75	707.25	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	4/25/2023	1012	304.89	707.11	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	5/4/2023	1012	305.44	706.56	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	6/26/2023	1012	306.02	705.98	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	7/17/2023	1012	306.14	705.86	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	8/1/2023	1012	306.39	705.61	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	9/11/2023	1012	306.57	705.43	2023
02S04E36P001S	Other	MSWD	10/6/2023	1012	306.5	705.5	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	11/3/2021	1075	348.34	726.66	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	12/6/2021	1075	348.42	726.58	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	1/11/2022	1075	348.59	726.41	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	2/10/2022	1075	348.25	726.75	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	3/15/2022	1075	349.84	725.16	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	4/26/2022	1075	349.5	725.5	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	5/20/2022	1075	349.09	725.91	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	6/15/2022	1075	349.25	725.75	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	7/13/2022	1075	349.5	725.5	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	8/23/2022	1075	349.59	725.41	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	9/15/2022	1075	350.16	724.84	2022
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	10/10/2022	1075	350.58	724.42	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	11/21/2022	1075	351.33	723.67	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	12/21/2022	1075	351.25	723.75	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	2/23/2023	1075	351	724	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	4/3/2023	1075	350.75	724.25	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	5/25/2023	1075	351.66	723.34	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	6/14/2023	1075	351	724	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	7/17/2023	1075	352.08	722.92	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	8/23/2023	1075	352.66	722.34	2023
03S04E04P001S	Key	DWA	9/15/2023	1075	353	722	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	10/19/2021	905	193.35	711.65	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	11/10/2021	905	193.26	711.74	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	12/1/2021	905	193.42	711.58	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	1/31/2022	905	192.57	712.43	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	2/8/2022	905	192.54	712.46	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	3/29/2022	905	192.82	712.18	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	4/27/2022	905	192.91	712.09	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	5/10/2022	905	193.17	711.83	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	6/17/2022	905	193.49	711.51	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	7/12/2022	905	194.07	710.93	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	8/25/2022	905	194.44	710.56	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	9/22/2022	905	194.99	710.01	2022
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	10/18/2022	905	195.41	709.59	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	11/15/2022	905	195.38	709.62	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	12/20/2022	905	195.13	709.87	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	1/12/2023	905	195.06	709.94	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	2/16/2023	905	194.78	710.22	2023

Table A-1

## Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report

Water Year 2022-2023

Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	3/24/2023	905	194.53	710.47	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	4/25/2023	905	194.58	710.42	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	5/3/2023	905	194.95	710.05	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	6/26/2023	905	195.62	709.38	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	7/26/2023	905	195.75	709.25	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	8/28/2023	905	195.85	709.15	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	9/12/2023	905	196.49	708.51	2023
03S04E11A002S	Other	MSWD	10/10/2023	905	196.05	708.95	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	10/6/2021	879.48	161.38	718.1	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	11/9/2021	879.48	161.1	718.38	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	12/1/2021	879.48	160.64	718.84	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	1/12/2022	879.48	160.62	718.86	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	2/8/2022	879.48	161.4	718.08	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	3/28/2022	879.48	160.41	719.07	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	4/14/2022	879.48	161.33	718.15	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	5/17/2022	879.48	161.15	718.33	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	6/17/2022	879.48	162.51	716.97	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	7/13/2022	879.48	162.35	717.13	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	8/22/2022	879.48	162.67	716.81	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	9/22/2022	879.48	163.83	715.65	2022
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	10/18/2022	879.48	163.99	715.49	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	11/15/2022	879.48	164.1	715.38	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	12/21/2022	879.48	163.39	716.09	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	1/23/2023	879.48	163.69	715.79	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	2/16/2023	879.48	163.41	716.07	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	3/24/2023	879.48	162.76	716.72	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	4/25/2023	879.48	162.76	716.72	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	5/3/2023	879.48	163.66	715.82	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	6/26/2023	879.48	164.03	715.45	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	7/26/2023	879.48	164.5	714.98	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	8/29/2023	879.48	164.29	715.19	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	9/13/2023	879.48	164.43	715.05	2023
03S04E11L004S	Key	MSWD	10/10/2023	879.48	164.73	714.75	2023
03S04E12B002S	Other	CVWD	10/1/2021	884.57	179.2	705.37	2022
03S04E12B002S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2022	884.57	178.6	705.97	2022
03S04E12B002S	Other	CVWD	6/2/2022	884.57	179.2	705.37	2022
03S04E12B002S	Other	CVWD	10/5/2022	884.57	179.9	704.67	2022
03S04E12B002S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2023	884.57	180.3	704.27	2023
03S04E12B002S	Other	CVWD	6/8/2023	884.57	178.4	706.17	2023
03S04E12C001S	Key	CVWD	10/1/2021	890.27	184.6	705.67	2022
03S04E12C001S	Key	CVWD	3/2/2022	890.27	184	706.27	2022
03S04E12C001S	Key	CVWD	7/15/2022	890.27	185.6	704.67	2022
03S04E12C001S	Key	CVWD	11/10/2022	890.27	186	704.27	2023
03S04E12C001S	Key	CVWD	3/8/2023	890.27	185.6	704.67	2023
03S04E12F001S	Other	CVWD	10/1/2021	859.67	154.3	705.37	2022
03S04E12F001S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2022	859.67	150.8	708.87	2022



**Table A-1****Groundwater Elevation Data WY 2021-2022 and WY 2022-2023**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report

Water Year 2022-2023

Coachella Valley, California

State Well Number	Monitoring Well Type	Monitoring Agency	Groundwater Level Measurement Date	Measuring Point Elevation (feet NAVD88) <sup>1</sup>	Depth to Groundwater (feet bmp)	Groundwater Elevation (feet NAVD88)	Water Year <sup>2</sup>
03S04E12F001S	Other	CVWD	6/2/2022	859.67	154.3	705.37	2022
03S04E12F001S	Other	CVWD	10/5/2022	859.67	155.7	703.97	2022
03S04E12F001S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2023	859.67	155.9	703.77	2023
03S04E12F001S	Other	CVWD	6/8/2023	859.67	153.5	706.17	2023
03S04E12H003S	Other	CVWD	10/1/2021	847.66	144	703.66	2022
03S04E12H003S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2022	847.66	142.9	704.76	2022
03S04E12H003S	Other	CVWD	6/1/2022	847.66	145.3	702.36	2022
03S04E12H003S	Other	CVWD	10/5/2022	847.66	145	702.66	2022
03S04E12H003S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2023	847.66	145.1	702.56	2023
03S04E12H003S	Other	CVWD	6/8/2023	847.66	145	702.66	2023
03S05E15R001S	Key	CVWD	1/19/2022	927.46	219.9	707.56	2022
03S05E15R001S	Key	CVWD	5/3/2022	927.46	219.6	707.86	2022
03S05E15R001S	Key	CVWD	9/8/2022	927.46	220.4	707.06	2022
03S05E15R001S	Key	CVWD	11/30/2022	927.46	220.6	706.86	2023
03S05E15R001S	Key	CVWD	3/8/2023	927.46	220.5	706.96	2023
03S05E15R001S	Key	CVWD	7/20/2023	927.46	220.7	706.76	2023
03S05E17J001S	Key	CVWD	10/5/2021	790.23	87.5	702.73	2022
03S05E17J001S	Key	CVWD	3/2/2022	790.23	85.7	704.53	2022
03S05E17J001S	Key	CVWD	7/15/2022	790.23	86.9	703.33	2022
03S05E17J001S	Key	CVWD	11/10/2022	790.23	87.3	702.93	2023
03S05E17J001S	Key	CVWD	3/8/2023	790.23	87	703.23	2023
03S05E17J001S	Key	CVWD	7/13/2023	790.23	88.9	701.33	2023
03S05E19B001S	Other	CVWD	10/5/2021	709.02	4.9	704.12	2022
03S05E19B001S	Other	CVWD	2/2/2022	709.02	4.2	704.82	2022
03S05E19B001S	Other	CVWD	6/3/2022	709.02	4.8	704.22	2022
03S05E19B001S	Other	CVWD	10/5/2022	709.02	5.3	703.72	2022
03S05E19B001S	Other	CVWD	2/1/2023	709.02	4.5	704.52	2023
03S05E19B001S	Other	CVWD	6/8/2023	709.02	4.9	704.12	2023

**Notes**

1. Measuring point for CVWD wells converted to ground surface by CVWD.
2. Water Year from October 1 through September 30, identified by the ending year of the period.
3. Water level measurement for Well 02S04E36K001S on March 28, 2022 is considered erroneous based on the historical record, previous and subsequent water levels, and the pumping water level prior to measuring the static water level. This data point was not included in the analyses presented in this annual report (water level averages, graphics, etc.).

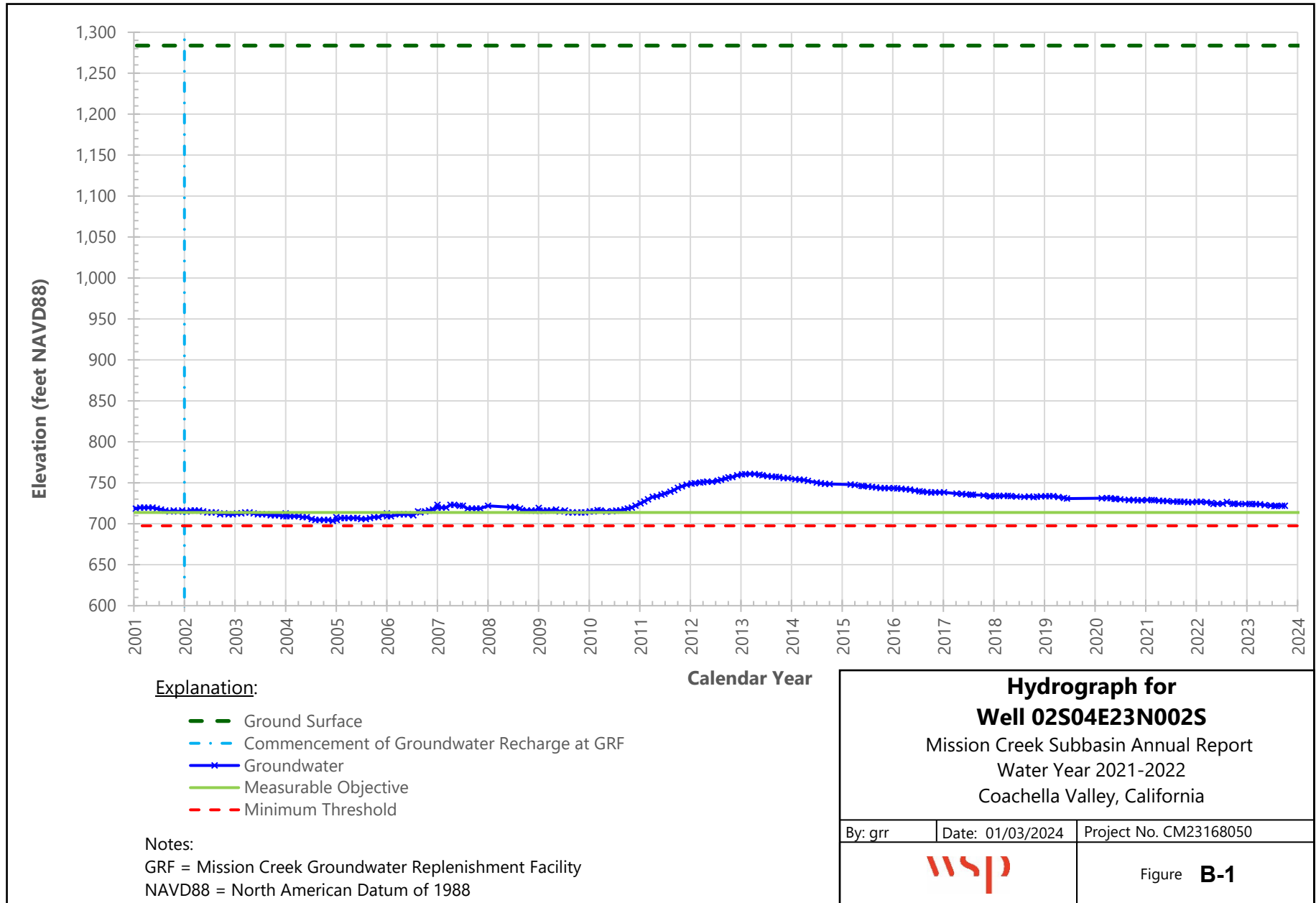
**Abbreviations**

bmp = feet below measuring point  
 CVWD = Coachella Valley Water District  
 DWA = Desert Water Agency  
 MSWD = Mission Springs Water District  
 NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum of 1988

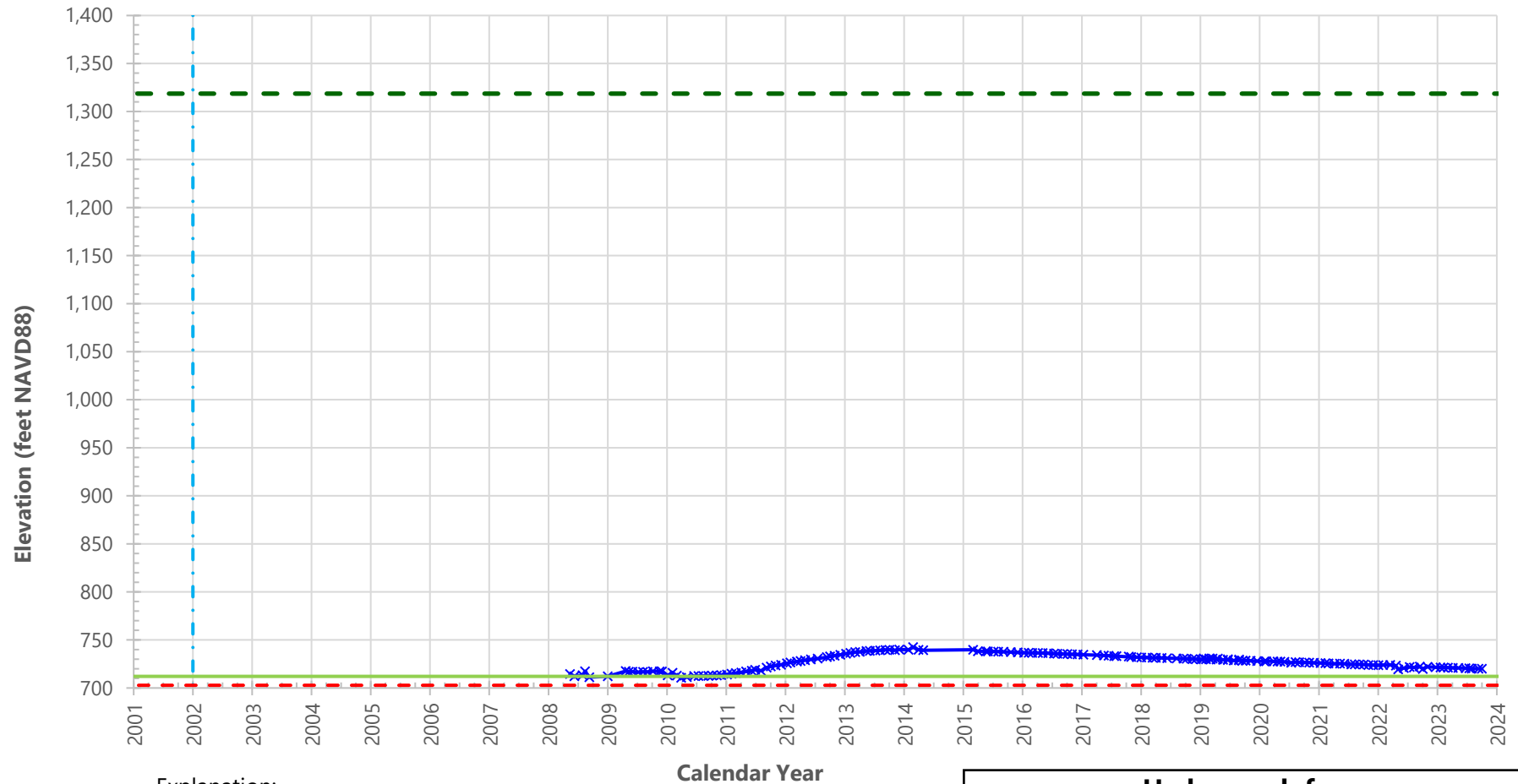
# APPENDIX

## B

### REPRESENTATIVE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION HYDROGRAPHS







Explanation:

- Ground Surface
- . - Commencement of Groundwater Recharge at GRF
- x - Groundwater
- Measurable Objective
- - - Minimum Threshold

**Notes:**

GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
 NAVD88 = North American Datum of 1988

**Hydrograph for**

**Well 02S04E28J001S**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report

Water Year 2022-2023

Coachella Valley, California

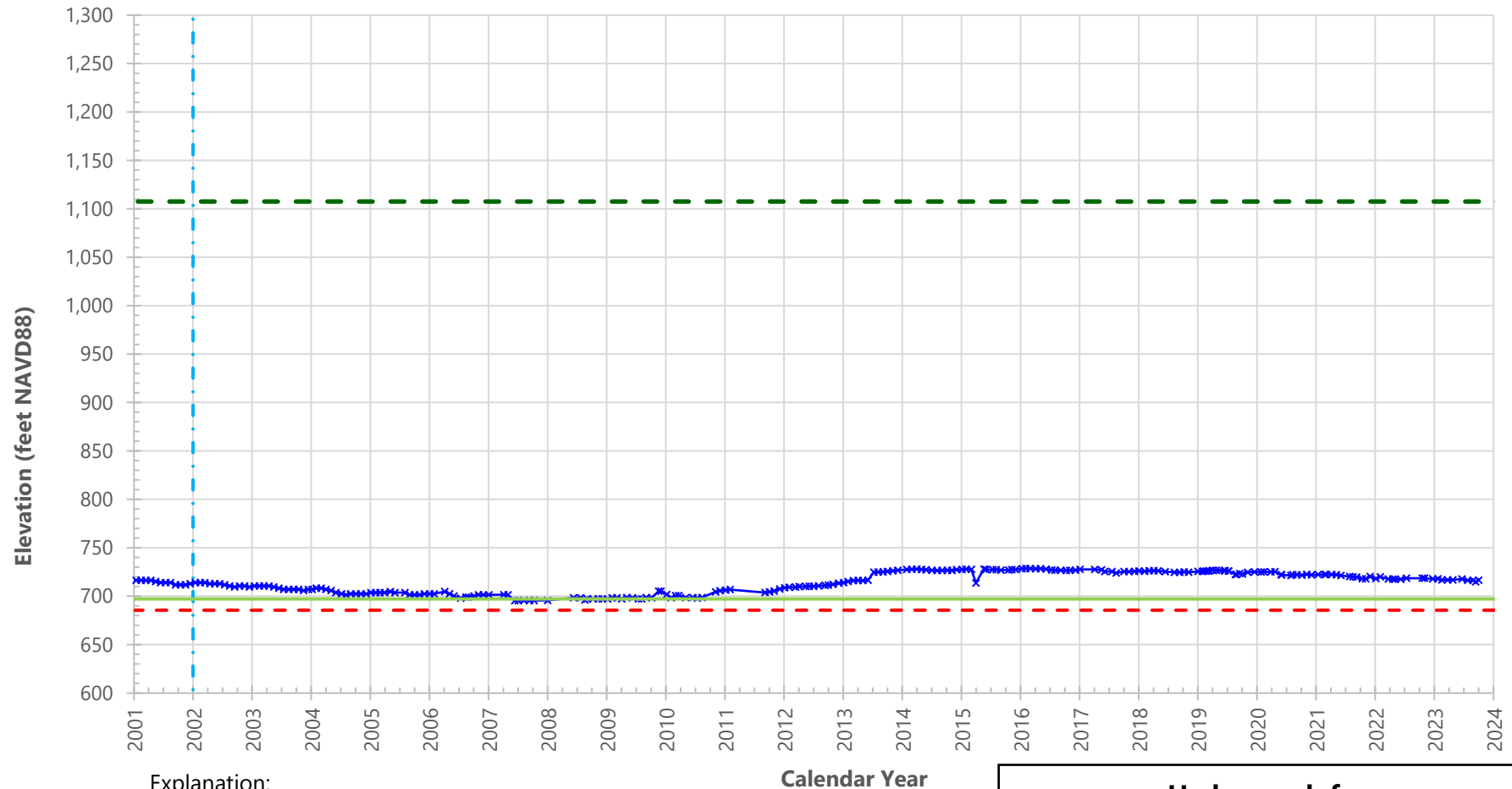
By: grr

Date: 01/03/2024

Project No. CM23168050



Figure **B-2**



**Explanation:**

- Ground Surface
- · - Commencement of Groundwater Recharge at GRF
- x - Groundwater
- Measurable Objective
- - - Minimum Threshold

**Notes:**

GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
 NAVD88 = North American Datum of 1988

**Hydrograph for  
 Well 02S04E36D001S**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
 Water Year 2022-2023  
 Coachella Valley, California

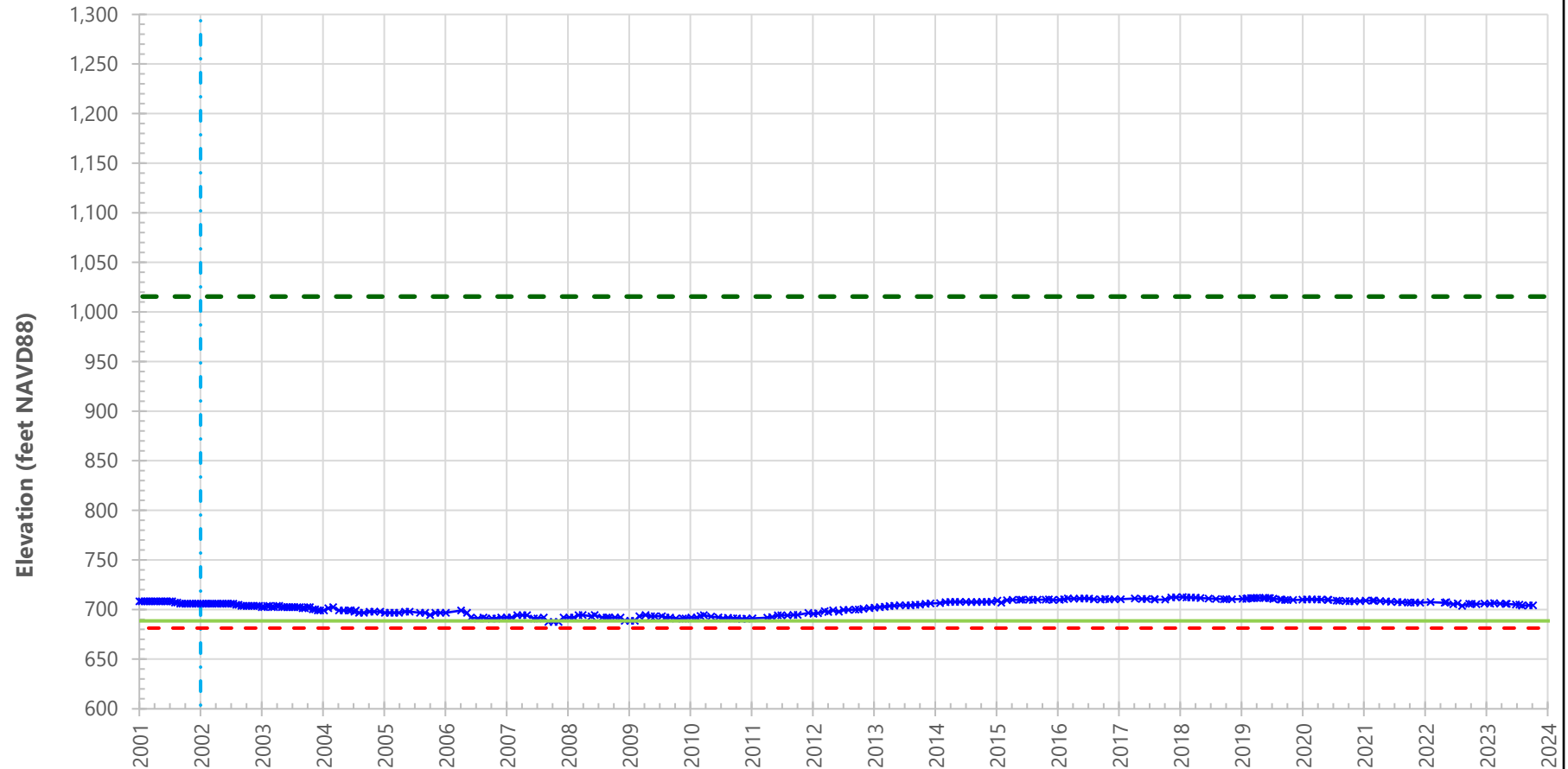
By: grr

Date: 01/03/2024

Project No. CM19167354



Figure **B-3**



Explanation:

- Ground Surface
- - Commencement of Groundwater Recharge at GRF
- x- Groundwater
- Measurable Objective
- - Minimum Threshold

Notes:

GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
 NAVD88 = North American Datum of 1988

Calendar Year

**Hydrograph for  
 Well 02S04E36K001S**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
 Water Year 2022-2023  
 Coachella Valley, California

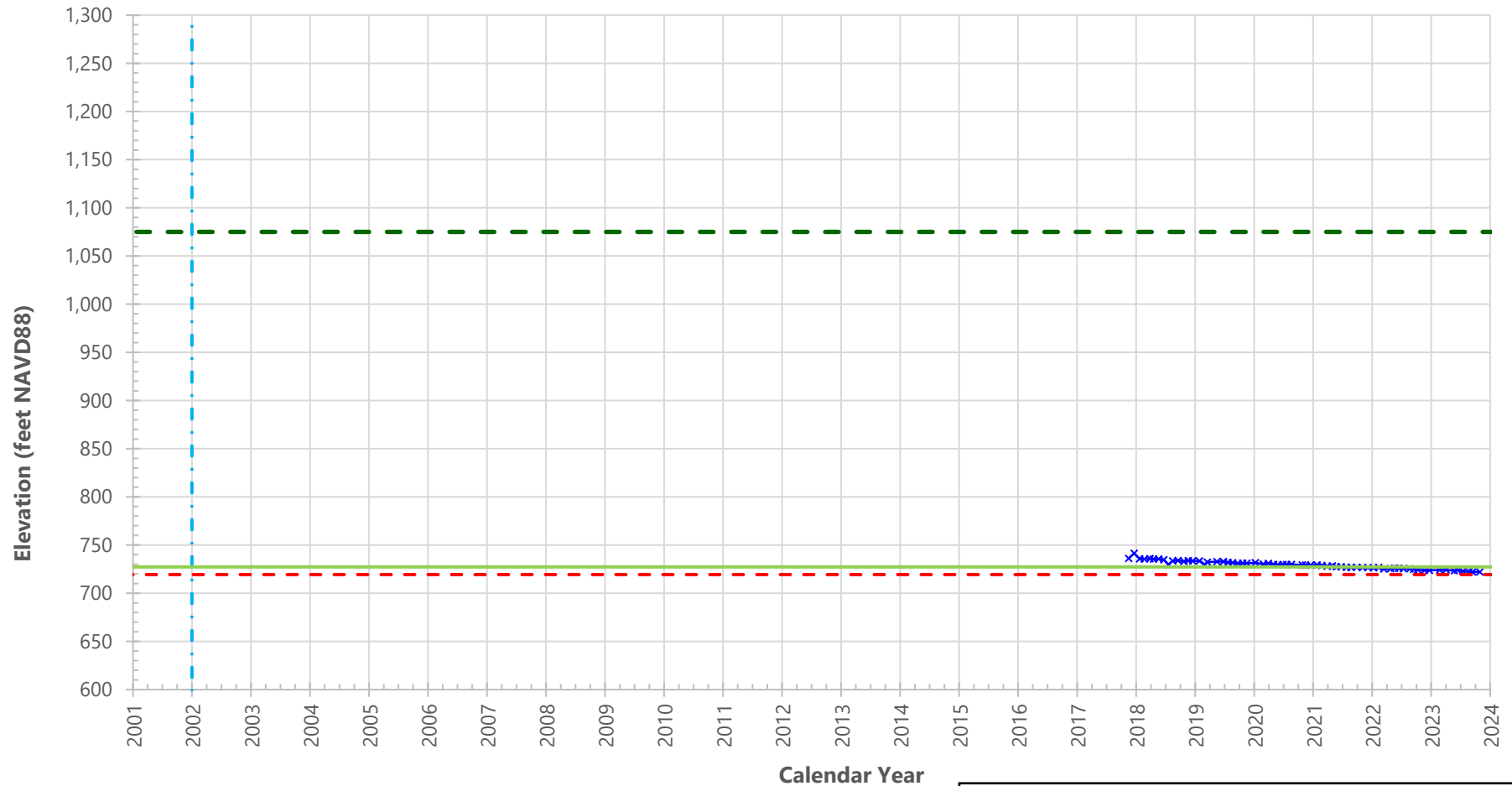
By: grr

Date: 01/03/2024

Project No. CM19167354



Figure **B-4**



**Explanation:**

- Ground Surface
- - - Commencement of Groundwater Recharge at GRF
- x— Groundwater
- Measurable Objective
- - - Minimum Threshold

**Notes:**

GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
 NAVD88 = North American Datum of 1988

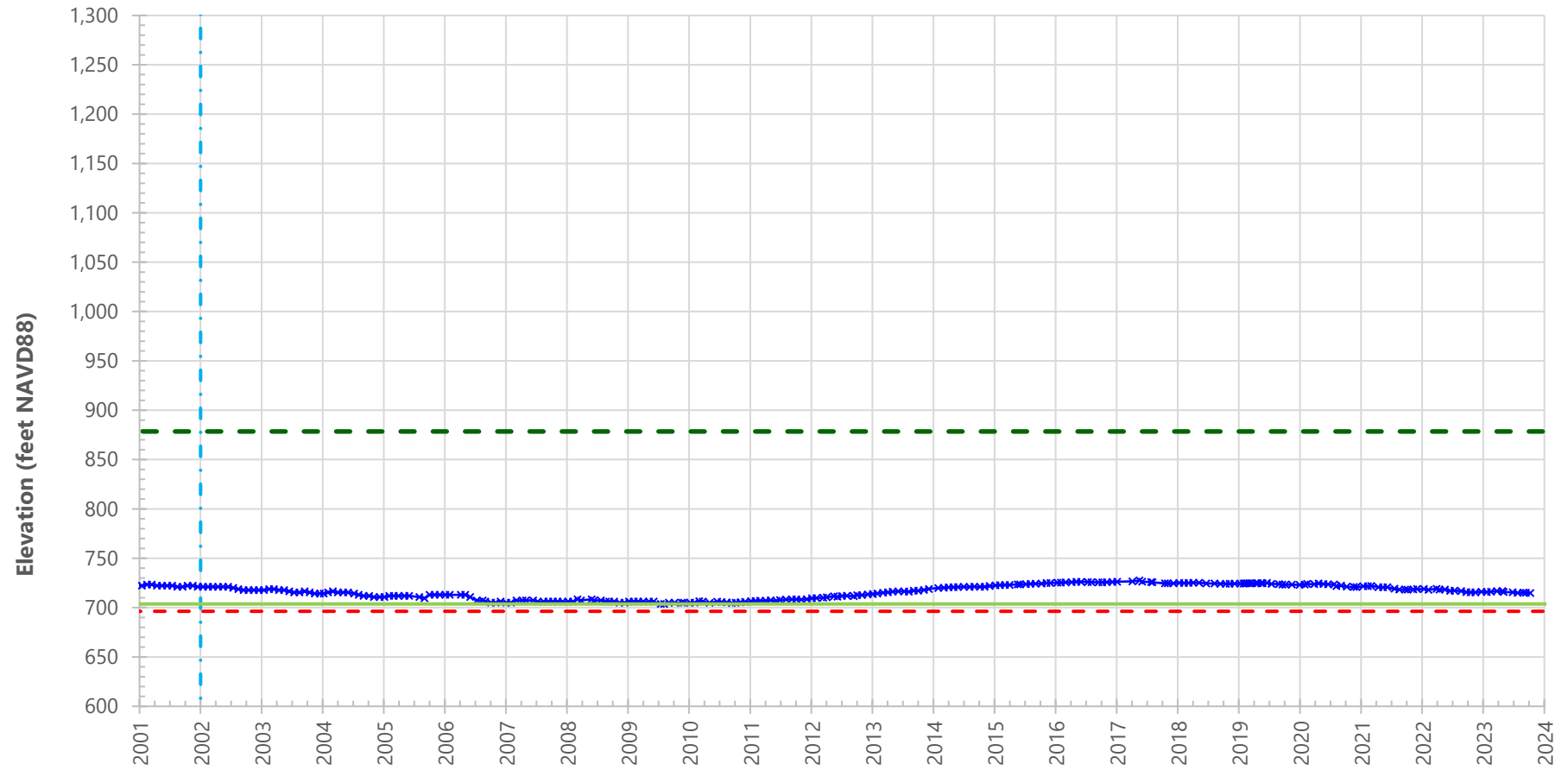
**Hydrograph for**  
**Well 03S04E04P001S**  
 Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
 Water Year 2022-2023  
 Coachella Valley, California

By: grr	Date: 01/03/2024	Project No. CM23168050
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Figure **B-5**





**Explanation:**

- Ground Surface
- . - Commencement of Groundwater Recharge at GRF
- x - Groundwater
- Measurable Objective
- - - Minimum Threshold

**Notes:**

GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
NAVD88 = North American Datum of 1988

**Hydrograph for  
Well 03S04E11L004S**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
Water Year 2022-2023  
Coachella Valley, California

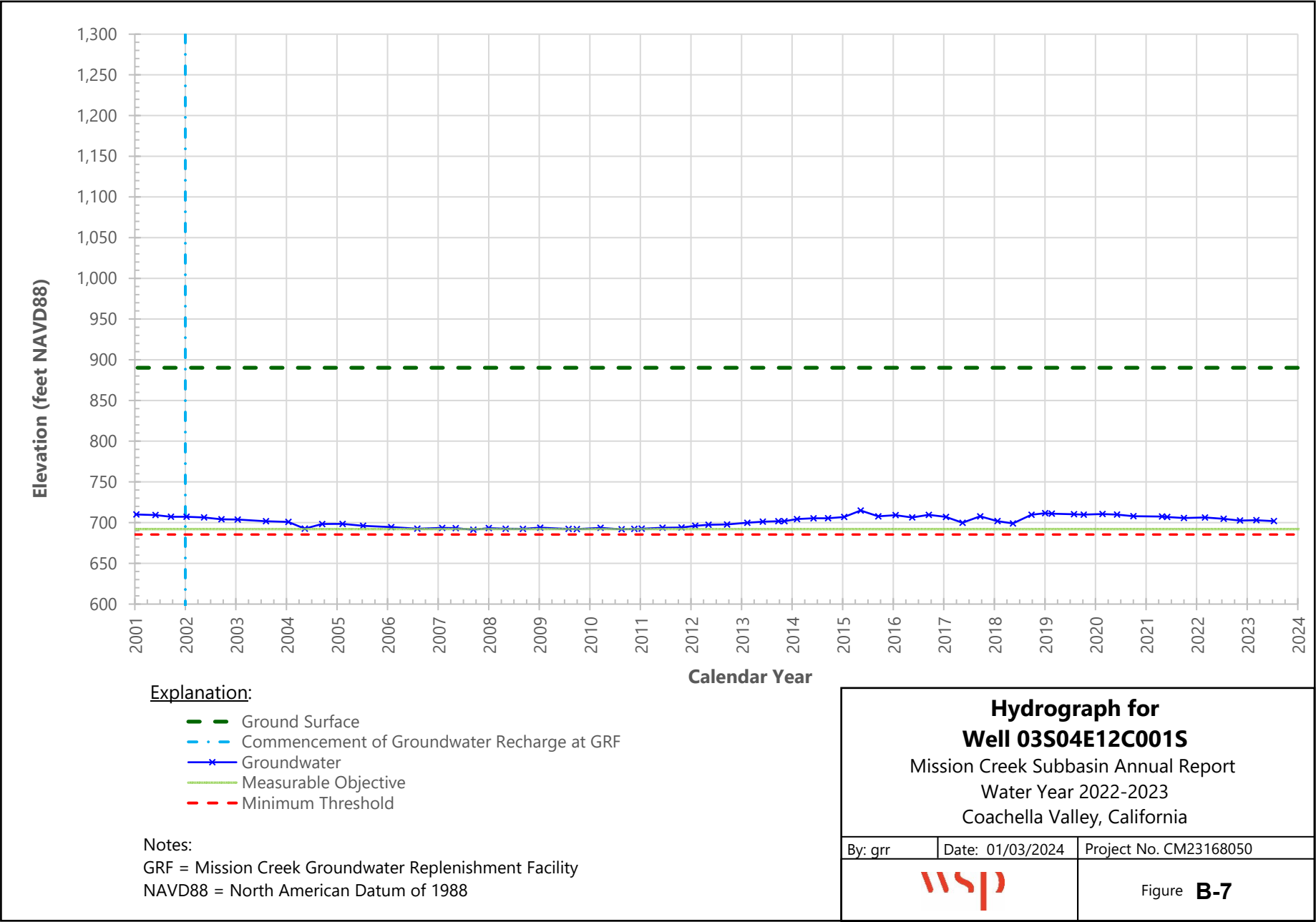
By: grr

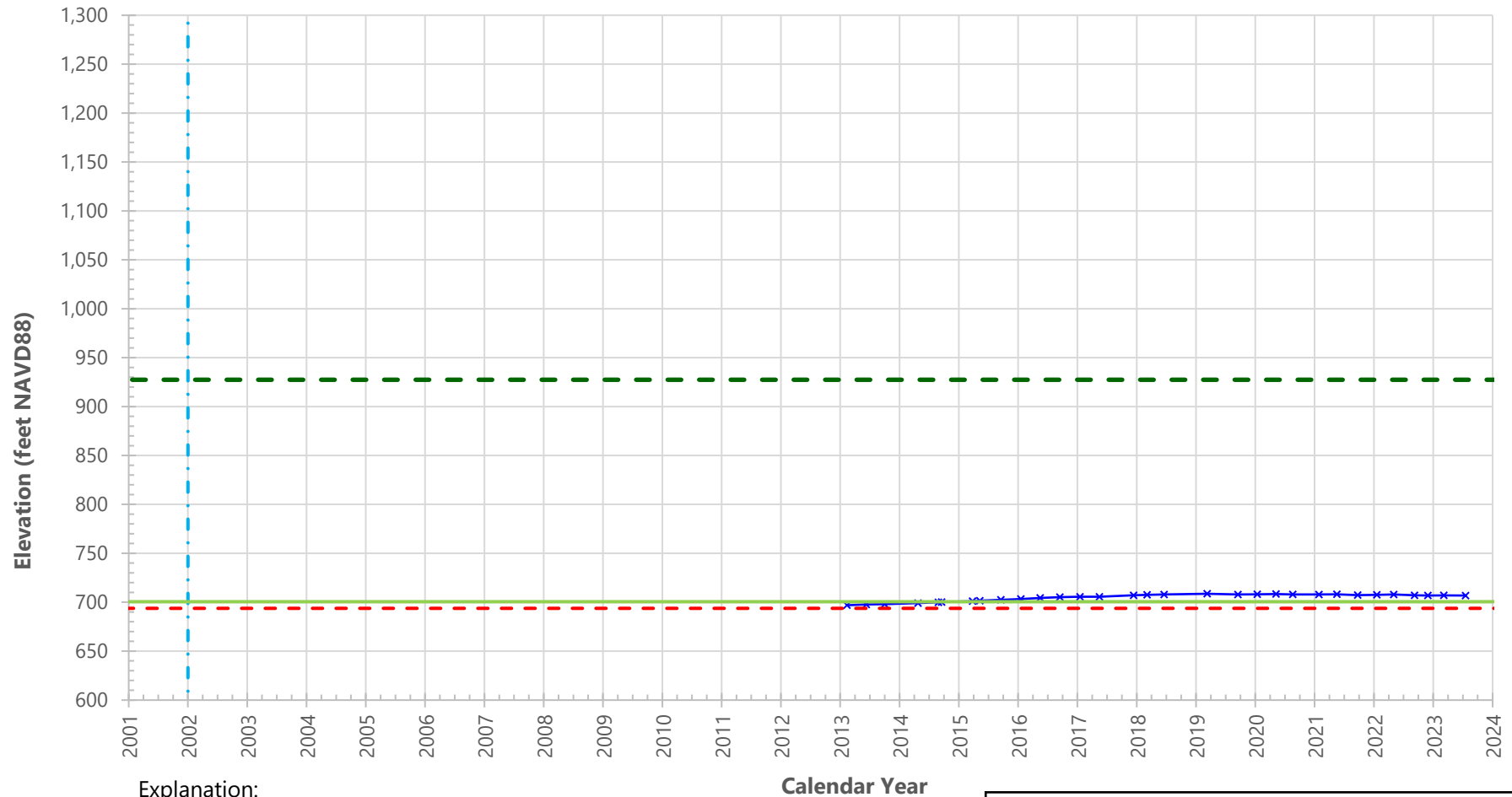
Date: 01/03/2024

Project No. CM23168050



Figure **B-6**





Explanation:

- Ground Surface
- . - Commencement of Groundwater Recharge at GRF
- x - Groundwater
- Measurable Objective
- - - Minimum Threshold

Notes:

GRF = Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility  
 NAVD88 = North American Datum of 1988

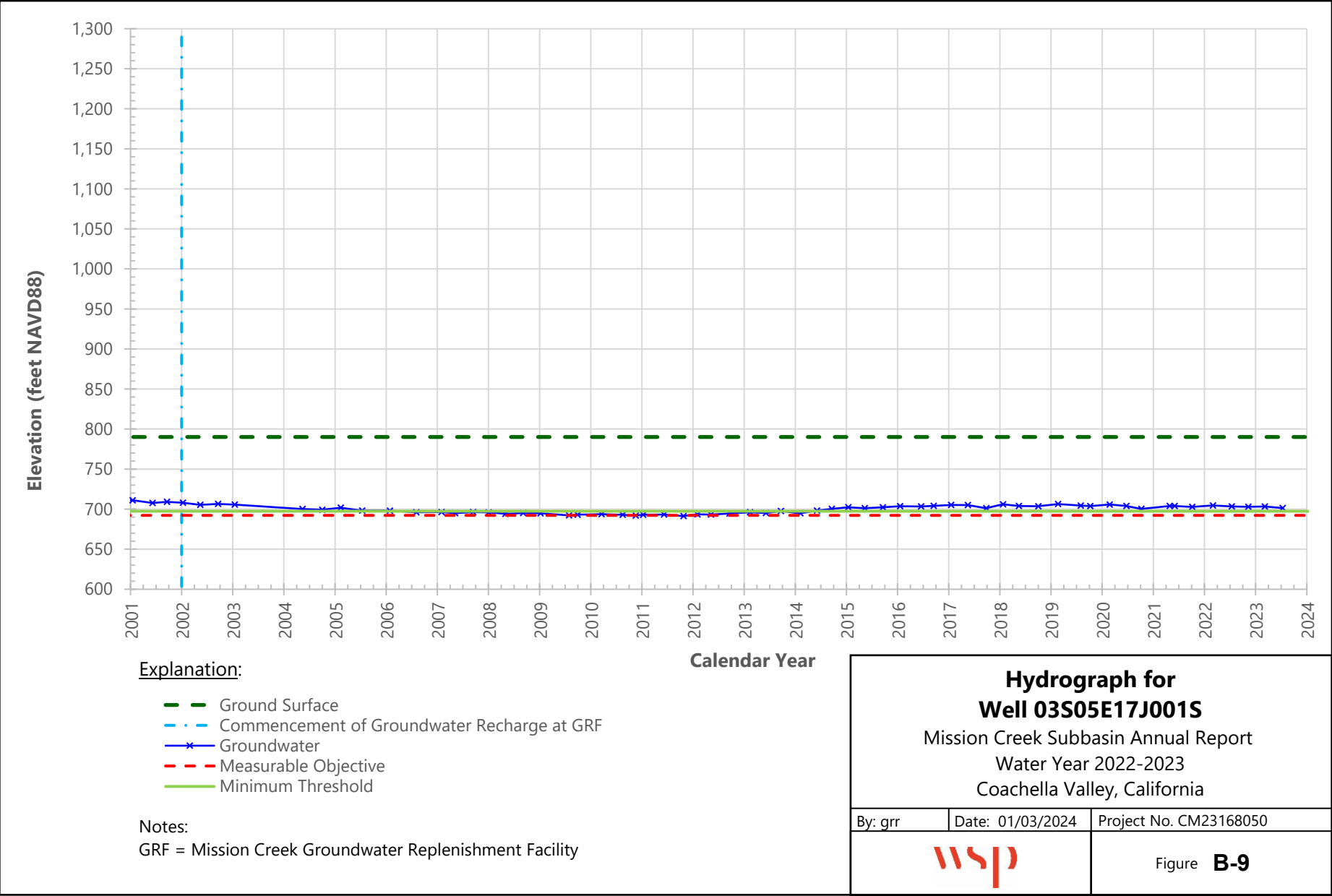
**Hydrograph for  
 Well 03S05E15R001S**

Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report  
 Water Year 2022-2023  
 Coachella Valley, California

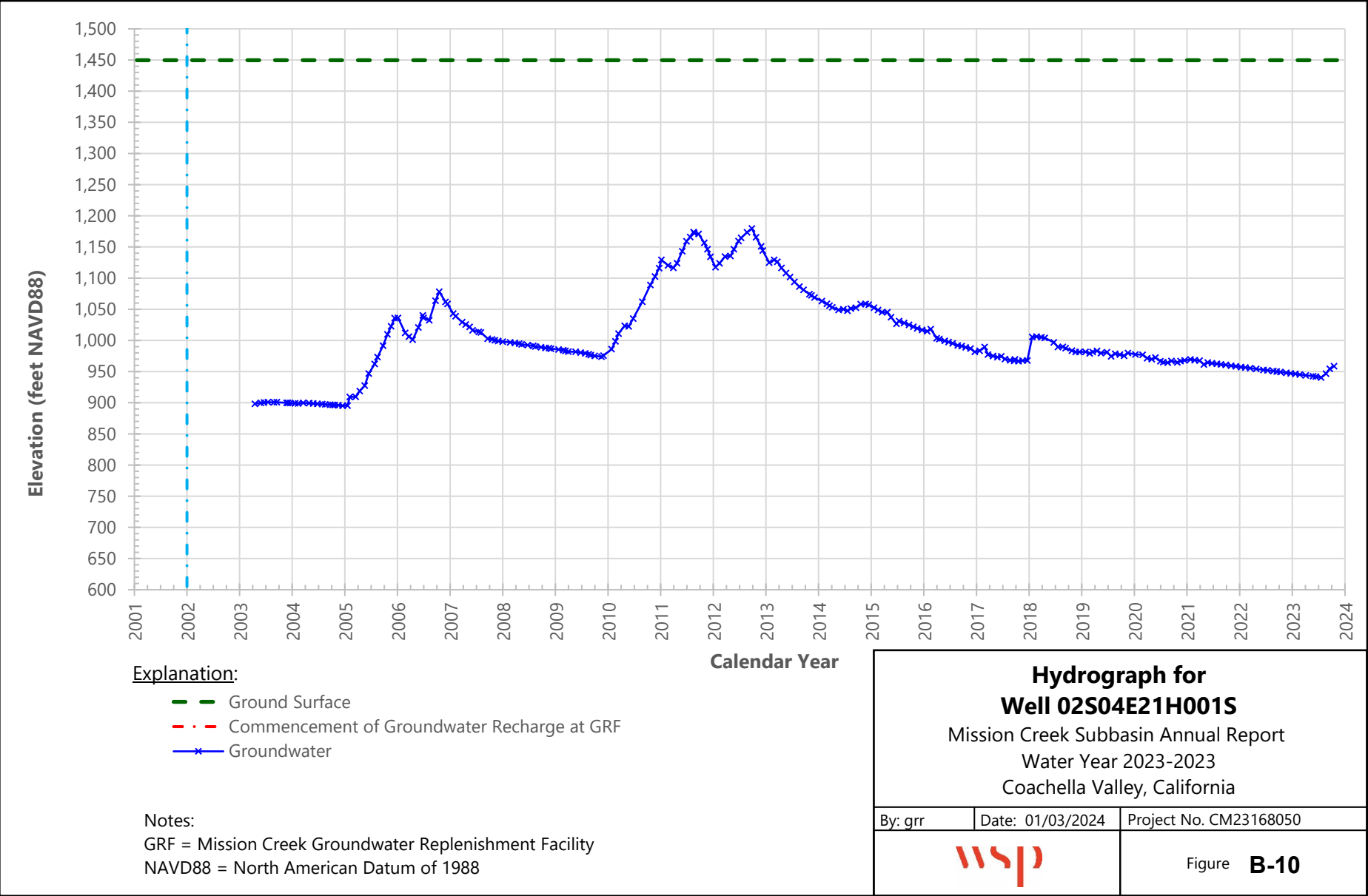
By: grr	Date: 01/03/2024	Project No. CM23168050
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Figure **B-8**









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