

Runoff & Operations Update

May 19, 2025

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Water Operations Division



2024 Runoff & Operations

- Runoff was 404,915 AF (99% of normal)
- LADWP pumped 48,678 AF of water
- Water spread in Owens Valley: 21,300 AF



2025-26 Owens Valley Annual Operations Plan

Water Agreement Goal

- “The overall goal of managing the water resources within Inyo County is to avoid certain described decreases and **changes in vegetation** and to cause no significant effect on the environment which cannot be acceptably mitigated while providing a **reliable supply** of water for export to Los Angeles and for use in Inyo County.”

Water Agreement Process

- LADWP submits a draft Operations Plan to the ICWD by April 20th of each year.
- Inyo County provides comments on the Plan within 10 days.
- LADWP finalizes the Plan within 10 days of discussing the comments with ICWD staff at a Technical Group meeting.

The 2025-26 Annual Operations Plan was finalized on May 16, 2025. Public comments and input can be provided at Technical Group Meetings.

Snowpack & Runoff Forecast

**Owens River Basin Snowpack (April 1, 2025):
84% of Normal**

Runoff Forecast: 92% of Normal

Planned Pumping

Table 1.3 of Annual Operations Plan

Wellfield	Available Pumping Capacity (AF)	Planned Pumping (AF)
Laws	44,380	6,000 – 10,500
Bishop	18,310	12,000
Big Pine	50,510	14,400 – 22,200*
Taboose-Aberdeen	50,925	8,400 – 14,400
Thibaut-Sawmill	17,134	10,200
Independence-Oak	19,802	6,600 – 9,000
Symmes-Shepherd	20,241	3,360
Bairs-George	2,830	300 – 1,200
Lone Pine	990	900
Total Owens Valley	225,122	62,160 – 83,760**

The average amount of pumped groundwater was projected to be 110,000 acre-feet per year according to the 1991 EIR.

*Approximately 95% of pumped water in Big Pine is used for Fish Springs Hatchery.

**Inyo County presented 61,660 AF as a recommendation for LADWP pumping for this year at the Water Commission Meeting.

Water Agreement Pumping Management

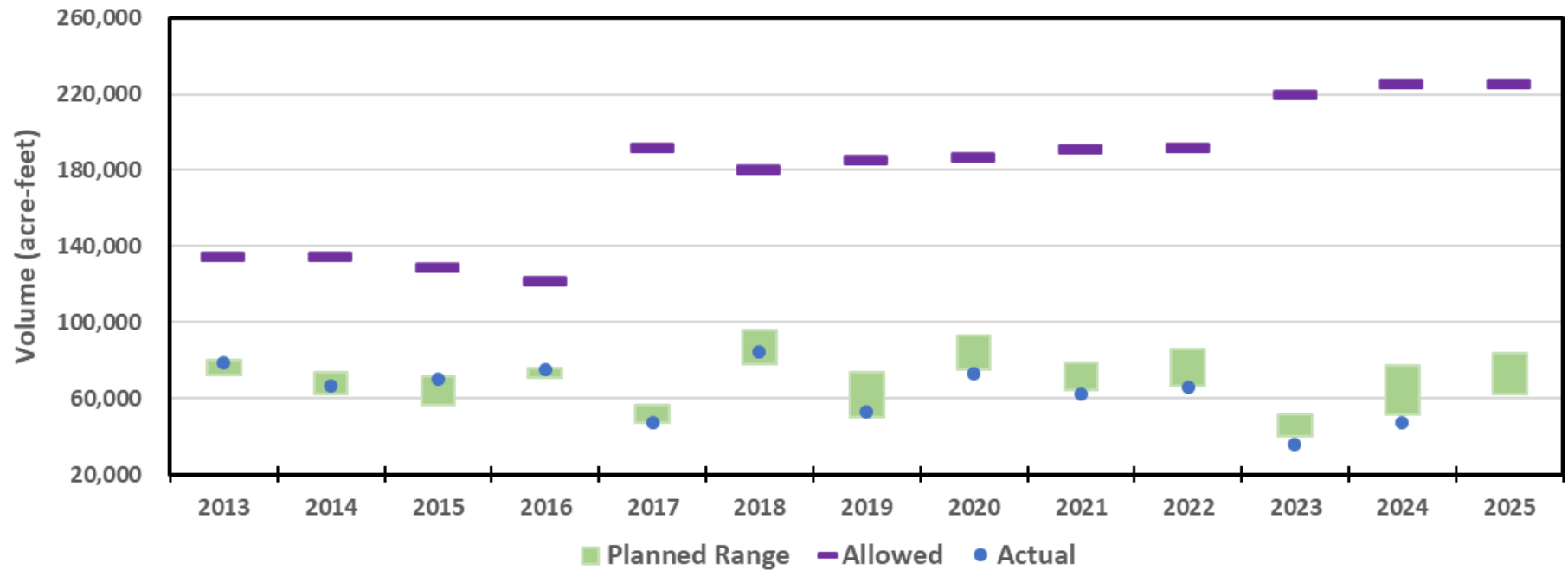
- In the Water Agreement, Inyo County and LADWP agreed to the methods outlined in the Green Book to manage pumping by monitoring vegetation conditions and soil moisture in monitoring sites.
- Management of pumping is not done by groundwater levels under the Water Agreement.
- One of the alternatives to the Water Agreement EIR was to manage pumping by groundwater levels. This alternative was not selected.
- The Water Agreement EIR spelled out additional mitigation for implementation of the current project to manage pumping by the Green Book. The rewatering of the Lower Owens River was one such mitigation project.

ON/OFF Status of Vegetation Monitoring Sites (April 2025)

Wellfield	Vegetation Monitoring Site	April 2025 ON/OFF Status	Wellfield	Vegetation Monitoring Site	April 2025 ON/OFF Status
Laws	LW1	ON	Thibaut-Sawmill	TS1	ON
	LW2	ON		TS2	ON
	LW3	ON		TS3	ON
Big Pine	BP1	ON		TS4	ON
	BP2	OFF	Indep-Oak	IO1	ON
	BP3	ON		IO2	ON
	BP4	ON	Symmes-Shepherd	SS1	ON
Taboose-Aberdeen	TA3	ON		SS2	OFF
	TA4	ON		SS3	ON
	TA5	ON		SS4	ON
	TA6	ON	Bairs-Georges	BG2	ON

LADWP can pump wells associated with monitoring sites in ON status

Planned Range, Allowed, and Actual Pumping

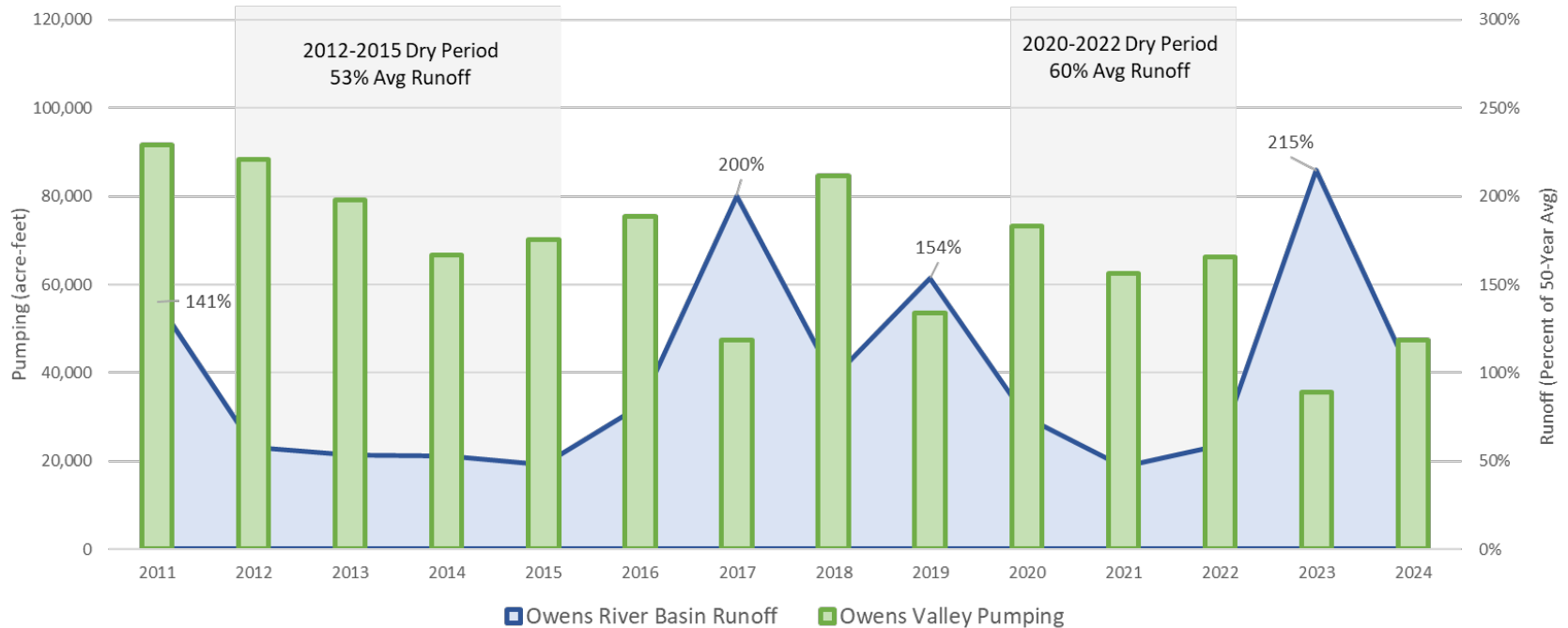


Current pumping capacity is 225,122 acre-feet.

General Pumping Strategy

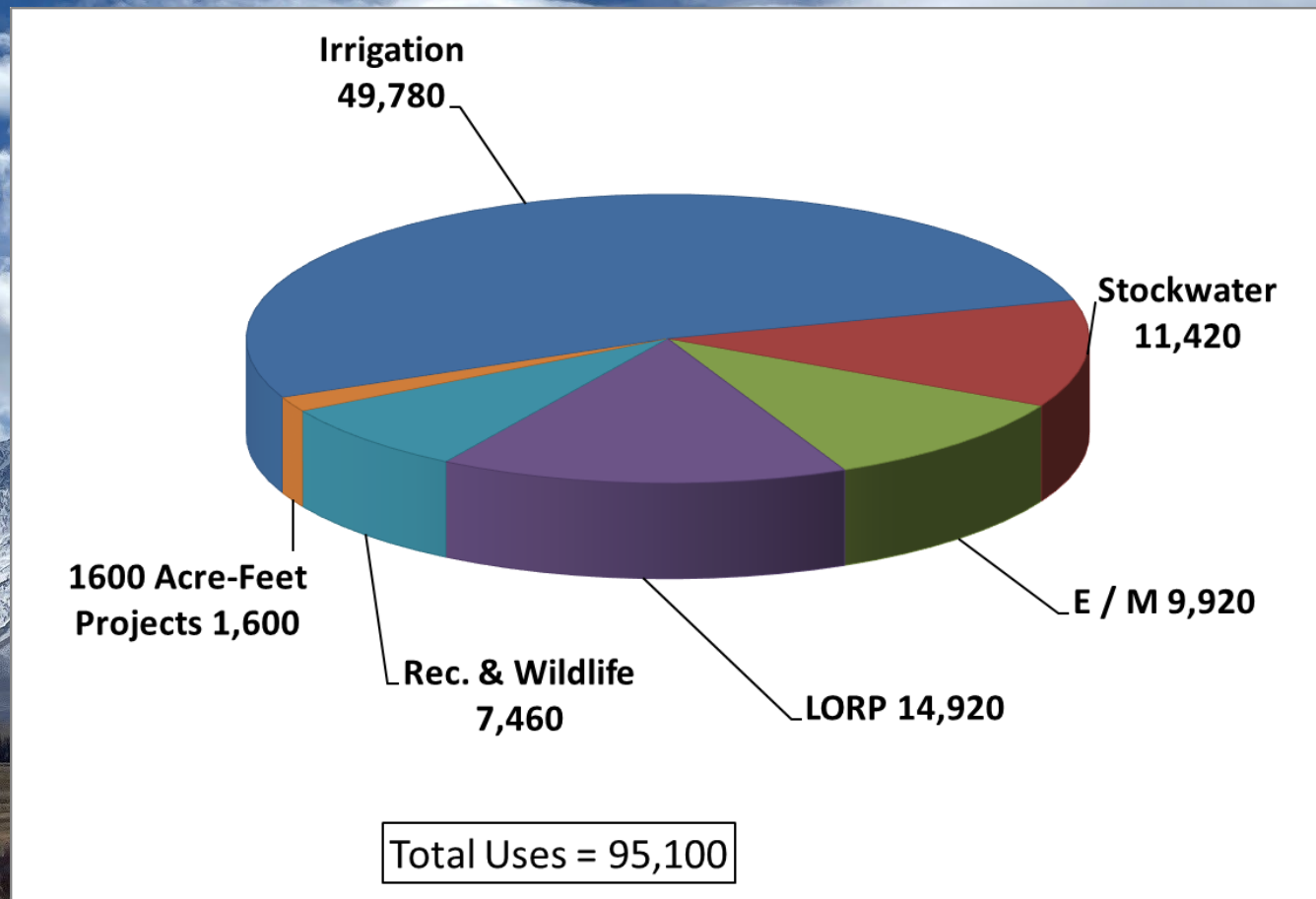
- LADWP's annual pumping plan is based on the ON/OFF status of vegetation monitoring sites, storage in the LAA system, water demand for uses in Owens Valley and the City, and a review of vegetation conditions in management areas in Owens Valley.
- Generally, pumping during wet years is low. Pumping after wet years is high and as consecutive dry years occur, pumping is reduced gradually as droughts extend into multiple years.

General Pumping Strategy



Gray shading indicates dry years.

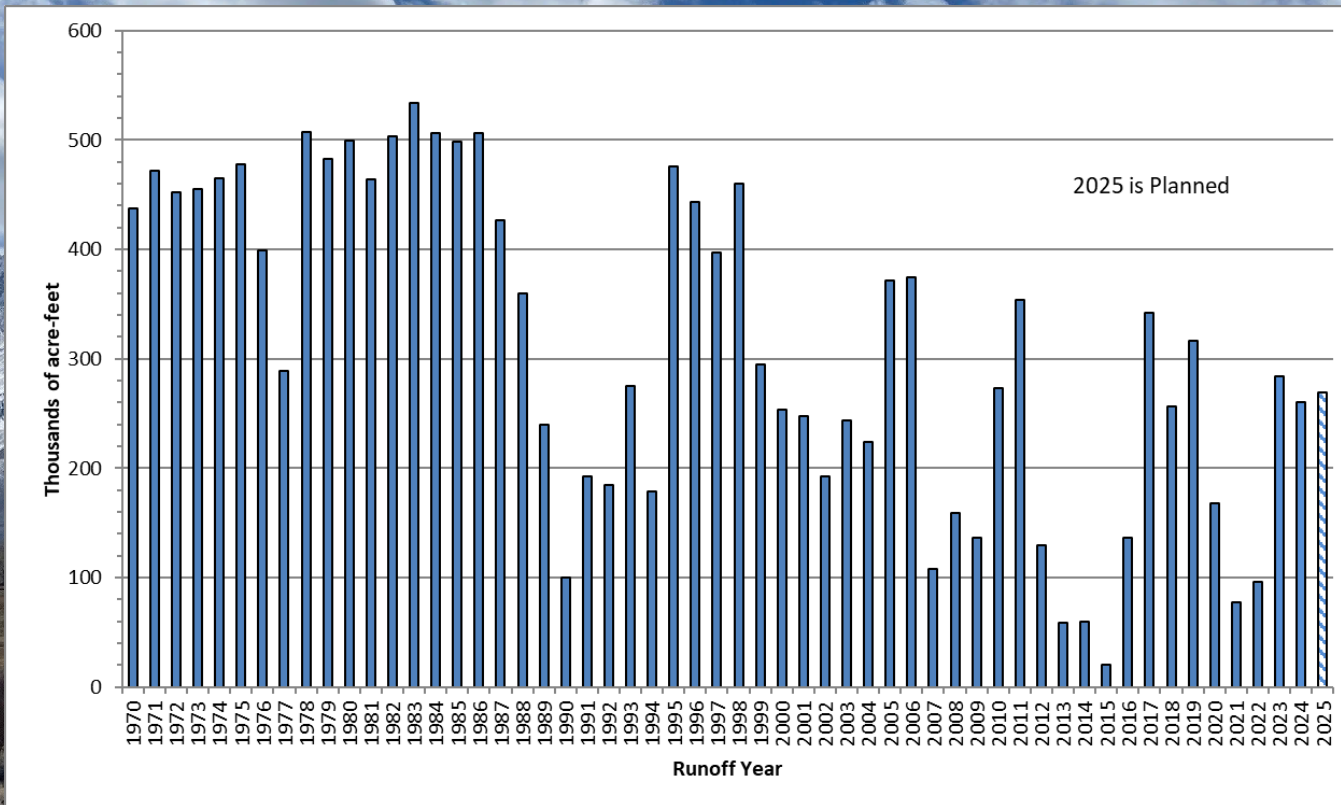
Water Supply to Uses in Owens Valley by LADWP



An average additional 60,000 AF per year is supplied to Owens Lake for Dust Mitigation

Water Export from Owens Valley

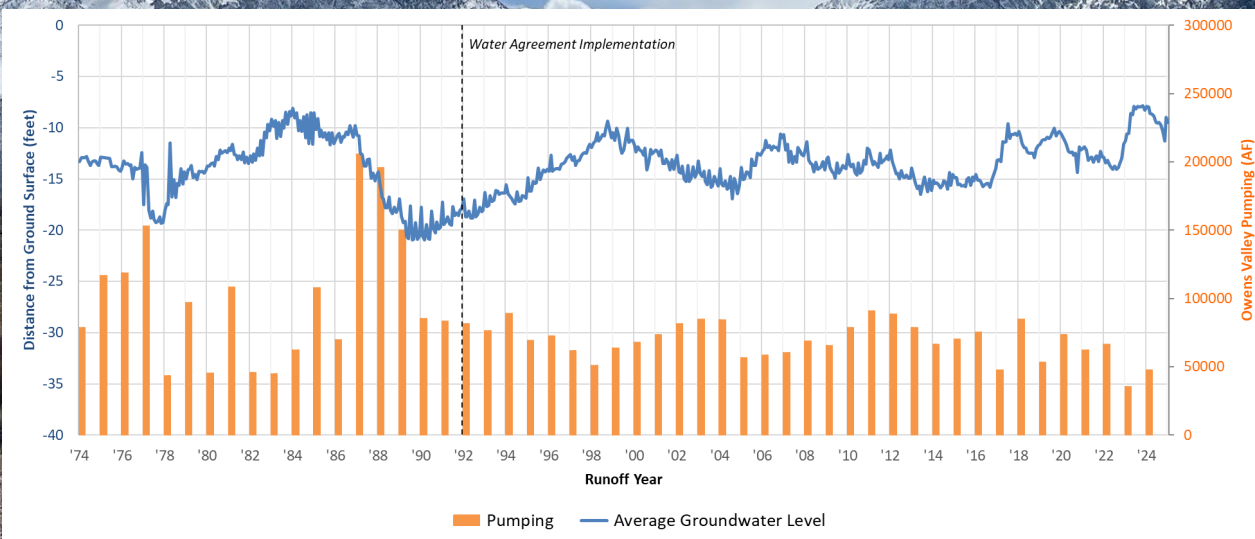
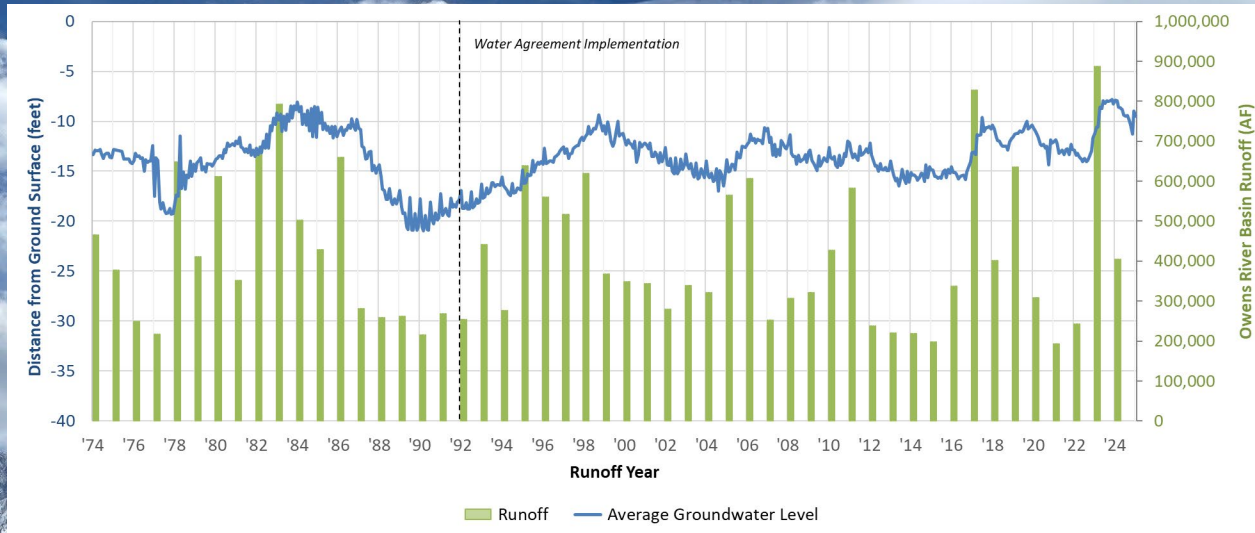
**Planned Export from Owens Valley is 129,000 acre-feet
(total of 269,000 from the Eastern Sierra).**



A separate breakdown of Owens Valley exports is done to be consistent with the 1991 EIR and facilitate comparisons of actual vs. expected results.

Owens Valley Conditions

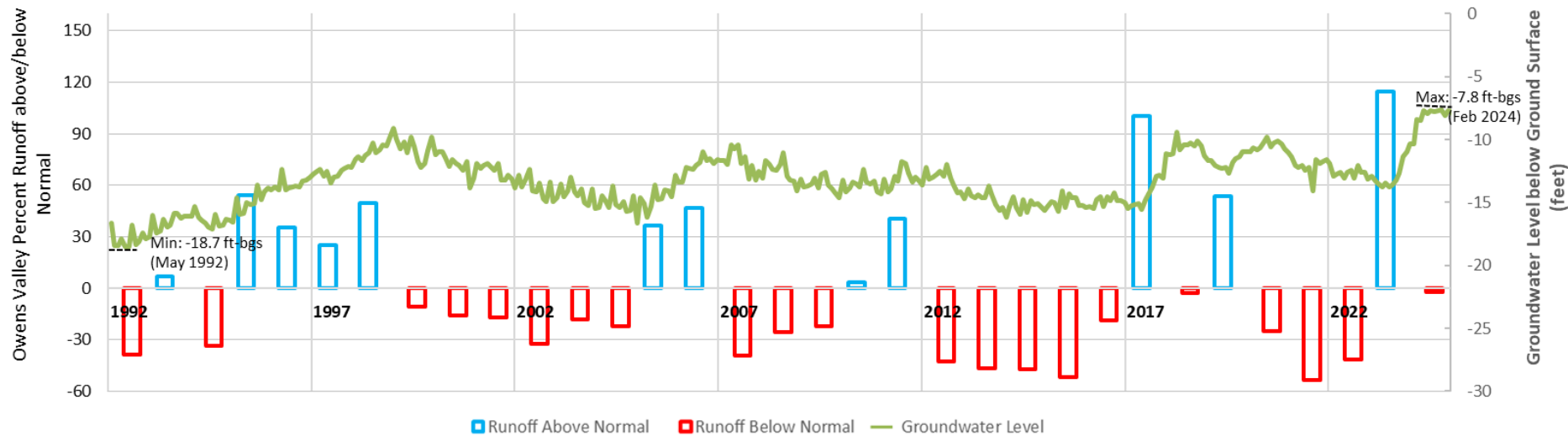
Average Owens Valley Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



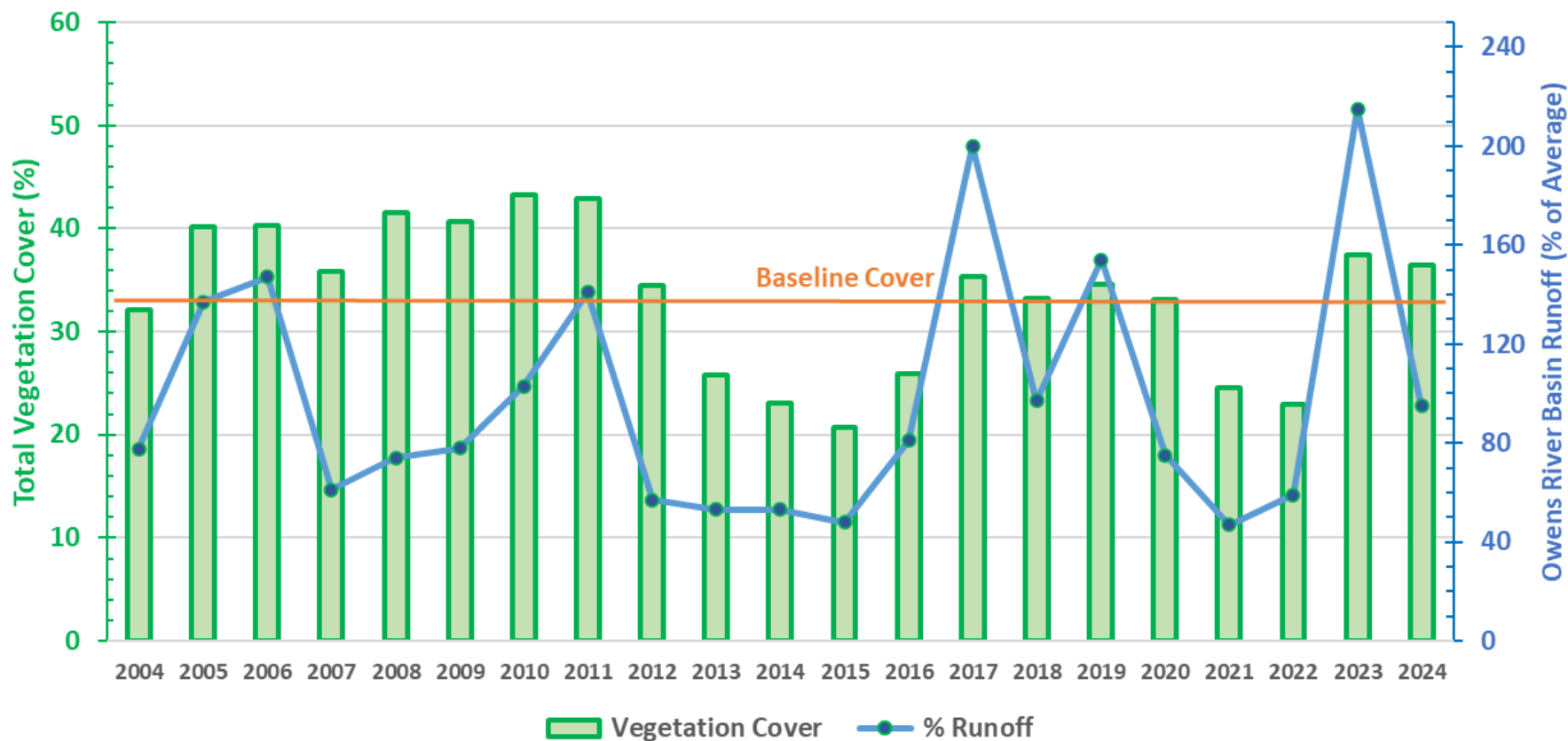
Owens Valley groundwater basin was virtually “full” in mid-1980s (Hollett and others, 1991).

Groundwater Levels

Runoff and Groundwater Levels since Water Agreement Implementation



Average Owens Valley Vegetation Condition



Based on 157 wellfield vegetation parcels monitored throughout Owens Valley

Environmental Mitigation Projects

- 66 environmental mitigation projects are required by the Inyo/LA Water Agreement, 1991 EIR, 1997 MOU, and other related documents.
- Current status:
 - Completed - **9**
 - Implemented, achieving goals, and ongoing (i.e. have ongoing water, financial, or other monitoring requirements) - **51**
 - Fully implemented but are not yet meeting goals - **6**
 - Not fully implemented - **0**