

2025-26 Draft LADWP Operations Plan

Inyo County Water Department

Inyo County Water Commission
April 28, 2025





2024-25 Conditions and Operations



2024-25 Conditions and Operations - Runoff

Runoff

Approximately 405,000 acre-feet or 99% of normal

Runoff forecast was 103% of normal, or 419,300 acre-feet



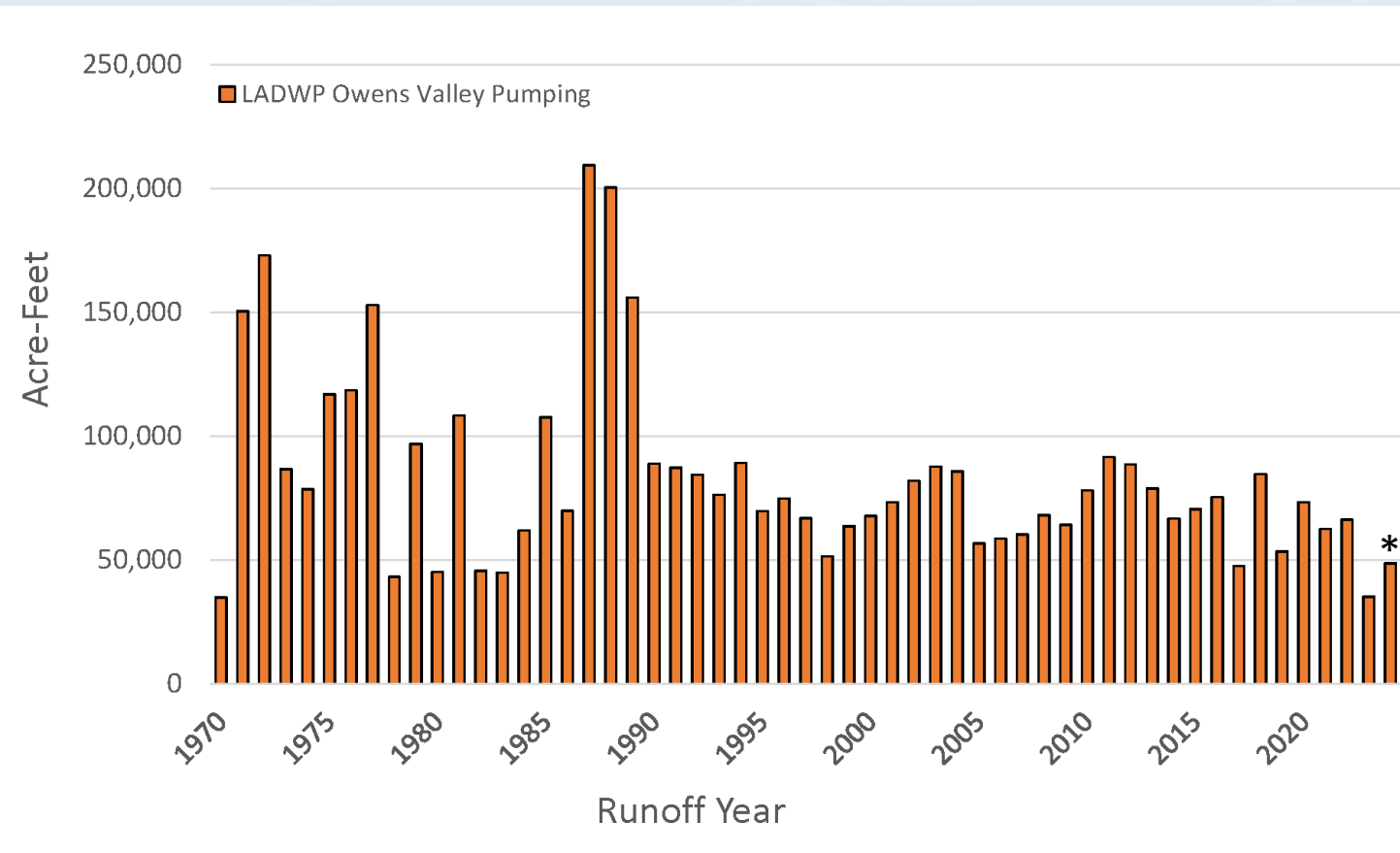
2024-25 Conditions and Operations - Pumping

2024-25 Pumping

Wellfield	Minimum planned 2024-25 pumping (AF)	Maximum planned 2024-25 pumping (AF)	Actual 2024-25 pumping (AF)
Laws	5,500	8,290	4,293
Bishop	5,120	9,000	3,811
Big Pine	14,700	21,300	17,119
Taboose-Aberdeen	6,750	11,325	3,985
Thibault-Sawmill	8,000	9,648	7,365
Independence-Oak	6,960	9,930	8,472
Symmes-Shepherd	2,640	5,040	2,602
Bairs-Georges	900	1,980	113
Lone Pine	900	900	918
Total	51,470	77,413	*48,678

*2024-25 pumping of 46,472 AF reported in
Draft Annual Owens Valley Report Table 2.4

Pumping since 1970



Since Water Agreement:

- Pumping has ranged 35,200 - 91,700 AF
- Average annual pumping ~70,000 AF

Pumping from Laws to Lone Pine, does NOT include DH (V404/405)

*2024-25 pumping of 46,472 AF reported in Draft Annual Owens Valley Report Table 2.4



2024-25 Conditions and Operations – Groundwater Levels

Water Levels

Indicator Wells: At 46 indicator wells the average actual depth to water (DTW) by wellfield decrease from spring 2024 to spring 2025 was -1.5 ft.

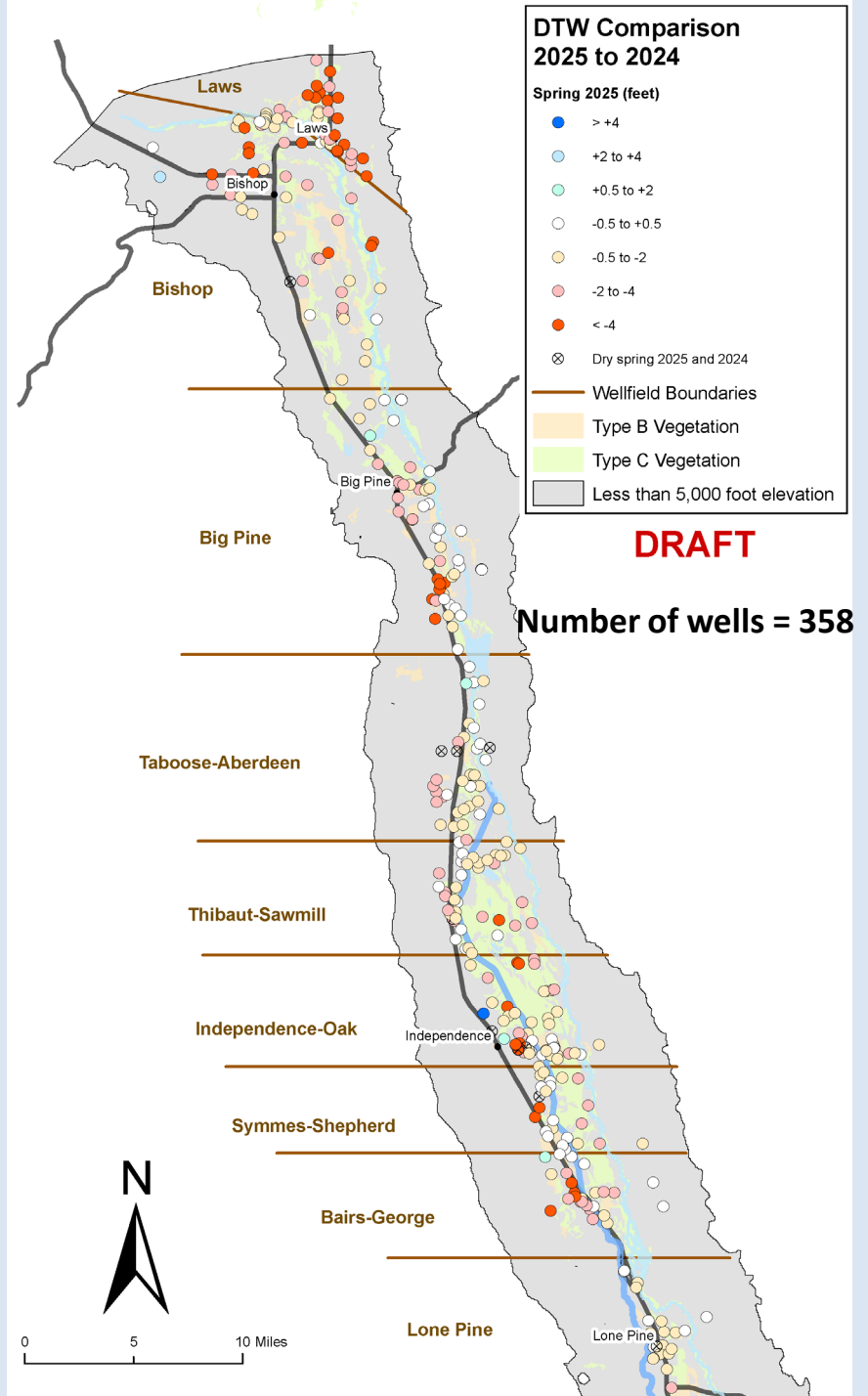
Last year, the average predicted decrease was -1.4 ft (LADWP proposed minimum pumping).

Change in DTW 2024-25

Water levels in approximately 1/3 of the measured wells **decreased** at least two feet from spring last year (including control areas)

37 had no measured change or increased

Average decrease valley wide: -1.8 ft

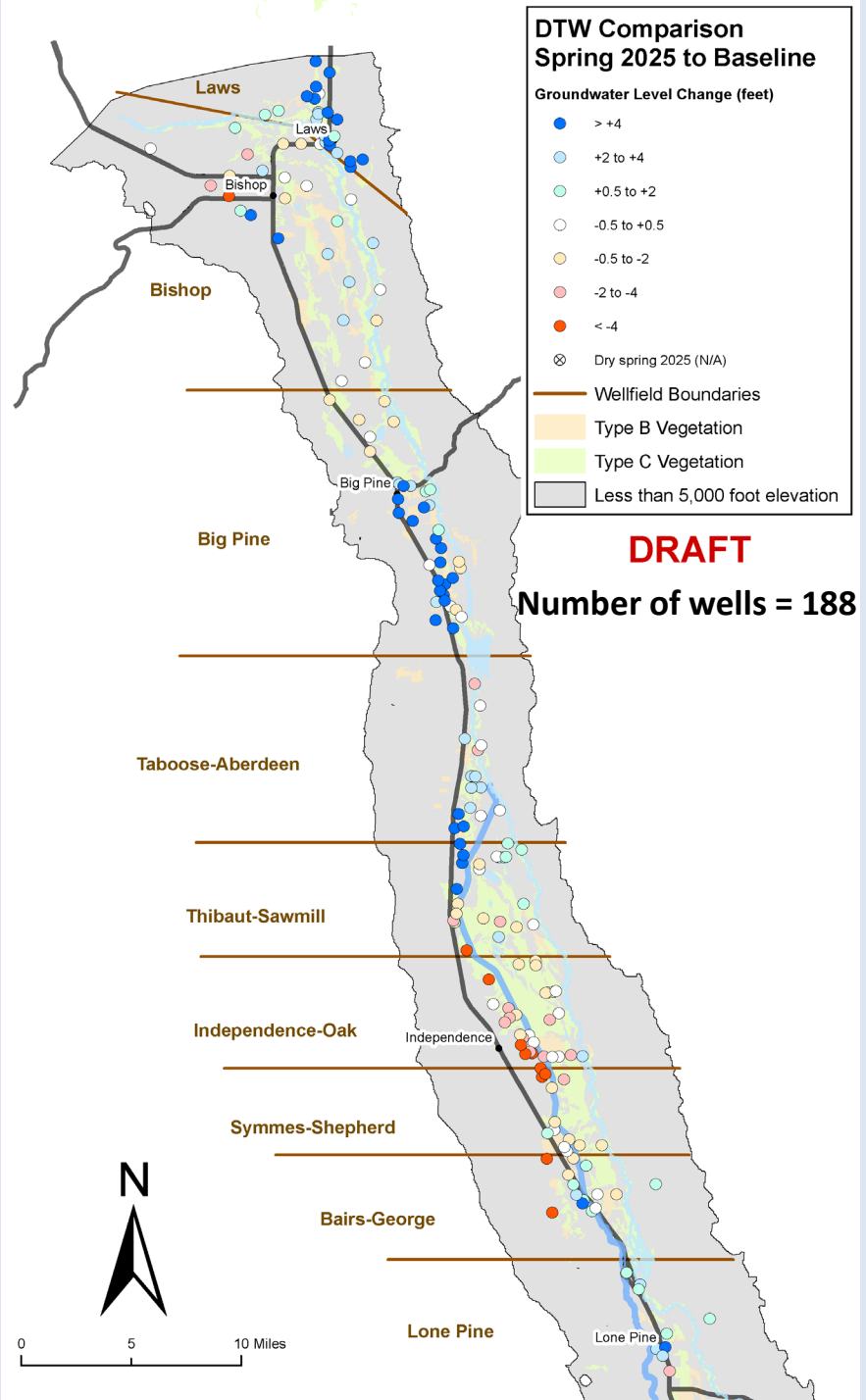


April 2025 DTW Conditions

DTW is ***at or above*** baseline in much of the wellfields (110 wells).

Exceptions where water levels are below Baseline:

- 10 wells in the southern half of the valley are > 4 feet below baseline (west of the aqueduct).
- 1 well west of Bishop (T390)

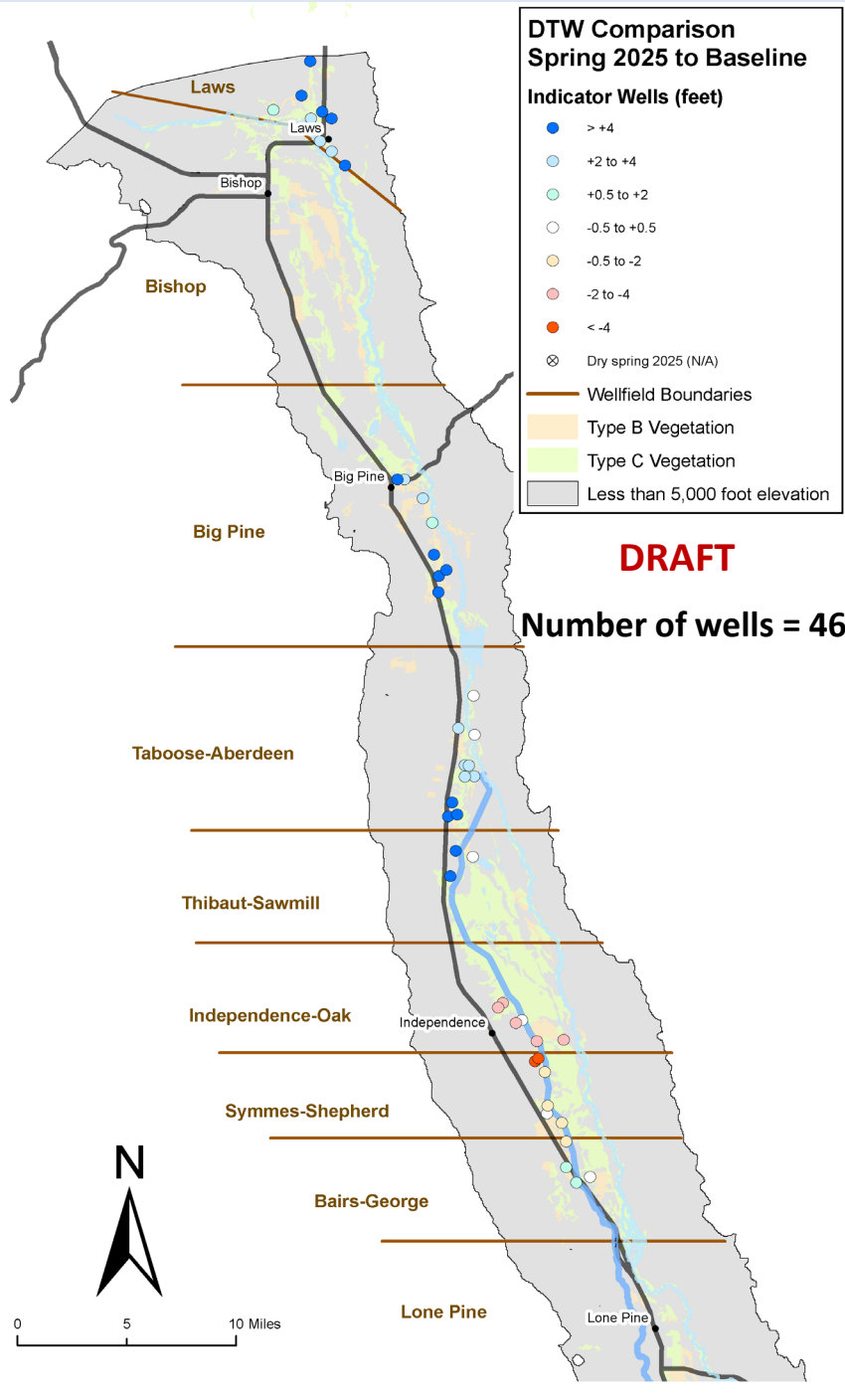


April 2025 Groundwater Levels at Indicator Wells

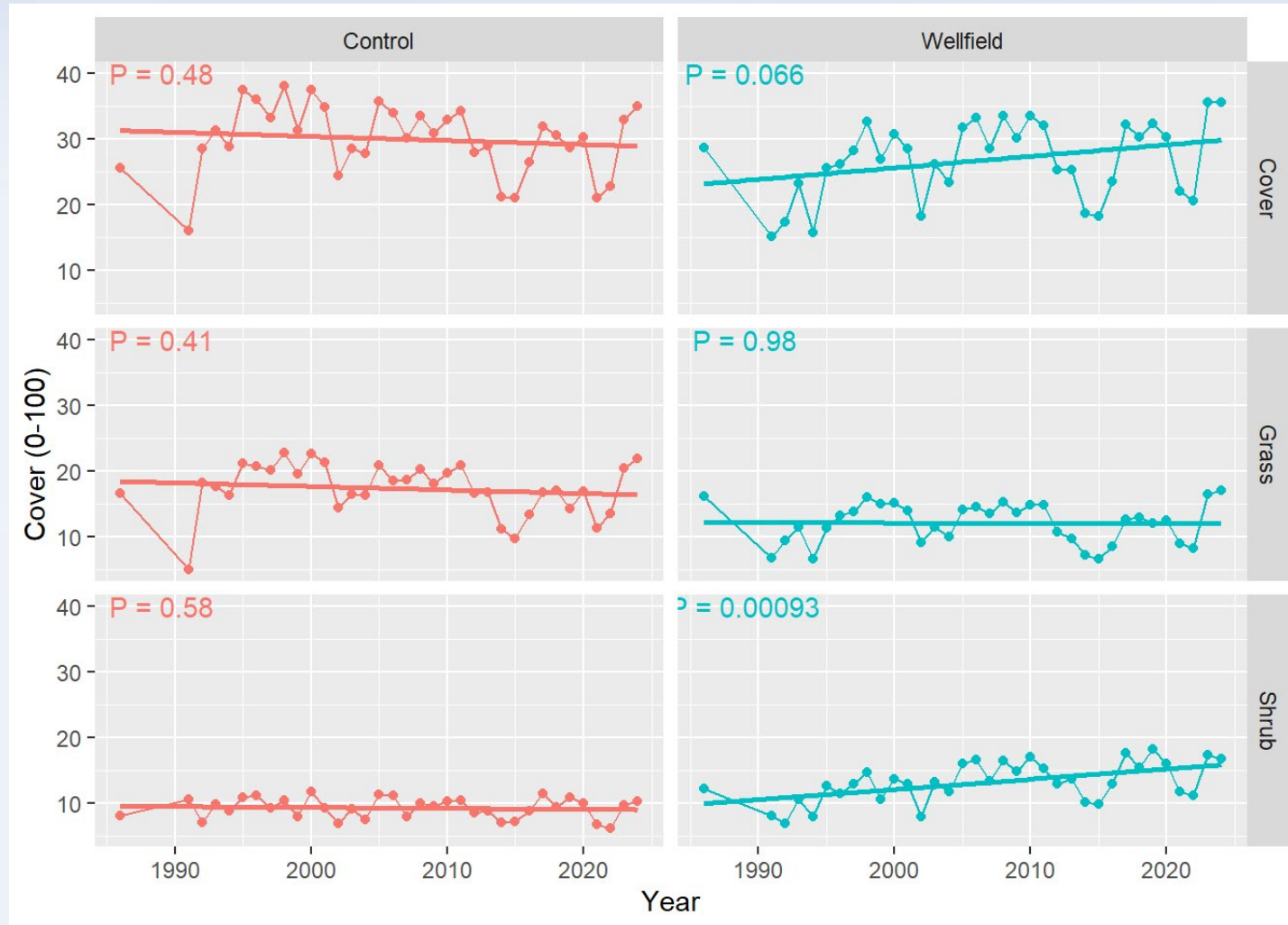
Wellfield	2024 - 2025 change	2025 average from baseline
	ft	ft
Laws	-3.4	5.1
Big Pine	-1.5	5.1
Taboose-Aberdeen	-0.6	3.1
Thibaut-Sawmill	-0.9	5.3
Independence-Oak	-1.6	-2.1
Symmes-Shepherd	-0.4	-3.3
Bairs-George	-2.1	1.2
Wellfield Average	-1.5	+2.1

Most wells (42 of 46) declined from April 2024 levels

30 of 46 indicator wells are above baseline in April 2025



2024-25 Conditions and Operations - Vegetation





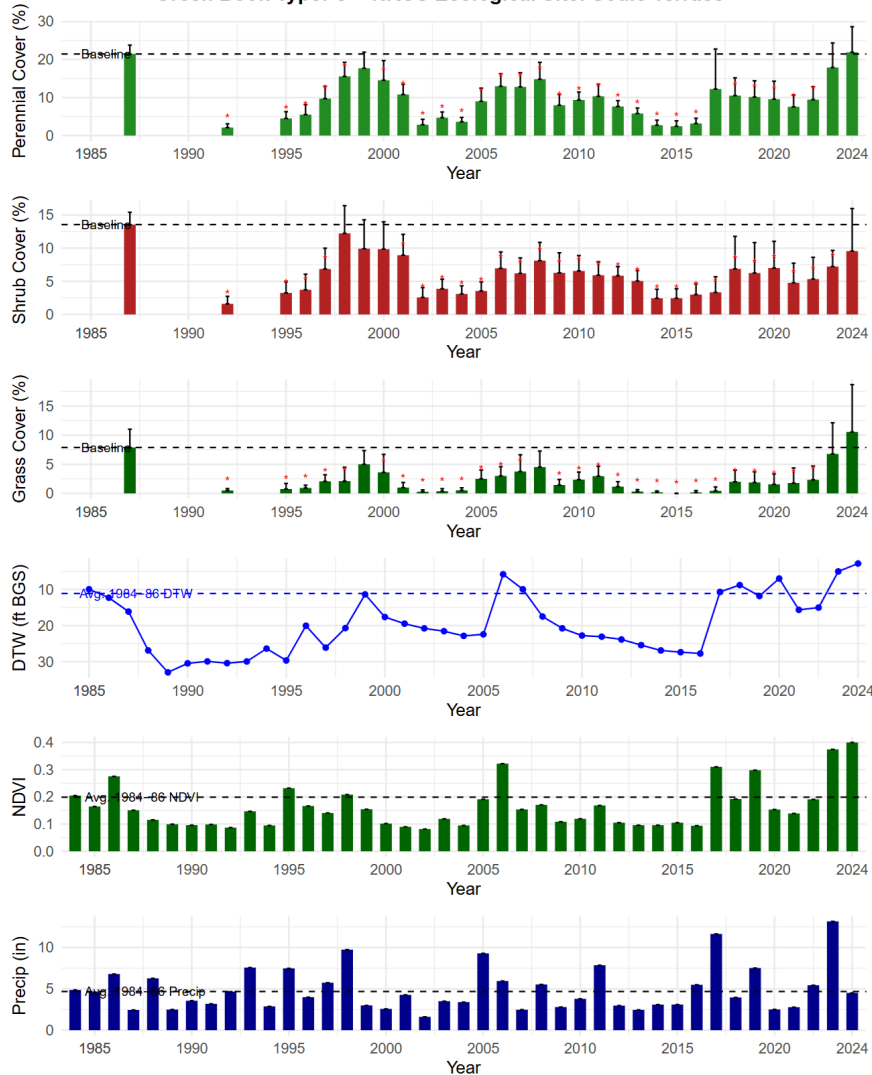
2024-25 Conditions and Operations - Vegetation

Vegetation parcels below baseline for last 5 years or more

BLK075	IND029
BLK094	LAW043
FSL044	LAW052
FSL054	LAW082
FSP006	TIN050
IND021	TIN053
IND026	TIN064



**LAW062 – Wellfield – Holland Type: Rabbitbrush Meadow –
Green Book Type: C – NRCS Ecological Site: Sodic Terrace**



2024-2025



- [2024 Vegetation Graphs \(pdf\)](#)
- [2024 Interactive vegetation graphs, maps, depth to water, NDVI and species lists \(R Shiny App\)](#)



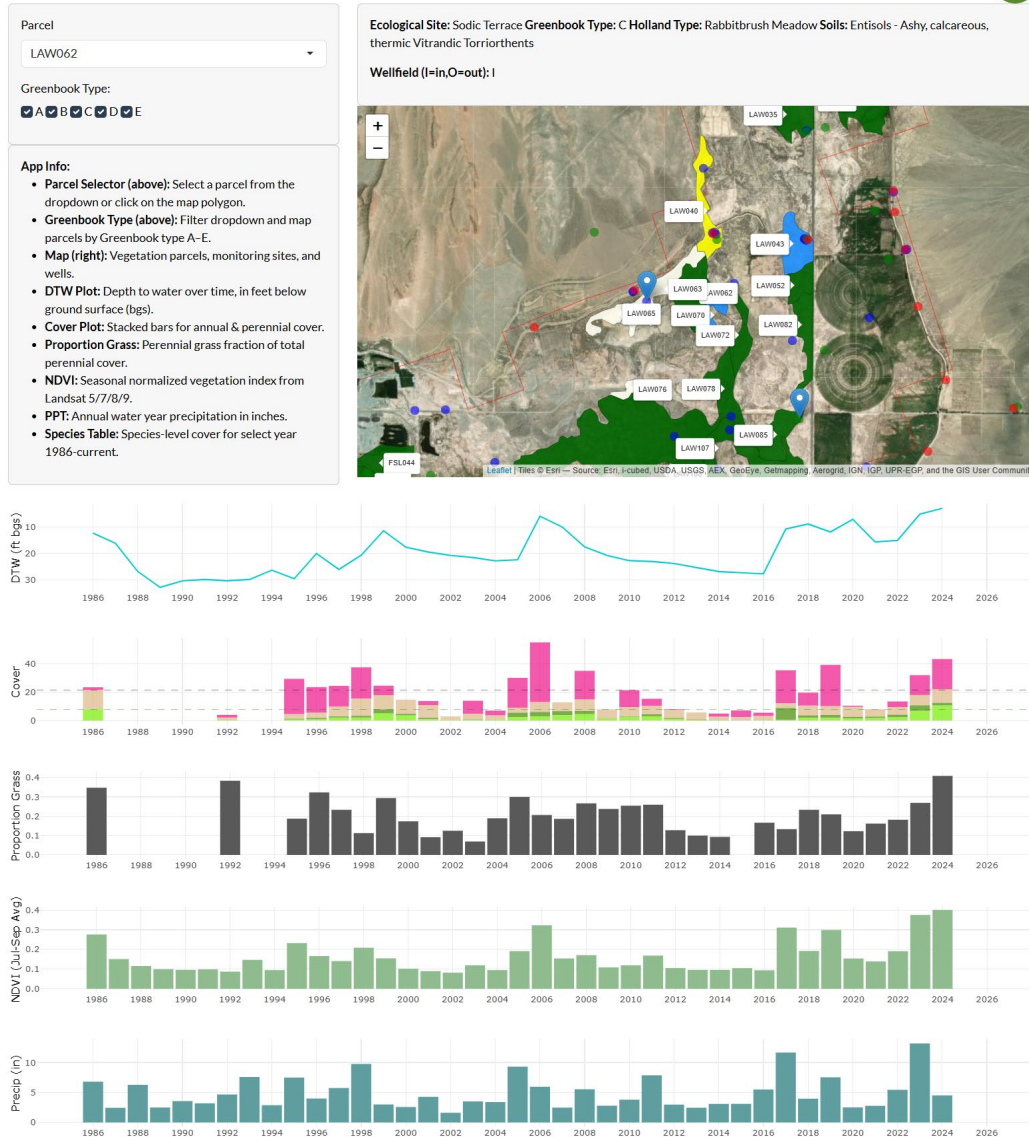
2024-2025

<https://inyo.shinyapps.io/inyoShiny/>



- [2024 Vegetation Graphs \(pdf\)](#)
- [2024 Interactive vegetation graphs, maps, depth to water, NDVI and species lists \(R Shiny App\)](#)

Green Book Vegetation Monitoring





2025-26 Annual Operations Plan



Water Agreement Process

Inyo/LA Water Agreement Section IV.D "Annual Operations Plan"

- Draft plan provided by April 20 each year
- County has 10 days to review and provide comments
- Technical Group meets within 10 days to review County's comments (May 6, 2025)
- LADWP has 10 days to finalize the Operations Plan (May 16)



2025-26 LADWP Operations Plan

Precipitation

April 1, 2025, snowpack: 84% of average

Owens Valley precipitation: 3.2" or 57% of average (5.6")

	Water Content	April 1 Normal	% of April 1 Normal
Average of all snow courses	15.8 in	18.7 in	84%



2025-26 LADWP Operations Plan

2025 EASTERN SIERRA RUNOFF FORECAST April 1, 2025

APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER RUNOFF

	MOST PROBABLE VALUE		REASONABLE MAXIMUM	REASONABLE MINIMUM	LONG-TERM MEAN (1971 - 2020)
	(Acre-feet)	(% of Avg.)	(% of Avg.)	(% of Avg.)	(Acre-feet)
MONO BASIN:	77,400	77%	90%	65%	100,307
OWENS RIVER BASIN:	268,300	90%	103%	77%	298,780

APRIL THROUGH MARCH RUNOFF

	MOST PROBABLE VALUE		REASONABLE MAXIMUM	REASONABLE MINIMUM	LONG-TERM MEAN (1971 - 2020)
	(Acre-feet)	(% of Avg.)	(% of Avg.)	(% of Avg.)	(Acre-feet)
MONO BASIN:	94,700	80%	94%	67%	118,156
OWENS RIVER BASIN:	375,100	92%	105%	80%	406,308

Runoff Forecast

Owens River Basin: 92% of average

375,100 acre-feet

Owens Valley Export: 129,000 AF

Eastern Sierra Export: 269,000 AF

Eastern Sierra will supply 55% of LA's total supply for the year



2025-26 LADWP Operations Plan

Planned Uses in the Owens Valley

In-valley uses: 95,100 AF

Irrigation: 49,780 AF

E/M: 9,920 AF

Stockwater: 11,420 AF

LORP: 14,920 AF (13,440 AF April – Sept.)

Recreation & wildlife: 7,460 AF

1,600 acre-foot projects: 1,600 AF

No planned spreading this year

Owens Lake dust mitigation



2024-25 LADWP Operations

Other possible operations

- W386 pumping test - Laws
- Pump equip W429 (replacement for W371) - Bishop
- W416 operational plan – Lone Pine



2025-26 LADWP Operations Plan

LADWP Proposed Groundwater Pumping

Month	Laws	Bishop	Big Pine	Taboose-Aberdeen	Thibaut-Sawmill	Indep.-Oak	Symmes-Shepherd	Bairs-Georges	Lone Pine	TOTAL
April	900-1,500	1,500	1,600-2,200	700-1,200	850	800-1,200	280	100-200	120	6,850-9,050
May	900-1,500	1,500	1,600-2,200	700-1,200	850	800-1,200	280	100-200	120	6,850-9,050
June	900-1,500	1,500	1,600-2,200	700-1,200	850	800-1,200	280	100-200	120	6,850-9,050
July	900-1,500	1,500	1,600-2,200	700-1,200	850	1,000-1,400	280	100-200	120	7,050-9,250
August	900-1,500	1,500	1,600-2,200	700-1,200	850	1,000-1,400	280	100-200	140	7,070-9,270
September	900-1,500	1,500	1,600-2,200	700-1,200	850	1,000-1,400	280	100-200	140	7,070-9,270
October	100-250	500	1,200-1,700	1,000-1,400	850	300-400	280	100-200	30	4,360-5,610
November	100-250	500	1,200-1,700	1,000-1,400	850	300-400	280	100-200	30	4,360-5,610
December	100-250	500	1,200-1,700	1,000-1,400	850	300-400	280	100-200	20	4,350-5,600
January	100-250	500	1,200-1,700	1,000-1,400	850	300-400	280	100-200	20	4,350-5,600
February	100-250	500	1,200-1,700	1,000-1,400	850	300-400	280	100-200	20	4,350-5,600
March	100-250	500	1,200-1,700	1,000-1,400	850	300-400	280	100-200	20	4,350-5,600
TOTAL	6,000-10,500	12,000	16,800-23,400	10,200-15,600	10,200	7,200-10,200	3,360	1,200-2,400	900	67,860-88,560

67,860 - 88,560 AF pumping planned for 2025-26



Groundwater Levels at Indicator Wells

ICWD Predicted April 2026 average wellfield depth-to-water (DTW) relative to baseline

Wellfield	Baseline – 2026 avg. DTW 67,860 AF	Baseline – 2026 avg. DTW 88,560 AF
	ft	ft
Laws	0.4	-0.7
Big Pine	4.0	3.0
Taboose-Aberdeen	1.3	0.1
Thibaut-Sawmill	4.9	4.9
Ind.-Oak	-2.7	-3.6
Symmes-Shepherd	-3.6	-3.6
Bairs-George	0.0	-1.1
Owens Valley	+0.6	-0.1



Groundwater Levels at Indicator Wells

Predicted April 2026 average change and depth-to-water

Wellfield	2025-26 avg. change (ft) LADWP (Table 1.7)	2025-26 avg. change (ft) ICWD	2026 avg. depth (ft-bgs) ICWD
Laws	-3.3* to -4.5	-4.8 to -5.9	14.0 to 15.1
Big Pine	-0.7 to -2.7	-1.1 to -2.1	10.6 to 11.5
Taboose-Aberdeen	-1.1 to -1.8	-1.9 to -3.1	12.1 to 13.3
Thibaut-Sawmill	-1.0	-0.4	6.5
Ind.-Oak	-0.6 to -2.0	-0.6 to -1.5	5.5 to 6.4
Symmes-Shepherd	-1.3	-0.3	10.5
Bairs-George	-0.4 to -0.8	-1.2 to -2.3	7.5 to 8.7
Owens Valley	-1.2 to -2.0	-1.5 to -2.2	9.5 to 10.3

*LADWP value will be revised to -3.1 in the final report



2025-2026 LADWP Operations Plan

ICWD Indicator Well Predictions (number of wells = 46)

Pumping: 67,860 AF (LADWP Proposed Low)

Indicator wells predict an average -1.5 ft decrease in DTW 2025-2026

DTW declines in 43 indicator wells

DTW above baseline in 24 wells

DTW predicted to be 0.6 ft above baseline on average

DTW below baseline in IO and SS Wells

Pumping: 88,560 AF (LADWP Proposed High)

Indicator wells predict an average -2.2 ft decrease in DTW 2025-2026

DTW declines in 43 indicator wells

DTW above baseline in 18 wells

DTW predicted to be -0.1 ft below baseline on average

DTW below baseline in Laws, IO, SS and BG Wells



ICWD Recommended 2025-26 pumping

Wellfield	2025-26 Pumping (AF)	ICWD Predicted 2025-26 avg. change (ft)	ICWD Predicted 2026 avg. depth (ft-bgs)
Laws	6,000	-4.8	14.0
Big Pine	16,800	-1.1	10.6
Taboose-Aberdeen	4,000	-0.5	10.8
Thibaut-Sawmill	10,200	-0.4	6.5
Ind.-Oak	7,200	-0.6	5.5
Symmies-Shepherd	3,360	-0.3	10.5
Bairs-George	1,200	-1.2	7.5
Owens Valley	61,660	-1.3	9.3



2025-2026 LADWP Operations Plan

Summary

- LADWP pumping between 67,860 and 88,560 AF
 - Water levels predicted to decrease -1.5 to -2.2 ft from 2025
- ICWD recommended pumping ~61,660 AF
 - Proposed minimum pumping
 - Reduced pumping in Taboose-Aberdeen below proposed minimum to ~4,000 AF (last year's pumping amount)
 - Utilize available surface water supplies in lieu of groundwater pumping where operationally feasible
 - Minimal pumping by LADWP will minimize groundwater decline to promote compatibility with baseline vegetation goals



Questions?