

Owens Valley Annual Operations Plan 2023-24 Runoff Year

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Water Operations Division



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.

Snowpack & Runoff Forecast

**Owens River Basin Snowpack (April 1, 2024):
97% of Normal**

Runoff Forecast: 103% of Normal

ON/OFF Status of Vegetation Monitoring Sites (April 2024)

Wellfield	Vegetation Monitoring Site	April 2024 ON/OFF Status	Wellfield	Vegetation Monitoring Site	April 2024 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 Pumping

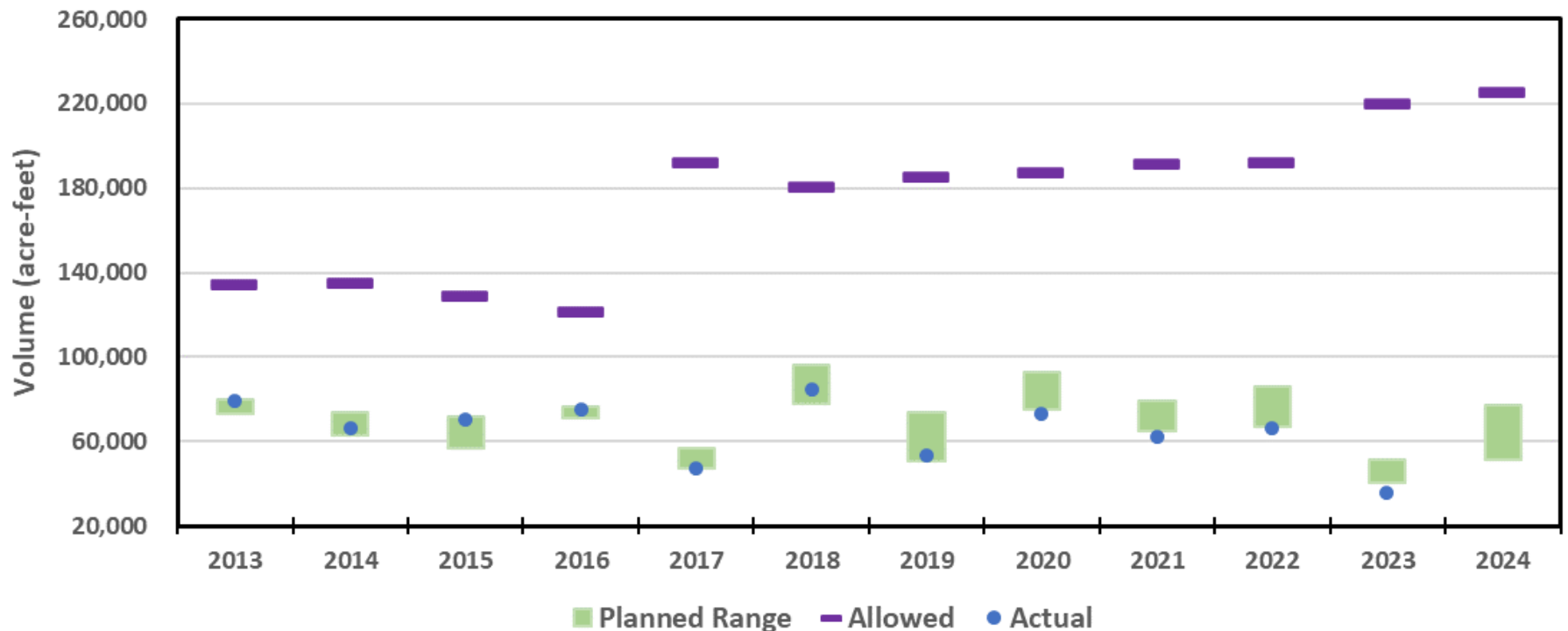
Table 1.3 of Annual Operations Plan

Wellfield	Available Pumping Capacity (AF)	Planned Pumping (AF)
Laws	44,380	5,500 - 8,290
Bishop	18,310	5,120 - 9,000
Big Pine	50,510	14,700 - 21,300*
Taboose-Aberdeen	50,925	6,750 - 11,325
Thibaut-Sawmill	17,134	8,000 - 9,648
Independence-Oak	19,802	6,960 - 9,930
Symmies-Shepherd	20,241	2,640 - 5,040
Bairs-George	2,830	900 - 1,980
Lone Pine	990	900
Total Owens Valley	225,122	51,470 - 77,413

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

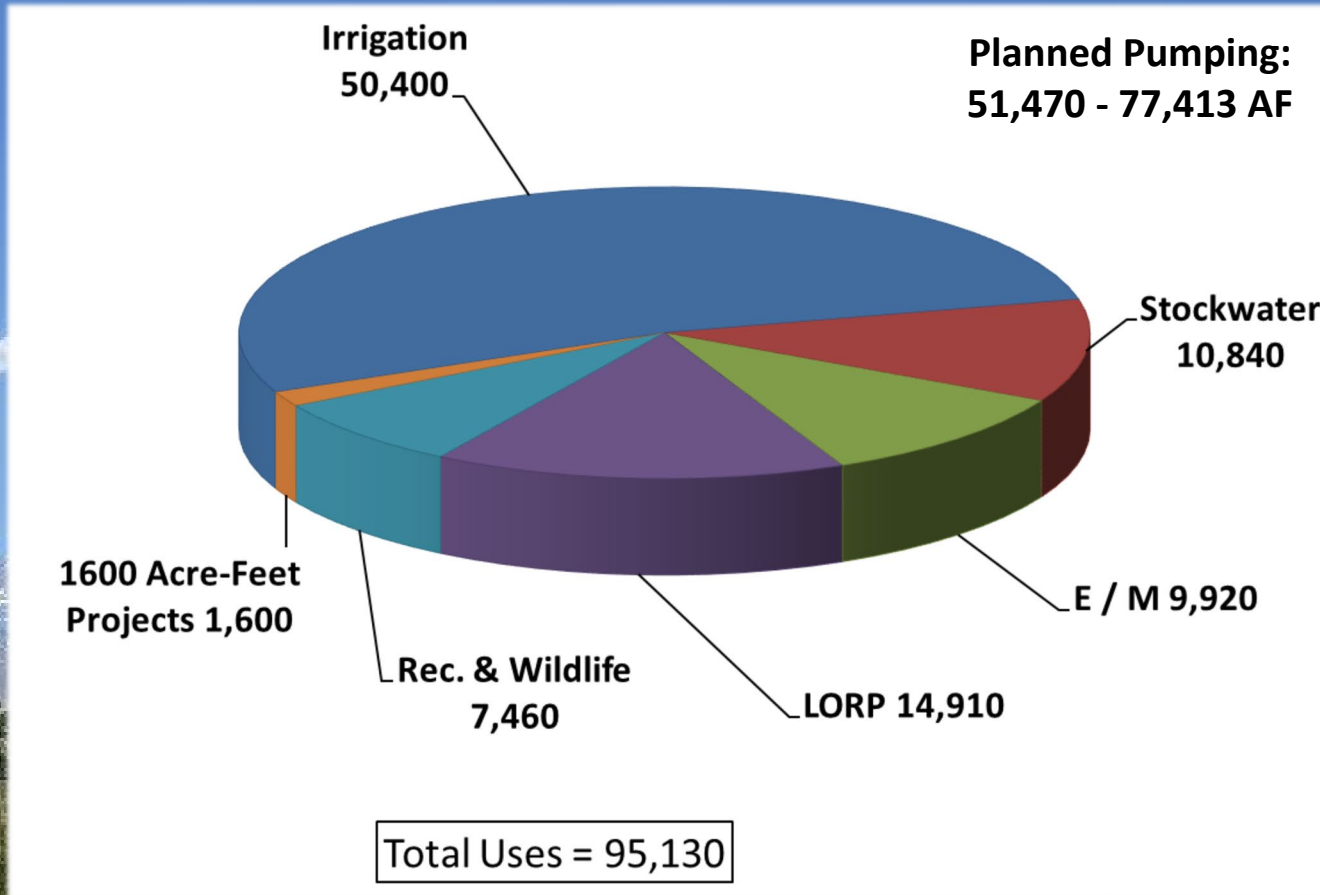
*Approximately 95% of pumped water in Big Pine is used for Fish Springs Hatchery.

Planned Range, Allowed, and Actual Pumping



Current pumping capacity is 225,122 acre-feet.

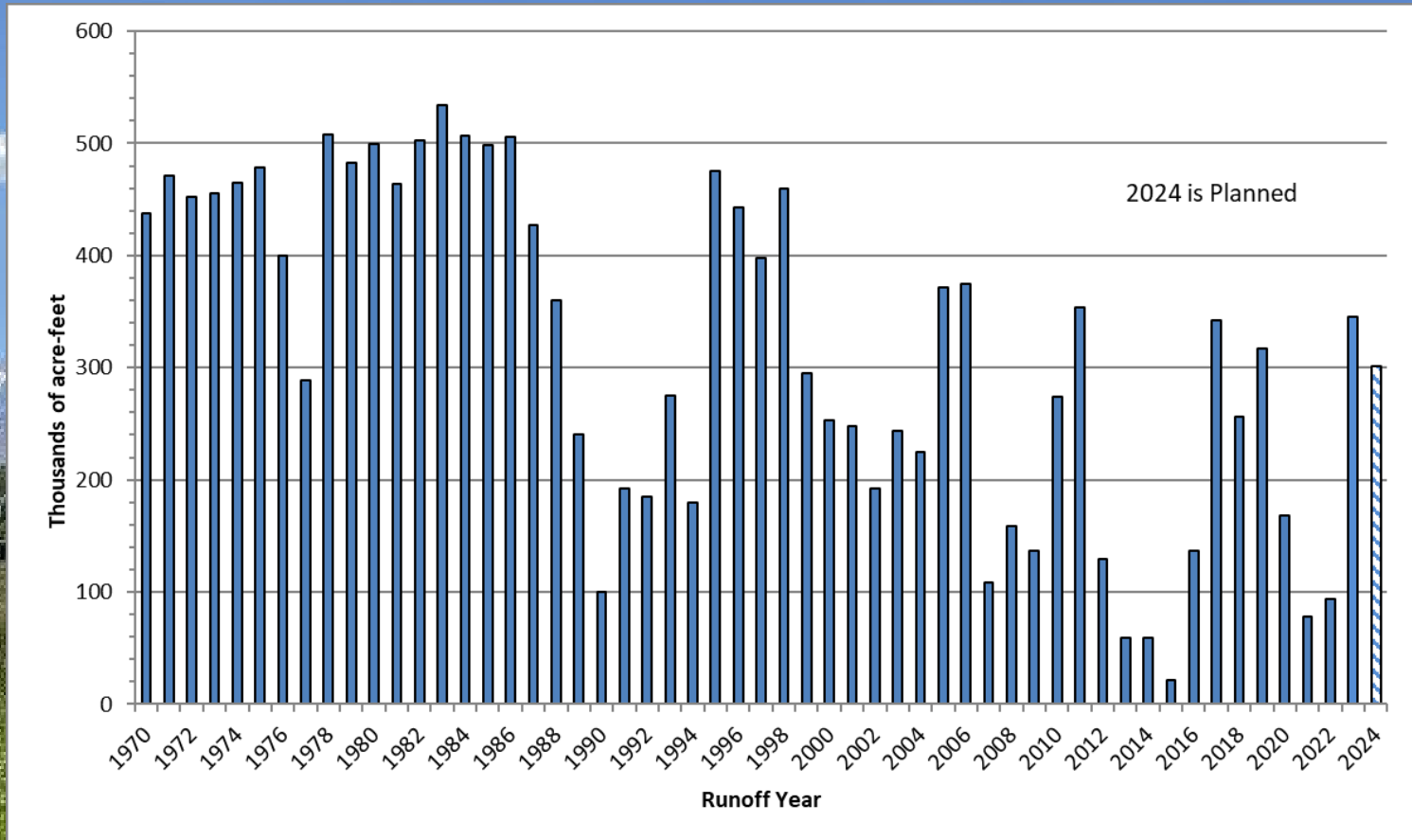
Water Supply to Uses in Owens Valley by LADWP



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

Water Export from Owens Valley

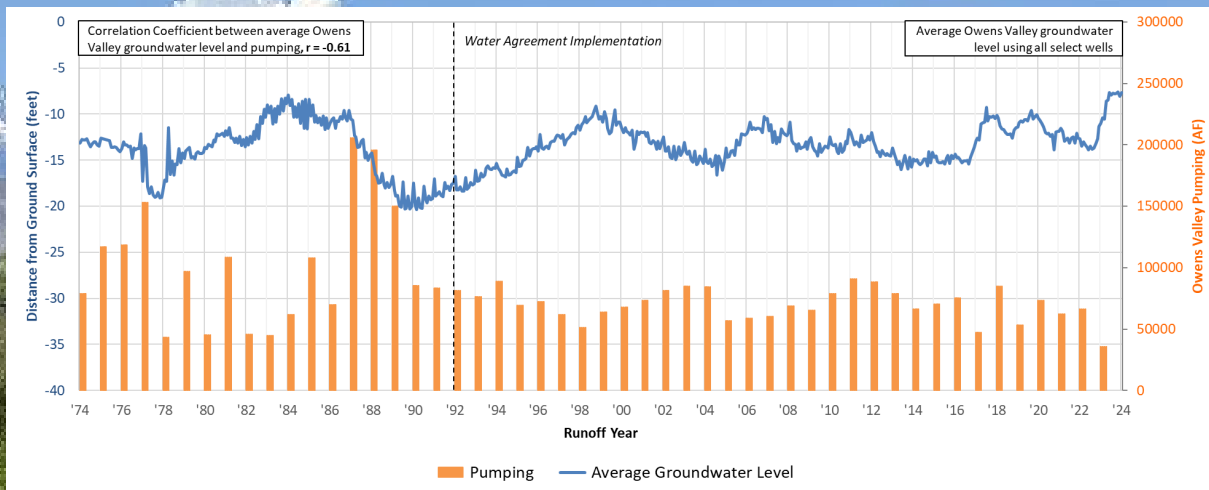
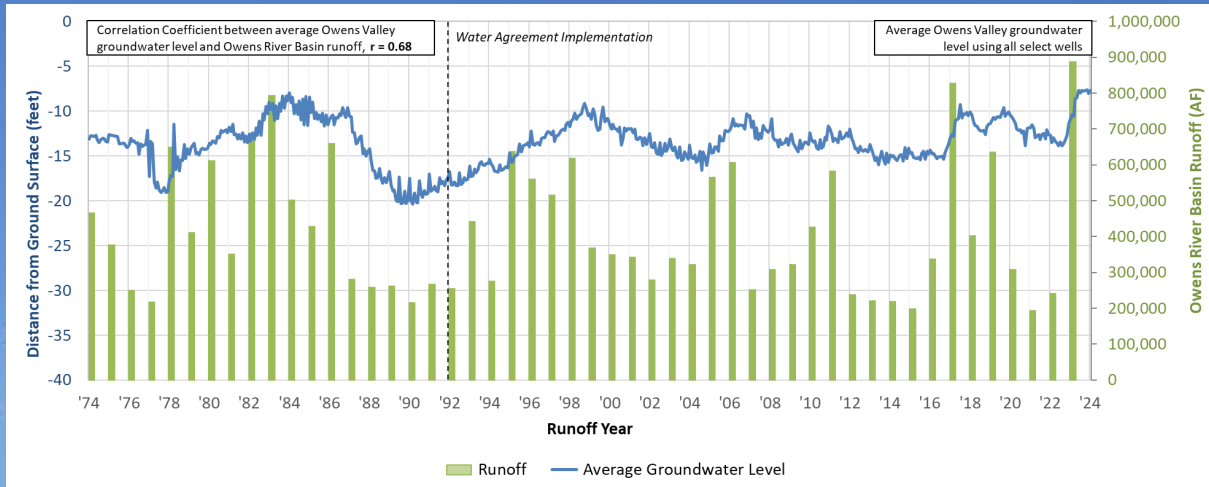
**Planned Export from Owens Valley is 151,000 acre-feet
(total of 301,000 from the Eastern Sierra).**



Owens Valley Conditions



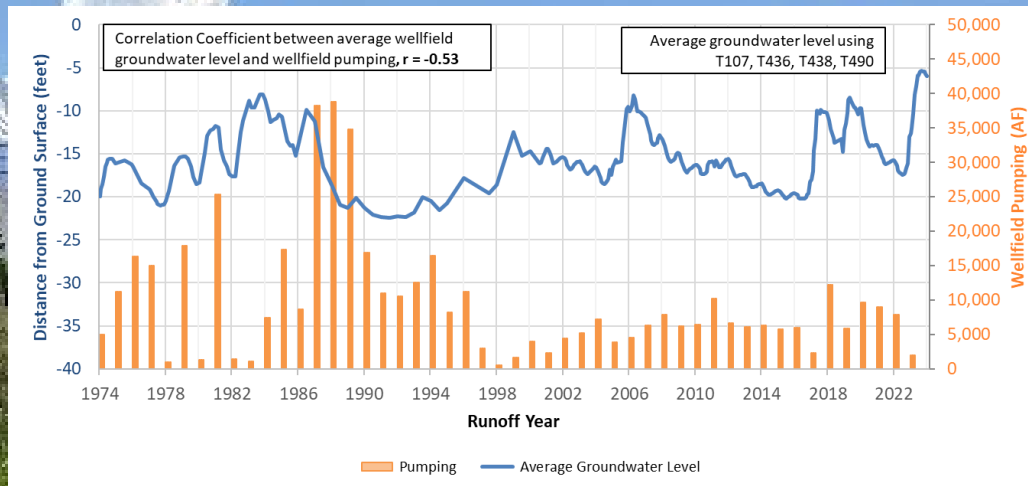
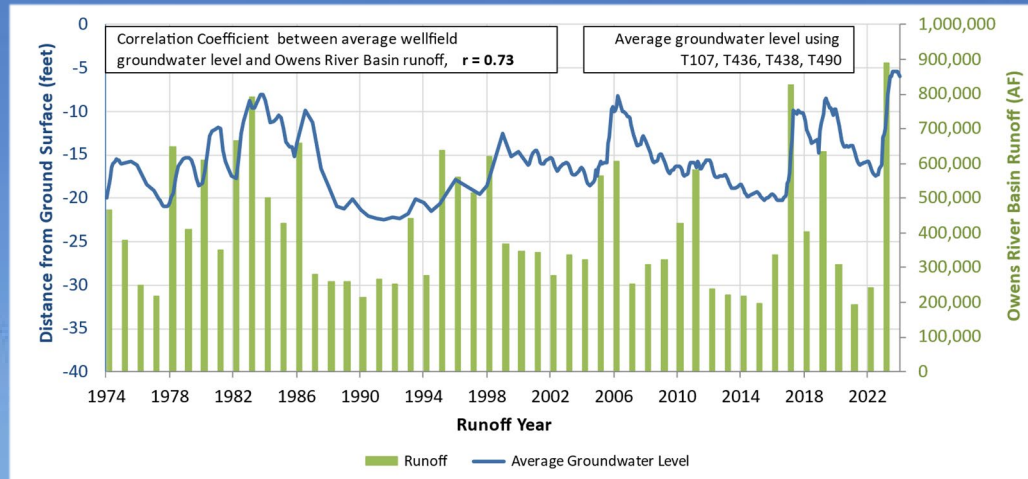
Average Owens Valley Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



Groundwater levels rose 3.2 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.
Owens Valley groundwater basin was virtually “full” in mid-1980s (Hollett and others, 1991).

Average Laws Groundwater Levels

(using representative monitoring wells)

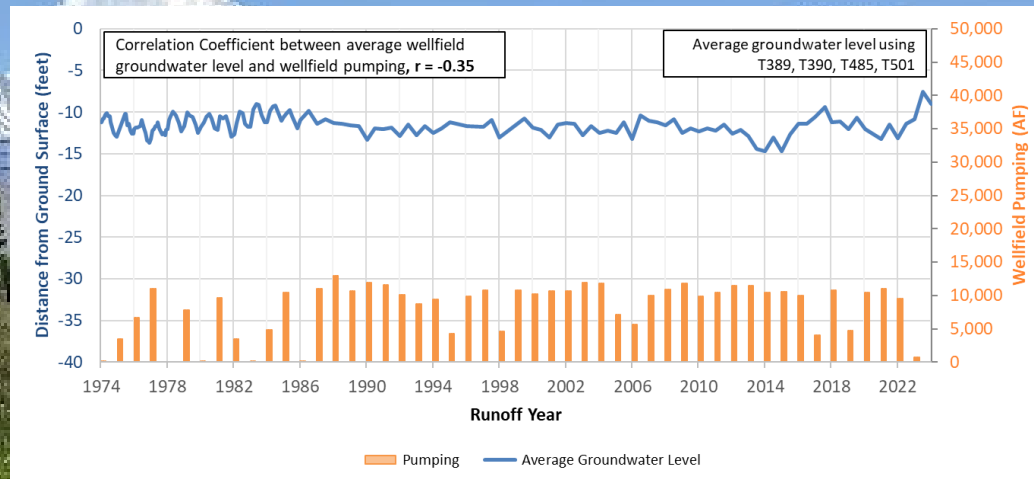
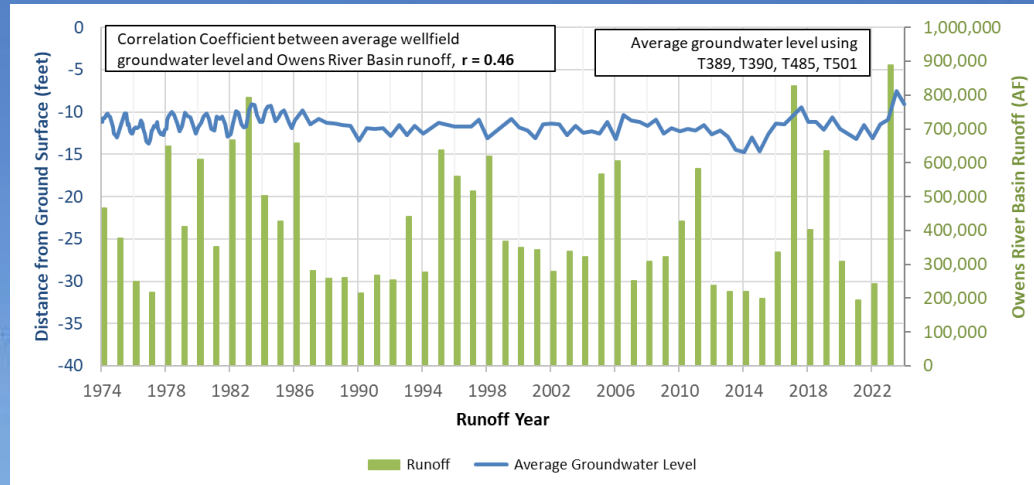


Groundwater levels rose 6.7 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

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Average Bishop Groundwater Levels

(using representative monitoring wells)

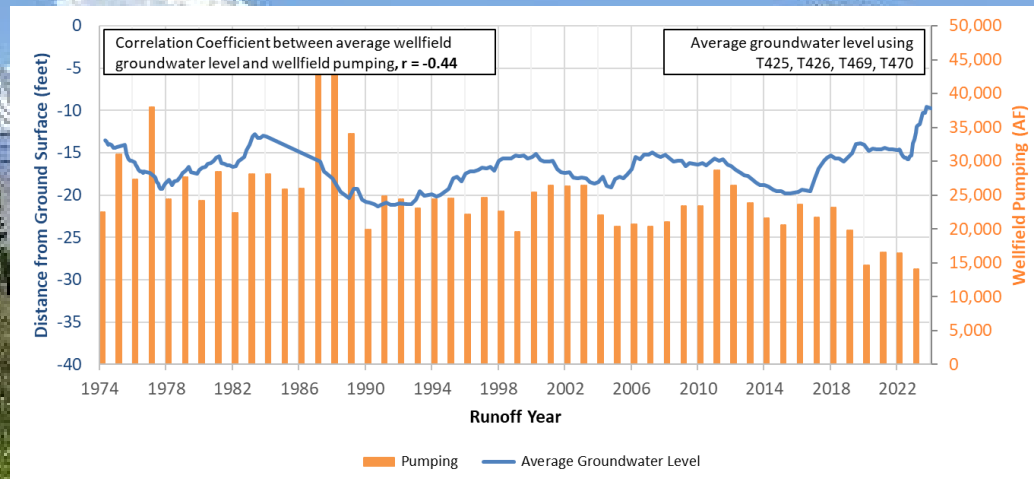
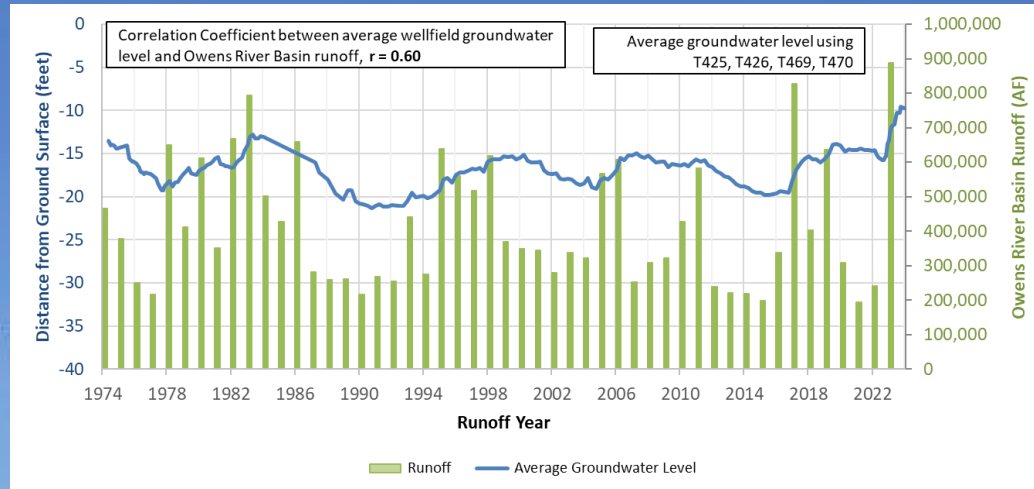


Groundwater levels rose 1.8 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

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Average Big Pine Groundwater Levels

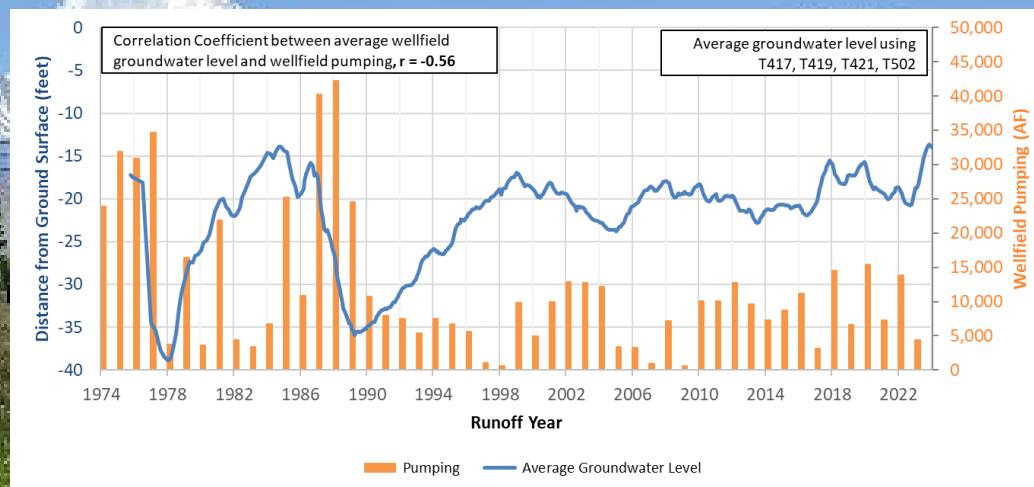
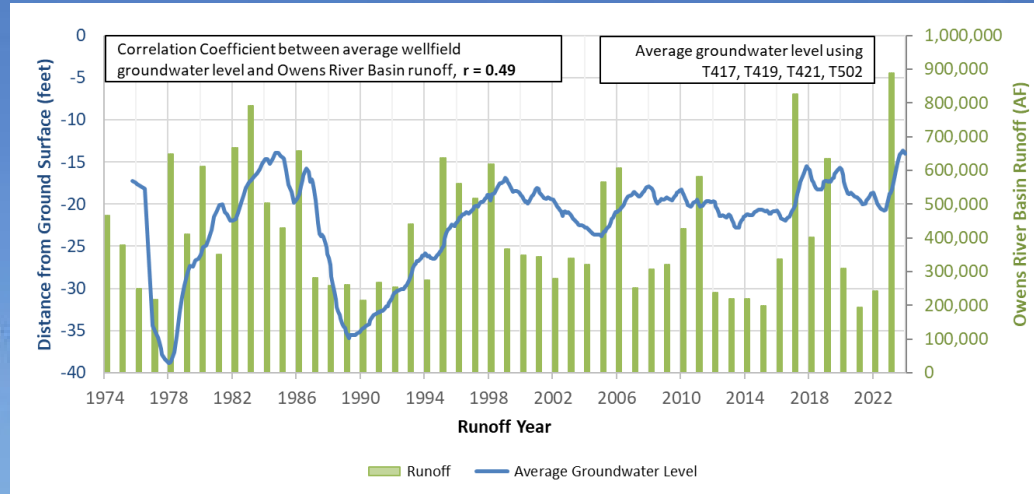
(using representative monitoring wells)



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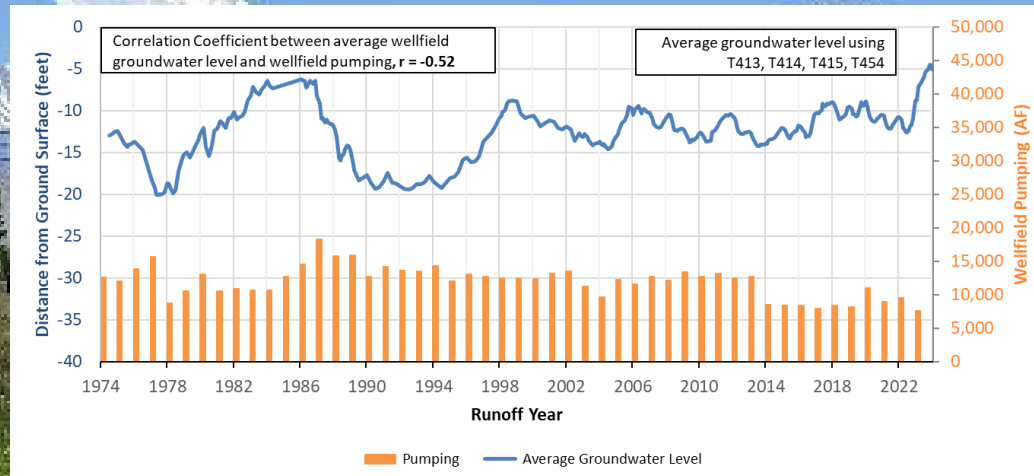
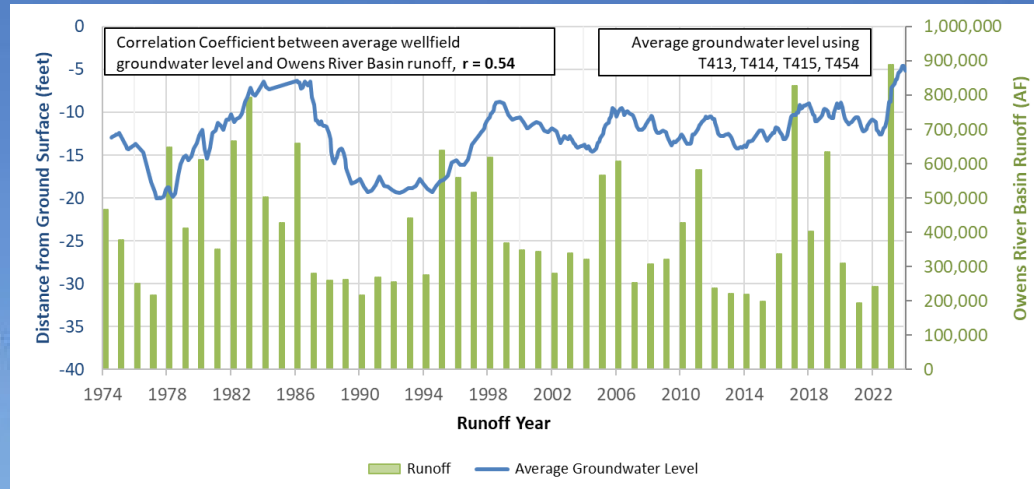
Average Taboose-Aberdeen Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



Groundwater levels rose 4.7 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

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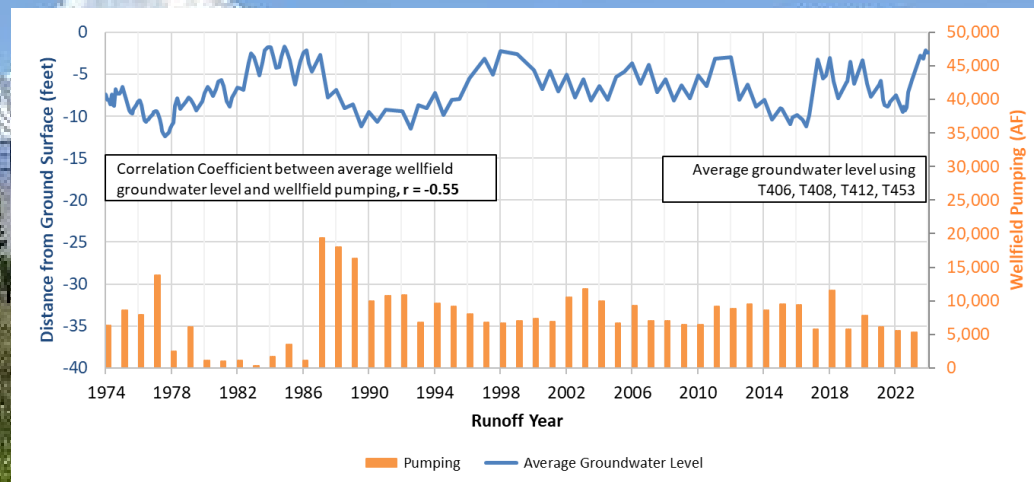
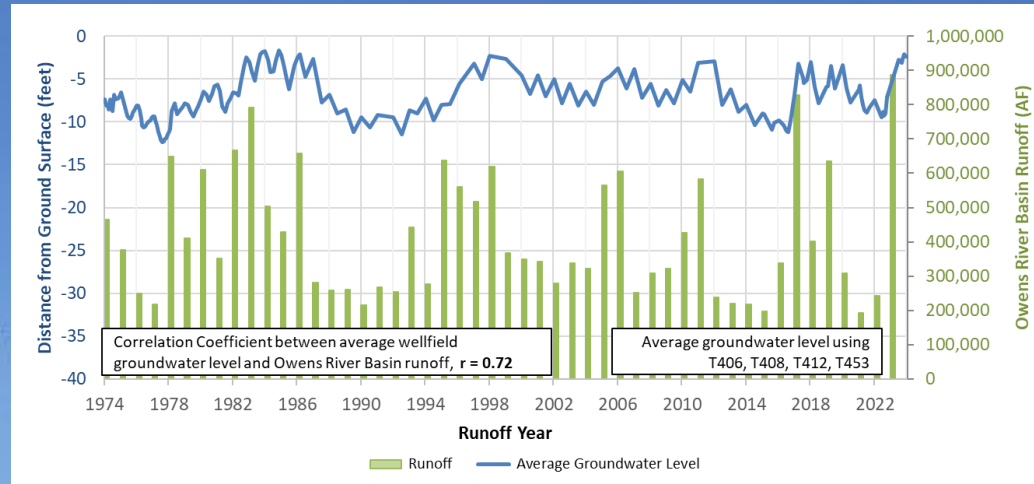
Average Thibaut-Sawmill Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



Groundwater levels rose 3.7 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

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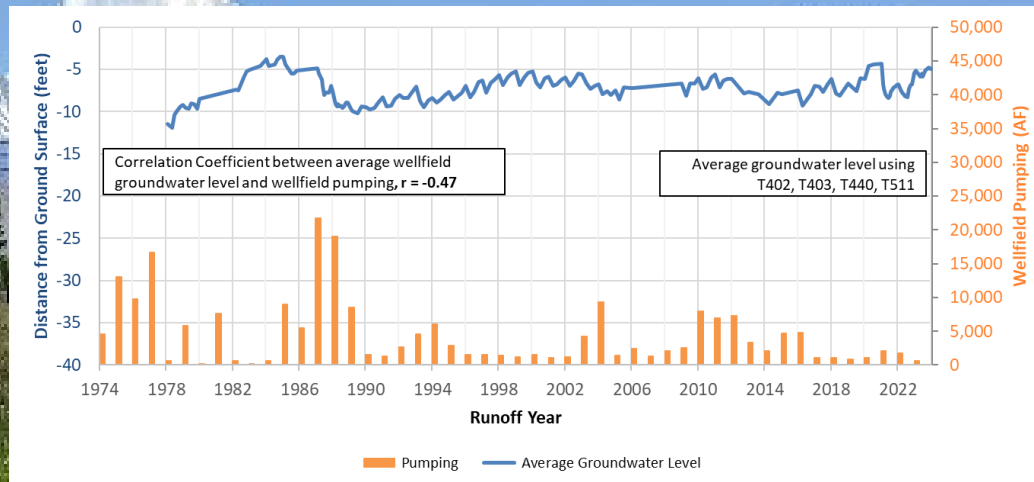
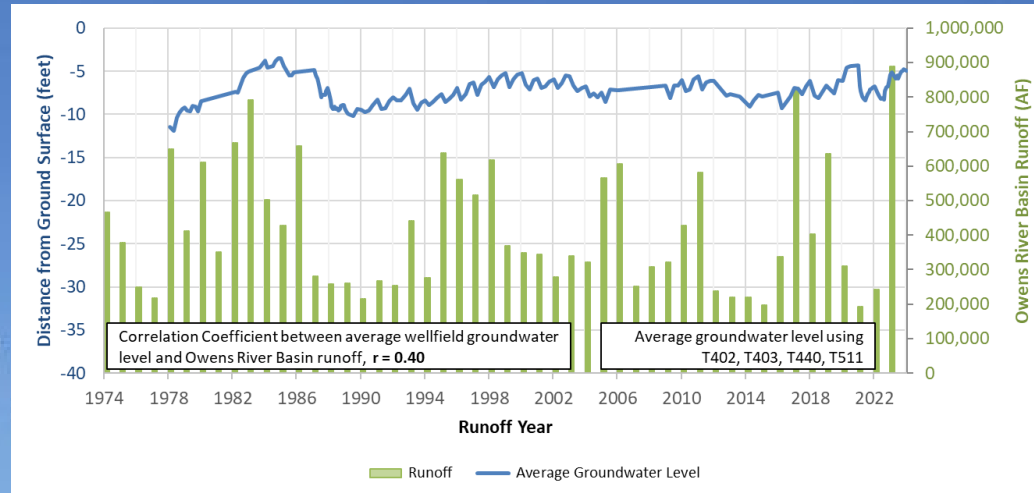
Average Independence-Oak Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



Groundwater levels rose 3.3 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

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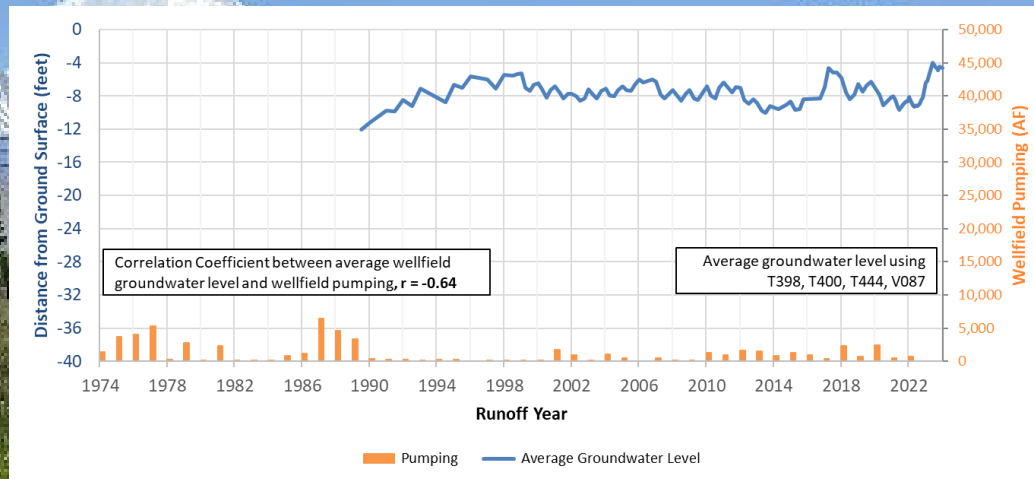
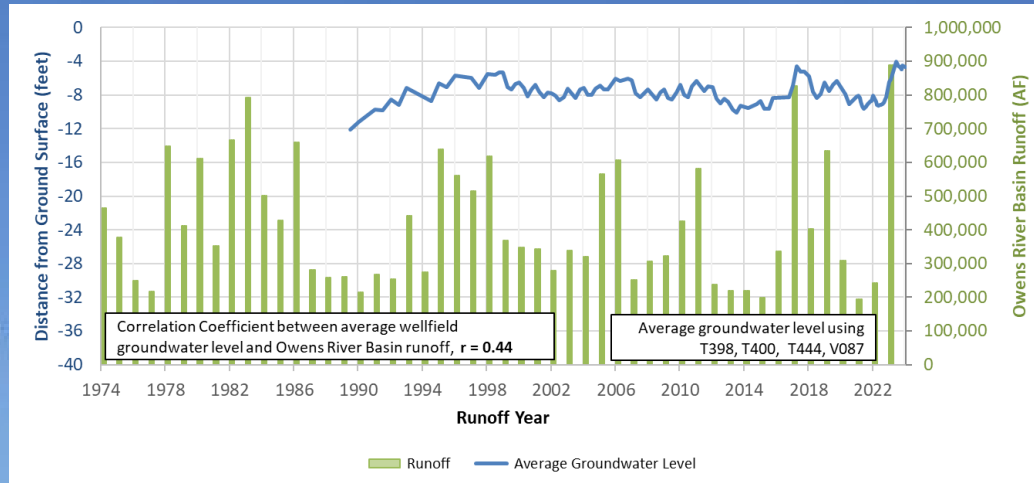
Average Symmes-Shepherd Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



Groundwater levels rose 6.5 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

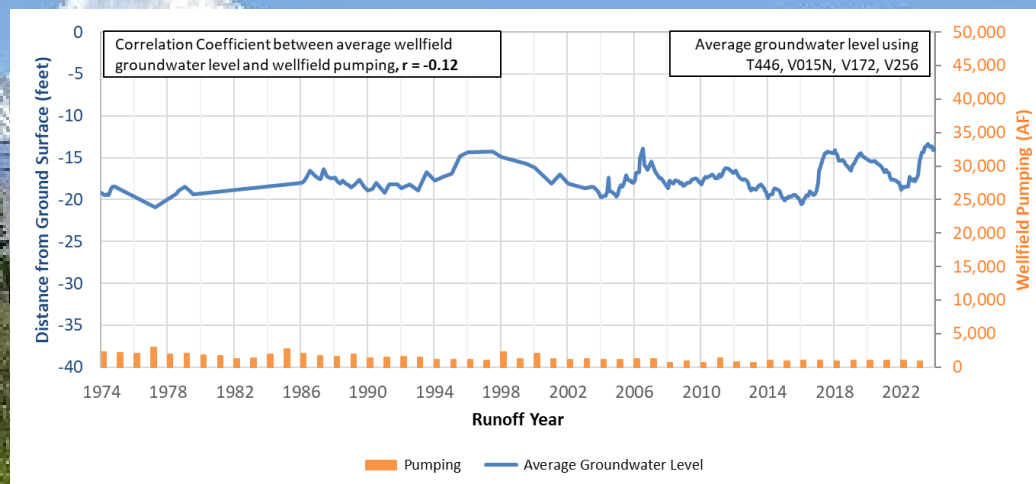
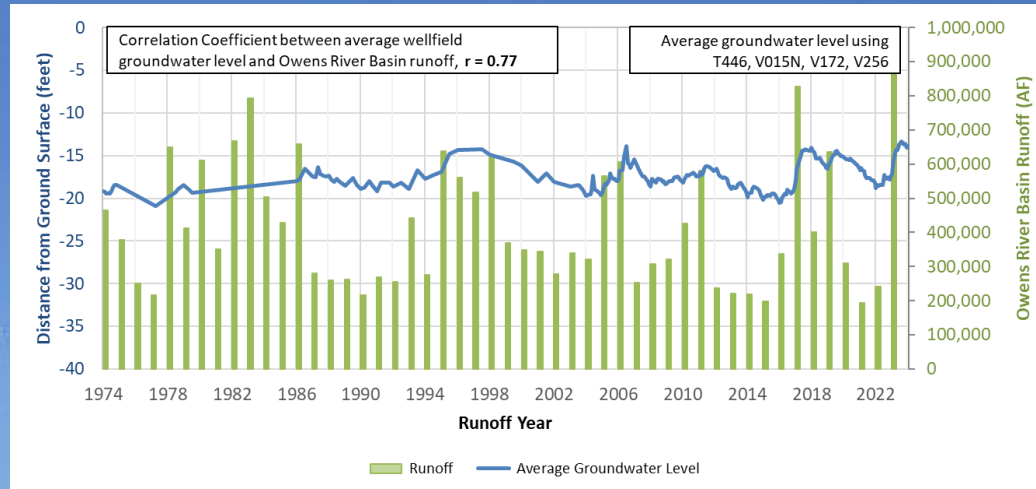
Owens Valley groundwater basin was virtually “full” in mid-1980s (Hollett and others, 1991).

Average Bairs-George Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)



Groundwater levels rose 1.8 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.
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Average Lone Pine Groundwater Levels (using representative monitoring wells)

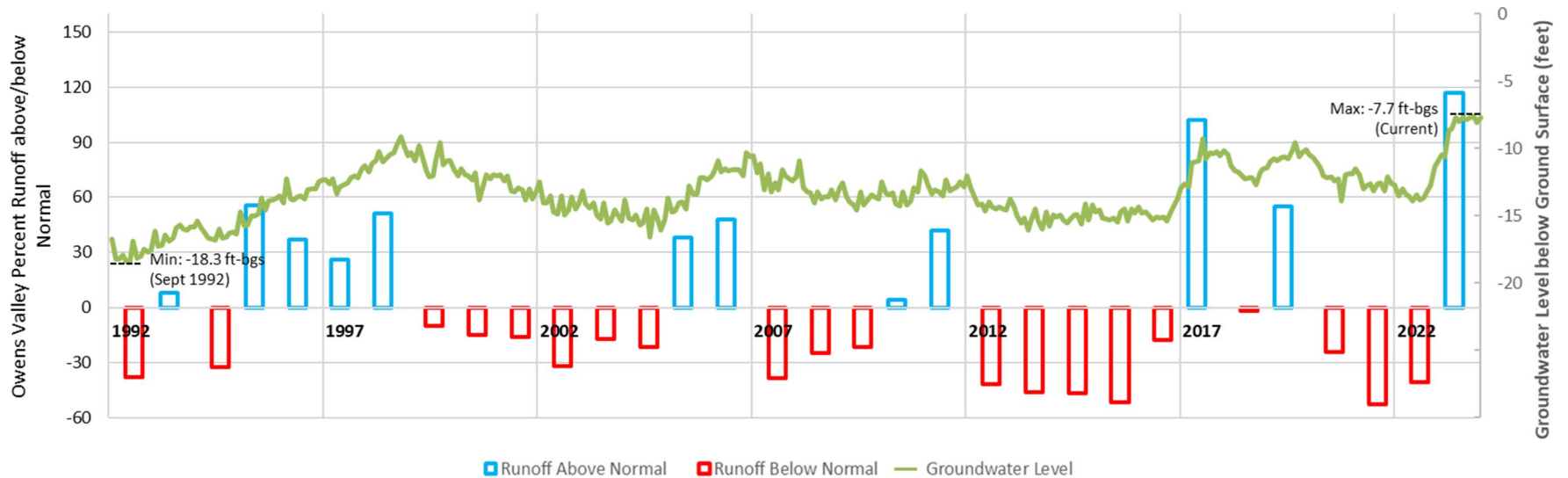


Groundwater levels rose 3.2 feet over 2023-24 Runoff Year to the highest levels on record.

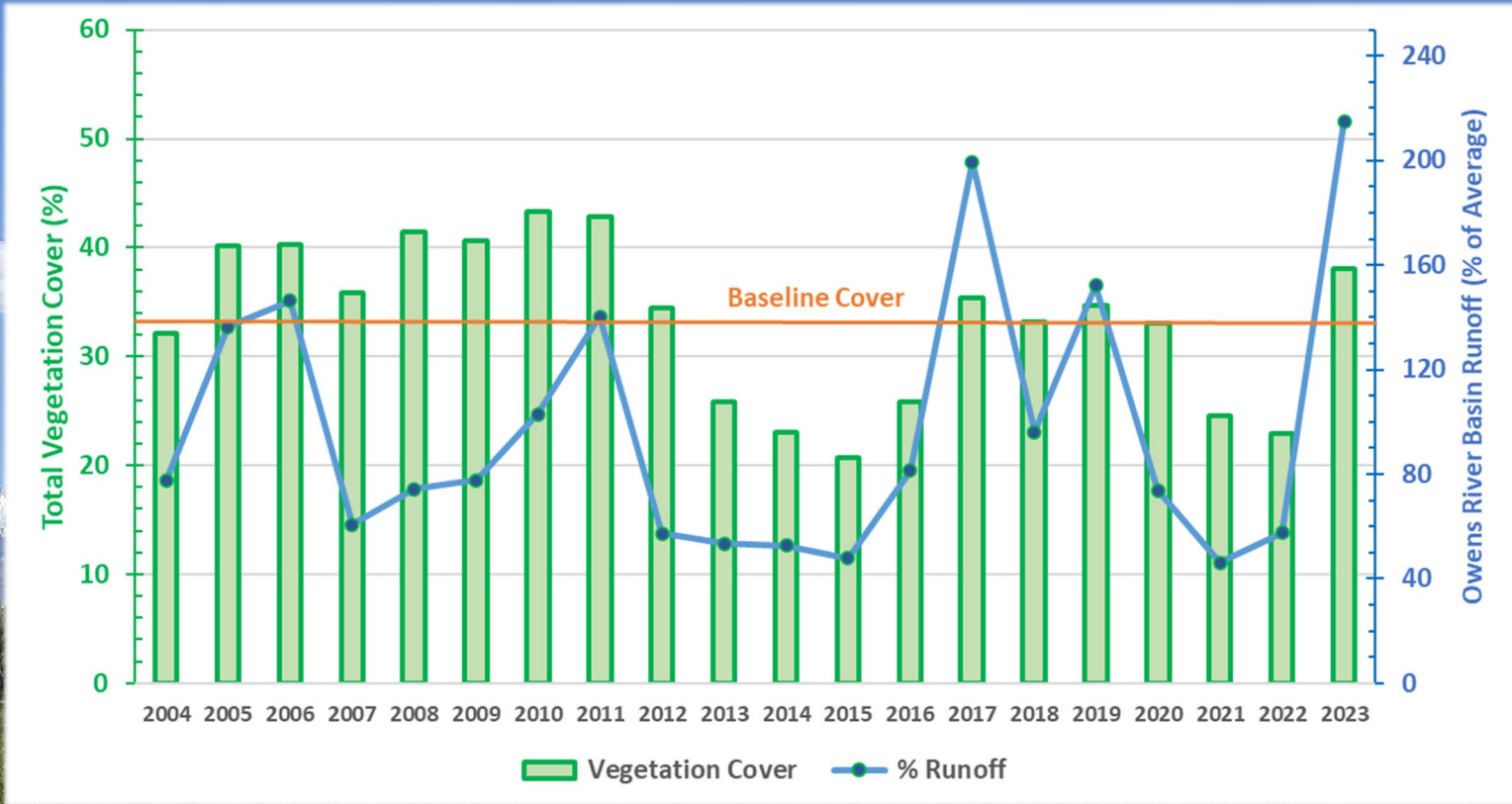
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Groundwater Levels

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**