



Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Alternative Assessment Summary Indio Subbasin

Determination: APPROVED

Submitting Agencies:

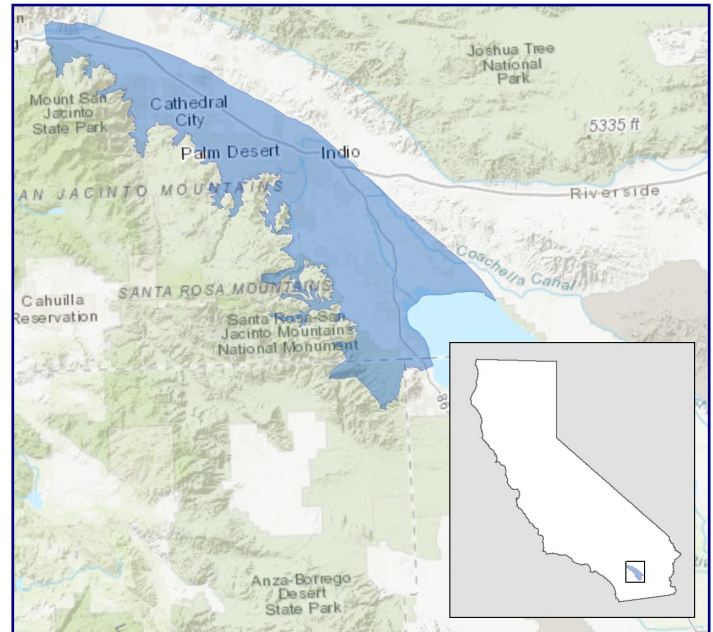
Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)
Desert Water Agency (DWA)
Indio Water Authority (IWA)
Coachella Water Authority (CWA)

Alternative Type:

Groundwater Management Plan

Assessment Summary:*

- The alternative prepared by the submitting agencies satisfied the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by successfully demonstrating that implementation of the agencies' existing water management plans are likely to lead to groundwater sustainability for the Indio Subbasin within the statutory timelines identified in SGMA.
- The alternative demonstrated an acceptable understanding of the hydrogeology, groundwater conditions, and water budget for the basin.
- The alternative established goals for the basin, including eliminating overdraft, meeting current and future demands with a 10 percent supply buffer, and managing and protecting water quality. The alternative also identified projects and management actions including water conservation, increasing surface water supplies, and recharging groundwater that will be used to maintain a positive change in storage and to eliminate overdraft by 2030.
- The alternative 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 identified that the region has developed a salt and nutrient management plan and is working to obtain approval of the plan by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Each of the submitting agencies has a responsibility and authority over water supply and groundwater management in the basin which appears sufficient to achieve groundwater sustainability.
- The Department of Water Resources provided recommendations for the submitting agencies to address in the first five-year update to the alternative, which is due in January 2022. The recommendations are related to clarifying the quantitative standards that will be used to determine progress toward achieving the sustainability goal for the basin, incorporating an approved salt and nutrient management plan, and providing additional descriptions of groundwater conditions in the basin.



*For more details, refer to the staff report at <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Alternatives>.