

2026-27 Draft LADWP Operations Plan

Inyo County Water Department

Inyo County Water Commission
April 23, 2026





2025-26 Conditions and Operations



2025-26 Conditions and Operations - Runoff

Runoff

Approximately 360,600 acre-feet or 88% of 1971-2020 average

Runoff forecast was 92% of long-term average, or 375,100 acre-feet



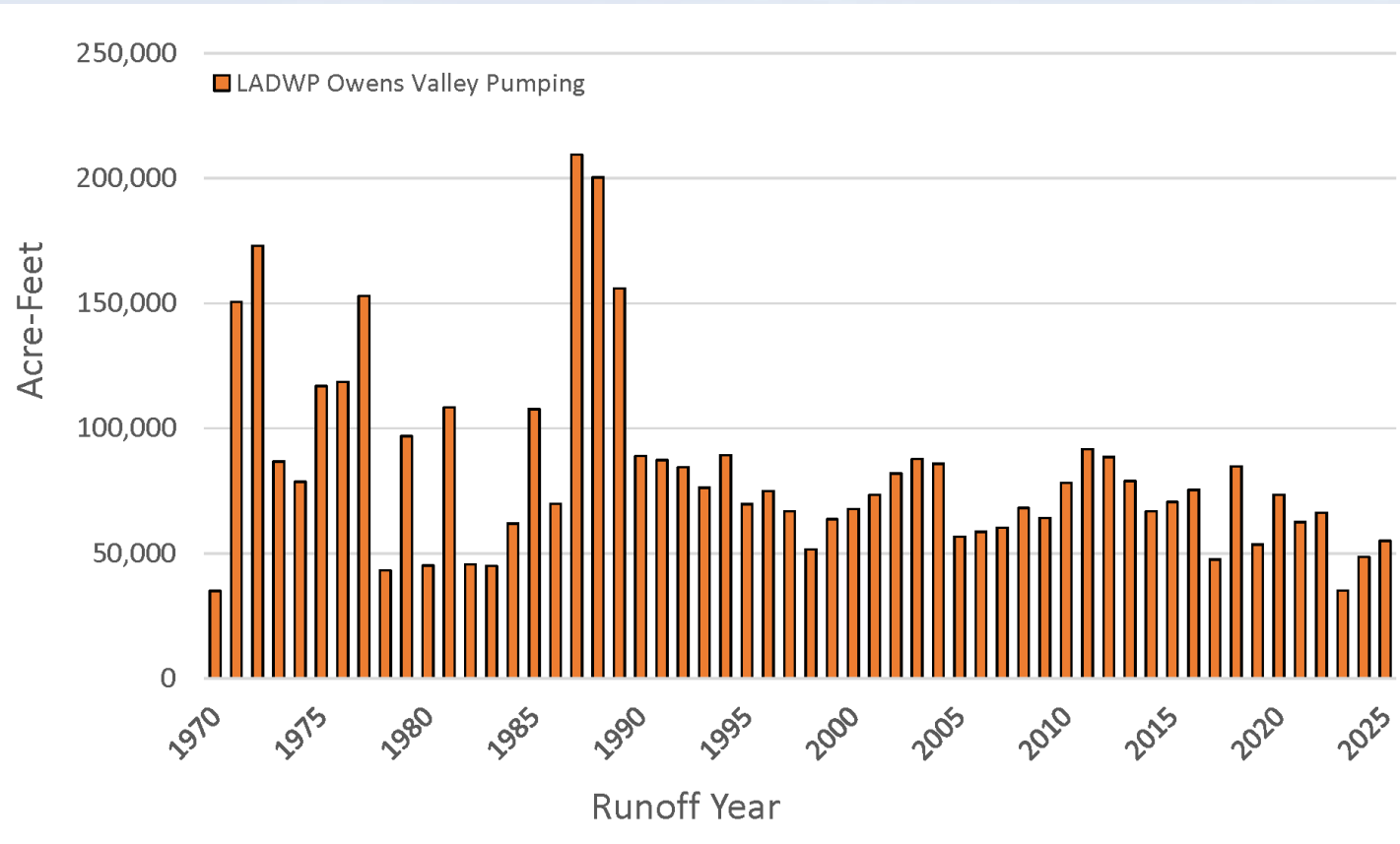
2025-26 Conditions and Operations - Pumping

2025-26 Pumping

Wellfield	Minimum planned 2025-26 pumping (AF)	Maximum planned 2025-26 pumping (AF)	Actual 2025-26 pumping (AF)
Laws	6,000	10,500	8,479
Bishop	12,000	12,000	9,762
Big Pine	14,400	22,200	16,630
Taboose-Aberdeen	8,400	14,400	3,678
Thibault-Sawmill	10,200	10,200	7,194
Independence-Oak	6,600	9,000	6,696
Symmes-Shepherd	3,360	3,360	1,342
Bairs-Georges	300	1,200	711
Lone Pine	900	900	548
Total	62,160	83,760	55,040



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)



2025-26 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 2025 to spring 2026 was -0.7 ft.

Last year, the average predicted decrease was -1.2 ft (LADWP proposed minimum pumping).

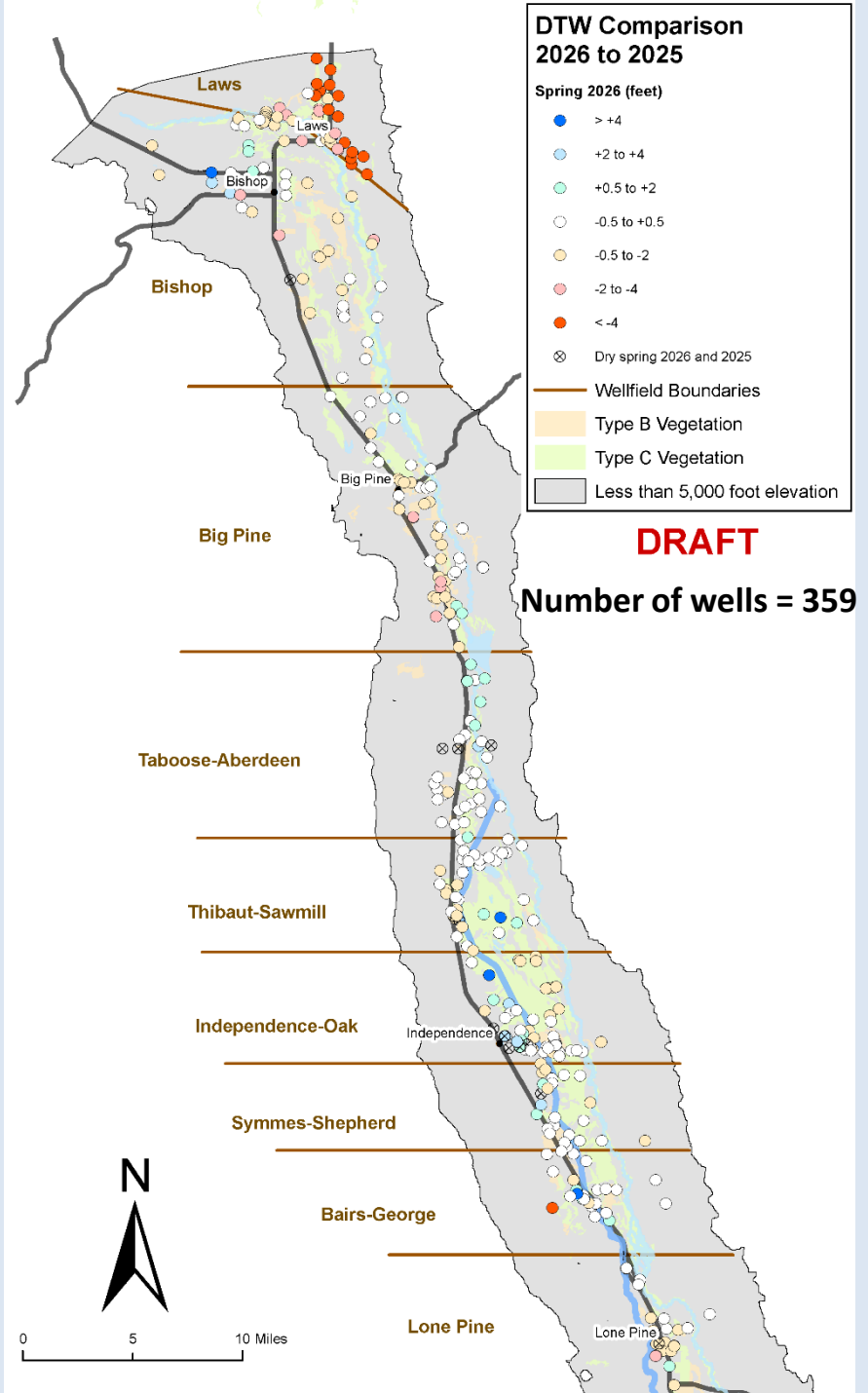
Change in DTW 2025-26

Water levels in approximately 10% of the measured wells **decreased** at least two feet from spring last year (including control areas)

1/3 had no measured change or increased

Average decrease of 359 measured wells valley wide: -0.5 ft

<https://inyowater.org/maps-data/hydrology/>

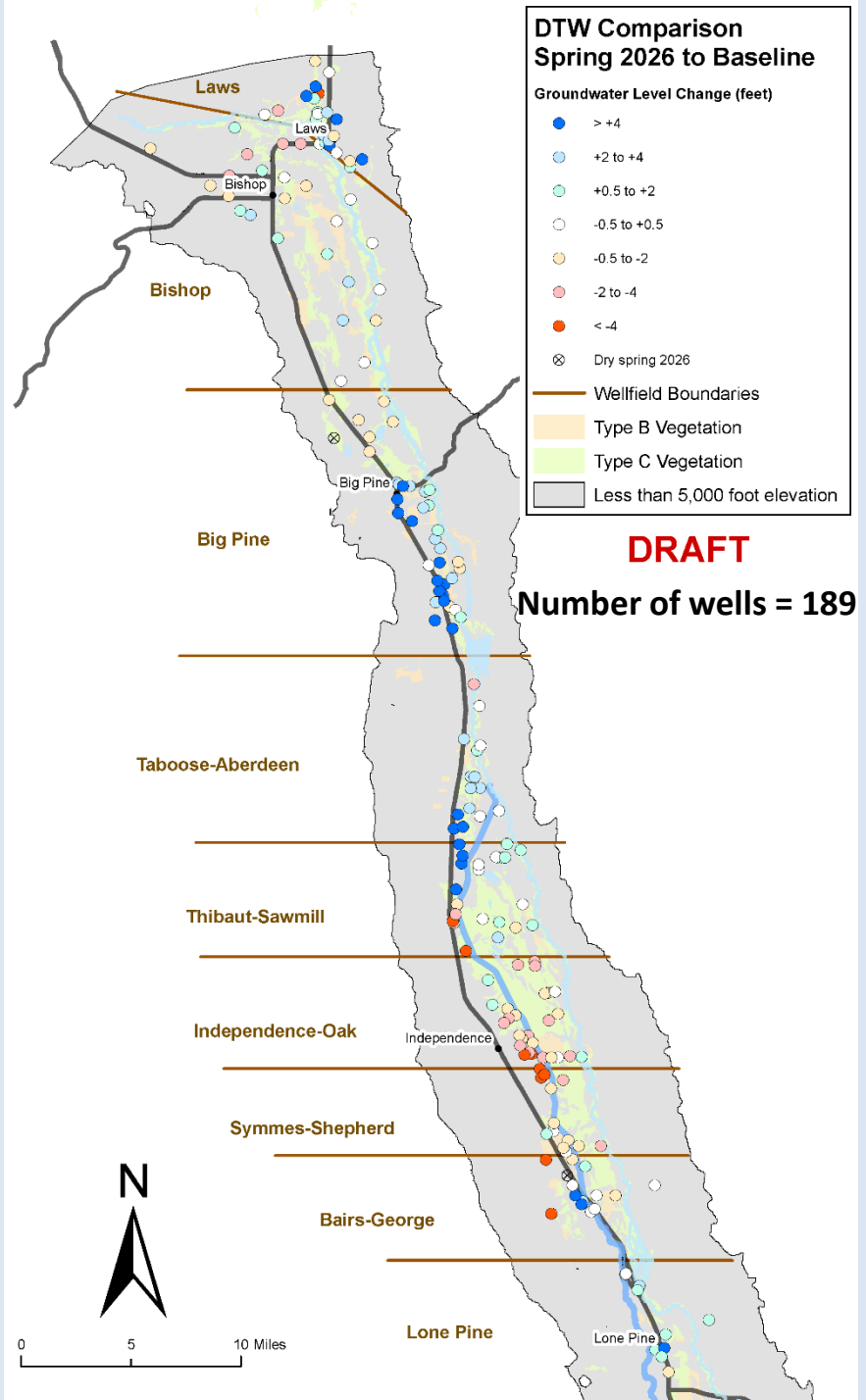


April 2026 DTW Conditions

DTW is **at or above** baseline in the majority of wells (102 wells).

Areas where water levels are below Baseline:

- Independence-Oak and Symmes-Shepherd wellfields
- 9 wells in the southern half of the valley are > 4 feet below baseline (west of the aqueduct).
- 1 well in Laws (T577)



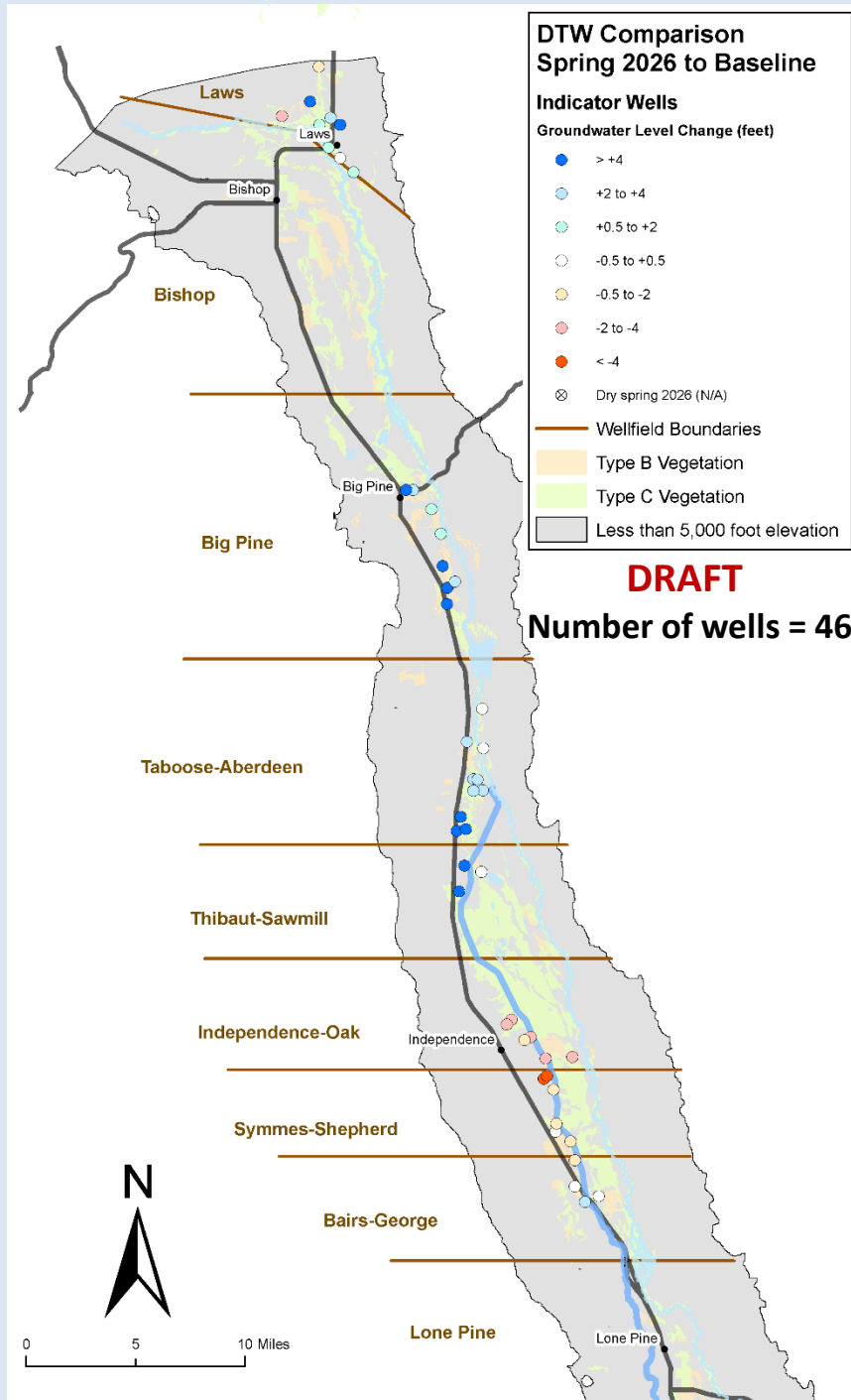
April 2026 Groundwater Levels at Indicator Wells

Wellfield	2025 - 2026 change	2026 average from baseline
	ft	ft
Laws	-3.2	2.0
Big Pine	-0.8	4.3
Taboose-Aberdeen	+0.1	3.3
Thibaut-Sawmill	-0.1	5.1
Independence-Oak	-0.3	-2.6
Symmes-Shepherd	-0.3	-3.6
Bairs-George	-0.2	1.0
Wellfield Average	-0.7	+1.4

https://inyowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026_Indicator_Table.pdf

Majority of wells (30 of 46) declined from April 2025 levels

30 of 46 indicator wells are above baseline in April 2026





2025-26 Conditions and Operations - Vegetation

Vegetation parcels below baseline for last 5 years or more

BLK075	LAW043
BLK094	LAW052
FSL044	LAW082
FSL054	LAW137
FSP006	PLC028
IND021	TIN050
IND026	TIN053
IND029	TIN064
LAW035	TIN068

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



2026-27 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 7, 2026)
- LADWP has 10 days to finalize the Operations Plan (May 17)



2026-27 LADWP Operations Plan

Precipitation

April 1, 2026, snowpack: 24% of average

Owens Valley precipitation: 8.2" or 145% of average (5.6")

	Water Content	April 1 Normal	% of April 1 Normal
Average of all snow courses (March 1)	15.5 in		87% (100% for 3/1)
Average of all snow courses (April 1)	4.2 in	17.7 in	24%



2026-27 LADWP Operations Plan

APRIL THROUGH MARCH RUNOFF

	MOST PROBABLE VALUE		REASONABLE MAXIMUM	REASONABLE MINIMUM	LONG-TERM MEAN (1971 - 2020)
	<u>(Acre-feet)</u>	<u>(% of Avg.)</u>	<u>(% of Avg.)</u>	<u>(% of Avg.)</u>	<u>(Acre-feet)</u>
MONO BASIN:	84,300	71%	85%	58%	118,600
OWENS RIVER BASIN:	322,300	79%	92%	67%	406,308

- Owens River Basin runoff: 79% of average or 322,300 acre-feet
- Owens Valley Export: 66,000 AF
- Eastern Sierra Export: 227,000 AF
- Eastern Sierra will supply ~47% of LA's total supply for the year



2026-27 LADWP Operations Plan

Planned Uses in the Owens Valley (Tables 1.8 and 2.8)

In-valley uses: 95,040 AF

Irrigation: 46,790 AF

E/M: 10,750 AF

Stockwater: 11,200 AF

LORP: 18,100 AF (14,330 AF April – Sept.)

Recreation & wildlife: 6,600 AF

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

No planned spreading this year



2026-27 LADWP Operations Plan

LADWP Proposed Groundwater Pumping

*LADWP Min-Max totals by month for Apr - Sep are 10 AF higher than actual summed totals but LADWP overall totals are summed correctly

Table 1.6. Planned Owens Valley Pumping for the 2026-27 RY (AF)

Month	Laws	Bishop	Big Pine	Taboose-Aberdeen	Thibaut-Sawmill	Indep.-Oak	Symmes-Shepherd	Bairs-Georges	Lone Pine	TOTAL*
April	200-400	1,100	1,000-1,800	100-500	500-800	600-1,000	200-300	50-100	110	3,870-6,120
May	400-800	1,200	1,000-1,800	100-500	500-800	600-1,000	200-300	50-100	110	4,170-6,620
June	800-1,200	1,400	1,000-1,800	100-500	500-800	600-1,000	200-300	50-100	110	4,770-7,220
July	1,200-1,600	1,400	1,000-1,800	100-500	500-800	600-1,000	200-300	50-100	110	5,170-7,620
August	1,200-1,600	1,400	1,000-1,800	100-500	500-800	600-1,000	200-300	50-100	110	5,170-7,620
September	1,200-1,600	1,400	1,000-1,800	100-500	500-800	600-1,000	200-300	50-100	110	5,170-7,620
October	350-700	500	1,600-2,000	800-1,200	500-800	400-800	400-600	50-150	50	4,650-6,800
November	350-700	500	1,600-2,000	800-1,200	500-800	400-800	400-600	50-150	50	4,650-6,800
December	350-700	500	1,600-2,000	800-1,200	500-800	400-800	400-600	50-150	50	4,650-6,800
January	200-500	500	1,200-1,600	800-1,200	500-800	400-800	400-600	50-150	50	4,100-6,200
February	100-300	500	1,200-1,600	800-1,200	500-800	400-800	400-600	50-150	50	4,000-6,000
March	100-300	500	1,200-1,600	800-1,200	500-800	400-800	400-600	50-150	50	4,000-6,000
TOTAL	6,450-10,400	10,900	14,400-21,600	5,400-10,200	6,000-9,600	6,000-10,800	3,600-5,400	600-1,500	960	54,310-81,360

54,310 – 81,360 AF pumping planned for 2026-27



Groundwater Levels at Indicator Wells

ICWD Predicted April 2027 average wellfield depth-to-water (DTW) relative to baseline

Wellfield	Baseline – 2027 avg. DTW 54,310 AF	Baseline – 2027 avg. DTW 81,360 AF
	ft	ft
Laws	-1.9	-2.9
Big Pine	3.4	2.4
Taboose-Aberdeen	2.1	1.1
Thibaut-Sawmill	6.1	4.8
Ind.-Oak	-2.9	-4.4
Symmies-Shepherd	-4.1	-4.7
Bairs-George	0.3	-0.6
Owens Valley	+0.4	-0.6



Groundwater Levels at Indicator Wells

Predicted April 2027 average change and depth-to-water

Wellfield	2026-27 avg. change (ft) LADWP (Table 1.7)	2026-27 avg. change (ft) ICWD	2027 avg. depth (ft-bgs) ICWD
Laws	-2.3 to -3.6	-3.9 to -4.9	16.3 to 17.3
Big Pine	-0.3 to -2.4	-0.9 to -1.9	11.1 to 12.2
Taboose-Aberdeen	-0.6 to -1.3	-1.2 to -2.2	11.3 to 12.3
Thibaut-Sawmill	+0.6 to -0.9	+1.0 to -0.4	5.3 to 6.6
Ind.-Oak	-1.2 to -3.6	-0.3 to -1.8	5.8 to 7.3
Symmest-Shepherd	-1.6 to -2.7	-0.5 to -1.1	11.0 to 11.6
Bairs-George	-0.3 to -0.6	-0.7 to -1.6	7.2 to 8.1
Owens Valley	-0.8 to -2.2	-0.9 to -2.0	9.7 to 10.8



2026-2027 LADWP Operations Plan

ICWD Indicator Well Predictions (number of wells = 46)

Pumping: 54,310 AF (LADWP Proposed Low)

Indicator wells predict an average -0.9 ft decrease in DTW 2026-2027

DTW declines in 39 indicator wells

DTW above baseline in 23 wells

DTW predicted to be 0.4 ft above baseline on average

DTW below baseline in Laws, IO, and SS Wells

Pumping: 81,360 (LADWP Proposed High)

Indicator wells predict an average -2.0 ft decrease in DTW 2026-2027

DTW declines in 45 indicator wells

DTW above baseline in 22 wells

DTW predicted to be -0.6 ft below baseline on average

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



ICWD Recommended 2026-27 pumping

Wellfield	2026-27 Pumping (AF)	ICWD Predicted 2026-27 avg. change (ft)	ICWD Predicted 2027 avg. depth (ft-bgs)
Laws	6,000	-3.8	16.2
Big Pine	14,400	-0.9	11.1
Taboose-Aberdeen	4,000	-0.9	11.0
Thibaut-Sawmill	6,000	+1.0	5.3
Ind.-Oak	6,000	-0.3	5.8
Symmies-Shepherd	2,600	-0.2	10.7
Bairs-George	600	-0.7	7.2
Owens Valley	51,460	-0.8	9.6



2026-2027 LADWP Operations Plan

Summary

- LADWP pumping between 54,310 and 81,360 AF
 - Water levels predicted to decrease -0.9 to -2.0 ft from 2026
- ICWD recommended pumping ~51,460 AF
 - Proposed minimum pumping for 6 wellfields
 - Reduced pumping below proposed minimum for 3 wellfields:
 - Laws to ~6,000 AF (2025-26 proposed minimum)
 - Taboose-Aberdeen to ~4,000 AF (2024-25 pumping amount)
 - Symmes-Shepherd to ~2,600 AF (2024-25 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?