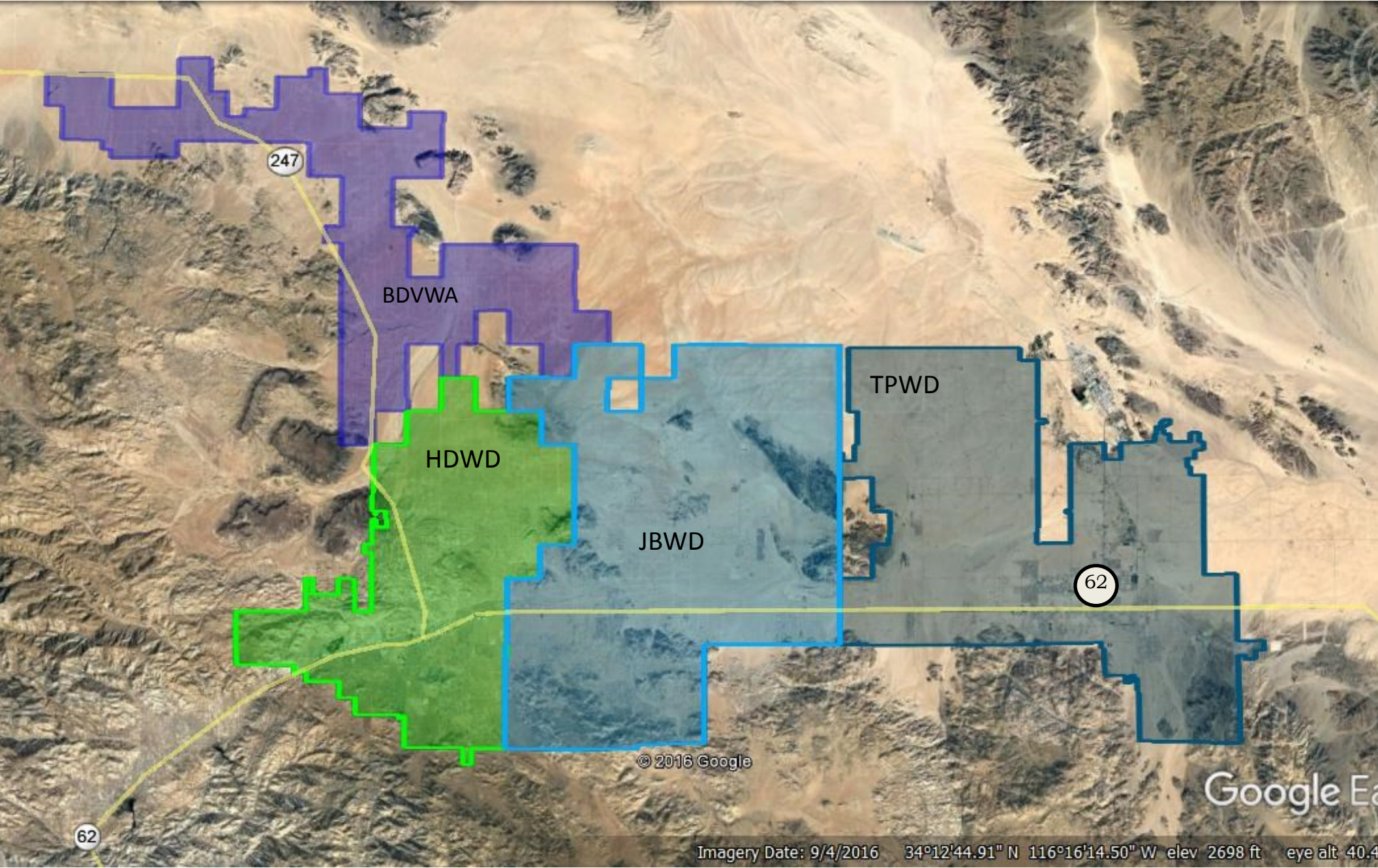


MBCA 2017 Annual Meeting & Water Symposium



Q: Where does our water come from in the Morongo Basin?

A: Groundwater from Basin aquifers that some water districts supplement with State Water Project supplies from Northern California through the Mojave Water Agency.

Q: What is “artificial recharge” and where in the Morongo Basin is it taking place?

A: Water obtained from the State Water Project, the nation’s largest state-built water and power development and conveyance system providing water to 25 million Californians and 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland, is percolated into our groundwater basins through the process known as “artificial recharge.” Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, Hi Desert Water District and Joshua Basin Water District have operating recharge facilities.

Q: How do I know that the water we receive is of safe quality?

A: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was originally passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation’s public drinking water supply. Entities meet these regulations through routine testing of the water supplies they serve.

Q: With all the rain we’ve have over the past several months, why the continued emphasis on conservation?

A: We lie in a desert and therefore in a perpetual state of drought so we need to think long-term. Dry periods are expected in the future and as a state we have to be careful that we don’t overuse water for no reason and learn from our past mistakes. We are at a point where we are using an appropriate amount of water for our needs but it is likely more conservation mandates are in our future.

Q: Why is chlorine added to my water?

A: Chlorine is a highly efficient disinfectant added to public water supplies to kill disease-causing pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoans. These pathogens commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains and in storage tanks.

Q: What is an acre-foot of water and how much water does a family use in the desert areas per year?

A: An acre-foot of water is 325,829 gallons which would cover a football field one foot deep. On average a desert family uses between 0.1 and 0.7 acre-feet per year or 90 to 625 gallons per day per family.

Q: What is a billing unit?

A: Water districts tend to measure water usage in cubic feet delivered through a meter and most bill their customers at a rate per 100 cubic feet consumed. 100 cubic feet is sometimes notated as 1 HCF on the water bill. For comparison, 1 cubic foot is equal to 7.48 gallons.

Q: What is a “Standby Charge”?

A: Revenue for the water infrastructure improvements as well as daily operations & maintenance.

Q: What are the MWA Debt-1, MWA Debt-2 and MWA Water Bond M on my property tax bill?

A: These assessments provide access to water supplies outside the region and technical assistance in solving the region’s groundwater issues (MWA 1 & 2). Water obtained from this source is moved from the State Water Project turnout in Hesperia through the Morongo Basin Pipeline (ID M Debt) and percolated into our groundwater basins through a process known as “artificial recharge.”

Helpful Websites

- Mojave Water Agency: www.Mojavewater.org
- Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency: www.bdvw.org
- Hi Desert Water District: www.hdwd.com
- and www.protectgroundwater.org
- Joshua Basin Water District: www.jbwd.com
- Twentynine Palms Water District: www.29palmswater.net
- American Groundwater Trust: <https://agwt.org/>
- United States Geologic Survey Artificial Recharge: https://water.usgs.gov/ogw/artificial_recharge.html
- USGS Mojave Groundwater Resources page: <https://ca.water.usgs.gov/mojave/index.html>

- USGS Mojave Land-Subsidence Studies page: <https://ca.water.usgs.gov/mojave/mojave-land-subsidence.html>
- MWA data & maps page: <http://www.mojavewater.org/data---maps.html>
- Environmental Protection Agency/Safe Drinking Water Act: www.EPA.gov/sdwa
- State Water Resources Control Board: www.swrcb.ca.gov
- United States Geological Survey Water Database: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>