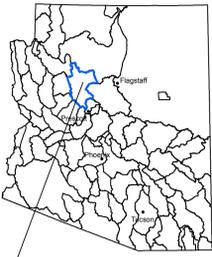


Summary of Water Level Changes

ARIZONA GROUNDWATER BASINS AND SUB-BASINS



Introduction

Depth to water (DTW) measurements were taken at 123 wells in the Big Chino sub-basin by personnel of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) in at least 2 of the last 3 basin sweeps conducted in 1999, 2004, and 2009 (measurements were taken between February and May of each year). DTW below land surface ranged from less than one foot to more than 700 feet for wells in the Big Chino sub-basin. Location and water level change for these wells are shown on sheets 1 (1999 to 2009) and 2 (1999 to 2004 and 2004 to 2009). Sheet 3 also includes DTW information for each well and hydrographs for 12 wells throughout the sub-basin measured in all three years. Only 48 of the 123 wells had DTW measurements taken during all three basin sweep years. Throughout the sub-basin water levels show an overall decline from 1999 to 2004 and an overall rise from 2004 to 2009 resulting in relatively unchanged water levels from 1999 to 2009 in most areas of the sub-basin. Table 1 (sheet 3) shows the measured wells for each time period.

1999 - 2004

Between 1999 and 2004, DTW increased (> 2 feet water level decline) in 59 wells, remained unchanged (+/- 2 feet) in 26 wells, and decreased (> 2 feet water level rise) in 8 wells. The water level changes ranged from a decline of approximately 30 feet in the southeastern portion of the sub-basin in the Mint Wash area to a rise of approximately 13 feet at a well along the mountain front in the Upper Big Chino Wash area. The average water level change for all wells within the Big Chino sub-basin was a decline of about 5 feet with the greatest water level declines located within the Upper Big Chino and Mint Wash areas.

2004 - 2009

Between 2004 and 2009, DTW increased (> 2 feet water level decline) in 8 wells, remained unchanged (+/- 2 feet) in 28 wells, and decreased (> 2 feet water level rise) in 34 wells. The water level changes ranged from a decline of approximately 37 feet in the southeastern portion of the sub-basin in the Mint Wash area to a rise of approximately 21 to 22 feet in wells located in the Upper Big Chino area and Turkey Creek area. The average water level change for all wells within the Big Chino sub-basin was a rise of about 3 feet with most of the wells located in the Upper Big Chino area showing a rise in water levels.

1999 - 2009

Between 1999 and 2009, DTW increased (> 2 feet water level decline) in 12 wells, remained unchanged (+/- 2 feet) in 24 wells, and decreased (> 2 feet water level rise) in 20 wells. The water level changes ranged from a decline of approximately 67 feet in the southeastern portion of the sub-basin in the Mint Wash area to a rise of approximately 30 feet in the Turkey Creek area. The majority of the remaining areas within the sub-basin show relatively unchanged water levels with some small water level rises in the Upper Big Chino area and some small water level declines in the Lower Big Chino, Middle Big Chino, and Williamson Valley areas. The average water level change for all wells within the Big Chino sub-basin was +/- 1 foot from 1999 to 2009.

Upper Big Chino area

The Upper, Middle, and Lower Big Chino areas and Williamson Valley area typically have wells located within the basin-fill aquifer of the sub-basin (Schwab, 1995). Water levels in the Upper Big Chino area declined significantly between 1999 and 2004 and rose significantly between 2004 and 2009 (Sheet 2). The majority of wells in the central portion (along Big Chino Wash) of the Upper Big Chino area have water level declines from 11 to 20 feet from 1999 to 2004 followed by water level rises from 11 to 20 feet from 2004 to 2009 (Hydrographs B and E) resulting in a relatively unchanged water level from 1999 to 2009 (Sheet 3). Many of the remaining wells along the outer portions of the Upper Big Chino area have water level declines of 3 to 10 feet from 1999 and 2004 and rises of 3 to 10 feet from 2004 to 2009 with similar unchanged water levels from 1999 to 2009.

Fluctuations in water levels within this area may be attributed to changes in recharge (drought) as seen in fluctuations in stream flow along the Verde River and Williamson Valley Wash (Hydrographs H and J). No significant flood events are seen between 1996 and 2004 indicating drought conditions while a large flood event was seen in both hydrographs in 2005 and a smaller flood event in 2008. Many of the wells in the Upper Big Chino area are reported as being drilled into the volcanic or alluvial sub-units of the basin-fill aquifer and exhibit or reflect water level changes that correspond, at least in part, with varying climatic conditions. Another possible explanation for the water level declines in 2004 followed by a water level rise in 2009 are seasonal variations in the groundwater pumping of agricultural wells in the region. As noted previously by Schwab (1995), this area consists of a narrow strip of farmland in which water levels are influenced by irrigation practices and this area has continued to be irrigated (Tadayon, 2005). Well pumpage from 1999 until 2004 was reported at approximately 46,000 acre-feet (average 9,200 acre-feet/year) within the Big Chino sub-basin (Yavapai County WAC, 2004). Many of the wells in this area began having water levels measured semi-annually following 2004 and show fluctuations in water levels between 2004 and 2009 (Hydrographs B and E) indicating that water levels taken in 2004 may have been influenced by groundwater withdrawals. Note that well data in table 1 (sheet 3) show many water levels measured in April of 2004 while most water levels in 1999 and 2009 were measured in February and March. Wells along the edge of the basin-fill aquifer in the Upper Big Chino area show little to no decline or water level rises from 1999 to 2009 as shown in hydrographs A, C, and D. Some of these wells are reported as being drilled into water-bearing Paleozoic carbonate and sedimentary rock units that outcrop around the margins and/or underlying the younger basin-fill deposits (Hydrograph D).

Middle Big Chino, Lower Big Chino, and Williamson Valley areas

The majority of wells in the Middle Big Chino, Lower Big Chino, and Williamson Valley areas show water level declines between 3 and 10 feet from 1999 to 2004 and essentially unchanged water levels (+/- 2 feet) from 2004 to 2009 (Sheet 2). Overall from 1999 to 2009, several wells show small water level declines with the remaining water levels unchanged (Sheet 1). In the Middle Big Chino area, water levels were generally unchanged within the Playa deposits (Hydrograph F) while small water level declines were observed in the central and western portions of the basin-fill aquifer (Hydrograph G) where water levels are generally low (Flora and Davis, 2009).

In the Lower Big Chino area, most of the wells show declining water levels from 1999 to 2004 and continued overall small water level declines through 2009 (Hydrographs H and I). Several wells in the southern and central portions of the Williamson Valley area show relatively unchanged water levels while wells located along the margins of the basin-fill aquifer (Hydrograph J) show small water level declines indicating a gradual decline in water levels in this region as well. Most of the wells located in the Middle and Lower Big Chino areas and the Williamson Valley area are drilled into alluvial deposits of the basin-fill aquifer (Schwab, 1995).

Mint Wash area

Significant declines in water levels within wells in the Mint Wash area occurred from 1999 to 2004 and continued to significantly decline from 2004 to 2009 (Sheet 2). Hydrograph L shows water levels declining approximately 67 feet from 2004 to 2009 (Sheet 1) while other wells in the area show moderate water level declines from 2004 to 2009 (Hydrograph K). All the wells located in this area have an overall declining trend in water levels since 1999. Several of the wells in this area are drilled into volcanic or alluvial sub-units of the basin-fill aquifer and granite at greater depths. Water level declines in the Mint Wash area may be related to climatic conditions as well as the overall water demand of numerous domestic wells tapping a limited aquifer system.

Coconino Plateau, Turkey Creek, and Walnut Creek areas

The Coconino Plateau (area north of Interstate 40), Turkey Creek, and Walnut Creek areas have wells located in higher elevation mountainous regions, streambeds in upper parts of the watershed, or along mountain fronts. These wells are typically located in recharge areas (Blasch et al 2005) and are typically not located in the central portion of the basin-fill aquifer (Schwab, 1995). The Coconino Plateau area northeast of Big Black Mesa within the sub-basin has limited water level data available, but the few wells located in that area show little to no change in water levels between 1999 and 2009 (Sheet 1). The aquifer in this area differs from the basin-fill aquifer in that most wells are completed within the water-bearing Paleozoic carbonate and sedimentary units of the Coconino Plateau area as described by Schwab (1995), Bills et al (2005), and Blasch et al (2005).

The Turkey Creek area has several wells with both declining and rising water levels from 1999 to 2004 but only rising water levels from 2004 to 2009 (Sheet 2). Overall, water levels rose in the Turkey Creek area from 1999 to 2009 (Sheet 1) but data are limited to only a few wells ranging from a 10 to 22 feet rise in water levels. The Walnut Creek area shows relatively unchanged water levels from 1999 to 2004, however no data are available from 2004 to 2009 (Sheet 2) in this area.

Conclusions

The hydrographs for selected wells in the Big Chino sub-basin have limited historical water level information prior to 1999 but indicate minimal overall water level change in the basin-fill aquifer from 1999 to 2009.

A few wells show small water level rises in the Upper Big Chino area while a few wells show small water level declines in the Middle and Lower Big Chino areas. Several of the hydrographs in the Upper Big Chino area indicate a significant decline between 1999 and 2004 followed by a fluctuation in water levels and overall rise in water levels through 2009. While hydrographs in the Lower Big Chino area and Williamson Valley area show a slow but continuous decline in water levels during the time period from 1999 to 2009. Drought impacts from 1999 through 2004 are believed to be reflected in the majority of hydrographs within the Big Chino sub-basin. This is illustrated on Hydrographs H and J where groundwater levels reflect the changes in stream discharge for nearby USGS stream gages along the Verde River (Paulden) and Williamson Valley Wash respectively. Just as large precipitation and runoff events, such as floods of early 2005 are reflected in these recent hydrographs (water level rise), so are the effects of long-term drought on water-level trends (water level decline).

The Hydrographs for wells in the Big Chino sub-basin indicate two types of water level change. Many hydrographs that have steep water level declines and rises may indicate areas dominated by variable recharge or seasonal pumping effects while hydrographs with more consistent declining water level trends indicate areas where withdrawals exceed the effect of local recharge. Wells in the Mint Wash area indicate that this area has the greatest overall decline in water levels within the sub-basin from 1999 to 2009.

References

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- Blasch, K.W., Hoffmann, J.P., Graser, L.F., Bryson, J.R., and Flint, A.L., 2006. Hydrogeology of the Upper and Middle Verde River Watersheds, Central Arizona. U.S. Geological Survey, Scientific Investigations Report 2005-5198, p. 102.
- Flora, S. and Davis, T., 2009. Water Level Changes in Big Chino Sub-Basin, Arizona, 1999-2004. Arizona Department of Water Resources Water Level Change Map Series Report Number 2, April 2009, p. 2.
- Schwab, K.J., 1995. Maps showing Groundwater Conditions, Spring 1992, in the Big Chino Sub-Basin of the Verde River Basin Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona 1992. Arizona Department of Water Resources Hydrologic Map Series Report Number 28, November 1995, p. 2.
- Tadayon, S., 2005. Water withdrawals for irrigation, municipal, mining, thermoelectric-power, and drainage uses in Arizona outside of active management areas, 1991-2000. U.S. Geological Survey, Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5293, p. 28.
- Yavapai County WAC, 2004. Draft Big Chino Sub-Basin, Historical and Current Water Uses and Water Use Projections. Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, February 2004, p. 38.

Additional Resources

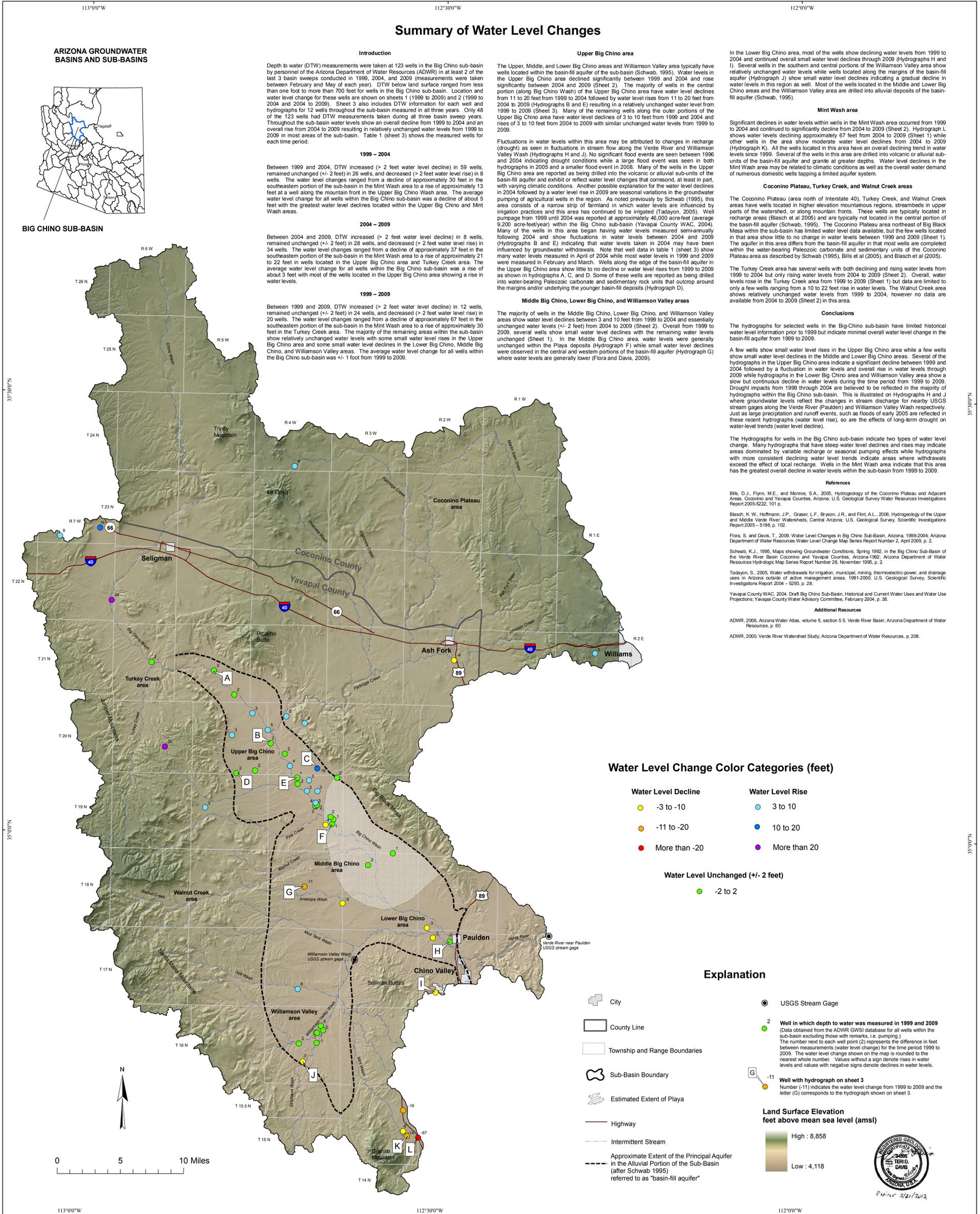
- ADWR, 2006. Arizona Water Atlas, volume 5, section 5.5, Verde River Basin, Arizona Department of Water Resources, p. 60.
- ADWR, 2000. Verde River Watershed Study. Arizona Department of Water Resources, p. 208.

Water Level Change Color Categories (feet)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Water Level Decline | Water Level Rise |
| ● -3 to -10 | ● 3 to 10 |
| ● -11 to -20 | ● 10 to 20 |
| ● More than -20 | ● More than 20 |
| Water Level Unchanged (+/- 2 feet) | |
| ● -2 to 2 | |

Explanation

- City
- County Line
- Township and Range Boundaries
- Sub-Basin Boundary
- Estimated Extent of Playa
- Highway
- Intermittent Stream
- Approximate Extent of the Principal Aquifer in the Alluvial Portion of the Sub-Basin (after Schwab 1995) referred to as "basin-fill aquifer"
- USGS Stream Gage
- Well in which depth to water was measured in 1999 and 2009 (Data obtained from the ADWR GWSI database for all wells within the sub-basin excluding those with remarks, i.e. pumping.) The number next to each well point (Z) represents the difference in feet between measurements (water level change) for the time period 1999 to 2009. The water level change shown on the map is rounded to the nearest whole number. Values without a sign denote rises in water levels and values with negative signs denote declines in water levels.
- Well with hydrograph on sheet 3 Number (-11) indicates the water level change from 1999 to 2009 and the letter (G) corresponds to the hydrograph shown on sheet 3.
- Land Surface Elevation feet above mean sea level (amsl)**
- High : 8,858
- Low : 4,118



NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983 HARN

WATER LEVEL CHANGES IN BIG CHINO SUB-BASIN, ARIZONA 1999 - 2009

By
Stephen Flora, Teri Davis, and Frank Corkhill

September 2009

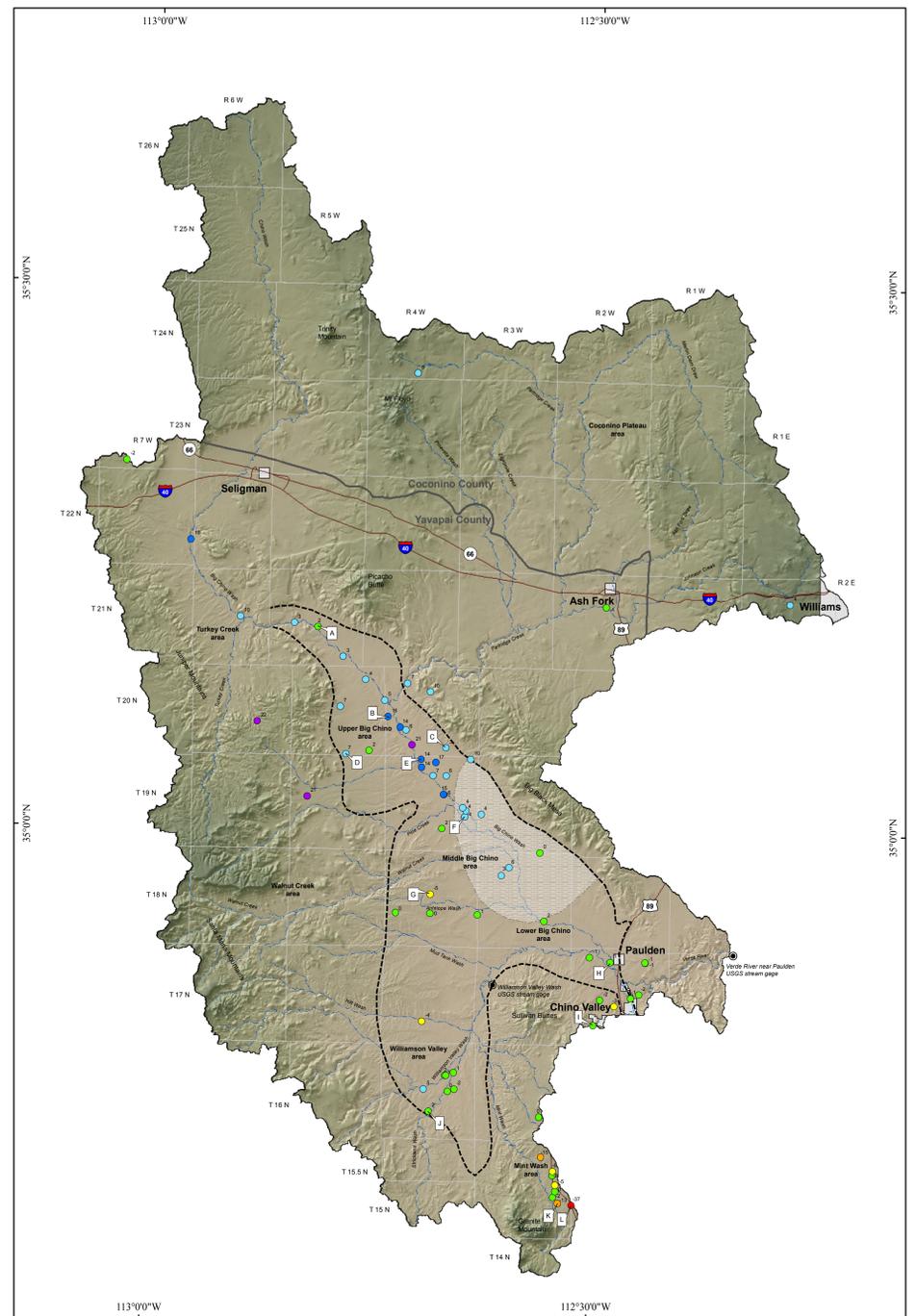
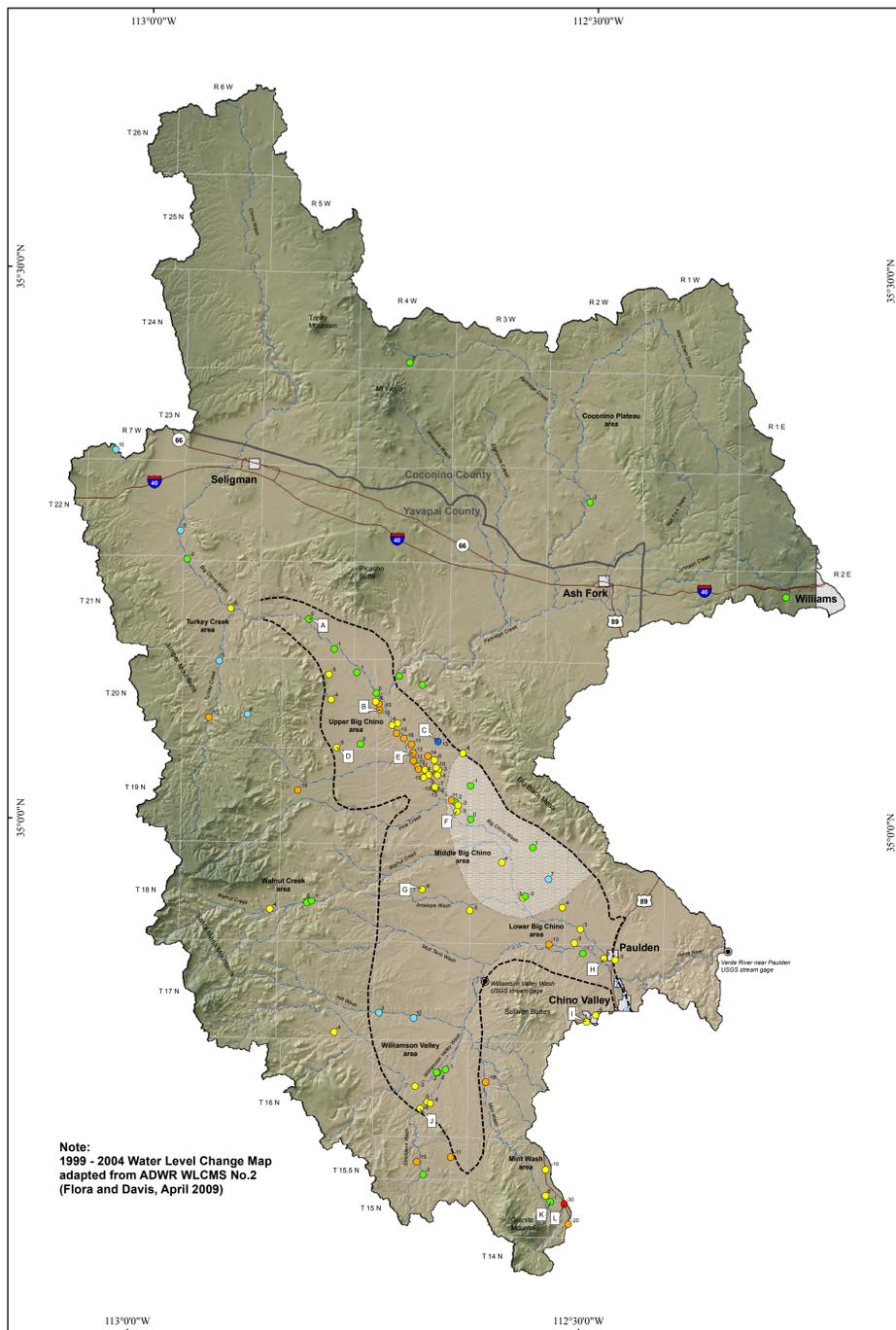


For data go to:
<https://gisweb.azwater.gov/waterresourcesdata/>

For more information or copies contact:
ADWR Information Services
3550 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 771-8627
www.azwater.gov

**WATER LEVEL CHANGES
1999 - 2004**

**WATER LEVEL CHANGES
2004 - 2009**



Note:
1999 - 2004 Water Level Change Map
adapted from ADWR WLCMS No.2
(Flora and Davis, April 2009)

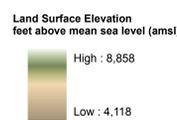
Explanation

- City
- County Line
- Sub-Basin Boundary
- Estimated Extent of Playa
- Township and Range Boundaries
- Highway
- Intermittent Stream
- Approximate Extent of the Principal Aquifer in the Alluvial Portion of the Sub-Basin (after Schwab 1995) referred to as "basin-fill aquifer"
- USGS Stream Gage
- Well in which depth to water was measured for both years (Data obtained from the ADWR GWSI database for all wells within the sub-basin excluding those with remarks, i.e. pumping.) The number next to each well point (-12) represents the difference in feet between measurements (water level change) for the given time period. The water level change shown on the map is rounded to the nearest whole number. Values without a sign denote rises in water levels and values with negative signs denote declines in water levels.
- Well with hydrograph shown on sheet 3 (Number (-6) indicates the water level change between years and the letter (G) corresponds to the hydrograph shown on sheet 3.)



Water Level Change Color Categories (feet)

Water Level Decline	Water Level Rise
-3 to -10	3 to 10
-11 to -20	11 to 20
More than -20	More than 20
Water Level Unchanged (+/- 2 feet)	
-2 to 2	



**ARIZONA GROUNDWATER
BASINS AND SUB-BASINS**



NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983 HARN

**WATER LEVEL CHANGES IN BIG CHINO SUB-BASIN, ARIZONA
1999 - 2009**

By
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ADWR Groundwater Monitoring Sites Hydrographs

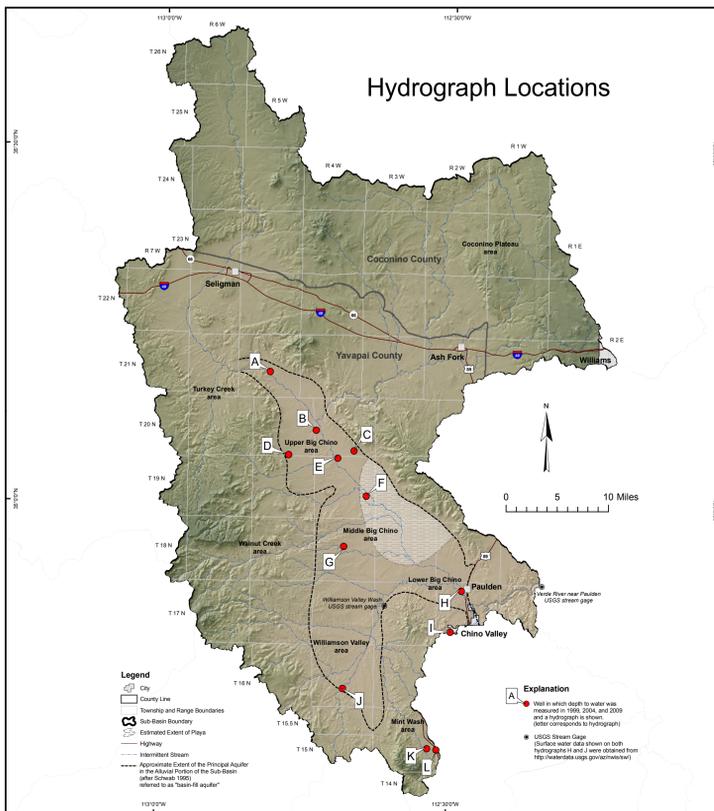
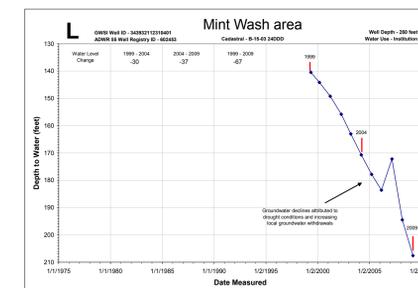
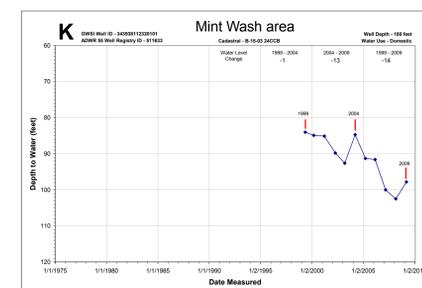
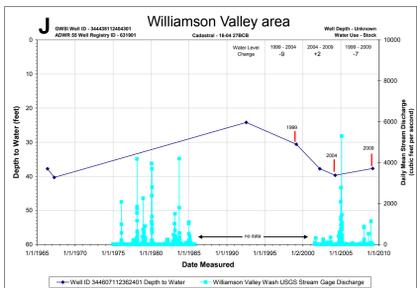
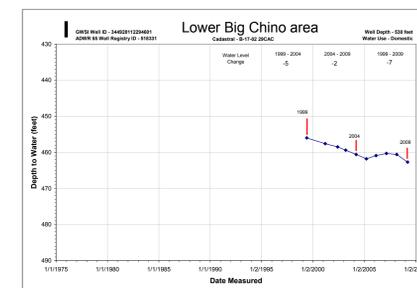
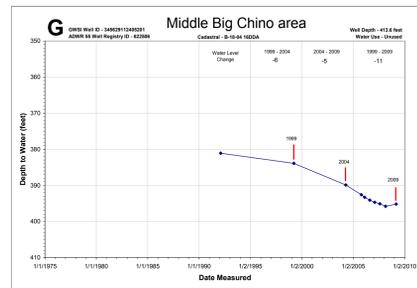
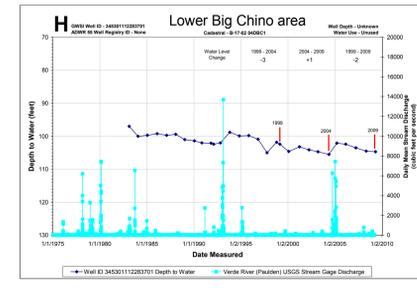
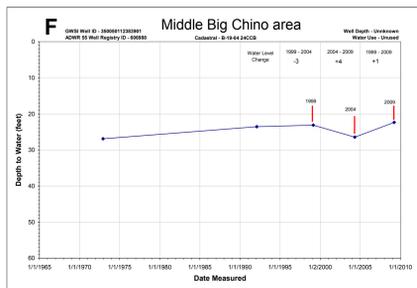
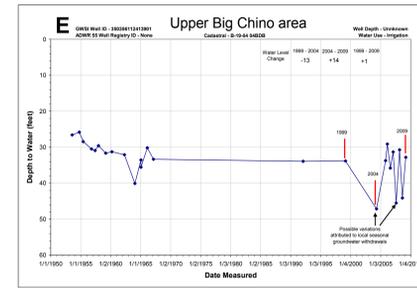
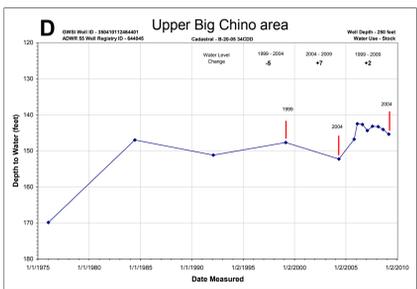
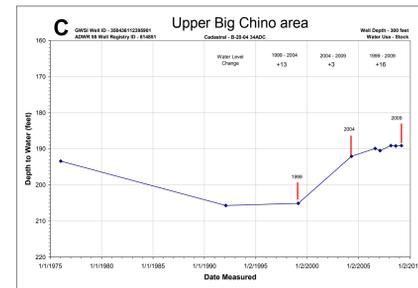
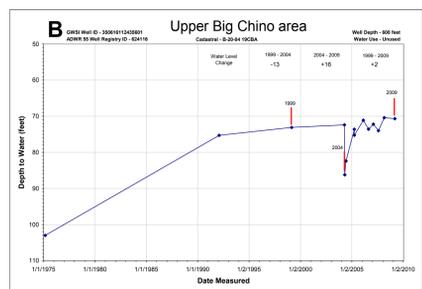
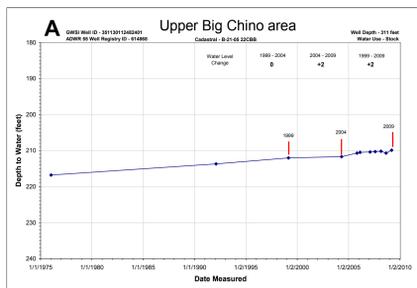


Table 1 - Depth to Water (DTW), Water Level Elevation (WLE), and Water Level Change (in feet) for wells located in the Big Chino Sub-Basin measured in 1999, 2004, and 2009.

CADASTRAL	WELL ID	HYDROGRAPH	1999			2004			2009			WATER LEVEL CHANGE							
			Date	DTW	WLE	Date	DTW	WLE	Date	DTW	WLE	1999-2004	2004-2009	1999-2009					
B-15-02 118BD	3432211230401	L	5/20/1999	166	5114	3/18/2004	159	5204											
B-15-03 24DCB	3432211231041	K	5/4/1999	140	5050	3/15/2004	171	5919	3/9/2009	208	4982	-30	-37	-67					
B-15-03 23ADC	3432211232001		5/11/1999	84	5036	3/15/2004	61	5024	3/16/2009	98	5022	-1	-13	-14					
B-15-03 23AAA	34407112321101			50	5030	3/15/2004	61	5024	3/11/2009	18	5012	0	-8	-8					
B-15-03 14DAD	34408112321101			14	4888	3/15/2004	16	5012	3/11/2009	18	5012	0	-8	-8					
B-15-04 34CDB	34410112403101		2/25/1999	14	4888	4/7/2004	16	4886				-2	-2	-2					
B-15-03 14AAB	3441011232201			65	4996	3/18/2004	55	4995	3/4/2009	57	4993	-10	-2	-16					
B-15-03 11DCB	3441221232201		5/24/1999	68	4996	4/17/2004	74	4996				-10	-10	-10					
B-15-04 28DCD	34414112405701		2/25/1999	65	4977	4/7/2004	82	4783				-15	-15	-15					
B-15-04 26DAA	34415811232401		2/25/1999	134	4662	4/7/2004	147	4650				-11	-11	-11					
B-15-0352CDB	34421011233001					3/17/2004	25	4965	3/16/2009	40	4950	-15	-15	-15					
B-16-03 37ADD	3442211232001					3/17/2004	57	5033	3/10/2009	57	5033	0	-7	-7					
B-16-04 37BCB	34443311240401	J	2/25/1999	31	4651	4/8/2004	49	4642	3/18/2009	38	4644	-8	2	-7					
B-16-04 22DCD	34443311240701		2/25/1999	17	4637	4/8/2004	25	4629				-8	-8	-8					
B-16-04 22DCD	34443311240901		2/25/1999	15	4635	4/8/2004	19	4631				-5	-5	-5					
B-16-04 28BBA	34454112393401					4/20/2009	2	4623				0	0	0					
B-16-04 16DCD	34454911241001		5/5/1999	13	4630	4/7/2004	16	4628	4/20/2009	11	4632	-3	5	2					
B-16-04 14CCB	3445511239401					4/5/2004	6	4615	4/20/2009	8	4613	-2	-1	-1					
B-16-03 17CBA	344607112362401		5/10/1999	20	4622	3/18/2004	39	4603				-18	-18	-18					
B-16-04 14BEB	34463611239401		5/5/1999	5	4606	4/8/2004	7	4606	4/20/2009	6	4607	-2	2	-1					
B-16-04 14BEB	344636112394401		5/5/1999	4	4609	4/8/2004	5	4608	4/20/2009	5	4606	-2	1	-1					
B-16-04 14AAB	34455112393001		5/5/1999	1	4605	4/7/2004	1	4604	4/20/2009	1	4604	-1	1	0					
B-16-04 11CAA	34470311239201		5/5/1999	9	4592		19	4590	4/20/2009	9	4592	0	0	0					
B-17-05 34D5A	34484112463701		3/20/1999	14	4861	4/26/2004	19	4856				-5	-5	-5					
B-17-02 30CAC	3448511239401	I	5/27/1999	466	4284	3/17/2004	481	4298	3/19/2009	463	4287	-4	-2	-7					
B-17-04 28DCD	34491112411801		5/5/1999	48	4514	4/5/2004	39	4624	4/20/2009	42	4620	10	-4	6					
B-17-04 38BBD	34491112433901		5/5/1999	13	4715	4/26/2004	10	4716				3	3	3					
B-17-02 29ADC	34496911229101		5/29/1999	230	4375	3/17/2004	234	4371				4	4	4					
B-17-02 21ACC	345030112262301					3/17/2004	115	4385	3/18/2009	118	4362	-3	-3	-3					
B-17-02 21ACC	345030112262401					3/17/2004	187	4390	3/20/2009	188	4279	-2	-2	-2					
B-17-02 21ACC	345056112271601					3/17/2004	28	4346	3/20/2009	29	4346	0	0	0					
B-17-02 14CCA	34509112264401					3/17/2004	94	4296	3/18/2009	95	4296	0	0	0					
B-17-02 29ADC	345256112281901					3/17/2004	319	4246	3/18/2009	320	4246	0	0	0					
B-17-02 29ADC	345256112281901		2/24/1999	102	4260	3/17/2004	325	4245	3/18/2009	326	4244	-1	-1	-2					
B-17-02 29ADC	34530112283701					5/11/2004	196	4287	4/24/2009	195	4297	0	1	1					
B-17-02 29ADC	3453011227601	H	2/23/1999	160	4270	4/27/2004	163	4267				-3	-3	-3					
B-17-02 05CBA	345312112300801		2/22/1999	141	4267	4/29/2004	142	4256	3/19/2009	144	4255	-1	-1	-3					
B-17-03 01BEB	345337112321901		2/23/1999	122	4273	4/29/2004	136	4259				-13	-13	-13					
B-18-02 31DCB	345351112303001		2/22/1999	122	4263		125	4260	3/19/2009	125	4260	0	0	0					
B-18-02 31DCB	345351112303001		2/22/1999	122	4263	4/29/2004	125	4259				-3	-3	-3					
B-18-02 28BEB	345434112301601		2/22/1999	125	4258	4/29/2004	128	4255				-3	-3	-3					
B-18-03 38BEB	34550711233001		3/20/1999	35	5185	5/12/2004	41	4984	3/19/2009	239	4266	4	2	2					
B-18-00 29BBA	34551911230001		3/20/1999	25A	4318	3/19/2004	261	4312	3/16/2009	259	4314	-5	1	-4					
B-18-04 11DAD	345530112405001					4/22/2004	290	4496	3/8/2009	289	4497	0	0	0					
B-18-04 16DDB	34553112405001					3/19/2004	306	4491	3/8/2009	306	4491	0	0	0					
B-18-05 20DDB	345540112403701		3/26/1999	23	5067	4/6/2004	25	5066				-1	-1	-1					
B-18-03 34DCA	34554112312601		2/23/1999	165	4270	4/29/2004	170	4266				-4	-4	-4					
B-18-05 21CCB	345548112441301		3/26/1999	21	5039	4/6/2004	21	5039				0	0	0					
B-18-05 20DCC	345548112441301		3/26/1999	23	5053	4/6/2004	22	5053				0	0	0					
B-18-03 29BAC	34555911230001		2/23/1999	122	4405	5/10/2004	119	4402				-3	-3	-3					
B-18-03 29BAC	34555911230001		2/23/1999	14	4404	5/3/2004	16	4402				-2	-2	-2					
B-18-03 11DAD	34556112340301		3/26/1999	204	4336	4/12/2004	399	4330				4	4	4					
B-18-03 11DAD	34571011232201	G	2/23/1999	85	4435	4/29/2004	78	4442	3/9/2009	395	4328	7	-5	-11					
B-18-03 08ACCA	345740112361001		2/23/1999	21	4437	5/10/2004	57	4433	4/30/2009	54	4436	4	3	2					
B-18-03 03AAA	34585611233301		2/23/1999	165	4465	4/29/2004	165	4466	4/30/2009	16	4436	-4	6	2					
B-18-04 27DCA	350009112401201		2/23/1999	27	4465	3/19/2004	176	4376	3/16/2009	175	4378	0	2	1					
B-18-04 23DCB	350046112391201		2/24/1999	32	4467	4/29/2004	27	4465	3/27/2009	36	4463	0	-4	-4					



WATER LEVEL CHANGES IN BIG CHINO SUB-BASIN, ARIZONA
1999-2009
By
Stephen Flora, Teri Davis, and Frank Corkhill
September 2009

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