
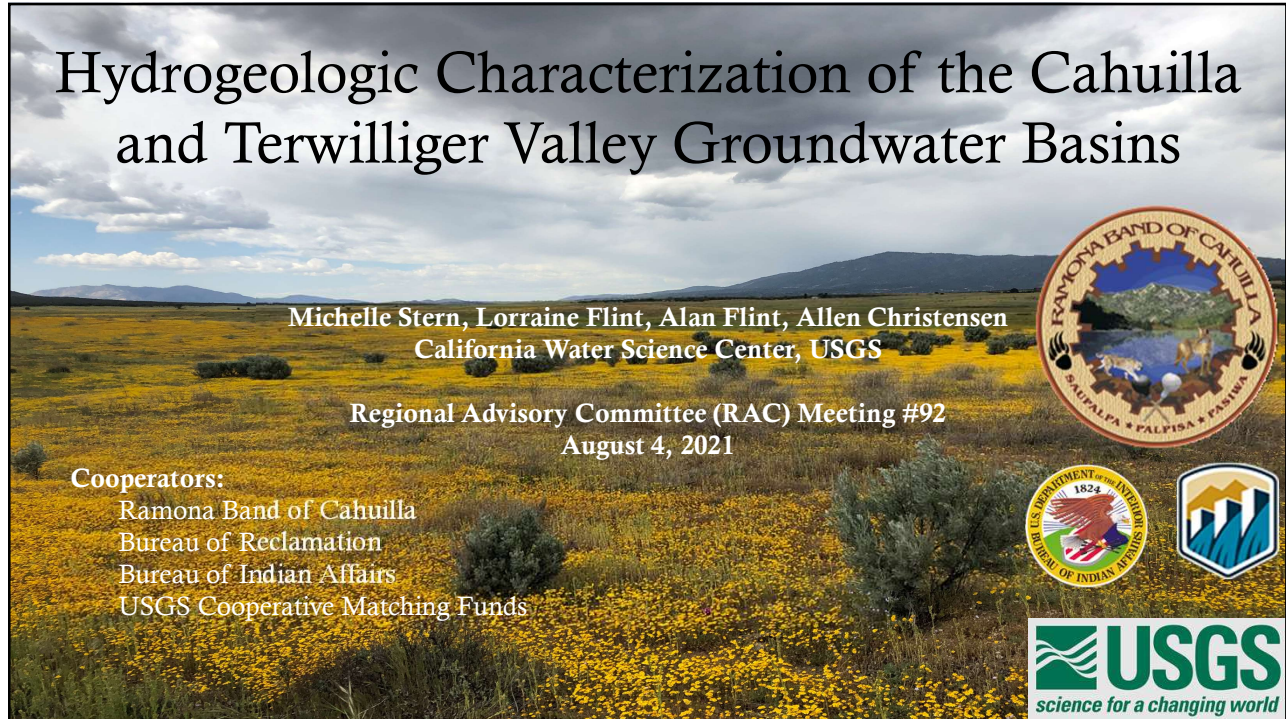


Hydrogeologic Characterization of the Cahuilla and Terwilliger Valley Groundwater Basins

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Cooperators:
 Ramona Band of Cahuilla
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 USGS Cooperative Matching Funds

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Presentation Overview

1. Benefits of the Project
2. Introduction
3. Conceptual Model
4. Findings
5. Limitations
6. Conclusions



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Benefits of this Project

- Developing unbiased local estimates of natural water balance variables are an important first step to sustainably managing groundwater resources
- “You can’t manage what you do not measure (or model)”
- Publication of results – open access
 - USGS Data Release of model outputs:
 - <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/5ee7dc2382ce3bd58d82f010>
 - Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA) publication (in press)
- Model outputs will be used to drive a local groundwater model to complete the hydrogeologic characterization of the Cahuilla and Terwilliger Valley groundwater basins

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Water balance modeling to assess recharge patterns

- In arid and semi-arid environments annual potential evapotranspiration exceeds annual precipitation
- Excess water due to seasonal precipitation results in runoff and recharge in some years
- Recharge and runoff only occasionally occur on the valley floors due to thick alluvial deposits
- Some runoff may become recharge in losing streams

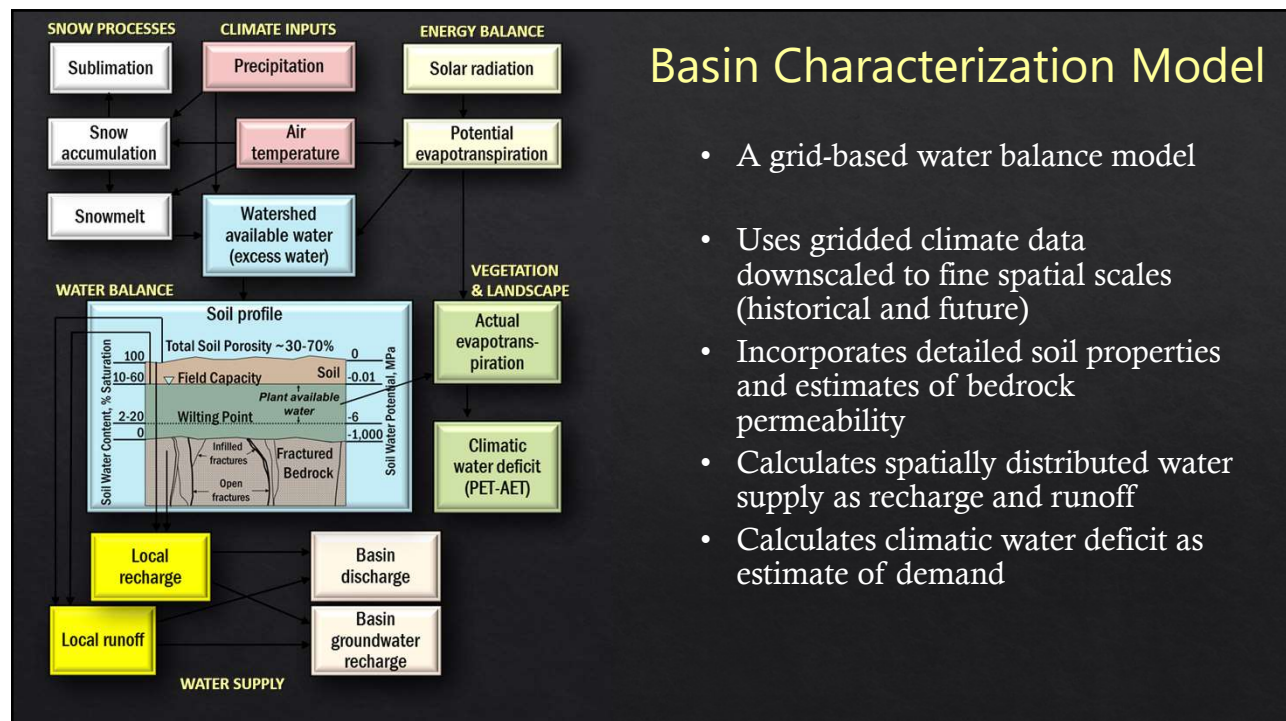
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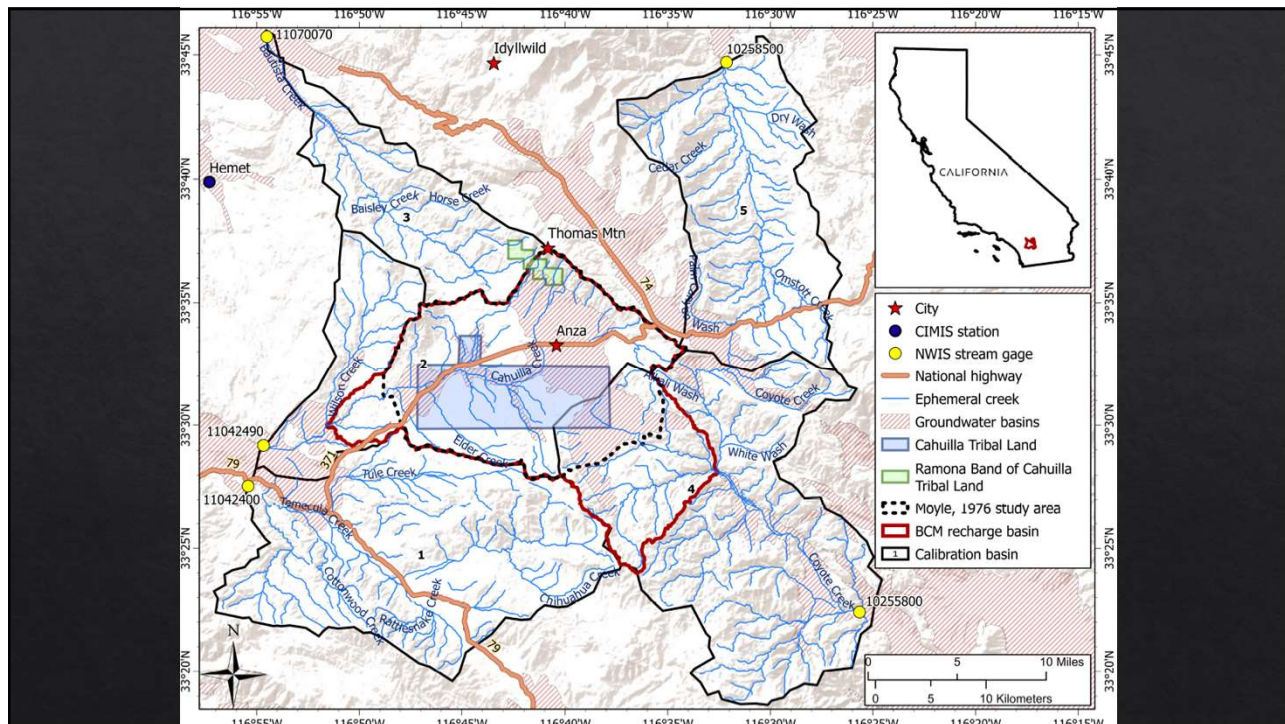
Recharge and Runoff

- Basin Characterization Model (BCM)
 - monthly water balance calculations
 - grid-based data at 270-meter resolution
 - calculates recharge, runoff, actual evapotranspiration, climatic water deficit, snow accumulation and melt
- Potential evapotranspiration, PET (Priestley-Taylor)
 - hourly solar radiation model, topographic shading, and cloudiness are used to calculate the energy balance and PET
 - Accumulated to monthly to drive water balance
- Snow accumulation and melt based on NWS Snow-17 Model
- Soil water storage based on soil maps (SSURGO)
- Bedrock permeability based on geology
- Climate data from meteorology stations, PRISM or future projections

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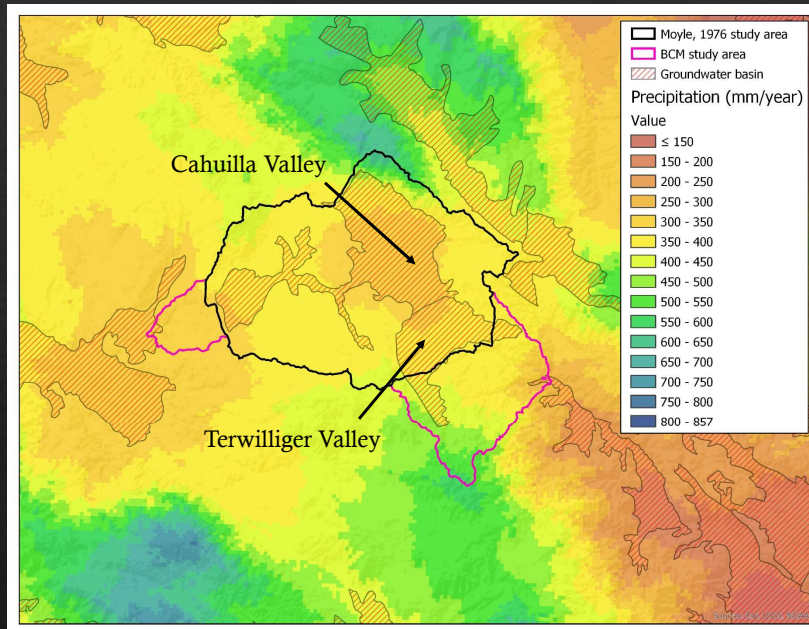


Model Calibration

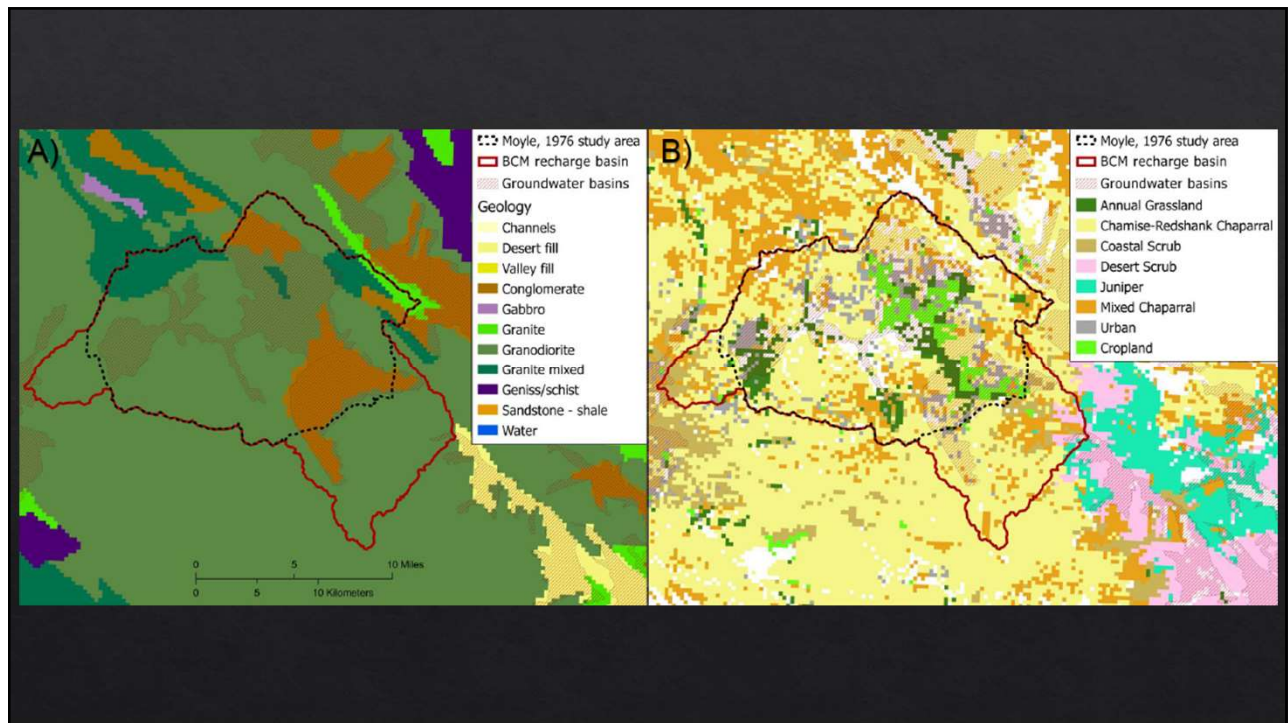
- The BCM is calibrated or validated regionally to many sources of data, both point measurements and remote sensing, including streamflow, soil moisture, potential and actual evapotranspiration, as well as estimates of recharge on the basis of post-calibration MODFLOW models.
- Local variables used for calibration include streamflow and actual evapotranspiration to constrain the water balance
- Calibration parameters that are adjusted:
 - bedrock permeability
 - soil storage capacity
 - vegetation type k-factor (monthly percentage of total PET that is actual ET)
 - root exploration depth below soil depth
 - proportion of runoff that may become recharge (or vice versa, representing gaining and losing streams)

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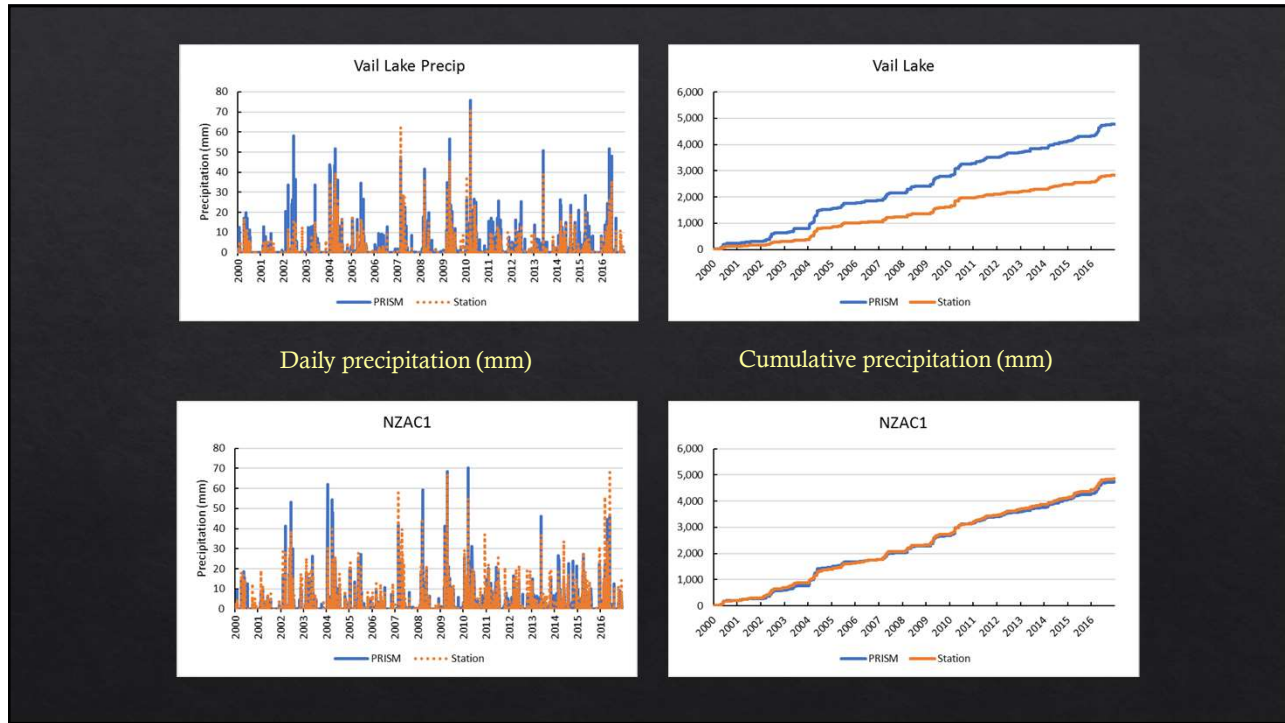
Average annual precipitation, 1981-2010



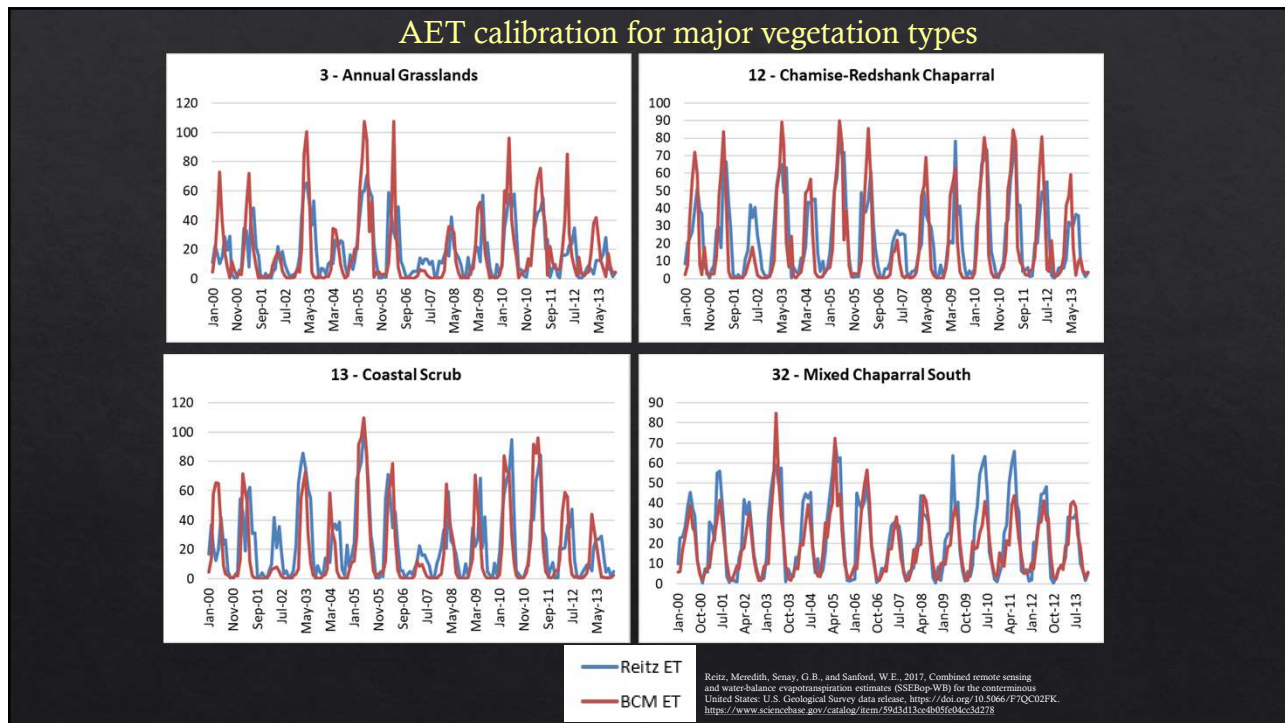
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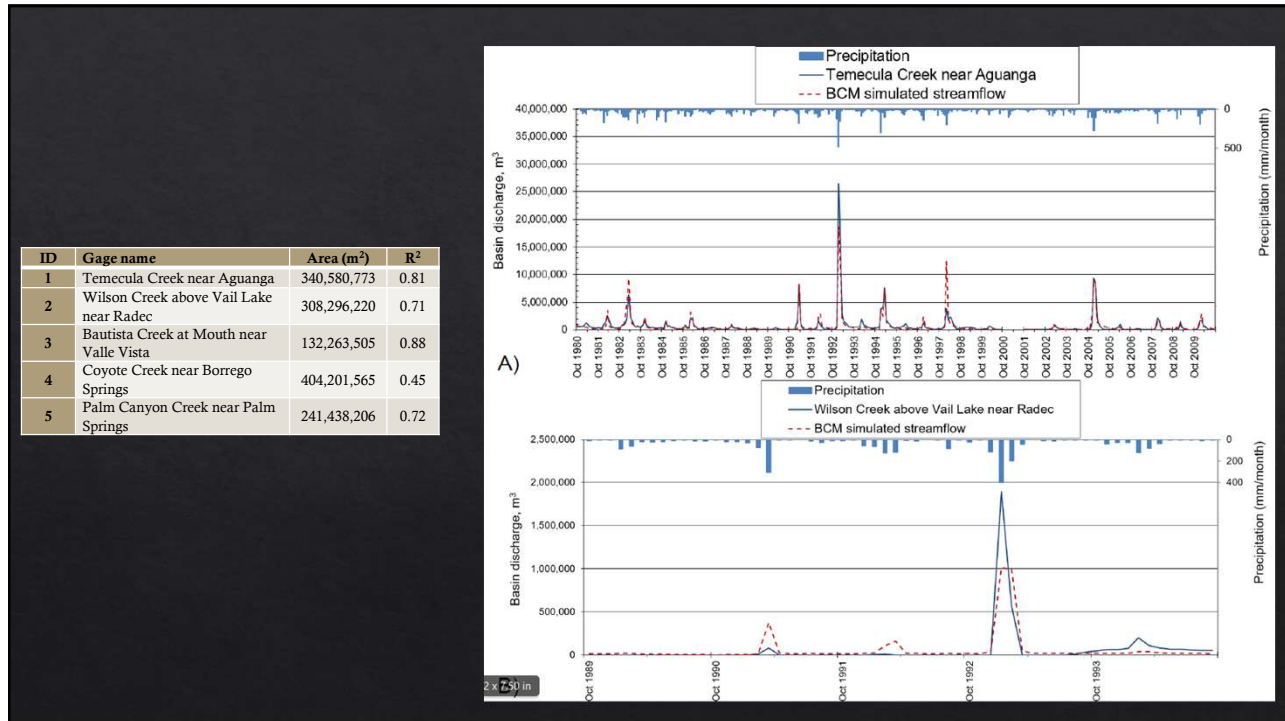
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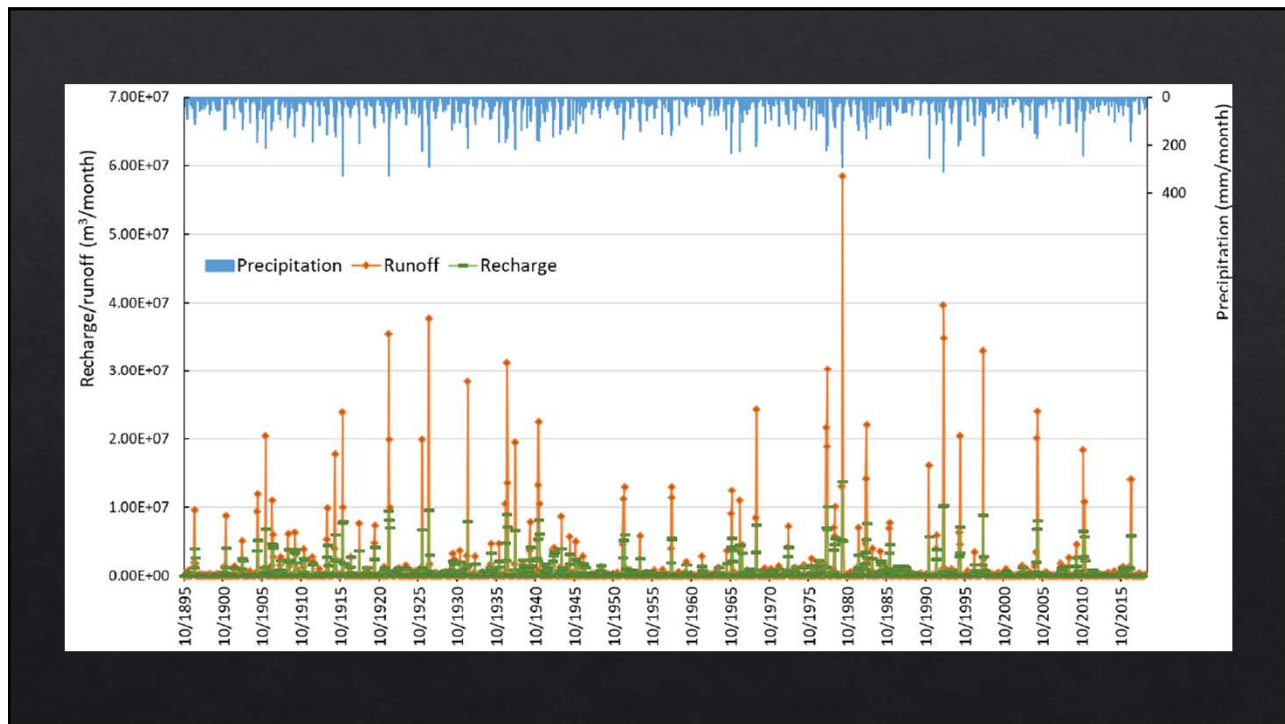


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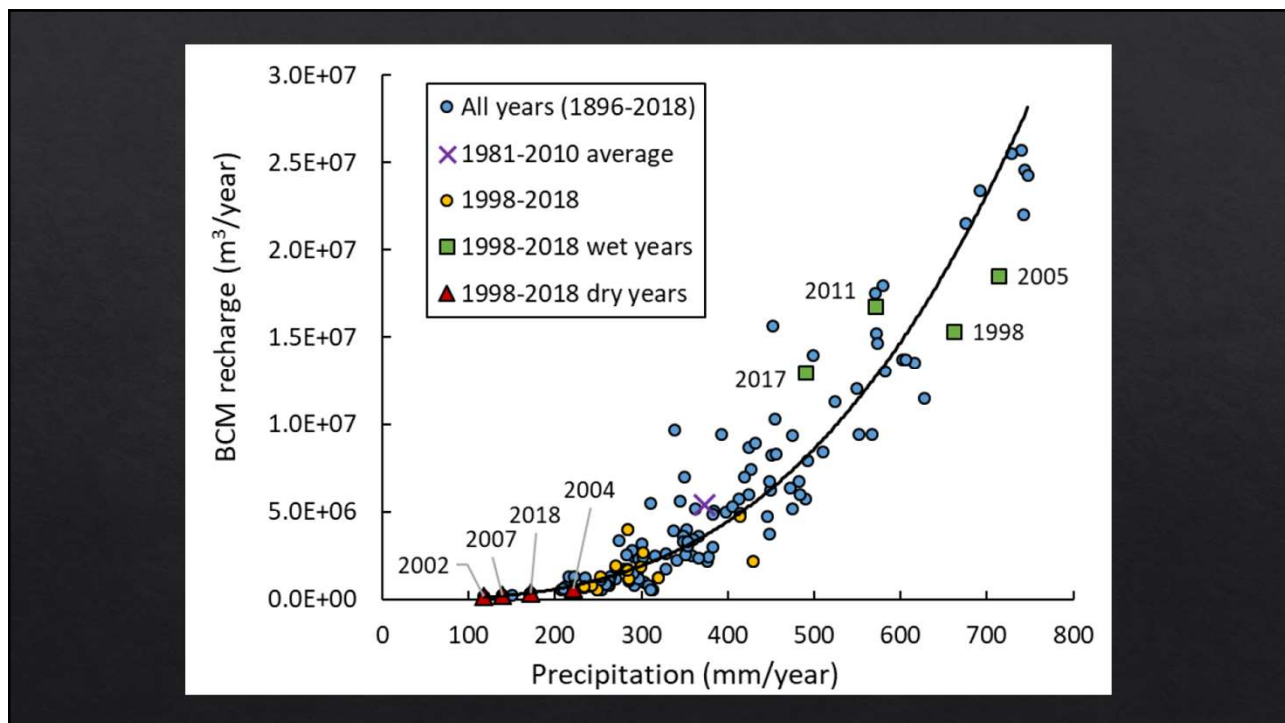
Variable	Period	Point or area comparison	Source	Published estimate	This study
				mm	mm
Precipitation	1897-1947	Moyle recharge basin	Moyle, 1976	406-762	419
Precipitation	1956	Moyle recharge basin	Moyle, 1976	132	210
Precipitation	1943	Moyle recharge basin	Moyle, 1976	568	427
Precipitation	1949-1954	BCM recharge basin	CA DWR, 1956	364	337
Precipitation	1953	BCM recharge basin	CA DWR, 1956	298	298
Precipitation	1951	BCM recharge basin	CA DWR, 1956	185	261
Precipitation	1981-2010	Anza (Point)	WRCC, 2020b	300	321
Precipitation	1981-2010	Idyllwild (Point)	WRCC, 2020c	665	627
Precipitation	1981-2010	Hemet (Point)	WRCC, 2020a	297	307
Precipitation	water year 2016	Hemet (Point)	CIMIS	177	174
Precipitation	water year 2017	Hemet (Point)	CIMIS	181	364
Precipitation	water year 2018	Hemet (Point)	CIMIS	128	129
PET	water year 2016	Hemet (Point)	CIMIS	1,634	1,468
PET	water year 2017	Hemet (Point)	CIMIS	1,588	1,471
PET	water year 2018	Hemet (Point)	CIMIS	1,693	1,475
				m ³ (10 ³)	m ³ (10 ³)
Recharge	1973	Moyle recharge basin	Moyle, 1976	5,551	5,589
AET	Average annual 1897-1947	Moyle recharge basin	Moyle, 1976	105,463	76,846

¹CIMIS Hemet station, <https://cimis.water.ca.gov/>

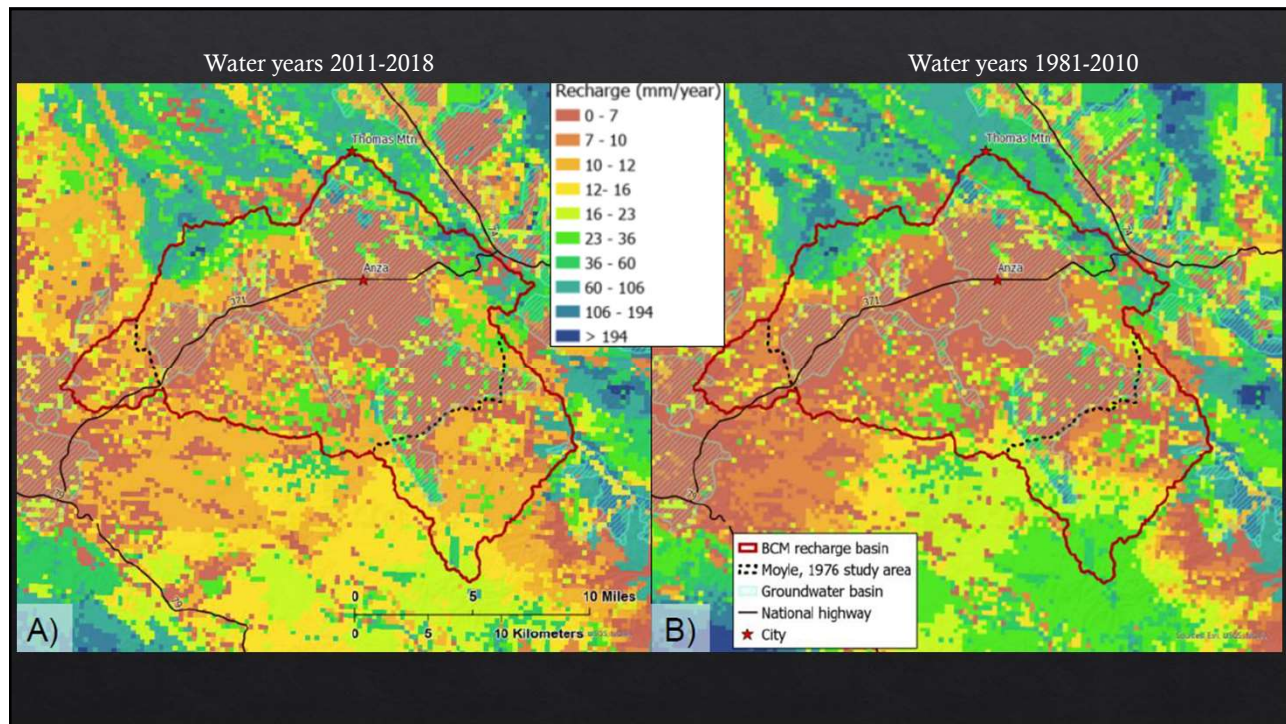
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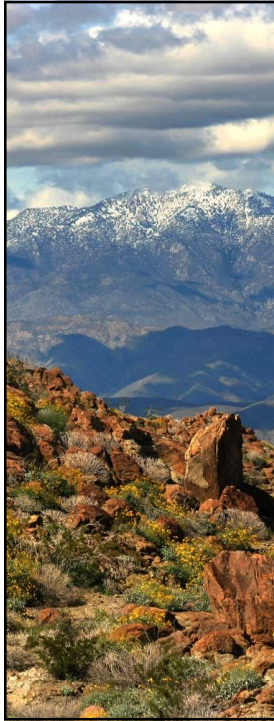
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Limitations

- Uncertainty exists in all components including climate data, streamflow measurements, other calibration data, model parameterization, and model outputs.
- The BCM calculates natural net infiltration and should not be interpreted as direct recharge to the aquifer.
- To understand how much water makes it through the unsaturated zone and to the aquifer and how it is distributed requires a groundwater model like MODFLOW

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Conclusions

- Water balance modeling can be used to characterize hydrologic conditions, including recharge, in the Anza region.
- Average annual recharge in the Anza region that may contribute to the groundwater basin is about 4,500 acre-feet per year
- However, recharge doesn't occur every year, and in some years can exceed 10,000 acre-feet
- Watersheds surrounding the Anza groundwater basin contribute water, either by surface or subsurface processes, to the basin.
- The BCM has been locally calibrated and can be used to provide time series of historical boundary conditions to a groundwater model and evaluate impacts of future climate conditions on recharge in the region
- Future work could include running climate scenario and land use changes.

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Questions?

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The slide features a background image of a vast, flat landscape with yellow wildflowers in the foreground and mountains in the distance under a cloudy sky. On the right side, there are three circular logos: the top one is for the Ramona Band of Cahuilla, the middle one is for the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the bottom one is for the USGS. At the bottom right, there is a large USGS logo with the tagline 'science for a changing world'.

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