

# Dealing With Septic Tank Discharges in Region 7



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Executive Officer

# REGIONAL BOUNDARIES



# Septic Tank Discharges A Growing Concern

- Triennial Review
  - Directed staff to investigate septic impacts to unsewered communities
- Unprecedented Development
  - Many desert communities have no sewer or WWTPs
  - Large scale developments concentrating discharges

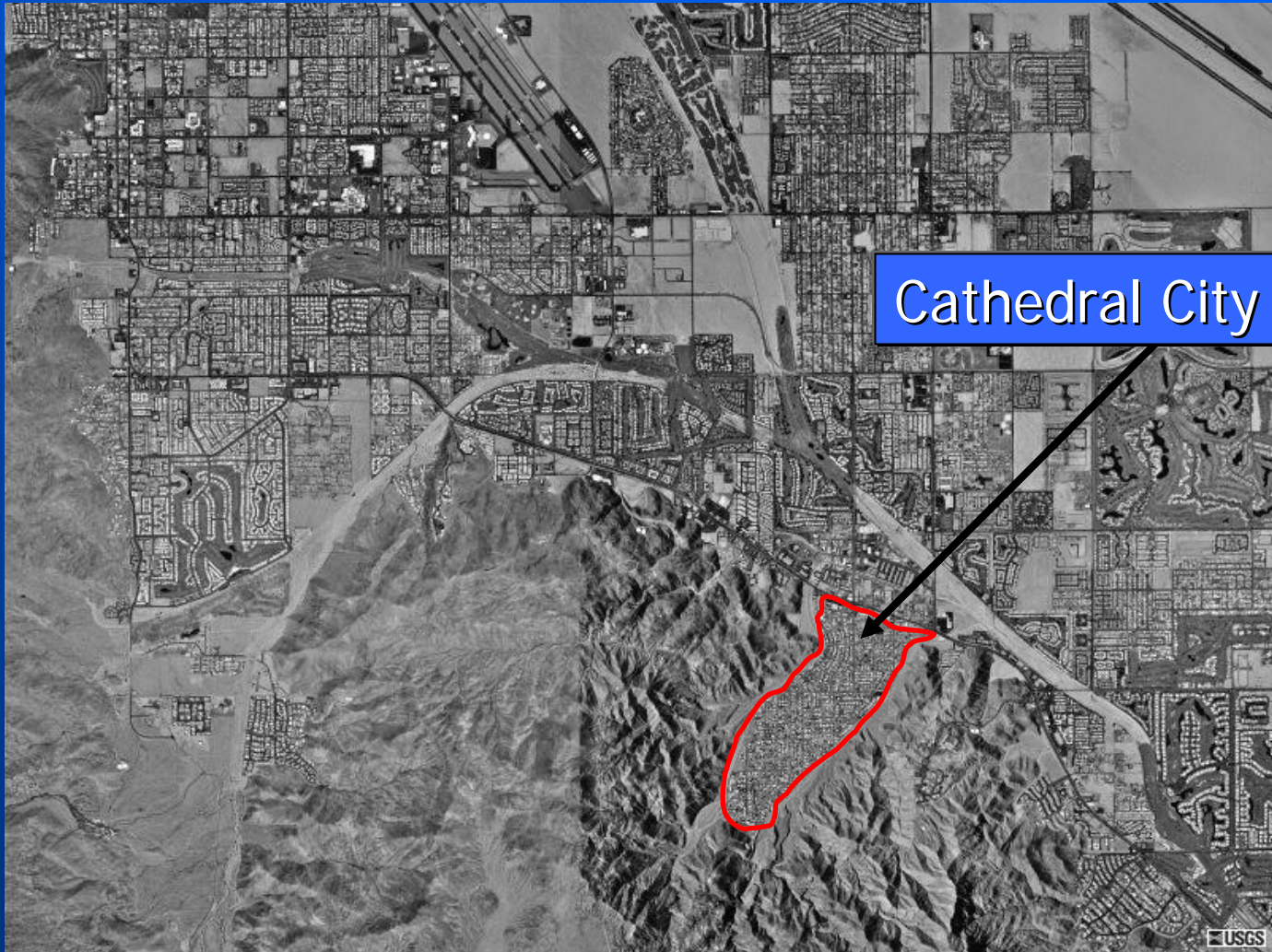
# Water Quality Concerns

A photograph of a residential building with a satellite dish on the roof and a fenced-in area with a bicycle in the foreground. The building is light-colored with a window that has a yellow board over it. The fence is made of metal and has a bicycle leaning against it. There are trees and a clear sky in the background.

- Nitrates
- TDS
- Pathogens
- VOCs

# Basin Plan Amendments

## Cathedral City Cove



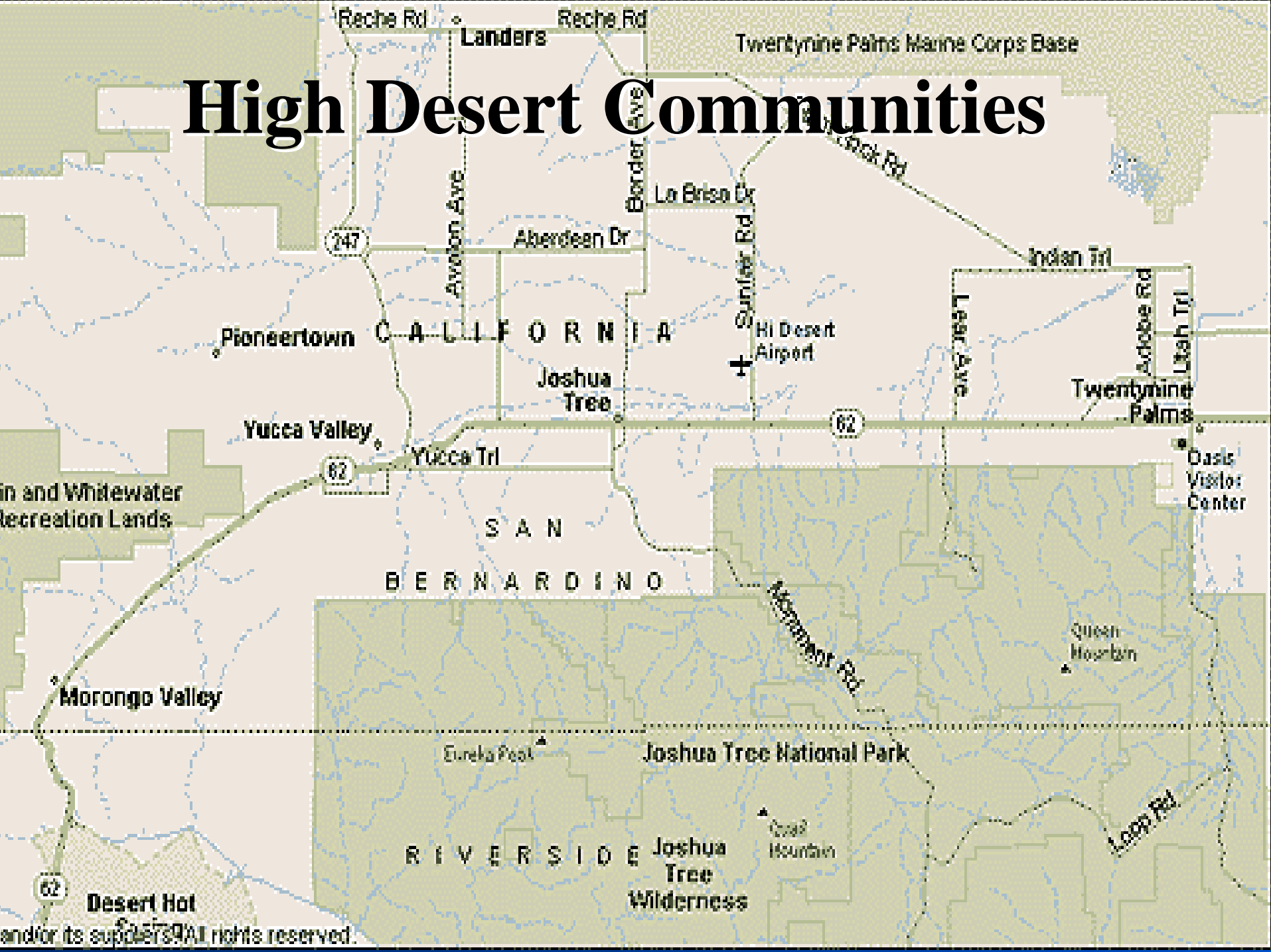


Wastewater

# Desert Hot Springs New Development



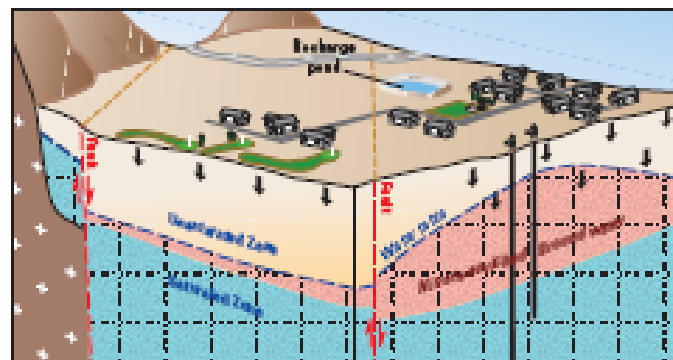
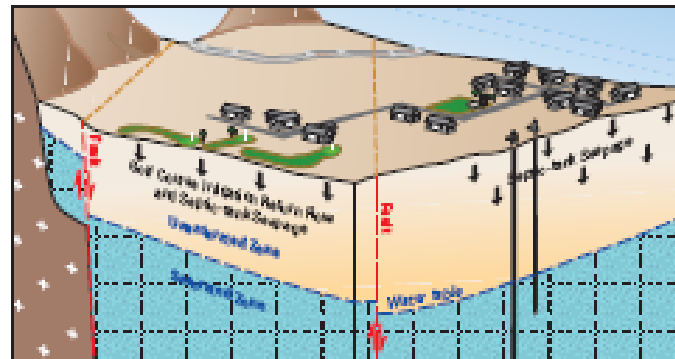
# High Desert Communities





# Town of Yucca Valley



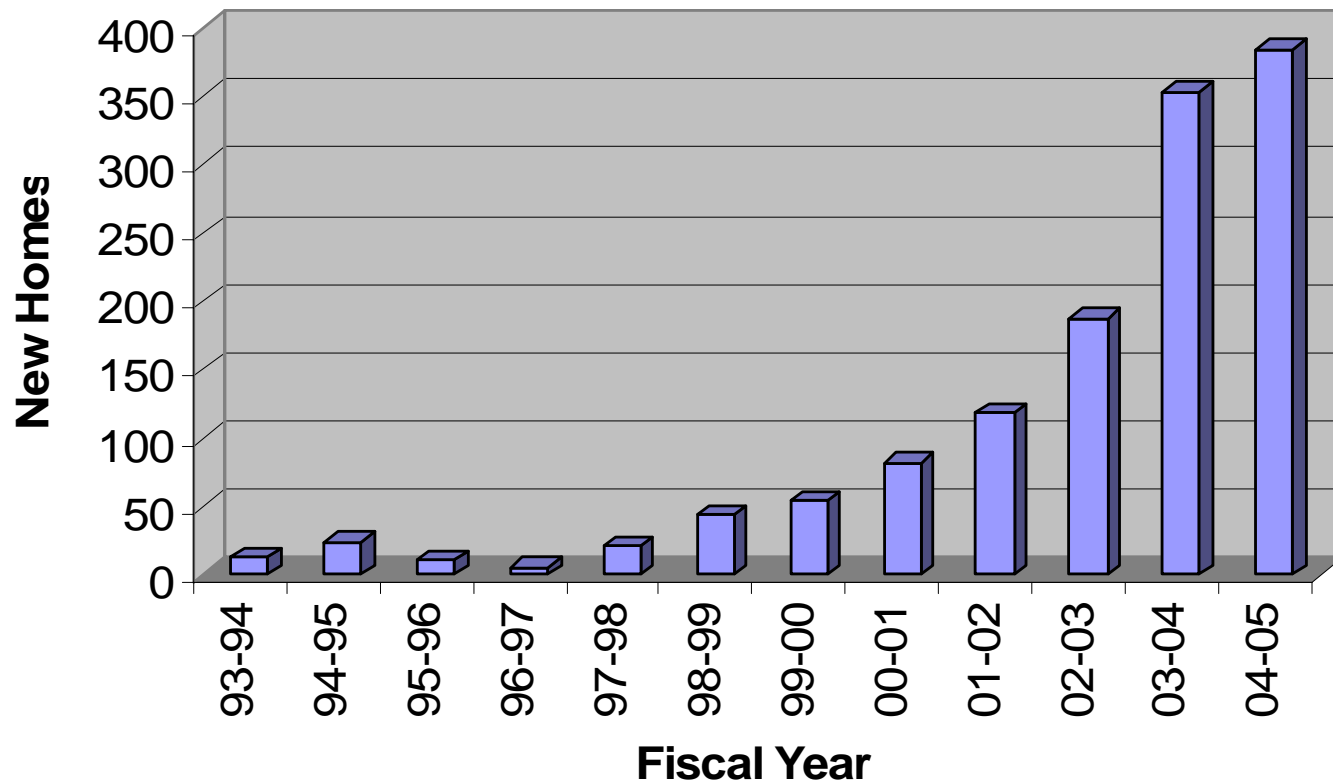


## EVALUATION OF THE SOURCE AND TRANSPORT OF HIGH NITRATE CONCENTRATIONS IN GROUND WATER, WARREN SUBBASIN, CALIFORNIA

Prepared in cooperation with  
HI-DESERT WATER DISTRICT

# Yucca Valley Development

## New Homes Approved by Planning Department



# 1998 Master Plan

*Future Location Of*

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**WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT PLANT**

**For information call 760.365.8333**

*Hi-Desert Water District - Serving You Today, Planning for Tomorrow*



ALTA LOMA DR.



LA CONTENTA RD.

FUTURE WASTEWATER SITE

YOU ARE HERE

29 PALMS HWY.

AVALON BL.

# High Desert Efforts

- All new septic systems required to submit ROWD
- Requiring “Engineers Report” in support of ROWD prepared by PE or RG
  - Details geology, hydrology, proposed treatment & disposal
- So far projects totaling 670 homes are permitted utilizing advanced on-site treatment  
(Secondary standards + Total N  $\leq$  10 mg/L)

# Single Family Home Advantex System





40,000 GPD Package Plant

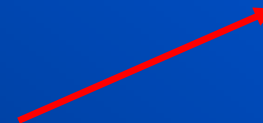
# Colorado River RV Parks





# Pollutants Eliminated from Septic Discharges

Project	# of dwellings	Constituent	lbs/year removed	Solution	Cost
Cathedral City Cove	1500	BOD	236527	BP prohibition	\$38M
		TSS	106117	sewer	
		TN as N	89497		
Desert Hot Springs	1275	BOD	201048	BP prohibition	\$11.3M
		TSS	90200	sewer	
		TN as N	76072	AB 1331	
Dream Homes	529	BOD	83415		\$8M
		TSS	37424	sewer	
		TN as N	31562		
High Desert development	670	BOD	88516	Pkg Plants	
		TSS	30267		
		TN as N	34264		
				<b>Tons/yr removed</b>	
Totals	3974	BOD	609506	305	
		TSS	264008	132	
		TN as N	<b>231395</b>	<b>116</b>	



# Ongoing Challenges

- Reluctance of local public entities to take on wastewater issues (sewers, treatment systems, O&M)
- RV dump stations
  - Formaldehyde & ammonia additives disrupt biological treatment systems
  - Diminishing number of dump stations
- Local regulatory entities not prepared to do construction inspections of sewer / wastewater treatment system installations

# Summary

- Addressing septics using existing regs
  - BP Amendments (prohibitions)
  - Requiring Engineers Reports with ROWDs for new development
  - Change of ownership/failure triggers for existing facilities

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

