

Cameo Area Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 6-61
- County: Inyo
- Surface Area: 9,310 acres (14.5 square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

The Cameo Area Groundwater Basin underlies a northeast-trending upland valley in central Inyo County. Elevation of the valley floor ranges from about 3,600 feet above sea level in the south to about 4,600 feet in the north. The basin is bounded on all sides by nonwater-bearing rocks of the Last Chance Range. Elevation of the surrounding mountains on the north and west range from about 6,000 to 7,500 feet. The basin lies within Death Valley National Park (USGS 1987a, 1987b).

Average annual precipitation ranges from about 4 to 8 inches. Runoff drains south through the valley and on through an unnamed wash to Saline Valley (Jennings 1958).

Hydrogeologic Information

Water Bearing Formations

Quaternary alluvium forms the water-bearing material within the basin and includes unconsolidated younger alluvial deposits and underlying unconsolidated to semi-consolidated older alluvial deposits (DWR 1964).

Recharge and Discharge Areas

Recharge of the basin is chiefly from the percolation of runoff through alluvial deposits at the base of the mountains on the north and west and from the infiltration of precipitation that falls to the valley floor.

Groundwater Level Trends

There are no historical records of wells or groundwater levels in the basin. Groundwater likely moves towards the southernmost part of the basin and discharges as underflow to a south-trending wash to the Saline Valley Groundwater Basin (USGS 1987a, 1987b, 1987c, 1987d).

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Storage Capacity. Unknown.

Groundwater in Storage. Unknown.

Groundwater Budget (C)

Groundwater budget information is not available.

Groundwater Quality

Characterization. There are no historical records of chemical analyses of groundwater from springs or wells in the basin.

Impairments. Unknown.

Well Production characteristics

Well yields (gal/min)	
Municipal/Irrigation	
Total depths (ft)	
Domestic	
Municipal/Irrigation	

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells /measurement frequency
	Groundwater levels	
	Miscellaneous water quality	
Department of Health Services and cooperators	Title 22 water quality	

Basin Management

Groundwater management:
Water agencies
Public
Private

References Cited

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1964. *Ground Water Occurrence and Quality Lahontan Region*. Bulletin No.106-1. 439 p.
- Jennings, C.W. 1958. *Geologic Map of California: Death Valley Sheet*. Olaf P. Jenkins Edition. California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. Scale 1: 250,000.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 1987a. *Teakettle Junction, California*. 7.5' Quadrangle. Provisional Edition. Scale 1: 24,000.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 1987b. *West of Teakettle Junction, California*. 7.5' Quadrangle. Provisional Edition. Scale 1: 24,000.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 1987c. *Ubehebe Peak, California*. 7.5' Quadrangle. Provisional Edition. Scale 1: 24,000.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 1987d. *West of Ubehebe Peak, California*. 7.5' Quadrangle. Provisional Edition. Scale 1: 24,000.

Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.