

# Local Groundwater Management

## Myth vs Fact



***DWA Myth: MSWD has never managed your groundwater.***

**Fact:** MSWD is an award-winning public water utility that has responsibly managed groundwater in the greater Desert Hot Springs community since 1953. MSWD's successful groundwater management practices have ensured our customers enjoy a safe, reliable and sustainable supply of water.

***DWA Myth: Desert Water Agency (DWA) has always been responsible for the management of groundwater in Desert Hot Springs.***

**Fact:** DWA has never managed groundwater in MSWD's boundaries. DWA was created 8 years after MSWD to import supplemental water to the Coachella Valley without interfering with MSWD's ability to serve its ratepayers or manage local groundwater. DWA used the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to seize control of the management of the groundwater in MSWD's service area.

***DWA Myth: DWA's control of Desert Hot Springs' groundwater does not pose any risks to the local community.***

**Fact:** DWA has taken control of local groundwater, making MSWD the only water district in the Coachella Valley that is not in control of its own local groundwater. DWA's actions undermine local control in the greater Desert Hot Springs community. Contrary to SGMA, DWA can now dictate how much water MSWD can pump to serve its customers. This threatens job growth, economic development, the business community and the future of Desert Hot Springs.

***DWA Myth: MSWD does not have the contacts or investments to bring water into the community.***

**Fact:** MSWD, as most water agencies, can purchase supplemental water to replenish the groundwater basins it manages. MSWD supported the creation of DWA for the limited purpose of contracting on our behalf to import supplemental water to the community. DWA has overstepped its mandate to seize control of Desert Hot Springs' local groundwater management and its future growth.

***DWA Myth: DWA works cooperatively with MSWD to manage the groundwater in the Desert Hot Springs area.***

**Fact:** DWA has a history of aggressive acts towards MSWD and Desert Hot Springs. Ignoring requests from MSWD and city leaders, DWA seized control over management of the groundwater that MSWD uses to serve local residents and businesses. DWA's actions violate a settlement in which DWA agreed to jointly manage local groundwater with MSWD. DWA's actions have made MSWD the only water district in the Coachella Valley that is not managing its own local groundwater.

***DWA Myth: By its board districting efforts, DWA will provide sufficient accountability to the citizens of Desert Hot Springs.***

**Fact:** DWA's districting effort will not fix this issue as DWA's Board of Directors will continue to be controlled by residents from Palm Springs. Groundwater management for the Desert Hot Springs community has been overseen by local residents elected to the MSWD board for nearly 70 years. The Desert Hot Springs community must control its own destiny.

***DWA Myth: DWA's water replenishment efforts are sufficient to serve Desert Hot Springs residents.***

**Fact:** DWA didn't provide MSWD water for over 40 years. When it finally did, DWA delivered Colorado River water of poorer quality than the award-winning water MSWD has provided Desert Hot Springs through its own groundwater management practices. The Desert Hot Springs community cannot put its future or its water supply in the hands of others. There must be local management and control.

**Want to get involved, or more information about this issue? Visit [www.KeepOurWater.org](http://www.KeepOurWater.org)**