

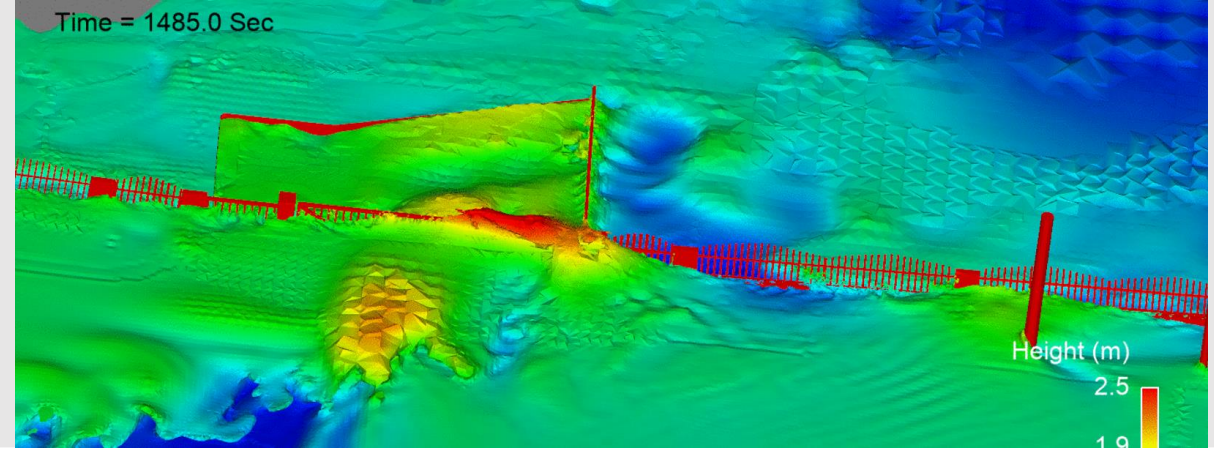


# Computational Forensics

October 2019

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Certification, American Institute of Hydrology (AIH), Surface Water, Groundwater/GeoHydrology;  
Certified Groundwater Professional, National Groundwater Association;  
Licensed Geoscientist, TX;  
Licensed Geologist, Ark;  
Fellow Royal Meteorological Society FRMetS  
Chartered Meteorologist, CMet, RMetS



# Hydrology and Runoff Modelling

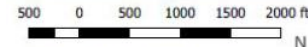
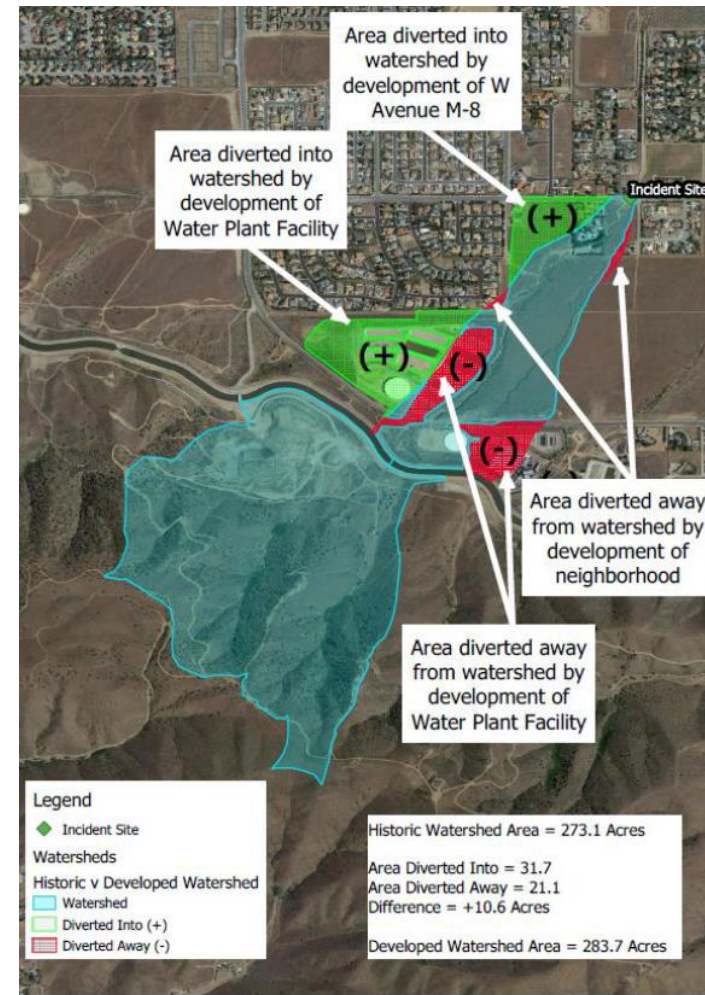
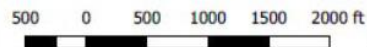
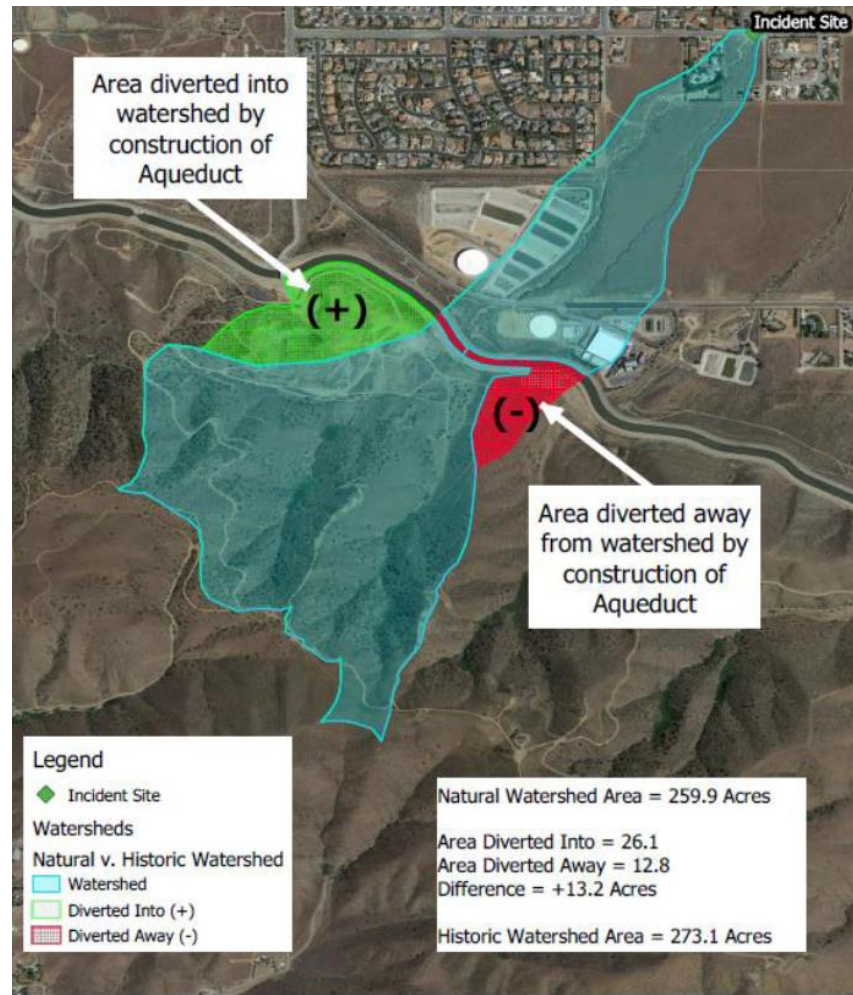




# Step 1a: Delineate Watershed to Location of Interest



# Step 1b: Evaluate the Historical Development of the Watershed





# Step 2: Identify, Characterize, and Map All Nearby Rain Gages

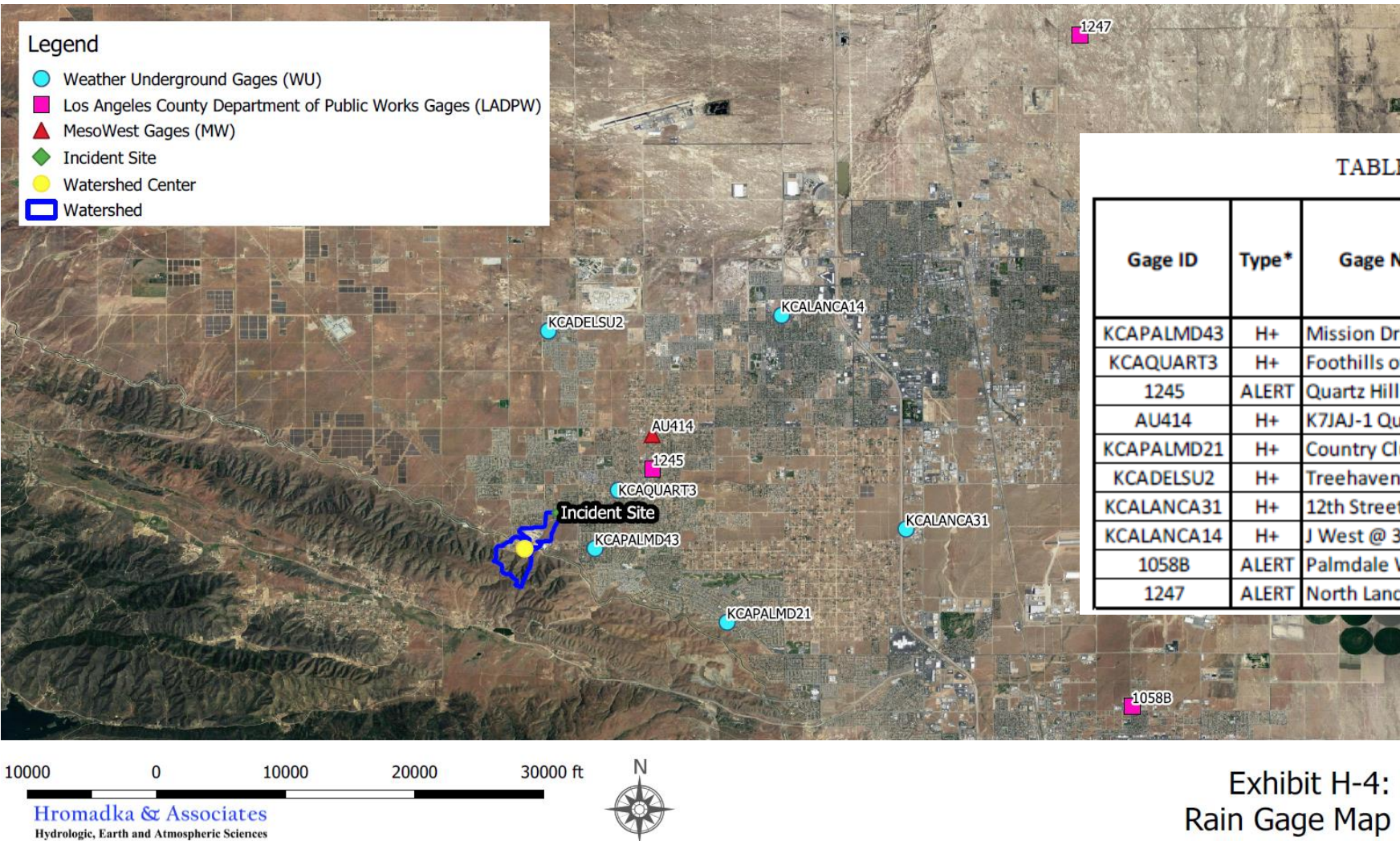


TABLE 1: RAIN GAGE CHARACTERISTICS

Gage ID	Type*	Gage Name	Source**	Elevation (feet)	Data From	Data To	Data Years	Approximate Distance From Watershed Center (miles)
KCAPALMD43	H+	Mission Drive	WU	2752	2015	2017	2	1
KCAQUART3	H+	Foothills of AV	WU	2500	2008	2017	9	1.8
1245	ALERT	Quartz Hill	LADPW	2395	1998	2017	19	2.4
AU414	H+	K7JAJ-1 Quartz Hill	MW	2448	2012	2017	5	2.8
KCAPALMD21	H+	Country Club Ridge	WU	2736	2012	2017	5	3.3
KCADELSU2	H+	Treehaven Court	WU	2372	2015	2017	2	3.9
KCALANCA31	H+	12th Street West	WU	2588	2015	2017	2	5.6
KCALANCA14	H+	J West @ 30 St	WU	2343	2008	2017	9	5.7
10588	ALERT	Palmdale W.D.	LADPW	2595	2006	2017	11	9.4
1247	ALERT	North Lancaster	LADPW	2310	2002	2017	15	11.6

Exhibit H-4:  
Rain Gage Map

# Step 3: Calculate Precipitation for Durations of Interest and find the Return Frequency

TABLE 2: RAIN GAGE PEAK RAINFALLS (inches)

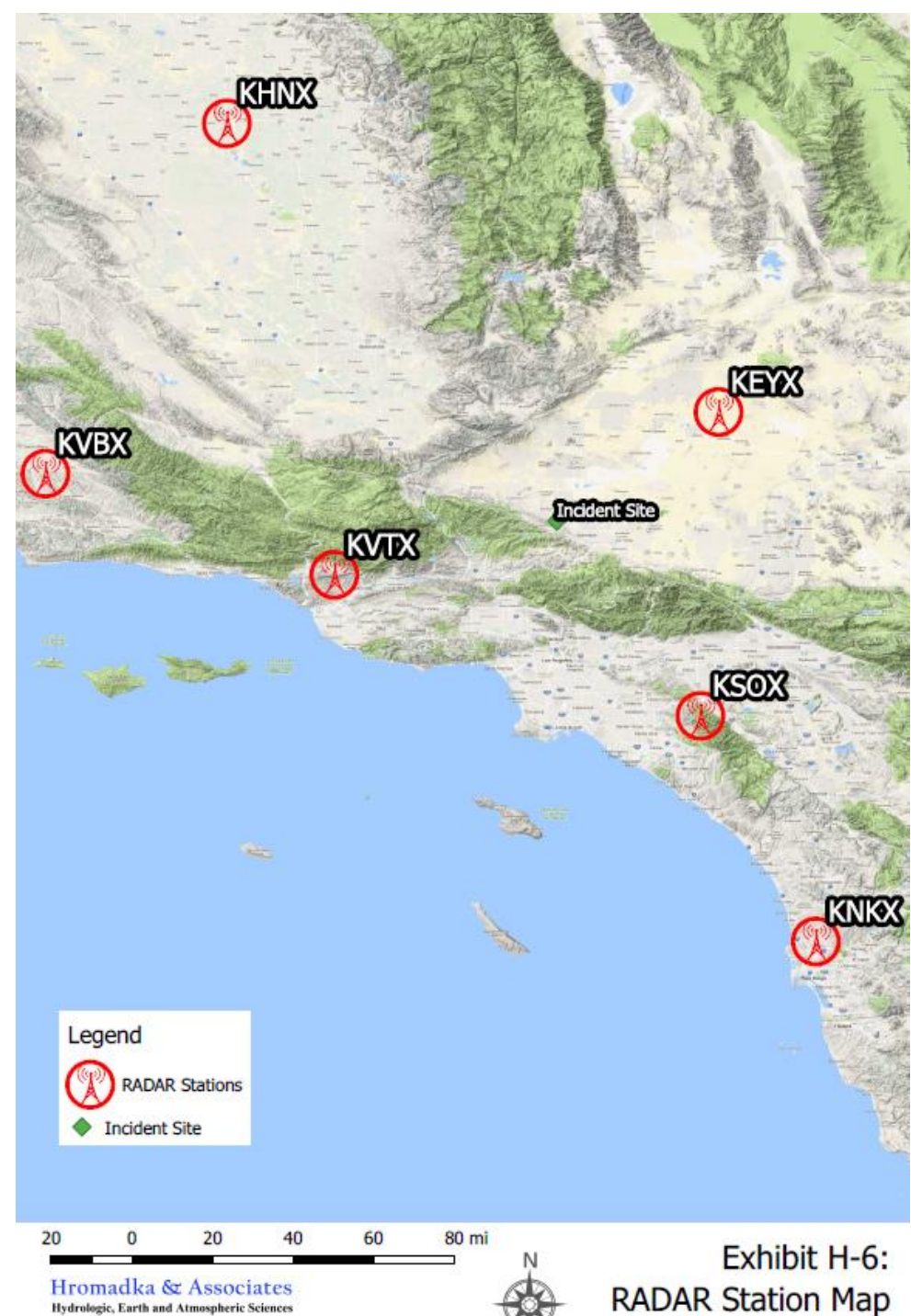
Gage ID	Approximate Distance From Watershed Center (miles)	Peak 15-min Precipitation (inches)	Peak 30-min Precipitation (inches)	Peak 60-min Precipitation (inches)
KCAPALMD43	1	0.78	1.53	2.41
KCAQUART3	1.8	0.68	1.03	1.29
1245	2.4	0.63	1.05	1.44
AU414	2.8	0.35	0.61	1.04
KCAPALMD21	3.3	0.44	0.73	0.88
KCADELSU2	3.9	0.22	0.43	0.69
KCALANCA31	5.6	0.21	0.42	0.56
KCALANCA14	5.7	0.36	0.54	0.74
1058B	9.4	0.37	0.54	0.73
1247	11.6	0.23	0.27	0.33

TABLE 6: NOAA 14 RETURN FREQUENCIES

Gage	Approximate Distance From Watershed Center	Peak 15-min RF (NOAA 14)	Peak 30-min RF (NOAA 14)	Peak 60-min RF (NOAA 14)
KCAPALMD43	1	548	1000+	1000+
KCAQUART3	1.8	640	1000	465
1245	2.4	579	1000+	1000+
AU414	2.8	24	72	220
KCAPALMD21	3.3	38	86	40
KCADELSU2	3.9	5	17	30
KCALANCA31	5.6	4	13	10
KCALANCA14	5.7	38	50	45
1058B	9.4	22	25	22
1247	11.6	6	4	2



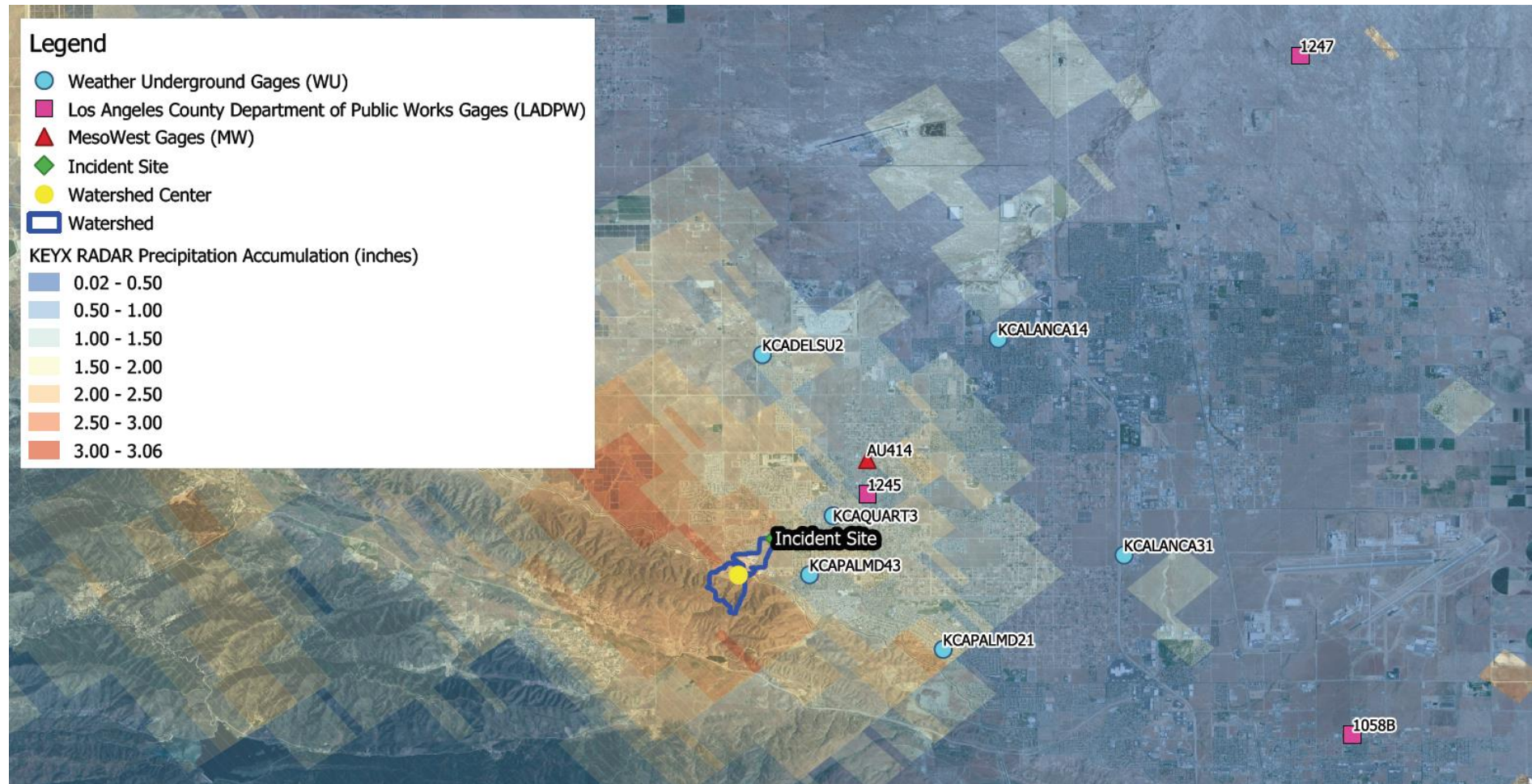
# Step 4: Identify Nearby Radar Stations





# Step 5: Qualitatively Analyze Radar Data

Note that, in this case, the radar measured precipitation is more intense over the watershed than at any of the rain gages.



10000 0 10000 20000 30000 ft



# Step 6: Ground-truth the Radar Data

TABLE 3: RADAR COMPARISONS

	c-value	residual*	shift (minutes)	distance from radar to Watershed Center (miles)	radar station elevation* (feet, MSL)	max interference height^^ (feet, MSL)	relative interference ^	Reasoning
KEYX	1.3	103.2	+10	50	2757	3088	331	Second Best Choice- higher residual than KSOX - closest to site - lowest relative interference
KVTX	1.1	89.5	+15	55	2726	4758	2032	Third Best Choice- residual and relative interference invetween KSOX and KEYX
KSOX	0.9	21	+10	70	3027	6986	3959	Best Choice - lowest residual - lowest c-value - better relative interference
KVBX	1.1	44.8	+15	125	1233	6000	4767	Low residual - highest timing shift - high relative interference - 55 miles further from site than KSOX
KHNX	1.1	61.2	+10	140	243	6600	6357	Site is located at maximum radar range - high residual - high relative interference
KNKX	1.1	114	+10	140	955	6660	5705	Site is located at maximum radar range - highest residual - high relative interference

\* residual calculated as sum differences sqaured on intervals with rain gage data greater than zero

^relative interference is the difference between radar station elevation and the maximum interference height

^^max interference height is the height of the tallest object between the radar and watershed center



# Step 7: Quantitatively Assess Radar Data and Determine the Return Frequency

TABLE 4: RADAR PEAK RAINFALLS (INCHES)

Gage ID	Peak 15-min Precipitation (inches)	Peak 30-min Precipitation (inches)	Peak 60-min Precipitation (inches)
KSOX (watershed)	1.04	1.75	2.51
KEYX (watershed)	1.11	1.98	2.59
KVTX (watershed)	1.09	1.77	2.60

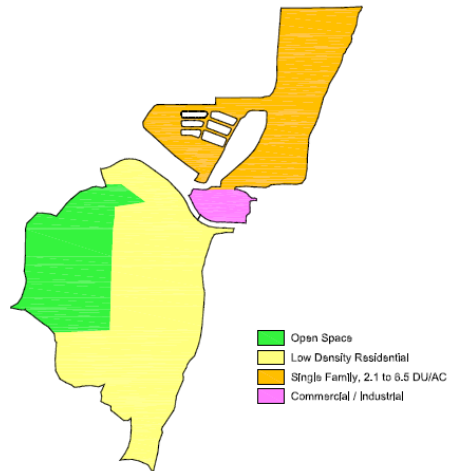
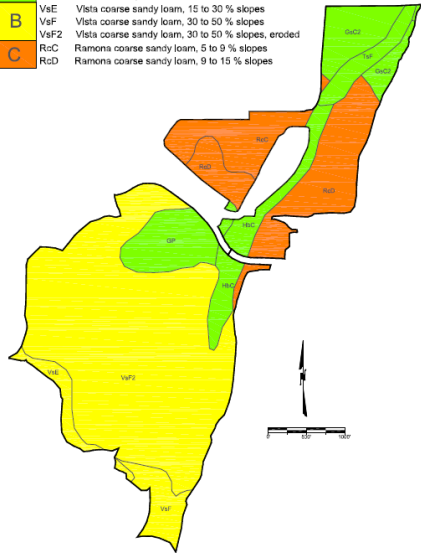
TABLE 7: RADAR RETURN FREQUENCIES (NOAA 14)

Gage ID	Peak 15-min RF (NOAA 14)	Peak 30-min RF (NOAA 14)	Peak 60-min RF (NOAA 14)
KSOX (watershed)	1000+	1000+	1000+
KEYX (watershed)	1000+	1000+	1000+
KVTX (watershed)	1000+	1000+	1000+

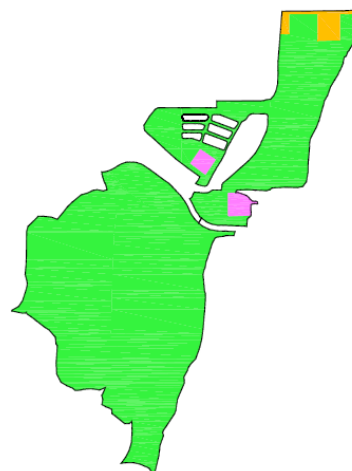
# Step 8: Build a Rational Method Model

## Hydrologic Soil Groups

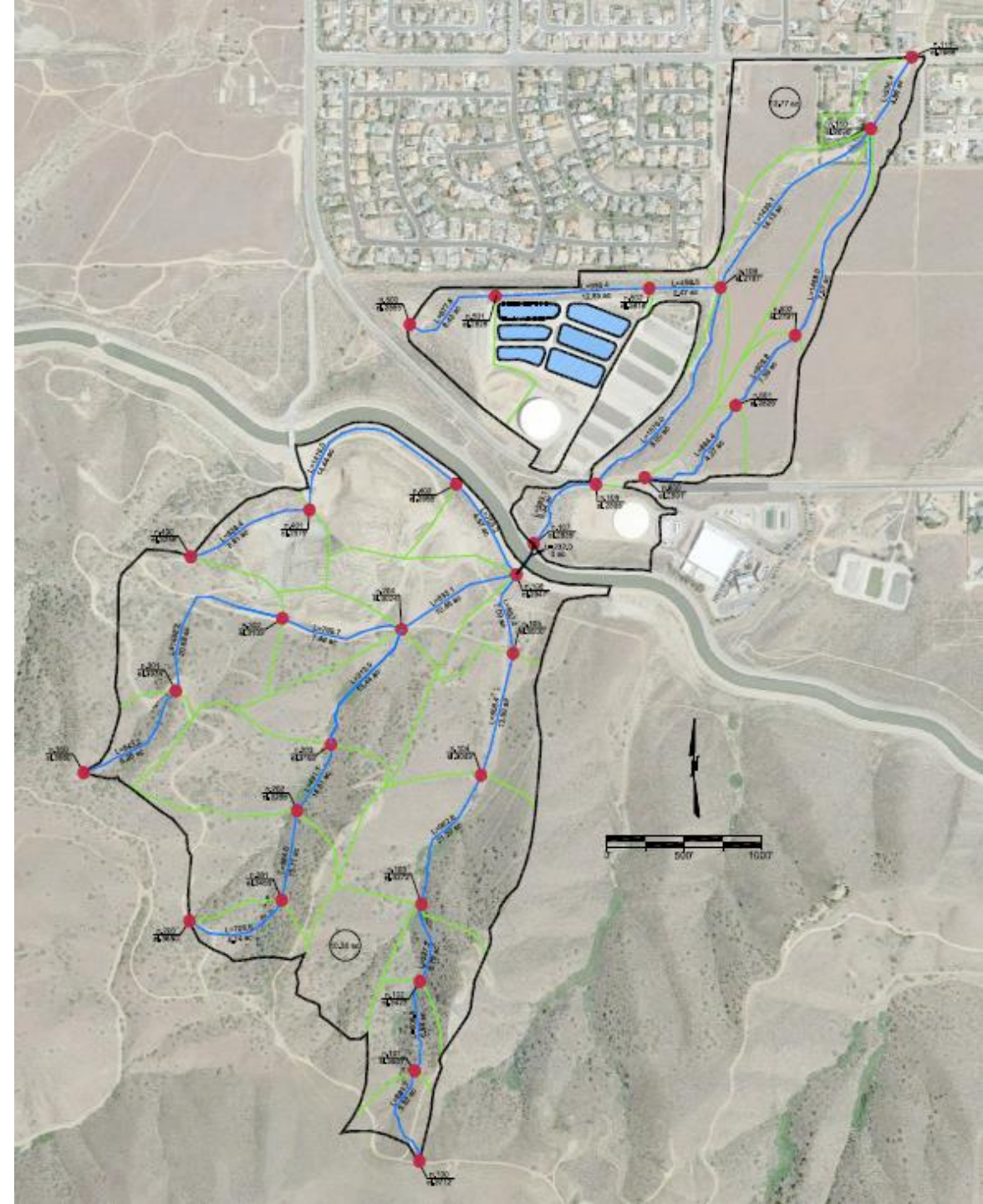
GP	Gravel Pits
GaC2	Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 9 % slopes, eroded
HbC	Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 9 % slopes
TsF	Terrace escarpments
VaE	Vista coarse sandy loam, 15 to 30 % slopes
VaF	Vista coarse sandy loam, 30 to 50 % slopes
VaF2	Vista coarse sandy loam, 30 to 50 % slopes, eroded
RcC	Ramona coarse sandy loam, 5 to 9 % slopes
RcD	Ramona coarse sandy loam, 9 to 15 % slopes



City of Palmdale  
Land Use

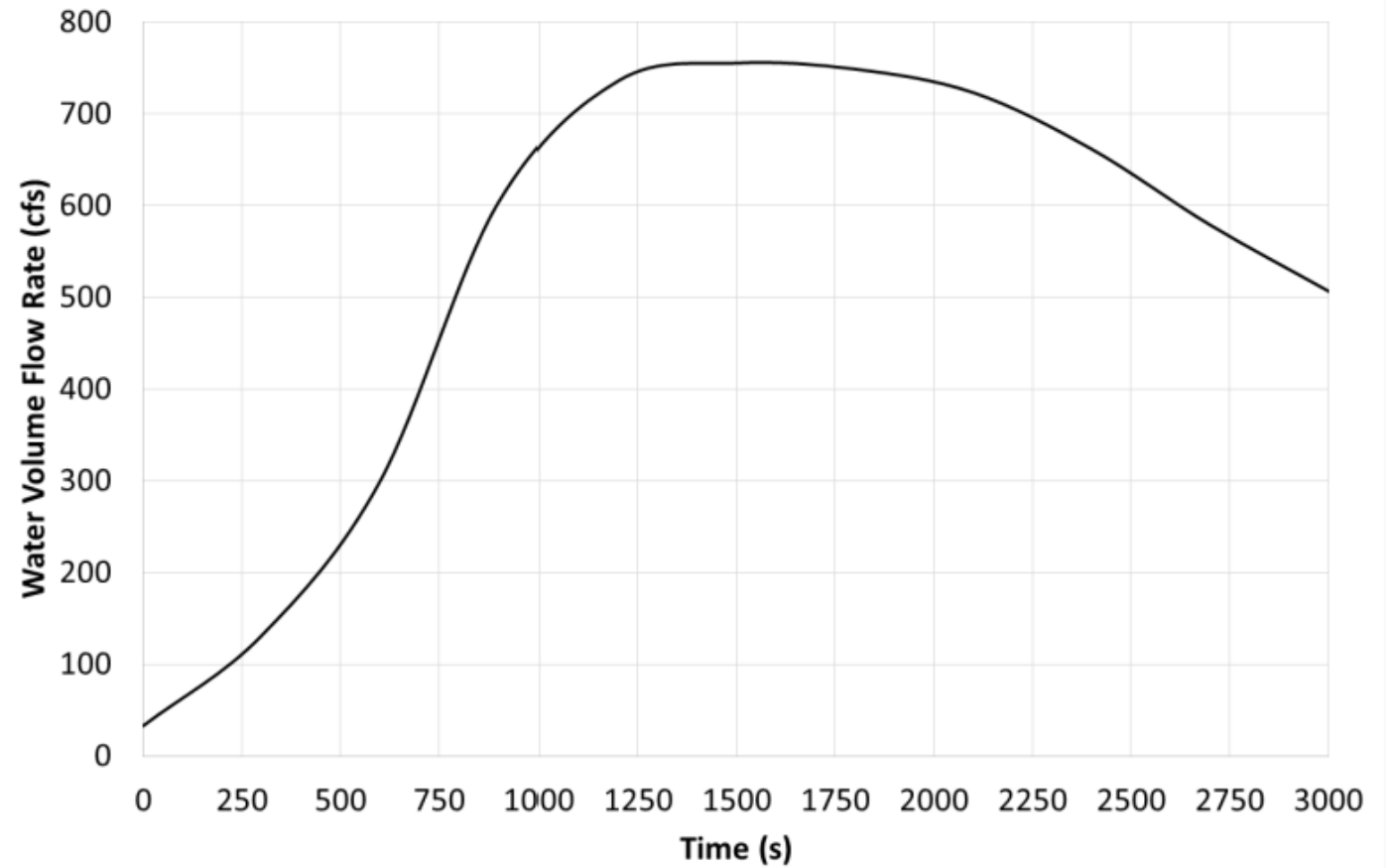


Existing Land Use  
(Based on Google Earth)



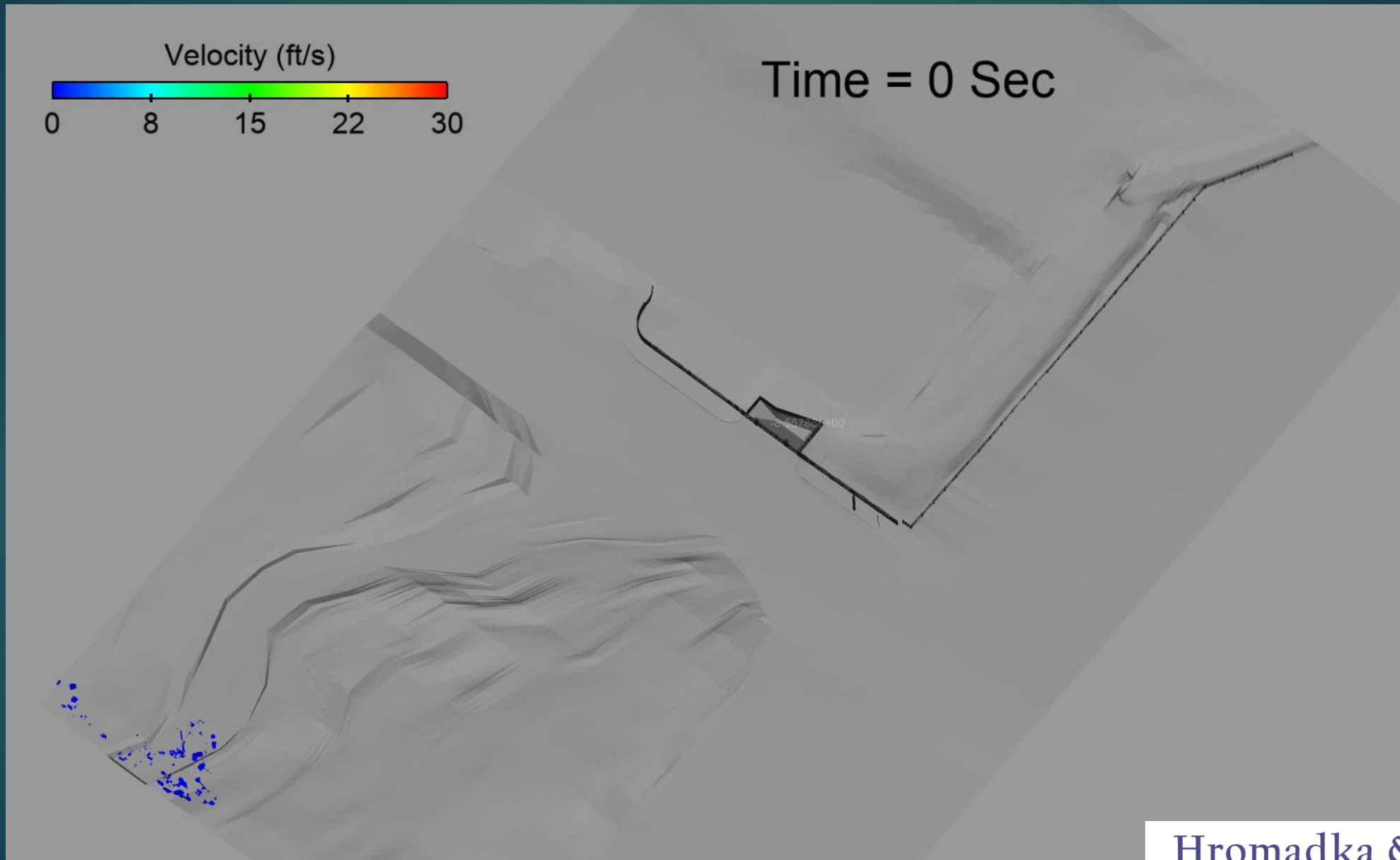


Step 9: Using the Results of the Rational Method, Build and Calibrate a Unit Hydrograph Model. The Output of the Unit Hydrograph Model is a Flow Hydrograph of Volume Flow Rate over Time. This is the Input to the CFD Analysis Described in the Next Presentation



# Baseline Results

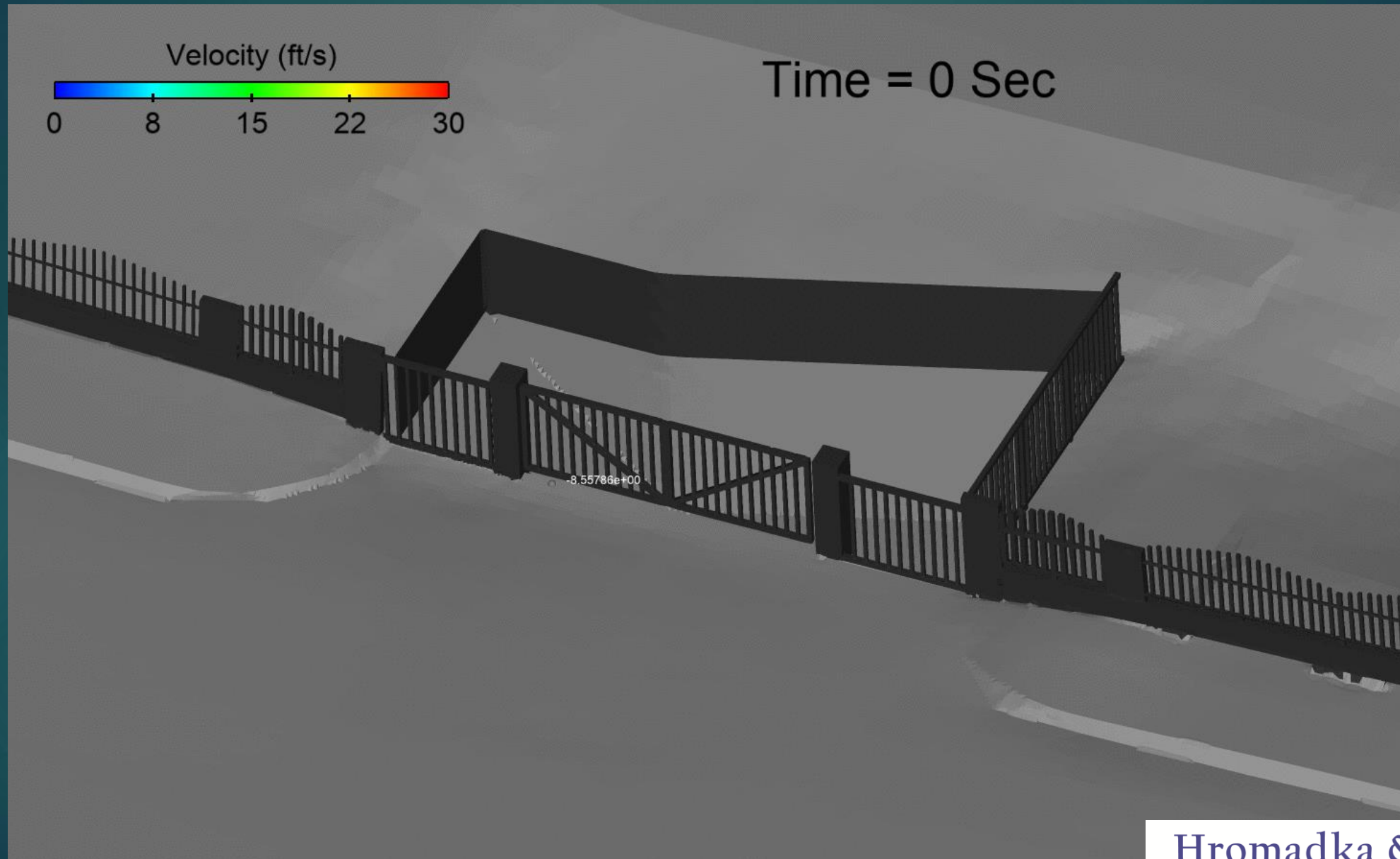
Animation: Water interface colored by Velocity





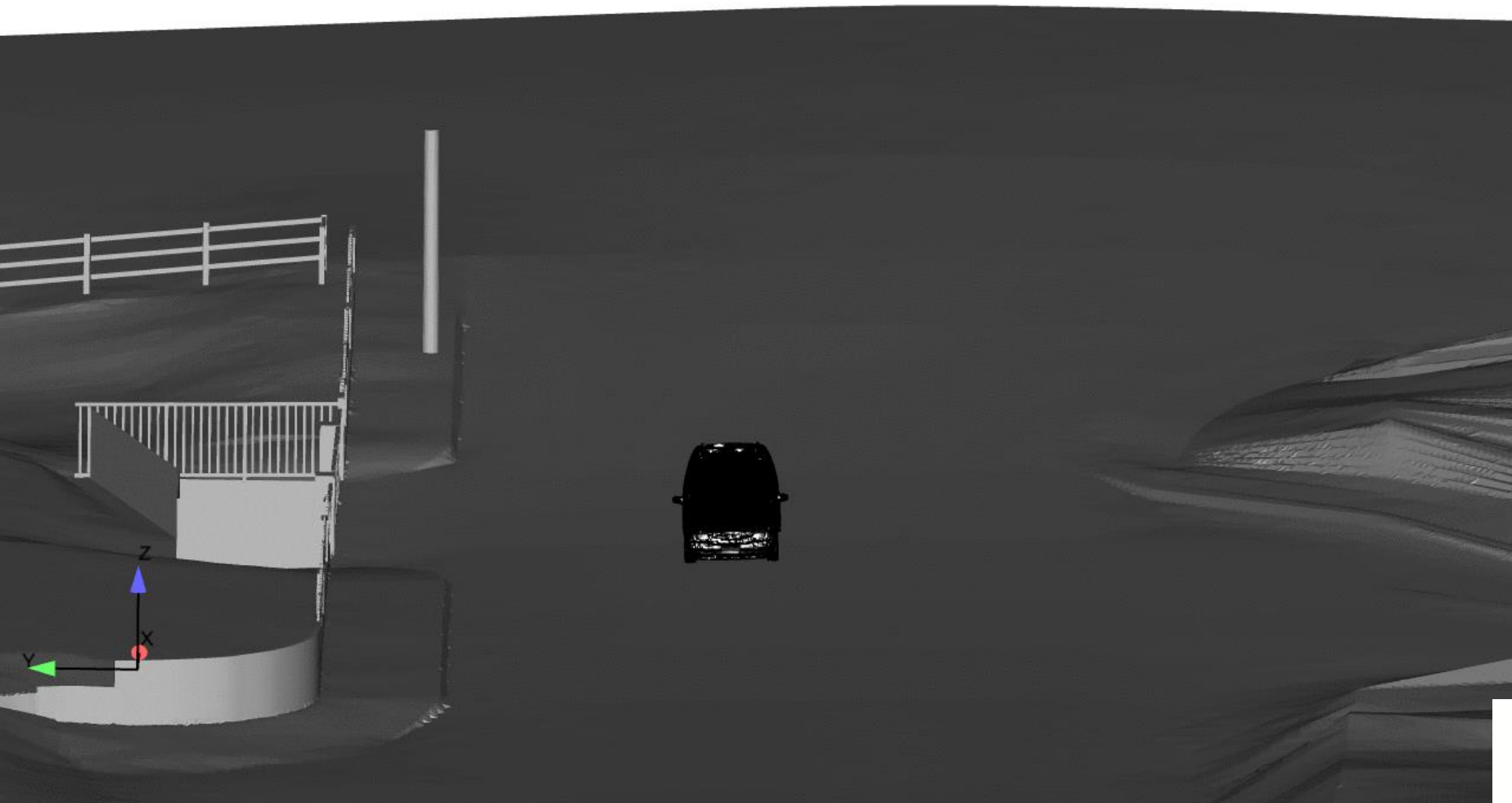
# Baseline Results

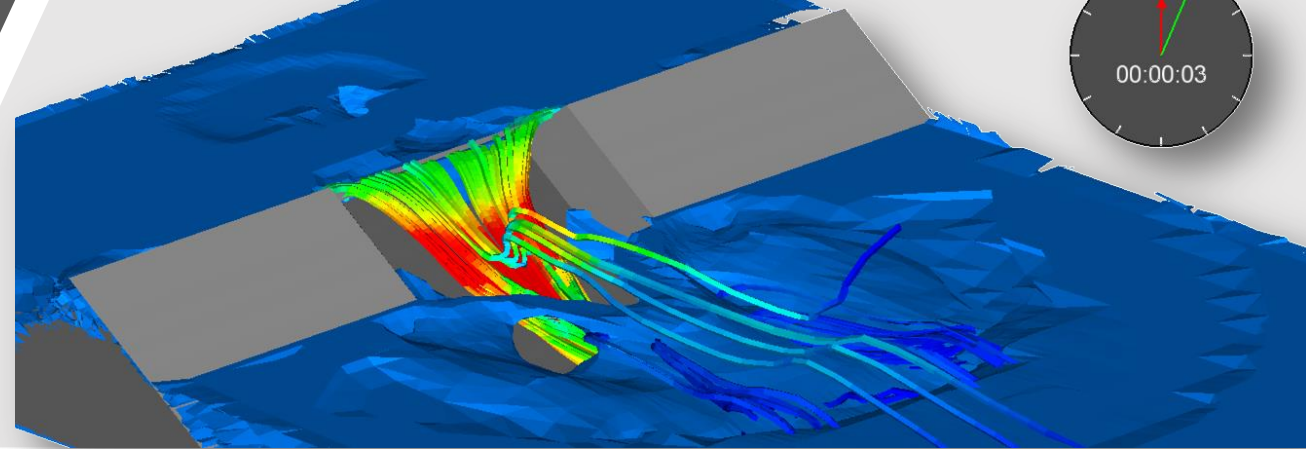
Animation: Water interface colored by Velocity



Baseline with Vehicle  
Animation: Water interface

Time = 0.0 (s)



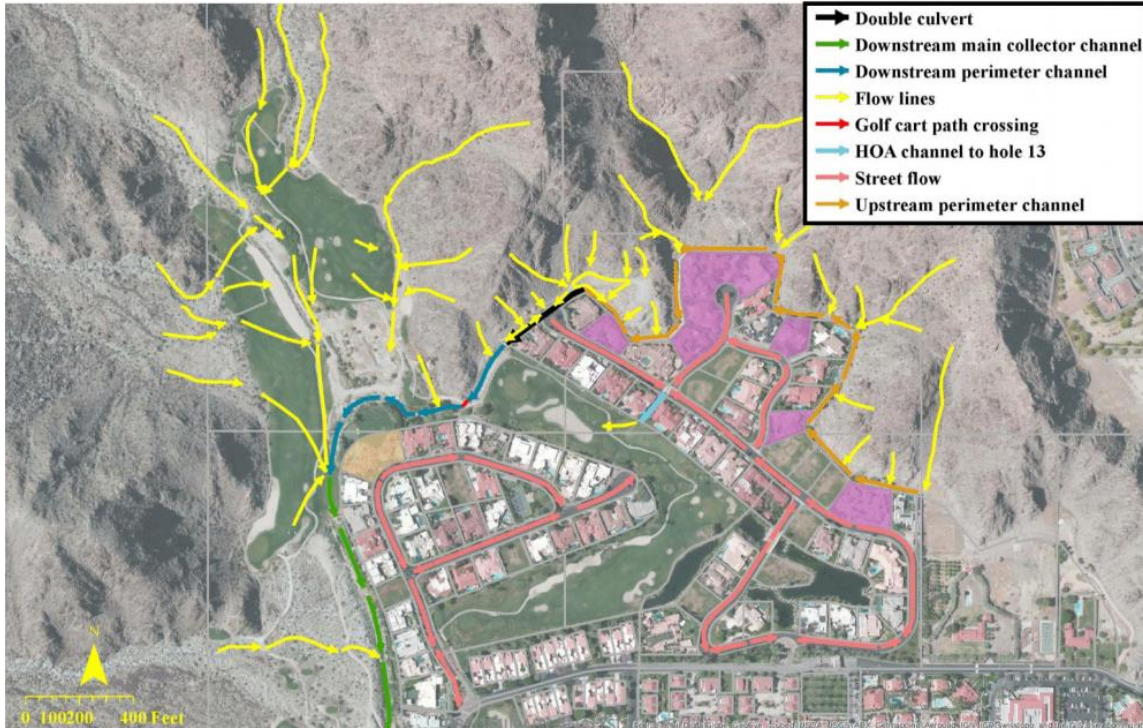


# Impoundment Breach and Flooding: Physical and Computational Modelling

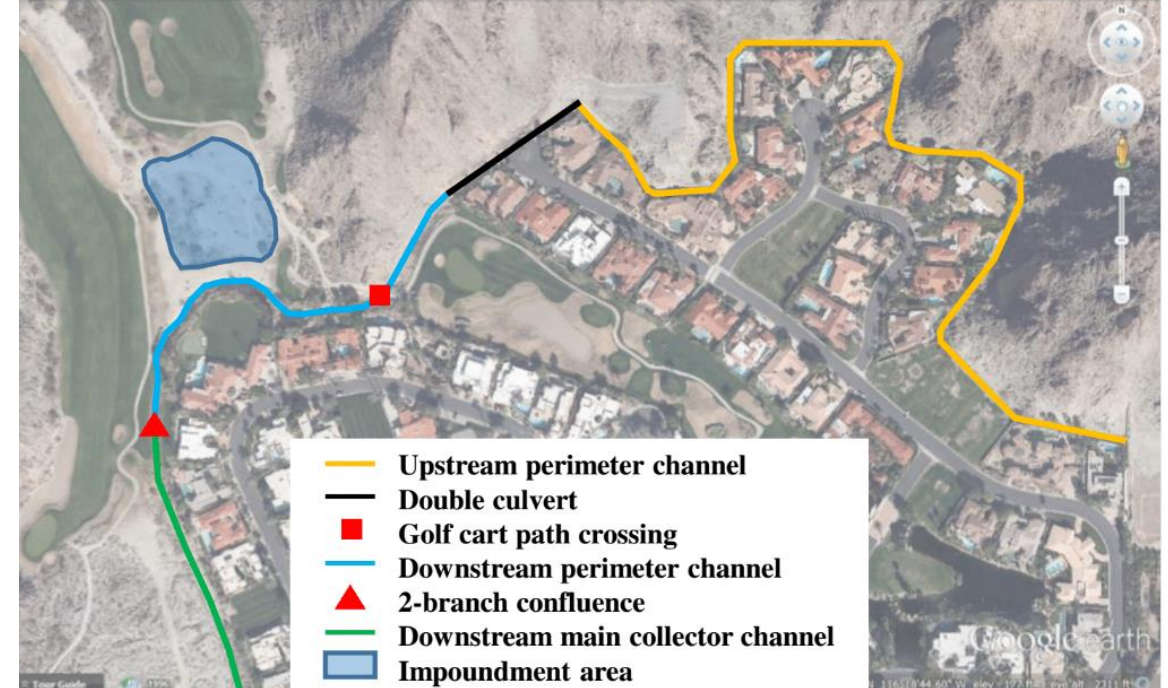




## Current Flowpaths



## Flood Control System Elements



# Impoundment Breach and Flooding: Overview





Breach and Flooding:  
Physical Mock-Up

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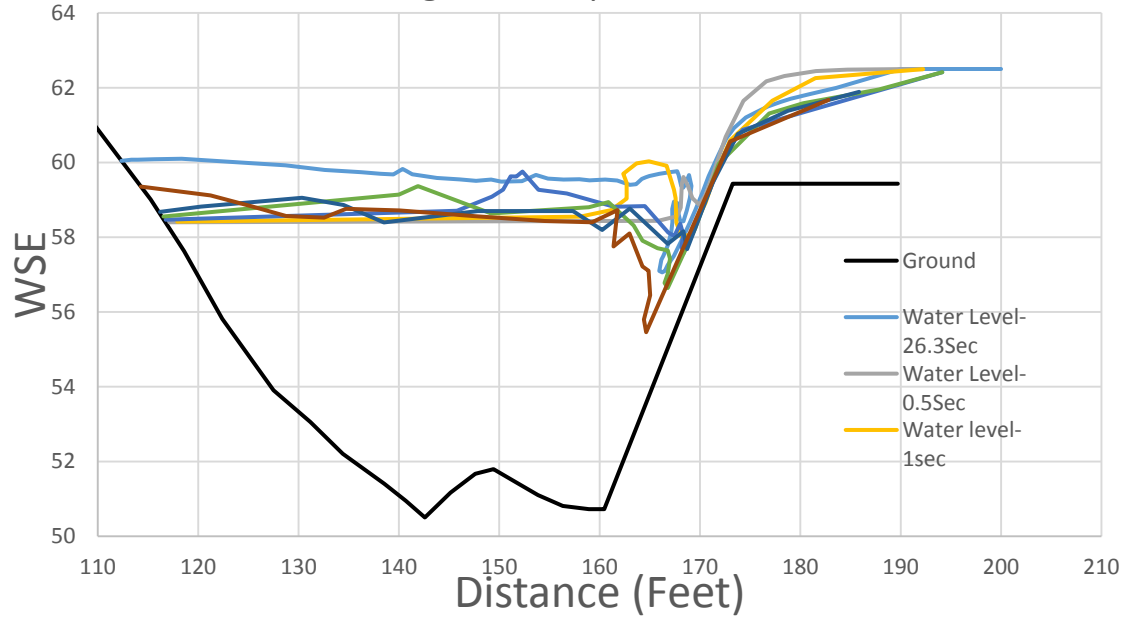


# Breach and Flooding: Physical Mock-Up Videos

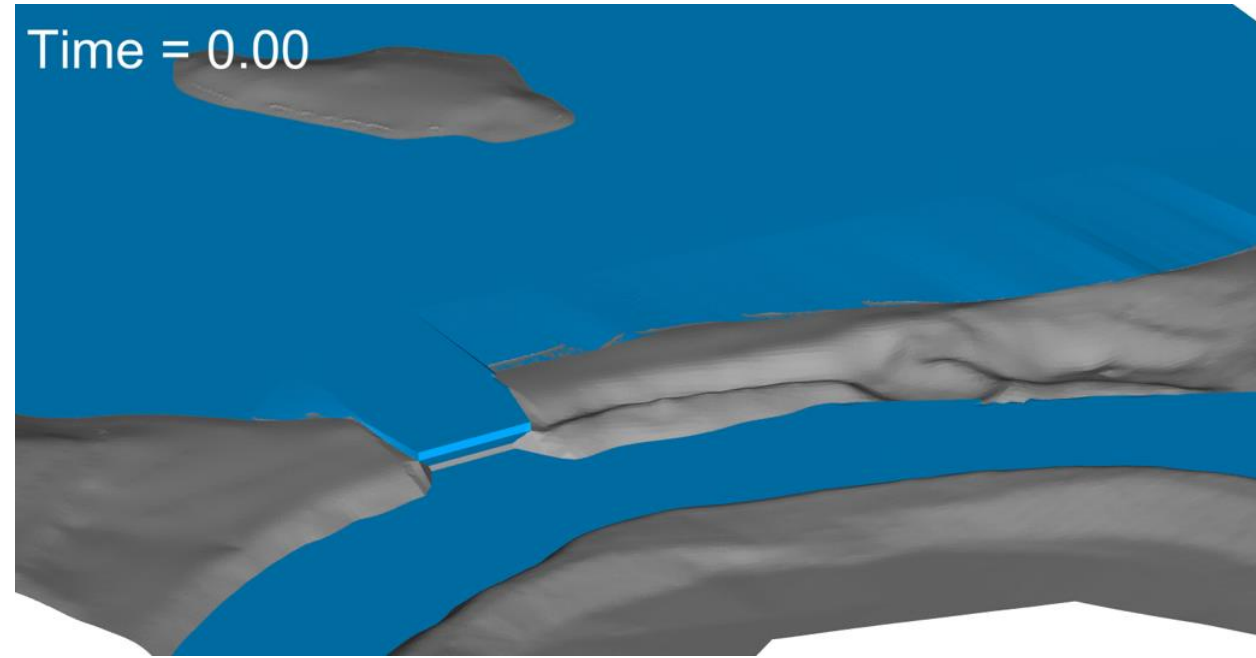




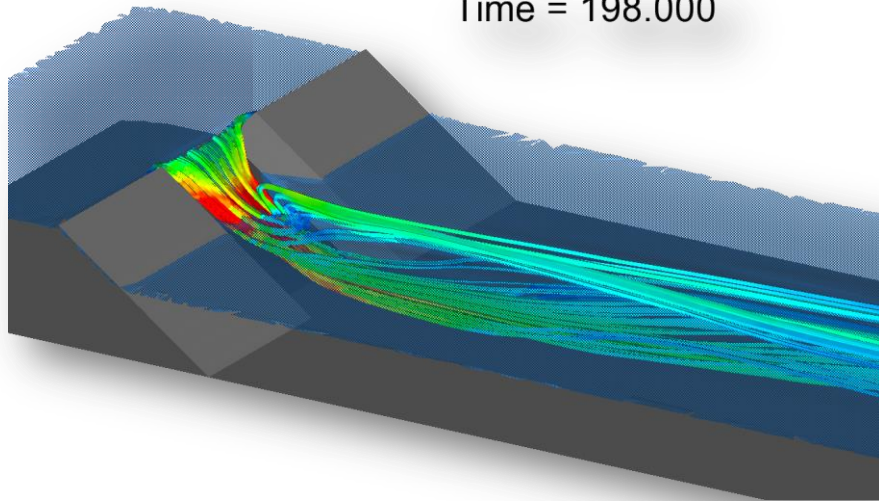
Highest WSE profile center of Breach



Time = 0.00

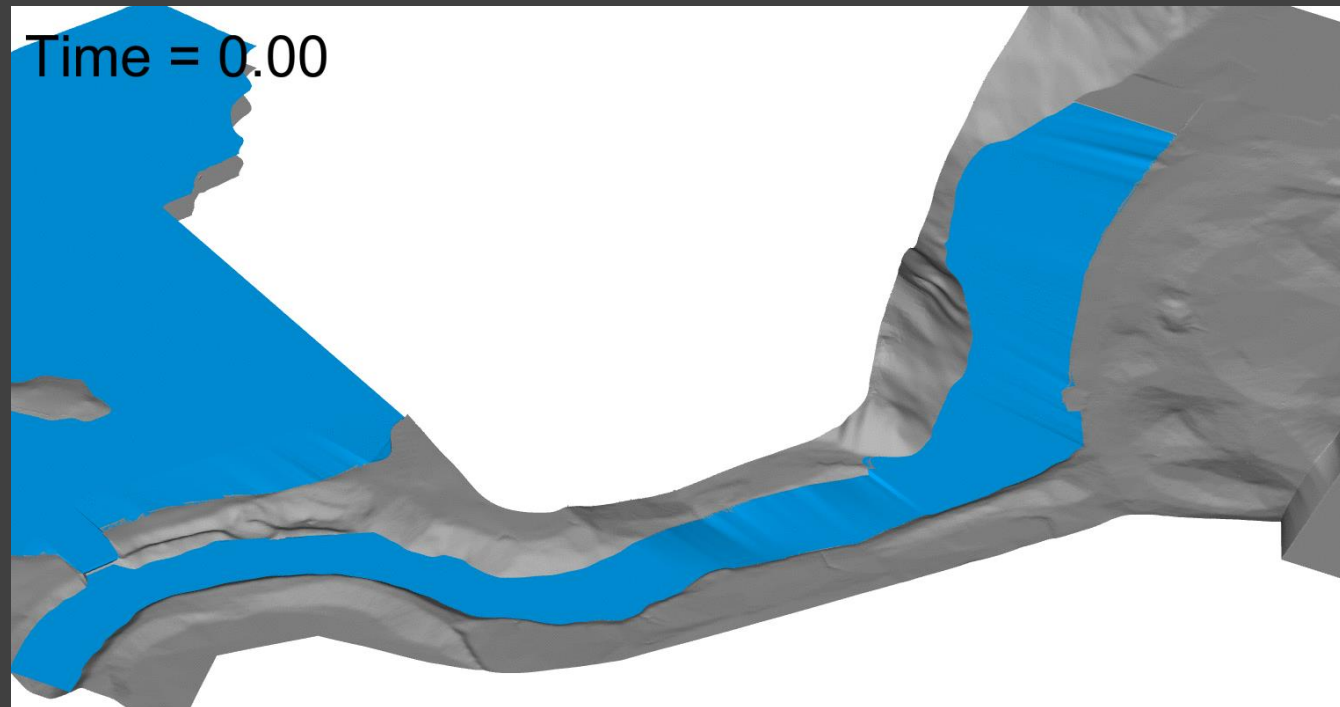


Time = 198.000



# Breach and Flooding: Computational Fluid Dynamics

# Breach and Flooding: Computational Fluid Dynamics





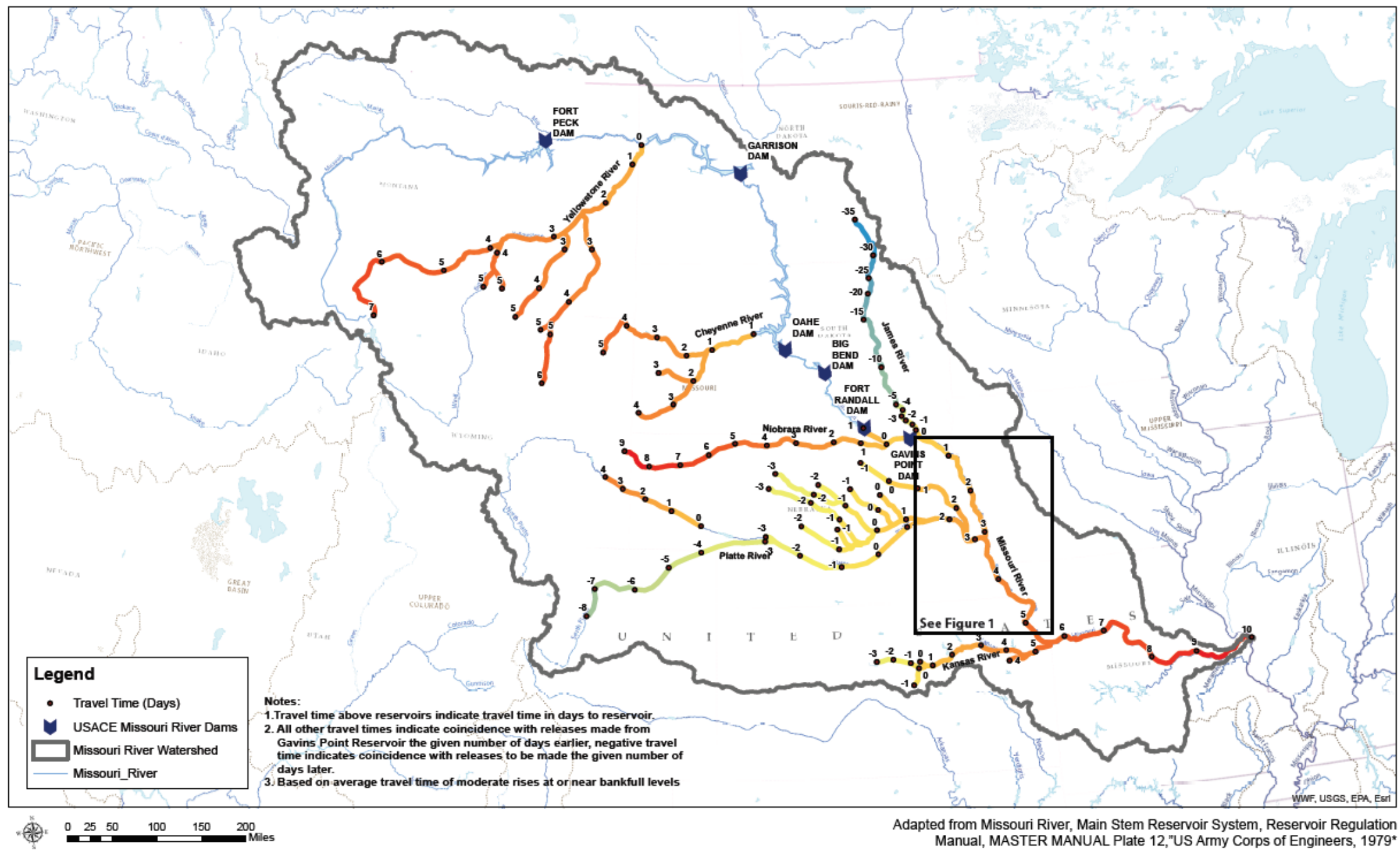
# Case Example: Missouri River





# Missouri River Flooding

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Region	PostOff Name	Size	PMAM1	JASON1	PMAM2	JASON2	PMAM3	JASON3	PMAM4	JASON4	PMAM5	JASON5	PMAM6	JASON6	PMAM7	JASON7	PMAM8	JASON8	PMAM9	JASON9	PMAM10	JASON10	PMAM11	JASON11	PMAM12	JASON12	PMAM13	JASON13	PMAM14	JASON14	PMAM15	JASON15	PMAM16	JASON16	PMAM17	JASON17	PMAM18	JASON18	PMAM19	JASON19	PMAM20	JASON20	PMAM21	JASON21	PMAM22	JASON22	PMAM23	JASON23	PMAM24	JASON24	PMAM25	JASON25	PMAM26	JASON26	PMAM27	JASON27	PMAM28	JASON28	PMAM29	JASON29	PMAM30	JASON30	PMAM31	JASON31	PMAM32	JASON32	PMAM33	JASON33	PMAM34	JASON34	PMAM35	JASON35	PMAM36	JASON36	PMAM37	JASON37	PMAM38	JASON38	PMAM39	JASON39	PMAM40	JASON40	PMAM41	JASON41	PMAM42	JASON42	PMAM43	JASON43	PMAM44	JASON44	PMAM45	JASON45	PMAM46	JASON46	PMAM47	JASON47	PMAM48	JASON48	PMAM49	JASON49	PMAM50	JASON50	PMAM51	JASON51	PMAM52	JASON52	PMAM53	JASON53	PMAM54	JASON54	PMAM55	JASON55	PMAM56	JASON56	PMAM57	JASON57	PMAM58	JASON58	PMAM59	JASON59	PMAM60	JASON60	PMAM61	JASON61	PMAM62	JASON62	PMAM63	JASON63	PMAM64	JASON64	PMAM65	JASON65	PMAM66	JASON66	PMAM67	JASON67	PMAM68	JASON68	PMAM69	JASON69	PMAM70	JASON70	PMAM71	JASON71	PMAM72	JASON72	PMAM73	JASON73	PMAM74	JASON74	PMAM75	JASON75	PMAM76	JASON76	PMAM77	JASON77	PMAM78	JASON78	PMAM79	JASON79	PMAM80	JASON80	PMAM81	JASON81	PMAM82	JASON82	PMAM83	JASON83	PMAM84	JASON84	PMAM85	JASON85	PMAM86	JASON86	PMAM87	JASON87	PMAM88	JASON88	PMAM89	JASON89	PMAM90	JASON90	PMAM91	JASON91	PMAM92	JASON92	PMAM93	JASON93	PMAM94	JASON94	PMAM95	JASON95	PMAM96	JASON96	PMAM97	JASON97	PMAM98	JASON98	PMAM99	JASON99	PMAM100	JASON100	PMAM101	JASON101	PMAM102	JASON102	PMAM103	JASON103	PMAM104	JASON104	PMAM105	JASON105	PMAM106	JASON106	PMAM107	JASON107	PMAM108	JASON108	PMAM109	JASON109	PMAM110	JASON110	PMAM111	JASON111	PMAM112	JASON112	PMAM113	JASON113	PMAM114	JASON114	PMAM115	JASON115	PMAM116	JASON116	PMAM117	JASON117	PMAM118	JASON118	PMAM119	JASON119	PMAM120	JASON120	PMAM121	JASON121	PMAM122	JASON122	PMAM123	JASON123	PMAM124	JASON124	PMAM125	JASON125	PMAM126	JASON126	PMAM127	JASON127	PMAM128	JASON128	PMAM129	JASON129	PMAM130	JASON130	PMAM131	JASON131	PMAM132	JASON132	PMAM133	JASON133	PMAM134	JASON134	PMAM135	JASON135	PMAM136	JASON136	PMAM137	JASON137	PMAM138	JASON138	PMAM139	JASON139	PMAM140	JASON140	PMAM141	JASON141	PMAM142	JASON142	PMAM143	JASON143	PMAM144	JASON144	PMAM145	JASON145	PMAM146	JASON146	PMAM147	JASON147	PMAM148	JASON148	PMAM149	JASON149	PMAM150	JASON150	PMAM151	JASON151	PMAM152	JASON152	PMAM153	JASON153	PMAM154	JASON154	PMAM155	JASON155	PMAM156	JASON156	PMAM157	JASON157	PMAM158	JASON158	PMAM159	JASON159	PMAM160	JASON160	PMAM161	JASON161	PMAM162	JASON162	PMAM163	JASON163	PMAM164	JASON164	PMAM165	JASON165	PMAM166	JASON166	PMAM167	JASON167	PMAM168	JASON168	PMAM169	JASON169	PMAM170	JASON170	PMAM171	JASON171	PMAM172	JASON172	PMAM173	JASON173	PMAM174	JASON174	PMAM175	JASON175	PMAM176	JASON176	PMAM177	JASON177	PMAM178	JASON178	PMAM179	JASON179	PMAM180	JASON180	PMAM181	JASON181	PMAM182	JASON182	PMAM183	JASON183	PMAM184	JASON184	PMAM185	JASON185	PMAM186	JASON186	PMAM187	JASON187	PMAM188	JASON188	PMAM189	JASON189	PMAM190	JASON190	PMAM191	JASON191	PMAM192	JASON192	PMAM193	JASON193	PMAM194	JASON194	PMAM195	JASON195	PMAM196	JASON196	PMAM197	JASON197	PMAM198	JASON198	PMAM199	JASON199	PMAM200	JASON200	PMAM201	JASON201	PMAM202	JASON202	PMAM203	JASON203	PMAM204	JASON204	PMAM205	JASON205	PMAM206	JASON206	PMAM207	JASON207	PMAM208	JASON208	PMAM209	JASON209	PMAM210	JASON210	PMAM211	JASON211	PMAM212	JASON212	PMAM213	JASON213	PMAM214	JASON214	PMAM215	JASON215	PMAM216	JASON216	PMAM217	JASON217	PMAM218	JASON218	PMAM219	JASON219	PMAM220	JASON220	PMAM221	JASON221	PMAM222	JASON222	PMAM223	JASON223	PMAM224	JASON224	PMAM225	JASON225	PMAM2
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Overland Flooding without levee breach
Levee Breach Flooding
Seepage/Windinduced Drainage
Insurance Claims

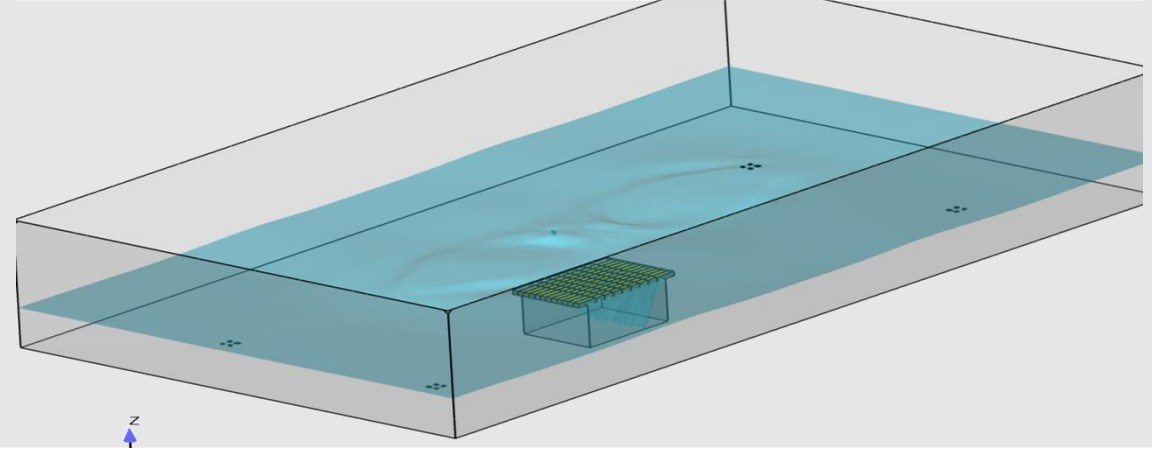
10

2009			
ISSUES & OBSERVATIONS	Reference	ISSUE	Reference
1. Caused by low gains	Empo 1.08.1		

[illegible][illegible]

2014			
TRIP #	TRIP NAME	TRIP DATES	TRIP DURATION
1	Trans-Himalayas Circuit, Ladakh, Nepal & India	May 18/19-24, 2014	1 yr
2	Deco, no duration	May 28-30	
3	December, no duration, optional	May 11-13	
4	Mid-June for 7-10 days, Deco, no duration	May 12/15, 11-13	10-11





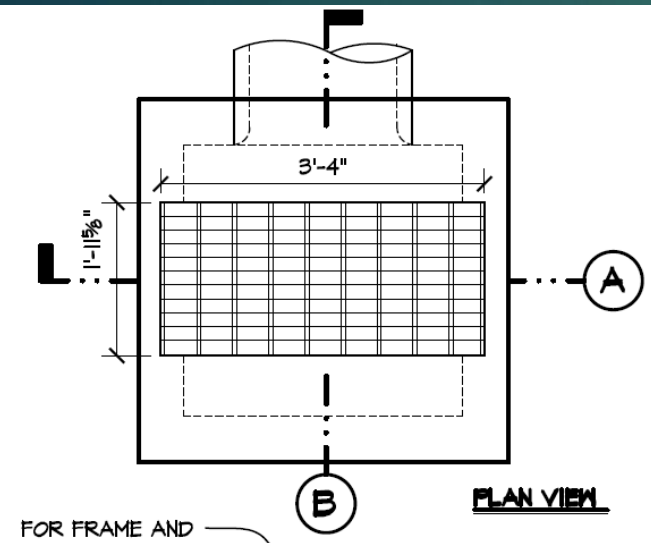
# Case Study: Small Scale Flow Modelling of Grate Inlet

Goal: Determine if the inlet grate capacity was the limiting factor in a storm drainage system, and thus the cause of flooding downstream onto plaintiff's property. CFD was used to measure Grate Capacity (cfs) as a function of water height



# Geometry construction

- The CAD geometry was constructed based on:
  - Schematic drawing (grate Type)
  - Actual grate pictures from the site

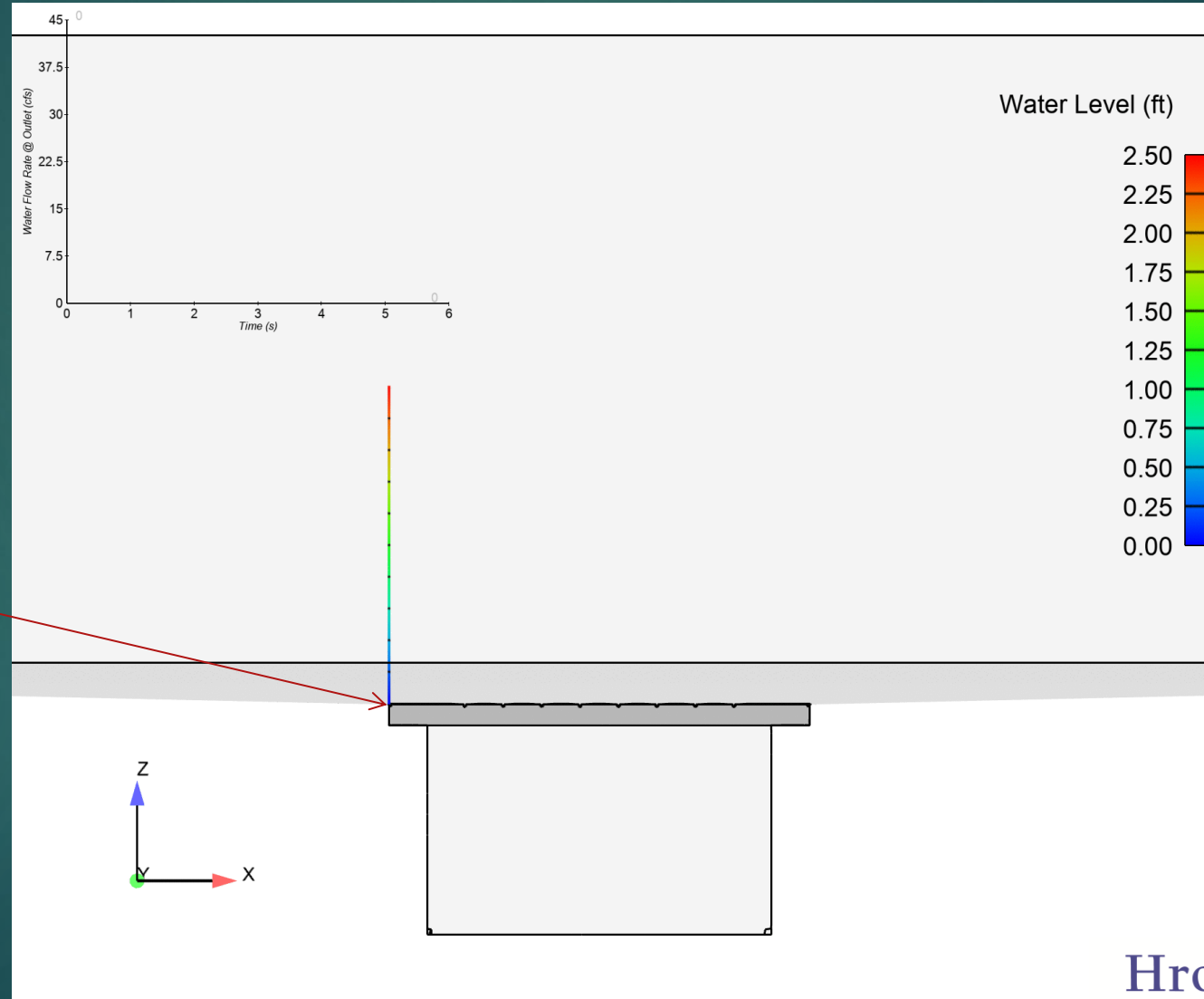


# Results: Water interface colored by water level

Water flow rate through the  
Grate plot



0,0,0 reference point @  
top surface of grate

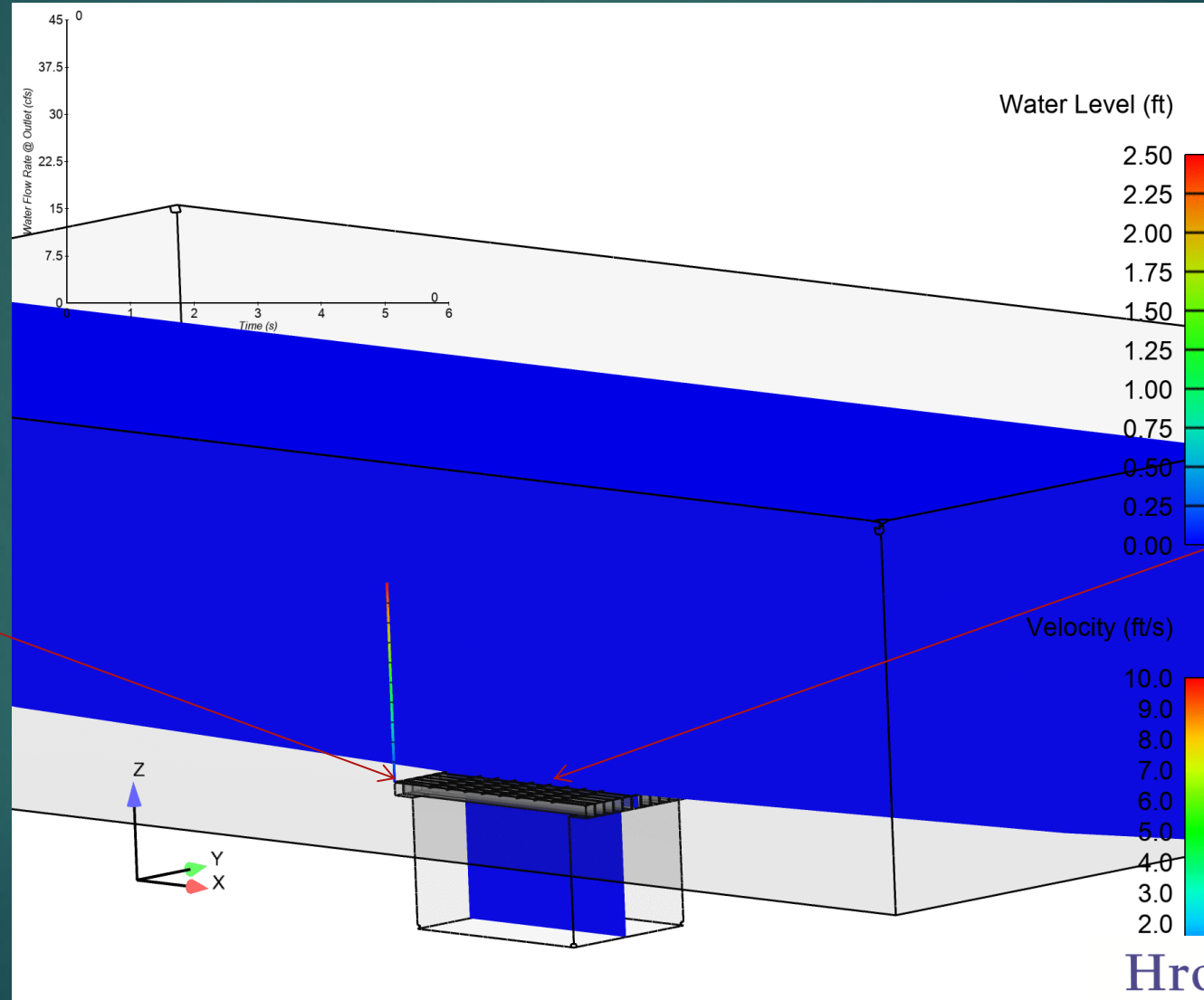




# Results: Cut plane colored by water velocity

Water flow rate through the  
Grate plot

0,0,0 reference point @  
top surface of grate



Water depth changes from :  
weir flow, through mixing flow  
to orifice flow



# Case Study: La Conchita Landslide



# La Conchita Landslide






# La Conchita Landslide

- January 10, 2005
- Prior 15-days had low intensity rainfall
- ~250-year return frequency at closest gage
- Previous slides at site examined
- Developed Rainfall Threshold

January 10, 2005 @ ~12:30 pm (click to play video)





# Additional Case Examples: Dam and Levee Failures





# Ka Loko Dam Failure

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**Fernley flood victims win \$18.1M  
settlement from 2008 canal  
break**



Levee Failure in Nevada

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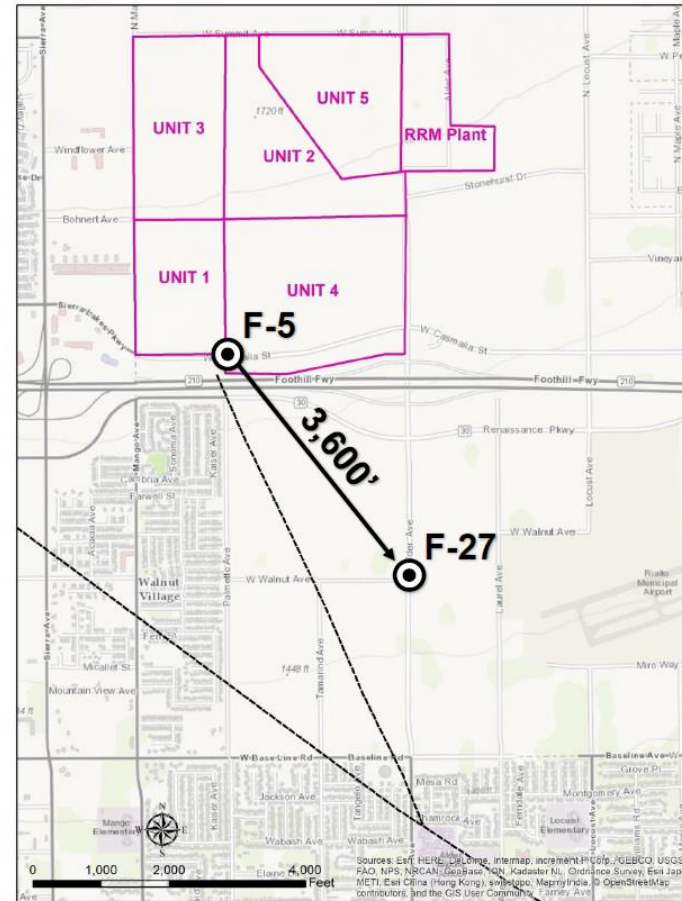
# Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill: Contaminant Transport in Groundwater



# Groundwater Contamination

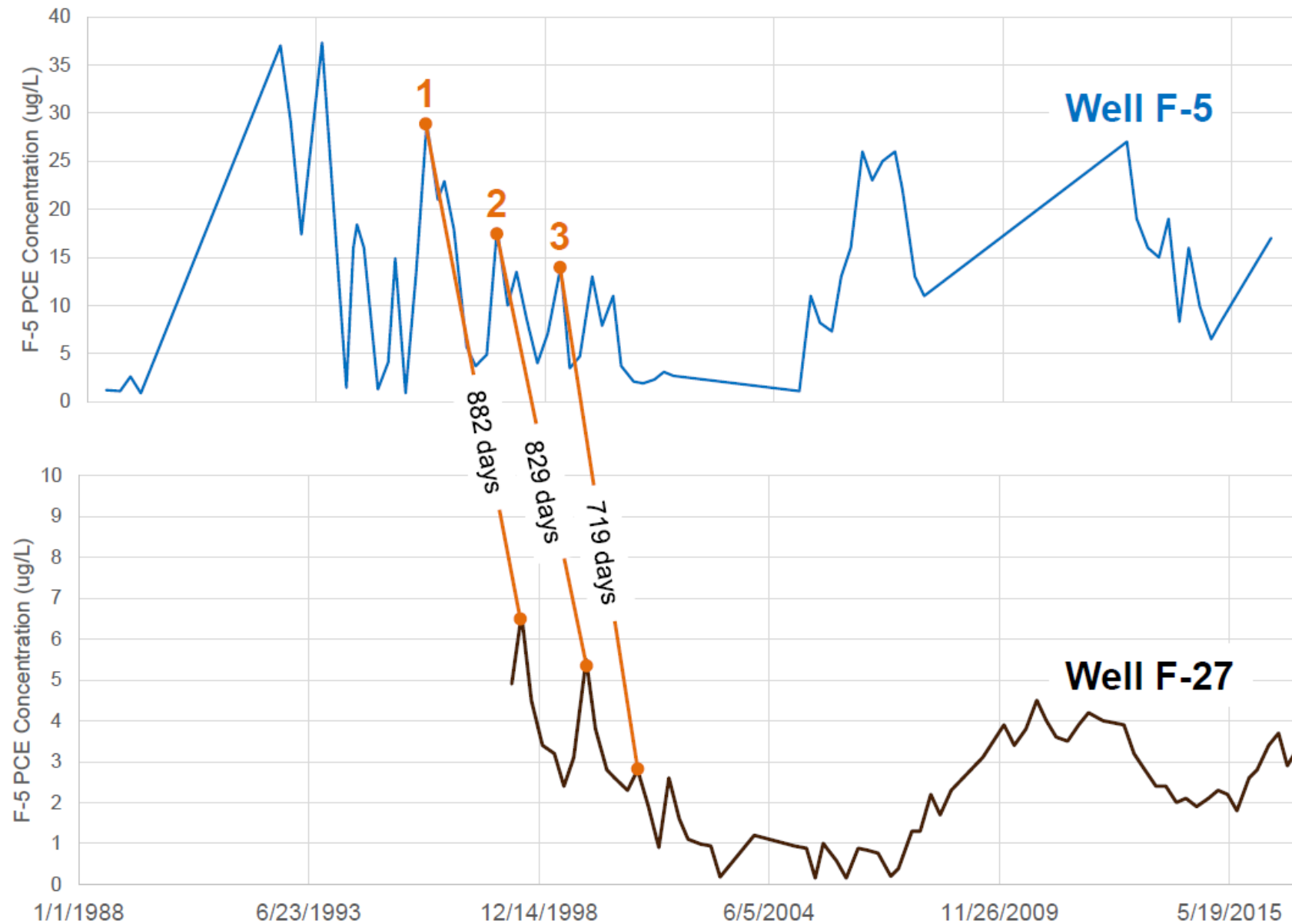
- At Issue:
  - How to determine the timing of a groundwater contamination event based on chemical readings at spatially separated wells
  - Convincing a jury that peak concentrations, even when shifted in time, represent the same underlying data

## Calculating Travel Time Through the Saturated Zone



- Calculate travel time of PCE peaks between well pairs
- Back calculate PCE velocity given the known well distance between well pairs
- Distance between wells F-5 and F-27 is approximately 3,600 feet
- PCE travel time between F-5 and F-27 is between 719 and 882 days

# Calculating Travel Time Through the Saturated Zone





# PEPCON Explosion

Henderson, NV





# Henderson, NV: PEPCON Explosion

- May 4, 1988
- Conflagration and several explosions occurred at the Pacific Engineering and Production Company of Nevada (PEPCON)
- Two (2) fatalities and 372 injuries, over \$100 million in damages
- Damage radius of 10 miles

# Henderson, NV: PEPCON Explosion





# West, Texas Fertilizer Plant Explosion

City of West, Texas





# City of West, Texas: Fertilizer Plant Explosion

- April 17, 2013
- Ammonium Nitrate explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company storage and distribution facility
- 15 fatalities, 160+ injuries, 150 buildings damaged or destroyed

# West, Texas Fertilizer Plant Explosion

This footage shows an explosion that took place on April 17, 2013, at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas. The blast killed 15 people, including nine first responders.



# Case Study: Other Events





Amtrak Train Derailment (1997)– Kingman, AZ



## Cedar Rapids Bridge Collapse and Flooding (2008)





## Gillespie Dam Failure (1993)

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