

Groundwater Accomplishments

In California, groundwater accounts for about 30 percent of the total water supply. During dry years, it is at least 40 percent of the supply. With a projected population of 46 million by the year 2020, California's reliance on groundwater will increase significantly. In order to protect and sustain the state's precious groundwater supply, proper management of this limited resource is imperative. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) works in cooperation with local agencies and stakeholders to increase water supply reliability through the planned, coordinated use of water resources. Some of these activities include:

- **California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118** - DWR inventories essential information on the state's groundwater resources to help guide local water planning and decisions for the protection and sustainable use of groundwater.
- **Conjunctive Water Management** - DWR's goal is to increase water supply reliability through planned, coordinated local management and use of groundwater and surface water resources. We assist stakeholders with the planning and development of conjunctive water management projects.
- **Proposition 13 Groundwater Grant Program** - The Proposition 13 Groundwater Grant Program provided \$205.6 million in funding for 62 groundwater storage and recharge projects. Grants and loans were awarded between 2000 and 2004. 87 percent of the projects are completed and it is anticipated that the remaining projects will be completed in the near future. These projects are projected to provide, on average, an additional 300,000 acre-feet/year to local water supplies, or enough for over half a million families for one year.
- **Local Groundwater Assistance Program** - The Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) grant program has provided over \$38 million for 178 projects between 2001 and 2009. Approximately 130 of the projects have been completed. The grants were awarded to public agencies for groundwater studies, groundwater monitoring, and groundwater management projects resulting in many projects throughout the State.
- **The California Water Plan** - The 2009 California Water Plan presented three resource management strategies related to groundwater: 1) Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage, 2) Groundwater Remediation/Aquifer Remediation, and 3) Recharge Area Protection. The Water Plan also provides on a regional and statewide basis, quantitative estimates of groundwater information on total and net groundwater withdrawals.
- **Drought Assistance** - DWR's drought assistance programs implement the recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Drought Planning Panel, by assisting local agencies in improving groundwater management, educating private well owners in rural counties, providing technical assistance to small water systems, and assisting water districts and local governments in development of integrated water management.
- **Drought Water Bank & Water Transfers** - DWR's Future Water Supply Program, which identifies, investigates, and implements projects involving groundwater to preserve or increase supplies and reliability, including conjunctive water management, groundwater banking, and groundwater substitution transfers. DWR also provides technical assistance to non-DWR sponsors of such projects.
- **DWR's Current and Historical Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program and on-line Water Data Library Database** - DWR currently measures and maintains current and historic groundwater elevation data from a network of groundwater wells throughout the State. DWR uses this groundwater elevation data to perform water balances, forecast future water supplies, evaluate the impacts of climate change, review and evaluate proposals for financial assistance programs, model flood potential, model water supplies and water supply reliability, and promote integrated regional water management.
- **Integrated Water Resources Information System** - DWR's Integrated Water Resources Information System (IWRIS) integrates multi-disciplinary data to support Integrated Regional Water Management. Among its many functions, it allows users to access Groundwater Management Plans and Groundwater Basin Descriptions.



The Governor's Comprehensive Water Package

In 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers successfully crafted a plan to meet California's growing water challenges. A comprehensive deal was agreed to, representing major steps towards ensuring a reliable water supply for future generations, as well as restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and other ecologically sensitive areas. Senate Bill X7 6, Groundwater Monitoring, requires, for the first time in California's history, that local agencies monitor the elevation of their groundwater basins to help better manage the resource during both normal water years and drought conditions. Specifically, this bill:

- Requires the DWR to prioritize the groundwater basins, review groundwater elevation monitoring plans for Monitoring Entities, and to make recommendations to local entities to improve their monitoring programs.
- Requires DWR to assist local monitoring entities with compliance of this statute and make the data widely available.
- Provides that if the local agencies fail to implement a monitoring program and/or fail to provide the required reports, DWR may implement the groundwater monitoring program for that region.
- Allows local entities to determine regionally how best to set up their groundwater monitoring program, crafting the program to meet their local circumstances.
- DWR shall provide a status report to the Governor and Legislature by January 2012.

www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/index.cfm