



VOLUNTARY GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

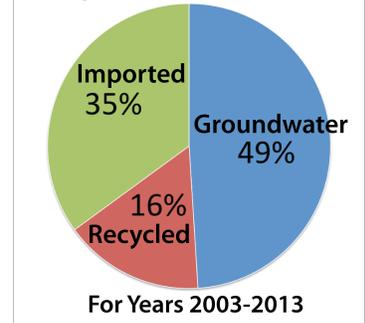
Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater

What is groundwater and why is it important to the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed?

Groundwater is surface water that has infiltrated or “recharged” through the ground surface or along streambeds or mountain fronts, and is stored in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. Groundwater is contained in formations known as aquifers, which consist of materials such as sand and gravel that are permeable (having large connected spaces between the materials that allow water to flow through). A recharge area is the place where surface water enters the aquifer, and a discharge area where groundwater leaves the aquifer. Open space, agricultural areas and streams provide valuable recharge areas in the Watershed; most discharge occurs through wells and along streams.

Groundwater resources have long played a significant role in the development, growth and sustainability of Santa Rosa Plain, with nearly 50% of the annual water demand met by local groundwater resources.

Average Annual Total Water Use



What is the Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program and why is it being undertaken?

The Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program will help improve our understanding of the overall status and resiliency of the aquifer system by tracking groundwater level trends including drought impacts, better assessing discharge and recharge areas, and identifying locations for future recharge. Privately owned volunteered wells will augment the network of stations tracking groundwater elevations throughout Watershed.

Why are groundwater level measurements needed?

Existing data are insufficient to understand trends in groundwater levels throughout the basin. Increasing monitoring across the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed, including wells of varying depths, will greatly improve understanding of the aquifer system. The long-term goal is to help prevent drops in groundwater levels that may impact surface water resources or would require drilling wells deeper at great expense to local landowners.

Will the program involve measuring how much groundwater I use?

No measurement of the amount of groundwater pumped will be taken. The measurement will document the depth to groundwater in the well only.

Will someone try to curtail my groundwater use if I participate in the program?

No. The groundwater level monitoring is a voluntary program to measure groundwater levels in the Santa Rosa Plain. Groundwater use is not being measured as part of this program.

What are the benefits of monitoring groundwater levels?

- Providing well owners information regarding trends that influence their well’s function and reliability
- Assessing annual and long-term changes of groundwater in storage
- Estimating recharge rates and where recharge occurs
- Determining direction and gradient of groundwater flow
- Gaining insight for new well construction

How long is the monitoring program anticipated to last?

The monitoring program will last indefinitely into the future. As groundwater level trends in the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed become better understood, the number and locations of monitoring wells may change.

Who is eligible to participate?

Anyone who owns a well in the Santa Rosa Plain is encouraged to contact Program Manager Marcus Trotta at 707-547-1978 or mtrotta@scwa.ca.gov to discuss whether or not their well is suitable for monitoring as part of this program. The well owner will be asked to provide a list of information available on the well including whether there is a well log, water level and water quality data, and the well’s condition.



What is required from me if I want to participate?

Willingness to allow trained personnel to visit the well a couple times each year. Participating well owners will sign a permit to enter letter indicating the frequency of the visits and other details.

If I agree to participate, what is the frequency and duration of visits?

Trained personnel will visit the well in the spring and fall. The trained personnel will be on the property about 15 minutes for each visit to take measurements of the groundwater depth in the well. The well owner will be contacted at least 48 hours in advance of each visit to make final arrangements.

Who will be taking the groundwater level measurements?

Measurements require special equipment and training. Local trained volunteers, Sonoma County Water Agency staff, and other organization's staff will conduct the monitoring.

How are groundwater level measurements taken at the well?

Measuring groundwater levels is quite simple, but needs to be done in a consistent and objective manner to ensure results that can be tracked over time. Devices that may be used include downhole sounding tapes that are lowered into the well through existing access ports and sonic devices that also use existing access ports but don't need to be lowered into the well.

Will participating in the program cause any problems with my well or water quality?

Prior to accepting a well into the program, the well will be inspected to ensure that access for the measurements can be accomplished without disrupting the wellhead. Personnel performing the measurements will be trained on proper sanitary practices and equipment will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to collecting each measurement should a downhole sounding tape be utilized. Sonic measuring devices do not require lowering equipment inside the well casing.

What if a well owner wants to take the groundwater level measurements? Will this be allowed?

If individual well owners want to measure their well, they will be encouraged to work with trained personnel as the tools and methods required are specialized. However, training for interested parties may be made available if there is interest.

How will the information collected be used?

Information will be used to:

Monitor groundwater level elevations

- Understand the relationship and interaction between surface water and groundwater along streams
- Maintain a central data management system of monitoring information
- Improve the reliability and accuracy of relevant computer models

Will people have access to the collected data? How is my privacy protected?

Sonoma County Water Agency will maintain all information securely and privately and will not publish your personal information as part of the monitoring program activities. Data collected will be used to create maps indicating groundwater levels. These maps will be publicly available, but specific well locations will not be shown. The Water Agency will not disclose any of your personal information unless required to do so under California law or court order. We will also promptly notify all parties in the unlikely event this is requested.

What if a well owner decides to quit the program?

Volunteers can leave the program any time. However, gathering data over long periods of time is critical to understanding groundwater level trends. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in the program for the duration.

Will participating cost me anything?

No. There will not be any fees or costs for participating in this program.

How do I get more information or talk about participating in the program?

For more information, please contact Marcus Trotta at 707-547-1978 or mtrotta@scwa.ca.gov, or visit the website:

www.sonomacountywater.org/svgroundwater/

VOLUNTARY GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Do you have a well on your property?

If so, please consider participating in the Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program.

The purpose of the program is to incorporate privately-owned water supply wells in order to augment the existing network of groundwater level monitoring stations throughout the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed. The goal of tracking groundwater levels is to assess the overall status of the aquifer system and to help assess and prioritize future groundwater management options such as stormwater capture and groundwater recharge.

Intended Use of Collected Water Well Level Data

- Monitor groundwater level elevations
- Understand the relationship and interaction between surface water and groundwater along streams
- Maintain a central data management system of monitoring information
- Improve predictive computer models

Monitoring will not include how much water you pump. Data collected will be used to create maps indicating groundwater levels. These maps will be publicly available, but specific well locations will not be shown.

Spearheaded by the work of the Basin Advisory Panel, consisting of approximately 30 individuals who represent agriculture, land use, business, the environment, residents, water suppliers and agencies, this effort is a critical component of a recently adopted Groundwater Management Plan. The Plan is intended to protect groundwater quality, create groundwater sustainability, and increase groundwater recharge.

To volunteer your well for possible inclusion in this important program, PLEASE contact Marcus Trotta at (707) 547-1978 or mtrotta@scwa.ca.gov.

Captions:

Well Monitoring is quickly completed by trained personnel

Benefits of Participating in the Program

- You will be provided with accurate groundwater level data for your property
- You will be helping to shape the future of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed groundwater management
- There is not cost to the landowner

Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring Program Informational Letter

On behalf of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program Basin Advisory Panel (Panel) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), we would like to thank you for your interest in the water-table level monitoring program.

The objective of this voluntary program is to monitor groundwater level elevations to better understand and help protect the groundwater resources of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed. Monitoring groundwater elevation is an integral element of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program. This program does not involve the measurement of groundwater pumping or use, only the measurement of groundwater levels within wells.

Many wells actively monitored for a number of years by the cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, the Town of Windsor, and the California Department of Water Resources and others, have been incorporated into the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed monitoring program. Additional wells are needed to more fully assess groundwater conditions and water level elevation trends in the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed.

Many individuals have expressed a desire to have their well included in the groundwater level monitoring program. Several factors, such as well location, depth, well construction information, access, and frequency of use will be used to screen wells that may then be selected to participate in the program. In order to evaluate the potential for your well to be included in the monitoring network, we ask that you review and **fill out the attached well information form with any information you have available**, and return to the contact listed below.

If your well is selected, a representative from the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program will contact you to collect any additional pertinent information and may at that time schedule an appointment with you to inspect your well. Private wells will be identified with a code to protect the privacy of well owners.

Water levels of wells in the network will be measured twice a year, once in the fall and then again in the spring. You will receive results of your well's groundwater measurements. You will also receive an annual report summarizing monitoring results and overall progress of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program.

For trained personnel to enter your property to measure groundwater levels, a "Permit to Enter" agreement needs to be completed by the property owner and the entity collecting the measurements, which could include SCWA or other local organization. If you choose to participate a "**Permit to Enter**" form will be provided by the entity collecting the measurements for your review and signature.

The Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program Basin Advisory Panel greatly appreciates your contribution to this planned groundwater level monitoring program. If you have any questions about the monitoring program please contact Program Manager Marcus Trotta at (707) 547-1978 or mtrotta@scwa.ca.gov.

Please send forms to:

Sonoma County Water Agency
Attn: Marcus Trotta
P.O. Box 11628
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

**Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Program
Volunteer Groundwater Level Monitoring
Well Information**

1. Well Owner's Name: _____ Date _____

2. Mailing Address of Owner: _____

3. Well Physical Address: _____

4. Other well location information and source _____

(e.g. Latitude/Longitude from GPS, Parcel Map ID, hand drawn map – please attach)

5. Well use (please check all that apply) Residential (in _____) Residential
 Agricultural irrigation Commercial/Institutional or industrial areas

6. Name & address of water well driller: _____

or Don't know

7. Do you have a copy of the Water Well Drillers' Report. yes no

If yes please attach a copy and skip questions 8 through 11.

8. Date well was drilled. Please estimate date if unknown and check estimated box.

_____ estimated

9. Total well depth _____ feet or Don't know

10. Location of perforations/well screen (holes to let water in the well)

11. Well Diameter _____ inches or Don't know

12. Well Usage Daily

Seasonal I

13. Pump Flow Rate (please check one) 1- 5 gpm 25 gpm 25- 100 gpm 400 gpm
 greater than 400 gpm don't know "gpm – gallons per minute"

14. Depth of pump: _____ feet below ground surface or don't know

15. Do you have any water level information for the well? yes no

(If yes, please attach copy of water level data):

16. Do you have any water quality analysis results for the well? yes no

(If yes, please attach copy of most recent report)

17. Have you experienced any of the following problems with your well of groundwater?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Bad taste | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| b. Odor | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| c. Hard water deposits | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| d. Damage to plants | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| e. Rust stains | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| f. Black stains | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| g. Sand production | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| h. Well yield decrease/problems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| i. Impacts from other wells | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |
| j. Other issues | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know |

18. Please add any additional information that you think may be helpful in the monitoring well database (attach additional sheet if necessary).

19. The California Department of Water Resources maintains the water well drillers report required by state law. These records may be very important to the groundwater level monitoring as they contain useful information about the geology, groundwater level, and water well construction. This information cannot be released without your approval. Please consider signing this release form so that information specific to the geology, groundwater level and well construction information can be used strictly for this program. All owner identification information including name, address etc., will be maintained confidentially. Please indicate whether or not to release well information yes no

Well Owner's Signature* _____ Date _____

*Please return the form even if you decide not to provide a signature of release of well information.

