

2011 Progress



2012 Plans

2011 Progress Continues on the Basin Management Objectives

PUBLIC OUTREACH & STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- Implemented Public Outreach Plan: updated web site (www.sonomacountywater.org/svgroundwater).
- The Basin Advisory Panel met quarterly to implement the groundwater management program.
- The Technical Advisory Committee met monthly to provide technical advice on the groundwater management program.
- Conducted local technical presentations and briefings.
- Sponsored public meetings on the Stormwater Management/Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study.

RECHARGE A PRIORITY

Provided input on two recharge studies:

- Stormwater Management/Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study in Sonoma Valley
- Groundwater Banking Program Feasibility Study in Sonoma Valley

IMPROVE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

- Distributed and publicized the "Slow It, Spread It, Sink It" guidebook as a resource for property owners to implement stormwater retention and groundwater recharge projects.
- Conducted efforts to pursue funding for additional groundwater monitoring and conservation projects.

VOLUNTEER GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING

- Installed two multi-depth wells with a \$250K grant.
- 8 additional wells were added to the program in 2011, bringing the total number of voluntary wells to 141.
- DWR, VOMWD, the City of Sonoma, SCWA and local trained volunteers coordinated the semi-annual measurement of water levels from these 141 wells.
- Developed work plan for the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program.
- Prepared and distributed the 2010 Annual Report.

GROUNDWATER QUALITY PROTECTION

- Continued outreach to distribute Well Owners Guide.
- Conducted additional groundwater quality sampling and analysis in southern Sonoma Valley for salinity.
- Assembled and compiled additional Department of Public Health groundwater data on wells in the valley.

CONSERVATION REDUCES GROUNDWATER USE

- Continued the SVGMP Annual Conservation Awards with nominations.
- Completed the report on domestic and agriculture water savings assessments under a grant.

Hydrologic/Groundwater Conditions in Sonoma Valley

ANNUAL RAINFALL/SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS

- Annual rainfall was approximately 123% of average in 2010 (36 1/2 inches at the City's rain gage compared with the 50-year average of 29.5), and represented an improvement in conditions over the previous three straight years of below average rainfall.
- Annual discharge of Sonoma Creek measured at the USGS Agua Caliente gage was approximately 100% of average in 2010 (51,870 acre-feet compared with the average of 51,839 acre-feet).

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

- 2010 groundwater level trends observed in shallow-zone wells (<200-feet) are generally stable and groundwater level declines are more pervasive and pronounced in deeper-zone wells (> 200 feet).
- Two previously identified, deeper zone groundwater depressions remain evident – southeast of the City of Sonoma and Southwest of El Verano. Groundwater levels are locally below sea level in these areas.

2012 Goals and Planned Activities

PUBLIC OUTREACH & STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- Continue BAP and TAC meetings, prepare media outreach materials and conduct stakeholder briefings.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM

- Expand Voluntary Groundwater-Level Monitoring.
- Continue multi-agency coordination on ground water monitoring and submit CASGEM data annually.

GROUNDWATER QUALITY PROTECTION

- Participate in the development of a salt and nutrient management plan for Sonoma Valley.
- Conduct additional water quality sampling to assess source of salinity in southern Sonoma Valley.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

- Complete the two groundwater recharge studies:
 - Stormwater Management/Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study in Sonoma Valley
 - Groundwater Banking Program Feasibility Study in Sonoma Valley
- Initiate preparation of a stormwater management/groundwater recharge feasibility study.
- Initiate preparation of a groundwater banking pilot study.
- Conduct seepage runs in Sonoma Creek and tributaries to study interaction of surface water and groundwater.
- Upgrade existing hydrogeologic conceptual model and groundwater flow model.

