

Voluntary Groundwater Level Monitoring in the Wilson Grove Formation

***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 learn more about groundwater elevations in Sonoma County's groundwater basins by incorporating additional privately-owned wells to augment existing groundwater monitoring networks. The goal of the program is to assess seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater levels as part of the CASGEM (California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring) program.

What Does it Mean to Participate?

- You provide access and information about your well
- At no cost to you, program staff visit your property twice annually and provide you accurate groundwater level data for your well.
- In addition to learning about how water levels in your well vary seasonally and over time, you will be helping to assess west Sonoma County's groundwater resources.

For more information, please refer to the questions below or contact:

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Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
(707)874-2907
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CASGEM Program?

CASGEM is short for California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring. The program was created by the California Legislature in Senate Bill x7 6, Groundwater Monitoring, a part of the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package. By passing the bill, the Legislature established for the first time a statewide program to collect groundwater elevations, facilitate collaboration between local monitoring entities and the Department of Water Resources, and to report this information to the public.

What does CASGEM require?

Participation in the program is voluntary for well owners and for local agencies acting as Monitoring Entities. The monitoring program provides a mechanism for local agencies to take an active role in groundwater monitoring in their groundwater basin. The County of Sonoma and the Sonoma County Water Agency are working together to meet the CASGEM requirements in 13 of the 14 groundwater basins in Sonoma County (the city of Petaluma is the Monitoring Entity for the Petaluma Valley basin). Monitoring Entities are responsible for generating a monitoring network plan, compiling groundwater elevation data, and submitting that data to the California Department of Water Resources. The Water Agency and the County are working with local resource conservation districts and nonprofit organizations, which will work directly with willing landowners to monitor wells and report the data.

Can anyone monitor my well without my permission?

No. Neither the California Department of Water Resources nor any other agency has authority as part of the CASGEM Program to enter private property without the consent of the landowner.

Is my well going to be metered by the state?

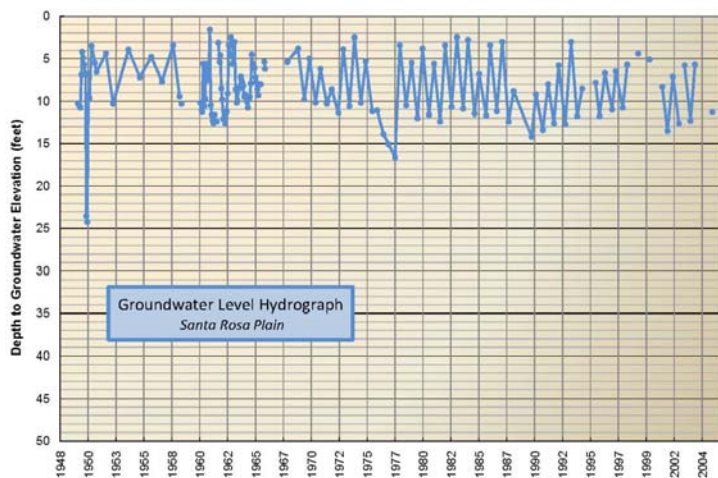
No. Metering of the quantity of groundwater pumped from wells is not part of the monitoring program.

Will this monitoring cost me money?

No. There is no cost to the well owner.

As a well owner, do I have to monitor groundwater elevations in my well and send the data to the State?

No. If you choose to have your well monitored, the Water Agency and the County will be responsible for coordinating collection and reporting of groundwater elevations.



Are there any other examples of local groundwater monitoring programs?

Yes. Many landowners in the Sonoma Valley participate in a voluntary well monitoring program through the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan. The data collected has helped guide efforts to enhance groundwater recharge and address potential groundwater problems in the valley and has provided landowners important information about the health of their wells. For information on this program, go to www.scwa.ca.gov/svgroundwater

How often will my well be monitored?

Generally, twice a year (in the spring and fall) to gauge the high and low point of groundwater levels in the well.

How can I participate?

If you are interested in having your well included in the groundwater elevation monitoring network, please contact Noelle Johnson at Noelle@goldridgercd.org or (707)874-2907. Wells will be selected from the list of interested participants based on the location and depth of the well, the condition and accessibility for collecting water-level measurements, and the availability of well construction information.

How will the groundwater elevation data be used?

The data will be compiled in a statewide database made available to the public. No information about the well owner will be included in the data base. The wells will be identified by a "station identifier" which will include an approximate longitude/latitude location (e.g., within 1,000 feet of the actual well location). The identifier will NOT include a physical address or the name of the property owner. For an example of how the state displays data go to: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary/>. The goal of the monitoring program is to determine seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater levels within the basins. In addition to meeting the state's requirements, data obtained as part of the program will provide very useful information to individual property owners, local planning and resource agencies, and scientists to better understand and manage our local groundwater.

How long will the monitoring program last?

The monitoring program is intended to be a long-term program. The Department of Water Resources is required to produce a summary report to the Governor and Legislature in years 2012 and 2015, and every 5 years thereafter.

What happens if a basin is not monitored?

If a basin is not monitored by a local entity, then Department of Water Resources will assume the monitoring responsibilities and local agencies and the County would become ineligible for state water grants and loans administered by the State.

For More Information:

- To participate in the program contact Noelle Johnson, Gold Ridge RCD, at (707)874-2907.
- For questions about the countywide program contact Marcus Trotta at (707) 547-1978.
- For more information about CASGEM go to: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/>

