

Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project

A Regional Approach to Drought Protection

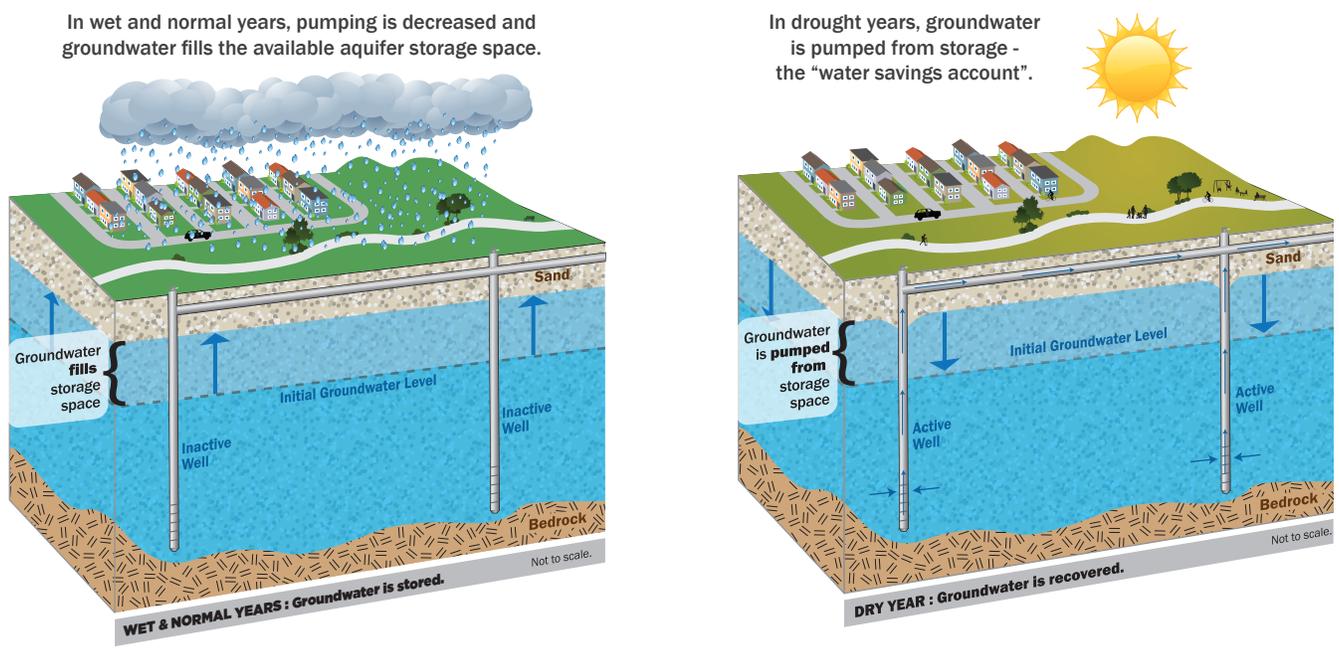
The Regional Water System includes a blend of surface water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park and five Bay Area reservoirs located in Alameda and San Mateo counties. During periods of drought, these surface water supplies can be severely impacted, which puts the reliability of water supply for the Regional Water System at risk. **The Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project (RGSR)** coordinates the management of surface water and groundwater supplies to successfully meet drought year water supply needs for the Regional Water System. As one of the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) projects, it will provide additional dry-year water supply and help achieve the WSIP level-of-service goals to increase water delivery reliability and to meet customer water supply needs during droughts and emergencies.

How the GSR Project Works

Groundwater is a vital local source of drinking water. Locally, groundwater from the Westside Basin has been used for drinking water supply by Colma, South San Francisco, San Bruno, and Daly City for the past 100 years. Some groundwater basins can be managed to store water when it is plentiful and provide a critical supplemental supply of water during droughts. The RGSR accomplishes this by providing surface water in-lieu of groundwater pumping during normal and wet years to allow the basin to accumulate natural recharge and store additional water supply. This type of management is called conjunctive use and is made possible by the geology of the southern Westside Basin.

Through a regional partnership with California Water Service Company (serving South San Francisco and Colma), and the cities of Daly City and San Bruno, the RGSR will balance groundwater and Regional Water System water supply to increase drought year water supplies. During wet and normal years – when water is plentiful – water from the Regional Water System will be delivered to the Partner Agencies. This will reduce the Partner Agencies' need to pump groundwater and thus allow the basin to accumulate natural recharge and store water for future use. Over time, this reduction in groundwater pumping will result in a water savings account of up to 61,000 acre-feet of water – a volume equivalent to that of Crystal Springs Reservoir. The water will be stored underground in the south Westside Basin aquifer until it is needed during a drought or emergency.

The project is completing and testing the first 13 of up to 16 deep groundwater wells to extract stored groundwater during drought periods for use as a regional water supply. The extraction of water during a drought is the recovery portion of this project. This protected groundwater supply will help augment the Regional Water System supply over a 7.5-year drought.



Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project **OVERVIEW**

Monitoring and Planning

For more than 10 years, we have worked with our neighboring groundwater users to monitor water quality and supply levels. Our Westside Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program will continue as we implement new groundwater projects. Monitoring ensures groundwater use will not exceed long-term sustainable levels.



Groundwater Storage Around the Bay and Beyond

Conjunctive use projects like this one have been implemented by many water agencies in California and across the United States. On a local level, several Bay Area agencies have been successfully operating groundwater storage and recovery projects for many years, including the Santa Clara Valley Water District; the Alameda County Water District; and Zone 7 Water Agency, serving Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. In Southern California, conjunctive use and groundwater management programs have been in place since the 1950s.

Ultimate Goal

The RGSR, along with the SF Groundwater Project, will help ensure that we meet the continuous demand for high quality drinking water now, in a drought, and well into the future. These projects demonstrate our commitment to responsible, ethical, and sustainable management of our most precious resource, our water.

For More Information:

For more information on the project, or to sign up for the privacy protected project mailing list for the proposed Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project, contact us at: groundwater@sfwater.org.

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