The Waters That Connect Us

Fact Sheet

Basin Status

The Story of Our Water

Every hot shower, dip in a pool, and summer-ripe tomato from your garden holds the story of our water. That water began its journey into our lives from an underground source, named for the place we all call home—the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. When rain and snow soak into the ground, they become groundwater, filling this natural holding area that is located deep down underground. More than 1.5 million of us in the San Gabriel Valley depend on this basin and its waters.

Our Status: Dry and Drought Conditions Impact Water Levels

In 2021, we entered another drought. This is the fourth drought in 21 years, a pace that prevents our underground water basin and its waters from recovering from one drought before the next one begins. As a result, our water levels are starting this new drought significantly lower than they were before the last two droughts began.

Dry Versus Rainy Years (2000-2021)

Below-average Rain Years

- Drought Years –20% of Below-average Rain Years
- Above-average Rain Years



03/10/202

Below-average Rain Years

Our Basin's Water Levels Remain Low



Fact Sheet

Our Challenge: Droughts are More Frequent and Extreme

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Dry conditions and droughts are a seemingly constant part of life in Southern California, and those conditions are becoming more frequent. Between 1900-2000, we were in drought conditions roughly 15 years, or 15% of the time. Between 2000-2021, we experienced drought conditions in roughly 11 years, or 50% of the time. These recent droughts are also more extreme in addition to more frequent.



Our Vision: For Our Water: Taking Action Together

Dry and drought conditions more of the time means we must be water-wise all of the time.

Here's how you can take action:

- Reduce your water use by 15%. Take shorter showers, wash only full loads of clothes and dishes, and turn off outdoor sprinklers after it rains.
- Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to conserve water all of the time.
- Know and share the story of our water basin.

Here's how we are taking action:

- Keeping you informed about our water basin levels.
- Letting you know our choices, challenges and consequences for how the basin and its waters are managed before, during and after droughts
- Working with partners and water agencies to continue to provide the reliable water and resources you need, and plan for the future of our water



Basin Levels and Drought Conditions Since 2000

