

Fact Sheet



Basin Status

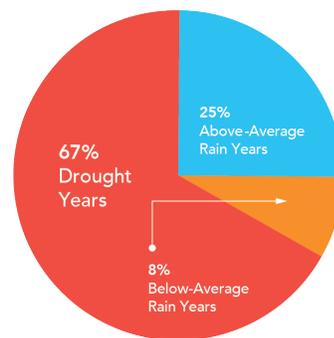
The Story of Our Water

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 a underground source, called the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, which is named for the valley we call home. 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: In Drought Recovery

Even with the welcome rain and snow early in 2023, our groundwater is only midpoint between its highest and lowest levels. This is because our groundwater has had four droughts since 2000, putting it in drought more than 50% of the time and in drought recovery and preparation the rest of the time. When one drought ends, drought recovery is just beginning as our groundwater needs wet conditions, time, and all of our care for it to recover from one drought and prepare for the next.

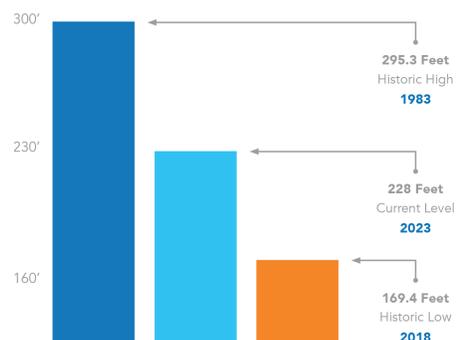
Dry vs. Rainy Years (2012–2023)



- Below-Average Rain Years
- Drought Years
- Above-Average Rain Years

Source: Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

Basin Water Levels

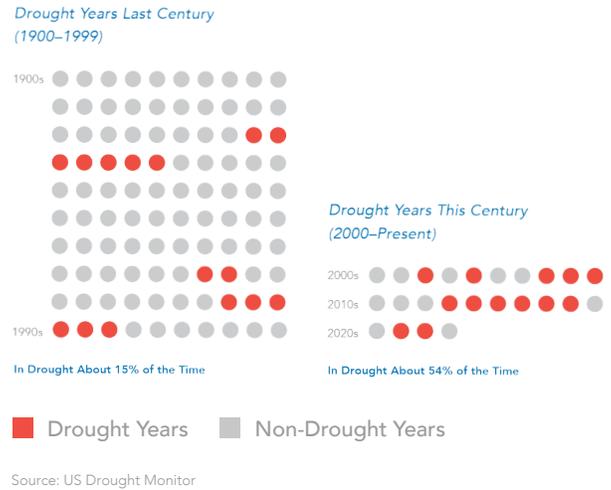


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Our Challenges: More Extreme Conditions

Dry conditions and droughts have become more frequent. For comparison, between 1900–2000, we had drought conditions roughly 15 years, or 15% of the time. Between 2000–2023, we had drought conditions roughly 13 years, or 56% of the time. These recent droughts are also more extreme in addition to more frequent. Similarly, rainfall and snowmelt are more extreme when they happen, which can cause floods where this water is lost as runoff instead of becoming our groundwater.

Comparison of Drought Frequency



Our Water: Through The Drought Cycle

Since 2000, the dark blue line below shows how our groundwater levels have responded to the drought cycle: in drought (dark orange), recovering from drought (blue: our few years with above-average rainfall) and preparing for drought (orange: our years with below-average rainfall that lead into drought). Our groundwater has little time to recover from one drought before the next one begins. We’re in a drought cycle; it’s more than a drought to take care of.

Basin Levels and Drought Conditions Since 2000

