

Fact Sheet

Basin Basics

Our Water Is Deep Down Underground

If you call San Gabriel Valley home, 80% of the water you use comes from one amazing water supply source: the Main San Gabriel Basin. It is located deep down underground in an area of the earth called a “basin” that holds the groundwater that 1.5 million of us depend on every day. On average, our groundwater in this basin is only 100 yards below the ground and soil we stand on and it spans about 157 square miles, underlying most of the San Gabriel Valley and the communities we call home.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

If you love the sound of rain on your roof or the view of snow-topped mountains, then here’s another reason to love them even more. The rain that falls from the sky and the snow that melts from the scenic mountains soak into the ground to become the groundwater we depend on. When local rain, snowmelt and conservation aren’t enough, we import water from distant places if that water is available.

Most of the water we depend on is below us as groundwater.



Rain and snow soak into the ground and make up our groundwater.



- Soil
- Groundwater
- Bedrock / Basin

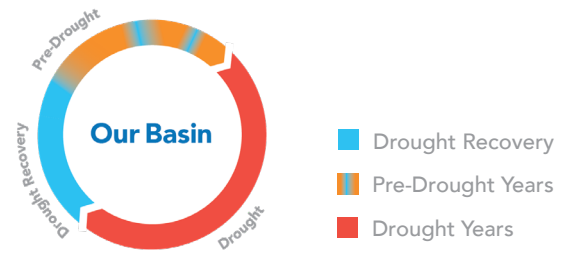
Source: Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

Basin Basics

Our Water Is In A Drought Cycle

Our water is in a continual drought cycle. It is either in drought, recovering from drought or preparing for the next drought. Right now, our groundwater basin is recovering from the last drought and preparing for the next one to begin. Next time someone asks you if we're out of drought, share with them that we are always in a drought cycle and there's more than the drought to take care of.

Our Drought Cycle Since 2000

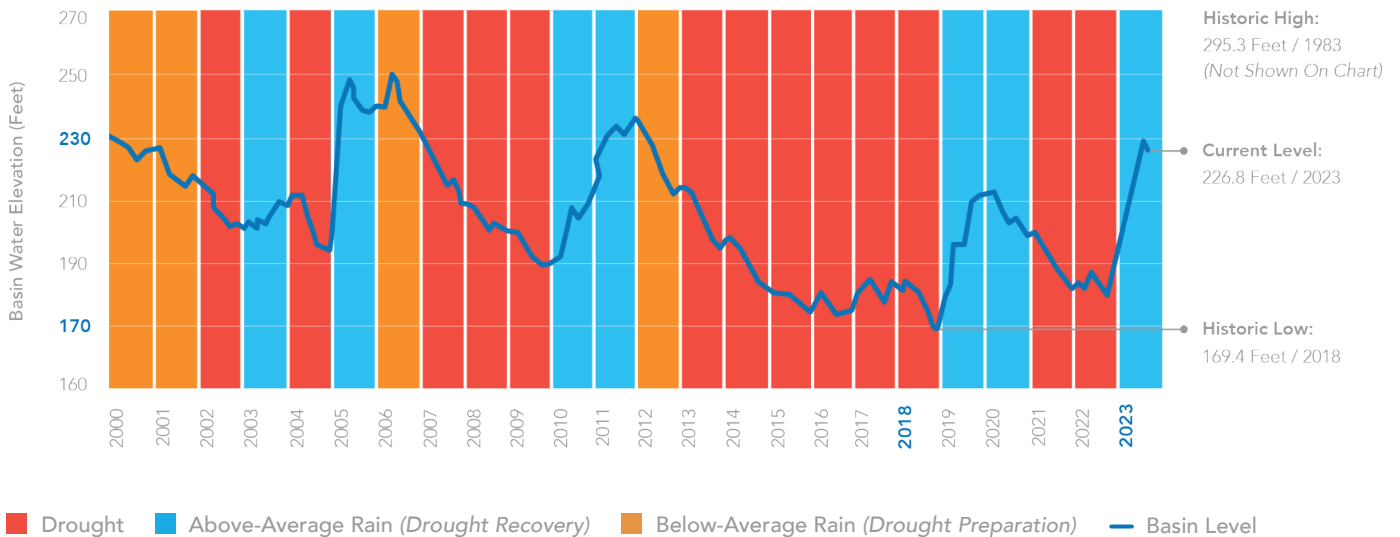


Source: Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster / US Drought Monitor

For Our Water: Taking Action Together

Together, all of us who call the San Gabriel Valley home have an important role in the basin's care. As you can see in the graphic below, our basin's water levels have steadily been reduced by the constant series of dry and drought conditions during the past two decades. Droughts and dry conditions more of the time mean we must be water-wise all of the time.

Basin Levels and Drought Conditions Since 2000



Source: Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster / US Drought Monitor