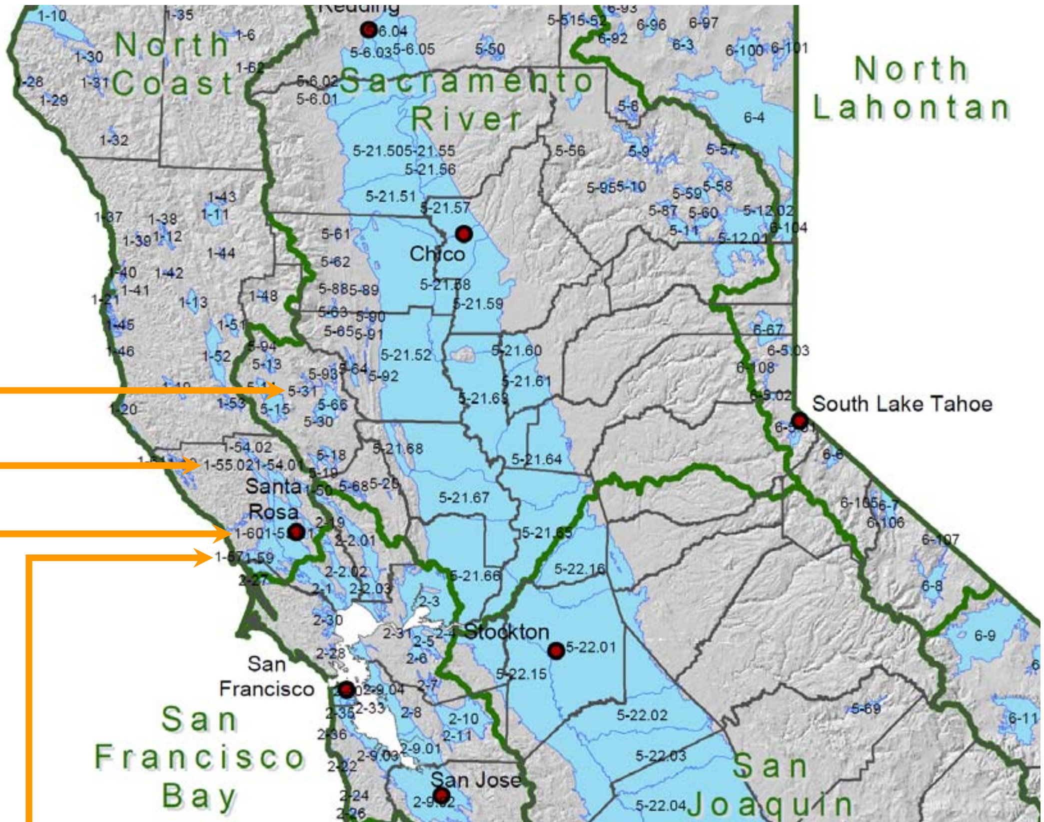
Groundwater Basins in California



<u>Coast Springs</u>
North Coast Hydrologic Region
Bodega Bay Area Groundwater Basin, No. 1-57

<u>Armstrong, Noel Heights, Rancho del Paradiso</u>
North Coast Hydrologic Region
Lower Russian River Valley Groundwater Basin, No. 1-60

<u>Hawkins</u>
North Coast Hydrologic Region
Santa Rosa Valley, Santa Rosa Plain Sub basin, No. 1-55.01

<u>Lucerne</u>
Sacramento River Basin
Long Valley Groundwater Basin, No. 5-31

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North Coast Hydrologic Region

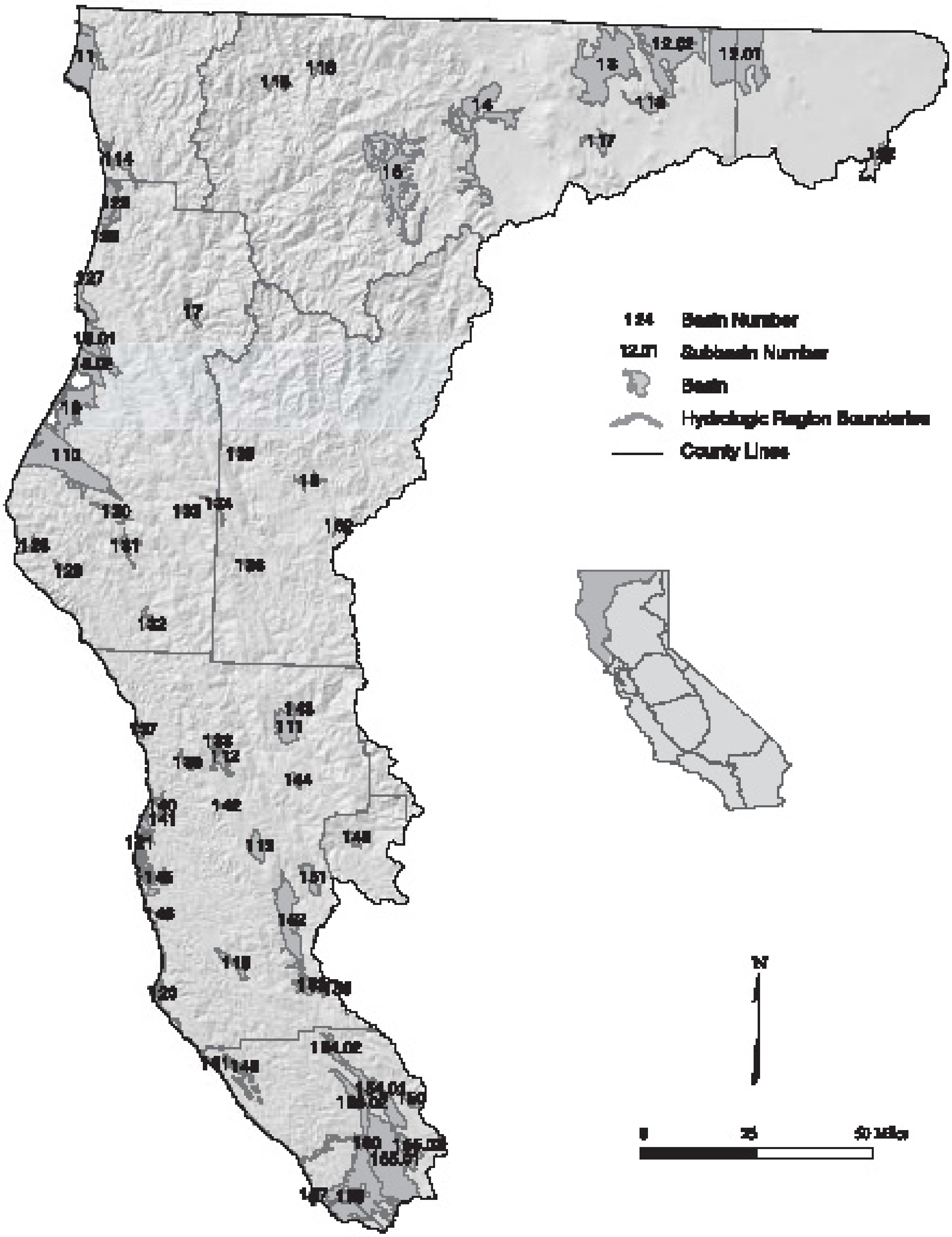

Figure 25 North Coast Hydrologic Region

Basins and Subbasins of the North Coast Hydrologic Region

Basin/subbasin	Basin name
1-1	Smith River Plain
1-2	Klamath River Valley
1-2.01	Tule Lake
1-2.02	Lower Klamath
1-3	Butte Valley
1-4	Shasta Valley
1-5	Scott River Valley
1-6	Hayfork Valley
1-7	Hoopa Valley
1-8	Mad River Valley
1-8.01	Mad River Lowland
1-8.02	Dows Prairie School Area
1-9	Eureka Plain
1-10	Eel River Valley
1-11	Covelo Round Valley
1-12	Laytonville Valley
1-13	Little Lake Valley
1-14	Lower Klamath River Valley
1-15	Happy Camp Town Area
1-16	Seiad Valley
1-17	Bray Town Area
1-18	Red Rock Valley
1-19	Anderson Valley
1-20	Garcia River Valley
1-21	Fort Bragg Terrace Area
1-22	Fairchild Swamp Valley
1-25	Prairie Creek Area
1-26	Redwood Creek Area
1-27	Big Lagoon Area
1-28	Mattole River Valley
1-29	Honeydew Town Area
1-30	Pepperwood Town Area
1-31	Weott Town Area
1-32	Garberville Town Area
1-33	Larabee Valley
1-34	Dinsmores Town Area
1-35	Hyampom Valley
1-36	Hettenshaw Valley
1-37	Cottoneva Creek Valley
1-38	Lower Laytonville Valley
1-39	Branscomb Town Area
1-40	Ten Mile River Valley
1-41	Little Valley

Basin/subbasin	Basin name
1-42	Sherwood Valley
1-43	Williams Valley
1-44	Eden Valley
1-45	Big River Valley
1-46	Navarro River Valley
1-48	Gravelley Valley
1-49	Annapolis Ohlson Ranch Formation Highlands
1-50	Knights Valley
1-51	Potter Valley
1-52	Ukiah Valley
1-53	Sanel Valley
1-54	Alexander Valley
1-54.01	Alexander Area
1-54.02	Cloverdale Area
1-55	Santa Rosa Valley
1-55.01	Santa Rosa Plain
1-55.02	Healdsburg Area
1-55.03	Rincon Valley
1-56	McDowell Valley
1-57	Bodega Bay Area
1-59	Wilson Grove Formation Highlands
1-60	Lower Russian River Valley
1-61	Fort Ross Terrace Deposits
1-62	Wilson Point Area

Description of the Region

The North Coast HR covers approximately 12.46 million acres (19,470 square miles) and includes all or portions of Modoc, Siskiyou, Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma counties (Figure 25). Small areas of Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Marin counties are also within the region. Extending from the Oregon border south to Tomales Bay, the region includes portions of four geomorphic provinces. The northern Coast Range forms the portion of the region extending from the southern boundary north to the Mad River drainage and the fault contact with the metamorphic rocks of the Klamath Mountains, which continue north into Oregon. East of the Klamath terrane along the State border are the volcanic terranes of the Cascades and the Modoc Plateau. In the coastal mountains, most of the basins are along the narrow coastal strip between the Pacific Ocean and the rugged Coast Range and Klamath Mountains and along inland river valleys; alluviated basin areas are very sparse in the steep Klamath Mountains. In the volcanic terrane to the east, most of the basins are in block faulted valleys that once held Pleistocene-age lakes. The North Coast HR corresponds to the boundary of RWQCB 1. Significant geographic features include basin areas such as the Klamath River Basin, the Eureka/Arcata area, Hoopa Valley, Anderson Valley, and the Santa Rosa Plain. Other significant features include Mount Shasta, forming the southern border of Shasta Valley, and the rugged north coastal shoreline. The 1995 population of the entire region was about 606,000, with most being centered along the Pacific Coast and in the inland valleys north of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The northern mountainous portion of the region is rural and sparsely populated, primarily because of the rugged terrain. Most of the area is heavily forested. Some irrigated agriculture occurs in the narrow river valleys, but most occurs in the broader valleys on the Modoc Plateau where pasture, grain and alfalfa predominate. In the southern portion of the region, closer to urban centers, crops like wine grapes, nursery stock, orchards, and truck crops are common.

A majority of the surface water in the North Coast HR goes to environmental uses because of the "wild and scenic" designation of most of the region's rivers. Average annual precipitation ranges from 100 inches in the Smith River drainage to 29 inches in the Santa Rosa area and about 10 inches in the Klamath drainage; as a result, drought is likely to affect the Klamath Basin more than other portions of the region. Communities that are not served by the area's surface water projects also tend to experience shortages. Surface water development in the region includes the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Klamath Project, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Ruth Lake, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Russian River Project. An important factor concerning water demand in the Klamath Project area is water allocation for endangered fish species in the upper and lower basin. Surface water deliveries for agriculture in 2001, a severe drought year, were only about 20 percent of normal.

Groundwater Development

Groundwater development in the North Coast HR occurs along the coast, near the mouths of some of the region's major rivers, on the adjacent narrow marine terraces, or in the inland river valleys and basins. Reliability of these supplies varies significantly from area to area. There are 63 groundwater basins/subbasins delineated in the region, two of which are shared with Oregon. These basins underlie approximately 1.022 million acres (1,600 square miles).

Along the coast, most groundwater is developed from shallow wells installed in the sand and gravel beds of several of the region's rivers. Under California law, the water produced in these areas is considered surface water underflow. Water from Ranney collectors installed in the Klamath River, Rowdy Creek, the Smith

River, and the Mad River supply the towns of Klamath, Smith River and Crescent City in Del Norte County and most of the Humboldt Bay area in Humboldt County. Except on the Mad River, which has continuous supply via releases from Ruth Reservoir, these supplies are dependent on adequate precipitation and flows throughout the season. In drought years when streamflows are low, seawater intrusion can occur causing brackish or saline water to enter these systems. This has been a problem in the town of Klamath, which in 1995 had to obtain community water from a private well source. Toward the southern portion of the region, along the Mendocino coast, the Town of Mendocino typifies the problems related to groundwater development in the shallow marine terrace aquifers. Groundwater supply is limited by the aquifer storage capacity, and surveys done in the Town of Mendocino in the mid-1980s indicate that about 10 percent of wells go dry every year and up to 40 percent go dry during drought years.

Groundwater development in the inland coastal valleys north of the divide between the Russian and Eel Rivers is generally of limited extent. Most problems stemming from reliance on groundwater in these areas is a lack of alluvial aquifer storage capacity. Many groundwater wells rely on hydrologic connection to the rivers and streams of the valleys. The City of Rio Dell has experienced water supply problems in community wells and, as a result, recently developed plans to install a Ranney collector near the Eel River. South of the divide, in the Russian River drainage, a significant amount of groundwater development has occurred on the Santa Rosa Plain and surrounding areas. The groundwater supplies augment surface supplies from the Russian River Project.

In the north-central part of the North Coast HR, the major groundwater basins include the Klamath River Valley, Shasta Valley, Scott River Valley, and Butte Valley. The Klamath River Valley is shared with Oregon. Of these groundwater basins, Butte Valley has the most stable water supply conditions. The historical annual agricultural surface water supply has been about 20,000 acre-feet. As farming in the valley expanded from the early 1950s to the early 1990s, bringing nearly all the arable land in the valley into production, groundwater was developed to farm the additional acres. It has been estimated that current, fully developed demands are only about 80 percent of the available groundwater supply. By contrast, water supply issues in the other three basins are contingent upon pending management decisions regarding restoration of fish populations in the Klamath River and the Upper Klamath Basin system. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) fishery issues include lake level requirements for two sucker fish species and in-stream flow requirements for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Since about 1905, the Klamath Project has provided surface water to the agricultural community, which in turn has provided water to the wildlife refuges. Since the early 1990s, it has been recognized that surface water in the Klamath Project is over-allocated, but very little groundwater development had occurred. In 2001, which was a severe drought year, USBR delivered a total of about 75,000 acre-feet of water to agriculture in California, about 20 percent of normal. In the Klamath River Groundwater Basin this translated to a drought disaster, both for agriculture and the wildlife refuges. In addition, there were significant impacts for both coho salmon and sucker fisheries in the Klamath River watershed. As a result of the reduced surface water deliveries, significant groundwater development occurred, and groundwater extraction increased from an estimated 6,000 acre-feet in 1997 to roughly 60,000 acre-feet in 2001. Because of the complexity of the basin's water issues, a long-term Klamath Project Operation plan has not yet been finalized. Since 1995, USBR has issued an annual operation plan based on estimates of available supply. The Scott River Valley and Shasta Valley rely to a significant extent on surface water diversions. In most years, surface water supplies the majority of demand, and groundwater extraction supplements supply as needed depending on wet or dry conditions. Discussions are under way to develop strategies to conjunctively use surface water and groundwater to meet environmental, agricultural, and other demands.

Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality characteristics and specific local impairments vary with regional setting within the North Coast HR. In general, seawater intrusion and nitrates in shallow aquifers are problems in the coastal groundwater basins; high total dissolved solids (TDS) content and general alkalinity are problems in the lake sediments of the Modoc Plateau basins; and iron, boron, and manganese can be problems in the inland basins of Mendocino and Sonoma counties.

Water Quality in Public Supply Wells

From 1994 through 2000, 584 public supply water wells were sampled in 32 of the 63 basins and subbasins in the North Coast HR. Analyzed samples indicate that 553 wells, or 95%, met the state primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for drinking water. Thirty-one wells, or 5%, sampled have constituents that exceed one or more MCL. Figure 26 shows the percentage of each contaminant group that exceeded MCLs in the 31 wells.

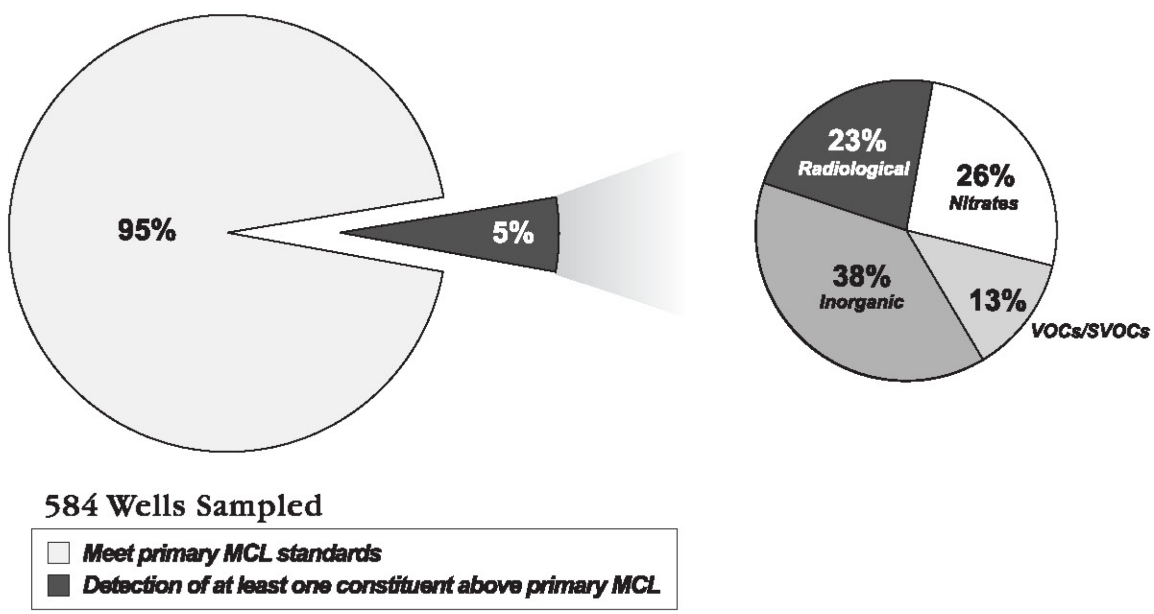

Figure 26 MCL exceedances in public supply wells in the North Coast Hydrologic Region

Table 13 lists the three most frequently occurring individual contaminants in each of the five contaminant groups and shows the number of wells in the HR that exceeded the MCL for those contaminants.

Table 13 Most frequently occurring contaminants by contaminant group in the North Coast Hydrologic Region

Contaminant group	Contaminant - # of wells	Contaminant - # of wells	Contaminant - # of
wellsInorganics – Primary exceedance	Aluminum – 4	Arsenic – 4	4 tied at 1
Inorganics – Secondary	Manganese – 150	Iron – 108	Copper – 2
Radiological	Radium 228 – 3	Combined RA226 + RA228 – 3	Radium 226 – 1
Nitrates	Nitrate(as NO_3) – 7	Nitrite(as N) – 1	
VOCs/SVOCs	TCE – 2	3 tied at 1 exceedance	

TCE = Trichloroethylene
VOC = Volatile Organic Compound
SVOC = Semivolatile Organic Compound

Changes from Bulletin 118-80

Since Bulletin 118-80 was published, RWQCB 2 boundary has been modified. This resulted in several basins being reassigned to RWQCB 1. These are listed in Table 14, along with other modifications to North Coast HR.

Table 14 Modifications since Bulletin 118-80 of groundwater basins in North Coast Hydrologic Region

Basin name	New number	Old number
McDowell Valley	1-56	2-12
Knights Valley	1-50	2-13
Potter Valley	1-51	2-14
Ukiah Valley	1-52	2-15
Sanel Valley	1-53	2-16
Alexander Valley	1-54	2-17
Santa Rosa Valley	1-55	2-18
Lower Russian River Valley	1-60	2-20
Bodega Bay Area	1-57	2-21
Modoc Plateau Recent Volcanic Area	deleted	1-23
Modoc Plateau Pleistocene Volcanic Area	deleted	1-24
Gualala River Valley	deleted	1-47
Wilson Grove Formation Highlands	1-59	2-25
Fort Ross Terrace Deposits	1-61	
Wilson Point Area	1-62	

Fort Ross Terrace Deposits (1-61) and Wilson Point Area (1-62) have been defined since B118-80 and are included in this update. Mad River Valley Groundwater Basin (1-8) has been subdivided into two subbasins. Sebastopol Merced Formation (2-25) merged into Basin 1-59 and was renamed Wilson Grove Formation Highlands.

There are a couple of deletions of groundwater basins from Bulletin 118-80. The Modoc Plateau Recent Volcanic Area (1-23) and the Modoc Plateau Pleistocene Volcanic Area (1-24) are volcanic aquifers and were not assigned basin numbers in this bulletin. These are considered to be groundwater source areas as discussed in Chapter 6. Gualala River Valley (1-47) was deleted because the State Water Resources Control Board determined the water being extracted in this area as surface water within a subterranean stream.

Table 15 North Coast Hydrologic Region groundwater data

Basin/Subbasin	Basin Name	Area (acres)	Groundwater Budget Type	Well Yields (gpm)		Types of Monitoring			TDS (mg/L)	
				Maximum	Average	Levels	Quality	Title 22	Average	Range
1-1	SMITH RIVER PLAIN	40,450	B	500	50	7	10	33	164	32 - 496
1-2	KLAMATH RIVER VALLEY									
1-2.01	UPPER KLAMATH LAKE BASIN - Tule Lake	85,930	B	3,380	1,208	40	8	5	721	140 - 2,200
1-2.02	UPPER KLAMATH LAKE BASIN - Lower Klamath	73,330	B	2,600	1,550	4	-	-	-	-
1-3	BUTTE VALLEY	79,700	B	5,000	2,358	28	13	9	310	55 - 1,110
1-4	SHASTA VALLEY	52,640	B	1,200	273	9	15	24	-	-
1-5	SCOTT RIVER VALLEY	63,900	B	3,000	794	6	10	5	258	47 - 1,510
1-6	HAYFORK VALLEY	3,300	B	200	-	-	5	-	-	-
1-7	HOOPA VALLEY	3,900	B	300	-	-	4	-	125	95 - 159
1-8	MAD RIVER VALLEY									
1-8.01	MAD RIVER VALLEY LOWLAND	25,600	B	120	72	4	9	2	184	55 - 280
1-8.02	DOWS PRAIRIE SCHOOL AREA	14,000	B	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
1-9	EUREKA PLAIN	37,400	B	1,200	-	4	4	6	177	97 - 460
1-10	EEL RIVER VALLEY	73,700	B	1,200	-	8	11	29	237	110 - 340
1-11	COVELO ROUND VALLEY	16,400	C	850	193	9	5	29	239	116 - 381
1-12	LAYTONVILLE VALLEY	5,020	A	700	7	4	3	-	149	53 - 251
1-13	LITTLE LAKE VALLEY	10,000	A	1,000	45	7	7	-	340	97 - 1,710
1-14	LOWER KLAMATH RIVER VALLEY	7,030	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	43 - 150
1-15	HAPPY CAMP TOWN AREA	2,770	B	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
1-16	SEIAD VALLEY	2,250	B	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
1-17	BRAY TOWN AREA	8,030	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-18	RED ROCK VALLEY	9,000	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-19	ANDERSON VALLEY	4,970	C	300	30	7	5	7	-	80 - 400
1-20	GARCIA RIVER VALLEY	2,240	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-21	FORT BRAGG TERRACE AREA	24,100	C	75	14	-	-	51	185	26 - 650
1-22	FAIRCHILD SWAMP VALLEY	3,300	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-25	PRAIRIE CREEK AREA	20,000	B	-	-	-	-	1	106	-
1-26	REDWOOD CREEK AREA	2,000	B	-	-	1	0	4	-	102 - 332
1-27	BIG LAGOON AREA	13,400	B	-	-	1	0	31	174	-
1-28	MATTOLE RIVER VALLEY	3,150	B	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
1-29	HONEYDEW TOWN AREA	2,370	B	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1-30	PEPPERWOOD TOWN AREA	6,290	B	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1-31	WEOTT TOWN AREA	3,650	B	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
1-32	GARBERVILLE TOWN AREA	2,100	B	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
1-33	LARABEE VALLEY	970	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-34	DINSMORES TOWN AREA	2,300	B	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
1-35	HYAMPOM VALLEY	1,350	B	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1-36	HETTENSHAW VALLEY	850	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-37	COTTONEVA CREEK VALLEY	760	C	-	-	-	-	-	118	118
1-38	LOWER LAYTONVILLE VALLEY	2,150	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-39	BRANSCOMB TOWN AREA	1,320	C	-	-	-	-	-	130	80 - 179
1-40	TEN MILE RIVER VALLEY	1,490	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-41	LITTLE VALLEY	810	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 15 North Coast Hydrologic Region groundwater data (continued)

Basin/Subbasin	Basin Name	Area (acres)	Groundwater Budget Type	Well Yields (gpm)		Types of Monitoring			TDS (mg/L)	
				Maximum	Average	Levels	Quality	Title 22	Average	Range
1-42	SHERWOOD VALLEY	1,150	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-43	WILLIAMS VALLEY	1,640	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-44	EDEN VALLEY	1,380	C	-	-	-	-	-	140	140
1-45	BIG RIVER VALLEY	1,690	C	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
1-46	NAVARRO RIVER VALLEY	770	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-48	GRAVELLEY VALLEY	3,000	C	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
1-49	ANAPOLIS OHLSON RANCH FOR. HIGHLANDS	8,650	C	36	-	-	0	1	260	260
1-50	KNIGHTS VALLEY	4,090	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-51	POTTER VALLEY	8,240	C	100	-	2	0	1	-	140 - 395
1-52	UKIAH VALLEY									
1-53	SANEL VALLEY	5,570	C	1,250	-	5	8	6	-	174 - 306
1-54	ALEXANDER VALLEY									
1-54.01	ALEXANDER AREA									
1-54.02	CLOVERDALE AREA	6,500	C	-	500	3	-	13	-	130 - 304
1-55	SANTA ROSA VALLEY									
1-55.01	SANTA ROSA PLAIN	80,000	A	1,500	-	43	-	155	-	-
1-55.02	HEALDSBURG AREA	15,400	C	500	-	8	-	28	-	90 - 500
1-55.03	RINCON VALLEY	5,600	C	-	-	2	-	12	-	-
1-56	McDOWELL VALLEY	1,500	C	1,200	-	-	-	-	145	143 - 146
1-57	BODEGA BAY AREA	2,680	A	150	-	-	-	6	-	-
1-59	WILSON GROVE FORMATION HIGHLANDS	81,500	C	-	-	14	-	68	-	-
1-60	LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY	6,600	C	500 +	-	1	-	32	-	120 - 210
1-61	FORT ROSS TERRACE DEPOSITS	8,490	C	75	27	-	-	13	320	230 - 380
1-62	WILSON POINT AREA	700	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

gpm - gallons per minute
mg/L - milligram per liter
TDS = total dissolved solids

Bodega Bay Area Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 1-57
- County: Sonoma
- Surface Area: 2,680 acres

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

Bodega Bay lies along the Sonoma County coastline about 55 miles north of San Francisco. The Bodega Bay Area extends approximately 4 miles along the mainland from the area of Salmon Creek to the north to below Cheney Gulch on the south. This area extends inland up to about 1 mile from Bodega Harbor. The area is comprised of the mainland on the east side, Bodega Harbor and Doran Beach, Bodega Head, and the Bodega Tombolo (a sand bar/dune area which connects Bodega Head with the mainland). The Bodega Bay Area Groundwater Basin is defined by the areal extent of Quaternary alluvium, sand dunes, and terrace deposits, but also contains some Cretaceous granitic rocks exposed on Bodega Head. On the mainland side, the groundwater basin is bounded by bedrock of the Franciscan Complex. This basin is bounded on the north by the Fort Ross Terrace Area Groundwater Basin near Salmon Creek. The San Andreas Fault Rift Zone trends northwest through the area of Bodega Bay and Bodega Harbor (Wagner 1982).

No major rivers transect the basin; however, Salmon Creek bounds the basin on the north and Cheney Gulch discharges into Bodega Harbor on the south. Annual precipitation in the Bodega Bay Area ranges from approximately 28 inches at Bodega Head to 36 inches on the eastern (inland) side of the basin.

Hydrogeologic Information

Water Bearing Formations

The water-bearing units of primary significance in the Bodega Bay Area include Recent Alluvium in Salmon Creek, Sand Dune Deposits of the Bodega tombolo, and marine terrace deposits. The Franciscan Complex and granitic rocks exposed at the surface and underlying the area are generally considered non-water bearing except where significant fracture porosity exists. Information on water-bearing formations and groundwater conditions was taken from DWR (1982) and other unpublished DWR documents.

Recent Alluvium. The Recent Alluvium in Salmon Creek is the only deposit in the Bodega Bay Area that contains groundwater in usable quantities. The alluvium consists of clay to gravel-sized material. Based on well logs from two water supply wells along Salmon Creek, the alluvium extends to at least 63 feet below the ground surface. Yields from these two supply wells ranged from 100 to 150 gpm. No specific yield data for this unit was found.

Sand Dunes. The dunes form the Bodega tombolo south from Salmon Creek to Bodega Head with an average thickness of 161 feet and maximum width of 5,800 feet. The dune sand is loose, subangular to subrounded, fairly well sorted, fine to coarse-grained, and gray to brownish gray. No well yield data for wells in the sand dunes are available. Groundwater most likely occurs under unconfined conditions within the sand dunes. No specific yield data for this unit was found.

Terrace Deposits. Marine terrace deposits of Pleistocene age overlie wave-cut bedrock surfaces along the northern California coastline. They occur as a series of benches or steps, uplifted above sea level over the last half-million years. Up to five terrace levels have been identified. The marine terrace deposits are predominantly massive, semiconsolidated clay, silt, sand, and gravel, and range from 1 to about 80 feet in thickness with an average of about 23 feet. The deposits range from being clean sand, well-sorted, fine to coarse sand, to poorly sorted, fine to coarse sand with a silty matrix. Fine to medium gravel occurs as lag gravel layers and in lenses of conglomerate. Terrace composition varies and reflects the lithologies of the parent bedrock.

DWR (1982) reported that wells installed into similar terrace deposits located north of Bodega Bay yield water from 2 to 75 gpm with an average yield of about 27 gpm. Since the terrace deposits cap the bedrock, the aquifer is generally unconfined. Estimated specific yield for an equivalent unit along the Mendocino County coastline ranged from 5 to 22 percent with an average of 11.5 percent.

Groundwater Level Trends

No hydrographs are available in order to evaluate long-term water level trends. However, for the Mendocino County coastal area to the north, hydrographs indicate that the marine terrace deposits reach maximum storage by mid-January of each year under normal rainfall conditions (DWR 1982).

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Storage Capacity. No data was found.

Groundwater in Storage. No estimates of the amount of groundwater in storage were found. However, it was concluded that under normal rainfall conditions, the similar terrace deposits in Mendocino County reach maximum storage by mid-January of each year (DWR 1982).

Groundwater Budget (Type A)

DWR has compiled groundwater extraction data reported by Bodega Bay PUD for the years 1994 through 1999. Annual extraction during this period ranged from a low of 384 af (1999) to a high of 439 af (1996). Bodega Bay PUD is the only water supplier in the area.

Groundwater Quality

Characterization. There was no published groundwater quality data found for this basin. Based on analyses of two water supply wells in the Bodega Bay Area Groundwater Basin, TDS ranges from 290 to 480 mg/L.

Impairments. Since this groundwater basin lies along the coastline, seawater intrusion may be a problem if water levels are lowered below sea level.

Water Quality in Public Supply Wells

Constituent Group[1]	Number of wells sampled[2]	Number of wells with a concentration above an MCL[3]
Inorganics – Primary	4	0
Radiological	3	0
Nitrates	4	1
Pesticides	3	0
VOCs and SVOCs	2	0
Inorganics – Secondary	4	2

[1] A description of each member in the constituent groups and a generalized discussion of the relevance of these groups are included in *California's Groundwater – Bulletin 118* by DWR (2003).
[2] Represents distinct number of wells sampled as required under DHS Title 22 program from 1994 through 2000.
[3] Each well reported with a concentration above an MCL was confirmed with a second detection above an MCL. This information is intended as an indicator of the types of activities that cause contamination in a given basin. It represents the water quality at the sample location. It does not indicate the water quality delivered to the consumer. More detailed drinking water quality information can be obtained from the local water purveyor and its annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Well Characteristics

Well yields (gal/min)

Two alluvial wells in Salmon Creek are reported to yield 100 gpm with 2.5 feet of drawdown after 12 hours and 150 gpm with 3 feet of drawdown after 2 hours.
Terrace deposit wells yield water at rates ranging from approximately 2 to 75 gpm. Average yield are about 27 gpm. Mean specific capacity is reported to be 1.46 gpm/ft (DWR 1982).

Total depths (ft)

Domestic	Range: 30 – 230	Average: 124 (Based on 4 well completion reports)
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: 66 – 264	Average: 183 (Based on 3 well completion reports)

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells /measurement frequency
Bodega Bay PUD	Groundwater levels	None.
DWR and cooperators	Miscellaneous water quality	None.
Department of Health Services and cooperators	Title 22 water quality	6 wells / annually

Basin Management

Groundwater management:	No groundwater management plans identified.
Water agencies	
Public	Sonoma County Water Agency, Bodega Bay Public Utility District
Private	

References Cited

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 1982. Mendocino County Coastal Ground Water Study. Northern District.

Wagner, D.L., 1982. Geologic Map of the Santa Rosa Quadrangle. Regional Geologic Map Series No. 2A (Geology). Scale 1:250,000. California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology.

Additional References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 1975. California's Ground Water. Bulletin 118-75. September.

Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.

Lower Russian River Valley Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 1-60
- County: Sonoma
- Surface Area: 6,600 acres (10 square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

The Lower Russian River Valley Groundwater Basin is a narrow, meandering river canyon located in the Mendocino Range within west-central Sonoma County. The valley begins approximately 2.5 miles east of Mirabell Heights and extends west and southwest for approximately 23 (river) miles until it exits into the Pacific Ocean near Jenner. The canyon ranges in width from about 0.1 to 0.5 miles and has an average width of about 0.25 miles. The valley is defined by the areal extent of alluvial and river-channel deposits that are bounded by bedrock of the Franciscan Complex.

Mark West Creek discharges into the upper reaches of the lower Russian River Valley near Mirabell Heights. Other significant tributaries to the lower Russian River include: Green Valley near Rio Dell; Fife Creek and Pocket Canyon near Guerneville; Dutch Bill Creek near Monte Rio; Austin Creek near St. Joseph Camp; and Willow and Sheephouse Creeks east of the river mouth near Jenner. Precipitation along the Lower Russian River Valley varies from approximately 32 inches near the river mouth to about 44 inches at Rio Nido.

Hydrogeologic Information

Water Bearing Formations

The principal water-bearing units in the lower Russian River Valley are the alluvium and river-channel deposits. The Franciscan Complex that underlies the lower Russian River Valley is considered essentially non water-bearing and therefore, does not yield significant quantities of water to wells. Information on water-bearing formations and groundwater conditions was obtained from Cardwell (1965).

Alluvium and River-Channel Deposits. The Alluvium and River-Channel Deposits are Holocene in age and consist largely of sand and gravel with minor amounts of silt and clay. The alluvium in tributary valleys and in abandoned meanders, such as Armstrong Valley north of Guerneville, contains a higher proportion of silt and clay. The thickness of these deposits varies from a thin veneer along the valley margins to greater than 100 feet near the axis of the valley. The maximum thickness of the alluvium in the main bedrock channel has not been determined because no wells have been drilled deeper than 136 feet. The maximum depth of fill at the mouth of the Russian River probably exceeds 300 feet, as evidenced by the thickness of alluvium in valleys in the vicinity of and north of San Francisco Bay. Several wells within this valley are reported to yield 500 gpm or more. The yields from wells in Armstrong Valley are as much as 200 gpm. Groundwater in this valley is unconfined and is hydraulically connected with the Russian River. Near the river mouth; however, and in the larger tributary valleys, deposits that contain large amounts of silt and clay may confine groundwater locally. The average specific yield is probably 15 to 20 percent.

Groundwater Level Trends

Hydrographs from two wells along the Russian River Valley near Guerneville (40 year record) and Monte Rio (approx. 15 year record) show that except for typical seasonal variations, overall water levels are stable (DWR 1975; DWR unpublished data)

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Storage Capacity. Cardwell (1965) estimated the groundwater storage capacity of the alluvial materials to be approximately 55,000 af. This estimate assumed an average maximum depth of alluvial materials of 150 to 200 feet and a specific yield of 15 percent. An estimated groundwater storage capacity of 22,000 af was determined by DWR (1965) for the lower Russian River alluvium below Rio Dell assuming a 40 foot saturated thickness (depths of 10 to 50 feet) and a specific yield of 15 percent.

Groundwater in Storage. No published values have been identified.

Groundwater Budget (Type C)

There are not enough data available to provide a groundwater budget for this basin.

Groundwater Quality

Characterization. Cardwell (1965) reported that groundwater in the Lower Russian River Valley is of the calcium magnesium bicarbonate type and is generally of good quality, except for that in the lower part of the tidal reach of the river. TDS in groundwater ranges from 120 to 210 mg/L.

Impairments. Brackish water is found in wells near the river from the river mouth to below Duncan Mills, a distance of about 5 to 6 miles. Sodium and chloride levels are generally low, except in the area of tidewater encroachment below Duncan Mills. During a period of extremely low streamflow, saline water might extend 10 miles upstream, from the river mouth to Monte Rio.

Water Quality in Public Supply Wells

Constituent Group[1]	Number of wells sampled[2]	Number of wells with a concentration above an MCL[3]
Inorganics – Primary	29	1
Radiological	19	2
Nitrates	29	0
Pesticides	19	0
VOCs and SVOCs	18	0
Inorganics – Secondary	29	14

[1] A description of each member in the constituent groups and a generalized discussion of the relevance of these groups are included in *California's Groundwater – Bulletin 118* by DWR (2003).
[2] Represents distinct number of wells sampled as required under DHS Title 22 program from 1994 through 2000.
[3] Each well reported with a concentration above an MCL was confirmed with a second detection above an MCL. This information is intended as an indicator of the types of activities that cause contamination in a given basin. It represents the water quality at the sample location. It does not indicate the water quality delivered to the consumer. More detailed drinking water quality information can be obtained from the local water purveyor and its annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Well Characteristics

Well yields (gal/min)

Alluvial wells can yield 500 gpm or more. Specific capacities range from about 1 to 20 gpm/ft.
(Cardwell 1965)

Total depths (ft)

Domestic	Range: 21 to 425	Average: 127 (Based on 59 well completion reports)
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: 39 to 202	Average: 102 (Based on 14 well completion reports)

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells /measurement frequency
DWR	Groundwater levels	One well / semiannually
	Miscellaneous water quality	None known
Department of Health Services and cooperators	Title 22 water quality	32 wells as required in Title 22, Calif. Code of Regulations

Basin Management

Groundwater management:	No groundwater management plans were identified.
Water agencies	
Public	Sonoma County Water Agency, Forestville W.D., Russian River County W.D.
Private	

References Cited

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1965. Water Resources and Future Water Requirements – North Coastal Hydrographic Area, Volume 1: Southern Portion (Preliminary Edition) – Bulletin No. 142-1. April.

________. 1975. Evaluation of Ground Water Resources: Sonoma County. Volume 1: Geologic and Hydrologic Data. Bulletin 118-4, December.

Cardwell, G.T. 1965. Geology and Ground Water in Russian River Valley Areas and in Round, Laytonville and Little Lake Valleys, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, California. USGS Water Supply Paper 1548.

Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.

Santa Rosa Valley, Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 1-55.01
- County: Sonoma
- Surface Area: 80,000 acres (125 square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

The Santa Rosa Valley occupies a northwest-trending structural depression in the southern part of the Coast Ranges of northern California. This depression divides the Mendocino Range on the west from the Mayacmas and Sonoma Mountains on the east. The Santa Rosa Plain sub basin is approximately 22 miles long and 0.2 miles wide at the northern end; approximately 9 miles wide through the Santa Rosa area; and about 6 miles wide at the south end of the valley near the City of Cotati. The Santa Rosa Plain Sub Basin is bounded on the northwest by the Russian River plain approximately one mile south of the City of Healdsburg and the Healdsburg sub basin; mountains of the Mendocino Range flank the remaining western boundary. The southern end of the sub basin is marked by a series of low hills, which form a drainage divide that separates the Santa Rosa Valley from the Petaluma Valley basin south of Cotati. The eastern sub basin boundary is flanked by the Sonoma Mountains south of Santa Rosa and the Mayacmas Mountains north of Santa Rosa. The Rincon Valley sub basin is situated east of the City of Santa Rosa and is separated from the Santa Rosa Plain sub basin by a narrow constriction formed in rocks of the Sonoma Volcanics.

The Santa Rosa Plain Sub basin is drained principally by the Santa Rosa and Mark West Creeks that flow westward and collect into the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The Laguna de Santa Rosa flows northward and discharges into the Russian River. Precipitation in the Santa Rosa Plain ranges from approximately 28 inches in the south to about 40 inches in the north.

Hydrogeologic Information

Water Bearing Formations

The Santa Rosa Plain sub-basin has one main water-bearing unit (Merced Formation) and several units with lower water-bearing capacities (Glen Ellen Formation and Alluvium). The groundwater is not everywhere continuous because many of the units only have lenses of water-bearing material, and the valley is cut by northwest trending faults.

Alluvium. Alluvial deposits blanket most of the Santa Rosa Valley. The deposits consist of poorly sorted coarse sand and gravel, and moderately sorted fine sand, silt, and clay, and have a specific yield of 8 to 17 percent (DWR 1982). The source of the fine sand may be the Merced Formation. The older alluvial deposits are Late Pleistocene in age, are sometimes dissected, and have a maximum exposed thickness of 100 feet (Cardwell 1958). The younger alluvium is a thin veneer over the old, ranging from 30 to 100 feet thick, and is Late Pleistocene to Holocene in age. The deposits are not perennially saturated, have low permeability, and are generally unconfined or slightly confined (Cardwell 1958). Although the water quality is generally good for most uses, there are few wells screened adjacent to the deposits (Cardwell 1958).

Glen Ellen Formation. The Glen Ellen Formation crops out extensively in the center of the Santa Rosa Plain, and extends beneath the eastern hills (Cardwell 1958). In most places it overlies the Merced Formation and some places the two formations are continuous, together housing the principal water body in the basin (Cardwell 1958). The Glen Ellen consists of partially cemented beds and lenses of poorly sorted gravel, sand, silt, and clay that vary widely in thickness and extent (Cardwell 1958; DWR 1982). This continental deposit is Pliocene (?) to Pleistocene in age, and was deposited in structural troughs so it varies in thickness from 3,000 feet to less than 1,500 feet on the west side of the valley (Cardwell 1958). It is reported that some wells sourced from the Glen Ellen produce more than 500 gal/min, but for most wells the specific capacities are less than 10 gpm/ft (Cardwell 1958). Most of the water under the Santa Rosa Valley is at water table conditions, but locally the water can be confined in areas of folding and faulting. Since the unit crops out in favorable areas and has moderate permeability (HLA 1978), recharge may occur fairly quickly, but it can be inhibited in areas of well-developed soils with hardpan (Cardwell 1958). Average specific yield for the Glen Ellen Formation is 3 to 7 percent (DWR 1982). It is tapped for domestic and some irrigation use.

Merced Formation. The Merced Formation is the major water-bearing unit in the basin. It extends beneath the western hills, crops out along the western side of the valley from the Russian River (Wilson Grove) south towards Petaluma, and dips beneath the center of the valley (Cardwell 1958). It is Pliocene in age, and its thickness is estimated to range from 300 to greater than 1,500 feet. The Merced Formation is a marine deposit of fine sand and sandstone, but has thin interbeds of clay and silty-clay, some lenses of gravel, and localized fossils (Cardwell 1958). Aquifer continuity and water quality are generally very good, with well yields from 100 to 1,500 gpm (Cardwell 1958) and specific yields from 10 to 20 percent (DWR 1982). Semi-confined to confined conditions may exist locally where clay lenses occur. Recharge occurs in the southwest portion of the basin, but is not at the maximum because much of the permeable soil is on slopes too steep for good recharge (DWR 1982). Some recharge may occur from the overlying Glen Ellen Formation (HLA 1978).

Groundwater Level Trends

The Santa Rosa Plain ground water basin as a whole is about in balance, with increased ground water levels in the northeast contrasting with decreased ground water levels in the south (DWR 1982).

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Storage Capacity. The USGS estimated the gross groundwater storage capacity for this basin to be about 948,000 af based on an average specific yield of 7.8 percent for aquifer materials at depths of 10 to 200 feet (Cardwell 1958). The DWR performed a study of the area and calculated a groundwater storage capacity for this basin to be approximately 4,313,000 af (DWR 1982). This calculation was made by dividing the approximate basin area into a grid of 193 cells ranging in size from 320 to 640 acres. Specific yield values were calculated for each cell using lithologic and aquifer thickness data processed by the TRANSCAP computer program. In the DWR study, aquifer thicknesses ranged from 50 to over 1,000 feet with an average thickness of approximately 400 feet.

Groundwater in Storage. Using water level information for the spring of 1980 and the product of the TRANSCAP program, the volume of groundwater in storage was estimated to be 3,910,000 af (DWR 1982).

Groundwater Budget (Type A)

A groundwater model for the Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin was prepared by the DWR (DWR 1982). The 15-year period from 1960-61 through 1974-75 was selected as the study period for the Santa Rosa Plain basin because it contained a mixture of wet and dry years approximating long-term climatic conditions. Average annual natural recharge for the period 1960 to 1975 was estimated to be about 29,300 af. Average annual pumping during the same time period was estimated to be approximately 29,700 af.

Water Quality

Characterization. On the western side of the basin, sodium and bicarbonate are the dominant cation and anion in water from all depths (DWR 1982). Moving south along the western boundary, the shallow waters have magnesium and calcium as the dominant cation and in the deep zone (below 150 feet) sodium dominates. In the vicinity of Windsor, magnesium chloride water is present in the shallow aquifer to a depth of about 100 feet. In the Santa Rosa area, groundwater at all depths is characterized primarily by sodium and magnesium bicarbonate types. In the Rohnert Park vicinity, groundwater in the deep zone (below 150 feet) is characterized by sodium and calcium bicarbonate types (DWR 1982).

Impairments. According to a DWR study of the basin, few wells tested for water quality contained constituents over the recommended concentration for drinking water (DWR 1982). Many wells produced water with aesthetic problems such as high concentrations of iron, manganese, or high hardness. Private well owners questioned about groundwater quality reported many complaints about the color and/or taste of the water. Although high iron, manganese, and hardness have been reported in groundwater from some portions of the Santa Rosa Plain basin, the overall quality of groundwater in the Santa Rosa Plain is good.

With respect to agriculture, areas with elevated boron concentrations in groundwater (greater than 2.0 mg/L) have been reported south of Windsor and north of the City of Rohnert Park (DWR 1982).

Water Quality in Public Supply Wells

Constituent Group[1]	Number of wells sampled[2]	Number of wells with a concentration above an MCL[3]
Inorganics – Primary	150	3
Radiological	120	5

Nitrates	155	1
Pesticides	139	0
VOCs and SVOCs	126	2
Inorganics – Secondary	150	86

[1] A description of each member in the constituent groups and a generalized discussion of the relevance of these groups are included in *California's Groundwater – Bulletin 118* by DWR (2003).
[2] Represents distinct number of wells sampled as required under DHS Title 22 program from 1994 through 2000.
[3] Each well reported with a concentration above an MCL was confirmed with a second detection above an MCL. This information is intended as an indicator of the types of activities that cause contamination in a given basin. It represents the water quality at the sample location. It does not indicate the water quality delivered to the consumer. More detailed drinking water quality information can be obtained from the local water purveyor and its annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Well Characteristics

Well yields (gal/min)

Merced Formation wells have reported yields ranging from 100 to 1,500 gpm;
Glenn Ellen Formation wells have reported yields of 500+ gpm;
Alluvial wells are not significant water producers in the Santa Rosa Plain sub basin although alluvial wells in Petaluma Valley reportedly yield up to about 150 gpm.
(Well-yield data reported from Cardwell 1958)

Total depths (ft)

Domestic	Range: 30 to 840	Average: 197 (based on 1,280 wells)
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: 35 to 971	Average: 359 (based on 111 wells)

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	**Parameter**	**Number of wells /measurement frequency**
DWR (incl. Cooperators)	Groundwater levels	37 wells/semi-annually and 6 wells/monthly
DWR (incl. Cooperators)	Mineral, nutrient, & minor element.	14 wells/biennially
Department of Health Services	Coliform, nitrates, mineral, organic chemicals, and radiological.	155 wells as required in Title 22, Calif. Code of Regulations

Basin Management

Groundwater management:	No groundwater management plans identified
Water agencies	
Public	Sonoma County Water Agency, City of Sebastopol WSA, Town of Windsor WSA, City of Santa Rosa, City of Cotati, City of Rohnert Park
Private	

References Cited

Cardwell, G.T.. 1958. Geology and Ground Water in the Santa Rosa and Petaluma Valley Areas, Sonoma County, California. USGS Water Supply Paper 1427.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1982. Evaluation of Ground Water Resources in Sonoma County Volume 2: Santa Rosa Plain. DWR Bulletin 118-4.

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Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.

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Sacramento River Hydrologic Region

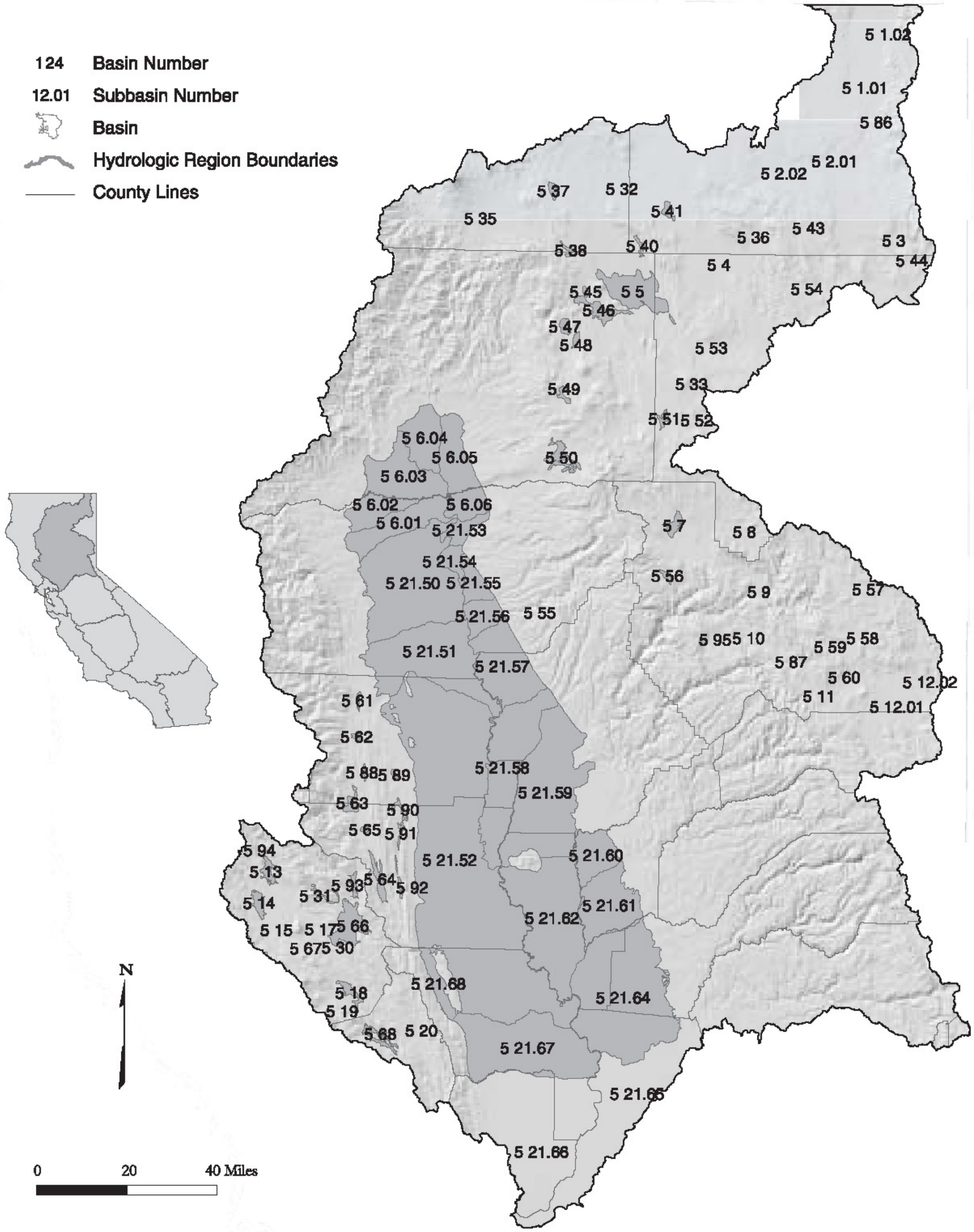

Figure 33 Sacramento River Hydrologic Region

Basins and Subbasins of the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region

Basin/subbasins	Basin name
5-1	Goose Lake Valley
5-1.01	Lower Goose Lake Valley
5-1.02	Fandango Valley
5-2	Alturas Area
5-2.01	South Fork Pitt River
5-2.02	Warm Springs Valley
5-3	Jess Valley
5-4	Big Valley
5-5	Fall River Valley
5-6	Redding Area
5-6.01	Bowman
5-6.02	Rosewood
5-6.03	Anderson
5-6.04	Enterprise
5-6.05	Millville
5-6.06	South Battle Creek
5-7	Lake Almanor Valley
5-8	Mountain Meadows Valley
5-9	Indian Valley
5-10	American Valley
5-11	Mohawk Valley
5-12	Sierra Valley
5-12.01	Sierra Valley
5-12.02	Chilcoot
5-13	Upper Lake Valley
5-14	Scotts Valley
5-15	Big Valley
5-16	High Valley
5-17	Burns Valley
5-18	Coyote Valley
5-19	Collayomi Valley
5-20	Berryessa Valley
5-21	Sacramento Valley
5-21.50	Red Bluff
5-21.51	Corning
5-21.52	Colusa
5-21.53	Bend
5-21.54	Antelope
5-21.55	Dye Creek
5-21.56	Los Molinos
5-21.57	Vina
5-21.58	West Butte
5-21.59	East Butte
5-21.60	North Yuba
5-21.61	South Yuba
5-21.62	Sutter
5-21.64	North American
5-21.65	South American
5-21.66	Solano
5-21.67	Yolo
5-21.68	Capay Valley

Basin/subbasins	Basin name
5-30	Lower Lake Valley
5-31	Long Valley
5-35	Mccloud Area
5-36	Round Valley
5-37	Toad Well Area
5-38	Pondosa Town Area
5-40	Hot Springs Valley
5-41	Egg Lake Valley
5-43	Rock Prairie Valley
5-44	Long Valley
5-45	Cayton Valley
5-46	Lake Britton Area
5-47	Goose Valley
5-48	Burney Creek Valley
5-49	Dry Burney Creek Valley
5-50	North Fork Battle Creek
5-51	Butte Creek Valley
5-52	Gray Valley
5-53	Dixie Valley
5-54	Ash Valley
5-56	Yellow Creek Valley
5-57	Last Chance Creek Valley
5-58	Clover Valley
5-59	Grizzly Valley
5-60	Humbug Valley
5-61	Chrome Town Area
5-62	Elk Creek Area
5-63	Stonyford Town Area
5-64	Bear Valley
5-65	Little Indian Valley
5-66	Clear Lake Cache Formation
5-68	Pope Valley
5-86	Joseph Creek
5-87	Middle Fork Feather River
5-88	Stony Gorge Reservoir
5-89	Squaw Flat
5-90	Funks Creek
5-91	Antelope Creek
5-92	Blanchard Valley
5-93	North Fork Cache Creek
5-94	Middle Creek
5-95	Meadow Valley

Description of the Region

The Sacramento River HR covers approximately 17.4 million acres (27,200 square miles). The region includes all or large portions of Modoc, Siskiyou, Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Plumas, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Yolo, Solano, Lake, and Napa counties (Figure 33). Small areas of Alpine and Amador counties are also within the region. Geographically, the region extends south from the Modoc Plateau and Cascade Range at the Oregon border, to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Sacramento Valley, which forms the core of the region, is bounded to the east by the crest of the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades and to the west by the crest of the Coast Range and Klamath Mountains. Other significant features include Mount Shasta and Lassen Peak in the southern Cascades, Sutter Buttes in the south central portion of the valley, and the Sacramento River, which is the longest river system in the State of California with major tributaries the Pit, Feather, Yuba, Bear and American rivers. The region corresponds approximately to the northern half of RWQCB 5. The Sacramento metropolitan area and surrounding communities form the major population center of the region. With the exception of Redding, cities and towns to the north, while steadily increasing in size, are more rural than urban in nature, being based in major agricultural areas. The 1995 population of the entire region was 2.372 million.

The climate in the northern, high desert plateau area of the region is characterized by cold snowy winters with only moderate precipitation and hot dry summers. This area depends on adequate snowpack to provide runoff for summer supply. Annual precipitation ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Other mountainous areas in the northern and eastern portions of the region have cold wet winters with large amounts of snow, which typically provide abundant runoff for summer supplies. Annual precipitation ranges from 40 to more than 80 inches. Summers are generally mild in these areas. The Coast Range and southern Klamath Mountains receive copious amounts of precipitation, but most of the runoff flows to the coast in the North Coastal drainage. Sacramento Valley comprises the remainder of the region. At a much lower elevation than the rest of the region, the valley has mild winters with moderate precipitation. Annual precipitation varies from about 35 inches in Redding to about 18 inches in Sacramento. Summers in the valley are hot and dry.

Most of the mountainous portions of the region are heavily forested and sparsely populated. Three major national forests (Mendocino, Trinity, and Shasta) make up the majority of lands in the Coast Range, southern Klamath Mountains, and the southern Cascades; these forests and the region's rivers and lakes provide abundant recreational opportunities. In the few mountain valleys with arable land, alfalfa, grain and pasture are the predominant crops. In the foothill areas of the region, particularly adjacent to urban centers, suburban to rural housing development is occurring along major highway corridors. This development is leading to urban sprawl and is replacing the former agricultural production on those lands. In the Sacramento Valley, agriculture is the largest industry. Truck, field, orchard, and rice crops are grown on approximately 2.1 million acres. Rice represents about 23 percent of the total irrigated acreage.

The Sacramento River HR is the main water supply for much of California's urban and agricultural areas. Annual runoff in the HR averages about 22.4 maf, which is nearly one-third of the State's total natural runoff. Major water supplies in the region are provided through surface storage reservoirs. The two largest surface water projects in the region are USBR's Shasta Lake (Central Valley Project) on the upper Sacramento River and Lake Oroville (DWR's State Water Project) on the Feather River. In all, there are more than 40 major surface water reservoirs in the region. Municipal, industrial, and agricultural supplies to the region are about 8 maf, with groundwater providing about 2.5 maf of that total. Much of the remainder of the runoff goes to dedicated natural flows, which support various environmental requirements, including in-stream fishery flows and flushing flows in the Delta.

Groundwater Development

Groundwater provides about 31 percent of the water supply for urban and agricultural uses in the region, and has been developed in both the alluvial basins and the hard rock uplands and mountains. There are 88 basins/ subbasins delineated in the region. These basins underlie 5.053 million acres (7,900 square miles), about 29 percent of the entire region. The reliability of the groundwater supply varies greatly. The Sacramento Valley is recognized as one of the foremost groundwater basins in the State, and wells developed in the sediments of the valley provide excellent supply to irrigation, municipal, and domestic uses. Many of the mountain valleys of the region also provide significant groundwater supplies to multiple uses.

Geologically, the Sacramento Valley is a large trough filled with sediments having variable permeabilities; as a result, wells developed in areas with coarser aquifer materials will produce larger amounts of water than wells developed in fine aquifer materials. In general, well yields are good and range from one-hundred to several thousand gallons per minute. Because surface water supplies have been so abundant in the valley, groundwater development for agriculture primarily supplement the surface supply. With the changing environmental laws and requirements, this balance is shifting to a greater reliance on groundwater, and conjunctive use of both supplies is occurring to a greater extent throughout the valley, particularly in drought years. Groundwater provides all or a portion of municipal supply in many valley towns and cities. Redding, Anderson, Chico, Marysville, Sacramento, Olivehurst, Wheatland, Willows, and Williams rely to differing degrees on groundwater. Red Bluff, Corning, Woodland, Davis, and Dixon are completely dependent on groundwater. Domestic use of groundwater varies, but in general, rural unincorporated areas rely completely on groundwater.

In the mountain valleys and basins with arable land, groundwater has been developed to supplement surface water supplies. Most of the rivers and streams of the area have adjudicated water rights that go back to the early 1900s, and diversion of surface water has historically supported agriculture. Droughts and increased competition for supply have led to significant development of groundwater for irrigation. In some basins, the fractured volcanic rock underlying the alluvial fill is the major aquifer for the area. In the rural mountain areas of the region, domestic supplies come almost entirely from groundwater. Although a few mountain communities are supplied in part by surface water, most rely on groundwater. These groundwater supplies are generally quite reliable in areas that have sufficient aquifer storage or where surface water replenishes supply throughout the year. In areas that depend on sustained runoff, water levels can be significantly depleted in drought years and many old, shallow wells can be dewatered. During 2001, an extreme drought year on the Modoc Plateau, many well owners experienced problems with water supply.

Groundwater development in the fractured rocks of the foothills of the southern Cascades and Sierra Nevada is fraught with uncertainty. Groundwater supplies from fractured rock sources are highly variable in terms of water quantity and water quality and are an uncertain source for large-scale residential development. Originally, foothill development relied on water supply from springs and river diversions with flumes and ditches for conveyance that date back to gold mining era operations. Current development is primarily based on individual private wells, and as pressures for larger scale development increase, questions about the reliability of supply need to be addressed. Many existing foothill communities have considerable experience with dry or drought year shortages. In Butte County residents in Cohasset, Forest Ranch, and Magalia have had to rely on water brought up the ridges in tanker trucks. The suggested answer has been the development of regional water supply projects. Unfortunately, the area's development pattern of small, geographically dispersed population centers does not lend itself to the kind of financial base necessary to support such projects.

Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality in the Sacramento River HR is generally excellent. However, there are areas with local groundwater problems. Natural water quality impairments occur at the north end of the Sacramento Valley in the Redding subbasin, and along the margins of the valley and around the Sutter Buttes, where Cretaceous-age marine sedimentary rocks containing brackish to saline water are near the surface. Water from the older underlying sediments mixes with the fresh water in the younger alluvial aquifer and degrades the quality. Wells constructed in these areas typically have high TDS. Other local natural impairments are moderate levels of hydrogen sulfide in groundwater in the volcanic and geothermal areas in the western portion of the region. In the Sierra foothills, there is potential for encountering uranium and radon-bearing rock or sulfide mineral deposits containing heavy metals. Human-induced impairments are generally associated with individual septic system development in shallow unconfined portions of aquifers or in fractured hard rock areas where insufficient soil depths are available to properly leach effluent before it reaches the local groundwater supply.

Water Quality in Public Supply Wells

From 1994 through 2000, 1,356 public supply water wells were sampled in 51 of the 88 basins and subbasins in the Sacramento River HR. Samples analyzed indicate that 1,282 wells, or 95 percent, met the state primary MCLs for drinking water. Seventy-four wells, or 5 percent, have constituents that exceed one or more MCL. Figure 34 shows the percentages of each contaminant group that exceeded MCLs in the 74 wells.

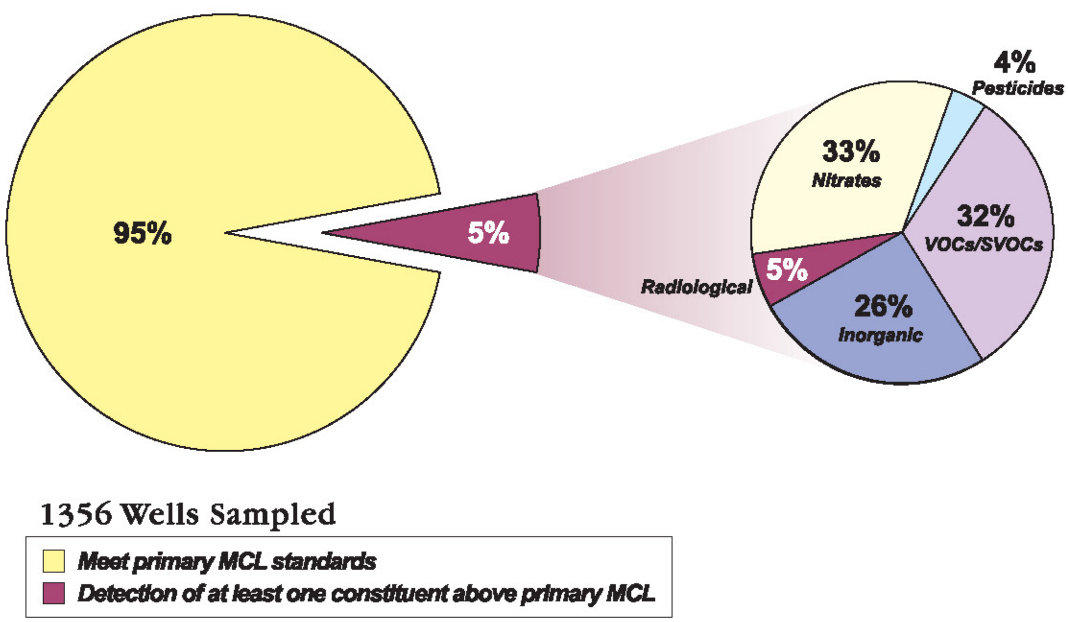

Figure 34 MCL exceedances in public supply wells in the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region

Table 25 lists the three most frequently occurring contaminants in each of the six contaminant groups and shows the number of wells in the HR that exceeded the MCL for those contaminants.

Table 25 Most frequently occurring contaminants by contaminant group in the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region

Contaminant group	Contaminant - # of wells	Contaminant - # of wells	Contaminant - # of wells
Inorganics – Primary	Cadmium – 4	Chromium (Total) – 3	3 tied at 2
Inorganics – Secondary	Manganese – 221	Iron – 166	Specific Conductance – 3
Radiological	Gross Alpha – 4		
Nitrates	Nitrate (as NO_3) – 22	Nitrate + Nitrite – 5	Nitrate Nitrogen (NO_3-N) – 2
Pesticides	Di(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate – 4		
VOCs/SVOCs	PCE – 11	TCE – 7	Benzene – 4

PCE = Tetrachloroethylene
TCE = Trichloroethylene
VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds
SVOC = Semivolatile Organic Compound

Changes from Bulletin 118-80

Some modifications from the groundwater basins presented in Bulletin 118-80 are incorporated in this report. These are listed in Table 26.

Table 26 Modifications since Bulletin 118-80 of groundwater basins and subbasins in Sacramento River Hydrologic Region

Basin name	New number	Old number
Fandango Valley	5-1.02	5-39
Bucher Swamp Valley	deleted	5-42
Modoc Plateau Recent Volcanic Areas	deleted	5-32
Modoc Plateau Pleistocene Volcanic Areas	deleted	5-33
Mount Shasta Area	deleted	5-34
Sacramento Valley Eastside Tuscan Formation Highlands	deleted	5-55
Clear Lake Pleistocene Volcanics	deleted	5-67

No additional basins were assigned to the Sacramento River HR in this revision. However, four basins have been divided into subbasins. Goose Lake Valley Groundwater Basin (5-1) has been subdivided into two subbasins, Fandango Valley (5-39) was modified to be a subbasin of Goose Lake Valley. Redding Area Groundwater Basin has been subdivided into six subbasins, Sierra Valley Groundwater Basin has been subdivided into two subbasins, and the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin has been subdivided into 18 subbasins.

There are several deletions of groundwater basins from Bulletin 118-80. Bucher Swamp Valley Basin (5-42) was deleted due to a thin veneer of alluvium over rock. Modoc Plateau Recent Volcanic Areas (5-32), Modoc Plateau Pleistocene Volcanic Areas (5-33), Mount Shasta Area (5-34), Sacramento Valley Eastside Tuscan Formation Highlands (5-55), and Clear Lake Pleistocene Volcanics (5-67) are volcanic aquifers and were not assigned basin numbers in this bulletin. These are considered to be groundwater source areas as discussed in Chapter 6.

Table 27 Sacramento River Hydrologic Region groundwater data

Basin/Subbasin	Basin Name	Area (acres)	Groundwater Budget Type	Well Yields (gpm)		Types of Monitoring			TDS (mg/L)	
				Maximum	Average	Levels	Quality	Title 22	Average	Range
5-1	GOOSE LAKE VALLEY									
5-1.01	LOWER GOOSE LAKE	36,000	B	-	400	9	9	-	183	68 - 528
5-1.02	FANDANGO VALLEY	18,500	B	2,000	-	3	-	-	-	-
5-2	ALTURAS AREA								357	180 - 800
5-2.01	SOUTH FORK PITT RIVER	114,000	B	5,000	1,075	9	-	8	-	-
5-2.02	WARM SPRINGS VALLEY	68,000	B	400	314	3	-	11	-	-
5-3	JESS VALLEY	6,700	B		3,000	-	-	-	-	-
5-4	BIG VALLEY	92,000	B	4,000	880	19	9	10	260	141 - 633
5-5	FALL RIVER VALLEY	54,800	B	1,500	266	16	7	3	174	115 - 232
5-6	REDDING AREA									
5-6.01	BOWMAN	85,330	B	2,000	589	8	2	13	-	70 - 247
5-6.02	ROSEWOOD	45,320	B	-	-	4	-	-	-	118 - 218
5-6.03	ANDERSON	98,500	B	1,800	46	11	10	69	194	109-320
5-6.04	ENTERPRISE	60,900	B	700	266	11	3	43	-	160 - 210
5-6.05	MILLVILLE	67,900	B	500	254	6	5	4	140	-
5-6.06	SOUTH BATTLE CREEK	32,300	B	-	-	0	0	0	360	-
5-7	LAKE ALMANOR VALLEY	7,150	B	-	-	10	4	4	105	53 - 260
5-8	MOUNTAIN MEADOWS VALLEY	8,150	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	INDIAN VALLEY	29,400	B	-	-	-	4	9	-	-
5-10	AMERICAN VALLEY	6,800	B	40	40		4	11	-	-
5-11	MOHAWK VALLEY	19,000	B	-	500	1	2	15	248	210 - 285
5-12	SIERRA VALLEY									
5-12.01	SIERRA VALLEY	117,700	B	1,500	640	34	15	9	312	110 - 1,620
5-12.02	CHILCOOT	7,550	B	-	-	15	-	8	-	-
5-13	UPPER LAKE VALLEY	7,260	B	900	302	12	3	6	-	-
5-14	SCOTTS VALLEY	7,320	B	1,200	171	9	1	9	158	140 - 175
5-15	BIG VALLEY	24,210	B	1,470	475	49	11	7	535	270 - 790
5-16	HIGH VALLEY	2,360	B	100	37	5	2	-	598	480 - 745
5-17	BURNS VALLEY	2,900	B	-	30	1	5	-	335	280 - 455
5-18	COYOTE VALLEY	6,530	B	800	446	6	3	3	288	175 - 390
5-19	COLLAYOMI VALLEY	6,500	B	1,000	121	10	4	3	202	150 - 255
5-20	BERRYESSA VALLEY	1,400	C	-	-	0	-	0	-	-
5-21	SACRAMENTO VALLEY									
5-21.50	RED BLUFF	266,750	B	1,200	363	30	10	56	207	120 - 500
5-21.51	CORNING	205,640	B	3,500	977	29	7	30	286	130 - 490
5-21.52	COLUSA	918,380	B	5,600	984	98	30	134	391	120 - 1,220
5-21.53	BEND	20,770	B	-	275	0	3	9		334-360
5-21.54	ANTELOPE	18,710	B	800	575	4	5	22	296	-
5-21.55	DYE CREEK	27,730	B	3,300	890	8	1	3	240	159 - 396
5-21.56	LOS MOLINOS	33,170	B	1,000	500	3	3	9	217	
5-21.57	VINA	125,640	B	3,850	1,212	23	5	69	285	48 - 543
5-21.58	WEST BUTTE	181,600	B	4,000	1,833	32	8	36	293	130 - 676

Table 27 Sacramento River Hydrologic Region groundwater data (continued)

Basin/Subbasin	Basin Name	Area (acres)	Groundwater Budget Type	Well Yields (gpm)		Types of Monitoring			TDS (mg/L)	
				Maximum	Average	Levels	Quality	Title 22	Average	Range
5-21.59	EAST BUTTE	265,390	B	4,500	1,019	43	4	44	235	122 - 570
5-21.60	NORTH YUBA	100,400	C	4,000	-	21	-	32	-	-
5-21.61	SOUTH YUBA	107,000	C	4,000	1,650	56	-	6	-	-
5-21.62	SUTTER	234,000	C	-	-	34	-	115	-	-
5-21.64	NORTH AMERICAN	351,000	A	-	800	121	-	339	300	150 - 1,000
5-21.65	SOUTH AMERICAN	248,000	C	-	-	105	-	247	221	24-581
5-21.66	SOLANO	425,000	C	-	-	123	23	136	427	150 - 880
5-21.67	YOLO	226,000	B	4,000+	1,000	127	20	185	880	480 - 2,060
5-21.68	CAPAY VALLEY	25,000	C	-	-	11	-	3	-	-
5-30	LOWER LAKE VALLEY	2,400	B	100	37		3	5	568	290 - 1,230
5-31	LONG VALLEY	2,600	B	100	63	-	-	-	-	-
5-35	MCCLOUD AREA	21,320	B	-	380	-	-	1	-	-
5-36	ROUND VALLEY	7,270	B	2,000	800	2				148 - 633
5-37	TOAD WELL AREA	3,360	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-38	PONDOSA TOWN AREA	2,080	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-40	HOT SPRINGS VALLEY	2,400	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-41	EGG LAKE VALLEY	4,100	B	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
5-43	ROCK PRAIRIE VALLEY	5,740	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-44	LONG VALLEY	1,090	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-45	CAYTON VALLEY	1,300	B	-	400	-	-	-	-	-
5-46	LAKE BRITTON AREA	14,060	B	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
5-47	GOOSE VALLEY	4,210	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-48	BURNEY CREEK VALLEY	2,350	B	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
5-49	DRY BURNEY CREEK VALLEY	3,070	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-50	NORTH FORK BATTLE CREEK VALLEY	12,760	B	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
5-51	BUTTE CREEK VALLEY	3,230	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-52	GRAYS VALLEY	5,440	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-53	DIXIE VALLEY	4,870	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-54	ASH VALLEY	6,010	B	3,000	2,200	-	-	-	-	-
5-56	YELLOW CREEK VALLEY	2,310	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-57	LAST CHANCE CREEK VALLEY	4,660	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-58	CLOVER VALLEY	16,780	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-59	GRIZZLY VALLEY	13,400	B	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
5-60	HUMBUG VALLEY	9,980	B	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
5-61	CHROME TOWN AREA	1,410	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-62	ELK CREEK AREA	1,440	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-63	STONYFORD TOWN AREA	6,440	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-64	BEAR VALLEY	9,100	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-65	LITTLE INDIAN VALLEY	1,270	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-66	CLEAR LAKE CACHE FORMATION	30,000	B	245	52		-	4	-	-
5-68	POPE VALLEY	7,180	C	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
5-86	JOSEPH CREEK	4,450	B	-	-	-	-		-	-

Table 27 Sacramento River Hydrologic Region groundwater data (continued)

Basin/Subbasin	Basin Name	Area (acres)	Groundwater Budget Type	Well Yields (gpm)		Types of Monitoring			TDS (mg/L)	
				Maximum	Average	Levels	Quality	Title 22	Average	Range
5-87	MIDDLE FORK FEATHER RIVER	4,340	B	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
5-88	STONY GORGE RESERVOIR	1,070	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-89	SQUAW FLAT	1,300	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-90	FUNKS CREEK	3,000	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-91	ANTELOPE CREEK	2,040	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-92	BLANCHARD VALLEY	2,200	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-93	NORTH FORK CACHE CREEK	3,470	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-94	MIDDLE CREEK	700	B	-	75	-	-	1	-	-
5-95	MEADOW VALLEY	5,730	B	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

gpm - gallons per minute
mg/L - milligram per liter
TDS -total dissolved solids

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Long Valley Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 5-31
- County: Lake
- Surface Area: 2,600 acres (square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

Long Valley Groundwater Basin is located within a narrow elongated valley northeast of Clear Lake. The basin is bounded on most sides by the Franciscan Formation. A small portion of the southern boundary consists of Quaternary volcanic rocks. The valley is drained by Long Valley Creek which is tributary to North Fork Cache Creek. Groundwater is developed in Quaternary alluvium and, to a limited extent, Quaternary terrace deposits.

Annual precipitation ranges from 27- to 33-inches, increasing to the west.

Hydrogeologic Information

Hydrogeologic information was not available for the following:

Water-Bearing Formations

Groundwater Level Trends

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Budget (Type B)

Estimates of groundwater extraction are based on a survey conducted by the California Department of Water Resources in 1995. The survey included landuse and sources of water. Estimates of groundwater extraction for agricultural and municipal/industrial uses are 760 and 23 acre-feet respectively. Deep percolation from applied water is estimated to be 210 acre-feet.

Groundwater Quality

Hydrogeologic information was not available.

Well Characteristics

	Well yields (gal/min)	
Municipal/Irrigation	Range 40 – 100	Average: 63 (3 Well Completion Reports)
	Total depths (ft)	
Domestic	Range: 30 – 215	Average: 99 (25 Well Completion Reports)
Municipal/Irrigation	Range 33 – 150	Average: 96 (7 Well Completion Reports)

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	**Parameter**	**Number of wells /measurement frequency**
	Groundwater levels	NKD
	Miscellaneous water quality	NKD

NKD – No known data.

Basin Management

Groundwater management:	Lake County adopted a groundwater management ordinance in 1999.
Water agencies	
Public	County of Lake
Private	None

Selected References

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Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.