

The following is a statement from San Mateo County about the San Mateo Plain Sub Basin Groundwater Assessment. We felt this would be helpful for cities to include in city newsletters or as content for other organizational newsletters and updates.

San Mateo Plain Sub Basin Groundwater Assessment

Due to drought-related issues and recent water resource management regulations, groundwater has become the focus of renewed attention in San Mateo County and statewide as a potential supplemental and emergency water resource via supply wells. Using funds allocated in 2015 by the Board of Supervisors from Measure K, the voter-approved countywide sales tax, the County of San Mateo is performing a baseline assessment of the San Mateo Plain groundwater sub basin.

The San Mateo Plain groundwater sub basin is geographically the largest groundwater basin or sub basin in San Mateo County. This sub basin lies beneath a portion of the county, from approximately Burlingame south to the county boundary, and westward to the town of Portola Valley.

Before completion of the Hetch Hetchy water supply system, groundwater was the prime source of all drinking water. Prior to the County of San Mateo transitioning to Hetch Hetchy in the 1960s, overuse and lack of management of the aquifer resulted in negative impacts such as salt water intrusion and land subsidence. Currently, the San Mateo Plain sub basin is not being monitored on an ongoing basis.

The assessment's goal is to gain a holistic perspective of the current conditions, usage, and recharge of groundwater by collecting and using well and other data. The data will also be used to create a public database and models of the sub basin which will be shared with all stakeholders as it is collected to foster a collaborative discussion on this shared resource.

For more information, please visit: <http://green.smcgov.org/san-mateo-plain>.