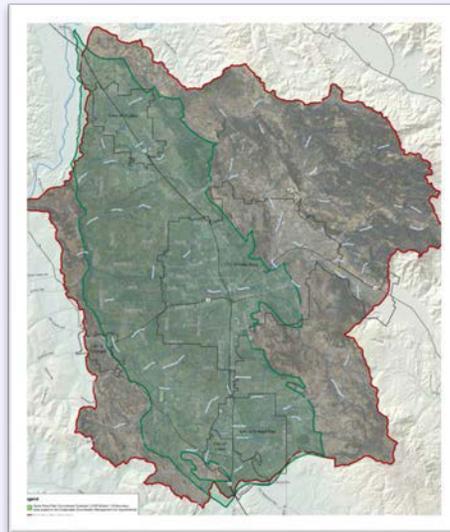


SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER BASIN INFORMATION

The Santa Rosa Plain encompasses cities, world-class agricultural lands, internationally recognized wetlands, ecosystems, and other natural and recreational resources. Many of its finest attributes and assets are directly related to water, which includes a strong reliance on groundwater. Trends in water use, land use, population growth, and climate change indicate that the region's water resources will come under increasing stress in the future, requiring careful and thoughtful planning, monitoring and management to ensure a sustainable, reliable supply of water in our wells, creeks and streams.

GROUNDWATER STATUS IN THE SANTA ROSA PLAIN

Groundwater levels in the Santa Rosa Plain's shallow aquifer are relatively stable over time. Water levels range from close to the ground surface near the Laguna de Santa Rosa to about 15 to 30 feet below the ground surface along the eastern basin boundary, and 50 feet below the surface near the southern end of the Santa Rosa Plain.

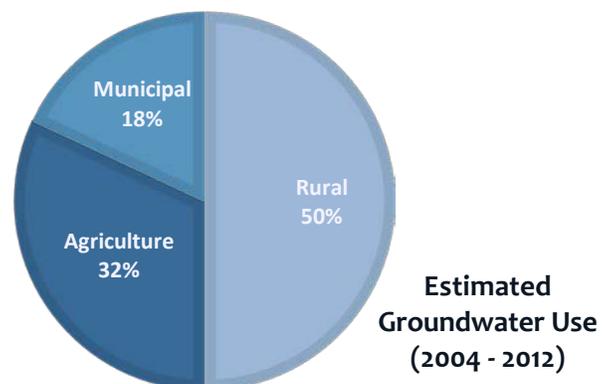


In intermediate and deeper wells in the southern Santa Rosa Plain, **groundwater levels declined in the late 1970s and 1980s**. The decline peaked in the early 1990s and began to recover in the early 2000s. This recovery coincided with reduced groundwater pumping due to water conservation and increased use of water from the Russian River.

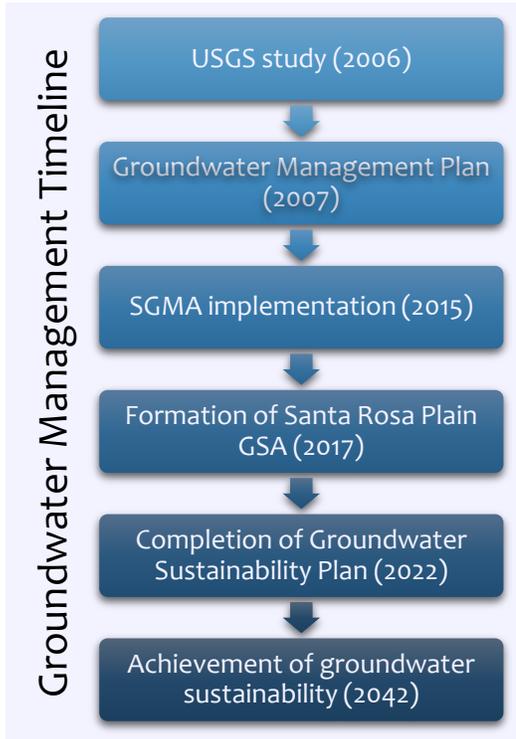
Groundwater quality is generally high in the Santa Rosa Plain, but naturally occurring elements such as iron, manganese, boron, and arsenic are widely variable in groundwater and can pose problems in some areas. Areas in the southern Santa Rosa Plain also exhibit increasing chloride concentrations.

GROUNDWATER SOURCES AND USAGE

The 78,720-acre Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater subbasin is located within the larger 167,680-acre Santa Rosa Plain watershed (generally corresponding to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Mark West Creek watersheds). It is estimated that 13.7 billion gallons of groundwater were used in the Santa Rosa Plain between 2004 and 2012, representing nearly 50% of the basin's water supply.



GROUNDWATER ACTIONS



Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan

To address the imbalance between groundwater recharge and discharge, a balanced group of stakeholders called the Basin Advisory Panel (BAP) developed a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) to locally and voluntarily manage groundwater resources.

The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan (2014) aimed to locally manage and protect groundwater resources through non-regulatory measures to support all beneficial uses, including human, agriculture, and ecosystems, in an environmentally sound, economical, and equitable manner for present and future generations.

The BAP determined seven management components to ensure implementation achieves the goals and objectives: Stakeholder involvement, monitoring program and modeling, groundwater protection, increased conservation and efficiency, increased groundwater recharge, increased water recycling, and integrated groundwater management. The BAP's final meeting was held in August 2017. The work that BAP members did will serve as a critical foundation for the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP, explained below).

What's next?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) went into effect in 2015, giving local agencies (cities, counties, and water districts) powers to sustainably manage groundwater over the long term. The Santa Rosa Plain groundwater subbasin (as defined in DWR's Bulletin 118) is immediately subject to SGMA.

Under SGMA, the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will create and implement a GSP. The technical information, monitoring data, and modeling tools developed through the existing GMP represent a strong technical foundation for the community to address the new SGMA requirements.

How will this affect me?

As the Santa Rosa Plain GSA develops its GSP, several steps will be taken to gather data. New monitoring wells may be drilled to assess groundwater levels. Communal and agricultural wells may be metered to determine how water is currently being used. Some fees may be assessed by the GSA to help pay for water-related programs and projects. It could be several years before most residents experience any changes from the new law. All of the measures taken are important steps toward the goal of ensuring that groundwater is available now and in the future.



More Information

To learn more about SGMA and groundwater in the Santa Rosa Plain, visit www.sonomacountygroundwater.org/srp/