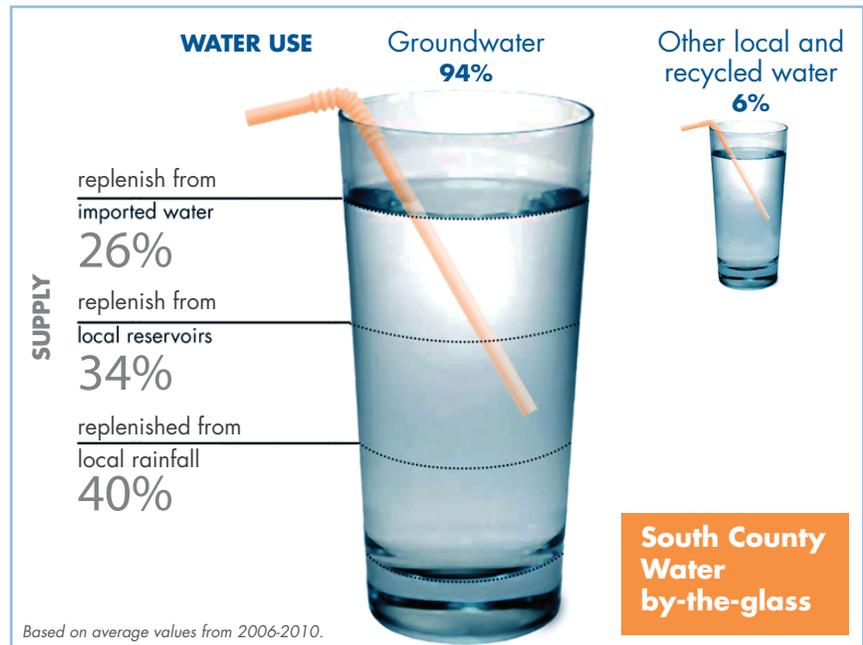


South County

Fast Facts

- Groundwater pumping in the Coyote Valley and Llagas Subbasin increased more than 30 percent over the last 20 years.
- Over the past ten years, annual groundwater pumping in South County has averaged 54,000 acre-feet. One acre-foot of water serves two families of five for one year, on average.
- On average, the amount of groundwater pumped from the subbasins is almost two times the amount that nature replenishes.
- On average, water captured in South County reservoirs represents 30 percent of the water used to recharge the Llagas Subbasin.
- Over the last 10 years, the average district recharge to the Llagas Subbasin was 24,000 acre-feet per year. Of that amount, nearly half was imported water.
- When the water district began recharging imported water in the Llagas Subbasin at the start of the 1987-1992 drought, groundwater levels began to recover despite the drought conditions.
- Without the managed recharge program, South County would have faced a severely diminished water supply.



South County (Zone W-5 in the water district's Water Utility Enterprise) communities depend on groundwater from the Coyote Valley (part of the Santa Clara Subbasin) and the Llagas Subbasin for their water supply. The water district actively manages these subbasins to augment the supply nature provides and to protect them from contamination or other threats that would jeopardize this resource.

Three main sources replenish groundwater in the Coyote Valley and Llagas Subbasin:

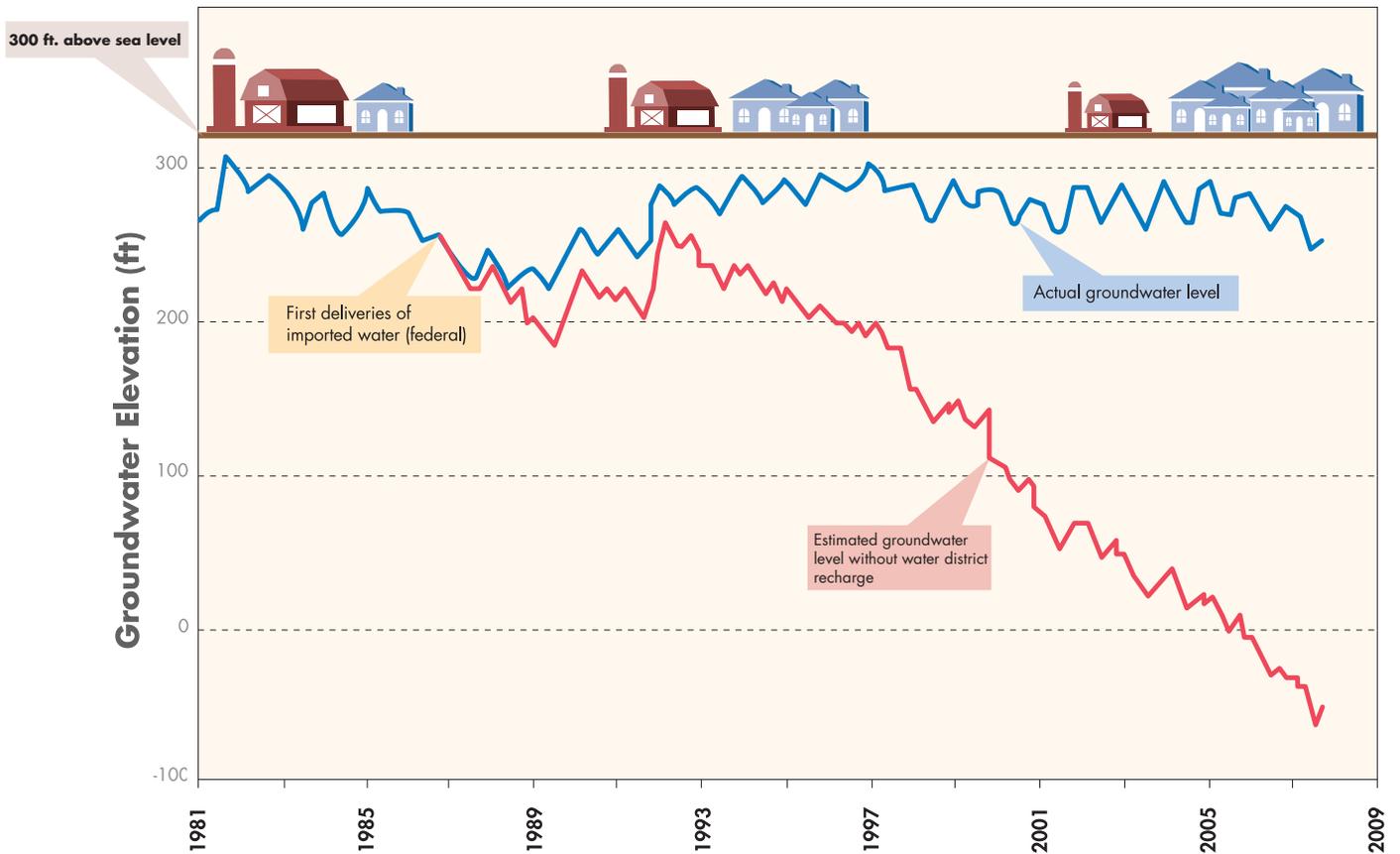
- Deep percolation of local rainfall
- Water captured and stored in local reservoirs, which the water district releases to creeks and recharge ponds for managed recharge
- Water imported from Delta, which the water district also releases to creeks and recharge ponds for managed groundwater recharge

Residents in Coyote, San Martin, Morgan Hill and Gilroy use a mix of these three groundwater sources. Without a managed recharge program that includes both local surface water and water imported through the Delta, these subbasins could not meet South County's water needs.

[continued on back...](#)

Where does our water come from? **South County**

South County



Natural groundwater recharge from rainfall is no longer sufficient as perhaps 50 years ago.

Through the water district's recharge programs, using both local and imported water sources, overdraft of the groundwater subbasins has been avoided. Groundwater levels in South County have been kept at higher levels than they would have been otherwise, increasing water supply reliability and reducing the amount of energy needed to pump the water out. The water district's water conservation and recycling programs also reduce demand on the groundwater subbasins.

The water district's groundwater management programs have also helped reduce the impact of groundwater contamination from perchlorate and other contaminants. This is an additional benefit to Morgan Hill, Gilroy and other South County areas.

In addition to programs to increase supplies, the water district also has programs to address the numerous threats to groundwater quality. Leaking underground

fuel tanks, industrial spills, urban runoff, septic systems, poorly managed agricultural operations and other sources can pollute groundwater, making it costly to treat or even unusable. The restoration of contaminated groundwater can take years, decades or longer. Prevention is key to groundwater protection.

Groundwater may be out of sight, but shouldn't be out of mind. Not only is groundwater essential to meeting our water needs, but stored groundwater is also our best insurance against drought or other water supply disruptions. This storage enables us to save water during wet years to use during droughts or other emergencies. Groundwater management has gotten us through past droughts and the water district's programs to protect and augment groundwater will help ensure water is available for future generations as well.