



GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION
of California

The 2007 CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER COALITION is a joint one-year initiative of the Groundwater Resources Association of California, the Association of Ground Water Agencies, and American Ground Water Trust. Collectively, Coalition organizations include over one thousand members located throughout California with technical, legal, and professional groundwater and related expertise. The Coalition has been formed at the urging of California state and local elected officials who believe that increased efforts are needed to educate and inform policy makers and the public about California's groundwater resources and the role groundwater plays in providing a safe and reliable water supply for California.

MISSION: The Coalition's mission is to 1) educate policy makers about groundwater; 2) represent groundwater interests and promote the benefits of comprehensive groundwater management and use in legislative and other policy arenas; and, 3) promote a fair share of funding for statewide groundwater programs, including 2006 and 2008 water bonds.

PRINCIPLES: While groundwater issues can be highly technical and complex, the Coalition's education and outreach program is based on the following five basic principles:

1. Groundwater development, conjunctive use, and groundwater storage have the capability to provide increased water supply reliability for California in the near future.
2. Groundwater management and monitoring are essential to the successful development and protection of the state's groundwater resources for current and future generations.
3. New infrastructure is needed to obtain statewide benefit from groundwater resources utilization and replenishment.
4. Groundwater cleanup in many areas of the state is needed to eliminate contamination and ensure high quality water, and to allow for the sustainable development and use of groundwater supplies.
5. Funding is needed to ensure the effective management and use of the state's groundwater resources.

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American Ground Water Trust www.agwt.org AGWT Liaison, Terry Foreman

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2007 California Groundwater Coalition



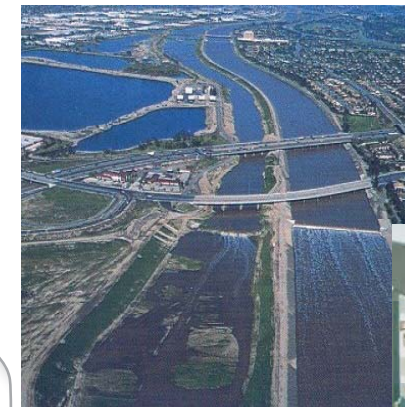
ASSOCIATION OF GROUND WATER AGENCIES



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AMERICAN GROUND
WATER TRUST



**"When the well's dry,
we know the worth of
water."**

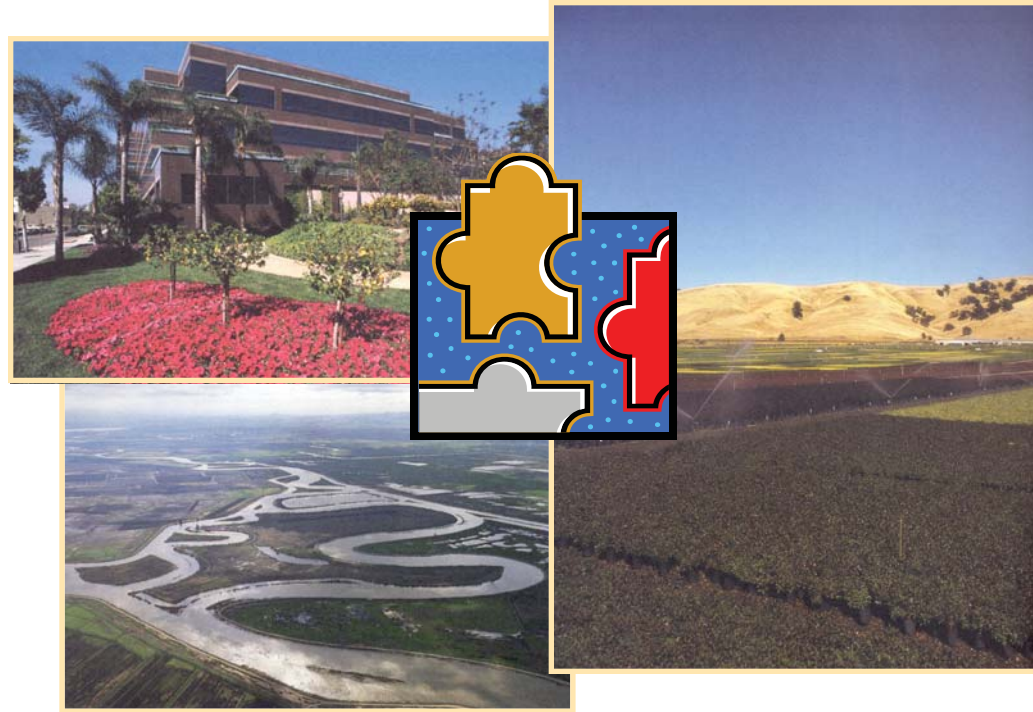
*Benjamin Franklin,
Poor Richard's Almanac, 1746*

Groundwater is a Key Piece of the State's Water Puzzle

Groundwater is one of the State's most important natural resources.

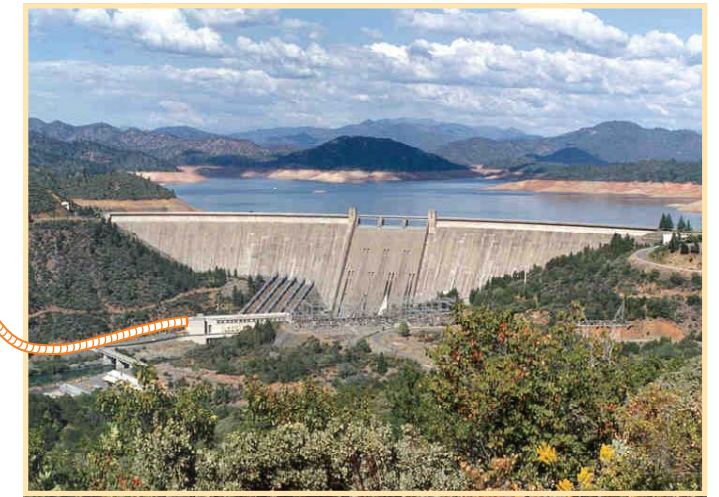
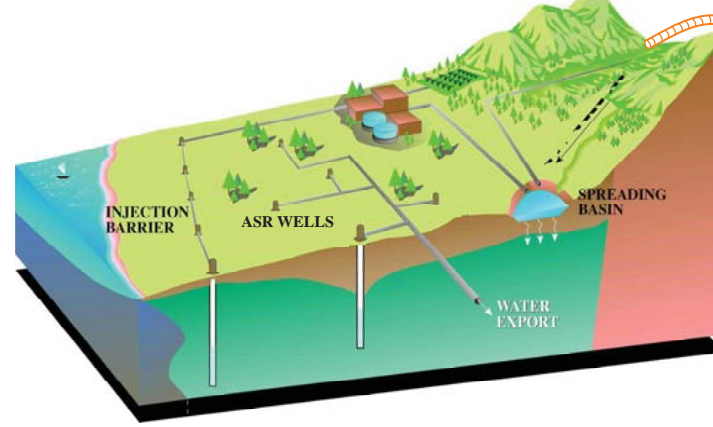
- Providing drinking water for nearly half of our citizens
- Providing water for agriculture
- Providing water for the environment

Groundwater meets 30% of California's water needs in an average year and 40% during times of shortage.



Conjunctive Use is an Effective Water Management Tool

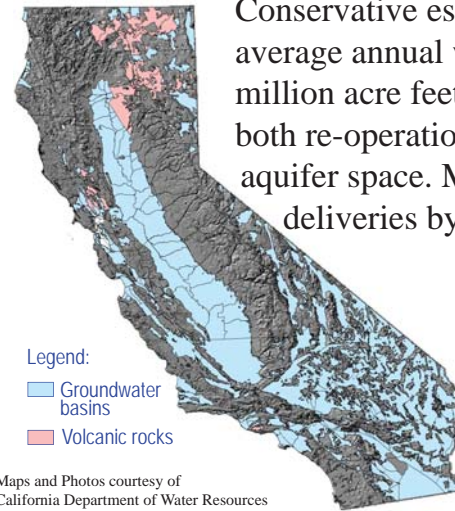
Conjunctive use – the coordinated management of surface water and groundwater resources – is critical to water supply reliability in the future. Conjunctive use means relying more on our **groundwater storage** basins in California. Benefits of conjunctive use include reduced



overdraft, subsidence, and saline intrusion into the State's groundwater basins, and, improved water quality and environmental benefits in the form of increased stream flows and improved habitats.

Groundwater Basins Can Provide Storage and Increased Water Supply

Conservative estimates of **groundwater storage** benefits are that we could increase average annual water deliveries throughout the State by 500,000 acre feet by using 9 million acre feet of "new" **groundwater storage**. New **groundwater storage** includes both re-operation of existing **groundwater storage** and recharging water into de-watered aquifer space. More aggressive estimates are that we could increase average annual water deliveries by 2 million acre feet using 20 million acre-feet of new storage.



Cleanup and Monitoring is Needed to Ensure High Quality Groundwater Resources

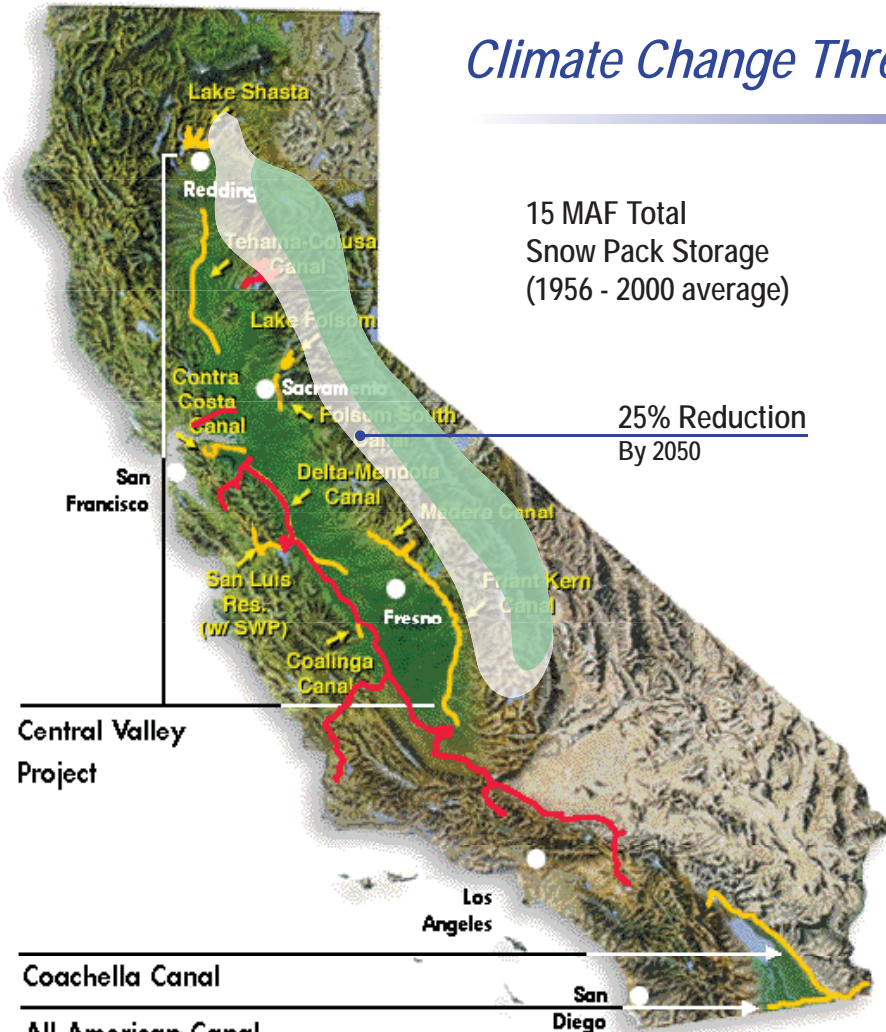
Based on Department of Health Services data, 10-15 % of our water supply wells have had at least one chemical exceedance of the maximum contaminant level. In agricultural areas, many wells have been impacted by nitrate. Tools and technologies are available to cleanup our groundwater. More investment in groundwater monitoring, protection, and cleanup is needed to increase future water supply reliability and ensure high water quality standards.

More Funding is Needed!

A review of past water bond grant and loan program applications provides an indication of the types of groundwater and conjunctive use projects water agencies are pursuing. Funds are needed for groundwater basin feasibility studies and design, and, new infrastructure including groundwater spreading basins, aquifer storage and recovery wells, public supply wells, treatment facilities and piping for conveyance.

More state funding of groundwater programs will save dollars on other more expensive water supply alternatives, and, leverage local dollars. As an example, under the Prop 13 Groundwater Storage and Recharge Program, \$200 million of state funding will leverage a local cost share in excess of \$1 billion and produce an estimated annual yield of 300,000 acre-feet.

Climate Change Threatens Water Supply Reliability



Current trends and climate models suggest loss of at least a quarter of the snowmelt runoff by 2050. Warmer weather would ultimately mean changes in precipitation timing and amounts, changes in urban and agricultural water demands, more flooding in the winter, and less runoff from snow during the spring. With greater conservation measures and by expanding the state's water management and delivery system, including investment in **groundwater storage** and conveyance facilities, California can prepare for these changes.

Reduction in Snowpack due to Climate Change

Maps and Photos courtesy of California Department of Water Resources