

Spring 2026 Groundwater Levels Update

Santa Ynez Basin - EMA

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Spring 2026 Groundwater Level Monitoring

Description and presentation of:

Groundwater elevations

ARTICLE 7. Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency

§ 286. Introduction to Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations by the Agency
This Article describes the procedural and substantive requirements for the annual reports and periodic evaluation of Plans prepared by an Agency.
Note: Authority cited: Section 10733.2, Water Code.
Reference: Section 10733.2, Water Code.

§ 306.2. Annual Reports
Each Agency shall submit an annual report to the Department by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the Plan. The annual report shall include the following components for the preceding water year:

(A) General information, including an executive summary and a location map depicting the basin covered by the report.

(B) A detailed description and graphical representation of the following conditions of the basin managed in the Plan:

(1) Groundwater elevation data from monitoring wells identified in the monitoring network shall be analyzed and displayed as follows:

(A) Groundwater elevation contour maps for each principal aquifer in the basin illustrating, at a minimum, the seasonal high and seasonal low groundwater conditions.

(B) Hydrographs of groundwater elevations and water year type using historical data to the greatest extent available, including from January 1, 2015, to current reporting year.

(2) Groundwater extraction for the preceding water year. Data shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be presented in a table that summarizes groundwater extractions by water use sector, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements, and a map that illustrates the general location and volume of groundwater extractions.

(3) Surface water supply used or available for use, for groundwater recharge or in lieu use shall be reported based on quantitative data that describes the annual volume and sources for the preceding water year.

(4) Total water use shall be collected using the best available measurement methods and shall be reported in a table that summarizes total water use by water use sector, water source type, and identifies the method of measurement (direct or estimate) and accuracy of measurements. Existing water use data from the most recent Urban Water Management Plans or Agricultural Water Management Plans within the basin may be used, as long as the data are reported by water year.

(5) Change in groundwater in storage shall include the following:

(A) Change in groundwater in storage maps for each principal aquifer in the basin.

...annual change in storage for the basin, including from the preceding interim report.

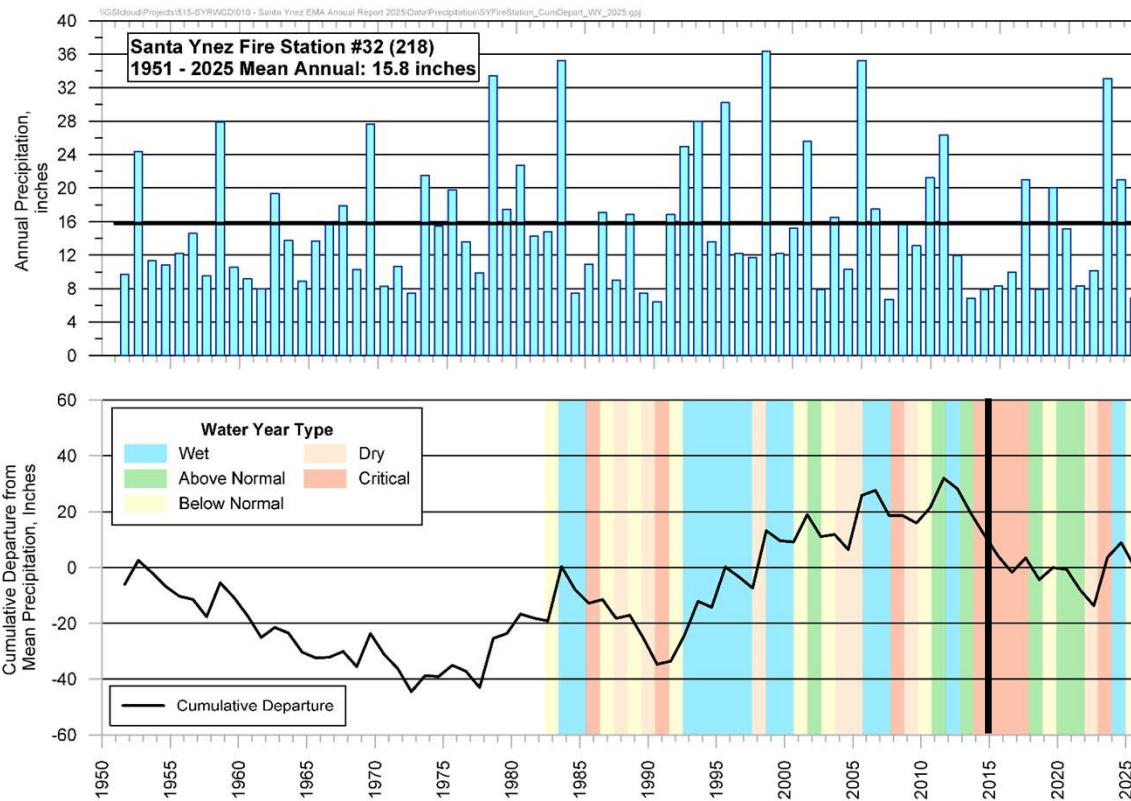
...the Plan is submitted shall include the following:

...wells, and the data shall be available since the Plan is submitted. The description shall also include any aspect of the Plan, including the

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Water Year Types



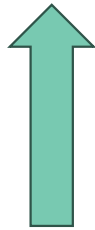
Water Year	Annual Precipitation (inches)	Water Year Type
2020	15	Above Normal
2021	8	Dry
2022	10	Critical
2023	33	Wet
2024	21	Wet
2025	7	Below Normal
2026	21	Above Normal

- Calculated using latest DWR guidelines (2021)
- Each water year ranked against preceding 29 years
- Factors in precipitation from current and previous water year

Groundwater Elevations

Some perspective:
Paso Robles
Formation Wells

Rise of 5 feet!



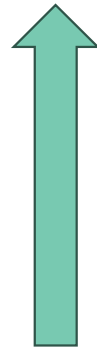
2025 to 2026

Representative Well ID	Spring Change
6N/29W-07L01	↑ 2
6N/29W-08P01	
6N/29W-08P02	↑ 1
6N/30W-07G05	↑ 6
6N/30W-07G06	↑ 7
6N/30W-11G04	↑ 0
6N/31W-01P03	↑ 6
6N/31W-02K01	↑ 9
6N/31W-13D01	↑ 1
7N/30W-16B01	↓ -3
7N/30W-19H01	↑ 1
7N/30W-29D01	↑ 27
7N/30W-30M01	
7N/30W-33M01	↑ 2
7N/31W-36L02	↑ 9

Groundwater Elevations

Some perspective:
Careaga Sand Wells

Rise of 13 feet!



2025 to 2026

Representative Well ID	Spring Change
7N/31W-34M02	
6N/31W-03A01	↑ 1
6N/31W-04A01	↑ 1
6N/31W-09Q02	↓ -2
6N/31W-10F01	↑ 6
6N/31W-11D04	↑ 3
6N/31W-16N07	↑ 76
6N/31W-xxxx	↑ 0
Solvang HCA	↑ 21

Groundwater Elevations

Where do we stand relative to our sustainable management criteria (SMCs)?

Note: Undesirable results occur when 50 percent of water levels in representative wells fall below Minimum Threshold (for 2 consecutive years of average and above-average precipitation)

Proportion of Representative Wells With Groundwater Levels Below the Minimum Threshold, Eastern Management Area

Water Year	Period	Paso Robles Formation Wells	Careaga Sand Wells
2019	Spring	0%	0%
2020	Spring	20%	0%
	Fall	55%	N/A
2021	Spring	13%	11%
	Fall	50%	22%
2022	Spring	46%	11%
	Fall	62%	33%
2023	Spring	62%	0%
	Fall	50%	22%
2024	Spring	31%	11%
	Fall	38%	11%
2025	Spring	46%	22%
	Fall	46%	33%
2026	Spring	23%	0%
	Fall	--	--

Values represent percentage of representative wells below the minimum threshold

Groundwater Elevations

Some perspective:
Paso Robles
Formation Wells

Decline of 10 feet!



2015 to 2026

Representative Well ID	Spring Change
6N/29W-07L01	↓ -40
6N/29W-08P01	
6N/29W-08P02	↓ -50
6N/30W-07G05	↓ -21
6N/30W-07G06	↓ -20
6N/30W-11G04	↑ 15
6N/31W-01P03	↓ -20
6N/31W-02K01	↑ 10
6N/31W-13D01	↑ 0
7N/30W-16B01	↑ 16
7N/30W-19H01	↑ 1
7N/30W-29D01	↑ 21
7N/30W-30M01	
7N/30W-33M01	↓ -21
7N/31W-36L02	↓ -24

Groundwater Elevations

Some perspective:
Careaga Sand Wells

Decline of 2 feet



2015 to 2026

Representative Well ID	Spring Change
7N/31W-34M02	
6N/31W-03A01	↓ -7
6N/31W-04A01	↓ -11
6N/31W-09Q02	↑ 27
6N/31W-10F01	↓ -3
6N/31W-11D04	↓ -8
6N/31W-16N07	↑ 9
6N/31W-xxxx	↓ -7
Solvang HCA	↓ -16

Photo Credit: Jeremy Ball, Courtesy of Longoria Wines

Thank you!

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