

## Cayucos Valley Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 3-38
- County: San Luis Obispo
- Surface Area: 530 acres (0.8 square miles)

### Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

The Cayucos Valley Groundwater Basin is bounded on the south by the Pacific Ocean and on all other sides by impermeable rocks of the Jurassic to Cretaceous age Franciscan Group. The valley is drained to the Pacific Ocean by Cayucos Creek. Precipitation ranges from 16 to 18 inches.

### Hydrogeologic Information

#### ***Water Bearing Formations***

Groundwater is found in Pleistocene and Holocene alluvium and terrace deposits. The specific yield is estimated at 15 percent (DWR 1958).

**Alluvium.** Alluvium consists of unconsolidated sand, clay, silt, and gravel. The deposits are often about 100 feet thick near the center of the valley and more than 120 feet thick at the coast (Yates and Van Konyenburg 1998).

**Terrace Deposits.** Stream-terrace deposits are primarily unconsolidated deposits of marine origin (Yates Van Konyenburg 1998). They are generally less than 10 feet thick (Yates Van Konyenburg 1998).

#### ***Groundwater Level Trends***

Groundwater movement is generally southward.

#### ***Groundwater Storage***

**Groundwater Storage Capacity.** The estimated groundwater storage capacity is 4,000 af (DWR 1975).

**Groundwater in Storage.** Unknown.

#### ***Groundwater Budget (Type C)***

No information is available.

#### ***Groundwater Quality***

**Characterization.** Analyses of groundwater from 32 wells in this basin taken during 1957 through 1993 show TDS content ranging from 346 to 2,462 mg/L.

**Impairments.** Portions of the basin have chloride levels exceeding 100 mg/L (DWR 1975), indicating seawater intrusion has occurred (SLO County 2001).

## Well Characteristics

Well yields (gal/min)		
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: – up to 166 gal/min	Average: 100 gal/min (DWR 1958)
Total depths (ft)		
Domestic	Range:	Average:
Municipal/Irrigation	Range:	Average:

## Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells / measurement frequency
	Groundwater levels	
	Miscellaneous water quality	
Department of Health Services and cooperators	Title 22 water quality	

## Basin Management

Groundwater management:

Water agencies

Public	San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works
Private	Morro Rock Mutual Water Company, Paso Robles Beach Water Association

## References Cited

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1958. *San Luis Obispo County Investigation*. Bulletin 18. 288 p.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1975. *Sea-Water Intrusion in California: Inventory of Coastal Ground Water Basins*. Bulletin 63-5.
- San Luis Obispo County (SLO County). 2001. *Central Coastal Watershed Summary: Preliminary Report*. <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/recap/slo/slo-app-c.pdf> (October 2001).
- Yates, E. B., and K. M. Van Konyenburg. 1998. *Hydrogeology, Water Quality, Water Budgets, and Simulated Responses to Hydrologic Changes in Santa Rosa and San Simeon Creek ground-water basins, San Luis Obispo County, California*. U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 98-4061.

## Additional References

- Hall, C. A., and S. W. Prior. 1975. *Geologic Map of the Cayucos-San Luis Obispo Region, San Luis Obispo County, California*. U.S. Geological Survey, Scale 1:24,000, 1 map on 2 sheets.
- John Carollo Engineers. 1979. *Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facilities: Project Report*. Phoenix, Arizona.
- San Luis Obispo County (SLO County). 2000. *2000 Water Quality Report: Cayucos*. <http://www.slocowaterqualitylab.org/> (October 2001).

United States Geological Survey (USGS). 1994. *Cayucos Quadrangle, California--San Luis Obispo County, 1965: 7.5 minute series (topographic)*. Scale 1:24,000, 1 map.

## **Errata**

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.