

Los Banos Creek Valley Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 5-70
- County: Merced
- Surface Area: 4,840 acres (8 square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

Los Banos Valley is an elongate northwest-southeast trending basin in the Coast Range Mountains of western Merced County. The elevation ranges from 400 to 700 feet. The basin is comprised of shallow alluvium and Quaternary terrace deposits bounded on the north by Upper Cretaceous marine sediments and on the south by the Franciscan Formation (Jennings and Strand 1959). Cretaceous marine sediments crop out in the center of the valley where it is likely that they have been exposed by erosion of the alluvium and terrace deposits. Los Banos Creek and minor unnamed tributaries drain the basin eastward toward the San Joaquin Valley. Average precipitation values range from 9 to 11 inches, increasing south to north.

Hydrogeologic Information

Water Bearing Formations

No information was found in published literature regarding the occurrence of groundwater within the basin and a review of San Joaquin District well completion report files indicated that there are no known wells in the basin. It appears likely that at least minor amounts of groundwater occur in the shallow alluvium and or the terrace deposits.

Groundwater Level Trends

No information on groundwater level trends is available. Since it is likely that groundwater is limited to the shallow alluvium, it is also likely that water levels will fluctuate with the seasons and flow of the adjacent creeks.

Groundwater Storage

No information on groundwater storage is available. Storage space is limited because of the shallow nature of the alluvial aquifer.

Groundwater Budget (Type C)

No information on groundwater budget is available.

Groundwater Quality

No information on groundwater quality is available. The surrounding marine rocks make it likely that water quality in the basin is marginal.

Well Characteristics

	Well yields (gal/min)	
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: –	Average:
	Total depths (ft)	
Domestic	Range: -	Average:
Municipal/Irrigation	Range: -	Average:

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells /measurement frequency
Department of Health Services and cooperators	Groundwater levels	None known
	Miscellaneous water quality	None known
	Title 22 water quality	0

Basin Management

Groundwater management:

Water agencies

Public

None

Private

References Cited

California Department of Water Resources (DWR), San Joaquin District. Well completion report files.

Jennings, Charles W. and Rudolph G. (compilers). 1959. Santa Cruz Sheet of *Geologic Map of California*. California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG). Scale 1:250,000.

Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.