



Publication of DWR's

Bulletin 118 – California's Groundwater

Groundwater is a major part of California's water supply, providing close to 40 percent of the water during normal years. The majority of California's groundwater is found within 517 alluvial basins distributed around the state, followed by lesser amounts in fractured bedrock and volcanic rock. **DWR's Bulletin 118 is a summary of available information on the occurrence and nature of California's groundwater to help those who make decisions affecting the protection, use, and management of the resource.** Bulletin 118 defines the boundaries and describes the hydrologic characteristics of California's groundwater basins and provides information on groundwater management and recommendations for the future.

Background

The California Water Code (Section 12924) requires DWR to identify California's groundwater basins, investigate patterns of groundwater extraction and recharge within those basins, and identify basins that are subject to critical conditions of overdraft. DWR published Bulletin 118 in 1975, 1980, and 2003, each time adding to our understanding of our groundwater basins. Within the last decade, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and other legislation required DWR to establish a process for revising basin boundaries and to publish Bulletin 118 every five years, in years ending in 5 or 0. The importance of Bulletin 118 in presenting information on California's groundwater resources was re-affirmed by its inclusion in the Governor's California Water Action Plan and DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Strategic Plan. Enhanced groundwater information was published by DWR in its 2013 California Water Plan, and released in a comprehensive

Figure B-1 California Groundwater Basins and Subbasins



Prepared by California Department of Water Resources for Bulletin 118, Interim Update 2016.

DWR's Bulletin 118 Web Page

<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118>

California's Groundwater report in 2015. DWR plans to use the expanded groundwater content presented in the 2015 report as the foundation for the next comprehensive Bulletin 118 in 2020. In 2016, an Interim Bulletin 118 Update was issued to cover the 2015 basin boundary updates and revised identification of basins subject to conditions of critical overdraft – both important to the implementation of SGMA.

The Vision and Schedule for Bulletin 118

The 2020 Bulletin 118 Update will report on regional groundwater supply and development, groundwater use, monitoring efforts, groundwater conditions, groundwater management, and data gaps for groundwater basins in each of the state's 10 hydrologic regions. The information from the hydrologic region assessments will be combined into a statewide summary. Implementation of the SGMA Program will result in significant new information and data being available for the state's high and medium priority groundwater basins, through groundwater sustainability plans, annual and 5-year reporting, and data submitted for those basins. As part of Bulletin 118, DWR will be updating its own basin reports from information submitted by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, for basins subject to SGMA, and from information collected by DWR staff, for low and very low priority basins. The basin reports will be updated by priority of the basins, independent of the Bulletin 118 publication schedule.

DWR will be drafting the 2020 Bulletin 118 Update in 2018 and 2019, with release of a draft document for public review in early 2020. During this time, DWR will also be updating its Bulletin 118 web site to present related material such that the web site will also serve as a "living" Bulletin 118 document.

How You Can Participate

DWR is currently working on developing the content for the 2020 Bulletin 118 Update. Public comments or suggestions may be e-mailed to the Bulletin 118 Project Manager at the e-mail address below. In addition, a draft of the 2020 Bulletin 118 Update will be released in the spring of 2020 for public review and comment.

Contact and Additional Information

- For more information or questions on **DWR's Bulletin 118**, please contact Brett Wyckoff at brett.wyckoff@water.ca.gov
- For more information or questions on DWR's technical assistance, please contact Steven Springhorn at steven.springhorn@water.ca.gov or visit http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/data_tools_reports.cfm for additional information on DWR's SGMA related Data, Tools, and Reports.



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