

Some people receive their water from surface water sources, such as, rivers, lakes or streams and are more vulnerable to drought conditions due to the lack of rain and run-off, as well as, other conditions. Other agencies like the Los Alamos Community Services District (LACSD) receive their water supply from ground water sources. The LACSD's ground water source is called the San Antonio Groundwater Basin and is the only existing source of water supply for LACSD. The District is not on State Water and does not receive any other allocations from other agencies. Although ground water supplies are not as vulnerable to drought conditions as surface water supplies, rain is still very much needed to recharge our water basin.

The San Antonio Groundwater Basin underlies the entire District and yields water to the District wells. The 110 square mile basin is a narrow wedge-shaped trough (the Los Alamos syncline) that collects runoff from the Solomon-Casmalia Hills to the north, the Purisima Hills to the south, the Burton Mesa Hills to the west and the western most flank of the San Rafael Mountains to the east. Water quality within the basin is very good and requires very little treatment. Average annual rainfall within the basin ranges from 15 to 19 inches. In the past few years rainfall totals have been well below our yearly average resulting in lower water tables. The groundwater resource tributary area available to LACSD comprises about 50 sq. miles of the watershed.

The District owns and operates three water wells, all of which are metered. Two of our water wells are 500-feet deep and the third is 1000-feet deep. Currently the average pump setting for all three wells is 265-feet. Our current well pumping soundings are averaging 200-feet between the three wells. This means that there is about a 60-foot difference between where our pumping levels are and the bottom of the pump. The District has the ability to lower our pump settings at all three wells if the water table drops to that level.

For the past 20 years the District has kept daily water production records and conducts regular well soundings, as well as, takes regular water quality samples from our wells as required by the Department of Public Health. The District prides itself by trying to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible and to be good

stewards of our groundwater basin. We operate through a SCADA system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition). One feature of our SCADA system is that it provides continuous information on static and pumping depths within our wells. We also have VFD's (Variable Frequency Drives) at all of our sites that allow us to control our pumping rate at the wells and adjust accordingly to the towns water needs. In addition, in 2006 the District went to a tiered water rate structure to encourage water conservation, which has resulted in roughly 12,000,000 gallons less being pumped out of the San Antonio Groundwater Basin by the District annually.

About 80% of the water taken out of the basin is used for agriculture, 19% is used for other domestic needs within the Los Alamos Valley and the Los Alamos Community Services District uses roughly 1% of the overall water taken out of the San Antonio Groundwater Basin.

The District provides valuable water and sewer service to over 1800 people who rely on our services. This includes residential, commercial, and mixed use within the District's boundary, as well as, park services and bulk water sales. We also provide water from our wells for fire protection that is used not just in town but throughout the Los Alamos Valley if needed. We have a great responsibility to provide safe, healthy and reliable water to all.

As you might be aware, last year's rainy season was one of the driest years on record and we are on pace to beat that this year. On January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared an official drought state of emergency for California bringing the issue of water conservation and water awareness back to the forefront of the news. It has been on everyone's mind and we have had numerous questions and concerns from our residents and customers about our groundwater supply and the potential for that resource to be depleted. We want to ensure you that the Los Alamos Community Services District takes those concerns very seriously and monitors the basin levels frequently.