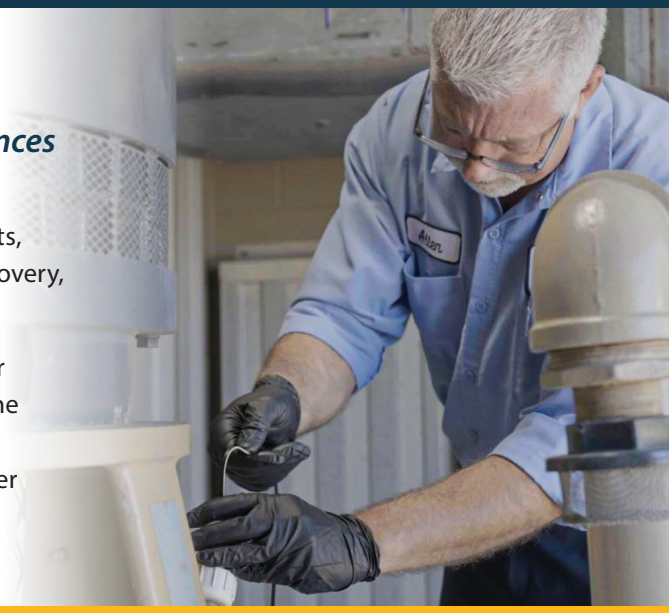
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK
Water Accounting System

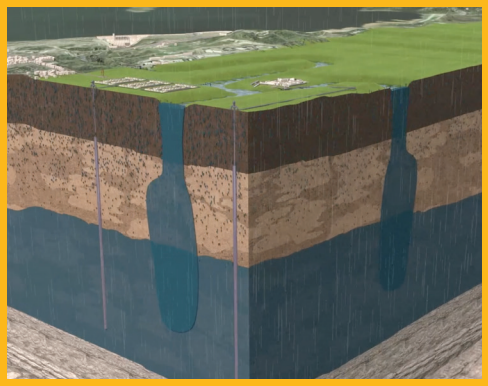
Groundwater You Can Count On

How the Water Bank Tracks Deposits, Withdrawals, and Balances



The Water Accounting System (WAS) is the framework that tracks how water moves into and out of the Water Bank. Like a financial institution tracks deposits, withdrawals, and account balances, the WAS tracks groundwater recharge, recovery, and storage, providing a transparent accounting of Water Bank operations.

Developed by the Regional Water Authority on behalf of 15 participating water suppliers , local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and regional partners, the WAS supports implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and establishes a consistent accounting framework for groundwater banking throughout the Sacramento region.



Why Water Accounting Matters

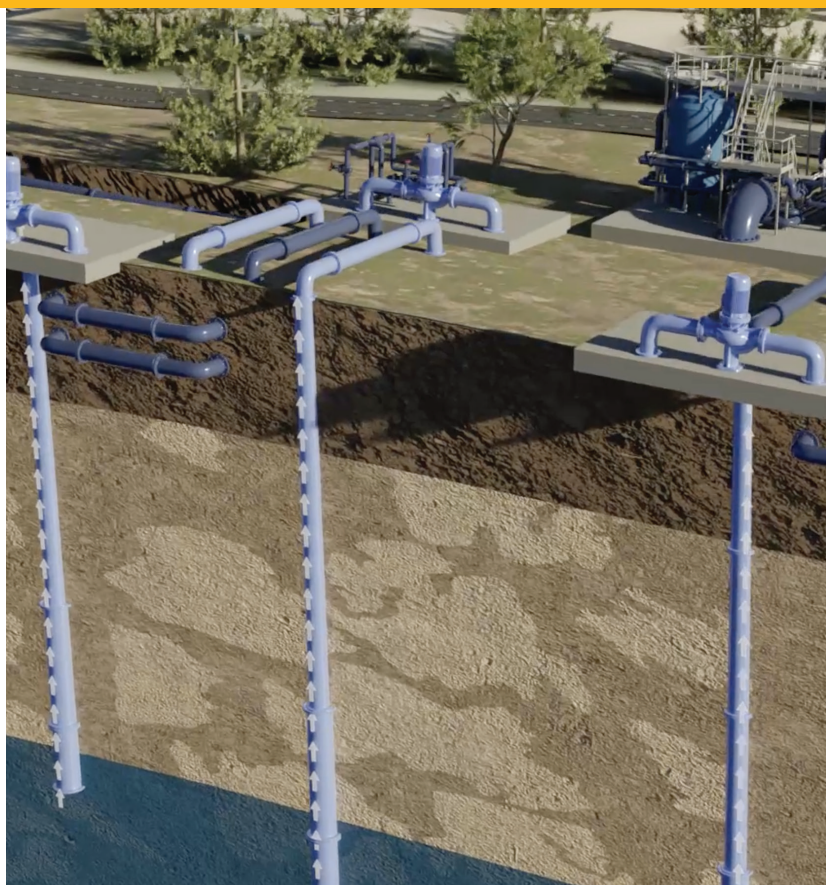
Groundwater banking is one of California's most important tools for improving water supply reliability. During wet periods, water can be stored underground through groundwater recharge. During dry periods, that water can be recovered to help meet future water supply needs.

A trusted accounting system is what makes groundwater banking possible. It allows participating water suppliers to receive credit for groundwater recharge, establishes clear rules for recovery, protects long-term groundwater sustainability, and provides a transparent record of Water Bank operations.

Built on Nearly Three Decades of Success

The WAS builds on nearly three decades of successful conjunctive use (the coordinated management of surface water and groundwater) in the Sacramento region.

A technical analysis found that participating agencies have banked approximately 900,000 acre-feet of groundwater since 1997 primarily through in-lieu recharge methods. The analysis identified two main benefits: First, groundwater banking has improved groundwater conditions by raising groundwater levels and increasing the amount of groundwater in storage. Second, recharged groundwater that flowed out of the basin due to natural groundwater movement contributes water to nearby rivers and neighboring groundwater basins. In fact, recharge contributed more than 300,000 acre-feet of additional flow to the Lower American River, increased regional drought resilience, and supported long-term groundwater sustainability. Largely due to this benefit, as of September 2024, of the 900,000 acre-feet banked over this period, approximately 470,000 acre-feet remain in the basin.



Built-in Safeguards

The Water Accounting System protects:

THE WATER BANK

- Recharge before recovery
- Clear accounting rules for groundwater banking
- Required reserve (leave-behind)

GROUNDWATER

- Expanded monitoring
- Adaptive management
- Consistency with local groundwater sustainability plans

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

- Annual accounting
- Public Water Accounting Dashboard

How the Water Accounting System Works

The WAS tracks every groundwater banking transaction using a consistent accounting framework. Like an annual bank statement, it tracks:

COMING SOON!

See the Water Bank in Action

The Water Accounting Dashboard provides an annual snapshot of Water Bank activity. Like a financial statement, it shows deposits, withdrawals, contributions to rivers and groundwater, and ending balances, making it easy to see how groundwater is banked and accounted for over time.

Learn More

Access the WAS concept paper at www.SacWaterBank.com, by scanning the QR code, or by contacting Trevor Joseph, RWA Manager of Technical Services, at tjoseph@rwah2o.org or (916) 990-3035.

For more information about the Sacramento Regional Water Bank visit SacWaterBank.com.

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RWA
Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA