

Groundwater Use in California

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 12,300
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 39.60%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 2,830
Percentage of total groundwater..... 23.00%
Percentage of total public supply 44.90%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 142
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.15%
Percentage of total individual household supply 82.60%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 8,690
Percentage of total groundwater..... 70.70%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 37.60%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 255
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.08%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 22.00%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 399
Percentage of total groundwater..... 3.24%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 99.80%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 24.1
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.20%
Percentage of total mining..... 66.20%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 33.1
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.27%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 50.60%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

¹ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

² US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

³ US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.

⁴ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

Groundwater's Role in California's Economic Vitality

- Few states can accurately or confidentially determine how many residential wells are in place. For each region, the American Housing Survey by the U.S. Census provides regional data. California is found in the West, along with these other states: Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The last American Housing Survey Census indicates this region had 1,540,000² households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.97³ persons per household. The U.S. Census stopped asking citizens their source of water supply following the 1990 Census. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in California to be 2,480,000⁴.
- 2,170 community water systems use groundwater for 6,780,000 people⁵
- 1,370 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 359,000 people⁶
- 3,000 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 740,000 people⁷
- 59,500 irrigation wells used serving 23,600 farms and 3,860,000 acres⁸



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California's Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect California's groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

California's Contracting Employment

Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.⁹

- 427 firms employ an estimated 3,460 people¹⁰
- Annual estimated sales of \$1,010 million

California's Scientists and Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting¹¹

NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 4,280 firms employ an estimated 13,900 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$2,040 million

Remediation¹²

NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 585 firms employ an estimated 9,060 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$1,530 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁹ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

¹⁰ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹¹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹² Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.