

Groundwater on the Mountain

Water on Palomar is our most important resource. Unlike the City, where water is brought in from rivers hundreds of miles away, Palomar's water comes from underground storage of snowmelt and rainwater. Rain and snow falling in the forest percolates through the soil to natural underground reservoirs in cracks and crevices in the rock, called aquifers. Wells drilled deep below the water table pump out this water for our use, like many straws drinking from the same cup. The amount of water in the cup is controlled by the amount of rain- and snowfall (precipitation) we get every year, and the amount of water we pump from wells, or that flows off the mountain to the sea. While this is an oversimplification of a complex system, the point is that if people use more than is recharged, the water levels drop and wells and springs go dry. Overdrafting an aquifer is called "mining" because the resource is removed faster than it is replenished.

To help understand the complexity of the groundwater system that everyone on the mountain shares, the PMPO is collecting well water level data from anyone with a well that is willing to provide it. This data will be matched with rainfall data to try to understand the sensitivity of the system to drought conditions, and to evaluate new projects relying on groundwater that may impact the community water supply. We are requesting that anyone who has a well provide monthly or weekly level measurements to the PMPO contact person Rob Hawk (at PO Box 157 by mail on the Mountain, tecdelver@cox.net or 619-287-4992). We would also like to get a GPS location of your well (Rob can do that so contact him if you have any questions about measuring the water level).

The PMPO is funding the Water Company employee to measure wells on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule. If you would like to volunteer your well to be measured, please fill out and sign the attached permission form and mail it to the PMPO. Please include a map showing the location of your well. If you have any questions, please call Rob Hawk or any PMPO Board member.

I, _____ (print name), legal owner of

parcel No. _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____ herein grant permission for an individual authorized by the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization to enter my property no more than two times a month solely for the purpose of measuring water levels in my well.

(Signature)

(Date)