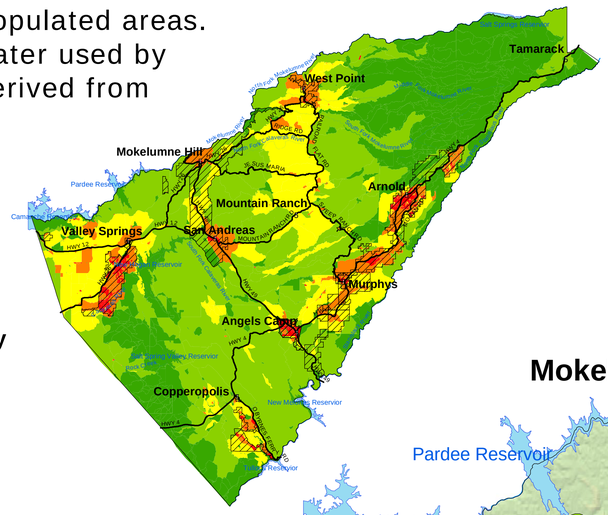
Water in Calaveras County

1. Public Utility Districts

Public Utility Districts serve most of the densely populated areas. Most of the water used by the PUDs is derived from surface water sources. Only a small amount is ground water.



Population Density
(people / sqmi)

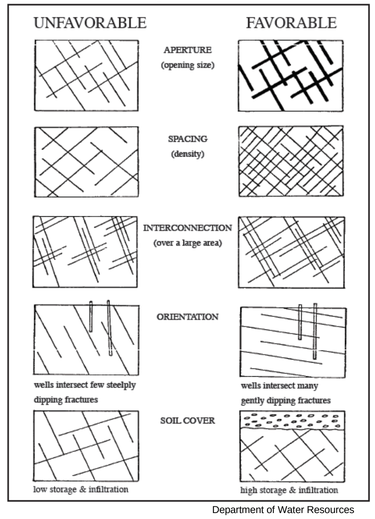
- 0
- 1 - 20
- 21 - 100
- 101 - 500
- > 500
- Area served with Public Water

Map Design by Environmental Health GIS Program

2. Hard Rock Formations

Throughout the majority of Calaveras County, wells are drilled in the hard rock formations. Ground water in the hard rock formation is stored in fractures and is estimated to be less than 2% of the rock volume. Well yield heavily depends on size and arrangement of the fractures. About half of the wells in the hard rocks yield 10 gpm or less.

Fracture Characteristics Controlling Ground Water Availability



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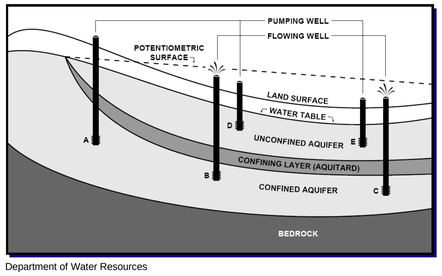
3. East San Joaquin Ground Water Basin

The East San Joaquin Ground Water Basin is estimated to cover about 70 square miles of the County (7%). Most wells in this area draw water from a similar depth and have satisfying yields.
The Ground Water Basin is in a state of overdraft lowering the potential to find water on the edge of the basin.



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San Joaquin GW Basin

- High
- Low

Tertiary River System
(California Geological Survey)

- approx. location

4. Tertiary River Channel System

This is the old river system that drained the area before the uplift of the Sierra. Now it is covered mostly with volcanic ashes. The old river gravel is cemented but there is still a considerable water flow through this channel system. After the Darby fire Angels Camp was supplied with approx. 500,000 gallons/day pumped through an old mine shaft out of the tertiary river system.