

WELL MONITORING PROGRAMS

OCWD's Well Monitoring Programs are an integral part of ensuring the highest quality water is available to the 2.5 million residents of north and central Orange County.

Collecting Water Samples from Monitoring Wells

Throughout the Orange County Groundwater Basin, OCWD water quality staff collect groundwater samples from more than 400 monitoring wells using submersible pumps. Depending on the monitoring program, sampling takes place monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

How Sampling Works

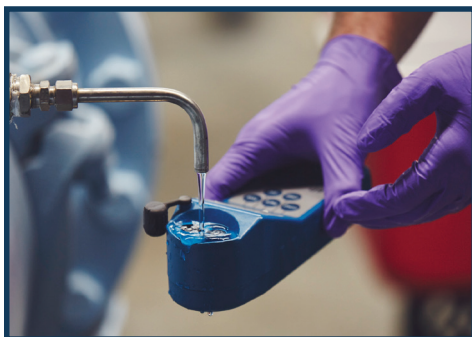
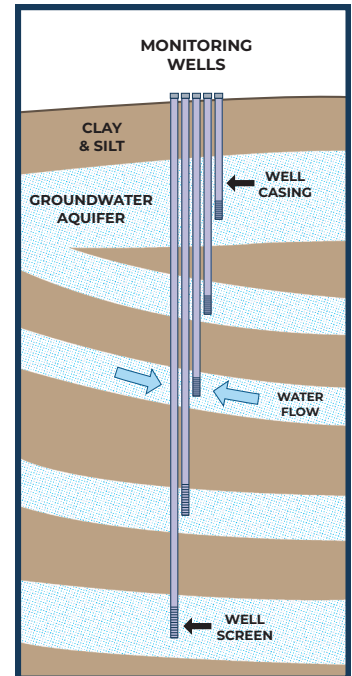
To ensure samples from a monitoring well are representative of the groundwater aquifer, stagnant casing water must be purged from the well and replaced with fresh groundwater before collecting samples. The volume of water purged from each well casing varies depending on well depth, depth to water level, and casing diameter.

Water Purged During Well Sampling is Not Wasted

In many cases, purged water removed during the well sampling process is not wasted. The water may be discharged:

1. to dirt or grass to percolate back into the ground,
2. into storm drains, where it may flow to earthen flood control facilities to percolate into the ground, or
3. to the Santa Ana River to percolate into the riverbed or be diverted to the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), where it undergoes treatment.

The treated wastewater is then sent from OC San to OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) for reuse. The GWRS takes treated wastewater and purifies the water to exceed drinking water standards, so it can be used to replenish the groundwater basin. Only at coastal locations not tributary to the Santa Ana River or during times of extreme wet weather would the purged water eventually flow to the ocean.



Extensive Testing of Water Samples

OCWD collects water from approx. 1,500 locations throughout the basin, analyzes more than 20,000 samples, and reports more than 400,000 results each year. Samples are tested for a variety of regulated inorganics and metals, volatile and semi-volatile organics, radiological parameters, and PFAS compounds. OCWD provides regional testing of more than 200 drinking water wells for local drinking water providers to help ensure compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements mandated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

To learn more about the Orange County Water District, please visit www.OCWD.com or contact OCWD at (714) 378-3209 or info@ocwd.com.