

Sharing Data with Cooperators and the Public - Case Study San Diego Hydrogeology

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Abstract

Primary objectives of the San Diego Hydrogeology project are (1) to develop an integrated, comprehensive understanding of the geology and hydrology of the San Diego area, focusing on the San Diego Formation and the overlying alluvial deposits, and (2) to use this understanding to evaluate expanded use of the San Diego Formation and alluvial deposits for groundwater recharge and extraction.

A key part of this project is providing data to cooperating water agencies and the public in a format that is quick to produce and highly usable. USGS data-series reports are being produced, but these tend to require months or years to prepare, review, and publish. Consequently, we have found that a remarkably valuable interim product is the use of a project website to provide reformatted public data from the National Water Information Server for recently installed monitoring wells, and to provide general project information.

During the past 10 years of using the project website [<http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sandiego>], the cooperators, their consultants, academia, the general public, and the media observe that the website has been invaluable, and considered to be one of the most important USGS products. In addition, because project information is disseminated to the web in a timely manner, and in a format that is easy to understand, the project staff is less encumbered by frequent data requests.