

# The Recharge Initiative

## Sustaining California's groundwater resources

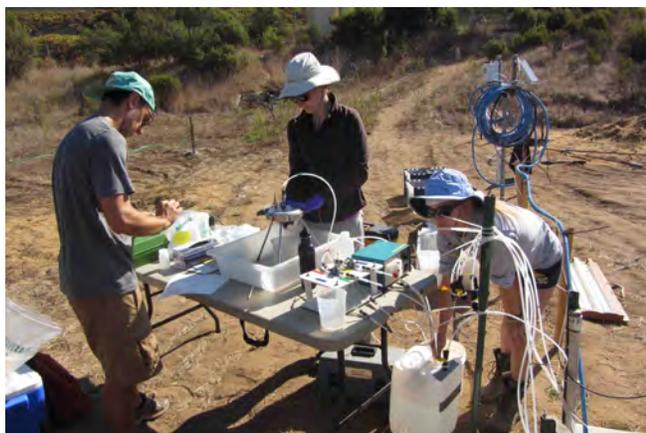
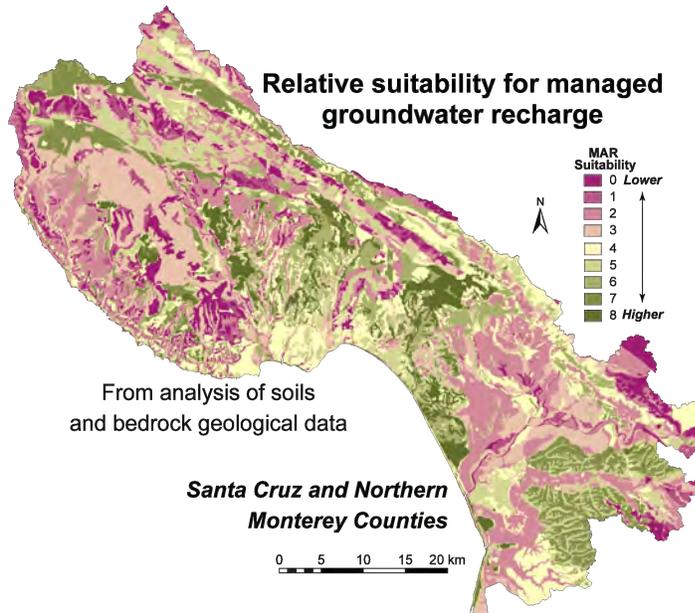


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Groundwater supplies now and in the future are threatened by increasing demand, shifts in land use, and a changing climate. These and other issues also threaten water quality in many aquifers. Groundwater supplies are vulnerable throughout the state, but particularly along the Central Coast. New solutions are needed.

### Mapping and Modeling

Together with partners and regional stakeholders—landowners, agencies, and non-governmental organizations—the *Recharge Initiative* conducts frontier research on groundwater systems. We are mapping and modeling to find conditions most appropriate for enhancing groundwater recharge. Potential sites are in rural, agricultural, and urban settings that have good soils, connections to underlying aquifers with available space, and an excess of surface runoff during increasingly intense rain events. This work is an important step to identify project sites and engage partners.



### Designing Solutions

We design field projects to collect excess runoff from increasingly intense storms, so water can stay on the landscape long enough to infiltrate into underlying aquifers. We design and test these recharge systems using novel instrumentation and methods to generate high-quality, peer-reviewed assessments of best management practices.

We validate our approach by collecting data and samples, analyzing results to ensure projects work as intended. Each site serves as a natural laboratory where scientists, students, and project partners engage in world-class research while improving

surface water and groundwater resources—now and for future generations. To ensure the new ideas take hold, we have also launched an incentive program to offset operational costs and encourage participation.

### Sharing Our Findings

The Monterey Bay region shares features with other parts of California, including complex aquifers, variable weather, and strong agricultural and urban demand. The Recharge Initiative shares results and tools so they can be applied in other regions.

***Our mission is to increase groundwater supplies, improve water quality, develop and nourish partnerships, create incentives to encourage implementation, and change the conversation around water.***

