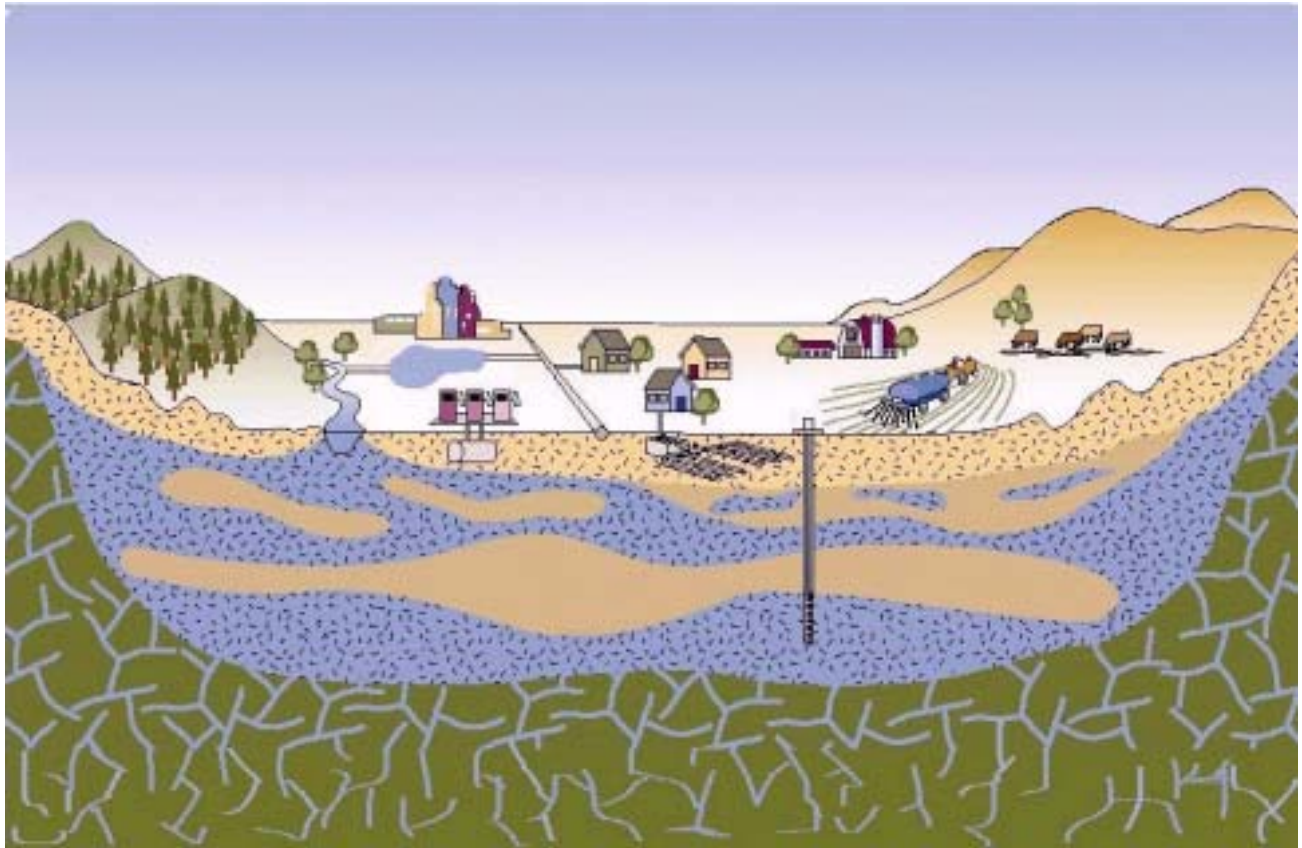
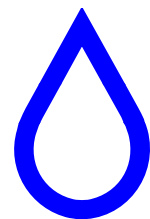


Santa Clara Valley Water District Groundwater Management Plan



July 2001

Santa Clara Valley Water District



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Santa Clara Valley Water District Groundwater Management Plan

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Summary

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A few water quality problems have been detected. High mineral salt concentrations have been identified in the upper aquifer zone along San Francisco Bay, the lower aquifer zone underlying Palo Alto, and the southeastern portion of the forebay area of the Santa Clara Valley Subbasin. Nitrate concentrations in the South County (Coyote and Llagas Subbasins) are elevated and high nitrate concentrations are sporadically observed in the Santa Clara Valley Subbasin. Lastly, even though Santa Clara County is home to a large number of Superfund sites, there are few groundwater supply impacts from the chemicals from these sites; volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are intermittently detected at trace concentrations in public water supply wells. In four wells, such contamination has been severe enough to cause the wells to be destroyed. Overall, the District's groundwater protection programs, including its well permitting, well destruction, and leaking underground storage tank programs, have been effective in protecting the groundwater basin from contamination.

Water quality data for common inorganic compounds during the period from 1997 through 2000 are summarized in Table 2-2. The typical concentration ranges were computed using standard statistical methods. Organic compounds were nondetectable in almost all wells and below drinking water standards in all wells. Data for organic compounds, including MTBE, solvents, and pesticides is not shown in Table 2-2 due to the large number of compounds.