

# Midcoast Groundwater Study – Phase 3

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Hydrologics, June 2010

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# Project Background

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- Phase 1: Comprehensive Data and Literature Review (Balance Hydrologics, April 2002)
- Phase 2: Subarea Water Balance Assessments (Kleinfelder and Associates, October 2008)
- Phase 3: Additional Data Collection and Baseline Analysis (Balance Hydrologics, June 2010)

# Project Objectives

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- Manage groundwater resources to protect the environment and provide a safe and sustainable source of water.
- Develop the information and partnerships needed to create and implement a Groundwater Management Plan.
- Use the Management Planning process to address monitoring needs, supply issues, and adaptive management opportunities.

# Phase 3 Objectives

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- Monitor and analyze groundwater elevations during dry year conditions
- Collect streamflow data and analyze the relationship between groundwater levels and riparian and wetland habitats
- Identify baseline data needed to develop a Groundwater Management Plan

# Phase 3 Findings

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- The moderate drought of 2007-2009 was not as severe as the drought of 1987-1992
- Groundwater levels were slightly lower than in pre-drought years, except in the Airport area which remained unchanged
- Groundwater recharge from streams is significant and moderates seasonal fluctuations
- Groundwater storage seems adequate but varies locally
- Wetland areas and the Pillar Point Marsh have been unaffected by the drought
- Conditions for seawater intrusion have not developed

# Phase 3 Recommendations

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- Develop and implement groundwater monitoring and recharge programs
- Expand data collection and modeling efforts to provide the information needed to develop a Groundwater Management Plan and adaptive management strategies

# Next Steps

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- 30-day public comment period (June 14-July 14)
- Meet with Service Districts and interested parties
- Report back to EQC on public comments and Service District feedback
- Create framework and seek funding for development of Management Plan
- Consider short-term issues related to private wells as part of the LCP Update resubmittal process

# Relationship to LCP Update

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- Staff level agreement regarding avoiding and decommissioning new private wells
- County response to CCC proposed temporary prohibition on private wells to be determined through LCP Update Resubmittal
- No indication in Phase 3 report of current threat to groundwater resources/local water supplies
- Timing and funding needed to complete Groundwater Management Plan unknown