

Groundwater

A Hidden Resource

We think of the ground beneath our feet as solid, but it is actually similar to a giant sponge. Rain or other water will percolate into the ground, trickling into and through the pores, fractures, and other spaces in soil and rock. The water in these spaces is called "groundwater." Groundwater continues to filter through these spaces until it reaches an aquifer – a layer of sand and rock saturated with water – where it recharges the area vacated by previous pumping.

Plentiful, Available, Accessible

The Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin stores approximately 5 million acre-feet of water. Of this, 1.2 million ac-ft are easily accessible. Some 200,000 ac-ft of water are pumped from this basin each year. The ***San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District*** recharges through its efforts an average of 16,000 ac-ft annually, and has recharged over 100,000 ac-ft in one year; the rest of the replenishment depends on the vagaries of natural recharge. (An acre-foot provides water for one family for 1-2 years.)

