

Prepared in cooperation with the City of San Diego

Installation of a multiple-depth monitoring well in Balboa Park

Hydrogeologic investigations of the San Diego area, California

Summary

Multiple-depth monitoring wells provide critically important data to aid in understanding complex hydrogeology, such as that found in the coastal San Diego area. Because no comprehensive study of ground-water resources has been done for the San Diego area, a major element of the present USGS study is to install multiple-depth wells in selected areas of four coastal river basins.

During January 2008, the Balboa Park well will be drilled to a depth of about 1,500 feet. After drilling, five separate two-inch PVC piezometers will be installed to selected depths. These piezometers will be monitored for ground-water levels and sampled for ground-water quality. The well site is designed to be a permanent installation to provide data for decades.

Balboa Park Well Site

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the City of San Diego, will be installing a 1,500-foot-deep monitoring well on the south side of Balboa Park, just east of Pershing Drive, adjacent to the city yard (fig. 1). This is the eighth multiple-depth well site in the San Diego area and was chosen to map geologic units, avoid nearby faults, minimize the thickness of unsaturated overburden, and correlate with data from other wells.

Results from the drilling will help define the quantity and quality of ground water in the coastal San Diego area. If sufficient high quality ground water is identified, it may be used as a local water source for Balboa Park.

Well Drilling and Construction

Drilling will begin on January 10, 2008, and will continue for about four weeks. Hours of operation each day, including weekends, are 7 am to 7 pm.

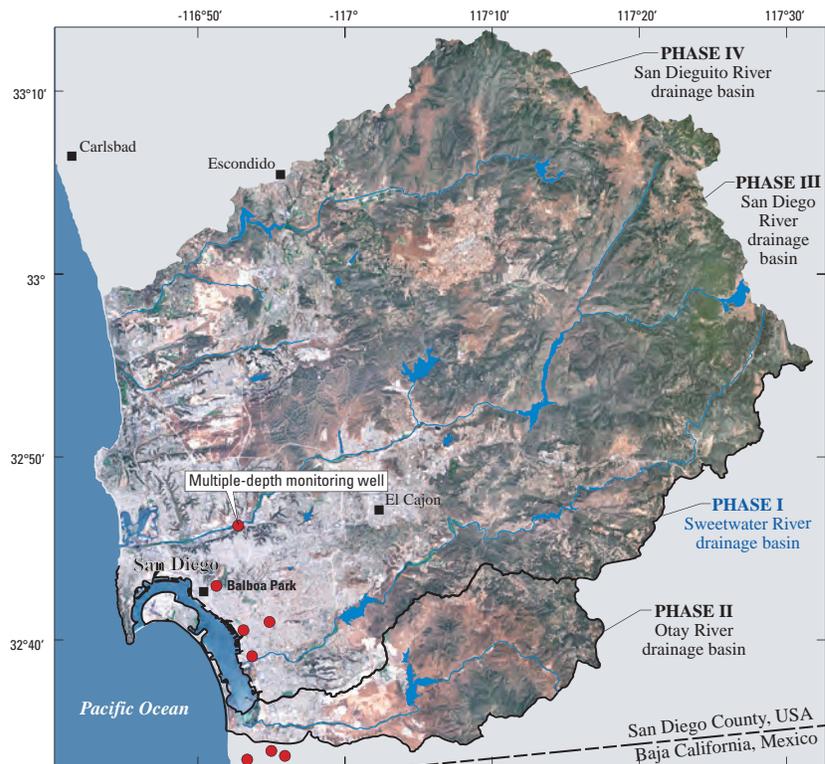


Figure 1. Location of multiple-depth monitoring wells, San Diego area, California.

During the first three weeks, noise levels will be typical of those associated with heavy equipment (fig. 2). During the final week, noise will be reduced as the well is constructed and the site is restored to its original condition. Subsequent well development and water-quality sampling will be relatively unobtrusive.

Contacts

For all questions concerning the well site or drilling, please contact:

City of San Diego Water Department, Public Information Officer,
619-533-7572, or

USGS site supervisor Rhett Everett,
Hydrologist, 619-225-6174, everett@usgs.gov.

For questions concerning the USGS hydrogeologic study of the San Diego area, please contact:

USGS Project Chief, Wes Danskin,
Research Hydrologist, 619-225-6132, wdanskin@usgs.gov, or
refer to the project website,
<http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sandiego>



Figure 2. Typical drill rig used to construct a multiple-depth monitoring well.