1	A Method of Evaluating the Perennial Yield
2	of Fractured Consolidated Rock Aquifers
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4	Michael F. Hoover, Consulting Geologist-Hydrologist
5	PO Box 30860 • Santa Barbara, California 93130 • United States
6	(805) 569-9670 •mfhoover@hoovergeo.com
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#### **ABSTRACT**

A significant portion of southern Santa Barbara County (the study area) relies on 10 groundwater extracted from fractured consolidated rocks. The utilization of these aquifers 11 dates back over a hundred years when "water tunnels" were constructed to supply the 12 domestic and irrigation needs of a growing population in this semi-arid coastal region of 13 Central California. Beginning in the 1920s, water wells replaced the hand-dug tunnels as 14 the preferred method of withdrawing groundwater from the fractured Tertiary-age 15 sandstones and shales that comprise the consolidated rock aquifers in the study area. To 16 this day, these consolidated rock aquifers are often the overlying owners' sole source of 17 water supply, thus it is important for hydrogeologists to develop a reliable method of 18 estimating the long-term yield of these types of aquifers. Few studies exist that provide a 19 reliable method of estimating the long-term or *perennial yield* of the fractured consolidated 20 21 rock aquifers in the study area. However, pumpage-change in storage data, collected over extended time periods, exists at a sufficient number of sites to allow the development of a 22 reasonably accurate method of estimating the perennial yield of the consolidated rock 23

24	aquifers within the study area. Utilizing the methods outlined herein, an estimate of
25	perennial yield can be made for fractured consolidated rock aquifers in any watershed
26	within the study area, even when only limited site-specific data are available.
27	The principles and methods described herein should be universal, applicable to other
28	geographic areas where similar geologic conditions exist.
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30	Key Words: Fractured consolidated rock, Groundwater hydrology, Hydrogeology,
31	Perennial yield, Streamflow modeling
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#### **INTRODUCTION**

35 From the time of the European colonization water resources have played an important role 36 in sustaining agriculture and a growing population in the semi-arid region of Central California. 37 In the mid-1800s, many of the cattle ranches that comprised the Spanish and Mexican land grants suffered economic collapse due to the lack of a reliable water resource. Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> 38 39 century, groundwater derived from hand dug "water tunnels" provided a much-needed alternative to drought-impacted surface water supplies. Surface water impoundment projects, 40 constructed in the early to mid-1900s, allowed expanded urbanization and agriculture on the 41 42 Central Coast of California, but by the 1950s, the collective water demand once again exceeded 43 the supply, and more extensive groundwater withdrawals were needed to offset the deficit. In the mid-1970s, from 1988-90, and from 2011-17, the regional water demand exceeded available 44 supplies, and groundwater was once again required to make up the deficit, sometimes resulting in 45 46 groundwater basin and aquifer overdrafts.

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In southern Santa Barbara County, the perennial yield of the alluvial groundwater basins is
known from previous work: Upson, 1951; Everson, Wilson & Muir, 1962; Geotechnical
Consultants, 1976; Mann, 1976; Martin, 1986; Martin and Freckleton, 1989; and Hoover, 1980.
In contrast, only a few studies evaluate the long-term yield of the fractured consolidated rock
aquifers in the foothills of Southern Santa Barbara County.

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## PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND LIMITATIONS

This study provides a method of estimating the average annual rate of recharge (i.e., "perennial yield") of fractured consolidated rock aquifers in southern Santa Barbara County (the study area). Southern Santa Barbara County is located on the Central Coast of California, (Figure 1).

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## FIGURE 1



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For the purpose of this study, *average annual rate of recharge* is often used interchangeably with the term *perennial yield*. Safe yield, a term usually defined as "a reasonable rate of extraction for the foreseeable future that does not cause a long-term adverse effect" (Mann, 1976), may differ from the long-term average annual recharge (or perennial yield) depending on the definition of "adverse effect". Thus, the term "safe yield" is not used interchangeably with perennial yield in this study.

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The perennial yield of a groundwater basin (or aquifer) is typically determined by one of 70 two methods: The Inventory Method or the Pumpage-Change in Storage Method. The Inventory 71 72 Method assigns numerical values to each source of inflow (i.e. stream seepage, field recharge) and discharge (i.e. subsurface outflow, pumpage). The Pumpage-Change in Storage Method 73 requires the measurement of groundwater usage and water level response in a defined hydrologic 74 75 area during a period of representative rainfall. The perennial yield is then determined by calculating the average annual pumpage that would occur when the net change of groundwater 76 77 held in storage over a period of representative rainfall is zero. Computer modeling is commonly 78 used to assist the investigator in evaluating the above variables.

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This study determined (to the extent the data allowed) the perennial yield of the fractured consolidated rock aquifers in six typical watersheds using the Pumpage-Change in Storage Method. Values for the various recharge components were then back-calculated using methods developed by several investigators working independently in diverse geographical areas, then tested utilizing groundwater modeling of several of the watersheds within the study area where the perennial yield is known based on the history of water use.

The parameters used to estimate the perennial yield described herein include: average annual precipitation, watershed size, type of vegetation, topography, the areal extent of aquifer, aquifer properties (including transmissivity and storage coefficient), and stream bottom configuration. A site-specific aquifer test is required to accurately determine the aquifer transmissivity and storage coefficient.

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#### PHYSIOGRAPHY

The study area is located at the western end of the Transverse Range Province on the Central Coast of California. The east-west trending Santa Ynez Mountains are the primary topographic feature in the study area, rising above the coastal plain to an elevation of 4298 feet (1310 meters) above mean sea level. There are 55 north-south trending watersheds within the study area; all watersheds originate in the Santa Ynez Mountains and are tributary to the Pacific Ocean (Figure 2).

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#### **CLIMATE**

The study area has a Mediterranean climate characterized by average annual rainfall that varies from less than 16 inches (40.64 cm) per year at the coast to over 30 inches (76.20 cm) per year near the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Isohyets, presented on Figure 2, depict the spatial distribution of rainfall in the study area.

# FIGURE 2



Annual precipitation varies considerably from year to year; 47.07 inches (119.6 cm) was recorded at the Santa Barbara gauge during water year 1997-98, whereas only 4.49 inches (11.4 cm) was recorded in 1876-77. Approximately 92 percent of the precipitation in the study area occurs between November and April. The temperatures in the urban portion of the study area vary from an average of 70°F (21°C) in summer months to 50°F (10°C) in winter (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3



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## **GEOLOGY**

The fractured consolidated rocks that comprise most of the Santa Ynez Mountains are described by several authors, including: Minor, et al., 2009; Miller and Rapp, 1968; Upson, 121 1951; Dibblee, 1966; Gurrola, 2004; and Rantz, 1960. The most complete geologic maps of the study area are the series of geologic maps prepared by the Dibblee Foundation (Figure 4).

#### 124

## FIGURE 4



#### 125 126

The Tertiary-age rocks in the study area consist of a generally south-dipping sedimentary sequence of interbedded sandstones and shales. Localized northwest trending synclines and anticlines are present, as well as numerous east-west and northwest trending near-vertical faults. A typical geologic cross-section is presented as Figure 5.

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## FIGURE 5



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The interbedded sandstones and shales that typify the sedimentary rocks in this study area are both marine and non-marine in origin, however, the marine sequence predominates. We know from observations during the construction of the Tecolote Tunnel that virtually all rock units in the northern portion of the study area are fractured to some degree, and that most transmit water (Rantz, 1960; US Bureau of Reclamation, undated).

## HYDROLOGY

#### 142 <u>Surface Water</u>

The 55 generally north-south trending watersheds within the study area vary in size from less than 1000 acres (404 ha) to over 5000 acres (2,024 ha). Relatively steep stream gradients of 200 feet per mile (38 meters per kilometer) are common in the upper reaches of the watersheds where the streams cross the Tertiary-age sequence. The average annual runoff from individual streams within the study area varies from less than 100-acre feet (123,300 m<sup>3</sup>) per year to more than 2300-acre feet (2,837,062 m<sup>3</sup>) per year. Significant intra-year (seasonal) fluctuations in streamflow exist.

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Year-to-year fluctuations in streamflow occur due to long-term weather cycles. One stream in the study area, San Jose Creek, has a near-continuous 76-year record of daily, monthly, and annual streamflow (Figure 6 and Table I), which indicates that wet year runoff is nearly 200 times greater than dry year runoff.

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## TABLE I

## All Values in Acre Feet

SAN JOSE	CREEK NEAR	GOLETA, CA	A ESIMAT	ED UNI	<b>IPAIRED</b>	RUNOFF:	1941	THROUGH	2016
(historic	streamflow	measuremen	nts with	small	adjustn	ments for	upst	ream di	versions)

#### 160 <u>Groundwater</u>

Groundwater typically occurs in the form of flow along bedding planes and through fractures 161 (i.e. secondary permeability), although some sandstone units were reported to have primary 162 permeability when encountered during the constructions of the Tecolote Tunnel (US Bureau of 163 Reclamation, undated). Where primary permeability occurs, the magnitude of the permeability is a 164 function grain size, particle sorting, and the degree of cementation among the clasts. Secondary 165 permeability is derived from discontinuities within the rock mass associated with forces applied to 166 167 the rock after consolidation. These discontinuities may be in the form of faults, bedding planes, 168 fractures, or joints. Each of these features can represent a pathway through which water can pass through the rock. Secondary permeability can be present in any type of rock mass which has 169 170 undergone brittle deformation. (Crenshaw, 2013).

171 Aquifer tests indicate that the transmissivities of the fractured rock in the study area vary from a few gallons per day per foot ( $<1 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ ) to several thousand gallons per day per foot 172 (7.57 m<sup>3</sup>/day). Storativity values of the fractured rock aquifers range from  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-5}$ . We know 173 from water chemistry data that connate water is a minimal contributor to the recharge of 174 consolidated rock aquifers. Aquifer recharge is a direct function of rainfall, as indicated by the 175 relationship between outflow from the Tecolote Tunnel and precipitation as shown on Figure 7 176 (Rantz, 1960). Rantz also compared the flow of 125 springs within the study area to precipitation 177 with similar results. 178



## FIGURE 7



#### 181

## 182 <u>Previous Work</u>

While the geology and hydrology of the study area have been adequately described by 183 several authors (Upson, 1951; Dibblee, 1966; Miller & Rapp, 1968; the Dibblee Foundation, 184 185 1987, 1988; Geotechnical Consultants, 1976; Evanson, Wilson & Muir, 1962; Martin and Barenbrock, 1986; Freckleton, 1987; Minor, et al, 2009; and Hoover, 1980), only two references 186 187 discuss the hydrogeologic properties and perennial yield of the fractured consolidated rocks. 188 Miller & Rapp (1968) provide an estimate of the average annual recharge to the entire Tertiary-189 age sequence of fractured consolidated rocks in the Ellwood to Gaviota portion of the study area 190 that is based on measurements of low flow discharges (baseflow). Santa Barbara County (1992) provides a theoretical method of determining the perennial yield of fractured consolidated rock 191 192 aquifers based on estimates of streamflow infiltration and field recharge. Utilizing new 193 information, we now know that past methods used to estimate the perennial yield of the fractured consolidated rock aquifers commonly result in an unacceptably large degree of error. 194

## **AQUIFER RECHARGE**

## 197 <u>Components of Recharge</u>

The fractured consolidated rock aquifers located in the study area are recharged by the following components: (1) direct penetration of rainfall into the sub-aerial portion of the aquifer; (2) percolation of streamflow into the sub-aqueous portion of the aquifer, and (3) sub-surface inflow from upgradient fractured consolidated rock aquifers. These three recharge components are illustrated on Figure 8.



#### FIGURE 8



#### 206 <u>Calculation of Streamflow</u>

The percolation of streamflow is a significant component of recharge into the fractured, consolidated rock aquifers (including stream-fed underflow percolating into the consolidated rock aquifer occurs if a sufficient thickness of alluvium exists). In order to calculate the magnitude of stream recharge, it is first necessary to determine the magnitude and temporal occurrence of streamflow. In this study area, gauged streamflow data are available in only a few watersheds, thus rainfall and runoff in the watershed of interest must be estimated by alternative methods.

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215 One method is to determine annual rainfall in the subject watershed by measuring the size of the watershed in question, then calculating the weighted average rainfall, taking into 216 consideration orographic effects. The isohyets presented on Figure 2 are useful in this regard. An 217 218 example of this method is in the highlighted columns on Figure 9, the method for which is taken from Crippen (1965). Once the average annual rainfall is determined, streamflow can be 219 determined by the following: Natural Water Loss = (precipitation + subsurface inflow + net220 221 change in soil moisture + net change in groundwater storage) - (surface outflow + subsurface outflow). Simplifying this equation yields the following: Recoverable water = Precipitation – 222 Natural Water Loss – Change in Soil Moisture. In this context, recoverable water is runoff. If 223 Precipitation (P) is known, Evapotranspiration (E) and Recoverable Water (R) can be determined 224 by using the nomographs developed by Crippen (Figures 10 and 11). Adjusting the value for 225 recoverable water with geologic factors K\*R, yields a value in inches of water, that when 226 multiplied by the watershed area results in a fairly accurate estimate of average annual 227 streamflow. For example, the estimated average annual streamflow for San Jose Creek developed 228

- using methods developed by Crippen yields an estimated value of 1,730 acre feet per year
- 230 (283,720 m<sup>3</sup>/year), whereas the USGS gauge data (Table I) yield a measured value of 1,845 acre
- feet per year (302,580 m<sup>3</sup>/year). The difference between the gauged data and the Crippen method
- of estimating runoff is less than 6.3 percent.
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## FIGURE 9

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Altitude Range	WtrshdArea	Area %	Rainfall (D)	Detential	-				
(ft. MSL)	(Acres)	of Mtrebd	(in inches)	Potential	R	atios	Recovrable	Adjusted	Watershed
2500 - 3000	510	14 5%	(III IIICHES)	EI (E, IN.)	P/E	R/E	Water (R)	R (= K*R)	Loss (L)
	010	14.578	30.00	54.00	0.56	0.103	5.54	7.81	22.19
2000 - 2500	1020	28.9%	29.00	55.50	0.52	0.085	4.74	6.69	22.31
1600 - 2000	637	18.1%	28.00	56.00	0.50	0.075	4.18	5.90	22.10
1200 - 1600	361	10.2%	27.00	56.00	0.48	0.067	3.73	5.27	21.73
800 - 1200	297	8.4%	25.50	55.20	0.46	0.058	3.22	4.54	20.96
400 - 800	404	11.5%	24.00	53.50	0.45	0.053	2.84	4.01	19.99
150 - 400	297	8.4%	22.00	51.00	0.43	0.047	2.39	3.38	18.62
TOTALS	3526	100.0%							
Weighted Avgs.			27.30	54.79			4.11	5.80	21.51
MATERSHED AD	BLE WATER	=	5.80	Inches watersh	ned weighted	mean runoff	depth.	LOOKUF	TABLE
WATERSHED AK		=	3526	Acres.				Geo Index	K Factor
WATERSHED RU	NOFF EST. (	<u>v</u>	1703	Acre Feet / Ye	ar.		l l	0	1.60
Lookun table K far	tor							200	1.60
			1.411					400	1.53
(see Figure 10 on n	NDEA K Value	2 E) =	1.411	Used to calcu	late adjuste	d recoverable	water.	600	1.39
(see rigule to on p	age 221 01 41	/-==)						800	1.25
GEOLOGIC INDEX	1: (and USCC	Dref Danes	117 5 500					1000	1.11
Cotor	. (See 0565	Prof. Paper 4	417-Е, pp Е20	and E21)				1200	0.97
		01.4	% of wtrshd	Index				1400	0.83
R. Old elluvium	ept old alluviur	ית X 1י	7%	70				1600	0.71
C. Tortion: overal	Datata Oasta	(X 10 <sup>i</sup>	0%	0				1800	0.62
D. Pototo Sondator	Polato Sandst	one(X 0	88%	0				2000	0.56
E Mesozoic	le of F.E. Vaug	nan(X 100	5%	500				2200	0.52
F Paleozoic		(X 10	0%	0				2400	0.49
G Precambrian		(X 2(	0%	0				2600	0.46
an recampnant		(^ 41	100%	0				2800	0.43
			11117/0					0000	· · · ·
TOTAL GEO I	NDEX =		10078	570				3000	0.40
TOTAL GEO I	NDEX =		10078	570				3000	0.40 0.37

# SAN JOSE CREEK WATERSHED RECOVERABLE WATER WORKSHEET (FOLLOWS PROCEDURE DEVELOPED IN USGS PROFESSIONAL PAPER 417-E)

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## FIGURE 10



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#### 245 Other Applications of Streamflow Modeling

Daily streamflow modeling of any ungauged stream in the study area can be accomplished 246 using the Crippen method to develop annual streamflow of the ungauged stream, then ratioed to 247 248 San Jose Creek daily streamflow. Using this methodology, diversion to off-stream storage in any 249 watershed within the study area can be estimated. These same methods are useful in developing daily streamflow values in ungauged watersheds being evaluated for the reintroduction of 250 251 anadromous fish protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In this regard, biologists are 252 increasingly interested in the temporal occurrence of large flows that allow fish passage from the ocean to the spawning grounds, and the ability of a watershed to sustain juvenile fish during times 253 of low flow. Such a study was completed for Dos Pueblos Creek (Hoover, 2016; Figure 12). 254

#### 255

#### FIGURE 12



It is important to note that the Crippen method for determining streamflow assumes that there is no upstream pumping or stream diversions (i.e. a "virgin watershed"). If upstream diversions or pumping are occurring, then downward adjustments to the calculated streamflow must be made (Figures 13, 20).

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#### FIGURE 13



#### 264 <u>Infiltration of Streamflow</u>

It is relatively straightforward to calculate stream recharge to an underlying aquifer if the daily streamflow, the wetted area of the stream bottom, and the aquifer permeability are known, keeping in mind that the calculated rate of streambed infiltration cannot not exceed permeability of the aquifer (Figure 14).

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Previous studies (Santa Barbara County, 1992) utilized a single seepage factor for stream bed permeability in the entire study area. The data from 25 fractured consolidated rock aquifers in the study area indicate that aquifer permeabilities average approximately 9.5 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> (.0559 liters per day/m<sup>2</sup>), close to the average used by other studies, data developed within the study area indicate that aquifer permeabilities range from less than 1 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> (.0929 liter per day/m<sup>2</sup>) to over 50 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> (4.6 liters per day/m<sup>2</sup>), thus site-specific streambed permeability values are preferred in order to obtain accurate stream seepage values.

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Typical values for transmissivity and reinkability in Selected Aquites									
Watershed	Transmissivity (gpd/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Formation/Aquifer Thickness (feet)	Average Permeability (gpd/ft <sup>2</sup> )						
Hondo	120	Vaqueros/570	0.21						
	3300	Vaqueros/294	11						
Vanadita	320	Vaqueros/550	0.58						
venauto	7500	Vaqueros/294	25						
	733	Vaqueros/542	1.35						
Fl Canitan	2000	Vaqueros/522	3.83						
Er Capitan	800	Vaqueros/410	1.95						
Distiladera	1000	Vaqueros/570	1.98						
Distinuteru	660	Vaqueros/570	0.86						
Llagae	1500	Vaqueros/570	4.53						
Liagas	1500	Vaqueros/570	3.51						
Gato	235	Vaqueros/271	0.86						
San Ysidro	4400	Coldwater/230	19						
Dos Pueblos	520	Vaqueros/764	0.68						
Ellwood	3400 16,000 10,000	Vaqueros/244 Vaqueros/295 Vaqueros/427	13.9 54.2 23.4 0.98						
Hot Springs	330 516	Coldwater/335 Coldwater/460	1.12						
Los Cameros	795 320 2031 1659 2165 3120	Coldwater/470 Coldwater/1450 Vaqueros/413 Vaqueros/236 Vaqueros/460 Vaqueros/428	1.69 0.22 4.9 7.03 4.70 7.28						
Canada Guillermo	170	Vaqueros/580	0.29						
Cold Springs	183	Coldwater/343	0.53						
San Jose	6000	Coldwater/149	40.3						
Average Aquifer Permeability			9.5 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>						

FIGURE 14 Typical Values for Transmissivity and Permeability in Salastad Acquifar Rejected recharge may occur if the piezometric surface of the (leaky artesian) consolidated rock aquifer is above the streambed. Using formulas developed by Theis (1952), the area of the consolidated rock aquifer where the piezometric surface has been depressed by pumping can be calculated.

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If a production well is drilled into a specific (and hydrologically discrete) aquifer, such as the Vaqueros Sandstone, then the portion of the stream that crosses that aquifer, <u>and which has</u> <u>been dewatered by pumping</u>, is the area likely to be recharged by streamflow. This dewatered area is typically asymmetric due to boundary conditions (Figure 15).

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## FIGURE 15



#### 294 <u>Recharge from Direct Penetration of Rainfall</u>

295 Direct recharge to the sub-aerial portion of the aquifer from rainfall, also known as field recharge, is another source of aquifer replenishment. Blaney (1933) studied what he 296 called "deep penetration of rain" in Ventura County, California, not far from the study area, in 297 fields that included irrigated citrus and unirrigated grass and weeds. Blaney developed 298 299 infiltration curves for each land use (Figure 16). Note that Blaney's infiltration curves do not go through the origin because no recharge occurs when annual rainfall is less than 10 or 12 300 inches (25.4 to 30.5 cm) on irrigated land, and less than 17 inches (43.2 cm) on grassland, 301 brush, or weeds. 302

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#### 304

## FIGURE 16



306	The utilization of the Blaney curves to calculate field recharge is quite simple: Only
307	the delineation of the sub-aerial extent of the aquifer within the subject basin (or watershed),
308	a calculation of the annual rainfall at the point of recharge, and knowledge of the type of
309	vegetation is required. Whereas field recharge can be approximated utilizing a single
310	calculation and the average annual rainfall, calculating recharge for each individual year over a
311	period of representative rainfall is preferred, because the very wet years will result in recharge
312	values that more than offset the dry years. The use of average rainfall in the application of the
313	Blaney recharge curves will result in artificially low field recharge values (Figure 17). (Note
314	that a degree of complexity (and accuracy) is added to Figure 17 by including soil moisture in
315	the analysis of field recharge.)

<u>FIGURE 17</u>					
EXAMPLE OF FIELD RECHARGE UTILIZING "BLANEY CURVES"					
(all values in inches)					
VENADITO CANYON UPPER Tvq NATIVE VEG SOIL MOISTURE BALANCE (file is VenTvqNU)					
(Oct-Sep WtrYr vals shown; soil cap 21.00 in.; watershed ET max= 23.73 in.)					

Water	Wtrsh Avg	Net*	Total Irrig	Beginning	Available	Total Evpo	Ending	Deep
1941	58.84	47.79	0.00	5.73	47.79	22.27	7.48	23.77
1942	16.72	15.57	0.00	7.48	15.57	20.22	2.83	0.00
1943	31.65	27.26	0.00	2.83	27.26	20.77	6.27	3.06
1944	23.34	21.71	0.00	6.27	21.71	22.36	5.62	0.00
1945	19.88	18.52	0.00	5.62	18.52	20.79	3.36	0.00
1946	14.73	13.93	0.00	3.36	13.93	15.06	2.22	0.00
1947	17.44	16.54	0.00	2.22	16.54	16.24	2.52	0.00
1948	11.96	11.87	0.00	2.52	11.87	12.08	2.30	0.00
1949	14.24	13.81	0.00	2.30	13.81	13.81	2.30	0.00
1950	18.73	18.32	0.00	2.30	18.32	17.14	3.49	0.00
1951	13.08	12.98	0.00	3.49	12.98	14.32	2.16	0.00
1952	40.64	35.42	0.00	2.16	35.42	20.60	7.47	9.51
1953	17.39	16.47	0.00	7.47	16.47	20.86	3.08	0.00
1954	20.09	19.42	0.00	3.08	19.42	19.05	3.45	0.00
1955	21.99	21.36	0.00	3.45	21.36	20.61	4.20	0.00
1956	25.79	22.51	0.00	4.20	22.51	21.22	5.49	0.00
1957	18.80	17.65	0.00	5.49	17.65	19.76	3.38	0.00
1958	41.88	34.77	0.00	3.38	34.77	21.21	8.50	8.44
1959	11.44	10.73	0.00	8.50	10.73	17.00	2.23	0.00
1960	14.06	13.67	0.00	2.23	13.67	13.67	2.23	0.00
1961	13.06	12.75	0.00	2.23	12.75	12.98	2.01	0.00
1962	33.98	29.03	0.00	2.01	29.03	20.81	4.38	5.85
1963	19.88	19.05	0.00	4.38	19.05	18.84	4.59	0.00
1964	10.03	9.58	0.00	4.59	9.58	12.33	1.84	0.00
1965	23.77	22.23	0.00	1.84	22.23	19.95	4.12	0.00
1966	18.28	14.64	0.00	4.12	14.64	16.38	2.37	0.00
1967	30.42	24.41	0.00	2.37	24.41	20.92	5.86	0.00
1968	17.44	16.85	0.00	5.86	16.85	19.74	2.98	0.00
1969	38.39	31.69	0.00	2.98	31.69	20.62	4.38	9.67
1970	15.38	14.03	0.00	4.38	14.03	16.02	2.38	0.00
1971	18.21	17.48	0.00	2.38	17.48	17.23	2.63	0.00
1972	11.24	10.47	0.00	2.63	10.47	11.23	1.87	0.00
1973	32.11	27.64	0.00	1.87	27.64	20.89	5.02	3.60
1974	22.46	21.12	0.00	5.02	21.12	21.94	4.21	0.00
1975	25.24	22.41	0.00	4.21	22.41	21.37	5.24	0.00
1976	17.58	16.90	0.00	5.24	16.90	14.67	7.47	0.00
1977	14.15	13.65	0.00	7.47	13.65	18.58	2.54	0.00
1978	56.63	47.39	0.00	2.54	47.39	20.24	8.83	20.87
1979	27.85	26.24	0.00	8.83	26.24	23.69	6.23	5.15
1980	30.86	27.22	0.00	6.23	27.22	22.35	6.98	4.12
1981	18.60	17.33	0.00	6.98	17.33	21.01	3.30	0.00
Avgs	23.20	20.82	0.00	5.73	20.82	18.51	5.73	2.31
	0	20.02	2.00	2.70	20102		2170	1

321 322 \* Estimated runoff depth= Total-Net rainfall.

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#### 323 <u>Surface Inflow</u>

Subsurface inflow occurs when groundwater flows from an upgradient aquifer into a downgradient aquifer, induced by gravity and/or the dewatering of the downgradient aquifer by pumping (Figure 18).

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#### FIGURE 18



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In order to quantify subsurface inflow, the gradient (i) and transmissivity (T) of the aquifers should be determined from pumping test data within the same watershed or a nearby watershed. Subsurface inflow can then be calculated utilizing a formula modified from Darcy (1856): Q = Tiw, where T = Transmissivity, Q = flow, w = aquifer width and i equals the hydraulic gradient. In this study area, the gradient, where known, varies from 0.066 to 0.175 feet per foot.

338 It has been argued that the aquifer transmissivity parallel to the bedding planes is much 339 higher than the aquifer transmissivity across bedding planes, resulting in an anomalously high 340 transmissivity value when using pump test data to evaluate subsurface inflow, since pump test 341 data is typically developed from flow parallel to bedding planes and subsurface inflow typically occurs sub-perpendicular to the dip of the bedding (Figure 18). This is the vertical permeability 342 versus the horizontal permeability problem common in an alluvial aquifer with horizontal 343 bedding. While it may be true that pumping tests overstate aquifer permeability perpendicular to 344 bedding in the fractured sandstones and shales, the fracture zones appear to provide ample 345 groundwater movement independent of the bedding planes. Second, in most watersheds of 346 347 known safe yield, data presented on Table II indicate that stream recharge and field recharge are insufficient in magnitude to equal the total recharge calculated from long term pumpage-change 348 in storage studies, thus subsurface inflow must be a component of recharge. 349

350

351

#### **DISCHARGE**

Discharge from the consolidated rock aquifers occurs by gravity (i.e. baseflow) and by pumping. Subsurface outflow to the ocean is limited in the study area due to the impermeable nature of the mudstone and shale of the Rincon and Sisquoc formations, respectively, which crop out at the southern (or downgradient) portion of the sandstone sequence.

#### **OTHER ISSUES**

## 358 <u>"Poaching"</u>

The term poaching is used herein to describe the process by which groundwater can be 359 induced to move from one watershed to another due to pumping. We know from field evidence 360 (water level data gathered from well fields in adjacent watersheds and at the watershed divide) 361 that groundwater will migrate, in response to pumping, from one watershed to another, 362 perpendicular to the natural gradient. This phenomenon usually occurs when the pumpage in one 363 364 watershed is significantly greater than the pumpage in the adjacent watershed. Groundwater flow 365 also occurs between watersheds along northwest or east-west trending zones that are preferential "carriers" of groundwater. This latter phenomena explains the extraordinarily high yields of 366 367 some wells located in the vicinity of the San Jose, San Pedro, and Carneros fault zones.

368

#### 369 Fault Barriers

Faults may also be barriers to groundwater migration. A case in point appears to be 370 Corral/Las Flores Canyon where the perennial yield of the Vagueros aguifer (determined by 371 pumpage-change in storage analysis over an 11-year period) is roughly half of the calculated 372 perennial yield determined by the methods described herein (Table II). The best explanation for 373 the disparity between the predicted and actual perennial yield of the southern Vaqueros aquifer in 374 Las Flores Canyon is the presence of an east-west striking fault that acts as a barrier to 375 376 groundwater migration and subsurface inflow. The fact that the fault is a barrier to groundwater 377 migration is confirmed by differential water levels on the upgradient and downgradient sides of the fault. 378

379

#### 380 <u>Allowance for Drought</u>

In addition to *seasonal* fluctuations in rainfall, significant variation in rainfall occurs from 381 year to year, thus diminished recharge during drought is commonplace in the study area. 382 For example, during the 7-year period from 1944-51 the average rainfall in the study area was 383 only 66 percent of normal. The droughts of 1969-73, 1986-90, and 2012-16, although shorter, 384 385 were even more severe (Figure 19). Very little runoff (and therefore little streamflow) occurs when rainfall is less than 11 inches per year, approximately 62 percent of the long-term average 386 387 rainfall (Table I, Figure 6). Likewise, recharge to fractured consolidated rock aquifers by field 388 recharge occurs only three months of the year, and then typically in only in the wettest 389 20 percent of all years (Figure 17). It is therefore necessary for the investigator to evaluate 390 diminished recharge during drought when evaluating the long-term yield of the aquifer. 391 One method of doing this is to evaluate the recharge that occurs during a 4 or 6-year "design 392 drought", then to determine the amount of water that can be removed from (aquifer) storage 393 during that 4 to 6-year period of recharge shortfall. To accomplish the latter task, the investigator first needs to calculate drought recharge from direct penetration of rainfall (usually zero), 394 streamflow, and subsurface inflow utilizing methods described above. Then, calculate the 395 groundwater in storage that must be removed to balance the lost recharge, keeping in mind that 396 the specific yield of the consolidated rock aquifers is likely between 1 percent and 5 percent of 397 398 the rock mass (Miller & Rapp, 1960), and that no more than 2/3 of the total groundwater in storage can be harvested, probably less. 399

## FIGURE 19



## 405 <u>The Impact of Upstream Diversions</u>

Many of the well fields in the study area are located downgradient from surface water diversions or well fields. The impact of the upstream diversion on aquifer recharge can be determined utilizing the Ahlroth model, which is based on Crippen (1965), as modified by San Jose Creek daily data and site specific diversions (Figure 20).

- 410
- 411

## FIGURE 20



412

#### 414 Enhanced Recharge

415 Enhanced recharge to an aquifer may occur if the natural vegetation is removed and 416 replaced with irrigated crops. Adjustments for this enhanced recharge can be made using the 417 methods of Blaney (1933), Crippen (1965), or Zhang (2001) to calculate field recharge.

- 418
- 419

#### **COMPONENTS OF RECHARGE**

Utilizing methods described above, the magnitude of the components of recharge for each 420 of the aquifers in the six watersheds has been calculated. On average, stream seepage represents 421 422 12 percent of total recharge; field recharge represents 38 percent of total recharge; and 423 subsurface inflow represents 50 percent of total recharge (Table II).

424 425

426

#### TABLE II CALCULATED COMPONENTS OF RECHARGE IN SELECTED WATERSHEDS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Watershed	Annual Rainfall at Aquifer (inches)	Average Annual Rainfall in Watershed Above Outcrop (AFY)	Average Annual Streamflow (AFY)	Infiltration Rate (based on Site- Specific Consolidated Rock permeability)	Stream Seepage based on Aquifer Permeabilit y (AFY)	Area of Outcro p (acres)	Field Recharg e (AFY)	Calculate d Subsurfac e Inflow <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Annual Recharge- Modified Inventory Method (Field Recharge + Stream Seepage & Subsurface Inflow)	Estimated Perennial Yield- Pumpage Change in Storage Method (Year of Test)	Comments
Gato/Las Varas Canyons (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Sandstone)	20"	2758 + 4812 = 7570	1020 + 300 = 1320	0.86 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	11	531	<mark>110</mark>	50 AFY	171	150 AFY (1994-2004)	Wet cycle
El Capitan/Destilatera/ Llagas Canyons (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Aquifers)	20"	8159 + 2920 + 844 = 11,924	2068 + 26 + 234 = 2328	2.77 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	<mark>16</mark>	196	<mark>70</mark>	235 AFY	<mark>321</mark>	450 AFY (1980-2010)	Multiple wet and dry cycles
Carneros Canyon (Northern and Southern VaquerosAquifers)	21"	3958	520	4.3 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	<mark>20</mark>	46 + 86 = 132	<mark>17 + 24</mark> = 41	40 AFY + 40 AFY = 80 AFY	<mark>141</mark>	200 AFY (1982-93)	Wet and dry cycles
Venedito Canyon (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Aquifers)	22"	1514	247	9.48 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	<mark>38</mark>	140	<mark>50</mark>	<mark>73 AFY</mark>	<mark>161</mark>	143 AFY (1993-2004)	Wet cycle
Tajiguas /Leon Canyon (Sacate, and Vaqueros Aquifers)	20"/27.5"	6280	1276	5.5 gpd/ ft <sup>2</sup>	<mark>51 <sup>(2)</sup></mark>	1945	<mark>364</mark>	<mark>329</mark>	744	600 AFY (2010-2017)	Dry cycle Loss of storage
Las Flores Canyon (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Aquifers)	20"	9349	1826	9.48 <sup>(4)</sup> gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	<mark>86</mark>	265	<mark>36</mark>	134 <sup>(3)</sup>	267 <sup>(3)</sup>	139 AFY	Wet and dry cycles

427

428 429 <sup>(1)</sup> Subsurface inflow based on Formula Q = Tiw

<sup>(2)</sup> Stream seepage adjusted from Ahlroth model based on site specific permeability

430 431 <sup>(3)</sup> Calculated Annual Recharge likely impacted by impaired subsurface recharge due to east-west trending fault

<sup>(4)</sup> Estimate based on nearby Venadito Canyon

#### EVALUATING PERENNIAL YIELD MICHAEL F. HOOVER

## 433 COMPARISON OF METHODS FOR CALCULATING AQUIFER RECHARGE

434 <u>General</u>

Long-term water level and pumpage data have been developed for several watersheds within the study area. These long-term aquifer tests provide the most accurate estimates of long-term recharge to the aquifers, but unfortunately data limitations may make the pumpage-change in storage method of analysis impractical at other sites, requiring the use of alternative methods of analysis.

440

Miller and Rapp (1965) suggest that approximately 6 percent of the rainfall could be available to recharge aquifers in the study area. While this method may be correct when used for the entire Ellwood-Gaviota area, it overestimates the long-term recharge in some watersheds, and underestimates recharge in others, resulting in significant error (Table III). Rejected recharge may also account for some of the error. In short, Miller and Rapp (1965) never intended their study to be utilized as a basis for estimating the perennial yield in individual watersheds or aquifers, and it should not be used in this manner.

448

Another method of estimating the long-term recharge to the consolidated rock aquifers is presented in the County Thresholds Manual (Santa Barbara County, 1992). The County Thresholds Manual commonly underestimates perennial yield, because it ignores subsurface inflow, but may also, on occasion, overestimate perennial yield, since the County methodology does not require the development of site-specific aquifer data.

454

455	A method of estimating perennial yield (in lieu of pumpage-change in storage data) that
456	provides the most accurate values is provided herein. The only watershed where significant error
457	occurs is Corral/Las Flores Canyon, where special geologic conditions exist that inhibit surface
458	inflow. Adjusting for the special geologic conditions in Corral/Las Flores Canyon results in an
459	acceptable level of error; approximately $\pm 22$ percent of the known value.

460

Comparing the calculated average annual recharge determined using methods described herein results in an estimate of annual average yield of 1797 AFY for all six watersheds, compared to the measured perennial yield using the pumping-change in storage method (1683 AFY), a difference of 6.8 percent.

#### 465 466

467

468

#### TABLE III COMPARISON OF PERENNIAL YIELD IN SELECTED WATERSHEDS USING VARIOUS METHODS OF ANALYSIS

WATERSHED	SANTA BARBARA COUNTY THRESHOLD MANUAL (AFY)/(ERROR)	MILLER & RAPP (AFY)/(ERROR)	HOOVER METHOD USING CRIPPEN-BLANEY STREAM/FIELD RECHARGE AND SUBSURFACE RECHARGE/(ERROR)	PERENNIAL YIELD PUMPAGE-CHANGE IN STORAGE METHOD
Gato/Las Varas Canyons (Vaqueros Sandstone)	266/(+77%)	360/(+140%)	171/(+15%)	150
El Capitan / Destilatera / Llagas Canyons (Vaqueros Sandstone)	132/(-70%)	275/(-38%)	321/(-28%)	450
Carneros Canyon (Vaqueros Sandstone)	87/(-56%)	91/(-54%)	141/(-30%)	200
Venedito Canyon (Vaqueros Sandstone)	90/(-37%)	35/(-75%)	161/(+13%)	143
Las Flores / Corral (Vaqueros Sandstone)	122/(-12%)	216/(+55%)	256/(+84%)	139
Tajiguas Canyon (All Aquifers)	756/(+26%)	282/(-47%)	744/(+24%)	600
Average Error	46%	68%	33%/22% (4)	

<sup>(1)</sup> Value impacted by upstream diversion.

<sup>(2)</sup> Assumes <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> of the calculated watershed recharge is allocated to Vaqueros Sandstone. Remainder of recharge allocated to upstream aquifer.

<sup>(3)</sup> Value impacted by upstream fault.

<sup>(4)</sup> Average error is presented with and without adjustment for unique geologic conditions in Las Flores/Corral Canyon.

476

#### SHORTCOMINGS OF THE STUDY

The studies that are the basis of pumpage-change in storage values (Tables II and III) were commissioned by various entities over timeframes that did not always coincide with the most desirable base period. A base period should consist of a representative period of rainfall that does not begin or end on a particularly wet or dry year. While the pumpage-change in storage values present in this study are as accurate as possible using the available data, new information is always beneficial.

483

The impact of the 2011-18 drought will likely generate new data with respect to groundwater held in storage in the fractured consolidated rock aquifer. In most cases, it is unlikely that the average annual recharge (or perennial yield) will be available from most aquifers during the latter years of such an extended drought, which gives rise to the question of whether or not the average annual recharge is synonymous with the term perennial yield.

- 489
- 490

#### CONCLUSIONS

The most accurate method of determining the perennial yield of an aquifer is a long-term study over a period of representative rainfall during which water levels and aquifer production are monitored. Unfortunately, it is not often feasible to conduct such tests due to time constraints and the vagaries of precipitation. An estimate of the perennial yield of the combined aquifers is available for the study area (Miller and Rapp, 1965), but is inaccurate when applied to aquifers in a specific watershed. Such a result is not surprising since Miller and Rapp never intended their study to be used for such purposes.

499 With respect to the County Groundwater Thresholds Manual (Santa Barbara County, 1992), 500 the County's dismissal of subsurface inflow as a recharge component typically results in estimates 501 of perennial yield that are less than the value determined by the more accurate pumping-change in 502 storage method. Using the methods described herein, the average error when comparing "known" 503 values of perennial yield to calculated values of perennial yield in the six watersheds studied in 504 detail is 33 percent. The error is lowered to 22 percent when unique geologic conditions that occur at one site are taken into consideration. The error within individual watersheds is -30 percent to 505 506 +84 percent. Adjusting for unique geologic conditions at the Las Flores site results in a more 507 acceptable error within individual watersheds of +24 percent to -30 percent. Overall accuracy 508 between the theoretical method and the pumpage-change in storage method is within 6.7 percent 509 when values for all watersheds are averaged.

510

In lieu of long-term pumpage and water level data, an alternative method of determining the perennial yield of fractured consolidated rock aquifers in southern Santa Barbara County has been developed that allows the investigator to estimate aquifer recharge from streamflow, direct rainfall on the aquifer (field recharge), and subsurface inflow. A short aquifer test utilizing at least one well is needed to perform this analysis, as well as topographic and geologic maps. Setting aside sites with atypical geologic or hydrologic conditions, an accuracy of  $\pm 22$  percent can be expected.

518

It can be concluded from inspection of Table IV that the upper threshold of the long-term or perennial yield of a sandstone aquifer in this study area is less than 10 percent of the average annual rainfall within the watershed. In cases where groundwater production from the fractured

- 522 consolidated rock aquifers within the watershed is greater than 10 percent of the rainfall, such
- 523 production is likely unsustainable (i.e. "one-shot water"), or is water that is migrating from
- another watershed due to enhanced gradients (poaching).
- 525
- 526 While this study is intended to apply to southern Santa Barbara County, the principles
- should apply to other geographic areas.
- 528

529

## TABLE IV

## CALCULATED COMPONENTS OF RECHARGE IN SELECTED WATERSHEDS IN SOUTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WATERSHED	ANNUAL RAINFALL AT OUTCROP (INCHES)	AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL IN WATERSHED (AFY) <sup>1</sup>	AVERAGE ANNUAL STREAMFLOW (AFY)	INFILTRATION RATE (BASED ON SITE- SPECIFIC AQUIFER PERMEABILITY)	STREAM SEEPAGE BASED ON CONSOLIDAT ED ROCK AQUIFER PERMEABILI TY (AFY)	AREA OF OUTCROP (ACRES)	FIELD RECHAR GE – SCS (AFY)	CALCULAT ED SUBSURFAC E INFLOW <sup>6</sup> (AFY)	TOTAL ANNUAL RECHARGE MODIFIED INVENTORY METHOD	ANNUAL RECHARGE (PUMPAGE CHANGE IN STORAGE METHOD/ YEAR)	PERENNIAL YIELD AS PERCENTAGE AND RAINFALL
Gato/Las Varas (Northern and Southern4 Vaqueros Sandstone)	20"	7570	1320	0.86 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	11	531	110	50	171 AF	150 AF (1994- 2004)	2.05%
El Capitan/ Destilatera/ Llagas (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Sandstone)	20"	11,924	2328	2.77 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	16	196	70	235	321 AF	450 AF (1980- 2010)	3.77%
Carneros (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Sandstone)	21"	3958	520	4.3 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	20	132	41	80	141 AF	200 AF (1982-93)	5.05%
Venadito (Northern and Southern Vaqueros Sandstone)	22"	1794	247	9.48 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	38	140	50	73	161 AF	143 AF (1993- 2004)	7.97%
Tajiguas All Sandstone Aquifers	20"/27"	6030	1068	5.5 gpd/ft <sup>2</sup>	51	1945	364	329	744 AF	600 AF (2009- 2017)	9.95%
Las Flores (Vaqueros Sandstone)	20"	9349	1826	10 gpd/ft4	86	265	36	134	256	139 AF (1993- 2013)	4.09%

**SOTE:** Perennial yield as percentage of rainfall utilizes pumpage-change in storage value for perennial yield.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

534	This study significantly benefited from work performed by Hydrologist Jon Ahlroth who
535	digitized and evaluated the San Jose Creek stream gauge data, and applied the "Crippen" and
536	"Blaney" methods of determining streamflow and field recharge at the six watersheds of known
537	perennial yield. Ahlroth also developed an algorithm used to back-calculate the stream recharge
538	component in the six coastal watersheds studied by the author.
539	

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597	DEFINITIONS
598	
599	Annual Yield: The average annual rate of groundwater withdrawal over a period of
600	representative rainfall that results in the long-term stability of water levels. Also known as
601	perennial yield.
602	
603	Direct Penetration of Rainfall: Also known as field recharge, it is the downward
604	percolation of rainfall through the host rock and into the aquifer.
605	
606	Field Recharge: Also known as direct penetration of rainfall, it is the downward percolation
607	of rainfall through the host rock and into the aquifers.
608	
609	Perennial Yield: The average annual rate of groundwater withdrawal over a period of
610	representative rainfall that results in the long-term stability of water levels. Also known as
611	Annual Yield.
612	
613	Poaching: A term used to describe the flow of groundwater from one watershed to another
614	in response to the lowering of water levels, usually by pumping, such that groundwater flows in a
615	direction that would not occur in a natural state.
616	
617	Safe Yield: The average annual rate of groundwater withdrawal that does not result in
618	adverse effects such as subsidence uneconomic pumping levels of water quality degradation.
619	

620	Storativity (S): The volume of water released from storage, or taken into storage, per unit of
621	surface area of the aquifer per unit change in head. In water-table aquifers, $S$ is the same as the
622	specific yield of the material unwatered during pumping. In artesian aquifers, $S$ is the result of
623	two elastic effects-compression of the aquifer and expansion of the contained water-when the
624	head or pressure is reduced during pumping. The coefficient of storage is a dimensionless term.
625	
626	Subaerial: Occurring or existing in the open air, immediately on or near the earth's surface.
627	
628	Subsurface Inflow: The subsurface flow of groundwater from one aquifer to another.
629	
630	<u>Transmissivity <math>(T)</math></u> : The rate at which water will flow through a vertical strip of the aquifer
631	one foot wide and extending through the full saturated thickness, under a hydraulic gradient of
632	1.00 or 100 percent.
633	
634	Underflow: The subsurface flow of groundwater beneath a streambed, typically within
635	the alluvium.
636	
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