

MGA Survey Results

AUGUST 2019

- Online survey was available from June 23 to August 12.
- The single-page survey included six questions and took less than 10 minutes to complete. The average time spent per respondent was 3 minutes, 22 seconds.
- All questions required a response.
- Possible responses were randomized for each respondent to avoid any weight being given to the order of the answers.
- Several questions allowed for respondents to select "all that apply" and/or allowed to enter their own response.
- The survey was shared via the MGA website, social media posts by partners or in community groups, and by email newsletter.
- A total of 243 people completed the survey. It is not known if some people took the survey more than once.
- Most responses were collected in the first week (about 120) with response volume slowing each week.

QUESTION 1: Do you live in the Mid-County Groundwater Basin? (The Basin includes all Soquel Creek Water District and Central Water District customers, as well as private well owners users in Soquel and Aptos Hills, and all of Live Oak.)

The majority of respondents live in the Basin (77%). About 8% were not sure if they live in the Basin.

QUESTION 2: What is your perception of our current water situation?

The majority of respondents believe the water situation is critical, or they are concerned but need to know more (75%). About 1/3 of respondents think water conservation will lead to a sustainable water supply. Very few respondents believe the drought is over, don't think about the water supply or don't know.

QUESTION 3: What are current threats to our basin? (Select all that apply.)

Seawater intrusion was perceived to be the biggest threat to the basin by respondents, followed by lowering groundwater levels, overpumping and historical overdraft. "Other," a response that allowed a comment, also rated highly, with 1/3 of respondents selecting this option. Comments focused on Pure Water Soquel, characterizing the project as "polluting" groundwater by injecting treated sewage water back into the aquifer.

QUESTION 4: What are some ways we can improve the health of the groundwater basin? (Select all that apply.)

Respondents were overwhelmingly supportive of additional water conservation measures (77%), increasing stormwater recharge projects (75%) and creating a recycled water program for irrigation purposes (70%).

QUESTION 5: Do you trust water managers and elected representatives to effectively manage our water resources and bring the basin to sustainability?

The yes/no percentages (31% and 40%, respectively) on this question do not accurately reflect the responses. The majority of the "other" responses were negative comments, most about Soquel Creek Water District, including rates being too high and Pure Water Soquel.

QUESTION 6: How can the Mid-County Groundwater Agency keep you updated on progress being made toward reaching sustainability? (Select all that apply)

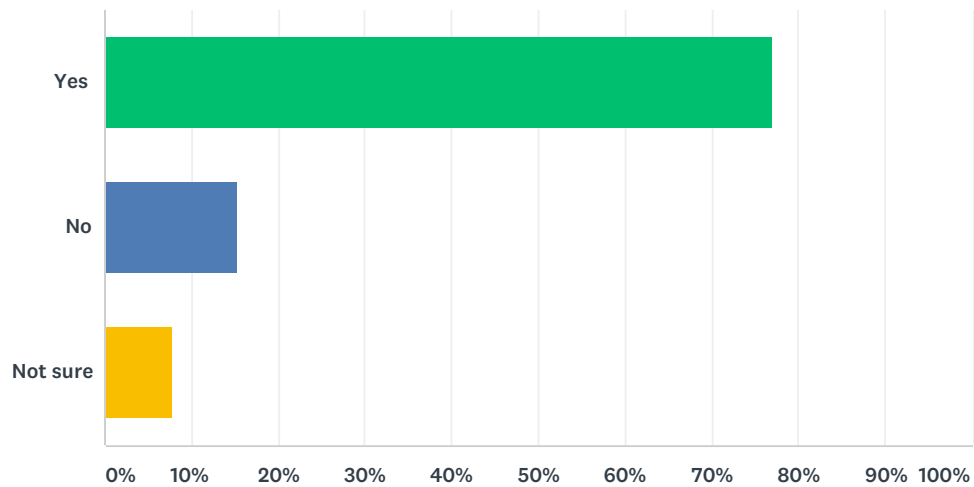
The top three choices on this question were newspaper articles, community meetings and email. Just fewer than 90 people provided email addresses, which MGA can use for future communications.



Survey Data

Q1 Do you live in the Mid-County Groundwater Basin? (The Basin includes all Soquel Creek Water District and Central Water District customers, as well as private well owners users in Soquel and Aptos Hills, and all of Live Oak.)

Answered: 243 Skipped: 0

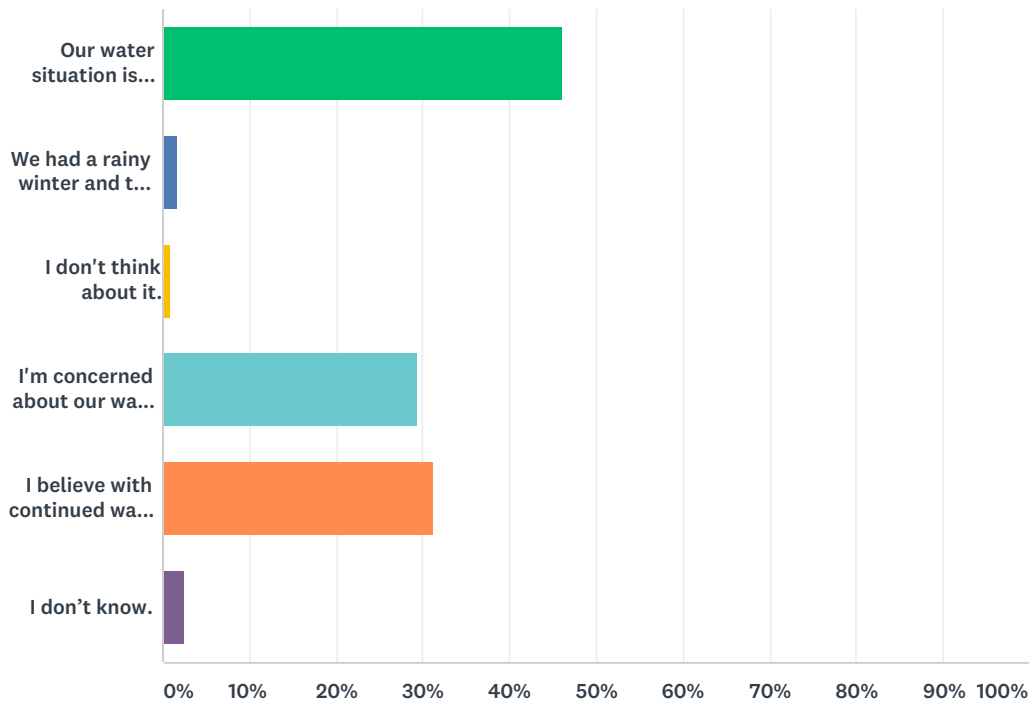


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.95%	187
No	15.23%	37
Not sure	7.82%	19
TOTAL		243

Survey Data

Q2 What is your perception of our current water situation?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 0

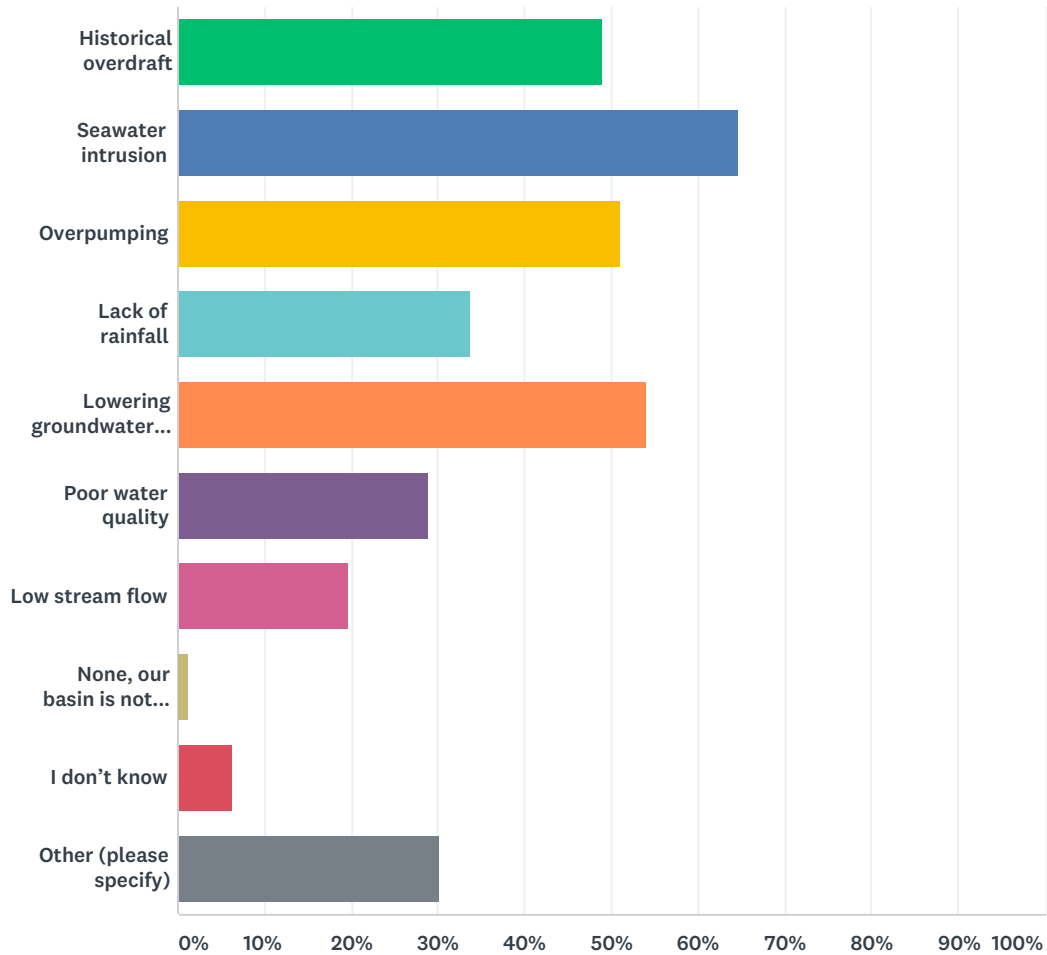


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Our water situation is critical and our basin is overdrafted. We need to develop supplemental water supplies and conserve to protect our shared resource.	46.09% 112
We had a rainy winter and the drought is over, so we don't need to worry about our water supply.	1.65% 4
I don't think about it.	0.82% 2
I'm concerned about our water supply but need to know more to understand the situation here.	29.22% 71
I believe with continued water conservation, our water supply is sustainable.	31.28% 76
I don't know.	2.47% 6
Total Respondents: 243	

Survey Data

Q3 What are current threats to our basin? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 243 Skipped: 0

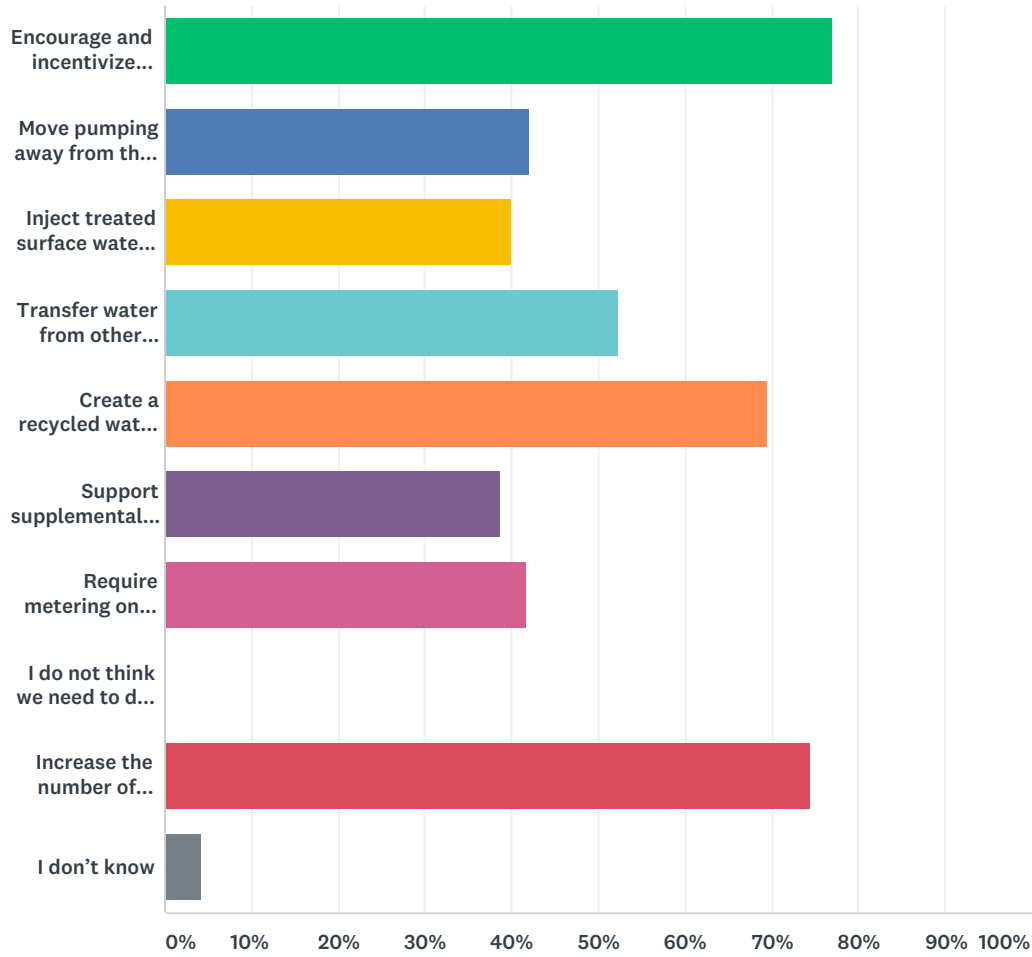


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Historical overdraft	48.97%	119
Seawater intrusion	64.61%	157
Overpumping	51.03%	124
Lack of rainfall	33.74%	82
Lowering groundwater levels	53.91%	131
Poor water quality	28.81%	70
Low stream flow	19.75%	48
None, our basin is not threatened	1.23%	3
I don't know	6.17%	15
Other (please specify)	30.04%	73
Total Respondents: 243		

Survey Data

Q4 What are some ways we can improve the health of the groundwater basin? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 243 Skipped: 0

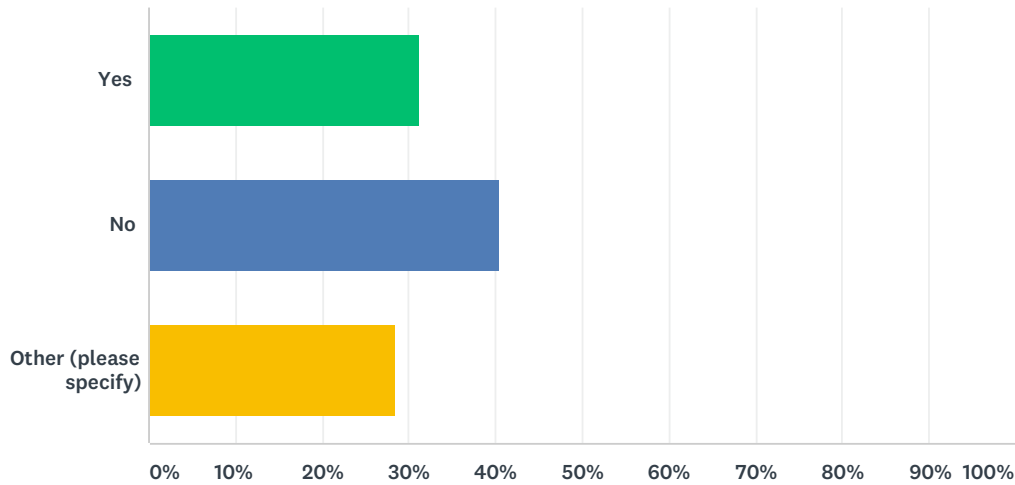


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Encourage and incentivize water conservation throughout the basin	76.95%	187
Move pumping away from the coast	41.98%	102
Inject treated surface water from other sources (i.e. winter runoff from the San Lorenzo River) into the aquifer	39.92%	97
Transfer water from other areas to pause usage of certain wells, allowing them to "rest"	52.26%	127
Create a recycled water program for irrigation purposes	69.55%	169
Support supplemental drinking supply projects like purified recycled water	38.68%	94
Require metering on private wells to understand how much water is being pumped from the basin	41.56%	101
I do not think we need to do anything to improve the health of the basin	0.00%	0
Increase the number of stormwater recharge projects to try to capture more rainwater in the ground	74.49%	181
I don't know	4.12%	10
Total Respondents: 243		

Survey Data

Q5 Do you trust water managers and elected representatives to effectively manage our water resources and bring the basin to sustainability?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 0

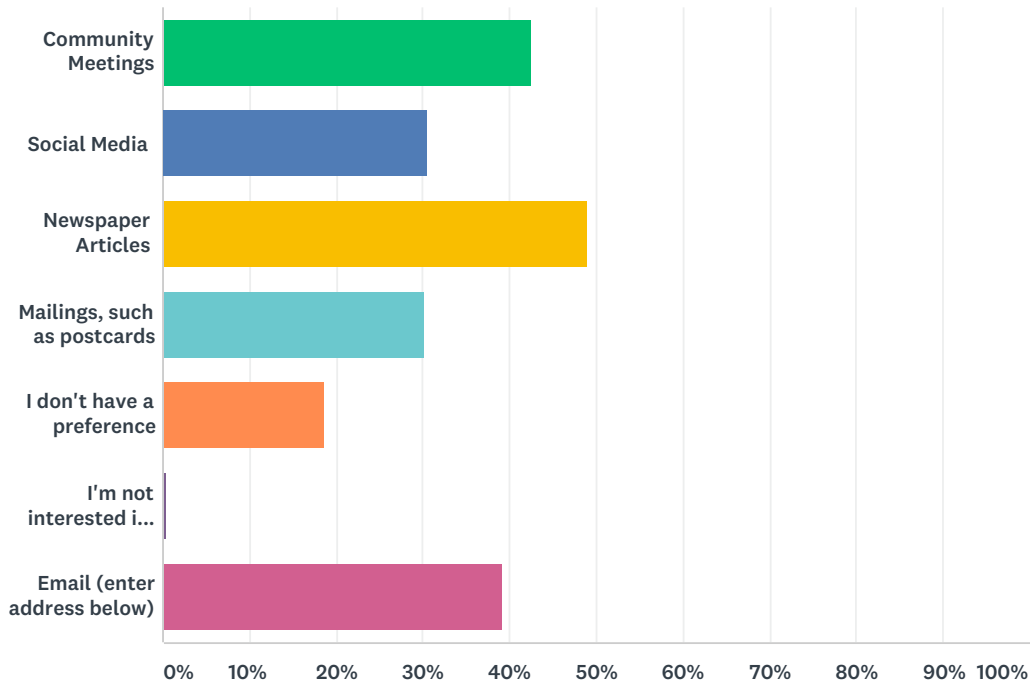


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.28%	76
No	40.33%	98
Other (please specify)	28.40%	69
TOTAL		243

Survey Data

Q6 How can the Mid-County Groundwater Agency keep you updated on progress being made toward reaching sustainability?(Select all that apply)

Answered: 243 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community Meetings	42.39%	103
Social Media	30.45%	74
Newspaper Articles	48.97%	119
Mailings, such as postcards	30.04%	73
I don't have a preference	18.52%	45
I'm not interested in learning more	0.41%	1
Email (enter address below)	39.09%	95
Total Respondents: 243		