

# The Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

The Upper Ventura River Basin (UVRB) is located in the Ojai Valley under and next to the upper part of the Ventura River. It stretches from the Camino Cielo Bridge just below the confluence of Matilija Creek and North Fork Matilija Creek, down to Foster Park below Casitas Springs.

The basin is a crucial source of water for the area. It is one of four basins that supply water to the Ventura River watershed, which is 100% dependent upon local sources. Groundwater provides about half of local water supplies.

Water from the basin is used by growers; by residents and businesses in Oak View, Mira Monte, Meiners Oaks, Casitas Springs, and the City of Ventura; and by natural habitats and the animals that depend upon them.

The UVRB is an unconfined basin, meaning there is no impermeable layer of clay or rock above the basin, allowing water to seep directly into the basin from



Photo by Scott Lewis

above. The amount of surface and sub-surface water in the Ventura River therefore plays a big role in recharge of the basin.

The other major drainage that contributes water to the basin is San Antonio Creek.

The UVRB is locat-

ed in an alluvial fill valley. Alluvium is unconsolidated sediment that has been eroded from surrounded mountains and transported and deposited by water. Groundwater basins that are alluvial and largely unconfined refill rapidly following periods of high rainfall and decline slowly under natural conditions.

Much of the river bottom overlying the UVRB is known as the dry reach, where, in low to moderate rainfall years, the surface water quickly disappears underground once storm flows have passed—even when the river is still flowing above and below this reach. The dry reach generally extends from below the Robles Diversion to just above the river's confluence with San Antonio Creek.

The stretch of the Ventura River between the San Antonio Creek confluence and Foster Park is the wet reach. This reach typically flows year round except in multi-year dry periods. In this area the groundwater basin becomes narrower and shallower, forcing subsurface flow to the surface.

## 1 of 4

Groundwater basins that supply water to the Ventura River watershed and surrounding areas.

## 1/2

Of local water supplies are provided by groundwater.

## 10,000

Acre-feet of water per year flows into and out of the basin on average (over the past 60 years).

## 18

Months is about how long the upper part of the basin has water before it runs out - if there is no significant recharge.

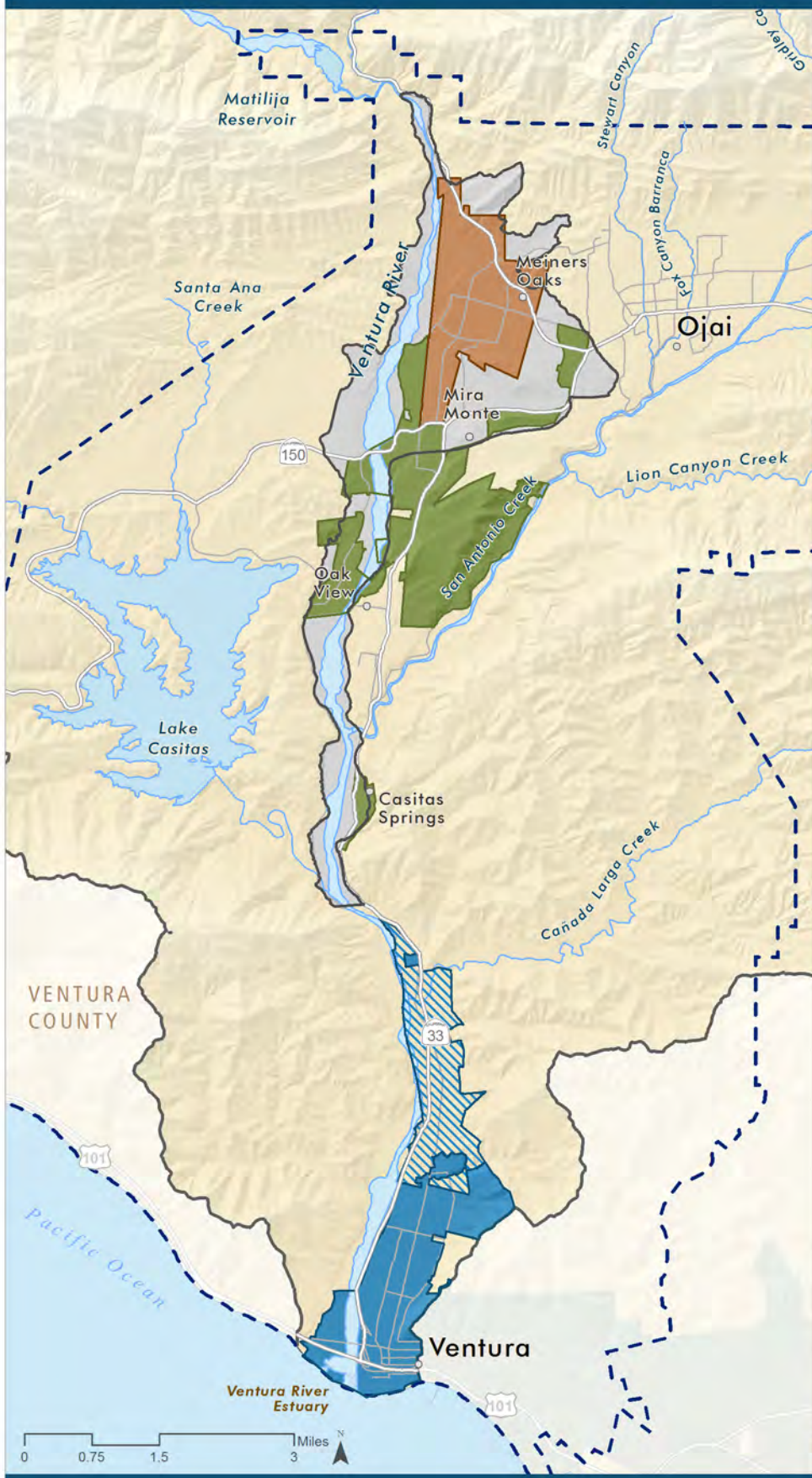
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




Months of average-to-good winter rains is all it takes for the basin to go from empty to full.

## 50-150

Feet is the thickness of the relatively thin alluvium that comprises the main part of the basin.

# Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Public Agencies



-  Ventura River Watershed
-  Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin
- Public Agencies of the Upper Ventura River GSA**
-  Casitas Municipal Water District
-  Ventura Water
-  Ventura Water (outside city limits)
-  Meiners Oaks Water District
-  Ventura River Water District
- County of Ventura - Has jurisdiction over all areas outside of cities

Data Source:  
Ventura County Watershed Protection District  
Ventura County LAFCO, Jordan Kear.  
Map Created by GreenInfo Network using Esri software  
February 2016, www.greeninfo.org

