

# The ups and downs of the Tucson area's aquifer

The aquifer has risen significantly since 2000 inside the Tucson city limits, because the Tucson Water utility has dramatically reduced its groundwater pumping in favor of renewable Colorado River supplies via the Central Arizona Project. Groundwater levels have also risen in the Avra Valley, where Tucson Water has bought and retired farmland and where the utility has built basins to store CAP supplies before delivering them. In northern and southeastern suburbs, however, water levels have fallen sharply since 2000, reflecting continued groundwater pumping there although some water providers have reduced that recently.

## Legend

- Canal
- Pipeline
- CAP recharge basin

Approximate regional aquifer boundary

