



## State Water Resources Control Board

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### STATE WATER BOARD RELEASES GEOTRACKER INTERACTIVE GROUNDWATER QUALITY WEBSITE

SACRAMENTO -The State Water Resources Control Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program (GAMA) this week launched a user-friendly internet site, GeoTracker GAMA, designed to help the public, government and drinking water agencies, and environmental advocates easily access accurate and timely groundwater quality data. Over 40 percent of Californians use groundwater for at least some of their drinking water supply. The GAMA program's main goal is to assess the quality of groundwater before it is pumped out of the ground. It is common for groundwater to be treated after pumping and before use for public supply. Many private well owners are unaware of their water quality and should find this site valuable.

GeoTracker GAMA brings together published groundwater information from many sources and provides tools to analyze data. GeoTracker GAMA includes data from California state agencies, including the Departments of Public Health, Water Resources and Pesticide Regulation, the State Water Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. It also includes data from the U.S. Geological Survey and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

GeoTracker GAMA is an internet-accessible groundwater quality information system that achieves one central purpose of AB 599, the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001, which called for improving comprehensive groundwater monitoring and increasing the availability of information about groundwater quality to the public.

"The interactive GeoTracker GAMA tool on our web site is an exciting example of using the latest technology to increase and facilitate public access to important information which will increase understanding and lead to informed decisions about activities that affect groundwater," said State Water Board Executive Director Dorothy Rice.

GeoTracker GAMA's tens of millions of results from water quality, water level, and geologic testing at over 170,000 sampling locations provide a good picture of the complex nature of groundwater and groundwater quality in California,

In addition to GeoTracker GAMA, the State Water Board's GAMA program is actively investigating groundwater quality in California's highest-use groundwater basins. Since 2000, the GAMA program has sampled over 4,000

domestic supply, public supply and monitoring wells with cutting-edge techniques to add new data to GeoTracker GAMA.

To get started using GeoTracker GAMA, please visit:  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama>. New data are added regularly to the database.

The State Water Resources Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

