

# Groundwater Ambient Monitoring & Assessment (GAMA) Program

UPDATED: DECEMBER 2017

## VISION

To support groundwater assessment by being a key portal for critical groundwater quality and quantity data and information statewide.

## MISSION

To provide data, information, and tools to enable the public and decision makers to better assess groundwater quality and quantity.

## GOALS

- Improve statewide comprehensive groundwater monitoring
- Increase availability to the general public of groundwater quality and contamination
- Establish ambient groundwater quality on a basin wide scale
- Continue groundwater quality studies to characterize chemicals of concern and identify trends in groundwater quality
- Centralize the availability of groundwater information to the public and decision makers to help protect our groundwater resources

## CONTACT

Email us at [GAMA@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:GAMA@waterboards.ca.gov)  
or call at 916.341.5777

Visit our website:  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/)

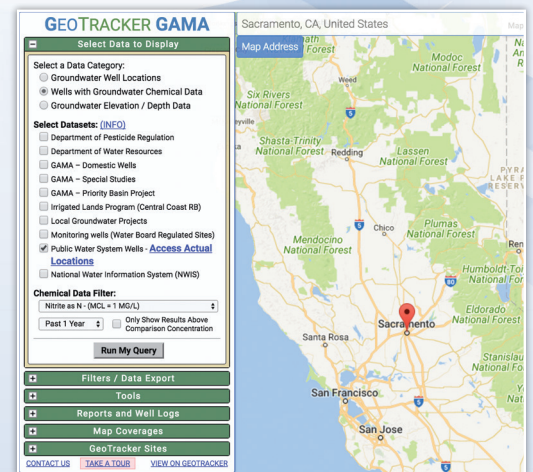
The Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program monitors ambient groundwater quality, provides hydrogeologic technical support to statewide programs, and includes several projects to meet the statutory requirements of the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (AB 599).

## GAMA PROJECTS

### GEOTRACKER GAMA

The GeoTracker GAMA online groundwater information system integrates and displays groundwater information from various sources on an interactive map.

- Increases the availability of groundwater information to the public and decision makers
- Analytical tools to help users assess groundwater quality and identify potential groundwater issues
- Offers more than 83 million analytical records from over 286,000 wells



### PRIORITY BASIN PROJECT

The Priority Basin Project provides a comprehensive assessment of statewide groundwater quality to help identify and understand the risks to groundwater.

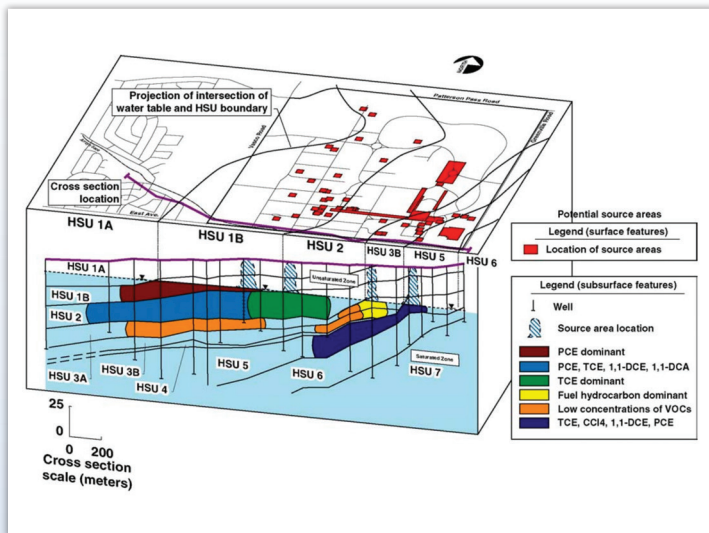
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)—project technical lead
- 2002—Started assessing public water system wells (deep groundwater)
- 2012—Shifted focus to shallow aquifer assessments
- Over 2,900 public and domestic water supply wells sampled
- Wells sampled represent 95% of the groundwater in California

## GAMA PROJECTS *(continued)*

### HYDROGEOLOGICAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The GAMA Program provides technical hydrogeological, GIS, and GeoTracker GAMA support to many statewide programs and has assumed the lead role in the statewide Source Water Protection effort and the Antidegradation in Groundwater Contract.

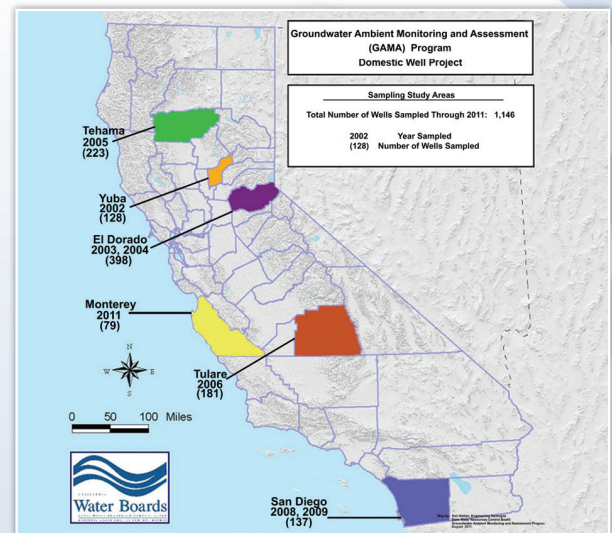
### SPECIAL STUDIES PROJECT



From 2002–2016, the Special Studies Projects used state-of-the-art scientific techniques and methods to help researchers and public policy planners understand how groundwater contamination occurs and behaves.

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)—project technical lead
- Many studies include nitrate (sources, fate and transport); wastewater indicators; and groundwater age, source, and recharge

### DOMESTIC WELL PROJECT



The Domestic Well Project was performed by Water Board staff between 2002 and 2011.

- Six California Counties (Yuba, El Dorado, Tehama, Tulare, San Diego, and Monterey)
- Over 1,100 domestic wells tested for commonly detected chemicals
- Voluntary participants received test results and associated fact sheets
- Water quality data is included in GeoTracker GAMA

The GAMA Program relies on collaboration with other Divisions and Offices of the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, Department of Water Resources, Department of Pesticide Regulations, UCD, USGS, and LLNL, and cooperation with local water agencies and well owners.