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## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **Bay Foundation's Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program Use of Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Funds Updated August 2, 2024**

On July 16, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted [Resolution 2024-0022](#),<sup>1</sup> which provides the option to dischargers settling certain administrative civil liabilities to fund the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay's (Bay Foundation) Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program (Drinking Water Well Testing Program) to help inform residents of the Central Coast about the safety of their drinking water.

#### **Drinking Water Well Testing Program Summary**

Over 90 percent of the Central Coast region's population depends on groundwater as the only drinking water source. In many rural areas, private domestic wells and small water systems are vulnerable to contamination and many underrepresented communities do not have the resources to conduct important water quality testing. The Drinking Water Well Testing Program provides free well testing to residents and community members who rely on private domestic wells and small water systems. The program is voluntary and program participants receive well testing results, interpretation of the results, information on recommended ongoing water quality testing, strategies to protect wells from contamination, and information on free bottled water delivery services to income qualified residents, if the well testing results show the water is unsafe to drink.

#### **Drinking Water Well Testing Program Outcomes**

The Drinking Water Well Testing Program began in October 2018, and approximately 600 wells have been sampled and analyzed for nitrate and arsenic in addition to various general minerals and physical parameters to date. Testing for various pesticides and/or 1,2,3-trichloropropane, hexavalent chromium, and/or perchlorate are also available in certain areas. Of the wells tested, results indicate that approximately 48 percent do not meet safe drinking water standards. The most common contaminants are nitrate and arsenic. For additional information please refer to the [Drinking Water Well Testing Program website](#).<sup>2</sup> Participant name and contact information is kept confidential, but well locations and testing results are available to the public in the State Water Board's

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Board Resolution 2024-0022, [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/2024/rs2024-0022.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/2024/rs2024-0022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Drinking Water Well Testing Program website, <https://sites.google.com/view/ccgroundwater>

Bay Foundation's Drinking Water Well Testing Program  
Use of SEP Funds

Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program Geographic Information System ([GAMA GIS](#))<sup>3</sup> online database.

**For More Information**

For more information on the opportunity to apply administrative civil liabilities to fund the Drinking Water Well Testing Program, please contact Tamara Anderson at [Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov) or (805) 549-3334.

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<sup>3</sup> State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program Geographic Information System, <https://gamagroundwater.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/gamamap/public/Default.asp>