

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MAY 17, 2011**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT (GAMA) GEOTRACKER
GAMA GROUNDWATER INFORMATION SYSTEM.

DISCUSSION

The Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program was created in 2000 and expanded by the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 [Assembly Bill 599 (Liu)]. The goals of GAMA are to improve statewide groundwater monitoring and increase the availability of groundwater quality information to the public. GeoTracker GAMA is the internet-accessible groundwater quality information system that achieves one of these central goals.

In August 2009, the user-friendly internet accessible site GeoTracker GAMA was launched. It is designed to help the public, government and drinking water agencies, and environmental advocates easily access accurate and timely groundwater quality data.

GeoTracker GAMA brings together groundwater information from many sources and provides tools to analyze data. GeoTracker GAMA includes data from 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.

New data are added regularly to GeoTracker GAMA. Since 2000, the GAMA program has sampled over 4,000 domestic supply, public supply and monitoring wells with cutting-edge techniques. Many private well owners are unaware of their water quality and should find this site valuable. GeoTracker GAMA is available to the public at:
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama>.

Proposition 50 identified funds to implement AB 599. The funds will be expended by the end of 2012. AB 2222 (Caballero, 2008) required the State Water Board to make recommendations for funding the GAMA Program through 2024. The AB 2222 GAMA Report to Legislature was released in late January 2011 and identifies funding needs and potential funding sources. GAMA has three additional active projects: Domestic Well Project; Priority Basin Project (U. S. Geological Survey as technical lead); and Special Studies Project (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as technical lead).

The Priority Basin Project will end unless new funding is identified by 2013.

POLICY ISSUE

This is an Informational Item only.

FISCAL IMPACT

None (Informational Item only).

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None (Informational Item only).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None (Information Item only).

Shared information related to this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. Goal 2 is to improve and protect groundwater quality in high-use basins by 2030. Goal 3 is to promote sustainable local water supplies.