



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 5, 2012

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Dear Madam/Sirs:

DOMESTIC WELL SAMPLING PROJECT

This letter is to inform you and your staff of an upcoming domestic well sampling project in your county.

Starting in October, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will be sampling domestic wells in portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties as shown on the attached map. This shallow aquifer sampling is being performed as part of the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program Priority Basin Project and the Central Coast Water Board's Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program - Groundwater Assessment and Protection (CCAMP-GAP) Domestic Well Project. Prior to initiating sampling, USGS will be conducting focused door-to-door outreach to solicit participation in these two projects based on a spatially distributed grid pattern.

Both of these groundwater sampling projects are voluntary and will provide free water quality sampling and analytical services to participating domestic well (single residential connection) owners or renters. Analytical results will be provided to the well owners along with "A Guide for Private Domestic Well Owners"¹ and supporting information explaining the results and where to go for additional information. This information will be consistent with the GAMA Domestic Well Project² materials distributed in the past, which have been reviewed by the California Department of Public Health and local health officials. Prior to initiating the distribution of information to well owners, we will provide you with an example of the data results package.

¹ http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/docs/wellowner_guide.pdf

² http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/domestic_well.shtml

The primary goals of the two projects are to conduct an unbiased assessment of shallow aquifer water quality and provide selected domestic well owners with information regarding the quality of their drinking water. The resulting data may be used to develop more focused domestic well outreach and sampling activities in the future.

For additional information, please contact the following:

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Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
Interim Acting Executive Officer

Enclosure:

U.S. Geological Survey Monterey Bay and Salinas Valley GAMA Priority Basin Project
(Shallow Aquifer Assessment) Study Area map.

cc:

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