

**AMBIENT GROUNDWATER MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA AQUIFER SUSCEPTIBILITY (CAS) ASSESSMENT
INVITATION FOR PURVEYOR PARTICIPATION**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is asking for your participation in the California Aquifer Susceptibility (CAS) assessment. The CAS assessment is a study of the water quality and relative susceptibility of ground water that serves as a source for public drinking water supplies. The SWRCB, with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), is collecting data to evaluate the use of ground water age (using tritium-helium analysis) and low-level volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations as indicators of the susceptibility of ground water to contamination. Age-dating provides information on the presence of young groundwater in the well and analysis of low levels of VOCs provides an “early warning” for potential VOC contamination. Since the widespread use of regulated chemicals occurred following World War II, ground water that has recharged during the past 50 years will be considered more susceptible to contamination from various land-use activities. In addition, low-level VOC analysis for compounds such as methyl *tert*-butyl ether (MTBE) will allow water managers to identify trends in ground-water quality in their region and respond before concentrations reach action levels.

The CAS assessment is designed to sample the approximately 16,000 public supply wells statewide, starting with three focus areas: Sacramento Valley, Livermore Valley, and Orange County. Sampling began in 2000 and will continue for the next several years over the entire state, depending on the availability of funding. The SWRCB requests your assistance in providing access to the public wells and available well construction information. Prior to sampling, each well will be GPS-located and site and well characteristics will be coded for input into the SWRCB Geographic Environmental Information Management System (GEIMS) database. Sampling will be conducted by staff from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Samples will be collected at an access point prior to treatment, using custom sampling equipment designed to attach to a standard hose-bib or other access point. Samples for low-level VOC and tritium-helium analysis will be analyzed at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory. Quality-control samples will be collected to assure that bias has not been introduced as a result of sampling procedures.

The SWRCB is implementing the CAS Assessment, in coordination with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as part of the Ambient Ground water Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program. The GAMA Program was established in response to recent impacts of contaminants on drinking water supplies. The SWRCB will incur the costs of sampling and analysis, and the results will be provided to local water purveyors as quickly as possible.

For further information please contact Lisa Babcock via telephone at (916) 341-5687 or via email at babcockl@cwpswrcb.ca.gov.