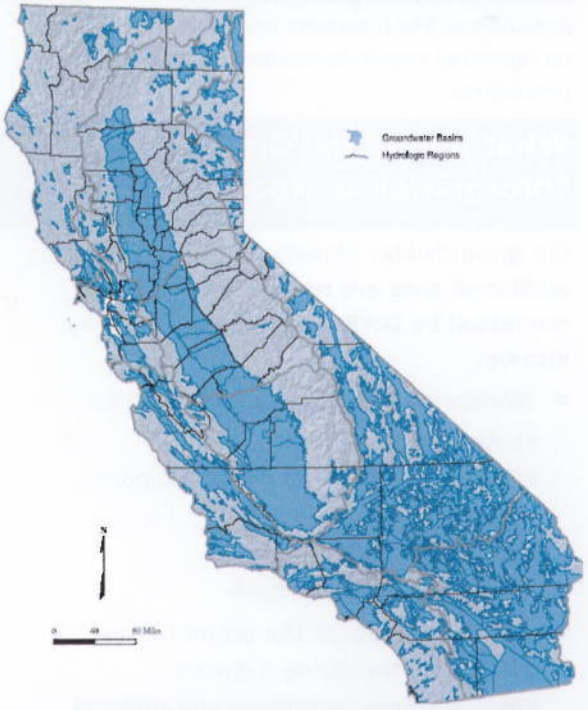
California's Groundwater Basins



What Is the CASGEM Program?

CASGEM (pronounced *KASJem*) is short for California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring. The Legislature established the program in November 2009 to collect groundwater elevations, facilitate collaboration between local monitoring entities and the Department of Water Resources, and report this information to the public.

How Do I Get More Details?

Implementation procedures and details for the CASGEM Program are being compiled. A public review draft will be available fall 2010. The draft as well as final guidelines will be posted on the CASGEM website or can be obtained by contacting a DWR representative.

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Timeline

Preparing to Implement CASGEM:

Summer 2010. Public Workshops

Fall 2010.

- Develop, solicit public comments, and finalize program guidelines
- Develop online monitoring entity notification and data submittal system
- Local agencies work together to identify prospective monitoring entity for their basin/subbasin

Late Fall 2010.

- Online system ready for submission of monitoring entity notifications
- Prospective monitoring entities submit notifications to DWR

January 1, 2011. Notifications due to DWR

Spring and Summer 2011. Designated monitoring entities submit monitoring network plan to DWR

January 1, 2012.

- Monitoring entities begin submitting groundwater level data
- DWR submits first CASGEM status report to Governor and Legislature

California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program

CASGEM Program

What is a Monitoring Entity?

Department of Water Resources (DWR)
California Natural Resources Agency
State of California

CASGEM Monitoring Entity

What Is a Monitoring Entity?

A Monitoring Entity is a local agency or group that voluntarily takes responsibility for coordinating groundwater level monitoring and data reporting for all or part of a groundwater basin. A Monitoring Entity may measure groundwater levels itself or compile data for other agencies. A Monitoring Entity is also responsible for submitting the data to the Department of Water Resources so that it can be made available to the public.

Who Is Authorized To Be a Monitoring Entity?

- Watermasters or court-appointed water management engineers
- Groundwater management agencies with statutory authority who were monitoring groundwater elevations prior to January 1, 2010
- Water replenishment districts
- Local agencies that manage all or part of the groundwater basin who were monitoring groundwater elevations prior to January 1, 2010
- Local agencies implementing an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
- Counties
- Voluntary groundwater associations

If no monitoring entity comes forward, then DWR will assume monitoring in the basin. Nonparticipating agencies risk losing eligibility for State water grants.

How Does an Agency Become a Monitoring Entity?

DWR is developing an online system for submitting Monitoring Entity notifications. To be considered for designation as a Monitoring Entity, a local agency must notify DWR prior to **January 1, 2011**. Notification must include:

- The prospective Monitoring Entity's identity and contact information
- The specific authority described in SBx7 6 that qualifies the applicant to become a designated Monitoring Entity
- A map of the Monitoring Entity's jurisdiction, the groundwater basin, and the proposed monitoring area
- A statement that the entity will comply with the requirements of CASGEM
- Additional requirements depending upon the applicant's qualifying authority

CASGEM Program guidelines will be available in fall 2010. The document will include full details on reporting requirements and measurement procedures.

What Additional Groundwater Information Is Needed?

For groundwater elevation data to be useful, additional data are needed and will be requested by DWR. This information may include:

- Monitoring well information, such as:
  - Location coordinates
  - Ground surface and reference point elevation
  - Well owner and well type
  - Well construction details
- Information about the groundwater elevation monitoring network
  - Map showing hydrologic and political boundaries, locations of monitoring wells, and other pertinent features
  - Rationale for design of groundwater monitoring network
  - Rationale for how the groundwater monitoring plan meets the goals of determining seasonal and long-term trends
- Information about the groundwater basin, its aquifers, and the conditions of the aquifers
- Whether multiple agencies currently monitor groundwater levels in the basin
- Any cooperators that will collect groundwater elevations

Full details on CASGEM Program are available online: www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem