# Groundwater Quality Information: GeoTracker GAMA

Water Quality Monitoring Council May 19, 2009

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GAMA Program
State Water Resources Control Board



#### **Presentation Overview**

- GAMA Program Overview
  - Goals of working with WQMC
  - Statutory Requirements of GAMA
  - Projects Current Status & Financial
- GW Quality Info via Internet Database
  - GeoTracker GAMA
    - Development
    - Overview of Beta



#### **GAMA Program – Background**

Concern about groundwater quality and well closures by California's citizens and leaders

- 40 Percentage of the State's water supply is from groundwater
- 1999 Legislature required a comprehensive ambient groundwater monitoring plan
- 2000 Legislature funds GAMA Program
- **2001** AB 599 created Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act
- 2008 AB 2222 requires recommendation for GAMA funding until 2024



## **GAMA Background**

- Partners with USGS and LLNL
- > Sampled over 4,000 wells of 1,000 well owners since 2000
- > Tests Raw groundwater
- Well Owners Volunteer to have wells sampled at no cost
- > Tests for commonly found chemicals AND unregulated chemicals of concern, often at low levels for use as tracers
- Works with stakeholders to share groundwater data including 100's of hours of outreach and public meetings

## GAMA Program – Statutory Requirements

- Created by Legislature in 2000
- Enhanced by Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (AB 599 – Liu)
  - Required the convening of an ITF and Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - PAC endorsed in Report to Legislature to create groundwater monitoring database (GeoTracker GAMA).

## GAMA Program – Statutory Requirements

➤ PAC was in consensus that the data shown in GeoTracker GAMA - via tiered access - be clear that the data were raw or untreated groundwater source

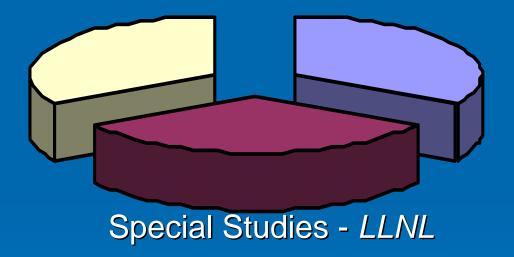
## Goals of Working with WQMC

- Collaborate with WQMC in development of the "Safe To Drink" portal
- GAMA team manages data, its presentation, and public access to GeoTracker GAMA
- Data in GAMA is raw/untreated
- Public drinking water quality is typically treated and is regulated by CDPH

#### **GAMA Program - Current Projects**

Domestic Wells - SWRCB

Priority Basins - USGS



GAMA sampling conducted in Voluntary Cooperation of Participants







## Current Project Status

- Publicly accessible database GeoTracker GAMA (more in demo)
- Priority Basins affected by Exec Order
- Special Studies LLNL continues
- Domestic Well Project recently completed San Diego County



## GAMA Domestic Well Project

- > Samples for chemicals commonly found
- Provides Water quality info to well owners
- Educates to public in understanding well their water quality
- Coordinate with local environmental agencies (data availability)
- Cost for testing incurred by State Water Board



## GAMA Domestic Well Project

#### **Number of Wells Tested:**

- Yuba (2002) 128 Wells
- El Dorado (2003-04) 398 Wells
- Tehama (2005) 223 Wells
- Tulare (2006) 181 Wells
- San Diego (2008-09) 137 Wells
- > Cumulative Total: 1067 Wells Tested



### GAMA Domestic Well Project

- ➤ Test Results of Interest from 2003 to 2006 (El Dorado, Yuba, Tehama, and Tulare Counties)
  - 27% (248 of 928) positive for total coliform
  - Fewer than 2% (11 of 749) combined (excluding Tulare) were above nitrate MCL
  - Tulare County 41% (75 of 181) above the nitrate MCL



## **GAMA Priority Basins Project**

- > As of mid-December, 2008:
  - 1,986 wells sampled
  - >1,200 participants including:
    - 208 districts
    - 159 cities
    - 80 schools

## **GAMA Priority Basins Project**

#### As of mid-December, 2008:

- > 50 Public meetings
- > 1,703 Well owner reports delivered
- Several Reports Published
- Initial Findings:
  - "Naturally" occurring compounds most prevalent
  - Low Level pharma, wastewater indicators indicate connection between surface activities and gw quality

#### 2004-2006 Study Units Sampled



#### 2007-2008 **Study Units Sampled** North Sacramento Tahoe-Martis Sierra Region Madera-Chowchilla San Francisco Bay Antelope South Valley Coast Mojave Ranges Interior Coachella South Colorado Coast River Ranges Coastal 900 South-8 Coast Santa' Range Clara River Santa Ana

## GAMA Special Studies - LLNL

#### Groundwater Age Dating & Tracers

- Groundwater recharge & flow
- Aquifer susceptibility to comtaminants
- Assessment of gw management practices

#### Isotope & Dissolved Gases

- Water source stable isotopes
- Contaminant source nitrate
- Contaminant degradation denitrification

#### VOCs & Emerging Contaminants

- Aquifer susceptibility/Contaminant source tracers
- Occurrence, transport & fate of emerging contaminants

### Current Financial Status

- > GAMA funding comes from:
  - Proposition 50 for AB 599 Priority Basin Project (through 2012)
  - Annual fees for other GAMA projects (annually)

- > Governor's Executive Order in December
  - Stopped work on Prop 50 Priority Basin Project



## Internet-Accessible Groundwater Information

- > Helps Achieve Goals of GAMA (AB 599):
  - Design a database capable of supporting GAMA compatible with GeoTracker
  - Increase availability to the public on information about groundwater contamination
- > Assists Local, Regional, State Decision-Makers
- Provides opportunity to look at basic Trends



### GeoTracker GAMA Database

- Uses existing GW Quality Data
- > Adds new Data as it is available
- Collaborate with data-sharing partners of AB 599 ITF including: CDPH, DWR, DPR, USGS, LLNL, RWQCBs
- Water quality data used is from "raw" (untreated) groundwater source



## GeoTracker GAMA Database Development

- Regular testing to ensure database usable to public and private stakeholders
- Meet with data stakeholders (ITF) to review database status and solicit input
- Privacy kept intact



### GeoTracker GAMA

Provides a user-friendly internet site that helps all groundwater quality stakeholders:

- Public
- Government
- Drinking water agencies
- Environmental advocates

...Access accurate and timely groundwater quality data

#### GeoTracker GAMA - Data Sources

- Brings together and standardizes several datasets, with the ability to integrate even more data
- > Includes datasets from
  - California State Agencies DPH, DWR, DPR, and Water Boards
  - USGS and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

### GeoTracker GAMA - Tools

- Provides tools to analyze data, allowing for a clearer picture of groundwater quality across the state and answers questions
- Combines tens-of-millions of analytical results with water levels and site lithologies
- Provides data from over 100,000 sampling locations

## GeoTracker GAMA – Raw Groundwater Data

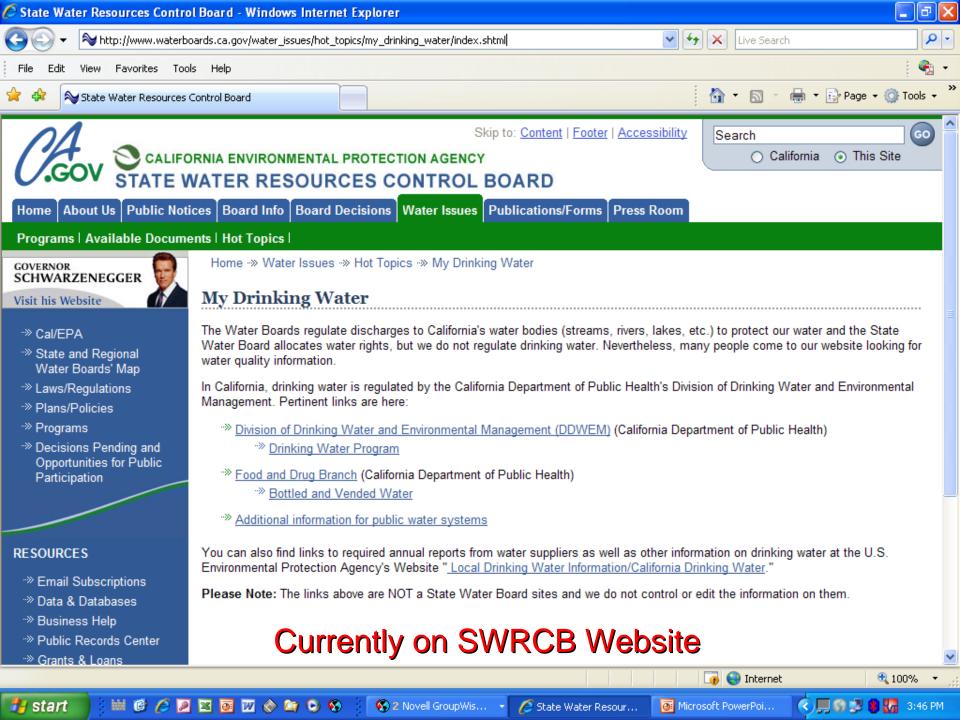
- Monitoring of public drinking water quality delivered to consumers is the responsibility of the CDPH
- One of the GAMA program's main goals is to assess ambient groundwater quality
- The data to assess its quality is collected from raw or untreated ("ambient") public and private/domestic groundwater sources

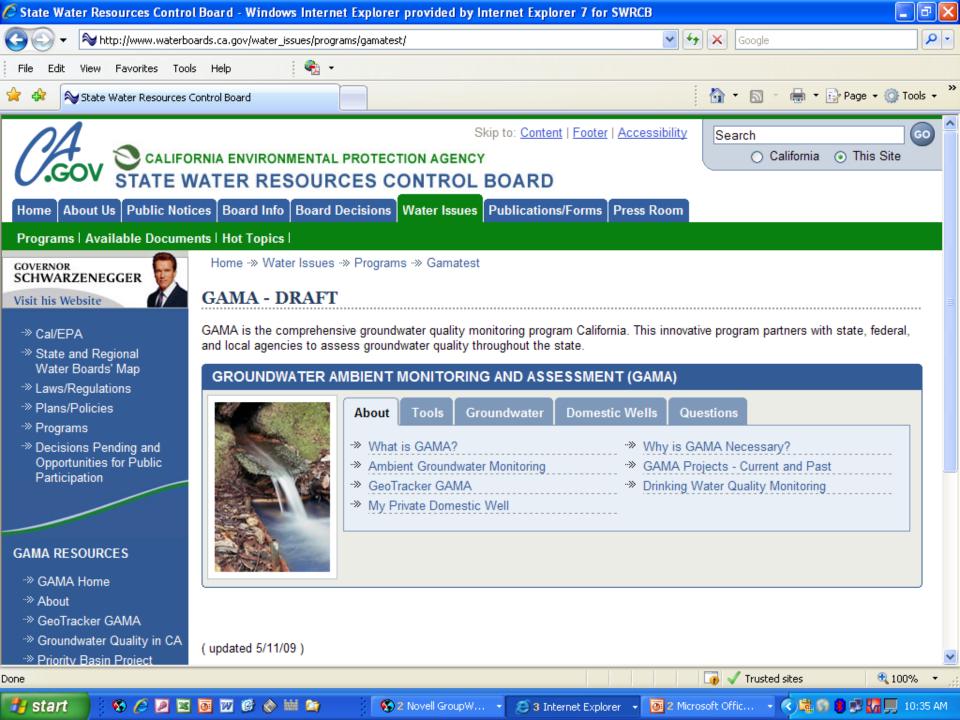
#### GeoTracker GAMA Beta Overview

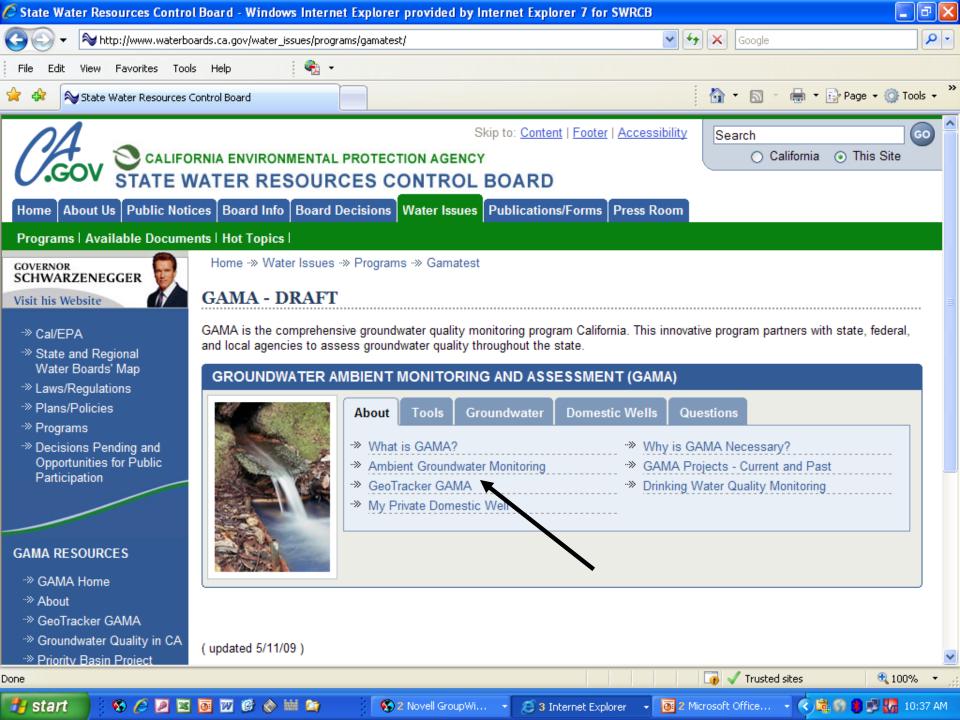
- > Full public release soon
- Working closely with cooperating agencies
- System overview:
  - Current status
  - What the system can do
  - Improvements and additions will continue to be made

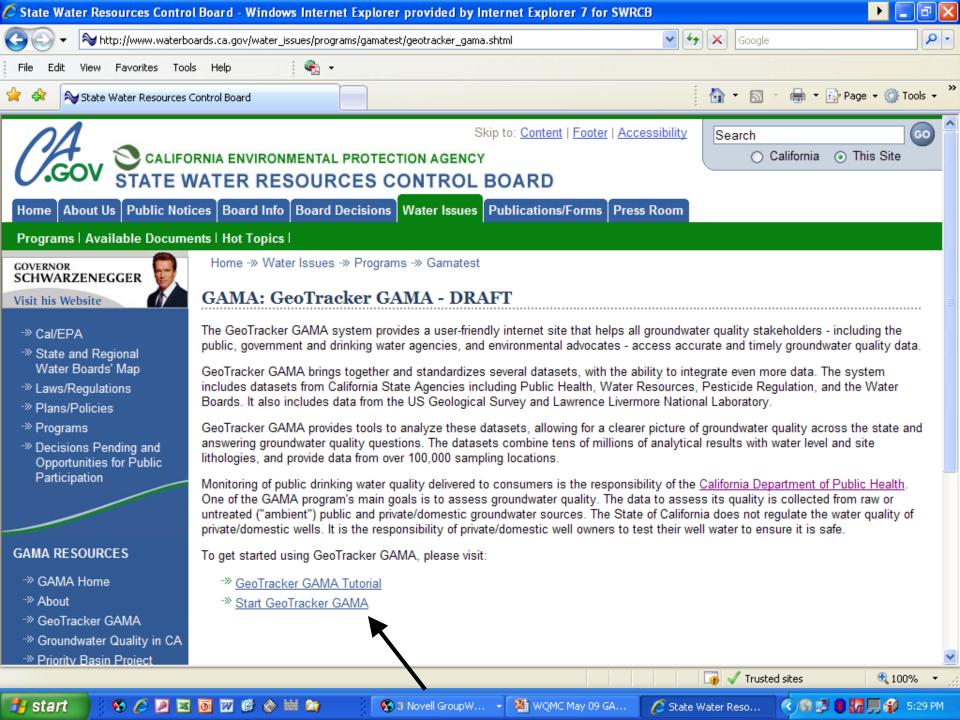




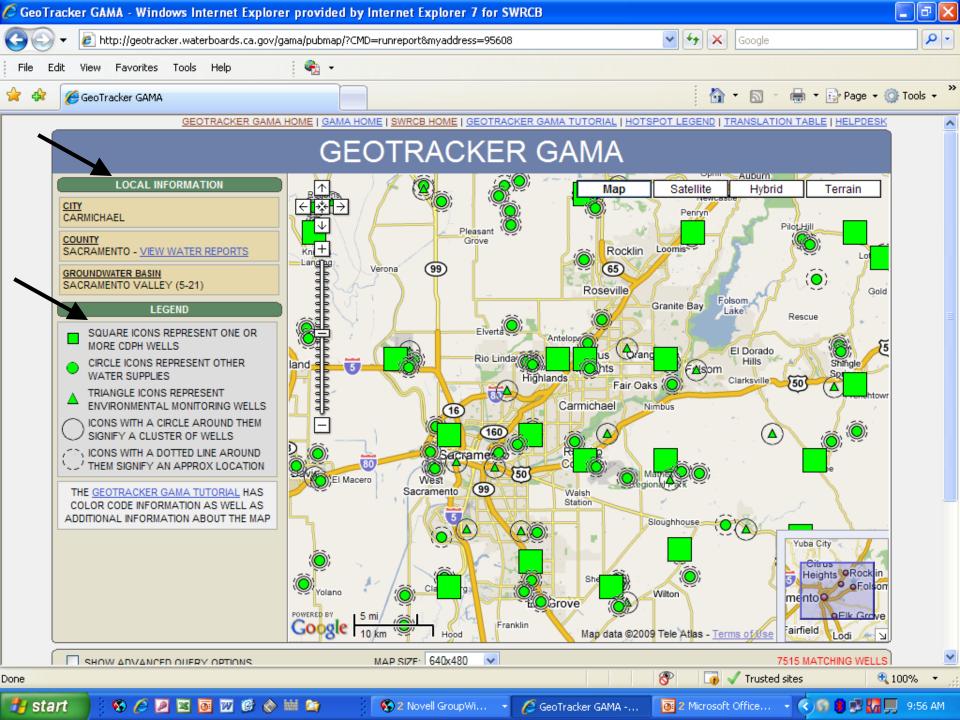


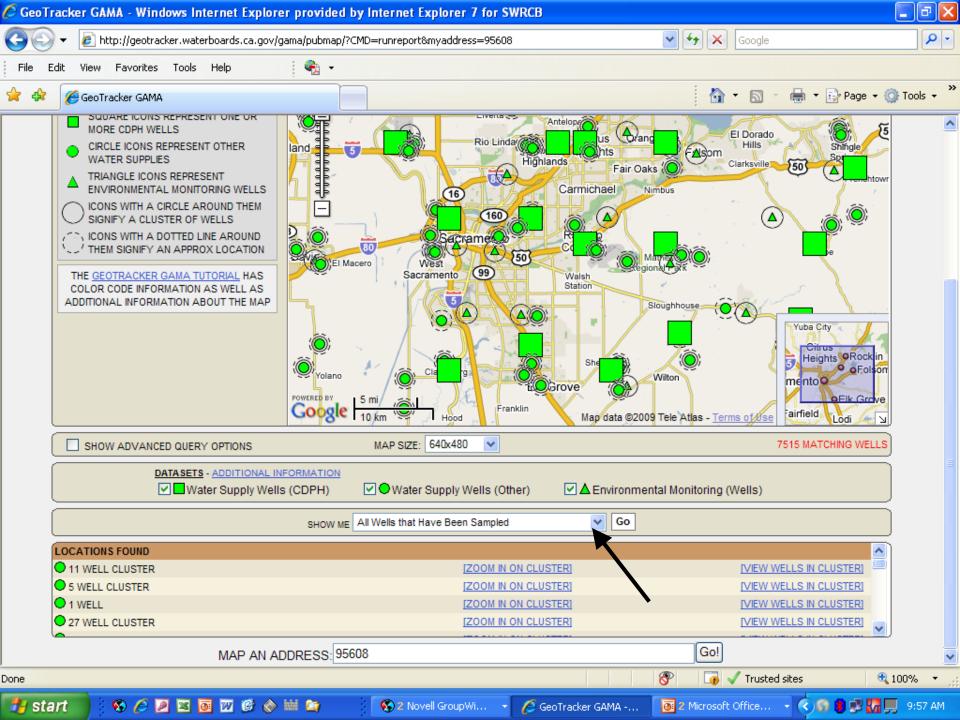


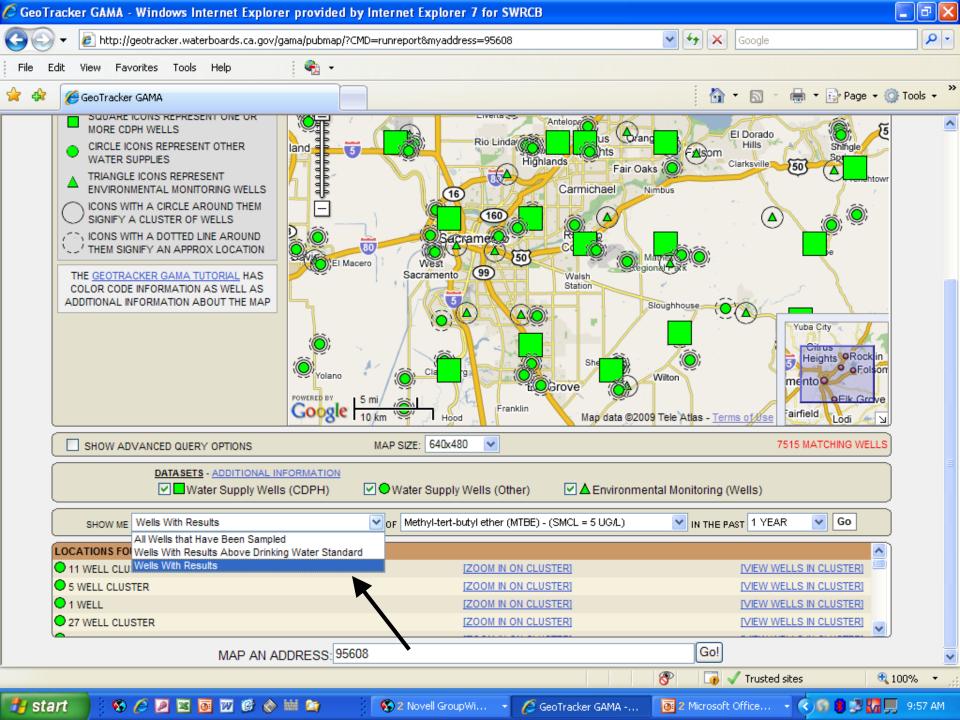


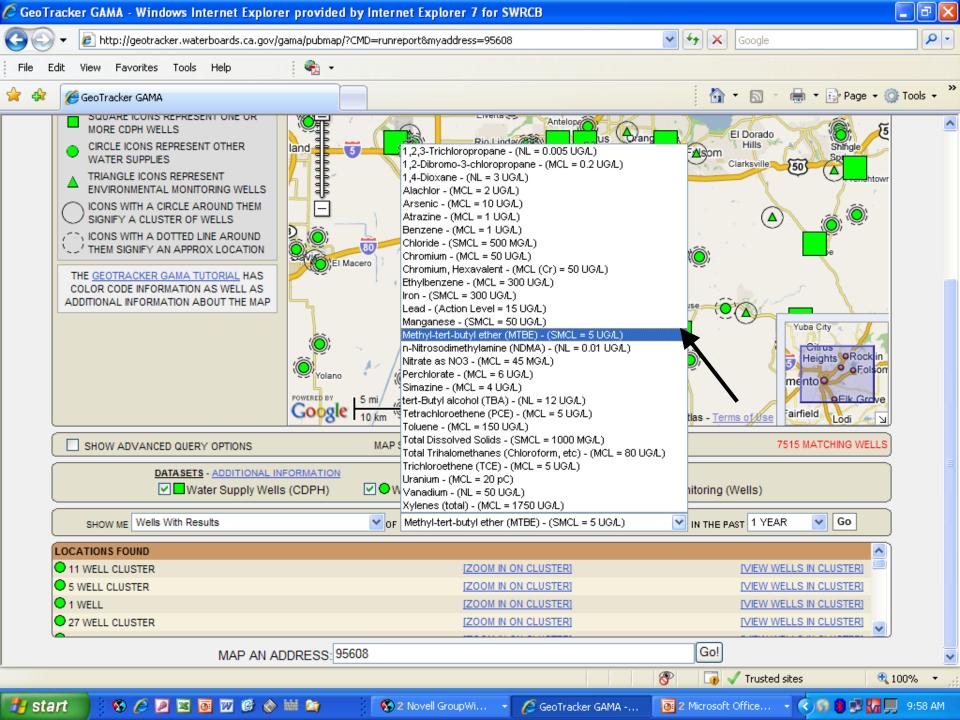


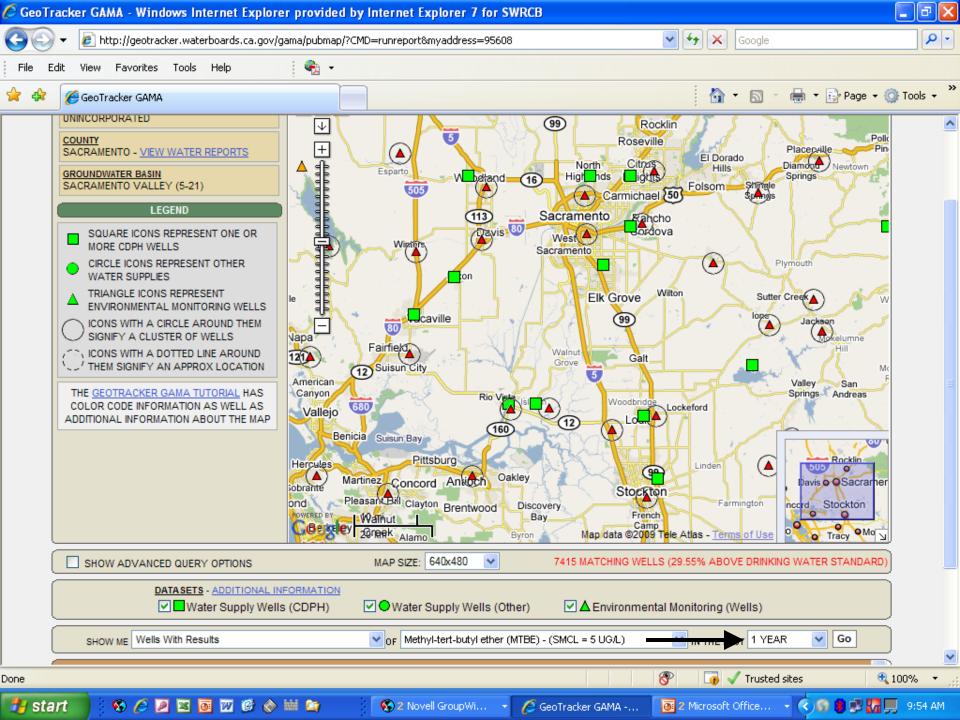


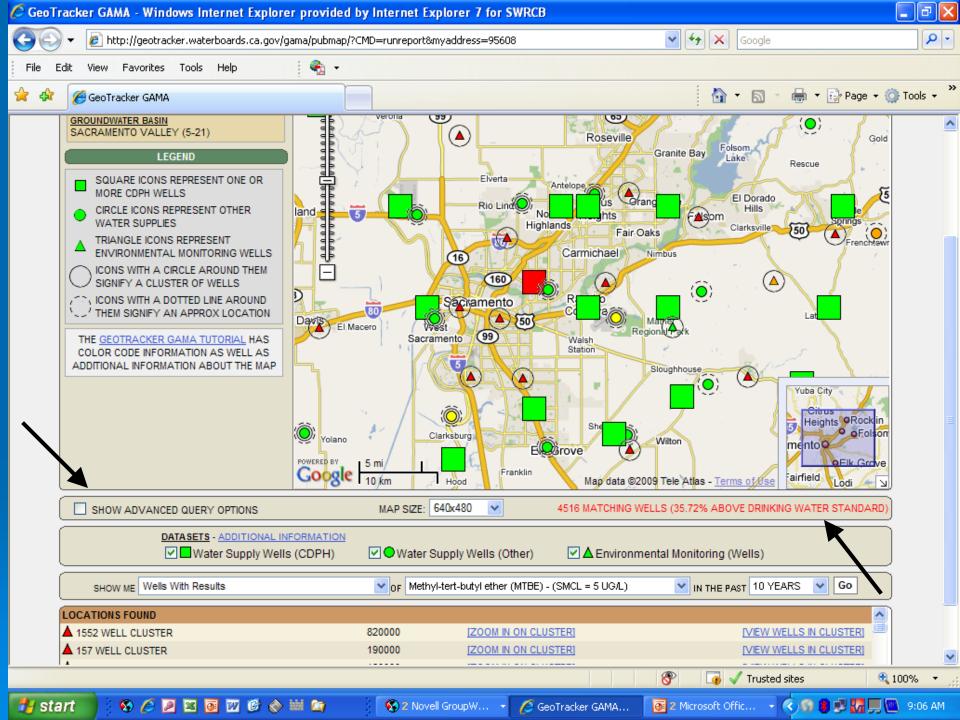


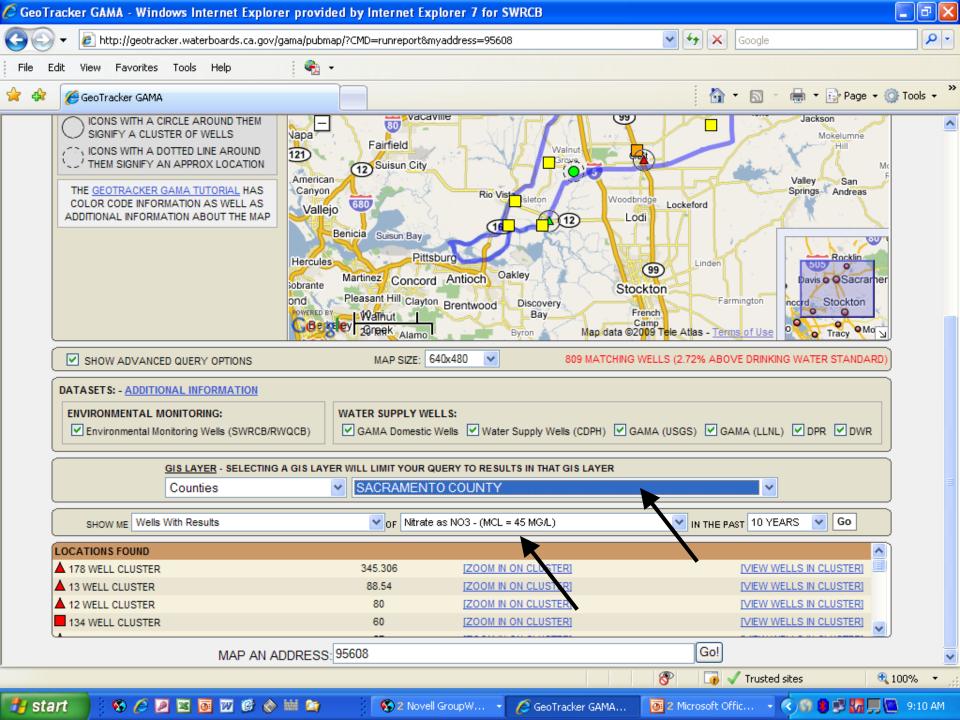


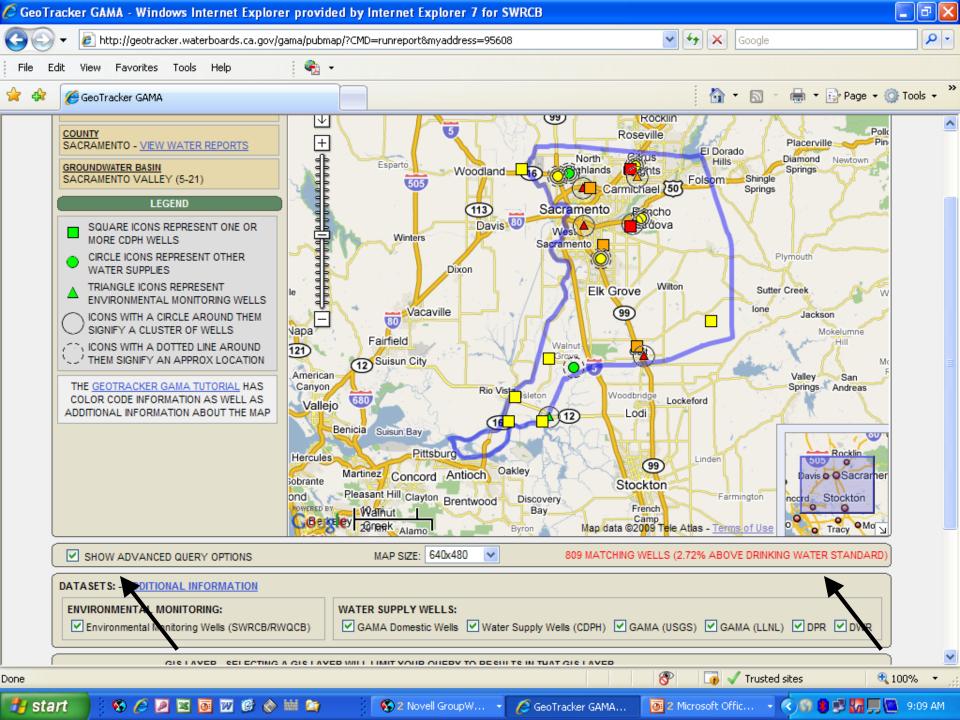


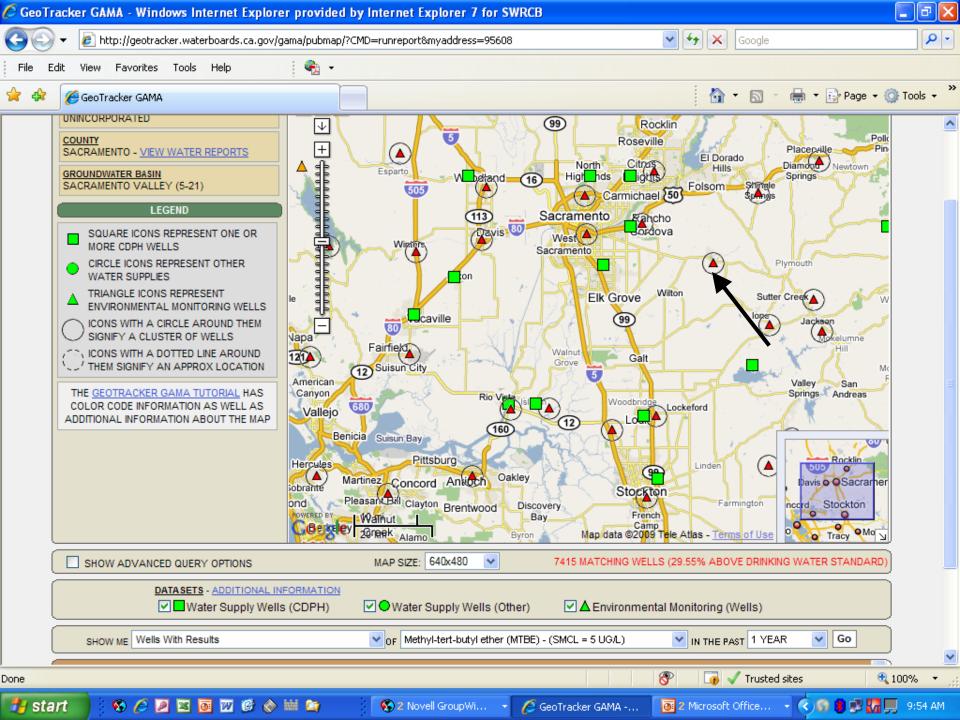








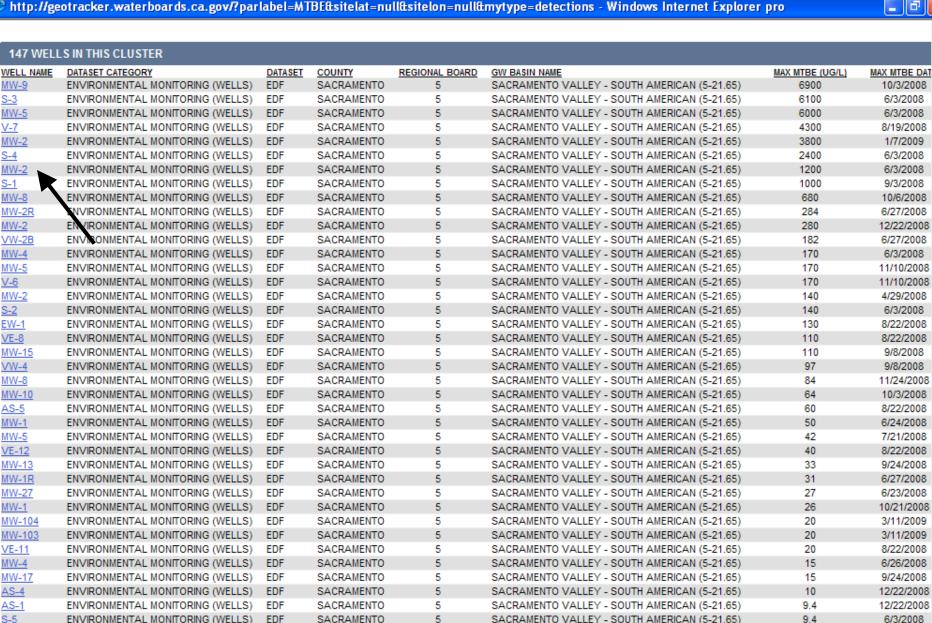














S-5

V-8

MW-1

MW-11





ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (WELLS)

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (WELLS)

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (WELLS)

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (WELLS)











EDF

**EDF** 

FDF



SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO

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5

5





SACRAMENTO VALLEY - SOUTH AMERICAN (5-21.65)







9.4

9

5.7



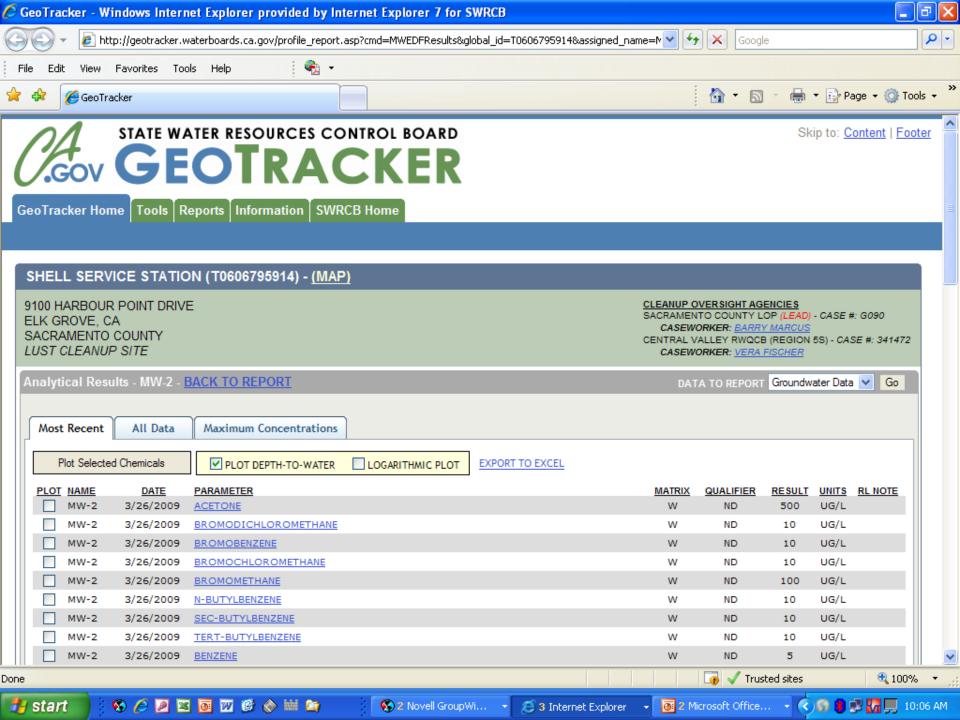


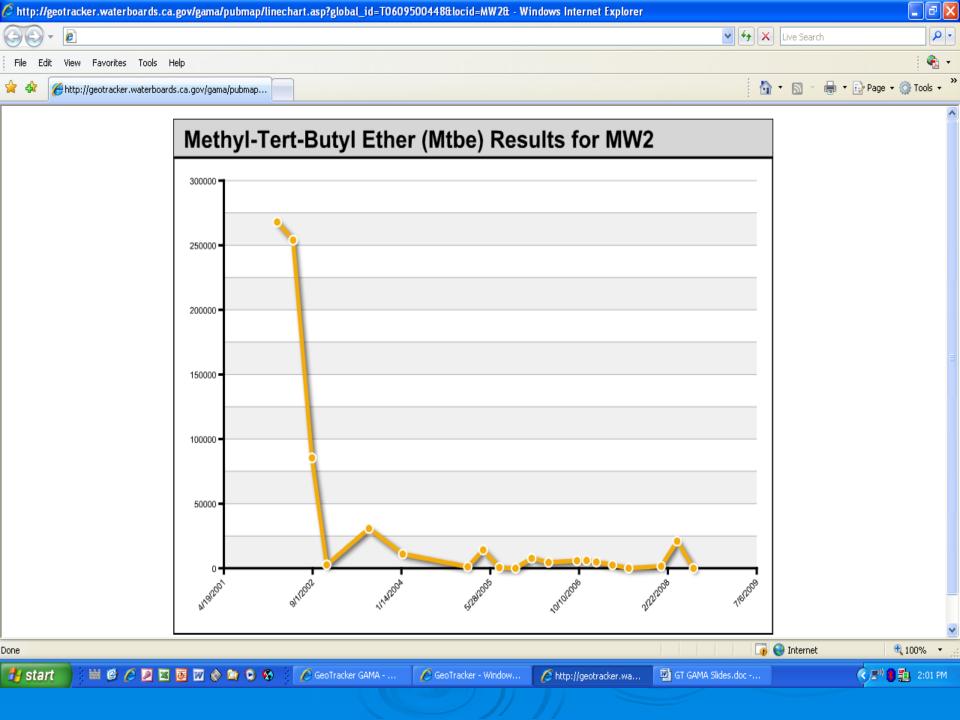
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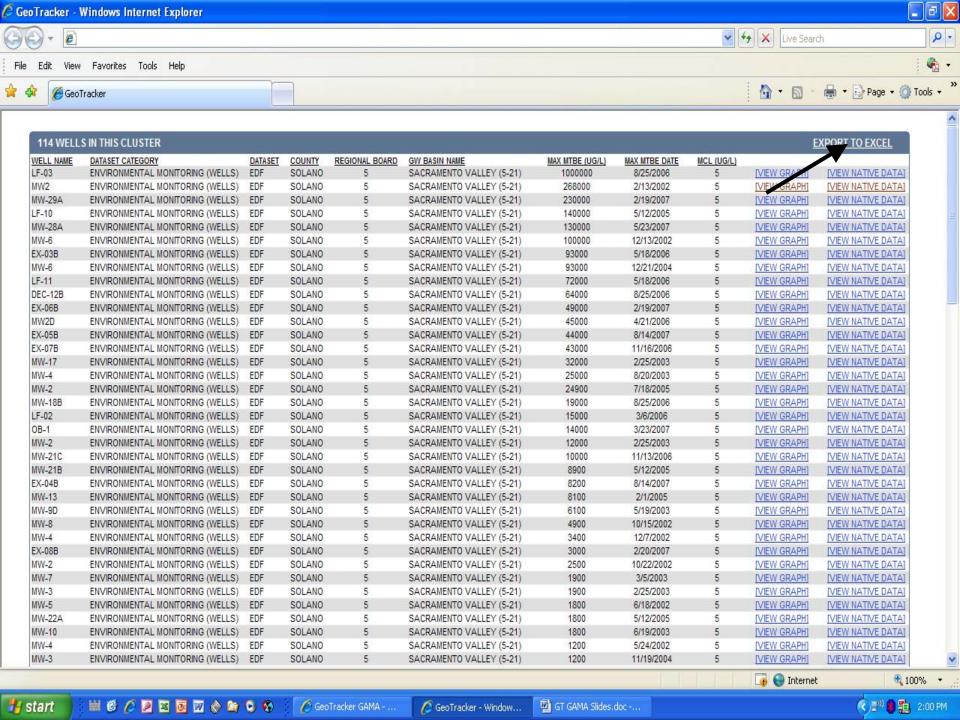
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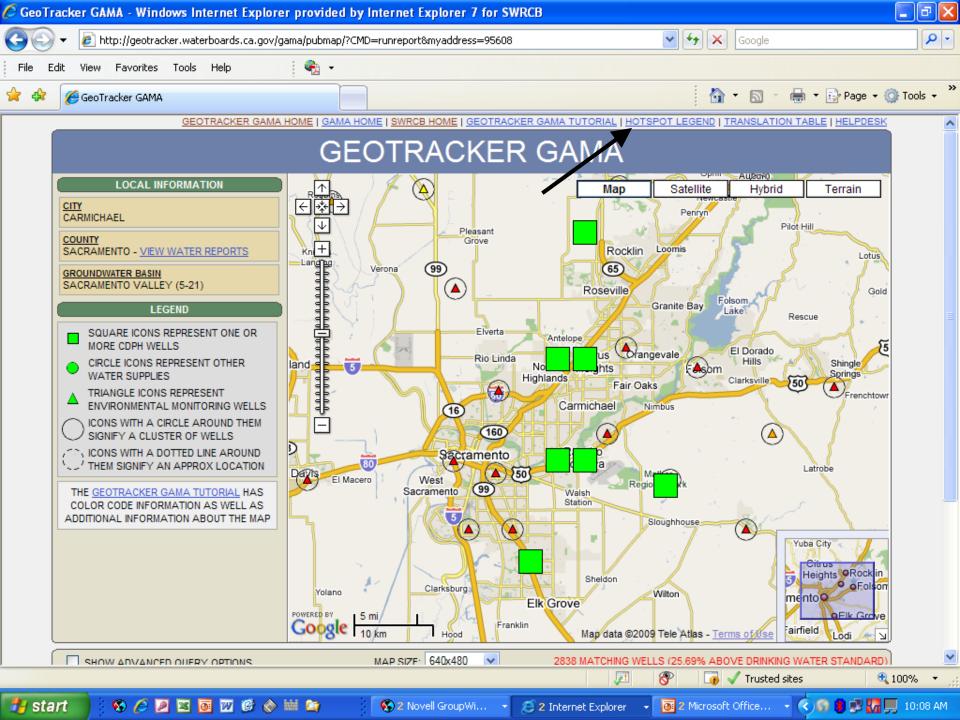


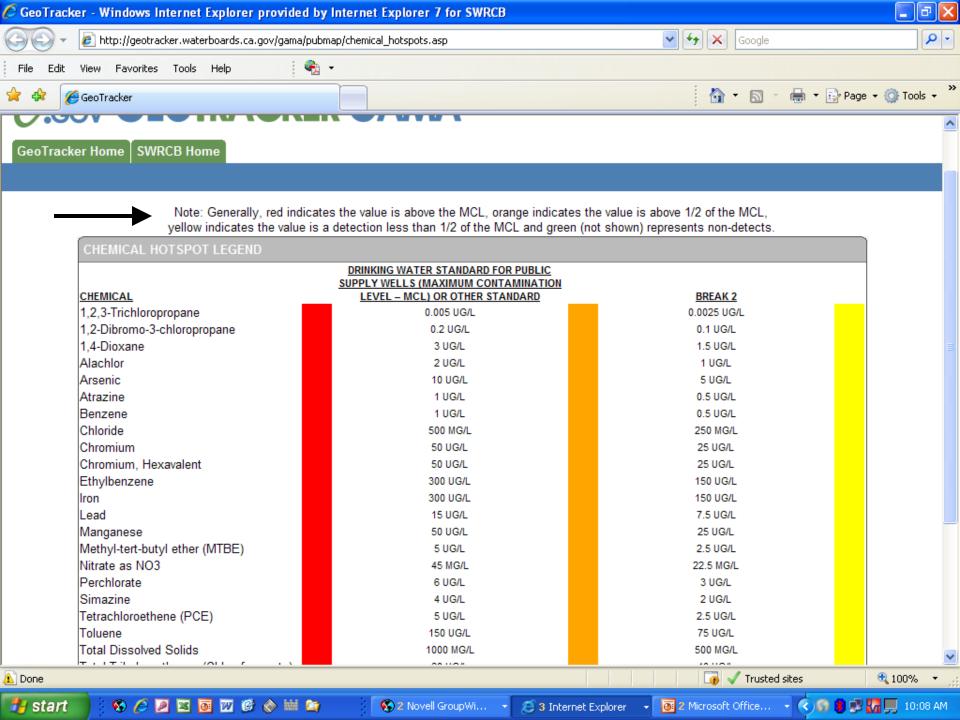


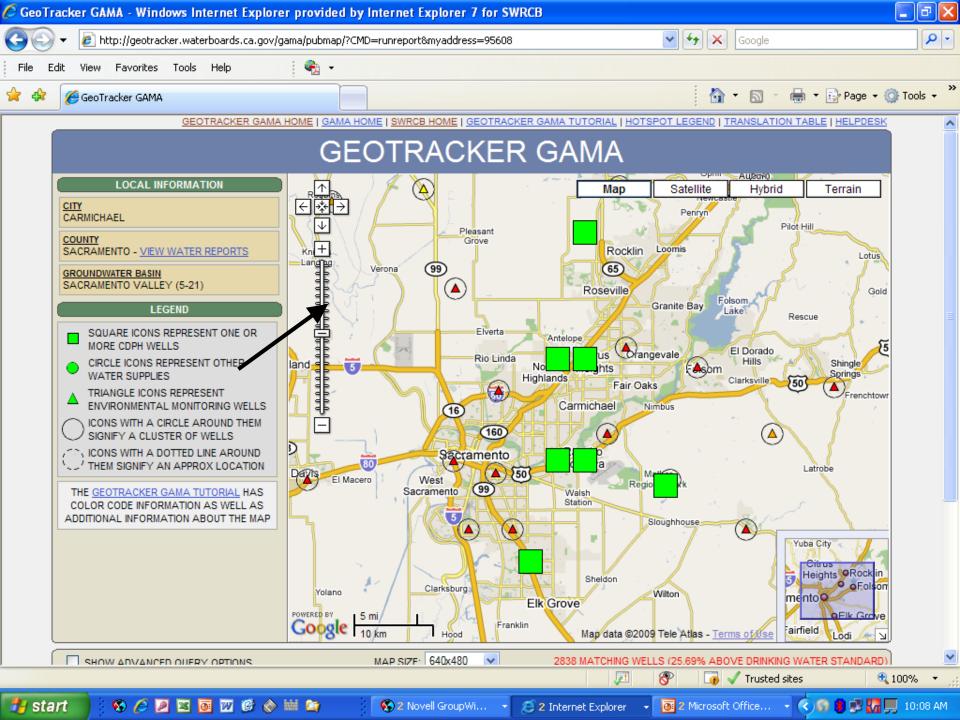


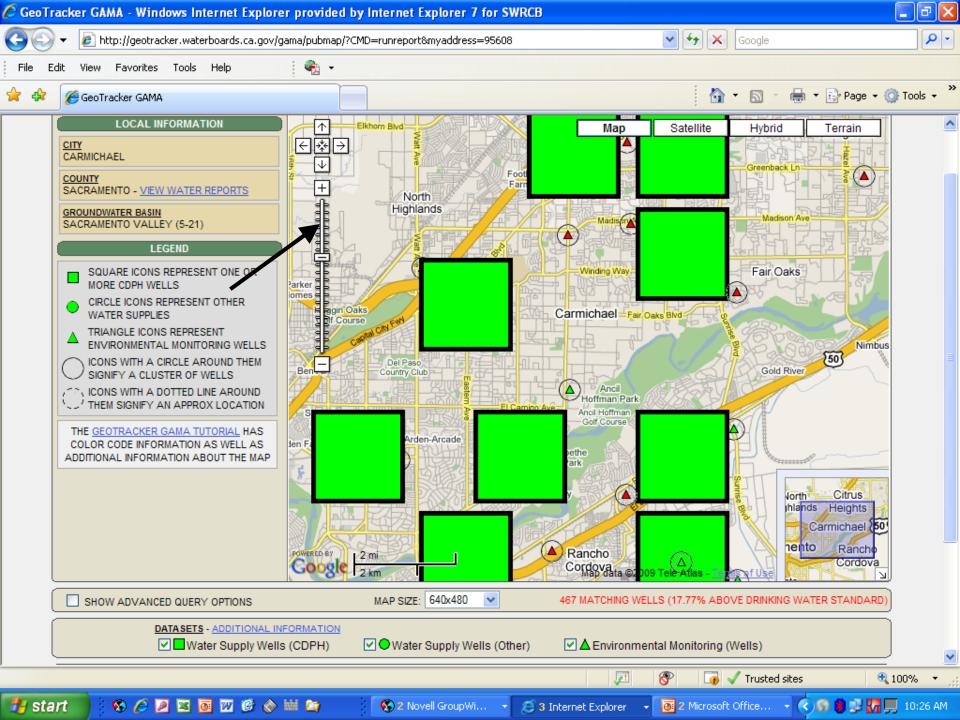


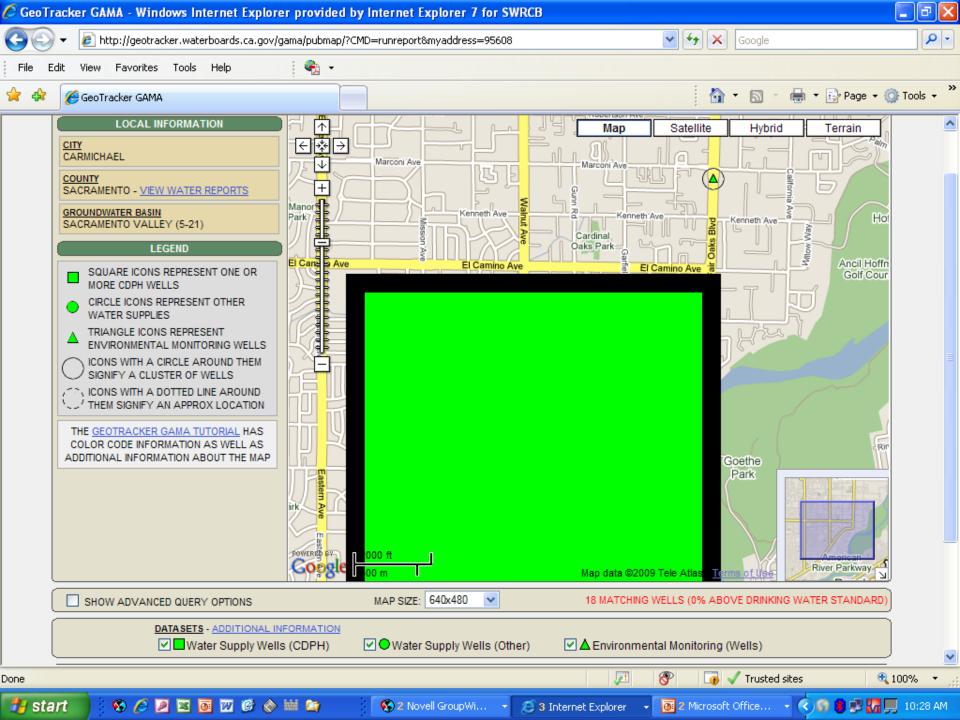












## Thanks

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