

Is Our Water Safe to Drink? Concept for Web Portal Transition to GeoTracker GAMA

The Safe-to-Drink web portal is intended to present information on the safety of drinking water from a variety of sources. For groundwater, it will lead to GeoTracker GAMA, the State Water Board's on-line groundwater quality search engine. The site was developed to provide the public with better access to groundwater quality information. Users can search by city, zip code, address, or intersection to locate water quality data from environmental monitoring wells, public supply wells, and other supply sources. Users can select from numerous constituents of environmental concern to view maps, view data, export data to a spreadsheet, and view on-line graphs.

GeoTracker GAMA was developed as a separate Water Board effort pursuant to AB 599. It is not set up in the question format used by other theme-based web portals being developed for the Monitoring Council. There is a need for transition pages between the "Is Our Water Safe to Drink?" link on the Monitoring Council home page and the GeoTracker GAMA groundwater data search tool.

The main Safe-to-Drink web page would contain a diagram (see Figure 1) of the types of water sources from which drinking water originates:

- House with domestic well into groundwater
- Town with municipal well into groundwater
- Town with intake from local river or stream
- Aqueduct from distant surface water source (e.g., State Water Project, Central Valley Project, Colorado River, LA Aqueduct)

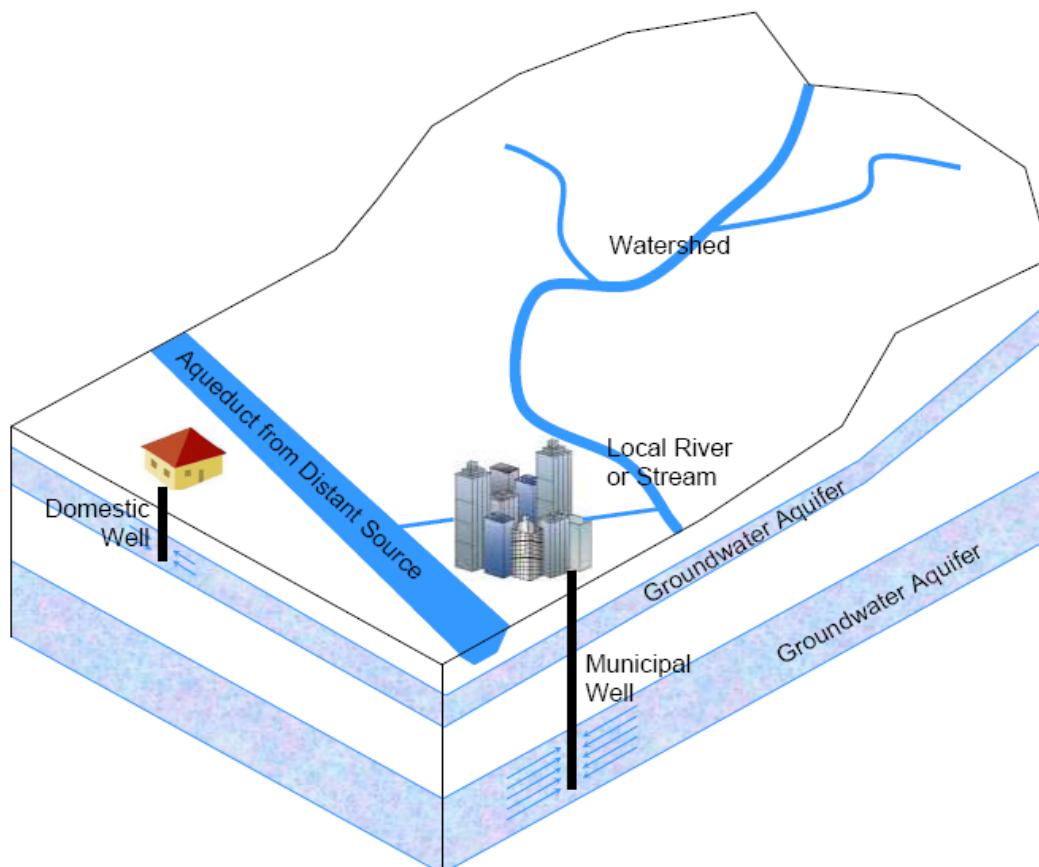


Figure 1. Safe-to-Drink main web page graphic.

There would also be a link to the Water Education Foundation's "Where Does My Water Come From?" website (<http://www.water-ed.org/watersources>), from which users can select their area of the state and obtain information about drinking water sources for their city or town.

Additional topics to be introduced include conjunctive use, desalination, and water recycling.

Each item in the main diagram would link to a web page that provides general information and additional questions:

- What is the quality of my source water?
 - Who regulates source water quality?
- How does the water get to the consumer?
- What is the difference between raw source water and treated drinking water?
- Is my drinking water safe?
 - What is the quality of my tap water?
 - Are there pharmaceuticals or other medicines in my drinking water?
 - Where can I find information on drinking water quality?
 - Who regulates treated water quality?
 - What are Drinking Water Standards?

The raw groundwater source link in the main page diagram and "Where can I find information on groundwater quality?" links on the two groundwater pages would take users to the GeoTracker GAMA ground water quality search tool. The following additional questions related to the GAMA program would be featured:

- What kinds of wells are sampled as part of the GAMA Program?
- What is the difference between an environmental monitoring well and a drinking water well?
- Is the Domestic Well Project confidential?
- If GAMA samples my well, what do they do with the data?
- Is the GAMA program sampling everywhere in California?
- Why hasn't my area been sampled yet?
- Are any future sampling events scheduled?
- Can I submit data to GeoTracker GAMA?

Additional questions to be addressed for domestic wells include:

- I am worried that my well water is contaminated. What do I do next?
- How can I get my domestic well tested?
- Can the State sample my well?
- How much does it cost to sample a well?
- If something is detected in my domestic well, does that mean my well is polluted?