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**Scientists to discuss initial results of Sierra Nevada groundwater study**  
*Public invited to informational meeting Jan. 21 in Quincy, CA*

Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) next week will present their initial results of a study of untreated groundwater from wells and springs throughout the Sierra Nevada.

The meeting, conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board and the USGS, is set for Thursday, January 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Quincy Community Services District, 900 Spanish Creek Road, Quincy, CA.

The Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program is collaborating with the USGS and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (LLNL) to conduct the Priority Basin Project, which monitors and assesses water quality in groundwater basins in California. The main goals of GAMA are to improve comprehensive statewide groundwater monitoring and to increase the availability of groundwater quality information to the public.

The USGS California Water Science Center is the lead for the GAMA Priority Basin Project. With the voluntary cooperation of local water agencies and well owners, USGS is testing untreated groundwater in California over a 10-year period.

The Sierra Regional study encompasses the entire Sierra Nevada. Portions of 23 of the 58 counties in California are within the study unit and it is one of 35 GAMA study units in California.

While scientists have not completed their full report, they will discuss some of their initial findings at the meeting. Their completed report is expected to be available in about a year.

The GAMA Priority Basin Project is designed to characterize raw water quality in groundwater basins. GAMA does not evaluate the quality of water delivered to consumers since public water systems typically treat (or mix) it to meet drinking water standards.

More information on the GAMA program is available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/> and <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/gama/>.

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