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
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

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

CAGSEM 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?

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