

## Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

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Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
3. Brief Description of Program:

In November 2009, Part 2.11 (Groundwater Monitoring) was added to Division 6 of the Water Code by Senate Bill 6 (7th Extraordinary Session) (SB 6). This new law directs DWR to establish a permanent, locally-managed program to regularly and systematically monitor groundwater elevations in all basins and subbasins in California. DWR's role is to work cooperatively with local agencies to establish the program, to coordinate information collected by local agencies, and to maintain the collected groundwater elevation data in a database.

4. Purpose and Objectives of Program:

- To establish a groundwater elevation monitoring program that collects sufficient data to demonstrate the seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations statewide
- To make groundwater elevation data readily and widely available to the public
- To encourage local agencies to work collaboratively with DWR to improve monitoring throughout California's groundwater basins
- To determine the extent of groundwater elevation monitoring in California's groundwater basins

5. Timeline for Program Objectives:

The CASGEM program was enacted November 2009.

- Summer 2010 – DWR conducted public workshops to inform local agencies about the program
- Summer 2010 – DWR developed a program website
- Fall 2010 – DWR published information for local agencies describing procedures for participating in the CASGEM program
- 2010-2011 – To meet the following program timeline for local agencies to submit data and to provide public access to program data, DWR developed an online system (CASGEM OS) in 3 phases
  1. January 1, 2011 – CASGEM OS Phase 1 for Monitoring Entity notification - released December 2010
  2. Summer 2011 – CASGEM OS Phase 2 for Monitoring Entity submittal of well data and groundwater monitoring plans - released May 2011
  3. January 1, 2012 – CASGEM OS Phase 3 for Monitoring Entity submittal of groundwater elevation data and public access to statewide groundwater elevation and monitoring well data – November 2011 (anticipated release date)
- January 1, 2012 – DWR will submit first program status report to Governor and Legislature
- January 1, 2015 – DWR will submit subsequent program status reports every 5 years beginning January 1, 2015

6. Current Status of Program:

- Region Office staff are working with local agencies to complete Monitoring Entity notifications and develop monitoring plans.
- DWR is reviewing submittals and designating Monitoring Entities. As of late September, DWR has received 407 Monitoring Entity notifications, has designated 22 basins and subbasins, and has conditionally designated 74 basins and subbasins.

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- Monitoring Entities are beginning the first round of groundwater monitoring
- DWR is completing development of Phase 3 of the CASGEM online system with an expected release date mid November 2011
- DWR is developing an CASGEM online system training webinar for Monitoring Entities to be offered in late November 2011

7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program:

Fiscal Year 2011-12 \$1,194,000.00  
Fiscal Year 2012-13 \$1,194,000.00  
Fiscal Year 2013-14 \$1,194,000.00

9. URL, if a Website is Available: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/>

10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program?

The CASGEM Program is designed to establish regular and systematic monitoring of groundwater levels. There is no adaptive management role at this time.

11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program:

DWR identifies 515 groundwater basins and subbasins in California with diverse range of hydrogeology and groundwater conditions. Groundwater is managed by many agencies in communities of diverse local interests. More information on the CASGEM Program is available on the CASGEM website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/>. DWR Bulletin 118 also provides good background information on California's groundwater basins and subbasins, which can be viewed or downloaded from the following website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/bulletin118/update2003.cfm>.

**Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford ([gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov)) no later than October 6, 2011.**