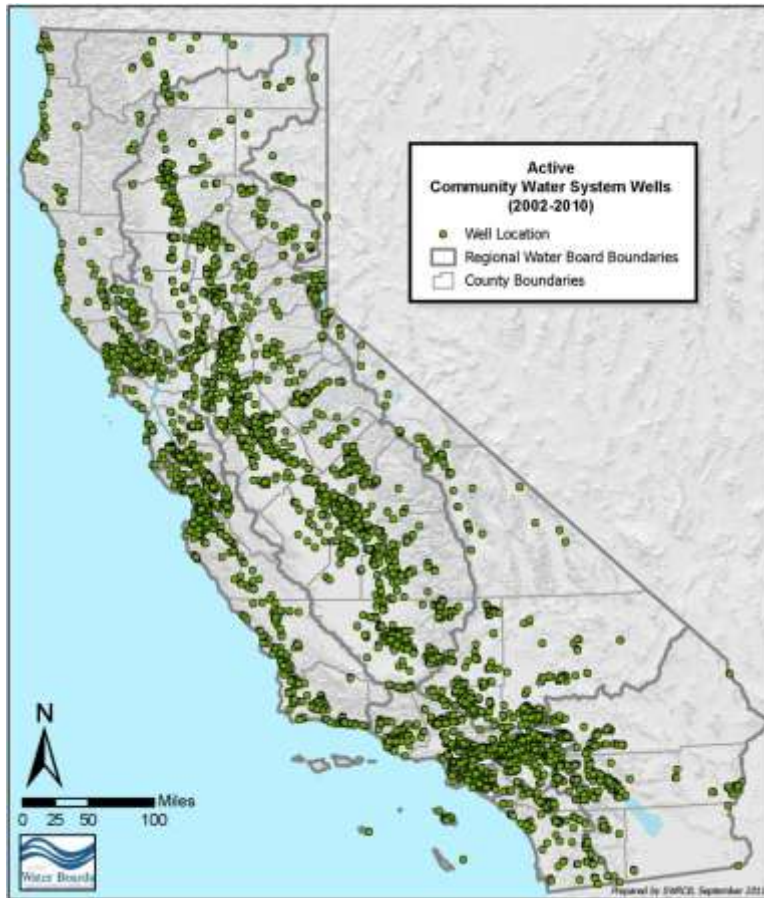
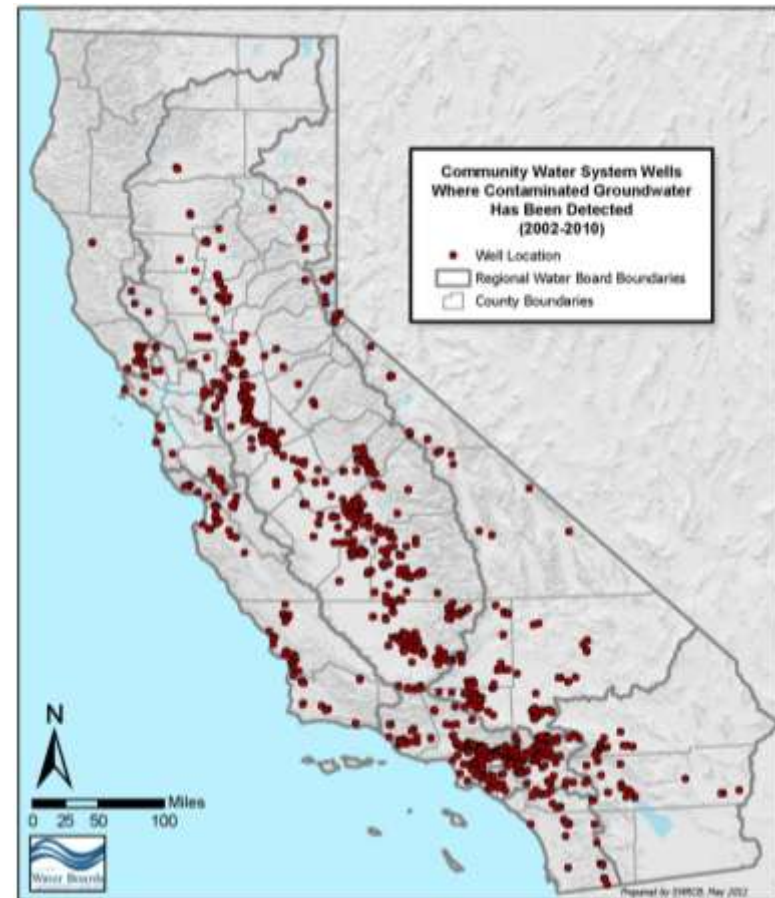


State Water Resources Control Board
**Key Findings on “Communities that Rely on a Contaminated
Groundwater Source for Drinking Water”**
March 12, 2013

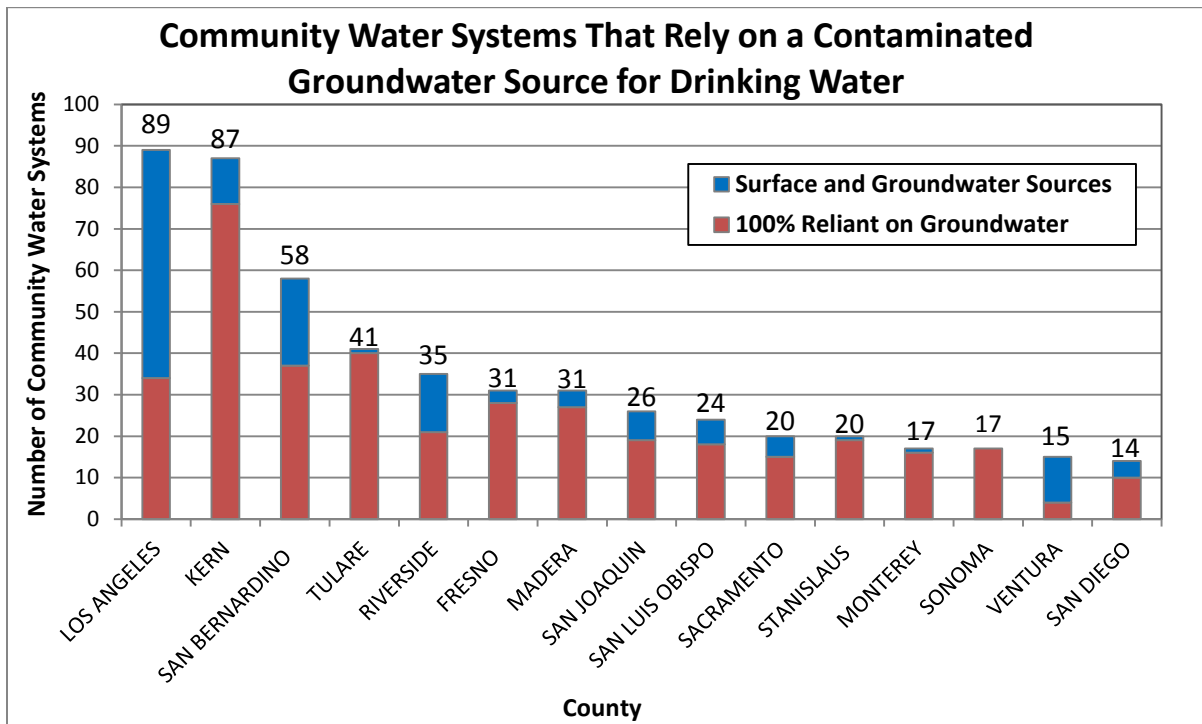
- Many groundwater basins throughout California are contaminated with either naturally occurring or man-made pollutants, or both. Report identified 2,584 community water systems that rely on groundwater as a primary source of drinking water, and of these, 680 community water systems that rely on contaminated groundwater as a source of drinking water. The 680 community water systems serve over 21 million people.
- Most community water systems are able to either treat the contaminated water, or blend the contaminated water with cleaner water sources before delivering it to the public. The California Department of Public Health estimates that 98 percent of Californians using a public water supply receive safe drinking water that meets all health standards.
- When a groundwater source is contaminated, communities must use costly treatment systems to ensure that the water is safe to drink. Where treatment and alternative water supplies are not available, some communities serve contaminated groundwater until a solution is implemented.
- Study looked only at community water systems that are regulated by the Department of Public Health, because data was readily available for those systems. It did not include private domestic wells or small water systems (less than 15 service connections) that are not regulated by the state.
- Report identified 31 principal contaminants were identified: arsenic was the most detected naturally-occurring principal contaminant (287 community water systems), and nitrate was the most detected anthropogenic principal contaminant (205 community water systems).
- Solutions to address groundwater contamination affecting drinking water supplies fall into three broad categories:
 - Pollution prevention or source protection,
 - Cleanup contaminated groundwater, or
 - Provide safe drinking water through treatment or alternative supplies.
- The USEPA estimates that over the next 20 years, California will need to spend approximately \$40 billion on infrastructure improvements to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water. Prior bond funds allocated for this purpose are almost fully allocated.



Active Community Water System Wells Sampled Two or More Times between 2002 and 2010 (8,396 Wells / 2,584 Community Water Systems)



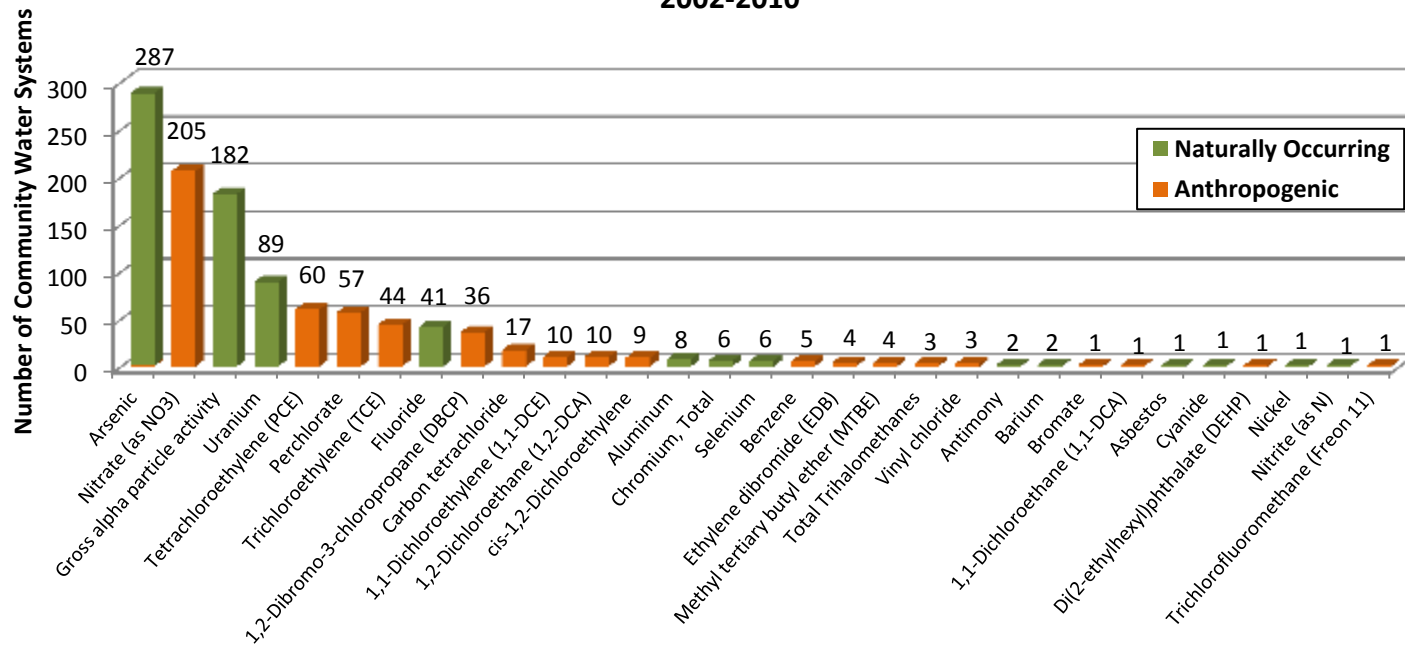
Active Community Water System Wells Where Contaminated Groundwater Has Been Detected Above an MCL Two or More Times between 2002 and 2010 (1,659 Wells / 680 Community Water Systems)



Top 15 Counties by Number of Community Water Systems that Rely on a Contaminated Groundwater Source for Drinking Water

Principal Contaminant Detections: Community Water Systems

Two or More Detections Above the MCL
in Active Wells
2002-2010



Number of Active Community Water systems in which a Principal Contaminant was Detected (on Two or More Occasions above the MCL, 2002-2010)

Cleanup, Treat, or Provide Alternative Sources of Water Supply - Potential Obstacles and Options to Address Obstacles			
Goal	Related Activities for Achieving Goal	Potential Obstacles	Options to Address Obstacles
Provide Safe Drinking Water	Consolidation Self-supply New well Treatment Surface water	Costs Fund availability Location/environment, and availability of clean alternative groundwater or surface supplies Planning and infrastructure support may not be available Multiple contaminants in a well may affect treatment options	Highlight benefits of consolidation, provide seed money for consolidation efforts Make public funds available for meeting other existing public funding criteria Increase available funding
Groundwater Cleanup	Groundwater cleanup programs (USTCF, others)	Scale Cost Fund availability Naturally-occurring contaminants	Support programs that help clean up known groundwater contamination Support efforts to identify sources of groundwater contamination Focus on methods to provide clean drinking water
Pollution Prevention	Continue and support existing programs; Regulatory oversight Monitoring	Naturally-occurring contaminants Prevention too late	Continue to develop and strengthen existing regulatory efforts Expand regulation of emerging pollution sources For identified community water systems, focus on methods to provide clean drinking water

Public Funding Sources That May Be Used to Address Drinking Water Quality Issues, 2002-2012¹

Funding Source	Type of Project	Total Funding ² and Status ³
Proposition 50 (CDPH)	Community water systems; Small systems: monitoring, treatment, infrastructure; Grants for treatment and contaminant removal; Grants for water quality monitoring; Source water protection; Colorado River Use Reduction; Contaminant treatment; UV/Ozone Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Violation	\$508,000,000 Status: Fully Allocated
State Revolving Fund (CDPH)	Water treatment facilities; other infrastructure; planning; consolidation	\$150,000,000 ⁴ Annually Appropriated
Proposition 50 (DWR)	Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and Implementation	\$250,000,000 Status: Fully Allocated
Proposition 50 (State Water Board)	Pollution prevention, reclamation, water quality improvement, blending and exchange projects; source protection; restore/protect surface and groundwater; Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and Implementation	\$450,000,000 Status: Fully Allocated
American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)	For deposit into State Revolving Fund	\$160,000,000 Status: Fully Allocated
Proposition 84 (CDPH)	Emergency Clean Water Grants; Small community infrastructure and nitrate; Grants to reduce or prevent contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water	\$250,000,000 Status: Fully Allocated
Proposition 84 (DWR)	Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and Implementation	\$1,000,000,000 Status: <\$774,000,000 available ⁵

Notes:

1. Funding amounts included in this table based on information available October 2011.
2. Total available funds based upon amounts allocated as found within the California Water Code and original Proposition language, except where noted otherwise.
3. "Status" refers to the estimated amount of funds remaining in each respective funding source.
4. State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding varies annually, based upon allocation from federal government, previous year expenditures, loan and interest repayment, and state matching funds. The value shown here is an approximation based upon previous SRF expenditures and CDPH 2011-2012, Intended Use Plan (CDPH, 2011).
5. As of October 2011. DWR Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) funding is ongoing; this number will likely change.