



How Many Wells?

How many wells are there in California? While we do not have a precise number, as records were not kept of early wells, CGA has worked with the California Department of Water Resources to prepare the following table.

Information from the California Department of Water Resources

Water Well Drillers Reports Received – 1974 - 1997

Year	Domestic	Irrigation	Municipal	Monitoring	Other	Total
1974	-	-	-	-	-	8687
1975	-	-	-	-	-	8275
1976	-	-	-	-	-	11209
1977	-	-	-	-	-	20292
1978	-	-	-	-	-	18525
1979	-	-	-	-	-	15034
1980	9439	1548	157	-	831	11975
1981	8752	1328	141	-	897	11118
1982	5863	1017	145	-	1107	8132
1983	5857	632	141	-	1301	7931
1984	7528	835	204	-	1736	10303
1985	7779	715	234	-	3494	12222
1986	8102	558	268	-	3967	12895
1987	9918	694	308	3399	1563	15882
1988	10420	1129	451	4662	2288	18950
1989	11154	1381	402	7323	2395	22655
1990	12969	1616	513	7287	2566	24951
1991	11136	2546	337	6847	2517	23383
1992	8835	2024	391	7734	2891	22359
1993	6122	1373	253	6428	2388	16564
1994	6501	1376	321	3367	3166	14731
1995	5307	1105	311	3456	1117	11296
1996	4525	953	273	2119	727	8597
1997	3918	905	231	1727	771	7552
TOTALS	144125	21735	5081	54349	35722	343518

* A change in procedures may have caused 1994 figures to be under-reported, particularly in the Central District. Numbers are subject to revision. Only the total number of drillers reports are compiled for 1974 through 1979. The April and Nov. '92 Northern District reports are not available, therefore the total number of wells drilled is correct, but the breakdown by type is under-reported by 484 wells. "Other wells" includes, but is not limited to, commercial and industrial supply wells (includes 35 industrial wells in 1995, 34 in 1996 and 33 in 1997) cathodic protection wells, dewatering wells, test wells, destroyed wells and miscellaneous borings. Monitoring wells were included in this category from 1980 through 1985.