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Pacific Institute Launches the New Version of WeTap, the App for Finding Drinking Water Fountains

January 25, 2012: *Drink the water!* The Pacific Institute in Oakland, California announces the new version of **WeTap**, just released on the Android Market. This free smartphone application uses crowd-sourced mapping to enable people to find public drinking water fountains. With the WeTap app, smartphone users can also quickly and easily add to or modify information about public drinking water fountains on an international database of fountains right from their smartphones, with information on the fountain's location, condition, and quality, and even add comments and upload a photo.

WeTap now has new completely open-source data, different icons for broken and working fountains, improved global mapping, and a fast load time. It is available to Android users who want to beta-test it and provide feedback for improvement. The WeTap website, at www.wetap.org, offers the water-fountains map and information, information about water quality, and more.

The application can be downloaded here:

https://market.android.com/details?id=com.mdc.wetap&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwyLDEsImNvbS5tZGMud2V0YXAiXQ.

Dr. Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute and author of *Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession with Bottled Water*, said, “One of the reasons for the explosive growth in the sales of bottled water is the disappearance of public drinking water fountains. We came up with WeTap because we need our public water fountains to be maintained, cleaned, and made even more widely available, and we need to be vocal in fighting the trend to eliminate public water fountains.”

WeTap makes the public water fountain easy to find – and helps add new ones to the public data base. Valuing tap water – both the quality and access – is an important step to ensure our water remains safe, tasty, and protected. For more information, visit www.wetap.org.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS – 1987 - 2012: Based in Oakland, California, the Pacific Institute is a nonpartisan research institute that works to create a healthier planet and sustainable communities. Through interdisciplinary research and partnering with stakeholders, the Institute produces solutions that advance environmental protection, economic development, and social equity – in California, nationally, and internationally. www.pacinst.org