

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Mary Rose Cassa)
MEETING DATE: May 18, 2005

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: **California Groundwater Awareness Month** – Status Report on the Importance of Groundwater to all Californians

CHRONOLOGY: The Water Board has not considered this matter before.

DISCUSSION: Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 99 (Liu, 2003) established May as California Groundwater Awareness Month and stated the commitment of the Legislature to protect and improve the management of this precious and limited resource. ACR No. 99 is targeted at water supply and water rights; however, protecting and improving the quality of groundwater in California deserves equal effort. Groundwater Awareness Month is a celebration of California's precious resource and an opportunity to reflect on groundwater's value and its contributions to our lives. Although the focus for ACR No. 99 is on water wells and water rights, the attached staff report outlines issues regarding groundwater quality in the San Francisco Bay Region, including groundwater use, protection, and ambient monitoring. These issues are also placed in the context of the State and Regional Water Boards' Strategic Plan as well as global, national, and statewide groundwater issues.

The Water Board has taken a proactive role in groundwater protection throughout its history. Because of releases of solvents and petroleum products found to be threatening drinking water supplies in the South Bay, we pioneered the underground storage tank cleanup program in the early 1980's that has become a model for the nation. The Water Board has long understood the value of protecting groundwater, so it is appropriate that it help celebrate California Groundwater Awareness Month and help focus the public's attention on the ongoing need to protect and restore the Region's groundwater resources.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:** No action needed – information item

FILE NO: 1272.04 (MRC)
APPENDICES: A – Staff Report

Appendix A
Staff Report