

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING/WORKSHOP SESSION –
OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND PERFORMANCE
JANUARY 22, 2014**

ITEM 15

SUBJECT

WORKSHOP ON THE STATE WATER BOARD'S DRAFT GROUNDWATER WORKPLAN
CONCEPT PAPER

DISCUSSION

On October 8, 2013, the State Water Board released for public review a discussion draft [Groundwater Concept Paper](#) (Concept Paper). The draft concept paper is intended to inform the development of a Water Board Groundwater Workplan. The workplan will identify and prioritize groundwater protection actions that will be carried out by the Water Boards over the next five years. The goal is to ensure that the Water Boards effectively use their authorities and resources to address the State's most pressing groundwater challenges, and to complement groundwater management efforts occurring at the local level.

The draft Concept Paper proposes a management framework for current groundwater protection efforts, and suggests potential future actions that the Water Boards and others could pursue to promote more effective groundwater management that supports beneficial uses over the long-term given the growing pressures of population growth, land use, demands on water supply, and climate change impacts. At this workshop, the State Water Board is interested in comments on the relevance of the draft concept paper's proposed management framework, and existing and potential future groundwater management actions, for developing the Groundwater Workplan. The State Water Board will not take any action during the workshop.

Written comments on the October 2013 draft concept paper were due December 18, 2013. Between the release of the draft concept paper and the comment deadline of December 18, 2013, the State Water Board members and staff met with various interests to discuss the proposed framework, and the existing and proposed actions, presented in the concept paper.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time because this is an informational workshop only; no final action will be taken.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time because this is an informational workshop only; no final action will be taken.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time because this is an informational workshop only; no final action will be taken.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 2, 3, and 4 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, which are, respectively, to (1) improve and protect groundwater quality in high-use basins by 2030; (2) increase sustainable local water supplies available for meeting existing and future beneficial uses by 1,725,000 acre-feet per year, in excess of 2002 levels, by 2015, and ensure adequate flows for fish and wildlife habitat; and (3) comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the relationship between water supply and water quality, and describe the connections between water quality, water quantity, and climate change, throughout California's water planning processes.