

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Mary Rose Cassa)
MEETING DATE: May 14, 2008

ITEM: 5.C

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

CHRONOLOGY: May 18, 2005 – status report

DISCUSSION: State law establishes May as California Groundwater Awareness Month and states the commitment of the Legislature to protect and improve the management of this precious and limited resource. 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. The attached staff report outlines issues regarding groundwater quality in the San Francisco Bay Region, particularly the interaction between groundwater and surface water. The 2005 staff report gave a general overview of the role and importance of groundwater and placed the issues of groundwater use, protection, and ambient monitoring in the context of the State and Regional Water Boards' Strategic Plan as well as global, national, and statewide groundwater issues. This report provides an update and focuses on groundwater-surface water interaction as one part of the big picture.

The Water Board has taken an active role in groundwater protection throughout its history. Because releases of solvents and petroleum products were found to be threatening drinking water supplies primarily 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. Thus, it is appropriate for the Water Board to take advantage of California Groundwater Awareness Month to 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