

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

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SUBJECT: **Santa Barbara County 2004 Groundwater Report**
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors/Supervisors:

Receive and file the *Santa Barbara County 2004 Groundwater Report* and authorize distribution of the report for County and public information.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5: Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Santa Barbara County Groundwater Report updates information on groundwater conditions and includes recent water quality trends and water level measurements. The report satisfies one requirement of the *Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, Groundwater Resources Section*, which was adopted May 24, 1994, and amended November 8, 1994. *Conservation Element Goal 4, Policy 4.1, Action 4.1.1* states that:

The County Water Agency shall continue to monitor water levels from existing monitoring wells and, in coordination with the U.C. Cooperative Extension/Farm Advisor, shall request, on a voluntary basis, private and public water purveyors and major private groundwater users, including agricultural users, to provide periodic records of groundwater production. Unless deemed unnecessary by the Water Agency's Board of Directors for any year, the Agency shall compile an annual report on the status of pumping amounts, water levels, overdraft conditions, and other relevant data, and shall submit this report to the Board of Supervisors for its acceptance and possible further action.

This report focuses on measurements and conditions during the calendar year 2004 and thus does not reflect changes which occurred due to the major storms of January through March of 2005. Changes to groundwater aquifers from these heavy rains of early 2005 will show up during measurements made this calendar year and will be reflected in the "2005 Report".

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Groundwater Section of the Conservation Element of the County's General Plan directs preparation of this report. It will improve public accessibility to groundwater information. In addition to regular paper copies the report will be available on the Public Works website for viewing or downloading.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Preparation of this report is part of the ongoing Water Agency work program. Costs associated with preparing the 2004 report were included in the Adopted 2004/05 Budget and were allocated in the Water Agency Center under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-326 in the budget book. Costs were paid from Dept: 054, Acct: 6000/7891, Fund: 3050, Program: 3007. This report will have no impact on County facilities.