



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Water Agency  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: 12/01/09  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Water Agency

**FROM:** Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

**SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County 2008 Groundwater Report**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: No

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive and file the Santa Barbara County 2008 Groundwater Report and authorize distribution of the report and public information contained within the report.

**Summary Text:**

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.*

Upon receiving the previous Groundwater Report on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the Board concurred with staff recommendation to change the report from annual to tri-annual as groundwater conditions tend to not

generally change on a year to year basis. Groundwater conditions are best analyzed over a period of many years or climatic cycles due to the time it takes rainfall and surface water runoff to percolate into groundwater basins and the nature of groundwater systems response to multi year wet and dry periods.

This report focuses on conditions of groundwater and the status of groundwater basins during the 2006 through 2008 calendar years.

**Background:**

The groundwater basins of Santa Barbara County are relied upon heavily as a source of water for both municipal and agricultural uses and as such need to be protected and conserved. This Santa Barbara County 2008 Groundwater Report documents recent climate and general hydrologic trends, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency groundwater monitoring program as well as current conditions of the groundwater basins and ancillary information on supplemental water supplies that may have an effect on groundwater usage.

Several groundwater basins within the County are in a state of overdraft. The Cuyama Groundwater Basin is in a state of overdraft of 28,525 Acre-feet per year based on a 1992 study while the San Antonio Groundwater Basin is in a state of overdraft of 9,540 Acre-feet per year based on a 2003 study. Other groundwater basins such as Santa Maria and the Santa Ynez Uplands are in a state of slight overdraft. The Santa Maria Groundwater Basin is now adjudicated and thus is subject to increased monitoring and conservation measures. The South Coast groundwater basins are in fairly good shape as they are managed through conjunctive use and the Goleta Groundwater Basin is adjudicated.

The report will be distributed to all local and regional water agencies and be made available to the public on the County Public Works Water Resources website.

**Performance Measure:** The data collected in measuring groundwater wells (KPI 53) is used to prepare this report.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

This program is an ongoing Water Agency program and staff time and program costs are budgeted annually. Costs were included in the 2009-2010 Adopted Budget under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as identified on page D-344 in the budget book.

**Authored by:** Dennis Gibbs, Hydrologist, Sr., 739-8781