

**Source Water Protection and Assessment
Water Quality Coordinating Committee
12 October 2015**

Opportunities for greater coordination between DDW and the Regional Boards:

- **Source Water Assessment and Analysis** - The State Water Board recognizes that our groundwater resources are being stressed by nitrate fertilizer applications, industrial pollution, sea water intrusion, and use of deeper aquifers due to over-pumping or contamination of shallow groundwater. The State Water Board manages the assessment portions of the Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program (DSWAP) alongside the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) program and Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), to allow for a holistic understanding of surface and groundwater and to inform the Water Boards' regulatory responsibilities.
- **Groundwater Cleanup and Well Siting** - The State Water Board should ensure close coordination between the Drinking Water Program and groundwater cleanup activities overseen by the Regional Water Boards. For example, currently there is no governmental nexus between well siting and groundwater cleanup. A public water system that plans to drill a new well may not be aware of nearby groundwater cleanup activities regulated by the Water Boards. This lack of awareness could lead to contaminants from a nearby plume being drawn into a new municipal well, an expensive and avoidable problem. Conversely, the new well could compromise the effectiveness of the groundwater remediation system that is cleaning up the groundwater.
- **Water Quality Planning and Implementation** - The Water Board's focus on water quality planning should be enhanced, for example in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plans mandated by the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy. These Plans may lead to identification of areas needing special protection of drinking water.
- **Data and Information Sharing** - The State Water Board should review the Potentially Contaminating Activities identified under DSWAP for potential applicability to Water Board permitting of discharges of waste and for potential identification of areas requiring special protection.
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management** - The Division of Drinking Water and the Division of Water Quality will work together to coordinate regulatory authorities to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. One example is the Division of Drinking Water's authority to deny an application for a water supply permit based on lack of a reliable supply.