

Inundation from below: planning for the effects of sea level rise on groundwater

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Ed DeWitt, Executive Director
Association to Preserve Cape Cod



CAPE COD
COMMISSION



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Preserve Cape Cod



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Conservancy 
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Barnstable County
Coastal Resources
Committee

In areas with higher water table, inundation from below could affect:

- **Septic systems**
- **Stormwater treatment systems**
- **Underground storage tanks**
- **Drinking water supplies (contamination by the above)**
- **Basements and foundations**
- **Buried utilities**
- **Roads**
- **Other subsurface infrastructure**



Inundation from below could affect natural resources and ecosystems:

- **Streamflows**
- **Stream flooding**
- **Streambank erosion**
- **Wetlands**
- **Vernal pools**
- **Ponds**
- **Freshwater discharge to coastal embayments (flow, salinity, nutrients)**
- **Habitat for fish, shellfish, wildlife, plants**



Adaptation Planning: We Need Your Input

- **Identify & prioritize critical infrastructure and resources;**
- **Identify potential adaptation measures:**
 - **Redouble wastewater management – prioritize high groundwater areas;**
 - **Improve Title 5 testing in vulnerable areas;**
 - **Protect drinking water supplies, enhance treatment if needed (emerging contaminants);**
 - **Buffer zones and open space;**
 - **Green infrastructure that works when wet;**
 - **Managed retreat;**
 - **Cross-cutting adaptation measures:**
 - **Develop policies, BMPs, bylaws and plan;**
 - **Other?**
 - **Implement plan.**



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For more information contact: Ed DeWitt, APCC Executive Director or Jo Ann Muramoto at (508) 362-4226.

Visit APCC's webpage at:

www.apcc.org / Programs / Effects of sea level rise on coastal aquifers and APCC's Video "Sea Level Rise: Changing Cape Cod's Groundwater", at <http://www.apcc.org/videos/index.html>