

News Release

Attention: Calendar Editors

For release: October 5, 2006

Contacts:

Audrey Eldridge, DEQ, (877) 823-3216, ext. 223

Denise Kalakay, Lane Council of Governments, (541) 682-7415

Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Committee To Hold Five Open House Meetings

What: The Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management committee will hold five open house meetings to discuss the Action Plan for voluntary actions to reduce nitrate in groundwater.

The first hour will be an open house, followed by a presentation and discussion with Committee staff, and then an opportunity to anyone to have their verbal comments recorded for the Committee to review. **Free nitrate screening** of well water will be available for anyone who brings a half cup of water sample in a clean container.

When and Where:

October 17, 3 p.m., at Scandinavian Hall, 195 W 5th St., Junction City

Sponsored by Lane Council of Governments

October 19, 5 p.m., at Harrisburg Town Hall, 354 Smith Street, Harrisburg

Sponsored by the Harrisburg Public Works Department

October 23, 5 p.m., at Monroe High School; 365 North Fifth, Monroe

October 25, 5 p.m., at Coburg Municipal Court, 32694 East Pearl Street, Coburg

Sponsored by the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District

October 30, 5 p.m., at Corvallis Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis

Sponsored by Benton County Environmental Health Department

Background: In 2004, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality declared a Groundwater Management Area because of the high levels of nitrate found in the groundwater. Most residents in this area of the Southern Willamette Valley get their drinking water from groundwater, and high levels of nitrate pose a health risk. The Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Committee, a committee of interested citizens, has drafted a plan for voluntary actions to improve groundwater quality. They now invite your comments on this plan at a series of five open house meetings in the Southern Willamette Valley.

For More Information: The Action Plan is housed in the Monroe, Corvallis, Harrisburg & Junction City Libraries, at Coburg City Hall, and at :

<http://groundwater.oregonstate.edu/willamette/Plan.htm>



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Communications
& Outreach**

811 SW 6th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-5696
Toll free in OR
(800) 452-4011
Fax: (503) 229-5850



**Willamette Valley
Groundwater
Management
Committee**

Audrey Eldridge, DEQ
(877) 823-3216, x 223

Denise Kalakay, LCOG
(541) 682-7415