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PRESS RELEASE

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Workshop on “Effects of Sea Level Rise on Cape Cod’s Groundwater System”

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod and partners will host a free public workshop on May 29th where hydrologists from the U.S. Geological Survey will present their approach to modeling the effects of sea level rise on the mid-Cape’s aquifer. The presentation will focus specifically on the Sagamore and Monomoy groundwater lenses, which lie beneath the mid- and upper and most of the lower Cape.

The workshop will take place from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on Thursday, May 29 at the Harborview Conference Room in the Old Jail building at the Barnstable County Complex, 3195 Main Street in Barnstable Village.

In coming decades, rising sea level is expected to affect Cape Cod’s groundwater and ponds, lakes and streams, which are fed by groundwater. Potential effects include changes in the water table, stream flow, and corresponding depth to the watertable. These effects could have far-reaching implications for land-use planning, infrastructure, wastewater, stormwater and drinking water management, and natural resources.

APCC is partnering with USGS, Cape Cod Commission, Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program, The Nature Conservancy and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on the modeling project. The goal is to evaluate the effects of sea level rise on groundwater and water resources and to develop coastal adaptation measures to increase resiliency against sea level rise impacts.

The purpose of the May 29th workshop is to invite questions about the sea level rise model and how it will be used for developing coastal resiliency measures. The target audience includes municipal planners, wastewater managers, drinking water managers, stormwater specialists, natural resource managers, conservation commissions, and the general public.

This is the first of several public workshops for this project. In future workshops the results of the model and recommendations for adaptive measures will be presented.

Due to limited space, advance registration is required. To register, go to APCC’s website at www.apcc.org/ and under “What’s New?”, click on “Register for Sea Level Rise Workshop” or call APCC at (508) 362-4226.

For more information about the sea level rise project or the workshop, contact Ed DeWitt, APCC executive director, at (508) 362-4226 ext. 13 or Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto, APCC senior scientist, at (508) 362-4226 ext. 16.

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