

## **League of Women Voters of Mountain Lakes 1999 Update of Water Consensus of 1989**

The League of Women Voters of Mountain Lakes has studied the Borough water supply over the past year and a half. We have concluded from our study that the major recharge area for our aquifer probably lies outside of the Borough and is therefore not under our control; however, we do want to preserve whatever recharge we do have within the Borough, to prevent local contamination of the aquifer, to promote conservation, and to encourage regional cooperation to protect the aquifer.

### **A. Wells**

We applaud the Borough Council's efforts to find a new well away from Route 46. We make the following recommendations for protection of Well No. 5:

- that the Borough consider acquiring all land within 600 feet of the well, possibly with Green Acres funds;
- that we require a protective berm be constructed around the well, both on private and public land, to protect the well from surface contamination;
- that we ensure that emergency plans for handling a Route 46 spill remain current; and
- that the Borough Council aggressively pursue the passage of a wellhead protection program.

We recommend that we locate all unused wells in the Borough to ensure they are properly capped and do not create a direct conduit through which pollutants might enter the aquifer.

### **B. Underground Tanks**

We recommend special attention be given to underground storage tanks not covered by New Jersey's Underground Tank regulations. The Borough should:

- Institute a program to locate all used and unused underground tanks, test those over twenty years old and educate homeowners regarding appropriate corrective action.

### **C. Quantity of Water**

We recommend continuing education of the public about conservation of water.

#### **D. Regional**

Since all nearby communities have a common dependence on our prime aquifer, we support a continuing concerted regional effort, at the mayoral level, to protect the water supply. Goals for regional cooperation would be to:

- Establish common ordinances to protect the aquifer and its recharge area;
- Promote conservation;
- Encourage preservation of open space;
- Lobby for Tier 7 designation for the aquifer and its recharge areas in the N. J. State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

We would like to promote regional education of both public decision-makers and citizens regarding conservation measures, aquifer protection, and that relationship between open space preservation and groundwater recharge.