



Sonoma Valley Stormwater Management and Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study

Project Objectives Framework

October 19, 2011

1. Introduction

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) seeks to identify potential projects within the Sonoma Valley that can meet stormwater management and groundwater recharge goals. The Agency has contracted with ESA PWA, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Parker Groundwater, and other subconsultants to develop these project concepts, vet them with Sonoma Valley stakeholders, and help to identify potential funding sources.

This document, the draft version of a Project Objectives Framework, is designed to elicit discussion and help to develop our understanding of the attributes of the desired end product: definition of projects that achieve the key Project Purpose, providing flood hazard reduction and groundwater benefits within the Sonoma Creek watershed. These projects are envisioned as inclusive of either of the following:

1. Any single project that meets core objectives.
2. A suite of project “elements” that function physically as stand-alone projects but which may be combined to collectively address core and selected supporting objectives.

The Project Objectives will be further developed after discussions with the Agency and the stakeholder group.

2. Purpose of the Project Objectives Framework

The Project Objectives Framework is intended to facilitate our consideration of the project core and supporting objectives and the relative emphasis that will be given to supporting objectives. It will help us to identify a clear set of weighted project objectives. By clearly articulating and engaging in discussion of these objectives, we will be able to best focus our investigation and development of project alternatives during this scoping study.

3. Proposed Approach

The table below identifies core and supporting project objectives that will be sought in a project that also meets the Key Project Purpose. It provides a tool by which the weight attributed to each project objective can be identified; an ideal project may accomplish all core and supporting objectives. Given that each supporting objective is desirable, can we distinguish between which have more and less weight? If so, we can target the effort to identify and develop alternatives to specifically focus on those considerations.

The Project Objectives Framework table was designed as a matrix on a single page for ease of discussion with stakeholders. A column on the left provides the list of project objectives; a row at the top shows the factors we have identified as considerations in weighting them.

Weighting the objectives will help to guide project formulation for feasibility analysis and later stages of project development. If multiple feasible project concepts are identified, the project team will determine which concepts to include in the final project—partly on the basis of how well they meet the weighted objectives. Additional ranking parameters for projects will also be developed; these will very likely include the evaluation criteria used to weight the supporting objectives as shown in our proposed project objectives table, as well as such factors as: the approximate cost/benefit ratio, number of expected beneficiaries, availability of local cost share contributions, implementation feasibility, etc.

Sonoma Valley Stormwater Management and Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study: Project Objectives

The goal of the current effort is to develop one or more stormwater management/groundwater recharge projects that provide flood hazard reduction and groundwater benefits within the Sonoma Creek watershed.

Core Objectives						
Flood Hazard Reduction Improve management of stormwater that contributes, directly or indirectly, to reduced flood hazards.						
Groundwater Recharge Increase beneficial recharge of groundwater, whether or not that recharged groundwater is directly accessible as water supply.						
Supporting Objectives	Weight	Criteria for weighting				
		Enhances funding opportunities	Provides economic benefit to stakeholders or public	Provides other stakeholder or public benefit	Reduces maintenance requirements	Supports regulatory compliance
Water Quality Improve water quality of surface water and/or groundwater.		x	x	x	x	x
Water Supply Increase or improve water supply availability, reliability and flexibility for domestic, municipal, industrial and agricultural use and for the environment.		x	x	x	x	
System Sustainability Support energy and water efficiency and climate change resiliency of water management systems and developed supplies, as well as the ability of stream systems to be maintained by natural processes.		x	x	x	x	
Ecosystem Improve ecosystem function and/or enhance habitat, especially for listed species.		x		x		x
Agricultural Land Preserve agricultural land use.		x	x	x		
Open Space Preserve and/or enhance open space.		x		x		
Community Benefits Create and/or enhance recreation, public access, education, etc.		x		x		