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Meeting Highlights | April 28, 2016 2:00–5:00 PM | Basin Advisory Panel

Sonoma Community Center, 276 E. Napa Street, Sonoma

2016 Meeting Schedule

BAP (Quarterly, Thursdays, 2:00-5:00PM)

February 4	April 28	July 28	October 27

TAC (2nd Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30AM, except Holidays)

January 13	March 9	May 11	July 13
September 14	November 9		

(TAC meetings scheduled for scheduled every other month in 2016)

Meeting Participants

- Keith Abeles, Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Fred Allebach, Sonoma Resident
- Richard Dale, Sonoma Ecology Center
- David Goodison, City of Sonoma
- Ed Nelson, Well Owner
- Jay Jasperse, Sonoma county Water Agency
- Bill Keene, Sonoma county Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- John MacLeod, Grape Grower/Lawndale Mutual Water Company
- Vickie Mulas, Well Owner
- Karla Noyes, Sonoma Resident
- Kathy Pons, Valley of the Moon Alliance and Well Owner
- Maggie Salenger Haywood, Well Owner
- Tito Sasaki, North Bay Agricultural Alliance

Staff in Attendance

- Ann DuBay, Sonoma county Water Agency
- Marcus Trotta, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Tim Parker, Parker Groundwater
- Pete Parkinson, Consultant to Water Agency

Meeting Announcements

- Salon women's group will be briefed in July by Caitlin Cornwall of the Sonoma Ecology Center on the SVGMP 2015 Annual Report and Sonoma Valley groundwater management program progress

SVGMP Final 2015 Annual Report and Flyer

- The annual report and flyer were provided as handouts to the panel
- The annual report gives a snapshot of groundwater conditions in the basins
- Figures show the areas of depletion

- All SVGMP constituent groups should receive a briefing on the SVGMP progress and 2015 Annual Report
- Sonoma County Water Agency staff will provide a briefing to the Water Agency Board/Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
- PowerPoint slides and Water Agency assistance can be provided for briefings
- It was suggested for Figure 2 on the Flyer that some of the some lettering in the figure title box be put in large letters above the figure such as "Average Annual Groundwater Level Change in Deep Wells"
- BAP members agreed to conduct constituent briefings as possible

Groundwater Monitoring Well Drilling and Construction Program

- A groundwater banking/aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) program as is outlined in the SVGMP, is still under consideration and actively being pursued
- City of Sonoma
  - The City if Sonoma is working with a consultant to submit a permit for an ASR pilot project
  - The City plans to use an existing water supply well that is already plumbed
  - A monitoring well for the pilot project is currently being drilled under an AB303 grant obtained from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
  - The monitoring well is being placed about 50 feet from the City Supply Well No. 6 which is screened approximately 150 to 250 ft bgs in order to monitor for groundwater level changes and any water quality effects in groundwater
  - The monitoring well location is just off the Fields of Dreams parking lot
  - The driller hit some very hard drilling conditions, likely a volcanic flow or breccia, and had to move to a new nearby drilling location
  - The ASR pilot project, if successful, would take several years to establish any full-scale project
  - The pilot project would start with a small amount of water to bank, say 20 acre-feet recharging in a four-month period
  - This would be repeated and expanded over time to test the ability of the aquifer to receive the quantity of water and also to monitor for water quality changes in groundwater
  - A rule of thumb is that the recharge rate for a well is approximately half the production rate in that well
- Valley of the Moon Water District
  - Valley of the Moon Water District is also considering a groundwater banking/ASR program
  - The monitoring well for VOM was drilled in the parking lot of their office and yard, also under the same AB303 grant
  - VOM provided some additional funding to go from a depth 350 below ground surface to drill to 700 feet bgs
  - A geophysical log from the VOM monitoring well was displayed at the meeting
  - A shallow sandy zone occurs from about 100 to 130 ft bgs
  - A mixed sand, silt and clay occurs 400-460 ft bgs
  - A fairly significant medium sand occurs from 580 to 660 ft bgs

- Lots of clay and silts occur in between and below these three main permeable "aquifer" zones
- The overall geology correlates fairly well with a well log about ½ mile away, but the deeper zone there is only about 50 feet thick
- The new monitoring well at VOM is constructed with screens in the shallow 100 foot zone and in the deep 580 foot zone
- The monitoring well could be used for monitoring a future ASR pilot study if a production/ASR well is completed nearby
- At VOM, the recharge zone would be targeted at the deeper 580 to 660 foot zone to separate the ASR well from shallower wells in the area
- The new monitoring well will be developed over the next couple of weeks and sampled for water quality later in May

- Question - How long does it take to recharge the deeper zone through all the clay and silt?
  - We don't have an answer for this right now, however the USGS is doing water quality sampling and analysis that includes stable isotopes and age dating chemistry so hopefully we'll have an answer in the future
- Question – what about relationship between ASR injection and increased seismic activity?
  - Not a big concern due to depth of injection compared to much deeper fault zone, but we will watch
- Question – why do ASR in deeper zones when most users have shallow wells?
  - Important to keep distance from existing wells to avoid direct influence. Also noted that ASR water from SCWA's Russian River supplies would currently only be available to SCWA contractors.

Updates

- Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department update – not available
- Member Updates
  - Questions and Comments regarding a proposed development
    - There is a proposed 49 unit affordable housing development being considered
    - It's proposed to be low income and house about 240 people
    - With the 20% conservation mandate how is this new demand being addressed?
    - The sewer capacity is stretched although the Water Agency says the collection system work is being done
    - The location is right next to the Lodge at Sonoma
    - It seems like the city is trying to avoid having to doing an EIR for the proposed project
  - Responses from other member
    - The city has an allotment of water from the Water Agency for use to fulfill that proposed future demand
    - The city is looking at reducing urban per capita water use

        - The planning commission will be the one that decides on whether the proposed project needs to do an EIR or a negative declaration is sufficient
- Model
    - Water Agency staff is pretty much done with the model construction and model calibration. Currently staff are looking at possible scenarios to run probably at a 50 year planning period to meet SGMA mandates for the GSP planning horizon
    - Looking at different climate change models/scenarios as well as different assumptions on future land use scenarios
    - Also will apply a range of growth rates for urban and rural populations and agricultural water demand
    - Basically will have bookends on future conditions and how groundwater levels may change with inflow from Baylands and surface water-groundwater interaction
    - The plan is to bring scenarios to the TAC and then the BAP before running them in the models
    - Then we'll look at a range of management options such as urban and rural conservation, aquifer storage and recovery, and increased recycled water use and storm water capture
    - We'll have approximately 1,200 to 1,500 acre-feet of recycled water available once the Napa Salt Marsh project is completed in about ten years
- Question - Will you look at injection to manage potential seawater intrusion?
    - We'll need more info on water quality and where seawater intrusion may be occurring to consider that as a management option; have not seen major salinity increases to-date
- Question - When will the USGS provide information on the water quality data they are collecting?
    - There is supposed to be a data transmittal late summer?
- Question - The field instrument collected electrical conductivity data should be available now – did it show anything significant?
    - No major changes were seen in the EC data – some slightly higher and some slightly lower, but generally the same data distribution of values
- First-ever regional ballot measure this June seeking a $12 parcel tax increase
    - It would generate $500 million over the next 20 years for all nine Bay Area counties to pay for wetland and wildlife habitat restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay
- Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting
    - The Sonoma Ecology Center has taken the lead in organizing outreach materials and effortsThere is an outreach package completed by SEC under their grant funding
    - Should be distributed to the TAC and Panel for review
    - There is an opportunity to get information on groundwater conditions out to the community with the new 2015 Annual Report and Flyer
- Grants for Storm Water Resource Planning and Data Management
    - Stormwater Resource Planning

        - Recent legislation by Pavley requires a storm water resource plan for grant funding for stormwater capture types of projects
        - For Sonoma County, we need to prepare storm water resource plans for three primary watersheds
        - The Water Agency applied for a $250,000 grant for Sonoma Valley and Petaluma Valley under the Bay Area IRWMP and for the Santa RosaPlain under the North Coast IRWMP
        - The approach to developing a storm water resource plan will be to not reinvent the wheel, but instead to combine together what we already have, identify and fill gaps in the information we need to complete the plan, completing a functional equivalent plan
        - Once completed we will be able to access funds in Proposition 1 related to stormwater capture and stormwater management
        - Water Agency staff Susan Haydon is leading the effort, and hoping to hear in the May-June timeframe for funding request results
        - Good news is that the total funding requested for stormwater resource plans is less then the total funds available
        - The request was for $480,000 with matching funds from the Water Agency and other local agencies
        - The funding includes a number of elements including specific outreach and stakeholder engagement
        - Potential recharge areas in these small Coastal Range basins is limited due to the more complex hydrogeology, and significant capital is required to invest in investigations in target areas for on-site specific soils and recharge capacity
    - Data Management System (DMS) Grant has been approved
        - The new data management system will be integrated for the three SGMA medium priority basins in Sonoma County
        - The grant was applied for by Sonoma County under the stressed counties grant program and the water agency led the effort and will do most of the implementation work
        - The total grant amount is $250,000 with a total project cost of $450,000 including cost share from the county and water agency and in-kind services by other organizations
        - DWR requires one DMS per basin and the system developed under this grant will accomplish that and allow multiple agencies to input data collectively into one data system
        - Project will include a web portal for the public to access and view data, hydrographs and maps
        - Grant agreement is being developed with DWR which includes an 18 month implementation timeframe, so this is a short term project
        - Question – will data that is not on the portal be used for decision-making?
            - There may be some limited confidential data or information that is not accessible through the portal
- Legislative & Policy Update
    - Draft GSP Emergency Regulations

        - DWR has indicated 200 comment submittals of approximately 2,000 individual comments - many comments good and DWR will modify GSP regs as a result
        - Still on track to adopt final DSP regulations by June 1st this year
    - Basin Boundary Modifications
        - 54 basin boundary modifications packages received and being considered
    - Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation
        - Total of 79 separate submittals as of 4/20
        - 49 GSAs have service area overlap in one or more basins to be resolved (63%)
        - 66 basins have GSAs – 37 high and med priority and 29 low or very low priority
        - 25 counties have GSAs
        - 5 determined to be incomplete
    - Water Available for Replenishment Report by DWR
        - Draft in print on website
        - Final due December 31, 2016
        - A number of SGM Program highlights & related events were reviewed
    - State Legislation focused on Wolk's SB1317 – conditional use permit requirement in high and medium priority basins for new large capacity wells - does not apply to replacement wells or de minimis well owners using 2 acre-feet or less per year
    - Question – Request for clarification on ministerial versus conditional use permit?
        - Ministerial permits are a check the box and fill out to form process; project must be approved if it complies with measurable standards -
        - A conditional use permit allows decision-makers to use judgment and would be subject to CEQA and require a public hearing -
    - Question – Basin Boundaries – with the SGMA requirement to use only alluvial B-118 basins, how do we continue to manage the watershed and bedrock areas outside the B-118 basin?
        - The voluntary monitoring extends into volcanic upland areas, and the model accounts for volcanic upland areas through the basin characterization model that maps and distributes recharge in the watershed to the groundwater flow model; all water coming into the watershed is accounted for in the model

Stakeholder Meeting – SGMA and Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Formation Discussion

- A PowerPoint presentation was provided in oral and hardcopy handout form
- SGMA applies to three medium priority bulletin 118 basins in Sonoma County:
    1) Santa Rosa Plain
    2) Sonoma Valley
    3) Petaluma Valley
- Steps to groundwater sustainability under SGMA include
    1) Form groundwater sustainability agencies by June 30, 2017
    2) Prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans by January 31, 2022 – although regs are in draft form, but many more stringent details in draft regs
    3) Achieve sustainability 20 years after adoption of the groundwater sustainability plan

- Management authorities under SGMA include:
  - Conduct studies
  - Register & monitor wells
  - Set well spacing requirements
  - Require extraction reporting
  - Regulate extractions
  - Implement capital projects
  - Assess fees to cover costs
- De minimis users cannot be metered but can be assessed fees
- Available State funding for SGMA GSA formation and GSP preparation approximately $93M for the entire State
- A Stakeholder Assessment was completed as a first step to GSA formation in Sonoma County in order to get the lay of the land on people's interest and on governance
- Key Stakeholder Assessment findings indicate that many stakeholders feel that GSA governing board members should be elected officials from member agencies to be more accountable to voters
- Currently GSA-eligible agencies are in the process of providing updates to the Basin Advisory Panels in the Sonoma and Santa Rosa Plain basins
- GSA eligible agencies are conducting basin specific meetings and they also meet in one large group and facilitation is done by Gina Bartlett of the Consensus Building Instute and funded by DWR
- The GSA-eligible agencies are actively implementing public outreach with information dissemination and public meetings
- The Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) contacted the State Water Resources Control Board and asked if the RCD is an eligible agency to form a GSA, and the State Board answered that the RCD is considered a GSA eligible agency
- The Sonoma County Winegrape Commission also asked the State Board to determine if they are GSA-eligible – waiting for anaswer
- The following agreements have been made amongst the GSA eligible agencies
  - One GSA and one GSP per basin
  - There needs to be formal coordination between GSAs and GSPs for technical and strategic reasons and other issues including grant applications
  - The GSA eligible agencies previously adopted general principles for developing GSAs in Sonoma County
- GSA eligible agencies in Sonoma County:

Santa Rosa Plain	**Sonoma Valley**	**Petaluma Valley**
City of Cotati	City of Petaluma	City of Sonoma
City of Rohnert Park	North Bay Water District	North Bay Water District
City of Santa Rosa	Sonoma County	Valley of the Moon Water District
City of Sebastopol	Sonoma County Water Agency	Sonoma County
Town of Windsor	Sonoma Resource Conservation District	Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma County		Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Sonoma County Water Agency		

Sonoma Resource Conservation District		

- The major issues the GSA eligible agencies are discussing include:
  - Who should be on the new GSA board – elected versus appointed reps – leaning towards elected
  - Role of mutual water companies and PUC-regulated private companies in GSA (not a significant issue in the Sonoma Valley basin)
  - Decision-making Voting - how many per entity? Weighted or not? Simple majority or supermajority?
  - Staffing - in-kind, new, existing, consultants?
  - Legal mechanism – Joint Powers Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement? Leaning towards JPA
  - Advisory Bodies will be more formal and structured than current BAPs in Sonoma Valley and SRP;
  - Main purpose to advise governing body on GSP development and implementation
  - Membership could have application process and terms of appointment
  - Advisory body meetings would fall under the Brown (Open Meetings) act
  - There would be charter and decision-making protocols
  - Committee membership of somewhere between 9 and 15 members
  - One seat to be appointed by each GSA eligible agency
  - Other seats for interest-based members as listed in SGMA and appropriate to basin setting
- Schedule for outreach
  - Public meetings planned for July to provide info and receive input on governing structure
  - One meeting will be conducted in each of the 3 SGMA priority basins
  - Then to boards and councils in late summer or early fall to get feedback on governance, including public input
- Suggestions from the Panel
  - Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District advisory committee considered a good model for advisory bodies

  - An annual Board Retreat helps Board members to get substantive time together to work more efficiently; Advisory Panel could do this too, perhaps jointly with the board
  - Panel/Committee – it could be that the advisory committee is more technical since there is GSA Board of electeds who can handle constituent outreach
  - Concern expressed that some of the board members of the GSA eligible agencies are elected through general public elections, while others are appointed or elected through a less public process
  - Will County board members have the capacity to serve on 3 separate GSAs?
  - The GSA Board would work in a cooperative nature
  - Considerable interest in what happens outside the B118 boundary; it's hydrologically important to consider those areas and active management needs to continue in watershed. Also important to treat property owners consistently;

don't want people playing boundary games to move just outside GSA boundary to have less regulation. County's land use controls will be key for this issue.
  - Cap and Trade – this is a viable way to reach sustainable water management

Action Items

- Constituent briefings by BAP members and others
- Next TAC May 11th
- Next BAP July 28th