

# **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN**

## **Santa Rosa Plain**

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### **Goal**

*The goal of the Plan is to locally manage and protect groundwater resources by a balanced group of stakeholders through non-regulatory measures to support all beneficial uses, including human, agriculture, and ecosystems, in an environmentally sound, economical, and equitable manner for present and future generations.*

### **Basin Management Objectives**

#### **Integrated Groundwater Management**

- Improve coordination and interaction between water resource management agencies
- Conjunctively manage surface water and groundwater to improve water supply availability and reliability
- Coordinate surface water and groundwater management with land use planning
- Foster shared management responsibilities among urban and rural stakeholders
- Further cultivate state and federal partnerships for program implementation

#### **Stakeholder Involvement and Public Awareness**

Provide an ongoing forum, information and current media to educate and improve the public and stakeholder awareness of water and groundwater supplies and management issues, to help secure local support of the plan, and to ensure collaboration in addressing future challenges during program implementation

- Ensure program information is readily accessible to the public through the internet and other public forums
- Ensure outreach information is accessible to individuals with different levels of education and technical knowledge
- Receive public input during periodic public meetings at key milestones
- Provide information to increase public awareness of current surface water and groundwater supplies and planning activities in a changing climate

#### **Groundwater Protection & Recharge**

- *Recharge Area Protection* - Identify and map groundwater recharge areas, encourage the protection of recharge areas to preserve natural recharge and groundwater quality, including low impact development approaches designed to mimic natural hydrologic conditions, and provide groundwater recharge area maps to local agencies for planning
- *Recharge Enhancement* – Consider and evaluate, and where appropriate, promote activities to enhance groundwater recharge (i.e. supply) while protecting or improving groundwater quality

- *Wells* – Encourage permitting of the construction, placement, reconstruction and destruction of all wells to provide protection of groundwater resources from pollution and to reduce the number of abandoned, non-destroyed wells that may provide a conduit for groundwater contamination

### **Conservation & Efficiency**

Promote actions to conserve and reduce water usage and increase water and energy efficiency by urban and non-urban water users

### **Water Reuse**

Increase water reuse in a safe and environmentally sound manner to enhance water supply reliability and reduce demands on groundwater and surface water resources

### **Monitoring & Modeling**

The plan should have consistent and ongoing comprehensive data collection, data management, and monitoring programs and analytical tools including:

- *Groundwater Elevations* - Measure groundwater elevations and foster activities aimed at maintaining groundwater elevations to support all beneficial uses and protecting against land subsidence and loss of groundwater storage capacity
- *Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction* - Evaluate surface water and groundwater interactions and foster protection against adverse interactions between groundwater and surface water flows, thereby protecting and enhancing aquatic ecosystems
- *Water Quality* – Monitor groundwater quality and foster activities aimed at protection and improvement of groundwater quality for beneficial uses
- *Land Subsidence* – Monitor for land subsidence and foster activities aimed at protecting against groundwater extraction-related land subsidence
- *Rainfall* – Monitor rainfall to improve modeling through a better understanding of rainfall distribution and density
- *Modeling* – Maintain and update the surface water/groundwater model at an appropriate frequency based on current data to track and assess the water budget including inputs, outputs and change in storage, and to support and enhance science-based decision-making

### **Climate Change Planning**

- Ensure adequate water supply reliability and drought resiliency in a changing climate
- Incorporate planning for the potential climate change effects on surface water and groundwater supplies into existing and future local and regional plans