

# **MEETING NOTES | November 8, 2012**

## **Santa Rosa Plain Basin Advisory Panel**

<http://www.scwa.gov/srgroundwater/>

### **New CAFF Member—Keith Abeles**

Community Alliance for Family Farmers has a new representative Keith Abeles. Keith is replacing Lawrence Jaffe.

### **Concerns about Incorporating Feedback on Documents**

Lloyd Iverson expressed concern that the group had not spent meeting time to discuss the numerous points that he made on the goals and objectives document. Lloyd shared copies of the document with the group. Several members acknowledged Lloyd's frustration and assured him that they had reviewed his comments and others that staff and Lloyd had exchanged on the document. Several members observed that the goals and objectives were one element of the plan, and his comments on that element extended beyond the goals and objectives to the entire groundwater plan. Members advocated that everyone must bring his or her perspective and interests and concerns into Panel meetings at the appropriate time when the issue is on the agenda so the group can effectively consider input.

### **Goals & Objectives Revisions**

Draft 10/1/2012 Reviewed

The group discussed a number of issues with the goals and objectives document and agreed to refinements. Below is a summary of the discussion and changes underlined in the attached document.

### **Stakeholder Involvement**

The additional bullets seem unnecessary to several, but members can live with them. However, members would like the grammar to shift to parallel construction, similar to other bullet points in the document.

The group agreed to add "in a changing climate" to the bulleted text to reflect that public information materials would articulate the potential implications of climate change.

#### **REVISED LANGUAGE**

- 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

### **Recharge Enhancement**

Someone was unclear about the meaning of appropriately scaled in: “Activities that are appropriately scaled to land use.” The reference was to capture small and large projects. Others thought it was confusing and that land use is implicit in recharge enhancement and covered above under *recharge area protection*. After some discussion, the group agreed to the following language.

#### REVISED LANGUAGE

*Recharge Enhancement* – Consider and evaluate, and where appropriate, promote activities to enhance groundwater recharge (i.e. supply) while protecting or improving groundwater quality

#### **Wells**

The group clarified that its goal was to reduce the number of improperly abandoned wells. Everyone agreed to this clarification.

#### **Spatially Adequate**

Someone was unclear what spatially adequate meant. Another member clarified that it reference three dimensional modeling and density. Everyone agreed that was too complicated for the goals statements and replace spatially adequate with comprehensive.

#### **Rainfall**

Existing rainfall networks exist and the intention of the plan is to incorporate that data. Identifying data gaps and creating an opportunity for Panel members to create rainfall-monitoring approaches is also a goal.

#### **Climate Change Planning**

The group discussed a number of issues with these goals: public information and integrating a changing climate into the groundwater management plan and other plans. They would like climate change to be incorporated into public information materials. The Panel agreed to incorporate “in a changing climate” into the bullets under stakeholder involvement related to public information materials. The group then modified the bullets to reflect this input.

#### **Charter**

Charter V3: Revised 11/1/2012 Reviewed

At its June meeting, the Basin Advisory Panel requested that voting protocols be developed in cases where the Panel was unable to reach consensus. The concept is that while consensus was a fundamental principle of the Panel, the group wants to be able to move forward on items when most members agree. The other suggested change to the charter was to incorporate a reporting function so members who do not agree can submit written comments for the summary to document areas of concern and disagreement.

The idea of developing a voting mechanism led to a hearty discussion on the group’s commitment to consensus and outcomes. Members reiterated that it was in everyone’s best interest to reach consensus and that consensus really reflects the spirit of the group. Agency representatives articulated clearly that they do not wish to have a plan that does not have widespread support.

### **Discussion Outcome**

In the spirit of this conversation, the group agreed to remove the exact number of people necessary for a vote to move forward and rather leave it at 75%. And, the group agreed to leave the vote open for a set period of time to ensure that absent members, who could also vote via proxy would have ample time to weigh in.

The group will need to continue working on the proposal to add a working agreement to the charter that is: *The panel need not consider proposals that are contrary to the governance structure or charter.* This will have to be discussed in the future.

### **Participants**

#### **Panel Members**

Jennifer Burke  
Michael Burns  
Mark Calhoon  
Elizabeth Cargay  
Rue Furch  
Dawna Gallagher  
Len Holt

Lloyd Iverson  
Jay Jasperse  
Sue Kelly  
Gary Mickelson  
Jane Nielson  
Pete Parkinson  
Rocky Vogler

#### Other Participants

Karl Adelman

#### Staff

Tim Parker, Technical  
Marcus Trotta, Project Manager  
Gina Bartlett, Facilitator

#### **Absent Members**

Ezrah Chaaban  
Joe Gaffney  
Kara Heckert  
Damien O'Bid

# **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN**

## **Santa Rosa Plain**

Draft 11/9/2012 Changed Wording Underlined

### **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