

Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Briefings -- Talking Points

August-October Timeframe

The purpose of this document is to provide talking points when Panel members brief their constituents. Briefings should take place over the next few months at regular get-togethers / meetings.

Briefing Purpose

- Update on groundwater planning activities
- Seek feedback on draft goals & objectives for groundwater plan

What's Happening?

As you know, I am representing _____ on a Basin Advisory Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to develop a groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain. The Panel is deciding what will go in the plan. Once complete (in about 18 months), the Panel will recommend that implementing organizations adopt the plan.

The plan is voluntary and will be non-regulatory. I will be coming to you periodically to seek feedback on various plan elements.

Who's Participating?

Approximately 30 individuals and organizations are participating. Panel members represent

- Groundwater users (business, agriculture, residential and governmental)
- Economic interests
- Government (Tribal, county and cities)
- Water providers
- Environmental and community organizations

Plan Elements

- The Panel will develop the plan consistent with the water code. This will enhance opportunity for state funding.
- The Basin Advisory Panel would continue as long as the plan is in existence and to be the primary decision maker on implementation. The Sonoma County Water Agency would be the lead agency, ultimately responsible for the plan's implementation and funding, in cooperation with Panel members.
- Two members did not support this approach. One prefers a more stringent process involving the courts.

Seeking Feedback on the draft Goals & Objectives

I have provided copies of the Draft Goals & Objectives for the plan. The goals talk about integrated groundwater management, stakeholder involvement, groundwater protection & recharge; conservation & efficiency, and monitoring & modeling. I would like your feedback on those today. (Circulate and Discuss)

Next Steps

- The Panel will continue refining the goals & objectives based on your input today as well as the other organizations.
- The Water Agency will hold a public workshop to announce formally that the planning process is underway.
- The USGS will issue its study this year.
- A Technical Advisory Committee will start working to look at technical issues and make recommendations on a monitoring program.
- The Panel will start exploring management options to meet the goals & objectives.