

Draft MEETING SUMMARY | August 16, 2012

Santa Rosa Plain Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting in Brief

The Santa Rosa Plain Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) convened its first meeting as a subcommittee of the Basin Advisory Panel (Panel). Members reviewed the committee charge, discussed roles, responsibilities and the early work plan, and offered feedback on a draft annotated outline of the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater management plan (GMP) water resources section. Those present introduced themselves and described respective areas of technical expertise or interests brought to the TAC. Members re-visited the committee purpose and were advised on the sustained commitment required for participation. Project consultant Tim Parker introduced the proposed work plan and explained how the TAC informs the larger scope of discussions by the BAP. Members provided input on the approach and structure of the draft outline. Future TAC meetings are proposed approximately two weeks apart from Basin Advisory Panel meetings for those interested to attend both.

Next Meeting

September 26, 2012 | 9:00 – 11:00 | Sonoma County Water Agency office, 404 Aviation Blvd. Santa Rosa, CA. Recurring meetings at this time on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Action Items

Timeline	Name	Action Item
August 24	Rich Wilson CCP	Distribute draft meeting summary and proposed date and time for recurring TAC meetings
September 12	CCP/Marcus Trotta	Report back on TAC launch and preliminary efforts at the Basin Advisory Panel Meeting
Mid-September	Tim Parker/CCP	Incorporate initial feedback and re-circulate draft water resources section outline and text for TAC member review and feedback

Review of Committee Charge, Roles and Responsibilities and TAC Work Plan

Following a brief review of the meeting objectives and agenda, TAC members and interested public participants introduced themselves, described their respective technical backgrounds, professional affiliation, and noted interest in the TAC. The group re-visited and closely reviewed key elements of the TAC charge or purpose. The TAC is not a decision making body but rather a group that works under the direction of the BAP to identify and prioritize science and technical needs, and to develop proposals for BAP consideration and approval for inclusion in the GMP. A broad array of disciplines makes up the initial TAC composition. Members include hydrologists, geologists, engineers, biologists and water-supply professionals among others.

Development of the Santa Rosa Plain GMP will be an iterative process based on the findings of a USGS Groundwater Study report to be released in late 2012. Draft components aim to meet the goals for groundwater management planning outlined and continually refined by the Panel. TAC members are tasked to review, discuss and provide input on various components as they are developed. The TAC then prepares proposals or recommendations for consideration by the Panel. A standing agenda item at Panel meetings allows for report back on TAC progress, and may include specific products for discussion and deliberation. Jay Jasperse noted that at times additional subcommittees (within the TAC) could help address specific topical sections. The group agreed to be

attentive to any future knowledge gaps among the current TAC membership. Project consultant Tim Parker summarized by emphasizing the iterative nature of the process and the need for consistent and effective generation of work products for review by the Panel.

Feedback on Draft GMP Water Resources Section

Members received and reviewed a draft annotated outline of the water resources section prior to the preliminary TAC meeting. Tim Parker provided the background and context that informed development of the outline. He noted that the Santa Rosa Plain GMP effort builds on lessons learned from the previously developed Sonoma Valley GMP. He reminded the group that the lead agency preparing the GMP crafts a resolution to gain approval for groundwater management planning from the board of directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency (process currently underway for the Santa Rosa Plain). Content of the GMP is guided primarily by California Water Code requirements, and as noted above, will incorporate findings of the USGS study of the region. In addition, the GMP incorporates elements aimed at accessing future funding for planning and management programs. Mr. Parker's role is to provide draft material to the TAC for review, discussion and feedback. Members are encouraged to provide input to all draft materials and should include the rationale behind any suggested revisions during the review process.

Open discussion of the draft water resources outline followed and the first set of comments focused on the iterative process and expected end product. One member inquired about the typical lifespan of a GMP. Mr. Parker noted that while there is no specific code requirement, many plans are reviewed after five years of implementation. Annual reporting also helps determine if goals or metrics are being met, and whether or not the plan needs adjustment. Other members stressed the need for broad scale public understanding of the GMP. Some expressed concern about production of a large document while others emphasized the need for technical rigor throughout the iterative process. Some suggested that a comprehensive GMP is necessary to acquire funding for future planning efforts. Jay Jasperse and others cited examples of how the Sonoma Valley GMP increased funding on a variety of projects. Many agreed that a well-written Executive Summary or similar section makes planning documents understandable to the lay public and could improve broad scale buy-in to the process of groundwater management planning.

Subsequent comments offered specific suggestions relative to the structure and content of the outline. One member requested inclusion of a robust section addressing the history of land use management, with a particular focus on past lessons learned. Others sought clarification on land use, land cover and whether or not pre-existing or present conditions would be structured separately from the modeling of future scenarios. Tim Parker noted that information from the USGS study will be incorporated into future model demands. Others noted that climate change projections could also be included in the GMP. Still others suggested a discussion of storm water, with supporting documents, as a distinct section of the document.

Next Steps

TAC members will receive a second draft of the water resources section annotated outline in September. The outline remains a key agenda item for the next TAC meeting. Members will also receive draft text of the water resources section in September for discussion during at the next TAC meeting. Another overview of the purpose, process and responsibilities of the TAC may be provided for TAC members unable to attend the first meeting. Finally, the Project Team plans to report summaries of TAC meetings as a standing agenda item at the upcoming BAP meeting.