

MEETING SUMMARY | September 26, 2012

Santa Rosa Plain Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting in Brief

TAC Reviewing Working Draft Water Resources Section

The TAC began its initial review on the working draft Water Resources Section, specifically the groundwater sub-section. The group discussed the technical content, level of detail and readability of the groundwater sub-section. Members developed protocols for ongoing review of draft documents to maximize efficiency of the review process and avoid confusion on different versions. The review process is iterative in nature and all draft material will be updated with additional new data once the USGS report is published.

Initial Monitoring Program Insights

Informational presentations and distribution of a draft framework at the Basin Advisory Panel meeting laid the foundation for the Panel to discuss monitoring and provide its initial thinking to the TAC. The TAC reviewed the draft framework and considered Panel insights relative to the development of a monitoring program. The TAC will continue to work on a monitoring proposal during October, November and possibly December. The Panel will review the TAC monitoring program proposal at the January or March 2013 meeting.

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

Next Meeting

Upcoming TAC Meeting Dates: October 24 and November 28 (9:00-11:00), Sonoma County Water Agency office, 404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa. December meeting TBD.

Action Items

Timeframe	Name	Action Item
October 19	Project Team	Distribute TAC meeting agenda and working draft subsection for review

Water Resources Section for Groundwater Plan

The TAC began its initial review on the working draft Water Resources Section, specifically the groundwater sub-section. Content of the working draft is based on available data, including data the USGS has recently published in journal articles (e.g. geologic data). The review process is iterative in nature and all draft material will be updated with additional new data once the USGS report is published.

Member Feedback

The group discussed the technical content, level of detail and readability of the groundwater sub-section. Members commented that the information is both helpful and at the appropriate level of detail. Several noted that the initial draft material is generally well written, understandable and accessible to the lay reader. A description of water resources lays the foundation for introducing the context of the plan, and for developing management components. The TAC noted the following considerations for refining the working draft:

- Include the most current data along with background and historical data

- Consider introductory paragraphs as useful to the reader
- Distinguish principle versus non-principle sources of recharge (e.g. cities may have different leakage rates depending on age and condition of pipes; distinguish storm water and sewage)
- Revisit Section 2.4.6 as the flow is a little confusing and may merit additional review
- Explain that some contaminants are naturally occurring
- Utilize figures and graphs to illustrate concepts (e.g. show correlation between basin groundwater levels, precipitation, pumping amounts etc.)
- Clarify the difference between localized impacts and general groundwater trends
- Consider incorporating climate change information
- Add references / citations to the document.

As noted above, the project team will integrate new data once the USGS report is published and share with the TAC for review. The project team does not anticipate that this will be very difficult. Upon completion of the GMP, a concise executive summary and other products will complement the plan to enhance public understanding.

Document Management / Review Protocol

The group briefly discussed its protocol for reviewing draft GMP documents electronically to maximize efficiency and avoid confusion on different versions. Members agreed to use the following file name convention:

Document Name_120926_Reviewer Initials
(Year – Month – Day); list date you work on document in file name

Example:

SRP Water Resources Draft_121026_RW (as if edits submitted by RW on Oct 26)

Members are encouraged to provide edits electronically in MS Word. If a member reviews a document, s/he will also put his or her name and the review date at the top of the document, under the title. The reviewer will not remove anyone else's name.

Additional Review Guidelines

Use the **Insert – New Comment** function for requested clarification and substantive comments whenever possible.

Use the **Review – Track Changes on** for desired wordsmith and grammatical edits.

TAC meetings will focus primarily on substantive issues and comments on the draft material that merit group discussion.

Monitoring Program

The Basin Advisory Panel received informational presentations on existing Sonoma County monitoring programs and statewide requirements for future monitoring. Panel members also reviewed a draft framework and discussed key considerations including the importance of coordinating all monitoring efforts, linking land use and recharge, criteria for volunteer wells, and integrating monitoring from adjacent wells. The TAC reviewed the

draft framework and built upon the Panel's insights relative to the development of a monitoring program. Key considerations included the following:

Watershed Boundary

Since some water flows across basins, the monitoring program may want to collect and/or evaluate data from outside the watershed to analyze the potential flow between basins.

Fog and Precipitation

The monitoring program will consider precipitation. TAC member Lisa Micheli is conducting a fog study using a transect through the area. The effect of climate change is uncertain at this point, but the plan can think about how to leverage its monitoring to feed into this study.

Standardized Protocols

Standardized data collection protocols are a critical element of an effective monitoring program. Established protocols from previous groundwater management efforts may be adapted and refined as appropriate for the Santa Rosa Plain.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a key consideration. Discussing how confidentiality is addressed in the data management system is important to articulate.

Voluntary Well Monitoring

There is currently no funding to expand existing groundwater monitoring efforts. However, soliciting and finding volunteer, privately owned wells to monitor could help bolster data collection efforts. The TAC can help to identify data gaps and utilize outreach materials to recruit participants. There is nothing in the water code that prevents a non-owner from monitoring a well as long as permission is granted and data collection protocols are in place.

Surface-Groundwater Interaction

Based on recent lessons learned from statewide efforts, the monitoring program for the Santa Rosa Plain should incorporate data from surface-groundwater interaction.

TAC Charge / Purpose

The TAC is a subcommittee of the Basin Advisory Panel. The TAC will develop detailed proposals for the Panel to review and refine for approval. The Panel is the decision-making body and will rely on the TAC for guidance.

TAC Meeting Attendees

TAC Members

Michael Burns
Mark Calhoon
Gary Mickelson
Kevin Cullinen
Rocky Vogler
Dawna Gallagher
Matt O'Connor
Lloyd Iverson
Jane Nielson

TAC Members

Joe Gaffney
Jay Jasperse
Damien O'Bid

TAC Visitors

Carl Adelman
Bob Anderson
Rue Furch

Project Team

Project Manager, Marcus Trotta
Technical Consultant, Tim Parker
Panel Facilitator, Gina Bartlett
TAC Facilitator, Rich Wilson