

MEETING SUMMARY | May 28, 2014

Santa Rosa Plain Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting in Brief

Final TAC Revisions to the GMP

The TAC built upon the minor revisions recommended by the Basin Advisory Panel (Panel) during its June meeting. The TAC subsequently introduced, deliberated and forged consensus on a small number of additional GMP revisions. All TAC members, minus one individual, recommend that the Panel approve the GMP and begin moving towards implementation. Two members of the public joined the meeting and offered a range of comments and questions about planning process and GMP itself.

Audio-Taping. The facilitation team requests transparency with the group if any member of the public wishes to record the meeting. One member of the public chose to record and thus the Project Team also made a recording, which can be accessed by all interested parties via the following Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ld53sxba8c0xxmx/AAD2Lv96xY6B9V9pgVaQjnLWa>

Project Website

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

Next TAC Meeting

No subsequent TAC meeting scheduled at this time.

Action Items

Timeframe	Name	Action Item
June 30	Project Team	Circulate newly revised GMP to TAC members

Facilitator Rich Wilson opened the meeting and briefly summarized minor GMP clarifications suggested by the Panel at its June meeting. The TAC spent the majority of its time together introducing, discussing and finding consensus on final GMP revisions. At the culmination of the meeting, all TAC members, minus one individual, recommended that the Panel approve the GMP and begin moving towards implementation. The dissenting member cited the need for additional outreach to private well owners.

One member of the public expressed concerns about the GMP's readiness for approval, asked a number of questions and requested access to referenced best management practice documents. Another noted that phrases such as "use the best available science" are too general and wondered if the public's concerns were being addressed. In response a number of TAC members highlighted the thorough nature of the more than two-year consensus building process that produced the GMP. Other members pointed to significant outreach

that has, at multiple stages, sought to educate and involve the public in the GMP development process.

Review and Final TAC Revisions to the Draft GMP

At its April and May meetings, the TAC discussed all the draft GMP sections, including the Executive Summary, and made limited revisions. The Panel subsequently discussed the full GMP with TAC revisions at its June meeting and then discussed the GMP approval process. Water Agency staff anticipates seeking Panel approval of the GMP in July and Board approval and formal adoption in September.

Technical Consultant Tim Parker introduced the latest iteration of the GMP, describing Panel clarification requests on water recharge (inclusion of larger areas) and reuse (not appropriate in all situations). Marcus Trotta described, based on recent conversations with USGS staff, how the fully coupled groundwater/surface water flow model improved estimates of rural and agricultural pumping. A handout describing the calibration and estimation process, as well as final results, will be included as a GMP appendix.

The TAC spent the majority of its time during the June meeting discussing and deliberating minor revisions still needed to the GMP. The facilitator acknowledged member statements that there will be ongoing concerns into the future regarding water recycling, treatment and the nexus between water and energy production. Some expressed desire expressed to closely monitor these issues during GMP implementation. After forging consensus on the suggested revisions below, a broad majority of TAC members recommended that the Panel approve the GMP.

Best Management Practices

- Consensus Agreement: Include reference to the Sonoma Resource Conservation District “LandSmart” Program. Members agreed that this resource, and other suggested resources related to water use, conservation and climate change, be referenced as available best management practice resources, but not included as prescriptive management or a recommended action in the GMP.

Recycled Water

- Consensus Agreement: Include text to ensure use of “best available science and technology” to optimize safe use of recycled water. One member noted that her constituency has significant concerns about how recycled water is used and will be used in the future in the GMP area. Another member noted a range of water treatment technologies. Some noted that State Water Code, and a flexible GMP, already acknowledges these issues.

Energy and Water Use

- Consensus Agreement: Link Basin Management Objective (BMO) 11 to the GMP recommended actions section and reference Sonoma Clean Power and related programs in section 3. One member cited a need for the GMP to further explore energy use relative to water management. Some noted the nexus between water and

energy production is already addressed in the GMP, namely in Basin Management Objective (BMO) 11. Others pointed out that groundwater is generally not used to produce energy in the GMP area. Still others noted that Sonoma Clean Power and other local initiatives were created in part to address this issue, and could be referenced in the GMP. Ultimately the group agreed that the issue could be further highlighted per the aforementioned agreement.

Per Capita Consumption Targets

- **No agreement reached:** One member noted that per capita consumption targets might be desirable during drought conditions. Others questioned whether or not adequate data is available to set such targets.

Post Meeting GMP Revisions

The Project Team made immediate revisions to the GMP based on the aforementioned agreements and other minor suggested edits made during the meeting. This quick turnaround revision helps TAC and Panel members prepare for potential GMP approval at the July Panel meeting. It also provides TAC members the opportunity to review their suggested revisions. The July Panel meeting will afford another opportunity to address the latest GMP revisions. A brief summary of revisions includes the following:

- Added reference to Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed as being comparable to SRPW
- Added reference to Charter and Governance Proposal f
- Added subsection on CEQA exemption to end of Section 1.7
- Incorporated Sonoma RCD edits to Section 3.2
- Added Section 3.8 Water-Energy Nexus
- Added per capita to BMO-2
- Incorporated Sonoma RCD edits to Section 5.4.2
- Change references to BMPs as examples versus recommending
- Added sentence referring to best science and technology currently available to Section 5 second paragraph
- Added "consideration of best available science" to 5.6.1 Increase Recycled Water for Agricultural Irrigation
- Removed "is a sustainable water source" from 5.6 Increase Water Reuse
- Miscellaneous grammatical edits
- Updated Table 6-1 with new 5.4.2 Recommended Actions
- Updated Appendix H with changes from Section 5.4.2
- Added Appendix C Panel Members, Charter and Governance Proposal

A new Section 8.0 will be added after References, called Additional Resources, where the TAC will be asked to identify additional resources and weblinks.

TAC Meeting Attendees

TAC Members

Kevin Cullinen
Matt O'Conner

Project Team

Project Manager, Marcus Trotta
Technical Consultant, Tim Parker

Michael Burns
Jane Nielson
Bob Anderson
Mark Calhoon
Dawna Gallagher
Garrett Broughton
Rocky Vogler
Lloyd Iverson
Gary Mickelson
Lisa Micheli

TAC Facilitator, Rich Wilson

TAC Visitors

Kara Eckert
Karl Adelman
Ann Maurice