

Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan Overview

Goals, Objectives & Management Components | July 2013

Groundwater Management Plan Elements

A Basin Advisory Panel is developing a groundwater management plan with four main elements to locally manage and sustain groundwater in the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed. This fact sheet highlights the plan goals and management components.

1. Water Resources — to describe water demands and available supplies
2. Goals & Objectives — to manage the groundwater basin
3. Management Components — to realize progress on the goals and objectives
4. Implementation — to prioritize recommended actions and identify a schedule and funding

Goals & Objectives

The goal of the draft 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.

A 30-member collaborative Basin Advisory Panel is crafting draft objectives in consultation with the larger community. The objectives focus on:

- Ongoing Stakeholder Involvement and Public Awareness
- Monitoring and Modeling
- Groundwater Protection and Recharge
- Water Conservation, Water Reuse and Integrated Water Planning & Management



Management Components

The Panel is identifying management components to ensure implementation achieves the goal and objectives.

Component 1: Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder involvement is the foundation of an ongoing collaborative process of decision-making and action during Plan implementation. The Plan also organizes additional stakeholder participation including meetings, briefings, relationship building, and broad outreach with public agencies, stakeholders, and young people.

Component 2: Monitoring Program & Modeling

An important component of the Plan is to establish a comprehensive, long-term monitoring program. Monitoring focuses on groundwater levels, not how much water is pumped. Monitoring data will be used periodically to evaluate groundwater resources, improve the monitoring program, and help make decisions on water management strategies.

Monitoring Program Elements

- Groundwater-Level Elevation Monitoring
- Groundwater Quality Monitoring
- Inelastic Land Surface Subsidence Monitoring
- Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction
- Hydro-Meteorological Monitoring
- Monitoring Protocols
- Data Management
- Prioritize Data Needs

Component 3: Groundwater Protection

Protecting groundwater resources is a key component. Groundwater protection takes many forms: acting to maintain quantity and quality, improving well management, protecting recharge areas, and providing information on ways to improve groundwater protection.

Component 4: Increase Conservation & Efficiency

Water conservation reduces the demand for potable water resources for both surface and groundwater supplies. By fostering water supply sustainability and lessening groundwater withdrawals, water conservation approaches protect groundwater levels, water quality conditions, and ecosystem services.

Component 5: Increase Groundwater Recharge

To ensure a long-term, viable, sustainable groundwater supply, the Plan seeks to increase groundwater recharge (i.e. increasing groundwater supply) in the Plan area over the long term. Options for aquifer recharge include diverting stormwater captured into spreading basins over areas that have high permeability soils and allowing the ponded water to percolate into the ground. Another option is groundwater banking to recharge water directly into the aquifer with wells.

Component 6: Increase Water Reuse

Water reuse within the Plan area would include using highly treated municipal wastewater (recycled water) and untreated household gray water beneficially for a variety of non-potable (i.e. not for drinking) applications. Water reuse provides additional water supply for users.



Component 7: Integrated Groundwater Management

Integrated groundwater management includes identifying and implementing activities, developing strategies, and adopting policies that recognize the links between groundwater and the broader hydrologic system, comprising climate, rivers, wetlands, and ecosystems. In practice, this means integrating a number of processes and programs to improve linkages and connections.

Specific focused integrated management components include:

- Groundwater management and land use planning
- Urban Water Management Plans tracking and integration
- Multi-agency and organization integration
- Climate change planning
- Multi-benefit actions and activities

How to Contribute

Participate in a Panel Meeting - The Panel meets the second Thursday of most months, from 9:00-12:00. Visit the website below for more information.

Schedule a Briefing - Panel members or staff are able to conduct briefings for interested organizations. Please contact Marcus Trotta at mtrotta@scwa.ca.gov for scheduling.

For more information visit www.sonomacountywater.org/srgroundwater/ or contact Project Manager Marcus Trotta at 707.547.1978 mtrotta@scwa.ca.gov.