

# MEETING NOTES | Jan 12, 2012

## Santa Rosa Plain Basin Advisory Panel

### Action Items

Timeframe	Name	Action Item
2/1	Gina	Provide communication outreach plan draft to BAP at meeting
2/1	Marcus, Gina & SCWA staff	Upgrade Webpage and explore using social media outlets
3/1	All	Give thought to Plan area (watershed vs. basin) and appropriate nomenclature for the planning effort

### Next Meeting: February 9, 9:00-12:00

- USGS Study Presentation
- Outreach Plan
- Technical Advisory Committee Organization & Tasks

### Charter

The Panel approved the charter. The Panel can update or amend the charter if needed using its decision-making process.

### Panel Composition

The North Bay Association of Realtors would like to join the Panel. Ezraha Chaaban, the Director of Government Affairs, will represent the association. The local chapter of the Sierra Club would also like to participate in the panel. The Sierra Club has designated Len Holdt to serve as the panel representative.

### Presentation: Groundwater Management and Basics

Technical consultant Tim Parker and project manager Marcus Trotta presented a comprehensive overview of groundwater dynamics, groundwater in the Santa Rosa Plain and groundwater management. The steering committee that worked during the preliminary planning phase in 2010 helped Tim and Marcus develop this presentation. The Groundwater Primer is a companion piece to this presentation. The goal is to deepen the understanding of all panel members about groundwater generally and specific to the Santa Rosa Plain.

### Boundary

The Panel briefly touched on the boundary of the project area. The Panel will decide in the near future about whether the groundwater management plan boundary will be the basin boundary or the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. Recharge is one factor in the decision-making process.

The upland areas, where recharge occurs, tend to have more precipitation than the basin. Recharge also occurs where the mountains meet the plain through the alluvial fans. Lastly, recharge occurs through precipitation in the basin. The USGS can elaborate more, but generally recharge is greater in the foothills than the basin because the area is larger geographically and receives more rainfall. The basin receives less rain and has more clay increasing evapo-transpiration, thus effecting recharge.

## **Groundwater Legal and Institutional Issues**

As part of the presentation, the panel spent time discussing the legal and institutional frameworks available for groundwater management planning. One early decision for the panel will be to select the framework.

The Steering Committee that met in 2010 recommended that the legal framework be an Assembly Bill (AB) 3030 plan. This type of plan is voluntary and non-regulatory. It requires a lead agency. AB 3030 plans also qualify areas for different types of state funding. During the presentation, the group reviewed the list of frameworks. Additional information about the frameworks is in the Groundwater Primer.

**Groundwater Planning  
Legal Frameworks**

Assembly Bill 3030 Plan  
Adjudication  
General Act Districts  
Water Replenishment Districts  
Special Act Districts  
City & County Powers

### **Criteria for Selecting a Legal Framework**

The panel discussed that the following criteria would need to be considered in selecting the legal framework for the groundwater management plan:

- Local control
- Non-regulatory
- Voluntary
- Stakeholder-driven
- Funding opportunity enhanced
- Cost of developing and implementing framework

### **Lead Agency**

Under an AB3030 Plan, the Basin Advisory Panel must select a lead agency. The lead agency must be a water provider, local agency, or Joint Power Authority (several public agencies combine their authority legally through a joint powers agreement). The lead agency must pass a board resolution to develop the plan. And, the agency must have the resources necessary to implement the plan. In the Sonoma Valley, that Basin Advisory Panel selected the Sonoma County Water Agency. Depending the outcome of the decision to do an AB3030 plan, the Panel will need to select a lead agency.