

MEETING SUMMARY | March 26, 2014

Santa Rosa Plain Technical Advisory Committee

Project Updates

The USGS groundwater model report will be released in early April. TAC Members are invited to the USGS presentation on the report's methods and findings at the April Panel meeting.

Potential groundwater legislation is expected this year from both the Brown Administration and the California Legislature. The Project Team will keep the TAC and Panel informed on any legislative changes and how they may affect the group's groundwater management planning efforts. Depending upon the outcome and whether new groundwater management policies, rules or regulations are developed, modifications to the groundwater management plan may be needed, which underscores the importance of the GMP being a living and adaptable document.

Pepperwood Foundation Executive Director Lisa Micheli briefly described her involvement in the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative. The Pepperwood Foundation, with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy, is currently conducting a vulnerability assessment. Lisa is seeking additional support from Napa and Marin counties.

Discussion of Draft Chapter 6 – Implementation and Executive Summary Outline

The TAC refined the latest iteration of Chapter 6 (Implementation) and discussed for the first time a draft Executive Summary outline. The TAC refined figures embedded in chapter 6, discussed the inclusion of others and offered a range of general comments to improve narrative sub-sections. During its review of the Executive Summary outline, the TAC considered the target audience; key contents section by section; relevancy of figures and tables; and general readability by the public. A narrative version of the Executive Summary will be available for review shortly prior to the April TAC meeting.

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

Audio-Taping. In the interest of encouraging free exchange of ideas at TAC meetings, the facilitation team continues to recommend that attendees not audio-tape meetings since it makes some members uncomfortable. If any attendee chooses to audio-tape anyway, we ask that you announce your intentions to the group for transparency. In this case, the Water Agency will audio-tape as well, and make the tape available via the project website so all have access to the same information. At this meeting, an attendee did announce the intention to audio-tape, and consequently, the Water Agency audio-taped the meeting as well. No person announced an intention to record the meeting.

Next TAC Meeting

Upcoming TAC Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 from 9 a.m. -12 noon at the Sonoma County Water Agency office, 404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa.

Action Items

Timeframe	Name	Action Item
April 2, 2014	TAC Members	Provide final feedback on draft section 6
Mid April	Rich Wilson/Pam Kuhn	Send publicity material to TAC members to share with networks

Mid April	Marcus Trotta/Tim Parker	Upload Community Forums presentation in Dropbox for TAC review
Late April	Tim Parker/Marcus Trotta	Prepare and distribute draft Executive Summary to TAC

Project Updates

Project Manager Marcus Trotta confirmed that the USGS groundwater model report will be released in early April. TAC Members are invited to the USGS presentation on the report’s methods and findings at the April Panel meeting. In advance of the May SRP-GMP community forums, Marcus Trotta and Tim Parker will develop a presentation that, among other things, draws from the USGS report to describe the model and associated results. TAC members can offer comments on the forum presentation once it is uploaded to Dropbox. The four community forums are scheduled for May 12 (Sebastopol); May 14 (Town of Windsor); May 21 (Rohnert Park/Cotati); and May 28 (Santa Rosa). The forums aim to introduce and orient the wider public to the Plan. Program Specialist Pam Kuhn will soon produce a press release and flyer for TAC Member use to promote these public meetings.

Technical consultant Tim Parker followed with statewide policy updates relative to groundwater management. The drought and recent other challenges (e.g. nitrates in groundwater; wells going dry across the state etc.) are driving legislative change in Sacramento relative to groundwater management. The Brown Administration recognizes these are long-term problems that need to be addressed. Upcoming planning meetings are focused on sustainable groundwater management, financing mechanisms and enhanced local authority. The Administration is asking two key questions:

- ⇒ What tools and resources do local communities and agencies need to ensure sustainable groundwater management; and
- ⇒ How and when should state agencies step in as a backstop to provided necessary support?

Potential groundwater legislation is on two parallel tracks. The Administration may propose legislation as early as April/May. The Legislature has until September to advance its work. Water Agency Chief Engineer Jay Jasperse noted that the “rules of the road” are changing. The Basin Advisory Panel will provide a forum to discuss and decide how to respond to legislative change. During future discussions of management scenarios the TAC may consider a way to amend the SRP-GMP in order to address requirements of any new legislation.

Lisa Micheli (Pepperwood) briefly gave an update on the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative (NBCAI), a coalition of natural resource managers, policy makers and scientists committed to working together to create positive solutions to the problem of climate adaptation for the ecosystems and watersheds of Sonoma County¹. In her capacity as NBCAI’s science working group co-chair, Lisa is helping to advise on the County’s Climate Action 2020 Plan based on the climate change research a team called TBC3 has been conducting at Pepperwood for the 10 bay area counties. She is recommending that the 2020 report reflect that the SRP-GMP is an existing program that is advancing local climate change adaptation by increasing the resilience of our water supply. The county’s Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) will be partnering with Pepperwood, thanks to incoming funding from the State Coastal Conservancy, to conduct a vulnerability assessment that will include potential climate impacts on hydrology, including runoff

¹ Text directly from www.northbayclimate.org

and groundwater recharge. This effort will include a regional analysis for Sonoma, the Russian River basin portion of Mendocino, the Napa Valley, and Marin County.

Discussion of Draft Chapter 6 – Implementation

Tim Parker introduced the latest iteration of Chapter 6 (Implementation). Key sections of this chapter are based on the Basin Advisory Panel Charter. Moreover, the TAC has already reviewed and refined the implementation schedule. Mr. Parker inquired as to the usefulness of recently added diagrams and suggested that new figures and illustrations could still be included to show key aspects of the management components. The TAC provided the following additional commentary:

Figure 6-6-1

- Simplify: Diagram is complex and hard to understand
- Maybe tighten words on arrows or just delete
- Add text in narrative describing triangle
- Flip flop “funded core” with “unfunded”

Figure 6-6-2

- Add text in narrative describing figure
- Add boxes including key funders (explain funding sources earlier in the Plan)
- Include a table of all participating organizations
- Consider adding implementation team
- Simplify (e.g. Water agency, funding partners, in-kind partners)
- Not that Plan involvement is non-exclusive

Pg. 6-5/Section 6.3

- No need for 129 actions; ensure inclusion of 6-1 table from outline
- Reference back to figure 6-6-2

General comments

- Explain the charter and collaborative process up front (i.e. move from pg. 6-4 to 6-2)
- Note that Water Agency will be helped by other partner agencies
- Regarding stakeholder involvement, replace “ensure” with “provide” or some softer word
- Ensure actions are up front and not buried in the report (e.g. condensed version of the implementation table)
- Consider inclusion of the full implementation schedule as an appendix
- Note redundancy throughout and consolidate text where appropriate, but maintain awareness of different audiences
- Incorporate new figures as needed or appropriate
- Consider referring to towns, townships or cities as municipalities
- Include example of how implementation (projects) will occur (e.g. narrative or flow chart)

Introduction and Discussion of Executive Summary Outline

Mr. Parker introduced a first draft GMP Executive Summary outline. During its review, the TAC considered the target audience; key contents section by section; relevancy of figures and tables; and general readability by the public. A narrative version of the Executive Summary will incorporate the bullets below and be available for review shortly prior to the April TAC meeting.

Chapter 1 – Introduction (Key Concepts)

- Describe the driving forces and legislation that support GMP development

- Emphasize the desire for local management
- Include the Basin Management Objectives
- Describe in plain language the GMP as a mechanism to management an important resources

Chapter 2 – Water Resources

- Insert various models
 - Conceptual model
 - Surface water/groundwater interaction model
 - Hydro-geological model, along with figures
- Describe water availability, use and future projections
- Include climate changes scenarios (i.e. summary and/or general trends)

Chapter 3 – Current Management Efforts

- Summarize/keep it brief
- Emphasize the relevancy of activities

Chapter 4 – Basin Management Objectives

- Clearly state the overarching GMP goal up front in the narrative
- Align GMP components with objectives (i.e. integrate objectives within GMP component descriptions)
- Integrate chapters 4 and 5

Chapter 6 – Implementation

- Succinctly describe how implementation will work (i.e. coordination with different groups)
 - Consider inclusion of a chart that illustrates how projects flow through TAC and Panel to meet objectives
- Describe how project decision-making will occur
- Include “how to get involved” information (i.e. what is next and how you can participate)

General comments

- Keep narrative introduction brief, understanding that it may be necessary to be somewhat thorough
- Consider production of a 2 page fact sheet based on the Executive Summary
- Identify key figures in GMP for inclusion
- Identify key concepts you want people to understand
- Include project area map
- Describe land use and groundwater use history
- Include information about potential funding opportunities

TAC Meeting Attendees

TAC Members

Kevin Cullinen
 Rocky Vogler
 Garrett Broughton
 Bob Anderson
 Michael Burns
 Matt O’Conner
 Dawna Gallagher
 Jay Jasperse

Project Team

Project Manager, Marcus Trotta
 Technical Consultant, Tim Parker
 TAC Facilitator, Rich Wilson
 Publicity, Pam Kuhn

TAC Visitors

Andrew Rich