

## **Meeting Highlights | April 23, 2009**

### **Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Basin Advisory Panel**

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#### **Upcoming Meetings**

May 13, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee  
June 10, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee  
July 23, 2:00-5:00, Basin Advisory Panel  
Sept 9, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee  
Oct 10, 8:30-10:30, Technical Advisory Committee

*This BAP Meeting was hosted by the Valley of the Moon Water District and held in their board meeting room in El Verano.*

#### **Series of Water Conservation Workshops – Sonoma Ecology Center**

The Sonoma Ecology Center is hosting a series of water conservation workshops. The workshops include topics such as landscape irrigation devices, Clarence discussed recharge, and Broch Dolman will talk Tuesday night.

#### **2008 SVGMP Annual Report Issued to BAP**

Hard copies and CD were distributed of the 2008 Annual Report on SVGMP. There was good input received from stakeholders on the document, and satisfaction expressed with the final product when delivered.

#### **Briefing from March and April TAC Meetings and Recharge Site visits**

The March TAC Meeting included good discussion on a number of topics including:

- Updates on additions to the volunteer groundwater level monitoring program
- Briefing on the Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Sonoma Ecology Center Water Wisdom Workshop Series
- Update on the current water supply situation from the Water Agency
- Status on Water Conservation Audit Pilot Program
- Discussed and commented on the Draft Well Owner's Guide
- Started the logistics for the April monitoring event
- Conducted WebH2O training after the TAC

The April TAC Meeting focused on recharge:

- There is a great interest in getting recharge projects in the ground
- There is also recognition and great interest in the importance of completing the managed aquifer recharge guidebook, being prepared by the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District.

#### **Private Well Owner's Guide Book**

Comments are being prepared by the TAC on the draft WELLness guide that was prepared by the Sonoma County Environmental Health about 5 or so years ago. Also, a Sonoma Valley specific section has been prepared describing some of the area specific issues and concerns for well owners. Once comments are prepared the draft will be sent to Sonoma County Environmental

Health and to the Permit Resource Management Department for review, and a subsequent meeting with them. The goal is to get the revised well guide completed by the end of the year.

### **Briefing to Board of Supervisors on SVGMP 2008 Annual Report**

Next Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a briefing to the Water Agency Board on the 2008 Annual Report on the SVGMP. The time is not certain, but is scheduled for the morning between 9 and 10:30. All are encouraged to attend if possible.

### **Russian River Water Supply Status – Jay Jasperse, Water Agency**

It is a constant and growing challenge meeting peak demands. The Water Agency has applied for third time for change permit to change minimum flow requirements on the Russian River. Since the order was issued in September 2008, there has been a 25% reduction for water users on the Russian River. The Sonoma County Water Agency water system consists, north to the south:

- Lake Pillsbury, Lake County, operated by PG&E, drains to the Middle fork of the Eel River
- Next is Lake Mendocino – the Corps of Engineers developed in the 1950s with the Water Agency as a partner – near Ukiah and includes water supply, recreation and agriculture
- Next south is Lake Sonoma - the Corps of Engineers developed with the Water Agency as a partner – includes water supply and recreation
- Next south are the Water Agency rainy collector wells on the Russian River which provide natural filtration to purify water, and include a seasonal inflatable dam to increase percolation
- PG&E owns the Potter Valley project, which diverts water into a tunnel with a hydroelectric power plant through a mountain ridge and into the Russian River Watershed
  - Potter Valley maximum diversion has been 300 cubic feet per second/595 acre-feet per day
  - Releases are decreasing due to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing in 2002
  - Subsequently more reductions coming
  - 100,000-150,000 acre-feet per year in 1999
  - 2008-2009 is was 20,000 acre-feet
  - Basis of the reductions – fish in the Eel River
- Lake Mendocino – has the smallest water supply of the three reservoirs – about 1/3 the size of the others and other supply of water decreased
  - 2004-2005 70,000-90,000 AF
  - 2008-2009 40,000-50,000 AF
  - Reductions due both to Pillsbury cutbacks and to weather
  - Water Agency trying to maintain about 30,000 AF in storage in Mendocino for Chinook Fall River run
  - If the Water Agency had not gotten the urgent change permit, would have had a dry lake in Aug-Sept
- There are only 10 stream gauges to measure 132 miles of stream flows (includes Dry Creek and the Russian River)
- Decision 16 State Instream Flow Requirements
  - Regulates how the rivers are operated
- Dry Creek Maximum flows per State Board opinion
  - Estimated in Sept 2008
  - Velocities were too high June to October
  - June to October include some of the highest demand months

- In summary, due to the new instream flow requirements under Decision 1610, there is a mismatch of available supply and demand
  - These factors reinforce the need for groundwater recharge

### **Sonoma County Energy Interdependence Program – Amy Bolton, Water Agency**

Sonoma County's Energy Independence Program is a new opportunity for property owners to finance energy efficiency, water efficiency and renewable energy improvements through a voluntary assessment. These assessments will be attached to the property, not the owner and will be paid back through the property tax system over time, making the program not only energy efficient but also affordable.

- Established under AB811 – need the property title to any building to take advantage of the grants and loans. – this means title to property with no liens and payments to date
- Interest is 7%, which is the cost to run the program, on a 5, 10, or 20-year loan in property tax payments
- PGE – should access all their incentives and then go for
- Altruistic program to help people
- Provides jobs
- Reduces energy consumption
- Timeline from approval to check is about 35 days
- Need to look at mortgage contract to ensure it is safe and won't get called in

### **Discussion of Outline for Managed Aquifer Recharge guidebook – John Guardia, Southern Sonoma county Resource Conservation District**

An overview of the approach to develop the 'resource guide' for managed aquifer recharge was provided. The intent is to make this a user friendly pamphlet to facilitate getting small, private property type recharge projects on line. The PRMD and SCEH will be involved with the development of the guide as well as the local regional boards and the EPA. It was suggest that:

- Tony Bertolino, the new City engineer be involved and
- To make this a county guide
- Make it modular
- Include check dams

Comments on the outline due to John Guardino within one week.

### **Update on Constituent Briefings on SVGMP Annual Report**

Marcus and Tim agreed to prepare and make available a PowerPoint file providing an overview of SVGMP Annual Report for constituent briefings. The following commitments were identified made regarding constituent briefings:

- Valley of the Moon Alliance – Kathy Pons - done
- Sonoma Ecology Center – Lisa Michelia
- Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Council – Clarence Jenkins
- Valley of the Moon Water District – Mark Bramfitt
- Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District – John Guardino
- Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Association – Marcus Trotta and Lisa Micheli
- North Bay Watershed Association – Lisa Micheli
- Sonoma County Water Alliance – Kath Pons
- City of Sonoma – Wendy Atkinson

**Action Items**

- Provide comments on the outline for the managed aquifer recharge by April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Conduct the constituent briefings as assigned
- Try to get at the Board of Supervisors briefing if you can next Tuesday
- Next TAC May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Next BAP July 23<sup>rd</sup>