

**Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting date/time: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Petaluma Community Center,  
Contact: Ann DuBay, GSA Administrator  
Email: ann.dubay@scwa.ca.gov | Phone: 707.524.8378

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Provide feedback (comments, questions, suggestions) on draft GSP sections 1 and 2	Advisory Committee members	December 5 <sup>th</sup> (two weeks after receiving draft GSP sections and reviewer form)
Update outlook calendar with new time (4:30 pm) and send to committee members	Simone Peters (GSA Staff)	November/December
Review agenda packet in advance of meetings, including draft GSP sections, in order to come prepared to discuss	Advisory Committee members	Ongoing
Provide information on paired monitoring wells/gages in other areas to show value in monitoring surface water/groundwater interaction	Marcus Trotta	January - March

**Next meeting:** January 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., 2018, Petaluma Community Center. **Note new start time!**

**Website for posting meeting materials:** <http://www.sonomagroundwater.org/pv/>

**MEETING RECAP**

- The facilitator welcomed all attendees, encouraged participant introductions, reviewed the agenda, and kicked off the meeting. No Advisory Committee members or others had any comments on the meeting agenda. Attendees were reminded that the draft GSP development process has begun, and were encouraged to provide feedback, ask questions, and make suggestions as the process unfolds.
- No public comments were offered at the outset of the meeting. One member of the public later posed a question about water uses for different agricultural crops.
- GSA staff provided a range of updates to the Advisory Committee. Robert Pennington of Permit Sonoma gave a presentation on permitting and links to well development and groundwater.
- Marcus Trotta reviewed and sought initial committee feedback on draft GSP sections 1 and 2.
- The facilitator noted an agenda date correction and new time agreed by the group: Next meeting is Wednesday, January 9, at 4:30 p.m. Simone Peters will update everyone’s calendar.

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**GSA Staff Updates**

*Ann DuBay, GSA Administrator:*

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- Santa Rosa Plain GSA Board will be holding a rate/fee study session on 12/13/18 at 1 p.m., 35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa. The public is welcome to attend. The session may provide an interesting learning opportunity for the other basins.
- Short summary of last Board meeting, including description of SAVE presentation (Sonoma Alliance for Vineyards and Environment).
- Andy Rodgers (PV Advisory Committee Chairman) will be the Administrator of the Santa Rosa Plain GSA. Please let staff/Andy know if you have concerns or questions.

*Leah Walker, City of Petaluma*, reported that DWR informed the City of Petaluma that it could not include two tiny portions of the city into the Petaluma Basin, because the areas are discontinuous with the basin. Petaluma informed DWR that the city does not plan to participate in two basins.

*Marcus Trotta, for Plan Administrator:*

- Basin Reprioritization results for unmodified basins won't be released by DWR until December (subsequently revised to January 2019 by DWR). Basin Prioritization results for modified basins won't be released until spring, so it could be several months before we know if Wilson Grove Formation Highlands Basin is immediately subject to SGMA.
- GSA staff submitted a request for Technical Support Services to install seven shallow monitoring wells, located near streams, to help build out the groundwater monitoring network and measure surface water-groundwater interaction. This is data necessary for the GSP and for the USGS model. We don't have much data on this interaction. Last week DWR accepted the proposal and will soon go to work on an agreement to install wells. Marcus reviewed a map with the group which showed proposed shallow well locations. In response to questions:
  - The wells will be perforated in the shallowest aquifer, 40-60 feet deep.
  - These are monitoring wells, only 2 inches in diameter, and so are subject to different standards than production wells.
  - Because the wells are located near streams, they will likely reach the water table.
  - Petaluma city wells are production wells and contain sanitary seals, so they are not connected to surface water. The purpose of the proposed monitoring wells is to look at shallow aquifer-surface water connection.
  - Staff may also look for technical support services support for deeper monitoring wells.
  - Several years of monitoring will indicate whether the wells are recharging from rainfall.
  - This information will help future calibration updates to the model that USGS is creating.

**Permit Sonoma Presentation**

Robert Pennington, staff geologist for Permit Sonoma, gave a presentation on permitting, as it relates to well development and groundwater. Presentation slides were included in the meeting agenda packet and online. Responses to questions:

- Ministerial permits don't require groundwater studies.
- It was noted by an Advisory Committee member that only a driller can pull a well permit. Not sure why this is the case. There is concern that people have to pay for the driller's time on paperwork.
- Why do accessory dwellings in Class 4 areas trigger a hydro-geological study? Shouldn't it be triggered on capacity threshold? May be a remnant of past requirement that accessory dwellings required discretionary permits.
- Discussion about costs of permits. The costs of a hydro-geological study is likely \$3,000-\$5,000.

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- Discussion about why cannabis requires studies versus other agriculture, like vineyards or orchards or row crops. Cannabis requires a discretionary permit; the permit type (discretionary) requires a hydro-geological study. This is also in the cannabis ordinance, probably because it's a new use and there are likely to be concerns regarding environmental impacts and neighbor concerns.
- Not sure how long it takes to get a well permit, but a committee member suggested 5-7 weeks.

**Public Comment:**

- How much water is used for cannabis versus other crops?
  - Regional Board information: 1.2 to 1.5 acre feet for outdoor cannabis crops. Vineyard groundwater use is about .5 acre feet per acre.
  - It was noted that volume of total water use for vineyards is much higher than cannabis. Only 10-15 cannabis permits in Petaluma Valley. The concern is the cumulative impact.
  - It was further noted that water use is likely considerably less on grazing lands.
  - USGS is also developing basin-wide estimates for different agricultural uses.

**Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development**

Marcus reviewed the Working Draft Table of Contents. He noted that staff took DWR's recommended outline and have started to fill it in. The first three sections set the table for what the GSA will be working on regarding establishment of sustainability criteria and projects/programs to meet or retain sustainability. GSP development will be an iterative process; there are some sections for which information is not yet available. When information becomes available later, it will be included.

Marcus walked through figures for the Basin Setting section. He noted that the figures show the watershed boundaries, because this is important for inflows into the basin. (Printed copies of figures were distributed at the meeting and will be posted online once they are made ADA accessible).

*Responses to initial questions:*

- For water wells, there are about 1,300 in the watershed (700 in basin; 600 out of basin). Reminder that this is incomplete information.
- Questions about the Sonoma aquifer, storage and recovery (ASR) pilot – can give informational presentation to the Advisory Committee.
- Please let staff know if the GSP needs more information or if the Advisory Committee would like a presentation on any aspects of this information.

*Suggestions/questions on draft GSP sections:*

- Suggestion: Figure 2.5, legend for City of Petaluma – Add comma after imported water or re-word. Also, clarify what you call irrigated, because most is vineyard. For recycled water parcels, most water received is surface water, not groundwater.
- Question: Is any information available on unrepresented wells?
  - Response: Can get rough estimates. SRP rate/fee study will help by looking at parcels.
- Question: Marin County line: Why didn't we pick the top of San Antonio Creek as the boundary rather than the Marin County line? What's the contributing watershed?
  - Response: We can look into boundary issues.
- Suggestion: Correct table of contents (TOC) line numbers; line 59 should be paths or the pathways, not just singular path.

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- Suggestion: Add North Bay Water District (NBWD) to Figure 2-3 (jurisdictional and protected areas map).

**MEETING ATTENDEES<sup>1</sup>**

***Advisory Committee Members***

Clayton Engstrom, Rural Residential Representative  
Andy Rodgers, Business Representative and Chair  
Eugene Camozzi, North Bay Water District Representative and Vice Chair  
Heidi Bauer, City of Petaluma Representative  
Gary Mickelson, County of Sonoma Representative  
Martha Murphy, Sonoma County Water Agency Representative  
Lindsey Strain, Sonoma Resource Conservation District Representative  
John Schribbs, Environmental Representative

***Advisory Committee Members Absent***

Drew Buechley, Agricultural Representative  
Scott Tweeten, At-Large Representative

***Staff***

Ann DuBay, GSA Administrator  
Marcus Trotta, Sonoma Water  
Leah Walker, City of Petaluma

***Facilitator***

Rich Wilson, Sacramento State University – Consensus and Collaboration Program (facilitator)

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to advisory committee members and staff, one member of the public attended the meeting.