



## Strategic Planning Implementation Project Charter

**Project Name:** *As noted on Grid of Major Projects*

Strategic Plan Project #53: Groundwater Basin Assessment and Management Program

**Expected Deliverables/Outcomes:** *List of reports, recommendations, policies, processes, services, or other expected products from the project. Remember that deliverables are things, not actions. Number each deliverable.*

- 1. Technical Groundwater Basin Characterization Reports** – Sonoma Valley, Alexander Valley, Santa Rosa Plain, and Petaluma Valley
- 2. Computer Groundwater Flow Models** – Sonoma Valley, Alexander Valley, Santa Rosa Plain, and Petaluma Valley
- 3. Non-Regulatory AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plans** - Sonoma Valley, Alexander Valley, Santa Rosa Plain, and Petaluma Valley

**Project Owner:** *The Project Owner provides or locates funding and resources for the project, approves project work plans, timelines, and budget, guides and directs the project manager, and in concert with the project manager delineates roles and responsibilities of the manager and project team. Overall they ensure successful completion of the project.*

Sonoma County Water Agency

**Project Manager(s):** *The project manager is responsible for ensuring that project planning, execution, and reporting occur. For purposes of the project, reports to Project Owner (though may be the same person).*

Sonoma County Water Agency

**Other Departments Involved:** *Please list those departments whose participation or support is necessary in order for the project to be completed.*

PRMD

**Start/Finish:** *No sooner than July 2008 for new or future projects*

Program initiated in August 2000.  
Estimated completion 2016

### **Background/Summary:** *(Optional)*

The Groundwater Assessment and Management Program focuses on the four largest and heavily populated groundwater basins in Sonoma County: Sonoma Valley, Santa Rosa Plain, Alexander Valley, and Petaluma Valley. The model approach for each basin is to first conduct a scientific basin-wide study to provide a basis for the subsequent groundwater management planning activities, should basin stakeholders and the Agency's Board of Directors support the development of a management planning process.

### **Scientific/Technical Study Program**

Since 2000, the Sonoma County Water Agency and the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) have worked on a technical study program intended to enhance the current knowledge regarding groundwater resources within Sonoma County. Ultimately, the results of the study program will be able to be utilized by a variety of end users. The purpose of this groundwater assessment is to provide an objective, comprehensive, and scientifically based evaluation of groundwater conditions for areas of the county containing significant quantities of groundwater (i.e., groundwater basins). More specifically, the program is intended to accomplish the following:

- Provide a general characterization of groundwater resources and demand for groundwater in significant groundwater basins within the county.
- Update the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118-4 describing general groundwater conditions within the largest groundwater basins within Sonoma County.
- Develop conceptual models for selected groundwater basins within the county that describe the basin limits, regional aquifer groundwater yield and storage, areas of recharge and discharge, and regional groundwater quality.
- Develop computer models for selected groundwater basins that can be used as planning tools to: (1) assess the impacts of future groundwater use scenarios; (2) assist in evaluating the hydro-geologic and water quality impacts to groundwater due to changing land use; (3) estimate groundwater recharge; and (4) evaluate surface water/groundwater interaction.
- Identify regional areas where groundwater resources are (or in the future may be) threatened due to declining water levels and/or poor water quality.
- Evaluate the relationship or linkage between the significant groundwater basins within the county.
- Provide information regarding groundwater resources to entities providing municipal water supply as a potential supplemental source of water to offset or augment water supplied by the Agency from the Russian River.

### **Status of Scientific/Technical Study Program**

- **Sonoma Valley** – Basin wide study and groundwater flow model completed in 2006.
- **Alexander Valley** – Basin wide study completed in 2006. Groundwater flow model not yet begun.
- **Santa Rosa Plain** – Basin wide study and groundwater flow model began December 2005, estimated completion is December 2010. Funding for the \$2.095 million study is provided via the U.S. Department of Interior, SCWA, County of Sonoma, Santa Rosa Plain Cities (Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Windsor, Cotati, and Sebastopol), and the Cal American Water Company.
- **Petaluma Valley** – To date, no activities initiated.

### **Groundwater Management Planning Activities**

Upon conclusion of the scientific studies, groundwater management activities will be initiated. These activities

include three basic steps: (1) conduct a stakeholder assessment; (2) prepare a non-regulatory AB 3030 groundwater management plan, and (3) implement a groundwater management plan. If the results of the stakeholder assessment indicate that there is no interest in a groundwater management plan, then no further management activities will be conducted. The Sonoma County Water Agency and the California Department of Water Resources entered into a memorandum of understanding so the DWR can provide technical and financial support for groundwater management planning. DWR has paid for facilitation services for the past two years (~\$75,000/year) for the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management program.

**Status of Groundwater Management Planning Activities**

**Sonoma Valley** – Stakeholder assessment completed in 2006. Groundwater management plan completed in 2007. Currently, groundwater management plan is being implemented.

**Alexander Valley** – To date, no activities initiated.

**Santa Rosa Plain** – To date, no activities initiated.

**Petaluma Valley** – To date, no activities initiated.

**Resources Required:** *Please note the name of the county department and whether existing and/or new personnel will be required, as well as any external resources. Note role they will play (examples would be Project manager, Subject Matter Experts, IT support, Project team member, etc): check box for existing or new.*

	Role	Existing	New
Project owner dept. staff	PM, technical support, stakeholder	SCWA	SCWA \$100k for staff on-going \$450k for maintenance on-going*
Other county dept. staff	Technical support, stakeholder	PRMD	
Other county dept. staff			
Other county dept. staff			
External staff			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultants (legal, technical, process, etc)</li> </ul>	Technical Consultants for groundwater management	Sonoma Valley	Santa Rosa Plain, Petaluma & Alexander Valleys \$750k for Petaluma Study one-time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Based Organizations</li> </ul>	Basin Advisory Panel	Sonoma Valley	Santa Rosa Plain, Petaluma & Alexander Valleys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gov't or partnering agencies</li> </ul>	USGS, DWR, Cities, and Water Districts	Sonoma Valley & Santa Rosa Plain	Petaluma & Alexander Valleys

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
<p>Monetary resources* \$750k one-time for Petaluma Study (SR and Alexander valley already funded). Costs to be shared with USGS, local cities, county, State. Ratio TBD</p>	<p>USGS, SCWA, County, Local Stakeholders (cities, water districts, private water purveyors)</p>	<p>Sonoma Valley &amp; S R Plain</p>	<p>Petaluma &amp; Alexander Valleys</p>
<p>*Note: Because specific funding needs and sources are uncertain, the Water Agency will return to its Board for approval before funding is authorized.</p>			

**Policy Review:** *List and briefly describe Board of Supervisors or CAO policies that need to be considered and/or resolved before the project can be completed.*

None at this time.

**Assumptions/Constraints:** *List any major assumptions and or constraints important to the project's success.*

Sufficient staff resources to implement program.  
Sufficient funding – External and internal – to implement program.  
Stakeholder interest in management activities given political and legal controversies associated with groundwater issues.

**Project Interdependencies and Inputs:** *List by project name any other projects or initiatives upon which this project is dependent. Also note any projects or initiatives dependent upon this project.*

None, although Water Element of draft General Plan is related.

**Risks:** *(Optional)*

- The lack of technical studies decreases the likelihood of success in regards to management.
- Lack of proactive groundwater management could result in adverse groundwater impacts that lead to legal or regulatory responses that remove local control of the resource. Such responses may not be coordinated with regional water supply programs and policies.

**Exclusions:** *Use this section, if necessary, to clarify what **will not** be addressed by the project.*

The program, if carried out through the management stage, is predicated on facilitated collaboration of stakeholder groups and a non-regulatory approach to groundwater management.

This project is limited to groundwater assessment and management in the County's major groundwater basins. Groundwater management policies and actions for areas outside the major groundwater basins are contained in the new General Plan Water Resources Element and are administered by PRMD.

**Milestones:** *Note key events marking project progress*

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**Project Duration Estimates**

<b>Project Milestone</b>	<b>Date Estimate</b> <i>(mo/day/year)</i>	<b>Confidence Level</b> <i>(high, medium, or low)</i>
Project Start Date		
Milestone 1: Sonoma Valley - technical study	June 2006	Completed
Milestone 2: Alexander Valley – technical study and model	June 2006	Completed
Milestone 3: Sonoma Valley - management planning	November 2007	Completed
Milestone 4: Santa Rosa Plain – technical study and model	December 2010	In process, funding agreements are in-place - High
Milestone 5: Santa Rosa Plain – management planning	2011 - 2013	Medium
Milestone 6: Alexander Valley - model	2009-2010	Medium
Milestone 7: Alexander Valley – management activities	2011 - 2014	Medium - Low
Milestone 8: Petaluma Valley – technical study and model	2011 - 2014	Medium – Low
Milestone 9: Petaluma Valley – management activities	2014- 2016	Low
Project End Date:		

**Project Status:** *For those projects underway, please note the date and indicate Green (low concern) Yellow (moderate concern) or Red (high concern) that project will exceed timeline, budget or scope.*

See background section.

**Comments:**

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