A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County
Groundwater Resources
Advisory Committee

AGENDA

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 24, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Agricultural Commissioner's Office/UCCE Conference Room
1710 Soscol Avenue, Napa CA

Committee Members

Michelle Benvenuto
Tucker Catlin
Alan Galbraith
Don Gleason
Dave Graves
Michael Haley
Peter McCrea
Charles Slutzkin
Steve Soper
Marilee Talley
Bill Trautman
Jim Verhey
Susanne von Rosenberg
Duane Wall
Dale Withers

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

2. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS *(Chair)*

3. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS *(10 min) (Staff, Consultant, Committee)*
   a. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES & MEETING SUMMARY
   b. REVIEW WORK PLAN/SCHEDULE
   c. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA AND PROCESS

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
   In this time period, anyone may comment to the Committee regarding any subject over which the Committee has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Committee as a result of any item presented at this time. *(Chair)*

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

COMMITTEE REVIEW, DISCUSSION & DIRECTION

a. DISCUSSION OF INDUSTRY/PUBLIC OUTREACH & WELL OWNER OUTREACH *(35 min)*
   (Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Mgr./Public Works)
   - UPDATE ON OUTREACH EFFORTS BY COMMITTEE/STAFF
   - DISCUSS OUTREACH MATERIALS/ADDITIONAL NEEDS/Q&A
   - UPDATE ON GRAPE GROWERS LETTER TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
   - OTHER NEWS/UPDATES

b. REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES *(55 min)*
   (Dorian Fougères, Center for Collaborative Policy, Ad-Hoc Committee Members)
   - DISCUSS AD-HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
   - Q&A - DISCUSS GRAC QUESTIONS
   - DIRECTION TO AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON NEXT STEPS

804 First Street,
Napa, CA
94559

Tel: 707-259-8600
Fax: 707-259-8619

- COMMITTEE BREAK (CHAIR TO CALL WHEN NEEDED)

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS: (cont'd)

   c. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE WATER AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS (WAA) *(55 min)*
   (Steve Lederer, Director/Public Works; Vicki Kretsinger Grabert/LSCE)
      - REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF GRAC QUESTIONS ON WAA
      - DISCUSS ESTABLISHING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE
      - DISCUSS SCHEDULE FOR AD-HOC/WAA COMPLETION
      - DISCUSS SCHEDULE FOR GRAC WRAP-UP

   d. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WAA *(10 min)*
   (Dorian Fougères, Center for Collaborative Policy)

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

   a. UPCOMING EVENTS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE COMMITTEE AND STAFF *(5 min)*

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING *(Chair)*

   - Meeting Date: Thursday, December 12, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Note: Where times are indicated for agenda items they are approximate and intended as estimates only, and may be shorter or longer, as needed. If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Greg Morgan at 707-259-8621, 804 First St., Napa CA 94559 to request alternative formats.

A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee

ACTION MINUTES
NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 27, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) met in regular session on Thursday, June 27, 2013 with the following members present:
Vice-Chair Michelle Benvenuto; Alan Galbraith; Don Gleason; Michael Haley (left after Item 5.a); Chair Peter McCrea; Charles Slutzkin; Steve Soper; Marilee Talley; Bill Trautman; Susanne von Rosenberg; Duane Wall; and Dale Withers. Tucker Catlin arrived during Item 3.b; and Dave Graves and Jim Verhey were excused.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Peter McCrea provided opening comments.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

a. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY OF APRIL 25, 2013

Action Minutes approved as amended, and Meeting Summary approved.

MB	TC	AG	DG1	DG2	MH	PM	CS	SS	MT	BT	JV	SVR	DW1	DW2
	X			X							X			

b. REVIEW WORK PLAN/SCHEDULE

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS, referenced the latest version of the Work Plan included in the agenda packet and mentioned upcoming items of business.

c. REVIEW MEETING AGENDA AND PROCESS

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Mediator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS, briefly reviewed the background and purpose of each agenda item.

d. FOLLOW-UP ON QUESTIONS FROM LAST GRAC MEETING – GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AND ROOT-ZONE WATER BALANCE MODEL FOR NAPA VALLEY WATERSHEDS

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE, distributed a handout of notes, a table and map in response to questions regarding the utility of the soil root-zone water balance model and hydrogeologic characterization, its purpose and the numbers. The map, which has had some slight changes since it was distributed at the April meeting, shows the annual average recharge over the entirety of a watershed or sub-watershed, which is the number that's calculated that takes into account all processes that occur naturally and calculates the amount of water that

DRAFT

might make it to groundwater recharge. The table provides additional information about what the ranges of the recharge would be based on different water year types. Large ranges can occur because the amount of precipitation during a year can greatly influence the amount of potential groundwater recharge that's calculated. Ms. Kretsigner Grabert responded to a previous question regarding the level of confidence on groundwater recharge at depths of 10 – 500 feet. The soil root-zone water balance takes the computation through the root-zone to the water table and shows how much potential groundwater recharge there could be in different water year types. The zone of 10 – 500 feet is not being modeled at this time. The root-zone model does not consider variations of water year types or other factors with respect to the condition of the deeper zone. To evaluate changes to groundwater levels in shallower and deeper parts of the aquifer system in response to climate effects or other stresses would involve use of a groundwater flow model. LSCE updated the information on the geology that has changed a lot since 1960 and the view of the geologic world in Napa County from what Kunkel and Upson did to what LSCE has done and related that information to what happens with water levels in the area and how they relate to geologic conditions. The handout is meant to provide helpful information, as the range of the numbers listed correlate quite well with what the County is already using for its threshold values. The Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptualization and Characterization of Conditions Report strictly focuses on the science and the observing of the recharge occurring over the watershed scale.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. DISCUSSION OF INDUSTRY/PUBLIC OUTREACH AND WELL OWNER OUTREACH

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, reported he, Steve Soper and Jim Verhey met representatives of the Farm Bureau and secured one volunteer well. The representatives weren't for or against groundwater monitoring, but they will provide the information to their members to make their own decisions. Michael Haley reported he, Tucker Catlin, Mr. Verhey and Mr. Lowe met with the Grape Growers. Some of their members expressed concern about confidentiality, and the Grape Growers also said it was up to the individual members to decide if they want to participate. Mr. Haley felt the groups need to be supportive of the program in order for it to be successful. Mr. Lowe added the Grape Growers will send a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting the legislative committee revisit the confidentiality issue and to see if they can pursue something to support it. USGS has studies underway in the County for which they maintain confidentiality, and the County will contact them for suggestions. Mr. Lowe also commented on Mr. Verhey's enthusiasm for outreach and distributed a summary of the talking points he uses. Vice-Chair Michelle Benvenuto reported she and Mr. Lowe made a presentation to the Wine Growers and suggested presenting information to groups in a fair and balanced way with the pros and cons and to ask members to decide individually. For the number of wells that will be in the program, Mr. Lowe stated Dave Graves signed up his own well and has one sign-up; Mr. Verhey signed up his own well; Mr. Haley signed up his own two wells; and Alan Galbraith signed up his own well and has one sign-up, for a current total of seven wells. Mr. Galbraith suggested removing reference to attaching the well driller's report on the candidate well checklist (green half-sheet). Mr. Lowe said it could be revised to read "please attach a copy, if available." Chair Peter McCrea reported he made a presentation to

the Napa Valley Vintners and suggested what works best is someone who knows the well owner meet with them one on one rather than trying to do outreach geographically. Mr. Lowe noted that Mr. Verhey knew a lot of the well owners in areas being covered by other GRAC members and said he could contact them. Per Chair McCrea's suggestion and input from the GRAC, Mr. Lowe will email a list of the well owners in an Excel spreadsheet for the GRAC to review and note which well owners they know and email the list back to Mr. Lowe, who will compile a new list that will note the top three to four wells in each area for focus and which wells are already established to avoid duplication of efforts. Charles Slutzkin requested if anyone knows of any well owners in south Napa County who may be cooperative to forward their contact information, as there aren't any wells listed in this area and he and Susanne von Rosenberg are having trouble with their location. Positive responses will be shared with the GRAC on a weekly basis also to avoid duplication of efforts. Mr. Lowe passed around a few copies of a newspaper article about the shrinking groundwater supply in San Luis Obispo County, particularly in the cities of Paso Robles and Atascadero, due to an increase in population size and vineyards and the lack of prior groundwater monitoring to help mitigate the situation.

b. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE UPDATED DRAFT GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE/PERMIT PROCESS

Hillary Gitelman, Director, Planning, Building and Environmental Services, went over the latest revisions of the Ordinance included in the agenda packet. Changes made since the last draft are reflected in the comments in the right margin. Some of the specific changes Ms. Gitelman went over were as follows:

Section	Change
13.04.010 – C	Added and removed commas and changed "division" to "chapter."
13.04.020	Added "and in dry years" and changed "division" to "chapter."
13.04.030	Change in wording; comment provides definition of potable.
13.04.050 – A	Removed text pertaining to how yield tests should be done. (Steve Soper requested staff add back in specifics on testing requirements, such as a two-hour minimum test for domestic wells, which he and Ms. Gitelman will further discuss.)
13.04.080	Changed "division" to "chapter."
13.04.090 – A.1	Corrected reference to sewer.
13.12.180 – B	Clarified definition as suggested by LSCE.
13.12.340 – A	Changed minimum distance setback from property line back to five feet and removed the setback distance to underground piping and replaced it with any type of post-construction treatment control (i.e., bio-swale or subsurface detention system) setback of 50 feet.
13.15.020 – G	Removed comma after "shall."
13.15.035	Comment cites County code that implements State law to which this requirement applies.
13.15.060 – E	Removed date from WAA and added "groundwater" before policies and goals.
13.15.070 – B	Comment notes reference to the WAA, which will contain its methodology and therefore avoids having to specify it here.

Dale Withers suggested adding "State certified water operator" to section 13.12.420 as to who shall install pumps.

Marilee Talley asked staff to research the use of the words "property" and "parcel" on Page 26 and determine if there is a distinction. Ms. Talley also cited section 13.15.070 – D and suggested referencing "Best Management Practices" throughout the Ordinance wherever it mentions plumbing retrofits, insulation of meters, monitoring and reporting and similar actions, as the State is working on the agricultural water use efficiency standards, which will be eventually be called "Best Management Practices." Ms. Talley will go back and look for the specific places in the Ordinance and will email the information to Patrick Lowe. Ms. Gitelman stated the Ordinance will be in its final form the next time the GRAC sees it.

c. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT WATER AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS UPDATE

Steve Lederer, Director, Public Works, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the current status of the WAA and provided some background information. As a result of a periodic drought in 1989-1990, the County was tasked with preparing a report, which resulted in the WAA in 1991. Guidelines were established, known as Phase 1, for estimated water usage of one acre foot of water per acre for the valley floor, 0.5 acre foot of water per acre for the hills, and for the MST, 0.3 acre foot of water per acre after the passage of the Ground Water Ordinance in 1999. An applicant of a discretionary permit would estimate their proposed water usage based on a series of rules of thumb to come up with a calculation that would be compared to the Phase 1 guidelines. If the limits are exceeded, they would be required to do pumping tests (Phase 2) and other tests (Phase 3). The WAA was last updated in 2007 and is being revised to update requirements and procedures. Some of the proposed major changes are to remove reference to Phases 2 and 3; make clear what is required of the applicant; develop a screening criteria to determine which wells need no further analysis; develop discussion of a supplemental analysis and what would be required; have one County department, Planning, Building and Environmental Services, act as the lead department; apply multiple sets of rules of thumb to specific situations; and determine the status of the Carneros region. The next steps to update the WAA are to have LSCE and the County work together on developing the screening criteria; present a draft of the WAA to the GRAC in August; finalize the WAA based on the GRAC's input and provide outreach beyond the GRAC; and present the final WAA to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

d. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO BEGIN WORK ON DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, mentioned that some of the GRAC members suggested forming an ad-hoc subcommittee to begin framing discussion, decide on what type of speakers to have and pull together background information. Susanne von Rosenberg reiterated Mr. Lowe's comments and added that the GRAC is tasked with coming up with sustainability objectives, and rather than trying to start a discussion with the full committee, it might be helpful if a smaller group first met to frame the discussion and make it more manageable since it is such a vast topic and figure out what is needed in terms of background information and if there are other best practices available. Chair Peter McCrea suggested the subcommittee first come up with their suggestions for possible content and share it with the group before getting into drafting the objectives or deciding on speakers. The GRAC appointed members Dave Graves, Don Gleason, Susanne von Rosenberg and Marilee Talley to the ad-hoc subcommittee.

MB	TC	AG	DG1	DG2	MH	PM	CS	SS	MT	BT	JV	SVR	DW1	DW2
				X	X						X			

e. DISCUSS JOINT GRAC-WICC BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY/JULY 25

Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager, Public Works, stated the GRAC's presentation will focus on the continuation of outreach efforts and will include a PowerPoint presentation and other materials and asked the GRAC if they had any other ideas. Charles Slutzkin heard from some of the WICC members who attended last year's meeting that they thought the GRAC's presentation went into too much detail and suggested having a presentation that isn't as detailed. Mr. Lowe replied the presentation will be a scaled-down version of the outreach PowerPoint presentation and it will not have the level of detail of last year's presentation.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Update on Outreach Activities**
- **Review Final Draft Groundwater Ordinance**
- **Review Draft WAA**

Duane Wall requested the GRAC receive meeting handouts within two weeks to ten days prior to the meeting to allow enough time to review the materials.

9. ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING

Adjourned to the next joint special meeting of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) and Watershed Information Center & Conservancy (WICC) on Thursday, July 25, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Yountville Community Center.

_____
PETER McCREA, Chair

ATTEST:

_____
PATRICK LOWE, Secretary

_____
By: GREG MORGAN, Supervising Office Assistant

Voting Key

If not unanimous, member votes will be tallied (N = No; X = Excused; A = Abstained) using the following Committee Member abbreviations:

MB = Michelle Benvenuto; TC = Tucker Catlin; AG = Alan Galbraith; DG1 = Don Gleason; DG2 = Dave Graves; MH = Michael Haley; PM = Peter McCrea; CS = Charles Slutzkin; SS = Steve Soper; MT = Marilee Talley; BT = Bill Trautman; JV = Jim Verhey; SVR = Susanne von Rosenberg; DW1 = Duane Wall; DW2 = Dale Withers

Example Key:

MB	TC	AG	DG1	DG2	MH	PM	CS	SS	MT	BT	JV	SVR	DW1	DW2

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MEETING SUMMARY

12th Committee Meeting

June 27, 2013

Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

Meeting Synopsis

June 27, 2013 – GRAC 12th Meeting

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) held its twelfth meeting on June 27, 2013. The meeting started with Ms. Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE), addressing outstanding questions about the Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptualization and Characterization of Conditions Report. Mr. Patrick Lowe, Napa County, and GRAC members then shared updates on their outreach efforts with industry groups, well owners, and the general public. Members agreed to make minor revisions to existing outreach materials, and to coordinate their efforts to individual well owners through Mr. Lowe. Next Ms. Hillary Gitelman, Napa County, provided an overview of the Updated Draft Groundwater Ordinance/Permit Process. Members reviewed revisions made since the prior meeting in April, and made additional recommendations to help strike the right balance between specificity and flexibility.

Mr. Steve Lederer, Napa County, presented the updated Draft Water Availability Analysis, including its history, intended use, and structure. The County will provide a full revised draft to the GRAC for review prior to the August meeting, including draft criteria for determining whether additional analysis is necessary and what this could include. The GRAC also created an ad hoc committee to work on developing Ground Water Sustainability Objectives. Prior to the August meeting, the ad hoc committee will meet to develop initial thoughts on the scope and appropriate level of detail of objectives, and review good examples of similar work. Lastly, the GRAC reviewed the agenda for the joint GRAC-WICC Board meeting on July 25th, which will focus on public and well owner outreach. The GRAC's next meeting will be the special meeting with the WICC.

Please see the GRAC's webpage (www.countyofnapa.org/bos/grac) for copies of the June 27, 2013 presentations and handouts.

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Action Items

1. **GREG MORGAN** to revise April 25 Action Minutes to read "0.6" on two occasions on page 5 (rather than "0.06").
2. **PATRICK LOWE** to revise well owner checklist to clarify the request for the well driller's report "if available."
3. **PATRICK LOWE** to send **GRAC MEMBERS** an Excel spreadsheet of well owners. **GRAC MEMBERS** to review list and inform **PATRICK LOWE** of owners with whom they have a personal relationship. **PATRICK LOWE** to compile responses, filter for duplication, and help members coordinate their efforts.
4. **GRAC MEMBERS** to suggest potential well owner volunteers in the southern portion of the county.
5. **GRAC MEMBERS** who are actively conducing outreach to send **PATRICK LOWE** a brief weekly update to avoid re-contacting members who have already been contacted.
6. **STEVE SOPER** to work with **HILLARY GITELMAN** to improve Groundwater Ordinance §13.04.050.
7. **MARILEE TALLEY** to send clean-up edits to Groundwater Ordinance to **PATRICK LOWE**, including addition of "Best Management Practices" to clauses that include "plumbing retrofits."
8. **STAFF** to revise the Groundwater Ordinance based on discussion at the GRAC June 27 meeting.
9. **STAFF** to organize a sustainability objectives ad-hoc committee meeting prior to the next GRAC meeting on August 22.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

All members of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) were in attendance, except for David Graves and Jim Verhey, who were excused.

2. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chair Peter McCrea opened the session.

3. Organizational Items

a. Approval of Action Minutes & Meeting Summary

ACTION ITEM: GREG MORGAN to revise April 25 Action Minutes to read "0.6" on two occasions on page 5 (rather than "0.06").

There were no additional suggestions, and, subject to the action item stated above, the April 25, 2013 meeting minutes and meeting summary were approved.

AGREEMENT: The meeting minutes and meeting summary were unanimously approved.

b. Review Work Plan/Schedule

Facilitator Dorian Fougères reviewed the work plan and mentioned the next joint GRAC-WICC meeting would be July 25 at 4:00 p.m. at the Yountville Community Center.

c. Review Meeting Agenda and Process

Facilitator Dorian Fougères reviewed the agenda.

d. Follow-up on Question(s) from Last GRAC Meeting

This discussion occurred after Public Comment.

Ms. Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, LSCE responded to GRAC outstanding questions from the last meeting about the Updated Hydrogeologic Conceptualization and Characterization of Conditions Report.

The GRAC received a table and an updated map of estimated annual recharge in the Napa Valley Area and a memo addressing outstanding GRAC questions; these documents are not in the actual report. The map provides average annual recharge estimates per studied watershed and was derived from the soil root-zone water balance model. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert emphasized the model is for estimating trends at a large (sub)watershed-scale levels and does not quantify recharge at finer scales. Some areas can have a wide range of recharge potentials within the same (sub)watershed, but this is not represented by the model or the map (e.g., the Dry Creek Watershed). The table provides additional detail on the calculations for the average annual recharge, as well as

estimated minimum and maximum annual recharge per studied watershed. Staff explained the map and the table are solely for informational purposes for the GRAC.

The GRAC had also posed questions regarding the level of confidence and probability associated with hydrogeologic characterization for the 10-500 feet range below the ground surface in Napa Valley. Ms. Kretsinger Grabert explained this information is not available because the hydrogeologic characterization only describes the physical structure of sub-surface formations and occurrence of groundwater in those formations, and neither the hydrogeologic characterization nor the soil root-zone water balance model describes flow processes below the root-zone depth.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Clarification on ability to estimate groundwater flow processes below the root-zone.** Question: Even though the soil root-zone water balance model could not quantify recharge exactly, it provided its best estimate with a calculated level of certainty, and at 10 feet it had ± 20% certainty. Can this not be done for 10-500 feet?
    - **Response:** The soil root-zone water balance model takes the computation through the root-zone to the water table only, and it estimates how much potential ground water recharge there could be in different water year types. In regards to the below the 10-foot zone, there is no model for that and therefore no conditions or variables to change. The statistical analyses (e.g., sensitivity analysis) used for the soil root-zone water balance model do not apply to the hydrogeologic characterization.

- **Intended utility of the root-zone balance model.** Question: How are the recharge numbers in the table going to be used by the County? How would a potential development project be affected by these numbers?
    - **Response:** The recharge numbers should not be used for that situation, because the numbers are for the whole watershed and cannot show what is happening locally. A proposed project would need site-specific information depending on the magnitude of the project.
    - **Question:** What is the function and intended use of the recharge values if there is this wide variation within a watershed?
    - **Response:** The root-zone balance model provides a general outlook for the state of groundwater in Napa Valley as a whole. It has the potential to be incorporated into a surface-groundwater model for Napa Valley in the future

as the groundwater recharge component of that model. It also correlates well with what the County has been using as its threshold values.
    - **Staff Clarification:** These particular documents were created in response to GRAC questions, not for County application, and it will not be included in the report. It does support the standards the County has been using regarding the "fair share use" concept in the Water Availability Analysis (WAA).

- **Potential for misinterpretation and mistaken use.** Comment: People may inadvertently use these values to draw inaccurate conclusions and comparisons.
    - **LSCE Clarification:** The report presents this information differently, because the intention was to describe the physical setting for Napa Valley's groundwater and understand the natural processes contributing to recharge at the watershed scale.

- One GRAC member recommended the GRAC review the handouts provided by LSCE after the meeting and contact staff if there were additional questions.

4. Public Comment

Chair Peter McCrea invited public comments. There were no public comments.

Advanced Technology for Surveying Groundwater Conditions

One GRAC member asked whether technology, such as a laser method that detects changes in the earth surface for evidence of subsidence and groundwater overdraft, is appropriate for Napa Valley. Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, LSCE, responded that the laser technology (LiDAR, Light Detection and Ranging) is not currently necessary for the Napa Valley since its water condition is more full and stable. The GRAC member mentioned the importance of the GRAC collaborating with the County since groundwater use will likely become increasingly prominent in future water management.

5. Presentations and Discussion Items

a. Discussion of Industry/Public Outreach and Well Owner Outreach

Mr. Patrick Lowe, Napa County, and GRAC members shared updates on their outreach efforts with industry groups, well owners, and the general public on the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Mr. Lowe began with an update on his presentation with Mr. Steve Soper to the Farm Bureau, during which they provided background for and information on the voluntary monitoring program. The Farm Bureau expressed appreciation for Mr. Soper's representation in the GRAC and took a neutral stance with the program, allowing members to choose whether to participate on an individual basis. Many of the GRAC members reported that other industry groups were adopting neutral positions and allowing their members to decide whether to participate in the monitoring program.

Mr. Lowe also distributed a handout written by Mr. Jim Verhey that paraphrased information from the outreach brochure. GRAC members were free to use the handout as a resource in their outreach efforts.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Confidentiality concerns.** It appears there may have been some individuals advising against participating in the program. They are concerned with the confidentiality issue. The industry groups gave the impression they were letting their members decide whether to participate, but their support would greatly benefit the success of the monitoring program.
    - **Staff Comment:** County staff is communicating with USGS about their methods for maintaining confidentiality with some of their data-sensitive projects. Mr. Jim Verhey mentioned he had also experienced some resistance with a few individuals, but the important goal was to help these individuals understand the GRAC and the program's mission, regardless of whether they agreed immediately.

- **Transparent outreach.** It is important to present information in a fair and transparent way. It would put these associations in a difficult position if they were to formally support or oppose the program. It is best to leave it to the individual's decision.
    - Another member emphasized the goal is to disseminate information to the industry groups and not to seek that they endorse the monitoring program.

- **Update on voluntary participants.** It appears that most of the organizations are adopting a neutral position. How many well owners have agreed to participate?
    - **Response:** The most recent total is unknown, but there have been a few recent sign-ups, including GRAC members.

- **Contact with individual well owners.** Two members noted they chose which well owners to approach based upon whether they knew the individual. It can be a slow process and takes follow-up, but having a prior established relationship provides greater trust. A member noted that one individual from the Farm Bureau mentioned that the GRAC appears to be transparent and it is simply a monitoring program. A GRAC member also noted that he had a well that has been monitored for 25 years and has had a good experience.

- **Well drillers' reports.** On the outreach material and sign-up card, it asks for a well driller's report, but many owners do not have that information. Why do they have to provide that if the County is more likely to have that information?
  - **Response:** With thousands of drillers' reports, it is not always easy to match up the owner of the property and the correct well. If they have that information readily available, it would speed up the process. If not, it is something that staff can look up, but this would be relatively more difficult.

- **Re-coordinating outreach efforts.** Outreach efforts have been more positive when a GRAC member meets with a well owner that they know and trust. It would be better to prioritize geographic areas that do not have volunteers yet, then determine if a GRAC member knows the well owners therein. There are also a few GRAC members who will likely know many individuals and help speed up the process by focusing the GRAC's efforts appropriately.
  - **Staff Response:** The list was reproduced in alphabetical order to assist Mr. Verhey's efforts.
  - **Comment:** The list should be sent as an Excel spreadsheet rather than a pdf, and GRAC members should commit an hour to mark who they know.
  - **Comment:** County staff should "gray out" or note well owners that have already been contacted, so as to avoid duplicate efforts.
  - **Comment:** County staff should provide weekly updates on who has been contacted to avoid duplication.
  - **Comment:** If well owners have questions or concerns, GRAC members could refer them to Mr. Galbraith or another member who has had their well monitored for an extended period of time.

- **Refer well owners in Napa County's southern region.** It has been difficult to find well owners in the southern region of the county. GRAC members are requested to suggest potential well owner volunteers in that region.

ACTION ITEM: **PATRICK LOWE** to revise well owner checklist to clarify the request for the well driller's report "if available."

ACTION ITEM: **PATRICK LOWE** to send **GRAC MEMBERS** an Excel spreadsheet of well owners.

ACTION ITEM: **GRAC MEMBERS** to review list and inform **PATRICK LOWE** of owners with whom they have a personal relationship.

ACTION ITEM: **PATRICK LOWE** to compile responses, filter for duplication, and help members coordinate their efforts.

ACTION ITEM: **GRAC MEMBERS** to suggest potential well owner volunteers in the southern portion of the county.

ACTION ITEM: **GRAC MEMBERS** who are actively conducting outreach to send **PATRICK LOWE** a brief weekly update to avoid re-contacting members who have already been contacted.

San Luis Obispo Article on Groundwater Problem in Paso Robles

Mr. Lowe distributed an article from the San Luis Obispo Tribune on the Central Coast's struggles with groundwater management. Paso Robles is having particular difficulties – in previous decades, county leaders thought there was an abundant groundwater supply, but now they must take immediate steps to stabilize "this unprecedented crisis." Mr. Lowe emphasized Paso Robles' dilemma is a valuable reminder of the GRAC's importance and the County's efforts to address groundwater issues in the MST.

- **Comment:** These news articles are useful for outreach efforts.
- **Comment:** These issues will continue to increase in California, especially due to fracking concerns. If fracking projects get proposed in the San Joaquin Valley, a groundwater management plan or analysis will likely be one of the State's conditions. Those State initiatives will affect Napa County as well.

b. Review, Discussion, and Recommendations on the Updated Draft Groundwater Ordinance/Permit Process

Ms. Hillary Gitelman, Napa County, provided an overview of the Updated Draft Groundwater Ordinance/Permit Process. Most changes were minor grammatical edits. The Committee reviewed revisions made since the prior meeting in April and made additional recommendations to help achieve an appropriate balance between specificity and flexibility.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Determination of yield (§13.04.050).** Question: Why were the specific test requirements withdrawn? How can the applicant determine whether they have met or how they can meet the requirements for the sustained yield?
  - **Response:** That had been suggested at the prior meeting in April, but due to so many different scenarios with projects and testing methods, it seemed overly specific. It was decided to rely on the well driller's best judgment for demonstrating yield and meeting the standard of one gallon per minute stated in §13.04.040.
  - **LSCE Clarification:** Depending on the type of proposed project, some methods for testing are not suitable for some requirements that the County would have to obtain. Some of this information is not available because there are no aquifer parameters that have been developed through testing that has been done through drilling and construction projects, so it was decided that it would be more appropriate to allow this discretion to be determined by the drilling contractor.
  - **Qualified tester clarification.** Question: Is the well driller still considered a qualified tester? Response: Yes. The well driller can still perform the tests.
  - **Testing standards.** Comment: There is no set timeline for the test if discretion is given to the well driller. There is no guarantee they will conduct a thorough test. A minimum time limit for testing would protect the owner, and that owner should receive documented evidence of the test, the results, and what size horsepower pump is in the well.
    - **Response:** It would be helpful to work offline with staff to revise the language and strike the right balance between being too specific or too general.
    - **ACTION ITEM: STEVE SOPER** to work with Hillary Gitelman to improve Groundwater Ordinance section 13.04.050.
  - **Yield standard from State regulation.** Question: Is the one gallon per minute standard in §13.04.040 a State regulation and can it be reduced? Response: It is a State regulation and unlikely to be changed in the near future.

- **Surface water (§13.12.180).** Question: What would a State Department of Public Health determination require regarding groundwater considered as surface water?
  - **GRAC member Response:** This may not be applicable for local home owners, but for municipal supply, the State would require a coliform test. If it is under the influence of surface water, then monthly coliform testing would be required during the winter season.

- **Location – Distance from other facilities (§13.12.340).** Question: There is a five-foot setback from the property line. Is there not a setback from an existing well? Someone drilling a new well could cause an intrusion into an existing well.
  - **Response:** To avoid wells being too close together, the five feet from the property line standard would likely mean it would be further from existing wells.
  - **Comment:** Wells are sealed 50 feet down with cement, so surface water should not be affecting the groundwater. The five-foot setback from the property line should be adequate because a well driller would not put a well so close to an existing well.
  - **LSCE Comment:** There is a large concern that if wells are too dense, then there may be well interference due to the pumping, and that could lower water levels to below the pump setting. It is still uncertain what that density threshold is, and LSCE is in the process of analyzing this issue.
  - **Comment:** In practice, a five-foot versus a 25-foot separation from the property line may not have a substantial difference. The well driller should be conducting a full scale analysis regardless. This conversation may warrant further discussion after LSCE has gathered additional information.

- **Pump installation (§13.12.420).** Where it states, "All pumps shall be installed by a licenses well drilling or pump contractor," suggest adding "or state-certified water operator."

- **Agricultural activities exempt from groundwater permitting requirements (§13.15.040).** What is the legal definition of property versus parcel? Can a property consist of "contiguous parcels?" These terms appear to be used interchangeably in the ordinance. If there is a difference, then those terms should be used appropriately and consistently throughout the document.
  - **Staff Response:** We will look into whether there is a legal distinction and reexamine the rest of the document.

- **Processing of groundwater permit applications (§13.15.070(D)).** Where it mentions utilizing "Best Management Practices" for plumbing retrofits, can that term be included elsewhere? The State is developing agriculture-water efficiency standards, which will most likely become best management practices.

ACTION ITEM: STAFF to revise the Groundwater Ordinance based on discussion at the GRAC June 27 meeting.

ACTION ITEM: MARILEE TALLEY to send clean-up edits to Groundwater Ordinance to **PATRICK LOWE**, including addition of "Best Management Practices" to clauses that include "plumbing retrofits."

c. Review and Discussion of Draft Water Availability Analysis (WAA) Update

Mr. Steve Lederer, Napa County, presented the current draft WAA, including its history, intended use, and structure. The WAA provides a screening procedure for discretionary Groundwater Permit applications to determine if a proposed project might adversely affect the groundwater basin or other neighboring water bodies.

Mr. Lederer provided background for the County's development of the WAA. In 1990, a periodic drought in combination with an increasing number of proposed projects motivated the County to establish use standards for the valley floor (one acre feet water/acre land) and hillsides (0.5 acre feet water/acre land); and in 1999, use standards were established for the MST (0.3 acre feet water/acre land). There was another update in 2007 with minor edits, and now the County is updating the 2007 version in the context of the recent LSCE updated reports and other information. The presentation was to inform the GRAC of the County's potential modifications, and the copy provided to GRAC members shows comments and questions that will be addressed in a revised version. The revised version will be distributed to GRAC members for discussion at the August 22, 2013, meeting.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Major topics for potential WAA modifications included the following:**
  - The County is exploring how to improve the screening criteria to be more straightforward.
    - This would include removing overly-generic test processes that were not always appropriate for some projects. Instead, the County hopes to develop "screening criteria" for wells to identify those that require no further analyses and then develop a general description of supplemental analyses that may be required if those criteria standards are not met.
    - This would also entail clearly stating what information the County needs from the applicant and what information the County can more easily supplement.
  - The County is also exploring whether there are more advanced standards that can provide water usage estimates with better accuracy.

- The role of the newly-consolidated Department of Planning, Building, and Environmental Services (PBES) requires further definition as the lead implementing authority for the WAA.
- The County is considering how to categorize Areas of Concern that are outside of the MST (e.g., the Carneros region).

The facilitator suggested that, since the County and LSCE were still developing the screening criteria for the WAA, the previous discussion on the well-to-property line distance could be revisited during the next meeting in August.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Clarification on defining the screening criteria.** Can you elaborate on developing the screening criteria, or is that not possible due to site specificity?
  - **Response:** The specific screening criteria are still being developed. Factors may include the well's location, local geology, and other information that can be collected by the applicant and/or in coordination with the County. The objective is to distinguish situations in which there would likely be no issue, but if there is greater potential for adverse effects because of particular geologic conditions, then further review is warranted.
  - **Additional Staff Clarification:** The County is hoping to adequately define those criteria with the suggestions and feedback from the GRAC. One of the goals is to develop standards that are straightforward, such that some applicants might be able to use their own staff civil engineer, who may not be a hydrologist, to address the criteria.
  - **Comment:** If the 2011 Groundwater Conditions Report suggested the groundwater level is stable, then it seems unnecessary for this process to become too cumbersome for the applicant.
  - **Staff Response:** The study suggested that the values for groundwater use standards were appropriate. The question becomes whether additional screening conditions would help maintain groundwater stability.

- **Examples of groundwater ordinances elsewhere.** Question: Are there examples of ordinances in other counties similar to the Groundwater Ordinance/Permit Process document?
  - **LSCE Response:** Groundwater management plans have been developed at various levels, including at the county level and municipal level.

- **Question:** Were these other groundwater ordinances in response to unstable groundwater levels?
  - **LSCE Response:** It was largely driven by the original California Water Code when the concept of groundwater management was introduced, and it still is not a requirement. However, the Department of Water Resources often requires a groundwater management plan to be eligible for funding support.
- **Question:** Does the State have screening criteria similar to a well-to-well distance?
  - **LSCE Response:** No, not from the Department of Water Resources or other State agencies.

- **Intended use of the groundwater ordinance and WAA.** It seems as though the geology has the potential to vary greatly at the site-specific level, such that wells could be separated by hundreds of feet and interfere with one another, or right beside each other with no intrusion. If that is the case, then setting standards such as well-to-well distance could become overly complicated.
  - **Staff Comment:** The Groundwater Ordinance and the WAA are intended to support and maintain a "fair share system." Since it is an ordinance and a guidance document, it can be periodically amended and updated such that the screening criteria remain effective and reasonable. At this point the screening criteria remain undetermined. LSCE requires additional time for their analyses, and a more substantive discussion can occur at the meeting in August.
  - **Concern:** Such criteria may negatively impact real estate values.
    - **Staff Response:** The Ordinance is not intended to be a restriction. If a proposed project does not satisfy certain standards, it is not permanently declined; it indicates the proposed project must undergo further analyses. Additionally, the standards under discussion today are for discretionary projects only.
  - **Staff Comment:** The WAA is designed to facilitate the applicant's permit process. The more data an applicant possesses, the more justifiable evidence is available if the project were to be challenged. There will be an updated draft WAA for the August meeting that should provide greater clarity for the draft screening criteria.

- **Discretionary projects.** Question: Can you clarify what projects are considered "discretionary?"

- **Response:** Discretionary projects include new wineries or new vineyards on a hillside with larger than 5% grade. Domestic homes are not considered "discretionary."

d. Consideration of Adopting an Ad-hoc Committee to Begin Work on Development of GW Sustainability Objectives

Mr. Lowe provided context for the Groundwater Sustainability Objectives, one of the GRAC's final products for the County Board of Supervisors. An initial discussion of how to best develop sustainability objectives would be an agenda item at the August meeting. After observing the success and efficiency of the communication and education ad-hoc committee, a number of Committee members had suggested creating an ad-hoc committee to start work on this topic. The ad-hoc committee would set the framework for discussion in August by considering the scope of the objectives, compiling background information, and reviewing case study examples. Eventually, after the August meeting, the committee would likely draft text for review and discussion with the GRAC.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Purpose of the sustainability objectives.** What led the Board of Supervisors to include these objectives as part of GRAC's charter? What would be included in the expected product?
  - **Response:** The exact details of the product were unspecified. The Board of Supervisors recognized that, in addition to helping establish the groundwater monitoring plan, the GRAC could provide value statements and recommendations. These might lead to future studies or identify other factors requiring further investigation and/or could be incorporated to the general plan at a future date. Ms. Gitelman suggested adding this to the GRAC's charge, which the Board chose to do.

- **Comment:** It would be preferable if the ad-hoc committee were to focus on the scope for the sustainability objectives and the specific contents of the document.

- **Guidance for addressing Areas of Concern. Staff Comment:** The objectives may address Areas of Concern that are outside of the MST borders.

ACTION ITEM: STAFF to organize a sustainability objectives ad-hoc committee meeting prior to the next GRAC meeting on August 22.

AGREEMENT: The GRAC agreed to create a sustainability objectives ad-hoc committee. Mr. Donald Gleason, Mr. David Graves, Ms. Marilee Talley, Mr. Jim Verhey, and Ms. Susanne von Rosenberg were appointed to the sustainability objectives ad-hoc committee.

e. Discuss Joint GRAC-WICC Board Meeting on Thursday, July 25

Patrick Lowe, Napa County, reviewed the agenda for the joint GRAC-WICC Board meeting on July 25, 4:00 p.m. at the Yountville Community Center. The meeting will focus on public and well owner outreach.

Chair Peter McCrea announced he will not be able to attend the GRAC-WICC meeting on July 25. Vice-Chair Michelle Benvenuto will assume the Chair's responsibilities at the GRAC-WICC meeting.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- **Presentation level of detail.** Some members of the WICC suggested reducing the level of detail since many of the WICC members do not have the same background knowledge on the groundwater monitoring that the GRAC has developed.

- **Potential WICC responsibilities.** Question: Once the GRAC completes its charge, would the WICC address future groundwater issues? The WICC also has City and County representatives.
    - **Staff Response:** Since they address a broad range of issues, it is conceivable that they would undertake those responsibilities.

6. Other Business

No other business items were presented.

7. Announcements

No announcements were presented.

8. Future Agenda Items

Proposed items include:

1. Update on outreach efforts

2. Draft WAA update
3. Draft Groundwater Ordinance/Permit Process update
4. List of potential Sustainability Objectives scope and contents

- **Request:** Meeting materials should be mailed ten days to two weeks in advance of the meeting.

9. Adjournment to the Next Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.
Agricultural Commissioner's Office/UCCE Conference Room
1710 Soscol Avenue, Napa CA

Attendees

Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee Members

1. Michelle Benvenuto
2. Tucker Catlin
3. Alan Galbraith
4. Donald Gleason
5. Michael Haley
6. Peter McCrea
7. Charles Slutzkin
8. Steve Soper
9. Marilee Talley
10. Bill Trautman
11. Susanne von Rosenberg
12. Duane Wall
13. Dale Withers

Public Attendees

None

County Staff/Facilitator/Consultant Attendees

14. Deborah Elliott
15. Dorian Fougères, CCP
16. Hillary Gitelman
17. Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, LSCE
18. Stephanie Horii, CCP
19. Steve Lederer
20. Patrick Lowe
21. Greg Morgan

A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County
Groundwater Resources
Advisory Committee

ACTION MINUTES
NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 25, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) met in a special joint session with the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) on Thursday, July 25, 2013 with the following GRAC members present:

Vice-Chair Michelle Benvenuto; Michael Haley; Marilee Talley; Susanne von Rosenberg; and Dale Withers. Tucker Catlin; Alan Galbraith; Dave Graves; Don Gleason; Chair Peter McCrea; Charles Slutzkin; Steve Soper; Bill Trautman; Jim Verhey; and Duane Wall were excused.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Lederer, Director, Public Works, provided opening comments.

3. UPDATES FROM THE WICC

Jeff Sharp, Principal Watershed Resources Planner, Public Works, gave an update on the WICC's and staff activities since March. The WICC participated in Earth Day in April, staffing an informational booth for the downtown Napa celebration. At their first meeting in May, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed May 2013 as Watershed Awareness Month in Napa County. The WICC website listed a number of events that provided recreational and stewardship opportunities involving the watersheds of the county. May's activities concluded with the Napa County Watershed Symposium being held at the Copia Theater on May 23. The symposium was well received with over 100 people attending and coincided with the launch of the redesigned WICC website. The new website design utilizes the modern web services tools and provides a more user-friendly experience. A connect tab at the top of the home page lets users enter their email address to receive the latest news, calendar of events and site updates. A new mapping structure on the site highlights Napa County's three main watersheds and provides a variety of information, such as soils, faults, streams and sub-watershed locations. One of the tasks for WICC staff for the new fiscal year is to provide more information through the improved mapping features. Mr. Sharp gave an update on the Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations mandated by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). County staff is following the development of an agricultural waiver of waste discharge reporting process related to the TMDL. The agricultural waiver was pulled back by the Regional Water Board due to public comments received. It is likely the permit for vineyards will return in the form of a general permit along the lines of the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. There is a compliance deadline of October 2014 mentioned in the TMDL. The County is researching if the deadline can be extended or if the Regional Water Board will use their discretion to delay enforcement. In relation to compliance, the County is developing a system to track TMDL implementation through a web-based tool that would catalog the County's efforts and report its progress in simple terms. The County is meeting with the Regional Water Board early next month to show the schematic of the design and to get their input and concurrence that the tool will be a local mechanism for compliance. Mr. Sharp reported on the

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progress of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning, which is the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) effort to manage California's water in an integrated fashion. DWR funding allows agencies to develop projects across jurisdictional boundaries. Napa County is split by two separate IRWM planning efforts: the Bay Area IRWM Plan, which includes the Napa River and Suisun basins, and the Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan, which covers the Putah Creek basin. The Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan was just completed and adopted by the Flood Board on July 9. A Round 2 IRWM implementation grant submittal requested $2 million to support some of the water districts around Lake Berryessa and fund a regional water conservation program for the Putah Creek area. The Bay Area IRWM Plan is nearing completion with only a few draft chapters still open for public comment. Comments can still be submitted at the Bay Area IRWM website. There will be a final public comment period on the whole plan itself. Both the Westside Sacramento and Bay Area IRWM Plans must be adopted by local agencies in order to obtain DWR funding. The Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan will go before the Board of Supervisors on August 6 for adoption, as well as the Lake Berryessa and Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement Districts. The next WICC meeting will be held Thursday, September 26. One of the presentations will be on the results of a pilot project conducted by the RCD that monitored streambed scour and gravel permeability funded by the Regional Water Board. There will also be a presentation on the new concept of agro-forestry in which truffles would be farmed under oak trees and a possible presentation on fire ecology.

4. UPDATES FROM THE GRAC

Michelle Benvenuto, GRAC Vice-Chair, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Napa County's Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program. Groundwater in Napa County has been monitored since the mid-1900s. Groundwater levels throughout the Napa Valley Floor are very stable with the exception of the Milliken-Sarco-Tulucay (MST) area, but even in that area recent stabilization has been shown. Overall, Napa County is in pretty good shape. Quality is generally good with the exception of Calistoga and in southern Napa County (the MST Subarea in the east, south of Soscol Avenue, Carneros and the Napa River marshes near Jameson Canyon). Recharge potential is also good. There is a need to find out more about the aquifers – what their state is and their interaction between groundwater and surface water; additional monitoring will help answer these questions. The Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program ties into the County's resources goals, coordinates data with other State and federal agencies and addresses monitoring data gaps that have been identified in a couple of different studies, some of which have involved the WICC. Priority monitoring areas were determined by looking at groundwater basins, sub-basins, subareas, identifying groundwater level and quality data gaps in the County subareas and then coming up with 18 areas of interest where additional monitoring wells are needed. The Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program will be in pretty good shape if one well can be located in each of the 18 priority areas. Wells and well owners have been identified in the areas of interest, and the GRAC has begun outreach efforts. Well owners are asked if their wells can be monitored twice a year – in the spring and fall. If a well owner agrees to participate, they are given a form to complete, which is then routed to County staff for follow-up. In addition to ongoing public outreach, the GRAC will be reviewing the County's draft Groundwater Ordinance and permit process, as well as sustainability objectives next month (a sustainability sub-committee of the GRAC met earlier this month). The GRAC's work will culminate with their recommendations being provided to the Board of Supervisors. Outreach is provided to the agricultural industry, environmental groups, this joint meeting, participating in community events and public speaking engagements in which GRAC members and staff will present to any group upon request. Groundwater sustainability ties into the County's General Plan goals and actions

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Item 4…Continued

and is also an action item for the GRAC as directed in the in the Board of Supervisors' creating Resolution. There is no universally accepted definition of groundwater sustainability, but the goal for Napa County is to maintain a stable, long-term supply of groundwater. Although groundwater is currently stable, additional monitoring will help maintain stability, which has been recently demonstrated in the MST.

Steve Lederer, Director, Public Works, reported on the current status of the Groundwater Ordinance and the Water Availability Analysis (WAA) report. Both documents are being updated by staff and the County's groundwater consultant, Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, Principal Hydrologist, LSCE, with input from the GRAC. The Ordinance, originally passed in 1999, was primarily in response to the MST decline. The GRAC has seen a draft and will review an updated draft in August. The WAA is also known as Phase 1 analysis or fair share. Since 1990, the County has adopted standards for groundwater use related to discretionary permits. If you use less than one acre foot of water per acre on the Napa Valley floor, less than 0.5 acre foot of water per acre in the hills or less than 0.3 acre foot of water per acre in the MST, it is assumed you are under your fair share. This has worked really well over the years as a general standard. There are other pieces of the WAA, such as the Phase 2 and 3 standards, which require additional pumping and other tests, that don't work very well. Staff and Ms. Kretsinger Grabert are working on improving the WAA by incorporating more scientific data and will bring a revised draft of the WAA to the GRAC's August meeting for review and comment.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Haley mentioned the sign-up sheets available for any well owners present who might be interested in participating in the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program. Jeff Sharp, Principal Watershed Resources Planner, Public Works, also asked those present if they knew any well owners in the areas of interest who might be interested in participating in the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program to contact staff and they will refer a GRAC member for follow-up.

Marilee Talley mentioned the Voluntary Groundwater Monitoring Program, which the WICC will eventually inherit, doesn't monitor just water levels but also water quality and is supported by an enriched database and the updated hydrogeologic conceptualization of the County (LSCE, 2013).

Mr. Sharp mentioned the groundwater basin maps developed as part of LSCE's work are on the WICC mapping site, and staff hopes to add to the website a simplified map of the geologic conceptualization (all the information underneath that isn't visible).

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7. ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee on Thursday, August 22, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

_____
MICHELLE BENVENUTO, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

_____
PATRICK LOWE, Secretary

_____
By: GREG MORGAN, Supervising Office Assistant

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GRA Committee Work Plan

2011

- October 2011 — 1st Meeting of GRAC; Welcome/Intro; Organization; GW Study Background
- December 2011 — GW Study Background; CASGEM; Outreach/Ed

2012

- February 2012 — Sonoma County GW Program; GW Concepts; Consultant Scope of Work; Well Demo; Comm/Ed Plan
- April 2012 — Outreach/Ed; MST Update; Outline of GW Monitoring; Data Mgmt/ Well Conf
- June 2012 — Adopt Mission St; Comm/Ed; Hydro Cond. Concept; GW Monitor-Plan(1-3)
- July 2012 — Joint GRAC-WICC Meeting
- August 2012 — GW Monitor-Plan(1-7); Adopt Comm-Ed Plan; Outreach Broch/Info
- October 2012 — Work Plan; Data Mgmt/ Disclosure; GWM Plan AOIs; Outreach Broch/Info; Next steps>

2013

- January 2013 — GWM Plan Adoption; Outreach Broch/Info; LSCE Hydro-Condition & Recharge (Part I)
- February 2013 — LSCE Hydro-Conditions (Part II); GW Data Mgmt; Outreach Schedule; GW Ordin Updates (Intro)
- April 2013 — GW Ordin Updates (cont'd); Outreach Activities Updates
- June 2013 — Ed/Outreach Updates; GW Ordin Updates; WAA Updates; Sustainability Ad-Hoc
- July 2013 — Joint GRAC-WICC Meeting
- <August > to **October 2013** — Outreach Updates; GW Sustainability Objectives; WAA Updates & Ad-Hoc

WE ARE HERE

2014

- December 2013 — GW Sustainability Objectives; WAA/Ad-Hoc Updates; Outreach Updates
- February 2014 — GW Sustainability Objectives; WAA Updates & GW Ord; Outreach &CASGEM Updates
- April 2014 — Conclude GRACs Work; Final Recomms to Board of Supervisors

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A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County
Groundwater Resources
Advisory Committee

GRAC
10-24-13
Item No. 5.a

Committee Members

Michelle Benvenuto
Tucker Catlin
Alan Galbraith
Don Gleason
Dave Graves
Michael Haley
Peter McCrea
Charles Slutzkin
Steve Soper
Marilee Talley
Bill Trautman
Jim Verhey
Susanne von Rosenberg
Duane Wall
Dale Withers

October 15, 2013

To: **Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)**

From: Patrick Lowe, Natural Resources Conservation Program Manager

Subject: Update on Well Owner and Industry Outreach

Well Owner Outreach

I hope everyone had a great summer and it looks like many are wrapping up another successful and early fall harvest. Our well owner outreach has also been successful thanks to your efforts and we hope to be able to finish this up in the coming months. I have been busy meeting with property owners that you have contacted and also receiving completed sign-ups from others. I have attached a summary table that provides an update on the status for each of the Areas of Interest (AOIs) along with the AOIs Map. As you can see, we are making great progress, but we still have some gaps to fill. If you have additional updates or see anything I may have missed, please be sure to let me know so we can share them at the meeting. We will want to get an accurate update on all of our well owner outreach to date so that we can focus our efforts in the remaining areas. We have also been working on the well owner outreach list indicating owners that you know in each of the AOIs. We have only heard from a few of you, so if you still think this would be useful, be sure to send us your list. Otherwise, just continue your outreach efforts and feel free to contact well owners that you know, which I think some of you are already doing. Thanks again to everyone for your help.

Letter from the Napa Valley Grapegrowers

A copy of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers letter to the Board of Supervisors that we mentioned would be coming at our last meeting is attached. This is the letter their Industry Issues Committee discussed sending after GRAC committee members and staff (Jim, Tucker, Michael, Phil/me) met with them in late June. It mentions the concerns that some of their members may have, which we went over and addressed at the meeting, and it also asks that the County Legislative Committee pursue the confidentiality issue for the protection of property owners that may want to join the voluntary monitoring effort. The timing of this letter was good, just before discussions of possible legislative platform/issues with the County's lobbyist, where staff explained the issue and the benefit of a confidentiality provision for well owners who were voluntarily providing groundwater monitoring data. If narrowly tailored, they didn't think it was impossible, but open government groups (and newspapers) would most likely fight it vigorously, as they do all attempts to limit public records on anything. Our lobbyists will be looking into this issue further in Sacramento and we will update the GRAC on their progress.

804 First Street,
Napa, CA
94559

Tel: 707-259-8600
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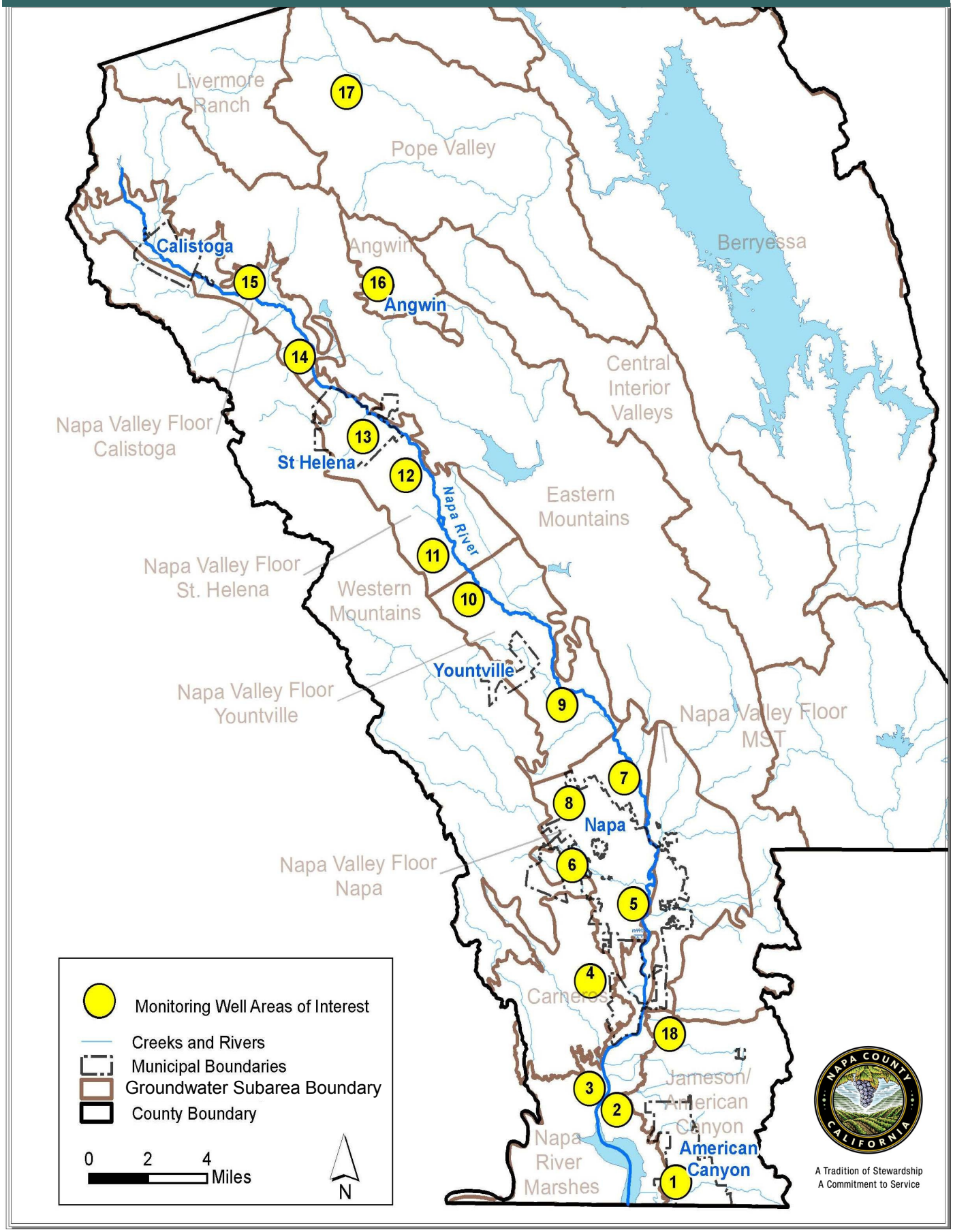
VOLUNTEER MONITORING WELL OUTREACH- STATUS UPDATE

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 2013

AOI #	Location	1st member	2nd member	Well Sign-up Status	Notes
1	Jameson/American Cyn	C. Slutzkin	S. von Rosenberg	Pending	Outreach underway with the help of Supervisor Keith Caldwell; limited well availability in this area
2	Napa River Marshes	C. Slutzkin	S. von Rosenberg	Pending	Outreach underway with the help of Supervisor Keith Caldwell; limited well availability in this area
3	Napa River Marshes	C. Slutzkin	S. von Rosenberg	1 - In-progress	Dave Graves is working on a sign-up at this time
4	Carneros	D. Graves	M. Benvenuto	1 - Completed 1 - In-progress	Dave Graves has voluntered their well at Saintsbury and he is working on 1 other sign-up at this time
5	Napa Valley Floor/Napa	M. Benvenuto	M. Talley	Pending 1 – Completed(MST)	Our on-going ed/outreach resulted in one volunteer in the outer MST; still need a well near the river
6	NVF/Napa	M. Benvenuto	M. Talley	Pending	No updates at this time; limited candidate wells are identified in this area of Browns Valley Rd/Westview Dr
7	NVF/Napa	J. Verhey	M. Haley	3 - Completed	Jim Verhey volunteered 2 wells on his properties and recruited one additional well owner
8	NVF/Napa	J. Verhey	M. Haley	1 - Completed 1 - In-progress	Jim Verhey recruited 2 well owners; sign-up is completed for one, and one is pending a site visit/sign-up
9	NVF/Yountville	J. Verhey	M. Haley	2 - Completed	Michael Haley volunteered 2 wells on his properties
10	NVF/Yountville	M. Haley	D. Wall	Pending	No updates at this time; a number of good candidate wells are identified in this area south of Oakville Cross Rd
11	NVF/St Helena	A. Galbraith	P. McCrea	Pending	No updates at this time; a number of good candidate wells are identified in this area north of Mondavi Winery
12	NVF/St Helena	A. Galbraith	P. McCrea	Pending	No updates at this time; a number of good candidate wells are identified in this area around Zinfandel Ln
13	NVF/St Helena	A. Galbraith	P. McCrea	1 - Completed 1 – In-progress	Alan Galbraith volunteered the well on his property; and looking into two other wells owned by the City of SH
14	NVF/Calistoga	T. Catlin	P. McCrea	Pending	No updates at this time; a number of good candidate wells are identified in this area around Ehlers Ln
15	NVF/Calistoga	D. Gleason	D. Wall	In-progress	Met with an interested property owner and they are also outreaching to their neighbors; follow-up mtg in Nov
16	Angwin	D. Wall	D. Withers	In-progress	Dale Withers has outreach underway to several prospective property/well owners in this area
17	Pope Valley	T. Catlin	M. Benvenuto	Pending	No updates at this time; limited candidate wells identified in this area
18	Jameson/American Cyn	C. Slutzkin	S. von Rosenberg	Pending	Outreach underway with the help of Supervisor Keith Caldwell; limited well availability in this area

Monitoring Well Areas of Interest



Keith Caldwell
County Administration Building
1195 Third Street Suite 310
Napa, CA 94559

September 16, 2013

Dear Supervisor Caldwell,

The Napa Valley Grapegrowers, representing over 650 vineyard owners and associated businesses, met this summer with industry representatives on the Groundwater Resource Advisory Council (GRAC) and county staff so that we could better understand the proposed GRAC process for collecting well data. The NVG has been supportive of the GRAC since its inception and we remain committed to the best use and management of our natural resources. There are, however, several concerns growers may have that the NVG Industry Issues Committee identified: the confidentiality of data provided; whether the process will remain voluntary; how the data will be used; what the protocols for sampling will be; and whether aquifer and waterway recharge is factored in.

We understand that California state law dictates confidentiality for this kind of monitoring. We urge the Napa County Legislative Committee to pursue this protection for Napa vineyard owners who wish to contribute to the project, but who may not want the details of their well data available to the public or for uses beyond this study. In our view, securing confidentiality will go a long way toward supporting a robust groundwater survey that will inform the GRAC and the County as we face the future of responsible water use and management in Napa County.

Sincerely,

Jennifer K. Putnam
Executive Director

cc:
Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht
Supervisor Mark Luce
Supervisor Diane Dillon
Supervisor Bill Dodd
Patrick Lowe
Jim Verhey
Tucker Catlin

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES FRAMEWORK

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)

Revised October 9, 2013

Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

Per direction at the GRAC's June 27, 2013, meeting, the Groundwater Sustainability Objectives Ad-Hoc Committee (AHC) met on July 12 (in-person), August 12 (teleconference), September 13 (in-person), and October 10 (teleconference), 2013, to develop initial thoughts on the scope and appropriate level of detail of objectives, and review good examples of similar work. This handout summarizes the AHC's initial thoughts and suggestions regarding a potential definition, design principles, topics, and guest speakers.

1. Goal of Developing Groundwater Sustainability Objectives

The use of groundwater is essential to protecting the quality of life in Napa County because groundwater is integral to agriculture, the wine industry, the cities, and the culture of the region. Therefore the overarching goal of developing sustainability objectives is to protect the groundwater resources of Napa County for all the people who live and work here, regardless of the source of their water supply. This builds on the County's General Plan and associated actions.

2. Suggested Definition of Groundwater Sustainability

The AHC recognized that "sustainability" is a general concept that can be defined in various ways, and therefore suggested using a definition that explicitly links "groundwater" and "sustainability," per the GRAC's charge from the Board of Supervisors.

The AHC referenced a definition from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that reads, "Development and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained for an indefinite time without causing unacceptable environmental, economic, or social consequences." The AHC chose to add positive benefits to this definition, and suggested the following definition for GRAC consideration:

> *Groundwater sustainability depends on the development and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained indefinitely without causing unacceptable economic, environmental, or social consequences, while protecting economic, environmental, and social benefits.*

Such a definition allows the GRAC to define the objectives and identify the benefits that should be protected, rather than pre-determining them.

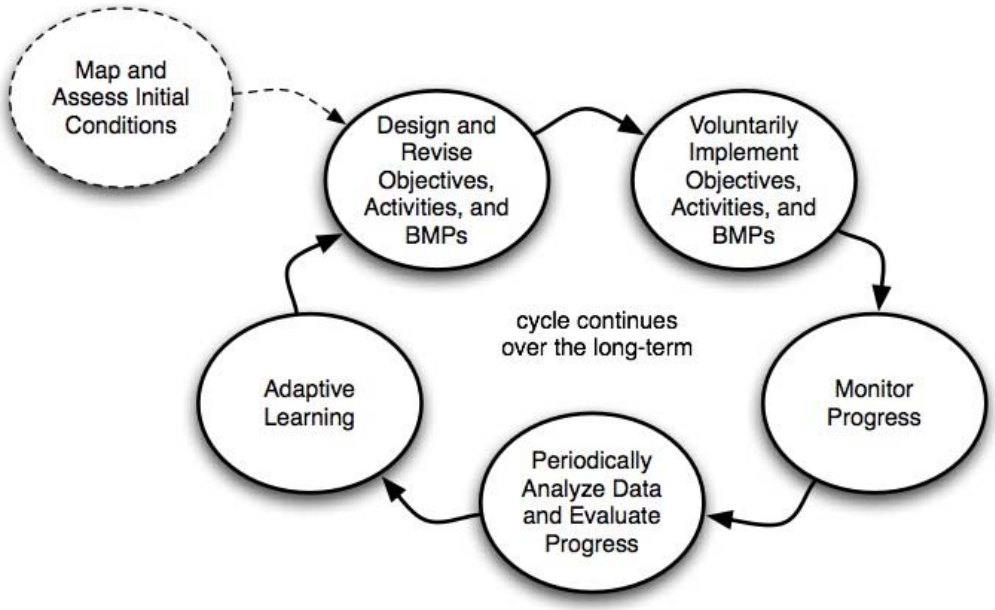
- Examples of unacceptable consequences included: insufficient water supplies for agriculture, wine production, and business operations; loss of groundwater wells; loss of real estate value; loss of fish habitat and decline of fish populations; and increased governmental intervention in groundwater resources.

- Examples of benefits included: protection of quality of life, small town rural setting, agricultural communities, the county's economy, and groundwater in the valley; healthy streams; and proactively avoiding state and county intervention in groundwater resources.

Groundwater sustainability involves cities, private well owners, residents, and workers, as well as the County and unincorporated areas. Everyone who lives and works in the County shares responsibility and has a stake in protecting groundwater resources, including groundwater supplies, quality, and associated watersheds. These objectives for cities, individuals, and the county should be coordinated accordingly.

- The objectives should emphasize the shared responsibility of all the people who live and work in Napa for stewarding groundwater resources.
- The objectives should recognize that everyone is connected to groundwater, and that without this resource the character of the County would be significantly different in terms of its economy, communities, rural character, ecology, housing, and lifestyles.
- Healthy agriculture cannot be separated from healthy communities and healthy environments. None of these exist in isolation. The County would not be the same if any of these components were adversely affected.

Monitoring is not a goal in itself, rather it is an activity that supports the larger goal of sustainability. Achieving groundwater sustainability is an adaptive process that, among other things, maintains the ability of future generations to make choices about how they use groundwater resources. Monitoring is only one step in the larger adaptive cycle, albeit an important one, along with evaluating progress toward meeting objectives, learning from activities, revising objectives and activities and best management practices (BMPs), and voluntarily implementing these. The following diagram summarizes the process.



3. Design Principles

The AHC discussed and suggested the following principles as a way to organize the objectives.

- Objectives are to be "achieved through voluntary means and incentives", per the charge from the Board of Supervisors.
- Objectives should build directly off the County's General Plan Conservation Element and the GRAC's associated Monitoring Plan, so there is a clear policy foundation for each objective.
    - Acknowledge and reference existing County climate change policies, rather than developing new climate change objectives, given the rapidly evolving nature of this topic.
- Objectives should follow the SMART+C format: be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant/realistic, timed, and challenging. They should also remain short, simple, and understandable.
- Some objectives may be more quantitatively detailed, while others may be more of a general aspiration, depending on the topic and the available data.
- Some objectives may apply to the County as a whole, while others may be tailored to sub-regions, depending on the topic and sub-regional needs.
- When possible, objectives should have multiple benefits (social, economic, environmental).
- When trade-offs exist, clearly identify and acknowledge them so people can make informed decisions about their actions.
- The objectives should include linkages between groundwater and surface water, given their important interconnections.
- Objectives should include both the water supply and water demand side, including things like reservoir dredging as well as water conservation.
- Objectives should point to best management practices, where they exist, to help reduce water use without impacting business economics or lifestyles.
- Objectives should acknowledge groundwater management policies where they already exist (e.g., MST, and Integrated Regional Water Management plans). Stewardship of groundwater use currently occurs and can be strengthened through enhanced private responsibility, as well as existing regulations, programs, and mandates. Further regulation is not an objective.
- Objectives should acknowledge that many private individuals are already taking care of their groundwater resources. Their participation in the monitoring program will help ensure that their ongoing stewardship activities are meeting the goal of groundwater sustainability.

4. Potential Objective Topics

The AHC brainstormed several possible topics for which objectives could be developed, and considered grouping these according to headers used by the USGS in Sonoma County. Some topics could come under different headers. The headers include:

- Education and Outreach
- Existing Management Efforts
- Groundwater Quantity
- Groundwater Quality
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Data and Modeling

A list of potential topics under each header is provided as an appendix. The Ad-Hoc brainstormed the list and recognizes that some are already being addressed (e.g., voluntary monitoring plan), some are very broad and will require specification, some are more urgent, and some may require resources that are not currently available (e.g., climate change scenario modeling and exploration).

5. Guest Speaker Considerations

The AHC discussed what would constitute a good guest speaker. They suggested that one or more guest speakers should:

- Have experience with groundwater in the context of vineyards
- Have experience establishing similar objectives
- Have experience with successfully navigating a groundwater crisis
- Provide a landowner perspective
- Come from a different region of the state
- Be knowledgeable about statewide legislative trends, debates, and proposals

Appendix A: Brainstormed List of Potential Objective Topics

- **Education and Outreach**
  - Education of people, agencies, and organizations in the cities and rural areas
  - Outreach to schools and institutional landowners
  - Best management practices for residential, agricultural, and commercial/institutional
- **Existing Management Efforts**
  - Mitigation of groundwater overdraft in MST
  - Needs in Carneros
  - Contaminated aquifer remediation
  - Relationship to parallel efforts (for example, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, Water Boards Basin Plan)
  - Relationship to various land uses
- **Groundwater Quantity**
  - Agricultural, municipal, and rural residential use
  - Water supply
  - Water conservation
  - Recycled water
  - Aquifer protection and recharge and remediation, including conjunctive use and flood risk management
  - Groundwater-surface water interactions
  - Stream and riparian ecology
  - Role of imported water
  - Climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - Optimization and enhancement of current supplies
- **Groundwater Quality**
  - Wellhead protection
  - Saltwater intrusion
  - Groundwater-surface water interactions
  - Relationship to various land uses
  - Stream and riparian ecology
  - Urban and agricultural runoff
- **Groundwater Monitoring**
  - Voluntary monitoring plan
  - Watershed assessment indicators
- **Data and Modeling**
  - Voluntary monitoring plan
  - County-level groundwater inflow/outflow budget estimation
  - Sound scientific information, data and analyses
  - Protection of collected data
  - Protocol for constructive use of data in planning
  - Climate change scenario modeling and exploration

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TABLE OF EXAMPLE OBJECTIVES

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)

October 9, 2013

Objective Category: Education and Outreach

General Objective: Education of people, agencies, and organizations in the cities and rural areas.

Specific Objective	Metrics	Relevance	Timing/ Schedule	Challenging?
Everyone has a stake in protecting the County's groundwater resources. Therefore, educate and obtain formal acknowledgment by city legislative bodies of County General Plan Conservation Goal #11, including prioritization under multiple water year scenarios.	Number of cities that have formally acknowledged CON-11. Develop and include scenarios for average, dry, and very dry years in appropriate plans.	High	For Napa and American Canyon (which have Urban Water Mgmt. Plans), timeline is 2015, when next round of UWMPs are due, or 2020 if this cannot be incorporated in time. For cities without UWMPs, 2016.	Low-Medium

Objective Category: Groundwater Supply

General Objective: Water Conservation

Specific Objective	Metrics	Relevance	Timing/ Schedule	Challenging?
Reduce existing groundwater use 20% countywide below 2010* baseline levels through implementation of water conservation measures/best practices. * Note: would need to define baseline	___ gallons of GW "saved".	High	Step 1: Quantify baseline. Step 2: Identify "best management practices": Agricultural, Residential, Wineries, Commercial. Step 3: Develop education and outreach program. Step 4: Develop incentive program for residential users. Step 5: Conduct Assessment – adaptive management.	Step 1: High Step 2: Low Step 3: Low-Medium Step 4: Medium (cost) Step 5: Low-Medium

Objective Category: Groundwater Supply

General Objective: Recycled Water

Specific Objective	Metrics	Relevance	Timing/ Schedule	Challenging?
Maximize Recycled Water Use County-Wide	100% of "Recyclable" Water is Reused.	High	Step 1: Quantify recyclable water (current capacity and future capacity with modifications): 2015. Step 2: Identify potential users: 2015. Step 3: Estimate Costs for Current Supply and Expanded Capacity/Future Supply; Develop Financing Mechanisms: 2016-17. Step 4: Develop detailed implementation plan: 2018. Step 5: Complete build-out for current supply: 2020. Step 6: Complete build-out for maximum supply: 2025.	Step 1: Low-Medium Step 2: Low Step 3: High (need for financing) Step 4: Medium Step 5: Low Step 6: Low

Objective Category: Groundwater Quantity

General Objective: Water Supply

Specific Objective	Metrics	Relevance	Timing/ Schedule	Challenging?
Optimize existing water supply and distribution systems.	Quantified potential gains in available water.	High	Step 1: Prepare inventory of public/quasi-public water storage and distribution systems' capacity (lakes/reservoirs/pipelines). Step 2: Evaluate performance of water storage and distribution systems. Step 3: Identify possibilities for enhancement/ improvement of water storage and distribution systems, including in light of climate change scenarios (e.g., conjunctive use).	Medium (cost)

MEETING SUMMARY

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AD-HOC COMMITTEE
Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)
July 12, 2013
Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

Per direction at the GRAC's June 27, 2013, meeting, the Groundwater Sustainability Objectives Ad-Hoc Committee (AHC) met on July 12, 2013, to develop initial thoughts on the scope and appropriate level of detail of objectives, and review good examples of similar work. The meeting goals included discussing how to best (1) frame the development of groundwater sustainability objectives ("objectives"), and (2) present this information to the GRAC and the August 22 meeting.

Action Items

1. **Patrick** to follow-up with USGS regarding their confidentiality protocol and potential applicability to County policy
2. **Marilee Talley** to distribute via Dorian the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan objectives and relevant California Water Plan Resource Management Strategies
3. **Ad-Hoc Members** to review the SVGWMP objectives and Ca. Water Plan Resource Management Strategies
4. **Ad-Hoc Members** to begin thinking about potential guest speakers based on the suggested criteria
5. **Staff** to draft handout summarizing initial suggestions and circulate to Ad-Hoc members for feedback
6. **Ad-Hoc Members** to meet on August 13 to finalize handout and preparations for August 22 GRAC meeting

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Patrick Lowe, Napa County, welcomed members and opened the session.

Staff Updates: Patrick Lowe, Napa County, noted the release of the USGS Santa Rosa Plain Basin Groundwater Study.

- The 10-year study developed a robust monitoring network and a surface water-groundwater model, and also recommended additional monitoring locations.
- USGS has greater capacity to maintain confidentiality due to federal statute.
    - **ACTION ITEM**: **Patrick** to follow-up with USGS regarding their confidentiality protocol and potential applicability to County policy

Outreach update: Mr. Jim Verhey reported that a number of well-owners have chosen to not participate in the voluntary monitoring program because they do not see any benefit. Mr. Verhey suggested the County develop some kind of incentive for participation. The example

was noted of counting sediment management measures toward sediment total maximum daily loads in the case the Rutherford Dust Society.

- Concern was expressed that not all well owners would participate regardless, and the program should not create special incentives. It was suggested to reiterate the benefit to current and future generations, and stop there.
- Concern was expressed that an effort to provide special recognition to voluntary monitoring plan participants would be logistically difficult in practice. For example, what if people offered their wells, but were not selected for inclusion in the monitoring – would they still get special recognition?
- Mr. Patrick Lowe, Napa County, noted that it would likely be difficult for the County to provide special consideration. Mr. Lowe noted that articles, such as the recent series on groundwater overdraft around Paso Robles, helped emphasize the importance of the monitoring program and its goals.
- If members desire, they may raise this topic for discussion at the August GRAC meeting during the report-back on efforts to solicit voluntary monitoring plan participants.

Discussion for Sustainability Objectives Framework

A. Design Principles

Based on discussion, ad-hoc committee members agreed to suggest to the GRAC the following design principles for crafting groundwater sustainability objectives.

- Recognizing that "sustainability" is a general concept that can be defined in various ways, use a definition that explicitly links "groundwater" and "sustainability," per the GRAC's charge from the Board of Supervisors.
- Emphasize that the objectives are to be "achieved through voluntary means and incentives", per the charge from the Board of Supervisors
    - Mention that the County has existing policies and mechanisms that can support achieving objectives.
- Have the objectives build directly off the County's General Plan Conservation Element and the GRAC's associated Monitoring Plan, so there is a clear policy foundation for each objective.
    - Objectives should help satisfy State policy requirements for future State funding.
    - State policies such as the California Water Sustainability Indicators Framework and the California Water Code may provide additional parameters.
    - At the same time, objectives may need to be developed for topics that are not covered in the Monitoring Plan.
- When possible, suggest objectives that have multiple benefits – in other words, objectives that support social, economic, and environmental benefits at the same time
- When possible, ensure that objectives are measurable and have a target date for achievement

- Recognize that some objectives may be more quantitatively detailed, while others may be more of a general aspiration, depending on the topic and the available data
- Recognize that some objectives may apply to the County as a whole, while others may be tailored to sub-regions, depending on the topic and sub-regional needs
- When trade-offs exist, clearly identify and acknowledge them so people can make informed decisions about their actions

B. Key Questions/Discussion

GRAC members identified key questions and discussion items for framing the development of the Sustainability Objectives.

1. Definition of Sustainability. Members discussed different possible definitions for sustainability.

- The definition could use similar language as the General Plan Goal CON-10: "Conserve, enhance and manage water resources on a sustainable basis to attempt to ensure that sufficient amounts of water will be available for the uses allowed by this General Plan, for the natural environment, and for future generations."
- It was suggested to focus the definition on groundwater, per the GRAC's charge from the Board of Supervisors.
- The term "resilience" could be useful, as it acknowledges that there are different possible futures and hence it is important to maintain flexibility.
- The AHC referenced a definition of "sustainability" from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that reads, "Development and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained for an indefinite time without causing unacceptable environmental, economic, or social consequences."
    - Members agreed to suggest a revised, positively-worded USGS definition to the GRAC, such as "*"Groundwater sustainability refers to the development and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained for an indefinite time while protecting environmental, economic, and social benefits."*
- It was noted that such a definition allows the GRAC to identify the benefits that should be protected, rather than pre-determining them.
- Climate change is a major consideration, as noted in the recent National Climate Assessment. A lot of the County's economic activity depends on the State Water Project, and climate change could reduce supply from this source.
    - This raises the concept of "self-sufficiency." Should the County be thinking about sustainability under current conditions only, or should it also consider reducing its dependence on water imported from the Delta?
    - This also raises the issue of coordination with Integrated Regional Water Management plans, which are intended to advance regional self-sufficiency, and the Water Boards' Basin Management Objectives. The County participates in the North Bay IRWM and the Westside IRWM.

- It was suggested to acknowledge and reference existing County climate change policies, rather than developing new climate change objectives, given the rapidly evolving nature of this topic.
    - The objectives should recognize Napa Valley's vulnerability to climate change impacts and the need to think about mitigation of near-term impacts as well as adaption to long-term impacts, without explicitly offering recommendations beyond the scope of the GRAC.
    - The objectives should refer to other current policies, such as the County's Climate Action Plan currently in development, the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and other adaptive management policies.
    - A related but different question outside the current scope is, Where should existing County policies possibly be revised to acknowledge groundwater resources?
    - Mr. Lowe noted that the GRAC is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, and will recommend the series of documents that respond to the GRAC's charge, including the voluntary groundwater monitoring plan, revised ordinance, and groundwater sustainability objectives. This will help the Board set budget priorities for the next one to five years.

2. Main Topics. Based on example materials, members brainstormed possible topics that the objectives might address. The ad-hoc committee considered grouping these according to headers used by the USGS in Sonoma County. Some topics could come under different headers, and are repeated below.

- **Groundwater Quantity**
    - Agricultural, municipal, and rural residential use
    - Water conservation
    - Recycled water
    - Aquifer protection and recharge
    - Groundwater-surface water interactions
    - Stream and riparian ecology
    - Role of imported water
    - Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- **Groundwater Quality**
    - Wellhead protection
    - Saltwater intrusion
    - Groundwater-surface water interactions
    - Relationship to various land uses
    - Stream and riparian ecology
- **Groundwater Monitoring**
    - Voluntary monitoring plan
    - Watershed assessment indicators
- **Data Management and Access**
    - Voluntary monitoring plan
- **Education and Outreach**
    - Best management practices
- **Management Considerations**
    - Mitigation of groundwater overdraft in MST
    - Needs in Carneros
    - Contaminated aquifer remediation
    - Relationship to parallel efforts (for example, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, Water Boards Basin Plan)
    - Relationship to various land uses

3. Level of Detail and Technical Specificity. The committee noted that the level of specificity would vary based on the specific topic addressed by an objective. Some might be more technically detailed, based on the topic and available data. The group also suggested:

- Consider including core objectives that apply to the county as a whole, as well as more specific objectives for sub-regional Areas of Concern (e.g., the MST, possibly the Carneros region).
- General Plan Conservation Goal #10 may provide more specific recommendations.
- For topics that require additional research or have substantial unknowns, the corresponding objectives should allow for adaptation and flexibility. Some objectives may need to be refined over time.
    - Indicators and criteria for revisiting an objective may need to be identified.

4. Linkages Between Sustainability Objectives and Other Policies and Studies. The group discussed linking the objectives to other current county and state policies, such as the County's General Plan. The following suggestions and comments were provided:

- First clarify the GRAC's charge in developing the Sustainability Objectives, and clarify that the GRAC is not developing an action plan.
- Explain how the County will use the GRAC's recommendations in future decisions.
    - The objectives will help prioritize conservation efforts when the County develops a long-term funding plan.
    - The Napa County Watershed Information Center and Conservancy will likely provide ongoing recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors.
- As noted earlier, the Bay Area IRWMP addresses groundwater at the regional scale, and the State Water Board provides Basin Management Objectives, but these may be too general.
- A handout could be developed at a future date with a list of recent groundwater legislation and policies and proposed legislation. This would provide greater context for the State's funding requirements and the GRAC's work.

5. Examples: What to replicate and what to avoid? It was noted that some examples were too general and applied to higher levels of government, such as the objectives of the Association of California Water Agencies, or were part of a management process. A member suggested that the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan and the California Water Plan 2009 may provide useful examples of objectives.

ACTION ITEM: **Marilee Talley** to distribute via Dorian the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan objectives and relevant California Water Plan Resource Management Strategies
ACTION ITEM: **Ad-Hoc Members** to review the SVGWMP objectives and Ca. Water Plan Resource Management Strategies

6. Guest Speakers. The group discussed possible criteria for guest speakers. The group suggested that one or more guest speakers should:

- Have experience with groundwater in the context of vineyards
- Have experience establishing similar objectives
- Have experience with successfully navigating a groundwater crisis
- Provide a landowner perspective
- Come from a different region of the state
- Be knowledgeable about statewide legislative trends, debates, and proposals

ACTION ITEM: **Ad-Hoc Members** to begin thinking about potential guest speakers based on the suggested criteria

C. Preparation for August GRAC Meeting

The group agreed that a short handout would help to advance discussion at the August 22, 2013, GRAC meeting, and should touch on a possible definition, design principles, potential topics, and speaker considerations. Ms. Marilee Talley and Ms. Susanne von Rosenberg agreed to lead the Ad-Hoc Committee's report-back to the full GRAC on August 22.

ACTION ITEM: **Staff** to draft handout summarizing initial suggestions and circulate to Ad-Hoc members for feedback
ACTION ITEM: **Ad-Hoc Members** to meet on August 13 to finalize handout and preparations for August 22 meeting

Attendees

Ad-Hoc Committee Members

1. David Graves (teleconference)
2. Marilee Talley
3. Susanne von Rosenberg
4. Jim Verhey (teleconference)

Staff

5. Dorian Fougères, CCP
6. Stephanie Horii, CCP
7. Patrick Lowe, Napa County

Absent (Excused)

8. Donald Gleason

TELECONFERENCE SUMMARY

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AD-HOC COMMITTEE
Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)
August 13, 2013
Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

Per direction at the GRAC's June 27, 2013, meeting, the Groundwater Sustainability Objectives Ad-Hoc Committee (AHC) met for a second time on August 13, 2013, this time by teleconference. The meeting goal was to review and improve a draft handout prepared based on their first meeting, held on July 12.

Action Items

1. Each member to draft what they feel are two or three critical objectives, and bring these to the September 13 meeting. Each objective should follow the "SMART" format: be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant/realistic, timed, and challenging.
2. The facilitator to update the draft sustainability objectives handout per discussion, including the definition of "sustainability" and the adaptive management cycle.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mr. Patrick Lowe, Napa County, welcomed members and opened the teleconference.

2. Review of Member Comments

- The link between groundwater and surface water should be called out, since groundwater does not exist in a vacuum. Second, policy for county wells needs to be differentiated yet coordinated with policy for city and private wells. Third, the objectives should remain short, simple, and understandable. Fourth, while water conservation remains important, looking at opportunities to enhance supply should also be included.
- Both supply and conservation were important, and that best management practices could reduce water use without impacting business economics or lifestyles. Monitoring was key to validating that supplies were adequate, except for the MST, Calistoga, and Carneros where there were geologic concerns, and thus the state should stay out of groundwater policy.
- Based on documents submitted by Mr. Warren Flint (public), the definition of sustainability should be revised to include future choices. Additionally, the form for evaluating objectives was helpful, as well as the idea of including some objectives that were challenging.

3. Improvement of the Sustainability Objectives Handout

- Sustainability should be viewed as an adaptive process that includes future generations making choices. This included monitoring and mapping, managing (MST, Carneros), and

measuring impacts (analyzing data). The focus here was measuring impacts, which was rooted in monitoring.

  - A member agreed that sustainability was a process that involved evaluating effectiveness. He also noted the need to add "avoidance of unacceptable consequences" to the definition, because the idea of social benefits did not have traction with most landowners. There need to be clear benefits to individual landowners. Examples could be provided in the materials.
  - Mr. Lowe, Napa County, noted that recent experiences on the Central Coast provided examples of consequences to avoid. Another topic that GRAC members had flagged was the avoidance of state intervention through preemptive action by landowners.
  - The document should enumerate example benefits and consequences. Benefits included the quality of life, the small town rural settings, and agricultural communities.

- There is a need to differentiate between County, City, private well owners, and general public audiences. Each objective would apply to different audiences.
- The group should think about these groups not as audiences, but as participants, to emphasize shared responsibility.
- The focus should be every person that lived and worked in Napa County.
- It was important to being inclusive and also to get county landowners in unincorporated areas on board, given that cities on board obtained water from the State Water Project, so would not be as directly affected by groundwater shortages.
- A member supported the idea of starting with the protection of groundwater resources in Napa County as the goal. The purpose was to sustain the lifestyle and water in the valley for everyone, through education and monitoring. Monitoring (data collection) provides the information to determine whether this is being achieved (evaluation).
  - This was different from generic social benefits, and framed the monitoring program not as an end it itself but rather part of a larger process; it was only one step in a loop that included assessment of the resources, education, management in some situations, and other activities.
  - This was fundamentally different than how the GRAC had framed its work to date, and would change the conversation dramatically. It puts the monitoring in context of broader goals, and gives the monitoring program a discrete purpose. One starts with sustainability of lifestyle and community, preserving and protecting the character of Napa, and a larger process for sustaining these resources that includes measurement and monitoring as part of a larger package of activities.
- Regarding the term "management", there is an existing management program and associated permits for the MST region. Second, the County's policy on climate change will require adaptive management over the next 50 years as sea levels rise and increase salinity in the southern part of the county. Third, the two Integrated Regional Water Management Programs that Napa County participates in have Resource Management Strategies, such as recycled water, dredging reservoirs, and forest management (re-

oaking). The point is that such activities are already occurring in a larger context, and the County does not have to be involved, people are already managing their own resources.

  - Nonetheless the term "management" typically implied that the County was involved in some kind of problem. Landowners perceive that this will eventually lead to the County taking control of their resources. It would be helpful to frame the purpose of sustainability objectives as deferring or avoiding management and governance by the County or state by instead having landowners manage their resources more effectively without government involvement; the County is willing to leave it to landowners, so long as they participate – and everyone is asked to participate, cities, agencies, all people – in protecting the resource, including the monitoring program to ensure that we are all doing a good job.
  - The GRAC is facing fear from landowners that the County will try to control groundwater resources, and suggested using a term like "maintenance" or "stewardship" instead of maintenance.
  - A combination of terms was more accurate, including responses, tools, stewardship; management does tend to imply a central authority. That said, a challenge in the MST is that people are quick to blame others rather than taking responsibility for conserving or using greywater. So landowners have an interest in management, too, even if that's only to avoid the negative consequences of the public seeing them as the problem. Management should be one part of the toolkit for bringing the county together to achieve a greater shared goal.
  - These issues involve everyone in the County, not just people in one area. This is an opportunity to address countywide issues, to encourage landowner stewardship that is countywide and inclusive.
  - Mr. Lowe noted that the term "management" was purposely avoided in framing the GRAC's work because of its connotations of command and control, compared with stewardship.
  - The material should add principles about the shared responsibility of everyone who lives and works in the county, being all-inclusive, and applicability to the county as a whole, including urban incorporated areas. The wide range of parties involved should be called out explicitly, so that vineyard owners can see that they are not being singled out.

- A relatively small number of residents depend on groundwater, and a secondary number if one includes people who work for wineries. That will affect how the greater body politic looks at the issue.
  - It was suggested that this applied to the short-term, while the long term involved employment, the county's rural character, and quality of life. Those not directly affected will always be indirectly affected; if the land weren't a vineyard, it would be a housing development.
- The objectives involving water quantity should include something about conjunctive use and/or flood risk management. Aquifer recharge and flood management are big topics in the county; proper management of flood risk can help recharge aquifers. Runoff from

urban areas is also important and affects water quality in aquifers and streams; it should be included with agricultural runoff.

4. Next Steps

3. **ACTION ITEM:** Each member to draft what they feel are two or three critical objectives, and bring these to the September 13 meeting. Each objective should follow the "SMART" format: be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant/realistic, timed, and challenging.
4. **ACTION ITEM:** The facilitator to update the draft sustainability objectives handout per discussion, including the definition of "sustainability" and the adaptive management cycle.

Attendees

Ad-Hoc Committee Members

1. Don Gleason
2. Marilee Talley
3. Susanne von Rosenberg
4. Jim Verhey

Staff

5. Dorian Fougères, CCP
6. Patrick Lowe, Napa County

Absent (Excused)

7. David Graves

MEETING SUMMARY

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AD-HOC COMMITTEE
Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)
September 13, 2013
Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

Per direction at the GRAC's June 27, 2013, meeting, the Groundwater Sustainability Objectives Ad-Hoc Committee (AHC) met for a third time on September 13, 2013. The meeting goals were to review and finalize a revised handout developed from prior AHC discussions and prepare examples of sustainability objectives to present at the next GRAC meeting on October 24, 2013.

Action Items

1. The facilitator to update the draft sustainability objectives handout based upon the feedback from the Ad-Hoc Committee.
2. The facilitator to revise the draft objectives table per feedback from the Ad-Hoc Committee.
3. The facilitator to schedule final check-in call with Ad-Hoc Committee prior to GRAC October meeting.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mr. Patrick Lowe, Napa County, welcomed Ad-Hoc Committee (AHC) members and opened the session by telephone. Mr. Lowe could not make it in person due to an existing obligation.

Staff Updates

- Mr. Lowe announced that Ms. Hillary Gitelman, Napa County's Planning Director, will be leaving in mid-October to become the Director of Planning for the City of Palo Alto.
- Mr. Lowe was currently attending a groundwater conference at Stanford University as a panel member discussing groundwater sustainability and land-use planning. He mentioned that the overdraft issues in San Luis Obispo County were a prominent topic, and that there was also high interest in the efforts in Napa County.

Outreach update

- Mr. Lowe noted the well monitoring program participation was increasing, particularly due to the outreach efforts by GRAC members Mr. Jim Verhey and Mr. David Graves. Well owners were also becoming aware of the program and contacting Napa County to participate.
- Mr. Verhey mentioned that many well owners had been concerned that the purpose of the monitoring program was to increase control over their water use. However, more well owners support the program after realizing they would be contributing information that would help evaluate Napa County's groundwater conservation efforts.

2. Approval of August 13 Draft Meeting Summary

The AHC approved the August 13, 2013 draft meeting summary with the following modifications:

- *Page 2, Subpoint: "This was fundamentally different…"* – Clarify the "difference" refers to focusing on the protection of groundwater resources, with the monitoring program being only a means to this end.
- *Page 3, Subpoint: "The material should add principles about shared responsibility of every citizen…"* – Replace the word "citizen" with "stakeholder" or "resident" since many non-citizens of Napa County are affected by groundwater sustainability.

3. Review of Revised Handout

Members discussed improvements and finalized the revised handout developed for framing the groundwater sustainability objectives that would be presented at the October GRAC meeting.

- It is important to disseminate the message that sustainability encompasses the health of agricultural, urban, and environmental components together as part of one interacting ecosystem, rather than isolated issues. Everyone who lives and/or works in Napa County should be concerned with the groundwater, because they all have a stake in its future.
- Napa County stakeholders are all affected by groundwater sustainability, but they also have different priorities. The GRAC will need to discuss approaches for developing support from entities that are more removed from groundwater issues (e.g., urban communities, businesses, school districts, etc.). The agricultural industries are more impacted and already supporting groundwater sustainability.
- Emphasize the importance of agriculture early in the handout because it is also a primary focus in the General Plan.
- Protecting water availability and protecting benefits should be treated as similar, but two different issues. Protection of benefits can refer to the extracted water quality, which is independent from the amount of water.

Specific Edits and Clarifications. Members offered specific suggestions for the handout.

- *Page 2, design principles* – Emphasize the continuum from the General Plan's Conservation Goals to developing the monitoring program and then the sustainability objectives.
- *Page 1, definition of sustainability* – "Options" refer to allowing future generations to have the ability to make decisions about groundwater resources. It is not the GRAC's goal to consider reallocation of current water resources.
- *Page 1, definition of sustainability* – Since future water needs cannot be precisely predicted, and groundwater sustainability was already defined as maintaining groundwater use and development indefinitely, members decided to omit additional temporal markers from the definition.
- *Page 2, process diagram* – Include adaptive learning and that it is separate and different from the evaluation process.
- *Page 3, Bullet "Objectives should acknowledge that many private individuals…"* – Include at statement explaining that at this time, there is sufficient groundwater oversight mandates and regulations. The GRAC's goal is not to increase regulations since the framework already exists, even if there are examples of poor stewardship. At this time,

it would be more effective to encourage individual stewardship rather than rely on government intervention.

- The handout should present only the three or four headers for potential sustainability objectives. Specific suggestions should be a separate list.
- Potential guest speakers will be a future discussion topic after receiving more input from the GRAC.

1. **ACTION ITEM:** The facilitator to update the draft sustainability objectives handout based upon the feedback from the Ad-Hoc Committee.

4. Recommendations for Preparing the Draft Sustainability Objectives

Incorporating suggestions into tabular format. Members shared 2-3 objectives they felt were good examples. These examples were combined into a table to categorize suggestions and examine how well the objectives met the SMART + C criteria (i.e., Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant/Realistic, Timed, and Challenging).

- The parameters for "achievability" may require further explanation.
- Timeframes from state and national policies can guide the GRAC's sustainability objectives. Members decided to wait for the facilitator to consolidate the suggested sustainability objectives before discussing time horizons.

Need to know and understand Napa County's groundwater system. Members emphasized that there needed to be more information for Napa County's groundwater input, storage, and output processes before a water budget model could be developed.

- A water budget should be countywide or apply to the entire valley floor, not more specific.
- Such a budget is not for application to water allocations; it is for the sustainability objectives.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) and future groundwater sustainability considerations need the analyses from a water budget model to make informed and effective decisions.
- One member diagrammed a hypothetical groundwater budget model to conceptualize leverage points for effective stewardship:

  - Extraction is the best opportunity for conservation efforts; managing the various supply sources and underflow/discharge would be more difficult.

    - Water quality is not usually incorporated into a water budget model, but it is an important issue to include and is linked in some ways to water supply.
- Two objectives should be to improve the infrastructure for storing and distributing water (e.g., decrease evaporation at exposed reservoirs) and then to continue to evaluate the infrastructure's performance. To achieve these objectives, we need information from a Napa water budget model and a State Water Project water budget.
- Water use scenarios over multiple years need to be calculated throughout the County. For example, St. Helena is conducting simulations (terming them as "re-operations") for the Bell Canyon Reservoir.

Outreach and Education. Since different stakeholders have varying priorities, outreach efforts will need to adapt to these diverse perspectives.

- Residents in the City of Napa may currently be less concerned with groundwater issues because the city's water is supplied by the State Water Project.
- Outreach communication should utilize association forums such as Napa Green for sustainable wineries and the Napa Valley Grapegrowers.
- Sustainability objectives may need to be customized to different stakeholders (e.g., Napa City, wine industry, and agriculture) to be the most appropriate and effective.

Monitoring.

- Following the Conservation Goal-10 and Goal-11 from the General Plan, the use of available groundwater is prioritized for agricultural and rural residential uses. This should be done under multiple water year scenarios. Cities need to also acknowledge these aspects of the General Plan.
- All cities in Napa County should adopt or update their Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) to include multiple water use scenarios. These UWMPs are one of the first steps towards changing how water is used and conserved.
- The county's groundwater monitoring plan provides a baseline against which to evaluate the water quality, groundwater elevation, and other aspects of groundwater in sub-areas of the County.

Existing Management Efforts.

- Existing management policies such as Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) should be referenced when applicable. These are data-driven.

Obstacles/limitations for sustainability objectives. A future discussion may want to further examine the barriers to achieving the sustainability objectives.

- For those issues with insufficient data to develop SMART goals, it might be more appropriate to recommend addressing them in the future.
- The sustainability objectives that deal with monitoring should be based on the monitoring program.
- Objectives that require substantial efforts need realistic timelines to have any meaningful impact.

- Since water conservation can be difficult to measure, establishing BMPs could be a separate objective from quantifying water conservation efforts.
- Incentive programs should be more focused towards individuals who might not have the initial funds to adopt conservation strategies.

5. Action Items and Closing Remarks

A. Preparation for October GRAC Meeting

The group agreed to a one hour phone conference prior to the October 24, 2013 GRAC meeting to review the final summary handout and the table with members' sustainability objectives examples, and to assign presentation roles.

2. **ACTION ITEM:** The facilitator to revise the draft objectives table per feedback from the Ad-Hoc Committee.
3. **ACTION ITEM:** The facilitator to schedule final check-in call with Ad-Hoc Committee prior to GRAC October meeting.

Attendees

Ad-Hoc Committee Members

1. Donald Gleason
2. David Graves (teleconference)
3. Marilee Talley
4. Susanne von Rosenberg
5. Jim Verhey

Staff

6. Dorian Fougères, CCP
7. Stephanie Horii, CCP
8. Patrick Lowe, Napa County (teleconference)

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TELECONFERENCE SUMMARY

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AD-HOC COMMITTEE
Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)
October 10, 2013
Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

Per direction at the GRAC's June 27, 2013, meeting, the Groundwater Sustainability Objectives Ad-Hoc Committee (AHC) met via teleconference on October 10, 2013. The meeting goals included to finalize the handout for the full GRAC meeting on October 24, to approve the August teleconference and September meeting summaries, to review and finalize the example objectives table and presentation roles for the October 24 meeting.

Action Items

1. Any member to send final comments on the September meeting summary to Patrick and Dorian on Friday, October 11, 2013.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mr. Patrick Lowe, Napa County, welcomed members and opened the teleconference.

2. Review of Member Comments

- The facilitator reviewed the revisions to the August teleconference summary, per suggestions during the September meeting. The group approved the summary.
- A member requested additional time to review the September meeting summary.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Any member to send final comments on the September meeting summary to Patrick and Dorian on Friday, October 11, 2013.

3. Finalization of the Sustainability Objectives Handout

- The facilitator reviewed the revisions to the handout, per suggestions during the September meeting.
- The group improved the readability of the first sentence in the goal statement, about the importance of groundwater.
- The group deleted the reference to government in the second-to-last design principle.
- The group revised the sequence of potential objective topics.
- The group added "data" to sound scientific information and analyses, under appendix A.

4. Finalization of the Example Objectives Table

- The facilitator reviewed the development of the table during the September meeting.
- The group revised the sequence of potential objective topics to be consistent with the handout.
- The group agreed to emphasize that the table was meant to provide examples of what objectives could look like. If GRAC members have comments they can provide these over email to Patrick. The focus on October 24 is not to refine the examples, it is to seek

GRAC approval of the Ad-Hoc Committee's approach and direction to develop draft objectives for GRAC review.

- Objectives should fit on one page and not be broken across pages.

5. Presentation Roles

- Members requested the facilitator to summarize their work. The facilitator will review all materials before going to questions.
- Members agreed to answer any questions that come from their peers.

Attendees

Ad-Hoc Committee Members

1. David Graves
2. Marilee Talley
3. Susanne von Rosenberg
4. Jim Verhey

Staff

5. Dorian Fougères, CCP
6. Patrick Lowe, Napa County

Absent (Excused)

7. Don Gleason

GRAC
10-24-13
Item No. 5.c

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Steven E. Lederer
Director

A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

To: Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC)

From: Steve Lederer, Director

Date: October 7, 2013

Subject: Framework of Possible Changes to the Water Availability Analysis (WAA)

The purpose of today's agenda item is to further discuss with the GRAC the framework of possible changes to the Water Availability Analysis (WAA), and to obtain GRAC direction on two specific issues, as discussed further below.

As discussed at our last meeting, the WAA was first put in place in the early 1990's and has been used successfully ever since (with minor revisions) as a tool for analyzing ***DISCRETIONARY*** projects (such as wineries, new vineyards on slopes over 5%, restaurants, hotels, etc.) that propose to use groundwater. There are three key areas of evaluation to consider in the context of the WAA:

- **Water Usage:** The current WAA includes a section for evaluating proposed **water usage** and thresholds for acceptable use. These thresholds (1 acre-ft allowed/acre of land on the valley floor, 0.3 acre ft allowed/acre of land in the MST, and 0.5 acre-ft allowed/acre of land in all other areas) have been successfully "field tested," and LSCE's work also finds them technically defensible. No changes are proposed in this area, although at the GRAC's direction, we've explicitly addressed the "no net increase" criterion that applies in the MST.
- **Well to Well Interference:** The current WAA also contains a "**well to well**" interference analysis (known as Phase 2) which is used only when the initial water usage standards (as discussed above) are exceeded. The Phase 2 analysis is a pumping test which was (theoretically) designed to identify both well capacity and well to well interference. Unfortunately, the Phase 2 process has not worked well from a practical standpoint, and LSCE's analysis finds it questionable from a technically defensible standpoint. The framework of a new well to well interference process is discussed below and is the basis for the first question we are asking of the GRAC today:

  <u>Question</u>: Do you understand/conceptually agree with the frame work of the new process for establishing well to well interference?

- **Well to Surface Water Interference:** The current WAA does not contain standards for evaluating "**well to surface water**" interference. The lack of this standard became a "make or break" issue on a recent small vineyard project that was located in proximity to a small stream that feeds the Napa River. Opponents of the project raised the issue that the project's well would reduce flows in the tributary stream, which is a habitat for endangered species. In the absence of adopted standards, the only methods of countering the opponents' arguments were expensive project specific consultant studies and an EIR, which were outside the applicant's ability to conduct. The project therefore died. This leads us to the second question of the day:

  <u>Question</u>: Do you think the County should establish procedures/thresholds for the well to surface water issue, or is the project example described infrequent enough that standards aren't warranted?

Here is a summary of the three aspects of the WAA:

Criteria	Current WAA	Proposed WAA
Water Usage	Exists	No change
Well to Well Interference	Exists	Proposed change to method
Well to Surface Water Interference	Does not address	Proposed to include

The basic steps of a well to well interference analysis are as follows:

- First Tier analysis: If project well is >500 feet away; no further action (Note: The well to be used for the project (the "project well") could be an existing or new well)
- Second Tier analysis evaluates the site specific conditions and evaluates things such as:
  - Distance to nearest well
  - Hydrogeologic setting
  - Well construction details (i.e., design pump rates, depth, screen and seal depths)
  - Operational procedures

In addition to changing the process of doing the well to well analysis, the draft proposed changes to the WAA would require the well to well analysis for all applicable (i.e., discretionary) projects, whereas the current procedure only requires this step of the analysis if the water usage thresholds are exceeded. The basic steps of the well to surface water procedure are similar, but the threshold distance in the First Tier is expected to be 1500 feet. A flow chart showing the basic steps of the three aspects (water use, well to well and well to surface water) of the WAA is attached.

Pending the direction provided by the GRAC today, next steps would include:

1. Establish Ad-Hoc Committee (3-4 members?) to work out details and wording of the WAA procedures
2. December 12 GRAC Meeting: Ad-Hoc Committee presents draft document (LSCE available to answer questions); receive comments from full GRAC
3. February 27 GRAC Meeting: Approve final WAA document/also final GW Ordinance document
4. April 24 GRAC Meeting: Wrap-up

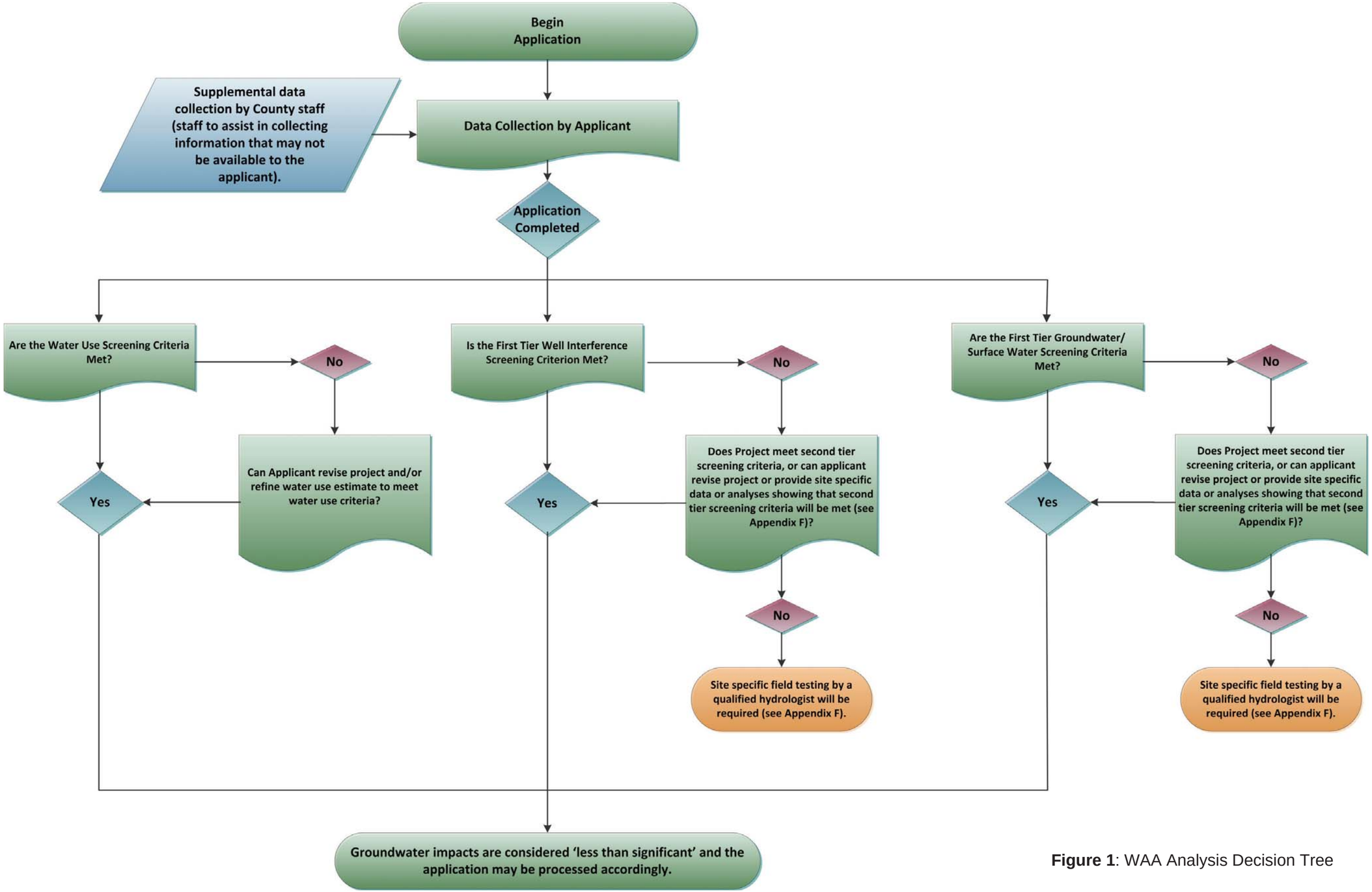

Figure 1: WAA Analysis Decision Tree

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