NAPA COUNTY GROUNDWATER SITUATION ASSESSMENT

Presentation for the
Napa County Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee
October 27, 2011

Prepared by
Center for Collaborative Policy
California State University, Sacramento
Origin, Purpose, and Methods

• DWR Local Groundwater Assistance Program Grant

• Assess public support for a voluntary groundwater monitoring program

• 15 interviews with 34 people across a range of interests
Key Findings

- Concern about extraction coupled with recognition of diversity
- Concern about tradeoffs between urban, rural residential, and agricultural use
- Tension between recognition of private property rights and collective rights to the resource
Key Findings \textit{continued}

- Interest coupled with caution about recycled water
- Concern about impacts on aquatic and riparian habitat and species
- Concern about institutional locus of groundwater and related issues
Design Considerations

• Almost all willing to participate if the following conditions were met:

  • Process has a clear purpose, executive commitment, and transparency

  • The purpose is reframed to be inclusive and to benefit everyone in the county

  • The work is tailored to regionally-specific conditions
Communication and Engagement

• Should work through existing networks

• Need consistent messaging and strong, proactive relationship with the media

• Must bring the whole system into productive conversation
Conditions for Collaboration

• **Clear desired outcomes**: condition appeared met, but would require continued attention

• **Political leadership and commitment**: condition appeared unmet, yet could be met if concerns were appropriately addressed

• **Economic resources**: condition appeared unmet, and was closely tied to political support
Conditions for Collaboration

- **Opportunities to create shared value**: condition appeared met

- **Primary parties**: individually and overall this condition appeared met
Recommendations

• Convene a groundwater advisory committee that includes diverse interests and has an interface with public agencies

• Synthesize existing information, assess the resource, identify critical regional information needs, and develop a data gathering framework

• Convene regional joint fact-finding teams to gather data
Recommendations *continued*

- Conduct a second synthesis based on data gathering results and involve the public in developing a vision and next steps
- Develop a proposal for addressing outstanding groundwater issues in different parts of the county, for review and adoption by the Board of Supervisors
- Develop and implement an ongoing communication and education plan, including both substantive issues and the committee’s work
Assessment prepared by:

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D., Lead Mediator & Facilitator
Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS
dfougeres@ccp.csus.edu (415) 812-7819

Mary Selkirk, Managing Senior Mediator
Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS
mselkirk@ccp.csus.edu (510) 527-7075