

Storm Water Resource Planning

Southern Sonoma County Storm Water Resource Plan

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

January 17, 2018

City of Petaluma, Public Works Dept. - 202 No. McDowell Blvd.

Summary

A fourth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on January 17, 2018. The primary purpose of the meeting was to collectively review the proposed projects for the first time and to consider and approve the quantification methods and prioritization scheme. In addition to the SWRP TAC, members of the public and local stakeholders who submitted projects for consideration participated in the meeting in-person and by phone. The meeting was well attended (in-person or via phone) with all but one collaborating entity present and included representatives from North Bay Agricultural Alliance, Daily Acts, and Equine Management. Grant Manager, Harish Bagha, participated via phone and GoToMeeting. The meeting was convened by Susan Haydon, Water Agency Project Manager with presentations by consultants, Melissa Carter and Betty Andrews, from ESA Associates. An attendance roster and copy of presentation slides is attached for reference.

The meeting covered the following topics:

- Progress Update- Brief overview of milestones to date, process review
- Progress Submission Review and Project Reveal
- Quantification Analysis Results
- Plan Development
- Field Investigations
- Next Steps and Action Items

Project Submission Review and Project Reveal

ESA Associates reviewed the project submission, quantification and scoring process that has been underway for the past three months, closely working with stakeholder and project proponent input. TAC members were presented with a list of all 62 projects (25 in Petaluma, 27 in Sonoma, 8 covered both/either) submitted for consideration. Eleven categories of management actions were developed based on the types of projects that were submitted and these action types were assigned to each project for further review and verification by the proponents. The top two actions listed refer to the most important attributes defined by the project description. Capture-for-use projects were generally small scale, above ground, i. e. rain barrels. Capture-for-use projects for the purposes of groundwater recharge were generally categorized under the basin management action.

Two main eligibility categories were developed: 1) Southern Sonoma SWRP eligible; and 2) Prop 1- Implementation Grant eligible. All projects submitted are currently Southern Sonoma SWRP eligible, but there is no clear definition defining a stormwater management project for the purposes of filtering projects into the Prop 1 eligibility category. A recommended definition of a stormwater management project has been developed for TAC consideration to be adopted by consensus.

Analysis Results

Detailed quantification for water quality, water supply and flood management criteria was completed using relationships based on a representative location and information supplied by project proponent pursuant to the metrics and local data sources previously agreed upon by the TAC. Environment and community criteria quantification was completed with proponent supplied values. ESA reviewed the initial quantification analysis results for both watersheds. During this process, stakeholder feedback was received on the reduced weighting of the community benefit category. Analysis results found that weighting community benefits as equal to other benefit categories had no appreciable impact on the ranking or scoring. The TAC agreed to equally weight the community benefit with the other four stormwater management benefit categories.

A set of draft thresholds were created based on the results of the analysis and presented to the TAC for review. For scoring, ESA recommended the use of raw scores multiplied by the presented thresholds with no equalization.

Bonus points were awarded for four questions per TAC feedback. One question references the support of a project by entities that have created a new source of funding dedicated to stormwater and/or dry weather runoff capture projects. Since no new funding sources have been created, it was recommended to zero all previous answers to that bonus point question.

A variety of options for displaying project ranking results was discussed. Options included tiering, showing projects with detailed quantification in one level and those without as “concepts” in another level, and ranking projects by management action category. Projects will be displayed by watershed.

The opportunity for peer review of project information and metrics was discussed and it was determined that additional project information would be provided, for peer review, by request. A simple project summary description sheet will be developed for each project and sent out as a packet to the TAC for review. All the quantification tools that have been developed for the prioritization process and the development of the Plan will be made available by the Water Agency to all TAC members and will be documented. Changes/modifications to project location and/or a different or altered short and long description will be accepted in track changes for a brief review period in order to correct for accuracy. No changes to the Phase 3 metrics will be accepted at this time.

Discussion was held regarding the option to submit a generic project concept that is broad, but specific enough to qualify for SWRP eligibility in order to accommodate potential project proponents who would like to submit a more detailed project after the Plan has been developed. The SWRP planning team will consider this proposal.

Plan Development

Development of SWRP text sections will follow the approved outline. A preliminary draft of the Plan and checklist will be available for review by the TAC in late April. An administrative draft will be released and sent to the grantor in late May, with comments expected by the end of June. A Public Draft will then be prepared and released for a 30 day comment period in mid-July, after which time a summary of comments and responses will be prepared. The Final SWRP and checklist will be submitted to the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management group for inclusion in September or October 2018.

Harish Bagha, SWRCB grant manager, noted that timing for Round 2 Implementation funding is delayed with current projections estimating release of the proposal solicitation at end of 2018 or possibly in early 2019. There is a maximum award of \$10 million for an implementation project under Prop 1. Harish also clarified that the proponent who submits a project for inclusion in the SWRP does not have to be the same proponent that applies for Implementation funding, although the project should be the same.

Field Investigations

Four locations (two in the Petaluma River watershed, two in Sonoma Creek) have been selected for the first phase of field investigations. These sites coincide with proponent-identified project locations for potential stormwater projects that involve willing landowners. This first phase of investigations involve conducting non-invasive geophysical surveys to characterize groundwater conditions and determine suitability for recharge. Site selection was informed using an initial GIS analysis utilizing recharge layers, depth to water, well logs, soil and topography. Based on the findings from Phase 1, the field investigation techniques from Phase 2 could involve monitoring wells or shallow soil borings.

Next TAC Meeting

Another TAC meeting will be set to review the projects, Administrative Draft of the Plan and recommend approval of the SWRP. The date of the future meeting is to be determined.

Next Steps and Action Items

The SWRP planning team will submit a summary report of the analysis results to the grantor by the end of February. The team is evaluating the need for a fifth TAC in-person meeting (or webinar format) in March to review the Administrative Draft of the Plan. The Water Agency is considering hosting a public workshop to review and seek input on the Public Draft of the Plan in July 2018.