

Southern Sonoma Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP)

Frequently Asked Questions

A Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) is a watershed-based planning process that uses a modern approach to managing water runoff from rainfall – also known as storm water – in beneficial ways. The planning process for the Southern Sonoma SWRP is currently underway with projects being identified that will use storm water runoff to recharge groundwater, slow erosion and keep streams clean within the Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. Ideally, projects provide multiple benefits.

Visit the website below to learn more about the SWRP and to share your thoughts and project opportunities for stormwater management in the Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds: www.sonomacountywater.org/SWRP/

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water generated by rainstorms that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, streets and parking lots into creeks and streams.

What is dry weather runoff?

Dry weather runoff is water that flows into storm drains and flood control channels that is produced from irrigation, and other residential, commercial, and industrial activities.

What is a storm water resource plan (SWRP)?

A SWRP is a watershed-based planning process that encourages the management of water runoff from rainfall in beneficial ways. Plans are administered

through the State Water Resource Control Board as part of new legislation that requires projects to be prioritized in plans to be eligible for state implementation funding. The Southern Sonoma County SWRP will identify and prioritize projects

with multiple benefits that capture, treat or reuse storm water runoff in the Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds.

How is this Plan funded?

The Plan is funded through a state Proposition 1 grant, matched 50/50 with local funds, that totals \$969,254.

Funding provides for development of the plan,

stakeholder outreach, and field investigation.

What is a multi-benefit stormwater capture project?

A storm water capture project is a project that catches water (intercepts, stores, manages, and/or uses storm water and/or dry weather runoff) and provides at least two main benefits shown in the state guideline table displayed on opposite page. One example is a detention basin. A basin that is sited in an area with good soil permeability could provide multiple benefits such as flood protection and groundwater recharge and in some cases wildlife habitat enhancement or recreational benefits.

Who can submit a project?

Anyone or any stakeholder entity can identify a project for local consideration. Project proponents

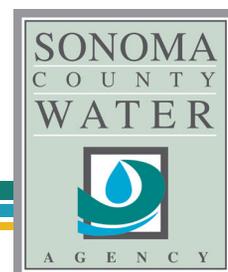


TABLE 4. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BENEFITS

Benefit Category	Main Benefit	Additional Benefit
Water Quality <i>while contributing to compliance with applicable permit and/or TMDL requirements</i>	Increased filtration and/or treatment of runoff	Nonpoint source pollution control Reestablished natural water drainage and treatment
Water Supply <i>through groundwater management and/or runoff capture and use</i>	Water supply reliability Conjunctive use	Water conservation
Flood Management	Decreased flood risk by reducing runoff rate and/or volume	Reduced sanitary sewer overflows
Environmental	Environmental and habitat protection and improvement, including; - wetland enhancement/creation; - riparian enhancement; and/or - instream flow improvement	Reduced energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, or provides a carbon sink Reestablishment of the natural hydrograph
	Increased urban green space	Water temperature improvements
Community	Employment opportunities provided	Community involvement
	Public education	Enhance and/or create recreational and public use areas

- City of Petaluma
- Valley of the Moon Water District
- City of Sonoma
- Sonoma Ecology Center
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- State Water Resources Control Board
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

How could a project get funded?

Project funding could come from a variety of public and private sources. Developing and implementing a project often requires several phases: concept, design, permitting, construction and monitoring.

If a project proponent seeks state funding for implementation, the project must be defined and

submit their projects via an on-line submission form which asks a number of questions to determine eligibility.

How will projects be prioritized?

Projects are prioritized using the best available data and watershed information to maximize benefits. To be eligible for Prop 1 Implementation funding, a project must provide a quantification of benefits.

Who is on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)?

The TAC is comprised of project partners which include agencies and non-profit organizations in both watersheds:

- Lead Agency: Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- Sonoma County – Permit Sonoma
- Sonoma Land Trust



prioritized (included) in a storm water resource plan that is developed and compliant with the state’s program guidelines. Once identified in the SWRP, the project proponent can submit an application for funding consideration under the Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program, administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

The grant application window for this second round of implementation funding is projected to open in summer 2018 and will provide \$80 million for

selected projects across the state. Aside from this immediate Prop. 1 opportunity, there is the potential to apply for other sources of funding as appropriate.

What’s next?

Projects will be prioritized and a draft Plan will be reviewed by the TAC and the public in summer 2018.

For more information, contact: Susan Haydon, Project Manager, (707) 547-1937. Email: Susan.haydon@scwa.ca.gov, or visit: www.sonomacountywater.org/SWRP/