

Recharge All-GSA Workshop

Round-table Discussion Notes

December 11, 2019

Friedman Event Center, Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa Plain

1. Group Members

- Rue Furch, SRP Advisory Committee member
- Wendy, local landowner
- Larry, local landowner
- Anne

2. Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- If individual landowners keep reservoirs full, how does that work?
- Is there a centralized authority who will keep track of projects?
- Where are the best spots – not even in the basin?

3. Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- If you look at the color of the basin and can't use the water upwards, take a different approach, like looking at the Laguna.
- Focus on the boundary and fund the uplands.
- Reduce irrigation needs.
- Keep fields green longer, in pasture longer.

4. Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- Yes, put in a rain garden with catch basins. Seems to be working already.

5. Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?

- All said yes.

6. If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?

- All said yes.
- Community based so we should pay to maintain.

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Santa Rosa Plain cont.

7. Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - No response received.

8. Any final thoughts?
 - Some percentage of water from the city should go to rural areas.
 - Santa Rosa water should go to recharge projects.
 - Basin-specific funds for people who may not be able to afford, would be willing to donate to that.

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1. Group Members

- Colin Close, S.R. Water Dept.
- Wayne Haydon, SRP Advisory Committee, Rohnert Park
- Bob, Landowner with domestic well, Stony Point
- Shirley, Teacher, Rohnert Park
- Sarah, City water, Cotati

2. General Questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- Recharge would offset fees. How could this be done? Private landowner would have incentive to do recharge. Passive recharge vs active recharge.
 - Need to evaluate further. This was brought up by others during the fee study.
- Needs to be a transparent formula.
- Why are vernal pools important?
 - They provide habitat. They are not very good for recharge.

3. Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- Multi-purpose storm water basins – urban, parks, common use, playing fields.
- Low impact development, build own capture area. Amy's drive thru is a good example.
- Need streamlined permitting.
- Need county-wide rebate.
- Small scale "check dam" is a natural swale.
- Shouldn't farms with cows keep water on their property?
 - The Regional Water Quality Control Board regulate cow waste and run-off from dairies.
- In addition to recharge on land, need to include injection wells which is important for deeper aquifer.
- Will the GSA be able to do projects outside the GSA Basin?
- Where are ideal areas for recharge?

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Santa Rosa Plain cont.

4. Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?
 - No comment.

5. Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?
 - No comment.

6. If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?
 - No comment.

7. Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - No comment.

8. Any final thoughts?
 - No comment.

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1 Group Members

- Elizabeth Cargay, City of Windsor
- Mike O'Connor, Environmental Hydrologist
- Chris Watt, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board – Planning (23 years consulting in Ukiah, Groundwater Protection Strategy Eureka)
- Andy Rich, SCWA, GSP Modeler

2 General Questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- None.

3 Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- Explore recharge districts, with incentive
- If associated with flood control, maybe more funds would be available
- Use net metering – like solar – if you do Managed Aquifer Recharge, get a reduction in cost
- Paved areas and storm drain system, try to use that water.

4 Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- Consultant being asked to consider ways to infiltrate.

5 Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?

- Yes.
- Users and stakeholder groups.

6 If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?

- Users should be incentivized to conserve their use.
- Some said yes.

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Santa Rosa Plain cont.

- 7 Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - Depends if it causes an economic hardship, then buying them out maybe but, we don't see that as needed here.

- 8 Any final thoughts?
 - None.

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Santa Rosa Plain

1 Group Members

- Susan Harvey, Cotati City Council
- John Nagel, Sonoma RCD Board member, SRP GSA Board Member, Gallo Winery, Well owner
- Jonathan McClellan, Rural well owner in SRP, Commercial mineral water operation
- Joe Embrock, 5 acres, ½ acre in grapes, has well
- Frank Dono, Well owner, Not in a basin, Retired soils geologist
- Douglas Emery, Wilson Grove Highlands Formation, retired teacher, Mutual well affected by Sonoma Water wells
- Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center, Facilitator

2 Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- Is there a way to use water to create fire breaks around inhabited areas? Can't see how this could work.
- Some water rights require that extraction occur in the summer. Can these be changed? Can rights be easily changed so it's permissible to store water?
- Why aren't there more wells drilled to understand they dynamics between shallow and deep aquifers and between different basins?
- Need to make sure we don't take so much water from water that spawning could be affected or there is sea water intrusion.

3 Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- Assist well owners, especially deep wells (like Frank's) to monitor their wells.
- The Laguna – it is huge!

4 Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- Joe and Judy Tembrock
- Jonathan McClellan

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Santa Rosa Plain cont.

- 5 Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?
 - What about mosquito abatement?

- 6 If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it
 - People think this is reasonable if the landowner is benefitting.

- 7 Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - All yes.
 - Could waive GSA fees as an incentive.

- 8 Any final thoughts?
 - None.

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Round-table Discussion Notes

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Petaluma Valley

1 Group Members

- Mitch Buttress, SCWA
- Bruce Abelli-Amen, Geologist, Petaluma, Petaluma Valley GSA Board member
- Golf course owner, Wilson Grove Formation Highlands
- Ann DuBay, Petaluma Valley GSA administrator

2 Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- None.

3 Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- People living in towns could install greywater systems for infiltration and re-using water.
- Cities are part of the problem → help correct this.
- Where there is limited recharge, still do storm water recharge
 - Bioswales
 - Infiltration basin

4 Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- None.

5 Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?

- Yes, would be willing express support.
- Yes, if made sense, in right place.

6 If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?

- Yes, in my area, but not for people outside the area.
- Supportive of spreading costs around, if there is a small fee.

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Petaluma Valley cont.

7 Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?

- Yes, if it benefits the basin, not just their property.
- Yes, if voluntary, but may already receive the benefit.
- Yes, if someone provides kind to recharge the greater basin, fair to recharge.

8 Any final thoughts?

- None.

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Round-table Discussion Notes

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Petaluma Valley

1 Group Members

- Andy Rodgers, Chairman of PV Advisory Committee, Administrator, SRP GSA
- Lindsey Strain, PV Advisory Committee member
- Rebecca Ng, PV Advisory Committee member
- Leah Walker, City of Petaluma Environmental Services Director

2 Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- Do we have viable recharge areas in the Petaluma Valley?
- Does Wilson Grove inflow work for recharge of Petaluma Valley basin?

3 Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- City homeowners' private re-gardening projects.
- Collect rain water for irrigation.

4 Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- None.

5 Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?

- Yes, if they made it fun or interesting to participate.

6 If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?

- Yes, the value has to be clear. People need to be shown there is a problem first.
- Yes, sales tax maybe to possibly also make tourists pay.
- If it was guaranteed, or made the water supply more secure.

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Petaluma Valley cont.

- 7 Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - Yes, if they are giving up usability/profitability.
 - Depending on the maintenance required, yes. How much work would they have to do?

- 8 Any final thoughts?
 - Recharge to enhance the water quality?
 - Do we need to be considering injections to limit salt water intrusion?

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Petaluma Valley

1. Group Members

- Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
- Katie Robbins – Sonoma RCD
- Eric Frost, Century 21
- Gary Mickelson, PV Advisory Committee Member
- Clayton Engstrom, PV Advisory Committee Member

2. Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- Why is the first recharge considered neutral?
- What good is rain capture?
- Is our science good enough to measure such short term needs?

3. Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- Flood channels.
- Put back in reservoirs – Lawler Dam.
- Old catchment basins.
- More reclaimed water on agricultural lands.
- Wetland expansion.
- More treatment ponds.

4. Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- Adobe soils.
- Clay layer – 4-5' makes it hard.
- No!

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Petaluma Valley cont.

5. Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?
 - Why not?
 - Need bonding.
 - Depends – not with bond measure for fuzzy science.
 - Need to do more recharge feasibility work.
 - Groundwater quality – big deal.
 - Yes, with reservations.

6. If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?
 - Is there really a need?
 - Right now it doesn't pencil out.
 - Need more information.
 - May be supportive, but would it really benefit us?

7. Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - Yes, all.

8. Any final thoughts?
 - Streamline permitting process.
 - Agencies to work together more.
 - Slow release on hills to percolate into the ground.
 - Dredge the river.
 - No building in flood plains.

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Sonoma Valley

1. Group Members

- Vicki Hill, Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee member, Glen Ellen landowner on a 100 year old well.
- Fred Allebach, Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee member, lives on 8th Street East, renter on a well
- Diana Sanson, Glen Ellen, owner on a well
- Huntington Sharp, 1 acre, rural residential, 300 yards from Carriger Road, is on VOMWD water, has septic system
- Betty Andrews, Hydrologist
- Marcus Trotta, SCWA

2. Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- Recharge basement pumped water.

3. Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- Troubled by how complicated and difficult it will be to find the right recharge area that will work. Would like to slow Sonoma Creek discharge, has a seasonal creek on property, maybe capture flows and hold some back to spread for recharge.
- Try and capture runoff from seasonal creek, use SEC habitat restoration, give creek a wider area to overflow.
- Use permaculture, has French drains the run both to a drainage ditch and to a storage holding pit. Pumps 800,000 gallons out of basement a year, wants to repurpose that for recharge.

4. Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- Covered in question 3.

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Sonoma Valley cont.

5. Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?
 - Make people who use groundwater pay for the projects and mitigations, concerned that state will have to come in and take over if no viable plan in place.
 - Depends on the cost benefit, on how much it costs, of being able to quantify benefits.
 - The Resource Conservation District has “Slow it, Spread it, Sink it” plans.

6. If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?
 - Very difficult to get people to work together.

7. Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - This question is too general.

8. Any final thoughts?
 - Have a workshop where rural residential folks can learn about recharge.
 - Engage garden clubs.
 - A bigger campaign only about recharge is important, talk it up!
 - The rural residential folks in Glen Ellen could possibly use a micro-regional solution for capturing recharge from their season creeks, RCD outreach? Their areas is hilly, yet in in Sonoma Valley basin.
 - Get Permit Sonoma to not allow basements, especially in areas with shallow seasonal groundwater. Some people end up having to pump out the water table from their basements all winter long. This situation is the case on 7th Street East near Napa Street East and Lovall Valley Road, in the unincorporated Sonoma east side; two homes pump out the water table all winter long onto the street.

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Sonoma Valley

1. Group Members

- Robert Baeyen
- Jane Whittsett, Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee member
- Susan
- Ron Prushko, SV GSA Board member

2. Does anyone have any general questions about recharge or anything that needs clarification?

- None.

3. Based on what we've heard at today's workshop, please share Ideas for recharge projects in your basin, or even your neighborhood.

- Identify areas of recharge in high priority.
- Kenwood finding groundwater.
- Purchasing water from someone else
- Salinity evidenced in high school.
- Taking water during high flows.
- Hyde/Burndale – 125' well is dry.
- Preserve the Sonoma Development Center watershed.

4. Are there any types of recharge projects you are already doing or would be willing to do on your land?

- SEC Projects.

5. Would you be willing to participate in or express support for a recharge project in your area? If not, what are your concerns?

- Absolutely.

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Sonoma Valley cont.

6. If there was a project on your property or in your neighborhood, would you be willing to pay something toward building/maintaining it?
 - Sobre Vista paying 1.5 times for use of water from VOMWD.
 - Set up stations along the creek. Should farmers be paid by providing for recharge?

7. Do you think that a landowner who actively participates in a managed recharge project like Flood-MAR should receive financial compensation?
 - Incentives to do this.
 - Active management = credit.
 - Passive recharge = maybe not.

8. Any final thoughts?
 - Keep watersheds intact to pressure not recharge SDC.
 - Lobby at the South basin for years.
 - Experiencing subsidence and salinity in the south.
 - What is the range of recharge project for the Valley?
 - Need to find the good recharge areas. How to find them, then find the most-needy area.
 - Look at Pryor Creek north of downtown, maybe Montinis.
 - Difficult to find recharge areas. How to discover recharge?
 - Include Kenwood in the Sonoma basin.
 - Salinity up to the high school.
 - Transfer water to low groundwater areas?
 - Find areas to divert water to areas near the creek. 8th Street East and Napa Rd. could use water.
 - Doing project on agricultural land – we don't have farmers' help.