



City of East Palo Alto Groundwater Management Plan

Summary of Workshop No. 1

Held December 4, 2014 4:00 – 6:00 pm

In the Community Room, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto

Workshop No. 1 was attended by 28 people. The Workshop objectives were to introduce the GWMP process, present basic concepts of groundwater hydrology and resources, define the goals for GWMP, describe groundwater conditions of the San Mateo/San Francisquito Subbasins, and to identify issues to address in GWMP.

An illustrated presentation first addressed the reasons why the City is preparing a GWMP, defined the Plan Area along with the San Mateo/San Francisquito Subbasin areas, and described the GWMP process including the public stakeholder elements. A second portion of the presentation provided an introduction to groundwater resources, including the hydrologic cycle, recharge of surface water, and the nature of groundwater occurrence. The presentation described groundwater flow processes from recharge to discharge areas, the interconnection between groundwater and surface water, and pumping of groundwater via production wells. Groundwater quality concepts were introduced.

Subsequent discussion addressed the City's preliminary GWMP goals to:

- Provide the City of East Palo Alto with a long-term, reliable and affordable high quality supply;
- Maintain or improve groundwater quality and quantity for the benefit of all groundwater users; and
- Provide integrated water resource management for resilience during droughts and long-term climate change effects.

Suggestions for the goal statement included consideration of goals listed in the City's resolution in support of a sustainable groundwater management in the San Francisquito Creek area, consideration of surface water, mention of sustainability, and cooperation among groundwater users.

The third portion of the presentation focused on groundwater conditions in the San Mateo/San Francisquito Subbasins. The geologic framework was illustrated on maps and a geologic cross-section. Groundwater flow directions and water level trends over time were discussed along with known production wells in the subbasin. Concepts of the water balance and sustainable yield were introduced along with potential adverse impacts of pumping. Discussion touched on recharge areas, the number of private wells, depths of wells, pumping amounts, drought conditions and pumping impacts.

The last part of the presentation presented potential issues to be considered in the GWMP. Breakout sessions among meeting participants were conducted to identify issues. Review of the issues reveals three major concerns:

- Potential adverse impacts of pumping on other wells, groundwater levels and storage, subsidence potential, surface water (San Francisquito Creek), and groundwater quality (including saltwater intrusion and contamination)
- Lack of data to assess groundwater levels, groundwater quality, the water balance, subsidence, wells, pumping amounts and impacts, etc.
- Need for collaboration among local agencies/groundwater users/residents, public outreach/education, and regional management for sustainability.

Other specific issues included:

- Concern over a lack of process for groundwater use evaluation, and about locations of City wells and proximity to City limits
- Concern over general availability of City water supplies and reliability of wells in event of earthquake
- Interest in regulating groundwater wells and pumping
- Interest in utilizing other water sources (e.g., recycled water) and conserving groundwater
- Interest in mapping significant recharge areas
- Interest in managed recharge of groundwater (e.g., with recycled water).

The meeting concluded with a description of the next steps and upcoming Workshop No. 2.