

**From:** Kathy Pons [<mailto:282kpons@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 09, 2014 4:38 PM  
**To:** commentletters  
**Subject:** Groundwater Workplan Concept Paper

Re: State Water Resources Control Board Groundwater Workplan Concept Paper – Eric Oppenheimer

Attention Mr. Oppenheimer,

The comments below are my personal opinions\* developed while serving on the Sonoma Valley Basin Advisory Panel (SVBAP) since 2006. We have followed the AB3030 path to prepare a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). “The goal of the plan is to locally manage, protect and enhance groundwater resources for all beneficial uses, in a sustainable, environmentally sound, economical and equitable manner for generations to come.” The panel members have worked hard to develop a non-regulatory, locally controlled program that includes out reach and a water level monitoring data base. We have learned a lot about our groundwater basin.

One interesting point is the documented interaction of Sonoma Creek flows and the groundwater. The majority of the creek’s flow comes from groundwater, where the creek banks have deepened and eroded to the point where the groundwater is feeding the creek. Within your state workplan there needs to be a clear understanding that surface and groundwater are interconnected and both need to be considered.

Also because of all the work accomplished in the last 5 years of our GMP, I would hope that we will be encouraged to continue our work discovering the nuances of our local groundwater basin.

We hope to continue our work with a non-threatening manner. It is important for well owners to be educated on how to determine Best Management Practices (BMP) which would benefit the resource for all. However, if a problem should arise, it would be helpful to have back up at the regional or state boards.

We agree that sustainable thresholds are important, however we hope that these thresholds will be established with local data collected and consideration of our GMP and the SVBAP.

Rainfall and climate changes are going to be a key factor in groundwater quantity. The water levels in wells, especially the shallower residential wells, are directly related to the amount of rainfall received annually. We can't manage the weather but it is a huge factor.

We appreciate the state developing a groundwater workplan and hope that the work we have done in Sonoma Valley will only be enhanced by the key management elements spelled out in your strategy.

Thank you.

Kathy Pons

Sonoma Valley Basin Advisory Panel member

\*the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect all the SVBAP members