

PETALUMA VALLEY

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

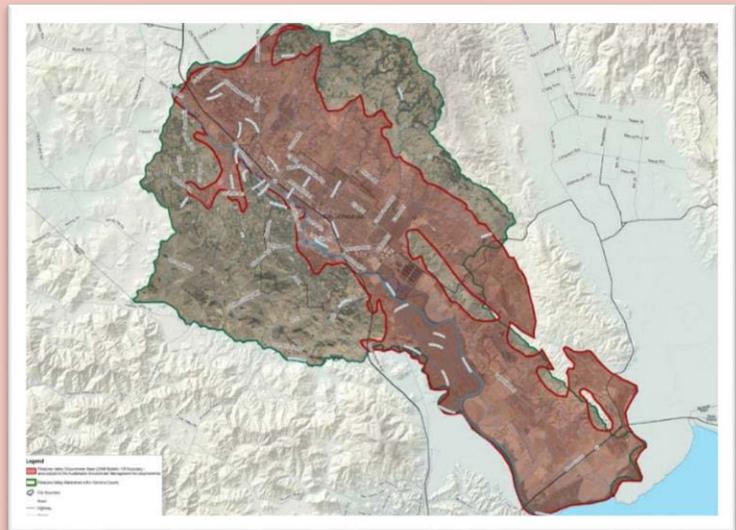


The **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)** requires some groundwater basins in California to form public agencies to manage groundwater, develop a groundwater management plan, and meet groundwater sustainability requirements.

The first major requirement of SGMA, the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), was completed prior to the June 30, 2017 deadline. In Sonoma County, local agencies engaged with basin stakeholders and the public and developed consensus on the best way to form GSAs to meet this deadline.

Each of the Sonoma County groundwater basins immediately affected by SGMA – Petaluma Valley, Sonoma Valley, and Santa Rosa Plain – has its own GSA, and all three basins are committed to coordinating activities and management to maximize efficiency and reduce costs.

In the **Petaluma Valley basin**, the GSA will cover the Petaluma Valley groundwater basin designated in California’s Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (see map).



The GSA is a self-funded agency. All the GSA member agencies contributed initial funding for GSA operations until the GSA develops its funding structure. The GSA is pursuing grants to help offset the local costs associated with implementing SGMA. The GSA governing board will be able to assess fees consistent with existing laws for public agencies.

To save costs, the GSA contracts with other organizations for staff support. Sonoma Resource Conservation District interim executive director Valerie Minton (groundwater@sonomarcd.org) serves as the administrator, overseeing day-to-day operations. The Sonoma County Water Agency provides technical (jay.jasperse@scwa.ca.gov), grant writing, and outreach (ann.dubay@scwa.ca.gov) services for the GSA.

Board of Directors

Member agencies: City of Petaluma, North Bay Water District, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, County of Sonoma, Sonoma County Water Agency

Voting

- One director = one vote
- Simple majority for routine business
- Supermajority (two-thirds) for major decisions; the supermajority vote must include both the county and the city (e.g. annual budget, regulations)
- Unanimous vote (5 of 5) for financial assessments on member agencies

The supermajority voting requirements are intended to **build consensus** within the governing board, creating **incentives** to come together to solve problems to meet sustainability targets. These voting provisions recognize that basin interests are varied and must build unanimity to advance measures and achieve sustainability.

The GSA Board of Directors (see reverse for details) meets at 4 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every other month at the Petaluma Community Center. The next meeting is October 26, 2017. **Visit sonomacountygroundwater.org/pv/ for more details.**

Petaluma Valley GSA Board of Directors

David Rabbitt, Chairman	County of Sonoma
Bruce Abelli-Amen, Vice-Chairman	Sonoma RCD
Susan Gorin, Director	Water Agency
Mike Healy, Director	City of Petaluma
Carolyn Wasem, Director	North Bay Water District
James Gore, Alternate	County and Water Agency
TBD, Alternate	Sonoma RCD
Dan St. John, Alternate	City of Petaluma
Mike Sangiacomo, Alternate	North Bay Water District

Advisory Committee

An advisory committee representing **diverse stakeholder interests** provides input and recommendations to the governing body on GSA policies and groundwater sustainability plan development and implementation. The intent of the body is to provide **community perspective** and participation in the GSA.

Each GSA member agency appoints one member of the committee. In addition, the GSA appoints five members to represent SGMA-defined stakeholder interests (agriculture, rural residential well-owners, environment, the business community, and the community at large).

Appointed members are listed to the right.

Petaluma Valley GSA Advisory Committee

Heidi Bauer	City of Petaluma
Gary Mickelson	County of Sonoma
Martha Murphy	Sonoma County Water Agency
Lindsey Strain	Sonoma RCD
Eugene Camozzi	North Bay Water District
John Shribbs	Environmental interests
Clayton Engstrom	Rural residential well-owners
Andy Rodgers	Business community interests
Russ Ahlgrim	Agricultural interests
Scott Tweten	At-large community interests