

SANTA ROSA PLAIN

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 **Santa Rosa Plain basin**, the GSA will cover the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater subbasin 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. Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District executive director Brittany Jensen (groundwater@goldridgercd.org) serves as the interim 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.

The GSA Board of Directors (see reverse for details) meets at 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of every other month at the Santa Rosa Utilities Field Office. The next meeting is October 12, 2017. **Visit sonomacountygroundwater.org/srp/ for more details.**

Board of Directors

Member agencies: Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, and Santa Rosa; Town of Windsor; County of Sonoma; Sonoma County Water Agency; Gold Ridge and Sonoma Resource Conservation Districts. In addition, by agreement, there is one seat for Mutual/PUC regulated water districts.

Voting

- One director = one vote
- Simple majority for routine business
- Supermajority (75%) for major decisions (e.g. *annual budget, regulations*)
- Unanimous vote 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.

Santa Rosa Plain GSA Board of Directors

Lynda Hopkins, Chair	Water Agency
Tom Schwedhelm, Vice-Chair	City of Santa Rosa
Joe Dutton, Director	Gold Ridge RCD
Susan Harvey, Director	City of Cotati
Mark Millan, Director	Town of Windsor
Walt Ryan, Director	Sonoma RCD
Pam Stafford, Director	City of Rohnert Park
Shirlee Zane, Director	Sonoma County
Evan Jacobs, Director	Mutual/PUC
Susan Gorin, Alternate	Water Agency & County
Chris Rogers, Alternate	City of Santa Rosa
Mel Sanchiatti, Alternate	Gold Ridge RCD
Mark Landman, Alternate	City of Cotati
Deborah Fudge, Alternate	Town of Windsor
John Nagle, Alternate	Sonoma RCD
Jake Mackenzie, Alternate	City of Rohnert Park

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 will appoint one member of the committee. In addition, the GSA will appoint seven members to represent SGMA-defined stakeholder interests (agriculture, rural residential well-owners, environment, and the business community) and the interests of other groups in Sonoma County (Graton Rancheria, Mutual/PUC water districts, and the City of Sebastopol).

Appointed members are listed to the right.

Santa Rosa Plain GSA Advisory Committee

Mary Grace Pawson	City of Rohnert Park
Jennifer Burke	City of Santa Rosa
Craig Scott	City of Cotati
Toni Bertolero	Town of Windsor
Mark Grismer	County of Sonoma
Carolyn Dixon	Sonoma County Water Agency
Wayne Haydon	Sonoma RCD
Matt O'Connor	Gold Ridge RCD
Henry Mikus	City of Sebastopol
Sebastian Bertsch	Environmental interests
Rue Furch	Environmental interests
Doug Beretta	Rural residential well-owners
Marlene Soiland	Rural residential well-owners
Joe Gaffney	Business community interests
Bob Anderson	Agricultural interests
David Long	Agricultural interests
Maureen Geary	Graton Rancheria
To be appointed	Mutual/PUC