

SONOMA 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 **Sonoma Valley basin**, the GSA will cover the Sonoma 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. Valley of the Moon Water District general manager Dan Muelrath (groundwater@vomwd.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.

Board of Directors

Member agencies: City of Sonoma, Valley of the Moon Water District, 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 (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 and among groundwater users, 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.

Sonoma Valley GSA Board of Directors

Susan Gorin, Chair	County of Sonoma
David Cook, Vice-Chair	City of Sonoma
Mark Heneveld, Director	VOMWD
Vickie Mulas, Director	Sonoma RCD
David Rabbitt, Director	Water Agency
Gary Edwards, Alternate	City of Sonoma
Bruce Adams, Alternate	VOMWD
Bruce Abelli-Amen, Alternate	Sonoma RCD
James Gore, Alternate	County & Water Agency
Carolyn Wasem, Alternate	NBWD

The GSA Board of Directors meets at 4 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every other month at the Valley of the Moon Water District board room. The next meeting is October 23, 2017. **Visit sonomacountygroundwater.org/sv/ for more details.**

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 six 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.

Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee

To be determined	City of Sonoma
Greg Carr	County of Sonoma
Fred Allebach	Sonoma County Water Agency
Sue Smith	Sonoma RCD
Jim Bundschu	North Bay Water District
Craig Lichty	Valley of the Moon Water District
Caitlin Cornwall	Environmental interests
Norman Gilroy	Rural residential well-owners
Helge Bruckner	Business community interests
Matt Stornetta	Agricultural interests
Vicki Hill	At-large community interests
Kenneth Johnson	At-large community interests