

COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ISSUES
Sonoma Valley SGMA Workshop
June 30, 2016

OVERALL
COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- One person indicated that they like the entire governance proposal, with the strong Advisory Body.
- A question was raised regarding the continuation of the current monitoring program. Staff noted that the current program is very robust and that it would continue. SGMA includes requirements on the types of wells that are monitored, so the GSA will need to assess current wells to see which can remain in the program under SGMA. Will need to expand well monitoring.
- Speaker has a 40-foot deep well and is worried about other nearby wells. Sooner or later the drilling needs to stop. Worried about deep wells and intrusion of saltwater.
- On basin boundaries, couldn't we have contested the DWR Bulletin 118 basin boundaries? *We could've requested a boundary modification, but only on technical or jurisdictional basis. The regulations don't allow the boundaries to be expanded into upland areas. There was an opportunity to modify the boundary to include Kenwood, but decided not to do that and leave that to GSA.*
- Are groundwater management and groundwater monitoring synonymous with groundwater metering? *Management is much broader than metering and monitoring. Management requires a response. A monitoring program is required by GSA. Metering is a component of monitoring; law allows for metering with exception of domestic small well owners. Management will be expensive. GSAs have fee authority; will have to determine whether to use this authority.*
- How do you know if domestic well owners are using less than 2-acre feet of water a year? *Two-acre foot is equivalent to about 1800 gallons per day. New technologies can help estimate groundwater use through evapotranspiration. It is likely that people will self-report; but the GSA could do reality check.*





GOVERNING BOARD

- It was noted that two of the proposed GSA governing board members get water from SCWA, which is surface water, not groundwater. Hope that governing board will focus on surface-groundwater interaction.
- Sonoma Valley basin has six GSA-eligible entities. What happens if 3-3 split on the Governing Board? *Staff noted that if a proposal receives a 3-3 vote, it's not good enough. The proposal will need to be refined until the Board can reach a majority or super-majority vote.*
- Mutual water companies need to be involved at some level.

ADVISORY BODY

- Two people indicated that they liked the make-up of the Advisory Body.
- A speaker noted that the advisory body could provide a check and balances function.
- The Advisory Body should be modeled similar to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, which is a strong advisory body.
- GSA-eligible agencies all have representatives on the Advisory Body, but how do you balance this out? Four utility bodies out of the 11 total representatives seems too many.
- Two people commented that it should require a super-majority vote of the Governing Board to overturn an Advisory Body recommendation. Alternatively, the Board should provide a written rationale for disagreeing with the Advisory Body.
- In Sonoma Valley, the Advisory Body should have an environmental rep who is with science-based organization.
- A sixth-interest-based member on the Advisory Body should be a scientist (hydrologist/geologist).
- It was suggested that the County appointee should have to be a planning commissioner or planning expert, or an additional seat be created for land-use expert.

- Concern expressed about whether rural well owners would have a voice and whether there is an organized group of rural well owners. (Mentioned by two people)
- Someone who represents the interests of renters should be added to the Advisory Body.
- Perhaps an organization like La Luz could represent Disadvantaged Communities (a specific stakeholder defined in SGMA).
- Concerns were raised regarding the role of the existing Basin Advisory Body: could it be folded into the new Advisory Body? *There is a lot of expertise on the current BAP. It is hoped that current BAP members who want to be actively involved in SGMA will apply for the new Advisory Body.*