

# Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Update

Board of Public Utilities Meeting  
February 7, 2019



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# Presentation Outline

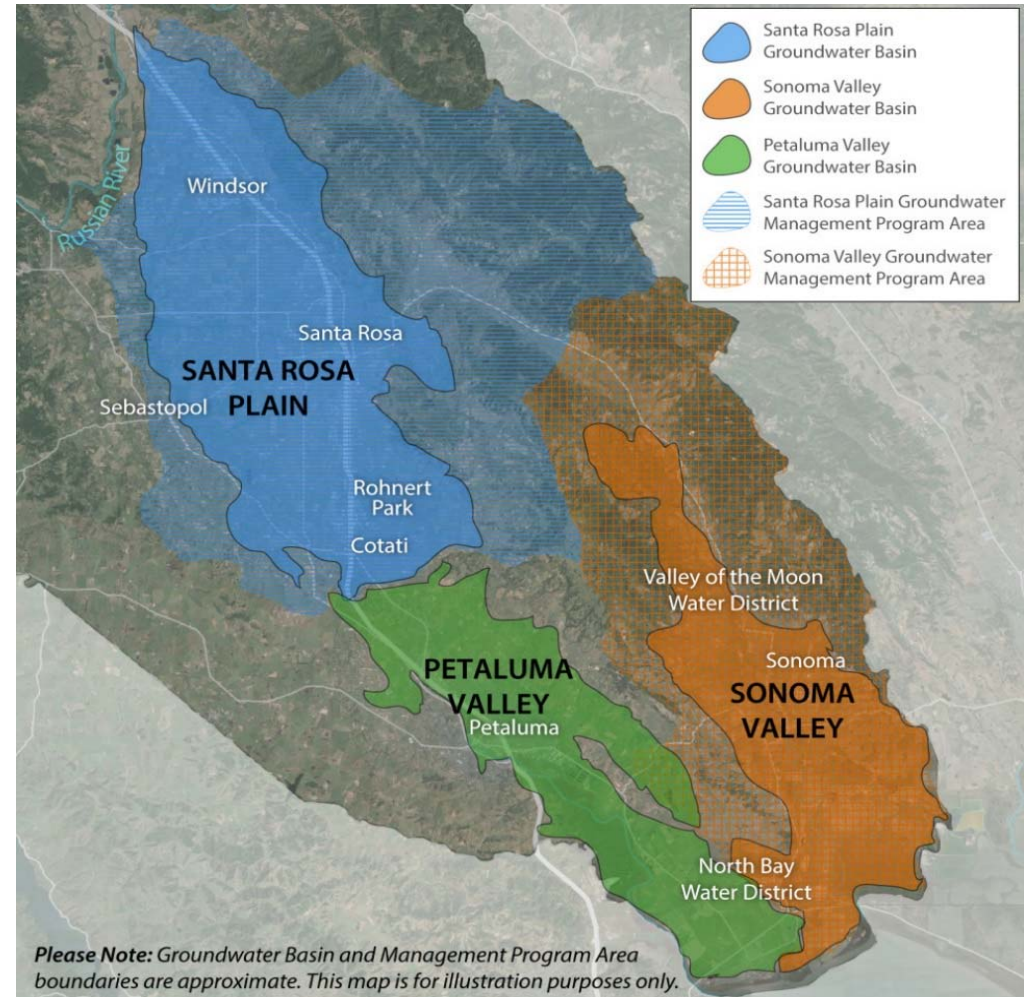
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and GSA Background
- Basin Boundary Change
- Proposed Groundwater Sustainability Fee
- Proposed Groundwater Users Registration Program
- Next Steps



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# SGMA Brief Summary

- Became law Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2015
- Applies to medium and high priority basins
- Develop GSA by June 2017
- Develop GSP by 2022 and achieve sustainability by 2042



# Santa Rosa Plain GSA

- Formed in June 2017
- Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Town of Windsor, Sonoma County, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma and Goldridge Resource Conservation Districts
- Public Utilities Commission Regulated/Mutual Water Company Agreement
- Board consists of one representative per member agency



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# Goals of the GSA

- To sustainably manage community's groundwater to ensure it's availability now and in the future
- To meet the requirements of SGMA
- To ensure the GSP reflects the goals and priorities of the community
- To be as cost-effective and efficient as possible



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# Basin boundary modifications

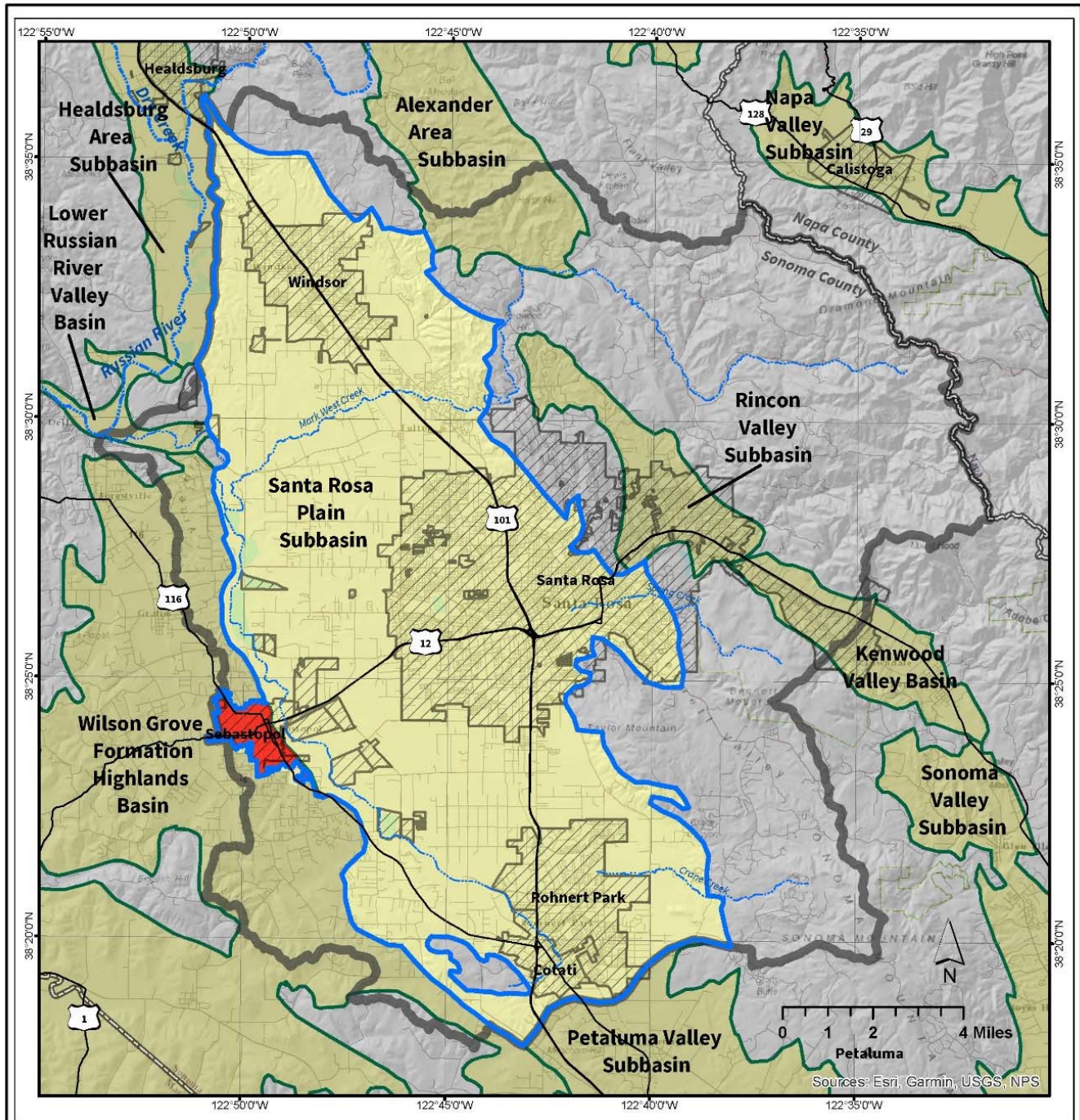
- Department of Water Resources (DWR) defines the groundwater basin boundary
- DWR proposed revising boundaries:
  - November 2018: DWR released draft approval of Sebastopol boundary change request
  - Final DWR approval anticipated February 2019
  - If approved Sebastopol and three Mutual Water Companies (Belmont Terrace, Fircrest, and Kelly) could join the GSA



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Santa Rosa  
Plain Basin  
(blue outline)

Proposed  
Sebastopol  
Area addition  
(in red)



# Current GSA Funding

- The first two years of the GSA was funded by its member agencies
- Expect GSA to have its own funding source after two years of operations
- \$1 million Proposition 1 grant for preparation of GSP
- Received Facilitation and Technical Support Services from DWR

Member Agency	FY 2017-18 Commitment	FY 2018-19 Commitment
Sonoma Resource Conservation District	\$20,000	\$20,000
City of Cotati	\$55,000	\$64,000
City of Rohnert Park	\$55,000	\$64,000
City of Santa Rosa	\$55,000	\$64,000
Town of Windsor	\$55,000	\$64,000
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District	\$55,000	\$64,000
County of Sonoma	\$55,000	\$64,000
Sonoma County Water Agency	\$55,000	\$64,000
PUC-regulated and mutual water companies	\$55,000	\$64,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>	<b>\$532,000</b>



# GSA Rate Study

- Raftelis Financial Consultants selected for rate and fee study
- Presentations at GSA Board meetings, Advisory Committee Meetings, and Community Meetings
  - Most Recent community meeting 1/30/2019



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# Estimated Annual Funding Needed

Estimated <u>5-year</u> operating expenses*	\$3,000,400
GSA Member agency repayment deferral	-\$992,000
Grant funding	-\$1,000,000
Total to be recovered	\$1,008,400
Years to recover expenses	3
<b>Total estimated annual amount to be recovered</b>	<b>\$337,000*</b>

*\*Rounded up to the nearest hundred (operating expenses) and thousand (annual amount to be recovered). Repayment to member agencies has been deferred.*



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# Fee activities to date

- Six Board meetings that included presentations & updates
- Key Board decisions include:
  - Creation of ad hoc committee (April)
  - Do not pursue parcel tax (June)
  - Do not pursue ongoing member agency contributions and defer reimbursement (June; December)
  - Continue work on fees based on estimated/actual groundwater use (June)
  - Pursue groundwater user registration program (June)
- Six Advisory Committee meetings with discussion and feedback
- Community Workshops: March 21, 2018 and January 30, 2019 (standing room only)

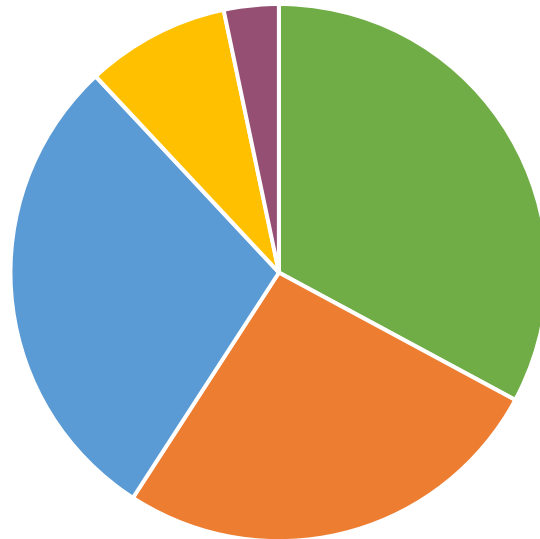


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# What is the Groundwater Sustainability Fee?

- Regulatory fee based on actual or estimated groundwater use
- Actual use based on metered pumping data: Municipal & public water systems (includes some commercial uses such as wineries)
- Estimated groundwater use (pumping data not available):
  - Rural residential, agriculture & other users (e.g., golf courses, schools)
  - Estimates of groundwater use need to be based on data, reports, studies by independent parties

# Estimated Groundwater Use by Type of User



- Agriculture
- Rural Residential
- Cities & Towns
- Small water providers
- Golf courses



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# Proposed Fee: Rural Residential

- Average rural residential property is 3.4 acres
- Groundwater use based on representative estimated average annual use
  - 0.5 acre feet per parcel (466 gallons per day)
- Some properties will use more and some less
- Metered residential usage from cities is not representative of rural residential use
- Groundwater use factor based on studies, referenced reports, etc.



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# Rural Residential Estimated Use

Rural Residential Groundwater Usage Estimate	Data Source
0.48 AFY/household (assumes 2.5 residents per household at 0.19 AFY/capita)*	Simulation of Groundwater and Surface-Water Resources of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed, Sonoma County, California (U.S. Geological Survey, 2014 – Used California Dept of Water Resources water use factor)
0.5 to 0.75 AFY	County of Napa Water Availability Analysis Guidance Document (County of Napa, 2015)
0.53 AFY	Canon Manor West Subdivision Assessment District Groundwater Study (Todd Engineers, June 2004)
0.40 to 0.55 AFY (Average of 0.47)	Reported groundwater usage per connection for nine public water suppliers, including mutual water companies, within the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin (California State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, 2011 to 2017)
<b>0.5 AFY (466 gallons per day)</b>	<b>Assumed Usage for Fee Study</b>

# Proposed Fee: Agricultural

- Agriculture estimated use based on:
  - Number of irrigated acres and estimated annual applied water for specific crop type (crop coefficient)
  - Account for recycled water use & surface water rights



Source of Usage	Proposed Groundwater Sustainability Fee	Annual State Intervention Fees
Charge per Acre Foot (agriculture, municipal, golf courses, etc.)	\$16 - \$26	\$300 base fee, <b>plus \$40 per AF*</b>
Charge for Rural Residential (\$ per parcel/year)	\$8 - \$13	\$100
Charge for Urban Supplemental Irrigation Wells (\$ per parcel/year)	\$1-3	\$100
<p><i>*The \$300 annual base fee is charged to all well owners, except de minimis (rural &amp; urban residential).</i></p> <p><i>** \$100 fee may be charged by State if it deems total de minimis extractions to be significant.</i></p>		

# Proposed Groundwater User Registration Program

- Registration program (or some form of regulation) is required if fees are to be assessed to de minimis groundwater users
  - Use less than 652,702 gallons per year
- Cumulatively, de minimis water users comprise approx. one-quarter of the total groundwater use in the basin
- Provides important information about wells and areas that may benefit from future programs

# Proposed Groundwater User Registration Program

- Registration is free
- Program is clear and simple
- Request for information, not for metering
- Properties not connected to public water supply system are assumed to have groundwater supply/well, with appeal process
- GSA contract with County Agricultural Commissioner & Permit Sonoma for program development and technical assistance
- Outreach/public information provided by GSA



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# Next Steps

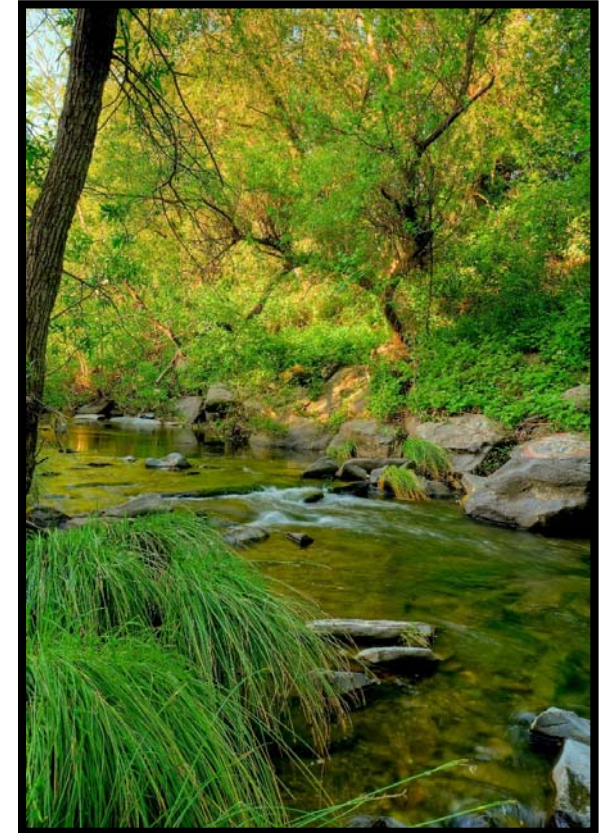
- February 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting - 1 p.m.
  - 35 Stony Point Road
  - Fee methodology discussion and possible action
- April 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting – time TBD
  - Possible approval of fee and groundwater user registration

# Thank You

Questions/Comments?

GSA website:

<http://santarosaplainingroundwater.org>



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