

RESOLUTION NO. 28702

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING GOVERNANCE OPTIONS

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Act) of 2014 prescribing that certain local and County agencies have until June 30, 2017 to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) for groundwater basins designated as medium or high priority; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County contains three medium priority basins including the Santa Rosa Plain, Petaluma and Sonoma Valley groundwater basins; and

WHEREAS, GSAs must prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) by 2022 and demonstrate sustainability by 2042; and

WHEREAS, the Act states that only entities having either land use, water supply or water management authorities are permitted to form GSAs; and

WHEREAS, in the Santa Rosa Plain, the current agencies that are eligible to form a GSA are the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, Town of Windsor, Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Water Agency; and

WHEREAS, staff of eligible agencies have begun meeting to vet alternatives related to forming GSAs and have developed Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Principles for Developing Governance Options (attached as Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2015, the Board of Public Utilities adopted a resolution recommending that the City Council adopt a resolution supporting the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Principles for Developing Governance Options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa adopts a resolution supporting the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Principles for Developing Governance Options.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 20th day of October, 2015.

AYES: (7) Mayor Sawyer, Vice Mayor Coursey, Council Members Carlstrom, Combs
Olivares, Schwedhelm, Wysocky

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Attachment: Exhibit A – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Principles For Developing Governance Options

Exhibit A

Groundwater Sustainability Agency-Eligible Entities of Sonoma County
9/10/2015

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Principles for Developing Governance Options

- Groundwater sustainability planning under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) should build upon existing cooperation, established frameworks, and successful water management efforts in Sonoma County, including the adopted groundwater management plans in the Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain.
- Local agencies¹ should work together to identify a cohesive and equitable approach to governance in which each local agency has a meaningful voice.
- The governance structure should reinforce the “local management” principles embodied in SGMA by ensuring that management decisions are made at the local level in each groundwater basin.
- To avoid redundancies, opportunities should be found for sharing resources (expertise and infrastructure) across basins.
- Costs should be equitably shared in forming GSAs and implementing SGMA.
- In addition to the local agencies, community stakeholders² should be represented through advisory committees to provide diverse viewpoints in plan development and implementation.
- A robust and transparent outreach program should be conducted to provide information to and receive input from private well owners and the general public regarding SGMA.

¹ SGMA defines “local agency” as a local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a groundwater basin.

² SGMA requires the consideration of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. “Community stakeholders” includes, but is not limited to, all interests identified in [Section 10723.2 of the Water Code](#).

Water Code Section 10723.2.

The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users.

(2) Domestic well owners.

(b) Municipal well operators.

(c) Public water systems.

(d) Local land use planning agencies.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.

(h) California Native American tribes.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

(j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

(Added by Stats. 2014, Ch. 346, Sec. 3. Effective January 1, 2015.)