

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.)