

# SANTA ROSA PLAIN 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 **Santa Rosa Plain basin**, the GSA will cover the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater subbasin 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.** Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District executive director Brittany Jensen (groundwater@goldridgercd.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.

The GSA Board of Directors (see reverse for details) meets at 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of every other month at the Santa Rosa Utilities Field Office. The next meeting is October 12, 2017. **Visit [sonomacountygroundwater.org/srp/](http://sonomacountygroundwater.org/srp/) for more details.**

## Board of Directors

**Member agencies:** Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, and Santa Rosa; Town of Windsor; County of Sonoma; Sonoma County Water Agency; Gold Ridge and Sonoma Resource Conservation Districts. In addition, by agreement, there is one seat for Mutual/PUC regulated water districts.

### Voting

- One director = one vote
- Simple majority for routine business
- Supermajority (75%) 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, 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.

### Santa Rosa Plain GSA Board of Directors

<b>Lynda Hopkins, Chair</b>	Water Agency
<b>Tom Schwedhelm, Vice-Chair</b>	City of Santa Rosa
<b>Joe Dutton, Director</b>	Gold Ridge RCD
<b>Susan Harvey, Director</b>	City of Cotati
<b>Mark Millan, Director</b>	Town of Windsor
<b>Walt Ryan, Director</b>	Sonoma RCD
<b>Pam Stafford, Director</b>	City of Rohnert Park
<b>Shirlee Zane, Director</b>	Sonoma County
<b>Evan Jacobs, Director</b>	Mutual/PUC
<b>Susan Gorin, Alternate</b>	Water Agency & County
<b>Chris Rogers, Alternate</b>	City of Santa Rosa
<b>Mel Sanchiatti, Alternate</b>	Gold Ridge RCD
<b>Mark Landman, Alternate</b>	City of Cotati
<b>Deborah Fudge, Alternate</b>	Town of Windsor
<b>John Nagle, Alternate</b>	Sonoma RCD
<b>Jake Mackenzie, Alternate</b>	City of Rohnert Park

## 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 will appoint one member of the committee. In addition, the GSA will appoint seven members to represent SGMA-defined stakeholder interests (agriculture, rural residential well-owners, environment, and the business community) and the interests of other groups in Sonoma County (Graton Rancheria, Mutual/PUC water districts, and the City of Sebastopol).

Appointed members are listed to the right.

### Santa Rosa Plain GSA Advisory Committee

<b>Mary Grace Pawson</b>	City of Rohnert Park
<b>Jennifer Burke</b>	City of Santa Rosa
<b>Craig Scott</b>	City of Cotati
<b>Toni Bertolero</b>	Town of Windsor
<b>Mark Grismer</b>	County of Sonoma
<b>Carolyn Dixon</b>	Sonoma County Water Agency
<b>Wayne Haydon</b>	Sonoma RCD
<b>Matt O'Connor</b>	Gold Ridge RCD
<b>Henry Mikus</b>	City of Sebastopol
<b>Sebastian Bertsch</b>	Environmental interests
<b>Rue Furch</b>	Environmental interests
<b>Doug Beretta</b>	Rural residential well-owners
<b>Marlene Soiland</b>	Rural residential well-owners
<b>Joe Gaffney</b>	Business community interests
<b>Bob Anderson</b>	Agricultural interests
<b>David Long</b>	Agricultural interests
<b>Maureen Geary</b>	Graton Rancheria
<b>To be appointed</b>	Mutual/PUC