

Petaluma Valley

Interested Parties List

An interested parties list is provided. GSA eligible-agency staff compiled the initial list, shortly after SGMA was passed, by drawing from extensive work that a Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) staff member had done in the basin and meeting with a group of organizations convened by the Sonoma Resource Conservation District. In addition, an impartial facilitator from the Consensus Building Institute conducted a stakeholder issue assessment and further identified interested parties with consideration of the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater as provided under SGMA (Water Code §10723.2). During 2015, the facilitator and SCWA staff made phone calls and conducted outreach to continue identifying stakeholders within the SGMA interested parties list.

Between 2014 and 2017, the GSA-eligible agencies held three public workshops, held meetings at the County of Sonoma, Sonoma County Water Agency, and Sonoma Resource Conservation District governing boards and Petaluma City Council (four of the five GSA eligible agencies), and conducted briefings with local organizations and agriculture further adding to the list. In addition, in 2015, the Sonoma County Water Agency set up a web site for the basin, www.sonomacountygroundwater.org, and created a sign-up function for members of the public to be added to the interested parties list. As a result, as of June 2017, the basin has an interested parties list of 446 people.

The list of interested parties includes, but is not limited to:

- Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including agricultural users and domestic well owners
- Municipal well operators
- Public water systems
- Local land use planning agencies
- Environmental users
- Surface water users
- Federal government, including the military and managers of federal lands
- Disadvantaged communities

Note: No California Native American tribal lands are in the Petaluma Valley basin.

Development of the GSA

In 2015, staff and an impartial facilitator from the Consensus Building Institute developed a communications plan and an engagement subcommittee to support outreach to interested parties. Staff of the GSA-eligible agencies provided nearly monthly email updates to the interested parties list on GSA development beginning in 2016 to the present day.

Staff held three public workshops during the development of the GSA to inform and solicit input from interested parties on the development of the GSA. Staff issued press releases, public advertisements in print media, and shared announcements with the interested parties list to

encourage attendance at workshops. In fall 2015, the workshop focused on educating the public about groundwater in the basin, generally, and SGMA and its requirements. In summer 2016, the public workshop focused on forming one GSA for the basin, potential board membership, and the advisory committee concept. In March 2017, the public workshop focused on the governance structure, including the governing board, voting proposal, and an advisory committee. In June 2017, the GSA held a formal hearing on GSA formation. Lastly, the boards and councils of the GSA eligible agencies each held multiple public sessions to consider GSA formation. Each board or council meeting was an opportunity to share information and solicit input from interested parties.

Operation of the GSA and Development and Implementation of the GSP

The GSA will consider interested parties via its public governing board meetings, a robust Advisory Committee, which will meet six times annually, developing a communications / outreach plan, and holding periodic public workshops tailored to meet the needs of the interested parties.

The Agency governing board and the Advisory Committee will operate under the Brown Act. All meetings will be open to the public. The governing board will meet six times during its first year. Each meeting will provide an opportunity for interested parties to contribute feedback on the operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the GSP.

An Advisory Committee will be appointed to represent interested parties and provide recommendations to the GSA on GSA operation and policies and GSP development and implementation. The Advisory Committees will meet six times annually. **The Advisory Committee consists of ten members that represent the following interest groups and member agency designations: five at-large members, one appointed by each PVGSA member agency and five interest-based appointees appointed by the PVGSA Board:**

1. Environmental representative
2. Rural residential well owner
3. Business community
4. Agricultural interest (surface water or groundwater user)
5. At-large community representative (preference for disadvantaged community interest)

Advisory Committee members may not serve concurrently on the PVGSA governing board. Members must live or work within or represent an organization with a presence in the Petaluma Valley Groundwater Basin, identified by the Department of Water Resources current Bulletin 118. The Board will determine if alternates are necessary, and if so, the appointment process.

GSA staff will develop a communications and outreach plan in fall 2017, as part of the Agency work plan, to identify the best communication tools and schedule to keep interested parties abreast of GSA operations and GSP development and implementation. In the mean time, staff

are maintaining the website used during GSA development, which interested parties have been using for several years now.

Given the complexity and importance of groundwater sustainability in this basin, staff plans to hold occasional public workshops to provide more in-depth opportunity for interested parties to understand topics related to GSA operations and policy and GSP development. Staff will schedule these public workshops at key milestones and advertise widely to maximize participation. These workshops will be key to manage the high level of interest and importance of groundwater in the basin's water supply.