

1 **DRAFT**

2 **Section 1 & 2: Introduction & Description of Plan Area**
3 **Groundwater Sustainability Plan for**
4 **Sonoma Valley Groundwater Subbasin**
5

6 **Table of Contents**

7 1.0 Introduction 3
8 1.1 Purpose of GSP 3
9 1.2 Administrative Information 4
10 Sonoma Valley GSA 4
11 Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee 4
12 GSA Coordination 5
13 2.0 Description of Plan Area (Reg. 354.8 b) 5
14 2.1 General Setting and Jurisdictional Areas (Reg. 354.8 b) 6
15 2.2 General Land Use Characteristics (Reg. 354.8 b) 7
16 2.3 Water Source Types and Water Use Sectors (Reg. 354.8 b) 8
17 Groundwater 8
18 Imported Surface Water 8
19 Local Surface Water 9
20 Recycled Water 9
21 2.4 Existing Monitoring Programs and Networks (Reg. 354.8 c, d, e) 9
22 Groundwater Level Monitoring 9
23 Groundwater Quality Monitoring 10
24 Climate Monitoring 12
25 Surface Water Monitoring 12
26 2.5 Existing Management Programs and Studies (Reg. 354.8 c, d, e) 13
27 Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program 13
28 Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan 14
29 Urban Water Management Planning 15
30 Water Conservation Programs 16
31 Climate Change Studies and Planning 18
32 Groundwater Banking Feasibility Study 18
33 Sonoma Valley Salt and Nutrient Plan 19
34 Stormwater Management Planning 19
35 Water Quality Regulatory Programs 20
36 2.6 General Plan and Related Land Use Planning 21
37 General Plans 21
38 2.7 Well and Project Permitting Policies and Procedures 24
39 Well Permitting 24
40 Project Permitting 24

41 2.8 Additional GSP Elements (Reg. 354.8 (g)) 25
42 2-8 County Zoning Map
43 2-9 County Water Availability Zones
44
45 [List of Tables](#)
46 2-1 Summary of Land Use Surveys
47

48 **1.0 Introduction**

49

50 In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
51 (SGMA) that substantially changes the way groundwater is managed in California. This new law
52 requires groundwater basins and subbasins in California designated as medium or high priority
53 under SGMA be managed sustainably. Satisfying the requirements of SGMA generally involves
54 four basic activities be completed by local agencies:

55

- 56 1) Forming one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to fully cover the SGMA
57 high or medium priority basin/subbasin
- 58 2) Developing one or multiple Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that fully covers the
59 SGMA high or medium priority basin/subbasin
- 60 3) Implementing the GSP and managing to achieve quantifiable objectives and
61 sustainability within 20 years of GSP adoption
- 62 4) Regularly reporting data and GSP progress to the California Department of Water
63 Resources (DWR)

64

65 The Sonoma Valley Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin), designated as basin number 2-2.02 in
66 DWR's Bulletin No. 118, is prioritized as a medium/high priority basin by DWR and is, therefore,
67 required to comply with SGMA.

68

69 **1.1 Purpose of GSP**

70

71 The purpose of this document is to fulfill the GSP requirement and present a path for sustaining
72 groundwater resources in the Sonoma Valley Subbasin. Primary objectives addressed by this
73 GSP are to:

74

- 75 ● Meet requirements of SGMA and DWR's GSP Emergency Regulations (GSP Regulations)
76 by establishing criteria and management actions that will achieve and maintain
77 sustainable groundwater management in the Subbasin within 20 years of GSP adoption,
78 with a particular focus on addressing long-term and chronic declining groundwater
79 levels identified within the deeper confined aquifers of southern Sonoma Valley.
- 80 ● Incorporate the best available scientific and technical information by building on the
81 strong technical foundation established through previous technical studies and
82 voluntary groundwater management activities in Sonoma Valley.
- 83 ● Integrate the perspectives and interests of the many diverse users and uses of
84 groundwater resources within the basin through a process that provides opportunity for
85 significant public and community engagement
- 86 ● Leverage the limited available funding and local resources through continued regional
87 coordination and information sharing with other local entities and GSAs.

88
89 The development of this GSP benefits from a long history of collaborative groundwater
90 management and water resource planning by local stakeholders, which had focused on
91 addressing groundwater sustainability issues in the Subbasin prior to the passage of SGMA.
92

93 **1.2 Administrative Information**

94 95 **Sonoma Valley GSA**

96 The Sonoma Valley GSA was formed to meet SGMA requirements in June 2017. The
97 jurisdictional area of the Sonoma Valley GSA is the entire Sonoma Valley Subbasin and no other
98 GSAs have jurisdiction within the Subbasin. The Sonoma Valley GSA formed through a Joint
99 Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) entered into by the North Bay Water
100 District, Sonoma County, Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), Sonoma Resource
101 Conservation District (RCD), Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD), and the City of
102 Sonoma, in accordance with requirements of California Water Code Section 10723 for
103 establishing groundwater sustainability agencies under SGMA. A copy of the resolution forming
104 the JPA is included in Appendix A.

105
106 The Sonoma Valley GSA is governed by six board members and alternates from the six member
107 organizations, which each appoint one member and one alternate member. GSA Board
108 members are elected or appointed members of their governing bodies who serve at the
109 pleasure of the member organization appointing them. GSA Board members annually elect the
110 officers of the Board for one year terms, which may be extended to multiple consecutive terms.
111 The GSA Board role in the GSP development process is to provide guidance and direction on key
112 components of the GSP and consider recommendations from the GSA Advisory Committee and
113 input from the public. The GSA Board is responsible for approving the GSP and authorizing its
114 filing with DWR.

115
116 The Sonoma Valley GSA has an agreement with Sonoma Water for technical support, public
117 outreach and community engagement, grant writing and GSA administrative support. The GSA
118 also has service agreements with outside firms for legal, financial decision-making, monitoring
119 and facilitation services for advisory committee meetings.

120 121 **Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee**

122 The Sonoma Valley GSA formed an Advisory Committee of 12 members consisting of
123 appointment of six at-large members from the six member agencies, and six interest-based
124 members appointed by the Sonoma Valley GSA Board:

- 125
126
 - Environmental representative (from an organization with a presence in the Basin)
 - Rural residential well owner
127

- 128 • Business community
- 129 • Agricultural interest (surface water or groundwater user)
- 130 • At-large community representative (hydrologist/geologist preference)
- 131 • At-large community representative

132
133 The role of the Advisory Committee in the GSP development process is to work towards
134 consensus and incorporate community and stakeholder interests into recommendations to the
135 GSA Board on GSP development and SGMA implementation. Advisory Committee members
136 also report to, and seek input, from their larger constituency groups on key components and
137 proposals related to GSP development. The Advisory Committee makes written
138 recommendations to the GSA Board that reflect the outcome of Committee discussions. To
139 ensure that all viewpoints are heard and considered by the Board, Advisory Committee reports
140 to the GSA Board identify areas of agreement and disagreement among the Committee.

141 142 **GSA Coordination**

143 Implementation of SGMA in the Sonoma Valley Subbasin is closely coordinated with
144 neighboring GSAs in Petaluma Valley and the Santa Rosa Plain, as well as local agencies with
145 land use responsibilities including the City of Sonoma and the County of Sonoma. In addition to
146 closely coordinating on managing and monitoring along shared basin boundaries, resources are
147 leveraged and shared by the three existing GSAs in Sonoma County to maximize efficiencies,
148 including shared templates and methodologies for certain GSP components, outreach
149 resources, grant opportunities, and the development of data management system tools and
150 technologies.

151
152 Contact information for the Sonoma Valley GSA is:

153
154 Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency
155 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa California 95406
156 www.sonomavalleygroundwater.org (707) 524-8378

157
158 GSA Administrator: Ann DuBay, Community & Government Affairs Manager, Sonoma County
159 Water Agency

160
161 GSA Plan Manager: Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer and Director of Groundwater Management,
162 Sonoma County Water Agency

163 164 **2.0 Description of Plan Area (Reg. 354.8 b)**

165
166 This section provides a description of the Plan Area, including the Subbasin's general physical
167 setting and jurisdictional areas, topography and surface water features, land use characteristics,