



SANTA ROSA PLAIN • PETALUMA VALLEY • SONOMA VALLEY

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

Groundwater Users Information Data Exchange (GUIDE)

Glossary

Agricultural Water Use: Water used for irrigation of agricultural crops or commodities such as vineyards, orchards, or cannabis. Vegetable gardens or hobby farms of less than 0.5 acres for personal use are not considered agriculture.

Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, and other non-residential uses: Any water use to support a business, institution, or the public that is not associated with residential or agricultural uses.

Landscape Water Use: Water used for landscape irrigation such as decorative planting, lawns, and gardens. Landscape water does not include irrigation for agriculture.

Onsite Well: A private groundwater well located on the parcel.

Public Water System: Under California Health and Safety §116275, “Public water system” means a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Public Water Systems are registered with the State Division of Drinking Water. Municipal, mutual, and private water companies are generally Public Water Systems.

Recycled Water: Water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource (Water Code §13050(n)).

Recycled Water Supplier: An entity that is permitted to produce recycled water consistent with California Code of Regulations, title 22 at a wastewater treatment plant or water recycling treatment plant.

Residential Dwellings: A building or portion thereof, or a mobile home, designed for residential occupation by one person or a group of two or more persons living together as a domestic unit or household. A single-family home, accessory dwelling unit, individual apartment, or condominium are each considered a single residential dwelling regardless of size or occupancy.

Residential Water Use: Water used in support of Residential Dwellings.

Shared Well: A supply well located on a nearby parcel. The nearby parcel may be under common ownership or owned by another entity. A shared well may be part of a State Small Water System that has a small number of connections, serves a small number of people daily, and does not qualify as a Public Water System, but may be registered and regulated by the County.

Surface Water: Water collected or diverted from a waterbody. A water body is defined as any significant accumulation of water, such as: lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, creeks, and springs.

Groundwater Sustainability Fee: Annual parcel based fee adopted by the GSA Board to maintain and implement the groundwater sustainability program. The fee is proportional to metered or estimated groundwater use of each parcel. The fee is expected to be subsidized by the County to an adjusted rate of \$40/ac-ft for 2023 and 2024.