

Virtual Meeting Protocol

1. Please note that the meeting is being recorded
2. Mute your phone
3. For each agenda item, after the staff report the Chair will ask for comments from the Board and then the public
4. If you have a question, please use the “chat” or “raise your hand”



SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Roll Call

Member Agency	Directors	Alternates
City of Cotati	Susan Harvey <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Mark Landman
City of Rohnert Park	Pam Stafford	Jackie Elward
City of Santa Rosa	Tom Schwedhelm <i>Chair</i>	John Sawyer
City of Sebastopol	Patrick Slayter	Neysa Hinton
County of Sonoma	Chris Coursey	Susan Gorin
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District	Joe Dutton	Mel Sanchietti
Independent Water Systems	Evan Jacobs	Michael Spielman
Sonoma County Water Agency	Lynda Hopkins	Susan Gorin
Sonoma Resource Conservation District	John Nagle	Bruce Abelli-Amen
Town of Windsor	Sam Salmon	

Consider Emergency Resolution 005-2021

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20, MARCH 4, 2020 AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 10, 2021 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SRPGSA) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of SRPGSA's Board and Advisory Committee are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's Board and Advisory Committee conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the District, specifically, a state of emergency exists in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and subsequent variants; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Order C19-25 requires mandatory face coverings be worn indoors, and public health guidelines recommend maintaining 3-6 feet between

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Consider Emergency Resolution 005-2021
3. Public comment on matters not listed on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board
4. Consent Calendar
 - a) Approve Minutes of October 14, 2021 Board Meeting
5. Directors/Subcommittee Report
6. Advisory Committee Report
7. Information Items
 - a) Water Supply Conditions Update
 - b) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Public Review Comment Period Update
 - c) Grant projects updates

Agenda *(continued)*

7. Action Items

- a) **Letter of Support for a Sonoma Water Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application.** Staff recommends the Board consider Letter of Support from the GSA to Sonoma Water for the grant application for the Santa Rosa Plain Drought Resiliency project/proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project.
- b) **Letter of Support for a Town of Windsor Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application.** Staff recommends the Board consider Letter of Support from the GSA to Town of Windsor for the DWR grant application for an arsenic treatment plant and well with a possible treatment system Project.

8. Administrator, Plan Manager and Legal Counsel Report

9. Adjournment

Public comment on matters not listed on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board

Consent Calendar

- a. Approve Minutes of October 14, 2021 Board Meeting

Directors/ Subcommittee Report

Advisory Committee Report

Information Items

- a) Water Supply Conditions Update
- b) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Public Review Comment Period Update
- c) Grant projects updates

Water Supply Conditions Update

Grant projects updates

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

- Comment period closed: October 31
- Advisory Committee meeting/final look: November 8
- Board meeting and public hearing: December 9
- GSP submission deadline: January 31, 2022

GSP Comments Received

Comments are collated and organized by section

All are being read and considered

17 commenters

The following agencies/organizations submitted comments

- California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Bay-Delta Region
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Sonoma County Chapter
- Milo Baker Native Plant Society
- Statewide coalition that includes Audubon California, Clean Water Action, Clean Water Fund, Local Government Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and Union of Concerned Scientists
- Russian Riverkeeper
- Santa Rosa Metro Chamber of Commerce

Many comments from organizations were regarding Interconnected Surface Water SMC

Many comments from individuals pertained to the chosen climate scenario

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
General	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We support the adoption of the Plan and we look forward to working with the Agency as it assesses and prioritizes policy options to achieve the goals of the Plan in the first year following its approval by the State.” • “I began to look over the plan, and I must say that it is quite extensive and intimidating for the layperson. Are you able to put out a more concise version for regular everyday joes like me to understand without the need for a dictionary and thesaurus?” • “When looking at the 3 draft GSPs – there are many similarities as to analysis and work product... It would be good to have the 3 all have a single version “Readers Digest” – to allow for assessing what is the same, what is different between each of them.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments acknowledged

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more information on stakeholder engagement (DACs, tribal, environmental) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added text Section 1.4, regarding outreach to specific stakeholders
2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add DACs and tribes to maps Show domestic well density, locations and depths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified Fig. 2-3 to show DACs and tribal land in trust Language added regarding estimated number of domestic wells and added map with distribution of known well depths. Current information is inadequate to sufficiently display distribution by well type

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
3	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate scenario and wet/dry years • Description of interconnected surface water • Add contour map on depth to groundwater for Inteconnected Surface Water (ISW) • Provide more compete description of groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDE) • Map managed wetlands in subbasin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional language on evaluation and selection of climate scenario • Adding information and clarity on methodology for mapping ISW • Adding information and clarity on methodology for mapping GDE • Adding description and information of known managed wetlands • Adding regional geologic map
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use 80-foot depth to groundwater threshold if Valley oaks exist in subbasin • Boundary area with Petaluma • Evaluate future surface water supply 	<p>Comments resulting in response only (Comments noted, addressed elsewhere in document or will be addressed in future updates)</p>

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
4	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of groundwater level (GWL) Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) on native plants • More information on future data collections • Describe impacts to public trust resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding information on protection to native vegetation for GWL and ISW SMC • Adding detail on future data collection specific to ISW depletion • Adding information on consideration of public trust resources
4 (cont)	7		<p><u>Other corrections/updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional description and diagrams of “well impact factor” and “drought factor” • Adding initial SMCs for all GWL RMPs • Additional description for “warning-level” threshold for GWL RMPs with over 100-ft historical declines and subsequent recovery • New appendix for determination of future drought years • Correcting inconsistency in date ranges cited for water quality SMC baseline

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
4 (cont)	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time period used to determine groundwater level MTs; baseline conditions • 40% threshold for ISW RMP wells during droughts • Describe impacts on domestic wells users, tribes and DACs • Ensure SMCs align with drinking water standards • When defining undesirable results for GWLs provide specifics on biological responses • When defining undesirable results include description of instream habitat • Describe how MTs for ISWs prevent URs, and how effects beneficial users/uses of groundwater and fish/wildlife • Identify monitoring metrics for GDEs that will enable the GSA to characterize GDE vulnerability to groundwater depletion and URs 	<p>Comments resulting in response only (Comment noted, comment addressed elsewhere in document, will be addressed during implementation, etc.)</p>

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
5	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show DACs on water quality RMP maps and identify data gaps • Overlay RMPs with DACs, domestic wells, GDEs and ISWs • Increase number of RMPs for water quality and in shallow aquifer • Don't delay expansion of RMPs for ISW • Coordinate with regulator agencies to ensure good water quality data 	<p>Comments resulting in response only (comment noted, comment addressed elsewhere in document, will be addressed during implementation, etc.)</p>
6	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For DACs and domestic well owners, include a drinking water well impact mitigation program to proactively monitor and protect drinking water wells • Discuss how PMAs affect water quality for domestic well users • Consider managed aquifer recharge and flood plain inundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying that policy options could include future well impact mitigation program, as necessary • Adding clarification that PMAs with potential to affect water quality will include project-specific monitoring programs • Clarifying that flood plain inundation projects would be considered as part of Stormwater Capture and Recharge projects.

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
6 (cont)	7	<p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on recharge and stormwater capture • Implement multi-benefit projects • Determine how to equitably manage recharge projects • Add delivery of recycled water to residents • Consider recharge with recycled water <p>Management Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop actions that incorporate climate and water delivery uncertainties • Implement real-time metering and reporting • Improve well location and condition information • Develop accounting for and permitting of water hauling for food farmers • Expedite implementation of policy options, including enacting mandatory water conservation • Well permits must have zero net use 	<p>Comments resulting in response only (comment noted, comment addressed elsewhere in document, will be addressed during implementation, etc.)</p>
6 (cont)	7		<p>Other corrections/updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional description of planned evaluation for PMA implementation • Additional description of evaluation of benefits from voluntary measures

SECTION	NUMBER OF COMMENTERS	TYPES OF COMMENTS	HOW COMMENTS ARE ADDRESSED
7	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivizing land-owner recharge projects Consider credit-based incentives for multi-benefit actions during fee study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying that credit-based incentives will be considered during fee study
7	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions regarding future fees Concerns regarding wireless devices Implement real-time well metering requirements Prioritize implementation of policy options Include concrete triggers and timelines for PMA implementation, including pumping restrictions 	<p>Comments resulting in response only (comment noted, comment addressed elsewhere in document, will be addressed during implementation, etc.)</p>
			<p>Other corrections/updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional description of coordination with land use and other agencies/entities and annual data evaluation Describe planned evaluation of options for reporting groundwater extraction Additional detail on planned voluntary monitoring program Include completion of public data portal

Questions?

Advisory Committee Poll

Question: On a scale of 1-5, what is your general opinion of the GSP as modified by the comments discussed (with 1 being “needs improvement” through 5 being “I believe the GSP addresses SRP's needs under SGMA”)?

Responses

- 1 - Zero
- 2 - Zero
- 3 - Three
- 4 - One
- 5 - Seven

Advisory Committee Poll

Question: Do you recommend adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the GSA Board?

Responses

- Yes – 13 (*11 present, plus 2 follow up*)

Action Items

- a. **Letter of Support for a Sonoma Water Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application.**
- b. **Letter of Support for a Town of Windsor Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application.**

Letter of Support for a Sonoma Water Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application

Background

The California State Budget Act of 2021 allocated \$300 million to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to deliver grants for interim and immediate drought relief to urban communities and for multibenefit projects.

Sonoma Water has identified an eligible project to obtain grant funding for rehabilitating two well sites providing important drought relief for the region (in addition to seismic resiliency). The project includes the capacity to recharge winter/spring water into the groundwater subbasin through aquifer storage and recovery to replace extracted groundwater.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board consider the attached draft Letter of Support from the GSA for Sonoma Water's DWR grant application for the rehabilitation of two well sites located in the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater subbasin.

Fiscal Information

None.

Letter of Support for a Town of Windsor Drought Resiliency Project Grant Application.

Background

The California State Budget Act of 2021 allocated \$300 million to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to deliver grants for interim and immediate drought relief to urban communities and for multibenefit projects.

The Town of Windsor has identified two eligible projects to obtain grant funding to bring off-river groundwater supply back online for droughts or other emergencies.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board consider a Letter of Support from the GSA to Town of Windsor for the DWR grant application for an arsenic treatment plant and well with a possible treatment system project.

Fiscal Information

None.

Administrator, Plan Manager and Legal Counsel Report

Adjournment