

1 **DRAFT**

2 **Sections 1 & 2: Introduction & Description of Plan Area**
3 **Groundwater Sustainability Plan for**
4 **Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin**

5
6 ****Notes to Reader:**

7 Text and Figures in this Draft reflect the basin boundaries proposed by the City of Sebastopol’s
8 Jurisdictional Basin Boundary Modification Request, assuming approval by DWR.
9

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46 **1.0 Introduction**

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48 In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
49 (SGMA), which substantially changes the way groundwater is managed in California. This new
50 law requires that groundwater basins and subbasins in California designated as medium or high
51 priority under SGMA be managed sustainably. To satisfying the requirements of SGMA, local
52 agencies must do the following:

- 53 1) Form one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to fully cover the SGMA
54 high or medium priority basin/subbasin
- 55 2) Develop one or multiple Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that fully covers the
56 SGMA high or medium priority basin/subbasin
- 57 3) Implement the GSP and managing to achieve quantifiable objectives and sustainability
58 within 20 years of GSP adoption
- 59 4) Regularly report data and GSP progress to the California Department of Water
60 Resources (DWR)

61

62 The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin), designated as basin number 1-55.01 in
63 DWR's Bulletin No. 118, is prioritized as a medium/high priority basin by DWR and is, therefore,
64 required to comply with SGMA.

65

66 **1.1 Purpose of GSP**

67

68 The purpose of this document is to fulfill the GSP requirement and present a path for sustaining
69 groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin. Primary objectives addressed by this
70 GSP are to:

71

- 72 ● Meet requirements of SGMA and DWR's GSP Emergency Regulations (GSP Regulations)
73 by establishing criteria and management actions that will achieve and maintain
74 sustainable groundwater management in the Subbasin within 20 years of GSP adoption.
- 75 ● Incorporate the best available scientific and technical information by building on the
76 strong technical foundation established through previous technical studies and
77 voluntary groundwater management activities in the Santa Rosa Plain.
- 78 ● Integrate the perspectives and interests of the many diverse users and uses of
79 groundwater resources within the basin through a process that provides opportunity for
80 significant public and community engagement.
- 81 ● Leverage the limited available funding and local resources through continued regional
82 coordination and information sharing with other local entities and GSAs.

83

84 The development of this GSP benefits from a recent history of collaborative groundwater
85 management and water resource planning by local stakeholders, which focused on addressing
86 groundwater sustainability issues in the Subbasin prior to the passage of SGMA.

87 **1.2 Administrative Information**

88

89 **Santa Rosa Plain GSA**

90 The Santa Rosa Plain GSA was formed to meet SGMA requirements in June 2017. The
91 jurisdictional area of the Santa Rosa Plain GSA is the entire Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin and no
92 other GSAs have jurisdiction within the Subbasin. The Santa Rosa Plain GSA formed through a
93 Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) entered into by the Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park,
94 Santa Rosa, and Town of Windsor, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Sonoma County,
95 Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD),
96 and an organized group of Mutual Water & Public Utilities Commission-Regulated Companies
97 (Independent Water Systems), in accordance with requirements of California Water Code
98 Section 10723 for establishing groundwater sustainability agencies under SGMA. A copy of the
99 resolution forming the JPA is included in Appendix A.

100

101 The Santa Rosa Plain GSA is governed by nine board members and alternates from the nine-
102 member organizations, which each appoint one member and one alternate member. GSA
103 Board members are elected or appointed members of their governing bodies who serve at the
104 pleasure of the member organization appointing them. GSA Board members annually elect the
105 officers of the Board for one-year terms, which may be extended to multiple consecutive terms.
106 The GSA Board role in the GSP development process is to provide guidance and direction on key
107 components of the GSP and consider recommendations from the GSA Advisory Committee and
108 input from the public. The GSA Board is responsible for adopting the GSP and authorizing its
109 submission to DWR.

110

111 The Santa Rosa Plain GSA has a service agreement with Sonoma Water for technical support;
112 public outreach and community engagement; and grant writing and management. The GSA also
113 has service agreements with outside firms for administrative support, legal, financial decision-
114 making, and facilitation services for advisory committee meetings.

115

116 **Santa Rosa Plain GSA Advisory Committee**

117 The Santa Rosa Plain GSA formed an Advisory Committee of 18 members in October 2017
118 consisting of members appointed by each of the nine-member agencies, the City of Sebastopol
119 and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, with seven interest-based members appointed
120 by the Santa Rosa Plain GSA Board:

121

- 122 • 2 - Environmental (from organizations with a presence in the Basin)
- 123 • 2- Rural residential well owner
- 124 • 1 - Business community
- 125 • 2 - Agricultural

126

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

136

137 **GSA Coordination**

138 Implementation of SGMA in the Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin is closely coordinated with
139 neighboring GSAs in Petaluma Valley and Sonoma Valley, as well as local agencies with land use
140 responsibilities including the Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Town of
141 Windsor, and the County of Sonoma. In addition to closely coordinating on managing and
142 monitoring along shared basin boundaries, resources are leveraged and shared by the three
143 existing GSAs in Sonoma County to maximize efficiencies, including shared templates and
144 methodologies for certain GSP components, outreach resources, grant opportunities, and the
145 development of data management system tools and technologies.

146

147 Contact information for the Santa Rosa Plain GSA is:

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149 Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency
150 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa California 95403
151 www.santarosaplainingroundwater.org (707) 524-8378

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153 GSA Administrator: Andy Rodgers, West Yost Associates, Inc.

154

155 GSA Plan Manager: Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer and Director of Groundwater Management,
156 Sonoma County Water Agency

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158 **2.0 Description of Plan Area (Reg. 354.8 b)**

159

160 This section provides a description of the Plan Area, including the Subbasin's general physical
161 setting and jurisdictional areas, topography and surface water features, land use characteristics,
162 water source types and uses, existing monitoring and management programs, applicable land
163 use plans, and the well permitting process. The numbers in parenthesis in each sub-heading
164 indicate the applicable SGMA regulation.

165

166 **2.1 General Setting and Jurisdictional Areas (Reg. 354.8 b)**

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