

## 49 **1.0 Introduction**

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

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

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66 The Petaluma Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin), designated as basin number 2-1 in DWR's  
67 Bulletin No. 118, is prioritized as a medium/high priority basin by DWR and is, therefore,  
68 required to comply with SGMA.

### 69 **1.1 Purpose of GSP**

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

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- 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 Basin within 20 years of GSP adoption.
- 78 ● Incorporate the best available scientific and technical information by building on the  
79 strong technical foundation established through previous technical studies and  
80 voluntary groundwater management activities in Petaluma Valley.
- 81 ● Integrate the perspectives and interests of the many diverse users and uses of  
82 groundwater resources within the basin through a process that provides opportunity for  
83 significant public and community engagement
- 84 ● Leverage the limited available funding and local resources through continued regional  
85 coordination and information sharing with other local entities and GSAs.

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87 The development of this GSP benefits from collaborative groundwater and water resource  
88 planning and studies by local stakeholders, which had focused on addressing groundwater  
89 sustainability issues in the Basin prior to the passage of SGMA.

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## 90           **1.2           Administrative Information**

### 91 92   **Petaluma Valley GSA**

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

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

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

### 117 118   **Petaluma Valley GSA Advisory Committee**

119   The Petaluma Valley GSA formed an Advisory Committee of 10 members with five at-large  
120   members appointed from the five member agencies, and five interest-based members  
121   appointed by the Petaluma Valley GSA Board:

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123       • Environmental representative  
124       • Rural residential well owner  
125       • Business community  
126       • Agricultural interest  
127       • At-large community representative

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129   The role of the Advisory Committee in the GSP development process is to work towards  
130   consensus and incorporate community and stakeholder interests into recommendations to the

131 GSA Board on GSP development and SGMA implementation. Advisory Committee members  
132 also report to, and seek input, from their larger constituency groups on key components and  
133 proposals related to GSP development. The Advisory Committee makes written  
134 recommendations to the GSA Board that reflect the outcome of Committee discussions. To  
135 ensure that all viewpoints are heard and considered by the Board, Advisory Committee reports  
136 to the GSA Board identify areas of agreement and disagreement among the Committee.  
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### 138 **GSA Coordination**

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

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150 Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
151 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa California 95403  
152 [www.petalumavalleygroundwater.org](http://www.petalumavalleygroundwater.org) (707) 524-8378  
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154 GSA Administrator: Ann DuBay, Community & Government Affairs Manager, Sonoma County  
155 Water Agency  
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157 GSA Plan Manager: Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer and Director of Groundwater Management,  
158 Sonoma County Water Agency  
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## 160 **2.0 Description of Plan Area (Reg. 354.8 b)**

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162 This section provides a description of the Plan Area, including the Basin's general physical  
163 setting and jurisdictional areas, topography and surface water features, land use characteristics,  
164 water source types and uses, existing monitoring and management programs, applicable land  
165 use plans, and the well permitting process. The numbers in parenthesis in each sub-heading  
166 indicate the applicable SGMA regulation.  
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### 168 **2.1 General Setting and Jurisdictional Areas (Reg. 354.8 b)**

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