



STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) requires local water agencies to sustainably manage groundwater resources. In August 2018, a joint powers authority for the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SCV-GSA”) was formed. The seven-member Board of Directors (“Board”) includes four people appointed by SCV Water and one member each appointed by the City of Santa Clarita, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 36. SCV Water provides staff assistance.

By January 2022, the SCVGSA will develop a groundwater sustainability plan (“GSP”) that is tailored to the resources and needs of the community and which will maintain and improve resource management where necessary. The overall goal is to achieve sustainable groundwater management in the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin (“Subbasin”) within 20 years.

As part of the process, a stakeholder advisory committee (“SAC”) will be formed with stakeholders and basin water users.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Overview

SGMA requires consideration of the interests of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin during development of the GSP, including the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Collaborative and inclusive processes will assist in making the GSP more resilient by increasing public acceptance, promoting compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which the GSP is based.

The purpose of the SAC is to incorporate community and stakeholder interests into consensus recommendations to the Board on SGMA implementation in the Subbasin. SAC members will provide meaningful insight, support and expertise from a variety of viewpoints. They are expected to actively engage with the public for input and feedback and provide recommendations to the Board on GSP development, implementation and policies. The SAC serves in an advisory role from February, 2020, through January, 2022, and will not vote on Board items.

Roles and responsibilities

Agency Board of Directors

The Board will consider the SAC's recommendations when making policy decisions. At least one member from the Board or staff will attend and participate in the SAC meetings.

Consultant/Facilitator

A third-party consultant will oversee the SAC and is responsible for facilitating meetings and election of a chair person, creating agendas, reviewing topics, building consensus among participants and reporting input to the Board.

Staff

Staff will ensure SAC complies with the Brown Act by assisting with agenda preparation and posting, meeting minutes, and reserving meeting space, as necessary.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

SAC members are expected to serve as strong, effective advocates for the stakeholder group they represent, work collaboratively, and devote the time required for productive discussions. Members should be prepared to review information and documents prior to meetings, discuss the issues at hand, present their constituents' views, engage in constructive dialog, employ consensus-building and problem-solving skills, and keep their stakeholder groups informed.

SAC will review and/or provide recommendations to the Board on groundwater-related issues that may include:

- Development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan;
- Sustainable management criteria including: undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives;
- Monitoring programs;
- Water budget;
- Modeling scenarios;
- Inter-basin coordination activities;
- Projects and management actions to achieve sustainability; and
- Community outreach

Application and selection

Interested members of the public who reside within the Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin are invited to apply. Please see the Basin boundary map at <https://scvgsa.org/> to determine if you are eligible. Employees, consultants and/or elected officials of SCVGSA member agencies are not eligible. One meeting will be held for each applicant group, at which candidates will vote for a single representative for the SAC.

Composition

- 1 representative of environmental interests;
- 1 representative of large pumpers (More than 25 acre-feet per year);
- 1 representative of medium pumpers (Over two and up to 25 acre-feet per year);
- 1 representative of small pumpers (two acre-feet or less per year);
- 1 representative of the business community; and
- 2 members-at-large.

Eligibility Criteria

Representatives shall meet the following criteria, determined at the sole discretion of the SCV-GSA Board of Directors:

1. Environmental Representative: An active member of a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization which, at the sole discretion of the Directors, meets the following requirements: (i) is currently active within or has a presence in the Basin; (ii) has an adopted budget; and (iii) has a mission that advances, or is furthered by, groundwater sustainability.
2. Large Pumper Representative: (i) own or lease property overlying the Basin and extract from its well(s) in the Basin, on a 10-year average from 2009 through 2018, 25 or more acre-feet per year of groundwater or (ii) be a representative of an organization, currently active within the Basin, consisting of pumpers who own or lease property overlying the Basin and extract from its wells in the Basin on a 10-year average 25 or more acre-feet per year of groundwater. Groundwater extractions of two acre-feet or less per year from wells for domestic purposes are not included in this total pumping.
3. Medium Pumper Representative: (i) own or lease property overlying the Basin and extract from its well(s) in the Basin, on a 10-year average, between two and 25 acre-feet per year of groundwater, or (ii) be a representative of an organization, currently active within the Basin, consisting of pumpers who own or lease property overlying the Basin and extract from its wells in the Basin on a ten-year average between two and 25 acre-feet per year of groundwater. Groundwater extractions of two acre-feet or less per year from wells for domestic purposes are not included in this total pumping.
4. Small Pumper Representative: (i) own or lease property overlying the Basin and be a de minimis extractor within the Basin, or (ii) be a representative of an organization, currently active within the Basin, consisting of de minimis extractors within the Basin. Definitions Section 10721(e) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act states: "De minimis extractor means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year."
5. Business Community Representative. (i) own or operate a business overlying the Basin, or (ii) be an active member of an organization operating in the basin providing services to business in the basin, such as for business networking and development.
6. Members-At-Large: There shall be two public interest representatives. Potential public interest representatives may include, but are not limited to, those constituencies set forth in Water Code section 10723.2¹. For the sake of broad community representation, they should not be directly affiliated with the above five constituent groups.

Employees, consultants and/or elected officials of SCV-GSA member agencies are not eligible.

Term

Terms are for the duration of the project through adoption of the GSP in January 2022.

¹ http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=WAT§ionNum=10723.2.

Vacancies

If a stakeholder seat becomes vacant, SAC will solicit applications and make a recommendation to the Board for the stakeholder's replacement.

Meetings/Attendance

Meetings will be held beginning February 2020 in the Santa Clarita Valley, with the exact location to be determined. The SAC will have an initial "Groundwater 101" workshop in February or March 2020. Members can expect another 15-20 meetings through December 2021, which includes up to six public workshops.

Decision-making

The SAC will provide written recommendations on subjects assigned by the Board. When unable to reach consensus, the SAC will outline the areas of agreement and disagreement and forward this information to the Board. The position of each SAC member will be noted in the records.

Proposed code of conduct

SAC members are expected to:

- Attend all meetings to the extent possible;
- Listen respectfully and not talk over others;
- Consider all viewpoints;
- Participate in decision-making;
- Ask questions to improve understanding;
- Negotiate in good faith; and
- Represent interests of and report back to respective stakeholders.

Dismissal

SAC members are subject to dismissal if they miss more than three consecutive meetings or for cause, such as conduct detrimental to the SAC or the SCVGSA, conviction for a serious crime or a crime involving fraud or financial impropriety. A final decision on dismissal would be made by a vote of the SCVGSA Board of Directors.

Brown Act, open process and conflicts of interest

SAC meetings are subject to the Brown Act and are open to the public. The SAC shall adopt a schedule and location for regular meetings, and meeting agendas shall be posted in compliance with the Brown Act.

All meetings shall provide for public comment in conformance with the Brown Act, including non-agenda public comment and public comment on individual agenda items. Public comment will generally be limited to three minutes, but the time may be adjusted.