NORTH BAY WATER DISTRICT

22950 Broadway, Sonoma, CA. 95476

**Board of Directors**

Mike Mulas, Chair (Sonoma Valley): Craig Jacobsen, Vice Chair (Sonoma Valley); Matthew Stornetta, Treasurer (Sonoma Valley); Carolyn Wasem, Secretary (Petaluma Valley); Mike Sangiacomo (Sonoma Valley)

SGMA Compliance Advisor: Mike Martini

Compliance/Website Advisor: GinaLisa Tamayo

SVGSA Advisor: Jim Bundschu, PVGSA Advisor: Eugene Camozzi

MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 8, 2025

TIME: 4:00pm

Location: 22950 Broadway, Schell-Vista Station #1 Sonoma CA 95476

and 2531 Grace Drive, Santa Rosa, Ca 95404

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm. Chair Mike Mulas, Craig Jacobsen, Mike Sangiacomo, and Carolyn Wasem (via Zoom) were present.

 2. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

(At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for consideration by the Board of Directors.) No members of the public were present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Mulas asked for approval of the Minutes for the June 2025 meeting. Director Sangiacomo made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 2025 meeting. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The June 2025 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Mulas reported that the NBWD account has $ 20,544.68. Chair Mulas asked for approval of the Financial Report. Director Wasem made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Director Jacobsen seconded the motion. The June 2025 Financial Report was unanimously approved.

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**Item 1. Update from District Lawyer, Richard Idell**

Counselor Idell had nothing to report.

**Item 2: Report of Director Mike Sangiacomo on Sonoma Valley GSA**

The Sonoma Valley GSA held a meeting on June 23rd.

Consent calendar items included:

* Approval of the year-to-date Financial Report (As of May 31, 2025, the GSA income totaled $1,304,877.56 and expenses totaled $1,342,071.90.
* Amendment to the Pacific Policy Group contract, a lobbying and consulting firm, specializes in natural resources and renewable energy in the amount of $24,000 representing an extension of services.
* Amendment to the Sonoma Ecology Center Contract Amendment for seepage monitoring services in the amount of $40,000.
* Amendment agreement with Intera to update their GSP Project & Management Actions final report in the amount of $14,000.

Staff provided an update on actions of the Long-Term funding work group. The County’s participation in funding the GSA to equalize cost of groundwater fees across the three basins will end in 2027.

**Working Group Update: GSA Funding and Advocacy**

The Working Group supports continued participation in the Small GSA Coalition to advocate for state funding for GSAs extracting 10,000 acre-feet (AF) or less annually, and to reduce SGMA compliance costs where feasible. Staff continues to monitor legislation that could impact SGMA implementation, including potential changes to grant programs, compliance requirements, and fee authority.

Sonoma Water is advancing resiliency initiatives—including water banking—that may provide long-term benefits to GSAs. However, the persistent challenge of SGMA as an unfunded state mandate underscores the need for sustainable and equitable funding strategies, which are likely to remain politically sensitive*.*

The Working Group emphasized that efforts to secure long-term funding for the Sonoma and Petaluma Valley GSAs must not result in increased fees for Santa Rosa Plain stakeholders.

Recognizing that the County will no longer be in a position to provide financial support, the Working Group is actively exploring new funding strategies, including pursuing state resources to address the unique challenges of small GSAs.

An Advisory Committee update was provided.

**Water Use Efficiency – Well Aware Program:** A Best Management Practices (BMP) Tool was designed to help basin landowners identify water conservation actions for their parcels.

**Project and Management Actions Evaluation –** Actions were developed in collaboration with Intera. Advisory Committee members noted that some items were difficult to compare side by side. Suggestions were made to improve clarity and consistency in future versions.

**GSA Implementation Project Update –** Staff provided updates on implementation activities, including the Flow Smart Program, construction of dedicated monitoring wells, and geophysical data collection efforts. The Committee asked that new data is integrated into county planning processes. There was strong interest in coordinating a future meeting with Permit Sonoma to better understand how GSA data will inform permitting and planning decisions.

**Outreach Updates -** Advisory Committee members expressed satisfaction with how the material—particularly around management options and potential mandatory measures—was presented to the public.

A Budget adjustment was approved, moving $210,000 from engineering to construction. A 2026 Budget was unanimously adopted.

In closing, Director Sangiacomo shared that he is driving an effort to get people together to discuss areas of depression within the GSA basin and share potential solutions. The GSA five-year review is approaching. This necessitates a plan for addressing the areas of depression for the State to review.

**Item 3: Report of Director Carolyn Wasem on Petaluma Valley GSA**

The Sonoma Valley GSA has held a meeting on June 26th. The next meeting for the Sonoma Valley GSA will be September on September 25th.

Consent calendar items included:

* Approval of year-to-date Financial Report (As of May 31, 2025, the Agency income is $2,507,429.89 and expenses are $2,484,662.69. The Agency’s total adjusted budget for FY 2024-25 includes projected revenues of $4,887,921.00 and expenditures of $4,808,160.00.
* Amendment to the Pacific Policy Group contract, a lobbying and consulting firm, specializes in natural resources and renewable energy in the amount of $24,000 representing an extension of services.

**Update on Fees and Funding for the Petaluma Valley GSA**
Staff provided an update on fees and funding for the Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). In September 2023, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced its final funding awards for the SGMA Round 2 Implementation Grants, awarding the Petaluma Valley GSA $6,739,409. This grant funding, which can reimburse eligible costs through spring 2026, will support several critical efforts: addressing data gaps—particularly those related to risks for sensitive beneficial users such as shallow domestic wells and groundwater-dependent ecosystems; planning and implementing water use efficiency programs; developing recharge project plans; constructing recycled water infrastructure; and conducting stakeholder engagement and outreach activities.

The data gaps include:

**Groundwater Levels -** Action: voluntary monitoring program

**Seawater Intrusion -** Action: Identifying 6 monitoring well locations for 6 multi-level monitoring wells in the Basin to fill high priority data gap areas for groundwater levels and seawater intrusion

**Well Inventory** - Action: Compiling and integrating existing well construction information and developing a comprehensive well geodatabase for the Basin

**Voluntary Metering Program** - Action: Developing a framework for the voluntary metering program

**Water-Use Efficiency (WUE) Assessment** - Action: WUE activities to assess water use and conservation and groundwater use efficiency opportunities

**Stormwater Capture and Recharge** - Action: Implement stormwater capture and recharge investigations and pilots

**Aquifer Storage and Recovery -** Action: Identify areas for recycled water expansion and ASR to maintain sustainable conditions within the Basin.

**Long-Term Funding** - As current grant funds expire, the GSAs will need to establish sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms. These ongoing expenses will be borne by groundwater users. Based on current projections, the minimum annual funding requirement would necessitate a fee of $315.84 per acre-foot per year from subbasin users. The Board may consider an annual adjustment to this rate based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the San Francisco Bay Area, as of the preceding December. Any such adjustment would be capped at a maximum increase of 5% per year.

**Fees by Uses**

City of Petaluma 13%

Small Water Service Providers 4%

Agriculture Irrigation 50%

Turf Irrigation 8%

Rural Residential 28%

Commercial 19%

Appeal Allowance (18%)

Long Term Solutions for the Petaluma Valley GSA would be to approach the Water Board with an exit strategy given the health of the basin. Alternately, lobby along with other “small” basins and seek a downgrade in data and information needed to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Director Wasem concluded by expressing concern about the financial implications of land fallowing, particularly the resulting reduction in groundwater pumping fees that support the GSA**.** A group of vineyard owners is meeting with the County Assessor to discuss how the fallowing of land may affect property valuations and associated tax obligations. The broader impacts of fallowing could pose challenges across multiple areas.

Chair Mulas shared that he had requested a reassessment of a dairy barn that is no longer in use. However, until the Assessor officially documents the change in use, the family remains responsible for property taxes based on a $1.5 million valuation. When asked how long the reassessment process might take, the Assessor’s office responded that they would follow up *within the next two years*.

I**tem 4: Report of Advisor Jim Bundschu**

Advisor Bundschu had no formal updates to report. However, one potentially noteworthy development is that GSA staff inquired about installing an electrical monitoring device to better understand the geophysical impacts on groundwater.

**Item 5. Report of Advisor Eugene Camozzi**

Advisor Camozzi was not present.

**Item 6: Report of Mike Martini, Technical Advisor**

Advisor Martini Was not present.

**Item 7: Report of GinaLisa Tamayo, Technical Advisor**

Advisor Tamayo was not present.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Director Jacobsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Sangiacomo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at pm.4:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th.

Board meeting documents are available to review prior to the meeting at the Shell-Vista Station, 22950 Broadway, Sonoma California. Please call or contact Carolyn Wasem for an appointment to obtain a copy.