

Response to Grant Jury Report Form

Report Title: Groundwater Sustainability

Report Date: June 16, 2017

Response By: City of Rohnert Park with respect to the Santa Rosa Plain

READ AND CONSIDERED  
DATE 9.9.17 Balinger

FILED  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SONOMA

SEP 18 2017

BY [Signature]  
Deputy Clerk

FINDINGS

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1 through F9 with the clarifications attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered: R1 and R2 have been implemented. A summary is attached.

Date: Aug 22, 2017 Signed: [Signature]  
Jake Mackenzie, Mayor, City of Rohnert Park

Number of pages attached: 1

## **Response to Grant Jury Report on Groundwater Sustainability**

### City of Rohnert Park Clarifications and Responses

The City agrees with Findings F1 through F9, with the following clarifications:

F2: The City of Rohnert Park approved the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Creating the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) on April 25, 2017. The GSA Board met for the first time on June 1, 2017 and filed with the Department of Water Resources

F3, the exemption from metering applies to wells that pump less than two acre-feet per year *for domestic purposes*. Also, while this translates to an average of about 1,785 gallons per day, the key factor is an annual, rather than a daily, total.

F8: in addition to the two time periods listed, there will be a review of each Basin's JPA following submission of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the Department of Water Resources.

F10: The City agrees the groundwater sustainability agency will need to have independence and maintain transparency when implementing their authority. The City is not commenting on the finding that "Influence by groundwater users, both large and small, may impede the goal of developing an accountability system on an aquifer's many users".

### **Implementing Actions**

R1: As noted above the City has approved the Joint Powers Agreement which created the Santa Rosa Plain GSA. The City's member of the GSA Board of Directors participated in the legally required June 1, 2017 public meeting, where the board approved filing the required documents with the State. GSA staff filed these documents prior to the June 30, 2017 deadline.

R2: The Joint Powers Agreement to which the City is a signatory contains the following operative provision regarding coordination:

#### **Section 4.05 – Coordination between Basins.**

In order to maintain consistency and the efficient use of resources, to the extent feasible, the Agency shall endeavor to coordinate between and among the other Sonoma County GSAs for administration, matters involving public communication and outreach, and for developing frameworks to support groundwater management, which may include agreement to certain areas of coordination, provided that the Agency retain its own authority and that such recommendations are ratified by the Board. The Agency may clarify and acknowledge coordination among the other GSAs through a document or agreement if deemed appropriate."

As the GSA begins its work, technical, grant writing and outreach services are being conducted by the same staff for each of the basins to ensure efficiency and consistency. In support of this, a single data management system is being created for all three basins, utilizing State grant funding. In addition, the three interim administrators are meeting regularly to coordinate work and share information.