

General Principles for Developing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Governance Options

1. Eligible local agencies should work together to identify a unified and equitable approach to governance in which each local agency has a meaningful voice.
2. The governance structure should reinforce the “local management” principles embodied in the Act by ensuring that management decisions are made at the local level in each groundwater basin.
3. While local management is essential, opportunities should be found for sharing resources and management expertise across basins. The governance structure should avoid redundancy and reduce management costs by efficiently using local staff and technical resources and agency infrastructure.
4. Groundwater sustainability planning under the Act should build upon successful water management efforts in Sonoma County, including the adopted groundwater management plans in the Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain.
5. In addition to the local agencies, community stakeholders should be represented through additional formal governance structures, such as advisory committees, to ensure diverse viewpoints are represented in plan development and implementation.
6. A robust and transparent outreach program should be conducted to provide information to and receive input from private well owners and the general public regarding the Act.