



Groundwater is a vital resource, together let's protect it.

midcountygroundwater.org • 5180 Soquel Drive • Soquel, CA 95073

Groundwater Agency Board Seeks Private Well Owner Representatives

The [Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency](https://www.midcountygroundwater.org/) (MGA) is seeking volunteers to fill openings for 1 Private Well Owner (PWO) Director and 1 PWO Alternate Director on the MGA Board. The PWO candidates must either own, manage, or be served by: 1) a private or shared domestic well; 2) a small private water system well; or 3) an irrigation well used for commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, or agricultural purposes. This well must be located within the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin. Following this public solicitation process, the MGA Board will approve appointments by December 2023 with 4-year terms to commence in January 2024. The time commitment is estimated to average about 4 hours per month. The Board currently meets on the third Thursday of the month on a quarterly basis (March, June, September, December), beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Capitola.

About the MGA

The MGA is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency formed as a Joint Powers Authority in March 2016 under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. The MGA is responsible for groundwater management in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin (Basin). As required by SGMA, the MGA is responsible for developing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to achieve sustainability in the Basin by 2040. The MGA Board adopted the initial Basin GSP on November 19, 2019. As required by SGMA, the Basin GSP was reviewed and approved by the California Department of Water Resources on June 3, 2021. Current MGA priorities are focused on implementing GSP projects that will result in long-term Basin sustainability and on beginning a five-year GSP evaluation as required by SGMA.

Board Composition and Responsibilities

To ensure broad representation of Basin interests, the MGA Board is composed of the four MGA member agencies that are eligible to be signatories to the Joint Powers Authority and representatives of private groundwater users. The resulting governing board has 11-representatives, including:

- Eight representatives from the four MGA member agencies – two representatives each from Soquel Creek Water District, City of Santa Cruz, Central Water District, and County of Santa Cruz. Directors are appointed by their respective elected bodies. Each member agency also appoints one alternate director to serve in the event of a director absence.
- Three private well owner (PWO) representatives for water users with groundwater wells operated independently of any water agency to supply water for drinking, industry, or irrigation. One alternate director is also appointed to serve in the event of a director absence.

The responsibilities of the MGA Board of Directors include, among others, the following:

- Adopt rules, regulations, policies, bylaws and procedures for the effective operation of the MGA.
- Approve the annual budget and fiscal audits of the MGA.
- Approve actions necessary for the MGA to exercise all of its powers, including those granted through SGMA, as identified in the First Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement.
- Direct MGA staff and approve actions necessary for successful implementation of the Basin GSP.
- Receive and authorize submission of annual reports on GSP implementation progress and oversee and approve five-year assessments of the GSP.
- Communicate with their constituencies and represent the viewpoints and concerns of the constituencies that they represent, while acting in the interest of the overall Basin.

Desired Candidate Qualities

MGA is seeking candidates that are passionate about our community's future and sustainability of the Basin. Candidates with current knowledge of the Basin and its needs or who are committed to learning about the Basin, the MGA, and the GSP are preferred. MGA is looking for candidates that can effectively represent the interests of PWOs in the Basin and are willing to educate the community, Board members, and the MGA about the water interests they represent. Finally, MGA is seeking candidates that are open to learning about, and working with, people whose interests may conflict with their own and are willing to make educated compromises that are respectful of competing viewpoints.

Selection Criteria and Process

The process for selecting the PWO Director and PWO Alternate Director includes the submittal of the attached application by prospective candidates. The application will be reviewed by the MGA PWO Nominating Subcommittee based on the following criteria: 1) knowledge of the Basin's groundwater sustainability issues as well as knowledge of the issues faced by private well, small water system, or mutual water company/system; 2) qualities/skills/characteristics that would make you an effective Board Director on behalf of the private well owners in the Basin; and, 3) prior community engagement or service (e.g., Board member or volunteer) and/or prior participation in multi-party or community collaborative processes.

Following application review, the highest qualified candidates will be invited to an in-person interview with the subcommittee. The interview will explore the candidate's commitment to learning about the Basin and the MGA, their ability to work with people with diverging interests, their ability to make educated compromises that are respectful of competing viewpoints, and their willingness to work with their constituents, fellow board members, and the broader Basin community. The subcommittee will then make a recommendation for each of the positions, based on the combined application and interview process, to the MGA Board for consideration by December 2023.

Applications are due by **5:00 P.M. on August 14, 2023.**

Please submit the application via email to admin@midcountygroundwater.org or deliver the application to Soquel Creek Water District, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, CA 95073.

Please direct questions about the application via email to admin@midcountygroundwater.org.
