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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 two Private Well Owner (PWO) Directors 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 water system well; or 3) a 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 is anticipated to approve appointments by December 2025 with 4-year terms to commence in January 2026. The time commitment is estimated to average 5-10 hours per quarter. The Board currently meets on a quarterly basis with evening meetings (6 p.m. start) in March, June, September, and December. Meetings are generally on the third Thursday of the month but occasionally vary due to holidays. Meetings currently are conducted at the Capitola public library.

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). 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 in June 2021. Current MGA priorities include implementing the GSP to achieve long-term Basin sustainability, monitoring Basin conditions, and annual and periodic reporting on progress required by SGMA.

Board Composition and Responsibilities

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

- Eight representatives from the four 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 well(s) operated independently of MGA member agencies (Soquel Creek Water District, Central Water District, City of Santa Cruz) to supply water for domestic use or for commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, or agricultural uses. 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.



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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.

Candidates must be willing and able to attend quarterly meetings in person at a location within the Basin. Currently, meetings are held at the Capitola Branch Library. Board members are expected to regularly attend Board meetings in-person.

Selection Criteria and Process

The process for selecting the PWO Directors includes the submittal of the attached application by prospective candidates. The application will be reviewed by the MGA PWO Nominating Committee 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 users, 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 interview with the Nominating Committee. At this time, the interviews are expected to take place on November 17, 18, and 19. The interview will explore the candidate's willingness to work with their constituents, fellow board members, and the broader Basin community; their ability to work with people with diverging interests, their ability to make educated compromises that are respectful of competing viewpoints, and their interest in learning about the Basin and the MGA. The Nominating Committee is anticipated to make a recommendation, based on the combined application and interview process, to the MGA Board for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Board on December 11, 2025.

Schedule and Submittal

Applications are due by **4:00 P.M. on October 29, 2025.**

For a detailed schedule, please see the MGA website at midcountygroundwater.org

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

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



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Application for Private Well Owner Director/Alternate Director

First Name:	Last Name:	
Mailing Address:		
City:	Zip Code:	
Phone:		
Email Address:		
Current or Past Occupation/Profession:		
Community Interests and Activities:		
<p>Is your well located in the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin*?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my well is in the Basin.</p> <p>Do you own, manage, or are served by: a private or shared domestic well or a small water system well; or use a well for commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, or agricultural purposes?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, I receive all my water from a public water agency (Soquel Creek WD, Central WD, or City of Santa Cruz).</p> <p>If you answered no to either question, you are not eligible to be a Private Well Owner representative.</p> <p>*Interactive Map searchable by address on the Department of Water Resources GSA Map Viewer: SGMA Interactive Map. If you are having trouble with this link, contact admin@midcountygroundwater.org</p>		
Identify the type of private well configuration best describes you as a groundwater user: (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Private well for domestic use (single family home)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shared private well for domestic use (up to 4 homes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small water system with 5-14 connections Name of water provider:
<input type="checkbox"/> Small water system with 15-199 connections Name of water provider:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Well for commercial, institutional, industrial, or recreational uses Please describe:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private well for agricultural use Please describe:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please describe:		
<p>Is your well used for irrigation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please estimate how many acres that you irrigate.</p>		

Application for MGA Private Well Owner Representative (continued):

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors of this Agency?

Describe your knowledge of the Basin's groundwater sustainability issues as well as knowledge of the issues faced by private well users, small water system, or mutual water company/system:

Application for MGA Private Well Owner Representative (continued):

Describe your qualities/skills/characteristics that would make you an effective representative of private well owners in the Basin:

Describe your prior community engagement or service (e.g., Board member or volunteer) and/or prior participation in multi-party or community collaborative processes:

Application for MGA Private Well Owner Representative (continued):

Are you able to commit to attending regular board meetings? Currently, the Board meets quarterly (4x/year) in the evening (starting at 6 p.m.) at the Capitola Branch Library. Meetings are typically 1.5 to 3 hours long. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you previously attended a meeting of the MGA Board of Directors? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you previously attended an MGA community event or workshop? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you ready the Executive Summary of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If not selected for the current openings, would you like this application to be considered for the next opening (note: the next solicitation is anticipated to occur in two years)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
When there is a future opening, do you have a preference to serve as a Director or Alternate Director? <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Director <input type="checkbox"/> Either