

Preparing for the August 27 Stakeholder Committee Meeting

What we will be discussing: After reviewing the feedback received from both the Stakeholder Committee (committee) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the consultants and Sonoma Water narrowed down the regionalization alternatives from eight to five. On August 27, we will review the five alternatives, provide additional capital and operating cost information for the shortlisted alternatives, and describe the unsewered communities that have been identified as the best initial candidates for incorporation into the potential regional solutions.

Your feedback and input is needed: We will be asking for your feedback on the five alternatives based on the new information we will provide about capital and operating costs.

The five alternatives: Based on comments, questions and ratings provided by both the committee and the TAC, Sonoma Water and consultants narrowed down the original eight alternatives to the five options below. On August 27, we will review these alternatives. To refresh your memory and prepare for the meeting, please consider reviewing the materials from Meeting 3, posted on the project [webpage](#). The meeting summary, including the committee's feedback on the alternatives (page 6) can be found [here](#).

1. **Local Alternative 1a:** Two local facilities with Russian River County Sanitation District (RRCSD) flows treated at RRCSD treatment plant plus Forestville/Graton/Occidental (FWD/GCSD/OCSD) flows treated at the Forestville and Graton wastewater treatment plants.
2. **Local Alternative 1c:** Export all wastewater for treatment at a new Forestville wastewater treatment plant
3. **Export Alternative 2a:** Export all wastewater for treatment at the Windsor wastewater treatment plant.
4. **Export Alternative 2b:** Export to all wastewater for treatment at the Santa Rosa (Laguna) wastewater treatment plant.
5. **Combination Alternative 3b:** Treat FWD/GCSD/OCSD flows at the Forestville and Graton wastewater treatment plants plus export RRCSD to Windsor (a combination of Alternatives 1a and 2a)

Unsewered communities: As discussed at past meetings, some of the alternatives offer opportunities to provide wastewater treatment for currently unsewered communities. In 2024, the County of Sonoma completed a mapping study using a geographical information systems (GIS) analysis of Sonoma County areas that don't receive sewer services and rely on onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). The consultant utilized the information developed in the mapping study to prioritize areas that would be the best candidates for initial incorporation into a regional solution. The following factors were considered in this analysis:

- Proximity to existing Sanitation District Service Area boundaries, with areas located close to boundaries rated higher priority than more distant areas.

- Proximity to major roads/highways (Highway 116, Bohemian Highway, River Road, Graton Road, Mirabel Road), with areas located close to major roads rated higher priority than distant areas.
- Parcel density, with higher-density areas rated higher priority than lower-density areas.
- Slope of parcel, with steeper parcels rated more highly priority (i.e. likely for septic systems to fail) than flatter parcels.
- Rating for septic tank absorption, with less absorbent areas rated higher priority than areas with higher absorption.
- Proximity to Russian River or other surface water body, with areas closer to water bodies rated more highly than areas farther from water bodies.
- Proximity to 100-year floodplain, with areas that are more likely to flood rated higher priority than areas less likely to flood.
- Proximity to water wells, with areas with greater well density rated higher priority than low-density areas.

For the projects to be economically viable, the analysis then screened out communities with under 50 parcels or where parcels were large and spread out. The following 12 community clusters, also shown on the attached map, were determined to be potentially viable for sewer service:

1. Guerneville South of River
2. Guerneville North of River
3. Northwood
4. Hwy 116 East of Guerneville
5. Summerhome Park Road
6. Hacienda and Hollydale (DACs)
7. River Road North of Forestville
8. Forestville
9. Hwy 116 East of Graton
10. Graton West
11. Camp Meeker (DAC)
12. Monte Rio/Villa Grande

The Monte Rio/Villa Grande areas is the subject of a separate study being carried out for Sonoma Water and (as noted above) is considered a ‘community cluster’ for purposes of this study.

Next steps: The next steps in the study are to roughly estimate sewer service costs for each unsewered community cluster; to estimate additional costs for major new (or upsized) conveyance pipelines to wastewater treatment plants; and to estimate costs for expanded treatment.

The consultants will also further evaluate recycled water opportunities as they relate to each alternative and identify the climate resiliency benefits of a regional approach to wastewater management.

