

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF
SONOMA AND THE CITY OF SONOMA CONTINUING THE
SONOMA VALLEY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
AND AMENDING THE NAME TO THE
SONOMA VALLEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

This Agreement is made by and between the County of Sonoma, a political subdivision of the State of California (“County”), and the City of Sonoma, a general law city (“City”), and is dated for convenience as of January 1, 2024.

RECITALS

Whereas, County and City share responsibility for local planning in the Sonoma Valley; and

Whereas, according to statewide growth projections, County and City are faced with the potential for unprecedented population growth and development; and

Whereas, Sonoma Valley, with its beautiful landscape, historic buildings, and growing industries producing wine, dairy, and other agricultural products, is an ideal environment for local residents and businesses; and

Whereas, it is in the public interest that County and City coordinate their local planning activities; and

Whereas, this coordination is enhanced by better communication; and

Whereas, Government Code section 65101 authorizes the establishment of joint advisory agencies through a plan or organization mutually agreeable to cooperating counties and cities; and

Whereas, County and City have established the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission (“the Commission”) pursuant to Government Code section 65101 as a joint advisory agency to provide a regular forum for resident participation in the formation of public policy, to consider local planning issues concerning the Sonoma Valley, to evaluate solutions to these issues, to advise elected officials and other decision makers, and to form a bridge for communication between the various governmental agencies and the general public; and

Whereas, County and City mutually desire to continue the Commission in existence for a period of five (5) years; and

Whereas, the County and City also mutually desire to change the name and Rules and Procedures of the Commission to allow the inclusion of noncitizens on the membership of the Commission who are otherwise qualified to serve.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

Now, Therefore, Be It Agreed as follows:

1. By virtue of resolutions of County and City authorizing the execution of this Agreement, the Commission is hereby continued in existence.
2. The Commission shall be empowered from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028 (“the five-year term”), and shall be subject to review by County and City each year of its existence. The Commission may, at the conclusion of the five-year term, be continued for a time certain upon mutual consent of County and City, subject to periodic review as previously defined.
3. County and City reserve the right to terminate this Agreement and the Commission at any time upon mutual agreement, or upon sixty (60) days notice from either party to the other.
4. The boundaries and area subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission are shown in Exhibit “A,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
5. The Commission shall consist of eleven (11) commissioners, two (2) alternate commissioners, two (2) emeritus (non-voting) commissioners, two (2) ex-officio (non-voting) members, and two (2) alternate ex-officio (non-voting) members. The commissioners, alternate commissioners, and emeritus commissioners shall be from the Subareas shown in Exhibit “A.” The ex-officio members and alternate ex-officio members shall be representatives from County and City. Representation shall be generally based upon the population distribution of the Sonoma Valley. It is understood that in addition to meeting the following geographical criteria, it is desirable that the commissioners, alternate commissioners, and emeritus commissioners represent a wide range of interest, varied experience and expertise, and include members of the general public to encourage a greater voice in local government decisions. Commissioners, alternate commissioners, emeritus commissioners, ex-officio members, and alternate ex-officio members shall be selected as follows:
 - (a) Representing County:
 - (1) El Verano West: three (3) commissioners from the area covered by the portions of Subareas 3, 4, and 10 that lie to the west of Sonoma Creek.
 - (2) Springs East: two (2) commissioners from the area covered by the portions of Subareas 3 and 9 that lie to the east of Sonoma Creek.
 - (3) North Valley: two (2) commissioners from the area covered by Subareas 5, 6, 7, and 8.
 - (4) South Valley: one (1) commissioner from the area covered by Subareas 11, 12, 13, and 14.
 - (5) One (1) alternate commissioner from the area covered by Subareas 3 - 14, inclusive.

(6) One (1) emeritus commissioner from the area covered by Subareas 3 - 14, inclusive, who shall be a former commissioner or alternate commissioner.

(7) One (1) ex-officio member and one (1) alternate ex-officio member from County's Planning Agency, which is comprised of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustments, and Permit and Resource Management Department staff.

(b) Representing City:

(1) City of Sonoma: three (3) commissioners and one (1) alternate commissioner from the area covered by Subareas 1 and 2, being the city of Sonoma and its primary sphere of influence.

(2) One (1) emeritus commissioner from the area covered by Subareas 1 and 2, who shall be a former commissioner or alternate commissioner.

(3) One (1) ex-officio member and one (1) alternate ex-officio member from City's Planning Agency, which is comprised of the City Council, Planning Commission, and Planning Department staff.

6. One commissioner shall be designated and shall act as representative of public service agencies, such as water, fire, school, and other districts or entities.

7. The commissioners, alternate commissioner, emeritus commissioner, ex-officio member, and alternate ex-officio member representing County shall be appointed by County's Board of Supervisors. The commissioners, alternate commissioner, emeritus commissioner, ex-officio member, and alternate ex-officio member representing City shall be appointed by City's City Council.

8. The Commission shall review and make recommendations on policy matters affecting the Sonoma Valley and on development projects of valley-wide significance.

9. The Commission may also, from time to time, hold publicly noticed "town hall meetings" to inform local residents, provide a forum for local residents within the Sonoma Valley to raise and discuss local planning issues of importance, and to recommend long range policy direction for resolution of those issues.

10. The rules and procedures for governance of the Commission shall be as set forth in Exhibit "B," attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. The rules and procedures may be amended or modified upon mutual consent of County and City.

11. County and City, through their respective planning agencies, shall cooperate with the Commission to reach the goals of this Agreement.

In Witness Whereof, County and City have executed this Agreement as set forth below.

County:
County of Sonoma

By: _____
Chair, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Christina Rivera, Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors

City:
City of Sonoma

By: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk