

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin March 23, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Joan Hartmann, Brad Joos, Brett Marymee,
and Elizabeth Orona

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, David Brown,
and Meighan Diethofer

Member Agency Staff Present: Jose Acosta, Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson,
and Matt Young

Others Present: Joe Barget, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Mark Infanti, Kevin Merrill,
and Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. All four EMA GSA Committee Members were present providing a quorum. Three EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members were also present.

II. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

Mr. Buelow announced that the presentation for Agenda Item No. 6 was revised and printed copies to replace pages 14-35 of the published meeting packet were available.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he did not receive any public comments in advance of the meeting.

IV. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 26, and February 23, 2023

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on January 26, and February 23, 2023 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January 26, and February 23, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously.

V. Review and Consider Request for EMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 in the EMA for APN 141-440-011 Kylix Sanjo Cota

Mr. Buelow reviewed GSI Water Solutions, Inc.'s Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA), dated January 17, 2023 (revised March 18, 2023) and the Draft letter from the EMA GSA regarding Written Verification Request for 141-440-012, WP#0005465. Discussion followed and public comment was received. Mr. Kevin Merrill, on behalf of Kylix Sanjo Cota / Kylix Vineyards California LP, answered questions from the EMA GSA Committee Members.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the Written Verification Request, as presented. GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. Receive Update on March 2023 Water-Levels for the EMA

Mr. Matt Young, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, presented Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area, Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent March 2023 Measurements. Discussion occurred during and after the presentation. Public comments were received, and questions were answered by Member Agency Staff and Committee Members.

- EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee asked about Cloud Seeding expectations.
 - Mr. Young replied that the County plans to continue the program next fall.
- Ms. Mary Heyden, EMA CAG member, asked about the possibility to capture future storm water runoff that currently flows out to ocean.
 - Mr. Buelow replied that the EMA GSP lists one Management Action and Project as stormwater capture program.
 - Mr. Young replied with information on other current programs available for this purpose.
 - EMA GSA Committee Alternate Member David Brown commented that a conservation program to save natural recharge opportunities versus increased hardscapes and housing would be beneficial for storm water recharge.

- EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos commented on the benefits of controlled burns versus wildfires and the need for controlled burns.
- EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann replied that she serves on the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council and reported that grazing and aggressive landscape management programs are currently in place.

VII. Review Revised Draft Policy Options for Well Verification Requests

Mr. Paeter Garcia presented the Draft Policy Options for New Well Verifications by the EMA GSA. The options presented and discussed were:

- Option 1: Continue to review requests for well verifications until undesirable results occur. (The policy currently in place.)
- Option 2: Deny pending verification requests and cease accepting new requests based on imminent occurrence of undesirable results.
- Option 3: Process New Well Verification requests pending review of semi-annual monitoring data.
- Option 4: Continue to review requests for well verifications based on water budget parameters and considerations contained in EMA GSP.

Discussion occurred during and after the presentation. Public comments were received. Memorandum from the EMA Citizens Advisory Group, prepared by Gay Infanti, dated March 23, 2023 regarding Review of Draft Policy Options for Well Verification Requests as introduced and briefly summarized by Ms. Infanti.

By consensus, the EMA GSA Committee directed Staff to continue processing written well verification requests with Option 1 (the current policy in place) and further develop components for Option 4, including a requirement that future wells will require registration, reporting and metering. They requested a notice be made to public of these requirements in advance of the implementation to provide acknowledgement that a metering program is being planned. They also requested Staff to create a Well Registration Form and include the form in the Well Verification Application packet. The Committee further directed Staff that the future presentation on Option 4 should include hypothetical scenarios to demonstrate how Option 4 would be implemented with scenarios for both denied and approved written well verifications, a desktop analysis and a cost analysis.

VIII. Consider Approving and Submitting the Second Annual Report for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin to DWR

Mr. Tim Nicely, GSI Water Solutions, Inc., presented information on the Second Annual Report for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin prepared for submission to DWR. He stated that, as required by DWR, the Second Annual Report includes data from the prior water year of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann made a MOTION to approve the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin – Eastern Management Area Annual Report Water Year 2022, dated March 21, 2023, authorize Staff to make any non-substantive edits, if needed, and to upload the report to DWR. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

EMA GSA Committee Members and Member Agency Staff thanked GSI Water Solutions staff for preparing and presenting a high quality report.

IX. Update on Required Conflict of Interest Form 700 Filings

Ms. Amber Thompson reported that all Committee Members have filed their required Conflict of Interest Form 700s with the County of Santa Barbara prior to the deadline.

X. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA.

XI. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

EMA GSA Committee requested a summary of the AEM Survey at a future meeting.

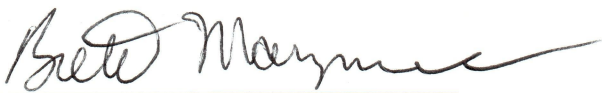
EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona agreed with request for an update on the future governance planning.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested information about the Atmospheric River phenomena.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested information regarding aquifer management programs through the State of California and ideas to increase the recharge of the Paso Robles aquifer.

XII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary