

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN
HELD AT
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, BOARD ROOM
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

Director Steve Jordan will be attending the meeting via teleconference from the following location: El Dorado Country Club, 46000 Fairway Drive, Indian Wells, CA 92210. Members of the public may join Director Jordan at that location.

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-444-9171
or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

“Join a Meeting” - Meeting ID **867 6279 8842** Meeting Passcode: **607621**

*** Please Note ***

The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption of unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued.

Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public comment shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public comments item.)
4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of November 16, 2023
5. Review and Consider Requests for EMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcels:
 - a. APN 137-100-062 1250 Roble Blanco Rd., Solvang, CA (Desser)
 - b. APN 137-390-003 1235 Quail Ridge Rd., Solvang, CA (Liebman)
6. Update on SGMA Governance and Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA
7. Update on WY 2022-2023 EMA Annual Report
8. Receive update on Proposition 68 Grant Award
 - a. Official Receipt of Grant Check - Ceremony (Place and Time TBD)
9. Next EMA GSA Committee Special Meeting, Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM, Santa Ynez CSD
10. Next EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:30 PM, Santa Ynez CSD
11. EMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items.
12. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to this Regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 16, 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, November 16, 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: Brad Joos, Brett Marymee, and Elizabeth Orona

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate) and Mike Burchardi

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Paeter Garcia, Randy Murphy, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Member Agency Staff Present (remote): Bill Buelow

Others Present (in-person): Mary Heyden and Gay Infanti

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Doug Circle, Matthew Scudato,

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Ms. Amber Thompson to call roll. Three EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. One Alternate Committee Member was also present.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2023

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on September 28, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 28, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

5. Review and Consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2023) and the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2023. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve July, August, and September 2023 Warrant Lists (Check Nos. 1012-1024) totaling \$15,886.46, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

6. Update on SGMA Governance and Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA

Mr. Bill Buelow summarized the progress made toward SGMA Governance and the preparation of a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA. Mr. Paeter Garcia provided additional details about the efforts and Mr. Matt Young explained the difference between public agency members of a JPA and an appointed representative to the GSA. Discussion followed and public comment was received.

7. Receive Summary of EMA CAG meeting of October 18, 2023, from Gay Infanti and Mary Heyden

Ms. Gay Infanti presented the memorandum dated November 16, 2023, from the EMA Citizen Advisory Group regarding Review of 9/23 Draft Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Eastern Management Area GSA and stated that she and Ms. Mary Heyden collaborated to create the memorandum. Discussion followed and public comment was received.

Ms. Infanti requested that when changes are made to the draft JPA document, the revised document is provided to the EMA CAG for review and comment.

8. Review of EMA Cost Share Agreement

Mr. Garcia presented the Interim Cost Sharing Agreement, Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin – Eastern Management Area, that is being considered by all member agencies as an interim mechanism for cost sharing/reimbursement to provide needed funds in order to get required Groundwater Sustainability Plan projects done. Discussion followed.

9. Review and Consider approval of Resolution No. EMA-2023-003 “EMA GSA Agreement to Provide Reimbursement to EMA GSA Agencies for Certain Shared Cost Contributions”

Mr. Garcia provided a summary of **Resolution No. EMA-2023-003** “**EMA GSA Agreement to Provide Reimbursement to EMA GSA Agencies for Certain Shared Cost Contributions**”. He explained that the resolution memorializes the agreement in the GSA Interim Cost Share Agreement to reimburse member agencies for certain cost sharing contributions.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve **Resolution No. EMA-2023-003** “**EMA GSA Agreement to Provide Reimbursement to EMA GSA Agencies for Certain Shared Cost Contributions**”, as presented. GSA Committee Acting Alternate Member Meighan Dietenhofer seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 4-0-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Dietenhofer, Joos, Marymee, Orona
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

10. Review scope of work and cost estimate for the EMA’s Third Annual Report and receive update on contracting with GSI

Mr. Young presented the Proposal for Annual Report Water Year 2022-2023 for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area from GSI Water Solutions, Inc., dated November 3, 2023. He reported that the County Water Agency will be contracting with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for this effort, on behalf of the EMA GSA member agencies. Discussion followed.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to endorse the County Water Agency, on behalf of the EMA GSA member agencies, to contract with GSI Water Solutions, Inc., pursuant to the Interim Cost Share Agreement, for the Third Annual Report project, not to exceed \$57,670. Discussion followed. Ms. Orona amended the motion to include an additional 10% contingency, if needed, with a maximum not to exceed \$63,500. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the amended motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

11. Receive Update on Proposition 68 Grant Award

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the Proposition 68 Grant Award. The dates range of eligible projects is October 2022 through April 2026. There is no anticipated cost match requirement. The grant agreement has been received and is being reviewed by SYRWCD staff and legal counsel. SYRWCD was authorized by the three GSAs to act as grantee on behalf of the GSAs for this grant. All eligible projects to be submitted for reimbursement must be completed by April 2026. There will be a photo opportunity with DWR and member agencies elected officials possibly in January 2024. Mr. Buelow will advise of the date and time, once determined. There was no discussion or public comment.

12. Receive Draft Schedule of Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin GSA meetings for 2024 and consider returning to quarterly regular meetings with special meetings, as needed

Mr. Buelow presented the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin 2024 Regular GSA Meetings calendar with staff recommendation to return to quarterly regular meetings and change the other months to save the dates for special meetings, if needed. Discussion followed.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee made a MOTION to adopt the quarterly regular meeting schedule with monthly save-the-dates for special meetings, if needed, as presented. GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Dietenhofer seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

13. Discuss and set the next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, December 14 or 21, 2023, at 6:30 PM, at the Santa Ynez CSD Community Room

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested input for the next EMA GSA meeting date. Discussion followed. By consensus, the Committee Members scheduled the next EMA GSA meeting date for Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA.

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

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the November 15, 2023, meeting with DWR regarding the SWRCB comment to the GSPs.

Mr. Randy Murphy reported that the City of Solvang's river well hearings have begun in Sacramento. He also reported that the Public Utilities Director job opening closed on October 30, 2023, with no qualified applicants.

Mr. Matt Young reported the County Water Agency has an job opening for a Sustainable Groundwater Manager.

15. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Brett Marymee, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary



Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 137-100-062 (WP # EH-LUA-23-000006) Desser

To: Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area (EMA) GSA Parties
From: Tim Nicely, PG, CHG and Katie O'Malley, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Date: December 6, 2023

This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a medium or high-priority basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) without first obtaining written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction by the proposed new well¹:

1. would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by the GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan.

Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 does not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

The application being reviewed (Desser) is for a new domestic and irrigation supply well proposed to be completed to a depth of 450 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is up to 40 acre feet per year (AFY). The application estimates a production rate of up to 100 gallons per minute (gpm) and an average daily runtime of 8 hours per day. This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

¹ Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 defines a "New well" as "a new groundwater well or replacement of an existing well with a new well that exceeds the production capacity of the existing well as originally permitted or constructed. This definition shall not include geothermal heat exchange wells, cathodic protection wells, or wells constructed for the purpose of monitoring or abating contaminants in underground waters that are associated with a hazardous materials release." (Ordinance No. 5158, Sec. 34A-23(5).)

Summary of Findings

The proposed well has the following properties:

- Well location:
 - The proposed well is located on Assessor’s Parcel Number 137-100-062, which is located at 1250 Roble Blanco Road, Solvang, CA 93463 within the Santa Ynez Upland area of the Eastern Management Area (EMA).
 - The parcel is not located within a Public Water System. As noted by the applicant, there is no public water service available.
- Proposed well construction and use information:
 - The proposed Desser well will be completed to a depth of 450 feet below ground surface (bgs), with perforations starting at 330 feet bgs.
 - The well will be used for domestic and irrigation of a grass pasture for horses on a 62.3 acre parcel. The planned pumping rate will be 100 gallons per minute for 8 hours per day for 9 months per year, which equates to 40 AFY.
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
 - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Careaga Sand, or possibly from the overlying Paso Robles Formation, both of which are principal aquifers within the EMA.
- Would the well increase production within the EMA?
 - Production from this new well would increase production from a principal aquifer within the EMA. However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.
 - The proposed new well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
 - Chronic water level decline
 - Reduction of groundwater in storage
 - Degradation of water quality
 - Land subsidence
 - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs.

Summary

Based upon the location and planned production from the proposed new well, which will be completed within a principal aquifer managed by the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Production from the well would not be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would therefore NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin.

In our opinion, the GSA should provide a written verification to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health for this application.

Indemnification and Limitations of Liability

GSI Water Solutions does not warrant or guarantee that the new well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the Eastern Management Area (EMA) within the sustainability goal presented in Eastern Management Area (EMA)'s Plan.

GSI Water Solutions is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, lost revenue, or payments related to any groundwater well permitted or not permitted by the County, including well drilling costs, pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The GSA's issuance of a written verification and the County's issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.



Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 137-390-003 (EH-LUA-23-000218) - Liebman

To: Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area (EMA) GSA Parties
From: Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Katie O'Malley, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Date: December 7, 2023

This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a replacement well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a medium or high-priority basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) without first obtaining written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction by the proposed well¹:

1. would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by the GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan.

Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 does not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

The application being reviewed (Liebman) is for a replacement irrigation supply well proposed to be completed to a depth of 640 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is up to 8 acre feet per year (AFY). The application estimates a pumping rate of up to 10 gallons per minute (gpm) and an average daily runtime of 12 hours per day. This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

¹ Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 defines a "Replacement Well" as follows: "[A] water well to be constructed of equal or less production capacity as an existing well as originally permitted or constructed, when said existing well shall be destroyed under permit within 90 days of completion of the replacement well. This definition does not apply to individual domestic or public water supply wells." (Ordinance No. 5158, Sec. 34A-23(8).)

Summary of Findings

The proposed well has the following properties:

- Well location:
 - The proposed well is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 137-390-003, which is located at 1235 Quail Ridge Road within the Santa Ynez Uplands area of the Eastern Management Area (EMA).
 - The parcel is located within a Public Water System (Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1).
- Proposed well construction and use information:
 - The proposed Liebman well will be completed to a depth of 640 feet below ground surface (bgs) at a radius of 6 inches with perforations from 420 feet bgs. This well will replace another well which reaches a depth of 247 feet bgs and has a diameter of 6 inches.
 - The well will be used for landscape irrigation purposes on a 2.8 acre parcel. The planned pumping rate will be 10 gallons per minute for 12 hours per day according to the well permit application, which equates to 8 AFY.
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
 - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Paso Robles Formation, which is a principal aquifer within the GSA.
- Would the well increase production within the Eastern Management Area (EMA)?
 - Production from this replacement well will not constitute any additional production from the subject property, and therefore will not increase the total area of irrigated acreage within the EMA. Because this is a replacement well of a similar diameter in proximity to the well it replaces, the variety of factors that must be considered to determine whether installation of a well and any corresponding increases in production would cause any potential undesirable results within the EMA does not pertain to this well. These factors would include the total area of irrigated agriculture relative to the then-current and projected acres presented in the Plan (Table 3-33) as well as the groundwater production from these irrigated areas presented in the plan (Table 3-35) and subsequent annual reports through the most recent water year (2022). Furthermore, for all permit applications, the presence, imminence, or absence of undesirable results within the EMA must also be considered in this assessment to determine whether any additional production would be likely to cause any undesirable results. These factors and considerations do not apply to this replacement well.
 - Compared to the projected production presented in the Plan, which were rough estimates based on the then-current agricultural land use trends, the planned production and usage of groundwater from the proposed replacement well would not add additional irrigated acreage beyond the total area estimated in the Plan.
 - There have been no reported undesirable results within the EMA as presented in the most recent annual report. Based on this and the replacement status of the proposed well, the lack of increased production from the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management of the EMA.

Summary

Based upon the location and planned production from the proposed replacement well, which will be completed within a principal aquifer managed by the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Production from the well would not be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin.

In our opinion, the GSA should provide a written verification to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health for this application.

Indemnification and Limitations of Liability

GSI Water Solutions does not warrant or guarantee that the replacement well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the Eastern Management Area (EMA) within the sustainability goal presented in Eastern Management Area (EMA)’s Plan.

GSI Water Solutions is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, lost revenue, or payments related to any groundwater well permitted or not permitted by the County, including well drilling costs, pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The GSA’s issuance of a written verification and the County’s issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.