

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin March 25, 2021

A SPECIAL 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 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by issuing shelter-in-home standards, limiting public gatherings, and requiring social distancing, this meeting occurred solely via video and teleconference as authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20 and in accordance with Santa Barbara County Health Office Order 2021-12.2.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting as Alternate),
Mark Infanti, Brad Joos, Brett Marymee

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen

Member Agency Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson,
Kevin Walsh, Matt Young

Others Present: Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions), Bryan Bondy, Mike Burchardi, Russell Chamberlin, Doug Circle, Elizabeth Farnum, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Stewart Johnston, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Tim Nicely (GSI), Anita Regmi (DWR), Steve Slack (CDFW), plus 2 other members of the public whose names were not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Member Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three GSA Committee Members were present, and GSA Committee Member Dietenhofer acted as Alternate for Supervisor Hartmann. A quorum was met.

II. Introductions and Review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone attendees.

III. Additions or Deletions, if any, to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Receive Presentation from GSI on “Draft Water Budget and Sustainable Management Criteria”

Mr. Tim Nicely and Mr. Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions) presented “Future Water Budget Revision for the EMA GSA”.

Public comment, GSA Committee Member discussion, and follow-up from the consultants and staff followed the presentation.

- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos asked what the historical time period for estimates was used. Mr. Nicely clarified the historical time-period used is Water Year 1982 – Water Year 2018.
- Ms. Gay Infanti asked if, given the push by the State to build more housing, are these projections taking the state's housing allocations into consideration in projections for growth? Mr. Nicely confirmed that municipal projections are taken directly from water purveyors and supporting documentation.
- Mr. Bryan Bondy asked if the municipal and industrial estimates (slide 4) account for State laws requiring increased residential water conservation, i.e. "conservation as a way of life" legislation? Mr. Nicely responded he does believe so since the City of Solvang and SYRWCD, Improvement District No. 1 (ID1) provided the estimates.
- GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee asked for clarification on annual growth percentages (slide 4) indicating the 1% annual growth comes from Solvang only. Is ID No. 1 annual growth really 0%? He asked what the data sources for rural estimates are.
 - Mr. Barry clarified that ID No. 1 growth is negligible.
 - Mr. Paeter Garcia, GM for ID No.1, added that ID No.1 has been collaborating with GSI for Municipal and Industrial projections. He stated that retail water use is dramatically decreasing due to conservation, land use, water use practices, and is responsive to pricing. There has been an uptick in Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) applications but not sure if that will relate to an increase in population and water demand. Mr. Nicely further added that data for rural growth was calculated based on use by mutual water companies and projections from individual area census data, where use is allocated according to 60% as outdoor use and 40% as indoor use.
 - GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti advised that there are several ADUs authorized in Solvang and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) states that Solvang is to add 191 units. There are plans for a 30-unit and a 68-unit apartment complex to be built in Solvang over the next two years. Thus, there is a notable amount of growth projected in the City over next couple years.
 - Ms. Gay Infanti stated there are two approved multi-unit projects and another approximately 50 units in planning stages for Solvang. She noted that Solvang's new housing allocation is substantially higher than in prior years.
- Mr. Doug Circle commented on slide 8 that given increases in labor costs that all agriculture will not likely increase as the slide indicates. Mr. Nicely acknowledged

the opinion of zero net growth for agriculture. Mr. Buelow pointed out that this is only an estimate that will be revisited and can be adjusted every five years as changes are seen. Mr. Barry added that certain levels of uncertainty exist and are to be expected. He recommends a metering program to reduce the uncertainty.

- Ms. Mary Heyden asked for "field crop" and "pasture" be defined. Mr. Nicely stated that "field crops" according to DWR include corn, wheat, poultry, misc. grain, and hay while "pasture" includes mixed pasture, alfalfa, sudan grass, and misc. grasses.
- GSA Alternate Committee Member Meighan Diethofer commented (slide 8) that she sees increases in land changing to vineyards and the Santa Barbara County Supervisor's office sees increases in land used and proposed for cannabis.

Consultants from GSI noted that the Draft Water Budget Section will be released for public comment soon. GSA Committee Members unanimously agreed with releasing the Draft Water Budget Technical Memo for public comment as soon as it is available.

Consultants and staff from the GSA member agencies will review the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria for an upcoming presentation. The consultants will also develop a draft list of possible Management Actions and Projects.

VI. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

The GSA Committee discussed changing the planned Special Meeting for April 22 to be split over two Special Meetings instead, April 15 and April 29 to review more documents and gather additional public input and comments. The GSA Committee Members unanimously agreed to the change for April Special Meetings.

GSA Committee Member Marymee requested more input from the community, especially large water users. He recommended another CAG meeting. Mr. Buelow responded that the Draft Water Budget Technical Memo will be released soon. Then, a meeting of the EMA CAG will be scheduled. GSA Committee Member Joos agreed with the need for additional input to help the GSP documents be as accurate as possible as first drafts.

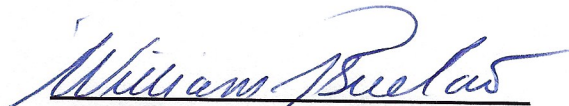
Mr. Buelow encouraged all who have not done so already to sign up as an Interested Party to receive email notices, review the Draft Water Budget Technical Memo, and provide public comments via the SGMA portal for the Basin.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, GSA Committee Member Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary