

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

HELD AT
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or Microsoft Teams

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-805-724-0311 Conference ID: 473 443 798#
or

Join teleconference via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID 252 475 582 993 Meeting Passcode: QauPtj (passcode is case sensitive)
*** 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 SPECIAL 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 comment item.)
4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of May 23, 2024
5. Receive update on EMA Joint Powers Agreement
6. Consider endorsing the proposed Prop 68 grant funding allocation and division of work among the three GSAs in the Basin
7. Review Annual Report Comment Letter from DWR
8. Discuss a tentative date for joint meeting of the three GSAs in the Basin
9. Next Regular EMA GSA Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024
10. EMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future Agenda items
11. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted at least 24 hours prior to the noticed special meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with the Government Code. 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 May 23, 2024

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, May 23, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

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

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (in-person): Meighan Diethofer (Acting) and Steve Jordan

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (Teleconference): Mike Burchardi

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

Member Agency Staff Present (Teleconference): Amber Thompson

Others Present (in-person): Jeff Barry, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Mark Infanti, and Lisa Severy

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Doug Circle, Alex Dominguez, Matt Scudato, Brett Stroud, and Scarlett Tovar (DWR)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Alternate Committee Member Diethofer participated as Acting Alternate Committee Member for Agenda Items No. 1 through No. 7 and No. 9 through No. 12. Committee Member Hartmann arrived late after Agenda Item No. 4, took the seat at the dais, participated in Agenda Item No. 8, which was moved to earlier on the agenda, left the meeting after Item No. 8, and Alternate Committee Member Diethofer returned to the dais seat as Acting Alternate Committee Member for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Committee Chair Marymee announced that a request was received to move Agenda Item No. 8 to earlier in the meeting, after Item No. 4 and before Item No. 5. There was unanimous consensus.

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on March 28, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. Director Joos requested a correction be made to Item No. 5, remove “of the”. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Committee Member Marymee made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on March 28, 2024, as amended. Committee Member Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Member Hartmann arrived and replaced Acting Alternate Committee Member Dietenhofer at the dais. Agenda Item No. 8 was addressed at this point in the meeting.

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

Ms. Thompson presented the financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 7 through 9 (through March 31, 2024) and the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2024 for EMA GSA Committee consideration. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Committee Member Marymee made a MOTION to approve Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2024 (Check Nos. 1031-1037) totaling \$4,121.07, as presented. Committee Member Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Receive Update on Spring 2024 Water Level Measurements

Mr. Scudato presented slides and information regarding Eastern Management Area Spring 2024 water level measurements. Discussion followed. Public comment was received. There was no action.

7. Receive update on DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant

Ms. Thompson reported that GSP Implementation Grant Progress Report and Invoice No. 1 was submitted to DWR before the due date of April 30, 2024, and was approved by DWR for reimbursement, as submitted. SYRWCD is waiting to receive the check. She also reported that SYRWCD staff is preparing the submittal for Progress Report and Invoice No. 2 which is due to the DWR Grant Manager by May 31, 2024.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

8. Review and consider endorsing Draft EMA Joint Powers Agreement for Approval by GSA Member Agencies

Agenda Item No. 8 was addressed between Agenda Item No. 4 and Item No. 5.

Mr. Garcia introduced the Draft EMA Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and summarized the sections. Mr. Young added that after a Draft EMA JPA is endorsed by the EMA GSA Committee, the next step in the process is for each governing body of the Member Agencies consider and approve the EMA JPA. Discussion followed. Public comment was received.

Committee Member Joos made a MOTION to endorse the Draft EMA Joint Powers Agreement with an amendment to Section 14.2.(d) to include \$50,000 as the Member Agency contribution amount. Committee Member Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Committee Member Hartmann left the meeting and Acting Alternate Committee Member Diethofer returned to the dais. The meeting continued with Agenda Item No. 5.

9. Discuss Preparations for Governance Transition and Consider Directing Staff to Solicit Qualifications and/or Proposals for the Following:

- a. Executive Director**
- b. General Counsel**
- c. Rate Consultant**
- d. Insurance**

Mr. Garcia reported that once the JPA is finalized, these positions will need to be filled. He recommended that staff research options and solicit proposals now so that the JPA Board will have proposals available to consider at the first JPA Board Meeting once the JPA is established. Discussion followed. Public comments were received.

A consensus of the EMA GSA Committee was given for member agencies staff to pursue options and request proposals for Executive Director, General Counsel, Rate Consultant, and Insurance for the JPA Board to consider once the JPA is established.

Mr. Garcia stated that the administrative functions for the EMA GSA are expected to remain status quo until an Executive Director is hired by the JPA Board.

10. Review and Discuss Meeting Schedule for Next Two Months. All Meetings held at 6:30 PM, Santa Ynez CSD Meeting Room, 1070 Faraday St., Santa Ynez

- a. Next Tentative Special EMA GSA Committee Meeting, Thursday, June 27, 2024**

The EMA GSA Committee has saved June 27, 2024, for a possible Special Meeting.

- b. Tentative Special EMA GSA Committee meeting Thursday, July 25, 2024**

The EMA GSA Committee has saved July 25, 2024, for a possible Special Meeting.

c. Next Regular EMA GSA Committee meeting, Thursday, August 22, 2024

The next Regular meeting of the EMA GSA Committee will be on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

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

Ms. Thompson reported there may be a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Buellton City Council Chambers and requested all save the date.

12. Adjournment

Committee Chair Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Brett Marymee, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

EXHIBIT B

**TO SUBGRANT AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 4600015265
BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

GRANT AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPONENTS BUDGET ALLOCATION

Component	Description	Grant	Component	WMA	CMA	EMA	TOTAL
		Admin	Project Manager				
1	Grant Administration	\$154,000	-	-	-	-	\$154,000
2	Well Extraction Measurement and Reporting (Metering)	-	\$163,000	\$192,667	\$192,666	\$192,667	\$741,000
3	Rate Studies	-	-	\$27,333	\$27,333	\$27,334	\$82,000
4	Annual Reports and 5-yr Updates	-	-	\$497,333	\$497,334	\$497,333	\$1,492,000
5	Monitoring Improvement & Expansion (Data Gap Filling)	-	\$107,000	\$679,331	\$513,832	\$544,838	\$1,845,000
6	Stormwater Capture	-	-	\$335,000	-	-	\$335,000
7	Conservation Study	-	-	\$600,000	-	-	\$600,000
8	Recycled Water Study	-	-	\$285,000	-	-	\$285,000
TOTALS:		\$154,000	\$270,000	\$2,616,668	\$1,231,164	\$1,262,174	\$5,534,000

NOTES:

1. This allocation is subject and an exhibit to the Subgrant Agreement between SYRWCD, in its role as Grantee, and the three (3) GSAs.
2. As provided in the Grant Agreement and Subgrant Agreement, all work must be completed by April 30, 2026.
3. As provided in the Grant Agreement and Subgrant Agreement, eligible costs include work from October 4, 2022.

**Exhibit B
Component – Detail**

Component 2	Extraction Measurement & Reporting	Basin-Wide	WMA	CMA	EMA	Sub-Total	Total
Category (a)	Component Administration	\$90,000				\$90,000	\$90,000
Category (b)	Environmental / Design / Engineering					\$0	\$88,000
Task 1	Enviro / CEQA / Permitting		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	
Task 2	DMS Program Development						
	Landowner Outreach & Agreements						
	· Establish DMS	\$30,000				\$30,000	
	· Memo DMS Development	\$3,000				\$3,000	
Task 3	· Access agreements		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	
	Demo Project Development						
Task 4	· Tech Memo	\$10,000				\$10,000	
	Basin-wide Extraction Measurement Program						
	· Rules and Regulations		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	
Category (c)	Implementation / Construction						\$413,000
	Demo Projects						
	· Install/register projects						
	· Data eval/DMS upload		\$127,667	\$127,667	\$127,666	\$383,000	
	· Activity summaries						
	· Proofs of purchase						
	· Tech Memo	\$30,000				\$30,000	
Category (d)	Monitoring / Assessment						\$100,000
	· Compile/analyze data						
	· Update model/ budgets		\$33,333	\$33,333	\$33,334	\$100,000	
	· Tech Memo						
Category (e)	Engagement / Outreach						50,000
	· Outreach / engagement		\$16,667	\$16,666	\$16,667	\$50,000	
	· Meetings / workshops						
Totals		\$163,000	\$192,667	\$192,666	\$192,667		\$741,000

**Exhibit B
Component – Detail**

Component 5	Monitoring Improvement & Expansion	Component Manager	WMA	CMA	EMA	SUB	Total
Category (a)	Component Administration	\$100,000				\$100,000	\$100,000
Category (b)	Environmental / Design / Engineering						\$175,000
Task 1	Enviro / CEQA		\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$21,000	
Task 2	Land Purchase / Easements		-	-	-		
	• Secure access agreements, easements, permits		\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$105,000	
Task 3	Projects Planning & Design						
	• Preliminary design plans – Wells		\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$21,000	
	• Preliminary design plans – Piezometer		-	-	\$7,000	\$7,000	
	• Preliminary design plans – Gages		\$7,000	\$7,000	-	\$14,000	
	• Tech Memo	\$7,000				\$7,000	
Category (c)	Implementation / Construction						\$890,000
Task 4	Advertise, Bid, & Award						
	• Prepare final designs & specs		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	
	• Complete bid docs & bid process		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	
Task 5	Equipment Installation						
	• Install Monitoring Well		\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$480,000	
	• Install Piezometer		-	-	\$100,000	\$100,000	
	• Install Stream Gages		\$70,000	\$70,000	-	\$140,000	
	<u>Deliverables:</u> Health & Safety Plans; Summary of Activities w/ Photos; Record Drawings; Proofs of Purchase; Well Completion Reports		\$26,665	\$26,665	\$26,670	\$80,000	

**Exhibit B
Component – Detail**

Component 5 (Continued)	Monitoring Improvement & Expansion	Component Manager	WMA	CMA	EMA	SUB	Total
Category (d)	Monitoring / Assessment						\$580,000
Task 6	Monitoring Network Field Screenings						
	• Update Monitoring Networks		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	
	• Tech Memos						
	• Survey or video logs		\$70,333	\$70,333	\$70,335	\$211,000	
	• Well Survey and/or Video Log Reports				.		
Task 7							
	Data Collection and DMS Updates						
	• Semi-annual groundwater data		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	
	• Semi-annual piezometer data		-	-	\$1,000	\$1,000	
	• Bi-weekly streamflow data (storms)		\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000	
	• Quarterly seawater intrusion well data		\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000	
	• Field surveys re potential GDEs		\$100,000	\$50,500	\$50,500	\$201,000	
	• Updates to DMS		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$18,000	
	• Tech Memo		-	-	-	-	
Category (e)	Engagement / Outreach						\$100,000
	• Outreach and engagement materials		\$33,333	\$33,334	\$33,333	\$100,000	
	• Meetings / workshops						
	TOTAL	\$107,000	\$679,331	\$513,832	\$544,838		\$1,845,000



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street, 8th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

May 17, 2024

Bill Buelow
Santa Ynez River Valley Basin – Plan Manager
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
bbuelow@syrwcd.com

RE: Review of Annual Reports for the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin, Water Year 2023

Dear Bill Buelow,

As the basin point of contact for the groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs or Plan) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin (Basin), this letter is to inform you that the Department of Water Resources (Department) has completed the review of the annual report for the Eastern Management Area GSP for Water Year 2023 and determined that no further information or action is required at this time.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires on every April 1 following the adoption of a GSP that an annual report be submitted to the Department providing updated information about the Basin (Wat. Code § 10728). The required contents of annual reports are further specified in the GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 356.2). Once an annual report has been submitted, the Department is required: to notify the submitting agency of receipt within 20 days, review the information to determine whether the basin's GSP is being implemented in a manner likely to achieve its established sustainability goal, and notify the submitting agency in writing if additional information is required (23 CCR § 355.8).

The submitted information appears to largely satisfy the requirements of the GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 356.2) and no additional information is required at this time. The Department previously conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the Plan for the Basin and issued an assessment determining that the GSPs is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the Basin. The Department has determined that for the period of time covered in the annual report, it appears the Plan continues to be implemented in a manner consistent with achieving the Basin's sustainability goal as described in the Plan. The Department reached this conclusion after reviewing information in the annual report, any public comments submitted to the Department regarding this annual report, and other relevant information regarding Basin conditions available to the Department. A few minor issues were noted during the review that should be addressed in the future annual report submittals including:

- The data submitted to the SGMA Portal needs to be aggregated for the entire basin, rather than separate data submittals for each GSA.
- The basin point of contact should submit one annual report for the entire Subbasin each year with the additional GSA specific information included as appendices, as necessary. The one coordinated annual report should document the aggregated data for the entire Subbasin that was submitted to the SGMA Portal while also presenting the GSA specific data and information in tabular form.

In making this determination, the Department recognizes that achieving SGMA's goal of sustainable groundwater management is a significant and new statutory and policy directive. GSAs must and will continue to improve their understanding of and ability to manage their Basin as Plan implementation under SGMA progresses. Consequently, the Department's review of this and other annual reports noted information contained in the annual report may not precisely match the schedules, projections, or estimates reported in the initial Plan as approved by the Department because of numerous factors over which the GSA has varying levels of knowledge and control (e.g., annual hydrology, actions of other private or public entities, unforeseen delays or events, and unexpected physical or geologic processes, etc.).

The approved Plan for the Basin is still in the early years of its implementation and it is State policy that sustainable groundwater management is best achieved locally through the development, implementation, and updating of plans and programs (Wat. Code §113, §10720.1). Accordingly, for this Basin, the Department concluded that any discrepancies between information in the annual report and the Plan as approved by the Department, did not at this time create an appreciable concern regarding Plan implementation and its continued likelihood of achieving the Basin sustainability goal.

The Department anticipates conducting a more thorough review of Plan implementation as part of its periodic review of the GSPs, which, in contrast to annual report reviews that consider information about only one year, will look at the periodic evaluation and the collective annual reports that provide the Department with numerous years of reporting data to better assess trends, issues or conditions of concern in the basin, and whether Plan implementation remains on track to achieve sustainability.

Please contact the assigned DWR basin point-of-contact or sgmps@water.ca.gov if you have questions about this notice or the annual reporting process. The Department looks forward to receiving your Water Year 2024 Annual Report by April 1, 2025.

Thank You,

Paul Gosselin

Paul Gosselin
Deputy Director
Sustainable Groundwater Management