

MEETING MINUTES

Amended 10/24/2019

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin

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, January 24, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the City of Solvang, Council Chambers, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present:

Joan Hartmann Brett Marymee Karen Waite Kevin Walsh

Alternate EMA GSA Committee Members Present:

Cynthia Allen

Member Agency Staff Present:

Bill Buelow Amber Thompson Matt van der Linden Matt Young

Others Present:

Meighan Diethofer Mark DuBose Tim Gorham Jefferson Litten
Gay Infanti Mark Infanti Eric Tambini

I. Call to Order

Mr. Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to Call Roll. All Committee Members were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Walsh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Walsh invited all in attendance to introduce themselves and say who they represent, if applicable. Mr. Walsh welcomed and thanked all in attendance.

Mr. Buelow reviewed history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements and what has been completed so far in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, including the creation of the three GSAs in the Basin (EMA, CMA, WMA) and the DWR Prop. 1 Grant (Grant) funding.

Mr. Buelow requested public comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Walsh requested staff from the member agencies of the GSA to prepare a brief written history/summary/timeline of SGMA activities in the Basin similar to Mr. Buelow's verbal review to be made available for Committee Members, staff and the public and he requested it be updateable so all can be aware of additions to activities at the same time.

IV. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions were made.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of the EMA GSA on October 25, 2018 were considered for Committee approval. Ms. Waite noted that item XI (b) on page 3 should be corrected to read “Ms. Waite made a motion”, instead of Mr. Walsh and to remove the prior sentence. Mr. Marymee noted that item XII on page 4 should be corrected to reflect the motion referring to the EMA as the correct location instead of Santa Ynez.

Mr. Marymee made a MOTION to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Waite seconded. The motion passed on vote of 3-0-1 with Ms. Hartmann abstaining.

VII. Staff update on Consultant for GSP activities in the Eastern Management Area

Mr. Young provided background on the consultant selection. Mr. Young advised that the County Water Agency, at the recommendation of the EMA GSA, offered a contract to the team led by GSI and requested the addition of Stetson to the team. GSI and Stetson were unable to come to an agreement on the scope of work and level of involvement to include Stetson in that team. Staff thus developed an alternate approach that the three non-county agencies contract Stetson Engineers to coordinate and collaborate with GSI’s team on the GSP to ensure coordination between the three GSAs in the Basin. Mr. Young indicated that budget for collaboration between GSI and the other two GSAs is already included in the contract between GSI and the County. Staff will work together to develop a contract for Stetson. Mr. Young informed the Committee that the GSI contract with the County is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on February 12, 2019.

Mr. Walsh inquired regarding the status of the appeal requested by Dudek on October 25, 2018. Mr. Young advised that Dudek has decided not to appeal.

The Committee discussed if they needed to make a new motion since the motion made on October 25, 2019 was not followed as specified. The Committee decided a new motion was appropriate.

Ms. Waite made a MOTION that the EMA GSA Committee recommend the County Water Agency contract with GSI for GSP work in the EMA with further direction for member agency staff to create an independent contract between Stetson Engineers and SYRWCD/City of Solvang/ID No. 1 for Stetson Engineers to work on the technical aspects of the GSP on behalf of the EMA. Ms. Hartmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Consider Adoption of Conflict of Interest Code

Mr. Buelow presented the Conflict of Interest Code for adoption and advised it had been noticed and posted for 45-day review from December 10, 2018 through January 23, 2019, and that no comments were received. The Committee was advised that legal

counsels for each of the EMA GSA agencies reviewed the Conflict of Interest Code and found it acceptable.

Mr. Marymee made a MOTION to adopt the Conflict of Interest Code. Ms. Hartmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Update on Draft First Amendment to the EMA Memorandum of Agreement

Mr. Buelow summarized the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which was signed in 2017 between the four agencies to form the EMA GSA. A more definitive framework is needed for issues relating to banking, finance, cost sharing, and staffing and to formalize how the GSA will function and govern. The amendment will also function as a foundation for future agreements that may be created post-GSP submittal and possibly a Joint Powers Authority in the future to implement the GSP. Legal counsels for each of the four agencies are working with respective staff on a draft. Once a draft is complete, it will be submitted to the Committee for review and approval.

X. Update on Draft Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement between three GSAs

Mr. Buelow explained the purpose and need for an Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement between the three GSAs. The agreement will provide a framework for issues like cost sharing, hiring of consultants, exchange of information, and grant fund sharing.

Mr. Walsh asked for public comment. Questions and discussion ensued on agencies working together, how groundwater interacts between the three Management Areas and adjacent basins, the connectivity of groundwater, and previous hydrogeological studies.

XI. Report on establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) for the Eastern Management Area

Mr. Buelow advised that creation of a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) was suggested by Ms. Farnum at the last EMA Committee meeting. Mr. Buelow read a January 24, 2019 Staff Memo recommending development of a CAG for the EMA and requesting direction from the Committee.

The Committee considered and discussed developing a CAG for the EMA. Ms. Waite recommended the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians (Chumash Tribe) be invited to be included in the CAG. Mr. Walsh agreed. Mr. Young advised that two other basins in Santa Barbara County both have advisory committees. Ms. Hartmann recommended creating a description for the role of the CAG, including bringing information from the community back to the Committee; defining parameters of the CAGs role; and determining what sectors need representation in each GSA. Ms. Waite supports establishing a CAG and recommended representation from Los Olivos, Santa Ynez, Solvang, and the Chumash Tribe. Ms. Hartman recommended representation from environmental, agriculture, and ranching interests.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations in the memo and requested member agency staff to continue working on a framework for the CAG. Mr. Marymee requested staff provide draft written guidelines for the CAG process for Committee review at the next meeting.

XII. Next regular meeting Date and Time

The next regular meeting date of the EMA GSA will be Thursday, April 25, 2019, 6:30 PM at the Santa Ynez CSD Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

XIII. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Mr. Walsh commented that a representative from the Chumash Tribe was at the last EMA GSA Committee meeting but is not present tonight. The Chumash Tribe owns a large area of land in the EMA and he wants to ensure they are not left out of the meetings. He suggested that someone meet with the Chumash Tribe and ask how or if they want to participate in SGMA. Mr. Buelow advised that during the GSA formation process, SYRWCD reached out to the Chumash Tribe and gave a briefing to the Chumash Tribe's Executive Board and received a letter of intent to participate in SGMA in areas that pertain to their reservation within the SYRWCD boundaries. However, outside of those SYRWCD boundaries, they are like any other citizen in the County area of the EMA. The Chumash Tribe is being sent notices of the EMA GSA meetings. Mr. Young advised that during the formation process, the Chumash Tribe was invited to join the EMA GSA Committee but declined to be part of the Committee. They are not being excluded. The Citizen Advisory Group may be a venue for the Chumash Tribe to participate in the process.

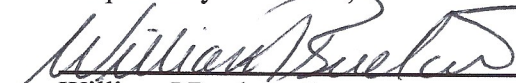
Ms. Waite asked if title "Memorandum of Agreement" was in fact a legal Agreement or not. Mr. Buelow advised that the SGMA statute allowed use of either Memorandum of Agreement or Joint Powers Authority.

Mr. Buelow thanked the City of Solvang for hosting the meeting and advised the next meeting will be held at the Santa Ynez CSD.

XI. Adjournment


There being no further business, Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


William J Buelow, Secretary

ATTEST:


Brett Marymee, Chairman


Kevin D. Walsh, Chairman (Former)