

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

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

WILL BE HELD
AT **6:30 P.M.**, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

TELECONFERENCE MEETING ONLY – NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Remote participation available via ZOOM

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Meeting ID: 892 6304 7366 Meeting Passcode: 676913

DIRECT LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263047366?pwd=cDlCOXNsNmduVVR5eWYxUmdnY1lLQT09>

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If your device does not have a microphone or speakers, you can call in for audio with the phone number and Meeting ID listed above to listen and participate while viewing the live presentation online.

In the interest of clear reception and efficient administration of the meeting, all persons participating remotely are respectfully requested to mute their line after logging or dialing-in and at all times unless speaking.

Teleconference Meeting During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be available via teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution EMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/21/2021).

Important Notice Regarding Public Participation in Teleconference Meeting: Those who wish to provide public comment on an Agenda Item, or who otherwise are making a presentation to the GSA Committee, may participate in the meeting using the remote access referenced above. **Those wishing to submit written comments instead, please submit any and all comments and materials to the GSA via electronic mail at bbuelow@syrwcd.com.** All submittals of written comments must be received by the GSA no later than **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**, and should indicate **“October 28, 2021 GSA Meeting”** in the subject line. To the extent practicable, public comments and materials received in advance pursuant to this timeframe will be read into the public record during the meeting. Public comments and materials not read into the record will become part of the post-meeting materials available to the public and posted on the SGMA website.

AGENDA ON NEXT PAGE

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Introductions and review of SGMA in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
- IV. 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 participation 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 item.) *Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under Agenda Item “EMA GSA Committee requests and comments” for items to be included on the next Agenda.*
- V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 26, and October 21, 2021
- VI. Review comment letter from Santa Ynez Water Group legal counsel dated September 21, 2021
- VII. Receive update on SGMA Stakeholder Outreach
- VIII. Receive update on Citizen Advisory Committee meeting of October 11, 2021
- IX. Workshop and Q&A on Public Draft CMA GSP and Future Governance Options
- X. Next “Regular” EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 PM
- XI. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XII. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled special meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and <https://www.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. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 26, 2021

A Regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, August 26, 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 the latest Santa Barbara County Health Order.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen (Acting as Alternate), Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting as Alternate), Mark Infanti, and Brad Joos

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

Others Present: Steve Anderson, Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions), Mike Burchardi, Russell Chamberlin, Doug Circle, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Penny Knowles, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Anita Regmi (DWR), Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge), and one additional member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Vice-Chair, Brad Joos called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Two GSA Committee Members and two GSA Acting Alternate Committee Members were present providing a quorum.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone and video attendees.

Mr. Buelow reviewed history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements including the GSP sections that have been previously reviewed during public workshops and meetings including today's presentations toward submitting a complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2022. All documents are accessible on SantaYnezWater.org.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Review and Consider Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the GSA Committee meetings on July 22, 2021 were presented for GSA Committee approval.

GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Dietenhofer made a MOTION to approve the minutes of July 22, 2021 as presented. GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. Receive EMA GSA financial update and approve EMA Warrant Lists

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 1 through 12 (through June 30, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2021 for GSA Committee review. There were no comments.

GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti made a MOTION to approve the financial reports and the Warrant List for April, May, and June 2021 Warrant Lists (Nos. 1029-1033) totaling \$43,246.00 as presented. GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Receive Presentation from GSI on the Summary and Overview of Draft GSP for the EMA

Mr. Jeff Barry presented “Draft GSP Overview, Santa Ynez Basin - EMA, August 26, 2021” which included a timeline of deliverables and meetings through January 2022.

Public comment, GSA Committee Member discussion, and follow-up from the consultants and staff from the GSA member agencies occurred during and after the presentation.

- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos thanked Jeff Barry for the presentation. He commented that the graphics were good and made sense.
- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos asked why the Los Alamos weather station was chosen when it is not located in the EMA and not using Santa Ynez Airport. Tim Nicely explained the plan uses Los Alamos weather station because of its longer period of record available and when available year data from both Los Alamos and Santa Ynez Airport stations were compared, precipitation amounts were similar. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos recommended using the Santa Ynez Airport going forward since the compared data for certain years were similar. Mr. Buelow added that both the CMA & WMA GSPs use Buellton Fire Station location and suggested that all 3 GSAs could use that same station which is in the Basin. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos liked that idea. Mr. Barry and Mr. Nicely will research.

- Mark Infanti commented that the presentation was a good summary of the GSP and that he liked the name change from Tiered to Group for Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). He expressed concerned with costs listed for projects. He asked for clarification on cost to expand well network. Mr. Barry explained the cost is an estimated total depending on quantity of additional wells needed not a per well cost.
- GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Diethofer said good summary.
- Mr. Matt van der Linden complimented Mr. Barry on the presentation. Regarding Group 3 PMAs, he asked for clarification of “In-Lieu Recharge”. Mr. Barry explained the concept of utilizing surplus state water in-lieu of pumping groundwater and only in times of water surplus not during drought and gave a possible scenario as an example.

VIII. Receive Presentation from Brett Stroud, Young Wooldridge LLC, on SGMA Governance and Funding Options

Mr. Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge) presented “Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin Governance and Funding Proposals”. Public comment, GSA Committee Member discussion, and follow-up from the consultants and staff from the GSA member agencies occurred after the presentation.

- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos asked if funding sources are only for private property. Mr. Stroud explained that funding sources will depend on what GSA Committee decides. Per acre charges typically are used for all acres that the groundwater basin serves while extraction fees are specifically for water use. Committee Member Brad Joos requested that the fee structure be fair for all users. Mr. Stroud explained that an extraction fee is based on actual groundwater used.
- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos asked if there are any exemptions in charging fees (i.e., federal land, tribal land, etc.). Mr. Stroud will need to research if there are any exceptions.
 - GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Cynthia Allen added that Vandenberg Space Force Base is strictly using state water with no pumping from the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.
- Committee Member Mark Infanti asked about reactions from CMA and WMA GSA Committees after this receiving this presentation. Mr. Stroud advised that Option 3 or Option 4 or some variations of those options in which GSAs can benefit by working together while still maintaining some independence tended to be preferred.
 - GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Diethofer added, based on her attendance to the other GSA meetings, that the WMA was hesitant to fully combine as one GSA due to different needs and costs specific to the other GSAs but were in favor of the efficiency aspect of working together to achieve economies of scale.

- Mr. Buelow explained further Governance Options 3 and 4 with scenarios for this Basin and three current GSAs.
- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos requested that the CAG meet to discuss governance and funding options. Mr. Buelow advised that the CAG will meet sometime during the public comment period to discuss the Draft GSP and could include a discussion on governance and funding during that meeting. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos suggested there may be a need to have a separate CAG meeting just to discuss governance and funding options.
 - Ms. Mary Heyden thanked Mr. Stroud for the presentation. She concurred with GSA Committee Member Brad Joos that the CAG needs to have a chance to review and talk about governance and funding options. As a representative on the CAG for agriculture and landowners, she is getting strong feedback and feels that open conversations would be best for the Basin as a whole.
 - Mr. Tim Gorham agreed with the need for additional public awareness. Mr. Buelow reviewed the public outreach done so far including press releases, meetings, and presentations to other organizations. He asked all attendees to encourage people to visit the website (SantaYnezWater.org) and suggested Mutual Water Companies download and pass out the latest newsletter to their constituents and encourage other Mutual Water Companies to do the same to help spread the word. The newsletters so far have increased traffic to the website and phone calls to the SYRWCD. He also offered to speak at any group meeting if they ask.
 - GSA Committee Member Brad Joos added that public is busy with daily lives and overwhelming issues in the world right now. He pointed out the people elected officials to make decisions on their behalf.
- Ms. Heyden asked if governance presentation will be on website to forward to others. Mr. Buelow advised the presentation is already on the EMA GSA meeting page and will be added to the EMA, CMA and WMA main pages on SantaYnezWater.org.
- Ms. Gaye Infanti asked that the GSP overview presentation by GSI be added to the website along with the Draft GSP document for easy public access when they review the GSP.
- Ms. Infanti asked about future involvement of SYRWCD after the GSP is submitted. Mr. Buelow advised that SYRWCD is one of eight basin GSA member agencies with an interest in all three GSAs. SYRWCD President, Cynthia Allen said it all depends on what governance structure is chosen by the GSAs and that SYRWCD will remain a participant just like the other member agencies.

IX. Next “Special” EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, October 7, 2021, 6:30 PM

Mr. Buelow announced the next proposed meeting for the EMA GSA Committee will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30 pm. There was no discussion.

X. Next “Regular” EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 PM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting will be on Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 pm, location to be determined. The meeting is being held one week earlier than the normal 4th week to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday. There was no discussion.

XI. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

There were no requests or comments.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, GSA Committee Member Brad Joos adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Brad Joos, Vice-Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin October 21, 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, October 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as authorized by AB361 and in accordance with the latest Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order.

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

Alternate GSA Committee Member Present: Cynthia Allen

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

Others Present: Mike Burchardi, Tim Gorham, Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge), and three additional members of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate GSA Committee Member were present providing a quorum. Mr. Buelow announced names of phone and video attendees.

II. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Consider adopting Resolution WMA-2021-001, "Resolution Initially Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under AB361"

Mr. Buelow provided background of and purpose for AB361. Mr. Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge) explained the code, history leading up to passing of AB361 and benefits of invoking AB361 to change teleconference rules while abiding by the Brown Act. Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve Resolution EMA-2021-001, RESOLUTION INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361. Reading of the Resolution was waived. GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

V. Next “Special” EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, October 28, 2021, 6:30 PM

Committee members unanimously decided to have this Special Meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM.

VI. Next Regular EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 PM

The next EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting will be on Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 pm, location to be determined.

VII. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

There were no requests or comments.

XIII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Brett Marymee, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

September 21, 2021

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Chris Brooks, Chairman
WMA GSA
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
cbrooks@vvcasd.org

Ed Andrisek, Chairman
CMA GSA
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
eda@cityofbuellton.com

Brett Marymee, Chairman
EMA GSA
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
bmarymee@syrwcd.com

Re: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Gentlemen:

We are counsel for the Santa Ynez Water Group (Group), which is a coalition of farmers and ranchers within the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin (Basin). These agricultural landowners formed the Group to protect their overlying rights to groundwater in the Basin. This includes engaging with your three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) as you develop and administer your respective groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Group has been monitoring the activities of the Western Management Area GSA, the Central Management Area GSA, and the Eastern Management Area GSA. We have several concerns regarding the current course of events and the burdens your GSAs apparently intend to place solely on agricultural landowners. The purpose of this letter is to express those concerns and request the ability to participate directly regarding the GSPs and the activities of the GSAs.

1. Landowner Representation

There is no exclusive agricultural landowner representation on any of the GSAs' governing committees. Each committee is composed of representatives from governmental agencies with non-agricultural constituencies. For example, the Western Management Area GSA Committee is made up of (1) Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; (2) the County of Santa Barbara; (3) the City of Lompoc; (4) Mission Hills Community Services District; and (5) Vandenberg Village Community Services District. Both the Central Management Area GSA Committee and the Eastern Management Area GSA Committee are similar. This does not represent the entirety of the water users and interests in the Basin and excludes any direct representation from the agricultural community. Thus, at the outset, the make-up of the GSAs was flawed.

The only avenue your GSAs allowed agricultural landowners to voice their unique opinions or concerns is through the Citizens Advisory Groups. But, just as the name suggests, those groups are only advisory, are weighted toward non-agricultural interests, and carry no decision-making authority. Put simply, agricultural landowners have been intentionally disenfranchised from the decision-making.

We are aware that the GSAs are exploring a potential reorganization of their governance structure. Whether that reorganization results in each GSA remaining as three separate GSAs or forming a single coordinated GSA, it is likely that each GSA will revisit or draft new organizational documents. When doing so, we ask that each GSA include a voting director position for an agricultural landowner representative on each decision-making body formed or otherwise reorganized.

2. Implementation of Projects and Management Actions

We are also concerned with the projects and management actions identified by the GSAs in the draft GSPs. While we understand that many of the GSAs' respective Group 1 projects and management actions focus primarily on monitoring and reporting efforts, all other projects single out and discriminate against agricultural landowners. The burden of sustainability is therefore placed solely on the backs of agricultural landowners.

Funding for these projects and management actions mirrors that problem. We are aware that the GSAs are considering a groundwater extraction fee, assessment, or other property-related fee to fund the GSAs' projects and management actions. As those considerations continue, we encourage the GSAs to pursue the most equitable option in levying that financial burden. Agricultural landowners should not be unfairly targeted with projects and management actions, and then be forced to pay for their development and implementation.

3. Consideration of Overlying Groundwater Rights

Our last concern underlies all that the GSAs are doing. None of the GSAs have considered the effects their actions will have on overlying groundwater rights of agricultural landowners. This omission is evident in the draft GSPs as the GSAs focus exclusively on the interests of municipal groundwater users. This violates the mandates of SGMA requiring your GSAs to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Specifically, Water Code section 10723.2 provides, in part:

“The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

Chris Brooks, Chairman
Ed Andrisek, Chairman
Brett Marymee, Chairman
September 21, 2021
Page 3 of 3

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users, including farmers, ranchers, and dairy professionals.

...”

Our hope is that the GSAs expand their focus and discharge their duty to consider *all* interests in the Basin as required by SGMA.

We understand the complexities of the issues and the challenges in developing a GSP. Our desire is a successful GSP, and to be part of the process. But we cannot do that if the GSAs intentionally disenfranchise agricultural landowners and their senior overlying rights in the Basin.

Please have the attorney advising the GSAs on these issues contact me so that we can discuss how best to resolve our concerns.

Very truly yours,



Joseph D. Hughes

JDH/sbh

cc via e-mail only: Santa Ynez Water Group
Bill Buelow bbuelow@syrwcd.com
Matt Young wateragency@cosbpw.net
Cynthia Allen callen@syrwcd.com
Brad Joos bjooos@syrwd.org
Mark Infanti Mark.infanti@cityofsolvang.com
Joan Hartman jhartmann@countyofsb.org
Steve Jordan sjordan@syrwcd.com
Matt Vanderlinden – matt.vanderlinden@cityofsolvang.com
Paeter Garcia - pgarcia@syrwcd.com

DRAFT FINAL GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. PUBLIC COMMENT IS ENCOURAGED

(Santa Ynez, California, September 15, 2021) - The public is invited to review and comment on the Draft Final (Public Draft) Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) prepared by the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). The three GSAs were established for the Eastern, Central and Western Management Areas of the Basin (EMA, CMA and WMA). The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2015 requires each basin in California to be sustainable with respect to groundwater by 2042. Three GSPs (one for each management area) were prepared through the efforts of eight local government agencies and their elected officials working together since 2017. Sustainable groundwater management will be implemented at the local level using the GSPs, and is designed to ensure that:

- (1) Long-term groundwater elevations are adequate to support existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses throughout the Basin,
- (2) A sufficient volume of groundwater storage remains available during drought conditions and recovers during wet conditions,
- (3) Groundwater production, and projects and management actions undertaken through SGMA, do not degrade water quality conditions in order to support ongoing reasonable and beneficial uses of groundwater for agricultural, municipal, domestic, industrial, and environmental purposes.

The three GSPs are available on the Basin's SGMA website, SantaYnezWater.org. The public is encouraged to review and provide comments on the GSPs.

- The EMA GSP is available for review and comment until October 24, 2021 (11:59 pm).
- The CMA GSP and WMA GSP are both available for review and comment until October 26, 2021 (11:59 pm).

Public Meetings of the Citizens Advisory Group and the GSA Committee for each management area will be held during September/October to discuss the GSPs. Please register as an Interested Party on SantaYnezWater.org to receive email notices of these public meetings as well as future public meetings or hearings.

Additionally, a hard copy of each GSP is available for review in a local library. The EMA GSP is available at the Solvang Public Library, the CMA GSP at the Buellton Public Library and the WMA GSP at the Lompoc and Vandenberg Village Public Libraries. Comments on the GSPs are encouraged to be uploaded via the Comment Form located on SantaYnezWater.org or may be submitted at the address below.

For questions please contact:

Mr. Bill Buelow, P.G.

GSA Coordinator for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
and Groundwater Program Manager for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Tel: 805-693-1156, ext. 403

Email: bbuelow@syrcwd.com

Mailing Address:

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

EMA GSA COMMITTEE MEETING - October 28, 2021
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Wind turbines in Lompoc



COURTESY PHOTO

Loads of wind turbines were transported Friday in Lompoc, where the Strauss Energy Wind Project is building a wind farm southwest of the city. The company is continuing its efforts, which began in late August, to transport more than 200 oversized loads through the city. The movement is expected to continue through late November or early December. Most loads require traffic delays lasting a minute or two, according to a news release from the city of Lompoc. For more information, go to cityoflompoc.com.

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SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

PRESS RELEASE

The public is invited to review and comment on the Public Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) prepared for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin by **October 24, 2021**. The three GSPs provide a roadmap for how the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin will reach long-term sustainability. The GSPs are available on SantaYnezWater.org and at the Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc and Vandenberg Village Branch Libraries.

For questions, please contact Mr. Bill Buelow 805-693-1156, ext. 403; bbuelow@syrwcd.com

Exiled in Montecito: History repeats itself with Prince Harry and Meghan

Royalty, as an institution, always wins in the long run. And its strays always lose.

Just summon the spirits of Britain's Duke and Duchess of Windsor, exiled for almost four decades in France after the Duke, then King Edward VIII, abdicated his throne (in 1936) — supposedly for "the woman he loved" — and this is what they would probably tell you: Money improves your style of misery but won't bring you happiness.



THE INVESTIGATOR
ROBERT ERINGER

Truth is, they (especially Edward) were homesick for Blighty, which, for the rest of his life, would no longer tolerate their presence and whose rulers (the Royal Family and government alike) strove to keep them both at arm's length.

Notice I wrote "supposedly" about Wallis Simpson's involvement in what was a huge drama a century ago but was actually a whopping red herring that the populace swallowed hook, line and sinker.

That is because there was a far more important reason for evicting King Edward VIII from his throne, if much less known —

except, that is, by those who had a need to know as war clouds began to darken over Europe back in the mid-1930s.

Before World War II officially commenced, Edward, while still heir apparent as Prince of Wales, was partial to Nazi Germany and liked to point out to his friends that 100% Teutonic blood ran through his veins. A little context: The British Royal Family's last name is Gothe-Saxe-Coburg, but during World War I, the British Cabinet found it unseemly that a family imported from Germany with a German name should be ruling the waves of Britannia while tens of thousands of British lads were being mustard-gassed in

the trenches by German soldiers. (All boiled down, World War I was a royal family squabble whose hapless subjects paid the ultimate price).

Thus, the Cabinet compelled the British Royal Family to adopt the name Windsor, chosen because it sounded, well, so quintessentially English.

And then, upon being crowned king, Edward VIII put his misplaced sympathies to practice: He shared British state secrets from his dispatch boxes with the German Reich's leadership.

British Intelligence chief Robert Vannistat, whose officers kept a watchful eye on the new king, dutifully reported Edward VIII's duplicity — it ran contrary to the government's anti-Third Reich stance — to 10 Downing Street, where Stanley Baldwin, prime minister of the day, was as flabbergasted as he was horrified.

Something extraordinary had to be done.

And thus, Prime Minister Baldwin and his spy chief plotted to dethrone the king.

Their ruse? Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee detested by many in British political

Please see **INVESTIGATOR** on **A4**

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MON-SAT 10 AM - 3 PM
(Or by appointment)

EMA GSA COMMITTEE MEETING, October 28, 2021
www.missionpooltables.com
info@missionpooltables.com

Cooler weather is slower weather

Weather is not quite as warm as it had been. Warm days do not last quite as long as they did earlier in summer. Afterward, the longer nights get a bit cooler. Technically, autumn is only a few days from now. Although seasonal changes are mild, and a bit later here than in other regions, they eventually catch up. Plant activity has already been getting slower.

Seasonal changes keep gardening interesting. Plants that are now growing slower than earlier may need less attention. However, some need more attention, precisely because they are growing slower. Some of the work that was so important through summer should conclude until spring. Some of the work that will be important through winter



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Cooling weather can damage new growth.

begins now.

Although evergreen, photinia and pittosporum hedges do not do much between now and next spring. If shorn too late, new growth develops slowly, and may become shabby as a result of cooler and rainier weather later. Late pruning of citrus stimulates vigorous newer growth that may be sensitive to frost through winter. Lemons are particularly



New Zealand flax provides bold texture.

susceptible.

Conversely, dormant pruning can begin as deciduous foliage starts to fall. Although most roses and fruit trees supposedly prefer to wait until winter, they may soon be too dormant to notice if pruning is a bit premature. This is partly why autumn is the season of planting. Mostly dormant plants are more resilient to discomforts than they would be while awake.

New Zealand flax, lily of the Nile, African iris and other rugged perennials are conducive to division now. They will soon be about as dormant as they get, but will want to disperse roots for winter anyway. They resume growth before winter ends, so want to be ready for it. Once rainier and cooler weather resumes, they will need no watering until next spring.

Fertilizer should be passe soon also. Most plants consume less nutrients through cooler weather. Besides, many nutrients are less soluble, and therefore less available to plants while the weather is cool. Turf, cool season vegetables, cool season annuals, and some small palms are a few exceptions that could benefit from minor applications of fertilizers.

New Zealand flax
Simple old fashioned



New Zealand flax, Phormium tenax, has been popular on the West Coast for as long as anyone can remember. Big specimens are prominent in old pictures of Victorian era gardens. The upright and olive drab foliage gets as high as ten feet, and as broad as fifteen feet. Bronzed and variegated cultivars stay somewhat more compact.

Modern cultivars of New Zealand flax might be Phormium colensoi, or hybrids of the two species. They are generally even more compact, with more colorful foliage. Foliage may be olive green, greenish yellow, brownish bronze, rich reddish bronze or

striped with like colors. Some bronze sorts are striped with tan or pink. 'Yellow Wave' has floppier foliage.

New Zealand flax is a tough evergreen perennial. Its long and narrow leaves can be too fibrous to cut without scissors. These leaves grow as tall as they do from clumping basal rhizomes. Interestingly rigid floral stalks stand slightly higher than the foliage, with yellow or red bloom. After bloom, these floral stalks can be a delightful and bold dried cut flower, and work well with pampas grass bloom.

Horticulturist Tony Tomeo can be contacted at tonytomeo.com.

LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

Foodbank emergency food distribution

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY NEWS STAFF REPORT

When COVID-19 safety measures took effect, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County initiated the SAFE

(Safe Access to Food For Everyone), Food Net and the SAFE home delivery program for seniors. Seniors can dial 211 for home delivery. No documenta-

tion/registration required. For more information, visit foodbanksbc.org

A list of northern Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County food distribution sites is provided.

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Buellton

Buellton Senior Center, 164 W. Highway 246 (behind post office); Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Walk-in and deliveries for seniors available by calling 805-688-4571

Buellton Senior Center, 164 W. Hwy 246 (behind post office); Monday thru Friday, 12-1 p.m.; already prepared meal available Crossroads Church, 236 La Lata Drive; Second Wednesday each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Produce items only)

Please see **FOODBANK**, Page A2

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DRAFT FINAL GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. PUBLIC COMMENT IS ENCOURAGED

(Santa Ynez, California, September 15, 2021) - The public is invited to review and comment on the Draft Final (Public Draft) Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) prepared by the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). The three GSAs were established for the Eastern, Central and Western Management Areas of the Basin (EMA, CMA and WMA). The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2015 requires each basin in California to be sustainable with respect to groundwater by 2042. Three GSPs (one for each management area) were prepared through the efforts of eight local government agencies and their elected officials working together since 2017. Sustainable groundwater management will be implemented at the local level using the GSPs, and is designed to ensure that:

- (1) Long-term groundwater elevations are adequate to support existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses throughout the Basin,
- (2) A sufficient volume of groundwater storage remains available during drought conditions and recovers during wet conditions,
- (3) Groundwater production, and projects and management actions undertaken through SGMA, do not degrade water quality conditions in order to support ongoing reasonable and beneficial uses of groundwater for agricultural, municipal, domestic, industrial, and environmental purposes.

The three GSPs are available on the Basin's SGMA website, SantaYnezWater.org. The public is encouraged to review and provide comments on the GSPs.

- The EMA GSP is available for review and comment until October 24, 2021 (11:59 pm).
- The CMA GSP and WMA GSP are both available for review and comment until October 26, 2021 (11:59 pm).

Public Meetings of the Citizens Advisory Group and the GSA Committee for each management area will be held during September/October to discuss the GSPs. Please register as an Interested Party on SantaYnezWater.org to receive email notices of these public meetings as well as future public meetings or hearings.

Additionally, a hard copy of each GSP is available for review in a local library. The EMA GSP is available at the Solvang Public Library, the CMA GSP at the Buellton Public Library and the WMA GSP at the Lompoc and Vandenberg Village Public Libraries. Comments on the GSPs are encouraged to be uploaded via the Comment Form located on SantaYnezWater.org or may be submitted at the address below.

For questions please contact:

Mr. Bill Buelow, P.G.
GSA Coordinator for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin and Groundwater Program Manager for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Tel: 805-693-1156, ext. 403
Email: bbuelow@sywcd.com

Mailing Address:

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

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Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

The three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin have prepared **Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)** as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of January 2015. Final Drafts of the three GSPs are available for public review and comment online at SantaYnezWater.org. The Final GSPs must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2022. Upon submittal, DWR will host a public comment period on the Final GSPs via its website.

Schedule of Public Meetings, Workshops, and Comment Periods located at SantaYnezWater.org

COMMENT NOW

SGMA is implemented at the local level

Public Review and Comment on the Groundwater Sustainability Plans

All three Draft GSPs are available on-line SantaYnezWater.org

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS:

See website for exact dates or sign-up for email notifications.

Draft GSP: 45 days in September - October, 2021

Final GSP: 75 days in February-March 2022

Final GSPs will also be available online.

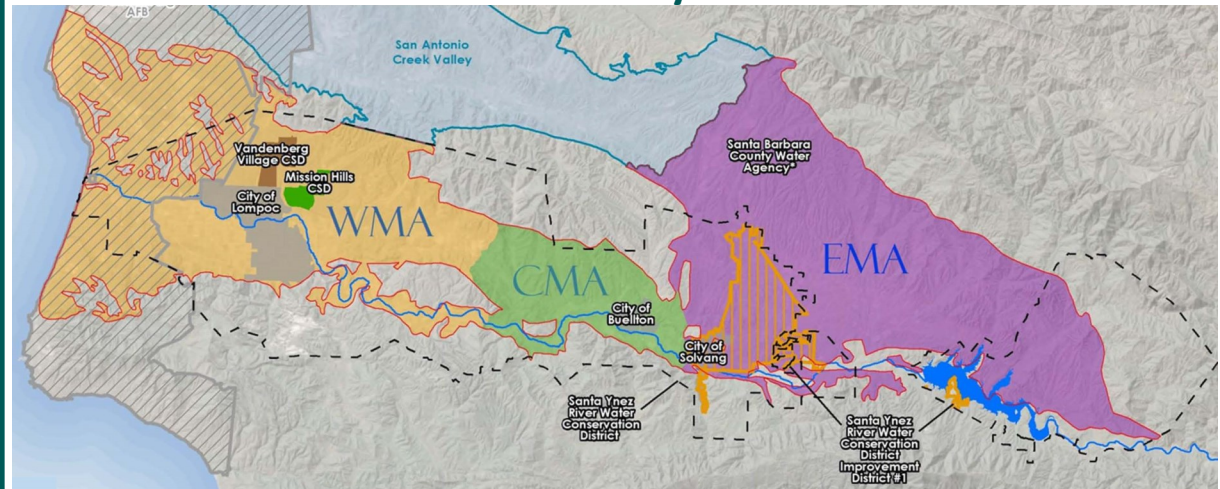
Western Management Area GSP

Central Management Area GSP

Eastern Management Area GSP

A printed copy will be available for review at the following public libraries: Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, and Vandenberg Village.

Three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin



Next Steps:

- **September/October 2021:** Public Review of Draft GSPs
- **October 2021:** Citizen Advisory Groups Meetings to discuss Draft GSPs
- **October 2021:** GSA Committee Meetings to discuss Draft GSPs
- **December 2021/January 2022:** GSP Adoption by GSA Committees
- **January 31, 2022:** Final GSPs due to DWR
- **February/March 2022:** Public Review of Final GSPs (comment via DWR website)

For more information, meeting announcements, and to review and comment on draft documents, please visit

SantaYnezWater.org or call (805) 693-1156 ext. 403



Cuenca de Aguas Subterráneas del Valle del Río Santa Ynez

Las tres Agencias de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSAs) en la Cuenca de Aguas Subterráneas del Valle del Río Santa Ynez han preparado **Planes de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSPs)** como lo requiere la Ley de Gestión Sostenible de Aguas Subterráneas (SGMA) de enero de 2015. Los Borradores Finales de los tres GSP están disponibles para su revisión pública y comentarios en línea en SantaYnezWater.org. Los GSP Finales deben ser presentados al Departamento de Recursos Hídricos de California (DWR) antes del 31 de enero de 2022. Una vez presentados, el DWR organizará un período de comentarios públicos sobre los GSP Finales a través de su página web.

Calendario de Reuniones
Públicas, Talleres y Períodos
de Comentarios en
SantaYnezWater.org

COMENTE AHORA

*La SGMA es aplicada
a nivel local*

Revisión y Comentarios Públicos sobre los Planes de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas

Los tres Borradores de los GSP están disponibles
en línea SantaYnezWater.org

PERÍODOS DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS :

Consulte el sitio web para conocer las fechas exactas o regístrese para recibir notificaciones por correo electrónico.

Borrador del GSP: 45 días en septiembre - octubre, 2021

GSP Final: 75 días en febrero - marzo, 2022

Los GSP Finales también estarán disponibles en línea.

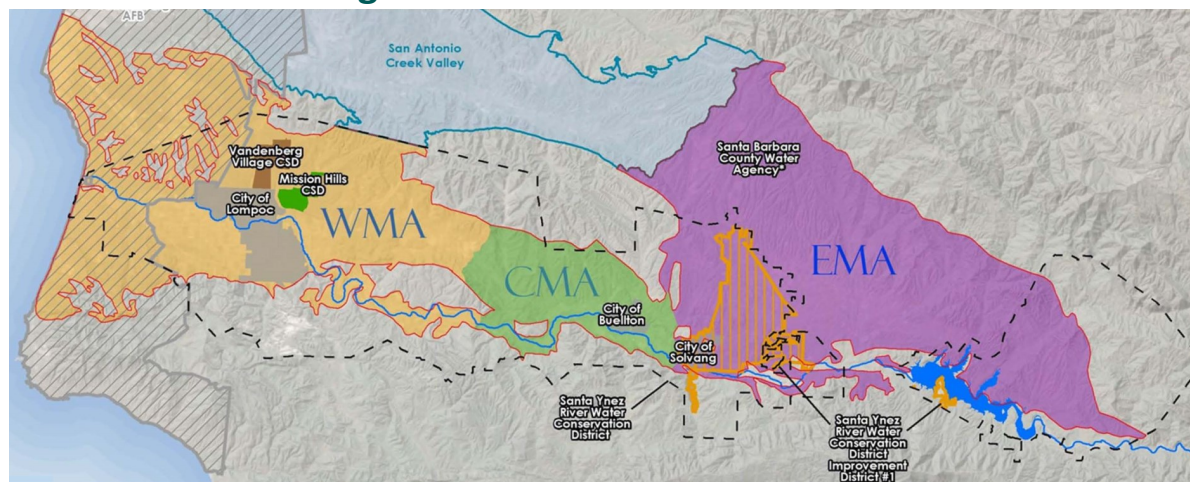
GSP del Área de Gestión Occidental (WMA)

GSP del Área de Gestión Central (CMA)

GSP del Área de Gestión Oriental (EMA)

En las siguientes bibliotecas públicas, estará disponible una copia impresa para su revisión: Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc y Vandenberg Village.

Tres Agencias de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSA) en la Cuenca de Aguas Subterráneas del Valle del Río Santa Ynez



Próximos Pasos:

- **Septiembre/octubre 2021:** Revisión Pública de los Borradores de los GSP
- **Octubre 2021:** Reuniones de Grupos Consultivos de Ciudadanos para discutir los Borradores de los GSP
- **Octubre 2021:** Reuniones del Comité de la GSA para discutir los Borradores de los GSP
- **Diciembre 2021/enero 2022:** Aprobación del GSP por los Comités de la GSA
- **31 de enero, 2022:** GSP Finales por el DWR
- **Febrero/marzo 2022:** Revisión Pública de los GSP Finales (comentarios a través del sitio web del DWR)

Para más información, anuncios de reuniones y para revisar y comentar los borradores de los documentos, visite

SantaYnezWater.org o llame al (805) 693-1156 ext. 403



**EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 11, 2021

TO: EMA GSA Committee

FROM: EMA Citizen Advisory Group
Prepared by Elizabeth Farnum

SUBJECT: EMA Public Draft of GSP and Discussion of Future Governance

Eastern Management Area (EMA) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Members

CJ. Jackson, Gay Infanti, Sam Cohen, Mary Heyden, Elizabeth Farnum, and Tim Gorham,

Introduction

The EMA CAG held a meeting on October 11, 2021 via teleconference to review the Public Draft of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and discuss future governance options for the GSA.

Below is a summary of the CAG's comments.

CAG Comments on the GSP:

As at previous CAG meetings, some members indicated that the GSP does not reflect the urgency of the moment, i.e., continuing drought and climate change. Because the GSP does not include data from the past three years, two of which have been drought years, there is a cognitive dissonance to a reader from the general public. An average of data from 1989-2018 doesn't reflect current weather trends. The well hydrograph section in Appendix D shows a significant water level drop in some wells. The consultant pointed out that the GSP requires an annual report, which will update information each year. This annual update/review will allow for GSP adaptation based on, for example, a continued drought.

A CAG member observed that in light of a projected increased deficit, the GSP doesn't seem proactive.

While some CAG members felt that the GSP overall was well done, others worried that the public would have trouble understanding how it operates in real time. Planning for an agricultural operation requires knowing how and when management actions would be applied. Other CAG members commented that the GSP is too complex and long for most people to read.

The highlighted SGMA citations are confusing. The consultant explained that the GSP format adheres to SGMA requirements. The GSP is written for DWR which is a very different type of audience than the general public.

It was suggested by the CAG that the overview of the GSP presented to the GSA on August 26, 2021, would provide the general public with a higher-level understanding of the GSP. Staff noted that the presentation is available on the website. A CAG member remarked that flow charts are helpful as well.

A CAG member questioned the absence of language in the GSP regarding a prohibition on new wells. The consultant acknowledged that recording requirements for new wells is an issue in all the basins and that there is a lot of new drilling. The GSA doesn't have the authority to stop this.

Another CAG member expressed a concern that although the agricultural community's water rights will be affected greatly by the management actions, it has no direct representation on the GSA.

A CAG member asked if the GSP would create redundancies between GSA staff and SYRWCD staff regarding the collection of well data. Another redundancy might occur in the creating/funding of water efficiency programs between the GSA staff and the Cachuma Resource Conservation District.

The CAG discussed the 20- and 40-year SGMA reporting horizons and commented this time frame seemed too long for achieving sustainability. The consultant responded that the GSP uses five-year increments and interim milestones to measure progress or to reassess and possibly correct the course by adjusting management actions.

CAG Comments on Future Governance:

The CAG discussed governance options 3 and 4 as the most reasonable, but staff guidance on this is needed. Most CAG members did not understand how the JPA structure would work in practice. All supported the goal to develop a structure that would allow for the most cost sharing.

The CAG did not have time to discuss funding mechanisms. Members questioned the budget numbers associated with each management action. There was further discussion that estimates for some management actions contained a pretty wide range of costs. One CAG member noted that a budget would have to change to be consistent with a GSP that is constantly updated.

Staff mentioned that more well owners are voluntarily adding their wells to the monitoring network. This would significantly reduce costs in the first set of management actions. The CAG discussed that it is very important to convince well owners to participate in the volunteer monitoring program.

There were no further comments, and the meeting was adjourned.