

EASTERN MANAGEENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 27, 2020

TO: EMA GSA Committee

FROM: EMA Citizen Advisory Group

SUBJECT: CAG Comments on Draft Basin Newsletter

EMA CAG Members Present: Sam Cohen, Elizabeth Farnum, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Gaye Infanti, CJ Jackson, and Kevin Merrill

The EMA CAG met via teleconference on June 2, 2020 and reviewed the first SGMA newsletter prepared for the entire Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin and made comment and suggested changes.

As in the past, the EMA GSA Committee strongly endorsed steps that would create a clear and understandable pathway to engagement by and for stakeholders. Suggestions were made by the CAG to reduce the level of detail and extraneous information in this first newsletter. The CAG believed this would allow stakeholders to locate their properties within the Basin's three management areas and make it easier for stakeholders to contact agency staff with questions. Overall, the CAG found the newsletter informative although at times a bit redundant. Some of the CAG's suggestions have been included within the revised edition of the newsletter.

The EMA CAG continues to advocate for workshops and press releases to enhance stakeholder participation. The CAG also suggests that further notifications be provided regarding the existence of the EMA CAG, but that contact and inquiries from the public should be facilitated through agency staff and not directly through the CAG members.