

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 Diethofer (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.

- GSA Committee Member 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 concern 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 Dietenhofer 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.
- GSA 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 Dietenhofer 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

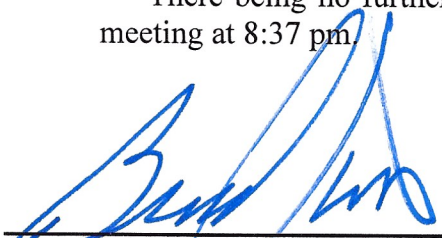
Mr. Buelow announced that the next EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting will be on Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 pm, location to be determined. The meeting is being held one week earlier than the normal 4th week to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday. There was no discussion.

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

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (EMA)
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

APRIL 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1029	04/08/21	Stetson Engineers	February 2021 Engineering Service (Basin Coordination)	\$ 2,265.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 2,265.00

MAY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1030	05/13/21	Stetson Engineers	March 2021 Engineering Service (Basin Coordination)	\$ 555.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 555.00

JUNE 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1031	06/29/21	GSI Water Solutions	April & May 2021 GSP Preparation Services	\$ 37,862.25
1032	06/29/21	Stetson Engineers	April & May 2021 Engineering Service (Basin Coordination)	\$ 2,413.75
1033	06/29/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2021 2nd Quarter Bookkeeping (April, May, June 2021)	\$ 150.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 40,426.00

TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 43,246.00