

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 23, 2023

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, February 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely by video and teleconference in accordance with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Social Distance Recommendation and as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution EMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/21/2021, reaffirmed 01/26/2023).

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

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, Mike Burchardi, and Meighan Dietenhofer

Member Agency Staff Present: Jose Acosta, Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh, and Matt Young

Others Present: Steve Anderson, Brian Bondy, Russell Chamberlin, Doug Circle, Elizabeth Farnum, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Isabelle Lavoie, Kevin Merrill, Carol Redhead, and one unannounced attendee

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Mr. Buelow introduced the staff and the EMA CAG members who were also present.

II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution EMA-2021-001

Mr. Buelow briefly explained Assembly Bill 361, the Santa Barbara County Public Health recommendation, and adoption of Resolution EMA-2021-001, passed on October 21, 2021 and reaffirmed on January 26, 2023, which authorize public meetings to be conducted remotely via video and/or teleconference and that such conditions continue to exist. There was no discussion.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann made a MOTION to continue meeting remotely under Resolution EMA-2021-001. EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment. Mr. Buelow and Ms. Thompson announced they did not receive any public comments in advance of the meeting.

V. Receive Briefing on revision to the teleconferencing “Rules of the Brown Act” by AB 2449

Mr. Buelow provided information on the AB 2449 revisions to the teleconferencing rules of the Brown Act. He recommended GSA Committee Members contact their agency legal counsel with any questions. He reported that the staff recommendation is to return to in person only meetings beginning with the March 2023 GSA meeting.

Discussion followed. Committee Members requested future meetings be held at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Conference Room and requested that staff make the arrangements.

VI. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of November 17, 2022

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on November 17, 2022 were presented for GSA Committee approval. Mr. Buelow reported that the minutes for the January 26, 2023 meeting will be considered for approval at the March meeting. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 17, 2022, as presented. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2022-23 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2022) and the Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2022. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to approve the October, November, and December 2022 Warrant Lists (Check Nos. 1000-1002) totaling \$1,524.70, as presented. GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VIII. Review Draft Policy Options for Well Verification Requests

Mr. Buelow presented the Draft Policy Options for Well Verification Requests which were developed jointly by staff for the GSA Member Agencies at the request of the Committee during the January 26, 2023 due to the concerns in response to information presented regarding the October 2022 water levels in the EMA. He reported that the EMA GSA Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) had reviewed and discussed the draft policy options, as the Committee requested, and provided a memorandum summarizing the CAG discussion. Discussion followed for each presented option. Public comments were received. The options presented and discussed were:

- Option 1: Continue to review requests for well verifications until undesirable results occur.
- Option 2: Deny pending verification requests and cease accepting new requests based on imminent occurrence of undesirable results.
- Option 3: Hold all new and pending requests for well verifications in abeyance pending review of March 2023 water levels.
- Option 4: Continue to review requests for well verifications on interim basis based on water budget parameters and considerations contained in EMA GSP.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos requested a correlation between rainfall and recovery in the Basin. Mr. Buelow recalled the historic water level trends presentation from prior meetings that indicate that water levels in the Basin had recovered well with periods of rainfall in the past and suggested that GSI Water Solutions present that data again to the Committee at a future meeting. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos emphasized the need to accurately determine the quantity of water coming in to and going out of the Basin for the Committee to make informed decisions and to start implementing management actions set forth in the EMA GSP.

Staff requested guidance and clarification on which draft policy option(s) to further develop to bring back to the EMA GSA Committee for consideration. Discussion continued.

Mr. Tim Gorham, representative of the EMA CAG, presented and reviewed the CAG memorandum, dated February 23, 2023. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

EMA GSA Committee Members Brad Joos and Joan Hartmann both asked if GSI Water Solutions should be engaged for technical assistance in developing the different options. Mr. Paeter Garcia advised the Committee that the EMA GSA does not have a retainer with GSI to engage in that scope of work nor funding in place to pay for undertaking that type of work. Member Agency staff agreed they can proceed with developing the options as requested by the Committee and if needed, develop a Scope of Work to possibly engage GSI Water Solutions in the future. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

The GSA Committee Members all agreed to not pursue Option 2, agreed that Option 1 is the current existing written verification process, and requested Member Agency staff to further develop Option 3 and Option 4 regarding written verifications requests for new well applications, including staff to meet with the EMA CAG for input; then, present Options 3 and 4 with more details to the Committee, continue to proceed under the current Written Verification Process with evaluating the pending request for written verification and return to the Committee for further consideration at the March 23, 2023 meeting.

IX. Receive Update on EMA Second Annual Report

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the EMA Second Annual Report. He informed the GSA Committee that staff is planning for a presentation of the draft Report during the March 23, 2023 public meeting. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

X. Next EMA GSA Meeting, Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. – location TBD

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Conference Room.

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

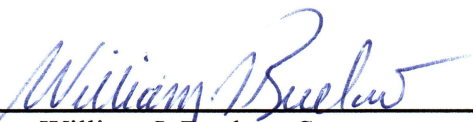
EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos would like an update on the future governance planning.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona agreed with request for an update on the future governance planning and emphasized that the planning should be a priority.

XII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.


Brett Marymee, Chairman


William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

OCTOBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
			NONE	
MONTH TOTAL				\$ -

NOVEMBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
			NONE	
MONTH TOTAL				\$ -

DECEMBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1000	12/14/22	GSI Water Solutions	October 2022 Review for Well Verifications (partial)	\$ 1,200.00
1001	12/14/22	Santa Ynez River Water Cor	Reimbursement for 40 postage stamps	\$ 24.70
1002	12/14/22	Valley Bookkeeping	2022 4th Quarter Bookkeeping (October, November, December 2022)	\$ 300.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 1,524.70

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 1,524.70