

**EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 25, 2021

TO: EMA GSA Committee

FROM: EMA Citizen Advisory Group

SUBJECT: Draft Communication and Engagement Plan for the EMA

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

Gay Infanti, Sam Cohen, Mary Heyden, Elizabeth Farnum, CJ Jackson, Tim Gorham, Kevin Merrill

Introduction

The EMA GSA Committee requested staff for the GSA agencies to coordinate meetings of the EMA CAG. Through a coordinated effort, the CAG held a meeting on February 17, 2021 via teleconference due to COVID-19 restrictions. The EMA CAG reviewed the Draft Hydrologic Conceptual Model (HCM) for the EMA prepared by the consultant GSI.

Below is a summary of the CAG's comments and recommendations regarding the Draft HCM.

CAG Comments to the Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model for the EMA:

- Several members of the CAG discussed that groundwater in the EMA is already sustainable and emphasized not trying to fix what is working now. Members of the CAG commented that the GSA should use data that is currently available and not to spend unnecessary money on acquiring additional data.
- Members of the CAG recognized that the GSP is a “living document” and it would be updated during the SGMA process.
- There was discussion about possible costs to be incurred by the stakeholders after the GSA is submitted and the need to minimize future expenses such as river flow meters and additional monitoring wells that might not be necessary.

- Several members of the CAG asked who will be responsible for paying to resolve any data gaps that are identified in the GSP.
- The CAG asked whether Lake Cachuma is within the EMA boundary.
 - Staff indicated that Lake Cachuma is not within the EMA.
- Members of the CAG emphasized the need to make the Draft HCM as public as possible. CAG members asked about the possibility of putting notices about the GSP in local newspapers to make sure that all stakeholders are aware of the SGMA process.
 - Staff indicated that the two SGMA Newsletters have been distributed throughout the Basin in various ways, such as including them in water utility bills. Staff noted there has been a substantial increase in visits to the SGMA Website.
- Members of the CAG suggested that potential hydrocarbon contaminants from nearby oil and gas fields should be included in the water quality assessment.
- Members of the CAG asked about the results of the SkyTEM study and its contribution to the HCM.
 - Staff indicated that the results are forthcoming.

Various additional comments were provided from members of the public that were in attendance, including a consultant representing the Santa Ynez Water Group. Below are several examples of the comments provided.

- Questions were asked about expenses to fill data gaps and it was stated that a data gap is defined as “data necessary to determine groundwater sustainability.” A recommendation was made that costs should not be incurred to gather unnecessary data.
- A suggestion was made to group the Careaga aquifer with the Paso Robles aquifer, and to group the Tertiary Alluvium aquifer with Older Alluvium aquifer, as that would simplify SGMA monitoring and reporting, which would reduce future costs.
- There was also discussion regarding the Tributary Alluvium in the Santa Ynez Uplands and a suggestion was made that it should not be included as a “principal aquifer” under SGMA.
 - The Consultants clarified that in the Santa Ynez Uplands, water flowing in tributaries is surface water but water in the underlying Tertiary alluvium is groundwater. Furthermore, the underflow of the Santa Ynez River and the Santa Ynez River Alluvium is considered surface water regulated by the California State Water Resources Control Board.