

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

WILL BE HELD
AT **06:30 P.M.**, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

TELECONFERENCE MEETING ONLY – NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Public participants can view presentation materials and live video on their device.

New meeting and public participation platform: ZOOM

You do NOT need to create a ZOOM account or login with email for meeting participation.

ZOOM.us “Join a Meeting”

Meeting ID: 863 7939 0692 Meeting Passcode: 490644

DIRECT LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86379390692?pwd=eGZkaCs4MlVjUUUp6ck1jNEx4NWxPZz09>

Public participant webcams will be disabled and phones/microphones will be muted until times made available during meeting for public comment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1-669-900-9128

PHONE MEETING ID: 863 7939 0692 #

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.

Teleconference Meeting During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency: 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 will occur solely via teleconference as authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20. **Virtual meeting is in accordance with the latest SB County Health Office Order.**

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 dial-in number and passcode 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, August 25, 2021**, and should indicate “**August 26, 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.

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

AGENDA ON NEXT PAGE

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021, 06:30 P.M.

AGENDA OF REGULAR 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.)
- V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of July 22, 2021
- VI. Receive EMA GSA Financial update and consider approval of EMA Warrant List
- VII. Receive Presentation from GSI on “Summary and Overview of Draft GSP for the EMA”
- VIII. Receive Presentation from Brett Stroud, Young Wooldridge on “SGMA Governance and Funding Options” (Brett Stroud, Young Wooldridge LLC)
- IX. Next “Special” EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, October 7, 2021, 6:30 PM
Note: that this meeting is being held near the end of the Draft GSP public review period and is pending committee availability.
- X. Next “Regular” EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 PM
Note: that this meeting is being held one week early to accommodate Thanksgiving holiday and is pending committee availability.
- 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 MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin July 22, 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, July 22, 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.

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

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

Others Present: Steve Anderson, Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions), Bryan Bondy, Doug Circle, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, CJ Jackson, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Blaine Reely (GSI), and two additional members of the public whose names were not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. Three GSA Committee Members and one acting Alternate Committee Member were present. A quorum was met.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of video and phone attendees. He announced that the draft Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) section of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was recently open for public review and comment and the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) met to discuss the section. The next phase to address is Projects and Management Actions.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

Mr. CJ Jackson said he read an article in Noozhawk that the Cuyama Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was rejected by the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR). He asked if any of the issues that caused DWR to reject their plan

have been resolved and can their experience help with the development of the EMA GSP plan.

Ms. Mary Heyden said she was invited to an online presentation about SGMA efforts in the Santa Ynez Basin which was made to WEWatch and the Santa Ynez Natural History Society. She received the invitation too late for her to attend but is glad presentations are being made to the general public and asked that these presentations continue to the general public and suggested that they be advertised to the general public at least a week in advance.

V. Review and Consider Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the GSA Committee meeting on May 27, 2021 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion.

Acting Alternate GSA Committee Member Meighan Dietenhofer made a MOTION to approve the minutes of May 27, 2021 as presented. GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. Receive Update on GSP Comments and Correspondence Received

Mr. Buelow introduced and reviewed three public comment letters written to the EMA GSA that were received in addition to many individual comments received via the online groundwater communication portal regarding draft sections of the draft GSP document.

A letter received from U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) commented on the draft SMC section of the draft GSP and is being reviewed by consultants and member agency staff.

A letter received from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board requested coordination between the EMA GSA and the newly formed Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD). Mr. Buelow contacted Lisa Palmer, President of the LOCSD, and signed her up as an Interested Party to receive all future EMA notices and communications.

A letter received from Doug Circle, on behalf of the Santa Ynez Water Group, expressed disappointment in the short amount of time recently allotted for public comment on the draft SMC section of the draft GSP. Mr. Buelow explained the public comment process in place for draft sections, assured everyone that the full draft GSP document will be available for public review and comment for six weeks before submittal of the final document to DWR followed by DWR posting the submitted final document for a 60-day comment period.

VII. Receive Report from the EMA Citizens Advisory Group on the EMA Draft SMCs

Ms. Gay Infanti presented a memorandum from the EMA CAG regarding their July 7, 2021 meeting at which they discussed the draft Sustainable Management Criteria for the EMA GSA. Committee Members Brett Marymee and Brad Joos both thanked the EMA

CAG for their input and thanked Ms. Infanti for providing an excellent and thorough report. There was no discussion.

VIII. Receive Presentation from GSI on the “Projects and Management Actions” and schedule for GSP document review and adoption

Mr. Jeff Barry and Mr. Blaine Reely (GSI Water Solutions) presented “Projects and Management Actions, Santa Ynez Basin – EMA, July 22, 2021”, an introduction to and summary of proposed Management Actions and Projects. Consultants discussed recommendations for projects and management actions to address the estimated annual 1,800 AFY deficit and requested that the EMA GSA Committee provide direction to identify the correct list, sequencing, and implementation schedule to be included in draft GSP.

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

- Committee Member Brett Marymee asked for clarification on slides 9 and 11 as to the breakdown of costs to implement the proposed programs. Mr. Reely said most of the costs are for doing the studies and developing the programs for well registration and meter program and water use efficiency programs. Estimated costs do not include cost of meter or meter installation both of which is expected to be paid for by well owners
- Committee Member Mark Infanti asked if there is intention to respond to the letter received from NOAA/NMFS about steelhead, a potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE). Mr. Barry advised that the letter mostly addresses GDE, endangered species and steelhead in the mainstem of the Santa Ynez River and will be responded to. He pointed out that surface water and the underflow associated with the river are both surface water and not considered GDE. Tributaries as possible habitat for listed species are also being evaluated.
- Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Dietenhofer asked for clarification on proposed timing of Tier 1 management actions and projects. Mr. Reely proposed that work on all Tier 1 projects begin at the time of GSP submittal to DWR with expected completion during year one.
- Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Dietenhofer asked if meter program includes de minimis groundwater users (i.e. small domestic well users). Mr. Reely replied that by SGMA standards a de minimis user is one using less than two acre-feet of water per year. He proposed that if the GSA does not require a meter for de minimis users, they set up other method to determine and report water use.
- Committee Member Brad Joos asked, assuming double charging fees will be avoided, does establishing fees for groundwater extraction need to have voter approval before fees can be charged? Mr. Reely replied that if a fee is established as a tax, then there a vote by the people is needed and if the fee is an extraction fee, then it is subject to the Prop. 218 processes. Either way, a regulatory action requirement is needed to put a fee in place.

- Committee Member Brad Joos recommended that a good method of proof (via calculating use with a meter or by electrical usage) should be established for an extraction fee so fees will be accurate and equitable to all users. He appreciated idea of all users to purchase their own meters. Mr. Barry added there should be a standard operating procedure and guidance document developed as part of a metering program.
- Mr. Bryan Bondy asked if the Tier 1 proposed action of confirming well construction by video logs would be done for all wells and expressed concern this may cause unneeded excess cost to GSA. Mr. Barry confirmed this action applies only to well where well construction is unknown, not to all wells.
- Mr. Bondy shared that a meter requirement for de minimis users could risk spending of a lot of money to quantify small amounts of water. He mentioned efforts done by Fox Canyon GMA in Ventura.
- Mr. Bondy commented that pumping allocation and groundwater market program has a lot of positives and certain outcomes with low prospective costs since are non-administrative actions with no administrative overhead costs.
- Ms. Gay Infanti asked for clarification on the letter received from NMFS about steelhead and Mr. Barry response regarding GSAs position regarding groundwater versus surface water. She recommended the response include if pumping in the uplands affects water flow from the tributaries into the Santa Ynez River. She noted that Hilton Creek is referenced in the letter and asked if steelhead are in Hilton Creek. Mr. Matt Young responded that steelhead are in Hilton Creek and surface water releases are made from Cachuma reservoir to sustain that fish population, so they fed by native streamflow but managed by the Bureau of Reclamation through their releases. Hilton Creek is heavily managed surface water. He assured the received letter is not being dismissed. Ms. Infanti recommended the GSP directly reflect that the steelhead population has been considered during the development of the plan.
 - Mr. C.J. Jackson is skeptical of NFMS and agreed should take their comments seriously but be thorough in the evaluation.
- Mr. Jackson asked if there will be an efficacy feedback loop of Tier 1 fee strategies and ask if any strategies have succeeded or failed. Mr. Barry replied that examinations will occur every year during the required DWR status report including documentation of effectiveness of strategies. He agreed that transparency and feedback loop are important. Mr. Jackson requested that GSA clearly understand timelines necessary to implement changes to fee strategies in the GSP.
 - Committee Member Brad Joos agreed fee strategies should be reviewed yearly.
- Committee Member Brad Joos asked for clarification on costs to the GSA for fallowing strategy and where does money come from to pay people to fallow their land. Mr. Reely advised that proposed costs listed are for development of program and administrative infrastructure of a fallowing program. The proposed program would be voluntary fallowing with no financial incentive but assurances in place that

long term water rights are not put at risk. If financial incentives are offered, then how to fund those would need to be established by GSA.

- Committee Member Brad Joos asked regarding Tier 3's supplemental conditions strategy if there is any benefit to limit new wells being installed. Mr. Barry explained that there is a fairness issue with established well owners reducing use but new well permits continuing to be issued. He suggested GSA create financial impacts or conditions to disincentivize development of new wells. Committee Member Brad Joos agreed the GSA needs a way to protect the farms and current well users.
- Discussion continued about proposed projects and management actions and impacts if drought continues to worsen. Mr. Barry advised that the GSP is meant to be adaptive so that the GSA can choose to accelerate projects and management actions. Mr. Matt Young added that DWR has built-in adaptive management to SGMA, such as yearly GSP evaluation and a requirement to re-write the GSP every 5 years.
- Ms. Mary Heyden asked if there are grants available for any of these proposed projects and management actions. Mr. Barry confirmed grants will be available to basins with approved GSPs most likely for implementation projects such as monitoring, monitoring equipment, meters, installation of monitoring wells as needed or similar projects. Mr. Buelow added that Round 3 of Prop 1 grants will open for applications shortly after the GSP is submitted in January 2022.
- Committee Member Brett Marymee likes the Santa Barbara County precipitation enhancement program and suggested grouping storm water managed aquifer recharge with precipitation enhancement program to maximize return. Matt Young replied that the county has done this program since the 1970s but even though opportunities exist to keep it going, local agency participants in recent years have pulled out so program has stopped. He suggested that if the GSA were to become a participant, the program may continue but the current program is targeted to enhance precipitation and runoff to Gibraltar and Cachuma for storage.
- Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Dietenhofer advised that the Tier 4 projects involving recharge basins is favored by Supervisor Hartmann especially since it can improve water quality, where it is feasible.
- Committee Member Mark Infanti advised that the Solvang City Council is currently discussing a program increase recycle wastewater through the wastewater treatment facility for beneficial recharge to the EMA GSA specifically they have the space but not the money and thinks the \$5 million estimate listed may be too low.
- Mr. Jackson thanked everyone for the most lucid discussion so far in this process.
 - Regarding Tier 4 projects, he thinks that storm water is currently not managed very well in the Santa Ynez Valley. He encouraged the GSA to pursue better control of managing storm water.
 - He suggested that increased silt and vegetation growth in the Santa Ynez River may be limiting the recharge capacity to the basin.

- He asked how widely the understanding that groundwater users know their water rights and the protection of them really is. Mr. Barry replied that issue of landowner water rights comes up with scarcity and regulations placed on pumping.
 - Ms. Infanti asked for clarification on specific water rights when everyone shares water in the same basin. Mr. Barry explained the most common water right is for a landowner to pump water as long as it is put to beneficial use and is not wasted.
 - Mr. Doug Circle agreed that understanding the deeded water right to landowners is important.
- Mr. Circle asked why conservation methods in projects seem directed at agriculture users. He would like to see more equitable conservation projects toward all water users. He suggested a cap-and-trade program to create water credits and allowing market forces to encourage conservation has been successful in other areas.
- Mr. Barry reviewed the remaining planned GSP schedule.

IX. Next “Regular” EMA GSA Meeting

Committee Member Director Brett Marymee stated the next EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via video/teleconference.

X. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Committee Member Director Brett Marymee thanked consultants for a great presentation and thanked the public and CAG members for great feedback. All directors agreed that the meeting and presentation were great and thanked all participants for a positive and robust discussion.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, GSA Committee Member Marymee adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Brett Marymee, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

SYRWCD EMA
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2021

Assets

Current Assets

Mechanics Bank #5843	\$210,037.93	
Other Current Assets	1,000.00	

TOTAL Current Assets		211,037.93

TOTAL Assets		\$211,037.93
		=====

Liabilities AND Equity

TOTAL Liabilities		.00

Net Position

RETAINED EARNINGS - PRIOR	48,491.18	
Retained Earnings-Current Year	162,546.75	

TOTAL Net Position		211,037.93

TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity		\$211,037.93
		=====

SYRWCD EMA
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE 12 PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

	QUARTER TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	PERCENT	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Revenue:				
Revenue				
Grant Revenue	\$.00	.0 %	232,206.89	100.0
TOTAL Revenue	.00	.0	232,206.89	100.0
TOTAL Revenue	.00	.0	232,206.89	100.0
Gross Profit	.00	.0	232,206.89	100.0
Expenses:				
Operating Expenses				
Outside Staff Support	150.00	.0	787.50	.3
Legal Services	.00	.0	3,274.50	1.4
TOTAL Operating Expenses	150.00	.0	4,062.00	1.7
Consultants				
General Consultant	.00	.0	22.50	.0
GSP - GSP Doc	37,862.25	.0	37,862.25	16.3
Basin Coordination	5,233.75	.0	27,713.39	11.9
TOTAL Consultants	43,096.00	.0	65,598.14	28.2
TOTAL Expenses	43,246.00	.0	69,660.14	30.0
Net Income from Operations	(43,246.00)	.0	162,546.75	70.0
Earnings before Income Tax	(43,246.00)	.0	162,546.75	70.0
Net Income (Loss)	\$(43,246.00)	.0 %	162,546.75	70.0

**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
