

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin December 8, 2021

A special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference in accordance with the latest Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution WMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed 11/17/2021).

GSA Committee Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan, and Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate),

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Katherine Stewart, Kristin Worthley

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh

Others Present: John Fio (EKI), Paeter Garcia, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Brett Stroud (Young Woolridge), and one additional member of the public whose name was not registered

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

WMA GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met.

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

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for adopting Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and State Assembly Bill 361 which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect.

GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Committee Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion, discussion followed, and it 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.

**V. Review and consider approval of Resolution WMA-2021-002 authorizing the WMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement**

The GSA Committee discussed the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement and Resolution WMA-2021-002 authorizing the WMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement. Mr. Buelow and Mr. Brett Stroud, Young Woolridge, explained the requirement of a Coordination Agreement by DWR for basins submitting multiple GSPs.

GSA Committee Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve RESOLUTION WMA-2021-002, AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT. GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Update and discussion on Draft WMA GSP and Future Governance Options**

Mr. Curtis Lawler provided a brief update on responses to public comments received on the Draft GSP and preparations of the final GSP document.

There was no update on future governance options.

**VII. Next planned "Special" WMA GSA Meeting to consider GSP adoption Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Buelow announced the WMA GSA Committee will have a Special Meeting, including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the WMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., in person at City of Lompoc, Water Treatment Plant, Conference Room or via remote, to be determined based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**VIII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting will be February 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular WMA GSA meeting will be Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., in person at City of Lompoc, Water Treatment Plant, Conference Room or via remote, to be determined based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**IX. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

WMA GSA Alternate Director Meighan Diethofer asked for clarification on the two-year review process of the submitted GSP at DWR.

WMA GSA Alternate Director Katherine Stewart announced her resignation due to plans to move out of state, effective after January 5, 2022.

**X. Adjournment**

WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.



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Chris Brooks, Chairman



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William J. Buelow, Secretary

**Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management  
Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

**RESOLUTION WMA-2021-002**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN THE SANTA YNEZ  
RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (“GSA”), formed by Memorandum of Agreement dated January 11, 2017 (“MOA”), is the exclusive GSA for the Western Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 3-015) (“Basin”);

**WHEREAS**, the GSA has prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the Western Management Area;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10727.6 requires each GSA to “coordinate with other agencies preparing a groundwater sustainability plan within the basin to ensure that the plans utilize the same data and methodologies”;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10727(b)(3) requires that multiple GSPs implemented by multiple GSAs must be coordinated pursuant to a coordination agreement that covers the entire Basin;

**WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the individual member agencies of the three GSAs in the Basin executed that Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement for Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, dated February 26, 2020 (“Intra-Basin Agreement”);

**WHEREAS**, in the Intra-Basin Agreement, the member agencies of the Parties agreed to develop and execute a Coordination Agreement in accordance with Water Code sections 10727(b)(3), 10727.6, and 10733.4(b)(3), and California Code of Regulations, title 23, Section 357.4;

**WHEREAS**, a Coordination Agreement has been prepared in consultation with staff of the member agencies of all three GSAs in the Basin and presented to this GSA for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the GSA finds that the Coordination Agreement complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

**NOW THEREFORE**, the GSA hereby resolves as follows:

- 1) Each of the recitals above is true and correct and is incorporated herein by reference.
- 2) The GSA finds that that the Coordination Agreement complies with the requirements of SGMA.

- 3) The GSA hereby authorizes and instructs its Chairperson to execute the Coordination Agreement in substantially the form presented to the GSA, subject to such minor changes as are approved by the Chairperson.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the WMA GSA on December 8, 2021 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary