

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin May 24, 2021

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.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 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 Officer Order.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Ed Andrisek, Meighan Diethofer (Acting as Alternate),
Art Hibbits

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Cynthia Allen

Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh, Matt Young

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Doug Circle, Len Fleckenstein, Larry Lahr, Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Matt Naftaly (Dudek), Steve Slack (CDFW), and one member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed all in attendance and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to do roll call. A quorum was met.

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 and what has been completed so far in the Santa Ynez River Basin. He recalled that the committee discussed and evaluated Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) and Measurable Objectives for CMA GSA during the last meeting. Thus far, the CMA GSA Committee has prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Data Management Plan, a Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, a Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum and a draft Water Budget toward submitting a complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2022. All documents are accessible on SantaYnezWater.org.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes of the GSA Committee meetings on February 22, April 12, April 26 and May 10, 2021 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There were no comments.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the minutes of February 22, April 12, and May 10, 2021, as presented. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

GSA Alternate Committee Director Cynthia Allen made a MOTION to approve the minutes of April 26, 2021, as presented. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed 2-0-1 by roll call vote with GSA Alternate Committee Director Cynthia Allen, Acting as Alternate, and GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits abstaining.

VI. Receive CMA GSA Financial Update and Consider approval of CMA Warrant List

Mr. Buelow presented the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 1 through 9 (through March 31, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2021 for GSA Committee review. There were no comments.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the January, February, and March 2021 Warrant Lists as presented (Nos. 1026-1032 plus one wire transfer and associated bank fee) totaling \$131,475.74 and financial reports as submitted. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Receive update from Citizen Advisory Group on Draft Water Budget

Mr. Bill Buelow presented the CMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Memorandum dated May 13, 2021, prepared by representative Cindy Douglas, regarding CMA CAG's review and discussion of Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum. Discussion followed. CMA CAG members Len Fleckenstein, Deby Laranjo, and Larry Lahr agreed with Mr. Buelow's review of the memorandum and commented that the CMA CAG members had good discussions and that the meeting was very productive.

On behalf of CMA CAG Member Sharyn Merrit, GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits submitted a document titled "Navigating Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act" by Berkeley Law and UC Water, dated March 2018. GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits asked if this document had been reviewed or discussed at the CMA CAG meeting. Mr. Buelow replied he received the

document today and it was not discussed at the CMA CAG meeting. Mr. Buelow will forward the document to the consultant team.

VIII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on “Sustainable Management Criteria and Projects and Management Actions for the CMA”

Mr. Matt Naftaly (Dudek) presented “Sustainable Management Criteria and Projects and Management Actions for the CMA” dated May 24, 2021. Discussion followed.

- Regarding slide 10, GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits asked for clarification about historical low elevations in Buellton Upland since the slide 10 in the printed presentation preview says 0-15 feet below 2020 levels, but Mr. Naftaly and the slide 10 presented today stated it is 0-20 feet. Mr. Naftaly verified, based on hydrograph, that the historic low elevations in Buellton Upland were 20 feet below 2020 levels is correct.
- Regarding slide 9, GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits asked why the list of potential representative monitoring wells includes wells in Buellton Upland without complete data and asked why a well is included as a monitoring well if all the construction data is not available. Mr. Naftaly confirmed that not all data is available for all wells but the consultant team continues to look for additional data for monitoring wells and for wells with better data available. Mr. Curtis Lawler explained that a lot of the monitoring wells in the list are from DWR well completion inventory set so the data is not available. Unfortunately, perforations were not recorded so historical water level data was not included on the historical data. He suggested the solution is to perform video logs of the four county wells to find location of perforations. Although water level data is not available for the past, the wells will establish the network now and will be regularly monitored in the future. Discussion continued.
- The consultants asked the CMA GSA Committee for guidance on setting the Minimum Thresholds for water in storage and concurrence to other Minimum Thresholds to prepare Draft Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) chapter of Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Discussion followed.
 - GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits preferred to get an early warning to potential problem so the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin can avoid serious problems like what has happened in other basins. He encouraged the committee to set levels that protect the individual landowners on smaller parcels.
 - Regarding slide 17, Alternate GSA Committee Director Meighan Diethofer asked for clarification on proposed Minimum Thresholds and well impact analysis. She mentioned the conservative levels set by the EMA GSA Committee.
 - Regarding slide 20, Alternate GSA Committee Director Meighan Diethofer asked for clarification setting Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives for water quality. She expressed concern and recommended that the CMA GSA not rely on availability of state water to increase water supply. She asked for clarification on proposed vegetation removal programs.

- Mr. Lawler explained the benefit of using the historical low shown on the hydrographs as a good level to determine the Minimum Threshold and that SGMA rules allows for changes to be made to limits set.
- GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek asked who determined the basis year as 2020. Mr. Lawler explained that 2020 is variable and can be changed. He recommended keep doing what have been doing. Mr. Naftaly showed on hydrograph the wet years provided recovery to groundwater.
- Bryan Bondy spoke on behalf of Santa Ynez Water Group. He expressed concern that the concept of triggers and Minimum Thresholds may be mixed up. He requested caution with setting Minimum Threshold that is too conservative and is being used as a trigger.
- Regarding slide 12, Mr. Bondy commented that the importance of top of screen as a significant level is being overstated to the committee and stakeholders. He requested cautioned with using top of screen as a level since graph shows about 30% of wells have groundwater levels already below top of screen. He pointed out the significant break in impacts on wells is at 40 feet below 2020 water levels. Therefore, the Santa Ynez Water Group proposes consideration of 35 feet below 2020 water levels.
- Regarding slide 21, Mr. Bondy asked for clarification why Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) are being discussed under the “Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water” levels as groundwater and surface water are not the same. Mr. Bondy pointed out that per the Draft HCM, ½ of the Interconnected Surface Water (red circle area on map) channel is underlaid by bedrock so plants cannot be GDE. He asked for careful consideration before committing to projects for the small potential GDE (purple area circled in red on map) which may impact rest of CMA. He suggested first determining if the ecosystems in that area use groundwater or another source of water.
- Len Fleckenstein asked if the CAG would have opportunity to comment on slides separately? Mr. Buelow clarified that the presentation is used to gather input from the Committee and Public to produce the Draft SMC section. The CAG and public will be able to review Draft SMC chapter document and provide comment.
- Regarding slide 17, Mr. Fleckenstein asked for clarification for setting Minimum Thresholds and triggers. Mr. Naftaly, Mr. Lawler and Mr. Buelow explained Minimum Threshold per SGMA definition and relationship with management actions.
- GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits asked what the confidence level is of the well impact analysis. Mr. Lawler stated he is very confident in the well perforation analysis and gave several reasons.
- GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek asked about Minimum Threshold levels set by EMA and WMA committees. Mr. Buelow explained the EMA Minimum Thresholds levels and difference of typical well depth of users in EMA versus CMA.
- Discussion continued.

Guidance received:

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a **MOTION** requesting staff to add to the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria a groundwater level Minimum Threshold at 15 feet below 2020 groundwater water levels and setting an early trigger at 10 feet below Spring 2020 groundwater water levels for one consecutive year of measurement. The motion was seconded by GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek and passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a **MOTION** requesting staff to add to the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria a Water Quality Measurable Objective equal to the action levels set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for Total Dissolved Solids at the MCL of 1,000 mg/L, Chloride at 150 mg/L, Sulfate at 700 mg/L, Boron at 0.5 mg/L, Sodium at 100 mg/L and Nitrate at the MCL of 10 mg/L. The motion was seconded by GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek and passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

No decision was made on setting Minimum Thresholds for Interconnected Surface Water on the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria but committee agreed to have consultants address comments received, consider data in the document titled “Navigating Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” by Berkeley Law and UC Water dated March 2018 and determine GDE locations then move forward by including a Minimum Threshold level recommended by consultants in the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a **MOTION** requesting staff to add to the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria a Land Subsidence Minimum Threshold of 6 inches from 2015 elevation caused by groundwater extraction and interfering with land uses or infrastructure and continue monitoring of InSAR data, continuous GPS data and infrastructure condition. The motion was seconded by GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek and passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

No decision was needed on a Minimum Threshold for Sea Water Intrusion for the Draft Sustainable Management Criteria since it is not applicable to the CMA.

IX. Next “Special” CMA GSA Meeting: Monday, June 28, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced the next proposed meeting for the CMA GSA Committee will be a Special Meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 10:00 am most likely via online video or phone conference until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

X. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting: Monday, August 23, 2021, 10:00 AM

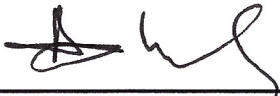
Mr. Buelow announced that the next CMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting will be on Monday, August 23, 2021, 10:00 am location to be determined. Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, it may be held via video/teleconference call.

XI. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments

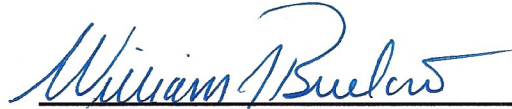
There were no requests or comments.

XII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm. The motion was seconded by GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek.



Art Hibbits, Vice-Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

JANUARY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
WIRE TRANSFER	01/05/21	SkyTEM Canada (thru SYRWCD)	AEM Survey of CMA/WMA (50% of Inv #3 of 3)	\$ 18,312.00
BANK FEE	01/05/21	Mechanics Bank (thru SYRWCD)	50% of International Wire Transfer Bank Fee	\$ 15.00
1026	01/13/21	Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf	Consulting - Grant Financial	\$ 187.50
1027	-	VOID	VOID	\$ -
1028	01/13/21	Stetson Engineers	November 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #2)	\$ 36,346.06
1029	01/13/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2020 4th Quarter Bookkeeping (October, November, December 2020)	\$ 150.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 55,010.56

FEBRUARY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1030	02/16/21	Stetson Engineers	December 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & AEM work)	\$ 43,471.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 43,471.00

MARCH 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1031	03/31/21	Stetson Engineers	January 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & AEM work)	\$ 32,844.18
1032	03/31/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2021 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2021)	\$ 150.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 32,994.18

TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 131,475.74
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CENTRAL MANAGMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 13, 2021

TO: CMA GSA Committee

FROM: CMA Citizen Advisory Group
(representative Cindy Douglas)

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum

Attendees

CMA CAG Members in attendance: Deby Laranjo, Sharyne Merritt, Cindy Douglas, Larry Lahr, Len Fleckenstein, Sean Diggins

Staff in attendance: Bill Buelow (SYRWCD) and Matt Young (County of Santa Barbara);
Consultants in attendance: Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers),

Purpose

The CMA GSA Committee requested staff for the GSA agencies to coordinate meetings of the CMA CAG. Through a coordinated effort, the CAG held a meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was held on May 13, 2021. The purpose of the meetings was for the CMA CAG (CAG) to review the Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum. The Memorandum was prepared by the Stetson Engineer's team. A copy of the documents was made available to the CAG prior to the meeting at www.SantaYnezWater.org.

CAG Comments on the Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum:

Each member of the CAG was given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on the Draft Water Budget. Discussion occurred with each question and comment by various members of the CAG, Staff and Consultants. Below is a summary of the comments and questions by topic:

Groundwater vs. Surface Water

- The CAG discussed the interaction between groundwater and surface water in the GSP. There was a robust discussion about how clarifying the text to make clear how surface water relates to groundwater.

- Page 8 Section 1.8, a question was asked to clarify areas where surface water and groundwater may interact in the CMA.
- A discussion continued about a forecasted increase in groundwater pumping in the future due to drought and/or rising temperatures, and fluctuations of pumping in the past when there were droughts and rainy periods.
 - Curtis added that to get better data on groundwater pumped, meters will be required in the future. The SGMA water budget states that the surface water does contribute to the groundwater and therefore must be defined and described.
- The CAG discussed that within the CMA the Santa Ynez Riverbed flows over bedrock and is a component of the surface water component of the overall Water Budget.
- Text should be clarified on page 26, surface water vs. groundwater.
- What is the total number of groundwater wells contributed to the data.
 - Consultants indicated there is a lack of groundwater wells for monitoring in the CMA but that there may be more added in the future.
- How were tributary inflows were measured?
 - Used available gauge data where available.

Future Water Budget Assumptions

- Page 38, Section 4.1.1, is the assumption regarding future crop acreage accurate? There was follow-on discussion regarding agriculture groundwater pumping over time has stayed steady.
- Why was 2018 used for future demand on Table 4-1? Discussion ensued.
 - Response, the chosen number was a long-term average, and the timeframe was consistent with the other management areas.

Agricultural Return Flows

- Page 15, additional information was requested on the application and efficiency rates stated in the document how they related to the water budget.
- CAG asked staff to provide citations and references on the efficiency rates provided in the Water Budget.
- CAG members mentioned that cannabis acreage planted and planned for planting is available through the County.

Current and Future Agricultural Demand

- Some of the CAG members agreed with the assumption made in the Water Budget, there will be no significant growth in agriculture acreage as described in the future water budget.
- However, the future demand seems to be too high in Table 4-1.
 - Staff mentioned there was an error in the table that will be updated.
 - There was further discussion that some of the projected increase was due to climate change assumptions.
 - Staff discussed that SGMA allows for adaptive management and is not a static document.
- The CAG discussed how the future projections will be used to set policy and that the future estimates are a tool used to do that.
- What is Mountain Front Recharge and how is it calculated?

- Staff discussed how the parameters of recharge are difficult to measure except river flow.

Sub flow and Inflow Assumptions

- There was robust discussion on the assumptions used to calculate groundwater sub flows.
- CAG asked how these were calculated and there was a discussion about uncertainty related to these parameters.
- CAG asked how the tributary inflows were calculated.
- CAG pointed out that there seems to be an error on Table 3-3.

Various additional comments were provided from members of the public that were in attendance. Below are several examples of the comments provided.

- Bryan Bondy (Santa Ynez Water Group) reiterated that he had submitted comments on behalf of the Water Group and there were some apparent calculation errors that should be checked between some of the tables. Bryan asked that the Consultants follow-up on any resolution.
- Steve Slack (CDFW) thanked the CAG for good comments and said he learned a lot.