

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY
AT 10:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Remote participation available via ZOOM

Pursuant to AB361, Directors may participate in this meeting via teleconference.
The public can only participate via teleconference. There will be no public meeting location.

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-900-9128
And/or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

“Join a Meeting” - Meeting ID: 850 0967 9615 - Meeting Passcode: 657124

- You do NOT need to create a ZOOM account or login with email for meeting participation.
- 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.
- In the interest of clear reception and efficient administration of the meeting, all persons participating remotely are respectfully requested to mute their line after logging or dialing-in and remain muted at all times unless speaking.

Video/Teleconference Meeting During Coronavirus (COVID-19) State of Emergency: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be available via video/teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health and authorized by Government Code section 54953(e) (State Assembly Bill 361).

Important Notice Regarding Public Participation in Video/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 remote access referenced 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 **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**, and should indicate **“November 16, 2022 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.

AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001
- 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.) *Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under Agenda Item “WMA GSA Committee requests and comments” for items to be included on the next Agenda.*
- V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 31, 2022
- VI. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List
- VII. Update on WMA GSA written verification of new well permits under Executive Order N-7-22
- VIII. Receive update on SGMA Implementation Grant Funding Opportunity for the Basin
- IX. Update from WMA CAG
- X. Consider Resolution WMA-2022-003 for SYRWCD to make an application for grant funding for SGMA Implementation in the SY Basin.
- XI. Update on Governance for WMA
 - a) Received correspondence from Santa Ynez Water Group
- XII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.
- XIII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XIV. 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 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 31, 2022

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via video/teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution WMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed 8/10/2022).

WMA GSA Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, and Steve Jordan

WMA GSA Committee Directors Absent: Director and Alternate representing Mission Hills CSD

WMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Meighan Dietenhofer, Ron Stassi, Kristin Worthley

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Brad Hagemann, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present: Jose Baer, Doug Circle, Ken Domako (VSFB), and John Fio (EKI)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met with three Directors in attendance. In addition, one non-voting GSA Acting Alternate Director and two GSA Alternate Directors were present. The Director and Alternate representing Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCS) were absent.

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

The reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on August 10, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. There was no discussion.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he received one public comment letter and recommended it be discussed under Agenda Item XI.

V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of May 25, and August 10, 2022

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meetings on May 25, 2022 and August 10, 2022 were presented for GSA Committee approval. Discussion followed. Other Attendee “BH” in both sets of draft minutes was corrected to reflect Brad Hagemann as staff attendee.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of May 25, 2022 and August 10, 2022, as amended. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

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

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2021-22 Periods 10 through 12 (through June 30, 2022) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2022. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve the financial reports and the April, May, and June 2022 Warrant Lists (Mechanics Bank Check Nos. 1054-1056 and Five Star Bank Check Nos. 2000-2003) totaling \$65,380.93, as presented. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

VII. Biennial Review of WMA GSA Conflict of Interest Code

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the WMA GSA Conflict of Interest Code. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to file the 2022 Local Agency Biennial Notice designating “no amendment is required” with the Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

VIII. Consider Approval of Final Documents for providing WMA GSA written verifications of new well permits under Executive Order N-7-22

Mr. Buelow reported that member agency staff presented draft documents to the Committee at the last WMA GSA Committee meeting on August 10, 2022. The Committee

reviewed the documents and directed staff to meet with the WMA Citizens Advisory Group for review and comment.

a. Comments from WMA Citizen Advisory Group

Mr. Jose Baer presented the WMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) memorandum, dated August 29, 2022 regarding the WMA CAG review of draft documents created to comply with Executive Order N-7-22. Mr. Buelow reported that since the stakeholder attendance at the WMA CAG meeting was low, he included copies of both the CMA CAG and EMA CAG memos of comments for review regarding the similar final documents presented to those GSAs. There were no comments and no discussion.

b. WMA Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order Number-7-22

Mr. Buelow presented WMA process and criteria for administering written verifications per Executive Order N-7-22. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve WMA process and criteria for administering written verifications per Executive Order N-7-22. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

c. Indemnification Agreement

Mr. Buelow presented Written Verification Indemnification Agreement. He reported that comments on the draft document received from stakeholders were considered and changes were made accordingly. There were no concerns by member agency staff regarding the changes. Discussion followed. No public comments received.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve Written Verification Indemnification Agreement. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

d. Reimbursement Agreement

Mr. Buelow presented Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Request for Written Verification and explained the planned process. Discussion followed. No public comments received.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Request for Written Verification. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call

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vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

e. Well Permit Acknowledgement

Mr. Buelow presented the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Acknowledgement Form Request for Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22. There was no discussion and no public comments received.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Acknowledgement Form Request for Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

IX. Consider Resolution WMA-2022-002 Establishing Fee and Deposit for WMA GSA Well Verification as required by Executive Order N-7-22 (Under Water Code Section 10730)

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Resolution establishing a fee and deposit of \$1,200 which was prepared by Santa Barbara County counsel in coordination with the member agencies attorney group. The August 31, 2022 meeting was properly noticed in both the August 17, 2022 and August 24, 2022 editions of the Santa Barbara News Press. Mr. Buelow read the Resolution. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to adopt GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN RESOLUTION WMA-2022-002 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR WMA GSA WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

X. Consider Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, City of Lompoc, Mission Hills CSD, and Vandenberg Village CSD develop contract with GSI Water Solutions to Evaluate Verification Requests

Mr. Buelow reported a change was proposed in contracting parties since the discussion held during the last WMA GSA meeting. Member agency staff recommended executing a multi-party contract for time and materials with GSI Water Solutions Scope of Work to evaluate verification requests with all expenses paid by a deposit received from applicants. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION requesting the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, City of Lompoc, Mission Hills CSD, and Vandenberg Village CSD develop a multi-party contract with GSI Water Solutions on behalf of the WMA GSA

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to evaluate written verification requests. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

XI. Update on Governance for WMA

Mr. Buelow introduced a letter received from Santa Ynez Water Group, dated August 5, 2022, regarding governance of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. Mr. Buelow advised that member agency staff plan to meet again to focus on and discuss WMA GSA governance and restart the process that begun prior to the Executive Order issuance. Mr. Doug Circle provided public comment. Discussion followed.

XII. Consider Setting Regular Monthly WMA GSA Meetings Through End of 2022

Mr. Buelow reviewed the proposed monthly regular meeting schedule with the willingness to cancel the additional meetings if there is nothing for Committee to address. Discussion followed. Directors agreed and requested at least a week notice of cancellation. No public comments received.

XIII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular WMA GSA meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Mr. Buelow announced the WMA CAG participation from Agriculture stakeholders is low. He suggested opening the CAG application process to search for new members. Santa Ynez Water Group volunteered to solicit for applicants and provide contacts to staff.

WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks requested an update on the AEM Survey Report prepared by Stetson Engineers. Mr. Buelow provided a brief summary of results and suggested Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, attend a future meeting and give a more detailed update.

WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks complimented SYRWCD staff for coordinating GSA work. Mr. Buelow responded by thanking member agency staff for their involvement in weekly staff meetings as being very helpful for coordinating efforts.

XV. Adjournment

GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

SYRWCD WMA
BALANCE SHEET
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Assets

Current Assets

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Five Star Checking #5978 | \$11,046.95 | |
| | ----- | |
| TOTAL Current Assets | | 11,046.95 |
| | | ----- |
| TOTAL Assets | | \$11,046.95 |
| | | ===== |

Liabilities AND Equity

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-------|
| TOTAL Liabilities | | .00 |
| | | ----- |

Net Position

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Retained Earnings | 27,450.40 | |
| Retained Earnings-Current Year | (16,403.45) | |
| | ----- | |
| TOTAL Net Position | | 11,046.95 |
| | | ----- |
| TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity | | \$11,046.95 |
| | | ===== |

SYRWCD WMA
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE 3 PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

| | QUARTER TO DATE | | YEAR TO DATE | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| | ACTUAL | PERCENT | ACTUAL | PERCENT |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Revenue | | | | |
| Operating Assessments | \$16,325.44 | 99.9 % | 16,325.44 | 99.9 |
| Interest Income | 8.19 | .1 | 8.19 | .1 |
| TOTAL Revenue | 16,333.63 | 100.0 | 16,333.63 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL Revenue | 16,333.63 | 100.0 | 16,333.63 | 100.0 |
| Gross Profit | 16,333.63 | 100.0 | 16,333.63 | 100.0 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Operating Expenses | | | | |
| Outside Staff Support | 300.00 | 1.8 | 300.00 | 1.8 |
| Public Relations | 163.20 | 1.0 | 163.20 | 1.0 |
| TOTAL Operating Expenses | 463.20 | 2.8 | 463.20 | 2.8 |
| Consultants | | | | |
| GSP - AEM Survey | 29,447.13 | 180.3 | 29,447.13 | 180.3 |
| Annual Report | 2,826.75 | 17.3 | 2,826.75 | 17.3 |
| TOTAL Consultants | 32,273.88 | 197.6 | 32,273.88 | 197.6 |
| TOTAL Expenses | 32,737.08 | 200.4 | 32,737.08 | 200.4 |
| Net Income from Operations | (16,403.45) | (100.4) | (16,403.45) | (100.4) |
| Earnings before Income Tax | (16,403.45) | (100.4) | (16,403.45) | (100.4) |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$(16,403.45) | (100.4) % | (16,403.45) | (100.4) |

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

JULY 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

| <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>PAYEE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| 2004 | 04/13/22 | Stetson Engineers | May 2022 Engineering Service (Annual Report & AEM Survey Work) | \$ 3,055.00 |
| MONTH TOTAL | | | | \$ 3,055.00 |

AUGUST 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

| <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>PAYEE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 2005 | 09/14/22 | Onsite Computers | Office 365 Basic License (email) - wma@SantaYnezWater.org | \$ 72.00 |
| 2006 | 09/14/22 | Stetson Engineers | June and July 2022 Engineering Service (Annual Report Data Upload & AEM Survey Work) | \$ 29,218.88 |
| 2007 | 09/14/22 | Valley Bookkeeping | 2022 3rd Quarter Bookkeeping (July, August, September 2022) | \$ 300.00 |
| 2008 | 09/14/22 | Santa Barbara News Press | Legal Notices of Aug. 31, 2022 Meeting to Establish Fee Publication dates: 8/17/22 and 8/24/2022 | \$ 91.20 |
| MONTH TOTAL | | | | \$ 29,682.08 |

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 32,737.08

**WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM**

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| DATE: | October 13, 2022 | |
| TO: | WMA GSA Committee | |
| FROM: | WMA Citizen Advisory Group Prepared by Karen Kistler | |
| SUBJECT: | Joint CAG Meeting with CMA CAG Round 2, Proposition 68 Grant Funding Opportunities for GSP Implementation | |

CAG Attendees:

WMA CAG Members in attendance: Karen Kistler and Derek McLeish

Introduction

The WMA CAG held a meeting together with the CMA CAG on October 13, 2022 via teleconference to discuss the Round 2 of Proposition 68 Grant Funding opportunities for the Basin, and specific projects that were a priority to the CAG.

Below is a summary of the CAG’s comments.

CAG Comments:

DWR is soliciting proposals for funding projects that furthers the goals of groundwater sustainability for medium to large groundwater basins. The Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin is one such basin. The grant solicitation process and potential projects were the subject of this special joint session meeting. Joint project funding requests that are associated with all three management agencies (East, Central, and West), associated criteria, and projected costs for each project must be submitted by November 30, 2022.

A review of the grant solicitation process was conducted with the assistance of EKI, a consultant for the City of Lompoc. A power point presentation covered grant details (eligible types of projects and evaluation criteria), grant project criteria (clear starting and ending dates, capital projects,

studies, and ineligible project examples), a potential project list, and DWR scoring criteria for the grants.

The potential project list included:

- Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement
- Conservation Plant Development
- Recycled Water Feasibility Study
- Pilot Well Metering Project and Reporting Program
- Continued Data Collection
- Systems to Effectively Produce Annual Reports
- 5-Year Update
- Rate Study

EKI did some preliminary estimated costs for some of these projects. However, the three CAGs will need to evaluate priorities, potential high scoring projects, and costs, and then generate a cohesive joint grant proposal. Discussions ensued regarding potential lists, potential decision makers, and potential grant writers.

Of all the potential projects, the consensus of the meeting participants was that well metering is a priority.

The two CAGs, WMA and CMA, will meet again near the end of November to discuss a refined list of projects developed by the GSA staff.

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

RESOLUTION WMA-2022-003

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ON BEHALF OF THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN TO MAKE AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES TO OBTAIN A GRANT UNDER THE 2021 SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SGMA IMPLEMENTATION ROUND 2 GRANT PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68) AND THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET ACT OF 2021, AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR THE PROJECT:
SGMA IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER BASIN**

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) requires that each groundwater basin in the state be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”), or multiple GSPs; and

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (“WMA GSA”), formed by Memorandum of Agreement dated January 11, 2017 (“WMA 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”); and

WHEREAS, the WMA MOA names the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) as the point of contact for the WMA with the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”); and

WHEREAS, the WMA GSA, together with the other two GSAs in the Basin, has entered into the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement (“Coordination Agreement”), effective January 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the WMA GSA has adopted a GSP for the WMA; and

WHEREAS, SYRWCD coordinated the development and submittal of three approved GSPs for the Basin that are well coordinated and fully comply with SGMA and the SGMA regulations and are approvable by DWR, one GSP for each of the Central, Western, and Western Management

Areas, and submitted a Coordination Agreement, as appropriate for the Basin, prior to January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, funds are limited locally to implement the WMA GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, the WMA GSA hereby resolves that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Board of Directors, on behalf of the WMA GSA and the other GSAs in the Basin, make an application to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) (Pub. Resource Code, § 80000 et seq.) and the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80), and to enter into an agreement to receive a grant for the: **SGMA Implementation in the Santa Ynez River Basin.**

The WMA GSA hereby authorizes and directs SYRWCD, as the Plan Manager designated under the Coordination Agreement as defined in SGMA Regulations section 351(z), to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a grant agreement and any future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the California Department of Water Resources.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the WMA GSA on November 16, 2022 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

ATTEST:

Chris Brook, Chair

William J. Buelow, Secretary

SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

3942 ROBLAR AVENUE
SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA 93460

October 24, 2022

Eastern Management Area GSA
c/o J. Brett Marymee, Chair
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Central Management Area GSA
c/o Art Hibbits, Acting Chair
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Western Management Area GSA
c/o Chris Brooks, Chair
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: Governance of Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Gentlemen:

On August 5, 2022, we wrote the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (collectively, the GSAs) regarding the future governance of the GSAs and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin), as a whole. Specifically, we requested that the GSAs dedicate a position on their ultimate governing body to an agricultural landowner who relies on groundwater from within the Basin (Agricultural Representative). The purpose of this letter is to build on that initial request.

We appreciate the GSAs' consideration and support for this Agricultural Representative position thus far. As the GSAs continue to develop this requested position, we ask that the GSAs consider the following:

Qualifications¹

The Agricultural Representative should be an individual or a designated representative of an entity (1) owning land overlying the Basin farmed for a commercial agricultural business; and (2) producing groundwater from the Basin for use on that land.

Appointment²

The GSAs' ultimate governing body (Governing Body) should appoint the Agricultural Representative based on the recommendation of the Santa Ynez Water Group (Group). Upon request from the Governing Body, and as otherwise necessary, the Group would provide the Governing Body with a list of one or more qualified individuals. The Governing Body would then consider and appoint an individual from that list. If the Governing Body does not approve of the

¹ Support for this request is based on the following GSA: Mound Basin GSA

² Support for this request is based on the following GSAs: Mound Basin GSA; Fillmore & Piru Basins GSA

Eastern Management Area GSA
Central Management Area GSA
Western Management Area GSA
August 5, 2022
Page 2 of 2

Group's recommendation, then the Governing Body would request another list of recommendations from the Group until an appointment is made.

Term³

The Agricultural Representative should have a term of three years. There should not be a limit on the number of terms a qualified individual can serve as the Agricultural Representative.

These requests were developed after analyzing numerous other GSAs and groundwater management agencies (GMAs) throughout the State. Please refer to our August letter, enclosed, for a more detailed analysis of those other GSAs and GMAs.

Finally, if there is to be an Agricultural Representative on the Governing Body, we ask to participate in the GSAs' ongoing discussions regarding the Basin's governance. It could be helpful for any concerns of the Agricultural Representative to be resolved in the development process rather than after any organizational documents are finalized.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 714-742-1444 or by e-mail at doug@circlevision.com.

Respectfully,



Douglas Circle, President

cc: EMA GSA Board of Directors
CMA GSA Board of Directors
WMA GSA Board of Directors
Kevin Walsh, General Manager, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
William J. Buelow, PG, Groundwater Program Manager, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Johannah Hartley, Counsel of the County of Santa Barbara
Dave Fleishman, Counsel for the City of Solvang
Steve Anderson, Counsel for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No. 1
Brett Stroud, Counsel for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District

³ Support for this request is based on the following GSAs: Mound Basin GSA; Fillmore & Piru Basins GSA; Upper Ventura Groundwater Agency