

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 16, 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, November 16, 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 8/31/2022).

WMA GSA Directors Present: Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan,
and Acting Alternate Kristin Worthley (arrived late)

WMA GSA Directors Absent: Director and Alternate representing City of Lompoc (10:00–11:00 am)

WMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Ron Stassi

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, and Amber Thompson

Others Present: Doug Circle, John Fio (EKI), and two unregistered phone attendees

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met with three Directors in attendance. In addition, one GSA Alternate Directors was present. The Director and Alternate representing the City of Lompoc were absent. The Acting Alternate Director representing the City of Lompoc arrived online during Agenda Item VIII.

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 State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on August 31, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. There was no discussion.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Chair Chris Brooks seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from the City of Lompoc being absent.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

Mr. Buelow announced he received one public comment letter from the Santa Ynez Water Group which is referenced as Agenda Item XI. a). Mr. Doug Circle made a brief additional comment regarding the letter and was available to answer any questions. There was no discussion and no additional public comments.

V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 31, 2022

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meeting on August 31, 2022 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of August 31, 2022, as presented. GSA Director Myron Heavin seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from the City of Lompoc being absent.

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

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2022-23 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2022) and the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2022. There was no discussion nor public comment.

WMA GSA Director Myron Heavin made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2022 (Check Nos. 2004-2008) totaling \$32,737.08, 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 the City of Lompoc being absent.

Mr. Buelow reviewed the October 31, 2022 letter received from Department of Water Resources (DWR) documenting the “Grant Closure – Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Santa Ynez River Valley Basin – GSPs Planning and Preparation, Agreement 4600012741, Grant Closure”. The letter acknowledged that DWR released the full retention amount of \$129,599.99 and confirmed that contractual obligations for the 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program agreement were fulfilled. Mr. Buelow confirmed that approximately \$48,000 of the retention funds should be deposited to the WMA GSA bank account once the funds arrive approximately 6-8 weeks after the letter date. He thanked WMA member agencies staff for efforts in fulfilling grant requirements. He announced that member agency staff is currently working on another grant application to DWR for implementation efforts. There was no discussion or public comment.

VII. Update on WMA GSA Written Verification of New Well Permits under Executive Order N-7-22

Mr. Buelow provided an update and briefly explained the process for a written verification. He reported that the WMA GSA has not received any requests for written

verifications while the CMA and EMA GSAs have received a combined total of five requests. He reminded everyone that the WMA GSA Committee previously decided to change the schedule of regular meetings from quarterly to monthly, meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month and instructed staff to cancel meetings at least one week prior if there are no written verifications to review. Discussion followed.

VIII. Receive update on SGMA Implementation Grant Funding Opportunity for the Basin

WMA GSA Acting Alternate Director Kristin Worthley, representing the City of Lompoc, arrived during Agenda Item VIII.

Mr. Buelow reported that basin-wide member agencies staff have been meeting to develop an application for the DWR Proposition 68, Round 2 Grant funding opportunity on behalf of the Basin. He especially thanked Marliez Diaz (Santa Barbara County Water Agency), John Fio and Kristen Worthley (City of Lompoc), and Paeter Garcia (SYRWCD, ID No. 1) for their collaboration. The grant funding opportunity ranges from \$1 million to \$20 million per basin with a total of \$200 million available to cover eligible costs incurred from October 4, 2022 through April 30, 2026 without a cost share requirement.

The basin-wide member agencies staff began the process to develop a Projects and Management Actions priorities list and held a joint CMA and WMA CAGs meeting to determine the top priorities. The top four priority projects to include for the grant application were determined to be:

1. Basin-wide Metering Program
2. Rate Study for Basin
3. 5-year Update to GSP (required by DWR), Annual Reporting, and Consultant Responses to DWR GSP Review
4. Data Gap Filling, with each GSA determining the specific project for the GSA.

Mr. John Fio (EKI and consultant for City of Lompoc) reported on additional projects also discussed and possibly being considered including a conservation strategic plan. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan expressed concern that none of the top four priority projects for the grant application have ability to produce additional water for basin. He urged consideration of a wastewater reclamation project.

Discussion followed regarding stormwater capture/recharge project, water recycling options and Santa Ynez River water flow capture. Mr. Fio reported that the City of Lompoc has applied for funding available from the State Water Resources Control Board for stormwater capture/recharge project specifically for disadvantaged communities which could in turn benefit the Basin. WMA GSA Director Myron Heavin suggested a location which Mesa Oaks community drains into to consider for stormwater capture. WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks suggested consideration of capturing some water when Santa Ynez

River flows again by pumping some of the into the Mission Hills CSD ponds located near the River.

IX. Update from WMA CAG

Mr. Buelow reported that the CMA CAG and WMA CAG held a joint meeting on October 13, 2022 to discuss Round 2, Proposition 68 Grant funding opportunities for GSP Implementation. He reviewed a memorandum prepared and submitted by WMA CAG member Karen Kistler. There was no discussion.

X. Consider Resolution WMA-2022-003 Approving the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District to Submit a Proposition 68 Grant Application for Implementation of SGMA on Behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Mr. Buelow read the title of Resolution WMA 2022-003 and amended to correct a typo. There was no discussion. WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to waive the reading of and approve RESOLUTION WMA 2022-003 APPROVING THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN 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, as amended. GSA Director Myron Heavin seconded the motion. There were no public comments and no discussion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

XI. Update on Governance for WMA

Mr. Buelow provided an update on JPA planning and collaboration between member agencies and attorneys and announced more meetings are planned. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

a. Received Correspondence from Santa Ynez Water Group dated October 24, 2022

The letter was presented during Agenda Item IV.

XII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular WMA GSA meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

XIII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan emphasized the need for more water and requested staff consider additional methods or projects to get more water.

WMA GSA Director Myron Heavin suggested and increased social media presence for stakeholder outreach and publicity. He expressed concern and reiterated the need for a project to save stormwater. He suggested different policies should be in place in the Lompoc area regarding water softeners and chlorine. He expressed concern on the water availability from Lake Cachuma if rainfall continues to be low.

WMA GSA Acting Alternate Director Kristin Worthley suggested that outreach and communications focus in the WMA needs to increase.

The WMA GSA Directors requested that Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers) briefly present the results of the Arial Electro-Magnetic survey conducted in the WMA.

XIV. Adjournment

GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

**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

**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 WESTERN 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: Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan, Kristin Worthley

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:



Chris Brooks, Chair



William J. Buelow, Secretary