

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

WILL BE HELD
AT **10:00 AM**, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021

TELECONFERENCE MEETING ONLY – NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1-267-866-0999

MEETING ID / PASSCODE: 6034 04 8158

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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 buelow@syrwcd.com.** All submittals of written comments must be received by the GSA no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, and should indicate “**May 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 WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021, 10:00 A.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 February 24, April 14, April 28, and May 12, 2021
- VI. Receive WMA GSA Financial update and consider approval of WMA Warrant List
- VII. Receive update from Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on Draft Water Budget
- VIII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on “Sustainable Management Criteria and Projects and Management Actions for the WMA”
- IX. Next “Special” WMA GSA Meeting: **Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 10:00 AM**
- X. Next “Regular” WMA GSA Meeting: **Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 10:00 AM.**
- XI. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XII. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular 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 Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 24, 2021

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, 24 February 2021. 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.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Directors Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, and Steve Jordan, Ms. Kristin Worthley (Acting as Alternate)

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Directors Art Hibbits, and Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Mr. Joe Barget, Mr. Bill Buelow, Ms. Amber Thompson, Mr. Kevin Walsh, Mr. Matt Young.

Others Present: Mr. Bryan Bondy, Mr. Doug Circle, Mr. Ken Domako (VAFB), Mr. John Fio (EKI), Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Ms. Jean Moran (Stetson Engineers), Mr. Steve Slack (CDFW), and 1 member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., welcomed all in attendance and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Directors and one Acting Alternate were present providing a quorum.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone and video attendees.

There was no review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin.

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

GSA Committee Director Brooks submitted the minutes of the meetings of November 18, 2020 and January 27, 2021 for GSA Committee approval.

GSA Committee Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve both sets of the minutes as submitted. GSA Committee Director Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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

Mr. Buelow presented the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2020) and the warrant lists for October, November, and December 2020 for GSA Committee review. Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the October, November, and December 2020 warrant lists as presented (Nos. 1020-1024 plus two wire transfers) totaling \$240,684.24 and financial reports as submitted. GSA Committee Director Heavin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Receive update on Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of CMA

Mr. Bill Buelow provided update on the Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of the CMA conducted by SkyTEM. He reported that flights were successful, the survey has been completed and the raw data has been delivered to Ramboll for processing and interpretation. Ramboll will work with the Stetson team to integrate the final data into the existing hydrogeologic conceptual model. No discussion followed.

VIII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on Groundwater Conditions Public Comment Demonstration, Water Budget, and Numerical Groundwater Model Updates

Ms. Amber Thompson (SYRWCD) presented a live demonstration on providing Public Comments to open GSP documents via SantaYnezWater.org.

Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers) and Ms. Jean Moran (Stetson Engineers) presented a discussion on the Draft water budget, sustainable yield, safe yield, overdraft and provided an update on the numerical groundwater model. Discussion followed.

- Alternate GSA Committee Director Steward asked if “WY” for 1982 and 2018 meant it was a significant wet year. Mr. Lawler explained “WY” stands for water year which goes from October 1 through September 30 and noted that should be made clearer in the document and presentation.
- GSA Committee Director Jordan expressed concern with accuracy of reported water use amounts, source of data, how much of the water use data in the model is from actual metering versus estimated usage and asked what level of confidence consultants have in the numbers reported. Mr. Lawler confirmed the data used in model was from the

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and was self-reported pumping. The consultants indicated they have high confidence in accuracy of the data as they were verified by aerial land-use photos. Mr. Lawler added that a few water producers in the WMA provide metered consumption data.

- GSA Committee Director Heavin asked for clarification about upland recharge. Mr. Lawler confirmed that the Lompoc and Santa Rita Uplands of WMA is recharged by precipitation and not recharged by the Santa Ynez River.
- Mr. Bryan Bondy asked why agriculture is not listed in the Lompoc Groundwater management plan of 2013. Mr. Lawler stated he does not know why agriculture is not listed but clarified that going forward with SGMA, all users will be considered.
- GSA Committee Director Heavin asked if wastewater returned to the ground by both Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCS D) and Lompoc Regional Wastewater Plant (LRWP) is accounted for in the groundwater model. Ms. Moran and Mr. Lawler confirmed that return flows from municipal wastewater is accounted for in the groundwater model noting that MHCS D provides recharge to aquifer while LRWP releases into Miguelito Creek and ultimately flows to the Santa Ynez River. He added that return flows from both agriculture and the Lompoc Federal Penitentiary are also accounted for in the groundwater model.
- Mr. Buelow pointed out that in addition to the open public comment periods for each section, there will also be an open comment period after the entire GSP is complete before submission to DWR then again after it is submitted.
- Mr. Bondy asked if there will be a presentation to cover content of the groundwater conditions technical memo (GCTM). Mr. Lawler stated the content of the GCTM was presented to the WMA GSA Committee at the November 2020 public meeting, feedback received, document revised, and revisions presented at the January 2021 public meeting. Mr. Buelow added the WMA CAG will soon have a public meeting to review the GCTM content in more detail and to look for that notice online and by email to interested parties.
- GSA Committee Director Jordan asked about accounting for water quality due to shale in the northwestern Lompoc Plain and leakage of connate brine water into the watershed and asked if USGS wells are being looked at in SGMA GSP process. Mr. Lawler confirmed shale is within the upper aquifer. Mr. Buelow and Ms. Moran stated that improving water quality is not part of SGMA but the USGS wells and potential water degradation issue is noted in the event water quality does need to be addressed in future.

IX. Consider holding monthly “Special” WMA GSA Meetings through August 2021

Mr. Buelow presented a proposed monthly schedule of special and regular meetings for the WMA GSA Committee. Mr. Buelow suggested the special meetings consist mostly of technical content to address specific topics and be treated more like a workshop while regular meetings continue to conduct regular quarterly business of the WMA GSA. All

meetings would be held on a Wednesday at 10:00 am via online video or phone conference until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. There were no comments.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>
03/24/2021	Special
04/28/2021	Special
05/26/2021	Regular
06/23/2021	Special
07/28/2021	Special
08/25/2021	Regular

X. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee meeting will be a Special meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 10:00 am and the next regular meeting is planned for May 26, 2021, 10:00 am, location of each meeting TBD. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, they may be held via video/teleconference call.

XI. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Alternate GSA Committee Ms. Kristin Worthley expressed concern that the “Way Ahead” slide in presentations is constantly changing and does not refer to the original project plan timeline to show if project completion is on track.

GSA Committee Director Brooks expressed concern regarding the Lompoc area homeless population trashing one of the groundwater percolations zones and the possible effects on the aquifer and Santa Ynez River watershed. He suggested the need for a team to research and develop a potential solution. Mr. Bondy recommended reaching out to the Watershed Protection District in Ventura County as they have been dealing with the same issues along Ventura River and Santa Clara River.

XIII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin April 14, 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, 14 April 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by 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.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Director Chris Brooks, Ms. Meighan Diethofer (Acting as Alternate), Director Steve Jordan, Ms. Kristin Worthley (Acting as Alternate)

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

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Director Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Mr. Joe Barget, Mr. Bill Buelow, Ms. Amber Thompson

Others Present: Mr. Bryan Bondy, Mr. Doug Circle, Mr. John Fio (EKI), Mr. Jerry Gruber, Ms. Karen Kistler, Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Ms. Anita Regmi (DWR), plus 1 other member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:10 am and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Two Committee Directors and two Acting Alternate Directors were present providing a quorum.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone 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 including: the creation of the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Basin (EMA, CMA, WMA), coordinating efforts between the eight agencies participating in the three GSAs, establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) in each of the Management Areas of the Basin and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development milestones. The GSPs are due in January 2022. The WMA GSA Committee has so far prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Data Management Plan, a Draft Hydrogeologic

Conceptual Model, and a Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum which just ended the first round of public review and comment.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Receive Staff Memorandum regarding letter from Santa Ynez Water Group

Bill Buelow presented Staff Memorandum dated April 12, 2021 regarding Santa Ynez Water Group letter of March 22, 2021. Staff recommendations were to maintain current structure under the MOAs to submit three GSAs and prior to submittal of the GSPs, staff from each of the eight agencies in the Basin will discuss various governance options and present the topic to each of the GSA Committees. Discussion followed. WMA GSA Committee by unanimous consensus agreed to support staff recommendations as presented in the Staff Memorandum.

VI. Receive Comments from WMA Citizens Advisory Committee on Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum

Bill Buelow reviewed the WMA Citizens Advisory Committee Memorandum dated March 16, 2021 regarding review and discussion of Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum. Ms. Karen Kistler added that the detailed review provided at the WMA CAG meeting was very helpful. There was no public comment.

VII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on “Draft Water Budget” and “Sustainable Yield Preliminary Discussion”

Mr. Curtis Lawler, (Stetson Engineers) presented the April 14, 2021 Stakeholder Workshop. He discussed the Draft Water Budget Tech Memo and Sustainable Yield. He requested detailed comments and questions be made via the portal at SantaYnezWater.org.

There was public comment, GSA Committee Member, consultant, and staff discussion following each section of the presentation.

Mr. Lawler Reviewed Time Periods and Data Sources

- GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks asked if staff considered, in respect to return flows, Mission Hills CSD (MHCS D) 2015 hydrogeology plan found blue clay layer at percolation ponds of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and states the recharge goes to Lompoc Plain instead of the Lompoc Uplands. Mr. Lawler stated that currently MHCS D recharge from WWTP is being credited to Lompoc Upland so consultants will review the referenced report and make adjustments if needed.

DRAFT

- Bryan Bondy asked for clarification about clay layers at the MHCSO WWTP. Mr. Lawler explained further MHCSO WWTP using location and map and expressed concern of potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) mapped but actually use WWTP discharge instead of groundwater and should possibly be screened out. Mr. Lawler will evaluate.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan advised that certain creeks flowing into the Santa Ynez River are channelized. He asked if this channelization of these creeks with established debris basins as well as the two retention ponds to reduce potential flooding to City of Lompoc been taken into consideration in the Draft Water Budget. Mr. Lawler thanked him for those details and said he will review infiltration along those tributaries with the groundwater modelers.
- GSA Committee Alternate Ms. Meighan Dietenhofer asked if large scale phreatophytes data provided by DWR was refined. Mr. Lawler confirmed consultants did QC and expanded DWR data with USGS existing data. Discussion continued.
 - GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan added that phreatophytes vary by year and is not a constant number. Curtis confirmed that numbers presented were for today.
 - Mr. Lawler explained quantities of phreatophytes will vary because of two reasons: water availability in groundwater table and flood events may wipe out vegetation.
 - Mr. Joe Barget added the definition of phreatophytes as a plant that draws water from near a water table. He asked if that means there are none in Lompoc Plain due to deep groundwater levels. Mr. Lawler explained phreatophytes exist mainly near riverbed or shallow water table depth (less than 30 feet typically).
- GSA Committee Alternate Director Katherine Stewart asked if SWRCB water rights releases from Cachuma Reservoir are reflected in the Draft Water Budget. Mr. Lawler confirmed releases are important to water supply. He reviewed the reservoir accounts (ANA, BNA) and confirmed data is included in the water supply.

Mr. Lawler Reviewed Water Budget Analysis Results

- Mr. Joe Barget asked for clarification on Slide 26, specifically which subareas do the two golf courses pump from and are they counted as agriculture or municipal water users. Mr. Lawler confirmed golf course water pumping is included in the numbers for agriculture outflow. Mr. Buelow confirmed La Purisima Golf Course and Mission Club Golf Course are both located in the Lompoc Upland.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked if numbers presented are consistent with historical groundwater storage data. Mr. Lawler confirmed that the change in Groundwater Storage graph were compared to SYRWCD annual reports and follow same pattern.

- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked if there is a lag between big rainfall event and increases showing in groundwater storage. Mr. Lawler explained there is a delay as well as some immediate response.
- Mr. Jerry Gruber pointed out that the amount of water run off from mountains seems low (Slide 27). He asked for explanation and expressed concern of possible underestimating groundwater recharge because mountain front recharge. Mr. Lawler explained most components are estimated and have a great amount of uncertainty so consultants double check against with other data. With respect to mountain front recharge, because of topography, most of rain comes down slope as stream flow and enters in fast as surface water so it shows up as stream percolation. Mountain front also provides water seeping through cracks into groundwater as it flows down streams. Mr. Buelow added that typically only happens with lots of water in rain events so mountain flow only happens occasionally and only in wet years not every year. The average shown is a 30-year average and is not representative of rain events every year.
- Ms. Anita Regmi (DWR) asked about the change in storage on Slide 31 specifically about change in storage from 2010-now. Mr. Lawler explained Slide 32 indicates that during 2011-2018 groundwater in storage decreases to a -5700 average flow per year. Mr. Buelow added there has been some recovery to Lompoc Plain since 2018 due to rainfall events and water rights releases management that are not reflected in that slide.
- GSA Committee Alternate Ms. Meighan Dietenhofer asked if normal storage of -1,000 af/year is easy to recover from. Mr. Lawler stated the question to answer is at what overdraft level would cause undesirable results.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan advised that agriculture pumping have two invisible trends:
 - In wet years, Ag users pump less but in dry years, pump more.
 - Ag users are increasing long-term attempts to conserve water.

Mr. Lawler Reviewed Climate Change and effects to SYRVGB

- Mr. Bryan Bondy pointed out that it appears water budget terms on historical budget do not match with other CMA terms. Mr. Lawler will review and follow up.
- Ms. Karen Kistler asked regarding future GW use if considerations been made for recent land use changes causing subsequent water use changes due to an increase of Ag use on what was historically ranch land including increase of hoop crops along Highway 246 and conversion of dry farming to row crops which may use more water. Mr. Buelow stated DWR provides updates land use surveys every couple of years with latest one being 2018 survey. However much of land use changes seen now have happened post-2018 so may be included in a future update from DWR.

VIII. Receive Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum and consider public comment period and assignment to CAG

Mr. Buelow announced that the Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum will be released for public review and comment in the next few days. Staff recommended setting a three-week public review and comment period for this document. By unanimous consensus, Committee Members agreed with receiving and releasing the document for public review and comments, setting a three-week public comment period and requested the WMA CAG meet to review and discuss the Tech Memo near the end of the established comment period.

IX. Next Special WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Meeting will be a “Special” meeting on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 10:00 AM, via video/teleconference.

X. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting to include conducting quarterly business will be Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM, via video/teleconference.

XI. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Mr. Buelow announced SGMA Newsletter Issue No. 3 has been released. Member agencies of all three GSAs are distributing in utility bills, groundwater production mailing and online.

XII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:17pm.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin April 28, 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, 28 April 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by 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.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Chris Brooks, Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting as Alternate), Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan, Kristin Worthley (Acting as Alternate)

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Mr. Joe Barget, Mr. Bill Buelow, Ms. Amber Thompson, Mr. Matt Young

Others Present: Mr. Bryan Bondy, Mr. Doug Circle, Mr. John Fio (EKI), Ms. Karen Kistler, Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Ms. Jean Moran (Stetson Engineers), plus 1 other member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Directors and two Acting Alternate Directors were present providing a quorum.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone 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 including: the creation of the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Basin (EMA, CMA, WMA), coordinating efforts between the eight agencies participating in the three GSAs, establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) in each of the Management Areas of the Basin and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development milestones. The GSPs are due in January 2022. The WMA GSA Committee has so far prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Data Management Plan, a Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum and Draft Water Budget which has a public comment period ending soon.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Receive Staff Memorandum summary of conversation between SYRWCD and DWR Staff members regarding Santa Ynez River and River Alluvium and SGMA GSPs and GSAs

Mr. Buelow presented Staff Memorandum dated April 19, 2021 regarding summary of telephone conversation with A. Regmi 04-15-2021. Discussion followed.

VI. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on “Numeric Groundwater Model and Model Documentation”

Ms. Jean Moran (Stetson Engineers) presented the April 2021 Stakeholder Workshop. She discussed the Numerical Groundwater Model and Model Documentation. She requested detailed comments and questions be made via the portal at SantaYnezWater.org.

There was public comment, GSA Committee Member, consultant, and staff discussion following each section of the presentation.

Ms. Moran Reviewed Numerical Groundwater Construction

- GSA Committee Alternate Director Katherine Stewart asked what constitutes a fully saturated unit. Ms. Moran explained water flowing in different layers. She pointed out on Slide 8, the denominator of hydraulic conductivity ratios reflects a fully saturated unit.
- GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin asked for clarification on aquifers used by MHCS D and VVCSD vs. City of Lompoc as it is hard to see on the slides. Ms. Moran verified modelers are developing separate budgets for separate sub-areas Lompoc Plain (City of Lompoc) and Lompoc Uplands (MHCS D and VVCSD). Mr. Lawler further clarified for the purpose of SGMA, the difference between pumping from the two principal aquifers, Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer. Lompoc Uplands (MHCS D and VVCSD) pumps from Lower Aquifer while Lompoc Plain (City of Lompoc) pumps from Upper Aquifer.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked if this model considers recharge for upper and lower percolation curves. Curtis confirmed the percolation curves from studies done in 1970s were used in the model and verified model data. GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan advised of need to revisit and specify upper & lower percolation curves. Curtis agreed and stated it will be revisited when evaluating potential impacts to stream flow from pumping.

- Mr. Bryan Bondy asked since the water budget technical memo for WMA has been released but model still being calibrated, how and when will the two be matched up and will the water budget technical memo need to be revised after model is finalized. Ms. Moran explained that the numerical groundwater model informed the water budget technical memorandum and model calibrations created only small sub-flow refining while larger components were not changed. He asked if the numeric groundwater model will be revisited and possibly adjusted based on comments received for the draft water budget tech memo. Ms. Moran confirmed.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked about water levels in layers 3 and 4 of this model and advised that USGS observation wells are located in this area. Ms. Moran will double check well data in those areas.

VII. Receive Draft Numeric Groundwater Technical Memorandum and consider public comment period and assignment to CAG

Mr. Buelow announced that the Draft Numeric Groundwater Technical Memorandum will be released for public review and comment in the next few days. Staff recommended setting a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period for this document. By unanimous consensus, Committee Members agreed with receiving and releasing the document for public review and comments, setting a 21-day public comment period and requested the WMA CAG meet to review and discuss the Tech Memo.

VIII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting to include conducting quarterly business will be Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM, via video/teleconference.

IX. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Mr. Buelow announced that if consultants have another GSP section ready to present soon, then another special meeting may be scheduled before the next scheduled Regular Meeting. If so, an eblast will go out to all registered WMA interested parties.

X. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin May 12, 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, 12 May 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by 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.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Chris Brooks, Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting as Alternate), Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan, Kristin Worthley (Acting as Alternate)

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Mr. Joe Barget, Mr. Bill Buelow, Ms. Amber Thompson

Others Present: Mr. Bryan Bondy, Mr. Matt Brady, Mr. Doug Circle, Mr. John Fio (EKI), Mr. Trevor Jones (Dudek), Ms. Karen Kistler, Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Mr. Matt Naftaly (Dudek), Mr. Steve Slack (CDFW), Mr. Scott Williams, plus 3 other members of the public whose names were not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Directors and two Acting Alternate Directors were present providing a quorum.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone attendees.

Mr. Buelow reviewed history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development milestones completed so far in the Santa Ynez River Basin. The WMA GSA Committee released a Draft Water Budget Technical Memo, opened it for public comment and has received public comments and WMA CAG input during the open comment period. At this time, the WMA GSA is beginning discussion on Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs).

He advised that all although current public comment periods are closed, previously released documents can still be located on SantaYnezWater.org. He reminded everyone

of at least two more additional public comment periods to be opened for the documents in the future. He also directed attendees to the newsletters on **SantaYnezWater.org** for more information on SGMA in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on “Sustainable management Criteria for the WMA”

Mr. Trevor Jones (Dudek) presented Sustainable Management Criteria for the WMA dated May 12, 2021.

There was public comment, GSA Committee Member, consultant, and staff discussion following the presentation.

- GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin expressed concern with salt and nutrient concentrations exceeding Water Quality Objectives (slide 9) and asked if there is a way to restrict use of water softener salts in area as this is a regional problem and both MHCS and VVCSD have resolutions restricting use of water softener salt systems in their jurisdictions, but water softeners are still being installed and used plus salts are still sold locally. Discussion followed.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan questioned the possibility of Sea Water Intrusion in the WMA per the “20H rule” since freshwater weighs less than seawater and the area near the ocean does have wells with pressure head to keep seawater out. Mr. Jones explained about existing estuaries and SGMA rules that seawater intrusion must be addressed even though there is no historical evidence of seawater intrusion. Discussion continued.
 - GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan pointed out that there are other sources of chloride in the area than from seawater.
 - Mr. Bill Buelow stated Stetson Engineers has analyzed chloride concentration data to determine different causes of increases in sodium levels. He also advised that estuaries did extend further east than they do now so there may be pockets of brackish seawater still remaining and is reflected in the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model.
 - GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked about the elevation of the lagoon and if that has been considered. Mr. Jones stated it is currently at 7-8 feet above sea level. Mr. Buelow added there is also a sand dam that can affect water flow and lagoon elevation especially in winter.

DRAFT

- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan suggested interconnected surface water between the upper and lower aquifers be further evaluated as previous modelers have shown there to be very little connectivity between upper and lower aquifers therefore pumping of groundwater may not actually create the depletion of interconnected surface water.
- GSA Committee Alternate Director Katherine Stewart and Mr. Joe Barget both asked for clarifications on well impact analysis (slide 6) per user types. Mr. Jones explained the well impact analysis further.
- GSA Committee Alternate Ms. Meighan Dietenhofer asked on slide 3 why groundwater elevations in the lower aquifer exhibit declining groundwater levels while groundwater elevations in upper aquifer remain relatively stable. Mr. Jones estimates the lower aquifer has higher water use than recharge amounts while upper aquifer water-use and recharge are more balanced.
 - Myron Heavin asked if the declining trend of groundwater elevations in lower aquifer hydrograph means City of Lompoc's current water use is not sustainable for continued growth and pumping. Mr. Jones explained it shows the current trend and the need to define a level that will be considered undesirable.
- GSA Committee Alternate Ms. Meighan Dietenhofer asked if WMA received any feedback on the Draft Water Budget from NOAA addressing GDE with respects to steelhead. Mr. Buelow confirmed NOAA submitted a letter as comments on the Draft Water Budget which will be submitted with other public comments to consultants.
- Bryan Bondy made the following comments:
 - Costs for water pre-treatment to reduce water hardness as alternative to increased chloride levels from home water softener may fall on Ag pumpers who do not have any hard water issues and does not recommends pursuing.
 - Groundwater levels for Sustainable Management Criteria set at top of screen should be reevaluated. He recommends answering the question "what level is the level where people cannot produce water to support their basic needs". Since levels of top of screen vary then choosing that is an arbitrary depth and feels should be reevaluated.
 - Concerned with setting level at 500 mg/l chloride in water as it is not good for Ag use.
 - Water Quality proposed objective is to meet RWCB standards, but WMA is already not meeting those objectives. Therefore, why set a goal that cannot be achieve. Consider that water quality may not be due to groundwater pumping.
- GSA Committee Alternate Ms. Meighan Dietenhofer commented that although setting groundwater level at top of screen seems abstract there are real world impacts for water users.

- Mr. Bill Buelow recommended Committee Directors review approach outlined in the presentation today, have conversations with staff and consultants and be prepared to give direction to staff and consultants at next meeting.
- GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin asked if consultants know how much water flowing through WMA goes out to the ocean versus how much groundwater is actually pumped. Mr. Jones was not sure of the percentages.

VI. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting to include conducting quarterly business will be Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM, via video/teleconference.

VII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

There were no requests or comments.

VIII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

SYRWCD WMA
BALANCE SHEET
MARCH 31, 2021

Assets

Current Assets

Mechanics Bank #8301 \$260,553.09
Other Current Assets 1,000.00

TOTAL Current Assets

261,553.09

TOTAL Assets

\$261,553.09

Liabilities AND Equity

TOTAL Liabilities

.00

Net Position

Retained Earnings 285,448.97
Retained Earnings-Current Year (23,895.88)

TOTAL Net Position

261,553.09

TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity

\$261,553.09

SYRWCD WMA
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE 9 PERIODS ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

	QUARTER TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	PERCENT	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Revenue:				
Revenue				
Operating Assessments	\$.00	.0 %	171,301.32	39.3
Grant Revenue	185,020.19	100.0	264,357.36	60.7
TOTAL Revenue	185,020.19	100.0	435,658.68	100.0
TOTAL Revenue	185,020.19	100.0	435,658.68	100.0
Gross Profit	185,020.19	100.0	435,658.68	100.0
Expenses:				
Operating Expenses				
Outside Staff Support	487.50	.3	637.50	.1
TOTAL Operating Expenses	487.50	.3	637.50	.1
Consultants				
General Consultant	.00	.0	22.50	.0
Stakeholder Engagement	14,668.01	7.9	21,258.82	4.9
GSP - DMS	1,223.50	.7	1,826.22	.4
GSP - HCM	41,957.25	22.7	151,640.53	34.8
GSP - Water Budget, GW Models	33,881.50	18.3	169,897.74	39.0
GSP - Monitor/Measure	.00	.0	724.50	.2
GSP - AEM Survey	39,813.00	21.5	113,501.75	26.1
TOTAL Consultants	131,543.26	71.1	458,872.06	105.3
Non Operating Expenses				
Misc Expense	(16.51)	.0	45.00	.0
TOTAL Non Operating Expenses	(16.51)	.0	45.00	.0
TOTAL Expenses	132,014.25	71.4	459,554.56	105.5
Net Income from Operations	53,005.94	28.6	(23,895.88)	(5.5)
Earnings before Income Tax	53,005.94	28.6	(23,895.88)	(5.5)
Net Income (Loss)	\$53,005.94	28.6 %	(23,895.88)	(5.5)

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)
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
1025	01/13/21	Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf	Consulting - Grant Financial	\$ 187.50
1026	01/13/21	Stetson Engineers	November 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 39,578.28
1027	01/13/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2020 4th Quarter Bookkeeping (October, November, December 2020)	\$ 150.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 58,242.78

FEBRUARY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1028	02/16/21	Stetson Engineers	December 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 32,052.50
1029	02/16/21	Stetson Engineers	December 2020 Engineering Service (AEM work)	\$ 17,088.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 49,140.50

MARCH 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1030	03/31/21	Stetson Engineers	January 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #1 & AEM work)	\$ 24,512.48
1031	03/31/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2021 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2021)	\$ 150.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 24,662.48

TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 132,045.76
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**WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 24, 2021

TO: WMA GSA Committee

FROM: WMA Citizen Advisory Group

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum

Western Management Area (WMA) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

CAG Members in attendance: Ms. Karen Kistler, and Mr. Charles Witt.

Staff and Consultants in attendance: Mr. Bill Buelow (SYRWCD), Mr. Curtis Lawlor (Stetson), Ms. Kristin Worthley (City of Lompoc), Mr Joe Barget (VVCSD), and Mr. Jerry Gruber (MHCSD).

There was two members of the public in attendance: Ms. Laurie Tamura and Mr. Bryan Bondy

Purpose

The WMA GSA Committee requested staff for the GSA agencies to coordinate meetings of the WMA CAG. Through a coordinated effort, the CAG held a meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was held on May 11, 2021. The purpose of the meetings was for the WMA 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 Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum

- The CAG members did not have specific comments on the Draft Water Budget.
- Mr. Karen Kistler did provide some comments on the recent presentation by Stetson on the Groundwater Model.

Comments by the Public in Attendance:

- Mr. Bryan Bondy of the Santa Ynez Water Group recommended reviewing calculation issues that were outlined to Curtis Lawler in an email and ET values, which may be

double counted. Discussion followed about specific examples of potential double counting.

- Mr. Steve Slack (CDFW) said that Stetson did a good job preparing the memo and it was a much more complicated surface water system than the EMA. Asked if approach by consultants was different.
 - Mr. Lawler said that the geology and surface geology are different between the two areas.