

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 18, 2020

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, 18 November 2020. 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: Chris Brooks, Meighan Diethofer (Acting as Alternate), Steve Jordan, Jim Mosby, Bruce Nix

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Art Hibbits, Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Kayla Barker, Bill Buelow, Brad Hagemann, Amber Thompson, Kristin Worthley, Matt Young

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, M. Brady, Doug Circle, Maygan Cline (GeoSyntec), Lindsay Cokely, Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), Madelyn Murray (Dudek), Tim Nicely (GSI), Anita Regmi (DWR), Scott Williams, Charles Witt, Susan Xie and three members of the public

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Four 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.

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), securing Department of Water Resources (DWR) Prop. 1 Grant (Grant) funding, hiring Consultants, 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.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Review and Consider Approval of Minutes

GSA Committee Director Brooks submitted the minutes of the meetings of August 26, 2020 and October 21, 2020 for GSA Committee approval.

GSA Committee Director Nix made a MOTION to approve the minutes as received. GSA Committee Director Jordan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

VI. Receive WMA GSA financial update and approve WMA Warrant Lists

Mr. Buelow presented the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2020) and the Warrant Lists for August and September 2020 for GSA Committee review.

WMA GSA Committee Director Jordan requested a report showing the cumulative grant reimbursements and member agency contributions.

The GSA Committee unanimously approved the August and September 2020 Warrant Lists as presented (one check, No. 1019) totaling \$86,842.56. GSA Committee Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the warrant lists and financial reports as submitted. GSA Committee Director Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

VII. Review and Approve Draft No. 2 SGMA Newsletter

Mr. Bill Buelow introduced Draft of SGMA Newsletter No. 2. He stated that staff and consultants were trying to get this newsletter finalized for mailed out in December 2020 by all Member Agencies in their December utility or water bills. He announced that after the first newsletter was mailed out by the same method, traffic to SantaYnezWater.org increased 200-300%. Discussion followed.

The WMA GSA Committee Directors unanimously recommended staff to release the draft of Newsletter No. 2 to WMA CAG for comment before distribution and to request Member Agencies to distribute final version in utility bills/mailers.

VIII. Receive Update on Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of CMA

Mr. Buelow announced that survey team has arrived in area, began survey of EMA on November 15. They are currently surveying the EMA and are expected to move toward CMA and WMA next week and finish the WMA by Saturday, November 21, 2020. Discussion followed.

IX. Receive Update and Memo from WMA Citizen Advisory Group

Mr. Scott Williams presented a Memorandum from the WMA CAG, dated November 12, 2020 giving an update on the WMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) activities. The WMA CAG met November 12, 2020 via teleconference to review and discuss the Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM). The WMA CAG provided comments on the HCM to staff and consultants for consideration. Discussion followed.

X. Receive Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum (GCTM) and attend presentation on GCTM and Introduction to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) from the Stetson Consultant Team

Ms. Maygan Cline (GeoSyntec), Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Mr. Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers) and Ms. Madelyn Murray (Dudek) presented about the Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum (GCTM). They stated the Draft GCTM document is not available yet but will be posted online as soon as is completed and ready for public review. Discussion followed.

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

- Bryan Bondy asked for clarification about levels of chloride concentrations on Seawater Intrusion slides. Mr. McCammon (Stetson) explained those levels and that the GSA Committee will need to determine what level would be considered “high” and the difference between groundwater and estuary locations.
- GSA Committee Director Jim Mosby expressed concern with regard to chloride levels by limiting water quality data to post-1980 and not considering earlier data from before the dam was built.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked if the delta of unsaturated aquifers have been mapped. Mr. Lawler (Stetson) confirmed those areas will be mapped out.
- GSA Committee Director Jim Mosby expressed concern regarding GCTM Section D5 and if exportation of water before it enters the basin will be recognized in the water budget and model. Mr. Buelow and Mr. Lawler (Stetson) confirmed those exports are included in the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and will be part of the water budget.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan expressed concern of water quality with regard to chloride. Mr. Lawler (Stetson) and Mr. Buelow explained theories and agreed should be looked into reason for the chloride levels.

The WMA GSA Committee Directors unanimously requested staff to post the Draft GCTM online when it is completed for a public review and comment period and directed staff to hold a Citizen Advisory Group meeting on the Draft GCTM.

XI. Consider holding "Special" WMA GSA Meetings on December 16, 2020 10:00 AM and January 27, 2021 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow suggested the WMA GSA plan for Special Meetings on December 16, 2020 and January 27, 2021 consisting of technical content to address specific topics and would be treated more like a workshop. The meetings would be held on a Wednesday at 10:00 am via online video or phone conference due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Discussion followed.

XII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, February 24, 2020, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 10:00 am, location TBD. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it may be held via teleconference call.

XIII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Committee Director Brooks congratulated Mr. Matt Young on his new position as Manager of Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

Mr. Joe Barget thanked Mr. Young and Mr. Buelow for their efforts with getting SkyTEM survey.

Mr. Buelow announced that Mr. Loch Dreizler retired from Mission Hills CSD and welcomed Ms. Kayla Barker and Mr. Brad Hagemann, Interim General Manager, who are both staff with Mission Hills CSD.

XIV. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:21 pm.



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 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
			Approved at August 2020 meeting because warrants were charged to FY 2019-20	\$ -
				MONTH TOTAL \$ -

AUGUST 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
		VOID	VOID	
1019	09/18/20	Stetson Engineers	June 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 86,824.56
				MONTH TOTAL \$ 86,824.56

SEPTEMBER 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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

TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 86,824.56

WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 2020
TO: WMA GSA Committee
FROM: WMA Citizen Advisory Group
SUBJECT: Public Open Comments for the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Draft

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

CAG Members in attendance November 12: Karen Kistler, Derek McLeish and Scott Williams.

Staff and Consultants in attendance November 12: Bill Buelow (SYRWCD), Maygan Cline (Geosyntec), Miles McCammon (Stetson), Kristin Worthley (City of Lompoc), and Madelyn Murrin (Dudek), and Steven Slack (CA Fish and Wildlife).

Purpose

This was meeting to hear public comments from CAG and the general public regarding the draft of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM). This meeting was held on November 12, 2020 via teleconference due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Public Comments on Draft of Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

- Karen Kistler had a question on page 11 (comments not listed)
- Bryan Bondy had a minor comment about structures; re: major folds indicated in cross sections are not noted showing on the geo map and major faults indicated in geo map are not shown on section. **Response:** faults were intentionally left off cross sections as shown on map on purpose.
- Scott Williams had a question on page 13. When will fault information be added?
- Scott Williams had a question on Section 2.2.3. When were the “recently drilled well completion reports” how recent are they?
- Bryan Bondy had a comment: Identifying principal aquifers: treat upper and lower as different principal aquifers. Upper Aquifer in Burton Mesa and Lompoc Terrace- upper on top of consolidated material. Lack of viable gw production. **Should there be**

consideration to exclude areas as principal aquifers. Exclude from management and basin.

- Karen: comment on pg 17-18 : upper aquifer is excluded from SGMA? Why is it being described?
- Scott Williams question: Well data from county; how long is the pump test, when they state “short duration”, (24 hours?)
- Scott Williams question: Where does the NRCS data come from in regards to the UC Davis information? Response: If you do a recharge of flood MAR: take AG lands and use during spring season as recharge area. DWR wants GSAs to include in GSPs. Where would floor MAR be most useful.
- Scott Williams question: Where does the 49 inches per year precipitation in Santa Ynez headwaters data come from?
- Bryan Bondy comment: figure 5-2. Springs are in peculiar place – will SkyTEM ID if springs are fault controlled or not? Would be important info. Why are springs there?
- GDEs in higher elevation areas: screened if they are actually GW dependent or are mismapped.
- Bryan Bondy comment: Data gaps, nice to know vs those that affect management of basin. Data gaps should be clarified.