

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

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

WILL BE HELD
AT **10:00 A.M.**, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

TELECONFERENCE MEETING ONLY – NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION

Remote participation available via ZOOM

You do NOT need to create a ZOOM account or login with email for meeting participation.

ZOOM.us - “Join a Meeting”

Meeting ID: **865 5705 5562** Meeting Passcode: **375702**

DIRECT LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86557055562?pwd=d3I3Ym5DTnZUd2N6WjlyQnh3R2xxUT09>

DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1-669-900-9128

PHONE MEETING ID: 865 5705 5562 # Meeting Passcode: 375702#

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 while viewing the live presentation online.

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 at all times unless speaking.

Teleconference Meeting During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be available via teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution WMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021).

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 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, October 26, 2021**, and should indicate “**October 27, 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.

AGENDA ON NEXT PAGE

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA OF SPECIAL 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.) *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 25, and October 20, 2021
- VI. Review comment letter from Santa Ynez Water Group legal counsel dated 09-21-2021
- VII. Receive update on SGMA Stakeholder Outreach
- VIII. Receive update on Citizen Advisory Committee meeting of October 7, 2021
- IX. Workshop and Q&A on Public Draft CMA GSP and Future Governance Options
- X. Next “Regular” WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 10:00 AM
- XI. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XII. 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 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 August 25, 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, August 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by issuing shelter-in-home standards, limiting public gatherings, and requiring social distancing, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20 and in accordance with the latest Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order.

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

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Art Hibbits

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Jerry Gruber, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh, Matt Young

Others Present: Mark Altshuler, Matt Brady, Kari Campbell-Bohard, Bryan Bondy, Ken Domako, John Fio (EKI), Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Miles McCammon (Stetson), Derek McLeish, Anita Regmi (DWR), and Brett Stroud

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. Two Committee Directors and two Acting Alternate Committee Directors were present providing a quorum. A third Committee Director, Myron Heavin, logged in later during the meeting.

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 including the GSP sections that have been previously reviewed during public workshops and meetings including today's presentations toward submitting a complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2022. All documents are accessible on SantaYnezWater.org.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes of the GSA Committee meetings on May 26 and July 28, 2021 were presented for GSA Committee approval. GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks commented on the Minutes of July 28, 2021, Item VII regarding the connection between wastewater discharge and seawater intrusion in Lompoc and asked how Lompoc can recover and utilize more of the wastewater that is discharged.

GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of May 26 and July 28, 2021, as presented. GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks seconded the motion, and both sets of minutes passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote with the Mission Hills CSD representative being absent.

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

Mr. Buelow presented the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 1 through 12 (through June 30, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2021 for GSA Committee review. There were no comments.

GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the April, May, and June 2021 Warrant Lists (Nos. 1032-1035) totaling \$156,888.63 as presented. GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote with the Mission Hills CSD representative being absent.

VII. Receive update from Citizen Advisory Group on meeting regarding Draft Sustainable Management Criteria and Monitoring Network Technical Memorandum

WMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) member, Mr. Derek McLeish, presented the WMA CAG Memorandum dated July 28, 2021 regarding WMA CAG's review and discussion of Draft Sustainable Management Criteria and Monitoring Network Technical Memorandum held on July 27, 2021. There were no questions or discussion. GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks thanked the WMA CAG members for their time and efforts.

VIII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on "Summary and Overview of Draft GSP for the WMA"

Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) presented "August 25 2021, GSA 2021 Quarter 3 Meeting, Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan" for the WMA. Discussion followed.

- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked if riparian wells along Santa Rosa Road are registered with the State as riparian users. Mr. Lawler replied that they should be and advised the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has a website that shows who is reporting and is the agency responsible for following up on reporting or

lack of reporting. Mr. Buelow added reporting to SWRCB is required under SB88 and verified that member agency staff have been following up on wells located in the riparian area to confirm they are reporting surface water pumping or determine if they should be subject to SGMA.

- Mr. Walsh added that some enforcements at the state level seem to be lacking and asked the committee to consider, for the future, when determining management actions what enforcement methods may be available to the GSA after implementation.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan, with regards to seawater intrusion, stated that the Careaga Aquifer in the WMA does not reach the Pacific Ocean and asked about the depth of the main zone where it reaches the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Lawler confirmed the WMA's Careaga Aquifer does not reach the Pacific Ocean and estimated the bottom of the main zone when it reaches the Pacific Ocean to be about 200 feet below sea level. That depth will be verified with the SkyTEM AEM results.
- Mr. Joe Barget asked which 2020 water level will be used to establish the Minimum Threshold. Mr. Lawler confirmed that the Minimum Threshold levels will be only one number that correlates to the Spring 2020 levels.
 - GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin asked if the Spring 2020 levels refer to levels at a single well or a composite of several wells. Mr. Lawler replied that the Spring 2020 levels are measured and reported individually per well and will be used as Minimum Thresholds for those specific Representative Monitoring Wells.
- GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin asked what source of money will pay for the implementation action to video wells. Mr. Lawler replied that the GSA will work with DWR to obtain grant funds for Technical Support Services to help fund the implementation action to video certain representative monitoring wells.
- GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director Kristin Worthley advised that the City of Lompoc has comments on the draft GSP and they will be provided directly to consultants in next few days.
- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan asked if the State has established a model well metering system in which they state which type of meters are approved or recommended. Mr. Lawler replied that those details will be worked out next year as part of the GSA establishing the well metering program.
 - Mr. Kevin Walsh added technical standards should be established when creating a metering program.
 - GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits advised that the life span of meter batteries can be an issue, positioning of the meter in the well is important, and meters should have ability to be read remotely.

- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan agreed with GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits' comments.
- Mr. Young advised that Santa Barbara County is moving forward with a subsidy program to help defer some of the cost for installing meters on private wells. As more GSAs are requiring meters, it looks like metering requirement may become the standard in the State. Mr. Young agreed with complexity issues and advised that the GSA can rely on best practices to follow.
- Ms. Anita Regmi of DWR said requiring meters is a local level decision so the State has no comment.
- GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks thanked consultants for all their work on producing this extensive GSP draft document.
- Mr. Matt Young commented that Stetson Engineers has done a very good job on preparing the Draft GSP.
- GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks asked Ms. Anita Regmi of DWR if she has any additions. She commented consultants are doing a good job and appreciates that each section always starts by stating the SGMA regulations and shows the GSP is trying to follow the regulations.

IX. Receive Presentation from Young Wooldridge on “SGMA Governance and Funding Options”

Mr. Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge) presented “Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin Governance and Funding Proposals”. Discussion followed.

- GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan commented that GSA activity and daily involvement of staff will determine costs and may define governance.
- GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director Kristin Worthley asked for examples of how the governance options really work. Mr. Stroud commented using the example of annual reports: who will do the work to create the report, who will approve the report, and who will submit the report to DWR.
 - Mr. Stroud also offered similar examples for funding with respect to different fee types.
- GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks asked since one GSA may not want to inherit problems of the other GSAs how has that been approached when considering combining efforts. He also asked if consultants have discussed combining the CMA and WMA into one GSA since they are more similar than either is with the EMA to have only two GSAs in the Basin. Mr. Stroud explained the economy of scale benefits while still keeping separated and as presented with Governance Options 3 and 4.
- GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin asked which governance options are more economically efficient. Mr. Stroud explained costs are truly unknown so the first step

needed, especially in terms of funding, would be to perform a fee study or engineers report that will include constructing a budget. He explained that Governance Option 1 would be the most expensive since the GSAs in the Basin will need to do everything three times while Option 2 would be the most economically efficient but may be politically undesirable. Therefore, some combination of Options 3 or 4 would be the most flexible while offering economies of scale to save on costs.

- GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin asked if there is any history of these types of structures to learn from. Mr. Stroud advised it is conceivable to perform a fee study first then set governance structure. This could provide set budgets for the different governance options to compare the differences in costs. He suggested that since other GSAs are past this phase, we could look for ideas and draw from their experiences. He cautioned that those other basins are very different to this Basin but could offer ballpark ideas. Before consultants could begin working on this study, an ad-hoc cost share agreement would need to be implemented so the cost could be shared between all GSAs in the Basin.
- GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director Meighan Dietenhofer asked if there are other basins with a similar structure to ours that we can look at for guidance and examples. Mr. Stroud said there are some rough analogous but nothing exact. He described the Kern Groundwater Authority as a JPA with some members being the GSA for their management area who have final approval over their chapter of the consolidated Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
 - Mr. Buelow added the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin is not the only basin with multiple GSAs but is the only basin submitting multiple GSPs. If the governance option to fully combine into one GSA is chosen, then the three GSPs would need to be revised and resubmitted as only one GSP for the Basin since DWR does not allow one GSA to submit or implement multiple GSPs.
- Mr. Jerry Gruber said fee studies are outdated by the time they are finished so creates and unknown variables for a fixed customer base and can never fully recoup all costs. Mr. Stroud suggested that consultants should be asked to factor in adjustments for inflation and contingencies which are appropriate under Prop 218.
- GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks asked committee for opinions on conducting a fee study before establishing governance. The consensus of the WMA GSA Committee was do not perform a fee study before establishing governance.
 - GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan does not like this option because GSA has gone overbudget on consultant work already.
 - GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director Kristin Worthley said the documentation show that the Basin is fairly in balance so costs could be determined based on what we know needs to be done and on what is currently being done. Since this Basin is not severely overdraft, there should not be any big projects that would expect to have large costs. She asked what exact projects are needed that will need funds.

- GSA Committee Directors Myron Heavin and Chris Brooks agreed.

X. Next “Special” WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced the next proposed meeting for the WMA GSA Committee will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 10:00 am.

XI. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 10:00 am, location to be determined. The meeting is being held one week earlier than normal 4th week to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday. There was no discussion.

XII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin expressed general concern that the area has been categorized as currently being in a severe drought.

XIII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:22 pm.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin October 20, 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, October 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as authorized by AB361 and in accordance with the latest Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Meighan Diethofer (Acting as Alternate), and Myron Heavin

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Kristin Worthley

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Amber Thompson

Others Present: Ken Domako, Karen Kistler, and Brett Stroud

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Directors and one Acting Alternate Committee Director were present providing a quorum. Mr. Buelow announced names of phone and video attendees.

II. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Consider adopting Resolution WMA-2021-001, “Resolution Initially Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under AB361”

Mr. Buelow provided background of and purpose for AB361. Mr. Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge) explained the code, history leading up to passing of AB361 and benefits of invoking AB361 to change teleconference rules while abiding by the Brown Act. Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin made a MOTION to approve Resolution WMA-2021-001, RESOLUTION INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361. GSA Committee Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion, reading of the Resolution was waived and the Resolution was passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District representative being absent.

V. Next “Special” WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced the next proposed meeting for the WMA GSA Committee will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 10:00 am via ZOOM.

VI. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 10:00 am, via ZOOM.

VII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin thanked Mr. Joe Barget for speaking at the Rotary Club meeting recently. As there are strong differing public opinions regarding if the Lower Aquifer is in long-term decline, he requested Mr. Buelow prepare a report to explain this situation for distribution.

GSA Committee Director Jeremy Ball thanked everyone for the welcome and assured everyone he will be working closely with Ms. Kristin Worthley to learn about WMA GSA information as he is the new representative for the City of Lompoc.

XIII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:21 am.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

September 21, 2021

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Chris Brooks, Chairman
WMA GSA
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
cbrooks@vvcasd.org

Ed Andrisek, Chairman
CMA GSA
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
eda@cityofbuellton.com

Brett Marymee, Chairman
EMA GSA
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
bmarymee@syrwcd.com

Re: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Gentlemen:

We are counsel for the Santa Ynez Water Group (Group), which is a coalition of farmers and ranchers within the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin (Basin). These agricultural landowners formed the Group to protect their overlying rights to groundwater in the Basin. This includes engaging with your three groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) as you develop and administer your respective groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Group has been monitoring the activities of the Western Management Area GSA, the Central Management Area GSA, and the Eastern Management Area GSA. We have several concerns regarding the current course of events and the burdens your GSAs apparently intend to place solely on agricultural landowners. The purpose of this letter is to express those concerns and request the ability to participate directly regarding the GSPs and the activities of the GSAs.

1. Landowner Representation

There is no exclusive agricultural landowner representation on any of the GSAs' governing committees. Each committee is composed of representatives from governmental agencies with non-agricultural constituencies. For example, the Western Management Area GSA Committee is made up of (1) Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; (2) the County of Santa Barbara; (3) the City of Lompoc; (4) Mission Hills Community Services District; and (5) Vandenberg Village Community Services District. Both the Central Management Area GSA Committee and the Eastern Management Area GSA Committee are similar. This does not represent the entirety of the water users and interests in the Basin and excludes any direct representation from the agricultural community. Thus, at the outset, the make-up of the GSAs was flawed.

The only avenue your GSAs allowed agricultural landowners to voice their unique opinions or concerns is through the Citizens Advisory Groups. But, just as the name suggests, those groups are only advisory, are weighted toward non-agricultural interests, and carry no decision-making authority. Put simply, agricultural landowners have been intentionally disenfranchised from the decision-making.

We are aware that the GSAs are exploring a potential reorganization of their governance structure. Whether that reorganization results in each GSA remaining as three separate GSAs or forming a single coordinated GSA, it is likely that each GSA will revisit or draft new organizational documents. When doing so, we ask that each GSA include a voting director position for an agricultural landowner representative on each decision-making body formed or otherwise reorganized.

2. Implementation of Projects and Management Actions

We are also concerned with the projects and management actions identified by the GSAs in the draft GSPs. While we understand that many of the GSAs' respective Group 1 projects and management actions focus primarily on monitoring and reporting efforts, all other projects single out and discriminate against agricultural landowners. The burden of sustainability is therefore placed solely on the backs of agricultural landowners.

Funding for these projects and management actions mirrors that problem. We are aware that the GSAs are considering a groundwater extraction fee, assessment, or other property-related fee to fund the GSAs' projects and management actions. As those considerations continue, we encourage the GSAs to pursue the most equitable option in levying that financial burden. Agricultural landowners should not be unfairly targeted with projects and management actions, and then be forced to pay for their development and implementation.

3. Consideration of Overlying Groundwater Rights

Our last concern underlies all that the GSAs are doing. None of the GSAs have considered the effects their actions will have on overlying groundwater rights of agricultural landowners. This omission is evident in the draft GSPs as the GSAs focus exclusively on the interests of municipal groundwater users. This violates the mandates of SGMA requiring your GSAs to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Specifically, Water Code section 10723.2 provides, in part:

“The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

Chris Brooks, Chairman
Ed Andrisek, Chairman
Brett Marymee, Chairman
September 21, 2021
Page 3 of 3

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users, including farmers, ranchers, and dairy professionals.

...”

Our hope is that the GSAs expand their focus and discharge their duty to consider *all* interests in the Basin as required by SGMA.

We understand the complexities of the issues and the challenges in developing a GSP. Our desire is a successful GSP, and to be part of the process. But we cannot do that if the GSAs intentionally disenfranchise agricultural landowners and their senior overlying rights in the Basin.

Please have the attorney advising the GSAs on these issues contact me so that we can discuss how best to resolve our concerns.

Very truly yours,



Joseph D. Hughes

JDH/sbh

cc via e-mail only: Santa Ynez Water Group
Bill Buelow bbuelow@syrwcd.com
Matt Young wateragency@cosbpw.net
Cynthia Allen callen@syrwcd.com
Brad Joos bjooos@syrwd.org
Mark Infanti Mark.infanti@cityofsolvang.com
Joan Hartman jhartmann@countyofsb.org
Steve Jordan sjordan@syrwcd.com
Matt Vanderlinden – matt.vanderlinden@cityofsolvang.com
Paeter Garcia - pgarcia@syrwcd.com

DRAFT FINAL GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. PUBLIC COMMENT IS ENCOURAGED

(Santa Ynez, California, September 15, 2021) - The public is invited to review and comment on the Draft Final (Public Draft) Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) prepared by the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). The three GSAs were established for the Eastern, Central and Western Management Areas of the Basin (EMA, CMA and WMA). The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2015 requires each basin in California to be sustainable with respect to groundwater by 2042. Three GSPs (one for each management area) were prepared through the efforts of eight local government agencies and their elected officials working together since 2017. Sustainable groundwater management will be implemented at the local level using the GSPs, and is designed to ensure that:

- (1) Long-term groundwater elevations are adequate to support existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses throughout the Basin,
- (2) A sufficient volume of groundwater storage remains available during drought conditions and recovers during wet conditions,
- (3) Groundwater production, and projects and management actions undertaken through SGMA, do not degrade water quality conditions in order to support ongoing reasonable and beneficial uses of groundwater for agricultural, municipal, domestic, industrial, and environmental purposes.

The three GSPs are available on the Basin's SGMA website, SantaYnezWater.org. The public is encouraged to review and provide comments on the GSPs.

- The EMA GSP is available for review and comment until October 24, 2021 (11:59 pm).
- The CMA GSP and WMA GSP are both available for review and comment until October 26, 2021 (11:59 pm).

Public Meetings of the Citizens Advisory Group and the GSA Committee for each management area will be held during September/October to discuss the GSPs. Please register as an Interested Party on SantaYnezWater.org to receive email notices of these public meetings as well as future public meetings or hearings.

Additionally, a hard copy of each GSP is available for review in a local library. The EMA GSP is available at the Solvang Public Library, the CMA GSP at the Buellton Public Library and the WMA GSP at the Lompoc and Vandenberg Village Public Libraries. Comments on the GSPs are encouraged to be uploaded via the Comment Form located on SantaYnezWater.org or may be submitted at the address below.

For questions please contact:

Mr. Bill Buelow, P.G.

GSA Coordinator for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
and Groundwater Program Manager for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Tel: 805-693-1156, ext. 403

Email: bbuelow@syrrwcd.com

Mailing Address:

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Wind turbines in Lompoc



COURTESY PHOTO

Loads of wind turbines were transported Friday in Lompoc, where the Strauss Energy Wind Project is building a wind farm southwest of the city. The company is continuing its efforts, which began in late August, to transport more than 200 oversized loads through the city. The movement is expected to continue through late November or early December. Most loads require traffic delays lasting a minute or two, according to a news release from the city of Lompoc. For more information, go to cityoflompoc.com.

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All proceeds to benefit the Homeless Guest Services and state-certified Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs of the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

PRESS RELEASE

The public is invited to review and comment on the Public Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) prepared for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin by **October 24, 2021**. The three GSPs provide a roadmap for how the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin will reach long-term sustainability. The GSPs are available on SantaYnezWater.org and at the Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc and Vandenberg Village Branch Libraries.

For questions, please contact Mr. Bill Buelow
805-693-1156, ext. 403; bbuelow@syrwcd.com

Exiled in Montecito: History repeats itself with Prince Harry and Meghan

Royalty, as an institution, always wins in the long run. And its strays always lose.

Just summon the spirits of Britain's Duke and Duchess of Windsor, exiled for almost four decades in France after the Duke, then King Edward VIII, abdicated his throne (in 1936) — supposedly for “the woman he loved” — and this is what they would probably tell you: Money improves your style of misery but won't bring you happiness.



THE INVESTIGATOR
ROBERT ERINGER

Truth is, they (especially Edward) were homesick for Blighty, which, for the rest of his life, would no longer tolerate their presence and whose rulers (the Royal Family and government alike) strove to keep them both at arm's length.

Notice I wrote “supposedly” about Wallis Simpson's involvement in what was a huge drama a century ago but was actually a whopping red herring that the populace swallowed hook, line and sinker.

That is because there was a far more important reason for evicting King Edward VIII from his throne, if much less known —

except, that is, by those who had a need to know as war clouds began to darken over Europe back in the mid-1930s.

Before World War II officially commenced, Edward, while still heir apparent as Prince of Wales, was partial to Nazi Germany and liked to point out to his friends that 100% Teutonic blood ran through his veins. A little context: The British Royal Family's last name is Gothe-Saxe-Coburg, but during World War I, the British Cabinet found it unseemly that a family imported from Germany with a German name should be ruling the waves of Britannia while tens of thousands of British lads were being mustard-gassed in

the trenches by German soldiers. (All boiled down, World War I was a royal family squabble whose hapless subjects paid the ultimate price).

Thus, the Cabinet compelled the British Royal Family to adopt the name Windsor, chosen because it sounded, well, so quintessentially English.

And then, upon being crowned king, Edward VIII put his misplaced sympathies to practice: He shared British state secrets from his dispatch boxes with the German Reich's leadership.

British Intelligence chief Robert Vannistat, whose officers kept a watchful eye on the new king, dutifully reported Edward VIII's duplicity — it ran contrary to the government's anti-Third Reich stance — to 10 Downing Street, where Stanley Baldwin, prime minister of the day, was as flabbergasted as he was horrified. Something extraordinary had to be done.

And thus, Prime Minister Baldwin and his spy chief plotted to dethrone the king.

Their ruse? Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee detested by many in British political

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WMA GSA Committee Meeting October 27, 2021 Page 13

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

The three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin have prepared **Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs)** as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of January 2015. Final Drafts of the three GSPs are available for public review and comment online at SantaYnezWater.org. The Final GSPs must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2022. Upon submittal, DWR will host a public comment period on the Final GSPs via its website.

Schedule of Public Meetings, Workshops, and Comment Periods located at SantaYnezWater.org

COMMENT NOW

SGMA is implemented at the local level

Public Review and Comment on the Groundwater Sustainability Plans

All three Draft GSPs are available on-line **SantaYnezWater.org**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS:

See website for exact dates or sign-up for email notifications.

Draft GSP: 45 days in September - October, 2021

Final GSP: 75 days in February-March 2022

Final GSPs will also be available online.

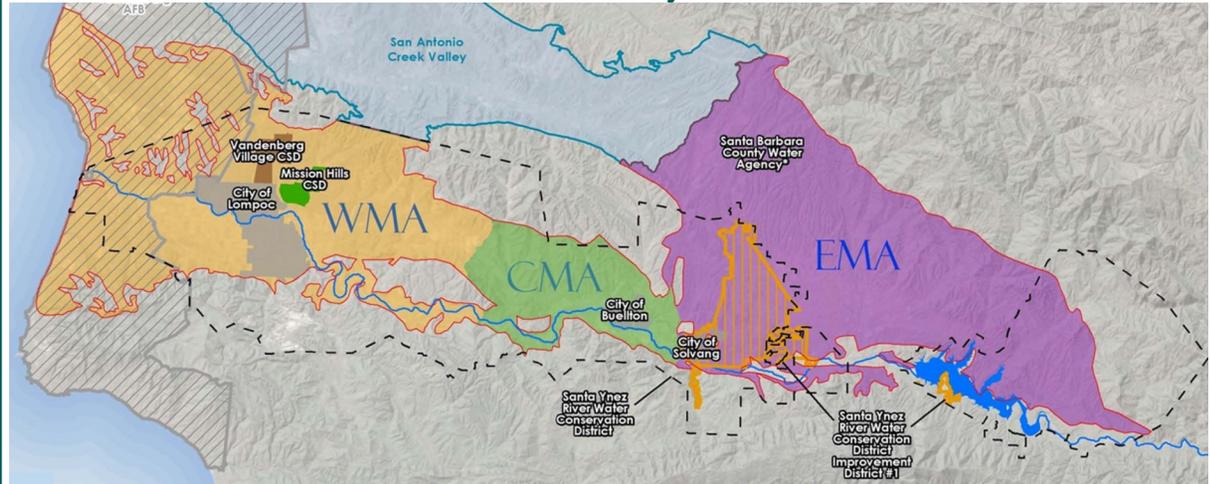
Western Management Area GSP

Central Management Area GSP

Eastern Management Area GSP

A printed copy will be available for review at the following public libraries: Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, and Vandenberg Village.

Three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin



Next Steps:

- **September/October 2021:** Public Review of Draft GSPs
- **October 2021:** Citizen Advisory Groups Meetings to discuss Draft GSPs
- **October 2021:** GSA Committee Meetings to discuss Draft GSPs
- **December 2021/January 2022:** GSP Adoption by GSA Committees
- **January 31, 2022:** Final GSPs due to DWR
- **February/March 2022:** Public Review of Final GSPs (comment via DWR website)

For more information, meeting announcements, and to review and comment on draft documents, please visit

SantaYnezWater.org or call (805) 693-1156 ext. 403



Cuenca de Aguas Subterráneas del Valle del Río Santa Ynez

Las tres Agencias de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSAs) en la Cuenca de Aguas Subterráneas del Valle del Río Santa Ynez han preparado **Planes de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSPs)** como lo requiere la Ley de Gestión Sostenible de Aguas Subterráneas (SGMA) de enero de 2015. Los Borradores Finales de los tres GSP están disponibles para su revisión pública y comentarios en línea en SantaYnezWater.org. Los GSP Finales deben ser presentados al Departamento de Recursos Hídricos de California (DWR) antes del 31 de enero de 2022. Una vez presentados, el DWR organizará un período de comentarios públicos sobre los GSP Finales a través de su página web.

Calendario de Reuniones
Públicas, Talleres y Períodos
de Comentarios en
SantaYnezWater.org

COMENTE AHORA

*La SGMA es aplicada
a nivel local*

Revisión y Comentarios Públicos sobre los Planes de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas

Los tres Borradores de los GSP están disponibles
en línea SantaYnezWater.org

PERÍODOS DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS :

Consulte el sitio web para conocer las fechas exactas o regístrese para recibir notificaciones por correo electrónico.

Borrador del GSP: 45 días en septiembre - octubre, 2021

GSP Final: 75 días en febrero - marzo, 2022

Los GSP Finales también estarán disponibles en línea.

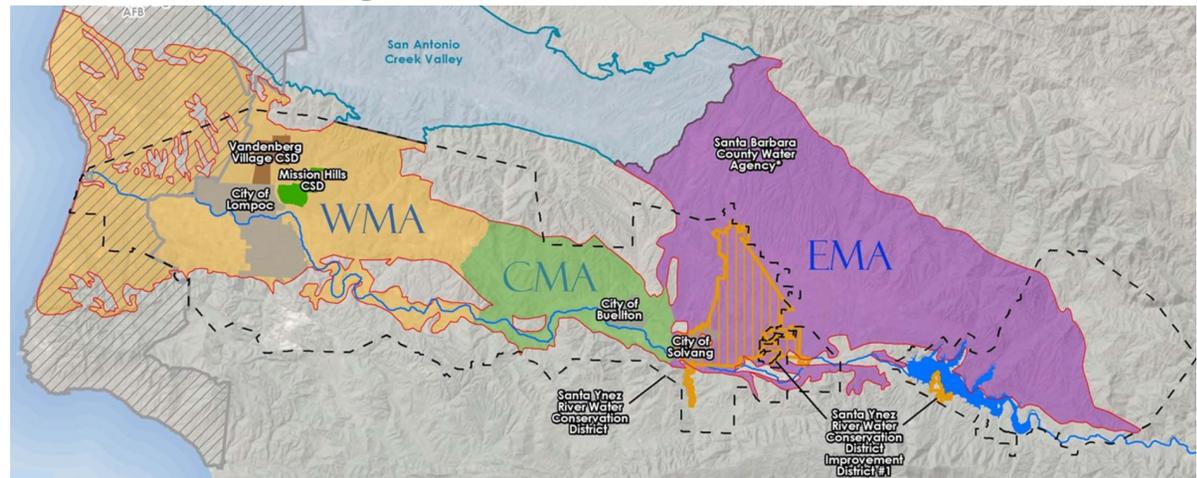
GSP del Área de Gestión Occidental (WMA)

GSP del Área de Gestión Central (CMA)

GSP del Área de Gestión Oriental (EMA)

En las siguientes bibliotecas públicas, estará disponible una copia impresa para su revisión: Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc y Vandenberg Village.

Tres Agencias de Sostenibilidad de Aguas Subterráneas (GSA) en la Cuenca de Aguas Subterráneas del Valle del Río Santa Ynez



Próximos Pasos:

- **Septiembre/octubre 2021:** Revisión Pública de los Borradores de los GSP
- **Octubre 2021:** Reuniones de Grupos Consultivos de Ciudadanos para discutir los Borradores de los GSP
- **Octubre 2021:** Reuniones del Comité de la GSA para discutir los Borradores de los GSP
- **Diciembre 2021/enero 2022:** Aprobación del GSP por los Comités de la GSA
- **31 de enero, 2022:** GSP Finales por el DWR
- **Febrero/marzo 2022:** Revisión Pública de los GSP Finales (comentarios a través del sitio web del DWR)

Para más información, anuncios de reuniones y para revisar y comentar los borradores de los documentos, visite

SantaYnezWater.org o llame al (805) 693-1156 ext. 403



**WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 7th, 2021

FROM: WMA Citizen Advisory Group
(Memo by José Baer)

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion Draft Final WMA GSP as well as governance options

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

CAG Members in attendance: Charles Witt, Ken Domako, José Baer and Derek McLeish.

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

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 October 7th, 2021. The purpose of the meetings was for the WMA CAG (CAG) to review the Draft Final WMA GSP. The Document was prepared by Stetson Engineers. A copy of the documents was made available to the CAG prior to the meeting at www.SantaYnezWater.org.

CAG Comments on Draft Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Each of the four CAG members present were asked to provide their comments on the GSP. All indicated that they had no further comments and that the current version did a good job incorporating their previous comments. The CAG recognized that much of what is in the current draft has been discussed in the past, but this was the first time that the CAG discussed project and future governance.

Mr. Ken Domako briefed the CAG on preliminary discussion currently occurring between the Federal Prison and Vandenburg Space Force Base (VSFB) regarding an water supply inter-tie between the City of Lompoc and the Federal Prison. The purpose of the inter-tie was to reduce the cost of water for the Prison by switching from VSFB provided water from CCWA (State water) to City of Lompoc (City) water. The CAG discussed the project which could potentially

add 700-800 acre feet per year of additional groundwater demand on the City. There was further discussion about how the treated wastewater back to Lompoc. They do not, instead it is treated and then added to the river. That amount is roughly 31,000 gal/day. Mr. Domako said that this proposal is in the early stages of discussion and no decisions have been made to date. The City of Lompoc has not been engaged in the proposal at this point.

CAG Comments on Future Governance

There was some discussion on the structure of fees which will be necessary to fund the GSA. Joe Barget asked for clarity on the fees discussed. He pointed out that VVCS D already charges fees. It was made clear that these fees would be in addition to those already being charged by various districts.

The CAG considered the three basic options for future governance. The options are: 1) three separate GSAs implementing their own Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and no shared costs; 2) a single GSA with merging of the three GSPs into one GSP; and 3) an umbrella Joint Powers Authority with three separate GSA committees implementing their own GSPs within their own management area and providing their own funding to do so.

Some of the CAG members said it would be helpful to know the proposed budget for the GSAs before the CAG could give a preference between the three options. There was discussion about the operational budgets of other GSAs operating in other basins including Cuyama, and Ventura. It became clear that a baseline budget of roughly \$1M was likely necessary for the operation of a single GSA. If there are three separate GSAs, then the baseline budget before considering projects might be \$3M in sum. It was generally agreed that the governance structure that utilized an umbrella GSA with three separate sub-organizations for managing projects was probably a considerably less expensive option of the three. Furthermore, there are considerable differences in the number of acre feet withdrawn from each of the three areas while the baseline bureaucratic burden would probably be similar. There are significant advantages to the Eastern and Central areas to join with the larger Western area for that reason. With roughly 50,000 acre-feet withdrawn from all three areas, a baseline budget of \$1M/yr would result in fees of \$18/acre foot, considerably lower than the \$46-100/acre foot in neighboring GSAs. It was also pointed out that the state will administer a GSA for \$80/acre foot.

Many of the projects which would be undertaken in each of the three GSA's would probably be eligible for grant funding. The projects which would be undertaken in each of the three management areas are probably different in nature as the regions and subsequently plans are quite different. Cost matching will likely be required by DWR for the grant funding.

There was not further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned.