

## NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

WILL BE HELD AT THE  
**SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, CONFERENCE ROOM\***  
1070 FARADAY ST., SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA  
AT **06:30 P.M.**, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

**\*AS PER SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. 2021-10.5  
IN PERSON ATTENDEES MUST WEAR FACE COVERINGS AT ALL TIMES WHILE ATTENDING  
THE MEETING IN AN INDOOR PUBLIC SETTING**

### Remote participation also 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: 869 9490 5497      Meeting Passcode: 865461**

**DIRECT LINK:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86994905497?pwd=eERrVE1ka0JaM0VhQnNnN0lxM28xZz09>

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

**PHONE MEETING ID: 869 9490 5497#      Meeting Passcode: 865461 #**

*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 EMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/21/2021).

**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](mailto:bbuelow@syrwcd.com).** All submittals of written comments must be received by the GSA no later than **Wednesday, November 17, 2021**, and should indicate "**November 18, 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 **EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA**  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

**AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution EMA-2021-001
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
- IV. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public item.) *Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under Agenda Item “EMA GSA Committee requests and comments” for items to be included on the next Agenda.*
- V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of October 28, 2021
- VI. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List
- VII. Review and consider approval of Resolution EMA-2021-002 authorizing the EMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement.
- VIII. Update and discussion on Draft EMA GSP and Future Governance Options
- IX. Review and discuss Scope of Work and Costs for GSI to prepare EMA Annual Report
- X. Next “Special” EMA GSA Meeting to consider GSP adoption Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.
- XI. Consideration of additional “Special EMA GSA Meeting” December 9 or 16, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.
- XII. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XIII. 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.]

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

### RESOLUTION EMA-2021-001

#### RESOLUTION INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB 361

WHEREAS, meetings of the governing Committee (“Committee”) of the **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin** (EMA GSA) are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the EMA GSA conduct its business;

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e), added by Assembly Bill 361 (2021) (“AB361”), provides for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to certain conditions and requirements; and

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA wishes to invoke the provisions of AB361 to authorize teleconference meetings subject to the provisions of Government Code section 54953(e);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1. Findings. The Committee hereby finds as follows:

- (a) As provided by Government Code section 54953(e)(1), a proclaimed state of emergency exists under the California Emergency Services Act, as declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020.
- (b) As provided by Government Code section 54953(e)(1), the County of Santa Barbara Health Department has imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, specifically Santa Barbara County Health Order No. 2021-10.5 (see also Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Health Officials AB 361 Social Distance Recommendation issued September 28, 2021).

Section 2. Procedures for Teleconference Meetings. The EMA GSA shall hold meetings to allow for teleconference participation pursuant to the requirements of Government Code section 54953(e).

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Section 4. Renewal. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3), the EMA GSA may consider findings regarding the state of emergency every 30 days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the EMA GSA on October 21, 2021 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate), Mark Infanti, Brad Joos, Brett Marymee

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary



Public Health Administration

300 North San Antonio Road ♦ Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316  
805/681-5100 ♦ FAX 805/681-5191

Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD *Director*  
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA *Chief Financial Officer*  
Paige Batson, MA, PHN, RN *Deputy Director*  
Darrin Eisenbarth *Deputy Director*  
Dana Gamble, LCSW *Interim Deputy Director*  
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH *Medical Director*  
Henning Ansorg, MD *Health Officer*

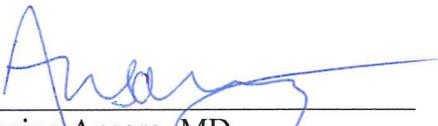
**HEALTH OFFICIALS AB 361 SOCIAL DISTANCE RECOMMENDATION**

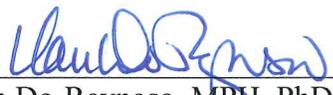
**Issued: September 28, 2021**

COVID-19 disease prevention measures, endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, include vaccinations, facial coverings, increased indoor ventilation, handwashing, and physical distancing (particularly indoors).

Since March 2020, local legislative bodies-such as commissions, committees, boards, and councils- have successfully held public meetings with teleconferencing as authorized by Executive Orders issued by the Governor. Using technology to allow for virtual participation in public meetings is a social distancing measure that may help control transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Public meetings bring together many individuals (both vaccinated and potentially unvaccinated), from multiple households, in a single indoor space for an extended time. For those at increased risk for infection, or subject to an isolation or quarantine order, teleconferencing allows for full participation in public meetings, while protecting themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus.

Utilizing teleconferencing options for public meetings is an effective and recommended social distancing measure to facilitate participation in public affairs and encourage participants to protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 disease. This recommendation is further intended to satisfy the requirement of the Brown Act (specifically Gov't Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A)), which allows local legislative bodies in the County of Santa Barbara to use certain available teleconferencing options set forth in the Brown Act.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Henning Ansorg, MD  
Public Health Officer  
County of Santa Barbara

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD  
Public Health Director  
County of Santa Barbara

# **DRAFT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin October 28, 2021**

A special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference in accordance with the latest Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution EMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/21/2021).

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Joan Hartmann, Mark Infanti, Brad Joos, and Brett Marymee

Alternate EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen and Meighan Diethofer

Member Agency Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson, Matt van der Linden, Kevin Walsh, and Matt Young

Others Present: Steve Anderson, Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions), Bryan Bondy, Mike Burchardi, Doug Circle, Elizabeth Farnum, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge), and Eric (last name not registered).

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. All GSA Committee Members 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.

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

No additions or deletions were made. A typographical error on Agenda Item IX was corrected to read “EMA” not “CMA”.

### **IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 26, and October 21, 2021**

The minutes of the GSA Committee meetings on August 26 and October 21, 2021 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There were no comments or discussion.

GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021, as presented. GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti seconded the motion, and the minutes passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote with GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee abstaining.

GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti made a MOTION to approve the minutes of October 21, 2021, as presented. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion, and the minutes passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Review comment letter from Santa Ynez Water Group legal counsel dated 09-21-2021**

Mr. Buelow announced that public comment letters received on the Public Draft GSPs are posted to SantaYnezWater.org as well as a pdf document showing the downloaded public comments made via the portal.

He introduced a letter received from Joseph D. Hughes, attorney with Klein DeNatale Goldner, on behalf of the Santa Ynez Water Group, expressing concerns on landowner representation, implementation of Projects and Management Actions, and consideration of overlying groundwater rights. There were no comments and no discussion followed.

**VII. Receive update on SGMA Stakeholder Outreach**

Mr. Buelow reviewed stakeholder outreach efforts made on behalf of the GSAs. Press Releases were sent out. Paid advertisements were placed in three local newspapers: Lompoc Record, Santa Barbara News Press and Santa Ynez Valley News. In addition, SGMA Newsletter Issue # 5, published in English and Spanish, was distributed by member agencies with utility billings. A request was made to KCLU, local public radio, to add GSPs public comment periods to the Community Calendar. A presentation was made to Solvang City Council. Discussion followed.

**VIII. Receive update on Citizen Advisory Group meeting of October 11, 2021**

Ms. Elizabeth Farnum presented the EMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Memorandum dated October 11, 2021, which she prepared on behalf of the EMA CAG, regarding the EMA CAG's review and discussion of EMA Public Draft of GSP and discussion of future governance. Discussion followed.

- GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee asked if optimal timing of management actions with respect to impacts on agriculture was discussed. He suggested proactive communication with the public to reduce negative impact. Ms. Farnum replied that the CAG did not discuss in detail just that a concern was expressed during the meeting.

- Upon being asked for his opinion, Mr. Doug Circle recommended conducting a study for annual crops versus permanent crops since they have different water timing and needs.
- GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti asked for clarification if different amounts of measurement and different source of funding would be needed for each of the two different minimum thresholds? Mr. Jeff Barry explained that monitoring wells are completed in the two formations so water level measurements will be taken on regular basis so measure against the Sustainable Management Criteria. The data collection and reporting will be same even though the minimum thresholds for the two formations are different.
- GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti asked about funding and cost reimbursement for management actions. If there is a fee program in future, will there be a different cost or fee structure for different formations. Mr. Matt Young replied that typically basic costs are lumped together but if some issue arises in one formation that will have a localized benefit, then may implement a localized cost to support. He advised that funding for GSA activities is yet to be determined and will be the subject of many meetings to come.
  - Mr. Doug Circle expressed concern that agriculture interests are not currently represented on the GSA Committee and requested that agriculture interests be represented in discussions on fee structures. He requested that agriculture interests be added as supplement to be part of GSA.
  - GSA Alternate Committee Member Meighan Diethofer pointed out that farmers are committee member representatives on the WMA GSA and CMA GSA. Mr. Buelow said the SGMA statute ruled that GSA member agencies were required to be a local agency involved in water. Agriculture representation in the Basin is primarily through Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD). Therefore, the two farmers who are Board Directors for the SYRWCD were specifically seated as SYRWCD representatives to the GSA Committees.
  - Mr. Paeter Garcia added that there is an amendment to the SGMA statute to allow mutual water companies to join the GSA leadership. In other Basins, agriculture interests formed governmental agencies like a mutual water company in order to be eligible for a leadership position in those GSAs. He added that the Santa Barbara County represents landowners, including agriculture, that lie outside SYRWCD and the other member agencies boundaries.
  - Ms. Mary Heyden responded that although Mr. Art Hibbits and Mr. Steve Jordan are farmers, she felt their main responsibility would be to SYRWCD not representing individual farmers. She hoped the county would appoint an agriculture person the GSA committees that was vetted through Farm Bureau or Cattlemen's Association for future governance structure so there will be direct representation on the GSAs.

- Mr. Doug Circle suggested that agricultural interests were added to other GSA boards in Ventura County and San Antonio Basin and may be eligible to be member of GSA leadership through supplemental SGMA regulations.

## **IX. Workshop and Q&A on Public Draft EMA GSP and Future Governance Options**

Jeff Barry & Tim Nicely presented slides “GSP Development Timeline and Overview of Public Comments, Santa Ynez Basin – EMA, October 28, 2021”. He reviewed the timeline of EMA GSP Development since January 2020. Discussion followed.

- GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee requested a recap of responses to the public comments so that representatives on the EMA GSA committee could provide feedback or response as well. Discussion followed.
  - Mr. Barry offered to provide the red-line version of Public Draft GSP after changes were made based on public comments received. GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee liked that idea.
  - Mr. Matt Young asked committee members to provide staff with a list of the public comments they would like to respond to or a list of the consultant responses to public comments they do not agree with so staff can work on those before the next meeting.
  - GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti requested common comments with the responses be organized together in a concise list for ease in reviewing.
  - GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann agreed that a list with comments organized by specific categories would be helpful including specifying certain categories to be addressed at a later date to keep immediate focus on the GSP.
- GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee asked if there could be anything possibly missed in the GSP based on DWRs SGMA requirements. Mr. Barry said no because both staff and consultants have been deliberate and diligent with following the DWR requirements. He advised that not everyone will be happy with outcomes but that is to be expected. He reminded everyone that the GSP is an adaptive plan that will be reviewed and revised every five years.
- GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti asked for clarification on the GSP approval process. Mr. Buelow explained that the GSA approves and adopts the GSP. The member agency representatives to the committee need to come to the GSA meeting with authority from their agency to vote on adopting the GSP. Authority to vote on the GSP approval will need to be documented by member agency resolution or meeting minutes stating to accept or accept with changes made. Mr. Matt van der Linden explained the plan for City of Solvang is to have a staff report and presentation on the EMA GSP and have a Resolution from Solvang City Council to approve and authorize Council Member Mark Infanti, as their representative to the EMA GSA, to vote for approval.

- GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti requested a copy of presentation slides from tonight and a template resolution to review before the Solvang City Council meeting.
- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos asked about the odds for DWR approval of the submitted GSP on first submission based on what Mr. Barry has seen with other submitted GSPs. Mr. Barry advised that based on the problems other GSPs were having, the consultants have adjusted some areas in the EMA GSP to show consideration for those topics and have been watching the DWR replies to other submitted GSPs. He felt consultants have done the best effort to cover the requirements and responding to public comments. Mr. Barry said overall he felt the GSP is on track.
- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos asked who does the state allow to be members of the GSA as voting members.
- GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann thanked Mr. Barry and Mr. Nicely for the summary and looks forward to seeing the responses to the public comments. She asked if the EMA GSA committee will vote on adequacy of responses to public comments. Mr. Barry said consultants are working quickly to respond to public comments so that staff can distribute.
- GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann suggested the need for more meetings and preferred to meet in person. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos agreed more meetings may be needed. Mr. Buelow explained the flexibility for public meetings provided by AB361 is applicable to the EMA GSA because they adopted the resolution initially authorizing remote teleconference meetings under AB361 on October 21, 2021. Discussion followed.
- GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee asked if fees, water rates and governance options could be organized with pros and cons. Mr. Matt Young advised that some comments received are not specifically related to the GSP and advised committee members that since fees and fee planning are not a part of GSP those comments should be addressed later. He requested committee to focus on comments or issues that may change the Plan.
  - GSA Committee Member Brad Joos agreed with Mr. Young and requested fellow committee members to focus on GSP related comments.
  - GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee suggested a brainstorming session to address future governance options and fee structures in the upcoming future. Discussion followed.
- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos reminded everyone that once the GSP is submitted to DWR there will be another comment period. Mr. Jeff Barry confirmed another 60-day comment period will be open after GSP submittal to DWR with those comments made directly to DWR. Mr. Matt Young clarified further revisions to the GSP based on public comments received during that 60-day comment period will not

be made until after the two-year DWR review process is complete and if revisions are required by DWR.

- There were no comments or discussion regarding Future Governance Options.

**X. Next Regular EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 PM**

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular meeting for the EMA GSA Committee will be on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The EMA GSA Committee Members requested the meeting be a hybrid format allowing for both in-person and teleconference participation and asked staff to secure a physical location that will also provide ability for participation through ZOOM video/teleconference. Discussion followed.

A potential special meeting to be held on December 9, 2021 was discussed and need will be determined during the November 18, 2021 meeting.

**XI. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

There were no requests or comments.

**XII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm

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Brett Marymee, Chairman

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William J. Buelow, Secretary

SYRWCD EMA  
BALANCE SHEET  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Assets

Current Assets

Mechanics Bank #5843	\$153,205.39	
Other Current Assets	1,000.00	
	-----	
TOTAL Current Assets		154,205.39
		-----
TOTAL Assets		\$154,205.39
		=====

Liabilities AND Equity

TOTAL Liabilities		-----
		.00

Net Position

RETAINED EARNINGS - PRIOR	211,037.93	
Retained Earnings-Current Year	(56,832.54)	
	-----	
TOTAL Net Position		154,205.39
		-----
TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity		\$154,205.39
		=====

SYRWCD EMA  
 INCOME STATEMENT  
 FOR THE 3 PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

	QUARTER TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	PERCENT	ACTUAL	PERCENT
TOTAL Revenue	\$.00	.0 %	.00	.0
Gross Profit	.00	.0	.00	.0
Expenses:				
Operating Expenses				
Public Relations	181.79	.0	181.79	.0
TOTAL Operating Expenses	181.79	.0	181.79	.0
Consultants				
GSP - GSP Doc	54,893.25	.0	54,893.25	.0
Basin Coordination	1,757.50	.0	1,757.50	.0
TOTAL Consultants	56,650.75	.0	56,650.75	.0
TOTAL Expenses	56,832.54	.0	56,832.54	.0
Net Income from Operations	(56,832.54)	.0	(56,832.54)	.0
Earnings before Income Tax	(56,832.54)	.0	(56,832.54)	.0
Net Income (Loss)	\$(56,832.54)	.0 %	(56,832.54)	.0

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

**JULY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1034	07/29/21	GSI Water Solutions	June 2021 GSP Preparation Services	\$ 13,135.00
1035	07/29/21	Inklings	Draft GSP Sections printed per pulic act request received	\$ 181.79
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 13,316.79</b>

**AUGUST 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1036	08/12/21	Stetson Engineers	June 2021 Engineering Service (Basin Coordination)	\$ 370.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 370.00</b>

**SEPTEMBER 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1037	09/15/21	GSI Water Solutions	July & August 2021 GSP Preparation Services	\$ 41,758.25
1038	09/15/21	Stetson Engineers	July 2021 Engineering Service (Basin Coordination)	\$ 1,387.50
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 43,145.75</b>

**TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 56,832.54**

## **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

### **RESOLUTION EMA-2021-002**

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMA CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (“GSA”), formed by Memorandum of Agreement dated April 27, 2017 (“MOA”), is the exclusive GSA for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 3-015) (“Basin”);

**WHEREAS**, the GSA has prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the Eastern Management Area;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10727.6 requires each GSA to “coordinate with other agencies preparing a groundwater sustainability plan within the basin to ensure that the plans utilize the same data and methodologies”;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10727(b)(3) requires that multiple GSPs implemented by multiple GSAs must be coordinated pursuant to a coordination agreement that covers the entire Basin;

**WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the individual member agencies of the three GSAs in the Basin executed that Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement for Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, dated February 26, 2020 (“Intra-Basin Agreement”);

**WHEREAS**, in the Intra-Basin Agreement, the member agencies of the Parties agreed to develop and execute a Coordination Agreement in accordance with Water Code sections 10727(b)(3), 10727.6, and 10733.4(b)(3), and California Code of Regulations, title 23, Section 357.4;

**WHEREAS**, a Coordination Agreement has been prepared in consultation with staff of the member agencies of all three GSAs in the Basin and presented to this GSA for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the GSA finds that the Coordination Agreement complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

**NOW THEREFORE**, the GSA hereby resolves as follows:

- 1) Each of the recitals above is true and correct and is incorporated herein by reference.
- 2) The GSA finds that that the Coordination Agreement complies with the requirements of SGMA.

- 3) The GSA hereby authorizes and instructs its Chairperson to execute the Coordination Agreement in substantially the form presented to the GSA, subject to such minor changes as are approved by the Chairperson.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the EMA GSA on November 18, 2021 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

ATTEST:

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Brett Marymee, Chairman

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William J. Buelow, Secretary

## **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement**

This Coordination Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“WMA GSA”), the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“CMA GSA”), and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“EMA GSA”) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code, div. 6, part 2.74) (“SGMA”). WMA GSA, CMA GSA, and EMA GSA are referred to herein collectively as the “Parties” and individually as a “Party” or a “GSA.” This Agreement shall be effective as of January 1, 2022 (“Effective Date”).

### **Recitals**

A. WHEREAS, SGMA requires all groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) to be managed by one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”) pursuant to one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans (“GSPs”).

B. WHEREAS, the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Bulletin 118 Basin Number 3-015) (“Basin”) has been designated as a medium-priority basin by DWR.

C. WHEREAS, the WMA GSA was formed by the City of Lompoc, the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, the Mission Hills Community Services District, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency pursuant to that Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, dated January 11, 2017 (“WMA MOA”).

D. WHEREAS, the CMA GSA was formed by the City of Buellton, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency pursuant to that Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, dated January 11, 2017 (“CMA MOA”).

E. WHEREAS, the EMA GSA was formed by the City of Solvang, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, dated April 27, 2017 (“EMA MOA”).

F. WHEREAS, each Party is authorized to prepare and adopt a GSP under SGMA for a portion of the Basin, and pursuant to the WMA MOA, the CMA MOA, and the EMA MOA, each Party determined to prepare a separate GSP for its respective Management Area in the Basin.

G. WHEREAS, in February 2020, the individual member agencies of the Parties executed that Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement for Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, dated February 26, 2020 (“Intra-Basin Agreement”).

H. WHEREAS, Water Code section 10727.6 requires each GSA to “coordinate with other agencies preparing a groundwater sustainability plan within the basin to ensure that the plans utilize the same data and methodologies.”

I. WHEREAS, Water Code section 10727(b)(3) requires that multiple GSPs implemented by multiple GSAs must be coordinated pursuant to a coordination agreement that covers the entire Basin.

J. WHEREAS, in the Intra-Basin Agreement, the member agencies of the Parties agreed to develop and execute this Agreement in accordance with Water Code sections 10727(b)(3), 10727.6, and 10733.4(b)(3), and California Code of Regulations, title 23, Section 357.4.

K. WHEREAS, throughout the process of developing the three GSPs for the Basin, numerous activities were undertaken within each Management Area and among the Management Areas and Parties pursuant to Water Code section 10727.6 to coordinate on a full range of topics relevant to SGMA, including, without limitation, the following:

1. Shared data and methodologies for the topics listed in Water Code section 10727.6
2. Description of geologic units in each Management Area
3. Description of principal aquifers and proposed management under SGMA
4. Methodology for assessing factors such as agricultural and municipal water demands, groundwater and surface water production, irrigation return flow, irrigation efficiencies, crop water use factors, mountain front recharge, stream infiltration, septic return flow, evapotranspiration, municipal water use (inside and outside), non-municipal domestic water use, and discharge from wastewater treatment plants, including manner of disposal
5. Groundwater model domain, layering, layer elevations and thicknesses, ground surface digital elevation model, and numerical model code
6. Precipitation and streamflow data including existing and discontinued gauges
7. Historical water level data
8. Deliveries and use of imported State Water Project (“SWP”) water
9. Deliveries and use of Cachuma Project water
10. Diversions and use of Santa Ynez River water
11. Phreatophyte water use
12. Parameters for each principal aquifer, including transmissivity, storativity, and porosity
13. Land use survey datasets and trends throughout the Basin
14. Groundwater flux between Management Areas and the adjacent groundwater basin

15. Base period for water budgets
16. Mountain front recharge
17. Geophysical investigations
18. Criteria for selection of monitoring networks and sustainable management criteria
19. Estimates of funding needs for implementation of the GSPs

L. WHEREAS, consultants for the Parties, including GSI Water Solutions, Inc., Stetson Engineers Inc., and Geosyntec Consultants, participated in at least 35 meetings to discuss the development and coordination of technical elements of the three GSPs for the Basin, in addition to numerous meetings of Citizens' Advisory Groups in each Management Area.

### **Agreement**

Now, therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

#### **Article 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Agreement is to comply with SGMA coordination agreement requirements, ensure that the multiple GSPs within the Basin have been prepared utilizing the same data and methodologies for designated assumptions, as required under Water Code section 10727.6 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 350 et seq. ("SGMA Regulations"), and ensure that the elements of the GSPs are appropriately coordinated to support sustainable groundwater management throughout the Basin.

The Parties intend that this Agreement be a description of how the multiple GSPs, developed by the individual GSAs, are implemented together to satisfy the requirements of SGMA. Each Party will include this Agreement as part of its individual GSP.

#### **Article 2. Plan Manager and Point of Contact – § 357.4(b)(1)**

##### §2.1 Designation of Plan Manager

- (a) The Parties designate the current Groundwater Program Manager of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ("SYRWCD") to serve as the Plan Manager for the GSAs, as defined in SGMA Regulations section 351(z). In the event (i) said Plan Manager ceases to be employed by SYRWCD, (ii) SYRWCD elects to discontinue said designation of Plan Manager, or (iii) any Party requests the designation of a new Plan Manager, the Parties shall consider the designation of a new Plan Manager.
- (b) The designation of a new Plan Manager requires unanimous agreement by the Parties. Any failure to obtain unanimous agreement shall be subject to the dispute resolution procedures set forth in this Agreement.

##### §2.2 Responsibilities of Plan Manager

- (a) The Plan Manager shall serve as the point of contact for DWR as specified in SGMA Regulations section 357.4(b)(1).

- (b) The Plan Manager shall submit or direct the submittal of all GSPs, GSP amendments, supporting information, monitoring data, other pertinent information, annual reports, and periodic evaluations to DWR as required by SGMA and the SGMA Regulations.
- (c) The Plan Manager has no authority to take any action on behalf of the GSAs or a particular GSA without the specific direction and authority of the GSAs or the particular GSA, respectively.

**Article 3. Responsibilities and Procedures – § 357.4(b)(2)**

§3.1 Responsibility of the Parties

The Parties shall work collaboratively to comply with SGMA, the SGMA Regulations, and this Agreement in the implementation of their GSPs. This Agreement does not otherwise affect each Party's responsibility to implement the terms of its respective GSP. Rather, this Agreement is a mechanism through which the Parties will coordinate portions of the multiple GSPs to ensure such GSP coordination complies with SGMA and the SGMA Regulations.

§3.2 Procedure for Timely Exchange of Information

The Parties will continue to exchange information through collaboration and/or informal requests made among staff for the member agencies of the Parties. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prohibit any Party from requesting or exchanging information with any other Party by any other informal or formal means.

§3.3 Procedure for Dispute Resolution

- (a) The Parties agree to mediate any claim or dispute arising under this Agreement or concerning a Party's compliance with the requirements of SGMA before filing any court action ("Dispute"). Any Party may elect not to mediate a Dispute, but if a Party commences a court action without first attempting to resolve the matter through mediation that Party will not be entitled to recover attorneys' fees or costs, even if such fees or costs would otherwise be available to that Party in any such action. A Party will satisfy the requirement for "first attempting to resolve the matter through mediation" by proceeding or otherwise participating in accordance with the entire process set forth in this article.
- (b) In the event of a Dispute, or where the Parties cannot reach agreement on any matter arising under this Agreement or concerning a Party's compliance with the requirements of SGMA, any Party may issue a Notice of Dispute to the other Parties that describes in detail the claim or disputed matter. Within twenty (20) calendar days from the date of the Notice of Dispute, at least one meeting shall be conducted among the Parties who choose to participate as a good faith attempt to resolve the Dispute informally ("Informal Dispute Resolution").
- (c) In the event the Dispute is not resolved through Informal Dispute Resolution within forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of the Notice of Dispute, the Party that issued the initial Notice of Dispute shall provide

a separate written notification to all Parties that participated in the Informal Dispute Resolution process which identifies three mediator candidates, each of whom must be an attorney, engineer, or hydrogeologist experienced and familiar with SGMA, to mediate the Dispute (“Formal Dispute Resolution”). All mediator candidates must be unbiased neutrals who are not participants in any of the GSAs in the Basin and who are not officials, officers, employees, contractors, consultants, or agents of any of the Parties to this Agreement or a Parties’ member agencies. Within ten (10) days of receiving a written notification initiating Formal Dispute Resolution, all Parties that elect to participate in such Formal Dispute Resolution may provide a written response consenting to one or more of the mediator candidates or identifying up to three additional qualified neutral mediator candidates. Thereafter, if a mediator is not mutually agreed upon by said participating Parties from the combined list within fifteen (15) calendar days, each Party will submit two potential mediators that they would approve and a mediator will be picked by a non-Party through random selection from the Parties' combined lists of remaining mediators. Once initiated, the Formal Dispute Resolution will conclude within forty-five (45) calendar days.

- (d) Mediation fees, if any, will be equally divided among the Parties that elect to participate in a mediation. Each Party involved in the mediation will be responsible for its own attorneys’ fees and costs.
- (e) This article shall not preclude any Party from meeting and conferring with any other Party or Parties to mutually resolve a Dispute prior to requesting or participating in the mediation processes described in this article. This article shall not preclude any Party from seeking a preliminary injunction or other interlocutory relief if necessary to avoid irreparable harm or damages.
- (f) For purposes of this article, the Parties agree that up to two (2) representatives from each member agency of each Party may participate in any meetings or discussions related to Informal Dispute Resolution or Formal Dispute Resolution processes.
- (g) If the Parties to this Agreement enter into any agreement for the joint exercise of powers or amendment to the Inter-Basin Agreement, they may provide in such agreement or amendment for dispute resolution procedures that may replace, revise, or supplement the procedures in this article.

**Article 4. Groundwater Level Data and Monitoring Network – § 357.4(b)(3)(A)**

**§4.1 Coordinated Monitoring Networks**

The Parties have developed coordinated monitoring networks in accordance with SGMA Regulations sections 354.32 through 354.40. The monitoring networks comprise wells included in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (“CASGEM”) Program and other existing monitoring networks maintained by federal, state, and local agencies. Wells were selected

based on their adequacy under DWR’s regulations and Best Management Practices. A map of the combined network, as well as a table of the included wells, is attached hereto as Appendix 1. A Party may add or remove wells from the monitoring network in its respective GSP by providing written notice to the other Parties and to the Plan Manager. The coordinated monitoring networks are intended to accomplish the following objectives:

- (a) demonstrate progress toward achieving measurable objectives described in the respective GSPs;
- (b) monitor potential impacts to beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the Basin;
- (c) monitor changes in groundwater conditions relative to measurable objectives and minimum thresholds described in the respective GSPs; and
- (d) monitor and quantify annual changes in water budget components.

#### §4.2 Groundwater Elevation Data

Groundwater elevation data to be used for the purposes of estimating changes in groundwater storage, evaluating sustainable management criteria, preparing annual reports, and measuring groundwater sustainability will be collected via the coordinated monitoring networks described in article 4.1 above and Appendix 1 to this Agreement.

### **Article 5. Coordinated Water Budgets – § 357.4(b)(3)(B)**

#### §5.1 Coordinated Budgets

In accordance with SGMA Regulations section 354.18, the Parties have prepared coordinated water budgets for the Basin, relying on common assumptions and sources of data. The historical water budget in each GSP uses data from water years 1982-2018. The current water budget in each GSP uses data from water years 2011-2018. The projected water budget in each GSP analyzes conditions for water years 2018-2072.

#### §5.2 Groundwater Extraction Data

Groundwater extractions within the boundaries of the SYRWCD are subject to reporting requirements imposed by SYRWCD under the Water Conservation District Act (Wat. Code, §§ 74000, *et seq.*). The water budgets utilize those reported numbers within those boundaries. For lands outside the boundaries of SYRWCD, the water budgets estimate extractions by calculating crop evapotranspiration for particular land uses, relying on the same crop duty factors used by the SYRWCD. In addition, for small public water systems (pumping outside of SYRWCD), reported pumping data was utilized from the California Drinking Water Information Clearinghouse (“DRINC”). All Management Areas currently have plans to require well metering, or an alternative approved method, to increase the accuracy of reported groundwater extraction data.

#### §5.3 Surface Water Supply

The water budgets utilize streamflow gages for the Santa Ynez River and certain tributaries maintained by the United States Geological Survey. For data regarding the Cachuma Project (including releases from Bradbury Dam), the water budgets use data from the United States Bureau

of Reclamation. For data regarding State Water Project deliveries, the water budgets use data from the Central Coast Water Authority (“CCWA”).

#### §5.4 Total Water Use

Total water use in the water budgets is calculated using assumptions based on historical estimates provided in Stetson Engineers (1992) *Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Water Resources Management Planning Process, Phase I: Baseline Data and Background Information* and groundwater extraction data reported to the SYRWCD. In addition, surface water use for State Water Project and Cachuma Project deliveries are based on records from the CCWA and Reclamation, respectively.

#### §5.5 Change in Groundwater Storage

The water budgets calculate change in groundwater storage using the data described in this article. For deep percolation of precipitation, the water budgets use the United States Geological Survey’s Basin Characterization Model (May 2017; Retrieved October 2020). For subsurface inflows and outflows, modeling was coordinated between the GSAs and the flows across Management Area boundaries are consistently accounted for across the water budgets. Change of groundwater in storage in each Management Area is calculated by 1) developing water level elevation contour maps using representative wells for each reporting period, 2) computing a change in elevation between reporting periods, 3) computing the volume of aquifer this represents, and 4) multiplying a storage coefficient value by the aquifer volume to compute the volumetric change in storage (positive or negative relative to the previous reporting period).

### **Article 6. Sustainable Yield and Undesirable Results – § 357.4(b)(3)(C)**

#### §6.1 Determination of Sustainable Yield

Sustainable yield is defined in SGMA as “the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.” As further set forth in the GSPs, each Party has estimated the sustainable yield of its respective Management Area in the Basin by using a calculated water budget and related adjustments based on particular circumstances in each Management Area that may create undesirable results as defined by SGMA and established by the respective GSAs in the Basin.

#### §6.2 Estimate of Sustainable Yield

The respective GSPs estimate the sustainable yield of the Basin to be 42,070 acre-feet per year (AFY), with 12,870 AFY in the EMA, 2,800 AFY in the CMA, and 26,400 AFY in the WMA. This estimate is subject to future revision based on changes in conditions and additional data regarding water budget components and the potential for undesirable results in the respective Management Areas.

### **Article 7. Process for Submissions to DWR – § 357.4(d)**

#### §7.1 GSP and Coordination Agreement Submission

The Parties shall submit their respective GSPs to DWR through the Plan Manager in accordance with SGMA and the SGMA Regulations. In accordance with SGMA Regulations section 357.4(c), the Parties intend that adherence to the provisions and procedures set forth in

articles 1 through 7 of this Agreement, along with adherence to the provisions and procedures of the Intra-Basin Agreement and the respective GSPs, will provide the necessary platform and mechanisms to ensure that the GSPs, implemented together, will satisfy the requirements of SGMA (including but not limited to Water Code sections 10727.2, 10727.4, and 10727.6) and ensure sustainable groundwater management for the entire Basin.

#### §7.2 Periodic Evaluations and Plan Amendments

The periodic evaluations required by SGMA Regulations section 356.4, as well as any amendments to any GSP, shall be submitted to DWR through the Plan Manager. A Party intending to amend its GSP shall endeavor in good faith to provide the other Parties with as much advance notice of such activity as practically possible, but in any event no less than what SGMA and the SGMA Regulations require for public notice.

#### §7.3 Monitoring Data

As provided by SGMA Regulations section 354.40, the Plan Manager shall submit monitoring data on forms provided or approved by DWR and included in the Annual Reports.

#### §7.4 Annual Reports

Each Party, for its respective GSP, shall endeavor to provide the data and information required by SGMA Regulations section 356.2 to the Plan Manager by January 31 of the year in which an Annual Report is due. Draft annual reports shall be provided by the Plan Manager to the Parties for approval, and the final reports shall be submitted to DWR by the Plan Manager after final approval by the Parties.

### **Article 8. Coordinated Data Management Systems – § 357.4(e)**

The Parties have developed two separate Data Management Systems, one for the EMA and the other for the CMA and WMA, that are capable of storing and reporting information relevant to the development and implementation of the respective GSPs, including Basin monitoring. The Parties will coordinate with the Plan Manager to ensure that these systems collect, store, and report the data necessary for implementation of the GSPs and reporting to DWR.

### **Article 9. Adjudicated Areas and Adopted Alternatives - § 357.4(f)**

As of the Effective Date of this Agreement, no portions of the Basin have been adjudicated or have submitted an alternative to a GSP for DWR approval pursuant to Water Code section 10733.6.

### **Article 10. Duration, Modification, and Termination**

#### §10.1 Duration of Agreement

This term of this Agreement shall begin on the Effective Date and continue until modified or terminated as provided for in this article.

#### §10.2 Review and Modification

This Agreement shall be reviewed by the Parties as part of each five-year assessment of the GSPs and may be supplemented, amended, or modified only by the unanimous written agreement of the Parties.

### §10.3 Adding Parties

By unanimous written agreement of the existing Parties, a new or additional GSA or GSAs may be added to this Agreement if such entity or entities will submit a GSP within the Basin.

### §10.4 Termination/Withdrawal

This Agreement may be terminated by the unanimous written approval of the Parties. Upon thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the other Parties, any Party may withdraw from this Agreement, and the Agreement shall remain in effect for the remaining Parties.

## **Article 11. Groundwater Rights**

The Parties agree that nothing in this Agreement represents or should be construed as the determination of any claim or assertion of a groundwater right; specifically, the Parties agree that the coordinated water budget information or data does not amount to an allocation, or otherwise represent a determination, validation, or denial of any claimed or asserted groundwater right.

## **Article 12. General Provisions**

### §12.1 Entire Agreement

This Agreement incorporates the entire and exclusive agreement of the Parties with respect to the matters described herein and supersedes all prior negotiations and agreements (written, oral, or otherwise) related thereto; provided, however, this Agreement does not amend or modify the WMA MOA, the CMA MOA, the EMA MOA, or the Intra-Basin Agreement, as those documents may be amended or supplemented. The Recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

### §12.2 Execution in Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which together will constitute one and the same instrument.

### §12.3 Notices

Any formal notice required or other formal communication given under the terms of this Agreement will be in writing to all of the Parties and will be given personally, by electronic mail (email), by certified mail (postage prepaid and return receipt requested), or by express courier (with confirmation of receipt). The date of receipt of any written notice provided hereunder will be the date of actual personal service, email, or courier service, or three days after the postmark on certified mail.

### §12.4 Counsel

The Parties recognize that as of the Effective Date, independent legal counsel has not been retained to represent any of the three Parties. The Parties agree that the participation of counsel for any individual member agency of a Party in matters related to this Agreement will not be construed to create an attorney-client relationship or a duty of loyalty between the attorney and any Party, and no such relationship will be deemed to arise by implication as a result of this Agreement. The provisions of this article will not be affected in the event that any or all of the Parties determine(s) to retain independent legal counsel.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Western Management Area GSA

By:

Its: Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Central Management Area GSA

By:

Its: Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eastern Management Area GSA

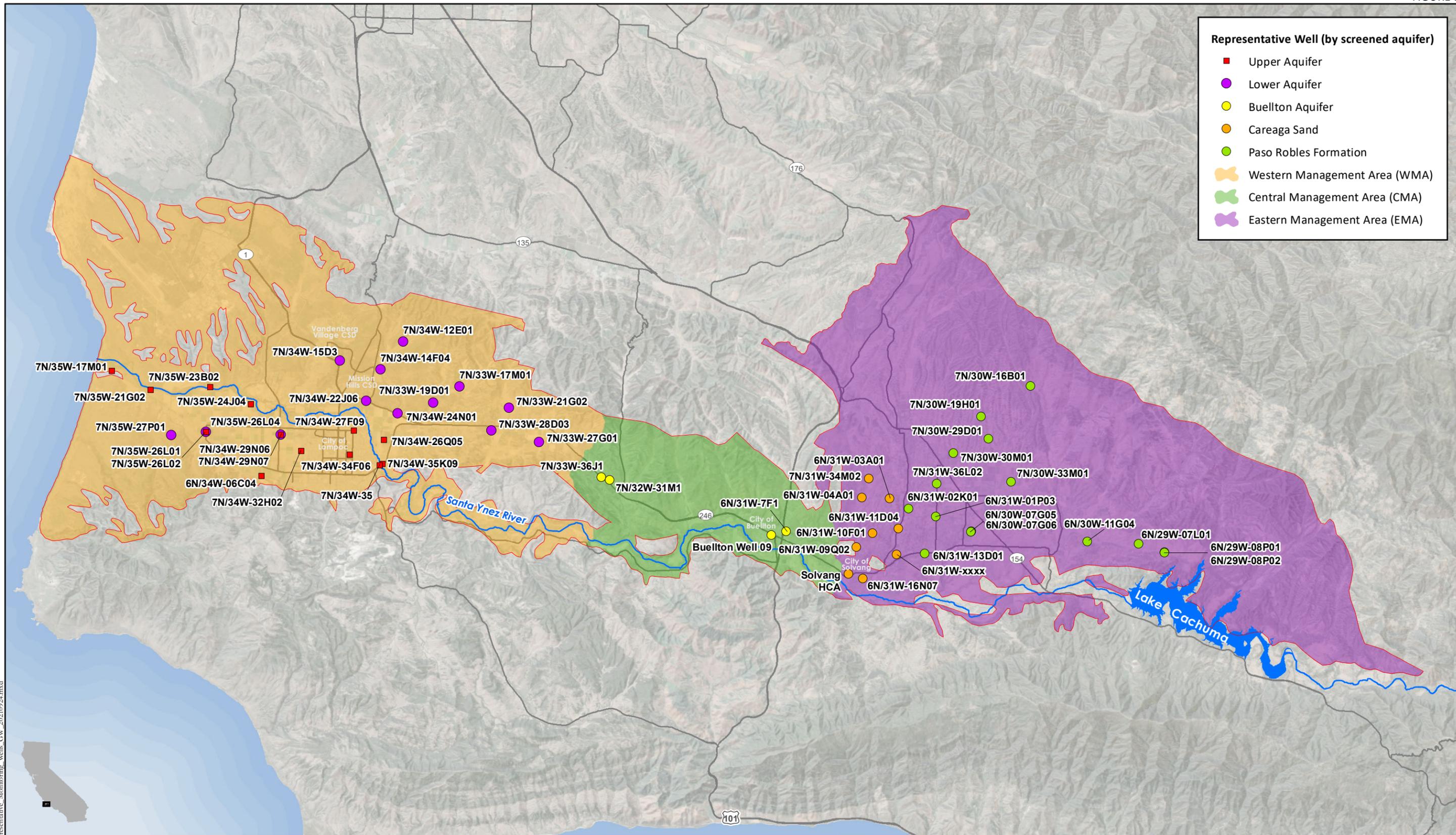
By:

Its: Chairperson

DRAFT

<b>Appendix 1.</b>			
<b>Representative Monitoring Wells for Groundwater Levels</b>			
<b>in Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin</b>			
<b>Management Area</b>	<b>Subarea</b>	<b>State ID</b>	<b>Principal Aquifer</b>
CMA	Buellton Upland	7N/33W-36J1	Buellton
CMA	Buellton Upland	7N/32W-31M1	Buellton
CMA	Santa Ynez Alluvium	6N/31W-7F1	Buellton
CMA	Santa Ynez Alluvium	6N/32W-12K2	Buellton
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-35K9	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-26Q5	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-34F6 (Lompoc 2)	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-27F9	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	6N/34W-6C4	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-29N6	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-26L01	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-26L02	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-24J4	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-21G2	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-17M1	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-32H2	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-23B2	Upper
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/35W-26L04	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-29N7	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-24N1	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Plain	7N/34W-22J6	Lower
WMA	Santa Rita Upland	7N/33W-28D3	Lower
WMA	Santa Rita Upland	7N/33W-21G2	Lower
WMA	Santa Rita Upland	7N/33W-27G1	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Terrace	7N/35W-27P01	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Upland	7N/34W-15D3	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Upland	7N/34W-14F4	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Upland	7N/33W-17M1	Lower

<b>Appendix 1.</b>			
<b>Representative Monitoring Wells for Groundwater Levels</b>			
<b>in Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin</b>			
<b>Management Area</b>	<b>Subarea</b>	<b>State ID</b>	<b>Principal Aquifer</b>
WMA	Lompoc Upland	7N/33W-19D1	Lower
WMA	Lompoc Upland	7N/34W-12E1	Lower
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/29W-07L01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/29W-08P01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/29W-08P02	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/30W-07G05	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/30W-07G06	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/30W-11G04	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-01P03	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-02K01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-13D01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/30W-16B01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/30W-19H01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/30W-29D01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/30W-30M01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/30W-33M01	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/31W-36L02	Paso Robles
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	7N/31W-34M02	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-03A01	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-04A01	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-09Q02	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-10F01	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-11D04	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-16N07	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	6N/31W-xxxx1	Careaga Sand
EMA	Santa Ynez Upland	Solvang HCA1	Careaga Sand



**Representative Well (by screened aquifer)**

- Upper Aquifer
- Lower Aquifer
- Buellton Aquifer
- Careaga Sand
- Paso Robles Formation
- Western Management Area (WMA)
- Central Management Area (CMA)
- Eastern Management Area (EMA)

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**STETSON**  
ENGINEERS INC.

**WMA**

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin  
Western Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**CMA**

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin  
Central Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**EMA**

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin  
Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**REPRESENTATIVE MONITORING WELLS  
FOR GROUNDWATER LEVELS AND  
GROUNDWATER STORAGE**

**DRAFT**

0 2 4 Miles

Sources:  
NAIP (2018)  
USGS National Elevation Dataset, 2002  
Groundwater basin boundary from DWR Bulletin 118, 2018





October 13, 2021

Bill Buelow, Groundwater Program Manager  
Santa Ynez River Valley Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 719  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

## **Proposal for First Annual Report for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Dear Mr. Buelow:

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI), is pleased to present our proposal to help the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) partners develop the first annual report for the EMA portion of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin's (Basin) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). We have partnered with the GSA to develop the GSP since the beginning of the process and will be able to leverage this familiarity and first-hand knowledge to ensure on-time delivery and compliance with state regulations. Here is what we bring to the table as your partner:

- **A streamlined project delivery.** Our team is highly knowledgeable of the specifics of the EMA portion of the Basin and the needs and issues of each stakeholder. This will enable us to work effectively and efficiently, helping to keep the project on track to meet the tight deadlines.
- **The ability to foster collaboration and consensus.** We have earned a reputation for drawing independent, evidence-based conclusions to help all parties come together in a collaborative, cooperative manner. This has helped us build trust and credibility with the stakeholders within the EMA. Our unbiased approach allows us to work effectively with stakeholders, facilitate timely reviews and decision-making, and help stakeholders find common ground to build consensus.
- **Considerable experience helping clients comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA):** We are leading a number of GSP development efforts and serve as technical advisors to several others, and we have helped other GSAs with the completion and submission of annual reports. We understand what the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is looking for in an annual report and will be able to use this experience to set the template for the reporting structure and content.

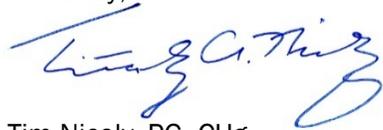
The GSP for the EMA portion of the Basin outlines steps for achieving sustainability within 20 years. To measure the effectiveness of the plan and demonstrate to DWR that the Basin is on track to manage groundwater sustainably, the GSA will need to compile data and prepare annual reports that summarize the results of monitoring efforts, document changes in groundwater supplies, tabulate basin-wide groundwater use, and track the effectiveness of GSP implementation efforts. The EMA is looking for a consultant to help with the development of its first annual report, which will need to be approved by the GSAs and submitted to DWR by March 31, 2022.

Developing a report that accomplishes these requirements 2 months after the GSP is submitted will require the support of a consultant that is not only highly knowledgeable of the technical and hydrogeologic considerations of the plan, but also able to establish trust and credibility among the diverse group of stakeholders that will have

input into the report presentation and conclusions. GSI brings both of these elements: deep familiarity with the plan and the Basin, and a reputation for high-quality work with the ability to listen to and address the complex needs of the GSAs.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal. This proposal is valid for 90 days. We look forward to the opportunity to support this project for the Basin. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Nicely". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Tim Nicely, PG, CHg  
Supervising Hydrogeologist  
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
805.701.1245  
[tnicely@gsiws.com](mailto:tnicely@gsiws.com)

## Section 1: Approach, and Scope of Work

### Experience Providing SGMA-Related Services

GSI is a specialized groundwater and water resources consulting firm that helps clients develop and manage groundwater supplies to ensure long-term sustainability and reliability. Our hydrogeologists and water resources consultants are experts in groundwater management and supply planning, specifically as it relates to SGMA compliance. This work includes evaluating the complexities of water in the subsurface, developing water budgets that can achieve sustainability, identifying potential undesirable results, collaborating with basin stakeholders on technical matters and helping to identify commonalities that set the stage for a collaborative process, and identifying and implementing practical solutions to achieve sustainability goals. Our SGMA experience includes the following projects:

	Hydrogeologic assessments	Groundwater management planning	Groundwater modeling and water budgets	Data management systems	Groundwater/surface water interaction	Stakeholder engagement	GSA support/GSP preparation	Grant administration
<b>GSP Development</b> , Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area GSA ▪ Santa Barbara County, CA	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
<b>GSP Development</b> , San Antonio Basin GSA ▪ Santa Barbara County, CA	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
<b>GSP Development</b> , Santa Clarita Valley GSA ▪ Santa Clarita, CA	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
<b>Expertise and Input to the Paso Robles Basin GSP</b> , Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) and Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD) ▪ San Luis Obispo County, CA	■	■	■		■	■	■	
<b>Hydrogeological Characterization and GSP Preparation</b> , Atascadero Basin GSA ▪ Atascadero, CA	■	■	■		■	■	■	
<b>Hydrogeological Characterization and GSP Preparation</b> , Cuyama Basin GSA ▪ Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County, CA	■	■			■		■	
<b>GSP Preparation</b> , Carpinteria Valley Basin GSA ▪ Carpinteria, CA	■	■		■		■	■	
<b>GSP Preparation</b> , San Luis Obispo Valley GSA ▪ San Luis Obispo, CA	■	■	■		■	■	■	
<b>GSP Preparation</b> , Arroyo Grande GSA ▪ Arroyo Grande, CA	■	■	■		■	■	■	
<b>SGMA/GSP Preparation</b> , Mid-Kaweah and Greater Kaweah GSAs ▪ Tulare, CA	■	■	■		■	■	■	
<b>SGMA Basin Boundary Modification</b> , Santa Clarita Valley GSA ▪ Santa Clarita, CA	■	■				■	■	
<b>SGMA Support for GSA Formation</b> , Santa Clarita Valley GSA ▪ Santa Clarita, CA						■	■	■
<b>Hydrogeological Characterization and GSP Preparation</b> , Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency ▪ Ventura County, CA	■	■	■			■	■	
<b>SGMA Basin Boundary Modification</b> , Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin ▪ Los Osos, CA	■	■						
<b>SGMA Basin Boundary Modification</b> , Atascadero Mutual Water Company and Templeton Community Services District ▪ Atascadero, CA	■	■				■	■	
<b>SGMA Basin Boundary Modification for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin</b> , San Luis Obispo County ▪ San Luis Obispo, CA	■	■				■	■	

## Examples of Related Annual Reporting Projects and GSP Projects

In addition to SGMA-specific projects, GSI's experts have worked on numerous annual reporting projects. The following projects speak to GSI's ability to deliver a comprehensive annual report that meets DWR requirements.

### Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Reports, Paso Robles Basin GSP

#### San Luis Obispo County, California

GSI has prepared the first two annual reports for the Paso Robles Basin GSP. The annual reports provide an overview of groundwater extractions, surface water use, groundwater elevation trends, change of groundwater in storage, and progress towards Basin sustainability which occurred over the prior water year. These reports are required by SGMA.

### Expertise and Input to the Paso Robles Basin GSP

#### Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) and Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD), San Luis Obispo County, California

On behalf of the two agricultural water districts in the Paso Robles Sub-basin, GSI provides technical expertise and assistance in support of the preparation of the basin-wide GSP. Paul Sorensen acts as an extension of staff for the SSJWD, which is one of four GSAs in the basin, representing the district in a working group of staff members from the four GSAs that provides guidance to the GSP consultant team regarding the development of the GSP. In his role with the districts, Paul has reviewed and assisted in the writing of all chapters and components of the GSP, and participates in GSP staff meetings. GSI staff continues to provide support work on GSP implementation.

### Adjudicated Groundwater Basin Annual Report Preparation

#### Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA), Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin, San Luis Obispo County, California

GSI manages the preparation and submittal of the court-mandated annual reports for the NCMA in the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin—which represents the Cities of Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach, and the Oceano Community Services District. Tasks include sampling and monitoring key sentry wells in the Northern Cities area to assess potential seawater intrusion and providing technical support and report preparation of quarterly and annual reporting required by the Superior Court and by DWR as a result of the Santa Maria Basin adjudication.

### Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting

#### Santa Paula Water Recycling Facility, City of Santa Paula, California

For more than a decade, GSI team member Tim Nicely has helped the City of Santa Paula comply with California Regional Water Quality Control Board groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements. Work has involved design of water recycling facility percolation ponds and installation of a network of dedicated groundwater monitoring wells and water level transducers. To confirm that the project does not adversely affect groundwater quality of the Santa Paula groundwater basin, GSI conducts monthly groundwater sampling and prepared quarterly and annual monitoring reports on behalf of the City, presenting groundwater elevation contours and historical water quality data in compliance with permit requirements.

## California Valley Solar Ranch Annual Report

### High Plains Ranch II, LLC, San Luis Obispo County, California

GSI team member Tim Nicely prepared annual operations-phase groundwater monitoring reports for the California Valley Solar Ranch, a 250-megawatt photovoltaic power plant in eastern San Luis Obispo County. The project's conditional use permit stipulated the preparation of a groundwater monitoring and reporting plan with annual reporting of groundwater conditions. GSI collected all required data and developed the reports—which detailed groundwater levels, water quality, and pumping monitoring results—and analyzed trends in groundwater levels to determine whether project pumping resulted in declines of 5 feet or more below the baseline trend at nearby private monitoring wells.

## GSP Development

### San Luis Obispo Valley Basin, San Luis Obispo County, California

GSI is a lead member of the consultant team helping to develop the GSP for the San Luis Obispo Basin. GSI's primary role is to develop the technical aspects of the GSP, including characterizing basin conditions, developing a coupled groundwater and surface water model, assessing surface water and groundwater interconnections, developing water budgets, assisting in the development of sustainable management criteria, and identifying undesirable results. GSI is also communicating technical information to stakeholders to ensure that the hydrogeologic details and the nuances of the SGMA process are well understood by all parties.

## GSP Development

### San Antonio Basin GSA, Santa Barbara County, California

GSI is helping the San Antonio Basin GSA prepare a GSP for this predominantly agricultural basin. The GSI team is using data and information recently developed by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to characterize groundwater conditions in the basin and reduce the cost of preparing the GSP. We are working with USGS to use its groundwater model to develop water budgets and assess various groundwater management alternatives intended to recover groundwater to sustainable levels. GSI is also supporting stakeholder outreach efforts.

## Project Approach

Because we are familiar with the details of the EMA's GSP, we understand what is needed to develop an annual report template that meets DWR requirements and provides an effective yardstick for measuring the success of plan implementation over time.

Section 356.2 of the SGMA emergency regulations outlines the specific requirements of the annual report, which must be submitted to DWR by April 1 of each year following adoption of the GSP. With the intended adoption and subsequent submittal of the EMA's GSP by January 31, 2022, the first annual report for the Basin is due by April 1, 2022. The regulations require that the annual report be based on the preceding water year (a water year covers the period from October 1 to September 30); thus the 2022 annual report for the Basin would, by regulation, report on data from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2021. Because this is the first annual report, the data for this report will include all new data from the end of the period of record of the GSP. The period of record of the EMA's GSP for estimates of groundwater extractions and groundwater in storage is through water year 2018; water level data for illustration of long-term water elevation changes (hydrographs) is through October 2020.

DWR requires that the annual report describe the effectiveness of GSP implementation. One of the means by which the GSAs can measure effectiveness and demonstrate to DWR that the plan is on track to achieve sustainability is through the compilation of data and information that summarize the results of the monitoring efforts, document changes in groundwater supplies, tabulate basin-wide groundwater use and changes in irrigated acreage, and document progress toward meeting interim milestones and (ultimately) basin sustainability. Given the limited amount of new data that will have become available since adoption of the GSP and the lack of time to implement the GSP, this first annual report will not have a lot of information on meeting sustainability goals and instead will focus primarily on observed water level trends and groundwater storage changes since water year 2018.

Compiling the most recent data, assessing the effectiveness of the beginning of the implementation plan, and preparing the first annual report is an extension of work that the GSI team has already been performing in support of the GSP. Our group is experienced with the preparation of annual reports for a multitude of clients and will bring a familiarity and efficiency to the process that allows us a head start in the process as we continue our established procedures for gathering and managing data, preparing annual reports, and providing technical expertise to the Basin GSAs. At the same time, the GSI team is committed to finding ways to improve data collection and analysis and will engage the GSA to ensure the ongoing collection and reporting of meaningful data.

## Scope of Work

GSI developed the following scope of work based on our understanding of the requirements as outlined in the SGMA Emergency Regulations, and our experience preparing various other annual reports to meet DWR and other agency standards.

### Task 1 – Data Analysis and Representation

Several discrete data sets are required to be included in DMS and presented in the annual report, including the following:

- Groundwater elevation data (for each principal aquifer)
- Groundwater extraction
- Surface water supply
- Total water use
- Change in groundwater in storage

The following sections describe the data types that will be presented as required in the annual reports. The datasets will be appended to the DMS data tables that are compiled in compliance with GSP requirements. These data will be uploaded to the DWR website in an as part of this task along with the annual report.

**Task 1.1 Groundwater Elevation Data.** Groundwater elevation data are collected and compiled through the County of Santa Barbara groundwater level monitoring program, operated by the Santa Barbara County (County) Water Agency with data collected twice a year (typically in April and October) and by the City of Solvang on a monthly basis. We are aware of the difference in the number of monitoring wells in the County water level monitoring program and the GSP's representative monitoring well network.

For purposes of preparing water level contour maps of each of the principal aquifers (Paso Robles Formation Aquifer and the Careaga Sand Aquifer) will be prepared representing groundwater conditions in April 2019, October 2019, April 2020, and October 2021.

The representative monitoring well network includes hydrographs for 24 monitoring wells, which is a subset of the County monitoring program. Each of the hydrographs presented in the GSP will be updated with data through October 2021.

**Task 1.2 Groundwater Extraction.** Groundwater extraction data is compiled and represented in the GSP through 2018. These data will be updated, including the estimates of extractions, water use by sector, and methodology of measurement. Updated groundwater extraction information will be estimated using data provided by SYRWCD (including ID-1), extraction data from the mutual water companies in the basin, crop coverage information derived from satellite imagery, and crop water use factors provided by SYRWCD. To the extent possible, we will follow the same methodology used during the preparation of the GSP. We will prepare estimates of groundwater use by sector and method of measurement, and will provide a map showing general locations and volumes of extraction.

**Task 1.3 Surface Water Supply.** The regulations require that a description of surface water supplies be incorporated into the report. Use of surface water in the EMA is relatively small but well documented. These data will be compiled and described, and incorporated into the total Basin water use data compilation and descriptions (Task 2.4).

**Task 1.4 Total Water Use.** We will compile and present total EMA water use information, including water sector, water source type, method of measurement, and a relative representation of accuracy of the measurement methodology (DWR standards in other annual report submittals that we are familiar with require qualitative judgments such as "high," "medium," and "low").

**Task 1.5 Change in Groundwater in Storage.** Calculations of changes in groundwater in storage in each of the principal aquifers as presented in the GSP were performed through use of the groundwater flow model. To perform similar calculations for the first annual report would require updating the model, which is neither planned nor advised for the annual reporting effort. An alternative standard method for calculating changes in groundwater in storage from one year to another is to create water level contour maps for each year of interest (Task 2.1) and calculate the volume changes between years. This method is approved by DWR. An ArcGIS® tool will be used to compute the volume difference between the initial groundwater surface and following year's groundwater surface. By applying hydraulic property values (e.g., storage coefficient) for the principal aquifers (Paso Robles Formation and Careaga Sand aquifers), we can compute a change in the volume of water present in each aquifer. It is not necessary to know the total volume of groundwater in storage; it is the storage change (positive or negative) from year to year that we want to know. The following is the step-by-step process we intend to apply to estimate change in storage in the principal aquifers:

1. Create a water level contour map for spring of 2019 using groundwater level elevation data from the monitoring program and Surfer® contouring and 3D surface mapping software. We will use professional judgment to adjust contours in places that do not make sense.
2. Import the Surfer file into ArcGIS and adjust the contoured water level elevation surface to fit the boundaries of the EMA.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for spring of 2020 water level data.
4. Using ArcGIS, compute the difference in the water surface elevation between spring 2018 and spring 2019 water level data and compute the volume of saturated aquifer that has changed between the two years for each principal aquifer. This calculation will be conducted to compute the change in storage between the fall and spring periods for 2019, 2020 and 2021.
5. Review the storage coefficients to assess representativeness. In our opinion, an average value may be suitable for this computation because the water levels measured in wells represent an integrated average water level, as (1) the wells are screened across multiple zones, and (2) there are no laterally continuous confining layers; shallow and deep water bearing zones are interconnected. We will use the storage coefficient used in the calibrated groundwater model.
6. Multiply the specific yield or storage coefficient values by the volume calculated in Step 4. This is the change in groundwater in storage between spring 2018 and spring 2019.
7. Calculate the change in storage between spring and fall periods for 2019, 2020 and 2021 water level data by repeating the preceding steps.
8. Determine whether this makes technical sense and identify where the biggest changes (plus or minus) are occurring.

This task is a relatively straightforward effort because the water level contour maps will be prepared as part of Task 1.1. Note that the resulting calculated change in storage values may be slightly different from the values that would otherwise be calculated as a model output because the methodologies are different and the averaged storativity value may or may not be fully representative of variable conditions throughout the Paso Robles Formation incorporated into the numerical model, both laterally and vertically. We believe this difference in methodologies is recognized and anticipated.

## **Task 2 – Report Preparation, including Plan Implementation Progress**

The overall purpose of the annual report is to update and use the compiled data to assess the progress that the EMA GSA and various stakeholders are making towards the ultimate goal of Basin sustainability. The results of the data analysis will be evaluated and compared with the goals of the GSP implementation plan, then described in the annual report to demonstrate to DWR the efforts of the GSA and the effectiveness of GSP implementation. Because this annual report will be submitted two months after the submittal of the GSP, it will not have much information on meeting sustainability goals or achieving sustainability and instead will focus primarily on observed water level trends and groundwater storage changes since the GSP was developed. Initial efforts to implement management actions described in the GSP will also be described.

Building off of our experience with the preparation and submittal of numerous annual reports, the general outline of the necessary components of the annual report structure described in the SGMA Emergency Regulations, GSI will prepare an initial administrative draft report for GSA staff review. The report will be based on data collected and the analysis performed as described above, on other data that may become available, and on ongoing discussions with the GSA staff. The general organization of the report is expected to be the following:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction

- Basin Description (brief recapture of GSP description)
- Groundwater Conditions
  - Groundwater Monitoring Network
  - Groundwater Elevations, including water level contour maps and updated hydrographs (Task 1.1)
  - Change in Groundwater in Storage (Task 1.5)
- Water Supply and Demand (Tasks 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4)
- Progress Towards Basin Sustainability
- Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations
- Appendices
  - A. Groundwater Monitoring Program Well Information
  - B. Hydrographs
  - C. Precipitation
  - D. Groundwater in Storage Calculation and Specific Yield/Storage Coefficient Discussion
  - E. Groundwater in Storage Sensitivity Analysis
  - F. Water Budget Data

Deliverables include the following:

- Administrative draft report, for review and approval by the GSA staff
- Draft report, for review by the GSA staff and the public
- Final report

### Task 3 – Report Submittal

Following final approval of the annual report by the GSA, GSI will submit the report to DWR in accordance with the department's requirements. We are familiar with the SGMA reporting process and template on the DWR portal for annual reporting adjudicated basins, and have submitted several SGMA and adjudicated basin annual reports to DWR.

### Task 4 – Meetings

GSI has budgeted for the following meetings:

- GSA staff meetings (5), including the kickoff meeting
- Public workshop on the draft report

### Task 5 – Project Management and Administration

Our approach to managing this project will include the following key elements:

- **High-caliber local expertise.** The key individuals identified, including Tim Nicely, Jeff Barry, Andy Lapostol and Nate Page, have worked extensively together in the region and are the same team members who have been heavily involved in the development the EMA GSP. They will oversee and provide the resources for the collection of high-quality, reliable data, evaluate the acquired data, and develop conclusions and recommendations based on their expertise and local knowledge.
- **Timely results.** Submittal of the annual report has a firm deadline, which means that all project deliverable deadlines must be met, without fail. We are confident that we are able to commit resources to accomplish all tasks in a timely manner and deliver accurate data and a meaningful analysis that meet the GSA's needs.
- **Quality control.** We stake our reputation on the quality of our work. We rely on rigorous quality assurance/quality control procedures, including principal-level oversight and approval of all work products, to ensure meaningful and accurate data collection and reporting.

- **Data protection.** Our team members will use our existing information technology systems to store, back up, and protect the EMA data.

The annual report must be completed efficiently in order to complete it within budget. We understand that there are limited funds to complete this work, so it is imperative that we stay within scope to avoid surprises. To achieve this, we are proposing a small and focused team led by Tim Nicely. Tim will be responsible for assuring that our work is completed within budget and on schedule. Tim will rely on financial performance information provided by GSI's accounting group and will inform the GSA on a regular basis regarding the status of scope, schedule, and budget.

GSI's project management approach built on clear and frequent communication with our clients. As such, the team will maintain close communications with GSA staff. We have been fortunate to develop a close working relationship with all members of the GSA staff working group, and fully intend to continue that rapport.

### Scope and Budget Assumptions:

- The GSA will provide timely assistance in providing the following data:
  - Water levels for spring and fall of 2019, 2020 and 2021
  - Groundwater production data for the City of Solvang and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1 for 2019, 2020, and 2021
  - Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District self-reported pumping data office that will enable estimation of irrigation demand for 2019, 2020 and 2021
- Our scope includes:
  - Five GSA staff meetings, including the kickoff meeting, lasting 2 hours each
  - Public workshop on the draft report
  - One set of revisions to administrative draft report
  - One set of revisions to public draft report
  - One set of minor revisions to final annual report

## Section 2: Staffing

The following key team members will be responsible for the on-time, on-budget delivery of project deliverables.

### **Tim Nicely, PG, CHG** Supervising Hydrogeologist

**EXPERIENCE**  
20+ years

**EDUCATION**  
BS, Soil Science

#### **Role: Project Manager**

Tim works with clients throughout California to manage valuable water resources. His expertise includes all aspects of hydrogeology and geology, specifically related to groundwater supply, groundwater basin analysis, and water resource management. Tim's experience includes GSP development, preparation of annual reports, regional groundwater basin evaluations, groundwater quality studies, calculating perennial yield and basin water balance components, among other hydrogeologic specialties. Tim has been heavily involved in the development of the EMA GSP.

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### **Jeff Barry** Principal Hydrogeologist

**EXPERIENCE**  
35+ years

**EDUCATION**  
MS, Hydrogeology/Hydrology; BS,  
Resource Management

#### **Role: Senior Review**

Jeff is a hydrogeologist with more than three decades of experience conducting groundwater resource development projects and groundwater management programs in California and the Pacific Northwest. Jeff has considerable hands-on knowledge regarding SGMA, having provided SGMA support to a number of GSAs and water purveyors. This work has involved consulting services for GSA formation, grant writing, GDE analysis, and successful boundary modification requests to DWR. Currently, he is managing GSP development for the EMA GSA, the Santa Clarita Valley GSA, and the San Antonio Basin GSA. He is a founding principal at GSI.

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### **Andy Lapostol** Project Hydrogeologist

**EXPERIENCE**  
6 years

**EDUCATION**  
BS, Geology

#### **Role: Technical Support**

Andy has expertise in aspects of consulting industry including data compilation and analysis central to the preparation of GSPs for the Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area GSA and the Kaweah Subbasin in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, Andy has experience in groundwater and soil sampling, groundwater monitoring, drilling and subcontractor oversight, lithologic logging, and writing technical reports. He provides essential support to project managers in GSI's California offices.

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### **Nate Page, PG** Managing Hydrogeologist

**EXPERIENCE**  
14 years

**EDUCATION**  
MS, Hydrogeophysics; BS, Geology

#### **Role: Technical Support**

Nate has expertise in aspects of hydrogeology, hydrology, and geographic information system (GIS) analysis specifically related to groundwater sustainability, groundwater basin analysis, and water resource management. Nate's experience includes GSP development, including assessment of surface water/groundwater interaction and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs), basin-scale water budget development and water quality assessments, and development of sustainable management criteria. Nate has provided hydrogeologic technical support for the EMA GSP.

## Section 3: Fee Proposal and Schedule

### Fee Proposal

Table 1 presents a task-by-task breakdown of our proposed budget for all required services. No expenses for travel, lodging or meals are included in our cost proposal because we assume they are unnecessary.

	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Outside Services	Direct Expenses	Total
<b>Task 1 – Data Analysis and Representation</b>	170	\$26,656	\$0	\$0	<b>\$26,656</b>
<b>Task 2 – Report Preparation</b>	160	\$24,226	\$0	\$0	<b>\$24,226</b>
<b>Task 3 – Report Submittal</b>	3	\$536	\$0	\$0	<b>\$536</b>
<b>Task 4 – Meetings</b>	32	\$6,262	\$0	\$0	<b>\$6,262</b>
<b>Task 5 – Project Management and Administration</b>	12	\$2,431	\$0	\$0	<b>\$2,431</b>
<b>Project Totals</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>\$60,111</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$60,111</b>

### Schedule

Meeting your schedule is a top priority for the GSI team. The schedule is extremely tight; the GSI team and GSA staff must adhere to the project milestones. The following schedule outlines a way to submit the final deliverable by March 31, 2022; however, we anticipate working with the GSA staff as an initial task to modify and finalize these dates. We will adhere to the final schedule through close management of the team and communication and coordination with the GSA project manager and GSA members. Should any schedule deviation occur, the GSI team will address it promptly and propose a solution to the GSA project manager.

