

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin June 22, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Brad Joos, Brett Marymee, Elizabeth Orona, and Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, Michael Burchardi (remote)

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Jose Acosta, Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Randy Murphy, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present (in-person): Doug Circle, Denise El Amin, and Tim Gorham

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Gay Infanti, Steve Jordan, Miles McCammon, and Carol Redhead

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. Two EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members were also present.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Steve Jordan made a public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he did not receive any public comments in advance of the meeting.

4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on April 27, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the minutes of April 27, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously.

5. Review and Consider Approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2022-23 Periods 7 through 9 (through March 31, 2023) and the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to approve the financials and the January, February, and March 2023 Warrant Lists (Check Nos. 1003-1005) totaling \$27,037.50, as presented. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and it passed unanimously.

6. Consider Approval of Revised Documents for Administering Requests for Written Verifications in the EMA for New Well Permits Under Executive Order N-7-22, Revised Under Executive Order N-5-23

Mr. Buelow presented the revised Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement and the revised Draft Well Registration and Reporting Form. The required minimum deposit would be increased to \$2,200. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to approve the revised Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement and the Well Registration and Reporting Form, as presented. Discussion followed. The MOTION was amended to approve the revised Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement and the Well Registration and Reporting Form, with a change made to the well location section to specify the unit of measure based on SGMA database standards. GSA Committee Acting Alternate Member Meighan Dietenhofer seconded the amended motion. Additional discussion followed. The motion passed 4-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate), Joos, Marymee, and Orona

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

7. Consider Approving Resolution EMA-2023-002 A Resolution Revising Fee and Deposit for EMA GSA Well Verification as Required by Executive Order N-7-22 as Amended by Executive Order N-5-23

Mr. Buelow reviewed Resolution EMA-2023-002 A Resolution Revising Fee and Deposit for EMA GSA Well Verification as Required by Executive Order N-7-22 as Amended by Executive Order N-5-23. He reported that the fee hearing was properly noticed in the local paper. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve RESOLUTION EMA-2023-002 A RESOLUTION REVISING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR EMA GSA

WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-5-23, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no public comment or additional discussion. The resolution passed 4-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate), Joos, Marymee, and Orona

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Review and Consider Requests for EMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcels:

- a. APN 135-280-037 - Greenberg South
- b. APN 135-280-051 - Greenberg North
- c. APN 135-300-020 - Cohen
- d. APN 137-070-024 - Lewbel

Mr. Buelow presented GSI Water Solutions, Inc.'s reviews of new and replacement well applications for the four listed parcels. Review of New Well Application for APN 135-280-037 - Greenberg South, dated April 16, 2023; Review of New Well Application for APN 135-280-051 - Greenberg North, dated April 16, 2023; Review of New Well Application for APN APN 135-300-020 - Cohen, dated May 11, 2023; Review of Well Application for APN 137-070-024 - Lewbel, dated May 9, 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to approve the four Written Verification Requests, as presented. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Informational Correspondence

- a. **Letter to Committee Chairs of the EMA, CMA and WMA from Billy King, Jr., Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association, dated May 3, 2023**

The Committee received the written communications and discussion followed.

10. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2023, at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA.

11. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

Mr. Jose Acosta introduced Mr. Randy Murphy, City of Solvang, who will replace him as the staff representative for the City of Solvang for the EMA GSA.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona requested that EMA GSA Member Agency staff prioritize efforts for the GSP's meter/monitor program and develop a cost share or funds raising program for the EMA.

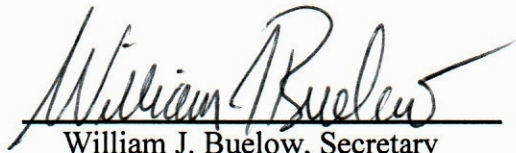
EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested an update on the groundwater recharge since the large winter rains. Mr. Matt Young reported that the field technicians have seen marginal improvement so far and the next official measurements are planned to be made in the Fall 2023, likely in September or October.

12. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

JANUARY 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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

FEBRUARY 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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

MARCH 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1003	03/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	October 2022 Review for Well Verifications (partial) (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 2,400.00
1004	03/13/23	Valley Bookkeeping	2023 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2023)	\$ 300.00
1005	03/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	January 2023 Preparation of EMA 2021-2022 Annual Report	\$ 24,337.50
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 27,037.50

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 27,037.50

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

RESOLUTION EMA-2023-002

RESOLUTION REVISING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR EMA GSA WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 AS AMMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-5-23

WHEREAS, effective April 27, 2017 the City of Solvang (“Solvang”); the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (“Santa Barbara”); the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”); and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (“ID No.1”) (collective the Members) entered into a “Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” (“2017 MOA”); and

WHEREAS, the 2017 MOA established the Members as the participating agencies of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the Eastern Management Area (“EMA”) in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”); and

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA formed under the 2017 MOA has already developed, adopted, and submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the EMA to the California Department of Water Resources as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”); and

WHEREAS, Section 9(a) of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, dated March 28, 2022, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, requires a written verification from the applicable GSA to address whether groundwater extraction by a proposed well would be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable GSP adopted by the GSA, or would decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2022 the EMA GSA has approved Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, and on April 27, 2023 the EMA GSA approved Resolution No. 2023-001 adopting a Policy for Administering Requests for Written Verifications in the EMA, and the EMA seeks to establish fee(s) and deposit(s) to cover the costs of this process; and

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA has the authority to impose fees pursuant to Water Code section 10730 and other applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2022 the EMA GSA established an initial fee deposit of \$1,200 with resolution EMA-2022-003; and

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA held a noticed public hearing on **June 22, 2023**, regarding a revision to the fee(s) and deposit(s) necessary to cover the costs of processing requests for written verifications under the Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22 and EMA Resolution No. 2023-001, at which oral and written presentations were allowed; and

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA finds that the fees set forth in this Resolution are exempt from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 15273 and 15378(b)(5) and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B), in that the fees will be used for reimbursement for consultants time and costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, the EMA GSA resolves as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. A fee of \$200 per hour is hereby established for all requested written verifications from the EMA GSA. The Committee finds that the amount of the fee is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the process, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.
3. A revised initial deposit in the amount of \$2,200 shall be submitted for all requested written verifications and the deposit will be spent and supplemented in accordance with the Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Well Permit Applications.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the EMA GSA on June 22, 2023 by the following roll call vote:

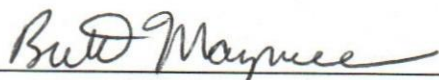
AYES: Dietenhofer, Joos, Marymee, Orona

NOES: None


ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary