

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin January 6, 2022

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, January 6, 2022, 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, reaffirmed 12/9/2021).

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

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

Member Agency Staff Present: Jose Acosta, Xenia Bradford, Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh, and Matt Young

Others Present: Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions), Gay Infanti, Steve Anderson, Mike Burchardi, Doug Circle, Bob Drew, Tim Gorham, Brian Macy, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Bob Perrault (LOCSD), Anita Regmi (DWR), Margot Smit, Brett Stroud, and one additional member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Four EMA GSA Committee Members were present providing a quorum plus two EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members.

II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution EMA-2021-001

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution EMA-2021-001, passed on October 21, 2021 and reaffirmed on December 9, 2021, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. Discussion followed.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution EMA-2021-001. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

Mr. Buelow presented a public comment letter addressed to Santa Ynez Eastern Management Area GSA Committee, received from Mr. Robert Perrault, General Manger, Los Olivos Community Services District, dated January 5, 2022. Mr. Perrault had requested to speak but was having technical difficulty with participating remotely and was unable to provide his verbal comment. Mr. Buelow summarized the content of the received letter and the committee agreed to have the received correspondence added to the agenda for the next meeting.

V. Public Hearing on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (EMA GSP)

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Buelow announced the public hearing was properly noticed, gave a brief history of the EMA GSP preparation and public review process and the upcoming GSP two-year review at DWR and the DWR hosted public comment period.

Comments of thanks and congratulations were received. Ms. Anita Regmi, DWR, advised that the GSP review process at DWR is not an interactive process. She anticipated a full two-years will be needed for DWR to review due to the submission of multiple GSPs in the Basin. Discussion followed.

No public comments were received.

GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti made a MOTION to close the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m. GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. Consider Resolution Number EMA-2022-001 adopting the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Mr. Buelow presented verification from the member agencies granting GSA Directors authority to vote for adopting the EMA GSP on behalf of their respective agency. Mr. Buelow read Resolution EMA-2022-001. He noted a couple typographical errors to be corrected. There was no discussion.

GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to adopt RESOLUTION EMA-2022-001, ADOPTING GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN as amended for corrections of typographical errors. GSA

Committee Member Mark Infanti seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Update and discussion on EMA GSP and Future Governance Options

Mr. Jeff Barry and Mr. Tim Nicely, GSI Water Solutions, provided an update on efforts to upload the GSP components to the DWR SGMA portal. They thanked Stetson Engineers for the coordinating efforts to create three coordinated GSPs for the Basin. Mr. Buelow reported that DWR had informed him that the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin is the only medium priority groundwater basin in the State of California submitting multiple GSPs for the one basin.

There was no update and no discussion regarding future governance options. EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos recommended the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) be engaged for input on future governance options. EMA GSA Committee Members agreed and requested member agency staff meet to discuss future governance options and engage with the CAG on the topic.

VIII. Update on EMA Annual Report and Annual Report Cost Share

Mr. Buelow reported that a Notice to Proceed was issued to GSI on January 9, 2022. Mr. Buelow then reported that the issues and concerns regarding cost were resolved and he expected to receive nominal contributions from the three contributing agencies towards the annual report project. Mr. Barry will prepare and submit a revised schedule. Discussion followed.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann requested options for public participation and CAG involvement in reviewing the First Annual Report. Member agency staff will review the revised schedule provided by GSI to determine if public and CAG review time can be added beyond the presentations planned during the EMA GSA public meetings scheduled for February and March 2022.

Mr. Kevin Walsh recalled that the CAG members are volunteers who represent a broad-spectrum of the communities subject to SGMA and that all three GSA Committees accepted all CAG recommendations provided during the GSP preparation process.

Mr. Barry emphasized the need for additional existing wells located in the EMA be identified and added to the EMA Monitoring Network as is an implementation aspect to address in the First Annual Report. He requested staff seek assistance from CAG members.

IX. Next Regular EMA GSA Meeting, Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular EMA GSA meeting will be Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., either in person at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Conference Room or via Zoom. The details will be determined closer to the meeting date based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

X. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

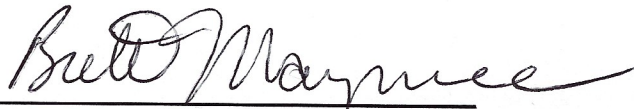
EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested adding to the next agenda the need for more volunteer wells in the EMA Monitoring Network.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos requested member agency staff get together to pursue additional upcoming grants. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann agreed and requested member agency staff prepare work plans and prepare as much as possible ahead of time to be ready for when grant application process opens and be successful grant applicant.


EMA GSA Chair Brett Marymee asked how staff will convey the news of the GSP adoption. Discussion followed. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann requested member agency staff issue a press release announcing the adoption of the GSP.

XI. Adjournment

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

RESOLUTION EMA-2022-001

RESOLUTION ADOPTING GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) requires that each groundwater basin in the state be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”), or multiple GSPs;

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (“EMA GSA”), formed by Memorandum of Agreement dated April 27, 2017 (“EMA 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 EMA GSA has prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the Eastern Management Area;

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2021, the EMA GSA gave notice under Water Code section 10728.4 to the City of Solvang and to Santa Barbara County regarding its intent to adopt the GSP;

WHEREAS, on September 09, 2021, the EMA GSA released the Public Draft GSP (dated September 2021), requesting comments from interested persons and agencies by October 24, 2021;

WHEREAS, on December 17 and December 24, 2021, notice was published in the Santa Barbara News Press of the public hearing on adoption of the GSP to be held at 6:30 p.m. on January 6, 2022;

WHEREAS, the Final GSP, with responses to public comments received, was presented to the EMA GSA Committee in a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on January 6, 2022;

WHEREAS, the EMA GSA, together with the other two GSAs in the Basin, has entered into the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement (“Coordination Agreement”), effective January 1, 2022; upon adoption of the GSP, Water Code Section 10733.4 requires that the GSP be submitted to DWR for review on or before January 31, 2022

NOW THEREFORE, the EMA 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 GSP and Coordination Agreement comply with the requirements of SGMA.
- 3) Pursuant to Water Code section 10728.4, the EMA GSA hereby adopts the GSP as the GSP for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
- 4) The GSA hereby authorizes and instructs the Plan Manager designated under the Coordination Agreement to submit or direct the submittal of the GSP to the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") as required by SGMA and the SGMA Regulations. The Plan Manager is authorized to make any minor, administrative changes to the GSP that are required for submittal to DWR.
- 5) Should DWR require substantive changes to the GSP adopted herein, the Plan Manager shall bring such changes back to the EMA GSA Committee for review and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the EMA GSA on January 06, 2022 by the following roll call vote:

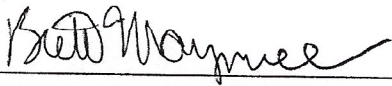
AYES: Joan Hartmann, Mark Infanti, Brad Joos, and Brett Marymee

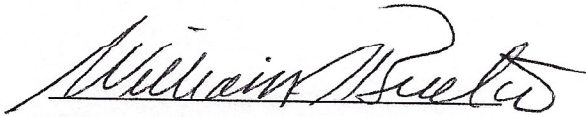
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:


Brett Marymee, Chairman


William J. Buelow, Secretary