

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

HELD AT
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS

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*** Please Note ***

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Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Election or Appointment of Officers
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
4. 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 comment 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 comment item.)
5. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of June 27, 2024
6. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List
7. Review and consider request for EMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcel:
 - a. APN: 135-280-044 3160 Live Oak Rd. Santa Ynez (Majcher)
8. Direct member agency staff regarding GSA bank account, and authorize signature authority
9. Receive member agency staff memo regarding responses to Executive Director RFQ, and potentially direct member agency staff to contract with Executive Director
10. Receive member agency staff memo regarding responses to Legal Services RFQ, and potentially direct member agency staff to contract for legal services

11. Receive member agency staff memo regarding responses to Rate Consultant RFQ, and potentially direct member agency staff to contract with a rate consultant
12. Receive and potentially take action on member agency staff memo regarding GSA insurance
13. Receive update from SYRWCD staff on subgrant agreement for DWR Proposition 68 Grant
14. Request that Santa Ynez Water Group solicit applications for an Agricultural Director, and alternate, pursuant to Section 7.2 of the EMA Joint Powers Agreement.
15. Review and discuss meeting location and schedule for next two months.
 - a. Basin-wide Joint GSA Board meeting, Friday, September 6, 2024
 - b. Tentative Special EMA GSA Board meeting Thursday, September 26, 2024
 - c. Tentative Special EMA GSA Board meeting, Thursday, October 24, 2024
16. Director reports and requests for future agenda items
17. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted at least 24 hours prior to the special meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and 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. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin June 27, 2024

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, June 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Orona, Joan Hartmann, and Brad Joos

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (in-person): Steve Jordan (Acting Alternate)

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Bill Buelow, Randy Murphy, and Matt Young

Member Agency Staff Present (Teleconference): Amber Thompson

Others Present (in-person): Jonathan Frame, Gay Infanti, and Lisa Severy

Others Present (remote): Doug Circle and Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Vice-Chair Joos called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

Jonathan Frame announced that community meetings regarding the Santa Barbara County Drought Resilience Plan are scheduled for July and asked if the GSA and member agencies would share the information to their dtakeholders.

4. Review and consider approval of Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2024

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on May 23, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Committee Member Hartmann made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on May 23, 2024, as presented. Committee Member Orona

seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Receive update on EMA Joint Powers Agreement

Mr. Young provided an update on the EMA Joint Powers Agreement. The governing bodies of three of the four EMA GSA Member Agencies have approved the EMA Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency’s Board scheduled to consider approval of the JPA at the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 16, 2024. Once the last agency approves, then the JPA will be effective and appropriate paperwork will be submitted to the State. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for Executive Director and Legal Counsel have been posted online. Mr. Young advised that the RFQ for Rate Consultant is being worked on. The submittal deadline for all RFQs is July 26, 2024.

6. Consider endorsing the proposed Prop 68 grant funding allocation and division of work among the three GSAs in the Basin

Mr. Buelow presented “Exhibit B to the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Grant Agreement Project Components Budget Allocation”. He reported that staff from all eight member agencies in the Santa Ynez Basin had meetings and collaborated on the budget allocations. Mr. Buelow reported on the DWR requirement to provide a rank by importance for each Grant Component. Components 2 through 5 were important to all GSAs, in that order, while Components 6 through 8 were specifically requested by only the WMA GSA. As some grant components are basin wide projects requiring one party handle all of the management tasks for the component and grant funding is provided for project management of the components, the staff group suggested that WMA GSA contract with EKI to be the Project Manager on behalf of the Basin. During a public meeting on June 26, 2024, the WMA GSA agreed to contract with EKI for basin wide project management on behalf of the Basin. Mr. Young clarified that the component manager is solely performing administrative tasks as to the grant reporting but that each GSA will still manage their own technical work of the components and reporting progress through the component manager. Mr. Buelow reported that a Draft Subgrant Agreement has been distributed to the member agencies for review and comments and a final draft will be distributed to the GSAs soon. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Committee Member Orona made a MOTION to endorse the proposed Draft “Exhibit B to the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Grant Agreement Project Components Budget Allocation”, as presented. Committee Member Hartmann seconded the motion. Discussion followed. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Review Annual Report Comment Letter from DWR

Mr. Buelow reviewed the May 31, 2024, letter received from the California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office regarding Review of Annual Report for the Eastern Management Area GSP, Santa Ynez River Valley Basin, Water Year 2023. DWR requires additional information be submitted in future annual reports to include groundwater extraction data that corresponds to the water year reporting period. DWR also noted the following few minor issues that should be addressed in future annual report submittals:

- The data submitted to the SGMA Portal needs to be aggregated for the entire basin, rather than separate data submittals for each GSA.
- The basin point of contact should submit one annual report for the entire Subbasin each year with the additional GSA specific information included as appendices, as necessary. The one coordinated annual report should document the aggregated data for the entire Subbasin that was submitted to the SGMA Portal while also presenting the GSA specific data and information in tabular form.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

8. Discuss tentative date for Basin-wide joint meeting of the three GSAs in the Basin

Mr. Buelow announced that a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting is trying to be scheduled for Friday, September 6, 2024, 10 a.m. in Buellton. Discussion followed.

The Committee requested that the Basin-wide Joint GSAs meeting agenda include the following items:

1. Annual Reports and submission of a single report for the Basin
2. Consider establishing an Ad-Hoc Technical Committee
3. Prop. 68 GSP Implementation Grant update
4. Coordination of a Metering Program for the Basin

Committee member Joos requested that member agencies' staff gather information on metering program.

9. Next Regular EMA GSA Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024

Vice Chair Joos announced that the next Regular meeting of the EMA GSA Committee is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024. He expressed his preference to have monthly meetings for the EMA GSA Committee and requested a Special Meeting be scheduled for July 25, 2024. Discussion followed.

There was a consensus to schedule a Special Meeting of the EMA GSA Committee on July 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District meeting room.

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

Committee Member Orona reminded staff of the requests for future agenda items discussed during Agenda Item No. 8 for the next Basin-wide joint GSAs meeting agenda.

Acting Alternate Committee Member Steve Jordan requested consideration of an ad-hoc committee for Basin-wide meetings with each GSA appointing representatives to attend Basin-wide meetings in lieu of full quorums required for all three GSA governing bodies. Discussion followed. Mr. Young explained that Basin-wide joint GSAs meetings are three separate meetings of the individual governing boards of the three GSAs being held simultaneously at the same location.

11. Adjournment

Committee Vice-Chair Joos adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Brad Joos, Vice-Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

EMA GSA
Balance Sheet
 As of June 30, 2024

	Jun 30, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1150 · Five Star Bank Checking #5951	973.50
Total Checking/Savings	973.50
Total Current Assets	973.50
TOTAL ASSETS	973.50
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 · Accounts Payable	76.84
Total Accounts Payable	76.84
Other Current Liabilities	
2501 · Loan from SYRWCD	12,438.75
2502 · Loan from County of SB	12,438.75
2503 · Loan from City of Solvang	12,438.75
2504 · Loan from ID No. 1	12,438.75
Total Other Current Liabilities	49,755.00
Total Current Liabilities	49,831.84
Total Liabilities	49,831.84
Equity	
3000 · Ret Earnings	2,425.67
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	10,121.34
Net Income	-61,405.35
Total Equity	-48,858.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	973.50

EMA GSA Profit & Loss YTD Comparison April through June 2024

	4th Quarter	Fiscal Year
	<u>Apr - Jun 24</u>	<u>Jul '23 - Jun 24</u>
Income		
4000 · Oper Assess fr Member Agencies	0.00	3,771.00
4600 · Interest Income	0.73	7.31
Total Income	<u>0.73</u>	<u>3,778.31</u>
Expense		
5320 · Office Expense (incl postage)	28.90	28.90
5330 · Outside Staff Support	300.00	1,200.00
5350 · Public Relations	153.68	846.71
6100 · Stakeholder Engagement	91.95	91.95
6400 · Annual Report	49,755.00	63,016.10
Total Expense	<u>50,329.53</u>	<u>65,183.66</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-50,328.80</u></u>	<u><u>-61,405.35</u></u>

EMA GSA
Transaction Detail by Account
 April through June 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Deposits Received</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2300 · Deposits - Well Verification						
			Beginning Balance:			3,248.10
04/17/2024	02019.001-13	GSI Water Solutions, Inc.	Sinai	-580.00		2,668.10
04/17/2024	02019.001-13	GSI Water Solutions, Inc.	William Taylor	-465.00		2,203.10
04/17/2024	02019.001-14	GSI Water Solutions, Inc.	Boyd	-2,200.00		3.10
05/15/2024	141-100-055	Sinai	Cameron Sinai	-3.10		0.00
Total 2300 · Deposits - Well Verification				-3,248.10	0.00	0.00



Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 135-280-044 (WP # EH-LUA-24-000337) 3160 Live Oak Road, Santa Ynez

To: Santa Ynez River Valley EMA GSA Parties
From: Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Katie O'Malley, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Date: August 26, 2024

This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a new well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22, as amended, and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a medium or high-priority basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) without first obtaining written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction by the proposed new well¹:

1. would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by the GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan.

The Executive Order and County Urgency Ordinance do not apply to permits for wells that will produce less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic use, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to a public water supply system as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

The application being reviewed for a well to be located at 3160 Live Oak Road, Santa Ynez is for a New well proposed to be completed to a depth of approximately 800 feet below ground surface (bgs). The planned water production reported by the applicant is between 5 and 8 acre feet per year (AFY) to be used for irrigation and back-up domestic supply. The applicant estimates a production rate of up to 20 gallons per minute (gpm) and an average daily runtime of up to 6 hours per day. This planned production of up to 8 AFY exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

¹ Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 defines a "New well" as "a new groundwater well or replacement of an existing well with a new well that exceeds the production capacity of the existing well as originally permitted or constructed. This definition shall not include geothermal heat exchange wells, cathodic protection wells, or wells constructed for the purpose of monitoring or abating contaminants in underground waters that are associated with a hazardous materials release." (Ordinance No. 5158, Sec. 34A-23(5).)

Summary of Findings

The proposed well has the following properties:

- Well location:
 - The proposed well is located on Assessor’s Parcel Number 135-280-044, which is located at 3160 Live Oak Road in the Santa Ynez Upland area of the EMA.
 - The parcel is connected to a public water system: Woodstock Mutual Water Company, which the owner intends to use as the primary source for domestic supply.
- Proposed well construction and use information:
 - The proposed new well will be completed to a depth of approximately 800 feet bgs, with perforations beginning at approximately 400 ft bgs, the depths of which may change pending review of geophysical data to be collected during well drilling.
 - The well will be used for “supplemental irrigation” of a 19.18 acre parcel “mainly for small agricultural and landscape purposes.” The planned pumping rate will be up to 20 gallons per minute for up to 6 hours per day, which equates to up to 8 AFY.
 - Additionally, some of the water may be used to provide an emergency domestic supply for the residence, depending on the results of the water quality analysis that will be conducted upon completion and testing of the new well
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
 - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Paso Robles Formation, which is a principal aquifer within the EMA.
 - Water quality recorded in the last five years (between 2018 and 2023) within a 1,000 feet radius of the proposed well site were compiled from the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Quality Portal, the results of which did not demonstrate any constituents that exceed maximum contaminant levels. There are no potential point sources of groundwater contamination, such as active leaking underground storage tank sites within 1,000 feet of the proposed well.
 - No existing wells are located on the existing property, nor are there any other permitted wells within at least 1,000 feet of the proposed new well.
- Would the well increase production within the EMA?
 - Production from this new well would increase production from a principal aquifer within the EMA. However, the well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.
 - This additional minor volume of production from the subject property may increase the total area of irrigated acreage within the EMA. A variety of factors must be considered to determine whether installation of a new well and corresponding increases in production would cause any potential undesirable results within the EMA. These factors include the total area of irrigated agriculture relative to the then-current and projected acres presented in the Plan (Table 3-33) as well as the groundwater production from these irrigated areas presented in the plan (Table 3-35) and updated for preparation of subsequent annual reports through water year 2023. Furthermore, the presence, imminence, or absence of undesirable results within the EMA

must also be considered in this assessment to determine whether the additional production would be likely to cause any undesirable results.

- Compared to the projected production presented in the Plan, which were rough estimates based on the then-current agricultural land use trends, the planned minor increase in production and usage of groundwater from the proposed new well would only add a small amount of additional irrigated acreage beyond the total area estimated in the Plan. Notably, the estimate of irrigated acres was exceeded beyond the Plan's estimate for projected irrigated acreage soon after issuance of the Plan in January 2022.
- However, there have been no reported undesirable results within the EMA as presented in the most recent annual report. This indicates that the proposed minor increase in production from the proposed well would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management of the EMA.
- The proposed well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
 - Chronic water level decline
 - Reduction of groundwater in storage
 - Degradation of water quality
 - Land subsidence
 - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs.
- Projects and Management Actions:
 - The planned production and use of the well is not inconsistent with any implemented projects and management actions of the EMA's GSA. As a condition of issuance of a written verification, the well applicant must agree to register the well with and report production semi-annually to the EMA GSA.

Summary

Based upon the location and planned production from the proposed New well, which will be completed within a principal aquifer managed by the EMA, production from the well would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the GSA and would therefore NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin.

In our opinion, the GSA should provide a written verification to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health for this application.

Indemnification and Limitations of Liability

GSI Water Solutions does not warrant or guarantee that the new well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the EMA within the sustainability goal presented in EMA's Plan.

GSI Water Solutions is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, lost revenue, or payments related to any groundwater well permitted or not permitted by the County, including well drilling costs, pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The GSA's issuance of a written verification and the County's issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.

STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2024

TO: EMA GSA Committee

FROM: GSA Member Agency Staff

SUBJECT: Responses to Executive Director Request For Qualifications

At the May 23, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency GSA (EMA GSA), the GSA Committee directed member agency staff to initiate the search for an Executive Director. In response, staff released a Request for Qualifications, which was posted on the GSA website and sent to potentially qualified firms. In response, applications were submitted by two firms: Hallmark Group (Hallmark) and Confluence Engineering Solutions (Confluence). RFQ responses are available to review on the GSA website: https://www.santaynezwater.org/files/bd2476b06/EMA_RFQ_Executive+Director_Responses_Combined.pdf

Member agency staff thoroughly reviewed both applications and found both firms to be highly qualified to provide executive director services to the GSA. However, Confluence has by comparison stronger local presence. Confluence has an advisor on their team that was intimately involved with preparation of the EMA GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan and has significant experience with the Santa Ynez Valley and its stakeholders. In addition, Confluence's rates are significantly less expensive than Hallmark's. While the rate classifications are not directly comparable, Confluence is less costly across all categories, as shown in the tables below:

Hallmark Group		Confluence Engineering Solutions	
Classification	Billing Rate (\$/hour)	Classification	Billing Rate (\$/hour)
Executive Director	\$325	Principal Engineer	\$225
Principal, GSP Implementation	\$275	Technical Advisor	\$225
		Senior Engineer	\$190
Controls & Accounting	\$250	Project Engineer	\$175
		Associate Engineer	\$150
GSA Coordinator	\$175	Assistant Engineer	\$140
		Engineering Assistant	\$130

Given Confluence's local presence and experience, and the potential cost savings, member agency staff recommend that your Board select Confluence Engineering Solutions to provide Executive Director services to Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

- **Staff recommendation:** Direct member agency staff to develop a contract with Confluence Engineering Solutions to provide Executive Director services to the EMA GSA.

STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2024

TO: EMA GSA Committee

FROM: GSA Member Agency Staff

SUBJECT: Responses to Legal Counsel Request For Qualifications

At the May 23, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency GSA (EMA GSA), the Committee directed member agency staff to initiate the search for Legal Counsel. In response, staff released a Request for Qualifications, which was sent to potentially qualified firms and posted on the GSA website here:
<https://www.santaynezwater.org/files/d728d666d/EMA+GSA+RFQ+for+Legal+Counsel+%28June+2024%29.pdf>.

Three responses were received by the revised deadline (August 9), one each by Aleshire & Wynder, Meyers Nave, and Nossaman. Their proposals are available to review on the GSA website:
https://www.santaynezwater.org/files/9ae40d45a/EMA_RFQ_Legal+Counsel_Responses_Combined.pdf.

Member agency staff thoroughly reviewed the responses and found them all to be highly qualified to provide legal services to the GSA. A summary of their hourly billing rates are provided in the table below:

Firm	Attorney	Associate	Law Clerk	Paralegal	Doc Clerk
Aleshire & Wynder	\$350	\$300	\$180	\$180	\$110
Meyers Nave	\$525	\$390	\$275	\$215-235	n/a
Nossaman	\$450- \$550	\$350	n/a	n/a	n/a

Staff unanimously chose to recommend Aleshire & Wynder for the legal representation of the EMA GSA, which recommendation is based on Aleshire's lower rates and substantial experience in representing public water agencies, including multiple GSAs. Although Meyers Nave offered to discount their rate by 10% for remote meeting attendance (which would have made their rate more competitive), staff determined that their comparative lack of water experience (as disclosed by their primarily municipally centered references) made Aleshire & Wynder the clear choice.

Staff recommendation: Direct member agency staff to develop a contract with Aleshire & Wynder to provide Legal Counsel services to the EMA GSA.

STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2024

TO: EMA GSA Board of Directors

FROM: GSA Member Agency Staff

SUBJECT: Responses to Rate Consultant Request For Qualifications

At the May 23, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency GSA (EMA GSA), the GSA Committee directed member agency staff to initiate the search for a Rate Consultant. In response, staff released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), which was posted on the EMA GSA website and sent to potentially qualified firms. Responses to the RFQ were submitted by three consulting firms: SCI Consulting Group (SCI); Raftelis; and Water Resources Economics (WRE). Copies of the RFQ responses are available to review on the EMA GSA website:

https://www.santaynezwater.org/files/f24939dbd/EMA_RFQ_Rate+Consultant_Responses_Combined.pdf

Member agency staff thoroughly reviewed the responses and found all three firms to be highly qualified to provide Rate Consultant services to the EMA GSA. Specifically, each of the responding firms has direct experience in helping other GSAs prepare rate structures under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), each firm proposed team members with respected subject matter expertise, and each firm provided multiple public agency references. From a capability standpoint, the three firms are very closely matched. From a cost perspective, however, one firm (WRE) has proposed a notably lower cost estimate, as follows:

- WRE – \$30,000 to \$50,000
- SCI – \$59,500
- Raftelis – \$70,000 to \$85,000

Given WRE's qualifications and experience in Proposition 218 and Proposition 26, specifically in the SGMA context, and projected cost savings to the EMA GSA in contracting with WRE, member agency staff recommend that your Board select Water Resources Economics (WRE) to provide Rate Consultant services to the EMA GSA.

Staff Recommendation:

Direct member agency staff to develop a proposed contract / professional services agreement with Water Resources Economics (WRE) to provide Rate Consultant services to the EMA GSA.



Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Orona, City of Solvang
Joan Hartmann, Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Brad Joos, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No. 1
Brett Marymee, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 719
3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101
Santa Ynez, California 93460

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SantaYnezWater.com

Date: August 29, 2024
To: SYRVGB EMA GSA Board of Directors
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Insurance Options for SYRVGB EMA GSA

Recommendation

Board of Directors review and discuss two insurance options for the EMA GSA and provide direction for pursuing insurance quotes. Staff recommendation is to contact Golden State Risk Management Authority (GSRMA) for an insurance quote with a pro-rated term effective as soon as possible thru July 1, 2025.

Discussion

Annual Cost of Membership and Insurance

ACWA/ACWA JPIA: \$3,070 (insurance and membership)
GSRMA: \$5,017

The EMA GSA JPA needs to have its own liability insurance in place to release liability of individual member agencies from the GSA activities.

Based on research completed during pursuance of insurance policies on behalf of the CMA GSA and WMA GSA, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District found the following:

ACWA (Association of California Water Agencies) and ACWA JPIA

ACWA JPIA requires the GSA to have:

- An approved membership in ACWA before quoting insurance coverage. The annual ACWA membership is expected to be \$820.
- One of the EMA GSA JPA members be an active member of the ACWA JPIA Liability program
- Will not provide coverage to GSAs with Boards containing non-elected members
- Completed risk assessment by ACWA JPIA which may take up to three months to complete before binding insurance coverage.
- Finally, approval from the ACWA JPIA Board for the EMA GSA to join the insurance pool.

ACWA JPIA insurance cost for a GSA similar to the EMA GSA is estimated to be minimum of \$2,250 per year, based on payroll, but is not guaranteed until a full risk assessment is completed.

GSRMA (Golden State Risk Management Authority)

GSRMA does NOT have the same requirements as ACWA JPIA. There is no separate membership process/payment of dues, no requirement of GSA member agency also being an active liability program member, and no lengthy risk assessment to be completed prior to offering coverage. The CMA GSA and WMA GSA both have secured coverage with GSRMA.