

# 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.

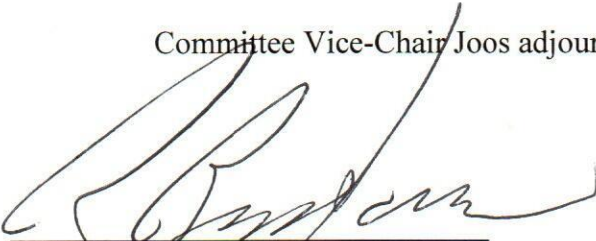
**10. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items**

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.



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Brad Joos, Vice-Chairman



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William J. Buelow, Secretary

Approved 08/29/2024