

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin December 14, 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, December 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Member Steve Jordan attended the meeting via teleconference from 46000 Fairway Drive, Indian Wells, CA 92210. This remote participation location was properly noticed on the agenda and the agenda was posted at the remote location, in compliance with Gov. Code Section 54950 et seq. No members of the public joined Director Jordan at the location.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Brad Joos, Brett Marymee, and Elizabeth Orona

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (in-person): Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate) and Mike Burchardi

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (remote): Steve Jordan

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Paeter Garcia, Randy Murphy, and Amber Thompson

Member Agency Staff Present (remote): Bill Buelow and Matt Young

Others Present (in-person): Mary Heyden and Gay Infanti

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Anita Regmi (DWR), and Jerry (no last name provided)

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and asked Ms. Thompson to call roll. Three EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. Two Alternate Committee Member were also present.

2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

3. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on November 16, 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 November 16, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 4-0-0 by voice vote.

5. 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:

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee suggested the committee consider Item No. 5.b, the replacement well, before Item No. 5.a., the new well. There was unanimous consensus by the Committee and proceeded with discussing Item No. 5.b. then Item No. 5.a.

a. APN 137-100-062, 1250 Roble Blanco Rd., Solvang, CA (Desser)

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA), APN: 137-100- 062 (WP# EH-LUA-23-000006) – Desser, dated December 6, 2023, provided by GSI Water Solutions for a new well. Discussion followed. Public comment was received. There was an additional committee discussion.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to issue a well verification letter for APN: 137-100- 062 (WP# EH-LUA-23-000006) – Desser. GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

b. APN 137-390-003, 1235 Quail Ridge Rd., Solvang, CA (Liebman)

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA), APN: 137-390-003 (EH-LUA-23-000218) – Liebman, dated December 7, 2023, provided by GSI Water Solutions for a replacement well. Discussion followed. Public comment was received. There was an additional committee discussion.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to issue a well verification letter for APN: 137-390-003 (EH-LUA-23-000218) - Liebman. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. Update on SGMA Governance and Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA

Mr. Garcia summarized the progress made toward SGMA Governance and the preparation of a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos recommended the EMA Citizens Advisory Group be engaged during the JPA preparation process.

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Member Steve Jordan recommended an Ag Representative be elected by the Ag landowners.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona asked staff what other issues are holding up the JPA process and asked staff for a new estimated time for JPA completion. She encouraged proceeding without additional delay.

7. Update on WY 2022-2023 EMA Annual Report

Mr. Young reported that the EMA GSA requested the County Water Agency to contract with GSI Water Solutions to prepare the WY 2022-2023 Annual Report. He indicated that GSI initially proposed a contract with a not-to-exceed amount of \$57,670, and that per the EMA GSA Committee's request, the County Water Agency was able to renegotiate the contract for a lower not-to-exceed amount of \$49,758 with a 10% contingency, if needed. The County Water Agency issued a notice to proceed to GSI to begin work on the Annual Report. The Annual Report will be completed before the April 1, 2024 deadline. There was no discussion, public comment, or action.

8. Receive Update on Proposition 68 Grant Award

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the Proposition 68 Grant Award. The dates range of eligible projects is October 2022 through April 2026. There is not a cost match requirement. SYRWCD was authorized by the three GSAs to act as grantee on behalf of the GSAs for this grant. After a review by SYRWCD staff and legal counsel, the draft grant agreement has been returned to DWR with minor comments and revisions. Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

- GSA Committee Member Brad Joos requested that staff provide the amount of the grant which is earmarked for the EMA GSA projects.
- GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona requested staff provide an assessment of EMA GSA projects, what can be started ASAP, and the anticipated burn rate.

Mr. Buelow announced that there will be a photo opportunity with DWR representatives and member agencies elected officials, possibly in January 2024. Mr. Buelow requested the committee members to advise SYRWCD of available dates in January and February. Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

9. Next EMA GSA Committee Special Meeting, Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez CSD

Mr. Buelow announced that January 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. is the saved date and time for holding a special meeting of the EMA GSA, if one is needed. Discussion followed. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos recommended that the EMA GSA Committee continue

to have monthly meetings until the JPA is finalized. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona agreed.

10. Next EMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez CSD

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA Committee regular meeting will be Thursday, February 22, 2024, 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

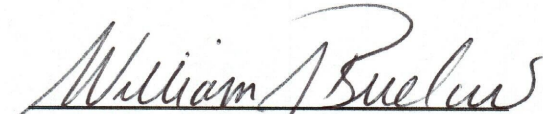
There were no reports or requests.

12. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary