

# **AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**

## **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 27, 2020**

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, February 27, 2020, at 6:30 PM at the City of Solvang, Council Chambers, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present:

Brad Joos      Brett Marymee      Karen Waite      Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting as Alternate)

Member Agency Staff Present:

Bill Buelow      Paeter Garcia      Amber Thompson      Matt van der Linden  
Kevin Walsh      Matt Young

Others Present:

Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions)      Tim Thompson (GSI Water Solutions)  
Nine members of the public

Others Via Phone:

Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers)      Anita Regmi (DWR)

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

GSA Committee Member Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to Call Roll. GSA Committee Member Dietenhofer acted as Alternate for Supervisor Hartmann.

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

GSA Committee Member Joos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. Introductions and Review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin**

GSA Committee Member Marymee invited everyone in attendance and those on phone to introduce themselves. Ms. Anita Regmi (on phone) from the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) explained her role as the Point of Contact for the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin. Ms. Regmi further described DWR's role to provide resources for implementation of SGMA. She explained that DWR will review the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) within two years of submittal and provide financial assistance in form of grants, technical assistance, and support services. DWR has funds available for well installation and for monitoring equipment. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact her directly.

Mr. Buelow reviewed history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements and what has been completed so far in the Santa Ynez River Basin (Basin) including the creation of the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Basin (EMA, CMA, EMA), securing Department of Water Resources (DWR) Prop. 1 Grant (Grant) funding, hiring Consultants, coordinating efforts between the eight agencies participating in the three GSAs, and establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) in each of the Management Areas of the Basin.

**IV. Additions or Deletions, if any, to the Agenda**

GSA Committee Member Marymee requested an addition to the Agenda as Item IX.a. Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Update Report. GSA Committee Member Joos made a MOTION to add Item IX.a. Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Update Report to the Agenda. GSA Committee Member Waite seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**V. Public Comment**

Ms. Nancy Emerson of WeWatch, announced WeWatch is co-hosting a forum with the Citizens Planning Association on March 5, 2020 from 7-9 pm at St. Mark's Church, regarding climate change and water issues in the Santa Ynez Valley. A number of speakers will participate on the panel including Mr. Buelow, who will speak about groundwater issues relating to climate change in the Santa Ynez Valley.

**VI. Review and Approve Minutes**

Mr. Buelow submitted the minutes of the meeting of October 24, 2019 for GSA Committee approval. GSA Committee Member Marymee suggested an amendment to item XIV specifying his request made about SkyTEM flyover work to include "and explore cost avoidance opportunities". GSA Committee Member Waite made a MOTION to approve the minutes of October 24, 2019 as AMENDED. GSA Committee Member Joos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VII. Receive EMA GSA Financial update and approve EMA Warrant List**

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2019-20 Periods 1 through 6 (through December 31, 2019) and the Quarterly Warrants List for October through December 2019 (item #1003).

Alternate GSA Committee Member Diethofer made a MOTION to approve the warrant lists and financial reports as submitted (item #1003). GSA Committee Member Waite seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VIII. Receive update on Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement**

Mr. Buelow gave an update on the Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement for Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Agreement) stating that it had been endorsed by all

three GSAs and adopted by all eight GSA Member Agencies in the Basin. The last agency adopted the Agreement on February 26, 2020.

**IX. Receive Draft Final Communication and Engagement Plan and Draft Final Data Management Plan**

Mr. Buelow presented the Final Draft Communication and Engagement Plan and Final Draft Data Management Plan. He reported that both plans have gone through a public review and comment process, as required by SGMA. The CAG reviewed both plans and submitted written comments. Consultants received the public comments and revised the plans. He reported that changes can still be made at the direction of the EMA GSA Committee prior to the January 2022 GSP submission. At that time, if no changes are made, the Final Draft Plans will become Final.

**a. Receive Update from EMA CAG**

Ms. Gaye Infanti, EMA CAG member, presented a Memorandum summarizing the EMA CAG recommendations for the Data Management Plan stemming from the EMA CAG meeting of January 20, 2020. Mr. Buelow thanked all members of the EMA CAG for their input and productive use of time. Public comment, GSA Committee questions and discussion followed.

**X. Receive update from Consultant on EMA GSP activities**

Mr. Matt Young from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency announced that on February 25, 2020, Supervisor Hartmann and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved the contract to conduct a SkyTEM survey in the EMA which will likely happen in possibly late Spring or early Summer 2020. He stated that the County will do extensive outreach to address public concerns.

Mr. Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions) provided a technical presentation of the Hydrogeological Conceptual Model (HCM) development process, including an update on deliverables, ongoing activities, and next steps to create a SGMA compliant GSP for the EMA GSA.

Public comment, GSA Committee Member, consultant and staff discussion followed.

Ms. Jeanette Lombardo, ~~private business owner of Ventura County-based~~ American Agri-Women, inquired about whether a Technical Memorandum providing details on the data used to create the HCM would be prepared so she can review the sources of data. Mr. Young reported that GSI Water Solutions is not contracted to create a separate Technical Memo on the data sources used to create the HCM. However, a reference list will be part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and a draft list can be shared now.

Ms. Lombardo voiced concern about SkyTEM overflight and legality regarding private airspace over privately-owned land. She referred to a 2016 Supreme Court case

and requested understanding of flight path, property right issues, and the potential for property owners to opt-out. She reported that earlier today, Mr. Young advised her via email that the Santa Barbara County Counsel will look into it and advise.

GSA Committee Member Marymee thanked Mr. Nicely and the GSI Water Solution team for a thorough presentation. Mr. Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers (via phone) reported that Stetson Engineers has been hired by the EMA GSA to coordinate technical assumptions among the contractors in the different management areas of the Basin and that coordination is going well. No action was needed or taken by the GSA Committee.

**XI. Next EMA GSA Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2020, 6:30 PM, at the City of Solvang City Council Chambers, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA**

Mr. Buelow stated the next EMA GSA Committee Meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2020, 6:30 PM, at the City of Solvang City Council Chambers, 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA.

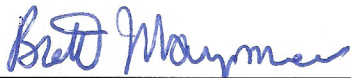
**XII. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

GSA Committee Member Marymee asked if all invoices and Member Agency funding requests are being paid in a timely manner. Mr. Buelow reported that Member Agency contribution requests were recently sent out to the Member Agencies. All invoices for work in the EMA GSA received to date have been paid.

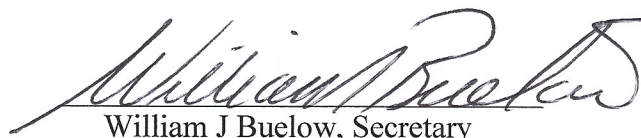
GSA Committee Member Marymee asked if there is a governance model to follow once the GSP is submitted. Mr. Buelow reported there is much work needed to create a governance model. Once the GSP is submitted in January 2022, DWR expects the GSP to be implemented immediately. At that time, the financial responsibility will likely shift from the current group of Member Agencies to a new entity who will take over governance and financial responsibility for implementing the GSP.

**XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, GSA Committee Member Waite made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. GSA Committee Member Joos seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J Buelow, Secretary

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

**OCTOBER 2019 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

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

**NOVEMBER 2019 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1003	11/06/19	Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf	Consulting - Grant Financial	\$ 188.83
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 188.83</b>

**DECEMBER 2019 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

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

<b>TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 188.83</b>
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