

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin January 26, 2023

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 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting was held by video and teleconference in accordance with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Social Distance Recommendation and as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution EMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/21/2021, reaffirmed 11/17/2022).

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

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

Member Agency Staff Present: Jose Acosta, Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Paeter Garcia, Matt Scrudato, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh, and Matt Young

Others Present: Steve Anderson, Joe Barget, Russell Chamberlin, Elizabeth Farnum, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, Mark Infanti, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Carol Redhead, Guy Savage (LOCSD), and Ray Shady

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Four EMA GSA Committee Members were present providing a quorum plus three 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 briefly explained Assembly Bill 361, the Santa Barbara County Public Health recommendation, and adoption of Resolution EMA-2021-001, passed on October 21, 2021 and reaffirmed on November 17, 2022, which authorize public meetings to be conducted remotely via video and/or teleconference and that such conditions continue to exist. There was no discussion.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann made a MOTION, that finding conditions still apply, to hold this meeting remotely under Resolution EMA-2021-001.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

III. Welcome New Committee Members

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee welcomed new committee members and requested they introduce themselves. EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona introduced herself and announced that the City of Solvang City Council appointed her as the EMA GSA Committee Member and Council Member David Brown as the Alternate Committee Member representing the City of Solvang at its meeting on December 8, 2022.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee and Mr. Buelow thanked Mayor Mark Infanti, City of Solvang, for his service to date as an EMA GSA Committee Member and for his hard work on the EMA GSA efforts.

IV. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

V. Public Comment

No public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Ms. Mary Heyden commented that she and Doug Circle, on behalf of the Santa Ynez Water Group, have recently met with staff from some of the GSA member agencies. She requested the Committee consider the addition of an Agricultural Representative in the future governance structure of the Basin. She also recommended that each seat on a future governance board have an equal voice and equal vote, including the seat specifically representing agriculture.

VI. Review and Summary of Request(s) for EMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 and other well permits processed by County EHS in the EMA

Mr. Buelow reviewed the EMA GSA – Summary of Well Verifications and Other Wells (receipt dates of 8/16/2022 through 12/1/2022). He explained that a new well verification request under Executive Order N-7-22 was received December 1, 2022 for Kylix Vineyards California LP is currently being evaluated. Discussion followed, no public comment was received and no action was taken.

VII. Receive Presentation by Santa Barbara County Water Agency, “Eastern Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent October 2022 Measurements”

Mr. Matt Scrudato, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, provided the presentation “Eastern Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent October 2022 Measurements.”

Discussion followed and public comments were received. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann suggested establishing more defined guidelines and criteria for the well verification process. EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee agreed on the need to define guidelines and criteria. EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona also agreed and suggested more specific governance on access to groundwater. EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos recommended staff look at the EMA GSP and the Management Actions before heading in a different direction and requested input from the EMA Citizen Advisory Group.

VIII. Update on EMA Second Annual Report and Contracting with GSI

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the EMA Second Annual Report and contracting with GSI Water Solutions (GSI). GSI was notified on January 25, 2023 to proceed with the EMA Second Annual Report, which is due on April 1, 2023, using the multi-party contract developed for the purpose of the well verification work and allows for additional scopes of work to be added with the approval of the signatories to the contract. The EMA Member Agencies, City of Solvang, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Parent District), and ID No. 1, approved the additional scope of work for the Second Annual Report and GSI had provided a cost estimate of \$48,000 to prepare the report.

Mr. Buelow reported that with the absence of a comprehensive cost share agreement in place for the EMA, the Parent District prepared a cooperative cost share letter agreement for the Second Annual Report which was signed by the Parent District and the City of Solvang with indication that their contribution was being submitted to the Parent District for benefit of the EMA. ID No. 1 did not sign the cooperative cost share letter agreement but sent their contribution directly to GSI.

Mr. Buelow advised that a presentation of the Second Annual Report is planned for the March 23, 2023 EMA GSA Committee meeting.

EMA GSA Committee members voiced agreement for GSI producing the Second Annual Report. There was no public comment received.

IX. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Discussion followed regarding the Committee's preferred meeting format of hybrid or remote only. Hybrid format was preferred by the majority with actual meeting format to be determined.

X. EMA GSA Committee Requests and Comments for Future Agenda Items

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested that staff forward to EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona and Alternate David Brown the planned EMA GSA meeting calendar for the year.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested information on the phenomenon of atmospheric rivers and effect on the Basin, the EMA, and management actions.

DRAFT

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos requested information on recharge rates for the aquifers in correlation to precipitation. Mr. Buelow advised that some information is in the GSP regarding some areas of the Basin that are more favorable for recharge.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann, during discussion of Item VII, requested establishing more defined criteria for the well verification process to guide in decision making.

XI. Adjournment

On MOTION by EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann, Seconded by EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos, Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Brett Marymee, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

DRAFT