

# JOINT MEETING MINUTES

**Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin**

**and**

**Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin**

**and**

**Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin**

**January 5, 2024**

A joint special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin, and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Friday, January 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

WMA GSA Committee Member and EMA GSA Alternate Committee Member Steve Jordan attended the meeting via teleconference from 46250 East El Dorado, 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.

**CMA GSA Committee Members Present:** Larry Lahr, John Sanchez, and Joan Hartmann (non-voting)

**EMA GSA Committee Members Present:** Joan Hartmann, Brad Joos, Acting Alternate David Brown, and Acting Alternate Steve Jordan (participating remotely)

**WMA GSA Committee Members Present:** Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan (participating remotely), and Joan Hartmann (non-voting)

**WMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present:** Ron Stassi and Kristin Worthley

**Member Agency Staff Present (In Person):** Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Randy Murphy, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

**Member Agency Staff Present (Remote):** Rose Hess

**Others Present (In Person):** Carol Redhead

**Others Present (Remote):** Steve Anderson, Doug Circle, Sean Diggins, Cindy Douglas, Aaron Ferguson, John Fio (EKI Consulting) Dan Heimel, Gay Infanti, Deby Laranjo, Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge LLP), and Al Wagner,

**1. Call to Order**

CMA, EMA, and WMA Committee Member Joan Hartmann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Mr. Buelow called roll.

Two CMA GSA Committee Members and one non-voting Committee Member were present providing a quorum. In addition, one Alternate Committee Member was present.

Two EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present in person and one Acting Alternate Committee Member was present remotely providing a quorum.

Three WMA GSA Committee Members and one non-voting Committee Member were present in person and one Committee Member was present remotely providing a quorum. In addition, two Alternate Committee Members were present.

**3. Consider Appointment of Moderator to Facilitate Joint GSA Meeting**

CMA, EMA, and WMA Committee Member Joan Hartmann volunteered to moderate the joint meeting. There was unanimous consensus by all other GSA Committee Members.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment. Ms. Thompson announced that no public comments were received in advance of the meeting.

**5. Review and approve the Action Plan for Management of All Well Production Along the Lower Santa Ynez River, Above the Lompoc Narrows, as response to SWRCB staff comments received on CMA, EMA, and WMA GSPs for posting on SGMA Portal**

Mr. Buelow introduced Mr. Steve Torigiani of Young Wooldridge LLP, legal counsel for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and asked that Mr. Torigian review the comment received regarding all three Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (SYRVGB), the process that followed, and the Action Plan for the GSA Committees to consider adding to the GSPs.

Mr. Torigiani recapped the comments received via DWR's SGMA portal from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff regarding the CMA GSP, EMA GSP and WMA GSP. He presented the details of the Action Plan. He reported that member agency staff, consultants, and legal counsels from member agencies worked together to develop an Action Plan, attended multiple meetings with DWR staff and SWRCB staff to further

develop the Action Plan. He reported that, at the last meeting, DWR staff seemed appreciative of the Action Plan and no changes to the Action Plan had been received from SWRCB staff, to date. He recommended that each GSA Committee approve the Action Plan and direct staff to post the Action Plan to the SGMA portal as the response to the comment received for each GSP before DWR's January 18, 2024 deadline to issue their review of the GSPs for the SYRVGB.

Discussion followed and public comment was received.

a. Central Management Area GSA

CMA GSA Committee Member John Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the Action Plan and authorize the SGMA Point of Contact or his designee to transmit to DWR and post to the Portal the Transmittal Letter and Action Plan, in substantially the form presented, as a further response to SWRCB staff comments on behalf of the CMA GSA. CMA GSA Committee Member Larry Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

b. Eastern Management Area GSA

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the Action Plan and authorize the SGMA Point of Contact or his designee to transmit to DWR and post to the Portal the Transmittal Letter and Action Plan, in substantially the form presented, as a further response to SWRCB staff comments on behalf of the EMA GSA. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

c. Western Management Area GSA

WMA GSA Committee Member Chris Brooks made a MOTION to approve the Action Plan and authorize the SGMA Point of Contact or his designee to transmit to DWR and post to the Portal the Transmittal Letter and Action Plan, in substantially the form presented, as a further response to SWRCB staff comments on behalf of the WMA GSA. WMA GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

**6. Update Proposition 68 Grant Award Presentation**

Mr. Buelow announced that a "Big Check Ceremony" is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 11:30 am at River View Park in Buellton. A representative from the Department of Water Resources will present a ceremonial check for the SGMA Implementation grand award. All GSA Committee Members, other representatives and staff for all member agencies, and the public are invited to attend. In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony location will be moved to an indoor location, to be announced later, if needed. There was no discussion or public comment.

**7. Next GSA Tentative Special Meetings**

Mr. Buelow announced the three GSAs have dates saved in January for possible special meetings, if needed.

- CMA GSA Committee reserved Monday, January 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton.
- WMA GSA Committee reserved Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd, Lompoc.
- EMA GSA Committee reserved Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Meeting Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez.

He reported that, if a GSA does not have any well verifications to consider or other business causing the need for January special meetings, then email notices will be sent to GSA committee members and interested parties notifying all that the GSA special meeting will not be scheduled. He announced the regular quarterly business meetings for each GSA will be held in February, according to the regular meeting schedules. There was no discussion or public comment.

**8. GSA Committee Comments**

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann asked if more joint GSA meetings are anticipated in the future. She requested that joint GSA meetings be preemptively scheduled, possibly once a quarter. Committee members from each GSA agreed that would be a good idea.

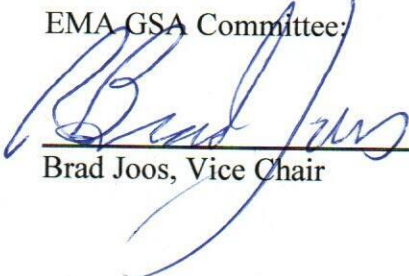
**9. Adjournment**

Meeting Moderator Joan Hartmann adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

CMA GSA Committee:

  
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John Sanchez, Vice Chair

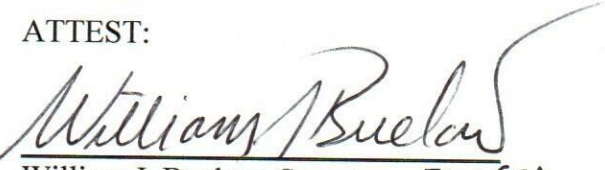

EMA GSA Committee:

  
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Brad Joos, Vice Chair

WMA GSA Committee:

  
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Chris Brooks, ~~Chair~~ Vice chair

ATTEST:

  
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William J. Buelow, Secretary, EMA GSA  
  
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Amber Thompson, Secretary CMA GSA  
and Secretary WMA GSA