

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 17, 2021

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference in accordance with the latest Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution WMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021).

GSA Committee Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan, and Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Katherine Stewart, Kristin Worthley

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Amber Thompson, Matt Young

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Ken Domako (VSFB), Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Derek McLeish, and Brett Stroud (Young Woolridge), and Susan Xie

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

WMA GSA Committee Director Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met.

### **II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001**

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for adopting Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and State Assembly Bill 361 which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect.

GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Committee Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### **III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of October 27, 2021**

The minutes of the GSA Committee meeting on October 27, 2021, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion.

GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of October 27, 2021. GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List**

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2021-22 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2021 for GSA Committee review. There were no comments.

GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the financial reports and the Warrant List for July, August, and September 2021 Warrant Lists (Nos. 1036-1037) totaling \$76,016.25, as submitted. GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VII. Review and consider approval of Resolution WMA-2021-002 authorizing the WMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement**

The GSA Committee discussed the Coordination Agreement and Resolution WMA-2021-002 authorizing the WMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement. Mr. Buelow explained the requirement of a Coordination Agreement by DWR for Basins submitting multiple GSPs. Because the Coordination Agreement referenced in Resolution WMA-2021-002 was missing from the pre-circulated meeting packet, the committee unanimously agreed to table consideration of the resolution until the next meeting to allow time for Directors to review the Coordination Agreement.

**VIII. Update and discussion on Draft WMA GSP and Future Governance Options**

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the Draft WMA GSP, responses to public comments received and the expected GSP upload process to DWR. Mr. Curtis Lawler and Mr. Buelow explained geology and flow of groundwater in the WMA. Discussion followed.

Item X was addressed at this point in the meeting.

There was no update provided on future governance options. Mr. Buelow reported that staff will continue to meet to discuss governance options and creating budget preferences

and will keep this as a standing item on future agendas until guidance is received. Discussion followed. WMA GSA Committees consensus to have Brett Stroud of Young Woolridge begin putting together draft JPA options and work with counsel of member agencies.

**IX. Review and discuss Scope of Work and Costs for Stetson to prepare WMA Annual Report**

The GSA Committee reviewed the Scope of Work and costs for Stetson to prepare the WMA Annual Report. Mr. Buelow explained that the first Annual Report required by CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) will need to include data from 2018 through September 2021. Staff recommended Stetson prepare the WMA First Annual Report and request Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) add a separate task order to the existing contract between SYRWCD and Stetson for this effort. Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to direct staff to request Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) to add a task order to the existing contract between SYRWCD and Stetson to prepare the WMA First Annual Report according to the Scope of Work provided with costs Not to Exceed \$40,000. GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**X. Review and discuss Stetson Memorandum on the status of groundwater conditions in the Lompoc Upland**

During discussion of Agenda Item VIII, the WMA GSA Committee reviewed the Draft Technical Memorandum received from Stetson Engineers, dated November 2021, regarding DRAFT Summary of Groundwater Levels, Storage and Sustainability in the Lompoc Upland. Discussion followed.

**XI. Next planned "Special" WMA GSA Meeting to consider GSP adoption Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Buelow suggested the WMA GSA Committee should schedule a Special Meeting, including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the WMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), for Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Discussion followed. The GSA Committee unanimously agreed to scheduling this WMA GSA Special Meeting, including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the WMA GSP, and approved of scheduling the meeting to be held in person at City of Lompoc, Water Treatment Plant, Conference Room or via remote, to be determined based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**XII. Consideration of additional “Special WMA GSA Meeting” December 8 or 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

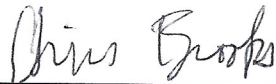
The GSA Committee discussed the need for an additional special meeting in December 2021 to discuss the Coordination Agreement and Resolution appointing WMA Chair to sign Coordination Agreement. They unanimously agreed to schedule a special meeting for December 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with remote participation only.

**XIII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

GSA Committee Director Myron Heavin commented that he would like to see the issue of chloride contaminate handled at the county level.

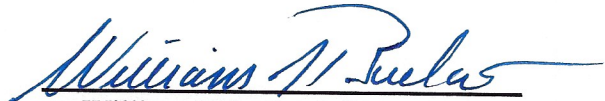
**XIV. Adjournment**

WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.



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Chris Brooks, Chairman



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William J. Buelow, Secretary

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE  
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

**JULY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

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

**AUGUST 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1036	08/12/21	Stetson Engineers	June 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #1 & AEM work)	\$ 45,084.25
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 45,084.25</b>

**SEPTEMBER 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1037	09/15/21	Stetson Engineers	July 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #1 & AEM work)	\$ 30,932.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 30,932.00</b>

<b>TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 76,016.25</b>
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