

## MEETING MINUTES

### Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 31, 2022

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, August 31, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via video/teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution WMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed 8/10/2022).

WMA GSA Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, and Steve Jordan

WMA GSA Committee Directors Absent: Director and Alternate representing Mission Hills CSD

WMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Meighan Diethofer, Ron Stassi, Kristin Worthley

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Brad Hagemann, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present: Jose Baer, Doug Circle, Ken Domako (VSFB), and John Fio (EKI)

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

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met with three Directors in attendance. In addition, one non-voting GSA Acting Alternate Director and two GSA Alternate Directors were present. The Director and Alternate representing Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCS) were absent.

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

The reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on August 10, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. There was no discussion.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he received one public comment letter and recommended it be discussed under Agenda Item XI.

**V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of May 25, and August 10, 2022**

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meetings on May 25, 2022 and August 10, 2022 were presented for GSA Committee approval. Discussion followed. Other Attendee "BH" in both sets of draft minutes was corrected to reflect Brad Hagemann as staff attendee.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of May 25, 2022 and August 10, 2022, as amended. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

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

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2021-22 Periods 10 through 12 (through June 30, 2022) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2022. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve the financial reports and the April, May, and June 2022 Warrant Lists (Mechanics Bank Check Nos. 1054-1056 and Five Star Bank Check Nos. 2000-2003) totaling \$65,380.93, as presented. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**VII. Biennial Review of WMA GSA Conflict of Interest Code**

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the WMA GSA Conflict of Interest Code. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to file the 2022 Local Agency Biennial Notice designating "no amendment is required" with the Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**VIII. Consider Approval of Final Documents for providing WMA GSA written verifications of new well permits under Executive Order N-7-22**

Mr. Buelow reported that member agency staff presented draft documents to the Committee at the last WMA GSA Committee meeting on August 10, 2022. The Committee

reviewed the documents and directed staff to meet with the WMA Citizens Advisory Group for review and comment.

**a. Comments from WMA Citizen Advisory Group**

Mr. Jose Baer presented the WMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) memorandum, dated August 29, 2022 regarding the WMA CAG review of draft documents created to comply with Executive Order N-7-22. Mr. Buelow reported that since the stakeholder attendance at the WMA CAG meeting was low, he included copies of both the CMA CAG and EMA CAG memos of comments for review regarding the similar final documents presented to those GSAs. There were no comments and no discussion.

**b. WMA Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order Number-7-22**

Mr. Buelow presented WMA process and criteria for administering written verifications per Executive Order N-7-22. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve WMA process and criteria for administering written verifications per Executive Order N-7-22. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**c. Indemnification Agreement**

Mr. Buelow presented Written Verification Indemnification Agreement. He reported that comments on the draft document received from stakeholders were considered and changes were made accordingly. There were no concerns by member agency staff regarding the changes. Discussion followed. No public comments received.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve Written Verification Indemnification Agreement. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**d. Reimbursement Agreement**

Mr. Buelow presented Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Request for Written Verification and explained the planned process. Discussion followed. No public comments received.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Request for Written Verification. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call

vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**e. Well Permit Acknowledgement**

Mr. Buelow presented the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Acknowledgement Form Request for Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22. There was no discussion and no public comments received.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Acknowledgement Form Request for Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**IX. Consider Resolution WMA-2022-002 Establishing Fee and Deposit for WMA GSA Well Verification as required by Executive Order N-7-22 (Under Water Code Section 10730)**

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Resolution establishing a fee and deposit of \$1,200 which was prepared by Santa Barbara County counsel in coordination with the member agencies attorney group. The August 31, 2022 meeting was properly noticed in both the August 17, 2022 and August 24, 2022 editions of the Santa Barbara News Press. Mr. Buelow read the Resolution. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to adopt GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN RESOLUTION WMA-2022-002 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR WMA GSA WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**X. Consider Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, City of Lompoc, Mission Hills CSD, and Vandenberg Village CSD develop contract with GSI Water Solutions to Evaluate Verification Requests**

Mr. Buelow reported a change was proposed in contracting parties since the discussion held during the last WMA GSA meeting. Member agency staff recommended executing a multi-party contract for time and materials with GSI Water Solutions Scope of Work to evaluate verification requests with all expenses paid by a deposit received from applicants. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION requesting the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, City of Lompoc, Mission Hills CSD, and Vandenberg Village CSD develop a multi-party contract with GSI Water Solutions on behalf of the WMA GSA

to evaluate written verification requests. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from Mission Hills Community Services District being absent.

**XI. Update on Governance for WMA**

Mr. Buelow introduced a letter received from Santa Ynez Water Group, dated August 5, 2022, regarding governance of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. Mr. Buelow advised that member agency staff plan to meet again to focus on and discuss WMA GSA governance and restart the process that begun prior to the Executive Order issuance. Mr. Doug Circle provided public comment. Discussion followed.

**XII. Consider Setting Regular Monthly WMA GSA Meetings Through End of 2022**

Mr. Buelow reviewed the proposed monthly regular meeting schedule with the willingness to cancel the additional meetings if there is nothing for Committee to address. Discussion followed. Directors agreed and requested at least a week notice of cancellation. No public comments received.

**XIII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular WMA GSA meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Mr. Buelow announced the WMA CAG participation from Agriculture stakeholders is low. He suggested opening the CAG application process to search for new members. Santa Ynez Water Group volunteered to solicit for applicants and provide contacts to staff.

WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks requested an update on the AEM Survey Report prepared by Stetson Engineers. Mr. Buelow provided a brief summary of results and suggested Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, attend a future meeting and give a more detailed update.

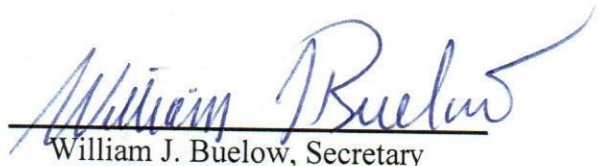
WMA GSA Director Chris Brooks complimented SYRWCD staff for coordinating GSA work. Mr. Buelow responded by thanking member agency staff for their involvement in weekly staff meetings as being very helpful for coordinating efforts.

**XV. Adjournment**

GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

**APRIL 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

**(Paid through Mechanics Bank)**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1054	04/13/22	Stetson Engineers	February 2022 Engineering Service (Annual Report)	\$ 10,680.50
1055	04/13/22	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	<b>Transfer of WMA GSA funds</b> at Mechanics Bank (#8301) to WMA GSA checking account at Five Star Bank (#5978)	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 40,680.50</b>

**MAY 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

**(Paid through Five Star Bank)**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2000	05/13/22	Stetson Engineers	March 2022 Engineering Service (AEM Work & Annual Report)	\$ 15,373.72
2001	05/13/22	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Reimburse costs for SantaYnezWater.org website domain paid by SYRWCD 3/29/2022 (\$21.17 split 1/3 per GSA)	\$ 7.06
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 15,380.78</b>

**JUNE 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

**(Paid through Five Star Bank)**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2002	06/14/22	Stetson Engineers	April 2022 Engineering Service (Annual Report & AEM Survey Work)	\$ 3,273.38
2003	06/17/22	Valley Bookkeeping	2022 2nd Quarter Bookkeeping (April, May, June 2022)	\$ 150.00
<b>Month Subtotal - Five Star Bank</b>				<b>\$ 3,423.38</b>

**(Paid through Mechanics Bank)**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1056	06/14/22	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	<b>Transfer of WMA GSA funds</b> at Mechanics Bank (#8301) to WMA GSA checking account at Five Star Bank (#5978). Mechanics Bank Account #8301 CLOSED.	<b>\$ 5,896.27</b>
<b>Month Subtotal - Mechanics Bank</b>				<b>\$ 5,896.27</b>
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 9,319.65</b>

**TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 65,380.93**

Transfers of funds from Mechanics Bank to Five Star Bank: \$ 35,896.27

**Total Accounts Payable This Quarter: \$ 29,484.66**

WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA  
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP  
MEMORANDUM

---

DATE: August 29, 2022

TO: WMA GSA Committee

FROM: WMA Citizen Advisory Group  
Prepared by Jose Baer

SUBJECT: Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22

---

**Western Management Area (WMA) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Members**

Jose Baer

**Introduction**

The WMA CAG held a meeting on August 29, 2022 via teleconference to discuss the administrative documents for written verifications per Executive Order N-7-22.

Below is a summary of the CAG's comments.

**CAG Comments on the GSP:**

The CAG expressed concern over the costs associated with what should be a simple administrative process. Was there some way to reduce the complexity and cost?

Staff explained that attention has been paid to reducing the complexity by using the County well application for the most part. The additional forms are simple and are necessary. The estimate for costs is reasonable, and care was taken to make sure that additional funds would not have to be gathered from the applicant.

Staff also reviewed the draft flow chart for the process, it was noted that the process can be approved expeditiously by staff if the well is deemed to be a replacement well, or a well drawing from the river alluvium. That being the case, some of the CAG's concerns were alleviated.

There were no further comments, and the meeting was adjourned.

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

**RESOLUTION WMA-2022-002**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR WMA GSA  
WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22**

**WHEREAS**, effective January 11, 2017 the City of Lompoc (“Lompoc”); Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCSD); Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD); the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (“Santa Barbara”); and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”); (collective the Members) entered into a “Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” (“2017 MOA”); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 MOA established the Members as the participating agencies of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the Western Management Area (“WMA”) in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”); and

**WHEREAS**, the WMA GSA formed under the 2017 MOA has already developed, adopted, and submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the WMA to the California Department of Water Resources as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 9(a) of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, dated March 28, 2022, requires a written verification from the applicable GSA to address whether groundwater extraction by a proposed well would be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable GSP adopted by the GSA, or would decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP; and

**WHEREAS**, the WMA GSA has developed a Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22 and seeks to establish fee(s) and deposit(s) to cover the costs of this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the WMA GSA has the authority to impose fees pursuant to Water Code section 10730 and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, the WMA GSA held a noticed public hearing on August 31, 2022, regarding the fee(s) and deposit(s) necessary to cover the costs for the Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22, at which oral and written presentations were allowed; and

**WHEREAS**, the WMA GSA finds that the fees set forth in this Resolution are exempt from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 15273 and 15378(b)(5) and Public Resources Code Section 21080 (b)(8)(A) and (B), in that the fees will be used for reimbursement for consultants



time and costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the WMA GSA resolves as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. A fee of \$200 per hour is hereby established for all requested written verifications from the WMA GSA. The Committee finds that the amount of the fee is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the process, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.
3. An initial deposit in the amount of \$1,200 shall be submitted for all requested written verifications and the deposit will be spent and supplemented in accordance with the Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Well Permit Applications.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the WMA GSA on August 31, 2022 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, and Steve Jordan

NOES: None

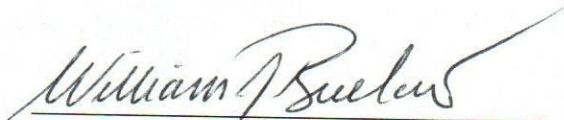
ABSENT: Myron Heavin

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

**WMA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN**

PROPOSED REGULAR MEETING DATES\*  
REMAINDER OF 2022

<u>WMA</u>
September 28
October 26
November 30
December 14**

\*Meetings will be noticed with final date, time and location consistent with Government Code Section 54954

\*\* Meeting day is out of sequence of the normal fourth Thursday due to Christmas and New Year's Holidays