

## NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

HELD AT

VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM  
3745 CONSTELLATION RD, LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA

AT 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

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### Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-900-6833  
or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

“Join a Meeting” - Meeting ID **831 2816 6415** Meeting Passcode: **656237**

\*\*\* Please Note \*\*\*

The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption of unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued.

Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

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### AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public comment shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public comment item.)
4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of November 15, 2023
5. Review and Consider Requests for WMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the WMA for the following parcels:
  - a. APN 083-070-016, Santa Rosa Road, Lompoc, CA (Campbell–Acin Family Trust)
  - b. APN 099-150-065, 4874 Hapgood Road, Lompoc, CA (Campbell-Ostini)
6. Update on WY 2022-2023 WMA Annual Report
7. Receive update on Proposition 68 Grant Award
  - a. Official Receipt of Grant Check - Ceremony (Place and Time TBD)
8. Next tentative WMA GSA Special Meeting, Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 10 a.m. at Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd, Lompoc, California
9. Next WMA GSA Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10 a.m. at Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd, Lompoc, California
10. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items
11. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 15, 2023**

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 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District Board Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

WMA GSA Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, Chris Brooks, and Myron Heavin

WMA GSA Acting Alternate Committee Members Present: Kristin Worthley

WMA GSA Non-Voting Acting Alternate Committee Member Present (Video Conference):  
Meighan Dietenhofer

Staff Present (in person): Joe Barget and Amber Thompson

Staff Present (Video Conference): Brad Hagemann and Matt Young

Others Present (in person): None

Others Present (Video Conference): Matt Brady, Ken Domako (VSFB), John Fio (EKI), and Carol Redhead

#### **1. Call to Order**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reordered the agenda items by moving Agenda Item No. 3, “Roll Call” ahead of Agenda Item No. 2, “Update on agency representatives on the WMA GSA Committee”.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Ms. Amber Thompson called roll. Three Committee Members, one Acting Alternate Committee Member, and one non-voting Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum.

#### **3. Update on agency representatives on the WMA GSA Committee**

Ms. Thompson reported that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District appointed Director Cynthia Allen as the representative and Director Steve Jordan as the alternate representative to the WMA GSA Committee.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of September 27, 2023**

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meeting on September 27, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Committee Member Myron Heavin made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 27, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**7. Review and Consider Approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List**

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2023) and the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2023. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Committee Member Myron Heavin made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists of July, August, and September 2023 (Check Nos. 1011-1018) totaling \$7,043.25, as presented. GSA Committee Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**8. Receive Update on Joint Powers Agreement for the WMA**

Ms. Kristin Worthley announced that the City of Lompoc City Council, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Board of Directors, the Vandenberg Village CSD Board of Directors, and the Mission Hills CSD Board of Directors all approved the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the WMA, as endorsed by the WMA GSA Committee. The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors is expected to consider the JPA on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

**9. Receive Presentation on Proposition 68 Grant Award**

Mr. John Fio, EKI Environment and Water presented Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Proposition 68 Grant for SGMA Implementation, Stakeholder Outreach, November – December 2023 slides prepared by EKI Environment and Water. There was discussion during and following the presentation. There was no public comment and no action.

**10. Update on WMA CAG meeting of November 6, 2023**

Ms. Kristin Worthley provided a summary of the WMA CAG meeting that took place on November 6, 2023, to preview the presentation from EKI that was presented to the WMA GSA Committee today. She announced the next WMA CAG meeting will be on Friday, November 17, 2023, at the Lompoc Water Treatment Plant to review the history and discuss the future of SGMA. There was no discussion or public comment.

**11. Receive Draft Schedule of Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin GSA meetings for 2024 and consider returning to quarterly regular meetings with special meetings, as needed**

WMA GSA Committee Member Chris Brooks presented the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin 2024 Regular GSA Meetings calendar with staff recommendation to return to quarterly regular meetings and change the other months to save the dates for special meetings, if needed. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Acting Alternate Committee Member adopt the quarterly regular meeting schedule with monthly save-the-dates for special meetings, if needed, as presented. GSA Committee Member Myron Heavin seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**12. Next WMA GSA Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks announced the next WMA GSA regular meeting will be Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District Board Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California and advised that if there were no well verifications or other business, then the meeting may be cancelled.

**13. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items**

WMA GSA Committee Member Myron Heavin requested that the water softener issue in Lompoc Valley be on a future agenda.

**14. Adjournment**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

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Chris Brooks, Chairman

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William J. Buelow, Secretary



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## Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 083-070-016 (WP # EH-ALUA-23-000146) Campbell-Acin

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley WMA GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Katie O'Malley, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** December 18, 2023

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This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a well within the Western Management Area (WMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin WMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a medium or high-priority basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) without first obtaining written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction by the proposed well<sup>1</sup>:

1. would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by the GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan.

Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 does not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

The application being reviewed is Campbell-Acin which is a new irrigation supply well completed to a depth of 100 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 172 acre-feet per year (AFY). The application also estimates a production rate of up to 500 gallons per minute (gpm) and an average daily runtime of 6 hours per day for 6 days per week. This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

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<sup>1</sup> Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 defines a "New well." "New well" means a new groundwater well or replacement of an existing well with a new well that exceeds the production capacity of the existing well as originally permitted or constructed. This definition shall not include geothermal heat exchange wells, cathodic protection wells, or wells constructed for the purpose of monitoring or abating contaminants in underground waters that are associated with a hazardous materials release." (Ordinance No. 5158, Sec. 34A-23(5).)

## Summary of Findings

The proposed well has the following properties:

- Well location:
  - The proposed well is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 083-070-016, which is within the Santa Ynez River Alluvium area of the WMA (Zone A of the SYRWCD).
  - The parcel is not located within a Public Water System.
- Proposed well construction and use information:
  - The proposed Campbell-Acin well will be completed to a depth of 100 feet below ground surface (bgs), with perforations starting at 60 feet bgs.
  - The well will be used for irrigation purposes on a 258.72 acre parcel. The planned pumping rate will be 500 gallons per minute for 6 hours per day according to the well permit application, which equates to 172 AFY if pumped 6 days a week.
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
  - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Santa Ynez River Alluvium. Because this is not an aquifer managed by the GSA, an assessment of the groundwater and related conditions is not relevant to this well.
- Would the well increase production within the WMA?
  - The proposed Campbell-Acin well will be completed in the Santa Ynez River Alluvium, which is not within a principal aquifer managed by the GSA and therefore would not increase production from a principal aquifer within the WMA. Therefore, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.
  - The proposed new well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
    - Chronic water level decline
    - Reduction of groundwater in storage
    - Degradation of water quality
    - Land subsidence
    - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs

## Summary

Based upon the location and planned production from the proposed new well will not be completed within a principal aquifer manage by the WMA and therefore would not be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin.

In our opinion, the GSA should provide a written verification to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health for this application.

## Indemnification and Limitations of Liability

GSI Water Solutions does not warrant or guarantee that the replacement well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the WMA within the sustainability goal presented in WMA’s Plan.

GSI Water Solutions is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, lost revenue, or payments related to any groundwater well permitted or not permitted by the County, including well drilling costs, pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The GSA’s issuance of a written verification and the County’s issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.



P.O. Box 719  
3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101  
Santa Ynez, California 93460

Telephone: (805) 693-1156  
FAX: (805) 693-4607

**SantaYnezWater.com**

November 29, 2023

***Via Email***

Mr. Bob Campbell  
1501 North L Street  
Lompoc, CA 93436

Santa Barbara County EHS  
225 Camino del Remedio  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

RE: Verification Request for APN 083-070-016 and Well-Permit 7H-LUA-23-000146

Dear Mr. Campbell,

The Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) has reviewed the verification request and well permit application for the above referenced property. The information was provided by the applicant. Consideration by the GSA complies with Section 9A of Governor Newsom's Executive Order Number 7-22, dated March 28, 2022, requiring any approval of a new groundwater well or alteration of an existing well within a basin classified as medium priority, such as the Basin, must first obtain a written verification from the appropriate Groundwater Sustainability Agency or GSA. The WMA GSA is the sole GSA for the Western Management Area of the Basin.

The WMA GSA verifies based on the materials provided by the applicant that: 1) the well proposed is not inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by the WMA GSA on January 5, 2022, and 2) does not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the WMA.

Should you have any questions, please contact the WMA GSA Coordinator, Bill Buelow, at 805-693-1156, ext. 403 or via email at [wma@SantaYnezWater.org](mailto:wma@SantaYnezWater.org).

Sincerely,

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin  
Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christopher Brooks'.

Chris Brooks  
Committee Chair





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## Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 099-150-065 (EH-LUA-23-000135) Campbell-Ostini

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley Western Management Area (WMA) GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Katie O'Malley, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** December 6, 2023

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This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a well within the Western Management Area (WMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin WMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a medium or high-priority basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) without first obtaining written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction by the proposed well<sup>1</sup>:

1. would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by the GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan.

Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 does not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

The application being reviewed is for Campbell-Ostini, which is a new irrigation supply well completed to a depth of 600 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 155 acre-feet per year (AFY). The application also estimates a production rate of up to 500 gallons per minute (gpm) and an average daily runtime of 8 hours per day for 210 days per year. This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

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<sup>1</sup> Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 defines a "New well." "New well" means a new groundwater well or replacement of an existing well with a new well that exceeds the production capacity of the existing well as originally permitted or constructed. This definition shall not include geothermal heat exchange wells, cathodic protection wells, or wells constructed for the purpose of monitoring or abating contaminants in underground waters that are associated with a hazardous materials release." (Ordinance No. 5158, Sec. 34A-23(5).)

## Summary of Findings

The proposed well has the following properties:

- Well location:
  - The proposed well is located on Assessor’s Parcel Number 099-150-065 at 4874 Hapgood Road in Lompoc. This parcel is located within the Santa Rita Upland area of the WMA.
  - The parcel is not located within a public water system.
- Proposed well construction and use information:
  - The proposed Campbell-Ostini well will be completed to a depth of 600 below ground surface (bgs), with perforations starting at 300 feet bgs.
  - The well will be used for irrigation purposes on a 965.59 acre parcel. The planned pumping rate will be 500 gallons per minute for 8 hours per day according to the well permit application, which the applicant reports acceptably as 155 AFY if pumped for 210 days per year as planned.
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
  - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Lower Aquifer. Groundwater conditions in the WMA are sustainable with no current undesirable results (defined as significant and unreasonable impacts to sustainability indicators as described in the WMA’s Plan).
- Would the well increase production within the WMA?
  - The proposed Campbell-Ostini well, will be completed in the Lower Aquifer, which is a principal aquifer managed by the GSA and would increase production from a principal aquifer within the WMA. However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the WMA’s Plan.
  - The proposed new well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
    - Chronic water level decline
    - Reduction of groundwater in storage
    - Degradation of water quality
    - Land subsidence
    - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs

## Summary

Based upon the location and planned production from the proposed new well will be completed within a principal aquifer managed by the WMA. Production from this well would not be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the WMA and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin as defined in its Plan.

In our opinion, the GSA should provide a written verification to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health for this application with appropriate caveats including the following. Any written

verification provided is not a guarantee of the availability of water now or in the future. Based on sustainable management criteria, including but not limited to applicable minimum threshold(s), the GSA may exercise its authority to call for reduction in production from wells within its jurisdiction in accordance with SGMA and as part of the implementation of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan and avoidance of undesirable results,

### **Indemnification and Limitations of Liability**

GSI Water Solutions does not warrant or guarantee that the well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the WMA within the sustainability goal presented in WMA's Plan.

GSI Water Solutions is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, lost revenue, or payments related to any groundwater well permitted or not permitted by the County, including well drilling costs, pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The GSA's issuance of a written verification and the County's issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.