

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors May 22, 2024

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

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

Directors Absent: Myron Heavin

Acting Alternate Director Present (in person): Mike Garner

Non-Voting Directors Present (Teleconference): Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

Alternate Directors Present: Robert Dunlap, Ron Stassi and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, Amber Thompson, Charlie Witt, and one unannounced attendee

Others Present (Teleconference): Steve Anderson, Matt Brady, Andrew Calderwood, Doug Circle, Vanessa De Anda (EKI), John Fio (EKI), Paeter Garcia, Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Matt Scudato, Steve Torigiani, and Matt Young

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Chair Ball called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Three Directors and one Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum. Two Alternate Directors were present. One non-voting Acting Alternate Director participated by teleconference.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WMA GSA Chair Ball.

3. Public Comment

Acting Alternate Director Garner made a comment regarding the WMA GSA meeting of April 24, 2024.

4. Review and Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 24, 2024

The minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of April 24, 2024, were presented for Board consideration.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of April 24, 2024, as presented. Discussion followed. Director Brooks seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Review and Consider Approval of Quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List with Invoices

Mr. Buelow presented the quarterly financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 7 through 9 (through March 31, 2024) and the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2024 for WMA GSA Board consideration. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2024 (Check Nos. 1024-1033) totaling \$27,071.17, as presented. Director Brooks seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Receive Update on Spring Water Levels and Hydrogeologic Conditions in the WMA

Mr. Scudato presented information regarding the Western Management Area Spring water levels and hydrologic trends. Discussion followed. Mr. Fio, EKI, and Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, provided additional information regarding water balance, Santa Rita Uplands perennial yield, management actions in GSP, geology of area and its effect on water recharge. There was no public comment or action.

7. Review and Consider Requests for WMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the WMA for the Following Parcel:

a. APN 099-100-041, 1906 Gypsy Canyon Rd., Lompoc (Joanna Garrick)

Mr. Buelow presented the Review of Well Application for APN: 099-100-041 (EH-LUA-23-000039), Joanna Garrick, dated May 7, 2024, by GSI Water Solutions, Inc. Discussion followed. Public comments were received.

After a discussion regarding the current WMA GSA Well Verification Policy, the ongoing downward trend in water levels in the Santa Rita Uplands, and well verification policies used in the other GSAs in the Basin, Director Jordan made a MOTION to table this item to the next meeting, directed the Plan Manager to request the applicant have GSI provide a more in-depth review, similar to what is done in the EMA, for this well verification. Director Brooks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board requested that Mr. Buelow work with consultants to create a more in-depth review process for the well verification policy and bring a more in-depth review process for the well verification policy and a proposal from GSI to the WMA GSA Board for consideration. Mr. Young reported on the timeline and process required for a similar policy change that was completed by the EMA GSA.

8. Receive Update and Consider Taking Action on the following WMA GSA Items:

a. Discuss Archive and Retention of WMA GSA Board Meeting Recordings

Mr. Buelow reported that this item was added to the agenda per a request made during the last WMA GSA Board meeting. The Board discussed creating a policy for uploading WMA GSA Board meeting recordings to the website for public access using YouTube account or other service at minimal or no cost. There was no public comment.

Acting Alternate Director Mike Garner made a MOTION to upload and store recordings on the website for a minimum of 6 months, if there is a cost to do so, or for perpetuity, if no cost. The motion passed by the following weighted voice vote:

AYES = 7: Ball (City of Lompoc – 2), Jordan (SYRWCD – 4),
Garner (Mission Hills CSD – 1)
NO = 1: Brooks (Vandenberg Village CSD – 1)

b. Consider Approval of Resolution No. WMA-2024-02 to Approve and Adopt a Conflict-of-Interest Code

Mr. Buelow presented the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Conflict of Interest Code, Declaration of Plan Manager for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Resolution No. WMA-2024-02, and the Conflict of Interest Code. Legal Counsel Mr. St. Lawrence advised as to why these steps are needed and requirements to file Form 700s. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Ball made a MOTION to adopt Resolution No. WMA-2024-02 to Approve and Adopt a Conflict-of-Interest Code. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

c. Discuss the Potential Addition of an Agricultural Representative

The Board discussed the potential addition of an Agricultural Representative for the WMA GSA. Public comment was received.

Legal Counsel Mr. St. Lawrence advised that there may be issues regarding GSA members being entities authorized by SGMA and other applicable laws and will research such as well as options to add a new member to the JPA.

d. Discuss WMA GSA Meeting Schedule

Mr. Buelow stated that this item was requested at the last meeting and reported that the current meeting policy is to hold quarterly regular meetings with special meetings scheduled for the other months, if called for by the Board or if there is a well verification to consider. Discussion followed.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to schedule regular meetings of the WMA GSA Board of Directors monthly through December 2024, on the 4th Wednesday, 10:00 am, at Vandenberg Village CSD Meeting Room with the meeting held during 3rd week if the meeting falls during a holiday week, and reevaluate the need for monthly regular meetings in December 2024. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Receive update and Consider Taking Action on the Following WMA GSA Service Contracts:

a. Administrative Services Contract with SYRWCD

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Administrative Services Contract with Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD). Discussion followed.

Director Ball requested multiple options and bids for administrative services be provided to the WMA GSA for consideration by the Board including from SYRWCD, outside consultants, and if GSA was to hire an employee to be Project Manager. Public comment was received.

Director Ball made a MOTION to table this item until the next WMA GSA Board meeting to allow member agencies and their legal counsel time to review the Administrative Services Contract with SYRWCD, with the intent to act on this item at the next meeting. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

b. Rate Study Contract with Raftelis Including Scope of Work

Mr. Buelow reported that, at the last meeting, the Board requested the contract for Raftelis to be included in the meeting packet for review and consideration. The Board discussed the Rate Study contract with Raftelis, including the Scope of Work and Raftelis' knowledge of the Basin. Director Ball requested additional bids for the rate study efforts be brought back to the WMA GSA Board for comparison.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve, as to form, the Rate Study Contract with Raftelis, including the Scope of Work, not to exceed \$57,095, subject to approval by City of Lompoc legal counsel. Further discussion continued. Director Jordan amended the MOTION to include the contract be signed by the Board Chair. Director Brooks seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

c. Other

There were no other service contracts to consider or discuss.

10. Discuss Basin-wide Joint-GSAs Meeting, June 7, 2024, 10 AM, Buellton City Council Chambers

Mr. Buelow announced a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2024, 10 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers. Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

11. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024

The next scheduled WMA GSA Board Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

12. WMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items

Director Brooks encouraged all to continue in cooperative coexistence.

Director Jordan compared the JPA as one of his family meetings with everyone having equal vote and encouraged all to not be difficult.

Alternate Director Kristen Worthley requested Grant Implementation information.


Legal Counsel Mr. St. Lawrence recalled the Directors had requested a budget and a finalized Organization Chart as additional agenda items.

13. Adjournment

Chair Ball adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.



Jeremy Ball, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY AGENCY**

JANUARY 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1024	01/10/24	Stetson Engineers	November 2023 Engineering Service (GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 1,556.80
1025	01/10/24	GSI Water Solutions	December 2023 Well Verification Review (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 555.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 2,111.80

FEBRUARY 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1026	02/13/24	ACWA (Association of California Water Agencies)	2024 Annual Agency Dues (prorated February) plus 50% discount	\$ 375.84
1027	02/13/24	Inklings Printing Co.	SGM Implementation Grant Ceremony check (split 1/3 ea GSA)	\$ 54.83
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 430.67

MARCH 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1028	03/12/24	A&A Pump & Well Service	Refund Unexpended Deposit - Well Verification Review Campbell-Acin (APN 083-070-016)	\$ 250.00
1029	03/12/24	Stetson Engineers	December 2023 Engineering Service (Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 6,561.05
1030	03/12/24	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Reimburse costs for February Legal Services provided by Young Wooldridge LLP for JPA required filings and Conflict- of-Interest Code paid by SYRWCD	\$ 1,341.40
1031	03/12/24	Valley Bookkeeping	2024 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2024)	\$ 300.00
1032	03/12/24	A&A Pump & Well Service	Refund Unexpended Deposit - Well Verification Review Campbell-Ostini (APN 099-150-065)	\$ 87.50
1033	03/12/24	Stetson Engineers	January 2024 Engineering Service (Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 15,988.75
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 24,528.70

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 27,071.17

RESOLUTION NO. WMA-2024-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN WESTERN
MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
APPROVING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

WHEREAS, in accordance with state law, the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “CMA GSA”) is required to approve a conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with state law the WMA GSA has prepared the Conflict of Interest Code attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein (the “Code”); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with state law the WMA GSA provided a 45-day comment period during which interested parties could comment on the Code before its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the 45-day comment period has passed and no interested parties submitted comments to the WMA GSA regarding the Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the WMA GSA as follows:

1. The attached Conflict of Interest Code is formally approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
2. Staff is directed to take such steps as necessary to properly file the attached Conflict of Interest Code with the County of Santa Barbara.
3. Once the Conflict of Interest Code is formally approved by the County, staff is instructed to implement the Code.

[continued on following page]

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being the duly qualified and acting Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. WMA-2024-02 was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting duly held on the 22th day of May, 2024, by the following vote:

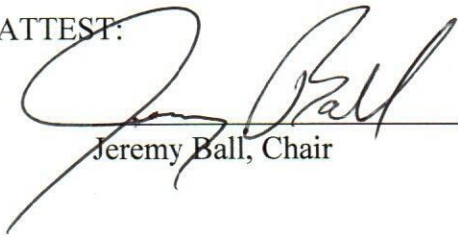
AYES: Ball, Brooks, Garner, Jordan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:



Jeremy Ball, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary

EXHIBIT A
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs. Sec. 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendix, designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)**.

Designated individuals may file their statements online using eDisclosure, which will submit the Form 700 to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor. Statements will be made available for public inspection and reproduction (Gov. Code Section 81008). The Agency's filing official can provide access to designated individuals.

Designated individuals who file using a paper Form 700 shall file with the Agency. Upon receipt of the Statement filed by a designated individual, the Agency shall retain a copy and forward the original to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

The following positions are not covered by the conflict of interest code because they must file statements under Section 87200 and therefore are listed for informational purposes only: Members of the Board of Directors.

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200.

**APPENDIX
DESIGNATED POSITIONS AND
DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES**

I. <u>Designated Position</u>	<u>Assigned Disclosure Category</u>
Directors	1, 2
Alternate Directors	1, 2
Secretary/Treasurer	1, 2
Plan Manager	1, 2
General Counsel	1, 2
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Staff	1, 2
Consultants/New Positions	*

Note: The positions of Auditor and General Counsel are filled by outside consultants who serve in a staff capacity.

*Consultants/New positions shall be included in the list of designated positions and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code, subject to the following limitation:

The Board may determine that a particular consultant or new position, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the consultant’s or new position’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Board’s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code (Gov. Code Section 81008).

Officials Who Manage Public Investments

The following positions are not covered by the conflict of interest code because they must file a statement of economic interests pursuant to Government Code Section 87200 and, therefore, are listed for information purposes only:

Members of the Board of Directors

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200.