

## NOTICE AND AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN  
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

HELD AT  
SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM  
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA  
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

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### **Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or TEAMS**

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: [+1 469-998-7311](tel:+14699987311), [2097623355#](tel:2097623355) or via the Web at: [Join the meeting now](#)

“Join a Meeting” - **Meeting ID 294 811 517 405 Meeting Passcode: 4nNRT3**  
\*\*\* 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 SPECIAL 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 Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board’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 Board at this meeting on any public comment item.)
4. Consent Agenda
  - Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of Special Meeting of September 26, 2024
  - Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of Joint GSAs meeting of September 6, 2024
5. Review and Consider Approval of an Agricultural Director and an Alternate Agricultural Director for the EMA GSA Board of Directors
6. Review and Consider Approval of Contract Services Agreement with GSI for preparation of the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report
7. Receive information on Executive Order N-3-24 and County of Santa Barbara rescission of Ordinance 5158 (Well Verifications)
8. Verbal update on EMA GSA Set-up/Transfer and other initiatives
9. Verbal update on Prop 68 Round 2 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant activities and implementation plan
10. Consider Date/Time for Next Regular and/or Special Meetings of the EMA GSA
11. Board of Directors Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items
12. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted at least 24 hours prior to the special 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.]

**TO:** EMA GSA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Daniel Heimel, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 24, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Item 4 – Consent Agenda

## Recommendation

EMA GSA Agency Staff recommends that the Board Review and Consider Approval of Special Meeting Minutes and Joint Meeting Minutes.

## Discussion

EMA GSA Staff has prepared the Special Meeting Minutes and the Joint Meeting Minutes from previous Meetings for the Board’s review and approval consideration (see Attachments).

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency September 26, 2024**

A special meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency was held on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Directors Present: Elizabeth Orona, Joan Hartmann, Brett Marymee, and Brad Joos

EMA GSA Alternate Directors Members Present (in-person): Steve Jordan, Meighan Diethoff, and Michael Burchardi

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Randy Murphy, Paeter Garcia, Matt Young, and Kadie McShirley

Others Present (in-person): Doug Circle, Mary Heyden. Dan Heimel, Keith Lemieux, Mark Infanti, and Gay Infanti

Others Present (remote): Curtis Lawler, John Fio, Steve Anderson, Tim Nicely, Scarlett Tovar, and Jeff Barry

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

Board Chair Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Young to call roll. Four EMA GSA Directors and three Acting Alternate Directors were present providing a quorum.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

#### **3. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public either in person or online.

#### **4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2024**

The minutes of the EMA GSA Board meeting on August 29, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment. The minutes of the EMA GSA Board meeting on August 29, 2024 were approved unanimously.

**5. Review and Consider Approval of Contract Services Agreement with Aleshire & Wynder, LLP for General Counsel legal services to the Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)**

Mr. Garcia presented the final Legal Services Agreement with Aleshire & Wynder, LLP. Director Hartmann made a MOTION to approve the Contract Services Agreement. Vice Chair Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Review and Consider Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Confluence Engineering Solutions for Executive Director services to the EMA GSA**

Mr. Young presented the Professional Services Agreement, Scope of Work, and Fees associated with Executive Director services provided by Confluence Engineering Solutions. Director Hartmann made a MOTION that the Board approve the contract. Director Orona seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Review and Consider Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Water Resources Economics, LLC for Rate Consultant services to the EMA GSA**

Mr. Garcia presented the Professional Services Agreement, Scope of Work, and Fee Estimate for Rate Consultant services from Water Resources Economics, LLC. Director Orona made a MOTION that the Board approve the contract. Director Hartmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Update on Nominations and Appointments of Agricultural Director and Alternate Agricultural Director for the EMA GSA Board of Directors**

Mr. Garcia provided an update on the Agricultural Director and Alternate recruitment process. He shared that two different application deadline dates were published in error. In order to honor the published deadline, those nominated will be presented to the Board at the October meeting.

**9. Update on Executive Order N-3-24 and Rescission of Written Verification Requirements**

Mr. Young provided the update that Governor Newsom has rescinded the drought declaration for Santa Barbara County. County Environmental Health Services (EHS) will no longer require well verification by the EMA GSA. EHS has confirmed that they will continue to notify the EMA GSA of any well permit applications they receive. Public comment was provided. After Board Discussion, Director Hartmann agreed to speak with County Counsel to discuss options for the EMA GSA to have some remaining role in the process.

**10. Consideration and Possible Action on EMA GSA Resolution No. 2024-002: Resolution of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Authorizing the Opening of An Account at Five Star Bank**

Ms. Thompson presented the Resolution authorizing the opening of the account at Five Star

Bank. Director Hartmann made a MOTION to approve the resolution and give the Executive Director authority to sign checks. Seconded by Director Orona. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. Consideration and Possible Action for EMA GSA Website Services**

Ms. Thompson provided an update on migrating the current EMA GSA website to Streamline. Chair Marymee made a MOTION directing staff to pursue and execute a website transition if there is a mechanism that allows sufficient timing for the funding to be available to pay for those services. Vice Chair Joos seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. Consider Designation of Principal Office of the EMA GSA**

Mr. Young recommended that the EMA GSA establish a PO Box at the Santa Ynez Post Office in the name of Mr. Heimel. Director Orona made a MOTION authorizing the establishment of a PO Box at the Santa Ynez Post Office. Director Hartmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Consider Date for Next Regular or Special Meeting of the EMA GSA**

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California. Director Hartmann proposed changing the standing meeting time to afternoons. This discussion will be revisited at the next meeting of the EMA GSA.

**14. Director Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items**

Director Hartmann and Matt Young will discuss the well verification process with County Environmental Health Services.

**15. Adjournment**

Board Chair Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Brett Marymee, Chairman

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Elizabeth Orona, Secretary

## **JOINT MEETING MINUTES**

**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
and  
Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
and  
Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

**September 6, 2024**

A joint special meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CMA GSA), the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA), and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) was held on Friday, September 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

EMA GSA Director Brett Marymee attended the meeting via teleconference from 32001 Railroad Canyon Rd., Canyon Lake, California. 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 Marymee at the location.

WMA GSA Alternate Director Mike Garner attended the meeting via teleconference from 2824 Desert Song Drive, Bullhead City, Arizona. 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 Alternate Director Garner 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, Elizabeth Orona, and Brett Marymee (participating by teleconference)

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

**CMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present:** Meighan Dietenhofer

**EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present:** Meighan Dietenhofer and Steve Jordan

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

**Others Present (In Person):** Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, John Fio (EKI Consulting), Paeter Garcia, Daniel Heimel (Confluences Environmental), Rose Hess, Mary Heyden, Kadie McShirley, Nate Page (Confluences Environmental), Amber Thompson, Donna Wood, and Matt Young

**Others Present (Teleconference):** Jeff Barry (Confluences Environmental), Doug Circle, V. Deanda, Dan Drugan, Karen Kistler, Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Sharyn Merritt, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Carol Redhead, Matt Scrudato, Isaac St. Lawrence (McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence, WMA GSA Legal Counsel), Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge LLP, CMA GSA Legal Counsel), and Scarlett Tovar (DWR)

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Ms. Thompson called roll.

Two CMA GSA Directors and one non-voting Director were present providing a quorum. In addition, one Alternate Director was present.

Three EMA GSA Directors were present in-person and one Director was present by teleconference, as was properly noticed on the agenda, providing a quorum. In addition, two Alternate Directors were present.

Four WMA GSA Directors and one non-voting Director were present in-person providing a quorum. In addition, two Alternate Directors were present in-person and one participated by teleconference.

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

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

**4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.



**5. Update on Proposition 68 Grant**

Mr. Fio, EKI Environmental, presented an update on Proposition 68 Grant and GSP Implementation Component tasks for the Basin. Discussion followed and public comment was received.

**6. Discuss Outreach to pumpers of river-alluvium in response to DWR comment on the GSPs**

Mr. Buelow reported that Plan Managers/Executive Director and legal counsels will develop a plan for outreach to the pumpers of river-alluvium in response to Department of Water Resources (DWR) comment on the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). The outreach and education are part of the Action Plan approved by all three GSAs and submitted to DWR in January 2024 as part of the three GSPs. Discussion followed.

Ideas for education included: how to report, who to report to, consequences for non-reporting, why to report, and who enforces the consequences?

There was no public comment.

**7. Discuss alternative approaches for a coordinated annual report for the basin**

Mr. Buelow presented the letter received from DWR requesting one coordinated and combined annual report for the basin instead of three individual GSA Annual Reports. Three options were presented for discussion and direction:

- Option 1: Status Quo with sending three separate GSA Annual Reports
- Option 2: Hire one consultant to prepare one annual report for the basin
- Option 3: Each GSA continue to use the same teams for the annual reports with CMA and WMA using Stetson Engineers and EMA using GSI Water Solutions plus hire one consultant to combine the GSA reports into one basin report for submittal to DWR.

Discussion followed and public comment was received.

The unanimous consensus by Directors of all three GSAs was, for this year, to have each GSA hire its own consultant to prepare a separate annual report for its respective Management Areas plus one overarching report to tie the three individual reports together. The consultant to prepare the overarching report needs to be selected.

**8. Discuss Quarterly Basin-wide joint-GSAs schedule of Special Meetings**

- a. Friday, December 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Buelow reported that Friday, December 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. has been reserved for a Basin-wide joint-GSAs special meeting at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. Discussion followed.

b. Other dates

The Boards of Directors of the three GSAs discussed developing a potential schedule for future joint-GSA meetings. The unanimous consensus was to schedule quarterly special joint-GSA meetings on the first Friday morning of the last month of each quarter at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

**9. Next GSA Regular Meetings**

WMA GSA Board of Directors is scheduled to meet Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd, Lompoc.

CMA GSA Board of Directors is scheduled to hold a Special Meeting in lieu of the regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton.

EMA GSA Board of Directors is scheduled to meet Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Meeting Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez. A special meeting of the EMA GSA may also be held in October.

There was no discussion or public comment.

**10. GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items**

EMA GSA Director Joan Hartmann requested to learn about specific issues in each GSA for each GSA to learn about the others in the basin.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan requested that metering discussions occur sooner and that GSAs consider adding conditions to new well verifications to request monitoring access and the addition of a flow meter.

EMA GSA Director Elizabeth Orona requested an update on communication to pumpers.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball requested an update on rate studies and asked about implications for all three GSAs.

WMA GSA Alternate Director Kristin Worthley requested a report on the role, legal power, and requirements of the joint-GSAs on sustainability. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Director Myron Heavin commented on the issue of discharge from water softeners that use bags of salt and requested that the County should take on the issue.

**11. Adjournment**

Meeting Moderator EMA GSA Director Joan Hartmann adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

**DRAFT**

**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Lahr, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Thompson, Secretary

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett Marymee, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Orona, Secretary

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Ball, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Thompson, Secretary

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** EMA GSA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Daniel Heimel, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Item 5 – Review and Consider Approval of an Agricultural Director and an Alternate Agricultural Director Seating for the EMA GSA Board of Directors

## Purpose

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the Board of Directors (Board) of the Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) information on the Santa Ynez Water Group’s recommendation for Agricultural Director and Alternate Agricultural Director.

## Background

The “Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency” (JPA) was approved and adopted on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by the four agencies of the Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA): the City of Solvang, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. Article 7 of the JPA, included as Attachment A, calls for the formation of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the public agency parties (Member Directors) and one representative (the Agricultural Director) representing the agricultural interests of the EMA. Pursuant to Article 7.2.f of the JPA, the Member Directors have the authority to appoint the Agricultural Director via unanimous vote at public noticed meeting. The Agriculture Director shall serve two-year terms and may be reappointed for multiple terms.

To qualify for the position of Agricultural Director on the EMA GSA Board, candidates must meet several specific criteria as outlined by Article 7 of the JPA. They do not need to be a member of any agricultural association or entity operating within the GSA's boundaries but must own or represent property located within the GSA boundaries and engage in commercial agriculture that uses at least 2 acre-feet of groundwater annually from within the GSA to support farming on that property. Additionally, candidates must be both a resident and a registered voter within the GSA boundaries. Those involved in pending litigation against the GSA, except for groundwater rights adjudication affecting the EMA, are ineligible. The Agricultural Director is appointed by unanimous vote of all Member Directors in a publicly noticed meeting, serves a two-year term, and may be reappointed for multiple terms.

To notify the EMA GSA Member Directors of their recommendations (i.e. Mr. Douglas Circle - Agricultural Director; and Ms. Mary Heyden- Alternate Agricultural Director) and to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the JPA, the Santa Ynez Water Group (Water Group) provide the EMA GSA with a letter (Attachment B) outlining their process for soliciting and reviewing applications and developing recommendations for the Agriculture Directors and Alternate Director positions.

Additionally included in the Water Groups submission are copies of the newspaper articles soliciting applications, director applications, and letters of recommendations (included as attachments).

EMA GSA Staff and Legal Counsel have reviewed the submitted materials and believes that the Water Group has fulfilled the requirements of the JPA for soliciting qualified applicants and developing recommendations for the Agriculture Director and Alternate Agriculture Director positions for the EMA GSA Member Directors consideration.

## Recommendation

Review and Consider Approval of an Agricultural Director and an Alternate Agricultural Director for the EMA GSA Board of Directors.

## Attachments

**Attachment A:** July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Article 7 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Attachment B:** October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Santa Ynez Water Group's Recommendation for Agricultural Director and Alternate Director

**Attachment C:** September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Newspaper Media Releases from Santa Ynez Water Group

**Attachment D:** September 20, 2024 Doug Circle and Mary Heyden's Applications for Consideration as Agricultural Director/Alternate Director for the EMA GSA

**Attachment E:** October 10, 2024 Letters of Recommendation for Doug Circle as Agricultural Director and Mary Heyden as Alternate Agricultural Director

imposed on Solvang.

## **ARTICLE 6 MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 Members. The Members of the EMA GSA, as long as they have not withdrawn from this Agreement pursuant to Article 16, shall be:

- (a) City of Solvang;
- (b) Santa Barbara County Water Agency;
- (c) Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; and
- (d) Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1.

6.2 New Members. Any entity authorized by SGMA and other applicable law to participate in the EMA GSA, that is not a Member on the Effective Date of this Agreement, may become a Member upon all of the following:

- (a) The approval of the Board of Directors as specified in Article 11.3;
- (b) Amendment of the Agreement in accordance with Article 17.2; and
- (c) Payment by the new Member of a pro rata share of all previously incurred costs that the Board of Directors determines have resulted in benefit to the new Member, and are appropriate for assessment on the new Member.

## **ARTICLE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

7.1 Formation of the Board of Directors. The EMA GSA shall be governed by a Board of Directors ("Board"). Directors of the Board shall consist of one representative from each of the Members of the GSA pursuant to Article 6, and one representative

appointed by the Member Directors, initially as follows:

- (a) One Director representing Solvang;
- (b) One Director representing Santa Barbara;
- (c) One Director representing SYRWCD;
- (d) One Director representing ID No.1; and
- (e) One Director, appointed in accordance with Article 7.2 by the Member Directors listed in (a)-(d) above, specifically representing the agricultural interests of the EMA (the "Agricultural Director").

7.2 Appointment of Directors. Directors of the Board shall be appointed as follows:

- (a) The Director representing Solvang shall be appointed by resolution of Solvang's City Council.
- (b) The Director representing Santa Barbara shall be appointed by resolution of Santa Barbara's Board of Directors.
- (c) The Director representing SYRWCD shall be appointed by resolution of SYRWCD's Board of Directors.
- (d) The Director representing ID No.1 shall be appointed by resolution of ID No.1's Board of Trustees.
- (e) The Director of any new Member of the EMA GSA pursuant to Article 6.2 shall be appointed by resolution of the governing body of the new Member.
- (f) The Agricultural Director listed in Article 7.1(e) shall be appointed as follows:
  - (1) Upon request of the Board, the Santa Ynez Water Group, working in conjunction with other agricultural associations or entities having members or doing business within the GSA's boundaries, specifically including but not limited to the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, shall solicit applications for the Agricultural Director position through an open public process where such solicitation shall be publicly noticed in a newspaper of general circulation within the EMA and announced at no less than one public meeting of the EMA GSA. The Santa Ynez Water Group shall review all received applications and submit (i.e., nominate) one or more Qualified Nominees for the Agricultural Director position to the

Board, where a discussion of the review and nomination process must be provided by the nominating entity as part of an open public meeting of the EMA GSA.

(a) A "Qualified Nominee" need not be a member of the Santa Ynez Water Group, or any other agricultural association or entity having members or doing business within the GSA's boundaries, but shall satisfy the following qualifications:

(i) Be an owner or representative of an owner of property located within the boundaries of the GSA and involved in Commercial Agriculture which produces at least 2 acre-feet per year of groundwater (as defined by SGMA and the EMA GSP) from within the boundaries of the GSA to support Commercial Agriculture on said property;

- For purposes of these criteria, "Commercial Agriculture" means a commercial or family farming enterprise whose business is to cultivate the land for growing plants, vines, or other crops for consumption, fiber, biofuel, or raw materials, or the breeding, feeding, or raising of animals, livestock, or poultry for human consumption or other products, all resulting in the marketing and commercial sale of such products. The GSA may require submittal of documentation satisfactory to the GSA, including but not limited to applicable IRS forms, certifying that the property is used for Commercial Agriculture.

(ii) Be a resident and registered voter within the boundaries of the GSA; and

(iii) The Agricultural Director, or the owner he/she represents, may not be a party to any pending litigation against the GSA, other than as a party to a groundwater rights adjudication affecting the EMA.

(iv) Amendments to these criteria may be adopted through resolution by a unanimous vote of the Member Directors.

(2) After the Santa Ynez Water Group has submitted one or more Qualified Nominees for the Agricultural Director position, the



Member Directors will consider said Qualified Nominees for appointment to the Board. Notwithstanding Article 11.3 of this Agreement, said appointment decision shall require a unanimous vote of all the Member Directors (or Alternates as applicable) during a publicly noticed meeting of the EMA GSA where the Directors from each of the Members (or Alternates as applicable) are present and each casts a vote. In the absence of a unanimous vote of approval and appointment by the Member Directors, the Member Directors may request the Santa Ynez Water Group to submit alternative Qualified Nominees in accordance with the process set forth above.

(3) The Agricultural Director shall be appointed for a term of two years but may be reappointed for multiple terms so long as that Agricultural Director is nominated by the Santa Ynez Water Group in accordance with the processes and requirements set forth above and unanimously approved and appointed by the Member Directors.

(4) If the Santa Ynez Water Group is unwilling or unable to select and submit one or more Qualified Nominees for the Agricultural Director position to the Board pursuant to the process set forth herein, the Board may request another agricultural association or entity having members or doing business within the GSA's boundaries to perform such process.

(g) Each Director representing a Member shall be an elected official of the appointing Member.

7.3 Alternate Directors. Each Director shall have one Alternate to act as a substitute Director for that Director. All Alternates shall be appointed in the same manner as set forth in Article 7.2. Alternate Directors shall not vote or participate in any deliberations of the Board unless appearing as a substitute for a Director due to absence or conflict of interest. If a Director is not present, or if a Director has a conflict of interest which precludes participation by the Director in any decision-making process of the Board, the Alternate Director appointed to act in his/her place shall assume all roles of the Director, and shall have the authority to act on behalf of the absent Director, including but not limited to participating in open session and closed session deliberations and casting votes on matters before the Board. An Alternate Director representing a Member shall be an elected official or staff of the appointing Member.

7.4 Requirements. Each Member Director and Alternate Member Director shall be appointed by resolution as set forth in Article 7.2. Member Directors and Alternate Member Directors shall serve at the pleasure of the governing body of the appointing Member. No individual Director or Alternate representing a Member may be removed

except by the vote of the governing body of the Member that appointed him/her. The term of a non-Member Director or non-Member Alternate appointed in accordance with Article 7.2 above shall be two (2) years, and such Director or Alternate may serve any number of consecutive terms upon re-appointment in accordance with Article 7.2 above; provided, however, that any non-Member Director or non-Member Alternate may be removed from his/her position at any time prior to the expiration of his/her then-current term based on a decision by the Member Directors, where notwithstanding Article 11.3 of this Agreement said removal decision shall be subject to the unanimous voting requirements of Article 7.2(f)(2) above.

7.5 Vacancies. Upon the vacancy of a Director, the Alternate Director shall serve as Director until a new Director is appointed as set forth in Article 7.2 above. Upon the vacancy of an Alternate, a new Alternate shall be appointed as set forth in Articles 7.2 and 7.3. A Member shall submit any changes in its Director or Alternate Director positions to the Board by providing a copy of its executed resolution.

7.6 Duties of the Board of Directors. The business and affairs of the EMA GSA, and all of its powers, including without limitation all powers set forth in Article 5, are reserved to and shall be exercised by and through the Board of Directors, or Member Directors where specifically set forth in this Agreement, except as may be expressly delegated to the Executive Director or other(s) pursuant to this Agreement, Bylaws of the GSA, or by specific action of the Board of Directors.

7.7 Director and Alternate Compensation. No Director or Alternate shall be compensated by the EMA GSA in connection with any meetings or other activities undertaken as a representative of the GSA. Nothing in this Article is intended to prohibit a Member from compensating its Director or Alternate for compensable activities undertaken as a Director or Alternate of the GSA Board.

## **ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS**

8.1 Officers. Officers of the EMA GSA shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional officers may be appointed by the Board as it deems necessary.

- (a) Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall be a member of the Board.
- (b) Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall exercise all powers of the Chair in the Chair's absence or inability to act, and shall be a member of the Board.
- (c) Secretary. The Secretary shall certify minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform other duties and responsibilities as properly delegated by the Board. The Secretary may, but need not, be a member of the Board.
- (d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall perform such duties and responsibilities specified in Government Code sections 6505.5 and

# Santa Ynez Water Group

October 14, 2024

Brett Marymee, EMA GSA Board Chair  
Eastern Management Area GSA  
3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
Email: bmarymee@syrwcd.com

RE: Santa Ynez Water Group's Recommendation for Agricultural Director and  
Alternate Director

Dear Chair Marymee:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Board of Directors (**Board**) of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (**EMA GSA**) with the recommendation of the Santa Ynez Water Group (**Water Group**) for the positions of Agricultural Director and Alternate to the Agricultural Director.

Effective July 16, 2024, the City of Solvang, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and the Santa Ynez Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 approved and adopted the "Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez Valley Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency" (**JPA**). Article 7 thereof establishes a Board of Directors consisting of one representative from each of the public agency parties (**Member Directors**), and one representative, specifically representing the agricultural interests of the Eastern Management Area (**EMA**), appointed by the Member Directors in accordance with Article 7.2 of the JPA.

Accordingly, pursuant to Article 7.2 of the JPA, the Water Group, working with the Santa Barbara Vintners, and the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, solicited applications for the Agricultural Director position. In doing so, the Water Group published information in the Santa Ynez Valley News and the Santa Maria Times from September 4, 2024 to September 30, 2024. The Santa Barbara Vintners emailed information to its 404 contacts. And the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau published information in its newsletter to its 800 contacts. In response, the Santa Ynez Water Group received seven written applications and one telephone inquiry.

The Water Group reviewed each application for completion and worked with those applicants who submitted an incomplete application to ensure a proper submission. Thereafter, the Water Group interviewed each applicant. As a result, the Water Group determined the following: two of the applicants lived outside of the EMA and therefore were not qualified for the position; three of the applicants were not involved in "Commercial Agriculture," as that term is defined by Article 7.1(f)(1)(a)(i) of the JPA, and therefore were not qualified for the position; and one of the applicants who was otherwise qualified for the position withdrew his application after learning more about the time commitment associated with the position. The two remaining applicants, Mr. Douglas Circle and Ms. Mary Heyden, were determined to qualify for the position and have

# Santa Ynez Water Group

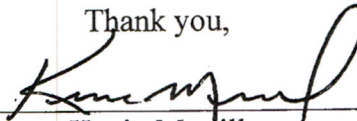
sufficient knowledge regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and its implementation in the EMA.

Mr. Circle and Ms. Heyden then were considered and approved by the Water Group for the positions of Agricultural Director and Alternate to the Agricultural Director, respectively. This recommendation was then considered by the Santa Barbara Vintners and the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, each of which have provided a letter of support for Mr. Circle and Ms. Heyden, enclosed. Also enclosed, you will find Mr. Circle's and Ms. Heyden's complete application packets for your review.

*In conclusion, in accordance with Article 7.2 of the JPA the Water Group hereby recommends Mr. Douglas Circle for the position of Agricultural Director. and Ms. Mary Heyden for the position of Alternate to the Agricultural Director.*

If the Board of the EMA GSA has any questions or requires any supplemental information regarding the Water Group's recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Merrill at [kmerrill@mesavineyard.com](mailto:kmerrill@mesavineyard.com).

Thank you,



---

Kevin Merrill

Cc: [INSERT]

# BUSINESS

## YESTERDAY'S U.S. MARKETS

<b>Dow Jones</b>	<b>Nasdaq</b>	<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	<b>Gold</b>
▼ 40,936.93 -626.15	▼ 17,136.30 -577.33	▼ 5,528.93 -119.47	▼ \$2,524.70 -\$2.90

GAS PRICES	SB County		SLO County		Source: AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report
	Regular	Diesel	Regular	Diesel	
Yesterday	\$4.68	\$4.96	\$4.86	\$5.25	
Month ago	\$4.76	\$5.06	\$4.87	\$5.31	
Year ago	\$5.32	\$5.96	\$5.57	\$6.24	



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ

A woman buys eggs at a Walmart Superstore in Secaucus, New Jersey July 11.

## Fed welcomes 'soft landing' even if many don't feel like cheering

**CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — When Jerome Powell delivered a high-profile speech last month, the Federal Reserve chair came the closest he ever had to declaring that the inflation surge that gripped the nation for three painful years was now essentially defeated.

And not only that. The Fed's high interest rates, Powell said, had managed to achieve that goal without causing a widely predicted recession and high unemployment.

Yet most Americans are not in the same celebratory mood about the plummeting of inflation in the face of the high borrowing rates the Fed engineered. Though consumer sentiment is slowly rising, a majority of Americans in some surveys still complain about elevated prices, given that the costs of such necessities as food, gas and housing remain far above where they were before the pandemic erupted in 2020.

The relatively sour mood of the public is creating challenges for Vice President Kamala Harris as she seeks to succeed President Joe Biden. Despite the fall of inflation and strong job growth, many voters say they're dissatisfied with the Biden-Harris administration's economic record — and especially frustrated by high prices.

That disparity points to a striking gap between how economists and policymakers assess the past several years of the economy and how many ordinary Americans do.

In his remarks last month, given at an annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Powell underscored how the Fed's sharp rate hikes succeeded much more than most economists had predicted in taming inflation without hammering the economy — a notoriously difficult feat known as a "soft landing."

"The 4-1/2 percentage point decline in inflation from its peak two years ago," he noted, "has occurred in a context of low unemployment — a welcome and historically unusual result."

With high inflation now essentially conquered, Powell and other central bank officials are preparing to cut their key interest rate in mid-September for the first time in more than four years. The Fed is becoming more focused on sustaining the job market with the help of lower interest rates than on continuing to fight inflation.

Many consumers, by contrast, are still preoccupied most by today's price levels.

"It really has been a remarkable success, how inflation went up, has come back, and is around the target," said Kristin Forbes, an economist at MIT and a former official at the United

Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England.

"But from the viewpoint of households, it has not been so successful," she added. "Many have taken a big hit to their wages. Many of them feel like the basket of goods they buy is now much more expensive."

Two years ago, economists feared that the Fed's ongoing rate hikes — it ultimately raised its benchmark rate more than 5 percentage points to a 23-year high in the fastest pace in four decades — would hammer the economy and cause millions of job losses. After all, that's what happened when the Fed under Chair Paul Volcker sent its benchmark rate to nearly 20% in the early 1980s, ultimately throttling a brutal inflationary spell.

In fact, at Jackson Hole two years ago, Powell himself warned that using high interest rates to defeat the inflation spike "would bring some pain."

Yet now, according to the Fed's preferred measure, inflation is 2.5%, not far above its 2% target. And while a weaker pace of hiring has caused some concerns, the unemployment rate is at a still-low 4.3%, and the economy expanded at a solid 3% annual rate last quarter.

While no Fed official will outright declare victory, some take satisfaction in defying the predictions of doom and gloom.

"2023 was a historic year for inflation falling," said Austan Goolsbee, president of the Chicago Fed. "And there wasn't a recession, and that's unprecedented. And so we will be studying the mechanics of how that happened for a long time."

Measures of consumer sentiment, though, indicate that three years of hurtful inflation have dimmed many Americans' outlook. In addition, high loan rates, along with elevated housing prices, have led many young workers to fear that homeownership is increasingly out of reach.

Last month, the consulting firm McKinsey said that 53% of consumers in its most recent survey "still say that rising prices and inflation are among their concerns." McKinsey's analysts attributed the escalated figure to "an 'inflation overhang' — the belief that it can take months, if not years, for consumers to adjust emotionally to a much higher level of prices even if their pay is keeping pace."

Economists point to several reasons for the wide gap in perceptions between economists and policymakers on the one hand and everyday consumers and workers on the other.

The first is that the Fed tailors its interest rate policies to manage inflation — the rate of price changes — rather than price levels themselves. So when inflation spikes, the central

bank's goal is to return it to a sustainable level rather than to reverse the price increases. The Fed's policymakers expect average wages to catch up and eventually to allow consumers to afford the higher prices.

"Central bankers think even if inflation gets away from 2% for a period, as long as it comes back, that's fine," Forbes said. "But the amount of time inflation is away from 2% can have a major cost."

Research by Stefanie Stantcheva, a Harvard economist, and two colleagues found that most people's views of inflation are very different from those of economists. Economists tend to regard inflation as a consequence of strong growth. They often describe inflation as a result of an "overheating" economy: Low unemployment, strong job growth and rising wages lead businesses to sharply increase prices without necessarily losing sales.

By contrast, a survey by Stantcheva found, ordinary Americans "view inflation as an unambiguously bad thing and very rarely as a sign of a good economy or as a byproduct of positive developments."

Her survey respondents also said they believed that inflation stems from excessive government spending or greedy businesses. They "do not believe that (central bank) policymakers face trade-offs, such as having to reduce economic activity or increase unemployment to control inflation."

At the Jackson Hole conference, Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, argued that central banks cannot guarantee that high inflation will never appear — only that they will try to drive it back down when it does.

The test of a central bank, Bailey said, "is not that we will never have inflation. The test of the regime is how well, once you get hit by these shocks, you bring it back to target."

Still, Forbes suggested that there are lessons to be learned from the inflation spike, including whether inflation was allowed to stay too high for too long. The Fed has long been criticized for having taken too long to start raising its benchmark rate. Inflation first spiked in the spring of 2021. Yet the Fed, under the mistaken impression that high inflation would prove "transitory," didn't begin raising rates until nearly a year later.

"Maybe should we rethink ... where we seem to be now: 'As long as it comes back four to five years later, that's fine,'" she said. "Maybe four to five years is too long."

"How much unemployment or slowdown in growth should we be willing to accept to shorten the length of time that inflation is too high?"

## Harris to propose tenfold startup tax incentive increase

**WILL WEISSERT**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris plans to propose on Wednesday a tenfold increase in federal tax incentives for small business startup expenses, from \$5,000 to \$50,000, hoping to help spur a record 25 million new small business applications over her four-year term should she win the presidency in November.

She's set to unveil the plan during a campaign stop in the Portsmouth area of New Hampshire — marking a rare deviation from the Midwestern and Sunbelt battlegrounds the Democrat has focused on in her race against former Republican President Donald Trump.

A Harris campaign official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a policy plan that hadn't been released publicly, said Tuesday the change would cover the \$40,000 it costs on average to start a business. The proposal would let new businesses wait to claim that deduction until they first turn a profit, to better maximize its impact lowering their taxes.

Such changes would likely require congressional approval. But a series of tax cuts approved during the Trump administration are set to expire at the end of next year, setting up a scenario where lawmakers may be ready to consider new tax policies. The proposal can help Harris show her support for entrepreneurs even as she's called for higher corporate tax rates.

Since President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid and endorsed Harris in July, the vice president has focused on campaigning in the "blue wall" states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania that have been the centerpiece of Democratic campaigns that have won the White House in recent decades.

She's also frequently visited Arizona, Nevada and Georgia, all of which Biden narrowly won in 2020, and North Car-



SUSAN WALSH

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris campaigns with President Joe Biden at the IBEW Local Union #5 union hall in Pittsburgh on Labor Day Monday.

olina, which last voted Democratic in a presidential race in 2008 but which she's still hoping to flip from Trump. Biden won New Hampshire by 7 percentage points in 2020, though Trump came far closer to winning it against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"The cost of living in New Hampshire is through the roof, their energy bills are some of the highest in the country, and their housing market is the most unaffordable in history," Trump posted last week on his social media platform.

Harris' team says securing 25 million new business applications in four years if she wins the White House would exceed the roughly 19 million such applications filed since Biden took office. And those were millions more than the previous four years under Trump. The vice president's goal would be a record for new small business applications — but records only go back about 20 years.

Applications to start a business don't always translate to small businesses actually being formed. Still, Harris' plan could keep new small businesses that do come to fruition from otherwise incurring more debt which, at a time of high interest rates, might help them better succeed.

In the weeks since Harris took over the top of the Democratic ticket, she has offered relatively few major policy pro-

posals — attempting to strike a political balance between injecting new energy into the race and continuing to support many of the Biden administration proposals she helped champion as vice president.

Harris' small business plan follows her announcing last month proposed steps to fight inflation by working to lower grocery prices, and to use tax cuts and other incentives to encourage homeownership. The vice president has also proposed ending federal taxes on tips to service industry workers, an idea Trump proposed first.

The plan she's introducing Wednesday further calls for developing a standard deduction for small businesses meant to save their owners time when doing their taxes, and making it easier to get occupational licenses — letting people work across state lines and businesses expand into new states. Harris also wants to offer federal incentives so state and local government will ease their regulations.

In an effort to spur business investment outside urban and suburban hubs, Harris is pledging to launch a small business expansion fund to enable community banks and federal entities to cover interest costs while small businesses are expanding or otherwise creating jobs. Her team says those efforts will focus especially on areas that traditionally receive less investment.

### SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

#### MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Santa Ynez Water Group  
August 30, 2024  
3942 Roblar Ave  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
Phone: 714.630.0299  
Email: santaynezwatergroup@gmail.com

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Now Accepting Applications for the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director Positions on the Board of Directors for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Effective July 16, 2024, the Santa Ynez River Conservation District, the Santa Ynez River Conservation District Improvement District No.1, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, and the City of Solvang approved and adopted a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) forming the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA). Among other things, the JPA calls for a five-member Board of Directors (Board) consisting of one representative from each of the public agencies mentioned above and one representative from the agricultural community at-large. The JPA provides for the Santa Ynez Water Group, a nonprofit entity representing landowners, farmers, and ranchers who rely on groundwater within the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin, to solicit applications and submit nominations to the Board for the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director positions. Appointment decisions are made by the directors representing the four public agencies of the JPA.

The purpose of this press release is to inform the public that the Santa Ynez Water Group is now accepting applications for the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director positions on the EMA GSA's Board. According to the JPA, to qualify as a candidate for the position, you must:

- Be an owner or representative of an owner of property located within the boundaries of the EMA GSA and involved in Commercial Agriculture (as defined in the JPA), and which produces at least 2 acre-feet per year of groundwater from within the boundaries of the EMA GSA to support Commercial Agriculture on said property.
- Be a resident and registered voter within the boundaries of the EMA GSA.
- Not be party to any pending litigation against the EMA GSA, other than as a party to a groundwater rights adjudication affecting the EMA GSA (no such adjudication is pending).

Please be aware that the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director positions on the JPA Board are public official designations, where individuals appointed to these positions are subject to the requirements of the Fair Political Practices Act, Public Records Act, Brown Act, and other applicable public laws and regulations. If you are interested in applying for the Agricultural Director and/or Alternate Director position, please email santaynezwatergroup@gmail.com to receive an application. All applications must be completed and submitted to the Santa Ynez Water Group by 5:00 PM PST on September 20, 2024.

# Farmworkers plan to ask for county wage ordinance

Goal is to guarantee wage of \$26 an hour

**MIKE HODGSON**  
Contributing Writer

Nearly a score of farmworkers and supporters told the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors they plan to ask for a wage ordinance that would guarantee them \$26 an hour, but such a move was opposed by a growers representative.

The issue came up Tuesday during the general public comment portion of the meeting in Santa Maria, where a number of farmworkers spoke to the board in Spanish, translated into English.

Hazel Davalos, of Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, or CAUSE, asked the board to have a proposed ordinance placed on a future meeting agenda.

She commended the county on working with the nonprofit organization to improve working conditions for farmworkers over the past decade.

"Despite our efforts, however, if you ask any farmworker in our county what's the biggest challenge they face, it's low wages — not earning enough to pay high Central Coast rents, living in crowded housing, struggling to pay for food and health care and provide for their children," Davalos said.

For that reason, she said, CAUSE and Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project, or MI-COP, joined forces to form Aliante Campesina, an organization of farmworker



LEN WOOD, STAFF

A farmworker picks produce in a field near North A Street in Lompoc in March 2020. A group representing farmworks plans to seek an ordinance that would guarantee farmworkers a minimum wage of \$26 an hour in Santa Barbara County.

leaders working to increase farmworker wages in the county.

"At our convenings, workers have expressed the hurt of being called essential workers yet being paid and treated as if they're disposable," Davalos said, noting vigils were organized last year when two farmworkers — a woman from Cuyama and a man from Guadalupe — were killed in the fields by machinery.

Farmworkers have organized to fight for dignity, however, and inspired by workers from other sectors, to seek a higher minimum wage through an ordinance, she said.

"The farmworker leaders of Aliante Campesina are asking you to pass a farmworker living wage ordinance of \$26 per hour," Davalos said. "We can do this. With a single policy, you as a board can lift thousands of families in our county out of poverty."

She said the county plays a major role in keep-

ing farmworker families afloat "in large part because growers won't pay livable wages."

She said Santa Maria has the second-largest population of H-2A workers in the state, and growers can afford to pay \$26 an hour to attract laborers who will reinvest that money in the local economy.

Davalos said that will draw people to buy local produce and visit local wineries because they will know farmworkers here are paid living wages.

Her request was followed by a series of farmworkers recounting their struggles to provide for their families and how when they were injured were treated by growers.

Blanca Antonio Aquino, a farmworker and a daughter of farmworkers, told the board that their "normal" consisted of shopping at thrift stores and yard sales and attending food distribution events as a way to deal with low wages.

She also noted that low

wages affect the education of farmworkers' children, because after paying for basic necessities, there is little money left over to cover the costs of extracurricular activities that children of wealthier families enjoy.

Instead, she said, farmworkers' children spend their time off from school helping their parents in the fields.

"Let us not put a price tag and expiration date on the health and wellbeing of our farmworkers who work tirelessly and laborfully to provide us with fresh produce," Aquino said.

"Instead, let us provide our community of farmworkers with the means and resources to live with a dignified wage instead of forcing them and their families to simply survive," she said.

Even before Davalos raised the request for a farmworker wage ordinance, the proposal was opposed by a growers representative.

Claire Wineman, president of the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, said a guarantee of \$26 an hour would represent a 63% increase in the minimum wage, but would not reflect farmworkers' actual take-home earnings.

"Most harvesters are paid on a piece-rate basis, which offers lucrative opportunities based on performance," Wineman said. "Additionally, the ongoing increases in the California minimum wage have created compression across many other job opportunities, which has proved difficult to navigate."

Please see **ORDINANCE**, Page A5

# Registrar of voters encourages citizens to register to vote

Voter registration cards available at US post offices, libraries, elections offices, online

**SANTA MARIA TIMES STAFF REPORT**

The Santa Barbara County Elections Office asks all eligible citizens to register to vote before the Presidential General Election on Nov. 5.

The last day to register to vote for the Nov. 5 election is Oct. 21.

County Registrar of Voters

ers Joe Holland said "registering to vote or verifying that your voter registration is accurate is important."

A voter must be a citizen of the United States and be at least 18 years of age on election day to be eligible to vote. Voters can verify the accuracy of their voter registration, including residential and mailing addresses, at the California Secretary of State's website, sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status, or Santa Barbara County Elections Office website at sbvote.com.

Please see **VOTERS**, Page A5

## OBITUARIES

### Cassie Flora Talavera (Hamilton)

July 25, 1990 - July 24, 2024



The family and friends of Cassie Flora Talavera (Hamilton) are deeply saddened to announce her passing on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, one day before her 34th birthday.

Cassie was welcomed into the family of Sid and Beckee (Johnson) Hamilton on July 25th 1990, in Lompoc, California - she was their fourth and youngest child. Her older siblings, Dena, Josh and Katie delighted in the presence of their baby sister - she was truly the light of their lives. They remember her as an exceptionally happy and smart child, making friends easily, doing well in school and sports.

Graduating from Lompoc's Cabrillo High School in 2008, Cassie then completed the Alan Hancock Dental Program, graduating as a Registered Dental Assistant. Her work in a dentist's office was rewarding for many years, but it could not compare to the joys that motherhood brought to Cassie and she devoted herself entirely to raising her three children, Aida (13), Emit (9), and Owen (7). She is remembered by family and friends as the champion of mothers, always putting her children first.

Cassie was an amazing mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, niece, cousin and friend. She touched the lives of many people and her spirit will live on through them. Her love of life will be remembered always, and her loss, felt deeply.

We extend an invitation to all those close to Cassie and her family to remember her and celebrate her life on Friday, September 13th at Sunny Fields Park, Area A, Solvang from 2-4 pm.

## Lake

From A2

Torres said that compensation can be as much as \$10,000 per day, depending on the facility's size and usage. Both the Elks Rodeo grounds and the Speedway confirmed that they had formal contracts with the firefighting agencies and were compensated accordingly.

Torres said that Calfire collaborates closely with local, state, and even out-of-state agencies to bring in necessary resources "using the mutual aid system to get city and county departments to all our fires."

"So even though the fires are locally in your area, we have firefighters from Northern California, from Southern California coming into your fire, we have forestry service partners, come into the fires as well," he said. "Also, we have out-of-state resources ... we will reach out to Oregon, Washington and Nevada to bring resources over as well."

Torres said the influx of firefighters is a positive thing for local economies.

"We spend a lot of money in town locally in restaurants. As firefighters are there for long periods of time and we get tired of our sack lunches and our local food that's made at the base camp, so sometimes we want to explore outside of that and go to restaurants," said Torres.

Torres noted that the fire base camps can lead to traffic congestion, particularly during peak times when fire trucks are heading to or from the camp.

The busiest periods, he said, are typically between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. in the morning, and again from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the evening.

David Castaneda, general manager and event coordinator for Santa Maria Speedway, said he and his staff were working on the go-kart track when officials from Calfire pulled up, inquiring about the track's availability.

"A few hours later, we were visited by logistics chief Tim Fitzgerald, and by Wednesday early morning, they were moving in," Castaneda said. "It was like the Marines moved in — very efficient."

The original handshake agreement between Calfire and the Speedway was for 10 days, but the base camp ultimately stayed open for 13 days.

"We ended up expanding the area they used because it was clear they needed more space for all the visiting fire departments," said Castaneda.

While the Speedway canceled some events, including a go-kart race and practices, Castaneda said it felt good to help the firefighters out.

"We met firefighters from all over California, and it introduced our race-track to a lot of people who didn't even know we were here," he said.

Johnna McGuire, media director for Elks Recreation, described the urgency of the situation when Calfire first contacted them.

"We received a call at 3 a.m. informing us that a fire was in progress and they needed to set up a fire camp as quickly as possible," said McGuire. "The U.S. Forest Service, which managed the fire camp at the rodeo grounds, remained there for 25 days."

The facility has a part-

nership with Santa Barbara County Animal Services for large animal evacuation, so the land was well-prepared for the task, McGuire said.

"Our top priority is making sure that we're able to provide any kind of safety and help in an emergency situation," she said.

Both the Speedway and the Elks rodeo grounds emphasized their willingness to support future emergency efforts.

"We would do it again," said Castaneda.

April Chavez is the Santa Maria City Reporter for the Santa Maria Times. If you have information, or a story idea that you would like to share, send her an email at [AChavez@SantaMariaTimes.com](mailto:AChavez@SantaMariaTimes.com).

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## SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

### MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Santa Ynez Water Group  
August 30, 2024  
3942 Roblar Ave  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
Phone: 714.630.0299  
Email: [santaynezwatergroup@gmail.com](mailto:santaynezwatergroup@gmail.com)

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## Lompoc Unified School District

# NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Inspire students one mile at a time!

\$21.36

HOURLY STARTING PAY

6 hours

MINIMUM PER DAY

No Cost

TRAINING

\$7500

Signing Bonus



805-742-3220

classifiedhr@lUSD.org



# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

## APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION AS AGRICULTURAL DIRECTOR / ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Pursuant to the July 16, 2024 Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (**JPA**) forming the Santa Ynez Valley Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (**EMA GSA**), the Santa Ynez Water Group is responsible for soliciting applications and submitting nominations for the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director positions on the EMA GSA's Board of Directors (**Board**). (See 7.2(f) of the JPA.) Accordingly, by completing and submitting this Application to the Santa Ynez Water Group, you are submitting yourself for consideration by the Santa Ynez Water Group for nomination as the Agricultural Director or Alternate Director on the EMA GSA Board.

### APPLICATION

Name: Doug Circle

Address: Rancho Cañada 3942 Roblar Ave. Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Phone Number: (714) 742- 1444

Email: doug@circlevision.com

Signature: 

Do you own or are you an authorized representative of an owner of real property located within the boundaries of the EMA GSA? A copy of the boundaries of the EMA GSA are attached hereto as Attachment A.

NO

YES  If yes, please list those APN here: 141-042-001, 141-042-002, 141-042-003, & 142-141-015

200 gross acres 178 net planted wine grape vineyard

[APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

Are you involved in "Commercial Agricultural" on those APNs listed above?

For purposes of the JPA, "Commercial Agriculture" means a commercial or family farming enterprise whose business is to cultivate the land for growing plants, vines, or other crops for consumption, fiber, biofuel, or raw materials, or the breeding, feeding, or raising of animals, livestock, or poultry for human consumption or other products, all resulting in the marketing and commercial sale of such products.

NO

YES  If yes, please attach supporting documentation to this application upon submission and provide a brief explanation, here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 178 acres of wine grapes sold to 15 contracted wineries, Sauv Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cab Sauv, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Syrah, Malbec, and Mourvedre \_\_\_\_\_

Do you produce at least 2 acre-feet of groundwater per year from within the boundaries of the EMA GSA for use in your "Commercial Agricultural" activities?

NO

YES  If yes, please attach supporting documentation to this application upon submission.

Are you a resident and registered voter within the boundaries of the EMA GSA?

NO

YES  If yes, please attach supporting documentation to this application upon submission. (Check voter registration status here: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>.)

Are you party to any litigation adverse to the EMA GSA?

NO

YES

[APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]



# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

Are you familiar with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?

NO

YES  If yes, please explain how here: President of Santa Ynez Water Group. Farm in 5 GSA Basins, active in 3 currently. Have been participating for the last 4 years in GSA, GSP for Santa Ynez Valley.

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How have you participated in the process of implementing SGMA within the EMA GSA?

NO

YES  If yes, please explain how here: I have been active in the EMA GSA. Attending meetings for the last 4 years and worked with hydrologist to improve GSP. Worked with agencies on legal JPA structure. Consistently offered AG perspective.

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If nominated by the Santa Ynez Water Group and appointed by the EMA GSA Board as the Agricultural Director or Alternate Director, are you willing and able to dedicate the time and resources necessary to actively participate in decision-making, including attending at least one Board meeting a month (possibly more), communicating with agricultural groundwater users and other stakeholders within the EMA GSA, and advocating on behalf of agricultural groundwater users?

NO

YES

Please describe your knowledge of and experience with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (a.k.a., SGMA): Have participated in Santa Ynez Water Group over last 4 years. I have time, knowledge and energy to attend meetings, and participate in decision making. Further, I will make this a priority to represent agriculture. Graduated the California Agriculture Leadership Program Class of XXV.

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# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

**Please describe your knowledge of and experience with water management, water wells, and water meters:** I have farmed in Santa Barbara County since 1978 and have had water wells at more than 30 locations. I'm currently operating 10 active wells. 4 are located within the EMA GSA boundaries. I have experience in Fox Canyon Water District GSA where water meters, well registration, and water usage have been required for over 35 years.

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**Please provide any other supplemental information that you would like considered here:** I have farmed in multiple locations in the Central Coast and Coachella Valley. We use water from other basins. Santa Ynez Valley is my primary interest currently. I believe my experience will serve the EMA GSA and all agriculture well. I'll be able to straight forwardly deal with issues as they arise. I look forward to contributing my time, knowledge and energy.

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**Do you produce at least 2 acre-feet of groundwater per year from within the boundaries of the EMA GSA for use in your “Commercial Agricultural” activities?**

Rancho Cañada uses water from 3 irrigation wells located on site at 3942 Roblar Ave and 4100 Roblar Ave. to irrigate 178 acres, approximate usage is 267 acre feet of water annually.



## My Voter Status

Your information has been successfully saved. Thank you.

### Personal Information

First name **DOUGLAS**

Last name **CIRCLE**

Status **ACTIVE**

Your preferred language to receive election material is **ENGLISH**

Address where you are registered to vote  
**3942 ROBLAR AVE  
SANTA YNEZ 93460**

Mailing Address **Santa Ynez, CA 93460**

Your political party preference is **REPUBLICAN**

Vote-by-Mail in All Elections All active registered voters will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot for every election. If you want to vote in person, you must turn in your vote-by-mail ballot, or you may be required to vote a provisional ballot.

You can track the status of your vote-by-mail ballot.  
[Sign up for ballot tracking](#)

You are registered to vote in **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

County website: <http://www.sbcvote.com/>

County phone: 805-568-2200

Voters have the option to receive important election information by email. To add or verify your email address please review the [Email Contact Information](#) section below.

To change your voter information, please [re-register to vote](#).

### Voting History

If you voted in an election, you can see if you voted at a polling place, vote center, voted by mail, or cast a provisional ballot.

# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

## APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION AS AGRICULTURAL DIRECTOR / ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FOR THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Pursuant to the July 16, 2024 Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (**JPA**) forming the Santa Ynez Valley Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (**EMA GSA**), the Santa Ynez Water Group is responsible for soliciting applications and submitting nominations for the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director positions on the EMA GSA's Board of Directors (**Board**). (See 7.2(f) of the JPA.) Accordingly, by completing and submitting this Application to the Santa Ynez Water Group, you are submitting yourself for consideration by the Santa Ynez Water Group for nomination as the Agricultural Director or Alternate Director on the EMA GSA Board.

### APPLICATION

Name: Mary Heyden

Address: 2751 Stow Street, Los Olivos, CA 93441

Phone Number: 805-688-4461 Office / 805-350-1854 Cell

Email: Marysneedles@yahoo.com

Signature: 

Do you own or are you an authorized representative of an owner of real property located within the boundaries of the EMA GSA? A copy of the boundaries of the EMA GSA are attached hereto as Attachment A.

NO

YES  If yes, please list those APN here: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Member Manager of Chamberlin Ranch, LLC: 133-151-059, 133-151-020,  
133-110-026, 133-151-060, 133-151-061, 133-151-088, 133-151-058

[APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

Are you involved in "Commercial Agricultural" on those APNs listed above?

For purposes of the JPA, "Commercial Agriculture" means a commercial or family farming enterprise whose business is to cultivate the land for growing plants, vines, or other crops for consumption, fiber, biofuel, or raw materials, or the breeding, feeding, or raising of animals, livestock, or poultry for human consumption or other products, all resulting in the marketing and commercial sale of such products.

NO

YES  If yes, please attach supporting documentation to this application upon submission and provide a brief explanation, here: \_\_\_\_\_

Ted Chamberlin Ranch is a family owned and operated beef cattle ranch that has been in commercial agricultural since 1929. Ted Chamberlin Ranch (the business) has a perpetual lease agreement with Chamberlin Ranch, LLC (the property owner). We are primarily a cow-calf operation and sell our weaned calves each year into the commercial market. There is between 250 – 1000 head of cattle on our property at all times.

Do you produce at least 2 acre-feet of groundwater per year from within the boundaries of the EMA GSA for use in your "Commercial Agricultural" activities?

NO

YES  If yes, please attach supporting documentation to this application upon submission.

Are you a resident and registered voter within the boundaries of the EMA GSA?

NO

YES  If yes, please attach supporting documentation to this application upon submission. (Check voter registration status here: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>.)

Are you party to any litigation adverse to the EMA GSA?

NO

YES

# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

[APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

Are you familiar with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?

NO

YES X If yes, please explain how here: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the Citizen's Advisory Group for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How have you participated in the process of implementing SGMA within the EMA GSA?

NO

YES X If yes, please explain how here: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the Citizen's Advisory Group for the Eastern Management Area for the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin. \_\_\_\_\_

I am also a Member/Director of the Santa Ynez Water Group. \_\_\_\_\_

I have attended approximately 90% of the EMA GSA meetings and have met privately with agency staff members over the past 3-4 years. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If nominated by the Santa Ynez Water Group and appointed by the EMA GSA Board as the Agricultural Director or Alternate Director, are you willing and able to dedicate the time and resources necessary to actively participate in decision-making, including attending at least one Board meeting a month (possibly more), communicating with agricultural groundwater users and other stakeholders within the EMA GSA, and advocating on behalf of agricultural groundwater users?

NO

YES X

Please describe your knowledge of and experience with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (a.k.a., SGMA): My experience with SGMA is through attending the EMA GSA meetings and my involvement with the EMA CAG and the Santa Ynez Water Group. Approximately 1000 acres of the Ted Chamberlin Ranch lies within the San Antonio River Groundwater Basin. I have attended 2 or 3 SABGSA meetings as well. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# SANTA YNEZ WATER GROUP

**Please describe your knowledge of and experience with water management, water wells, and water meters:** The Ted Chamberlin Ranch gets its water exclusively via \_\_\_\_\_ groundwater wells that we have managed for almost 100 years. We know the importance of maintaining a sustainable groundwater aquifer, as our cattle rely on fresh water daily. While we have internally metered our water use, we have never had to register our wells nor \_\_\_\_\_ report our usage. This will be a new experience for us. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please provide any other supplemental information that you would like considered here:** \_\_\_\_\_ The Ted Chamberlin Family prides itself on the holistic management of our rangelands. This includes prescribed grazing methods that keep the land covered with residual dry matter, preventing water run-off. Instead, the rain that falls onto our property remains on the land and eventually soaks down into the aquifer. Increasing our water \_\_\_\_\_ holding capacity is one of the top priorities at the Ted Chamberlin Ranch. We practice \_\_\_\_\_ sustainable groundwater management everyday and intend to implement more practices to augment our water holding capacity in the future. \_\_\_\_\_

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America



# Mary Heyden is registered to vote

Mary Heyden  
2751 Stow St, Los Olivos, CA 93441  
8/13/1966  
Voter status: Active

CA data last updated: 6/12/2024



### Thanks for checking your voter registration status!

Our partner Daily Harvest shares our passion for civic engagement. To celebrate your commitment to our democracy, use the **code VOTE2024** to save 15% on pre-portioned, ready-to-prepare meals and snacks available at [dailyharvest.com](https://dailyharvest.com).

*Terms: Offer expires 11:59 pm ET, Nov. 19, 2024. Minimum \$100 purchase before tax + shipping. Discount not applicable to tax + shipping, has no cash value, may be modified or canceled at any time, and cannot be combined with other promotional offers.*

## DAILY HARVEST

Continue

VoteAmerica.org is the joint website of VoteAmerica and VoteAmerica Action Fund. VoteAmerica and VoteAmerica Action Fund are separate organizations. VoteAmerica is a registered 501(c)(3), and does not support or oppose any political candidate or party. Donations to VoteAmerica are tax-deductible. VoteAmerica Action Fund is a registered 501(c)(4). Donations to VoteAmerica Action Fund are not tax-deductible.



EMA GSA Board of Directors  
Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Eastern Management Area GSA  
3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

October 11, 2024

RE: Letter of Recommendation, Doug Circle

To Whom it May Concern,

We wholeheartedly support Doug Circle for the Agricultural Director position for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. (EMA GSA)

Mr. Circle has extensive knowledge of multiple types of agriculture, including strawberries and grapes, which represent the largest crop and agricultural product produced in Santa Barbara County, respectively. I have personally worked with Mr. Circle on multiple occasions and hand-select him periodically to join me in meetings with government officials. His even temper, patience, and knowledge are impressive in committee settings, and I rely on him to communicate clearly and kindly what are sometimes difficult or contentious concepts.

Mr. Circle is also easily the most knowledgeable about water issues in the Santa Ynez Valley, and we have confidence that he will be able to both represent agricultural interests well on the EMA GSA, but also communicate back to the agricultural industry what is required of them. His even keel, leadership experience, and natural respect from the industry will serve this agency well.

The Santa Barbara Vintners is the trade association for the Santa Barbara Wine Region, representing over 100 wineries and more than 80% of the wine industry's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Laslett".

Alison Laslett  
CEO, Santa Barbara Vintners  
310.463.0262  
[alison@sbcountywines.com](mailto:alison@sbcountywines.com)  
[www.sbcountywines.com](http://www.sbcountywines.com)



EMA GSA Board of Directors  
Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Eastern Management Area GSA  
3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

October 11, 2024

RE: Letter of Recommendation, Mary Heyden

To Whom it May Concern,

We wholeheartedly support Mary Heyden for the Alternate Agricultural Director position for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. (EMA GSA)

I have personally served with Ms. Heyden on two long-standing committees over several years (Agriculture Enterprise Ordinance, and Agriculture Advisory Committee's sub-committee). Running a large ranching operation, she is steeped in agriculture, thoughtful in her analysis, and protective of not only her private land, but also the wider region. Ms. Heyden is smart and committed, fair and just, and her family has deep roots over several generations in the Santa Ynez Valley. She would make an excellent addition to the EMA GSA.

The Santa Barbara Vintners is the trade association for the Santa Barbara Wine Region, representing over 100 wineries and more than 80% of the wine industry's economy. We are confident that Ms. Heyden would bring a wise voice to any water board with agriculture in its area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alison Laslett", written in a cursive style.

Alison Laslett  
CEO, Santa Barbara Vintners  
310.463.0262  
[alison@sbcountywines.com](mailto:alison@sbcountywines.com)  
[www.sbcountywines.com](http://www.sbcountywines.com)



# Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

October 10, 2024

Mr. Brett Marymee, Chairman  
Eastern Management Area GSA

Re: Agricultural Director

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, is a nonprofit California corporation representing over 500 agricultural and associate members in Santa Barbara County. The Board of directors was asked by the Santa Ynez Water Group and designated by the EMA board of directors to review applications for the Agricultural representative on the EMA, GSA Board.

The board interviewed a total of 7 applicants and felt two were viable candidates. Our Board recommends appointing Doug Circle as the Ag representative on the GSA Board. Mr. Circle has extensive knowledge and background regarding SGMA and its related consequences to all entities within the EMA basin boundaries. He has also been a participant in and understands the discussions over the past four years with the EMA staff and board regarding its all-important GSP.

We unanimously recommend Mr. Doug Circle to fill the Ag representative position on the EMA GSA board of directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Bosio'.

Sheldon Bosio, President  
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau



# Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

October 11, 2024

Mr. Brett Marymee, Chairman  
Eastern Management Area GSA

Re: Agricultural Director Alternate

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau is a nonprofit California corporation representing over 500 agricultural and associate members in Santa Barbara County. The Board was asked by the Santa Ynez Water Group and designated by the EMA board of directors, to review applications for both an Ag representative and alternate on the GSA Board.

Our board interviewed 7 applicants for the alternate Ag rep position, finding two candidates to be viable.

The board recommends appointing Mary Heyden as the Ag representative alternate on the EMA, GSA Board. Mary is a member of the citizens advisory group for the EMA, has attended many EMA, GSA board meetings as well as met privately with EMA staff members over the past 4 years

Mary is part of a multi-generational farming and ranching family whose roots run deep in the Santa Ynez Valley. The ranch relies exclusively on their water wells that they have maintained sustainably for over 100 years, for both their farming and cattle operations. Mary clearly understands the importance of sustainability in the EMA water basin.

We unanimously recommend Mary Heyden to fill the Ag representative alternate position on the EMA, GSA Board of Directors.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Bosio'.

Sheldon Bosio, President  
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

**TO:** EMA GSA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Daniel Heimel, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Item 6 – Review and Consider Approval of Contract Services Agreement with GSI for preparation of the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report

## Purpose

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the Board of Directors (Board) of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) with the recommendation of the EMA GSA Staff for approval of the contract services agreement (Agreement) proposed by GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI) to prepare the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report.

## Background

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to submit annual reports to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 each year following adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Annual Reports convey monitoring and water use data to the DWR and to basin stakeholders on an annual basis to gauge performance of the basin relative to the sustainability goals set forth in the GSP. The EMA GSA GSP was adopted on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and Annual Reports for Water Years<sup>1</sup> 2021, 2022, and 2023 have been subsequently submitted.

## Discussion

GSI was contracted to prepare the EMA GSA's GSP and the previous Annual Reports for Water Years 2021 through 2023 and is well qualified to prepare the 2024 Annual Report. The base cost of the proposed services is \$49,923, which is \$7,747 less than the cost to prepare the previous Annual Report for Water Year 2022-2023. The proposed scope also includes an optional task to provide on-call hydrogeological support services associated with the implementation of the EMA's GSP and any other activities requested by the GSA and Executive Director on a time and materials basis. If the optional task is approved the total contracted amount would be \$64,923, however, the optional hydrogeological support services budget would only be utilized if specific tasks are authorized by the Executive Director.

## Recommendation

Review and Consider Approval of the Agreement with GSI for the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report.

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<sup>1</sup>The Water Year for the purposes of the EMA GSA GSP includes the time period from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year and the year component of the title corresponds to the year that the majority of Water Year resides in (i.e. Water Year 2024 includes data from October – December 2023 and January – September 2024).

## Attachments

**Attachment 1:** October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 GSI Proposal to prepare the 2024 EMA GSA Annual Report



October 18, 2024

Dan Heibel  
Executive Director  
Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

## **Proposal for Water Year 2023-2024 Annual Report for the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

Dear Mr. Heibel:

GSI Water Solutions (GSI) is pleased to present this proposal to prepare an Annual Report for the 2023 to 2024 Water Year for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) portion of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). The Annual Report will be prepared to present the current groundwater conditions and progress towards implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) for in the EMA area of the Basin, which is managed by the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

This Annual Report will be prepared by GSI, who also prepared the Plan for the EMA. GSI will be able to leverage this familiarity to deliver the single Annual Report on time and in compliance with State regulations. GSI will bring the following as the GSA's partner on this project:

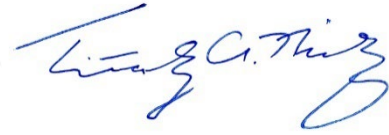
- **A streamlined project delivery.** GSI understands the needs and issues of the stakeholders within the EMA portion of the Basin, which will enable us to work effectively and efficiently to meet the deadlines.
- **The ability to foster collaboration and consensus.** GSI will draw evidence-based conclusions about the groundwater conditions to help all parties come together in a collaborative, cooperative manner. Our unbiased approach will allow us to work effectively with the GSA and stakeholders, facilitate timely reviews and decision-making, and help find common ground to build consensus.
- **Experience helping the EMA comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA):** We have led the development of the EMA's Plan as well as numerous Plans throughout the State, and we have helped various GSAs with the completion and submission of annual reports for their Basins. We understand what the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the stakeholders expect to be included in annual reports and will use this experience to set the template for the reporting structure and content for years to come.

The Plan for the EMA portion of the Basin outlined steps for ensuring sustainability in accordance with SGMA. To measure the effectiveness of the Plan and demonstrate to DWR that the GSA is being sustainably managed, the GSA will compile data and prepare annual reports that summarize the results of monitoring efforts, document changes in groundwater supplies, tabulate groundwater use, and track the effectiveness of Plan implementation efforts. To achieve these goals, this proposal presents scope and costs to prepare an Annual Report for the EMA portion of the Basin for water year 2023- 2024, which will be approved by the GSA and submitted to DWR for on-time delivery by March 31, 2025.



Thank you for your consideration of our proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to support this project for the Basin. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Nicely". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Tim Nicely, PG, CHg  
Supervising Hydrogeologist and Project Manager  
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
805.701.1245  
[tnicely@gsiws.com](mailto:tnicely@gsiws.com)

## Scope of Work

The following scope of work presents our understanding of the annual reporting requirements as outlined in the SGMA Emergency Regulations. This scope is based on our experience preparing the previous Eastern Management Area (EMA) annual report and our awareness of stakeholder groundwater management needs.

### Task 1 – Data Analysis and Representation

The following sections describe the data types that will be presented as required for DWR annual reports. The datasets will be appended to the DMS data tables that are compiled in compliance with Plan requirements. These data will be uploaded to the DWR website along with the Annual Report.

Several discrete data sets are required to be included in the Data Management System (DMS) and presented in this Annual Report, including the following:

- Groundwater elevation data (for each principal aquifer)
- Groundwater extraction
- Surface water supply
- Total water use
- Change in groundwater in storage

#### Groundwater Elevation Data

Groundwater elevation data are collected and compiled through the County of Santa Barbara groundwater level monitoring program, operated by the Santa Barbara County (County) Water Agency with data collected twice a year (typically in April and October) and by the City of Solvang monthly. We are familiar with the wells in the County water level monitoring program and the Plan's representative monitoring well network.

Water level contour maps of each of the principal aquifers (Paso Robles Formation Aquifer and the Careaga Sand Aquifer) will be prepared representing groundwater conditions in October 2023, April 2024, and October 2024.

The EMA's representative monitoring well network includes 24 monitoring wells, which is a subset of the County monitoring program. Each of the hydrographs presented in the Plan will be updated to include data through October 2024. Data through October 2024 will be used to represent groundwater conditions present at the end of water year 2023 - 2024. Recommendations may follow for potential adjustments to the monitoring schedule that could provide data within the current water year.

#### Groundwater Extraction

Groundwater extraction data have been compiled and documented most recently in the *Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin - Eastern Management Area Annual Report Water Year 2023*. These data will be updated, including the estimates of extractions, water use by sector, and methodology of measurement for the current water year.

Updated groundwater extraction information will be estimated using data provided by SYRWCD, extraction data from the mutual water companies in the EMA, as available, crop coverage information derived from satellite imagery, and crop water use factors provided by SYRWCD. Where applicable, the irrigated parcel and field boundaries and crop types will be determined using satellite imagery, including those provided by DWR, and from data prepared by OpenET. GSI will contract with OpenET to obtain available crop mapping data and overlay Open ET data to each field to estimate water use for each field. The crop mapping information will also be overlain with tax lot information provided by Santa Barbara County and the District to correlate estimated water use of the irrigated parcels.

## Surface Water Supply

The SGMA regulations require that a description of surface water supplies be incorporated into the report. Use of surface water in the EMA is relatively small but is well documented. These data will be compiled and described and incorporated into the total EMA water use data compilation and descriptions.

## Total Water Use

We will compile and present total water use information for the EMA area, including water sector, water source type, method of measurement, and a relative representation of accuracy of the measurement methodology (DWR standards in other annual report submittals that we are familiar with require qualitative judgments such as “high,” “medium,” and “low”).

## Change in Groundwater in Storage

During development of the Plan, calculations of groundwater-in-storage changes in each of the two principal aquifers (Paso Robles Formation and Careaga Sand aquifers), were performed through use of the groundwater flow model. To perform similar calculations for the Annual Report would require updating the model, which is neither planned nor advised for the annual reporting effort. An alternative method for calculating changes in groundwater in storage from one year to another is to create water level contour maps for each year of interest and calculate the volume changes between years. This method is approved by DWR and was used most recently in annual reports for water years 2021 - 2022 and 2022 - 2023.

An ArcGIS® tool will be used to compute the volume difference between the initial groundwater surface elevation and the following year's groundwater surface elevation. By applying hydraulic property values (e.g., storage coefficient) for the principal aquifers we can compute the change in the volume of groundwater present in each aquifer. It is not necessary to know the total volume of groundwater in storage; but instead, the storage change (positive or negative) from year to year. Based on these contours, we will compute the difference in the water surface elevation and the volume of saturated aquifer that has changed for each principal aquifer. This calculation will be conducted to compute the change in storage between the fall and spring periods for 2023 and 2024. These data will be used along with storage coefficients representative of each aquifer.

## Task 2 – Report Preparation

The overall purpose of the Annual Report is to use the updated data to assess the progress that the EMA GSA and various stakeholders are making towards successful Plan implementation. The results of the data analysis will be evaluated and compared with the goals of the Plan, then described in the Annual Report to demonstrate to DWR the efforts of the GSA and the effectiveness of Plan implementation. Initial efforts to implement management actions described in the Plan will also be described.

Building upon our experience with the preparation and submittal of annual reports and the general outline of the necessary components of the report structure described in the SGMA Emergency Regulations, GSI will prepare an initial Administrative Draft report for GSA staff review. GSA staff comments will be addressed and used to prepare a Draft for review by both GSA staff and the GSA Committee. Following incorporation of comments, a Final Draft will be prepared and submitted to DWR.

The report will be based on data collected and the analysis performed as described above, on other data that may become available, and on ongoing discussions with the GSA staff. The general organization of the report for the EMA is expected to be the following:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Basin Description (brief restatement of EMA's Plan description)
- Groundwater Conditions
  - Groundwater Monitoring Network

- Groundwater Elevations, including water level contour maps and updated hydrographs
- Change in Groundwater in Storage
- Water Supply and Demand
- Progress Towards Implementing the Plan
- Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations
- Appendices
  - A. Groundwater Monitoring Program Well Information
  - B. Hydrographs
  - C. Precipitation
  - D. Groundwater in Storage Calculation and Specific Yield/Storage Coefficient Discussion
  - E. Groundwater in Storage Sensitivity Analysis
  - F. Water Budget Data

Deliverables include the following:

- Administrative draft report, for review and approval by the GSA staff
- Draft report, for review by the GSA staff, and the GSA Committee
- Final report to be submitted to the DWR

### **Task 3 – Report Submittal**

Following completion of the Annual Report, GSI staff will upload the report and associated data to the DWR portal. GSI staff are familiar with the SGMA reporting process and template on the DWR portal for annual reporting and have submitted several SGMA annual reports to DWR.

### **Task 4 – Meetings and Workshop**

GSI has budgeted for the following meetings:

- GSA staff meetings (2), including the kickoff meeting
- GSA committee meetings (2) presenting the draft and final versions of the report

### **Task 5 – Project Management and Administration**

Project management tasks include project setup, monthly invoicing, communications with the GSA staff, GSI team coordination, and project closeout.

### **Task 6 – On-call Hydrogeologic Support (Optional)**

On-call hydrogeologic support would allow GSI to provide services associated with the implementation of the EMA's Plan, as well as other activities that are requested by GSA and the Executive Director. These services would be performed at the specific direction of the GSA's Executive Director on a time and materials basis in accordance with GSI's 2024 fee schedule (attached). The rates included in the 2024 fee schedule are valid through the end of fiscal year 2023-24 calendar year and are subject to change thereafter

## Fee Proposal and Schedule

### Fee Proposal

The costs to prepare the Annual Report are presented on the table below. No expenses for travel, lodging or meals are included in our cost proposal because we assume they will be unnecessary. The costs presented include a 10 percent markup for outside services for OpenET water use data retrieval. GSI’s 2024-2025 Fee schedule is attached.

	GSI Labor Cost	Outside Services	Total
Task 1 – Data Analysis and Representation	\$17,062	\$550	<b>\$17,612</b>
Task 2 – Report Preparation	\$17,737	\$0	<b>\$17,737</b>
Task 3 – Report Submittal	\$1,885	\$0	<b>\$1,885</b>
Task 4 – Meetings and Workshop	\$7,571	\$0	<b>\$7,571</b>
Task 5 – Project Management and Administration	\$5,119	\$0	<b>\$5,119</b>
<b>Project Totals</b>	<b>\$49,373</b>	<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$49,923</b>
Task 6 – On-call Hydrogeologic Support (Optional)	\$15,000	\$0	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Project Totals (Including On-call services)</b>	<b>\$64,373</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$64,923</b>

### Schedule

Meeting the reporting schedule is a top priority. Because the schedule is tight, GSI will adhere to project milestones focused on submitting the final report by March 31, 2025. The tentative key dates for the preparation and submittal of the report include:

- February 2025: Presentation of draft report at GSA committee
  - February 27, 2025
- March 2025: Presentation of final report to GSA committee
  - March 27, 2025
- March 31, 2025: Final report submittal to DWR

We anticipate working with the GSA staff as an initial task to finalize these dates. We will adhere to the schedule developed during that initial task through close management of the team as well as communication and coordination with the GSA staff. Should any schedule deviation occur, the GSI team will address it promptly and propose a solution to the GSA project manager.

### Scope and Budget Assumptions

- The GSA will provide timely assistance in providing the following data:
  - Water levels for spring and fall of 2024
  - Groundwater production data for 2023 and 2024 (to date)
  - Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District self-reported pumping data that will enable estimation of irrigation demand for 2023 and 2024 (to date)
- Our scope includes:
  - GSA staff meetings, including GSI staff, and staff from the Eastern Management Area including the kickoff meeting, lasting 2 hours each
  - GSA committee / public workshop on the draft and final versions of the report
  - One set of revisions to final Annual Report



## 2024 GSI Fee Schedule

Labor Category	Hourly Rate
<b>Technical Professionals</b>	
Principal	\$250 – \$360
Supervising	\$210 – \$310
Managing	\$170 – \$230
Consulting	\$150 – \$190
Project	\$140 – \$170
Staff	\$120 – \$160
<b>Other Services</b>	
GIS/Graphics/Database	\$130 – \$185
Editor/Documents	\$130 – \$155
Administration	\$95 – \$125

The hourly rate for trial preparation and expert witness testimony is 1.5 times the standard billing rate shown above.

### Expenses

- **Mileage:** IRS authorized rate/mile plus 10 percent markup
- **Direct expenses and outside services:** Cost plus 10 percent markup
- **Enterprise GIS:** \$100 per month for the duration of use

**TO:** SYRVGB EMA GSA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Dan Heibel, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 24th, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Item 7 – Receive information on Executive Order N-3-24 and County of Santa Barbara rescission of Ordinance 5158 (Well Verifications)

## Purpose

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the Board of Directors (Board) of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) with updated information on Executive Order N-3-24 and the County of Santa Barbara (County) rescission of written verification requirements for new groundwater wells in medium or high priority Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) basins.

## Background

In March 2022, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-7-22 in response to intensifying drought conditions. This order was restated with clarifying language in February 2023 (Executive Order N-3-23). Article 9 of Executive Order N-3-23 required that a public agency shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well in a medium or high priority SGMA basin without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that identifies that groundwater extraction from this new well would not be inconsistent with any adopted sustainable groundwater management program. Subsequently the County adopted an Urgency Ordinance (Ordinance 5158) containing the required elements of Executive Order N-3-23 and requiring that well permit applications shall include a hydrogeologic assessment performed by a California Certified Hydrogeologist of 1) potential land subsidence and 2) potential impacts to nearby existing wells from the operation of the proposed well.

Following two years of above average precipitation, Governor Newsom ended the drought emergency proclamation in 19 Counties, including Santa Barbara County, and signed Executive Order N-3-24 (Order N-3-24) [Attachment A] on September 4, 2024, which rescinded the previous Executive Orders (N-7-22 and N-2-23). Subsequent to the issuance of Order N-3-24, on September 13, 2024 the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin GSAs received an email from County Environmental Health Services (EHS) [Attachment B], which indicated that well permitting procedures for new wells in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County will revert to previous well permitting requirements outlined in County Code Chapter 34A – Wells and that County EHS will no longer be requesting written verification from GSAs as required by the previous executive orders.

## Discussion

Order N-3-24 rescinds the requirement for County EHS to issue a permit for a new well in a medium or high priority SGMA basin only after receiving written verification from a GSA to verify that the proposed new well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program or would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal. However, in its September 13, 2024 letter County EHS indicates that it will still continue to provide copies of approved well permits to the GSAs for the approved wells located within their respective basins.

## Recommendation

Receive information on Executive Order N-3-24 and County of Santa Barbara rescission of Ordinance 5158 (Well Verifications)

## Attachments

**Attachment A:** Executive Order N-3-24

**Attachment B:** Copy of September 13, 2024 email from Santa Barbara County EHS to Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin GSAs



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-3-24

**WHEREAS** on April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, I proclaimed States of Emergency to exist across all counties in the State due to drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS** the drought emergency has required a dynamic and flexible response from the State, and several provisions in my prior Proclamations and Orders have already been terminated or superseded; and

**WHEREAS** drought conditions have improved substantially, and lingering effects of the drought have largely abated in several areas of the California coast, Southern California, and the eastern Sierra Nevada; and

**WHEREAS** today I have therefore terminated the drought State of Emergency in the Counties of Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Mono, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura; and

**WHEREAS** the multi-year nature of this drought, which began three years after the record-setting drought of 2012-2016, continues to have ongoing, significant impacts on the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins, the Tulare Lake basin, the Scott, Shasta, and Klamath River watersheds, and the Clear Lake watershed, which include many communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water; and

**WHEREAS** improved conditions have helped rehabilitate surface water supplies, but have not eliminated the effects of the drought that remain in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins, the Tulare Lake basin, the Scott, Shasta, and Klamath River watersheds, and the Clear Lake watershed, and many groundwater basins remain depleted from overreliance and successive multi-year droughts; and

**WHEREAS** continued action by the State is needed to address ongoing consequences of the drought emergency in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins and the Klamath River and Clear Lake watersheds, including groundwater supply shortages, domestic well failures, and drought-related harm to native fishes; and

**WHEREAS** improved conditions even in the counties where the drought State of Emergency remains in effect warrant a more targeted State response, and certain provisions in my prior Proclamations and Orders provide authority that is no longer needed to mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, or direct actions by state agencies, departments, and boards that have already been completed; and

**WHEREAS** notwithstanding the rescission of certain emergency authorities for emergency drinking water action, state agencies have existing legal authority and funding to continue expedited work to advance the human right to water, and state agencies will continue all ongoing drought resilience

planning work, including through coordination with local agencies and tribes;  
and

**WHEREAS** the coming winter's hydrology is uncertain and the most efficient way to preserve the State's improved surface water supplies is for Californians to continue their ongoing efforts to make conservation a way of life;  
and

**WHEREAS** on March 1, March 8, March 12, March 14, March 28, April 20, May 15, and June 16, 2023, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in 53 counties, cumulatively, as a result of a series of winter storms that initially struck California beginning in late February 2023; and

**WHEREAS** on March 31, 2023, and May 17, 2023, respectively, I issued Executive Orders N-6-23 and N-7-23 to further bolster the emergency response to the 2023 Late Winter Storms, particularly in the Tulare Lake Basin; and

**WHEREAS** improved conditions in the Tulare Lake Basin and other regions affected by the 2023 Late Winter Storms warrant a more targeted emergency response to the effects of those storms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The orders and provisions contained in my State of Emergency Proclamations dated April 21, 2021; May 10, 2021; July 8, 2021; October 19, 2021; March 1, 2023; March 8, 2023; March 12, 2023; March 14, 2023; March 28, 2023; April 20, 2023; and May 15, 2023, and Executive Orders N-10-21 (July 8, 2021), N-7-22 (March 28, 2022), N-3-23 (February 13, 2023), N-4-23 (March 10, 2023), N-6-23 (March 31, 2023), and N-7-23 (May 17, 2023), remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those Proclamations and Orders, Executive Order N-5-23, my Proclamation Terminating the Drought States of Emergency in 19 counties dated today, and this Order. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from those Proclamations and Orders and accelerate implementation where feasible.
2. The following provisions of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated May 10, 2021, are terminated:
  - a. Paragraph 8; and
  - b. Paragraphs 11–13.
3. The following provisions of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated October 19, 2021, are terminated:
  - a. Paragraphs 6–7;
  - b. Paragraph 9; and
  - c. Paragraph 12.

4. The following provision of Executive Order N-10-21 is terminated:
  - a. Paragraph 2.
5. The following provisions of Executive Order N-7-22 are terminated:
  - a. Paragraph 4;
  - b. Paragraphs 7–8; and
  - c. Paragraph 10.
6. The following provisions of Executive Order N-3-23 are terminated:
  - a. Paragraph 2; and
  - b. Paragraphs 4–5, except to the extent that Paragraph 4 withdraws Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22.
7. The following provisions of Executive Order N-4-23 are terminated:
  - a. Paragraphs 2–7.
8. The following provisions of Executive Order N-6-23 are terminated:
  - a. Paragraphs 7–10.
9. The following provisions of Executive Order N-7-23 are terminated:
  - a. Paragraphs 2–11, except to the extent that they withdraw provisions of prior Executive Orders.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 5th day of September 2024.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.  
Secretary of State



**From:** [ema](#)  
**To:** [Daniel Heimeil](#); [soneill@awattorneys.com](mailto:soneill@awattorneys.com); [Charlotte Arnao](#)  
**Cc:** [Amber Thompson](#); [Buelow Bill \(buelow@syrwcd.com\)](mailto:buelow@syrwcd.com); [J. Girouard](#); [Jeff Barry](#); [Jose Acosta](#); [Kadie McShirley](#); [Matt Young](#); [N. Page](#); [Paeter Garcia](#); [Randy Murphy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Water Well Permitting Update for Santa Barbara County  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 2:58:42 PM

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**From:** Johnston, Jason <[JJohnston@sbcphd.org](mailto:JJohnston@sbcphd.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** [ema](mailto:ema@santaynezwater.org) <[ema@santaynezwater.org](mailto:ema@santaynezwater.org)>; [wma](mailto:wma@santaynezwater.org) <[wma@santaynezwater.org](mailto:wma@santaynezwater.org)>; [cma](mailto:cma@santaynezwater.org) <[cma@santaynezwater.org](mailto:cma@santaynezwater.org)>  
**Cc:** [Bill Buelow](mailto:bbuelow@syrwcd.com) <[bbuelow@syrwcd.com](mailto:bbuelow@syrwcd.com)>; [Alex Pappas](mailto:apappas@syrwcd.com) <[apappas@syrwcd.com](mailto:apappas@syrwcd.com)>  
**Subject:** Water Well Permitting Update for Santa Barbara County

Good afternoon,

With the Governors [proclamation](#) terminating the drought state of emergency in Santa Barbara amongst other counties (see notice below), and the resulting rescission of the related Executive Order's [N-7-22](#) and [N-3-23](#), the Urgency Ordinance for Santa Barbara County ([ORDINANCE NO. 5158](#)) has been terminated.

Well permitting in unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County will revert to previous well permitting requirements ([Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 34A - Wells](#)). Environmental Health Services will no longer be requesting written verification from your groundwater sustainability agency as required by the executive orders. Consistent with current practice we will forward approved well permits to your agency for wells located within your basin.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Jason Johnston  
805-346-7348  
[www.countyofsb.org/phd/ehs](http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/ehs)

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**From:** SharedMail\_DisasterRecovery@CalOES <[DisasterRecovery@CalOES.ca.gov](mailto:DisasterRecovery@CalOES.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 1:02 PM  
**Subject:** Drought Emergency Provisions - Clarified Order

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and**

Dear County Partners,

On September 4, 2024, in response to improved water conditions following two wet winters, Governor Newsom has taken corresponding action to narrow drought emergency provisions. This includes ending the drought state of emergency in the following 19 counties:

- Imperial
- Inyo
- Los Angeles
- Marin
- Mendocino
- Mono
- Monterey
- Orange
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Luis Obispo
- San Mateo
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Sonoma
- Ventura

A copy of the proclamation terminating the drought state of emergency in these counties can be found [here](#). As to the remaining 39 counties, the drought state of emergency remains in effect.

Along with the proclamation, the Governor issued an Executive Order which further narrows the drought state of emergency in the 39 counties where it remains in effect, rescinding orders which are no longer necessary under current conditions. A copy of the executive order can be found [here](#).

If you have questions regarding the above and any ongoing, drought-related projects, you can contact the following entities:

Department of Water Resources:

Ann K. B. Carroll  
General Counsel  
(916) 820-7791  
[Ann.Carroll@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ann.Carroll@water.ca.gov)

State Water Resources Control Board:

Michael A.M. Lauffer, Chief Counsel  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[michael.lauffer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:michael.lauffer@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Phone: 916.341.5183

Kind Regards,

**ELI OWEN**

Assistant Director, Recovery Operations

**California Governor's Office of Emergency Services**

M. (916) 845-8200