

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 22, 2024

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Member Steve Jordan attended the meeting via teleconference from 46250 Fairway Drive, Indian Wells, CA 92210. 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 Jordan at the location.

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

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (in-person): Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate)

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present (remote): Mike Burchardi and Steve Jordan

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Randy Murphy, Amber Thompson and Matt Young

Others Present (in-person): Mary Heyden and Gay Infanti

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Doug Circle, Tim Gorham, and Scarlett Tovar (DWR)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and asked Ms. Thompson to call roll. Three EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. Two Alternate Committee Member were also present.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2023, and Joint GSAs meeting minutes of January 5, 2024

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on December 14, 2023, and the Joint GSAs meeting on January 5, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on December 14, 2023, as presented. Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the Joint GSAs meeting on January 5, 2024, as presented. Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with Committee Member Brett Marymee abstaining.

Committee Member Joan Hartmann arrived and assumed the seat representing the Santa Barbara County Water Agency at the dais. Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Diethofer left the dais and sat with the public.

5. Review and Consider Approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List

Ms. Thompson presented the financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2023) and the Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2023 for EMA GSA Committee consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to approve Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2023 (Check Nos. 1025-1030) totaling \$8,676.00, as presented. Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Review and Consider Requests for EMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcels:

a. APN 141-100-055, 1640 Rolling Hills Rd., Santa Ynez, CA (Cameron Sinai)

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA), APN: 141-100-055 (WP# EH-LUA-23-000172) Sinai, dated February 20, 2024, provided by GSI Water Solutions for a new well. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to issue a well verification letter for APN: 141-100-055 (WP# EH-LUA-23-000172) Sinai. Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

b. APN 133-151-053, 5200 Foxen Canyon Rd., Los Olivos, CA (William Taylor)

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA), APN: 133-151-053 (WP# EH-LUA-23-000006) William Taylor, dated February 19, 2024, provided by GSI Water Solutions for a replacement well. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to issue a well verification letter for APN: 133-151-053 (WP# EH-LUA-23-000006) William Taylor. Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Receive Update on change of DWR Point of Contact for the Santa Ynez Basin

Mr. Buelow announced that due to the recent promotion of Anita Regmi the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has assigned Ms. Scarlett Tovar as the DWR Point of Contact for the Santa Ynez Basin. He introduced Ms. Tovar and added that she will also serve as the Grant Manager for the SGMA Implementation Grant of which Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District is the grantee on behalf of the Santa Ynez Basin. There was no discussion, public comment, or action.

8. Receive update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the EMA GSA

Mr. Buelow announced that all three Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin were approved by DWR according to the Statement of Findings Regarding the Approval of the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan by Karla Nemeth, Director, DWR, which was attached to the January 18, 2024, letter received from Paul Gosselin, Deputy Director, Sustainable Groundwater Management, DWR.

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Recommended Corrective Actions listed in the State of California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Groundwater Sustainability Plan Assessment Staff Report, for Santa Ynez River Valley Basin (No. 3-015), dated January 18, 2024. The Submitting Agencies listed are Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency; Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency; Eastern Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. He reported that the Recommended Corrective Actions will need to be addressed with the planned five-year update to the GSPs.

There was discussion during and following the presentation. Public comment was received.

- Committee Member Brett Marymee requested staff coordinate with the EMA Citizens Advisory Group for their review of the Recommended Corrective Actions and to provide feedback.

9. Receive update on DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant

Mr. Buelow spoke about the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant. He reminded everyone that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District is the grantee on behalf of the three GSAs and that he and Ms. Thompson are doing a lot of work already to coordinate with DWR regarding the grant process and requirements. Mr. Buelow reported that he is working with Steve Torigiani on a draft sub-grant agreement between the three GSAs and SYRWCD to ensure that the GSAs as well as SYRWCD maintain compliance with the rules and regulations put forth in the grant agreement. He also informed the Committee that there are grant component budgets and various examples were provided. Mr. Buelow explained that the draft sub-grant agreement will include a table with budgets for each component. He indicated that he expects to have the draft agreement in the next couple weeks. Mr. Murphy asked about amounts and timing of cost contributions from the four public agencies and terms for reimbursement to the agencies from the GSA.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action. Mr. Buelow and Ms. Thompson reported on the article published by DWR regarding the \$5.5 million dollar grant award to the Basin.

10. Receive update on SGMA Third Annual Report for the EMA

Mr. Young reported that GSI Water Solutions is currently working on the Third Annual Report. A draft version for staff review is expected next week. The Third Annual Report will be presented at the March EMA GSA Committee meeting.

11. Receive update on SGMA Governance and Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA

Mr. Garcia summarized the status of negotiations for the preparation of a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA. He explained that the current topic being negotiated is the seating of an agricultural representative on the JPA Board. He noted that the Water Conservation District and Water Group are working on a proposal for the other parties to consider. A lengthy discussion followed with Committee members unanimously expressing concern about the delay in finalizing a draft Joint Powers Agreement. Mr. Young indicated that member agency staff will commit in attempting to provide a draft Joint Powers Agreement for review by the April 2024 EMA Committee meeting. Public comment was received.

12. Review and discuss meeting schedule for next two months. All meetings held at 6:30 PM, Santa Ynez CSD Meeting Room, 1070 Faraday St., Santa Ynez

a. Next Special EMA GSA Committee meeting, Thursday, March 28, 2024

The next scheduled meeting of the EMA GSA Committee will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024. The Third Annual Report will be presented.

b. Tentative Special EMA GSA Committee meeting Thursday, April 25, 2024

The EMA GSA Committee will schedule a Special Meeting for Thursday, April 25, 2024, with a goal to present a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA at this meeting.

c. Next Regular EMA GSA Committee meeting, Thursday, May 23, 2024

The next Regular meeting of the EMA GSA Committee will be on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

13. DWR Groundwater Awareness Week, March 10-16, 2024

The Committee discussed the DWR Groundwater Awareness Week flyer. Ms. Thompson offered to forward the registration links for the online events to the Committee Members and member agency staff.

14. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

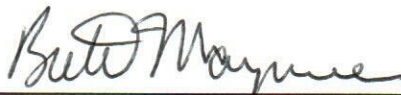
Committee Member Brad Joos requested a draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA be on the agenda for the April meeting.

Committee Member Brett Marymee requested water level update be on the agenda for the April meeting.

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the Solvang River Well Administrative Hearing and continued search for a Utility Director for the City of Solvang.

15. Adjournment

Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

OCTOBER 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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

NOVEMBER 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1025	11/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	August 2023 Review for Well Verifications (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 2,872.50
1026	11/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	September 2023 Review for Well Verifications (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 1,917.50
1027	11/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	April-May 2023 EMA Annual Report WY 2021-2022 Measuring Point & Groundwater Elevation Error Task (Balance Due of Invoice 515.005-8)	\$ 1,256.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 6,046.00

DECEMBER 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1028	12/14/23	GSI Water Solutions	October 2023 Review for Well Verifications (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 2,255.00
1029	12/14/23	Santa Ynez CSD	Conference Room Rental (11/16/23 EMA GSA Meeting)	\$ 75.00
1030	12/31/23	Valley Bookkeeping	2023 4th Quarter Bookkeeping (October, November, December 2023)	\$ 300.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 2,630.00

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 8,676.00
