

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin April 12, 2021

A SPECIAL meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, 12 April 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings, and requiring social distancing, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Art Hibbits, John Sanchez (Acting as Alternate)

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Cynthia Allen, Meighan Diethofer

Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, Matt Young

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Doug Circle, Len Fleckenstein, Larry Lahr, Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Jeff Newton, LBP, Patty QH, Steve Slack (CDFW), plus 2 other members of the public whose names were not registered.

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

GSA Committee Director Hibbits called the meeting to order at 10:05 am Mr. Buelow called roll. A quorum was met.

### **II. Introductions and Review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin**

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone attendees.

### **III. Additions or Deletions, if any, to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

### **IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **V. Receive Staff Memorandum regarding letter from Santa Ynez Water Group**

Bill Buelow presented Staff Memorandum dated April 12, 2021 regarding Santa Ynez Water Group letter of March 22, 2021. Staff recommendations were to maintain current structure under the MOAs to submit three GSAs and prior to submittal of the GSPs, staff

from each of the eight agencies in the Basin will discuss various governance options and present the topic to each of the GSA Committees. Discussion followed. CMA GSA Committee by unanimous consensus agreed to support staff recommendations as presented in the Staff Memorandum.

**VI. Receive comments from CMA Citizens Advisory Committee on Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum**

Jeff Newton presented the CMA Citizens Advisory Committee Memorandum dated April 12, 2021 regarding review and discussion of Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum. The Committee thanked Mr. Newton; there was no public comment.

**VII. Receive update from Ad-Hoc CAG Selection Committee and consider appointing two recommended candidates for the CMA Citizens Advisory Committee**

Mr. Buelow presented a memorandum dated April 12, 2021 summarizing the Ad-Hoc Committee's recommendation to fill two vacant positions on the CMA CAG.

GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to appoint Ms. Deby Laranjo and Mr. Len Fleckenstein to the CMA Citizens Advisory Group to participate in CMA CAG meetings, starting immediately. GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ms. Deby Laranjo and Mr. Len Fleckenstein introduced themselves and thanked the Committee for their appointments. Mr. Buelow thanked all applicants and encouraged all to continue to participate in the SGMA GSP process.

**VIII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on "Draft Water Budget" and "Sustainable Yield Preliminary Determination and Discussion"**

Mr. Curtis Lawler, (Stetson Engineers) presented a Workshop on the Draft Water Budget and Sustainable Yield Preliminary Determination. He requested detailed comments and questions be made via the portal at [SantaYnezWater.org](http://SantaYnezWater.org).

There was public comment, GSA Committee Member, consultant, and staff discussion following each section of the presentation.

**Mr. Lawler Reviewed Time Periods and Data Sources**

- GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez asked what the Y-axis represents on Slide 7. Mr. Lawler clarified that the Y-axis does not represent anything. The graph only shows x-axis as years.
- Bryan Bondy asked for clarification on 44% urban return flow and asked why return flows for Ag were presented as 10% for EMA in the EMA Water Budget but is listed as 20% for CMA shown on Slide 19. Mr. Lawler will double check the percentages

are same for each Management Area. He further explained return flow percentage and rationale to explain the net 44%.

### **Mr. Lawler Reviewed Water Budget Analysis Results**

- GSA Committee Director Hibbits asked if Slide 22 accounted for imported State Water reported the whole time of 1982-2018. Mr. Lawler stated that State Water imports began in 1997, so 1982-1996 were entered as 0 so an average was taken for entire period of 1982-2018. He questioned if the average including all the zero years is accurate going forward. Mr. Lawler stated going forward will use the current year amount not the average.
- GSA Committee Director Hibbits asked if exports of water to South Coast through Tecolote Tunnel are reflected in the CMA water budget. Mr. Lawler explained the CMA Water Budget only shows direct CMA flows and those exports show indirectly in the Santa Ynez River inflow. He confirmed it is not being overlooked.
- Bryan Bondy asked if state water inflow is going straight to distribution. Mr. Lawler confirmed it is direct distribution through City of Buellton. Mr. Bondy recommended the state water amounts be shown as an outflow to distribution as well as the inflow.
- Len Fleckenstein asked about surface water inflow recharge from municipal return flows to underflow. Mr. Lawler explained the inflows include wastewater return flows come from both the Buellton Wastewater Treatment Plant and from Solvang Wastewater Treatment Plant. The return numbers seem so high because CMA benefits from City of Solvang Wastewater Treatment Plant as surface water inflow.

### **Mr. Lawler Reviewed Future Period and Analysis Results**

- GSA Committee Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez asked what the graph on Slide 34 is showing. Mr. Lawler explained the expected range in change of temperature and how increase in climate temperature can result in loss of water.
- GSA Committee Director Hibbits stated that amount taken of state water has not been the maximum allowed. He asked if the water budget considered if the area does take maximum amount allowed per contract. Mr. Lawler confirmed maximum amount has been considered but thinks it needs to be further evaluated. GSA Committee Director. Hibbits expressed concern because there is a lot of unknown with state water amounts available to be provided.
- GSA Committee Alternate Director Meghan Diethofer asked if the assumptions for future demand for urban use include the state's population growth and increase in housing demands to various cities and counties. She expressed concern that the analysis may need to assume higher percentages. Mr. Lawler stated he will follow up.

**IX. Receive Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum and consider public comment period**

Mr. Buelow announced that the Draft Water Budget Technical Memorandum will be released for public review and comment in the next few days. Staff recommended setting a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period for this document. By unanimous consensus, Committee Members agreed with receiving and releasing the document for public review and comments, setting a 21-day public comment period.

**X. Next Special CMA GSA Meeting: Monday, April 26, 2021, 10:00 AM**

Mr. Buelow announced that the next CMA GSA Committee Meeting will be a “Special” meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021, 10:00 AM, via video/teleconference.

**XI. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Monday, May 24, 2021, 10:00 AM**

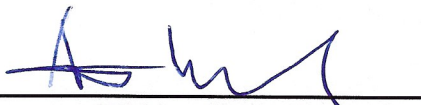
Mr. Buelow announced that the next CMA GSA Committee Regular Meeting to include conducting quarterly business will be Monday, May 24, 2021, 10:00 AM, via video/teleconference.

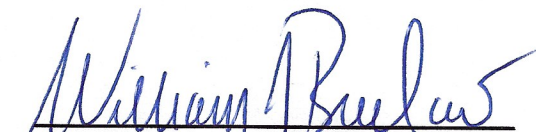
**XII. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

Mr. Buelow announced SGMA Newsletter Issue No. 3 has been released. Member agencies of all three GSAs are distributing in utility bills, groundwater production mailing and online.

**XIII. Adjournment**

GSA Committee Director Hibbits adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

  
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Art Hibbits, Vice-Chairman

  
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William J. Buelow, Secretary

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP  
MEMORANDUM

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DATE: April 12, 2021

TO: CMA GSA Committee

FROM: CMA Citizen Advisory Group  
(representative Jeff Newton)

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum

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**Attendees**

CMA CAG Members in attendance: Sean Diggins, Jeff Newton, Sharyne Merritt, Cindy Douglas

Consultants and Staff in attendance: Bill Buelow (SYRWCD), Curtis Lawler and Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), and Matt Young (County of Santa Barbara)

**Purpose**

The CMA GSA Committee requested staff for the GSA agencies to coordinate meetings of the CMA CAG. Through a coordinated effort, the CAG held a meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was held on March 18, 2021. The purpose of the meetings was for the CMA CAG (CAG) to review the Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum. The Memorandum was prepared by the Stetson Engineer's team. A copy of the documents was made available to the CAG prior to the meeting at [www.SantaYnezWater.org](http://www.SantaYnezWater.org).

### **CAG Comments on the Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum:**

- Some CAG members suggested that the groundwater levels and storage data appear to indicate that CMA aquifers are in good condition. The consultants generally concurred that the basin appears to be in balance at this time.
- CAG members expressed confusion around whether or not the Upper Aquifer is the river flow only. It is also not clear as to whether there is an interaction between the Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer (Buellton Uplands). Perhaps a document edit can clarify these questions. The consultants suggested that there is little interaction between the river alluvium and the Buellton Uplands.
- CAG members agree that additional well data in the Buellton Uplands would be useful.
- CAG members suggested potential GDE's should be screened before adopting the GSP. The consultants indicated screening will be wrapped up prior to finalizing the GSP.
- Some CAG members noted that land subsidence does not appear to be a problem in the CMA and questioned the need for additional study. The consultants indicated that some minimal level of confirmation is required by SGMA guidelines.
- Some CAG members questioned whether water quality is an issue in the CMA. The consultants indicated that water quality is a broad subject including both domestic and agricultural aspects. They indicated that the CMA data doesn't suggest a deterioration of water quality, but that monitoring is on-going.
- The Santa Ynez Water Group has expressed a concern about the future costs of the GSP implementation and recommended steps to reduce those costs. For instance, the three GSA's could adopt a single GSP for the basin.

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
MEMORANDUM

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DATE: April 12, 2021  
TO: CMA GSA Committee  
FROM: CMA Ad-Hoc Committee  
SUBJECT: Review CAG Applicants and Recommendation

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**Ad-Hoc Attendees**

CMA Ad-Hoc Members in attendance: GSA Committee Member Art Hibbits (SYRWCD); Bill Buelow (SYRWCD) and Rose Hess (City of Buellton)

**Purpose**

The CMA Ad-Hoc Committee met on March 1, 2021 to review received applications for two open positions on the CMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG). After reviewing the five received applications the Ad-Hoc Committee is recommending the following two applicants for the CMA GSA's consideration to fill the open positions:

Ms. Deby Laranjo of Buellton, CA; and  
Mr. Len Fleckenstein of Buellton, CA

If the CMA GSA Committee approves the recommendation, Ms. Laranjo and Mr. Fleckenstein are both available to participate in CMA GSA meetings immediately.