

# MEETING MINUTES

## Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors June 24, 2024

A special meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Larry Lahr and John Sanchez

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

Others Present (In Person): Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, and  
Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani

Others Present (Teleconference): Doug Circle, Leonard Fleckenstein,  
Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Deby Laranjo, and Matt Young

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

CMA GSA Board Chair Lahr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Two Directors and one non-voting Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

CMA GSA Board Chair Lahr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

### 4. Review and consider approval of CMA GSA Board meeting minutes of May 20, 2024

The minutes of the CMA GSA Board meeting on May 20, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the CMA GSA Board meeting on May 20, 2024, as presented. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### 5. Receive update from JPA member agency counsel and consider approval of Administrative Services Contract with SYRWCD

Mr. Torigiani reviewed the Administrative Services Contract between the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Contract”). He reported that the revisions requested by the CMA GSA Board during the May 20, 2024, meeting have been included in the Contract and that Legal Counsel for the City of Buellton as well as the Legal Counsels for the Western Management Area GSA and the County Water Agency reviewed the agreement. Mr. Young clarified that the Legal Counsel for the County Water Agency did not provide any comments on the Contract since the CMA GSA is not a client.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the Administrative Services Contract between the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, as presented. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**6. Receive update and consider possible action on the following SGM Implementation Grant items**

- a. Consider endorsing proposed draft Prop 68 Grant funding allocation budget subject to approval of subgrant agreement

Mr. Buelow presented “Exhibit B to the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Grant Agreement Project Components Budget Allocation”. He reported that member agency staff from the three GSAs in the Santa Ynez Basin collaborated on the budget allocations. Mr. Torigiani explained the importance of having a Subgrant Agreement in place and reported that a Draft Subgrant Agreement will be distributed to the GSAs soon. Mr. Buelow reported on the DWR requirement to provide a rank by importance for each Grant Component. Components 2 through 5 were important to all GSAs, in that order, while Components 6 through 8 were specifically requested by only the WMA GSA and no other GSA requested any other components to be included in the grant application. There was no public comment.

The Board, by consensus, endorsed the proposed Draft “Exhibit B to the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Grant Agreement Project Components Budget Allocation”, as presented, subject to approval of a subgrant agreement.

- b. Review DWR Grant Invoice #2 transmittal

Mr. Buelow presented the Component Summary Table and Backup Documentation Summary Tables submitted to DWR on May 30, 2024, with Invoice #2 requesting reimbursement of \$129,626.37. He reported that Invoice #2 included grant reimbursable invoices for GSP implementation efforts done January 1 through March 31, 2024.

c. **Review and discuss CMA Annual Report Comment Letter from DWR**

Mr. Buelow reviewed the May 31, 2024, letter received from the California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office regarding Review of Annual Report for the Central Management Area GSP, Santa Ynez River Valley Basin, Water Year 2023. DWR requires additional information be submitted in future annual reports to include groundwater extraction data that corresponds to the water year reporting period. DWR also noted the following few minor issues that should be addressed in future annual report submittals:

- The data submitted to the SGMA Portal needs to be aggregated for the entire basin, rather than separate data submittals for each GSA.
- The basin point of contact should submit one annual report for the entire Subbasin each year with the additional GSA specific information included as appendices, as necessary. The one coordinated annual report should document the aggregated data for the entire Subbasin that was submitted to the SGMA Portal while also presenting the GSA specific data and information in tabular form.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

**7. Review and discuss rate study and draft 5-year Budget for CMA GSA**

Mr. Buelow reported that Raftelis was given notice to proceed with preparing a Rate Study. They submitted a request for information, including a request for a Draft 5-year Budget. Mr. Buelow presented a Draft 5-Year Budget for the Central Management Area GSA. The Board reviewed and discussed the Draft 5-Year Budget. There was no public comment and no action.

**8. Discuss tentative date of August 16, 2024, for Basin-wide Joint-GSAs Meeting**

Chair Lahr announced a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 16, 2024. Discussion followed. It was determined that a quorum of Directors or Alternate Directors for the CMA GSA would not be available for a meeting on August 16, 2024.

**9. Next CMA GSA Board Regular Meeting on Monday, August 26, 2024 - Cancelled**

The next scheduled CMA GSA Board Regular meeting originally scheduled to be held on Monday, August 26, 2024, was cancelled during the May 20, 2024 for lack of quorum available and the Board voted for a special meeting to be scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 1:00 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, CA.

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

Chair Lahr requested further discussion of including an Agricultural Representative for the CMA GSA Board.

**11. Closed Session**

The Board went into closed session at 10:55 a.m. to discuss the following items:

- a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code § 54956.8)
  - i. GSA Designated Representative: Bill Buelow
  - ii. Property: APN 137-090-067
  - iii. Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment
  - iv. Negotiation With: Buellton Polo Village Partners, LP

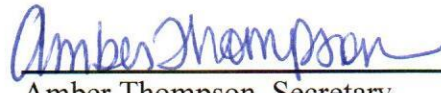
**12. Reconvene into Open Session and Report from Closed Session (Gov. Code § 54957.1)**

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 11:25 a.m. Chair Lahr stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

**13. Adjournment**

Chair Lahr adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

  
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Larry Lahr, Chair

  
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Amber Thompson, Secretary