

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 16, 2020

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, 16 November 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by issuing shelter-in-home standards, 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: Ed Andrisek, Meighan Diethofer (Acting as Alternate),  
Art Hibbits

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Cynthia Allen

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

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Maygan Cline (GeoSyntec), Larry Lahr, Deby Larango, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), Sharyn Merritt, Madelyn Murray (Dudek), Matt Naftaly (Dudek), Jeff Newton, Tim Nicely (GSI), Patty QH and four members of the public

### **I. Call to Order**

GSA Committee Director Andrisek called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., welcomed all in attendance and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to do roll call. A quorum was met.

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

Mr. Buelow announced names of phone and video attendees.

Mr. Buelow reviewed history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements and what has been completed so far in the Santa Ynez River Basin including: the creation of the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Basin (EMA, CMA, WMA), securing Department of Water Resources (DWR) Prop. 1 and Prop. 68 Grants (Grant) funding, hiring Consultants, coordinating efforts between the eight agencies participating in the three GSAs, establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) in each of the Management Areas of the Basin and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development milestones. The GSPs are due in January 2022. The CMA GSA Committee has so far prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Data Management Plan, a Draft 3-D Model of the geology and a Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

### **IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **V. Review and Approve Minutes**

Mr. Buelow submitted the minutes of the meetings of August 24, 2020 and October 26, 2020 for GSA Committee approval. Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Director Hibbits made a MOTION to approve both sets of the minutes as submitted and requested the August 24, 2020 Memo from CMA Citizen Advisory Group be attached to the Minutes of August 24, 2020 for the record. GSA Committee Director Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

### **VI. Receive CMA GSA Financial Update and Consider approval of CMA Warrant List**

Mr. Buelow presented the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2020) and the Warrant Lists for August and September 2020 for GSA Committee review. There were no comments.

The GSA Committee unanimously approved the August and September 2020 Warrant Lists as presented (No. 1020) totaling \$42,960.44. GSA Committee Director Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the warrant lists and financial reports as submitted. GSA Committee Director Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

### **VII. Review and Approve Draft No. 2 SGMA Newsletter**

Mr. Bill Buelow introduced Draft of SGMA Newsletter No. 2 and explained staff is still working on it to make it more visual and less wordy. He stated that staff and consultants were trying to get this newsletter finalized for mailed out in December 2020 by all Member Agencies in their December utility or water bills. He announced that after the first newsletter was mailed out by the same method, traffic to SantaYnezWater.org increased 200-300%. Discussion followed.

The CMA GSA Committee Directors unanimously recommended staff to release the draft of Newsletter No. 2 to CMA CAG for comment before distribution and to request Member Agencies to distribute the final version in utility bills/mailers.

### **VIII. Receive Update on Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of CMA**

Mr. Buelow announced that survey team has arrived in area, began survey of EMA on November 15. They are expected to finish survey of the EMA Tuesday, begin survey of CMA by Wednesday of this week and finish the WMA by Saturday, November 21, 2020. He explained the process and steps involved to complete the survey and get data results.



He reiterated that costs for survey in the EMA is being paid by the County of Santa Barbara and costs for survey of CMA and WMA, paid equally by CMA and WMA should be mostly reimbursed by DWR Proposition 68 Grant funds.

**IX. Receive Update and Memo from CMA Citizen Advisory Group**

Mr. Buelow presented a Memorandum from CMA Citizen Advisory Group CAG prepared by representative Ms. Sharyne Merritt, dated November 11, 2020, giving an update on the CMA CAG activities. The CMA CAG met November 11, 2020 via teleconference to review and discuss the Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM). The CMA CAG provided comments on the HCM to staff and consultants for consideration. Discussion followed.

Mr. Buelow announced Mr. Preston has moved out of area and is no longer able to serve on the CMA CAG. There is now a need to find two new members for the CMA CAG.

**X. Receive Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum (GCTM) and attend presentation on GCTM and Introduction to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) from the Stetson Consultant Team**

Ms. Maygan Cline (GeoSyntec), Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Mr. Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers) and Ms. Madelyn Murray (Dudek) presented about the Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum (GCTM). They stated the Draft GCTM document is not available yet but will be posted online as soon as is completed and ready for public review. They also introduced Sustainable Management Criteria including undesirable results and sustainability indicators. Discussion followed.

- Mr. Buelow announced this presentation is available at [SantaYnezWater.org](http://SantaYnezWater.org)
- Director Hibbits asked if there is evidence of land subsidence exists in our watershed and how will land subsidence be monitored and who is expected to pay for it. Ms. Cline responded land subsidence is covered during this presentation. In terms of future monitoring, Mr. Buelow stated that DWR has free resources and tools available to us and we will utilize those tools as appropriate.
- Groundwater Elevation Data and Groundwater Storage
  - Bryan Bondy asked why Groundwater Elevation data and contours slides did not include information for the Buellton Upland. Stetson response to Q was, “not comfortable contouring this area due to limited data.” Groundwater Storage slides/figures do include the Buellton Upland, and provided nodal representation of groundwater storage changes.
  - Mr. Bondy noted that insufficient data for groundwater contouring, and sufficient data to present/discuss GW storage seems at odds with each other and that the consultant team should review this information and clarify, going forward.
- Sustainable Management Criteria
  - Mr. Bondy recommended spending time on / focus on the sustainability goal or end result, and less focus on the “number.” He provided feedback that other

basins have “rushed through the process to a number, instead of focusing on the desired end-result.”

- Groundwater Storage
  - Mr. Bondy asked for clarification about Groundwater Storage. Mr. McCammon and Mr. Lawler further explained graph on Slide 26 and that “0” equals full to a standard historical level based on data from nodal wells not necessarily ground level.
- Land Subsidence
  - Mr. Bondy recommended the committee consider various land subsidence relationships and conditions, as they may or may not have an effect on the groundwater environment within the CMA.
    - Elastic vs. inelastic. Elastic ‘rebound’ (opposite of subsidence) may relate to a groundwater aquifer recharging after a period of drought. Inelastic subsidence or land surface uplift may also relate to localized or regional tectonic conditions or changes.
    - Mr. Bondy recommended using a combination of DWR provided, free resources (LiDAR, InSAR, etc.) along with known GPS’d or surveyed locations within the CMA to help identify whether land surface elevation changes are elastic or inelastic, over the planning and implementation horizon.
- Interconnected Surface Water
  - Mr. Bondy asked whether the SYR is connected to the underlying water table, and if it meets the criteria for Interconnected Surface Water in the CMA.
  - Stetson explained that the river is regulated by USBR, and that various inputs and decision makers need to be considered prior to making that determination.
    - However, in accordance with SGMA, this determination will be made and will be presented in future meetings and technical presentations and will be monitored into the future.

The CMA GSA Committee Directors unanimously requested staff to post the Draft GCTM online when it is completed for a 60-day public review and comment period and directed staff to hold a Citizen Advisory Group meeting on the Draft GCTM.

#### **XI. Receive Update on Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of CMA**

Typographical error made on Agenda. This topic was addressed as item VII.

#### **XII. Consider holding “Special” CMA GSA Meetings on December 14, 2020 10:00 AM and January 25, 2021 10:00 AM**

Mr. Buelow suggested the CMA GSA plan for Special Meetings on December 14, 2020 and January 25, 2021 consisting of technical content to address specific topics and would be treated more like a workshop. The meetings would be held on a Monday at 10:00 am via online video or phone conference due to COVID-19 restrictions. Discussion followed.

#### **XIII. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2020, 10:00 AM**

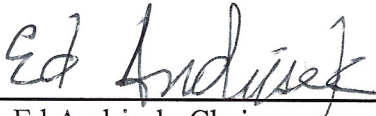
Mr. Buelow announced that the next CMA GSA Committee Meeting will be Monday, February 22, 2021, 10:00 am, location TBD. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it may be held via teleconference call.

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

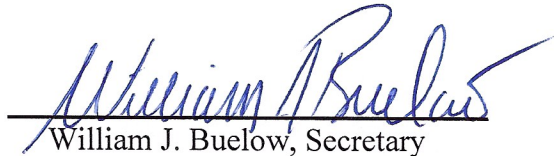
There were no CMA GSA Committee requests or comments.

**XV. Adjournment**

GSA Committee Director Hibbits MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 pm. GSA Committee Director Andrisek seconded the motion.



Ed Andrisek, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary



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

**JULY 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
			Approved at August 2020 meeting because warrants were charged to FY 2019-20	\$ -
				<hr/>
				MONTH TOTAL \$ -

**AUGUST 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1020	09/18/20	Stetson Engineers	June 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #2)	\$ 42,960.44
				<hr/>
				MONTH TOTAL \$ 42,960.44

**SEPTEMBER 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

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

<b>TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 42,960.44</b>
---

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP  
MEMORANDUM

---

DATE: November 11, 2020

TO: CMA GSA Committee

FROM: CMA Citizen Advisory Group  
(representative Sharyne Merritt)

SUBJECT: November Meetings to Discuss Hydrologic Conceptual Model

---

**Attendees**

CMA CAG Members in attendance November 11, 2020: Mark Preston, Jeff Newton, Larry Lahr, Sharyne Merritt, Sean Diggins

Consultants and Staff in attendance November 11, 2020: Bill Buelow (SYRWCD), Madelyn Murray (Dudek), Curtis Lawler and Miles McCammon (Stetson)

**Purpose**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Central Management Area Hydrologic Conceptual Model. A copy of the documents was made available to the CAG prior to the meeting at [www.portal.santaynezwater.org](http://www.portal.santaynezwater.org).

The group went through the Hydrologic Conceptual Model section by section

Comments:

- How does this fit into the final GSP:
  - See Cuyama GSP for example of final product
- Question whether if the Airborne EM survey will indicate faults?
  - Response from Consultants was yes.
- Question of number of wells and dates, as well as source of water quality section.
  - Response from Consultants was data was from State (GAMA) database.
  - Additional language on number and source of data will be added.

- Comment to Consultants to verify whether springs are in bedrock, if so they aren't subject to SGMA.
  - Consultants will check them and screen them if possible. Some may fall out if the basin boundaries are changed.
  
- When will team identify if "possible" groundwater dependent ecosystems are in fact groundwater dependent ecosystems and when will have information on importance of GDE's
  - Consultants will screen the current GDE's and some will fall out.
  
- Question of identifying critical data gaps to SGMA management vs technical data gaps that don't affect SGMA management of basin.
  - Consultants will review them and edit accordingly.