

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 Diethofer

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Meighan Diethofer 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 Scudato, 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.

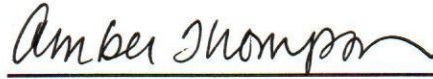
11. Adjournment

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

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



Larry Lahr, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary

Approved on: 10/15/2024

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



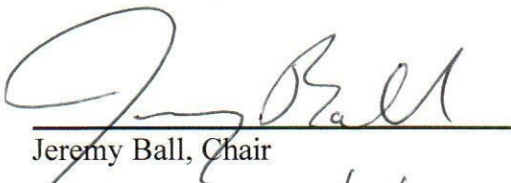
Brett Marymee, Chair



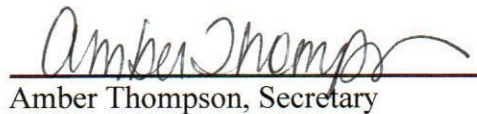
Elizabeth Orona, Secretary

Approved on: 10/24/2024

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



Jeremy Ball, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary

Approved on: 12/6/24