

MEETING MINUTES
Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management
Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin
January 25, 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, 25 January 2021. 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, Art Hibbits

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Cynthia Allen

Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Doug Circle, Maygan Cline (GeoSyntec), Sean Diggins, Cindy Douglas, Len Fleckenstein, Larry Lahr, Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Sharyne Merritt, Madelyn Murray (Dudek), Anita Regmi (DWR), Steve Slack (CDFW), Kevin Walsh

I. Call to Order

GSA Committee Director Andrisek called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcomed all in attendance. 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.

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), 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, and a Draft Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, which is currently open for public review and comment.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Receive Presentation from Stetson team on “Groundwater Conditions, Water Budget, Numeric Groundwater Model and Sustainable Management Criteria”

Ms. Cline (Geosyntec Consultants), Madelyn Murray (Dudek), and Curtis Lawler, (Stetson Engineers) presented the January 2021 Stakeholder Workshop. They discussed the Groundwater Conditions Tech Memo, Water Budget Tech Memo, Groundwater Model Update and Sustainable Management Criteria example thresholds. They requested detailed comments and questions be made via the portal at SantaYnezWater.org.

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

- Cindy Douglas asked if wells showing on slides 11-12 are groundwater wells or surface water wells? Curtis Lawler (Stetson) explained the wells are physically groundwater wells but legally are considered surface water diversions and is part of the groundwater basin but are regulated by State Water Resources Control Board. The data from these “surface water” wells is being used as a baseline current condition. Anita Regmi (DWR) clarified that SGMA requires reporting of the data but management of surface water wells under SGMA is still being discussed between agencies at the state level when jurisdictional overlaps occur.
- Len Fleckenstein asked: Are any of the wells with water quality data located within the City boundaries? Curtis Lawler (Stetson) answered, Yes.
- Bryan Bondy asked: Can you please explain the reasons for the starting and ending years of the historical period (1982-2018)? Is the selected period overall dry, wet, or average? How was agricultural pumping determined? Curtis Lawler (Stetson): 1982-2018 was chosen because it is relatively well balanced and includes two major drought periods and a lot of wet periods and 1982 is about when the reporting program began with SYRWCD. Agricultural pumping is based on what landowners reported to SYRWCD.
- Cindy Douglas asked for clarification on graphs that Groundwater Pumping looks a lot like the Groundwater Storage graphs. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) explained, yes, there should be a correlation...pumping increase means more water going out and reduces amount in storage.
- Sharyne Merritt asked: There appears to be a correlation between municipal and agricultural from 1998 on - do you know why? Curtis Lawler (Stetson) explained: yes, there was growth in both sectors in this area in that time.
- Committee Director Art Hibbits stated he would like water releases from Cachuma down Santa Ynez River to be mentioned since plant growth & beaver habitat in the river between releases affect the amount of water that actually gets down the river. Maygan Cline (Geosyntec) explained the water releases are included in the Inflow

numbers in the Water Budget. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) explained that managing Water Rights Releases is not under SGMA and the consultants are calculating those losses as part of outflows. Water releases to Santa Ynez River are reflected in Surface Water Budget. They were addressed in prior chapter and will specifically call it out again.

- Bryan Bondy suggested that it would be helpful to show the well screen depth range and perhaps land surface on the groundwater elevation plots for context when considering what might be undesirable. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) agreed is a good idea and will be included for future graphs.
- Anita Regmi (DWR) asked for clarification on slide 37 and asked consultants to explain rationale on how Measurable Objective & Minimum Threshold levels were chosen. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) explained the slides in this presentation are just an example that was chosen to share the idea on how the GSA Committee will choose.
- Anita Regmi (DWR) asked if the interest of beneficial users, especially domestic well owners considered in developing the Measurable Objective & Minimum Threshold. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) acknowledged that this will be a key component to consider.
- Cindy Douglas expressed caution on establishing thresholds without context & should discuss other management actions discussed. Curtis Lawler (Stetson) stated the context is set by undesirable effects/indicators and agree levels should be discussed by Citizen Advisory Group and GSA Committee.
- Len Fleckenstein asked when does data collection end for purposes of Groundwater Sustainability Plan submittal? Curtis Lawler (Stetson) responded that data collection will be ongoing. Data to be included in initial draft should be received in the next couple of months.
- Bryan Bondy: What is the process for obtaining input from beneficial users when establishing the sustainability goal, Minimum Threshold, and Measurable Objective? Bill Buelow advised input will be through CAG process whose meetings are open to the public.
- Bill Buelow stated today's presentation is available on SantaYnezWater.org

VI. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:00 AM, location TBD

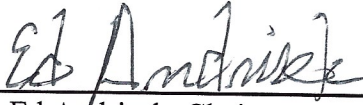
Mr. Buelow announced that the next CMA GSA Committee Meeting will be Monday, February 22, 2021, 10:00 AM, location TBD. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it may be held via teleconference call.

VII. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments

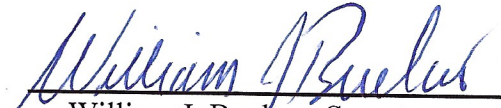
Mr. Buelow announced the CMA CAG has two open seats and that applications are now being accepted. The application can be found at SantaYnezWater.org.

VIII. Adjournment

Committee Director Andrisek adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



Ed Andrisek, Chairman



William J. BueLOW, Secretary