

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “Agency”) intends to adopt a conflict-of-interest code (the “Code”) pursuant to Government Code Section 87300. Pursuant to Government Code Section 87302, the Code designates positions requiring disclosure of certain investments, income, interests in real property and business positions, and who must disqualify themselves from making or participating in the making of governmental decisions affecting those interests.

A written comment period has been established commencing on **March 5, 2024**, and terminating on **April 19, 2024**. Any interested person may present written comments concerning the proposed Code no later than **April 19, 2024**, to the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Attention: Amber Thompson, **P.O. Box 719, Santa Ynez, CA 93460**. No public hearing on this matter will be held unless an interested person, or his or her representative, requests such a hearing no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

The reason for the adoption of this Code is the formation of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The Agency has prepared a written explanation of the reasons for the designations and the disclosure responsibilities and has available all of the information upon which its proposal is based. The adoption of the Code will not impose a cost savings to the Agency that is required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code; will not result in any nondiscretionary cost or savings to local agencies; will not result in any cost or savings in federal funding to the state; will not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts; and will not have any potential cost impact on private persons or businesses, including small businesses. No alternative considered by the Agency would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

Copies of the proposed Code and all of the information upon which it is based may be obtained from Amber Thompson, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, at **3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, CA 93460**. Any inquiries or written comments concerning the proposed Code should be directed to Amber Thompson, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, in person at **3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, CA 93460**, by mail at **P.O. Box 719, Santa Ynez, CA 93460**, or by telephone at (805) 693-1156.

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The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs. Sec. 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendix, designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)**.

Designated individuals may file their statements online using eDisclosure, which will submit the Form 700 to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor. Statements will be made available for public inspection and reproduction (Gov. Code Section 81008). The Agency's filing official can provide access to designated individuals.

Designated individuals who file using a paper Form 700 shall file with the Agency. Upon receipt of the Statement filed by a designated individual, the Agency shall retain a copy and forward the original to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

The following positions are not covered by the conflict of interest code because they must file statements under Section 87200 and therefore are listed for informational purposes only: Members of the Board of Directors.

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200.

**APPENDIX
DESIGNATED POSITIONS AND
DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES**

I. <u>Designated Position</u>	<u>Assigned Disclosure Category</u>
Directors	1, 2
Alternate Directors	1, 2
Secretary/Treasurer	1, 2
Plan Manager	1, 2
General Counsel	1, 2
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Staff	1, 2
Consultants/New Positions	*

Note: The positions of Auditor and General Counsel are filled by outside consultants who serve in a staff capacity.

*Consultants/New positions shall be included in the list of designated positions and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code, subject to the following limitation:

The Board may determine that a particular consultant or new position, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the consultant’s or new position’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Board’s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code (Gov. Code Section 81008).

Officials Who Manage Public Investments

The following positions are not covered by the conflict of interest code because they must file a statement of economic interests pursuant to Government Code Section 87200 and, therefore, are listed for information purposes only:

Members of the Board of Directors

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200.

II. Disclosure Categories:

Category 1

Designated positions in this category shall disclose income from any source, interests in real property, investments and all business positions in which the designated individual is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management.

Category 2

Designated positions in this category shall disclose investments; business positions in business entities; and income (including gifts, loans, and travel payments), from sources engaged in providing services (e.g. accounting, auditing, engineering and environmental consulting), supplies, materials, machinery, or equipment of the type utilized by the agency.