



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

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**FINAL DRAFT**  
**Communication and Engagement Plan**  
FEBRUARY 2020



FINAL DRAFT

# **Communication and Engagement Plan**

for Santa Ynez Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

Prepared for Santa Barbara County

February 21, 2020

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In 2014, the California legislature approved a new groundwater management law known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA requires local governments and water agencies in California’s high and medium-priority groundwater basins, as defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for their basins. The Santa Ynez River Valley Basin (DWR Bulletin 118 No. 3-15) – or Santa Ynez Basin – is designated as a medium-priority basin and thus a GSP or multiple GSPs must be adopted for the entire Basin by January 31, 2022. ***The three GSAs in the Santa Ynez Basin plan to develop three GSPs to be submitted to DWR in accordance with a coordination agreement.***

This Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) describes the planned activities for engaging interested parties in development of a GSP for the ***East Management Area (EMA)*** of the Santa Ynez Basin. It is designed to meet the stakeholder engagement requirements of SGMA and GSP Regulations. The ultimate purpose of the document is to facilitate effective communication and engagement with the multiple and varied stakeholders in the EMA.

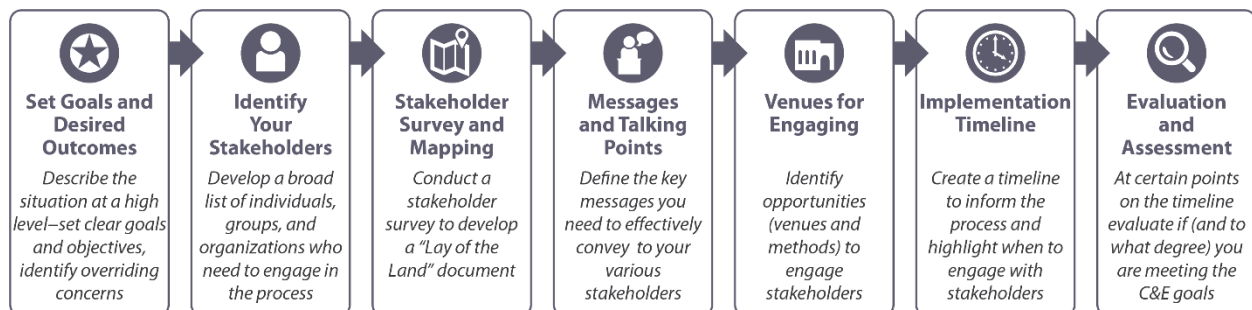
### Structure of this C&E Plan

DWR’s *Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance Document* describes a seven-step process for communication and engagement. DWR’s steps are listed below:

1. ***Set Goals and Desired Outcomes***
2. ***Identify Your Stakeholders***
3. ***Stakeholder Survey and Mapping***
4. ***Messages and Talking Points***
5. ***Venues for Engaging***
6. ***Implementation Timeline***
7. ***Evaluation and Assessment***

In addition to the groups provided on DWR's chart, the EMA will also add the following groups to the interested parties list: domestic well owners, commercial users, disadvantaged communities, municipal water agencies, and federal stakeholders such as the US Bureau of Reclamation and US Fish and Wildlife. This C&E Plan begins with an introduction to the Santa Ynez Basin and the EMA. The remainder of the plan is organized to follow the steps suggested above and shown in **Figure 1**.

*Figure 1. Engagement Steps from DWR GSP Stakeholder and Engagement Guidance Document*





# 1. Introduction to the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin EMA

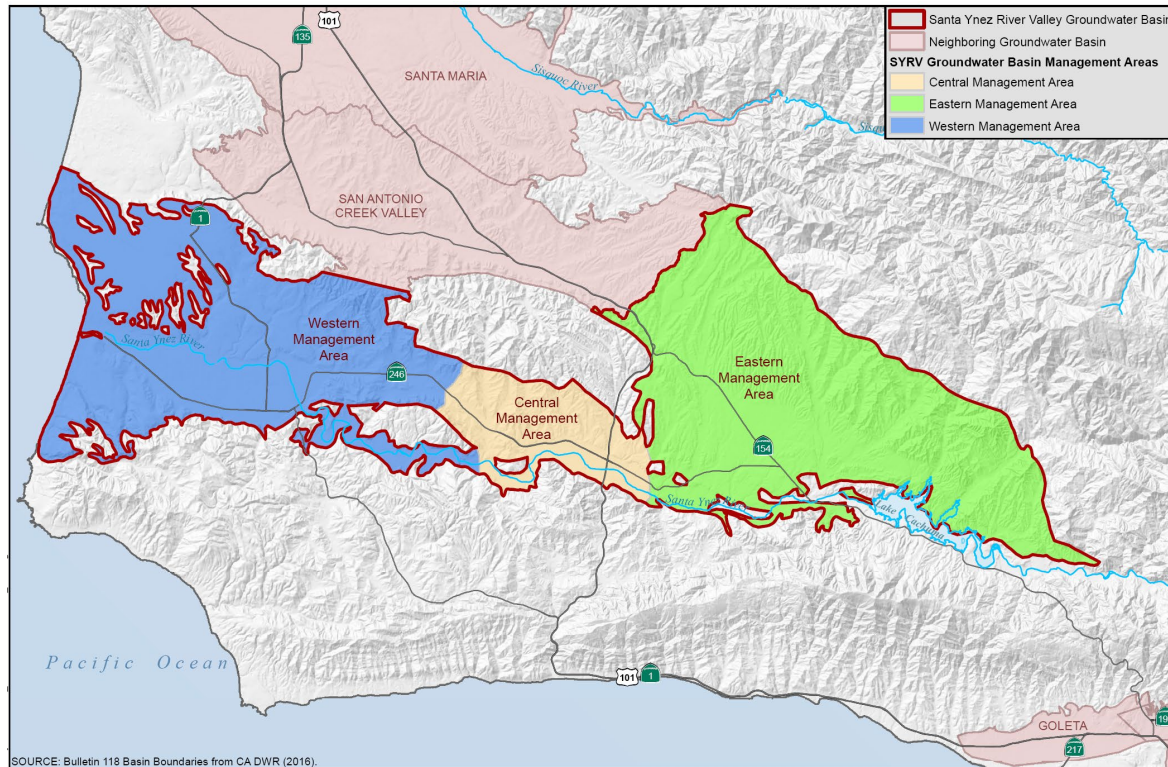
The Santa Ynez Basin is located in California’s Central Coast hydrologic region in Santa Barbara County and is approximately 203,051 acres in size. The Basin is bound by the Purisima Hills on the northwest, the San Rafael Mountains on the northeast, the Santa Ynez Mountains on the south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. On the east and underlying the groundwater basin, the basin is bounded by consolidated non-water-bearing rocks of Tertiary age. The primary sources of water supply in the Basin include groundwater from the Santa Ynez Uplands Groundwater Basin, Santa Ynez River and alluvial groundwater, State Water Project, and Cachuma Project.<sup>1</sup> Additional sources of supply include Lompoc Uplands and Buellton Uplands.

The Basin is divided into three Management Areas, one for each GSA established in the Basin, as shown in **Table 1** and delineated in **Figure 2**.

*Table 1. Santa Ynez Basin Management Areas*

Management Area	Geographic Extent
Western Management Area (WMA)	Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Terrace, and Lompoc Uplands
Central Management Area (CMA)	Buellton Uplands
East Management Area (EMA)	Santa Ynez Uplands

*Figure 2. EMA Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundaries*



<sup>1</sup> [http://countyofsb.org/pwd/water/downloads/IRWMP/finalplan/10\\_IRWMP\\_Section\\_4.pdf](http://countyofsb.org/pwd/water/downloads/IRWMP/finalplan/10_IRWMP_Section_4.pdf) page 4-1 and 4-2

Each GSA will prepare a GSP for its portion of the Basin. The three resulting GSPs will be implemented following a formal Coordination Agreement signed by all GSAs.

Four agencies formed the EMA GSA. These agencies include: Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), the City of Solvang (City), the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (ID No.1), and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (County Water Agency). A brief description of each is provided below.

- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District** – SYRWCD was established in 1939 to protect the water rights and supplies of its constituents in the Santa Ynez River watershed. Among other responsibilities, SYRWCD manages releases of water from Bradbury Dam to replenish the Santa Ynez River and alluvial aquifers and provides groundwater management planning and related activities for the upland basins within its boundaries.
- **City of Solvang** – The City of Solvang was founded in 1911 and includes a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational areas.
- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1.** – ID No.1 was established in 1959 and provides retail water service to domestic and agricultural customers for the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Ballard, and the City of Solvang.
- **Santa Barbara County Water Agency** – The County Water Agency manages several regional programs including implementation of the regional water efficiency program, the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), the development of county-wide hydrologic data, and development of hydrologic models. Included in these programs are the compilation and publication of an annual report on groundwater conditions, sediment management studies, reservoir capacity studies, technical support to other public agencies, and public information.

This C&E Plan is tailored for GSP development in the EMA and, with the exception of GSA coordination efforts, does not establish any activities for the CMA or WMA GSAs.

## 2. Goals and Desired Outcomes

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The goal of this C&E Plan is to describe the planned activities for engaging interested parties in GSP development for the Santa Ynez Basin EMA and to provide opportunities for interested parties to participate. This Plan will serve as a roadmap to support achieving the desired outcomes identified below.

- **Educate the public about the importance of the EMA GSP and their input.** Stakeholder input is a critical part of the GSP development process. Stakeholders define the values of the Basin and the priorities for sustainable groundwater management. This valuable input is what guides decision-making and development of projects and management actions to be included in the EMA GSP. The C&E Plan is designed to encourage public participation and spread information about GSP development.
- **Engage a diverse group of stakeholders.** The C&E Plan is developed with thoughtful consideration about how to engage the diverse array of stakeholders in the EMA portion of the Basin. The C&E Plan outlines multiple venues for communication with varied audiences.
- **Make stakeholder participation easy and accessible.** One way to increase engagement is to make participation easier for stakeholders. Ways in which stakeholders can engage in GSP development will be clear and accessible. The C&E Plan provides methods, such as an online portal, to make engagement easy for stakeholders.
- **Allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide meaningful input.** Aligning the stakeholder engagement schedule with the GSP development schedule allows interested parties to engage at key decision points in the GSP development process. Public meetings will inform interested parties about what decisions need to be made, provide relevant technical information, and request feedback.
- **Provide a roadmap for GSA leadership.** The C&E Plan provides a clear roadmap and schedule for EMA GSA leaders to follow, keeping engagement efforts consistent and on track.

The goal and desired outcomes listed above are the drivers for this planning document. They inform and shape the remainder of this C&E Plan.

### 3. GSP Participants and Decision-Making Process

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Users of groundwater in the EMA are encouraged to participate in GSP development. A successful outcome requires GSA leadership, technical expertise, and active stakeholder engagement throughout the process.

#### **GSA Leadership**

The EMA GSA was formed April 2017 under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by the SYRWCD, City of Solvang, ID No.1, and County Water Agency. A list of the MOA parties is shown in **Table 2** and a copy of the MOA is included as **Appendix A**. In the MOA, the parties agree to “consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the EMA, including the interests listed in Section §10723.2 of the [Sustainable Groundwater Management] Act.” The MOA applies to the EMA GSA only. Coordination among EMA, CMA, and WMA will be outlined in a formal coordination agreement, which is required by SGMA, and submitted with the Final GSPs.

*Table 2. MOA Parties forming the EMA GSA*

<b>MOA Parties</b>
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
City of Solvang
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

#### **GSA Committee**

The MOA established a GSA Committee that leads SGMA implementation in the EMA. The Committee is composed of one representative and an alternative from each MOA party. The Committee is the governing body of the GSA and may adopt resolutions, bylaws, and policies with respect to SGMA. Therefore, all Committee meetings are called, noticed, and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Govt. Code section 54950 et seq.). As set forth in the MOA, the agencies of the EMA GSA are required to work cooperatively and in good faith to prepare the GSP and carry out the requirements of SGMA in coordination with the other two GSAs in the Basin. GSA Committee voting is weighted as established in the MOA (**Appendix A**).

#### **Technical Expertise**

The role of technical experts is to evaluate and communicate facts about the EMA, the Basin, and surrounding basins and to inform the GSA Committee and interested parties about how the groundwater system functions, and the benefits and consequences of potential projects and management actions identified during GSP development. Technical experts may include outside consultants and staff of the MOA parties.

#### **Stakeholders**

SGMA identifies a broad range of stakeholders to be engaged throughout the development of a GSP, including all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as other parties responsible for implementing GSPs in the Basin (Water Code section 10723.2). Interested parties provide invaluable input regarding the priorities and values of the community, and stakeholder engagement is available and encouraged to occur through the multiple venues and tools described in this Plan. Additional information is included in **Section 4. Stakeholder Identification**.

## 4. Stakeholder Identification

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Pursuant to California Water Code sections 10723.2 and 10723.8, the EMA GSA has considered, and will continue to consider, the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as other parties/GSAs that are responsible for implementing GSPs in the Basin. The EMA GSA is committed to an open process including active and open discussions with all interested parties throughout GSP development. **Appendix B** provides an initial list of beneficial uses and users of groundwater submitted at the time of GSA formation.

### Stakeholder Group Identification

The list provided in **Appendix B** was used to form the EMA's initial interested parties list. The interested parties list is a living document, has expanded since GSA formation, and is revised regularly. The interested parties list will continue to be supplemented with information gathered for the stakeholder groups identified in the Stakeholder Engagement Chart for GSP Development, as provided in DWR's Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance Document<sup>2</sup>. The stakeholder groups provided on DWR's chart include:

- General Public
- Land Use
- Private Users
- Urban/Agricultural Users
- Industrial Users
- Environmental and Ecosystem
- Economic Development
- Human Right to Water
- Native American Tribes
- Federal and State Lands
- Integrated Water Management

In addition to the groups provided on DWR's chart, the following groups are on the EMA interested parties list: domestic well owners, commercial users, disadvantaged communities, municipal water agencies, and federal stakeholders.

### Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP)

A web-based outreach tool called the Santa Ynez Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP) will be used to maintain the interested parties list for the EMA. The same tool will also be used by the other two GSAs in the Basin. The GCP electronically notifies interested parties when events are scheduled by the GSAs regarding GSP development or other SGMA-related processes. Interested parties can add themselves to the list online at any time. The GCP will track outreach engagements and store the information in a database for GSA retrieval. The database will include meeting dates, locations, times, and documents such as meeting agendas, minutes, and matters considered by the GSAs. The GCP is not meant to replace, but to enhance, outreach efforts. A description of the GCP is provided in **Appendix C**.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>(accessed May 29, 2019)

## 5. Stakeholder Survey

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DWR created a stakeholder survey template which can be found at its Communication and Engagement Digital Toolkit<sup>3</sup> webpage. The survey is designed to learn about stakeholder interests, issues, and challenges. The survey asks the following questions:

- Are you familiar with SGMA regulations?
- Are you currently engaged in activity or discussions regarding groundwater management in this region?
- Do you own or manage land in this region?
- Do you manage water resources? If yes, what is your role?
- What is your primary interest in land or water resources management?
- Do you have concerns about groundwater management? If so, what are they?
- Do you have recommendations regarding groundwater management? If so, what are they?
- What else do you want me to know?
- Who else should we listen to?

The above questions and more are included in an EMA-specific survey included as **Appendix D**.

The survey is scheduled to be distributed within the EMA in 2020. The survey will be distributed via e-blast to the interested parties list, available on the GCP, and announced at public meetings. Final results will be summarized in a report and used to inform GSP development.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>



## 6. Venues and Methods: Opportunities for Engagement

As set forth in this C&E Plan, the Santa Ynez EMA GSA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population throughout the GSP development process. To this end, multiple stakeholder engagement methods will be employed as described below.

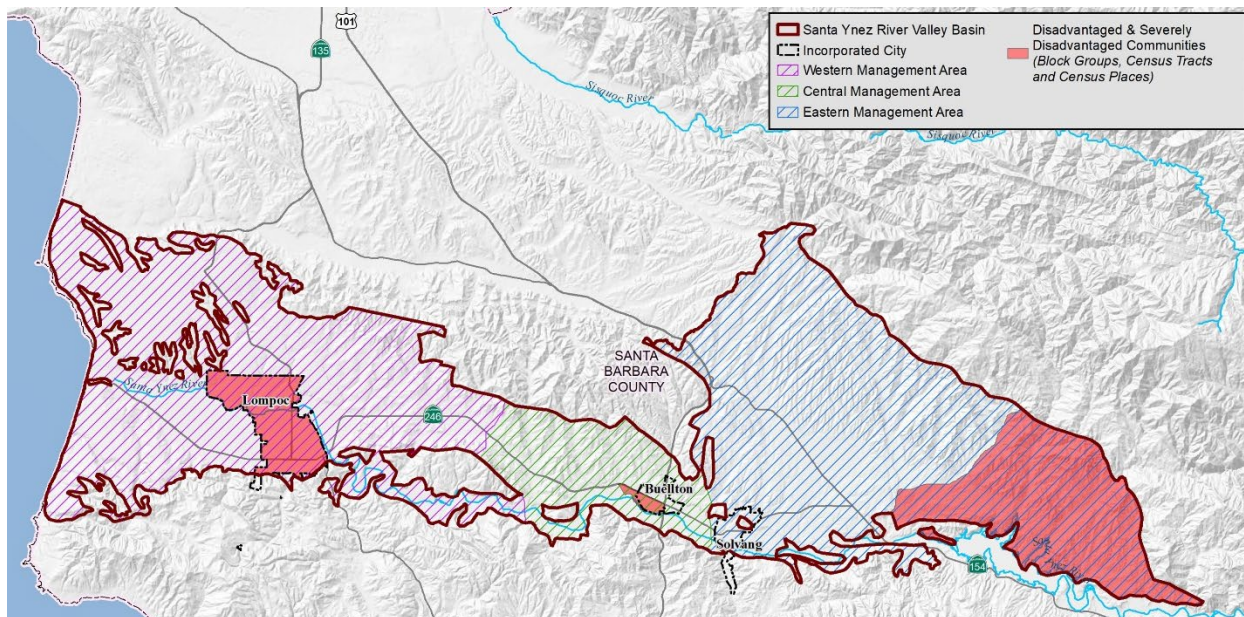
### Focused Engagement

To involve a broad set of stakeholders, the groups below will be given focused attention in the engagement process.

#### Disadvantaged Communities

There are several disadvantaged communities within the EMA portion of the Basin based on block groups, census tracts, and census places. These areas are in the southeast portion of the EMA, as shown on **Figure 3** below. Specific efforts will be used to ensure that communications are reaching these communities, so they are informed of the GSP development process and invited to participate. Additionally, public meetings and workshops will be inclusionary by using culturally appropriate language, education, and framing<sup>4</sup> of the issues around sustainable groundwater management.

Figure 3. Disadvantaged Communities and EMA GSA



#### Tribal Governments

Per SGMA §10720.3(c), any federally recognized Indian tribes may voluntarily agree to participate in the planning, financing, and management of SGMA activities. Furthermore, Section §10723.2(h) specifically provides that California Native American tribes are among the beneficial users of groundwater that must be considered by the EMA GSA in preparing the GSP. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Tribal Reservation boundaries are within the boundary of the EMA, and the Tribal Chairman indicated early in the SGMA process that the Tribe looks forward to collaborating with the GSA. (See

<sup>4</sup> From Engaging Disadvantaged Communities in Resource Management  
<https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/Alcanza%20E-Report.pdf> pg. 27, accessed 5/31/2019



correspondence attached as **Appendix E**). The EMA GSA remains in contact and welcomes participation with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in GSP development. Currently, the Tribal Government is participating in the SGMA process for the EMA GSA through its representative on the Citizen Advisory Group (also known as CAG, discussed below).

### *Bilingual Residents*

Information will be gathered regarding languages spoken in the communities within the EMA portion of the Basin and translation services will be offered for different languages as needed per the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Service Act.

### *Organizational Groups*

GSA leadership will plan to attend or host meetings with organizational groups such as mutual water companies, cities, community organizations, or governing bodies to familiarize them with the GSP development process and invite them to participate.

## **Public Notices and Hearings**

SGMA requires a publicly noticed hearing at three distinct points in GSP development:

- At GSA formation §10723(b) – this process is complete
- When a GSP is adopted or amended (§10728.4)
- Before imposing or increasing fees

These hearings are legally required and are not held on a regular basis like the GSA committee meetings. The GSA committee meetings (also publicly noticed) are where presentation of draft GSP documents will occur and are described in the following section. The GCP will be used to increase awareness of upcoming meetings and hearings.

## **GSA Committee Meetings**

GSA Committee meetings are conducted on a regular basis. The purpose of these meetings is to provide updates and information regarding the status of GSP development and related issues; and to receive feedback from the GSA Committee and the public on those matters. The meetings range in length depending on what is happening in the GSP development process. As noted above, all GSA Committee meetings are noticed and open to the public in accordance with the Brown Act.

## **Citizen Advisory Group**

The purpose of the EMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) is to provide an additional level of public input to the GSA Committee in a way that represents different categories of groundwater uses and users in the EMA as set forth by SGMA. At various points during development of the EMA GSP, the CAG may be asked to provide its perspective on elements or sections of the GSP and on the final draft of the GSP.

To ensure an efficient and collaborative process, the GSA Committee will select members to the CAG that reflect a diversity of interests and different types of groundwater uses and users in the EMA. At the direction of the GSA Committee, the CAG will provide input to the Committee relating to various elements or sections of the GSP, including but not limited to those pertaining to stakeholder engagement, data management, the hydrogeologic conceptual model, the numeric groundwater model, water budgets, sustainability goals, monitoring programs, and projects and management actions. Additional information regarding the EMA CAG can be found in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Citizen Advisory Group Guidelines, as adopted by the EMA GSA Committee during its April 2019 meeting, and included as **Appendix F**.

## Informational Materials

The Stakeholder Survey discussed in the previous section will ask stakeholders how they would like to receive information. Initially, it is anticipated that the informational materials listed below will be developed and made available for use by all stakeholders.

### *GSA Webpage*

A webpage<sup>5</sup> listing public meetings and information about SGMA implementation in the Santa Ynez Basin is currently located at the Santa Barbara County website and the SYRWCD website. The County webpage and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District website<sup>6</sup> will direct interested parties to register at the GCP (described below).

### *Groundwater Communication Portal*

The web-based Santa Ynez GCP is an efficient, multi-functional, user-friendly tool that will be used to communicate with interested parties. The GCP will store interested party information and distribute e-mail invitations for all EMA-related meetings and events that are posted to the GCP calendar.

There are additional tools within the GCP that will be used to enhance stakeholder communication. These tools include the following:

- **E-Blast.** E-mails will be sent to interested parties using the e-blast tool. E-blasts will be effective for sending reminders of upcoming deadlines, such as the close of a survey or comment period. Interested parties can sign up to receive the e-blasts and may also choose to unsubscribe from them.
- **Public Comment.** During public comment periods, a form will be available on the GCP for interested parties to submit comments. The form allows comments to be submitted by Section of the Draft GSP and automatically stores the information for GSA review, reducing the risk of misplaced comments. Interested parties may also use the form to submit general comments.
- **Direct Mailing.** At key points in the GSP development process, direct mailings will be sent to stakeholders who have requested direct mailings and provided a mailing address.

More information about the GCP is provided in **Appendix C**.

### *FAQ*

A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will be created and updated periodically throughout GSP development. The FAQ will address questions about SGMA, the EMA GSA, development of the EMA GSP, and issues related to the overall SGMA process for the Basin.

## Talking Points

The GSA Committee meetings and the FAQ will serve as guides for talking points to share information about GSP development with local agencies and interested parties. Materials presented in GSA Committee meetings will be made available to local agencies to use when communicating with their constituents. Sharing these materials will support consistent messaging to audiences throughout the EMA.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/gsa.sbc>

<sup>6</sup> <https://syrwcd.com/>

## 7. Evaluation and Assessment

The activities identified in this C&E Plan are designed to meet the goals and objectives identified earlier in **Section 2**. Below, **Table 3** lists tasks to implement this C&E Plan. This list will be modified and updated as needed throughout GSP development.

*Table 3. Outreach Tasks*

Task	Description
Launch Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP)	Launch GCP, post meetings to calendar, promote at meetings.
Include GCP on printed materials	Educate public about where they can find information and updates related to SGMA in the EMA and the Basin overall.
Announce GCP at public meetings	Encourage interested parties to sign up using the GCP.
Develop FAQ	Develop FAQ as questions come in from the GSA Committee and interested parties. Maintain FAQ on the GCP and/or other locations and update as necessary.
Form CAG	Solicit and accept applications to join the CAG, select members, seek input from the CAG at key decision points. Publicly notice CAG meetings and send invitations using the GCP.
Engage Disadvantaged Communities	Assess and implement effective methods to engage disadvantaged communities in the EMA.
Continue Communication with Native American Tribes	Remain in contact with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians. Add the Tribal Chairman and other tribal contacts to the GCP interested parties list.
Conduct Stakeholder Survey	Distribute stakeholder survey at meeting(s) and online. Invite interested parties to participate using the GCP. Analyze results and summarize in a report.
Outreach Schedule	Keep outreach activities aligned with GSP development to provide opportunities for ongoing and meaningful input.
Hold a public hearing for GSP adoption	Per SGMA Section 10728.4, give 60-day notice and hold a public hearing to adopt the final EMA GSP before submitting to DWR.

The schedule for the above outreach tasks is flexible and driven by the overall schedule for GSP development. Outreach activities occur when they best serve plan development. For example, when preparing to write a chapter about projects and management actions, the GSAs will conduct outreach related to collecting input regarding potential projects.

Like the task list, this C&E Plan is a living document to be updated as needed throughout GSP development. Use and implementation of the task list and C&E Plan recommendations will indicate successful C&E Plan implementation.

## 8. Appendices

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- Appendix A.      Memorandum of Agreement for GSA formation**
- Appendix B.      Initial list of beneficial uses and users of groundwater**
- Appendix C.      Groundwater Communication Portal**
- Appendix D.      Stakeholder Survey**
- Appendix E.      Letter from Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Tribal Chairman,  
Kenneth Kahn, August 2016**
- Appendix F.      Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Citizen Advisory Group  
Guidelines**

## **Appendix A.**

### **Memorandum of Agreement**



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
FOR FORMATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE  
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN UNDER THE  
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** ("MOA") is made and effective as of April 27, 2017, by and between the Parties executing the MOA below, each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties," with reference to the following facts:

A. In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Water Code Sections 10720 et seq.), referred to in this MOA as the "SGMA" or "Act," as subsequently amended, pursuant to which certain public agencies may become "Groundwater Sustainability Agencies" (GSA) and adopt "Groundwater Sustainability Plans" (GSP) in order to manage and regulate groundwater in underlying groundwater basins. The Act defines "basin" as a basin or sub-basin identified and defined in California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 118. Each Party is a local public agency located within the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Bulletin 118, Basin No. 3-15, "Basin") and is qualified to become a GSA and adopt a GSP under the Act for all or a portion of the Basin.

B. Bulletin 118 describes the Basin as being in three portions, that being eastern, central and western. The western portion consists of the Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Terrace and Lompoc Uplands; the central portion is the Buellton Uplands and the eastern portion is the Santa Ynez Uplands. For purposes of administering its groundwater usage program and other water management functions, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ("SYRWCD") also generally recognizes these hydrogeologic units. For the purpose of implementing SGMA, each portion of the Basin as described by DWR and recognized by the SYRWCD, is designated as a corresponding groundwater "Management Area" as defined by the Act.

C. The Parties are the agencies qualified to be a GSA under the Act for the Eastern (Santa Ynez Uplands) Management Area (EMA) of the Basin. The map attached hereto as Exhibit A designates the boundaries of the three Management Areas of the Basin.

D. A separate GSA for each Management Area is the most efficient approach to implement SGMA in the Basin. The three GSAs will be managed by an Intra-Basin Coordination Agreement, with the SYRWCD as the point of contact with DWR, pursuant to §10727.6 of the Act and California Code of Regulations, Title 23, §357.4. On May 23, 2016, the Parties, along with the other agencies qualified to be a GSA within the Basin, entered into a memorandum of understanding for implementing SGMA which recognized the three Management Areas corresponding to DWR's three portions of the Basin and outlined the process for formation of GSAs and development of GSPs for the Basin. These three Management Areas cover the entire Basin that is subject to SGMA. Attached as Exhibit B is a chart of the anticipated organization of the three GSAs.

E. The SYRWCD covers approximately 35 percent of the land area in the Eastern Management Area (EMA), including the City of Solvang, the communities of Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, and Ballard, many ranchettes (parcels are 5-20 acres in size) and larger agricultural parcels. These communities are provided water by the City of Solvang, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District-Improvement District Number 1 (or "ID No. 1"), mutual water companies



and private wells. Estimates of pumping within the SYRWCD in the EMA vary widely over time and are attributed to in-fill development within the built-up areas and changes in agricultural practice. In general, areas of the Santa Ynez Uplands within the SYRWCD have produced 4,000 to 5,500 AF/year of water.

F. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (County Water Agency) covers the remaining 65 percent of the EMA land area, including ranchettes and agricultural lands where water is provided by mutual water companies and private wells. Areas outside of the jurisdiction of a local public agency are called “Un-Managed Areas” and are under the jurisdiction of the County Water Agency. Estimates of pumping outside of the SYRWCD in the so called “Un-Managed Area” range from 10,000-12,000 AF/year of water, but may be higher.

G. Lake Cachuma (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), small portions of Los Padres National Forest (U.S. Forest Service) and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Reservation lie within the EMA. As Federal entities and Federally-Recognized Indian Tribe, these organizations are exempt from SGMA.

H. The SYRWCD, ID No. 1, the City of Solvang and the County Water Agency represent all the agencies (as defined by the Act) that are eligible to form a GSA in the EMA. The formation of the EMA GSA is supported by the following:

- The SYRWCD was formed in 1939 to protect the water rights and supplies of those within its borders, which in part encompasses the Santa Ynez Uplands;
- In 1949, the SYRWCD acquired 10.31% of the entitlement to the yield of the Cachuma project, principally to serve in its portion of the Santa Ynez Uplands. ID No. 1 was formed in 1959 for this purpose, to store and distribute such water, and subsequently assumed the rights and responsibilities associated with the entitlement;
- ID No. 1 later acquired SWRCB-issued licenses for three alluvial water-well fields downstream of the Cachuma Reservoir in the Santa Ynez River. ID No. 1 also produces water from the Santa Ynez Uplands and contracts for State Water Project (SWP) water, all in part to supplement the water supplies in the southwest corner of the Santa Ynez Uplands;
- Since 1979, the SYRWCD has registered wells, monitored groundwater production and tracked dewatered storage within its portions of the Santa Ynez Uplands;
- The City of Solvang diverts water from the Santa Ynez River and produces water from the Santa Ynez Uplands to serve in its portion of the Santa Ynez Uplands. Additionally, the City receives SWP water through an agreement with ID No. 1, most of which is used to augment the City water supply in the Uplands;
- The SYRWCD, ID No. 1 and the City of Solvang have collaboratively monitored and managed groundwater within the SYRWCD’s portion of the EMA for many decades at significant expense to the respective entities. Approximately 40 percent of the groundwater pumped in the EMA is produced within the boundaries of the SYRWCD;
- The County Water Agency has collected groundwater level information and periodically produced County-wide reports describing the status of the County’s groundwater resources, including the Santa Ynez Uplands. The County Water Agency’s portion of the EMA has not been studied or managed to the same degree as the areas within the SYRWCD in the



EMA. Approximately 60 percent of the groundwater pumped in the EMA is produced within the County Water Agency's portion of the Uplands;

I. The Parties wish to provide a framework to form a GSA and to implement SGMA in the EMA, such that the implementation is through local control and management and is implemented effectively, efficiently, fairly and at a reasonable cost.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth below and to implement the goals described above, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Formation of the EMA GSA. The purpose of this MOA is to form a GSA for the EMA prior to June 30, 2017, and to facilitate a cooperative and ongoing working relationship between the Parties that will allow them to explore, study, evaluate, develop and implement mutually beneficial approaches and strategies for development of a GSP for the EMA. By execution of this MOA, the Parties collectively determine and elect to be the GSA for the Eastern Management Area of the Basin. It is presumed the EMA GSA will be the sole GSA for this portion of the Basin.

2. Development of the GSP. A separate GSP will be developed for each of the three Management Areas. An Intra-Basin Coordination Agreement will be incorporated into each GSP, as provided for in Section §10727.6 of the Act. The SYRWCD will coordinate the efforts of the Parties and be the point of contact with DWR, as defined by the Act, to meet and cooperatively develop the GSP for the EMA. In developing the GSP the GSA shall consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the EMA, including the interests listed in Section §10723.2 of the Act.

3. GSA Committee. There is hereby established a GSA Committee for the EMA which shall be subject to the following:

- a. Committee Membership. The GSA Committee will be comprised of one representative and an alternate from each Party. A quorum to hold a meeting shall be a simple majority of Parties (3 of the 4 Parties to this Agreement).
- b. Voting will be weighted. The County Water Agency will have five votes, SYRWCD will have three votes, ID No. 1 will have two votes and the City of Solvang will have one vote in the EMA GSA Committee.
- c. The GSA Committee may adopt resolutions, bylaws and policies to provide further details for conducting its affairs consistent with this MOA and applicable law. Meetings of the GSA Committee shall be called, noticed and conducted subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Govt. Code sections 54950 et seq.).
- d. All proposed actions or resolutions must be passed by a simple majority of the voting membership. Actions or resolutions to enter into a comprehensive MOA or Joint Powers Agency agreement ("JPA") and adopt or to approve the GSP must pass by a 70 percent vote (at least 8 votes needed) with the concurrence of each Party's governing body.
- e. The terms of this MOA including, but not limited to, composition, voting procedures, and powers of the GSA Committee, and whether the GSA



Committee shall be replaced by a comprehensive MOA or JPA to implement the GSP, shall be negotiated, reviewed and reaffirmed or modified by the Parties no later than adoption of a GSP or January 31, 2021, whichever occurs first, as part of the process to adopt a GSP, which is due no later than January 31, 2022.

4. Powers of GSA. The GSA Committee shall develop the GSP and the Parties to this Agreement shall have all the powers that a GSA is authorized to exercise and to implement the GSP within the Party's respective boundaries, all consistent with the Act and DWR's regulations, including establishing budgets and imposing fees to fund GSA and GSP activities. The GSA Committee shall proceed in a timely fashion to develop a comprehensive MOA or JPA and GSP for the EMA, and consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the EMA as prescribed by Section 10723.2 of the Act.

5. EMA GSP Hydrogeologic Study. The County Water Agency intends to fund and conduct a hydrogeologic study ("Study") to be used for the GSP in the EMA. The Study shall be conducted with a scope of work and on a schedule to comply with SGMA regulations with regard to GSPs and shall be coordinated with the GSPs developed in the Central and Western Management Areas of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. As the Coordinating Agency, SYRWCD will consult with the County Water Agency and provide input on the selection of the consultant, and the scope and conduct of the Study.

6. Costs. All Parties shall bear the costs incurred with respect to activities under this MOA to participate on the GSA Committee and its proceedings and related matters. Specifically, each Party shall pay the costs for its staff to attend GSA Committee meetings and participate in GSA activities. The County Water Agency intends to fund the GSP hydrogeologic study as described in Section 5 above. Other costs associated with the development and implementation of the GSP shall be shared as agreed to by all of the Parties. All Parties may consider levying a charge pursuant to the Act, including, but not limited to, § 10726.8(b). There are several vehicles to capture costs for implementing the SGMA pursuant to §10730 et seq. of the Act.

7. Staff. Each Party shall designate a principal contact person, if other than the designated GSA Committee member, and other appropriate staff members and consultants to participate on such Party's behalf in activities undertaken pursuant to this MOA. The SYRWCD shall be responsible for meetings and other activities under this MOA with the GSA Committee and principal contact persons for the other Parties, and shall be the point of contact with DWR. Informal staff meetings may occur as needed.

8. Ongoing Cooperation. The Parties acknowledge that activities under this MOA will require the frequent interaction between them in order to pursue opportunities and resolve issues that arise. The Parties shall work cooperatively and in good faith. The goal of the Parties shall be to preserve flexibility with respect to the implementation of the Act and consistency with the other GSAs in the Basin, including development of a comprehensive MOA or JPA, the Study, a GSP and an Intra-Basin Coordination Agreement, which will be negotiated.

9. Notices. Any formal notice or other formal communication given under the terms of this MOA shall be in writing and shall be given personally, by facsimile, by electronic mail (email), or by certified mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested. Any notice shall be delivered or addressed to the Parties at the mailing addresses, facsimile numbers or email addresses



set forth below under each signature and at such other address, facsimile number or email address as shall be designated by notice in writing in accordance with the terms of this MOA. The date of receipt of the notice shall be the date of actual personal service, confirmed facsimile transmission or email, or three days after the postmark on certified mail.

10. Entire Agreement/Amendments/Counterparts. This MOA incorporates the entire and exclusive agreement of the Parties with respect to the matters described herein and supersedes all prior negotiations and agreements (written, oral, or otherwise) related thereto. This MOA may be amended only in writing, as executed by all the Parties. This MOA may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

11. Termination/Withdrawal. This MOA shall remain in effect unless terminated by the unanimous consent of the voting Parties, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld. Upon 60 days written notice, any of the Parties may withdraw from this MOA provided that the withdrawal shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Act. Upon withdrawal of a Party, this MOA shall remain in effect for the remaining Parties. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting a Party that has withdrawn from this GSA to become a separate groundwater sustainability agency within its jurisdiction, provided the withdrawing Party coordinates with the other Parties pursuant to the Act. A withdrawing Party shall be liable for expenses incurred through the effective date of the withdrawal and for its share of any contractual obligations incurred by the EMA GSA while the withdrawing voting Party was a party to this Agreement.

12. Assignment. No rights or duties of any of the Parties under this MOA may be assigned or delegated without the express prior written consent of all the other Parties, and any attempt to assign or delegate such rights or duties without such written consent shall be null and void.

13. Indemnification. The Parties shall each defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Parties, and their respective directors/supervisors, officers, employees and agents, from any claims or liabilities for the indemnifying Party's acts or omissions, or that of its directors/supervisors, officers, employees and agents, arising from or related to carrying out this MOA. Any claims or liabilities by a third Party arising from or related to the Parties collective action in carrying out and/or implementing this MOA shall be defended by each Party.

14. Insurance. Each Party shall maintain its own insurance coverage, through commercial insurance, self-insurance or a combination thereof, against any claim, expense, cost, damage, or liability arising out of the performance of its responsibilities pursuant to this MOA.

15. Access to Information. The Parties shall have access to, and the right to use any and all information, data, summaries, charts, and other materials developed during and pursuant to this MOA and shall protect the confidentiality of such information as provided in this MOA and to the extent authorized by law. In furtherance thereof, the Parties will develop a confidentiality agreement to address sharing of confidential information, particularly existing confidential information that the Parties may possess that would be assist with preparation of the GSP. In the event any outside Party seeks disclosure of information developed pursuant to this MOA, the Parties shall cooperate and mutually comply with the Public Records Act.


16. Amendment. This MOA may be amended, from time to time, with the written consent of all Parties.

17. Authority. The individuals executing this MOA represent and warrant that they have the authority to enter into this MOA and to perform all acts required by this MOA, and that the consent, approval or execution of or by any third party is not required to legally bind either Party to the terms and conditions of this MOA.

18. Incorporation of Recitals. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into this MOA.

WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOA as of the date first above written.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT-IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**

By:   
CHRIS DAHLSTROM, General Manager  
Address: P.O. BOX 157  
SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460  
Email: cdahlstrom@SYRWD.org  
Facsimile: 805-638-3078

**CITY OF SOLVANG**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_



16. Amendment. This MOA may be amended, from time to time, with the written consent of all Parties.

17. Authority. The individuals executing this MOA represent and warrant that they have the authority to enter into this MOA and to perform all acts required by this MOA, and that the consent, approval or execution of or by any third party is not required to legally bind either Party to the terms and conditions of this MOA.

18. Incorporation of Recitals. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into this MOA.

WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOA as of the date first above written.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT-IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF SOLVANG**

By: Brad V

Address: 1644 Oak Street

Solvang, CA 93463

Email bradv@cityofsolvang.com

Facsimile 805-686-2049

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_

16. Amendment. This MOA may be amended, from time to time, with the written consent of all Parties.

17. Authority. The individuals executing this MOA represent and warrant that they have the authority to enter into this MOA and to perform all acts required by this MOA, and that the consent, approval or execution of or by any third party is not required to legally bind either Party to the terms and conditions of this MOA.

18. Incorporation of Recitals. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into this MOA.

WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOA as of the date first above written.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT-IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF SOLVANG**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

By: Bruce A. Wales

Address: 3669 Sagunto St. Suite 108

SANTA YNEZ, CA 93460

Email bwales@SYRWCD.COM

Facsimile 805-693-1156

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signatures below)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

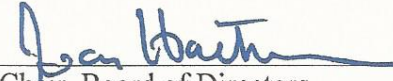
Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

Mona Miyasato  
County Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board, Ex Officio Clerk of the  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

By:   
Deputy Clerk

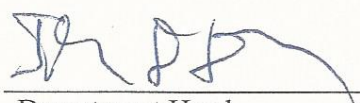
**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY:**

By:   
Chair, Board of Directors

Date: 4/11/17

**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:**

Santa Barbara County Water Agency

By:   
Department Head

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Risk Management

By:   
Risk Management


**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Michael C. Ghizzoni  
County Counsel

By:   
Deputy County Counsel

**APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:**

Theodore A. Fallati, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

By:   
Deputy



## **Appendix B.**

Initial list of beneficial uses and users of groundwater

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

**LIST OF ALL BENEFICIAL USES AND USERS OF GROUNDWATER**

In accordance with Section 10723.2 and Section 10723.8 (a)(4) of the SGMA, the following parties have or will be contacted to determine how best to consider and protect their interests throughout the formation of the GSA and development and implementation of the GSP. These interests include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including (1) agricultural users and (2) domestic water-well owners: The City of Solvang and ID No. 1 are GSA members. Domestic water-well owners and agricultural users will be invited to join the EMA GSA Advisory Committee.
- (b) Municipal Well Operators: The City of Solvang and ID No. 1 are municipal well operators and members of the GSA.
- (c) Public Water Systems: Representatives from several mutual water companies in the EMA will be invited to sit on the EMA GSA Advisory Committee.
- (d) Local Land Use Planning Agencies: The City of Solvang is a member of the EMA GSA and the Santa Barbara County Planning Department is a member of the EMA GSA Advisory Committee.
- (e) Environmental Users of Groundwater: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be consulted regarding environmental uses of groundwater, if any.
- (f) Surface Water Users: The City of Solvang and ID No. 1 divert water from the alluvial underflow of the Santa Ynez River. The City of Solvang discharges wastewater to the alluvial underflow of the Santa Ynez River. CDFW will be consulted regarding environmental uses of the Santa Ynez River.
- (g) Federal Government: See item (h) below.
- (h) California Native American Tribes: The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians maintains a reservation with the EMA and will work with the EMA GSA.
- (i) Disadvantaged Communities: None were identified within the Management Area.
- (j) Entities Listed in SGMA Section 10927 that are monitoring groundwater elevations in all or part of the EMA managed by the GSA: The City of Solvang and ID No. 1 monitor their respective wells and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency is the CASGEM agency within the EMA. All of them are members of the GSA.

## **Appendix C.**

### **Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP)**

## Santa Ynez Basin Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP)

The Santa Ynez Basin is utilizing an online tool to assist with SGMA outreach efforts. The tool, referred to as the Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP), is a web-based application where basin GSAs can post events and automatically inform interested parties. Interested parties can register with the GCP to stay informed about events related to GSP development in any of the three management areas.

The GCP serves as a repository for all information about GSA meetings and interested parties. Storing all stakeholder engagement information in one place will be beneficial both for creating the communications section of the GSP and for continued tracking of outreach efforts moving forward to GSP 5-Year Updates and implementation.

The administrative functions of the GCP give administrators, such as agency and consulting staff, the power to organize and facilitate outreach efforts. A login is required for access to the administrative functions which are described below.

### *Interested Party Maintenance*

The existing lists of contacts for the EMA, WMA, and CMA were imported into the GCP when it was configured. All interested parties can visit the GCP and self-register at any time. The GCP is promoted at meetings and the website is printed on collateral materials.

Administrators may access and edit the interested parties list at any time and have the option to export the list to a spreadsheet format.

### *Event Notification*

The GCP generates a calendar based on events input by administrators. Each event allows attachments of relevant documents such as agendas and presentations. Administrators can notify interested parties about an event with the click of a button. The GCP will automatically send invitations to the interested parties and track responses.

### *Public Comments*

All interested parties are encouraged to submit comments both in general and on draft documents. Administrators upload documents for public review to the portal and choose when to open or close the comment period. The public can submit comments through the GCP using an online form. Comments are stored in a database and can be sorted by variables such as chapter, submission date, or GSA. Administrators can enter responses to comments and post for public view.

### *Communication Log*

The communication log is used by anyone acting on behalf of the GSA to interact with stakeholders and interested parties. It tracks outreach efforts that occur outside of regular public meetings – such as

### **GCP Features**

- Maintains the GSAs' lists of interested parties
- Allows interested parties to self-register
- Displays meeting details and documents
- Automatically notifies interested parties with the click of a button
- Tracks who was notified and who replied to event invitations
- Generates a calendar of events
- Supports e-mail blasts
- Tracks outreach efforts with a communication log
- Stores project documents and collects public comments

phone calls, emails, in person meetings, and postal mail. When a communication occurs, the person representing the GSA is responsible to complete a form that's entered the communication log. The form collects information such as who was involved in the communication, where/when the communication occurred, and what the outcomes of the communication were. Attachments, such as scanned handwritten notes, email documents, or Word documents, can be added to the communication log for storage in the database.

#### *E-mail blasts*

An e-blast feature allows administrators to send out information that isn't attached to an event. E-blasts are useful to inform interested parties when a new document is posted for public comment or when a public comment period is closing soon.

## **Appendix D.**

### **Stakeholder Survey**

## DRAFT Santa Ynez EMA Stakeholder Survey

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and concerns with us. All information will be collected, analyzed, and shared in aggregate. Individual responses will remain confidential.

1. Are you familiar with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
  2. Are you currently engaged in activities or discussions regarding groundwater management in this region?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
  3. Do you own or manage land in this region?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
  - 3b. If yes, what is the approximate size (in acres) of the largest land area you own or manage in this region?
    - ☐ Residential (under 1 acre)
    - ☐ 1-5 acres
    - ☐ 6-20 acres
    - ☐ 21-100 acres
    - ☐ More than 100 acres
    - ☐ Decline to state
  - 3c. If yes, please tell us about your current land use and are you planning any future changes in land use or water use in the next 20 years? *(optional)*
- 

4. Where do you get your drinking water supply?
  - ☐ Private well
  - ☐ Mutual Water Company or Community Service District
  - ☐ Unsure
  - ☐ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

- 4b. *If private well is selected in Q4, what is your well depth? If you are unsure, please leave this field blank. (optional)*
-



4c. *If private well is selected in Q4, has your well ever gone dry?*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

5. Where do you get your agricultural water supply?

- ☐ Private well
- ☐ Mutual Water Company or Community Service District
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

5b. *If private well is selected in Q5, what is your well depth? If you are unsure, please leave this field blank. (optional)*

---

5c. *If private well is selected in Q5, has your well ever gone dry?*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

6. Please indicate which type(s) of stakeholder best describes you (select all that apply):

- ☐ Residential user of water
- ☐ Ag user of water
- ☐ Environmental user of water
- ☐ Entity responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater data
- ☐ Local land use planning agency
- ☐ California Native American Tribe
- ☐ Disadvantaged/Rural Community
- ☐ Federal government
- ☐ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you manage water resources?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7b. *If yes, please tell us more about your role. (optional)*

---

8. What is your primary interest in land or water resource management? *(optional)*

---

9. Do you have concerns about groundwater management?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9b. If yes, what are your groundwater management concerns? *(optional)*

---

10. What do you see as the governance challenges for groundwater management? *(optional)*

---

---

---

11. Do you have recommendations regarding groundwater management?

☐ Yes

☐ No

11b. If yes, what are your groundwater management recommendations? *(optional)*

---

12. What are your preferred solutions to achieve groundwater sustainability? *(optional)*

---

---

---

13. Through which mediums would you prefer to receive SGMA updates, public meeting notices, etc.?

*Select all that apply.*

☐ Email

☐ Website

☐ Public workshops/meetings

☐ Direct postal mail

☐ Direct call

☐ Along with my water bill

☐ Newspaper

☐ Social media

☐ Radio

☐ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

14. Please use the space below to share any other information, thoughts, concerns, etc. regarding groundwater management in your area. *(optional)*

---

15. Please identify any other individuals, agencies, groups, resources, experts, etc. you'd recommend us being in contact with as we develop the EMA GSP. *(optional)*

---

***Please provide your contact information below.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix E.**

Letter from Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Tribal Chairman,  
Kenneth Kahn, August 2016

**SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS**

**P.O. BOX 517 • SANTA YNEZ • CA • 93460**

**Tel: 805.688.7997 • Fax: 805.686.9578**

[www.santaynezchumash.org](http://www.santaynezchumash.org)

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

KENNETH KAHN, CHAIRMAN

RAUL ARMENTA, VICE-CHAIRMAN

GARY PACE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

MAXINE LITTLEJOHN, COMMITTEE MEMBER

MIKE LOPEZ, COMMITTEE MEMBER



August 19, 2016

Mr. Bruce Wales, General Manager  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 719  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

**Re: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Reservation Participation in SGMA - Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

Dear Mr. Wales:

Thank you for meeting with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians ("Tribe") Business Committee on June 29, 2016 regarding implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin ("SYR Basin").

We understand that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ("SYRWCD") is currently working on draft agreements to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSA") for the entire SYR Basin, including the Eastern Management Area ("Santa Ynez Upland") where the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Reservation ("Reservation") is located.

As you are aware, the Reservation is not subject to SGMA. Nonetheless, the Reservation is within the boundaries of the SYRWCD and receives potable water from Improvement District No. 1 ("ID1"). As such, the Tribe would like to work with the SYRWCD, with regard to the Reservation, in its effort to create the GSA.

We look forward to working with the SYRWCD on this task of great importance. Please contact me directly or Sam Cohen, Government Affairs and Legal Officer (Cell: 805-245-9083), if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Kahn  
Tribal Chairman

## **Appendix F.**

Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Citizen Advisory Group Guidelines



**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**  
**Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency**  
**Citizen Advisory Group Guidelines**

The Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee, comprised of officials appointed from the member agencies of the EMA GSA (Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1; City of Solvang; and Santa Barbara County Water Agency) is responsible for implementing the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the EMA of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) and for coordinating its activities with other agencies and GSAs in the Basin. Among other comprehensive efforts, the EMA GSA Committee (Committee) is overseeing the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the EMA. Members of the public are strongly encouraged by the Committee to attend all meetings of the EMA GSA and to provide input and information to the Committee throughout the GSP development process. Additionally, the Committee is forming a Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) to provide an additional level of public input to the Committee on various issues related to the preparation of the GSP. The Western Management Area (WMA) GSA and the Central Management Area (CMA) GSA are also considering the designation of a CAG or similar group for their respective portions of the Basin.

**Purpose of the Citizens Advisory Group**

SGMA requires the Committee to consider the interests of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the EMA during development of the GSP, including the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Collaborative and inclusive processes will assist in making the GSP more resilient by increasing public buy-in, promoting compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which the GSP is based. The Committee has established an open and ongoing list of interested persons to whom notices are and will be sent regarding meetings of the EMA GSA, GSP development, and other SGMA-related activities. The purpose of a CAG is to provide an additional level of public input to the Committee in a way that represents different categories of groundwater uses and users in the EMA as set forth by SGMA. At various points during development of the GSP, the CAG may be asked to provide its perspective on elements or sections of the GSP and on the final draft of the GSP that will be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

To ensure an efficient and collaborative process, the Committee will appoint members to the CAG that reflect a diversity of interests and different types of groundwater uses and users in the EMA. As requested by the Committee, the CAG will provide input to the Committee relating to various elements or sections of the GSP, including but not limited to those pertaining to stakeholder engagement, data management, the hydrogeologic conceptual model and numeric groundwater model, water budgets, sustainability goals, monitoring programs, and projects and management actions.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Committee is solely responsible for all matters relating to the CAG, including but not limited to the formation, membership, function, organization, operation, management, and dissolution of the CAG. The Committee may request staff from the member agencies of the EMA GSA to help administer the CAG process.

**Staff Role.** Responsibility for carrying out administrative aspects of the CAG process may be delegated to staff from the member agencies of the EMA GSA. At the request of the Committee, staff will schedule CAG meetings, prepare and circulate agendas, distribute materials to the CAG members for review, facilitate the meetings, prepare meeting minutes, and undertake other related tasks.

**CAG Member Role.** At times determined by the Committee, CAG members will be asked to provide input or recommendations on various elements or sections of the GSP and related topics. In addition to providing their individual perspectives, CAG members serve in respective capacities that represent different categories of groundwater uses and users in the EMA. All CAG members are expected to work collaboratively with each other, with other stakeholders and members of the public, with the Committee, with staff of the member agencies of the EMA GSA, and with the other GSAs, related agencies, and agency staff members throughout the Basin. CAG members may be asked to develop consensus opinions, comments, and input on the topics they are asked to address, recognizing however that consensus among the CAG members may not always be practicable and may not occur for a given topic. Input received from the CAG will be considered by the Committee in the process of developing the EMA GSP and in coordinating those efforts with the WMA GSA and the CMA GSA in the development of their respective GSPs. Member of the CAG serve on a strictly voluntary basis and, subject to being dismissed from the CAG at the discretion of the Committee, all CAG members are expected to be available and commit their time and efforts for the entire GSP process through at least January 2022.

**Governance.** All matters relating to the CAG, including but not limited to the formation, membership, function, organization, operation, management, and dissolution of the CAG shall remain within the sole discretion of the Committee. Certain procedural items relating to the CAG are set forth below.

**Applications and CAG Selection.** In order to be considered for selection as a member of the CAG, individuals must complete and submit an Application to the Committee. The Application form, included with these Guidelines as Attachment A, solicits specific information about the applicant, including the applicant's interest in serving on the CAG and the applicant's background and related qualifications. The Committee, and/or ad hoc subcommittee thereof, and/or staff of the member agencies of the EMA GSA, will review and evaluate the applications received. Applicant interviews may be conducted, and all selections to the CAG shall be made by and within the sole discretion of the Committee. The CAG applications will be screened by an ad-hoc committee consisting of one or more EMA GSA Committee members with the assistance of staff from the EMA member agencies. Applications are due June 21, 2019 by 5 PM.

Please send them to: Bill Buelow at [bbuelow@SYRWCD.com](mailto:bbuelow@SYRWCD.com), or by mail P.O. 719, Santa Ynez, CA 93460.

**Composition of the CAG.** The Committee shall determine how many members will serve on the CAG, where initially it is anticipated that the CAG will have a total of seven (7) members. Depending on applications received and other factors, and at any time, the Committee may decide to change the size of the CAG, tailor its representative composition, or determine not to form or to dissolve the CAG.

**Term of the CAG.** Initially it is expected that the CAG will be in place at least through the submittal of the GSP to DWR in January of 2022.

**Dismissal of CAG Members.** CAG members serve at-will and at the pleasure of the Committee. In its sole discretion, the Committee may dismiss any member or all members of the CAG at any time with or without cause.

**Filling a Vacancy on the CAG.** In the event a vacancy occurs on the CAG, the Committee may appoint a new member to fill the vacancy without conducting a new application process, or may re-open the application process to fill the vacancy.

**Meetings.** The need for and frequency of CAG meetings shall be determined by the Committee, where initially it is anticipated that regular CAG meetings will be scheduled approximately two weeks after each regular quarterly meeting of the EMA GSA, provided that the Committee may call for fewer or additional CAG meetings on an as-needed basis.

# **ATTACHMENT A**

## **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

### **Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

#### **Citizen Advisory Group Application**

If you are interested in serving on the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), please complete and return the following Application to Bill Buelow (bbuelow@syrwcd.com) by June 21, 2019.

The Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committee, comprised of officials appointed from the member agencies of the EMA GSA (Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1; City of Solvang; and Santa Barbara County Water Agency) is responsible for implementing the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the EMA of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) and for coordinating its activities with other agencies and GSAs in the Basin. Among other comprehensive efforts, the EMA GSA Committee (Committee) is overseeing the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the EMA. Members of the public are strongly encouraged by the Committee to attend all meetings of the EMA GSA and to provide input and information to the Committee throughout the GSP development process. The Committee is forming the CAG to provide an additional level of public input to the Committee on various issues related to the preparation of the GSP. The Western Management Area (WMA) GSA and the Central Management Area (CMA) GSA are also considering the designation of a CAG or similar group for their respective portions of the Basin.

SGMA requires the Committee to consider the interests of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the EMA during development of the GSP, including the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Collaborative and inclusive processes will assist in making the GSP more resilient by increasing public buy-in, promoting compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which the GSP is based. The Committee has established an open and ongoing list of interested persons to whom notices are and will be sent regarding meetings of the EMA GSA, GSP development, and other SGMA-related activities. The purpose of a CAG is to provide an additional level of public input to the Committee in a way that represents different categories of groundwater uses and users in the EMA as set forth by SGMA. At various points during development of the GSP, the CAG may be asked to provide its perspective on elements or sections of the GSP and on the final draft of the GSP that will be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

As set forth in the CAG Guidelines, members of the CAG are selected by the Committee and serve at the discretion of the Committee for a process that is expected to last at least through completion of the GSP in January 2022. Replacements on the CAG, if needed, would be made by the Committee.

## ATTACHMENT A

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your relationship to the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin? (See Attached Map)**

**Please check all that apply:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident                      | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO Representative               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Well Owner/Producer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Well Owner/Producer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Agency Representative  | <input type="checkbox"/> California Native American Tribe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a landowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |

**Why are you interested in serving on the CAG? (Please use additional page if more space is needed.)**

**What type or category of groundwater uses or users in the Eastern Management Area do you propose to represent?**

**What unique experience or expertise will you contribute if selected to the CAG? Please explain any technical knowledge you have regarding water resource issues in the EMA. (Please use additional page if more space is needed.)**

## ATTACHMENT A

**Are you committed to fully participate in the CAG process through completion of the GSP in January 2022? Do you have particular time or timing limitations that may impact your ability to serve as a member of the CAG?**

**Please provide the names and contact information for three personal and/or professional references.**

**1.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation/Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation/Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

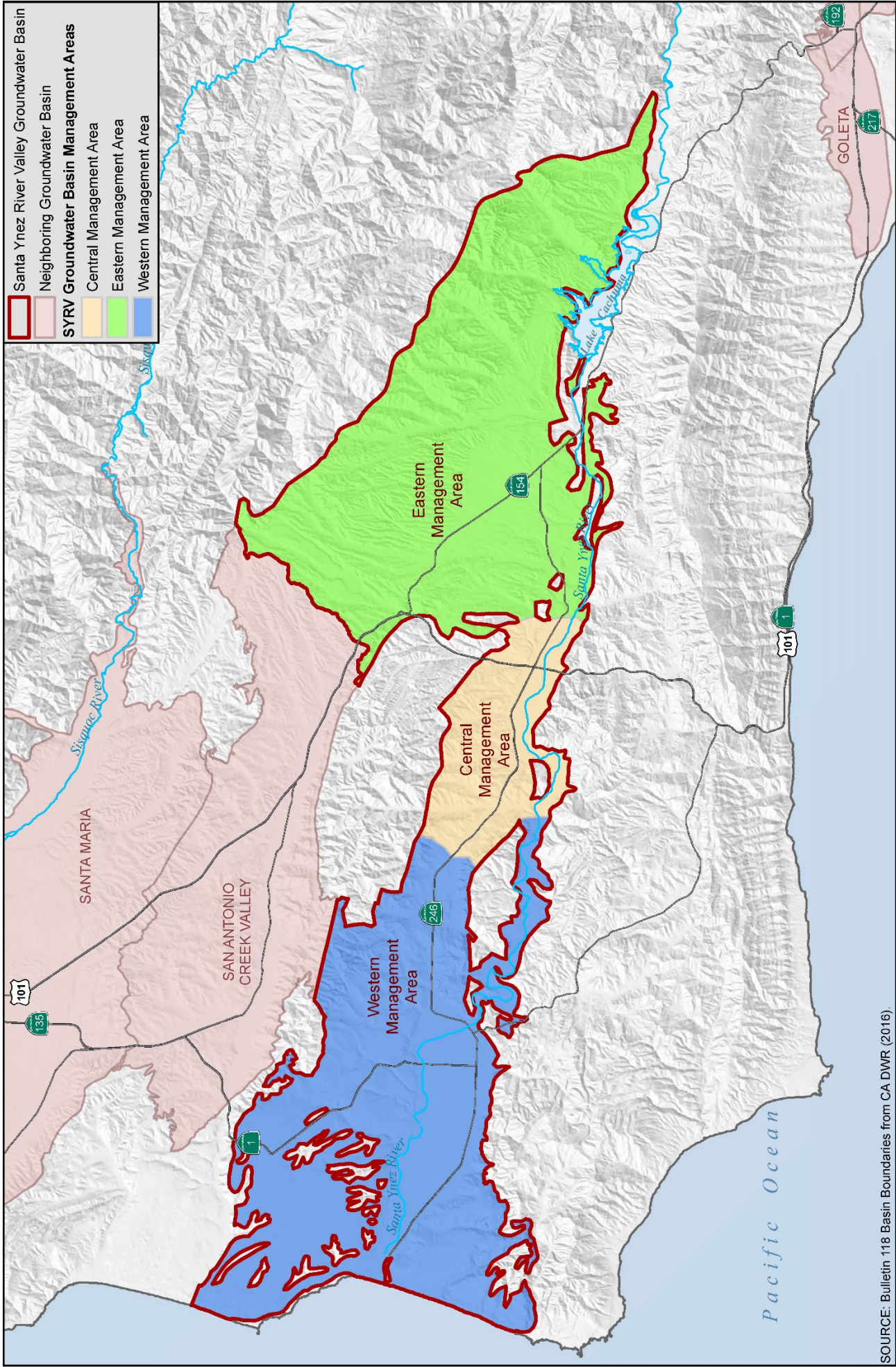
**3.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation/Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_





**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER  
BASIN MANAGEMENT AREAS**

APRIL 2019

FIGURE 1