

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin November 15, 2021

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton, City Council Chambers at 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in this meeting was also available via teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Health Public Health, authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution CMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021).

CMA GSA Committee Directors Present (in person): Ed Andrisek and Art Hibbits

CMA GSA Committee Director Present (remote participation): Cynthia Allen (Alternate)

Member Agency Staff Present (in person): Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, and Amber Thompson

Member Agency Staff Present (remote participation): Matt Young

Others Present (in person): Deby Laranjo

Others Present (remote participation): Len Fleckenstein, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Steve Slack (CDFW), and Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge)

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

CMA GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to do roll call. CMA GSA Committee Directors Andrisek and Hibbits were present in person. A quorum was met.

### **II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001 and Review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin**

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for Resolution CMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and State Assembly Bill 361 which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001 finding that State of

Emergency circumstances still exist and local officials continue to recommend social distancing. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of October 25, 2021**

The minutes of the GSA Committee meeting on October 25, 2021, were presented for GSA Committee approval. Discussion followed. GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits requested an edit to Item VI.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021, as amended with an edit to Item VI. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion, and the minutes passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List**

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2021-22 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2021 for GSA Committee review. There were no comments.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the Warrant List for July, August, and September 2021 Warrant Lists (Nos. 1037-1038) totaling \$63,898.25, as submitted. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VII. Review and consider approval of Resolution CMA-2021-002 authorizing the CMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement**

The GSA Committee reviewed the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement and Resolution CMA-2021-002 authorizing the CMA GSA Chairperson to sign the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Coordination Agreement. Mr. Buelow explained the requirement of a Coordination Agreement by DWR for basins submitting multiple GSPs.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION approve RESOLUTION CMA-2021-002, AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.



## **VIII. Update and discussion on Draft CMA GSP and Future Governance Options**

Mr. Buelow reviewed steps taken to date on the Draft CMA GSP and on comments received. Mr. Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers, advised that he planned to finish a first draft log of the responses to public comments and make all changes to the CMA GSP that are warranted.

Mr. Lawler requested guidance from CMA GSA Committee regarding the possible need for a new surface water gauge in the CMA. Mr. Lawler recommended using an existing USGS gauge known as “the Narrows Gauge” located in the narrows for a cost savings by using that existing gauge instead of purchasing and installing a new gauge. He suggested a commitment to monthly measurement of flow at the Narrows Gauge located at the former Santa Rosa dam site to have a more accurate measurement of the amount of surface water leaving the CMA in the water budget. Currently, the amount of surface water leaving the CMA is only estimated. He recommended a one-year commitment then reevaluate continuing use of this gauge after one year. He provided a cost comparison between a purchasing and installing a new gauge (\$100,000 plus \$20,000-\$30,000 annual operation and maintenance) versus paying USGS to add the Narrows Gauge for monthly monitoring to their monitoring schedule (\$10,000 annually). Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION directing staff to request USGS to add monthly monitoring at the Narrows Gauge to their monitoring schedule at a cost of approximately \$10,000 annually, in lieu of installing a new surface water gauge, compare measurements to monthly spot checks of surface water flow near the former dam site and reevaluate in one year. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion. Public comment was received. Ms. Deby Laranjo like the idea of using the existing gauge for monitoring with reevaluating in one year. She welcomed entry to the Laranjo Ranch for the spot check of surface water flow. Mr. Doug Circle expressed his support of this motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.

There was no update on future governance options. Mr. Buelow reported that staff will continue to meet and will keep this as a standing item on future agendas.

## **IX. Review and discuss Scope of Work and Costs for Stetson to prepare CMA Annual Report**

The GSA Committee reviewed the Scope of Work and costs for Stetson to prepare the CMA Annual Report. Mr. Buelow explained that the first Annual Report required by CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) will need to include data from 2018 through September 30, 2021. Staff recommended Stetson prepare the CMA Annual Report and request SYRWCD add a separate task order to the existing contract between Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and Stetson for this effort.

GSA Committee Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to request Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) to add a new task order to the existing contract between SYRWCD and Stetson the prepare the first CMA Annual Report according to the

Scope of Work with costs Not To Exceed \$25,000. GSA Committee Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**X. Next planned “Special” CMA GSA Meeting to consider GSP adoption Monday, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Buelow suggested the CMA GSA Committee should schedule a Special Meeting including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the CMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for Monday, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Discussion followed. The GSA Committee unanimously agreed to scheduling this CMA GSA Special Meeting including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the CMA GSP and approved of scheduling a hybrid style meeting in person at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers.

**XI. Consideration of additional “Special CMA GSA Meeting” December 6 or 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

The GSA Committee discussed the need for an additional special meeting in December 2021. They unanimously agreed there was no need for a December meeting, at this time.

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

There were no requests or comments.

**XIII. Adjournment**

CMA GSA Director Ed Andrisek adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

  
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Ed Andrisek, Chairman

  
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William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

**JULY 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

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

**AUGUST 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1037	08/12/21	Stetson Engineers	June 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & AEM work)	\$ 37,744.75
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 37,744.75</b>

**SEPTEMBER 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1038	09/15/21	Stetson Engineers	July 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & AEM work)	\$ 26,153.50
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 26,153.50</b>

<b>TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 63,898.25</b>
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**Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management  
Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

**RESOLUTION CMA-2021-002**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN THE SANTA YNEZ  
RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COORDINATION AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (“GSA”), formed by Memorandum of Agreement dated January 11, 2017 (“MOA”), is the exclusive GSA for the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Bulletin 118 Basin No. 3-015) (“Basin”);

**WHEREAS**, the GSA has prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the Central Management Area;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10727.6 requires each GSA to “coordinate with other agencies preparing a groundwater sustainability plan within the basin to ensure that the plans utilize the same data and methodologies”;

**WHEREAS**, Water Code section 10727(b)(3) requires that multiple GSPs implemented by multiple GSAs must be coordinated pursuant to a coordination agreement that covers the entire Basin;

**WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the individual member agencies of the three GSAs in the Basin executed that Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement for Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, dated February 26, 2020 (“Intra-Basin Agreement”);

**WHEREAS**, in the Intra-Basin Agreement, the member agencies of the Parties agreed to develop and execute a Coordination Agreement in accordance with Water Code sections 10727(b)(3), 10727.6, and 10733.4(b)(3), and California Code of Regulations, title 23, Section 357.4;

**WHEREAS**, a Coordination Agreement has been prepared in consultation with staff of the member agencies of all three GSAs in the Basin and presented to this GSA for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the GSA finds that the Coordination Agreement complies with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”).

**NOW THEREFORE**, the GSA hereby resolves as follows:

- 1) Each of the recitals above is true and correct and is incorporated herein by reference.
- 2) The GSA finds that that the Coordination Agreement complies with the requirements of SGMA.

- 3) The GSA hereby authorizes and instructs its Chairperson to execute the Coordination Agreement in substantially the form presented to the GSA, subject to such minor changes as are approved by the Chairperson.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the CMA GSA on November 15, 2021 by the following roll call vote:

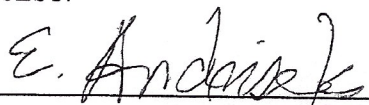
AYES: Ed Andrisek, Art Hibbits

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

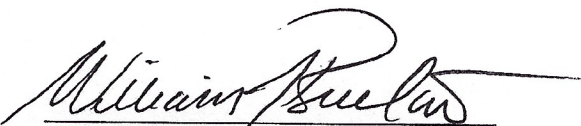
ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:



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Ed Andrisek, Jr., Chairman



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William J. Buelow, Secretary