

## NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN

HELD AT

VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, MEETING ROOM  
3745 CONSTELLATION RD, LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA

AT 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

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### Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-669-444-9171  
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**\*\*\* Please Note \*\*\***

The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption of unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued. Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

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### AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public comment shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public comment item.)
4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 23, 2023
5. Review and summary of request(s) for WMA GSA written verification under Executive Order N-7-22 as amended in Executive Order N-5-23 for well permits processed by County EHS in the WMA
  - a. APN 099-100-045 Willett Family Trust
6. Receive update from Ad-Hoc Committee on WMA CAG applications
7. Receive staff update on SGMA governance
8. Consider adoption of Draft Resolution No. WMA-2023-001 “A RESOLUTION REQUIRING LANDOWNERS IN THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY TO COMPLETE A WELL REGISTRATION FORM”
9. Receive Staff update on SGMA Implementation grant award
10. Discuss WMA future cost-sharing agreement and funding of future WMA projects
11. Next WMA GSA regular meeting, Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Vandenberg Village Community Services District, meeting room, 3745 Constellation Rd, Lompoc, California
12. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items
13. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 23, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District Board Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

WMA GSA Committee Members Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, and Steve Jordan

WMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, and Ron Stassi

WMA GSA Directors Absent: Committee Member and Alternate representing Mission Hills Community Services District

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Amber Thompson, and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (in person): Paeter Garcia, Carol Redhead, and Charlie Witt

Others Present (Video Conference): John Fio (EKI), Anita Regmi (DWR), Matt Scudado, and an unnamed member of the public

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

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Members were present providing a quorum. In addition, two WMA GSA Alternate Committee Members were present. The Committee Member and Alternate representing Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCSA) were absent.

#### **2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

#### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of May 24 and August 9, 2023**

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meeting on May 24, and August 9, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of May 24, and August 9, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

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

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2022-23 Periods 10 through 12 (through June 30, 2023) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

WMA GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists of April, May, and June 2023 (Check Nos. 1006-1010) totaling \$35,367.35, as presented. WMA GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion or public comment and the motion passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**6. Review and Summary of Request(s) for WMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 and other well permits processed by County EHS in the WMA**

**a. APN 099-200-085: Rita's Crown Vineyard**

Mr. Buelow presented the Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 099-200-085 (EH-LUA-23-0000054) Rita's Crown Vineyard, dated August 15, 2023, completed by GSI Water Solutions. The proposed well was determined to be located in the River Alluvium subarea and not within the jurisdiction of the GSA. Staff issued the verification letter stating as such. There was no discussion or public comment.

**7. Review and Consider proposed addition to well verification request forms for the WMA**

The Well Registration and Reporting Form for the WMA GSA was omitted from the meeting packet and was not available to distribute at the meeting. Staff offered to defer this item to the next meeting. Discussion followed. WMA GSA Alternate Committee Member Cynthia Allen shared with the Committee her copy of the same document that was reviewed for the CMA GSA. Mr. Buelow reported that the forms are identical in substance. Discussion continued. No public comment was received.

WMA GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve adding a Well Registration and Reporting Form, like the CMA GSA form but specified for the WMA GSA, to the WMA GSA Well Verification request packet. GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**8. Update on Rate Study**

An update was requested by GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan during a previous meeting. Mr. Buelow reported that staff are finalizing the scope of work for a budget-based rate and expects to submit a draft budget to potential rate study firms soon. Discussion followed. No public comment was received.

**9. Update on WMA CAG Applications and Consider forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to review same**

Mr. Buelow reported that applications have been received for WMA Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and staff recommended an Ad-Hoc Committee be formed to review applications and make recommendations for appointments. WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks and Committee Member Steve Jordan volunteered to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee for review and consideration of CAG applications. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks NOMINATED Chris Brooks and Steve Jordan to the Ad-Hoc Committee to review CAG applications and make recommendations for appointment to the WMA CAG. GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the nominations and the nominations passed 3-0-1, with both Committee Member and Alternate from SYRWCD being absent.

**10. Review and Consider Endorsing Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the WMA**

Mr. Buelow presented the Staff Memorandum dated August 23, 2023, regarding Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for WMA and the Draft JPA. He explained that the existing Memorandum of Agreement was converted to a JPA through a joint effort of member agencies staff and legal counsels over the last two years. A “Joint Powers Agreement” is an agreement between two or more government agencies to combine their powers and resources for some common project. It may also create a separate legal entity, commonly known as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), to work on common problem(s), in this case SGMA compliance and GSP implementation. A JPA, formed as a legal entity separate from its members, would shield the general funds of its members.

A lengthy discussion followed. Ms. Kristin Worthley reported that during the development of the Draft JPA, the staff embraced all users of water. Mr. Buelow advised that the WMA GSA action would be to endorse the JPA and the governing boards of each member agency would need to review and individually vote to approve the JPA. Public comments were received.

WMA GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball made a MOTION that the WMA GSA Committee endorse the WMA’s draft Joint Powers Agreement for consideration by each of the WMA GSA member agencies board. GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**11. Next WMA GSA Regular Meeting, Wednesday, September 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks announced the next WMA GSA regular meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District Board Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California. Mr. Buelow advised that if there were no well verifications or other business, then the meeting may be cancelled with at least a week notice.

**12. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items**

There were no reports or requests.

**13. Adjournment**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

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Chris Brooks, Chairman

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William J. Buelow, Secretary



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## Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 099-100-045 (WP# 5581) Willett 2016 Family Trust

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley Western Management Area (WMA) GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Katie O'Malley, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** September 22, 2023

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This draft memorandum presents our review of an application to install a well within the Western Management Area (WMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area (WMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a medium or high-priority basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) without first obtaining written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction by the proposed well<sup>1</sup>:

1. would not be "inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by the GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the Plan.

Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 does not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

The application being reviewed is Willett 2016 Family Trust which is a new irrigation supply well completed to a depth of 600 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 6 (AFY). The application also estimates a pumping rate of up to 10 gallons per minute (gpm) and an average daily runtime of 8 hours per day. This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

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<sup>1</sup> Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 defines a "Replacement Well" as follows: "[A] water well to be constructed of equal or less production capacity as an existing well as originally permitted or constructed, when said existing well shall be destroyed under permit within 90 days of completion of the replacement well. This definition does not apply to individual domestic or public water supply wells." (Ordinance No. 5158, Sec. 34A-23(8).)

## Summary of Findings

The proposed well has the following properties:

- Well location:
  - The proposed well is located on Assessor’s Parcel Number 099-100-045, which is located at 4805 E Highway 246 Lompoc, CA 93436 within the Santa Rita Upland area of the Western Management Area (WMA).
  - The parcel is not located within the service area of a Public Water System.
- Proposed well construction and use information:
  - The proposed Willett 2016 Family Trust well will be completed to a depth of 600 below ground surface (bgs), with perforations starting at 450 feet bgs.
  - The well will be used for irrigation purposes on a 40.95 acre parcel. The planned pumping rate will be 10 gallons per minute for 8 hours per day according to the well permit application, which equates to 5.4 AFY if run every day for a year, which the applicant reports acceptably as 6 AFY.
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
  - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Lower Aquifer. Groundwater conditions in the WMA are sustainable with no current undesirable results (defined as significant and unreasonable impacts to sustainability indicators as described in the WMA’s Plan).
- Would the well increase production within the Western Management Area (WMA)?
  - The proposed Willett 2016 Family Trust well, will be completed in the Lower Aquifer, which is a principal aquifer managed by the GSA and would increase production from a principal aquifer within the Western Management Area (WMA). However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the WMA’s Plan.
  - The proposed new well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators as described in the WMA’s Plan:
    - Chronic water level decline
    - Reduction of groundwater in storage
    - Degradation of water quality
    - Land subsidence
    - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs

## Summary

Based upon the location and planned production from the proposed new well will be completed within a principal aquifer manage by the Western Management Area (WMA) but would not be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the WMA and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin as defined in its Plan.

In our opinion, the GSA should provide a written verification to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health for this application.

### **Indemnification and Limitations of Liability**

GSI Water Solutions does not warrant or guarantee that the replacement well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the Western Management Area (WMA) within the sustainability goal presented in Western Management Area (WMA)'s Plan.

GSI Water Solutions is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, lost revenue, or payments related to any groundwater well permitted or not permitted by the County, including well drilling costs, pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The GSA's issuance of a written verification and the County's issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.



## STAFF MEMORANDUM

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DATE: September 27, 2023

TO: WMA GSA Committee

FROM: WMA GSA Citizen Advisory Group  
(CAG) Ad-Hoc Committee

SUBJECT: Selected Slate of Applicants for the WMA CAG

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The purpose of this memorandum is to follow-up on the meeting of the WMA CAG Ad Hoc Committee held on Friday, September 1, 2023, 10 AM, at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District offices in Lompoc. The Ad Hoc committee members in attendance were Chris Brooks, and Steve Jordan. Staff members in attendance were Kristin Worthley and Joe Barget.

During the meeting, the Ad Hoc committee reviewed and discussed the nine applications received. The Ad Hoc Committee wanted to ensure the selected applicants had a significant link to the WMA and wanted to represent their interests and industry/field professionally. The Ad Hoc Committee concluded that a couple of candidates didn't meet the above criteria. The committee discussed at length the remaining candidates.

Each Ad Hoc Committee member presented their opinion on who they believed to be the strongest candidate and those candidates were immediately selected to serve on the WMA CAG. The remaining candidates were discussed again until the Ad Hoc Committee had agreement in selections, until the WMA CAG had a total of seven members. An alternate member was also chosen in the event one of the selected members is not able to fulfill their role on the WMA CAG.

The slate of WMA CAG members selected by the Ad Hoc Committee are Karen Kistler, Ken Domako, Charlie Witt, Rick Menard, Giovanni Cuadra, Gregory Gonzalas, and Victor Gallegos. Alternate: Jeff Martine.

### **Recommendation:**

The Staff recommendation is for the WMA GSA Committee to endorse the slate of WMA CAG members selected by the Ad-Hoc.

**Recommended Motion:** *The WMA GSA committee endorses the slate of CAG members selected by the WMA's CAG Ad-Hoc committee.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-000**

**A RESOLUTION REQUIRING LANDOWNERS IN THE WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY TO COMPLETE A WELL REGISTRATION FORM**

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

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), on January 5, 2022, the Agency adopted the WMA GSA’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“Plan”) that establishes the GSA’s groundwater management program and sustainability goal for the Basin;

**WHEREAS**, SGMA authorizes a local GSA to manage a groundwater basin in a sustainable manner pursuant to its groundwater sustainability plan;

**WHEREAS**, to assist in its management, Water Code Section 10725.2 authorizes GSAs such as the Agency to adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of complying with SGMA and perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of SGMA;

**WHEREAS**, to effectively implement sustainable groundwater management with the Basin, the Agency desires to adopt a Resolution establishing rules and regulations in accordance with SGMA;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Water Code Section 10725.6, a GSA may require registration of any groundwater extraction facility, such as groundwater wells, within the Agency’s management area;

**WHEREAS**, the Plan identifies development of a groundwater extraction facility registration regulation as a Tier 1 Management Action;

**WHEREAS**, to sustainably manage the Basin, the Agency requires accurate data regarding the location and number of groundwater extraction facilities, including information on current groundwater wells and new groundwater wells; and

**WHEREAS**, to implement the Plan, the Agency finds it necessary and in the best interest of both the Agency and the Basin to adopt a Resolution requiring all landowners within the Basin to register any and all groundwater extraction facilities on their property.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Recitals Incorporated**

The above recitals are supported by substantial evidence, incorporated herein by reference and each relied upon independently by the WMA GSA governing Committee in its adoption of this Resolution.

**SECTION 2. WMA GSA Rules and Regulations**

The WMA GSA governing Committee adopts the “Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Rules and Regulations” (“WMA GSA Rules and Regulations”), attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, and finds the WMA GSA Rules and Regulations are consistent with the Plan and shall promote implementation of the Plan in accordance with SGMA.

**SECTION 3. Amendment**

This Resolution may be added to, amended, and/or repealed at any time by adoption of a subsequent resolution of the WMA GSA governing Committee.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval of this resolution.

**SECTION 5. Actions Against WMA GSA**

Nothing contained in this Resolution shall constitute a waiver by the Agency or estop the Agency from asserting any defenses or immunities from liability as provided in law, including, but not limited to, those provided in Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

**SECTION 6. Administrative Authorization.**

The Agency Plan Manager or other designee is hereby authorized and directed to take any such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the intent of this Resolution.

**SECTION 7. Severability.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. The Agency GSA governing Committee hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted this Resolution, and each and all provisions hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more provisions may be declared invalid.

**SECTION 8. California Environmental Quality Act**

The WMA GSA governing Committee finds that adoption of this Resolution, including the WMA GSA Rules and Regulations, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15307, 15308 and 15061 subdivision (b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”) because the Resolution will support implementation of the Plan by establishing rules and regulations to support groundwater management in order to prevent environmental degradation associated with groundwater overdraft and said rules and regulations will not have a significant effect on the environment.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. WMA-2023-001 was duly adopted and passed by the governing Committee of the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Brooks, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Buelow, Secretary

**EXHIBIT A**

# Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Rules and Regulations

## Rules and Regulations

### SECTION 1. Definitions

- A. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, the following definitions apply:
1. “AF” means acre-foot.
  2. “APN” means the Santa Barbara County Assessor’s Parcel Number for a property.
  3. “Agency” or “WMA GSA” shall refer to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.
  4. “Groundwater Well” shall mean any method for extraction of groundwater within the Basin.
  5. “Property Owner” shall mean the fee title owner of land within the Agency’s boundaries.
  6. “Registration” shall mean submission of the groundwater well registration information as specified in Section 2 of these Rules and Regulations to the Agency.

### SECTION 2. Groundwater Well Registration

The Property Owner of each Groundwater Well within the Basin shall provide the Agency with groundwater well registration information (to the extent known to the Property Owner at the time of registration) by filling out and submitting a registration form issued by the Agency and returned to the Agency’s PO Box or via email.

#### A. Existing Wells

All existing Groundwater Wells located within the boundaries of WMA GSA shall be registered with the Agency within sixty (60) days of receiving a registration form and no later than \_\_\_\_\_, whichever occurs sooner. The Property Owner of a Groundwater Well must provide, in full, the information requested on the Agency’s registration form, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Name and contact information of the Property Owner;
2. If appropriate, a certification that the Property Owner does not have a Groundwater Extraction Facility located on their property;
3. Type of Groundwater Well and water use;
4. Annual water use information;
5. Groundwater Well APN and Well Permit Number;
6. Physical address and geographic location of each Groundwater Well;
7. Date of construction;
8. Well depth, well diameter, casing perforation interval;
9. Activity status of the Groundwater Well;
10. List of APNs that the Groundwater Well serves;
11. Manufacturer/model and type of Groundwater Extraction Facility measuring device, such as a flow meter (for certain users);
12. Recording units of the measuring device (for certain users);
13. Manufacturer/model and type of pump;
14. Signature of the Property Owner.

**B. New Wells**

All new Groundwater Extraction Facilities located within the Boundaries of WMA GSA shall be registered with the Agency, via the same form described above in Section 2.A, no later than \_\_\_\_\_ or within sixty (60) days of well completion, whichever occurs later.

**C. Changes to Registration**

Any change to the information provided in the well registration form described above in Section 2.A, including but not limited to, a change to the Property Owner or Operator of a Groundwater Extraction Facility, must be reported within thirty (30) days of when the change takes effect.

**D. Registration Confidentiality**

The Agency shall keep the information contained in a Registration confidential to the extent permissible under applicable law.

Failure to comply with these Rules and Regulations may result in administrative and civil penalties, in accordance with Water Code Section 10732, as may be determined by the Board. Remedies identified in these Rules and Regulations are not intended to be exclusive. Any other remedy available to the Agency in law or equity may be employed at the discretion of the Board to address any circumstance related to the management of the Basin in accordance with SGMA, the Agency Plan, or other WMA GSA Rules and Regulations.



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

Date

Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Landowner

**Subject: WMA GSA Mandatory Well Registration Program  
Registrations Due by \_\_\_\_\_ - To Be Returned even if No Well on Property**

Our records indicate that you own property within the Western Management Area (WMA) of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). For reference, a list of known Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) under your ownership within the Basin (according to our available records) is provided below.

The Western Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) is working to achieve groundwater sustainability for all groundwater users by 2042 as mandated by California law under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. With the completion of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), the WMA GSA is now working on implementation strategies. Well registration is an important first step and an essential undertaking to better manage groundwater resources.

As outlined in the GSP, the need for all groundwater production wells to be registered with the WMA GSA, including wells used by “de minimis” pumpers, is identified as a Tier 1 Management Action and is a precursor to the implementation of other projects and management actions that are necessary in achieving sustainability. WMA GSA’s Well Registration program is intended to establish the location and type of each well located within the Basin and help us gain an accurate count and a better understanding of the wells in active use.

Even property owners who do not have a well or receive water service from a mutual water company or a shared well are required to submit the enclosed form. This is to help us gain an accurate count and better understanding of the wells in active use to best manage groundwater for current and future uses, and we sincerely appreciate your time and cooperation.

On \_\_\_\_\_, the WMA GSA’s Ordinance 23-000 took effect, requiring that all landowners within the Basin complete the enclosed Well Registration Form and return it no later than \_\_\_\_\_ (please see the form for submission information). Please also note:

- **If you have a well located on your property, one form per well within the Basin must be submitted.**
- **If you do not have a well located on your property, you are still required to return the Well Registration Form, with sections 1,2, and 8 completed.**
- If your well is already registered with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, then please check the box in section 3 of page 1.

An electronic version of the Well Registration Form is located on our website at:

<https://www.santaynezwater.org/western-gsa>.

The WMA GSA understands and respects the privacy concerns of the landowners it serves and is committed to keeping your personal and well information confidential to the greatest extent possible under applicable law.

Thank you for your cooperation with this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Christopher Brooks, Chair

List of APNs:

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

Please complete a Registration Form for **each** well that you own and operate within the Western Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin.

Please return form(s) to the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA) by mail to P.O. Box 719, Santa Ynez, California 93460 or via email to [WMA@santaynezwater.org](mailto:WMA@santaynezwater.org).

**If you do not have a well located on your property, you are still required to fill out items 1, 2, and 8 below and return the Registration Form.**

**1. WELL OWNER** (Attach list of all owners; also include tenants, if any.)

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

Telephone Number/Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2. WELL LOCATED ON PROPERTY**

If you do not have a well located on your property, please check the box below.

You may skip items 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Please sign item 8 and return all pages of this Registration Form.

I certify that I do not have a well located on the property listed above in item 1.

If you have a well located on your property and it is registered with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, please check the box.

I certify that my well is registered with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.

**3. WELL INFORMATION**

Owner's Designation of Well:

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one of the following:

This well is an active, pumping well.

This well is inactive.

This well is abandoned. – Date abandoned: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. WELL LOCATION**

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): \_\_\_\_\_ Well also serves APN(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (if different than mailing address above): \_\_\_\_\_

Well Location (Lat/Long): \_\_\_\_\_

Well Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Well Number/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. ANNUAL WATER USE INFORMATION** (Check one. See Information & Instructions pamphlet for definitions.)

- Agricultural Use (list number of acres and crop category(ies)) \_\_\_\_\_
- Livestock Watering (number and type of animals) \_\_\_\_\_
- Domestic (number of persons served) \_\_\_\_\_
- Combined Use \_\_\_\_\_
- Municipal or Industrial \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify use): \_\_\_\_\_

Structures served by this well, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. PUMP AND METER INFORMATION**

Type of pump (turbine, centrifugal, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ Horsepower: \_\_\_\_\_

Pump output (in GPM): \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if the well has a water meter and complete the information below.

Manufacturer/Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Meter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Electric Utility Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type:

- Propeller     Ultrasonic     Electromagnetic
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the meter have a totalizer?     Yes     No

Meter Recording Units: (check one)

- Gallons                       100s of Gallons                       1000s of Gallons
- Acre-Feet                       HCF (hundred cubic feet)                       Cubic Feet
- Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Meter serves well only:     Yes     No    If no, describe other facilities served by the meter:

**7. OTHER INFORMATION** (From well driller's information, escrow reports, or Santa Barbara County records)

Well Permit # \_\_\_\_\_ Date SB County EHS Final Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Date well completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date water production began: \_\_\_\_\_

Well depth in feet: \_\_\_\_\_ Well diameter in inches: \_\_\_\_\_ Casing perforation interval: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (in feet) to water:    Static: \_\_\_\_\_ Pumping: \_\_\_\_\_ As of what date? \_\_\_\_\_

Drillers Log Available\*                       Electric Log Available\*                      \*Do not send

**8.** I declare under penalty of perjury that this Well Registration Form has been examined by me and the information provided herein is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (*please print*): \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment 1 – SGM Grant Program’s SGMA Implementation – Round 2 Award List**

Disclaimer: The Recommended Award are conditional until final terms and conditions are agreed upon and an agreement has been executed. The awarded grant amount listed in the executed agreement can be less than the Recommended Award amount listed here based upon final negotiations between the Awardee and DWR. DWR staff may determine certain tasks are not eligible or do not meet the requirements outlined in the 2021 SGM Grant Program Guidelines and 2021 SGM Grant Program Implementation PSP, revised 2022, and are subject to change. DWR staff may also determine that certain components provided in the application would be better suited combined into one for ease of quarterly reporting and doseout reporting.

Application Number	Basin No./ Basin Name	Legislative Districts (Assembly, Senate, US Congressional)	Organization Name	Proposal Title	Component	Component Description	Requested Amount	Recommended Award
2022SIR20006	3-015 Santa Ynez River Valley	35th Assembly District, 19th Senate District, District 24 (CA)	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	SGMA Implementation in the Santa Ynez River Basin				
					Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects and Basin Reporting Program	This component consists of three extraction measurement methods (mechanical metering, power consumption and remote sensing, and estimated evapotranspiration). Additionally, component will identify and initiate DMS enhancements for transmitted data.	\$741,000	\$741,000
					Santa Ynez River Basin WMA, CMA, and EMA – SGMA Rate Study	This component consists of a SGMA Rate Study which includes the analysis of GSAs budgets; evaluating the need for pump charge rate/parcel fee rate for each management area; preparing rate schedules for each management area; and providing two recommended fee/rate alternatives for each GSA.	\$82,000	\$82,000
					Basin GSPs 5-Year Update	This component consists of continued GSP implementation/SGMA compliance, stakeholder and public outreach and engagement, prepare Annual reports, address DWR recommendations and comments, and complete 2027 Draft GSPs.	\$1,492,000	\$1,492,000
					Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	This component consists of the Monitoring Network improvement efforts, data collection, and technical studies. Additionally, this component will conduct analyses regarding the Basin’s beneficial users of groundwater.	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000
					Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project Designs	This component consists of the increase of groundwater recharge through stormwater capture. This project is expected to recharge approximately 300 to 700 AFY to the Basin.	\$335,000	\$335,000
					Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan	This component consists of the reduction of demand on groundwater. Specifically, this component will implement a Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan to reach and maintain MOs for the Basin.	\$600,000	\$600,000
					Recycled Water Feasibility Study	This component consists of a feasibility study for the use of recycled water, and to identify the best location(s) to use recycled water for irrigation.	\$285,000	\$285,000
					Grant Administration	Perform tasks necessary to perform reporting and invoicing for the grant agreement.	\$154,000	\$154,000
2022SIR20007	5-004 Big Valley	1st Assembly District, 1st Senate District, District 1 (CA)	Modoc County GSA	BVGB GSP Implementation Project				
					BVGB GSP Implementation Project	The objectives include: 1) Conduct stakeholder engagement and coordinate the completion of the annual reports; 2) Modify the submitted GSP; 3) Complete the Water Availability Analysis and apply for a temporary permit for groundwater recharge within the Basin; 4) Conduct a feasibility study and planning for the potential of expanding existing reservoirs in the basin; 5) Preparation and submission of a basin boundary modification that accurately represents where aquifers are most likely to occur; 6) Conduct monitoring and research to improve the understanding of the BVGB and GSP through data collection and data management; 7) Conduct outreach to all beneficial users in the Basin for engagement in the GSP process and implementation	\$2,640,000	\$2,640,000
2022SIR20008	1-003 Butte Valley	1st Assembly District, 1st Senate District, District 1 (CA)	Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Butte Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation				
					Grant Administration	Perform tasks necessary to perform reporting and invoicing for the grant agreement.	\$480,200	\$303,200
					SGMA Compliance and GSP Updates	This component consists of completing reporting and revisions required for updating the GSP through the updating/improving the existing hydrological model, augmenting monitoring networks, filling data gaps, increasing data management capabilities, and continuing education and outreach.	\$1,478,000	\$1,478,000
					Fee Study and Economic Analysis	This component consists of an evaluation of fee/rate options, the updating and further development of a parcel specific database of groundwater use and supply, furthering community engagement, and the development of fee/rate schedules.	\$280,000	\$280,000
					Well Inventory	This component consists of the development of a preliminary well inventory (through existing data), development of standardized well inventory forms and survey wells; creation and maintenance of a database where well inventories and data collected will be stored; public outreach and engagement to promote participation in the well inventory; update of the well outage risk analysis; and the development of a well mitigation program focused on domestic wells.	\$320,000	\$320,000
					Monitoring Network	This component will implement a new voluntary groundwater well metering program to gain well pumping data; establish a well metering fund for water use data; expand groundwater quality sampling; add stream gauges; perform isotropic trace studies; improve GSP GDE analysis; and identify sites for snow stations.	\$954,000	\$954,000

## STAFF MEMORANDUM

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DATE: September 27, 2023

TO: WMA GSA Committee

FROM: WMA GSA Agency Staff Members

SUBJECT: Development of Cost Sharing for WMA Projects

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background and context for cost sharing for WMA projects.

### **Background**

As described in the January 11, 2017, MOA between the City of Lompoc, Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Mission Hills Community Services District, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, the WMA GSA has periodically received some of its operational funds through a cost sharing agreement. The same cost sharing model is also provided for in the Draft Joint Powers Authority Agreement, endorsed by the WMA GSA on August 23, 2023 and currently under consideration for ratification by the five WMA member agencies. This cost sharing model has allowed the WMA GSA to pay for things like annual reporting, updates to the database, and routine administrative costs for the bookkeeper.

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), on behalf of the three GSAs in the Santa Ynez Basin, applied for and has been awarded more than \$5.5M in grant funding to implement SGMA. Some of the grant funds will be used for projects in common between the three GSAs, including annual reporting, five-year GSP updates, a rate study, well registration, and groundwater production reporting. The SYRWCD expects to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Water Resources between October and December of 2023. Expenses incurred as of now are eligible for reimbursement under this grant. Back-up for all reimbursements must be provided. No funding match is required.

### **Discussion of WMA Funding Needs**

The WMA GSA is now in the process of being reorganized as a separate entity under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act to implement the WMA GSP and sustainably manage the WMA under SGMA. There are financial resources needed to implement projects and management actions identified in the GSP and maintain SGMA compliance. Without outside funding sources, such as grants, these activities will be supported fully by WMA GSA member agencies and require the imposition of some form of fee structure.

WMA GSA members may elect to share costs in the form of a loan to fund some or all the WMA GSA's expenses. These loaned funds provided by the WMA agencies could be paid back either

through SGMA-related fees, charges, loans, or other funding, to the extent such reimbursement is authorized by law. Some of the WMA's expenses may be eligible for reimbursement under the Proposition 68 SGMA Implementation Grant award.

A future cost-share agreement could be developed to describe the terms of repayment of any loans by the WMA agencies, and consistent with the WMA's JPA.

### **Projects for Consideration**

The WMA GSA staff has identified four projects that in the short-term may require funding before the GSA has revenue from its own SGMA-related charges. These include: 1) the 2022-23 Annual Report; 2) the Joint Rate Study with CMA and EMA; 3) Well Registration and Water-Use reporting program and 4) the five-year update to the WMA GSP. All four projects have been awarded funds from Prop 68. There are three additional Prop 68 funded projects that will also need to be completed by April 2026 (Monitoring Improvement and Expansion, Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project Designs, Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan, and Recycled Water Feasibility Study).

As a separate entity, the WMA's JPA would be able to procure services for completing many of these projects through its own contracts or agreements.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There are several vehicles for the WMA GSA to capture costs for implementing SGMA pursuant to Water Code sections 10730, *et seq.* The WMA GSA Board of Directors may pursue funding through any means allowable by law, including but not limited to fees and/or charges, which reduces the financial obligations of the member agencies. To the extent other funds are not available to pay WMA GSA expenses, under the JPA each Member's obligation remains unchanged from their current obligation under the MOA. Moreover, if the JPA is unable to pay its liabilities, as a separate legal entity the JPA can shield the general funds of its members from having to pay those liabilities. The adoption of fees and charges must be compliant with all applicable laws, including Propositions 218 and 26.

### **Recommendation:**

The Staff recommendation is for the WMA GSA Committee to direct staff to develop a cost sharing agreement for future project expenses.

**Recommended Motion:** None required.