

**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**

**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.

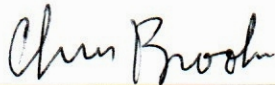
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. WMA-2023-001 was duly adopted and passed by the governing Committee of the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency at a meeting held on September 27, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Chris Brooks, Jeremy Ball, Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan

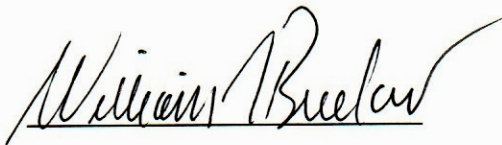
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

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.