

## NOTICE AND AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

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

HELD AT

SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
1070 FARADAY STREET, SANTA YNEZ, CALIFORNIA  
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

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

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 669-444-9171  
or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

“Join a Meeting” - **Meeting ID: 825 0905 8614 Meeting Passcode: 699829**

- You do NOT need to create a ZOOM account or login with email for meeting participation.
- If your device does not have a microphone or speakers, you can call in for audio with the phone number and Meeting ID listed above to listen and participate.
- In the interest of clear reception and efficient administration of the meeting, all persons participating remotely are respectfully requested to mute their line after logging or dialing-in and remain muted at all times unless speaking.

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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 April 27, 2023
5. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List
6. Consider Approval of Revised Documents for administering requests for written verifications in the EMA for new well permits under Executive Order N-7-22, revised under Executive Order N-5-23
  - a. Revised Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement
  - b. Draft Well Registration and Reporting Form
7. Consider Resolution EMA-2023-002 Setting Fee Under Water Code Section 10730 for Written Verifications Pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23

8. Review and Consider Requests for EMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcels:
  - a. APN 135-280-037 - Greenberg South
  - b. APN 135-280-051 - Greenberg North
  - c. APN 135-300-020 - Cohen
  - d. APN 137-070-024 - Lewbel
9. Informational Correspondence
  - a. Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association, May 3, 2023
10. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2023, at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA
11. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items
12. 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.]

Please take notice that on June 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Santa Ynez Community Services District, Conference Room, at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California 93460, the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) will hold a regular meeting at which it will consider a Resolution to impose a fee under Water Code section 10730. Oral or written presentations may be made as part of the meeting. Persons wishing to present comments to the EMA GSA Committee may do so in person at the public meeting, and those not able to attend in person are encouraged to provide comments they may have prior to the public meeting to Bill Buelow, [bbuelow@syrwcd.com](mailto:bbuelow@syrwcd.com) no later than 5:00 p.m. June 20, 2023.

Under Executive Order N-7-22 as amended under Executive Order N-5-23 and Santa Barbara County Urgency Ordinance No. 5158, applications for water well permits in the EMA will not be approved by Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services without written verification of certain matters from the EMA GSA. In order for the EMA GSA to provide such written verification, the EMA GSA's technical consultant will review the well permit application and other materials as needed. The fee to be considered at the above-referenced meeting would be an hourly fee of \$200.00 per hour for the consultant to undertake such review. The fee would be charged on a time and materials basis, drawn on a deposit in an amount to be approved and adjusted from time to time by the EMA GSA. Pursuant to Water Code section 10730(b), any data on which this fee is based are available and have been made available for review at [SantaYnezWater.org](http://SantaYnezWater.org)

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin April 27, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Brad Joos, Brett Marymee, Elizabeth Orona, and Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate)

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Member Agency Staff Present (remote): Jose Acosta

Others Present (in-person): Doug Circle, Denise El Amin, and Fahmee El Amin

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Gay Infanti, Brian Macy, Kevin Merrill, and Anita Regmi

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

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. One EMA GSA Alternate Committee Member was also present.

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

No additions or deletions were made.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested that Agenda Item No. 7 be moved prior to Agenda Item No. V. The Committee unanimously agreed.

### **III. Public Comment**

Ms. Denise El Amin made a public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he did not receive any public comments in advance of the meeting.

#### **IV. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2023**

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on March 23, 2023 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 23, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously.

#### **V. Review Revised Draft Policy Options and Scenarios for Well Verification Requests**

Agenda Item No. VII was addressed prior to Item No. V (see below).

Mr. Matt Young, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled “EMA Well Verification Policy Option 4” which included an overview of possible hypothetical scenarios. Discussion occurred and public comments were received during and after the presentation.

#### **VI. Consider Approving Resolution EMA-2023-001 A Resolution Adopting an EMA Well Verification Policy for Administering Requests for Written Verifications in the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

Mr. Buelow reviewed Resolution EMA-2023-001 A Resolution Adopting an EMA Well Verification Policy for Administering Requests for Written Verifications in the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. Public comment was received and discussion followed to clarify the following:

- The well verification process will not change for pending requests that have been submitted to the EMA GSA prior to adoption of Resolution EMA-2023-001.
- The newly adopted well verification policy under Resolution EMA-2023-001 will apply to all written verification requests received after April 27, 2023.
- Because an updated fee deposit for the new policy has not been approved, all written verification requests received after April 27, 2023 will need to wait to be processed until an updated fee deposit is developed and approved by the EMA GSA.
- Setting a new fee deposit for administering requests for written verifications under the new policy is subject to applicable substantive and procedural requirements, including but not limited to publishing notice of a public hearing on the proposed new fee deposit. A cost proposal and scope of work for administering requests for written verifications under the new policy is being prepared by GSI Water Solutions.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to waive the reading and approve RESOLUTION EMA-2023-001 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN EMA WELL VERIFICATION POLICY FOR ADMINISTERING REQUESTS FOR WRITTEN VERIFICATIONS IN THE EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN, as presented. GSA Committee Member

Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. Public comment was received. Discussion followed. The resolution passed 4-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Diethofer (Acting Alternate), Joos, Marymee, and Orona

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

**VII. Review and Consider Request for EMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 in the EMA for APN 137-390-025 Osberg**

Agenda Item No. VII was addressed prior to Item No. V.

Mr. Buelow reviewed GSI Water Solutions, Inc.'s Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA), dated April 25, 2023 for APN 137-390-025, WP#0005354. He noted that the report has a typo in the address of the property and the final report will be corrected to read Quail Valley Road. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to approve the Written Verification Request, as corrected. GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Received Written Communications**

- a. **Letter to Committee Chairs of the EMA, CMA and WMA from Sheldon Bosio, President, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, dated April 5, 2023**
- b. **Letter to DWR from Natalie Stork, Supervising Engineering Geologist, Groundwater Management Program, Office of Research Planning and Performance, California State Water Resources Control Board, dated April 14, 2023**
- c. **E-mail to Staff and Committee Members of the EMA, CMA and WMA from Alison Laslett, CEO, Santa Barbara Vintners, dated April 24, 2023**

The Committee received the written communications and discussion followed. Staff advised that the Letter to DWR from Natalie Stork was received by DWR through the SGMA portal on GSPs after the comment period ended. The letter is being reviewed by various staff and attorneys from the GSA member agencies and a response will be forthcoming. The other two letters are informational and request agricultural representation on the GSAs for the EMA, CMA, and WMA.

By consensus, Committee Members requested staff send a brief communication to DWR advising them that the letter from Natalie Stork was received, is being reviewed and a response will be forthcoming.

**IX. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA**

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA.

Discussion followed regarding possible cancellation of the meeting and scheduling of a special meeting later to allow for receipt of a cost proposal from GSI for administering requests for well verifications under the new policy, which will require proper noticing for an updated fee deposit.

**X. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items**

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee requested a discussion regarding ag representation and future governance be on a future agenda. He recommended that the idea of an ag representative be discussed with the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG).

**XI. Adjournment**

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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Brett Marymee, Chairman

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William J. Buelow, Secretary

**EMA GSA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of March 31, 2023

	<u>Mar 31, 23</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1150 - Five Star Bank Checking #	27,151.42
Total Checking/Savings	<u>27,151.42</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>27,151.42</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>27,151.42</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2300 - Deposits - Well Verification	6,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	6,000.00
Equity	
3000 - Ret Earnings	2,425.67
Net Income	18,725.75
Total Equity	<u>21,151.42</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>27,151.42</u></u>



## EMA GSA Profit & Loss YTD Comparison January through March 2023

	<u>Jan - Mar 23</u>	<u>Jul '22 - Mar 23</u>
<b>Income</b>		
4000 · Oper Assess fr Member Agencies	12,000.00	12,000.00
4500 · Grant Revenue	0.00	33,333.33
4600 · Interest Income	10.14	18.96
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>12,010.14</u>	<u>45,352.29</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
5320 · Office Expense (incl postage)	0.00	24.70
5330 · Outside Staff Support	300.00	900.00
5350 · Public Relations	0.00	164.34
6400 · Annual Report	24,337.50	25,537.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>24,637.50</u>	<u>26,626.54</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-12,627.36</u></u>	<u><u>18,725.75</u></u>

**EMA GSA**  
**Transactions by Account**  
**Deposits - Well Verification**  
 As of March 31, 2023

2300 - Deposits - Well Verification	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Clr</u>	<u>Split</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	Bill	03/13/2023	02019.001-1	GSI Water Solutions, Inc.			2000 - Accounts Payable	-2,400.00	1,200.00
	General Journal	03/02/2023	Deposits	Osberg	Well Verification		1150 - Five Star Bank Checking #	1,200.00	2,400.00
	General Journal	03/13/2023	Deposits	Greenberg (x2) South Well & North Well	Well Verification		1150 - Five Star Bank Checking #	2,400.00	4,800.00
	General Journal	03/31/2023	Deposits	Lewbel	Well Verification		1150 - Five Star Bank Checking #	1,200.00	6,000.00
	Total 2300 - Deposits - Well Verification							2,400.00	6,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE  
EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (EMA)  
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

**JANUARY 2023 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>

**FEBRUARY 2023 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>

**MARCH 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1003	03/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	October 2022 Review for Well Verifications (partial) (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 2,400.00
1004	03/13/23	Valley Bookkeeping	2023 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2023)	\$ 300.00
1005	03/13/23	GSI Water Solutions	January 2023 Preparation of EMA 2021-2022 Annual Report	\$ 24,337.50
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 27,037.50</b>

**TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 27,037.50**

**DEPOSIT/REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT  
FOR REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR WRITTEN VERIFICATION**

**THIS DEPOSIT/REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT** (“Agreement”) is made and effective this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”), and as the owner of the property where the well is proposed \_\_\_\_\_ (“Applicant”). GSA and Applicant are each referred to as a “Party” and collectively referred to as the “Parties” in this Agreement.

**RECITALS:**

A. Applicant is submitting an Application (“Application”) to the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (“EHS”) for a water well permit within the GSA’s jurisdiction.

B. Executive Order N-7-22, and as amended in Executive Order N-5-23, requires that, before EHS grant said Application, the GSA provide written verification to EHS that “groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan ... and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan.” The Applicant’s request for written verification from the GSA will be referred to herein as a “Request.”

C. Pursuant to Resolution EMA-2022-003 and Resolution EMA-2023-002 of the GSA, review by the GSA of the Request is to be funded by fees paid by the Applicant, and before review begins Applicant must make a deposit as determined by the GSA.

D. This Agreement is intended to specify the terms of Applicant’s deposit and reimbursement for the GSA’s review of the Request.

**AGREEMENT**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants set forth herein, and for other consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

**1. Construction.**

This Agreement shall be liberally constructed to accomplish its intent.

**2. The Deposit; Additional Advances.**

- a) Establishing and Supplementing Deposit. Within three (3) business days following execution of this Agreement, Applicant shall provide to the GSA an initial deposit of \$2,200.00 (“Initial Deposit”) to reimburse the GSA for Eligible Expenses, as defined in Section 2(b). The GSA shall monitor its expenses and the balance in the deposit account and whenever it believes, in good faith, that there will be insufficient funds to pay the GSA’s expenses for the Request for the next ninety (90) days, the GSA may make one or more written requests for additional funds (each an “Additional Advance”), which shall state the existing balance and the additional amount requested. The GSA may request the funds it reasonably believes necessary to cover a period not exceeding

ninety (90) days. The Initial Deposit and Additional Advance funds are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Deposit.” Applicant shall make the Additional Advance within five (5) business days of the GSA’s written request therefor. If Applicant fails to timely make the Additional Advance, Applicant agrees that the GSA may cease any or all additional work on the Request until the GSA receives the Additional Advance from Applicant.

- b) Eligible Expenses. The Deposit shall be used to reimburse the GSA for costs incurred by the GSA in connection with the following (all of which shall be deemed “Eligible Expenses”): (i) the fees and expenses of the consultant(s) employed by the GSA in connection with administering the Request; and (ii) all other actions, if any, reasonably taken by the GSA in connection with administering the Request.
- c) Administration of Deposit. The Deposit may be placed in the GSA account with other funds for purposes of investment and safekeeping. The Deposit shall not accrue interest. The GSA shall administer the Deposit and use the Deposit to reimburse the GSA for Eligible Expenses. The GSA shall maintain satisfactory accounting records as to the expenditure of the Deposit at all times.
- d) Unexpended Funds. Upon the granting or denial of a Request by the GSA, the GSA shall return any then-unexpended portion of the Deposit to Applicant, without interest, less an amount equal to any unpaid Eligible Expenses previously incurred by the GSA.
- e) Statements of Account. The GSA shall provide Applicant a summary of expenditures made from the Deposit, and the unexpended balance thereof, whenever requesting any Additional Advance and within ten (10) business days of receipt by the GSA of a request therefore submitted by Applicant.

### **3. Independent Judgment of the GSA; GSA Not Liable**

The GSA shall use its independent judgment in determining whether the written verification required by the Executive Order should be issued. As further set forth by separate Indemnification Agreement, neither the GSA nor any of its member agencies shall be liable in any manner whatsoever in relation to EHS’s action on an Application or the GSA’s issuance of a written verification.

Applicant expressly understands and agrees that any consultant retained on behalf of the GSA is under contract solely on behalf of the GSA, and the GSA is free to exercise its independent judgment in making payments to the consultants or revising or accepting the consultant’s work product, without any liability whatsoever by the GSA to Applicant therefor.

### **4. Notices.**

Any notices, requests, demands, documents, approvals, or disapprovals given or sent under this Agreement from one Party to another (collectively, the “Notices”) shall be given to the Party entitled thereto at its address set forth below, or at such other address as such Party may provide to the other Party in writing from time to time, namely:

If to Applicant:

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If to The GSA:

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin  
Eastern Management Area GSA  
P.O. Box 719  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Each such Notice shall be deemed delivered to the Party to whom it is addressed: (i) if personally served or delivered, upon delivery; (ii) if given by facsimile, upon the sender's receipt of an appropriate answerback or other written acknowledgement; (iii) if given by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, deposited with the United States mail postage prepaid, seventy-two (72) hours after such notice is deposited with the United States mail; (iv) if given by overnight courier, with courier charges prepaid, twenty-four (24) hours after delivery to said overnight courier; or (v) if given by any other means, upon delivery at the address specified in this Section.

**5. Choice of Law; Venue.**

This Agreement, and any dispute arising from the relationship between the Parties, shall be governed by, construed in accordance with, and interpreted under the laws of the State of California. Any dispute that arises under or relates to this Agreement (whether contract, tort, or both) shall be resolved in a California State Court in the County of Santa Barbara, or if jurisdiction over the action cannot be obtained in a State Court, in a Federal Court in the Central District of California.

**6. Entire Agreement.**

This Agreement represents the full, final, and complete Agreement between the Parties hereto regarding the subject matter of this Agreement. No change or amendment to this Agreement shall be valid unless in writing and signed by both Parties.

**7. Severability.**

If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any provision of this Agreement to be illegal, unenforceable, or invalid for any reason, the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected.

**8. Attorneys' Fees.**

In any litigation or other proceeding by which one Party seeks to enforce its rights under this Agreement (whether in contract, tort, or both) or seeks a declaration of any rights or obligations under this

Agreement, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, together with any costs and expenses, to resolve the dispute and to enforce the final judgment.

**9. Ambiguities.**

Each Party and its counsel have participated fully in the review and revision of this Agreement. Any rule of construction to the effect that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting Party shall not be applied in interpreting this Agreement.

**10. Counterparts.**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but all of which together will constitute one instrument.

**11. Authority.**

The persons executing this Agreement on behalf of the Parties warrant that: (i) such Party is duly organized and existing; (ii) they are duly authorized to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of said Party; (iii) by so executing this Agreement, such Party is formally bound to the provisions of this Agreement; and (iv) the entering into of this Agreement does not violate any provision of any other agreement to which said Party is bound.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first written above.

**EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY  
AGENCY**

**PROPERTY OWNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**  
**EASTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**  
**WELL REGISTRATION AND REPORTING FORM**

Please complete a separate Well Registration and Reporting Form for **each** well that you own and operate within the Eastern Management Area of the Basin. Please return completed Form(s) to the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) by mail to P.O. Box 719, Santa Ynez, California 93460 or via email to [ema@santaynezwater.org](mailto:ema@santaynezwater.org).

**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**

I certify that a groundwater well (or wells) exists on the property located above in Item 1.

I certify that the well (or wells) is also 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 active.

This well is inactive.

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

**4. WELL LOCATION**

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): \_\_\_\_\_ Well Used to Serve APN(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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

**5. ANNUAL WATER USE INFORMATION** (Please see Information & Instructions attached.)

- Agricultural Use (list number of acres and crop category(ies)) \_\_\_\_\_
- Livestock Watering (number and type of animals) \_\_\_\_\_
- Domestic (number of persons served) \_\_\_\_\_
- Combined Use (check applicable boxes) \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 No.: \_\_\_\_\_ 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

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

**8. AGREEMENT TO REPORT WELL PRODUCTION**

In accordance with EMA GSA Resolution No. 2023-001 and Section 3 of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Policy for Administering Requests for Well Verifications, I hereby agree to register the groundwater well identified in this Form with the EMA GSA, and to report groundwater production from the well semi-annually to the EMA GSA using groundwater production reporting documentation provided by the EMA GSA.

**9. DECLARATION**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that this Well Registration and Reporting 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*): \_\_\_\_\_



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## **Expanded Scope and Cost for Review of New and Replacement Well Applications in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area**

**To:** Bill Buelow/SYRWCD  
**From:** Tim Nicely and Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** May 23, 2023

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At your request, we have prepared a revised scope and estimated budget to perform an expanded review of permit applications submitted to the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services (EHS) for new or replacement wells within the Eastern Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin. The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required by Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance dated May 24, 2022 to review well construction and modification permit applications to determine whether or not a written verification can be provided that groundwater extraction by the proposed new or replacement well<sup>4</sup>

1. would be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) adopted by that GSA, and
2. would decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such Plan.

In the EMA, several well permit applications were reviewed and approved during 2022 and 2023 following these general guidelines. As the drought in 2022 became more severe and water levels in EMA monitoring wells showed continued declines (some water levels falling below minimum thresholds established in the Plan), the EMA GSA began to be concerned that using this generalized approach may not adequately reflect overall conditions in the EMA consistent with the Plan. The Plan acknowledges that short term annual water supply and use may vary according to numerous factors including land use and near-term climate, yet sustainable yield estimates and groundwater management described in the Plan reflect conditions/considerations of water supply and use over a long-term period of time. For this reason, a more comprehensive review of groundwater conditions and use within the EMA, over both the short term and longer term, can be used to better assess whether new permit applications are inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management program established by the EMA and would decrease the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goal of the EMA’s Plan.

Details of our proposed scope of work for the expanded review of permit applications for new and replacement wells are presented as follows.

## Scope of Work

The scope of work for reviewing new or replacement well applications includes (1) the level of review that has been conducted thus far in the EMA pursuant to the “Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22” that was approved by the EMA GSA on July 21, 2022 (herein referred to as the initial assessment) and (2) the expanded assessment.

The expanded assessment presented in this proposal focuses on the core sustainability factors, which will be used to evaluate whether production from a proposed well is consistent with Sustainable Groundwater Management as set forth in the GSP contained in the EMA’s Plan. These core sustainability factors are:

- A. **Undesirable Results** - Presence/imminence/absence
- B. **Water Budget Parameters** - Short and long-term land and water use assumptions
- C. **Projects and Management Actions** - Programs/water savings/priorities

This evaluation will consider the most recent annual report for the EMA, which presents the groundwater conditions for the previous water year (October of one year to September of the following year) in compliance with DWR regulations, along with an active data set regarding well permits, land and water use practices, and related trends in the EMA and/or a forthcoming spring groundwater conditions report for the EMA, which will be prepared for this purpose. Together, this information will provide the EMA GSA with a comprehensive and updated status of the sustainability factors as described in the EMA Plan.

## Review for Written Verifications

### Initial Assessment

- Examine the proposed well construction information and assess whether the well is located within one of the management areas.
- Determine whether the geologic setting and aquifer that the well would be completed in would be within in a Principal Aquifer that is managed by the EMA (such as within the Paso Robles Formation or Careaga Sand).
- Assess groundwater conditions (e.g., water level elevations and trends, water quality) and rainfall conditions in the preceding water years.
- Evaluate whether the well would increase production within the management area.
- For replacement wells, assess whether the pumping capacity of the replacement well will be a “like for like” replacement with regards to production volume relative to the original well. Information that may be reviewed includes:
  - Planned pumping rate of the replacement well and estimated or measured flow rate of the original well;
  - Pump curves for both the original well pump and new pump, as available;
  - If a pump curve is not available, pump type, number of bowls, pump diameter, pump horsepower, RPM, assumed lift;
  - System pressure in the discharge line and total pressure head;
  - Well construction details for the proposed replacement well and original well including total depth, perforated or screened intervals, well diameter;

- Estimated groundwater levels at the time of the application and at the time the original well was completed.
- Review that the proposed use of the well is consistent with the proposed location and design capacity.
- Review whether the property is within the boundaries of a public water system`.

### Expanded Assessment

The expanded review tasks were developed to answer specific questions about whether the production from a proposed well would be consistent with the Plan.

1. **Undesirable Results.** The planned production and use of groundwater from the proposed well must be evaluated against the presence, imminence, or absence of undesirable results as described in the EMA GSP. The supplemental criteria for evaluating undesirable results will include the following:
  - a. Most recently reported groundwater levels compared to Minimum Thresholds (MTs) and definition of undesirable result established by the GSP. Determine whether more than 50% of the representative wells exceed MTs after two consecutive years of average or above average precipitation.
  - b. If MTs exceeded, consider the magnitude of exceedances.
  - c. Consider reported impacts to other wells in the area.
  - d. Consider other undesirable result criteria (e.g., water quality).
2. **Water Budget Parameters.** The planned production and use of groundwater from the proposed well must be consistent with the current and long-term water budget parameters in the GSP (Section 3). Water budget parameters to consider may include:
  - a. Projected land-uses
  - b. Total irrigated acreage
  - c. Cropping distribution
  - d. Water duty factors for different crop types.
3. **Projects and Management Actions.** The planned production and use of groundwater from the proposed well must be compliant with any implemented projects or management actions of the EMA GSA, and as a condition for issuance of a written verification the applicant must agree to register the well with and report production semi-annually to the EMA GSA.

### Deliverable

After consulting as needed with EMA staff regarding information contained in a well permit application, and after obtaining additional information that may be required to complete the assessment described herein, GSI will prepare a technical memorandum to the EMA that documents the information that was reviewed, present findings from the evaluation, provide an opinion regarding the verification of consistency with the sustainability goal of the Plan, and provide a list of proposed conditions that may be applicable.

### Budget Estimate

The estimated cost to complete the entire scope of work described in this memorandum is \$2,200 per well permit application. The work will be completed on a time and materials basis at a blended rate of \$200 per hour. Should additional time be required to complete the review, the EMA will be notified, and if approved by the EMA, the work will be conducted on a time and materials basis at the hourly rate shown above.

## Indemnification and Limitations of Liability

GSI does not warrant or guarantee that the new or replacement well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that the extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to ensure sustainable groundwater management pursuant to SGMA.

GSI 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 pursuant to any well permit application, 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.

The GSA and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District agrees to hold GSI harmless and indemnify GSI for any liability stemming from the findings presented in the GSI report or related to the County issuing or not issuing a well permit in response the Application or to the GSA issuance of a written verification related to the well permit.

**DRAFT**

**Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

**RESOLUTION EMA-2023-002**

**RESOLUTION REVISING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR EMA GSA WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 AS AMMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-5-23**

**WHEREAS**, effective April 27, 2017 the City of Solvang (“Solvang”); the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (“Santa Barbara”); the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”); and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (“ID No.1”) (collective the Members) entered into a “Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” (“2017 MOA”); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 MOA established the Members as the participating agencies of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the Eastern Management Area (“EMA”) in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”); and

**WHEREAS**, the EMA GSA formed under the 2017 MOA has already developed, adopted, and submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the EMA to the California Department of Water Resources as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 9(a) of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, dated March 28, 2022, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, requires a written verification from the applicable GSA to address whether groundwater extraction by a proposed well would be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable GSP adopted by the GSA, or would decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 21, 2022 the EMA GSA has approved Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, and on April 27, 2023 the EMA GSA approved Resolution No. 2023-001 adopting a Policy for Administering Requests for Written Verifications in the EMA, and the EMA seeks to establish fee(s) and deposit(s) to cover the costs of this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the EMA GSA has the authority to impose fees pursuant to Water Code section 10730 and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 21, 2022 the EMA GSA established an initial fee deposit of \$1,200 with resolution EMA-2022-003; and

**WHEREAS**, the EMA GSA held a noticed public hearing on **June 22, 2023**, regarding a revision to the fee(s) and deposit(s) necessary to cover the costs of processing requests for written verifications under the Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22 and EMA Resolution No. 2023-001, at which oral and written presentations were allowed; and

**WHEREAS**, the EMA GSA finds that the fees set forth in this Resolution are exempt from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 15273 and 15378(b)(5) and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)(A) and (B), in that the fees will be used for reimbursement for consultants time and costs.

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

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. A fee of \$200 per hour is hereby established for all requested written verifications from the EMA GSA. The Committee finds that the amount of the fee is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the process, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.
3. A revised initial deposit in the amount of \$2,200 shall be submitted for all requested written verifications and the deposit will be spent and supplemented in accordance with the Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Well Permit Applications.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the EMA GSA on June 22, 2023 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

ATTEST:

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Brett Marymee, Chairman

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William J. Buelow, Secretary





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## Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 135-280-037 Greenberg SOUTH (WP 0005479)

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley EMA GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Andy Lapostol, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** April 16, 2023

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This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a new well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23 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 that 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-5-23 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 for the installation of a new 8-inch diameter irrigation and domestic supply well referred to as the South Well, which will be completed to a proposed depth of 1,000 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 2 to 6 acre-feet per year (AFY). This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

<sup>1</sup> New wells are those resulting in new or additional groundwater production from the Basin, or those resulting in new or additional production capacity. 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 new well has the following properties:

- Well location:
  - The proposed South Well is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 135-280-037, which will be located at 3249 Short Road in Santa Ynez within the Santa Ynez Uplands Area of the Eastern Management Area. The groundwater within the Santa Ynez Uplands is derived from two principal aquifers: the Paso Robles Formation and the Careaga Sand.
  - The parcel is located within the Woodstock Ranch Homeowners Association, a Public Water System, which has water available to serve the subject property.
  - The proposed well is one of a pair of wells of similar design, located approximately 1,000 feet away, being installed on the subject property to provide water for the parcel.
- Proposed well construction information:
  - The proposed South Well will be up to 1,000 feet deep, with perforations planned to be installed between 450 and up to 1,000 feet below ground surface. The South Well may be completed to a slightly shallower depth. The well will produce water from the Paso Robles Formation.
  - The well will be used, along with the North Well, for irrigation of 19 acres and domestic purposes. The planned pumping rate of 20 gallons per minute will be produced for 4 hours per day for 12 months per year. This equates to a volume of approximately 2 to 6 AFY.
- Assess groundwater conditions:
  - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Paso Robles Formation, which is a principal aquifer within the GSA.
  - Groundwater conditions in the Santa Ynez Uplands Area are presented within the Eastern Management Area's Annual Report for water year 2022 (through October 2022). According to that report, "water levels have declined below minimum thresholds in some representative wells, the number of wells falling below the minimum thresholds has not resulted in the undesirable results that are described in the Plan."
  - The permit application package included a supporting letter prepared by Rick Hoffman to provide a "hydrologic analysis of the local aquifer," principally to determine whether pumpage from the subject South Well will have interactions with nearby wells. Based on the Hoffman analysis, it was determined that pumping from the proposed well will not have a significant effect on groundwater levels within the nearby wells, nor cause subsidence.
  - Based on the cumulative departure from mean annual precipitation<sup>2</sup>, climatic conditions in the vicinity of the proposed well site have been predominantly dry since 2012 with a Critical water year type occurring in water year 2022, which ended in September of 2022. The current water year (between October 2022 and September 2023) is wet.
- Would the well increase production within the EMA?
  - The proposed new well completed in the Paso Robles Formation would be within a principal aquifer managed by the GSA and would increase production from a principal aquifer within the

<sup>2</sup> Precipitation measured at the Santa Ynez Fire Station #32 (Santa Barbara County Station No. 218 gauge).

EMA. However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.

- The proposed new well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
  - Chronic water level decline.
  - Reduction of groundwater in storage
  - Degradation of water quality
  - Subsidence
  - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs

## Summary

Based upon the planned production of this new well, the proposed well would NOT be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin.

Notably, this well remains subject to regulation by the GSA in accordance with SGMA and the EMA’s Plan. It may be necessary to limit production from this well in the future if the GSA finds that undesirable results as defined in the Plan are occurring in the EMA.

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 new well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that the extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the EMA within the sustainability goal.

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.



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## Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 135-280-051 Greenberg NORTH (WP 0005478)

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley EMA GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely, PG, CHg and Andy Lapostol, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** April 16, 2023

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This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a new well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, 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 that 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-5-23 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 for the installation of a new 8-inch diameter irrigation and domestic supply well referred to as the North Well, which will be completed to a proposed depth of 1,000 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 2 to 6 acre-feet per year (AFY). This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

<sup>1</sup> New wells are those resulting in new or additional groundwater production from the Basin, or those resulting in new or additional production capacity. 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 new well has the following properties:

- Well location:
  - The proposed North Well is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 135-280-051, which will be located at 3249 Short Road in Santa Ynez within the Santa Ynez Uplands Area of the Eastern Management Area. The groundwater within the Santa Ynez Uplands is derived from two principal aquifers: the Paso Robles Formation and the Careaga Sand.
  - The parcel is located within the Woodstock Ranch Homeowners Association, a Public Water System, which has water available to serve the subject property.
  - The proposed well is one of a pair of wells of similar design, located approximately 1,000 feet away, being installed on the subject property to provide water for the parcel.
- Proposed well construction information:
  - The proposed North Well will be up to 1,000 feet deep, with perforations planned to be installed between 450 and up to 1,000 feet below ground surface. This North Well may be completed to a slightly shallower depth. The well will produce water from the Paso Robles Formation.
  - The well will be used, along with the South Well, for irrigation of 19 acres and domestic purposes. The planned pumping rate of 20 gallons per minute will be produced for 4 hours per day for 12 months per year. This equates to a volume of approximately 2 to 6 AFY.
- Assess groundwater conditions:
  - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater will be derived from the Paso Robles Formation, which is a principal aquifer within the GSA.
  - Groundwater conditions in the Santa Ynez Uplands Area are presented within the Eastern Management Area's Annual Report for water year 2022 (through October 2022). According to that report, "water levels have declined below minimum thresholds in some representative wells, the number of wells falling below the minimum thresholds has not resulted in the undesirable results that are described in the Plan."
  - The permit application package included a supporting letter prepared by Rick Hoffman to provide a "hydrologic analysis of the local aquifer," principally to determine whether pumpage from the subject North Well will have interactions with nearby wells. Based on the Hoffman analysis, it was determined that pumping from the proposed well will not have a significant effect on groundwater levels within the nearby wells, nor cause subsidence.
  - Based on the cumulative departure from mean annual precipitation<sup>2</sup>, climatic conditions in the vicinity of the proposed well site have been predominantly dry since 2012 with a Critical water year type occurring in water year 2022, which ended in September of 2022. The current water year (between October 2022 and September 2023) is wet.
- Would the well increase production within the EMA?
  - The proposed new well completed in the Paso Robles Formation would be within a principal aquifer managed by the GSA and would increase production from a principal aquifer within the

<sup>2</sup> Precipitation measured at the Santa Ynez Fire Station #32 (Santa Barbara County Station No. 218 gauge).

EMA. However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.

- The proposed new well would not contribute to significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
  - Chronic water level decline
  - Reduction of groundwater in storage
  - Degradation of water quality
  - Subsidence
  - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs

## Summary

Based upon the planned production of this new well, the proposed well would NOT be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin.

Notably, this well remains subject to regulation by the GSA in accordance with SGMA and the EMA’s Plan. It may be necessary to limit production from this well in the future if the GSA finds that undesirable results as defined in the Plan are occurring in the EMA.

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 new well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that the extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the EMA within the sustainability goal.

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.



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## **Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 135-300-020, Cohen, 4465 White Pine Lane (WP 0005394)**

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley EMA GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely and Andy Lapostol, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** May 11, 2023

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This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a new well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, 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 that 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-5-23 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 for the installation of a new 6-inch diameter irrigation supply well completed to a proposed depth of 700 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 4 acre-feet per year (AFY). This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

<sup>1</sup> New wells are those resulting in new or additional groundwater production from the Basin, or those resulting in new or additional production capacity. 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 new well has the following properties:

- Well location:
  - The proposed well is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 135-300-020, located at 4465 White Pine Lane, Santa Ynez, California, which is within the Santa Ynez Uplands Area of the Eastern Management Area. The groundwater within the Santa Ynez Uplands is derived from two principal aquifers: the Paso Robles Formation and the Careaga Sand.
- Proposed well construction information:
  - The proposed well will be 700 feet deep, with perforations planned to be installed between 240 and 700 feet below ground surface. The well will produce water from the Paso Robles Formation.
  - The well will be used for irrigation purposes on 22 acres. The planned pumping rate of 10 gallons per minute will be produced for 10 to 12 hours per day for up to 12 months per year. This equates to a volume of approximately 6 to 8 AFY. The approximate volume of water proposed to be produced on the permit application is 4 AFY.
- Assess groundwater conditions:
  - Based on the depth of the proposed well, the produced groundwater from the well will be derived from the Paso Robles Formation, which is a principal aquifer within the GSA.
  - The nearest representative groundwater level wells (as defined in the Plan) within the EMA completed within the Paso Robles Formation is located approximately 1.8 miles southwest of the proposed well. According to the Eastern Management Area's Annual Report for water year 2022 (through October 2022), "while water levels have declined below minimum thresholds in some representative wells [not including the nearest representative well], the number of wells falling below the minimum thresholds has not resulted in the undesirable results that are described in the Plan." The groundwater within the Paso Robles Formation at the representative well was 58 feet below ground in October 2022 and was not below the minimum threshold elevation.
  - Based on precipitation data<sup>2</sup> the climatic conditions in the vicinity of the proposed well site have been predominantly dry since 2012 with a Critical water year type occurring in water year 2022, which ended in September of 2022. The current water year (between October 2022 and September 2023) is wet.
- Would the well increase production within the EMA?
  - The proposed new well to be completed in the Paso Robles Formation would be within a principal aquifer managed by the GSA and would increase production from a principal aquifer within the EMA. However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.
  - The proposed new well would not cause significant and unreasonable conditions leading to undesirable results related to the sustainability indicators:
    - Chronic water level decline.

<sup>2</sup> Precipitation measured at the Santa Ynez Fire Station #32 (Santa Barbara County Station No. 218 gauge).



- Reduction of groundwater in storage
- Degradation of water quality
- Subsidence
- Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs

## Summary

Based upon the planned production of this new well, the proposed well would NOT be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the EMA.

Notably, this well remains subject to regulation by the GSA in accordance with SGMA and the EMA’s Plan. It may be necessary to limit production from this well in the future if the GSA finds that undesirable results as defined in the Plan are occurring in the EMA.

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 new well will produce the expected amount of water nor that the GSA will not require that the extraction from the well be reduced in the future in accordance with its authority to manage the EMA within the sustainability goal.

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.



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## Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) APN: 137-070-024 (WP 0005483) Mr. Michael Lewbel

**To:** Santa Ynez River Valley EMA GSA Parties  
**From:** Tim Nicely and Andres Lapostol, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
**Date:** May 9, 2023

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This memorandum presents our review of an application to install a replacement well within the Eastern Management Area (EMA). Our review was conducted on behalf of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Under Paragraph 9 of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, as amended by Executive Order N-5-23, and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance No. 5158 dated May 24, 2022, EHS 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:

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-5-23 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 for the proposed replacement<sup>1</sup> of a 6-inch diameter well that was permitted for domestic and irrigation supply completed to a depth of 275 feet. This existing well is reported to currently produce “insignificant” volumes of water due to the decline of the local water table during recent drought periods. The replacement well is planned for irrigation use only, with a diameter of 8 inches and total depth of roughly 650 feet. The anticipated water production reported by the applicant is 8 to 10 acre-feet per year (AFY). This production exceeds the 2 AFY definition of an exempt well.

<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 137-070-024, at 1680 Still Meadows Road in Solvang, California, which is within the Santa Ynez Upland area of the EMA.
  - The parcel is located within the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, and covers 8.9 acres, zoned AG-1 and according to the property owner, receives water from ID No 1.
- Proposed well construction and use information:
  - The proposed well be completed within the Paso Robles Formation, which is a principal aquifer within the EMA.
  - The proposed well depth (650 ±100 feet) is deeper than the original well it will replace (275 feet), which is planned to be destroyed in accordance with the County Urgency order for the new well to qualify as a replacement well. The proposed well will be completed within a deeper portion of the same aquifer as the well it replaces.
  - The proposed well will be used for irrigation purposes on the 8.9-acre parcel. While the original well was intended to be used for irrigation and domestic purposes (in 2007-2008), the replacement well will be solely for irrigation purposes. Per Rick Hoffman, "Domestic water to the property is supplied from a SYRWCD meter and will continued to be used in the future."
  - The planned pumping rate is approximately 50 gallons per minute pumped for 4.5 hours per day, according to the application, which equates to 15 AFY if pumped all year. The application indicates that the anticipated production would be 8 to 10 AFY.
- Assess groundwater and related conditions:
  - The nearest representative monitoring well defined in the EMA's Plan is well -02K01, which is approximately 1,400 feet northeast of the replacement well. Groundwater levels in well -02K01 have been below the Measurable Objective described in the EMA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan since 2012 but have remained above the Minimum Threshold elevation since the Plan was adopted in the Plan in 2022.
  - Based on precipitation data<sup>2</sup> the climatic conditions in the vicinity of the proposed well site and the EMA have been predominantly dry since 2012, including water year 2022. The current water year (between October 2022 and September 2023) is wet.
  - Water levels within several representative monitoring wells in the EMA have gone below respective minimum thresholds established in the GSP, however no undesirable results as defined in the Plan have been identified with regard to chronic water level declines at this time within the EMA.
- The proposed use of the well is consistent with the proposed location and design capacity. The proposed production of 8 to 10 (or 15) AFY per year is consistent with the approximately 8.9-acre size of the parcel.
- Would the well increase production within the EMA?

<sup>2</sup> Precipitation measured at the Santa Ynez Fire Station #32 (Santa Barbara County Station No. 218 gauge).

- The proposed replacement well is a similar diameter (8-inch) than the original well (6-inch) and is deeper. While the original well no longer produces significant volumes of water, it is determined that the replacement well would not likely increase production from the Paso Robles Formation relative to the original production from the original well. However, the new well would not cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds or cause undesirable results measured at representative wells, as defined in the Plan.

## Summary

Based upon the planned production from the proposed replacement well, the proposed well would NOT be “inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program” established by the GSA and would NOT decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the EMA.

Notably, this well remains subject to regulation by the GSA in accordance with SGMA and the EMA's Plan. It may be necessary to limit production from this well in the future if the GSA finds that undesirable results as defined in the Plan are occurring in the EMA.

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 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 EMA within the sustainability goal presented in EMA's Plan.

GSI 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.



May 3, 2023

Brett Marymee, Chairman EMA GSA  
Art Hibbits, Chairman CMA GSA  
Chris Brookes, Chairman WMA GSA

c/o William (Bill) Buelow  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District  
3669 Sagunto St. Suite 101  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: GSA Committee Agricultural representation

Dear Gentlemen,

The Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association, a nonprofit California corporation representing approximately 125 agricultural and associated members in Santa Barbara County, is concerned with the lack of agricultural representation on all 3 GSA committees representing the Santa Ynez River Water Basin. Members of the Cattlemen's Association currently own and/or manage nearly 360,000 acres of grazing land in the County.

Ranching has been an integral part of Santa Barbara County's community since the first Spanish, and later, Mexican Land Grants. Many of these Land Grants have been handed down from generation to generation, continuing the ranching heritage.

Ranchlands are vital to the bucolic atmosphere that is greatly cherished by all who those who both live and visit our County. Agriculture feeds our local economy. "Open space, wildlife corridors, carbon sinks" – all exist because of our Santa Barbara County ranches. Groundwater has always been essential to our livestock operations. Landowner overlying water rights are critical for our ranches to continue. Ranchers know the importance of sustainable land stewardship.

Given agriculture's vested interest in maintaining a sustainable water supply in the Santa Ynez River Basin, we believe it is imperative that a representative from agriculture serves on each of the three current, and future GSA Committees, with all members utilizing an equal voting structure.

We understand the Santa Ynez Water Group (SYWG) has been actively involved in this process to date and we support candidates vetted by SYWG to serve on the 3 GSA committees.

Sincerely,

Billy King, Jr.  
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association