

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin December 09, 2021

A special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, December 09, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District, Conference Room at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in this meeting was also available via teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution EMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/21/2021 and reaffirmed on 11/18/2021).

EMA GSA Committee Members Present (in person): Joan Hartmann, Mark Infanti, and Meighan Dietenhofer (Alternate),

EMA GSA Committee Members Present (remote participation): Brad Joos, Brett Marymee, and Cynthia Allen (Alternate)

Member Agency Staff Present (in person): Bill Buelow and Matt Young

Member Agency Staff Present (remote participation): Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson, and Kevin Walsh

Others Present (in person): Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions) and Gay Infanti

Others Present (remote participation): Steve Anderson, Mike Burchardi, Russell Chamberlin, Doug Circle, Tim Gorham, Mary Heyden, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Anita Regmi (DWR), and one additional member of the public whose name was not registered.

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. Four EMA GSA Committee Members were present providing a quorum plus two EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members.

II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution EMA-2021-001

EMA GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution EMA-2021-001. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

III. Additions or Deletions, if any, to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Workshop on EMA GSP Responses to Comment

Mr. Buelow and Mr. Matt Young explained the intent of the workshop was to review responses to the public comments received on the EMA GSP, as requested by the EMA GSA Committee, and make sure no further changes to the final GSP are needed based on responses to the comments.

EMA GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti said he reviewed the log of public comments and responses from consultants in detail. He thanked the consultants for an excellent job responding to public comments and expressed he was happy with the responses and proposed changes to the EMA GSP referenced in the public comment log.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann said she reviewed the log of public comments and responses from consultants in detail with Mr. Matt Young (Santa Barbara County Water Agency) and she felt the responses and changes made looked comprehensive and defensible.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos said he reviewed the log of public comments and responses from consultants in detail with Mr. Paeter Garcia (ID No. 1) and was pleased with the responses in the public comment log and reported they had not received response from their constituents.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee said he reviewed the log of public comments and responses from consultants in detail with Mr. Bill Buelow (SYRWCD) and was pleased with the responses in the public comment log. He expressed he felt the responses were thoughtful, no comments were dismissed, and the comment log documents transparency and due diligence in the process of creating the EMA GSP.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee asked the CAG members in attendance for their response. Ms. Gay Infanti, Ms. Mary Heyden, Ms. Elizabeth Farnum and Mr. Tim Gorham unanimously agreed the consultant responses to comments received were extensive, complete, and appreciated the efforts.

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee request the comment log be included as a deliverable as part of the GSP. Mr. Jeff Barry confirmed the comment log is planned to be included as an Appendix to the final GSP. EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartmann made a CONCEPTUAL MOTION indicating support and approval of responses to comments received and directed staff to follow through with making the comment log an

appendix to the final GSP. EMA GSA Committee Member Mark Infanti seconded the conceptual motion and the EMA GSA Committee unanimously approved by roll call vote.

VI. Receive update and discuss Scope of Work and Costs for GSI to prepare EMA Annual Report

Mr. Buelow reported that the GSA's November 18, 2021 request to add a new Task Order to the SYRWCD's existing contract with GSI, based on the Scope of Work dated October 2021, was taken to the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) Board of Directors at their meeting of December 1, 2021. Mr. Buelow reported that the SYRWCD Board of Directors conditionally approved the EMA GSA Committee's request provided there is a Cost Share Agreement in place between the three EMA GSA Member Agencies, (SYRWCD, City of Solvang and ID No. 1).

Mr. Buelow explained the efforts by Staff to develop a cost share. However, no cost share is in place at this time. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) is on hold pending a completed cost share agreement. Mr. Buelow reported that commitments were received from the SYRWCD and the City of Solvang, and staff continue to work with ID No. 1 to resolve their questions and concerns. Mr. Paeter Garcia explained that some of ID No. 1's concerns were addressed and assured the Committee that he expected there would be a draft cost share agreement for consideration no later than next week. Mr. Young explained that the County of Santa Barbara would not participate in the cost share agreement as it had already contributed approximately \$1.2 million to the GSP efforts in the EMA. There was discussion regarding the path forward. Mr. Barry, GSI, and others expressed urgency and need to quickly receive a Notice to Proceed within the next few days. Mr. Barry advised that further delays could result in a reduction of review time and would put a burden on consultant and agency staff to complete the report on time, as consultants are already one month behind according to their originally proposed schedule. Further discussion followed.

VII. Next "Special" EMA GSA Meeting to consider GSP adoption Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

The EMA GSA Committee considered scheduling a Special Meeting, including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), for Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Discussion followed. The EMA GSA Committee unanimously agreed to scheduling this EMA GSA Special Meeting, including a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the EMA GSP, and approved of scheduling a hybrid style meeting with in-person at Santa Ynez CSD, Conference Room or by remote participation only, if needed, due to the continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

VIII. Next Regular EMA GSA Meeting, Thursday, February 24, 2022

Mr. Buelow announced that the next Regular Meeting of the EMA GSA Committee will be February 24, 2022.

IX. EMA GSA Committee requests and comments

EMA GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee commented that he received the SYRVGB SGMA Newsletter No. 6 with his personal water bill from ID No. 1 announcing the January Public Hearings scheduled for GSP Adoption. Mr. Buelow confirmed that Newsletter No. 6 was created by SYRWCD staff on behalf of the three GSAs, mailed out by member agencies and e-blasted to all Interested Parties through the Communication and Engagement portal.

EMA GSA Committee Member Joan Hartman asked if there will be a press release about the GSP adoption after the expected adoption during the January 6, 2022 meeting.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, GSA Committee Member Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary