



PROPOSAL

Scope and Cost for Review of New and Replacement Well Applications in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA)

To: Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
From: Tim Nicely and Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Date: June 21, 2022

This brief scope and estimated budget is for GSI to review, on behalf of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA), applications requesting a permit from the County of Santa Barbara Department of Environmental Health Services (EHS) for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well within the EMA. The GSA is required by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 and the County Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance dated May 24, 2022 to determine whether a written verification can be provided by 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 (GSP) adopted by the EMA GSA, and
2. would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such GSP.

Details of our proposed scope of work for the review of permit applications for proposed wells is presented as follows.

Scope of Work

The scope of work for reviewing proposed well applications includes providing a verification on behalf of the GSA that constitutes the required review that the proposed well is not inconsistent with the GSP in response to the requirements of Section 9(a) of Executive Order N-7-22. The scope of work includes the following activities:

- Examine the proposed well construction information and assess whether the well is located within the EMA.
- Determine whether the geologic setting and aquifer that the well would be completed in would be within a Principal Aquifer that is managed by the GSA (in this case 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 in the entire EMA and within the vicinity of the proposed well site.

- Evaluate whether the well would increase production within the EMA. Based on this, it will be determined whether the proposed well would likely cause an exceedance of minimum thresholds and cause undesirable results measured at representative wells as defined in the EMA GSP for:
 - Chronic water level decline
 - Reduction of groundwater in storage
 - Degradation of water quality
 - Subsidence
 - Depletion of interconnected surface water and impacts to GDEs
- For replacement wells (as defined by the County Urgency Ordinance), 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 will 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
 - 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 new 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
- Prepare a technical memorandum to the GSA that documents the information that was reviewed, presents an evaluation of whether a written verification is warranted under Section 9(a) of Executive Order N-7-22, and provides a list of conditions, if warranted.

Budget Estimate

The estimated cost to complete the scope of work described in this memorandum is \$1,200 per proposed well 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 GSA will be notified, and if approved by the GSA the work will be conducted on a time and materials basis at the hourly rate shown above.

No Representations, Warranties, Guarantees, or Liability

GSI does not represent, warrant or guarantee that any proposed or permitted well will produce the expected amount of water, nor does GSI represent, warrant or guarantee that the EMA GSA will or will not require that the extraction from any proposed or permitted well be reduced in the future in accordance with the GSA’s authority to sustainably manage the EMA in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the EMA GSP.

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 but not limited to well drilling costs,

pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

The EMA GSA's issuance of a written verification and the County's issuance of a well permit does not authorize, warrant or guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of groundwater now or in the future, and does not represent, warrant or guarantee any water level or water quality in the EMA or the basin.

GSI is not responsible for any liability stemming from its evaluations, findings, or any other tasks arising out of this scope of work, nor is GSI responsible for any liability arising out of or related to the County issuing or not issuing any well permit for any reason.