

**CENTRAL MANAGMENT AREA
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 18, 2021

TO: CMA GSA Committee

FROM: CMA Citizen Advisory Group
(representative Jeff Newton)

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum

Attendees

CMA CAG Members in attendance: Sean Diggins, Jeff Newton, Sharyne Merritt, Cindy Douglas

Consultants and Staff in attendance: Bill Buelow (SYRWCD), Curtis Lawler and Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), and Matt Young (County of Santa Barbara)

Purpose

The CMA GSA Committee requested staff for the GSA agencies to coordinate meetings of the CMA CAG. Through a coordinated effort, the CAG held a meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was held on March 18, 2021. The purpose of the meetings was for the CMA CAG (CAG) to review the Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum. The Memorandum was prepared by the Stetson Engineer's team. A copy of the documents was made available to the CAG prior to the meeting at www.SantaYnezWater.org.

CAG Comments on the Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum:

- Some CAG members suggested that the groundwater levels and storage data appear to indicate that CMA aquifers are in good condition. The consultants generally concurred that the basin appears to be in balance at this time.
- CAG members expressed confusion around whether or not the Upper Aquifer is the river flow only. It is also not clear as to whether there is an interaction between the Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer (Buellton Uplands). Perhaps a document edit can clarify these questions. The consultants suggested that there is little interaction between the river alluvium and the Buellton Uplands.
- CAG members agree that additional well data in the Buellton Uplands would be useful.
- CAG members suggested potential GDE's should be screened before adopting the GSP. The consultants indicated screening will be wrapped up prior to finalizing the GSP.
- Some CAG members noted that land subsidence does not appear to be a problem in the CMA and questioned the need for additional study. The consultants indicated that some minimal level of confirmation is required by SGMA guidelines.
- Some CAG members questioned whether water quality is an issue in the CMA. The consultants indicated that water quality is a broad subject including both domestic and agricultural aspects. They indicated that the CMA data doesn't suggest a deterioration of water quality, but that monitoring is on-going.
- The Santa Ynez Water Group has expressed a concern about the future costs of the GSP implementation and recommended steps to reduce those costs. For instance, the three GSA's could adopt a single GSP for the basin.