

# MEETING MINUTES

Amended 10/28/2019

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, 28 January 2019, at the Buellton City Hall Planning Dept. Conference Room, 107 West Highway 246, Buellton, California

**Committee Present:**

Ed Andrisek                      Art Hibbits

**Alternates Present:**

Cynthia Allen                      Rose Hess

**Staff Present:**

Bill Buelow                      Amber Thompson              Matt Young

**Others Present:**

Meighan Diethofer      Cindy Douglas              Len Fleckenstein              Paeter Garcia  
Sharon Merritt              Mark Preston

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Andrisek called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Andrisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Introductions and Review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin**

Mr. Buelow invited all in attendance to introduce themselves. Matt Young announced that Meighan Diethofer is expected to be appointed by the County to be Joan Hartmann's Alternate for the CMA, a seat held by Elizabeth Farnum prior to her retirement.

Mr. Buelow reviewed history of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements and what has been completed so far in the Santa Ynez River Basin including the creation of the three GSAs in the Basin (EMA, CMA, WMA) and the DWR Prop. 1 Grant (Grant) funding.

Mr. Buelow requested public comments or questions from the audience. Ms. Douglas asked if USGS is required to submit information in SGMA plan. Discussion followed regarding USGS as a resource for data collection and applicable use in SGMA.

**IV. Additions, if any, to the Agenda**

No additions were made.

**V. Public Comment**

Mr. Preston pointed out the staggering amount of information available on the USGS website and provided tracking data specifically pointing out the large quantity of sites tracked in Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Andrisek presented a flyer from State Water Contractors regarding Santa Barbara County State Water Project for copies to be forwarded to all CMA GSA Committee members.

**VI. Review and Approve Minutes**

Mr. Andrisek submitted the minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2018 for Board approval.

Mr. Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the minutes. Mr. Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VII. Staff update on Consultant for GSP activities in the Central Management Area**

Mr. Buelow advised that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), on behalf of the CMA GSA, awarded a contract for professional services to the Stetson Engineers team to prepare a GSP and conduct related GSP activities for the CMA, as per Committee recommendation and motion of October 22, 2018. Mr. Buelow explained the first projects for Stetson Engineers will be developing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and developing a Data Management Plan.

Mr. Buelow requested public comments or questions from the audience. Ms. Douglas asked about the study to be conducted by Stetson Engineers and discussion followed regarding Stetson Engineers work in the Basin and the Hydrogeologic study.

**VIII. Staff report on CMA Finances**

Mr. Buelow reviewed voting and cost share specified in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the CMA. He advised that a contribution request was sent to the City Buellton and SYRWCD. The current request will cover GSP development activities through end of the current fiscal year and includes funds for contracted administrative support and consultants to create a Data Management Plan and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This first funding contribution request totaled \$260,000, of which \$130,000 was contributed from City of Buellton and \$130,000 was contributed from SYRWCD. These contributions do not include any cost share reimbursements that may be received from the DWR Grant. A total of three additional contribution requests are expected through the submission of the GSP in January 2022.

Mr. Buelow advised that on behalf of the CMA, the SYRWCD hired the accounting firm of Bartlett, Pringle and Wolf, CPA (BPW) to help develop procedures to manage and track contributions, payments and reimbursements from/to the two agencies of the CMA GSA and DWR for the Grant. BPW recommended setting up a dedicated interest-free checking account to receive funds and pay invoices for GSP work on behalf of the CMA.

Mr. Buelow reported that DWR approved SYRWCD's request to receive reimbursements with concurrent drawdown of the cost match, rather than paying the entire cost-match up-front and before receiving reimbursements. The concurrent draw-down method is expected to help cash flow for the two agencies involved.

Mr. Buelow requested public comments or questions from the audience. Ms. Douglas asked if gravel area of Santa Ynez River is considered groundwater and subject to SGMA. Mr. Buelow responded that the water located in the river gravel is considered underflow of the Santa Ynez River and is classified as surface water. However, SGMA protects surface water from groundwater pumping. Therefore, the models used in the GSP will evaluate connectivity to surface water.

**IX. Update on draft Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement between three GSAs**

Mr. Buelow explained the purpose of an Intra-Basin Administrative Agreement (between the three GSAs). He noted that representatives for all three GSAs had informally agreed to a one-third split of the Grant funds. The Administrative Agreement would formalize the split for use of funds. He advised that staff is working on a draft now for circulation with Attorneys.

**X. Staff report on establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) for the Central Management Area**

Mr. Buelow advised that one GSA requested creation of a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG). Mr. Buelow read a January 2019 Staff Memo recommending development of a CAG for the CMA and seeking direction of the Committee.

The Committee considered and discussed developing a CAG for the CMA. Mr. Hibbits recommended five to seven seats for the CAG. Mr. Andrisek agreed seven seats is a good working group size. Mr. Buelow advised that the other two GSAs in the Basin are also developing CAGs. Mr. Buelow advised that a diversity of interests is important with the CAG. Suggestions to identify possible members of CAG includes developing an application process to find applicants willing to participate in the process. The committee discussed advertising through Chamber of Commerce, Buellton Buzz Newsletter, Noozhawk, Santa Ynez Valley News.

Mr. Andrisek suggested to hold town hall style meeting to introduce the idea of the CAG to community, expectations of members and review application. Mr. Young advised the neighboring basins (Cuyama and San Antonio) have CAG meetings that are public and noticed according to the Brown Act. Those CAG are run by agency

staff. Form 700s are not required for CAG members since they will not be a decision-making body. Mr. Hibbits advised that staff give clear direction to CAG members on what information to review or gather input from public.

Mr. Hibbits made a MOTION to establish a Citizen Advisory Group and directed staff to develop draft written guidelines for the CAG process as described in the January 2019 Staff Memo and present to the CMA GSA Committee at the next regular meeting. Mr. Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**XI. Next regular meeting Date and Time**

The next regular meeting date will be Monday, April 22, 2019, 10:00 am at the Buellton City Hall Planning Department Conference Room, Buellton, California.

**XII. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

Mr. Fleckenstein thanked the Committee for allowing the informal public involvement and requested meeting minutes be posted online. Mr. Young advised that approved minutes, not drafts, are currently posted on the County's website. He also asked if the SGMA plan schedule be posted online. Mr. Young advised that will be part of the stakeholder holder engagement plan being developed by Stetson Engineers. Mr. Buelow advised that SGMA information is located on both the Santa Barbara County website as well as the SYRWCD website.

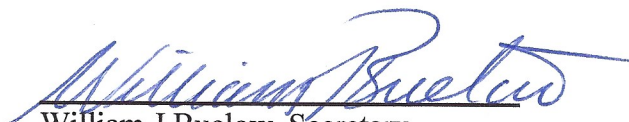
Mr. Hibbits suggested a physical mailing regarding the CAGs for all GSAs, including a map of GSA areas, be mailed to all mailing addresses in the SYRWCD Groundwater Production Reporting program in addition to the current emails being sent to the Interested Parties Lists.

Mr. Andrisek thanked all for attending and participating.

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Andrisek adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
William J Buelow, Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Art Hibbits, Vice Chairman