

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors August 28, 2024

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

Directors Present: Chris Brooks, Mike Garner (Acting Alternate), Steve Jordan,
and Kristin Worthley (Acting Alternate)

Non-Voting Directors Present (Teleconference): Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

Alternate Directors Present: Robert Dunlap and Ron Stassi

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Bill Buelow, Hans Holtz, Carol Redhead, Justin Rughe,
Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, Amber Thompson, and Tom Witt

Others Present (Teleconference): Ken Domako, John Fio (EKI), Paeter Garcia, Curtis Lawler
(Stetson Engineers), Kadie McShirley, Steve Torigiani, Susan Xie (EKI), and Matt Young

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Vice Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Ms. Thompson called roll. Two Directors and two Acting Alternate Directors were present in person providing a quorum. One non-voting Acting Alternate Director participated by teleconference.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by WMA GSA Vice Chair Brooks.

3. Public Comment

Ms. Carol Redhead provided a statement regarding her candidacy for Division 3 Director of Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.

4. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 24, 2024

The minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of July 24, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of July 24, 2024, as presented. Acting Alternate Director Worthley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Review and Consider Approval of Quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List with Invoices

Mr. Buelow presented the quarterly financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 10 through 12 (through June 30, 2024) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2024 for WMA GSA Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2024 (Check Nos. 1034-1043) totaling \$30,518.59, as presented. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Receive Update from the Well Verification Policy Ad-Hoc Committee

Director Brooks provided an update from the Well Verification Policy Ad-Hoc Committee. Discussion followed. Acting Alternate Director Meighan Diethofer suggested contacting the Santa Barbara County Ag Advisory Committee as a method for stakeholder outreach. Public comment was received.

7. Receive updates and consider taking action on the following:

a. Sub-grant Agreement with SYRWCD

Mr. Buelow presented on the Subgrant Agreement between Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”) and the GSA (“Agreement”). Legal Counsel St. Lawrence reported that he reviewed changes that were made to the Agreement and was ok with changes except that for the language requiring the WMA to indemnify the other GSA’s. Legal counsel reported that the agreement is between SYRWCD and the GSA for the purpose of facilitating grant implementation and allowing reimbursement to the WMA GSA. As written, the agreement would be effective even if the CMA or EMA fail to enter into a similar agreement. Mr. St. Lawrence recommended removal of the noted indemnification of other GSAs language. Discussion followed. Mr. Torigiani, Legal Counsel for SYRWCD, provided additional information.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the WMA GSA execution of the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of Grant Agreement Number 4600015265 Between the State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, with amendment to Section 11 Indemnification as proposed by legal counsel. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Additional discussion followed.

b. Amend EKI Scope of Work and consider approval of new Grant Implementation Projects specific for WMA GSA

Mr. Buelow reported on the current approved EKI Scope of Work for certain Grant Component work on behalf of the entire basin and GSP Implementation tasks for Components 6, 7, & 8 for the WMA GSA under the WMA GSA contract with EKI. He explained the need for approval of a Scope of Work for GSP Implementation tasks for Components 2 and 5 work for the WMA GSA. EKI provided an amended Scope of Work to add those tasks. Discussion followed.

Acting Alternate Director Garner made a MOTION to approve the amended EKI Scope of Work adding GSP Implementation tasks for Components 2 and 5 for the WMA GSA. Director Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Public comment was received.

c. Review and consider approval of contract for services with Stetson Engineers

Mr. Buelow reported that at the last WMA GSA meeting the Board directed staff to develop a contract for work with Stetson Engineers. Legal Counsel St. Lawrence explained the purpose of this contract between Stetson Engineers and the WMA GSA. Discussion followed.

Acting Alternate Director Worthley made a MOTION to approve the contract with Stetson Engineers for engineering services for the WMA GSA. Public comment was received. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Basin-wide Joint-GSAs Meeting Friday, September 6, 2024, 10 a.m., at Buellton City Council Chambers

Mr. Buelow announced that a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 6, 2024, 10 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, as was requested by the WMA GSA Board. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

9. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 10 a.m., at VVCSD

Vice Chair Brooks announced the next scheduled WMA GSA Board Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

10. WMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items

Director Jordan requested status update on the Rate Study.

Director Brooks asked if there is a grant to fund installation of wells for farmers to add to the monitoring network for seawater intrusion.

Acting Alternate Director Worthley reported on a meeting with USGS about monitoring and the need for better access to the north side of Santa Ynez River at Robinson Bridge due to safety concerns.

11. Adjournment

Vice Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.



Jeremy Ball, Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary