

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 10, 2022

A special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via video/teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution WMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed 5/25/2022).

WMA GSA Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, and Steve Jordan

WMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Ron Stassi, Kristin Worthley

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Brad Hagemann, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present: Doug Circle, Ken Domako (VSFB), John Fio (EKI), Paeter Garcia, BH, Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Dmunk, and Dianna

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met with four Directors in attendance. Two Alternate Directors were also present.

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

Mr. Buelow reported of increased COVID infection rates in the County. State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on May 25, 2022, authorize teleconference public meetings in such situations. There was no discussion.

GSA Director Myron Heavin made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he did not receive any public comments in advance of the meeting.

V. Receive, and Discuss and Consider Approval of Draft Documents for providing WMA GSA verification of new well permits under Executive Order Number 7-22

Mr. Buelow introduced four draft documents created to provide WMA GSA written verification for new well permits as required by Executive Order Number 7-22 and scope of work proposal received from GSI Water Solutions. He explained that for consistency through the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, the WMA GSA draft documents were created by using the documents originally created by EMA GSA member agencies staff and attorney group as an EMA GSA response to Executive Order Number 7-22. The WMA GSA member agency staff and legal counsels have reviewed and provided comments on the WMA GSA draft documents. The draft documents also already incorporate changes due to comments received from the Santa Ynez Water Group on the EMA GSA version of these documents to align the process in all three management areas of the basin.

GSA Director Chris Brooks opened floor for questions and comments. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

a. Draft WMA Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per EO N-7-22

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft WMA "Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications per Executive Order N-7-22". He emphasized that the WMA GSA is not approving or denying well permits. It is only administering requests for written verification per Executive Order N-7-22 and that the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS) is still the agency responsible for processing well applications and issuing permits for Santa Barbara County. There was no discussion. No public comments were received.

b. Draft Written Verification Indemnification Agreement

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft Written Verification Indemnification Agreement and has been reviewed by legal counsels for the WMA GSA member agencies. GSA Director Jeremy Ball asked for clarification on item 1c of the draft Written Verification Indemnification Agreement. Mr. Buelow or Ms. Worthley will request clarification from legal counsel for Director Ball. There was no further discussion. No public comments were received.

Director Myron Heavin, representing the Mission Hills CSD, left the meeting.

c. Draft Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement. Initial deposit proposed was \$1,200 total for 6 hours at \$200 per hour blended rate. He reported that prior to the WMA GSA setting a fee, a Proposition 26

compliant formal fee hearing is required. Discussion followed. No public comments were received.

d. Draft Well Permit Acknowledgement Form

There was no discussion. No public comments were received.

Mr. Buelow recommended the WMA CAG review the draft documents and requested direction from the WMA GSA Committee. There was no discussion and no public comments were received.

GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to move forward with the draft documents, as presented, to be considered for approval and proceed to plan a fee adoption hearing to be held on August 31, 2022 with the initial deposit fee not to exceed \$1,200 or \$200 per hour. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion, and it passed by roll call vote 3-0-1, with representatives from Mission Hills CSD being absent.

e. GSI Scope of Work - Proposal

Mr. Tim Nicely reviewed and explained the Scope of Work proposal, dated August 9, 2022, from GSI Water Solutions. Mr. Buelow added that GSI Water Solutions provided a similar proposal for the EMA and CMA GSAs, is familiar with the WMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) as they worked closely with Stetson Engineers on the coordination efforts for the CMA, EMA, and WMA GSPs, and is developing a team to process well verifications with a limited budget and scope of work. Discussion followed. No public comments were received.

VI. Update on Publication of Notice Under Government Code Section 6066 and Water Code Section 10730 of Intent to Adopt Fee for Compliance with EO N-7-22

Mr. Buelow presented a draft legal notice and reported that the required legal notices announcing the August 31, 2022 WMA GSA Committee meeting for the WMA GSA Committee to consider imposing a fee can be published in two editions of the Santa Barbara News Press, in compliance with Proposition 26, at a cost of approximately \$100. Discussion followed. No public comments were received.

GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to set policy to authorize staff to proceed and spend up to \$1,000 on any items and receive approval of expenditures on the Warrant Lists when submitted to the GSA. Consensus agreement received from the three directors, with representatives from Mission Hills CSD being absent.

VII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, August 24, 2022, CANCELLED

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular WMA GSA meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022 is cancelled due to scheduling conflicts and the need for additional time to notice a public hearing to set a fee as required by Proposition 26.

VIII. Next Special WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Buelow announced the next WMA GSA meeting will be a special meeting, including a hearing on setting a fee, on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., most likely via Zoom. The details will be determined closer to the meeting date based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Buelow explained the possible need for monthly regular meetings and asked if Directors would like a monthly schedule of meeting for the rest of 2022. Consensus received to provide a schedule of monthly regular meetings for consideration at the next meeting.

IX. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

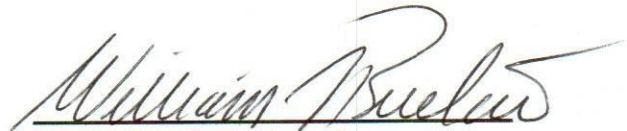
GSA Director Steve Jordan asked that preliminary organization of the GSA beyond this WMA GSA committee be on the agenda to be discussed at the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

GSA Chair Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary