

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 22, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 10:00 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 11/16/2022).

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

WMA GSA Directors Absent: Director and Alternate representing Mission Hills CSD

WMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Art Hibbits, Ron Stassi, and Kristin Worthley

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

Others Present: Doug Circle, Ken Domako (VSFB), John Fio (EKI), Steven Heuring, Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), and Katherine Stewart

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. A quorum was met with three Directors in attendance. Three GSA Alternate Directors were also present. The Director and Alternate representing the Mission Hills Community Services District (CSD) were absent.

GSA Director Jeremy Ball advised the Committee that he will need to leave the meeting at 11:00 a.m. but that the City of Lompoc Alternate Director, Kristin Worthley, is in attendance and can assume the Acting Alternate role at that time.

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

The reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution WMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on November 16, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution WMA-2021-001. GSA Director Steve Jordan

seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from the Mission Hills CSD being absent.

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 Briefing on revision to the teleconferencing “Rules of the Brown Act” by AB 2449

Mr. Buelow provided information on the AB2449 revisions to the teleconferencing rules of the Brown Act. He recommended GSA Directors contact their agency legal counsel with any questions. He reported that the staff recommendation is to return to in person only meetings beginning with the March 22, 2023 GSA meeting.

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks suggested Vandenberg Village CSD Conference Room for in person WMA GSA meetings. There was no discussion or public comment.

VI. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of November 16, 2022

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meeting on November 16, 2022 were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 16, 2022, as presented. GSA Director Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from the Mission Hills CSD being absent.

VII. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2022-23 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2022) and the Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2022. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2022 (Check Nos. 2009 and 1000-1001) totaling \$17,373.45, as presented. GSA Director Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from the Mission Hills CSD being absent.

VIII. Review and Summary of Request(s) for WMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 and other well permits processed by County EHS in the WMA

Mr. Buelow reported that the WMA GSA received two requests for written verifications under Executive Order N-7-22.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan announced he is a partial owner of Jordan-Cramer Ranch and recused himself from this matter and left the meeting. GSA Alternate Director Art Hibbits assumed the role of GSA Acting Alternate Director.

Mr. Buelow presented the WMA GSA Summary of Well Verifications and Other Wells, briefly reviewed rules set by Paragraph 9 of the Executive Order, and presented the Draft Reviews of each well application which were prepared by GSI Water Solutions for the following well permit applications.

a. Jordan-Cramer Ranch - APN 093-020-012

Mr. Buelow presented the Draft Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 093-020-012 (Well Permit (WP) 0005360) Jordan-Cramer Ranch, dated February 17, 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

WMA GSA Acting Alternate Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION for the WMA GSA to acknowledge receipt of the request to provide a written verification to Jordan-Cramer Ranch and to provide the written verification under Executive Order N-7-22. GSA Chair Chris Brooks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and no public comment. The motion passed 3-0-1 by roll call vote, with both Director and Alternate from the Mission Hills CSD being absent.

b. Launchpad Lands, LLC - APN 093-070-058

Mr. Buelow presented the Draft Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 093-070-058 (WP 0005467) Launchpad Lands, LLC, dated February 17, 2023.

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan rejoined the meeting and reassumed the role of GSA Director. GSA Alternate Director Art Hibbits remained in the meeting as the non-acting alternate.

Mr. Buelow reported that no committee vote is required to issue a well verification for this replacement well as the WMA GSA Committee had previously authorized staff to issue well verifications for replacement wells if recommended by GSI Water Solutions.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment. As suggested in GSI Water Solutions' review, the Directors, by consensus, requested staff to clarify past water production of the existing well. They also asked staff to clarify the intended use for the water produced plus add production parameters to the written verification letter before issuing the letter. Mr. Buelow received the request and answered that he will provide a revised report to Committee at the March meeting.

IX. Receive Presentation by Curtis Lawler of Stetson Engineering “Airborne Electro-Magnetic (AEM) Survey for the Western Management Area and Central Management Area – WY 2022 Studies Summary”

Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers, presented information on the Airborne ElectroMagnetic (AEM) Survey for Western Management Area and Central Management

Area and Water Year 2022 Studies Summary. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

X. Receive Presentation by Santa Barbara County Water Agency, “Western Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent October 2022 Measurements”

Ms. Marliez Diaz, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, presented information on the Western Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent October 2022 Measurements. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

XI. Receive Update on WMA Second Annual Report

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball left the meeting. GSA Alternate Director Kristin Worthley assumed the role of Acting Alternate Director.

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the WMA Second Annual Report. He informed the GSA Committee that staff is planning for a presentation of the Report during the March 22, 2023 public meeting. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

XII. Next WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. – location TBD

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks announced the next WMA GSA meeting will be Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., in person at a location to be determined, possibly Vandenberg Village CSD Conference Room.

XIII. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan expressed concern that future governance plans are not yet completed. He emphasized his preference would be for one Basin-wide JPA but realizes issues may exist preventing that as a viable option.

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks agreed future governance should be determined. He emphasized his preference would be to transition the current terms of the WMA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), as written, into a JPA for the WMA.

XIV. Adjournment

GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Chris Brooks, Chairman

William J. Buelow, Secretary

Area and Water Year 2022 Studies Summary. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

X. Receive Presentation by Santa Barbara County Water Agency, “Western Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent October 2022 Measurements”

Ms. Marliez Diaz, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, presented information on the Western Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and Recent October 2022 Measurements. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

XI. Receive Update on WMA Second Annual Report

WMA GSA Director Jeremy Ball left the meeting. GSA Alternate Director Kristin Worthley assumed the role of Acting Alternate Director.

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the WMA Second Annual Report. He informed the GSA Committee that staff is planning for a presentation of the Report during the March 22, 2023 public meeting. There was no discussion, no action, and no public comment.

XII. Next WMA GSA Meeting, Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. – location TBD

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks announced the next WMA GSA meeting will be Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., in person at a location to be determined, possibly Vandenberg Village CSD Conference Room.

XIII. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items

WMA GSA Director Steve Jordan expressed concern that future governance plans are not yet completed. He emphasized his preference would be for one Basin-wide JPA but realizes issues may exist preventing that as a viable option.

WMA GSA Chair Chris Brooks agreed future governance should be determined. He emphasized his preference would be to transition the current terms of the WMA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), as written, into a JPA for the WMA.

XIV. Adjournment

GSA Director Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THE
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)
IN THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

OCTOBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2009	10/13/22	Stetson Engineers	August 2022 Engineering Service (AEM Survey Work)	\$ 16,071.25
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 16,071.25

NOVEMBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
NONE				
MONTH TOTAL				\$ -

DECEMBER 2022 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1000	12/14/22	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Reimburse costs for October 2022 Stetson Engineers SGMA Planning Program including WMA PMA online site for WMA staff and 40 postage stamps paid by SYRWCD	\$ 1,002.20
1001	12/14/22	Valley Bookkeeping	2022 3rd Quarter Bookkeeping (July, August, September 2022)	\$ 300.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 1,302.20

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 17,373.45