

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin October 21, 2020

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, 21 October 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings, and requiring social distancing, this meeting occurred solely via teleconference as authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20.

GSA Committee Directors Present: Chris Brooks, Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting as Alternate), Steve Jordan, Jim Mosby

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Art Hibbits, Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh, Kristin Worthley, Matt Young

Others Present: Bryan Bondy, Kari Campbell-Bohard, Zoe Carlson (Dudek), Doug Circle, Maygan Cline (GeoSyntec), Sean Diggins, Ken Domako, John Fio (EKI), Karen Kistler, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), Tim Nicely (GSI), Anita Regmi (DWR), Scott Williams, Charles Witt and 4 members of the public

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Directors and one Acting Alternate were present providing a quorum.

### II. Introductions and Review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin

Mr. Buelow asked staff from all member agencies, consultants, WMA GSA CAG members and members of the public to announce their presence as phone attendees.

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 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Basin (EMA, CMA, WMA), securing Department of Water Resources (DWR) Prop. 1 Grant (Grant) funding, hiring Consultants, coordinating efforts between the eight agencies participating in the three GSAs, and establishing a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) in each of the Management Areas of the Basin.

### III. Additions or Deletions, if any, to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment. Mr. Bill Buelow announced that no public comment was received prior to the meeting.

#### **V. Receive and Discuss Received Correspondence from Santa Ynez Water Group**

Correspondence dated September 16, 2020 received from the Santa Ynez Water Group was introduced and discussed.

#### **VI. Workshop on WMA Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model**

Ms. Cline (Geosytec Consultants), Zoe Carlson (Dudek), Curtis Lawler, (Stetson Engineers) and Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers) presented the October 2020 HCM Stakeholder Workshop. They provided a general overview and update on the WMA Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM) and requested detailed comments and questions be made via the portal at **SantaYnezWater.org**. The presentation provided a review of Sections 1-6 of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, Draft Technical Memorandum, upcoming meetings, and SkyTEM Aerial ElectroMagnetic Survey including draft flight plan map.

There was public comment, GSA Committee Member, consultant, and staff discussion following each section of the presentation.

- Committee Director Brooks asked about the nature of water flow at the Narrows mentioned in Section 3. Mr. Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers) clarified aquifer differences between Above and Below Narrows areas.
- Committee Member Jordan asked about riparian versus groundwater aquifer lines in Section 3. Consultants will address in the next section.
- Bryan Bondy stated that data gaps were mentioned numerous times and asked about which data gaps would affect the ability to sustainably manage the basin vs those that are just technical curiosity. Consultants will recap the Data Gaps at the end of the presentation.
- Committee Director Brooks asked why some creeks are not included in Section 4. Consultants explained that some creeks were left off the map if they are relatively small compared to others shown.
- Committee Director Brooks asked about constraints on groundwater for Burton Mesa and Lompoc Terrace areas. Consultants explained constraints are unknown because of a lack of studies.
- Bryan Bondy stated that the Santa Ynez Water Group (SYWG) will provide specific comments via the portal, but generally there would be a concern about identifying data gaps that do not significantly affect the ability to sustainably manage the basin because

the implication is that data gaps would need to be addressed during SGMA implementation at a significant cost to the groundwater users. For example, assuming the data gaps relative to perched aquifers - perched aquifers probably do not need to be managed under SGMA (i.e. not a "principal aquifer" under SGMA). SYWG recommends prioritizing data gaps and only including and addressing those that significantly affect sustainable management of the basin.

- Bryan Bondy asked when comments are due on HCM. Response: by December 21, 2020
- Committee Directors, by unanimous decision, directed staff to brief the WMA Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) on the Draft Technical Memorandum, receive CAG comments and open document for minimum 60-day public review and comment period.

**VII. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 10:00 AM, location TBD**

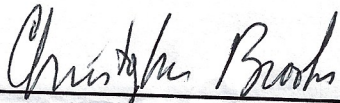
Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 10:00 AM, location TBD. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it may be held via teleconference call.

**VIII. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments**

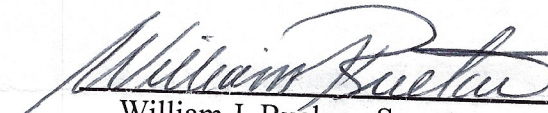
Mr. Buelow announced the SkyTEM AEM Survey of EMA, CMA and WMA is expected to take place for about one week during the middle to end of November 2020. Results of the survey will be added to the HCM.

**IX. Adjournment**

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.



Chris Brooks, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary