

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 24, 2021

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, 24 February 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders to protect public health by issuing shelter-in-home standards, 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: Directors Chris Brooks, Myron Heavin, and Steve Jordan, Ms. Kristin Worthley (Acting as Alternate)

Alternate GSA Committee Director Present: Directors Art Hibbits, and Katherine Stewart

Staff Present: Mr. Joe Barget, Mr. Bill Buelow, Ms. Amber Thompson, Mr. Kevin Walsh, Mr. Matt Young.

Others Present: Mr. Bryan Bondy, Mr. Doug Circle, Mr. Ken Domako (VAFB), Mr. John Fio (EKI), Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Ms. Jean Moran (Stetson Engineers), Mr. Steve Slack (CDFW), and 1 member of the public whose name was not registered.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

GSA Committee Director Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., welcomed all in attendance and asked Mr. Bill 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 announced names of phone and video attendees.

There was no review of SGMA in Santa Ynez River Valley Basin.

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Review and Approve Minutes

GSA Committee Director Brooks submitted the minutes of the meetings of November 18, 2020 and January 27, 2021 for GSA Committee approval.

GSA Committee Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve both sets of the minutes as submitted. GSA Committee Director Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VI. Receive WMA GSA Financial Update and Consider approval of WMA Warrant List

Mr. Buelow presented the financial reports of FY 2020-21 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2020) and the warrant lists for October, November, and December 2020 for GSA Committee review. Discussion followed.

GSA Committee Director Jordan made a MOTION to approve the October, November, and December 2020 warrant lists as presented (Nos. 1020-1024 plus two wire transfers) totaling \$240,684.24 and financial reports as submitted. GSA Committee Director Heavin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

VII. Receive update on Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of CMA

Mr. Bill Buelow provided update on the Aerial Electro-Magnetic Survey of the CMA conducted by SkyTEM. He reported that flights were successful, the survey has been completed and the raw data has been delivered to Ramboll for processing and interpretation. Ramboll will work with the Stetson team to integrate the final data into the existing hydrogeologic conceptual model. No discussion followed.

VIII. Receive Presentation from Stetson Team on Groundwater Conditions Public Comment Demonstration, Water Budget, and Numerical Groundwater Model Updates

Ms. Amber Thompson (SYRWCD) presented a live demonstration on providing Public Comments to open GSP documents via SantaYnezWater.org.

Mr. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers) and Ms. Jean Moran (Stetson Engineers) presented a discussion on the Draft water budget, sustainable yield, safe yield, overdraft and provided an update on the numerical groundwater model. Discussion followed.

- Alternate GSA Committee Director Steward asked if “WY” for 1982 and 2018 meant it was a significant wet year. Mr. Lawler explained “WY” stands for water year which goes from October 1 through September 30 and noted that should be made clearer in the document and presentation.
- GSA Committee Director Jordan expressed concern with accuracy of reported water use amounts, source of data, how much of the water use data in the model is from actual metering versus estimated usage and asked what level of confidence consultants have in the numbers reported. Mr. Lawler confirmed the data used in model was from the

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and was self-reported pumping. The consultants indicated they have high confidence in accuracy of the data as they were verified by aerial land-use photos. Mr. Lawler added that a few water producers in the WMA provide metered consumption data.

- GSA Committee Director Heavin asked for clarification about upland recharge. Mr. Lawler confirmed that the Lompoc and Santa Rita Uplands of WMA is recharged by precipitation and not recharged by the Santa Ynez River.
- Mr. Bryan Bondy asked why agriculture is not listed in the Lompoc Groundwater management plan of 2013. Mr. Lawler stated he does not know why agriculture is not listed but clarified that going forward with SGMA, all users will be considered.
- GSA Committee Director Heavin asked if wastewater returned to the ground by both Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCS D) and Lompoc Regional Wastewater Plant (LRWP) is accounted for in the groundwater model. Ms. Moran and Mr. Lawler confirmed that return flows from municipal wastewater is accounted for in the groundwater model noting that MHCS D provides recharge to aquifer while LRWP releases into Miguelito Creek and ultimately flows to the Santa Ynez River. He added that return flows from both agriculture and the Lompoc Federal Penitentiary are also accounted for in the groundwater model.
- Mr. Buelow pointed out that in addition to the open public comment periods for each section, there will also be an open comment period after the entire GSP is complete before submission to DWR then again after it is submitted.
- Mr. Bondy asked if there will be a presentation to cover content of the groundwater conditions technical memo (GCTM). Mr. Lawler stated the content of the GCTM was presented to the WMA GSA Committee at the November 2020 public meeting, feedback received, document revised, and revisions presented at the January 2021 public meeting. Mr. Buelow added the WMA CAG will soon have a public meeting to review the GCTM content in more detail and to look for that notice online and by email to interested parties.
- GSA Committee Director Jordan asked about accounting for water quality due to shale in the northwestern Lompoc Plain and leakage of connate brine water into the watershed and asked if USGS wells are being looked at in SGMA GSP process. Mr. Lawler confirmed shale is within the upper aquifer. Mr. Buelow and Ms. Moran stated that improving water quality is not part of SGMA but the USGS wells and potential water degradation issue is noted in the event water quality does need to be addressed in future.

IX. Consider holding monthly “Special” WMA GSA Meetings through August 2021

Mr. Buelow presented a proposed monthly schedule of special and regular meetings for the WMA GSA Committee. Mr. Buelow suggested the special meetings consist mostly of technical content to address specific topics and be treated more like a workshop while regular meetings continue to conduct regular quarterly business of the WMA GSA. All

meetings would be held on a Wednesday at 10:00 am via online video or phone conference until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. There were no comments.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>
03/24/2021	Special
04/28/2021	Special
05/26/2021	Regular
06/23/2021	Special
07/28/2021	Special
08/25/2021	Regular

X. Next Regular WMA GSA Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM

Mr. Buelow announced that the next WMA GSA Committee meeting will be a Special meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 10:00 am and the next regular meeting is planned for May 26, 2021, 10:00 am, location of each meeting TBD. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, they may be held via video/teleconference call.

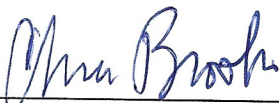
XI. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

Alternate GSA Committee Ms. Kristin Worthley expressed concern that the "Way Ahead" slide in presentations is constantly changing and does not refer to the original project plan timeline to show if project completion is on track.

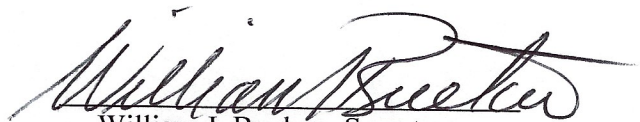
GSA Committee Director Brooks expressed concern regarding the Lompoc area homeless population trashing one of the groundwater percolations zones and the possible effects on the aquifer and Santa Ynez River watershed. He suggested the need for a team to research and develop a potential solution. Mr. Bondy recommended reaching out to the Watershed Protection District in Ventura County as they have been dealing with the same issues along Ventura River and Santa Clara River.

XIII. Adjournment

GSA Committee Director Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.



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 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
WIRE TRANSFER	10/13/20	SkyTEM Canada (thru SYRWCD)	AEM Survey of CMA/WMA (50% of Inv #1 of 3)	\$ 36,624.00
BANK FEE	10/13/20	Mechanics Bank (thru SYRWCD)	50% of International Wire Transfer Bank Fee (actually charged \$15/GSA. \$5 used toward Dec. fee)	\$ 20.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 36,644.00

NOVEMBER 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
		VOID	VOID	
1020	11/23/20	Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf Consulting	Grant Financial	\$ 22.50
1021	11/23/20	Stetson Engineers	August & September 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 124,730.89
1022	11/23/20	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	50% of costs for Legal Counsel & Public Notice regarding AEM Survey of CMA/WMA paid by SYRWCD	\$ 440.75
1023	11/23/20	Valley Bookkeeping	FY 2020-21 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (July, August, September 2020)	\$ 150.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 125,344.14

DECEMBER 2020 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
WIRE TRANSFER	12/02/20	SkyTEM Canada (thru SYRWCD)	AEM Survey of CMA/WMA (50% of Inv #2 of 3)	\$ 36,624.00
BANK FEE	12/02/20	Mechanics Bank (thru SYRWCD)	50% of International Wire Transfer Bank Fee (actually charged \$15/GSA. \$5 paid from Oct. fee)	\$ 10.00
1024	12/17/20	Stetson Engineers	October 2020 Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 42,062.10
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 78,696.10

TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 240,684.24