

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

HELD AT

CITY OF LOMPOC – WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONFERENCE ROOM
601 EAST NORTH AVENUE, LOMPOC, CA

AT 10:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Introductions and review of SGMA in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin
- IV. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
- V. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public item.)
- VI. Review and approve minutes of last meeting of April 24, 2019
- VII. Receive WMA GSA Financial update and approve WMA Warrant List
- VIII. Receive update and discuss Draft Inter-Basin Agreement between three GSAs
- IX. Receive update on GSP consultant coordination between three GSAs and consider requesting that SYRWCD use its existing contract to issue Stetson Task Orders to coordinate between three GSAs
- X. Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)
 - a. Receive Staff report on WMA CAG process and recommendation for WMA CAG
 - b. Consider WMA CAG member appointments
- XI. Consultant GSP activities
 - a. Receive Draft Outreach and Engagement Plan and consider directing staff to release for CAG and public review
 - b. Receive update on Draft Data Management Plan and consider directing staff to release for CAG and public review
- XII. Consider adoption of WMA logo for WMA documents and internet webpage
- XIII. Consideration and discussion of moving WMA GSA meetings to second week of second month of quarter starting in February 2020

- XIV. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 10:00 AM, at the City of Lompoc Water Treatment Plan, 601 E. North Ave, Lompoc, CA
- XV. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments
- XVI. Adjournment

[This notice and agenda was posted at the following locations at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting at 601 E. North Avenue, Lompoc, CA, 93436, 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, CA, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, CA, and 1550 Burton Mesa Blvd, Lompoc, CA and online at <https://www.SYRWCD.com> and <https://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/gsa.sbc> in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Meeting was held on Wednesday, 24 April 2019, 10:00 A.M. at the City of Lompoc Water Treatment Plant, 601 E. North Ave., Lompoc, California.

Committee Members Present:

Chris Brooks Steve Jordan Jim Mosby Brad Wilke

Committee Members Absent:

Bruce Nix

Staff Present:

Joe Barget Bill Buelow Eric Erland Shaun Ryan
Amber Thompson Kevin Walsh Matt Young

Others Present:

Maygan Cline (Geosyntec) Meighan Dietenhofer (County)
Curtis Lawler (Stetson via phone) Plus one member of the public

I. Call to Order

Mr. Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Buelow invited all in attendance to introduce themselves.

IV. Additions or Deletions, if any, to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Review and Approve Minutes

Mr. Brooks submitted the minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2019 for Board approval. Mr. Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes. Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Receive update on consultant for GSP activities in the Western Management Area

Mr. Buelow reported that a Kick-off meeting was held with the consultant team comprised of Stetson Engineers, Geosyntec and Dudek on February 28, 2019. The consultant team discussed the initiation of two tasks, including the preparation of both a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and a Data Management Plan. Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), is the Project Manager for these tasks and he reported on the status of the Tasks. Mr. Lawler explained that the Data Management System will be used to hold the compiled data used for the GSP preparation. Mr. Lawler and Ms. Cline then reported that preparation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, as well as the development of a Groundwater Communications Portal (GCP), had begun. As consultant for both the WMA and CMA GSP effort, the Stetson team is also coordinating with the EMA consultant (GSI Water Solutions) including a proposal to use the same communication portal as the EMA and WMA. Doing so would benefit the public, agency staff and stakeholders, as well as streamline the comment process for the GSP submittals for all three GSAs in the Basin. Mr. Buelow added it could possibly lead to cost savings. The Committee commented positively on the consultant report and the use of the same GCP for all three GSAs.

Mr. Brooks requested public comments or questions from the audience. No comments were made and there were no questions.

VIII. Receive update on the Draft Intra-Basin Area Administrative Agreement between three GSAs

Mr. Buelow reported that Agency Staff continue to work on a Draft Intra-Basin Area Administrative Agreement (Agreement) between the three GSAs in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin (Basin). The Agreement will formalize the informal agreements already made between the three GSAs regarding cost sharing, distribution of grant funds and coordinating to deliver the three GSPs. When the Draft Agreement is complete, it will be circulated to the various Agencies in each GSA for review by their respective Legal Counsel. Once that review is completed the Draft will be distributed to the three GSA Committees for review and approval in July 2019. After approval by the three GSA Committee, the Draft will go to the respective Board of each of the GSA Agencies for ratification.

Mr. Brooks requested public comments or questions from the audience. No comments were made and there were no questions.

IX. Consider approval of Draft Guidelines and Application for a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) for the Western Management Area

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) guidelines, purpose, roles and responsibilities, governance and application as was requested by the WMA GSA Committee at the January 23, 2019 meeting. The Committee considered and discussed the proposed guidelines and application. The Committee heard public comments and questions from the audience.

The Committee discussed an application deadline, the number of proposed CAG members, the diversity of membership, and other pertinent issues. Mr. Mosby volunteered to screen the applications with the help of Agency Staff.

Mr. Jordan made a MOTION to approve the application and guidelines with following amendments: a CAG member may be dismissed from the CAG if they have three consecutive unexcused absences; the CAG will have 7 members plus 2 alternates who will observe only; establish an Ad-Hoc Committee comprised of Mr. Jim Mosby, plus Agency Staff to screen CAG applications. Mr. Mosby seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. Next regular meeting Date and Time

The next regular meeting date will be Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 10:00 am at Lompoc Water Treatment Plant, 601 E. North Ave., Lompoc, California.

XI. WMA GSA Committee requests and comments

No requests were made.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J Buelow, Secretary

ATTEST:

Chris Brooks, Chairman

SYRWCD WMA
BALANCE SHEET
APRIL 30, 2019

Assets

Current Assets

Rabobank #8301

\$174,475.97

TOTAL Current Assets

174,475.97

TOTAL Assets

\$174,475.97

Liabilities AND Equity

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

14,362.95

TOTAL Current Liabilities

14,362.95

TOTAL Liabilities

14,362.95

Net Position

Retained Earnings

.00

Retained Earnings-Current Year

160,113.02

TOTAL Net Position

160,113.02

TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity

\$174,475.97

SYRWCD WMA
 INCOME STATEMENT
 FOR THE 10 PERIODS ENDED APRIL 30, 2019

	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	PERCENT
Revenue:		
Revenue		
Operating Assessments	\$174,500.00	100.0 %
TOTAL Revenue	174,500.00	100.0
TOTAL Revenue	174,500.00	100.0
Gross Profit	174,500.00	100.0
Expenses:		
Operating Expenses		
Office Expense (incl postage)	24.03	.0
TOTAL Operating Expenses	24.03	.0
Consultants		
Stakeholder Engagement	6,503.45	3.7
GSP Activities	7,859.50	4.5
TOTAL Consultants	14,362.95	8.2
TOTAL Expenses	14,386.98	8.2
Net Income from Operations	160,113.02	91.8
Earnings before Income Tax	160,113.02	91.8
Net Income (Loss)	\$160,113.02	91.8 %

SYRWCD WMA
BALANCE SHEET
MAY 31, 2019

Assets

Current Assets

Cash	\$.00
Rabobank #8301	160,113.02
Accounts Receivable	.00
Grant Receivable	.00
Prepaid Expenses	.00
Interest Receivable	.00
Other Current Assets	.00

TOTAL Current Assets	160,113.02
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Non Current Assets

Capital Assets	.00
Other Assets	.00

TOTAL Non Current Assets	.00
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TOTAL Assets	\$160,113.02
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Liabilities AND Equity

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	6,061.98
Accrued Expenses	.00

TOTAL Current Liabilities	6,061.98
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Non-current Liabilities

Other Liabilities	.00
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TOTAL Non-current Liabilities	.00
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TOTAL Liabilities	6,061.98
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Net Position

Retained Earnings	.00
Retained Earnings-Current Year	154,051.04

TOTAL Net Position	154,051.04
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TOTAL Liabilities AND Equity	\$160,113.02
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SYRWCD WMA
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE 11 PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2019

	PERIOD TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	PERCENT	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Revenue:				
Revenue				
Operating Assessments	\$.00	.0 %	174,500.00	100.0
Grant Revenue	.00	.0	.00	.0
Interest Income	.00	.0	.00	.0
Other Operating Revenue	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Revenue	.00	.0	174,500.00	100.0
Non Operating Revenue				
Misc Revenue	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Non Operating Revenue	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Revenue	.00	.0	174,500.00	100.0
Gross Profit	.00	.0	174,500.00	100.0
Expenses:				
Operating Expenses				
Program Expenses	.00	.0	.00	.0
General & Administrative	.00	.0	.00	.0
Audit	.00	.0	.00	.0
Office Expense (incl postage)	.00	.0	24.03	.0
Outside Staff Support	.00	.0	.00	.0
Public Relations	.00	.0	.00	.0
Contengencies	.00	.0	.00	.0
Depreciation	.00	.0	.00	.0
Legal Services	.00	.0	.00	.0
Other Operating Expenses	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Operating Expenses	.00	.0	24.03	.0
Consultants				
General Consultant	.00	.0	.00	.0
Stakeholder Engagement	1,801.98	.0	8,305.43	4.8
GSP Activities	4,260.00	.0	12,119.50	6.9
Basin Coordination	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Consultants	6,061.98	.0	20,424.93	11.7
Non Operating Expenses				
Misc Expense	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Non Operating Expenses	.00	.0	.00	.0
TOTAL Expenses	6,061.98	.0	20,448.96	11.7
Net Income from Operations	(6,061.98)	.0	154,051.04	88.3
Earnings before Income Tax	(6,061.98)	.0	154,051.04	88.3

SYRWCD WMA
 INCOME STATEMENT
 FOR THE 11 PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2019

	PERIOD TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	PERCENT	ACTUAL	PERCENT
Net Income (Loss)	\$(6,061.98)	.0 %	154,051.04	88.3

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA)**

APRIL 2019 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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

MAY 2019 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1001	05/22/19	Stetson Engineers	Feb. 2019 (\$2,307.50) and March 2019 (\$12,055.45) Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 14,362.95
TOTAL				\$ 14,362.95

JUNE 2019 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1002		Stetson Engineers	April 2019 (\$6,061.98) and May 2019 (\$6,725.32) Engineering Service (Task Order #1)	\$ 12,787.30
TOTAL				\$ 12,787.30

TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 27,150.25

SANTA YNEZ RIVER GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 719
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
Phone: (805) 693-1156

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2019

TO: WMA GSA Committee

FROM: WMA GSA CAG Selection Ad-Hoc
Committee

SUBJECT: WMA Citizen Advisory Group Selection

A meeting of the Western Management Area Citizen Advisory Group (WMA CAG) Selection Ad-Hoc committee met June 28, 2019 from 9 to 11 AM at the Lompoc Treatment Plant, in Lompoc, CA

In attendance was WMA GSA Committee Member Jim Mosby (City of Lompoc). Staff present from the member agencies of the WMA GSA included: Eric Erland (City of Lompoc), Mike Garner (Vandenberg Village CSD), and Bill Buelow and Kevin Walsh (Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the applications received for the WMA GSA Citizen Advisory Committee (CAG). A total of seven (7) applications were received by the June 21, 2019 deadline.

The WMA GSA CAG Guidelines dated May 20, 2019, were reviewed and discussed. The Ad-Hoc Committee also reviewed the California Department of Water Resources guidance on use and users of groundwater to consider the following:

- Holders of overlying groundwater including Agricultural Users, Domestic Well Users
- Municipal Well Operators
- Public Water Systems
- Local Land Use Planning Agencies
- Environmental Users of Groundwater
- Federal Government
- California Native American Tribes

- Disadvantaged Communities
- California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) reporters

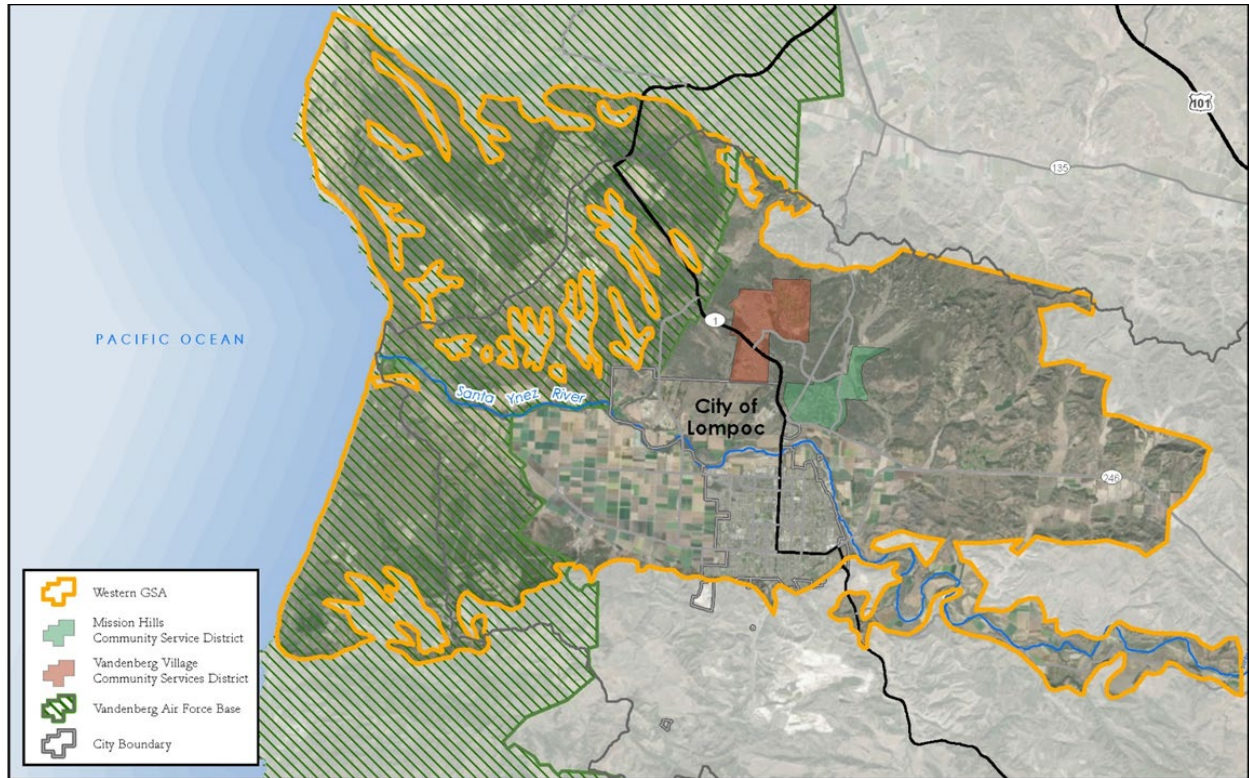
The Ad-Hoc Committee and Staff discussed each applicant in detail and reviewed each person’s application materials. Based on the CAG guidance, which requested a total of seven (7) CAG members with two (2) alternates, the Ad-Hoc committee with input from staff recommended the following applicants to the WMA CAG:

NAME	RELATION TO WMA
Mr. Mark Dubose	Business Owner, Well Operator
Ms. Karen Kistler	Resident, Representative Landowner, Domestic Well Producer, Farmer
Mr. John Linn	Resident
Ms. Madeline McDowell	Resident
Mr. Derek McLeish	Resident, Domestic Well Owner, Landowner, Ag Well Owner, Business Owner
Mr. Patrick Vowell	Commercial/Domestic Well Owner, producer, Business Owner
Mr. Scott Williams	Representative Landowner

The “Relation To WMA” was taken from each applicant’s application. There were not enough applicants to fill the two alternate positions. The recommended applicants were asked by Staff to attend the next WMA GSA meeting scheduled for July 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Lompoc Water Treatment Plan. The applicants who were not selected were thanked and informed by Staff via email.

DRAFT

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN



WMA

**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
Western Management Area
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

Prepared by



DUDEK

Geosyntec
consultants

JULY 2019

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DRAFT WMA GSA Public Outreach and Engagement Plan

GLOSSARY OF TERMS/ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
Aquifer	An underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, rock fractures or unconsolidated material (gravel, sand, or silt) that yields significant amounts of groundwater to wells or springs (DWR Bulletin 118).
CAG	Citizen Advisory Group
CMA	Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area (CMA)
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EMA	Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area (EMA)
Engagement	Efforts made to understand and involve stakeholders and their concerns in activities and decisions of the GSA
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
MHCSD	Mission Hills Community Services District
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014
Stakeholder	An individual or entity interested in or affected by the GSP
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SYRVB	Santa Ynez River Valley Basin
SYRWCD	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
VVCSD	Vandenberg Village Community Services District
WMA	Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Western Management Area (WMA)



DRAFT WMA GSA Public Outreach and Engagement Plan

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I BACKGROUND ON SGMA

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on September 16, 2014, created a new framework for groundwater management in California. The framework includes a structure and schedule to achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has historically managed the state's central repository for groundwater data. Under SGMA, DWR provides guidance, financial assistance, and technical support for compliance with state requirements. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provides the regulatory backstop under SGMA, taking over basin management and assessing fees if local groundwater management is not successful in complying with the requirements of SGMA.

SGMA established a new structure for local groundwater management through Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSAs). The formation of GSAs for all basins that the DWR designated as high and medium priority groundwater basins (basin(s)) was required by July 1, 2017. Each GSA for these high and medium priority basins must then develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that details how sustainable groundwater management will be achieved within 20 years of implementing the GSP. Sustainable groundwater management is defined by SGMA as *the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results*. This avoidance of undesirable results is measured through six sustainability indicators:

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon,
2. Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage,
3. Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion,
4. Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality,
5. Significant and unreasonable land subsidence, and
6. Depletion of interconnected surface water and groundwater that has significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.

The GSP is a tool used to help the GSA sustainably manage the basin. The criteria for sustainable management, including determining what is significant and unreasonable within the parameters of SGMA for the groundwater basin managed by that GSA, must be assessed, with input from stakeholders, before the GSP can be adopted.

I.1 SGMA Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is an important component of any successful long-term planning effort and is required by the SGMA (§ 10720 - § 10730) and GSP Regulations (§ 353 - § 354). Each GSA shall encourage and support active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin (§ 10727.8). The GSA must also allow for voluntary participation by Native American Tribes and the federal government (§ 10720.3). The GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory committee (§ 10727.8) and must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the basin (§ 10723.2).

Engaging members of the public in groundwater sustainability planning can improve public understanding of the technical, financial, and political considerations the GSA factors into their decision-making process. Participation by the public can also improve the GSA's understanding of the potential impacts of their decisions. SGMA recognized the importance of stakeholder engagement and laid out specific requirements for stakeholder engagement within each of the four phases of SGMA:

Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination

- Establish and maintain a list of interested parties (§ 10723.4).
- Provide public notice of the GSA formation (§ 10723(b)).
- Conduct a GSA formation public hearing (§ 10723(b)).
- Notify DWR of the GSA formation (§ 10723(b)).
- Provide a written statement to DWR as well as the cities and counties within the GSA boundary, describing how interested parties may participate in the GSP development (§ 10727.8).

Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission

- Submit initial notification of intent to prepare a GSP (§ 353.6).
- Prepare a GSP that considers beneficial uses and users of groundwater when describing undesirable results, minimum thresholds, projects and actions (§ 10727.8, § 10723.2 and § 354.10).
- The GSP must include a communication section that includes the following (§ 354.10):
 - Explanation of the GSA's decision-making process;
 - List of public meetings at which the GSP was discussed;
 - Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used;
 - Description of how the GSA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin;
 - Description of how the GSA will inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.

DRAFT WMA GSA Public Outreach and Engagement Plan

- Public noticing and public meeting procedures prior to adopting, submitting, or amending a GSP (§ 10728.4).

Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation

- Upon GSA adoption of the GSP and submittal to DWR, the GSP will be available on the DWR website for a 60-day public comment period. Any person may provide comments to the DWR on the GSP. DWR will consider the comments received prior to completing their evaluation and assessment of the GSP (§ 353.8).

Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting

- SGMA requires assessments and re-evaluation of the GSP at least every five years.
- GSA's must provide public notice and hold public meetings prior to amending the GSP (§ 10730).
- Public notice is required before the GSA imposes or increases fees (§ 10730). The GSA must also follow other applicable laws and regulations associated with the assessment of fees including the requirements of Proposition 218.

Appendix A to this document includes a table with the statutory requirements to assist the GSA in tracking progress towards meeting the requirements throughout each of the four phases.

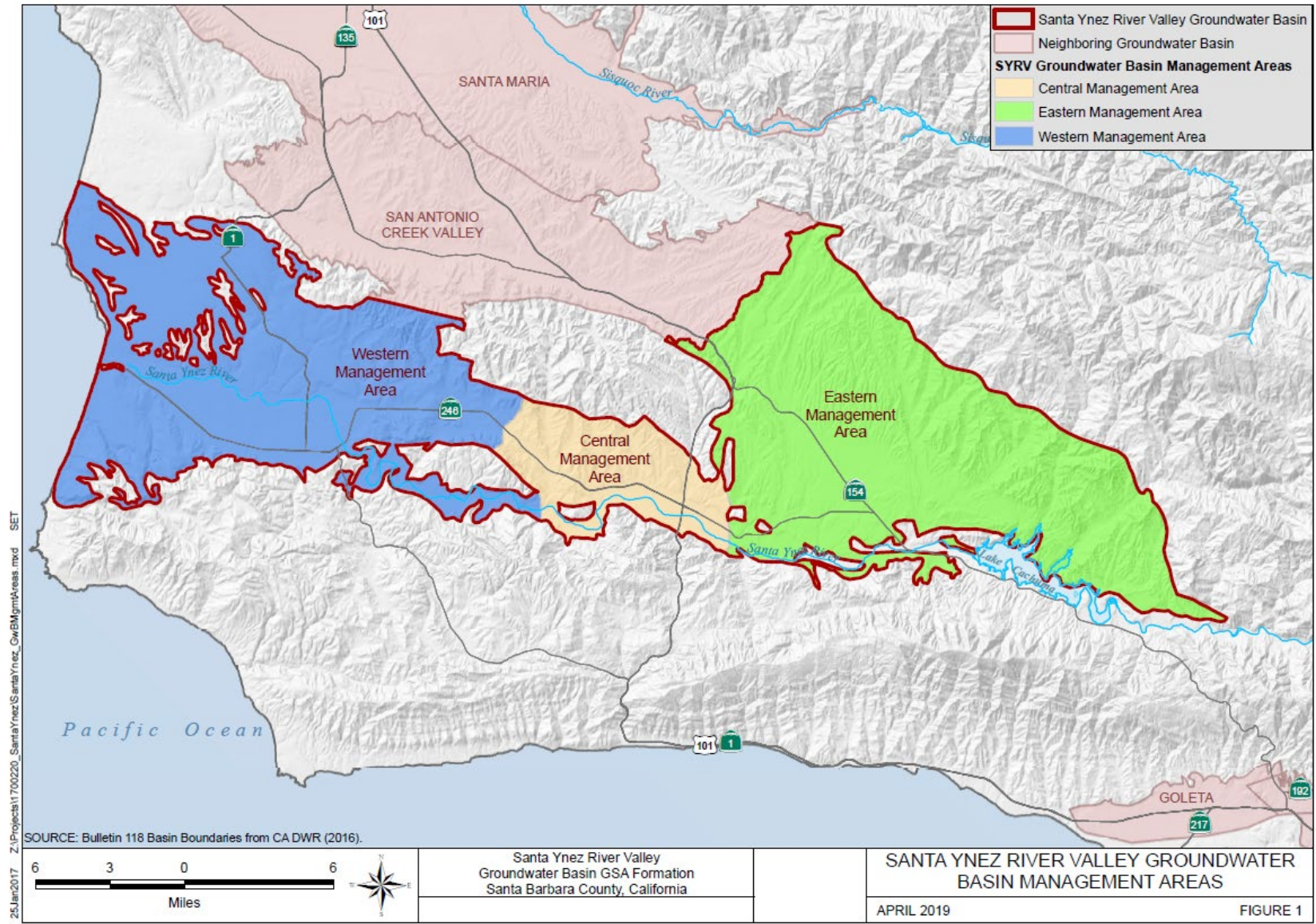
2 SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY BASIN

The Santa Ynez River Valley Basin (SYRVB), as described in DWR Bulletin 118, lies under approximately 319 square miles of land in the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. The boundaries of the SYRVB, as determined by DWR, are the Purisma Hills on the northwest, the San Rafael Mountains on the northeast, the Santa Ynez Mountains to the south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The SYRVB has established the following three management areas:

- Western Management Area (WMA)
- Central Management Area (CMA)
- Eastern Management Area (EMA)

The WMA, as described in Bulletin 118 is comprised of the Lompoc Plain, Lompoc Terrace and Lompoc Upland and Santa Rita Valley. The CMA includes the Buellton Upland, and the EMA includes the Santa Ynez Upland. Each Management Area also contains their respective section of the Santa Ynez River alluvium. Figure 1 shows the SYRVB boundaries and the three management areas. Local agencies within the management areas collaborated to form GSAs for each of the management areas. The three GSAs have continued to coordinate and are actively working to establish formal coordination agreements.

Figure 1: Management Areas and SYRVB Boundaries



3 WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA

Land use within the WMA includes agriculture, open space, residential, commercial and industrial uses in the county unincorporated areas as well as the City of Lompoc, Mission Hills, Vandenberg Village and portions of the Vandenberg Air Force Base. Groundwater basins of the WMA include the Santa Ynez River alluvial deposits and those of the older uplands and plains. For the most part, the water bearing River deposits are not in hydrologic contact with those of the uplands. The WMA includes both the River alluvium, Santa Rita Upland, the Lompoc Upland and Lompoc Plain. The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District jurisdiction includes all of the groundwater basins and additional watershed areas. The SYRWCD was formed in 1939, has the responsibility of administering and protecting water uses within the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin.

In conjunction with the groundwater replenishment in the WMA, Santa Ynez River water is stored in Cachuma Reservoir in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order WR 89-18 for the benefit of downstream water users. Releases from Cachuma Reservoir replenish downstream groundwater basins based on the accrual of credit water stored in the Above Narrows and Below Narrows accounts in the Reservoir. Vandenberg Air Force Base, part of which is within the WMA, has contracted for imported water from the State Water Project (SWP).

3.1 Stakeholders and Interested Parties

Interested parties and stakeholders in the WMA include residents, domestic well owners, public agency representatives, landowners, non-governmental organizations, agricultural well owners, tribal interests, and business owners. Any member of the public can request (in writing) to be added to the list of interested parties and receive updates via email. Stakeholders can also subscribe to the interested parties list at www.santaynezwater.org or by emailing wma.gsa.syrwb@gmail.com. A list of beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the WMA is included as Appendix B.

3.2 WMA GSA Formation

The WMA GSA was formed on January 11, 2017, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Lompoc, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD), Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCSA), and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency. The WMA filed a notice of intent to form a GSA with the DWR and became the exclusive GSA for the WMA in May 2017.

3.3 Decision Making Process

WMA GSA member agencies formed a GSA Committee, comprised of appointed representatives from each member agency. The WMA GSA Committee (Committee) is responsible for implementing the requirements of SGMA including overseeing the development of a WMA GSP and coordinating activities between the agencies and GSAs within the SYRVB. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency participates in the GSA Committee as a non-voting member. Votes are weighted as shown in Table I and were established at the time of WMA GSA formation by Memorandum of Agreement between the participating agencies. All proposed actions or resolutions must pass by a simple majority vote, requiring at least 5 votes to pass. Adoption of the GSP, budgets, and any type of fee or charge requires 75 percent or at least 6 votes to pass.

Table I. WMA Weighted Voting

Member Agency	Number of Votes
SYRWCD	4
City of Lompoc	2
VVCSD	1
MHCSD	1

3.4 WMA GSP

The Committee has hired a consultant team to develop a GSP in compliance with SGMA for adoption by the GSA and submittal to DWR by January 1, 2022.

4 PURPOSE

This Public Outreach and Engagement Plan (Plan) has been developed as a communication tool to help stakeholders understand the importance of participation in groundwater sustainability planning and lay the framework of how stakeholders can actively engage in the GSA and GSP planning efforts.

In 2018, DWR released [a guidance document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#) that details best practices including the development of Communication and Engagement Plans to increase transparency in the GSP development process. The Committee will prepare a GSP in accordance with the SGMA, to guide future management decisions. Example management decisions include: the amount of water that can be pumped from the WMA without causing undesirable results; and new project development to enhance water resource management. The SGMA, as well as the state agencies implementing the act (DWR, SWRCB), have mandated public and stakeholder outreach and engagement during GSP development. The Committee supports and encourages active involvement from diverse social, cultural, and economic groups within the SYRVB to ensure relevant and interested stakeholders and the public are involved throughout the GSP development. This Plan provides a framework for clear

communication and transparency throughout the GSP development and implementation process. It will be updated as needed.

4.1 Defining Sustainability for the WMA

During GSP development, the Committee will request stakeholder feedback as they develop criteria for “significant and unreasonable” undesirable results for the WMA. The Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) will play a central role in reviewing technical information generated for the GSP, from the stakeholder perspective, and is expected to form consensus on key sustainable management recommendations for the Committee’s consideration. The Committee may also request feedback from the CAG and stakeholders regarding specific projects and management actions that could be used to sustainably manage groundwater within the WMA.

4.2 Outreach and Engagement Goals

Outreach and engagement for the WMA began during the GSA formation process. Information about the GSA formation was posted on the [Santa Barbara County website \(https://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/gsa.sbc\)](https://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/gsa.sbc). Individual landowners and groundwater pumpers within the WMA were contacted directly to discuss requirements of the SGMA and potential future changes to groundwater management in the WMA. The individual WMA member agencies issued public notices of intent to participate in the WMA GSA and held public meetings to receive comments. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors also held a public meeting regarding the formation of the WMA GSA. Public notices announcing the various meeting and public hearings to form the WMA GSA were also published in the *Santa Barbara News Press*. Additionally, there were one on one meetings held between SYRWCD Staff and several SYRWCD constituent groundwater pumpers to provide information on SGMA and the formation of GSAs in the SYRVB. Specifically, there were two meetings held between SYRWCD staff and members of the Lompoc Growers and Shippers Association to provide outreach to members of the Agricultural Community in the Lompoc Valley.

The Committee’s goal is to build and maintain a collaborative and inclusive process for stakeholder engagement and GSP development and to consider the interests of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the WMA during development of the GSP. This includes the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. Collaborative and inclusive processes will assist in making the GSP more resilient by increasing public buy-in, promoting compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which the GSP is based. The Committee has established an open and ongoing list of interested persons to whom notices are and will be sent regarding meetings of the WMA GSA, GSP development, and other SGMA-related activities. This approach will increase the success of the GSP by fostering early public participation, development of stakeholder supported management strategies, and enhancing the

data quality and basis of GSP development. Specifically, the Committee will implement the following tiered outreach strategy to actively engage a diverse group of stakeholders in the development of the GSP:

1. Facilitate engagement of a diverse group of stakeholders in the development of the GSP through the CAG;
2. Provide regular updates on GSP development progress via email to the list of interested parties;
3. Build and maintain a website where stakeholders can obtain WMA GSA information, ask questions, and provide comments; and
4. Broad Participation: Hold public meetings where members of the public can ask questions and provide comment.

This four-tiered engagement strategy is designed to give a diverse group of stakeholders multiple forums to participate, as appropriate, based on their level of interest, availability, and communication style. The Committee will continuously evaluate stakeholder outreach and engagement goals. The Committee may adjust the engagement strategy and/or provide additional outreach opportunities as needed throughout the GSP development and implementation process.

5 GSP ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 Staying Informed

The best way to get the latest information on the GSP development process is to subscribe to the email distribution list. Interested parties can subscribe to the email distribution list from the WMA GSA's website (www.santaynezwater.org) or by emailing wma.gsa.syr gb@gmail.com. Regular communications will be distributed via email throughout the GSP development process. Emails will provide notice of public meetings and other important updates.

5.2 Providing Feedback to the GSA

Questions and comments regarding the WMA GSA and GSP development process can be sent via email to wma.gsa.syr gb@gmail.com or using the feedback link on the WMA GSA's website (www.santaynezwater.org). All WMA Committee and CAG meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for the public to comment.. The WMA GSA will provide members of the public opportunities to comment on the GSP before adoption. Comments on the GSP are requested in writing, in electronic format, through the online comment form. Electronic links to the online comment form will be provided to interested parties via email and via public notice for the public at-large. The public and stakeholders will be provided with information about the timeframe and process for submitting electronic, written comments. If stakeholders need

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assistance in completing the online comment submittal form they can contact staff (contact information provided in section 6). Notice of opportunities to comment will also be posted on the WMA GSA website (www.santaynezwater.org).




5.3 Citizen Advisory Group Representation

The purpose of a CAG is to provide additional public input to the Committee, representative of various categories of groundwater uses and users within the WMA, as set forth by the SGMA. In addition to providing their individual perspectives, CAG members serve in respective capacities, representing different categories of groundwater uses and users in the WMA. CAG members are expected to work collaboratively with all of the following: other CAG members, at-large stakeholders, members of the public, the Committee, staff of member agencies of the WMA GSA, other GSAs within the SYRVB, related agencies, and agency staff members. At various points during development of the GSP, the CAG may be asked to provide perspective on elements or sections of the GSP and on the final draft of the GSP. Stakeholders can obtain additional information about the CAG by emailing wma.gsa.syrwb@gmail.com.




5.4 GSP Engagement Summary

Expected roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for engagement throughout the GSP development process are summarized in Figure 2. The WMA Committee may provide additional opportunities or adjust the process as needed to meet the needs of stakeholders and the requirements of SGMA.

Figure 2: GSP Development Roles and Responsibilities

GSP Development Participants	Roles and Responsibilities for GSP Development
<p>WMA GSA Voting Member Agencies: SYRWCD, MHCSD, VVCSD, and City of Lompoc</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee GSP development • Approve budgets, fees, and charges • Conduct public hearings • Consider stakeholder feedback • Adopt the GSP • Provide direction to GSA staff
<p>WMA GSA Non-Voting Member Agency: Santa Barbara County Water Agency</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in GSA meeting and CAG meetings as appropriate • Provide guidance to the GSA
<p>WMA GSA Staff</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer the WMA and CAG • Provide notice of public meetings • Manage GSP consultant team

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<p>Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review technical information • Confer with other groundwater users and interested parties • Provide feedback and recommendations to the WMA
<p>Interested Parties</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend GSA meetings and workshops • Read electronic newsletters • Provide input on draft and final GSP
<p>GSP Consultant Team</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft GSP components • Present information and make changes as directed by the WMA • Prepare final GSP

6 CONTACT US

The best way to stay informed and receive the most current information for the WMA GSA and GSP development is to subscribe to the email distribution list. To subscribe, send an email to wma.gsa.syrgb@gmail.com. Additional information may be obtained by contacting:

- **Name:** Bill Buelow
- **Title:** SGMA Program Manager
- **Phone number:** (805) 693-1156 ext. 403
- **Email:** wma.gsa.syrgb@gmail.com
- **Website:** www.santaynezwater.org

Appendix A: SGMA Requirements for Public Outreach and Engagement

Public outreach and engagement are an important component of any successful long-term planning effort and is required by the SGMA (§ 10720 - § 10730) and GSP Regulations (§ 353 - § 354). This appendix provides a quick reference to how the WMA GSA will meet these requirements.

SGMA Requirement	WMA GSA
The GSA must encourage and support active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin. (SGMA § 10727.8)	Implement a tiered outreach strategy as discussed in Section 4.1 of this plan.
The GSA must also allow for voluntary participation by Native American Tribes and the federal government (SGMA § 10720.3).	The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians are a participant in the EMA and EMA CAG.
The GSA must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the basin (SGMA § 10723.2).	CAG representation as discussed in Section 5.3 of this plan.
The GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory committee (SGMA § 10727.8)	CAG formation as discussed in Section 5.3 of this plan.
Establish and maintain a list of interested parties (SGMA § 10723.4).	See discussion under Section 3.1 of this plan.
Provide public notice of the GSA formation (SGMA § 10723(b)).	Completed on November 4, 6, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30, 2016 December 28, 2016;
Notify DWR of the GSA formation (SGMA § 10723(b)).	Uploaded to DWR Portal on February 15, 2017
Conduct a GSA formation public hearing (SGMA § 10723(b)).	Public hearing conducted on November 17, 2016; December 6 (2 locations) and 21, 2016; January 11, 2017
Provide a written statement to DWR as well as the cities and counties within the GSA boundary, describing how interested parties may participate in the GSP development (SGMA § 10727.8).	Completed on June 7, 2018

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<p>Submit initial notification of intent to prepare a GSP (GSP Regulations § 353.6).</p>	<p>Completed on June 7, 2018</p>
<p>Prepare a GSP that considers beneficial uses and users of groundwater when describing undesirable results, minimum thresholds, projects and actions (SGMA § 10727.8, § 10723.2 and GSP Regulations § 354.10).</p> <p>The GSP must include a communication section that includes the following (GSP Regulations § 354.10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of the GSA’s decision-making process; • List of public meetings at which the GSP was discussed; • Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used; • Description of how the GSA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin; • Description of how the GSA will inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions. 	<p>To be completed in the draft and final GSP.</p>
<p>Public noticing and public meeting procedures prior to adopting, submitting, or amending a GSP (SGMA § 10728.4).</p>	<p>To be completed in the draft and final GSP.</p>
<p>Upon GSA adoption of the GSP and submittal to DWR, the GSP will be available on the DWR website for a 60-day public comment period. Any person may provide comments to the DWR on the GSP. DWR will consider the comments received prior to completing their evaluation and assessment of the GSP (GSP Regulations § 353.8).</p>	<p>To be completed by DWR.</p>
<p>GSA’s must provide public notice and hold public meetings prior to amending the GSP (SGMA § 10730).</p>	<p>To be completed as discussed in the final GSP.</p>
<p>Public notice is required before the GSA imposes or increases fees (SGMA § 10730).</p>	<p>To be completed as discussed in the final GSP.</p>

APPENDIX B: List of Beneficial Uses and Users

In accordance with Section 10723.2 and Section 10723.8 (a)(4) of the SGMA, the following parties have or will be contacted to determine how best to consider and protect their interests throughout the formation of the GSA, development of a GSP, and implementation of the GSP. These interests include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including (1) agricultural users and (2) domestic water-well owners: The City of Lompoc, Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD), and Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCS D) are GSA members. Domestic water-well owners and agricultural users that have reported groundwater production with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) were invited to join the WMA GSACAG.
- (b) Municipal Well Operators: The City of Lompoc, VVCSD, and MHCS D are GSA members.
- (c) Public Water Systems: City of Lompoc, VVCSD, and MHCS D are GSA members. Representatives from mutual water companies in the WMA will be invited to participate in the WMA GSA CAG.
- (d) Local Land Use Planning Agencies: The City of Lompoc is a member of the WMA GSA and the Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department through Santa Barbara County Water Agency is a member of the WMA GSA.
- (e) Environmental Users of Groundwater: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be consulted on associated sensitive flora and fauna, including Burton Mesa chaparral, in the SYRVB and were invited to be a member of the CAG.
- (f) Surface Water Users: SYRWCD calls for water-rights releases under Order from the State of California Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The City of Lompoc pumps groundwater and discharges treated wastewater to the Santa Ynez River. Agricultural interests (i.e., vineyards and truck crops) that have reported groundwater production with SYRWCD were invited to serve on the WMACAG.
- (g) Federal Government: Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) and the Lompoc Federal Correctional Complex (Lompoc FCC) are located within the WMA. Neither is required to nor will they participate in SGMA. Both VAFB and the Lompoc Federal Penitentiary were invited to join the WMA CAG.
- (h) California Native American Tribes: None. (Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians are in the EMA)
- (i) Disadvantaged Communities: Portions of the City of Lompoc are considered Disadvantaged Communities by DWR.
- (j) Entities Listed in SGMA Section 10927 that are monitoring groundwater elevations in all or part of the WMA managed by the GSA: SYRWCD in collaboration with the City of Lompoc, VVCSD and MHCS D monitors wells in the WMA and all are members of the GSA. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency is the CASGEM agency within the WMA and is a member of the GSA.

The WMA will also engage with the following entities that submitted letters requesting participation in the GSA and/or GSP process; VAFB, Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas (now Sentinel



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Peak Resources California, LLC), Imerys Mineral California, Inc, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.



The logo features the letters 'WMA' in a bold, blue, serif font. Each letter has a subtle reflection effect beneath it, creating a sense of depth and a clean, professional appearance.

**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
Western Management Area
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**