

**WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA  
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP  
MEMORANDUM**

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DATE: March 16, 2021

TO: WMA GSA Committee

FROM: WMA Citizen Advisory Group

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum

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**Western Management Area (WMA) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Members:**

CAG Members in attendance: Karen Kistler, Charles Witt, Kari Campbell-Bohard, Jose Baer, Derek McLeish and Scott Williams.

Staff and Consultants in attendance: Bill Buelow (SYRWCD), Miles McCammon and Curtis Lawlor (Stetson), Kristin Worthley (City of Lompoc).

**Purpose**

The WMA GSA Committee requested staff for the GSA agencies to coordinate meetings of the WMA CAG. Through a coordinated effort, the CAG held a meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was held on March 16, 2021. The purpose of the meetings was for the WMA CAG (CAG) to review the Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum. The Memorandum was prepared by the Stetson Engineer's team. A copy of the documents was made available to the CAG prior to the meeting at [www.SantaYnezWater.org](http://www.SantaYnezWater.org).

**CAG Comments on Draft Groundwater Conditions Technical Memorandum**

- The CAG asked how the groundwater contours were done.
  - Consultant response: assigned wells in each aquifer were selected for contours.
- A CAG member asked the meaning of groundwater usage shown on Figures 2-1 and 2-4 change in storage and usage over time.
- Members of the CAG agreed that they would like to see as many “data gaps” closed as possible (pg 38) and referenced Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs).
  - Consultant indicated that GDEs will be screened using the numeric groundwater model based on simulated groundwater elevations.
- The CAG was interested in how the Aerial Electromagnetic Survey (AEM) would be incorporated into the Groundwater Conditions TM.

- Staff and Consultants indicated that as soon as the AEM data has been processed and interpreted, it will be integrated into the various models. This may be done during the next iteration of the GSP due to the timing.
- The CAG and consultants discussed how the amount of groundwater in storage is being presented as a relative number and not an actual number. There was further discussion about groundwater storage and its relationship to seawater intrusion, which does not occur in the WMA due to geology.
- CAG discussed section 4.1.2 and the physical separation of the Lompoc Terrance due to the syncline which separates the lower aquifer from seawater intrusion. The CAG further discussed minimum flows in the Santa Ynez River estuary and the role of Water Rights Releases from Lake Cachuma.
- The CAG discussed well hydrographs in Appendix A. They requested to add blanket statements when there are lapses in data to indicate the well was either decommissioned or there is no current data available.
- There was a discussion about the effect of the wastewater treatment plants on the upper aquifer.
- The CAG discussed page 12, second paragraph section 1.3.5 and the inclusion of water level data on a regional map given that it is suspected to be perched aquifer.
  - The Consultants are continuing to work on that issue and may remove the upper aquifer as a principal aquifer due to the perched conditions.

#### **Comments by the Public in Attendance:**

- Mr. Bryan Bondy of the Santa Ynez Water Group recommended adding some context to Figure 2-1 regarding the cumulative storage numbers and average changes in storage. Mr. Bondy further recommends a comparison figure with groundwater pumping and changes in storage.
- Mr. Bryan Bondy recommended screening GDEs now, and do not wait for model completion, using contours, aerial photographs or other sources. Mr. Bondy has a similar comment regarding screening springs and recommended a day in the field to evaluate the presence/absence of springs.
- Mr. Bondy discussed the proposed surveys for land subsidence and suggested it was unnecessary given the regional geology and suggests other less expensive alternatives.
- Mr. Steve Slack from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife remarked that the comments for the CMA were on the WMA page on the website and asked if there was a Groundwater Conditions TM for the EMA.
  - Staff will check on the website issue and clarified that the groundwater conditions were discussed in the Hydrogeologic conceptual model for the EMA.
- Mr. Slack asked about safety nets for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.