

NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
at Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd, Lompoc, California

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM

To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-444-9171 or via the Web at: <http://join.zoom.us>

“Join a Meeting” - **Meeting ID:** 895 8730 4229 **Meeting Passcode:** 592889

*** Please Note ***

The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption or unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued. Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. New Board Member Welcome and Introductions
4. 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 comments 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 comment item.)
5. WMA Board of Directors Officer and Committee Appointments.
6. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 25, 2024
7. Review and consider approval of quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List with invoices
8. Receive update from EKI on Proposition 68 Projects.
9. Update on WMA Annual Report and Schedule.
10. Consider approval of a new task-order with Stetson Engineers for the five-year WMA GSP Update.
11. Review and discuss 2025 schedule of meetings for the WMA GSA
12. Next Regular WMA GSA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at VVCS D
13. Next Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting Friday, March 7, 10 AM, Buellton City Council Chambers
14. WMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items
15. Closed Session: The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following item:
 - a. Public Employment – Executive Director Position - Govt. Code Sec. 54957(b)
16. Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report
17. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and SantaYnezWater.org 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. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2025

TO: WMA GSA Board of Directors

FROM: Bill Buelow, Interim Plan Manager

SUBJECT: WMA Board of Directors Officer and Committee Appointments

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on WMA Board of Directors Officer and Committee Appointments.

Background

Board officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. As per Article 8 of the WMA JPA, the WMA Board of Directors must be appointed at the first Board meeting following January 1st of each year. An officer may serve multiple consecutive terms with no term limits and may resign at any time upon written notice to the Board. An officer may be removed and replaced by a decision of the Board in accordance with Article 11.3(a) of the JPA.

The officer positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chair and Vice Chair positions must be members of the Board. The Secretary and Treasurer positions may but need not be a member of the Board.

Additionally, the WMA GSA has two Ad-hoc committees, one for Executive Director recruitment, and one for developing a monitoring and metering policy for the WMA. The committee appointments are made at the direction of the Board Chair, and voted by the Board with majority approval, in accordance with Article 11 of the JPA.

Recommendation

Consider appointments for the Board Officers and Committees.

Recommended Motion for Each Officer Position: Motion to have (insert name) serve as (insert position).

Recommended Motion for Committee (by Chair): Motion to have (insert two names) serve on the (insert committee name).

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors September 25, 2024

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

Directors Present: Myron Heavin, Steve Jordan, Ron Stassi (Acting Alternate),
and Kristin Worthley (Acting Alternate)

Non-Voting Directors Present (Teleconference): Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate)

Alternate Directors Present: Mike Garner

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Philip Carpenter, Doug Circle, Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, and Amber Thompson

Others Present (Teleconference): Ken Domako, John Fio (EKI), Paeter Garcia, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Kadie McShirley, M. Molina, Tim Nicely (GSI), Carol Redhead, Matt Scudato, Susan Xie (EKI), and Matt Young

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With Chair and Vice-Chair being absent, Legal Counsel Mr. St. Lawrence advised the Board that a Chair Pro-Tem needed to be chosen. Director Jordan volunteered, unanimous consensus followed, and Director Jordan assumed the role of Chair Pro-Tem for the meeting.

Director Jordan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Two Directors and two Acting Alternate Directors were present in person providing a quorum. One Alternate Director was also present in person. One non-voting Acting Alternate Director participated by teleconference.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Philip Carpenter provided a public comment regarding his candidacy and qualifications for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Division 3 Director.

4. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2024

The minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of August 28, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Acting Alternate Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of August 28, 2024, as presented. Director Heavin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Receive Update on Status of Executive Order Requiring Written Verifications for New Well Applications

Mr. St. Lawrence reported on the Governor ending the emergency drought declaration and that the County of Santa Barbara no longer requires GSAs to provide written verifications in the well permit process. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

6. Receive Update from EKI on Proposition 68 Grant Funded Projects

Mr. Fio introduced Ms. Xie as the project manager for the Proposition 68 Grant components efforts for the WMA and certain grant administration efforts for the basin. Ms. Xie provided an update regarding the Proposition 68 Grant Funded Projects. Discussion followed. There was no discussion or public comment.

7. Receive Update from the three Ad-Hoc Committees and Consider Possible Action:

a. Recruitment of WMA Plan Manager/Executive Director; approving draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Mr. St. Lawrence presented the RFQ for Consulting Services for Executive Director for the WMA GSA, which was approved on September 20, 2024 by the Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion followed. Acting Alternate Director Stassi recommended adding “or individual” to the first sentence under Project Scope. The Board unanimously agreed. Mr. St. Lawrence stated that the recommended change will be made, the submittal due date of November 11, 2024 will be added, and the RFQ will be released and posted to the WMA GSA website as soon as possible. There was no public comment.

b. Development of a policy for WMA groundwater production measurement and reporting

Mr. St. Lawrence provided an update regarding the Ad-Hoc Committee’s efforts to develop a policy for WMA groundwater production measurement and reporting. Discussion followed and public comment was received. There was no action.

8. Receive and consider possible action on the following WMA JPA items:

a. Agency Updates on Status of Agency Approvals of First Amendment to the WMA JPA

Ms. Thompson reported that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Board of Directors approved the First Amendment to the WMA GSA JPA on September 18, 2024, Vandenberg Village CSD Board will consider the amendment on October 1, City of Lompoc City Council on October 15, and Mission Hills CSD Board on October 16. There was no discussion, public comment, or action.

- b. Consider directing staff to develop a contract with Streamline for the WMA GSA website, and authorize and request a change in ownership from SYRWCD to the WMA GSA JPA

Ms. Thompson reported that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District currently holds the contract for the GSAs website. However, each GSA should not have their own contracts and maintain their own individual websites. She presented the subscription agreement and information received from Streamline. Discussion followed.

Director Heavin made a MOTION to authorize a change in ownership of the WMA GSA webpages from SYRWCD to WMA GSA JPA and approved the subscription agreement with Streamline for the WMA GSA website, as presented. Acting Alternate Director Stassi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- c. Consider proposals by Stetson to prepare the WMA annual report and single report submittal and authorize action

Mr. St. Lawrence presented the Stetson Engineers Scope of Work and Estimated Cost WMA GSA Water Year 2024 Annual Subreport for SGMA Requirements, with a cost not to exceed \$30,000. He also presented the Stetson Engineers Scope of Work and Estimated Cost for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Water Year 2024 Annual Report for WMA GSA, CMA GSA, and EMA GSA Fiscal Year 2024/2025 with a total cost not to exceed \$12,000. Discussion followed and public comments were received. Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, explained the two separate scopes of work.

Acting Alternate Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve Stetson Engineers Scope of Work and Estimated Cost WMA GSA Water Year 2024 Annual Subreport for SGMA Requirements, with a cost not to exceed \$30,000, as presented. Director Heavin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board tabled the discussion of Estimated Cost for Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Water Year 2024 Annual Report for WMA GSA, CMA GSA, and EMA GSA Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and recommended the CMA GSA and EMA GSA review and consider the scope of work.

9. Consider changing the Date and Time of Regular Meetings of the WMA GSA

Mr. St. Lawrence reported that Director Ball made a request to consider changing the meeting time for the WMA GSA Board of Directors to the afternoon and advised that per the JPA, the Board can vote to change the meeting dates and times. Acting Alternate Director Worthley suggested the Board meetings remain on the same dates but change the start time to 1:30 or 2:00 pm. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Jordan made a MOTION to keep the regular meeting dates but change the meeting time to 2:00 pm. Director Heavin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, ~~10 a.m.~~ 2:00 p.m. at VVCSD

Director Jordan announced the next WMA GSA Board Regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

11. WMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items

Acting Alternate Director Stassi reported that Director Brooks will not be attending the next couple scheduled meetings of the WMA GSA Board so Director Stassi will be participating as an Acting Alternate Director.

12. Adjournment

Director Jordan adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Jeremy Ball, Chair

Amber Thompson, Secretary

DRAFT

WMA GSA
Balance Sheet
 As of September 30, 2024

Sep 30, 24

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1150 · Five Star Bank Checking #5978 199,422.63

Total Checking/Savings 199,422.63

Total Current Assets 199,422.63

TOTAL ASSETS 199,422.63

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2501 · Loan from SYRWCD 150,000.00

2504 · Loan from MHCSD 71,250.00

2505 · Loan from VVCSD 71,250.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 292,500.00

Total Current Liabilities 292,500.00

Total Liabilities 292,500.00

Equity

3000 · Retained Earnings 27,450.40

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets -80,156.39

Net Income -40,371.38

Total Equity -93,077.37

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 199,422.63

WMA GSA
Profit & Loss
July through September 2024

	<u>Jul - Sep 24</u>
Income	
4600 · Interest Income	36.87
Total Income	<u>36.87</u>
Expense	
5200 · GSA Management/Admin	11,393.50
5330 · Outside Staff Support	6,101.00
5360 · Insurance	5,018.00
5800 · Legal Services	11,550.00
6100 · Stakeholder Engagement	72.00
6502 · GSP Rate Study	3,296.25
6504 · GSP Impl - Monitoring Network	2,977.50
Total Expense	<u>40,408.25</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-40,371.38</u></u>

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

JULY 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
ACH	07/01/24	Golden State Risk Management Authority	General Liability Insurance FY 2024-25 (7/1/24-7/1/2025)	\$ 5,018.00
1044	07/10/24	McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence	June 2024 Legal Services	\$ 3,619.00
1045	07/10/24	Onsite Computers	Office 365 Basic License (email) - wma@SantaYnezWater.org	\$ 72.00
1046	07/10/24	Stetson Engineers	May 2024 Engineering Service (3rd Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 1,825.50
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 10,534.50

AUGUST 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1047	08/14/24	McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence	July 2024 Legal Services	\$ 7,084.00
1048	08/14/24	Raftelis	June 2024 Rate Study	\$ 455.00
1049	08/14/24	Stetson Engineers	June 2024 Engineering Service (GSP Implementation - Monitoring Network)	\$ 327.00
1050	08/14/24	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Administrative Services (June 26, 2024 - July 31, 2024)	\$ 11,393.50
1051	08/14/24	Raftelis	July 2024 Rate Study	\$ 1,215.00
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 20,474.50

SEPTEMBER 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1052	09/25/24	GSI Water Solutions	August 2024 Well Verification Review (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 1,200.00
1053	09/25/24	McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence	August 2024 Legal Services	\$ 4,466.00
1054	09/25/24	Oilfield Environmental & Compliance, Inc.	August 2024 Water Quality Tests	\$ 2,550.00
1055	09/25/24	Raftelis	August 2024 Rate Study	\$ 1,626.25
1056	09/25/24	Valley Bookkeeping	Quarterly Bookkeeping (July, August, and September 2024)	\$ 400.00
1057	09/25/24	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Administrative Services (August 2024)	\$ 5,701.00
1058	09/25/24	Stetson Engineers	July 2024 Engineering Service (GSP Implementation - Monitoring Network)	\$ 100.50
MONTH TOTAL				\$ 16,043.75

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 47,052.75



WMA GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

22 JANUARY 2025

PROPOSITION 68 GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS UPDATE

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- EKI is working on 5 out of 8 components for WMA

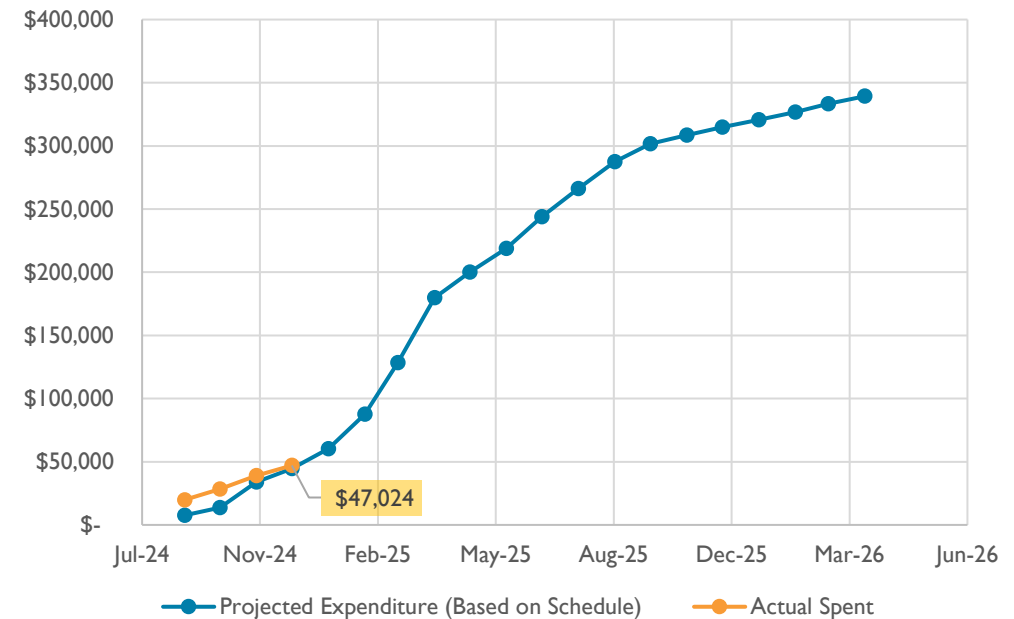
Components	WMA
1. Grant Administration	SYRWCD
2. Well Extraction Measurement and Reporting	
a) Administration/Coordination	EKI
b-e) <i>Category Tasks Required by DWR Agreement*</i>	EKI
3. SGMA Rate Study	Raftelis
4. Annual Report and Periodic GSP Evaluation	WMA
5. Monitoring Improvements	
a) Administration/Coordination	EKI
b-e) <i>Category Tasks Required by DWR Agreement¹</i>	EKI
6. Storm Water Capture	EKI
7. Water Use Efficiency	EKI
8. Recycled Water Feasibility Study	EKI

COMPONENT 2 PROGRESS TO DATE

Well Extraction Measurement And Reporting

- Landowner outreach for three demonstration project landowners [**Critical path task**]
 - Vineyard.
 - Public turf area (City park or cemetery).
 - Another agricultural field or public turf area.
- Working with AgMonitor to implement projects that measure/estimate extraction through meter and power consumption and LandIQ to install weather stations.
 - Coordinated with the City of Lompoc and AgMonitor to develop confirmation pilot test for power consumption method.
- Draft access agreement and NOE attachment.

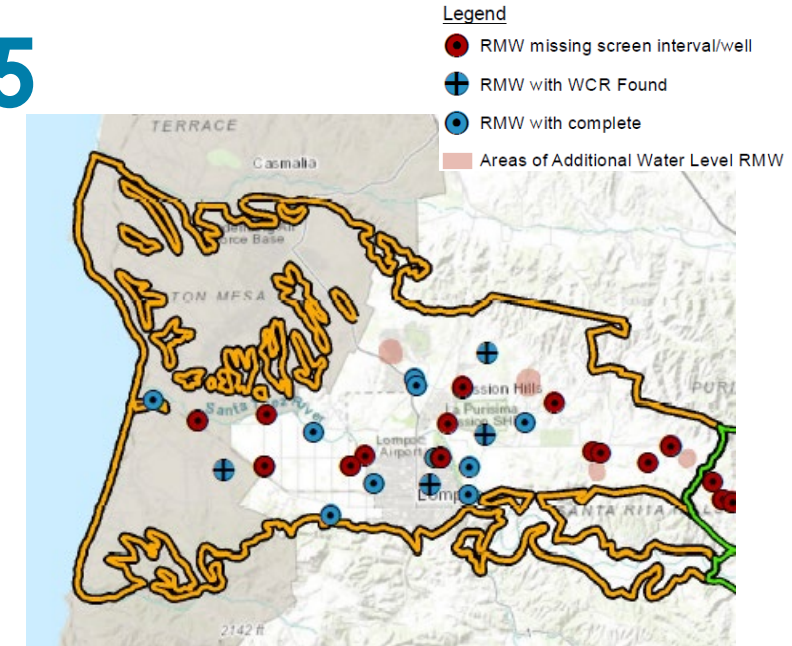
Cumulative Budget for Component 2 (WMA)



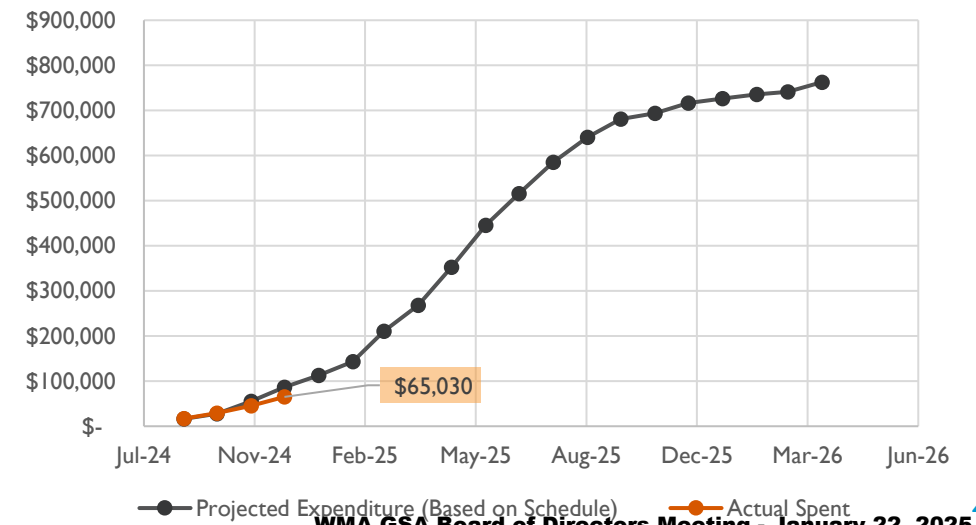
PROGRESS TO DATE – COMPONENT 5

Monitoring Improvements

- Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs): identified landowners with wells in the data gap areas identified in the GSP.
- New Stream gage:
 - + Completed site visit on 11/11 and 12/20: identified access point for the gage, collected discharge measurements, installed temporary reference points.
 - + Applied for CalSIP for the new stream gage and two existing gages.
- Conducted bi-weekly stream flow measurements on 12/21.
- 4th Quarter seawater intrusion monitoring sampling completed.
- GDE desktop analysis initiated.



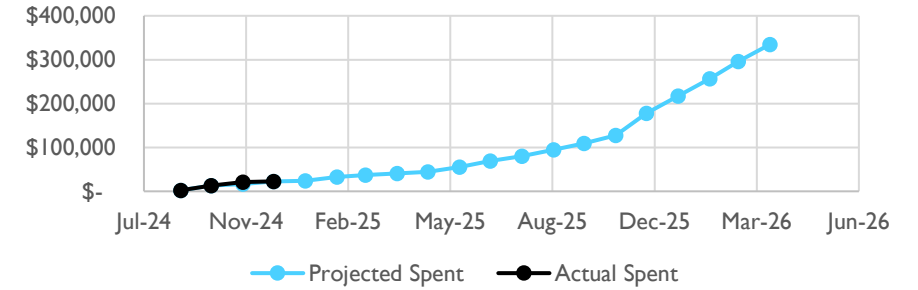
Cumulative Budget for Component 5 (WMA)



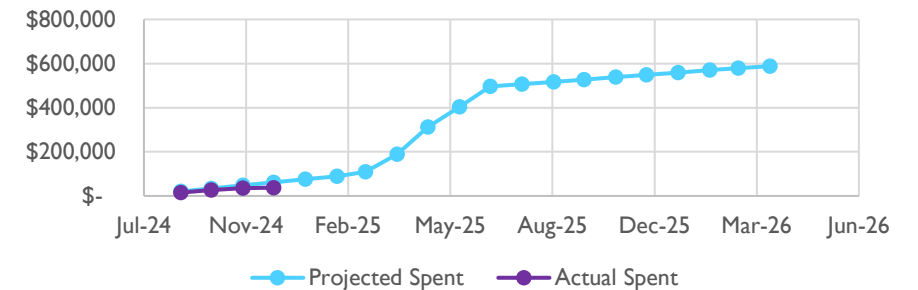
PROGRESS TO DATE – COMPONENT 6, 7 AND 8

Stormwater Capture, Water Efficiency, And Recycled Water

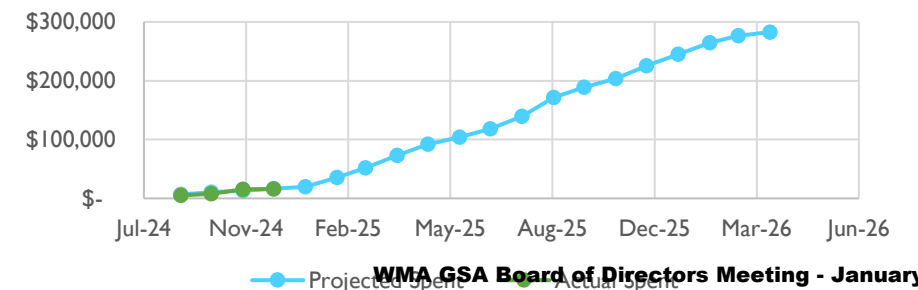
Cumulative Budget for Component 6



Cumulative Budget for Component 7

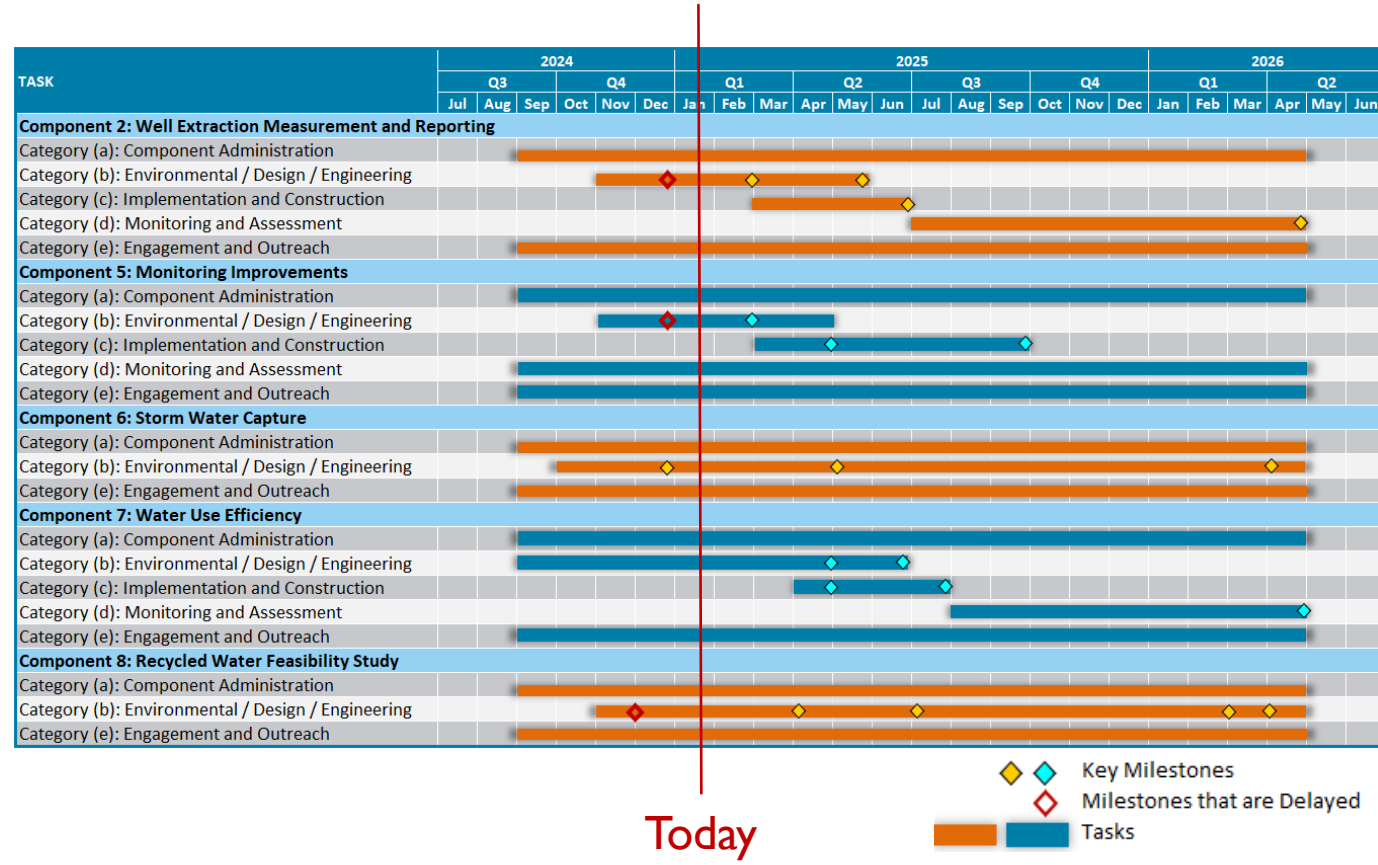
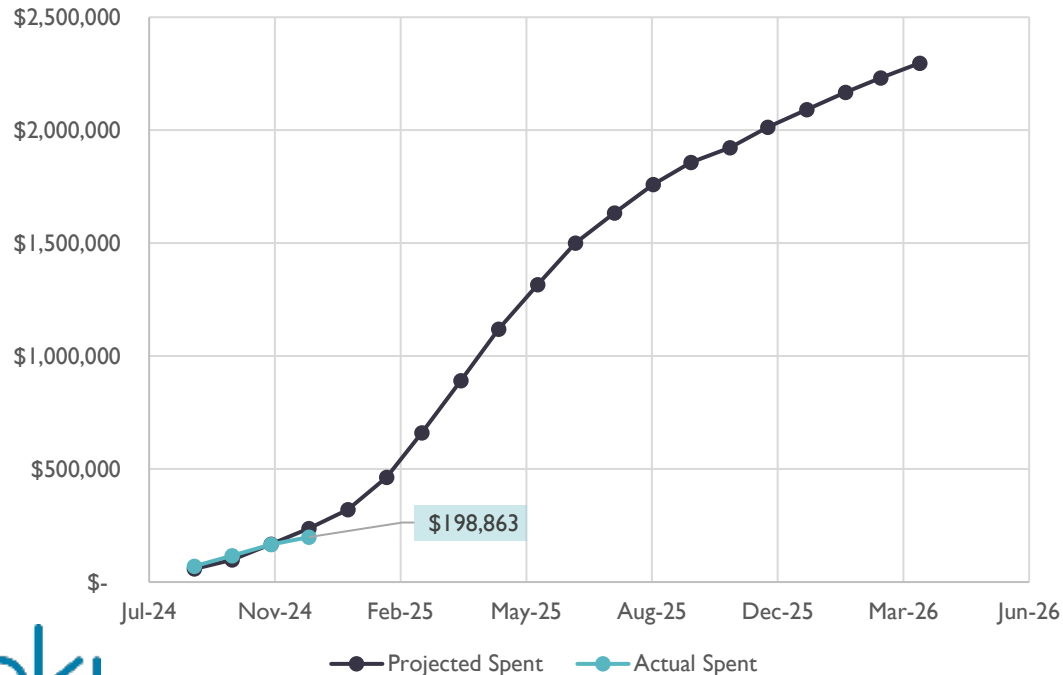


Cumulative Budget for Component 8



TASK COMPLETION AND BUDGET ON TRACK

Cumulative Budget for All Components (WMA)



THREE MONTH LOOK AHEAD

Schedule

February

April

- Draft quarterly progress report
- **Work with landowners to prepare for demonstration projects**
- **Evaluate CEQA requirements**
- **Finalize Access agreements**
- Finalize landowner selections for RMW
- Work Authorizations for supporting consultants
- Infrastructure evaluation and design

- Finalize access agreements
- Finalize CEQA requirements
- Initiate device installation for demonstration projects
- Data collection
- Initiate well design
- Initiate preparation of tech memo that summarizes site-specific information

- Data collection
- Initiate bid process for well installation
- Work with GSAs to compile groundwater extraction measurement program rules and regulations

Red identifies critical path tasks.

STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2025

TO: WMA GSA Board of Directors

FROM: Bill Buelow, Interim Plan Manager

SUBJECT: New Task Order for Stetson to Update the WMA GSP

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide staff recommendations to the WMA GSA Board to approve a new Task Order for Stetson Engineering (Stetson) to update the WMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), as required by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Background

The WMA GSA's initial GSP was adopted by the WMA GSA Board and submitted in January 2022. Under SGMA and GSP Regulations, a Periodic Evaluation of a Basin's GSP is due to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) at least every five years after initial GSP submission. The first Periodic Evaluation is due to DWR on or before **January 18, 2027**.

A Periodic Evaluation is an evaluation of the implementation progress of an approved GSP and is meant to summarize the Basin's current conditions, the implementation progress of projects and management actions, as well as determine whether the Basin is on track to meet the measurable objectives and the Basin's sustainability goal at the time of evaluation.

The first Periodic Evaluation must address the Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) provided by DWR in their January 2024 approval letter. DWR submitted seven (7) RCAs for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. One of the first tasks will be to set up action plans to address these seven RCAs and determine if an amendment to the 2022 GSP is needed.

The WMA GSA was awarded a limited amount of Proposition 68 grant-funding to prepare the Periodic Evaluation. However, the grant-funding is only available to reimburse the GSA until April of 2026. Any work done after the cut-off date would be ineligible for reimbursement and any outstanding invoices would have to be paid by the WMA GSA.

Stetson provided a scope of work and cost estimate dated October 3, 2024, to complete the Periodic Evaluation. The cost estimate provided by Stetson complies with the requirements and is within the available grant funding. A copy of the scope of work and cost estimate is attached.

Recommendation

As Stetson Engineering prepared the WMA GSP, the past four annual reports, and technical support to the GSA since 2017, they are the best suited to prepare the periodic update.

Recommended Motion:

Direct staff to authorize Stetson Engineering to prepare the Periodic Evaluation of the WMA GSP as required by DWR in accordance with the October 3, 2024, scope of work and cost estimate with a **Not to Exceed of \$275,000**.

STETSON ENGINEERS**SCOPE OF WORK AND ESTIMATED COST****Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“WMA GSA”)
5-Year Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment (5-Year GSP Update)**

California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSAs) in medium and high priority Basins to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), which outline a 20-year sustainability goal and plan to achieve sustainability in the Basin. Stetson Engineers prepared the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“WMA GSA”), which was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2022 and approved in January 2024. This GSP was also the basis for receiving recent Proposition 68 grant funding to implement the Projects and Management Actions in the GSP and to support the Periodic Evaluation of the GSP.

Periodic Evaluation and Periodic Review

Under SGMA and GSP Regulations, a Periodic Evaluation of a Basin’s GSP is due to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) at least every five years after initial GSP submission for each basin with an approved GSP or any time the GSP is amended. The WMA GSA’s initial GSP was adopted by the WMA GSA Board and submitted in January 2022 and a Periodic Evaluation is due to DWR on or before **January 18, 2027**.

A Periodic Evaluation is an evaluation of the implementation progress of an approved GSP performed by the GSA that developed the initial GSP. This written assessment is meant to summarize the Basin’s current conditions, the implementation progress of projects and management actions, as well as determine whether the Basin is on track to meet the measurable objectives and the Basin’s sustainability goal at the time of evaluation. The Periodic Evaluation is also meant to facilitate DWR’s Periodic Review of an approved GSP, which also occurs at least every five years after the initial GSP submission. DWR’s Periodic Review is an evaluation and assessment of an approved GSP to ensure that GSP implementation remains compliant with SGMA and GSP regulations and that it is likely to achieve the sustainability goal. During its Periodic Review, DWR will utilize previously submitted Annual Reports, this Periodic Evaluation, and other available information to evaluate the GSP.

For the first Periodic Evaluation due by January 2027, the WMA GSA must address the Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) provided by DWR in their January 2024 approval letter. DWR submitted seven (7) RCAs for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. One of the first tasks will be to set up action plans to address these 7 RCAs and determine if an amendment to the 2022 GSP is needed.

Possible Plan Amendment

Current SGMA regulations do not provide specific mandates on when a GSP should be amended and leaves this decision to the discretion of the GSA. If the Periodic Evaluation identifies that changes to the Plan are needed, then a GSP Amendment must be prepared and submitted together with the evaluation. Depending on how the WMA GSA intends to address the 7 RCAs and if the Basin is on track to meet the measurable objectives and sustainability goal, a Plan Amendment may or may not be necessary. If so, the Periodic Evaluation must also explain and discuss the Plan Amendments. In addition, a plan amendment will require additional outreach and engagement, including soliciting and addressing comments, proper public notice (90 days), and adoption by the WMA GSA Board.

Project Workplan

Starting as soon as possible, a technical advisory committee (TAC) would meet to discuss the following topics:

- Action Item: Discuss Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs);
- Action Item: Assess Basin's Sustainability Goal/ Basin Conditions; and,
- Action Item: Assess Need for Plan Amendment.

Stetson Engineers would lead these TAC meetings/calls that would be scheduled from November 2024 through March 2026. This scope of work plans for at least 5 TAC meetings. The first TAC meetings will discuss the 7 RCAs concerning:

1. Action Plan for Management of All Well Production Along the Lower Santa Ynez River, Above the Lompoc Narrow.
2. Understanding interconnected surface water (ISW) and the approach to manage depletions of ISW due to pumping.
3. Water Budget Questions.
4. Sustainability Management Criteria for Chronic Lowering of Water Levels.
5. Sustainability Management Criteria for Chronic Lowering of Water Quality.
6. Sustainability Management Criteria for Land Subsidence.
7. Sustainability Management Criteria for Depletion of ISW and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.

DWR released guidance materials in February and September 2024 of “technical information related to interconnected surface water (ISW) and depletions of ISW caused by groundwater use.” This latest guidance will be reviewed and discussed on the best way to address this in the Periodic Evaluation. Due to the discretion given to the local agency (WMA GSA) in determining if a plan amendment is necessary, the focus of the TAC would be on deciding if the 2022 GSP is still a viable Plan for achieving sustainability by Year 2042.

The outline of the contents of the Periodic Evaluation is based on the statutory requirements under SGMA.¹ The Periodic Evaluation will consist of the following sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. New Information Collected
3. Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria
4. Status of Projects and Management Actions
5. Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use
6. Monitoring Networks
7. GSA Authorities and Enforcement Actions
8. Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination with Other Agencies
9. Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to the Plan

In October 2023, DWR released a guidance document on the content to be included in the Periodic Evaluation. A brief summary of the content for each section of the Periodic Evaluation is provided below. Full details of DWR’s required and recommended content for each section of the Periodic Evaluation can be found in DWR’s GSP Implementation Guide, found on DWR’s SGMA website (<https://water.ca.gov/programs/groundwater-management/sgma-groundwater-management>).

New Information Collected

This section is meant to summarize any new significant data acquired by the GSA during the evaluation cycle and any impacts on the GSP, basin management, and implementation.

¹ Water Code Section 10728.2 identifies the criteria that GSAs should consider when conducting their GSP evaluation and Section 356.4 of the GSP Regulations further details the components of a Periodic Evaluation, including Section 357.4 for basins with multiple GSPs.

Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria

This section will evaluate the Basin's current groundwater conditions for each sustainability indicator relative to the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) set in the original 2022 GSP and if SMCs will likely be achieved within the next evaluation cycle. The evaluation would also determine whether implementation of the GSP is currently effective and if not, what actions the GSA plans to take to continue making progress toward sustainability, with regard to sustainability indicators.

Status of Projects and Management Actions

This section will summarize progress over the evaluation cycle and the current status of projects and management actions as described in the original 2022 GSP. Significant new information that affects the projects should be described and an evaluation as to the feasibility and relevance of the original projects and management actions is to be done. Furthermore, the GSA should report on the realized and expected benefits and impacts to beneficial users from currently implemented projects and management actions. Potential timelines for projects and management actions not currently implemented should be included, as well as challenges that the GSA has encountered in implementation.

Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use

This section will determine and evaluate changes to the Basin setting (Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model and Basin Model, groundwater conditions, water budget) due to new information or changes in water use in the Basin. This section indicates progress toward a more refined understanding of the Basin. Based on the new information, it will also include a description of the updated Basin Model.

This section will also include a technical memorandum on utilizing recently collected data to update and extend the numerical models to facilitate water budget calculations, including coordinating subsurface flows between the Management Areas (EMA, CMA, and WMA). New data can be used to assess post-2018 model performances. Tasks include updating input data sets and associated refinements of the Basin numerical models to support the GSP 5-year Periodic Evaluation.

Monitoring Networks

Each sustainability indicator's monitoring network will be evaluated in this section to include an assessment of changes to each monitoring network, the functionality of the monitoring network for each sustainability indicator, and actions to potentially improve the monitoring network and address data gaps.

GSA Authorities and Enforcement Actions

This section will describe all new authorities gained, established, or exercised since the original 2022 GSP to advance Basin sustainability. This section will also include enforcement and legal actions the GSA took and demonstrate how GSA implementation is helping to reach Basin sustainability.

Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination with Other Agencies

GSAs are responsible for establishing communication efforts and engaging interested parties, the public, and beneficial users on the Basin's progress and implementation actions and activities. This section will provide a summary and assessment of public comments received after the initial 2022 GSP adoption and how the GSA has responded. This section will also describe public engagement efforts the GSA has taken, provide an evaluation of these efforts, and describe how these efforts are being maintained and updated.

Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to the Plan

A separate section in the Periodic Evaluation will discuss potential Plan Amendments. The October 2023 DWR guidance document states, “The Periodic Evaluation must provide specific explanations of what was amended, why, and the effects of those amendments on the implementation of the Plan (e.g., adapting the management program, adjusting projects and management actions).”

These sections of the Periodic Evaluation will be produced with three types of tasks, including: Task 1. Data collection and analysis; Task 2. Report Preparation; and Task 3. Project Management and Meetings.

Project Deliverables

Component 4 of the SGMA Implementation Grant between DWR and the SYRWCD (Agreement Number 4600015625) has the following listed deliverables, which will be provided from this scope of work:

- Completion of a draft 5-year GSP Update (Periodic Evaluation and Possible Plan Amendment).
- Technical memorandum summarizing updates to groundwater models.
- All education and outreach materials; and
- Meeting agendas and minutes.

In addition, the main document, Periodic Evaluation, will be distributed in draft release chapters for review and comment throughout 2025 and 2026. The Plan Amendment document will be determined if needed by the stakeholders and WMA GSA.

Project Cost

Component 4 of the SGMA Implementation Grant between DWR and the SYRWCD, Agreement Number 4600015625 (Grant), has the funding to complete the 5-Year GSP Periodic Evaluation and Possible Plan Amendment (5-year GSP Update). The budget remaining for the WMA GSA portion of Component 4 is roughly \$300,000. The plan is to reserve \$50,000 from this total for additional peer review by Citizen Advisory Groups, agency staff, consultants, and legal counsel. The total not to exceed cost for Stetson Engineers to produce a draft Plan Evaluation, and Plan Amendment, if needed, for the WMA GSP is **\$250,000**. Staff hours for each of the three tasks above are estimated below. All work is on a time and material basis using the attached rate schedule (Attachment A). Stetson will work as efficiently as possible to lower costs further if possible.

Proposed Costs for Western Management Area 5-Year GSP Update (Periodic Evaluation and Possible Amendment)

TASK	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Expenses	Total
Task 1 - Data Collection and Analysis	255	\$39,000	0	\$39,000
Task 1.1 - Update Numerical Groundwater Model	380	\$73,000	0	\$73,000
Task 2 - Report Preparation	531	\$81,000	\$500	\$81,500
Task 3 - Project Management and Meetings	290	\$54,500	\$2,000	\$56,500
TOTAL	1456	\$247,500	0	\$250,000

Project Schedule

The current deadline for the Grant is that all work must be completed by April 30, 2026. Since this date is before January 18, 2027 (5 years after initial GSP submittal), the Grant date would be the controlling factor in planning the project schedule. Table 1 below has two project schedules based upon whether the Draft or the Final is produced by 4/30/26. The difference between the two schedules is about 3-4 months. The Draft by 4/30/26 allows more time to complete Projects and Management Actions, could factor in better the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 water levels, and is more in synch with DWR's Periodic Review starting in January 2027. However, this option (Draft by 4/30/26) would include costs to the WMA GSA outside of the current grant funding period to address comments and edits for the Final².

The project schedule provides for conducting stakeholder outreach and engagement, including continued GSA Board meetings and Citizens Advisory Groups (CAG) meetings. The project

² A request could be made by SYRWCD to DWR to extend the work for Component 4 to August 31, 2026, but it is unknown if this would be acceptable.

schedule includes providing two early sets of draft releases of chapters of the Periodic Evaluation for early public review and comment before completing the entire Periodic Evaluation report and possible Plan Amendment. The project schedule allows for proper public noticing before the WMA GSA Board approves the final Periodic Evaluation report and possible Plan Amendment (5-year GSP Update) and submit to DWR before their Periodic Review starting in January 2027.

Table 1. Tentative Project Schedule for WMA GSP Periodic Evaluation and Amendment¹

GSP Evaluation and Amendment		
	Draft by 4/30/26	Final by 4/30/26
<u>Meetings/ Public Discussion/ Collect and Analyze</u>		
Action Item: Discuss Recommended Corrective Actions	November 2024-March 2026 (17 months)	
Action Item: Assess Basin's Sustainability Goal/ Basin Conditions	November 2024-March 2026 (17 months)	
Action Item: Assess the Need for Plan Amendment	November 2024-March 2026 (17 months)	
Evaluation/Amendment Technical Advisory Committee Meetings (5)	November 2024-March 2026 (17 months)	
Citizen Action Group Meetings (5)	November 2024-March 2026 (17 months)	
GSA Board Meetings (6)	November 2024-March 2026 (17 months)	
<u>Periodic Evaluation Schedule of Draft Releases</u>		
New Information Collected	12/15/2025	9/1/2025
GSA Authorities and Enforcement Actions	12/15/2025	9/1/2025
Monitoring Networks	12/15/2025	9/1/2025
Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination	12/15/2025	9/1/2025
Groundwater Numerical Model Update Technical Memorandum	1/30/2026	10/17/2025
Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria	1/30/2026	10/17/2025
Basin Setting Based on New Information/Changes in Water Use	1/30/2026	10/17/2025
Status of Projects and Management Actions	1/30/2026	10/17/2025
Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to the Plan	1/30/2026	10/17/2025
<u>Submittal Process Schedule</u>		
Complete Draft Periodic Evaluation Released	4/30/2026	1/15/2026
Complete Draft Plan Amendment Released (if needed)	4/30/2026	1/15/2026
Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment Comment Period	May- June 2026	January-February 2026
Final Periodic Evaluation for Board Approval	August 2026	4/30/2026
Final Plan Amendment for Board Approval	August 2026	4/30/2026
Submittal to DWR	September 2026	May 2026
<u>DWR Periodic Review</u>	January 2027	(June 2026?); January 2027

¹ Exact dates in tentative schedule can be modified as necessary.

Attachment A



Standard Billing Rate Schedule Professional Fees

Principal	\$256.00	Per Hour
Special Project Director	\$256.00	Per Hour
Project Manager, Senior	\$222.00	Per Hour
Supervisor I	\$222.00	Per Hour
Supervising Soil Scientist	\$207.00	Per Hour
Supervisor II	\$207.00	Per Hour
Supervisor III	\$201.00	Per Hour
Senior I	\$178.00	Per Hour
Senior II	\$161.00	Per Hour
Senior III	\$145.00	Per Hour
Construction Manager	\$145.00	Per Hour
Construction Manager / Oversight	\$128.00	Per Hour
Senior Construction Inspector	\$128.00	Per Hour
Senior Field Geologist	\$145.00	Per Hour
Senior Associate	\$139.00	Per Hour
Associate I	\$133.00	Per Hour
Associate II	\$125.00	Per Hour
Associate III	\$119.00	Per Hour
Associate Soil Scientist	\$119.00	Per Hour
Senior Assistant	\$111.00	Per Hour
Assistant I	\$106.00	Per Hour
Assistant II	\$101.00	Per Hour
Assistant Soil Scientist	\$101.00	Per Hour
Assistant III	\$96.00	Per Hour
GIS Manager	\$133.00	Per Hour
GIS Specialist I	\$109.00	Per Hour
GIS Specialist II	\$99.00	Per Hour
Technical Illustrator	\$96.00	Per Hour
AutoCAD Technician	\$96.00	Per Hour
Soil Technician	\$83.00	Per Hour
Aide I	\$77.00	Per Hour
Aide II	\$67.00	Per Hour
Aide III	\$62.00	Per Hour
Project Coordinator I	\$145.00	Per Hour
Project Coordinator II	\$106.00	Per Hour
Project Coordinator III	\$96.00	Per Hour
Contract Management	\$111.00	Per Hour
Administrative I	\$77.00	Per Hour
Administrative II	\$72.00	Per Hour
Administrative III	\$67.00	Per Hour

Effective January 1, 2024

Direct Expense Rates

Expense Description	Billing Rate
Mileage	\$* / Mile
Reproduction: Black & White (In-House)	\$0.15 / Page
Reproduction: Color - 8.5" x 11" (In-House)	\$0.89 / Page
Reproduction: Color - 11" x 17" (In-House)	\$1.89 / Page
Plotter Reproduction (In-House)	\$1.50 / Sq. Ft.
Survey Equipment	\$120.00 / Day

Notes:

- 1) * Mileage is billed at the current IRS approved mileage rate and may be subject to change.
- 2) Subcontractor services will be charged at cost plus 10% administration fee.
- 3) All other project reimbursable expenses (i.e. telephone, commercial transportation, meals, lodging, postage, outside reproduction, etc.) will be billed at cost.
- 4) Testimony fees are 150% of standard rates and apply to depositions, court time and time spent on stand-by at attorney's request. Travel time and preparation time is charged at standard rates. Stetson Engineers Inc. authorizes only staff at associate classification or higher to testify as expert witnesses.

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

2025 WMA GSA Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, 2:00 pm
Vandenberg Village CSD Meeting Room

February 26	Regular Meeting
March 7	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **
March – tbd	Special Meeting (Annual Report)
May 28	Regular Meeting
June 6	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **
August 27	Regular Meeting
September 5	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **
November 19 *	Regular Meeting
December 5	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **

* Meeting to be held early due to holidays

** Basin-wide JOINT GSAs Special Meetings:

When: Friday morning (usually 9:00 am)

Where: Buellton City Council Chambers, Buellton