

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Western Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 23, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Western Management Area (WMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District Board Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

WMA GSA Committee Members Present: Jeremy Ball, Chris Brooks, and Steve Jordan

WMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, and Ron Stassi

WMA GSA Directors Absent: Committee Member and Alternate representing Mission Hills Community Services District

Staff Present: Joe Barget, Bill Buelow, Amber Thompson, and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (in person): Paeter Garcia, Carol Redhead, and Charlie Witt

Others Present (Video Conference): John Fio (EKI), Anita Regmi (DWR), Matt Scrudado, and an unnamed member of the public

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Bill Buelow to call roll. Three Committee Members were present providing a quorum. In addition, two WMA GSA Alternate Committee Members were present. The Committee Member and Alternate representing Mission Hills Community Services District (MHCSA) were absent.

### **2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

### **3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of May 24 and August 9, 2023**

The minutes of the WMA GSA Committee meeting on May 24, and August 9, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

WMA GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of May 24, and August 9, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**5. Review and consider approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List**

The WMA GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2022-23 Periods 10 through 12 (through June 30, 2023) and the Warrant Lists for April, May, and June 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

WMA GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists of April, May, and June 2023 (Check Nos. 1006-1010) totaling \$35,367.35, as presented. WMA GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion or public comment and the motion passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**6. Review and Summary of Request(s) for WMA GSA Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22 and other well permits processed by County EHS in the WMA**

**a. APN 099-200-085: Rita’s Crown Vineyard**

Mr. Buelow presented the Review of Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Western Management Area (WMA) APN: 099-200-085 (EH-LUA-23-0000054) Rita’s Crown Vineyard, dated August 15, 2023, completed by GSI Water Solutions. The proposed well was determined to be located in the River Alluvium subarea and not within the jurisdiction of the GSA. Staff issued the verification letter stating as such. There was no discussion or public comment.

**7. Review and Consider proposed addition to well verification request forms for the WMA**

The Well Registration and Reporting Form for the WMA GSA was omitted from the meeting packet and was not available to distribute at the meeting. Staff offered to defer this item to the next meeting. Discussion followed. WMA GSA Alternate Committee Member Cynthia Allen shared with the Committee her copy of the same document that was reviewed for the CMA GSA. Mr. Buelow reported that the forms are identical in substance. Discussion continued. No public comment was received.

WMA GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan made a MOTION to approve adding a Well Registration and Reporting Form, like the CMA GSA form but specified for the WMA GSA, to the WMA GSA Well Verification request packet. GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**8. Update on Rate Study**

An update was requested by GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan during a previous meeting. Mr. Buelow reported that staff are finalizing the scope of work for a budget-based rate and expects to submit a draft budget to potential rate study firms soon. Discussion followed. No public comment was received.

**9. Update on WMA CAG Applications and Consider forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to review same**

Mr. Buelow reported that applications have been received for WMA Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and staff recommended an Ad-Hoc Committee be formed to review applications and make recommendations for appointments. WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks and Committee Member Steve Jordan volunteered to be on the Ad-Hoc Committee for review and consideration of CAG applications. Discussion followed.

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks NOMINATED Chris Brooks and Steve Jordan to the Ad-Hoc Committee to review CAG applications and make recommendations for appointment to the WMA CAG. GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball seconded the nominations and the nominations passed 3-0-1, with both Committee Member and Alternate from SYRWCD being absent.

**10. Review and Consider Endorsing Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the WMA**

Mr. Buelow presented the Staff Memorandum dated August 23, 2023, regarding Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for WMA and the Draft JPA. He explained that the existing Memorandum of Agreement was converted to a JPA through a joint effort of member agencies staff and legal counsels over the last two years. A “Joint Powers Agreement” is an agreement between two or more government agencies to combine their powers and resources for some common project. It may also create a separate legal entity, commonly known as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), to work on common problem(s), in this case SGMA compliance and GSP implementation. A JPA, formed as a legal entity separate from its members, would shield the general funds of its members.

A lengthy discussion followed. Ms. Kristin Worthley reported that during the development of the Draft JPA, the staff embraced all users of water. Mr. Buelow advised that the WMA GSA action would be to endorse the JPA and the governing boards of each member agency would need to review and individually vote to approve the JPA. Public comments were received.

WMA GSA Committee Member Jeremy Ball made a MOTION that the WMA GSA Committee endorse the WMA’s draft Joint Powers Agreement for consideration by each of the WMA GSA member agencies board. GSA Committee Member Steve Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with both Committee Member and Alternate from MHCS D being absent.

**11. Next WMA GSA Regular Meeting, Wednesday, September 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks announced the next WMA GSA regular meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District Board Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California. Mr. Buelow advised that if there were no well verifications or other business, then the meeting may be cancelled with at least a week notice.

**12. WMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items**

There were no reports or requests.

**13. Adjournment**

WMA GSA Committee Chair Chris Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



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Chris Brooks, Chairman



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William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

**APRIL 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1006	04/12/23	GSI Water Solutions	February 2023 Well Verification Review (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 450.00
1007	04/12/23	Stetson Engineers	January-February 2023 Engineering Service (WY2022 Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 15,312.25
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 15,762.25</b>

**MAY 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

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

**JUNE 2023 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1008	06/13/23	Stetson Engineers	March & April 2023 Engineering Service (WY2022 Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 19,291.32
1009	06/13/23	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Reimburse costs for SantaYnezWater.org & SantaYnezWater.com website domains paid by SYRWCD 3/29/2023 & 5/8/2023 (\$41.34 total split 1/3 per GSA)	\$ 13.78
1010	06/13/23	Valley Bookkeeping	2023 2nd Quarter Bookkeeping (April, May, June 2023)	\$ 300.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 19,605.10</b>

**TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 35,367.35**