

# MEETING MINUTES

## **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors May 20, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton, City Hall-Planning Department Conference Room, 107 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Larry Lahr and John Sanchez

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

Others Present (In Person): Robert Dunlap (Alternate Director), Rose Hess, Alex Pappas, and Amber Thompson

Others Present (Teleconference): Doug Circle, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Matt Scudato, Scarlet Tovar (DWR), Matt Young, and Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani

### **1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

CMA GSA Board Chair Lahr called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Two Directors and one non-voting Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum. In addition, one Alternate Director was present.

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

### **3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **4. Review and consider approval of CMA GSA Board meeting minutes of March 25, 2024**

The minutes of the CMA GSA Board meeting on March 25, 2024, were presented for Board consideration. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the CMA GSA Board meeting on March 25, 2024, as presented. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **5. Review and Consider Approval of Financial Statements and Warrant List**

The CMA GSA Board considered the financial reports of FY 2023-24 Periods 7 through 9 (through March 31, 2024) and the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2024. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists for January, February, and March 2024 (Check Nos. 1025-1030) totaling \$23,701.81, as presented. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**6. Receive Update on CMA Monitoring Network Expansion and Spring Water Levels**

Mr. Scrudato presented information regarding Central Management Area Spring water levels. Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, provided additional information. Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

Mr. Pappas provided a review of the efforts to expand the CMA monitoring network, especially identifying additional wells in data gap areas.

**7. Review and Consider Approval to form the DRAFT CMA GSA Agency Member Voluntary Contribution and Reimbursement Agreement**

Mr. Torigiani advised that the JPA for the CMA GSA includes Voluntary Contribution as a possible funding mechanism and requires a written agreement for such. Therefore, he created the Draft Agreement for consideration. Discussion followed.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve, as to form, the DRAFT CMA GSA Agency Member Voluntary Contribution and Reimbursement Agreement, as presented. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**8. Receive update and Consider Taking Action on the Following CMA GSA Items:**

**a. Administrative Services Contract with SYRWCD**

Mr. Torigiani reviewed the Administrative Services Contract with Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD). He reported that the Legal Counsel for the City of Buellton as well as the Legal Counsel for the Western Management Area GSA reviewed the agreement.

Director Lahr requested that the County Counsel also be asked to review the agreement. He asked that the termination clause be amended for less days required to terminate for cause. He asked that the indemnification clause include language regarding gross negligence or willful misconduct and asked about mutual indemnification. He requested the revised agreement be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Young stated that he will contact the County Counsel. Mr. Torigiani will contact the Legal Counsel for the City of Buellton.

**b. Rate Study Contract with Raftelis Including Scope of Work**

The Board reviewed and discussed the Rate Study Contract with Raftelis, including the Scope of Work.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the Rate Study Contract with Raftelis, including the Scope of Work, not to exceed \$57,095, and directed the Plan Manager to provide to the Board the budget that Raftelis will use for the Rate Study, and such budget should include Grant Reimbursements and any expected expenses that will not be reimbursed by the Grant. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**c. Consider Approval of Resolution No. CMA-2024-02 to Approve and Adopt a Conflict-of-Interest Code**

Ms. Thompson presented the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Conflict of Interest Code, Declaration of Plan Manager for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Resolution No. CMA-2024-02, and the Conflict of Interest Code. She reported that no comments were received during the written comment period.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to adopt Resolution No. CMA-2024-02 to Approve and Adopt a Conflict-of-Interest Code. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**d. Discuss the Potential Addition of an Agricultural Representative**

The Board discussed the potential addition of an Agricultural Representative for the CMA GSA. Public comment was received. There was no action.

**9. Discuss Basin-wide Joint-GSAs Meeting, June 7, 2024, 10 AM, Buellton City Council Chambers**

Chair Lahr announced a Basin-wide Joint-GSAs meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2024, 10 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers. Both CMA GSA Directors reported they are available to attend. There was no public comment or action.

**10. Next CMA GSA Board Regular Meeting on Monday, August 26, 2024**

The next scheduled CMA GSA Board Regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. The Board discussed Director and Alternate Director availability for August 26, 2024.

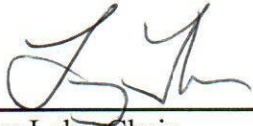
Due to a lack of quorum available to meet on August 26, 2024, Director Lahr made a MOTION to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, August 26, 2024, and called for a special meeting to be scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 1:00 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, CA. Director Sanchez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**11. CMA GSA Board reports and requests for future agenda items**

There were no reports or requests.

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Lahr adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.



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Larry Lahr, Chair



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Amber Thompson, Secretary

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

**JANUARY 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1025	01/10/24	Stetson Engineers	November 2023 Engineering Service (GSP Implementation Support)	\$ 1,315.30
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 1,315.30</b>

**FEBRUARY 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1026	02/12/24	Inklings Printing Co.	SGM Implementation Grant Ceremony check (split 1/3 ea GSA)	\$ 54.82
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 54.82</b>

**MARCH 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1027	03/12/24	Golden State Risk Management Authority	General Liability Insurance FY 2023-24 (Prorated 2/26/2024-7/1/2024)	\$ 1,728.00
1028	03/12/24	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Reimburse costs for Legal Services due to JPA formation provided by Young Wooldridge, paid by SYRWCD on behalf of CMA GSA. (March 2024)	\$ 2,788.64
1029	03/12/24	Valley Bookkeeping	2024 1st Quarter Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2024)	\$ 300.00
1030	03/12/24	Stetson Engineers	December 2023 and January 2024 Engineering Service (WY2023 Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 17,515.05
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 22,331.69</b>

**TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 23,701.81**

**RESOLUTION NO. CMA-2024-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN CENTRAL  
MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
APPROVING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with state law, the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “CMA GSA”) is required to approve a conflict of interest code; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with state law the CMA GSA has prepared the Conflict of Interest Code attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein (the “Code”); and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with state law the CMA GSA provided a 45-day comment period during which interested parties could comment on the Code before its adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, the 45-day comment period has passed and no interested parties submitted comments to the CMA GSA regarding the Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the CMA GSA as follows:

1. The attached Conflict of Interest Code is formally approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
2. Staff is directed to take such steps as necessary to properly file the attached Conflict of Interest Code with the County of Santa Barbara.
3. Once the Conflict of Interest Code is formally approved by the County, staff is instructed to implement the Code.

[continued on following page]

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED**, being the duly qualified and acting Chair and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. CMA-2024-02 was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting duly held on the 20th day of May, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Lahr , Sanchez

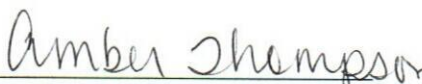
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

  
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Larry Lahr, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Thompson, Secretary

**EXHIBIT A**  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE



**SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN  
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs. Sec. 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendix, designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency)**.

Designated individuals may file their statements online using eDisclosure, which will submit the Form 700 to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor. Statements will be made available for public inspection and reproduction (Gov. Code Section 81008). The Agency's filing official can provide access to designated individuals.

Designated individuals who file using a paper Form 700 shall file with the Agency. Upon receipt of the Statement filed by a designated individual, the Agency shall retain a copy and forward the original to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS**

The following positions are not covered by the conflict of interest code because they must file statements under Section 87200 and therefore are listed for informational purposes only: Members of the Board of Directors.

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200.

**APPENDIX  
DESIGNATED POSITIONS AND  
DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES**

<b>I.     <u>Designated Position</u></b>	<b><u>Assigned Disclosure Category</u></b>
Directors	1, 2
Alternate Directors	1, 2
Secretary/Treasurer	1, 2
Plan Manager	1, 2
General Counsel	1, 2
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Staff	1, 2
 Consultants/New Positions	 *

**Note:** The positions of Auditor and General Counsel are filled by outside consultants who serve in a staff capacity.

\*Consultants/New positions shall be included in the list of designated positions and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code, subject to the following limitation:

The Board may determine that a particular consultant or new position, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the consultant’s or new position’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Board’s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code (Gov. Code Section 81008).

**Officials Who Manage Public Investments**

The following positions are not covered by the conflict of interest code because they must file a statement of economic interests pursuant to Government Code Section 87200 and, therefore, are listed for information purposes only:

Members of the Board of Directors

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200.

## **II. Disclosure Categories:**

### **Category 1**

Designated positions in this category shall disclose income from any source, interests in real property, investments and all business positions in which the designated individual is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management.

### **Category 2**

Designated positions in this category shall disclose investments; business positions in business entities; and income (including gifts, loans, and travel payments), from sources engaged in providing services (e.g. accounting, auditing, engineering and environmental consulting), supplies, materials, machinery, or equipment of the type utilized by the agency.