

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin August 2, 2022

A special meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via video/teleconference as recommended by Santa Barbara County Public Health, as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, and Resolution CMA-2021-001 (passed on 10/20/2021, reaffirmed ~~3/21/2022~~ 5/23/2022).

CMA GSA Committee Directors Present: Art Hibbits, John Sanchez (Acting Alternate), and Meighan Dietenhofer (Acting Alternate)

CMA GSA Committee Alternate Directors Present: Cynthia Allen

Member Agency Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Marliez Diaz, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present: Jeff Barry (GSI Water Solutions), Doug Circle, Paeter Garcia, Larry Lahr, Deby Laranjo, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions),

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

CMA GSA Vice Chair Art Hibbits called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. One GSA Director and one GSA Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum. In addition, one non-voting GSA Acting Alternate Director and one GSA Alternate Director were also present.

Ms. Rose Hess, City of Buellton, reported that Council Member Ed Andrisek retired from his position on the Buellton City Council in July 2022. The appointed alternate for the CMA GSA Committee, Council Member John Sanchez, will represent the City of Buellton, at least through December 2022. No new alternate was appointed.

### **II. Consider findings under Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001**

Mr. Buelow explained that the reasonings for State Assembly Bill 361 and adoption of Resolution CMA-2021-001, passed on October 20, 2021, and reaffirmed on ~~March 21,~~ **May 23,** 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. There was no discussion.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to authorize continuing teleconference meetings under Resolution CMA-2021-001. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

No additions or deletions were made.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment. Mr. Buelow announced he did not receive any public comments in advance of the meeting.

**V. Discuss and Consider Appointment of CMA GSA Chair and Vice Chair**

The committee and staff discussed. GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION appointing Art Hibbits as Chair and John Sanchez as the Vice Chair of the CMA GSA. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Receive, and Discuss and Consider Approval of Draft Documents for providing CMA GSA verification of new well permits under Executive Order Number 7-22**

Mr. Buelow introduced four draft documents created to provide CMA GSA written verification for new well permits as required by Executive Order Number 7-22 and scope of work proposal received from GSI Water Solutions. He explained that the CMA GSA draft documents were created by using the documents originally created by EMA GSA member agencies staff and attorney group and approved by the EMA GSA Committee as an EMA GSA response to Executive Order Number 7-22. Ms. Diaz and Mr. Young from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency as well as Mr. Barry and Mr. Nicely from GSI Water Solutions were involved in the creation of the original draft documents.

**a. Draft CMA Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per EO N-7-22**

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft CMA “Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications per Executive Order N-7-22”. Discussion followed. No public comments were received.

**b. Draft Indemnification Agreement**

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft Written Verification Indemnification Agreement and has been reviewed by legal counsels for the CMA GSA member agencies. There was no discussion. No public comments were received.

**c. Draft Reimbursement Agreement**

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement. Initial deposit proposed was \$1,200 total for 6 hours at \$200 per hour blended rate. He reported that prior to the CMA GSA setting a fee, a Proposition 26 compliant fee hearing is required. There was no discussion. No public comments were received.

**d. Draft Well-Permit Acknowledgement**

Mr. Buelow reviewed and explained the draft Acknowledgement Form Request for Written Verification under Executive Order N-7-22. There was no discussion. No public comments were received.

Mr. Buelow recommended the CMA CAG review the draft documents and requested direction from the CMA GSA Committee. Discussion followed. No public comments were received. The CMA GSA Directors unanimously agreed and directed staff have a meeting for the CMA CAG to review the draft documents and provide comments.

**e. Draft GSI Scope of Work**

Mr. Jeff Barry reviewed and explained the Scope of Work proposal, dated July 28, 2022, from GSI Water Solutions. Mr. Buelow added that GSI Water Solutions provided a similar proposal for the EMA GSA, is familiar with the CMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) as they worked closely with Stetson Engineers on the coordination efforts for the CMA, EMA, and WMA GSPs, and is developing a team to process well verifications with a limited budget and scope of work. Discussion followed. No public comments were received.

**VII. Update on Publication of Notice Under Government Code Section 6066 and Water Code Section 10730 of Intent to Adopt Fee for Compliance with Executive Order Number 7-22**

Mr. Buelow presented a draft legal notice and reported that the required legal notices announcing the August 22, 2022 CMA GSA Committee meeting for the CMA GSA Committee to consider imposing a fee can be published in the August 8 and August 15, 2022 editions of the Santa Barbara News Press at a cost of approximately \$100. Discussion followed. No public comments were received.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to authorize spending up to \$100 and submit the legal notice as presented in the Santa Barbara News Press. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VIII. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting, Monday, August 22, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Buelow announced the next regular CMA GSA meeting will be Monday, August 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., most likely via Zoom. The details will be determined closer to the meeting date based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**IX. CMA GSA Committee requests and comments**


GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez asked the farmers in attendance for any additional comments on the presented draft documents. Public comments were received.

GSA Director Art Hibbits stressed the CMA goal should be to work with the EMA and WMA for simple and cost-effective way to comply with the Executive Order.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez requested that the process created be completed fast and process be made easy for participants.


**X. Adjournment**

GSA Committee Chair Art Hibbits adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.



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Art Hibbits, Chairman



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William J. Buelow, Secretary