

# MEETING MINUTES

## Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin February 28, 2022

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, this meeting occurred solely via 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 1/3/2022).

CMA GSA Committee Directors Present: Art Hibbits, John Sanchez (Acting Alternate),  
Ed Andrisek (late arrival)

CMA GSA Alternate Committee Director Present: Cynthia Allen

Member Agency Staff Present: Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Amber Thompson, Kevin Walsh  
and Matt Young

Others Present: Len Fleckenstein, Larry Lahr, Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers),  
Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), and Anita Regmi (DWR)

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

CMA GSA Vice Chair Art Hibbits called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. One CMA GSA Director and one Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum plus one CMA GSA Alternate Director was also present.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez attended the meeting from Agenda Item I through the end of Item XII. GSA Director Ed Andrisek joined the meeting and assumed the role as GSA Director at the end of Agenda Item XII, when GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez left the meeting. GSA Vice-Chair Art Hibbits fulfilled the roll of Chair for the entire meeting.

### **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 January 3, 2022, which authorized teleconference public meetings were still in effect. Discussion followed.

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.

**V. Discuss and consider appointment of CMA GSA Chair and Vice-Chair**

This item was deferred to later in the meeting due to the late arrival of GSA Director Ed Andrisek. This item was discussed after Item XII.

The GSA Directors discussed assignment of Chair and Vice-Chair. GSA Director Art Hibbits made a MOTION to continue with Ed Andrisek as Chair and Art Hibbits as Vice-Chair. GSA Director Ed Andrisek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VI. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of November 15, 2021, and January 3, 2022**

The minutes of the GSA Committee meetings on November 15, 2021, and January 3, 2022, were presented for GSA Committee approval.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021, amended to correct a typo in item VIII, changing EMA to CMA, and approve the minutes of January 3, 2022, as presented. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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

The GSA Committee reviewed the financial reports of FY 2021-22 Periods 4 through 6 (through December 31, 2021) and the Warrant Lists for October, November, and December 2021.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the financial reports and the Warrant List for October, November, and December 2021 Warrant Lists (Nos. 1039-1047) totaling \$50,022.34, as presented. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**VIII. Review and consider approval of calendar of Regular GSA meetings for 2022 and location of Regular and Special Meetings**

Mr. Buelow presented a list of Regular GSA meetings for the 2022 calendar year. He reported that the CMA GSA regularly meets on Monday morning of the fourth week in the second month of each quarter (February, May, August, and November) but the date in November could be difficult due to the Thanksgiving holiday. So, the November Regular meeting is proposed to be held one week earlier on November 14, 2022. There was no discussion.

**IX. Consider approval of printing costs for public copies of the CMA GSP**

Mr. Buelow reported the cost estimate to provide a color hard copy of the GSP which was submitted to DWR in January 2022 to the local public library (Buellton Public Library) is approximately \$500. Alternatively, at no-cost, a digital version can be shared with the public library and be available to the public at the library.

GSA Acting Alternate Director John Sanchez made a MOTION to provide only a digital version of the GSP to the library, not a printed copy. GSA Director Art Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**X. Receive update from CMA CAG Meeting of February 3, 2022**

Mr. Larry Lahr presented a Memorandum dated February 3, 2022, which he prepared on behalf of the CMA Citizen Advisory Group (CAG), summarizing the CMA CAG Workshop and Q & A on Future Governance held on February 3, 2022. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

**XI. Receive cost update and presentation from Stetson on the First Annual Report for the CMA**

Mr. Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers, reported that the CMA GSP was submitted to DWR in January and showed those present how to access and comment on the GSP through the DWR website.

He presented a summary of the Draft CMA First Annual Report for Water Year 2021, dated February 28, 2022. The presentation provided an overview of the GSP chapters, Annual Report sections, and a schedule of tasks for the remainder of Water Year 2022. The scope of the Annual Report covers Water Year 2021, summarizing data collected October 2020 through September 2021. It describes the GSAs progress towards implementing the GSP and sustainability. It also complies with the SGMA statute to provide groundwater elevation data, annual aggregated data identifying groundwater extraction for the preceding water year, surface water supply used for or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use, total water use, and change in groundwater storage. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

**XII. Update and discussion on future governance, JPA, future projects, and funding for CMA expenses**

Mr. Buelow reported that staff and attorneys from all eight basin-wide member agencies recently participated in a meeting to discuss future governance that resulted in some good agreement on key ideals. There was agreement that decisions on implementing the GSPs should remain at the individual GSA level while, to the extent possible, utilize economies of scale for cost savings. County Counsel agreed to take the ideas discussed by the group and craft a future governance model for consideration and further discussion. The group agreed that the attorneys of the member agencies should meet separately to discuss legal details including migrating the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) structure that created the GSA to now form each GSA as an entity through a JPA and with possibly an umbrella JPA linking the three GSA entities together. More meetings of the groups are expected with intent to report back to the committees on the progress at a future meeting.

Mr. Buelow provided an update on implementation projects in the Central Management Area. He reported that staff began the process with the USGS for water level monitoring. No action was taken.

GSA Director Ed Andrisek joined the meeting and assumed role as GSA Director.

**XIII. Review possible change of GSA Financial Institution**

Mr. Buelow informed the GSA Committee that CMA GSA banking account may be moved to a new bank. As the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Parent District) owns the banking account for benefit of the CMA GSA at Mechanics Bank and the Parent District Board of Directors will be considering changing all of their owned accounts from Mechanics Bank to Five Star Bank at its upcoming March 9, 2022 meeting. There was no discussion. No action was taken.

**XIV. Consider Special CMA GSA Meeting Monday, March 21, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.**

Mr. Buelow reported that a CMA GSA Special Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, for the GSA Committee to review the final Annual Report and consider acceptance of and submittal to DWR.

**XV. Next Regular CMA GSA Meeting, Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.**

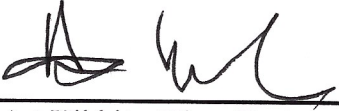
Mr. Buelow announced the next regular CMA GSA meeting will be Monday, May 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., either in person at the Buellton City Council Chambers or via remote participation. The details will be determined closer to the meeting date based on continuing health concerns presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

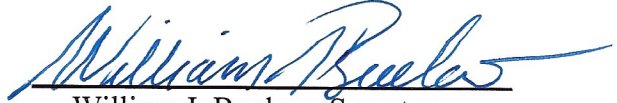
There were no requests or comments.

**XVII. Adjournment**

GSA Director Ed Andrisek adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



Art Hibbits, Vice-Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary

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

**OCTOBER 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1039	10/15/21	Inklings	Public Draft CMA GSP printed (Public access to review GSP at Buellton Library)	\$ 112.73
1040	10/15/21	Santa Barbara News Press	Public Draft GSP advertisement (9/26/21: 1 of 2 run dates) (1/3 of total paid per GSA)	\$ 50.00
1041	10/15/21	Santa Maria Times	Public Draft GSP advertisement (9/28/21 SYV News and 9/29/21 Lompoc Record) (1/3 of total paid per GSA)	\$ 156.00
1042	10/15/21	Stetson Engineers	August 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & AEM work)	\$ 21,092.55
1043	10/15/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2021 3rd Quarter Bookkeeping (July, August, September 2021)	\$ 150.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 21,561.28</b>

**NOVEMBER 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1044	11/15/21	Santa Barbara News Press	Public Draft GSP advertisement (10/3/21: 2 of 2 run dates) (1/3 of total paid per GSA)	\$ 50.00
1045	11/15/21	Stetson Engineers	September 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2 & AEM work)	\$ 23,027.75
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 23,077.75</b>

**DECEMBER 2021 WARRANT LIST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1046	12/14/21	Stetson Engineers	October 2021 Engineering Service (Task Order #2)	\$ 5,233.31
1047	12/14/21	Valley Bookkeeping	2021 4th Quarter Bookkeeping (October, November, December 2021)	\$ 150.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 5,383.31</b>

**TOTAL THIS QUARTER: \$ 50,022.34**