

## **Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin**

### **RESOLUTION CMA-2022-002**

#### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE AND DEPOSIT FOR CMA GSA WELL VERIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22**

**WHEREAS**, effective January 11, 2017 the City of Buellton (“Buellton”); the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (“Santa Barbara”); and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (“SYRWCD”); (collective the Members) entered into a “Memorandum of Agreement for Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act” (“2017 MOA”); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 MOA established the Members as the participating agencies of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the Central Management Area (“CMA”) in the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”); and

**WHEREAS**, the CMA GSA formed under the 2017 MOA has already developed, adopted, and submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) for the CMA to the California Department of Water Resources as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”); and

**WHEREAS**, Section 9(a) of Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-7-22, dated March 28, 2022, requires a written verification from the applicable GSA to address whether groundwater extraction by a proposed well would be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable GSP adopted by the GSA, or would decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by the GSP; and

**WHEREAS**, the CMA GSA has developed a Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22 and seeks to establish fee(s) and deposit(s) to cover the costs of this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the CMA GSA has the authority to impose fees pursuant to Water Code section 10730 and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, the CMA GSA held a noticed public hearing on August 22, 2022, regarding the fee(s) and deposit(s) necessary to cover the costs for the Process and Criteria for Administering Written Verifications Per Executive Order N-7-22, at which oral and written presentations were allowed; and

**WHEREAS**, the CMA GSA finds that the fees set forth in this Resolution are exempt from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 15273 and 15378(b)(5) and Public Resources Code Section 21080 (b)(8)(A) and (B), in that the fees will be used for reimbursement for consultants time and costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the CMA GSA resolves as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. A fee of \$200 per hour is hereby established for all requested written verifications from the CMA GSA. The Committee finds that the amount of the fee is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the process, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.
3. An initial deposit in the amount of \$1,200 shall be submitted for all requested written verifications and the deposit will be spent and supplemented in accordance with the Deposit/Reimbursement Agreement for Review of Well Permit Applications.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Committee of the CMA GSA on August 22, 2022 by the following roll call vote:

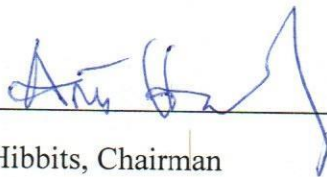
AYES: Art Hibbits and John Sanchez


NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Art Hibbits, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Buelow, Secretary