

# MEETING MINUTES

## **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors January 22, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, California.

Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Philip Carpenter, Mike Garner (Acting Alternate), and Ron Stassi

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

Alternate Directors Present: J. Brett Marymee and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (In Person): Cynthia Allen, Rachel Glauser, Rich Gonzales, Daniel Heimel (Confluence Engineering), Nate Page (Confluence Engineering), Legal Counsel Isaac St. Lawrence, and Amber Thompson,

Others Present (Teleconference): John Fio (EKI), Paeter Garcia, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Kadie McShirley, Carol Redhead, Susan Xie (EKI), and Matt Young

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

Chair Ball called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Three Directors and one Acting Alternate Directors were present in person providing a quorum. Two Alternate Directors were also present in person. One non-voting Acting Alternate Director participated by teleconference.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Ball led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. New Board Member Welcome and Introductions**

Newly appointed Board Members were introduced and welcomed to the Board. Director Philip Carpenter was appointed as Director from Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District. Director Ron Stassi, a previous Alternate Director, was appointed as Director from Vandenberg Village Community Services District. Director James Keeling was appointed as Director from Mission Hills Community Services District. Alternate Director J. Brett Marymee was appointed as Alternate Director from Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District. Alternate Director James Lamont was appointed as Alternate Director from Vandenberg Village Community Services District. Mr. Buelow then introduced all attendees.

### **4. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**5. WMA Board of Directors Officers and Committee Appointments**

Mr. Buelow stated that per the WMA GSA JPA, the Board needs to appoint the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer each January. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Acting Alternate Director Garner nominated **Director Jeremy Ball as Chair** and **Director Stassi as Vice-Chair**. Both Director Ball and Director Stassi accepted the nomination. Director Carpenter seconded the nominations. The nominations passed unanimously by voice vote.

Director Ball nominated **Amber Thompson as Secretary** and **William Buelow as Treasurer**. Ms. Thompson and Mr. Buelow accepted the nomination. There was no further discussion. Director Stassi seconded the nominations. The nominations passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Ball appointed **Director Ball and Director Philip Carpenter to the Ad-Hoc Committee for WMA Groundwater Production Measurement and Reporting Policy Development**.

**6. Review and consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 25, 2024**

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

Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the WMA GSA Board meeting of September 25, 2024, as presented. Acting Alternate Director Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1 with Director Carpenter abstaining.

**7. Review and Consider Approval of Quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List with Invoices**

Mr. Buelow presented the quarterly financial reports of FY 2024-25 Periods 1 through 3 (through September 30, 2024) and the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2024 for WMA GSA Board consideration. Discussion followed regarding Member Agencies Contributions. There was no public comment.

Acting Alternate Director Garner made a MOTION to approve the Warrant Lists for July, August, and September 2024 (Check Nos. 1044-1058) totaling \$47,052.75, as presented. Director Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A request was made that FY 2025-2026 WMA GSA Budget Agency Contributions be sent to member agencies asap.

**8. Receive Update from EKI on Proposition 68 Projects**

Ms. Susan Xie and Mr. John Fio, EKI, provided an update on Proposition 68 Grant Funded Projects for Components No. 2 (Well Extraction Measurement and Reporting), No. 5 (Monitoring Improvements), No. 6 (Storm Water Capture), No. 7 (Water Use

Efficiency), and No. 8 (Recycled Water Feasibility Study). Mr. Buelow provided updates on Components No. 3 (Rate Study) and No. 4 (Annual Report/GSP Updates). Discussion occurred during and following the presentations. Public comments were received. There was no action.

**9. Update on WMA Annual Report and Schedule**

Mr. Curtis Lawler provided an update on the Water Year 2024 Annual Report. He explained the new format of a single Annual Report for the entire basin, in response to DWR's request, will include an Executive Basin Summary plus separate sections for each GSA. Stetson Engineering and GSI Water Solutions are working together on the combined report. The WMA and CMA GSAs contracted with Stetson Engineers to complete their sub-reports and the EMA GSA contracted with GSI Water Solutions to complete the EMA sub-report with the WMA also hiring Stetson Engineers on behalf of the Basin to provide the Basin Executive Summary plus combine the three sub-reports into one Annual Report. He recommended the WMA sub-report be made available in February for review and comments, then the full annual report with executive basin summary and three GSA sub-reports be presented in March for approval to submit to DWR. Discussion followed. There was no public comment. By consensus, the Board agreed with Mr. Lawler's recommendation to have the WMA sub-report available for review and comments in February, then the full annual report with executive basin summary and three GSA sub-reports be presented in March for approval to submit to DWR.

**10. Consider Approval of a New Task-Order with Stetson Engineers for the Five-Year WMA GSP Update**

Mr. Buelow reviewed a staff memorandum dated January 22, 2025 regarding a New Task Order for Stetson to Update the WMA GSP and presented the Stetson Engineers Scope of Work and Estimated Cost draft dated 10/3/2024. Discussion followed. Public comments were received.

Director Carpenter made a MOTION to approve the Stetson Engineers Scope of Work and Cost Estimate to update the WMA GSP, with approved costs not to exceed \$300,000 and to authorize staff to execute necessary documents. Discussion followed. Director Stassi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, requested that the WMA GSA Ad-hoc committees including the WMA Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and appointed Ad-Hoc Committees be available for periodic evaluations of WMA GSP technical issues during the process as was done with the GSP preparation.

**11. Review and Discuss 2025 Schedule of Meetings for the WMA GSA**

Mr. Buelow provided a history of WMA GSA regular meeting schedules and presented a proposed 2025 schedule of WMA GSA Board of Directors regular meetings. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Acting Alternate Director Garner made a MOTION to schedule quarterly regular meetings of the WMA GSA Board of Directors on the fourth Wednesday during the second month of each quarter at 2:00 p.m. at Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting

Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California, as presented. Director Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**12. Next Regular WMA GSA Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 2:00 p.m. at VVCSD**

Chair Ball announced the next WMA GSA Board Regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Meeting Room, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California.

**13. Next Basin-wide Joint GSAs Meeting: Friday, March 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m., Buellton City Council Chambers**

Chair Ball announced the next Basin-wide Joint GSAs meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers. He requested a reminder of the joint meeting be sent ahead of time to all Directors.

**14. WMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items**

Mr. Buelow announced a Presentation and Tour of the Freeman Diversion in Ventura County hosted by United Water Conservation District is planned for March 26, 2025 and passed out invitations.

**15. Closed Session**

The Board held closed session from 3:22 p.m. until 5:40 p.m. to discuss the following item:

- a. Public Employment – Executive Director Position – Govt. Code Sec. 54957(b)

**16. Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report**

At 5:40 p.m., the Board reconvened into Open Session. Legal Counsel Mr. St. Lawrence reported that the Board met with legal counsel and staff to conduct interviews and that no action that would require disclosure under the Brown Act was taken.

**17. Adjournment**

Chair Ball adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

  
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Jeremy Ball, Chair

  
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Amber Thompson, Secretary

**WMA GSA**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of September 30, 2024

Sep 30, 24

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1150 · Five Star Bank Checking #5978 199,422.63

Total Checking/Savings 199,422.63

Total Current Assets 199,422.63

**TOTAL ASSETS** 199,422.63

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

2501 · Loan from SYRWCD 150,000.00

2504 · Loan from MHCSD 71,250.00

2505 · Loan from VVCSD 71,250.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 292,500.00

Total Current Liabilities 292,500.00

Total Liabilities 292,500.00

Equity

3000 · Retained Earnings 27,450.40

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets -80,156.39

Net Income -40,371.38

Total Equity -93,077.37

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 199,422.63

**WMA GSA**  
**Profit & Loss**  
July through September 2024

	<u>Jul - Sep 24</u>
<b>Income</b>	
4600 · Interest Income	36.87
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>36.87</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
5200 · GSA Management/Admin	11,393.50
5330 · Outside Staff Support	6,101.00
5360 · Insurance	5,018.00
5800 · Legal Services	11,550.00
6100 · Stakeholder Engagement	72.00
6502 · GSP Rate Study	3,296.25
6504 · GSP Impl - Monitoring Network	2,977.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>40,408.25</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-40,371.38</u></u>

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

**JULY 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
ACH	07/01/24	Golden State Risk Management Authority	General Liability Insurance FY 2024-25 (7/1/24-7/1/2025)	\$ 5,018.00
1044	07/10/24	McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence	June 2024 Legal Services	\$ 3,619.00
1045	07/10/24	Onsite Computers	Office 365 Basic License (email) - wma@SantaYnezWater.org	\$ 72.00
1046	07/10/24	Stetson Engineers	May 2024 Engineering Service (3rd Annual Report & GSP Implementation Work)	\$ 1,825.50
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 10,534.50</b>

**AUGUST 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1047	08/14/24	McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence	July 2024 Legal Services	\$ 7,084.00
1048	08/14/24	Raftelis	June 2024 Rate Study	\$ 455.00
1049	08/14/24	Stetson Engineers	June 2024 Engineering Service (GSP Implementation - Monitoring Network)	\$ 327.00
1050	08/14/24	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Administrative Services (June 26, 2024 - July 31, 2024)	\$ 11,393.50
1051	08/14/24	Raftelis	July 2024 Rate Study	\$ 1,215.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 20,474.50</b>

**SEPTEMBER 2024 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1052	09/25/24	GSI Water Solutions	August 2024 Well Verification Review (paid by Well Owner Deposits)	\$ 1,200.00
1053	09/25/24	McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence	August 2024 Legal Services	\$ 4,466.00
1054	09/25/24	Oilfield Environmental & Compliance, Inc.	August 2024 Water Quality Tests	\$ 2,550.00
1055	09/25/24	Raftelis	August 2024 Rate Study	\$ 1,626.25
1056	09/25/24	Valley Bookkeeping	Quarterly Bookkeeping (July, August, and September 2024)	\$ 400.00
1057	09/25/24	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	Administrative Services (August 2024)	\$ 5,701.00
1058	09/25/24	Stetson Engineers	July 2024 Engineering Service (GSP Implementation - Monitoring Network)	\$ 100.50
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 16,043.75</b>

**TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 47,052.75**

**Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin  
Western Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

**2025 WMA GSA Board of Directors Meetings**

Wednesday, 2:00 pm  
Vandenberg Village CSD Meeting Room

<b>February 26</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
March 7	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **
March – tbd	Special Meeting (Annual Report)
<b>May 28</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
June 6	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **
<b>August 27</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
September 5	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **
<b>November 19 *</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
December 5	JOINT GSAs Possible Meeting **

\* Meeting to be held early due to holidays

\*\* Basin-wide JOINT GSAs Special Meetings:

When: Friday morning (usually 9:00 am)

Where: Buellton City Council Chambers, Buellton