

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

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

and

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

and

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

March 7, 2025

A joint special meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CMA GSA), the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA), and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WMA GSA) was held on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

EMA GSA Director Brett Marymee attended the meeting via teleconference from 18800 Corkill Road, Desert Hot Springs, California. This remote participation location was properly noticed on the agenda and the agenda was posted at the remote location, in compliance with Gov. Code Section 54950 et seq. No members of the public joined Director Marymee at the location.

CMA GSA Directors Present: Michael Anderson (non-voting), Acting Alternate Robert Dunlap, Joan Hartmann (non-voting), and John Sanchez,

EMA GSA Directors Present: Joan Hartmann, Acting Alternate Mary Heyden, Brad Joos, J. Brett Marymee (participating by teleconference), and Elizabeth Orona

WMA GSA Directors Present: Jeremy Ball, Joan Hartmann (non-voting), James Keeling, Acting Alternate J. Brett Marymee (participating by teleconference), and Ron Stassi

CMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Meighan Diethofer and Sara Rotman

EMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Michael Burchardi and Meighan Diethofer

WMA GSA Alternate Directors Present: Meighan Diethofer, Mike Garner, and Kristin Worthley

Others Present (In Person): Jose Acosta, Cynthia Allen, Charlotte Arnao (Confluences Engineering), Paeter Garcia, Dan Heimel (Confluences Engineering), Rose Hess, Mark Infanti, Larry Lahr (CMA Director participating as member of public due to his late arrival), Kadie McShirley, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present (Teleconference): Steve Anderson, Dan Drugan, John Fio (EKI Consulting), Theresa Jurotich (Raftelis), Deby Laranjo, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Mike Linden (Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, EMA GSA Legal Counsel), Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), Katie O'Malley, Steven O'Neill (Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, EMA GSA Legal Counsel), Sudhir Pardiwala (Raftelis), Carol Redhead, Isaac St. Lawrence (McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence, WMA GSA Legal Counsel), Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge LLP, CMA GSA Legal Counsel), and Susan Xie (EKI Consulting)

1. Call to Order

Ms. Thompson, CMA GSA and WMA GSA Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting start was delayed due to technical problems for remote participation.

2. Consider Appointment of Moderator to Facilitate Joint GSA Meeting

CMA, EMA, and WMA Director Hartmann volunteered to moderate the joint meeting. There was a unanimous consensus by all GSA Directors.

3. Roll Call

Ms. Thompson called roll. Director Hartmann asked that all Directors introduce themselves.

Central Management Area GSA

One voting CMA GSA Director, one voting Acting Alternate Director, and two non-voting Directors were present providing a quorum. In addition, two Alternate Directors were present.

Eastern Management Area GSA

Three EMA GSA Directors and one Acting Alternate Director were present in person, plus one Director was present via teleconference, as was properly noticed on the agenda, providing a quorum. In addition, two Alternate Directors were present. No adults were present with Director Marymee at the remote location.

Western Management Area GSA

Three voting WMA GSA Directors and one non-voting Director were present in person, plus one Acting Alternate Director was present via teleconference, as was properly noticed on the agenda, providing a quorum. In addition, three Alternate Directors were present in person. No adults were present with Director Marymee at the remote location.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Review and Consider Approval of Minutes of the Joint Special Meeting of December 6, 2024

The minutes for the Joint GSAs Special Meeting of December 6, 2024 were presented for Board consideration. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

a. CMA GSA Board vote

CMA GSA Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the Joint GSAs Special Meeting of December 6, 2024, as presented. CMA GSA Acting Alternate Director Dunlap seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed 2-0 by voice vote.

b. EMA GSA Board vote

EMA GSA Director Hartmann made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the Joint GSAs Special Meeting of December 6, 2024, as presented. EMA GSA Director Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES, Directors: Hartmann, Joos, and Orona

NOES, Directors: None

ABSTAIN, Directors: Heyden, and Marymee (teleconference technical difficulties)

c. WMA GSA Board vote

WMA GSA Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the Joint GSAs Special Meeting of December 6, 2024, as presented. WMA GSA Director Ball seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES, Directors: Ball, Keeling, and Stassi

NOES, Directors: None

ABSTAIN, Director: Marymee (teleconference technical difficulties)

6. Receive and Consider Approval of the First Joint Annual Report for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Mr. Heimel introduced the item and thanked the consultant teams from GSI Water Solutions and Stetson Engineers for their efforts and coordination to prepare the First Basin Annual Report and overcoming the challenges with consolidating the Water Year 2024 reports for all three management areas of the Basin into one annual report, as was requested by DWR. He stated that the full report is available on the GSAs websites and SantaYnezWater.org.

Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, provided an overview of the First Basin Annual Report, the Executive Summary section, and the sub report sections for the Central Management Area and the Western Management Area. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Mr. Nicely, GSI Water Solutions, provided an overview of the sub report section for the Eastern Management Area. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

- Director Hartmann, CMA/EMA/WMA GSAs, requested staff develop and issue a press release about the completion and availability of the Annual Report and prepare a summary of some of the Annual Report key findings. She suggested publishing the information in the Lompoc and Santa Ynez newspapers. Director Joos, EMA GSA, agreed with the request.
- Director Ball, WMA GSA, requested the press release be sent to Directors for review before publication.

a. CMA GSA Board vote

CMA GSA Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the First Joint Annual Report for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, as presented, and directed staff to submit to DWR before April 1, 2025. CMA GSA Acting Alternate Director Dunlap seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed 2-0 by voice vote.

b. EMA GSA Board vote

EMA GSA Director Orona made a MOTION to approve the First Joint Annual Report for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, as presented, and directed staff to submit to DWR before April 1, 2025. EMA GSA Director Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES, Directors: Hartmann, Heyden, Joos, and Orona
 NOES, Directors: None
 ABSTAIN, Directors: Marymee (teleconference technical difficulties)

c. WMA GSA Board vote

WMA GSA Director Ball made a MOTION to approve the First Joint Annual Report for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, as presented, and directed staff to submit to DWR before April 1, 2025. WMA GSA Director Keeling seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES, Directors: Ball, Keeling, and Stassi
 NOES, Directors: None
 ABSTAIN, Directors: Marymee (teleconference technical difficulties)

7. Receive Update on Proposition 68 Grant Projects, Schedule and Financial Status

Ms. Xie and Mr. Fio, EKI, presented an update on Proposition 68 Grant projects Basin wide for Component 2 (Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Project and Basin Reporting Program), Component 5 (Monitoring Improvement and Expansion), and the projects for WMA GSA Specific Component 6 (Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project Designs), Component 7 (Water use Efficiency Strategic Plan), and Component 8 (Recycled Water Feasibility Study).

Mr. Heibel provided additional information on Component 2 projects. There was discussion and public comments received during the presentation.

Director Hartmann, CMA/EMA/WMA GSAs, asked about Component 6, Stormwater Capture sites in CMA, EMA, and WMA. Mr. Fio explained that Prop 68 Component 6 is a WMA focused grant project because the WMA GSA requested it be part of the grant application, so the Grant award document specifies funding for sites located in the WMA. He reported the City of Lompoc secured a separate grant project through the County of Santa Barbara for stormwater recharge sites and consultants are looking at sites in the CMA, EMA, and WMA independent of Prop 68 projects.

Ms. Xie provided a brief update on progress to date of Proposition 68 Grant Component 1 (Grant Administration), and progress on projects for Component 3 (CMA/EMA/WMA SGMA Rate Study), Component 4 (Basin GSPs 5-Year Update including Annual Reports), and an overview of the Grant Funding Tracking through December 2024..

Mr. Heibel introduced Proposition 68 Grant Progress Report & Invoice No. 5 which was submitted to DWR in late February 2025 and provided in the meeting packet. Ms. Thompson provided a summary of the grant funds per GSA including the allocation (per the Subgrant Agreement), amount invoiced for reimbursement to date, and the allocation balance available per Grant Component.

Discussion continued and public comments were received after the presentation. There was no action.

8. Receive Verbal Update on the Status of Developing Metering Policy(ies) in the Basin

Mr. Heibel introduced the item and reported on the EMA GSA efforts for developing a metering policy for the EMA. He stated the draft EMA policy is available on EMA website as part of the documents for the February 27th EMA GSA Board meeting. Discussion followed and public comments were received.

- Director Hartmann directed staff to contact the Basin's DWR representative for more information on any DWR preferences for standardized metering policies. Director Ball agreed and would like clarity from the State on this issue especially as to consistency of policy in Basin vs individuality of each management area. Discussion followed.

9. Review and Consider Approval of the GSA Form of Agreement for SGMA Related Services

Mr. Heibel introduced the template Agreement for SGMA Related Services and explained the reason for requesting this Basin-wide contracting agreement template to be approved as to form is to streamline the process in securing consultants for future basin-wide projects. He stated the template will be used when creating specific agreements with specific consultants for specific scopes of work and those individual agreements will be brought to the GSAs for final consideration. There is an anticipated need for other basin wide project agreements in the future.

Mr. O'Neill, EMA GSA Legal Counsel, advised that the template was created jointly by the legal counsels from all three GSAs. It is a set of terms and conditions using set basic contractual language and format to be used for professional services only and utilizing the template will create efficiencies since it has already been approved by all three GSAs Legal Counsels.

Discussion followed and public comment was received. GSA Legal Counsels agreed to revise the template to include a clause to cross reference the cost share agreement.

The Boards agreed to discuss Item No. 10 before considering the vote on Item No. 9.

a. CMA GSA Board vote

See Item No. 10.

b. EMA GSA Board vote

See Item No. 10.

c. WMA GSA Board vote

See Item No. 10.

Approve the template agreement incorporating the changes proposed to add a clause cross reference the cost share agreement as agreed to by GSA legal counsels.

10. Review and Consider Approval of a Proposal from GSI for Action Plan Implementation Support and a Santa Ynez Joint Powers Authority Cost-Sharing and Reimbursement Agreement

Mr. Heibel introduced a proposal received from GSI for GSP Action Plan implementation support and a Cost Sharing and Reimbursement Agreement and stated a lead GSA needs to be identified to contract with GSI for the Action Plan implementation, on behalf of the Basin, with a Scope of Work estimated at \$60,000. Discussion followed.

Director Ball, WMA GSA, questioned why the GSAs are tasked with the Action Plan and expressed concern about if the project is fully reimbursable by the Prop 68 Grant. Mr. Young reminded the Boards that the Action Plan was developed in response to comments received on all three GSPs and that the Action Plan was adopted by all three GSA Boards as an amendment to each of the three GSPs in the Basin, prior to their approval. Mr. Garcia added that with approval of the three GSPs, DWR issued corrective actions for each Management Area. One corrective action issued for all three GSPs was to complete and incorporate the Action Plan in the 5-Year update of the GSPs, and that GSP updates are grant reimbursable.

Director Ball, WMA GSA, expressed concern with the limited amount of time provided for review of the agreements and the proposal being considered. He requested that materials to be considered at future meetings be provided with longer review time.

Staff recommendation was the CMA GSA be the lead agency. Discussion followed. The CMA GSA Board agreed to volunteer to be lead agency for the Action Plan effort.

Board action for Agenda Items No. 9 and 10 were made together.

a. CMA GSA Board vote

CMA GSA Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the use of the template agreement for professional services adding language to be consistent with the cost share agreement, as approved by legal counsels, for the purposes of CMA GSA developing a professional services agreement with GSI Water Solutions to provide the services outlined in the Action Plan; authorize CMA GSA Chair to execute the Agreement, if no material changes except those already agreed upon; and execute the associated Cost Share Agreement with CMA GSA as the lead agency. Discussion followed. CMA GSA Acting Alternate Director Dunlap seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The motion passed 2-0 by voice vote.

b. EMA GSA Board vote

EMA GSA Director Joos made a MOTION to approve the use of the template agreement for professional services adding language to be consistent with the cost share agreement, as approved by legal counsels, for the purposes of CMA GSA developing a professional services agreement with GSI Water Solutions to provide the services outlined in the Action Plan; authorize EMA GSA Chair to execute the associated Cost Share Agreement with CMA GSA as the lead agency. There was no discussion or public comment. EMA GSA Director Orona seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES, Directors: Hartmann, Heyden, Joos, Marymee, and Orona

NOES, Directors: None

ABSTAIN, Directors: None

c. WMA GSA Board vote

WMA GSA Director Stassi made a MOTION to approve the use of the template agreement for professional services adding language to be consistent with the cost share agreement, as approved by legal counsels, for the purposes of CMA GSA developing a professional services agreement with GSI Water Solutions to provide the services outlined in the Action Plan; authorize WMA GSA Chair to execute the associated Cost Share Agreement with CMA GSA as the lead agency. There was no discussion or public comment. WMA GSA Director Keeling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES, Directors: Keeling, Marymee, and Stassi

NOES, Director: Ball

ABSTAIN, Directors: None

11. Receive Information on Field-Visit to United WCD’s Freeman Diversion, March 26, 2025

Mr. Heibel presented the invitation received from United Water Conservation District (WCD) for a presentation and tour of the Freeman Diversion in Ventura County on March 26th. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

12. Review and Consider a Potential Revised Schedule for the Joint Meetings of the GSA Boards

Mr. Heibel explained the need to change the quarterly joint meetings of the GSA Boards to the second Friday of the last month of each quarter, to allow enough time to receive and review documents prior to the meetings. The extra week is especially needed for the annual report in March. There was no public comment. All GSA Boards agreed to change the meeting schedule to the second Friday of the last month of each quarter, effective March 2026.

13. GSA Board Member Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

There were no reports or requests for future agenda items.

14. Adjourn Joint Special Meeting

Director Hartmann, meeting moderator, adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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

CMA Approved 11/17/25. Signed by John Sanchez

Signed by Amber Thompson

John Sanchez, Chair

Amber Thompson, Secretary

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

EMA Approved 11/20/25. Signed by Brad Joos

Signed by Doug Circle

Brad Joos, Chair

Doug Circle, Secretary

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

WMA Approved 11/19/25. Signed by Jeremy Ball

Signed by Charlotte Arnao

Jeremy Ball, Chair

Charlotte Arnao, Secretary

Approved on: see individual Board approval dates