

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors May 18,2026

A regular meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the City of Buellton, City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Robert Dunlap, and John Sanchez

Non-Voting Directors Present: Mike Anderson, and Acting Alternate Meighan Dietenhofer

Others Present (In Person): Bill Buelow, Rose Hess, Simone, and Amber Thompson

Others Present (Teleconference): John Fio (EKI Water & Environment), Leonard Fleckenstein, Theresa Jurotich (Raftelis), Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Chris Padilla (Moss, Levy, Hartzheim), Sudhir Pardiwala (Raftelis), and Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

CMA GSA Board Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Buelow called roll. Three Directors and one Acting Alternate Director were present providing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Receive presentation by Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP and file the Fiscal Year 2024-25 and Fiscal Year 2025-26 Independent Auditor's Reports and Reports on Internal Controls

Mr. Padilla, Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP, presented the Reports of Independent Auditors and Financial Statements with Required Supplementary Information for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to accept and file the financial audit reports for fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Padilla left the meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2026
- b. Minutes of the Joint GSAs Special Meeting of March 13, 2026
- c. Quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda Items 5.a., 5.b., and 5.c. (January, February, and March 2026 Warrant List: Checks 1130-1152 plus one ACH transaction, totaling \$154,671.91), as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Consider approval of Amendment No. 1 to Administrative Services Agreement between the CMA GSA and SYRWCD

Mr. Buelow introduced Amendment No. 1 to the Administrative Services Agreement between the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mr. Torigiani noted the only change was to the SYRWCD Rate Schedule on Exhibit A. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Administrative Services Agreement between the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Review and consider approval of FY 2026-2027 Budget

Mr. Buelow presented the CMA GSA Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the CMA GSA Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget, as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Consider adoption of CMA Resolution No. 2026-01, Setting Groundwater Management Fee and Requesting Collection of Groundwater Management Fee for FYE 2027 in the Same Manner as Municipal Ad Valorem Taxes

Mr. Buelow introduced CMA Resolution No. 2026-01, Setting Groundwater Management Fee and Requesting Collection of Groundwater Management Fee for FYE 2027 in the Same Manner as Municipal Ad Valorem Taxes. Staff's recommendation to meet the CMA GSA budget requirements was to keep the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 charges the same as was set for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and not increase to the maximum charges previously approved and authorized by CMA Resolution No. 2025-02. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Sanchez made a **MOTION** to approve CMA Resolution No. 2026-01, Setting Groundwater Management Fee and Requesting Collection of Groundwater Management Fee for FYE 2027 in the Same Manner as Municipal Ad Valorem Taxes, setting the FYE 2027 Groundwater Management Fee with the Acreage Charge of \$2.08 per acre and the Extraction Charge of \$63.32 per acre-foot. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Dunlap and Sanchez

NOES, Directors: None

ABSENT, Directors: None

Mr. Pardiwala and Ms. Jurotich left the meeting.

9. Consider adoption of CMA Resolution 2026-02 Establishing a Process to Appeal Calculation of the CMA GSA's Groundwater Management Fee

Mr. Buelow introduced CMA Resolution No. 2026-02, Establishing a Process to Appeal Calculation of the CMA GSA's Groundwater Management Fee. He reported there were no appeals received in 2025-2026 but a process is needed to follow in the event anyone does appeal the groundwater management fee. Mr. Torigiani added that the focus of the appeal process is if there was an error with the calculation of the fees and specifies the process to follow. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Sanchez made a **MOTION** to approve CMA Resolution No. 2026-02, Establishing a Process to Appeal Calculation of the CMA GSA's Groundwater Management Fee, as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Dunlap and Sanchez

NOES, Directors: None

ABSENT, Directors: None

10. Presentations to the Board - Stetson Engineers

a. 2026 Spring Groundwater Monitoring Results and Grant Component 4 (Stetson)

Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, presented an update on the 2026 Spring groundwater monitoring results. Discussion followed.

The Board recessed from 11:20 a.m. to 11:50 p.m.

The meeting resumed, continuing with an update provided by Mr. Lawler and discussion on Grant Component 4 GSP periodic update. There were no public comments and no action was taken.

b. Grant Components 2 and 5 (EKI)

Mr. Fio (EKI Water & Environment) presented an update on Grant Component 2 (groundwater extraction demonstration projects) in the CMA and WMA. Discussion followed. There were no public comments and no action was taken.

11. CMA Updates

a. WY 2025-2026 Annual Report Planning

Mr. Buelow provided an update on Water Year 2025-2026 annual reporting requirements, DWR's new process for data upload, and requirement of a single annual report for the Basin. Discussion followed.

The Board directed staff to make the process as efficient as possible for cost savings with preparation of the annual report, work with other GSAs to prepare a RFP for Basin Single Annual Report based on DWR requirements, and indicated they would support using one consultant to prepare a single Basin report for all three GSAs, if cost efficiency is achieved.

b. CMA SGMA Groundwater Management Fee Collection

Mr. Buelow provided an update on CMA GSA Groundwater Management Fees invoiced, received, and amount due through the County Tax Roll for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

c. Small GSA Coalition

Mr. Buelow provided an update on the efforts of the Small GSA Coalition and possible availability of \$3.5 million of Proposition 4 grant funds for small GSAs. Discussion followed.

d. The Faces of SGMA Implementation Summit - GRA

Mr. Buelow informed the Board of the SGMA Conference to be held June 2-3, 2026 in Clovis, CA. Discussion followed. The Board authorized Mr. Buelow to attend if his schedule would allow.

e. Website service for accessible PDFs

Ms. Thompson presented information regarding DocAccess. Discussion followed. The Board authorized Mr. Buelow to execute agreement document.

Mr. Buelow left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

12. Next Special Basin-Wide Joint Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2026, 9:00 AM at Buellton City Council Chambers

The next Basin-wide Joint GSAs Special meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

13. Next CMA GSA Regular Board Meeting is Monday, August 24, 2026, 10:00 AM, at Buellton CCC

The next CMA GSA Board regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

14. CMA GSA Board of Directors Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

There were no reports or requests from Directors.

15. Adjournment

Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.


Robert Dunlap, Vice-Chair
Amber Thompson, Secretary

CMA GSA
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2026

	<u>Mar 31, 26</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1150 · Five Star Bank Checking #5943	67,688.88
Total Checking/Savings	67,688.88
Accounts Receivable	
1200 · Accounts Receivable	94,330.44
Total Accounts Receivable	94,330.44
Other Current Assets	
1300 · Grant Receivable	166,948.31
1620 · Due from EMA	9,823.50
1630 · Due from WMA	9,070.00
Total Other Current Assets	185,841.81
Total Current Assets	347,861.13
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>347,861.13</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2501 · Loan from SYRWCD	218,875.54
2503 · Loan from City of Buellton	175,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	393,875.54
Total Current Liabilities	393,875.54
Total Liabilities	393,875.54
Equity	
3000 · Ret Earnings	97,148.99
32000 · Retained Earnings	-203,135.04
Net Income	59,971.64
Total Equity	-46,014.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>347,861.13</u>

CMA GSA

Profit & Loss YTD Comparison

January through March 2026

	FY25-26 Q3	
	Jan - Mar 26	Jul '25 - Mar 26
Income		
4100 · GW Management Fees	66,528.59	196,035.77
4500 · Grant Revenue	166,948.09	166,948.09
4600 · Interest Income	26.81	90.92
Total Income	233,503.49	363,074.78
Gross Profit	233,503.49	363,074.78
Expense		
5200 · GSA Management/Admin	10,728.75	17,723.65
5320 · Office Expense (incl postage)	0.00	39.00
5330 · Outside Staff Support	1,000.00	1,500.00
5350 · Public Relations	0.00	121.80
5360 · Insurance	0.00	4,892.55
5400 · GW Management Fees Collection	47.50	9,373.50
5800 · Legal Services	4,998.90	8,627.39
6100 · Stakeholder Engagement	1,440.00	1,440.00
6301 · Basin - GSPs Action Plan	-31,849.81	4,334.72
6310 · Basin Monitor Network	0.00	3,150.25
6311 · CMA - Basin Monitor Network	14,202.25	14,202.25
6312 · EMA - Basin Monitor Network	0.00	0.00
6313 · WMA - Basin Monitor Network	0.00	0.00
6400 · Annual Report	16,288.75	16,288.75
6501 · GSP Impl - Well Meas/Report	21,407.50	42,574.75
6502 · GSP Impl - Rate Study	0.00	147.50
6503 · GSP Impl - GSP 5 yr Update	22,590.37	125,055.23
6504 · GSP Impl - Monitoring Network	19,320.50	53,631.80
Total Expense	80,174.71	303,103.14
Net Income	153,328.78	59,971.64

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

JANUARY 2026 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
ACH	01/06/26	Streamline	Website Platform - 12 months (December 1, 2025-2026)	\$	1,440.00
1130	01/14/26	Geosyntec Consultants	FBO BASIN: September & October 2025 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component #5- Monitoring Network Improvement and Expansion (CMA: \$3,277.66; EMA: \$4,597.67; WMA: \$4,015.17)	\$	11,890.50
1131	01/14/26	Stetson Engineers	October 2025 Engineering Service: GSP Implementation Grant Component: #4 - CMA GSP 5 Year Update	\$	15,094.73
1132	01/14/26	GSI Water Solutions	FBO BASIN: September 2025 GSP Implementation Grant Component #4 - GSP Update, Action Plan.	\$	8,246.79
1133	01/14/26	Valley Bookkeeping	Quarterly Bookkeeping (October, November, December 2025)	\$	500.00
1134	01/14/26	GSI Water Solutions	FBO BASIN: October 2025 GSP Implementation Grant Component #4 - GSP Update, Action Plan.	\$	15,507.10
MONTH TOTAL				\$	52,679.12

FEBRUARY 2026 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
1135	02/16/26	EKI Environment & Water	October 2025 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component: #2 -Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects & Component #5 - Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	\$	17,030.75
1136	02/16/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	November 2025 Administrative Services & Groundwater Management Fee Processing - includes grant reimbursable charges for Comp. #4 \$162.50 & Comp. #5 \$466.25	\$	6,358.75
1137	02/16/26	Young Wooldridge	November 2025 Legal Services - includes grant reimbursable charges for Comp. #4 \$893.75 & Comp. #5 \$357.50	\$	2,697.50
1138	02/16/26	Geosyntec Consultants	FBO BASIN: November 2025 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component #5- Monitoring Network Improvement and Expansion (CMA: \$3,430.92; EMA: \$2,308.42; WMA: \$2,369.91)	\$	8,109.25
1139	02/16/26	Stetson Engineers	November 2025 Engineering Service: GSP Implementation Grant Component: #4 - CMA GSP 5 Year Update	\$	6,428.60
1140	02/16/26	EKI Environment & Water	November 2025 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component: #2 -Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects & Component #5 - Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	\$	13,506.75
1141	02/16/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	December 2025 Administrative Services & Groundwater Management Fee Processing - includes grant reimbursable charges for Comp. #2 \$202.50, Comp. #4 \$511.25 & Comp. #5 \$857.50	\$	2,180.00
1142	02/16/26	Young Wooldridge	December 2025 Legal Services	\$	97.50

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

1143	02/16/26	Geosyntec Consultants	FBO BASIN: December 2025 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component #5- Monitoring Network Improvement and Expansion (CMA: \$2,698.75; EMA: \$1,530.25; WMA: \$1,297.75)	\$	5,526.75
1144	02/16/26	Stetson Engineers	December 2025 Engineering Service: GSP Implementation Grant Component: #4 - CMA GSP 5 Year Update and WY2025 Annual Report	\$	4,874.29
1145	02/16/26	EKI Environment & Water	December 2025 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component: #2 - Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects & Component #5 - Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	\$	7,711.75
1146	02/16/26	Geosyntec Consultants	FBO BASIN: January 2026 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component #5- Monitoring Network Improvement and Expansion (CMA: \$4,794.92; EMA: \$1,387.16; WMA: \$1,387.17)	\$	7,569.25
1147	02/16/26	Young Wooldridge	January 2026 Legal Services	\$	278.10
1148	02/16/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	January 2026 Administrative Services & Groundwater Management Fee Processing - includes grant reimbursable charges for Comp. #4 \$47.50 & Comp. #5 \$331.25	\$	2,237.50
				MONTH TOTAL \$	84,606.74

MARCH 2026 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
1149	03/10/26	Stetson Engineers	January 2026 Engineering Service: GSP Implementation Grant Component: #4 - CMA WY2025 Annual Report	\$	11,119.00
1150	03/10/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	February 2026 Administrative Services & Groundwater Management Fee Processing - includes grant reimbursable charges for Comp. #4 \$641.25 & Comp. #5 \$621.25	\$	3,841.25
1151	03/10/26	Valley Bookkeeping	Quarterly Bookkeeping (January, February, March 2026)	\$	500.00
1152	03/10/26	Young Wooldridge	February 2026 Legal Services	\$	1,925.80
				MONTH TOTAL \$	17,386.05

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: \$ 154,671.91

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

Central Management Area

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

BUDGET - Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Approved May 18, 2026

REVENUES:

Member Agency Contributions	0
SGMA Grant Reimbursement	593,200
Interest Income	150
SGMA - Groundwater Management Fees	214,999
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 808,349

EXPENSES:

Internal Operations / Expenses

Executive Director	40,000
Outside Services	2,500
Travel & Training	1,500
Annual Audit	15,000
Insurance	5,100
Dues (ACWA, CSDA, Small GSA, etc)	7,000
Fees Collection	5,200
Payback Member Agencies Loans	50,000
Miscellaneous (internet, webpage, postage etc)	3,500

SUB-TOTAL INTERNAL OPERATIONS \$ 129,800

Legal

General & Misc.	20,000
Employment/HR	0
Fees Collection	0

SUB-TOTAL LEGAL \$ 20,000

Engineering / Environmental

General & Misc.	10,000
Annual DWR Report	30,000
Grant Components 2-8	593,200

SUB-TOTAL ENGINEERING / ENVIRONMENTAL \$ 633,200

SUBTOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 783,000

Contingency	\$ 25,000
Reserve Contribution / Draw	\$ -

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 808,000

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

IN THE MATTER OF: RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

**SETTING GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT FEE AND REQUESTING
COLLECTION OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT FEES FOR FYE 2027
IN THE SAME MANNER AS MUNICIPAL AD VALOREM TAXES**

WHEREAS, the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“CMA GSA”) has imposed a Groundwater Management Fee (“Fee”), consisting of an Acreage Charge and Extraction Charge, through the adoption of Resolution 2025-02;

WHEREAS, the CMA GSA is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the Central Management Area (“CMA”) of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”);

WHEREAS, the CMA GSA has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”) pursuant to SGMA on January 5, 2022, which has been approved by the California Department of Water Resources;

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10730 authorizes the CMA GSA to “impose fees, including but not limited to, ...fees on groundwater extraction or other regulated activity, to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including but limited to, preparation, adoption, and amendment of a groundwater sustainability plan, and investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration, including a prudent reserve”;

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10730.2 authorizes the CMA GSA to “impose fees on the extraction of groundwater from the basin to fund costs of groundwater management, including, but not limited to, the costs of the following: administration, operation, and maintenance, including a prudent reserve. ... [and] ... other activities necessary or convenient to implement a plan”; and

WHEREAS, Water Code section 10730, subdivision (d), authorizes the CMA GSA to request collection of the fees in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, through the CMA GSA’s Board of Directors’ adoption of Resolution 2025-02, the maximum per acre-foot charge for groundwater extraction subject to the Extraction Charge is shown in the following table and for Fiscal Year Ending (“FYE”) 2027 is \$65.85 per acre-foot:

GSA Fee Component	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Effective Date	1-Jul-25	1-Jul-26	1-Jul-27	1-Jul-28	1-Jul-29
Extraction (\$/AF)	\$63.32	\$65.85	\$68.48	\$71.22	\$74.07

; and

WHEREAS, through the CMA GSA’s Board of Directors’ adoption of Resolution 2025-02, the maximum per acre charge for each parcel subject to the Acreage Charge is shown in the

following table and for FYE 2027 is \$2.16 per acre:

GSA Fee Component	FYE 2026	FYE 2027	FYE 2028	FYE 2029	FYE 2030
Effective Date	1-Jul-25	1-Jul-26	1-Jul-27	1-Jul-28	1-Jul-29
Acreage (\$/Acre)	\$2.08	\$2.16	\$2.25	\$2.34	\$2.43

; and

WHEREAS, through the CMA GSA's Board of Directors' adoption of Resolution 2025-03, for FYE 2026 the CMA GSA set the Acreage Charge at the rate of \$2.08 per acre and set the Extraction Charge at the rate \$63.32 per acre-foot, which were the maximum rates set forth in and authorized by Resolution 2025-02 for FYE 2026; and

WHEREAS, the CMA GSA Plan Manager recommends that the FYE 2027 Acreage Charge be set at \$2.08 per acre and the FYE 2027 Extraction Charge be set at \$63.32 per acre-foot, which recommended amounts of the Acreage Charge and Extraction Charge for FYE 2027 are within the limits set forth in and authorized by Resolution 2025-02 for FYE 2027 and consistent with the CMA GSA budget requirements for FYE 2027; and

WHEREAS, a list of each of the 2,592 parcels, identified by APN, subject to the Fee in FYE 2027, is attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Directors that:

- FYE 2027 Groundwater Management Fee.** The Groundwater Management Fee for FYE 2027 is hereby set as follows:
 - The Acreage Charge shall be \$ 2.08 per acre.
 - The Extraction Charge shall be \$ 63.32 per acre-foot.
- Preparation of Report.** The CMA GSA staff shall prepare and file with the Secretary of the Board a written report ("Report") containing the following information:
 - the amount of the Acreage Charge and Extraction Charge for FYE 2027, which are within the limits set forth in Resolution 2025-02;
 - a list of each parcel subject to the Fee in FYE 2027; and
 - the calculated Acreage Charge, Extraction Charge, and total Fee for each parcel for FYE 2027.
- Request for Collection.** Pursuant to Water Code section 10730, subdivision (d), the CMA GSA requests that the Fee, including any unbilled Fee amounts from the prior fiscal years, be collected by the County of Santa Barbara in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem taxes. This Resolution hereby serves as the order by the CMA GSA to the County Auditor-Controller of Santa Barbara County ("Auditor-Controller") to place the Groundwater Management Fee on the Santa Barbara County tax roll.
- Compliance with Auditor-Controller's Requirement.** The Secretary of the Board is directed to file with the Auditor-Controller, a copy of this resolution and

such other documentation as the Auditor-Controller requires for placing a fee on the tax roll. The CMA GSA will comply or has complied with all of the requirements to place the Groundwater Management Fee on the tax roll, including, but not limited to, the requirements set forth in correspondence or other communication received from the Auditor-Controller, executing any agreement(s) and amendments to agreement(s) to place the Groundwater Management Fee on the tax roll, executing a Proposition 218 compliance certificate, and submitting the Fixed Charge Data File in the specified format using the data from the Report.

5. **Authorization.** The Secretary of the Board and the Executive Director are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents, to do any and all things, and to take any and all actions that may be necessary or advisable, in their discretion, in order to effect the purposes and intent of this resolution. All actions heretofore taken by officers, employees, and agents of the CMA GSA, including, but not limited to, the Plan Manager and the Secretary of the Board of Directors, that are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this resolution are hereby approved, confirmed, and ratified.

All the foregoing, being on motion of Director SaY)C,bEZ--, seconded by Director Q,AY)O,, is authorized by the following roll-call vote, to wit:

AYES: Scxr\CX\€-z. °-Y°o-.OlAn \ °'f

NOES: N DV-t.

ABSTAIN: ()'fie,

ABSENT: DN'f..

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said CMA GSA as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 18th day of May 2026.

WITNESS my hand this 18th day of May 2026.

/)'y\-
Amber M. Thompson,
Secretary of the Board of Directors

APN	APN	APN	APN	APN	APN
083-150-003	099-170-015	099-210-065	099-240-079	099-271-003	099-282-018
083-150-006	099-170-017	099-210-068	099-240-080	099-271-004	099-283-001
083-150-010	099-170-021	099-210-069	099-251-003	099-271-005	099-283-002
083-150-011	099-170-023	099-210-070	099-251-005	099-271-006	099-283-003
083-150-013	099-170-024	099-210-071	099-251-008	099-271-007	099-283-004
083-160-003	099-170-028	099-210-073	099-251-011	099-271-008	099-283-005
083-160-005	099-170-029	099-210-074	099-251-020	099-271-009	099-283-006
083-160-009	099-170-032	099-210-075	099-251-021	099-271-014	099-283-007
083-160-014	099-170-040	099-210-076	099-251-056	099-271-018	099-283-008
083-160-015	099-170-043	099-210-077	099-251-063	099-271-019	099-283-010
083-160-016	099-170-044	099-220-001	099-251-067	099-271-020	099-283-011
083-160-017	099-170-045	099-220-013	099-251-068	099-271-021	099-283-012
083-160-018	099-170-046	099-220-017	099-251-069	099-271-022	099-284-001
083-160-021	099-170-047	099-220-020	099-251-070	099-271-023	099-285-001
083-160-023	099-170-048	099-220-021	099-251-071	099-271-025	099-291-002
083-160-025	099-170-054	099-230-005	099-251-075	099-271-026	099-291-003
083-160-026	099-170-055	099-230-007	099-251-076	099-271-030	099-291-004
083-160-027	099-180-005	099-230-011	099-251-077	099-271-031	099-291-005
083-160-028	099-180-006	099-230-012	099-252-006	099-271-032	099-292-015
083-170-004	099-180-007	099-230-014	099-252-036	099-271-033	099-292-016
083-170-005	099-180-009	099-230-021	099-252-041	099-271-034	099-292-019
083-170-007	099-180-011	099-230-022	099-252-042	099-271-035	099-292-020
083-170-010	099-180-014	099-230-027	099-252-063	099-271-037	099-292-023
083-170-011	099-180-015	099-230-028	099-252-064	099-271-038	099-292-024
083-170-015	099-180-017	099-230-029	099-252-074	099-272-001	099-292-026
083-170-016	099-180-018	099-230-030	099-252-089	099-272-002	099-293-001
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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

IN THE MATTER OF: RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

**ESTABLISHING A PROCESS TO APPEAL CALCULATION OF THE CMA GSA'S
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT FEE**

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("SGMA"), including but not limited to Water Code section 10720 et seq., requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs") to manage medium and high priority groundwater basins throughout the state through the adoption and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("GSPs"); and

WHEREAS, the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("CMA GSA") was formed and exists to sustainably manage groundwater in the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") recognizes the CMA GSA as the exclusive GSA for the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin ("CMA") for purposes of compliance with SGMA; and

WHEREAS, the CMA GSA adopted a GSP on January 3, 2022, which was subsequently found to be in compliance with SGMA by DWR; and

WHEREAS, at a regularly scheduled meeting on June 23, 2025, after a duly noticed public hearing, the Board of Directors of the CMA GSA Board of Directors ("Board") adopted CMA GSA Resolution 2025-02 adopting and imposing a Groundwater Management Fee ("Fee") to be levied annually, which Fee consists of the following two components: a charge per acre-foot of groundwater extraction ("Extraction Charge") and a separate per-acre charge ("Acreage Charge"), to be imposed, respectively, on the extraction of groundwater and the parcels within the CMA GSA boundaries for the purpose of charging a fee to fund the costs of compliance with SGMA; and

WHEREAS, the CMA GSA Board desires, through the passage of this Resolution, to adopt an administrative appeal process to permit a property owner (i.e., Fee payor) to appeal the calculation of the Fee (i.e., the Extraction Charge and/or the Acreage Charge) levied against his/her property by the CMA GSA.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors for the CMA GSA hereby resolves as follows:

1. The facts set forth in the Recitals to this Resolution are true and correct and establish the factual basis for the CMA GSA's adoption of this Resolution and those Recitals are incorporated by reference.
2. The administrative appeal provided for herein shall only be utilized by a property owner who is subject to the Groundwater Management Fee or a lessor of property who is legally

obligated to pay property taxes and assessments on the subject property (herein a “Property Owner”) or an authorized representative of the Property Owner.

3. The administrative appeal provided for herein shall only be for disputes raised by a Property Owner (or a duly authorized representative) regarding the CMA GSA’s determination of the amount of groundwater produced from a parcel, the acreage size of a parcel, or calculation of the Fee levied against a Property Owner. Challenges to the Fee as adopted by CMA GSA Resolution No. 2025-02, or as adjusted pursuant to a subsequent resolution within the scope of the Fee amounts adopted by Resolution No. 2025-02, and/or the per acre-foot or per acre amount of the Fee are not subject to this administrative appeal process.

4. The administrative appeal process is as follows:

- a. Should a Property Owner wish to contest the calculation of the amount of groundwater extracted and/or the calculation of the acreage used as the basis of the Fee for their parcel, the Property Owner shall first be required to timely pay the assessed Fee under protest.
- b. Within and no later than thirty (30) days following payment of the Fee, the Property Owner may file an appeal with the CMA GSA, on a form approved by the CMA GSA’s Plan Manager (template attached), setting forth the basis upon which the appeal is made.
- c. Timely filing of an administrative appeal in the manner described below shall be a prerequisite to required exhaustion of administrative remedies by the Property Owner. An appeal by a Property Owner will be considered timely filed if, on or before the 30th day following payment of the Fee by the Property Owner, (1) the appeal form is mailed via first-class mail to the CMA GSA Plan Manager at the following address: P.O. Box 719, Santa Ynez, CA 93460 and postmarked on or before the 30th day after payment; or (2) delivered to the CMA GSA Plan Manager by electronic mail at CMA@SantaYnezWater.org.
- d. Potential grounds for appeal may include the Property Owner providing evidence sufficiently showing that the parcel(s) in question are (1) not pumping groundwater from the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin; (2) that the estimated groundwater usage was not properly calculated by the CMA GSA; or (3) the acreage of a parcel upon which an Acreage Charge was imposed was not correctly calculated. The appeal shall include factual and technical evidence that the Property Owner wishes the CMA GSA to consider (e.g., metered well production records, satellite evapotranspiration estimates, irrigated area, legal descriptions, electrical usage, or other technical data to support appeal of estimated groundwater extraction or acreage calculation) and shall provide the CMA GSA with an email address and phone number for future correspondence related to the appeal.
- e. Within thirty (30) days of filing the appeal, the Plan Manager shall consider the appeal, along with any additional evidence regarding the appeal if the Property Owner desires to provide additional evidence, during which time the Plan Manager and Property Owner may meet or otherwise confer

regarding the merits of the appeal. The Plan Manager is authorized by the Board to grant the appeal, in whole or in part, or deny the appeal. The determination by the Plan Manager shall be made no later than forty-five (45) days following the filing of an appeal, and the determination shall be in writing and delivered to the Property Owner via first-class and/or electronic mail. If the Plan Manager does not issue a written determination on the appeal within forty-five (45) days of its filing, then the appeal shall be deemed to have been denied in its entirety by the Plan Manager. A Property Owner shall have the right to challenge the denial of an appeal and request reconsideration by the CMA GSA Board of Directors, as described in 4(f) below.

- f. Within fifteen (15) days of the denial of an appeal under 4(e) above, a Property Owner may submit a written request for reconsideration to the CMA GSA Board of Directors. The request must be sent by using one or both of the methods (first-class or electronic mail) and to the address(es) set forth in Section 4(c) above. Timely requests for reconsideration will be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting. The Board shall receive evidence and hear from the Property Owner and staff regarding the merits of the original appeal. The Board is authorized to grant the original appeal, in whole or in part, or deny the appeal, in its sole discretion. The determination of the Board shall be memorialized in the minutes of the Board meeting and shall be final, with no further appeal to the CMA GSA or otherwise.

5. The CMA GSA reserves the right to rescind any relief provided pursuant this appeal process where it determines that the information provided by the Property Owner filing the appeal was not accurate.

All the foregoing, being on motion of Director W.C. Nze, seconded by Director 1), tX) \elf, is authorized by the following roll-call vote, to wit:

AYES: CX\el- GX'DLU\ctf
NOES: \-looc
ABSTAIN: t\QIC/.,
ABSENT: N_OI'0

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said CMA GSA as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 11 day of Nov, 2026.

WITNESS my hand this 11 day of Nov, 2026.

Amber M. Thompson

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Exhibit 1

TEMPLATE APPEAL FORM BY PROPERTY OWNER ASSESSED GSA FEE BY SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (CMA GSA)

I _____, the owner (or lessor obligated to pay assessments) of real property(ies) located at _____, and containing assessor's parcel number(s) (APN(s)) _____ located in the County of Santa Barbara, (hereinafter "My Property") hereby appeal the amount of the CMA GSA Groundwater Management Fee ("Fee") levied upon My Property on _____ [date of assessment by CMA GSA].

I certify that I paid the assessed Fee in the amount of \$ _____ under protest on _____ [date of payment], and I hereby appeal the amount of the Fee levied upon My Property on the following grounds (please check categories below as appropriate):

- ☐ During the period relevant to calculation of the Extraction Charge imposed on My Property, I was not extracting or diverting groundwater from My Property or lands connected to My Property..
- ☐ I extract or divert groundwater from My Property, but I am asserting that the CMA GSA did not properly calculate the volume of extracted groundwater with regard to imposition of the Extraction Charge to My Property.
- ☐ I assert that the CMA GSA used the wrong acreage size of My Property in calculating the Acreage Charge imposed on My Property.

Evidence/Argument supporting this appeal is as follows (attach additional pages and documentary evidence as necessary).

I can be reached regarding this appeal at the following email address _____
and/or the following phone number _____.

I self-certify and declare under penalty of perjury in accordance with the laws of the State of California that the information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge, after making reasonable inquiry. I further understand that waiver or reduction of the Fee as a result of this appeal is entirely contingent upon the accuracy of information provided with this appeal and at the sole discretion of the CMA GSA Board of Directors.

Signature of Appellant_____

Date of Appeal Submission to CMA GSA_____