NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
will be held on **Monday, November 16, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m.
at Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California

Optional remote public participation is available via Telephone or ZOOM
To access the meeting via telephone, please dial: 1-669-444-9171 or via the Web at: **http://join.zoom.us**
"Join a Meeting" Meeting ID: 843 3813 0296 Meeting Passcode: 840471

***** Please Note *****
The above teleconference option for public participation is being offered as a convenience only and may limit or otherwise prevent your access to and participation in the meeting due to disruption or unavailability of the teleconference line. If any such disruption of unavailability occurs for any reason the meeting will not be suspended, terminated, or continued. Therefore in-person attendance of the meeting is strongly encouraged.

AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Committee relating to any non-agenda matter within the Committee's jurisdiction. The time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Committee at this meeting on any public comment item.)
4. Consent Agenda – Routine Items for approval or rejected in single motion without separate discussion. Consent items can be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion and possible action upon request by a Director
    a. Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 10, 2026
    b. Quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List
5. Review Scope of Work and Consider retaining Stetson Engineers for preparation of the Water Year 2026 CMA GSA Annual Subreport
6. Presentations to the Board
    a. Grant Components 2 and 5 (EKI)
    b. Grant Component 5 – Piezometer and Well Drilling Project (GeoSyntec)
7. Consider approval of the first periodic evaluation of the CMA GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan
8. Consider adoption of Resolution No. 2026-04 Announcing the Final Adoption of a Conflict of Interest Code
9. Update on Small GSA Coalition
10. Next Special Basin-Wide Joint meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2026, 9 AM at Buellton City Council Chambers
11. Next CMA GSA Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2027, 10 AM at Buellton City Council Chambers
12. CMA GSA Board member reports and requests for future agenda items
13. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted 72 hours prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and on CMA-SantaYnezWater.org in accordance with Government Code Section 54954. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at (805) 693-1156. Advanced notification as far as practicable prior to the meeting will enable the GSA to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 10, 2026

A special meeting of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CMA GSA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 10, 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 Acting Alternate Carla Mead

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

Others Present (In Person): Amber Thompson

Others Present (Teleconference): Doug Circle, Paeter Garcia, Rose Hess, Curtis Lawler (Stetson Engineers), Kadie McShirley, Tim Nicely (GSI Water Solutions), Elena Robertson (Geosyntec), Matt Scrudato, Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge), Mike Anderson, and Matt Young

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

CMA GSA Board Vice-Chair Dunlap called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. One Director and two Acting Alternate Director were present in person providing a quorum. One Director was present via teleconference from a location properly noticed on the agenda.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Dunlap led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2026

b. Quarterly Financial Reports and Warrant List

Director Dunlap made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda Items 4.a. and 4.b. (April, May, June 2026 Warrant List: Checks 1153-1168 plus two ACH transactions, totaling $86,355.92), as presented. Acting Alternate Director Mead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. **Review and consider approval of Engagement Letter received from Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP for GSA Single Year Audit of Fiscal Year 2025-26 and consider approval of conducting single-year audits in lieu of two-year audits**

Ms. Thompson presented an Engagement Letter from Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP, dated August 7, 2026, to provide the GSA single-year audit services for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Dunlap made a **MOTION** to approve Engagement Letter from Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP, dated August 7, 2026, and approve conducting a single-year audit for Fiscal Year 2025-26 at a cost not to exceed $11,050. Acting Alternate Director Mead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Receive presentation from Stetson Engineers on the August 2026 Periodic Review and Assessment of the CMA GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"), Public Draft, and consider approval of staff recommendation to not prepare a GSP Amendment concurrently with the CMA GSP Periodic Evaluation

Mr. Lawler, Stetson Engineers, provided a high-level evaluation and presentation regarding the draft 2027 Periodic Evaluation for the CMA GSP and recommendation that no GSP amendment is required or be prepared in connection with the Periodic Evaluation. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Dunlap made a **MOTION** directing Stetson Engineers to finalize the 2027 Periodic Evaluation for the CMA GSP and bring the document back to the Board for approval before submission to DWR, without preparation of an amendment to the GSP. Acting Alternate Director Mead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Receive update on Grant Components 2 & 5 and consider scope modifications to existing EKI contract

Ms. Thompson presented an update provided by EKI Environment & Water on Prop. 68 Grant funded projects for Components 2 and 5. There was no discussion or public comment.

She presented a staff memorandum regarding Prop. 68 Grant Component 5 contract scope modifications. The full scope and budget were previously awarded to EKI by the CMA GSA. However, the EKI contract was subsequently reduced by $90,000 when Geosyntec was awarded the Hydrogeology Consultant contract for Prop. 68 Component 5 Monitoring Program Improvements on June 23, 2025. To remain within the Prop. 68 Grant Component 5 budget, staff recommended an additional $109,700 be removed from the EKI contract. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Acting Alternate Director Mead made a **MOTION** to approve a $109,700 reduction to the EKI Environment & Water Prop. 68 Grant Component 5 contract scope and budget. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Review and consider approval of Public Works Contract with low-bid Drilling Contractor for Prop 68 Grant Component 5 Monitoring Program Improvements and authorize Plan Manager to issue Notice of Award and otherwise administer contract

Ms. Thompson presented a staff memorandum regarding approval of Public Works Contract with low-bid Drilling Contractor for Prop. 68 Grant Component 5 Monitoring Program Improvements. She reported BC2 Environmental, LLC submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid of $139,572 for installation of a monitoring well and one piezometer within the SYRVGB Central Management Area. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Acting Alternate Director Mead made a **MOTION** to approve and authorize the Plan Manager or a Board Member to execute a Public Works Contract with BC2 Environmental, LLC in the amount of $139,572 for installation of a monitoring well and piezometer within the SYRVGB Central Management Area and authorize the Plan Manager to issue a Notice of Award to BC2 Environmental, LLC and otherwise administer the contract. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Consider adoption of CMA Resolution 2026-03 ANNOUNCING INTENT TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Torigiani summarized CMA Resolution No. 2026-03 ANNOUNCING INTENT TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD and reported the amendments are due to changes in law. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Dunlap made a **MOTION** to adopt CMA Resolution No. 2026-03 ANNOUNCING INTENT TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD, as presented. Acting Alternate Director Mead seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Dunlap and Mead
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: None

10. CMA Updates

a. Small GSA Coalition and Prop. 4 grant funding

Ms. Thompson provided an update on the efforts of the Small GSA Coalition and Prop. 4 grant funds available for small GSAs. There was no discussion or public comment.

b. Discuss revising day/time of CMA GSA regular meetings, effective January 1, 2027

Ms. Thompson informed the Board of a possible need to change the day/time of the CMA GSA regular meetings, effective January 1, 2027, due to a change in availability of the Buellton City Council Chambers location on Mondays. Discussion followed.

c. Legal Counsel Updates

There was no update.

11. Next CMA GSA Regular Board Meeting is Monday, November 16, 2026, 10:00 AM, at Buellton CCC

The next CMA GSA Board regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, November 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

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

There were no reports or requests from Directors.

13. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Dunlap adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Robert Dunlap, Vice-Chair

Amber Thompson, Secretary

DRAFT

CMA GSA
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2026

	Sep 30, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1150 · Five Star Bank Checking #5943	127,258.22
Total Checking/Savings	127,258.22
Accounts Receivable	
1200 · Accounts Receivable	3,427.21
Total Accounts Receivable	3,427.21
Other Current Assets	
1300 · Grant Receivable	139,487.52
1620 · Due from EMA	25,438.25
1630 · Due from WMA	23,080.75
Total Other Current Assets	188,006.52
Total Current Assets	318,691.95
TOTAL ASSETS	**318,691.95**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 · Accounts Payable	66,306.93
Total Accounts Payable	66,306.93
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	460,182.47
Total Liabilities	460,182.47
Equity	
3000 · Ret Earnings	97,148.99
32000 · Retained Earnings	-212,067.03
Net Income	-26,607.73
Total Equity	-141,525.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**318,656.70**

CMA GSA
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
July through September 2026

	FY 26-27 1st Quarter Jul 26 - Sep 26	FY 26-27 to date July 26 - June 27	FY 26-27 Budget
Income			
4100 GW Management Fees			214,999.00
4500 · Grant Revenue	83,372.45	83,372.45	593,200.00
4600 · Interest Income	46.06	46.06	150.00
4900 · Misc Revenue	125.45	125.45	0.00
Total Income	83,543.96	83,543.96	808,349.00
Gross Profit	83,543.96	83,543.96	808,349.00
Expense			
5200 · GSA Management/Admin	6,312.00	6,312.00	40,000.00
5300 · General/Admin "travel/training"			1,500.00
5310 · Audit			15,000.00
5320 · Office Expense			1,500.00
5330 · Outside Staff Support	500.00	500.00	2,500.00
5360 · Insurance	5,018.00	5,018.00	5,100.00
5365 · Dues, Memberships	5,000.00	5,000.00	7,000.00
5400 · GW Management Fees Collection	2,115.00	2,115.00	5,200.00
5800 · Legal Services	19,094.50	19,094.50	20,000.00
6100 · Stakeholder Engagement	1,937.26	1,937.26	2,000.00
6310 · Basin Monitor Network	612.00	612.00	0.00
6311 · CMA - Basin Monitor Network	1,805.50	1,805.50	0.00
6400 · Annual Report			25,000.00
6450 · Basin Annual Report			5,000.00
6501 · GSP Impl - Well Meas/Report	31,075.75	31,075.75	110,000.00
6503 · GSP Impl - GSP 5 yr Update	20,557.29	20,557.29	127,000.00
6504 · GSP Impl - Monitoring Network	15,782.39	15,782.39	356,200.00
6510 · General Eng. Support	342.00	342.00	10,000.00
7000 - Misc. Expense "Contengency"			25,000.00
Total Expense	110,151.69	110,151.69	758,000.00
Net Income	**-26,607.73**	**-26,607.73**	**50,349.00**

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY AGENCY

JULY 2026 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

NUMBER	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	FY 25-26
1169	07/01/25	Golden State Risk Management Authority	**FY 26-27** General Liability Insurance Premium	$ 5,018.00	
ACH	07/15/26	Streamline	**FY 26-27** DocAccess - PDF accessiblity service added to website.	$ 1,800.00	
1170	07/17/26	EKI Environment & Water	April and May 2026 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component: #2 -Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects & Component #5 - Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	$ 14,719.00	$ 14,719.00
1171	07/17/26	Geosyntec Consultants	FBO BASIN: May 2026 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component #5- Monitoring Network Improvement and Expansion (CMA: $3,624.33; EMA: $3,624.33; WMA: $3,624.34)	$ 10,873.00	$ 10,873.00
1172	07/17/26	Young Wooldridge	June 2026 Legal Services. Includes Grant reimbursable expenses for Component 5: $5,860.50	$ 10,222.28	$ 10,222.28
1173	07/17/26	Stetson Engineers	May 2026 Engineering Service: GSP Implementation Grant Component: #4 - GSP 5-Year Update	$ 17,296.84	$ 17,296.84
1174	07/17/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	June 2026 Administrative Services	$ 1,153.75	$ 1,153.75
1175	07/17/26	Stetson Engineers	2025 Engineering Service: General Engineering Balance due from Nov. 2025 Inv# 2925-24-015	$ 651.00	$ 651.00
1176	07/17/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	June 2026 Administrative Services - Grant reimbursable expenses for Component 5	$ 142.50	$ 142.50
			MONTH TOTAL	**$ 61,876.37**	**$ 55,058.37**

AUGUST 2026 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

NUMBER	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	FY 25-26
ACH	08/07/26	Pacific Policy Group	**FY 26-27** Small Groundwater Association Coalition Lobbying Services	$ 5,000.00	
1177	08/17/26	EKI Environment & Water	June 2026 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component: #2 -Well Extraction Measurement Demonstration Projects. Grant Component #5 - Monitoring Improvement and Expansion	$ 16,386.75	
1178	08/17/26	Geosyntec Consultants	FBO BASIN: Jujne 2026 GSP Implementation Consulting Services. Grant Component #5- Monitoring Network Improvement and Expansion (CMA: $1,805.50; EMA: $2,605.50; WMA: $1,805.50)	$ 6,216.50	
1179	08/17/26	Onsite Computers & Design	**FY 26-27** Microsoft Office 365 Business Essentials and Sophos spam & email protection system (1 year licenses) for CMA@SantaYnezWater.org	$ 121.80	
1180	08/17/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	**FY 26-27** Reimbursement for 1/3 cost of GoDaddy website domain annual renewal fees for SantaYnezWater.org and SantaYnezWater.com (cost split 1/3 to each GSA)	$ 15.46	
1181	08/17/26	Young Wooldridge	July 2026 Legal Services. Includes Grant reimbursable expenses for Component 4: $4,457.50 and Component 5: $1,901.25	$ 8,971.40	
1182	08/17/26	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District	July 2026 Administrative Services & Groundwater Management Fee Processing. Includes Grant reimbursable expenses for Component 4: $118.75 and Component #5: $166.25	$ 4,117.50	
			MONTH TOTAL	**$ 40,829.41**	**$ -**

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA (CMA)

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2026 WARRANT LIST FOR BOARD APPROVAL

NUMBER	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	FY 25-26
1183	09/17/26	Valley Bookkeeping	Quarterly Bookkeeping (July, August, September 2026)	$ 500.00	
1184	09/17/26	Young Wooldridge	August 2026 Legal Services. Includes Grant reimbursable expenses for Component 4: $3,920 and Component 5: $3,136	$ 10,123.10	
			MONTH TOTAL	**$ 10,623.10**	**$ -**

TOTAL CHECKS THIS QUARTER: $ 113,328.88

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 $ 55,058.37

STETSON ENGINEERS

SCOPE OF WORK AND ESTIMATED COST

Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("CMA GSA")

Water Year 2026 Annual Subreport for SGMA Requirements

Stetson Engineers prepared the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("CMA GSA"), which the CMA GSA Board approved in January 2022, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved in January 2024. This GSP was also the basis for receiving recent Proposition 68 grant funding to implement the Projects and Management Actions in the GSP.

For the past five years (Water Years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025), Stetson Engineers prepared the annual reports for the CMA GSA. Stetson Engineers also prepared at DWR's request the joint annual report for years 2024 and 2025 that incorporated the annual subreports for each GSA (WMA, CMA, and EMA). The scope of work that includes combining and summarizing the subreports is attached separately.

This scope of work for Stetson is to produce a Water Year 2026 Annual Subreport that includes all SGMA reporting requirements for the CMA GSA, but it is intended for inclusion in the one annual report for the entire Basin for Water Year 2026. The subreport will follow prior annual reports, streamlined for incorporation into a single Annual Report for the Basin. The total not to exceed cost for the CMA subreport is estimated at $24,000. This cost for the annual report does not include separate costs associated with combining the subreports for each GSA into a single Annual Report for the Basin.

The CMA subreport outline will be the same as the previous five years because it meets the statutory requirements under SGMA. In addition, the latest Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidance on annual reports (DWR, October 2023) and comments on the annual reports (DWR, May 2024; August 2025; and August 2026) will be addressed. The critical chapters in the report will be:

- Basin Conditions: This includes the determination of the hydrologic year type.
- Groundwater Hydrographs and Contours: Includes hydrographs for the representative monitoring well network and required groundwater elevation contour maps (seasonal high and low).
- Water Use: This includes both groundwater and surface water used by each sector (domestic, municipal, and agricultural).

- Groundwater Storage: This includes changes in groundwater storage maps and the effects of groundwater use on storage changes.

- Progress on GSP Sustainability Indicators: This includes an evaluation of recent data regarding sustainability for groundwater levels, storage, water quality, seawater intrusion, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems. The DWR August 2026 letter requested additional information and updates on any monitoring locations with missing data.

- Implementation of Project and Management Actions Since Previous Annual Report: This includes discussing GSA activities in the current water year to achieve sustainability goals.

The 2026 CMA subreport will cover the same organization and content as the 2025 CMA subreport. These sections of the SGMA Annual report will be produced over three tasks, including:

- **Task 1. Data collection and analysis**. Groundwater levels, production, and surface water data will be collected for the reporting period. Groundwater level information will be converted into projected groundwater level contours for the management areas and estimates of updated storage calculations. Additional analyses will estimate surface water quantities. The latest data for the other sustainability indicators (water quality, seawater intrusion, land subsidence, depletions of interconnected surface water) will also be collected and analyzed as described in the GSP.

- **Task 2. Report Preparation**. The text and content of the SGMA annual report are described in the regulations (23 CCR § 356.2. Annual Reports). It includes provisions defining general information summarizing the basin and hydrologic conditions, including groundwater elevations, hydrographs, contour maps, summary of extraction data, surface water quantities, available surface water supplies, total water use, and storage maps. A final section summarizes updates on projects and management actions from the groundwater sustainability plan and how other sustainability indicators are being met. Additional supporting information will be provided in the appendices.

- **Task 3. Project Management and Meetings**. Project management costs are estimated at 8% of total cost. This task also includes calls with the other GSAs in the Basin to coordinate efforts. This task involves coordinating with the preparer of the one annual report for the Basin. This task consists of attending GSA meetings to summarize the subreport if needed.

Project Cost

The total not to exceed cost for the Water Year 2026 Annual subreport for the CMA GSA is **$24,000**. Staff hours for each of the three tasks above are estimated below. All work is on a time and materials basis using the attached rate schedule (Attachment A). Stetson will work as efficiently as possible to lower costs further if possible.

Proposed Costs for 2026 Central Management Area Annual Subreport for SGMA

TASK	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Expenses	Total
Task 1 - Data Collection and Analysis	83	$12,000	0	$12,000
Task 2 - Report Preparation	73	$10,500	0	$10,500
Task 3 - Project Management and Meetings	9	$1,500	0	$1,500
TOTAL	165	$24,000	0	$24,000

Project Schedule

The SGMA requires annual reports submitted by April 1st for each GSP's previous water year (WY). For this scope of work, the reporting period for the next annual report is WY 2026 (October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026), and the final Basin Annual Report would be due April 1, 2027. Because DWR is requesting that pumping data provided to Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District on January 31, 2027, be incorporated into the 2026 annual report, Stetson will produce a first draft of the annual subreport by January 31, 2027, with placeholders for the water use in the last three months of the water year 2026 (July, August, and September 2026). This early draft will provide the GSAs and Stetson more time to review, edit, and incorporate the information in the annual subreport. Stetson will then produce the final draft of the annual subreport by March 15, 2027, for Joint GSAs approval, after incorporating the final water use data for the year 2026.

Attachment A

STETSON
ENGINEERS INC.

2171 E. Francisco Blvd., Suite K • San Rafael, California 94901
Phone: (415) 457-0701 • Website: www.stetsonengineers.com

Northern California • Southern California • Arizona • Oregon

Standard Billing Rate Schedule

Professional Fees

Principal	**$266.00**	**Per Hour**
Special Project Director	**$266.00**	**Per Hour**
Project Manager, Senior	**$231.00**	**Per Hour**
Supervisor I	**$231.00**	**Per Hour**
Supervising Soil Scientist	**$215.00**	**Per Hour**
Supervisor II	**$215.00**	**Per Hour**
Supervisor III	**$209.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior I	**$187.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior II	**$169.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior III	**$152.00**	**Per Hour**
Construction Manager	**$152.00**	**Per Hour**
Construction Manager / Oversight	**$135.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior Construction Inspector	**$135.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior Field Geologist	**$152.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior Associate	**$146.00**	**Per Hour**
Associate I	**$140.00**	**Per Hour**
Associate II	**$132.00**	**Per Hour**
Associate III	**$125.00**	**Per Hour**
Associate Soil Scientist	**$125.00**	**Per Hour**
Senior Assistant	**$116.00**	**Per Hour**
Assistant I	**$111.00**	**Per Hour**
Assistant II	**$106.00**	**Per Hour**
Assistant Soil Scientist	**$106.00**	**Per Hour**
Assistant III	**$101.00**	**Per Hour**
GIS Manager	**$140.00**	**Per Hour**
GIS Specialist I	**$114.00**	**Per Hour**
GIS Specialist II	**$104.00**	**Per Hour**
Technical Illustrator	**$101.00**	**Per Hour**
AutoCAD Technician	**$101.00**	**Per Hour**
Soil Technician	**$88.00**	**Per Hour**
Aide I	**$81.00**	**Per Hour**
Aide II	**$70.00**	**Per Hour**
Aide III	**$65.00**	**Per Hour**
Project Coordinator I	**$152.00**	**Per Hour**
Project Coordinator II	**$111.00**	**Per Hour**
Project Coordinator III	**$101.00**	**Per Hour**
Contract Management	**$116.00**	**Per Hour**
Administrative I	**$81.00**	**Per Hour**
Administrative II	**$75.00**	**Per Hour**
Administrative III	**$70.00**	**Per Hour**

Effective January 1, 2026

Direct Expense Rates

Expense Description	Billing Rate
Mileage	$* / Mile
Reproduction: Black & White (In-House)	$0.15 / Page
Reproduction: Color - 8.5" x 11" (In-House)	$0.89 / Page
Reproduction: Color - 11" x 17" (In-House)	$1.89 / Page
Plotter Reproduction (In-House)	$1.50 / Sq. Ft.
Survey Equipment	$120.00 / Day

Notes:

1) * Mileage is billed at the current IRS approved mileage rate and may be subject to change.
2) Subcontractor services will be charged at cost plus 10% administration fee.
3) All other project reimbursable expenses (i.e. telephone, commercial transportation, meals, lodging, postage, outside reproduction, etc.) will be billed at cost.
4) Testimony fees are 150% of standard rates and apply to depositions, court time and time spent on stand-by at attorney's request. Travel time and preparation time is charged at standard rates. Stetson Engineers Inc. authorizes only staff at associate classification or higher to testify as expert witnesses.

Periodic Review and Assessment of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Sustainability Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SECTION ONLY

Full document is available at CMA-SantaYnezWater.org

PUBLIC DRAFT

CMA

Central Management Area



AUGUST 2026

STETSON ENGINEERS INC.

WATER RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS
SERVING CLIENTS SINCE 1957

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Periodic Review and Assessment of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Sustainability Plan

PUBLIC DRAFT

August 28, 2026

Executive Summary

This is the first Periodic Evaluation of groundwater sustainability in the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin. This evaluation finds that groundwater conditions for this area are sustainable as of fall 2024. It also reviews and updates the assessment of sustainability based on new information and updated guidance.

The Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("CMA GSA") has prepared this Periodic Evaluation. The CMA GSA serves as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"), pursuant to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") for the Central Management Area ("CMA") of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Basin No. 3-015 ("SYRVGB" or "Basin"). This is an evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP" or "Plan") that the CMA GSA adopted in 2022. This five-year periodic evaluation is intended to cover the same period as the annual reports submitted under the 2022 CMA GSP, including Water Years 2019 through 2024.

SGMA regulations require Periodic Evaluations at least every five years.[1] It reviews conditions, methods of assessing sustainability, and actions taken by the CMA GSA. In compliance with SGMA, the CMA GSA will file this Periodic Evaluation with the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR"). The CMA GSA adopted and submitted its GSP to DWR for review in 2022, and this Periodic Evaluation will be submitted in 2027. The next Periodic Evaluation is expected to be submitted by 2032.

1ES. UPDATED GSA INFORMATION

The Basin is organized into three groundwater sustainability agencies. West of the CMA GSA is the SYRVGB Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("WMA GSA") in the

[1] 23 CCR § 356.4 "Each Agency shall evaluate its Plan at least every five years and whenever the Plan is amended, and provide a written assessment to the Department. […]"

Lompoc and Santa Rita Valleys. East of the CMA GSA is the SYRVGB Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("EMA GSA") in the Santa Ynez Upland. These divisions of the SYRVGB into three separate GSAs reflect the limited physical hydrology connection and political complexities. Each GSA in the Basin is a separate public entity formed and existing pursuant to the California Joint Exercise of Powers Act[1] and SGMA. Each GSA has different member agencies and distinct constituents. The GSAs each have their own separate GSPs and each have separate specific Periodic Evaluations. The CMA GSA works collaboratively and in coordination with the two other GSAs to achieve groundwater sustainability.

The City of Buellton and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ("SYRWCD") are the two voting members of the CMA GSA's Board of Directors. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency has a non-voting seat. The CMA GSA has added a second non-voting seat for an agricultural representative.

2ES. NEW INFORMATION COLLECTED

The CMA GSA has made substantial progress in data collection, model improvement, and monitoring upgrades. This new information improves the scientific basis for groundwater management and informs future decision-making. This new information was evaluated, and the evaluation found this new information does not require a change or amendment to the CMA GSP. Many projects to fill data gaps are ongoing and will be included in future CMA GSA Annual Reports and Periodic Evaluations. As explained in the sections below, the CMA GSA will continue to collect data and will add more when needed.

Results from a new geophysical survey became available in May 2022. This data was used to update both the geologic and groundwater flow models. These updates improve the understanding of the Basin and are described in later sections. The survey used airborne electromagnetic methods to

[1] Gov. Code section 6500, et seq

characterize subsurface conditions. It mapped features like soil layers, faults, and other structures. The survey covered 710 miles and focused on the top 1,000 feet, where most wells are located.

The CMA GSA is improving surface water and environmental monitoring. A new stream gage is being installed near the WMA GSA boundary to track surface water outflows. A field study is also underway to confirm groundwater-dependent ecosystems. The CMA GSA also considers work conducted by external agencies, including fish monitoring and other new reports. The CMA GSA works to better understand groundwater conditions and plan for long-term sustainability.

3ES. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY STATUS UPDATE

The CMA GSA remains on track to meet its sustainability goals based on monitoring data from 2019 to 2024. Groundwater levels in all four monitoring wells stayed above required minimum thresholds. Groundwater storage has increased from WY 2015 to WY 2024. Groundwater pumping from WY 2015 to WY 2024 has remained stable compared to the GSP Current Period, WY2011 to WY2018. Water quality indicators are stable. There are no signs of serious problems like land subsidence or impacts to connected surface water. These results indicate that CMA conditions remain within established sustainability criteria and are expected to remain sustainable through 2042.

Based on the evaluation presented in this Periodic Evaluation, the CMA GSA finds that:

- Groundwater conditions remain above Minimum Thresholds for all sustainability indicators.
- Measurable Objectives are generally achieved or exceeded.
- No Undesirable Results have occurred within the CMA during the evaluation period (WY 2019 – WY 2024).

Accordingly, the CMA GSA finds that, within the CMA GSA, the Basin is currently operating in a sustainable manner and is on track to achieve the Sustainability Goal by 2042 under current conditions.

4ES. UPDATES TO SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

As part of this Periodic Evaluation, the CMA GSA evaluated the methods of assessing sustainability. This assessment looked at changes in data collection, public comments, and new guidance. The CMA GSA also addressed specific guidance from DWR. The DWR provided a list of proposed Recommended Corrective Actions ("RCAs"). The following table, **Table ES-1**, lists sections where each RCA is addressed and shows the CMA GSA gave each of the proposed RCAs due consideration. The CMA GSA has taken actions to address all seven DWR Recommended Corrective Actions. Four RCAs (#1, #3, #5 and #6) are substantially addressed through completed administrative clarifications, evaluations or implementation measures. Three RCAs (#2, #4, and #7) require continued monitoring, data collection, model development, and potential future GSP amendments as additional information becomes available. The CMA remains sustainable, with no undesirable results observed during WY 2019-2024.

Table ES-1:
Summary of Recommended Corrective Actions

Recommended Corrective Action #	Description	Actions Taken by GSA	Key Outcomes	Section Where Addressed in Periodic Evaluation
1	Incorporate the Action Plan associated with the management of the Santa Ynez River Alluvium into the GSP and GSP implementation.	Conducted outreach workshops; identified Above Narrows wells and reporting status; incorporated Action Plan activities into PMAs, coordination, reporting, and monitoring programs.	Action Plan integrated into ongoing GSP implementation and annual reporting processes.	SECTION 2:New Information SECTION 4:PMAs SECTION 5: Basin Setting SECTION 8:GSA Actions SECTION 9:Coordination, Outreach, and Engagement
2	Fill data gaps and better understand the principal aquifers.	Completed AEM geophysical survey; updated 3D geologic model; revised groundwater flow model; added monitoring programs; initiated new monitoring well design and stream gage project; identified further data gap needs	Improved understanding of aquifer geometry, hydrogeology, and groundwater/surface-water interactions. Additional data collection and modeling will improve future assessment.	SECTION 2:New Information SECTION 3:Groundwater Conditions SECTION 5: Basin Setting
3	Evaluate methodologies and terminology in the water budgets for better consistency across the three management areas.	Coordinated evaluation of water budget assumptions, terminology, and accounting methods across WMA, CMA, and EMA.	Consistent basin-wide framework for sustainable yield and water budget reporting.	SECTION 5: Basin Setting

4	Reevaluate the sustainable management criteria for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels.	Reviewed groundwater level trends, monitoring network, drought considerations, seasonal lows, and well impact guidance; identified further data gap needs.	Existing basin remains sustainable, but additional evaluation and possible future refinements to groundwater-level SMCs are recommended.	SECTION 3:Groundwater Conditions SECTION 7: Undesirable Results and Sustainable Management Criteria SECTION 10: Proposed Revisions
5	Reevaluate the sustainable management criteria for the degradation of water quality.	Updated monitoring network; evaluated constituent trends; revised methodology; incorporated new regulatory and monitoring information.	No undesirable results observed; updated approach improves defensibility of water quality assessment.	SECTION 3: Groundwater Conditions SECTION 7: Undesirable Results and Sustainable Management Criteria SECTION 10: Proposed Revisions
6	Address inconsistencies in the sustainable management criteria for land subsidence.	Reviewed InSAR and CGPS data; evaluated DWR subsidence guidance; updated land subsidence framework.	No significant subsidence observed; monitoring methods aligned with current guidance.	SECTION 3:Groundwater Conditions SECTION 6:Monitoring Networks SECTION 7: Undesirable Results and Sustainable Management Criteria
7	Reevaluate the sustainable management criteria for the depletions of interconnected surface water.	Evaluated new DWR guidance; updated proxy groundwater-level approach; initiated stream gage installation; identified need for model recalibration.	Conditions remain above thresholds; additional data collection and modeling will improve future assessment.	SECTION 5: Basin Setting SECTION 7: Undesirable Results and Sustainable Management Criteria

5ES. AGENCY ACTIONS

The CMA GSA worked with the two other Basin GSAs, the WMA GSA and EMA GSA, in implementing the Lower Santa Ynez River Action Plan. This helped provide information to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding wells that are likely producing Santa Ynez River underflow water from a known and definite channel, the Santa Ynez River alluvium, within the DWR Basin boundaries. Work by the Basin GSAs included mapping wells, holding public workshops, and improving coordination.

The recent CMA GSA projects include establishing and collecting new groundwater fees, improving data collection and monitoring, and SGMA compliance. The CMA GSA's SGMA sustainability is on track, so there are limited actions targeted at affecting conditions. Key efforts include collecting improved well information and additional surface flow measurements. New monitoring wells are planned, and in the process of being developed. The existing monitoring wells are being maintained or replaced where needed.

6ES. EVALUATION OF PLAN EFFECTIVENESS

The CMA GSA evaluated whether implementation of the CMA GSP is achieving the GSP's measurable objectives, and whether those objectives are sufficient to achieve the sustainability goal. Groundwater conditions remain above minimum thresholds for all sustainability indicators, and measurable objectives are generally achieved or exceeded. No undesirable results have occurred during the evaluation period. The CMA GSA notes that the subject evaluation period includes recent wet conditions. Additional evaluation during extended dry periods will be important to confirm long-term effectiveness of the CMA GSP. An explanation of why no CMA GSP plan amendment is required or being made at this time is contained in Section 10, Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to Plan Elements.

DRAFT

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. 2026-04

ANNOUNCING THE FINAL ADOPTION OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

WHEREAS, in accordance with the state law, the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the "CMA GSA") has reviewed the CMA GSA's Conflict of Interest Code; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that review and state law the CMA GSA determined that the current Conflict of Interest Code was in need of modification; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with state law, the CMA GSA prepared the attached Conflict of Interest Code and Notice of Intent; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with state law the CMA GSA provided a 45-day period in which interested parties could comment on the Code before its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the 45-day comment period has passed and no interested parties have spoken on the matter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency as follows:

1. The attached Conflict of Interest Code is formally adopted by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

2. Secretary to Board is directed to take such steps as necessary to properly file the attached Conflict of Interest Code with the County of Santa Barbara and with the FPPC.

3. Once the Conflict of Interest Code is formally approved by the County, Secretary to the Board is instructed to replace the current Conflict of Interest Code with the amended Conflict of Interest Code.

All the foregoing, being on motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, is authorized by the following roll-call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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 _____ day of _____, 2026.

WITNESS my hand this ____ day of _____, 2026.

_____
Amber M. Thompson
Secretary of the Board of Directors

DRAFT

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendix (or appendices), designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict-of-interest code of the **Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency).**

Designated Positions may file their statements to the County of Santa Barbara online using eDisclosure, which will submit the Form 700 to the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor. Statements will be made available for public inspection and reproduction (Government Code Section 81008). The Agency's filing official can provide access to designated individuals.

Designated Positions	**Assigned Disclosure Category**
General Counsel	1, 2
Secretary	1, 2
Consultants/New Positions	*

Note: The positions of Auditor and General Counsel are filled by outside consultants who serve in a staff capacity.*Consultants/New positions shall be included in the list of designated positions and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code, subject to the following limitation: the Plan Manager may determine that a particular consultant or new position, although a "designated position," is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the consultant's or new position's duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Plan Manager's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict-of-interest code (Gov. Code Section 81008).

PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AND DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVES FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

The following positions are NOT covered by the conflict-of-interest code because they are required to file under Government Code Section 87200 (public officials who manage public investments) and/or Government Code Section 87200.5 (members of the board of directors and the executive director of a groundwater sustainability agency). Those who file under Government Code Section 87200 and/or 87200.5 are required to file electronically with the Fair Political Practices Commission; therefore, these positions are listed for informational purposes only:

- Members of the Board of Directors
- Alternate Directors
- Plan Manager
- Treasurer

An individual holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligation if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Section 87200 and/or section 87200.5.

APPENDIX
DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

Category 1

Designated positions in this category shall disclose income from any source, interests in real property, investments and all business positions in which the designated individual is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management.

Category 2

Designated positions in this category shall disclose investments; business positions in business entities; and income (including gifts, loans, and travel payments), from sources engaged in providing services (e.g. accounting, auditing, engineering and environmental consulting), supplies, materials, machinery, or equipment of the type utilized by the agency.