

MEETING MINUTES

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Special Meeting of the Board of Directors April 22, 2025

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 Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the City of Buellton, City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Acting Alternate Robert Dunlap, and John Sanchez

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

Others Present (In Person): Bill Buelow, Kadie McShirley, Paeter Garcia, and Amber Thompson,

Others Present (Teleconference): Doug Circle, Gina DePinto (Raftelis), Dan Drugan, John Fio (EKI), Rose Hess, Theresa Jurotich (Raftelis), Alex Pappas, Sudhir Pardiwala (Raftelis), Matt Scudato, Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge), and Matt Young

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

CMA GSA Board Vice-Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Thompson called roll. Two Directors and two Acting Alternate Directors were present providing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Review and consider approval of Minutes of the CMA GSA Board Special Meetings of March 3, March 25, April 9, and April 11, 2025

The minutes of the CMA GSA Board of Directors special meetings held on March 3, March 25, April 9, and April 11, 2025 were presented for Board consideration and approval. Director Meighan Diethofer reported the misspelling of her name in the April 9 and April 11 minutes and asked that the spelling be corrected. There was no public comment.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the CMA GSA Board of Directors special meetings on March 3, March 25, April 9, and April 11, 2025, with spelling corrections. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Receive updates on Proposition 68 GSP Implementation Projects

Mr. Fio, EKI Environment and Water, provided an update on Proposition 68 Grant Funded Projects for Component 5 (Monitoring Improvements) for stream gage installation in the CMA GSA. Discussion followed. There were no public comments received. There was no action.

Mr. Buelow provided an update on Proposition 68 Grant Funded Projects for Component 4 (GSP Annual Report) by Stetson Engineers. He reported that the CMA GSA sub-report section submitted with the recent Basin Annual Report involved more effort than was originally expected so Stetson Engineers went over budget by almost \$3,100. He reminded the Board that Stetson reduced their original estimate, but they cut back too much. He asked if the Board would like to consider increasing the Not-to-Exceed amount for the CMA GSA Annual Report sub-section by \$3,100. Discussion followed. There were no public comments received.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to increase the Not-to-Exceed amount by \$3,100 for the CMA GSA Annual Report sub-section and pay the over-budget invoices received from Stetson Engineers. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Receive and Consider CMA GSA Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee Rate Study Report

Mr. Buelow introduced the CMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency Fee Study Report and the Fee Study presentation. He provided explanations on the general groundwater setting and the unique characteristics to the aquifer relative to the Santa Ynez River underflow in the CMA. Mr. Pardiwala, Raftelis, presented information on the smoothed cashflow over six years, recommendations of a Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee with two charge components (per acre and groundwater extraction charges), billing options including billing through the County Tax Roll, next steps and deadlines.

Discussion occurred during and after the presentation. There were no public comments received.

7. Consider Resolution No. 2025-01 Fixing Procedures for a Proposition 218 Majority Protest Hearing Regarding a Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee

Mr. Torigiani reviewed with the Board **CMA GSA Resolution No. 2025-01 Fixing Procedures for a Proposition 218 Majority Protest Hearing Regarding a Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee** with Exhibit A, Central Management Area Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee Study Report dated April 21, 2025 prepared by Raftelis, and Exhibit B, Proposition 218 Notice (presented in Draft form) to be mailed to the recorded owner of every parcel in the CMA GSA, according to the 2024 County Tax records.

There was no discussion or public comments.

Director Sanchez made a MOTION to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-01: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Central**

Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Fixing Procedures for a Proposition 218 Majority Protest Hearing Regarding a Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee with Exhibit A: Central Management Area Sustainable Groundwater Management Fee Study Report, prepared by Raftelis, dated April 21, 2025; and Exhibit B: Proposition 218 Notice, as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: Dunlap and Sanchez
NO: None

Director Sanchez thanked staff and Raftelis for all their efforts.

8. Next CMA GSA Board Regular Meeting is Monday, May 19, 2025, 10:00 AM, at the Buellton City Council Chambers

The next CMA GSA Board regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

9. CMA GSA Public Hearing will be Monday, June 23, 2025, 10:00 AM at the Buellton City Council Chambers


A Public Hearing to consider a proposed Groundwater Management Fee within the CMA GSA is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2025, 10 am at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. .

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

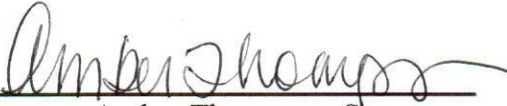
There were no reports or requests.

11. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.



John Sanchez, Vice-Chair



Amber Thompson, Secretary