

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Central Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin September 25, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Central Management Area (CMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

CMA GSA Committee Members Present: Cynthia Allen, John Sanchez, and
Non-voting Acting Alternate Meighan Dietenhofer

CMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Steve Jordan

Member Agency Staff Present (In Person): Bill Buelow, Rose Hess and Amber Thompson

Member Agency Staff Present (Remote): Matt Young

Others Present (In Person): Doug Circle

Others Present (Remote): Leonard Fleckenstein, Deby Laranjo, and Anita Regmi (DWR)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

CMA GSA Committee Chair Cynthia Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Two CMA GSA Committee Member and one non-voting Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. In addition, one Alternate Committee Member was present.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Doug Circle, on behalf of the Santa Ynez Water Group, requested that the CMA GSA governance structure establish equitable representation, including agriculture representation in the CMA JPA and requested the topic be added to a future agenda for discussion. Ms. Thompson announced that no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

4. Review and consider approval of meeting minutes of August 21, 2023

The minutes of the CMA GSA Committee meetings on August 21, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

CMA GSA Committee Member John Sanchez made a MOTION to approve the minutes of August 21, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment, The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Review and Consider Endorsing Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the CMA

Mr. Buelow distributed the Staff Memorandum dated September 25, 2023, regarding Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for CMA and presented the memo along with the Draft JPA. He explained that the existing Memorandum of Agreement is being converted to a JPA through a joint effort of member agencies staff and legal counsels over the last two years. A “Joint Powers Agreement” is an agreement between two or more government agencies to combine their powers and resources for some common project. It may also create a separate legal entity, commonly known as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), to work on common problem(s), in this case SGMA compliance and GSP implementation. A JPA, formed as a legal entity separate from its members, would shield the general funds of its members.

Discussion followed. Mr. Buelow advised that the CMA GSA action would be to endorse the JPA and the governing boards of each member agency would need to review and individually vote to approve the JPA. .

CMA GSA Committee Member John Sanchez made a MOTION that the CMA GSA Committee endorse the CMA’s draft Joint Powers Agreement for consideration by each of the CMA GSA member agencies’ board. GSA Committee Member Cynthia Allen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Review and Discuss Items for Cost Share

a. Annual Report

Mr. Buelow reported that the GSP Annual Report is due by April 1, 2024. Member agencies’ staff recommended that the member agencies consider providing a loan to the CMA GSA to cover the cost of the Annual Report with a plan to be reimbursed by the approved grant funds. The cost share agreement still needs to be developed. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

b. Rate Study

Mr. Buelow reported on the process to complete a Rate Study which first needs a Well Registration official policy to be in place, so that GSA is aware of registered users in the CMA. Discussion followed. Public comment was received.

By consensus, the CMA GSA Committee directed member agencies’ staff to develop a Cost Share Agreement for committee consideration.

7. Update on SGMA Implementation Grant

Mr. Buelow reported that the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin was awarded \$5,534,000 from Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGM Grant Program's SGMA Implementation, Round 2 and provided the DWR's award list showing the SGMA implementation components and recommended awards. He reported that Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District will enter into a Grant Agreement with DWR on behalf of the three GSAs. He advised that this grant does not have a matching funds requirement but does require the GSAs to spend money on implementation efforts. The GSAs will need to submit reimbursement requests to receive the grant funds and anticipates a retention of funds held by DWR, as was the process for the last grant. The grant period is through July 2026. He thanked the City of Lompoc for their tremendous involvement and help with the grant application to secure funding for 100% of the requested amount to benefit the basin.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

8. Next CMA GSA Regular Meeting, Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Buellton City Council Chambers

The next scheduled CMA GSA regular meeting will be Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. Mr. Buelow advised that if there were no well verifications or other business, then the meeting may be cancelled with at least a week's notice.

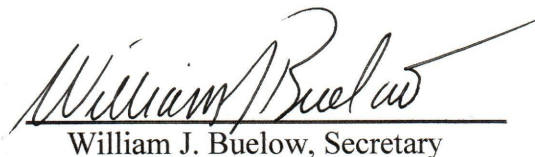
9. CMA GSA Committee reports and requests for future agenda items

There were no reports or requests.

10. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Cynthia Allen adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.


Cynthia Allen, Chair


William J. Buelow, Secretary