



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Water Agency  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** November 9, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Water Agency

**FROM:** Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Walter Rubalcava, Interim Deputy Public Works Director, (805) 568-3436  
Info:

**SUBJECT:** Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin – Eastern Management Area  
Groundwater Sustainability Plan, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Approve the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area;
- b) Authorize the Board's representative and alternate representative on the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee to take all actions necessary to approve and submit the Groundwater Sustainability Plan; and
- c) Determine that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), organization or administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment, and Water Code section 10728.6.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to approve the Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and to authorize the Board's current representative for the EMAM Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee, Third District Supervisor Joan Hartman or her alternate, to take all actions necessary to approve the EMA GSP. The members of EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) have completed a GSP (Attachment A) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and released a public draft for review on September 8, 2021. The GSP is intended to meet all applicable

SGMA requirements and lay the groundwork for sustainable management of groundwater resources through a 20-year implementation period.

On June 20, 2017, your Board appointed Third District Supervisor Joan Hartman as the Water Agency's representative on the GSA Committee for EMA of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, and on June 18, 2019 appointed Meighan Dietenhofer as her alternate. The GSA Committee will vote to approve the plan in December 2021 or January 2022. The EMA GSA was formed via a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) rather than through a Joint Powers Agreement. As a result, Board of Directors authorization is required to take action on the GSP. Significant changes are not anticipated between the attached public draft and the final draft as each major section has been previously released for public review and comment.

**Background:**

SGMA was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2014. SGMA provides a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local agencies and provides tools, authority, and a timeline for local agencies. Public agencies in the Basin created three GSAs representing the three main areas of the Basin (Western, Central, and Eastern Management Area) based on jurisdictional and hydrogeological differences. In the EMA, the GSA includes the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, The Santa Ynez River Water District Improvement District No. 1, the City of Solvang, and the Water Agency. The Water Agency Board voted to sign a MOA to join the EMA GSA on April 11, 2017.

Each GSA is responsible for developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the basin. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) regulations to guide local GSP development were approved by the California Water Commission on May 18, 2016 and went into effect June, 2016. GSPs in the Basin must be adopted by January 31, 2022. SGMA and DWR's regulations require a GSA to engage interested parties in the development and implementation of the GSP. In addition, a GSP may only be adopted at a public hearing 90 days after the GSA has provided notice to the County of its intent to adopt a GSP. The County may request consultation with the GSA after receiving the notice (§ 10728.4). Once a GSP is adopted, it must be submitted to DWR for approval, which starts a 60-day public comment period.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative: N/A

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email a copy of the minute order of these actions to Christina Lopez at [clopez@cosbpw.net](mailto:clopez@cosbpw.net)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin – Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Public Draft

**Authored by:**

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