



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: June 20, 2017  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
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, 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

**SUBJECT:** Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Appointments; Third, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Appoint Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's representative on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee for the Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, with Third District Representative Elizabeth Farnum as an alternate;
- b) Appoint Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's representative on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee for the Santa Ynez River Valley Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, with Third District Representative Elizabeth Farnum as an alternate;
- c) Appoint Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's representative on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee for the Santa Ynez River Valley Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, with Third District Representative Elizabeth Farnum as an alternate; and
- d) 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.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to request appointment of Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) representatives to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Committees for the Eastern, Central, and Western Management Areas of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin), pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) covers the majority of this basin and has led GSA formation. The SYRWCD created three GSAs representing the three main areas of the Basin (Western, Central, and Eastern Management Areas; see Attachment A) based on jurisdictional and hydrogeological differences.

Your Board voted to join the GSAs for the Western and Central Management areas on December 6, 2016, and the Eastern Management Area on April 11, 2017. The three Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) outline the voting structure of the governing GSA Committees as follows:

**Eastern Management Area**

In the Eastern Management Area (EMA), the GSA includes the SYRWCD, the SYRWCD Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1), the City of Solvang, and the Water Agency. Each of the member agencies will nominate one representative to the GSA Committee, but the representatives will have weighted votes. The Water Agency will have five votes, the SYRWCD will have three votes, ID No. 1 will have two votes and the City of Solvang will have one vote in the EMA GSA Committee. Because the GSA is being formed through an MOA rather than as a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the representatives will need to seek direction from their respective Boards prior to voting on major GSA actions.

**Central Management Area**

In the Central Management Area, the GSA includes the SYRWCD, the City of Buellton, and the Water Agency. However, because the area outside of the SYRWCD is 0.05 percent of the overall basin area, with little water use, the Water Agency is a non-voting member of the GSA. The SYRWCD and the City of Buellton will each have one vote in the GSA.

**Western Management Area**

The Western Management Area GSA includes the SYRWCD, the City of Lompoc, the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, and the Mission Hills Community Services District. The area outside of the SYRWCD is less than 1 percent of the overall basin area, with little water use. Therefore, the Water Agency is a non-voting member of the GSA. Voting for other members will be weighted. The SYRWCD will have four votes, the City of Lompoc shall have two votes, and Vandenberg Village Community Services District and Mission Hills Community Services District shall each have one vote.

The three management areas lie within the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts. However, the majority of each management area lies within the Third Supervisorial District.

**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 during the 20-year implementation period. SGMA requires sustainable management of the County's basins that are designated as medium- or high-priority by DWR. In Santa

Barbara County these basins include the Cuyama Valley, San Antonio Creek Valley, Santa Ynez River Valley, Goleta Valley, and Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basins.

SGMA allows any local agency with water or land use management authority to become a GSA; in some cases, there may be multiple agencies that are interested in jointly managing the groundwater resources. SGMA allows multiple local agencies to act as a single GSA through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), a JPA, or any other legal agreement (California Water Code, Section [§] 10723.6 (a)). Additionally, although the federal government and federally-recognized Indian Tribes are not required to form GSAs, they may voluntarily participate in SGMA through a JPA or other agreement (§ 10720.3 (c)).

Each basin's GSA will be responsible for developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the basin. DWR regulations to guide local GSP development were approved by the California Water Commission on May 18, 2016 and go into effect June, 2016. GSPs must be adopted by January 31, 2020 for those basins deemed by the State to be critically overdrafted (Cuyama), and by January 31, 2022 for all other medium- or high-priority basins (San Antonio, Santa Ynez, Santa Maria, Goleta). 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:**

None.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

None.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Map

**Authored by:**

Matt Young, Water Resources Program Manager, 568-3546