



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:** PW/Water Agency  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** November 28, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** 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 Info: Matt Young, Interim Deputy Director – Water Resources, (805) 568-3546

**SUBJECT:** Santa Ynez Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Exercise of Powers Agreements,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to Execute the “Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency”;
- 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 Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, with Third District Representative Meighan Dietenhofer as an alternate;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to Execute the “Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency”;
- d) 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 Meighan Dietenhofer as an alternate; and
- e) Determine that these actions are not subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as it is an administrative action that will

not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment, and 15306 as information collection which does not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to approve and authorize the Chair to execute two Joint Exercise of Powers Agreements (JPA): the “Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency” (Attachment A); and the “Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Santa Ynez River Valley Basin Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency” (Attachment B). These agreements will supersede existing Memoranda of Agreement for each respective Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). This item is also on the agenda to request appointment of Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) representatives to the GSA Board of Directors for the Western and Central Management Areas of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.

The Western Management Area (WMA) GSA includes the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), the City of Lompoc, the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, and the Mission Hills Community Services District. Because the area outside of the other agencies boundaries is less than 1 percent of the overall basin area, with little water use, the Water Agency will continue to be a non-voting member. The JPA exempts the Water Agency from any costs other than staff participation in GSA meetings, and indemnifies the Water Agency from legal liability. The WMA GSA Committee unanimously endorsed the JPA at a September 27, 2023 meeting.

In the Central Management Area (CMA), the GSA includes the SYRWCD, the City of Buellton, and the Water Agency. However, because the area outside of the SYRWCD and the City of Buellton is 0.05 percent of the overall basin area, with little water use, the Water Agency will continue to be a non-voting member. The JPA exempts the Water Agency from any costs other than staff participation in GSA meetings, and indemnifies the Water Agency from legal liability. The CMA GSA Committee unanimously endorsed the JPA at a September 25, 2023 meeting.

In both the WMA and CMA GSA’s governing Committees, Supervisor Joan Hartmann is currently appointed as the Water Agency’s representative, with Third District Representative Meighan Diethofer as her alternate.

**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. The Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basins is designated as a medium-priority basin and is subject to SGMA.

The Water Agency and its local partners created three GSAs representing the three main areas of the Basin based on jurisdictional and hydrogeological differences. The County Water Agency executed MOAs to join the GSAs for the Western and Central Management areas on December 6, 2016 and for the Eastern Management Area GSA on April 11, 2017. Groundwater sustainability plans for each management area were submitted to the California Department of Water Resources for review in January of 2022. The Eastern Management Area JPA is still being negotiated.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Staff time for this work is included in the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget for the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-331 in the budget book.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send signed originals of the JPAs and copy of the minute order to the Water Agency, Attn: Christina Lopez.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the Western Management Area  
Attachment B - Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the Central Management Area

**Authored by:**

Matt Young, Interim Deputy Director – Water Resources, (805) 568-3546