



**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 18, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

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 Sustainability Agency Appointments;
Third, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a) Appoint Meighan Dietenhofer as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's alternate representative on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee for the Santa Ynez River Valley Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
- b) Appoint Meighan Dietenhofer as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's alternate representative on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee for the Santa Ynez River Valley Central Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
- c) Appoint Meighan Dietenhofer as the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's alternate representative on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee for the Santa Ynez River Valley Western Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency; 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 Third District Representative Meighan Diethofer as Santa Barbara County Water Agency's (Water Agency) alternate representative 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).

On June 20, 2017, your Board appointed Third District Supervisor Joan Hartman as the Water Agency's representative on the GSA Committees for the three Management Areas in the Basin, and appointed Third District Representative Elizabeth Farnum as the alternate. Ms. Farnum retired in January 2019, necessitating this appointment. 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.

The vacancy notice was posted in accordance to Government Code Section 54974 and the ten (10) working days have past to allow the Board to approve final appointment.

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 Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) covers the majority of this basin and has led GSA formation. The SYRWCD, the Water Agency, and other local partners 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.

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