

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OCTOBER 19, 2023

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Conference Room, 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen, Steve Jordan, Larry Lahr, and Brett Marymee

Director Absent: Mark Altshuler

Others Present, in-person: Assistant General Manager Bill Buelow, and
Board Secretary Amber Thompson

Others Present, remote participation: Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge LLP)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. Four Directors were present providing a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

Mr. Bill Buelow presented a staff memorandum dated October 19, 2023, regarding the Joint Powers Agreement for the WMA and CMA as well as the JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY BASIN WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (WMA JPA). He reported that the WMA GSA Committee endorsed the draft final WMA JPA at a regular meeting held on August 23, 2023, and that the governing bodies for the WMA GSA member agencies, City of Lompoc, Vandenberg Village CSD, and Mission Hills CSD, have all approved the agreement during recent public meetings. The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors is expected to consider approving the WMA JPA at the November 28, 2023, meeting. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Jordan made a **MOTION** for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Board of Directors to hereby approve the Draft Final JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY BASIN WESTERN MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY and hereby direct the General Manager or Assistant General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Altshuler being absent.

5. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

Mr. Bill Buelow presented the JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY BASIN CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (CMA JPA). He reported that the CMA GSA Committee endorsed the CMA JPA at a regular meeting held on September 25, 2023. The City of Buellton City Council is expected to consider approving the CMA JPA at an October 26, 2023, meeting. The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors is expected to consider the CMA JPA at a November 28, 2023, meeting. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Jordan made a **MOTION** for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Board of Directors to hereby approve the Draft Final JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY BASIN CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY and hereby direct the General Manager or Assistant General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Director Marymee seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Altshuler being absent.

6. GROUNDWATER PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT – STATUS, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING

a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

Mr. Buelow provided updates on SGMA efforts in the Basin and the District’s involvement. At the request of the Santa Ynez Water Group (SYWG), the EMA GSA member agencies’ staff and attorneys met with the SYWG last week to discuss the EMA GSA’s future governance and voting structure options. Those discussions will continue. The EMA CAG reviewed the draft EMA JPA and met on October 18, 2023, to discuss and provide feedback for the EMA GSA Committee. A cost share agreement is being constructed for the EMA GSA. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

Directors Steve Jordan and Brett Marymee presented an update on basin governance ideas. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

b. Consider Appointments of Board Representatives to:

- i. Central Management Area (CMA)
- ii. Eastern Management Area (EMA)
- iii. Western Management Area (WMA)

Mr. Buelow reviewed the current appointments of SYRWCD Directors to the CMA, EMA, and WMA GSA Committees. Discussion followed.

Director Marymee made a **MOTION** to keep President Cynthia Allen as the District representative and appoint Director Larry Lahr to replace Director Jordan as the District alternate to the CMA GSA Committee, effective immediately; appoint President Cynthia Allen to replace Director Jordan as the District representative and appoint Director Steve Jordan to replace President Allen as the District alternate to the WMA GSA Committee, effective immediately; and make no change in District representatives to the EMA GSA Committee. Director Lahr seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Altshuler being absent.

7. REQUESTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Director Marymee requested an update on Department of Water Resources' responses to the three Groundwater Sustainability Plans that were submitted by the GSAs in January 2022.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023, AT 6:30 PM AT THE BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board meeting will be December 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened into Closed Session from 8:04 p.m. to 8:17 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): Wolff vs SYRWCD, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 20CV01552 and Case No. 22CV02062
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)) relating to proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project, and complaints filed by the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance regarding the

operation of the Cachuma Project and SWRCB Order WR 89-18; proposed changes to the place and purpose of use of waters obtained through aforementioned permits for the Cachuma Project; and Reclamation's Petition for Reconsideration or Rehearing re Order WR 2019-0148; and proceedings related to SWRCB Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423) held by the City of Solvang including the City of Solvang's Petitions for Change and Extension of Time.


- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Two Matters).
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Two Matters).

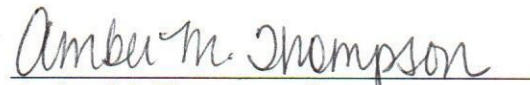
10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT

President Allen advised there is nothing to report from Closed Session

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.


Cynthia Allen, President


Amber M. Thompson, Secretary