

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: 15 March 2023

TO: Cynthia Allen                      Mark Altshuler                      Art Hibbits  
Steve Jordan                              Brett Marymee                      Steve Torigiani  
Kevin Walsh                              Amber Thompson

FROM: Bill Buelow, Groundwater Program Manager

SUBJECT: Groundwater Program Manager Report

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

**A. Groundwater Production, Reporting, and Charges**

- i. Receive Update on Groundwater Revenue. The cumulative total of groundwater fees received from July 1, 2022, to present as of March 13, 2023 is \$332,640.68 for the first half of FY 22-23 groundwater reporting period.

**Staff Recommendation:** No action. This item is informational only.

- ii. Receive Update on well registration and groundwater production reporting.

**Staff Recommendation:** No action. This item is informational only.

**B. SGMA Update**

- i. Update on Well Verifications. On March 28, 2022, Governor Newsome signed Executive Order N-7-22. Section 9 (a) of that order requires the well permitting agency (Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services [EHS]) to first obtain a written verification from “*a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability*”

Member agency staff from each of the three GSAs are currently processing well verification requests. To date, the CMA GSA has issued two written verifications, with one additional pending; the EMA GSA has issued three written verifications and have four additional verifications in process; and the WMA GSA has issued two written verifications and have none pending.

Three additional domestic/municipal wells were issued permits by County EHS in the EMA. These wells were not subject to the Executive Order and did not require or receive a verification from the GSA as they were small public supply or domestic wells. A summary of all new well permits in the CMA, EMA and WMA since the start of the verification process is provided on the attached tables.

**Staff Recommendation:** No action required. This item is informational only.

- ii. Update on SGMA Governance. Member Agency Staff continue to work on issues relating to governance. Progress on JPA formation is moving slowly. GSAs are preparing second annual reports for the respective management areas. The EMA GSA is considering additional policy options for the well verification process.

**Staff Recommendation:** No action required. This item is informational only.