

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

May 11, 2022

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. As a result of the existing State of Emergency in California due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Barbara County Public Health recommendations to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and recommending social distancing, and as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, this meeting occurred solely by remote participation via video and teleconference.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen, Mark Altshuler, Art Hibbits, Steve Jordan, and Brett Marymee

Others Present: Chris Brooks, Groundwater Program Manager Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Tim Nicely, Carol Redhead, Board Secretary Amber Thompson, General Manager Kevin Walsh, and Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Ms. Thompson announced she did not receive any public comments prior to the meeting.

IV. DISCUSS EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 AND RECEIVE REPORT FROM AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Mr. Buelow introduced “Draft Groundwater Sustainability Agency Compliance with Executive Order N-7-22” acknowledgement form created by the Ad-Hoc Committee, comprised of Director Hibbits and Director Jordan, with Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani as a draft GSA compliance document to propose to the GSAs. Mr. Buelow also reviewed the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS) response to the Executive Order N-7-22 and the slides from the May 10, 2022 EHS workshop in which he participated. Mr. Torigiani advised the Board that the Kern Groundwater Authority original form was used as the template with additional acknowledgements added per request of the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Discussion followed. Public comment was received.

The Ad-Hoc Committee submitted the “Draft Groundwater Sustainability Agency Compliance with Executive Order N-7-22” acknowledgement form for the Board to forward to the three GSAs in the Basin for consideration by the GSA Committees to comply with Executive Order N-7-22. The consensus of the Board was to request staff to forward the draft form, with changes made to reflect original well production capacity and fit to one-page, to the member agency staff of each GSA in the Basin.

V. SGMA UPDATE

Mr. Buelow provided a short update.

VI. REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED AS A REGULAR MEETING FOR JUNE 1, 2022, AT 6:30 PM.

There were no requests.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be a Regular meeting, including a Public Hearing on the 44th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, FY 2021-2022, on June 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. by remote participation.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:30 pm, the Board convened into Closed Session until 7:50 pm.

VIII. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT

At 7:50 pm, the Board reconvened into open session. President Allen advised there is nothing to report from Closed Session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.


Cynthia Allen, President


Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

DRAFT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

Pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22, the XXXX (GSA) provides the following acknowledgment, which if executed by a well applicant, would allow the GSA to conclude that the well permit would not be inconsistent with the existing groundwater management plan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

(Initial the following provisions)

_____ I acknowledge that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires that a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) manage groundwater in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin and the XXXX GSA is the agency with groundwater management authority over the land subject to Application # xxx.

_____ I acknowledge that the GSA has the authority to limit extractions within its jurisdiction including extractions from any well permitted pursuant to Application #XXXX.

_____ I acknowledge that a well permit issued by the County does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future.

_____ I acknowledge that the GSA includes specific groundwater requirements through minimum thresholds and measurable objectives and agree that my groundwater use will comply with these requirements.

_____ I acknowledge the GSA cannot guarantee the maintenance of any defined water level or level of water quality in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.

_____ I acknowledge the GSA is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments or payments related to any groundwater well permitted pursuant to application #xxxx, including pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.

_____ I acknowledge that if the permit is for a new groundwater well the new well is a replacement well of the same or lesser extraction capacity than the well it is replacing, and such new well will not result in any new or increased groundwater pumping or groundwater use on the property served by the well relative to conditions existing on January 1, 2022

_____ I acknowledge that if the permit is for alteration of an existing groundwater well the alternation will not increase the extraction capacity of the existing well, and the altered well will not result in any new or increased groundwater pumping or groundwater use on the property served by the well relative to conditions existing on January 1, 2022.

_____ I acknowledge that the new or altered well, as applicable, will be operated in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, compliance with the registration and groundwater production reporting requirements set forth in Water Code section 75500, et seq., for existing and new water-producing facilities, as applicable as per the requirements of the XXX-GSA.

_____ I agree to hold the GSA harmless and indemnify the GSA for any liability stemming from or related to the County issuing a well permit in response to Application #xxx, and upon request by the GSA I agree to finance all GSA review costs associated the new or altered well written verification request.

By acknowledging and initialing the above provisions, [WELL APPLICANT] agrees the above ACKNOWLEDGMENT will be incorporated into the terms and conditions of any well permit issued pursuant to Well Permit #xxxx.

Name of WELL APPLICANT

Signature of WELL APPLICANT

Date

Name, Title of GSA REPRESENTATIVE

Signature of GSA REPRESENTATIVE

Date

DRAFT