

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance in the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin

Buellton City Council

Presentation on Water

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Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District

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SGMA Background



2015 SGMA law went into effect



SYVGW Basin is “medium priority”



Basin must be sustainable in 20 years



SGMA gives local control of water management



Each GSA will prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and submit to DWR by January 2022



State Water Board is enforcement if locals do not comply

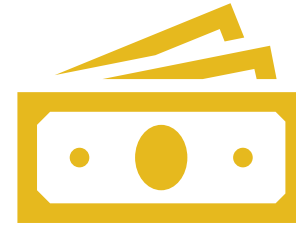
SGMA History

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin



2017 - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Establishes CMA GSA Committee
City of Buellton, SYRWCD, County of Santa Barbara

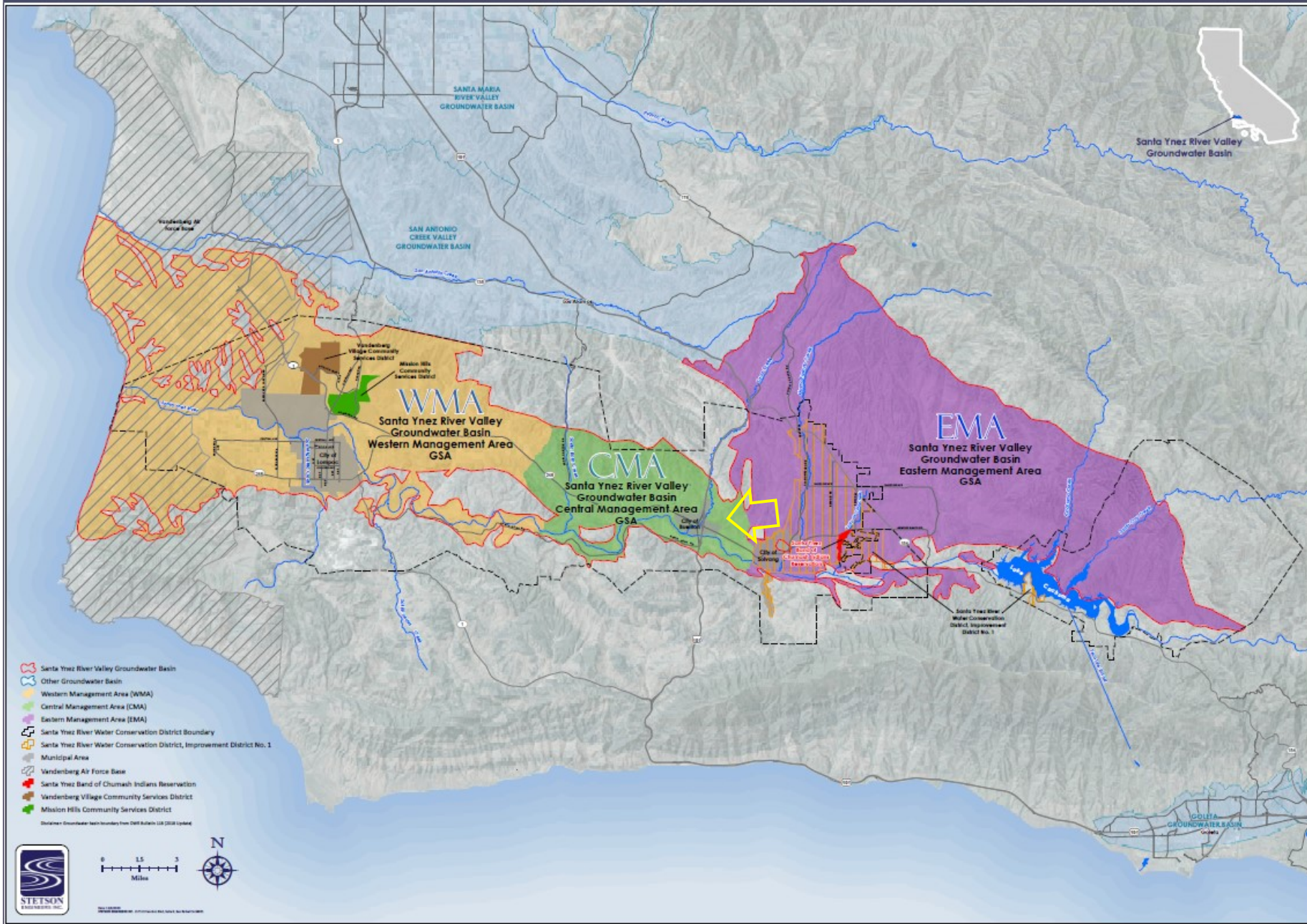


DWR Grants

GSA Formation and History Continued

- ▶ Three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Santa Ynez Basin
 - ▶ Eastern Management Area GSA - Solvang, SYRWCD, ID No 1, County
 - ▶ Central Management Area GSA - Buellton, SYRWCD, County
 - ▶ Western Management Area GSA - Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, SYRWCD, and County
- ▶ CMA has one representative (elected official) and one alternate per agency
- ▶ October 22, 2018 - first CMA GSA Committee meeting was held

SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN SGMA GSA MANAGEMENT AREAS



SGMA Meetings

GSA Committee Quarterly Regular Meetings

Special meetings as needed

All meetings are held virtually, since March 2020, due to COVID restrictions

Citizen Advisory Group Meetings (CAG)

Chosen by CMA GSA Committee. Buellton is represented.

Provide focused public comment on draft documents

Cross section of uses and users of groundwater

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- ▶ GSPs will address six “undesirable results” from groundwater pumping
 - ▶ Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
 - ▶ Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
 - ▶ Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality
 - ▶ Depletions of interconnected surface water
 - ▶ Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
 - ▶ Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion

Groundwater Sustainability Plans-Input

- ▶ Several opportunities to provide input
- ▶ After completion of each draft section
- ▶ Upon completion of Draft GSP and prior to adoption by the GSA
- ▶ After submittal of Final GSP to DWR

Public Meetings and Outreach

- ▶ Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP)
- ▶ 30 meetings held to date in the CMA and 100+ meetings basin-wide
- ▶ Citizen Advisory Group Meetings (CAG) - one for each GSA, meet as needed
- ▶ Newsletters sent in Member Agency utility bills, and available on-line

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), enacted January 2015, creates a new framework for groundwater management. The management plan (GSP) developed by representatives from local municipalities and agencies will manage and regulate future groundwater use. The GSP will be completed in early 2022.

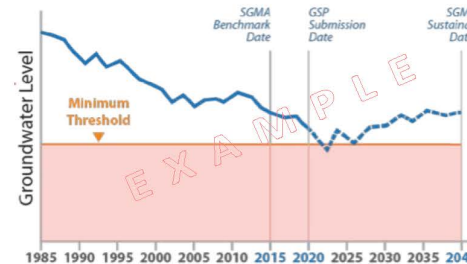
Check SantaYnezWater.org for schedule of Public Meetings and Workshops

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must consider and document the conditions at which each of the six sustainability indicators become significant and unreasonable in their basin.



Setting Minimum Thresholds

Based on the GSA's decision of what is significant and unreasonable, they will choose a representative value that is to be avoided. This value becomes the **Minimum Threshold**.



Avoidance of the defined undesirable results must be achieved within 20 years of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation. GSPs must clearly define a planned pathway to reach sustainability.

Potential Management Actions and Projects

1. Identify list of management actions and projects
2. Evaluate benefits and costs
3. Select subset of preferred management actions and projects and prioritize them
4. Develop implementation plan and schedule

Relationship between Minimum Thresholds and Management Actions

- ◊ Early management actions to be initiated upon submittal of the GSP.
- ◊ Regularly monitor and evaluate six sustainability indicators to take actions BEFORE Minimum Threshold is reached.
- ◊ Use projects and management actions assessed in the GSP to avoid undesirable results caused by exceeding Minimum Thresholds.



For more information, meeting announcements, and to review and comment on draft documents, please visit

SantaYnezWater.org or call (805) 693-1156 ext. 403



Groundwater Sustainability Plan-Schedule



Complete Draft Final
GSP - will be posted
this month



CMA GSA Public
Hearing to adopt GSP
- December-January



GSP will be uploaded
to DWR by January
31, 2022



Submittal starts DWR
Public Comment
Period



Implementation of
GSP starts upon
submittal



First annual report
due 1 April 2022

**Sign up to receive email blasts on upcoming
GSA or CAG meetings**

www.santaynezwater.org

QUESTIONS?